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'If gou want to see the brave and bold, look to those who can return love for hatred.' Bhagavad Gita



GENOMICS Why India urgently needs a legal, policy framework

It must ensure that the benefits of the technology are widely accessible





Sreeparna Chakrabarty

Days ahead of the announ

With the resignation,

tion Commissioner Raily

sioner Anup Chandra Pan-dey retired in February.

Mr. Goel, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Punjab

IAS officer of the Punjab cadre, joined the commis-sion on November 21, 2022. His resignation comes two days before a crucial hearing of the Su-preme Court on the electo-ral bonds issue.

Earlier, the Association or Democratic Reforms

Kumar, Election Con

Asif Ali Zardari becomes Pakistan's 14th President WORLD > PAGE 11



innings win to claim Test series 4-1 SPORT > PAGE 13

INSIDE

SCIENCE» PAGE 10

Blow to Cong. in M.P. as senior leaders join BJP

RHOPAL BIGOPAL Former Union Minister Suresh Pachouri, along with other Congress leaders in Madhya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday. The development comes at a time when the Congress is deliberating on its candidate selection for the Lok Sabha election. Ja PAGE 3



Navy showcases twin-carrier operations

+

INS VIKRAMADITYA The first edition of the Nava The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2024 concluded on Friday. The first part of the conference was held at sea on board aircraft carrier *INS Wintermodifys* on March 5 during which the Navy showcased its "Twin-carrier operations" with MG-29K fighter jets. **PAGE** 4



Israel strikes residential

CAIROIRAFAH CABOVERAFAH Israel struck one of the largest residential towers in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip of the southern Gaza Strip stopping up pressure on the last area of the enclave it has not yet invaded and where over a million displaced Palestinians are sheltering. > PAGE 11

BJP, TDP, JSP seal deal to contest polls together

The parties announce the decision in a joint statement; BJP likely to contest six Lok Sabha seats from the State, leaving two for the JSP and 17 for the TDP; specific seats still being negotiated

United fight: TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu met BJP

national president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on Thursday, ANI

arrange

DMK allots nine

seats to Congress in Tamil Nadu CHENNAI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Saturday sealed a seat-sharing pact with the Tamil Nadu unit of According to a notifica-tion by the Law Ministry, his resignation has been accepted by President the Congress, which was allotted 10 seats — nine in Tamil Nadu and a lone seat in Droupadi Murmu with ef-fect from March 9. Puducherry >> PAGE 4 the Election Commission has been reduced to just one member - Chief Elec-

path ahead is rocky

PROFILES » PAGE 9

tionship together". It not ed that the TDP had joined "Specific seats are still being decided, and the the BJP-led NDA in 1996 and had "worked together successfully in Atalji's sticking points remain Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada, seats claimed by the BJP, but difficult for the successfully in Atalji's [former PM Atal Behari [former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee], and Narendra Washing and the sentence to the sentence of the sentence below the support to the NDA since 2014 as well. NDA since 2014 as well. NDA since a sentence important for the party's goal of reaching a 50% vote share in the upcoming Lok Sabha poll. TDP to part with for perso-nal and political reasons," said a source in the TDP. A joint rally of the alliance is scheduled to be held around March 17 in Guntur,

around March 17 in Guntur, sources added. The joint statement is-sued by the three parties said that the TDP and the BJP have a "very old rela-



Arun Goel, right, with CEC Raji

Election Commissioner

of Lok Sabha election

Arun Goel resigns ahead

(ADR), an NGO, had filed a dance with the new Chief public interest litigation petition in the Supreme Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, Court challenging Mr Goel's appointment claim-ing that due procedure had ing that due procedure had not been followed. The top court had refused to inter-fere with the appointment stating that a Constitution Bench had already exawhich was brought in by the government in Decem ber last year. The Act provisions that

a selection committee headed by the Prime Mi-nister, which comprises mined the process and re-frained from passing any adverse orders. On Saturday, ADR chair-man Trilochan Shastry told the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and PM-nominated Union M On Saturday, ADR chair-man Trilochan Shastry told *The Hindu:* "We are happy that he has resigned." The current vacancies in the commission would have to be filled in accornister, will select the men bers of the commission.

CONG. EXPRESSES CONCERN >> PAGE 3

The Hindu Bureau Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday slammed the Congress par-ty for ignoring the border villages in Arunachal Pradesh for six decades be-cause it did not find the

> ing wherever there are gates," a senior official of

Nistula Hebbar

Pradesh.

The Bharstija Janata Desam Desam Party (DB), And the Pawam Ka-lyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSI) have officially an-hands to fight the 2024 Lok Sabba election and the concurrently held Assemb-y election in Andhra

The joint statement on

The joint statement on their alliance – which was initiated by BJP president J.P. Nadda, but also issued on behalf of TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, and the JSP's Mr. Kalyan –

came after three days of talks between the three parties in New Delhi to tie

parties in New Delhi to tie up loose ends. The statement says the alliance will fight together "under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi", but remains silent on the nuts and bolts of

tower in Rafah

ing in . Ahead of the simul-taneous Lock Sabha and As-sanbly, elections in the compress indulged in cor-ruption and compromised Congress indulged in cor-ruption and compromised try for 60 years. Inaugurating the Sela Tunnel at 15,000 feet Tunnel at 15,000 feet Mr. Modi said the vital pas-mage making the road to Ta-wang accessible through-out the year could have

is no point in investing in the State," he told a gathering in Itanagar. ing in Itanagar. The Prime Minister also visited the Kaziranga Na-tional Park and unveiled the statue of Ahom general frontier State worth invest-ing in. Ahead of the simulthe statue of Ahom general Lachti Boephukan in Jorhat district of Assam Composition of the state of the state of the state augurated and laid the foundation stones for va-rious projects worth \$55,600 crore in Aruna-t\$55,600 crore in Aruna-tions, and the state Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sik-kim, and Tripura.

seat-sharing

Seat-sharing However, sources have confirmed to The Hindu

that the BJP will contest six of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh; the JSP,

Andhira Pradessi; the jsr, which was earlier expected to fight three seats, will now contest two, leaving 17

now contest two, leaving I7 seats for the TDP. In the State Assembly, the BJP and JSP together will fight 30 out of 175 seats, leaving the rest for the TDP.

ments.

kim, and Tripura. CONG. RAISES MANIPUR ISSUE



Centre issues directive to prevent tailgating at airport e-gates

Jagriti Chandra

the Ministry of Home Af The Bureau of Civil Aviafairs told The Hindu on the The Bureau of Civil Avia-tion Security (BCAS) has asked airports and airlines to use better technology and assign more manpow-er resources to prevent condition of anonymity. Security breaches

The government directive follows two serious securifollows two serious securi-ty breaches within 10 days in February when ticket-less travellers entered the passenger building and even the boarding gate at Mumbal airport. On Febru-ary 22, a 22-year-old man travelling without a ticket-was able to reach the serio er resources to prevent passengers from talgating through automatic gates at various checkpoints. This is needed to ensure the smooth implementa-tion of Digi Yatra, a system for nanetless travel

for paperless travel. "Strict instructions have been given against tailgat-

Concession of the local division of the loca



bridge by walking closely behind other passengers and passing through the terminal entry gate where

rea and another after it operating procedures that have been laid down, de-The man was stopped by an IndiGo staff after he had entered an aerobridge to board a plane. Earlier, on February 12, a man in his 60s was simi-larly able to travel through the airport and even enter

the airport and even enter an IndiCo aircraft. E-gate manufacturers have been asked to im-prove their technology to ensure that two passengers cannot pass through them at the same time. Indice the standard

have been laid down, de-ploy adequate manpower at the boarding gates, and the boarding gates, and boarded zone-wise – where passengers who are assigned seats at the back avoid over-crowdra. Dig Yatra, a biometric-based boarding system you over-crowdra, and about the boarding system t

Congress compromised border security, says PM | NCB arrests Tamil film producer in drug racket case

The Hindu Bureau

The Narcotics Control Bu reau (NCB) on Saturday ar reau (NCB) on Saturday ar-rested Jaffer Sadis, ac-cussed of being the kingpin tional drug trafficking rack-et, in Delhi. The network he set up allegedly trafy 3,500 kilograms of pseu-doephedrine to Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia in the gause of foodgrade

Jaffer Sadiq, alias Bezos, jaffer Sadiq, alias Bezos, is a Chennai resident and Tamii film producer, and also held the post of a de-puty organiser of the Dralegal drug business in real estate, hospitality, and film

production. Mr. Singh added that interrogation of the accused vida Munnetra Kazhagam's NRI wing for the Chennai had revealed that the illgotten money was used to fund Tamil movie Mangai, and to construct a hotel in District-West. After news of his alleged Chennai

After news of his alleged involvement in the drug racket came to light, he was expelled from the DMK on February 29. He had gone missing soon af-ter the NCB and the Delhi Global network Mr. Sadio's drug network is spread across the globe, from Delhi to Tamil Nadu

ter the NCB and the Delhi Police Special Cell nabbed three persons in connec-black of the the the the ing drug money. NCB is also probing sus-pected political funding us-ing drug money. NCB Deputy Direston-NCB Deputy Direston-toid prespersons that Mr. Sadiq had been identified as the "mastermind" of the operation, and had invest-ed his process. and other places in India, as well as to New Zealand, as well as to New Zealand, Australia, and Malaysia. The second provide the second provide the second second second grams of pseudoephedrine and arrested three opera-tives of the cartel. Pseu-make methamphetamine, a dangerous and highly ad-dictive synthetic drug in high demand worldwide.

ABLX





Jaffer Sadiq (centre) had gone missing following the arrests i connection with the case. AN

Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigns ahead of Lok Sabha election

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

Days ahead of the announcement of the schedule for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned on Saturday. His tenure was till 2027.

According to a notification by the Law Ministry, his resignation has been accepted by President Droupadi Murmu with effect from March 9.

With the resignation, the Election Commission has been reduced to just one member - Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey retired in February.

Mr. Goel, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Punjab cadre, joined the commission on November 21, 2022. His resignation comes two days before a crucial hearing of the Supreme Court on the electoral bonds issue.

Earlier, the Association for Democratic Reforms



Arun Goel, right, with CEC Rajiv Kumar. FILE PHOTO

(ADR), an NGO, had filed a public interest litigation petition in the Supreme Court challenging Mr. Goel's appointment claiming that due procedure had not been followed. The top court had refused to interfere with the appointment stating that a Constitution Bench had already examined the process and refrained from passing any adverse orders.

On Saturday, ADR chairman Trilochan Shastry told *The Hindu*: "We are happy that he has resigned."

The current vacancies in the commission would have to be filled in accordance with the new Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which was brought in by the government in December last year.

The Act provisions that a selection committee headed by the Prime Minister, which comprises the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a PM-nominated Union Minister, will select the members of the commission.

CONG. EXPRESSES CONCERN » PAGE 3

Chief Ele	ction Commissioner of India	Justice, Gove India Headquarters Nirvachan Sa Road, New Do Q 28°37′26″	
	सत्यमेव जयते Incumbent Rajiv Kumar since 15 May 2022		India
	ion Commission of India		
Nominator Appointer	ion Commission of India Union Council of Ministers President of India	Formed	ago (Later celebra
Term length	6 years or up to 65 years of age	Jurisdiction	Ministry of La Justice, Gove
Inaugural holder	(whichever is prior) Sukumar Sen	Headquarters	Road, New D
Deputy	Election Commissioners of India Deputy Election Commissioners of India	Employees Constitutional Body executives	Around 300 ^[2] Rajiv Kumar, Chief Electi Commission Vacant, Electi
Salary	₹250,000 (US\$3,100) per month ^{[1][2]}		Commission Vacant, Electi Commission

FIEC go of the Election Commission of India itutional Body overview 25 January 1950; 74 years ago (Later celebrated as National Voters' Day) Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi^[1] Q 28°37'26"N 77°12'40"E Around 300^[2] Rajiv Kumar, IAS (Retd.), **Chief Election** ves Commissioner of India Vacant, Election Commissioner of India Vacant, Election Commissioner of India



Hit YouTuber for threatening my parents, me: Elvish Yadav

Winner of reality show Bigg Boss OTT Elvish Yadav, who has been booked for allegedly Yadav, who has been booked for allegedly assaulting a YouTuber in a shopping mail in Delhi, posted a clarification video on Saturdag claiming that the latter had threatened to "bu him and his family alive". He alleged that the incident was "pre-planned", as the complainant, Sagar Thakur, had installed hidden cameras at the place of their meeting. gn

BJP relving on ED. CBI as it has no faith in its leaders: RJD

The Rashtriya Janata Dal on Saturday alleged that the ruling BJP is "unleashing central agencies" on the Opposition because the party has "lost trust in its own leaders". "BIP has realised that its own leaders will not be able to fetch votes, hence, it has reposed its faith in the ED, CBI and I-T department," said party spokesperson Rishi Mishra, a day after the ED conducted raids st party leader Subhash Yadav

Pradeep Verma is Jharkhand BJP's candidate for RS polls

Jharkhand BJP general secretary Pradeep Verma will be the party's candidate for the Ralya Sabha polls in the State, party spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said in Ranchi on Saturday. Mr. Verma, Shahdeo said in Ranchi on Saturday, Mr. Vern 52, will fiel his nomination on March II. The biennial elections to the two Rajya Sabha sea from the state will be held on March 21. The ruling JMM-Congress-RJD alliance is likely to declare its candidate on Sunday. ==

After allies meet Shah in Delhi. Fadnavis assures Mahavuti LS seat sharing in the home stretch

BJP leader and Deputy CM says 80% of the alliance deal for 48 seats done, rest of the issues will be ironed out soon; Shinde Sena's Ramdas Kadam continues to target Maharashtra BJP leaders over staking claim to seats in the Konkan region



nion Home Minister Amit Shah with Mal htra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief

soon," Mr. Fadnavis said. Lion's share for BJP According to sources, the BJP wants to contest on as many as 32 to 34 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maha-rashtra, leaving 10 for Mr. Shinde's Sena faction and a camp, Ramdas Kadam, mere four, or even less, for Mr. Pawar's NCP. Eknath Shinde Sena continued to vent spleen on the BIP's 'interference' Eknath Sumae Sena camp leader Sanjay Shirsat said the announcement of candidates for Maharashon the BJP's 'interference' in the Konkan region. Mr. Kadam, speaking during an event at which CM Shinde was present, openly voiced his grievanctra was expected in the next two days, remarking

es against the BJP staking claim on seats which had sitting MPs from Mr. Shinde's faction. "Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant comes to Dapoli and stakes BJP's claim on places that right-PM Narendra Modi. fully belong to us. The local BIP leaders do the same. Are they [BJP] trying to fin-ish their alliance with us?" ish their alliance with us?" Mr. Kadam said, taking care to add, however, that his criticism was directed specifically at Maharashtra BJP leaders.

sources Department, were searched. The ED had also

sent summons to four Col-lectors to appear before the Investigation Officer.

However, the ED ap

more women from Kerala more women from Kerala are pursuing overseas edu-cation. Though the 2018 Kerala Migration Survey put women's participation in migration at 15.8%, the latest study found that fe-males represented 32% of the survey respondents

the survey respondents, aligning with the data which showed that nearly

half of over 7,200 student

who recently secured Ca-nadian visas from one facil-

nadian visas from one facil-itator were female. Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Harikrishnan Nam-boothiri, former CEO of

Speaking to the K. Harikrishnan Nam-boothiri, former CEO of NoRKA Roots, a field agen-cy of the Department of Non-Resident Keralites

(NoRKA), said the uptick in

female students enrolling

in foreign universities is

one of the reasons.

Supriva Sule to contest LS poll from Baramati Press Trust of India

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar on Saturday declared party leader and his daughter Su-priya Sule as their candi-date from Maharashtra's Baramati Lok Sabha seat Baramati Lok Sabha seat. The announcement by the former Maharashtra Chief Minister came amid specu-lation that the rival faction of the NCP may field Depu-ty Chief Minister Ajit Pa-war's wife, Sunetra Pawar, from the come conclinent from the same constituen The octogenarian leader

Arnid talk of the Maharash made the announcemen during a rally organised by the Opposition's Maha Vi-kas Aghadi in Bhor tehsil ol

Amid talk of the Maharash-tra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and the ruling BJP coming together for a possible pre-poll alliance, MNS chief Raj Thackeray continued to distance himself from both the ruling and Opposition realitions transetions, both kas Aghadi in Bhor tehsil of Pune district. "The elections will de-cide the future of our coun-try. Nobody was so anxious about the future of India so coalitions, targeting both the BJP as well as Sharad far, but now, a change is needed. Today, Prime Mi-nister Modi is not paying Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena any attention towards farmer suicides. Instead. Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT). Addressing party work-ers in Nashik on Saturday at an event to mark the par-ty's 18th foundation day, Mr. Thackeray said that the BJP ought to go to ordinary party workers instead of farmer suicides. Instead, he is focusing all his atten-tion only on Gujarat," he said, adding that the Centre was "misusing" its

"If you think the situa-tion should be in control, now is the time. When you go to cast your vote, press the button that depicts the "There is a lot of credit being given to the PM for building the BIP. The full 'tutari' [his party's sym-bol]. Today, I declare Subuilding the BJP. The full credit goes to the workers who expended their sweat in creating the party and who came well before Mo-di," he said. bol]. Today, I declare Su-priya Sule as our candidate for the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency," he said. Ms. Sule is a three-time https://www.constituency. om Baramat



Patel

Minister Shinde, along with his Deputy Chief Mi-nisters - Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Pawar - meet Mr. Shah at the latter's residence in Delhi. Also present were

NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) leader Sunil Tatkare and Rajya Sabha MP Praful

Delhi meeting was posi-tive... 80% of the work Ion

tive... 80% of the work [on seat sharing] is completed. We [the leadership of all three ruling parties] are talking to each other and the issues will be resolved

"The outcome of the

The six Himachal Pradesh

tu, Ravinora Thakur and Chaitanya Sharma – who have since been disquali-fied, were accompanied by Independents Hoshar Singh, K.L. Thakur and Ashish Sharma, and BJP MLAS Vikram Thakur and The six Himachal Pradesh Congress MLAs who voted against party nominee Abhishek Manu Singhvi in the Rajya Sabha polls, along with three Indepen-dent level home bid dent legislators, have shift-ed to a hotel in BJP-ruled Trilok Jamwal. Meanwhile, Union Mi-nister of State B.L. Verma Uttarakhand amid an on-going rebellion against Chief Minister Sukhvinder said the Congress govern-ment in the State "will soon fall". soon fall". "The Sukhu govern-ment is battling internal conflicts. It will not last long because of this infight-ing," he told reporters. The Congress currently has 34 MLAs in the State Assemble schlidt the MIN

tion that began in Septem-ber last year, is looking into money-laundering offenc-es in the illegal sale of river sand, and is now scrutinising the source and flow of funds, according to sources. After registering a case

Direct

Sources said the probe agency is scrutinising the Special teams of the Enforsource and flow of cement Directorate searched multiple loca-tions across Tamil Nadu in connection with the al-leged ₹4,730-crore sand ids in the scam

The Tamil Nadu govern-ment moved the Madras High Court challenging the under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laun-dering Act, 2002, ED teams conducted simultasummons, and got a stay ining scam in the State. order. Sources in the probe agency said that investigapealed against the stay of tors were verifying huge money transfers involving certain individuals, con-tractors and prime neous searches at sand mining sites in more than mining sites in more than six districts on September 12, 2023, and claimed to have seized incriminating documents such as fake bills and counterfeit QR codes that pointed to GST losses to the Central and tractors and prime suspects. The ED, in its investiga-State governments. Premises of contractors or their associates, includ-ing S. Ramachandran, K. Rathinam P. Karikalan and

4

be resolved, but "Modi has

resolved these issues". The rally at Siliguri was Accusing the parties in the Accusing the parties in the Opposition INDIA alliance of depriving the people of north Bengal and creating a divide among several communities in the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that de nm her her beat the BIP has been sensitive

"The BJP is continuous-ly striving to address your concerns. Now, we are ve-ry close to finding a solu-tion," he said, addressing a gathering at Siliguri in Dar-jeeling district. The demand for a per-manent rolitical solution "Their leaders and Mi nisters are in juil in the ra nisters are in jail in the ra-tion scam case. The party is looting the people of Bengal," Mr. Modi said. He also raised the issue of Uji-wala and Ayushman Bha-rat and said that the State government is not allowing the people to avail of the benefits of these Central schemes

cades, with locals demand-ing a separate State com-parts of north Bengal. The BJP has been winning the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat since 2009. The Prime Minister re-ferred to the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya Ex-judge on stage Former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gango-padhyay, who resigned days ago to join the BJP, was on stage with the PM. Addressing the gathering, and the abrogation of Arti-cle 370, and said that there are several issues which Mr. Gangopadhyay target-ed the Trinamool and asked voters to shun it in people never imagined will the upcoming poll.

