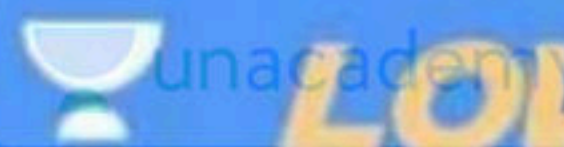


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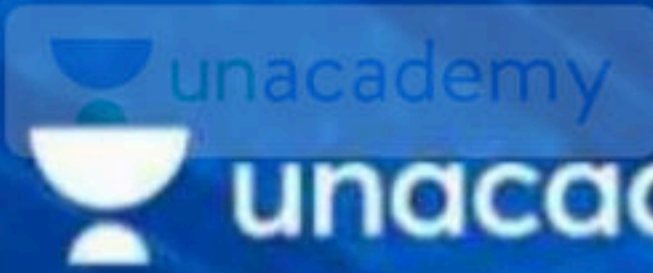
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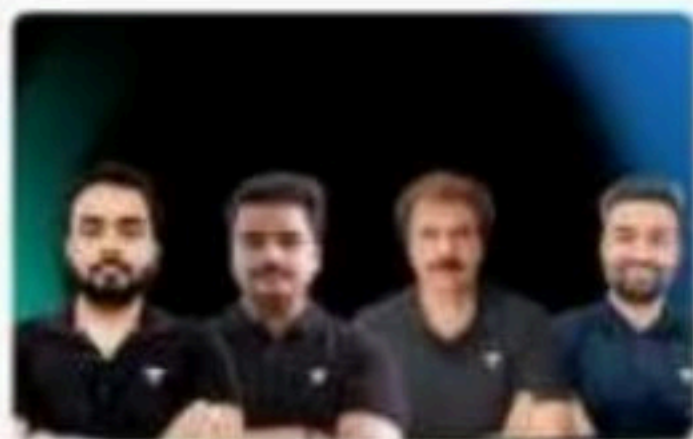
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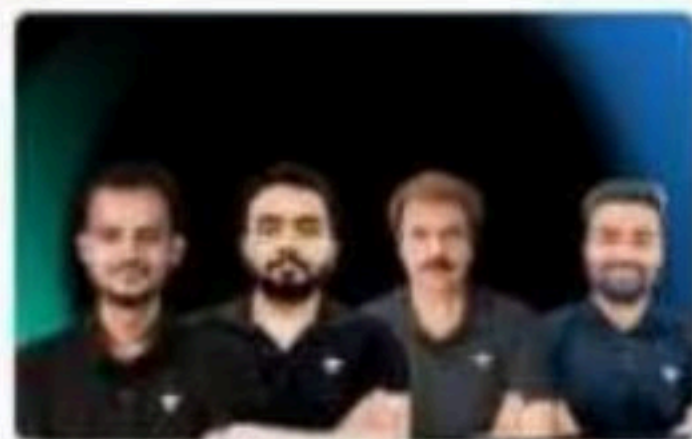
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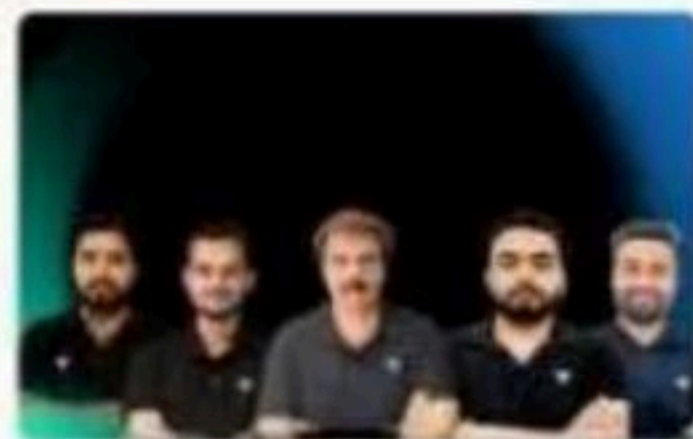
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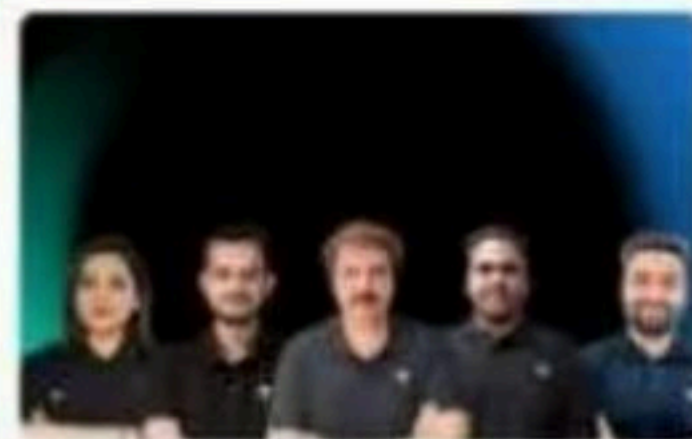
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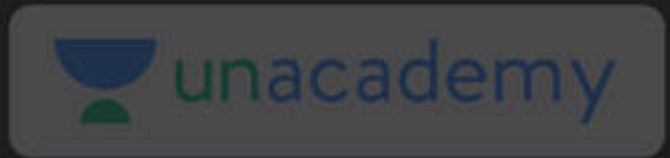


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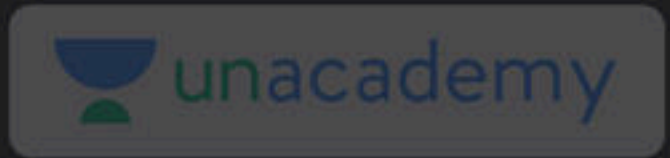
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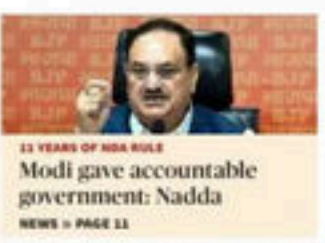
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Four dead after falling off Mumbai local trains

Nine injured in the accident in Thane district of Maharashtra when bags of people travelling on footboards of two local trains moving in opposite directions brushed against each other

Sanjal Matha
THANE

In a tragic incident on Monday, four passengers died and nine sustained injuries after falling off two separate local trains in Thane district of Maharashtra, officials said.

The incident occurred around 9:30 a.m. between the Mumbai and Dombivli railway stations when the bags of commuters on footboard of the two trains travelling in the opposite directions brushed against each other, said Suresh Nila, Central Railway public relations officer.

The guard of one of the trains alerted the railway authorities to the incident. The Thane Municipal Corporation said 13 passengers fell off the train. The four deceased were identified as Ketan Dilip Singh, 21, Rahul Suresh Gupta, 28, Mayur Shah, 50, and Vicky Babasaheb Mahadai, 34, a policeman. The nine injured are treated at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalyan, Thane district. Two passengers, Shiva Gawalk, 21, and Anil More, 40, are in critical condition and have been shifted to a higher medical facility.



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis called the incident "unfortunate". "The Railway Department has launched an investigation into the exact cause of the incident. The injured have been admitted to Shivaji Hospital and Thane General Hospital."

Previous complaints
The Mumbai Railway Passengers Association demanded action against the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) and said they had made complaints twice to the Railway Board that the Dombivli-Kalyan route posed a risk to the lives of commuters. "Many passengers have lost their lives on this route in the past. After the addition of two new routes between Kalyan and Thane, it was expected that passengers would get more local services. However, the DRM gave priority to mail and express trains on these routes," the association said.

Govt., Kuki-Zo groups discuss SoO rules; will meet again next week

Union Home Ministry officials on Monday discussed a change in ground rules of suspension of operations (SoO) agreement, opening of national highways and surrender of weapons at a meeting with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups.

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

The official added that the opening of national highways for free movement of vehicles from Meitl areas and rear areas was emphasised upon. National Highways 2 and 31, which connect the landlocked Imphal valley to Nagaland and Assam respectively, critical for supply of essentials and other commodities, pass through Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

The talks, that were affected due to the May 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, were held in the national capital after a gap of two years.

Review of ground rules
The ground rules of the SoO agreement are being reviewed by the Ministry, and the next rounds of talks are expected next week to finalise the details for its implementation.

A senior government official told The Hindu that the preliminary meeting discussed a road map for restoring normalcy in the northeastern State and finding a long-term solution.



Cargo vessel ablaze off Kerala coast; 4 crew missing, 18 saved

Mithesh Joseph
KOTTICOD

A joint rescue operation launched by the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy saved the lives of 18 persons from a cargo ship that caught fire nearly 88 nautical miles off the coast of Bhopore in Kozhikode, Kerala, on Monday morning.

Two crew members sustained serious injuries, while four others, reportedly citizens of Taiwan, Indonesia and Myanmar, who were involved in firefighting efforts, were missing.

Coast Guard sources said the 270-metre-long Singapore-Flagged vessel, M/V Alon Har 502, was headed to Mumbai from Colombo with over 450 containers and a 22-member crew. The cause of the fire, which later led to the explosion of some of the containers, had not been ascertained.

The incident comes a couple of weeks after a Liberian-Flagged vessel container ship, M.S.C. Ebu Zaid, sank off the Kochi coast in Kerala.



Wife surrenders after Indore man found dead during honeymoon in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya Police said Sonam Raghunandi, who surrendered at a police station in Uttar Pradesh on Monday morning, is a prime accused in the murder of her husband Raja Raghunandi.

The newly-wed couple from Madhya Pradesh's Indore went missing from a village near Schea (Cherra-pung) in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district on May 23, two days after they landed in the northeastern state.

The newly-wed couple from Madhya Pradesh's Indore went missing from a roadside cafe on May 24, and Raghunandi's decomposed body was retrieved from a 200-ft.-deep gorge on June 2. East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police G.P. Vohra said journalists in Shillong that Mr. Sonam surrendered at the Nandgaon police station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district in connection with the murder.

GPS tracking
Reports from Madhya Pradesh, quoting Indore's Additional Commissioner of Police, Anil Singh, said the man was latched on May 26, five days after his marriage with Ms. Sonam. He was also quoted as saying the men accused of killing Raghunandi followed the couple to Meghalaya based on the GPS locations Ms. Sonam shared with them.

Mr. Singh said the Meghalaya Police had arrested four accused men between 30 p.m. on Sunday and noon on Monday in coordination with their Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh counterparts.



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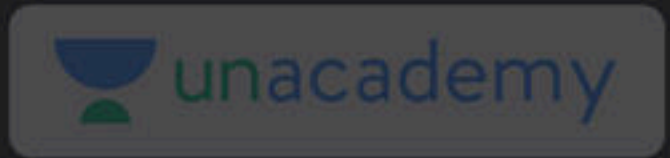
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IN BRIEF



Delhi CM plants 'sindoor' sapling at govt. school

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday planted a 'sindoor' sapling at a government school in Shalimar Bagh and said the country's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack was a reflection of our 'national spirit'.

2 dead as fire breaks out at e-rickshaw charging point

A fire broke out at an e-rickshaw charging point in Delhi's Dilbad Garden area on Sunday, leaving two persons dead. According to the Delhi Fire Service, four fire tenders were rushed to the spot after the department received a call at 11.32 p.m.

India's first e-waste recycling park to be built in Delhi: Sirsa

Facility expected to process 1,000 tonnes of e-waste annually, generate ₹350 cr. in revenue, provide 1,000 green jobs, says Environment Minister

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday announced that the Delhi government has undertaken a project to develop India's first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park in north Delhi's Okhla area.

Mr. Sirsa made the announcement after chairing a meeting on Monday, in which it was decided that the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation would lease a global tender to invite 'the world's best green technology partners' to build the park.

2 days after rape and murder of minor girl, accused still at large

And Ranjan NEW DELHI

Two days after the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in north-east Delhi's Nehru Vihar, the search for the accused, who allegedly sexually assaulted the girl and killed her before stuffing her body in a suitcase, continues to remain under way.

The hunt for the accused is on. Multiple teams of the Special Cell, Crime Branch, and district police are conducting raids to nab the suspect. The accused, who ran a food stall in the area, is suspected to have fled the scene immediately after committing the crime.

Create new Secretariat, suggests House panel

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

The Rules Committee of the Delhi Assembly, chaired by Speaker Vijender Gupta, on Monday proposed granting a separate Secretariat and financial autonomy to the House.

The recommendations are likely to be tabled in the Assembly during the upcoming Monsoon Session in July. "Since its formation in 1993, the Delhi Assembly has operated without a dedicated secretarial cadre or financial independence, which has hampered its efficiency," the official added.

Sisodia skips ACB summons in classroom 'corruption' case

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia did not appear before the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) on Monday for questioning in connection with a case related to alleged irregularities in the construction of classrooms in Delhi government schools, said official sources.

8-year-old boy killed, one injured as roof of house collapses in west Delhi

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old boy was killed while a 45-year-old man sustained minor injuries after a portion of a house collapsed in north-west Delhi's Nangla, the police said on Monday. The incident took place during construction on the roof of the one-storey house.

No stay on demolitions in Batla House, says HC

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused an immediate stay on the demolition of "illegal constructions" in Okhla's Batla House area. The court was hearing a plea by the area MLA, Anamulab Khan of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

THE HINDU SCHOOL BUZZ LAUNCH OF 'YOG SANKALP' Bal Bharati Public School, Ganga Ram Hospital, Mayapuri, New Delhi, hosted the inauguration of 'Yog Sankalp', a wellness initiative launched by the Child Education Society in collaboration with Mokshastan Yog Samithi.

INTER-HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION & EXHIBITION DPSG Vasundhara hosted a vibrant photography exhibition featuring over 50 student photographers from Grades 4 to 12. The event showcased a diverse collection of creative photographs, drawing appreciation from educators and visitors.

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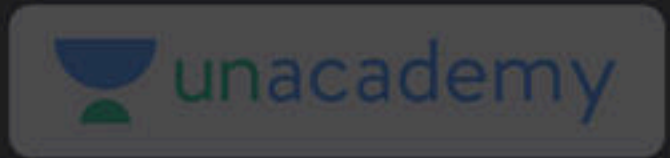
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The Delhi High Court on Monday refused an immediate stay on the demolition of "illegal constructions" in Okhla's Batla House area. The court was hearing a plea by the area MLA, Anamulab Khan of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). It posted the next hearing in the case for June 11, the day of the scheduled demolitions.

66 'illegal' Bangladeshi immigrants apprehended

The Hindia Bureau NEW DELHI

Sixty-six "illegal" Bangladeshi immigrants, including 16 women and 30 children, were apprehended from Wazirpur and New Sahib Market on June 6, the police said. The detainees, belonging to 11 different families, allegedly worked as brick kiln workers in Harjiana's Sub before moving to the Capital, ICP (North West) Bhisham Singh said.



No need to panic: Mamata on COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Amid a spike in COVID-19 cases in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday held a meeting to review the preparedness of the State authorities. While stressing that there is "no need to panic", the CM asked authorities to keep infrastructure updated.

West Bengal has reported 747 active cases, among the highest in the country. "Do not cause panic. However, we need to stay alert," Mr. Banerjee, who also leads the Health Ministry, added.

L. Thirupathi
DELHI

Tuesday, June 01	32.00	32.00	32.00
Wednesday, June 02	32.00	32.00	32.00
Thursday, June 03	32.00	32.00	32.00
Friday, June 04	32.00	32.00	32.00
Saturday, June 05	32.00	32.00	32.00
Sunday, June 06	32.00	32.00	32.00

Delhi Weather Today
42°C Morning will be sunny. Day will be very hot and sunny. Night will be clear. Day weather to prevail.

Delhi Weather Tomorrow
42°C The weather will be dry. Day will be very hot and sunny. Night will be clear. Day weather to prevail.

THE GOVERNMENT
The government has decided to implement the Illegal Expatriation Act, 1953.

Assam sent across 330 'illegal' immigrants to Bangladesh, says CM

Govt. working on the issue proactively, says Sarma in special session of the Assembly; adds that exercise against illegal immigrants will be intensified

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said 330 "illegal" immigrants were sent across to Bangladesh in the last few months.

He added that the penetration of "Pakistani elements and Bangladesh fundamentalists" into Assam has made the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in the State more proactive on the issue than ever before.

"We sent back (into Bangladesh) almost 330 people, and nobody came back. This exercise will be intensified," he said in the 126-member Assembly during a special one-day session.

Mr. Sarma said the State government has decided to

implement the Illegal Expatriation Act, 1953. "People identified as foreigners by the District Commissioners (DCs) will be sent back without referring their cases to the District Commissioners' Tribunals," he said.

Earlier, the minority-based All India United Democratic Front petitioned

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, protesting the "constant" harassment of Indian Muslims under the pretext of identifying and apprehending "illegal foreigners" in the State.

The petition followed the sending across of 14 people, declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunal or facing cases related to their citizenship status, into Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh border guards had refused to take them in, and the 14 returned home after spending a few days on the no-man's land between the two countries.

The CM also said the government has identified 2,600 Facebook accounts operated from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia that "target the indigenous people of Assam".

Former Cong. leader gets top TMC post

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Five days after former Congress MP Shrabana Mukharjee joined the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) party in West Bengal, she has been made the State committee vice-president.

While joining the party, she had said that only the TMC could deal with the challenge presented by the Opposition BJP.

His entry is likely to improve the TMC's prospects in the 2026 Assembly election.

Mr. Mukharjee, a former president of the Durgam Chatterjee Pradesh Congress Committee, said that he had already sent his resignation to Congress party president Mallikarjun Kharge when the State leadership expelled him.

Along with him, Subyasachi Dutta has also been given an important post in the TMC. He is now the

North 24 Parganas chairperson of the party.

Senior MP Kaloli Ghosh Dastidar is the district president of North 24 Parganas, and Kasim Siddique was made the general secretary of the TMC State committee.

Mr. Mukharjee's move to the TMC is the second big shift of a political leader from the Opposition to the ruling party in Bengal. A month ago, the BJP MP from Alipurdia, John Barla, joined the TMC.

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IN BRIEF



Body of soldier killed in Sikkim landslide blown to Lakshadweep

The Army, Air Force, and Navy coordinated the final journey of a soldier from a disaster site at an altitude of 9,000 feet in Sikkim's Mangen district to a little above sea level in Lakshadweep. The mortal remains of Sepoy Satish Kumar P.K., who died after a landslide hit a military camp in northern Sikkim's Chitansen on June 1, were flown about 2,500 km to his native island of Androth in the Lakshadweep archipelago on Monday. His body was recovered on Sunday under the debris in the disaster zone after eight days of relentless search efforts. Five others reported missing remained traceless.

35 villagers hospitalised with undiagnosed illness in J&K

Thirty-five villagers were hospitalised after falling ill due to a mysterious sickness in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, prompting the Health Department to collect water samples and seal the local water sources, officials said. The incident follows a mysterious illness that claimed 17 lives from three families at Budhal in the same district between December 7, 2024, and January 19 this year. "There are people from Chhamban village in Rajouri tehsil were admitted to the hospital after falling ill in the past few days. All are stable. Four of them have been referred to the Government Medical College in Rajouri," a doctor heading the medical team in the village said.

HC questions Bengal govt. over honorarium for sacked school staff

The Calcutta High Court on Monday sought an explanation from the West Bengal government on why non-teaching staff dismissed as per an April 3 Supreme Court order should receive a monthly honorarium while remaining at home, and reserved its decision on the matter. "The assistance that you will be giving to these people, will these people give anything in return? Or they will sit at home and they will earn the money?" Justice Anirudh Saha asked the state's counsel during the hearing of a writ petition challenging honorariums to the dismissed Group C and Group D staff. The petition was filed by a sanitation worker who had not received appointment despite being on the merit list, alleging irregularities in the 2016 recruitment conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC). The petition contends the state's decision to provide financial assistance to the dismissed staff. A total of 2,483 Group C and 4,350 Group D staffers lost their jobs after the Supreme Court, in its April 3 ruling, annulled close to 26,000 teaching and non-teaching appointments made by the WBSSC in 2016, describing the recruitment process as "vitiated and tainted".

