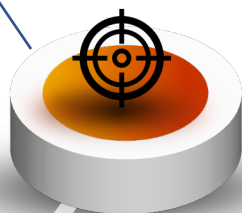


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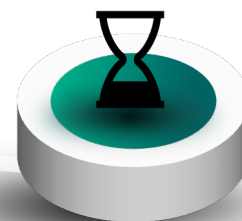
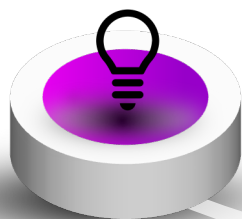


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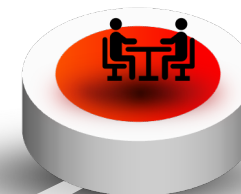


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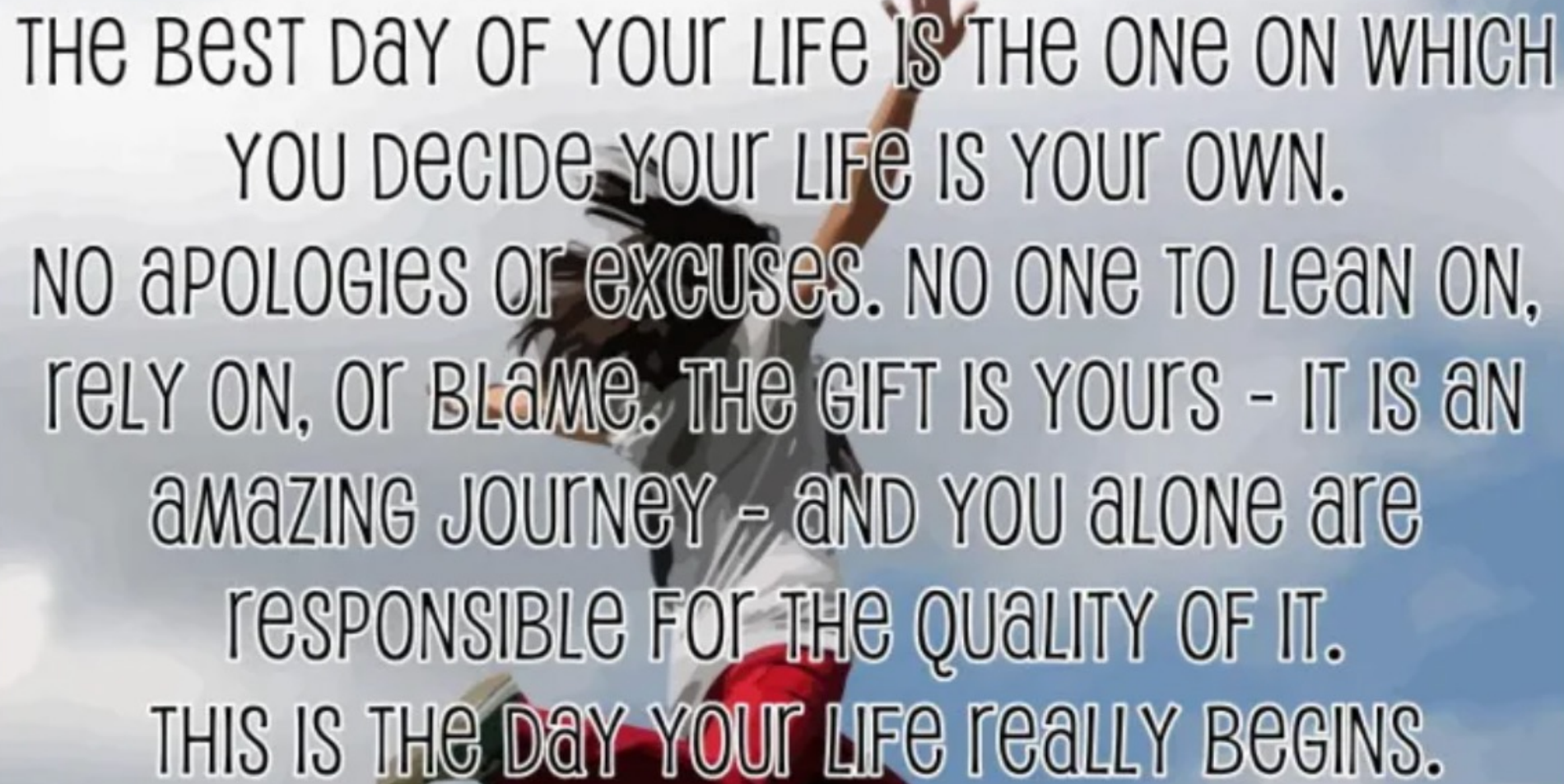
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A person is captured mid-jump against a bright blue sky with soft white clouds. The person is wearing a white t-shirt and red pants, with their arms outstretched upwards. The overall mood is one of freedom and joy.

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YOU DECIDE YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN.
NO APOLOGIES OR EXCUSES. NO ONE TO LEAN ON,
RELY ON, OR BLAME. THE GIFT IS YOURS - IT IS AN
AMAZING JOURNEY - AND YOU ALONE ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUALITY OF IT.
THIS IS THE DAY YOUR LIFE REALLY BEGINS.

~ Bob Meawad



Delhi Police registers two FIRs in wrestlers' case

This follows Solicitor-General's assurance in SC; counsel flags security concerns of complainants; Bench directs police to file an affidavit by May 5, detailing the steps taken to protect petitioners

Krishnadhas Rajinikanth
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police informed the Supreme Court on Friday that it will register a First Information Report (FIR) on the basis of sexual harassment allegations raised by women wrestlers, including a minor girl, against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

"It [FIR] will be registered today," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the police, told a Bench of Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud and P.S. Narasimha. Later, DCP (New Delhi) Pranav Taya said: "In the matter of complainants, two FIRs have been registered at the Connaught



Solidarity show: AAP leaders and Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj with wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. *SEE KUSAS PAGES 10-11*

police station." Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the wrestlers, however said they were still worried for their lives. "We are worried on two counts. About our security and safety. We want a special task

force (STTF). He [Mr. Bhushan] has 40 cases against him, including that of Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code," Mr. Sibal said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Wrestlers seek Bhushan's arrest

The wrestlers said they would continue their protest till former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is arrested. "We thank the Supreme Court for its directions. This is a major step towards victory for us but it does not mark the end of our protest," wrestler Sakshi Malik said. » PAGE 10

Political parties extend support

Political support for the protest by wrestlers increased on Friday, with several Opposition parties, including the Trinamool Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal, expressing solidarity with them. » PAGE 11

We should fix accountability on supporters of terrorism, Rajnath tells SCO members

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Calling upon Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to root out terrorism collectively and fix accountability on its supporters, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said any kind of terrorist act or support to it is a major crime against humanity. "Peace and prosperity cannot coexist with this menace," Mr. Singh added while chairing the Defence Ministers' meeting which India is hosting for the first time since it became a full SCO member in 2017.

Talks with China
Separately, in a statement on bilateral talks between Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu and Mr. Singh on Thursday, China said the two countries share



Joint fight: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu in New Delhi on Friday. *SEE PAGE 9*

far "more common interests than differences" and the two sides should take a "long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and promote the transition of the border situation to normalised management". "If a nation shelters terrorists, it not only poses a threat to others, but for itself too. Radicalisation of youth is a cause of con-

cern not only from the point of view of security, but it is also a major obstacle in the path of socio-economic progress of society. If we want to make the SCO a stronger and more credible international organisation, our topmost priority should be to effectively deal with terrorism," Mr. Singh said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



Stir continues over refinery project in Maharashtra

MUMBAI
The protest against a refinery project at Barua in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra entered its fifth day on Friday. The CBI said the project will not be implemented without the local people's consent. » PAGE 1

Why was Atiq paraded, SC asks U.P. police

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday asked the U.P. police to explain why gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother were "paraded" while being taken for medical examination to a hospital on the day they were shot to death. » PAGE 10

Valley beckons



Time to chill: Tourists enjoying fresh snowfall at Chandamwari at Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Friday. The higher reaches of Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall, while Srinagar and other areas in the plains were lashed by rain. *SEE PAGE 9*

Operation Kaveri: India airlifts 754 more stranded citizens from war-torn Sudan

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India on Friday airlifted 754 of its citizens from Sudan. While 362 passengers reached Bengaluru, the rest arrived here on board a C-17 heavy-lift aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan informed that the returnees included several members of the Hakki Piskki tribe of Karnataka who had earlier hit headlines for being stuck in the conflict.

Mr. Muraleedharan, who is stationed at Jeddah to supervise Operation Kaveri, said on Friday evening that the IAF has rescued 135 stranded Indians were flown into the Saudi



Sign of relief: Indian nationals arriving at Mumbai airport, ANI

city from Port Sudan by a C-130J of the IAF. The Saudi port has emerged as the mid-point, where the co-operation of the Saudi authorities, India has set up a coordination centre. As per official estimates, the total number of Indians in

Sudan is around 3,400 (around 1,000 PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin) who have been residing in Sudan for generations. Jawahar Mithani, a veteran Indian businessman who was evacuated on Thursday to Mumbai, said that after Saturday no

member of the Gujarati community based in Sudan will remain in Khartoum as last of the buses carrying the Gujarati families will leave by Saturday.

Shift in focus
With Friday's evacuation, the focus of Operation Kaveri is now shifting to those groups of Indians who live in distant parts of Sudan away from Khartoum.

This is likely to be a more challenging part of the operation as many citizens are caught up in places like El Fashir in Darfur, which is highly volatile at the moment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 10

Ruling, Oppn. fronts in Kerala call for ban on 'deeply divisive' movie

G Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's ruling Left Democratic Front and the Opposition United Democratic Front have opposed the impending release of *The Kerala Story*, warning that the "acutely divisive" movie could divide society.

The film purportedly centres on the questionable claim that the Islamic State (IS) found Kerala a fertile ground for recruiting youth, an alleged 32,000 men and women conscripts, during 2006-08.

The movie's trailers released on the Internet appeared to indicate that its central theme revolved around a fictional retelling

of four radicalised women from Kerala and their husbands joining the IS in Afghanistan in 2016.

Written and directed by Siddique Sen, the film stars Adah Sharma and is slated for release on May 5. *The Kerala Story* is backed by Sunshine Pictures Pvt. Ltd., owned by Vignesh Anand Shah, who is the film's producer and co-writer.

While Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cherian called for a boycott of the film, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan asked the government whether it had the nerve to ban it.

Mr. Satheesan said the movie, if released, would give the far-right forces ammunition to drive a wedge

between communities.

Youth organisations of the ruling and Opposition fronts echoed similar sentiments and launched aggressive online campaigns against the film. The outfits alleged that the film stoked Islamophobia to further the Sangh Parivar's "Hindu nationalist cause".

No official reaction

The BJP State unit has not officially reacted to the controversy. However, in a tweet last November, the party's IT department head, Amit Mahiya, indicated that "powerful forces" in Kerala "did not want the truth to come out" and the movie's teaser had "run into rough weather".

SC stays Calcutta High Court judge's order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a special sitting convened quickly at 8 p.m. on Friday, the Supreme Court stayed a Calcutta High Court judge's order to place before him, by midnight, documents based on which the top court earlier in the day had reassigned a case from him.

A Special Bench of Justices A.S. Bopanna and Himanshu Kohli agreed with Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who was asked to assist the court, that Justice Abhijeet Gangopadhyay "ought not to have passed the order" keeping in view judicial discipline.

The case in question

concerns the sensational and politically sensitive West Bengal school job-for-bribe scam case.

The case is under investigation by the CBI and ED. The role of Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee is under probe. Mr. Banerjee had recently moved the Supreme Court against Justice Gangopadhyay giving a TV interview in which he allegedly talked about the case pending before him and even the role of Mr. Banerjee. On Friday, the CBI Bench, headed by Justice

transcript and directed the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice to transfer the case from Justice Gangopadhyay to another judge.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's eight core sectors' output fell to a five-month low of 3.6% in March, from 7.2% in February, with electricity and cement production slipping from a year ago, and crude oil output falling for the tenth successive month.

Coal production jumped 12.2% in March, while fertilizers and steel output grew 9.7% and 8.8% respectively, but were slower than recent months. For the full financial year 2022-23, core sectors saw a 7.6% growth com-

Weaker core

Government data showed that the output of eight infrastructure sectors saw a growth of only 3.6% in March 2023, the lowest in the past five months.



pared to 10.4% in 2021-22, with all sectors reporting higher production except cement which contracted 0.8% in March, breaking the growth streak in the last four months.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

products grew at a four-month low pace of 1.5%. Cement output contracted 0.8% in March, breaking the growth streak in the last four months.

Last unfinished work of Raja Ravi Varma to be up for public display

Dhinesh Kallungal

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An unfinished painting by Raja Ravi Varma, who re-defined Indian art traditions during the colonial times, will soon be in the public domain. The painting 'Parsi Lady', now owned by the Kilimanoor Palace Trust, was the last painting (unfinished) by the legendary artist. He died on October 2, 1906, inside 'Chithrashala,' the artist's studio at Kilimanoor Palace, leaving the painting unfinished.

Now, the Palace Trust has decided to unveil the painting along with another painting – the portrait of Thriketta Thirunal Uma Amma Thampuratti – which has also not been displayed yet, on the occasion of the 175th birth anniversary of Raja Ravi Varma, who was born into the aristocracy at Kilimanoor in the erstwhile Travancore on April 29, 1848.



The 'Parsi Lady' being restored at Kilimanoor Palace.

Rama Varma Thampuran, general secretary, Kilimanoor Palace Trust, told *The Hindu* that 'Parsi Lady' had a lot of specialities as it provided a glimpse into the Mumbai life of Raja Ravi Varma and his association with people like filmmaker Dada Saheb Phalke.

Visual adaptation

"We assume that the painting was a visual adaptation of a Parsi woman he came to know in Mumbai," said Mr. Thampuran.

Raja Ravi Varma wound up his press and returned to

Kerala in 1904 after his younger brother fell ill.

After reaching here, he continued to paint at Chithrashala. He completed many of the paintings he had brought from Mumbai and gifted them, but 'Parsi Lady' remained unfinished. The palace has now restored the work with the help of S. Madhan, an art restorer based in Tamil Nadu and a disciple of the late V.N. Selvarehai, senior conservator, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property.

Raja Ravi Varma



Raja Ravi Varma in 1890s

Born	29 April 1848 ^{[1][2]} Kilimanoor , Travancore (present-day Trivandrum , Kerala)
Died	2 October 1906 (aged 58) Attingal , Travancore, British Raj
Other names	Koil Thampuran of Kilimanoor, Ravi Varma Koil Thampuran
Alma mater	University College Thiruvananthapuram
Occupation(s)	painter, artist
Notable work	Shakuntala Shakuntala Patra-lekhan Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair There Comes Papa Galaxy of Musicians

29th April is the **birth anniversary** of the famed **Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma** (1848-1906).

He is remembered for giving Indians their western, classical representations of Hindu gods and goddesses.

29 अप्रैल प्रसिद्ध भारतीय चित्रकार राजा रवि वर्मा (1848-1906) की जयंती है।

उन्हें भारतीयों को उनके हिंदू देवी-देवताओं के पश्चिमी, शास्त्रीय प्रतिनिधित्व देने के लिए याद किया जाता है।

Varma was born into an aristocratic family in Travancore (Kerala).

At the age of 14, Varma was **patronised by Ayilyam Thirunal**, the then ruler of **Travancore**, and went on to receive training in **watercolours from Ramaswamy Naidu, the royal painter**.

वर्मा का जन्म त्रावणकोर (केरल) में एक कुलीन परिवार में हुआ था।

14 साल की उम्र में, वर्मा को त्रावणकोर के तत्कालीन शासक अयिलम थिरुनाल का संरक्षण मिला था, और उन्होंने शाही चित्रकार रामास्वामी नायडू से जलरंगों में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया।

- **Contributions:**

- Made around **7,000 paintings**.
- Apart from painting Hindu mythological figures, Varma also made **portraits of many Indians as well as Europeans**.
- Varma worked on both **portrait and landscape paintings**, and is considered **among the first Indian artists to use oil paints**.
- He continues to be regarded as the most important representative of the **Europeanised school of painting in India**.

- योगदान:

- करीब 7,000 पेंटिंग बनाईं।
- हिंदू पौराणिक आकृतियों को चित्रित करने के अलावा, वर्मा ने कई भारतीयों के साथ-साथ यूरोपीय लोगों के भी चित्र बनाए।
- वर्मा ने पोर्ट्रेट और लैंडस्केप पेंटिंग दोनों पर काम किया, और उन्हें ऑइल पेंट्स का उपयोग करने वाले पहले भारतीय कलाकारों में माना जाता है।
- उन्हें भारत में चित्रकला के यूरोपीय स्कूल का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिनिधि माना जाता है।

Varma set up his **own printing press in Maharashtra** — first in Ghatkopar and eventually in Lonavala in 1894.

Through his printing press, Varma's **paintings travelled into the prayer and living rooms of working-class homes.**

Famous works: Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.

वर्मा ने महाराष्ट्र में अपना प्रिंटिंग प्रेस स्थापित किया - पहले घाटकोपर में और अंततः 1894 में लोनावाला में।

Awards and Honours:

- In 1904, the British colonial government awarded Varma with the **Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal**.
- In 2013, a **crater on the planet Mercury** was named in his honour.

पुरस्कार और सम्मान:

1904 में, ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक सरकार ने वर्मा को कैसर-ए-हिंद स्वर्ण पदक से सम्मानित किया।

2013 में, बुध ग्रह पर एक गड्ढे का नाम उनके सम्मान में रखा गया था।

Fadnavis unveils Shivaji's statue in Mauritius

Abhinay Deshpande

MUMBAI

A 12-feet statue of Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was unveiled in Mauritius's Maharashtra Bhavan on Friday to mark the strong bond between the two nations.

Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth was joined by Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and members of the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation for the inauguration ceremony.

The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to the island nation.



Devendra Fadnavis on the Maharashtra Bhavan premises in Mauritius. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An MoU was also signed between the Economic Development Board, Mauritius, and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.

- Birth:

- He was born on 19th February, 1630 at Shivneri Fort in District Pune in the present-day state of Maharashtra.
- He was born to Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate and Jijabai, a pious woman whose religious qualities had a profound influence on him.

- जन्म:

- उनका जन्म 19 फरवरी, 1630 को वर्तमान महाराष्ट्र राज्य में पुणे जिले के शिवनेरी किले में हुआ था।
- उनका जन्म मराठा सेनापति शाहजी भोंसले से हुआ था, जिनके पास बीजापुर सल्तनत के तहत पुणे और सुपे की जागीरें थीं और जीजाबाई, एक धर्मपरायण महिला थीं, जिनके धार्मिक गुणों का उन पर गहरा प्रभाव था।

- He displayed his military zeal for the first time in 1645 when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
- He also acquired the Kondana Fort. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur.

- उन्होंने 1645 में पहली बार अपने सैन्य उत्साह का प्रदर्शन किया जब एक किशोर के रूप में, उन्होंने बीजापुर के अधीन तोरणा किले पर सफलतापूर्वक नियंत्रण हासिल कर लिया।
- उन्होंने कोंडाना किले का भी अधिग्रहण किया। ये दोनों किले बीजापुर के आदिल शाह के अधीन थे।

Battle of Pratapgad, 1659	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra, between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Adilshahi general Afzal Khan.
Battle of Pavan Khind, 1660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fort Vishalgad, near the city of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, between the Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masud of Adilshahi.
Sacking of Surat, 1664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought near the city of Surat, Gujarat, between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Inayat Khan, a Mughal captain.
Battle of Purandar, 1665	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire.
Battle of Sinhagad, 1670	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.

