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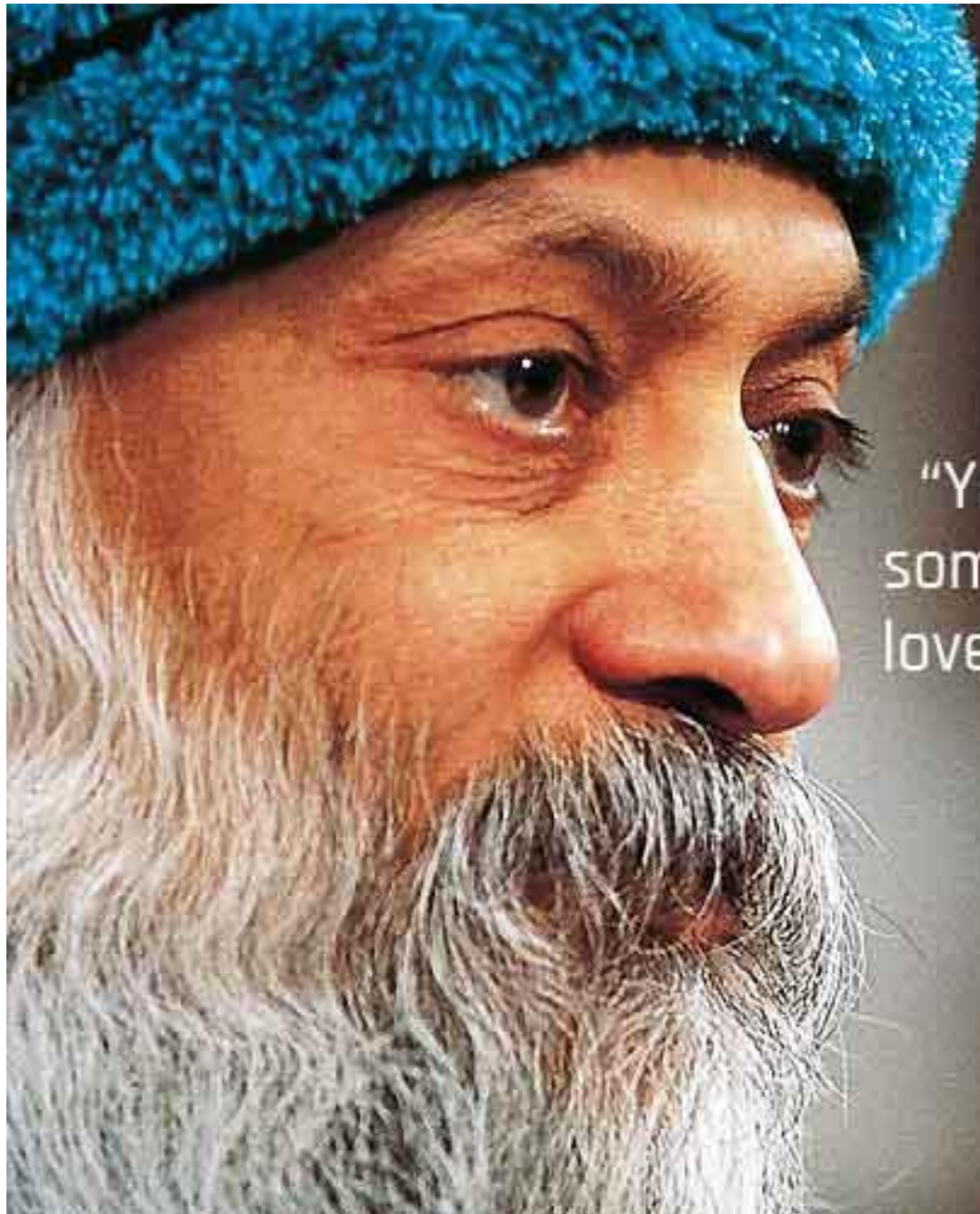
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"You need power only to do something harmful. Otherwise love is enough, compassion is enough."



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‘Ready for challenges’
Speaking after taking the oath, Mr. Saini said that with responsibilities came the challenge and he was ready to face them.

Saini takes over as Haryana CM after BJP-JJP alliance splits up

State BJP president Navab Singh Saini sworn in to replace Manohar Lal as the ruling coalition crumbles over Lok Sabha seat-sharing differences; Saini claims his govt. has the support of 48 MLAs in the Assembly, 2 more than the majority mark

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH
Haryana State BJP president and MP, Navab Singh Saini, was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of the State after Manohar Lal and his Council of Ministers resigned on Tuesday as the strained ruling coalition of the BJP and the Janasiksha Janta Party (JJP) broke apart, amid differences over seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha election.

It appears the BJP is attempting to firm up its hold and consolidate its position among the OBCs, who account for around 40% of the State's population, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.



Change of guard: Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya (right) administers the oath of office to Navab Singh Saini on Tuesday. Anil Vajpey is seen on the left.

Mr. Saini said he had the support of 48 MLAs and a letter regarding this had been submitted to the Governor. "We have urged the Governor to come to the Assembly tomorrow, where we will prove our majority on the floor of the House," he said after chairing the cabinet meeting.

‘Citizenship comes under domain of Centre, State governments have no role in CAA implementation’

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's statement that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 will not be implemented in the State will have no impact on the implementation of the legislation as citizenship is the domain of the Union government, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

While the task of processing the citizenship applications under the CAA has been entrusted to the Postal department and Census officials who function under the Centre, the responsibility of conducting background and security checks lies with Central security agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau (IB), according to a notification issued on Monday.



All Assam Student Union members take out a torchlight procession against implementation of CAA in Guwahati on Tuesday. (PTU/RAJ KHOWARI)

CAA will not be implemented in T.N., says Stalin

CHENNAI
Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act would not be implemented in Tamil Nadu. The CAA went against minorities and Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps in the State, he said. > PAGE 2

includes those issued by the government authorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, the applicant will have to appear before the district-level committee in person. An explainer on CAA rules notified on Monday states that after the online form has been scrutinised, the applicant will be intimated through e-mail, SMS, the date and time on which the applicant would be expected to visit the DLC (district-level committee) in person along with originals of all the documents attached with the application.

10 sentenced to life term in 2018 Hapur lynching case

Ishta Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Sessions Court in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday convicted 10 persons and sentenced them to life imprisonment in a lynching case of 2018, in which a mob killed a man over rumours of cow slaughter.

FULL REPORT > PAGE 4

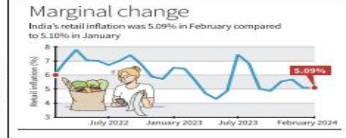
SBI submits electoral bond data to Election Commission

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court directive, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday submitted to the Election Commission (EC) the details of electoral bonds purchased and encashed since April 12, 2019.

On Monday, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the SBI to maintain in its order dated Feb. 15 and March 31, 2022, the order of WPC NO.880 of 2017, data on electoral bonds has been supplied by the State Bank of India to the Election Commission India, today, March 12, 2024; the poll body posted on X. The Supreme Court, while striking down the

Inflation still at 5.1%, but food prices rise



Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI
India's retail inflation remained virtually unchanged at 5.09% in February, even as food prices paid by consumers surged from 8.3% in January to 8.66% spurred primarily by vegetables, which rose at a seven-month high pace of 30.28%.