A new water harvesting model promises to help Rajasthan's farmers



In the dry heartland of Rajasthan, a transformative rural water conservation model is set to benefit farmers in the upcoming monsoon. Those behind the initiative, which relies on 50 scientifically designed and climate-resilient farm ponds at Kakas village in the State capital of Jaipur, claim it has a 10-core-litre seasonal monsoon run-off conservation potential. The village panchayat in Jaipur district's Amber block is the second place in the State selected for the rainwater harvesting enterprise, following the successful installation of farm ponds in the rained land of Dausa district. As many as 250 ponds dug in the grassland land of Dausa have enabled the farmers to get perennial crops. Nearly 99.4% of the agricultural cultivable land in Jaipur is dependent on groundwater for irrigation. The district extracts 2.22 times the water recharged through rain every year. The project in Kakas emphasises the sustainability and livelihoods of peasants, with a focus on the availability of water for irrigation. The initiative involves constructing 80-foot-deep, plastic-lined ponds on 5% of each farmer's land, reinforced with fencing. The ponds are designed to capture rainwater, ensuring year-round irrigation for rabi and kharif crops and enabling the return of sustainable livestock rearing and high-value horticulture. Person behind initiative An alumna of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, Vipra Goyal, who has been working with the farmers, said while the construction of 50 ponds had been completed recently, 25 more were being dug to secure sustainable water supply to the rural households, which would help about 50,000 villagers in the region in the long term. Farmer Ram Phool of Kacheravala village, near Kakas, told The Hindu that he planned to sow crops like groundnut and chauli (cowpea) following the inflow of water into the pond installed at a corner of his land spread across eight bighas (nearly five acres). "One has to dig as much as

Bengaluru stampede: Cong. high command summons Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar

Karnataka HC scheduled to hear today case pertaining to the death of 11 people outside stadium; CM and deputy likely to present facts on tragic turn of events to central leaders of party in Delhi



CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy S.K. Shivakumar have been caught in the cross hairs following the stampede in Bengaluru. (I.A. Prasad)

Monday is likely to be a testing day for the Karnataka government. While the Karnataka High Court is scheduled to hear the case pertaining to the stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, in which 11 people were killed on June 4, the Congress high command has summoned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to Delhi for a meeting on Tuesday morning. The Chief Minister late on Monday evening held a meeting with Home Minister G. Parameswara and Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty to discuss the case that has been taken up by the High Court. The AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Surjewala, is likely to have special access to the Chief Minister on Monday afternoon, asking him to come to Delhi. Meanwhile, party sources said both the Chief Minister and his deputy had been summoned by the party to meet central leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, on Tuesday morning where their views on the M. Chinnaswamy stadium stampede would be sought. The AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Surjewala, is likely to have special access to the Chief Minister on Monday afternoon, asking him to come to Delhi. Meanwhile, party sources said both the Chief Minister and his deputy had

police failure led to the tragedy, was likely to bring up the role of the Bengaluru police of withholding information from him about the tragedy that had unfolded nearly two hours earlier. The sacking of political secretary R. Govindraj is also being seen for his ill-timed advice and pressure to hold the event despite police misgivings. The sources said the CM also believed that the police were not clearly forthcoming about not allowing the event, and Dr. Parameswara was also not kept in the loop. Though he attended the event at Vidhana Soudha, the sources said the CM was initially not inclined to participate until the Karnataka State Cricket Association officials met him that day. The issue of reshuffle of the State Cabinet could be discussed by the CM with the high command during the meeting. According to party sources, the reshuffle would include change of portfolio of some Ministers while dropping a few was also on the cards. The Cabinet subcommittee set up by the Punjab government to study the war against drugs decided on Monday to establish a robust system for the treatment of drug addicts and an increase in the number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, State Finance Minister Harpal Singh said. He said this crucial step comes as the ongoing campaign against the drug menace has successfully disrupted drug supply lines, leading to a 50% increase in individuals seeking treatment. "With an increasing number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, the subcommittee has moved

Rahul seeks justice after murder of Dalit youth at ration shop



Rahul Gandhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday demanded the arrest of the culprits who shot dead a 19-year-old Dalit youth during an altercation at a ration shop in Chhatrapur, Madhya Pradesh. The incident occurred on Sunday in Bilhari village under the Nagnag police station limits, 25 km from the Chhatrapur district headquarters, police said. Condemning the incident, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the youth, Pankaj Prajapati, was shot dead in broad daylight only because he was a Dalit who demanded his share of rights. Taking to X, the Congress leader alleged that 11 years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre have been "full of humiliation, violence, and discrimination against Dalits, tribals, backward castes, and minorities". According to the police, a dispute broke out between Prajapati and three others while buying goods from the fair price shop, during which one of the others fired a gun. "Pankaj Prajapati died on the way to hospital," said Nagnag Sub-Divisional Police Officer Amit Mishra. He said a case has been registered against Praveen alias Katta Pataria, Naren Pataria, and salesman Kameshwar Jeyara under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and the Arms Act. The police raided the houses of the accused, but they managed to flee. A team has been formed to trace them. "No FIR filed" Mr. Gandhi alleged that no FIR was registered and the post-mortem was postponed because "the guilty leader is sitting in the lap of power and the power belongs to the Manusmriti and anti-Bahujan BJP". "I stand with the Prajapati family and every Bahujan in the country. This is a fight for respect, justice, and equality, and we will win this fight at all costs," the Congress leader said.

Goa govt. doctors set 24-hour deadline for Health Minister to tender apology to CMO



Health Minister Vishwaji Rane speaking to CMO Dr. Rudresh Kantikar at the Goa Medical College and Hospital on Saturday. (I.A. Prasad)

Doctors from the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCCH) on Monday halted their protest for a day against State Health Minister Vishwaji Rane and set a 24-hour deadline for him to personally apologise to the senior doctor whose suspension he had ordered in public view. Chief Minister Feroz Khan said he would be visiting the facility on Tuesday to meet the striking doctors. Mr. Kantikar held a meeting with GMCCH Dean Dr. Shiva Sankar Bandekar, Medical Superintendent Dr. Rajesh Patil, and representatives of the Goa Association of Resident Doctors and Consultants at his official bungalow during the day. After the meeting, the CM said the doctors have placed 10 demands before him, a majority of which have been accepted. Doctors held a protest against the Minister, while some demanded his resignation. Earlier in the day, the State Health Minister had tendered an apology through social media to the doctor. The protesters, however, were not satisfied with the gesture.

Punjab plans a robust rehab system as more addicts seek out help

The Cabinet subcommittee set up by the Punjab government to study the war against drugs decided on Monday to establish a robust system for the treatment of drug addicts and an increase in the number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, State Finance Minister Harpal Singh said. He said this crucial step comes as the ongoing campaign against the drug menace has successfully disrupted drug supply lines, leading to a 50% increase in individuals seeking treatment. "With an increasing number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, the subcommittee has moved

YouTube sent to judicial custody in spying case

A Mohali court on Monday sent Punjab-based YouTuber Jasbir Singh, arrested on espionage charges, to judicial custody. Mr. Singh was produced before the court after the completion of his police remand. After his arrest on June 4, he was sent to three days of police remand following which it was extended for two days. Mr. Singh's counsel, Mohan Chatur, said a writ will be produced in court again on June 23. Singh also Jaan Mahal, 41, was running a YouTube channel, 'JaanMahal Vlogs', with over 11 lakh subscribers, ostensibly posting travel and cooking vlogs. He was alleged to be in close touch with Haryana-based influencer Jassi Mahotra, who is in judicial custody on charges of spying for Pakistan. The Cabinet subcommittee set up by the Punjab government to study the war against drugs decided on Monday to establish a robust system for the treatment of drug addicts and an increase in the number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, State Finance Minister Harpal Singh said. He said this crucial step comes as the ongoing campaign against the drug menace has successfully disrupted drug supply lines, leading to a 50% increase in individuals seeking treatment. "With an increasing number of drug addicts seeking treatment at government de-addiction centres and hospitals, the subcommittee has moved

AgustaWestland case: locate accused's missing security file, says court

The facts that have come on record during recent hearings on the grievance of James, is a matter of serious concern that the case file of the inquiry, on the basis of which the report dated August 29, 2019 was issued in the AgustaWestland case, Special Judge Sanjay Jindal termed the lapse a "serious concern" and directed the Director General of the jail to locate it and file a report on the matter by July 7. The remarks came after the Bihar authorities submitted in the court that the original report sought by the court was "not traceable despite best efforts". "Considering the seriousness of the issues related to this case by poisoning him.

Muhammad Iqbal Jaipur

In the dry heartland of Rajasthan, a transformative rural water conservation model is set to benefit farmers in the upcoming monsoon. Those behind the initiative, which relies on 50 scientifically designed and climate-resilient farm ponds at Kakas village in the State capital of Jaipur, claim it has a 10-core-litre seasonal monsoon run-off conservation potential. The village panchayat in Jaipur district's Amber block is the second place in the State selected for the rainwater harvesting enterprise, following the successful installation of farm ponds in the rained land of Dausa district. As many as 250 ponds dug in the grassland land of Dausa have enabled the farmers to get perennial crops. Nearly 99.4% of the agricultural cultivable land in Jaipur is dependent on groundwater for irrigation. The district extracts 2.22 times the water recharged through rain every year. The project in Kakas emphasises the sustainability and livelihoods of peasants, with a focus on the availability of water for irrigation. The initiative involves constructing 80-foot-deep, plastic-lined ponds on 5% of each farmer's land, reinforced with fencing. The ponds are designed to capture rainwater, ensuring year-round irrigation for rabi and kharif crops and enabling the return of sustainable livestock rearing and high-value horticulture. Person behind initiative An alumna of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, Vipra Goyal, who has been working with the farmers, said while the construction of 50 ponds had been completed recently, 25 more were being dug to secure sustainable water supply to the rural households, which would help about 50,000 villagers in the region in the long term. Farmer Ram Phool of Kacheravala village, near Kakas, told The Hindu that he planned to sow crops like groundnut and chauli (cowpea) following the inflow of water into the pond installed at a corner of his land spread across eight bighas (nearly five acres). "One has to dig as much as

IN BRIEF



Naidu launches offices to focus on 'Swarna Andhra 2047'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the establishment of Vision Action Plan Unit offices at all district and constituency levels marks a formal launch of the "Swarna Andhra 2047" vision. Earlier, Mr. Naidu had said that the vision was formulated on the lines of the Centre's Viksit Bharat vision to achieve more than 9% annual growth in the State. He said until now, MLAs had no dedicated government office at the constituency level, and that gap has now been filled through these units. Each unit will have a team of nine members.

Hema panel: Kerala HC grants additional time to file report

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Monday granted two more weeks to the special investigation team (SIT) to file a report on the ongoing investigation into the sexual harassment complaints received following the submission of the K. Hema Committee report. It was submitted before the bench that owing to a bereavement in the family of an investigating officer, the SIT would require 10 days' time to submit the report. Advocate General K. Gopalkrishna Kumar submitted that the State government had decided to hold a film conclude in August, 2025 to discuss the framing of a film policy and issues related to the film field with members of the film field.

A.P. Police books journalist over 'derogatory' remarks

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Andhra Pradesh police arrested Komalini Srikanth Rao, a senior journalist working in a Telugu TV channel, on Monday. He landed in a controversy after he moderated a debate with V.V.R. Krishnam Raja, a journalist and political analyst recently. People from various sections and regions have lodged multiple complaints with the police over a debate that allegedly contained derogatory comments on the women from the Atmarani region, which was aired by the TV channel, and moderated by Mr. Srikanth Rao. A team led by Thudur DSP Maruti Krishna Rao arrested Mr. Srikanth Rao in Hyderabad on Monday and it was confirmed by the police at the Guntur district headquarters. The police also informed a team in force for Mr. Krishnam Raja, who could not be found at his residence in Vijayapada.

Meanwhile, condemning the debate telecast by the channel, Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Chairperson Rajasree Saluja demanded an unconditional apology to the entire State by the channel management. She questioned how they could broadcast a debate, which was unacceptable in any society. "Women's Commission will write letters to the Press Council of India, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, seeking stringent action against the TV channel. Its licence should be cancelled," Ms. Saluja said. The Atmarani farmers, women and all Joint Action Committees have called for protests outside the offices of the TV channel.

For a trapped predator, instinct to live overrules impulse to hunt: experts

Sandeep Vellamra
DELHI

Everybody wondered why the tiger didn't eat the dog - after all, they were stuck together in a deep pit at a private camanum plantation in Kerala's Makkal district for more than five hours before being rescued on Sunday. However, Kattappan Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rajesh offered an explanation: "In such situations, wild animals usually don't attack; their only aim is to escape the danger. An extraordinary glimpse of wilderness grace where survival eclipsed savagery," he said. Wildlife expert P.S. Easa observed that normally, tigers do not hunt dogs, but leopards do. "When a dog notices a tiger, it may bark, prompting the tiger to chase it, which can lead both animals to fall into a trap," Dr. Easa further said that in both animals found themselves trapped, their instincts to live overruled their impulse to hunt.

The official further said that such incidents were reported in the past. In a similar incident in February 2023, a leopard that was trapped along with a dog in the soil of a farmhouse in Kerala for nine hours.

Kerala govt. plans to claim insurance over ship accident

Govt. is looking for adequate insurance compensation through negotiation with owners of MSC Ebu 3, which sank on May 25; decision was taken at a meeting between the CM and D-G, Shipping

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though the sinking of MSC Ebu 3 off the Kerala coast sparked significant environmental concerns, including potential oil spills and spread of hazardous chemicals, the State government is of the view that there is no need to file an immediate criminal case against the shipping company. Instead of pursuing a criminal case against the company, the government is looking for adequate insurance compensation through negotiation. According to a note prepared by the Chief Secretary, accessed by The Hindu, a



Liberian flagged container vessel MSC Ebu 3, which sank off the Kerala Coast on May 25. (Hindustan)

per a discussion held between the Chief Minister and the Director General of Shipping on May 28, the entire focus at this time should be on collecting evidence of damages so that evidence-based claims can be raised.

SC refuses urgent hearing of T.N.'s plea on funds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined Tamil Nadu's oral plea for an urgent listing of its original suit accusing the Centre of stopping its annual share of

education funds to the state, said the lack of funds would impact the future of nearly 18 lakh students in the State. A Vacation Bench headed by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra found no urgency in the case. Senior Advocate P. W.

son, who mentioned the suit, said the impact of funds would impact the future of nearly 18 lakh students in the State. A Vacation Bench headed by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra found no urgency in the case. Senior Advocate P. W.

Operation to salvage ship begins: DGS

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The underwater salvage operation of MSC Ebu 3 began on Monday the Director General of Shipping (DGS) said.

The vessel's owner Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) had roped in the Singapore-based TAT Salvage for the task. The salvage team has mobilised diving support vessel SEA-MARC III, and 12 divers will carry out air-diving operations.

Complainant in communal remarks case held in Kolkata

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The Kolkata police on Monday evening arrested Wazir Khan, who had lodged a complaint against social media influencer Shaamisha Panoli for allegedly uploading a video with communal comments, in the city, a senior officer said.

Mr. Khan was hiding in a flat in the Ambher Street area from where he was picked up, the officer said. Mr. Khan, who was absconding, has been booked under various sections of the BNS, including those dealing with promoting enmity between different groups based on religion, race, and insults or attempts to insult religion.

An FIR was registered against him at the Golf Green Police Station in south Kolkata for allegedly promoting hate speech and hurting religious sentiments through his social media posts. The other charges slapped against him included sections on provoking breach of peace and statements conducing to public mischief.

The personnel from the Kolkata Police Anti-Rowdy Section of the Detective Department earlier con-

Khan ignored three consecutive summonses for questioning and remained on the run till he was arrested, police said

ducted raids at Digha and Howrah in the city, a senior officer said.

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IAS officer who was caught taking bribe sent to jail

Press Trust of India
BILGAONWALA

A day after being caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of 10 lakh from a businessman in Odisha, IAS officer Dhanan Chakma was remanded in 14 days' judicial custody by a court on Monday. Vigilance officers recovered 147 lakh in cash from his residence in Kalahandi district on Sunday. He was working as the Sub-Collector of Dhanuamath.

According to a vigilance statement, the 2020 batch IAS officer had threatened a local businessman to act against him if he does not pay 100 lakh to him. The businessman reported the matter to the Vigilance authorities.

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(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
बिलावल, 832001, पूर्वांचल / Laibong, Vidarbha, Gujarat 390004

ADMISSION NOTICE : AY 2025-26

Sub. Email: admission@gsu.ac.in

Discipline	Level	Program	Duration	No. of Seats	Entrance Test
Technology	Undergraduate Programs	B.Tech. in Civil Engineering (Specialization - Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	JEE (Main) 2025 Admissions through JOSAA and JOSAA website. www.josaa.in www.jee.ac.in for details.
		B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Specialization - Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering (Specialization - Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering (Specialization - Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization - Transportation and Logistics)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Aviation Engineering	4 Year	40	
Management	Post-Graduate (Regular) Programs	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	MBA U.S. SCORE - CUET PG/UGAT CAT/MAT
		MBA (Ports and Shipping Logistics)	2 Year	30	MBA (PG) - MBA CAT - CUET PG/UGAT CAT/MAT
Technology	Post-Graduate (Executive) Programs	M.Tech (Advanced Transport Systems)	2 Year	30	GVV Entrance Test
		M.Tech (Advanced Engineering)	2 Year	30	
		M.Tech (Bridge and Tunnel Engineering)	2 Year	30	
		M.Tech (Road and Highway Engineering)	2 Year	30	
Management	Post-Graduate (Executive) Programs	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	GVV Entrance Test
		MBA (Advanced Transportation)	2 Year	30	
		MBA (Advanced Rail Management)	2 Year	30	
Technology / Management	Doctoral (Research)	Ph. D (Engineering/Management) with a focus on Transportation & Logistics. Candidates for Working Professionals in Govt, Industry PSU, R & D organizations, Laboratories, Defense Forces, NGOs, and Banking/Finance Institutions.	-	-	GVV Entrance Test

For Application procedure and detailed information, visit the University website: gsu.ac.in or Contact us at: admission@gsu.ac.in for any admission related query/information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The only University in India exclusively focused on transport and logistic education.
- Multi-disciplinary programmes based on research and development addressing industry needs.
- Innovation Lab & Industry-Oriented University with strong emphasis on industry connect.
- Collaborations with top industry and Higher Education Institutes.
- Highly experienced and unique interdisciplinary pedagogical approach incorporating latest technologies.
- Financial support to Meritious and needy students - up to 100% GVV Funding (upto 20% of students); 50 Corporate scholarships (MBA, B.Tech, PGDIP, etc.)
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- State of the art railway facilities and infrastructure.
- Excellent hostel facilities for the UG students and female PG students (for regular students only).

Police working to track down lost phones in Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
PILIHANANTHETTA

"Hello, this is the Pampas police calling. You are currently using a mobile phone that was reported lost at Sabarimala. Kindly, send it to the Pampa police station." It's the kind of call that has taken many by surprise, but has also led to over a hundred lost mobile phones making their way back to their owners. The call is made by the Cyber Help Desk of the Pampa police station, which has been contacting individuals across various States after tracking down phones lost in the rush of Sabarimala. In the previous pilgrim season alone, 230 devotees who visited the temple complained that their phones had gone missing. But thanks to this digital dragnet run by a 12-member team, led by Pampa Police Inspector C.K. Manoj and Kanni Deputy Superintendent of Police R. Jayaraj.

TREPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(Department of Power, Government of Tripura)
Ph.No-7 No.F. 6487/TREPURANCE/0025-26/1735
Date: 06/06/2025

NOTICE INVITING BIDDERS
On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDAG), Joint Director, TREDAG, invites tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of cumulative capacity up to 10 MW Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants (RTS) including 10 years Warranty / Guarantee, Annual Maintenance Contract at Government Establishments in Tripura on turnkey basis vide Ph.No-7 No.F. 6487/TREDAG/NCES/2025-26/1735, dated 06/06/2025. The tender papers may be downloaded from a procurement portal <http://trepura.trepuradev.gov.in> and the deadline for submission of online bids is 01/07/2025 upto 3:00 PM. (05 DASH)

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Tighten the process

The EC must address legitimate concerns about voter rolls, transparency

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has raised important questions about the conduct of elections based on what transpired in the 2024 Assembly elections in Maharashtra. There are specific issues: the abnormal increase in voters listed in electoral rolls between the general election and Assembly elections, higher turnout numbers after 5 p.m. on voting day, and the Centre amending the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to restrict access to CCTV footage of the polling process. Mr. Gandhi has also questioned the process of appointing Election Commissioners, with the Union government refusing to implement a Supreme Court judgment in 2022 that recommended having the Chief Justice of India as a part of the selection panel. While political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, have raised complaints about Electronic Voting Machines in the past, many did not stand scrutiny considering the administrative and technological safeguards. The Congress has now focused on the electoral process, raising more fundamental issues that need to be unpacked separately.

A preliminary analysis by The Hindu of registered voters in States where the general election and Assembly elections were proximate showed that there were precedents of sharp increases in the electorate before Assembly elections. While the number of new voters added before the Assembly elections was high — more than 20 lakh voters in just six months following the general election — similar increases were observed in 2014 as well. The increase of nearly four million voters in a large number and the EC should proactively release real-time verifiable data on the rolls for verification. Regarding the allegation that turnout increases were abnormal after 5 p.m., the argument does not hold water. This is based on provisional turnout figures, and Election Commission of India (ECI) data show that there was no significant increase in voting after 5 p.m. in Maharashtra. Provisional turnout figures shared via an app by the ECI are not entirely accurate as these are dependent on the manual entry of numbers during elections and may have discrepancies when compared to the accurate machine count. As final figures via Form EC-data from each booth are released only after a lag, it would be incorrect to rely on provisional turnout figures. However, there is another contention that merits the ECI's response: retaining CCTV footage and providing parties and their nominees access to it to scrutinise complaints. The process of updating electoral rolls must be more transparent and involve political parties for scrutiny and verification. It is also incumbent upon parties to show sincerity during this process than cry foul after the results are out. Ultimately, the onus lies on the ECI to enhance transparency in the electoral process and, specifically, in providing electoral rolls and retaining CCTV footage for scrutiny.

