

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

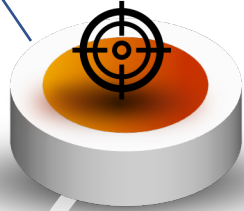


The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

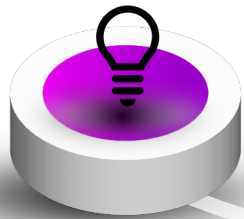


**6**  
**The Hindu**

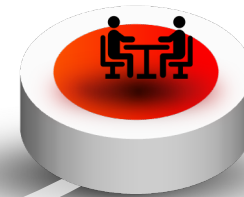


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A woman with blonde hair and glasses is looking at a laptop screen. The image is dimly lit, and the text is overlaid in white. The woman's hands are visible on the laptop keyboard.

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will flash  
before  
your eyes.  
Make sure  
it's worth  
watching*



**TWO-DAY CONCLAVE**  
SCO Foreign Ministers  
to meet in Goa today  
NEWS » PAGE 11



**HELPLINE TO THE RESCUE OF KASHMIRIS**  
NEWS » PAGE 12



**DOWN 21 PLACES**  
India's rank falls to 161  
in press freedom index  
NEWS » PAGE 10



**KARNATAKA POLL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONTESTATIONS**  
Parties are redrawing their political contours  
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



**BIG CHASE**  
Kishan, Suryakumar  
deliver for Mumbai  
SPORT » PAGE 15

### Citing report, SC declines Rajoana's mercy plea

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday found it inappropriate to commute the death penalty of Balwant Singh Rajoana — who is on death row for the 1998 assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh — in view of the Home Ministry's conclusion that a decision on the mercy petition now would impact national security. Justice Vikram Nath, who authored the verdict, said it was not up to the court to "dive" on the Ministry's decision to defer a decision on the plea. "It is within the domain of the executive to take a call on such sensitive issues," the court said. It said the Ministry's call to postpone its decision on the mercy petition was actually amounting to declining the plea for the time being.

### SC sets aside HC stay on inquiry into Amaravati land scam

**Krishnaadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI  
In a legal victory for the Jaigam Mohan Reddy government, the Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside an Andhra Pradesh High Court order issuing a "blanket stay" on an inquiry into the Amaravati land scam and the alleged role of the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime. The events in this case unfolded in June 2019 when the Reddy government issued a notification constituting a Cabinet sub-committee to review major policies, projects, programmes, instructions and the key administrative actions taken by the TDP government following the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh. **Fraudulent transactions** The first report of the sub-committee on December 27, 2019 pointed out "several procedural, legal and financial irregularities and fraudulent transactions concerning various projects... including in the Capital Region Development Authority region". On February 21, 2020, the State government issued another notification setting up a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to "inquire, register, investigate and conclude the investigation" into the findings of the report. Both notifications were issued following the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh. **Continued on » PAGE 10**

### No union, but Centre ready to ease living of gay couples

**Govt. proposes panel to look into 'genuine human concerns'; Supreme Court says it is a 'step forward' and a 'big, big positive' towards social acceptance of right of same-sex couples to cohabit**  
**Krishnaadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI  
The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it was willing to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to consider administrative measures for addressing "genuine human concerns" faced by same-sex couples in their daily lives in areas such as banking and insurance, without delving into their petitions for legal recognition of same-sex marriage. "The government is positive. Something can be done administratively regarding genuine concerns of same-sex couples. This would require coordination among different Ministries. Therefore, we have decided, subject to the court's approval, to form a committee headed by none less than the Cabinet Secretary. My friends (the petitioners) can give their suggestions about the problems they are facing. The committee will go into them and see, as far as possible and legally permissible, how they can be addressed," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud. The Bench termed the government's stand a "step forward" and even a "big, big positive" towards achieving wider social acceptance of the right of same-sex couples to cohabit. **Next step** The Chief Justice said the court could now go into whether same-sex couples have a "right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceful environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise". The government, though reluctant to give same-sex relationships the status of marriage, is not reluctant to sort out the human concerns arising out of them. To that extent, there is consensus. **S.K. RAJUL, Supreme Court Judge** **Continued on » PAGE 10**

### IN BRIEF

**Day after Pawar's move, allies say MVA not in peril**  
PUNE  
A day after Sharad Pawar decided to step down as BJP president, the party's partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi — the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress — said there was no reason to believe the alliance was in any danger. **ED names AAP MP in chargesheet 'by mistake', stirs row**  
NEW DELHI  
Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday criticised the ED over the purported inclusion of AAP MP Sanjay Singh's name in a chargesheet related to the alleged liquor scam "by mistake". **Continued on » PAGE 2**

### Go First lands in NCLT with ₹11,463-cr. dues

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI  
Go First approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday and sought the admission of its insolvency plea. It owes creditors ₹11,463 crore, the airline said in its insolvency filing. The NCLT, Delhi has listed the matter for Thursday. According to Reuters, the airline, in its petition, said its total liabilities to all creditors stood at ₹11,463 crore, which includes dues to banks, financial institutions, vendors and aircraft lessors. "Currently, the assets of the company are not sufficient to meet its liabilities," the airline said in the filing.

### G-20 stop



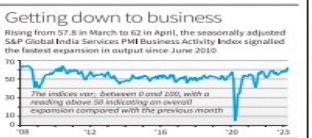
**Tight sieve:** CRPF personnel patrolling the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Wednesday. Jammu and Kashmir is on high alert ahead of the G-20 working group meeting scheduled to be held in Srinagar from May 22. **ISSAR/ANAD**

### Ukraine sent drones to target Putin: Russia

**Associated Press**  
MOSCOW  
Russian authorities accused Ukraine on Wednesday of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones overnight in an effort to assassinate President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin denied the alleged attack attempt as a "terrorist act", and said Russian military and security forces "disabled" the drones before they could strike. It did not elaborate. A video published on a local Moscow news Telegram channel showed what looked like smoke rising over the Kremlin. Kyiv categorically denied involvement in the attack. "We do not attack the Kremlin because, first of all, it does not solve any military problems. Absolutely. And this is extremely disadvantageous from the point of view of preparing our offensive measures," Ukraine's presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said.

### April PMI signals services sector had best expansion in 13 years

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
India's services sector recorded its highest uptick in new business and output levels since June 2010 this April, led by a strong upturn in the finance and insurance segment as per the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index signalled in April, which rebounded from a decline in March to 62 in April. A reading of 50 on the index indicates no change in business activity levels. New export orders expanded for the third month in succession and the fastest pace over this period. However, job creation remained negligible in April and input cost inflation, which had hit a two-month high in March, surged to a three-month high, with firms reporting a rise in acute price hikes undertaken by transport, information and communication businesses. Consumer services firms recorded the fastest upturn in average expenses, as per the survey-based monthly indicator, but all services sectors raised selling prices at the fastest pace in 2023, with the rise in acute price hikes undertaken by transport, information and communication businesses. **Continued on » PAGE 10**



### Vote for a stable government, says PM at massive election rally in Karnataka

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MANGALURU  
Continuing to stress on the need to vote for a stable government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the people of coastal Karnataka that the BJP wants to make Karnataka a superpower by creating modern infrastructure and giving a face-lift to the manufacturing sector. "It is our road map; he told a mammoth gathering at Mulky, near Mangaluru, in Dakshina Kannada district, on Wednesday. Mr. Modi said India is the fifth largest economy in the world now and the Union government, led by the BJP, wants to raise it further to the third position. "The BJP can give a stable government." **Development goals** Will you help in achieving it (the third position)? Without the growth of Karnataka, it cannot be achieved," he told the gathering. "The BJP will have to be given a clear mandate," he said. The Prime Minister said the BJP has created an ecosystem for the promotion of startups. The country is now highly respected in the United States, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and other corners of the world because voters strengthened the BJP by giving it a majority in Parliament. "That is the power of voting," he said. Continuing his trade against the Congress, Mr. Modi said, "The Congress is shanti ka dushman, vikas ka dushman (enemy of peace and development)." He reiterated that the "Delhi parivaar" in education and industrial sectors. "If the top position is not achieved, the BJP will have to be given a clear



**Reaching out:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing people at a rally in Mulky near Mangaluru on Wednesday. **H. S. MANJUNATH**

### Scuffle breaks out between wrestlers and Delhi Police

**Mehul Malpani**  
NEW DELHI  
A scuffle broke out at Jantar Mantar between the wrestlers staging a protest against the WPT chief and Delhi Police personnel late on Wednesday. One protester sustained injuries. While the protesters accused the police of attacking them with batons, the police said a quarrel broke out after AAP MLA Somnath Bhatti came to the site with foldable beds without permission. Mr. Bhatti and two others have been detained following the incident, the police said. **Details » PAGE 3**

# No union, but Centre ready to ease living of gay couples

Govt. proposes panel to look into 'genuine, human concerns'; Supreme Court says it is a 'step forward' and a 'big, big positive' towards social acceptance of right of same-sex couples to cohabit

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

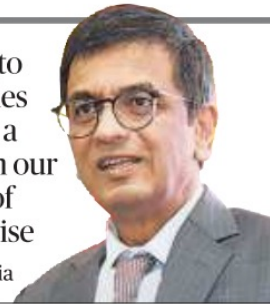
**T**he Union government informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it was willing to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to consider administrative measures for addressing "genuine, human concerns" faced by same-sex couples in their daily lives in areas such as banking and insurance, without delving into their petitions for legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

"The government is positive. Something can be done administratively regarding genuine concerns of same-sex couples. This would require coordination among different Ministries. Therefore, we have decided, subject to the



The court can now go into whether same-sex couples have a right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceable environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise

**D.Y. CHANDRACHUD** Chief Justice of India



The government, though reluctant to give same-sex relationships the status of marriage, is not reluctant to sort out the human concerns arising out of them. To that extent, there is consensus

**S.K. KAUL** Supreme Court judge

court's approval, to form a committee headed by none less than the Cabinet Secretary. My friends [the petitioners] can give their suggestions about the problems they are facing. The committee will go into them and see, as far as possible and legally permissi-

ble, how they can be addressed," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

The Bench termed the government's stand a "step forward" and even a "big,

big positive" towards achieving wider social acceptance of the right of same-sex couples to cohabit.

## Next step

The Chief Justice said the court could now go into whether same-sex couples have a "right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceable environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise".

The court said the suggestion from the government to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary indicates its readiness to recognise the incidence of cohabitory relationships among same-sex couples.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10



## Marital rights same-sex couples do not enjoy in India



- Government pensions and medical benefits
- Claiming leave travel allowance for partner
- Right to property or inheritance
- Joint adoption
- In case of separation, there is no provision to seek maintenance by the economically weaker partner
- Right to take emergency medical decisions

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**Assimilation of same-sex couples:** The CJI has emphasized the need to assimilate same-sex couples into society rather than ostracizing them.

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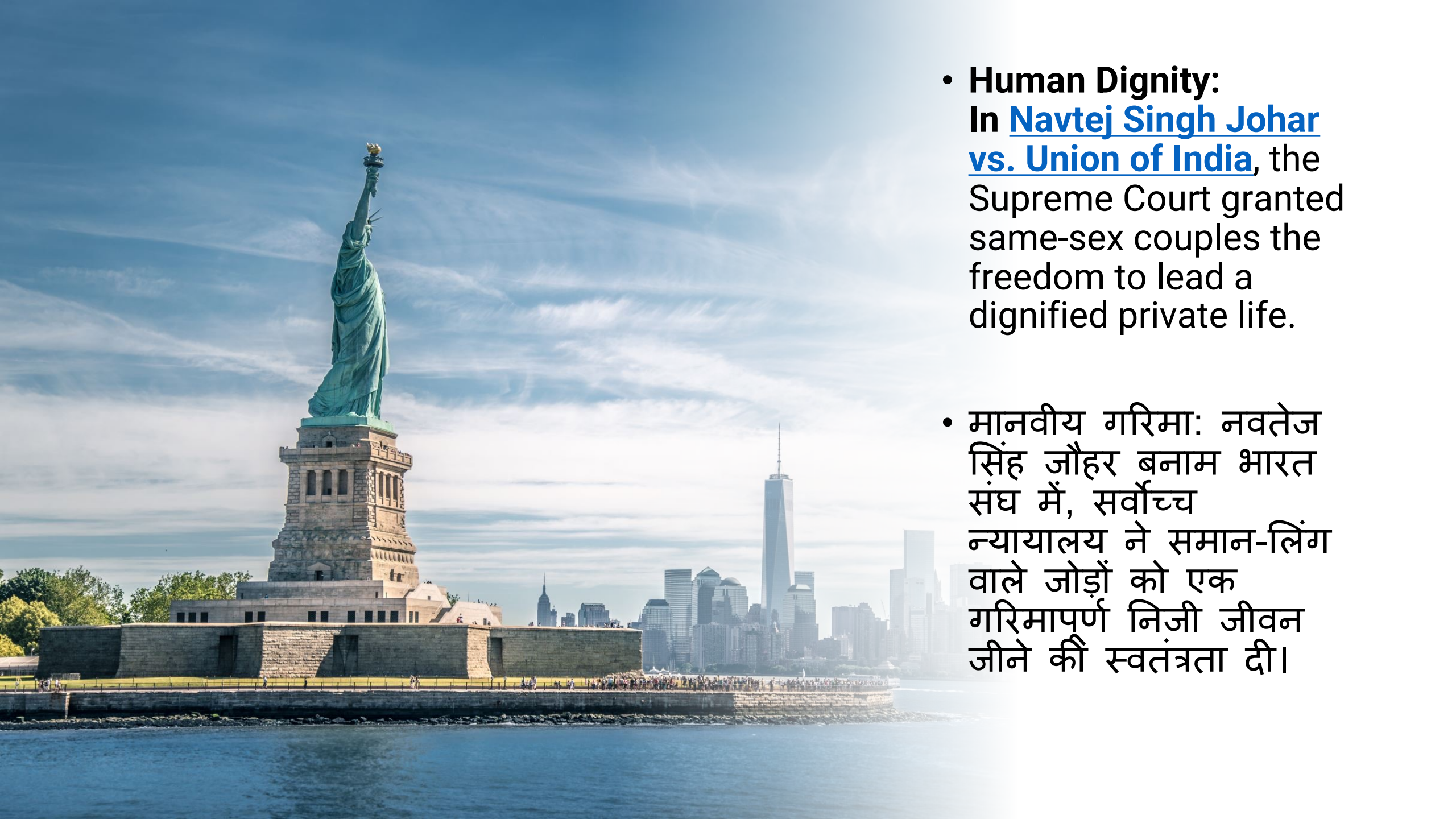
The [decriminalization of Section 377 of the IPC](#) has recognized the existence of same-sex relationships.

