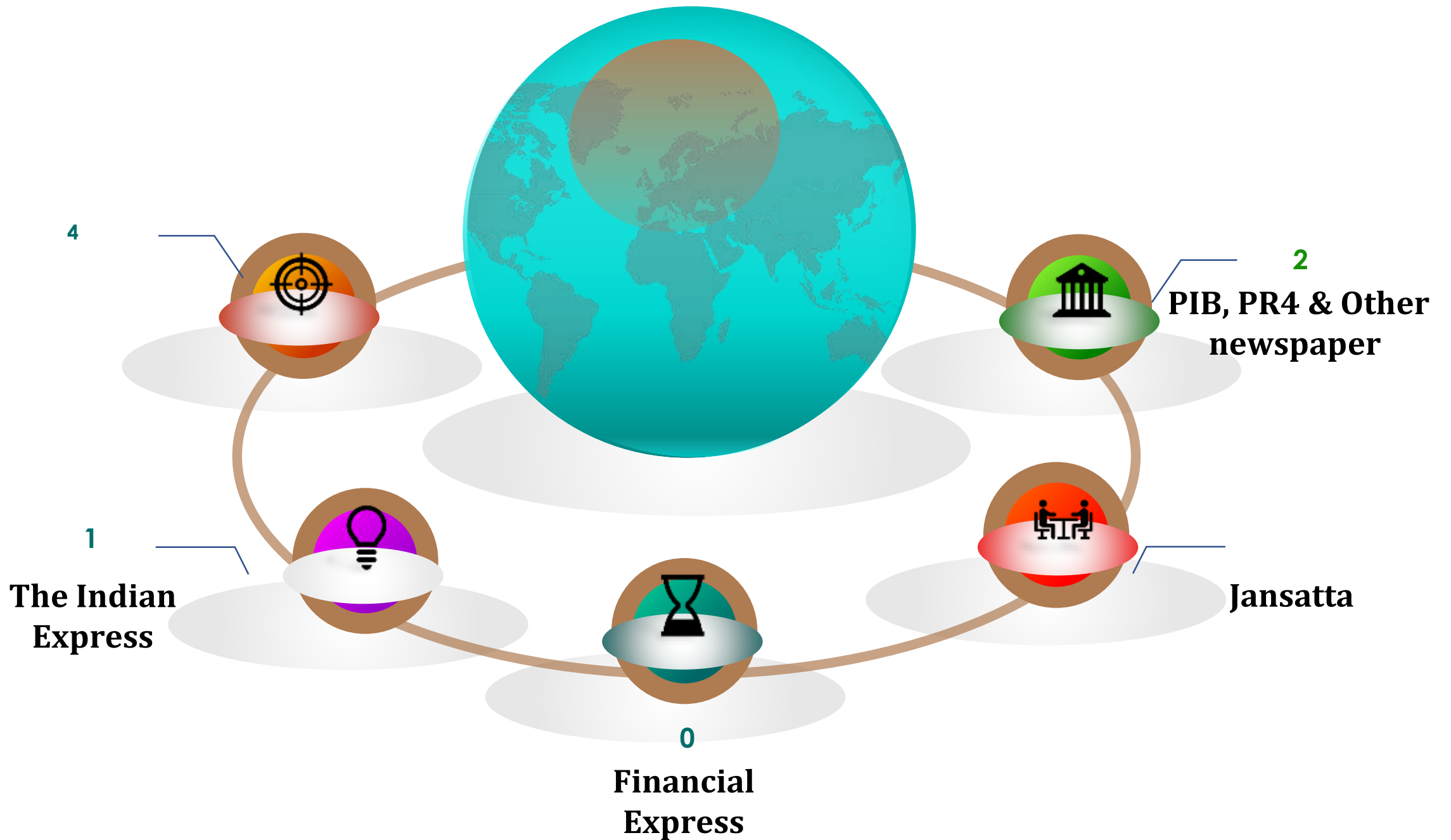


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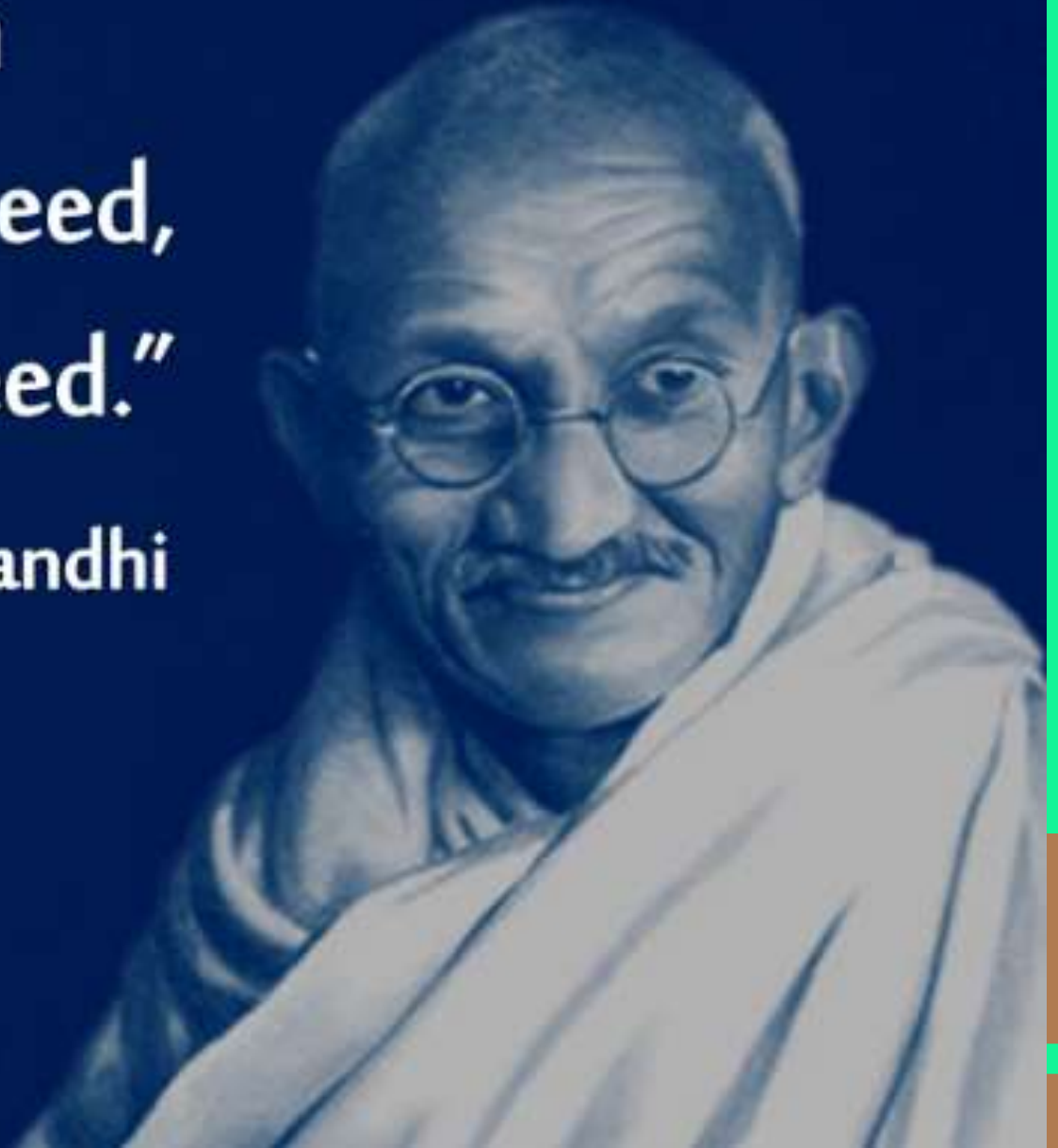
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**“Earth provides enough
to satisfy every man's need,
but not every man's greed.”**

—Mahatma Gandhi



TRILOKNATH BANDIT INTERVIEW 'Shompen people prize freedom above all'

The anthropologist shares his reservations about the Great Nicobar Project, its effect on the virgin forests and the people who inhabit them.