History lessons

The top loser in men's and women's tennis now sports a well-earned look

The yearning for historical greatness is common among sports fans. Contemporary success and genius notwithstanding, there is often a tendency to hark back to the past and lament that present-day virtuosos are not a patch on the older ones. In tennis, this storyline was expected to unfold in the immediate aftermath of the 'Big Three' era as Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal exited, and Novak Djokovic started displaying his waning powers. It is to Carlos Alcaraz and Janik Sinner's credit that they have allowed none of this talk to surface. Sunday's first-round five-set French Open final was the latest piece of evidence as the Spaniard outlasted the World No. 1 over five hours and 29 minutes of intense, scintillating action. The victory brought Alcaraz his fifth Grand Slam trophy, and the World No. 2 became only the third man after Gustavo Kuerten and Nadal to defend titles at Roland-Garros this millennium. Alcaraz and Sinner have now swept the last six Majors and eight of the previous 11. They are firmly perched at the top of tennis' current totem pole, and going by the 12th act of their engrossing play in Paris, there is little doubt that it is their rivalry that will prove era-defining for the men's game.

Leading it, it was Sinner who had been more clinical, with the highlight being the ruthless dismantling of 24-time Major winner Djokovic in the semifinals. The 23-year-old had won 29 straight sets at Slams this year, and when he made it 31 by pocketing the first two against Alcaraz, a third straight Major — fourth overall — loomed. But Alcaraz, who came in after triumphs in Monte Carlo and Rome, found a higher gear when three-setted — raising three match points in the fourth set, breaking Sinner when the Italian was serving for the championship and overcoming his own disappointment of failing to serve it out in the fifth stanza to turn the tables fully. Saturday's women's final between No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 2 Coco Gauff was as dramatic and capricious, but alternated between middling and glorious. In the end, it was Gauff who proved steadier, overcoming some treacherous conditions and her erratic opponent in two hours and 38 minutes. Sabalenka, in fact, was the favourite, having also ousted three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek en route. But her power-packed game crumbled in the face of Gauff's restrained art as the American left her marling consecutive defeats in Slam finals. For Gauff, 21, it was her second Major, and with a technique that is arguably inferior to Sabalenka's, it was a triumph that is arguably inferior to Sabalenka's.

A population is a group of inhabitants in a particular place. A people, as in "We the People," is the preamble of the Constitution, is a political community. The counting and the labelling of the population under multiple categories, i.e., a census, is not merely a technical exercise. It mediates the transformation of the population to a people in a significant manner. The people — a political community — have a shared view of how they govern themselves and allocate their resources. The 2027 Census will so impact the notion of people that it is going to be a continental event, like the COVID-19 pandemic that delayed the decadal census which was to happen in 2026.

A census counts the total population, and under various categories and qualities — rural and urban, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), economic activity, literacy and education, housing and household amenities, migration, fertility and mortality. It also enumerates the latest administrative map of the country. A census, technically speaking, only captures the reality that exists, but the very act of capturing it under definitive categories alters and creates realities. There are organic, natural demographic trends which are underway whether you document them or not. For instance, we know that more people in Chennai or Mumbai speak Hindi today than 20 years ago. In the same time period, we know that Kerala received and sent out a large number of migrants, but we do not know the exact numbers. These patterns of birth, death, migration, languages, and economic activity will have political implications; their recording itself is an application of that process. The study of this link, between demography and politics (political demography), is an underdeveloped field the world over.

Issue of parliamentary representation
After half a century, India's parliamentary representation will be reallocated between the States. Article 31 of the Constitution mandates that the next inter-State redistribution representation according to population will be done after "the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published." The Census of 2026 was delayed due to the pandemic, but it could have been done much earlier than now. In normal course, the first Census after 2026 would have been in 2031, with the new delimitation exercise after that. The delay in the 2026 Census has advanced the exercise by at least five years. This is going to be the first census in which all data will be captured digitally, and its processing can be much faster than previous ones which took up to three years.

The work of past Delimitation Commissions took years, but that too will be much quicker in the next round. All things considered, it is



Varadharaj K. George

The new Census will accelerate the social and political impacts of demographic changes

possible, and even likely, that the general election in 2029 can be conducted on the basis of a new parliamentary map of India. What happens if the distribution of population becomes the sole criteria for the redistribution of parliamentary seats? Some States have grown faster population-wise and slower economy-wise; are moving from where there are more of them to where there are fewer of them such as from the north and central regions of the country to the west and southern regions, and also to Delhi NCR which is in the heartland. This movement is linked to demography and the economy. People are moving in search of better opportunities, and, in many cases, to escape distress. Regions of higher economic growth attract people from elsewhere, while their native populations age. If relative population remains the only and sole criteria for an inter-State reallocation of parliamentary representation, political power will move from regions with a 'stronger economy-low birth rate' combination to regions that have a 'weaker economy-high birth rate' combination. The Centre has said that the demand for fair delimitation from States that fear a reduction in their political representation will be discussed at the appropriate time, but there is no clarity as yet on its thoughts on this issue.

Factors of caste, revenue sharing
There are other adjacent factors that are inherent and contingent upon Census 2027, which will be determinants in this remaking of the people. For the first time since Independence, all castes will be counted separately as against the counting of only SCs and STs now. The caste census until 2011, during British rule, triggered multiple claims and resultant politics. It will be difficult to predict the political impact of a new caste census, but it is certain that the clamour for removal of the 50% ceiling on quotas will get louder. The best delimitation will allocate one third of the seats in Parliament and Assemblies for women. The Centre has made it clear that it will push for simultaneous elections to Parliament and the State Assemblies.

The individual citizen is considered to constitute the elementary unit of people in liberal democracy. But a simple reading of the relevant provisions of the Constitution makes it clear how group identities were accepted in the constitutional scheme of things — before that in the national movement, and later in governance. National unity of the modern Republic of India was designed in three dimensions — unity of religions, castes and regions as highlighted in an article in this daily, "National unity, a three-dimensional view" (Editorial page, October 6, 2023). That contract of unity is now being renegotiated to make place for the changes and the learnings of at least 50 years. Census 2027 is a

milestone in this ongoing process and will unleash unpredictable forces.

There is also a simultaneous development that is also relevant in this context. The sixteenth Finance Commission (faded with making recommendations for revenue sharing across States and between the Centre and the State for five years and commencing its work from April 1, 2026), is in deliberations with stakeholders. It is trying to make its recommendations available by October 31, 2025. The mechanism devised by the previous Finance Commission for revenue sharing remains a source of grievance for many States. The sixteenth Finance Commission's report will have the additional import of its timing, coming as it does on the cusp of a dramatic realignment of political power across social groups and regions.

From a population to a people, the transition is achieved by administrative measures and politics. Census categories have been a key determinant in Indian identities. The first Census of 1951, under the colonial administration, had rigid religious and caste categories of its Indian subjects — which have remained key determinants of politics since then. All politics in India has been about various attempts to slice and dice and aggregate and disaggregate these categories. Population management involves the absolute numbers of people, their spatial distribution and their quality through health care and education. None of this, especially, education is a particularly notable field.

Integral to political strategies
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seeks to achieve its goal of national consolidation through a change in thinking of how Indians see themselves as a people. It is not a disinterested actor in this emerging scenario of a demographic transition. A population-based inter-State delimitation will shift political power to its strongholds and weaken its political opponents. Gender and caste are national categories. By introducing these factors, the BJP can shift the delimitation debate beyond the conflicting demands of regions, and create new political constituencies. The Congress and the Left too are theoretically national formations, which require them to balance regional aspirations and national requirements. The Congress is trying to reclaim some space in heartland politics by joining the caste debate, but it remains to be seen how its contest with the BJP will progress on this count. The BJP has a sustaining vision of national identity, and a population-based delimitation is a tempting route for it to follow. Alternatively, if it wants to emerge as a truly national party which measures interests across castes, regions and religions, then this is a good opportunity for it.

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Empowering women in agriculture for food security

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, garnering the support of over 100 co-sponsors. The resolution celebrates the essential role of women in global agriculture while raising awareness of their challenges, which include property rights and market access.

This article highlights insights from a symposium on women in agriculture organised by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India with participation and guidance from the Government of India. It distils the discussions over six months, with 200 participants from diverse fields and backgrounds coming together to address the challenges women in agriculture face.

Some of the observations here also stem from a collaborative project called ENACT, or Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender Transformative Approaches, in Assam, implemented by the WFP in partnership with the Government of Assam, in Nagaoon. The project aims to empower smallholder farmers, particularly women, to access climate-related information and make informed decisions to enhance their resilience. The project is financed by the Government of Norway under its strategy to promote self-sufficiency in food production and strengthen women's rights and their role in food production.

Ownership, control and access
Nearly half the global food supply is made possible by the contributions of women, who are responsible for 60% to 80% of food production in developing countries and account for 39% of the agricultural labour in South Asia. These figures highlight the vital role of women in agriculture, who face barriers and inequalities. In India, the percentage of women who own agricultural land is significantly lower than that of men, despite women constituting a substantial part of the farm workforce. Approximately 80% of economically active women are employed in agriculture. Yet, only 14% of landowners are women. According to the latest National Family



Mari-Elin Sinner is the Ambassador of Norway to India



Elizabeth Faure is the Representative and Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme in India

Health Survey, female land ownership is even lower, at 8.2%. Women farmers in India report that their lack of land ownership makes it difficult to obtain credit and limits their access to financial institutions. Regular access to information on agricultural planning and advisory is essential for farmers, but women have more limited access to technology, such as mobile phones. These obstacles hinder investments, technology adoption and improvements in livelihoods. While microfinance and self-help groups provide some access, such loans are often insufficient for significant investments.

The Government of India supports small women farmers to enhance skills and promote sustainable agriculture. The Mulla Khasi Sakhakharan Paripajista upgrades skills and increases resource access for women, while the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation offers 50% to 80% subsidies for machinery. Additionally, 30% of the National Food Security Mission's budget is allocated for women farmers in a number of States and Union territories.

Empowerment for resilience
Climate change disproportionately affects women farmers by increasing their domestic responsibilities and elevating their exposure to agricultural risks. Our area has witnessed rapid weather changes. The variety introduced by the project is designed to resist flood damage, and the crops can survive underwater. We are hoping for a better harvest," says Nirmali Bora Hazarika from Baha village in Nagaoon.

By engaging with women farmers, it is possible to develop replicable models of climate adaptation at the village and community levels. The women in agriculture symposium generated forward-looking ideas. The ENACT project primarily focuses on women farmers with experts through information technology, providing actionable agricultural and climate advisories weekly via their phones to over 300 farmers in 17 villages of Nagaoon district.

Additionally, the Climate Adaptation Information Centres facilitate video conferencing and meetings, informing women farmers about

agriculture and livelihoods. This shows how scalable impact can be achieved by combining technical expertise, diversification through farm-based livelihoods, information and weather advisories, use of technologies and social behaviour change interventions.

The project is leveraging partnerships with State and district administrations, which include the Department of Agriculture, the State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and the Department of Meteorology and Environment. The technology partners include agricultural universities, institutions for sourcing climate-resilient crop varieties.

Rural ecosystems and dependent livelihoods are vulnerable. Responses to risks should reflect community needs and capabilities. The ENACT project emphasises the promotion of food-resilient rice varieties, livelihood diversification, and market linkages to mitigate crop damage from flooding and promote the cultivation of nutritious local varieties. Women's farmer groups engage in a community-based smart seed production system to enhance sustainability.

Steps to take
Policy design and implementation should take into account the unique needs of women farmers. Granular data with a gender lens are needed to develop solutions tailored to women's needs. These could range from rethinking farming tools to financial needs and practices around saving or credit.

There should be a strong focus on agrifood chains that support women farmers and are managed by women. Part of this could be to enhance women's access to financing mechanisms and information while supporting their collective action and networks, such as women's self-help groups.

We have a historic opportunity to mark 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, to promote resilient agricultural development and gender equality by recognising, supporting, and enhancing the role of women in ensuring food security, fostering economic prosperity, and promoting sustainability.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ships and Kerala coast
The back-to-back shipping accidents off the Kerala coast raise serious environmental, regulatory and security concerns. The silence around the investigation is disturbing.

cargo manifests of these ships points to gaps in international shipping oversight. Port authority accountability and marine environmental safety enforcement are very

that is one of India's most ecologically sensitive and densely populated. Have environmental norms been compromised in favour of corporate convenience or subtle bribery.

deserves nothing less than full disclosure and strict preventive measures. K.A. Solomon, S.L. Purohit, Alappuzha, Kerala. French Deen

question why Janik Sinner was unable to convert one of the three championship points in the fourth set which led to his defeat. Carlos Alcaraz was the best player, as it is clear the

Chatter: Victory belongs to the most tenacious; V. Lakshmanan, Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in

When triumph turned into tragedy

On June 3, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) clinched its maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. When Virat Kohli announced that night that celebrations would extend to Bengaluru the next day, the atmosphere turned electric. Fans in Bengaluru celebrated with gusto the entire night, with firecrackers and full-throated chants and slogans. The wait for the title for its long years led to a burst of emotions and joy. What added to this excitement and the hurry to celebrate immediately was the imminent departure of Kohli the next day to London.



Yashvardhan Arad
IPS officer (retd.), former Central Information Commissioner, former Special Director, Intelligence Bureau, and former Secretary, Security, Government of India

Unheeded advice
What was missing in this tremendous build-up to the victory parade was a calm and rational response from the administrative arm of the government. Amid the frenzy, according to reports, the Police Commissioner, B. Devaranda, rightly advised restraint and suggested that the celebrations be held a few days later. But the government allegedly did not listen to his advice. There is no clarity yet on why this was the case. It is well known that any state government would like to cash in on such an event for political gains. This government was clearly no different.

A Police Commissioner can directly talk to top hierarchy of the government. He should have got a clear 'yes' or 'no' from the Chief Minister. If the Chief Minister wanted to go ahead with the function, the police would have had no choice but to make the arrangements. What actually seems to have happened is that no one took a clear decision. Thus the celebrations in the crowded metropolis were ill-conceived and the messaging unclear, which became a recipe for disaster.

It was clear that the State government made the event look like a State function. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar went to

the airport to receive the champions. The government invited the team to Vidhana Soudha, the seat of State Legislature and Secretariat. There, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Governor Thambusaranth Gobbet congratulated the team. Another function was held for fans at the Chinnaraswamy Stadium and Mr. Shivakumar was present at that event. The function at Vidhana Soudha gave the public adequate time to throng the stadium. More than 2 lakh people reportedly congregated at the gates, leading to the stampede that claimed lives.

The police were clearly overwhelmed by the sheer numbers and the lack of medical and other facilities. According to reports, the passes or tickets that were to be given to fans to go inside the stadium were to be given near the gates. The RCB management took to social media on the morning of June 4 and announced a victory parade nevertheless. The State government ignored the advice of the key official and joined in the premature celebrations. Worse, instead of owing up to it and asking one of its own to resign, it suspended the Police Commissioner, holding him solely responsible for the tragedy.

As usual, the government has constituted a one-man judicial commission to probe the tragedy. As the commission goes about its work, the real issues – the unforgivable lapses in administration – will remain obfuscated and slowly get buried in the sands of time.

And what about the head of the force – the Director General of Police? Should he not have taken a stand? Is, the Police Commissioner the fall guy? Support has been pouring in for him on social media for advising the government correctly. Not one Minister has been able to give a justifiable, logical argument as to why this happened or how it was allowed to happen.

We also need to ask why the government chose to be associated with this programme. This is not the Karnataka Royal Team. It is a cricket league run by a private franchise. During the IPL, a couple of cricket teams owned by rich people select players through an auction. Money pours in from advertisers and sponsors because the public loves to see stars flying all over the stadium. Yet the cricket mania seems to have gripped politicians too. By holding a State function and hence politicians meet the players elevated this championship victory to a much higher status.

The RCB management and the Karnataka State Cricket Association clearly took advantage of the government's indecision and went ahead with their plans to glorify themselves and market their achievements. The police have said that they did not grant permission for a victory parade, but the RCB management took to social media on the morning of June 4 and announced a victory parade nevertheless. The State government ignored the advice of the key official and joined in the premature celebrations. Worse, instead of owing up to it and asking one of its own to resign, it suspended the Police Commissioner, holding him solely responsible for the tragedy.

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Foreign aid and financial woes

The stand-off between the Kerala government and the Centre continues

STATE OF PLAY
Tibi Rajeev
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When reports last week stated that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Maharashtra had been allowed to receive foreign contributions under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), the CPIM-led Left government in Kerala was quick to depict this as yet another act of discrimination against the southern State by the Centre. It recalled that the Centre had declined the Kerala government's plea for accepting foreign aid in the days following the 2018 floods – a catastrophe that left large-scale destruction in its wake.

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said that while his State welcomed the approval for Maharashtra, it believed that it was unbecoming of the Central government to indulge in "political bias" in moments of great crisis. He stressed that it is important that the Centre treats every State equally. He added that it was unfortunate that politics, and not the scale of disaster, had become the yardstick in such matters. This was an apparent reference to the fact that the BJP-led Mahajutt coalition governs Maharashtra.

In the aftermath of the floods, the Centre had sparked a controversy by declining permission for Kerala to accept foreign aid, including a reported ₹700 crore offer from the UAE.

Kerala's discordance with the foreign aid nod to Maharashtra is the latest episode in a protracted stand-off between the State and Centre. Kerala believes that it is being discriminated against, and de-

mand its fair share of financial resources by the Centre. It has reportedly complained about drastic cuts in financial allocations to it, and the "unfair limits" placed on its fiscal space. The Kerala government had taken the battle over restrictions on its borrowing capacity to the Supreme Court.

On the political front, the CPIM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has consistently accused the Centre of attempting to "financially choke" Kerala. It has blamed the Centre's skewed policies for the State's financial woes. The State government believes that recent Union Budgets have also caused disappointment to the State, as they have ignored pressing demands on the financial front. For instance, Kerala's plea for a ₹24,000 crore economic package to prop up its finances were not mentioned in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Union Budgets. More recently, the government announced the Union Finance Ministry for cutting a little over ₹3,300 crore from its borrowing limit for the 2025-26 fiscal under the pretext of the Guarantee Redemption Fund.

The foreign aid nod to Maharashtra also presented the LDF government an opportunity to reiterate its dismay over the Centre's approach to the Guarantee Redemption Fund. The foreign aid nod to Maharashtra is the latest episode in a protracted stand-off between the State and Centre. Kerala believes that it is being discriminated against, and de-

gramme, which included the holding of assemblies with amenities for survivors. Mr. Balagopal said that the people of Kerala had, on two instances, expected Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce special aid to Kerala: first, when he visited that district in August last year, and second, when he visited Thiruvananthapuram to inaugurate the airport at Vaidyanji. On both occasions, their hopes were dashed, he said.

Time and again, Kerala has accused the BJP government of paying scant regard to cooperative federalism – the driving spirit of Centre-State relations. It is evident that the trust deficit between the two entities on financial matters persists, notwithstanding the much-discussed broad-based meeting that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hosted for Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at New Delhi in March. It remains to be seen how Kerala's financial grievances concerning Union government policies will be addressed, as the southern State inches closer to a forensic election season. The by-election in the Nilambur Assembly constituency in Malappuram district is set to take place in the first half of 2026.

In matters of State finances, Kerala will be keenly watching the recommendations made by the 10th Finance Commission led by Arvind Panagariya later this year. The State has sought a higher share of resources, arguing that its share of the divisible pool was brought down to 1.52% under the 10th Commission from 3.88% under the 9th.

Delimiting by electors rather than population offers a fairer approach

The principle of 'one person, one vote, one value' is more closely aligned with the number of electors than population

DATA POINT

Amish Gupta

Several recent articles in the mainstream media suggest that a delimitation exercise – if carried out with population as the primary criterion for allocating parliamentary constituencies (PCs) – would disproportionately disadvantage the southern States. Proponents of this view argue that the southern States, having adhered more rigorously to family planning norms than their northern counterparts, would either receive comparatively fewer PC seats or could even be left with less seats than what they have currently.

But the broader question that has not been adequately discussed is: what is the most rational criterion for allocation of PCs: population or the number of electors?

Electors in a constituency are not always a subset of the population. Many electors may live outside their registered PCs, or may have failed to register. Census records are sensitive to migration, as they are based merely on a stay of six months or more (or even an intention to stay), without even requiring any proof of residence or registration in the voter list. Migrants also generally avoid delay transferring their voter registration for various reasons. Furthermore, variations in the age structure – such as a higher proportion of under-18s – may also lead to large differences in elector numbers between PCs with similar populations. Importantly, the principle of 'one person, one vote, one value' aligns more closely with electors than the population. Using elector data avoids the walk for a Census and offers a more accurate measure of representation.