Battle of Kalyan, 1682-83	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan.
Battle of Sangamner, 1679	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. This was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.



Proud moment: Former Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja during an interview after the launch of her book in New Delhi. V.V. KRISHNAN

Pinarayi releases ex-Kerala Minister Shailaja's book

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Politicians' memoirs are not just a collection of their personal memories but also a narrative of the country's history, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said as he released former Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja's book.

Ms. Shailaja's book - *My Life As A Comrade* - was launched in Delhi on Friday. Speaking at the book launch, Mr. Vijayan applauded Ms. Shailaja's work during the COVID-19 pandemic and her work as a political activist.

Mr. Vijayan said the book carries rich details about the battles that women from generations before her fought. "The book has a touching description about her grandmother M.K. Kalyani, who, disregarding her own health, worked during the plague. It is only apt that her grandchild led the fight against another pandemic of a similar scale," he said.

He also sought to applaud his government's performance during the pandemic, saying that it was not seen merely as a health issue but as a larger community challenge and the government was able to fix systemic deficiencies. "The world took notice of the work done by the Left Democratic Front Cabinet, which is a thing of pride for all of us, including Ms. Shailaja."

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat, who was present at the launch, said it was important that not a book about a communist's life but a book about a female communist's journey was here for the readers. "Her grandmother became a widow early in life, and her mother was abandoned by her father. A women-headed family is a cynosure of many eyes. It is this family where Ms. Shailaja grew up as an independent woman who could chose to become a communist; that itself is a story," she said.

IN BRIEF

**DLF's rental arm buys 26.43% in Suncloud Solar for ₹8.41 cr.**

Realty firm DLF's rental arm DCLDL has bought 26.43% stake in Suncloud Solar for ₹8.41 crore. DLF holds 67% stake in DLF Cyber City Developers, while Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC has the remaining 33.33% stake. According to a regulatory filing on Thursday, DCLDL, through one of its wholly owned subsidiaries DLF Info City Chennai, has agreed to acquire about 26.43% shares of Suncloud on a cash consideration of ₹8.41 crore.

'Major ports handled highest ever cargo of 795 MT in FY23'

India's major ports handled the highest ever cargo at 795 million tonnes in 2022-23, registering an increase of 10.4% over the previous year, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Friday. Addressing an event organised by industry body FICCI, the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister said that major ports recorded the highest ever output per day of 17,239 tonnes in last fiscal year, a growth of 6% as compared with 2022-22.

Yulu to unveil EV two-wheeler Wynn in May at ₹55,555

Shared mobility company Yulu said it had opened bookings for its first personal EV two-wheeler Yulu Wynn. The EV will be produced at Huijia Auto factory. At a limited period introductory price of ₹55,555, bookings can be made online and deliveries will begin mid-May. After the introductory period, Wynn will be available at ₹59,999. "Wynn will enable everyone to 'Ride their freedom' in their own ways," said Yulu CEO & co-founder Amit Gupta.

Govt. moots star rating system for water taps

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre is in the process of bringing out a star rating system for water fixtures similar to the ratings for electrical appliances, said D Thara, Additional Secretary, MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) and Mission Director, AMRUT 2.0, on Friday. The new rating system on their water efficiency and its rating system in each category come under one umbrella called Bharat Tap, Ms. Thara said.

"We have now roped in the Indian Plumbing Association and all manufacturers to adopt and promote these standards and bring in water efficient fixtures," she added. Data showed that on average over 30% of water can be saved. However, there was not enough data available to assist consumers in making informed decisions when purchasing sanitary fixtures. "We need to start quantifying how much water is conserved in each style, how it adds to the overall cost of water," she recommended.

Tamanna and Aarjun reign

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Top seed Tamanna Takkoria rallied to beat second seed Presha Shanmugaraj 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the girls' final of the Rajesh Patel memorial ATPA Super Series junior tennis tournament on Friday. Aarjun Pandit beat Deepam Malik 6-4, 6-3 for the boys' title.

Sonal triumphs

Sports Bureau

Sonal Patil beat Kashish Bhatia 6-4, 6-2 in the final of TLOO,000 ATPA women's tennis tournament at Bhuj, on Friday. **Other results:** Doubles: Kashish Bhatia & Samrithi Puri beat Sonal Patil & Chandana Potgiro 5-7, 7-5.

Govt. names Mohanty as LIC chairperson and first CEO

Company veteran will helm insurer at a time when it has to cope with intensified competition; LIC faces shareholder scrutiny after its IPO last May; SEBI barred an employee for front-running stock

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Friday approved the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty, Managing Director (MD) and interim chairperson, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as Chairperson till June 29, 2024.

Thereafter, Mr. Mohanty has been named as Chief Executive Officer and MD till June 7, 2025, i.e. up to the date of his attaining the



Taking charge: Mohanty will now take the helm at the insurer and he is first CEO from June 2024 till at least June 2025. REUTERS

age of 62 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Mr. Mohanty, a veteran

to conduct its business as a publicly owned company answerable to shareholders for its profitability. Competition from private insurers has also intensified and new chief will have to guard against any adverse fallout from controversies such as investments in the Adani group and ensure adequate oversight of its employees after SEBI this week barred an employee for front-running trading in stocks. Total assets under management as on December 31 were ₹44.35 lakh crore.

UltraTech Q4 net profit falls 36% due to rising costs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

UltraTech Cement on Friday reported a 36.1% decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,670.10 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023, mainly due to an increase in input cost.

The company posted a net profit of ₹2,613.75 crore in the January-March period a year ago. During the quarter, raw material cost was up 9% YoY on account of increase in the cost of fly ash, slag and gypsum etc. UltraTech said in a statement.

'Most AI pilots have accepted revised pay'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 90% of cabin crew and a majority of pilots of Air India have accepted the revised compensation package, the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson said in an internal communication to employees.

The message comes at a time when two pilot unions had strongly opposed the revised terms of employment and salary advances announced last week. The airline is also on a hiring spree and recently advertised for 500 cabin crew and 50 pilots every month.



Campbell Wilson

'Centre revamping patent office functioning'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The government is revamping the patent office functioning to reduce the massive backlog in granting official recognition for innovations by adding manpower and changing the legislative process, said Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, and a secretary to the government.

The government is fast-tracking the hiring process, said 500 cabin crew and 50 pilots every month.

U.S. consumer spending flat in March; core inflation still stays strong

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer spending was unchanged in March, while underlying inflation pressures remained strong, which may see the Federal Reserve raising interest rates again next month.

The unchanged reading in consumer spending, reported by the Commerce Department on Friday, followed a downward revision 0.3% gain in February. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, was previously reported to have increased 0.2% in February.

The data was included in the advance GDP report for the first quarter, which showed consumer spending surging at a 3.7% annualised rate after rising at a 1% pace in the October-December quarter.

The economy grew 1.1% as the acceleration in consumer spending was offset by businesses liquidating inventories in anticipation of weaker demand later this year.

Last month's flat reading in consumer spending set consumption on a lower growth path in the second quarter. It likely reflected Americans becoming more averse to higher prices as well as the expiration of a temporary boost to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to cushion low-income families from the pandemic's hardships.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Index	Change	% Change
S&P 500	41.12	-0.7%
Nifty	795.00	-1.2%
BSE-SENSEX	794.00	-1.2%

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	% Change
Adani Ports	1204.55	11.30
Adani Power	480.00	24.34
Adani Wilmar	423.75	35.20
Axis Bank	270.00	0.30
Axis Finance	270.00	0.30
Axis Life	270.00	0.30
Axis Realty	270.00	0.30
Axis Infra	270.00	0.30
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The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

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Taking charge: Mohanty will now take the helm at the insurer and be its first CEO from June 2024 till at least June 2025. REUTERS

age of 62 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Mr. Mohanty, a veteran

of the company, which listed in May, will lead LIC at a time when the country's largest insurer has to learn

to conduct its business as a publicly owned company answerable to shareholders for its profitability.

Competition from private insurers has also intensified and new chief will have to guard against any adverse fallout from controversies such as investments in the Adani group and ensure adequate oversight of its employees after SEBI this week barred an employee for front-running trades in LIC.

Total assets under management as on December 31 were ₹44.35 lakh crore.

Industry	Insurance and Financial services
Founded	1 September 1956 (66 years ago)
Headquarters	Mumbai , Maharashtra , India
Key people	Siddharth Mohanty (Chairperson) B C Patnaik (Managing Director) Ipe Mini (Managing Director)
Products	Life insurance Health insurance Investment management Mutual fund
Revenue	▲ ₹724,743 crore (US\$91 billion) (2022) ^[1]
Operating income	▲ ₹13,975 crore (US\$1.8 billion) (2022) ^[1]
Net income	▲ ₹4,124 crore (US\$520 million) (2022) ^[1]
Total assets	▲ ₹4,254,058 crore (US\$530 billion) (2022) ^[1]
Total equity	▲ ₹11,338 crore (US\$1.4 billion) (2022) ^[1]
Owner	Government of India (96.5%) ^[2]
Number of employees	114,000 (2020) ^[1]
Subsidiaries	LIC Housing Finance LIC International Ltd LIC Cards Services Ltd LIC Mutual Fund Ltd LIC Pension Fund Ltd IDBI Bank

SILVER IN THE BAG

Abhilash Tomy makes history at Golden Globe Race

The retired Commander becomes the first Indian to finish the around-the-world solo sailing event that lasts a gruelling 236 days

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Microfinance and the debt loop in the agriculture sector

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Tucker Carlson: the 'controversial' prime-time anchor

PROFILES > PAGE 12

'Twitter pulled tweets globally after Punjab and Haryana HC order'

NEWS > PAGE 6

Centre plans an 'overhaul' of its research institutions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), which is the main source of funds and sustenance for at least 30 autonomous research bodies (some of them of global prestige), is in the middle of a "rationalisation" exercise that involves merging, "disengaging" and even closure of organisations.

The exercise is part of a larger project initiated by the Centre to reduce the number of autonomous institutions funded by various Ministries. Among those to be merged, according to a document, is the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru.



Uncertain future: The Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, is among the institutions to be merged. > JACOB KOSHY

A document, viewed by The Hindu and dated 2020, says that with regard to the 30 autonomous bodies (coming under the DST), the Finance Ministry recommended that eight be retained without change,

Byju's faces ED searches over 'FEMA violations'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched the premises of Think & Learn Private Ltd., which runs the portal Byju's, in Bengaluru on Saturday. Two business premises of the company and a residential property linked to Byju's founder Raveendran Byju were searched under provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act. The ED revealed that ₹28,000 crore of Foreign Direct Investment into the firm is under the scanner.

'NO BUDGETARY CUTS' > PAGE 6
MORE SCRUTINY > PAGE 6

Behind the 'dearth' of rabies vaccine

A lack of forecasting, irregular demand from States and poor coordination result in India facing a shortage every year

Maitri Porocha
NEW DELHI

Every year from November to March, when the weather improves across most of India and people begin to spill out of their homes, the mating season for dogs begins. This brings on aggression and bites and attacks increase. "There are on an average six to seven million dog bites every year in India. Each dog bite will require five doses of vaccine. Many cases may also go unreported and not all patients who are bitten get their vaccines on time," says Dr. Simmi Thawari, Joint Director, Public Health, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Between March 6 and 12, for instance, four deaths by dog bite were reported by the NCDC. None of the deceased had got the rabies vaccine after the bite. Those who had come into contact with the people who died were advised vaccination. Yet, in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the emphasis on procurement of rabies vaccine is low, say government officials. "In other States such as Kerala, there was a shortage. So they raised demands for airport, power plant and neighbouring Tamil Nadu," an NCDC official notes. But earlier this year, the Central Research Institute in Kasauli had to discard vaccine vials due to a lack of demand.



While many States report a vaccine shortage, a research centre in Kasauli had to discard vaccine vials earlier this year due to a lack of demand.

India's rabies vaccine market is growing at a steady rate. In 2022, its market value stood at \$141.4 million, while the 2023 estimated value is at \$147.6 million, Coherent Market Insights, a market research agency, says. It is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.2% between 2023 and 2030. However, last September, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) reported that it had only 5,000 doses of vaccine left for 2023, with many municipal corporation hospitals not having them at all.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 6

+ Nicobar project violates tribal rights: ST panel

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has flagged alleged discrepancies with respect to the forest clearance granted for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project.

Citing alleged violations under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, the panel issued notice in April to district authorities on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on grounds that the project will significantly affect the rights of local tribespeople



The project intends to use about 7,114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land.

and that the NCST was not consulted. Earlier this month, the National Green Tribunal ordered a stay on the project and constituted a committee to revisit the envi-

ronmental clearance. Months after the project was granted forest clearance, implementation reports prepared by the Tribal Affairs Ministry show the island administration neither recognised nor granted ownership of any forest land to tribespeople under the FRA, a requisite step under the Forest Conservation Rules, 2007, before Stage 1 clearance is granted. The clearance was granted in October 2022, two years after the application was received. The project being implemented by

the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation includes a transshipment port, airport, power plant and greenfield township. The government has said in Parliament that the project intends to use about 7,114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land, where the Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), and the Nicobarese reside. It insisted that local people will not be displaced for the project.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 6

Kejriwal and Priyanka visit protesting wrestlers, say govt. shielding WFI chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi police registered two FIRs against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Birj Bhushan Sharan Singh, the ongoing stir by wrestlers at Jantar Mantar received another shot in the arm with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visiting the protesting wrestlers.

Both leaders accused the Narendra Modi government at the Centre of protecting Mr. Singh against whom women wrestlers have levelled allegations of sexual harassment. "Why is this man being safeguarded by the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi?" said Mr. Kejriwal, pointing out that the wrestlers had to stage a sit-in and knock on the doors of the Supreme Court just to register an FIR. "The entire party has come together to safeguard one man. If anybody



In solidarity: Arvind Kejriwal joins the wrestlers' protest against BJP MP Birj Bhushan Sharan Singh in Delhi. > ANSAR KHAN/PTI/ANUPAM

from the BJP is found doing any criminal activity, nothing will happen to them," said the Aam Aadmi Party national convenor said. Ms. Vadra called for the WFI chief's removal to ensure that he cannot "exert pressure" on the wrestlers and "destroy" their careers. "I want to ask why so much is being done to protect this man. What does it say about our country if we cannot save our girls," Ms. Vadra said in the presence of top wrestlers such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Hooda and former Olympian and Rajasthan MLA Krishna Poo-

nia expressed disappointment with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief, P.T. Usha, who had called the protest an act of indiscipline. "IOA chief is not a political post, but she did not stand with the players," Mr. Hooda said. Amid rumours of his resigning and wrestlers accusing him of pressuring them to end the protest, Mr. Singh finally spoke to the media, saying it was orchestrated by a politician industrialist nexus. Denying any plan to resign — a cosmetic move given the incumbent WFI board has been replaced by an ad hoc committee and Mr. Singh himself declaring he won't contest the next elections — he said he is ready for "any kind of investigation". "I'm not a criminal. Resigning means I have accepted their allegations," Mr. Singh told reporters in Uttar Pradesh. 'NO BASIC SUPPLIES' > PAGE 6
MAGAZINE > PAGE 6

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SILVER IN THE BAG

Abhilash Tomy makes history at Golden Globe Race

**The retired Commander becomes the first
Indian to finish the around-the-world solo
sailing event that lasts a gruelling 236 days**

NEWS » PAGE 6



Abhilash Tomy scripts maritime history

Retired Naval Commander becomes first Indian to complete the Golden Globe race, finishing in the second spot; South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer becomes first woman to win the race

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Commander Abhilash Tomy (ret'd) created history as the first Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race on Saturday, finishing in the second place after a gruelling 236 days alone at sea in his sail boat *Bayanat*, in a journey of grit and endurance.

South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer also scripted her name into maritime history, becoming the first woman to win the race, a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids, recreating the 1960s on the high seas.

The race started on September 4, 2022 from the French port of Les



Titanium will: Abhilash Tomy, on his sail boat *Bayanat*, finishing his solo non-stop journey around the world. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sables-d'Olonne, with 16 sailors from 11 countries.

Almost eight months later, Ms. Neuschäfer officially became the first woman to win a “round the world race by the three great capes, including solo and fully crewed races, non-stop or with stops, and the first

South African sailor to win a round-the-world event”, the organisers said.

Test of endurance

Congratulating Cdr. Tomy on his exceptional achievement, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said that it was even more special, considering the

fact that the naval veteran had been critically injured in a storm when he competed in the race in 2018.

Despite the fact that he had a spinal injury, Cdr. Tomy insisted on participating in the Golden Globe Race for a second time, Admiral Kumar said, speaking on the sidelines of an event.

The historic race is being conducted by the Sir Robin Knox Johnston of the U.K. to commemorate the world's first solo, non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968.

To his credit, Cdr. Tomy is the only Indian to complete a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe in 2012-13, covering 53,000 nautical miles under sail.

GOLDEN°GLOBE°RACE 2018

JUNE 11, 2018

GGR fleet arrive in Falmouth – UK

JUNE 13, 2018

Suhaili Farewell Dinner – Falmouth

JUNE 14, 2018

Suhaili 50 Falmouth Parade of Sail

JUNE 14, 2018

SITraN Challenge Race – Falmouth
to Les Sables d'Olonne

JUNE 16, 2018

Race Village opens in Les Sables d'Olonne

JULY 1ST, 2018

START of the Golden Globe Race

FALMOUTH, UK
Suhaili Parade of Sail
14th June 2018

LES SABLES d'OLONNE
Race Start: 1st July 2018

Marina Rubicon
Canaries Film Gate



Cape Leeuwin

Cape of Good Hope

Crozet Islands

Prince Edward Islands
and Marion Island

Kerguelen Islands

Storm Bay 'Gate'

Waypoint
50°S 100°W

Cape Horn

Falklands 'Gate'












- **The Golden Globe Race (GGR) is a solo sailing race around the globe in a yacht with no kind of modern technology.**
 - **The uniqueness of the race is that boat designs and technology newer than 1968 is not permitted.**
 - **Hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.**
-

- गोल्डन ग्लोब रेस (जीजीआर) दुनिया भर में एक एकल नौकायन दौड़ है जिसमें किसी प्रकार की आधुनिक तकनीक नहीं है।
- दौड़ की विशिष्टता यह है कि 1968 से नई नाव डिजाइन और तकनीक की अनुमति नहीं है।
- इसलिए ग्लोबल पोजिशनिंग सिस्टम (जीपीएस), उपग्रह संचार, नेविगेशनल एड्स आदि का उपयोग वर्जित है।

- 
- However they are provided with satellite phone for medical emergencies.
 - It was organised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sunday Times Golden Globe.
 - Sunday Times Golden Globe race took place in 1968.
 - In the 1968 race Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to make a non-stop solo circumnavigation trip.

- 
- 
- 
- हालांकि उन्हें चिकित्सा आपात स्थिति के लिए सैटेलाइट फोन प्रदान किया जाता है।
 - यह संडे टाइम्स गोल्डन ग्लोब की 50वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने के लिए आयोजित किया गया था।
 - संडे टाइम्स गोल्डन ग्लोब रेस 1968 में हुई थी।
 - 1968 की दौड़ में सर रॉबिन नॉक्स-जॉनस्टन बिना रुके एकल जलयात्रा यात्रा करने वाले पहले व्यक्ति बने।

- 
- The race course is an over-48,000-km east-about circumnavigation starting and finishing in Les Sables-d'Olonne, Western France.
 - It follows the route of the original 1968-69 race.
 - The boats sailed down the Atlantic from north to south, down the west coast of Africa and around the Cape of Good Hope.
 - They will then sail south of Australia before coming around to the tip of South America.
 - Finally they will go around Tierra del Fuego before sailing north on the Atlantic Ocean back to the French coast.

