Daily Current Affairs







THE **EXPRESS**



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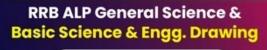


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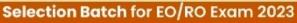


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SCO Foreign Ministers to meet in Goa today





Karnataka poll and ideological contestations Parties are redrawing their political contours



Citing report, SC declines Rajoana's mercy plea

Wednesday found it inap-propriate to direct the go-vernment to commute the vernment to commute the death penalty of Balwant Singh Rajoana – who is on death row for the 1995 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.

And the author of the wider of the control of the world.

who authored the verdict, said it was not up to the court to "delve" on the Ministry's decision to defer a decision on the clemency plea. "It is within the domain of the executive to take a call on such sensitive ssues," the court said. It said the Ministry's call to postpone its decision on the mercy petition actually

SC sets aside HC stay on inquiry into

ha legal victory for the Ja-gan Mohan Reddy govern-ment, the Supreme Court ment, the Supreme Court ment, the Supreme Court Andhra Pradesh High Court order Issuing a Dainket stay' on an inqui-scam and the alleged role of the previous Telugu De-sam Party CIDP regime. Supremental Court of the unfolded in June 2019 when the Reddy govern-ment issued a notification committee to review major to committee to review major.

committee to review major committee to review major policies, projects, pro-grammes, institutions and the key administrative ac-tions taken by the TDP go-vernment 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 "sev-

as per Reuters.
On Tuesday, the airline suspended flights for three days and announced its decision to seek insolvency

of 25 aircraft due to delay

in delivery of engines by Pratt & Whitney for its fai

lure to meet its financial obligations.

was precipitated by Pratt & Whitney's failure to deliver

said it was complying with

Centre had ordered P&W to provide Go First 10 en-gines by April 27 and another 10 by December.

Amaravati land scam

set up by A.P. govt. found irregularities in various projects

eral procedural, legal and financial irregularities and fraudulent transactions concerning various pro-jects..., including in the Capital Region Develop-ment Authority nevelop-

ment Authority region".

On February 21, 2020,
the State government issued another notification setting up a Special Investi-gating Team (SIT) to "inquire, register, investigate and conclude the investigation" into the findings of

stayed by the High Court indefinitely, prompting the state to approach the top court for relief.

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

Goyt, 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

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 dressing "genuine, human concerns" faced by samesex couples in their daily lives in areas such as banking and insurance, without delving into their petitions for legal recognition of "The government is pos-itive. Something can be done administratively re-

done administratively re-garding genuine concerns of same-sex couples. This would require coordina-tion among different Minis-tries. Therefore, we have decided, subject to the

The court can now go into whether same-sex couples ine courr can now go into whether same-sex couples have a right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceable environment in ou 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 ble, how they can be ad-dressed," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted before a

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 pro-blems they are facing. The committee will go into them and see, as far as pos-sible and legally permissi-

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, peacea-ble environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, so-

cietal or otherwise". The court said the suggestion from the govern-ment to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary indicates its readi-ness to recognise the inci-dence of cohabitory

government's stand a "step forward" and even a "big.



Day after Pawar's move, allies say MVA not in peril

PUNE
A day after Sharad Pawar
decided to step down as NCP
president, the party's partners
in the Maha Vikas Aghadi the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the ongress — said there was no eason to believe the alliance was in any danger, to Page 4

ED names AAP MP in chargesheet 'by mistake', stirs row

the ED over the purported inclusion of AAP MP Sanjay Singh's name in a chargesheer related to the alleged liquor scam "by mistake". ** Page 2

Go First lands in NCLT with ₹11.463-cr. dues

Go First approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wed-nesday and sought the ad-mission of its insolvency plea. It owes creditors \$11,463 crore, the airline said in its insolvency filing. The NCLT, Delhi has list-

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 institu-tions, vendors and aircraft

Currently, the assets of

G-20 stop



nuing to stress on the

need to vote for a stable government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the pe-ople of coastal Karnataka that the BJP wants to make

that the BJP wants to make Karnataka a superpower by creating modern infras-tructure and giving a face-lift to the manufacturing sector. "It is our road map,"

Ukraine sent drones to target Putin: Russia

Associated Press

cused Ukraine on Wednesday of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones overnight in an effort to assassinate Presi-dent Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin decried 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 Tele-gram channel showed local MOSCOW HEND FEB. gram channel showed what looked like smoke ris-ing over the Kremlin. Kyiv categorically de-nied involvement in the at-tack. "We do not attack the



near the dome of the Kremlin

all, it does not solve any military problems. Abso-lutely. And this is extreme

April PMI signals services sector | Vote for a stable government, says PM had best expansion in 13 years

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India's services sector re corded its highest uptick in new business and output levels since June 2010 this April, led by a strong up turn in the finance and in surance segment, as per the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services lex, which rebounded rom a decline to 57.8 in

from a decline to 57.8 in March to 52 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 at the fastest pace over this period. However, job creation remained negligible in April and input cost infla-

SM COM

Getting down to business Rising from 57.8 in March to 62 in April, the seasonall S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index signalled

tion, which had hit a two- monthly indicator, but all tion, which had hit a two-and-a-half-year low in March, surged to a three-month high, with firms re-porting a rise in costs on food, fuel, medicine, tran-sportation and wages. Consumer services firms recorded the fastest uptum in average expens-es, as per the survey-based

Highlighting the "pace

he told a mammoth gather-ing at Mulky, near Mangalu-ru, in Dakshina Kannada district, on Wednesday. ru, in Dakshina Kannada district, on Wednesday. Mr. Modi said India is the fifth largest economy in the world now and the Un-tion government, led by the BP, wants to push it furth-er to the third position. The wikas (development) of Karnataka matters most

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 can give a
stable government."

mandate," he said.
The Prime Minister said
the BJP has created an ecosystem for the promotion
of start-ups. 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 Par-liament. "That is the power of voting," he said.

of voting," he said.
Continuing his tirade
against the Congress, Mr.
Modi said, "It [the Congress] is shanti ka dushman, vikas ka dushman
(enemy of peace and development)." He reiterated
that the "Delhi parrhar" in
the Congress wants to use Highlighting the "pace of development" throughout his speech, Mr. Modisolid throughout his speech, Mr. Modisolid throughout and pederal of the
Farming, fisheries, health,
education and industrial
sectors. "If the top position is to be achieved, the BJP
will have to be given a clear

appeasement policy.

Scuffle breaks out between at massive election rally in Karnataka wrestlers and Delhi Police

A scuffle broke out at lantar Mantar between the wres-tiers staging a protest against the WFI chief and Delhi Police personnel late on Wednesday. One protes-

While the protesters ac-cused the police of attack-ing them with batons, the police said a quarrel broke out after AAP MLA Som-nath Bharti came to the site with foldable beds without

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

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 samesex 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



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 samesex 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

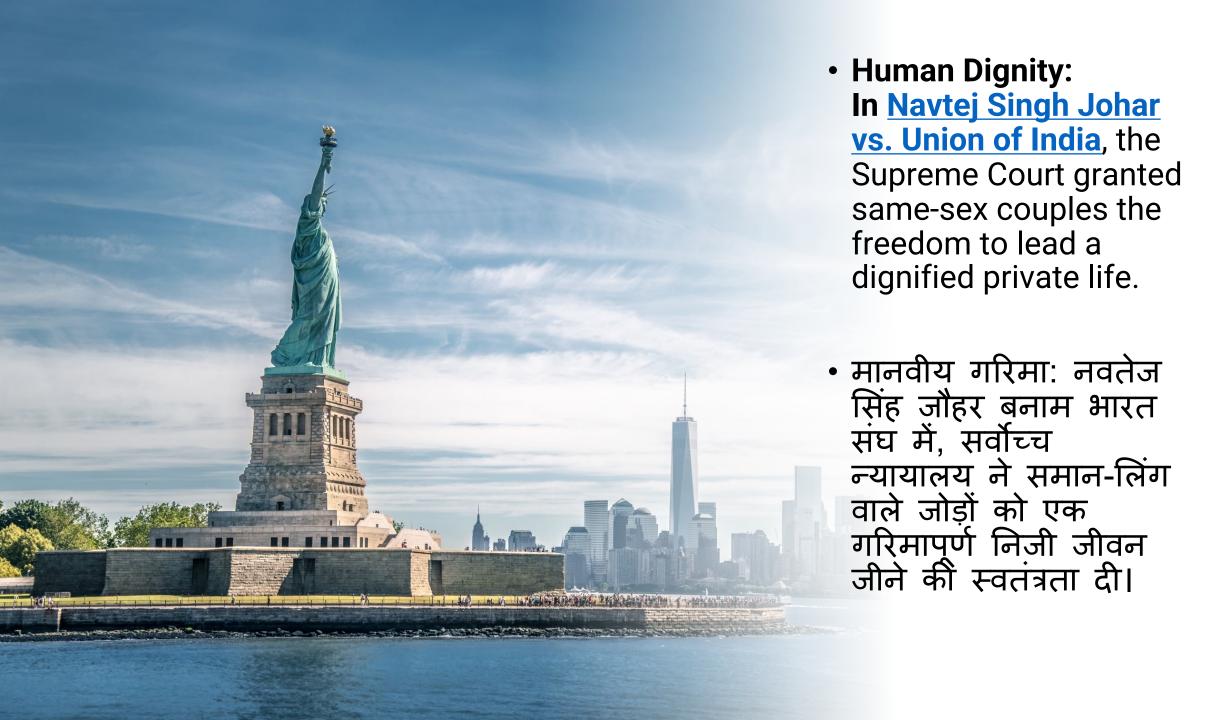


 Right to take emergency medical decisions **Assimilation of same-sex couples:** The CJI has emphasized the need to assimilate same-sex couples into society rather than ostracizing them.

The <u>decriminalization of Section 377 of the IPC</u> has recognized the existence of same-sex relationships.