Electors disparity
The value of a vote can be considered inversely proportional to the number of electors in a PC. In

significantly across regions and over time. Union Territories (UTs), hilly States, and north-eastern States have consistently had a disproportionately high vote value. In Bengal, which is more than the 16 seats allotted to both Bihar and West Bengal.

The fairer approach is to allocate seats based on electors. In the table, column 4 shows the proposed PC seats if the total number of seats is raised to 800. To avoid penalising smaller States and UTs, their current seat count is preserved, which results in a total of 803. The table shows that among the large States, Rajasthan (76%), Karnataka (80.7%), and Telangana (88.8%) would see the highest percentage gains in seats.

The current narrative – that PCs are allocated solely on the basis of population, and that the potential reduction in seats in southern States is primarily due to their strict adherence to family planning policies – are not entirely accurate. First, constituency allocation has never been based purely on population. Other considerations, i.e., geographical challenges and minimum representation, have always played a role. Second, linking political representation to population control sets a dangerous precedent. By that logic, similar claims could be made for representation based on religion or caste. For instance, Jains, among all religious groups, and upper castes, among all social groups, have the highest adherence to population control, while Muslims and Scheduled Tribes have comparatively higher fertility rates. Third, when the criterion of using population for the formation of PCs was originally adopted, the consequences of the population enumeration method and the impact of large-scale migration were not anticipated. Therefore, the principle of 'one person, one vote, one value' in a true sense is more closely aligned with the number of electors than the popula-

Rajya Sabha representation
According to the elector data for 2024, the southern States account for just 22.4% of India's electors, yet they hold 23.8% of Lok Sabha seats. Their representation in the Rajya Sabha is even more skewed, at 24.4%, exceeding both their share of electors and their Lok Sabha seat share. The pattern is reversed for the other States. Although they comprise 73.7% of In-

of Lok Sabha seats and just 64.4% of Rajya Sabha seats. In particular, Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha seats which is lower than Bihar's 40 or West Bengal's 42, but it has 18 Rajya Sabha seats, which is more than the 16 seats allotted to both Bihar and West Bengal.

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An alternative choice

The data is based on the author's calculations using the 2024 electoral list. Table: The proportional number of Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) based on the number of electors

State/UT	Current seats (1)	Electors (2)	Proposed seats (4)	Adjusted seats** (5)	% Increase (6)
Andhra	25	4,34,13,887	33.8	34	36
Assam	28	5,47,72,330	44.8	46	63.7
Bihar	20	2,19,77,096	23.7	23	15
Chhattisgarh	35	4,24,24,947	52	52	32.8
Goa	17	3,32,32,318	27.2	27	58.8
Haryana	40	7,72,83,379	63.2	63	57.8
Himachal Pradesh	21	2,26,26,667	33.9	37	54.5
Jharkhand	38	4,81,81,345	59.3	59	53
Karnataka	37	2,12,17,911	33.9	37	70
Kerala	34	2,18,77,882	23.2	23	11
Madhya Pradesh	29	2,48,48,812	48.4	48	58.4
Maharashtra	48	9,16,16,760	76.1	76	58.3
Odisha	7	1,32,14,338	13.4	13	65.7
Punjab	21	3,17,18,365	27.8	28	32.3
Rajasthan	13	2,13,17,196	17.8	18	38.5
Tamil Nadu	23	5,21,21,013	43.8	44	16
Telangana	30	15,44,43,112	128.3	128	57.8
West Bengal	42	7,62,24,780	62.3	62	47.8
Andhra Pradesh	1	1,15,745	0.3	1	0
Chhattisgarh	2	4,88,842	0.7	2	0
Assam	14	2,47,72,114	20.1	20	41.9
Chhattisgarh	2	4,82,242	0.3	1	0
IMR & DP*	2	4,17,236	0.3	2	0
Goa	2	11,79,844	1	2	0
Himachal Pradesh	4	3,11,13,363	4.7	5	25
Jammu & Kashmir	5	86,2,246	7.2	7	40
Kerala	3	1,59,576	0.2	2	0
Ladakh	1	27,882	0	1	0
Madhya Pradesh	2	2,12,212	1.7	2	0
Meghalaya	2	27,942	1.8	2	0
Mizoram	1	4,41,217	0.7	1	0
Nagaland	1	12,25,383	1.1	1	0
Punjab	2	10,24,224	0.8	1	0
Tamil Nadu	1	4,83,433	0.4	1	0
Telangana	2	20,78,896	2.2	2	50
Uttar Pradesh	8	94,11,101	6.6	7	40
All India	543	92,78,45,249	806	819	49.2

*Rounded off and without any decrease in the existing number of seats for the smaller States (UTs) Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Goa and DP.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1975

Govt. considering action on U.K. restrictions on Indian doctors

New Delhi, June 9: The Health Ministry is expected to come out soon with the steps proposed to be taken in the wake of the decision of the General Medical Council of Britain to place curbs on registration of Indian doctors. The Director General of Health Services, Dr. J.P. Shrivastava, to-day had a meeting with the Secretary of the Medical Council of India, Dr. Krishna, and representatives of the Indian Medical Association and discussed the various issues arising from the British decision.

Dr. Shrivastava, who had met the Indian High Commissioner and Indian doctors in London on his way back home from Geneva after attending the WHO session last week, is reported to have applied the meeting to-day of his talks in London.

Although the British Medical Council has attributed its decision to its inability to monitor the standard of medical education in India, the feeling in official circles here is that the decision is motivated by a desire to reduce the number of overseas doctors, particularly from non-European countries.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1925

Mahatma in Bengal

Siliguri, June 9: Long before the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi the hill people mustered strong at all principal stations of the GRT road running from Siliguri to Darjeeling. It was 11 in the morning. The weather was not clear and a thick mist kept hanging on the hills. A good number of hillmen had assembled at the Kurseong Railway Station to welcome the Mahatma. The Mahatma, who arrived in a motor car, was greeted with thundering roars of "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" from all sides. The hill men were so moved that not a few eyes were wetted up with tears. Any one who had the opportunity of touching the feet of the Mahatma thought that he was absolved of all sins.

Mahatma's car made its way slowly through the ever increasing crowd of human beings and it took almost an hour to cover a distance of half a mile. Men clung to the car like flies on a wall.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of drones launched by Russia on Ukraine on Sunday

479 Apart from drones, 20 missiles of various types were fired at offshore parts of Ukraine, according to the air force, which said the barrage targeted mainly central and western areas of Ukraine. Ukraine's air defences destroyed 277 drones and 19 missiles in mid flight. *—*

The decrease in China's exports to the U.S. in May

35 In per cent, China's exports rose 4.8% last month, slowing from an 8.2% year-on-year increase in April. Imports declined 1.4% year-on-year, leaving a trade surplus of \$103.2 billion. China reported \$28.8 billion worth of goods to U.S. in May, compared with \$44 billion a year earlier. *—*

Number of Nepali nationals deported by the U.S. on Sunday

37 This is the largest number of Nepalis deported by the U.S. in a single day. Anjan Kanyane, a spokesperson for the Immigration Office at Tribhuvan Airport, said that with Sunday's deportations, 177 Nepali nationals staying illegally in the U.S. had been sent back since President Trump assumed office. *—*

The increase in Taiwanese shipments to the U.S. in May

87.4 In per cent, Taiwan's exports to the U.S. hit a record high in May as the self-ruled island seeks to strike a deal with Washington to avoid hefty tariffs. Taiwanese shipments to the U.S. soared 87.4% in May from a year ago to \$25.5 billion, finance ministry data showed. *—*

The growth in Saudi Arabia's GDP in the first quarter

3.4 In per cent, Saudi Arabia's economy grew by more than expected in the first quarter of 2025, according to government data estimates, with lower oil prices impacting the economy less than previously forecast. Oil GDP shrank by 0.3%. *—*

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How drones are the new face of warfare

The ubiquitous drone is rapidly becoming the weapon of choice in active combat, serving as a force multiplier to achieve strategic objectives while blurring the distinctions between military-grade and commercial technologies

WORLD INSIGHT

Punhan Das

India's Operation Sindoor in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack has marked a notable shift in the country's adoption of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in combat. In combination with standoff weapons, India's use of UAVs in active combat represents a tactical shift in military doctrine — part of a global playbook. Ukraine's Operation Spider Web also marks a turning point in how low-cost, improvised unmanned systems can be employed with strategic impact.

Global precedents

The ubiquitous drone is rapidly becoming the weapon of choice serving as a force multiplier to achieve strategic objectives while blurring the distinctions between military-grade and commercial technologies. Building resilience in drone warfare requires India to build modularity and redundancy in mass produced drones, and nurture a responsive defence production base.

The Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020 provided one of the first demonstrations of how drones can change the nature of aerial warfare with new capabilities. Azerbaijan's success hinged on the use of loitering munition or kamikaze drones, like the Israeli made Harop drones, in destroying air defences.

Additionally, the war in Ukraine has emerged as a real-world laboratory for drone technology, with rapid innovation and counter innovation cycles defining modern warfare. However, Ukraine's most obvious innovation was the country's ability to produce and deploy a wide variety of drones. In Myanmar also, rebel groups are deploying 3D printed drones against a better equipped military, leveling the playing field.

As India continues to reform and modernise its military, learning and applying the right lessons from recent conflicts, including Operation Sindoor, is key. Among New India's adversaries, China already has a large and diverse fleet of unmanned systems, which could provide it with an edge in a potential war along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Pakistan too has bolstered its unmanned weapons capabilities through collaborations with China and Türkiye.

Drone resilience

Drones are vulnerable to many countermeasures such as electronic warfare, guns and air defences. The impact of drones, therefore, depends on its ability to evade or overwhelm defences against them.

Countermeasures against drones in the form of air defences come with limitations and vulnerabilities and can be defeated through a range of technologies and tactics, making innovation and counter innovation a critical part of drone warfare. India's counter-drone systems include multifaceted sensors and weapon systems, as well as indigenously developed soft- and hard-kill counter UAV systems. Both played a crucial role in thwarting Pakistan's drone and missile attacks in the recent flare-up of hostilities.

To evade such systems, drones can, with advanced navigation, be made to adjust flight. Similarly, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and frequency hopping can be used to overcome jamming and spoofing manoeuvres. For instance, Ukraine has incorporated machine vision algorithms and pre-loaded terrain data to



New modes of combat: An Indian soldier pictured with a drone at the Ahimsa sector near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu on May 25, 2019

air defences. By operating at low altitudes, drones can exploit gaps in radar coverage and reduce the likelihood of detection.

Some drones are also designed with electronic warfare features, allowing them to jam or spoof enemy radar and communication systems. These capabilities enhance their survivability and effectiveness in contested environments. Ukrainian developers came up with a simpler solution — tethering a drone to a fibre-optic cable for guidance.

Alternatively, employing a large number of drones and decoys to fly in mass can overwhelm and confuse air defence and surveillance systems. Russia's drone campaign, for instance, makes use of Shahed drones to saturate Ukrainian air defences. It causes dilemmas on the rate of attrition of limited air defence assets, and creates openings for precision strikes.

India's air defence systems tied together under the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) performed well against numerous Pakistan drones and missile attacks. Boosting procurement and domestic production of munition stocks for its air defence systems (S-400, MB SAM, Akash, etc) will be key to building magazine depth in any protracted conflict. With regard to the offence debate, given the low survivability rate of current drones, India will need to invest in building volume in its drone and loitering munition toolkit.

The military-commercial crossover

Ukraine's Operation Spider Web demonstrated that low-cost UAVs combined with accessible technologies and innovative employment strategies can have strategic impact deep into enemy lines. The operation targeted four air bases inflicting damage to Russia's long range bomber fleet.

The fact that almost any drone can be used and modified to become an offensive weapon, coupled with the widespread use and accessibility of drones, has

military-grade and commercial drone systems. Moreover, the indiscriminate use of the term "drones" obscures distinctions in capabilities, intended uses and public perception.

While advanced military-grade drones offer greater capabilities, they also come with higher costs and logistical challenges. Easily available commercial systems, open-source software, and modular engineering have lowered the entry barrier for the adoption of drone technologies. There is a trade-off between adding capabilities to drones and an increase in cost, size, and complexity. For example, drones such as China's Wing Loong, Iran's Shahed, or Turkey's TB-2 incorporate low-cost and dual-use technologies.

Innovation in technology has not been the only novelty in drone use, for manufacturing has also changed. 3D printing is rapidly becoming a key multiplier. For instance, in conflict zones such as Ukraine (Iran Fajr) and Myanmar (The Liberator MK and MG) 3D printers provide alternate sources to mitigate manufacturing shortages. The adaptive employment of off-the-shelf drone technologies by non-state actors is providing states with valuable lessons in asymmetric and low-cost aerial capabilities. For example, the U.S. and the U.K. are exploring commercial 3D printing volumes to mass produce drones at scale in order to manufacture bespoke components of weapons systems, thereby bypassing complex, expensive and often slow-moving logistics supply chains.

India needs to prepare for the inevitability of easily weaponised commercial drones being used by terrorist organisations and non-state actors against its strategic and civil infrastructure. Counter-drone systems and tactics cannot be the prerogative of the military alone and should also be prioritised by internal security agencies.

Implications for India

The widespread adoption of drones in warfare signifies a shift in military strategy

THE GIST

▼ The war in Ukraine has emerged as a real-world laboratory for drone technology, with rapid innovation and counter innovation cycles defining modern warfare.

▼ For India, drones complement other weapons and can partially offset capability gaps as part of an asymmetric defence strategy vis-à-vis China.

▼ Of the many lessons from the ongoing war in Ukraine, one stands out — the importance of a defence industrial base that can keep pace with the high-intensity of modern conflict.

weapons along with drones during Operation Sindoor, India has introduced a layer of strategic ambiguity — one that expands its toolkit vis-à-vis Pakistan in the space between conventional and nuclear. Meanwhile, China's export of drones, among other platforms, to Pakistan adds a layer of complexity to India's security challenge.

China's own drone capabilities are rapidly advancing as significant investments have been made in building up a diverse fleet of drones, including long-range systems like the Sounding Dragon, KQ-005, TH-001, and Wing Loong II alongside affordable kamikaze drones, like the CH-901, designed to overwhelm enemy defences through swarm tactics. This poses a significant and evolving military threat to India along the LAC.

For India, drones complement other weapons and can partially offset capability gaps as part of an asymmetric defence strategy vis-à-vis China. However, India needs to view the wars in Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Myanmar as cautionary tales for the need to mass produce an affordable mix of drones.

Of the many lessons from the ongoing war in Ukraine, one stands out — the importance of a defence industrial base that can keep pace with the high-intensity of modern conflict. To fully realise India's drone potential, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) needs to support the defence industrial base to be able to scale production and create surge capacity. The ability to reconfigure and quickly replace drones, loitering munitions after losses, and surface-to-air missiles will make India more resilient.

India's asymmetric procurement of systems has generally discouraged industry from ramping up its production capacity.

Addressing underlying structural issues that lead to uncertain demand is key in order to incentivise industry to ramp up production capacity and innovation in defence.

Punhan Das is a strategic affairs analyst

ABSTRACT



New method: Limestone, a greenish fossil ore, on the bank of a river in Indonesia on April 28, 2025.

How extracting and producing nickel can be made more sustainable

Nickel is an important metal used in several clean energy technologies, especially electric vehicles. The demand for it is expected to surpass six million tonnes a year by 2040. However, producing just one tonne of nickel can result in more than 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Hirva Aavart

Mansoor, U., Milica Konczyk, L., Raabe, E. et al. 'Sustainable nickel enabled by hydrogen-based reduction', *Nature* 644, 365-373 (2025).
doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-08908-7

Nickel powers everything, from gadgets to green technologies, but getting it currently involves a far from green, in fact, a dirty process. However, a new study has revealed what its authors have said is a game-changing and sustainable method to extract nickel from low-grade ores using hydrogen plasma instead of carbon. It's a one-step process free of carbon dioxide that reportedly saves both energy and time.

Nickel is an important metal used in several clean energy technologies, especially Electric Vehicles (EVs), and the demand for it is expected to surpass six million tonnes a year by 2040. While EVs are seen as a cleaner alternative to traditional fossil fuel-powered vehicles, there are hidden environmental costs associated with their production, especially in the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries.

A major component in these batteries is nickel and its extraction is highly carbon intensive. Producing just one tonne of nickel can result in more than 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. So while EVs reduce emissions during operation, the process of sourcing materials like nickel simply shifts the pollution burden from the transportation sector to the mining and processing sector, among others.

The methodology
The study, published in *Nature* on April 30, was conducted by researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Sustainable

Materials in Düsseldorf, Germany. In the study, the researchers bypassed the traditional multi-step process to extract nickel – which includes calcination, smelting, reduction, and refining – and developed a single metallurgical step conducted in one furnace. The proposed method has the potential to be up to about 85% more energy efficient while cutting direct carbon dioxide emissions by up to 84% compared with the current practice, the paper wrote.

Usaid Mansoor, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute and lead author of the study, said, "Traditional nickel extraction is multi-step, energy-intensive and relies on carbon. Nickel oxide is heated with carbon, which removes the oxygen, producing pure nickel, along with carbon dioxide emissions." The researchers have proposed replacing carbon with hydrogen as the reducing agent and using electricity as the energy source, specifically through an electric arc furnace.

"In our method, we use hydrogen plasma. Hydrogen gas, when subjected to high-energy electrons in an electric arc, splits into high-energy ions, entering a plasma state – the extremely hot and reactive fourth state of matter. It is distinct from solids, liquids, and gases. This hydrogen plasma rapidly reduces the carbon oxides. From a thermodynamic perspective, the process is not only cleaner but significantly faster," Mr Mansoor said. He added that the method is kinetically superior – meaning the chemical reaction is more energetically favoured – thanks to the highly reactive and unstable nature of plasma.

"The end product of hydrogen reacting with oxygen is water, not carbon dioxide. Therefore, the entire process is carbon free, using only electricity, hydrogen, and yielding water as a byproduct," he added.

Enabling sustainable production

The study focused on laterite ores, a type of soil-rich rocks that contain metals like nickel. They form in hot, tropical regions when rain and heat break down rocks over time, leaving behind metal-rich layers. They are abundant but tough to process. "While subside ores are found deeper underground and are easier to process, they're rapidly depleting. The new method used in the study works efficiently on laterites, making it key to future nickel production," Mr Mansoor said.

India has substantial nickel laterite reserves, particularly in Odisha's Sukinda region. "These deposits, containing 0.4-0.9% nickel as nickeliferous limonite in chromite mine overburden, are often overlooked because traditional methods require higher-grade ores. But [the team's method] excels at extracting value from these lower-grade resources," Dr R Raabe, professor and director of the Max Planck Institute and co-author of the study, said. He added that the technology could play a major role as the demand for sustainably produced materials continues to grow.

"Without such innovations, the sustainability revolution – whether in electrification, renewables, or green infrastructure – risks merely shifting the carbon dioxide and energy burden from one sector to another. In other words, we might build a 'greener' world through EVs, solar panels, and high-performance magnets while still relying on carbon-intensive methods to mine and refine the critical metals... that make all of it possible," he said.

The insatiable demand for nickel in multiple industries and its traditionally carbon-intensive production pose "a particular challenge for countries like India, where rapid industrial growth is essential for economic development.

India must simultaneously meet ambitious climate goals and leverage market opportunities in the green economy," Mr Raabe added.

He continued that the technology aligns well with India's dual goals – to accelerate industrialisation and infrastructure development while staying committed to the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. It also reduces the need to import high-grade ores and maximises the potential of domestic, underutilised mineral assets, he added.

Some challenges

Pratik Kumar, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Jammu and who wasn't associated with the new study, said this research could be a very appropriate method for nickel extraction from an ore, especially when the world is thinking critically in the direction of carbon neutrality. The method produces high-purity ferromagnetic – an alloy with which stainless steel can be made – eliminating the need for extensive refining steps and making the overall process more sustainable on paper. "However, the scalability of the mentioned study to an industrial production would involve certain challenges, including a high initial investment in infrastructure and renewable energy and limitations in ore applicability. Also, further in-depth study on thermodynamic kinetics may be required along with a demand for continuous free oxygen species supply at the arc-melt interface," Mr Kumar cautioned.

