Daily Current Affairs



SITUATION OF A CONTRACT OF A



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"If you focus on what you left behind, you will never be able to see what lies ahead."







PRESSURE MOUNT

WORLD » PAGE 14



Cheropai & Countratore & Renetatore & Modershard

USTRIAL ALCOHO SC questions Centre's position on exclusivity NEWS > PAGE 8

INSIDE

China could not

grab land under

Modi govt.: Shah CHIWABATE

GUWAHATT Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday turned the clock back to the 1962 China war to attack Congress for "abandoning Assam", Addressing a BJP rally in Assam, he said, "Under the Newsonin Mediation

Narendra Modi government,

China could not grab even an inch of our land." > PAGE 4

Cameron meets

aid for Ukraine

U.K. Foreign Secretary and

President Donald Trump to

discuss further U.S. aid for

Ukraine to PAGE 14

LONDON

+

former Prime Minister David Cameron met with former U.S

Ukraine. The U.S. has already ammitted \$74 billion in aid t

Peter Higgs, who proposed 'God particle', dies

Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so-called 'God

particle' that helped explain ow matter formed after the

Big Bang, died on Monday at

4. the University

of Edinburgh said on Tuesday, >> PAGE 14

Trump to discuss

Uddhav



Netanyahu faces tough

choices over Gaza

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena faction gets 21 seats, 17 go to the Congress while the NCP (SP) gets 10

T FORECAST

main

Festive fervour

ormal

this year

NEWS > PAGE 0

likely

monsoon

intest from 10 seats while Purnima Sah he Maha Vikas Agh-adi (MVA), the Op-osition alliance in Maharashtra, has finally sealed its sear-sharing deal for the Lok Sabha election. The announcement came at the Shiv Sena (URT) of-fice here on Tuesday on

20 new companies

punishable offence

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

ambayi Parthasarathy

Despite firms in existence

for less than three years not being allowed to make pol-

itical contributions, data show that at least 20 such

show that at least 20 such newly incorporated firms purchased electoral bonds worth about ₹03 crore. When they purchased their first electoral bonds, five of these firms were in existence for less than a year old and the eight had only completed two years.

year out and the eight and only completed two years. Twelve of these 20 compa-nies were headquartered in Hyderabad. Together, these twelve

firms donated ₹37.5 crore. Close to 75% of this amount was encashed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), with

the rest divided among the Telugu Desam Party, the Congress and the BIP, Of

volved in formulation of excise policy...," the judge

bought poll bonds, a

contest from 10 seats while the Congress got 17 seats. The announcement re-portedly got delayed as the or each a consensus on three seats – Sangli, Bhiwandi and Mumbai-South-Cen-The Congress has now given up its claim on the contentious Sangli and Bhi-word the Shiv South III go to the Shiv South III go to the Shiv South III and the NCP (SP). fice here on Tuesday on Gudi Padwa, the beginning of the Marathi New Year the NCP (SP).

The MVA comprises the idhay Thackeray-led 'Unanimous decision' Shiv Sena (UBT), the Con-gress and the NCP (Sharad-At the press conference, the party leaders said there is no disagreement chandra Pawar). Under the seat-sharing deal, the Shiv ong the MVA partners NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pa-war said: "There are 48 seats in the State, We do ena (UBT) was allocated he highest number of eats 21 The NCP (SP) will

Firms are banned

three years of

ncorporation

from making political contributions within

these 12 firms, eight donat-ed exclusively to the BRS. This has communication communication of the second second within three years of incor-panics. Act, 2015 were after panics. Act, 2015 were after panics. Act, 2015 were after panics. Act, 2015 were after the common second section BZ2, just before the intro-duction of electoral bonds. The amendment deleted the amount donated by a company was capped at

company was capped at 7.5% of its average net profit during its previous three fi-nancial years.

Congress gives up claim over two contentious seats Sangli, Bhiwandi to cement the alliance



It's a deal: Congress State president Nana Patole, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar ting the candidates in Mumbai on Tuesday, EMMANUAL YOGIN not have any differences in to defeat the BIP. "It is natit, be it Sangli or any other seat. We have discussed it

ural for any partnership to go through rounds of dis-cussions to come to an seat. We have discussed it and the decision is taken nanimously." Mr. Thackeray said the agreement," he said. On the Shiv Sena (UBT) al of the coalition is refusing to give up Sangl

seat to the Congress, Mr. are with us, and together seat to the Congress, Mr. Thackeray said: "When victory against the BJP is the larger goal, we must set aside our certain differenc-es. Our fight is against Na-rendra Modi's party BJP and not against Prime Mi-nister Narendra Modi." the three parties will fight against the corrupt party, the BIP."

