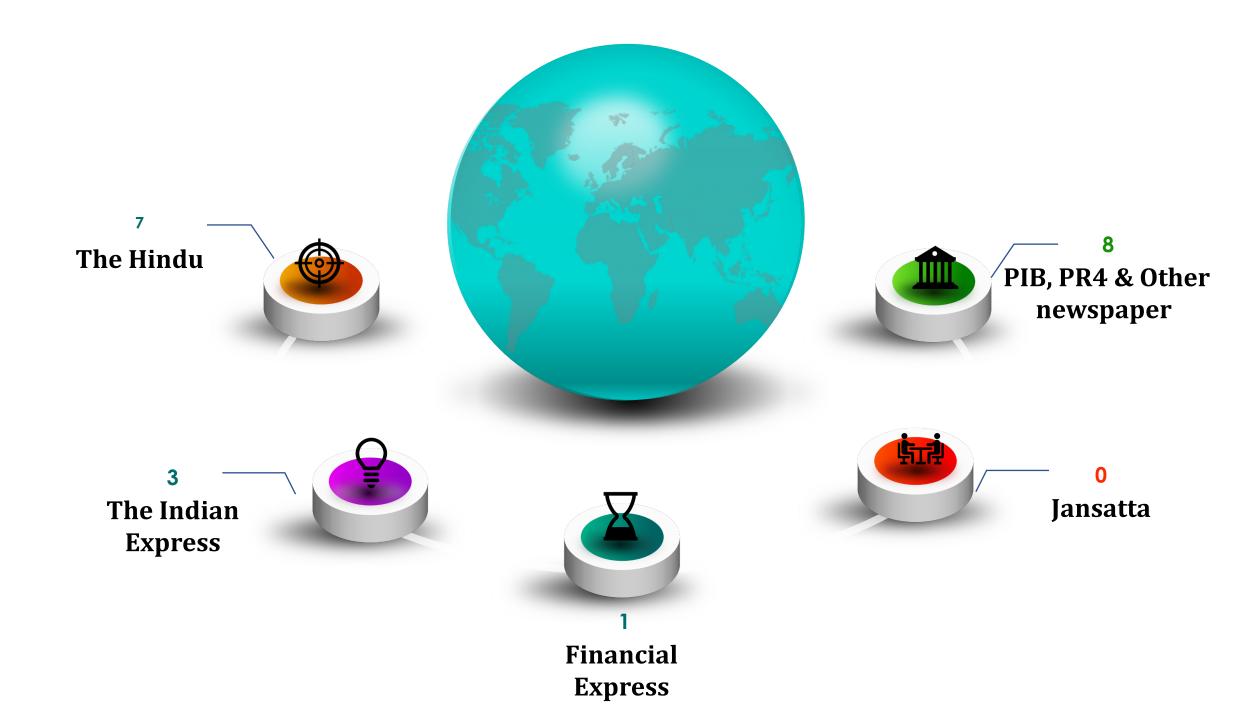
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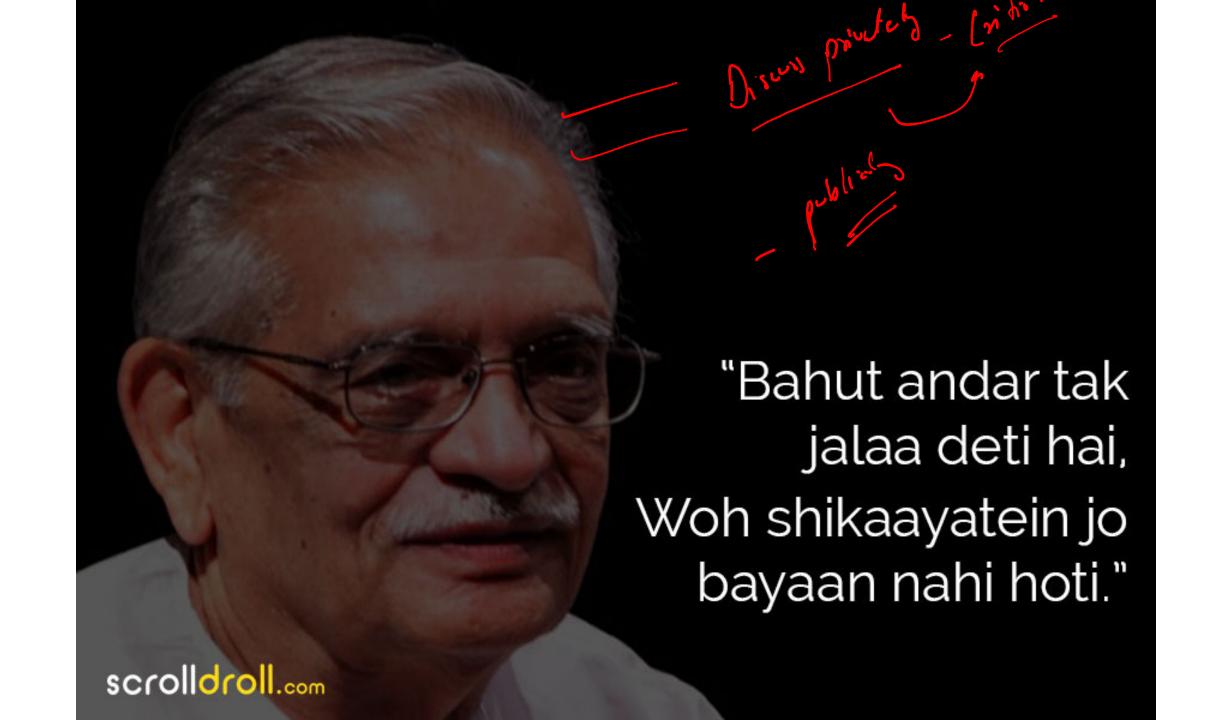
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A law that has lost its wav A strange evolution of law linked to narcotics and money laundering RIAL » PAGE 8



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INSIDE



New rules to save fliers from wait aboard aircraft

NEW DELHI

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security issued new standard operating protocols for airport and airlines, allowing passengers who have deplaned after any delay in flight to

Heatwaves likely during election season, says IMD

NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI
The India Meteorological
Department (IMD) on Monday
warned of "above-normal"
heatwave conditions in most
parts of the country in April
and May. These are the month when polling will be held across the country. >> PAGE 6

Author quits Akademi over 'interference'

NEW DELUI

C. Radhakrishnan resigned from the membership of the premier literary body's general council, citing political interference. » PAGE 6

Pakistan court suspends Imran, wife's jail term

ISLAMARAD

former Pakistan Prime Ministe Imran Khan, a high court on Monday suspended a 14-year nce handed out to hin

Centre and Cong. spar over Katchatheevu issue

PM and External Affairs Minister flay Congress regimes for indifference towards the island

Congress quotes Centre's 2015 RTI reply, which stated that the island lies on the

Opposition leads Modi govt. is related to 'election politics'

he controversy ov-er India "ceding" the island of Katch-in 1974 escalated on Monday after Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi flagged news re-ports on the issue for the second day and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishan-kar declared that previous Congress governments had given away the rights of In-dian fishermen in that

Boundary Line". Mr. Modi. Boundary Line". Mr. Modi, in a post on X, flagged a se-cond news report on the is-sue that said the DMK, un-der then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, was kept in the loop when the Union government de-cided on ceding Katchath-eevu to Sri Lanka.

PM questions DMK "Rhetoric aside, DMK has done NOTHING to safeguard Tamil Nadu's inter ests. New details emerging on #Katchatheevu have dian fishermen in that are seen that the seen that the seen to the seen to the seen that the seen that the seen The Congress and DMK raised the issue in Parliament as if they bear no responsibility for it, while they are the parties which did it S. IAISHANKAR, External Affairs N

Will Foreign Minister Mr. Jaisbankar please refer to the RTI reply dated 27-1-2015... the reply justified the circumstances under which India acknowledged that a small island belonged to Sri Lanka P. CHIDAMBARAM, Congress leader

ests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen in partic size of the post. Mr. Jahshankar, in his press conference at the BJP's headquarters on Monday, said it was wrong to say that the ceding of respondence between the

Revisiting pact could affect ties: ormer diplomats

TWO EAH!

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Lank agreement of

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Centre and the State government," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that he had re-plied to the current Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (M.K. Stalin) "at least 21 times". He said that Prime Mi-nisters from the Congress

displayed indifference to-wards Katchatheevu island and gave away Indian fish-ermen's rights despite le-gal views to the contrary. Referring to documents obtained by Bly's Tamil Nadu chief K. Annamalai under the said that while the 1974 pact ensured fish-ing rights for Indian fisher-men, a 1976 agreement. displayed indifference tomen, a 1976 agreement between India and Sri Lanka ended them. "We know who did it, today we are looking for who hid it," he

Responding to the Mi-Responding to the Mi-nister's statement, Opposi-tion said the 2015 RTI res-ponse of the Ministry clearly stated that previous agreements did not "in-volve either acquiring or ceding of territory belong-

ing to India". Opposition leaders asked if the "change of stance" by the Narendra Modi govern-ment was related to "elec-tion politics". "Th for tat is old. Tweet for Tweet is the new weapon. Will Foreign Minister Mr. Jaishankar please refer to the RTI rep-ty dated 274-2015.. The Reply justified the circum-stances under which India acknowledged that a small island belonged to Sri Lanka," former Finance Minis-ter P. Chidambaram said in ter P. Chidambaram said in a post on X. Former Union Minister Anand Sharma said India's strategic inter-ests and relationship with

Gone with the sea



Israeli air strike destroys Iranian consulate in Syria

Associated Press

An Israeli air strike has destroyed the consular section of iran's embassy in Syria, killing a senior Iranian military adviser among others, Syrian state media said on Monday. The strike the strike of the strike

going targeting of Iranian military officials and allies in Syria, which has intensified since the onset of its war with Hamas. Israel said it had no

israei said it nad no comment about the Syrian media reports. Iranian state television Al-Alam and pan-Arab tele-vision station Al-Mayadeen said the strike killed Ira-nian military adviser Gen.



Helping hands: Rescue workers in action at a destroyed building hit by an airstrike in Damascus, Syria, on Monday. AP

Ali Reza Zahdi, who led the elite Quds Force in Leba-non and Syria until 2016.

non and syria until 2016.
Iranian Ambassador
Hossein Akbari condemned Israel and said as
many as seven persons
were killed, but first responders were still searching for bodies under the

rubble. He said two police rubble. He said two police officers who guard the building were wounded. Mr. Akbari vowed re-venge for the strike "at the same magnitude and harshness".

Supreme Court allows Hindu worship | No coercive action over tax notices to continue inside Gyanvapi premises

The Supreme Court on Monday managed a baMonday managed a bamen Hindu priest to continue to offer worship inside the cellar or tehkhan and the Cyanvapi promises while Muslime dised to the continue to the continue of t

ing namaaz.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud found it "appropriate" to order the status quo in order to "enable both communities to offer

both communities to offer religious worship".
"This way namaaz is of-fered on the premises of the mosque. The tehkhana is safeguarded. The arran-gement would be main-tained between now and the trial," Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked



orally. The court ordered that the status quo would the temple,

not be disturbed by either ontesting party.
The Hindu plaintiffs, re-

They said the temple, which once stood on the Gyanvapi plot, was brought down by the 'Farman of Emperor Aurangazeb in the year 1669'.
Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, for the mosque's management, Anjuman Intazamia Masjid, claimed presented by senior advo-cate Shyam Divan, claim that the entire area of the Gyanvapi mosque in Vara-nasi belonged to a temple of Swayambhu Lord Adi

the suit filed in a Varanasi court was only a ruse to en-croach into the mosque

Legal battle
The mosque managers
have been fighting a prolonged legal battle after the
suit by the Hindus, who
started out seeking a judicial declaration of their
right to worship inside the
mosque premises folright to worship inside the mosque premises, fol-lowed by the "discovery" of a "Shivling". However, the Muslim side claimed the structure was a foun-tain. The courts had al-lowed carbon dating and a

Poll respite

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

Amidst allegations of "tax terrorism", the Income Tax Department on Mon-day stated in the Supreme Court its resolve not to take any "coercive steps" against the Congress on tax demands of approxi-mately ₹3,500 crore raised in March, in view of the

Lok Sabha election.

At the very outset of the hearing before a Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta stated that tain. The courts had allowed carbon dating and a "scientific survey" of the Back-to-back orders by the Varanasi court had allowed Hindu religious rituals in a cellar of the mosque accessed through the southern side of the premises.

The Mehria has rendered mespeechkess. "Senior advocate A.M. Singh-

I-T Dept. submits in SC that the Congress need not ha apprehensions over tax demands till July due to upcor

against Cong. in view of polls: I-T Dept.

reacted to the unexpected turn of events.

the department had raised a total tax demand of ₹3,567 crore from the Congress.
The authorities had

The authorities hatd willingly ended the tax exemption available to political party for gross receipt based on a Delhi High Court order of March 2016.

The Congress has chal-

axable.
"Gross receipt is never taxable. Only total income is taxable. We are a political party, not a profit-making organisation," Mr. Singhvi argued. He raised the issue that Section 13A of the Income Tax Act pro-vided tax exemption to political parties.

Mr. Mehta said the total

of over ₹3,500 crore was a "block assessment" of the past seven years. This was excluding the ₹135 crore recovered from the party through attachment. He through attachment. He said the department had willingly made the "con-cession" to avoid coercive measures in view of the prevailing circumstances of the elections.

I Soull what capital



IAF jets to conduct landing drills on highway in Kashmir

A strip of road in south Kashmir's Bijbehara on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway will be used to conduct emergency landing drills by aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Monday night, according to officials. Sukhoi fighters and Tejas light combat aircraft are likely to participate. This is the first such drill to be ducted in the Valley. The IAF will use highways as an alternative runway during emergencies. Landings will be conducted on 3.5 km of highway in Bilbehara. An official said all om of highway in Bijbehara. An official said all civillian vehicles were directed on Monday to divert to the old national highway alignment. The health, fire service, and other departments will also participate in the drill.

NPPA revises ceiling prices of over 900 drug formulations

There has a been manginal like in the prices of antibiotics and painsifies from Monday The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had allowed price hike for select medicines by 0.00551%. The Department of the prices of exercise. The prices of medicines were hiked by 12% in 2023. In 2019, the NPPA used its emergency powers to raise the celling prices of 21 essential drugs by 50% after several companies applied for the discontinuation of products due to high cost.

SC notice to EC on plea to check EVM, VVPAT counts

The Hindu Bureau

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Monday issued notice to the Election Commission (EC) on a writ petition seeking a direction to man-datorily cross-verify the machines (EVMs) with votes verifiably recorded as cast by counting all vo-ter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) salps. B B

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta tagged the petition filed by lawver and activist Arui

lawyer and activist Arun Kumar Agrawal, represent-ed by advocate Neha Rathi, with pending ones on the same issue.

Ms. Rathi argued for a complete count of VVPAT ilps in elections as op-posed to the current prac-tive randomly selected. five randomly selected EVMs through VVPAT pap-

The petition further challenged the EC's guide-line that mandated sequenline that mandated sequen-tial VVPAT verification, that is, one after the other, causing undue delay. The petition proposed simultaneous VVPAT verifi-cation by deploying more personnel for counting in each constituence. "This

each constituency. "This would allow VVPAT verification to be done in five to six hours," the plea

Rise in demand for MGNREGS points to failure of govt.: Cong.

The data point to 'widespread unemployment and stagnant wages' that runs counter to development narrative being talked, says Cong. leader

eacting to the lat-est statistics of the flagship rural employment guarantee scheme showing that demand for work is more than the pre-pandemic le-vel and on a steady rise, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has said it

Jairam Ramesh has said it is a "living monument" to the Narendra Modi govern-ment's many failures. As per the statistics, a total of 305.2 person days (one person working a nor-mal shift) were generated in financial year 2023-24, which is 12 croper more perwhich is 12 crore more per-son days than in 2022-23 and 40 crore more than and 40 crore more than the first pandemic year in 2019-20. In many ways, 2022-23 is seen as the first came out of the pandemic shock and it took time for the economy to pick up. In a detailed statement here, Mr. Ramesh pointed Gandhi National Bural Em-

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was designed by the Congress ernment as a safety net



for the rural poor. "It is demand-driven which means that employment is gener-ated only when there is no

ated only when there is no alternative paying better wages," Mr. Ramesh sald. The Congress generate points to "widespread un-employment and stagnant wages". He accused the go-vernment of turning a blind eye, since the data blind eye, since the data looment," parastive propalopment" narrative propa-gated by the government. "A government that refuses to listen to today's grim

in combating it," he said.

Copying PM's own words that he used in 2015 to describe the pro-gramme, Mr. Ramesh said the increase in McNREGA person-days last year is in person-days last year is in fact a "living monument" to the Modi government's many failures.

He said that despite the

Modi government's dismis-sive attitude towards the programme, it had to rely on the scheme as a primary source of income sup-port for the poor during the pandemic and unfortunately even in the present.

Heatwave conditions likely during election season, warns IMD

The Hindu Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Mon day warned of "above-nor mal" heatwave conditions mal" heatwave conditions in most parts of the coun-try in April and May. These are the months when poll-ing will be held across the

sued to the Election Com mission (EC) and the States take

precautions. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, north Karnataka, Odisha, and western Madhya Pradesh, which on average see one to three heatwave days during April and May, are likely to experience two to likely to experience two to eight heatwave days, the IMD said. Heatwave days occur when day temperaoccur when day tempera-tures in a place are at least 4.5 degrees Celsius above normal, or greater than 45 degrees Celsius, on two

white days.

While these regions are particularly vulnerable, above-normal temperatures are likely over the entire country barring Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and most of the wortheastern States. northeastern States. Union Minister for Earth

Sciences Kiren Rijiju said that advisories had been issued to the EC and the



Advisories have been issued to the EC and the States to take adequate precautions

tions" and equip polling booths with oral rehydration salts for booth officials or voters who may experience a heatstroke.

rience a heatstroke.
"Electors are advised to
carry wet towels to protect
themselves from dehydration and women electors
are advised to avoid bringing small children to
booths during hot weather
conditions," the EC had
sald in an advisory on
March 16. Given that the
Lok Sabha election is held in the summer months, these are routine adviso-ries sent by the EC to its

ries sent by the EC to its officials.

One of the reasons for the expected hotter than usual summers is the conti-nuing effect of the El Nino, M. Mohapatra, Director-M. Mohapatra, Directo General, IMD, said. Asse Central Pacific, the El Nino is linked to drying up of the rains in India

Agencies must focus on crimes that truly threaten nation: CJI

The Hindu Bureau

Underlining that investiga-Underlining that investiga-tive agencies such as the Central Bureau of India (CBI) have been spread "too thin" over the years, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chan-drachud on Monday said they must pick their battles to promote efficiency and concentrate attention on concentrate attention on crimes that truly threaten the nation's security, eco-nomic health, and public

Justice Chandrachud made the remarks while demade the remarks while de-livering the 20th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture on "Adopting Technology to Advance Criminal Justice", on the Central Bureau of In-vestigation Raising Day. Expressing concern over Instances of "unwarranted" confiscation of personal

devices during searches, the CJI said they highlight the pressing need to strike the pressing need to strike gative imperatives and in-dividual privacy rights. He said that in the era of digital transformation, the interplay between law and technology can result in also ensure criminal justice reform.

"In embracing the capa-bilities of technology, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of fair to the principles of fair-ness, equity, and accounta-bility. By leveraging these tools responsibly and ethi-cally, we ensure that the benefits of technological advancement reach all members of society, re-gardless of their background or circumstances," he said. (With PTI inputs)

Author guits Sahitya Akademi citing political interference

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELBI

A controversy erupted in the Sahitya Akademi on Monday after Malayalam author C. Radhakrishnan resigned from the mem-bership of the premier lit-erary body's general coun-cil, citing political

cil, ciling pointena interference. In a letter addressed to Sahitya Akademi member secretary K. Sreenivasarao, Mr. Radhakrishnan said: "I strongly protest against this year's Akademi Festival having been inaugurated by a Cabinet Minister of the Government of India a

Government of India, a person without any known credential whatsoever in literature." He was referring to Un-ion Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurating the 39th edition of "Sahityotsav: The festival of letters" on



nessed the participation of more than 1,000 authors in over 170 languages. Though set up by the go-

vernment in 1954, the Akademi functions as an autonomous organisation, says

nomous organisation, says its website.

The author, known for his critically acclaimed no-vels, further said: "I would like to clarify that I am not against amy particular pol-tical party. I protest against the politicisation of administration of culture

eroding the independent stature of the Akademi." The Sahitya Akademi was quick to respond, and said Mr. Radhakrishnan's written resignation was "misleading". In a statement, Akademi

In a statement, Akademi president Madhav Kaushik said Mr. Meghwal was him-self a writer. "He is well-versed in Rajasthani and Hindi," he said listing some of the Minister's published works. "Besides, he actively participated in many ogrammes for the deve programmes 101 to the lopment of Rajasthani language and extended full cooperation in various ca-pacities for recognition of

pacities for recognition of Rajasthani as an Indian lan-guage in the VIIIth sche-dule of the Constitution," the statement said. Mr. Radhakrishnan though was unmoved. "Sure, anyone who writes at least a letter, is a writer," he toldin a curt reply.

29

'Pannun case probe part of national security interests'

The Hindu Bureau

The investigation into the alleged plot to assassinate U.S.-based Khalistani sepa U.S.-based Khalistani sepa-ratist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is part of India's national security interests, External Affairs Minister S, External Affairs Minister S, Jaishankar said on Monday. He was speaking at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Del-

Earlier, U.S. Ambassa-Earlier, U.S. Ambassa-dor to India Eric Garcetti, in an interview to news agency ANI, had described the alleged plot to kill Pan-"unacceptable red line". "It is something we are investigating as we believe our own national security interests are involved in that investigation," Mr. Jaishankar said in response

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to a question about Mr.
Garcetti's comment on the
involvement of an Indian
official in the alleged assas"The position of my government is that in this
particular case, there has
been certain information
provided to us which we
nister said. "So, as and
when we have something when we have something we would be very glad to speak about it. At this point we have nothing more to say," he added. Mr. Garcetti had ex-

Mr. Garcetti had ex-pressed satisfaction about the Indian investigation and said, "No government or government employee can be involved in the al-leged assassination of one of your own citizens... That's just an unacceptable red line."

In an all-time high, defence exports cross ₹21.000 crore

The Hin

India's time exports crossed 1 DOO crore for the first Jin. Defence Minister Figure in Singh said of The figures indicated that difence exports had grown by 31 times in the past 10 years compared with IV 2013-14, the De-

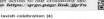
fence Ministry said. "Delighted to inform

that defence exports hav scaled to unprecedented heights and crossed 721.000-crore mark for the ₹21,000-crore mark for the first time in the history of Independent India!," Mr. Singh said on X. "Defence exports have reached the level of ₹21,083 crore in the financial year 2023-24 which is a spectacular growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal."

TH GROSSWORD + 14138

- Returns two-fold praise (4)
- Unmanageable sappers' works, involving resistance (10) Election Victoryl Back to people finally! (4) How to get a message carried by the waves? [10]

SUDOKU



- Medico retained by business for data repository (2-3) 19 Support black sensitivity (4) 21 Travelling faster than word of mouth? (10)
- Chance of noble backing king (4)
 Can a small magazine art possibly be a symbol of constitutional democracy (5,5)
- 28 Large, adult, male black sheep (4) 29 Left ousts judge! Removal leads to poll! (8)
- 1 Beverage Company from California, County Los Angeles (4.4) Focus on awfully mean, defining quality of a person (6,4) Reportedly procure for channel - small derivatives (2-8)
- It indicates pitch conditions like erodability, flatness basically (4) Right, right! Acres for a vegetable! (4)

15 Popular and kind of mostly modern timeless tactic (10)

No right plan for unwise (4) Country kid, keeping regularly ahead (6) 14 Run into idle idiot (5)

22 A new blue rum lacks potency (6)

- Independent bills are questionable source of moral belief in individual and political freedom (10) Gathering up litter inside well (8)
- 25 Part of body of knowledge about Catholic revolutionary (4) 26 Each item has a receipt (4) 27 Managed King's file (4)

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5



FAITH

The key role of parents

The importance of parents in our lives is repeatedly emphasised by the dharma sastras. For an atma to gain liberation, it must first take birth. Since our parents are responsible for our birth, they deserve respect, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse.

Secondly, parents protect us and provide for our needs. So they play the role of a poshaka – protector. Thirdly, they do what we like and also what is good for

us. It might sometimes happen that the two are contradic tory. For example, a child may want to eat something tha

tory. For example, a child may want to eat something that is not nutritive. The parents indulge it by allowing a small is not nutritive. The parents indulge it by allowing a small takes good food, which will strengthen it.

When children err, the parents correct them. We often find that when people have broken some law, the parents find that when people have broken some law, the parents but have picked up wrong notions from others.

Even while trying to reform a child, a parent makes exwently bad, when is a supplied to the parent when a penet accide so child or parents with the parent society as child or parents with the parents.

When a parent scolds a child or punishes it, the parent feels more pain than the child. Lord Narayana has all the above qualities. We take birth according to our karma, and He gives us a birth according to our karma. The Lord pro tects us. He is full of forgiveness towards us. That is why the Lord and His Consort are considered Univ

parents.

Scriptures also say "Matru Devo Bhava", Pitru Devo Bhava" and "Guru Devo Bhava". It gives the first preference to mother, and then to father in worshipping. Later comes the teacher.

In an all-time high, defence exports cross ₹21,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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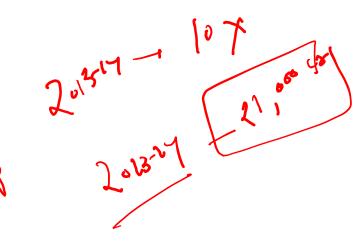
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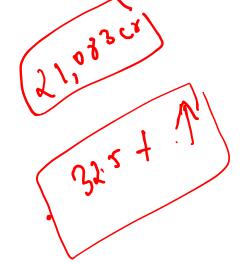
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India's defence exports crossed ₹21,000 crore for the first time, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

The figures indicated that defence exports had grown by 31 times in the past 10 years compared with FY 2013-14, the Defence Ministry said.

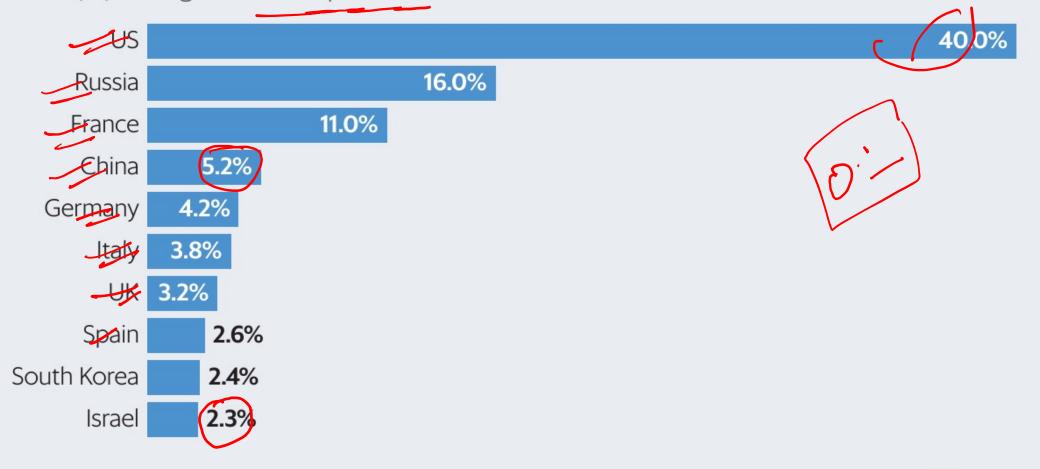
"Delighted to inform that defence exports have scaled to unprecedented heights and crossed ₹21,000-crore mark for the first time in the history of Independent India!," Mr. Singh said on X. "Defence exports have reached the level of ₹21,083 crore in the financial year 2023-24 which is a spectacular growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal."





India's defence exports ranked well outside the top 25 countries during the period 2018-2022

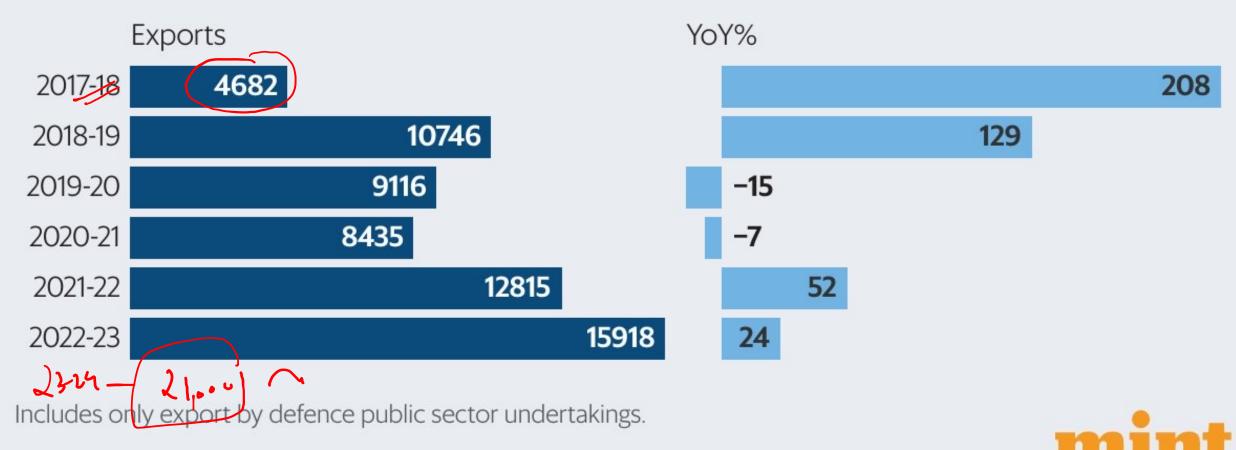
Share (%) of largest arms exporters between 2018-2022





India's defence exports rose 24% in FY23, and tenfold in six years

India's defence exports (in Rs crore) and year-on-year change (%)



Source: Ministry of Defence

Opinion

A speech that put India on the global stage

n April 2, 1954, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made a speech in the Lok Sabha that would put India on the globa stage of nuclear disarmamen Prompted by the U.S.'s 'Castle Bravo' thermonuclear test of the previous month, which was reportedly so powerful that it overwhelmed all measuring instruments, Nehru called for "a instruments, Nehru called for "a standstill agreement" on nuclear testing. This speech was marked by pragmatism, vision, and self-assurance. Newly decolonised India, with all the problems of nation-building and none of the traditional markers of traditional markers of international power such as military and economic mights—or maintain and economic mights—or was an unlikely candidate for this leadership role; yet such was Nehru's belief in India's global of this moratorium but also pushed for it at every opportunity and forum. With this speech, he cemented India's claim to calls cemented India's claim to leadership, gave impetus to calls that eventually yielded the Partia' Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and clear proliferation by insion treating nuclear weapons as

The standstill agreemen

remarkable for its willingness to what was fast becoming an insurmountable problem o Seventy years ago, with a rmament against the backdro of the Cold War. The four elements of the proposal called for an immediate moratorium on Nehru cemented India's claim to testing; urged the United Nations Disarmament Commission to address both the immediate moratorium and the longer-term goal of prohibiting the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons; sought to build public pressure on nuclear states by calling for greater disclosure on these weapons; and called on all ng; urged the United Nations leadership, gave impetus to calls Partial Test Ban Treaty, and arguably limited horizontal nuclear



is the author of 'India's Nuclear

to recognise the global threat posed by nuclear weapons. Nehru took disarmament out of the confines of the UN Disarmament Commission (with its limited membership) and made it a global India had effectively put the nuclear weapons states on notice. Nehru was asking them to not only Nehru was asking them to not o recognise that their tests were imperilling the globe but also calling for more information on the effects of nuclear tests and the effects of nuclear tests and radiation to exert global pressure on them to disarm. India followe this up with interventions at the UN, including a draft resolution is 1955 calling for a halt to testing, and progress to be reported to the Disarmament Commission. Simultaneously, Nehru convened conference of scientists to study atomic energy and the effects of nuclear explosions in 1954 and, had the Suez Crisis and the Hungarian Revolution not intervened in 1956, the first

It is easy, 70 years later, with the history of India's diplomacy and active participation in negotiation for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the Eighteen-Nation the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (neither of which New Delhi eventually signed for reasons of national interest), to take for granted India's active re in nuclear disarmament. However in outclear distarrament. However, there was nothing preordained about this. India in 1954 was poor and weak. This was before the Bandung Conference, so it did not even have the backing of the deven have the backing of the did have, though, was moral force. As helm copylained in his first address to the UN in 1948, "I have no fear, even though india, from a military point of view, is of no great consequence. I am not affald

meeting of what became Pugwash might well have happened in Delhi, for invitations had been sent out by Bertrand Russell and

Joseph Rotblat to the scientists

Moral force

Chart 2 shows the change in the

chart 2 shows the change in the share of births delivered by C-sec-tions in private hospitals across In-dia, Tamil Nadu, and Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The

gap narrowed considerably in private hospitals: close to 64% women

are hospitals: close to 64% women underwent C-sections in private sector hospitals in Tamil Nadu in age of around 50% and Chhartis-garh's 59%. "In Chhartisgarh, a woman is 10 times more likely to thospital than in a public hospital. This could be due to a lack of adequate or high-quality services in pucconcludes. Assuming that poorer

tals for deliveries and richer hou-seholds prefer private ones, this points to inequitable access at the

national level and more equitable access in Tamil Nadu.

location of childbirth (whether in a

public or private institution) had the most considerable influence

the most considerable influence on the decision to get a C-section delivery. This suggests that 'clini-cal necessity' isn't always the driv-ing factor for surgical births. Throughout India and Chhattis-garh, individuals who were better off financially tended to choose C

garh, individuals who were better sections more frequently, whereas, in Tamil Nadu, the situation was a section of the section

of the bigness of Great Powers, and their armies, their fleets and their atom bombs. This is the lesson which my Master taught me. We stood as an unarmed people against a great country and a powerful empire." Placing India on a global stage

on account of its moral influence on account of its moral influence was a brilliant move. Of course, the sheen of morality soon wors off as India grappled with using force in Hyderabad and Goa to bring them within the Indian Union, and in discovering that Union, and in discovering that morality would not defeat China. But it gave India significance first china. But it gave India significance first in excess of what might be justified this stance purely naïve. Nehru spoke the language of disarmament because India had disarmament because India had its scarce resources that might be swallowed up by an arms race. But there was a Plan B. The Aromic esquestration of the nuclear programme to shield any potential programme to shield any potential weapons development, should the need arise. Hom Bhabha, the father of India's nuclear programme, wanted to develop nuclear weapons. Nehru did not give the go-ahead, but did not entirely discourage him either. The legacy of the speech in the Lok Sabha, when Nehru explained

to his people first what India was doing to secure its place in the

world, was most immediately felt in the PTBT that was eventually in the PTB1 that was eventually negotiated by the nuclear weapons states. When the treaty opened for signatures in 1963, India was the fourth to sign. The call for greater information about the effects of nuclear radiation and the effects of nuclear radiation and the mobilising of global opinion against atomic weapons helped the property of the property of the that has ensured that these weapons have not been used in the property of the property of the importantly, the speech put India on a global stage as a voice of Nebru's words from 1948, to "be a power for peace and for the good of the world."

The disgruntled Rajputs of Gujarat

The recent protests show the community's frustration at being sidelined in the BJP

Mahesh Langa

n March 22, during an

n March 22, during an Gujarat, Union Minister and yelloction campaign speech in Rajkot in Rujkot in Hulon Minister and yellock and the Rujkot in R and strength. It is this strength that has kept Sanatana Dhar-ma alive...Jai Bhim!" His refe-(breaking bread and entering into marital relations) caused anger that neither he nor the party anticipated in a State where the BJP enjoys near-

As clips of the speech went viral on social media, the Raj-puts, who are descendants of royal or princely families in Saurashtra, began to protest. This was the region where more than 100 large and small

more than 100 large and small princely states existed at the time of independence.

Taken abuck by the restance of the properties of the partial properties of the partial properties of the partial properties of the partial properties of the prope



country and culture " he said country and culture," he said.

But the apology cut no ice
with the community. In fact,
in parts of Saurashtra, Mr. Rupala's statements have revived

in parts of Saurashira, Mr. Rod old caster fivalries between the Raiputs and Patels. Caste ten-in Saurashira sand teneral re-ception of the saurashira sand teneral caster of the saurashira saurash Anirudhdhsinh. In 1995, Jayanti Vadodaria, a civic body member of the BJP in Gondal, was murdered by members of the Kshatriya community.

In the heydays of the Congress in Gujarat, and particu-larly in Saurashtra, Rajputs held their sway over Patels despite being fewer in num-ber. But in the mid-1990s, the complete consolidation of the Patels in favour of the BJP helped the saffron party wrest helped the saffron party wrest the State from the Congress. Since 1995, the BJP has won se-ven Assembly elections in the water of the State of the Patels and the Rajputs firmly support the BJP. However, power is not the Market of the State from MLAS and one Rajputs of free MLAS and one Rajput south put community from the Sau-rashtra-Kutch region in the BJP. But Kahartyas or Rajputs

who are Ministers in the State who are Ministers in the State or Central government exer-cise little power, according to a political commentator. "To-day, Patidar domination in the rulling party and in the govern-ment is complete. The Chief Minister is a Patel and Union Ministers including Mr. Rupala and Mansukh Mandaviya are and Mansukh Mandaviya are Patels. There is not a single notable Kshatriya face in the State cabinet, he says. He be-lieves that the recent protests by the Rajputs show their frus-tration with being sidelined within the BJP.

within the BJP.
While it is unlikely that
there will be any major adverse impact electorally for
the BJP or for Mr. Rupala, it
would nevertheless be wise
for the ruling party leadership
to dwell on why only a handful corner a large share of the pie in the State government or at the Centre, while other com-munities including the Kshatrivas, Other Backward Class the margins. The Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat are roughly the same in number as the Pa tidars (around 15% of the population), vet, there is not a single tribal leader in the Union Cabinet from the State.

In Gujarat, under the BJP, it is common to see a Dann nister be put in charge of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and an Adivasi Minister be put in charge of the Department of didivasi Münistre be put no charge of the Department of Tribal Development and sometimes Forest and Environment, but never in charge of Pinance, Revenue, or Home, in terms of power and resources. The only exception was during the Vijay Rupani period when a Rajput leader, Pradipsin Jadeėja, was made Minister of State, Home.

Two States: a comparison on access to life-saving C-sections

While access is equitable, C-section rates are alarmingly high in Tamil Nadu, pointing to the need for corrective measures

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

atudy published by IIT Madras shows that in Tamil Nadu, access to cesarean section (C-section), an essential medical intervention that can save medical intervention that can save lives when vaginal deliveries are risky, is more equitable compared to india's average. However, G-sec-mil Nadu are also alarmingly high, especially in private hospitals, pointing to the need for corrective action, the study points out. The action, the study points out. The figures with those of Chhattigarh to show how in certain States, G to show how in certain States, Csections are more prevalent among richer sections of society, while the poor lack access to it. A C-section delivery refers to a surgical procedure in which an in-

cision is made in the woman's abdomen to deliver one or more in-fants. According to the World Health Organization, access to ospitals that are equipped to per form such procedures is crucial to ensure the safety and well-being of both the mother and child in the event of medical necessity. Mater-nal and neonatal mortality rates decline in countries which have Cdecline in countries which have C-section rates of about 10%, the WHO concludes. However, the agency also warns that if C-section rates go beyond 10%, it will not ne-cessarily reduce maternal mortali-ty. In 2021, global C-section rates

ty. In 2021, global C-section rates exceeded 20%. They are projected to rise to 30% by 2030.

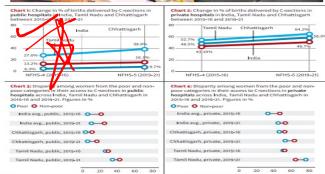
Chart i shows the change in the share of births delivered by C-section of the share of births delivered by C-section of the share of births delivered by C-section of the share of births delivered by C-section 10 and 10 and

CM (

Access and misuse

The charts were sourced from the report titled, "Variations in the prevalence of caesarean section deliveries in India





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FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 2, 1974

Israel seeks more planes, missiles from U.S.

Washington, April 1: The Israeli Defence Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, to-day asked the United States for more planes, tanks and missiles to offset communist aid to Syria and

missiles to offset communist aid to Syria and other Arab nations. Gen. Dayan presented his shopping list to the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. James Schlesinger, at During television interviews yesterday and to-day, Gen. Dayan said Israel particularly needed planes and anti-aircraft missiles. He alleged that communist aid to Syria included the presence of a brigade of Cubans on Syrian later.

here. While U.S. intelligence services had known for a long time that small groups of Cuban technicians where training Syrians to operate anti-aircraft missiles and the Soviet-built MIG fighters, they had estimated the Cuban presence at less than the several battalions Gen. Dayan

said were in Syria.

Israel still has \$700 millions to spend of the \$2,200 millions in additional military aid granted by Congress to compensate for the losses sustained during the October war in West

Gen. Dayan arrived in the U.S. last week to present the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, with detailed Israeli proposals for troop disengagement with Syria on the Golan

Railway management

London, Mar. 31: In the Commons to-day Sir Charles Yata asked whether it was proposed to proceed with the placing of the East Indian and Creat Indian Peninsula Railwoys under State Creat Indian Peninsula Railwoys under State Legislative Assembly and danger to the safety of passengers and maintenance of service if the present management was weakened under State control. Mr Richard's Luder Secretary for India say any reason for modifying the decision to place these railways under State management. Sir Charles Yate declared that the Manager of the Minister had taken all power out of his hands London, Mar. 31: In the Commons to-day Sir Minister had taken all power out of his hands and asked if it was to be allowed in India. The speaker intervened at this stage

Access and misuse

The charts were sourced from the report titled, "Variations in the prevalence of caesarean section deliveries in India between 2016 and 2021 – an analysis of Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh", published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth



Mark

Chart 1: Change in % of births delivered by C-sections in **public hospitals** in India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2019-21

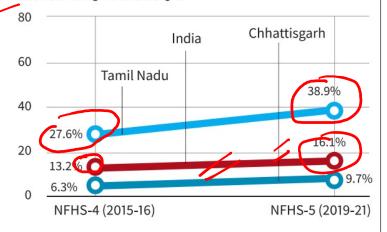


Chart 2: Change in % of births delivered by C-sections in **private hospitals** in India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2019-21

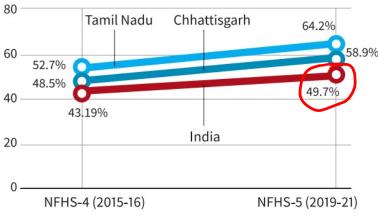
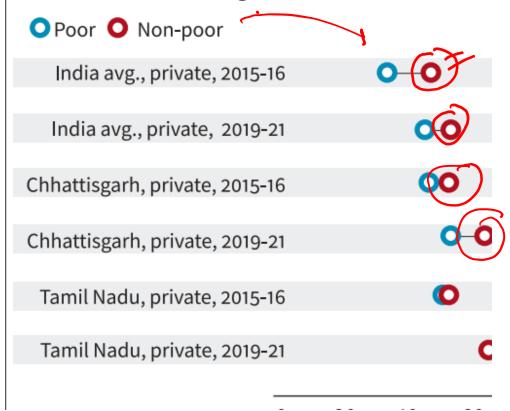




Chart 3: Disparity among women from the poor and nonpoor categories in their access to C-sections in **public** hospitals across India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh in 2015-16 and 2019-21. Figures in % O Poor O Non-poor India avg., public, 2015-16 🔾 India avg., public, 2019-21 Chhattisgarh, public, 2015-16 O Chhattisgarh, public, 2019-21 Tamil Nadu, public, 2015-16 Tamil Nadu, public, 2019-21

Chart 4: Disparity among women from the poor an poor categories in their access to C-sections in **priv hospitals** across India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisga 2015-16 and 2019-21. Figures in %



Nine children killed in landmine blast in southeastern Afghanistan



was caused by a landmine laid during the country's decades of conflict, a provincial official said on Monday. The mine went off as a group of young boys and girls were playing with it in the Geru district of Ghazni province on Sunday. AFP

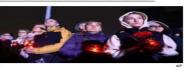
LONDON

U.K. says Channel crossings on small boats hit a record this winter



Channel arrivals on small boats to the U.K. hit a record in the first quarter of 2024 with a nearly 429's rise over last year, the Interior Ministry said on Monday. British officials processed 5,373 migrants landing on the shores of southeastern England in the first three months of the year compared to 3,793 last year. APP

Russia arrests four more plotters of Moscow concert hall attack



Russia's FSB security service has said that four persons arrested or Sunday in a foiled "terror" plot had provided money and arms for the deadly attack on a Moscow concert hall last month. More than 140 people were killed when gunmen stormed the Crocus City Hall venue on March 22 before setting the building on fire. AFP

BALTIMORE

Alternative route opened for ships clearing Baltimore wreckage

Tuesday, April 2, 2024



vessels involved in the clearing of debris at the site of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, part of a phased approach to opening the main channel leading to the port. The bridge collapsed after a container ship rammed into it after losing power. AP

Israeli MPs give approval for Bill to ban Al Jazeera

Agence France-Presse

The Israeli Parliament passed a Bill on Monday giving top Ministers the authority to bar from Israel channel Al Jazeera – a step Premier Benjamin Netayahu is poised to take.

This law, which passed by 70 votes to 10, carries the authority to ban the broadcast of content from foreign channels but also allows the closing of their

offices in Israel.

Israel had claimed in January that an Al Jazeera
staff journalist and a freelancer killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror

operatives". The following month it said another journalist for the channel, wounded in a separate strike, was a "de-

der" with Hamas.

Al Jazeera has fiercely denied the accusations and accused Israel of systemati-cally targeting Al Jazeera employees in Gaza.

Israel withdraws from Shifa hospital after two-week raid

Tel Aviv claims its operation at Gaza's largest hospital has killed some 200 militants and detained hundreds more; WHO says more than 20 patients died and dozens were put at risk during raid

srael's military with-drew from Gaza's lar-gest hospital early on Monday after a two-week raid, in which it said it killed some 200 militants and detained hundreds more. Palestinian residents said the troops left behind several bodies and a vast

several bodies and a vast swath of destruction. de-scribed the raid on Shifa Hospital as a major battle-field victory in the nearly six-month war. But it came at a time of mounting frus-tration in Israel, with tens of thousands protesting against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday and demanding he do more to bring home dozens of hostages held in Gaza. It was the largest an-ti-government demonstration since the start of the war. The fighting showed



Dilapidated state: Palestinians inspect the damage at Gaza's al-Shifa hospital after the Israeli military withdrew on Monday. AFP

that Hamas can still put up resistance even in one of the hardest-hit areas.. The military said that among those killed at Shifa

among those killed at Shita were senior Hamas opera-tives and other militants who had regrouped there after an earlier raid in No-vember, and that it seized weapons and valuable intelligence. intelligence.
The UN health agency said more than 20 patients

at risk during the raid, which brought even furth-er destruction to a hospital that had already largely

that had already largely ceased to function. Bassel al-Hilou said the bodies of seven of his rela-tives had been found in the wreckage surrounding the hospital. He said they had sought shelter at a neigh-bour's house after theirs was bombed, but then

in my uncle's house," he said. "The situation was indescribable."

Toll unknown

Toll unknown
It was not yet known how
many Palestinian civilians
The military denied that its
forces harmed any civilians
inside the compound.
It is
mas of using hospitals for
military purposes and has
raided several medical faclass deriv those allega-Gaza deny those allega-

Critics accuse the Army

Critics accuse the Army of recklessly endangering civilians and of decimating a health sector already overwhelmed with war-wounded. Palestinians say Israeli troops forced hun-dreds of people living near Shifa to evacuate to the south

Imamoglu maintains grip on Istanbul mayor post

Agence France-Presse

convincing victory in an Is-tanbul city election looks set to propel him into the running for the 2028 presilential vote. The football-loving 52-

vear-old, who first became the mega-city's mayor in 2019, on Sunday again de-feated Turkish President feated Turkish President Recep Taypip Erdogan's chosen candidate in the country's economic po-certed effort to unseat him by the weteran president. "Tomorrow is a new spring day for our coun-try." Mr. Imamoglu told-try." Mr. Imamoglu told-phoric supporters the country."

phoric supporters cheer-ing his re-election late on Sunday, wearing his trade mark shirtsleeves and rimless glasses. Mr. Imamoglu, candi-

Mr. Imamogiu, candi-date for the social-demo-cratic Republican People's Party (CHP), had spent much of the campaign tar-geting Mr. Erdogan rather than his nominal oppo-



People's man: Ekrem Imamoglu had spent much of the campaign targeting Tayyip Erdogan rather than his opponent Murat Kurum. Al

nent, former Environment nent, former Environment Minister Murat Kurum. Largely unknown in 2019, Mr. Imamoglu that year ended 25 years of rule by Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its allies in the city of 16 million where the President was once mayor.

Minor hiccup
The smooth talking Mr.
Imamoglu was initially
stripped of his victory
when the vote was controversially annulled. But he
won by an even bigger
margin in a re-run three
months later.

one of Turkiye's most pop-ular politicians, even as he was targeted with legal action. In Sunday's election, Mr. Imamoglu ran as the CHP candidate as he failed

to get Turkiye's fractured opposition parties to rally around his bid.

The size of his victory will also have stunned those erstwhile allies.

Now Mr. Imamoglu is seen as the most likely po-tential candidate to beat whoever stands for Erdo-

Pakistan PM assures Chinese nationals of foolproof security

Press Trust of India

Pakistan Prime Minister Shebbaz Sharif on Monday Shebbaz Sharif on Monday said his government would ensure foolproof security measures for the Chinese the country, days after five Chinese workers were killed in a suicide attack in the country's restive northwest.

bomber targeted a convoy of Chinese engineers in the emote Besham area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday last, killing five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver.

Shehhaz's guarantee comes days after five Chinese workers were killed in a suicide attack

kistan will not leave any stone unturned, will not spare any opportunity to make sure you get he best possible security for your families and yourself. Mr. 53 the Chinese workers at the site of Dasu Hydropower Project in Kohistan during with them.

At least 12 persons, in-cluding the mastermind, have been arrested in con-nection with the blast.

Dogs' day in Taiwan



Court suspends jail terms of Imran, wife in Toshakhana case

Press Trust of India

In a temporary relief to jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Prime Minister Imran Khan, a high court on Mon-day suspended the 14-year sentence handed out to him and his wife Bushra Bi-bi in the Toshakhana cor-runtion case.

ruption case.

The beleaguered couple were sentenced to 14 years in jail each by an accountain jail each by an accounta-bility court on January 31 in the property of the court of the state depository, days be-fore the general elections. According to the ver-change of the court of the Bushra were barred from bolding any public office for 10 years and slapped with all meters of Pakistant Is.

with a fine of Pakistani Rs. 787 million each. They challenged the conviction in the Islama-bad High Court where a two-member Bench head-ed by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Faroog heard the

On Monday, the Islama-bad High Court (IHC) gave temporary relief to the couple in the case by sus-pending their sentences and granting them bail in

However, the court an-nounced that their appeals awould be heard after the Edif festival next month. But Mr. Khan may not victed in other cases and cannot be released until absolved from charges in arrest. However, the court an-

Bushra is also convicted in

another case and may no be released after her ser tence has been suspended In the Toshakhana cor

In the Toshakhana cor-ruption case, the 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician is ac-cused of retaining expen-received during his tenure as Pakistan's Premier. Under the rules govern-ing Toshakhana – a Persian word meaning "treasure house" – government offi-ing a price for them but

ing a price for them but first the gift should be de-

posited. Mr. Khan and his wife either failed to deposit the gift or got it for a low price by allegedly using their authority.

The conviction of Mr.

The conviction of Mr.
Khan in the Toshakhana
case had come a day after
he was sentenced to 10
years in jail in the cipher

years in jail in the cipher case on January 30. Earlier, he was also con-victed in a different Tosh-akhana corruption case in August 2023, leading to his

Germany gives controversial green light to cannabis

Agence France-Presse BERLIN

Cannabis aficionados lit up the country became the largest EU nation to legal-ise recreational use, despite fierce objections from opposition politicians and medical associations.

medical associations.
Under the first step in
the much-debated new
law, adults over 18 are now
allowed to carry 25 grams
of dried cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home.

most liberal cannabis laws legalised recreational use The changes leave Ger-The changes leave Ger- in Europe, alongside Malta in 2021 and 2023, many with some of the and Luxembourg, which respectively.



known for its permissive attitude to the drug, has in recent years taken a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism.

cannabls tourism.

As the law took effect a midnight, some 1,500 people cheered in central Berger of the control of the contro

Levelled against teleparties of the control of the The new law was "bet- month.

prejention for children an young people and for combating the black mar-ket "Mr. Lauterbach said, bis to be sold via licensed shops were ditched due to EU opposition. Medical groups have onding in part to criti-levelled against raised concerns that legali-sation could lead to an increase in use among young

people.

The law has likewise drawn criticism from poldrawn criticism from pol-ice, who fear it will be diffi-cult to enforce.

Another potential issue is the implementation of a retroactive amnesty on cannabis-related offences, which could create an ad-ministrative headache for the legal system.

:::

Germany gives controversial green light to cannabis

Agence France-Presse

BERLIN

Cannabis aficionados lit up in Germany on Monday, as the country became the largest EU nation to legalise recreational use, despite fierce objections from opposition politicians and medical associations.

Under the first step in the much-debated new law, adults over 18 are now allowed to carry 25 grams of dried cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home.

The changes leave Germany with some of the



As a first step, adults are now allowed to carry 25 grams of cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home. REUTERS

most liberal cannabis laws in Europe, alongside Malta and Luxembourg, which legalised recreational use in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

The Netherlands, known for its permissive attitude to the drug, has in recent years taken a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism.

As the law took effect at midnight, some 1,500 people cheered in central Berlin by the Brandenburg Gate, according to the police, with some lighting up joints in celebration.

Cannabis consumption has been brought out of the "taboo zone", Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said on X, formerly Twitter.

The new law was "bet-

ter for real addiction help, prevention for children and young people and for combating the black market," Mr. Lauterbach said, responding in part to criticisms levelled against legalisation.

As the next step in the legal reform, from July 1 it will be possible to legally obtain weed through "cannabis clubs" in the country. These regulated associations will be allowed to have up to 500 members each, and will be able to distribute up to 50 grams of cannabis per person per month.

Initial plans for cannabis to be sold via licensed shops were ditched due to EU opposition.

Medical groups have raised concerns that legalisation could lead to an increase in use among young people.

The law has likewise drawn criticism from police, who fear it will be difficult to enforce.

Another potential issue is the implementation of a retroactive amnesty on cannabis-related offences, which could create an administrative headache for the legal system.





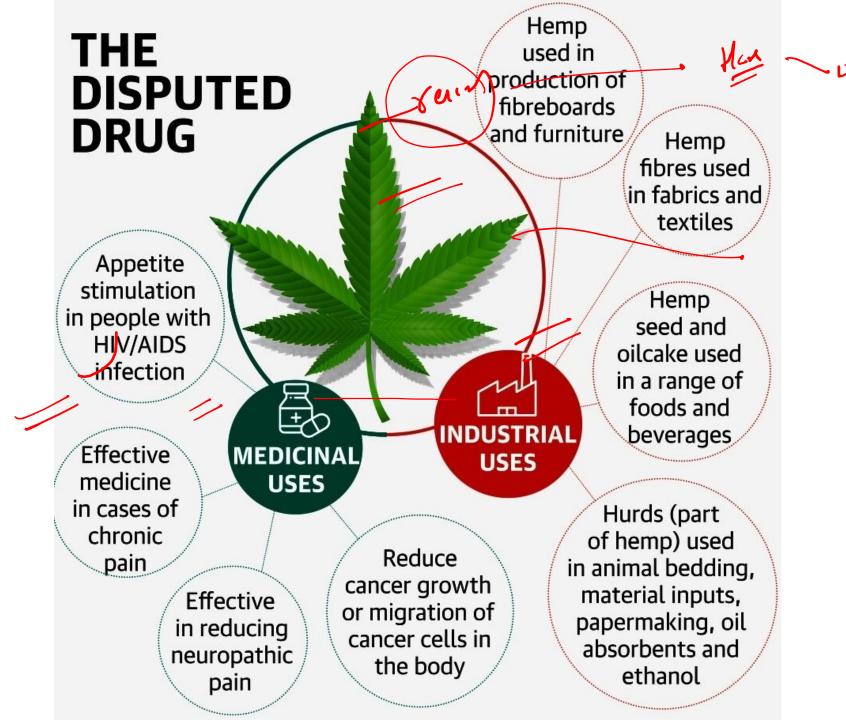












5 SHOCKING FACTS

ABOUT LEGAL MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES



The Legal Marijuana Industry is Worth

\$1.53 BILLION

With the legal marijuana industry worth such a staggering amount, it is easy to see why keeping it legal is important to many individuals and businesses alike.

COLORADO

Collects Annual Taxes of

\$98 MILLION

because of legal MARIJUANA SALES



In states like Colorado, where marijuana use has been legalized, the potential for profits from collected taxes is astronomical. Similar numbers have been reported from other states, like Washington.

♦TheIndian **EXPRESS**

Sitharaman, Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, RBI

after swearing-in, lot of

work coming your way

PM to RBI: On Day 1

vernor Shaktikanta Das, CM Eknath Shinde on Monday. PTI

BY UNNY

PRESSING NEED FOR PROBE AGENCIES TO

STRIKE BALANCE: CJI

HITESH VYAS

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA

apport new emerging sectors

uch as space, green energy, dig

Kejriwal sent to Tihar till April 15: ED says he's uncooperative, evasive, misleading

ED: Kejriwal said accused reported to Atishi, Bharadwaj; AAP: old statement

NIRBHAYTHAKUR DELHI CHIEF Minis Arvind Monday afternoon, hours after a urt granted judicial cus-

city court grante tody till April 15. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which arrested Kejriwal on March 21 in connection with the w-scrapped Delhi excise pol



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at court on Monday. PT

KATCHATHEEVU: JAISHANKAR ADDS HIS WEIGHT

Lanka minister says no word from India on island; Centre working on it: TN BJP

ARUN JANARDHANAN

icy case, sought 15 days judicial

gave "misleading replies" and "concealed information" during

Speaking to reporters before

entering the courtroom, Kejriwal said: "Jo PM kar rahe hain woh

desh ke live achha nahi hai (what-

ever the PM is doing is not good for the country)." AAP ministers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INDIA HAS not sent any official communication yet on the Katchatheevu island issue, a sen-ior Sri Lanka minister told *The* Indian Express on Monday even as the BJP scaled up its attack on the Congress, accusing it and the DMK of giving away the island, Emotive issue in Tamil Nadu FOR THE BIP, the focus on state where regional pride carries resonance, and has been an obstacle in its ef-forts to make inroads.

and the party's Tamil Nadu unit chief K Annamalai claiming that the Centre is taking all possible measures to reclaim the territory. "As far as Sri Lanka is con-cerned, Katchatheevu island falls within the Sri Lankan line of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS

TELANGANA SNOOPING ROW

BRS opponents' cars intercepted, cash seized, supporters not spared: Probe

SREENIVAS JANYALA

work will come its way once the new government takes oath. "Abhi 100 din mai chunav mein busy hoon. Aap ke paas bharpoor samay hai. Aap soch ke INTERCEPTING VEHICLES of op-position candidates and seizing cash, conspiring to ensure a BRS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 victory for the third time in Bureau (SIB) under scanner

network that covered not just critics but also supporters - startling allegations have emerged in the alleged snooping scandal that has rocked Telangana and put the state's Special Intelligence

mand report filed by officers in-vestigating the case, seeking cus-tody of former Deputy Commissioner of Police (Task Force, Hyderabad City) P Radhakishan Rao, who was CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NOTICES TO RECOVER ₹3,567 CR FROM PARTY

After Cong said 'tax terror', I-T tells court: No coercive action until elections over

Congress lawyer Singhvi calls it 'gracious' gesture

ANANTHAKRISHNANG

THE INCOME Tax Department assured the Supreme Court Monday that it will not take any coercive steps" to recover ap-roximately Rs 3,500 crore demanded from the Indian National Congress before the end of Lok Sabha elections 2024.

"Please record my statement that till the matter is hear next...whenever, we will not take any coercive steps...We will no take any coercive steps till the elections are over", Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the I-T Department, told a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih.

This comes a day after the IN DIAbloc flagged the I-T action a a bid by the ruling party and es tablishment to choke Opposition parties in the run-up to polls.

The apex court was hearing appeals filed by the Congress challenging the demands made by the I-T Department. The bench recorded the I-T Department and posted the matter for next hearing on July 24. On Mehta's request, the

bench also clarified in its order that "it is needless to observe CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Sunday at the Ramlila Maidan by



At the Congress's central election committee meeting for the Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD DEMAND

Unease within, poll panel deliberates over response to Opp alarm

RITIKA CHOPRA

THERE IS a sense of "unease" in the Election Commission (EC) over how to respond - if at all -to the Opposition alliance's demand that the poll panel "stop coercive action" by Central agen-cies to ensure a level-playing field in the Lok Sabha elections The Indian Express has learned.

Sources said meetings have been held to explore ways to ad-dress the string of concerns — in

fairness of the poll process. One option, they said, is to sue an advisory to investigat what the EC had done in 20 when it had told the ED to neutrally after Opposition p

them. The Commission, it learned, is also deliberati whether there is room to "go yond" what was stated in 2019 advisory.

At the same time, there CONTINUED ON PAGE

Jumla of 2 crore new jobs per year

Jumla of controlling Inflation

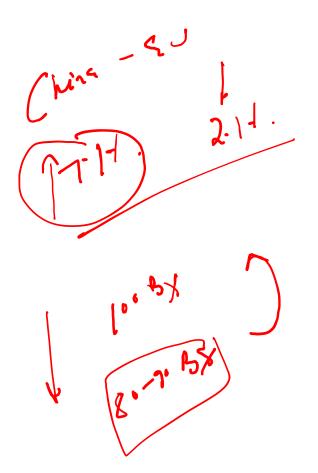
Jumla of double the income for farmers WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR **PREVIOUS JUMLAS?**

MERE VIKAS KA DO HISAAB

Jumla of women security







Trade with China, EU 'in favour' of India in 2023: Govt

In calendar year 2023 exports to China and European Union countries have increased by 7.1% and 2.1%, respectively

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE TRADE dynamics with China and European Union (EU) in 2023 was in favour of India as its exports to both the geographies jumped by 7.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively compared to the previous year, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

This comes after a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report last month showed that India's dependence on China and EU jumped by 1.2 per cent each in 2023 amid changing trade dynamics along geo-political lines.

"The current observation of increasing India's trade dependence may carry negative connotations. However, detailed analysis indicated trade dynamics in favour of India. India's trade during calendar year (CY) 2023 indicated that India's exports to both China and EU countries have increased by 7.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively in CY2023 over CY 2022."

The ministry further stressed that India's imports from China have also declined by 3 percent during 2023.

The ministry stated that

'IMPORTS FROM CHINA Down 3% in 2023'

■ The commerce and industry ministry said that imports from China have also declined by 3% during 2023 and that trade has remained resilient despite global challenges

India's trade has remained resilient despite global challenges. According to UNCTAD's Global Trade Update released in March 2024, the projection for global trade in 2023 between January to December indicated a decline in global trade by 3 per cent. While the merchandise trade slipped by 5 per cent, service trade increased by 8 per cent.

"Compared to UNCTAD's global merchandise trade estimates of 5 per cent decline globally, the decline in India's merchandise exports has been less at (-) 4.8 per cent from CY2023, while the estimates of rise in services exports has been more rapid, at 9.1 percent from the same period as compared to 7 per cent globally," the ministry said.

On imports, the ministry clarified that India mostly imports capital goods, 35 per cent in CY2022 and intermediate goods or raw materials, 50 per cent in CY2022 from the EU that are further used as input.

"India's imports from the EU have increased by 9.7 per cent in CY2023. The highest increase of import from EU in CY2023 is observed in parts of telephone sets, telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks and of other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, which is an input for manufacturing of mobile or smart phones at \$2.4 billion in CY2023 (\$3.42 billion in CY2023 as compared to \$0.97 Billion in CY 2022) with 43 per cent share in total imports increased from EU," the ministry said.

Moreover, it should also be noted that India's export of smart phones have increased by 98.42 per cent in CY2023 from \$7.19 billion in 2022 to \$14.27 billion in CY2023, the ministry said.

ices exports has been more rapid, at 9.1 percent from the same period as compared to 7 per cent globally," the ministry said.

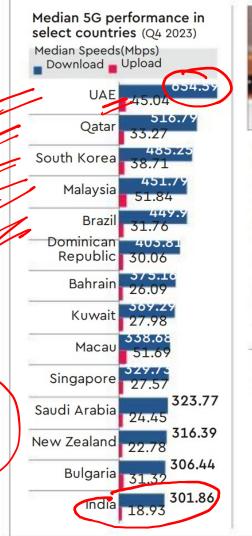
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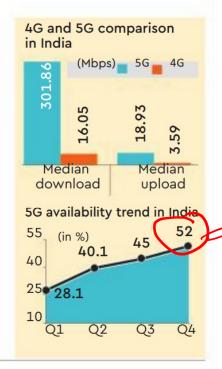


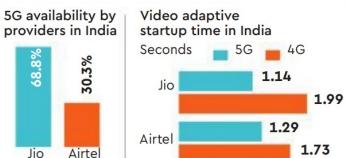
India features in top 15 markets with fastest 5G median download speeds

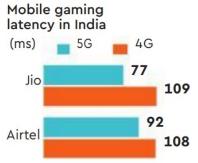




ABOUT 18 MONTHS after the launch of 5G services by telecom operators - Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, India is now among the top 15 markets with the fastest reported 5G median download speeds, shows a report by Ookla. With a 5G median download speed at 301.86 Mbps as of October-December quarter, India is ranked 14th globally. The 5G availability improved to 52% in the quarter from 28.1% in January-March of 2023.







Top court orders four District Collectors from T.N. to appear in person before ED on April 25

De-escalation the way forward, says Rajnath NEWS » PAGE 4





ED can summon anyone for 'any information's SC'

People are losing control over their phones Immersive' experience is drowning businesses



Mayank shines in LSG's win over RCB

INSIDE



Sri Lankan media hits out at Modi

COLOMBO
Sri Lanka's media on Tuesday
took a critical view of Prime
Minister Narendra Modi's and
External Affairs Minister S.

India, U.S. plan high-level visits

NEW DELHI Two high-level visits are being planned by Washington and Delhi amid concerns over strain in ties, sources told The Hindu. » PAGE 6

he Supreme Court on Tuesday entorsed the sweeping powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying the Central agency
could call "anybody for
any information" even as it
castigated four Tamil Natuing to appear in person in
response to a supmons is-

response to a summons is-sued to them by the anti-money laundering body. The Tamil Nadu govern-ment and the Collectors in-formed a Bench headed by Justice Bela M. Trivedi that they had written to the ED expressing their inability

to appear in person as the Lok Sabba Bection in Tamil Neb Yeas due on April
mil Neb Yeas due on April
mil Neb Yeas due on April
time to coli of the
information sought by the Central
agencysbout said mining
sites in their and the
"Time sought"
The Collector say have inthe Collector say have inthe collector from other
be collected from other
beauthess of the district adcompiled to be presented
before the ED. They had
sought time till April-end.
cept the Collectors' explanation, Justice Trivedi said

nation. Justice Trivedi said their conduct showed

■ Bench states that Section | ■ District Collectors express

for giving evidence or production of records scant respect for the court's February 27 order

to appear in person before the ED on whatever date it summoned them. "Such a cavalier approach may land them [District Collectors] in a

strongly deprecated," Justice Trived addressed senior advocates Kapil Sibal
and Amit Anand Tiwari,
advocate Mukul Rohatgi,
representing the District
Collectors of Vellore, Ari,
yari,
Mr. Sibal submitted for
the officials were still gathering the data for the EI
from the various offices,
from the various offices,
the description of the collectors of the collectors
and the collectors of the collectors
in the printing law and order and
in their justisdictions.
But Justice Trived said
the Collectors should have
reder appeared before

difficult situation. This court had passed an order on February 27... Their conduct shows that these officers have no respect for this court, the law and

Raps them for not responding to submons, says they have no respect for court and Constitution in person or through age

the ED and "eaid whatever

the ED and "said whatever they wanted to say". Mr. Si-bal asked what would have been the point of appear-ing before the ED without and the collectors did not also wanto disturb the elec-tory process. The collection of the test of the collection of the the ED call anybody like this," Mr. Sibal asked the Bench. "Yes, they can," portcally, Mr. Sibal said that was not the law "as we un-derstand it". He said Sec-tion 50 of the Prevention of (PMLA) allowed for "auth-orised agents" to be sent in-orised agents, to be sent inorised agents" to be sent in response to ED summons.

Justice Trivedi said 50/20
of the PMLA empowered
the ED to summon "any
person" whose attendance
for giving evidence or production of records in the
course of "any investigathe statute. Section 50/20
mandated that be fidite
that a section 50/20
mandated that be fidite
that the fidite fide fide fide fide fide
agents' and would be restatements and produce
required documents. Justice Trippedi said 5002

PMLA

D

required documents.

The court ordered the Collectors to be present in person before the ED on April 25. It listed the case for hearing on May 6.

All for Id



our ahead of Id-ul-Fitr when the gossamer-thin strands are turned

Why did Centre turn a blind eve to Patanjali's 'COVID cure' claim, asks SC

The Supreme Court of Tuesday questioned the government for "shutting its eyes" while Patanjali Aygovernment for "shutting urved "tom-tommed" its wares as a panace to CO VID-10 daving the pander the control of the control of

much less to the Constitu-tion. Such an approach is

vels, were complicit with P tanjali. The court asked why th

branjali.
Trastect why the proper of the public, especially especially

davits filed by Patanjali and Mr. Balkrishna, expressing

their apologies for publish-ing misleading advertise-ments in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertise-ments) Act, 1954 despite an undertaking given to the court last November

court last November. The Bench had initiated contempt proceedings against Patanjali Ayurved and Mr. Balkrishna on Fe-bruary 27 for violating an branding products as "per-manent relief" for diseas-

"Personal appology"
Mr. Ramdev was in the
Kamdev was in the
Shind his counsel, we
advocate Balbir Singh. Mr.
Singh said his client had
davit in response to the
court's contempt notice to
davit in response to the
ourt in response to the
pour the yoga guru had
come with the hope of percounty applegating to the
ourt.

ta's suggestion, gave the proposed contemnors a week's time as a last oppor-tunity to file fresh affidavits in the contempt case. The court listed the case for April 10.

Sanjay Singh gets bail, no trace of meney trail: SC | Seven charity workers killed

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh got bail from the Supreme Court on Tuesday in the Delhi liquor policy case, as the Enforcement Directorate (10) chose to make a ctical withdrawal rather than

risk an odd room the top trial later of After half a day frear-trial later of the and the and



leading to him. "We need to know if further custody to know if further custody been considered by the constant of the custody surface to the custody and the c

there were still contradi-cions in Mr Avorals tratements.

The duarry historic tra-tements in the contra-tion of the contra-tion of the contrality of the cycle of the contrality of the properties of the contrality of the con

Laumering Act MLA), in case it deemed to grant Mr. Justice Khanna also subtly pointed out to the agency that such an order granting ball would have

Got offer to join BJP, threatened with arrest: Atishi

Aam Aadmi Party lead

there's that.

"And liau facts"
Channing lack, the ED said
that I would not oppose
called facts" but argued
that the worder should not
be released as a precedent.

The language of the case
data but for the case
data but Aam Aadmi Party leader and Desh Minister Atish said of an offer to join the Bharstiya Janata Party in order to "save" her "political career", adding that she was threatened with the same and the same The siP distributed it, being her to appoin to for the allegation", as AASE at

to risk the possibility of such an order if hichose to argua against the bail. "If welp ass and deer, we have to broad reasons in terms of Section 45 and state that he has not prima facie committed an offence," Justice Khanna told Mr.

in Israeli air strike in Gaza mifications for the outcome of the entire liqu-or, they case, especially during trial. Associated Press DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

An Israeli air strike killed seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen, World Central Kitchen, leading the charity to sus-pend delivery on Tuesday of vital food aid to Gaza, where Israel's offensive has pushed hundreds of thou-

which target a creen we have a constant of Palestrinians to the brink of starvation. With the start of the starvation of



by an Israeli strike in Deir al-Balah. AFP

the "unintended strike ... on innocent people". He said officials were looking into the strike and would not be the said officials were looking into the strike and would not be the said officials were looking into the strike and so the said officials were looking to the said officials with the

Polish national, an Ameri-can-Canadian dual citizen and a Palestinian, accord-ing to hospital recordering. The Particle of the Particle of the Charley which operates in several countries wracked by wars and natural disas-ters said he was "hearthro-ken" by the deaths.

People are losing control over phones

he Internet was designed to evolve in a distributed fashion. Individual machines which were given the power to decide who people should talk to for a service in which they are interested. In the entire design of the network layer, there were no functionality such as allocation of Internet Protocol addresses and Internet Protocol addresses and root servers for resolving top-leve domains like .com, .org, and .net. Anyone could connect to the Internet and start providing or

onsuming a service.
As a result, the Internet saw rapid growth in the 1990s and 2000s, Many services such as emails, websites, and chats came up and became an important part of the Internet ecosystem. They and e-commerce. To access a website, all we needed was a web browser. The standardisation of its example of the standardisation of the provided a directory of websites and a directory of websites are the provided a directory of websites are the provided and affectory of websites are the provided as t emails, websites, and chats cam

Ceding control

Ceding control

And then came mobile devices.

When Apple came up with the iPhone, everyone began porting their websites so that these sites could be easily viewed on small hand-held devices. Apple also urged third-party developers to urged third-party developers to the could run on its Safari browsers. But then developers wanted the same control over the devices that Apple had. They wanted the hand-held devices. Apple opened the App Store for third-party native code on July 10, 2005. The control of th could be easily viewed on small

phones. Running untrusted software and that too natively is a big security nightmare. With direct access to the machines,



Sushant Sinha has done his PhD in

the way users should have

Internet services. The "immersive"

and is now

from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and currently runs the Indian Kanoon website that is a search engine for Indian law

apps can exploit local privilege escalation vulnerabilities and get control over the devices. This is something that cannot be exploited remotely. Understandin the risk of running untrusted the risk of running untrusted native code, Google's security team came up with a wonderful sandbox called Native Client in 2009. With few changes to the software, it can run safely on user devices. But none of that naterialised and the app stores

continue to allow apps as usual. Web standards, on the other hand, evolved into accepting JavaScript as a safe-enough language to do client side computing. Supported by browsers, it became the standard for running untrusted software or users' machines. It presented a users machines. It presented a decent sandox that eliminated a lot of security threats so that people could browse untrusted websites without much decent

people could browse untrusted websites without much danger. Over time, JavaScript matured, hardened, and presented a decent But businesses loved the apps. It meant they could run their native code on millions of machines, unhindered. They started pushing their users to providing their services through providing their services through the standardised browser. The users were told that the apps would provide a far more "immersive" experience than a website could ever give. But to get such an experience, users needed to cede control over their SMSs. photos, videos, and location. The also had to lose the controls that a web browser provided, such as blocking advertisements.

blocking advertisements. The gatekepers, app stores, tried to allay the fears of users that these apps are safe. Yet, these apps are safe. Yet, on how app stores contain apps with malware, or commit financial frauds, or even steal private information. Apps were wonderful for everyone except the users who various unserupulous apps do various unserupulous apps do chosen to access experience was various unscrupulous apps. Developers can publish their apps

install their apps (untrusted native code) on their phones just because the app stores say they are safe. A decade ago, I had highlighted these security issues with the apps and why web browers are a better alternative. But people better alternative sut people, and now the app stores love apps, and now the app stores love apps because they can imnose an app because they can impose an app tax ranging from 15% to 30%. The businesses, which loved apps for the control they got over the users, are now enraged. They believe that they had only signed up to get control over the users

and not to share revenue Anti-trust cases have been filed across the globe against organisations such as Google for abusing their dominant position Even when Epic Games won its court cases, there was little succour as Apple kicked out Epic Games from its App Store. Google Games from its App Store. Google Competition Commission of India, which ruled that Google is abusing its dominant position and fined it back with a rebashed version of the app tax calling it User Choice Billing and started removing apps from the Play Store. court cases there was little

A raging battle
The battle between businesses
and app stores is far from being
settled. It seems unlikely that the
app stores will easily leave out the
lucrative revenue coming from the
app tax. Instead of rethinking whether we need to go back to web services accessible on a web browser, businesses want an app

browser, businesses want an app store that doesn't have any app tax. Some have even advocated an indian app store in national spirit. Indian app stores in the store in the docurts pans out, it should be clear to the users that apps are not the way they should have chosen to access Internet services. The drowning the users earlier and is owning the users earlier and is now drowning businesses. In the end there will be only two winners, the ones that control the app stores: Apple and Google.

Helping the hills breathe easy

Restricting traffic on the ghat roads leading to Ooty and Kodaikanal is welcome

Mohamed Imranullah S.

oty and Kodaikanal, known respectively as the 'Queen of Hill Sta-tions' and the 'Princess of Hill Stations', in Tamil Nadu have been choking with traffic for some time now. Heavy and un regulated tourist movement has taken a heavy toll on these hills forcing the Madras High Court and the State government to step in and contem-plate certain restrictions.

Nudged by a special Divi-sion Bench of Justices N. Sathish Kumar and D. Bharaths Chakravarthy, constituted to hear forest-related cases, the ciple agreed to control vehicular movement by fixing a varying capacity for the ghartific studies through IIT Madras and Anna University, and the court that the decision was taken at a high-level committee ceretary Ship bas Meena. If the ceretary Ship bas Meena. If the ish Kumar and D. Bharatha

cretary Shiv Das Meena. If the plan fructifies, the govern-ment will fix a cap on the number of motor vehicles that will be permitted to ply on the

will be permitted to ply on the plant roads every day.

The Bench was seized of a number of cases related to several to the several relations of the plant relations are located. These include elephant poaching, electrocution of elephants, deaths of elephants, deaths of elephants on rallway tracks, eradication or rallway tracks, eradication from forests, and the banning of plastics.

of plastics.

It was while hearing the plea to ban plastics in the hill stations that the Bench ordered the establishment of



check posts at all the entr points to frisk tourists and dis-allow harmful plastics, includ-ing plastic water bottles. Alternatively, it promoted the establishment of paid water dispensers in the hill stations through corporate social res-ponsibility (CSR) initiatives.

ponsibility (CSR) initiatives.
On learning that glass pieces of empty liquor bottles left behind in the forests lead to serious injuries to the animals.
Nadu State Maurketing Corporation (TASMAC), which has amonopoly over wholesale retail and vending of alcoholic beverages in the State, to introduce a bottle buy-back care to return empty bottles.

ers to return empty bottles. As part of the ongoing exer cise to protect the forests, am-icus curiae Chevanan Mohan and Rahul Balaji brought to the notice of the Bench an orthe notice of the Bench an order passed by the Himachal
Pradesh High Court, and followed up by the National
On the Himachal
On the Himachal
On the number of motor vehicles allowed to ply between
Manail and koltrang Pras. The
Jar cap could be fixed for the
ghat roads leading to Ooty and
found favour with the Bench,
which felt that increasing vehcular traffic to the hill statourist seasons, had caused
great damage to the flora and

On being asked to submit data on vehicular movement, Nilgris Collector M. Aruna told the court that while on av-ply on the ghat roads every day, during tourist seasons the number increases to about 20,000 a day. The constraint of the Providing a rough estimate Providing a rough estimate in the district, she said lo35 commercial buildings

1,035 commercial buildings had 5,620 rooms which could accommodate approximately 20,000 people at a time. Ho wever, a detailed scientific as sessment would have to be carried out before fixing the carrying capacity for the ghar roads, she said.

After taking note of her sub After taking note of her sub-missions and finding that the ultimate decision on fixing carrying capacity could be ta-lean only by the State govern-ment. The place of the sastest the court in the matter by tak-ing the issue to the notice of the Chief Secretary. The Advocate General ser-tad in principle accepted the court's suggestion on fixing a

court's suggestion on fixing a carrying capacity. He said scientific assessments would be carried out on the ghar roads leading to both Ooty and Kodaikanal and orders for commencing the work would be issued after the completion of the Lok Sabha polls.

This is a welcon This is a welcome initiative. The two popular hill stations, which are picturesque and boast of a pleasant climate, have been bursting at their seams and struggling to cope with the pressure on their increw. What Ooty and Kodalicanal, which are tourism-dependent economies. urgently dent economies, urgently need are these measures that will ensure sustainable tou-rism and enable the protec-tion of the environment.

Indian Americans are the least poor among Asian Americans

Half the Asian Americans who lived in poverty said that their 'American dream' was out of reach

The Hindu Data Team

nly 6% of Indian Americans lived along or below the poverty line as of 2022 in the United States. This is the Control of the Power line and the Country, according to a recent Pew Research Center report. Most Asian Americans who lived in poverty felt that their 'American dream' was out of reach as they struggled to pay bills and turned to charities, friends, and family for food and employment. Pew's analysis was based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Sur-vey (ACS) and Pew Research Center's 2022-23 survey of Asian American adults, conducted bet-

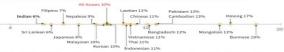
American adults, conducted bet-ween July 2022 and January 2023, with 7,006 respondents.
While Asian Americans are con-sidered educationally and finan-cially successful compared to oth-er racial and ethnic groups, there are wide economic and education-th and the successful compared to the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the rates were seen amone Burmese and the con-tractive of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the contr rates were seen among Burmese (19%), Hmong (17%), and Mongo-lian (16%) Americans, while the lowest poverty rates were seen among Indian (6%), Sri Lankan (6%) and Filipino (7%) Americans. Chinese, Bangladeshi, and Pakistai-origin Americans were in the middle with poverty rates of 11%. 12% and 13%, respectively.

Chart 2 shows the share of

Asians living below and above the poverty line across various demongraphics. Among Asians living along or below the poverty line, the power line and the power line, the power line and the power line, a large share was optimized with the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the power line, a large share was optimized by the line of the line was one of reach. Asians living below and above the

Between doom and the bream





nomic opportunities (16%) or who migrated to be with family (25%) said the same. Roughly half the Asian Ameri-cans who lived in poverty said their American dream was out of

by line in the U.S. said they had roughle paying bills in the pair year, compared with just 17% of those who lived above the powerty line. Similarly, 38% and 23% of the powerty line had got food from a charity and had problems paying pectively, compared with just 6% and 11% among those above the compared with just 6% and 11% among those above the cr. 28% of those near or below the powerty line had trouble paying for medical care in the last year, com-

pared with 14% above the poverty line. Chart 3 shows the share of

Asian adults above and below the poverty line who faced a type of fi-nancial challenge in the last year. More than 60% of Asian adults living near or below the poverty line also said they turned to family

line also said they turned to family or friends to help with bills, hous-ing, food, or jobs. Close to 50% sought help from local, state, or federal governments. Nearly 21% said they took help from religious institutions such as churches or temples, while 13% had turned to

Asian community groups.

A third of Asian immigrants who came to the U.S. due to conflict or fear of persecution in their home country said they received help from governments for various

expenses and employment. In

contrast, a smaller share of Asian

immigrants who came for educa

tional opportunities (14%) or eco

Chart 3: Share of Asian Americans who freed a financial challenge last year Chart 2: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans living along or below poverty line by the

Had trouble paying bills 17 lad problems paying rent/mortage Had trouble paying Lost health 10 Asian adults living near or below the poverty line Asian adults living above the

Chart 4: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans who said:

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Mindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1974

War crimes trial issue may be settled at belhi meet

New Delhi, Loril 2: The Foreign Ministers of India and Sangladesh will commence their prep atory talks tomorrow for working out a minon approach to the tripartite meeting with Pakistan, which begins this week-end amid expectations of a major breakthrough in capeciacions of a major breakthrough in opening a new era of peace and stability in the subcontinent. bcontinent. These Indo-Bangla talks were to have been

held at the highest level between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Delhi ast week, in view of the great importance being

last week, in view of the great importance being attached by India and Bangladesh to a successful arthrophy in the state of the state o

countries should proceed during the discussions with Pakistan.

Dr. Hossain, who has come three days ahead of the tripartie meeting – to deliver the order of the tripartie meeting – to deliver the stalk with pressmen before his departure from bacca and on his arrival in Delhi, the need for a common approach, policy and strategy between And it was disclosed to day that Shelkh Muilbur And it was disclosed to day that Shelkh Muilbur And it was disclosed to-day that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman himself would be stopping over in Delh on his way back from the Soviet Union for a detailed review of the results of the tripartite

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1924

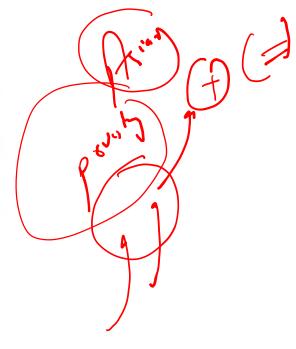
Asiatics on British trade ships

London, April I: In the Commons to-day London, April I: In the Commons to-day replying to Commander Kenworthy, Mr. Kebb said that enquiries had hitherto not confirmed employed on British home trade ships had increased. He was not in a position to propose action in that respect. Earl Winterton declared there was a very strong feeling among Indians ships life was the strength of the property of the strength of the stren ships His Majesty's Indian subjects, especially in view of the gallant services they had rendered to ritain in war time.

Between doom and the dream

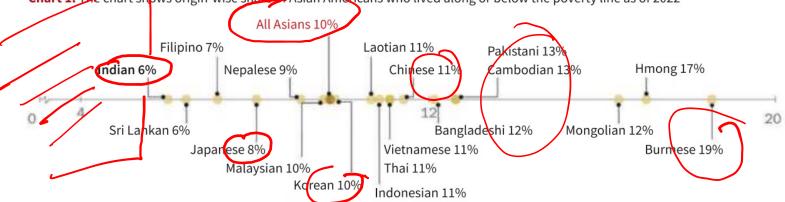
The charts were sourced from the Pew Research Center's report on Asian Americans living in poverty





Asians in the States: Chinatown's Central Plaza in Los Angeles is decorated with red lanterns for the Lunar New Year. AFP

Chart 1: The chart shows origin-wise share of Asian Americans who lived along or below the poverty line as of 2022



t Chart 2: The chart shows the share of Asian S Americans living along or below poverty line by their \mathbf{n} nativity, age, employment status and education level 1 U.S. born 43 **Immigrant** 57 Under 18 23 26 18 to 29 30 to 49 50 to 64 e 65+ Not in the labour force Unemployed **Employed** 33 High school or less 47 Some college 20 6 Bachelor's 22 0

Chart 3: Share of Asian Americans who faced a financial challenge last year (in %)

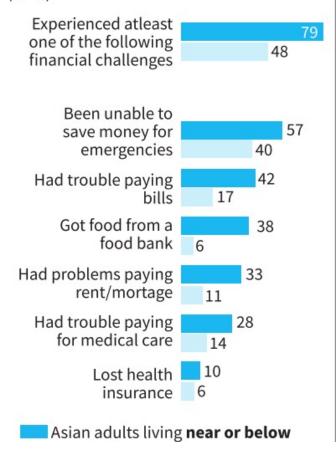
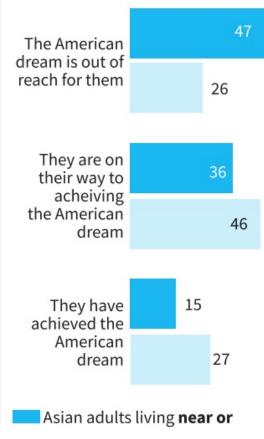


Chart 4: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans who said:





U.K. backs Rowling in Scottish hate crime law challenge

The British government said writer LK. Rowling should not be arrested for her transgender views after the *Harry Potter* author challenged Scotland's near hate crime law with social media nosts

men.

Ms. Rowling, a prominent gender critical carry
Ms. Rowling, a prominent gender critical carry
Ms. Rowling, a prominent gender critical carry
that the crime of "stirring up hatred" relating to
age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and
transgender identity came into effect. She tested
victed rapidity, religion, sexual orientation on X saying they were men.
victed rapid, sex abusers and high profile activists, on X saying they were men.
dering people would not be an offence under the
new law. However, Minister for Victims and Comminute of the committee of the com

Monday that it would be a matter for police to

cide. Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf said the new Bill was about "protecting people from a ris-ing tide of hatred". "Unless your behaviour is threatening or abusive and intends to stir up

threatening or abusive and intends to stir up hatred, then you have nothing to worry about in terms of the new offences being created," he said. Women are not protected as a group, but the Women are not protected as a group, but the burgh is looking at separate reforms to target mis-ogymy. Scoland has been at the forefront of ex-tending rights to the transgender community but a previous attempt to make it easier to change a le-gal gender was blocked by London over concerns it would impinge existing equality legislation.

Republicans strive to win over Black voters as support for Biden wanes

Strong turnout from Black voters in handful of States was crucial in Biden's victory in 2020 and those States are expected to help decide the 2024 election as well; while polls show a fall in the President's approval ratings among the demography, the scenario is not too different for Trump either

rlando Owens, a rare Republican activist in a majori-ty-Black district of Milwaukee in Wisconsin State of the U.S., had hoped this election season would be different.

With national polls showing waning enthu-siasm for Democratic President loe Biden, especially say they are frustrated with say they are frustrated with his performance on the his performance on the economy and other issues, State Republican party officials and activists saw and the state of the s

nominations.
Wisconsin Republicans
hosted a Black History
Month event in February at the party's community engagement centre in the his-torically Black Bronzeville Owens, the Republican party representative for the city's six majority-Black wards, is planning a roundtable of Black busi-

roundtable of Black busi-ness and church leaders this month and a door-knocking campaign aimed at undecided voters. But the voter engage-ment drive was thrown in-to confusion when the Re-publican National



Committee (RNC) last month announced it was axing plans for 40 com-munity centers aimed at organising Black, Hispanic and Asian American voters – underlining the challeng-er the acts force in proes the party faces in per-suading Milwaukee's Black voters that they are com-mitted to the community, beyond November's presidential election.

"Our commitment has always been questioned – but regardless of a build-ing, we are going to be here even if we have to work out of satellite offices or garages," Mr. Owens said

will keep the Bronzeville community engagement centre open. Reuters spoke to nearly 30 Black voters in majority-Black neighbour-hoods of Milwaukee, about

mained undecided about voting for Mr. Biden in No-vember or voting at all.

who are unhappy with Mr. Biden also expressed skep-ticism about Republicans' long-term commitment to the area and to issues of

the area and to issues of concern to Black voters. Strong turnout from Black voters in Wisconsin and a handful of other and the strong turnout from the strong to the white House in 2020 and those same States are also expected to help decide the 2024 election.

election.
The Democrat won Wisconsin by fewer than
21,000 votes, but carried
Milwaukee by roughly
1,46,000 votes with 53% of

those votes cast in majori-ty-Black wards, according to an analysis of election and census data by John Johnson, a public policy re-search fellow at Marquette Law School Lubar Center.

"It's fair to say that with-out Milwaukee, Biden out Milwaukee, Biden would've lost Wisconsin," Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Johnson said.

A Pew Research Center
poll showed Mr. Biden's
approval rating among
non-Hispanic Black adults
fell from a peak of 89% in
April 2021 to 48% in Janu-

April 2021 to 48% in Janu-ary 2024.

The Republican effort to win over Black voters start-ed in 2020 with the open-ing of the Bronzeville com-munity center. It ramped up in 2022 when the RNC selected Milwaukee to host the party's convention.

tion of a freeway through the heart of the neighbour-hood in the 1960s resulted in the demolition of over 8,000 homes and the dis-

'Obvious tactic'

"It seems pretty obvious on its face they are trying to go into the most Demo to go into the most Demo-cratic part of Wisconsin to plant a flag," said Jon Fleischman, a Republican strategist. "I think the par-ty sees Donald Trump's

ry sees Donald Trumpy's candidacy as an opportun-ity to create new consti-tuency groups."

office, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, is decorated with a distinc-tive white starburst on a red and blue backdrop of memorating the emancinamemorating the emancipa-tion of the last enslaved pe-ople at the end of the civil

Inside, a collage features Black Republican congres-sional members, portraits of civil rights leaders - and

of civil rights leaders – and an image of Mr. Trump, a polarising figure who has employed racist rhetoric. Brian Schimming, the state party chairman, ack-nowledged that consistent engagement will be crucial to winning over Black voters.

voters.
"What's happened to
Republicans in past years
is that you spend money

ple. If we don't do that frankly we shouldn't win."

A person familiar with the matter said that Mr Trump's team, now in con-trol of the RNC, did not like the community centres and believed the money hiring people in the con munity to engage with

A poll conducted by left-A poll conducted by left-leaning political action committee BlackPAC, in cratte polling firm, Brilliant Corners, found Black sup-port for Mr. Trump among likely voters in seven swing States, including Wiscon-sin, slipped from 9% in No-sin, slipped from 9% in No-February 2024. February 2024

Wisconsin Republicans plan to hire neighbour-hood canvassers this spring to step up its door to-door campaign efforts purchase radio ads aimed at Black audiences and eventually staff the office in Bronzeville full-time. Mr. Schimming said.
Party officials said their

Party officials said their voter outreach efforts will highlight resident con-cerns including inflation, rise in robberies and car-jackings and the Biden ad-ministration's handling of migration at the U.S.-Mexi-co border.

Norway plans | Festive cameo to increase number of conscripted soldiers

Associated Press

Norway is to increase the number of conscripted sol-diers from the present 9,000 to 13,500, the Nor-wegtan government said on Tuesday.

"We must have enough people with the right skills at the right time," Desence

Minister Biørn Arild Gram said. "We will need more people with professional military expertise going forward."

The country's armed forces will see a gradual increase in the number of conscripts for initial serconscripts for initial ser-vice each year, Mr. Gram said, adding that several billion kroner (several humdred million dollars) will be invested in the Nor-will be invested in the Nor-will be invested in the Nor-cility at Terningmoen, north of Oslo, where the NATO member will gather all new recruits. He did not specify precisely how prend, when the Norway will memd.

Norwegian news agency NTB said the aim was to reach 13,500 conscripts by

The move by the Scandinavian NATO member comes after neighbouring Denmark last month said it wants to increase the num-ber of young people doing military service by extend-ing conscription to women ing conscription to women for the construction of service from four months. The Danish government. The Danish government. The Danish government. The Danish government. The Danish government ber of conscripts by 300 to reach a total of 5,000. Both Denmark and Nor-way are trained, and Nor-way are trained from the pro-gramment of the pro-pose of the pro-tone of the pro-pose of the pro-tone of the pro-ton vants to increase the num

against Russia's invasion.



groups. legal under Ghana's law, passed in 1985. "We've

Pursuing leaders of Rwanda genocide 'urgent', says HRW

Agence France-Presse

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday that there was an "urgent maining leaders of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, five days before commem-orations begin marking its 30th anniversary.

extremist regime in Rwan-da at the time, the United Nations estimates that around 8,00,000 people, mostly from the Tutsi mi-nority, were killed over 100

days in an ethnic pogrom. HRW said in a statement that "a significant number of individuals responsible of individuals responsible for the genocide, including former high-level govern-ment officials and other key figures behind the massacres, have since been brought to justice."

Union, says every nation on the continent should

grant women the right to a

of rape, sexual assault, in-

medical abortion in cases

A worker stands near victims' bones recovered from pits which were used as mass graves during 1994 Rwandan genocide. FILE PF

But it added that "in recent years, several high-le-vel alleged genocide mas-terminds have died, or, in the case of one alleged planner, been declared unfit to stand trial, highlight ing the urgent need to continue the quest to deliver justice."

In tune, a UN court in The Hague declared that a presumed funder of the ge-nocide now in his 80s of his deteriorated mental

state. International prosecuinternational prosecu-tions determined in Novem-ber that Aloys Ndimbati, one of the last remaining fugitives suspected of play-ing a major role in the kill-ings, had in fact died in Rwanda in 1997.

Two senior genocide suspects are still on the

Abortion legal in many African countries, but few women know their rights

Associated Press

When Efua, a 25-year-old fashion designer and single mother in Ghana, became pregnant last year, she sought an abortion at a health clinic but worried the procedure might be il-

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country, but Efua said she
was still nervous.

"I had lots of questions,
just to be sure I would betion that only her middle
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reprisals from the growing
anti-abortion movement in
ble information was diffible information was diffi-

cult, she said, and she didn't tell her family about her procedure. "It comes with too man' judgments," More that 20 countries across Afric have loosened order to have loosened order to have loosened order to have loosened order loosened loosened order loosened lo

The Maputo Protocol, in effect for all African Union members, gives women the right to medical abortion in certain cases. FILE PHOTO

found that people are OK with our clinic providing abortions, as long as we don't make it too obvious what we are doing." The Maputo Protocol, a human rights treaty in ef-fect since 2005 for all 55 gal service for women who want an abortion, but we do not advertise it openly," said Esi Asare Prah, who works at the clinic where Efua had the procedure –

health of the mother or fe Yet to pass laws
Africa is alone globally in
having such a treaty, but
more than a dozen of its
solution of its
laws granting women access to abortions. Even in
those that have legalised
access remain. And misinformation is rampant in
many countries, with a recent study faulting practices by Google and when. Yet to pass laws

"The right to abortion exists in law, but in prac-tice, the reality may be a little different," said Evelyne Opondo, of the Interna-tional Center for Research on Women. She noted that poorer countries in particular, such as Benin and Ethiopia, may permit abor tions in some instances but struggle with a lack of re-sources to make them available to all women. Ma-ny women learn of their options only through word of MSI. Reproductive Choices - which provides contraception and abor-tion in 37 countries world-wide - reports that staff geted by anti-abortion geted by anti-abortion

geted by anti-abortion groups acrross Africa. The

group cites harassment and intimidation of staff in Ethiopia. And in Nigeria, MSI's clinic was raided and temporarily closed after al-legations that staffers had illegally accessed confiden

"The opposition to abortion in Africa has al ways existed, but now the are better organised," said Mallah Tabot, of the Inter-Mallah Taboč, of the Inter-national Planned Parent-hood Federation in Kenya.

amount of money backing anti-abortion efforts ap-pears to have come from conservative American ports have found millions in funding from conserva-tive Christian organisa-

Abortion legal in many African countries, but few women know their rights

Associated Press

ACCRA

When Efua, a 25-year-old fashion designer and single mother in Ghana, became pregnant last year, she sought an abortion at a health clinic but worried the procedure might be illegal. Health workers assured her abortions were lawful under certain conditions in the West African country, but Efua said she was still nervous.

"I had lots of questions, just to be sure I would be safe," Efua said, on condition that only her middle name be used, for fear of reprisals from the growing anti-abortion movement in her country. Finding reliable information was diffi-

cult, she said, and she didn't tell her family about her procedure. "It comes with too many judgments," she decided.

More than 20 countries across Africa have loosened restrictions on abortion in recent years, but experts say that like Efua, many women probably don't realise they are entitled to a legal abortion. And despite the expanded legality of the procedure in places like Ghana, Congo, Ethiopia and Mozambique, some doctors and nurses say they've become increasingly wary of openly providing abortions. They're fearful of triggering the ire of opposition

"We are providing a le-



The Maputo Protocol, in effect for all African Union members, gives women the right to medical abortion in certain cases. FILE PHOTO

gal service for women who want an abortion, but we do not advertise it openly," said Esi Asare Prah, who works at the clinic where Efua had the procedure – legal under Ghana's law, passed in 1985. "We've

found that people are OK with our clinic providing abortions, as long as we don't make it too obvious what we are doing."

The Maputo Protocol, a human rights treaty in effect since 2005 for all 55

countries of the African Union, says every nation on the continent should grant women the right to a medical abortion in cases of rape, sexual assault, incest, and endangerment for the mental or physical health of the mother or fetus.

Yet to pass laws

Africa is alone globally in having such a treaty, but more than a dozen of its countries have yet to pass laws granting women access to abortions. Even in those that have legalised the procedure, obstacles to access remain. And misinformation is rampant in many countries, with a recent study faulting practices by Google and Meta.

"The right to abortion exists in law, but in practice, the reality may be a little different," said Evelyne Opondo, of the International Center for Research on Women. She noted that poorer countries in particular, such as Benin and Ethiopia, may permit abortions in some instances but struggle with a lack of resources to make them available to all women. Many women learn of their options only through word

MSI Reproductive Choices – which provides contraception and abortion in 37 countries worldwide – reports that staff have been repeatedly targeted by anti-abortion groups acrross Africa. The

of mouth.

group cites harassment and intimidation of staff in Ethiopia. And in Nigeria, MSI's clinic was raided and temporarily closed after allegations that staffers had illegally accessed confidential documents.

"The opposition to abortion in Africa has always existed, but now they are better organised," said Mallah Tabot, of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in Kenya. She noted that a significant amount of money backing anti-abortion efforts appears to have come from conservative American groups - and several reports have found millions in funding from conservative Christian organisations.

Hang

Maputo

7 005 (- 56)



♦ The Indian **EXPRE**:

WAS IN CUSTODY FOR SIX MONTHS IN DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE

Bail to AAP's Sanjay Singh, ED doesn't oppose after SC says no money found

Can't be a precedent, not going into merits of case: Bench Its leadership behind bars,

ANANTHAKRISHNANG

urt Tuesday. The ED did not oppose



KEJRIWAL KINGPIN

reminded by the court that the "money has not been recovered" and he should "take instructions

The bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and PB Varale, granted bail to Singh CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

why bail raises AAP hopes

apart from his hold on MIAs in for their Rajya Sabha MP ahead of the party's Lok Sabha camphat has its top brass behind bars, page.

RBI 90

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

EXPRESS NETWORK

SERVICE: SC PULLS
UP RAMDEV PAGE 11

APOLOGY JUST UP

It is your by the

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Since 2014, 25 Opposition leaders facing corruption probe crossed over to BJP, 23 of them got reprieve

3 cases closed, 20 stalled; officials say probe is open. will act if required

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

ninent politicians facing ac-from Central agencies for alaged corruption have crossed were to the BJP. They cut across arty lines: 10 are from the ongress; four each from NCP nd Shiv Sena; three from TMC; wo from TDP; and one each tom SP and YSRCP.

In 23 of these cases, their po-tical move has translated into eprieve, an investigation by The

ion Express has found. Three of the cases have been

This is in sharp contrast to tion by The Indian Express in 22 revealed how 95 per cent prominent politicians that the rominent point are that the brocement Directorate (ED) I Central Bureau of estigation (CBI) took action inst after 2014, when the A came to power, were from Chroseltion

Opposition. The Opposition calls it the eir party and join the BJP.

Not that this is new — it's the ale that is unprecedented. CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PROBE PIVOTS ON
POLITICAL FLIP-FLOPS
IN AJIT PAWAR CASE P 6



Pawar, Patel, Adhikari, Sarma... how some cases were closed, others sent to cold storage

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

FROM CLOSING the case to put ting it in cold storage — this is how the Enforcement Directorate, CBI and IT Department changed course once the accused changed their party and moved over to the ruling BJP, reveals an investigation of the chronology of case records by The Indian Express.

CLOSING THE CASE AJITPAWAR: Mumbai probe shut, case hits dead end Party Shift: NCP, shifted to

The Case: The Economic offences Wing (EOW)'s FIR gainst Alit Pawar, Sharad Pawar and others, in a case of money laundering linked to alleged ir-regularities in Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, was based on a Bombay High Court order of August 2019. The ED's probe that

CHRONOLOGY OF FLIP-FLOP Police's EOW registers FIR

September 2019: ED be-October 2020: EOW files argesheet without naming

October 2022: Mumbai

EOW seeks further probe based CHRONOLOGY OF FLIP-FLOP on ED evidence May 2012: CBI files FIRs in Ai July 2023: Pawar joins NDA govt as Dy CM

January 2024: EOW files econd closure report Current Status: ED has filed

P-led NDA in 2023

the Supreme Court's grant of bail

The Case: The former civil aviation minister is being probed by CBI and ED for alleged corruption in the purchase of 111 air craft by Air India as well as in the

AI-Indian Airlines merger. The allegations involve ceding of profitable routes to foreign airtutes with foreign investment and ties with lobbyist Deepak Tahwar. The FIRs do not list Patel as an accused but mention his

dia-Indian Airlines merger May 2019: ED names Patel in

chargesheet June 2023: Patel joins NDA March 2024: CBI files closure

current Status: Closure pending in court CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

At Paris Olympics, Team India to get taste of home: dal, roti, aloo-gobi, chicken curry

SHIVANINAIK

THE LIPCOMING Paris Olympics ng halls of the Athletes Village vill be specially curated amed Basmati rice, dal. roti.

cently appointed India's deputy chef de mission for the Olympics, said the menu was passed on to the Paris organisers of the Games during their recent meet-ing with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He said the

ing with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He said the Association (IOA) he said the community of the Co tions for a modified menu to in-clude Indian dishes were aca nutritionist," said Keshavan, a former Winter Games luge ath-lete. Contingents from previous Games have often highlighted the need for an Indian menu, he

the need for an Indian menu, he added.

"Food tends to be a big issue with our athletes. Of course, at the Olympics you can engage with cuisines from all over the world in the main dining area. But we pressed the organisers to include a wider South Asian menu for our athletes. Athlete accepted: Keshavan, dy chef de mission for Olympics are anyway out of their comfort CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RALLIES IN UTTARAKHAND, RAJASTHAN PM: 10 years out of power, Cong talks of burning nation, is this democracy? DEHRADUN, JAIPUR, APRIL 2

me Minister Narendra Modi with Uttarakhand Chief nister Pushkar Singh Dhami in Rudrapur on Tuesday. ANT

HOLDING HIS first campaign rallies in Uttarakhand and Rajasthan ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Prime ing Lok Sabha elections, Prime
Minister Narendra
Mod and h
Gandhi and the
Gargerian and the
Gargery mindset
and of talking about
Fluming the country if
the BIP is brought back to
power for a third time.

Referring to the INDIA bloc rally held in Delhi on Sunday, the PM also said "the corrupt are holding rallies to stop action on The Congress and the INDI Alliance have already shown

their intentions. The shehzada (prince) of the Congress royal family announced that if the countrychooses the BIP govern-ment for the third time, there would be fire," he said at a rally in Rudrapur city, in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district. "Those who ruled for 60 years

Those who ruled for 60 years, and have been out of power for some and the power for the form of the fo

Sunday's INDIA bloc rally in

At United India, It's always U before I

IRDAI Regn. No.545 | CIN : U93090TN1938G0I000

CRPF officer shifted, airpor woman staffer had alleged harassment

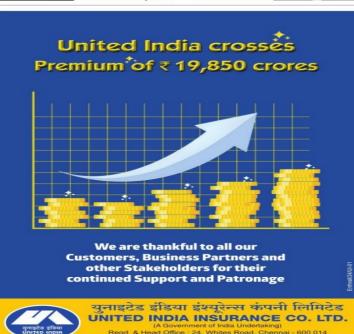
SUKRITA BARUAH & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

TWO WEEKS after a con was filed with the police allegi that the most senior CRF offic in the North East Zone had hassed a woman employee at to Guwahati airport, the IPS offic was on Tuesday premature was on Tuesday premature repatriated to his parent cadre On March 18, the Chi Airport Officer of the Lokpri Gopinath Bordoloi Airport plaint to the Depu Commissioner of Polic Guwahati West, alleging th

Barah, and a preliminary





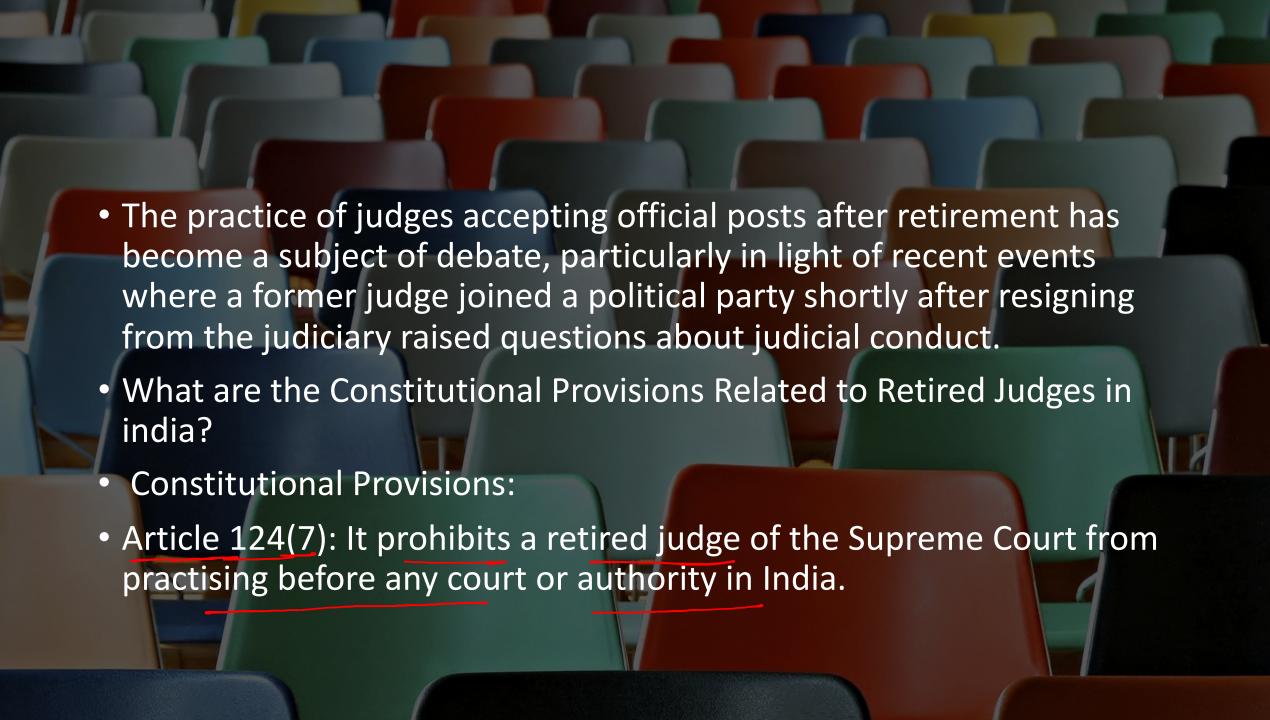


PM Judith Suminwa

Congo gets its first woman PM as violence surges in east

Kinhasa: Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi on Monday appointed the country's first female prime minister, fulfilling a campaign promise and taking an important step toward the formation of a new government after his reelection late last year. Former planning minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka will step into the role at a time of worsening violence in the country's mineral-rich east, which borders Rwanda. The conflict has displaced more than 7 million people according to the UN, making it one of the world's worst crises. Tuluka promised to work toward peace and development in her first speech. Still, it could be months before a new government is formed as it requires negotiations with many political parties.

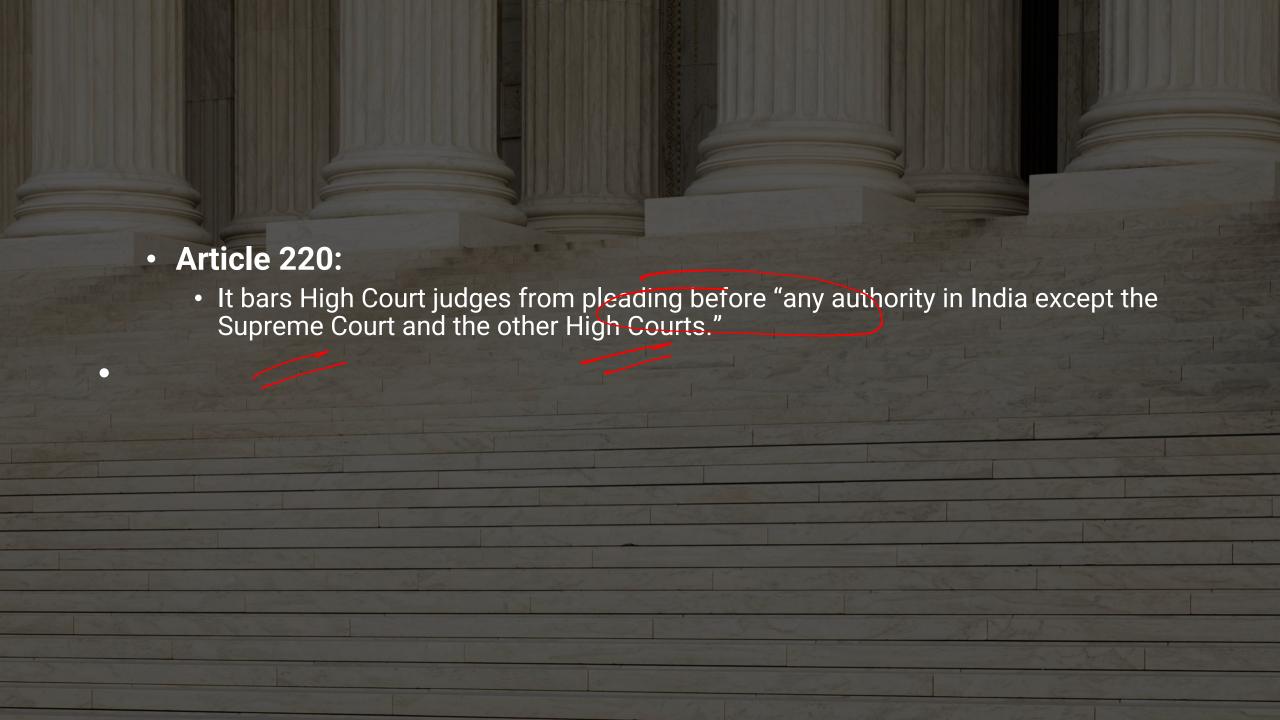
Debate on Post-Retirement Appointments for Judges

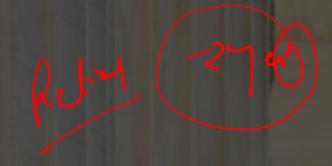


- This restriction is aimed at maintaining the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.
- However, the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit retired judges from accepting post-retirement assignments or appointments.

Article 128:

The Chief Justice of India, with the President's consent, may request
a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Federal Court, or High
Court qualified for Supreme Court appointment to sit and act as a
Supreme Court Judge.





- Related Cases and Recommendations
- : Bombay Lawyers Association v. Union of India
- The Supreme Court dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL)
 petition seeking a mandatory cooling-off period of two years for
 retired judges before accepting post-retirement appointments.
- The apex court stated that it was not within the court's jurisdiction to mandate a cooling-off period.

- 14th Law Commission: The 14th Law Commission, headed by MC Setalvad, had recommended that judges should not take up post-retirement jobs from the government; it also recommended setting the Cooling-off Period after retirement.
 - However, there is no specific rule that prevents judges from accepting such positions.

Constitutional Provisions Related to Appointment of Judges

- Articles 124 (2) and 217- Appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts
 - President makes appointments after consulting with "such judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts" as s/he may deem necessary.
- But the Constitution does not lay down any process for making these appointments.

Evolution of the System

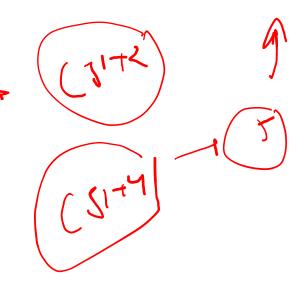
First Judges Case (1981)

- SC held that in the appointment of a judge of the SC or the HC, the word "consultation" in Article 124 (2)
 and in Article 217 of the Constitution does not mean "concurrence"
- Gave the executive primacy over the judiciary in judicial appointments

Second Judges Case (1993)

- SC overruled the First Judges Case
- Gave birth to the Collegium System (Primacy to the Judiciary)
- Collegium included the Chief Justice of India and the 2 most senior judges of the SC

Coll. Jis



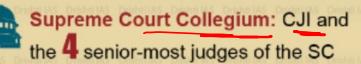
Third Judges Case (1998)

 SC expanded the Collegium to include the CJI and the 4 most-senior judges of the court after the CJI

Third Judges Case (1998)

 SC expanded the Collegium to include the CJI and the 4 most-senior judges of the court after the CJI

Current Structure



High Court Collegium: CJI and 2 senior most judges of the SC

Criticism

- Opaqueness
- Scope for Nepotism
- Exclusion of Executive
- No Predetermined Procedure of Appointment

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

- It was an attempt to replace the Collegium System. It prescribed the procedure to be followed by the Commission to appoint judges
- NJAC was established by the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014
- But the NJAC Act was termed unconstitutional and was struck down, citing it as having affected the independence of the judiciary

- With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: (2021)
- 1.Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.
- 2.A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - **(b)** 2 only
 - (e) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither I nor 2

SKOCH ESG Award 2024

REC Limited won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 for 'Renewable Energy Financing'. REC (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, and is registered with the RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).

REC funds both power and non-power infrastructure, encompassing a wide range from generation to transportation and communication projects, along with sectors including renewables, electric vehicles, and green technologies.

The SKOCH ESG Awards recognise organisations demonstrating outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

The Award and Assessment are a crucial benchmark for assessing organisations' dedication to India 2047 by emphasising the link between sustainable investments and processes for a sustainable business future.

Havana Syndrome

According to a joint media investigation, Havana Syndrome is linked to a Russian intelligence unit.

About Havana Syndrome

Havana syndrome refers to a **set of mental health symptoms** that are said to be experienced by United States intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.

Generally, the word 'syndrome' simply means a set of symptoms.

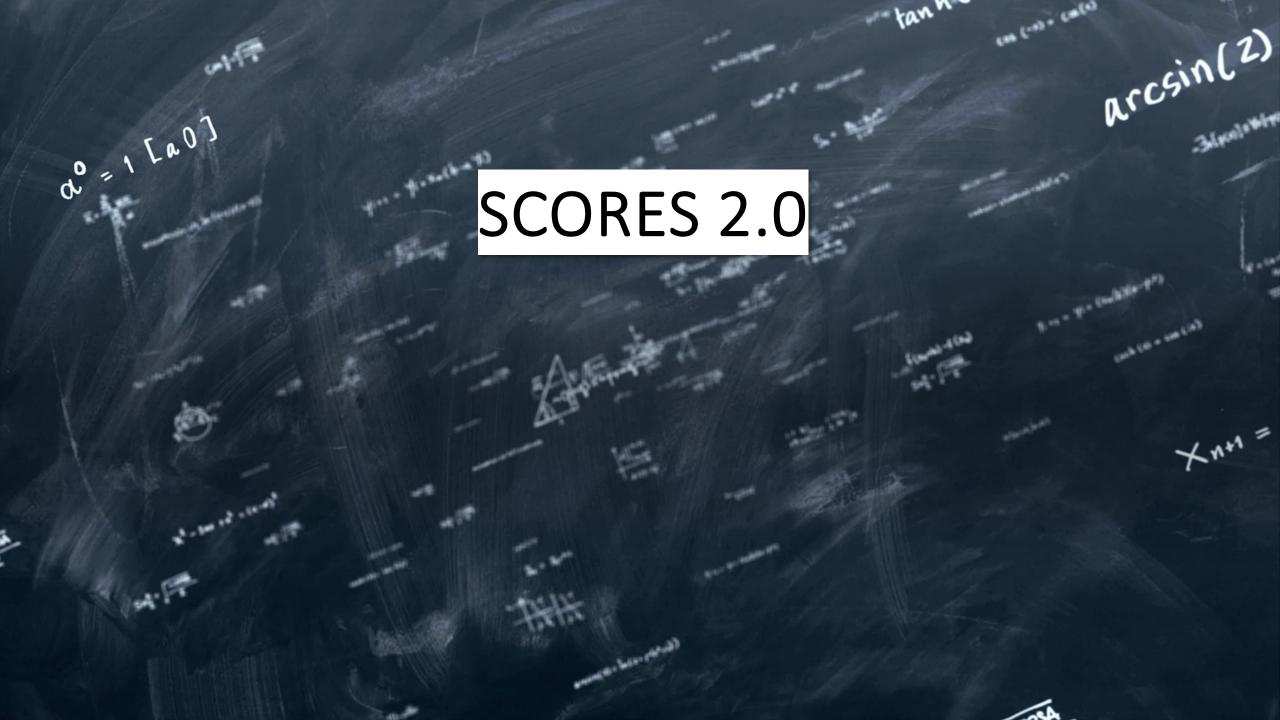
Origin and Symptoms: It was first reported in 2016 when U.S. diplomats in Cuba's capital (Havana) reported falling ill and hearing piercing sounds at night, sparking speculation of an attack by a foreign entity using an unspecified sonar weapon.

Other symptoms including bloody noses, headaches and vision problems were later reported by embassy staff in China and Europe.

- However, the joint investigation suggests the first cases of Havana Syndrome may have occurred in Germany two years earlier than the cases reported in Havana.
- Causes: After the Havana incident, there was a suspicion that the syndrome was a "sonic attack", which was carried out by Cuba a country that had been hostile to the US for over five decades.









Know about Securities and Exchange Board of India

It is a **statutory body** established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**.

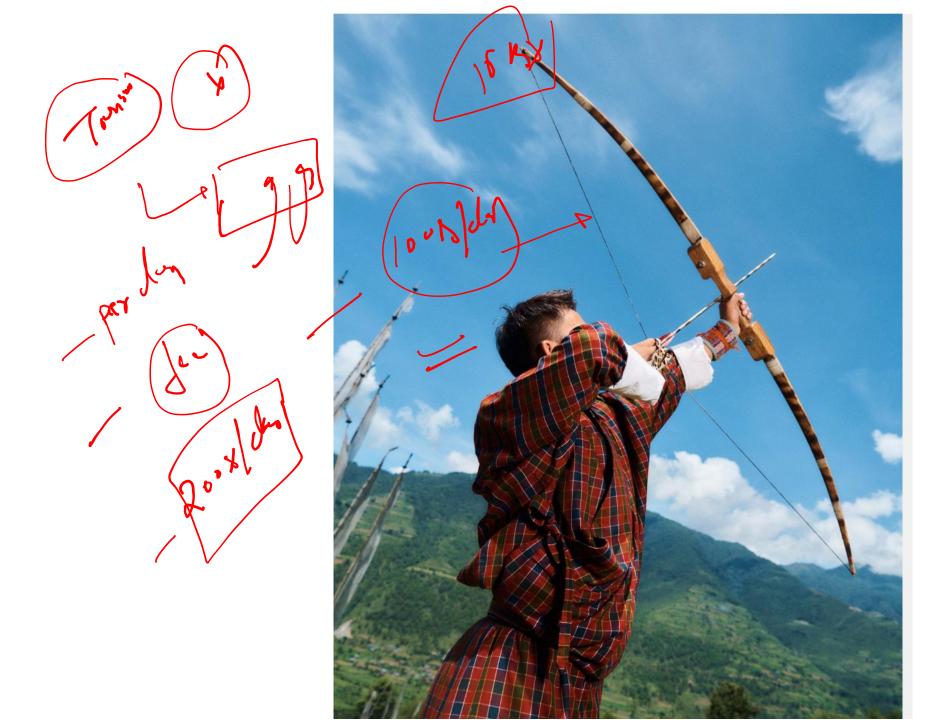
Before SEBI came into existence, Controller of Capital Issues was the regulatory authority; it derived authority from the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947.

It is a quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body which can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings and impose penalties.



- Exercise Ayutthaya is the bilateral exercise between the *Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN)*.
- The exercise's name translates to "The Invincible One" or "Undefeatable".
- It symbolizes the importance of the ancient cities of *Ayodhya* in *India and Ayutthaya in Thailand*, holds historic legacies and has rich cultural ties.
- Ayutthaya is the former capital of Thailand, named after Ayodhya, the birthplace of Rama, which establishes a connection to Hinduism and the Ramayana.







SELF IMPROVEMENT LANGUAGE SPEAKING



