Solution to Gorkha issue soon, says PM at fourth rally in Bengal in 10 days

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

the fourth public meeting the fourth public meeting addressed by the Prime Mi-nister in a short span of 10 days and he continued to target the Trinamool Con-gress (TMC) leaders, saying that the campaign to oust their corrupt government form Weat P. from West Bengal will be-gin with the Lok Sabha poll. o the issue of Gorkhas. "The BJP is continuous

manent political solution for the Darjeeling hills has persisted for several decades, with locals demand-

ED action on

+ Baramati Agro

'motivated':

Rohit Pawar

Maharashtra MLA Rohit Pawar on Saturday de-scribed the Enforcement

scribed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) move to attach assets of a sugar mill owned by his company, Ba-ramati Agro Limited, as "politically motivated, wrong and illegal". A total of 161,30 acres of

the Kannad Sahakari Sak

har Karkhana Limited have

har Karking to the provisionally at tached under the Preven

tached under the Preven-tion of Money Laundering Act, the ED said on Friday. Mr. Pawar, who belongs to Sharad Pawar's faction of the Nationalist Common

of the Nationalist Congress Party, has been questioned

by the probe agency twice

in the past after it searched the premises of Baramati

Agro and some others in

Press Trust of India

Press Trust of India

in the migration pattern from Kerala of late, women from the southern State hold the highest number of Two Chandigarh munici-pal councillors – Poonam Kumari and Neha Musabat passports issued in the country till 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Na- re-joined the Aam Aadmi
 Party on Saturday. They by Maharashtra, Tamil Na-du, Punjab, and Gujarat. Though Kerala has the balaxet multiple of the second balaxet moders in the country at 98.92 lakh (in-cluding male and female), Uttar Pradesh has the high-est number of male pass-port holders at 70.58 lakh. The number of female had joined the BIP on Fe bruary 19, a day before the SC was scheduled to hear a SC was scheduled to hear a plea alleging irregularities in the mayoral polls, which saw the defeat of the Con-gress-AAP alliance. On Fe-bruary 20, the court had named AAP councillor Kul-dear Kumar as mayor deep Kumar as mayor. Poonam Kumari and Ne

passport holders in Kerala stands at 42.17 lakh. ha Musabat returned to the The highest number of AAP fold on Saturday, a party statement said. female passport holders Published her Normala Lakshman at Kasheri Bulidines 859, 860. Area Salai. Obernai 600007 on behalf of Tell UNING PUT 1TD. Editor-Smooth Northath (Responsible for selection of news under the FER Act)

In line with the visible shift

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Two BJP MLAs accompanied the lawmakers, who arrived in Rishikesh from Haryana's Panchkula by a chartered flight late on Priday. Security around the Taj Hard has be is being al-lowed to gene is being al-lowed to gene is being allowed to enter its premis-es, except those who have advance online bookings. Assembly, while the BJP has 25. The three Indepen-dent MLAs had lent support to the BJP during the Rajya Sabha polls. The Congress MLAs – Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Kerala top Indian State in issuing passports to women Dhinesh Kallungal THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



nderscores the recent especially female students. la", conducted in 2023 as shift in the migration pat-tern from the State, characheading to various coun-tries for higher education. part of the Centre for Pu-blic Policy Research blic Policy Research (CPPR) Youth Leadership terised by a notable in-A survey on "Youth Stucrease in Kerala's youth, dent Migration from Kera-Fellowship, found that

der in the Supreme Court, which directed the four which directed the four Collectors to respond to the summons in the case, stating that they were bound to provide informa-tion to the ED. As part of the probe, the ED else attrached over 200 ED also attached over 200 excavators allegedly used for mining sand illegally in the State, and froze the company bank accounts of sand lifting contractors, the sources added. Rathinam, P. Karikalan and officials of the Water Re-

amid talks of

The Hindu Bureau

2

that all would be clear Sena feels the pinch Yet, despite Mr. Fadnavis's assurance that the talks would be wrapped up soon, senior leader from the Shinde-led Shiv Sena

Kerala top Indian State in issuing passports to women

Dhinesh Kallungal THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In line with the visible shift in the migration pattern from Kerala of late, women from the southern State hold the highest number of passports issued in the country till 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Gujarat.

Though Kerala has the highest number of total passport holders in the country at 98.92 lakh (including male and female), Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of male passport holders at 70.58 lakh. The number of female passport holders in Kerala stands at 42.17 lakh.

The highest number of female passport holders





underscores the recent shift in the migration pattern from the State, characterised by a notable increase in Kerala's youth, especially female students, heading to various countries for higher education. A survey on "Youth Student Migration from Kera-

la", conducted in 2023 as part of the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) Youth Leadership Fellowship, found that more women from Kerala are pursuing overseas education. Though the 2018 Kerala Migration Survey put women's participation in migration at 15.8%, the latest study found that females represented 32% of the survey respondents, aligning with the data which showed that nearly half of over 7,200 students who recently secured Canadian visas from one facilitator were female.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Harikrishnan Namboothiri, former CEO of NoRKA Roots, a field agency of the Department of Non-Resident Keralites (NoRKA), said the uptick in female students enrolling in foreign universities is one of the reasons.

'Bharat Shakti' to showcase prowess of indigenous defence equipment

The tri-service demonstration on March 12 at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan will be witnessed by PM Modi; display of tactical operations will end with destruction of enemy armour while the Navy will undertake maritime operations

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

4

firepower demon-stration 'Exercise Bharat Shakti' will be held on March 12 at the Pokhran firing range in Ra-jasthan to demonstrate the "prowess" of indigenously "prowess" of indigenously manufactured defence equipment of the three Services, the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, with particular focus on "joint-ness" and synergy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to witness the demonstration.

catalyst for transformation in indigenous R&D, adop-tion of niche technology and establishment of indi-geosystem, ushering in the manifestation of Bharat's quest for self-reliance," he said. "This is evident from the fact that the global Forces' canability develop. scheduled to witness the demonstration. "The event will demon-strate the indigenous capa-bility of the three Services through an integrated Tri-Corrise framewor and ma-Service firepower and ma-noeuvre exercise for about 50 minutes. This event will be followed by a static equipment display," Major General C.S. Mann, Addi-Forces' capability develop-ment projects has steadily declined, whereas the Major General C.S. Mann

share of domestic compo-nent has increased ent has onsiderably." He said lethality and no

He said lethality and po-tency can be reached only when applied in synergy across multiple domains, brought to bear upon the envisaged threats, and Bharat Shakti would showcase "live integrated multi domain operations of the three Services in offensive operations using indige-nous equipment". It will also involve the establishment of the Intel-

Further, the IAF will achieve a favourable air sit-uation by engaging strateg-



demonstrating inter-Ser-vice synergy, Maj. Gen. Mann added. Some major aspects of tri-Service integration will be showcased in the onstration.

As PM Modi visits Kaziranga. Congress asks when he will find time to visit Manipur

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI/ NEW DELHI

Congress' remark comes after photos of PM on a safari rime Minister Narendra inside the Kaziranga Modi on Saturday urged the people of the country park were shared to experience the "unpa-ralleled beauty" of Kazi-ranga National Park and Figer Reserve after under-taking elephant-back and eep safaris.

Jeep süfartis. He also interacted with Van Durga, the team of wo-men forest guards, and lauded their "inspiring" dedication and courage in safeguarding the home of dedication and courage in safeguarding the home of the algost population on earth. "... Nextled amidst lush earth. "... Nestled amidst lush greenery, this UNESCO World Heritage site is blessed with diverse flora and fauna including the majestic one-horned rhi-

ver.

Mr Ramesh's post came after photos of Mr. Modi taking an elephant and jeep safari inside the Kaziranga were shared on the Prime Minister's social media platform.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

"We're glad that the Prime Minister has found noceros," he wrote on X. "It's a place where every visit enriches the soul and time amidst his various tratime amidst his various tra-vels to spend today morn-ing in Kaziranga, an iconic national park, which owes much to the great interest shown both by Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi." connects you deeply with the heart of Assam," Mr. Modi added.

Modi added. Meanwhile, the Con-gress attacked the Centre over the "increasingly dis-turbed situation" in va-reast. In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications jairam Ramesh asked why the Prime Miniater had not found time to visit the vio-found time to visit the vio-found time to visit the vio-found time to visit the vio-ticet and antipur we Nehru and Indira Ganom, he said. "Why has the Prime Mi-nister, ordinarily misusing taxpayer's money to cam-paign around the country, not found the time to visit Manipur yet, or even take a call with the Chief Minister and the political parties of the State?" Mr. Ramesh said in his post.

On the draw

Navy demonstrates twin-carrier operations



Dinakar Peri

ing cross deck. The opera-

ational tempo of the Navy with developments in the Red Sea and renewed pirations were with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Singh and Chief of Detence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan. The remainder of the conference was held in New Delhi. cy attempts in the Gulf of

THE HINDU

News

Mr. Singh underscored the leadership role expect ed of the Indian Navy to The twin-carrier operations also demonstrate that the first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, has been fully integrated into the operational cycle. The wards ensuring peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region. The proceedings at New Delhi on March 7 and 8 intwin operations were fol-lowed by a sail by several cluded a review of major operational, material, in-frastructure, logistics and warships of the Navy. The conference happersonnel-related tives, the Navy said. pened amid the high oper-



- Franking rier INS Vikramaditya on March 5 during which the Navy showcased its "twin-carrier operations" with carrier operations" with MiG-29K fighter jets taking

The Navy showcased its operations with MiG-29K fighter jets taking off from JNS Vikramaditya and JNS Vikrant. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DMK allots nine seats to Congress in Tamil Nadu; seals agreement with MNM

onal Director General o

the Army Design Bureau, briefing the media on Sa-

Mai, Gen, Mann said the

announcement of analytic India' was a "watershed

moment", wherein the year 2020 brought about a

year 2020 brought about a paradigm shift with the launch of the 'Atmanirbhan Bharat' campaign. "The campaign proved to be a catalyst for transformation

indige

systems

turday, said.

Emphasising weapon

The Hindu Bureau

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Satur Munnetra day sealed a seat-sharing pact with the Tamil Nadu unit of the Congress, which was allotted 10 seats – nine in Tamil Nadu and a lone seat in Puducherry. The agreement for the

upcoming Lok Sabha ele tion was signed by DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president K. Selva-

(TNCC) president K. Selva-perunthagai at Anna Ariva-layam here. Earlier, the DMK also sealed the pact both and sealed the pact kal Needhi Malam (MNM) and allocated one Rajya Sabha seat to it, the agree-ment being signed by Mr. Stalin and Mr. Haaaan. after signing the arross-

after signing the agree-ment, Mr. Selvaperunthagai said, "Congress leaders will campaign for the victory of all the candidates of the DMK and other alliance partners much like how they work for the victory of ess candidates.

'Will win together' Asked about constituencies the party expected to contest, both Mr. Selvapecontest, both Mr. Selvape-runthagai and All India Congress Committee Congress Committee Committ

CM (TTTT

and Puducherry



leader Kamal Haasan during a meeting, on Saturday, PT

"Tamil Nadu will set the agenda and model for the country that divisive forces will fall," Mr. Venugopal ad-ded. He said the govern-ment under the leadership of Mr. Stalin was fighting divisive forces of the coun-try and the anti-federal attiwith MNM. As per the pact, the MNM will work for the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-tion in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. MNM had contested alone in the 2019 Lok Sab-ha election and the 2021 and new is now in an al-

try and the anti-federal atti-tude of the BJP govern state Assembly election, and now, is now in an al-liance for the first time since its formation. Speak-ing to reporters, Mr. Haa-san said MNM has decided ment at the Centre. "Prime Minister [Naren dra] Modi and his government are attacking the pride of Tamil Nadu. So it is important to fight to work for the DMK-led

is important to fight against the divisive, antialliance. With this, the DMK has people and anti-poor go vernment which is ruling now allocated nine seats in Tamil Nadu to the Convernment which is ruling the country. We will fight together and we will win together," he said. The Congress also con-tested in 10 constituencies

> -

gress (plus one in Pudu-cherry): two seats each to cherry); two seats each to the two Left parties - the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist; one seat to the MDMK; the two reserved constituencies of Villupuram and Chidamba-ram to the VCK; the Rama-nathapuram constituency tested in 10 constituencies in the 2019 Lok Sabha elec-tion and won all but the Theni seat, where former TNCC president LVKK Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) can-didate P. Ravindranath, son of former Chief Minis-Memorhile, the DMK al-so finalised the poll deal nathapuram constituency to the Indian Union Mus-lim League (IUML) and the Namakkal constituency to the Kongunadu Makkal De-siya Katchi (KMDK).

Kozhikode to get first cooperatives museum

move the Kerala High Court for "a serving judi-cial officer" to probe the

case on the premise that the State police investiga-

Leader of the Opposition

and Congress leader V.D. Satheesan hailed the go-vernment's decision to in-

stitute a CBI inquiry as a victory for justice and hu-manity. He said the government had also accorded the Con-gress a political victory, and later called off the on-going hanger strike by par-ty workers a CBI probe. stitute a CBI inquiry as a

....

tion was untrustworthy

Political victory

Aabha Raveendran

nore than a century.

HIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pina-rayi Vijayan has an-nounced a probe by the

Central Bureau of Investization (CBI) into the sus

pected death by succee of J.S. Sidharthan, a student of the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Husbandry University at Pookode in

University at Pooloode in Wayanad in February. The student's death had rocked State politics with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Congress and the BJP alleging that acti-vists of the Students Feder-ation of India – the student wing of the rulling CP1060 –

sected death by suicide of

. Anand



A tibo-crore project of Karassery Service Co-oper-ative Bank that began oper-ations in 1994, the mu-seum will be the second of its kind in the world (the first is in Toad Lane, the U.K., set up in 1844). There are more than 8 lakh coop-eratives in India today, with a collective member-ship of 29 crore. Maharash-tra has the maximum num-ber of cooperative of cooperative movements in India, especially Kerala. The building will also

Kerala CM announces CBI probe

had tortured, shamed and put Sidharthan on public trial in the college for some

perceived campus demea-nour and left him to starve

in a bathroom in the un-

Sidhartnan's Tather, Jayaprakash, met Mr. Vi-jayan in the Secretariat on Saturday. Mr. Jayaprakash later told reporters that the Chief Minister heard his

Chief Minister heard his misgivings about the ongo-ing State police probe and promised a CBI inquiry. The government report-edly wanted to avoid a pol-itical loss of face, given Mr. Khan's stated attempt to

He was later found dead

father

into veterinary student's death

for days.

iversity hostel.

Sidbarthan's

reality for the displays," said Mubasheer Ali Tahir. director (IT and Infrastruc ture) of Karassery Bank Bengaluru cafe blast

suspect trail takes officials to Kalaburagi



-

Bengaluru on March 1, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) teams have on Saturday, The NIA has now got a clear lead that the suspect boarded a KSRTC non-AC sleeper bus on March 1 night. Meanwhile, the NIA has released new images of the sclear of the NIA has the suspect to the NIA has more than the NIA has released new images of the grabs. The NIA seeks citi-

zen cooperation in ident

will remain confidential, NIA posted on X on Satur

fying the suspect. Call 08029510900 08029510900, 8904241100 or email to in-

fo.blr.nia@gov.in with any information. Your identity -

who is in-charge of the

work. Meanwhile, the bank

Meanwhile, the bank has approached the Na-tional Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Interna-tional Cooperative Alliance for support to make the project even bigger. "We have already contacted cooperatives in some

cooperatives in some countries in Europe and Ja-pan for information and

display materials," he said. With its opening in less than six months, the ICM is

expected to be a major tou-rist attraction in Kozhi-kode. "Our aim is to make kode. "Our aim is to make the museum a great learn-ing experience for people, especially students and re-searchers. We hope to do this with the support of ex-perts and research scho-lars in the field," Mr. Abducorporate the latest tech-nology, including artificial intelligence and virtual

societies, at 2.3 lakh, with 5



house a wax museum and an art gallery. The ICM is the brain-child of N.K. Abdurahi-man, the chairperson of Karassery Bank. The initial work for the project began in 2016. The construction is being carried out by Ura-lungal Labour Contract Co-

lungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society, another

giant in Kerala's coopera-

ive sector. The initial plan was to

crore members. The mu-seum will showcase the success and achiever

Kozhikode to get first cooperatives museum

Aabha Raveendran KOZHIKODE

Indian Coffee Amul, Indian Farmers House, Fertiliser Cooperative (IFF-CO), Kerala Dinesh Beedi: these are brands from diverse sectors with one uniting factor – they are all cooperatives. These and many others will be showcased at the almost-ready 14-storey International Cooperative Museum (ICM) in the heart of Kozhikode, Kerala. It will be a destination to learn about India's cooperative movement that has a history of more than a century.

A ₹150-crore project of Karassery Service Co-operative Bank that began operations in 1994, the museum will be the second of its kind in the world (the first is in Toad Lane, the



The International Cooperative Museum building is expected to be a major tourist attraction in the State. $\kappa.$ RAGESH

U.K., set up in 1844). There are more than 8 lakh cooperatives in India today, with a collective membership of 29 crore. Maharashtra has the maximum number of cooperative societies, at 2.3 lakh, with 5 crore members. The museum will showcase the success and achievements of cooperative movements in India, especially Kerala. The building will also house a wax museum and an art gallery.

The ICM is the brainchild of N.K. Abdurahiman, the chairperson of Karassery Bank. The initial work for the project began in 2016. The construction is being carried out by Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society, another giant in Kerala's cooperative sector.

The initial plan was to complete the work in five years, but COVID-19 played spoilsport. With the change in technology over the last eight years, plans changed too.

"We are planning to incorporate the latest technology, including artificial intelligence and virtual reality for the displays," said Mubasheer Ali Tahir, director (IT and Infrastructure) of Karassery Bank, who is in-charge of the work.

Meanwhile, the bank has approached the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the International Cooperative Alliance for support to make the project even bigger. "We have already contacted cooperatives in some countries in Europe and Japan for information and display materials," he said.

With its opening in less than six months, the ICM is expected to be a major tourist attraction in Kozhikode. "Our aim is to make the museum a great learning experience for people, especially students and researchers. We hope to do this with the support of experts and research scholars in the field," Mr. Abdurahiman said.

THE HINDU News

NERIEF



Krystyna Pyszkova of Czech Republic becomes Miss World

Czech Republic's Krystyna Pyszkova on Saturday won the coveted Miss World 2024 title at a grand event in Mumbal. Lebanon Yasmina Zaytoun was named the first runner-up. Reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska from Poland crowned Ms. Pyszkova successor at the star-studded finale here, India, which hosted the event after 28 years, was represented by 22-year-old Sini Shetty, who could not make it to the top four of the contest. India has won the title six times – R Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (1994), Diana Havden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999) - Reita Priyanka Chopra Jonas (2000), and Manus Chillar (2017). m

Bofors case: application in SC seeks early hearing of plea

An application has been filed in the Supreme seeking an early hearing of a pe challenging the Delhi High Court's 2005 verdict which quashed all charges, including those against the Hinduja brothers, in the politically ensitive ₹64 crore Bofors pay-off case. The application, filed by advocate Ajay Agrawal, says the court had on November 2, 2018, dismissed the CBI's plea against the verdict and said the the CMS plea against the vertice and said the agency can raise all grounds in the appeal filed by him against the same judgment. Mr. Agrawal said he had filed the petition against the verdice back in 2005 and over three decades have gone by since the matter came to light. rn

Bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan unveiled in Assam

A 125-feet bronze statue of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan was unveiled at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. The Statue of Valour is 84 feet tall, set on a pedestal of 41 feet, making the total height of the figurine 125 feet. It was unveiled at the Lachit Barphukan Maidam Development Project at Hollongapar near Teok. The area spread over 16.5 acres, is being developed as a tourist spot, highlighting the developed as a tourist spot, highlighting the history of the region. The foundation of the statue was laid by former President Ram Nath Kovind in 2022, Lachit Borphukan was an army commander of the Ahom kingdom.

Naveen Patnaik govt. revises primary schoolteachers' pay

The Odisha government on Saturday revised the pay structure of primary school teachers, in a move that is expected to help over one lakh teachers and other officers across the State. The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the proposal to raise their pay structure by one level. The government will an additional expenditure of ₹587 crore per ay nt will incur annum, said a government statement. This decision carries substantial importance ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Primary schoolteachers had persistently campaigned for salary revision and staged various protests to draw the government's attention

SUDOKU



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Amit Bhelari Laung Bhuiya, 71, also known as the 'Canal Man', is single-handedly digging a second canal of 5 km so that rainwater cascading down the Bangetha hills in Bihar, can be diverted to the fields for the farming. Mr Bhuiya, who lives in Mr. Bhuiya, who lives in Kothilwa village, 80 km away from the Gaya district headquarters, began the process three years ago, having carved out 3.5 km

He hopes to complete another 1.5 km in the next year-and-a-half, using Laungi Bhuiya says the canals that he digs will not only aid irrigation but also offer fishing opportunities. SPECIAL ARRANG avair-and-a-half, using nothing more than an axe and spade. The canal is 5 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The first canal he con-the first canal he con-October 2020, and took him 30 years to cut through 3 km of stone. It helped the villagers of only this one will provide water

10,000 to 12,000 people will benefit from it," Mr. Bhuiya said. Bhuiya said. Impressed by his work, Anand Mahindra, Chair-person of the Mahindra Group, had gifted him a tractor after he had com-

Hundreds turn up to save trees in Uttarakhand

this one will provide water

Ishita Mishra

so fa

Hundreds of men, women and children gathered at the holy Jageshwar Dham in Almora district of Utta-rakhand on March 8, on the occasion of Mahashiva-ratri, not just to offer paying but and for proto-tion) around the review's It has met the challenges of the nation's diverse society, says Chief Justice DY. Chandrachud; stresses that fraternity is vital to maintain equality The Hindu Bureau C D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday laid tion) around the region's

criticism against the go-vernment. Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami said officials had been asked to look for another route for

sh Kallungal

nomic downturn and civil

tional tourists over Kerala of late, despite the State having beautiful backwa-

ters and being considered a cradle of Ayurveda, for

equivalents in Sri Lanka.

which there are no real

Foreign tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka and Kerala

HIRUVANANTHAPURAM

outh Asia

famous Himalayan cedar trees, which are consi-dered sacred. emphasis on the constitu-tional values of liberty, equality and fraternity for Some of the trees are ov-er 500 years old and they surround one of the largest ensuring the nation's unity and progress, and said the Constitution's learning should reach the village clusters of 125 temples within one complex in the world, situated at 1,870 metres above sea level. across the country. "Our Constitution has its place

from the court's corridors to the remote villages. It is not limited to books alone," the CJI said. The raksha sootra was tied around more than 1.000 trees that were to be 1,000 trees that were to be axed for a road widening project under the State go-vernment's 'Manas Khand Mandir Mala Mission' that alone," the CJI said. Justice Chandrachud in-augurated a regional "Ham-ara Samvidhan Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samula (Our Constitu-tion, Our Honour) cam-paign at Maharaja Ganga Singh University's auditoriaims to improve connectiv-ity to about 50 temples in Uttarakhand. Jageshwar is

one among them. The protest, which be-gan as letters to governum in Bikaner to enhance awareness about the Con-stitution and the citizens ment officials. Later, the hashtag #SaveJageshwar rights and duties, and com-memorate the 75th year of India as a republic. hashtag #SaveJageshwar became a trend on social media site X. The public Union Law and lustice outcry drew widespread

rit was always the spirit of Minister Ariun Ram Megh age. "The Constitution rewal and the Chief Justice of Raiasthan High Court M.M. flects our collective aspira-tions... We are committed to the rule of law and pro-tection of human rights be-Chief Justice Chandra-Chief Justice Chandrachud said the basic rights, cause of the Constitution."



CENENT

another five, About is now Mr. Bhuiva's only source of income

Constitution has its

remote villages: CJI

Equipidational uni

Justice M.M Shrivasi

such as daily wages, pen-

such as daily wages, pen-sion, clean water, ration, health care and education, flowed from the Constitu-tion, which had met the

tion, which had met the challenges of the country's diverse society and given dignity to the people. Mu-tual fraternity was neces-sary to maintain equality in the country, he added.

The CJI quoted B.R. Am-bedkar's speech in the

Constituent Assembly pointing out that the Con

stitution was not a mere la

wyers' document, but was a vehicle of life, and its spi-

place from courts to

Daily routine Every morning, Mr. Bhui-ya, who owns less than half an acre of land, rises, and leaving his mud-and-straw home, walks about 2 km to his work spot. "Farmers pleted the first canal. This ter for irrigation

'Canal Man' picks up his shovel again to help farmers

Laungi Bhuiya of Kothilwa spent 30 vears cutting through 3 km of stone to finish his first canal in October 2020

are not able to utilise rainwater adequately because there is no proper channel for it," he said.

for it," he said. He understands the lo-cal rainfall and irrigation patterns, as three of his four sons, ranging in ages from 25 to 40, are farmers. A fourth works as a helper in a sweet shop in Chennai. "The second canal will

"The second canal will not only help in providing water for irrigation, but al-so give people the oppor-tunity to fish. I have creat-ed four small ponds as well, through its course," Mr. Bhuiya said. The pre-vious canal took rainwater to an existing village pond, to an existing village pond from where people use wa

And the sector

Referring to the techno

logical advancements be-ing applied to judicial insti-tutions

ing applied to judicial insti-tutions, Justice Grant Suprementation of the what started hearing cases through video-conferenc-nology was being utilised to spread legal awareness and strengthen legal ser-nology was being utilised to spread legal awareness and strengthen legal ser-ting in any part of the country could argue his case in the courts situated "The Supreme Court

"The Supreme Court has worked to enhance its

capacity through technolo

capacity through technolo-gy. The district courts are also being sensitised, as they constitute the first step towards justice," the Chief Justice said.

ster Ariun Ram Meghwal, Chief

0 0

Farmers in this area have to bore to is less than Farmers in this area mostly grew maize and gram, but once water be-came available, they began to grow wheat and rice too, resulting in a higher income

Initial scepticism When Mr. Bhuiya began to carve our the first canal the state of the state of the Bhukya (Mad Bhuiya). His wife Ram Rati Devi threw him out of the house brief-ly. His second son Brahm-deo said family members would earlier blieb his asso Rinku Kumar, a primary school teacher in Kothilwa village, praised Mr. Bhui-ya's work and said: "The youth of the village was mi youth of the village was mi-grating to other places in search of jobs. Laungi Bhuiya, who used to go to the forest daily to graze goats, thought about the future of the village." and spade, so he could not work. But Mr. Bhuiya devised a way of hiding his own tools near the canal, returning home Another villager, Kesari-ya Devi, said the water cri-sis will end once the se-

returning home empty-handed. "However, after seeing the impact of his work, now all the villagers praise him. I am proud that my father has done something for humanity. Though he is oreduce the set of the second second second termine the second second second second termine the second second second second termine the second sis will end once the se-cond canal is operational. "Earlier water in the area was available at a depth of 100 feet; now, we hit water at 20 feet," she said, indi-cating that the groundwa-ter levels have risen. auther has done something for humanity. Though he is ageing, he still works for six to seven hours a day," said Mr. Brahmdeo. "Hardly anyone could afford a borewell here, but now many people have them, since the depth they

Odisha sees record human casualties in wild elephant attacks

Satyasundar Barik The toll surpassed

The number of human deaths in encounters with has increased to 149 during 1023-24, recording an al-time high human canal-time high human canal-time high human canal-the human human human A woman identified as huwari Bhadra was tram-nei Forest Division of Sun-dargarh district on March 7 taking the total human toli with elephants. country despite having lower elephant population compared to States such as Karnataka, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The 2017 elephant cen-um stated that Odisha hav sus stated that Odisha has 1,976 elephants, compared to Karnataka's 6,049, As-

sam's 5,719, Kerala's 3,054 with elephants. It surpassed the preand Tamil Nadu's 2.761. "Between 2019-20 and + 2021-22, 1,579 people were

vious record of 148 deaths in 2022-23, human deaths 29-20, human deaths 29-20, human deaths and the second second sharply crossing 100 to reach 115 deaths. Since that, been not the rise con-sistently crossing 100 deaths each year reaching deaths each year reaching deaths each year reaching anty, a wildlife expert 2022-23," said Biswajit Mo-anty, a wildlife expert 2022-23," said Biswajit Mo-anty, a wildlife socie-tor on the rise group. killed in the country by ele-phants, the Environment Ministry said in the Lok Sabha last year in response to a question. Odisha topped the list with 322 deaths, followed by Jharkdeaths, toilowed by Jhark-hand (291), West Bengal (240), Assam (229), Chhat-tisgarh (183) and Tamil Na-du (152)," Mr. Mohanty pointed out. pointed out. The WSO analysis states

that of the 149 human deaths, Dhenkanal, which is the epicentre of human-elephant conflicts, has sufronmental pressure group. With another 20 days left for 2023-24 financial year to end, 149 people have already died and 122 fered the most, recording 31 deaths, followed by Anhave sustained injuries in gul (24), Sundargarh (22). elephant attacks, Keonihar (18) and Mayurb hanj (10)

Hindol and Bantala for Lower elephant count Hindoi and Bantaia for-est range in Dhenkanal have seen 15 and 13 per-sons losing their lives, res-pectively, during the year. Mr. Mohanty pointed out that Odisha was the leading State in losing humans to wild elephants in the

Lanka's tourism surge a clarion call for Kerala

bo.

es: Union Mini

Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Raiasthan High Court Chief

ava in Bikaner on Saturday. AN

he said.

The meteoric rise of Sri Lanka's tourism sector from the ashes of the eco-

unrest a year ago now serves as a wake-up call for Kerala, two major foreign tourist destinations in Sri Lanka is considered a major competitor to Ker-ala with both destinations Gliding along: A tourist enjo ala with both destinations blessed with panoramic landscapes, beaches, wil-dilfe, verdant leaf-cloaked hills, relatively similar cui-sine, and similar weather. However, there has been a growing preference for Colombo by interna-tional tourists ower Kerala

tourist enjoys parasailing at Kovalam beach in ram, In 2023, Kerala recorded 6,49 lakh arrivals, PTI were 6.54 lakh and 6.59 On the other hand. Ker.

On the other hand, Ker-ala tourism clocked II.89 lakh in 2019, the highest ever number clocked by the State. However, things went into a following again after were 6.54 lakh and 6.59 lakh, respectively, in 2010, hardly a year after the civil war came to an end in the island nation. Highest in 2019

into a tailspin again after the Easter Day bombing in Colombo in 2019, which The next decade was very crucial for Sri Lanka with Colombo literally outpac-ing Kerala in absolute numwas followed by the CO-VID-19 outbreak and subsebers in terms of foreign quent financial turmoil in Sri Lanka. tourist arrivals. The tourist tourist arrivals. The tourist Sri Lanka. arrivals at one point The arrival of foreigners touched 23.33 lakh in 2018. in Lanka started declining

1000



Strong comeback However, taking competi-tors by surprise, Lankan tourism made a strong co-meback in 2023 with fo-U.K. 'Almost the same reign tourist arrivals touch-ing a whopping 14.87 lakh in the just concluded sea-

in the just concluded sea-son in 2023, whereas Kera-la could register only an ar-rival of 6.49 lakh in 2023, work of the search of its volto arrivals. Kerala Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas attri-buted the deepening con-flict in some parts of the of international tourism in of international tourism in Kerala after the pandemic, but Colombo could make a strong comeback riding high on the foreigners' pre-ference for the island nathan in Kerala, said Mr. Panikulangara.

1110

Sandeshkhali police officer transferred

Press Trust of India vernment protests there. Interestingly, Indians ac-count for the lion's share of

foreign tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka followed by Rus-sians and those from the The West Bengal govern ment on Saturday trans-ferred Biswajit Shanpui, the officer-in-charge of Sandeshkhali police sta-tion, amid the ongoing fu-rore over allegations of sex-Speaking to *The Hindu*, Jai-son Panikulangara, direc-tor of SAJ House Boat Buil-ders and Operators, who

rore over allegations of sex-ual abuse and land grabbing against local Tri-namool Congress leaders. Gopal Sarkar has been appointed as Mr. Shanpui's replacement. Police authorities de-scribed the transfers as routine administrative acders and Operators, who invested in the houseboat tourism industry in Colom based of the term of the term in Sei Lanka or Fort Kechl in Kerala, the tourist expe-rience is almost the same with the fascinating deal motion of the term of the term into the colonial influence and ancient history of the cities when digging a little dead of the term of the term based of the term of term of term of the term of the term of ter

routine administrative ac-tions, noting a reorganisa-tion of additional officials n the district. On March I, the State go vernment removed two of-ficers from Basirhat police district, following the ar-Lanka is more remarkable



Mr. Bhuiya's only wish now is to get an earth-mov-ing machine to quicken the pace of his work.

the previous record of 148 deaths in 2022-23

vious record of 148 deaths

'Canal Man' picks up his shovel again to help farmers

Amit Bhelari GAYA

Laungi Bhuiya, 71, also known as the 'Canal Man', is single-handedly digging a second canal of 5 km so that rainwater cascading down the Bangetha hills in Bihar, can be diverted to the fields for the farming.

Mr. Bhuiya, who lives in Kothilwa village, 80 km away from the Gaya district headquarters, began the process three years ago, having carved out 3.5 km so far.

He hopes to complete another 1.5 km in the next year-and-a-half, using nothing more than an axe and spade. The canal is 5 feet wide and 3 feet deep.

The first canal he constructed was finished in October 2020, and took him 30 years to cut through 3 km of stone. "It helped the villagers of only three villages. However, this one will provide water



Laungi Bhuiya says the canals that he digs will not only aid irrigation but also offer fishing opportunities. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to another five. About 10,000 to 12,000 people will benefit from it," Mr. Bhuiya said.

Impressed by his work, Anand Mahindra, Chairperson of the Mahindra Group, had gifted him a tractor after he had completed the first canal. This is now Mr. Bhuiya's only source of income.

Daily routine

Every morning, Mr. Bhuiya, who owns less than half an acre of land, rises, and leaving his mud-and-straw home, walks about 2 km to his work spot. "Farmers Laungi Bhuiya of Kothilwa spent 30 years cutting through 3 km of stone to finish his first canal in October 2020

are not able to utilise rainwater adequately because there is no proper channel for it," he said.

He understands the local rainfall and irrigation patterns, as three of his four sons, ranging in ages from 25 to 40, are farmers. A fourth works as a helper in a sweet shop in Chennai.

"The second canal will not only help in providing water for irrigation, but also give people the opportunity to fish. I have created four small ponds as well, through its course," Mr. Bhuiya said. The previous canal took rainwater to an existing village pond, from where people use water for irrigation. Farmers in this area mostly grew maize and gram, but once water became available, they began to grow wheat and rice too, resulting in a higher income.

Rinku Kumar, a primary school teacher in Kothilwa village, praised Mr. Bhuiya's work and said: "The youth of the village was migrating to other places in search of jobs. Laungi Bhuiya, who used to go to the forest daily to graze goats, thought about the future of the village."

Another villager, Kesariya Devi, said the water crisis will end once the second canal is operational. "Earlier water in the area was available at a depth of 100 feet; now, we hit water at 20 feet," she said, indicating that the groundwater levels have risen.

"Hardly anyone could afford a borewell here, but now many people have them, since the depth they have to bore to is less than before."

Initial scepticism

When Mr. Bhuiva began to carve out the first canal, villagers called him Pagla Bhuiya (Mad Bhuiya). His wife Ram Rati Devi threw him out of the house briefly. His second son Brahmdeo said family members would earlier hide his axe and spade, so he could not work. But Mr. Bhuiya devised a way of hiding his own tools near the canal. returning home empty-handed.

"However, after seeing the impact of his work, now all the villagers praise him. I am proud that my father has done something for humanity. Though he is ageing, he still works for six to seven hours a day," said Mr. Brahmdeo.

Mr. Bhuiya's only wish now is to get an earth-moving machine to quicken the pace of his work.







Krystyna Pyszkova of Czech Republic becomes Miss World

Czech Republic's Krystyna Pyszkova on Saturday won the coveted Miss World 2024 title at a grand event in Mumbai. Lebanon Yasmina Zaytoun was named the first runner-up. Reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska from Poland crowned Ms. Pyszkova successor at the star-studded finale here. India, which hosted the event after 28 years, was represented by 22-year-old Sini Shetty, who could not make it to the top four of the contest. India has won the title six times – Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra Jonas (2000), and Manushi Chillar (2017). PTI

INCOME.

Ireland referendum on family and women's roles defeated: Varadkar

A chiral rafe dum in Ireland on redefining family and w roles in the constitution has been defeated, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said. The government supported the proposed changes, hich would have wideped the definition of the family and clarified out-dated language about the duties of women in society. AFF



Iran slams Meta's removal of

Iran denounced Meta's decision to re on the Eac instagram accounts of its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene calling it a "violation of freedom of expression". Meta said last month it removed his accounts for having "repeatedly violated" its policy on "dangerous organisations and individuals". AFP

electoral college of the

newly elected members of the National Assembly and

the four provincial Assem-blies, which formed the

electoral college. A businessman-turned-

politician, Mr. Zardari is the husband of slain Pakis-tan Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto. Mr. Zardari has been haunted by his shady past due to his alleged involve-ment in cases of mega cor-ruption during the two terms of his wife as Prime Minister to a second

Minister. He was implicat-ed in many cases of cor-ruption, but he was neith-

er convicted nor lost his trademark smile, and, ulti-mately, he was cleared in

FIORIDA Hungary's PM Orban supports

THE HINDU

World

Trump after Florida meeting



er Wiktor Orban lant hi ort to his long-time ally Donald Trump's bid to return to White ouse after meeting the former U.S. President in Florida late on Friday, Orban has said only the return of Republican candidate p to the White House could bring peace in Ukraine. REUTERS

A NEW AREA Turkiye openly talks to Hamas

leaders and back them: Erdogan



urkish President Recep Recep Tayvip Erdogan said on Saturday Ankara "firmly backs" Palestinian militant group Hamas. "No on can make us qualify Hamas as a terrorist organisation," he said in a peech in Istanbul. "Turkiye is a country that speaks openly with Hamas leaders and firmly backs them " he added at

> Red Cross chief decries 'lack of humanity'

11

Agence France-Presse

The war in Gaza has "ruptured any sense of a shared humanity," the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Sa-turday. ICRC head Mirjana Spoliaric called for an ur gent ceasefire in Gaza, say-ing Israel and Hamas must respect international law respect international law and protect civilians caught up in their conflict. She said that getting a steady, substantial flow of

ged Al-Masn Three Palestinian chil-

steady, substantial flow of desperately needed aid in-to the besieged Palestinian territory - where the the population is on the brink-of famine - was "only part of the solution". "Preserving civilian life and health is the rule, not the exception," she said.

is not unthinkable'

Associated Press

Poland's Foreign Minister Poland's Foreign Minister says the presence of NATO forces "is not unthinkable" and that he appreciates the French President for not ruling out that idea. Radek Sikorski made the observation during a

discussion marking the 25th anniversary of Po-land's accession to NATO in the Polish parliament or Friday, and the Foreign Mi-nistry posted the comments on X.

gained some momentum on the battlefield and Kviv is running low on an Last month French Pre-sident Emmanuel Macron said the possibility of West-

Radek Sikorski

Tusk's remark

ments on X. They reflect a larger Eu-ropean debate over how to help Ukraine as Russia has sending troops to Ukraine after Macron's remarks, saying: "Poland does not plan to send its troops to the territory of Ukraine." But less than two weeks later Mr. Sikorski struck a different tone.

Asif Ali Zardari becomes Pakistan's 14th President

VII Zardari in Islamabad on Saturday. Al

The PPP leader secured 225 votes from the newly anointed electoral college; he becomes the only civilian leader of the country to win a second term; he is husband of slain PM Benazir Bhutto

r Shehbaz Sharif, left, meets

Mr. Zardari, 68, re-ceived 255 votes while his

opponent got 119 votes in the National Assembly and

the Senate. The new Presi-

dent was elected by the

are seeking the resignation

used to wake up early to earn money for their son's breakfast before taking

tions are held. 'Urgent' reform

Fiery and feisty

THE READ A N

Press Trust of India

sif Ali Zardari was A overwhelmingly elected as the 14th President of Pakistan on Saturday, becoming the only civilian President of the coup-prone country the coup-prone for a second time.

for a second time. Mr. Zardari, the co-chairperson of the Pakis-tan Peoples Party, was the joint candidate of the rui-ing alliance of the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), League-Nawaz (ML-N), Chair Achaizai, is the head Khan Achaizai, is the head of his Pashtoonkhwa Milli

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaf (PTI) party and backed by the Sunni Itteof his Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP). He was fielded by jailed form-Mr. Zardari is expected er Prime Minister Imran

Four police officers among six dead in Nigerian attack

Agence France-Presse

Suspects are members of IPOB. Armed men accused of be-longing to a separatist including four police offic-ers, in southeastern Nige-ria's Ebooyi state, the pol-tra's theory state, the pol-tra's theory is state, the pol-tra's theory is state, the pol-tra's theory is state of the pol-book of the police of the police of the state of the police of which advocates a separate State for the Igbo ethnic group

police spokesman Joshua Ukandu said.

Ukandu said. A shootout began in which four officers died and two civillans were killed in the crossfire, he ple died.

added. The attackers were still on the run. They are alleged to be members of the Indige-nous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement, which advocates a separate State

for the igbo ethnic group. Attacks in the southeast are often blamed on IPOB, which systematically de-nies any involvement. Separatism is a sensitive separatism is a sensitive topic in Nigeria, where a three-year civil war broke out in 1967 after Igbo Army officers declared an inde-pendent Biafra state.

More than a million people died. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is also grappling with violence by armed groups in the northwest, known locally as "ban-dits", and jihadist insur-gents in the northeast.

ern districts of Turgeau,

Pacot, Lalue and Canape

cil (SIC)

trator lights a spray on fire during clashes with police officers during a protest to mark International Women's Day in Mexico City,

Residents seek shelter as gunfire and gang violence bring Haiti to 'standstill'

Agence France-Presse PORT-AU-PRINCE

added

Vert. Fearful residents scram-Sporadic gunfire rang out bled to take shelter, with witnesses saying they had seen clashes "between pol-ice officers and bamils" as ocommandeer police sta-tions in the city center. A comparison of the city center police statistical and the city center port-au-Prince as well as roads leading to the rest of hey infrared the comparison of the leading to the rest of they infrared the comparison of the cent days. This also in-cludes attacks on two pri-of their 3,800 immates to escape. in Port-au-Prince on Friday bled to take shelter, with

in Port-au-Prince on Friday night, as residents desper-ately sought shelter amid the recent explosion of plan capital. Humanitarian condi-tions continued to deterio-rate, and aid groups and shortage of medical re-sources and food supplies after armed groups un-leashed widespread chaos obean nation has week. Gunshots were heard

CM CM

Gunshots were heard throughout the capital late on Friday, especially con-centrated in the southwestescape. The gangs, along with some ordinary Haitians,



ding death: Ar in Port-au-Prince in Haiti on Friday.)

him to school, she said. main port – a key source for food imports – cited in-stances of looting since it "James has never been in conflict with anyone," Ms. Sanon said. "He's a simple cigarette salesman." Haiti's airport remained closed on Friday, while the

violence. Guyana's President Ir-faan Ali said the meeting will take up "critical issues for the stabilisation of se-curity and the provision of suspended services on Thursday, despite efforts to set up perimeter. a security

urgent humanitarian assistance." The crisis has drawn concern from the United :::(

"If we cannot access

those containers (full of food), Haiti will go hungry soon," the NGO Mercy

Corps warned in a state

nations, CARICOM, on Fri-day summoned envoys from the United States,

from the United States, France, Canada and the United Nations to a meet-ing on Monday in Jamaica to discuss the outbreak of

An alliance of Caribbean

States, which has told the care, and almost 450 could absent Henry to enact "ur-gent" political reform to prevent further escalation. face life-threatening obste-tric complications if they do not receive medical as Mr. Henry was in Kenya when the violence broke sistance," the UN's office in Haiti said in a statement out and has since been up The body also warned able to return to Haiti. He is reportedly stranded in Puerto Rico. that more than 500 sexual violence survivors could be without medical care by

623

without medical care by the end of March If condi-tions do not improve. "Today, too many wor-with the second second second violence committed by armed gangs. The United Nations stands by them and is committed to conti-tance they need." said the Pregnant women at risk The UN warned on Friday that thousands of people, especially pregnant wo-men, are in danger of los-ing vital health care as the writin dense are crisis drags on. "If greater Port-au-Prince remains at a standstill in the coming weeks, almost 3,000 pregnant wo-men could be denied ac-cess to essential health tance they need," said the UN's Resident and Human-itarian Coordinator Ulrika

Richardson.

Ukraine ern troops in Ukr. could not be ruled out. Tusk's remark Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was among those European leaders who initially ruled out sending troops to Ukraine

Presence of NATO troops in Ukraine



Israel strikes landmark

residential tower in Rafah

und a dam Tower after Israeli air strikes in Rafah on Saturday, GETTY IMAGES

> dren died of dehydration and malnutrition at the northern Al Shifa Hospital

Nearly 31,000 dead overnight. Negotiations on a cease-Nearly 31,000 dead Five months into Israel's war on Gaza, health auth-orities said nearly 31,000 Palestinians had been killed, over 72,500 were wounded and thousands mobble trapped under Negotiations on a cease-fire and the release of 134 hostages still in Gaza seemed to stall ahead of the hoped-for deadline, the Muslim holy month of Ramzan, which begins on or around March 10. wound were

Asif Ali Zardari becomes Pakistan's 14th President

The PPP leader secured 225 votes from the newly anointed electoral college; he becomes the only civilian leader of the country to win a second term; he is husband of slain PM Benazir Bhutto

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

sif Ali Zardari was overwhelmingly elected as the 14th President of Pakistan on Saturday, becoming the only civilian President of the coup-prone country for a second time.

Mr. Zardari, the cochairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party, was the joint candidate of the ruling alliance of the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

His rival, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, is the head of his Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP). He was fielded by jailed former Prime Minister Imran



New innings: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, left, meets with Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Saturday. AP

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and backed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Mr. Zardari is expected to be sworn in on Sunday.

Mr. Zardari, 68, received 255 votes while his opponent got 119 votes in the National Assembly and the Senate. The new President was elected by the electoral college of the newly elected members of the National Assembly and the four provincial Assemblies, which formed the electoral college.

A businessman-turnedpolitician, Mr. Zardari is the husband of slain Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mr. Zardari has been haunted by his shady past due to his alleged involvement in cases of mega corruption during the two terms of his wife as Prime Minister. He was implicated in many cases of corruption, but he was neither convicted nor lost his trademark smile, and, ultimately, he was cleared in all cases.

- THE HINDU **Business**

INBRIEF

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'India added 3.2 GW of open access solar capacity in 2023

India added a record 3.2 gigawatt of open access solar capacity during 2023, posting a 6.66% rise supported by factors, including reduced module supported by factors, including reduced module cost, according to a report. In its latest report, U.S.-based research firm Mercom Capital said the open access solar capacity addition was 3 glgawatt (GW) during 2022. Solar power through open access is an arrangement where a power producer establishes a solar power plant to supply green energy to consumers. -m

'Office space demand likely at 50-55 mn sq. ft. across 6 cities'

Office space demand in India's six major cities ain healthy this year as dor will remain healthy this year as domestic and foreign firms are expected to lease 50-55 million square feet to expand businesses, according to a FICCI-Colliers report. Gross leasing of office space stood at 58.2 million sq. ft. across six major cities viz.yBengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune, FICCI and real estate consultant Colliers India released the report 'India Office: Repurposed to scale-up'. m

Triumph Offshore spat: NCLT denies interim relief to IFFCO

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has directed Swan Energy-IFFCO JV Triumph Offshore to hold a board meeting before April 4 to discuss issues raised by minority shareholder IFFCO on the feasibility and viability of offering services to operate vessels. Earlier this month, services to operate vesses. Earner this month, IFFCO moved the NCLT, seeking to restrain Triumph Offshore from passing any resolution without approval and issuing any share/security to the lenders for paying loans. Print

India to gain higher investments from **FTA pact with EFTA**

The free trade agreement will showcase India's commitment to trade liberalisation, when the world is turning protectionist, says GTRI

Power of four



tava, co-founder, GTRI. stones and coins, all im "India's agricultural ex-ports are minimal and un-likely to increase signifiported from Switzerland, accounted for \$16.7 billion. Gold, making up 80% of In cantly due to strict quality dia's imports from Switze standards and non-tariff barriers," Mr. Srivastava pointed out in the report. land, is a critical factor GTRI said

*Little competition' The JV areas that the coun-tries have short-listed, where investments are to be made, mostly do not have competition from In-dia, the official said, speak-ing on the condition of anonymity. The signing ceremony of the proposed pact in New Delhi on March 10, of-New Delhi on March 10, of-ficially called the India-EF-TA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), is likely to include trade ministers of some EF-TA countries as well, such as Norway, apart from Commerce & Industry Mi-nister Plyush Goyal. anonymity. "EFTA has agreed to the condition of investments being made in India be-

Low scope for access The low scope for increas-ing market access for goods in EFTA could be of concern as India had a trade deficit of \$18.58 bilcause they are getting market access," the official not-ed. "Also, they are not our competitors in the identified sectors. For instance, in India, most medical devices are imported from China. The pact will lead to lion with the bloc in CY23. with its imports at \$20.45 billion. Of this, gold and other precious metals. diversification of imports, which is absolutely neces-sary," the official added.

China says overall pressure on employment vet to ease

Reuters BEIJING China still fac employment the pressure not eased, th human resour said on Satu slowing ecor for another re college g 2024. The job ma a good start, p artificial inte artificial intel big data segme man Resource Wang Xiaopi that 32,000 je been held so f

es structural issues and on jobs has	Authoritics will strengthen policy support to improve youth employment, bolster small firms	try forecast. At the start of the ses sion this week, the govern ment unveiled its 2024 tar get for economic growth alming for an expansion o					
he country's rces minister rday, as the nomy braces cord number graduates in	Still, authorities will strengthen policy support to improve youth employ- ment and step up support for small private firms, Ms.	"around 5%". China's gross domestic product grew 5.2% last year. But headline indicators have tended to underplay the tensions in China's vast job market, especially					
rket has seen articularly in lligence and ents, said Hu- ces Minister ing, adding ob fairs have	Wang told a news confe- rence on the sidelines of an annual parliament meeting in Beijing. China could see 11.79 million college graduates this year, she added, reiter-	among young job seekers including the millions of college graduates looking for work each year. More than one in four of the roughly 100 million Chinese aged 16-24 were					
ar in 2024.	ating an education minis-	unemployed in June 2023.					

New MF distributor portability norms to trigger competition

Suresh P. Iyengar The new mutual fund (MF) distributor portability norms may leave distribu-tors with no commission during the mandatory cooling-off period of six months, leaving them high and dry, especially if inves-tors releven multiple

new distributors when in vestors switch. Trail commission The AMCs may consider making payment of trail commission to the transfe-ree distributor after a 6-month cooling-off period tors trigger multiple switches. A spin-off effect of the A spin-off effect of the new norms is they will help large distributors poach business from smaller players by offering better services and ease of invest-ment. Investors can now switch between distribufor the same fund if Hindu bu

Johri resigns from ZEEL Press Trust of India

Zee Entertainment Enter prise Ltd. on Saturday an they have concerns about nounced the resignation o Rahul Johri, who was Presi the current distributor of Rahul Johri, who was Presi-dent-Business, and chang-es in the revenue vertical of the broadcast business implemented by its MD & CEO Punit Goenka. Net Current distribution of services. Previously, the new dis-tributor didn't receive trail commission. However, AMFI now permits AMCs to pay trail commission to o pay trail commission to

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Correction

The report 'India four-na-tion EFTA bloc likely to ink FTA on March 10° pu blished in the March 9 edi from the date of change of tion erroneously referred to Finland as a member of distributor code in the unit holder database. EFTA. It should instead have read as Iceland. The (The writer is with The

Kratos Studios | Godrej Tyson Foods eyes eyes fivefold double-digit growth: CEO growth in gamers Lalatendu Mishra

The Hindu Bureau

Godrej Tyson Foods Ltd. (GTFL), the farm-to-fork joint venture company of Kratos Studios, a platform for online games and gam-ers worldwide, is eyeing fi-vefold growth in the num-ber of gamers on its platform in 2024, CEO Manish Agarwal said. "Currently we have a community of over 16 mil-built without randitional marketing. Our target is to orrow this number five Kratos Studios, a platform Godrej and American foods major Tyson Foods, with brands such as 'Real grow this number five times by the end of 2024," said Mr. Agarwal who was former CEO of Nazara Technologies. The firm currently has

previous year GTFL said in the third quarter of FY24 it sustained 15% y-o-y volume growth for branded busiabout 73 staff in India, Bra-zil, U.K. and West Asia and plans are afoot to increase the geographical reach the geographical reach.



Amiti Sen

ndia's gains from the proposed free trade European Free Trade Asso-clation (EFTA) countries, built swetcher and the restrict and one million wer to no state the trade were to no state the restrict and one million over 15 years, as goods ex-ports may gain minimally due to insignificant exist Global Trade Research in

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) indicated in

a report. New Delhi convinced

the EFTA countries, which include Switzerland, Ice-

include Switzerland, loc-land, Norway and Liech-tenstein, to weave in com-mitments on minimum investment flow and job creation keeping in mind that the existing goods ta-riffs in the bloc are already zero or very low, an official told *businessime*.

Trade with Swiss This is especially true for Switzerland, which ac-counted for \$1.38 billion of the total \$1.87 billion of In-dian exports to the EFTA in

"Since 98% of India's ex-

ports to Switzerland are in-dustrial goods already en-

tering at zero tariffs, they won't benefit from the FTA," observed Ajay Srivas-

Trade with Swiss

CY2023.

FY24, the overall branded

Sterling Tool's E-Mobility arm to expand capacity, produce multiple EV parts: MD

Lalatendu Mishra

Sterling Gtake E-Mobility, the electric vehicle (EV) component manufacturing subsidiary of Sterling Tools Ltd., is expanding capacity to manufacture six lakh EV components a year by March compared with 4.5 lakh now, MD Jaideep Wadhwa said

Wadhwa said. "We produce over 1,500 Motor Control Units a day and sell them to a variety of customers in India," Mr. Wadhwa told The Hindu. "And now this business is stabilised, we are looking at other components of the ord into and are working on get into and are working on doing that," he added.



power electronics going in-to an EV as also how it can

vitching on: The firm is now looking at all p going into an electric vehicle. COM Stating there were very few components in an EV, he said the company, hav-ing established the infras-tructure and ecosystem for power electronics, was now looking at all of the

enter into those segments. "So, we started recoge "so, we started recoge werrain component side plier," he added. Sterling Tools Lid. is one fasteners in the country of fasteners in t

0000

CBIC moots steps to empower women in at ₹454 crore with a growth global trade rate of 12% YoY. "As we scale back on

Shishir Sinha

NEW DELHI

Jyoti Banthia BENGALURU

The Central Board of Indi-rect Taxes & Customs (CBIG) has prescribed mea-to contribute meaningfully to the global economy. These include greater representation for women in trade bodies, besides provide the second second second provide the second second second provide the second Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw un-veiled the carbody struc-ture of Vande Bharat's sleeper trainaet being ma-nufactured by BEML. The first Vande Bharat sleeper will be unwelled in the next five to six months advanced features such as special mofine. enhanced infrastructure at Customs posts. The Board came out special roofing, enhanced air-conditioning, virus conair-conditioning, virus con-trol mechanisms, reduced jerks, noise and vibrations. BEM, operates under and specialises under and specialises in manu-facturing products for a di-verse range of sectors, in-cluding defence, aerospace, mining, con-struction, rall, and metro with two circulars on the occasion of International Women's Day. One states Wommer's Day. One states that inland container de-pots (ICDs), container definitional (Orss) and all freistational (Orss) and of gender-responsive in-frastructure at the logistics of gender-responsive in-frastructure at the logistics place efficiency of the wo-men workforce, including providing sufficient light-ing, panic buttom, etc.-vision for care infrastruc-

systems. Making trainsets Additionally, it has secured orders to produce 10 train-sets comprising 160 coach-es each for the Vande Bhavision for care infrastruc-ture and services, especial-

rat Sleeper project. The Minister also com-missioned the India Validay creches, according to the rules laid out in the Mation Centre (IVC) at Ap-plied Materials India. The Centre marks the next step ernity Benefits Act, 2017. Also, internal com-plaints committees (ICC) will be put in place in ac-cordance with the provi-sions of the Prevention of in the company's journey of enabling the semicon-ductor ecosystem in India.

sions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment At Work Places Act, 2013. It has been advised to block-tion training sessions for staff of CPS/AFS/ICD and field formations. In the second circular is-sued, the Board said to cratabest for equality. "won-New capabilities Built with the highest safe-ty standards, the IVC ena-bles early pilots, talent and capability development for the upcoming India Collab-orative Engineering

orative Engineering Centre, including valida-tion, process engineering, lab management and col-laboration with academia and suppliers. catalyst for equality, "wo-men must be represented at all levels." (The writer is with The Hindu businessline) The IVC adds new capa-bilities to enable end-to-really a momentous

....

=10 Feather in the can: Mr Vaishnaw ins

Bharat's sleeper version at BEML in Bengaluru . THE H

end design, characterisa-tion and qualification of ment. "The india valida-tion Centre is a testament to the dedication and effec-tiveness of our approach to build India's resilience in chip manufacturing and a musted pattner in enaachievement for our coun try," Mr. Vaishnaw, who holds the Electronics Communication, Informa tion Technology and Rail

Vaishnaw unveils Vande

in sleeper tech boost

Bharat's carbody structure

ways portfolios, said at the unveiling here. "This is indeed a very big milestone that we have achieved," he noted. He wished thousands of a trusted partner in ena-bling the Indian semicon-ductor dream," the Ministhese products are in stalled in the coming ter said. "We believe this is Inmonths in the country and Nivetti 2.4 tbps becomes a dia's time to shine, and Ap-plied Materials' India Valiproduct which is exported to the world. Terabytes per second dation Centre is one of the (TBps) is data tra

many milestones in our inmany milestones in our in-novation journey," said Prabu Raja, President of the Semiconductor Pro-ducts Group at Applied Motoriale (TSps) is data transmission rate equivalent to 1,000 gi-gabytes, or one lakh crore bytes per second. According to Mr. Vaish-Materials. Union Minister Ashwini

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday also halled Nivetti Systems for the indigenously-deve-loped 2.4 thps router. He termed it a momen-tous achievement for the councers. country. "I came to Bengaluru

According to Mr. Vaish-naw, a router is a kind of device which gets lots of in-formation and data form-formation and data form-cesses it properly and dis-seminates in the appro-priate destination. "Router is a digital post-man, which delivers the in-overton from one end to an for a very special purpose. First indigenously-deve-loped 2.4 tbps router. It's ceptor from one end to an another," the Minister added.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Ana

business revenue compris-ing of Godrej Yummiez and Real Good Chicken stood

As we scale back on poultry trading, I think next year and the year af-ter that, we believe the two processed businesses of Real Good Chicken and miez frozen snacks ness will continue doubusiness will continue dou-ble-digit growth trajecto-ry," said Abhay Parnerkar, CEO, Godrej Tyson Foods Ltd. in a interview. Tapping on the demand for fried chicken, GTFL via its. forem ready to evolv

its frozen ready-to-cook brand Godrej Yummiez in-troduced Crispy Fried Chicken that can be made at home in 5-7 minu "Factors such as the ris ing popularity of ready-to

cook and value-added chicken products are driv-ing up chicken consump-tion," he added.

Now that ICE vehicles would be gradually re-placed by vehicles running on alternative fuel, the EV

subsidiary was set up to ex

plore opportunities in this

"Starting about 2018, we started looking at the fu-ture of mobility, which pe-

ople define as ACES – Au-tonomous, Connected, Electric and Shared.

-

emerging space.

Future of mobility

Correction

The report 'India four-nation EFTA bloc likely to ink FTA on March 10' published in the March 9 edition erroneously referred to Finland as a member of EFTA. It should instead have read as Iceland. The error is regretted. • i

EFTA to invest \$100 bn in 15 yrs

India inks trade pact with four-nation bloc

MUKESH JAGOTA New Delhi, March 10

INDIA ON SUNDAY signed a trade and economic partnership agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with includes a first-of-its-kind binding investment commitment of \$100 billion from the four-nation bloc over 15 years.

No major tariff reduction for goods by the European side are built into the pact, as these countries — Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein — already maintain very low tariffs.

However, the agreement, according to a senior official, has a provision for

INDIA'S TRADE WITH EFTA

Switzerland	2		.6 <mark>,37</mark> 6
Norway Iceland Liechtenstein	9.12 4.84 0.19 7.4	564 (2023-24 Apr-Dec, mn) Export Import
FDI from EFT countries in (\$ mn, since Apr		Switzerland Norway Lichenstein Iceland	9,946 721 105.2 29.26

suspension of tariff concessions by India if the promised investments do not materialise.

Most of the tariff lines from both sides

are included in the pact, while a few "sensitive" items like dairy, soya, coal and certain agricultural products are excluded.

The tariff reductions would be carried out in phases over many years. It will thus

take anywhere between seven and 10 years for Swiss watches and chocolates to be cheaper in India. For wines, the concessions are similar to those given to Australia.

Among the four EFTA members, Switzerland is

India's largest trading partner, and India runs a large trade deficit with it. The investment form the four rich European countries is seen as a precursor to a much larger deal with the European Union.

Continued on Page 12

Services trade, migration to ease



(\$ mn)

12,600

409

309

380

296

536

376

211.4

*Switzerland is the biggest trading partner of India in EFTA

* India runs a large trade deficit with Switzerland

THE HINDU Sport

13



Ace india on-spinner N. Antonin, who toxe tive for / and times with match-figures of nine for 128 in his 100th Test, also compl his 36th five-wicket hau in the final match of the series agains England on Saturday. In the process, Ashwin surpassed compa and legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble's tally of 35 five-fors. - that he had called it so early

Indian batting legend Tendulkar wrote on his official 'X' handle, "The first time I saw Anderson play was in Australia in 2002, and his control over the ball looked special. Nasser Hussain spoke very highly of him back then and today, I am sure, he would say, "Moine

the World Test Championship rankings after a 4.1 series win over England in Dharamshala on Saturday. India improved from 64.58 to 68.51% points after nine matches in the current WTC cycle (won six, ost two and drew one). New Zealand, with

Nuwan i nusharas maioen over nac-trick (ive or 20) and kusa kendia" 86 helped Sri Lanka pummel Bangladesh in Saturday' Iventy20 in Sylhet. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 174/7 in 20 overs (K Mendis 86) bt Bangladesh 146 in 134, overs (R. Hossain 53, N. Thushara 5/20). Sri Lanka wins series 2-1.



Anderson's 700 and Ashwin's five-for highlight the day; England's self-destructive methods make it easier for the home team; Root plays a lone hand with a polished 84

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Rakesh Rao

he predictable hap-pened swiftly. Un-der two sessions on der two sessions on the third day of the fifth Test here, India completed the demolition job of the surprisingly-willing En-glishmen for a 4-1 series

After an embarrassing loss in the first Test, desnit loss in the first Test, despite taking a 190-run lead, India turned the script around to win the next four. But none of India's triumphs was as dominating as the one on Saturday, the margin being an innings and 64 runs.

For the record. India resumed its first innings and folded at 477 after losing overnight not outs. Man-ofthe-Match Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah for the additional of four runs.

JI 1 -WINNERS

Grand show: The Indians are a happy bunch after stamping their authority over the Englishmen in unequivocal terms. RX M Trailing by 259 runs, Enup five wickets to tally nine for 128 in his 100th Test. gland was never in the hunt to save an innings loss. It lost five wickets before lunch and the rest in the se-Inexplicable was En-gland's rush to defeat. Becond session to be cleaned cond session to be cleaned up for just 195. On a day when 41-year-old James Anderson, in his 187th Test, became the first fast bowler to take 700 Test wickets, R. Ashwin picked

gland's rush to defeat. Be-ginning its second innings in the seventh session of a Test, the haste of the visit-ing batters to play the big shots was baffling. Alt firm-ly between the ears by the Indian spinners in the first innings, England showed light in the shortest or the five Tests. When England batted again, Ashwin started from where he left off after tak-ing the last four first-in-nings wickets. He sent back the top three batters before



WPL SEASON 2

tem comes on. This was how bizarre

proceedings were at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here

in what turned out to be a

humdinger between Mumbai Indians and Guja-

Mumbai indians and Guja-rat Giants. Harmanpreet Kaur (95 n.o, 48b, 10x4, 5x6) was a player pos-sessed as she carried MI to a memorable seven-wicket

that it had not learnt any lunch as England reeled at

103 for five. Ashwin bowled Ben Duckett, Ben Stokes and Ben Foakes by foxing each lesson. The false bravado only hastened the end and left England in very poor light in the shortest of the one differently. Duckett stepped out, got himself 'vorked' as the ball turned just enough to beat his heave and crashed into the f-stump. Following a change of

Lavanya L

SCOREBOARE ends, Ashwin dismissed Stokes, Guilty of playing from the crease, falling to be an end of the series, he played forward defensively but was beaten and bowled. Af-ter lunch, Foskes paid the slog-sweep and gave the off-spinner a 36th five-wick-et haul. Ashwin dismissed

Joe Root stood amid the ruins to post his 61st Test half-century during the ninth-wicket stand with Shoaib Bashir. He dis-played the approach En-gland needed to stay alive

gland needed to stay alive to fight another day. He was last out for 84, holing out to Bumrah of Kuldeep, the man who started the procession of England's wickets in the first innings. 8-428 (Ashwin, 101.6), 9-477 (Kuldeep, 123.4). Anderson 16-2-60-2, Wood 15-1-89-0, Hartley 39-3-126-2, Bashir 46.1-5-173-5, Stokes

5-1-17-1, Root 3-0-8-0. ENGLAND - 1ST INNINGS 5-1-17-1, Root 3-0-8-0. ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS Zak Crawley c Sarfaraz b Ashwin 2 0 [15b], Bie Pope c Jaiswal b Ashwin 19 (23b, 3wl), Joe Root c Bumrah b Kuldeep 84 (128b). 218 in 57.4 overs INDIA – 15T INNINGS INDIA – 13T INNINGS Yashasvi Jaiswal St. Foakes b Bashi 57 (38b, 3vd, 3vf), Rohit Sharma b Stokes 103 (362, 13vd, 3v6), Shubman Gil b Anderson 110 (2506, 12vd, 3vf), Devdutt Padiikal b Bashi 65 (103b, 10vd, Jafe), Saffaraz Khan c Root b Bumran B Kuldeep S4 (1240), 1246), Jonny Bairstow Ibw b Kuldeep 39 (326, 3x4, 3x6), Ben Stokes b Ashwin 2 (206), Ben Foakes b Ashwin 8 (1276), Tom Hartley Ibw b Bumrah 20 (246), Ja60, Sarfaraz Khan c Root b Bashir 35 (60b, 8vd, Ja6), Rwindra Jadeja Ibw b Hartley 15 (50b), Dhruv Jurel c Duckett b Bashir 35 (2Mb, 2vd), R. Ashwin b Hartley 0 (5b), Kuldeep Yadav c Foakes b Anderson 30 (60b, 2vd), Jasprit Bumrah st. Foakes b Hartley Tow b Burnah 20 (246, 464), Mark Wood Biw b Burnah 0 (2b), Shoaib Bashir b Jadeja 13 (2b), Joef, James Anderson (not (2b), Shoaib Bashir b Jadeja 13 (2b), Joef, James Anderson (not ab), Jie, Total (in 46), Deven): 196-FALOF WICKETS 31, 3-36 (Doucket 1, 51), 3-21 (Crawley, 53), 3-36 (Doucket 3, 13), 3-21 (Stokes, 2-25), 6-132 (Foales, 24, 4), 7-142 Jasprit Bumrah st. Foakes b Bashir 20 (64b, 2v4); Extras (lb-4, nb-2); 6; Total (in 124.1 overs): 477. FALL OF WICKETS 1-106 (Jaiswal, 20.4), 2-275 (Rohit, 61.1), 3-279 (Gil, 62.2), 4-376 (Sarfaraz, 84.1), 5-403 (Padikasi, 92.1), 6-427 (Jadeja, 101.1), 100.4), 7-427 (Jadeja, 101.1), (Hartley, 34.2), 8-141 (Wood, 34.4), 9-189 (Bashir, 45.5).

34.4), 9-189 (Bashir, 45.5). INDIA BOWLING Bumrah 10-2-38-2, Ashwin 14-0-77-5, Jadeja 9-1-25-1, Kuldeep 14.1-0-40-2, Siraj 1-0-8-0. PoM: Kuldeep; PoS: Jaiswal ENGLAND BOWLING

India won by an innings and 64 runs to clinch five match series

Our experience in bowling was critical: Dravid

Rakesh Rao

With the series done and dusted, it was time for coach Rahul Dravid and England's skipper Ben Stokes, here on Saturday, to reflect on the five-Test series. After India's emphatic

innings-and-64-run victory on the third day, Dravid shared his views. "We dominated this

"We dominated this match. We were in control here all the way. But the first four Tests, there were periods when they did put us under a little bit of processors." "There were days, par-

ticularly the third day in both Rajkot and in Ranchi, when England had the aswhen England had the as-cendancy in the morning. The heartening thing for reinced players stepped up in those situations. En-gland came here with an experienced batting line-up. Their insperience was rience was in howling and we won those contests.

we won those contests. That was a critical part of On his part, Stokes said, "We came here with very high hopes and confidence about what we could achieve

achieve. "It started off very well but obviously losing the se-ries 41, not just myself but the team is big enough to but have a started but outplayed in the last four games. Whenever we man-ged to wrestle back any type of momentum with the ball or bact, India were always able to the put it back on to us to

Anderson's longevity in Tests is his decision to stay SM (1999)

Wicket No. 700 ... and Mooney and Hemalatha's efforts in vain as Harmanpreet's blitzkrieg takes MI home Anderson is not done yet

畫

A fast bowler

until Anderson

TENDULKAR

actually made it happen. Simply

(C)

playing for 22 years and performing s consistently to be able to take 700

Rakesh Rao DHARAMSHALA

With the snow-capped Dhauladhar mountain ranges providing a stun ning backdrop here James Anderson, 41 scaled 'Mount 700' to per manently etch his name among the greats of the Precisely 15 minutes in

to the third day's play on Saturday, the dismissal of Kuldeep Yadav signalled the end of Anderson's wait. The ball kissed the outside edge of Kuldeep's bat and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes completed the dis-missal. This was the moment of the day for Ander son, England and their

son, England and their supporters. On his debut against Ambrews in Muscal Ambrews et al. Ambrews et

Third to reach the mark Playing his 187th Test, An-derson became only the third bowler – following spinners Muttiah Mura-litharan (800) and Shane Warne (708) – to take 700 Test wickets.

Since surpassing Aus-tralian Glenn McGrath's career-tally of 563 wickets when he dismissed Mo-hammad Shami at The Oval in September 2018, Anderson remains the highest Test wicket-taker among fast bowlers. The main reason for

Anderson's path to Mount 700 Picture this. You are chas-ing 191 to win. Two of your marquee players have brought the ask down from 70 runs needed off 26 balls to 23 needed off the last 12 Just at the ner the last 12 Just at the ner stadium, the sprinkler sys-tem comes on. James Anderson became the first fast bowler in the history of Test cricket to reach 700 wickets. Here is the list of his milestones along the way starting from his first wicket 1st wkt.: 1st Test, Mark Vermer (Zim), Lord's, May 2003 100th: 29th, Jacques Kallis (SA), The Oval, Aug. 2008 200th: 55th, Peter Siddle (Aus), Perth, Dec. 2010 ooth: 81st, Peter Fulton (NZ), ord's, May 2013 ooth: 104th, Martin Guptill (NZ), eadingley, May 2015 Sooth: 129th, Kraigg Brathwaite (WII, Lord's, Sept. 2017 600th: 156th, Azhar Ali (Pak), Southampton, Aug. 2020. 187th, Kuldeep Yadav 700 test wickets is a Jimmy coming up to 700 wickets, it's phenomenal to think about. stellar achievement

especially as a seam bowler especially as a scalin bowler. Amazing career to date, and I carit see him stopping. I have played with Jimmy for a long time and I/ve never seen him as physically fit as he does wickets would have sounded like fiction right now. Being 41, showing that hunger and desire to get better every single day is testament to his attitude and commitment to the game STOKES

18 wickets and ended in 2009. In Test cricket, An-derson has three 10-wick-et match-hauls and 32 five-wicket performances. These numbers could change since Anderson is not done yet. focused on red-ball cricket. He played the last of his 194 ODIs against Afghanis-tan in March 2015 and fim-ished with 269 wickets. In fact, his T20 career lasted just 19 matches for



Power-hitting: Harm

(not out) 12 (10b, 1x6); Extras

-

from the 18th over from the 18th over. As the match reached its boiling point, the irriga-tion system by the boun-dary cushions came on. Mooney refused to play on a wet outfield prompting an eight-minute delay in the proceedings. Mooney (66, 35b, 8x4, 3x6) and D. Hemalatha (74, 40b, 9x4, 2x6). However, Harmanpreet and Kerr managed the un-

Positive start Yastika Bhatia (49, 36b, 8x4, 1x5) and Hayley Mat-thews began positively, but the Giants made early inroads. Shabnam Shakil snapped up Nat Scher-Brunt for her malden WPL wicket, leaving MI with a little over 90 runs to get with 6.3 overs left. SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Wolvaardt, 2.5 overs), 2-139

....

Laura Wolvaardt b Matthews 13

Mooney tried her best to contain Harmanpreet, to contain Harmanpreet, who was already riled up courtesy some sloppy mates, but in vain. A 19-run over from Meghna Singh helped the 35-pear-old sink her teeth into the wicker, With the action of the state of the action of the state of the action of the state of the court of the state of the action of the state of the cleaners, scoring 24 runs Laura Wolvaardt b Matthews 13 (246), 344), 186th Mooney 15 Sajana 66 (355), 844, 3445, D. Hernalatha c 2a63, Phosebe Linchfield c 2a63, Phosebe Linchfield c Ashielgh Carolher D Pools (1,69), IBharti Fulmali (not cut) 21 (138), 2144, 2465, Kathryn Rycyc run out 7 (88), 1441, Tanuja Kamar (not 2a64, 247), Kathryn Rycyc run out 7 (88), 1441, Tanuja Kamar (not 2004), Tanuj



(Mooney, 13.1), 3-152 (Litchfield, 14.3), 4-159 (Gardner, 15.4), 5-163 (Hemalatha, 16.4), 6-179 (Bryte, 18.6), 7-181 (Sneh, 19.3). MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING Matthews 3-0-22-1, Ismail 4-0-30-1, Saika 4-0-33-2, Scherr-Brutz 2-0-22-0, Peoja (b-4, lb-4, w-7): 15; Total (for three wikts. in 19.5 overs): 191. FALL OF WICKETS (Matthews, 6.3), 2-57 er-Brunt, 7.3), 3-98 (Yastika GIANTS BOWLING 4-0-45-1, Amanjot 1-0-10-0, Kerr 1-0-15-0, Sajana 1-0-11-1. Gardner 3.5-0-22-1, Bryce 2-0-24-0, Tanuja 4-0-21-1, Meghna 3-0-37-0, Shabnar 3-0-31-1, Sneh 4-0-48-0. 1-0-15-0, Sejana 1-0-11-1. MUMBAI INDIANS Yastika Bhatia c & b Gardner 49 (3bb, ibd, 145), Hayley Matthews c Sneh b Tanuja 38 (21b, 4x4), Nat Scherr-Binnt c Sneh b Shabnam 2 (4b), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 95 (4Bb, 10x4, Sod), Amedia Ker Toss: Guiarat Giants Mumbai Indians won by sever wickets with one ball to spare Sunday's match: Delhi Capitals vs. Royal Challengers, 7.30 p.m.

a 200-plus score. However, a choke by the middle and lower-or-der saw Giants finish with 190, a score that would ul-timately melt before the wrath of the Indian cap-

Wicket No. 700... and Anderson is not done yet

Rakesh Rao DHARAMSHALA

With the snow-capped Dhauladhar mountain ranges providing a stunning backdrop here, James Anderson, 41, scaled 'Mount 700' to permanently etch his name among the greats of the game.

Precisely 15 minutes into the third day's play on Saturday, the dismissal of Kuldeep Yadav signalled the end of Anderson's wait. The ball kissed the outside edge of Kuldeep's bat and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes completed the dismissal. This was the moment of the day for Anderson, England and their supporters.

On his debut against Zimbabwe in May 2003, Anderson began his wicket-tally by bowling Mark



Anderson's path to Mount 700

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400th: 104th, Martin Guptill (NZ), Headingley, May 2015

500th: 129th, Kraigg Brathwaite (WI), Lord's, Sept. 2017

600th: 156th, Azhar Ali (Pak), Southampton, Aug. 2020.

700th: 187th, Kuldeep Yadav (Ind), Dharamshala, March 2024

On his debut against Zimbabwe in May 2003, Anderson began his wicket-tally by bowling Mark Vermeulen at Lord's and gradually became the most reliable new-ball weapon in the English armoury.

Third to reach the mark

Playing his 187th Test, Anderson became only the third bowler – following spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708) – to take 700 Test wickets.

Since surpassing Australian Glenn McGrath's career-tally of 563 wickets when he dismissed Mohammad Shami at The Oval in September 2018, Anderson remains the highest Test wicket-taker among fast bowlers.

The main reason for Anderson's longevity in Tests is his decision to stay





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Soutnampton, Aug. 2020.

700th: 187th, Kuldeep Yadav

(Ind), Dharamshala, March 2024

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STOKES

Jimmy coming up

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These numbers could change since Anderson is not done yet.

Most wickets

Player	Span	Mat	Inns	Balls	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR	4	5
M Muralidaran (ICC/SL)	1992-2010	133	230	44039	7339.5	1794	18180	800	9/51	22.72	2.47	55.04	45	67
SK Warne (AUS)	1992-2007	145	273	40705	6784.1	1761	17995	708	8/71	25.41	2.65	57.49	48	37
JM Anderson (ENG)	2003-2024	187	348	39877	6646.1	1720	18569	700	7/42	26.52	2.79	56.96	32	32
A Kumble (IND)	1990-2008	132	236	40850	6808.2	1576	18355	619	10/74	29.65	2.69	65.99	31	35
SCJ Broad (ENG)	2007-2023	167	309	33698	5616.2	1304	16719	604	8/15	27.68	2.97	55.79	28	20
GD McGrath (AUS)	1993-2007	124	243	29248	4874.4	1470	12186	563	8/24	21.64	2.49	51.95	28	29
NM Lyon (AUS)	2011-2024	129*	242	32761	5460.1	1044	16052	530	8/50	30.28	2.93	61.81	24	24
CA Walsh (WI)	1984-2001	132	242	30019	5003.1	1144	12688	519	7/37	24.44	2.53	57.84	32	22

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Shafeel fires Services to a seventh Santosh Trophy title



Job well done: The Services team celebrates after beating Goa in the final. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Amitabha Das Sharma YUPIA (ARUNACHAL)

P.P. Shafeel scored with a spectacular pile-driver to help Services beat a strong Goa by a solitary goal in the final to lift the Santosh Trophy for the seventh time in the history of the premier inter-state senior men's football competition.

The opening session at the Golden Jubilee Stadium ended goalless as the attackers failed at both ends. There was no dearth of action though as both sides adopted an open approach. They produced some nice raids that were either neutralised in the box or went wide for want of precision.

The second session came alive with more concentrated efforts from Services, which started probing the Goa box with more purpose. Goa goalkeeper Antonio Da Silva made a crucial save in the 50th minute to make up for the mistake of his defensive colleague Deeshank Kunkalikar, who miscued a clearance to let Services right-half Subham Rana have a crack.

Services kept pressing for the lead and found it in the 67th minute when midfielder Rahul Ramakrishnan set up Saheel outside the Goa box. The Services right-back answered with a powerful grounder that went through Da Silva's defences.

Goa went in the hunt for the equaliser and came close to finding it on at least three occasions. But Services' defence stuck to its task and found the clearances at the right moment.

The best chance came in injury-time (90+3 minute) when Deeshank put in a nice cross for substitute Joshua D'Silva. The latter's header beat the Services goalkeeper Abdul Kadir but Pradeep Kumar cleared from the line to save the day for Services.

The result: Services 1 (P.P. Shafeel 67) bt Goa 0.

Santosh Trophy Hero NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AIFF Organising **FIFA** body Founded 1941; 83 years ago Region India Number of Group stage: 36 Final round: 10+2 teams Related National Games competitions International Asian Champion Club cup(s) Tournament (1967–70) Current Services (7th title) champions Most West Bengal (32 titles) successful team(s)

FIFA+

Senior NFC ☑

Television

Website

broadcasters



World's 5th Largest Exporter OF WINE Had Over 2 Billion Litres Unsold In Mid-2023 Global drop in wine consumption forces Aus farmers to destroy vines

PETER HOBSON

GRIFFITH (AUSTRALIA) MARCH 9

MILLIONS OF vines are being destroyed in Australia and tens of millions more must be pulled up to rein in overproduction that has crushed grape prices and threatens the livelihoods of growers and wine makers.

Falling consumption of wine worldwide has hit Australia particularly hard as demand shrinks fastest for the cheaper reds that are its biggest product, and in China, the market it has relied on for growth until recent years.

The world's fifth largest ex-

porter of wine had more than two billion litres, or about two years' worth of production, in storage in mid-2023, the most recent figures show, and some is spoiling as owners rush to dispose of it at any price.

"There's only so long we can go on growing a crop and losing money on it," said fourth-generation grower James Cremasco, as he watched clanking yellow excavators strip out rows of vines his grandfather planted near the southeastern town of Griffith.

About two-thirds of Australia's wine grapes are grown in irrigated inland areas such as Griffith, its landscape shaped by vine-growing tech-



Unpicked grapes wither on the vine near the town of Griffith in southeast Australia. *Reuters file*

niques brought by Italian migrants arriving around the 1950s.

As major wine makers such as Treasury Wines and Carlyle Group's Accolade Wines refocus on more expensive bottles that are selling better, the areas around Griffith are struggling, with unpicked grapes shrivelling on vines. "It feels like an era is ending."

"It feels like an era is ending," said Andrew Calabria, a thirdgeneration vineyard owner and wine maker at Calabria Wines.

"It's hard for growers to look out the back window and see a pile of dirt instead of vines that have been there as long as they've known."

Nearby, the remains of 1.1 million vines that once com-

prised one of Australia's largest vineyards were piled in heaps of gnarled and twisted wood as far as the eye could see.

Red wine has suffered the most. In regions like Griffith, prices of the grapes going into it fell to an average of A\$304 (\$200) a ton last year, the lowest in decades and down from A\$659 in 2020, data from industry body Wine Australia show. The government, which fore-

casts lower prices again this year, said it recognises the significant challenges facing growers and is committed to supporting the sector, though many growers say it can do more. Cremasco said some of his red grapes sold for

little more than A\$100 a ton. To balance the market and lift

prices, up to a quarter of the vines in areas such as Griffith must be pulled up, said Jeremy Cass, head of Riverina Winegrape Growers, a farmers' group there.

That would destroy more than 20 million vines across 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres), Reuters calculations based on Wine Australia data show, or about 8% of Australia's total area under vine. Growers and winemakers in other regions have also been pulling out vines. "If half the vines in Australia were ripped out, it still might not solve the oversupply," said a wine maker in Western Australia. **REUTERS**

Here are the top 10 wine producers by volume:

- Italy: 4,250,000 liters per year
- France: 3,641,900 liters per year
- Spain: 3,248,000 liters per year
- United States: 2,333,900 liters per year
- Australia: 1,369,000 liters per year
- Argentina: 1,182,100 liters per year
- China: 1,163,600 liters per year
- South Africa: 1,080,100 liters per year
- Chile: 949,200 liters per year
- Germany: 746,200 liters per year 💎

The World's Biggest Wine Producers

Global wine production (million hectoliters) and vineyard area (hectares) in 2014





HOW **RED WINE** IS MADE



Ø

Press

"press" wine.

After the fermientation, vintners drain the freely-running wine from the tank and press

the skins and seeds for any remaining



Harvest grapes The vintner chooses when to harvest and if it's done by hand or machine. Generally speaking, red wine grapes ripen later in the season than

Fermentation +

Grope skins give red wine its color and flavor. So, during the fermentation, vintners punch

down gropes or pump-over the must so the skins stay submerged.

white wine grapes.



→ Prepare grapes

Grope bunches get destemmed. Some vintners ferment whole clusters to odd tannin. The must is analyzed while grapes cold coak. Most winemakers add sulfur dioxide during this stop to stop microbial growth.



Clarification

Clarifying or "fining" agents (such as egg whites or vegan bentonite clay) remove proteins. Then, wine passes through a filter for sanitation. Some wines are left unfined and unfiltered.



Bottling Bottling occurs with minimol exposure to oxygen. Sometimes sulfur dioxide is odded during this stage to help preserve the wine.



linemps



As wine settles in tanks or barrels, a second "fermentation" happens. Mololastic fermentation (MLF) is when bacteria converts. sharp malic acid into smoother, more chocolotey-tasting lactic acid.

Aging Red wine ages in barrels or tanks for several months to several years. Oak barrels enhance red wines with aromatic compounds (such as vanillin) and subtle axidation.



Blending The winemaker blends grope varieties or barrels together to create the final wine. Winemakers often rely on texture as the aromos hoven't finished evolving.

Add yeast

Yeasts (wild or commercial) eat grape sugars and make alcohol, CO2, and heat. Red wines ferment for

an average of 5-21 days at 68-86 "F (20-30 °C) and

often get left to mocerate on the grape skins for 7-28 days after the fermentation completes.



Bottle aging Some wines continue to age in bottles for years until release



LAUNCHES UNNATI SCHEME WITH OUTLAY OF RS 10,037 CRORE



PM Narendra Modi at Kaziranga National Park, Saturday. PTI

PM unveils projects for N-E, says next step is expansion of industries

SUKRITA BARUAH

GUWAHATI, MARCH 9

LAUNCHING MEGA development projects for various Northeastern states during events in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that "Modi doesn't do work by counting the number of Parliament seats from a place".

During an event in Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, he launched the central government's new flagship project for the Northeast **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** An all-weather link to Tawang, Sela Tunnel boosts readiness at China border

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA NEW DELHI, MARCH 9

THE SELA Tunnel, that was "dedicated to the nation" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, is a key border infrastructure project as it connects



Guwahati to the strategic Tawang sector round-theyear, thus aiding faster military

movement to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Constructed by the Border

Roads Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of around 13,000 feet and a cost of Rs 825 crore, the construction of the tunnel was aimed at providing all-weather connectivity to Tawang across Sela Pass on the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang (BCT) Road, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

- The Union Cabinet approved the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI 2024).
- About
- Government of India has formulated New Industrial Development Scheme, UNNATI as a Central Sector Scheme for the development of Industries and generation of employment in the states of North East Region.
Salient Features of the Scheme

- Scheme period: The scheme will be effective from the date of Notification and up to 2034 along with 8 years of committed liabilities.
- **Districts are categorized in two zones:** Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts).
- Earmarking of funds: 60% of the outlay of Part A has been earmarked to 8 NE states and 40% on First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis.





discuss issue at meet

-RESPITE War rages in Gaza on the eve of Ramzan

WORLD > PAGE 12



BJP rattled Opposition' NEWS >> PAGE 4

How to solve Bengaluru's water crisis Wastewater generated is an untapped resource ON IN PAGE 9

DOUBLES DELIGHT SPORT » PAGE 16

Satwik-Chirag pair wins French Open

AND YOMEX

W FFBaD

INSIDE

STATES >> PAGE 3

Goel likely quit over 'differences' with CEC

Differences with Rajiv Kumar are said to have arisen during a visit to Bengal to oversee poll preparations Doposition raises questions over resignation of the EC days ahead of announcement of LS polls Sources say only some high ranking government officials and CEC knew about the developments



Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

PUDUKOTTAI/KARAIKAL A total of 22 Indian fisher hailing from different parts of Tamil Nadu were arrested by he Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday of trespass into the island nation's waters. The fishermen, along with their boats, were taken to the Kankesanthurai naval base, Coastal Security Group sources said. » PAGE 4

Portugal goes to polls with shift to right expected

LISBON Voters in Portugal went to the polls on Sunday in an early election that could see the country join a shift to the right across Europe after eight years of Socialist rule. Final opinion polls published on Friday show the centre-right Demo Alliance narrowly ahead of the ocialist Party but short of an outright majority. » PAGE 12

Zardari sworn in as Pak, President for a second time

ISLAMABAD Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday took oath as Pakistan's 14th President, a day after the veteran politician staged a emarkable comeback when h was overwhelmingly elected as the only civilian President o the coup-prone country for a second time. He replaced Dr. wif Alvi who term in Sept. 2023. » PAGE 12



In the press briefing, the CEC mentioned that Mr. Goel had returned to Delhi due to "health concerns". the announcement of the Lok Sabha election, came as a surprise to many, but insiders in the poll body have said that apparent dif-ferences emerged between However, sources close to Mr. Goel have dismissed that and maintained that "he is in the pink of health". Instead, they said that Mr. Goel and Chief Election sioner (CEC) Raliy Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar during their visit to West Bengal to oversee poll preparations earlier this month. According to well-placed sources, Mr. Goel refused to attend the press confector in Kolkata to brief the media about the Instead, they said that "he flew back to Delhi cut-ting short his visit in West Bengal owing to some se-rious differences". However, they did not elaborate further on what transpired between the two officials nor what is-

an election.



n Com sues they differed on that After arriving in Delhi, Mr. Goel attended meetcaused Mr. Goel's abrupt Mr. Goel attended meet-ings, with Mr. Kumar, at the ECI headquarters on March 7. However, on March 8, he reportedly skipped a meeting bet-ween ECI brass and Union Home Secretary Ajay Ku-mar Bhalia and instead caused Mr. Goel's abrupt exit from the poll body. Reacting to Mr. Goel's resignation, Opposition parties on Sunday asked whether he had stepped down due to differences with the CEC, or to contest an election

Govt. likely to appoint new ECs by March 15 NEW DELHI

rise in the The two vacancies in the Election Commission, created by the resignation of Arun Goel, and the retirement of Arung Chandra Pandey, are likely to be filled by March 15, sources and the fundament of an electronic sources and the fundament of a source said on Sunday. IN PAGE 5

sent his resignation to the President of India without President of India without informing the CBC. "There were attempts from the government to-...reconcile their differenc-es but he remained firm on his exit," officials said. His resignation was ac-cepted by the President on

March 9 and the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a gazette notification stating that Mr. Goel's resignation was accepted with effect from the same day. "Except perhaps the CEC and other highest ranking officials in the go-vernment, nobody had an inkling about Mr. Goel's decision to resign," claimed multiple sources in the go-vernment and the ECI.

Opposition's questions Reacting to the resigna-tion of the second second second restary lateram Ramesh asked in a post on X. "Did he actually resign over dif-ferences with the Chief Election Commissioner or with the Mod government, which does the front-seat

driving for all supposedly independent institutions? Or did he resign for perso-nal reasons? Or did he, like the Calcutta High Court Judge a few days back, re-dem to context the forth sign to contest the forth coming Lok Sabha polls or a BJP ticket?" Mr. Ramesl asked. Shiv Sena (Uddhav Bala

saheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut alleged that the ECI "has been privatised" and "beco branch of the BIP" over th branch of the BJP" over the last ten years, raising con-cerns about who would re-place Mr. Goel. "Like the BJP's people have been ap-pointed in the High Courts, Supreme Court, Gover-nor's house... they will ap-point two of their BJP peo-ple here too."

driving for all supposed



Call for action: Farmers hold a 'rail roko 'protest at De demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum sup

Gig workers suffer from lack of social security, regulation: study

A. M. Jigeesh

Almost a third of app-based cab drivers work for over 14 hours a day, while over 14 hours a day, while more than 83% work more than 10 hours and 60% work over 12 hours, ac-cording to a study of more than 10,000 Indian cab drivers, gig and platform workers workers. It noted that social dis-

parities make the situation worse, with over 60% of the drivers from the Sche luled Castes and Tribes working for over 14 hours a day, while only 16% from the unreserved category work such long hours. The study was conduct-

The study was conduct-ed by the People's Associa-tion in Grassroots Action and Movements, and the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers, with technical support from the University of Pennsylvania and Frie-drich-Ebert-Stiftung India, fairness of algorithms and mechanisms used by plat-forms to monitor such workers. The study report says that over 43% of partici-pants in the study earn less than 0500 a day or 015,000 a month, after deducting

SM (1998)

Constantly at work Asked if they take a single day off in a we

a German foundation.

fairness of algorithms and

Relentless protest



- 3. all their costs. It found that Authors of the study, which will be released on Monday, recommended 34% of the app-based delivery persons earn less than ₹10,000 a month, while stronger social security for app-based workers, and called on the government to exercise oversight on the

ti0,000 a month, while 78% spend over 10 hours anong workers from diffe-rent castes, the report said that "these income dispari-tion of the set of the set of the already existing social in-equalities and perpetuate cycles of powerty and dis-communities". these the event set of the set of t

communities". and misbehaviour. 0.00

Trinamool to contest all 42 seats in Bengal

and

development.

cation by the EFTA states according to their parlia-

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA ers and 5,028 delivery per-

ers and 5,028 delivery per-sons across eight cities – Delhi, Hyderabad, Benga-luru, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Indore – participated in a 50-question survey; 78% of the respondents were in the age group of 21 to 40 years. Putting an end to specula runting an end to specula-tion over seat-sharing ar-rangements with the Con-gress, the Trinamool Congress on Sunday an-nounced candidates for all 42 Lok Sabha seats in West

years, bound in the term years, to the demanding work hours, the study found that drivers are physically exhausted, and exposed to an increased risk of road infaffic accengal. The list of candidates has surprises in store, with the party fielding former cricketers Yusuf Pathan from Berhampore and Kir-ti Azad from Bardhaman-

dents, especially due to the '10-minute delivery at the doorstep' policy of certain Durgapur. The party retained vete-ran MPs Sudip Banerjee from Kolkata, Saugata Roy e-commerce platforms. The lack of social and job from Dum Dum Lok, and security creates additional Kalvan Baneriee from Se-Kalyan Banerjee from Se-rampore. Among those dropped by the Trinamool is Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh, who won the 2019 election on BJP ticket but stress and leads to poten-tial health issues. "76% of the delivery per-sons are struggling to make their ends meet.," the re-port said. Another major complaint of the workers is the issue of ID deactivation and customer misbehaviour. stress and leads to potenrned to the re gional party.

FULL REPORT

eves \$100bn in investment + pected possibly by the end of the year. Suhasini Haidar ments, "States cannot de ments. "States cannot de-cide where companies invest," Norwegian Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre told presspersons in a briefing. "It's about creat-ing the night emission emission India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four European countries – Ice-land, Liechtenstein, Nor-

India signs free trade pact

with 4 European nations,

"Commitment a goal" Touting the clauses on in-vestment as a unique achievement, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said ing the right environment way, and Switzerland - on Sunday, with a goal of reaching \$100 billion in inspeaking to our companie it was "for the first time in the history of the world that we are inking an FTA with a binding commitand then tracing and track ing development", he said adding that the invest ments by EFTA companie vestments in India and one nillion jobs within 15 ment to invest \$100 billion in India from EFTA coun-

would be assessed periodically. If the goals are not achieved within 15 years with a three-year grace pe riod and another two year in negotiations, India will be entitled to withdrawing be entitled to withdrawing some of its trade conces sions "temporarily", the agreement says. Apart from Mr. Vestre the EFTA Ministers who the EFTA Ministers who flew into Delhi for the sign-ing of the agreement were Swiss Federal Councillor Caw Parmentin

According to the TEPA's Chapter 7 that deals with "Investment Promotion and Cooperation", the two sides had shared "objec-tives" to increase foreign direct investment from EF-TA stores into holds by 550 TA states into India by \$50 billion within 10 years and another \$50 billion in the The agreement will come into force after ratifinext five years. It would al-

ni Benediktsson, and Liechtenstein Foreign Affairs Minister Dominique Hasler. With inputs from Jacob so "aim to facilitate the generation of 1 million jobs Koshv

'BREAKTHROUGH MOMENT PAGE 4

Guy Parmelin, Iceland Fo reign Affairs Minister Bjar

ABX



....



Union, said that, for the first time, the FTA also in-cluded a chapter on com-mitments to human rights sustainable

6

THE HINDU News



CBDT starts sending alerts to assessees for tax mismatch

The Income Tax (I-T) Department on Sunday said has started sending emails and SMSs to assessees whose taxes paid during the current fiscal are not commensurate with financial transactions. The department is undertaking an transactions. The department is undertaking: e-campaign, which aims to inform such persons/entities of significant financial transactions urging them to compute their the due advance tax on or before March 15. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the I-T Department has received information on specific financial transactions undertaken by persons or entities during the 2023-24 financial year. m

Former SC judge sworn in as Lokpal Chairperson

Former Supreme Court judge, Justice (retired) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was administered the oath of office as the Chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal by President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday, nearly two years after the post fell vacant. The swearing-in at the Rashtrapati Bhayan was attended by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Justice Khanwilkar (retd) was appointed the Lokpal Chairperson in the last week of February. m



Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

habituated to breas

Rahul Karmakar

(SACON), and Conserva-

tion Himalayas. The entire distribution

range of the golden langur

have a very busy daily rou-tine. If I don't earn money, how can I provide a better life for my child?" Ms. Gau-tam, who works in Luck-now's Vishal Khand area, acted

milk. I

million

A study published re-cently in the peer-reviewed JAMA Network Open jour-nal found the prevalence of zero-food children in In-

tion was successful. "Till a concrete resolution is of-

concrete resolution is of-fered by the government to our demands, we will con-tinue our struggle," Mr. Pandher said. Besides a legal guaran-tee of MSP, the farmers are demanding the implemen-tation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommen-

Commission's recommen dations, pension for farm ers and farm labourers, no

hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the vic-

Report turns spotlight on India's 'zero-food children'

A recent study had ranked India as having the third-highest percentage of children who had not eaten any food for 24 hours; experts say rapid urbanisation is fuelling malnutrition in country



Rapid urbanisation and nuclearised families have contributed to large number of 'zero food children' in Uttar Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

dia at 19.3%, drawing atten-tion to extreme food de-privation among children. The study ranks India as having the third-highest percentage of zero-food children, above only Gui-nea (21.8%) and Multi-berz India tas the highest (14.2%) Maharashtra (14.2%), Maharashtra (7.1%), Rajasthan (6.5%), and Madhya Pradesh (6%) account for nearly two-thirds of the total zero-food children in India," the re-port raid "My husband is an alco-holic. He spends most of his time at home but I can-not trust him to feed the bers, India has the highest number of zero-food chilchild. He may harm the child as it takes time to feed him [the baby]," Ms. dren at more than six Another study pu-blished in 2023 in eClinical Gautam said. Medicine, part of the noted Lancet Discovery Science, found that Uttar Pradesh

Gautam said. Shalini Singh, a public health specialist, argues that alongside poverty and marginalisation in eco-nomic backgrounds, it is rapid urbanisation and nu-clearised families that have contributed to such a large alone accounts for 28.4% of zero-food children in India. "The States of Uttar Pra-esh (28.4%), Bihar desh

Other parties make promises, only BJP fulfils them. savs PM



Launching the Mahtari Vandana Yojana, a finan-cial assistance scheme for eligible married women in Chhattisgarh, on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it was only the Bharatina Inanta Partic umber of "zero food chil fren" in India's most populous State. She said lack of aware ness about the nutritional needs of children, and misonceptions, also contri-sute to the numbers. the Bharatiya Janata Party

"Women from underpri (BJP) that kept its electoral vileged economic back-grounds work to sustain their families, resulting in omises. "Mothers and sisters, before the elections, many before the elections, many parties make big promises. They promise the stars and the moon, but only a party with a clear intent like the BJP fulfilis its promises...," Mr. Modi said. The Mahtari Vandan Yo-jana was a pre-poll protheir having insufficient time to complement breastfeeding for children breastleeding for children above six months of age. With rapid industrialisa-tion, nuclear families have grown in both urban and nural areas, so there is no one to invest the time and amarm required to ford a one to invest the time and energy required to feed a child, apart from the moth-er," she said, adding that lack of awareness about nutritional needs of chil-dren, and social miscon-

ceptions, also contribute to the likely numbers. Uttar Pradesh's urban

Uttar Pradesh's urban population is approximate-ly 23%, according to the 2011 Census and had grown by more than 25% in 2011 when compared with 2001, signifying a large namber of poor moving to-wards urban centres in search of a livelihood.

stems from the well-being

ment is committed to en-suring the holistic well-be-ing of every family, and this begins with the health and dignity of the women," he said. he said. Speaking of some of the other initiatives taken by his government, Mr. Modi said that women were get-ting pucca houses and Ujj-wala gas cylinders in their neares

name. He added that more

than 10 crore women from self-help groups have bene-fitted during his tenure, while more than one crory women have become lakh pati didis. This refers to be neficiaries of a schem which aims to train wo men's self-help groups to earn a sustainable income of at least ₹1 lakh per an-num by setting up micro-enterprises within their vil-

'Rail roko' protest by farmers affects train services in Puniab

Press Trust of India

Farmers on Sunday squat-ted on railway tracks at ma-ny places in Punjab as part of a 'rail roko' protest called by the Samyuk Ki-san Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to prose the Contro Morcha to press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP). Movement of several

trains was affected in Puntims of the 2021 Lakhim jab on Sunday. The protest was held from 12 noon till 4 pm. The farmers sat ailway tracks at many locations in 22 dis

cations in 22 districts. According to railway authorities, nine trains were cancelled and many trains were either short-terminated or short-origi-nated. Farmer leaders Sarwan Clinch Due then out tooil

Singh Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed that their 'rail roko' agita-





Nature's charm: The previous population estimation in 2008-09 recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India. ANI group-living primates such as the golden langur," H.N.

serve Forest, and Manas National Park up to the western bank of the Manas Kumara, the principal scientist of SACON, said. River. The second phase dur-The golden langur habi-

tat was demarcated into 51 counting blocks, each overlaid with 50-hectare grid cells. Ten teams, each ing the same months in 2021 focused on fragmented forest habitats of golden langurs in the Bongaigaon, comprising one or two trained enumerators and three to four forest staff, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri dis-tricts of western Assam. The block count method The block count method was applied for the first time to assess the abum-dance, spatial distribution, and densities of the golden langur populations. "This method is consi-dered to be relatively sim-relatively effective and as three to four forest staff, surveyed the blocks. "We observed 7,720 in-dividuals of golden langurs in 706 unique groups and 31 lone males or floating males. Estimating mini-mum population size was mum population size, we found there to be 7,396 in-dividuals in 707 groups, inple, cost-effective, and ro-bust for arboreal and small

was, the lead primatologist at PRCNE, said. He super-vised the survey. "The population of a super-tions. The northern ex-tended population, which encompasses the westen-pere Reserve, extending from the Sankosh River to the Manas river up to the the northern side of Na: recorded in the and

The northern popula with the golden sheen was esti-mated at 5,566 in 534 groups and 23 lone males. The population of the southern fragments was estimated at 1,830 langurs in 173 groups and eight lone make

'Unstable situation'

RHIL AT

age of 9.24 individuals, which was 1,45 individuals less than the average group rector-General survey. On the flip side, the survey report underlined an unstable situation in the cides were personal and not profess al. He added that the force was conduct ing financial literacy class es to train staff aga

es to train staff against the possible pitfalls of gam-bling. Mr. Anand was address-ing a press conference on the occasion of the CISF's 58th Raising Day. 58th Raising Day.

inst the

potential threats the pri-mates face from anthropoheiplin vention 011-40769002) genic interactions.

The paripoorna avatara

FAITH

In his Peria Thirumozhi, Thirumangai Azhvar has an en-tire padhigam (set of 10 verses) extolling Lord Narayana's dasavataras, explained M.A. Ventatskrishnan in a dis-arate verses, but does not devote a separate verse for Kalik avatara. That is because a padhigam can, by definition, contain only 10 verses, of which the tenth has to be the phala sruit verse. So it would not have been possible to al-locate a separate pasuram for Kalik, But Thirumaragai Azh-three avataras in which the name. 'Rama' features. We three avataras in which the name 'Rama' features. We have the Parasurama and Balarama avataras in addition to Dasaratha Rama. While talking of Parasurama and Balarama in the phala

sruti verse, Thriumangai Azhvar refers to Parasurama and Balarama as 'Rama'. But for Dasaratha Rama, he uses the Tamil word "thAnAi," showing that this Dasaratha Rama Tamil word "thAnAl," showing that this Dasaratha Rama was a partipoorna avatara, a complete avatara, The Ra-na and the second second second second second second this avatara. We have only two thibasa – the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Among them, Ramayana is superior, says Pillai Lokachariar. That is because it is entirely about the Lord's avatara, whereas, the Mahabharata is mainly linkasa means something that states what happened, in just the way it happened. Puranas were written after the events described in them took place. So, there is the events described in them took place. So, there is the grounds of accuracy.

grounds of accuracy.

ABAX



The Mantari Vandan Yo-jana was a pre-poll pro-mise of the BJP in last year's Assembly election campaign. Under the scheme, 81,000 per month is given to eligible married women in the State as monthly direct benefit transfer. So far, there have been 70 lakh beneficiaries.

and ₹655 crore was trans ferred on Sunday, as the first instalment under the scheme. Mr. Modi – who ad-dressed the beneficiaries gathered at the Raipur launch event through vide-oconferencing – empha-sised that a healthy family

7,396 golden langurs in India, reveals survey CISF officer blames online gambling for deaths

Shubhomov Sikdar

A senior Central Industrial + A senior Central Industrial Security Porce (CISP) offic-er has flagged online gam-bling and fraud as new fac-tors pushing personnel to end their lives. To a question related to mental health and instanc-es of suicides among the-personnel. CISF Social Dipersonnel, CISF Special Di Pivus Anand said in most cases the reasons behind the sui

fragmented habitats of the golden langurs, particular ly due to the absence of non-breeding all-male



male bands, along with 31 lone males," Jihosuo Bis-was, the lead primatologist

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DIFFICULTY RATING:

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the northern side of Na

tional Highway 27 and State Highway 2," Dr. Biswas explained. tion of the primate with the golden sheen was esti

lone males.

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While the Ripu Reserve Forest was home to the most (2,847) northern pop-

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34685792

56938 47251

...

clusive of bisexual and ulation golden langur Kokrajhar district's Chak-rashila Wildlife Sanctuary had 838 individuals, the most in the southern frag-mented range of the The previous popula-tion estimation in 2008-09, also conducted under the supervision of Dr. Bis-was, recorded 6,000 gol-den langurs in India. Each group then had has aver-arm of 0.24 individuals

by due to the absence of non-breeding all-male bands. The primatologists involved in the survey highlighted the need for corridor linkage among the fragmented habitats through plantations and canopy bridges to offset potential threats the pri-

Report turns spotlight on India's 'zero-food children'

A recent study had ranked India as having the third-highest percentage of children who had not eaten any food for 24 hours; experts say rapid urbanisation is fuelling malnutrition in country

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

🗖 unita Gautam, a 26year-old domestic help, wonders if she will be able to provide her 11-month-old boy the nutrition he requires. "My child is mainly dependent on breastmilk. At times, I give him porridge, but that too not every day as he takes time to eat and is more habituated to breastmilk. I have a very busy daily routine. If I don't earn money, how can I provide a better life for my child?" Ms. Gautam, who works in Lucknow's Vishal Khand area, asked.

Ms. Gautam's baby is likely to be one of the millions of "zero-food children" aged six months to 23 months in Uttar Pradesh. These infants have not eaten any food of substantial calorific content – semi-solid, solid,soft, or mushy food, infant formula or fresh milk – for 24 hours.

A study published recently in the peer-reviewed *JAMA Network Open* journal found the prevalence of zero-food children in In-



Rapid urbanisation and nuclearised families have contributed to large number of 'zero food children' in Uttar Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

dia at 19.3%, drawing attention to extreme food deprivation among children. The study ranks India as having the third-highest percentage of zero-food children, above only Guinea (21.8%) and Mali (20.5%). In terms of numbers, India has the highest number of zero-food children at more than six million.

Another study published in 2023 in *eClinical Medicine*, part of the noted *Lancet Discovery Science*, found that Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 28.4% of zero-food children in India.

"The States of Uttar Pradesh (28.4%), Bihar (14.2%), Maharashtra (7.1%), Rajasthan (6.5%), and Madhya Pradesh (6%) account for nearly twothirds of the total zero-food children in India," the report said.

"My husband is an alcoholic. He spends most of his time at home but I cannot trust him to feed the child. He may harm the child as it takes time to feed him [the baby]," Ms. Gautam said.

Shalini Singh, a public health specialist, argues that alongside poverty and marginalisation in economic backgrounds, it is rapid urbanisation and nuclearised families that have contributed to such a large number of "zero food children" in India's most populous State.

She said lack of awareness about the nutritional needs of children, and misconceptions, also contribute to the numbers.

"Women from underprivileged economic backgrounds work to sustain their families, resulting in their having insufficient time to complement breastfeeding for children above six months of age. With rapid industrialisation, nuclear families have grown in both urban and rural areas, so there is no one to invest the time and energy required to feed a child, apart from the mother," she said, adding that lack of awareness about nutritional needs of children, and social misconceptions, also contribute to the likely numbers. Uttar Pradesh's urban population is approximate-

ly 23%, according to the 2011 Census and had grown by more than 25% in 2011 when compared with 2001, signifying a large number of poor moving towards urban centres in search of a livelihood.

7,396 golden langurs in India, reveals survey

Rahul Karmakar GUWAHATI

There are an estimated 7,396 golden langurs in India, the latest survey of the primate has revealed. The comprehensive population estimation of the endangered primate was carried out in two phases by the Primate Research Centre NE India (PRCNE), Assam Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and Conservation Himalayas.

The entire distribution range of the golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) covers the Manas Biosphere Reserve and all fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

In the first phase during March-April 2020, the survey covered the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, including Ripu Reserved Forest – a major part of it was recently upgraded to Raimona National Park – Chirang Reserve Forest, Manas Re-



Nature's charm: The previous population estimation in 2008-09 recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India. ANI

serve Forest, and Manas National Park up to the western bank of the Manas River.

The second phase during the same months in 2021 focused on fragmented forest habitats of golden langurs in the Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri districts of western Assam. The block count method was applied for the first time to assess the abundance, spatial distribution, and densities of the golden langur populations.

"This method is considered to be relatively simple, cost-effective, and robust for arboreal and small group-living primates such as the golden langur," H.N. Kumara, the principal scientist of SACON, said.

The golden langur habitat was demarcated into 51 counting blocks, each overlaid with 50-hectare grid cells. Ten teams, each comprising one or two trained enumerators and three to four forest staff, surveyed the blocks.

"We observed 7,720 individuals of golden langurs in 706 unique groups and 31 lone males or floating males. Estimating minimum population size, we found there to be 7,396 individuals in 707 groups, inclusive of bisexual and male bands, along with 31 lone males," Jihosuo Biswas, the lead primatologist at PRCNE, said. He supervised the survey.

"The population of golden langurs is divided into two major sub-populations. The northern extended population, which encompasses the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, extending from the Sankosh River to the Manas river up to the India-Bhutan border along the northern side of National Highway 27 and State Highway 2," Dr. Biswas explained.

The northern population of the primate with the golden sheen was estimated at 5,566 in 534 groups and 23 lone males. The population of the southern fragments was estimated at 1,830 langurs in 173 groups and eight lone males.

'Unstable situation'

While the Ripu Reserve Forest was home to the most (2,847) northern population golden langurs, Kokrajhar district's Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary had 838 individuals, the most in the southern fragmented range of the primate.

The previous population estimation in 2008-09, also conducted under the supervision of Dr. Biswas, recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India. Each group then had has average of 9.24 individuals, which was 1,45 individuals less than the average group recorded in the latest survey.

On the flip side, the survey report underlined an unstable situation in the fragmented habitats of the golden langurs, particularly due to the absence of non-breeding all-male bands. The primatologists involved in the survey highlighted the need for corridor linkage among the fragmented habitats through plantations and canopy bridges to offset potential threats the primates face from anthropogenic interactions.

THE HINDU Sport

INBRIDE



Neeraj backs government's talent-spotting programme

Ace India javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has backed the government's nationwide sports development initiative "Kirt', saving it has the country's educational ecosystem. The Sports Ministry has launched "Kirt', a grassroots-level talent-identification programme aimed at school going children. The programme will as chooling children. The programme will school going children. The programme will be sports across the country. "We need to tell children in the age group of 13-14 that they need to give attention to both sports and education. And if the schools can also support and balance a wideo posted by SAI Media. "School can plan their regimen properly, how they will select their regimen properly, how they will select children (for sports) and how they will manage their academics and sports." "I think that the education system should change so that both sports and academics can be balanced. If that happens then it will bring about great changes in our country," he added

Bangladesh downs India, wins SAFF U-16 Women's C'ship

India fell short of a title conquest, losing to Bangladesh 2-3 in the penalty shoot-out during the SAFF U-16 Women's Championship final in Kathmandu on Sunday. Both the teams were tied at 1-1 after the regulation time. Anushka Kumari found the net in the fourth minute for India. Shveta Rani's own goal in the 70th helped Bangladesh get back into the game and eventually clinch the crown

Rubina and Manish make do with mixed team pistol silver

Rubina Francis and Manish Narwal were beater Rubina Francis and Manish Narwai were beaten to the gold 16-12 by the Chinese duo of Li Min an Yang Chao in the P6 mixed team air pistol event of the WSPS Para shooting World Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in New Delhi on Sunday.

The results: P6 mixed team air pistol: 1. China (Li Min, Yang Chao): 16 (562); 2. India (Rubina Francis, Manish Narwal) 12 (570 EWR); 3. India-2 (Bhakti Sharma, Rudransh

R10 mixed team air rifle: 1. China (Zhong Yixin, Dong Chao) 16 (627.9 WR); 2. India-2 (Mona Agarwal, Aadithya Girl) 4 (522-9); 3. Ukraine (Iryna Shchetnik, Andrii Doroshenko) 16 (622.30); 4. India (Avani Lekhara, Swaroop Unhalkar) 4 (619.5). R11 mixed team air rifle: 1. Brazil (Jessica Michalack, Brund Kiefer) 16 (622.7); 2. USA (Madison Champion, Ben Hays) 6 (627.4); 3. India (Pavani Banoth, Satva Ravala) 17 (601.0).

Shardul's counter-attack bails Mumbai out of troubled waters against Vidarbha

The hosts lose six wickets for 30 runs after a solid opening stand; the all-rounder's 75 helps them to 224 before the visitors slide to 31 for three

Amol Karhadkar

The venue may have oppract 50 years oppract 50 years oppract 50 years provide the second second phy final against Viderbha. Tagain before the low of-der – led by the fearless Shardul Thakur – gave res-shardul Thakur – gave res-pectability to the total on a difficult not be ban Sho-dul's counter-attacking 75, subdul's counter-attacking 75, Mumbai would have strug-gled to put on 224 after being inserted in to bat on Day One at the Wankhede Stadium. Him and Dhawal Kulkarni, featuring in his last match for Mumbai as injured Mohit Avasthi's re-placement, then left Vidarbha reeling at 31 for three at stumps.



escue mission: It was again down to Shardul to save Mumbai's blushes, D

The Mumbai essay was a Bhupen Lalwani's remarkable session of two flicks through midwicket stints of batters' dominawere a treat to the eyes as the Sunday crowd built up in anticipation of a runstints of batters' domina-tion on either side of bow-ling supremacy. Prithvi Shaw's trademark cover-drives off Umesh Yadav . Yash Thakur, the change pacer, struck

by jagging one away from Lalwani and forced him into an edge to captain Aksh-ay Wadkar. The dismissal triggered a collapse as Vidarbha picked six for 30 to leave

Amol Karhadkar

bai's lower-order, dismis-

sing Shams Mulani and Ta-nush Kotian.

Yash cannot forget the

Mumbai reeling at 111 for Shardul Thakur c Dubey b Umesl 75 (63b, ສັນຊ, 3x6), Tanush Kotian c Wadkar b Thakur 8 (12b, 1x4), Tushar Deshpande run out 14 six from 81 for no loss Harsh Dubey - the left-m spinner who was Harsh Dubey - the left arm spinner who was brought in place of Akshay Wakhare - struck gold in a long spell having got rid of Prithvi Shaw , Musheer (34b. 2x4), Dhawal Kulkarni (not out) 0 (7b); Extras (b-2, lb-2, o, ray; Extras (b-2, lb-2, nb-2): 6; Total (in 64.3 overs): 224.
Fall of wickets: 1-81 (Lalwani, 19.6 overs), 2-89 (Shaw, 22.2), 3-92 (Musheer, 24.2), 4-99
(Shrayas, 27.5), 5-111 (Tamore, 27.4), 6111 Prithvi Shaw , Musheer Khan and captain Ajinkya (Shiroyas, 27.5), 5 37.4), 6-111 (Raf ape. 38.3). 7-15-Umesh Yadav found (Shams, 47.4), 8-176 (Kotian, 51.4), 9-218 (Deshpande, 62.1). Shreyas lyer in no-man's land at the crease to be caught-behind. In came Vidarbha bowling: Umesh 13.3-2-43-2, Thakare 16-6-36-1, Dubey 20-3-62-3, Thakare 11-2-54-3, Sarvate 4-0-25-0. Vidarbha — 1st innings: Atharva Taide (batting) 21 (46b Shardul and took the bow-lers head on. Tushar Desh

lers head on. Tushar Desh-pande hung around as the duo's 42-run association helped Mumbai cross the 200-run mark. 2x4), Dhruv Shorey Ibw b Shardul 2007, Unitar shorey ibw 5 sharou 0 (3b), Aman Mokhade c Tamore b Kulkarni 8 (25b, 2x4), Karun Nair c Tamore b Kulkarni 0 (22b), Aditya Thakare (batting) 0 (4b); Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for three The scores: Mumbai — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw b Dubey 46 (638, 5x4), Bhupen Lalwani c Wadkar b Thakur 37 (646, 4x4), Musheer Khan Ibw b Dubey 6

17

wikts, in 13 gy ers): 31. 2-20 (Mokhade, 7.2), 3-24 (Karun 11.3). Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Shorey, 2.3) Musheer Khan Ibw b Dubey 6 (22b, 244), Ajinkya Rahane c Shorey b Dubey 7 (35b), Shreyas Iyer c Karun b Umesh 7 (15b, 154), Hardik Tamore c Wadkar b Thakare 5 (41b), Shams Mulani Ibw b Thakar 13 (376, 246), 11.3). Mumbai bowling: Shardul 5-0-14-1, Kulkami 6-2-9-2, Deshpande 2-0-8-0. Toss: Vidarbha.

'We are not happy with the total we have put on board

ball boundary-less drought

towards their batting, a lot

AFTs plans to

excel in 2036

Olympics

Amol Karhadkar

said.

Just like he came hard at the Vidarbha bowlers with the willow, Shardul Thakur the willow, Shardul Thakm minced no words at the Mumbai specialist batters after the first day's play of "We are not happy with the total that we have put on board. Certainly with the way we started of, if the top, order, had applight attitude and approach, we could have reached 350 or even 370 with five or six wickets down at the end of starting play." Shardul stad.

nothing goes your way," Shardul said, adding that the duo has been "absolute match winners for Mumbai and India". "It's time to said. From 81 for no loss, Mumbai were reduced to support them rather than criticizing them. They are 111 for six before Shardul

before Shardul's first four, Mumbai lost captain Ajin-kya Rahane and Shreyas batting. And they both of them are absolutely team players." While he was a tad dis Iyer, among others. While Rahane has strug-

While he was a tad dis-appointed at losing out on scoring a second hundred on a trot, Shandul acknow-ing the second second Godbole for a batting thy of-fered a head of the last week's semifinal. "The other day at BKC, I was speaking to Vilas God-bole sit and he just made at my batting. He said at times you tend to not flex While Rahane has strug-gled right through the sea-son with the willow, Shreyas has looked jittery ever since being excluded from the BCCI's central contracts list. Shardul stood right behind the duo. Rough patch "It's just a rough patch for them and in a rough patch,

times you tend to not flex your knees and try to hit the ball. He said the mind-set should be to hit the ball but he said you should flex your knees and try to go to-wards the ball. I did it in the last two games and I am glad it has come off, he said. Yash cannot forget the first time he met Umesh, at the Vidarbha Cricket Asso extremely hard workers. They put in a lot of efforts

of thinking towards their



Yash Thakur recalls looking

up to 'bedrock' Umesh

him and bowl in tandem with him just once." While Yash refers to him as a "bedrock" of the Vidarbha unit, more than heaping praise on Umesh, Yash remembers an inci-Yash remembers an inci-dent during the first time he bowled along with Umesh, during Vidarbha's Ranji semifinal against Ker-ala in 2018-19 on a "terri-ble" pitch at Wayanad. "We ran through them on the first innings, he was wickstless," Yash recalled. "He walked up to me, re-minded me the game is not

ded me the game is no over and told me to back myself. It helped and I picked four in the next match. Since then, every time I bowl when he is around, he is always a mid-off, egging me and the others on."



here on Sunday. Heroes thus topped the table with 12 points with a better set difference (13) and will now get an extra two points in the Super 5s beginning on Monday. Mumbai Meteors booked the final fifth spot in the Sumer 5.

ENGALUR

Super 5. Setter Mohan Ukkranar Setter Mohan Ukkrapan-dian and attacker Jerome Vinith were the key players instrumental in knocking out Chennai, which failed miserably when it came to Sports Bureau the crunch

out Blitz

PVL

Sports Bureau

here on Sunday.

Calicut Heroes crushed

Chennai Blitz 15-13, 15-13, 15-12 in their final league

match of the Ru Pay-Prime

Volleyball League at the Nehru Indoor Stadium

Calicut had players who karnataka made a strong start to its Col. C.K. Nayudu (U-23) Trophy final against Uttar Pradesh, raking up 325 runs for the loss of five delivered at the death. In the first set, it was skipper lerome, and in the second Ine first set, it was ski Jerome, and in the see it was Vikas Maan. V jump smash at brooked no response. Vika 14-12

325 runs for the loss of five wickets on day one at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium Middle-order but Yasho-vardhan Parantap (84 bat-ting, 11b, 12x4) was the star as he combined for an the size of the star as the combined to the size of the size of the star as a star of the size of the star as the combined for an the size of the size of the size of the runs of the size of the size of the home side was reduced to 194 for the. Delhi Toofans beat Ah medabad Defenders 15-11, 16-14, 15-11 to finish second in the league. Delhi will get one point in the Super 5s.

Teams qualified for Super 5s: 1. Calicut Heroes, 2. Delhi Toofans, 3. Ahmedabad Defenders, 4. Benzaluru Torpedoes, 5. Numbai Me

FK

M. R. Praveen Chandran URUVANANTHAPURAM The Athletics Federation of India (AFD's brainstormin meeting to formulate a strategic plan for excelling in the 2036 Olympics iden-tified core areas which needed attention and the needed attention and the necessity to create a friendly ecosystem for the attachedoters. The AFI has decided to streamline the calendar to ensure that the athletes will have enough domestic can petite and the right time before major competi-1

came to the rescue with a 69-ball 75. During an 108-

Crucial: Parantap and Kruthik's unbroken partnership took the home side from 194 for five to 325. K. MURALI KUMAR

Earlier, after choosing to bat, openers MacNeil H. Noronha (68, 135b, 5x4, C.K. NAYUDU TROPHY 2x6) and Prakar Chaturve-di (33, 69b, 4x4) put on 68 runs before Noronha and K.V. Aneesh (43, 76b, 3x4) Karnataka made a strong

added 73. But a middle-order collapse saw Karnataka lose three wickets for 21 runs. three wickets for 21 runs, including that of captain R. Smaran, pegging the host back. Parantap and Kruth-ik, however, ensured that their side would begin day

The AFI has decided to decentralise the national camps after the Paris Olympics and at the same time will allow institutions like Railways, Army, Navy, Police and academies run by JSW and Reliance Fountwo on top. The scores: Karnataka 325 for five in 90 overs (MacNeil H. Noronha 68, Prakar Chaturvedi 33, K.V. Aneesh 43, Yashovardhar Parantap 84 batting, Kruthik Parantap 84 batting, Kruthik Krishna 58 batting) vs. Uttar dation to conduct camps at their respective centres.

district

says Verstappen

tappen backed up his Bahrair noh with a win in Saudi, GETTUR

SAUDI ARABIAN CP Associated Press before major competi-tions. The AFI will also see that the athletes get adeq-Max Verstappen stayed

uate foreign exposure. Speaking to The Hindu after the conclusion of the Formula One on Saturday five-day meeting, the AFI president Adille Sumariwa-la said there will be two

point strategy starting with the junior programme the junior programme -mainly the National Intereems in near-total control Junior Athleti on the track as he aims for Meet (NIDJAM) and the a fourth consecutive title Elite programme. The AFI has decided to

"À fantastic weekend for the whole team and also for myself. I felt really good with the car," Verstappen said. The Dutch driver won easily ahead of his team-mate Sergio Perez. Ferra-ri's Charles Leclerc was third.

WRESTLING Sports Bureau OLKATA champion Aman Sehrawat (57kg) and National cham-

sh, at

A fantastic weekend, | Sehrawat, Kalkal

"It was a bit of a boring race because Red Bull was a bit too quick and behind we had a bit of a gap, but we took the maximum points we could today," Le-clerc said.

Eighteen-year-old Brit-ish driver Oliver Bearman was seventh for Ferrari in firmly on course for anoth-er season of dominance in by winning the Saudi Ara-bian Grand Prix. his first F1 race, one day af-ter being called up as an Even after just two racemergency replacement for Carlos Sainz Jr., who

es, and despite turmoil at Red Bull, Verstappen needed an operation to treat appendicitis. Oscar Piastri took fourth this year. "A fantastic weekend for

Oscar Piastri took fourth for McLaren, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso fifth and George Russell and George Russell Bearman in seventh, McLa-ren's Lando Norris held off Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in a fight for eighth place. Nico Hulkenberg was 10th for Haat flat point in Place. since the Singapore GP in September.

...

book tickets: Ravi. **Bajrang tumble out** mittee's guidelines, the winner of the trials in the

Olympic weight categories will represent India in upcoming Olympic qualifiers including the Asian Olym-pic qualifier (April 19-21) and World Olympic quali-for (May 9.12) Promising wrestlers Asian

fier (May 9-12) ner (May 9-12). The winners in non-Olympic weight categories and the second-placed wrestlers in Olympic weight externion the Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) pion Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) won their respective frees-tyle weight classes even as Tokyo Olympic silver me-dallist Ravi Dahiya and bronze medalist Bajrang Punia failed to make the In-dian team in the selection trials held for the upcom-ing Asian championshing Olympic s at the weight categories at trials will represent the country in the Asian cham pionships (April 11-16) in Bishkek.

Disintern. The squad: Men: Freestyle: Olympic weights: 57Kg: 1. Aman Schward, 2. Udi; 65Kg: 1. Sujeet Kalkal, 2. Rohit Kumar; 194kg: 1. Deepak Punin, 2. Sandeep Studiec, 2. Yash Nehra, 2. Vicky: 22Sign: 1. Sumit Nell, 2. Anivuda. ing Asian championships and Asian Olympic Games qualifiers at Sonipat on unday. Sehrawat, who earlier

defeated Ravi 14-13 in a thrilling round robin con-test, recorded a convincing 10-0 win over Udit for the top spot. Ravi also lost 10-8 to Udit. Non-Olympic weights: 61kg Aakash Dahiya; 70kg:

Abhimanyou; 79kg: Parvinder, 92kg: Vinay.

Convincing win Kalkal got past Robit Ku-mar 10-0. Earlier, Robit posted a convincing 9-1 vic managed to overcome Ra-vinder 3-3 via criteria. Former Worlds silver medalist Deepak Punia the Olympic qualifiers. As per the ad-hoc com-Greco Roman: Olympic Greco Roman: Olympic weights: 60kg: 1. Sumeet, 2. Pravesh Kumar; 67kg: 1. Ashu, 2. Vinayak Patil; 77kg: 1. Wiseh, 2. Sajjar; 87kg: 1. Suail Kumar, 2. Ajay; 97kg: 1. Niseth, 2. Narinde Cheema; 130kg: 1. Naveen, 2. Mehar; Sinch.

Mehar Singh. Non-Olympic weights: 55kg Arjun Halakurki; 63kg: Umesh 72kg: Ankit Gulia: 82kg: Rohi Dahiya.

ABX

ciation Academy in Nagpur during his u-16 days. "After being selected for

a camp, my first day at the VCA Academy, I met Umesh bhaiya in person," Yash had told The Hindu earlier in the season. "I was in awe of him and wanted to follow into his

footsteps by going on to play for India. But the first big dream was to bowl like



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Neeraj backs government's talent-spotting programme

Ace Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has backed the government's nationwide sports development initiative 'Kirti', saying it has the potential to bring about big changes in the country's educational ecosystem. The Sports Ministry has launched 'Kirti', a grassroots-level talent-identification programme aimed at school-going children. The programme will identify and nurture talent and bridge the gaps in sports across the country. "We need to tell children in the age group of 13-14 that they need to give attention to both sports and education. And if the schools can also support and balance things for them, it would be great," said Neeraj in a video posted by SAI Media. "School can plan their regimen properly, how they will select children (for sports) and how they will manage their academics and sports." "I think that the education system should change so that both sports and academics can be balanced. If that happens then it will bring about great changes in our country," he added.



With double capacity, Delhi airport unveils expanded T1





UPASIKA SINGHAL NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

INDIRA GANDHI International Airport's expanded Terminal 1 can now handle 40 million passengers annually, double its previous capacity of 17 million passengers per year. The revamped terminal was inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday; he also inaugurated 12 other airports and laid the foundation stones for 4 airports across India.

The Prime Minister attended the inauguration through a live link from Azamgarh. "Today, projects worth about Rs 34,000 crore have been inaugurated and foundation stones laid in many states from Azamgarh. Along



Completed at a cost of Rs 4,600 crore, the expanded Terminal 1 will be ready for use within the next two months, said sources. *Abhinav Saha*

The Prime Minister attended the inauguration through a live link from Azamgarh. "Today, projects worth about Rs 34,000 crore have been inaugurated and foundation stones laid in many states from Azamgarh. Along with Azamgarh, new terminal buildings have been inaugurated at many airports including Shravasti, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, Aligarh, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Lucknow, Pune, Kolhapur, Delhi and Adampur... All these efforts will make air travel more comfortable and accessible for the common man of the country," said the Prime Minister.

The inauguration was attended by Delhi L-G VK Saxena and Minister of State for Civil Aviation General VK Singh.

According to Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) sources, with all its three terminals combined, IGIA can now handle over 100 million passengers per year — making it one of the few worldwide with this passenger capacity. Additionally, the expansion extends the area of the airport from 55,740 sqm to a whopping 2,06,950 sqm.

Completed at a cost of Rs 4,600 crore, the expanded terminal will be ready for use in the next two months, said sources.

What passengers can expect

For passengers, the airport has



Completed at a cost of Rs 4,600 crore, the expanded Terminal 1 will be ready for use within the next two months, said sources. *Abhinav Saha*

HERE ARE SOME OF ITS FEATURES

FACILITIES	EARLIER	POST-EXPANSION	
Passenger capacity	17 million per year	40 million per year	
Total area	55,740 sqm	2,06,950 sqm	
Self-baggage drops	0	36	
Self- check-in kiosks	12	108	
Baggage drop-off counters	4	9	
Passenger bridges/airbridges	0	22	
Baggage handling capacity	3,240 baggage/hour	6,000 baggage/hour	
Baggage reclaim carousels	8 (52 metres each)	10 (70 metres each)	

a Facial Recognition System — DigiYatra — at all its 24 entry gates; 20 automated tray retrieval systems; and individual carrier systems. An individual carrier system divides the luggage carousel into cells where baggage can be placed to reduce damage to the luggage and jams at the belt.

The expanded terminal will have 108 common usage selfservice kiosks where passengers can check-in without the help of ground staff. Further, there are 100 check-in counters with 36 self-baggage drop kiosks where one can drop off their baggage without the help of airport staff.

Additionally, the capacity of the baggage handling system at T1 has doubled from 3,240 baggage per hour to around 6,000 per hour. The number of checkin islands has also been increased to five against four earlier.

DIAL has also realigned pickup and drop-off lanes to ease traffic and expanded parking facilities to accommodate the surge in travellers.

Inside the terminal, travellers will have access to a range of

amenities including shopping and dining options, designated prayer area, yoga space, quiet zones, lounges, communal seating areas, charging stations for laptops and mobile devices, facilities for baby care, and smart washrooms

The expansion was part of Delhi Airport's Phase 3A Expansion project which also saw the airport develop a fourth runway along the dual elevated eastern cross taxiway; the refurbishment of its British-era first runway; construction of two flyovers; and modifications at T3.

Rank ≑	Airport 🗢	Location +	Country \$	Code (IATA/ICAO) ^{\$}	Total passengers	Rank change [♦]	% change [♦]
1.	Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta, Georgia	United States	ATL/KATL	93,699,630	_	▲ 23.8%
2.	Dallas Fort Worth International Airport	Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas	United States	DFW/KDFW	73,362,946	_	▲ 17.5%
3.	Denver International Airport	Denver, Colorado	United States	DEN/KDEN	69,286,461	_	▲ 17.8%
4.	O'Hare International Airport	Chicago, Illinois	United States	ORD/KORD	68,340,619	_	▲ 26.5%
5.	Dubai International Airport	Garhoud, Dubai, Dubai	United Arab Emirates	DXB/OMDB	66,069,981	▲23	▲ 127.0%
6.	Los Angeles International Airport	Los Angeles, California	United States	LAX/KLAX	65,924,298	▼1	▲ 37.3%
7.	C Istanbul Airport	Arnavutköy, Istanbul	Turkey	IST/LTFM	64,289,107	▲7	▲ 73.8%
8.	Heathrow Airport	Hillingdon, London	United Kingdom	LHR/EGLL	61,614,508	4 6	▲ 217.7%
9.	Indira Gandhi International Airport	Palam, Delhi	India	DEL/VIDP	59,490,074	4	▲60.2%

How Satwik-Chirag employed a variety of attacks to win French Open title

SHIVANI NAIK

MARCH10

THERE ARE fewer things more entertaining in sport than compulsively winning. Badminton's Boe-ball that Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty dish out routinely, puts a lot of store on winning every point, turning every shot into a dart aiming for bullseye.

Their bravado and the bashfulness, the derring-do and the defense, the no-holdsbarred smash, and the tightly concealed deception are all geared towards this unsatiated pursuit of winningness.

Three finals might be lost on the trot, in the process. And an Olympic gold might get won on a canter someday. But in the here and the now and today of this moment, Satwik-Chirag, shepherded by coach Mathias Boe, have won once again. The French Open was pocketed without dropping a set, and the final opponents happened to be Taiwanese Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan, who were tamed 21-11, 21-17.



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (L) and Chirag Shetty beat Taiwanese pair Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan to win the French Open title on Sunday. *Badminton Photo/BAI*

"Feels good. But next week there's an-

Mobile phone manufacturing jumps 21 times in 10 yrs: ICEA

Driven by export growth, mobile phones have now become India's 5th largest export as an individual commodity



MOBILE PHONE EXPORTS: 2014-15: **₹1,556 cr** 2023-24: **₹1,20,000 cr**

India now produces 97% of its total mobile phone demand locally

■ 30% of the total production in financial year 2024 is meant for export

Apple and Samsung, have played a crucial role in boosting mobile phone exports from the country.

India manufactured devices are being exported in large volumes to the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Austria, and Italy besides Middle East, North Africa and South American markets. Source: ICEA/PTI

India begins importing pulses from Brazil

SANDIP DAS New Delhi, March 10

TO DIVERSIFY IMPORT dependence on a few countries, India has initiated sourcing urad dal from Brazil for the first time to address a shortfall in domestic output.

Sources said that first consignment of around 3,000 tonne of urad dal from the South American country has arrived.

"We are working with Brazil and Argentina for the imports of urad and tur as depending on one country poses risk," an official said. He said that around 20,000 tonne of urad is likely to be imported into India this year from Brazil.

The government has held a series of discussions with Brazil and Argentina to procure urad and tur dal to meet the domestic requirements.

Currently, under a memorandum of understanding (MoU), India exclusively imports urad dal from Myanmar, where supply disruptions have occurred due to internal security issues.

Pulses consumption in South American countries is relatively low, whereas pulses like urad and tur can be cultivated in Brazil and Argentina due to favorable weather conditions, for the purpose of exporting to India, an official said.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency

• The 22nd Foundation Day of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency was recently celebrated with the theme "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonization in India" and the State Energy Efficiency Index 2023 was released.



- What is the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2023?
- About:
- It is the 5th edition of the index, developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- It evaluates the performance of 36 states and UTs across seven demand sectors using 65 indicators, including qualitative, quantitative, and outcome-based measures.

In **SEEI 2023**, states and UTs are classified as 'Front runner' (>=60), 'Achiever' (50-59.75), 'Contender' (30-49.75), and 'Aspirant' (<30) according to their total scores.

States and UTs are also classified into **four groups** based on their total final energy consumption (TFEC) **for peer-to-peer performance comparison:** Group 1 (>15 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE)), Group 2 (5-15 MTOE), Group 3 (1-5 MTOE), and Group 4 (<1 MTOE).

• The **top-performing states in each group are** Karnataka (Group 1), Andhra Pradesh (Group 2), Assam (Group 3), and Chandigarh (Group 4).

	Sectors							
Categories	*	Â	کم	4	8		煮	∋
Policy								
Finance				S				
Institutional Capacity	ctor	v	ş	Municipal Services	ť	are	-	
Adoption of EE Measures	Cross-sector	Buildings	Industries	Municipa	Transport	Agriculture	DISCOM	Total
Energy Savings		Programme-specific Indicators						
Common Indicators								
Sector weights	15	22	17	11	16	8	11	100
Common	15	9	6	2	7	3	6	48
Weights Programme		13	11	9	9	5	5	52

Framework for SEEI 2023

- Front runner (>=60):
 - Seven states in 'Front runner' category in SEEI 2023: Karnataka (score 86.5), Andhra Pradesh (83.25), Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Telangana.
- Achiever (50-59.75):
 - Two states, Assam and Uttar Pradesh are in the 'Achiever' category,
- Contender (30-49.75):
 - Three states, Goa, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu, are in the 'Contender' category.



Performance of states and UTs under SEEI 2023

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):
- BEE was established on 1st March 2002, under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, under the Ministry of Power.
- The mission of BEE is to assist in **developing policies** and strategies for energy efficiency with the primary objective of reducing the **energy intensity** of the Indian economy.
- Functions: It is responsible for regulatory and promotional functions outlined in the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- BEE has helped India reduce its energy consumption by around 3.5%.



- **1.Ceiling fans**
- 2.Electric geysers
- 3. Tubular fluorescent lamps
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only

```
(d), 1, 2 and 3
```

IRIS: India's First Al Teacher Robot

A school in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala has unveiled a groundbreaking innovation in education with the introduction of India's first Generative Artificial Intelligence(AI) teacher robot named 'Iris'.

Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech, Iris aims to transform traditional teaching methods through personalised learning experiences for students.



- IRIS responds to user queries, provides explanations, and delivers educational content through personalised interactions.
 - With a 4-wheel chassis and 5 degrees of freedom (DoF) movements, IRIS can move freely and engage in hands-on learning activities.
- In August 2023, India inaugurated its first-ever AI school in Kerala.

Measles and Rubella Champion Award

- India received the **Measles and Rubella Champion Award** for its exemplary efforts in combating these Diseases.
- About
- Awarded by: Measles and Rubella Partnership at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA.
- Measles and Rubella are vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) and MR Vaccine is part of India's Universal Immunization Programme since 2017.

Measles : It is caused by a single-stranded, enveloped RNA virus with 1 serotype.

• Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose and a rash all over the body.

Rubella: It is also known as **German measles** or three-day measles, is an infection caused by the **rubella virus**.

Symptoms include fever, red rash blotchy and swollen lymph glands.

Haiper

- Recently, Haiper a company founded by former members of Google DeepMind, TikTok, and top labs from research academia, introduced a new text-to-video model.
- About
- The announcement came just weeks after the launch of OpenAl's Al model Sora, which is capable of generating one-minute high-definition videos from text months.

Haiper's model

According to Haiper, its model is a **powerful perceptual foundation model-driven AI that has been designed for a "new path towards AGI"** (artificial general intelligence, an AI software with human-like intelligence and the ability to self-learn).

Haiper is an **all-in-one visual foundation model** that allows everyone, with or without technical training, to generate high-quality video content with ease.



The founders claim that Haiper brings forward **cutting-edge machine learning** with the belief that creativity should be "fun, surprising, and shareable".



Haiper offers tools such as **text-to-video**, **animated static images**, **video repainting tools**, etc.

Users can go on to the website, log in with their email addresses, and start generating videos for free by typing in text prompts.



While the **short length (only 2 seconds at present) is a limitation**, the company has said that it is working towards extending the video outputs.



While **OpenAl's Sora is still not available for the public, Haiper is offering users to try its tool for free** on its website.

Right to Repair Portal

firm

The Department of Consumer Affairs of India (DoCA) has recently launched the Right to Repair Portal India on the occasion of National Consumer Rights Day 2022.

About the Right to Repair Portal

Aim: To provide consumers with access to repair information for their products and reduce e-waste.

ision: The website provides information about the **circular economy**, which is the new economic model that focuses on **repairing and reusing products**, as opposed to throwing them away.

• This shift is in line with the government's vision of **creating a circular economy by promoting mindful and deliberate utilisation of products** instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.

Key objectives:

• The Right to Repair Portal India **brings together information from different sectors** including automobiles, consumer durables, mobile and electronics, and farming equipment.
- It provides consumers with access to product manuals and repair videos, as well as information on the price and warranty of spare parts.
- The portal also allows consumers to submit feedback and suggestions on products and services.
- Role: The website is expected to play a key role in enabling consumers to make informed decisions about the purchase and maintenance of their products, and to promote a circular economy model.

Dying Declaration

In the <u>Naeem vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh</u> case on March 05, 2024, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that <u>a dying</u> <u>declaration can serve as the sole basis of conviction</u> if it inspires full confidence, without requiring further corroboration.

What was the case about?

- The case involved <u>Shahin Parveen</u>, who accused her brotherin-law (Pappi), his wife (Naeema), and Naeema's brother (Naeem) of setting her on fire.
- Despite affirming Pappi's conviction based on the dying declaration, the court acquitted Naeema and Naeem due to a lack of specific evidence against them. The judgment highlights the significance of credible dying declarations in criminal proceedings



What is Dying Declarations?



A dying declaration is a <u>statement made by a person who believes</u> <u>they are about to die</u>, regarding the cause or circumstances of their impending death. It is <u>admissible as evidence</u> in legal proceedings, based on the belief that <u>a dying person would be unlikely to lie</u>.

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Thank you guys.