ARING THE BRUNT

The climate

crisis is not

gender neutral

Women experience

AL > PAGE 8

more health risks

"The final goal" To this, Maharashtra Con-gress chief Nana Patole said, "Our party has decid-

ed to be large-hearted to achieve the final goal of de-feating the BJP. All the dis-

putes over seat-sharing is over. There is no dispute over Sangli and Bhiwandi. We promise that there

won't be any vote transfer issue. The original parties, the Shiv Sena and the NCP,

the BUP." Earlier, the State leader-ship of the Congress was reportedly milfed as Mr. The State of the State of the State sulting with the party, an-nounced Chandrabar Patil as the Sangli candidate. In Bhiwandi, the NCP (52) announced its candi-erress wanted to contest gress wanted to contest from the seat. In Mumbai-South-Central, the Shiv Sena UBT gave ticket to Anil Desai, whereas, the Congress wanted to field its own candidate from there. Taking a jibe at Mr. Modi

B Mohali & Molopputen B Mambal B Tirepeti B Lucknew B Cettack B Potes

THUNG CONTEST

SPORT » PAGE 16

The main goal is to defeat the BJP and certain

differences must be set aside, says Thackeray

as SRH pips PBKS

Nitish the shining star

Thackeray said, "When we respond to Mr. Modi's re-marks, plesse don't take it as the same of the same same arriticism will be about the leader of a corrupt party." On Mr. Modi terming the Shiv Sena (UBT) "fake Shiv Sena", Mr. Thackeray said: "It is not right for a leader "It is not right for a leader of all us fake. The HJP is a party of extortionists... it is party of extortionists... it is quite evident as we all are aware of the electoral bonds scam." Maharashtra has 48 Lok

Sabha seats, the second highest in the country after Uttar Pradesh, which has 80. The State will vote in five phases – April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20 at the press meet, Mr.

> Firm with tech to crack iPhones lists ED as a client

Aroon Deep NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directo rate (ED) is a client of a cyb er forensics firm that has access to iPhone-cracking hardware, according to the firm's website. Nextechno Gen, a Delhi based firm, lists the ED as a

Client. It also has a section on its website dedicated to Cellebrite, an Israeli tech firm that has acquired a global reputation for being able to break into Apple here's Whones, which are Inc.'s iPhones, which are advertised as secure. The Indian Army, the police forces of Bihar, Kera-a and Kolkata, and Delhi's Forensic Science Laborato-ry are also listed as the digital forensics company clients

Kejriwal to remain in Tihar jail as Delhi High Court dismisses petition challenging ED arrest

PAGE 9

The Hindu Bureau

The Delhi High Court or Tuesday dismissed a peti-tion by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challeng-ing his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy

Mr. Kejriwal is currently in judicial custody in Tihar iail plea. "Timing' of arrest

"Timing" of arrest Mr. Kejrival had also chai-lenged his subsequent re-mand in ED custody in the case. He questioned the "timing" of his arrest by the agency and said it was in contravention of the basic structure of the Con-stitution, including de-Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, pronouncing the order, said the arrest of Mr. Kejriwal by the ED cannot be termed illegal. "Material which has been collected by ED re-veals that Mr. Kejriwal con-spired and was actively in-Justice Swarana Kanta arma, pronouncing the



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal leaves the court after he was ed by the ED in the excise policy case. PT

mocracy, free and fair elections, and level playing field. The ED opposed the plea and contended that Mr. Kejriwal cannot claim "immunity" from arrest on the grounds of the elec-tions as the law is applied equally to him and an "aam aadmi" [common man]. The High Court, howev-er, said, "Mr. Kejriwal has been arrested in money laundering case and court has to examine his arrest and remand in context of law concerning arrest and

The Hindu Br NEW DELHI nand, irrespective iming of elections." On Mr. Kejriwal's argu-ment that there was "no necessity" to arrest him, the High Court said the agency was in "possession of enough material which The Election Commission (EC) has asked the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to verify any mis-match in the information had led them to arrest the provided in the affidavit filed by Union Minister and BJP candidate Rajeev petitioner". The judge clarified that

this was not a bail hearing and the court was dealing with the legality of the ar-rest of Mr. Kejriwal and his subsequent remands.

Mr. Keiriwal was arrest ed by the ED on March 21 after the High Court re-fused to grant him protec-tion from coercive action by the federal anti-money laundering agency. He was sent to judicial custody on April 1 after being pro-duced in the trial court on expiry of ED custody. ed by the ED on March 21



Examine affidavit of Rajeev

Chandrasekhar: EC to CBDT

Chandrasekhar while filing his nomination from th Thiruvananthapuram Lok nancial year 2018-19 to The move follows a nearly ₹5.59 lakh in 2022-23. Over the last five finan-23. Over the last five finan-cial years, he declared in-comes of \$10.8 crore in 2019-20, \$17.51 lab.h in 2020-21, \$580 in 2021-22, and \$5.59 lab.h in 2022-23. Sources said that as per procedure, the EC had di-rected the CBDT to verify any mismatch in the affida-

The move follows a complaint by the Congress, which had alleged a mis-match in the affidavit de-tails submitted by Mr. Chandrasekhar, who filed his nomination on Thurs-

day. As per the information filed, the Minister's taxable income sharply declined from €10.83 crore in the fi-1110

right to privacy NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that candidates can retain their right to privacy and need not lay out every

'Candidate has

scrap of their personal life and possession for the voter to rifle hrough » PAGE 4 vit filed by the Union Minis

ter. Mismatch and falsifica-tion in affidavit is dealt with under Section 125 A of

with under Section 125 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Under the law, conceal-ing any information in the nomination papers or affi-davits is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or a fine, or both. (IIII) ABL



abha constitue

6



Navy chief inaugurates new facilities at Karwar naval base

Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar inaugurated a 350-m-long major pier for Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) and a residential accommodation at Naval Base, Karwar on Tuesday. These infrastructure developments are part of the ongoing Phase IIA of Project Seabird, which will accommodate 32 ships and submarines, 23 yard craft, a dual-use naval air station, a full-fledged naval dockyard, navai air station, a tull-liedged navai dockyard, four covered dry bench and logistics for ships and the state of the state of the state of the state capable of berthing OPVs, large survey vessels and mine counter measure vessels. The pier would also provide various shore-based services," the Navy said in a statement.