- 
- 
- 
- रेस कोर्स 48,000 किमी से अधिक पूर्व में है - पश्चिमी फ्रांस के लेस सैबल्स-डी ओलोन में शुरू होने और खत्म होने के बारे में।
 - यह मूल 1968-69 की दौड़ के मार्ग का अनुसरण करता है।
 - नावें अटलांटिक के उत्तर से दक्षिण की ओर, अफ्रीका के पश्चिमी तट के नीचे और केप ऑफ गुड होप के आसपास चलती थीं।
 - वे फिर दक्षिण अमेरिका के सिरे पर आने से पहले ऑस्ट्रेलिया के दक्षिण में जाएंगे।
 - अंत में वे फ्रांस के तट पर वापस अटलांटिक महासागर पर उत्तर की ओर नौकायन करने से पहले टिएरा डेल फुएगो के आसपास जाएंगे।

New study finds a way to massively decarbonise steelmaking

Yasudevan Mukundh

India is the world's second largest steelmaker, having produced 18.2 million tonnes in 2021. Making one tonne of steel releases 1.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide, making the sector's decarbonisation plans an integral part of the country's ability to achieve its climate goals.

Fit to width

In the 'chemical reaction' paper was published in *Physical Review Letters* on April 19.

that separates iron from iron oxide. Carbon is currently used in this place, but hydrogen cannot be substituted directly because doing so makes the separation reaction very slow, for previously unknown reasons.

In a new paper, scientists from Germany have

found a way to achieve this by using a blast furnace. The carbon removes oxygen by forming carbon monoxide.

Carbon footprint As per a December 2021 paper, this process accounts for almost 50% of the carbon footprint of steelmaking.

When oxygen leaves the iron oxide, scientists know that it leaves behind the

The German team used phase-field models and electron microscopy to discover that when hydrogen is the reactant, the departing oxygen combines with it to form water, it becomes trapped inside the pores. From here, it recombines the iron and considerably slows oxygen removal.

As a solution, the researchers suggested creat-

ing narrow channels of mineral through which the water could drain, allowing hydrogen to enter them and continue removing oxygen.

Microfracture structure To this end, the researchers have proposed creating a "microfracture structure" on the feedstock to "increase reduction kinetics and improve metallisation", as per the paper.

"There are several chal-

lenges to the widespread application of [such] hydrogen direct reduction processes, such as reduction kinetics and the high cost of hydrogen reactants," Xuesong Zhou, deputy group-leader at the Max Planck Institute for Iron Research, Düsseldorf, and one of the authors of the paper, told *The Hindu* in an email.

"It is crucial to address these questions through scientific research and targeted goals," said Dr. Zhou.

H5N1 kills 50 million birds, spreads to mammals

Uncontrolled spread of the virus can be catastrophic to the already endangered bird species globally, leading to the mass extinction of several species

Rani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

This year, the world has been witnessing one of the worst-ever documented outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 killing millions of birds. The virus, which is known to cause severe disease and death in birds, has also been detected in mammalian species and also in humans.

This has put health authorities on high alert regarding the implications of the large outbreak on public health.

High mortality in birds Although avian influenza has different subtypes, H5N1 is a highly pathogenic subtype that causes mortality in birds. Since 2022, the virus has infected over 100 million birds across the globe, resulting in the deaths of over 50 million and culling of millions of poultry. Unlike previous outbreaks of highly pathogenic subtypes of avian influenza, H5N1 is heavily impacting wild bird species, including many which were on the verge of extinction.

While it is difficult to ascertain how many wild birds have been affected by the virus, a significant impact has been seen in eagles, pelicans, geese, waterfowl, gulls, falcons and shorebirds. The impact on poultry seen till date at least in the U.S.

The impact of H5N1 on wild bird populations has

Deadly H5N1 outbreak continues unabated globally

Since 2022, H5N1 has infected over 100 million birds globally, killing over 50 million birds and millions of poultry have been culled



Concerning: In 2023 alone, H5N1 has killed over 3,000 sea lions in Peru.

1 Unlike previous outbreaks of highly pathogenic subtypes of avian influenza, H5N1 is heavily impacting wild bird species.

2 In addition to poultry, eagles, pelicans, geese, waterfowl, gulls, falcons and shorebirds have been impacted significantly.

3 High mortality in wild birds could result in significant ecological consequences, including the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems.

4 Cases of human H5N1 infections have been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and Chile.

5 A few widespread outbreaks of H5N1 have been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and Chile.

6 Cases of human H5N1 infections have been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and Chile.

varied depending on several factors, such as level of exposure, geographical locations and migratory patterns of the affected species.

High mortality in wild birds due to the virus could lead to significant ecological consequences, including the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems.

It has raised concerns regarding the spread of the virus among critically endangered avian populations.

In recent weeks, reports suggest that at least 20 California condors, a species that was on the verge of extinction since 1980s, have been infected with the H5N1 virus.

With around 300 condors estimated to

be remaining in the wild, this would roughly account for a significant 7% of the species. H5N1 has also killed a large number of bald eagles and Caspian terns in the U.S. since January 2022, along with thousands of cranes in Israel. Last year, H5N1 hit a colony of the endangered African penguins in South Africa, killing at least 30 penguins.

Spread to animals The highly contagious H5N1 virus can also occasionally spill over from direct or indirect contact with infected birds or their droppings.

Worryingly, there have been reports of a species spillover of H5N1 to mammals during the current outbreak. From the U.S., the rate of over 60% in humans and is primarily

transmitted to humans through close contact with infected birds or animals, either through handling infected poultry or exposure to contaminated environments.

In the recent months, a few sporadic cases of human H5N1 infections have also been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and more recently in Chile. However, since the virus has not yet transmitted efficiently among humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) has assessed the risk of H5N1 to humans to be low.

However, the large and unabated outbreak in avian species and not so rare mammalian spillovers could potentially provide the virus a chance to adapt for mammalian transmission.

Enhanced measures As the current H5N1 outbreak continues unabated with devastating impact on avian population globally, and with significant ecological and economic consequences, the time has never been better to initiate efforts for preparedness towards building better, efficient vaccines for avians and humans and genomic surveillance to map the continued evolution of the virus. Enhanced biosecurity measures are also needed to protect animal and public health.

Continued by Rani Jolly and Vinod Scaria are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Biotechnology (IGIB), New Delhi. Opinions expressed are personal.

SNAPSHOTS



Over 64% of elephant habitat lost across Asia since 1700

Habitats suitable for Asian elephants across Asia have decreased by over 64% — equating to 3.3 million square kilometres of land — since 1700, estimates a study (*Scientific Reports*). Researchers estimated the change in the fragmentation and spread of Asian elephant ecosystems in 13 countries. They suggest that China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sumatra have each lost more than half of their suitable elephant habitat range, with the greatest declines in China (around 94%) and India (around 86%).



Tasmanian devil facial tumours hint about evolution

A comprehensive genetic analysis of the debilitating facial tumours that have plagued Tasmanian devils for three decades has opened a window onto the contagious cancer's evolution. Geneticists discovered that the first devil facial tumour (DFT1) emerged in 1986, a decade before it was detected. A second, faster-mutating tumour, DFT2, arose in 2011 and was discovered three years later. Tasmanian devils are becoming resilient to facial tumours, but the recent emergence of DFT2 is concerning.



Japanese spacecraft crash lands on surface of the Moon

A lunar spacecraft developed by the Japanese firm, ispace, appears to have crash-landed. It is still unclear what exactly happened. Mission control lost contact with the 2.3-metre-tall lander before it touched down on the Moon's surface. The craft picked up speed as it descended, and it could have run out of fuel prematurely. The lander was carrying the JAXA's Rashid rover, which was to investigate the geological properties of the Moon's surface.

Question Corner Core of Mars

Is the core of Mars solid or liquid?

Scientists observed seismic waves travelling through Mars' core for the first time and confirmed model predictions of the core's composition. The researchers used seismic data acquired by the NASA InSight lander to directly measure properties of Mars's core, finding a completely liquid iron-alloy core with high percentages of sulphur and oxygen (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*).

To determine these differences, the team tracked the progression of two distant seismic events on Mars, one caused by a

megaseismic event and the other by a large impact, and detected waves that travelled through the planet's core. By comparing the time taken by the waves to travel through Mars compared with waves that stayed in the mantle, and combining seismic information with other seismic and geophysical measurements, the team estimated the density and compressibility of material in the core, and the amount of sulphur, as per a release. The researchers' results indicated that Mars most likely has a completely liquid core.

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

Anaemia: major flaws in a tea fortification study

R. Prasad

A small study carried out in Sangli, Maharashtra on 43 women participants to evaluate the effectiveness of tea fortification with folic acid and vitamin B12 to address anaemia and prevent neural-tube defects in children is riddled with problems.

The results were published in the *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*. However, this approach has a fundamental problem. The first group had 19 women who were given tea fortified with 1 mg folic acid and 0.5 mg vitamin B12. The second group (19 women) was given tea fortified with 1 mg folic acid and 0.5 mg vitamin B12. The third was the control group but with a "limited number" of participants (five).

Statistical power

"Usually, the number of participants is decided based on the statistical power of the comparison, which in turn is dependent on the expected

difference and its variability. None of these are defined. Thus, a "limited number" of controls is not the way to go," Dr. Anura Kurpad, Professor of Physiology in St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, says in an email to *The Hindu*.

Since the number of participants in the control arm is less, the authors used pre- and post-intervention values to measure the efficacy of folic acid and vitamin B12 intervention, which this approach has a fundamental problem.

"Pre- and post-interventions are subject to any number of confounding factors that have caused the observed changes. Having a control group that eliminates the known and unknown confounders, the participants should be randomised to any of the groups. None of these conditions were fulfilled," Dr. Kurpad says.

Whether the participants were given folic acid or folic acid is not clear as references to both are made in the paper. According to him, for folic,



Sufficient: Fortification using only folic acid and vitamin B12 may not be sufficient to address the problem of anaemia in women, GETTY IMAGES

the recommended ceiling on intake (also called the tolerable upper limit of intake) is 1 mg/day. For folic acid, it will be about half of that (0.5 mg/day). If 1 mg/day of folic acid was given, it had certainly exceeded the upper limit.

Haemoglobin levels A bigger problem is about measuring haemoglobin levels after intervention. While the study claims that haemoglobin counts increased post-intervention, the fact is that haemoglobin level was not

measured for all participants. "Due to an inadvertent computerisation error, post-intervention haemoglobin levels were not uniformly obtained for all three groups," the paper says. So, it is not certain that the participants should be measured for haemoglobin levels after intervention.

Another shortcoming of the study has been the focus on folic acid and vitamin B12 fortification of tea without taking iron into consideration. Anaemia can be caused due to deficiency of iron, vitamin B12 and/or folic acid. So fortification using only folic acid and vitamin B12 may not be sufficient to address the problem of anaemia in women.

Focusing on one or two nutrients in the complex mixture of nutrients required for making haemoglobin in the body is a mistake," cautions Dr. Kurpad.

Iron deficiency A few small studies in India have shown that 60% of anaemia due to iron deficiency. The position error in the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) of Indian children aged 1-9 years in all three groups," the paper says. So, it is not certain that the participants should be measured for haemoglobin levels after intervention.

"In adolescent girls (10-19 years), folic acid and B12 deficiency anaemia was present in 22%. Iron deficiency anaemia was seen in 27% of girls. Anaemia due to unknown origin and iron deficiency accounted for 31%," he says.

H5N1 kills 50 million birds, spreads to mammals

Uncontrolled spread of the virus can be catastrophic to the already endangered bird species globally, leading to the mass extinction of several species

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

This year, the world has been witnessing one of the worst-ever documented outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 killing millions of birds. The virus, which is known to cause severe disease and death in birds, has also been detected in mammalian species and also in humans.

This has put health authorities on high alert regarding the implications of the large outbreak on public health.

High mortality in birds

Although avian influenza has different subtypes, H5N1 is a highly pathogenic subtype that causes mortality in birds. Since 2022,

Deadly H5N1 outbreak continues unabated globally

Since 2022, H5N1 has infected over 100 million birds globally, killing over 50 million birds and millions of poultry have been culled



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1 Unlike previous outbreaks of highly pathogenic subtypes of avian influenza, H5N1 is heavily impacting wild bird species

2 In addition to poultry, eagles, pelicans, geese, waterfowl, gulls, falcons and shorebirds have been impacted significantly

3 High mortality in wild birds could cause significant ecological consequences, including vulnerability of predators and alterations in species composition in affected ecosystems

4 There have been several spillovers of H5N1 virus from birds to mammals globally

5 When H5N1 spreads from birds to mammals, the virus could accumulate mutations and acquire the ability to initiate human outbreaks

6 A few sporadic cases of human H5N1 infections have been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and Chile

varied depending on several factors, such as level of exposure, geographical locations and migratory pat-

terns. H5N1 has also been remaining in the wild, this would roughly account for a significant 7% of the species.

H5N1 has also been found in minks, foxes, wild bears, and skunks, apart from domestic animals such as dogs and cats.

transmitted to humans through close contact with infected birds or animals, either through handling infected poultry or exposure to contaminated environments.

In the recent months, a few sporadic cases of human H5N1 infections have also been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and more recently in Chile. However, since the virus does not yet transmit efficiently among humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) has assessed the risk of H5N1 to humans to be low.

However, the large and unabated outbreak in avian species and not so rare mammalian spillovers could potentially provide the virus a chance to adapt for mammalian transmission.

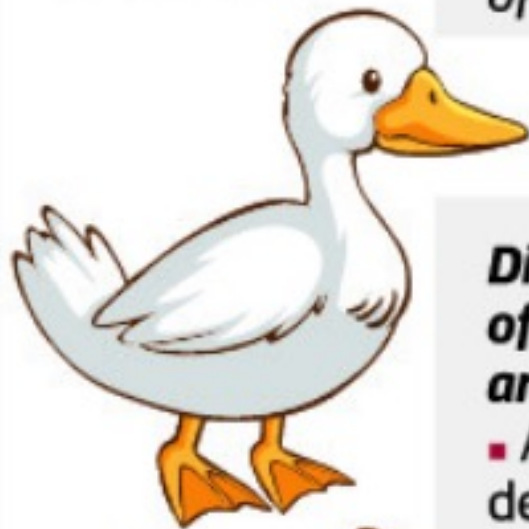
Influenza

Type A Viruses

Subtypes

- Hemagglutinin (HA)
- Neuraminidase (NA)

(Viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus)



▪ 18 known HA subtypes

▪ 11 known NA subtypes



Different combinations of HA and NA proteins are possible

- An H7N2 virus designates an influenza A virus subtype that has an HA7 protein and an NA2 protein
- H5N1 virus has an HA5 protein and an NA1 protein

All known subtypes of Influenza A viruses can infect birds, except subtypes H17N10 and H18N11, which have only been found in bats

Influenza A H5

- There are nine known subtypes of H5 viruses
- H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9

- Recent reports of [H5N1 \(subtype of avian influenza\)](#) being transmitted between **mammals** have raised concerns about its **potential to cause a human pandemic**.
- Scientists are investigating a **potential spillover event after a mass mortality event that killed over 700 seals along the [Caspian Sea](#)** coast where a H5N1 variant was detected in wild birds a few months ago.

- स्तनधारियों के बीच प्रसारित होने वाले H5N1 (एवियन इन्फ्लुएंजा का उपप्रकार) की हालिया रिपोर्टों ने मानव महामारी का कारण बनने की इसकी क्षमता के बारे में चिंता जताई है।
- कैस्पियन सागर के तट पर 700 से अधिक सीलों की मौत के बाद वैज्ञानिक एक संभावित स्पिलओवर घटना की जांच कर रहे हैं, जहां कुछ महीने पहले जंगली पक्षियों में H5N1 प्रकार का पता चला था।

- **Avian influenza** or bird flu refers to the disease caused by **infection with avian influenza Type A viruses**.
 - Infrequently, the **virus can infect mammals from birds**, a phenomenon called spillover, and rarely can spread between mammals.
- एवियन इन्फ्लूएंजा या बर्ड फ्लू एवियन इन्फ्लूएंजा टाइप ए वायरस के संक्रमण के कारण होने वाली बीमारी को संदर्भित करता है।
- कभी-कभी, वायरस पक्षियों से स्तनधारियों को संक्रमित कर सकता है, इस घटना को स्पिलओवर कहा जाता है, और शायद ही कभी स्तनधारियों के बीच फैल सकता है।

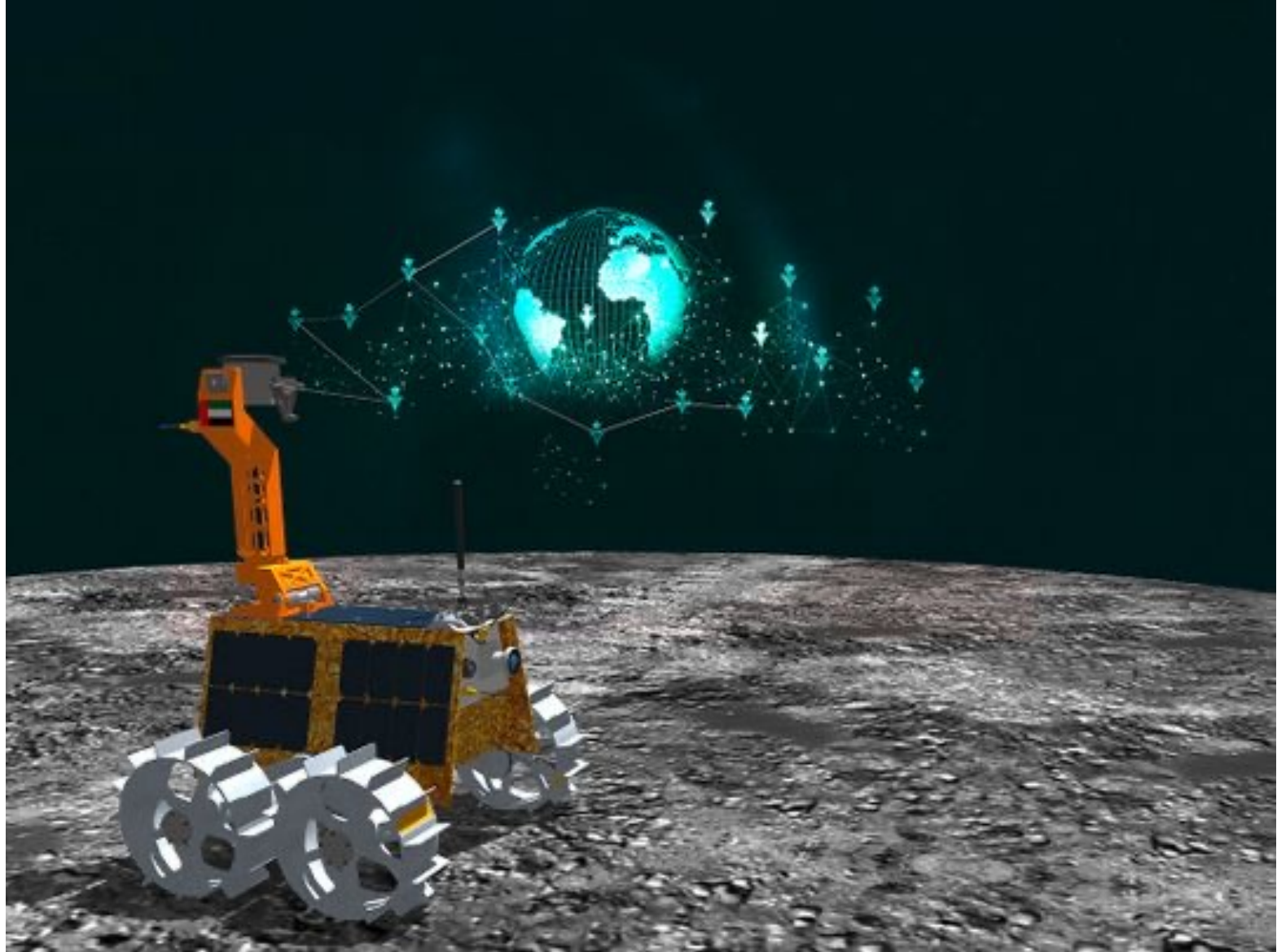
- **H5N1, a subtype of avian influenza**, has the potential to infect other mammals such as **minks, ferrets, seals, domestic cats**, and others through contact with infected **birds, their faeces, or infected bird carcasses**.

