# Daily Current Affairs

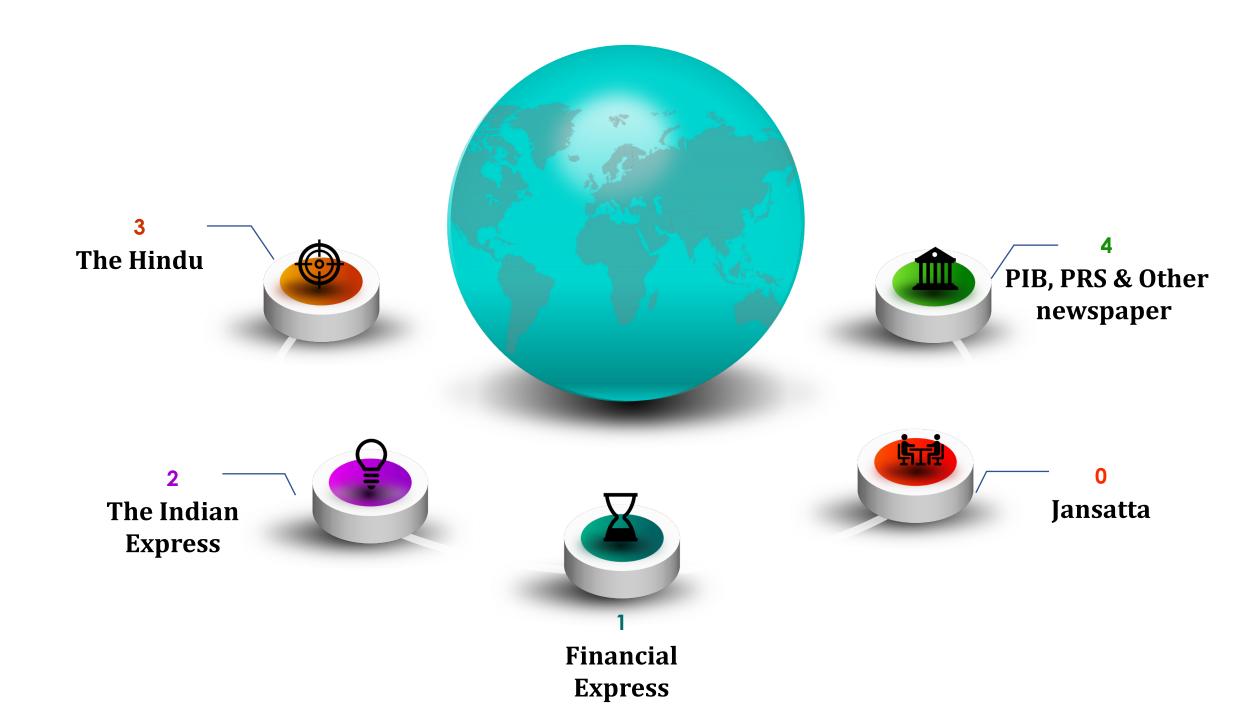




















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### Class24

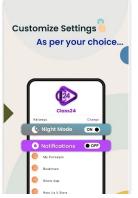


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The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King







### SC puts Maharashtra | Tata Motors awarded Speaker on deadline over defection pleas

Narwekar told to decide disqualification petitions in 'Sena versus Sena' dispute by Dec. 31, and against NCP's Ajit Pawar faction by Jan. 31, 2024

he Supreme Court on Monday direct-ed Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Nar-

### Power play

## ₹766 crore

### in Singur case

Motors in the fight against West Bengal for cancelling ts Nano small car project, which forced the company o relocate the project to Sanand in Gujarat, a three-member arbitration tribu-

A. P. train crash toll rises to 14, in the made in the final field and the first made in the regard of the constitution against the regard of the regard of



# nal has made the final award of CRES78 crore to Tata Motors as per its A.P. train crash toll rises to 14;



### stir turns violent

18 buses gutted in another major fire in Bengaluru

Putting '70-hour work week' into perspective

More work doesn't result in more productivity

Electoral K OF NOW bonds help donate clean ह को रुव money



Afghanistan continues giant-killing run

### ED summons Kejriwal for questioning in excise case

### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

uarities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22. The CBI had on April 16 questioned Mr. Kejriwal, who is also the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national con-venor for ever pine house vener, for over nine hours

### SC denies bail to Sisodia

The Enforcement Director The Linking Brazul To SUCILIC USEN USEN THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

done in Delhi and

The case so far The allegation that the ex-cise policy favoured cer-tain dealers in the form of waiver/reduction in the li-Punjab. I want to tell the BJP that we are not scared of going to jail

wener, for over nine hours in connection with necessary to be a construction with a construction with a construction with a construction with a construction of the case. But the construction is add, "The Bij's is careful of the construction had told mediapersons in Delhi and Funjab and the Delhi and Funjab and the Construction of the constructi

cence fee, extension of L-1 licences without approval, etc., led to a probe by the CBI and the ED. According



### of Parliament stabbed while campaigning

### The Hindu Bureau

Medak Parliament mem-ber and Bharat Rashtra Sa-mithi (BRS) candidate from Medak district, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, was stabbed while he was cam-lage in Daoultabad mandai in Telangana. He received stab injuries shifted to a hospital in Gaj-wel and later to Hyderabad for better treatment. The Medak Parliament mem

injuries seem to be periph-eral and they were not deep or dangerous, said the hospital staff in Gajwel, who attended to him

The person who at-tacked Mr. Reddy was identified as Raju, a resident of tified as Raju, a resident of Chepyal in Mirdoddi man-dal. The police are verify-ing whether the attacker had a personal grudge or was related to some politi-

### Kerala blast death toll rises to 3: another three critical

Arrest of the lone suspect Martin was recorded on Monday evening, more than 24 hours after his surrender, police invokes UAPA, in addition to several sections under IPC, in the FIR registered

he death toll in the multiple blasts at a person of the multiple blasts at a person of the second of received external help to mastermind and execute

the act.

The condition of three people, out of 12 admitted in intensive care units (ICU) after suffering injuries in the blasts, remained extremely critical. Libina, 12, of Malayat-

toor who was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, with nearly 95% burns died on Monday. Apart from the critically injured, the con-



National Security Guard personnel inspecting the blast site at Zamra Convention Centre in Kalamassery, on Monday, PT

dition of the rest undergoing treatment at the Go-vernment Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, and a few other private hospitals remained stable, according to Health Minister Veena

George.

The woman who was killed on the spot has been identified as Leona, 55, a native of Iringol, near Perumbavoor, here.

The DNA samples of her

Substances Act 3 (a) have also been invoked.

The police investigation showed that the accused had taken a room at a hotel in Koratty in Thrissur district for a mere 10 minutes before he surrendered before the Kodakara police on Sunday afternoon.

Arrest recorded The special inves The special investigation team (SIT) probing the multiple blasts at the Jeho-vah's Wiresesses vah's Witnesses prayer convention at Kalamassery recorded the arrest of lone suspect Martin V.D. by Monday evening, more than 24 hours after be sur-rendered before the Ko-dakara police.

Sources attributed the delay in recording the ar-Mr. Vijayan stepped up his criticism against the rest to the time taken for verifying his account con-fessing to the crime and in pursuit of potential aides. Union Minister on Monday afternoon by terming hir a highly ven

### CM, Union MGNREGS workers Minister spar in Bengal seek work over social under 'Khela Hobe' media post

### Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

With no sign of the implementation of the "Khela Hobe Scheme to provide Hobe Scheme to provide the With the With the William of the Mahatma Gandhi Nater of the Mahatma Gandhi Nater Guiarantee (MGNREGS), a union of agricultural workers has Trinamool Congress (TMC) by applying for work under the scheme. MGNREGS Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi-jayan and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar ov-er a social media post of former for his "appease-ment politics" and holding him responsible for the Ka-lamassery Jehovah's Wit-nesses convention centre blast. blast.
Mr. Chandrasekhar said
Mr. Vijayan was trying to
cover up his ineptness, inefficiency and corruption
by labelling him as a communal element. He took
objection to what he

the scheme.

After the MGNREGS scheme came to a halt in the State, Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee, during the annual Martyrs' Day rally of her party on July 21, 2023 announced a scheme called 'Khela Hobe' (game is on) to provide employ-ment to MGNREGS workment to MGNREGS work-ers. Khela Hobe was one of the slogans used by the TMC leadership during its successful campaign for the 2021 Assembly election

the 2021 Assessment in the State.
"In the first 2 weeks of October, 741 workers have applied for work under Khela Hobe in Purulia Khela Hobe in Purulia alone," a press statement by Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS) said. The group claimed no work had been given to those who had made the applications. There is no clarity on the 'Khela Hobe' scheme in the State since

'No sign of work' According to the PBKMS, the West Bengal govern-ment had announced in

No work had been given the applications. There is no clarity on the 'Khela Hobe' scheme PASCHIM BANGA KHET MAIOOR SAMITY

they had spent €1,562 crore to give work to 24 lakh job card holders but the union said there was no sign of this work in Purulia or the

other districts of the State. It has been almost 22 months since December 2021, when the Union go vernment decided to stop payment for MGNREGS in the State by invoking Sec-tion 27 of the National Ru-

tee Act alleging widespread corruption. Raising questions over why the Union govern-ment could not complete the investigation into allethe investigation into alle-gations of corruption 22 months since, PBKMS acti-vist Anuradha Talwar said that in the months to come, distress among agri-cultural workers would in-crease, particularly in the economically backward district of Purulia. PBKMS also blamed the BIP leadership in West

BJP leadership in West Bengal for turning a blind eye to the plight of agricul

ral workers. The PBKMS has raised its pitch on the plight or agricultural workers when the TMC's deadline to the to MGNREGS workers is drawing to a close

### Another fire outbreak in Bengaluru; 18 buses gutted



Fire personnel putting out the blaze at the S.V. Coach Works bus

fire in less than a month in the city, at least 18 buses belonging to various priv-ate bus companies were completely destroyed in a massive blaze that broke out in a bus workshop in Veerabhadra Nagar south Bengaluru on Mon-day. Luckily, no one was

taken by the central leader-ship and "it is not in my hands", he said.