Leh administration revokes restrictions on rallies

The Leh administration on Tuesday withdrey The Leh administration on Tuesday withdrew restrictions imposed on public gathering under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) called off their border march to highlight pastures usurped by China. Santosh Sukhadeve, District Magistrate, Leh, in an order, said the restrictions were revoked after the Senior Superintendent of Polices and there was ''not any limitinent apprehension of breach move to withdraw Section 144 comes as election move to withdraw Section 144 comes as election dates near in Ladakh, and political parties have to start canvassing.

Pleas seeking match of VVPAT votes to be heard on April 16

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it will hear a batch of pleas seeking cross-verification of the votes cast with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), on April 16, The VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which enables an elector to see whether his vote was cast correctly. It generates a paper slip which can be viewed by the voter. It is kept in a sealed cover De viewed by the voter. It is kept in a sealed cover and can be opened in case of a dispute. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which could not take up the petitions related to Electronic Voting Machines, said it will consider all pleas in the matter for hearing on April 16. en

Accused in killing of Sikh leader shot dead by police

The Uttarakhand police on Tuesday shot dead The Uttarakhand police on Tuesday shot dead one of the two persons accused of killing Baba Tarseen Singh, chief of Dera Karseva of Nanakmatic Lordowara, situated in Ucharension among the Sikh community and the Opposition Congress has questioned the law and order situation in the State. Director General of Police (DCIP) Abhinaw Kumar said the Special Task Force police about criminals wanted for the murder of Baba Tarseen Singh who were movime to Baba Tarsem Singh who were moving to Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh via Haridwar Bhagwanpur Kaliar on the same bike which was used for the crime.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14145

Soldier on foot is present (4)

- Take unnecessarily large amount for fleece (10) Food having attractive shadow (3,3) Gasp about endless tenancy in Nice (8) **SM**
- Include note and m Nurse's sore [6]

THE HINDU News

States, U.T.s asked to submit India likely to record normal monsoon this

blood clots also. Hence, maintenance of adequate

maintenance of adequate hydration is essential," said Navinath M., consultant nephrologist, Asian Insti-turol gy (AINU), Chennai. "With the escalating temperatures, there is a noticeable uptick in cases of sun allergies and sun-burn among individuals

It's crucial to time outdoo

activities wisely and use the time when the sun's

rays are less intense. We strongly advocate for the application of sunscreen to

application of sunscreen to exposed skin areas and ad-vise limiting sun exposure to 5-10 minutes on the up-per back," explained Aa-kansha Arora, child spe-cialist, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals. "We're wit-negring a.

nessing a concerning trend, with approximately 20% of our daily patients

iPhone-cracking technology

lists ED as one of its clients

Avoid election campaign-related activities between noon and 3 p.m. and check overcrowding: ensure deployment of medical teams at the venues, says the National Centre for Disease Control

data on heatstroke cases



he States and Un-ion Territories on heatstroke cases and deaths on the Integrated Health Information Portal (HIIP), the National Centre for Disease Control has Health departments as Health departments as summer heat intensifies in the country. With elections around

With elections around the corner, the centre has also issued directions on preventing health issues during mass gatherings. These include early warn-inger another activities ings, avoiding activities between noon and 3 p.m., and an assessment of ve-nues with a medical team for setting up medical camps. Directing organisers to

ensure that there are no overcrowded pockets dur-ing events, the centre said care team and event stake-holders," the centre has said. that vulnerable people should be identified at en-try checkpoints and moni-tored with the help of vo-



ellas to shield th mmer day, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. AN

Meanwhile, doctors have also warned about the rising temperature and noted that people should

ED lens on online gaming firms set up in Cyprus, Malta

Devesh K. Pandey

the victims were cheated through online schemes and games. "He devised a distinc The Enforcement Directo rate (ED) has zeroed in on multiple online gaming companies and websites tive method of defrauding individuals, utilising ser-vers located in the United companies and websites incorporated in small is-land nations, including Cu-racao, Malta, and Cyprus, through which hundreds of investors in different parts of the country were cheated by a criminal syn-dicate of at least ₹4,978 crore. Arab Emirates (UAE) to orchestrate scams, with a pa-rallel system established in India to support the syndi-cate's operations in the UAE," the agency said, ad-ding that Mr. Rumar was a key member of the syndicate. After the ED had con-

An alleged key member of the syndicate, Punit Ku-mar, also known as Puneet Maheshwari, was arrested ducted searches on his premises, the accused had been avoiding its sumsoon after he landed at Del-hi's Indira Gandhi Internamonses and attempted to evade the probe team. tional Airport from Nepal a The agency had earlier arrested another accused, few days ago. The accused, a resident of Delhi's Moti Ashish Kakkar, from a Gu-rugram hotel on March 2, 2024. He is currently in

a resident of Delhi's Moti Nagar, was produced be-fore a special court that had sent him to the ED cus-tody till Tuesday. The agency's money-laundering probe is based on several first information reports registered in Delhi, Pajaszban, litrar Pradech Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, and 23, 2023. In February-March 2024, 14 more preother places, alleging that mises were searched.