- H5N1, एवियन इन्फ्लूएंजा का एक उपप्रकार है, जिसमें संक्रमित पक्षियों, उनके मल, या संक्रमित पक्षी शवों के संपर्क के माध्यम से अन्य स्तनधारियों जैसे कि मिंक, फेरेट, सील, घरेलू बिल्लियां और अन्य को संक्रमित करने की क्षमता होती है।



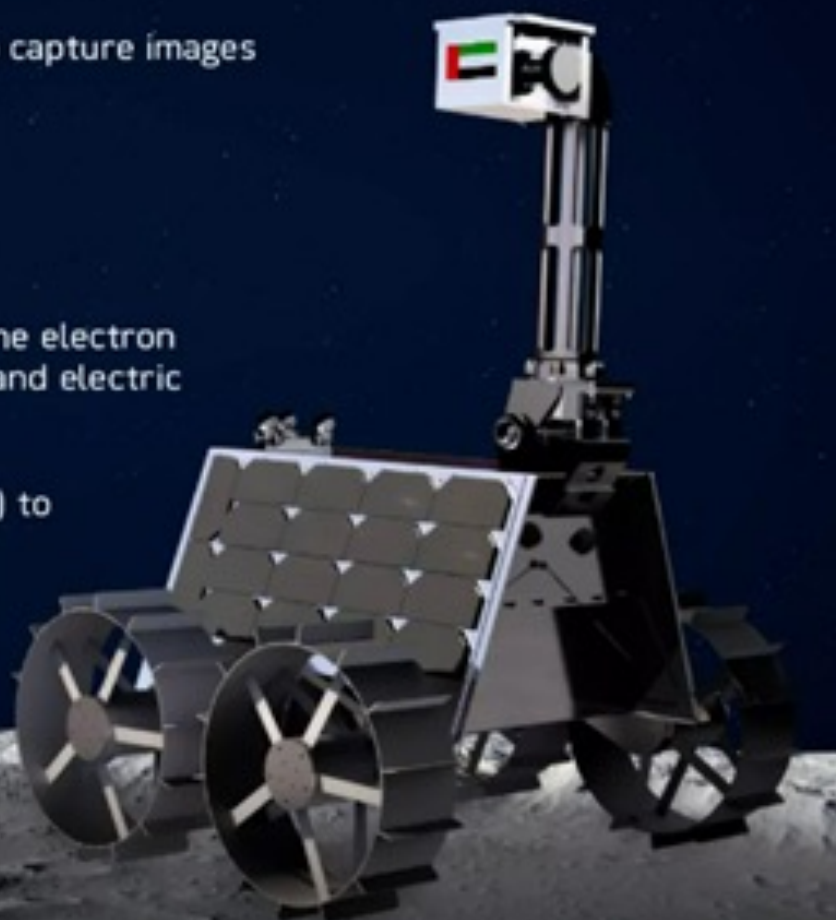
Japanese spacecraft crash lands on surface of the Moon

A lunar spacecraft developed by the Japanese firm, ispace, appears to have crash-landed. It is still unclear what exactly happened. Mission control lost contact with the 2.3-metre-tall lander when it was around 90 metres above the Moon's surface. The craft picked up speed as it descended, and it could have run out of fuel prematurely. The lander was carrying the UAE's Rashid rover, which was to investigate the geological properties of the Moon's surface.



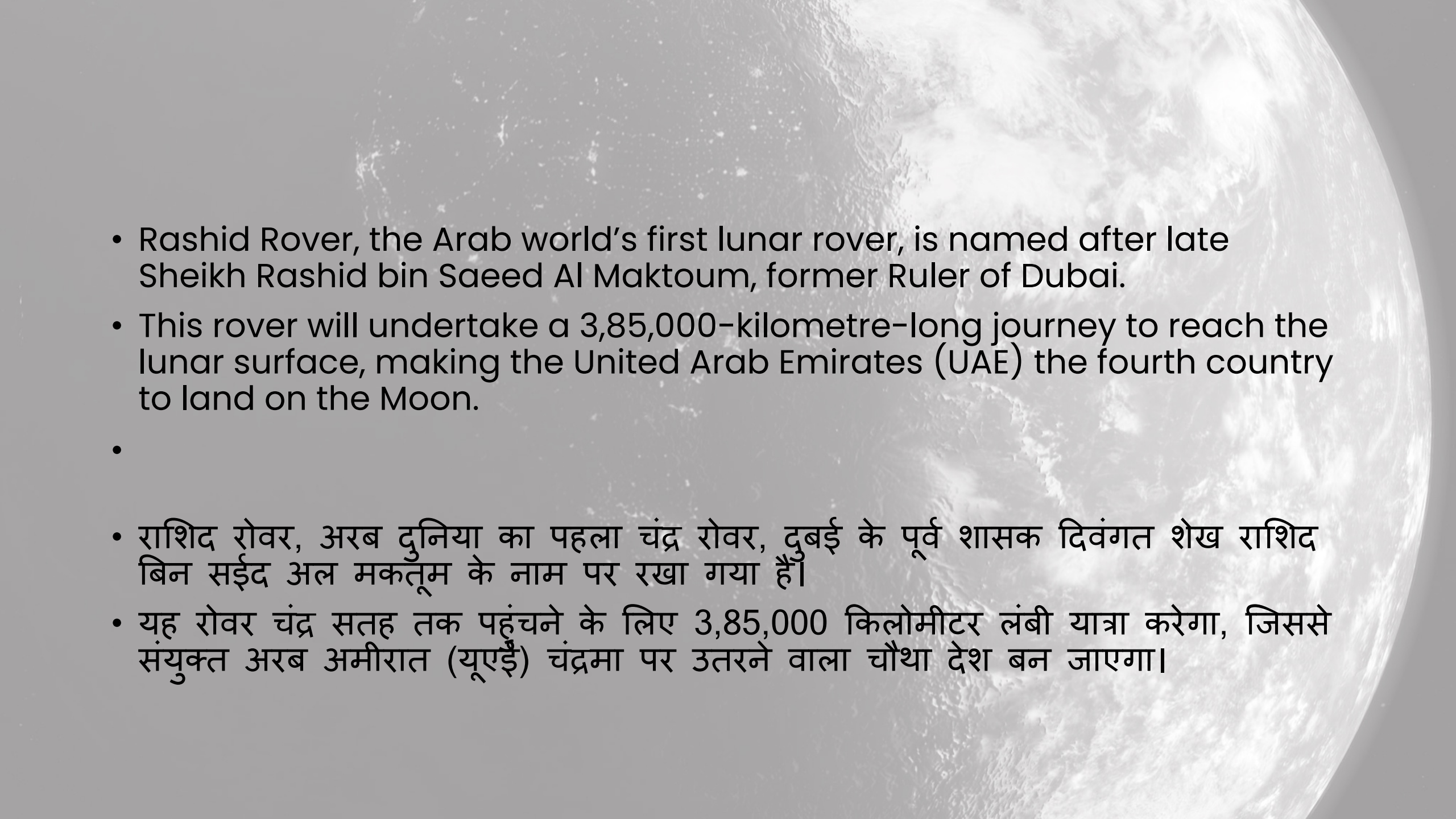
The instruments on the first Arab lunar rover

- Two high-resolution cameras to capture images of the lunar surface
- Microscopic Camera
- Thermal Imager
- Langmuir Probe to determine the electron temperature, electron density, and electric potential of a plasma
- Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) to track the motion of the Rover
- 3D Camera Time of Flight



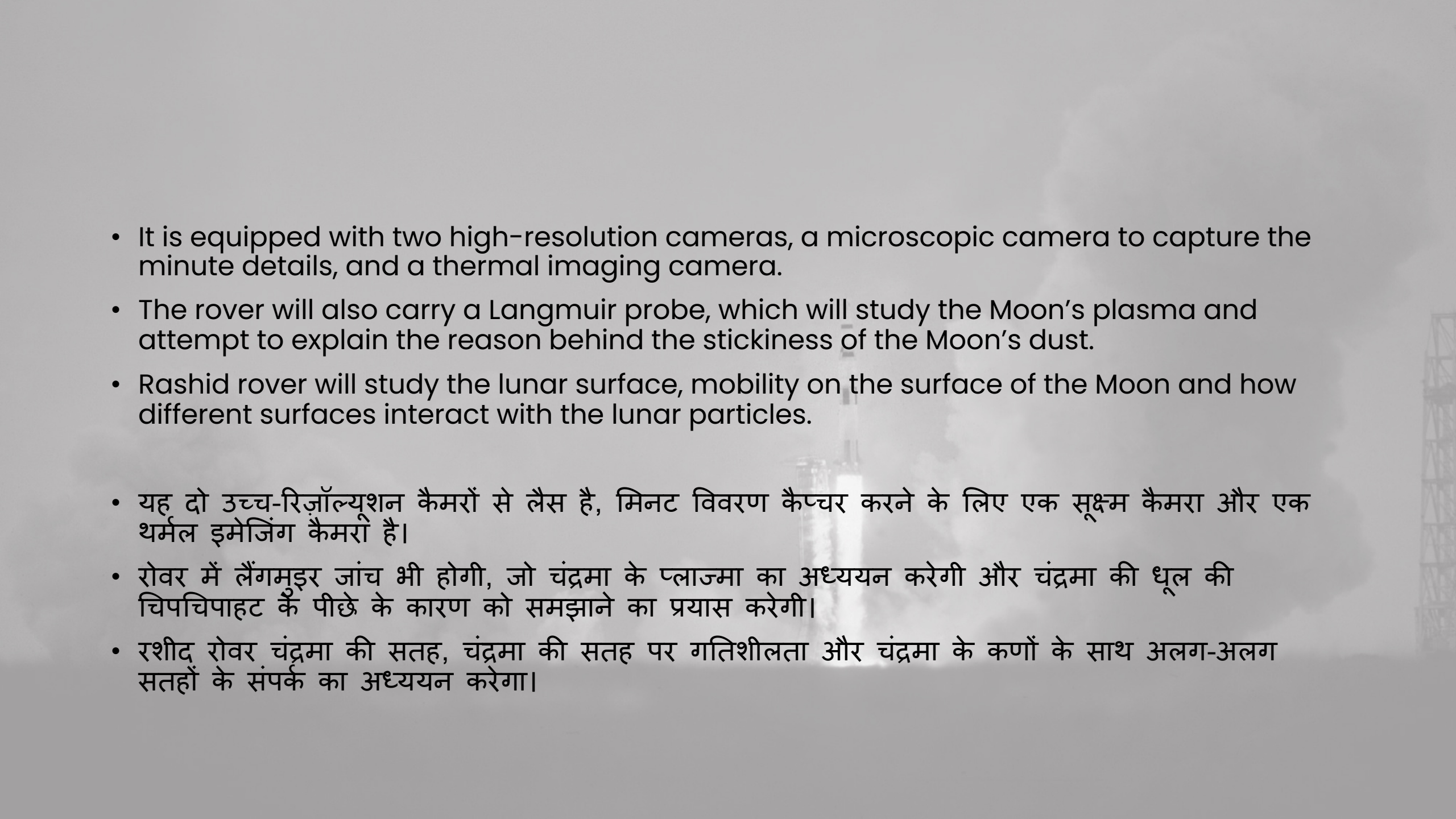
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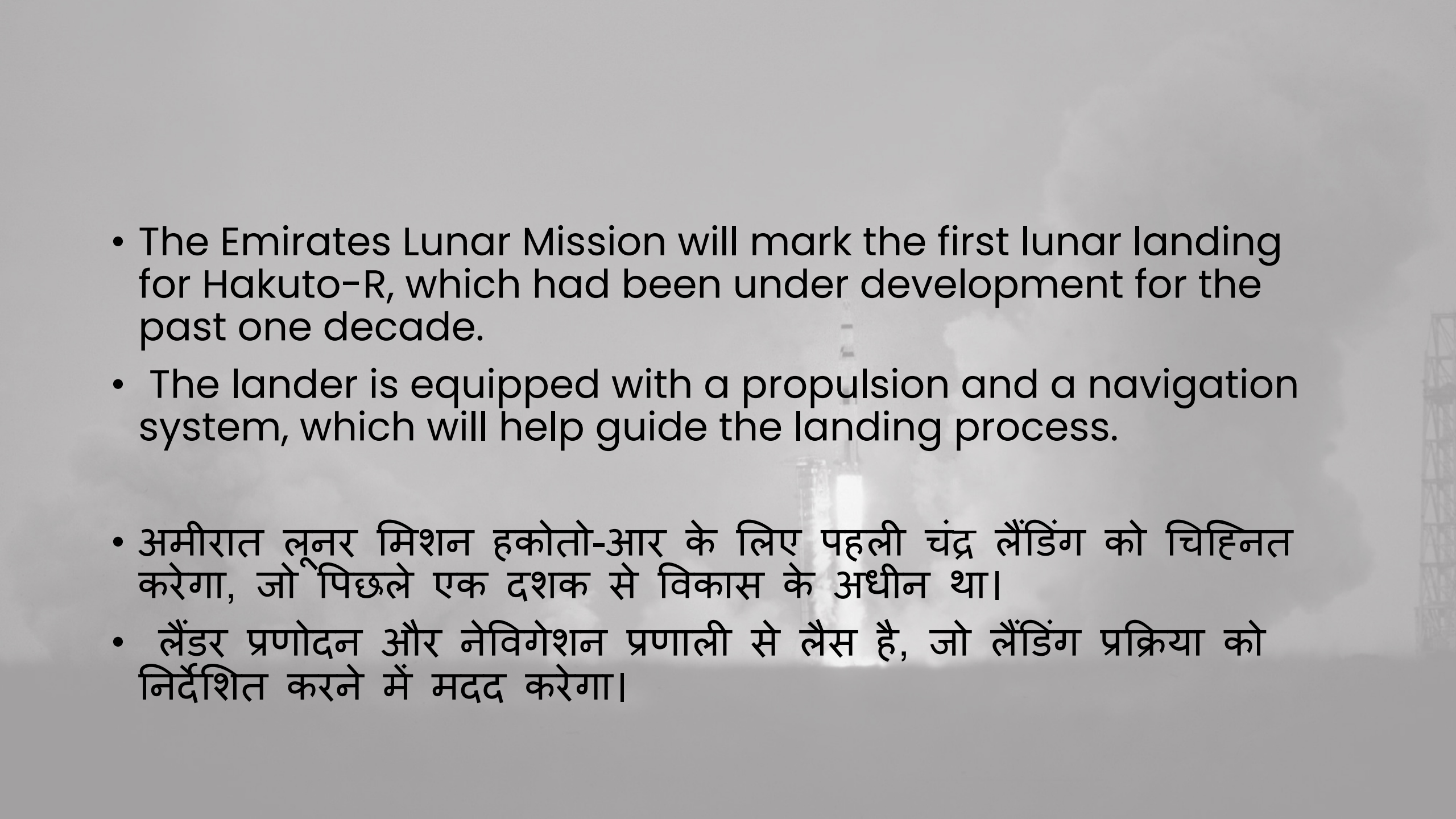
- 
- Rashid Rover, the Arab world's first lunar rover, is named after late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, former Ruler of Dubai.
 - This rover will undertake a 3,85,000-kilometre-long journey to reach the lunar surface, making the United Arab Emirates (UAE) the fourth country to land on the Moon.
 -
 - राशिद रोवर, अरब दुनिया का पहला चंद्र रोवर, दुबई के पूर्व शासक दिवंगत शेख राशिद बिन सईद अल मकतूम के नाम पर रखा गया है।
 - यह रोवर चंद्र सतह तक पहुंचने के लिए 3,85,000 किलोमीटर लंबी यात्रा करेगा, जिससे संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) चंद्रमा पर उतरने वाला चौथा देश बन जाएगा।

- This four-wheeled rover weighs just 10 kg. It was built by engineers from the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) as part of a project that was launched in 2017.
- The destination of the rover is the Atlas crater in the Mare Frigoris site on the Moon's near side (the one facing the Earth).

- चार पहियों वाले इस रोवर का वजन महज 10 किलो है। इसे मोहम्मद बिन राशिद स्पेस सेंटर (MBRSC) के इंजीनियरों ने 2017 में लॉन्च की गई एक परियोजना के हिस्से के रूप में बनाया था।
- रोवर का गंतव्य चंद्रमा के निकट की ओर (पृथ्वी का सामना करने वाला) मारे फ्रिगोरिस साइट में एटलस क्रेटर है।

- 
- It is equipped with two high-resolution cameras, a microscopic camera to capture the minute details, and a thermal imaging camera.
 - The rover will also carry a Langmuir probe, which will study the Moon's plasma and attempt to explain the reason behind the stickiness of the Moon's dust.
 - Rashid rover will study the lunar surface, mobility on the surface of the Moon and how different surfaces interact with the lunar particles.
-
- यह दो उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन कैमरों से लैस है, मिनिट विवरण कैप्चर करने के लिए एक सूक्ष्म कैमरा और एक थर्मल इमेजिंग कैमरा है।
 - रोवर में लैंगमुइर जांच भी होगी, जो चंद्रमा के प्लाज्मा का अध्ययन करेगी और चंद्रमा की धूल की चिपचिपाहट के पीछे के कारण को समझाने का प्रयास करेगी।
 - रशीद रोवर चंद्रमा की सतह, चंद्रमा की सतह पर गतिशीलता और चंद्रमा के कणों के साथ अलग-अलग सतहों के संपर्क का अध्ययन करेगा।

- The Rashid Rover is currently hitchhiking on the HAKUTO-R lander, which was developed by Japan-based ispace Inc.
- Since the United Arab Emirates does not plan to build an indigenous lander, it had entered into a contract with the Japanese company ispace for a lunar landing.
- रशीद रोवर वर्तमान में हाकटो-आर लैंडर पर हाइचहाइकिंग कर रहा है, जिसे जापान स्थित आईस्पेस इंक द्वारा विकसित किया गया था।
- चूंकि संयुक्त अरब अमीरात ने स्वदेशी लैंडर बनाने की योजना नहीं बनाई है, इसलिए उसने चंद्र लैंडिंग के लिए जापानी कंपनी आईस्पेस के साथ अनुबंध किया था।

- 
- The Emirates Lunar Mission will mark the first lunar landing for Hakuto-R, which had been under development for the past one decade.
 - The lander is equipped with a propulsion and a navigation system, which will help guide the landing process.
 - अमीरात लूनर मिशन हकोतो-आर के लिए पहली चंद्र लैंडिंग को चिह्नित करेगा, जो पिछले एक दशक से विकास के अधीन था।
 - लैंडर प्रणोदन और नेविगेशन प्रणाली से लैस है, जो लैंडिंग प्रक्रिया को निर्देशित करने में मदद करेगा।

MORE WOMEN HAVE RECENTLY DELAYED OR GIVEN UP ON CHILDBIRTH, BUT MANY STILL WANT TO BE MOTHERS

China weighs IVF access for single women to fix population drop

**FARAH MASTER
& XIAOYU YIN**
HONG KONG, APRIL 29

AS CHINA tries to slow its demographic decline, women like Chen Luojin could be part of solution. The divorced 33-year-old lives in Chengdu, capital of the south-western Sichuan province, which legalised registration of kids by unmarried women in February, something China is considering implementing nationwide to address record low birth rates. The changes mean unmarried women can take paid maternity leave and receive child

subsidies previously only available to married couples. Crucially, Chen could access in-vitro fertility (IVF) treatment legally in a private clinic. She is now 10 weeks pregnant. "Becoming a single parent is not for everyone, but I'm happy with the decision," said Chen, who works in logistics. "Equally, getting married or not is for each individual to decide. We have liberalised the policies here and I know a lot of single women are doing IVF." Concerned about China's first population drop in six decades and its rapid ageing, the government's political advisers pro-



At the assisted reproductive centre of Beijing Perfect Family Hospital. *Reuters file*

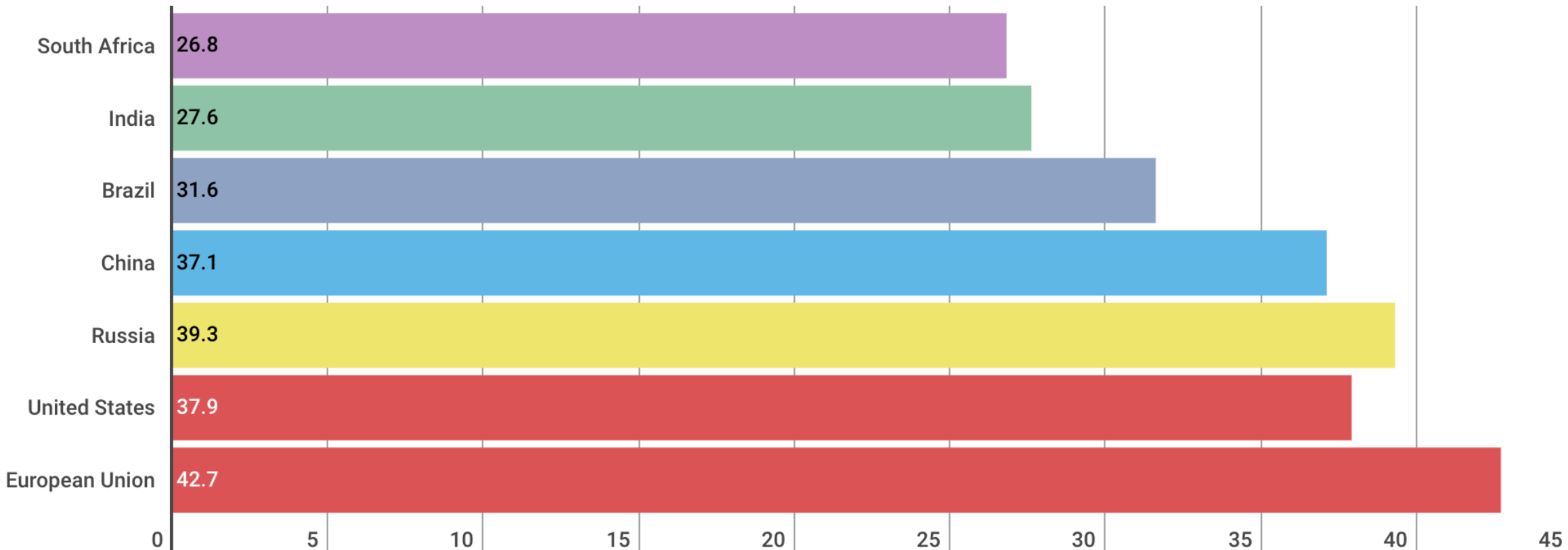
posed in March that single and unmarried women should have access to egg freezing and IVF treatment, among other services. China's leaders have not commented publicly on the recommendations. Liberalising IVF nationwide could unleash more demand for fertility treatment in what is already the world's biggest market, straining limited fertility services. Some investors in the industry see an opportunity to expand. "If China changes their policy to allow single women to have children, this can result in an increase of IVF demand," said Yve Lyppens, director of business de-

velopment for Asia Pacific at INVO Bioscience (INVO.O), which is awaiting regulatory approval to launch its IVF technology in China after signing a distribution agreement with Guangzhou-based Onesky Holdings last year. "However, if there is a sudden increase, China will have an even larger capacity issue." China's National Health Commission (NHC) did not respond to a request for comment about liberalising IVF access, though it has previously acknowledged that many young women are delaying plans to marry and have children, noting that high costs of education and

















child-rearing have contributed to declining marriage rates. While more Chinese women have postponed or given up on having babies recently, many still want to become mothers. Joy Yang, a 22-year-old international finance major from Hunan province, said she first heard of IVF on television and she wants it liberalised nationwide, in case she does not find a partner but her financial situation allows her to have a child. "There are some women who don't want to get married but they still want to have children. I might choose to do IVF," said Yang.











REUTERS

BRICS nations median age (2016 estimated)



Source: CIA World Factbook

Country 	 Median age in years	 Population under 20 years old	 Life expectancy in years
 Japan	48.6	16.3 %	84.8
 Germany	47.8	18.5 %	81.0
 Italy	46.5	17.5 %	82.5
 Hong Kong *	45.6	15.7 %	85.6
 Greece	45.3	19.3 %	81.2
 San Marino	45.2	18.1 %	85.5
 Slovenia	44.9	19.7 %	80.6
 Isle of Man *	44.6	20.1 %	80.6
 Portugal	44.6	18.5 %	81.2
 Austria	44.5	19.2 %	81.3
 Lithuania	44.5	19.7 %	75.4
 Latvia	44.4	20.5 %	75.8

 Benin	17.0	53.0 %	60.1
 Mozambique	17.0	54.6 %	61.2
 Zambia	16.9	54.3 %	62.4
 Malawi	16.8	54.9 %	63.9
 Congo (Dem. Republic)	16.7	56.9 %	59.8
 Chad	16.1	58.4 %	52.8
 Mali	16.0	58.5 %	58.6
 Angola	15.9	55.6 %	62.3
 Uganda	15.7	57.1 %	62.8
 Niger	14.8	59.7 %	61.4

All figures are from the years 2018 to 2021.

THE IN VITRO FERTILIZATION PROCESS

Used as a remedy for infertility, a woman's egg cells are combined with a man's sperm cells outside the uterus. The fertilized egg is then implanted in the woman's uterus and, if successful, begins the pregnancy cycle. The first baby realized from this fertilization method was born in 1978.

- 1** The woman is given hormone treatments to stimulate egg production



- 2** Multiple eggs are taken from the woman's ovaries

- 3** In the lab, the eggs are mixed with the man's sperm cells in a culture dish to become fertilized



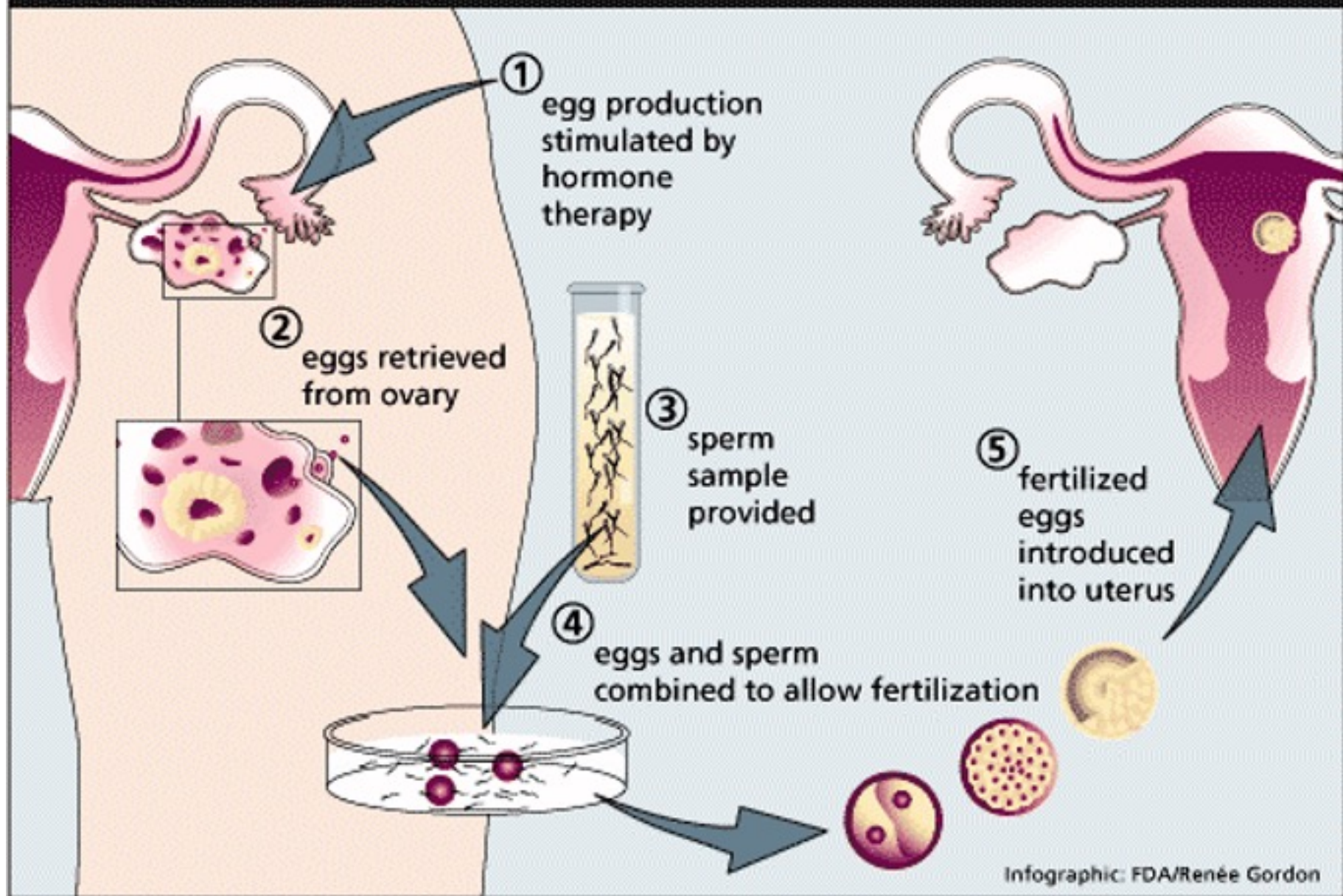
- 4** The fertilized eggs, or embryos, are placed in an incubator for about 48 hours



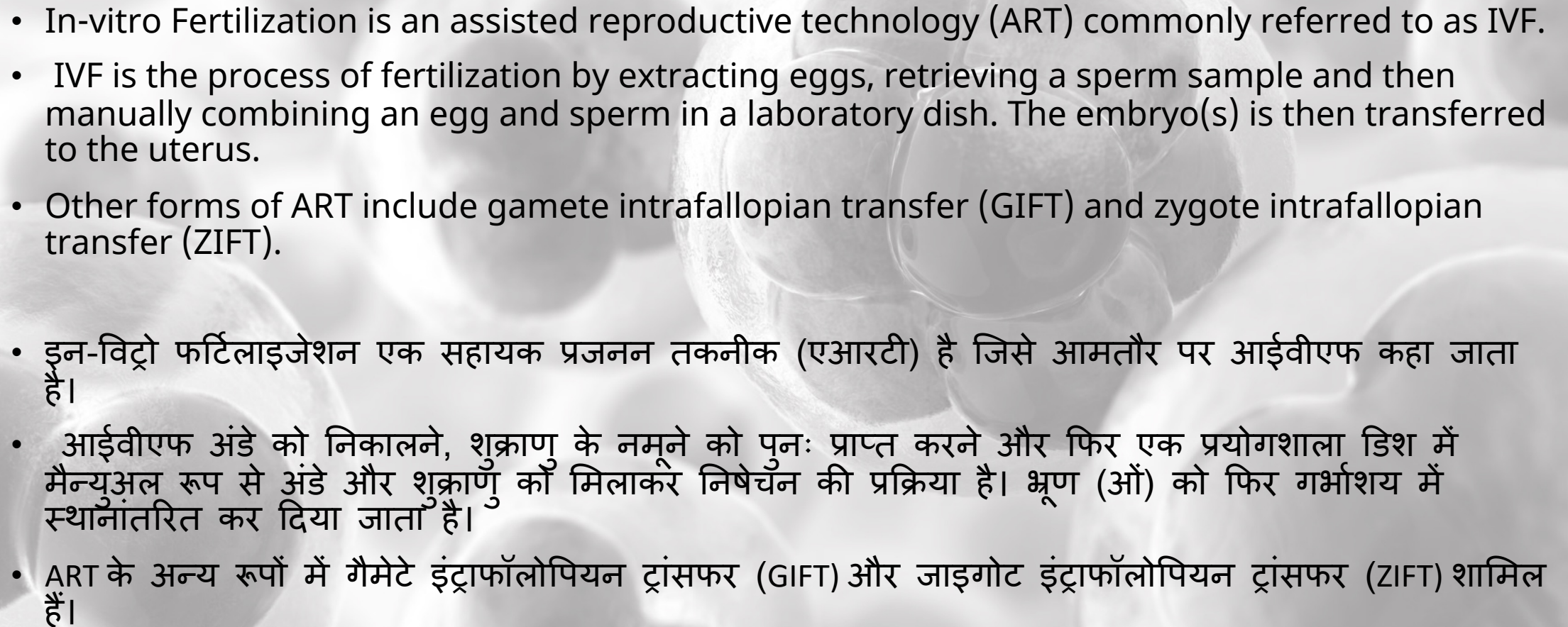
- 5** Embryos are implanted in the woman's uterus or frozen for future implanting



In Vitro Fertilization

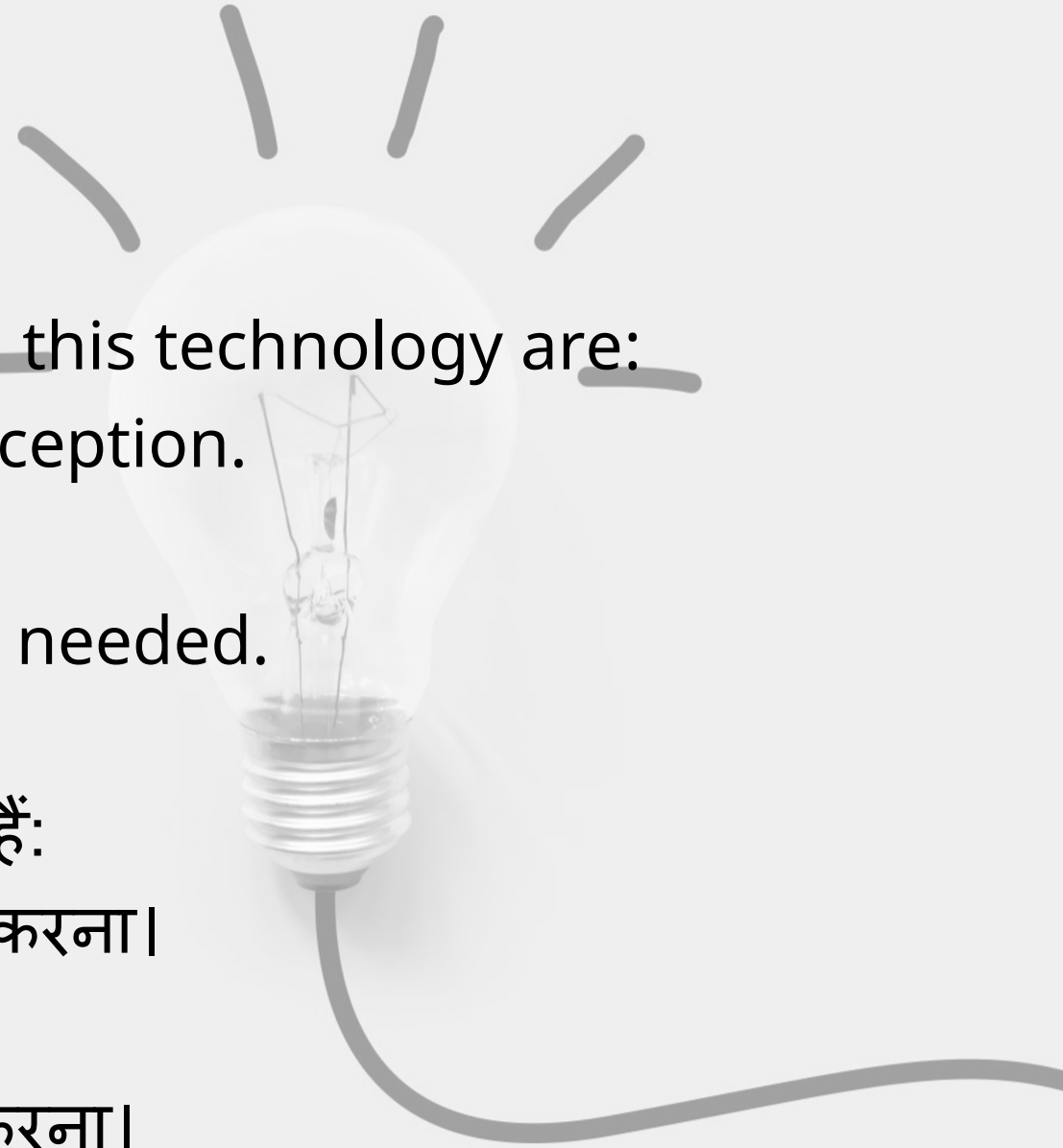


- The IVF technique was developed in the United Kingdom by Doctors Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards.
- The world's first "test-tube baby", Louise Brown, was born as a result of this technique on July 25, 1978 amid intense controversy over the safety and morality of the procedure.
- India's first successful IVF to produce "Durga" alias Kanupriya Agarwal-second test tube baby in the world-was performed by Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay on October 3, 1978.
- IVF तकनीक को यूनाइटेड किंगडम में डॉक्टर्स पैट्रिक स्टेप्टो और रॉबर्ट एडवर्ड्स द्वारा विकसित किया गया था।
- प्रक्रिया की सुरक्षा और नैतिकता पर गहन विवाद के बीच 25 जुलाई, 1978 को इस तकनीक के परिणामस्वरूप दुनिया का पहला "टेस्ट-ट्यूब बेबी", लुईस ब्राउन पैदा हुआ था।
- 3 अक्टूबर, 1978 को डॉ सुभाष मुखोपाध्याय द्वारा "दुर्गा" उर्फ कनूप्रिया अग्रवाल - दुनिया में दूसरी टेस्ट ट्यूब बेबी - का उत्पादन करने वाला भारत का पहला सफल आईवीएफ किया गया था।

- 
- In-vitro Fertilization is an assisted reproductive technology (ART) commonly referred to as IVF.
 - IVF is the process of fertilization by extracting eggs, retrieving a sperm sample and then manually combining an egg and sperm in a laboratory dish. The embryo(s) is then transferred to the uterus.
 - Other forms of ART include gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) and zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT).
 - इन-विट्रो फर्टिलाइजेशन एक सहायक प्रजनन तकनीक (एआरटी) है जिसे आमतौर पर आईवीएफ कहा जाता है।
 - आईवीएफ अंडे को निकालने, शुक्राणु के नमूने को पुनः प्राप्त करने और फिर एक प्रयोगशाला डिश में मैन्युअल रूप से अंडे और शुक्राणु को मिलाकर निषेचन की प्रक्रिया है। भ्रूण (ओं) को फिर गर्भाशय में स्थानांतरित कर दिया जाता है।
 - ART के अन्य रूपों में गैमेटे इंटराफॉलोपियन ट्रांसफर (GIFT) और जाइगोट इंटराफॉलोपियन ट्रांसफर (ZIFT) शामिल हैं।

- Some of the ethical issues involved in this technology are:
- Bypassing the natural method of conception.
- Creating life in laboratory.
- Fertilizing more embryos than will be needed.