"Despite these hurdles, the study offers a promising, sustainable alternative to conventional nickel extraction methods," Hirva Aavart is a *Kashmir-based* journalist who writes on science, health, and environment.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"...the water brought us some soup. That's when we had the big argument. What was the argument about?"
"Well, Mida said one 'vut' one's soup and I argued that one 'vut' one's soup. Who is right – Me or Mida?"
"You're both right. You can either drink or eat your soup depending upon the kind of soup it is. If it is a thick soup, with lots of chunks of vegetables in it, then you could eat your soup."
"But if the soup is watery..."
"...it watery, but thin."
"O.K., this. If it is thin and doesn't contain chunks of meat or vegetables in it, then you drink it, I suppose."
"That's right. So, did you drink or eat your soup?"
"Well, I ate mine and Mida drank hers."
"I see. Did she show you the paper she'd written after you had finished the soup?"
"Yes, she did. But it was illegible."
"Was her handwriting that bad?"
"No, her handwriting was great. It's just that I didn't understand anything."
"Well, in that case, it wasn't 'illegible', but 'unreadable'."
"What's the difference between 'unreadable' and 'illegible'?"
"When one says someone's handwriting is 'illegible', it means it is so unclear that you cannot see what the letters or numbers are. For example, as people get older their handwriting becomes illegible."
"You don't have to grow old for your handwriting to become illegible, I can assure you. You should see some of my classmates' handwriting!"
"That's true. Most doctors' handwriting is illegible. Only the person at the medical store can read it."
"At least we think they are able to read it! Tell me, what does 'unreadable' mean?"
"When you say that a book or paper is 'unreadable' it means it is very difficult or unpleasant to read, especially because it is dull or complicated."
"I see. So when something is unreadable, the handwriting is clear, but it is difficult to understand the contents?"
"Well, yes. For example, most scholarly papers are unreadable."
"What about law documents? They are definitely unreadable. Even a person with a PhD in English can't make sense of them."
"That's true. I find some of the bestsellers unreadable."
"A large amount of those books are unreadable."
"Not a 'large amount', but a 'large number'. You use 'large amount' only with uncountable nouns. For example, we had a large amount of rain this year."
"My father bought a large amount of ghee today. My mother is planning to make a large amount of laddu tomorrow."
"Not 'a large amount of laddu', but 'a large number of laddu'. Laddu is a countable noun, so you say 'a large number of'."
Published in *The Hindu* on November 3, 2006.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Indian cricket team will start its Test series in England from June 20. A quiz on the performance of India and its cricketers in their previous tours to the Old Blighty

Soorya Prakash N

- QUESTION 1**
This is the 20th Test series for India in England including the one-off test held in June 2002 which marked the debut of India in Test cricket. How many series has India won playing in England so far?
- QUESTION 2**
India has won only nine out of the 64 tests that it has played in England so far. Which is its most successful ground?
- QUESTION 3**
Who has scored the most runs for India playing in England?
- QUESTION 4**

- ANSWER 1**
India has won 120 in English soil?
- ANSWER 2**
Which bowler took five wickets in the very first innings in the debut test played by India in 1932?
- ANSWER 3**
Who is the only bowler to have taken 12 wickets or more in a Test match in England?
- ANSWER 4**
Who is the only wicket keeper to effect five or more dismissals in an innings?
- ANSWER 5**
The third Test played at the Edgbaston, Birmingham in July 2007 is etched in Indian cricket history as four bowlers scalped 28 out of the 20 English wickets amongst them. This is the only Test that three Indian bow cricketers shared wickets 100.



Visual question:
This is the only man English cricketer to score the most hundreds at Lords which is touted to be the

- Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
- 1. Name the railway stations on the eastern Darangula line between which the Choubhri bridge is located. **Ans: Kani and Bakhal**
- 2. The Ponte Vecchia and 'Bridge of Sighs' is located here. **Ans: Florence**
- 3. A bundle of hay must be suspended when work is happening on this bridge. **Ans: Tower Bridge in London**
- 4. This bridge holds the record for the tallest bridge in the world. **Ans: Millau Viaduct**
- 5. The distinct paint for this iconic bridge is currently supplied by Sherwin Williams. **Ans: Golden Gate Bridge**
- 6. This bridge connecting Denmark and Sweden runs for 8 kilometers before transitioning into an underwater tunnel for 4 kilometers. **Ans: Øresund Bridge**

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

Word of the day

Besmirch:
Charge misery or evil-motives intent, attack the good name and reputation of someone, smear so as to make dirty or stained.
Synonyms: defame, denigrate, slander, smear,污
Usage: Her reputation was besmirched by that news report.
Pronunciation: /bəˈsmɪtʃ/
International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɛsmɪtʃ/

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

From Page One

Four dead after falling off Mumbai local trains

Condensing the incident, the association's president Madhu Kotian said, "The DRM should take responsibility for this accident. The Railway Board should stop interfering in Mumbai local railway management and create an independent Mumbai local administration. Four routes should be reserved for local trains between Kalyan and Kuria, and mail and express trains should not be run on these routes during rush hours."

Following the incident, the Railway Board announced that non-air conditioned trains with new designs offering better comfort and safety were likely to be introduced by January 2026, and 238 AC trainsets were being manufactured for the Mumbai suburban service.

"The new non-AC trains will address the key issue of ventilation using three design changes. The doors will have louvers angled slats that allow light and air to pass, coaches will have roof-mounted ventilation units to pump in fresh air, and coaches will have ventilators allowing passengers to move from one coach to another to spread out the crowd in a natural way," railway officials stated.

The Opposition slammed the Maharashtra government and the Union Railway Minister for not taking any responsibility for the incident.

Ship catches fire off Kerala coast; 18 rescued

The incident came to light when the Maritime Operations Centre in Mumbai alerted its counterpart in Kochi about the underdeck fire around 9.30 a.m. Immediate measures were initiated by the Coast Guard to rescue the crew and deter the vessel from nearing the Kerala coast.

According to the officials with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the 18 crew members from various countries had reportedly jumped into the sea and used emergency rafts to escape the inferno that broke out at the middle portion of the ship.

Officials from the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre in Kochi said five Coast Guard ships and a Dornier aircraft were dispatched for the speedy rescue of the crew and surveillance. There were reportedly over 650 containers, including 150 hazardous ones, in the cargo vessel. KSDMA officials said about 20 containers reportedly fell into the sea, further triggering safety concerns.

Coast Guard sources said the fire could not be put out even after four hours of firefighting. They said some of the containers had combustible materials, adding to the challenge, and there were multiple explosions in the ship.

Five injured crew members have been brought to a private hospital in Mangaluru for treatment.

MHA, Kuki-Zo groups discuss SoO rules

The insurgent groups reiterated their demand for a union territory with legislature for the Kuki-Zo people.

A SoO representative said, "The grounds for discussion should be spelt out clearly. An agreement for a political settlement should be part of the SoO extension. Most ground rules are likely to remain the same as 2008 but on relocation of camps, we will have to discuss with our constituents."

Five members of the Kuki-Zo SoO groups held the talks with A.K. Mishra, Adviser (Northwest), MHA and Intelligence Bureau chief in the region. A large number of police weapons were looted since the violence began. The groups were told to surrender weapons to bring long lasting peace, the official said.

Wife surrenders after Indore man found dead

Of these four, Vishal Singh Chauhan (25), Raj Singh Kumbhara (25), and Anand Kumar (23), were arrested from Madhya Pradesh, while Akash Rajput (26) was arrested from Lalpur in Uttar Pradesh. Another unnamed person was detained.

Raj Raju, the SP of Ghatigarh, said Ms. Sonam was detained near a dhaba (roadside eatery) based on information received from the Madhya Pradesh Police. "She is being kept at a One Stop Centre as the case is related to Meghalaya Police are waiting for a police team from Meghalaya to take her into custody," he said.

Mr. Syiem said the murder took place on May 21, after which the accused left Meghalaya. "According to the post-mortem report, there were two cut marks on the victim's head," he said.

The murder weapon was a machete, which the State government said was different from what the locals use. "Thought they were lost," Mr. Syiem said. When the police received the missing persons report, they thought they were looking for a couple who had lost their way in a difficult, wooded terrain.

"We had no idea about the murder. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed after the man's body and a few items were recovered. After connecting the dots, the SIT members went there (Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh), and arrested."

Senior police officer killed in IED blast in Chhattisgarh

Two officers injured in explosion said to have been caused by Maoists. Chief Minister says Maoists will face consequences of this act. Deputy CM says such incidents jeopardise possibility of talks

Shubhojyoti Sikdar

An officer in the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police was killed and two more officers were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), allegedly planted by the Maoists, exploded in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Monday, the police said.

This is the first time in nearly a decade and a half that a senior police officer has been killed in a Maoist attack in the State. The incident has led to the Chhattisgarh government further hardening its stance on holding possible talks with the Maoists. It also comes amid the intensification of anti-Maoist operations in the Bastar region.

While Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai said in a post on X that the Maoists would have to face the consequences of this act, his deputy, Vijay Sharma, told journalists in Nagpur that even a situation for talks between the Maoists and the government is created, it is derailed by such incidents.

The deceased officer, 42-year-old Akash Rao Girapure, was the Additional Superintendent of Police in Korta Division, Bhamburda, P. Sandarrao, Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Region), said.

"The location of the IED and what preceded the blast makes us strongly suspect that it was planted by the Maoists, anticipating that police officers would arrive there to check the spot after the torching incident," he said.

Another officer said the injured personnel had been shifted to the Korta Hospital for initial treatment. The officer said Mr. Girapure had lost his legs and suffered other serious injuries from the direct impact of the blast. He died of his injuries during treatment. On the nature of the explosives used, Mr. Sandarrao said forensic and ballistic teams were examining the spot.

Mr. Girapure's younger brother, Adarsh, said the police officer was killed two days before his daughter's birthday.

Mr. Sai expressed grief over the incident. "Information has been received about the martyrdom of ASP Akash Rao Girapure ji in an IED blast carried out by Naxalites in Korta of Sukma district. This is extremely sad. I salute his martyrdom," he said in a post on X.



The site of the IED explosion that claimed the life of ASP Akash Rao Girapure in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Monday.

The site of the IED explosion that claimed the life of ASP Akash Rao Girapure in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Monday.

Mr. Girapure and other personnel were patrolling on foot after receiving input that an earth mover had been torched by the Maoists in the area. When they reached the spot, the IED planted behind the machine went off causing injuries to Mr. Girapure and the other officers, he added.

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Defying prohibitory orders, protests continue in Manipur following arrest of Meitei leader

Press Trust of India

Protesters took out torchlight processions overnight, burnt a government building and clashed with security forces, defying prohibitory orders as Manipur continued to witness demonstrations over the arrests of a Meitei organisation leader and four others, the police said on Monday.

Clashes broke out between protesters and security personnel at Bwakitbel and Singmeit in Imphal West district, prompting the police to fire several rounds of tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the agitators, an officer said.

The Sub-Divisional Collector (SDC) Office at Yairipok Tullhal in Imphal East district was set on fire, causing partial damage to the building, and official records were destroyed, he said.

They burnt tyres in the middle of the roads and clashed with security forces to identify the culprit behind the arson, the officer said, adding that security in the area has been heightened to prevent any further incidents.

The demonstrators created mounds of soil on roads in the Sekmai and Kiseingri areas in Imphal West district to prevent the movement of security forces.

Several roadblocks, particularly on the Thaklon road that leads to the Imphal airport, have been cleared by security forces, a police officer said.

Protesters gathered the night and held torchlight processions in Khurai, demanding the immediate formation of a government in the state, which is now under President's Rule. Protests erupted across Manipur since June 7 over the arrests of Meitei outfit Arambai Yungpi leader Kanun Singh and four others.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it has arrested a member of Arambai Yungpi at Imphal airport on Sunday for his alleged involvement in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023, while the police did not disclose details of the four others.

Prohibitory orders have been clamped in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubai, Bishupur and Kakching districts, while internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities, have been suspended in these valley areas since Saturday night.

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Thakur on Sunday held a security review meeting with senior officials in the wake of the demonstrations in the State.



Scene showing a road leading to Imphal airport is blocked by protesters and ongoing demonstrations over the arrests of Meitei outfit Arambai Yungpi leaders, near Manipur's capital city, on Monday.

Several roadblocks, particularly on the Thaklon road that leads to the Imphal airport, have been cleared by security forces, a police officer said.

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SC to hear plea on threats of violence linked to screening of Thug Life in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on June 13 a petition to ensure the safe and unimpeded screening of Kannada filmmaker's Tamil movie Thug Life in Karnataka, and direct the State government to take action against elements who have issued threats and incited violence against theatres and the makers of the film.

A Vacation Bench headed by Justice P.K. Mishra scheduled the case for hearing this week on the basis of an oral mentioning made by the advocates for the petitioner, M. Mahesh Reddy, a Bangalore resident, represented by advocate Kanur.

Ms. Kanur, seeking urgent listing of the writ petition, said "fringe elements" were threatening arson against the theatres that screen the film.

Mr. Velan said the movie to appeal to the top court had been necessitated by the fact that the Karnataka government should apologise to the very fringe elements intimidating him and threatening public order. This effective endorsement of coercive censorship by suggesting compromise with perpetrators makes the High Court pathway currently ineffective for securing justice, compelling this urgent appeal in the Supreme Court as the ultimate guardian of the Constitution," the petition stated.



A poster of Thug Life.

ingly appeared to prioritise appeasement."

"Instead of a clear directive to the State to stop the illegal threats and protect a certified film's exhibition - fundamental to restoring law and order - the discussion reportedly focused on whether Mr. Kanur should apologise to the very fringe elements intimidating him and threatening public order. This effective endorsement of coercive censorship by suggesting compromise with perpetrators makes the High Court pathway currently ineffective for securing justice, compelling this urgent appeal in the Supreme Court as the ultimate guardian of the Constitution," the petition stated.

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After series of accidents, DGCA to review Char Dham yatra helicopter operations

Jurki Chandra

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation will review helicopter operations to determine if services for the Char Dham yatra in Uttarakhand need to be curtailed after as many as four accidents occurred in the past month, the DGCA said on Monday.

The aviation safety regulator barred Kestrel Aviation Private Limited from providing helicopter services, pending inquiry into a mid-air collision in Rudrapur district when an Agusta Westland 119 chopper made a precautionary landing on a road stretch soon after taking off from the Char Dham helipad. Five non-boarded escaped unhurt.

The DGCA has also ordered "enhanced surveillance" for helicopter operations involved in shuttle services and charter operations in the state.

The incident on June 7 was the fourth such incident in a month and the DGCA has initiated an enhanced surveillance for helicopter operations involved in shuttle services and charter operations in the state.

Court permits Rana to make one-time phone call to family

The Hindu Bureau

A Delhi court on Monday permitted Tishanwar Rana, the alleged mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, to make a one-time phone call to his family.



Tishanwar Rana

A Delhi court on Monday permitted Tishanwar Rana, the alleged mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, to make a one-time phone call to his family.

Under supervision Special Judge Chander Ji Singh of the Patiala House Court ordered that the call would be conducted under the supervision of a senior Thar jail official. Rana has been asked to strictly adhere to jail rules.

The Thar jail authorities have also been asked to submit a fresh report on Rana's health within 10 days from Monday. The jail authorities will also file a report clarifying their stand on whether 64-year-old Rana should be allowed regular phone calls.

The central agency says that Rana was involved in the planning of the Mumbai attacks, assisting Bradley in procuring a visa and creating a false identity so he could travel to India.

He has been charged with criminal conspiracy, waging war against the government of India, murder, forgery and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Extended by the United States to India on April 30, Rana is now facing trial in the case 17 years after the attacks that killed more than 300 people in 2008.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing

BJP holds rally in Bengal to protest 'vile' remarks

The Hindu Bureau

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched the Nari Samman Yatra on Monday to protest against derogatory remarks made by Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal directed at the wife and mother of the officer in-charge of the Bolpur police station.

The Trinamool Congress let the Birbhum strongman off with an apology, but the police have registered an FIR. The BJP organised a major procession in Bolpur, which was led by party leader Suvendu Adhikari.

The BJP leader said the mother and wife who were insulted represent the honour of all women in the State. "Can someone utter such language? Had Yogi Adityanath been the Chief Minister he would have been in prison," Mr. Adhikari said at the rally.

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People gather outside Kedarnath temple ahead of its opening, in Rudrapur district, Uttarakhand on May 1, 2025.

Modi provided a responsible and accountable govt.: Nadda

Work done under Prime Minister in his 11 years in office will be written in 'golden letters', says BJP president; he says policies such as National Education Policy and National Health Policy were implemented smoothly; flays Rahul's remarks on EC.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatya Janata Party national president and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday said that the work done under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 11 years in office would be written in "golden letters".

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, currently at the helm, would not only complete its ongoing term fully but would also be voted back in 2025, Mr. Nadda said.



Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda inaugurating an exhibition on 11 years of the BJP government at the Centre of the party office in New Delhi on Monday. U.S.N. KUMAR/PTI

He was addressing a press conference here on Monday, completing 11 years at the helm. Mr. Modi took oath for a third term as Prime Minister on June 9, 2024.

"Prime Minister Modi has changed the country's political culture and started politics of performance and good governance by providing a responsible and accountable government, while the Congress-led UPA (United Progressive Alliance) regime was marked by corruption, scams, and 'appeasement

politics," Mr. Nadda said. He listed out decisions by the Modi government, including the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir; the passage of the Triple Tally Act; the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 that makes provision for reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha; and the Waqf Act.

"Before 2014, the previous government was full of corruption and there was a sense of negativity

that prevailed across the country... But after 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, that sentiment changed. Now people proudly say, 'Modi hai to mandir hai (all is possible with Modi)', Mr. Nadda said.

"Strong trust"

"People's participation has significantly increased under the Modi government because of the strong trust in leadership. If I talk about democratisation, I remember how other political parties were instigating the

public to take advantage. You may have forgotten, but I do not forget. But the common man of India stood in front of the bank for hours and supported the democratisation decision of the Modi government. When there is trust in the leadership, the public supports it," he said.

He said that under Mr. Modi's leadership, key policies, including the National Education Policy and National Health Policy, were implemented smoothly with wide support, and campaigns, including the

Swachh Bharat Mission, became major public movements.

"This is the same country where, in the past, even Education Ministers struggled to hold press conferences together. But today, we collectively agreed on the National Education Policy, a result of one of the widest and most inclusive consultation processes in our history. Thanks to a holistic approach, we introduced a new National Health Policy smoothly, without confusion or chaos. Initiatives like Swachh Bharat have become among the most successful mass movements," Mr. Nadda said.

Responding to queries on what his response would be to the remarks by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on the electoral integrity of the results of the Maharashtra Assembly election, Mr. Nadda accused Mr. Gandhi of playing the role of an "irresponsible" Opposition leader by asking baseless questions. "May God bless him with good sense," Mr. Nadda said, when asked to specify what he meant.

Modi govt. has dealt a blow to social fabric, economy, democracy: Congress chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The past 11 years of the Narendra Modi government have dealt a deep blow to the country's social fabric, democracy and economy, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday.

In a post on the social media platform X, Mr. Kharge alleged, "The Modi government has wanted the last 11 years to unseat the link of dictatorship on every page of the Constitution."

"The BJP-RSS has weakened every constitutional institution and attacked their autonomy," he said.

The Congress chief accused the Modi government of "stealing people's mandate, toppling governments through the back door, imposing one-party dictatorship and weakening the federal structure."

"Efforts are constantly being made to spread an environment of hatred, threats and fear," he added.

Mr. Kharge said the exploitation of Dalits, tribal people, and backward, minority and other weaker sections had increased continuously. Manipur was witnessing unending violence, and the BJP-RSS had



Mallikarjun Kharge

crowded local train in Mumbai when the government was busy celebrating its third term. "11 years of Modi government - no accountability, no change, only propaganda. The government has stopped talking about 2025 and is now selling dreams of 2047," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not hold press conferences. "Celebrating 11 years but still the Prime Minister remains 'suse-ko-gaurav' from an unscripted and pre-scheduled press conference. Bharat Mandapam is waiting for him," Mr. Ramesh said, using a Hindi idiom.

At a press conference, Rajesh Gouda, who heads the party's research wing, along with spokesperson Mahima Singh, released two booklets, countering the government claims of its achievements.

"The one thing this government has been good at is propaganda and fake news. It is our job as a responsible Opposition to make sure that the people of India know the grim reality," he said.

Initiate dialogue with Maoists: Left parties in joint appeal to PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a joint appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, five Left parties urged him to put an immediate halt to the "extra-judicial" killings in the region around Chhittagong under Operation Kagin.

In the letter, leaders of the parties - D. Raja, Communist Party of India; M.A. Babu, Communist Party of India (Marxist); Kipankar Bhattacharya, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation; Manoj Bhattacharya, Revolutionary Socialist Party; and G. Durugan, All India Forward Bloc - said there were reports that several senior Maoist leaders were currently in the custody of the security forces.

"We demand that they should all be produced in court and dealt with as per the rule of law," they said.

"The Advisin in the region have long been con-

plaining about the militarisation of the region. "The Advisin rights enshrined in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution are being systematically violated and the forests and minerals of Chhittagong are being subjected to indiscriminate corporate exploitation with disastrous implications for environmental stability and livelihood of the local people. We urge upon you to stop this militaristic approach that treats the Advisin with unmitigated hostility," it said.

They underlined that the government had been refusing to hand over the bodies in the families, denying them their right to give a dignified farewell to their family members. The repeated appeal from the Maoists for dialogue had also been ignored.

"They urged the Centre to respond to the Maoist declaration of unilateral ceasefire and initiate a dialogue to resolve all issues.

Credibility of EC is at stake, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday strongly backed his party colleague Rahul Gandhi's demand for transparency in the conduct of the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

On Saturday, Mr. Gandhi had written a signed article, published in multiple languages and newspapers, in which he had alleged "manipulation" and raised questions on large-scale additions to the voters' list in Maharashtra, between 5 and 7 p.m.