To solve this puzzle onlin

Weapons concealed in farm shed (4

Goes in, carrying a tin spinning and amuses (10) Castaway pretends (4)

IMO, kestrel flies for some units of distance (10)

Bird's sound going back and forth (4) Pot or type of bottle, for example (8)

To some extent, slitherer is supple (5)

22 Regressed to some extent? Way out! (6)

Is duster thrown at these readers? (8) Criminal who may be working in the smithy? (6)

Trousers goal? Hiding hanging contraptions! (8) Traitor's taco (8)

24 Largest single digit number in North East India? (4) 25 Gather forged Pakistani paisa is missing (4)

20 Respect obtained from revolting Vietnamese after Ivan is

Is Iran producing dried grapes? [6] Perhaps, not in favour of Rajasthani gajak being rejected to some extent (4)

Grant's women tend to be confused by end of serenades [10]

Propose anyway (3,2)

26 Stone alien missile (6)

expelled (6)

18 Model DIY construction's neat (4)

A small bird is behind ship (6) A small bird is beginned sing tool
Boys were twisting some parts of their faces (8)
Kind of mentality required to drive a mono rail? (3-5)

get across to our crossword site. @ https://grgo.page.link/jjpTn



SUDOKU

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Aroon Deep NEW DELHI

firm's website. Nextechno Gen, a Delhi-based firm, lieb the ED as a client it ab-bit de delicated to Celle-brite dedicated to Celle-brite, an Israeli tech firm that has acquired a global break into Apple Inc.'s iPhones, which are adver-tised as secure. Nextechno, Gen's comnection with the ED comes at a time when the financial law enforcement agen cy has stated in court that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

The Enforcement Directo-rate (ED) is a client of a cyb-er forensics firm that has

access to iPhone-cracking hardware, according to the firm's website. Nextechno

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dard operating proce There have been petitions to the SC calling for restrictions around device seizure.

serve partisan aims. Apple has told investigators that the company is by design unable to unlock a pin-pro-tected device.

"As a practice, out of respect for our relation-ships, we do not divulge specific customer informabrite's products were re-quired to be used by law enforcement agencies with transparency safeguards and agency-specific stan-

8

7

2

the ED. The Indian Army, the police forces of Bihar, Kerala, and Kolkata and Laboratory are also listed as Nextechno Gen's clients. Advocate Prasama S. said that while people are giving up passwords to their devices under Indian jurisprudence, the police gentally have a wide gentally have a wide gentally have a swide gentally ha such information them-selves. Mr. Prasanna is as-sisting petitioners in the Ram Ramaswamy v. Union

FAITH

Ram Ramaswamy v. Union of India case, which is one of multiple petitions cali-ing for restrictions around device seizure. 'Our argu-ment is that [Inspecting seized devices] requires a warrant, and even if you break in, you can't com-pand if you do worcen't inin the State The official said that the police will have to work

with the limited resources provided and ensure a smooth election

Gudi Padwa's significance

Gudi Padwa is celebrated on the first day of the month of Chairra, which synchronises with the first day of the new moon. The day signifies the beginning of the new year, the herald of spring and the harvest of rabic crops. It's also the day when it's believed Brahma created the universe and the sense of time, Prof. Kumool Abbi said. Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya on this day. Many rural

Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya on this day. Many rural communities congregate at SNa temples on this day. In Mahanahtra, it is also the commemoration of Chhatrapati The festival is celebrated by cleaning and decorating homes with rangolis. People start the day by having neem and jaggery, believed to purify the body and signifying the prepared and shared, and it's considered auspicious to un-dertake new vehicles enc. purifying the subject of the start of the start of the purifying the start of the start of the start of the start detrake new vehicles enc.

wa refers to the first day of the lunar fortnight, while Gud refers to a flag made of bamboo that is decorated with gar lands of flowers, mango and neem leaves, sugar crystals, and an overturned silver or copper vessel. The Gudi is hoisted to the right of the house. As the flag is hoisted, it boilsted to the right of the house. As the flag is hointed, it of the Gud signify something. The yellow stands for sarto guna (seven attributes) by eliminating all impure and asfiron gative energies from the surroundings. Grees and saffron talky, red flowers show the intensity of passion against ne-gativity, and sagar crystals reflect weetness.