- इस तकनीक में शामिल कुछ नैतिक मुद्दे हैं:
- गर्भाधान की प्राकृतिक विधि को दरकिनार करना।
- प्रयोगशाला में जीवन बनाना।
- आवश्यकता से अधिक भ्रूणों को निषेचित करना।



Discarding excess embryos.

Expensive technology, not affordable for common man.

Creating embryos, freezing them and keeping them in limbo.

Destroying embryos in research.

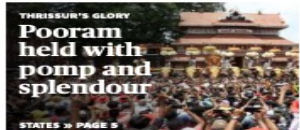
Selective termination of embryos etc.

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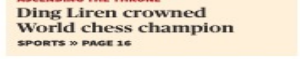
THIRUVARUR'S GLORY
Pooram held with pomp and splendour

STATES » PAGE 9



MAY DAY
The erosion of hard-won labour rights
The litch to increase working hours persists

OPINION » PAGE 7



ASCENDING THE THRONE
Ding Liren crowned World chess champion

SPORTS » PAGE 16

DGCA issues notice to CEO, safety chief of Air India

Brexit Trust of India
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson for the airline's lapses in reporting the incident of a pilot allowing a woman friend inside the cockpit during a Dubai-Delhi flight on February 27, according to a senior official. A show-cause notice has also been issued to the Tata Group-owned airline's head of safety, security and quality functions, Henry Donohoe. A cabin crew member had filed a complaint with the DGCA about the pilot allowing a woman friend inside the cockpit. The notice was issued on April 21 for not doing timely reporting of the incident to the DGCA, which is in violation of safety instructions. Both the executives have been given 15 days to respond to the notice, the official said.

11 dead after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana

NDRF's air quality sensors detected high levels of hydrogen sulphide, but the source of the gas is yet to be identified; victims were from three families, all hailing from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Eleven people — three of them children — died and four were taken all on inhaling toxic gas at Giaspura in Ludhiana on Sunday, officials said. Though the gas has been identified as hydrogen sulphide, its source is yet to be identified, they said.

Panic spread as people who came to a grocery store in the morning found it on inhaling toxic gas. Soon, the area was cordoned off, and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and National Disaster Management Authority teams and State government officials were deployed. The residents were evacuated, and the team of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation is also working to ensure that there is no further



On alert: A National Disaster Response Force team at the site of the gas leak in the Giaspura area of Ludhiana on Sunday.

"In the air quality sensors used by the NDRF team, high levels of hydrogen sulphide gas have been detected and it is ascertained that this gas might have led to the tragic incident. The team of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation is also working to ensure that there is no further chemical contamination," Deputy Commissioner Sabir Malik told the media.

Inquiry ordered
A magisterial inquiry has been ordered. The city police have registered an FIR against unknown persons, she said. "Those who died in the incident did not

show any symptoms of respiratory problems," Ms. Malik said. She appealed to people not to fall prey to rumour-mongering.

Health Minister Balbir Singh, who reached the spot, said the four persons admitted to the civil hospitals were out of danger. The State government announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the dead. An amount of ₹50,000 and free medical care will be given to those who became critical-ill and are undergoing treatment, he added.

The casualties were members of three families, all of whom hailed from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, though they had settled in Punjab for over two decades.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



Justice will be bigger than Asiad medal: Bajrang

NEW DELHI
"If we win justice here... it will be bigger than an Asian Games medal," wrestler Bajrang Punia said on Sunday amid protests seeking action against WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. » Page 11

New Maharashtra CM will be from NCP: Jayant Patil

PUNE
Maharashtra NCP chief Jayant Patil on Sunday said "nearly everyone has accepted that the next CM will be from his party" as he hailed Ajit Pawar as the next CM cropped up in the State. » Page 5

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 6

Summer's summit



To the peak: Students take part in boulder climbing at Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports at Pahalgam in southern Kashmir on Sunday. NISAR AHMAD

Prime Minister marks 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat with nostalgia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The preservation and promotion of education and culture have been an ancient tradition of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday at the 100th episode of his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast.

"The country is working towards that tradition through various means such as the National Education Policy and the decision of studying in regional languages, he added.

Mr. Modi said that just like the occasion of Vijay Dashami when it was first aired on October 3, 2014, Mann Ki Baat had become



a festival of goodness and positivity. He said the programme was his way of connecting with the people across the country as Prime Minister in 2014.

'Connecting with people'
"In the initial days, something felt different, there was an emptiness. I did not leave my home 50

years ago just to find one day that it would be difficult to contact the people of my own country. The very countrymen who are my everything... I could live separately from them. Mann Ki Baat gave me a solution to this challenge, a way to connect with the common man," the Prime Minister said.

The special radio programme was telecast live at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and across all the Raj Bhavans.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party set up four lakh venues for people to hear the programme. Union Home Minister Amit Shah listened to it at a function at Vile Parle in Mumbai

and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the BJP headquarters in Delhi.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar joined members of the Indian community in New Jersey to listen to the programme.

Mr. Modi said that when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had many opportunities to meet and interact with the common people. But after coming to Delhi in 2014, he found that the nature of work was different. "The responsibility is different, one is bound by circumstances, the rigours of security and time limits," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Happening Haryana slips as investments drop amid worries over law reserving jobs for locals

Vikas Dhoort
NEW DELHI

Once one of the most sought-after investment destinations, particularly for skill-driven manufacturing sectors such as automobiles, Haryana seems to have lost some of its sheen with its share of new investment projects in the country tripping to a six-year low of 1.06% in 2022-23, down sharply from almost 3% in the year before.

Even as total investment outlays announced in the State fell 30% last year to ₹19,000-crore from nearly ₹56,000 crore in 2021-22, pushing it from the ninth-best State in terms of new investment projects to the 13th rank in

2022-23, manufacturing investments declined 60% to just about ₹9,500 crore. The decline in fresh projects in the State coincides with its enactment of a law in early 2022 that reserved 78% of private sector jobs with monthly salaries up to ₹30,000 for local people.

The law has been kept in abeyance after being challenged judicially, but the suspension over its implementation remains a worry for investors.

Maruti Suzuki — one of the State's largest legacy investors, which announced a ₹18,000-crore project, Haryana's largest investment in 2021-22 — is now eyeing a ₹24,000-crore plant that will come up elsewhere, for instance.

Investment trends

The table shows the trend of new investments in Haryana. Investment plans in the State fell by 30% in FY23 and the State's share in India's new investment projects slipped to 1% from 3% in FY22

	Projects	Cost (₹ crore)	Share in India (defn)
2022-23	244	35,624.35	2.89
2021-22	256	39,117.31	3.06

60 The % by which investments fell in manufacturing projects

8 The % by which investments dipped in irrigation projects

Compared to 2021-22, when manufacturing, industrial parks, roadways and realty projects dominated the State's largest investments, realty projects dominate the outlays announced in 2022-23.

"Last year, six of the top 10 projects announced in

Haryana were in the real estate sector and the 32 new realty projects worth ₹17,986 crore accounted for 46% of the total fresh investment of ₹39,117.31 crore attracted by the State," Shashikant Hegde, director and CEO of investment monitoring firm Pro-

jects Today told The Hindu. Construction projects, incidentally, tend to create more jobs for lower-skilled migrant workers.

Mr. Hegde reckoned that the fall in fresh manufacturing investments in the State could have been partly driven by the mandatory local employment laws and recent history of labour troubles for firms like Maruti. "Moreover, the State has not made much effort to project itself as a growth State, unlike its rivals like Uttar Pradesh, and the last investor summit (Happening Haryana) was held as far back as 2016," he pointed out.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

The Kerala Story is an attempt to spread hate propaganda: CM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said the upcoming movie 'The Kerala Story' was a product of the Sangh Parivar's "factory of lies".

He said legal action would be taken against those involving themselves in anti-social activities.

"A glance at the trailer gives the impression that the movie was deliberately produced with the aim of communal polarisation and spreading hate propaganda against Kerala. By placing Kerala, the land of secularism, as the centre of religious extremism, it is repeating the Sangh Parivar's propaganda. Propaganda films and the othering of Muslims should be viewed in the context of the serious efforts made by the Sangh Parivar to gain an advantage in electoral politics in Kerala," Mr. Vijayan said in a Facebook post.

The statement comes at a time when the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF),



A still from the movie.

the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) and their youth organisations have all opposed the movie in a united voice.

Mr. Vijayan said the allegations of "love jihad" were dismissed by the central investigating agencies, courts and even the Union Home Ministry. G. Kishan Reddy, then Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, had said in Parliament that there was no such thing as "love jihad".

Yet in the film, this false allegation is made the main premise of the story, mainly because of the eagerness to humiliate Kerala in front of the world," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

From Page One

11 dead after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana

They include five members of one family: Kalpana, 65, and her brothers Abhay, 15, and Aryan, 45, and their parents, Kavilash and Varsha, who ran a clinic in the area.

Saurav Goyal, 35, the owner of the grocery store where the victims collapsed, died along with his wife, Preety, 31, and mother Kamlesh, 60. His elder brother Gaurav has been admitted to hospital. An accountant, Navneet Kumar, 39, and his wife, Neetu Devi, 37, also died. His brother Nishu is in hospital. One of the dead, a young man, is still unidentified.

PM marks 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat

In *Mann Ki Baat*, people from every corner of the country, people of all age groups joined in, whether it was about the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* campaign or the *Swachh Bharat* movement, love for khadi or for nature, Mr. Modi said.

Ensure quality education

On the special 100th episode on Sunday, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay was the special guest. She wanted to know how India planned to ensure quality education for all its people by 2030, now that it was the world's most populous country, and how it intended to put education and culture at the top of its agenda.

Replying to her question, the Prime Minister said, "Whether it is about education or promotion, whether it is about its preservation or promotion, this has been an ancient tradition of India. The work that the country is doing in this direction today is really commendable. Be it the National Education Policy or the option of studying in a regional language, or technology integration in education, you will notice many such efforts."

Mr. Modi cited the efforts made by his government to check dropout rates, as well as some initiatives by individuals who have contributed to teaching these in need. In a year when India was presiding over the G-20, its resolve to enrich diverse global cultures along with education has become stronger, he added.

The government made elaborate arrangements to mark the milestone, with the Culture Ministry deciding to bring out a series of Amar Chitra Katha comic books on the people mentioned in the radio programme.

Special projection mapping shows were held at iconic heritage sites such as the Red Fort in Delhi and the Gateway of India in Mumbai. Also in Mumbai, arrangements were made for a special broadcast for the famous dabbawalas (tiffin carriers) and at women's prisons.

In Uttar Pradesh, the radio programme was aired in more than 300 madrasas, a local BJP leader said.

Happening Haryana loses investment sheen

Industry captains were guarded about the reasons behind the trend. "It is observed that manufacturing investments have been very volatile over the years and because of such volatility, we don't see that State has any lacuna in its investment environment per se," remarked PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Sanku Dalmia.

"To encourage more investments, Haryana is focusing on becoming strong internally, especially in the electric vehicles sector, with a robust policy," noted Anjali Singh, chairperson of CII Haryana and executive chairperson of the Anand group.

"For instance, when Maruti's 800-acre plant at Kharkhoda comes up, with a large EV unit, it can create immense potential for new business and industrial investment for Tier II and III manufacturers," she pointed out.

Rajja Kanwar, chairman & managing director at Apollo International, said the State continues to be a top achiever in ease of doing business and is investing in improving infrastructure. But the limited industrial landscape in the belts of Gurugram, Manesar, and Faridabad, "which have reached their saturation points, may have contributed to the decline in investment", he noted.

On the mandatory local employment law, which is sub-judice, Mr. Kanwar said: "At the moment, it is too early to comment on the sentiments, as we are still sceptical on how it will pan out."

Kerala Story an attempt to spread hate, says CM

"The Sangh Parivar is trying to destroy the atmosphere of religious harmony in Kerala and sow poisonous seeds of communalism," the CM said. He said the Sangh Parivar was attempting to take forward its divisive politics without the support through such films as its methods, which were successful in other places, did not work in Kerala. It was spreading such myths without the support of any fact or evidence, he said.

"In the trailer of the movie, we could see the hoax that 32,000 women in Kerala had converted and became members of the Islamic State. This bogus story is a product of the Sangh Parivar's factory of lies. Justifying those who use cinema only to create division using the argument of freedom of expression is not right. Freedom of expression is not a licence to communalise this country, spread lies and divide people," he said.

229 more Indians reach home from war-torn Sudan

They were airlifted from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah after being evacuated from Khartoum by buses; total number of Indians who have been brought back home from Sudan stands at 1,954

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India brought home another batch of 229 people on Sunday under its mission to evacuate its stranded nationals from violence-hit Sudan.

The fresh batch of evacuees arrived in Bengaluru, a day after 365 people returned from the African country to Delhi.

"Operation Kaveri: One more flight brings back 229 passengers to Bengaluru," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar wrote on Twitter.

Under the evacuation mission, 754 people arrived in India in two batches on Friday.

The total number of Indians who have been brought back home from Sudan now stands at 1,954, according to official Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday.

Under "Operation Kaveri", India has been taking its citizens in buses from the conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to Jeddah in the IAF's heavy-lift transport aircraft and the Indian Navy's ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF's aircraft.

India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan, and



Teaching motherlands: The group of 229 Indian nationals evacuated from war-torn Sudan under Operation Kaveri arriving in Bengaluru on Sunday.

evacuees returned to New Delhi on Wednesday. The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C-17 Globemaster according to official Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday.

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India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan, and

the Indian Embassy in Khartoum has been coordinating with them, besides being in touch with the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's Army and a paramilitary group Ibrahim Mohamed Solhi led around 400 people dead.

IRDAI asks insurance firms to lay down social media rules

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurance companies to lay down social media guidelines for their employees to ensure the sites/social networking sites.

Media forums should not be used to report a complaint, it added.

The organisation's Information and Cyber Security Policy (ICSP) identifies responsibilities and establishes the goals for appropriate protection of the organisation's critical data. Implementing this policy shall reduce the risk of disclosure, modification, destruction, delay, or misuse of information assets, the regulator said.

The Information and Cyber Security Guidelines, issued by the IRDAI to all insurers, have a specific

section on "Acceptable usage of social media" which states that the employees should be refrained from disseminating any unverified and confidential information on any blogs or forums.

Discussion forums/Messenger sites/social networking sites.

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Mahesh Langra
AHMEDABAD

From March 22 to April 26, 2023, as many as eight people have died while cleaning sewers in various parts of Gujarat, raising concern among contractors and workers.

Deaths of manual scavengers despite the fact that the practice has been declared illegal across the country.

In Rajkot, two died on March 22, in Dabai three died on April 3, later two died in Dholka on April 23 and one more death was reported from Tharad in north Gujarat on April 26.

All incidents occurred when the workers, without proper gears, entered the sewer lines to clean them manually and died of asphyxiation or inhaling the poisonous gas. And af-

ter the deaths, the police lodged cases of accidental deaths while the Dabai incident, the case was lodged against the private contractor.

All the workers who died were hired by the private contractors who are roped in by the civic bodies to ensure the fact that the practice has been declared illegal across the country.

In Gujarat, as per the figures shared by the State government in the Assembly recently, as many as 11 people died while cleaning sewer lines in last two years before these eight deaths that have been reported recently.

However, social activists working for the rights of the scavengers and community leaders from the

Rajnath to hand over patrol vessel, landing craft to Maldives

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hand over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives as India's "gift" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3.

The Defence Ministry said this on Sunday, noting that Mr. Singh's visit to the Maldives will be an "important landmark" in building "strong bonds" of friendship between the two countries.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in the areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

"Neighbourhood First" India's decision to provide the military platforms to the Maldives came amid China's push for efforts to expand its overall influence in the region.

During his visit, Mr. Singh is scheduled to call on Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solhi and hold talks with Foreign



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Minister Abdullah Shahid and Defence Minister Mariya Didi.

Minister Abdullah Shahid and Defence Minister Mariya Didi. Mr. Singh is also set to take stock of the implementation of various India-assisted projects in the Maldives and will interact with the Indian diaspora.

"India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) along with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy as well as Maldives' 'India First' policy seek to work together to jointly develop the capabilities within the Indian Ocean region," the Ministry said in a statement.

On Mr. Singh's talks with the Maldivian Defence and Foreign Ministers, it said the entire gamut of defence relations between the two countries will be reviewed.

Gujarat continues to witness deaths of manual scavengers, despite ban

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However, social activists working for the rights of the scavengers and community leaders from the

Dalit outfits dispute the State government figures and claim that the real numbers are significantly higher.

In Gujarat, more than 150 workers died while cleaning underground sewer lines or manholes. And all workers are either Dalits or tribals or in recent Rajkot case, a person from minority community, said Himendra Pithadny, a chairman of Gujarat Congress SC department.

NHRC probe sought

After the surge in deaths, Gujarat Congress leader Hiren Bhaner has written a letter to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking a probe by the national rights body into the deaths of sanitation workers in Gujarat.

In his letter, he said despite the illegality of this practice and the existence of laws in place to prohibit it, manual scavenging continued to claim the lives of countless sanitation workers across the State. As per the government norms, if any worker is found dead while cleaning the sewer, 10 lakh compensation must be paid to the family of the deceased. However, according to Mr. Pithadny, in case of 'accidental deaths', compensation is not paid."

The Gujarat government's circulars state that in case of death of any sanitation worker while cleaning sewer line, action must be taken against the official concerned but so far no officer has been held responsible despite as many as 95 deaths since the circulars were issued.

Trinamool grappling with HC orders of investigation by Central agencies

Shiv Sahas Singh
KOLKATA

The developments centring Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay who has been taken over cases relating to the West Bengal school job scam have brought the focus on the repeated directions by the Calcutta High Court ordering investigation by Central agencies in scams, irregularities and incidents of violence in the State.

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Rane-Thackeray rivalry spills over to Barsu row

Shounobit Banerjee
PUNE

A wordy duel has erupted between Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nara

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Rajnath to hand over patrol vessel, landing craft to Maldives

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

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'Neighbourhood First'

India's decision to provide the military platforms to the Maldives came amid China's persistent efforts to expand its overall influence in the region.

During his visit, Mr. Singh is scheduled to call on Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and hold talks with Foreign



Rajnath Singh

Minister Abdulla Shahid and Defence Minister Mariya Didi. Mr. Singh is also set to take stock of the implementation of various India-assisted projects in the Maldives and will interact with the Indian diaspora.