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समान-लिंग वाले जोड़ों को आत्मसात करना: सीजेआई ने समान-लिंग वाले जोड़ों को बहिष्कृत करने के बजाय समाज में आत्मसात करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया है।

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आईपीसी की धारा 377 के गैर-अपराधीकरण ने समलैंगिक संबंधों के अस्तित्व को मान्यता दी है



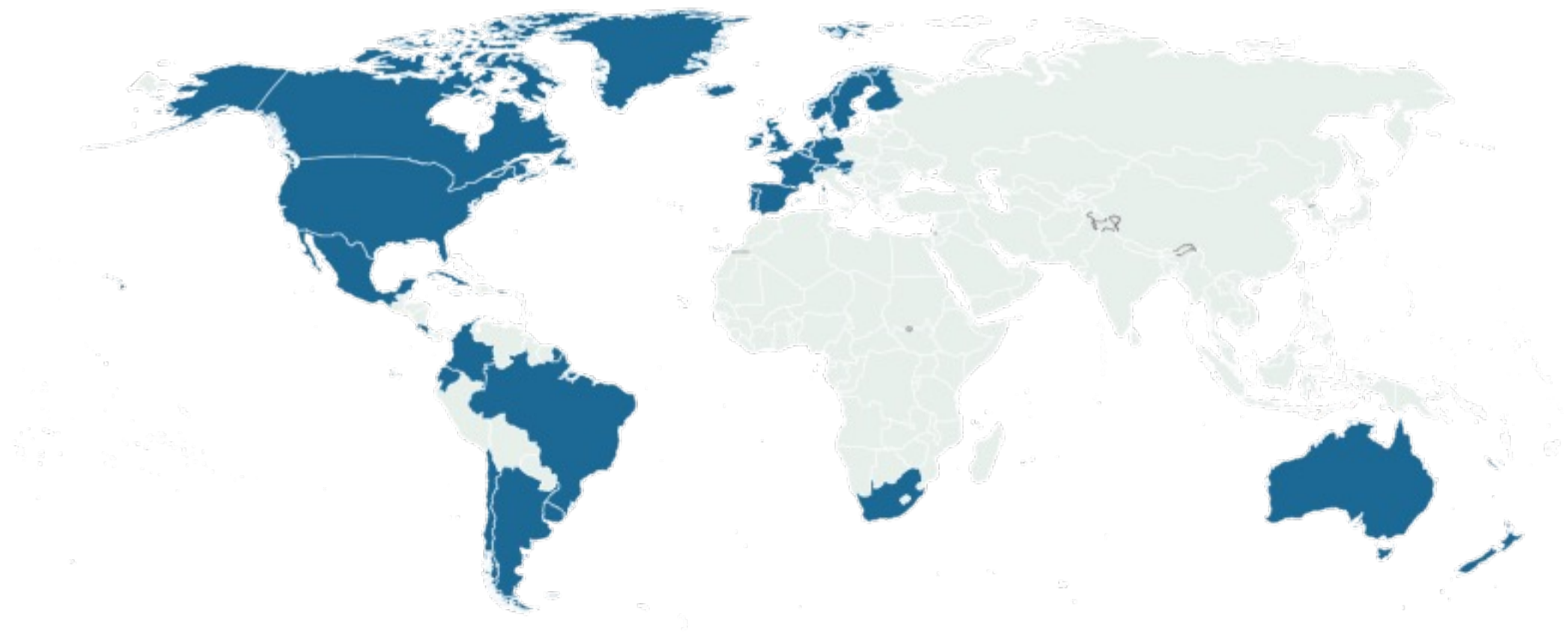
- **Human Dignity:**  
In [Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India](#), the Supreme Court granted same-sex couples the freedom to lead a dignified private life.
- मानवीय गरिमा: नवतेज सिंह जौहर बनाम भारत संघ में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने समान-लिंग वाले जोड़ों को एक गरिमापूर्ण निजी जीवन जीने की स्वतंत्रता दी।

**Global Acceptance:** Same-sex marriage is legal in many countries around the world, and denying this right to individuals in a democratic society goes **against the global principles.**

- In 133 countries homosexuality decriminalised, but only in **32 of them same-sex marriage is legal. Countries legalised same sex marriage:**

वैश्विक स्वीकृति: समान-सेक्स विवाह दुनिया भर के कई देशों में कानूनी है, और एक लोकतांत्रिक समाज में व्यक्तियों को इस अधिकार से वंचित करना वैश्विक सिद्धांतों के विरुद्ध है।

133 देशों में समलैंगिकता को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर कर दिया गया है, लेकिन उनमें से केवल 32 देशों में समलैंगिक विवाह कानूनी है। देशों ने समलैंगिक विवाह को कानूनी मान्यता दी:



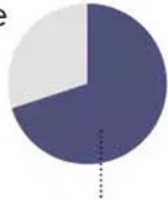
## It's a 21st century feeling

**33 countries** recognise same-sex marriage and civil unions

The **Netherlands** was the first, in **2001**

Momentum is growing — **2022** has seen **Chile, Slovenia, Switzerland** and **Mexico** join the club

In November, the US Senate passed a same-sex marriage protection bill with bipartisan support — **70% of Americans** now support same-sex marriage



Also in November, **Singapore's parliament** decriminalised sex between men. Its **Section 377A** grew especially untenable after Indian SC read down Section 377



**Japan** is the only G7 country that does not allow same-sex marriage. But recently a Tokyo district court underlined the infringement of the human rights of same-sex families

**Taiwan** is the only Asian country to have legalised same-sex marriage. Its parliament approved the landmark decision in 2019. Its constitutional court struck down the Civil Code's definition of marriage as being only between a man and a woman in 2017

# GLOBAL LAWS REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY

## PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUAL ACTS

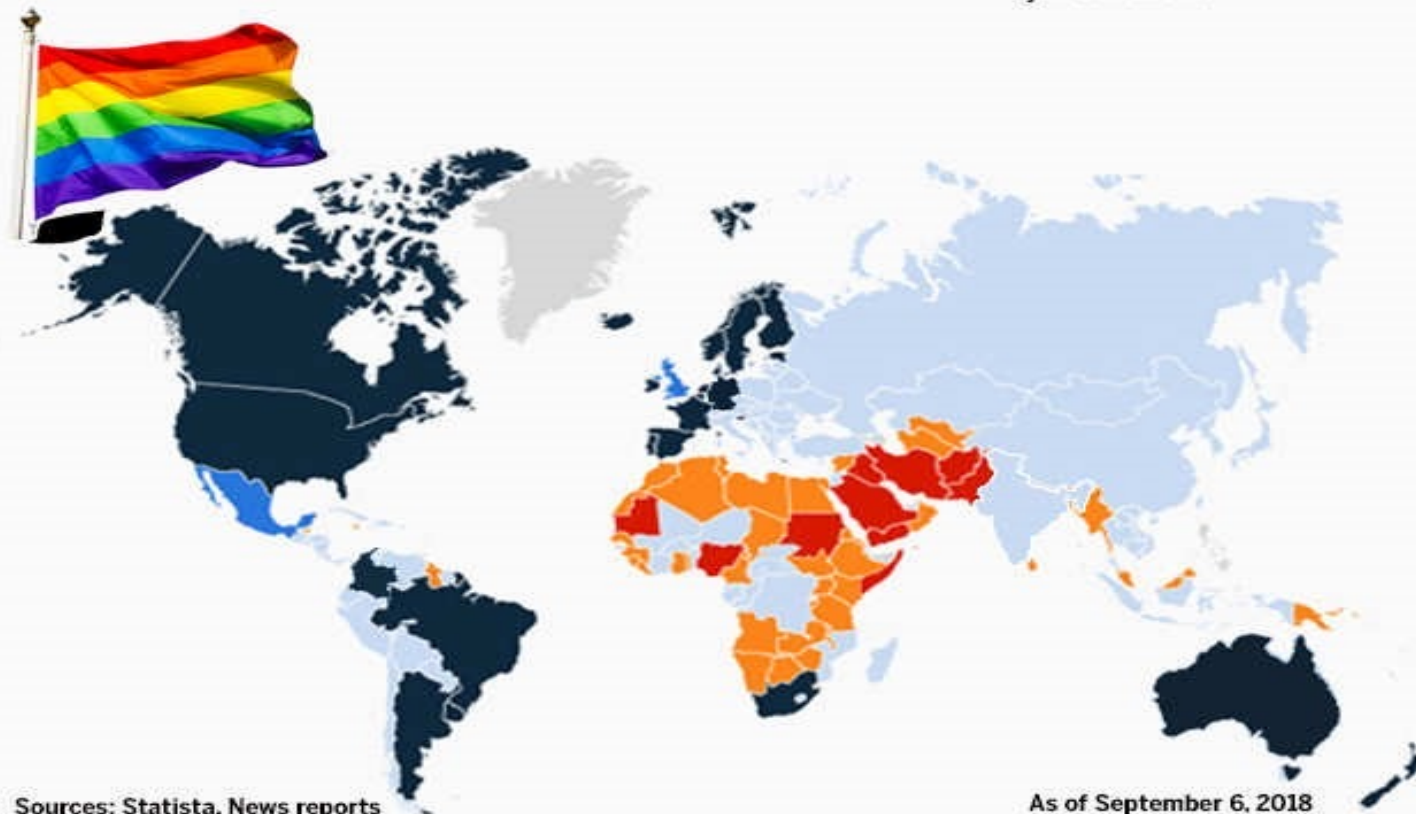
- Homosexuality acts can be punished by death
- Homosexuality acts are illegal

## RELATIVELY NEUTRAL

- No specific laws on gay rights
- Homosexual acts are legal

## RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX UNIONS

- Same-sex marriage is allowed
- Same-sex marriage is allowed in some jurisdictions



- What are the Arugments Against Same Sex Marriage?
- **Religious and Cultural Beliefs:**
- **Procreation**
- **Legal issues**

- समलैंगिक विवाह के विरुद्ध तर्क क्या हैं?
- धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक विश्वास:
- प्रसव
- कानूनी मुद्दों





**Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice? (2019)**

- (a) Article 19**
- (b) Article 21**
- (c) Article 25**
- (d) Article 29**



# India slips in press freedom index, ranks 161 out of 180 nations

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In comparison, Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improvement from last year's 157th rank. In 2022, India was ranked at 150.

Sri Lanka also made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135th this year as against 146th in 2022.

Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.



World Press Freedom Index is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by media.

dom as “the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety”.

## Concerns arise

The Indian Women's Press

China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) comes out with a global ranking of press freedom every year. RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations. The objective of the World Press Freedom Index, which it releases every year, “is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories” in the previous calendar year.

RSF defines press free-

## Concerns arise

The Indian Women's Press Corps, the Press Club of India, and the Press Association released a joint statement voicing their concern over the country's dip in the index.

“The indices of press freedom have worsened in several countries, including India, according to the latest RSF report,” the joint statement said.

“The constraints on press freedom due to hostile working conditions like contractisation have to also be challenged. Insecure working conditions can never contribute to a free press,” it added.

*(With PTI inputs)*

Bangladesh (163), Turkey (165), Saudi Arabia (170), and Iran (177) are among the nations that are rated below India.

The bottom two positions are held by China and North Korea, respectively, at 179 and 180.

बांग्लादेश (163), तुर्की (165), सऊदी अरब (170), और ईरान (177) उन देशों में शामिल हैं जिन्हें भारत से नीचे दर्जा दिया गया है।

नीचे के दो स्थान क्रमशः चीन और उत्तर कोरिया के पास 179 और 180 हैं।

The ranking is determined by how well each nation performs in five major areas: political setting, legal system, economic context, socio-cultural background, and journalist safety.

India's position among the five was best in the social indicator category (143) and worst in the area for journalists' safety (172).

रैंकिंग इस बात से निर्धारित होती है कि प्रत्येक देश पांच प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में कितना अच्छा प्रदर्शन करता है: राजनीतिक सेटिंग, कानूनी व्यवस्था, आर्थिक संदर्भ, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि और पत्रकार सुरक्षा।

पांच में से भारत की स्थिति सामाजिक संकेतक श्रेणी (143) में सबसे अच्छी थी और पत्रकारों की सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में सबसे खराब (172).

1	Norway
2	Ireland
3	Denmark
4	Sweden
5	Finland
6	Netherlands
7	Lithuania
8	Estonia
9	Portugal
10	East Timor

171	Bahrain
172	Cuba
173	Myanmar
174	Eritrea
175	Syria
176	Turkmenistan
177	Iran
178	Vietnam
179	China
180	North Korea

# World Press Freedom Day

World mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3 every year to raise awareness of the importance of a free press that is not controlled by outside forces.

The event promotes the fundamental right to freedom of speech and emphasizes the value of unrestricted journalism.

विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हर साल 3 मई को वर्ल्ड मार्क वर्ल्ड प्रेस फ्रीडम डे एक स्वतंत्र प्रेस के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए जो बाहरी ताकतों द्वारा नियंत्रित नहीं होता है।

घटना भाषण की स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक अधिकार को बढ़ावा देती है और अप्रतिबंधित पत्रकारिता के मूल्य पर जोर देती है।



- **World Press Freedom Day History**
- **World Press Freedom Day was first conceived when a group of African journalists gathered in Namibia for a UNESCO meeting on promoting an independent and pluralistic press.**
- **They suggested designating May 3rd as a global day to recognize and defend press freedom.**

- **विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस इतिहास**
- **विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस की कल्पना पहली बार तब की गई थी जब एक स्वतंत्र और बहुलवादी प्रेस को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यूनेस्को की बैठक के लिए नामीबिया में अफ्रीकी पत्रकारों का एक समूह इकट्ठा हुआ था।**
- **उन्होंने प्रेस स्वतंत्रता को मान्यता देने और उसकी रक्षा करने के लिए 3 मई को वैश्विक दिवस के रूप में नामित करने का सुझाव दिया**

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The day was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.

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The day also marks the **1991 Windhoek Declaration (adopted by UNESCO)**.

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It aimed **towards the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press'**.

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1991 में यूनेस्को के आम सम्मेलन की सिफारिश के बाद, 1993 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा इस दिन की घोषणा की गई थी।

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यह दिन 1991 विंडहोक घोषणा (यूनेस्को द्वारा अपनाया गया) को भी चिह्नित करता है।

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इसका उद्देश्य 'एक स्वतंत्र, स्वतंत्र और बहुलवादी प्रेस के विकास' की ओर था।

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## World Press Freedom Day 2023 Theme

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The theme for World Press Freedom Day 2023 is “Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.”

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विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2023 थीम

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विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2023 की थीम है "अधिकारों के भविष्य को आकार देना: अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता अन्य सभी मानवाधिकारों के चालक के रूप में

Freedom of press is not expressly protected by the **Indian legal system** but it is impliedly protected under **article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".

In 1950, the Supreme Court in ***Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras*** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.