"We believe in parlia-mentary democracy and we have certain method in selecting our candidates unlike family parties like the BBS IBBaser Bashra

the BRS [Bharat Rashtra Samithi] list was decided

on the dining table in Pra gati Bhavan by KCR [K. Chandrasekhar Rao] and

family," he remarked. Consultations have also Consultations have also been held with various sta-keholders like students, professionals, traders, farmers and others to pre-

parmers and others to pre-pare a comprehensive ma-nifesto, added Mr. Reddy on Monday.

fire at the S.V. Coach Works, a bus workshop where around 30 buses were parked, was reported

UAPA invoked

voked the Unlawful Activi-

ties Prevention Act (UAPA) in the FIR registered on

Sunday. Besides, Sections 302 (Punishment for mur-

302 (Punishment for mur-der) and Section 307 (At-tempt to murder) of the In-dian Penal Code and provisions of the Explosive

were heard, triggering panic among people in the vicinity. Thick plumes of smoke were visible several

journal Phytotaxa.

deep said.

The new species has been named Candolleo-myces albosquamosus - 'al-bosquamosus' for the

kilometres away.

Deputy Chief Minister
and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who visited the

inflammable materials the vicinity, source said. Earlier, 14 persons died in a fire at a cracker shop in At-Though an electric short circuit from the matibele, and huge losses to chinery used in building property were reported in fire accidents in a rooftop coaches is suspected to be the trigger for the fire, wit restaurant in Koramangala nesses said it emanated from a welding machine. and at Haj Bhavan. Fire and Emergency Services will soon come up with an Teams from the Forensie Science Laboratory are in action plan to prevent simi-lar accidents. Fire in the

The Hindu Bureau

An acrimonious deba

broke out between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi-

termed the State rolling of the red carpet for an Ha-

# the State Assembly that

### BJP second list of Assembly candidates in Telangana to be released on November 1

### The Hindu Bureau

Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president and Union Minister for Tou-rism, Culture and Develop-ment of Northeast Region G. Kishan Reddy, said the second list of candidates contesting the Assembly elections will be released after the central election authority presided over by national president J.P. Nadda is held in New Delhi on

Talking to presspersons at the party office here on Monday, he claimed that



having widespread discus-sions with the local leaders

### Way through the maize



### HC to decide on Naidu's interim bail plea today

### The Hindu Bureau

Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao of the Andhra Pradesh High Court will pronounce judgment on the interim bail petition filed by TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu in the

Chandrababu Naidu in the skill development scam case on October 31.

Mr. Naidu's prayer was to grant at least interim bail to enable him to get proper treatment for his skin and eye allments.

The AP-CID had earlier asserted that the best pos-

asserted that the best pos-sible healthcare facilities were provided to Mr. Nai-du. His regular bail peti-tion will be dealt with on a

### Researchers identify a new mushroom species from the Western Ghats

### Tiki Rajwi THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A tiny, fragile-looking mushroom sporting a ho-ney-yellow 'cap' found on the campus of the Jawahar-lal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Insti-tute (INTBGR) at Palode in Thiruvananthapuram has been identified as a new

been identified as a new species.

Turning the spotlight Turning the spotlight of the species of the species of the ble Western Ghats biodi-versity, the discovery also gives fresh impetus to the study of the region's fungal diversity.

Researchers at the JNTBGRI identified and de-



scribed the new species as belonging to the genus Candolleomyces. A paper by C. K. Pradeep, Principal Scientist, Microbiology Di-vision, and P. K. Nayana, Research Student, of JNTBGRI highlighting the findings has been pu-

### fire at Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary The Hindu Bureau

Suspected Maoists report edly opened fire at the Ara-lam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur in Kerala on Mor

'Maoists' open

day aftermoon.

According to forest officials, a group of five suspected Maoists fired towards the skies upon seeing the watchers. No casualties were reported.

The attack occurred inside the sanctuary, near Chavachi. Three forest watchers were on duty, accompanied by three

bosquamosus' for the white woolly scale-like white woolly scale-like reap. Delicate in build, the mushroom grows to a height of jun about 58 mm. height of jun about 58 mm. nus Psathyeila reported earlier from India are now myors: The discovery of a new species of the genus psecial given that there are only 35 species in this genus worldwide, Dr. Pransa worldwide, Dr. Pran struck. The watchers sus-tained minor injuries while frantically seeking refuge from the gunfire.

### Union Minister slams Karnataka CM for spreading 'rumours'

### The Hindu Bureau

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday slammed Kar-nataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for spreading "rumours" and "misinfor-mation" on the Centre's role in Karnataka water projects. "We know it is tradition

"We know it is tradition for Congress to spread false rumour and misinformed for the state of consensus among party states."

If it is statement was in response to an earlier post on X by Mr. Siddaramaiah, two had a accused the completed."

:::

Mr. Shekhawat clarified "Discussion on the DPR of the Mekedatu project was included as an agenda item

### High airfares to Gulf: HC unhappy with Kerala govt.

### The Hindu Bureau

The Kerala High Court on Monday expressed its dis-pleasure over the govern-ment not coming out with its response to a plea against charging of exorbiagainst charging of exoror-tant airfares by flight oper-ators on the Gulf sector during festival seasons. When the petition filed by Zainul Abideen, manag-

by Zamui Abideen, manag-ing director of a company based in Qatar and the UAE, came up for hearing, Justice Devan Ramachan-Justice Devan Ramachan-dran reminded the govern-ment pleader that when the government was im-pleaded suo motu by the court, it was under the imand the Civil Aviation Mi-nistry of the predicament of Keralites on account of the alleged high prices of air tickets. Obviously the court expected the govern-ment to act without delay.

### State's stance

The court orally observed that it knew that the Central government would not be very particular in accedbe very particular in acced-ing to the demand for re-ducing the prices. That was why the court asked the State government to come out with its view because in public realm, the porting such a demand. If

# Researchers identify a new mushroom species from the Western Ghats

### Tiki Rajwi

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM** 

A tiny, fragile-looking mushroom sporting a honey-yellow 'cap' found on the campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) at Palode in Thiruvananthapuram has been identified as a new species.

Turning the spotlight once again on the remarkable Western Ghats biodiversity, the discovery also gives fresh impetus to the study of the region's fungal diversity.

Researchers at the JNTBGRI identified and de-



Candolleomyces albosquamosus

scribed the new species as belonging to the genus *Candolleomyces*. A paper by C. K. Pradeep, Principal Scientist, Microbiology Division, and P. K. Nayana, Research Student, of JNTBGRI highlighting the findings has been pu-

blished in the scientific journal *Phytotaxa*.

The new species has been named *Candolleomyces albosquamosus* - 'albosquamosus' for the white woolly scale-like structures on its pileus or cap. Delicate in build, the mushroom grows to a height of just about 58 mm.

Seven species of the genus *Psathyrella* reported earlier from India are now recognised as *Candolleomyces*. The discovery of a new species of the genus *Candolleomyces* in India is special given that there are only 35 species in this genus worldwide, Dr. Pradeep said.

India only accounts for about 2% of the world's mushroom production, as the lion's share is with China which accounts for over 75% of global production.

Mushroom cultivation starts in November, which is soon after the floods, and continues till the first week of March. By December, the farmer starts earning from the cultivation.

For the rest of the year, the community has some savings from mushrooms and the daily wage work to fall back on.

# **About Mushroom**

Mushroom belonging to fungi species, is a nutritious vegetarian delicacy and a good source of high quality protein (20-35 per cent dry weight).

Mushroom is consumed as delicacy and possesses several medicinal properties.

Presently 3 varieties of mushroom are cultivated namely, Button mushroom, the paddy-straw mushroom and oyster mushroom.

# DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION IN INDIA







**BUTTON MUSHROOM** 

**OYSTER MUSHROOM** 

PADDY STRAW MUSHROOMS





UPSC Aspirants be like: yeh likh le the yaar exam mein aa gaya 🔞 😂

#UPSCPrelims2022



With reference to "Gucchi" sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:

- It is a fungus.
- It grows in some Himalayan forest areas.
- It is commercially cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of north-eastern India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3

### **About Gucchi Mushroom:**

The Guchhi mushroom is a species of fungus in the family Morchellaceae of the Ascomycota. They are pale yellow in colour with large pits and ridges on the surface of the cap, raised on a large white stem.