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Capital and largest city	Malé 🌐 4°10′31″N 73°30′32″E﻿ / ﻿
Official languages Recognised languages	Dhivehi English
Ethnic groups (2019)	≈100% Maldivians ^{[1][2][3]}
Religion	Sunni Islam (official)
Demonym(s)	Maldivian
Government	Unitary presidential constitutional republic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih^[4] • Vice-President Faisal Naseem^[5] • Speaker of the Majlis Mohamed Nasheed^[6] • Chief Justice Ahmed Muthasim Adnan^[7]
Legislature	People's Majlis
Independence from the United Kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independence regained • Republic proclaimed • Current constitution	26 July 1965 <p>11 November 1968</p> <p>7 August 2008</p>
Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total	300 ^[8] km ² (120 sq mi) (187th)
Population <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022 census • Density	515,122 (382,751 maldivians) ^{a[9]} <p>1,102.5/km² (2,855.5/sq mi) (8th)</p>

GDP (PPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total • Per capita	2023 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ \$14.5 billion^[10] ▲ \$36,358^[10]
GDP (nominal) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total • Per capita	2023 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ \$7 billion^[10] ▲ \$17,627^[10]
Gini (2017)	▼ 31.3 ^[11] medium
HDI (2021)	▲ 0.747 ^[12] high · 90th
Currency	Maldivian rufiyaa (MVR) United States dollar (USD, used in Maldivian resort islands)
Time zone	UTC+5 (Maldives Time)

Aboobacker, Praveen Chitravel and Karthik Unnikrishnan are the others) are almost at the same level. And unlike the Commonwealth Games, we can have only two athletes in the Asian Games team, so it will not be easy," said Eldhose.

Ding Liren crowned king of World chess

Beats Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth tie-breaker game to claim the title from Magnus Carlsen who opted not to defend the prize

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Chess has a new World champion. Ding Liren of China ascended to the throne after defeating his Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth tie-breaker game in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Sunday.

Ding, however, may not quite be able to claim that he is the undisputed World champion. For, this World championship cycle did not include Magnus Carlsen, the world's best player, by some margin, and winner of the last five World championships.

It was after Carlsen decided to withdraw from the World championship match, against Nepomniachtchi, that Ding got the opportunity. The Chinese had finished runner-up, behind the Russian, in the Candidates tournament last year.

When Carlsen withdrew – for lack of motivation – the world chess governing body decided to conduct a



Sealing the deal: Nepomniachtchi, right, congratulates Ding Liren after the decisive tie-breaker. AP

World title match between the top two players of the Candidates, Nepomniachtchi and Ding, ranked second and third respectively in the world. The match, which got underway in the Kazakhstan capital on April 9, turned out to be a nail-biting affair.

After the opening game was drawn, it was Nepomniachtchi who drew first blood, winning the second. Now Ding had to do the catching up. He would do that in remarkable fashion

in the remaining games. He equalised for one last time in the 12th game and the next two were drawn.

With the score tied at 7-7, the tie-breakers (rapid) had to be played. The first three games were drawn and Ding won the fourth, to become China's first World chess champion in the open category.

Now China holds the World title among both men and women (Ju Wenjun).

Gritty Satwik-Chirag duo rallies to create history

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India

DUBAI

The star doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Sunday broke a 58-year-old drought, becoming the first Indians after Dinesh Khanna to be crowned champions, at the Badminton Asia Championships here on Sunday.

The 2022 World Championships bronze medalists scripted a sensational comeback to edge past the Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 21-16, 17-21, 19-21 in a nail-biting final that lasted 67 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag, who claimed the Swiss Open Super 300 title in Basel, showed tremendous grit as they never gave up after losing the first game and being 7-13 and 11-15 in the second and third game to secure the first gold for India in doubles.

Besides the Asia Championships crown, Satwik and Chirag have also won the 2022 Commonwealth Games and five career tit-



Dynamic duo! Chirag and Satwiksairaj with their reward.

TWITTER/BAI_MEDIA

les on the BWF World Tour.

India's previous best performance in men's doubles at the Asia Championships was a bronze-medal finish by Dipu Ghosh and Raman Ghosh in 1971.

Khanna had won the singles gold medal in 1965 at Lucknow.

Later, the BAI president announced a reward of ₹20 lakh for the champion pair.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

In a double engine, one can be so much louder than the other.



From cleaning garbage to mafia: In local polls, Yogi sets tone for 2024

MALLASHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, APRIL 30

IN JUST ONE week, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has turned the urban local body polls in the state into a prelude for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by promising a "cleaning of garbage" along with the "cleaning of mafia and criminals". The local body polls are scheduled to be held in two phases on May 4 and May 11, with counting on May 13.

Coming as they do in just about a fortnight after the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed in Prayagraj, Adityanath's 19 public meetings in seven days have set the tone for the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign for not just the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PUBLIC GATHERINGS MARK 100TH EPISODE MILESTONE

Modi invokes Janata Janardan: Mann Ki Baat my offering, helps me connect

PM speaks with changemakers, says they inspire him, country

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

FRAMING MANN KI BAAT as a national conversation that helps him connect with the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday, in its 100th episode, that for him it was "a matter of faith, of worship" and an offering "that of prasada" to the feet of the divinity "in the form of Janata Janardan".

"It is not me, but you are its Sanskar Sadhana," Modi said as the country tuned in. Union



People listen to PM's Mann Ki Baat address at Bareilly village in Ahmedabad. Nirmal Haridran

Ministers, BJP leaders took the lead to mark the milestone event which saw public gather-

ings at many places in and outside the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Behind the radio show: scripting, translating and sleepless nights

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

AT THE end of the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat Sunday morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the team of All India Radio who, he said, "record this entire programme with great patience".

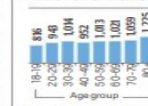
While the PM was in Karnataka to address election-related rallies, the pre-recorded message was aired at 11 am for listeners across the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 5, 11

More women voters than men in half of Karnataka Assembly seats

GENDER RATIO OF ELECTORS-2023



Source: Electoral rolls data

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
& DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE NUMBER of Assembly constituencies in Karnataka where women voters outnumber men has jumped to 112 — or 50% of the total 224 seats — from 67 (30%) in 2018, according to the latest electoral rolls data.

The state's overall gender ratio of electors, or the number of women voters per 1,000 men voters, too, has improved from 973 to 980 over the past five years. According to the electoral rolls data compiled for the May 10 Assembly elections, the number of men and women voters stands at 2.67 crore and 2.64 crore, respectively. Mangalore City South constituency has the highest gender ratio of electors (1,091 women per 1,000 men).

FULL COVERAGE, PAGE 6

When women raise their voices, they are targeted first.

VINESH PHOGAT
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDALIST WRESTLER

PAGE 12

11 die after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana, probe to detect source

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, APRIL 30

AT LEAST 11 people, including a family of five, died Sunday morning after inhaling a poisonous gas in a densely populated locality in Ludhiana. Four others were hospitalised but their condition was stated to be stable.



NDRF personnel at Ludhiana's Ganspura locality. Gunveer Singh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Roz thoda thoda aage badhna hai zindagi ki SIP

Zindagi ke liye SIP

Adhik jaankari ke liye apne MFD/RIA se sampark karein ya scan karein



SIP ke fayde



Market ki timing se azadi



Nivesh raashi chunne ki azadi

HDFC
MUTUAL FUND
BHAROSA APNO KA

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Understanding the PM's Mann ki Baat

The completion of 100 episodes is a landmark for the PM's flagship monthly radio address. Why did he choose the old-world medium of the radio, what has he spoken about, and what chords does it strike?



In terms of similar global examples of radio broadcasts, what came before *Mann ki Baat*?

The earliest example of the use of radio broadcasts by a national leader remains the “Fireside Chats”, a series of 30 radio addresses, each typically 20-30 minutes long, delivered by United States President Franklin D Roosevelt between 1933 and 1944.

The chats were popular, and played a role in shaping American public opinion on a range of issues at a time when the US battled with crises ranging from the Great Depression to World War II. Roosevelt also used the chats to counter criticisms from the conservative media and to unpack his policies to the American public without the use of intermediaries.

Decades later, Ronald Reagan used a daily radio commentary that ran from 1975 to 1979 to build a reputation as a “great communicator”, and to prepare the ground for his successful presidential run in 1980. Reagan gave 1,027 addresses, reaching an estimated audience of 20-30 million listeners every week. The radio commentaries “helped Reagan transition from a national public figure appreciated more for his acting ability than his political acumen into a serious political figure”, according to a note on the US Library of Congress website.

Earlier, in an entirely different context, Subhas Chandra Bose had started Azad Hind Radio as part of Germany’s radio service, first broadcasting on January 7, 1942. The programmes were meant to create bonds between Indians living abroad with those in the motherland under British colonial rule.

What are the issues/ themes that the PM has referred to most frequently?

Yoga, women-led initiatives, youth, and cleanliness have been among the most touched-upon topics on *Mann ki Baat* since it began in October 2014.

The PM has also frequently spoken of the valour and sacrifice of India’s soldiers, the nation’s cultural heritage, and recounted the stories of the life and work of Padma awardees and other achievers. He has also spoken on issues of science and environment.

The PM has dwelt on *khadi* at length, transcripts of episodes show. He had casually asked people to wear *khadi* during the first episode of the programme — and in the second episode, he reported: “I had not asked anyone to be *khadi-dhari*. But the feedback I got from *khadi* stores was that in a week’s time, the sales had jumped up by 125 per cent!”

The 100th episode on Sunday recalled some of the important issues that he has spoken on — and how some of them became wider movements. Sunil Jaglan, who started the ‘Selfie with Daughter’ campaign in Haryana, a state with a skewed sex ratio, joined the PM on the show over a call. Soon

increased interest.

Almost every show includes some new and interesting little-known information about India’s arts, craft, folk culture and heroes, etc. that inform and educate, and evoke and sustain listener interest.

Around 730 individuals have been mentioned by the PM on the show so far, said officials, adding that 281 private organisations (including NGOs and village self-help groups) working in states and Union Territories around the country have been praised for their inspirational work. Even 38 individuals from foreign countries have found mentions for their extraordinary work and stories, the officials said.

Daily Current Affairs

Unified Security Force

- The government is considering the creation of a Unified Security Force for all airports in the country along the lines of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the U.S. which will also combine immigration and customs.
- सरकार यू.एस. के परिवहन सुरक्षा प्रशासन (टीएसए) की तर्ज पर देश के सभी हवाई अड्डों के लिए एक एकीकृत सुरक्षा बल बनाने पर विचार कर रही है जो आप्रवासन और सीमा शुल्क को भी जोड़ देगा।

About Unified Security Force

- **Indian Scenario:** The concept received a green flag from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2023.
- Discussions were held about expanding the scope of an Indian TSA-like force to include security for sea and land ports, as well as roads and highways.
- **भारतीय परिदृश्य:** इस अवधारणा को जनवरी 2023 में प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से हरी झंडी मिली।
- समुद्र और भूमि बंदरगाहों के साथ-साथ सड़कों और राजमार्गों की सुरक्षा को शामिल करने के लिए भारतीय टीएसए जैसे बल के दायरे का विस्तार करने के बारे में चर्चा हुई।

- In India, the proposal comes at a time when the country is pegged to be the third-largest aviation market in the world by 2024 and is already the third-largest domestic aviation market after the U.S. and China.

- It is also the world's fastest-growing market at 9%, though it accounts for only 2% of the global passenger traffic.

- भारत में, यह प्रस्ताव ऐसे समय में आया है जब देश को 2024 तक दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार होने का अनुमान है और अमेरिका और चीन के बाद पहले से ही तीसरा सबसे बड़ा घरेलू विमानन बाजार है।

- यह 9% के साथ दुनिया का सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाला बाजार भी है, हालांकि यह वैश्विक यात्री यातायात का केवल 2% है।

- **Global Status:** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was created in the wake of 9/11 in the U.S. to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems while ensuring freedom of movement for people and commerce.

- **वैश्विक स्थिति:** लोगों और वाणिज्य के लिए आंदोलन की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करते हुए देश की परिवहन प्रणालियों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए अमेरिका में 9/11 के मद्देनजर परिवहन सुरक्षा प्रशासन (TSA) बनाया गया था।

Need and Significance

- There is a need for a **unified security agency** for aviation and also shipping, metro, road, rail, and land and sea ports.
- The move would also help in **integrating policy, regulations, and implementation by bringing them under one body.**
- विमानन और शिपिंग, मेट्रो, सड़क, रेल और भूमि और समुद्री बंदरगाहों के लिए भी एक एकीकृत सुरक्षा एजेंसी की आवश्यकता है।
- यह कदम नीति, विनियमों और कार्यान्वयन को एक निकाय के तहत लाकर एकीकृत करने में भी मदद करेगा।

Challenges

- Airports will have to procure security infrastructure and have often cited **financial constraints** and **delayed upgradation**.
- The proposal for a unified agency means it will also be tasked to buy security infrastructure such as x-ray machines and full body scanners.
- हवाई अड्डों को सुरक्षा बुनियादी ढांचे की खरीद करनी होगी और अक्सर वित्तीय बाधाओं और विलंबित उन्नयन का हवाला दिया होगा।
- एक एकीकृत एजेंसी के प्रस्ताव का मतलब है कि इसे एक्स-रे मशीन और फुल बॉडी स्कैनर जैसी सुरक्षा अवसंरचना खरीदने का भी काम सौंपा जाएगा।

Daily Current Affairs

Bihan Mela

- The members of the Kondh tribe in Odisha's Nayagarh district have added one more event to their calendar of festivals and celebrations called Bihan Mela.
- ओडिशा के नयागढ़ जिले में कोंध जनजाति के सदस्यों ने अपने त्योहारों और उत्सवों के कैलेंडर में एक और कार्यक्रम जोड़ा है जिसे बिहान मेला कहा जाता है।

Bihan Mela

- It is known as the seed festival and the event is participated by the farmers.
- Preparations begin as soon as farmers have harvested Kharif crops, which include both hybrid and indigenous varieties of paddy, millets, maize and sorghum.
- Women are at the helm of this festival and carefully collect seeds of the indigenous varieties and store them in earthen pots.
- इसे बीज उत्सव के रूप में जाना जाता है और इस कार्यक्रम में किसानों द्वारा भाग लिया जाता है।
- जैसे ही किसानों ने खरीफ फसलों की कटाई शुरू कर दी, जिसमें धान, बाजरा, मक्का और ज्वार की संकर और स्वदेशी दोनों किस्में शामिल हैं।
- महिलाएं इस त्यौहार के शीर्ष पर हैं और स्वदेशी किस्मों के बीजों को सावधानी से इकट्ठा करती हैं और उन्हें मिट्टी के बर्तनों में जमा करती हैं।

- On a designated day in December, they decorate the pots with red and white motifs, place them in a bamboo basket and carry it on their head to the village where the fair is being organised.
- This was introduced to help farmers return to their traditional ways of farming like mixed cropping.

- दिसंबर में एक निर्दिष्ट दिन पर, वे बर्तनों को लाल और सफेद रूपांकनों से सजाते हैं, उन्हें एक बांस की टोकरी में रखते हैं और इसे अपने सिर पर उस गांव में ले जाते हैं जहां मेले का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।
- यह किसानों को उनकी मिश्रित फसल जैसी खेती के पारंपरिक तरीकों की ओर लौटने में मदद करने के लिए पेश किया गया था।

Kondh tribe

- They are a tribal group found in the hills and jungles of Orissa in eastern India.
- They fall into two broad divisions
- They have several sub-tribes, for instance, the Dongria, Kovi, Kuttia, Languli, Penga, and Jharnia. Raj Konds etc.
- These tribal people speak languages called Kui and Kuvi.
- वे पूर्वी भारत में उड़ीसा की पहाड़ियों और जंगलों में पाए जाने वाले एक आदिवासी समूह हैं।
- वे दो व्यापक विभाजनों में आते हैं
- उनकी कई उप-जातियाँ हैं, उदाहरण के लिए, डोंगरिया, कोवी, कुटिया, लांगुली, पेंगा और झरनिया। राज कोंड आदि।
- ये आदिवासी लोग कुई और कुवी नामक भाषा बोलते हैं।

- These belong to the Dravidian language family and have strong similarities to Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada.
- The language has no script of its own, with the Oriya script used for writing Kui, and the Telugu script used for Kuvi.

- ये द्रविड़ भाषा परिवार से संबंधित हैं और तेलुगु, तमिल और कन्नड़ में मजबूत समानता रखते हैं।
- कुई लिखने के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली उड़िया लिपि और कुवी के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली तेलुगु लिपि के साथ भाषा की अपनी कोई लिपि नहीं है।

Daily Current Affairs

Dima Hasao Peace Pact: Assam

- Recently, the Dimas National Liberation Army (DNLA) signed a Peace Agreement with the Assam government and the Union Government.
- In September 2021, the DNLA had declared a unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months following an appeal by the chief minister. The ceasefire has been extended since then.
- हाल ही में, डिमासा नेशनल लिबरेशन आर्मी (DNLA) ने असम सरकार और केंद्र सरकार के साथ एक शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- सितंबर 2021 में, DNLA ने मुख्यमंत्री की अपील के बाद छह महीने की अवधि के लिए एकतरफा युद्ध विराम की घोषणा की थी। तब से संघर्षविराम बढ़ाया गया है।

Background

- Following an appeal by the Chief Minister the DNLA had declared a unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months on September 2021.
- The ceasefire has been extended since then.
- The DNLA announcement in 2021 came two weeks after the insurgent group allegedly fired upon a convoy of seven trucks in the Dima Hasao district, killing five people and injuring one.
- मुख्यमंत्री की एक अपील के बाद DNLA ने सितंबर 2021 को छह महीने की अवधि के लिए एकतरफा युद्ध विराम की घोषणा की थी।
- तब से संघर्षविराम बढ़ाया गया है।
- 2021 में DNLA की घोषणा विद्रोही समूह द्वारा दीमा हसाओ जिले में सात ट्रकों के एक काफिले पर कथित रूप से गोलीबारी करने के दो सप्ताह बाद हुई, जिसमें पांच लोग मारे गए और एक घायल हो गया।

- The DNLA was founded in April 2019 and has since waged an armed insurrection to secure an independent region for the tribal people of Dimasa.

- DNLA की स्थापना अप्रैल 2019 में हुई थी और तब से इसने दिमासा के आदिवासी लोगों के लिए एक स्वतंत्र क्षेत्र को सुरक्षित करने के लिए एक सशस्त्र विद्रोह छेड़ दिया है।

What is DNLA?

- It is an insurgent group operating in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts in Assam.
- The DNLA was established in April 2019 seeking a sovereign territory for the Dimasa tribals and launched an armed insurgency to achieve its goal.
- यह असम के दीमा हसाओ और कार्बी आंगलोंग जिलों में सक्रिय एक विद्रोही समूह है।
- DNLA की स्थापना अप्रैल 2019 में दिमासा आदिवासियों के लिए एक संप्रभु क्षेत्र की मांग के लिए की गई थी और अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए एक सशस्त्र विद्रोह शुरू किया।

- The group aims to “develop a sense of brotherhood among the Dimasas and also to rebuild the trust and faith among the Dimasa society for regaining the Dimasa Kingdom”.
- The group runs on extortion and taxation. “It draws its support and sustenance from the NSCN(IM) of Nagaland.

- समूह का उद्देश्य "दिमासा के बीच भाईचारे की भावना विकसित करना और दिमासा साम्राज्य को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए दिमासा समाज के बीच विश्वास और विश्वास का पुनर्निर्माण करना" है।
- यह ग्रुप जबरन वसूली और टैक्सेशन पर चलता है। “यह नागालैंड के एनएससीएन (आईएम) से अपना समर्थन और जीविका प्राप्त करता है।

Constitutional safeguard to Tribal Group of Assam

- It is an insurgent group operating in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts in Assam.
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What does this Agreement Seek?