INSIDE



MTA to replace AN-32, IL-76 fleets of Air Force

The military transport aircraft (MTA) that the Air Force is planning to procure will be a replacement for the aging AN-32 and IL-76 aircraft. The AN-32 is the workhorse of the air force and the IL-76 is the main cargo category in the air force.



INDIA bloc will pass law for caste census, Rahul

INDIA bloc will pass legislation for a caste-based census and reserve jobs for SC and ST. The bill is expected to be passed in the next few months.

Lahavene flee as Israel expands its bombardment

TEL AVIV: Israel expanded its bombardment in Lebanon on Sunday. The Israeli military said it had killed several Hezbollah fighters and destroyed several Hezbollah weapons caches.

65% voter turnout recorded in Haryana Assembly election

Falling percentage falls behind 2005 tally of 68%, incumbent BJP and Congress both claim victory, and a major mandate in the State where all 90 constituencies voted in one phase, minor clashes leave several injured in otherwise peaceful polling.

The Haryana Election

As more than 100 million voters cast their ballots in Haryana's Assembly election, a dip from the 68% voter turnout in the previous election in 2005. Polling across the State was largely peaceful in the high-voltage electoral battle, scoring a rare repeat of minor clashes between supporters of different political parties.

What exit polls say

Party	Seats	Percentage
BJP	45	65%
Congress	45	35%



What exit polls say... The BJP and Congress both claim victory in the election. The BJP has won 45 seats and the Congress has won 45 seats.

River crossing



People approach Prithvi road through the newly damaged bridge in Prithvi on Saturday after water level of the Ganga receded.

Violence at Bengal village after rape, murder of girl

Violence erupted in Bengal in South 24 Parganas on Monday after the body of a 15-year-old girl was found in a pond.

Biggest encounter in Chhattisgarh leaves 3 more Maoists dead

Three Maoist leaders were killed in a major encounter in Chhattisgarh on Saturday. The police also recovered several weapons.

JeM operative held after NIA searches 26 different locations

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted searches at 26 locations in different parts of the country and arrested a JeM operative. The arrested man, identified as Shrikant Singh, is a JeM operative who was involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Visiting Pak. for SCO, not bilateral talks: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Sunday that India will not have bilateral talks with Pakistan while he is in Islamabad. He will be visiting Pakistan as part of the SCO summit.



Pranab Mukherjee... He will be visiting Pakistan as part of the SCO summit.



Biggest encounter in Chhattisgarh leaves 3 more Maoists dead

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IN BRIEF



Pugh's ban reduced to 18 months by CAS

Paul Pugh has had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appearing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport...

Anirudh & Poonacha win Challenger title in Spain

Fourth seeds Anirudh Chandrasekar and Prithvi Poonacha defeated Martin Armand and Igor Siyachev 7-6(2), 4-6 in the doubles final of the ATP Challenger tennis tournament...

Stubbs inspires South Africa to thumping win over Ireland

Thabazimbo Stubbs inspired a maiden T20 victory as South Africa crushed Ireland by 101 runs to clinch their 10th T20I win...

Mohun Bagan drubs Mohammedan Sporting

Mohun Bagan Super Cluster returned to winning ways, with a 2-0 win over 10th seed Mohammedan Sporting Club in the 91st Kolkata Derby...



Ragnaia wins Japan MotoGP sprint, cuts Martin's lead

Fredricer Ragnaia pressed from a mistake by Makoto Tamada to win the Japan MotoGP sprint at Motegi on Saturday...

Padmini and Srija post wins

Spain's Etxepare

Defending champion Pauline Durrant of England's women's team was defeated by Padmini Parthasarathy of India...

Mumbai wins Irani Cup after a gap of 27 years

All-rounder Kotian scores a century and dashes the slim hopes of first of India, while bats a vital half-century of spinner Sachin returns a six-wicket haul



Mumbai's victory in the Irani Cup, one of India's oldest domestic cricket trophies, was a significant achievement for the team...



Rethin, Vaidehi win National tennis crowns

Rethin Prasad and Vaidehi Ramesh won the national tennis titles in the doubles category...

Suraj, Divanshi claim standard pistol gold



Suraj Prasad and Divanshi Singh won the gold medal in the mixed standard pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships...

Juned — an autorickshaw driver turned pacer creating a buzz



Juned, an autorickshaw driver, has become a pacer for the Mumbai Indians in the IPL, creating a buzz for his performance...

Youngster Sarthak Chavan clinches his maiden National crown



Youngster Sarthak Chavan won the National Badminton Championship, clinching his maiden national crown...

Youngster Sarthak Chavan clinches his maiden National crown

Sarthak Chavan's victory in the National Badminton Championship is a significant milestone in his career...

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Mumbai wins Irani Cup after a gap of 27 years

All-rounder Kotian scores a century and dashes the slim hopes of Rest of India; Avasthi hits a vital half-century; off-spinner Saransh returns a six-wicket haul

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar

LUCKNOW

Saransh Jain's two quick wickets hinted at a very interesting last day's play. Tanush Kotian, the reliable allrounder, then found Mohit Avasthi for company as the duo's record partnership ensured Mumbai lay its hands on the Irani Cup after a gap of 27 years.

Kotian and Avasthi added 158 runs for the ninth wicket – the highest ninth-wicket partnership in the Cup's history – before Mumbai declared the innings immediately after the latter raised his bat for a patient fifty.

With early tea possible due to the declaration, the teams shook hands right away at the Bharat Ratna Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium and Mumbai rejoiced after captain Ajinkya Rahane ac-



Champion outfit: Mumbai players celebrate the Irani Cup triumph. SANDEEP SAXENA

et) and Shardul Thakur (stumped after stepping out too soon) in the first six overs. At 171 for eight, and a lead of 292, besides slowing the game down, Mumbai had to ensure it batted

time. Kotian and Avasthi managed both the tasks with aplomb.

The game trudged along at such a terrible pace that only 38 overs were bowled during the 240 minutes' play on Day 5.

While Avasthi blocked patiently for most of his knock, Kotian stepped out repeatedly and negated any turn and awkward bounce as long as Saransh and Manav Suthar, the two

Rest of India – 1st innings: 416.