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।

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

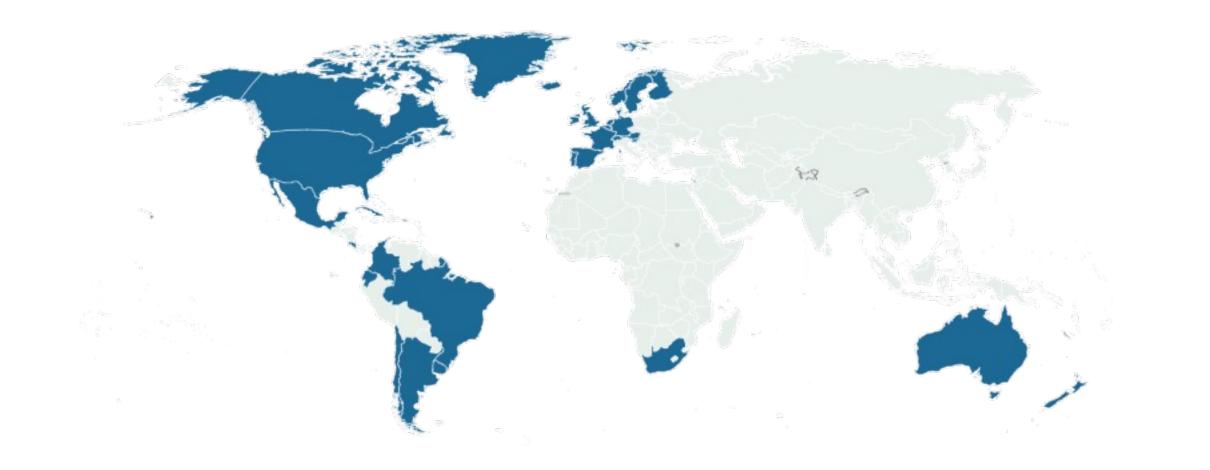


Global Acceptance: Same-sex marriage is legal in many countries around the world, and denying this right to individuals in a democratic society goes **against the global principles.**

• 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 samesex 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 samesex 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

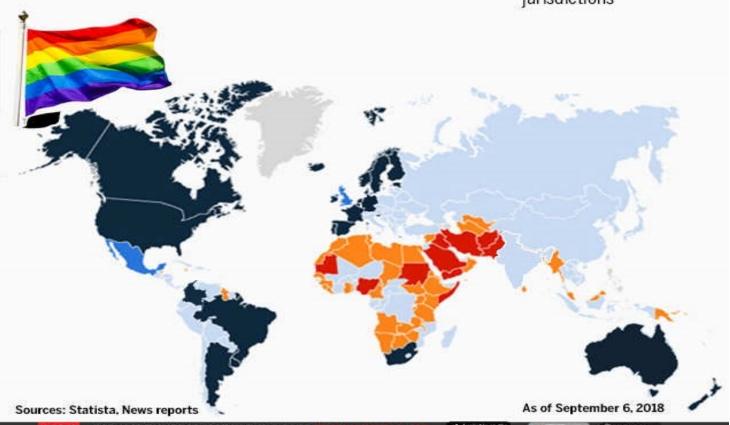
- Homosexuality acts can be punished by death
- Homosexuality acts are illegal

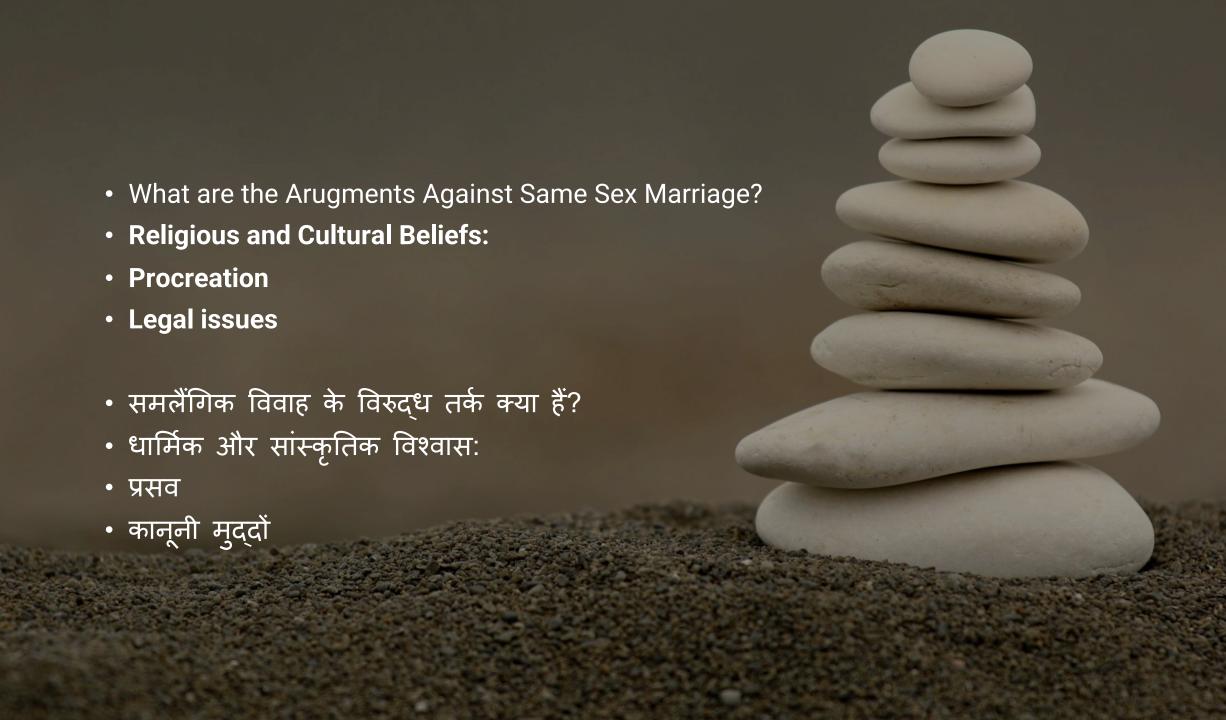
RELATIVELY NEUTRAL

- 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





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

From Page One

Centre ready to ease living of gay couples

The court said the Centre's offer of a forum to ad-dress the day-to-day human concerns of the samenmunity would ensure that the petitioners sent does not hit a wall, even if they may

fail in their endeavour in court. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the petitioners, said the LGBTQIA+ community was happy to estimate the community with the control of the court of the willing to offer by forming a committee, which may do some "administrative tweaking" of office orders or circulars. "But you (Constitution Bench) need to declare the real, symbolic and actual ve." Mr. Singhvi said. ty," Mr. Singhvi said

ty," Mr. Singrivi said.

"Ninety-nine per cent of same-sex couples want to get married. Marriage will give their relationship meaning, purpose and identity," senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, for a gay couple,

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy said Senior advocate Menaka Gurusmus, same-sex marriage was not an elitist concept. "I speak in many small towns. Young people there want marriage. Do not let them experience what we did. We want a positive enactment of the right

we did. We want a positive enactment of the right to marry," she said.

"We do not go by either popular morality or segmental morality. We decide what the Constitu-tion says. If you say this is what young people feel, then there will be people on the other side who will throw tons of materials at us, saying; this is what the country feels," Chief Justice Chandrachud reacted.

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat asked the petitioners to

consider the government's proposal as a "building block" for future changes. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul reasoned that even if

the petitioners were to get a judicial declaration from the court legally recognising same-sex marriage, there would be "many, many changes required in administrative and legislative aspects". quired in administrative and legislative aspects* Whether the court recognises same-sex marriage or not, these human concerns have to be addressed.

"The government, though reluctant to give "The government, though resuctant to give same-acc relationships the status of marriage, is same-acc relationships the status of marriage, is ing out of them," justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said. Justice Hima Kohli said the petitioners should not go for an "all-or-none approach" and finally reach a dead end.

SC sets aside stay on Amaravati scam inquiry

On Wednesday, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah agreed with the State's sub-mission that the High Court had "missinetrpreted and misconstrued" the two notifications issued by the government. The Bench observed that the High Court had, while granting the stay, not cons dered the fact that the State government had al ready made a representation to the Centre to refer the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The Centre, the court noted, was yet to take a call on the letter and the consent given by the State government. Justice Shah concluded that the High Court ought not to have granted the stay on the entire probe at such a premature stage. Setting aside the High Court stay, the Bench said it was not making any observations on the mortes of the case.

merits of the case.

It asked the High Court to examine the matter marks in the top court judgment. The top court said the Centre was "a proper and necessary par-ty" to be arraigned in the High Court.

Services sector had best expansion in 13 years

siness confidence which had plummeted to an Business confidence which had plummeted to an eight-month low in March, revived a bit in April. Close to 22% of surveyed companies forecast growth of business activity over the course of the coming 12 months, compared with 2% that amticipate a reduction, S&P Global said. Tindia's service sector posted a remarkable performance in April, with demand strength

backing the strongest increases in new business and output in just under 13 years," noted Pollyan Global Market Intelligence, "One area of weakness Global Market Intelligence. "One area of weakness highlighted in the latest results was the labour spinklighted in the latest results was the labour growth and improved business sentiment towards the outlook, the increase in employment seen in April was negligible and falled to gain meaningful. Outstanding business wolumes increased for the sisteenth straight month, but rose "only magnially" in April, reflecting the slowest growth in

The services sectors' performance lifted overall output in India's private sector to the highest level since July 2010, with aggregate sales also rising at the fastest pace in almost 13 years. The S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 58.4 in March to 61.6 in April. The S&P Global Manufacturing PMI had risen to a four-month high of 57.2

turing PMI naor issen to a rour-mootin rigin of 57.2 in April. in

SM (SM)

Two shot down, infiltration bid foiled in J&K, says Army

The militants had crossed the Line of Control in the Machhal Sector in Kupwara, it says; two

mid heightened se-curity ahead of the G-20 meet in Kash-mir, two infiltrators were killed in an anti-militancy operation at Kupwara in north Kashmir on Wednesday. "Anound 8.30 a.m., ter-

rorists were sighted by the troops having infiltrated in-to our side of the Line of Control in the Machhal Sector. Intense firefight en-sued resulting in elimination of two terrorists. The bodies were recovered along with two AK series ri-fles, magazines and huge quantities of ammunition,"



Sizeable stash: Arms and ammunition rec militants in Kupwara district on Wednesday, AVI

Srinagar-based Army spo-kesman Lt. Col. Emron Mu-savi said. savi said. The identity of the ter-rorists and their affiliation were being ascertained. "This successful intelli-gence-based operation is

the High Court. It request-

ed the jurisdictional High Court concerned to consid-er the case for early listing

harmony of the area," the Army said.

Army said.

According to the Army, the operation was based on a specific intelligence input provided by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kupwara, about likely infiltration from a terrorist infiltration from a terrorist launch pad across the LoC.

"Troops were put on high alert on May 1. A welltration grid was put in place in this rugged and ex-tremely difficult area. A number of additional ambushes, including those of Indian Army and SOG Kupwara, was placed along the likely routes of infiltra-tion," the Army said.