प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता भारतीय कानूनी प्रणाली द्वारा स्पष्ट रूप से संरक्षित नहीं है, लेकिन यह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(1) (ए) के तहत निहित रूप से संरक्षित है, जिसमें कहा गया है - "सभी नागरिकों को भाषण और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार होगा"।

1950 में, रोमेश थापर बनाम मद्रास राज्य मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता सभी लोकतांत्रिक संगठनों की नींव है।

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- However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows-
    - Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.
    - हालांकि, प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता भी पूर्ण नहीं है। यह अनुच्छेद 19(2) के तहत कुछ प्रतिबंधों का सामना करता है, जो इस प्रकार हैं-
    - भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता के हितों से संबंधित मामले, राज्य की सुरक्षा, विदेशी राज्यों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध, सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था, शालीनता या नैतिकता या अदालत की अवमानना, मानहानि या किसी अपराध के लिए उकसाने के संबंध में।

### Trinamool leader to return medal in solidarity with wrestlers

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Expressing solidarity with the grapplers protesting against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a former Assam minister has decided to return his National Games medal, Abhijit Majumdar, who won a bronze medal for judo boxing at the 2011 National Games in Ranchi, is the general secretary of the Assam unit of the Trinamool Congress. Representing Meghalaya, he won the medal in the four categories. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about Brij Bachoo, Brij Padhuho but his BJP government is ignoring the women wrestlers who have accused the WFI president of sexual harassment," he said. He said it was deplorable that the Prime Minister has not found any time for the very wrestlers who he prides on observing them shine for the country at international events.

# Jaishankar to hold talks with Chinese, Russian Ministers today

He will also host the Pakistan Foreign Minister but a one-on-one meet is unlikely; bilateral meetings, events ahead of SCO Foreign Ministers' meet could see some awkward moments given the strains between many of the member countries

Sahasini Haldar  
BENARULIM (GOA)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will hold talks with the Foreign Ministers of China, Russia and Uzbekistan and the Secretary-General of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Zhang Ming, here on Thursday. He will also come face-to-face with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the first time since they had a verbal spat at the UN Security Council in December. The Ministers, including the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will all hold bilateral meetings during the day and attend a cultural performance and dinner hosted by Mr. Jaishankar at the Taj Exotica resort in south Goa in the evening, events that prides on showcasing moments given strains between many of the member countries. A meeting of SCO Foreign Ministers will be held on Friday. This is the first time Mr. Jaishankar will meet Mr. Bhutto in India, and also the first such meeting since the Poonch terror attack, which the Army has held India-Pakistan relations hit their lowest point in 2019, when High Commissioner Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's speech at the SCO Defence Ministers' gathering last week, where he criticised the "Quad"



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in New Delhi.

grouping of the U.S., India, Australia and Japan. Diplomacy watch sources confirmed that Mr. Jaishankar will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang for a bilateral meeting, which will also be watched closely for any handshakes. At the meeting last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was seen pointingly greeting his Chinese counterpart with a *Namaste*, rather than the handshake he shared with all other counterparts. It was seen as a mark of India's displeasure over the lack of movement in India-China border talks. Meanwhile, Mr. Qin will also be meeting Central Asian counterparts, days after the Chinese Ambassador to France sparked an uproar when he mentioned the "sovereign status" of nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union. While the Chinese Fo-

reign Ministry walked back from the statement a day later, it will be left to Mr. Qin to smooth over the controversy during his stay in New Delhi. Among the first of the guests to arrive will be Mr. Lavrov, who is set to meet Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Qin and Mr. Bhutto during the day. Mr. Qin and Mr. Bhutto will fly from Goa to Islamabad later on Friday where Mr. Qin is expected to hold a number of talks on strategic issues, and also hold a trilateral on Afghanistan, on Wednesday, followed by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttach. To that end, SCO discussions on Afghanistan at the Goa meet, and also a subject of recognition for the Taliban regime. As host, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to explore additional avenues, although neither India nor Pakistani officials held the former part of the bilateral meeting between him and Mr. Bhutto.

It is a perfect example of pressure politics, which Mr. [Shardad] Pawar had played emotionally to tackle the issue. In a way, the senior has left no room for Mr. Ajit Pawar to think of joining hands with BJP, which will be political suicide for him," he said. Mr. Pawar also addressed the deeper internal power struggle within his family in a suave and sophisticated style by paying the way for his nephew to take over the leadership at the State level, as a means of maintaining unity within the NCP. However, one of the biggest concerns following Mr. Pawar's announcement is the impact it will have on the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi, an unlikely coalition of the NCP, the Congress and their ideological opposite, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. With the senior statesman Mr. Pawar no longer party chief, there is no one person to keep the already crumbling MVA glued together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and As-

sembly polls. "He might not be the president of NCP on paper, but he will continue to tackle the issue and lead MVA. Until 2019, no one would have predicted Shiv Sena joining hands with Congress and NCP, but he has done that. There is no doubt that he will continue to hold us together," he said. Even if the party break results in the MVA splitting, the forces with the BJP despite Mr. Pawar's attempts to keep the family intact, the long-tethered leader does not want to be seen as abandoning his tenure and wants to avoid any association with such a move. Moreover, Mr. Pawar's daughter Supriya will be a member of the Lok Sabha from Baramati, will continue to serve as a minister in the party's leadership at the national level. A senior NCP leader also suggested that she should become the national president, while her cousin heads the State unit.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi at the ceremony in Malé on Wednesday.

### Rajnath lays foundation stone for Coast Guard Harbour in Maldives

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces Coast Guard "Ekatha Harbour". The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sidhvara is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India, a joint process communique issued at the end of Mr. Singh's three-day tour said. This is the first visit of an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 11 years. "Both Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region and recognised the need to work together to address common security challenges. They underscored the importance of respecting international law and rules-based international order and expressed their commitment to upholding these principles," it said. The Ministers agreed to explore additional avenues for cooperation, including in the areas of defence trade, capacity building and joint exercises, the communique said.

# Deciphering the 'Pawar game' and family power play

NEWS ANALYSIS

Abhinav Deshpande  
MUMBAI

Senior politician Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as president of the National Congress Party and not contest any future elections has sent shockwaves through the political landscape - not just in Maharashtra, but across the country. The development should not be seen as a spur of the moment move by the 82-year-old, as is reflected by his crafty and calculated approach to politics. It is likely part of a larger plan to assert his authority within the NCP. A similar move was pulled off by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray almost three decades ago. However, after Shiv Sainiks begged their Wagh (tiger) to reconsider his decision, Mr. Thackeray agreed to their request and forever stamped his authority on his party.

However, close confidants of the NCP patriarch said that he would not step back, but would continue to lead the show from outside. Mr. Pawar's nephew and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar gained traction after he told party workers that there would not get emotional. "Pawar saheb will continue to guide the party even after resigning, like Sonia Gandhi who remains the supreme authority (in the Congress) in spite of relinquishing the top post," he said. Political analyst and senior journalist Nikhil Wagle, who has been observing the rise of the NCP for decades, says that a larger plan to assert his authority within the NCP. A similar move was pulled off by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray almost three decades ago. However, after Shiv Sainiks begged their Wagh (tiger) to reconsider his decision, Mr. Thackeray agreed to their request and forever stamped his authority on his party.



Sharad Pawar

Mr. [Sharad] Pawar is the tallest leader Maharashtra has ever seen after Mr. Thackeray, and we can say he is playing the 'Pawar Game' in his own style," he told *The Hindu*. The senior Mr. Pawar's announcement is the impact it will have on the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi, an unlikely coalition of the NCP, the Congress and their ideological opposite, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. With the senior statesman Mr. Pawar no longer party chief, there is no one person to keep the already crumbling MVA glued together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and As-

sembly polls. "He might not be the president of NCP on paper, but he will continue to tackle the issue and lead MVA. Until 2019, no one would have predicted Shiv Sena joining hands with Congress and NCP, but he has done that. There is no doubt that he will continue to hold us together," he said. Even if the party break results in the MVA splitting, the forces with the BJP despite Mr. Pawar's attempts to keep the family intact, the long-tethered leader does not want to be seen as abandoning his tenure and wants to avoid any association with such a move. Moreover, Mr. Pawar's daughter Supriya will be a member of the Lok Sabha from Baramati, will continue to serve as a minister in the party's leadership at the national level. A senior NCP leader also suggested that she should become the national president, while her cousin heads the State unit.

It is a perfect example of pressure politics, which Mr. [Shardad] Pawar had played emotionally to tackle the issue. In a way, the senior has left no room for Mr. Ajit Pawar to think of joining hands with BJP, which will be political suicide for him," he said. Mr. Pawar also addressed the deeper internal power struggle within his family in a suave and sophisticated style by paying the way for his nephew to take over the leadership at the State level, as a means of maintaining unity within the NCP. However, one of the biggest concerns following Mr. Pawar's announcement is the impact it will have on the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi, an unlikely coalition of the NCP, the Congress and their ideological opposite, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. With the senior statesman Mr. Pawar no longer party chief, there is no one person to keep the already crumbling MVA glued together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and As-

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### SEBI should get clarity on foreign funds in Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) should use all means at its disposal to get clarity on the extent of confidential ownership of foreign funds invested in the Adani Group, the Congress leader said today in a statement. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said public interest

must not be undermined using the excuse of confidentiality and privacy. The statement came after a news report claimed some foreign funds invested in Adani Group have declined to identify their beneficial owners, citing confidentiality and foreign privacy laws. The Congress leader said that all the developments mentioned in a parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the charges even more important.

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[...]

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD CIRCLE, PRATAPOGARH  
[...]

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त अधिकायक सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग स्वच्छ सूर्यनाथ  
[...]

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[...]

Office of Additional Chief Engineer PHED, Region Bharatpur  
[...]

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Rajnath Singh Project Director (C) Infrastructure Corporation Limited  
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**Boosting ties:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi at the ceremony in Male on Wednesday. PTI

## Rajnath lays foundation stone for Coast Guard Harbour in Maldives

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour'.

The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sifavaru is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India, a joint press communique issued at the end of Mr. Singh's three-day tour said. This is the first visit of an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 11 years.

"Both Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region and recognised the need to work together to address common security challenges. They underscored the importance of respecting international law and rules-based international order and expressed their commitment to upholding these principles," it said.

The Ministers agreed to explore additional avenues for cooperation, including in the areas of defence trade, capacity building and joint exercises, the communique said.

# INDIAN OCEAN & MAJOR ISLANDS



Indian Ocean Area

Map not to Scale



<b>Capital</b> <div>and largest city</div>	Malé <div><span><span><span><span><span>4°10′31″N</span> <span>73°30′32″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>4°10′31″N 73°30′32″E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>4.17528°N 73.50889°E</span></span></span></span></span></span></div>
<b>Official languages</b> <div>Recognised languages</div>	Dhivehi <div>English</div>
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2019)	≈100% <div>Maldivians<sup>[1][2][3]</sup></div>
<b>Religion</b>	Sunni Islam (official)
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Maldivian
<b>Government</b>	Unitary presidential constitutional republic
<span> </span> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span>•</span> <b>President</b></li><li><span>•</span> <b>Vice-President</b></li><li><span>•</span> <b>Speaker of the Majlis</b></li><li><span>•</span> <b>Chief Justice</b></li></ul></div>	<div>Ibrahim Mohamed Solih<sup>[4]</sup></div> <div>Faisal Naseem<sup>[5]</sup></div> <div>Mohamed Nasheed<sup>[6]</sup></div> <div>Ahmed Muthasim Adnan<sup>[7]</sup></div>
<b>Legislature</b>	People's Majlis
<b>Independence</b> from the United Kingdom	
<span> </span> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span>•</span> Independence regained</li><li><span>•</span> Republic proclaimed</li><li><span>•</span> <b>Current constitution</b></li></ul></div>	<div>26 July 1965</div> <div>11 November 1968</div> <div>7 August 2008</div>
<b>Area</b>	
<span> </span> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span>•</span> Total</li></ul></div>	<div>300<sup>[8]</sup> km<sup>2</sup></div> <div>(120 sq mi) (187th)</div>
<b>Population</b>	
<span> </span> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span>•</span> 2022 census</li><li><span>•</span> Density</li></ul></div>	<div>515,122 (382,751 maldivians)<sup>a[9]</sup></div> <div>1,102.5/km<sup>2</sup></div> <div>(2,855.5/sq mi) (8th)</div>

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

**IN BRIEF**



**Braille version of bilingual dictionary sets a record**

A 21-volume Braille version of an Assamese-English dictionary that in total weighs more than 80 kg has become the world's largest lexicon. The authors of the Guinness World Records on May 1 handed over a certificate to Jayanta Baruah, the publisher of the Braille version of Hemkoshi, acknowledging its inclusion in the records register as the world's largest bilingual Braille dictionary. The 123-year-old Hemkoshi is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese language based on Sanskrit spellings, compiled by Mr. Baruah's grandfather, Hemchandra Baruah. A copy of the dictionary, released in September 2022, was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

**SC/ST Act invoked against Inspector in torture case**

The CB-CID, probing the allegations of custodial torture in the Ambasamudram Police Sub-Division in Tarnak Nadi, has registered cases against the Ambasamudram Inspector and a few other police personnel by invoking the provisions of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The cases were registered on May 2 on complaints filed by a 19-year-old man from Paparassam and an auto rickshaw driver, Vedharajaraman, of Vickramnagarapuram. Since the two victims are Dalits, the CB-CID has also invoked the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 against the former Inspector of Police and a few personnel attached to the Ambasamudram police station," sources in the CB-CID said.

**Ex-CMD of Water and Power Consultancy Services held**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested former Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited chairman-cum-managing director Rajinder Kumar Gupta and his son for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to known sources of income. The agency has so far seized about ₹38.38 crore in cash, fixed-deposit receipts, keys of bank lockers and details of accounts in various banks. On Tuesday, the agency initiated the searches at multiple locations in Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh, Sonapat and Ghaziabad, after registering the case against Mr. Gupta and his family members.

**Guidelines on allotting space to feed strays dogs welcomed**

Housing societies and animal feeders in Mumbai welcome the Centre's guidelines to allot dedicated places and time to feed stray animals. On March 10 this year, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying notified the Animal Birth Control of Rules, which put the onus on the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Apartment Owners' Associations (AOAs) to ensure a feeding spot and time for residents to give food to animals. The rules read, "The feeding spots shall be far from children's play areas, entry and exit points, staircases, and should be in an area which is the least frequented by children and senior citizens. RWAs or AOAs should designate feeding times depending on the movement of children and senior citizens."

**Tele Manas counsels Kashmir's distressed souls**

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
BIRENAGAR

On April 26, it took Areeba (name changed to protect privacy), a counsellor at the Tele Manas helpline in Srinagar, over 40 minutes to talk a caller out of self-harm. "The 26-year-old labourer from Baramulla in north Kashmir had a blade in his pocket. The person he worked for had not paid him, and he faced acute financial stress. His sister helped to take the blade away. We made him pause and introspect — we helped him see the light at the end of a dark tunnel," Areeba said.

Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMEHANS) in Srinagar has received 15,500 calls on the helpline from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir. The 24x7 toll-free numbers are 1446 and 1800-891-4416. The service was started in Srinagar as a mental health care service by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022. It now has six psychologists, the director of Kashmir's mental health crisis can be gauged from the fact that on the second day of Id-ul-Fitr, an occasion of festivity in the Muslim-majority Union Territory, the centre got 15th distress calls, most of them between 4 p.m. and 11 a.m.



Help at hand: The phone service has been able to serve many who cannot travel to Srinagar for mental health facilities. NESAR AHMAD

Of the 10,500 calls attended to since last November, nearly 3,000 reported acute stress, and 20 and 30. Up to 65% were women, who expressed feelings of loneliness and spoke about marriage conflict, post-partum stress, relationship trouble, and parental disagreements.

For men, unemployment and financial distress triggered the calls.

**Exam stress**  
"Last month, we received a number of calls related to examination stress," Himna Hujini, a psychiatrist working with IMEHANS, said. The centre arranged 2,500 follow-up calls in serious cases.

"It would take people living in far-off areas two days to reach mental health facilities in Srinagar. Now, basic issues are handled on a call," she said.

An online chatbot will be rolled out to address the needs of the people, which will be available on the existing numbers.

**Govt. to bring out manual for organ donation**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) is working on a transplant manual as a step-by-step guide for the implementation of organ donation and transplantation programmes in hospitals and a standard course for training of transplant coordinators. Both these documents will be completed and released soon, the Union Health Minister said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement said verticals for coordination, training and HR accounts had been created in the NOTTO for better implementation of the programme. Additionally, the government granted special leave of up to 42 days to Union Government employees who donate an organ as a special welfare measure in public interest.

The Ministry said the total number of organ transplants in the country had substantially increased from fewer than 5,000 in 2013 to more than 15,000 in 2022. "Now, more organs per deceased donor are being utilised due to better coordination through the network of Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisations at national, State and regional level. In the year 2016, 2,265 organs were used from 930 deceased donors, while 2,765 could be utilised from 804 deceased donors in the year 2022," the Ministry said.

**IMD forecasts a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal next week**

First cyclone to form this year will be called Mocha; weather agency says various models suggest that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a severe cyclonic storm the next day

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said that a cyclone was likely to form in the Bay of Bengal by early next week, but its strength, direction and impact were yet to be gauged.

"A cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6, there is a possibility of the circulation to move northwards towards central Bay of Bengal," the IMD said in a statement. "Further details will be given after the low-pressure is formed."

A low-pressure area is usually a precursor to development of a cyclone, and according to the IMD's calculations, it is expected



At risk: Fishing boats should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7, the IMD has warned. FILE PHOTO

to take shape on May 7. A preliminary analysis available on the IMD website based on its weather models suggests that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a "severe cyclonic storm" (89-117 kmph) by May 10. The IMD has a five-step classification for cyclones with the relatively weakest

is possible for the storm to gain or reduce in strength. Cyclones are more frequent in India's neighbourhood in May, October and November — or coincident with the advent and departure of the monsoon.

This will be the first cyclone to form this year and it will be called Cyclone Mocha. The name was proposed by Yemen, after the Red Sea port city, following an international convention on naming cyclones.

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that while greater clarity on the cyclone would only emerge later, the current warnings were for fishermen. Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7 because it will be turbulent.

**Highly pathogenic bird flu virus puts Centre on alert**

**Hindu Shilpa Paragadnan**  
A.M. Haseeb  
NEW DELHI

Housing one of the largest flock of birds ever across the world, India is at "risk and vulnerable" to the original spread of avian influenza (H5N1) worldwide, a worry company pandemic taught us that we need to be prepared for the time. If we are caught off guard, anything can

happen," said Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, speaking to *The Hindu*. The Central government is now reviewing the H5N1 situation daily.

H5N1, a highly pathogenic subtype of avian influenza, was detected by the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal in the range of species affected from the Government Poultry Farm at Bokaro, Jharkhand on

February 17, 2023. India has now initiated the anti-pandemic preparedness programme.

"This year has been the worst in numbers and consequent spillover to mammals," said biologist Vinod Scaria.

Dr. Mitra also added that the spread of the virus and the expansion in the range of species affected were causes for worry. "India has been dealing

**Curfew in eight districts of Manipur over tribal stir**

**Press Trust of India**  
IMPHAL

A curfew was imposed in eight districts of Manipur and mobile internet services were suspended in the entire northeastern State over the violence during a tribal agitation on Wednesday, officials said.

Violence broke out during a "tribal solidarity march" called by the all Manipur Tribal Student Union Manipur (MSTU) in Torbung area of Charaichandpur district to protest against the international convention on naming cyclones. M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that while greater clarity on the cyclone would only emerge later, the current warnings were for fishermen. Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7 because it will be turbulent.

**TH GROSSWORD + 13856**

Word puzzle grid with clues: 13 Dance circle gets university backing (9), 15 Could be panic as water comes down with force (5), 19 Lures stars with ease perhaps (7), 20 Strain on every student coming first (5), 21 Found fault, one rejected me for saying "Sebe the day" (5,4), 25 Italian city has guns, promotes change... (7), 26 ...American city tried to copy (7), 28 Country gets a new state (7), 29 Fish I seared at sea (7).

- Down: 1 Singer's not bad, overall attention is limited (6), 2 Manual and automatic... both inside a carriage (6), 3 Turn half the covers off range (4), 4 With upturned nose, rascal finally became unprincipled (6), 5 Stay with them breaking stone (6), 6 Rascal runs away naked with charm (10), 7 Blue green, time to join in again (2,6), 8 Station, after short period showing sign of decline (8), 14 European cure... there is no free lunch! (5,5), 15 Constriction as this is parted by lips (8), 17 Daily fish, left for another day (8), 18 Group test could be according to the territory (8), 22 Covid is having a bit of the salad (6), 23 Very famous and active, in charge before and after (6), 24 Calling me on deck (6), 27 Writing in a newspaper giving figures (4).

**SUDOKU**

Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in: 9 2 5 8, 9 4 8 9, 2 1 9 6 5, 8 2 1 6, 6 7 8 6, 9 3 1 8.

Solution to previous puzzle and solution to today's Sudoku. The solution for today's puzzle is: 9 2 5 8, 9 4 8 9, 2 1 9 6 5, 8 2 1 6, 6 7 8 6, 9 3 1 8.

**FAITH**

**Inner beauty of Nrisimha**

There are many ways in which our saints and preceptors have celebrated the Supreme Being. One such way is to treat Him like a fellow human being, as a friend, philosopher and guide. Many of the Aishwars excelled in this form of worship. One cannot help but recall Tirumadhurai Aishwar's beauty pageant for all the ten avatars, said Thirukkuraland Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse. In keeping with Aishwar's call, all ten avatars — Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Nrisimha, Vamana, Parasurama, Rama, Bakaram, Krishna, and Kalki — duly responded. The process of elimination begins. Gazing upon Kurma, Varaha and Matsya, he says, "You are all non-human manifestations, hence you are ineligible." Nrisimha is half man, half beast, so he is allowed to stay. Next, he tells Vamana, "You need not three feet of land, use one small step to step on the head, to take a giant step with your next, encompassing the entire universe: where is the guarantee that you will not try something similar in this pageant?" Walking up to Parasurama, he admonishes him for arriving at what was a beauty contest armed with a hammer. The Aishwar states that it was unseemly for two from a family to enter a contest, and the younger being Krishna's older brother, is asked to leave. Kalki is sent packing as he is yet to take avatar. Only Rama, Krishna and Nrisimha are left. Rama says, "Am I not Aishwarya Ramana?" Krishna laughs and says, "I am Mohana Krishnan." However, Aishwar says, "Aishwarya thaan, ar urivan thaan" in Nannagan Tiruvandathi — the one who came promptly to the rescue of a faithful soul in the guise of a half-man, half-lion is the most beautiful. Praying to Nrisimha protects our inner and outer selves.

# Tele Manas counsels Kashmir's distressed souls

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR

On April 26, it took Areeba (name changed to protect privacy), a counsellor at the Tele Manas helpline in Srinagar, over 40 minutes to talk a caller out of self-harm. "The 26-year-old labourer from Baramulla in north Kashmir had a blade in his pocket. The person he worked for had not paid him, and he faced acute financial stress. His sister helped to take the blade away. We made him pause and introspect – we helped him see the light at the end of a dark tunnel," Areeba said.

Over the past six months, the Institute of

Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar has received 10,500 calls on the helpline from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir. The 24x7 toll-free numbers are 14416 and 1800-891-4416.

The service was started in Srinagar as a mental health care service by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022. It now has six psychologists. The extent of Kashmir's mental health crisis can be gauged from the fact that on the second day of Id-ul-Fitr, an occasion of festivity in the Muslim-majority Union Territory, the centre got 119 distress calls, most of them between 4 p.m. and 11 a.m.



**Help at hand:** The phone service has been able to serve many who cannot travel to Srinagar for mental health facilities. NISSAR AHMAD

Of the 10,500 calls attended to since last November, nearly 3,000 reported acute stress, and contemplated self-harm or violence. Most of these callers were aged between

20 and 30. Up to 65% were women, who expressed feelings of loneliness and spoke about marriage conflict, post-partum stress, relationship trouble, and parental disagreements.

For men, unemployment and financial distress triggered the calls.

## **Exam stress**

"Last month, we received a number of calls related to examination stress," Hina Hajini, a psychiatrist working with IMHANS, said. The centre arranged 2,500 follow-up calls in serious cases.

"It would take people living in far-off areas two days to reach mental health care in Srinagar. Now, basic issues are handled on a call," she said.

Besides mental health issues, the centre also talks about taboo subjects in conservative Kashmir. "We are able to destigmatise

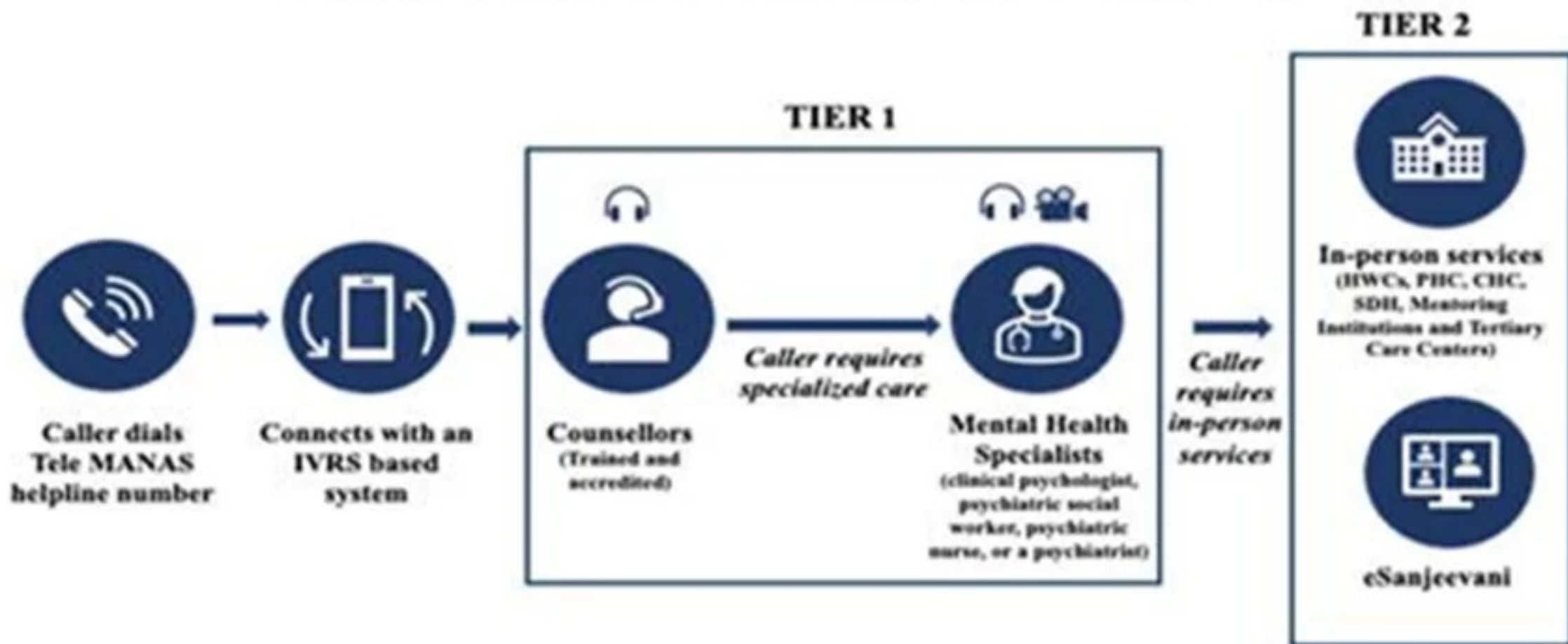
topics such as dating, sexuality and sexual orientation. Women talk about their issues freely now," Manaal Andrabi, a psychologist from IMHANS, said.

In the wake of the growing response, the facility is being expanded to other regions too.

"One more Tele Manas centre is under process in Jammu. Tele Manas is being linked to the district mental health programme across all J&K," Qazi Haroon, State Programme Manager, Mental Health, J&K, said.

An online chatbot will be rolled out to address the needs of the people, which will be available on the existing numbers.

# Tele MANAS: CALLING MECHANISM



Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative launched on occasion of World Mental Health Day.

Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.

विश्व मानसिक स्वास्थ्य दिवस के अवसर पर टेली मेंटल हेल्थ असिस्टेंस एंड नेटवर्किंग एक्रॉस स्टेट्स (टेली-मानस) पहल शुरू की गई।

टेली-मानस का उद्देश्य पूरे देश में मुफ्त टेली-मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करना है, विशेष रूप से दूरस्थ या कम सेवा वाले क्षेत्रों में लोगों को सेवाएं प्रदान करना।

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It's an initiative of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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NIMHANS will be the nodal centre while National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC), IIT Bengaluru and IIITB will provide technology support.

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The services will be available 24×7 on Toll Free Number– 14416, allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services.

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At least One Tele-MANAS Cell to be established in each State/UT.

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यह केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय की एक पहल है

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NIMHANS नोडल केंद्र होगा जबकि राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली संसाधन केंद्र (NHRSC), IIT बेंगलुरु और IIITB प्रौद्योगिकी सहायता प्रदान करेगा।

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टोल फ्री नंबर- 14416 पर सेवाएं 24×7 उपलब्ध होंगी, जिससे कॉल करने वालों को सेवाओं का लाभ उठाने के लिए अपनी पसंद की भाषा का चयन करने की अनुमति मिलेगी।

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प्रत्येक राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश में कम से कम एक टेली-मानस सेल स्थापित किया जाना है।

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IN BRIEF



Braille version of bilingual dictionary sets a record

A 23-volume Braille version of an Assamese-English dictionary that in total weighs more than 80 kg has become the world's largest lexicon. The authorities of the Guinness World Records on May 1 handed over a certificate to Jayanta Baruah, the publisher of the Braille version of Hemkosh, acknowledging its inclusion in the records register as the world's largest bilingual Braille dictionary.