Press Trust of India Northeast India is likely to receive les than normal rainfal India is likely to experience a normal monsoon this during the first half of the season

vear. savs Skymet

Skymet said the upcom-ing monsoon is expected to be "normal", account-ing for 102% (with an error margin of 5%) of the long-period average (LPA) of 868.6 mm for the four

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

snow cover over Eurasia. The Met office will issue a month. However, normal cumulative rainfall does not mean uniform tempo-ral and spatial distribution of rain across the country, with climate change furth-er increasing the variabiliand 104% of the LPA is con-sidered normal. Skymet expects suff-ciently good rain in the south, west, and northwest regions. The core mon-soon rain-fed zomes of Mohemethere and Maching Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will receive adeq-uate rainfall. However, the er increasing the variabili-ty of the rain-bearing eastern States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal are at risk of Rainy days declining

west bengai are at risk of deficit rainfall during the peak monsoon months of July and August. Northeast India is likely to observe less than normal rains dur-ing the first half of the season

Centre orders recall of 5.000 CAPF troops from Manipur

The Hindu Bureau

dures. Nextechno Gen did not The Union Ministry of The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has or-dered the withdrawal of around 5,000 Central Armed Police Forces respond to questions from The Hindu, and neither did the ED. The Indian Army, (CAPF) personnel from Manipu

Manipur. The two Lok Sabha seats in the violence-hit State will witness polling on April 19 and 26.

April 19 and 26. A senior government of-ficial said that the MHA had ordered the pulling out of 50 companies (each company has around 100 personnel) of CAPFs, main ly drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force, from the violence-hit State Ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. After violence erupted around 36,000 personnel from the Indian Army and the CAPFs were deployed

specific customer informa-tion," Victor Cooper, a Cel-lebrite spokesperson said in a statement to The Hin-du. Mr. Cooper confirmed that Cellebrite had an India office to "assist our cus-tomers". He said Celle-

and if you do, you can't inspect everything except what you want," he said.

20% of our damy panents presenting with sun-relat-ed allergies, including rashes and pigmentation issues. Children and indivi-duals engaged in outdoor occupations are particular-by vulnerable," she added. Climate scientists say the number of rainy days is de-clining while heavy rain events – more rain over a short period – are increas-ing, leading to frequent droughts and floods. Digital forensics firm with

system.

months from June to September. Rainfall between 96% and 104% of the LPA is con

India likely to record normal monsoon this year, says Skymet

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

India is likely to experience a normal monsoon this year, the private weather forecasting agency Skymet said on Tuesday and forecast more rainfall in the second half of the season.

Scientists at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) have also detected early signs of a favourable monsoon this year with fading El Nino conditions and reduced snow cover over Eurasia. The Met office will issue a monsoon forecast later this month. However, normal cumulative rainfall does not mean uniform temporal and spatial distribution of rain across the country, with climate change further increasing the variability of the rain-bearing system.

Rainy days declining

Climate scientists say the number of rainy days is declining while heavy rain events – more rain over a short period – are increasing, leading to frequent droughts and floods. Northeast India is likely to receive less than normal rainfall during the first half of the season

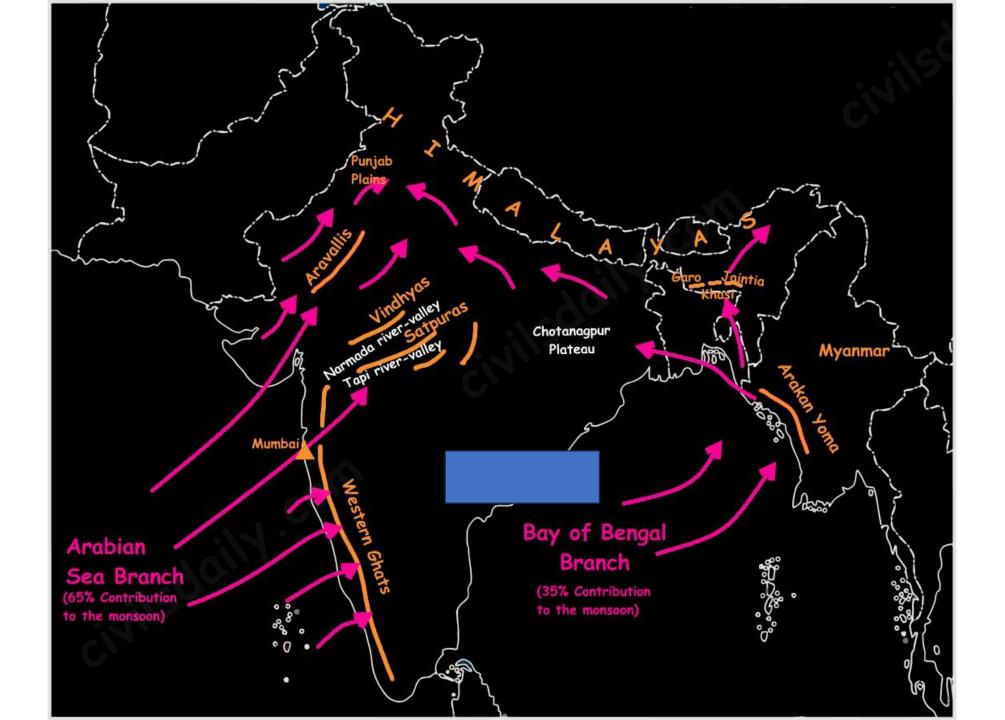
Skymet said the upcoming monsoon is expected to be "normal", accounting for 102% (with an error margin of 5%) of the longperiod average (LPA) of 868.6 mm for the four months from June to September.

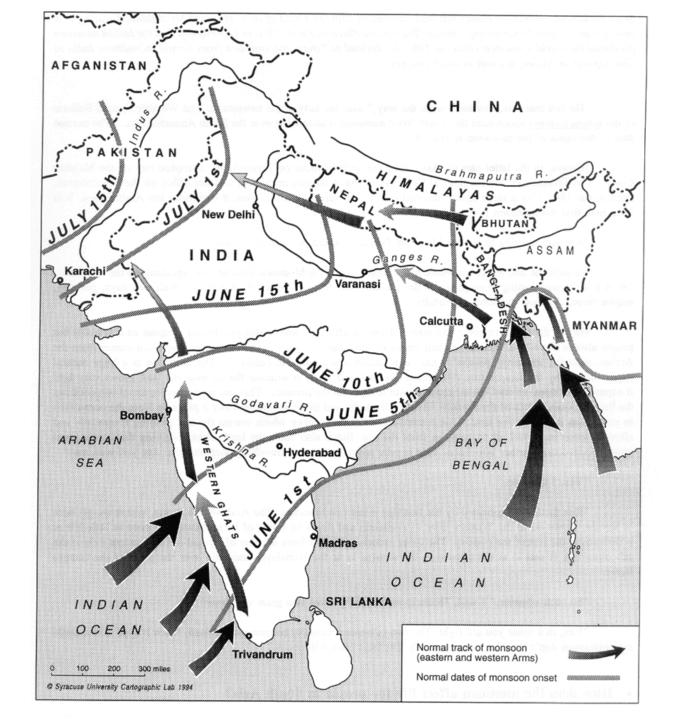
Rainfall between 96% and 104% of the LPA is considered normal.

Skymet expects sufficiently good rain in the south, west, and northwest regions. The core monsoon rain-fed zones of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will receive adequate rainfall. However, the eastern States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal are at risk of deficit rainfall during the peak monsoon months of July and August. Northeast India is likely to observe less than normal rains during the first half of the season.



^first forecasts, *LPA (long period average) is average annual rainfall (89 cm) recorded between 1951-2000, 96%-104% of LPA considered 'normal', <96% is 'below normal', <90% is 'deficient', >104% is 'above normal', >110% plus is 'excess', India Meteorological Department (IMD) Source: #second advance estimate of crop production, covers only kharif & rabi season, summer crops data not included





THE HINDU News

NEW DELHI

ings, avoiding activities

between noon and 3 p.m., and an assessment of ve-

nues with a medical team

for setting up medical

camps. Directing organisers to

Directing organisers to ensure that there are no overcrowded pockets dur-ing events, the centre said that vulnerable people should be identified at en-try checkpoints and moni-tored with the help of vo-

Devesh K. Pandey

The Enforcement Directo-

An alleged key member

of the syndicate. Punit Ku-

mar, also known as Puneet Maheshwari, was arrested

soon after he landed at Del-hi's Indira Gandhi Interna-

expelled (6)

Largest single digit number in North East India? (4) Gather forged Pakistani paisa is missing (4)

ED lens on online

in Cyprus, Malta

gaming firms set up

INBRIEF

6



Navy chief inaugurates new facilities at Karwar naval base

Newy Chief Admiral R: Hard Kanner inaugurated as S50 ro-basy major here for cofihore brack (OPW) and a residential accommodation at Naval Base, Karwar on Tuesday. These infrastructure developments are part of the ongoing Phase IA of Project Sashird, which will accommodate 32 of Project Sashird, which will accommodate 32 naval air station, a full-fledged naval dockyard, four covered dry berths and logistics for ships and aircraft. "The Pier 3 OPV Pier is 350m long, and mine counter measure vessels. The pier and mine counter measure vessels. The pier would also provide various shore-based services," the Navy said in a statement.

Leh administration revokes restrictions on rallies

The Leh administration on Tuesday withdrew The Left administration on Fuesday window we restrictions imposed on public gathering under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, days after climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and days after climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and the Leh Apex Rody (LAB) called off their border march to highlight pastures usurped by China. Santosh Sukhadeve, District Magistrate, Leh, in antosh Sukhadeve, District Magistrate, Jeh, in the Senior Superintendent of Police said there was "not any imminent apprehension on breach of peace and public order". The government move to with/tarw Section 144 comes as election dates near in Ladakh, and political parties have to start carwashing.

Pleas seeking match of VVPAT votes to be heard on April 16

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it will hear a batch of pleas seeking cross-verification of the votes cast with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit the votes cast with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), on April 16. The VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which enables an elector to see whether his vote was cast correctly. It generates a paper slip which can be viewed by the voter. It is kept in a sealed cover and can be opened in case of a dispute. A bench of the strains and Dimonker Datra. of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which could not take up the petitions related to Electronic Voting Machines, said it will consider all pleas in the matter for hearing on April 16. PM

Accused in killing of Sikh leader shot dead by police

The Utrarakhand police on Tuesday abot dead one of the two persons accused of killing Baba Tarsem Singh, chief of Dera Karsewa of Nanakamata Gurdwara, situated in Udham Singh Nagar district. The murder has sparked tension Congress has questioned the law and order situation in the State. Director General of Police (GDP) Abhinav Kumar said the Special Task Force (STP) had given intelligence inputs to Haridwar police about criminals wanted for the nurder of Moradabad in Utrar Pradesh via Haridwar Modabad in Utrar Pradesh via Haridwar Moradabad in Utrar Pradesh via Haridwar The Uttarakhand police on Tuesday shot dead Bhagwanpur Kaliar on the same bike which was used for the crime.



Avoid election campaign-related activities between noon and 3 p.m. and check overcrowding; ensure deployment of medical teams at the venues, says the National Centre for Disease Control

Bindu Shajan Perappadan he States and Un-ion Territories should submit data on heatstroke cases and deaths on the Integrated deaths on the Integrated Health Information Portal (HHP), the National Centre for Disease Control has essential to the test of the test Health departments as summer heat intensifies in the country. With elections around the corner, the centre has preventing health issues

Scorching sun: People use umbrellas to shield themselves from the hot summer day, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. AN preventing health issues during mass gatherings. These include early warn-

lunteers/cameras on site. Events are also supposed look out for symptoms of sun allergies and dehydra-tion, including dizziness, to have uniformed medical aid teams, detailed venues headache, excessive thirst, with indications to the dryness of mouth, de nearest exit and proper in-dications about the exits. "Keep effective communi-cation between the healthcrease in urine output, and fainting. "Elderly people, young natients suffering

"Elderly people, young children, patients suffering from chronic illness and on multiple medications are more prone to the effects of extreme heat. Severe de-hydration due to excessive heat can cause stroke and contribute to formation of care team and event stake-holders," the centre has said. Meanwhile, doctors have also warned about the rising temperature and noted that people should

maintenance of adequate hydration is essential," aid Navinath M., consultant hydration is essential," aid Navinath M., consultant une of Nephrology and Urology (AINU), Chennai. "With the escalating temperable-tem, chen is a of sun allergies and sum-burn among individuals control of the sum of the activities wheely and use the time when the sum's rays are less intense. We application of sumscreen to exposed skin areas and adcast more rainfall in the se-cond half of the season. Scientists at the India Meteorological Depart-ment (IMD) have also dement (IMD) have also de-tected early signs of a fa-vourable monsoon this year with fading El Nino conditions and reduced snow cover over Eurasia. The Met office will issue a monsoon forecast later this month. However, normal cumulative rainfall does exposed skin areas and ad-vise limiting sun exposure to 5-10 minutes on the up-per back," explained Aa-kansha Arora, child spe-cialist Linko Correct Course cumulative rainfall does not mean uniform tempo-ral and spatial distribution of rain across the country, with climate change furth er increasing the variabili-ty of the rain-bearing system. cialist, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals. "We're witnessing a concerning trend, with approximately 20% of our daily patients Rainy days declining

blood clots also. Hence

aintenance of adequate

20% of our daily patients presenting with sun-relat-ed allergies, including rashes and pigmentation issues. Children and indivi-duals engaged in outdoor occupations are particular-ly vulnerable," she added. Rainy days declining Climate scientists say the number of rainy days is de-clining while heavy rain events – more rain over a short period – are increas-ing, leading to frequent droughts and floods.

Digital forensics firm with iPhone-cracking technology lists ED as one of its clients

through online schemes and games. "He devised a distinc Aroon Deep

The Enforcement Directo-rate (ED) has zeroed in on multiple online gaming companies and websites land nations, including Cu-racao, Malta, and Cyprus, through which hundreds of investors in different parts of the country were objects of the country were objects of the different \$4.928 "He devised a distinc-tive method of defrauding individuals, utilising ser-versi located in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to or-chestrate scams, with a pa-rallel system established in India to support the syndi-cate's operations in the UAE, the agency said, add to be agency method of the syndicate of the syndicate of the syndicate syndicate of the syndicate of the syndicate of the syndicate of the syndicate syndicate of the syndicate of t dicate of at least ₹4,978 syndicate. After the ED had con-

the victims were cheated

hi's indira clandhi interna-tional Airport from Nepal a few days ago. The accused, and the second second second second Nagar, was produced be-fore a special court that had sent him to be as the agency's money-tal andering probe is based on several inter information. Juandering probe is based on several inter information. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, and other places, alleging that 23, 2023. In February-March 2024, 14 more pre-mises were searched.

ducted searches on his premises, the accused had been avoiding its sumbeen avoiding its sum-monses and attempted to evade the probe team. Terrested another accused, Ashish Kakkar, from a Gu-rugram hother accused, 2024, He is corently in Earlier, it had searched 25 premises in Delhi, Guja-rat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Azdhra Pray tised as secure.

cial law enforcement agen-cy has stated in court that belhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has refused to cooperate in unlocking an iPhone that was seized from him; lawyers for Mr. Kejriwal, who has been in month, defended that refu-sal. arvnime that investiga-

The Enforcement Directo-rate (ED) is a client of a cyb-er forensics firm that has access to iPhone-cracking hardware, according to the firm's website. Nextechno Gen, a Delhi-based firm, lists the ED as a client. It al-so has a section on its web-100 There have been petitions to the SC calling for restrictions so has a section on its web-site dedicated to Celle-brite, an Israeli tech firm around device seizure that has acquired a global reputation for being able to break into Apple Inc.'s iPhones, which are advertected device. Nextechno Gen's con ection with the ED c at a time when the finan-cial law enforcement agen-