The Kerala Story: SC tells petitioners to approach High Court for disclaimer

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to en-tertain a petition by the Ja-miat Ulama-i-Hind to direct

the Jamiat and other petithe Jamiat and other peti-tioners to instead move the jurisdictional High Court, possibly under Article 226 with the period of the petition of the stitution. "There are sea-soned judges in High Courts... Why don't you go there? Why should we be-come a super 226 court?" the QI asked advection there? Why should we be-come a super 226 court?" the CII asked advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the Jamiat. The Bench gave the peti-tioners the liberty to move

er the case for early listing if a petition is filed. The pe-titioners sought a copy of the top court order to be made available so that they could approach the High Court by afternoon. The film is scheduled to be re-leased on May S. Senior advocate Harish Salve, for the movie mak-ers, said they were not rea-ers, said they were not rea-

dy to carry such a disclaim er. The movie claims it is "inspired by true events". During the brief minutes of the mentioning, the CJI noted this was a film and Ms. Grower said their re-

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

The Hindu Bureau

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom In-dex has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to 180 countries, according leased by the global media watchdog Reporters With-out Borders (RSF). In com-portison, Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improve-ment from last year's 157th rank. In 2022, India was

Sri Lanka also made sig-nificant improvement on the index, ranking 135th

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

constituted the bottom three.

Reporters Without Bor-ders (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 results freedom. media freedom. Headquar-tered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations. The objec-tive of the World Press Freedom Index, which it Freedom Index, which it releases every year, "is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by jour-nalists and media in 180 countries and territories" in the previous calendar

World Press Freedom Index is to compare the level of pres-

collectives to select, pro-duce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the ab-

Concerns arise The Indian Women's Press Corps, the Press Club of In-dia, and the Press Association released a joint state-ment 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

ing India, according to the latest RSF report," the joint statement said.
"The constraints on press freedom due to hos-tile working conditions like contractorisation have to also be challenged. Inse-cure working conditions can never contribute to a free press," it added. (With PTI imputs)

SC questions govt. on | SC Collegium rejects IB observation _ third extension given to ED chief Mishra

The Supreme Court on Wednesday quizzed the go-vernment about the third extension given to Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra, asking whether "one person can be so indispensable".

Congress party spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala. Trinamool Converse

"Is there no other per-"is there no other per-son in the organisation who can do his job? What will happen post 2023, when he does retire?" a three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai asked the Certification

sassination of a Prime Mi-

sassination of a Prime Mi-nister years ago.
Solicitor-General Tush-ar Mehta, for the govern-ment, said Mr. Mishra's ex-tension was vital for India's evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The petitions filed by

The Supreme Court Collegium has shown that the published opinions of a former senior who is critical about the government will not affect the prospects of a lawyer to become a High Court Judge.

The Collegium has re-

wala, Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra, so-cial activist and general secommended the name of Firdosh Phiroze Pooniwal-la, an advocate, for Bomla, an advocate, for Bom-bay High Court judgeship. Though the Intelligence Bureau (BB) found nothing adverse about his image or integrity, it flagged an arti-cle written by Mr. Pooni-walla's former senior at the Bar in 2020 "expressing concerns over the alleged cial activist and general se-cretary of Madfinya Pradesh Congress Mahila Commit-tee Jaya Thakur have ar-gued that the "piecemeal" extensions affect "institu-

about candidate for HC judgeship

lack of freedom of speech/ expression in the country in the last five-six years."

"The views which have been expressed by a form-er senior of Shir Pooniwal-la have no bearing on his own competence, ability or credentials for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay," the Col-legium said, finding the ad-

regum said, insting the ad-vocate suitable for appoint-ment as High Court judge. Moreover, the Collegi-um reasoned that Mr. Poo-niwalla and his former seniwalla and his former se-nior did not share an employee-employer rela-tionship as both practised on the Original side of the High Court which allowed juniors associated with a chamber to have their own

Collegium lists II points which provide an insight into what it looks for while evaluating candidates

independent legal practice. Mr. Pooniwalla and two other advocates, Shai-lesh Pramod Brahme and Jitendra Shantilal Jain, have been recommended for appointment as Bom-bay High Court judges. Separately, in a resolu-

Separately, in a resolu-tion proposing Justice Ro-bin Phukan as a perma-nent Judge of the Gauhati High Court, the Collegium lists II points which pro-vide an insight into what it looks for while evaluating

TRAI chairperson Vaghela

burden for broadcasters

the judgments of candi-dates in its zone of recommendation.

The II factors include judgments which are well articulated and structured with proper recording of facts clear identification of facts, clear identification of issues and reasoned answ ers to them, apt advertence to the law, due con-sideration and application of mind to the submission made by lawyers in court, adequate reference to the adequate reference to the material and relevant pleadings, appreciation of 'circumstantial evidence' and appropriate com-pliance with 'sentencing'.

Delhi court summons BBC, Wikipedia, Internet Archives eyes reduced compliance in case filed by BJP leader

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednes-day issued summors to the BBC, Wikipedia and Inter-net Archives on a defama-tion suit filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Binay Kumar Singh in con-nection with a two-part documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and India un-der Prime Minister Narendra Modi

dra Modi. The summons were is-sued by Additional District



statement within 30 days from the date of service of

'Unfounded allegations' According to the defamadra Modl.

The summons were issued by Additional District

"Issue summons of the suit for settlement of issues to the defendant," the suit for settlement of issues to the defendant, and the summons of the suit for settlement of issues to the defendant, and the BBC documentary India. The Modf Questron demander of the BBC documentary India. The Modf Questron demander of the BBC documentary India. The defendant was directly the summons of the BBC documentary India. The defendant was directly the summons of the sum

Sangh (RSS) and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) are motivated by a malicious intent to defame the organ-isations and its millions of members. Such unfound-ad allowed. ed allegations are not only baseless but also have the potential to damage the reputation and image of the RSS, VHP and its milteers, who have committed

However, Mr. Vaghela added that there were "diverging interests* among different players in the inthemselves to upholding the cultural, social and na-tional values of India," the complainant said. different players in the industry, with broadcasters
and satellite TV operators
asking for forbearance,
and local cable operators
(LCOs) and multi-system
operators (MSOs) demanding regulations on subscription prices they are
charged by channels. it or
not, LCOs have a problem,
and they have to be pro-

demand regulations on subscription prices they are charged by channels

There should ideally be "complete forbearance" in regulating broadcast ta-riffs, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairperson P.D. Vaghela said on Wednesday.

Mr. Vaghela was speak-ing at the Federation of In-dian Chambers of Com-

levies be dependent on technology used instead of product being delivered," Mr. Nagpal asked, alluding to a growing concern among the television distri-bution industry that cheap broadband and free livetected," Dr. Vaghela said, referring to cable opera-tors losing subscribers. streamed channels at home are undercutting them without facing the

same regulatory scrutiny.
"Should we go for regudian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FECA)
Frames 2023 event in Mumbal, with Tata Play CEO Harit Nagpal. Tata Vould scoff at the idea. I would not like to see that recommendation of the comment of the lation for the new play

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 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 contractorisation 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World Press Freedom Day 2023 Theme

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.

विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2023 थीम

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।

- 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

Expressing solidarity with the grapplers protesting against Wrestling Federa-tion of India (WFD presi-dent and BIP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a former Assam sportsper-son has decided to return bis National Cames medal

his National Games medal. Abhijit Majumdar, who won a bronze medal for lawn bowling at the 2011 National Games in Ranchi, is the general secretary of the Assam unit of the Trithe medal in the fours category. "Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi talks about Beti Buchao, Beti Pindhao beti Perindra talks about between the properties of the between the prime talks ders who have accused the WFI president of sexual ha-rassment," he said. He said it was deplora-ble that the Prime Minister

has not found any time for the very wrestlers who he prides on whenever they shine for the country at in-

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

xternal Affairs Mi-nister S. Jaishankar will hold talks with the Foreign Ministers of China, Russia and Uzbekis-tan and the Secretary-General of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Or-ganisation (SCO), Zhang Ming, here on Thursday. He will also come face-

to-face with Pakistan Fo-reign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the first

Bhutto Zardari for the first time since they had a ver-bal spat at the UN Security Council in December. The Ministers, including the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will all hold bilaseral meet-nings distinct parties. tend a cultural perfor-mance and dinner hosted by Mr. Jaishankar at the Taj Exotica resort in south Goa in the evening, events that could see some awkward moments given strains bet-



Foreign Minister Qin Gang in New Delhi, gwgwnow

SCO Foreign Ministers will

be held on Friday.
This is the first time Mr. 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 Pakistan responsible for. India-Pakistan relations hit their leavest noise in 2001. their lowest point in 2019, when High Commissioners were recalled and trade ties snapped. Mr. Bhutto's visit marks the first by a Pa-kistani Foreign Minister to India in 12 years.

Russian Foreign Minis-ter Sergey Layroy will arrive just a day after Russian forces shot down two UAVs forces shot down two UAVs in what it called an alleged assassination attempt on President Vladimir Putin at the Kremilin, and is expect-ed to seek strong condem-nation of the attack from the SOO countries. South Block will be keen to see if Mr. Lawny echoes.

to see if Mr. Lavrov echoes Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's speech at the SCO Defence Ministers' gathering last week, where he criticised the 'Quad'

handshakes. At the meeting last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was seen pointedly greeting his Chinese counterpart with a Namaste, rather than the handshake he shared with

handshake he shared with all other counterparts. It was seen as a mark of in-terment of the seen of the seen of the leck of necessary to the seen of the leck of necessary to the seen of the leck of necessary to the seen of the lake of the seen of the seen of the after the Chiesee Ambassa-dor to France sparked an uprour when he quee-tus" of nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

While the Chinese Fo-

grouping of the U.S., India,
Australia and Japan.

Diplomacy watch
Sources confirmed that Mr.
Jaishankar will meet Chnese Foreign Minister QinGang for a bilateral meeting, which will also be
handshakes edy for any
Mr. Bhutto during the Mr.
Mr. Bhutto during the day.

Mr. Bhutto during the day Mr. Qin and Mr. Bhutto wil Mr. Olm and Mr. Bhutto will ly from Goo to Islamabad later on Friday where Mr. Qui is expected to hold a consequence of the consequence in the consequence of the consequence in the consequence of the consequence at the consequence of the consequence of the consequence of the consequence that the consequence of the c

to meet each of his guests, although neither Indian nor Pakistani officials held out much hope of a bilater-al meeting between him and Mr. Bhutto. land nation in II years.



Rainath lavs foundation stone for Coast Guard Harbour in Maldives

Betence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Marlya Didi, on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National De

Maldives National Defence Forces Coast Guard Ekasha Harbour.
The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sifavaru is 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 India in the control of the coast of the land nation in It wears.

"Both Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stabili-ty and security in the re-gion and recognised the need to work together to need to work together to address common security challenges. They under-scored the importance of respecting international national order and ex-pressed their commitment to upholding these princi-ples," it said.

The Ministers agreed to the cooperation, including in the areas of defence

in the areas of defence trade, capacity building and joint exercises, the

Deciphering the 'Pawar game' and family power play

Abhinay Deshpande

Senior politician Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as president of the Nationalist Congress Party and not con-test any future elections has sent shockwaves through the political landscape – not just in Maharashtra, but across

in Maharashtra, but across the country, but across the country the development should not be supported to the support of the moment move by the \$2-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.

off by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray almost three de-cades ago. However, after Shiv Sainiks begged their Shiv Sainiks begged their Wagh (tiger) to reconsider his decision, Mr. Thackeray agreed to their request and fo-rever stamped his authority on his party.

However, close confidants of the NCP patriarch said that he would not step back, but would continue to run the show from outside. Mr. Pa-war's nephew and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar gained trac-tion after he told party workers that there was no need to get emotional. "Pawar saheb will continue to guide the par-ty even after resigning, like Sonia Gandhi who remains

Sonia Gandhi who remains the supreme authority lin the Congress] in spite of reiling the Congress in spite of prefine suid.

Political analyst and senior journalist Nikhii Wagle, who fournalist Nikhii Wagle, who for the NCP for decades, says that the senior Mr. Pawar's announcement of his intent to so the seen as a move to put pressure on his nephew and show him that he was the 'boss', especially given the speculation that Mr. Ajit Pa-war is in talks with the BIP.

"It was indeed a shock to everyone, not just in Maha-rashtra, but across the coun-



try. Mr. [Sharad] Pawar is the talliest 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. Mr. Wagle claimed that the NCP supremo was playing pressure politics with his mephew, who was trying to join hands with the BJP along with a chunk of the NCP, with the hope of becoming Chief Mi-nister in case Eknath Shinde and his 15 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs get disqualified in the Sena vs Sena case pending with the Supreme Court.

"It is a perfect example of pressure politics, which Mr. [Sharad] 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 susse and conhisticated style

suave and sophisticated style by paving the way for his ne-phew to take over the leader-ment of the part of the part of the means of maintaining unity within the NCP.
However, one of the big-theory of the part of the Pawar's announcement is the impact it will have on the tri-partite Maha Vikas Aghadi, an unlikely collition of the NCP, the Congress and their ideo logical opposite, the Shiv Se-na led by Uddhay 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 be their leader and lead MVA. Until 2019, no one would have ever ima no one would have ever ima-gined Shiv Sena joining hands with Congress and NCP, but he had made it possible, and there is no doubt that he will continue to hold us together," a senior NCP leader said.

Even if the party break ranks with the MVA and joins ranks with the MVA and Joins forces with the BJP despite Mr. Pawar's attempts to keep the NCP family intact, the oc-togenarian leader does not want this to happen during his tenure and wants to avoid any association with such a

move.

Moreover, Mr. Pawar's
daughter Supriya Sule, a
member of the Lok Sabha
from Baramati, will continue to play a major role in the par-ty's leadership at the national level. A senior NCP leader also suggested that she should be come the national president, while her cousin heads the State unit.

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

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) should use all means at its disposal to get clarity about the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds invested in the Adani Group, the Congress said on Wednesday.

In a statement, Congress gener-tecretary (communications) Jaial secretary (communications) Jai-ram Ramesh said public interest must not be undermined using the excuse of confidentiality and priva-cy. The statement came after a news report claimed some foreign funds invested in Adani Group have declined to identify their beneficial owners, citing client confi dentiality and foreign privacy laws

The Congress leader said that all these developments make a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the charges even more



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता सार्यजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड, होतड़ी

विवेद्य संज्ञोधन सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23 हीतम के पार्थक 6552-65 दिन्सेक 31.03.2023 झार जारी निर्मित्य सुख्यन लोकबा 22 5 अवस्थित को गई थी, विकासी निर्मित्य जना सत्यको गुणे निर्मित्य को स्वीतनो को गीतिक मेरी 5 जार निर्मित्य में प्रिन्तानुकार गारीनेकर किया जात है

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NOTICE

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इस कार्यालय के जिक्स सूचना संकार- 26/2022-23 के पार्टीक 4470 दिनो 55.2023 एवं संजीवित सम्बाधिक 180 दिनोक 20.04.2023 के झार प्रकारित या में अर्थालार्क कार्यों से जिन्म संजीवन किया जब्द है।

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NIB Code: PHE2324A0400

(Ram Niwas Meena Add, Chief Enginee PHED, Region Bharatpu

Proje	Tenders are invited for the fa sct Arms 1) Request for prope	na RRP for Selection of Con-	y Thirumamenthapur tractor for Develop	nent of Separt
54. No.	ds and Underground Duding ABD area Under Se Name of Project	art (Corporation Roads) in T 5-Tender (D	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Set	ction of Contractor for Development Water Supply and Fower Mass in a	ent of Smart Roads and Undergo	ount Guding Including	Utility Shifting
1.	Road ID 185 (MRT Road)	2823_SCTLT_582821_3	Rs.1,68,77,152	08/05/2023
2.	Road ID 31A (Keeche Thempsecer Road)	2023_SCR.T_55/304_2	Rs,3.20.36,476	08/05/2023
	Rood ID 180 & 181 (Kanskavlakom Rood and Ankalamman Nagari	2023_9CTLT_95148T_2	Rs.3,51,84,212	08/05/2023
3			Ph/2/64/00/214	08/05/2023



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.



Capital and largest city	Malé 4°10′31″N 73°30′32″E			
Official languages Recognised languages	Dhivehi English			
Ethnic groups (2019)	≈100% Maldivians ^{[1][2][3]}			
Religion	Sunni Islam (official)			
Demonym(s)	Maldivian			
Government	Unitary presidential constitutional republic			
President	Ibrahim Mohamed Solih ^[4]			
 Vice-President 	Faisal Naseem ^[5]			
Speaker of the Majlis	Mohamed Nasheed ^[6]			
Chief Justice	Ahmed Muthasim Adnan ^[7]			
Legislature	People's Majlis			
Independence from the United Kingdom				
 Independence regained 	26 July 1965			
Republic proclaimed	11 November 1968			
Current constitution	7 August 2008			
Area				
• Total	300 ^[8] km ² (120 sq mi) (187th)			
Population				
• 2022 census	515,122 (382,751 maldivians) ^{a[9]}			
Density	1,102.5/km ² (2,855.5/sq mi) (8th)			

GDP (PPP) • Total • Per capita	2023 estimate ▲ \$14.5 billion ^[10] ▲ \$36,358 ^[10]
GDP (nominal) • Total • Per capita	2023 estimate ▲ \$7 billion ^[10] ▲ \$17,627 ^[10]
Gini (2017)	▼ 31.3 ^[11] medium
HDI (2021)	▲ 0.747 ^[12] high · 90th
Currency	Maldivian rufiyaa (MVR) United States dollar (USD, used in Maldivian resort islands)
Time zone	UTC+5 (Maldives Time)

Mental Health and Neuros

ciences (IMHANS) in Srina-gar has received 10,500 calls on the helpline from

people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir. The

24x7 toll-free numbers are

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 psy-chologists. The extent of

2022. It now has six pay-chologists. The extent of Kashmir's mental health crisis can be gauged from the fact that on the second day of id-ul-Fitr, an occa-sion of festivity in the Mus-lim-majority Union Terri-tory, the centre got 119 distress calls, most of them

The service was started

14416 and 1800-891-4416

IN BRIDE



Braille version of bilingual dictionary sets a record

All-volume Braille wersion of an in total weights Assances-Boglish dictionary of the in total weights Assances-Boglish dictionary the world's largest leedcon. The authorities of the Guinness World Records on May I handed over a certificate to version of Hennisosh, acknowledging its inclusion in the records register as the world's largest leemings of the total state of the second segister as the world's largest Hemisosh is the first etymological dictionary of the Assancese language based on Sanskrit Hemisosh is the first etymological dictionary of the Assancese language based on Sanskrit Hemisosh is first etymological dictionary of the Assancese language based on Sanskrit Hemisosh is first the first etymological dictionary of the dictionary of the Assancese language based on Sanskrit stellar, the second state of the second state of the Assancese language based on Sanskrit stellar, the second state of the second st

SC/ST Act invoked against Inspector in torture case

The CB-CID, probing the allegations of custodial an auto rickshaw driver, Vedhanarayanan, of Vickramasingapuram. "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 allespedly armses in wealth algroportic state to known sources of income. The agency has so far seized about T38,38 crore in cash, fixed-deposit receipts, leys of bank lockers and details of accounts in various banks. On Tuesday, the agency initiated the searches at multiple locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Sonipat 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 rectang societies and animal receives in summar welcome the Centre's guidelines to allot dedicated places and time to feed stray animals. On March 10 this year, the Ministry of Pisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, which put the onus on the Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) and Apartment Owners' Associations (AOA) 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

(name changed to protect privacy), a counsellor at the Tele Manas helpline in Srinagar, over 40 minutes to talk a caller out of selfto talk a caller out of self-harm. "The 26-year-old la-bourer from Baramulla in north Kashmir had a blade in his pocket. The person he worked for had not paid he worked for had not paid him, and he faced acute fi-nancial stress. His sister helped to take the blade away. We made him pause and introspect — we away. We made him pause and introspect – we helped him see the light at

Govt. to bring

out manual

for organ

donation

On April 26, it took Areeba



Of the 10,500 calls at-tended to since last No-wember, nearly 3,000 re-feelings of loneliness and ported acute stress, and contemplated self-harm or violence. Most of these

For men, unemployment and financial distress triggered the calls.

Exam stress

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"It would take people living in far-off areas two days to reach mental health care in Srinagar.

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topics such as dating, sex-uality and sexual orienta-tion. Women talk about their issues freely now. Manaal Andrabi, a psychol-ogist from IMHANS, said.

In the wake of the grow-ing response, the facility is being expanded to other

regions too.
"One more Tele Manas centre is under process in Jammu. Tele Manas is be-ing linked to the district mental health programme across all J&K," Qazi Ha-roon, State Programme Manager, Mental Health, J&K, said.

An online chathot will An online chatbot will be rolled out to address the needs of the people, which will be available on the ex-isting numbers.

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

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organi-sation (NOTTO) is working on a transplant manual as a step-by-step guide for the implementation of organ donation and transplanta-tion programmes in hospi-for training of transplant he India Meteoro-logical Department (MD) on Wednes-day 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 for training of transplant coordinators. Both these documents will be completed and released soon, the Union Health Ministry "A cyclonic circulation is "A cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6...there is a possibility of the circula-tion to move northwards said in a statement on

coordination. training and HR/accounts had been created in the NOTTO for better imple-mentation of the

programme. Additionally, the government granted special casual leave of up to 42 days to Union Gov employees who donate an organ as a special welfare measure in public interest. The Ministry said the to-

tal number of organ tran-splants 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 coor dination through the net-work of Organ & Tissues Transplant Organisations at national, State and regional level. In the year 2016, 2,265 organs were utilised from 930 deceased donors, while 2,765 could be utilised from 904 deceased donors in the year

Dance circle gets university backing (9) Could be panic as water comes down with force (5 Roman historian understood us (7) 19 Lures stars with ease perhaps (7)

WMN
Singer's not bad, overall attention is limited (6)
Manual and automatic - both inside a carriage (6)

Station, after short period showing sign of decline (8) 14 European cure - there is no free lunch! (5.5) Constriction as this is parted by lips (8)
Daily fish, left for another day (8)
Group test could be according to the territory (8)

With upturned nose, rascal finally became unprincipled (6)

...American city tried to copy (7) Country gets a new state (7)

3 Turn half the covers off range (4)

Calling me on deck (6)

Stay with them breaking stone (8) Rascal runs away naked with charm (10) Blue green, time to join in again (2-6)

Conrad is having a bit of the salad (6) Very famous and active, in charge before and after (6)

27 Writing in a newspaper giving figures (4)



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

A low-pressure area is 9 and grow to a "severe cyusually a precursor to the clonic storm" by May 10. ent of a cyclone The IMD has a five-step and according to the IMD's calculations, it is expected with the relatively weakest

classified as a "cyclonic storm" (65-68 kmph) and the strongest a "super cy-clonic storm" (>222 kmph). (89-117 kmph) is just one step above a "cyclonic storm". Depending on the loca-tion of the storm and exist-

gain or reduce in strength.

Cyclones are more frequent in India's neighbourhood around May, October
and November - or coincident with the advent and
denortup of the more on

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 tion on naming cyclones.

General, IMD, said that while greater clarity on the cyclone would only emerge later, the current warnings were for fisher-men. "Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal af-ter May 7 because it will be

Curfew in eight districts of Manipur over tribal stir

A curfew was imposed in eight districts of Manipur and mobile internet servic-net in the control of the cover the violence during a tribul agitation on Wednes-tower the violence during a tribul agitation when Wolence broke our dur-ing a "tribal solidarity Wolence broke our dur-ing a "tribal solidarity march" called by the All Tribal Student Union Mani-tarea of Churachandour

area of Churachandpur district to protest against the demand of non-tribal Meiteis, who dominate the Imphal Valley, for Sche-duled Tribe (ST) status.

Thousands of agitators took part in the rally, dur-ing which violence between tribals and non-tri-bals was reported in Torbung area, a senior police officer said. Police fired several rounds of tear gas shells to control the mob,

Highly pathogenic bird flu virus puts Centre on alert

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

towards central Bay of Ben-gal," the IMD said in a state

ment. "Further details will

be given after the low-pres-

sure is formed."

Housing one of the largest livestock reserves across the world, India is at "risk and vulnerable" to the on-going outbreaks of avian influenza (H5NI) world-wide, a worry compound-ed by the threat of mam-malian transmission, officials have said.
"Across the world, the

with a budge detected among welds hinds and other species, which makes the chance of it mutating and becoming harmful good to be considered about it. The COVID-91 we need to be prepared all the time. If we are caught off guard, anything can

Commissioner, speaking to The Hindu. The Central go

February 17, 2023. India has now initiated the ani-mal pundemic prepared-ness programme. "This year has been the worst in numbers and con-sequent spillover to mam-

Scaria.

Dr. Mitra also added that

the spread

with influenza since 2006-Of and there is no vaccine for high-pathogenic avian have checked 1,500 sam-ples from hotspots such as waterbodies and poulkry case was found positive case was found positive from Alappudia in Kerala-from Alappudia in Kerala-tion to the control of the vigilant. We must streng-then our bio-security mea-tures," added Dr. Mirra.

TH CROSSWORD + 13856 To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. get across to our crossword site.

- Across

 9 Articles by weight, are they? Yet hear there is a scramble
- 10 Finish the game without pain by not using a weapon (7)
 11 Old and retired, by shedding anger could become very
- young (7)

 12 Cat straddling a horse, that's the name of the place (7)

SUDOKU





FAITH

Inner beauty of Nrisimha

There are many ways in which our saints and preceptors have celebrated the Supreme Being. One such margam is to treat Him like a fellow burnan being, as a friend, philosomore of the suprement of the supremental philosomore of the supremental philosomore of the supremental philosomore of worship. One cannot help but recall friumnathias advarar shearty pageant for all the ten avatars, said thirtukhadanthui Dr. Wenkatesh in a discourse.

Kurma, Varaha, Nrisimha, Varmana, Parasurama, Rama, Balarama, Krishra, and Kalid — duly responded. The process of elimination begins. Gazing upon Kurma, Varaha cocas of elimination begins. Gazing upon Kurma, Varaha tions, hence you are ineligible. Parisimba is half man, half tions, hence you are ineligible. Parisimba is half man, half the said of the said words of the said ways of the beast, so be is allowed to stay, Next, he tells Vasman, "You the bead, took a giant step with your next, encompassing the bead, took a giant step with your next, encompassing the universe where is the guarantee that you will not try the head, took a giant step with your next, encompassing the universe, where is the guarantee that you will not try the try that the property of the property of the property ram, he admonishes him for arriving at what was a beauty contest armed with a hammer. The Ardwar states that it was unseemly for two from a family to enter a contest, and Balaram being Krishna's older brother, is asked to leave.

Balaram being Krishna's older brother, is asked to leave-Kalki is sent packing as he is yet to take avatar.
Only Rama, Krishna and Krishnha are left. Bann says,
and the says are says and says and says are says,
and Mohana Krishnan. "However, Azhvar says, "Azhagiyan thane, ari urivan thane" in Nammugan Tiruvandati
he one who came promptly to the rescue of a faithful soil
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

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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.

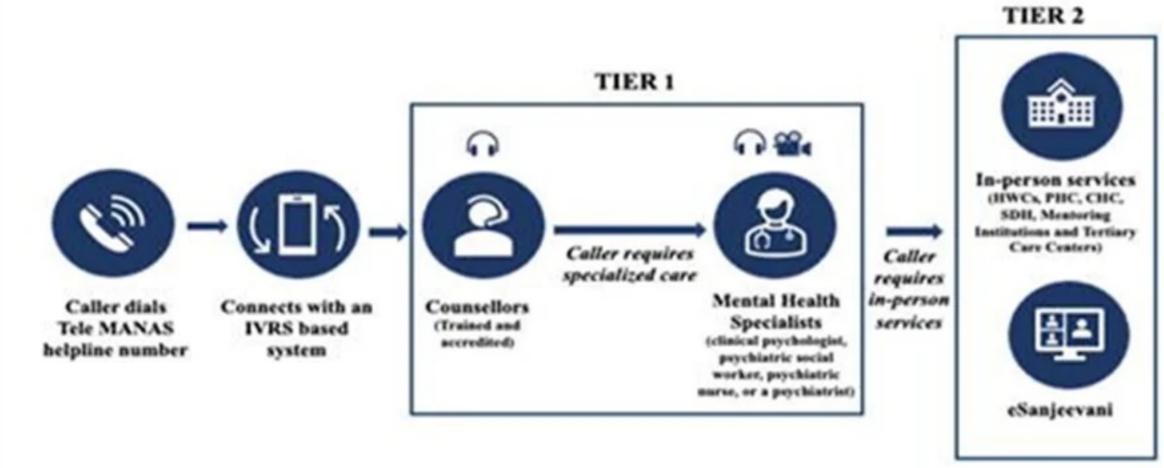
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In the wake of the growing response, the facility is being expanded to other regions too.

"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 मुफ़्त टेली-मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करना है, विशेष रूप से दूरस्थ या कम सेवा वाले क्षेत्रों में लोगों को सेवाएं प्रदान करना।

It's an initiative of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	
NIMHANS will be the nodal centre while National support.	Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC), IIT Bengaluru and IIITB will provide technology
The services will be available 24×7 on Toll Free Nu	mber– 14416, allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services.
At least One Tele-MANAS Cell to be established in	each State/UT.
यह केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय	की एक पहल है
NIMHANS नोडल केंद्र होगा जबकि राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य	प्रणाली संसाधन केंद्र (NHRSC), IIT बेंगलुरु और IIITB प्रौद्योगिकी सहायता प्रदान करेगा।
टोल फ्री नंबर- 14416 पर सेवाएं 24×7 उपलब्ध ह	होंगी, जिससे कॉल करने वालों को सेवाओं का लाभ उठाने के लिए अपनी पसंद की भाषा का
प्रत्येक राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश में कम से कम एक	टेली-मानस सेल स्थापित किया जाना है।

IN BRIDE



Braille version of bilingual dictionary sets a record

A 22-volume Braille version of an Assamese-English detionary that in total weights more than 80 kg has become the world's largest lexicon. The authorities of the Gainness World Records on May I handed over a certificate to Jayanta Baruah, the publisher of the Braille Jayanta Baruah, the publisher of the Braille wersion of Hemkosh, acknowledging its inclusion between the Hemkosh and the Braille distribution bilingual Braille dictionary. The 123-year-old Hemkosh is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese language based on Sanskrit facility of the Braille distribution of the Braille Hemchandra Brauah. A copy of the dictionary, released in September 2022, was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhlu.

SC/ST Act invoked against Inspector in torture case

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IMD forecasts a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal next week

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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 web-site based on its weather models suggests that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a "severe cyclonic storm" by May 10. The IMD has a five-step classification for cyclones

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is possible for the storm to gain or reduce in strength. Cyclones are more fre-thereof the strength of the strength hood around May, October and November – or coinci-dent with the advent and the strength of the strength of the Colone to form this year and colone to form this year and Mocha. The name was pro-posed by Vemen, after the Red Sea port city, following tion on naming cyclones.

tion 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 fisher-men. "Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal af-ter May 7 because it will be

Curfew in eight districts of Manipur over tribal stir

Press Trust of India

A curfew was imposed in eight districts of Manipur es were suspended in the entire northeastern State over the violence during a day, officials said. Violence broke out during a "tribal solidarity Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in Torbung area of Churachandpur area of Churachandpur the demand of non-tribal fields with the demand of non-tribal mighal Valley, for Schemans of the tribal Student Crist of the Imphal Valley, for Schemans of digitators.

took part in the rally, dur-ing which violence between tribals and non-tri-bals was reported in Torbung area, a senior police officer said. Police fired

Highly pathogenic bird flu virus puts Centre on alert

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

A low-pressure area is

usually a precursor to the

development of a cyclone, and according to the IMD's

Housing one of the largest livestock reserves across and vulnerable" to the on-going outbreaks of avian influence (H5NI) world-wide, a worry compound-wide, a worry compound-malian transmission, officials have said.

"Across the world, the

with a bring detected among welds hinds and other species, which makes the chance of it mutating and becoming harmful good to be considered to be propored about it. The COVID-19 we need to be prepared all the time. If we are caught off guard, anything can

SUDOKU

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tra, Animal Husbandry
Commissioner, speaking to
The Hindu. The Central gotermener is now reviewing
the Hindu. The Central gotermener is now reviewing
the Hindu. The Commission
History of a highly pathogenic subtype of avian in
fluenza, was detected by
the ECAR-National Institute
the ECAR-National Instit

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February 17, 2023. India has now initiated the ani-mal pandemic prepared-ing the second of the second "This year has been the worst in numbers and con-sequent spillover to mam-mals," said biologist Vinod Scaria. Dr. Mitra also added that Dr. Mitra also added that

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

with influenza since 2006-70 and there is no vaccine for high-pashogenic avian have checked 1,500 sam-ples from hotspots such as waterbodies and poultry waterbodies and poultry case was found positive case was found positive from Alappuzha in Kerala. There is nothing to panic vigilant. We must streng-then our bio-security mea-tures," add De Mitra-

TH CROS SWORD+ 13856

9 Articles by weight, are they? Yet hear there is a scramble

- Finish the game without pain by not using a weapon (7) Old and retired, by shedding anger could become very
- young (7)

 12 Cat straddling a horse, that's the name of the place (7)

Dance circle gets university backing (9)

- 15 Could be panic as water comes down with force (5) Roman historian understood us (7)
- Roman instocrate unoscribed us (7) Lunes stars with ease perhaps (7) Strain on every student coming first (5) Found fault, one rejected me for saying "Seize the day" (5,4)
- 25 Italian city has guts, promulgates change... (7)
- 26 ...American city tried to copy (7)
 28 Country gets a new state (7)
 29 Fish I snared at sea (7)
- Singer's not bad, overall attention is limited (6) 2 Manual and automatic - both inside a carriage (6)
- Manual and automatic both inside a carriage (b)
 Turn half the covers off range (4)
 With upturned nose, rascal finally became unprincipled (6)
 Stay with them breaking stone (8)
 Rascal runs away naked with charm (10)
- Blue green, time to join in again (2-6)
- Station, after short period showing sign of decline (8)

 European cure there is no free lunch! (5,5)

 Constriction as this is parted by lips (8) Daily fish, left for another day (8)
- Group test could be according to the territory (8) Conrad is having a bit of the salad (6)
- 24 Calling me on deck (6) 27 Writing in a newspaper giving figures (4)

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Inner beauty of Nrisimha

There are many ways in which our saints and preceptors have celebrated the Supreme Being. One such margam is to treat Him like a fellow human being, as a friend, philo-sopher and guide. Many of the Azhwars excelled in this sopher and guide. Many of the Azhwars excelled in this Azhwar's beautry pageant for all the ten avatars, said Thi-rukkedamthal Dr. Venkarseh in a discourse.

rukkudamthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.
In keeping with Azhwar's call, all ten avatars — Matsya,
Kurma, Varaha, Nrisimha, Vamama, Parasurama, Rama,
Kurma, Varaha, Nrisimha, Vamama, Parasurama, Rama
cess of elimination begins. Gazing upon Kurma, Varaha
and Matsya, he says, "You are all non-human manifestations, hence you are ineligible." Prisimha is half man, half beast, so he is allowed to stay. Next, he tells Vamana, "You beast, so be is allowed to stay. Next, he tells Varnanan, "You asked for three feet of I and, used one small step to step on the head, took a giant step with your next, encompassing something similar in this pageant?" Walking up to Parasuram, he admonishes him for arriving at what was a beauty contest armed with a hammer. The Advhar states that it was unseemly for two from a family to enter a contest, and Balaram being Krishna's odder brother, is asked to leave

Balaram being Krishna's older brother, is asked to leave.

Colly Rama, Krishna and Nrishna are left. Ban soys.

Only Rama, Krishna and Nrishna are left. Ban soys.

The source of the so

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

he 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 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.

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.

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).

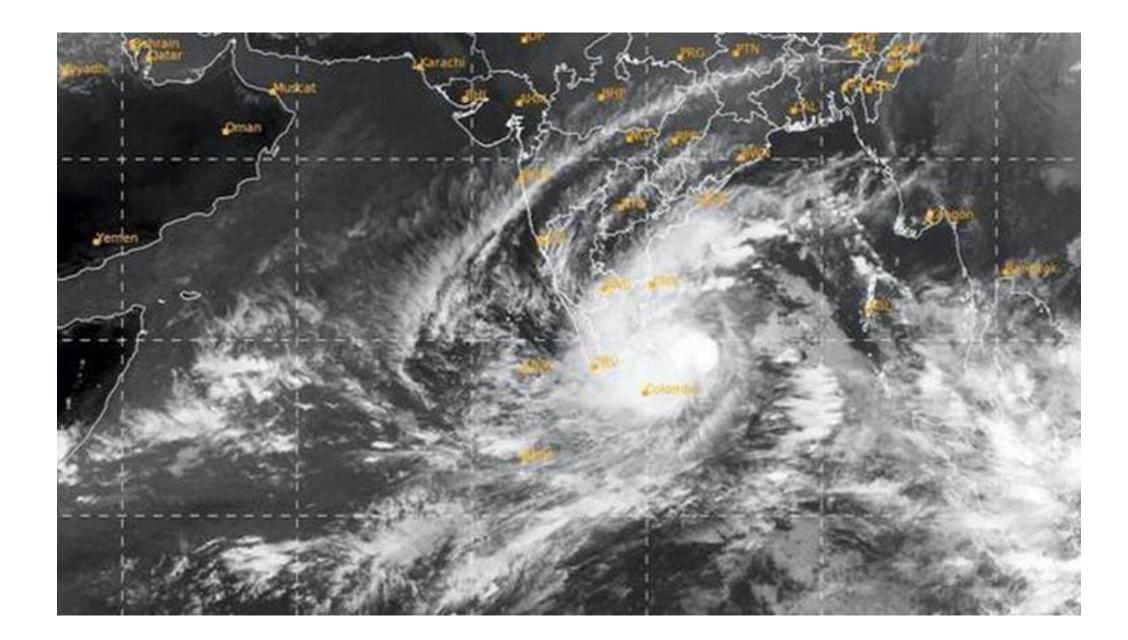
There are six RSMCs in the world, as well as five TCWCs, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

दुनिया भर में हर महासागर बेसिन में, क्षेत्रीय विशिष्ट मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र (आरएसएमसी) और उष्णकिटबंधीय 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 तूफान, पूर्वी चीन, जापान और फिलीपीस में टाइफ्न और बंगाल की खाड़ी और अरब सागर में चक्रवात हैं।



13

VANCON

Myanmar junta pardons more than 2,000 political prisoners



nesday, triggering tearful reunion outside jails but also demands that the many others behind bars be released. Protesters and journalists were among the 2,153 people

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



and seized his cellphone in an investigation into allegations of falsifying COVID-19 vaccination records. Mr. Bolsonaro denied fakin a COVID-19 vaccination certificate for himself, accusing the

NEW YORK

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



quarter of a percentage point and signalled it may pause furthe increases, giving officials time to as sess bank failures, how the Washington standoff over the U.S. debt ceiling plays out, the course

WASHINGTON

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



development lender as it looks to better address climate change The Bank's board voted to approve his leadership for a five-yea

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

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, the police said. He killed eight fellow students and a school guard before being arrest-ed. In addition to the nine killed, six children and a teacher were also hospitalised. The shooter first killed a

guard at the school in cen-tral Belgrade and then three students in a hallway, according to sensor police – and opened fire again,
official Veselin Milic. He Mr. Milic said.



have declared three days of nationwide mourning starting Friday. AP

then entered a history classroom - apparently choosing it simply because it was close to the entrance

The assailant called the police himself when the at-tack 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, fring at her teacher and then her classmates as they ducked under their desks. Authorities declared three days of nationwide mourning, starting on Pridig.

Mass shootings are ex-tremely rare in Serbia and in the wider Balkan region; none were reported at schools in recent years. In the last mass shooting, a Balkan war veteran in 2013

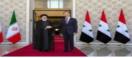
killed 13 persons in a cen-tral Serbian village. Experts, however, have repeatedly warned of the danger posed by the large number of weapons in the

Raisi praises Syria's victory in civil war despite sanctions

Visiting Iranian President brahim Raisi hailed Sy-ria's Bushar al-Assad on ing sanctions and achiev-ing "victory" in the coun-tries of the country of the country of the major ally. The country is the Syria condition to the Syria condition of the Liber Syria condition to the Syria condition of the substantial country infrastructure and indus-sing the country infrastructure and indus-tation of the country in th Visiting Iranian President

have mostly quietened in recent years, large parts of the country's north remain outside government

control.
"Syria's government and people have gone through great difficulties, and today we can say that you have overcome all these problems and achieved victory despite



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

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.

Helping hand
Tehran has provided economic, political and military support to Syria, helping Damascus claw back
most of the territory it lost
at the start of the conflict.
Both countries remain

Mr. Assad told Mr. Raisi that Syria-Iran ties "were stable and steady during difficult times despite hea-vy political and security storms that struck the Mid-dle East", according to the statement.

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

UN denounces Taliban's intimidation, | Belarusian activist who was plucked attacks on journalists in Afghanistan

Associated Press

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

Many journalists lost
their jobs after the Taliban

over a lack of funds or be-cause staff left the country.

to work, they are forced to
tive for Afghanistan, Roza
Otunbayeva, said the day
the arbitrary boundaries of
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to work, they are forced to
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the country boundarie ditional hardships because of work bans and travel

During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban barred most television, radio and newspap-ers in the country. The UN mission in Af-

reporting against an ever-present threat of repression and closure."

> Call for solidarity Its comments coincide with World Press Freedom Day, which is observed

The UN Secretary Gen-

Otunbayeva, said the day was a moment to show so-lidarity with the Afghan journalists trying to main-tain independent

tain independent reporting.

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

Roman Protasevich has been accused of Agence France-Presse coordinating protests

A Belarusian activist who was arrested in 2021 after his Ryanair flight to Lithuahis Ryanair flight to Lithua-nia was forced to land in Belarus has been sen-tenced to eight years in pri-son, state media reported on Wednesday.

"The Minsk regional court has sentenced Ro-man Protasevich to eight

country after the wars of the 1990s. They also note that decades of instability stemming from the con-flicts as well as the oragoing economic hardship could trigger such outbursts. The police identified the shooter as Kosta Kecma-nowic, who attended the

shooter as Kosta Kecma-novic, who attended the Vladislav Ribnikar school, where students typically range in age from 6 to 15. Kecmanovic carried two guns belonging to his fath-

er – 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
teen, who had been to

shooting ranges, apparent-ly knew the code. The fath-

Lukashenko's regime

vears in a prison colony." Belarusian news agency Belta said. Prosecutors had asked

off flight in 2021 jailed for eight years

er editor of an opposition Telegram account. He has been accused of flight from Greece to Lithuania was intercepted by a Belarusian fighter jet and helping coordinate mass protests against President Alexander Lukashenko's

regime in 2020. The Moscow-allied The Moscow-allied country, ruled by Mr. Lu-kashenko since 1994, has cracked down on anyone linked to the protests. Mr. Protasevich was ar-rested after his Ryanair

law, Meghan Markle, will be conspicuous by her ab-sence. The Duchess of Sus-

nia while her husband, Prince Harry, will attend

forced to land in Minsk. "He's been the reg "He's been the regime's hostage since the Ryanair hijacking," Opposition fi-gure Svetlana Tikhanov-skaya said. "The Belarus regime again shows its dis-regard for justice by sen-tencing three journalists in

ghanistan said that alth-ough journalists continue The anatomy of a coronation: A guide to the crowning of King Charles III

EXPLAINER

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

Prior to this, the King and Queen Consort will undertake a procession from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey for the cere-

on Monday - to reflect the King's long running asso-How does this British

coronation compare to previous ones?

tion reflecting the indivi-dual preferences of the monarch, this year's events "will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstandtry", according to Bucking ham Palace.

to the Abbay for the cerethat the control of the control of the six coronation

and will be officiated by
the Archbishop of Canterbury. The event is espectbury. The event is espectbury the event is expectbury. The event is placed in the six coronation

cell from George VI's coro
red from the balcomy of Buck
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the coronation

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mony was built over 700
years ago and used first by
Edward the Confessor
(whose reign ended in
1066). It sits over a 152 kg
stone – the Stone of Scone or the Stone of Destiny, which has been used by Scottish rulers for centu-ries and was seized by Edward I of England in 1296 (the English and Scottish crowns were unified in 1603). Former U.K. Prime Minister John Major re-turned the stone to Scotland 700 years later, in 1996, and it was brought back to Westminster Abby last week for the May 6 ceremonies.

In a departure from tra-dition, Camilla will not wear the Platinum Crown. wear the Platinum Crown, which has the Koh4-Noor which has the Koh4-Noor which has the Koh4-Noor the Common Common



orating the coronation of King Charles III. AP

Sikh. Muslim and Buddhist Sikh, Muslim and Buddhist leaders will present the King with coronation rega-lia and also greet him fol-lowing the coronation. The British monarch is styled 'Defender of the

styled 'Defender of the Faith' – Lee, the Protestant Faith' – Lee, the Protestant Church of England. In the 1990s, the King, then 1990s, the King, then Lee of the County Lee of the County Lee of the County Lee of the County. The the changed religious land-scape of the country. The the changed religious land-scape of the country. The turkday well have a refe-rence to the King fostering 'an environment in which

people of all faiths and be-liefs may live freely". During the coronation, the public will be invited to

swear allegiance to the King and "his heirs and successors". This is also a

successors". This is also a new element to the coronation. While some (such as Members of the U.K. Puriliamenth have come out the control of the control of

his father's coronation, months after publishing a ed by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The funer-al of Queen Elizabeth II was attended by President revealing memoir, Spare, which further strained his and Ms. Markle's relation-ship with the King and the heir to the throne, Prince Droupadi Murmu and the last coronation, six years

ce, was attended by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Who pays for the The U.S. will be repre The U.K. Government sented by First Lady Jill Bi-den – President Joe Biden will not attend, sticking to i.e., U.K. taxpayers, will foot the bill for the coronathe tradition of American the tradition of American Presidents skipping the crowning of a British mo-narch. French President Emmanuel Macron is also

on the list as are the heads of government of the com-monwealth realins' – such such properties of the com-monwealth realins' – such allounese of Australia. European and world royalty will also be in atten-tand Queen of Bhattan, the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan and the Maori Kin Jan and the Maori The King's daughter in-tring the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the continue to the continue to the company of the company of the company of the the continue to the company of the company

campaigning to make the U.K. a Republic.

coronation? India will be represent-

after India's independen

Who is attending the

tion which is estimated to be £100 million (\$125 mil-lion). In 1953, the British lion). In 1953, the British Government spent £1.57 million or £46 million in to-day's terms on the late Queen Elizabeth II's coro-nation in 1953, according to an analysis in The Times.

is the monarchy popular? A significant majority of Britons think that the U.K. should continue to have a monarchy. An April 26-27 YouGov poll showed that 60% of adults were in sup-port of the institution con-

timuing, while 26% said the country should have an elected head of state (15% were in the "don't know" category).

support for the monar-chy was the highest in En-gland and then Wales. Only 42% of Scottish people sur-veyed thought the monarchy should continue, with 46% preferring an elected head of state

Support for the monar-chy was the lowest in the 18-24 age group (32% sup-port it while 44% want an elected head of state) and higher in older groups. It was also higher among those who voted to leave the European Union and those who voted for the Conservative Party in the

women.

Approval ratings for members of the royal family have dropped since the publication of Prince Hars had risen around the death of Queen Elizabeth in September last year. At least 55% of adults think that lob as monarch, according job as monarch, according to March data from Ipsos.

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.

Established December 1944

(78 years ago)

International financial Type

institution

Legal status Treaty

1818 H Street, NW Headquarters

Washington, D.C., U.S.^[1]

189 countries (IBRD)[2] Membership

174 countries (IDA)[2]

David Malpass Key people

(President)[3]

Axel van Trotsenburg

(MD)

Anshula Kant (MD and CFO)

Indermit Gill

(Chief Economist,)[4]

Parent organization World Bank Group



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



品

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

Ajaypal Singh Banga **Born**

November 10, 1959 (age 63)

Pune, India

M. S. Banga (brother) Relatives

Education St. Stephen's College, Delhi

(BA)

Indian Institute of

Management, Ahmedabad

(MBA)

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.

He later joined <u>PepsiCo</u> and was involved in the launch of its international fast food franchises, including <u>Pizza Hut</u> and <u>KFC</u>, in India as the economy <u>liberalized</u>.

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।

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

Citigroup, 1996-2009

Mastercard, 2010–2021

n 2020 Banga was elected chairman of the <u>International Chamber of Commerce</u> (ICC) succeeding <u>Paul Polman</u>.

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

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

सिटीग्रुप, 1996-2009

मास्टरकार्ड, 2010-2021

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

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

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

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

PUTIN SAFE, RUSSIA RESERVES RIGHT TO RETALIATE: MOSCOW

Russia says Ukraine attacked Kremlin with drones in bid to kill Putin; Kyiv denies role



video grab shows a flying object exploding near the dome f the Kremlin Senate building. Ostorozho Novosti vio Reaters

REUTERS MOSCOW, KYTV, MAY 3

RUSSIA ACCUSED Ukraine on Wednesday of a failed attempt o assassinate President Vladimir Putin in a drone attack on the Putin in a drose attack on the Kremlin citadel in Moscow, and threatened to retaliate. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Rytr had nothing to do with the reported overnight incident. "We don't attack Putin, or

"We don't attack Putin, or Moscow, we fight on our terri-tory." Zelenskyy told a press con-ference during a visit to Finland. A senior aide to Zelenskyy called

manned aerial vehicles were aimed at the Kremlin, "As a result

outside Moscow.
"The Russian side reserves the right to take retaliatory measures where and when it sees fit," the Kremilin said. Former Russian President

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Not just wrestling, half of national sports federations don't have sexual harassment panel as per law



IOA president PT Usha meets protesting wrestlers at lantar Mantar on Wednesday, Provi

MANISH SAHU

ess to the PMO, kept a diary

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Bess firmy Bhandings person for surroundings person fo

Sherpuria kept diary with list of associates in

code, UP Police

informs court

nade the entries in code that only he could crack, the UP po-ice have told a Lucknow court. Police told the court they in-end to take Rai to Cujarat to look or this diary, after he told them in-laws' home in edabad. Police said Rai also

eking his custody for 10 days eking his custody for 10 days, e court sent Rai to police cus-dy for six days — until May 9. Police said Rai told them that had purchased several prop-ties under fake names, and the cuments too were in the

Rai's lawyer Digvijay Singh, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

USEEDHIKESKEY

comply with sexual harassment law - from no Internal Complaints Committee to absence of external member

Their number in the Khelo India Cames, an index of this growing trend, showed a 161 per cent in-crease from 2018 to 2020.

The ICC was designed to be the first poot of call for any griev-ance under the PoSH Axt, a key element needed to create a safe

women. As per the law, it needs to have a minimum of four

women. As per the law, it needs to have a minimum of four members—at least half of them an external member, preferably from an NGO or an association that works for women's empowerment or a person familiar with issues related to sexual harass-

ment, like a lawyer.
The Indian Express reviewed

The Indian Express reviewed official declarations of all 30 federations and reached out to their office-bearers to find that five federations, including weesting, don't even have an ICC; four don't have the stipulated number of members; another six

Surge in women in sports but 16 of 30 federations don't

PROTESTS, ALMOST 2-6x7, and Januar Mantar for 11 days and of the Supersene Coart to get FIRs filled; repeated appeals to fellow weight to their compalains of sexual harassment even as the prime accused digs his heek ins. Indied have to happea.

Indeed, the Government's MC Mary Korn-headed panel that looked into allegations of sexual harassment levelled by some of the nation's top wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India chief and 8JP MP Brig Bhushan Sharan Singh, red-flagged this as a "major finding": there was no haran singh red-flagged this as a "major finding": there was no haran singh red-flagged this as ICC), as mandated by the 2013 revention of Sexual Harassment

(PoSH) Act. The wrestling body isn't the The weestling body isn't the only one violating the law. As many as 16 of the 30 na-tional sports federations — of dis-ciplines in which India has par-ticipated in the 2018 Asian

Games, Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and last year's Commonwealth Games — do not meet this mandatory compliance, an in-vestigation by The Indian Express has revealed. And this, when there has been a record uptick in lacked the mandatory external member and one federation had two panels but neither had an independent member. The status of ICC in each and the response of the federation:

Gymnastics Federation of India

Status: No ICC; there's an "investigation committee" that has two women in a six-member panel, no external member. Comment: "We have an investi-

gation committee for all issues. We have been following the guidelines of the world body. guidelines of the world body. Until a month ago, there was no committee at all but now we have one," said Sudhir Mital, president.

Table Tennis Federation of India

Status: No ICC. Comment: "Since the new ad-Comment: "Since the new ad-ministration has just taken over a few months ago, we are going through legal procedures and an ICC will be in place in a month's time," said Kamlesh Mehta, sec-

Probing WFI, Govt, in Ian this year, had flagged need to comply

MIHIR VASAVDA

unaware of the dallenge.
On January 23, the day the Union Sports Ministry first formed the Mary Kom-led committee to investigate allegations of sexual harassment against

sent a letter to all national sports federa-tions flagging the importance of the internal

committee (ICC).

committee (ICC).
While it noted that "most bodies have the necessary structures in place," the letter called on sports feethings to re-felticies, and make necessary changes to comply with the requirements of the PoSH law.

CABINET SECRETARY TO HEAD PANEL

Will form committee on concerns of same-sex couples: Centre to SC

Very fair suggestion, substantial advancement, says Bench

human concerns" of same-sex ouples without legally recog-

marriage.

Calling it a 'very fair sugges-tion', a five-judge Constitution Bench, beaded by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, said if what the government says goes through, it 'will be a substantial advancement over what we have today and a 'ouising block for the future' of the movement for gay rights. It asked the petitioners if, at this stage, they would still like to stick to their demand for a declaration that they have the rights to many under the Special Marriage Act

(SMA), 1954. The Bench asked the petitioners to sit with Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta over the weekend and discuss

'IF THIS RESULTS IN A GAIN '

CENTRE: If govt says PF nominee can be family member or anyone else a person chooses... problem solved

PETITIONER: Avast majority of the young people we have met want to get married

flect on that, and build that into

our argument". On April 27, when the matter On April 27, when the maner was last heard, the Bench, also comprising Justices S K Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, had asked the Centre what it was willing to do

Wednesday, Solicitor Gene Mehta said, "The issue was son

by no less than the Cabir Secretary will be constituted Mehta said the petitioners of

any major solution... What little is given by administra

Battle lines: Many Hindutvas bump up against layers of caste

Why Congress sticks its poll neck out to push for a ban on Bajrang Dal



PM Narendra Modi meets Padma Shri Sukri Bommagowda, a folk singer, in Uttara Kannada district Wednesday. PIT

VANDITA MISHRA

THE CONGRESS party's Bajrang Dal with the banned PFI in its manifesto, and its promise to ban the former if voted to power, is a striking departure from its policy of gen-eral silence and eva-sion on Hindutva is-

sion on Hindurus is-sues, especially ahead of a crucial election. To understand why it does in Karnataka what it does not inother states where it takes on the BJP, it may be helpful to look closer at Hindurua in Karnataka — or Karnataka's

complex state so far. Beyond the coastal belt, that is, where it had an early start and where it now rides on the back of mobilisa-tiom over decades. In the state's other re-gions, Hindutva co-ops, but it also collides DECISION 2023 KARNATAKA

in the caste game, moreover, Congress is also an active CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MORE REPORTS

Ahead of D-day in Karnataka, poll bond sale up nearly nine times from 2018

DAMINI NATH

IN THE run-up to the May 1 Kamataka Assembly election: the State Bank of India (SBI) i of the previous polls in the state in 2018, according to replies from the bank to queries under the Right to Information.

A total of 1,470 electoral bonds worth Rs 970.50 crore were sold from April 12 on April 12

in the 26th tranche of sales u der the Electoral Bond Schem 2018, the SBI said in its RTI rep

In April 2018, ahead of th previous Assembly polls i Karnataka in May, the SBI ha sold 256 electoral bonds wort Rs 114.90 crore in what was ti

This time, the SBI branch is Hyderabad had the most sales Rs 335.30 crore or 342 of the tota This was followed by Kolkata (R 197.40 crore), Mumbai (Rs 169.3

crore), Chennai (Rs 122 crore) an New Delhi (Rs 55.65 crore). About 58% of the total bond sold were encashed in the Ne Delhi branch of SBI (Rs 565.7

Olympian, ex-Russian cop, LSD lab: How Goa drug cartel was busted

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA

ha unit reached Ashwem sach in North Goa, waded into e waters and netted their big h. Andre, a former Russian po-eman, wrestled with the offials in the water for a few min

es before giving up. With that, NCB officials had

Andre, local peddler Akash and Andre, local peddler Akash and drug manufacturer A Kundu for their alleged involvement in the cartel. The NCB has seized from the accused 2,552 LSD blots, co-caine, charas, bydroposic weed, MDMA powder, 25 psilocybin mushroom capsules, fake IDs and drug sale proceeds in Indian and foreign currency. For NCB, recent years.
Following intelligence inputs about a Russian woman supply-

dler. This led them to an illicit LSD manufacturing unit in Anjuna on Monday. So far, the NCB has arrested Varganova undersurveillance for nearly six months, She was intercepted on April 14 and small quantities of drugs were recovered from her possession. She insisted the drugs were for personal con-sumption, but NCB's probe re-vealed otherwise.

to sell locally. To evade surveil-lance, she avoided using mobile

"Our probe has revealed that she is a peddler who procured narcotics from different sources

GOA AND DRUGS 65% rise in drug seizures in state in 2022 as compared to 2021 207 NG of narcotics seized by police

synthetic drugs/ chemicals like cocaine, MDMA, LSD, methamphetamine, etc., is much higher in Goa as compared to other states.



sold drugs in Goa include hashish, LSD, MDMA tablets, ecstasy, cocaine, cannabis and ganja.

rented house in Arambol about 18 months ago," said the official, adding that their probe also re-

is when, we believe, she got into peddling." Officials said Varganova had a large network of friends in Goa, including for-eign nationals. An officer said

After Vargamova, the NCB ar-rested Akash on April 28. The narcotics and cash recovered Mambai MCL sonal director
Amit Chawate, who supervised
the Apell operations by NCPs
band passed oway in Russia in
2021, the shifted to Goa and that
in 2021, the shifted to go and that
preddings before he por terpeddings.

The same evening, a team of the NCB's Coa unit intercepted Andre from Ashwern beach, where he had gone for a swim. 'Andre refused to even tell us his address. We showed his photo-

At Andre's notice, us years 59 LSD blots, 8.8 gm cocaine 16.49 gm hashoil, 210 gm charas 410 gm hash cake, 1.440 kg hy-droponic weed, laptops, mobile

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

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 Hamedi 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, Hamedi 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, Hamedi & 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 Hamedi and Mohammadi have been in Iran's Evin Prison since September, and Hamedi 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 ecommerce 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.



- 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 दरिकनार 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 <u>Bretton Woods</u>

 <u>Agreement</u> 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 आरिक्षत 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 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

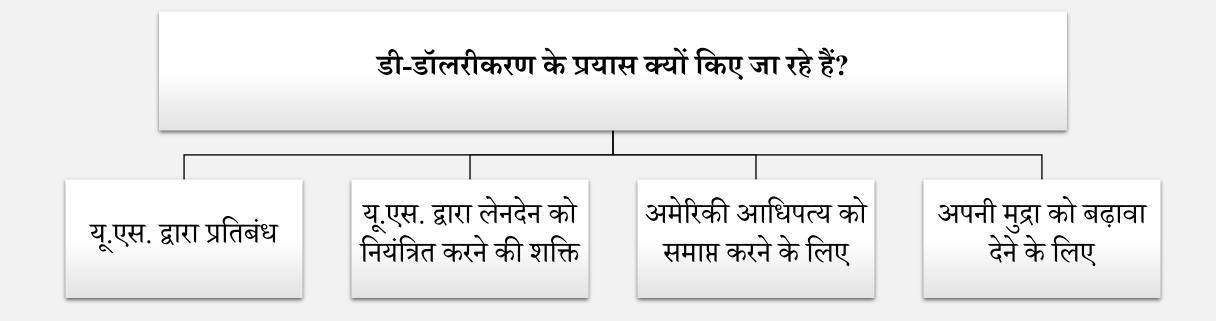
विमुद्रीकरण की दिशा में वैश्विक प्रयास

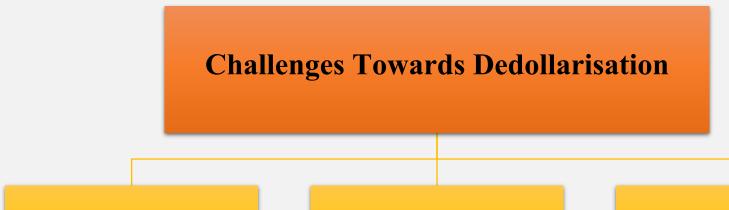
In recent years, several countries and regions have embarked on the path towards dedollarization, driven by a combination of geopolitical, economic, and strategic considerations.

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





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



- 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.
- 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।

- 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.
- 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-toabate 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 (CO2) 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 (CO2) 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 secondlargest steel producer.
- China remains the world's largest crude steel producer.
- India is the largest producer of sponge iron in the world and the 3rd 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 स्वत: 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 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 asteel-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। Visakhapatnam Steel Plant-Andhra Pradesh TISCO -Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

The
Visvesvaraya
Iron and Steel
Plant Bhadravati,
Karnataka

Salem Steel Plant-Tamil Nadu

Major Steel Industries

Bhilai Steel Plant – Chhattisgarh

Bokaro Steel Plant-Jharkhand

Rourkela Steel Plant-Odisha

Durgapur Steel Plant- West Bengal Pollutants from Stee Industries

Particulate
Matter (PM2.5
and PM 10)

Oxides of Sulphur

Oxides of Nitrogen

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon
Dioxide (CO2)

Solid Waste

Daily Current Affairs

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।



Features

- The AN-32 can be operated at high-altitude airfields (up to 4500 m above sea level) and in a hot climate, making 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 paratrooping operations.

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



- 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

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

- Hijol, or Indian oak, is हिजोल, या भारतीय ओक, एक मध्यम आकार का सदाबहार पेड़
 - वैज्ञानिक नाम : बैरिंगटनिया
 - सामान्य नाम: हिजल, हिजंगल, हेंडोल, स्ट्रीम बैरिंगटनिया, इची

Distribution

- It is native to coastal wetlands in southern Asia and northern Austral asia.
- 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 निदयों 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 पेटीओल्स के साथ।
- फूल छोटे, गुलाबी से लाल, उप-सीसाइल और कई पुंकेसर के साथ बैंगनी-लाल होते हैं।

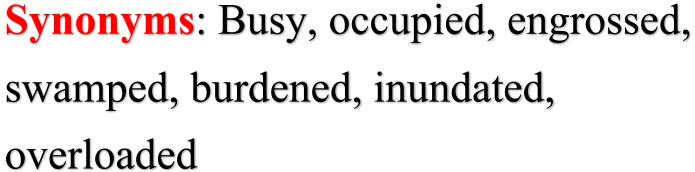
औषधीय उपयोग:

- 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.



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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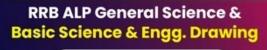


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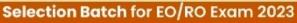


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1. Which of the following are some important pollutants released by steel industry in India? (2014)

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



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

- 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 अनुमित 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
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) 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।
- 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

- 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
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) 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।

- 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
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) 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.