Over the projection
This would lift average inflation in the last quarter of this year over the 5% average projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Moreover, persistently high inflation in food items may push interest rate cut hopes further into the horizon, especially as the RBI expects price rise to average 5% in the April to June quarter too.

SC rejects plea
On Monday, the top court dismissed a plea filed by the SBI seeking time till June 30 to submit the data. The court asked that the data be submitted to the EC by Tuesday. The EC was in turn asked to publish the information on its website by 5 p.m. on March 15.

Saini takes over as Haryana CM after BJP-JJP alliance splits up

State BJP president Nayab Singh Saini sworn in to replace Manohar Lal as the ruling coalition crumbles over Lok Sabha seat-sharing differences; Saini claims his govt. has the support of 48 MLAs in the Assembly, 2 more than the majority mark

Vikas Vasudeva
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Haryana State BJP president and MP, Nayab Singh Saini, was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of the State after Manohar Lal and his Council of Ministers resigned on Tuesday as the strained ruling coalition of the BJP and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) broke apart, amid differences over seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha election.

The new Chief Minister inducted five MLAs – Kanwar Pal, Mool Chand, Banwari Lal, Jai Parkash Dalal (all from the BJP) and Ranjit Singh (Independent) – into the Cabinet. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to all of them.

Mr. Saini is an Other Backward Class (OBC) leader, and by appointing him,

it appears the BJP is attempting to firm up its hold and consolidate its position among the OBCs, who account for around 40% of the State's population, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Notably, former Home Minister Anil Vij was absent at the oath ceremony, triggering speculations about him being annoyed.

'Ready for challenges'

Speaking after taking the oath, Mr. Saini said that with responsibilities came the challenges and he was ready to face them. "We will win all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana. Also, the BJP will form the next government in the State with a thumping majority," he said.

Mr. Saini said he had the support of 48 MLAs and a letter regarding this had



Change of guard: Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya (right) administers the oath of office to Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday. ANI

been submitted to the Governor. "We have urged the Governor to convene the Assembly tomorrow, where we will prove our majority on the floor of the House," he said after chairing a Cabinet meeting.

In the 90-member Assembly, the BJP has 41 MLAs and support from six Independents and the lone MLA of the Haryana Lokhit

Party. The JJP has 10 legislators. The majority mark in the Assembly is 46.

In a fast-paced development during the day, Mr. Lal, along with his 13 Cabinet members, resigned from their positions. They submitted their resignations to the Governor. Later, Mr. Saini, an MP from the Kurukshetra constituency, was unanimously

elected as the leader of the State BJP legislature group, after which he met the Governor to stake claim to form the government. Mr. Saini was appointed State BJP president in October last year, replacing Om Prakash Dhankar.

Meanwhile, speaking on the reason behind the latest developments and the alliance with the JJP, former Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Lal said, "They [JJP] must have spoken to the Central leadership. The BJP had won all 10 seats, and to repeat it is our target and we will contest in all seats. There's nothing official but I have got the information that the JJP has decided to contest all the 10 Lok Sabha seats. Following this, decisions were taken accordingly."

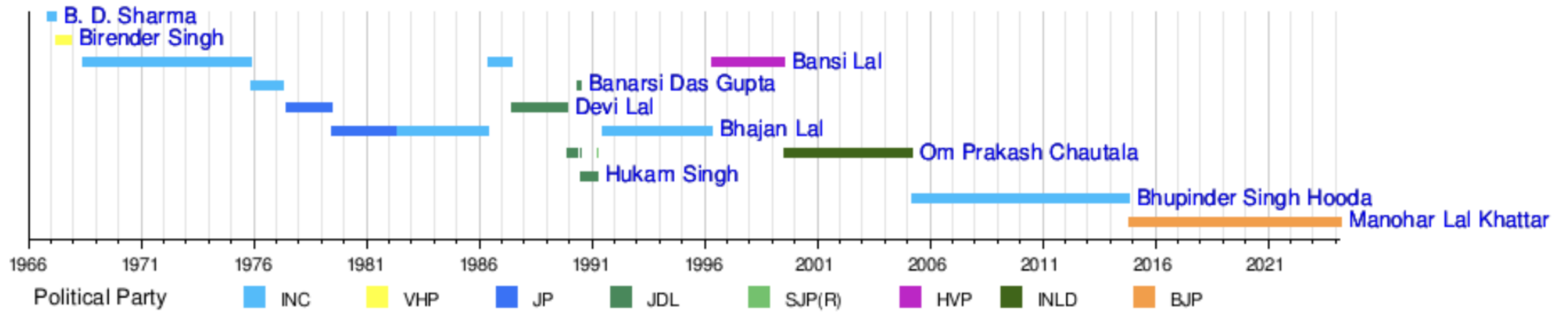
SPECULATION ON JJP

» PAGE 2

No	Portrait	Name	Constituency	Term of office ^[2]			Assembly (Elections)	Party ^[a]
1		Bhagwat Dayal Sharma	Jhajjar	1 November 1966	23 March 1967	142 days	1st (1962 elections)	Indian National Congress
2		Rao Birender Singh	Pataudi	24 March 1967	20 November 1967	241 days	2nd (1967 elections)	
–		<i>Vacant</i> ^[b] (President's rule)	N/A	20 November 1967	21 May 1968	183 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A
3		Bansi Lal	Tosham	21 May 1968	14 March 1972	7 years, 193 days	3rd (1968 elections)	Indian National Congress
4		Banarsi Das Gupta	Bhiwani	1 December 1975	30 April 1977		1 year, 150 days	
–		<i>Vacant</i> ^[b] (President's rule)	N/A	30 April 1977	21 June 1977	52 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	

(7)		Om Prakash Chautala	Narwana	24 July 1999	2 March 2000	5 years, 224 days	10th (2000 elections)	Indian National Lok Dal
				2 March 2000	5 March 2005			
9		Bhupinder Singh Hooda	Garhi Sampla-Kiloi	5 March 2005	25 October 2009	9 years, 235 days	11th (2005 elections)	Indian National Congress
				25 October 2009	26 October 2014		12th (2009 elections)	
10		Manohar Lal Khattar	Karnal	26 October 2014	27 October 2019	9 years, 138 days	13th (2014 elections)	Bharatiya Janata Party
				27 October 2019	12 March 2024 ^[4]		14th (2019 elections)	
11		Nayab Singh Saini	N/A	12 March 2024 ^[4]	<i>Incumbent</i>	0 days		

Timeline [\[edit \]](#)



IN BRIEF



PM unveils projects worth over ₹1 lakh cr. from Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated or laid the foundation stone of development projects across the country from Ahmedabad in Gujarat on Tuesday. The projects, worth over ₹1.06 lakh crore, are in multiple sectors, including railway infrastructure, connectivity, and petrochemicals. Of these, projects worth around ₹85,000 crore are in the railway sector. He also flagged off 10 new Vande Bharat trains. About 600 km of freight corridors were inaugurated, apart from the Operation Control Centre in Ahmedabad. Due to the efforts of the government, the speed of goods train on this corridor had now more than doubled, he said.

