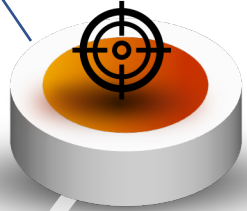


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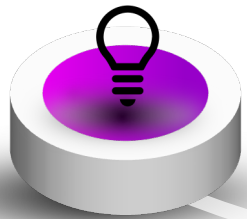


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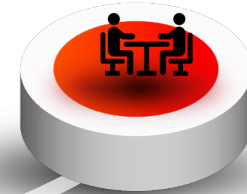


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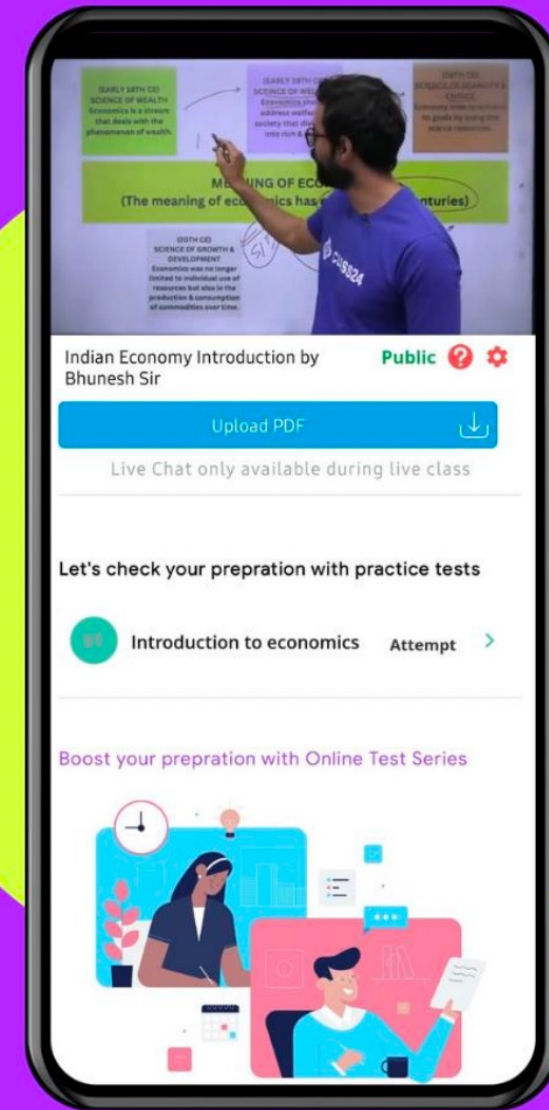
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Odisha citizens rush to hospitals to donate blood

Satyasundar Barik

BALASORE

It was like any other day for Kishore Acharya (25) who had just finished his dinner and was looking forward to catch some entertainment on television when the news broke out about the train accident in Odisha.

Mr. Acharya did not think twice and rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, Balasore as his instincts told him that donating blood was the best way to support the local administration in providing first aid and medical care to victims. He was not alone as scores of people rushed to donate blood.

Wajahat Ali, a 30-year-old, was seen anxiously enquiring about donating blood at the Soro Community Health Centre. He



People donating blood for the injured in the Odisha. ANI

told the authorities that he would not leave till it was declared that blood was no longer required.

The hospital usually has a balance of 1,000 units of blood. On a single night, the collection led to an increase in stock at the hospital to 1,700 units.

Jayant Panda, Professor of Medicine at the SCB Medical College Hospital, said that over 3,000 units of blood had been collected since Friday night.

- World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on the 14th of June, which is the anniversary of Karl Landsteiner's birth

-
- India has the world's largest shortage of blood, with all states together battling a huge shortfall of 41 million units and demand outstripping supply by over 400%, says the first of its kind study published in the journal The Lancet.

- विश्व रक्त दाता दिवस हर साल 14 जून को मनाया जाता है, जो कार्ल लैंडस्टीनर के जन्म की सालगिरह है।

- द लांसेट जर्नल में प्रकाशित अपनी तरह के पहले अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि भारत में रक्त की दुनिया में सबसे बड़ी कमी है, सभी राज्य मिलकर 41 मिलियन यूनिट की भारी कमी से जूझ रहे हैं और आपूर्ति में 400% से अधिक की मांग है।

. And demand is rising, says the findings. The overall global shortfall is 100 million units.

The crisis has crippled life-saving transfusions that save thousands of lives each year and replace blood that is lost through surgery or injury or provide it if the body is not making blood properly.

. और मांग बढ़ रही है, निष्कर्ष कहते हैं। कुल वैश्विक कमी 100 मिलियन यूनिट है।

इस संकट ने जीवन बचाने वाले रक्ताधानों को अपंग बना दिया है जो हर साल हजारों लोगों की जान बचाते हैं और सर्जरी या चोट के कारण खो जाने वाले रक्त की जगह लेते हैं या इसे प्रदान करते हैं यदि शरीर ठीक से रक्त नहीं बना रहा है।

- **WHY SO MUCH BLOOD IS NEEDED**

- Patients may need a blood transfusion if they have anaemia, sickle cell disease, a bleeding disorder such as hemophilia, or cancer. A cancer patient, on an average, needs at least 100 units of blood.
- India relies heavily on transfusions due to a higher prevalence of blood-borne diseases and complications during pregnancy.

- इतना खून क्यों चाहिए

- एनीमिया, सिकल सेल रोग, हेमोफिलिया या कैंसर जैसे रक्तस्राव विकार होने पर मरीजों को रक्त आधान की आवश्यकता हो सकती है। एक कैंसर रोगी को औसतन कम से कम 100 यूनिट रक्त की आवश्यकता होती है।
- गर्भावस्था के दौरान रक्त-जनित रोगों और जटिलताओं के उच्च प्रसार के कारण भारत बहुत अधिक निर्भर करता है।

About 60 million trauma induced surgeries are performed in the country every year. It is a witness to more than 1,200 road crashes every day.

The 230 million major operations, 331 million cancer-related procedures like chemotherapy and 10 million pregnancy complications require blood transfusion.

देश में हर साल लगभग 60 मिलियन ट्रॉमा इंड्यूस्ड सर्जरी की जाती हैं। यह हर दिन 1,200 से अधिक सड़क दुर्घटनाओं का गवाह है।

230 मिलियन प्रमुख ऑपरेशन, 331 मिलियन कैंसर से संबंधित प्रक्रियाओं जैसे कीमोथेरेपी और 10 मिलियन गर्भावस्था जटिलताओं के लिए रक्त आधान की आवश्यकता होती है।

Based on samples of 1000 people, the blood donation rate is 31.5 donations in high-income countries, 16.4 donations in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations in lower-middle-income countries and 5.0 donations in low-income countries.

1000 लोगों के नमूनों के आधार पर, उच्च आय वाले देशों में रक्तदान की दर 31.5, उच्च-मध्यम-आय वाले देशों में 16.4 दान, निम्न-मध्यम-आय वाले देशों में 6.6 दान और निम्न-आय वाले देशों में 5.0 दान है।

- There are eight main blood types but some are rarer than others. The list below shows the percentage of donors with each blood type:

- O positive: 35%
- O negative: 13%
- A positive: 30%
- A negative: 8%
- B positive: 8%
- B negative: 2%
- AB positive: 2%
- AB negative: 1%



THE TRAIN ACCIDENT in Odisha's Balasore, which killed at least 261 people and injured nearly 1,000, has brought the railways' automatic train protection system 'Kavach' into focus.

The railways has said that 'Kavach' was not available on the route where the accident occurred. The system alerts when a loco pilot jumps a signal (Signal Passed at Danger—SPAD), which is among the leading causes of train collisions. The system can alert the loco pilot, take control of the brakes and bring the train to a halt automatically when it notices another train on the same line within a prescribed distance.

Enhancing safety of trains

Indian Railways has developed its own automatic train

What is kavach?

SALIENT FEATURES

- Controls speed of a train by automatic application of brakes in case loco pilot fails to apply the brakes
- Repeats line-side signal in cab which is very useful for higher speeds and foggy weather
- Works on principle of continuous update of movement authority
- Auto whistling at level-crossing gates
- Collision avoidance by direct loco-to-loco communication
- Supports feature of SOS in case of any mishap to control train in vicinity

protection system called 'Kavach' for enhancing safety of running trains. Kavach has been developed indigenously by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in association with

three Indian vendors.

Kavach will not only aid loco pilot to avoid signal passing at danger and over-speeding but also help in train running during inclement weather such as dense fog. Thus, Kavach will

enhance safety and efficiency of train operations.

Trials of Kavach were conducted on the Lingampally-Vikarabad-Wadi and Vikarabad-Bidar sections of South Central Railway, covering a distance of 250 kilometres. Following successful trials, three vendors were approved for further developmental orders on the Indian Railways network.

The total expenditure incurred on the development of Kavach stands at ₹16.88 crore. The roll-out of Kavach is planned on the New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai sections, with a target completion date of March 2024. Further expansion will be based on the experience gained from the initial implementation, officials said.

—PTI

Where has Kavach been implemented?

The Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the trial of the Kavach working system between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway last March.

The South Central Railway (SCR) Zone is a pioneer in the implementation of the KAVACH - (TACS). The Kavach system has been deployed over 1,465 kms in the SCR limits in 77 locomotives and 135 stations till March this year. Additionally, the Secunderabad-based Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications (IRISET) hosts the 'Centre of Excellence' for Kavach. IRISET has been mandated by the Railway Board to train the inservice railway staff on Kavach. The Institute's Kavach lab carries

What is the Kavach deployment strategy?

Kavach implementation is being taken up in a focused manner by the Railway Board. The first priority are the High Density Routes and the New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah Sections, as they have higher chances of accidents because the trains run closer to each other. The second priority lines are the Highly Used Networks, the third ones are other Passenger High Density Routes and the final priority is of course to cover all other routes. The RDSO has approved three firms – Medha Servo Drives, HBL and Kernex – for providing Kavach equipment with two more being in the pipeline. Glitches about vulnerability of a vehicle crossing a closed level crossing, stray cattle or boulders on track, radio communication issues in tunnels, ghat sections, have been tackled.

SC stays HC order to check rape survivor's horoscope

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Saturday stayed an Allahabad High Court order, which sought the help of the Astrology Department of the University of Lucknow, to decide if a rape survivor was “*mangalik*” (a person with *mangal dosha* in their horoscope).

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had passed the order while hearing the bail application of a man accused of raping the woman on the pretext of marriage.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the two had met on a matrimonial site.

The accused had told the court that he could not marry her because she is a *mangalik*. However, the woman's counsel had denied she had the *dosha*.

Taking *suo motu* cogni-

sance of the matter, the Vacation Bench of the apex court, comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Pankaj Mithal, in a special sitting observed that the High Court order was “totally out of context”.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, when asked by the court if he had seen the order, said “it is disturbing”. He requested the Bench to stay the order.

‘Breaches privacy’

Advocate Ajay Kumar Singh, representing the accused, told the court that astrology is a “science and is taught in universities”. However, the Supreme Court maintained that the order disturbs the “right to privacy”.

“The orders passed by the Single Judge while considering the bail application is a subject matter of this case. At this stage, we

say nothing on merits of the case, except that in the interest of justice... the order so far as it gives directions to the head of Department of Astrology, we stay the operation of the order,” the court said.

Three-week deadline

The High Court had on May 23 asked both parties to submit their *kundali* (horoscope) to the university, which in turn was directed to submit a report within three weeks.

“Let Head of Department [Astrology], Lucknow University, decide the matter whether the girl is *mangalik* or not... The Head of Department... is directed to submit a report in a sealed cover within three weeks to this court,” the High Court order said.

The High Court has listed the matter for further hearing on June 26.

IN BRIEF

OIL begins aerial survey to locate hydrocarbon deposits

Constrained by tough terrains and hostile environments, an oil exploration major has started an aerial seismic survey for oil and gas in "unappraised areas" in the northeastern, southern, central, and northern parts of India. These areas are Nagaland, Manipur, southern Mizoram, North Cachar Hills of Assam, parts of Arunachal Pradesh, the Cauvery basin, Bastar, Satpura, Spiti-Zaskar, and Karewa.

Sedition law: Chidambaram slams panel recommendation

With the Law Commission backing the sedition law, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Saturday said the panel's recommendation was a case of the "doctor prescribing a cure that is worse than the disease". The former Home Minister said a draconian law in the statute book was an invitation to the rulers to misuse it and this hypothesis had been proved many times over. "When the clamour is to repeal Sec 124A, the Law Commission has recommended that the punishment may be made more stringent (3 years to 7 years)", he said. "It is sad to notice how far removed are some judges and judges from the real world," the Congress leader added.

Four get lifer for murder of bank manager in Tripura

A court in Tripura on Saturday sentenced four persons, accused of murder of a bank manager, to life imprisonment. A police officer and son of a wealthy businessman were among those convicted. The accused persons were held guilty of murdering the branch manager, Bodhisatta Das, in August 2019. The sensational crime had created an outrage among the people forcing the State government to recommend for the "custody trial" of the accused. Justice Chandrajit, Smiti Bhanik, Amar Sarif and Sukanta Biswas. Sukanta Biswas, now suspended, was a sub-inspector in the State police. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on each of the accused.