SC/ST Act invoked against Inspector in torture case

The CB-CID, probing the allegations of custodial torture in the Ambasamudram Police Sub-Division in Tamil Nadu, has registered cases against the Ambasamudram Inspector and a few other police personnel by invoking the provisions of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Ex-CMD of Water and Power Consultancy Services held

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested former Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited chairman-cum-managing director Rajinder Kumar Gupta and his son for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to known sources of income.

Guidelines on allotting space to feed strays dogs welcomed

Housing societies and animal feeders in Mumbai welcome the Centre's guidelines to allot dedicated places and time to feed stray animals. On March 10 this year, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, which put the onus on the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Apartment Owners' Societies (AOS) to ensure a feeding spot and time for residents to give food to animals.

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Deerzada Ashika SRINAGAR

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Help at hand: The phone service has been able to serve many who cannot travel to Srinagar for mental health facilities. NEERA AHMAD

Mental Health and Neuro-counselling (MHANS) in Srinagar has received 10,500 calls on the helpline from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir. The 24x7 toll-free numbers are 14446 and 1800-891-4416. The service was started in Srinagar as a mental health care service by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022. It now has six psychologists. "The extent of Kashmir's mental health crisis can be gauged from the fact that on the second day of Id-ul-Fitr, an occasion of festivity in the Muslim-majority Union Territory, the centre got 110 distress calls, most of them between 4 p.m. and 11 a.m.

Of the 10,500 calls attended to since last November, nearly 3,000 reported acute stress, and contemplated self-harm or violence. Most of these callers were aged between 20 and 30. Up to 65% were women, who expressed feelings of loneliness and spoke about marriage conflict, post-partum stress, relationship trouble, and parental disagreements.

Govt. to bring out manual for organ donation

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) is working on a transplant manual as a step-by-step guide for the implementation of organ donation and transplantation programmes in hospitals and a standard course for training of transplant coordinators. Both documents will be completed and released soon, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement said vertical for coordination, training and HR-accommodations had been created in the NOTTO for better implementation of the programme. Additionally, the government granted special casual leave of up to 42 days to Union Government employees who donate an organ as a special welfare measure in public interest.

IMD forecasts a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal next week

First cyclone to form this year will be called Mocha; weather agency says various models suggest that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a severe cyclonic storm the next day

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said that a cyclone was likely to form in the Bay of Bengal by early next week, but its strength, direction and impact were yet to be gauged.

As the cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over southern Bay of Bengal around May 6, there is a possibility of the circulation to move northwards towards central Bay of Bengal. The IMD said in a statement. "Further details will be given after the low-pressure area is formed."

A low-pressure area is usually a precursor to the development of a cyclone, and according to the IMD's calculations, it is expected to take shape on May 7. A preliminary analysis available on the IMD website based on its weather models suggests that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a "severe cyclonic storm" by May 10.

At risk: Fishing boats should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7, the IMD has warned. FILE PHOTO

classified as a "cyclonic storm" (65-68 kmph) and the strongest a "super cyclonic storm" (>222 kmph). "A severe cyclonic storm" (80-87 kmph) is just one step above a "cyclonic storm", depending on the location of the storm and existing weather conditions, it

For men, unemployment and financial distress triggered the calls.

Exam stress "Last month, we received a number of calls related to examination stress," Elina Bhat, a psychiatrist working with IMHANS, said. The centre arranged 2,500 follow-up calls in serious cases.

It would take people living in far-off areas two days to reach mental health care in Srinagar. Now, basic issues are handled on a call," she said. Besides mental health issues, the centre also talks about taluk subjects in conservative Kashmir. "We are able to destigmatise

topics such as dating, sexuality and sexual orientation. Women talk about their issues freely now," Manuul Andrabi, a psychologist from IMHANS, said. In the wake of the growing response, the facility is being expanded to other regions too.

"One more Tele Manas centre is under process in Jammu. Tele Manas is being linked to the district mental health programme across all J&K," Qazi Haroon, State Programme Manager, Mental Health, J&K, said. An online chatbot will be rolled out to address the needs of the people, which will be available on the existing numbers.

Curfew in eight districts of Manipur over tribal stir

Press Trust of India IMPHAL

A curfew was imposed in eight districts of Manipur and mobile internet services were suspended in the entire northeastern State over the violence during a tribal agitation on Wednesday, officials said.

Violence broke out during a "tribal solidarity march" called by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in Torbung area of Churachandpur district to protest against the demand of non-tribal Meiteis, who dominate the Imphal Valley, for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Thousands of agitators took part in the rally, during which violence between tribals and non-tribals was reported in Torbung area. A senior police officer said the police fired several rounds of tear gas shells to control the mob. The officer said.

Highly pathogenic bird flu virus puts Centre on alert

Hindu Shalini Perarupadan A.M. HELLICH NEW DELHI

Housing one of the largest livestock reserves across the world, India is at "risk and vulnerable" to the ongoing outbreaks of avian influenza (AI) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) pandemic H5N1, a worry compounded by the threat of mutation, officials have said. "Across the world, the

virus is being detected among wild birds and other species, which makes the chance of it mutating and becoming "harmful greater," warns the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its latest paper on pandemic and preparedness. "We are concerned about it. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us that we need to be prepared all the time. If we are caught off guard, anything can

happen," said Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, speaking to The Hindu. The Central government is now reviewing the H5N1 situation daily. H5N1, a highly pathogenic subtype of avian influenza, was detected by the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal in the mallard transmitted from the Government Poultry Farm at Bokaro, Jharkhand on

February 17, 2023. India has now initiated the anti-high pathogenic preparedness programme. This year has been the worst for outbreaks such as sequent spillover to mammals," said biologist Vinod Scaria.

Dr. Mitra also added that there is nothing to be afraid of and the expansion in the number of species affected were causes for worry. "India has been dealing with influenza since 2006-07 and there is no vaccine for high pathogenic avian influenza. Currently we have checked 1,500 samples from hospitals such as waterbodies and poultry farms," said biologist Vinod Scaria.

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THE CROSSWORD 13856

13 Dance circle gets university backing (9)
15 Could be panic as water comes down with force (5)
16 Roman Historian understood us (7)
19 Lures stars with ease perhaps (7)
20 Strain on every student coming first (5)
21 Found fault, one rejected me for saying "Seize the day" (5,4)
25 Italian city has gates, prominent change... (7)
26 ...American city tried to copy (7)
28 Country gets a new state (7)
29 Fish I snared at sea (7)
Down
1 Singer's not bad, overall attention is limited (6)
2 Manual and automatic... both make a carriage (6)
3 Turn half the covers off range (4)
4 With upturned nose, rascal finally became unprincipled (6)
5 Stay with them breaking stone (8)
6 Rascal runs away naked with charm (10)
7 Blue green, time to join an again (2-6)
8 Station, after short period shows sign of decline (8)
14 European cure - there is no free lunch! (5,5)
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22 Conrail is having a bit of the tailed (8)
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27 Writing in a newspaper giving figures (4)

SUDOKU

9 2 5 8
7 3
9 4 6 8 9
2 1 4 9 6 5
8 7 2 1 6
6 7 8
9 3 1 8
DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

FAITH

Inner beauty of Nrisimha
There are many ways in which our saints and preceptors have celebrated the Supreme Being. One such way is to treat Him like a fellow human being, as a friend, philosopher and guide. Many of the Aishwars excelled in this form of worship. One cannot help but recall Tirumalaiah Aishwar's beauty pageant for all the ten avatars, said Thiruvalluvar in his discourse.

Across
9 Articles by weight, are they? Yet hear there is a scramble (7)
10 Finish the game without pain by not using a weapon (7)
11 Old and retired, by shading nose, in charge before and after young (7)
12 Cat straddling a horse, that's the name of the place (7)

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 1 2 3

Only Rama, Krishna and Nrisimha are left. Rama says, "Am I not Ashwarya Raman?" Krishna laughs and says, "I am Mohana Krishnan." However, Aishwar says, "Aishwarya thane, aru unnam thane" in Nannagana Thavanu. The one who came promptly to the rescue of a faithful soul in the guise of a half-man, half-lion is the most beautiful. Praying to Nrisimha protects our inner and outer selves.

# IMD forecasts a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal next week

First cyclone to form this year will be called Mocha; weather agency says various models suggest that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a severe cyclonic storm the next day

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

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A low-pressure area is usually a precursor to the development of a cyclone, and according to the IMD’s calculations, it is expected



**At risk:** Fishing boats should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7, the IMD has warned. FILE PHOTO

to take shape on May 7.

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The IMD has a five-step classification for cyclones with the relatively weakest

classified as a “cyclonic storm” (65-68 kmph) and the strongest a “super cyclonic storm” (>222 kmph). A “severe cyclonic storm” (89-117 kmph) is just one step above a “cyclonic storm”.

Depending on the location of the storm and existing weather conditions, it

is possible for the storm to gain or reduce in strength. Cyclones are more frequent in India’s neighbourhood around May, October and November – or coincident with the advent and departure of the monsoon.

This will be the first cyclone to form this year and it will be called Cyclone Mocha. The name was proposed by Yemen, after the Red Sea port city, following an international convention on naming cyclones.

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that while greater clarity on the cyclone would only emerge later, the current warnings were for fishermen. “Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7 because it will be turbulent.”




In every ocean basin around the world, cyclones are named by regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).

There are six RSMCs in the world, as well as five TCWCs, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

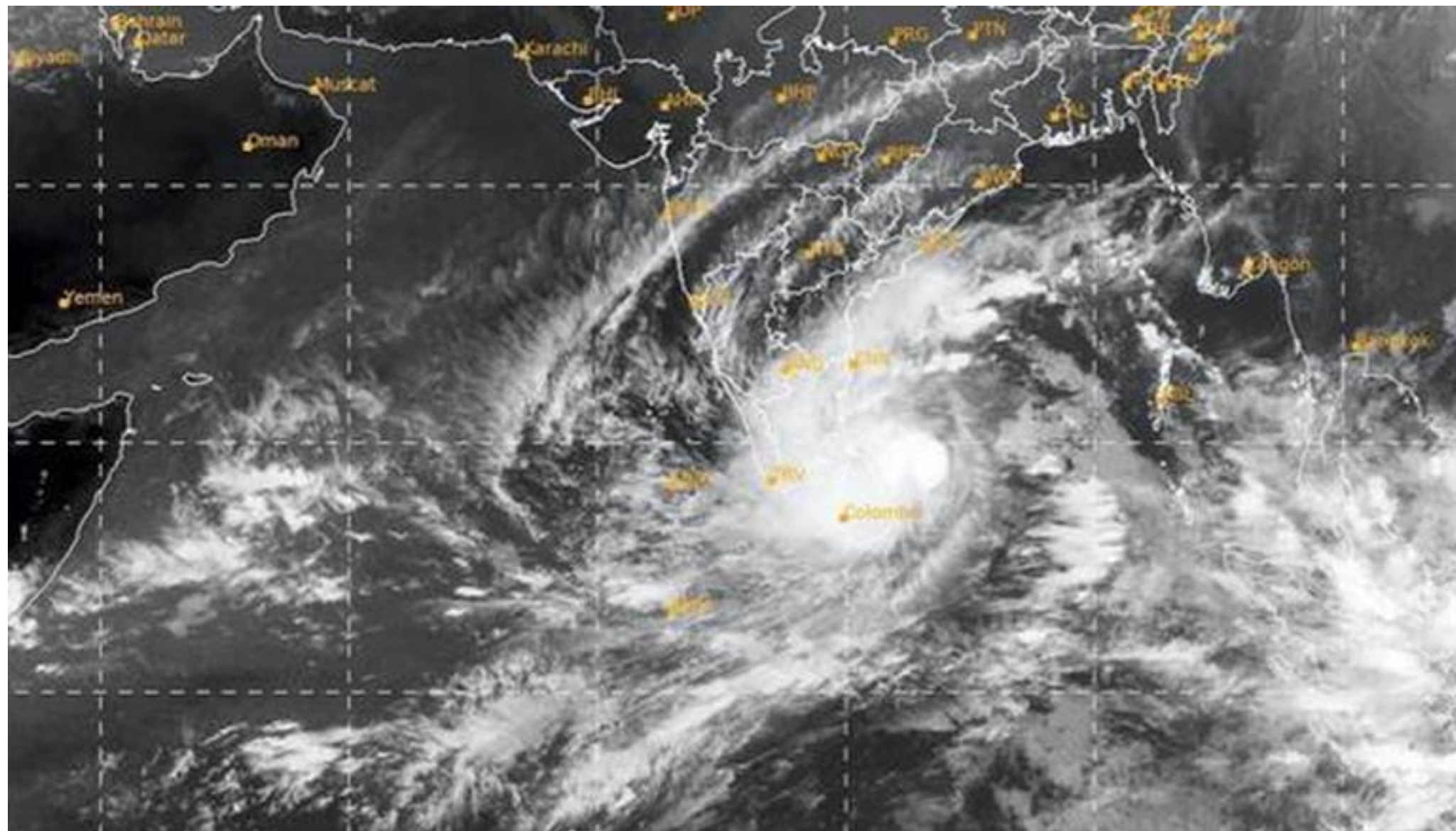
दुनिया भर में हर महासागर बेसिन में, क्षेत्रीय विशिष्ट मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र (आरएसएमसी) और उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवात चेतावनी केंद्र (टीसीडब्ल्यूसी) द्वारा चक्रवातों का नामकरण किया जाता है।

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) सहित दुनिया में छह आरएसएमसी और पांच टीसीडब्ल्यूसी हैं।



- **Tornadoes are cyclones in North America, hurricanes in the southeast Caribbean, typhoons in eastern China, Japan, and the Philippines, and cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.**

- **बवंडर उत्तरी अमेरिका में चक्रवात, दक्षिण-पूर्व कैरेबियन में तफान, पूर्वी चीन, जापान और फिलीपींस में टाइफून और बंगाल की खाड़ी और अरब सागर में चक्रवात हैं।**



**YANGON**  
**Myanmar junta pardons more than 2,000 political prisoners**



Myanmar's junta pardoned more than 2,000 political prisoners to mark a Buddhist holiday on Wednesday, triggering tearful reunions outside jails but also demands that the many others behind bars be released. Protesters and journalists were among the 2,153 people freed, a fraction of those targeted in the crackdown on dissent. AFP

**BRASILIA**  
**Brazil police raid former President Jair Bolsonaro's home, seize phone**



The police in Brazil searched ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's home and seized his cellphone in an investigation into allegations of falsifying COVID-19 vaccination records. Mr. Bolsonaro denied facing COVID-19 vaccination records for himself, accusing the authorities of trying to "fabricate" a case against him. AFP

**NEW YORK**  
**U.S. Federal Reserve raises rates by another 25 bp, hints it may be last**



The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point and signalled it may pause further increases, giving officials time to assess bank failures, how the Washington standoff over the Fed's credit ceiling plays out, the course of inflation. Reuters

**WASHINGTON**  
**U.S. pick Ajay Banga confirmed as next president of World Bank**



The World Bank confirmed Ajay Banga was selected as its next president on Wednesday, taking charge at a pivotal time for the development lender as it looks to better address climate change. The Bank's board voted to approve his leadership for a five-year term. He will take over the role from David Malpass on June 2. AFP

**13-year-old opens fire in classroom in Serbia killing 8 students, guard**

The accused, who was arrested after the incident, had drawn sketches of classrooms, made a list of people to be targeted; he had carried two guns belonging to his father and four Molotov cocktails, say officials; six children, teacher hospitalised

Associated Press

A 13-year-old who opened fire on Wednesday at his school in Serbia's capital drew sketches of classrooms and wrote a list of people he intended to target in a meticulously planned attack, police said. He killed eight fellow students and a school guard before being arrested. In addition to the nine killed, six children and a teacher were also hospitalised.