Delhi HC reserves order in Congress tax demand case

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday reserved its judgment on the Congress's plea challenging an order of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) that refused to stay a notice issued by the Income Tax Department for recovery of outstanding dues of more than ₹100 crore. Senior advocate Vivek Tankha, representing the Congress, said the notification for the Lok Sabha election is expected in a few days and the party is under tremendous pressure as its bank accounts had been frozen. The High Court, however, told the Congress's plea for staying the tax demand was raised by the IT department in 2021, the party took no steps to address the issue. The High Court said it was a "badly handled matter". The appellate tribunal had taken a balanced and plausible view, it said.

Drug regulator warns about Meropepenm, Disodium

Hindu Shilpa Perappadan NEW DELHI

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has cautioned against the manufacture and sale of unapproved drugs, specifically warning against those falling under the category of "New Drugs". The drug regulator, citing the example of Meropepenm (antibacterial agent) and Disodium EDTA (to treat calcium overload), noted that they had received information that some manufacturers were involved in manufacturing or marketing of drugs which the CDSCO did not yet approve. In its communication to all zonal and sub-zonal offices of the CDSCO and the Indian Drugs/Biopharmaceutical Association Forum, it said that no new drug should be manufactured for sale unless the licensing authority approves it, and those who intend to manufacture a new drug should make an application and grant of permission to the Central Licensing authority.

It directed that all manufacturers must be made aware of Meropepenm and Disodium EDTA. The matter should be conveyed to all manufacturers and the product permit cancelled for these drugs should be cancelled," it noted.

Lok Sabha Secretariat submits affidavit in Mahua expulsion case

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has told the Supreme Court that expelled Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra's defence that she shared her "confidential" Lok Sabha login credentials with Dubai-based business tycoon Darshan Hirnanandani to help her type her questions was "unfathomable". The Secretariat said Ms. Moitra's login credentials, which is user ID and password for the Lok Sabha Members' Portal, were used 47 times from the IP address belonging to Mr. Hirnanandani, including when she was not in Dubai. "Sharing credentials to the login portal can be susceptible to potential national security hazards and can not only render the system of the Lok Sabha to cyber-attacks and potentially disable the system, but can also potentially cripple the functioning of the Parliament," the Secretariat said. "The matter should be handled with due care and concern of national security as well as the dignity and honour of the Parliamentary functioning," the Lok Sabha Secretariat



Defending stance: Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra addressing the media in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

submitted in a 41-page affidavit. The Secretariat was responding to a petition filed by Ms. Moitra, who has challenged her expulsion as an MP. Ms. Moitra had argued that the sharing of login details did not mean giving access to the portal. Out of necessity, any MP shared login details with her secretaries, delegates or nominees. There had been no code of conduct or rules for authorised or controlled access to the portal, she had said. "She was expelled without there being a set of rules that govern the access code," senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Ms. Moitra, had submitted in the Supreme Court. But the Lok Sabha Secretariat said an MP was given enough personnel to help her with her official responsibilities. It referred to the Committee on Ethics' observation that an act of sharing of login credentials to an exclusive portal to unauthorised personnel amounted to a violation of the punitive provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000. A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Khanna has listed the case for hearing in the week starting on May 6.

Tejas aircraft crashes in Jaisalmer, first since maiden flight in 2001

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed at Jaisalmer during an operational training sortie on Tuesday. This is the first crash of the indigenous jet since its maiden flight on January 4, 2001. "The pilot ejected safely. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to find out the cause of the accident," the IAF said in a post on social media. The incident took place as the tri-service fire power demonstration aircraft, the Bharat Shakti was under way at Jaisalmer.

The IAF currently operates two LCA squadrons and is set to add one more squadron shortly. On the overall project cost, the government had informed Parliament in March 2020 that ₹9,063.56 crore had been spent on the LCA. The government had originally sanctioned ₹2,188 crore for the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I programme to design and develop two technology demonstrators in April 1993, and ₹5,777.56 crore for FSED Phase-II programme. The objectives of Phase-II were fabrication of three prototype vehicles (PVs), establishment of production facility at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. for production of eight aircraft per year, and manufacturing and delivery of eight limited-series production aircraft. The government had informed Parliament in March 2013 and the final operational clearance in February 2019.

India was the top arms importer in 2019-2023

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

India was the top arms importer in the world in the period 2019-23, with imports having gone up by 4.7% compared with the period 2014-18, according to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).



The U.S. has increased its global role as an arms supplier, exporting more arms to more countries than it has ever done. (GETTY IMAGES)

At the same time, arms imports by European countries increased by 94% between 2014-18 and 2019-23, the report said, which comes against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine. "Although Russia remained India's main arms supplier (accounting for 36% of its arms imports), this was the first five-year period since 1960-64 when deliveries from Russia (or the Soviet Union prior to 1991) made up less than half of India's arms im-

ports," as per new data on international arms transfers from SIPRI released on Monday. "Nine of the 10 biggest arms importers in 2019-23, including the top three of India, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, were in Asia and Oceania or the West Asia. Ukraine became the fourth biggest arms importer after it received transfers of major arms in 2022-23." In the interim Budget presented in February for financial year 2024-25, the

total allocation for the Defence Ministry was ₹6 lakh crore, of which the capital allocation for new procurements was ₹1.72 lakh crore, 5.78% higher than the Budget estimates of last year. India sees the return to arms imports after briefly ceasing supply to Saudi Arabia in the past. Imports of Pakistan, the fifth largest arms importer in 2019-23, went up by 43%, with China supplying

as much as 82% of all its arms imports. Arms exports by the world's largest supplier, the U.S., grew by 17% between 2014-18 and 2019-23, while those by Russia fell by more than half. France emerged as the world's second largest arms supplier as its exports grew by 47%. Europe's capacity for arms imports by European countries, 55%, in 2019-23 were from the U.S. up from 35% in 2014-18. "Europe is responsible for about a third of global arms exports, including large volumes going outside the region, reflecting Europe's strong military industrial capacity," said SIPRI Director Dan Smith. In this regard, Matthew George, Director of the SIPRI arms transfers programme, said the U.S. had increased its global role as

Govt. issues marketing code for pharmaceutical firms

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Department of Pharmaceuticals issued the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) 2024 on Tuesday, specifying the rules for the use of the words "safe" and "new" for drugs, and stated that medical representatives must not employ any inducement or subterfuge to gain an interview, and that they must not pay, under any guise, for access to a healthcare professional. Engagement of the pharmaceutical industry with healthcare professionals for Continuing Medical Education (CME) should only be allowed through a well-defined, transparent, verified set of guidelines, and con-

duct of such events in foreign locations is prohibited by the uniform code. Gifting prohibited: Drug companies or their representatives should not pay cash or monetary grants to any healthcare professional or their family members (both immediate and extended) under any pretext. Gifting is prohibited by any pharmaceutical company or its agent, that is, distributor, wholesalers, retailers, and so on. Additionally, no pecuniary advantage or benefit in kind may be offered, supplied or promised to any person qualified to prescribe or supply drugs by any pharmaceutical company or its agent. The UCPMP is to be circulated for strict compliance, it said.

On drugs, the UCPMP states that promotion of a drug must be consistent with the terms of its marketing approval, and a drug must be promoted prior to the receipt of its marketing approval from the competent authority. "Claims for the usefulness of a drug must be based on up-to-date evaluation of all available evidence. The word 'safe' must not be used without qualification, and it must not be stated categorically that a medicine has no side effects, toxic hazard or risk of addiction. The word 'new' must not be used to describe any drug which has been generally available, or any therapeutic intervention which has been generally promoted in India for more than a year, the latest rules state.