'Love jihad' cases found in Maharashtra, says Fadnavis

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Saturday said that a significant number of 'love jihad' cases had been uncovered during investigation of missing person complaints in the State. "There are instances where we found that false promises were made or false identity was used, with even married persons trying to mislead women," he said. The BJP senior leader added that the State government was exploring an option to enact a law against 'love jihad'. "We are studying the laws introduced by various States on this aspect, before taking any decision," Mr. Fadnavis said.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Govt. bans 14 combination drugs after panel flags risks, questions efficacy

The list includes medicines used for cough, fever and infections; expert committee says there is no therapeutic justification for these combinations and they may involve risk to human beings

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Fourteen fixed-dose combination (FDC) medicines found to lack therapeutic relevance have been banned by the Union government through a Gazette notification issued over the weekend.

While industry experts claim that some of these combinations are not available in the market currently, the banned combinations include medicines used for cough, fever and infections, and are sold over the counter.

According to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), FDCs refer to medicines containing one or more active ingredients used for medicinal purposes.



Further clampdown: The banned FDCs are part of 344 fixed-dose combinations prohibited for sale by the Centre in 2016. ILM PHOTO

The ban, which comes into effect immediately, follows recommendations of an expert committee formed to examine the efficacy of these drug combinations.

The notification states that an expert committee recommended that "there is no therapeutic justification for these FDCs and the FDCs may involve risk to human beings".

ture, sale or distribution" of these FDCs.

The long-pending move has been taken based on the recommendations of the expert committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

Earlier ban "The Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in the public interest to regulate by way of prohibition the manufacture for sale, sale, and distribution for human use of the said drug in the country," the notification said.

The banned FDCs are 344 fixed-dose combinations prohibited for sale by the Union Health Ministry in 2016 but the makers of 15 such drugs challenged the decision in Delhi High Court.

Amarnath Yatra's twin tracks to be restored by June 15, says BRO

Peerzada Ashia SRINAGAR

The arduous Amarnath Yatra routes, sometimes going up to an altitude of 12,000 feet through the picturesque tourist spots of Pahalgam and Sonamarg, will be widened this year by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

"We are deploying our teams and teams in places where we are expecting a landslide. The Centre has given permission to improve border roads," Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry, Director-General of the BRO, said.

For the first time, the BRO will be maintaining the Amarnath twin tracks. Earlier, the J&K government's Public Works Department was maintaining the Baltal shrine track in Ganderbal district and Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) was maintaining the Pahalgam shrine route in Anantnag district.



Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry

It was in September last year that the Amarnath Yatra tracks were handed over to the BRO for both maintenance and upgradation.

At present, pilgrims trek 20 km on foot from Chandanwari up to the cave shrine in Pahalgam and 14 km from Baltal to the shrine. "The basic scope of work (on the tracks) involved snow clearance, widening of the track, restoration of all foot bridges, and repair of hand rails, protection works at slide prone stretches and construction of breast walls and retaining walls for protection of

the tracks," a BRO spokesman said.

In April this year, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadgil announced a road project to the Amarnath shrine in Pahalgam, after J&K Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha requisitioned it.

Officials said over five lakh pilgrims were expected to undertake this year. The BRO is likely to restore the tracks by June 15. The yatra is set to commence from July 1 this year. The Union government has attended the 'Pratham Pujan' on Saturday to mark the ceremonial beginning of the Amarnath yatra.

Row over posting of Malayalam-speaking teachers in Kannada schools in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday took exception to the appointment of Malayalam-speaking teachers in Kannada-medium schools in Kasaragod district of Kerala despite several requests against such moves earlier.

The immediate trigger for this came after a Malayalam-speaking teacher, who was appointed to teach Social Science in a Kannada medium school in Adoor, Kasaragod district, arrived to report for duty on Saturday.

The Karnataka Border Area Development Authority (KBADA) sources said this triggered a protest by the students. The notice was raised since the teacher did not know Kannada and could not teach the Kannada-medium students.

Mr. Prakash on Saturday also shot off a letter to Kasaragod district collector Bhanu Swagar Ramweerdhand seeking appointment of teachers who know Kannada language in all Kannada-medium schools across Kasaragod district as per the Government Order.

The authority has also brought the issue to the notice of Karnataka Minister for Kannada and Culture.

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he had assured that such things will not recur. "I have spoken to the Kasaragod DC, who has assured to look into the matter," he added.

The authority has now sought the issue to be placed before the district-level committee constituted to look after "minority linguistic issues."

Mr. Prakash on Saturday also shot off a letter to Kasaragod district collector Bhanu Swagar Ramweerdhand seeking appointment of teachers who know Kannada language in all Kannada-medium schools across Kasaragod district as per the Government Order.

The authority has also brought the issue to the notice of Karnataka Minister for Kannada and Culture.

Mr. Prakash referred to earlier communications and a meeting in April this year where the problems pertaining to Kasaragod Kannadigas were explained.

He also pointed to an order of the Kerala government that has directed not to appoint teachers who do not know Kannada to Kannada-medium schools of Kasaragod district.

Jaipur to have centre on structural safety of dams

The Hindu Bureau JAIPUR

Malyva National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, has been identified as the National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams, the first centre of its kind in the country. The central Water Commission capabilities in making

the country self-reliant in handling technology issues related to structural and earthquake safety of dams.

MNIT Director Naranay Prasad Padhy said the centre would conduct a pilot study of selected dams to develop and revise safety standards, and review the central Water Commission's manuals.

Aadhaar-based system can solve the delay in wages of MGNREGS workers: govt.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

With reports on wage payments to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) workers failing due to frequent changes in the bank account numbers of the beneficiaries, the Union government has urged State governments to ensure that the Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) is enabled.

In a statement here, the Union Rural Development Ministry said that ABPS was the best route to avoid such rejections.

Once Aadhaar is updated in the central database, beneficiaries need not update account numbers often to change in location or change in bank," the Ministry said.

The Ministry also expressed hope that before the June 30 deadline set by it, making it mandatory for all beneficiaries to have ABPS, 88%-90% of active MGNREGS workers would be covered.



Target set: The Ministry has urged States to follow up with beneficiaries to achieve 100% coverage under the ABPS. ILM PHOTO

number. Thus far, about 74.9% active workers have been marked eligible for the payment system, according to data on the Ministry's website.

"Don't deny work" The Rural Development Ministry urged States to organise camps and follow-up with beneficiaries to achieve 100% coverage under the ABPS.

Hindu Shalan Peravepadan HYDERABAD

With the COVID-19 pandemic exposing the acute inequality in vaccine development and access, the Indian government is working in partnership with two leading global non-profits to convene and build consensus among the G-20 member states and others, for a proposed Global Vaccine Research Collaborative.

"International cooperation is essential to advance vaccine development for emerging pathogens, and the G-20 can serve as a vital platform to facilitate collaboration between governments, research organisations, pharmaceuticals, and other stakeholders," Health Minister Mansukh Mandavya said on Saturday, addressing an event organised by the Pharmaceuticals Department on the sidelines of the third meeting of the G-20 Health Working Group, one of the events under India's G-20 Presidency.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted acute social inequality, with some countries receiving the COVID

India urges G-20 countries to join vaccine research initiative to tackle inequity

Hindu Shalan Peravepadan HYDERABAD

With the COVID-19 pandemic exposing the acute inequality in vaccine development and access, the Indian government is working in partnership with two leading global non-profits to convene and build consensus among the G-20 member states and others, for a proposed Global Vaccine Research Collaborative.

"International cooperation is essential to advance vaccine development for emerging pathogens, and the G-20 can serve as a vital platform to facilitate collaboration between governments, research organisations, pharmaceuticals, and other stakeholders," Health Minister Mansukh Mandavya said on Saturday, addressing an event organised by the Pharmaceuticals Department on the sidelines of the third meeting of the G-20 Health Working Group, one of the events under India's G-20 Presidency.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted acute social inequality, with some countries receiving the COVID

an official statement. The Health Minister pointed out that India has already taken steps to ensure more equitable vaccine access in the domestic market.

"The government has provided financial incentives and streamlined regulatory processes to encourage vaccine manufacturers to increase their production capacity. It has also taken steps to ensure the availability of vaccines in rural areas by leveraging the existing infrastructure of primary health centres and other healthcare facilities," Mr. Mandavya said.

Reducing timeline Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that the COVID-19 pandemic underlined the need for reducing the timeline of vaccine manufacturing from decades to less than a year.

"The need is for institutionalising the learnings gained during the pandemic into a system which will straddle countries, span across continents and which will ensure that the learnings of the pandemic are made available to all in an equitable manner," Mr. Bhushan added.

Addressing gaps The Pharmaceuticals Department is addressing major gaps in vaccine R&D before the next pandemic, establishing a structure and principles for better preparedness and creating a mechanism to improve coordination and foster an enabling environment for vaccine R&D, according to

Jaipur to have centre on structural safety of dams

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR

Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur has been identified as the National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams, the first centre of its kind in the country. The centre will develop indigenous capabilities in making

the country self-reliant in handling technology issues related to structural and earthquake safety of dams.

MNIT Director Narayan Prasad Padhy said the centre would conduct a pilot study of select dams to develop and revise safety standards, and review the Central Water Commission's manuals.

WASHINGTON Biden signs debt ceiling Bill that pulls U.S. from brink of default



With just two days to spare, U.S. President Joe Biden signed legislation on Saturday that lifts the nation's debt ceiling, averting an unprecedented default on the federal government's debt.

KHARTOUM Artefacts at risk as Sudan fighters take over Khartoum museum



Members of the Sudanese paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, have taken over the national museum in Khartoum, its deputy director said, raising fears for the safety of important artefacts including ancient mummies amid the war.

DAKAR 15 dead in violence after Senegal court convicts Opposition leader



Tensions remained high in Senegal after fresh overnight clashes brought the death toll to 15 in the two days since a court convicted Opposition leader Ousmane Sonko. His legal woes have prompted rare flare-ups of violence in Senegal, typically a bastion of stability in West Africa, and foreign allies have urged a return to calm, war

HONG KONG Hong Kong detains eight on eve of Tiananmen Square anniversary



The Hong Kong police detained eight persons, including activists and artists on the eve of the 34th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown. Four persons were arrested for disrupting order in public spaces or carrying out acts with seditious intent. Four others were held on suspicion of breaching public peace.

Indonesia proposes peace plan to end war between Russia, Ukraine

Kiy dismisses the prospect with Defence Minister Olesksii Reznikov saying, 'It sounds like a Russian plan, not Indonesian plan'; EU chimes in as the bloc's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says peace in Ukraine has to be achieved on 'just' terms

Agence France-Presse SINGAPORE



Indonesian Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto at the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday.

Indonesia's Defence Minister proposed a plan on Saturday to end the war between Russia and Ukraine at a defence summit in Singapore, an initiative that drew quick criticism from attendees.

"I call on Russia and Ukraine to embark on an immediate cessation of hostilities," Prabowo Subianto said, noting that the more than 15-month conflict had a severe impact on Asian nations' economies and food supplies.

In a speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue defence summit, Mr. Subianto proposed a ceasefire "at present positions", and demilitarised zones that would be guaranteed by observers and United Nations peacekeeping forces.

Ukraine Defence Minister Olesksii Reznikov dismissed the plan calling it a "strange" proposal. "It sounds like a Russian plan, not Indonesian plan," he said. "We don't need this mediator coming to us (with this strange plan)." China has presented its own peace plan to end the war - a vague list of proposals to which EU politicians have reacted with scepticism.

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo travelled to Kyiv and Moscow and met the nations' leaders last year while his country chaired the G-20 bloc of major economies.

Turkey's Erdogan sworn in for new term as President

Head of trust and safety to quit Twitter since Mr. Musk ended an anti-transgender and reduced content moderation to essentially permit anything allowed by law.

Reuters ANKARA



Third term: Tayyip Erdogan greets Members of Parliament after his election win in Ankara on Saturday.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan took the oath of office for a new presidential term on Saturday after winning re-election last week, extending his rule into a third decade.

As President, swear upon my honour and integrity before the great Turkish nation and history to safeguard the existence and independence of the state," Mr. Erdogan said during a ceremony at Parliament in Ankara, which was broadcast live.

Mr. Erdogan won 52% support in a May 28 run-off vote.

Four dead in shooting at Egypt-Israel border

Agence France-Presse JERUSALEM

Three Israeli soldiers and a member of Egypt's security forces were killed on Saturday in a rare exchange of fire near the border between the two countries, officials from both sides said.

The Israeli Army said an Egyptian assailant shot dead two soldiers "in the early morning, while they secured a military post at the Egyptian border", triggering a manhunt in which a third soldier was killed.

Rise in public spending hints at Pakistan polls

Agence France-Presse ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led Pakistan's coalition government has decided to throw open its coffers for massive public spending during the next financial year, finally giving the strongest signal to hold the general elections on time this year, according to a media report on Saturday.

The evidence has been gleaned from the 31% hike in the next fiscal year's development budget to Rs 950 billion, reported the Express Tribune.

Twitter official quits over anti-transgender video

Agence France-Presse SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter's head of trust and safety on Friday confirmed she had quit the company, her departure coming after former Elon Musk ended an anti-transgender and reduced content moderation to essentially permit anything allowed by law.

Mr. Musk said during a CNBC interview in May that he will continue to tweet his unfiltered thoughts even if it hurts his businesses.

American destroyer, Canadian warship sail through Taiwan Strait

Agence France-Presse TAIPEI

U.S. and Canadian warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Saturday, the Navies of both countries said, in a joint mission through the sensitive waterway that separates democratic self-ruled Taiwan from China.

China claims Taiwan as its territory and has in recent years ramped up military and political pressure on the island.