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed which makes the DNLA lay down its arms and abide by the Constitution of India.
- The central and state governments **will provide Rs 500 crore each** for the development of the **Dimasa tribal areas**.
- समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं जो डीएनएलए को अपने हथियार डालने और भारत के संविधान का पालन करने के लिए मजबूर करता है।
- दिमासा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए केंद्र और राज्य सरकारें प्रत्येक को 500 करोड़ रुपये प्रदान करेंगी।

- Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the Government of Assam to protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC).

- दिमासा वेलफेयर काउंसिल की स्थापना असम सरकार द्वारा राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और शैक्षिक आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए एक सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और भाषाई पहचान की रक्षा, संरक्षण और बढ़ावा देने के लिए की जाएगी और यह असम के अधिकार क्षेत्र के बाहर रहने वाले दिमासा लोगों के त्वरित और केंद्रित विकास को सुनिश्चित करेगी। उत्तरी कछार हिल्स स्वायत्त परिषद (NCHAC)।

- The MoU also provides for the appointment of a Commission under Paragraph 14 of the **Sixth Schedule to the Constitution** of India to examine the demand for the inclusion of additional villages contiguous to the **NCHAC with the Council.**

- समझौता ज्ञापन परिषद के साथ एनसीएचएसी से जुड़े अतिरिक्त गांवों को शामिल करने की मांग की जांच करने के लिए भारत के संविधान की छठी अनुसूची के अनुच्छेद 14 के तहत एक आयोग की नियुक्ति का भी प्रावधान करता है।

Who are Dimasas?

- The Dimasas (or Dimasa-Kacharis) are the earliest known rulers and settlers of Assam, and now live in Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Cachar, Hojai and Nagaon districts of central and southern Assam, as well as parts of Nagaland.
- दिमास (या दिमासा-कचारी) असम के सबसे पहले ज्ञात शासक और बसने वाले हैं, और अब मध्य और दक्षिणी असम के दीमा हसाओ, कार्बी आंगलोंग, कछार, होजई और नागांव जिलों के साथ-साथ नागालैंड के कुछ हिस्सों में रहते हैं।

- Prior to Ahom rule, the Dimasa kings — believed to be the descendants of the rulers of the ancient Kamarupa kingdom — ruled large parts of Assam along the south bank of the Brahmaputra between the 13th and 16th centuries.
- Their earliest historically known capital was Dimapur (now in Nagaland), and later Maibang in North Cachar Hills.

- अहोम शासन से पहले, दिमासा राजाओं - माना जाता है कि वे प्राचीन कामरूप साम्राज्य के शासकों के वंशज थे - ने 13वीं और 16वीं शताब्दी के बीच ब्रह्मपुत्र के दक्षिणी किनारे पर असम के बड़े हिस्से पर शासन किया था।
- उनकी सबसे पुरानी ऐतिहासिक रूप से ज्ञात राजधानी दीमापुर (अब नागालैंड में) और बाद में उत्तरी कछार पहाड़ियों में माईबांग थी।

What are the other Peace Developments in North East India?

Karbi Anglong Agreement,
2021

कार्बी आंगलोंग समझौता, 2021

Bodo Accord 2020

बोडो समझौता 2020

Bru-Reang Agreement 2020

ब्रू-रियांग समझौता 2020

NLFT-Tripura Agreement,
2019

एनएलएफटी-त्रिपुरा समझौता,
2019

Daily Current Affairs

What is Insomnia?

- According to recent research, people who have insomnia are 69 per cent more likely to experience a heart attack than those who don't during an average nine years of follow-up.
- हाल के शोध के अनुसार, जिन लोगों को अनिद्रा है, उनमें उन लोगों की तुलना में दिल का दौरा पड़ने की संभावना 69 प्रतिशत अधिक है, जो औसतन नौ साल के फॉलो-अप के दौरान नहीं करते हैं।

Insomnia

- It is a **common sleep disorder that can make it hard to fall asleep, hard to stay asleep or cause you to wake up too early and not be able to get back to sleep.**
- यह एक सामान्य नींद विकार है जिससे सोना मुश्किल हो सकता है, सोना मुश्किल हो सकता है या आप बहुत जल्दी जाग सकते हैं और वापस सोने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते हैं।
- The condition **can be short-term (acute) or can last a long time (chronic).**
- स्थिति अल्पकालिक (तीव्र) हो सकती है या लंबे समय तक (पुरानी) रह सकती है।

- It may also come and go.
- Acute insomnia lasts from 1 night to a few weeks. Insomnia is chronic when it happens at least 3 nights a week for 3 months or more.
- It affects women more than men and older people more than younger ones.
- Insomnia may play a role in the development of chronic diseases, such as: obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression.
- यह आ और जा भी सकता है।
- तीव्र अनिद्रा 1 रात से लेकर कुछ सप्ताह तक रहती है। अनिद्रा दीर्घकालिक होती है जब यह 3 महीने या उससे अधिक समय तक सप्ताह में कम से कम 3 रातें होती है।
- यह पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं को और युवा लोगों की तुलना में वृद्ध लोगों को अधिक प्रभावित करता है।
- अनिद्रा पुरानी बीमारियों के विकास में भूमिका निभा सकती है, जैसे: मोटापा, मधुमेह, हृदय रोग, अवसाद।

Symptoms of Insomnia



**Problems sleeping at least 3 nights
per week for more than 3 months**

Poor daytime functioning including:



Fatigue



Poor concentration



Impaired performance



Malaise



Behavioral problems



Chronic pain



Headache



Nausea

Insomnia

```
graph TD; A[Insomnia] --> B[Primary insomnia]; A --> C[Secondary insomnia];
```

Primary insomnia: This means your sleep problems aren't linked to any other health condition or problem.

प्राथमिक अनिद्रा: इसका मतलब है कि आपकी नींद की समस्या किसी अन्य स्वास्थ्य स्थिति या समस्या से जुड़ी नहीं है।

Secondary insomnia: This means you have trouble sleeping because of a health condition (like asthma, depression, arthritis, cancer, or heartburn); pain; medication; or substance use (like alcohol).

माध्यमिक अनिद्रा: इसका मतलब है कि आपको स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति (जैसे अस्थमा, अवसाद, गठिया, कैंसर, या नाराज़गी) के कारण सोने में परेशानी होती है; दर्द; दवाई; या पदार्थ का उपयोग (शराब की तरह)।

Daily Current Affairs

Fabry Disease

- Recently, the Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society sought the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's immediate intervention for the treatment of Fabry Disease patients.
- हाल ही में, लाइसोसोमल स्टोरेज डिसऑर्डर सपोर्ट सोसाइटी ने केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय से फैब्री रोग के रोगियों के इलाज के लिए तत्काल हस्तक्षेप की मांग की।

Fabry Disease

- It is a rare inherited disorder of glycosphingolipid (fat) metabolism resulting from the absent or markedly deficient activity of the lysosomal enzyme, alpha-galactosidase A (α -Gal A).
- It belongs to a group of diseases known as lysosomal storage disorders.
- यह लाइसोसोमल एंजाइम, अल्फा-गैलेक्टोसिडेस ए (α -गैल ए) की अनुपस्थिति या स्पष्ट रूप से कम गतिविधि के परिणामस्वरूप ग्लाइकोस्फिंगोलिपिड (वसा) चयापचय का एक दुर्लभ विरासत में मिला विकार है।
- यह लाइसोसोमल स्टोरेज डिसऑर्डर नामक बीमारियों के समूह से संबंधित है।

- This enzymatic deficiency is **caused** by alterations (mutations) in the **α -galactosidase A (GLA) gene** that instructs cells to make the **α -galactosidase A (α -Gal A) enzyme**.
- Lysosomes function as the primary digestive tract of cells.
- **Symptoms** - Numbness, tingling, burning or pain in the hands or feet, extreme pain during physical activity and heat or cold intolerance etc.

- यह एंजाइमेटिक कमी **α -galactosidase A (GLA) जीन** में परिवर्तन (म्यूटेशन) के कारण होती है जो कोशिकाओं को **α -galactosidase A (α -Gal A) एंजाइम** बनाने का निर्देश देती है।
- लाइसोसोम कोशिकाओं के प्राथमिक पाचन तंत्र के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- लक्षण - सुन्नता, झुनझुनी, हाथ या पैर में जलन या दर्द, शारीरिक गतिविधि के दौरान अत्यधिक दर्द और गर्मी या ठंड असहिष्णुता आदि।

The types of Fabry disease

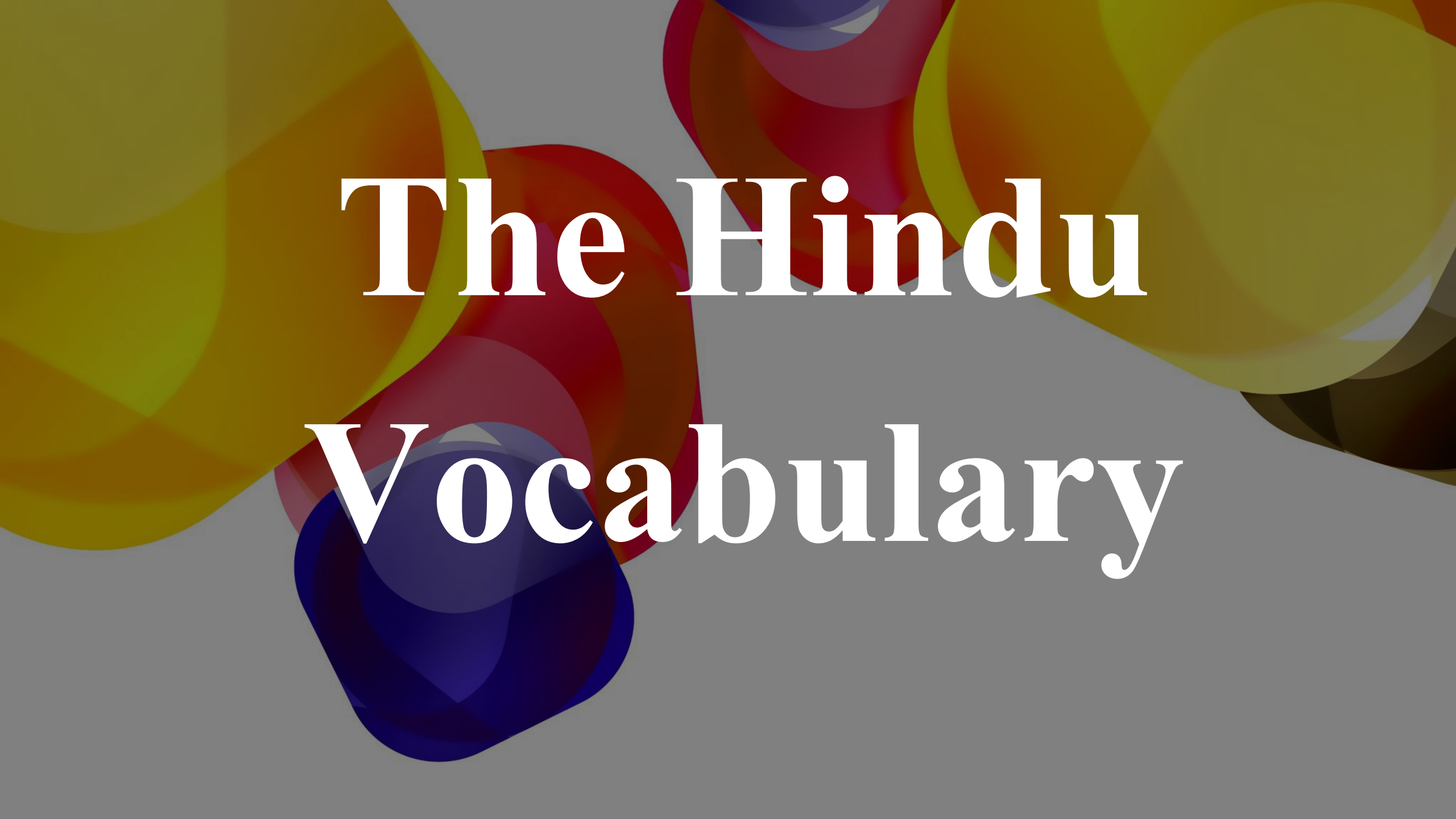


Classic type: Symptoms of this type appears during childhood or the teenage years. It may be noticeable as early as age two.

क्लासिक प्रकार: इस प्रकार के लक्षण बचपन या किशोरावस्था में प्रकट होते हैं। यह दो साल की उम्र में ध्यान देने योग्य हो सकता है।

Late-onset/atypical type: People with late-onset Fabry disease don't have symptoms **until they're in their 30s or older.**

लेट-ऑनसेट/एटिपिकल टाइप: लेट-ऑनसेट फैब्री डिजीज से पीड़ित लोगों में तब तक लक्षण नहीं दिखाई देते जब तक कि वे 30 या उससे अधिक उम्र के नहीं हो जाते।



The Hindu Vocabulary

Convalesce (verb) - recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or operation. (अच्छा हो जाना)

Synonyms: recuperate, get better, recover

Antonyms: ail, collapse, sicken



Litigate (Verb) : मुक्रदमा : To engage in a legal proceeding to resolve a dispute

Synonyms: Sue, prosecute, bring to court

Antonyms: Settle, resolve, arbitrate, negotiate



Obtrude (verb): become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way. (हस्तक्षेप करना)

Synonyms: intrude, meddle, interfere

Antonyms: disregard, ignore, neglect



Dismantle (Verb): अलग करना : To take apart or pull down; to strip furniture, equipment, or fittings; to disassemble

Synonyms: Deconstruct, demolish, take apart

Antonyms: Assemble, construct, build, put together



Obtrude (verb): become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way. (हस्तक्षेप करना)

Synonyms: intrude, meddle, interfere

Antonyms: disregard, ignore, neglect



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• In _____, the British colonial government awarded Varma with the **Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal**?

- **A) 1904**
- **B) 1924**
- **C) 1908**
- **D) 1914**

_____ में, ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक सरकार ने वर्मा को कैसर-ए-हिंद स्वर्ण पदक से सम्मानित किया?

ए) 1904

बी) 1924

सी) 1908

डी) 1914

Who is appointed as a first CEO of LIC?

- a) S Sharma**
- b) S Mohanty**
- c) B singh**
- d) M sidharth**

एलआईसी के पहले सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- एस शर्मा**
- एस मोहंती**
- बी सिंह**
- एम सिद्धार्थ**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites.
2. Malaria is predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. मलेरिया प्लास्मोडियम परजीवियों के कारण होने वाला एक जानलेवा मच्छर जनित रक्त रोग है।
2. मलेरिया मुख्य रूप से अफ्रीका, दक्षिण अमेरिका और एशिया के उष्णकटिबंधीय और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों में पाया जाता है।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन सा/से सही है/हैं?

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- सी) 1 और 2 दोनों
- डी) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – C

- Statement 1 is correct: Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites.
- Statement 2 is correct: It is predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia.
- It is preventable as well as curable.

4. Consider the following statements

1. It is an ancient temple dedicated to the Lord Maha Vishnu
2. It is popularly known as the Kashi of the South
3. The temple lies on the banks of stream Papanashini, which originates from the Brahmagiri hills

Which of the following temples best describe the statements mentioned above

- a) Padmanabhaswamy Temple
- b) Thirunelli Temple
- c) Sabarimala Temple
- d) Guruvayur temple

4. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. यह भगवान महा विष्णु को समर्पित एक प्राचीन मंदिर है
2. इसे दक्षिण की काशी के नाम से जाना जाता है
3. मंदिर पापनाशिनी धारा के तट पर स्थित है, जो ब्रह्मगिरी पहाड़ियों से निकलती है

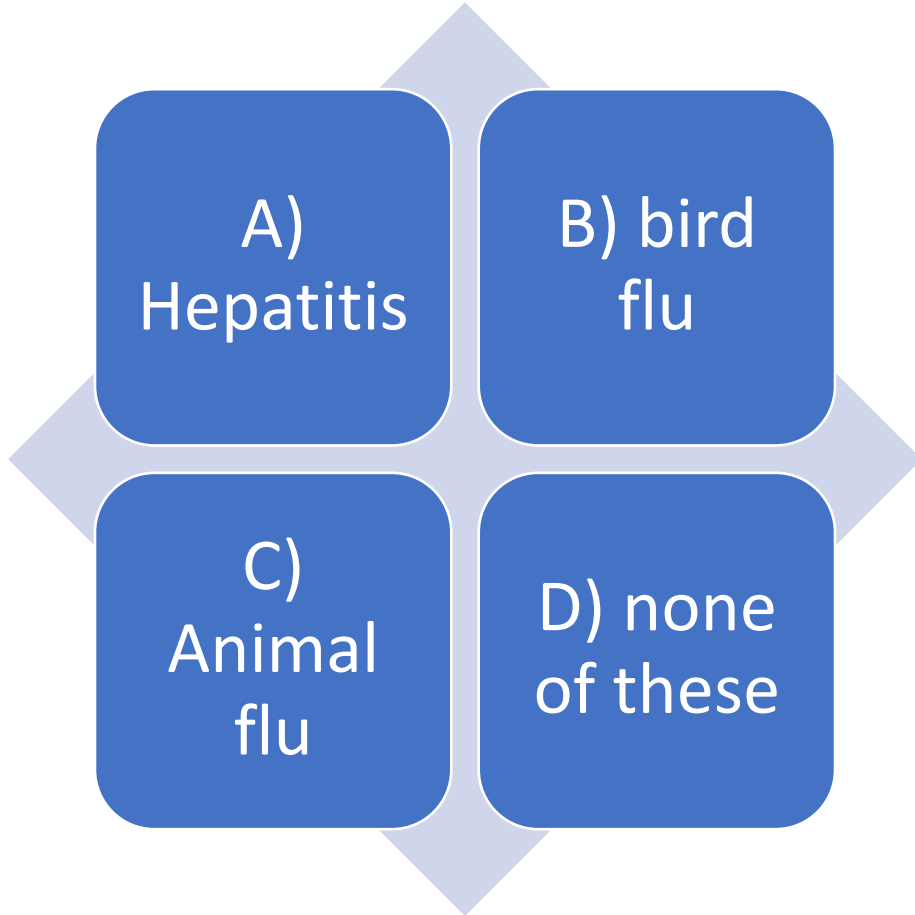
निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा मंदिर ऊपर वर्णित कथनों का सबसे अच्छा वर्णन करता है

- क) पद्मनाभस्वामी मंदिर
- b) थिरुनेली मंदिर
- c) सबरीमाला मंदिर
- d) गुरुवायुर मंदिर

Answer – B

- Thirunelly Temple is an ancient temple dedicated to the Lord Maha Vishnu. It is located on the sides of Brahmagiri Hill, a part of the Sahyadri Mountain Ranges in the Wayanad district of Kerala.
- It is also known as the Sahyamala Kshetram and Kashi of the South. It is the only temple in the world where the devotees can perform all the rituals related to one's life, starting from birth to death and life after death.
- The rituals in this temple are performed on the banks of stream Papanashini, which originates from the Brahmagiri hills. The main deity idol of the temple is in the form of Chathurbhuja – Lord Vishnu with his four hands. The temple embodies classical, traditional Kerala architecture.

Avian influenza or _____ refers to the disease caused by infection with avian influenza Type A viruses?



- ए) हेपेटाइटिस
- बी) बर्ड फ्लू
- सी) पशु फ्लू
- डी) इनमें से कोई नहीं



Thank you guys, see you
at 9 am