The Election Commission had categorically rejected the charges.

"Democracy cannot survive on the basis of opaque processes and unverifiable statistics," Mr. Kharge said in a statement, adding, "The Congress Party stands firm with Shri Rahul Gandhi's call for full transparency and institutional accountability. The credibility of the

Election Commission is at stake, and we urge it to uphold the standards expected of a neutral and constitutional authority."

However, with news reports stating that panel may release the voters list for Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress' "Empower Action Group of Leaders and Experts welcomed the move. "While we have not received any official response or communication to our letters except for one tutorial on

the process of addition and deletion of voters, we hope the EC has finally agreed to make public the voter rolls for Maharashtra and Haryana," a statement said.

Mr. Gandhi in an X post, sharing a media report said, "Good first step taken by EC to hand over voter rolls. Can the EC please announce the exact date by which this data will be handed over in a digital, machine-readable format?"

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Has EC outsourced its defence to BJP: Raut

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Election Commission, questioning whether it had handed a "contract" to the ruling BJP to counter Opposition allegations about its functioning.

Mr. Raut's remarks came a day after Chief Min-

ister Devendra Fadnis issued an article refuting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claims of "manipulation" and "rigging" in the Maharashtra Assembly polls. "Mr. Gandhi raised questions for the EC, but handed a 'contract' to the ruling BJP to counter Opposition allegations about its functioning."

Mr. Raut's remarks came a day after Chief Min-

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
at the site of CSIR, New Delhi, India. Contact: 011-2610 1122

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04	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 204)	UR
05	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 205)	UR
06	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 206)	UR
07	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 207)	UR
08	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 208)	UR
09	Junior Research Assistant (General) (Post Code 209)	UR
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Application Form and other details are available at www.cser.res.in

NOTICE

FOR PRASHAN MANTRI GRAM SAKAR YOJANA (PMGSY) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "E-PROCUREMENT"

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Barampore, Assam, is invited to submit proposals for the construction of roads and bridges under Prashan Mantri Gram Sakar Yojana in the districts of Assam for 60 (Sixty) number of contracts with estimated cost of Rs. 1.72 Crores (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / M&S / R&B. The interested bidders should also participate in this process but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a week of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement: 01.06.2025

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of acquisition: The bid documents are available online and should be acquired online in www.eprocure.gov.in. The bidder should be required to register in the website when in need of that. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit an original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid amount and (B) integral bid security in approved form and (C) original affidavit regarding completeness of information furnished with the documents as per provision of Clause 1.4.7.2 (c) of the Bid Conditions. The bidders are required to submit a copy of the Demand Draft towards the cost of bid amount and (B) integral bid security in approved form and (C) original affidavit regarding completeness of information furnished with the documents as per provision of Clause 1.4.7.2 (c) of the Bid Conditions. The bidders are required to submit a copy of the Demand Draft towards the cost of bid amount and (B) integral bid security in approved form and (C) original affidavit regarding completeness of information furnished with the documents as per provision of Clause 1.4.7.2 (c) of the Bid Conditions. The bidders are required to submit a copy of the Demand Draft towards the cost of bid amount and (B) integral bid security in approved form and (C) original affidavit regarding completeness of information furnished with the documents as per provision of Clause 1.4.7.2 (c) of the Bid Conditions.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 01.06.2025 10:00 AM

For further details and clarifications if any, please refer to www.eprocure.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.C. Circle, Barampore

SREE MAHALAKSHMY NAMAMA SREE CHANDRASEKHAR GIRUBHYO NAMAMA APPEAL

The MAHALAKSHMI OF KANCHI established this Public Charitable Trust in 1991 for providing financial aid to Archakas who live in poor conditions, upholding our religious and cultural heritage in ancient temples in Andhra Pradesh. Many of them do not have any means of sustenance and we should deem it our duty to provide them with financial aid to ensure that they continue to perform their important role in the rural communities.

MAHA PERINBA has provided that the Trust should seek donations primarily from individual donors and provide financial assistance to those Archakas from the income derived from the donations. We had further invited those with gross income of up to Rs. 4,000 per month could contribute that one month's gross income. The Trust currently provides a monthly honorarium to 400 poor Archakas, 170 Poojaris, 140 Shalimarayas and 100 Brahmacharyas spread over rural Tamil Nadu. The Trust also has a Group Life Insurance Policy for the benefit of eligible Archakas.

We earnestly request all the devotees to donate generously for this noble cause. Keeping in mind MAHA PERINBA's desire, by the Grace and the generous contribution from its devotees, it has been possible to enhance the monthly honorarium progressively to Rs. 2,700 (Rupees Two Thousand Seven Hundred only) per month. However, with the increasing number of devotees and reduction in the interest rates, it is necessary to enhance the Corpus Fund significantly to maintain the current level of honorarium to the poor Archakas.

Online Donations (via Payment Gateway) can be made at www.kmaat.com.

Also, Cheques or Demand Draft payable at Chennai draw a favor of "KACHCHI MOODOOR ARCHAKAS WELFARE TRUST" can be sent to the Trust office. Please do mention that the donation is towards CORPUS FUND in the covering letter, and do include Donor's Name, PIN number, Address, CellPhone Number, and E-mail ID (if available).

Please note that Income Tax Section 80G benefit is available in the Donors.

15.06.2025

TRUSTEES

1. Sr R. Subramanian, Chennai
2. Sr M.D. Gopal Dubai

S. RAJESHKANTHAN
Archakas, Chennai
Chairman

DIRECTORATE OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

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Chairman

IN BRIEF



Tiger mauls to death temple caretaker in Ranthambore

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A tiger mauled to death a 60-year-old caretaker of the Jain Temple situated in the historic Ranthambore Fort, forming part of the National Park, in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Monday. This was the third death in a tiger attack in the wildlife reserve in the past two months.

The deceased, Radheygopal Saini, had gone out for his morning routine when the tiger attacked him.

A forest ranger, Devendra Chaudhary, was killed in a tiger attack on May 11, while a seven-year-old boy, Karik Suman, was mauled to death near Trinetra Ganesh temple on April 10.

A tiger suspected to be involved in both these incidents was later tranquilized and shifted to another enclosure in the National Park.

Agitated by the attack, a crowd of local people gathered outside the National Park and staged a dharna. They blocked the Sawai Madhopur-Kanakra road, while accusing the Forest Department of negligence and demanding compensation for the bereaved family.

163 cases of COVID variant XFG detected in India: data

In all, 163 cases of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant XFG have been detected in India so far, according to INSACOG data. The recombinant XFG variant has reportedly achieved rapid global spread following its initial detection in Canada. According to data, the XFG variant of the COVID-19-causing virus has been found in a total of 163 samples - highest (55) in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (36), Kerala (15), Gujarat (11), and Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (six each). India's active Covid case tally crossed the 6,000 mark, with 769 added in the last 48 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Sunday.

15th Press Council: Delhi HC seeks reply from PCI Centre

The Delhi High Court asked the Press Council of India (PCI) and the Centre to respond to a plea of the Mumbai Press Club seeking constitution of the 15th Press Council. The court directed PCI and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to file their replies within four weeks. The court passed the direction on May 26 and posted the hearing on July 10. The plea sought a direction to the chairperson of the PCI to constitute the 15th Press Council without any delay. The petition said the terms of the 14th Press Council ended on October 8, 2024 but the new Press Council that should have taken over seamlessly, had not been constituted yet.

PM to visit Cyprus, Croatia during his trip to Canada

Trip to Cyprus is seen as message to Turkey, which had aided Pakistan during Operation Sindoor; stopover at Croatia important in the context of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Reiterating India's traditional foreign policy goals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Cyprus and Croatia, officials sources said here on Monday.

Mr. Modi will visit Cyprus on his way to Canada to participate in the G7 summit (June 15-17), and on the way back, he will pay a visit to Croatia, which will be the first Prime Minister-level visit from the Indian side since the formation of Croatia in 1991, after the dissolution of former Yugoslavia.

Both visits are being described as important from a political as well as commercial point of view. Sources here hinted that the Cyprus visit will serve as a message to Ankara that had assisted Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in May. It will also act as a timely revival of top-level contacts as Cyprus is set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2024. Cyprus had condemned the terror attack in Pahalagam on April 22 and indicated that it would



Narendra Modi's visit will be the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia since its formation in 1991.

raise the issue of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan at the EU-level discussions. Cyprus has been consistent in its support to India on the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. That apart, the Mediterranean country, which has a territorial dispute with Ankara regarding the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, has also supported India in its campaign for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In a reciprocal gesture, India has supported the resolution of the Cypriot territorial dispute as

per UNSC resolutions, international law, and the EU acquis, the collective EU body on laws and regulations.

Officials said Mr. Modi is expected to meet President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides.

Croatia trip: Mr. Modi's visit to Croatia is also being described as a nod to the strong tradition of Indology that exists in the country. The University of Zagreb has been a seat of serious study of Indology, and Croatia is well-known for its rich cultural heritage. In a reciprocal gesture, India has supported the resolution of the Cypriot territorial dispute as

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Restrictions in Assam after 'beef' found in temple

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The authorities in western Assam's Dibrui district imposed restrictions in Dhubri town, the district headquarters, on Monday following unrest over "beef" found in a temple complex.

Imposing Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, District Commissioner Dibrugarh said there was a likelihood of breach of peace and public tranquillity in areas falling under the Dhubri police station due to communal tension and risks of riot and violent protests.

"All shops, market establishments falling within Dhubri town area shall remain closed until further orders. Assembly of five or more persons in any public places, streets and thoroughfares... are strictly prohibited," the order read.

The recovery of alleged beef triggered outrage. A mob went on the rampage, demolishing temporary shops in the town's main market.

Meanwhile, the police arrested several persons, including a resident of Balachar village, on suspicion of being linked to the "beef" recovered from the temple area.

After Mumbai accident, Railways mulls non-AC trains with automated door closure facility

Maitri Parashar
NEW DELHI

After four persons were killed when they fell from a local train in Mumbai due to overcrowding during peak hours, the Railway Board has said that new non-AC trains would be designed and manufactured with automatic door closure facility to prevent such accidents.

The deadline for introducing the first prototype of such a non-AC train in the Mumbai suburban Railway network has been fixed as January 2025.

Sources said that in the wake of the incident in Mumbai, Union Railway Minister Anant Singh and Railway Board officials held a meeting with a team from the Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF). A senior Mumbai-based Railway official told The Hindu that the Mumbai

suburban Railway network currently has 250 rakes in use. Each rake of the train has 12 passenger coaches. Of these 250 rakes, only 30 rakes are air-conditioned. Currently, non-AC rakes coaches in Mumbai local trains are not fitted with closing doors.

"The older rakes may be gradually phased out, it won't happen overnight," the official said.

Earlier, officials from the Railway Board had stated that all rakes in service would be redesigned and fitted with door closure facility.

However, sources said that during the meeting, officials discussed a major issue of retrofitting automatic doors in non-air conditioned trains - suffocation resulting from reduced ventilation. After detailed discussions, it was decided that new, non-AC trains would be designed



Officials plan to introduce the first prototype in Mumbai in January 2025.

and manufactured, and the key issue of ventilation would be resolved using three design changes.

"Firstly, the doors will have louvers. Secondly, coaches will have roof-mounted ventilation units to pump in fresh air. Also, the coaches will have vestibules so that passengers can move from one coach to another and balance out the crowd in a natural way," a source said.

Officials who attended the meeting said that the ICF, Chennai has been entrusted with the task of designing the prototype.

"The first train of this new design will be ready by November 2025. After the testing and certification by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, it will be placed in service for feedback from the people by January 2025," a senior official said.

The official added that earlier, a similar pilot trial had been conducted on non-AC trains in Mumbai locals, and it was noticed that closure of gates led to carbon dioxide levels going up by 2.5 times. "The new non-AC rakes will be created to avoid such increase in CO2 levels," the official said.

Officials said the decision to introduce the new non-AC rakes was in addition to the 236 AC trains being made for Mumbai suburban services. While introducing new non-AC trains with automated door closure, officials said that the Railways would also have to consider passenger congestion in Mumbai local trains. While a 12-coach rake in a non-AC Mumbai local train has a seating capacity of 1,200, another 1,800 persons can stand in the rake. However, during the "super dense crush load period", over 4,000 people travel in one rake, officials said.

M. Jamshed, former member, Traffic, Railway Board, said measures to minimise accidents must be aimed at reducing the per local train super dense crush load, which is that of 15 persons per square metre of space during peak hours. "Whether the door closing can be done with these numbers is debatable," he added.

Weather plays spoilsport with Shukla's mission; NASA moves launch to tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALORE

The launch of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) has once again been postponed.

The Axiom-4 mission to the ISS, which was scheduled from Launch Complex 31A at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 8:22 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on Tuesday, has been postponed to Wednesday.

Due to weather conditions, the launch of the Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganyaan to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2023 to 11th June 2023. The targeted time of launch is 5:30 p.m. IST on 11th June



Group Captain Shukla's mission to ISS was earlier scheduled for June 10 but then postponed to June 11. At per the earlier plan, the crew was scheduled to dock at the space station on June 11 at approximately 12:30 p.m. ET.

Once docked, the As-4 astronauts will spend about 14 days aboard the space station conducting microgravity research, technology demonstrations, and outreach events.

The As-4 crew is currently in quarantine. This is the third time the launch has been rescheduled.

"Now targeting no earlier than Wednesday, June 11 for Falcon 9 to launch (Group Captain Shukla's mission to the ISS was earlier scheduled for June 10 but then postponed to June 11. At per the earlier plan, the crew was scheduled to dock at the space station on June 11 at approximately 12:30 p.m. ET.

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TH CROSSWORD 14507

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

13 Mixing beer with beer? (Sensuous) (6)
14 Aka Kim, "kissing monkey cap" (5)
15 Concluded on basis of reasoning, "bird is fellow, indeed" (7)
16 Change stick (6)
17 Shown on rotating and going round our planet (8)
18 Baker's escape from prison (5)
19 Semi-spherical structure over front of star has hole (it's a label...) (6)
20 Mixed to some extent, "land in water" (4)
21 Team in record set broken (5)
22 Ruler seen in the mirror (4)
Down
1 Conventional war dance from Maharashtra (6)
2 Man slain wrongly, Personification of America (5)
3 Mad man and Yankee caught in ship demolition (8)
4 Words over which respected by WHF staff initially (7)
5 Wine and (it's first, begin acquiring equine pastures) (8)
6 Wife flower (6)
7 Boy with animal's a male child (6)
8 Cracked like bismuth in London (5)
9 West from broken shell (5)
10 For example, Hegepuz' drinking glass (6)
11 Fully removed our depot building (6)
12 Reduce dog whistle (7)
13 London flower placed back to cover meat (6)
14 Most senior engineers led Estima (6)
15 Lady leaves highest mountain for others (4)
16 Remaining five from damaged flagpole? (it's better!) (6)

SUDOKU

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

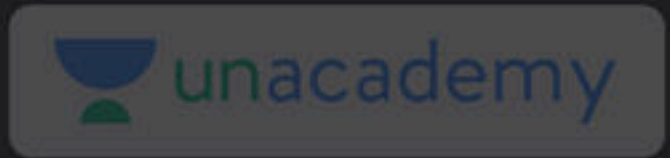
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

FAITH

Maricha's reformation

When Vivasvata takes Rama and Lakshmana with him to protect his yagna, he tells them the story of Tataka, said Nivalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. A yaksha named Saketa, who was childless, did penance. Pleased with his sapa, Brahma blessed him with a daughter. He named her Tataka. She was endowed not only with beauty but with great strength. In due course, she married Sunda. But her husband Sunda died due to sage Agastya's curse. So, she, along with her son Maricha, attacked the sage. Angered, the sage cursed them and turned them into demons, who began to terrorise sages. Vivasvata tells Rama to kill Tataka. Rama is hesitant, because He never kills women. But Vivasvata convinces him of the need to eliminate Tataka, and finally He kills her.

While Vivasvata performs a yaga, Maricha and the demon Subahu try to disrupt it. Rama and Lakshmana are guarding the yaga, and have to deal with the demons. Rama fires an arrow at Maricha, which flings him miles away. He aims the signpost astu (the arrow of feet) at Subahu, who is burnt to death. The treatment he receives at the hands of Rama turns out to be a good lesson for Maricha. Now that his life has been spared, he decides to give up his cruel deeds. He leads an ascetic life. One may wonder why Rama spared Maricha's life. Had He not, then Maricha would not have come as the golden deer and Sita would not have been abducted. Rama did not kill Maricha, because there was scope for his reformation. The idea behind a punishment is never destruction, but to reform the sinner who has done a wrong. St. Augustine Mar-



IN BRIEF



Ride-hailing platform Rapido venturing into food delivery

Rapido is entering the food delivery segment with a new platform that charges restaurants a fixed fee per order, according to a proposal to restaurants sent by Rapido on Monday, as the ride-hailing platform looks to compete with Swiggy and Zomato's domain. In its proposal, Rapido has asked partners to keep its pricing the same on the platform and instead, with restaurants paying a fixed delivery fee of ₹25 and taxes for orders worth more than ₹500.

Wipro moves West Asia headquarters to Riyadh

Wipro Ltd. on Monday announced the relocation of its West Asia regional headquarters from Al Khobar to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The new office in Riyadh was the latest addition to Wipro's growing presence in the region, which included offices in Riyadh, Al Khobar, Jeddah, and Jubail, the company said. In addition to the new office opening, Wipro recently signed an MoU with Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMFU) to establish a Center of Excellence (CoE) in Riyadh.

Lalitha Jewellery seeks to raise ₹1,700 crore via IPO

Lalitha Jewellery Mart has filed preliminary papers with SEBI seeking approval to raise ₹1,700 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of shares worth ₹1,200 crore and an offer for sale of equities valued at ₹500 crore by M. Kiran Kumar Jain, according to the draft red herring prospectus. The issue includes a reservation for a subscription by eligible employees, and a discount is being offered to such employees.



AI revenue at 'record' level, almost halves losses in FY25

Aviral Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India shed up its revenue to a record ₹6,000 crore in the financial year 2025 and clocked a profit excluding exceptional items in the second half of FY25 as the airline advanced towards becoming a self-sustaining company, CEO Campbell Wilson informed employees last week, as per sources.

Govt. eases SEZ norms for chip, electronic units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government has notified several changes to the regulations for the setting up of special economic zones (SEZs) for the manufacturing of semiconductors or electronic parts. Revisions include reducing minimum plot size for the units and allowing such semiconductor units to also supply to the rest of India, apart from exporting.



Micron will set up a ₹1,100-crore unit at Saswad in Gujarat.

Conventionally, SEZs have been export-oriented. Further, amendment to Rule 7 of SEZ Rules, 2006, approval has been granted for the setting up of two SEZ facilities in Gujarat and Karnataka at a total investment of ₹3,300 crore.

U.S.-based First Citizens BancShares expands GCC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

First Citizens Bank, a subsidiary of First Citizens BancShares, Inc., one of the top 20 banks in the United States with more than \$200 billion in assets, on Monday said it expanded its India operations by opening a new office in Bengaluru.

SBI pays ₹8,076.84-cr. dividend to Govt. for FY25

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore to the government for FY25.

Foreign investors shift money out of Delhi to 'promising' Maharashtra

Despite remaining among the top 5 FDI destinations in the last 10 years, Delhi's share fell to 42% in 2024-25 from 32% in 2015-16, while Maharashtra grew from 24% in 2015-16 to 39% in 2024-25, experts attribute gravitation to 'predictable returns'.

T.G.A. Sharad Rasthwar
NEW DELHI

Over the last 10 years, foreign investors have shifted their preference from Delhi to Maharashtra and to an extent, Gujarat. While these three states have remained among the top foreign investment destinations in India, their shares have changed significantly since 2015-16.



An analysis by The Hindu of foreign direct investment (FDI) data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that, over the 10-year period 2015-25, the regional concentration of FDI has remained high, with just five states accounting for anywhere between three-fourths and nearly 90% of all FDI coming into the country.

Delhi accounted for 32% (₹27.7 billion) of all FDI in 2015-16, the highest that year. This fell to 42% (₹6 billion) by 2024-25. In contrast, Maharashtra saw its share grow from 24% (₹9.3 billion) in 2015-16 to 39% (₹33.6 billion) in 2024-25, the highest share that year. Karnataka has been among the top 5 FDI destinations for nine out of the last 10 years, only losing out to Andhra Pradesh in 2016-17. Karnataka attracted 10% of all FDI in 2015-16, which grew to 13% by 2024-25, the second-highest share that year.

"The fact that Maharashtra and Karnataka captured 51% of India's FDI in 2024-25 is not merely a statistic - it's a revelation of how capital behaves during uncertain times," Rishi Shah, partner at Grant Thornton Bharat, explained. Mr. Shah explained that, as global FDI inflows face headwinds and investors become more risk-averse, they inevitably gravitate toward established ecosystems that offer predictable returns and robust infrastructure.