Last week, Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong led two other ships through the 180 km-wide Taiwan Strait, in a show of force after Beijing conducted aerial and naval exercises around Taiwan in April.

The U.S. 7th Fleet announced on Saturday that its destroyer USS Chung-Hoon and the Royal Canadian Navy's HMCS Montreal were "conducting a routine Taiwan Strait transit June 3 (local time) through waters where high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law."

Southern Railway advertisement for job openings in Chennai and Madurai.

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation advertisement for a tender alert.

Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation advertisement for tenders.

"Chung-Hoon and Montreal's bilateral transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the commitment of the U.S. and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the U.S. Navy said.

Odisha Engineering Unit advertisement for job openings.

Southern Railway advertisement for job openings.

Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute advertisement for a vacancy circular.

Turkey's Erdogan sworn in for new term as President

Reuters

ANKARA

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan took the oath of office for a new presidential term on Saturday after winning re-election last weekend, extending his rule into a third decade.

“I, as President, swear upon my honour and integrity before the great Turkish nation and history to safeguard the existence and independence of the state,” Mr. Erdogan said during a ceremony at Parliament in Ankara, which was broadcast live. Mr. Erdogan received his mandate from the interim Parliament Speaker before taking the oath.

Turkey's longest-serving leader, Mr. Erdogan won 52.2% support in a May 28 run-off vote.



Third run: Tayyip Erdogan greets Members of Parliament after his election win in Ankara on Saturday. REUTERS

His new five-year mandate allows Mr. Erdogan to pursue the increasingly authoritarian policies that have polarised the country, a NATO member, but strengthened its position as a regional military power.

After taking the oath in Parliament, a ceremony will be held at the presi-

dential palace attended by high-level officials from 78 countries and international organisations, including NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Mr. Erdogan will name his Cabinet later on Saturday, and is expected to signal a change in his unorthodox approach to economic policy.

Let's talk Turkey

The data for the charts has been collated from OurWorldinData, the World Bank, the UNDP's Human Development Reports and V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute of Sweden's University of Gothenberg



Chart 1: Each chart depicts Turkey's values/scores in various socio-political and economic indicators over the years. For instance, Turkey's GDP per capita in 2013 was \$12,507.6. By 2021, it decreased to \$9,661.2

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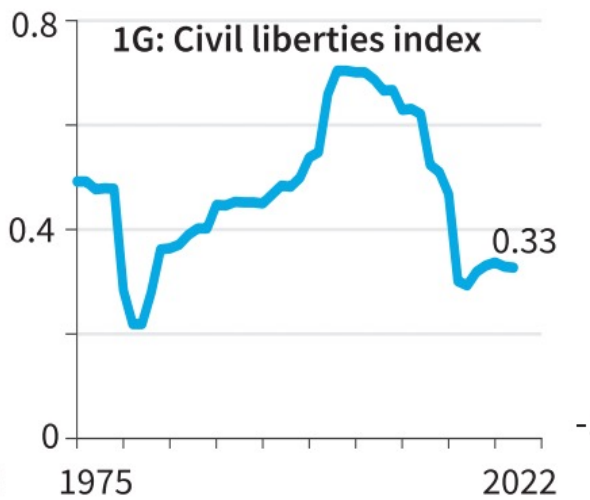
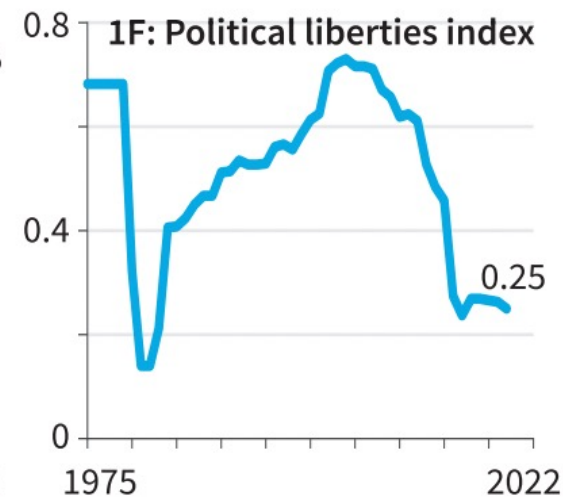
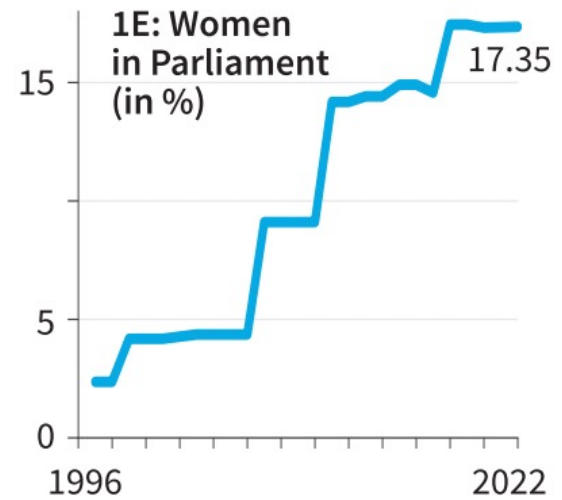
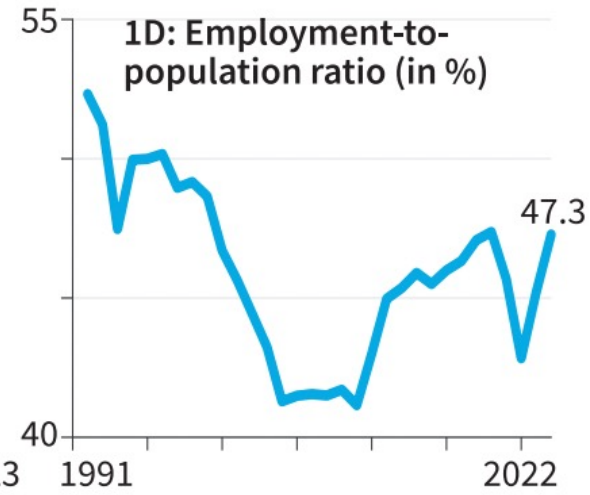
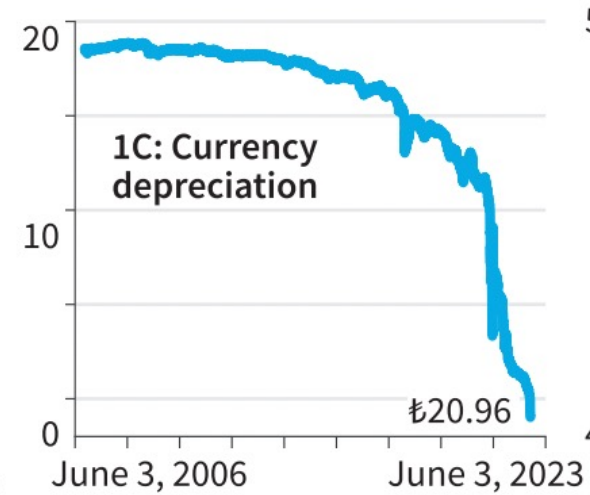
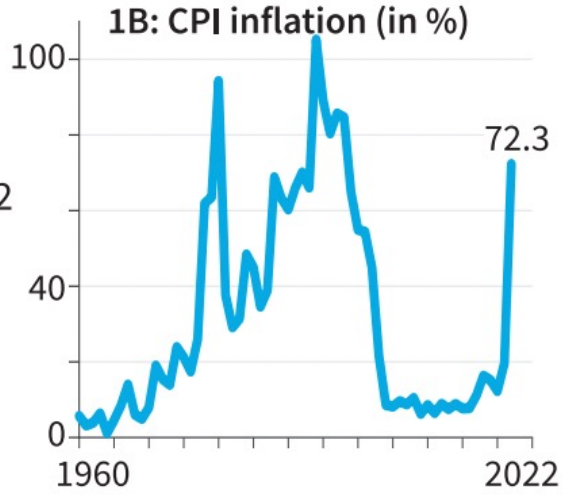
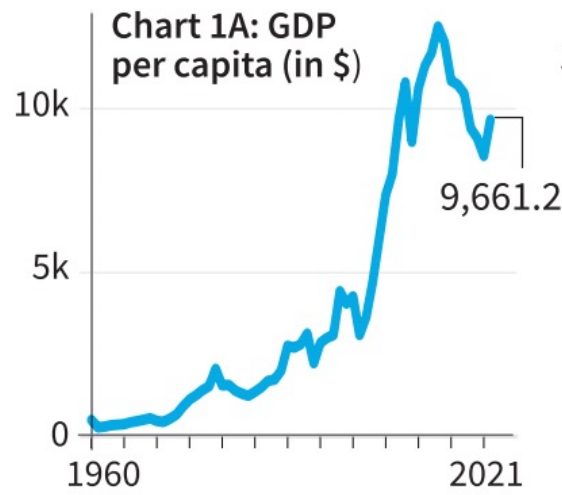
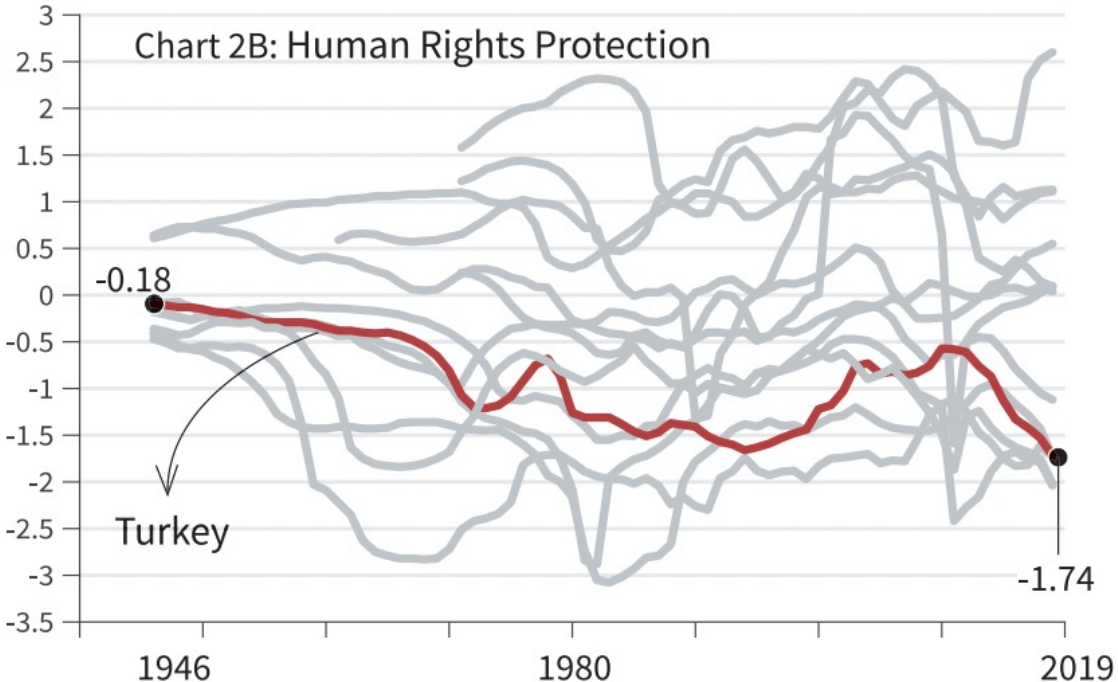
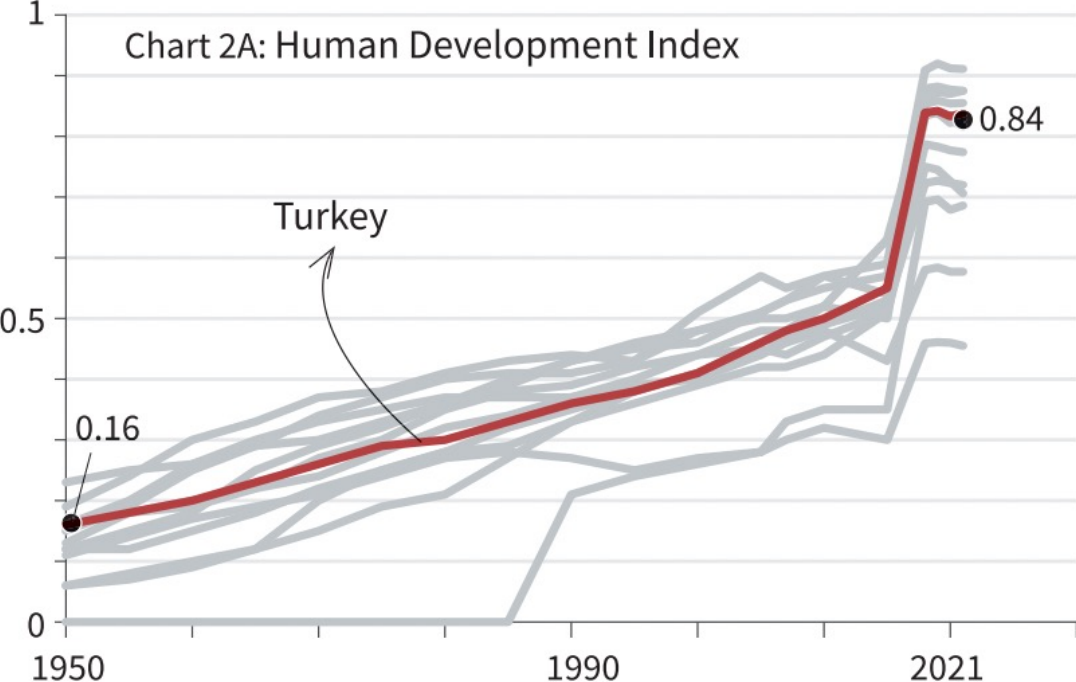


Chart 2: The chart shows the Human Development Index and Human Rights Protection index among West Asian countries (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE and Yemen).