Grieving together: Following the shooting, authorities in Serbia have declared three days of nationwide mourning starting Friday. AP

The shooter first killed a guard at the school in central Belgrade and then three students in a hallway, according to senior police official Veselin Milic. He then entered a history classroom, apparently choosing it simply because it was close to the entrance and opened fire again, Mr. Milic said.

The assailant called the police himself when the attack was over, though authorities received a call reporting the shooting two minutes earlier.

A father of a student said the shooter entered his daughter's classroom, firing at her teacher and then her classmates as they ducked under their desks. Authorities declared three days of nationwide mourning, starting on Friday.

The police identified the shooter as Kostja Kecmanovic, who attended the Vladislav Ribnikar school, where students typically range in age from 6 to 15. Kecmanovic carried two guns belonging to his father — at least one a handgun — and four Molotov cocktails, officials said. The Interior Minister said the weapons were licensed and kept in a safe but the school principal, who repeatedly warned of shooting ranges, apparently knew the code. The father was also arrested.

Experts, however, have repeatedly warned of the danger posed by the large number of weapons in the

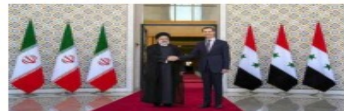
country after the wars of the 1990s. They also note that decades of instability stemming from the conflicts as well as the ongoing economic hardship could trigger such outbursts.

The Syria conflict has killed more than 5,000,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure and industry. While the front lines between the Assad regime and rebels have shifted in recent years, large parts of the country's north remain outside government control. "Syria's government and people have gone through great difficulties, but we believe that you have overcome all these problems and achieved victory, despite

**Raisi praises Syria's victory in civil war despite sanctions**

Agence France-Presse

DAMASCUS  
Visiting Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed Syria's Bashar al-Assad on Wednesday for overcoming sanctions and achieving "victory" in the country's 12-year-long civil war, in which Tehran has been a major ally.



Timely ties: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, left, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Syria, on Wednesday. AP

The Syria conflict has killed more than 5,000,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure and industry. While the front lines between the Assad regime and rebels have shifted in recent years, large parts of the country's north remain outside government control. "Syria's government and people have gone through great difficulties, but we believe that you have overcome all these problems and achieved victory, despite

the threats and sanctions imposed on you," Mr. Raisi told Mr. Assad, according to a statement from the Syrian presidency and Iran's IRNA news agency.

Iran "did not hesitate to provide political and economic support (to Syria), and even offered blood," Mr. Assad added.

**UN denounces Taliban's intimidation, attacks on journalists in Afghanistan**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD  
The Taliban's intimidation, threats and attacks on Afghan journalists are unacceptable, the UN said on Wednesday, as it expressed concern for the future of the country's media.

Women journalists face additional hardships because of work bans and travel restrictions. During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban barred most television, radio and newspapers in the country. The UN mission in Afghanistan said that although journalists continue

to work, they are forced to navigate "unclear and often arbitrary boundaries of reporting against an ever-present threat of repression and closure."

Deputy Broadcasting Minister Mahajar Farahi denied that journalists face obstacles in Afghanistan, saying the media is carrying out its activities in a normal way.

**Belarusian activist who was plucked off flight in 2021 jailed for eight years**

Agence France-Presse

MINSK  
A Belarusian activist who was arrested in 2021 after his Ryanair flight to Lithuania was forced to land in Belarus has been sentenced to eight years in prison, state media reported on Wednesday.

Prosecutors had asked for a 10-year sentence for Roman Protasevich, the former editor of an opposition Telegram account. He has been accused of helping coordinate mass protests against President Alexander Lukashenko's regime in 2020.

The Moscow-allied country, ruled by Mr. Lukashenko since 1994, has cracked down on anyone linked to the protests. Mr. Protasevich was arrested after his Ryanair

flight from Greece to Lithuania was intercepted by a Belarusian fighter jet and forced to land in Minsk. He has been the regime's hostage since the Ryanair hijacking in 2020. Opposition figure Svetlana Tikhanovskaya said, "The Belarus regime again shows its regard for justice by sentencing Protasevich to a fake trial on PressFreedomDay," she said.

**The anatomy of a coronation: A guide to the crowning of King Charles III**

EXPLAINER

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

The coronation of Britain's King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, will take place at noon (London time) on Saturday, May 6, at Westminster Abbey, where coronations have taken place for around 900 years.

Prior to this, the King and Queen in Consort will undertake a procession from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey for the ceremonies, which are scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be officiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The event is expected to conclude at 1 p.m., following which the royal family will watch a fly past from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

There will be a concert at Windsor Castle on Sunday evening featuring Katie Perry, "Take That," Andie MacKinnon, Lionel Richie and others.

The weekend's events include community lunches on Sunday and volun-

teer mobilisation activities on Monday — to reflect the King's long running association with community and volunteering activities.

**How does this British coronation compare to previous ones?**

Apart from the coronation reflecting the individual preferences of the monarch, this year's events "will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry", according to Buckingham Palace.

For instance, at least one of the six coronation "vestments" will be recycled from George VI's coronation in 1937. The event is expected to conclude at 1 p.m., following which the royal family will watch a fly past from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

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Long time coming: A man looks inside a souvenir shop decorated with a flag commemorating the coronation of King Charles III. AP

people of all faiths and beliefs may live freely".

During the coronation, the public will be invited to show their allegiance to the King and "his heirs and successors". This is also a new element to the coronation, while some (such as Members of the U.K. Parliament) have come out in support of this, others have objected.

In a democracy, it is the people of the state who should be swearing allegiance to the people, not the other way around. This kind of nonsense should have died with Elizabeth II, not outlived Elizabeth II," said Graham Smith, CEO of

Republic, a group that is conspicuous by her absence. The Duchess of Sussex will remain in California while her husband, Prince Harry, will attend his father's coronation, months after publishing a revealing memoir, Spare, which further strained his and Ms. Markle's relationship with the King and the heir to the throne, Prince William.

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**WASHINGTON**

## U.S. pick Ajay Banga confirmed as next president of World Bank



REUTERS

▲ The World Bank confirmed Ajay Banga was selected as its next president on Wednesday, taking charge at a pivotal time for the development lender as it looks to better address climate change. The Bank's board voted to approve his leadership for a five-year term. He will take over the role from David Malpass on June 2. AFP



The World Bank building in [Washington, D.C.](#)

<b>Established</b>	December 1944 (78 years ago)
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">International financial institution</a>
<b>Legal status</b>	Treaty
<b>Headquarters</b>	1818 <a href="#">H Street</a> , NW <a href="#">Washington, D.C.</a> , U.S. <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Membership</b>	189 countries (IBRD) <sup>[2]</sup> 174 countries (IDA) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">David Malpass</a> ( <a href="#">President</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup> <a href="#">Axel van Trotsenburg</a> ( <a href="#">MD</a> ) <a href="#">Anshula Kant</a> ( <a href="#">MD</a> and <a href="#">CFO</a> ) <a href="#">Indermit Gill</a> ( <a href="#">Chief Economist</a> ), <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>Parent organization</b>	<a href="#">World Bank Group</a>



[Harry Dexter White](#) (left) and [John Maynard Keynes](#), the "founding fathers" of both the World Bank and the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)<sup>[6]</sup>



The Gold Room at the [Mount Washington Hotel](#) where the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were established

## Ajay Banga



**President of the World Bank Group**

**Designate**

**Assuming office**

June 2, 2023

**Chief Executive** [Anshula Kant](#)

**Succeeding** [David Malpass](#)

**Personal details**

<b>Born</b>	<a href="#">Ajaypal Singh Banga</a> November 10, 1959 (age 63) <a href="#">Pune, India</a>
<b>Relatives</b>	<a href="#">M. S. Banga</a> (brother)
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">St. Stephen's College, Delhi</a> (BA) <a href="#">Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad</a> (MBA)

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Beginning his business career as a management trainee with [Nestlé](#) in 1981, Banga spent the next 13 years working in jobs spanning sales, marketing, and general management.

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He later joined [PepsiCo](#) and was involved in the launch of its international fast food franchises, including [Pizza Hut](#) and [KFC](#), in India as the economy [liberalized](#).

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1981 में नेस्ले के साथ एक प्रबंधन प्रशिक्षु के रूप में अपने व्यावसायिक कैरियर की शुरुआत करते हुए, बंगा ने अगले 13 साल बिक्री, विपणन और सामान्य प्रबंधन में काम करते हुए बिताए।

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बाद में वह पेप्सिको में शामिल हो गए और भारत में पिज्जा हट और केएफसी सहित इसके अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फास्ट फूड फ्रैंचाइज़ी के लॉन्च में शामिल थे, क्योंकि अर्थव्यवस्था उदारीकृत थी

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Citigroup, 1996–2009

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Mastercard, 2010–2021

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In 2020 Banga was elected chairman of the [International Chamber of Commerce](#) (ICC) succeeding [Paul Polman](#).

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He previously served as ICC's First Vice-Chair since June 2018.

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On January 1 2022, Banga assumed responsibilities at General Atlantic as vice chairman

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सिटीग्रुप, 1996-2009

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मास्टरकार्ड, 2010–2021

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2020 बंगा को पॉल पोलमैन के बाद इंटरनेशनल चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स (ICC) का अध्यक्ष चुना गया।

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उन्होंने पहले जून 2018 से ICC के पहले उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्य किया।

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1 जनवरी 2022 को, बंगा ने जनरल अटलांटिक में वाइस चेयरमैन के रूप में जिम्मेदारी संभाली

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The Government of India awarded Banga the civilian honour of the Padma Shri in 2016.



भारत सरकार ने 2016 में बंगा को  
पद्म श्री के नागरिक सम्मान से  
सम्मानित किया



# UN top prize for 3 Iranian women journalists who reported protests

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 3

THE UNITED Nations announced Tuesday night that its premier prize for press freedom has been awarded to three imprisoned Iranian female journalists “for their commitment to truth and accountability.”

The winners are Niloufar Hamedei who broke the news that 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died last September while being held by the morality police for wearing her headscarf too loosely, and Elaheh Mohammadi who wrote about her funeral.

Amini’s death touched off months-long protests in dozens of cities across Iran. The demonstrations posed one of the most serious challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement protests drew millions to the streets.

The third winner is Narges Mohammadi, who has worked for many years as a journalist and is one of Iran’s most prominent activists.

The UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization World Press Freedom Prize is named for Guillermo Cano, a Colombian journalism who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper *El Espectador* in Bogota on Dec. 17, 1986. UNESCO has awarded the prize to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on May 3 since 1997.

In late April, Iran’s judiciary acknowledged that two reporters who broke news on Amini’s death, Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi, had been indicted on charges of collaborating with the United States, acting against national security, and creating “propaganda against the system.”

While nearly 100 journalists have been held amid the protests, Hamedei & Elaheh Mohammadi’s reporting was crucial in the days after Amini’s death. Their detentions have sparked international criticism over the security force crackdown that lasted months after. According to UNESCO, both Hamedei and Mohammadi have been in Iran’s Evin Prison since September, and Hamedei has been in solitary confinement.

# India has 759 mn active internet users: Report

**BRANDWAGON ONLINE**  
New Delhi, May 3

**THE INTERNET AND** Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KANTAR on Wednesday jointly released 'Internet in India Report 2022'. The report points out that 52% of Indians, that is, 759 million are active internet users, accessing the internet at least once a month. According to the report, the number is expected to grow to 900 million by 2025. This is for the first time that the majority of Indians have become active internet users.

The report pointed out that out of 759 million 'active' internet users in India for 2022, 399 million are from rural areas, while 360 million are from urban India, indicating that rural India continues to drive the growth of the internet in the country.

The report highlighted that urban India, with approximately 71% internet penetration witnessed only 6% growth, with much of the over-



all gain in numbers coming from rural India, which witnessed a 14% growth rate over the past one year. It is estimated that 56% of all new internet users in India will be from rural India by 2025.

Digital divide, however, continues to plague the positive narrative with a huge disparity in internet penetrations across states, with Bihar (32%) having less than half the level of internet penetration than the leading state, Goa (70%).

Even though the gender divide persists till date with 54% male users, the report noted that 57% of all new users in 2022 were females. It

is estimated that by 2025, 65% of all new users will be women.

The report suggests that digital penetration has improved not only in terms of spread but also in terms of depth. For instance, while 100% of users access the internet via mobile, the use of Other Devices (tablets, streaming devices, 'smart' devices) has witnessed a considerable rise over 1 year (from 8% in 2021 to 13% in 2022) as Indians proactively adopt new technologies and services.

In terms of usage, digital entertainment, digital communications and social media continue to be the most popular services in India. In fact, Indians are fast adapting social media platforms as the next e-commerce destination, with a 51% YoY growth in social commerce. Highlighting about digital payments, the report stated that digital payments has witnessed a 13% growth over 2021 to reach an estimated 338 million users.