These mushrooms are also replete with health benefits. They are rich in potassium, vitamins and copper. They are also a rich source of vitamin D apart from several B vitamins.



### Towards stabilisation of U.S.-China ties

n this time of war, the quiet U.S.-China dialogue is a significant factor for peace. From a situation where they were virtually not talking to each other, the two global powers appear to have reached a point where a presidential summit ma be on the cards at the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Cooperation summit in San Francisco in November. It may be oo soon to use words like 'détente", but what we could "detente", but what we could perhaps hope for is a tactical stabilisation of the ties between the country of the ties between the country of the Hezbollah's entry into the wear in Gaza could really into the war in Gaza could really complicate the situation in the

Last week, Wang Yi visited the U.S., the first by a Chinese foreign minister since the pandemic, and met with President Joe Biden and enior U.S. officials. He is reported to have told the U.S. strateg community that "the road to San Francisco "will not be a smooth one." Mr. Wang's visit came in the wake of visits by the U.S. wake of visits by the U.S. Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Commerce to China in the last few months. Till May, the Chinese military was refusing to take calls from the Pentagon. With the sacking of Chinese defence minister Li Shangfu, the issue has

The American position In the latest issue of Foreign Affairs, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan wrote, "High level and repeated interaction is crucial to clear up misperception unambiguous signals, and arrest downward spirals that could erupt into a major crisis." Recall that Mr. Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Bali at the sidelines of the G-20 summit last year and discussed Taiwan, their



Manoj Joshi

The relationship

will retain a

competitive tenor but that

A comparison of annual work

ing hours per worker and labour productivity in India, Germany

and Japan is presented in Chart 2. The chart shows that the average

annual working hours of Germans and the Japanese peaked after the war at about 2,200 hours to 2,400

war at about 2,200 hours to 2,400 hours a year — about 8.3 to 9 hours a day during a five-day work week without holidays. This is still 2.5 hours less than what Mr. Murthy's exercises.

productively increased in Germa-ny and Japan, two countries that were relatively more industrialised even before the Second World War, the average working hours re-duced drastically to about 1,400-

duced drastically to about 1,400-1,600 hours a year by 2020 (5.3 to 6 hours a day), as shown in Chart 2. Labour productivity is mea-sured as GDP per hour of work. In-dia's average annual working hours stayed above 2,000 from 1970 to 2020, while the labour pro-

1970 to 2020, while the labour productivity increased marginally from \$2 per hour to \$9 in the same period. So, the questions is, is it between the period to the period t

many and Japan, Indians spend less time on sports and other lei-

sure activities. Indians spend more time sleeping and doing house-work than the other two nations.

Mr. Murthy's suggestion, it is im-perative to ask whether India has enough statistical tools at its dispo-

enough statistical tools at its dispo-sal to accurately measure labour sal to accurately measure labour productivity given that 89% of the workforce is engaged in informal to the control of the control of the 4.2% in Germany and about 8% in Japan (Chart 4). With such a dras-tic difference in the nature of the labour force among the three na-ture of the comparison?

While opinions are divided over

should not prevent the U.S. and China from

making it

strong

competition, and strategic communications. But the relationship went into a tailspin following the so-called spy balloon incident earlier this year.

The U.S. is currently speaking from a position of strength. Its economy is doing well while that economy is doing well while that of China is sumbling. In foreign policy, the Biden administration is a construction of the Ultraine war, and account of the Ultraine war, and account of the Ultraine war, and alliances in Europe on account of the Ultraine war, and alliances into a larger matrix covering the Indo-Pacific. This involves strengthened ties with rowless are sufficiently and the property of the proper

policy of export restrictions designed to hobble the growth of the Chinese high-tech industry. Its National Security Strategy of last October said that China was "the only competitor with both the intent to reshape the internationa intent to resnape the internation order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to advance the objective." However, the administration

said that it was keen to establish guardrails to ensure that the guardrails to ensure that the relationship did not go off-track. But this did not assuage China. A sense of bitterness was evident in March when Mr. Xi unusually named the U.S. for having "contained and suppressed us in an all-round way." Qin Gang, subsequently sacked as foreign minister, said that "no amount of guardrails can prevent derailing...

guardrais can prevent deraumg...
if the U.S... continues to speed
down the wrong path."
The U.S. continues to tighten its
export controls to Beijing and is
talking tough on the talking tough on the China-Philippines stand-off at the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea. It is also tightening controls on its outward investment to China and

the U.S. Its approach was identified by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen who visited Beijing earlier this year. It was a call for constructive engagement with China involving three points – national security of the U.S. and its allies, an economic relationship based on "fair competition", and based on "tair competition", and cooperation on urgent global challenges. Ms. Yellen rejected the idea that the U.S. wanted to decouple its economy from China, noting that the U.S. trades more with China than with other countries except its neighbours Canada and Mexico.

China's stance China believes that the U.S. remains a formidable military power but is in inevitable decline. But it would like to maintain the façade of cooperation and penceful co-existence rather than deal with the competitive and confrontational posture that the U.S. has adopted. China has long sought U.S. acceptance of its economic and political system, which means the supremacy of the Chinese Communist Party Militarily and politically, China has sought to establish its regional dominance in the western Pacific. dominance in the western Pacific. But its neighbours such as Japan, the Philippines, and Vietnam, which are backed by the U.S., contest this. Taiwan occupies a difficult position in this situation. Undergriding this is the realpolitik of U.S. global politics: preventing the rise of a beginning the prevention of the property of the p a prelude to the undermining of

its own global hegemony.

U.S.-China relations are crucial in dealing with global issues such as climate change or crises such as the one in West Asia. But the climate of truculence is hampering effective cooperation. It is hoped that the Biden-Xi summit can egin the process of improving China-U.S. ties and putting their bilateral relationship on an even keel. The relationship will retain a

### Review at your own peril

Seeking a gag on online film reviewers is an attack on freedom of expression

S.R. Praveen

n early October, 'review bombing', a concept of relatively recent origin in the video gaming industry, en-tered public conversations in Kerala. Mubeen Rauf, director of the Malayalam film Aaromalinte Adhyathe Pranayam, ap-proached the Kerala High proached the Kerala High Court seeking a gag on social media and YouTube reviews for at least seven days follow-that they pose a threat to the industry's financial stability. Mr. Rauf also claimed that some vloggers resorted to ex-tortion and threatened to post era did not pay us. The High

STATE OF PLAY

ers did not pay up. The High Court, which sought to make a distinction between objective, professional reviews and subprofessional reviews and sub-jective, personal opinions on movies, also touched upon 'review bombing', the prac-tice of a large number of peo-ple, or a few people with mul-tiple accounts, posting

ple, or a few people with multiple accounts, posting negative reviews with the interpretable posting negative reviews with the interpretable performance of a film.

Last week, the Kerala Police booked seven online movie reviewers and social media plat viewers and people from the industry despite the producers and people from the industry deline reviews. A section of the line reviews. A section of the regional media also seems to have been weaponised to tar-

get online reviewers.
All these incidents have All these incidents have raised concerns that there are attempts to silence freedom of expression. It has missed no one's attention that the move-ment against online reviewers has begun at a time when a



majority of Malayalam films are failing at the box office, leading to criticism that the producers are looking for scaproducers are looking for s pegoats. Last year, only handful of the 177 films that handrui of the 177 hims that re-leased made profits. This year, of the 190 films released until October, only four had signifi-cant returns. This grim pic-ture, which raises concerns over the long-term sustainabil-ity of the industry, is a much less discussed side of contem-porary Malayalam cinema. Most of these films, espe-

cially the much-hyped big budget ones, which failed at the box office have evoked negative reactions from a wider audience on social media folsudience on social media foi-lowing their release on OTT-tion of their release on OTT-tions about the claim that a part in their box office failure. Platforms were the favourite whisping boy of film produc-diate release of films on such platforms was pointed as a sway from theartes.

away from theatres. The critics of negative reviews do not seem to have a problem when the same on-line reviewers publish glowing reviews, which even end up as promotional material for promotional material for some producers. It is also no secret that some producers spend money to garner posi-tive reviews online. Somehow, spending money to generate an artificial, positive narrative

Some producers also argue that vloggers get a wider reach and consequently more reve-nue through negative reviews. There have also been cases of some vloggers posting reviews even before the first show of a even before the first show of a film is over. In response to producers accusing some on-line reviewers of extortion, the reviewers have sought proof. Even considering the proof. Even considering the possibility that a few indulge in such practices, it is unfair to club together all online retained to the together all online retain on the free expression of opinions. It is disappointing that such demands are being made in a State known for its vibrant public sphere where collical stances are subject to subject to the collical stances are subject to political stances are subject to harsh, all-round criticism.

There is an attempt to view What this debate mostly lacks is a discussion on the quality of the content being produced. Those who slam reviewers often say that these reviewers often say that these opinions spoil the efforts of hundreds of people and affect their livelihood. The fact is that a majority of the people who work on a film get a fixed payment irrespective of the fate of the film at the box of fice. The profits are mostly distributed among productions of the film at the second of the film at the second of the film at the box of fice. The profits are mostly distributed among profit distributed among profit and the second of the film at the second of the second theatre owners, and distribu-tors. The interests of produc-ers who sustain the industry have to be protected, but not at the cost of freedom of

expression.