IN BRIEF



Facebook took action on 41% individual grievances: Meta

Social media giant Meta's Facebook took action against 41% of complains it received from users and Instagram against more than 54% of grievances raised by users in April 2023, according to the company's latest India Monthly Report. Facebook had "acted on" less than one-fourth grievances of users whose they claimed that the content was "showing them in partial nudity or in a sexual act".

Taking over policy liabilities of Sahara, not merger: SBI Life

SBI Life, a subsidiary of country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI), has said it is not a merger between the two companies but only a transfer of the policyholder related assets and liabilities of Sahara Life Insurance. On Friday, regulator IRDAI directed SBI Life Insurance to takeover the policy liabilities of about two lakh policies along with assets of stressed Sahara Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (SILIC).

Share of flexible space rises to 10-12% from 5-8% pre-COVID

Indian corporates are fast embracing flexible workspace which now accounts for 10-12% of their real estate portfolio compared with 5-8% pre-COVID pandemic, according to Colliers. Real estate consultant Colliers recently released a report "Global Occupier Outlook for 2023" which revealed that many corporates in Asia Pacific are deferring decisions on taking office space on lease as they are grappling with the complexities of the hybrid work model.

Shriram Properties aims to sustain growth momentum in FY24: CMD

N. Anand CHENNAI

Shriram Properties Ltd.'s (SPL) main focus is to reduce debt and interest costs in the coming quarters and emerge as one of the fastest growing and profitable residential real estate companies, said CMD M. Murali.



M. Murali

"Currently, SPL has a gross debt of ₹553 crore and net debt of ₹432 crore," he said. "This will be brought down to ₹252 crore in FY24 and to zero by the next year." M. Murali said during an interaction. Elaborating further, he said that SPL had zero inventory in completed projects and more than 75% of ongoing project invento-

ries had already been sold. The real estate player, which ranks among the top 30 in India, intends to complete and deliver another six million sq ft over the next two fiscal (FY24 and FY25) through 26 projects. In FY23, SPL completed 3.8 million sq ft, with a sales value of ₹1,850 crore. Asserting that the company stood firm in its

growth path and remained focused on leveraging its robust operating platform for profitable growth going forward, the CMD said that this should help sustain the growth momentum in FY24 and deliver a significant value for stakeholders.

"Strong prospects" "The company's long-term prospects remain strong," he said. Promising demand outlook, especially in the mid-market and affordable segments, and favourable market trends argued well, he added. Backed by a strong project pipeline, SPL is well positioned to benefit from ongoing consolidation in

the industry." Mr. Murali said SPL, meanwhile, reported an almost fourfold net profit for FY23 to ₹68 crore due to higher volumes, better realisation and change in product mix. Revenue from operations grew 56% to ₹674 crore. "We hope to see over 50% jump in profitability and 20% in sales value during FY24," he said. The company had been able to sustain sales momentum over the quarters, despite deferment of two to three fiscal (FY24 and FY25) delayed launches from Q3 to end-Q4 due to external factors. Gross collections stood strong at ₹1,200 crore despite the impact of the delays, he said.

MM Forgings intends to become a major EV player

N. Anand CHENNAI

Auto component supplier MM Forgings Ltd. (MMF) has drawn up plans to become a major player in the electric vehicle (EV) space and has started working towards it, said vice chairman and MD Vikyashankar Krishnan.

MM Forgings subsidiary Abhinava Rizec will start to make EV powertrains CY24 onwards

According to the plan, MMF's subsidiary will start making EV powertrains CY24 onwards. A power train consists of controller, motor and gear box. The start-up has already built and developed its own technology for the motor and MMF is shopping for a technology partner in the controller space. "Initially, we will focus on making city-based Abhinava Rizec that

can produce powertrain components for two- and three-wheelers and light commercial vehicles (LCVs). According to the plan, MMF's subsidiary will start making EV powertrains CY24 onwards. A power train consists of controller, motor and gear box. The start-up has already built and developed its own technology for the motor and MMF is shopping for a technology partner in the controller space. "Initially, we will focus on making city-based Abhinava Rizec that

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TRAI tells telcos to have one site for consent

Telecom regulator has directed telecom service providers to develop a unified digital platform in two months to seek, maintain and revoke customers' consent for promotional calls and messages as it seeks to tackle menace of nuisance calls and unsolicited promotional messages

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

In order to curb the menace of pesky calls and SMS, telecom regulator TRAI has directed telcos to develop a unified digital platform in two months to seek, maintain and revoke customers' consent for promotional calls and messages. In the first phase, only subscribers will be able to initiate the process to register their consent for receiving promotional calls and SMS, and later, businesses will be able to reach out to customers to seek their

consent to receive promotional messages, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said in a statement on Saturday. "TRAI has now issued a direction to all the access providers to develop and deploy the Digital Consent Acquisition (DCA) facility for creating a unified platform and process to register customers' consent digitally across all service providers and principal entities," the regulator said. At present, there is no unified system to show customers' consent for receiving promotional video and text messages.

Curbing cold calls

TRAI has given telcos two months to roll out a common facility to hold customers' consent for getting promotional calls, SMS

"Considering the volume of work involved, TRAI has allocated two months time to develop such facilities by all Access Providers and thereafter

implement it in a phased manner. This direction has been issued by TRAI under its Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018," the regulator said. Under the prevalent system, consent is obtained and maintained by the various principal entities such as banks, other financial institutions, insurance companies, trading companies, business entities, real estate companies etc. The absence of a unified digital platform makes it impossible for telcos to check variety of consents. "The DCA process shall have facility to seek, maintain and revoke the consent of customers, as per the processes envisaged under FCCPR. The consent data collected will be

shared on the Digital Ledger Platform (DLTP) for scrubbing by all access providers," TRAI said. Common short code Access providers, which include telecom players like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, have been further directed to use a common short code starting with 127 for sending consent seeking messages. "The purpose, scope of consent and principal entity or brand name shall be mentioned clearly in the consent seeking message sent through the short code," the regulator said.

OPEC+ begins meetings that may seal more output cuts

Reuters LONDON

OPEC and its allies began two days of meetings on Saturday that may culminate in further output cuts of as much as 1 million barrels per day, OPEC sources said, as the group faces flagging oil prices and a looming supply glut. OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, pumps about 10% of global crude, meaning its policy decisions can have a major impact on oil prices. Three OPEC+ sources



told Reuters on Friday that talks were being discussed among options for Sunday's session, when OPEC+ meets at 2 p.m. (3:00 GMT) in Vienna. OPEC+ held a separate pre-meeting on Saturday but ministers made no comment on possible policy decisions afterwards.

The sources said cuts could amount to 1 million bpd on top of existing cuts of 2 million bpd and voluntary cuts of 1.6 million bpd, announced in a surprise move in April and which took effect in May. "We didn't go into these things (yet)," Iraq's oil minister Hayan Abdel-Ghani said prior to the meetings, when asked about a possible cut of 1 million bpd. Western nations have accused OPEC+ of manipulating oil prices and undermining the global economy through high energy costs. The West has also accused OPEC+ of siding with Russia.

The Hindu Bureau

HPCL's joint venture oil refinery at Pachpadra of Rajasthan's Barmer district is set to begin commercial production by December 2024, with the investment of ₹2,583 crore towards the State government's 26% stake in the refinery. The share capital for the project receiving approval. This is expected to speed up the refinery work and ensure jobs for 10,000. A target has been set to complete the ₹2,583 crore project's entire mechanical work by May 2024, while

by United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi in 2013 and the BJP government in the State put it on hold to renegotiate the terms with the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated 'commencement of work' on the project in 2018 and accused the UPA of announcing the project without clearances or budget allocation. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot brought the State government's priority list and took steps for resource mobilisation for the project.

A target has been set to complete the ₹2,583 crore project's entire mechanical work by May 2024, while

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UCO Bank appoints Ashwani Kumar as MD

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA

Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Kolkata-based public sector UCO Bank with effect from June 1.

Prior to this, he was the executive director of the state-owned Indian Bank and is a qualified chartered accountant, the public sector lender said in a statement on Saturday.

Mr. Kumar, an experienced banker, succeeds S.S. Prasad as the MD and CEO of UCO Bank.

He had earlier worked in Bank of Baroda, Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab National Bank and Chennai-based Indian Bank.

Founded	6 January 1943; 80 years ago
Founder	G. D. Birla
Headquarters	Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	Ashwani Kumar ^[1] (MD & CEO)
Products	Consumer banking, corporate banking, finance and insurance, investment banking, mortgage loans, private banking, wealth management
Revenue	▲ ₹18,166.42 crore (US\$2.3 billion)(2021) ^[2]
Operating income	▲ ₹5,420.62 crore (US\$680 million) (2021) ^[2]
Net income	▲ ₹167.03 crore (US\$21 million) (2021) ^[2]
Total assets	▲ ₹253,336.1092 crore (US\$32 billion) (2021) ^[2]
Owner	Government of India ^[2]
Number of employees	22,012 (March 2021) ^[2]
Subsidiaries	Paschim Banga Gramin Bank
Capital ratio	13.74% (2020) ^[2]



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EMPOWERMENT MISSION
Women's calling in backwater tourism
STATES » PAGE 6

THE WRESTLER PROTEST
The marked absence of citizen activism
It points to a changing Indian sensibility
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

OBITUARY
Maoist leader Katakam Sudarshan passes away
STATES » PAGE 6

Railway Board alleges 'signalling interference', seeks CBI probe

Commissioner of Railway Safety completes investigation; Minister says root cause of collision found to be a problem in electronic interlocking; people responsible for the error identified; Board says sabotage has not been ruled out

Satvasundar Barik
Abhinav Lakshman
MARELLI Doreecha
BHUBANESWAR, NEW DELHI

The Railway Board has recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the devastating multi-train collision in Balasore district of Odisha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday. The Board said that "signalling interference" had been identified as the main cause of the accident, which claimed 275 lives and left more than 1,000 injured. It added that sabotage had not been ruled out.



Fast-paced work: Workers busy restoring the track at the accident spot at the Bahanaga railway station in Balasore district of Odisha on Sunday. SHIVANJAN ROUT

investigation into the incident," Mr. Vaishnaw told presspersons in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening. At the accident site earlier in the day, he said the Commissioner of Railway

Safety had completed its investigation. The root cause of the collision had been identified as a problem in electronic interlocking, the operational signalling system for this

stretch of the track, Mr. Vaishnaw said. The people responsible for the error had been identified.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Rail accident death toll lowered to 275

Satvasundar Barik
BAHANAGA

Two days after a multi-train collision in Odisha's Balasore district, relatives continued a frenetic search for the remains of their loved ones among the bodies stacked at hospitals, the accident site and makeshift mortuaries.

On Sunday, the Odisha government put the death toll at 275, lower than the 288 declared on Saturday, saying that some bodies had been counted twice.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Panel formed to investigate ethnic violence in Manipur

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday appointed a three-member Commission of Inquiry to investigate the ethnic violence in Manipur.

A notification issued by the Union Home Ministry said that the "Commission shall submit its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting". The panel's headquarters will be in Imphal.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

UPSC PHYSICS
20th June 2023
02:00 PM to 04:00 PM
EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 20



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IN BRIEF



Mali community holds mahapanchayat in Jaipur

The Mali community on Sunday held a mahapanchayat in Jaipur to demand 12% reservation in jobs and higher education as well as increased political representation in the State and at the Centre. The panchnayat, attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, was called nearly a month after members of the community blocked the Jaipur-Agra National Highway to press for their demands. The 11-day-long protest on the highway was called off on May 2 after the State government assured that Mr. Birla's panel will conduct a survey in view of the community's quota demand.

M.P. CM announces public holiday on Parshuram Jayanti

Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly poll, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said the birthday of Lord Parshuram will be a public holiday, a move apparently aimed at reaching out to the Brahmin community. Addressing the "Brahmin Mahakumbh" at Jamboree Ground in BHEL township of Bhopal, Mr. Chouhan said a lesson on the Lord Parshuram will also be included in the textbooks of schools. On the occasion, Mr. Chouhan reiterated that priests of temples will be given an honorarium and students of Sanskrit schools will be provided with incentives.

Yogi praises Modi's leadership at Tiffin Pe Charcha in U.P.

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday participated in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Tiffin Pe Charcha initiative held under its Maha Sampark Abhiyan to mark nine years of the Modi government.

Addressing senior party workers in Gorakhpur, Mr. Adityanath said India's prestige had been elevated across the globe due to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"When we talk about our own achievements, it does not mean much. But when the world acknowledges our work, it is a real honour. Everyone is aware



Yogi Adityanath

of India's position globally prior to 2014. Not just the country but the whole world is witnessing the positive changes that have taken place under the leadership of Mr. Modi," said the U.P. CM.

Citing Mr. Modi's recent visit, U.P. CM added by breaking protocol, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea not only received the India's PM after

sunset but also greeted him by touching his feet. Mr. Adityanath requested the BJP workers to join the various programmes being held for a month to commemorate nine years of the Modi government. He also talked about various projects initiated in Gorakhpur under the Narendra Modi-led BJP regime.

After addressing the workers, Mr. Adityanath opened a tiffin box and had food with the party workers who had also brought their individual tiffins. After its Chai Pe Charcha initiative, the BJP in Uttar Pradesh started the Tiffin Pe Charcha programme recently, where the party leaders and workers bring their own tiffins and eat the meal together.

"Strict security measures are in place with increased patrols by local police and paramilitary forces in the inner and outer areas," said Mr. Shukla.

Himachal and Punjab appear set for face-off over Shanan power project

Vikas Vasudevan

CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are set for a face-off as the 99-year lease on the British-era 110 MW Shanan hydropower project situated at Joghindergarh in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, presently under the control of the Punjab government, will expire in March 2024.

The issue may snowball into a major controversy between the two neighbouring States as the Himachal Pradesh government has made it clear that it will not renew or extend the lease.

Himachal Pradesh wants the project handed over to the State on expiry of the lease period. The Punjab government, on the other hand, is in no mood to part with its prized project, and is prepared to take legal recourse to retain it.



A view of the Shanan hydroelectric power project in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu recently wrote a letter to the Punjab Chief Minister, stating that the 99-year lease given to Punjab by the then ruler of Mandi, Raja Joghinder Singh Bahadur, would end on March 2, 2024. The Himachal government had decided not to renew or extend the lease period of the project, and intends to take over the project, the letter added.

Days after this letter, Mr. Sukhu on May 29 met Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh and asked for the Centre's intervention, indicating Himachal's serious pursuit of the matter.

Mr. Sukhu asked the Union Minister to issue "necessary directions to the Punjab government for taking mandatory steps for hand-

To stay united, wrestlers to hold own mahapanchayat soon, says Bajrang Punia

Farm union leader Gurman Singh Charani, Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad and former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik attend an event in Haryana to garner support for the wrestlers

Samridhi Tewari

NEW DELHI

Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia on Sunday said the wrestlers, who led an over-a-month-long protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, will soon hold a mahapanchayat of their own. Mr. Punia made this announcement while addressing a "Sarv Samaj Samarthan Panchayat" to garner support for the wrestlers in Haryana's Sonapat district.

"Our sisters and daughters are disheartened with the kind of treatment meted out to them, but there has been no let-up in the support from people. Despite the laurels our daughters have brought to the country, no action has still been taken [against the BJP MP]," Mr. Punia said.

He asserted that the wrestlers were fighting the battle not for any particular caste but for the honour and respect of "our girls." "If we remain divided, we cannot win," he said. "Panchayats were conducted in Sorham and Kurukshetra [to support us], but we couldn't attend them. Now, we will take a call on holding a mahapanchayat. We will decide on the venue. We want to bring everybody together," Mr. Punia said.

Mr. Singh has been booked under IPC Section 354 (assault or criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking) and 34 (common intention) in two FIRs at the Connaught Place police station.



Farmers leaders and supporters attend a Sarva Samaj Samarthan Panchayat organised in support of the protesting wrestlers in Sonapat on Sunday.

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WFI president to address BJP rally in U.P. on June 11

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment by women wrestlers, will address a party rally at Katra in his constituency, Kaiserganj, in Uttar Pradesh on June 11.

The rally is being held as part of the BJP's 'Mahasampark Abhiyan' (mass outreach campaign) to mark the completion of nine years of the Narendra Modi-led central government.

Mr. Singh, a six-time Lok Sabha MP, had earlier postponed his 'Jan Chetna Mahaurally' scheduled for Monday in Ayodhya citing a police investigation into the wrestlers' allegations and "respect for Supreme Court directions".

"Discussion on evile" The WFI chief had said in a social media post that the rally was "to deliberate on the evils of provincialism, regionalism and caste conflict through which some parties were trying to disturb social harmony." Circle Officer (Ayodhya) Shalendra Pratap Gantam had told The Hindu that



Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

the venue for the 'Jan Chetna Mahaurally' was booked for a different event, and hence couldn't be held.

He added that in view of other programmes scheduled on World Environment Day on June 5, the permission sought by BJP councillor Charola Devi on behalf of Mr. Singh had been denied.

Facing protest wrestlers such as Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik have been holding protests since April 23 accusing Mr. Singh of sexual harassment.

On May 4, the Supreme Court had closed the proceedings on a petition by women wrestlers accusing the WFI chief of sexual assault, noting that FIRs had been filed against him and seven complainants provided adequate security.

Punjab forces on alert ahead of Operation Bluestar anniversary

Press Trust of India

AMRITSAR/CHANDIGARH

Security has been stepped up in Punjab's Amritsar ahead of the 39th anniversary of Operation Bluestar on June 6, police said on Sunday.

Special Director General of Police Arjit Shukla (law and order) reviewed the security arrangements in Amritsar.

Operation Bluestar was the Army operation carried out in June 1984 to flush out militants from the Golden Temple.

"Strict security measures are in place with increased patrols by local police and paramilitary forces in the inner and outer areas," said Mr. Shukla.

Amir Bhehary

PATNA

A bridge over the Ganga in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, being built at a cost of ₹1,716 crore, collapsed on Sunday. Though circumstances said many men were working on the bridge when the incident happened, no casualties have been reported.

It is the second time that the four-lane bridge connecting Sultanganj in Bhagalpur to Agwan in Khagaria district has collapsed during its construction.

Last year, the structure had collapsed amid strong wind and rain. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ordered an investigation and the foundation stone for its reconstruction. On March 9,

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Centre mulling equal share in property to ST women: Minister

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Centre is considering a notification under the Hindu Succession Act to apply beneficial provisions to the Scheduled Tribe women who consider legal recourse to enable them to inherit an equal share in the properties of their fathers or Hindu Undivided Families. Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal has said.

In a communication to DDK Kapu Sabha Member P. Wilson, he said that the project was being examined in consultation with the other Ministries/Departments concerned — the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

It also appears that consultations with the State governments are required, as the subject matter falls on List-III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.



Arjun Ram Meghwal

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Vaiko elected unopposed as MDMK general secy.

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) founder Vaiko was re-elected unopposed to the post of general secretary in the fifth organisational election held on Saturday.

A press release said all office-bearers were elected unopposed.

Auditor Arjunraj has been elected the president; Mr. Senthiluraj, treasurer; Durai Vaiko, principal secretary; and Mallai Sathya, A.K. Magesh, Adhikari R. Marudan, T.M. Rajendran, and Dr. Kokkaihan Sheik Mudasir as deputy general secretaries.

The general council meeting, scheduled for June 14, will formally give its consent to the election of office-bearers.

Himachal and Punjab appear set for face-off over Shanan power project

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are set for a face-off as the 99-year lease on the British-era 110 MW Shanan hydropower project situated at Jogindernagar in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, presently under the control of the Punjab government, will expire in March 2024.

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Himachal Pradesh wants the project handed over to the State on expiry of the lease period. The Punjab government, on the other hand, is in no mood to part with its prized project, and is prepared to take legal recourse to retain it.



A view of the Shanan hydroelectric power project in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu recently wrote a letter to the Punjab Chief Minister, stating that the 99-year lease given to Punjab by the then ruler of Mandi, Raja Joginder Singh Bahadur, would end on March 2, 2024. The Himachal government had decided not to renew or extend the lease period of the project, and intends to take over the project, the letter added.

Days after this letter, Mr. Sukhu on May 29 met Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh and asked for the Centre's intervention, indicating Himachal Pradesh's serious pursuit of the matter.

Centre's help sought

Mr. Sukhu asked the Union Minister to issue "necessary directions to the Punjab government for taking mandatory steps for hand-

ing over the project to the State before the expiry of the lease period, which as per the lease agreement would be over in March 2024".

Punjab, on the other hand, maintained that it would consider legal recourse if the issue comes up. "The project is in continuous ownership and possession of the Punjab government. The issue is well settled, but if we are pushed, then legal recourse could be adopted," a senior official cognisant of the matter, who did not wish to be quoted, told *The Hindu*.

The 110 MW Shanan power project was envisaged by Col. Batty, the then chief engineer of the Government of Punjab, in 1922. The first stage (48 MW) of the project was commissioned in 1932. The project was constructed following the execution of the lease agreement in 1925.



CPI(Maoist) leader Katakam Sudarshan passes away at 69

P. Seidhar
Matri Ramu
HYDERABAD

Top Maoist leader Katakam Sudarshan, 69, widely known as Comrade Anand died of a heart attack in the guerrilla zone of Dandakaranya in Chhattisgarh on May 31.

The sociogramarian revolutionary was a member of the central committee and polit bureaus of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist).

He had been suffering from lung-related ailments, diabetes and high blood pressure for the past several years. He passed away 20 minutes past noon on May 31, Wednesday, Maoist spokesperson Abhay said in a statement.

Laying foundation

Sudarshan was a first-generation revolutionary leader of the Naxalbari and Sekakulam movements and played a key role in organising, building and spreading the Maoist movement in different parts of the country for nearly five decades.

He was born into a working class family at Bellampally in undivided Andhra Pradesh in Telangana. Sudarshan actively associated himself with people's movements at a young age. He got attracted to the revolutionary movement while pursuing a diploma in mining.

Eventually, he played a key role in constituting the Radical Students' Union. Later, he joined the party's



Katakam Sudarshan unit in Bellampally. He was active in programmes of the Radical Youth League and Singareni Coal Mine workers' agitations. In 1978, he worked as a Maoist party organiser for the areas of Lakshetipet and Jannarua areas.

Extensive record He got into the Dandakaranya forest committee in 1987. He took over as North Zone Special Zonal Committee secretary in 1995.

The same year, he was made the member of the central committee at the All India Special Conference of the Maoist party. He would remain a great inspiration for the party workers, leaders People's Liberation Guerrilla Army members, commanders and entire revolutionary community, Mr. Abhay said.

Sudarshan was the editor of *Kumbhi, Eru Jenuka, People's Voice* and *March* publications at different points of time. The Maoist party invited people and its activists to convene his memorial meetings across the country.

Naidu-Shah meeting leads to talk of a TDP-BJP alliance

TDP chief has of late been making overtures to the saffron party, leading to speculation: Telangana BJP chief dismisses reports of an electoral understanding between the two parties as rumour

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A meeting between Naidu and Shah on Saturday led to speculation about a BJP-TDP alliance.

Mr. Naidu had briefed Mr. Amit Shah about the political situation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and emphasised the need for an electoral alliance between the two parties, sources said.

The Jana Sena Party (JSP), which is already in alliance with the BJP, has



N. Chandrababu Naidu

been advocating a tripartite understanding. Its president, Pawan Kalyan, has been underlining the need for unity among the Opposition parties in the State to ensure that the anti-government votes are not split.

Against this backdrop, the meeting has triggered speculation over a possible electoral understanding between the TDP and the BJP not just in Andhra Pradesh but also in Telangana.

But, neither the TDP nor the BJP has disclosed what transpired in the meeting.

It is widely believed that the TDP leadership is keen on a rapprochement with the BJP.

Change in stance Mr. Naidu, who had been highly critical of the BJP leadership after he pulled out of the State to support the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2018-19, has of late been

making overtures to the saffron party.

Meanwhile, Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar defended Mr. Shah and BJP president J.P. Naidu. He said that this kind of a meeting was nothing new as Opposition leaders of States such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar too had met Mr. Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier, for the sake of the nation's development.

At the same time, he dismissed reports of an electoral understanding with the TDP as "rumours", and said that such "kitchen stories" need not be taken into consideration.

56 flapshell, black turtles dead in fire in private land in Kasaragod

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

Fifty-six turtles were burnt to death after a fire broke out on five acres of wetland at Poyanki, near Cheruvar, in Kasaragod in Kerala on Sunday.

The paddy field, which has paddy, trees and shrubs, has been ablaze for the past two days. Twenty-two Indian flapshell and 34 black turtles, which come under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wildlife Pro-



Flapshell and black turtles that were charred to death in a fire that broke out in a wetland in Kasaragod. SPECIAL AGENCE/ANIP

tection Act, were burnt to death when local people arrived at the site to extinguish the fire, and Forest Department personnel arrived at the site to extinguish the fire, according to Kanhangad

Women in flood-ravaged Kuttanad find their footing in tourism with Kudumbashree's aid

Sam Paul A.
ALAPPUZZHA

As Kuttanad is still trying to recover from the economic aftermath of the deadly deluge in 2018, several women who lost their livelihoods are finding their footing in the tourism sector with the support of the Kudumbashree Mission.

A group of six women recently opened a water-sports and entertainment park at Pappattupakkam in Neelampoor gramam chayat. Another all-woman team set up a health tourism clinic at Pulinkumam while other groups have donned the role of tourism providers and opened cafeterias under the common name *Nalambur* Kuttanad.



Starting from scratch: Kuttanavanchi (coracle) services, a main attraction of the watersports and entertainment park at Neelampoor in Kuttanad. SPECIAL AGENCE/ANIP

network of canals. "The economic consequences of the 2018 floods were quite sharp. Apart from providing technical

support, the government helped us bankroll the project. The venture is helping us achieve financial stability," says Sherry Rajendran, a member of the team.

The park, opened on April 25 on a large water-logged paddy polder, is offering visitors kayaking, pedal boat, dinghy, and kuttanavanchi (coracle) services. The water sports activities will soon be moved to a tributary of the Pampa river at Aakkand in the same local body where a Kudumbashree unit is setting up a restaurant.

The water sports park and related activities have been funded under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative-Entrepreneurship Development Program.

Officials say that as many as 130 women have benefited in the first phase of Kudumbashree's tourism initiative for livelihood.

Move to withdraw anti-cow slaughter Act in Karnataka triggers political slugfest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The indication by Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh that the anti-cow slaughter legislation will be withdrawn has triggered a political slugfest with the Opposition BJP set to hold its first State-wide protest against the Congress government on Monday and Tuesday.

Bringing in the legislation was on the priority list of the erstwhile Bharatya Janata Party (BJP) dispensation as it catered to its long-standing agenda. The statement by the Congress ministers that such a law would be withdrawn has

ruined the feathers of the BJP, which lost the recently held Karnataka Assembly election.

"Duplicating voters" Taking serious exception to the government fixing a ceiling for free power supply by considering the average yearly consumption of households, he described it as hoodwinking voters, and said the party's two-day protest would also

cover these aspects. Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai too took exception to the Animal Husbandry Minister's remarks as to why the old cows should not be slaughtered.

Meanwhile, Congress leader and Minister Vignay Kulkarni, who is also a prominent dairy farmer of the State, opposed the anti-cow slaughter legislation and stressed the need for withdrawing it.

"The BJP leaders just talk about cows and they have no knowledge about rearing them. Who will take care of male calves of HF breeds as they are of no use to farmers," he said.

Telangana urges PPA to maintain free flow

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has requested the Pro-laborers Project Authority (PPA) to maintain free flow condition at the project site without impounding water, by keeping open all the 48 crest gates as also river sluices throughout the year in view of the on-set of monsoon to avert submergence in Telangana.

In a letter to the PPA, the Engineer-in-Chief also stated that a joint survey was necessary to take flood protection measures as per the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award.

Further, if someone does not use seatbelts or helmet, all the cameras mounted along the road will detect the violation and issue notices separately. Motor Vehicles department officials.

More elephant task forces to be set up, says Karnataka Forest Minister Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khadse on Sunday announced the formation of two elephant task forces at Bannerghatta and Ramanagara to control human-elephant conflict. "Currently, elephant task forces are operating in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Mysuru, and Chamara Nagar and separate task forces will be formed in Ramanagara and Bannerghatta," Mr. Khadse said.

He also visited the residence of Veerabhadra and

Kalaya who died in an elephant attack in Ramanagara district and presented a cheque for ₹15 lakh.

The Minister said that elephants come to human settlement to consume jackfruit, sugarcane and coffee beans and in order to prevent it, solar wire fencing and hanging solar fences are some of the solutions which will be installed in jumbo-populated areas.

He said that 132 km of carrying out near the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, of which 89 km has been completed.

As AI check starts, no fine for second pillion rider under age 12 in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a month-long trial, Kerala is set to opt for the artificial intelligence-powered (AI) camera surveillance system from Monday.

The AI-enabled cameras will keep round-the-clock tabs on every traffic violation on urban and rural roads in the State and issue challans to traffic violators.

The automated offence detection system will capture the images of law-breakers and alert the control rooms set up in 14 districts. The control rooms will then process the images and issue legal notices to the motorists based on the nature of their traffic



All-seeing eyes: An AI camera placed at Marine Drive in Kochi to detect traffic violations. TRU/ANIP

violations. Transport Minister Antony Raju told mediapersons that the control rooms set up as part of the project would be able to issue up to 25,000 notices a day. In the first phase, notices will be issued for traffic offences such as helmetless riding on motorcycles.

The State has asked the Centre to bring an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicle Act to facilitate the travel of children on motorcycles. The exemption for children will continue until the Centre takes any action on the suggestion, said the Minister.

No VIP will be given undue consideration and on-duty officers listed in the emergency category will get no exemption, added the Minister.

Further, if someone does not use seatbelts or helmet, all the cameras mounted along the road will detect the violation and issue notices separately. Motor Vehicles department officials.

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All-seeing eye: An AI camera placed at Marine Drive in Kochi to detect traffic violations. THULASI KAKKAT

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less riding, driving without seatbelts, using mobile phone while driving, jumping red signal, triple riding on motorcycles, speeding, and illegal and dangerous parking. A child up to 12 years of age will be allowed to be the second pillion rider on

motorcycles.

The State has asked the Centre to bring an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicle Act to facilitate the travel of children on motorcycles. The exemption for children will continue until the Centre takes a call on the suggestion, said the Minister.

No VIP will be given undue consideration and only vehicles listed in the emergency category will be given exemption, added the Minister.

Further, if someone does not use seatbelts or helmet, all the cameras mounted along the road will detect the violation and issue notices separately, said the Motor Vehicles department officials.

Embracing a Sustainable Future on

World Environment Day

Delhi Development Authority

is organising

Plant for the Planet

plantation drive at Yamuna Vatiika

on the Floodplains of River Yamuna

**(Another Permanent Ecological Asset being developed by
DDA after successful development of Asita & Baansera)**

1

Launch of Mission LiFE, a global movement to safeguard our environment from the impact of climate change.



2

India is emerging as a world leader in climate control; it is the only country among the top five emitters on a path compatible with **2 DEGREES WARMING.**



3

Under the Modi government, India fulfilled its resolve to double the number of tigers in the country, four years before the set target; **WITH 3167 TIGERS, TODAY INDIA IS HOME TO 75% OF THE TOTAL TIGER POPULATION GLOBALLY.**



4

CHEETAHS ARE BACK IN INDIA, thanks to the world's first ever inter-continental large carnivore translocation project.



5



200% INCREASE in the number of Ramsar sites (wetlands of international significance), from just 26 in 2014 to 75 today.

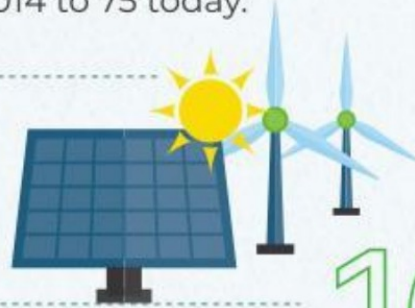
6



Remarkable increase of over **12 THOUSAND SQ. KM. OF FOREST** cover between 2015 and 2021.

7

With over 172 GW renewable energy installed capacity, India proudly stands **4TH GLOBALLY IN RENEWABLE ENERGY.**



8

India has **BANNED IDENTIFIED SINGLE USE PLASTIC** items.



9

MORE THAN 37 CRORE LED BULBS have been distributed under Ujala Yojana; Due to this **OVER ₹19 THOUSAND CRORES ARE SAVED EVERY YEAR.**



10

In the last 9 years, solar power installed capacity has remarkably increased over **25 TIMES, FROM 2.6 GW TO 67 GW.**



The theme for World Environment Day on 5 June 2023 will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

5 जून 2023 को विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की थीम #BeatPlasticPollution अभियान के तहत प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के समाधान पर केंद्रित होगी।

The world is being inundated by plastic. More than **400 million tonnes of plastic** is produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled.

An estimated **19-23 million tonnes** end up in lakes, rivers and seas. Today, plastic clogs our landfills, leaches into the ocean and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet.

दुनिया प्लास्टिक से जलमग्न हो रही है। हर साल 400 मिलियन टन से अधिक प्लास्टिक का उत्पादन होता है, जिसमें से आधे को केवल एक बार उपयोग करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। इसमें से 10 फीसदी से भी कम को रिसाइकिल किया जाता है।

अनुमानित 19-23 मिलियन टन झीलों, नदियों और समुद्रों में समा जाते हैं। आज, प्लास्टिक हमारे लैंडफिल को बंद कर देता है, समुद्र में चला जाता है और जहरीले धुएं में जल जाता है, जिससे यह ग्रह के लिए सबसे गंभीर खतरों में से एक बन जाता है।



- World Environment Day 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands.
- विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस 2023 को कोटे डी आइवर द्वारा नीदरलैंड के साथ साझेदारी में आयोजित किया गया है।

History and Significance

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Environment Day was first marked on June 5, 1973, during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

At that time, the theme was 'Only One Earth'. World Environment Day aims to bring together millions of people from across the globe, engaging them in the effort to protect and restore the Earth.

इतिहास और महत्व

संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यूएनईपी) के नेतृत्व में, विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस पहली बार 5 जून, 1973 को मानव पर्यावरण पर स्टॉकहोम सम्मेलन के दौरान मनाया गया था।

उस समय थीम थी 'ओनली वन अर्थ'। विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस का उद्देश्य दुनिया भर के लाखों लोगों को एक साथ लाना है, उन्हें पृथ्वी की रक्षा और पुनर्स्थापना के प्रयास में शामिल करना है।

TRAIN TRAGEDY: ODISHA GOVT REVISES TOLL DOWNWARDS TO 275

Railways seeks CBI probe; we have identified root cause, those responsible, says Vaishnaw

Change in track configuration caused mishap, not right to comment whether anti-social elements involved: Minister

AVISHEK G. DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

RAILWAYS MINISTER Ashwini Vaishnaw Sunday said the Railway Board has decided to recommend that the additional investigation into the Odisha train accident that has left 275 dead so far be undertaken by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The announcement came hours after the minister told state-owned broadcaster Doordarshan in a morning interview that the "root cause" of the accident and the people responsible for it have been identified.

"Keeping in mind the situation and circumstances under which the accident took place, and the administrative information gathered so far, the Railway Board is recommending that further inquiry and investigation into the case be undertaken by the CBI," Vaishnaw said in Bhubaneswar later on Sunday evening.

In the interview to Doordarshan, he had said: "Whoever has done this, has done such a change — on the point machine, the configuration of the track — based on which everything runs... There has been a change in that configuration, because of which this painful accident has happened. But I will comment on that only after the report of the independent agency is submitted."

The electric point machine

Why the CBI probe
VAISHNAW SAID the point machine or track configuration was changed. Officials say this is a serious finding. This is probably the reason why the Railway Board has decided to hand over further probe to the CBI. The inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety will happen side by side.

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNNY
The railway board is recommending that further inquiry and investigation into the case be undertaken by the CBI.

Vaishnaw referred to a vital device for railway signalling for quick operation and locking of point switches. It plays a key role in the safe running of trains. Failure of these machines

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Relatives identify photos of victims at an industrial estate in Balasore district on Sunday. PTI

Outside AIIMS, some wait for bodies, others sift through photos

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHubaneswar, June 4

AT THE police help desk outside the AIIMS mortuary in Bhubaneswar, a group of people frantically scans a clutch of photographs, looking for a familiar face among the dead. Some find their kin. Others brace for a longer wait.

Two days after the train tragedy in Balasore, a slow, grinding search for the bodies of loved ones continues across mesques.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



A police help desk outside the AIIMS mortuary in Bhubaneswar. Sapt Sanyal

First responders: Kid who called up kin to those who opened their stores for food, medicine

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
BALASORE, June 4

A SCHOOLBOY who helped the injured contact their families as his mother provided first aid, a pharmacy store owner who administered free tetanus injections, a group of villagers who hand-stitched empty cement bags to make stretchers for the injured; a retired government employee who took care of about 50 children through the night; a grocery store owner who supplied free food and water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

DELHI POLICE PROBE AGAINST BRIJ BHUSHAN

Amit Shah meets team of wrestlers, they ask for early chargesheet

MIHIR VASAVDA & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

DAYS AFTER they threatened to throw their medals into the Ganga, and the night before their five-day deadline for action against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh expired, a delegation of the protesting wrestlers met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his official residence in

the Capital late Saturday. The meeting, which is learnt to have lasted for over two hours and ended after midnight, was attended by Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik along with several coaches. "We had a meeting with the Home Minister. I can't comment further," Bajrang told The Indian Express. Bajrang and Sakshi, along with World Championship medalist Vineesh Phogat, have been at the forefront of the protests against sexual harassment by seven

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Fresh violence breaks out in Manipur, Centre sets up probe panel



Village volunteers keep vigil from a makeshift bunker in Suggu. Jyotiraj Leisham

JIMMY LEIVON & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
IMPHAL, NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

EVEN AS the Centre on Sunday announced a Commission of

inquiry, headed by former Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajai Lamba, to probe the Manipur violence which began on May 3, fresh clashes were reported in Suggu town of Kalchhing district which is part of the Valley area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Can't refuse education loan over student's CIBIL score: What Kerala HC held

KHADIJA KHAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE KERALA High Court said last week that a student's credit score cannot be a factor in rejecting an education loan application.

A Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) score is a three-digit numerical summary of one's credit history, which involves an individual's credit payment record across loan types and credit institutions over a period of time.

What was the case?

In *Noel Paul Fredy vs. State Bank of India*, the Kerala High Court was dealing with a petition filed by a student seeking sanction and disbursement of an education loan worth

Rs 4,07,200 within the stipulated time.

On finding that the balance of convenience was in favour of the student, who, after completing his course on May 31 had already secured a job in Oman, Justice PV Kunhikrishnan directed the bank to disburse the amount to the petitioner's college.

"While considering Education Loan application, a humanitarian approach is necessary from the Banks. Students are the nation builders of tomorrow. They have to lead this country in future. Simply because, there is low CIBIL score to a student, who is an applicant for Education loan, I am of the considered opinion that Education loan application ought not have been rejected by Bank," the court said.

Observing that in this case, the student

had secured a job offer too, the court stated, "Banks may be hypertechnical, but a court of law cannot ignore the ground realities."

In its ruling, the court also relied on two Kerala High Court rulings from the year 2020: *KM George vs. The Branch Manager* and *Pranav SR vs. The Branch Manager*.

What did the earlier High Court rulings say?

In *KM George vs. The Branch Manager*, the court said that the rejection of the student's loan application over a deficiency in his father's credit score was arbitrary and violative of the spirit of a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 28, 2001.

In this case, while the student was given a scholarship by his university for the fee of



In 2020, the HC had said a loan could not be refused over CIBIL score of the student's parent. *Representative/Reuters*

the first two semesters on account of his merit, the court found that the bank had failed to assess the student's repaying possibilities based on his course's potential and his future earning capabilities, consequently depriving him of an opportunity to pursue his studies.

Similarly, in *Pranav SR vs. The Branch Manager*, where the petitioner belonged to the OBC community and was seeking an educational loan for continuing his B.Tech studies, the court said that "unsatisfactory credit scores of the parents of the petitioner cannot be a ground to reject an educational loan in view of the fact that the repayment capacity of the petitioner after his education should be the deciding factor."

What did the RBI circular say?

On April 28, 2001, the RBI issued a circular about a comprehensive "model educational loan scheme" prepared by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) "for adoption by all banks".

The scheme aimed to provide financial support from the banking system to deserving and meritorious students pursuing their higher education courses in India and abroad.

Additionally, it was announced in the Union Budget for 2001-2002. While this scheme provided broad guidelines for banks to operationalise education loans, its implementation by banks varied.

Following this, on June 24, 2019, the RBI advised all scheduled commercial banks to adopt the educational loan scheme formulated by the IBA in 2001.

IT IS COMMON IN THIS WEST AFRICAN NATION TO DIVORCE MANY TIMES. AND WHEN THEY DO, WOMEN CELEBRATE

No patriarchal shame, sorry: divorce is party time in Mauritania

RUTH MACLEAN
OUADANE, JUNE 4

THE HENNA artist bent over her client's hand, glancing at the smartphone to get the precise details of the pattern chosen by her customer, a young woman living in an ancient desert city in the West African nation of Mauritania.

Under a sliver of brightening moon, young woman, Iselekhe Jeilaniy, sat on a mat, careful that the wet henna on her skin would not smudge, just as she had on the eve of her wedding day.

But she was not getting married. She was getting divorced.

The next day would be her divorce party.

"Your attention, married ladies — my daughter Iselekhe is divorced now!" Jeilaniy's mother called out to the townspeople, ululating three times & drumming on a plastic tray turned upside down. Then she added the traditional reassurance that the marriage had ended more or less amicably: "She's alive, so is her ex."

Jeilaniy giggled, looking at her phone. She was busy posting henna pictures on Snapchat — the modern version of a divorce announcement.

Divorce in many cultures is seen as shameful and carries a

deep stigma. But in Mauritania, it is not just normal, but even seen as a reason to celebrate and spread the word that the woman is available once more for marriage. For centuries, women have been coming together to eat, sing and dance at each others' divorce parties. Now, the custom is being updated for the selfie generation, with inscribed cakes and social media montages, as well as the traditional food and music.

In this almost 100 percent Muslim country, divorce is frequent; many people have been through five to 10 marriages, and some as many as 20.

Some scholars say the country



Women sing at a divorce party in central Mauritania. *NYT*

has the highest divorce rate in the world, though there is little reliable data from Mauritania, partly because divorce agreements there are often verbal, not documented.

Many women find that divorce affords them freedoms they never dreamed of before or during marriage, especially a first marriage. Mauritania's openness to divorce — which seems so modern — coexists with very traditional practices around first marriages. It is common for parents to choose the groom themselves and marry daughters off when they are still young — more than a third of girls are married by the time they are 18 — allowing

the women little choice in their partners.

Bilale looked at her elder daughter. "She's only interested in marriage and men," she said.

"When I was her age, I was already interested in politics."

Bilale got up from the carpet. If Jeilaniy wouldn't use her status as a divorced woman to advance her career and build her independence, then Bilale would concentrate on using her own.

She headed out the door toward the kitchen, where she had spied some potential voters for the upcoming election.

"I'm going to the young people to get votes," she said. **NYT**



Location of Mauritania (dark green) in western Africa

Capital and largest city	Nouakchott 🌐 18°09'N 15°58'W
Official languages	Arabic
Spoken languages	List [show]
Ethnic groups	40% Haratin 30% Arab-Berber (Beidane) 30% Halpulaar, Fulani, Mande, and Wolof ^[1]

Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 estimate 4,614,974^{[4][5]} • 2013 census 3,537,368^[3] • Density 3.4/km² (8.8/sq mi)
GDP (PPP)	2022 estimate
• Total	\$32.908 billion ^[6] (146th)
• Per capita	\$6,925 ^[6] (132nd)
GDP (nominal)	2022 estimate
• Total	\$10.091 billion ^[6] (151st)
• Per capita	\$2,328 ^[6] (144th)
Gini (2014)	▼ 32.6 ^[7] medium
HDI (2021)	— 0.556 ^[8] medium · 158th
Currency	Ouguiya (MRU)

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee: UNEP

Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has gathered in Paris, France, for the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2).

हाल ही में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP) अंतरसरकारी वार्ता समिति (INC-2) की दूसरी बैठक के लिए पेरिस, फ्रांस में एकत्रित हुआ है।

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) concluded in Uruguay in 2022.

INC-2 aimed **to set the stage** for negotiations on the substance of a global deal to **end plastic pollution** to edge closer to protecting ecosystems, species and humanity from the grave impacts of the linear plastics economy.

अंतर सरकारी वार्ता समिति (INC-1) का पहला सत्र 2022 में उरुग्वे में संपन्न हुआ।

INC-2 का उद्देश्य प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को समाप्त करने के लिए एक वैश्विक सौदे के पदार्थ पर बातचीत के लिए मंच तैयार करना है ताकि पारिस्थितिक तंत्र, प्रजातियों और मानवता को रैखिक प्लास्टिक अर्थव्यवस्था के गंभीर प्रभावों से बचाया जा सके।

- What is the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC)?
- **About:**
 - The INC was established in February 2022, at the 5th session of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2)**.
 - A historic resolution (5/14) was adopted **to develop an international legally binding instrument** on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.
- अंतर सरकारी वार्ता समिति (INC) क्या है?
- INC की स्थापना फरवरी 2022 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण सभा (UNEA-5.2) के 5वें सत्र में हुई थी।
- 2024 के अंत तक वार्ता को पूरा करने की महत्वाकांक्षा के साथ समुद्री पर्यावरण सहित प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी उपकरण विकसित करने के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक संकल्प (5/14) को अपनाया गया था।

- In the absence of necessary interventions, the amount of plastic waste entering **aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple** from some 9–14 million tonnes per year in 2016 to a projected **23–37 million tons per year by 2040**.

- आवश्यक हस्तक्षेपों के अभाव में, जलीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्र में प्रवेश करने वाले प्लास्टिक कचरे की मात्रा 2016 में लगभग 9–14 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष से लगभग तिगुनी होकर 2040 तक अनुमानित 23–37 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष हो सकती है।

What is the United Nations Environment Assembly?

It is the governing body of the **UN Environment Programme**.

It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण सभा क्या है?

यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम का शासी निकाय है।

यह पर्यावरण पर दुनिया की सर्वोच्च स्तर की निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था है।

The Assembly is made up of the **193 UN Member States** and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.

It was created in **June 2012**, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

असंबली 193 संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सदस्य देशों से बनी है और वैश्विक पर्यावरण शासन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हर दो साल में आयोजित होती है।

इसे जून 2012 में सतत विकास पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र सम्मेलन के दौरान बनाया गया था, जिसे RIO+20 भी कहा जाता है।



What are the Initiatives to tackle Plastic Pollution?



India:



Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management



India Plastics Pact



Project REPLAN

प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए क्या पहल हैं?

भारतीय:

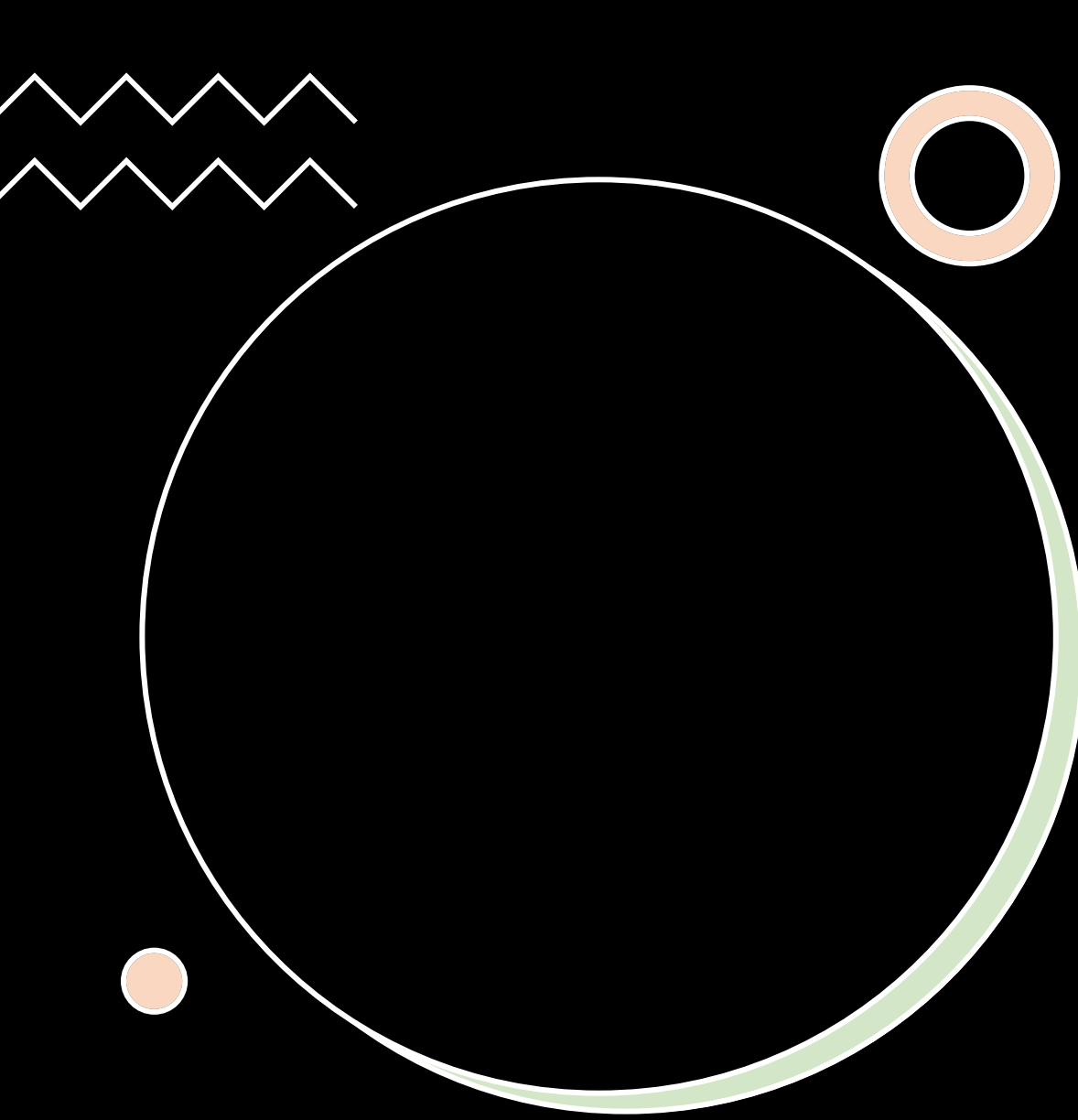
प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (संशोधन) नियम, 2022


विस्तारित निर्माता उत्तरदायित्व (ईपीआर)

एकल उपयोग प्लास्टिक और प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन के उन्मूलन पर राष्ट्रीय डैशबोर्ड

भारत प्लास्टिक संधि

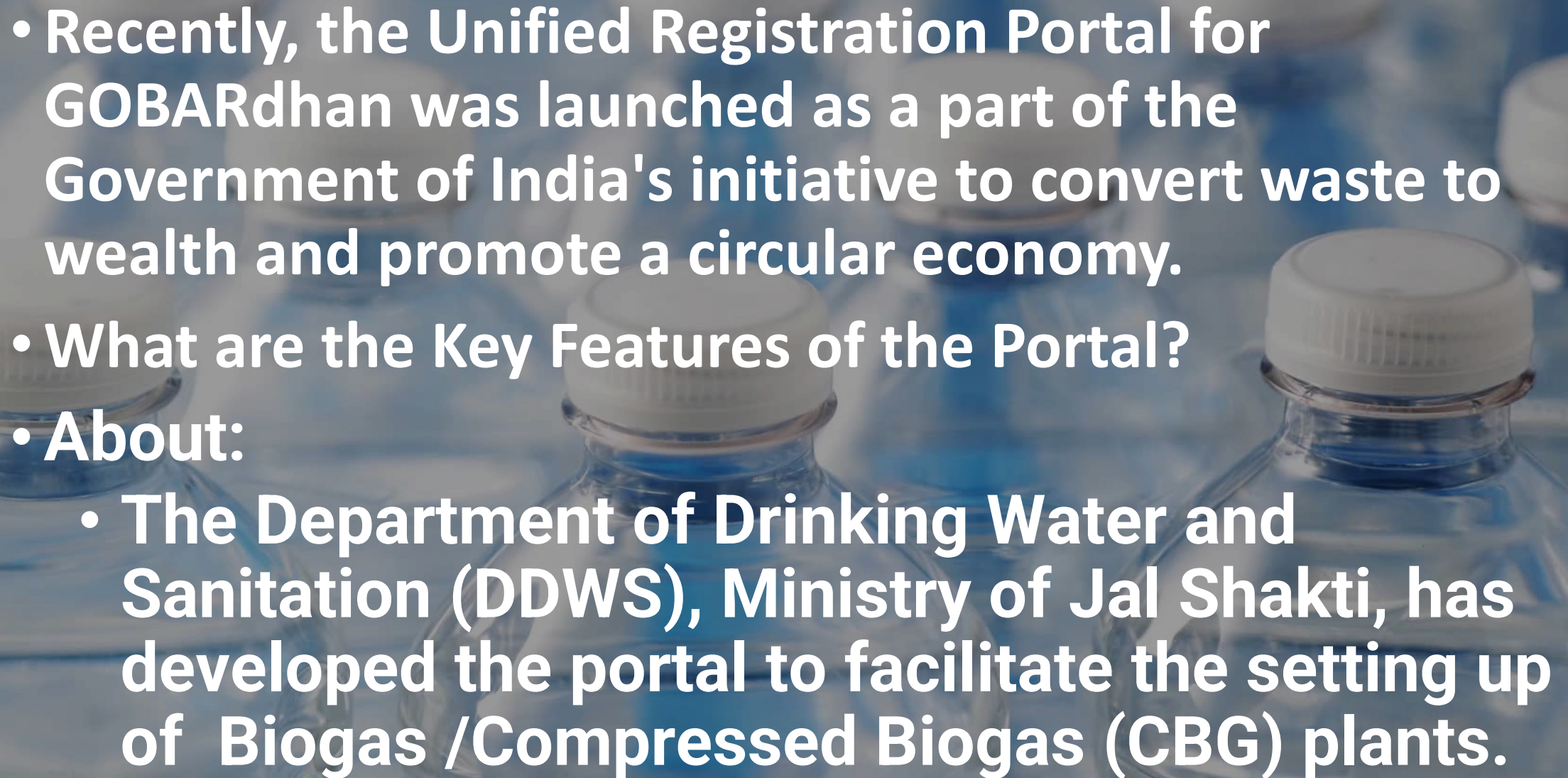
प्रोजेक्ट रिप्लान

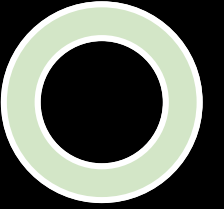
- 
- **Global:**
 - **European Union' Directive on Single-Use Plastics**
 - **Closing the loop.**
 - **The Global Tourism Plastics initiative**

 - एकल-उपयोग वाले प्लास्टिक पर यूरोपीय संघ का निर्देश
 - पुनर्चक्रण करना।
 - वैश्विक पर्यटन प्लास्टिक पहल
- 

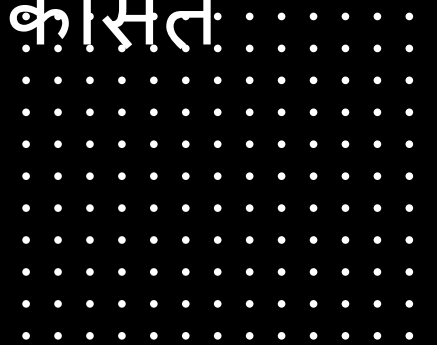
Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan Launched



- 
- Recently, the Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan was launched as a part of the Government of India's initiative to convert waste to wealth and promote a circular economy.
 - What are the Key Features of the Portal?
 - About:
 - The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, has developed the portal to facilitate the setting up of Biogas /Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants.



- हाल ही में, GOBARdhan के लिए एकीकृत पंजीकरण पोर्टल भारत सरकार की पहल के एक भाग के रूप में शुरू किया गया था ताकि कचरे को धन में परिवर्तित किया जा सके और एक चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।
- पोर्टल की प्रमुख विशेषताएं क्या हैं?
- के बारे में:
- जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के पेयजल और स्वच्छता विभाग (डीडीडब्ल्यूएस) ने बायोगैस/संपीड़ित बायोगैस (सीबीजी) संयंत्रों की स्थापना की सुविधा के लिए पोर्टल विकसित किया है।



- **Objectives and Scope:**

- The portal acts as a **one-stop repository** for assessing investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at the pan India level.
- It streamlines the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants

- उद्देश्य और कार्यक्षेत्र:

- पोर्टल पैन इंडिया स्तर पर बायोगैस/सीबीजी क्षेत्र में निवेश और भागीदारी का आकलन करने के लिए वन-स्टॉप रिपोर्टिंग के रूप में कार्य करता है।
- यह सीबीजी/बायोगैस संयंत्रों की स्थापना की प्रक्रिया को सुव्यवस्थित करता है

- What is GOBARdhan Initiative?

- **About:**

- Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) is a crucial umbrella initiative of **the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.**
- In 2018, the government launched this scheme as a national priority project **under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase II program.**

- गोबरधन पहल क्या है?

- गैल्वनाइजिंग ऑर्गेनिक बायो-एग्रो रिसोर्सेज धन (गोबरधन) भारत सरकार के जल शक्ति मंत्रालय की एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल है।

- 2018 में, सरकार ने इस योजना को स्वच्छ भारत मिशन ग्रामीण-द्वितीय चरण कार्यक्रम के तहत एक राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता परियोजना के रूप में लॉन्च किया।

- **Objective:**

- To support villages safely manage **their cattle waste, agricultural waste** and in long run all organic waste.
 - To support communities convert their cattle and **organic waste to wealth using decentralized systems.**
 - Promote **environmental sanitation and curb vector borne diseases** through effective disposal of waste in rural areas.
 - Convert organic waste, especially cattle **waste to biogas and fertilizer** for use in rural areas.
-
- गांवों को अपने मवेशियों के कचरे, कृषि अपशिष्ट और लंबे समय तक सभी जैविक कचरे को सुरक्षित रूप से प्रबंधित करने में सहायता करने के लिए।
 - विकेंद्रीकृत प्रणालियों का उपयोग करके समुदायों को अपने मवेशियों और जैविक कचरे को संपत्ति में बदलने में सहायता करना।
 - ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कचरे के प्रभावी निपटान के माध्यम से पर्यावरण स्वच्छता को बढ़ावा देना और वेक्टर जनित रोगों पर अंकुश लगाना।
 - ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उपयोग के लिए जैविक कचरे, विशेष रूप से मवेशियों के कचरे को बायोगैस और उर्वरक में परिवर्तित करें।

- **Models of Scheme:**

- **Individual Household:**

- This model can be adopted by households **which have three (3) or more cattles**. The biogas and slurry generated from the plants are used for cooking and as manure by the households.

- योजना के मॉडल:

- व्यक्तिगत घरेलू:

- यह मॉडल उन परिवारों द्वारा अपनाया जा सकता है जिनके पास तीन (3) या अधिक मवेशी हैं। संयंत्रों से उत्पन्न बायोगैस और घोल का उपयोग घरों में खाना पकाने और खाद के रूप में किया जाता है।

- **Community:**

- The Biogas plants can be constructed for a **minimum number of households (5 to 10)**. The plants can be operated and managed by GP/SHGs.
- The gas generated will be **supplied to households/restaurants / institutions and slurry can be used by the community** as organic manure in agriculture or sold to farmers.

- समुदाय:

- बायोगैस संयंत्रों का निर्माण कम से कम घरों (5 से 10) के लिए किया जा सकता है। संयंत्रों का संचालन और प्रबंधन जीपी/एसएचजी द्वारा किया जा सकता है।
- उत्पन्न गैस की आपूर्ति घरों/रेस्तरां/संस्थानों को की जाएगी और घोल का उपयोग समुदाय द्वारा कृषि में जैविक खाद के रूप में किया जा सकता है या किसानों को बेचा जा सकता है।



India's 401(k) Moment

India's 401(k) Moment:

India's 401(k) moment is the **term used by Morgan Stanley** to describe moment refers to the **increase in household savings and investments in financial assets, inspired by the US 401(k) retirement savings plan.**

This shift reflects a change in **household preferences from physical assets like gold and real estate to financial assets like equities and bonds.**

Key financial assets involved in India's 401(k) moment include **mutual funds, insurance, and pension schemes.**

- भारत का 401 (के) पल:
- भारत का 401(के) मोमेंट मॉर्गन स्टेनली द्वारा उपयोग किया जाने वाला शब्द है जिसका अर्थ घरेलू बचत और वित्तीय संपत्तियों में निवेश में वृद्धि है, जो यूएस 401(के) सेवानिवृत्ति बचत योजना से प्रेरित है।
- यह बदलाव सोना और अचल संपत्ति जैसी भौतिक संपत्तियों से लेकर इक्विटी और बॉन्ड जैसी वित्तीय संपत्तियों की घरेलू प्राथमिकताओं में बदलाव को दर्शाता है।
- भारत के 401(के) पल में शामिल प्रमुख वित्तीय संपत्तियों में म्युचुअल फंड, बीमा और पेंशन योजनाएं शामिल हैं।

- **Beta:**

- Beta is a measure of systematic risk, also known as market risk or non-diversifiable risk. It **quantifies how sensitive a stock's returns are to changes in the broader market.**

- बीटा:

- बीटा व्यवस्थित जोखिम का एक उपाय है, जिसे बाजार जोखिम या गैर-विविध जोखिम के रूप में भी जाना जाता है। यह परिमाणित करता है कि व्यापक बाजार में किसी स्टॉक का प्रतिफल परिवर्तनों के प्रति कितना संवेदनशील है।

-
- A **beta of 1** indicates that the stock tends to move in line with the market, while a **beta greater than 1** suggests the stock is more volatile than the market.
 - A beta less than 1 indicates the stock is less volatile than the market.
 - 1 का एक बीटा इंगित करता है कि स्टॉक बाजार के अनुरूप चलता है, जबकि 1 से अधिक बीटा बताता है कि स्टॉक बाजार की तुलना में अधिक अस्थिर है।
 - 1 से कम बीटा इंगित करता है कि शेयर बाजार की तुलना में कम अस्थिर है।

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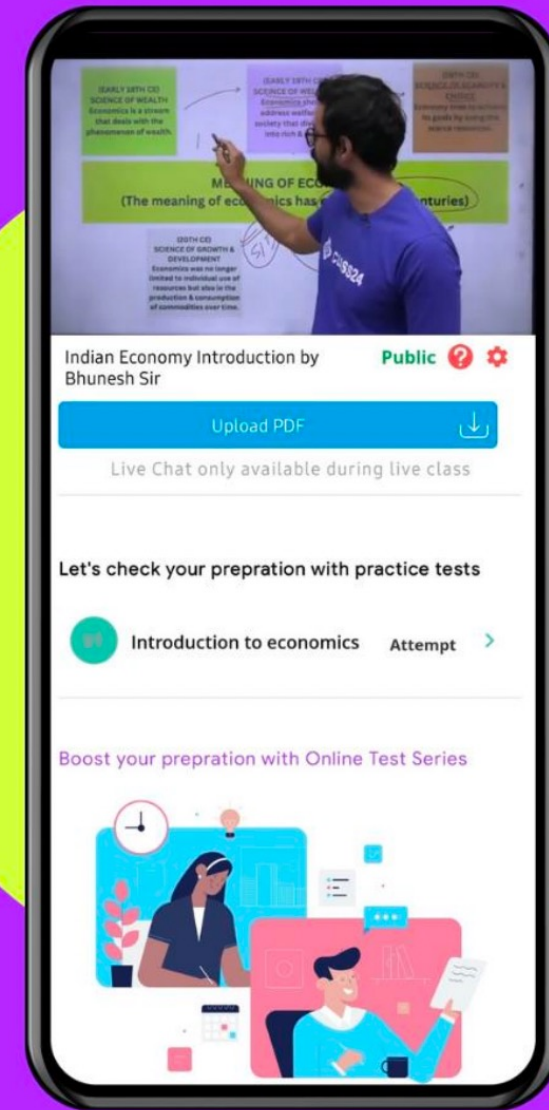
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In the context of finance, the term “beta” refers to (2023)

- (a) the process of simultaneous buying and selling of an asset from different platforms
- (b) an investment strategy of a portfolio manager to balance risk versus reward
- (c) a type of systemic risk that arises where perfect hedging is not possible
- (d) a numeric value that measures the fluctuations of a stock to changes in the overall stock market

- India's 401(k) moment is the **term used by _____** to describe moment **refers to the increase in household savings** and investments in financial assets?
- भारत का 401 (के) पल _____ द्वारा उपयोग किया जाने वाला शब्द है जो घरेलू बचत और वित्तीय संपत्तियों में निवेश में वृद्धि को संदर्भित करता है?
- A) Fitch
- B) RBI
- C) **Morgan Stanley**
- D) S&P

- In which year the INC was established, at the 5th session of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2)**?
 - संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण सभा (यूएनईए-5.2) के 5वें सत्र में आईएनसी की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?
-
- A) 2020
 - B) 2019
 - C) 2023
 - D) 2022



World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on?


विश्व रक्तदाता दिवस हर साल मनाया जाता है

A) 14th June

B) 5th June

C) 10th June

D) 29th June

A group of people are clapping in a meeting room. The image is dark and moody, with a focus on the hands and arms of the participants. The background is blurred, showing a person in a white shirt and another person in a grey shirt. The overall atmosphere is one of appreciation and collaboration.

Thank you
guys, see you
at 9 am