**Daily Current Affairs**

# De-dollarisation

- There's a growing trend of countries sidestepping the US dollar (de-dollarisation) and choosing to use their own local currencies for bilateral trade.
- देशों द्वारा अमेरिकी डॉलर (डी-डॉलरीकरण) को दरकिनार करने और द्विपक्षीय व्यापार के लिए अपनी स्थानीय मुद्राओं का उपयोग करने का चलन बढ़ रहा है।

# What is de-dollarisation?

- De-dollarisation is a term that refers to the process whereby countries **tend to reduce their reliance on the US dollar as a reserve currency**, medium of exchange, and also a unit of account.
- डी-डॉलरीकरण एक ऐसा शब्द है जो उस प्रक्रिया को संदर्भित करता है जिसके द्वारा देश आरक्षित मुद्रा, विनिमय के माध्यम और खाते की एक इकाई के रूप में अमेरिकी डॉलर पर अपनी निर्भरता कम करते हैं।

# Why is the US dollar used so widely?

- **Dominance of Dollar:** After **World War II**, the US dollar replaced the **British pound** as the dominating currency worldwide.
- In 1944, the **Bretton Woods Agreement** established the dollar as the **world's reserve currency**.
- The original Bretton Woods Agreement is dead, but the dollar remains the international reserve currency.
- **डॉलर का प्रभुत्व:** द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद, अमेरिकी डॉलर ने ब्रिटिश पाउंड को दुनिया भर में प्रमुख मुद्रा के रूप में बदल दिया।
- 1944 में, ब्रेटन वुड्स समझौते ने डॉलर को विश्व की आरक्षित मुद्रा के रूप में स्थापित किया।
- मूल ब्रेटन वुड्स समझौता मर चुका है, लेकिन डॉलर अंतरराष्ट्रीय आरक्षित मुद्रा बना हुआ है।



- **Trade deficit of US:** U.S. has been running a persistent trade deficit for decades now (in fact the last time the U.S. ran a trade surplus was way back in 1975).

- The **excess dollars** that the rest of the world accumulates due to the U.S. 's trade deficit has been invested in U.S. assets such as in debt securities issued by the US government.

- **अमेरिका का व्यापार घाटा:** अमेरिका दशकों से लगातार व्यापार घाटा चला रहा है (वास्तव में पिछली बार जब अमेरिका ने व्यापार अधिशेष चलाया था तो वह बहुत पहले 1975 में था)।

- अमेरिका के व्यापार घाटे के कारण शेष विश्व में जो अतिरिक्त डॉलर जमा होते हैं, उन्हें अमेरिकी संपत्तियों में निवेश किया जाता है, जैसे कि अमेरिकी सरकार द्वारा जारी ऋण प्रतिभूतियों में।

• **Popularity of U.S. assets among investors:** The high level of trust that global investors have in the **U.S. financial markets,** perhaps owing to the **'rule of law'** in the U.S., is considered to be a major reason why investors prefer to invest in U.S. assets.

• निवेशकों के बीच अमेरिकी संपत्तियों की लोकप्रियता: अमेरिकी वित्तीय बाजारों में वैश्विक निवेशकों का उच्च स्तर का विश्वास, शायद अमेरिका में 'कानून के शासन' के कारण, यह एक प्रमुख कारण माना जाता है कि निवेशक अमेरिकी संपत्तियों में निवेश करना क्यों पसंद करते हैं .

## What is Reserve Currency?

- foreign currencies held by central banks
- characterized by their stability, liquidity, and wide acceptance in global markets
- prepare for international debt obligations and to influence their domestic exchange rate.

- केंद्रीय बैंकों द्वारा धारित विदेशी मुद्राएं
- उनकी स्थिरता, तरलता और वैश्विक बाजारों में व्यापक स्वीकृति की विशेषता है
- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऋण दायित्वों के लिए तैयार करना और उनकी घरेलू विनिमय दर को प्रभावित करना।

## आरक्षित मुद्रा क्या है?

# Global Efforts Towards Dedollarization

## विमुद्रीकरण की दिशा में वैश्विक प्रयास

In recent years, several countries and regions have embarked on the path towards dedollarization, driven by a combination of geopolitical, economic, and strategic considerations.

हाल के वर्षों में, कई देशों और क्षेत्रों ने भू-राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और रणनीतिक विचारों के संयोजन से प्रेरित होकर विमुद्रीकरण की ओर अग्रसर किया है।

Notable examples include China, Russia, Brazil and the European Union, each of which has taken steps to reduce their reliance on the US dollar in international transactions and financial markets.

उल्लेखनीय उदाहरणों में चीन, रूस, ब्राजील और यूरोपीय संघ शामिल हैं, जिनमें से प्रत्येक ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय लेनदेन और वित्तीय बाजारों में अमेरिकी डॉलर पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं।

# Why are de-dollarisation attempts being made?

Sanctions by U.S

Power to control transactions by U.S

To end U.S Hegemony

To Promote their own currency

## डी-डॉलरीकरण के प्रयास क्यों किए जा रहे हैं?

यू.एस. द्वारा प्रतिबंध

यू.एस. द्वारा लेनदेन को नियंत्रित करने की शक्ति

अमेरिकी आधिपत्य को समाप्त करने के लिए

अपनी मुद्रा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए

## Challenges Towards Dedollarisation

**Threat to Global  
Financial Stability**

**Alternative  
currency**

**Increased volatility  
in Exchange rates**

## डिडॉलराइजेशन की ओर चुनौतियां

**वैश्विक वित्तीय  
स्थिरता के लिए खतरा**

**वैकल्पिक मुद्रा**

**विनिमय दरों में  
अस्थिरता में वृद्धि**

**Daily Current Affairs**

**Yoga Mahotsav**

- Commemorating 50 days to the International Day of Yoga, the Yoga Mahotsav witnessed massive participation by yoga enthusiasts perform along with dignitaries creating an electrifying atmosphere.
- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस के 50 दिनों के उपलक्ष्य में, योग महोत्सव में योग के प्रति उत्साही लोगों की भारी भागीदारी देखी गई, साथ ही गणमान्य व्यक्तियों ने एक विद्युतीय वातावरण बनाया।



# Key Points

- The Yoga Mahotsav was a celebration to commemorate 50 days to upcoming International Day of Yoga, 2023.
- The participants performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) in complete rhythm and harmony with a mesmerising outcome.
- The Ministry of Ayush, is organising the “Yoga Mahotsav”.
- योग महोत्सव आगामी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस, 2023 के 50 दिनों के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाने वाला उत्सव था।
- प्रतिभागियों ने मंत्रमुग्ध करने वाले परिणाम के साथ पूरी लय और सामंजस्य के साथ कॉमन योग प्रोटोकॉल (CYP) का प्रदर्शन किया।
- आयुष मंत्रालय, "योग महोत्सव" का आयोजन कर रहा है।

# International Day of Yoga

- The United Nations declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014 after PM Modi called for the day to be adopted as a global celebration of yoga.
- The date of 21 June was suggested as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 2014 में 21 जून को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस के रूप में घोषित किया था, जब पीएम मोदी ने इस दिन को योग के वैश्विक उत्सव के रूप में अपनाने का आह्वान किया था।
- 21 जून की तारीख का सुझाव दिया गया था क्योंकि यह उत्तरी गोलार्ध में वर्ष का सबसे लंबा दिन होता है और दुनिया के कई हिस्सों में इसका विशेष महत्व होता है।

- The first International Yoga Day celebration was organised at Rajpath in New Delhi on June 21, 2015.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) mentions yoga as a means to improve health in its Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018–2030: More active people for a healthier world.

- पहला अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस समारोह 21 जून, 2015 को नई दिल्ली में राजपथ पर आयोजित किया गया था।

- विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) ने शारीरिक गतिविधि 2018-2030 पर अपनी वैश्विक कार्य योजना में स्वास्थ्य में सुधार के साधन के रूप में योग का उल्लेख किया है: एक स्वस्थ दुनिया के लिए अधिक सक्रिय लोग।

**Daily Current Affairs**

# Decarbonisation of Steelmaking

- Hydrogen is a crucial part of the world's plans to greenify its manufacturing and automobile industries as a fuel whose production and use needn't emit carbon.
- Hydrogen can also be used as a reducing agent instead of carbon monoxide (CO), which would result in much lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- हाइड्रोजन अपने विनिर्माण और ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योगों को ईंधन के रूप में हरा-भरा बनाने की दुनिया की योजनाओं का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, जिनके उत्पादन और उपयोग में कार्बन उत्सर्जन की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- कार्बन मोनोऑक्साइड (सीओ) के बजाय हाइड्रोजन को कम करने वाले एजेंट के रूप में भी इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन बहुत कम होगा।

# About Decarbonizing India: Iron and Steel Sector report:

- The iron and steel sector is a hard-to-abate sector in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, but it is an equally **critical contributor to the economic development** of the country.
- India is the **second-largest producer of crude steel** in the world and plans to almost triple its production by 2030
- लोहा और इस्पात क्षेत्र ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन के मामले में एक कठिन-से-कम करने वाला क्षेत्र है, लेकिन यह देश के आर्थिक विकास में समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण योगदानकर्ता है।
- भारत दुनिया में कच्चे इस्पात का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है और 2030 तक इसके उत्पादन को लगभग तिगुना करने की योजना है

- The report (Decarbonizing India: Iron and Steel Sector) was released by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**.

- According to it India's iron and steel sector can produce fewer emissions and increase its output at the same time.

- सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरनमेंट (सीएसई) द्वारा रिपोर्ट (डीकार्बोनाइजिंग इंडिया: आयरन एंड स्टील सेक्टर) जारी की गई थी।

- इसके अनुसार भारत का लोहा और इस्पात क्षेत्र कम उत्सर्जन पैदा कर सकता है और एक ही समय में अपना उत्पादन बढ़ा सकता है।

- The analysis shows that it is possible to bring down carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from our iron and steel sector drastically by 2030, while more than doubling India's output of steel.
- emissions from crude steel production are estimated to grow to almost **2.5 times by 2030**.

- विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि 2030 तक हमारे लौह और इस्पात क्षेत्र से कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (CO<sub>2</sub>) उत्सर्जन को काफी कम करना संभव है, जबकि भारत के स्टील के उत्पादन को दोगुना से भी अधिक करना संभव है।
- कच्चे इस्पात के उत्पादन से उत्सर्जन 2030 तक लगभग 2.5 गुना बढ़ने का अनुमान है।



- **This report provides a detailed insight** into the GHG emissions of the iron and steel sector and its future emission scenarios for 2030 -the report provides, based on available information, unit and company-wise data on emissions, which will help design the road ahead.
- **The report suggests a roadmap** for the sector, highlighting the pathways for GHG emissions reduction.

- यह रिपोर्ट लोहा और इस्पात क्षेत्र के जीएचजी उत्सर्जन और 2030 के लिए इसके भविष्य के उत्सर्जन परिदृश्यों में एक विस्तृत अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करती है - रिपोर्ट उत्सर्जन पर उपलब्ध जानकारी, इकाई और कंपनी-वार डेटा के आधार पर प्रदान करती है, जो आगे की सड़क को डिजाइन करने में मदद करेगी।
- रिपोर्ट में इस क्षेत्र के लिए एक रोडमैप सुझाया गया है, जिसमें जीएचजी उत्सर्जन में कमी के रास्तों पर प्रकाश डाला गया है।

# About Iron and Steel Industry in India

- **India surpassed Japan** as the second top steel producer in 2019.
- **India was the world's second-largest steel producer.**
- **China remains the world's largest crude steel producer .**
- **India is the largest producer of sponge iron** in the world and the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest finished steel consumer** in the world after China & USA.
- भारत ने 2019 में जापान को पीछे छोड़ते हुए दूसरे शीर्ष इस्पात उत्पादक के रूप में स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा इस्पात उत्पादक था।
- चीन दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा कच्चा इस्पात उत्पादक बना हुआ है।
- भारत दुनिया में स्पंज आयरन का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है और चीन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बाद दुनिया में तीसरा सबसे बड़ा तैयार स्टील उपभोक्ता है।

- The Government has taken various steps to boost the sector including the introduction of the **National Steel Policy 2017** and allowing **100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the steel sector under the automatic route.
- The beginning of the Iron and **steel industry was in 1907** with the setting up of the **TISCO plant at Jamshedpur**.

- सरकार ने इस क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय इस्पात नीति 2017 की शुरुआत और स्वतः मार्ग के तहत इस्पात क्षेत्र में 100 प्रतिशत प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (एफडीआई) की अनुमति सहित कई कदम उठाए हैं।
- लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग की शुरुआत 1907 में जमशेदपुर में टिस्को संयंत्र की स्थापना के साथ हुई थी।

- The development of the Iron and Steel industry was envisaged during the first five-year plan (FYP), but it was **during the second FYP that three integrated projects were started at Bhilai (with erstwhile USSR technical and financial support), Rourkela (with German assistance) and Durgapur (with U.K assistance)**
- **During the third FYP, the Bokaro steel plant was started (production started in 1972)**

- पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना (FYP) के दौरान लौह और इस्पात उद्योग के विकास की परिकल्पना की गई थी, लेकिन दूसरी FYP के दौरान भिलाई (पूर्व USSR तकनीकी और वित्तीय सहायता के साथ), राउरकेला (जर्मन के साथ) में तीन एकीकृत परियोजनाएं शुरू की गईं सहायता) और दुर्गापुर (ब्रिटेन की सहायता से)
- तीसरी FYP के दौरान, बोकारो स्टील प्लांट शुरू किया गया था (उत्पादन 1972 में शुरू हुआ था)

- **Steel Authority of India (SAIL)**  
Established in 1973, SAIL is a government undertaking and is responsible for the management of steel plants.

- The **Chota Nagpur plateau** is home to all of India's major steel-making centres, which are spread across four states: **West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh.**

- स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (सेल) 1973 में स्थापित, सेल एक सरकारी उपक्रम है और इस्पात संयंत्रों के प्रबंधन के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

- छोटा नागपुर पठार भारत के सभी प्रमुख इस्पात बनाने वाले केंद्रों का घर है, जो चार राज्यों: पश्चिम बंगाल, झारखंड, उड़ीसा और छत्तीसगढ़ में फैले हुए हैं।

# Major Steel Industries

TISCO -  
Jamshedpur,  
Jharkhand

The  
Visvesvaraya  
Iron and Steel  
Plant -  
Bhadravati,  
Karnataka

Bhilai Steel  
Plant -  
Chhattisgarh

Rourkela Steel  
Plant - Odisha

Durgapur Steel  
Plant - West  
Bengal

Bokaro Steel  
Plant - Jharkhand

Salem Steel  
Plant - Tamil  
Nadu

Visakhapatnam  
Steel Plant -  
Andhra Pradesh

**Pollutants  
from Steel  
Industries:**

**Particulate  
Matter (PM2.5  
and PM 10)**

**Oxides of  
Sulphur**

**Oxides of  
Nitrogen**

**Carbon  
Monoxide  
(CO)**

**Carbon  
Dioxide (CO2)**

**Solid Waste**

# What is Antonov AN-32?



- India recently donated propellers of the Antonov AN-32 military transport aircraft to Sri Lanka.
- भारत ने हाल ही में श्रीलंका को एंटोनोव एएन-32 सैन्य परिवहन विमान के प्रोपेलर दान किए।

# Antonov AN-32

- It is a twin-engined turboprop military transport aircraft.
- It is designed and manufactured by the Antonov Design Bureau of Ukraine.
- It was purchased by India from the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1984.
- Its Nato reporting name is Cline.
- यह एक जुड़वां इंजन वाला टर्बोप्रॉप सैन्य परिवहन विमान है।
- इसे यूक्रेन के एंटोनोव डिज़ाइन ब्यूरो द्वारा डिज़ाइन और निर्मित किया गया है।
- इसे 1984 में तत्कालीन सोवियत संघ से भारत द्वारा खरीदा गया था।
- इसका नाटो रिपोर्टिंग नाम क्लाइन है।



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INDIAN AIR FORCE

# Features

- The AN-32 can be operated at high-altitude airfields (up to 4500 m above sea level) and in a hot climate, making the aircraft suitable for tactical military transport or other evacuation operations.
- It can carry a maximum weight of 27 tons at a maximum speed of 530 km/h.
- AN-32 को ऊंचाई वाले हवाई क्षेत्रों (समुद्र तल से 4500 मीटर ऊपर तक) और गर्म जलवायु में संचालित किया जा सकता है, जिससे विमान सामरिक सैन्य परिवहन या अन्य निकासी कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त हो जाता है।
- यह 530 किमी/घंटा की अधिकतम गति पर अधिकतम 27 टन वजन ले जा सकता है।

- **Passenger Capacity:** 42 paratroopers or **50 passengers** or 24 Casualties on a stretcher with three medical personnel.
- It also has a **limited bombing role** and is used for **para-trooping operations**.