Life insurers' new business rose almost 13% in May to ₹30,463.21 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

New business premium of life insurance companies in India increased 12.88% to ₹30,463.21 crore in May compared with ₹27,034.45 crore a year earlier.

Private fares better Private players fared better last month, clocking an increase of 16.57% to ₹12,058.16 crore (₹10,343.75 crore), while for the first month, ended May, premium increased 12.04% to ₹10,417.2 crore (₹8,28.98 crore).

LIC MD Sat Pal Bhanoo given additional charge

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) Managing Director Sat Pal Bhanoo has taken charge of the financial and administrative powers and functions of the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, in addition to his own duties, the State-owned insurer said on Sunday.

This follows the Centre's Department of Financial Services conveying approval of the competent authority to entrust the financial and administrative powers and CEO and MD functions to Mr. Bhanoo for three months from June 8, or till assumption of charge of the role by the regular incumbent, or until further orders, whichever is the earlier, LIC said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Table with 2 columns: Index, Change. Includes Sensex (+1,234), Nifty 50 (+56.78), and Nikkei 225 (+1,234).

NIFTY 50

Table listing Nifty 50 constituents: Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, etc., with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table listing exchange rates for USD, EUR, GBP, and others against the Indian Rupee.

Advertisement for 'A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP' featuring a book titled 'ஸ்ரீ ஸரஸ்வதியின் அங்காடாரம்'. Includes pricing (₹599, ₹799), a 25% OFF launch offer, and contact information for the publisher.

KYIV 'Russia launches biggest overnight drone bombardment of the war'



Russia launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the three-year war...

TEHRAN Iran intends to submit own version of nuclear proposal to U.S. soon



Iran said it will soon present a counter proposal on a nuclear deal to the U.S. after it had described the latter's offer as containing 'ambiguities'...

LONDON 'The Day of The Jackal' author Frederick Forsyth dies aged 86



British thriller writer Frederick Forsyth, the author of 'The Day of The Jackal', has died at the age of 86...

JERUSALEM Ultra-Orthodox party threatens Israeli government over draft law



Israel's ultra-Orthodox Sheinert party threatened to bring down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government...

California to sue Trump for 'illegal, immoral' National Guard deployment

Thousands take to streets in response to the deployment of National Guard without consulting the State's Governor...

Associated Press LOS ANGELES

California Governor Gavin Newsom said he planned to file a lawsuit on Monday against U.S. President Donald Trump...



Protesters gathered at a protest against immigration laws in downtown Los Angeles on Sunday...

cars on fire as law enforcement responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades...

leave. Some of those who stayed threw objects at police from behind a makeshift barrier...

Israel seizes Gaza-bound aid boat with Thunberg, activists

Associated Press JERUSALEM

Israeli forces seized a Gaza-bound aid boat and detained Greta Thunberg and other activists...



Activists on board the Gaza-bound aid boat Mavi Marmara, with their hands in the air, after being intercepted by Israeli forces...

to deliver desperately needed aid to the territory. The ship was unlawfully boarded, its unarmed civilian crew abducted...

NATO calls for 400% rise in bloc's defence spending

Associated Press LONDON

NATO members need to increase their air and missile defences by 400% to counter the threat from Russia...

Bilawal-led Pak. delegation in U.K. for diplomatic outreach

Selam Lakshman LONDON

A Pakistani delegation led by former Foreign Minister and chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari...



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

delegation is expected to travel to Brussels after London. Ahead of their closed-door bilateral discussions...

Sri Lanka and China to 'deepen' trade ties

Meera Sriyanan COLOMBO

Sri Lanka and China have signed two Memoranda of Understanding to set up a working group on trade facilitation...

opportunities during the eighth meeting of the China-Sri Lanka Joint Trade and Economic Commission...

depth views on advancing high-quality Belt and Road Initiative cooperation, expanding trade and investment...

ka, along with the clear policy direction" of the Disanayake administration...

Advertisement for Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh, mentioning accreditation and awards.

Advertisement for Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, mentioning tender notices.

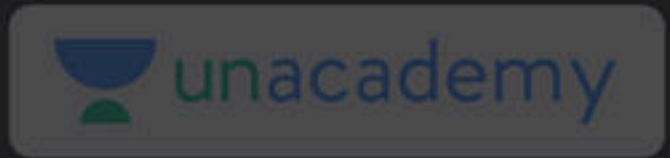
Advertisement for the Office of the Commissioner and Director of Agricultural Marketing, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Advertisement for Rajasthan Rajya Vidya Prasarana Nigam Limited, mentioning recruitment.

Advertisement for the Department of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Aabled and Senior Citizens.

Advertisement for a tender for supply of RO water purifier for the year 2023-24.

Advertisement for 'Read Frontline Every Fortnight'.



IN BRIEF



Sahaja-Kuwata pair clinches title in Santo Domingo

Sahaja Venkatesh and Hiroko Kuwata of Japan defeated Esther Adeshina and Sofia Dominguez 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles final of the \$30,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It was the maiden doubles title in the professional circuit for the 24-year-old Sahaja, who has four singles crowns to her credit.

Wasteful India goes down to the Dutch again

A wasteful Indian men's hockey yet again conceded a late goal to lose 2-1 to Olympic champion the Netherlands, ending its second consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League at Amstelveen on Monday. For India, Abhishek, playing his 100th match, scored in 20th minute, while Jagraj Singh converted his team's sixth penalty corner in 54th minute. The host scored through Thijs van Dam (34th), Tyjo Hoedemakers (35th) and Jip Jansen (57th). India will next play Argentina on Wednesday.



Chelsea signs French teenager Sarr from Strasbourg

Chelsea signed a top young player from its sister club by bringing in French teenage defender Mamadou Sarr from Strasbourg on Monday. Strasbourg, which plays in France's top league, is owned by the consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital that bought Chelsea in 2022. The 19-year-old Sarr is a France under-20 international who was a regular last season as Strasbourg finished in seventh place to seal a place in the Conference League playoffs.



Rennie, Premier League's first coloured referee, passes away

Urbal Rennie, the first coloured referee in the Premier League, passed away aged 65. "We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our former chair and trailblazing referee, Urbal Rennie," the Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA posted on Sunday on X. "Urbal made history as the Premier League's first coloured referee, officiating over 300 top-flight matches between 1997 and 2008."

Lewandowski not to play for Poland under current coach

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski said on Sunday that he would become his national team Poland's long as coach Michael Probierer remained in charge. The 36-year-old has played 158 times for Poland, scoring 85 goals, but has been replaced as team captain by Piotr Zieliński. "Taking into account the circumstances and a loss of trust in the coach, I have decided to resign from playing for the Poland national team for as long as he remains in charge," Lewandowski said on X.

Cristian Chivu appointed Inter Milan's coach

Cristian Chivu is Inter Milan's new coach after the Serie A club confirmed on Monday the former Roma defender as Simone Inzaghi's replacement. The 44-year-old has signed a two-year deal with Inter where he will replace Simone Inzaghi and the 2010 Champions League as an interim after the latter's sacking in his first season.

India has its task cut out against Hong Kong

Both sides have a point each from their respective opening encounters; the Blue Tigers won 4-0 the last time the two teams met; under Westwood, the host has only lost once in 12 matches

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER

Press Trust of India

Seking its first win in the tournament, the Indian football team will face another acid test when it takes on Hong Kong in a crucial AFC Asian Cup 2027 round three qualifier match here on Tuesday. As per reports in the local media, all 50,000 tickets for the match have been sold out, setting a new attendance record for Hong Kong football.

Manolo Marquez's men will have their task cut out as they face a Hong Kong side that has been revitalised under the guidance of manager Ashley Westwood, who knows a lot about Indian football and will certainly look to use his knowledge to the home side's advantage. Placed in Pot 1 for the qualifiers, India, ranked 127th, got off to a slow start with a draw against Bangladesh in March. Meanwhile, Pot 2 side Hong Kong, ranked 153, also managed only a point in Singapore, meaning there is still nothing to separate the four sides in Group C after the first matches.

For Hong Kong, the game will be a historic. The day



What say? Experienced defender Jangar will have a big role to play for India. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

is not only a crucial qualifier in its search for only a second AFC Asian Cup berth in 59 years, but also the inaugural football match at the 50,000-seater Kai Tak Stadium, part of the Kai Tak Sports Park, the largest sports complex in Hong Kong. Featuring a retractable roof and constructed at a cost of HK\$ 30 billion at the site of the city's former airport, the stadium even features a flexible pitch system for other sports and entertainment events.

It will be India and Hong Kong's 25th meeting since their first in 1961. India leads the head-to-head

with nine wins, Hong Kong has eight, while seven have been draws. However, the Blue Tigers have won only once on Hong Kong soil, a 2-1 friendly victory in 1997. The previous meeting in 2002 is still fresh in the memories of many - a 4-0 win for India in a rain-soaked friendly against Manchester United FC that lost 1-3 on May 30, and then a FIFA friendly against Nepal on June 5, which was a scoreless affair.

Young Indians aim for improvement and medals in Munich shooting WC

Sports Bureau

After having won 15 medals in the first two World Cups of the season, including six golds, Indian shooters will aim for all-round growth and more glory in the World Cup starting in Munich, Germany, on Tuesday.

China had topped the medals table both times with 11 and 13 medals respectively, that included nine gold in all. India was second in Buenos Aires and third in Lima. It was the shotgun gold medals that had helped USA stay ahead of India, after the two teams won seven medals each in Paris.

With the Munich World Cup restricted to pistol and rifle events, the National Rifle Association of India



Locked and loaded: Rawat will spearhead the Indian challenge in the World Cup. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

NRAD had opted to give a chance to the second string, while retaining some of the best shooters with an eye on the medal table. Competition will start with women's air rifle and

men's air pistol. The former World No. 1 Elavaselv Varliyan will spearhead the Indian challenge, along with Ananya Naldu and Arya Borse. Two of the seasoned shooters Ramita Jindal and Meghana Sajjanar will be shooting in the Ranking Points Only (RPO) section. In men's air pistol, the Olympic medalist Sarabjot Singh will compete in the RPO section along with Arjun Singh Chauran. It means that they should only the qualification and will not be eligible to compete in the final.

Dabang Delhi benefits from Sathiyam-Raman union

UTT

Amol Karbhakar

One of the features of the first five editions of the UTT (United Table Tennis) was the Indian coaches preferring to pick their personal warts in their own team through the annual player draft.

For the current edition, however, with the player auction being held for the first time, most such favourite picks have been separated.

But for the first time in the franchise league, G Sathiyam has been united with his personal coach S. Raman, and the successful combination has worked



Successful combo: Raman and Sathiyam have worked wonders with Dabang Delhi. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

played a huge role in creating a comfort zone for the players.

Raman, the former National champion who runs a successful centre of excellence in Chennai, had for some reason stayed away from coaching as a coach, so they (Dabang management) were happy to pick him without a thought. I am really happy that he could be there since you can only have one Indian coach and it's worked out

With the best of the shooters competing in the Munich World Cup, there will be no dearth of competition. It remains to be seen how the young Indian shooters perform on the big stage given the standard of competition on view.

What goes up Musk come down!



Kolkata and Delhi swap Tests against West Indies and SA

CRICKET

Press Trust of India

Kolkata's Eden Gardens and Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium will swap their allocated Test matches against West Indies and South Africa respectively during India's upcoming home season, the BCCI announced on Monday.

While Kolkata hosts the opening Test against the Proteas, Gowahati's Barpeta Stadium will be the venue for the second Test against South Africa from November 22 to 26.

The ODI will be held at Ranchi (November 30), Rajpur (December 3) and Visakhapatnam (December 6). The five T20s will be held at Cuttack (December 9), New Chandigarh (December 11), Lucknow (December 14) and Ahmedabad (December 17).

With the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association expressing its inability to host the women's ODI series against Australia starting September 14, the first two matches will be played in New Chandigarh and the third in New Delhi.

The schedule Against West Indies: First Test: Ahmedabad (Oct. 2 to 6), second Test: Delhi (Oct. 12 to 16).

Against South Africa: First Test: Ranchi (Nov. 22 to 26), ODI: Ranchi (Dec. 3), Rajpur (Dec. 3), Visakhapatnam (Dec. 6), T20: Cuttack (Dec. 9), New Chandigarh (Dec. 11), Shimla (Dec. 14), Lucknow (Dec. 17) and Ahmedabad (Dec. 20).

Diptayan puts it across Agibileg

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Second seed Diptayan Ghosh defeated Urtzalka Agibileg in 62 moves with black pieces in the fourth round of the 21st Delhi GM Open chess tournament at the Thero Gardens, Chhatrapur, on Monday.

There were 11 players with the perfect four points from four rounds, including top seed S.L. Narayanan who cruised to victory over Duc Hoa Nguyen.

While Narayanan will play black against Grandmaster Mihail Nikiforin in the fifth round, Diptayan will challenge GM Mami Iyama 3, Urtzalka Agibileg 2.5 and Torsho Sarkisidze 1.5, Ravi Febreze 1.5 and Ashish Choudhan 1.5.

The results: Fourth round: S.L. Narayanan 4.5, Duc Hoa Nguyen 4, Urtzalka Agibileg 3.5, Diptayan Ghosh 3, Mihail Nikiforin 3, Mami Iyama 3, Torsho Sarkisidze 2.5, Ashish Choudhan 2.5, Ravi Febreze 2.5, Duc Hoa Nguyen 2.5, Urtzalka Agibileg 2.5, Diptayan Ghosh 2.5, Mihail Nikiforin 2.5, Mami Iyama 2.5, Torsho Sarkisidze 2.5, Ashish Choudhan 2.5, Ravi Febreze 2.5.

LIVE TELECAST
TPTV: Star Sports 2 (50 & HD) & FoxCricket, 7:15 pm.
Ultimate Table Tennis: JioTV, 7:30 pm.
Netball League: JioTV, Star Sports 2 (50 & HD) & FoxCricket, 7:30 pm.
England vs West Indies: JioTV, Star Sports 2 (50 & HD) & FoxCricket, 7:30 pm.

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Rahul's moment of reckoning in England

Following the Test retirements of Kohli and Rohit, the onus is on the 33-year-old from Karnataka to deliver the goods as India's senior-most batter in the five-Test tour of England and guide the cohort of youngsters through a tricky phase of transition

Vivek Kishan

For the past two-and-a-half months, K.L. Rahul's primary focus had been on striving to show through the IPL that he has evolved into a more purposeful T20 batter. Subjected to an avalanche of criticism in recent years for his relatively staid approach in the shortest format, a return of 529 runs in 13 matches at a strike rate of 149.72 this year, his highest since 2018, points to success in that endeavor. That Delhi Capitals flattered to deceive again is another matter.

Rahul had the dust settled on a long-drawn-out IPL campaign, though, that the 33-year-old has another point to prove. Which is to show that he can take on the mantle of being India's senior-most batter when the marquee five-Test series against England gets underway at Headingley on June 20.

It is a monumental responsibility that staves him in the face now that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, with a combined experience of 190 Tests and 13,531 runs, have retired.

Ideal warm-up

To ensure that his preparation is top-notch, Rahul is doing his bit. He dashed to the United Kingdom of his own accord prior to the Test squad's official departure from Mumbai on June 6. With India A's second four-day game against England Lions at Northampton kicking off on that day, he was immediately in the thick of the action, taking guard against a brand new Duke's ball under coconut skies on a grass-laden strip that was difficult to distinguish from the lush outfield.

And he made the most of the previous time in the middle, easing his way to a serene 116 off 168 deliveries on the opening day of the contest. In the second innings as well, Rahul made merry with a brisk half-century.

With Chris Woakes, who is likely to helm England's pace attack in the opening Test, extracting a fair degree of owing in the first dig, the fallibility of the other top-order batters — namely Yashvir Jaiswal, Abhinav Manohar and Karun Nair — was in marked contrast to the composure of Rahul.

He saw him chew up more than four hours at the crease, the opening batter exhibited all the tenets that are of essence to batting in Tests in England. He played late and close to his body, demonstrating acute judgment in letting a vast majority of deliveries outside off-stump pass through to the wicketkeeper.

During a loose drive that went to the left of first slip when he was on 63, there was hardly an errant stroke until he nicked medium pacer George Hill to second slip in the 62nd over of the innings.

By batting for as long as he did, Rahul managed to get an intimate view of Woakes and rookie seamer Josh Tongue (both are part of England's main squad). For him to particularly deny Woakes, who claimed three scalps on his return from an ankle injury, a psychological edge going into a long and arduous Test series could be significant in the weeks to follow.

"Rahul played really well. It was a very good hundred on a wicket that did it all day," was Woakes' assessment at the end of the first day's play.

Senior statesman

It sets up Rahul nicely for a potentially defining phase of his Test career. With 58 Tests under his belt since the baptism by fire against Australia in the Boxing Day Test of 2014, the man from Karnataka is now very much the older statesman who has to guide the cohort of young Indian batters through this phase of transition.

To do that, he will have to firstly ensure that his own performances go up a few notches. Despite having the class and composure that separates the wheat from the chaff, Rahul's Test career has meandered along for the best part of a decade. In 101 innings in whites for India, he has accrued 3257 runs at an average of 33.52 with just eight hundreds.

If he is still extremely pivotal to India succeeding in England, it is because he can churn out runs away from home. As many as seven of his eight three-figure scores, after all, have been amassed outside India. He is arguably India's most technically sound batter right now, and has the capability of digging in for long periods and grinding down bowling attacks in hostile conditions.

Rahul's reborn to hitness was not in



FILE PHOTO: K. RAHUL/ICAI

much later, with the advent of the IPL and the rising emphasis on T20 cricket, that he expanded his range of strokeplay. "If you speak to cricketers I grew up with, like Karan and Mayank Agarwal, they will tell you that I couldn't hit a six till I was 20 or 21," he told former England captain Nasser Hussain in an interview with Sky Sports in April. "I was branded as a red-ball cricketer early in my career. Plying defensively came naturally to me. There was more red-ball cricket when I was growing up. A lot of the early coaching that I went through was about keeping the ball along the ground, leaving a lot of deliveries and playing in the V."

Some of these attributes were on show in the five-Test series against Australia Down Under at the end of last year. Against an unrelenting bowling attack that had all bases covered, Rahul was one of the while notching up scores of 77 and 84 in Perth and Melbourne. But as the tour progressed, Rahul tapered off, emblematic of a career that has at once embroiled and exasperated.

The ambiguity around his batting position during the series, a running theme through his career, may not have helped. Having settled for a middle-order role in the past couple of years, he was asked to open the batting in the first Test (and to Rohit's frustration) for the

with a contribution of 77 in the second innings, and stayed there for two more Tests before sliding down to No. 3 in Melbourne to accommodate Rohit's preference to return as an opener. When the India skipper decided to drop himself for the finale in Sydney, Rahul was again back to the top of the order.

Judging by the warm-up game against England Lions, he will now continue at the opening slot alongside Yashvir Jaiswal and the formidable future. The left-right pair did seem to complement each other well in Australia, memorably racking up a partnership of 201 in the second innings to set up a 275-run win in Perth. Rahul can also draw from his fond memories of scoring England in 2012. In the second Test at Lord's Cricket Ground, he produced a masterful contribution of 129 to get onto the hallowed Honours Board as India snatched to a 119-run victory.

"It will definitely be in my top three knocks," Rahul said in the interview. "When I went into the series, I was looking at how I can leave more balls outside off-stump. I know it was going to be hard. I had trained really hard and worked on my game. Playing at Lord's is something that every cricketer looks forward to. When I entered the dressing room before the Test, I looked at the Honours Board and thought it would be great if I could put my name up there. Two days later, I went out there and got a hundred. It was very satisfying."

The keenness to thrive in England doesn't seem to have waned in the slightest. "I love red-ball cricket. I grew up watching Tests in England and Australia. There is something about Test cricket that's really pure and that has stuck with me," he told Hussain. "I'm really looking forward to the Test summer in England. It is always a tour that we look forward to. I've been there a couple of times and I have enjoyed it."

Rahul's words are laced with the right intentions without doubt. If he can now walk the talk by producing the volume of runs against England that his ability has long dictated, it may mark the dawn of an exciting chapter in Rahul's winding Test career.

And perhaps put fans of Indian cricket at ease about how a new era next Kohli.

THE GIST

Rahul's Test career has meandered along for the best part of a decade. If he is still extremely pivotal to India succeeding in England, it is because he can churn out runs away from home. As many as seven of his eight three-figure scores, after all, have been amassed outside India.

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The story of how asafoetida came to be successfully cultivated in India

The first flowering and seed set of beeng at Palampur was reported on May 28, 2025, by CSIR, showing that beeng can be cultivated in India; this achievement, realised approximately five years after the initial sowing in 2020 in Himachal Pradesh, confirmed the plant's successful acclimatisation

Sanjay Kumar
Shekhar Mande

Heeng or asafoetida (*Ferula asafoetida*) is an essential ingredient in many Indian cuisines. A pinch of heeng is typically added to hot oil before other constituents when cooking. Despite the great diversity of India's cuisines, most of them have recipes with heeng.