THE CROSSWORD



- Across
1 It's clear that former lover permitted assuming power (8)
5 One's on region - e may be surrounded by water (6)
9 Fractional part of state from the east central United States (8)
13 Work hard on a new phrase used in advertising (6)
14 Chinese secret society at a country (5)
15 Thoroughly sour item brought back into gathering (5)

14121

- Down
1 Forfeited rule on Cambridge university essentially defying (8)
2 Fabled (6)
3 Use plan in reforming India for one (9)
4 Primarily Indian, born in Zanjar along island (5)
5 One that may cover damage at home with certain right (7)
6 Damaged coil I sort for attorney (9)
7 A new styling accessory is a savoury (5)
8 One small barbour beyond the borders of Derby is very elegant (8)
11 Food item I would like immediately for starters (4)
15 Sip orange cocktail - a sling from this place (9)
17 Primary building block of powerful compound (8)
18 See carbon in chapter made up on physics and chemistry (8)
20 At first large audience kept engrossed at Dal perhaps (4)
21 Admires peculiar weapon carried in a belt (7)
22 Broadcast with very new fictitious monster (16)
24 Sped with German engineer to shooting area (5)
25 Former American president touring Japan goes to steep inlet of sea (5)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle and Solution to yesterday's Sudoku. Includes a 9x9 grid for the solution and a list of numbers for the previous puzzle.

FAITH

Seek self-realisation, own it

Caught up in earthly matters, devotees nevertheless want to achieve nirvana, a state where there is no sorrow. One can term that state as self-realisation, wherein one lives in his own world, but the world is not within one; akin to a boat floating in water and not the other way round. When one realises the real self, within one, then one has attained fulfilment, and there is nothing more to be gained. The entire process is succinctly summed up in the six verses of Nirvana Suktam, said Swami Ramacharana Tirtha (Nochar) in a discourse. One is sheathed in various layers and it is important to discard them in order to tap into the core, inner self which alone can offer complete peace. Our physique is the outermost layer, with the functional organs forming the next. Further buried is the mind (manas), followed by intellect (buddhi). The innermost layer is that of bliss, of chit (consciousness) of Sivam, which is another of the five elements. The journey to the inner core is not easy, but it is possible to free oneself of the shackles of external gratifications, remove ignorance and find the limitless inner self. When one listens to music, one experiences sheer joy, but even then, the joy is not permanent or continuous, unlike the inner self. For example, in between two thoughts, one experiences a state of being where there is only the self and nothing else. One should separate the mind from the body. True bliss comes when one realises that atma is ever within, and neither aversion nor attachment. What remains is complete equipoise. It is latent in everyone, and one should seek it and own it.

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Dinakar Peri

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The U.S. has increased its global role as an arms supplier, exporting more arms to more countries than it has ever done. GETTY IMAGES

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total allocation for the Defence Ministry was ₹6.2 lakh crore, of which the capital allocation for new procurements was ₹1.72 lakh crore, 5.78% higher than the Budget Estimates of last year. India seems to have come back to the top slot in arms imports after briefly ceding space to Saudi Arabia in the past.

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Arms exports by the world's largest supplier, the U.S., grew by 17% between 2014-18 and 2019-23, while those by Russia fell by more than half. France emerged as the world's second largest arms supplier as its exports grew by 47%.

Europe's capacity

Over half of arms imports by European countries, 55%, in 2019-23 were from the U.S., up from 35% in 2014-18. "Europe is responsible for about a third of global arms exports, including large volumes going outside the region, reflecting Europe's strong military-industrial capacity," said SIPRI Director Dan Smith.

In this regard, Mathew George, Director of the SIPRI arms transfers programme, said the U.S. had increased its global role as

an arms supplier – an important aspect of its foreign policy – exporting more arms to more countries than it has ever done in the past.

On France, which is now the second largest arms supplier, the report said 42% of its arms went to states in Asia and Oceania, and 34% to West Asia. "The largest single recipient of French arms exports was India, which accounted for nearly 30%. The increase in French arms exports was largely due to deliveries of combat aircraft to India, Qatar and Egypt," the report stated.

"With many high-value arms on order – including nearly 800 combat aircraft and combat helicopters – European arms imports are likely to remain at a high level," said Pieter Wezeman, senior researcher with the SIPRI arms transfers programme.

President Putin finds key selling point for polls in resilient Russian economy

More than two years since the war and despite the sweeping sanctions that have cut off much of Russia's trade with Europe, the U.S. and their allies, most Russians find little change in the economy; the sense of stability is an asset for Putin as he orchestrates his 'foreordained' fifth presidential term

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russians are finding that a few imported staples, like fruit, coffee and olive oil, have shot way up in price. Most global brands have disappeared or been reincarnated as Russian equivalents under new, Kremlin-friendly ownership. A lot more Chinese cars are zipping around the streets. Those who want a particular luxury cosmetic may be out of luck.

Other than that, not much has changed economically for most people in President Vladimir Putin's Russia, more than two years after he sent his troops into Ukraine. That's despite the sweeping sanctions that have cut off much of Russia's trade with the U.S. and their allies. That sense of stability is a key asset for Mr. Putin as he orchestrates his foreordained victory in the March 15-17 presidential election, six-year term.

Inflation is higher than most people would like, at over 7% above the central bank's goal of 4%. But unemployment is low, and the economy is expected to grow 2.6% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund, double the previous forecast. That's far above the 0.5% expansion predicted for Europe.



Needs and wants: People walk past a billboard with an image of Russian President Putin which reads "The West doesn't need Russia, we need Russia" on a street in Sevastopol, Crimea on March 10.

"There are difficulties, of course, but again, we're adjusting and we're reorienting our thinking, and we're starting to look to our Chinese friends," Ms. Novikova said.

Brand manager Irina Novikova was upbeat despite higher prices in stores: "More domestic products have appeared, more agricultural products. Yes, we all see that some goods have disappeared."

"Prices have gone up — if I used to buy three items for a certain price, now I buy one," she said, but added, "Go look for Russian products, the shops with Russian goods."

"Industry may have suffered, we know there have

been some setbacks in that regard, but again, we're adjusting and we're reorienting our thinking, and we're starting to look to our Chinese friends," Ms. Novikova said.

Planned government spending this year is roughly twice what it was in 2018. Yet the deficit remains manageable as taxes and oil revenue keep flowing in.

Not that there aren't strains on the economy. Companies face labour shortages after hundreds of thousands of men left the country after the start of the fighting in Ukraine to avoid mobilisation, and thousands are suffering from other signed military contracts.

Meanwhile, Russia's oil exports shifted from Europe to China and India due to boycotts by Ukraine's allies. And while

sanctions and a price cap on oil shipments, Russia had to shell out billions to buy a shadow fleet of aging tankers that don't use Western insurers who have to honour the price ceiling. Russia also lost its lucrative natural gas market in Europe after cutting off most of its pipeline supply.

"The biggest issue" "The economy plays a very important role in all of Putin's elections," said Janis Kluge, an expert on the Russian economy at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. "For most Russians, who choose to ignore the war, the economy is really the biggest issue."

Economic stability "is a signal that Putin can use vis-a-vis the other elites that he is still able to mobilise the masses. And for that, it has to be genuine and not just a manipulated number," Mr. Kluge said.

"So it is still important that there is this genuine support, even though there is no chance at all for the voters to change who is in control," he said.

Gross domestic product remains "an abstract number" to ordinary people, and the ruble's exchange rate is a symbol that is used to be because most people can't travel and there are fewer imported goods to buy, Mr. Kluge said.

"What matters is inflation," he said. "And this is

Iran arrests 4 over footage of woman's row with cleric

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran has arrested four persons on suspicion of giving a foreign-based broadcaster a video of an argument between a Shiite cleric and a woman not wearing the mandatory headscarf, Iranian media reported on Tuesday.

Closed-circuit television footage of the row in Iran's Shiite clerical centre of Qom has gone viral on social media and has also been aired by the London-based news channel Iran International, regarded as an "enemy media" outlet by the Tehran authorities.

In the video, the woman confronts the cleric for allegedly taking photographs of her waiting with her child in a Qom clinic without the headscarf that has been obligatory for women in public since the years after the 1979 revolution.

The deputy prosecutor of Qom, Ruhollah Moslemkhanlou, said four of the "main publishers and senders" of the video to the "enemy (Iran) international network" had been arrested, the Fars news agency reported.

"What is clear to us, and we are sure of, is a design and planning had been made to create division and sedition in the society," he added.

There has been a renewed controversy over the mandatory dress code since the death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September 2022 after she was arrested for an alleged breach.

Her death sparked nationwide protests that the authorities blamed on incitement by Western governments and foreign-based Far-left language media.

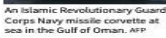
Iran, Russia and China show off naval strength with joint exercise in the Gulf of Oman

Associated Press
DUBAI

China, Iran and Russia have begun a joint naval drill in the Gulf of Oman, a crucial waterway, officials said on Tuesday.

Footage aired by Chinese state television and a video released by the Russian navy showed the ongoing drill, known as "Maritime Security Belt 2024".

China sent the guided-missile destroyer *Dzhenming* and the guided-missile frigate *Linyi* to the exercise. Russia's forces are being led by the *Varyag*, a Slava-class cruiser. More than 20 ships, support vessels and combat boats from the three countries, as well as naval helicopters, are involved in the exercise. A re-



An Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy ship at sea in the Gulf of Oman, AFP

port by Iranian state television quoted the drill's spokesperson, Admiral Mostafajalal, as saying the drill will take place in 17,000 square kilometre of water.

Admiral Mostafajalal added that the three nations' drill — their fourth since 2019 —

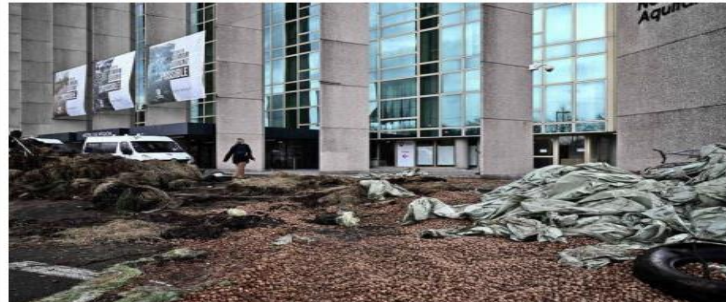
was also meant to improve trade, confront "piracy and terrorism, support to humanitarian activities, and the exchange of information in the field of rescue," among other goals.

Stepping up ties Iran has stepped up its military cooperation with Beijing and Moscow in response to regional tensions with the U.S., including the supply of military drones to Russia now being used in Moscow's war on Ukraine.

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan and South Africa are observers of the drill.

The Gulf of Oman has seen a series of attacks since 2019 that the U.S. has blamed on Iran.

Jolt to the conscience



Drastic measures: Manure dumped in front of the Aquitaine Regional Council during a protest by French farmers against the constraints and regulations of regional standards, which they say are even stricter than the national ones, in Bordeaux on Monday.

Unemployed Afghans under Taliban risk death and debt in hunt for gold

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Tearing off a piece of mouldy flatbread, Homayon gulped tea in a brief reprieve from the din of the machines he and a dozen other men were using to dig for gold on a mountain side in northeastern Afghanistan.

The 30-year-old found little work as a mechanic in nearby Paktia city, so he banded with other unemployed men to try their luck carving out a living in the rocky mountains that dominate Badkhash province.

"Five, six of us were jobless, we came here to see if we can find anything," Homayon said, as the handral

of men finished their break and returned to work at the small-scale mine they had set up.

Their efforts digging four tunnels have borne little fruit, as they pour money into fuel, tools and labour.

Other mines in the area had proved productive, Homayon said, but they kept digging — the promise of a windfall outweighing the risks of debt.

"Significant losses" The losses can be significant, warned fellow miner Qadir Khan. "There are people who went into debt and were not able to find anything from these kinds of tunnels," he said.

"They lost two to three



Many jobs: Afghan miners dig inside a tunnel of a gold mine in the mountains of Vahdat Sulfa district in Badkhash province, AFP

hundred thousand Afghans (roughly \$2,800- \$4,200), and there was nothing to do but try to find different work, make money, and come back to pay their debts."

Despite being 74 years

to two decades of war with the U.S. and its allies, but, according to a World Bank report, half the population is still living in poverty.

Labourer Sharif, 60, said he has seen the stock but has been mining for the last year. Two of his sons had left for Iran to find work. "We are still mining, but in the way it used to be," he said, complaining of a lack of work in another shortage drought-hit Afghanistan has faced in recent years.

The rocks Sharif helps mine are broken up and hoisted down the steep mountainside, then pulverised into a flour-like substance, at the banks of the Kokcha River, which snakes between snow-

covered peaks, men use makeshift buckets to scoop water over piles of the powder. It is then sifted as it runs down a sluice covered by material pulled from car interiors.

The proceeds of the first wash are used to fund the equipment and labour and to keep the mine going. The gains from the second and third washes are shared between those controlling the operation.

Even if the miners can collect significant amounts of gold, a fifth of proceeds will go to the Taliban authorities.

High stakes

Deep into the Afghan mountains, the miners risk not just debt, but

death as well. Mine collapses are common in Afghanistan, which is rich with precious minerals like the lapis lazuli. Badkhash is famous for.

Miners on the Kokcha said they had lost friends recently, and local media reported earlier this month that a gold miner died when part of a mine collapsed in neighbouring Takhar province.

In 2019, at least 30 people were killed when a gold mine collapsed in Badkhash. Despite the risks, the men continue digging.

"So far we have not found much of anything," said Homayon. "But we have hope, we trust in God."

Multiple crises leave Senegal with mental scars, trauma

Agence France-Presse
DAKAR

After weathering a slew of health and political crises in recent years, many Senegalese are grappling with mental health issues, psychologists warn.

Even before the West African nation had fully emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, it was rocked by violent riots in 2021 and a 2022 arrest of opposition figurehead Ousmane Sonko.

Senegal has since witnessed several bouts of unrest which have resulted in dozens of deaths, thousands of injuries and hundreds arrested.

Most recently, President Macky Sall's postponement of the February presidential election unleashed angry protests which left four people dead.

Health experts are calling for better support for those suffering from a range of symptoms including anxiety, sleep disorders and chronic exhaustion.

"We had barely emerged from COVID then we fell into this situation of chaos and great confusion," psychologist Serge Mor Mbaye said.

"We came out of a trauma that we hadn't healed from when we fell into another," he added.

He said he was working to help at least 30 people in areas where there are high levels of irregular migration. He has called for similar measures for the hundreds of detainees who have been released or are about to be freed. "But we recently passed amnesty law.

Iran, Russia and China show off naval strength with joint exercise in the Gulf of Oman

Associated Press

DUBAI

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An Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy missile corvette at sea in the Gulf of Oman. AFP

port by Iranian state television quoted the drill’s spokesperson, Admiral Mostafa Tajaddini, as saying the drill will take place in 17,000 square kilometer of water.

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Stepping up ties

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The Gulf of Oman has seen a series of attacks since 2019 that the U.S. has blamed on Iran.








The Gulf of Oman or Sea of Oman, also known as the **Gulf of Makran** or Sea of Makran, forms the **only entrance to the Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean.**


It connects the **Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz**, which then empties into the **Persian Gulf.**

Bordering Countries: It is bordered by **Pakistan and Iran** in the north, by the **United Arab Emirates** in the west and by **Oman** in the south.



The Gulf of Oman is about **320 km wide at its widest point** between Cape al-Hadd in Oman and Gwadar Bay on the Iran-Pakistan border. **It narrows to 35 miles (56 km) at the Strait of Hormuz.**

It is approximately **560 km long.**



Some of the **significant islands** that are located in the Gulf of Oman include **Sheytan Island, Al Fahal Island, Dimaniyat Islands, and the Sawadi Islands.**

The **major international shipping ports** that are situated in the Gulf of Oman include **Port Sultan Qaboos Muttrah in Muscat, Oman; Chabahar Port in Iran; the Port of Fujairah and Khor Fakkan Container Terminal in the United Arab Emirates.**

Roughly one-third of the world's oil is exported via the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNYY

10 convicted, get life term in 2018 Hapur lynching case

CHEERAJ MISHRA
KOIDA, MARCH 12

ALMOST 5X years after a cattle rader, Qasim (45), was beaten to death and another person, Jamaydeen (62), seriously injured by a mob in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh, a local court on Tuesday convicted all 10 accused and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Additional Sessions Judge Shweta Dixit convicted the accused under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 304A (causing death by negligence), 148 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting) and 148 (armed with deadly weapon).

The 10 who have been convicted have been named as Maangaram, Karanpal, Rinku Sana, Hari Om, Lalit, Rakheshtanish, Yudhishtir, Sonu Ram and Kanu. They have also been imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each.

The incident dates back to June 18, 2018, when Qasim, a resident of Pithuwa in Hapur district, was cornered by a mob, allegedly over rumours of cow slaughter, and beaten to death. A video clip that surfaced showed Jain lying in a field, his clothes torn and bruises across his body.

In his statement, Sanyaldeen told police he and his neighbour, both residents of Vadapur Mustafabad village, had gone to collect fodder when they saw the mob chasing Qasim.

On CBI radar in Russia 'war visa' case: BJP corporator's son, mystery office

Mother of accused is first-term BJP corporator in MP

JAY MAZOOMDAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE PRIME accused in the CBI case over student visas being misused to allegedly push Indians into Russia's war against

TRUST VOTE TODAY IN HARYANA ASSEMBLY

Saini replaces Khattar as Haryana CM, BJP ends alliance with JJP

Outgoing CM says may get a new responsibility in LS polls



New Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini being sworn in by Governor Bandaru Dattatraya after Manohar Lal Khattar (extreme right) resigned. *Jasbir Anand*

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and his cabinet ministers resigned Tuesday and he was replaced

within hours by BJP state president and Kaulacheta MP Nayab Singh Saini as the CM.

As the BJP effected a change of guard in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, it ended its four-and-half year alliance with the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) led

by Dushyant Chautala.

Saini, an OBC leader, was sworn in as Chief Minister by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 6

New Zealand Dy PM on Nijjar killing: Where's the evidence (of India link)?



WINSTON PETERS
NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

NEW ZEALAND Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has questioned the lack of evidence on a "potential" Indian link — as alleged by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — in the killing of Canadian-based Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

New Zealand is one of the members of the Five-Eyes intelligence alliance, which includes the US, Canada, UK and Australia.

Canada is learnt to have shared intelligence related to the Nijjar killing with its alliance partners.

Peters (78), who is on a visit to India from March 10-13, became Deputy Prime Minister after the Centre-Right parties

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

rest of both countries to not have "that many forces on the line of Actual Control (LAC)".

Jainshankar was speaking at the Express Adksa held in New Delhi on Monday evening, where he was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and C Raja Mohan, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express.

Responding to a question by Zhou Yongshe, political counselor at the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, who asked how

SBI complies with SC order, submits details of electoral bonds to poll panel

Information in digital format, we can meet March 15 deadline: EC officials

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

COMPLYING WITH the directions of the Supreme Court, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday evening handed over data pertaining to the purchase and redemption of electoral bonds to the Election Commission.

"According to sources, a senior officer of the poll panel reviewed the data in 'digital' form from representatives of the bank. However, it is not known whether the information includes a unique bond number for each purchase and redemption.

Sources indicated that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, who is away on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, instructed the officers not to review the data until the poll panel completes its visit by Wednesday night. Kumar is expected to return late Wednesday night.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Adhir to Govt: Give me dossier on shortlisted names for ECs



MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

WITH THE Prime Minister-led selection committee set to meet Thursday to pick two Election Commissioners, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the three-member panel, has written to the government, seeking the "dossier" containing the "biographies" of the shortlisted persons "well before" the meeting.

In a letter to Rajiv Manjari, Secretary, Legislative Department and Department of Legal Affairs, Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Chowdhury is learnt to have referred to the process followed by the government regarding the selection of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners, and Chief Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Jaishankar to China: It's in our common interest not to mass troops at the LAC

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JIVYA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

WITH AN estimated 50,000-100,000 troops posted on either side of the India-China border in eastern Ladakh for almost four years now, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the situation is "very tense and dangerous" and it's in the common in-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Express Adksa in New Delhi on Monday. *Divyanshu Pare*

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Public Health Foundation of India is ranked No 2 on global list

**ANURADHA
MASCARENHAS**

PUNE, MARCH 12

IN THE first global rankings for schools of public health, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has secured an impressive second place, surpassing Harvard.

The leading five institutions in the list include the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The rankings are part of a report titled 'A New Model for Ranking Schools of Public Health: The Public Health Academic Ranking' published in the International Journal of Public Health.

"As there is no ranking designed for schools of public health, this project aimed to create one. To our knowledge, the PHAR is the first international bibliometric university ranking system designed for academic public health," lead author Adeline Dugerdil, Margaret Chan

(who has served two terms as director-general of World Health Organization) and others said.

The project was funded by the Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva. The authors of the report said that given the importance of public health, the common use of rankings in the academic world, and the demand for a valid ranking system, a ranking for schools of public health was designed and tested.

"Although two of the top five schools were from the US, the top 10 included institutions from four continents. The presence of schools from India, Thailand, South Africa and Singapore is notable and may reflect the increasing importance of public health research in non-high-income countries," the report said.

Professor K Srinath Reddy, honorary distinguished professor and goodwill ambassador of PHFI for public health partnerships, told *The Indian Express* that this recognition was gratifying.

"Public health is pivotal to national development and global security. PHFI has established six institutes in different regions of India to promote multidisciplinary education and research which can in-

form and assist multi-sectoral policies and programmes for protecting people's health. It has aimed to be locally relevant, nationally impactful, and globally respected. This recognition is gratifying since it shows we have been on the right path. It is yet another vindication of the respect the world has for Indian science," Reddy said.

Reddy is a former president of PHFI and headed the Department of Cardiology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

"It is interesting that this school (Public Health Foundation of India) ranks exceptionally well not because of the 'productivity' criterion (as might have been felt given the network bringing together numerous schools in the same country) but thanks to the 'quality' criterion, which are all at the maximum," the report states.

Dr Vikram Patel, Chair, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, told *The Indian Express* that this was a proud day for Indian science. "Rarely has any Indian institution been ranked so high globally. This feat is even more remarkable considering that PHFI was stripped of its FCRA licence in 2017."

Public Health Foundation of India



Public Health Foundation of India

Motto	Knowledge > Action > Impact > Equity
Type	Public -Private Initiative
Established	28 March 2006
President	Professor Sanjay Zodpey
Address	Unit No. 316, 3rd Floor, Rectangle -1 Building, Plot No. D-4, District Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017, New Delhi , India
Campus	Hyderabad , Delhi , Gandhinagar , Bhubaneswar , Shillong . ^[1]
Website	www.phfi.org

- PHFI has established five Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHs) in Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad and Shillong. The institutes are aimed at being research and education institutes focusing on public health.
- In 2015 Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar was the first IIPH to be granted autonomous university status through The Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar Act, 2015 laid out by the State Government of Gujarat.[]

Govt: Lab to monitor sea water quality and testbed to track monsoon systems inaugurated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BENGALURU, MARCH 12

INDIA ON Tuesday commissioned the atmospheric testbed facility near Bhopal. The testbed, works of which began in early 2018, is equipped with high-end instruments to record several vital parameters that will be fed into improving the weather models besides facilitating advanced studies on the Indian monsoons.

Kiren Rijiju, Minister, Earth Sciences, on Tuesday virtually inaugurated the first phase of the Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) in Sehore district, located about 50km northwest of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. He also inaugurated the Coastal Research Laboratory (CRL) established in Visakhapatnam's Dolphin's Nose area.

Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is spearheading the research activities at this first-of-its-kind testbed facility built at a cost of Rs 125 crore, whereas Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal

Research (NCCR) will host and coordinate activities at CRL.

India receives nearly 70% of the country's rainfall during the June to September southwest monsoon season. It is the interactions between the southwest monsoon winds and westward-moving low pressure systems or depressions, that sustain the rainfall activity over the core monsoon zone. Agriculture in this zone, spanning from Gujarat to West Bengal across central India regions, is rain-fed. The area around Silkheda in Sehore lay directly in the path of rain-bearing systems — the low pressure systems or depressions originating in the Bay of Bengal — making it an ideal area to study their characteristics and also the properties of the clouds embedded in them.


"The testbed in Bhopal is a unique observational facility and will help better understand the cloud systems, land-atmospheric systems and tracking of the low pressure systems and depressions. With climate change, rainfall associated with these systems during the monsoon season have

been becoming erratic. Data obtained from the testbed facility will be assimilated and used to improve the forecasts," said R Krishnan, director, IITM.

Nearly 25 high-end instruments like the aethalometer for aerosol studies, cloud condensation nuclei counter, laser ceilometer to measure cloud sizes, micro rain radar to calculate raindrop size and its distribution have been installed. A Ka-band cloud radar and a C-band doppler weather radar will also help track the movement of rain-bearing systems over this zone.



"Blue economy and climate change are becoming hot topics. Indian scientists are breaking new grounds and for a large country like India, such centres are critical," Rijiju said.

At the inauguration of the lab, MoES Secretary M Ravichandran said: "Water quality monitoring is key in tracking the health of the seas. With India's Blue Economy taking shape, CRL will have a key role to play in future. CLR should have nodes in each of the coastal states of India..."



ASI Survey of Bhojshala Complex



- 
- The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has ordered the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a scientific survey of the Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district to clarify its original nature.
- 



The Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex was originally a temple of goddess Sarasvati built by Parawara King Bhoja in 11th Century AD.



The mosque is built using structural members of the temple.



The monument also retains some slabs inscribed with Sanskrit and Prakrit literary works.



Noted as a great patron of art and literature, King Bhoja is said to have established a school, now known as Bhojashala.



Under an agreement with the ASI, Hindus perform puja in the temple every Tuesday, and Muslims offer Namaz every Friday.



- **Dispute:**

- **The controversy revolves around the original status of the site as a temple.**
- **The petitioner cites an ASI report claiming that the original Bhojshala and Vagdevi temples were demolished to build a mosque. A survey was requested to determine the actual history of the site.**
- **One respondent challenged the suit's maintainability, citing the *principle of res judicata* (a thing adjudged), noting a similar petition was dismissed by the High Court's Principal Bench in 2003.**



Yaounde Declaration





Recently, the Yaoundé Declaration marked a significant milestone in the fight against malaria, as health ministers from 11 African countries pledged to end malaria deaths.

The total number of malaria cases globally increased from 233 million in 2019 to 249 million in 2022. Africa witnessed a significant rise in malaria cases during this period, reaching 233 million cases.

Africa accounts for 94% of global malaria cases and 95% of malaria-related deaths.

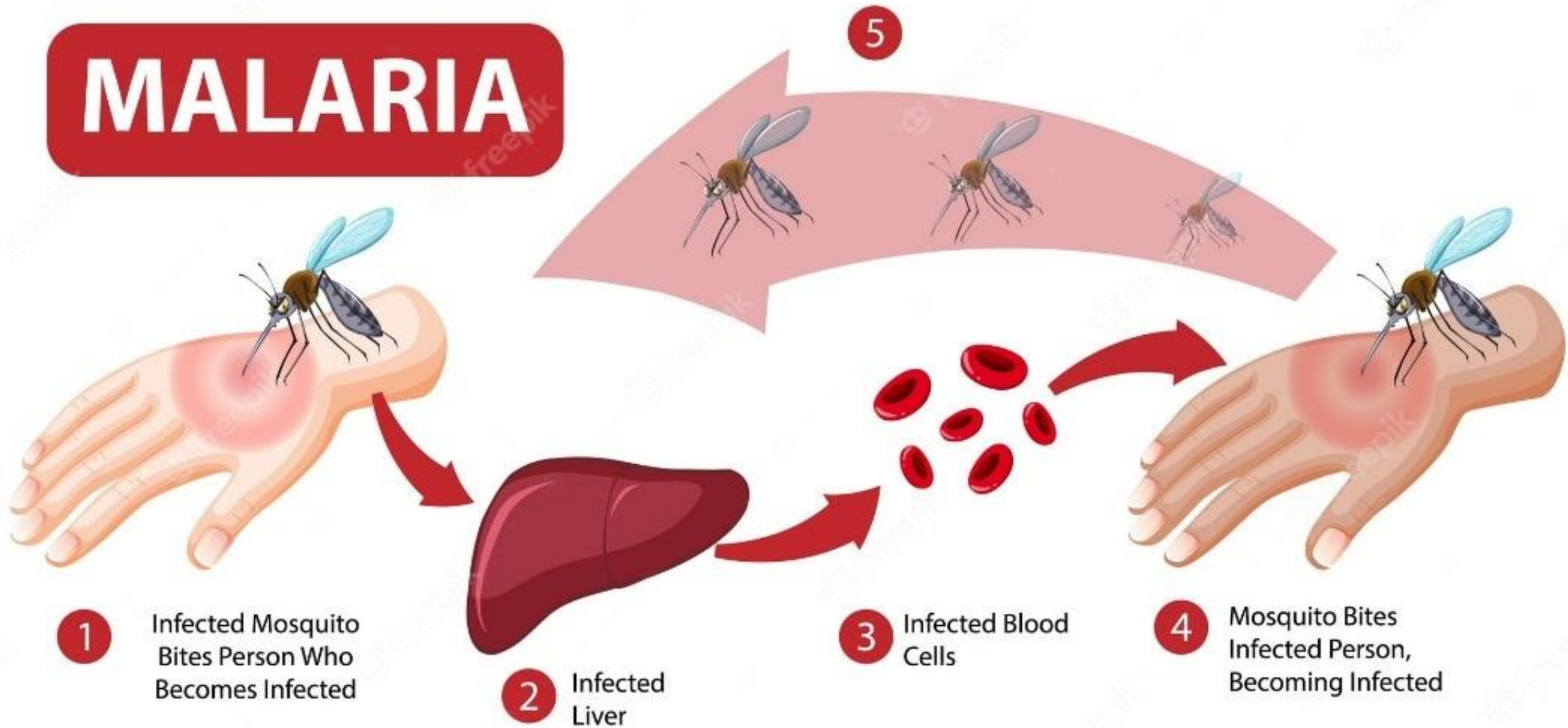
While progress against malaria has stagnated in the WHO Africa region, the 11 African countries involved in the Yaounde conference account for over 70% of the global malaria burden.

The declaration aims to strengthen health infrastructure, expand personnel capacity, and enhance program implementation.

They also seek to foster partnerships for funding, research, and innovation.

- 
- **Despite the declaration, experts highlight the need for concrete action on the ground.**
 - **The African Union's goal to control and eliminate malaria by 2030 faces significant financial gaps, with USD 1.5 billion needed to sustain basic malaria services and additional funds required for climate adaptation in the health sector.**

MALARIA



MALARIA

What is Malaria?

Malaria is disease caused by **plasmodium parasites** that is transmitted to people through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.



Vector Varieties

- *Plasmodium falciparum*
- *Plasmodium malariae*
- *Plasmodium vivax*
- *Plasmodium ovale*
- *Plasmodium knowlesi*

SYMPTOMS



Headache



Fatigue



Nausea



Muscle Pain



Chills



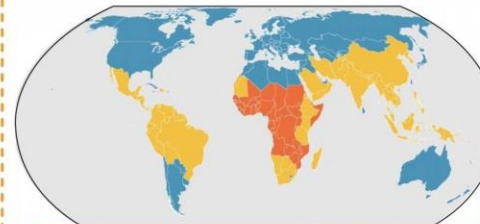
Fever

Note: If not treated within 24 hours can progress to severe illness and lead to death.

Prevention

- Vector control is the best way to reduce transmission.
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets and indoor residual spraying are effective too
- Wear full clothing so that mosquitoes have no contact with skin
- Developing non-vector carrying mosquito species have also potential to reduce threats
- RTS,S/ASOI (RTSS) is the only vaccine to show that it can significantly reduce malaria.

Malaria Infection Regions



Most malaria cases and deaths occurs in sub-Saharan Africa.

SE Asia Mediterranean W. Pacific and the Americas are at risk.

India represents 3% of the global malaria burden. India has shown a reduction in reported malaria cases of 49% and deaths of 50.5% compared with 2017.

Malaria Facts

- ❏ Malaria is a life-threatening disease; that is preventable and curable.
- ❏ Malaria is caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female anopheles mosquitoes.
- ❏ In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria and 445000 malaria-related deaths worldwide.
- ❏ Since 2010, 6 countries have been certified malaria-free (Armenia, Maldives, Morocco, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan), and several others are moving closer to obtaining this status.







In facts & figures

- India saw a 30% reduction in cases in 2022, taking the total to 249 million
- It accounted for 0.99% of global malaria deaths
- India reported 1.4% of the total malaria cases in 2022
- Globally, 5 million additional malaria cases were recorded in 2022, that had a flood in 2022
- Nigeria has the highest malaria burden with 26.8% of the global cases and 31.1% of the deaths
- The highest was in Pakistan (2.1 million)



Design: Abhishek Mitra

- 
- The report emphasizes notable progress in malaria prevention through the phased introduction of the WHO-recommended malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01, in African nations.
 - Rigorous evaluations in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi reveal a significant decrease in severe malaria and a 13% reduction in early childhood deaths, affirming the vaccine's effectiveness.
- 

In October 2023, WHO recommended a second safe and effective malaria vaccine, R21/Matrix-M.

The availability of two malaria vaccines is expected to increase supply and make broad-scale deployment across Africa possible.



E-2025 Initiative: The WHO launched the E-2025 initiative in 2021. The initiative aims to stop the transmission of malaria in 25 countries by 2025.



The WHO has identified 25 countries that have the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025.



India to Become Third Largest
Economy by 2031

CRISIL, a major rating agency in India, forecasts the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to be 6.8% in the next fiscal year (FY25).

CRISIL expects India's economic growth to moderate slightly from the current fiscal year (FY24) due to factors like higher interest rates but still sees a healthy 6.8% growth for FY25.

Over the next seven years, CRISIL predicts an average annual growth rate of 6.7%, potentially propelling India to become the world's third-largest economy by 2031, trailing behind the US and China.


India, with a GDP size of USD 3.7 trillion, is currently the fifth largest economy in the world, after the US, China, Japan and Germany.

The projected growth is expected to elevate India's per capita income (reach \$4,500 by 2031), allowing it to reach upper-middle-income status by 2031.

- Crisil's India Outlook report projects that between fiscal 2025 and 2031, the size of the Indian economy will inch closer to the USD 7 trillion mark.



Gorsam Kora Festival

- 
- The Gorsam Kora Festival, held annually in Arunachal Pradesh's Zemithang valley, concluded, celebrating the shared Himalayan Buddhist cultural heritage and the enduring friendship between India and Bhutan.
 - Located along the Nyanmjang Chu River, Zemithang is historically significant as the refuge where the 14th Dalai Lama sought sanctuary in 1959.
 - The festival, centred around the 93-foot tall stupa – 'Gorsam Chorten' built in the 13th century, attracts thousands of devotees, including Bhutanese nationals, for prayers and traditional rituals.

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Parrot fever

Parrot fever, also known as **psittacosis**, is a respiratory bacterial infection caused by the bacterium ***Chlamydia psittaci***.

The infection primarily **affects birds, such as parrots, pigeons, and poultry**, but can be **transmitted to humans through inhaling particles from bird feathers or droppings**.

Symptoms include **fever, headache, chills, muscle pains, coughing, difficulty breathing, and gastrointestinal symptoms**.

Treatment involves **antibiotics, such as doxycycline or tetracycline, along with supportive care and symptomatic relief**.

Prevention includes **proper hygiene practices, such as handwashing and avoiding close contact with sick birds**.

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