Mumbai – 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw b Saransh 76, Ayush Mhatre st Jurel b Saransh 14, Hardik Tamore c Jurel b Suthar 7, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Suthar 9, Shreyas Iyer b Saransh 8, Sarfraz Khan lbw b Saransh 17, Shams Mulani b Saransh 0, Tanush Kotian (not out) 114, Shardul Thakur st Jurel b Saransh 2, Mohit Avasthi (not out) 51; Extras (b: 12, lb: 6, nb: 6, w: 7); 210 Total



WELL BEING
FOR THAT MILLION-DOLLAR SMILE
Many advancements have been made in cosmetic dentistry that focus on improving the appearance of your teeth. Know how to choose the right treatment as well as the risks involved. **Page 7**

MIND & GAMES
An idea that could pay to protect trees
Read an interesting find that could generate returns for you. **Page 12**

FE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2018
LONDON, OCTOBER 8, 2018, 10 Pages, £4.50 (Printed in the UK)
FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY **READ TO LEAD**

LEISURE
CULTURE
CALENDAR
Some of the biggest music, lit, art and film festivals to look forward to **Page 6**

WHAT'S INSIDE



SPOTLIGHT, Pg 6
600 lives and counting
This is the official figure for what the dengue crisis has cost India so far this year. Actual numbers could be much higher, and will continue to rise if no action is taken



WIRELESS WIRELESS, Pg 5
The sky is indigo
An interesting revelation of the story of India's largest airline



Homegrown brands shaking up craft gin market

Premium offerings driving growth with unique flavour

FLOW CHART

- 1. Market Size:** The Indian craft gin market is valued at approximately \$100 million in 2018, with a CAGR of 15% over the next five years.
- 2. Key Players:** Homegrown brands like 'The Botanist' and 'The Gherkin' are leading the market.
- 3. Growth Drivers:** Premium offerings and unique flavors are driving growth.
- 4. Challenges:** Limited distribution and high production costs are challenges.

WORLD OF WINE: The Indian craft gin market is valued at approximately \$100 million in 2018, with a CAGR of 15% over the next five years.

WORLD OF WINE: The Indian craft gin market is valued at approximately \$100 million in 2018, with a CAGR of 15% over the next five years.

CHAOS AT AIRPORTS

IndiGo tech outage leaves flyers in lurch

Partial operations restored by evening, claims the airline

IN BUREAU
New Delhi, October 8

ASSET PROTECTION: IndiGo's IT system's major outage on Saturday afternoon left a large number of passengers in a lurch as they were unable to book tickets or board flights. The situation has led to long queues at airports and the airline's website, with passengers expressing anger over the disruption.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS: IndiGo officials said the outage was caused by a technical problem in the airline's IT system. The airline is currently working to restore full operations and has apologized to passengers.

NO ASSETS, ATTACHMENT IN UAE: HONASA

HONASA CONFIRMED: Honasa Group of Institutions has confirmed that it has no assets in the UAE and is not a party to any litigation there. The group is currently facing legal issues in India.

EXEMPTION ORDER

EXEMPTION ORDER: The Reserve Bank of India has issued an exemption order regarding the repatriation of funds by NRIs. The order allows NRIs to repatriate up to \$1 million per year without incurring any tax.

Backed by Maruti Suzuki cross-badging, Toyota races past Kia

Japanese carmaker enters top 5 club; set to gain further lead

FINRA CHAIRMAN
New Delhi, October 8

FINRA CHAIRMAN: The new chair of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) has been announced. The new chair is expected to take office in January 2019.

TOYOTA vs KIA

Model	Price (INR)
Kia Niro	155,686
Toyota Aygo	93,124
Kia Niro	186,787
Toyota Aygo	123,717
Kia Niro	269,229
Toyota Aygo	265,676
Toyota Aygo	173,245
Kia Niro	245,634
Toyota Aygo	150,257
Kia Niro	127,321

RBI by gov
Rao gets 1-yr extension

RBI by gov: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been extended for one year. The RBI is currently headed by Governor Raghuram G. G. Mohanty.

Stalin refuses to meet rebel LDF MLA Amar

By [Name]

Temple priest's comment on Prophet sparks protests

By [Name]

Rahul slams RSS for remarks on St. Xavier

By [Name]

A three-tier war in West Asia with no endgame

By [Name]

INSIDE

Modi as economic crisis looms

By [Name]

Seven of a family killed in fire at Mumbai building

By [Name]

Trump returns to the site of failed assassination bid

By [Name]

Bengal child rape: HC orders autopsy at AIIMS

Calcutta High Court orders police to add Sections of POCSO Act and produce the accused before the special court, violence had erupted after body of girl was found in South 24 Parganas district. Family members allege that they were made to run around India, and say the child could have been saved if the police had taken action in time

Police take charge

The Calcutta High Court on Monday ordered the police to take charge of the investigation of the alleged rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl in South 24 Parganas district. The court also directed the police to add Sections 302 and 304 of the Indian Penal Code to the charges against the accused. The court further ordered the police to produce the accused before the special court by October 15. The court also directed the police to conduct an autopsy of the girl's body at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. The court said that the police had failed to take any action in time to save the girl's life. The court also directed the police to take steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

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Police officers and officials gathered around the body of the girl who was found in South 24 Parganas district. The court has ordered an autopsy at AIIMS.

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The great gig in the sky



Children and adults gathered around a hot air balloon launch in South 24 Parganas district. The court has ordered an autopsy at AIIMS.

Denied access to Jantar Mantar, Wangchuk begins a fast at Ladakh Bhavan

Wangchuk

Wangchuk started a hunger strike at the Ladakh Bhavan in Delhi after being denied access to the Jantar Mantar. He is protesting against the government's policies in Ladakh. Wangchuk said that the government is trying to suppress the voices of the people of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to take away the special status of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to divide the people of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to suppress the voices of the people of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to take away the special status of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to divide the people of Ladakh. He said that the government is trying to suppress the voices of the people of Ladakh.



Wangchuk sitting on the ground, looking towards the camera. He is protesting against the government's policies in Ladakh.

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Israel batters Beirut in 'heaviest bombardment' of Lebanon so far as Gaza war completes a year

Beirut

Israel launched a heavy bombardment of Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday. The attack was the heaviest since the start of the conflict in Gaza. Israel said that the attack was in response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon. Israel said that the attack was in response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon. Israel said that the attack was in response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon. Israel said that the attack was in response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon. Israel said that the attack was in response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon.



A large explosion or fire in Beirut, Lebanon, following an Israeli bombardment. The attack was the heaviest since the start of the conflict in Gaza.

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Australian High Commissioner visits Arunachal Pradesh

Rahul Mathias/ANSA
NEW DELHI



Australian High Commissioner Philip Green with Assistant Foreign Secretary Chitra Ramakrishna.

Australian High Commissioner Philip Green visited Arunachal Pradesh on Monday to meet the state's Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The Australian High Commissioner also met with the state's Deputy Chief Minister and other officials. Green is expected to seek a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. India's stance on the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis.

Muizzu to meet Modi, request India's support over looming economic crisis

The Maldivian President has said he hopes that India would be ready to ease the Maldives' burden; he is expected to seek a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. India's stance on the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis.

NEW DELHI



President Muizzu bin Shauq (left) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) during a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday.

Maldivian President Muizzu bin Shauq is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday morning with a looming economic crisis and an imminent debt repayment on his hands back home. In an interview to an international broadcaster ahead of the visit, Mr. Muizzu said he hoped that India would be ready to "ease the Maldivian burden", and he is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. India's stance on the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis.

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Protests erupt over remarks by former chief of Goa RSS; Rahul Gandhi slams BJP

NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi speaking at a podium during a protest.

Protests erupted in Goa on Saturday over remarks by former Chief of Goa RSS, Mr. Prasad Kulkarni, who said that the former Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Joshi, was a "traitor". Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP for the remarks and said that the party should not be in power in Goa. He also said that the party should not be in power in Goa.

Gujarat to celebrate Modi's 'development work' from today

NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat.

Gujarat is set to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'development work' from today. The state government has announced that it will hold a series of events to mark the occasion. The events will include a parade, a musical program, and a cultural program. The state government has also announced that it will hold a series of events to mark the occasion.

Tensions in Saharanpur over Narsinghanand's remarks; several FIRs registered

SAHARANPUR



A scene of tension or protest in Saharanpur.

Tensions in Saharanpur over Narsinghanand's remarks; several FIRs registered. The police in Saharanpur have registered several FIRs against Narsinghanand for his remarks. The police have also said that they will continue to monitor the situation in the city. The police have also said that they will continue to monitor the situation in the city.

Air Force plans to procure 12 early warning aircraft

NEW DELHI



An Air Force aircraft in flight.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced that it plans to procure 12 early warning aircraft. The aircraft will be used for surveillance and early warning. The IAF has also announced that it will procure 12 early warning aircraft.

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Girl raped by two persons in Vadodara

VADODARA



A scene in Vadodara.

A girl was raped by two persons in Vadodara. The police in Vadodara have registered an FIR against the two persons. The police have also said that they will continue to monitor the situation in the city. The police have also said that they will continue to monitor the situation in the city.

Muizzu to meet Modi, request India's support over looming economic crisis

The Maldivian President has said he hoped that India would be ready to ease the Maldives' burden; he is expected to seek a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India; any default in repayment of the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu landed in New Delhi on Sunday for a four-day state visit to India and is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday morning with a looming economic crisis and an imminent debt repayment on his hands back home.

In an interview to an international broadcaster ahead of his visit, Mr. Muizzu said he hoped that India would be ready to "ease the Maldives' burden", and he is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support during bilateral talks at Hyderabad House, after he receives a guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"India is fully cognisant of our fiscal situation, and as one of our biggest development partners, will always be ready to ease our burden, find better alternatives and solutions to the challenges we face," Mr. Muizzu had told the BBC in a written interview.

In September, India announced that the State



Friendly ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Bank of India would subscribe Maldivian government bonds of \$50 million, staving off the country's most imminent crisis, and Mr. Muizzu is expected to request Indian support in terms of currency swaps and debt waivers. He had earlier announced that China, a significant creditor, has agreed to defer loan repayments for five years.

On October 8, Maldives is due to make a \$25 million payment towards its

\$500 million *sukuk* (Islamic bonds) debt repayment, out of a total \$114 million still due this year, and about \$1.5 billion in the next two years. In view of the rising external debt, high debt to GDP ratio - at approximately 110% - and falling foreign exchange reserves - at about \$440 million, credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch have both downgraded the Maldives in recent weeks, and any default on payments is likely to spiral the Maldives

into a major crisis akin to the one faced by Sri Lanka in 2022.

On Sunday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and other officials called on Mr. Muizzu to prepare for the talks, which are expected to end with announcements of MoUs on Indian infrastructure projects, security cooperation, and bilateral cooperation in other fields.

In a social media post, Mr. Jaishankar said Mr.

Muizzu's talks with Prime Minister Modi would "give a new impetus" to India-Maldives ties.

"I am confident that this visit will pave the way to further elevating the close neighbourly relations between our two countries and strengthen the enduring friendship and cooperation between our two peoples," Maldives' newly appointed Foreign Minister, Abdulla Khaleel, also said in a post describing the meeting, without offering any specifics on the discussions.

Full turnaround

The visit by Mr. Muizzu to Delhi, his second since he attended Mr. Modi's swearing-in ceremony, marks a full turnaround in ties between the two countries from the tensions between them over the past year.

Mr. Muizzu won elections in the Maldives last year on the back of an 'India Out' campaign and insisted that India withdraw military personnel from the archipelago by May this year. Unlike leaders of other friendly countries in the neighbourhood, Mr. Muizzu did not make India his

first destination abroad, and visited Turkiye, UAE, and China instead over the past year.

Tensions also rose over remarks by Maldivian Ministers that were critical of Mr. Modi and led to an informal 'Boycott Maldives' campaign by certain tour operators, that has halved the number of Indian tourists travelling there. However, after a number of bilateral ministerial meetings, and the Modi government completing the withdrawal of military personnel, ties have warmed up and Mr. Muizzu recently sacked the Ministers involved.

While Mr. Muizzu's visit to India has been expected for some weeks, the economic situation in the Maldives, as well as a Cabinet reshuffle after the resignation of the Finance Minister, had delayed plans. Former Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer, who visited Delhi in May, has now been appointed the Finance Minister.

Mr. Muizzu and his delegation will travel to Agra and Mumbai on Tuesday and then to Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Visit to India:

- **President Muizzu landed in New Delhi for a four-day state visit and is expected to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His main objective is to seek support for the Maldives' economic challenges.**

Economic Challenges:

- **The Maldives is facing an external debt repayment crisis, with a \$500 million sukuk (Islamic bond) payment due shortly, part of a \$1.5 billion repayment due over the next two years.**
- **The Maldives' debt to GDP ratio stands at around 110%, and falling foreign exchange reserves (around \$340 million) and downgraded ratings by Moody's and Fitch have worsened the situation.**

Expectations from India:

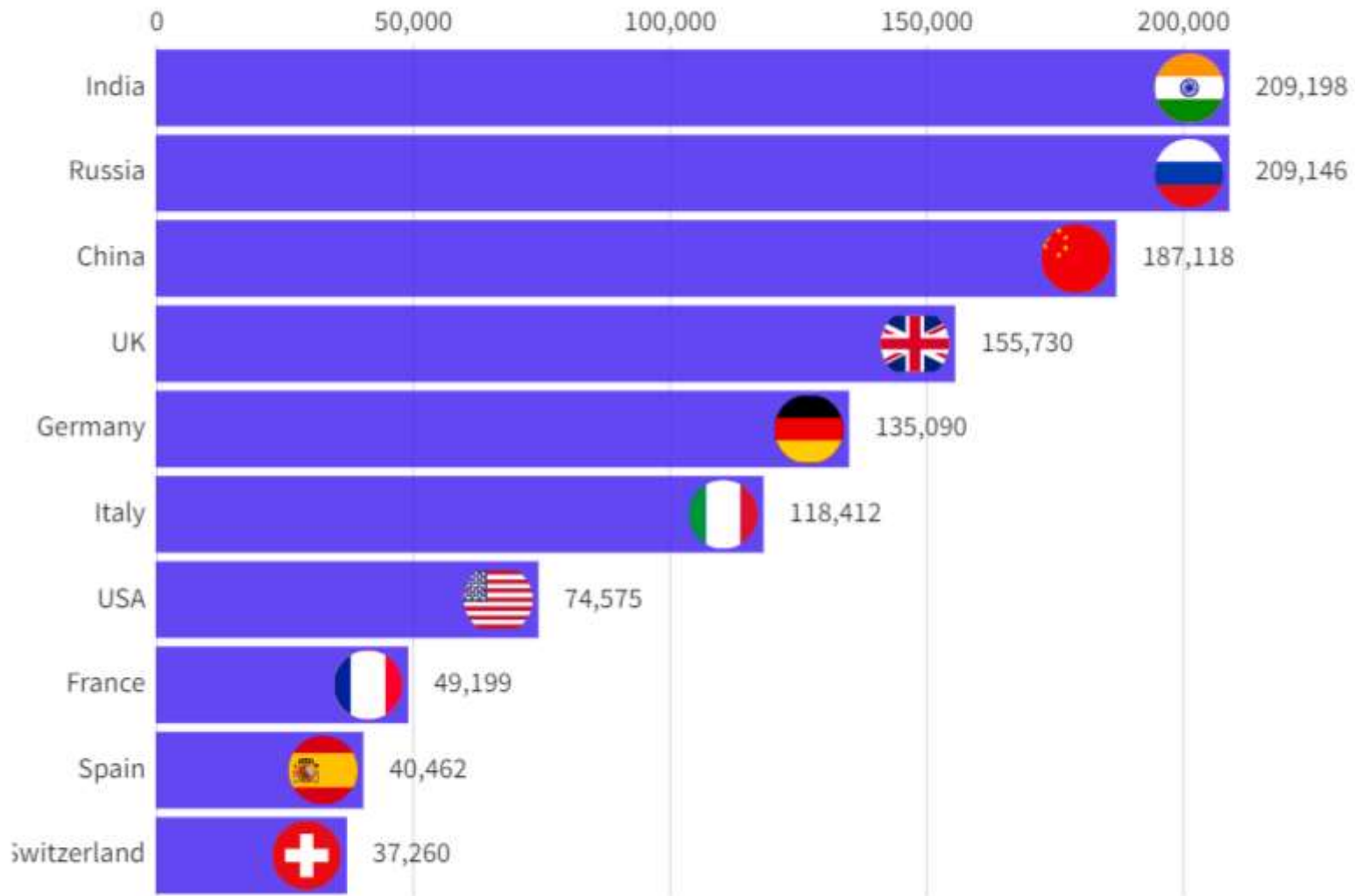
- **President Muizzu is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India to ease the economic burden.**
- **He hopes for a deal similar to the one the Maldives has with China, which deferred loan payments.**

Diplomatic Tensions:

- **Muizzu's visit marks a significant diplomatic turn, following tensions between the Maldives and India over military personnel and anti-India rhetoric.**
- **The visit is expected to help reset relations between the two countries, strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas like infrastructure and trade.**

Tourist arrivals in Maldives in 2023

In 2023, Maldives saw the highest number of tourists from India



Source: Maldives Tourism Ministry
The Hindu Graphics

- **Early Diplomatic Ties (1965-1978):** The Maldives gained independence from the British in 1965, and established diplomatic relations with India.
 - India was one of the first countries to recognize the Maldives as an independent nation.
- **Strategic Partnership (1978-1988):** The signing of the Maritime Boundary Agreement in 1979 helped define the maritime boundaries between the two countries.

- **Political Turbulence (1988-2008):** The relationship faced challenges in 1988 when a coup attempt in the Maldives led to the intervention of Indian forces in Operation Cactus.
 - India's military intervention was aimed at thwarting the coup and preserving the Maldives' political stability.
 - This event temporarily strained diplomatic relations but was later resolved.

- **Period of Strain (2013-2018):** The relationship faced challenges during the presidency of Abdulla Yameen, with concerns over issues such as democratic backsliding, human rights, and a perceived tilt towards China.
 - **The Maldives' growing engagement with China, including infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, raised strategic concerns for India.**

- **Renewed Engagement (2018 Onward):** The election of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih as the President of the Maldives in 2018 marked a shift in bilateral relations. There was a renewed emphasis on strengthening ties with India.
 - **The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, and India extended financial assistance for various developmental projects.**



MALDIVES

★ Male

Equator

SRI LANKA

Colombo

Galle

Trincomalee

Kandy

Trivandrum

Madurai

Cochin

Coimbatore

Kozhikode

MADRAS

Bangalore

- **Essential Commodities:** India supplies Maldives with its everyday essentials: rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, poultry, medicines and life-saving drugs.
- **Education:** Every year, Maldivian students come to Indian higher educational institutions.
- **Economic dependence:** Of the Rs 50 crore total trade between India and Maldives in 2022, Rs 49 crore was India's exports to Maldives. India emerged as Maldives' second largest trade partner in 2022.

Australian High Commissioner visits Arunachal Pradesh

Kalidhasan
PHOTO



Australian High Commissioner Philip Green with Australian official on October 6.

“Our Economic Review on strengthening A&E development initiatives for Arunachal youth in support for vocational, leadership and entrepreneurship with indigenous institutions. We also to promote our youth with world class skills, paving the way for a brighter future. I’m grateful for this opportunity’s assistance to provide high-end skills training for our youth.” Mr. Khanda said, around his official statement. The High Commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh met the 10th Indian State that he had visited to be in his first year since he began a full-time post in 2011. He had a meeting with the state’s Chief Minister, which includes the state’s education and health. The meeting was a part of a series of visits to various sectors of development in the state.

Muizzu to meet Modi, request India's support over looming economic crisis

The Maldives President has said he hopes that India would be ready to ease the Maldives’ burden, he is expected to seek a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. Any default in repayment of the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis.

Indranil Debbar



President Muizzu bin Ibrahim.

Maldives President Muizzu bin Ibrahim is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday morning with a looming economic crisis and an increasing debt repayment on his hands back home. In an interview to an international broadcaster ahead of his visit, Mr. Muizzu said he hoped that India would be ready to “ease the Maldives’ burden” and be expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. He is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. He is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India. He is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India.



President Muizzu bin Ibrahim with Indian officials.

Mr. Muizzu’s visit to India is expected to be a landmark one, as it marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has met a Maldivian President. The visit is expected to be a landmark one, as it marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has met a Maldivian President. The visit is expected to be a landmark one, as it marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has met a Maldivian President.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Indian officials.

Mr. Modi is expected to meet President Muizzu bin Ibrahim on Monday morning with a looming economic crisis and an increasing debt repayment on his hands back home. In an interview to an international broadcaster ahead of his visit, Mr. Modi said he hoped that India would be ready to “ease the Maldives’ burden” and be expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India.

Protests erupt over remarks by former chief of Goa RSS; Rahul Gandhi slams BJP

Pravara
PHOTO



Protest scene in Goa.

Protests erupted in Goa on Monday over the remarks of R. Prakash Karve, the former chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist group. The protests were led by the former chief of the RSS, R. Prakash Karve, who had made remarks that were perceived as divisive. The protests were led by the former chief of the RSS, R. Prakash Karve, who had made remarks that were perceived as divisive.

Gujarat to celebrate Modi's 'development work' from today

Indranil Debbar



Celebration in Gujarat.

Gujarat is set to celebrate the development work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from today. The state government is organizing a series of events to honor Modi's contributions to the state's development. The state government is organizing a series of events to honor Modi's contributions to the state's development.

Tensions in Saharanpur over Narsinghanand's remarks; several FIRs registered

The Hindu Bureau



Scene in Saharanpur.

Tensions in Saharanpur over the remarks of Narsinghanand, a prominent figure in the region. Several FIRs have been registered against him for his remarks. The police are investigating the matter. The police are investigating the matter.

Air Force plans to procure 12 early warning aircraft

Indranil Debbar



Air Force aircraft.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is planning to procure 12 early warning aircraft. The aircraft are expected to be delivered in the next few months. The aircraft are expected to be delivered in the next few months.

Girl raped by two persons in Vadodra

The Hindu Bureau



Scene in Vadodra.

A girl was raped by two persons in Vadodra. The police are investigating the case. The police are investigating the case.

Air Force plans to procure 12 early warning aircraft

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is short of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft, a critical force multiplier, is looking at the procurement of 12 aircraft under two different programmes.

One of them is a follow-on order of six AEW&C systems mounted on Embraer aircraft, akin to the three Netra systems in service. The other order pertains to six AEW&C systems under development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) that would be mounted on Airbus A-321 aircraft.

“We have three of them, the Embraer-based AEW&C. We have plan for six more. We are calling them Mk1A, with minor modifications to the equipment that is inside. [The] idea is to buy the aircraft from Embraer; DRDO Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS) will be doing the modifications. It is a proven design with minimum risk involved and maximum output,” Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said last week. “We should be having it cleared by Defence Acquisition Council very soon.”

The Air chief said the other development relates to the AEW&C-Mk2, with an Airbus-based system,



Netra AEW&C mounted on Embraer aircraft, flanked by Su-30 MKI of the IAF, during an air show in Uttar Pradesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

for which contract negotiations were currently ongoing. “Modification of aircraft is by Airbus, equipment is being developed by DRDO. Initial con-

tract is to be signed with Airbus by DRDO... negotiations are on to come to the correct configurations, as well the price negotiations,” he added.

Six Airbus A-321 passenger aircraft with Air India were transferred to the IAF sometime ago and are awaiting modifications to be undertaken, pending the conclusion of the contract.

Delayed process

Defence officials said that the modifications required for the aircraft turned out to be significantly more extensive and complex than anticipated, and thus the negotiations over the cost too have dragged on, and the process has been delayed.

One official involved in the project said the AEW&C mounted on the Airbus aircraft would pro-

vide 300-degree coverage.

The IAF also operates three Israeli Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) in addition to the Netra AEW&C systems. While the Phalcons, which have a radome mounted on top of an IL-76 transport aircraft, provide 360-degree coverage, the Netra provides 240-degree coverage of airspace.

A shortage of these force multipliers was felt during the aerial engagement with the Pakistan Air Force, a day after the Balakot air strike in February 2019. A long-pending proposal to procure two additional Israeli Phalcons has not materialised.

IAF Procurement Plan:

- The IAF plans to procure 12 AEW&C aircraft to address a critical shortage. The plan includes two separate programs.

First Program - Follow-on Order:

- Six AEW&C systems will be mounted on Embraer aircraft, following the design of the existing Netra systems. These will be designated as Mk1A with minor modifications to improve the current systems.

PROJECT "NETRA"

ISRO has initiated 'Project NETRA' - an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.

•Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis) :

Under the project, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.

They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

Second Program - Airbus-based Systems:

- Six AEW&C systems, being developed by DRDO, will be mounted on Airbus A-321 aircraft. The process of modification and procurement has been delayed due to the complex nature and costs involved.
- These Airbus-based AEW&C systems will provide 300-degree coverage, enhancing air surveillance capabilities.

Existing Capabilities:

- The IAF currently operates three Israeli Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) with 360-degree coverage and three Netra AEW&C systems with 240-degree coverage.

Strategic Importance:

- The need for additional AEW&C systems was underscored during aerial engagements with Pakistan in 2019 after the Balakot airstrikes, highlighting the importance of these force multipliers for air defense and surveillance.

IN BRIEF



Junior doctors continue their hunger strike in West Bengal

Junior doctors of three-run hospitals in West Bengal continued their hunger strike on Monday, demanding safety and security in medical colleges in the wake of rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Bar Medical College. Six junior doctors from different medical colleges and hospitals in the state resumed the strike from 8.30 p.m. on Saturday after the 20-hour deadline by doctors to the state government ended. The doctors have said that the state government would be responsible if the health of the protesting doctors deteriorates. There have been no attempts by the state government to engage with the doctors on hunger strike.

'CBI, ED, police don't arrest people through video calls'

The CBI, police, customs, Enforcement Directorate or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C2) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'high alert' crimes in the country. "During a video call, I4C2 cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes considered under the Internet, Cyber Fraud, and other laws," it said. The public had set out on September 10 for a strike at Chaudhamba III, which has 1,000 nurses and staff. The strike was to protest against the government's decision to open a new hospital in the area. The government had said it was coordinating with other security agencies of the country to ensure safety of the staff against such strikes.

British, American trekkers rescued from Himalayas

Two western trekkers had lost their way during a trek to the Chaudhamba III massif in Chamoli on October 3. They were found by a group of French mountaineers and evacuated by IAF choppers

Usha Mishra
New Delhi

A group of French mountaineers, with help from a pair of Indian Air Force helicopters, on Sunday managed to rescue two western trekkers, an American and a British, who had lost their way during a trek to the Chaudhamba III massif of Chamoli in the Garhwal Himalayas on October 3.

The Uttarakhand government ordered the rescue after Michelle Thea from Denver, US, and Tim Motters, 25, had their big bags containing food and mountaineering equipment.

The pair had set out on September 10 for a trek to Chaudhamba III, which has 1,000 nurses and staff.

It takes over a month to complete this trek, even for experts, as the peak poses several challenges, such as steep slopes, rock and ice sections, and harsh weather.

The trekkers were one of the first two westerners to ascend to "Shantou Direct", one of the seven peaks in the Jorasses in Europe, the best



The rescued trekkers with Air Force and Uttarakhand State Helicopter Management Authority officials on base, which is about 10 km from the base camp.

great ascent to the West Himalayas.

Rescue efforts also had to be carried out in the North Face of the Kiger, the American trekkers said. Walker later on the Chamoli Ridge on Dhaulagiri as part of an all-woman team.

However, it is a momentary setback and trekkers are expected to complete this trek, even for experts, as the peak poses several challenges, such as steep slopes, rock and ice sections, and harsh weather.

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) said that late in the evening of October 5, the District Emergency Operation Centre in Chamoli received information

about trekkers. Two Chopta helicopters were sent for the rescue mission from the base camp at least 10 km from the base camp, early on October 6.

"A lot of effort was made to find the two trekkers on the reconnaissance provided by the Air Force helicopters, but no contact could be established with them," Mr. Jock said.

Search and rescue

This is when the SDMA officials learnt about a group of five French trekkers who had also gone on an expedition along the same route in September 10.

"Through the Indian mountaineering Federation, we informed the team about the two western trekkers. We also shared the possible location of the two and the French trekkers started searching for both. On Saturday night, we were informed that the French team managed to reach out to the western trekkers," Mr. Jock said.

He added that the coordinates of the stranded trekkers were shared with the IAF, which started the rescue on Sunday morning.

Centre makes U-turn on recruitment policy

S. Vignesh Kumar
New Delhi



The Centre will now need to deal with the fact that the railway staff are not happy with the new recruitment policy.

Facing three years of confusion in the appointment of railway officers and difficulties in finding suitable replacements for retiring officers, the Indian Railways made a 180-degree turn on the 2010 decision of recruiting officers in the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) only through the CSE.

The move to restore the earlier system of recruitment comes weeks after Union Minister P. Chidambaram took charge as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board. The decision would also restore the cap on the basis of jobs.

recruitment restructuring of the Indian Railways by abolition of right to property. A section of the railway has a Central list for recruitment. The IRMS, which is the largest recruitment agency for the railway, had departments of Traffic, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication, Stores, Personnel, and Accounts.

The IRMS is headed by a Secretary-level officer on the Railway Board.

The abolition of senior posts was criticised by various associations representing the Railways, including the Pradeshik Yatra Committee (PYTC), Railway Staff Union (RSU), and the Railway Staff Union (RSU).

The IRMS is headed by a Secretary-level officer on the Railway Board. The abolition of senior posts was criticised by various associations representing the Railways, including the Pradeshik Yatra Committee (PYTC), Railway Staff Union (RSU), and the Railway Staff Union (RSU).

Seven of a family killed in a fire at Mumbai building

Poojashah
Mumbai



Seven members of a family in a fire at a building in Mumbai on Sunday. The fire broke out at the fourth floor of a building in the area of the Deonar. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the rest of the floor. The family had been sleeping in the room on the ground floor. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the rest of the floor. The family had been sleeping in the room on the ground floor.