There are mentions of heeng in ancient Indian texts including the Mahabharata and texts of Ayurveda. The latter recommends using heeng to refresh one's senses, including consciousness. The Charaka Samhita Sutrashala 27299 says heeng can help relieve abdominal pain, digest undigested food, and enhance taste. The Pippalada Samhita and the works of Patani also include heeng.

Today, heeng plants thrive in cold, arid environments suited to the native regions in Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. The plant prefers sandy, well-drained soil with low moisture, ideally receiving annual rainfall of 200 mm or less, though it can tolerate up to 300 mm in cultivated regions like the Indian Himalayas. It flourishes in temperatures of 10-20° C, tolerates highs of up to 40° C, and withstands winter lows down to -4° C. In extremely dry and cold weather, heeng plants typically become dormant to survive.

These requirements make high-altitude, semi-arid regions like Lahaul-Spiti and Uttarakhand in India suitable for its cultivation. Excessive rainfall or high soil moisture can hinder growth.

The final product obtained from the plant, asafoetida, is derived from an oleo-gum resin extracted from the plant's thick, fleshy taproot and rhizome, which makes up 40-64% of the dried gum. Heeng is a perennial plant that typically takes five years to mature and start flowering. Sections are then made in the taproot, allowing the milky latex to exude and harden into a gum-like substance. This resin is dried and processed into powder or crystal form for culinary and medicinal use.

Cutting import dependence
Until early last decade, despite being the world's largest consumer of heeng, India depended on imports from Afghanistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan, among others. The government subsequently launched a national effort to promote indigenous cultivation of heeng. This mission was led by the CSIR Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.

Researchers here took up the challenge of introducing heeng to Indian soil for the first time, starting with a rigorous and multi-layered international search from 2008 and 2020 to procure viable seeds of heeng.

As part of this programme, CSIR IHBT scientists communicated with the relevant agencies in Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and South Africa and contacted more than 20 suppliers. These efforts culminated in the procurement of heeng seeds, initially from Iran, and later from Afghanistan.

To facilitate legal and phytochemical compliance, the ICAR National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGRI) in New Delhi, the designated nodal agency for



Asafoetida, or heeng, is an important ingredient in Indian recipes. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

plant germplasm import and quarantine, issued the necessary import permits and conducted all mandated quarantine inspections. Once the seeds were cleared, they were handed over to IHBT for research and field evaluation.

The first import of six seed accessions from Iran took place in October 2008, and IHBT researchers were faced with the significant biological challenges posed by their dormancy and low germination rate. They worked to develop germination protocols, identify altitude-specific locations suitable for cultivation, and formulate agronomic practices for Indian conditions. Controlled trials were conducted at IHBT Palampur and its Centre for High Altitude Biology in Kibbing in Lahaul & Spiti.

Early adopters
The team planted the first heeng seedling in India on October 15, 2020, in a farmer's field at Kauring village in Lahaul Valley, officially marking the beginning of the country's journey into indigenous heeng cultivation.

One key milestone in expanding heeng cultivation beyond Lahaul was achieved shortly thereafter when the team planted heeng at Jangheli in Mandi district on November 8, 2020.

This was the first extension of heeng cultivation into the mid-hill regions of Himachal Pradesh, exploring the crop's potential beyond the high-altitude cold



CSIR IHBT scientists with farmers in Kauring village of Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh, October 15, 2020. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The first import of six seed accessions took place in 2008, and researchers developed germination protocols, identified altitude-specific locations suitable for cultivation, and formulated agronomic practices for India

desert zone. This was soon followed by the establishment of demonstration plots and farmer training programmes across Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Kinnaur, Kullu, and Chamba, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department.

Villagers that became early adopters of this initiative were:

- Lahaul & Spiti: Madras, Sulgron, Berling, Keylong
- Mandi: Jangheli, Mughkhal, Katara, Ghayan, Karog
- Kinnaur: Kadoo, Harag, Maling, Reckling Pass, Kalpa, Mooring, Graming, Katgaon
- Kullu: Bagaski, Dhangri, Sainji, Kofla-Bangar
- Chamba: Fungji, Devi, Bharnour, Mahuda, Tadi

To further institutionalise this progress, the Heeng Germplasm Resource Centre was established at IHBT Palampur and was formally inaugurated on March 5, 2022. It serves as the national hub for conservation, research, training, seed production, and plant propagation *vis-à-vis* heeng.

May 28 milestone
CSIR IHBT researchers also developed a dedicated tissue culture unit to facilitate the large-scale propagation of heeng plants. This specialised facility was funded by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, reinforcing the collaborative framework between scientific institutions and the State in advancing the

high-altitude cultivation of this important crop. Researchers used advanced methods such as ecological niche modelling to map favourable cultivation zones using GPS-tagged occurrence data and environmental parameters.

The first flowering and seed set of heeng at Palampur was finally reported on May 28, 2025, by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - a significant milestone demonstrating that heeng can indeed be successfully cultivated in India.

This achievement, realised approximately five years after the initial sowing in 2020 in Himachal Pradesh, confirmed the plant's successful acclimatisation. It also signifies its ability to complete the reproductive cycle, a critical prerequisite for seed production, long-term domestication, and sustainable commercial cultivation.

While the heeng plant thrives in cold deserts, its successful cultivation in Palampur at just 1,300 m (above sea level) is a breakthrough proving that plant adaptability holds untapped potential and that new agro-ecological frontiers still await discovery.

Ultimately, the milestone paves the way for India to reduce its import dependence, and for farmers to enhance their incomes and build a self-reliant supply chain for this culturally important spice. In all, the success of heeng cultivation in India owes itself to the efforts of CSIR IHBT, ICAR NBPGRI, the Himachal Pradesh government, the State Agriculture Department, and the region's progressive farmers.

Sanjay Kumar is former Director, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur. Shekhar C. Mande is Distinguished Professor at the Santirbal Phule Pawe University and the former Director General, CSIR, sanjayk@ihbt.res.in, shekhar.mande@gmail.com



The team focused on what the BECC2 gene does in the model plant Arabidopsis thaliana. Representative photo. HARSHUL SHARMA/UNIPHOTO

How does the first shoot rise safely through soil, towards daylight?

Yamdevran Makambh

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, have found that a single protein helps plants time their first step from darkness into light.

When a seed sprouts in darkness under the soil, its stem curves into a small hook shape that protects the delicate shoot tip as it pushes upward. The hook needs to stay 'closed' until the seedling breaks through the soil and meets light. In the study, the team wanted to know how two common signals - ethylene, a plant hormone that builds up underground, and light - work together to decide exactly when the hook opens.

The team focused on what a gene called BECC2 really does in the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. By comparing seedlings modified to lack BECC2, to churn-out extra copies, to carry extra mutations, or to glow blue or green when the gene was activated or its protein moved around, the scientists could pinpoint how the protein made by the gene helps keep the hook closed.

The team also grew seedlings in darkness, red, blue, far red light, and normal light, in plates with or without a compound that raises ethylene levels, and in thin layers of sand to imitate soil pressure.

They photographed three-day-old seedlings and used software to measure the hook angle as it opened over time. They also used genetic tools to track the performance of the BECC2 gene and counted how many seedlings breached a sand layer and turned green.

The findings were published in *New Phytologist* on May 28. The team

When a seed sprouts in darkness its stem curves into a small hook shape that protects the delicate shoot tip as it pushes upward. The hook needs to stay closed until the seedling breaks through the soil and meets light

comprised Nevedha Ravindran, Kavari Venkateswara Rao, and Sourav Dutta of the Department of Biological Sciences at IISER Bhopal.

They found that ethylene turns BECC2 on and that light protects BECC2 from being destroyed. The role of BECC2 itself is to keep the hook closed for longer. Without extra ethylene, BECC2 mutants behave like normal plants whereas with high ethylene or a sand cover, the hook opens too soon.

BECC2 was found to work by raising the activity of the PIF3 protein, which switched on HLSA, which kept the hook closed. If PIF3 was missing, BECC2 couldn't prevent the hook from opening.

In the sand test, only about a quarter of seedlings ever reached the surface compared to 80% of normal seedlings and 80% of over-expressors. Keeping the hook closed just a bit longer clearly helped a sprout survive its climb.

The researchers also worked out why BECC2 accumulates only when it's most useful. In total darkness, an enzyme called COP1 latches onto BECC2 and sends it to be degraded, keeping the hook flexible. Ethylene partially shields BECC2, but once the emerging seedling first senses daylight, COP1 activity drops, allowing the protein to build up on the concave side of the hook and hold it shut a little longer.

This finely tuned handbrake offers a way to breed crops whose seedlings can breach drier soils - a trait that may be valuable as climate change brings heavier rains.

For feedback and suggestions
For "Science" please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject "Daily post"

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

A wilderness where land meets the sea

Manasvini Vijayakumar

QUESTION 1.
Wetland ecosystems have different parts, such as the oceans, bays, and intertidal zones. Near-shore zones that include mangroves, sea grass meadows, and lagoons are called _____ fill in the blanks.

Question 2.
Where rivers meet the ocean, there is a noticeable change in salinity. The water becomes brackish - a mix of freshwater and seawater. What is the scientific name for partially enclosed bodies of such brackish water?

Question 3.
Seawater has a high salt content whereas freshwater bodies have lower salinity. Keeping in mind that salinity varies from one place to another, the average salinity of seawater is _____

of water. What's the value of X?

Question 4.
Salt marshes are also a transition zone between land and sea. The soil in these areas is made of mud and a layer of organic material called _____. This waterlogged material, full of decomposing plant matter, causes low oxygen levels and emits a sulphurous smell. Fill in the blanks.

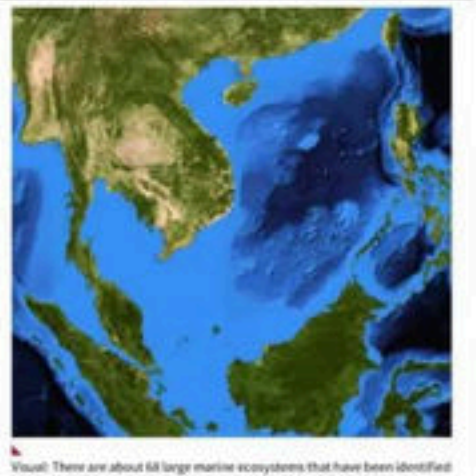
Question 5.
Floating barnacles, marine snails, and golden seaweeds are some of the organisms that live freely on the surface of the ocean. What is the scientific term for this community of organisms? It comes from the ancient Greek for "swimming on". (Manasvini Vijayakumar is interacting with The Hindu.)

Answers to June 3 quiz:
1. Effect of gene in *Fragaria* that reduced shipping costs. **Ans: Slower setting.**
2. Term for groups of conspecific organisms.
3. Fourth virus type used in viral gene therapy. **Ans: Retroviral.**
4. Technique that uses electric fields to destabilise cell membranes - **Ans: Electroporation.**
5. First GM animal to be commercialised - **Ans: Glo Fish.**

Visual: Cartagena Protocol
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Text: Binoy | Artist: Anand Agawal | Design: Gayatri

Answers to June 6 quiz:
Q1: True; Q2: Epinephrine; Q3: Immunoglobulin E; Q4: Antibiotics; Q5: Pollen, dust mites, etc.; Q6: Runny nose; Q7: Anaphylaxis; Q8: Allergens can be cured but they can be managed; Q9: Hypoallergenic products are designed to minimise risk of causing allergic reactions; Q10: Skin prick tests, intradermal tests, and patch tests.

Visual: Clement van Pirquet
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Design: Binoy



Visual: There are about 68 large marine ecosystems that have been identified for environmental conservation. The water body shows one of them, it has

Current Affairs

10/06/2025

Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

The report said that with regard to economy, real GDP of India was around 5 per cent below the pre-pandemic trend level as of FY25.

 PTI

Last Updated : 07 June 2025, 18:15 IST

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Representative Image of poverty in India. Credit: PTI photo

New Delhi: India's extreme poverty rate declined sharply to 5.3 per cent over a decade from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to Rs 257 (\$3) per day.

India has made remarkable strides in reducing extreme poverty, with the rate plunging to 5.3% in 2022-23 from 27.1% in 2011-12, according to the latest World Bank report. Despite the poverty line threshold being revised upwards to \$3 per day

विश्व बैंक की नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत ने अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम करने में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है, जिसकी दर 2011-12 में 27.1% से घटकर 2022-23 में 5.3% हो गई है। मुद्रास्फीति और क्रय शक्ति समता को ध्यान में रखते हुए गरीबी रेखा की सीमा को बढ़ाकर \$3 प्रतिदिन कर दिए जाने के बावजूद, भारत ने पिछले दशक में 171 मिलियन लोगों को अत्यधिक गरीबी से सफलतापूर्वक बाहर निकाला है।

In 2011-12, India's extreme poverty rate stood at 27.1% based on the \$2.15 per day threshold.

The World Bank revised the global extreme poverty line to \$3 per day (2021 PPP) to adjust for inflation and updated cost of living, raising the benchmark for poverty measurement.

- The World Bank was founded in **1944** at the **UN Monetary and Financial Conference** (commonly known as the **Bretton Woods Conference**), convened to establish a new, post-World War II international economic system.
- The World Bank officially began operations in **June 1946**.
- Its official name was the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**. The IBRD later became the **World Bank**.
- **Headquarters:** Washington DC, United States.
- **Member countries:** 189 countries (**India is a founding member**).
- To become a member of the Bank, a country **must first join the** IMF.

World Bank Group



- Together, the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and the **International Development Association (IDA)** form the **World Bank**.
- IBRD and IDA, along with MIGA, IFC, and **ICSID**, form the '**World Bank Group**'.
- **India** is a **member of four** of the five constituents of the World Bank Group. India is **not a member** of the **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**.
- India is one of the **founder members** of **IBRD, IDA** and **IFC**.

•Shareholding of WB:

- The United States is the largest single shareholder, with 16.41% of the votes, followed by Japan (7.87%), Germany (4.49%), the United Kingdom (4.31%), and France (4.31%). The rest of the shares are divided among the other member countries.

Major Reports:

Ease of Doing Business (Stopped publishing).

Human Capital Index.

World Development Report.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju Launches UMEED Central Portal To Modernize Waqf Property Management



Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijju, launched the UMEED Central Portal in New Delhi on Friday, marking a transformative step toward modernizing the management of Waqf properties across India. The event, attended by

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, launched the UMEED Central Portal in New Delhi on Friday, marking a transformative step toward modernizing the management of Waqf properties across India

The UMEED Central Portal, named after the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act, 1995, is a centralized digital platform designed to enable real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties.

Waqf Act 1995

Each property receives a 17-digit ID and must include ownership papers, exact measurements, and geotagged location data.

A photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a podium. He is wearing a brown vest over a light-colored shirt and glasses. The background is a solid blue color. Two microphones are positioned in front of him. The text 'TOP STORY WORLD' is visible on the podium. The main headline is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

TOP STORY WORLD

PM Modi Calls For Global Unity To Build Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure At ICDRI 2025

Context: Prime Minister of India addressed the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025, held for the first time in Europe (Nice ,France)

भारत के प्रधान मंत्री ने यूरोप में पहली बार आयोजित आपदा रोधी बुनियादी ढांचे पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन (ICDRI) 2025 को संबोधित किया।

Theme of the Conference: “Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions”

About [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#):

What It Is?

CDRI is a **global multilateral platform** launched by India in **2019** to promote infrastructure resilience against climate and disaster risks.

Headquarters: Located in **New Delhi**.

Membership:

46 member countries and 8 partner organizations.

Includes national governments, [UN agencies](#), multilateral banks, and private sector entities.

Objective:

Mobilize investments to make infrastructure climate- and disaster-resilient by **2050**.

Improve environmental quality, livelihoods, and resilience for **over 3 billion people**.

Five Takeaways from IEA's report on World Energy Investment

Clean energy investment is at a record high, but there's room for much more.

June 9, 2025

By Will Atkinson

Clean energy investment is a record high, according to the recently released *World Energy Investment 2025 report* by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The report provides an update of the investment picture in 2024 and what we can expect in 2025. Below we provide five charts and takeaways from the report.

1. Global energy investment has never been more weighted toward clean solutions. Less than half went to clean categories 10 years

International Energy Agency (IEA) released the **10th edition of its World Energy Investment Report**

Energy Investment Trends: Global energy investment is projected to reach a **record USD 3.3 trillion**. Of this, **clean energy technologies** will attract **USD 2.2 trillion**, **twice the investment** in fossil fuels (**USD 1.1 trillion**).

China: China is set to account for **over 25% of global energy investments** in **2025**, surpassing all other countries.

International Energy Agency (IEA):

- Founded in – 1974, in response to the **1973 oil crisis**.
- Headquarters – **Paris**, France.
- Mission – Collaborates with governments and industry to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all.
- Functions and Focus –
 - Ensures the security of oil supplies.
 - Guides countries in building net-zero emission energy systems to comply with internationally agreed climate goals by emphasising on renewable energy.
- Operates within the broader framework of the **Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)**.
- Membership – **Only OECD member countries** can join as IEA members.
- **Current Members** – 31 member countries, 13 association countries, and 4 countries seeking membership (Chile, Colombia, Israel, and Costa Rica).
- **India's Status** – Joined the IEA family as an **Association country** in 2017.

What is the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)? आर्थिक सहयोग एवं विकास संगठन

•About:

- The OECD is an **intergovernmental economic organization**, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high [Human Development Index \(HDI\)](#) and are regarded as developed countries.

•Foundation:

- It was founded in 1961 with its **Headquarters at Paris, France and total membership is 38 countries.**
- **India is not a member**

World Ocean day 2025: Discover its history, significance, theme and more

Discover the importance and significance of world ocean day with some lesser known facts about oceans. Read details here.



By KalingaTV Bureau — On Jun 8, 2025



Ocean covers over 70% of earth's surface. It is a vast and dynamic system that plays a critical role in

India, Mongolia hold joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' in Ulaanbaatar

A key component of 'Nomadic Elephant' is simulated UN peacekeeping operations, replicating real-world scenarios where multinational forces must collaborate under diverse and challenging conditions.



Context: India and Mongolia are conducting the 17th edition of the joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from May 31 to June 13, 2025.



RBI's T Rabi Sankar joins 16th Finance Commission as part-time member

T Rabi Sankar's appointment comes after Ajay Narayan Jha, one of the full-time members of the commission, stepped down due to personal reasons

Advertisement



President has appointed Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as a part-time Member of the 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC). He shall hold office from the date of assuming charge until the submission of the Commission's Report or 31st October, 2025, whichever is earlier.

What is the Finance Commission?

A constitutional body constituted under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. (Article-281 Recommendations of the FC) It recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and States and evaluates fiscal needs of local bodies.

It is **not a permanent body** and the **President of India constitutes** the Finance Commission **every fifth year** or at such earlier times as he/she considers necessary.

Establishment and Tenure:

The 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC) was set up on 31 December 2023.

It is tasked with giving recommendations for the **award period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.**

The Finance Commission consists of a **Chairman** and **four other members** to be **appointed by the President**.

Qualifications for Members (As per Finance Commission Act, 1951):

Members must have:

- Judicial or high court experience, or
- Expertise in finance, economics, administration, or
- Knowledge of government finance and accounts.

Disqualifications:

A person is disqualified if:

- Of **unsound mind, undischarged insolvent**, or
- Convicted of **moral turpitude**, or
- Holds **conflicting financial interests** affecting impartiality.

Term of Office:

Tenure as per Presidential notification and eligible for **reappointment**.
Members can **resign via letter** to the President.

Finance Commission submits its report to the President of India.

Composition of 16th Finance Commission:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Dr. Arvind Panagariya	Chairman, Former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman
Dr. Manoj Panda	Full-time Member, Economist
Smt. Annie George Mathew	Full-time Member, Ex-Spl. Secretary, Finance
Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh	Full-time Member, Group Chief Economist, SBI
Shri T. Rabi Sankar	Part-time Member, Deputy Governor, RBI

About Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- Guru Teg Bahadur's name earlier was Teyag Mal and he was **the ninth** of ten Gurus of the **Sikh religion**.
- His father and the **sixth Guru of Sikhs**, Guru Hargobind Sahib (1595-1644) changed the name to Teg Bahadur.
- He got his name from his fighting and sword skills on the battlefield.
- He was known as **Hind ki Chadar**, or the 'Shield of India'.

•Works

- He **built the city of Anandpur Sahib** (in Rupnagar/Ropar district, on the edge of Shivalik Hills, near the Sutlej River, in Punjab). Here the last two Sikh Gurus lived and where Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699.
- **Religious work:** He contributed more than **100 poetic hymns to Granth Sahib** which cover various topics, such as the nature of God, human attachments, body, mind, dignity, service etc.

•Martyrdom:

- He was publicly beheaded in 1675 on the orders of **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb** in Delhi.

Amritsar was founded by Sri Guru Ramdass ji, the fourth guru of the Sikhs in about 1574 A.D

Ramdaspur is the original name of the city of Amritsar

Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, was constructed by Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs