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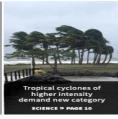
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INSIDE

This poll is about preserving secular state

THEREIVANANTHAPERAM Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has underscored that the upcoming Lok Sabha election is a referendum on "preserving India's secular democracy" and little else. It an e-mail interview with The Hindu on Friday, Mr. Vijayan articulated the pivotal nature of the poll. » PAGE 3

Left seeks to iron out differences in West Bengal

+ ROLEATA

With the Left Front's All India Forward Bloc and the Congre in collision course over the Coochbehar and Purulia Coochbehar and Purulia seats in West Bengal ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Left Front chairperson Biman Basu said the allies have enough time to sort out. differences. >> PAGE 4

Chaos during aid delivery kills five in Gaza

GAZA STRIP The Palestine Red Crescent said five persons were killed and dozens wounded by gunfire and a stampede during an aid delivery on Saturday in northern Gaza, where famine looms. Video footage showed a envoy of trucks moving past

CAA Rules silent on fate of rejected applicants

Applicants can be rejected by an empowered committee if their documents fail scrutiny

gal, entered the country decades ago and have been living as Indian citizens for

many years. However, if their submitted docu-

ments now fail the scrutiny

ments now tail the scrutiny of the empowered commit-tee, or if there is an adverse security clearance report about them, their applica-tions for Indian citizenship under the CAA could be re-

"Detention centres"
"If an application is reject-ed, people may end up in detention centres," warned Mamata Bala Tha-

kur, a Trinamool Congress parliamentarian who hails from a Hindu community that migrated from Bangla-

Adverse security clearance report also leads to rejection; review procedures absent in CAA Rules

Citizenship Act, 1955, had a provision to file

What happens after a citizenship

Hurdles in front



Citizenship Act, 1955, says that the applicant may file a review application before the Central government

decision of the Central go-vernment on such review shall be final." According to Aman Wadud, an Assam-based la-wyer who has worked ex-tensively on citizenship cases in the State, "the re-view of the rejection is to be done by the same authbe done by the same auth-ority, the empowered com-mittee (as per Section 15 A of the Act). In case the re-view is rejected, a writ peti-tion can be filed before the High Court."

'Raises concern'
The ambiguity around the rejection of applications poses concerns, particularty in West Bengal, who stand to benefit from the CAA's provision of fasttracked citizenship.
Lakha of people belong-

ing to the Scheduled Caste community migrated from Bangladesh (earlier East Pakistan) before and after the 1971 war with Pakistan. Many came without any Many came without any papers but subsequently acquired all documents proving their Indian citi-zenship, such as passports and voter identity cards. Ms. Thakur, a Matua leader nominated to the

leader nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Trina-mool Congress in Febru-ary, said that the Rules were akin to making peo-ple clears. "No one has an Union Minister Santanu Thakur has not applied yet, his ancestors are from Bangladesh. If an applica-

tion is rejected, people may end up in detention centres," she said.

According to the Rules, the applicant must declare the country they belong to along with their "date of entry into India", and upload on the citizenship upload on the citizenship portal any of the nine doc-uments issued by govern-ment authorities in Pakis-tan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh to support their claim. This means that though the CAA was envisaged for undocumented migrants

undocumented migrants belonging to the six communities from the three

Epitome of elegance

s applications start

coming in through the online citizen-

ship portal of the Citizen-ship (Amendment) Act (CAA), some potential ap

(CÁA), some potential ap-plicants are worried about their fate if rejected. The law's Rules, notified earlier garding any review process for applications rejected by the empowered commit-tees which have the final authority to accord citizen-some potential appli-

Some potential appli-cants, including lakhs of people from the Matua community of West Ben-



Chargesheet filed against NewsClick in UAPA case

The Delhi Police on Saturday filed its first chargesheet against news portal NewsCilck and its founder Prabir Purkayastha, in a case lodged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, following allegations that they reallegations that they re ceived funds through Chi nese firms to spread pro

China propaganda.

The chargesheet, which runs into thousands of pages, was brought in a trunk and filed before the Addiand alledrought in that the control of the control

approver in the case.

Under Section 43 D of the UAPA, the time to file a chargesheet in a case extends from 90 days to up to 180 days. In the case in hand, the court granted three extensions to the special cell of the Delhi Pol-ice to file the chargesheet.

ice to file the chargesheet.

The FIR was registered after The New York Times that the portal got money from U.S. businessman Neville Roy Singham, an "active member of the propative member of the propative model of the propagation of the pro

President presents + Bharat Ratna to four posthumously



Dr. Nitya Rao receives Bharat Ratna from President Droupadi Murmu on behalf of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on Saturday, AN

The Hindu Bureau

President Droupadi Mur-mu on Saturday conferred the Bharat Ratna on formthe Bharat Ratina on former Prime Ministers P.V. Na-rasimha Rao and Chaud-hary Charan Singh; former hary Charan Singh; former poor! Thakur; and agrono-mist Dr. M.S. Swaminath-an. All four awards were presented postfurmously presented postfurmously Rashtrapati Bharvan. The late Rao's award was received by his son, Singh's award was received Singh's award was received.

Singh's award was received by his grandson, Jayant Chaudhary. Dr. Swami-nathan's daughter, Nitya Rao, received the award for her father, and Tha-kur's was received by his

son, Ram Nath Thakur. Ms. Murmu is likely to visit Mr. Advani, the other visit Mr. Advani, the other awardee this year, at his re-sidence to honour him as his mobility is restricted because of frail health.

because of frail health.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister
Amit Shah, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha
Mallikarjun Kharge, and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish
Kumar were among those
who were present at the

ceremony in the Rashtra-

"Exemplary actions"
"As the ninth Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao led far-reachin economic reforms. Earlie

ran Singh's role during the freedom struggle in another post on X, President Murmu said, "His contrition and land reforms, and his deep understanding of the economy, are respectfully remembered," Presi dent Murmu said Dr Swaminathan played a ma jor role in making India self-sufficient in food pro-

duction.

Recalling the selfless ac-Recalling the selfless ac-tions of Karpoori Thakur, the official handle of Rash-trapati Bhavan said: "Working tirelessly to im-prove the lives of the disad-vantaged people, he com-manded high regard and had earned the honorific, "Jan-Nayak'."

Zakaat funds help free prison inmates during Ramzan

Over the past few years, some organisations have used a part of their savings set aside for charity during the holy month to free prisoners who cannot afford bail or those who have no support system to pay fines associated with their convictions

t is in the month of Ramzan that most Muslims busy calculating zakaat, a of charity in Islam, Usually given to those in abject poverty, over the past few years, zakaat funds, years, zakaar funds, calculated at 2.5% of an individual's annual savings and eligible assets, are being used to free inmates

being used to free inmates of jails who have served their prison sentences but have no support systems to pay fines associated with their convictions. Moin Pasha, an octogenarian, says, "It was two years ago that I got to know of an organisation CM CO

pay those who cannot afford bail. Some of these prisoners are sole breadwinners and everything depends on them," she says.

The Movement for Peace and Justice (MPD, a non-profit, is one such organisation that has been gathering zakaat from donors and channelling these funds to secure these funds to secure prisoner release. "Since last year we have paid 130 fines that are associated with prison sentences. As the prison sentences are ball money for 35 prisoners and have got them all released," Ahmed Hameeduddin Shakeel, finance secretary, MPJ, says. The MPJ, an affiliate of



the lamaat-e-Islami Hind, a since 2007-08 and have the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, a socio-religious organisation, after due diligence, identifies prisoners who are first-time offenders involved in small crimes, and who have no family or friends to pay bail or fines. "We have been active

The All India Milli since 2007-08 and have seen cases in which family members have no idea of the whereabouts of the prison inmate. It is only much later that they get to know that they are in jail. The situation is so bad that families cannot even afford to pay \$500. The

The All India Milli
Council, another
socio-religious group, has
secured the release of 68
inmates lodged in prisons
in and around Hyderabad,
since last year, according
to its office-bearer Mufti
Omar Abedeen Qasmi
Madani.

niunction is being

changed upon request),

been earmarking a part of her *zakaat* funds for this

cause."The goodness here is two-fold: a religious

fulfilled, and we help a family in dire need," she

entrepreneur, too has

...

President presents Bharat Ratna to four posthumously



Dr. Nitya Rao receives Bharat Ratna from President Droupadi Murmu on behalf of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on Saturday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday conferred the Bharat Ratna on former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh; former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur; and agronomist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. All four awards were presented posthumously at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The late Rao's award

ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

'Exemplary actions'

"As the ninth Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao led far-reaching economic reforms. Earlier, in his youth, he had taken an active part in the freedom struggle, especially against the misrule and oppression in the Nizamruled Hyderabad," the official handle of the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post on X.



BHARAT RATNA AWARDED

President Droupadi Murmu confers Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, posthumously on former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan and former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. PTI

Type National civilian **Description** Highest Civilian Award of the Republic of India Country India Presented by President of India Ribbon An image of the Sun along Obverse with the words "Bharat Ratna", inscribed in Devanagari script, on a peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf Reverse A platinum State Emblem of India placed in the centre with the national motto, "Satyameva Jayate" (Truth alone triumphs) in Devanagari script **Established** 1954; 70 years ago First awarded 1954 • C. Rajagopalachari • Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan • C. V. Raman Last awarded 2024 Karpoori Thakur • Lal Krishna Advani Chaudhary Charan Singh • P.V. Narasimha Rao • M. S. Swaminathan Total 53 Precedence Next (lower) Param Vir Chakra

		Jayaprakash Narayan#	Bihar	1902-1979	Narayan was an independence activist and social reformer. He was commonly referred as "Loknayak" ("People's Leader") and is known for the Total Revolution Movement initiated during the mid-1970s against the then government of India. ^[159]
1999		Amartya Sen	West Bengal	1933-	Sen is an economist and the winner of the Nobel memorial prize in economic sciences in 1998. ^{[160][161]}
	E	Gopinath Bordoloi#	Assam	1890-1950	Bordoloi was an independence activist and politician, who served as the first chief minister of Assam (1946–50). ^[162] His was instrumental in uniting Assam with India when parts of it wanted to accede to Pakistan. ^[163]
		Ravi Shankar	Uttar Pradesh	1920-2012	Ravi Shankar was a musician and sitar player. He has won four Grammy Awards and is often considered "the world's best-known exponent of Hindustani classical music".[164][165]



The Last Dance

Age catching up, Dhoni CSK fans are savourir every moment of his FOUR-PAGE PULLO

judge on Govs facing litigation



trend: Justice Nagarathna

SPEENIVAS JANVALA

BSERVING THAT there is a re ent trend of Governors getting wolved in litigation for not as-enting to Bills sent for approval

estitution so this kind of liti-CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BIDEN: MOST WORLD LEADERS TOLD ME

Embarrassing: SC DELHI LIQUOR POLICY CASE

ED questions Delhi minister Gahlot, AAP alleges BJP plot, attempt to topple Govt

AAP government and party MLAs 'inundated in corruption'



Delhi minister Kailash Gablot outside the FD office on Saturday. Amit M

the Delhi excise policy case. He is the third senior AAP minister to be examined in the case after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his former deputy Manish Sisodia, both of whom were subsequently placed un-

were subsequently placed this der arressing the ED's move as open vendetta" against the AAP, senior party leader and minister Arishi alleged that the probe is a BJP conspiracy to topple the AAP government in Delhi. Sources in the AAP alleged

"finish" the party and destabilise its government in Delhi by "cre-



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's wife, Sunita Kejriwal (left), with Kalpana Soren, wife of former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren on Saturday, a day ahead of INDIA bloc's rally at Delhi's Ramilla Maidan. Kalpana later met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. Arvind Kejriwal is in ED custody since March 21, Hemant Soren has been in custody since January 31, MELATEDREPORTS, P4,7

CM 'CONFRONTED' WITH INDIVIDUALS KEY TO CASE Party and

ED asks Apple to help access CM's phone; questioning for 5 hours daily

RITU SARIN NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Railash Gahlot by ED has rattled AAP with its top leadership — CM Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Sarye-ndar Jain — already in custody. In the run-up to polls, with a shadow r on Gahlot, considered an AAP veteran, the party's

THE SUMMONING of

INVESTIGATORS OF the Enforcement Directorate, who have Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal in their custody for over a week now, have contacted Apple to help gain access to his iPhone, The Indian Express has

The ED does not have any re-covered electronic evidence form of his personal computer or desktops but four mobile fiscated. On the night of his ar-rest on March 21, around 8s 70,000 was found—and left until the properties of the fiscated on bund—and left until the properties of t 70,000 was found — and left un-touched — in his residence. The Chief Minister had switched off

cially contacted Apple, manufac-

Plans under way to make Mumbai first tri-service common defence station

Logistics to repairs to supplies, Army, Navy, IAF facilities will be combined

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

THE ARMED Forces are planning to turm Numbai into the first Tri-service common defence sta-ton" at the country for the Army.

(IAF) — a step airmed at achiev-ing jointness among the three services ahead of the creation of integrated the attree commands, The Indian Express has learnt.

Discussions to this effect are.

under way in the top military hi-erarchy and a decision is likely to be taken soon, officials said.

Currently, there are no com-on defence stations in India & Andaman and Nicobar com-and is a full-fledged command ised as a tri-service command

A comminon defence station would mean that all facilities of the Army, Navy, IAV will be compensate the compensate that the compensate that the compensate that the compensate that the common lead service given that it has the lead service given that it has the lead service given that it has the largest presence them.

At presence there. At present, wings of the three services are spread across Mumbai and its suburbs and operate separately. Under the plan, logistics, infrastructure and adWall Street

INHS Asvini a Naval hosnital

The Navy's INS Hamla and INS Karanja, for example, are re-sponsible for imparting logistics training to Naval personnel and housing a major armament de-

An official said this will mear the logistics, services, and work of the individual services will be integrated so that there is a sin gie system of delivery of supplie such as fuel and ration and com-mon items can be repaired a one place.

"As per plans, the resource

shared by all and this would in

'Misbehaviour, assault': Football federation member held after two women players complain

HE GOA police on Saturday artive committee member of the Il India Football Federation

rday at Mapusa police sta-wherein players of Khad FC, on wherein players of Rhad FC, football club participating in the ndian Women's League, alleged hat they were assaulted and nisbehaved with by one of the



straint and 344-(section lineaus-ment) of the Indian Penal Code-duced in a court on Sunday, the police said.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister for Sports Anurag Thakur posted online, "The Ministry of Sports has taken a se-

rious note of an alleged physical assault upon women footballers by an official during the ongoing by all constrounces of congoing of the congoin

CAMBODIA 'CYBER SLAVERY': MEA SAYS 250 INDIANS HAVE BEEN RESCUED NINE PIRATES BEING FACE ACTION: NAVY

Donor No.2 Megha bought poll bonds even as it got key Govt, PSU contracts

Megha bought bonds for ₹966 cr; in 9 instances, around time it won contracts

A NUMBER of large infrastruc-ture projects of Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd (MELL) were awarded to it by (Mich.) Were awarded to it by government departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) either just before or im-mediately after the Hyderabad-headquartered company pur-chased electoral bonds, a

BROUGHT TO INDIA TO KERALA 3 ACQUITTED IN MOSQUE MURDER

Krishna Reddy, purchased bonds worth Rs 966 crore, and is the

JD(U) JD(S) Garning. The Indian Express identified five major projects that MEIL 7965 cr .5

bagged between 2019 and 2023 where the company bought bonds close to being awarded the contracts, and a sizeable chunk of those bonds were then redeemed by the BJP. In another four instances,

it was awarded contracts, the bonds were redeemed by polit-ical parties that were not ruling

Pawar vs Pawar in Baramati: Ajit's wife to take on three-time MP Supriya Sule

MEGHA'S MEGA PIE

IT IS going to be a Pawar versus Pawar battle in western Maharashtra's Baramati Lok







The NCP led by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar on Saturday announced the name of his wife Sunetra Pawar as its candidate from

to pursue his musical aspira-

Congress gets tax notices for three more years, total I-T demand Rs 3,567 cr

MANOJCG

THE CONGRESS Saturday said it

tion party said the fresh notices ere received Friday evening ours after the party hit out a the BJP-led Central government accusing it of indulging in "tax terrorism" to "financially crip-ple" it ahead of Lok Sabha elec-tions

On Friday, Congress had in a ress conference said it had re-rived notices for five years

Despite working as a star. Dhani Ram was reborn as lourer, Dhani Ram continued Chamkila.

TAX DEMANDS

AY.	Demand (fcr)		
1994-95	53.90		
2014-15	663.05		
2015-16	663.89		
2016-17	417.31		
2017-18	181.99		
2018-19	178.73		
2019-20	918.45		
2020-21	490.01		
TOTAL	3.567.33		

The Chamkila story: From Dalit labourer Dhani Ram to a music icon

Kaur were shot dead near Jalandhar in 1988. File

our songs with Dhani Ram. The

The album, Tiskuye Te Takus Khadke, brought Dhani Ram in-stant stardom and gave the world Amar Singh Charmkila. The control of the control of the control of the control of fans. Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjih's fascination with the singing legend — he has done two back-to-back movies on Chamkila – underscores the enduring legacy of the iconic singer, who revolutionised Puniabi music alongside female compan-ions like Sonia and Amarjot Kaur. The singer-actor is set to reprise

sician worked frequently with Shinda. The album, Tukuye Te Tukua what makes the Chamkila story

so alluring? Born on July 1, 1960, in an im-Born on July I. 1960, in an impoverished household in Ludhiana district's Dopri village in Ludhiana district's Dopri village. Named Dhani Ram at birth, he worked as a labourer in Ludhiana's Halibowal area to the challenges, his passion for music drove him to Join drama groups. It was in these groups that he honed his acting skills. and mastered the harmonium and tumbi by the age of 16.

Amar Singh Chamkila and his wife and co-singer Amariot

tions, including collaborating with renowned folk singer with renowned folk singer Shinda, From setting up the stage to writing lyrics, Dhani Ram im-mersed himself in every aspect in the stage of the stage of the establishing himself as a poslific songwriter for Shinda. A pivotal moment in Dhani Ram's life occurred when Shinda embarked on a solo singing tour in Canada during the early

The music label released an-The music label released another tape, Boapu Sonda Cum Ho Gaya, once again featuring the dynamic duo. Chambida and Sonia's combined talent and Sonia's combined talent and of andiences, leading to high demand for their performances at weddings and other events. Despite their joint success, Chambida received only Rs 200

for each performance, while Sonia earned Rs 600. This culminated in Sonia's decision to part ways with Chamkila after he in-sisted on equal compensation.

with somia, Chamkula found a new collaborator in Amarjot Kaur. The talented singer was already gaining recognition through her association with Kuldeep Manak. Chamkida and Amarjot's partner-ship marked a significant milepoignant lyrics resonated deepl with Punjabi audiences, solidify ing his status as a musical icon. CONTINUED ON PAGE

Explainer

Bima Sugam can be a game-changer for insurance

The insurance regulator has approved setting up of Bima Sugam, an online insurance marketplace.

Saikat Neogi explains how it will make insurance products accessible to the underserved, help companies reduce costs and provide an end-to-end digital journey for all policyholders



4%

insurance penetration in India which is low compared to the global average of 6.8%

₹42,322 crore

commission expenses of life insurers in FY23, an increase of 18% as compared with FY22

₹20,145 crore

commission expenses of general insurers in FY23, up from ₹16, 931 crore in FY22

How will it benefit consumers?

THEY CAN COMPARE policies and make informed decisions based on their needs. The portal will eliminate paperwork and save them from the hassles of filling physical forms and submit copies of KYC details like PAN, Aadhaar, photo etc. The soft copies of the policies will be available through an electronic insurance account. Customers can raise service requests, pay renewal premiums and claim maturity benefits from the portal as all policies will be linked and stored in the platform. The regulator had proposed that an insurance company can offer discounts on premium rates for policies purchased from the platform.

Impact on aggregators

THE REGULATOR HAS said that the platform is not aimed at putting aggregators or online distributors out of business and that they can be a part of it. However, margins of aggregators will be affected as they charge a fixed commission to sell products and push those policies where the commissions are high. The portal will be a repository as all policies will be stored in digitised format, which is not available in a aggregator platform. As Bima Sugam will be promoted by the insurance regulator, people are likely to have greater faith in it.

What are the challenges?

WHILE THE PLATFORM'S initial launch was in January last year it

• What is Bima Sugam?

ITWILL BE an online insurance marketplace, backed by the regulator, where all insurance companies — life, general and standalone health insurance — can sell their products and customers can compare and purchase various policies. It will manage existing policies and streamline the entire insurance value chain such as viewing details, paying premiums, facilitating claim settlement. The Open Network for Digital

Commerce-like electronic marketplace, Bima Sugam, will serve as a digital public infrastructure that can bridge geographical barriers and make products more affordable. It will make insurance products accessible to underserved populations. The platform will be integrated with various government databases, insurance companies and insurance repositories for sharing and use of data.

• Who will run the marketplace?

ITWILL BE a not-for-profit company formed as per Section 8 of the Companies Act. The shareholding will be held by life, general and standalone insurance companies. However, no single entity will have a controlling stake. While the capital-sharing arrangement is yet to be notified, the draft states that the shareholders will contribute to capital as and when required. The regulator will nominate two members on

the board of the company and approval of the regulator will be required to appoint the chairperson and chief executive officer of the company. The board will constitute a risk management committee to mitigate various risks.

Consumers won't be charged for availing the services and they can access the portal through Aadhaar authentication unlike a demat account which is required kfor share trading.

• How will it help insurance companies?

IT will enable insurers real-time access to validate and authenticate data from multiple government entities such as UIDAI, DigiLocker, Parivahan. It will help them to reduce time and costs for customer onboarding. Companies can reduce their distribution costs and commissions paid to intermediaries — around 40% is paid for selling a new policy — if they sell their products directly by listing their policies

on the platform, manage quotes and receive applications. InsureTech start-ups can leverage the data through the standard application programming interface integration to develop customised products for the evolving needs of consumers across various geographies and geographies. It will encourage innovation while ensuring consumer protection and regulatory compliance.

lauficii was iii Jaffuary last year it has been delayed due to several technical challenges. It has to address risk factors such as data privacy protect sensitive personal information of policyholders. The platform must have technology in place for integrating with existing insurance companies' systems and regulatory framework. The regulator will have to create public awareness for widespread adoption and ensure userfriendliness so that those with limited knowledge of technology can even operate on it, especially in semi-urban and rural areas.





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Over 60 products receive GI tag NEWS » PAGE 6





India's HIV/AIDS response The 20 years of free Antiretroviral Therapy initiative EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



DC opens its account, CSK suffers first loss



Shah launches poll campaign in Rajasthan

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched the Bharativa Janata Party's campaign for the Lok Sabha election in Rajasthan with a massive roadshow in Sikar, on of the 12 seats in the State tha will on to the nolls in the first phase on April 19. » PAGE 2



Five killed as wall collapses in Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY

PUDUCHERRY
Five workers were killed in a
wall collapse in Puducherry on
Sunday morning. According to
sources, the five were part of a
team of 15 workers engaged in
canal desiliting work. Lt.
Governor CP. Radhahrishnan
said a probe will be comducted
into the incident. 39 PAGE 4

Russia keeps up attacks on Kyiv's energy facilities

With Russia escalating its attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure a cruise missi strike on in Ukraine's western Lviv region killed one man, while another man died in an attack in the northeast official said on Sunday. IN PAGE 14

'Sri Lanka held fair probe into Easter bombings

COLOMBO
Sri Lankan President Ranill
Wickremesinghe said on
Sunday that the governme
has allowed a free and fair
investigation for the

INDIA bloc holds rally in solidarity with Delhi

CM Kejriwal and former Jharkhand CM Soren



Leaders urge poll body to ensure level playing

field, flag 'coercive action' by Central agencies

Democracy is in danger, warns Opposition Participants at the rally, including Trinamool Congress, recommit themselves to the alliance

nder the banner of
"Loktantra Bachao" or "Save be
mocracy", leaders of themental, Inclusive Alliance
(MDIA) stood united at the
Ramilla Maidan on Sunday
in solidarity with Delhi
Chief Minister Arvind KejriChief Minister Hemant So-Chief Minister Hemant So-ren, who were arrested in separate cases by the Enforcement Directorate. The bloc also laid down their 2024 Lok Sabha election pitch, calling it a "fight

to save the Constitution".
In speech after speech,
the Opposition leaders la-

the Opposition leaders la-mented the lack of a level playing field for them in the lack of a level playing field for them in the lack of the lack of the cive action. By Central agencies against them and income tax notices finan-cially crippling them. If the lack of the first public meeting of the 10-month-old INDIA bloc, which has been hit by de-sertions and conflicts over ments.

Former Congress presi-dent Rahul Gandhi assert-ed that without EVM ma-

INCUAN NATIONAL L INCLUSINE ALLIANCE 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 100 99 --Call for change: Leaders of INDIA bloc attend the Loktantra Bachao rally at Ramilia Maidan in New Delbi on Sunday SHASH SHEWHAR KASHOWA

intimidatory tactics, the BIP and its allies cannot cross 180 seats in the up-coming Lok Sabha

some and the age of the comming Loss and the second process of the comming Loss and the comming Loss and the match is won in cricked the comming Loss and the match is won in cricked with the comming Loss and the committee the comming Loss and the committee the

mind the crowd of remarks from a BIP MP, who he did not name, that the BIP will will be seen that the birth of the seen that the mind the crowd of remarks

which he promised five

guarantees - 24x7 power supply, free electricity for the poor, government schools and mohalla clinschools and monaila clin-ics in every village, a multi-specialty government hos-pital in every district, and minimum support price for all crops in adherence to the Swaminathan re-

"Time to choose" Congress president Malli-karjun Kharge likened the BJP and RSS to "poison". "You have to decide if you want democracy or dicta-torship... Those who sup-

port dictatorship need to be kicked out of the country. The BJP and RSS are like poison. You will die even if you taste poison," Mr. Kharge said. The Con-gress president also spoke to his allies, asking them to To his allies, asking them to overcome their differenc-es. The rally also served as the rally also served as NDIA bloc participants to recommit themselves to recommit themselves to the anti-Bp alliance. Trina-mool Congress, which had year to Congress in West Bengal, asserted that it was, is, and will be part of was, is, and will be part of

NDA. The song mocked the Modi government's alleged failed promises. He said that the BJP's campaign ta-gline "Abki baar, 400 paar" (This time, over 400 seats) indicates that they have already fixed the Former Uttar Pradesh

the INDIA bloc"

Chief Minister Akhilesh Ya-day commented that Uttar Pradesh knows how to warmly welcome people and bid them farewell, Takand bid them farewell. Tak-ing a dig at the BJP, he asked why the ruling party which is confident of win-ning 400 seats is scared of Mr. Kejriwal and other Op-

Mr. Kejriwal and other Op-position leaders. But amidst the land midst mi-But amidst the special position of the were also underlying con-tradictions. CPP(M) general secretary Staram Yechury the importance of the ve-nue said, "It was here, 47 years back, that a historic meeting was held where jai

Prakash Narayan raised the Prakash Narayan raised the slogan 'Freedom or servi-tude' and in the election that year, 'freedom' won. The results of the service of the se na Hazare movement that led to the rise of AAP and the fall of the Congress governments in the Centre and Delhi – was also not lost on the assembled crowd. At the conclusion of the rally, on behalf of the INDIA bloc, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra read out the five-part demands. The Opposition parties de-manded that the Election manded that the Election Commission ensure a level playing field for them and stop "coercive action" against them by Central agencies. They also de-manded the immediate re-lease of Mr. Soren and Mr. lease of Mr. Soren and Mr. Kejriwal. The parties also urged the Supreme Court to set up a Special Investi-gation Team to probe the allegations of quid pro quo, extortion and money laun-dering by the BJP using the electoral bonds.

Rekindling spirit



Non-residents will have a sav in Kerala's voting pattern

Aabha Raveendran

With the latest available With the latest available statistics from the Election Commission showing 88,000 expatriate voters from Kerala, several candi-dates or their poll manag-ers from constituencies in ers from constituencies in northern parts of the State are embarking on foreign visits with the intention of renewing support, both in terms of votes and funds, ahead of the Lok Sabha election:

Israeli strike on hospital camp in central Gaza kills 4

Associated Press

An Israeli air strike hit a An Israeli air strike hit at tent camp in the courtyard entrange in the courtyard central Gaza on Sunday, killing four Palestinians and wounding another 17. The incident happened in pearby. The incident happened pital in Deir al-Balah, where thousands of people their homes elsewhere in the war-ravaged territory. The Israeli military said

it struck a command centre of the Islamic Jihad militant group and claimed the hospital's functioning

Tens of thousands of pe-ople have sought shelter in Gaza's hospitals since the start of the war nearly six months ago, viewing them as relatively safe from air

strikes. Israel accuses Ha mas and other militants of

mas and other militants of operating in and around medical facilities, and operating in a control of the contro

er a new Israeli offer was on the table.

The head of the World Food Program, Cindy McCain, told CBS on Sun-day that WFP was able to get just nine trucks into Ga-za on Saturday. "That's nothing. We just cannot said, calling for unpestrictsaid, calling for unrestrict

Congress 'callously' gave away Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka: PM

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI/COIMBATORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday came down heavily on the Congress over the ceding of Katchatheevu island to Sri

Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka in 1974 by the then-Indira Candhi govern-ing the Committee of the Committee of the gained prominence during the Lok Sabha election. He cited a news report opening and startling New opening and startling New cates reveal how Congress cates reveal how Congress therevo..." He added that "weakening India" unity, integrity, and interests has been Congress's way of

working for 75 years and counting". The news re-port was based on replies received under a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by BJP Tamil Nadu chief K. Annamalai, on the ceding of the island situat-ed in the Palk Strait to Sri Lanka by India in 1974.

Lanka by India in 1974.

The RTI replies give de-tails over the conflicting claims on the island, with STI Lanka (then-Ceylon) pressing its claims soon af-tailed in the news report, with the Opposition even during Prime Minister Ja-waharlal Nehru's time questioning the Covern-ment of India for being in-

Chief Minister and late Dra-vida Munnetra Kazhagam leader M. Karunanidhi. The Congress and the DMK are in alliance in Tamil Na-

narrative around the island is not new, with Mr. Modi raising the issue in August last year during a debate on a no-trust motion brought against his govern-ment in the Lok Sabha. At that time too, Mr. Modi had pointed out that "those atpointed out that "those at tacking" his government on various issues needed to be questioned on Katch-atheevu island and the cir-tude of the control of the had been ceded. The re-marks by the Prime Minis-ter on Sunday underscored his attack on the Congress grity of India's sovereign claims, as well as his elec-

'Retrieve island Speaking near Palladam, Mr. Annamalai said the Ta-mil Nadu BIP was deter-

mined to retrieve Katch atheevu from Sri Lanka. He atheevu from Sri Lanka. He said it was the only way to have a permanent solution to the problems faced by fishermen in the State. He said the Tamili Nadu BjP had submitted this de-manded to the said that the Minister & Sternal Affairs Minister & Saidshankar about a year ago.

India, especially Tamil Na-



Non-residents will have a say in Kerala's voting pattern

Aabha Raveendran

KOZHIKODE

With the latest available statistics from the Election Commission showing 88,000 expatriate voters from Kerala, several candidates or their poll managers from constituencies in northern parts of the State are embarking on foreign visits with the intention of renewing support, both in terms of votes and funds, ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Non-residents will have a say in voting pattern in Kerala

Despite the hike in airfares, a large expatriate population from West Asian countries are likely to be in the State; candidates or their poll managers too visit these countries to garner NRKs' support

Aabha Raveendran

KOZHIKODE

head of the Lok Sabha election. several candidates or their poll managers from constituencies in northern Kerala are embarking on visits to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, especially the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Some have already paid their visit and returned. Their aim is to renew support from expatriates, both in terms of votes and funds, as the clout wielded by the community can sway the outcome, a fact that political parties are keenly aware of.

"Expatriates" votes could be a determining factor in polls in at least five constituencies – Malappuram, Kasaragod, Kollam, Vadakara, and Thrissur," said Attakoya Pallikkandy, chairman of the Pravasi Development, Rehabilita-



tion and Welfare Centre based in Kozhikode.

The Malayali diaspora from Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Ernakulam districts are mostly settled in the U.S., Canada, Australia, or the U.K. and rarely return to their homeland. On the other hand, those working in the GCC are closer to their roots.

The latest available statistics from the Election Commission show that there are around 88,000 expatriate voters from Kerala, of whom around 82,000 are men while around 6,000 are women.

However, it is a concern that majority of the eligible voters out of the 35 lakh Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs), including 25 lakh in GCC, have not applied for the suffrage rights. "It is not just the voting rights, but their influence on their families. Every NRK has at least four people back home whom he or she can influence," said K.V. Shamsudheen, chairman of

UAE-based Pravasi Bandhu Welfare Trust.

Past two elections

Mr. Pallikandy claims that the expatriate population was instrumental in turning the tide in favour of the United Democratic Front in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, while it was clearly in favour of the Left Democratic Front in the Assembly election in 2021. Of the overseas voters, about 35,000 belong to Kozhikode district, followed by Malappuram district with 15,000. "About 30% of voters in Kozhikode district are either working in the GCC countries or their dependents are, or they are Gulf-returnees," he said.

Incidentally, the lackadaisical approach of the Centre in making arrangements for them to exercise their franchise from the respective embassies or consulates has irked the expatriates in the GCC.

INBRIDE



Four persons killed as sudden storm hits Jalpaiguri in Bengal

Four persons died and over 100 were injured as a storm lasting for a few minutes wreaked havoc in parts of Jalpaiguri and other districts of north Bengal on Sunday. The deaths were reported in Jalpaiguri town due to the storm, which was accompanied by hailstorm and heavy rainfall.
"Sad to know that sudden heavy rainfall and stormy winds brought disasters today afternoo in some Jalpaiguri-Mainaguri areas, with loss of human lives, injuries, house damages, etc. District and block administration, police, DMG and QRT teams swung into disaster manageme operations and provided relief," Chief Minister

Banned Meitei terror group delaying surrender of cadre'

The United National Liberation Front (P), a banned terror group, has failed to surrender weapons or provide a list of its members despite four months ago, officials sald on Sunday, amid concerns by security agencies that its cadre were still involved in violence in Manipur. Even after three rounds of talles with Sate authorities, the UNLF(P), the first Meitei terror outfit to agree to a ceasefire, has not complied with the terms since the agreement was inked last year. Concerns have been raised by security agencies over the

Opposition rally in Delhi failed to make a mark: BJP

Union Minister Anurag Thakur says rally showed the INDIA bloc did not have a leader or a policy; Delhi RJP unit president Virendra Sachdeva says AAP has failed to its enthuse its own supporters

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sun-day criticised the INDIA bloc's mega rally in Delhi, with Union Minister Anurag Thakur saving that "thieves and their cousins together pleaded at the Ramlila Maidan".

"During the Anna [Hazare] movement at Ramlila Maidan, [Delhi Chief Ministerl Arvind Keiriwal used to say that he was fighting a war against corruption and would not enter polit-ics. But he came into polit-ics and today has landed in ics and today has landed in a quagmire of corruption. Earlier, he used to say that the control of the corruption of the corruption of the corruption of the corruption. Today, he has proved his own being the corruption of the cor

tional capital, with the resi-dents of Delhi rejecting calls of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress to attend the rally. "Media reports have



shown that it was a dis-jointed railly, witnessing few thousand, most of them brought from Punjab and Haryana," he added. Leaders of both the be-ble with the beautiful and beautiful and beautiful and claims about the railly for the past one week at media briefings could not en-workers, leave alone the ity between the AAP and the Congress was apparent as a video showed the Coner a leader nor a policy, and their intentions are flawed. Today again they

gress workers removing a picture of Mr. Kejriwal put up near the podium by the AAP leaders.

Taking a dig at Sunita Kejri-wal, wife of the Chief Mi-nister, who announced six guarantees by the AAP su-premo currently under ED custody, Mr. Thakur said: "What kind of alliance is this where there is no discussion, no mutual under-standing? They have neith-

have declared guarantees for discussion. Do other greaters with these agree with these guarantees?"

The declared with these guarantees?"

And the "failure of sunday ral-by" had marked the "beginning of the end" of the AAP in Bip" spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi cited corruption cases against a chose from the Congress, these from the Congress,

Janata Dal, to assert that all these charges dated back to the pre-2014 period.

Thousands gather at Ramlila ground to cheer INDIA leaders

Thousands of people at-tended the mega rally of the Indian National Deve-lopmental, Inclusive Al-liance (INDIA) at the Ramil-la Maidan in Delhi on Sunday.

Braving the heat, people from different back-grounds reached the venue on foot and on buses, trucks, and auto-rickshaws in support of the Opposi-tion bloc's rally against the tion bloc's rally against the BJP-led Union govern-ment's alleged attack on democracy, and the "mis-use" of Central probe agen-cies against Opposition leaders.

Speaches of top leaders elicited a range of emospeaches of top leaders elicited a range of emotions from the consolidation of the c

about this as well".
Samajwadi Party's Akhi-lesh Yadav drew similar reactions when he said:
"Mr. Modi has time to meet Priyanka Chopra but not the farmers protesting for



Opposition leaders at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi on

nister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal; Jhark-hand Mukti Morcha's Kalpana Soren, and Con-gress's Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi also evoked emotions from the people

emotions from the people present at the venue. The rally started with protest songs and the dais called for the de-feat of the BJP. A sea of yellow, the AUT's adopted colour, was the Congress's Hags. A Con-gress supporter atop a loudspeaker, dressed in a hoisted the party Hag. An hoisted the party flag. An AAP supporter had paint-ed himself in the Tricolour sporting the slogan 'Main Bhi Kejriwal' across his

Now, GST probe into big corporates, major MNCs needs 'written approval'

The Hindu Bureau

The Department of Reve-nue has asked the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) officials to seek a prior written nod of zonal Chief Commissioners be-fore initiating any investigation in cases relating to big industrial houses and major multinational corpo-rations (MNCs), as well as "sensitive matters or mat-ters with national implica-

tions".
The directive is part of a set of instructions issued on Saturday, titled "Guidelines for CGST field forma-tions in maintaining ease of doing business while enof doing business while en-gaging in investigation with regular taxpayers", which state that each investiga-tion must be initiated only after the approval of the Principal Commissioner. The guidelines that

5 Inactive? Nail in charge! (6)

10 Training at hill station in Kerala to review every year (3,5)

The CGST field prevalent trade directive says

written approval of the zo-nal (Pr.) Chief Commission-er shall be required if investigation is to be initiated and action to be taken in a case falling under" four

categories.

Apart from large corpo-rates and major MNCs, a written nod is also mandatwritten nod is also mandated for matters that are already before the GSTtion seeking to levy tax orduty" on any sector, commodity, or service for the
tral Excise or GST.

Tax experts were not yet
clear about hous a "big industrial house" and major

formations should collect details on the

der these norms.

In all these categories of cases, including "sensitive matters or matters with national implications", the CGST field formation concerned should also collect details on the prevalent trade practices and nature of transactions carried out, from stakeholders. "The implications/im-

pact of such matter should be studied so as to have adequate justification for initiating investigation and taking action," the guide-lines said.

Uniform procedure The framework was con-veyed to officials after the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) discussed the need for

MNC would be defined un-

'Verify existing probes' For all investigations, tax officials have been asked to ascertain if any inquiry has already been initiated on the same subject matter or with respect to the same taxpayer or GST Identifica-tion Number (GSTIN) by another investigating office or tax administration

"The position must be placed before the authority who is to approve initia-tion of investigation." the guidelines said.

iidelines said. The directive will address industry concerns, said consulting firm KPMG's national head for indirect tax Abhishek Jain, while stressing that imple-mentation will be key. "If

A record 60 traditional products from across India granted GI tag

Over 60 products from across India, including Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (G) tag. Indication (G) tag. Over the G and the such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go, a senior official from the Geographical Indications Response States were coming more States were coming more States were coming forward and filing applica-tions to get a GI tag for their traditional products.

Six traditional crafts from Assam – Asharikandi terracotta craft, Pani Meteterracotta craft, Pani Mete-ka craft, Sarthebari metal craft, Jaapi (bamboo head-gear), Mishing handloom products, and Bihu dhol – have bagged the Gl tag. Thirteen other products from Assam have been gi-ven the tag, including the Bodo Dokhona, the tradi-



tional attire of Bodo wo-men; and Bodo Eri silk, re-ferred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa (non-vio-lence), which comes from the silkworm Samia ricini that feeds mostly on the that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant (Ricinus communis), and cassava. Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf), Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men), Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument), and Bodo Sifung (a long flute) are also on the list.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a post on X, said it was a big win for Assam's heritage. "These products, deeply rooted in history, support nearly one lakh people di-

nearly one lakh people di-rectly," he said.

The famous Banaras
Thandai, a drink made by
blending milk with a mix of
nuts, seeds and spices, also
got the tag. Details in the GI
filling mentioned that on
any given evening, in the
heart of the city, in areas

such as Gaudaulas Chowke of Pakka Mahal, traditional Banaras Thandai shops at-tract large crowds. The centuries ago as an offering to the Shri Kashi Vishwa of Mahashivaratri, Rangb-hari Ekadasi, and Holi. The Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bhar-wamirch, and Banaras Lal Peda are among the products that walked away

with GI tags in this region.
The Tripura region se-cured two tags — one for the Pachra-Rignai, which is a traditional dress worn on special occasions, and the other for the Matabari Pe-

other for the Matabari Pe-da, a sweet preparation. Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery, and Meghalaya Chubitchi also secured the

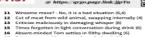




To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jpTn







Private party with setter at branch shortly (8) 18 Private party with setter at branch shortly (8)
Opposing content of share in Lunder (10)
23 Naughty Romeos at restaurants (3,5)
44 Warrior from busting Orman takes over banks of Zambia (6)
55 Inspirational song by worker near border (6)
6. Rifles in bag worn by persons of ordinary grade (8)

Desperate retainer leaves Norway for African state (7)

Reach gallery main gate on return (3,2) Enduring oppressive tax (5-4) Cast doubt on Indian lawmaker on every atrocity, crimina ening basically (7)

nappering posicially (1)
Husband lawses bowers' groups (5)
Forfest plane crashing on foreign site (9)
Nurse works in our specially hospital mainly (7)
Head of the family felt sumptuous about a recipe (9)
What did you say shout egomanisc' (4,5)
Punish rock at hideout stashing money (7)
Haid's cabinet (7)

Hot merchandise on the shelves (2,5) Sort out matters first to attack suddenly (5) 22 Theatrical entertainment rewound from handycam ardently (5)

SUDOKU





FAITH

Lord Krishna's assurance

The eleventh mantra in Apratiratha Sukta uses the word Vritrahan. Commentator Sayanacharya explained Vritra-han as referring to Indra, who killed Vritrasura. But the Vedas use the word Vritra in a broader sense. If one goes into the details seen in the Vedas, then it becomes clea that this eleventh mantra is a prayer to Vishnu, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse

Taittiriva Samhita describes Indra's battle with Vritras-

Karunakarachariar in a discourse.

Thirtip's Sambita describes indra's battle with Vritraemitrip's Sambita describes indra's battle with Vritraemitrip's Sambita describes indra's battle with Vritraeura. Indra's both of the stakes Vritraeura's possessions in three instalments, and offers them to Vishnu. Vritraeura then enters Indra's but yeardeady's Sudoku Sambita Sambita

A record 60 traditional products from across India granted GI tag

Sangeetha Kandavel

CHENNAI

Over 60 products from across India, including Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

This is the first time that such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go, a senior official from the Geographical Indications Registry said, adding that more States were coming forward and filing applications to get a GI tag for their traditional products.

Six traditional crafts from Assam – Asharikandi terracotta craft, Pani Meteka craft, Sarthebari metal craft, Jaapi (bamboo headgear), Mishing handloom products, and Bihu dhol – have bagged the GI tag.

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The Bihu dhol has been given the GI tag. THE HINDU

tional attire of Bodo women; and Bodo Eri silk, referred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa (non-violence), which comes from the silkworm Samia ricini that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant (Ricinus communis), and cassava. Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf), Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men), Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument), and Bodo Sifung (a long flute) are also on the list.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a post on X, said it was a big win for Assam's heritage. "These products, deeply rooted in history, support nearly one lakh people directly," he said.

The famous Banaras Thandai, a drink made by blending milk with a mix of nuts, seeds and spices, also got the tag. Details in the GI filing mentioned that on any given evening, in the heart of the city, in areas such as Gaudaulia Chowk, Lahurabir, and the old lane of Pakka Mahal, traditional Banaras Thandai shops attract large crowds. The drink was first introduced centuries ago as an offering to the Shri Kashi Vishwanath deity on the occasion of Mahashivaratri, Rangbhari Ekadasi, and Holi. The Banaras Tabla, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bharwamirch, and Banaras Lal Peda are among the products that walked away with GI tags in this region.

The Tripura region secured two tags – one for the Pachra-Rignai, which is a traditional dress worn on special occasions, and the other for the Matabari Peda, a sweet preparation.

Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery, and Meghalaya Chubitchi also secured the tag.

eclipsed by enthusiasm in

technological intervention. Lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding the counterproductive nature of

technological interventions for deprived communities are still in living memory.

Potential of technology

Potential of technology
Technological interventions have,
globally and historically,
globally and historically,
states and the state of the state of

techno-developmental imaginaries also need a re-look. The state's

erns must not

conception of the worker as an

development concerns be overshadowed by its

overzealous technological

active participant in these goals and in the country-specific

imaginary. In an era of increasing socioeconomic inequality, intensifying precarity in work, diminishing social security, and

rural distress, technology can play a vital role, but it cannot be the

state's favoured child. The priority has to always remain the workers and their livelihood security.

Workers, not tech, should be state's priority

he Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) has been accorded, mostly to account of the myrial issues plaguing it. This begs critical attention because the state, through the Mahatma Gandhi Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), is legally mandated to offer up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to employment in a financial year to members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. unskilled manual work. Additionally, there has been a notable increase this year in the budgetary allocation to MGNREGS to nearly ₹86,000 crore. Numerous commentators have pointed out challenges in the project of linking rural employment guarantees to digitised individual identification systems. These include Internet connectivity, fingerprine recognition issues, difficulties recognition issues, difficulties recognition issues, difficulties and the second of the secon vstems. These include Internet for those who are enrolled, there are just too many faulty moving parts to the payment system.

field for technological Sidelining the beneficiaries interventions, but to provide drawbacks is the fact that workers have been placed at the mercy of deprived households a technology, contrary to the idealised notion of them being its sense of work beneficiaries. As much as it urgently calls for attention to dimensions of technological security, facilitated by infrastructure, we must introspect how the state conceives of and digital



Anant Kamath is Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views are personal



Neethi P. for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, and an advisory member to the Karnataka Labour Policy Committee. Views are personal

The objective of MGNREGS is not

to offer a playing

Maharashtra, the other States in the top five list, have stagnated in

recent years.

Chart 3 shows the commodity-

wise share in total exports from In-dia for FY24 (till February) in \$ bil-

dia for FY24 (till February) in \$ bil-lion. In this period, India's exports were dominated by engineering roleum products (578 billion), gems and jewellery (530 billion), and electronics goods (525 billion), tronic goods were not even in the top 10 most exported commodities and had an export value of just \$0.8 billion.

Biggest markets The U.S. and the UAE are the big-

gest markets for India's electronic goods exports. In FY24 (till Febru-

ary), the U.S. imported close to 35% of India's electronic goods ex-ports worth \$8.7 billion, followed by the UAE at \$3 billion (12%). The

share of the Netherlands and the U.K. stood at about 5% each. Chart 4 shows year-wise the top 10 im-

sporters of electronics from India in Shillion. Since FY21, the U.S. has re-

mained the primary destination for India's electronics exports. Its

share in India's electronics export share in India's electronics exports has surged in recent years. From just around 15-20% between FY18 and FY22, the U.S.'s share surged to 24-34% in the latest two finan-

to 24-34% in the latest two finan-cial years.

If all the data are read together, it can be inferred that in the latest two financial years (PY23 and FY24), the smartphones that were trict in Tamil Nadu played a major part in boosting India's exports of

understands technology and the worker. Clearly, technology has taken precedence. Employment security seems less a priority and the worker seems even further down the scale.

The manner in which the ABPS has been designed, structured, and deployed has ended up in an outcome where the worker appears to sit as one part of the state-supported technological programme, instead of the technology being an enabler in the state-supported the worker in the state-supported. livelihood guarantee scheme. The rural employment guarantee system has ended up packing too much technology into the worker's life, wherein the notorious legacy of sluggishness and overcomplexity in government-managed development processes is not a

development processes is not a relic of the past but still alive and functioning, albeit now within a digital setting. This brings forthe digital setting. This brings forthe wants an empowering, modern, transparent, and efficient digital economy, or whether it seeks technology for technology's sake. And the seeks the seeks the seeks technology for technology's sake. And the seeks the seeks the seeks the seeks on techno-solutionism, often sidelining the actual beneficiary? The objective of these employment glummes is

The objective of these employment guarantee schemes is not to offer a playing field for technological interventions, but to provide socio-economically deprived households a sense of work security, facilitated by digital technology. Schemes such as MGNREGS are rooted in ideals such as inclusion in the development process and mitigation of inequality and socioeconomic distress, which have even been internationally recognised (such as by the United Nations Development Programme) as contributing to a productive, equitable, and connected so When the state is guided by techno-solutionism in the management of such schemes, it runs the risk of being ideals. A scholarly study in World

A dozen mutinies in Karnataka Development has shown how these schemes lead to higher nutritional participate in them, empower women and pay them on a par women and pay them on a par substitutes, offer pronounced benefits to marginalised communities including Scheduled to households with disabled workers, and contribute on ensuring political transparency, eclipsed by enthusiasm in

There is internal churning in both BJP and Congress over ticket distribution

Sharath S. Srivatsa

Il the political parties in Karnataka have completed the pro-cess of ticket distribution for the 28 Lok Sabha constituen-cies. The unpourcement of

cies. The announcement of candidates has led to internal churning in both the ruling Congress and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), although the problems are more pronounced in the BJP. The BJP, which has 25 MPs

and prides itself on the disci-

and profess tiself on the disci-pline of its cadre, is trying to quell dissidence in more than half a dozen constituencies. The Congress, which has just sy dealing with discord in Ko-lar and Bagalkot. In the most recent instance, in the most recent instance, in the most recent instance, the control karnataka has become a problem. The instern Countin Karjol, at rusted aide of party veteran and former Chief Minister B.S. Ye-diyurappa, to contest the seat, in the last Assembly election, is seen as an "outsider" since halls from Bagalkot district he hails from Bagalkot district in north Karnataka. His candidature has upset the party's Holalkere legislator, M. Chandrappa, and his son, Raghu-nandan, who was hoping for a

In Shivamogga in the hilly Malnad region, BJP veteran leader K.S. Eshwarappa an-nounced his candidature as an independent. This is where cumbent MP B.Y. Raghavendra is contesting. Mr. Eshwarappa took this decision after the party refused nomination for his son K.E. Kantesh from the



Haveri Lok Sabha seat for which he has blamed Mr.

Yediyurappa.
After denying six-time MP
Ananth Kumar Hegde re-nom-ination, the BJP has been struggling to convince him to support former Speaker and Minister Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, who has been named

Minister Vishweshwar Hegdid as the candidate from Uttara Kannada in the coastal belt. In Dharward in north Karnataka, a Veerashaiva-Lingayar Lingayar Sentinents. The powerful Akhila has also hacked their Lingayar Lingayar Sentinents. The powerful Akhila sabha has also backed their Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Lingayar Sentinents. The powerful Akhila sabha has also backed their Lingayar Lin

also posted on social media criticising the candidature of former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar from Belagavi and former Minister V. Somanna rom Tumakuru. Both these leaders could face non-coop eration from local leaders

Local leaders have also re-sisted the party's decision to field Gayatri Siddeshwara, wife of incumbent MP GM. Siddeshwara, from Davan-gere; former Minister K. Sud-hakar from Chikkaballapur;

wanth Khuba from Bidar.

The BJP's alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular) has left the incumbent BJP-backed independent Sumalatha Ambadependent Sumalatha Ambadependent Sumalatha Edward (Section 1997) has let the JDS) contest the Mandya seat in Old Mysore region. She is expected to spell out her next move next week, which could have an impact on the electoral out-come in the Vokkaliga heartland.

The Congress is facing diffi-culty in Bagalkot, where aspirant Veena Kashappanavar is threatening to revolt after the seat went to Samyukta Patil, daughter of Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil, Similarly, the party was in a bind in Kolar, which witnessed an intense turf war between the lobbies led by Food and Civil Supplies led by Food and CAUI Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa and former Minister K.R. Ramesh gress lawmaker: from Kolar threatened to resign if Mr. Mu-niyappa's son-in-law was given de K.V. Gowtham, believed to be a neutral candidate. At least 15 candidates netd-least 15 candidates netd-he families of party leaders. The party has nominated the nisters, the siblings of two Ca-nisters, the siblings of two Ca-nisters, the siblings of two Ca-

nisters, the siblings of two Ca binet ministers, and the wife of a Cabinet minister, many of whom could face problems in ternally from their adversar-ies, though there is no open

These cases of dissidence These cases of dissidence are expected to die down as the election campaigns pro-gress. Party insiders say the public posturing, meant to ex-tract some concessions from the party, will be addressed. But some of the issues that persist can also do considera-ble damage in seats that will witness close contests.

Tamil Nadu accounts for 30% of India's electronics exports

In the last two fiscal years, close to 40% of India's smartphones were sent from just one district - Kancheepuram

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese

amil Nadu, India's largest exporter of electronic goods in FY23, accounted for 30% of all electronic goods exports from India in FY24. The State is in fact a late bloomer in this sec-tor, with Uttar Pradesh and Karnator, with Ultar Pradesh and Karna-taka dominating electronic goods exports until FY22. However, in re-cent years, among the top expor-ters of electronics, only Tamil Na-du's numbers have consistently risen, while the figures of other States have either dropped or be-States have either dropped or be-

come stagnant.

The share of the electronic goods sector in India's overall exports has more than doubled mostly due to the rise in Tamil Nadu's contribution— in recent years. At the core of this rise is the surge in exports of smartphones, which currently forms close to 40% of India's electronics exports. In the last two fiscal years, close to 40% of smartphones in India were sent out from just one district, Kancheepuram, located in the Kancheepuram, located in the north-eastern part of Tamil Nadu. Most of these electronic goods, mostly dominated by mobile phones, were exported to the Unit-ed States, followed by the United Arab Emirates, and the Nether-

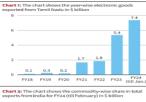
Chart 1 shows the electronic chart I shows the electronic goods exported from Tamil Nadu in \$ billion, year-wise. Between April 2023 and January 2024, Ta-mil Nadu exported electronic goods worth more than \$7.4 bil-lion, close to four times its volume in FY22.

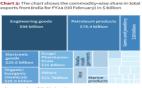
State-wise data

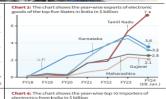
Chart 2 shows the exports of electronic goods of the top five States are shown in the state of the state SM COM

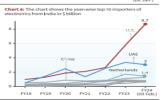
two States were the second and third biggest exporters of electron-ic goods, respectively. As can be seen from the chart, Tamil Nadu has considerably widened its gap with the other States. Exports of electronic goods from Gujarat and On the cutting edge











FROM THE ARCHIVES The Frindy.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1974

Power shortage in 10 States up to June

New Delhi, March 31: According to a study made on the power supply position up to June 1974 by the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power, only three States will have surplus, while at least ten States will experience energy shortages. In six States, the power supply position would be "comfortable."

The States with surplus capacity are Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Orissa, Himachal will have Pradesh, Kerala, and Orissa. Himachal will have a surplus of 18 to 24 mw. of capacity. Surphus energy from this State is already being supplied Surphus power to the extent of 158 mw. of capacity is expected to be available up to June 1976 in Kerala. The State has already agreed to 1976 in Kerala. The State has already agreed to 1976 in Kerala. The State has already agreed to 4 nuthra Pradesh. So far as Orissa is concerned, surphus power has been available since the recently. As the transmission line associated with this station on the Orissa side has not been completed this surphus power is being made arrangement is expected to continue. Andhra arrangement is expected to continue. Andhra evaluative to Andria Pradesh and this arrangement is expected to continue. Andhra Pradesh has agreed to release part of its share of Machkund power to Orissa in lieu of part of the power that Orissa would be supplying from Ballmela.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1924

Elections in France, Germany

London, March 31: Interest here is deepening in the forthcoming elections in Germany and France. The latter have been fixed for May 11th, a France. The later I have been it seed for May IIII., a week later than Germany. It is stated that date has been deliberately chosen as it is expected that reactionary successes in Germany will favour. In this connection it is significant that the programme of the German People's Party drawn up at its meeting at Hanover presided over by Dr. Stressemann declares that the party will fight only the programme of the German of the programme of the programme. The programme, Chancellor Marx, speaking at Hanovar, has declared that the victory of the Chauvinistic Nationalist movement at the Chauvinistic Nationalist movement at the elections will ruin Germany.

Tamil Nadu accounts for 30% of India's electronics exports

In the last two fiscal years, close to 40% of India's smartphones were sent from just one district — Kancheepuram

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Muhammed Mukhtar

amil Nadu, India's largest exporter of electronic goods in FY23, accounted for 30% of all electronic goods exports from India in FY24. The State is in fact a late bloomer in this sector, with Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka dominating electronic goods exports until FY22. However, in recent years, among the top exporters of electronics, only Tamil Nadu's numbers have consistently risen, while the figures of other States have either dropped or become stagnant.

two States were the second and third biggest exporters of electronic goods, respectively. As can be seen from the chart, Tamil Nadu has considerably widened its gap with the other States. Exports of electronic goods from Gujarat and Maharashtra, the other States in the top five list, have stagnated in recent years.

Chart 3 shows the commoditywise share in total exports from India for FY24 (till February) in \$ billion. In this period, India's exports were dominated by engineering goods (\$98 billion), followed by petroleum products (\$78 billion), gems and jewellery (\$30 billion), and electronics goods (\$25 billion). In FY18, however, exports of electronic goods were not even in the

On the cutting edge

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry



Chart 1: The chart shows the year-wise electronic goods exported from Tamil Nadu in \$ billion

8

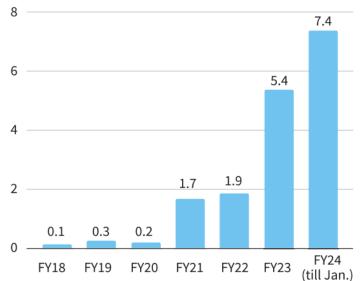
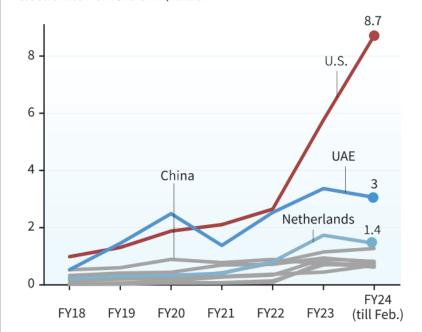


Chart 2: The chart shows the year-wise exports of electronic goods of the top five States in India in \$ billion Tamil Nadu Karnataka 3.6 U.P. 2.1 Gujarat Maharashtra FY24 FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 (till Jan.)

Chart 3: The chart shows the commodity-wise share in total exports from India for FY24 (till February) in \$ billion

Gems and jewellery Petroleum products **Engineering goods** \$30 billion \$98 billion \$78.4 billion Electronic goods \$25.6 billion \$25 billion Organic/ Inorganic chemicals Marine \$25.5 billion products

Chart 4: The chart shows the year-wise top 10 importers of electronics from India in \$ billion



rebecca.varghese@thehindu.co.in

♦TheIndian **EXPRESS**

MONDAY APRIL 1 2024 NEW DELHI LATE CITY 22 PAGES

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Opp trying to save corrupt, action

no matter how big a person: PM

Attacks Cong for ceding island to

Lanka: How can it

PRESIDENT MURMI CONFERS BHARAT VETERAN L K ADVANI MP RAPE-MURDER CONVICT ACQUITTED

AFTER TWO DEATH SENTENCES P7.12

155.8 kmph: Boy who grew up on Ambrose stories bursts into IPL scene



Mayank Yadav made his IPL debut for LSG on

PRATYUSHRAJ VEW DELHI MARCH 31

esulting in a simple catch.
This dismissal, and the subVirtually questioning the le-

Opp rings alarm on free and fair polls, urges EC to step in and act

AT RALLY, INDIA ASKS EC TO ENSURE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD



Opposition INDIA bloc leaders during the 'save democracy' rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday, Abhinay Saha

changes Constitution, it will set the entire country on fire: Rahul Gandhi

JATINANAND& MANOJCG

WITH BARELY two-and-a-half Weeks left before the first vote is ONNY BAIRSTOW, who is used cast in the 17th Lok Sabha elecne shaped to pull a back-of- that is set to harden the faultline ength delivery from debutant in the fractious campaign that Mayank Yadav. The ball rushed lies ahead: it raised doubts about on to the Englishman in a blur, the fairness of the election

equent wickets that the 21-ear-old claimed with bouncers gitimacy of poll process, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi a sensational spell of 3/27 in- accused Prime Minister duding a ball that clocked 155.8 Narendra Modi of "trying to do match fixing" — in other words,

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY



Prabliu Yadav. of the ruling BJP. And, in an omi-CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 of the ruling BJP. And, in an omi-nous underlining of the point, he CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

If BJP wins 'match-fixing' election and 2 empty chairs for Kejriwal and Soren, wives Sunita, Kalpana take centre stage

NEW DELHI MARCH 3

WITH TWO empty chairs re Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren — leaders of their parties, they are currently be-

warned of the consequences.
"If the BJP wins this match-dais at Ramlila Maidan, where warmed the heart of his father radhis tather radhis tather radhit yadaw. To right the poll process in favour fating election and changes the they were joined by Congress of the ruling BP. And, in an omerous underlining of the point be constituted on PAGE 2.



Prime Minister Narendra Modiof "match-fixing" in the Lok Sabha polls by using central lawenforce-ment agencies, at least three for-mer Chief Election Commis-sioners (CECs) told The Indian Express that the recent actions of the Income Tax (I-T) Department BJP SLAMS EVENT: 'SAVE FAMILY, HIDE CORRUPTION RALLY' and Enforcement Directorate MOSAIC OF POLITICS tial to disrupt the level playing AT RAMLILA MAIDAN field during elections. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DAMININATH

What the poll panel can do WITH CONGRESS leader Rabul

IN 2019, amidst allegaparties that the BIP Consequently, if desired motivation behind their actions.



PM Narendra Modi with UP CM Adityanath. RLD chief la

KHARGE HITS BACK ON ISLAND CHARGE, CITES BANGLA LAND PACT Zinforcement Directorate in the REMANUS PRI II S DAUGU VIN REVISE POLICE (CITES MINISTER NATIONAL STATES AND ALLAND PACT LEACONTHE OPPOSITION, SAPINIST MODELLE CONTROL ALL ALLAND PACT LEACONTHE OPPOSITION, TO SAME THE OPPOSITION ALLAND PACT LEACONTHE OPPOSITION SAME PACT LEACONTHE OPPOSITION ALLAND PACT LEACONTHE OPPOSITION ALLA

ruption had made Opposition lose its senses. "Modi's mantra is blyus

CONTINUEDON PAGE

Ex-CECs: I-T, ED actions against Opp can disrupt level playing field in polls



'We haven't put



Kejriwal in jail. The law is catching up with those who did

PAGE 18

2023 A W A R D S

TIOL Awards to host Special Event for conferment of

TIOL Kautilya Global Awards 2023 & TIOL Fiscal Heritage Award 2023

6th APRIL 2024 | HOTEL TAJ MAHAL, MANSINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI







SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND

TIOL KAUTILYA GLOBAL AWARD 2023

for lifetime contribution to Economics & Policy-making



PROF JAGDISH N BHAGWATI from Columbia University, New York

TIOL FISCAL HERITAGE AWARD 2023

for lifetime contribution to Economics & Fiscal Space in India



DR VIJAY KELKAR



SHRI N K SINGH

Dignitaries To Speak About The Legacies Of The TIOL Kautilya Global & Fiscal Heritage Awards 2023 Recipients





Industry Partners













inations (Non-Deemed) Voting (Deemed)

open from 8th April, 2024



Pak Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. AP

PAKISTAN

No red carpets at official events to reduce costs

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has banned the use of red carpets at government events, reserving them exclusively for diplomatic receptions, as part of austerity measures to cut down unnecessary expenditures in the cash-strapped nation. Sharif expressed annovance over the use of red carpets during the visits of federal ministers and senior authorities at government functions. The ban has been imposed on the use of red carpet on the PM's directives. According to a notification issued by the Cabinet division, the PM has instructed that the red carpet will not be used for federal ministers and government figures at official events. PTI



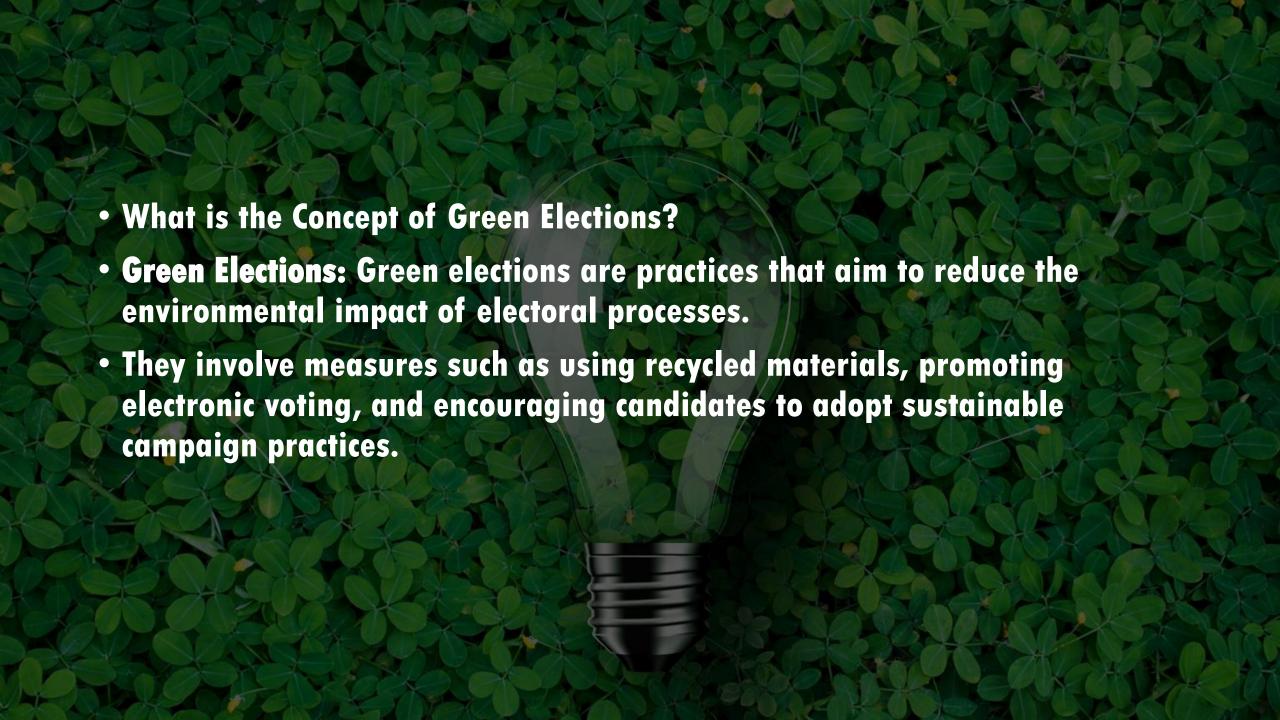


- Why is There a Need for a Shift Toward Green Elections?
- Environmental Footprint of Traditional Elections: Traditional election processes have significant environmental consequences due to various factors:
 - Campaign Flights: The emissions from campaign flights during elections contribute significantly to the overall carbon footprint.
 - For example: In the 2016 US presidential elections, the emissions from just one candidate's campaign flights were equivalent to the annual carbon footprint of 500 Americans.

Deforestation and Other Issues: Reliance on paper-based materials for ballots, campaign literature, and administrative documents leads to deforestation and energy-intensive production processes.

Energy-Saving: Large-scale election rallies with loudspeakers, lighting, and other energy-consuming equipment contribute to energy consumption and emissions.

Waste Generation: PVC flex banners, hoardings, and disposable items used during campaigns add to waste generation and environmental impact.



- What are Successful Examples of Eco-friendly Electoral initiatives?
- Example from India:
- Kerala's Green Campaign:
- During the 2019 general election, the Kerala State Election
 Commission took a proactive step by urging political parties to avoid single-use plastic materials during their campaigns.

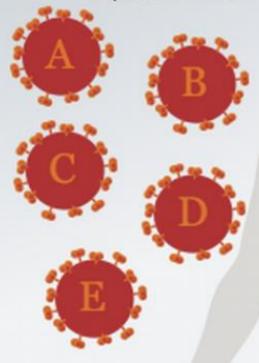
Hepatitis B: A Public Health Concern In India

- A recent study by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, indicates that public awareness and knowledge regarding Hepatitis B, a potentially fatal disease leading to liver cirrhosis and cancer, is insufficient in India.
- What is Hepatitis?
- About:
- Hepatitis is the inflammation of the liver, characterised by irritation or swelling of the liver cells due to various causes.
 - Liver inflammation can manifest as either acute, characterised by symptoms like **jaundice**, fever, and vomiting, or chronic, lasting over six months with no apparent symptoms.

What is hepatitis?

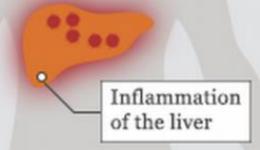
The A, B, C, D and E of hepatitis

There are five main hepatitis viruses



What vaccines are available for which types of hepatitis?

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis D
- Hepatitis E



Estimated cases worldwide (per year)

Hepatitis B and C:

400 million cases

Gradual death:

An estimated

1.4 million people die
worldwide from hepatitis
every year

Treatment:

90% of hepatitis C patients can be healed within three to six months How does the virus spread?



Hepatitis A and E: Lack of food hygiene, contaminated water and sub-standard sanitary facilities



Hepatitis B, C and D: Blood, sperm and other bodily fluids

• Symptoms:

• Some individuals infected with hepatitis may not exhibit symptoms, but common ones include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice.

Types of Hepatitis

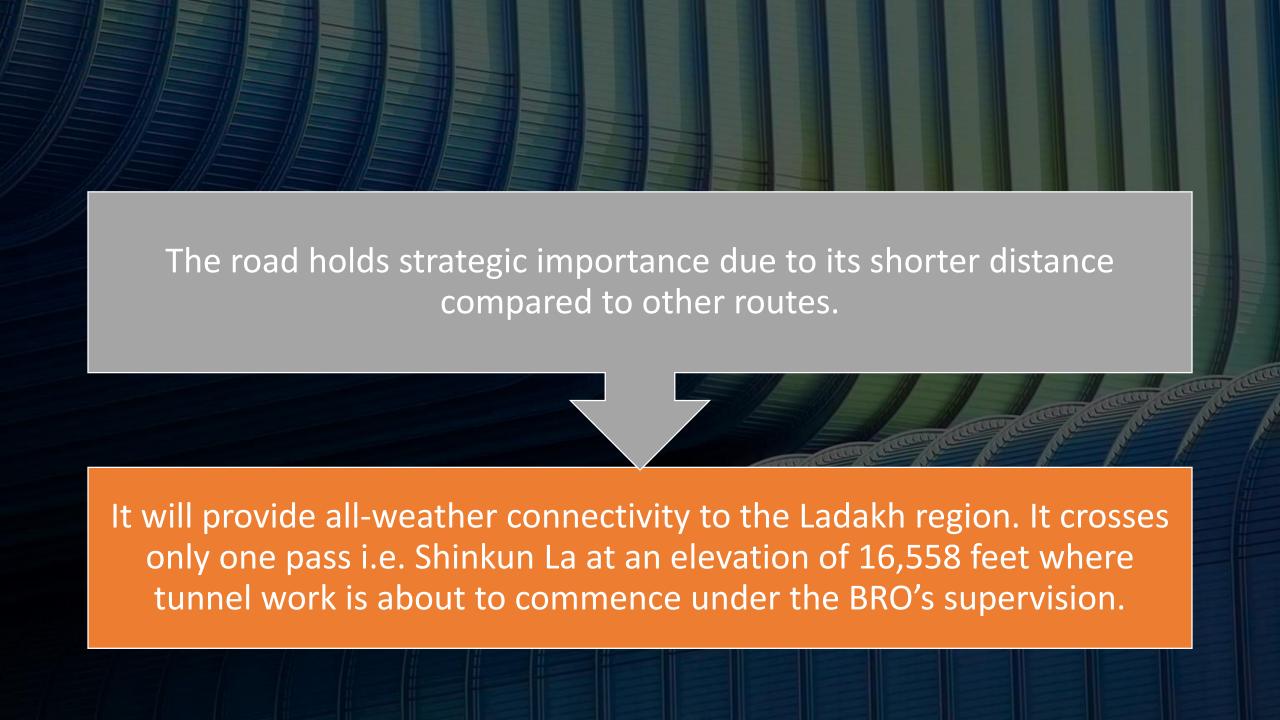
	TRANSMISSION	PREVENTION	TREATMENT
Hepatitis A	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	Practicing good hygieneVaccine	No treatment
Hepatitis B	Through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person	Practicing good hygieneVaccineBlood screening	 Alpha interferon Peginterferon
Hepatitis C	Blood-to-blood contact	 Practicing good hygiene Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors 	Direct-acting antiviral drugs
Hepatitis D	Contact with infected blood (only occurs in people already infected with hepatitis B)	 Hepatitis B vaccine Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors 	Interferon
Hepatitis E	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	 Practicing good hygiene Avoid drinking water that has come from a potentially unsafe source 	No treatment

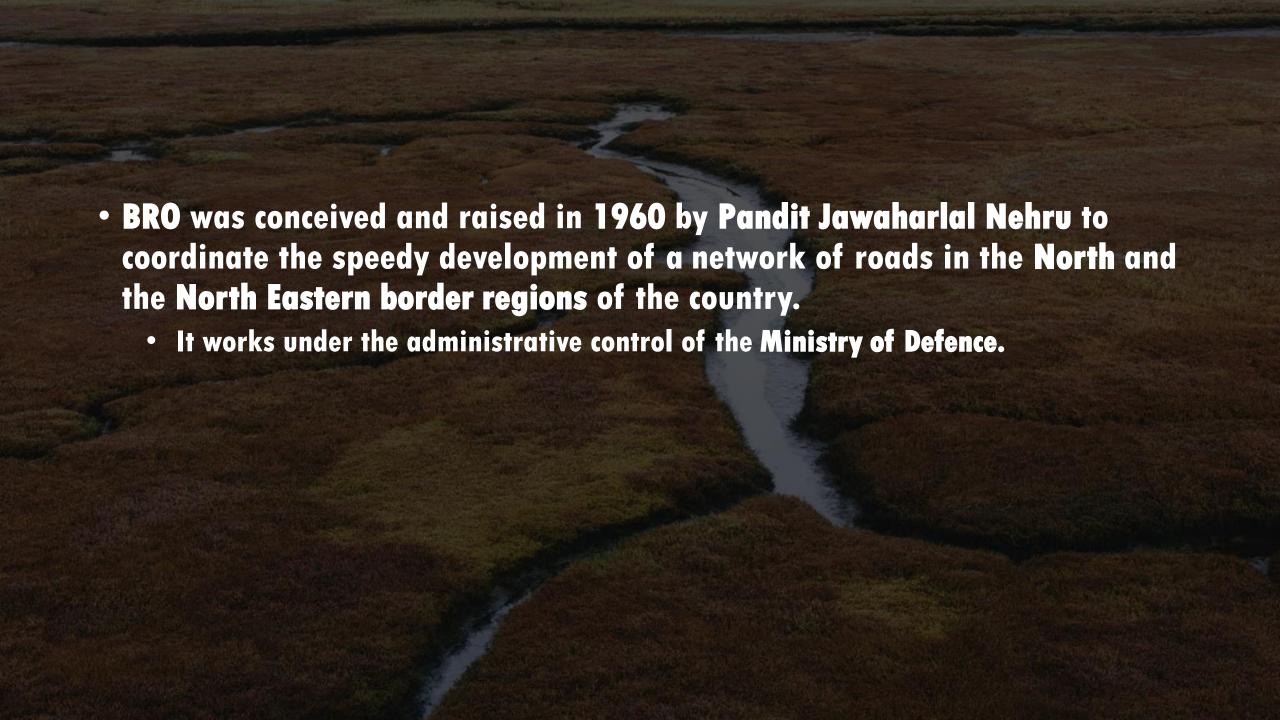
Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road in Ladakh

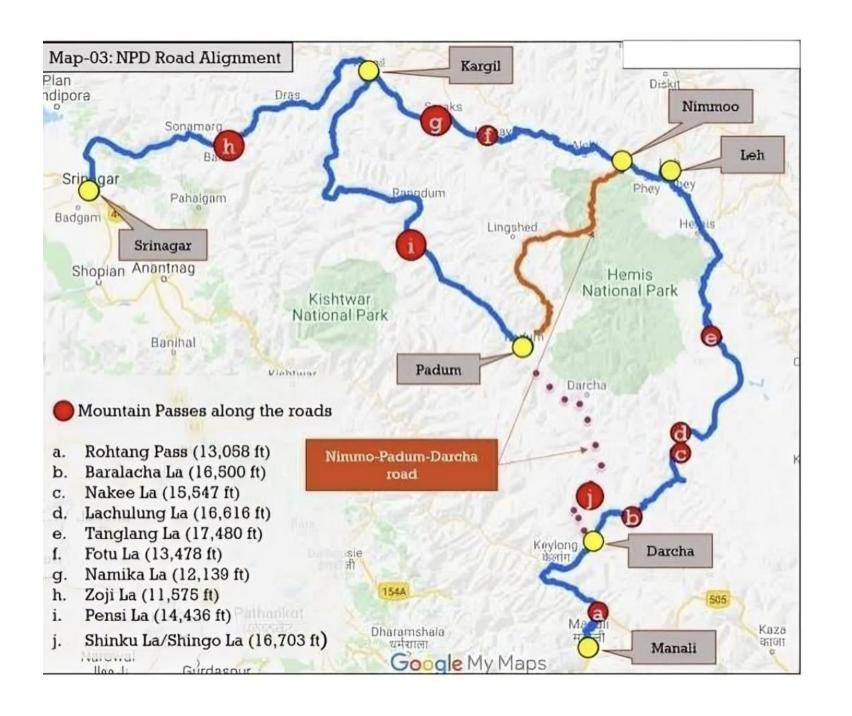
Recently, The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved a significant milestone by connecting the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh.

This road serves as a crucial link between Manali and Leh, passing through Darcha and Nimmu along the Kargil-Leh highway.

It now stands as the third axis connecting Ladakh to the hinterland, alongside the existing Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes.







White Rabbit Collaboration

- The European Organization for Nuclear Research or CERN has launched the White Rabbit Collaboration.
- About
- White Rabbit: The technology is developed to synchronise devices in the accelerators down to sub-nanoseconds and solve the challenge of establishing a common notion of time across a network.

At a scale of billionths of a second, the time light takes to travel through a fibre-optic cable and the time the electronics take to process the signal are no longer negligible.

To avoid potential delays, the co-inventors of White Rabbit designed a **new ethernet switch.**

Application:

- White Rabbit is used in the finance sector as well as in many research infrastructures, and it is currently being evaluated for application in the future quantum internet.
 - The technology could also play a key role in the future landscape of global time dissemination technologies, which currently rely heavily on satellites.

MT TRILAT 24 EXERCISE

The second edition of IMT TRILAT 24 Exercise was concluded at Nacala, Mozambique.

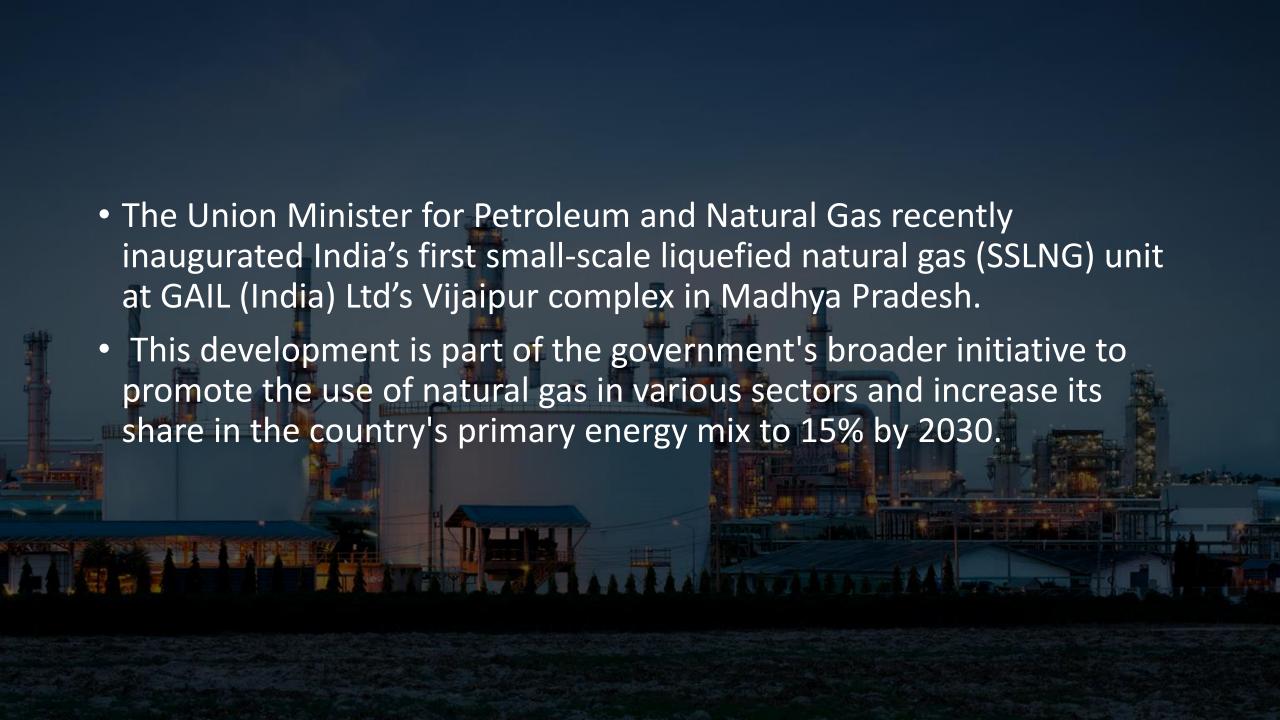
About

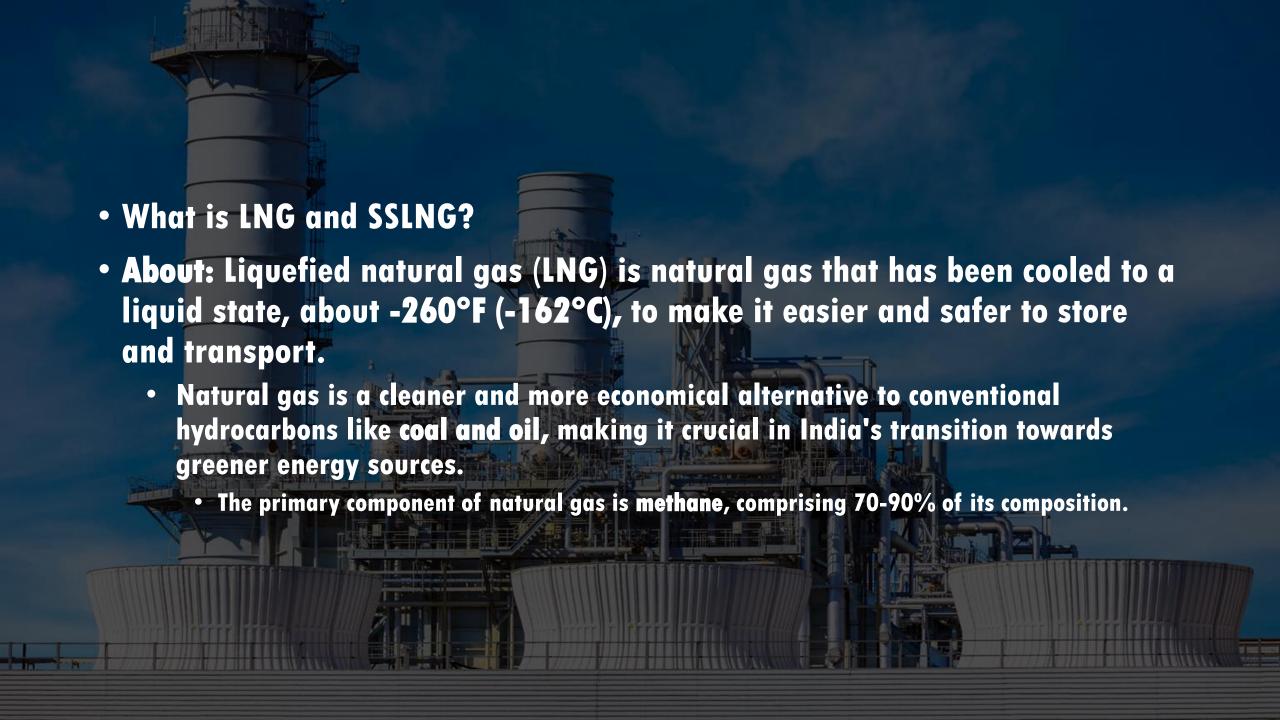
It is a **joint trilateral maritime exercise** between **India, Mozambique and Tanzania**.

The first edition of the exercise was conducted in 2022.

The joint operation was conducted in line with the vision of SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) off the southeast African coast.

India's First Small-Scale LNG Unit in Madhya Pradesh







- Presently in India the share of natural gas in the energy basket is 6.7%.
- The top natural gas producing countries are the United States, Russia and Iran.
- Small-Scale LNG: SSLNG involves liquefying and transporting natural gas on a smaller scale, catering to areas without pipeline connections using specialised trucks and vessels.



- Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 at the FAO headquarters in Rome.
- The United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets following a proposal by India, supported by over 70 countries, to raise awareness about millets' benefits.
- The year-long celebration highlighted millets' nutritional benefits, adaptability to adverse climates, and role in creating sustainable market opportunities.

- Millets are small-grained, annual, warm-weather cereals belonging to the grass family.
 - Jowar (Sorghum), Bajra (Pearl Millet) and Ragi (Finger millet) are the important millets cultivated in India.
 - Millets are the main crops in semiarid tropics due to low rainfall and poor soil
 fertility. They have higher nutrient content than major cereal crops and are tolerant to
 drought and extreme weather conditions.

Centenary of the Vaikom Satyagraha

- Background: Vaikom was a temple town in the princely state of Travancore. The low-caste Hindus were not allowed to enter into the temples.
- The issue of temple entry was first raised by Ezhava leader T
 KMadhavan in a 1917 editorial in his paper Deshabhimani.
 - In the 1923 session of the INC in Kakinada, a resolution was passed by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee to take up anti-untouchability as a key issue.
 - Vaikom, with its revered Shiva temple, was chosen as the location for the very first satyagraha.
 - Vaikom Satyagraha was the first among temple entry movements in India
 - It lasted for 604 days (20 months) from March 30, 1924 to November 23, 1925



Reasons: The princely state of Travancore had a "feudal, militaristic, and ruthless system of custom-ridden government.

The idea of caste pollution worked not only on the basis of touch but also sight — lower castes were forbidden entry to any "pure" place, such as temples and the roads surrounding them.



Prominent Leaders : The movement, led by TK Madhavan, EVR Periyar, MK Gandhi, and Narayana Guru.



Temple Entry Proclamation : In **November 1936**, the Maharaja of Travancore signed the historic Temple Entry Proclamation which removed the age-old ban on the entry of marginalised castes into the temples of the state.

The Vaikom Satyagraha proclaimed its significance almost a decade later when in November 1936, the **historic Temple Entry Proclamation** was passed, which lifted the age-old orthodox ban on the entry of marginalized depressed castes into the temples of Travancore.

It was also a great opportunity for the Indian National Congress Party to Grow in Kerala.

It became the first struggle for human rights in India.



Geologists predict that the African continent's rift in the Afar Triangle could lead to the formation of a new ocean in 5 to 10 million years.

About

The Afar Triangle is also known as the **Afar Depression**, located in the **Horn of Africa**.

The Afar Triangle is a geological depression where three tectonic plates—the Nubian, Somali, and Arabian plates—converge.



UNESCO Global Geoparks Network

UNESCO's Executive Board has endorsed the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network. Geoparks – UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas with internationally important rocks and landscapes, all of which are managed responsibly for conservation, education and sustainable development.

With Geology at its foundation, UNESCO Global Geoparks build upon by bringing together other aspects of heritage such as archaeology, history, culture and biodiversity.

Global Geoparks Network (GGN) In 2004, 17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks came together at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to form the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

The Global Geoparks Network was founded under the umbrella of UNESCO. Headquarters –

Paris During the 38th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, the UNESCO Global Geoparks.



#1

Americans eat approximately how much pizza per day?

A. 100 slices per second B. 150 slices per second C. 275 slices per second D. 350 slices per second

☆ ○ ○ □ | ± □ ﴿

SELF IMPROVEMENT

LANGUAGE SPEAKING



