- यात्री क्षमता: 42 पैराट्रूपर्स या 50 यात्री या तीन चिकित्सा कर्मियों के साथ एक स्ट्रेचर पर 24 हताहत।
- इसकी एक सीमित बमबारी भूमिका भी है और पैरा-ट्रूपिंग ऑपरेशन के लिए इसका उपयोग किया जाता है।

## Daily Current Affairs

# What is Hijol?

- A new study notes that the suitable habitat for hijol to grow in the India-Bangladesh landscape may shrink by 50.5% due to rainfall and temperature changes.
- एक नए अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि भारत-बांग्लादेश परिदृश्य में हिजोल के बढ़ने के लिए उपयुक्त आवास वर्षा और तापमान परिवर्तन के कारण 50.5% तक कम हो सकता है।



# Hijol

- Hijol, or **Indian oak**, is a **medium-sized evergreen tree**.
- **Scientific Name:**  
**Barringtonia acutangula**
- **Common names:** **Hijal**, **Hijangal**, **Hendol**, **Stream Barringtonia**, **Itchy Tree**.

- हिजोल, या भारतीय ओक, एक मध्यम आकार का सदाबहार पेड़ है।
- वैज्ञानिक नाम : बैरिंगटनिया एकुटांगुला
- सामान्य नाम: हिजल, हिजंगल, हेंडोल, स्ट्रीम बैरिंगटनिया, इची ट्री।



# Distribution

- It is native to **coastal wetlands in southern Asia and northern Australasia.**
  - This species grows on the **banks of freshwater rivers, the edges of freshwater swamps** and lagoons and on seasonally flooded lowland plains, **commonly on heavy soils.**
  - It is commonly **found in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin.**
- यह दक्षिणी एशिया और उत्तरी ऑस्ट्रेलिया में तटीय आर्द्रभूमि का मूल निवासी है।
  - यह प्रजाति मीठे पानी की नदियों के किनारे, मीठे पानी के दलदलों और लैगून के किनारों पर और आमतौर पर भारी मिट्टी पर मौसमी रूप से बाढ़ वाले तराई के मैदानों में बढ़ती है।
  - यह आमतौर पर गंगा-ब्रह्मपुत्र-मेघना बेसिन में पाया जाता है।

- This plant is a **big tree** that grows to about **8–15 m high**.
- Its **leaves are thick, smooth and oval in shape**, about 8–12 cm long and 4–5 cm wide, with reddish petioles about 0.5–1.0 cm long.
- **Flowers are small, pink to red**, sub-sessile, and purple-red with **numerous stamens**.

### Medicinal uses:

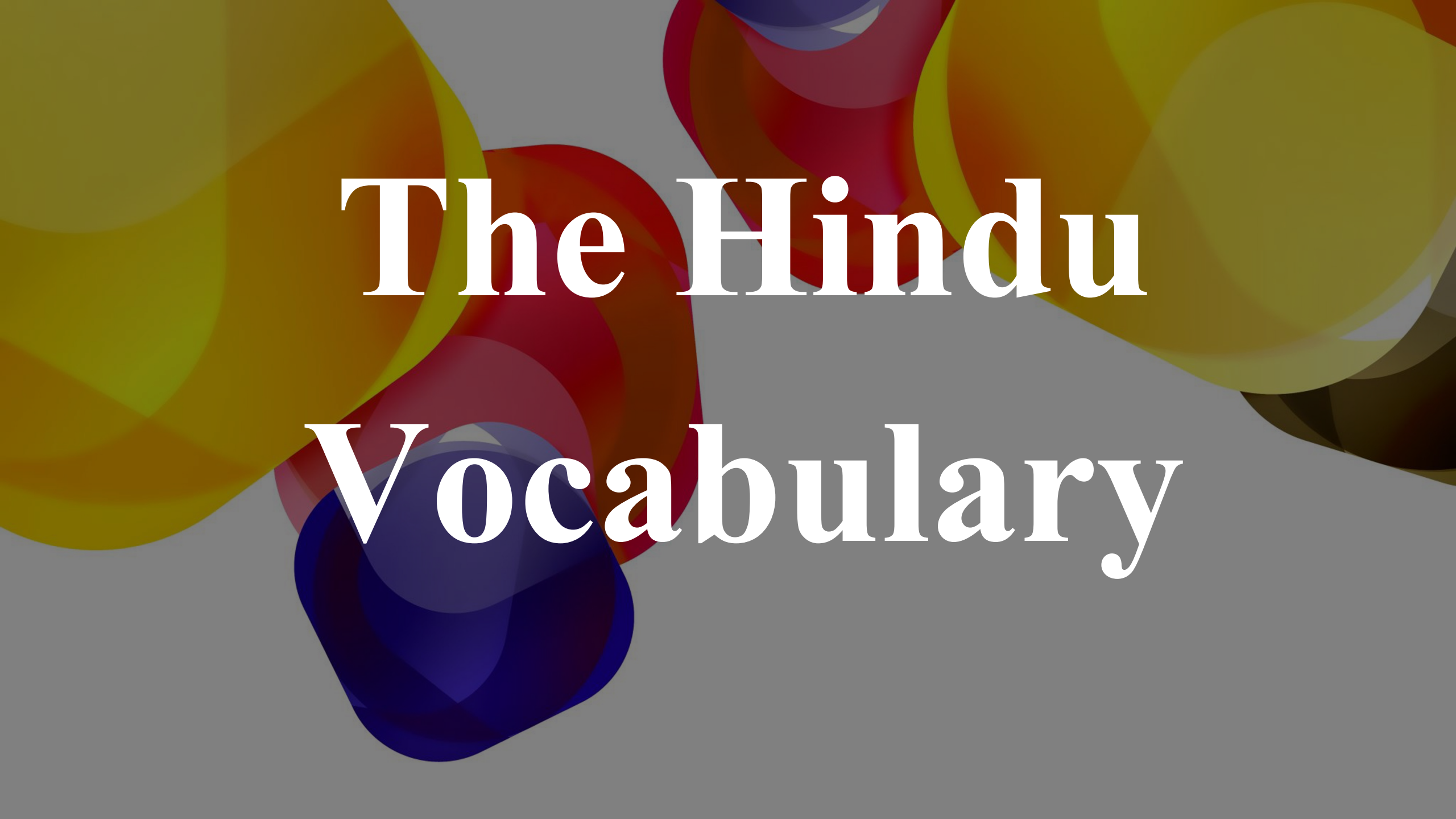
- Its **bark has tannin, which is useful for heart diseases**.
- **Powder of seeds works as an expectorant** and is applied to cure the cough of children.
- Tonic is prepared from leaves and roots. **Fish poison is also prepared from its roots**.

- यह पौधा एक बड़ा पेड़ है जो लगभग 8-15 मीटर ऊँचा होता है।
- इसकी पत्तियाँ मोटी, चिकनी और आकार में अंडाकार होती हैं, लगभग 8–12 सेमी लंबी और 4–5 सेमी चौड़ी, लगभग 0.5–1.0 सेमी लंबी लाल रंग की पेटिओल्स के साथ।
- फूल छोटे, गुलाबी से लाल, उप-सीसाइल और कई पुंकेसर के साथ बैंगनी-लाल होते हैं।

### औषधीय उपयोग:

- इसकी छाल में टैनिन होता है, जो हृदय रोगों के लिए उपयोगी है।
- बीजों का पाउडर एक कफ निस्सारक के रूप में काम करता है और बच्चों की खांसी को ठीक करने के लिए लगाया जाता है।
- पत्तियों और जड़ों से टॉनिक तैयार किया जाता है। इसकी जड़ों से मछली का जहर भी तैयार किया जाता है।





# The Hindu Vocabulary

**To Have Full Hands** (Idiom) : to be very busy or to have a lot of work to do.

**Synonyms:** Busy, occupied, engrossed, swamped, burdened, inundated, overloaded

**Antonym:** Free, unoccupied, idle, leisurely



**Feud** (verb): take part in a prolonged quarrel or conflict. (झगड़ा)

**Synonyms:** quarrel, fight, argue

**Antonyms:** friendliness, sympathy, congeniality



**Cinch** (Noun): आसान काम : something that is very easy and is therefore certain to be a success

**Synonyms:** breeze, snap, piece of cake, easy task, uncomplicated

**Antonyms:** tough, complicated, difficult



**Avid** (adj.): having or showing a keen interest in or enthusiasm for something.

(उत्सुक)

**Synonyms:** keen, eager, enthusiastic

**Antonyms:** apathetic, indifferent, unenthusiastic





**Risible** (adj.): such as to provoke  
laughter. (हास्यास्पद)

**Synonyms:** laughable, comedic, comic

**Antonyms:** humorless, lame,  
unamusing



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**1. Which of the following are some important pollutants released by steel industry in India? (2014)**

1. Oxides of sulphur
2. Oxides of nitrogen
3. Carbon monoxide
4. Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**1. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से भारत में इस्पात उद्योग द्वारा छोड़े जाने वाले कुछ महत्वपूर्ण प्रदूषक हैं? (2014)**

1. सल्फर के ऑक्साइड
2. नाइट्रोजन के ऑक्साइड
3. कार्बन मोनोऑक्साइड
4. कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

- (ए) केवल 1, 3 और 4
- (बी) केवल 2 और 3
- (सी) केवल 1 और 4
- (डी) 1, 2, 3 और 4

**Answer – D**

## 2. Consider the following statements

1. Article 142 authorises the Supreme Court to grant in its discretion special leave to appeal from any judgement in any matter passed by any court or tribunal in the territory of India.
2. Article 143 of the Constitution authorises the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme court in certain matters.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

## 2. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. अनुच्छेद 142 भारत के क्षेत्र में किसी भी अदालत या न्यायाधिकरण द्वारा पारित किसी भी मामले में किसी भी निर्णय से अपील करने के लिए अपने विवेक से विशेष अनुमति देने के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को अधिकृत करता है।
2. संविधान का अनुच्छेद 143 राष्ट्रपति को कुछ मामलों में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की राय लेने के लिए अधिकृत करता है।

गलत कथनों का चयन करें:

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

## Answer – A

- Article 142 provides discretionary power to the Supreme Court as it states that the SC in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.
- Article 136 deals with the special leave to appeal by the Supreme court. It means that the Supreme Court is authorised to grant in its discretion special leave to appeal from any judgement in any matter passed by any court or tribunal in the territory of India (except military tribunal and court-martial).



### 3. Consider the following statements about Padma Awards

1. Awardees receive a Sanad (Certificate) and Medallion but no monetary grant is attached to these Awards.
2. The nominations are placed placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister once in five year.
3. The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Home Secretary.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

### 3. पद्म पुरस्कारों के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. पुरस्कार विजेताओं को एक सनद (प्रमाण पत्र) और पदक प्राप्त होता है लेकिन इन पुरस्कारों के साथ कोई मौद्रिक अनुदान संलग्न नहीं होता है।
2. नामांकन पद्म पुरस्कार समिति के समक्ष रखे जाते हैं, जिसका गठन प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा पांच वर्ष में एक बार किया जाता है।
3. पद्म पुरस्कार समिति के अध्यक्ष गृह सचिव होते हैं।

गलत कथनों का चयन करें:

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) 1, 2 और 3
- सी) 2 और 3
- घ) केवल 3

## Answer – C

- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
- The Prime Minister and the President of India finally review and approve the recommendations.

#### 4. Consider the following statements about Windfall Tax

1. It is a higher tax levied by the government on specific industries when they experience unexpected and above-average profits.
2. When a company earns profits from an investment strategy or an expansion of business the government can tax this revenue under Windfall tax.

Choose the correct statements:

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

#### 4. विंडफॉल टैक्स के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. यह विशिष्ट उद्योगों पर सरकार द्वारा लगाया जाने वाला एक उच्च कर है, जब वे अप्रत्याशित और औसत से अधिक लाभ का अनुभव करते हैं।
2. जब कोई कंपनी निवेश रणनीति या व्यवसाय के विस्तार से मुनाफा कमाती है तो सरकार इस राजस्व पर विंडफॉल टैक्स के तहत कर लगा सकती है।

सही कथनों का चयन करें:

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

## Answer – A

- When the government notices a sudden increase in an industry's revenue, they impose this tax.
- However, these revenues cannot be linked to anything the company actively pursued, such as its business strategy or expansion.
- Consequently, a Windfall Tax is imposed on an industry's profits when it experiences a sharp increase in revenue due to unrelated external events.

**5. With respect to 'hijol' tree found in India, consider the following statements.**

1. This tree is majorly grown in western ghats of India.
2. It is a tree species adapted to floodplains.

Which of the above statemnts is/are correct?

Select the correct code.

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

**5. भारत में पाए जाने वाले 'हिजोल' वृक्ष के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए।**

1. यह पेड़ प्रमुख रूप से भारत के पश्चिमी घाटों में उगाया जाता है।
2. यह एक पेड़ की प्रजाति है जो बाढ़ के मैदानों के अनुकूल है।

उपरोक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

सही कूट का चयन करें।

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

## Answer – B

- The managed over millennia as family and community forest in the Ganges-Brahmaputra- water-loving hijol, adapted has been tree, to floodplains, traditionally Evergreen Meghna basin
- A new study that works out the impact of climate change notes that the species distribution will be hit by erratic rainfall and temperature changes.
- The suitable habitat for hijol (*Barringtonia acutangula*) to grow in the India-Bangladesh landscape (IBL) may shrink by 50.57 percent due to rainfall and temperature changes, the study, which models current and future climate scenarios, predicts. The authors recommend that the IUCN assess the species vulnerability and list it in its assessment.