The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the rest of the floor. The family had been sleeping in the room on the ground floor. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the rest of the floor. The family had been sleeping in the room on the ground floor.

THE CROSSWORD 14299

12 Through Time & India China finally is joy (7)
13 Descriptions of old locations (11)
14 Promises extremely peaceful borders (7)
15 Cat's paw introduction - see for money (7)
16 Her red hair went, therefore got work and managed (7)
17 Could be indefinite, also it anyway (7)
18 Diffusion as help rejected by people - (8)
19 How to break persons (7)
Down
1 A person used for relaxing friends (8)
2 Not a line - seems more interested in getting (8)
3 St. Michael's sculpture - they had some elemental message (14)
4 Surrounding by a ring class - (8)
5 -Hurry - one puts up some bad face (8)
6 Not to (8)
7 Why the name - I do not see (11)
8 Captain after losing battles, see (8)
9 Name of a city in India (11)
10 Show two numbers (7)
11 History on human settlement shows wisdom - (8)
12 -and, not even some extent (8)
13 Two artists, two poets - English (8)
14 Come to three things together, and of joy and amazement (8)
15 Curry could be to NATO (8)
16 Soft's reputation seen in American film (8)

- Answers:
1. Count (times time for light) (8)
2. Wild animal (wilderness) - it's a little (8)
3. Perhaps they should take back, isn't very bright (8)
4. Old film that is said to be the best (11)
5. Being "under the back" - getting a job (perhaps) (7)

FAITH

Worship during Navaratri

The word "Rishi" in Sanskrit usually refers to the time of the year. Sri Ramaswami said in a discourse that it does not mean the same, and the word's etymology says that it is an opportunity to be free from karma. The festival said to be a moment for the devotees to do various practices, which can be regarded as karma. The time that gives a small break from the usual routine.

One more meaning attributed to Navaratri. Usually, people tend to think that the Navaratri festival is a time to do various practices, which can be regarded as karma. The time that gives a small break from the usual routine.

The word "Rishi" in Sanskrit usually refers to the time of the year. Sri Ramaswami said in a discourse that it does not mean the same, and the word's etymology says that it is an opportunity to be free from karma. The festival said to be a moment for the devotees to do various practices, which can be regarded as karma. The time that gives a small break from the usual routine.

Centre makes U-turn on recruitment policy

S. Vijay Kumar

CHENNAI

The Union government on Saturday restored the policy of recruiting railway officers through the Civil Services Examination (CSE) and the Engineering Services Examination (ESE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Ending four years of confusion in the appointment of railway officers and difficulties in finding suitable manpower for technical wings, the Indian Railways made a U-turn on its 2019 decision of recruiting officers to the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) only through the CSE.

The move to restore the earlier system of recruitment comes weeks after Satish Kumar took charge as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board. The decision would also remove the cap on the intake of offic-



The Centre will now recruit railway officers through the Civil Service and Engineering Services examinations. FILE PHOTO

ers through the IRMS which was limited to 150 per year.

However, the Railways decided that the recruitment to various departments would be done under the banner of the IRMS through the CSE and the ESE. After the new recruitment policy came into existence, two batches of railway officers who got into service through the CSE and the ESE were trained but have not been given a field posting yet.

Since recruitment through the ESE was dispensed with and engineering and non-engineering candidates competed for limited posts under the IRMS, the Railways found it difficult to find suitable officers for the technical categories such as Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical, and so on, resulting in more number of promotee or subordinate rank officers filling the vacancies.

On December 24, 2019, the government approved

organisational restructuring of the Indian Railways by unification of eight Group-A services of the Railways into a Central Service called the IRMS.

Endorsing the major reforms, the Centre said the Railways had departments of Traffic, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Signal & Telecommunications, Stores, Personnel, and Accounts. These departments were vertically separated from top to bottom, each headed by a Secretary-level officer (Member) on the Railway Board.

The unification of services was recommended by various committees for reforming the Railways, including the Prakash Tandon Committee (1994), Rakesh Mohan Committee (2001), Sam Pitroda Committee (2012), and Bibek Debroy Committee (2015).

The unified Group-A Service called the IRMS was to enable the railways to recruit engineers or non-engineers as per need

and offer equality of opportunity to both categories in career progression.

Rules revised

On Saturday, the Ministry of Telecommunications, being the nodal agency for the ESE, in a letter to the UPSC, said it had notified the ESE-2025 Rules on September 18, 2024, with the last date for submission of application being October 8, 2024.

"It is requested that the participation of Ministry of Railways for recruitment of engineers in various disciplines through ESE-2025 to the IRMS may kindly be added to the existing notification by issuing an addendum to it. In order to provide ample opportunity to the candidates for applying, it is proposed that the last date of submission of application may be suitably extended and notified on the UPSC's website," the Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications, said in the letter.

Restoration of Earlier Recruitment Policy:

- The Union government has reinstated the policy of recruiting railway officers through the Civil Services Examination (CSE) and the Engineering Services Examination (ESE), both conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- This decision ends a four-year experiment with appointing officers solely through the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).

Previous Recruitment via IRMS:

- The Indian Railways had previously opted to recruit officers solely through the IRMS, limiting recruitment to 150 officers per year.
- The IRMS recruited officers for various technical departments such as Traffic, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and others, but the Railways found it difficult to find suitable candidates for technical positions.

Reintroduction of ESE and CSE:

- The decision to revert back to ESE and CSE recruitment is expected to help the Railways find suitable manpower for both technical and non-technical positions.
- The Ministry of Telecommunications has also revised the ESE-2025 rules and requested that the Ministry of Railways consider including engineers through the ESE to meet the demands of technical departments.

Historical Context:

- The move to unify Group-A services under the IRMS was part of major reforms recommended by several committees, such as the Prakash Tandon Committee (1994) and the Bibek Debroy Committee (2015), aimed at streamlining railway operations and management

NEW DELHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

READ TO LEAD

IN THE NEWS

HEAVIEST ISRAELI STRIKES SO FAR BATTER BEIRUT

ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight and early on Sunday in the heaviest strikes in the conflict since Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The attacks targeted Hezbollah's headquarters and a residential area, killing at least 10 people and wounding 30, according to Lebanese health officials.

SBI PLANS TO RAISE HEADCOUNT BY 10,000 THIS FISCAL

THE COUNTRY'S largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), has announced plans to increase its headcount by 10,000 employees this fiscal year. The bank's CEO, Dinesh Kumar Ghosh, said the increase is necessary to support the bank's growth strategy and to meet the demand for digital banking services.

LAT EYES ROLE IN NASA'S NEXT SPACE STATION

AFTER POWERFUL ISS/ISSA space station, NASA is planning to launch its next-generation space station, the Orion, in the next few years. The station will be a key component of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the moon by 2025.

FE SPECIAL

The changing money habits

Consumers are shifting their spending habits, with a focus on digital payments and subscription services. This trend is driven by the convenience and flexibility offered by digital transactions.

SENIOR MANAGERS LEAVING TOP FIRMS

Entrepreneurship bug bites many a real estate financing executive

RADHAYENDRA KASHYAP, Founder, Octopus, said that many real estate financing executives are leaving their jobs to start their own businesses. This trend is driven by the desire for autonomy and the potential for higher returns in the real estate market.



TOP 50 FIRMS HOLD 44% OF TOTAL VALUE

Nifty's m-cap share on NSE at 25-year low

Surge in IPOs & broader market outperformance change market dynamics

YVYK SHARMA, Mumbai, October 6

A SHARP UPWARD in the number of listed public offerings (IPOs) and overseas 'real estate' IPOs has led to a rise in the Nifty's m-cap share on the NSE. The index's m-cap share has fallen to its lowest level in 25 years, at 11.8% as of October 6. This is a significant shift from the 20% share it held in 1999.



Pivot to neutral stance likely

MPC expected to keep repo rate unchanged

END OF 'WITHDRAWAL'

SACHIN KUMAR, Mumbai, October 6

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) is widely expected to change its policy stance from 'withdrawal' to 'neutral' at its monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting on October 8, driven by rising inflation and slowing growth.

While the RBI's monetary policy remains unchanged, the MPC is expected to keep the repo rate at 6.5%. This is a significant shift from the 'withdrawal' stance that has been in place since July 2023.

IndiGo operations return to normal

INDI GO'S OPERATIONS were normalised on Monday, a day after the airline's operations were disrupted by a strike by its pilots. The airline's operations were disrupted for several hours and its flights were cancelled. The airline's CEO, Rajesh Goyal, said that the airline's operations are now back to normal.

Rabi MSP hikes to be moderate

THE GOVERNMENT is likely to announce a 1% increase in the MSP for most crops in the next few months. This is a moderate hike compared to the 2% increase in the MSP for some crops in the previous year.

Q-comm drives vending unit biz

ALONG WITH other vendors, vending unit businesses are seeing a surge in demand. This is driven by the growing popularity of vending machines in schools, colleges, and offices.

Profitability push

IF AN IPO is launched, it is likely to be a profitability push. This is because the company will be looking to improve its financial performance and to attract investors.

Investors confidence increasing over the years



Continued on Page 12

Investors confidence increasing over the years

Latest issuance [more than 3 times of previous size]

Oversubscribed

Dec 2017: QIP-1 (300 Crs)

Jul 2018: QIP-2 (400 Crs)

Jul 2019: QIP-3 (1000 Crs)

Sep 2024: QIP-4 (3500 Crs)

Thank you Investors!

Bank of Maharashtra

Go-ahead for 5th Moon mission, Japan to be expedition partner

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: India, whose lunar ambitions have been more clearly articulated now than a decade ago, is firing on all engines, with the National Space Commission clearing the fifth lunar mission — the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission or Lupex. The commission is the apex body that decides on space missions.

Unlike missions Chandrayaan 1 to 4, this will be jointly implemented by India and Japan but is part of India's lunar series that eventually aims to send an Indian to the Moon and bring her/him back. The Union cabinet cleared Chandrayaan-4 on Sept 18, and Lupex will be put up for cabinet clearance soon, although the commission nod gives Isro the go-ahead to work on the mission.

"We wanted some more approvals (from cabinet) to happen. Possibly, in the coming days, they will also get



An illustration of the Moon mission shared by Japanese space agency Jaxa

approved... We must have a series of Chandrayaan missions which will build up the capability from the current level to the one which will actually send humans to land on the Moon and bring them back," Isro chairman S Somanath told **TOI** in an exclusive interview.

The Lupex mission is aimed at exploring the Moon for water and other resources and gaining expertise in exploring its surface.

"At present, it is at the technical discussion level. Commitment from the Japanese side is known. They have assigned the development of

the rover to a firm. Also, their govt has allocated money for the project and they've identified their launcher for it," Somanath said.

Although Isro and Japanese space agency Jaxa signed an agreement in 2017, one of the challenges that prevented work on Lupex after India's Chandrayaan-2 mission — as was the initial plan — was the inability to demonstrate soft-landing of the lander on the lunar surface.

"...So, we took it up after Chandrayaan-3 soft-landing. We found that the configuration of Lupex spacecraft needed total re-engineering. Also, it should align with the long-term vision of our Moon programme. It cannot be just a replication of whatever we've done, but it should add features, which would ultimately become useful for human landing," Somanath said. He added Isro has completed re-engineering the spacecraft, which called for the development of a new lander engine.

Japan recently landed a spacecraft called SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) on the lunar surface, becoming the 5th country after the Soviet Union, the US, China and India to achieve a soft landing on the moon.

Future Moon Missions

- **ISRO (India): LUPEX with JAXA, Chandrayaan-4**
- **NASA (USA): Lunar Trailblazer Mission, Viper Rover, Artemis 2-6 (Manned mission).**
- **ROSCOSMOS (Russia): LUNA 26-28, ORYOL**
- **CNSA (China): Chang'e 6-8**
- **JAXA (Japan): Destiny+**

Fifth Lunar Mission:

- The National Space Commission has approved India's fifth lunar mission, *Lupex*, which aims to explore the Moon's polar regions for water and other resources.
- The mission will be a collaboration between India and Japan, marking the first joint lunar mission between the two countries.

India-Japan Collaboration:

- The mission is part of India's lunar exploration strategy, which envisions building capabilities for future manned Moon missions.
- Japan's space agency, JAXA, is responsible for developing the rover, and the Japanese government has allocated funding for the mission and identified a launcher for it.

Technical Challenges:

- Previous work on the Lupex mission was delayed due to the failure to demonstrate a soft landing in India's Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- The current Lupex mission has undergone technical re-engineering to ensure that it aligns with India's long-term lunar exploration goals, especially for potential human landings on the Moon.

Future Missions:

- ISRO Chairman S. Somanath emphasized the importance of building up capabilities through a series of Chandrayaan missions, ultimately aiming to send humans to the Moon.
- The mission will undergo further cabinet approvals before proceeding to the next phase.

Shyamji Krishna Varma

- Prime Minister Modi paid homage to revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma on his 95th birth anniversary.

About

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was born on 4 October, 1857 in Gujarat.
- He was an Indian revolutionary fighter, lawyer and journalist.
- To promote the cause of Indian nationalism and freedom, in London he founded the;
 - Indian Home Rule Society
 - The India House and
 - The Indian Sociologist (a journal for advocating nationalist ideas).

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj and was deeply influenced by Dayanand Saraswati.
- He played a role in inspiring Indian revolutionaries like Veer Savarkar, who was also associated with India House in London.
- He also served as the Divan (Prime Minister) for several princely states in India.

India's BRAP 2024 and Its Integration with the World Bank's B-READY Index

- India is aligning its state business readiness rankings with the World Bank's B-READY index as part of the government's efforts to improve the country's ease of doing business.

About

- Alignment with B-READY Index: The BRAP rankings prepared by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will integrate select indicators from the World Bank's B-READY index in their 2024 version.

Rationale Behind B-READY Index

- **The B-READY index is intended to replace the previously used Ease of Doing Business rankings, which were halted in 2021 due to reported irregularities. This new framework aims to consider a broader array of factors when assessing a country's business environment.**
- **Global financial institutions and multinational corporations are expected to use the B-READY framework to gauge regulatory and policy conditions within nations.**
- **The B-READY index will provide an important tool for countries to understand and improve their business regulatory environments, helping attract investments and foster economic growth.**

Word of the day

Strafe:

an attack of machine-gun fire or cannon fire from a low flying airplane

Usage: *It seemed that the plane was going to swoop down and strafe the town.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/strafepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /stɹeɪf/



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A photograph of a group of people in a meeting, clapping their hands. The image is slightly blurred and has a dark overlay. The clapping is the central focus, with hands visible in the foreground and background. The lighting is soft, and the overall mood is positive and celebratory.

Thank you
guys.