A list of films that the producers claim have suffered ducers claim have suffered due to negative reviews is be-ing circulated on regional me-dia. However, the quality of these films serves only to ne-gate their arguments. If a film has solid, novel content, it can overcome any bad review and find its audience.

### Putting the '70-hour work week' idea into perspective

More work does not necessarily translate into more productivity

DATA POINT

### min Nihalani

nfosys founder N.R. Naravana nfoeys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy recently said that young Indians must work for 70 I young Indians must work for has been met with support from some and criticism from others. The comments were made in the first episode of a video series pu-bilished by Joned Capital titled

blished by 3one4 Capital titled 'The Record'. Assuming a six-day work week, Mr. Murthy's comment means that Indians would have to work 11.5 hours of work a day. How many hours of work a day. How many hours does an average young In-dian work at present? According to the Time Use Survey conducted in India in 2019, a person aged 15-29 spends over 7.2 hours a day in emspends over 7.2 hours a day in em-ployment and related activities in ployment and related activities in urban areas. A State-wise compari-son of the time spent on work in urban areas, given that this figure sented in Map I. Urban-Uttarak-hand ranks first, with young peo-sented in Map I. Urban-Uttarak-hand ranks first, with young peo-severage of 9.6 hours a day, which is about two hours less than what Mr-May May May May May May May May May Assuming that if people work

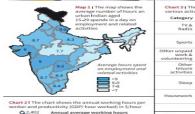
Assuming that if people work for five days, they would have to work for 14 hours a day, a point to ponder is whether working more hours translates to better productivity. Mr. Murthy raises this point in the video series. "India's work

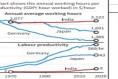
in the video series. "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world. Unless we improve our work productivity... we will not be work to the world. The world was the world will not be the world was to the world was to the world was the world was the world was the second world was the second world was the wo number of years," he said.

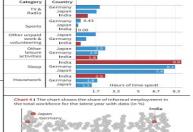
All work and no play?

2019. Our World In Data, and the Internationa The data for the charts were sourced from the Time









:::

### FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1973

### POW exchange only if Israel pulls back to Oct. 22 line'

Cairo, Oct. 30: The Egyptian Government announced to-day that it will exchange war prisoners and wounded with Israel only "when the Israelis return to the October 22 ceasefire

line."

The statement implied Egypt would not agree to the exchange the Israelis have been demanding until the Israelis pull back to the positions held on the night the ceasefire went into effect.

into effect.

The statement issued by the Government spokesman, Mr. Ahmed Anis, and broadcast by Cairo Radio said that Israel "asked through the International Observers Committee for lists of Israel wounded and prisoners of war."

israeii wounded and prisoners of war. The authoritative newspaper Al Ahram said the Egyptian decision to hand over the lists to-day was made because Cairo abided by the 1949 Geneva Convention on prisoners of war. Al Ahram said the Egyptian decision followed contacts yesterday between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the U.N. Secretary-General.

Dr. Kurt Waldheim.

Al Ahram said the ceasefire lines of October

22 were well known to both the United States and the Soviet Union and there was no disagreement between the two super powers on

their definition.
Egypt holds that some Israeli military moves
on the west bank of the Suez Canal were made
after the October 22 ceasefire deadline in breach
of the truce.

Parliament) that Israel and Egypt had agreed on exchange of wounded prisoners of war and the first Israeli to be released under the agreement

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1923

### New medical school at Bagalpur

Patna, Oct. 27: In view of the fact that a large number of candidates failed to secure admission to the Medical Schools of the Province, the Government of Bihar and Orissa have decided to open a Medical school at Bagalpore in addition to the one to be opened at Dharbanga. Both will admit students next year.

# Putting the '70-hour work week' idea into perspective

More work does not necessarily translate into more productivity

A comparison of annual work-

### **DATA POINT**

### <u>Jasmin Nihalani</u> <u>& Vignesh Radhakrishnan</u>

mosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy recently said that young Indians must work for 70 hours a week. The comment has been met with support from some and criticism from others. The comments were made in the first episode of a video series published by 3one4 Capital titled 'The Record'.

Assuming a six-day work week, Mr. Murthy's comment means that Indians would have to work 11.5 hours of work a day. How many hours does an average young Indian work at present? According to the Time Use Survey conducted in India in 2019, a person aged 15-29 spends over 7.2 hours a day in employment and related activities in rural areas and 8.5 hours a day in urban areas. A State-wise comparison of the time spent on work in urban areas, given that this figure is higher than in rural areas, is presented in Map 1. Urban Uttarakhand ranks first, with young peoA comparison of annual working hours per worker and labour productivity in India, Germany and Japan is presented in **Chart 2**. The chart shows that the average annual working hours of Germans and the Japanese peaked after the war at about 2,200 hours to 2,400 hours a year – about 8.3 to 9 hours a day during a five-day work week without holidays. This is still 2.5 hours less than what Mr. Murthy's envisions.

More importantly, as labour productivity increased in Germany and Japan, two countries that were relatively more industrialised even before the Second World War, the average working hours reduced drastically to about 1,400-1,600 hours a year by 2020 (5.3 to 6 hours a day), as shown in **Chart** 2. Labour productivity is measured as GDP per hour of work. India's average annual working hours stayed above 2,000 from 1970 to 2020, while the labour productivity increased marginally from \$2 per hour to \$9 in the same period. So, the question is, is it better to increase working hours or to increase productivity through technology?

mbia ia baaaaaa lamaaa aaaala

sented in **Map 1**. Urban Uttarakhand ranks first, with young people from the State working for an average of 9.6 hours a day, which is about two hours less than what Mr. Murthy envisions.

Assuming that if people work for five days, they would have to work for 14 hours a day, a point to ponder is whether working more hours translates to better productivity. Mr. Murthy raises this point in the video series. "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world. Unless we improve our work productivity... we will not be able to compete with those countries that have made tremendous progress," he said.

He pointed to the examples of Germany and Japan to drive home this point. "You know this is exactly what the Germans and Japanese did after the Second World War... they made sure that every German worked extra hours for a certain number of years," he said.

increase productivity through technology?

This is because longer work hours translates into less time for sports and leisure. As shown in **Chart 3**, when compared to Germany and Japan, Indians spend less time on sports and other leisure activities. Indians spend more time sleeping and doing housework than the other two nations.

While opinions are divided over Mr. Murthy's suggestion, it is imperative to ask whether India has enough statistical tools at its disposal to accurately measure labour productivity given that 89% of the workforce is engaged in informal employment compared to just 4.2% in Germany and about 8% in Japan (Chart 4). With such a drastic difference in the nature of the labour force among the three nations, do they make for a viable comparison?

With inputs from Rebecca Rose Varghese

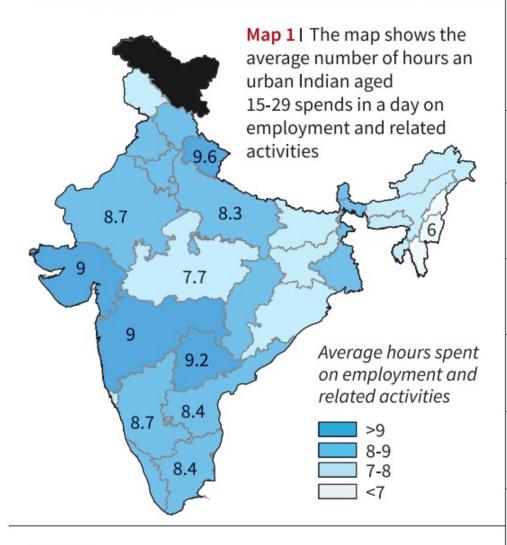


Chart 2 | The chart shows the annual working hours per

Chart 3 | The chart shows the average number of hours spent on various activities per day

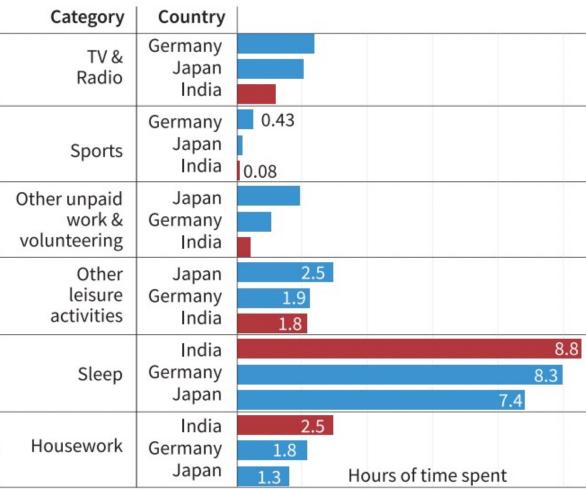
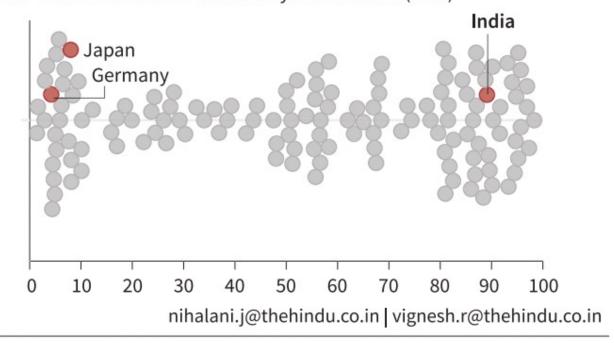


Chart 2 | The chart shows the annual working hours per worker and productivity (GDP/ hour worked) in \$/hour





Chart 41 The chart shows the share of informal employment in the total workforce for the latest year with data (in %)





# Type of Productivity:

Туре	Description				
Labour Productivity	Measures output per hour of work, directly influencing wages, living standards, and purchasing power.				
Capital Productivity	Evaluates output from physical assets like machinery and buildings, impacting profitability and competitiveness.				
Total Factor Productivity	Accounts for output growth beyond labour and capital, are often associated with innovation, efficiency, and technological progress.				

- Indian workers' productivity status:
- Despite Indians working an average of **nearly 48 hours per week (ILO data)**, one of the highest figures worldwide, their hourly output stands at \$8.47.
- In contrast, countries like **France**, where the average workweek is **around 30 hours**, manage to achieve significantly higher productivity of **over \$58 per hour**.

- Indian workers' productivity remains relatively low despite their long working hours due to various factors:
- Impact of Agriculture: A significant portion of the workforce in agriculture can lower a country's overall productivity
- Outdated technology use and technology diffusion in workers
- Insufficient skills
- Suboptimal work conditions
- Lack of innovation

# How the productivity of Indian workers can be improved without increasing the number of working hours?

Approach	Description				
Technological Adoption	Invest in modern technologies and automation to streamline processes and reduce manual labour.				
Skills Enhancement	<b>Provide training and education</b> to workers to improve their skill sets and adapt to changing job requirements e.g., Skill India Mission				
Better Work-Life Balance	Promote <b>flexible work arrangements</b> , telecommuting, and support for employees' well-being to reduce stress and burnout. Encourage concepts like <b>15 Minutes work neighbourhoods</b> . Put health before wealth				
Infrastructure Upgrade	Develop better infrastructure, including <b>transportation and communication</b> , to reduce time wasted in commuting and improve access to resources e.g., Delhi Metro, RRTS between Delhi and Meerut, etc.,				

Innovation and R&D	Encourage research and development to <b>foster innovation</b> , leading to improved products and services.				
Incentive Programs	Offer performance-based incentives to motivate employees and reward exceptional productivity				
Collaborative Culture	Promote a <b>collaborative work culture</b> to enhance teamwork and problem-solving.				
Meaning of Success	Success has different meanings for different people: Economic success is not the only yardstick to measure the success of human life.				
Understand employees and employers have different mindsets	Entrepreneur and employee mindsets are different: If an employee has to work 70+ hours for a basic salary, then it is not a great idea. The employee may as well take the entrepreneurship path where there is an opportunity to create a company and keep the profits				



### Space-tech firm Skyroot raises \$27.5 million to drive growth

Private space-tech company, Skyroot Aerospace pre-Series C funding round led by Ternasek, a global investment company headquartered in Singapore. Skyroot said it planned to utilise the Singapore. Skyroot said it planned to utilise the increased investments in infrastructure, reinforcement of technology leadership, led to the state of the state of the faunch frequency and capabilities. The infusion builds upon its previous fundraise in 2022, bringing the total funding to \$95 million. m

### Rane Madras Q2 net halves to ₹7 crore on exceptional item

Rane (Madras) Ltd. (RML) standalone net profit for the September quarter declined 54% from the year-earlier period to ₹7 crore on exceptional year-earlier period to 77 crore on exceptional Hem. Revenue from operations grew by 7% to Hem. Revenue from operations grew by 7% to and suspension products said. It's subsidiary Rame Madras International Holdings B.V. sold the entire stake in Light Metal Castings Inc. USA, (a loss of 12.15 & crore as an exceptional item. Consequently, the company has recorded a loss on sale of LIMCA for 88.5 crore.

### TVS Holdings Q2 net profit climbs 68% to ₹83 crore

TVS Holdings Ltd. (formerly Sundaram-Clayton Ltd.) standalome net profit for the September Septe

### SAT quashes SEBI's ban on key roles for ZEE's Goenka

Tribunal allows markets regulator to proceed with investigation into alleged diversion of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. funds by Goenka and Chandra for personal financial gain

The Hindu Bureau

he Securities Ap-pellate Tribunal (SAT) on Monday set aside an order of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) barring Zee Entertainment En-terprises Ltd.'s CEO Punit Goenka from holding any Goenka from holding any key managerial position in the media house or any other company over allega-tions that he and his father, Zee founder Subhash Zee founder Subhash Chandra, had siphoned off

However, the SAT al-lowed SEBI to proceed with its probe and directed Mr. Goenka to cooperate with the markets regulator.

Health covers

to bear simple

SAT's ruling now allows CEO Goenka to resume leadership of ZEEL has been aiming to conclude a merger with Sony Group's Indian unit since 2021
 Goenka had appealed against SEBI's order passed in August, barring him from key roles

Crucial reprieve

The SAT order clears the decks for Mr. Goenka to resume the helm at ZEEL, which has been trying to consummate a merger with the Sony Group's Indian unit since 2021. Mr. Goenka had challenged the SEBI order

Sitharaman on Monday called for greater inter-go-vernmental co-operation to crack down on global smuggling networks with a focus on capturing the masterminds behind them

had alleged that the pro-moters of ZEEL had moved funds out of the company and routed them back through layered and circuit

Charge denied SEBI had also barred Mr. Chandra and Mr. Goenka from holding any key man-agerial positions till the completion of the probe. The father-son duo are accused of abusing their posi-tions for alleged personal financial gains, a charge denied by both of them.

that Mr. Goenka would cooperate with the mar-kets regulator in any furth-(With Reuters' inputs)

### Small Finace Banks AU and Fincare agree to merge

The Hindu Bureau

The Board of Directors of AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) Ltd. and Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fin Small Finance Bank (Fin-care SFB) Ltd. late Sunday approved an all-stock merger of AU SFB and Fin-care SFB. As per the deal, Fincare SFB shareholders will re-ceive 579 shares in AU SFB for 2 000 shares of Elseane

ceive 5/9 shares in AU SFB for 2,000 shares of Fincare SFB. Post merger, existing shareholders of Fincare SFB will hold 9.9% in AU SFB. All employees of Fin-care SFB will become part

According to the terms, Fincare Business Services Ltd. (FBSL), promoter of Fincare SFB, will infuse ₹700 crore into Fincare

### MARKETS

NIFTY 50

tion exchange".

"Smugglers have be-come increasingly sophisticated," said Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, chairman of the

Agarwal, chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The rise of e-com-sets for cross-border tran-sactions have added a layer of complexity, requiring heightened focus on enfor-cement, regulation, and in-ternational cooperation."

changes to further improve coordination and informa-

### to halt smuggling, nab masterminds client data sheets: IRDAI The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI Finance Minister Nirmala

N. Ravi Kumar HYDERABAD

An updated customer in-formation sheet (CIS) for health-insurance cover, providing policyholders key information in simple terms while highlighting their obligations to make

their obligations to make transparent and fair disclosures will be issued from January next year. Some sechalons, information will be available 'in simple language in a snapshot,' the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (RRDA) said.



aka and Subbash Chandra

passed in August 2023. The markets regulator had asked its officials to

into Mr. Chandra and Mr.

funds within eight months

Goenka and their role in the alleged diversion of

The securities regulator

FM urges closer global cooperation

masterminds behind them as a strong deterrent. Speaking at the first glo-bal conference on coopera-tion of the strong strong ters initiated under India's G2O presidency and at-tended by the top brass of the World Customs Organi-sation (WCO), the Minister said, "The nature of smuggoods has not aged for 50-60 years. ow, we should be fairly med about who is beinformed about who is be-hind it. So, I place a lot of emphasis on inter-govern-mental cooperation, along with the WCO, so that we crack the masterminds becal authorities," she said, noting catching the small fish won't be a deterrent. crimes, narcotics and vir-tual assets and urged agen-cies to "initiate systemic

Actionable intelligence Enforcement agencies who can now tap technology should engage in intelli-gence and information sharing that is actionable,

sharing that is actionable, she suggested.
WiCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya dalso Mikuriya dalso Ciarowedega sharing among Customs agencies of all countries. Later in the day, she chaired a meeting of India's Economic Intelli-gence Council to discuss is-

### TII Q2 net rises 27% to ₹181 crore, revenue up 3%

### The Hindu Bureau

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) standalone net profit for the September quarter rose 27% from the year-ago period to 7181 crore on strong perfor-mance by engineering and metal-formed products divisions.

Total revenue from op-erations grew by 3% to ₹1,970 crore, of which engineering division account-ed for ₹1,274 crore and metal-formed products ₹400 crore. Free cash flow dur-ing the quarter was ₹108

### TVS Motor O2 profit climbs 32% to ₹537 cr.

### The Hindu Bureau

TVS Motor Co. Ltd. reported that standalone net pro-ed that standalone net pro-ter climbed by 32% from the year-earlier period to 537 crore, on strong sales. Revenue from opera-fice of the pro-88,145 crore, the two- and three-wheeler manufactur-er said in a statement.

Sale of investments Total revenue in the first half rose to ₹15,362 crore from ₹13,228 crore. Profit before tax grew by 36% to ₹1,334 crore (that included other income of ₹93 crore from profit on sale of in-vestments and fair valua-



TVS Motor said its net profit for the first half crossed the ₹1,000 crore

wheeler sales, including exports, grew by 5% in the

### 'Only three e-com platforms have minimum wage policy'

A study spanning 12 e-com-merce platforms, presents a grim picture of working conditions for India's gig workers, with only three of them operating with a mi-

of researchers from the International Institute of In-formation Technology and Bangalore's Centre for IT and Public Policy, found that Bigbasket, Plipkart, and Urban Company were the only three platforms that had a policy to ensure workers earn at least an



hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs. No plat-form provided sufficient evidence that workers earned at least the local liv-ing wage after work-related costs.

This year, the study's theme was worker aliena-tion. It examined how

mark for the first time and ended at ₹1,004 crore, against ₹728 crore.

wined with discrimination due to caste, class, gender, and religion. Fairwork found that only two com-panies, BluSmart and Swiggy, institutionalised regu-lar, external audits to check for biases in their nimum wage policy.

The fifth annual study
by Fairwork India, a team hourly local minimum

discrimination.
Five principles: Fair Pay,
Fair Conditions, Fair Contracts, Fair Management
and Fair Representation,
were examined using
worker interviews in four
cities and evidence given
by the platforms.

### TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

Regd Office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006. Telephone No. (044) 28332115 Website: www.tvsmotor.com Email: contactus@tvsmotor.com Website: www.tvsmotor.com E CIN: L35921TN1992PLC022845

### STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>™</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

s.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarte	Quarter ended		
No				31.03.2023	30.09.2023			
			idited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)	
1	Total income from operations	8,190.85	7,220.55	26,478.66	9,983.75	8,590.56	32,111.99	
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	723.65	549.22	2,003.37	675.77	549.82	1,937.90	
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	723.65	549.22	2,003.37	675.77	549.73	1,936.03	
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	536.55	407.47	1,491.03	415.93	373,40	1,309.46	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) or the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	545.19	404,49	1,463,35	418,49	388.72	1,368,74	
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47,51	47.51	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	6,000.34	-	-	5,457.49	
8	Security Premium Account	- NOT APPLICABLE -						
9	Networth	7,016,84	5,531,11	6,038,35	6,251,40	5,049,29	5,422,76	
10	Outstanding Debt	1,664.43	647.82	2,010.23	21,518,63	16,019,60	19,775.04	
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	- NOT APPLICABLE -						
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0,2	0.1	0.3	3.4	3,2	3,6	
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	11.29 11.29	8.58 8.58	31.38 31.38	8.13 8.13	8.13 8.13	27.97 27.97	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -						
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -						
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	7.1	5.1	5.0	1.9	3.2	2.9	
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	14.8	16.6	15.2	7.3	9.3	8.2	
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.9	
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	2.6	2.8	3.0	
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	25.7	26.2	27.0	26.4	25.8	26.3	
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	14.0	18.3	17.0	10.7	12.9	11.7	
25	Operating Margin (%)	11.0	10.2	10.1	9.6	9.3	9.1	
26	Net Profit Maroin (%)	6.6	5.6	5.7	4.2	4.4	4.1	

Place : Chennai Date : 30" October 2023

The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33.8.52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements). Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bseindia.com) and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bseindia.com) and www.nseindia.com) and www.nseindia.co

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Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification

For TVS Motor Company Limited

# Small Finace Banks AU and Fincare agree to merge

### The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Board of Directors of AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) Ltd. and Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) Ltd. late Sunday approved an all-stock merger of AU SFB and Fincare SFB.

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According to the terms, Fincare Business Services Ltd. (FBSL), promoter of Fincare SFB, will infuse ₹700 crore into Fincare SFB prior to the completion of the merger.



Type Public

Traded as BSE: 540611 ₺

NSE: AUBANK ₺

ISIN INE949L01017

**Industry** Banking

Financial services

Founded 1996; 27 years ago

Headquarters Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

(registered office)

BKC, Mumbai, India
(corporate office)

Area served India

Key people Raj Vikash Verma

(Chairman)

Sanjay Agarwal (MD &

CEO)

(US\$1.2 billion) (FY23)<sup>[1]</sup>

(US\$180 million) (FY23)[1]

Total equity ▲ ₹6,275 crore

(US\$790 million) (2021)

Number of 30,000 (2022)

employees

- They were set up with the twin objectives of providing an institutional mechanism for promoting rural and semi urban savings and for providing credit for viable economic activities in the local areas.
- 75% of its net credits should be in <u>priority sector lending</u> and 50% of the loans in its portfolio must in ₹25 lakh (US\$34,000) range. [2]
- The firms must have a capital of at least ₹200 crore (US\$13 million).

- The <u>promoters</u> should have 10 years' experience in banking and finance.
- The promoters stake in the paid-up equity capital will be at least 40% initially but must be brought down to 26% in 12 years.
- Joint ventures are not permitted.
- Foreign share holding will be allowed in these banks as per the rules for FDI in private banks in India.

# **♦**The Indian **EXPRES**

UESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY. 26 PAGES

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### **UNITY DAY**

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of The Indian Express. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contain content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By I INNY

Backing secret

Centre to SC:

Right to know

has restrictions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ATTORNEY GENERAL for India B ATTORNEY GENERAL for India K venkataramani has told the Supreme Court, which will start tearing petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme from Tuesday, that citizens' right to know is subject to reasonable re-

rictions.
"Firstly, there can be no ger

know as necessary for expres-on can be for specific ends or

rposes and not otherwise."
The AG said this in his writ-

In his submissions, Venkataramani said, "Democracy is a wide concept and comprehends many aspects. Right to know for the general health of democracy will be too over-broad." He said that "the right to know the criminal an-tecedents of a candidate which can be of utility and relevance to

ner comparable to the case on and nor can there be a general

poll bonds,

### SIX MONTHS AFTER CBI QUESTIONING

### Delhi excise policy case: ED summons **Kejriwal for questioning on Thursday**

BJP wants to use any and every means SC rejects Sisodia bail: Evidence on to arrest Kejriwal, says AAP leader

(akin to a chargesheet) filed in a Delhi court in January last year, the agency had said that Kejriwal allegedly spoke in a video call

RELIGARE

The Indian EXPRESS

ADDA

POLYCAB

Bagery's YOGB



Sameer Mahendru and asked co-accused Vijay Nair, Aam Aadmi Party's communication in-charge, whom he referred to Money Laundering Act (PMLA) — CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 that 14 wholesale liquor distrib-

DISMISSING FORMER Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea, the Supreme Court on Monday said there is "tentatively" supports one of the charges under the Prevention of

AGDA

utors earned "excess profit" of

Rs 338 cr excess profit to distributors

Rs 338 crore in about 10 months when the now-scrapped excise

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 9 this year, after he was held by the CBI on February 26. While the bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti raised doubts on some of the charges levelled by the ED and ned "from delving... in CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT

THE WORLD

### As Maratha quota stir turns violent, houses of NCP MLAs targeted

Curfew imposed in Beed; BJP MLA, another Sena (Shinde) MP resign



TANKS POUND TWO SIDES OF GAZA CITY PAK TO START EXPELLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS PAGE 18

personnel to death in a case of al-

met the family members of the eight and assured them that the government attaches "the high-

ter S Jaishankar Monday

VALLABH OZARKAR & AJAY JADHAV MUMBAI, PUNE, OCTOBER 30

AUTHORITIES IMPOSED curfew Monday evening after the agita-tion to demand reservation for the Maratha community turned

and a municipal council building earlier in the day. The protesters also van-dalised the office of a BJP MLA in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar dis-trict, and pelted stones at state Will do all to secure release: Jaishankar

assures kin of eight on Qatar death row

family members that the gov-

erment will take all enforce to secure their release.

India had described the October 27 ruling by Qutar's court offirst instance, as "deeply" shock-ing and is exploring all legal and diplomatic options in the case. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

he will break his fast only aft reservation is granted to the e tire Maratha community.

THE DEATH sentence is a

plicated by Oatar's role in

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK

### Tho IN CONVERSATION

Actors Jim Sarbh, Shefali Shah and Vir Das, who have been nominated for the International Emmy Awards 2023, in con with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Monday, Production

### Manipur missing arms a concern, can go to wrong hands: Assam Rifles DG

ten submissions while counter-ing the petitioners' contention that citizens have a right to know as a facet of the right to freedom of expression and, consequently, are entitled to access details of contribution to political parties, thereby making confidentiality under the poll bonds scheme impermissible.

impermissible.

A five-judge constitution bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandachachud will be of India D Y Chandachud Washamada Was andan Biswal. In his submissions,



ammunition stolen from the po-lice armouries since the violence broke out in May. "If these weapons do not come back, they are weapons in the wrong hands. Many of them could have gone to insurgents

each offier, Tahming onsanection
and violence at the smallest
suppose and the selective
video leaks.

As reported by The Indian
Express on October 29, the state
government has been able to reCONTINUED ON PAGE 2.

# by militants

### BASHAARATMASOOD

A MAN from Uttar Pradesh working as a labourer in South Kashmir's Pulwama, was on

Police identified the victim a

Police sources said Kumar worked at a brick kiln and had gone to the nearby shop to buy essentials when militants fired at him from point-blank range Three bullets were fired targeting

### Man from UP Kashmir brick cover only about a quarter of the 5,600 weapons and less than 5 per cent of the 6.5 lakh rounds of ammunition stolen from the pokiln shot dead

Nair said in an interview to The Indian Express, when asked if the large number of missing weapons amidst an internal se-curity situation could revive in-

Mulleish Kumar.

JBK LT Governor Manoj Sinha called the attack "cowardly" and said those responsible will not go unpunished.

Police said: "Terrorists fired on a labourer in Tumchi Nowpora area of Pulwarna, who later on succumbed to his injuries. Area cordoned off."

### Delhi AQI: AIIMS study links nitrogen dioxide to 53% spike in ER patients

WHILE DELHI'S air quality index (AQI) remains "very poor", a new AIIMS study has found that ex-posure to air pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO2), even for just 1-7 ight to know anything and dioxide (NO2), even for just 1-days, led to a 53 per cent increase

### THE AIR POLLUTION EFFECT INCREASE IN EMERGENCY PATIENTS Increase in NO2 53% HOSPITAL ADMISSION Existing respiratory illnesses 20.30%

### Caste slurs, missing father's funeral, going for broke: Vandana sets 300th game record today

### PAGE1

EXPLAINED

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Vandana says. Her career will come full circle as Vandana made come full circle as vandana made her international debut back in September 2011 at the same tournament in Ordos, China. Vandana didn't have it easy. While her father Nahar Singh backed her, there used to be taunts from neighbours, among which was about a girl child being allowed to play a sport that CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Caste slurs, missing father's funeral, going for broke: Vandana sets 300th game record today

### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

### VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN

RANCHI, OCTOBER 30

GROWING UP in Haridwar, Vandana Katariya was mocked for playing hockey. When she ignored the noise around her, broke stereotypes and became a trailblazer in the sport of her choice, she was subjected to casteist slurs.

On Tuesday, Vandana will

reach a milestone that no other woman player in the country has achieved before — make 300 international appearances.

The landmark moment will arrive when Vandana takes the field against Japan at the Asian Champions Trophy here.

On the eve of the match, Vandana was at ease. After the training session where the 31-year-old matches the national team's youngsters Sangita Kumari and Lalremsiami, she quips: "Oh! Mujhe spotlight nahi chahiye (I don't want to be in the spotlight)."

But the spotlight will well and



Vandana Katariya will take the field against Japan at the Asian Champions Trophy on Tuesday. Courtesy Hockey India

truly be on her Tuesday evening. "When I started, I didn't think I would be playing for India. I didn't even know that was an option, and I certainly didn't think I would be playing 300 matches," Vandana says. Her career will come full circle as Vandana made her international debut back in September 2011 at the same tournament in Ordos, China.

Vandana didn't have it easy. While her father Nahar Singh backed her, there used to be taunts from neighbours, among which was about a girl child being allowed to play a sport that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### CMS is organising the World's Biggest Conference of 245 Legal Luminaries — the



# 24th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World

on Article 51 of the Constitution of India

from 1st to 7th November 2023



# EXPLAINED CLIMATE

# NEPAL'S MOUNTAINS LOSE 'ONE-THIRD OF THEIR ICE': POTENTIAL IMPACT

NEPAL'S SNOW-capped mountains have lost close to one-third of their ice in over 30 years due to global warming, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday after a visit to the area near Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Climate scientists say the earth's temperature has increased by an average of 0.74 degrees Celsius over the past 100 years, but warming across South Asia's Himalayas has been greater than the global averages.

Glaciers in Nepal, wedged between two major carbon polluters — India and China — melted 65% faster in the last decade than in the previous one, the UN chief said in a video message after visiting the Solukhumbu region.

"I am here today to cry out from the rooftop of the world: stop the madness," he said, calling for an end to the "fossil fuel age" with the warning that melting glaciers would mean swollen lakes and rivers sweeping away entire communities, and seas rising at record rates.

Glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya could lose up to 75% of their volume by century's end due to global warming, sci-

entists said in a report published in June this year, causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for 240 million people who live in the mountainous region.

Climbers returning from Everest have said the mountain was dryer and greyer now.

"Record temperatures mean record glacier melt. Nepal has lost close to one-third of its ice in just over 30 years," Guterres, who is on a four-day visit to the country, said.

He also urged countries to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avert "the worst of climate chaos".



Antonio Guterres in Lalitpur, Nepal, on Sunday. AP

REUTERS

### **TOP 10 HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD**



Mt. Everest - 8848.86 m



Mt. K2 - 8611 m



Mt. Kanchenjunga - 8586 m



Mt. Lhotse - 8516 m



Mt. Makalu - 8463 m



Mt. Cho Oyu - 8201 m



Mt. Dhaulagiri I - 8167 m



Mt. Manaslu - 8163 m



Mt. Nanga Parbat - 8125 m



Mt. Annapurna I - 8091 m

www.nepalmotherhousetreks.con





1. Mount Everest Height: 8,848 m Country: Nepal & China



**2. K2**Height: 8,611 m
Country: Pakistan & China



**3. Kangchenjunga**Height: 8,586 m
Country: Nepal & India



**4. Lhotse**Height: 8,516 m
Country: Nepal & China



**5. Makalu**Height: 8,485 m
Country: Nepal & China



6. Cho Oyu Height: 8,188 m Country: Nepal & China







9. Nanga Parbat Height: 8,126 m Country: Pakistan



10. Annapurna I Height: 8,091 m Country: Nepal



Ammonia as a Automotive Fuel



Recently, an internal combustion engine powered by ammonia is gaining traction in the automotive industry.



This unique approach is sparking interest as it explores alternative propulsion technologies while not completely departing from traditional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) systems or transitioning to Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs).

### • About:

• **Ammonia** is a chemical compound with the formula NH3. It is a colorless gas with a pungent odor and is widely used in various **industrial**, **agricultural**, **and household applications**.

- Major Application:
- Agriculture: Key component in the production of ammonia-based fertilizers, such as ammonium nitrate and urea, which are essential for crop growth.
- Chemical Industry: Fundamental ingredient in the production of substances like nitric acid, ammonium sulfate, and various nitrogen-based compounds.
  - It plays a crucial role in the manufacturing of synthetic fibers as well, like nylon

• Chemical Industry: Fundamental ingredient in the production of substances like nitric acid, ammonium sulfate, and various nitrogen-based compounds. It plays a crucial role in the manufacturing of synthetic fibers as well, like nylon

Manufacturing: As a refrigerant in industrial refrigeration systems and air conditioning.

 Also, ammonia is used in the manufacture of dyes and as a pH regulator in dyeing processes.

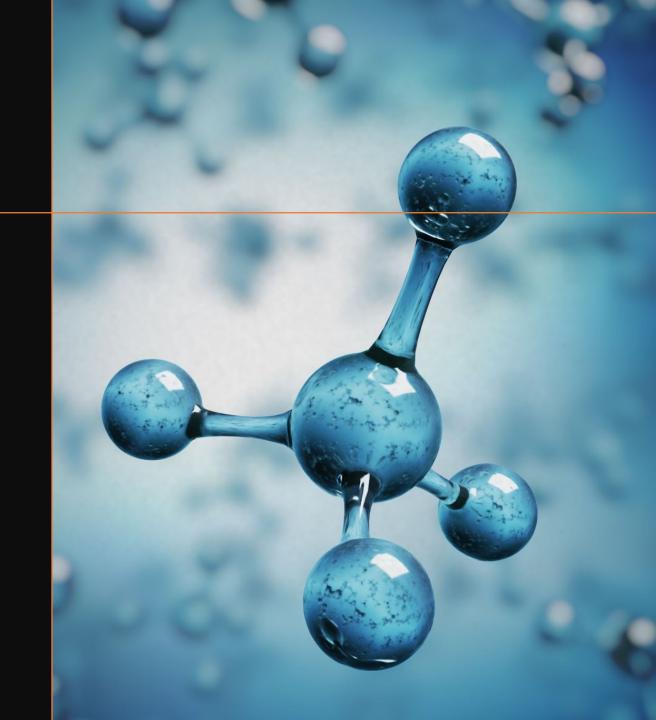
Household: An ingredient in household cleaning products, including glass and surface cleaners.

- What are the Advantages of Using Ammonia as a Fuel?
- High Energy Density:
- Low Carbon Emissions

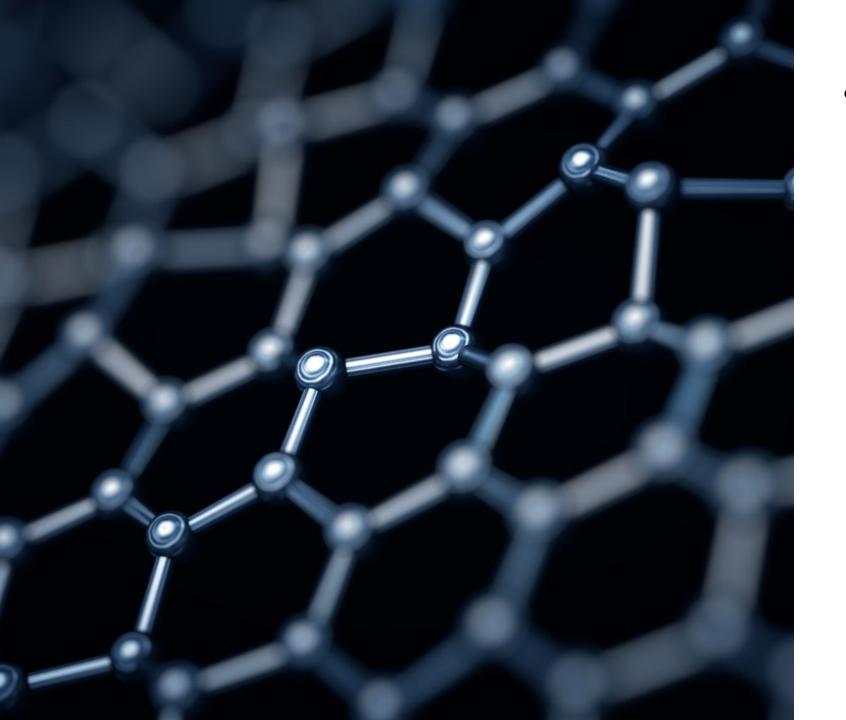


- **Consider the following statements: (2019)**
- 1. Agricultural soils release nitrogen oxides into the environment.
- 2. Cattle release ammonia into the environment.
- 3. Poultry industry releases reactive nitrogen compounds into the environment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
  - **(b)** 2 and 3 only

  - (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3





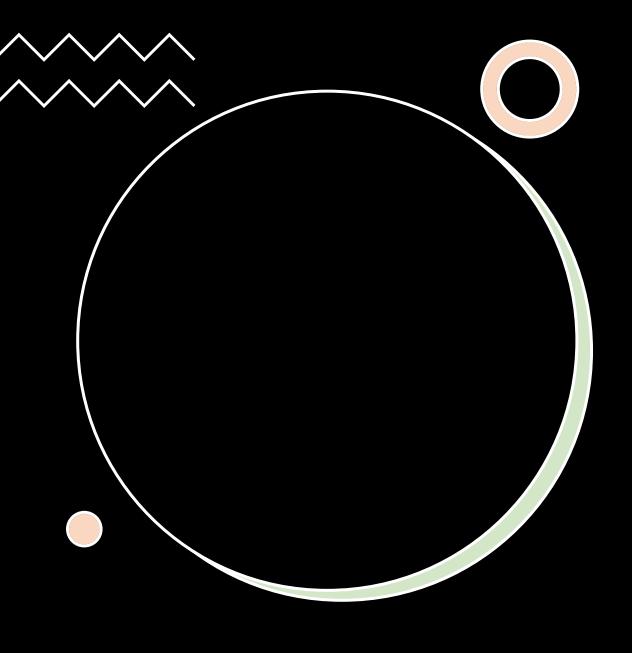


 Recently multiple family members in Mahagaon village, Maharashtra fell victim to thallium poisoning, a chemical that operates in silence, evading detection.

#### About:

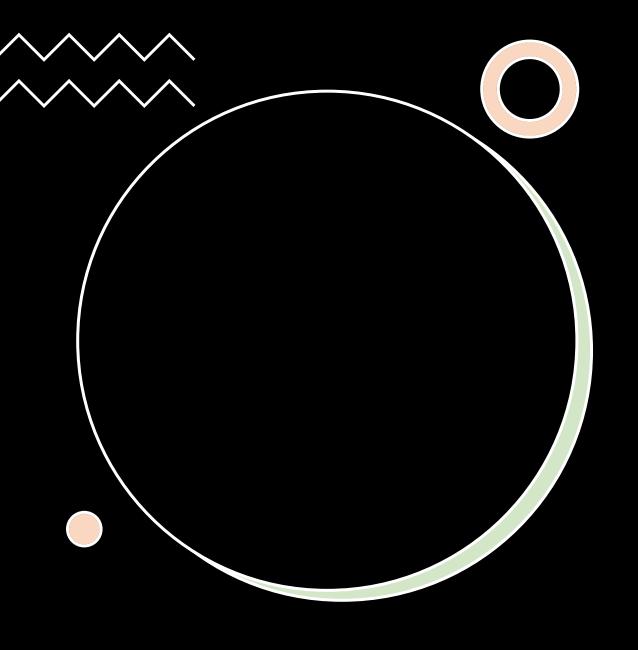
- Thallium(TI) is a chemical element with the **atomic number 81**, was discovered by **Sir William Crookes in 1861**.
  - It is a soft, heavy, inelastic metal.
- Thallium is **tasteless and odourless** and has been used by murderers as a difficult-to-detect poison.

•



## Appearance:

• A soft, silvery-white metal that tarnishes easily.



### Sources:

- It is found in trace amounts in the earth's crust.
- It is found in several ores. One
   of these is pyrites, which is
   used to produce sulfuric acid.
   Some thallium is obtained from
   pyrites, but it is mainly obtained
   as a by-product of copper, zinc
   and lead refining.

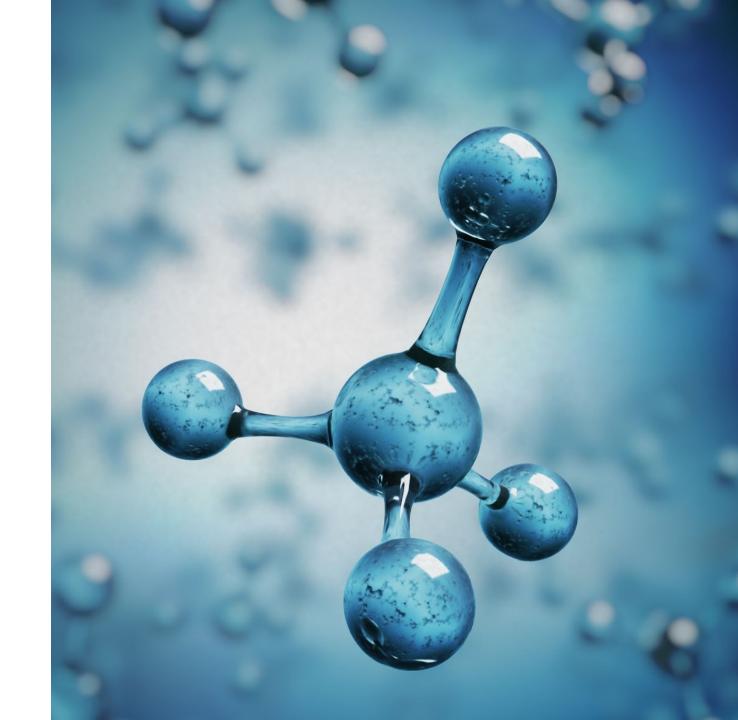


#### • Uses:

- Thallium's utilization is restricted due to its toxic nature.
- Thallium sulfate, once a rodent killer, is now banned for household use in many developed nations.
- It finds application in the electronics industry for photoelectric cells.
- Thallium oxide is used to create high-refraction glass and low-melting glass.
- It is also used in the manufacturing of low temperature thermometers, and imitation jewels.

### • Antidote:

 Prussian blue is used in non-radioactive thallium poisoning.





- Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent departed for Kazakhstan to participate in the 7th edition of Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'.
- The exercise will occur in Otar, Kazakhstan from 30th October to 11th November, 2023. The exercise between India and Kazakhstan began as "Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK" in 2016.



• During the traditional Banni festival in **Devaragattu, Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district**, three individuals lost their lives, and over a hundred were injured on the night of October 24.





Nature	Traditional stick-fight
Occurrence	Celebrated on the night of Dussehra (Vijaya Dasami) annually
Origin	Associated with the <b>Vijayanagara</b> Empire
Purpose	To symbolically <b>snatch idols from the deities' team</b> , leading to the Banni Fight
Historical Significance	Celebrates the victory of <b>Lord Mala Malleswara Swamy</b> and <b>Goddess Parvati</b> over the demonish <b>Mani and Mallasura</b> , who troubled the people in the Devaragattu region

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Rituals	Takes place at midnight – Procession of idols of deities Malamma and Malleshwara Swamy from the hill temple at Neraneki – Devotees carry long sticks or lathis to hit each other on the head with these sticks
Location	It is held on the premises of <b>Mala Malleswara Swamy Temple</b> (situated at the border of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka).



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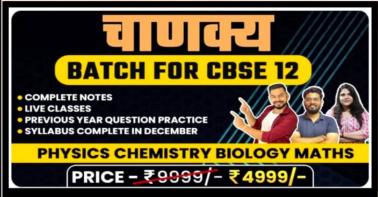
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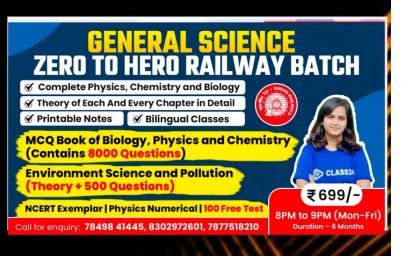


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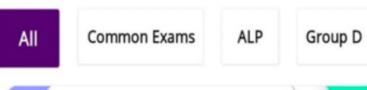
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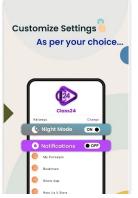


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