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dard operating proce dures. Nextechno Gen did not

serve partisan aims. Apple has told investigators that the company is by design unable to unlock a pin-pro-

tected device. "As a practice, out of respect for our relation specific customer informa-tion," Victor Cooper, a Cel-lebrite spokesperson said in a statement to *The Him* that Cellebrite had an India office to "assist our cus-tomers". He said Celle-brites products a be a winforcement agencies with selves. Mr. Prasanna is as-sisting petitioners in the Ram Ramaswamy v. Union of India case, which is one of multiple petitions cali-ing for restrictions around device seizure. "Our argu-ment is that Jinspecting seized devices] requires a versak v. V. Ser on the our break v. V. Ser on the our break v. V. Ser on the our pletely clone all the data, and if you do, you can't inenforcement agencies with transparency safeguards and agency-specific stan-

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Nextechno Gen did not respond to questions from *The Hindua*, and neither did the ED. The Indian Army, the ED. The Indian Army, Kerala, and Kolkata and Delhi's Porensis Cscience Laboratory are also listed as Nextechno Gen's clients. Advocate Prasanna S. semunilik wrmee-red are inst

out of 50 companies (each company has around 100 personnel) of CAPFs, mainy drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force, from the violence-hit State.

from the violence-fit State. Ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. After violence erupted, around 36,000 personnel from the Indian Army and from the Indian Army and from the Indian Army and in the State The official said that the police will have to work with the limited resources provided and ensure a smooth election.

Gudi Padwa's significance

Gudi Padwa is celebrated on the first day of the month of Gudi Padva is celebrated on the first day of the mewnho of Chairra, which synchronises with the first day of the new moon. The day signifies the beginning of the new year, the berald of spring and the harvest of rabic crops. It's also the the sense of time, Prof. Kamool Abbi said. Lord Rams returned to Ayodhya on this day. Many rural communities congregate at Siva temples on this day. In Maharashtra, it is also the commemoration of Chhatrapati Sivaji's victory over the Mughals. Jones with rancelis. Devoles tart the day by having meem

homes with rangolis. People start the day by having neem and jaggery, believed to purify the body and signifying the acceptance of bittersweet experiences in life. Sweets are prepared and shared, and it's considered auspicious to undertake new business ventures, conduct vastu puja, and purchase new vehicles etc.

The words Gudl Padwa have a special significance. Pad-war refers to the first day of the luran formight, while Gudl refers to a flag made of bamboo that is decorated with gar-lands of flowers, margo and neven leaves, sugar crystals, and an overturned silver or copper vessel. The Gudl is brings good luck, eclipaing negativity, Al the constituents of the Gudl signify something. The yellow stands for and gund (seven attributes) by eliminating al impure and saffon gund (seven attributes) by eliminating a guasion tamote guting, and and saffon the surroundings. Green and saffon patients of the safe and saffon guting the seven shows the immenty of passion cannot be guting, and sugar crystals reflect sweetness. The words Gudi Padwa have a special significance. Pad-



India likely to record normal monsoon this

> Skymet said the uncom ing monsoon is expected to be "normal", account-

to be "normal", account-ing for 102% (with an error margin of 5%) of the long-period average (L/A) of 868.6 mm for the four months from June to September. Rainfal between 96% and 104% of the LPA is con-sidered normal. sidered normal. Skymet expects suffi ciently good rain in the south, west, and northwest regions. The core mon-soon rain-fed zones of Maharashtra and Madhva Pradesh will receive adeq uate rainfall. However, the eastern States of Bibar Iharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal are at risk of West Bengal are at risk of deficit rainfall during the peak monsoon months of July and August. Northeast India is likely to observe less than normal rains dur-ing the first half of the

Centre orders recall of 5,000 CAPF troops from Manipur

The Hindu Bureau

The Union Ministry of The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has or-dered the withdrawal of around 5,000 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel from

Manipur. The two Lok Sabha seats in the violence-hit State will witness polling on April 19 and 26.

generally protected against giving up passwords to their devices under Indian A senior government of-ficial said that the MHA had ordered the pulling jurisprudence, the police generally have a wide berth in terms of finding such information them-selves. Mr. Prasanna is as-

sal, arguing that investiga-tors might leak the con-tents of his phone and SUDOKU 6 з 7 з 8 5 2



Soldier on foot is present (4) outsier on foot is present (4) Take unnecessarily large amount for fleece (10) 9 Food having attractive shadow (3,3) 1 Gissp about endless tenancy in Nice (8) 1 Include note and make mistake in contract pos 1 Nurse's sore (6) 22 Regressed to some extent? Way out! (6)

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SM (1997)

and if you do, you can't inspect everything except what you want," he said. FAITH

Gudi Padwa's significance

Gudi Padwa is celebrated on the first day of the month of Chaitra, which synchronises with the first day of the new moon. The day signifies the beginning of the new year, the herald of spring and the harvest of rabi crops. It's also the day when it's believed Brahma created the universe and the sense of time, Prof. Kumool Abbi said.

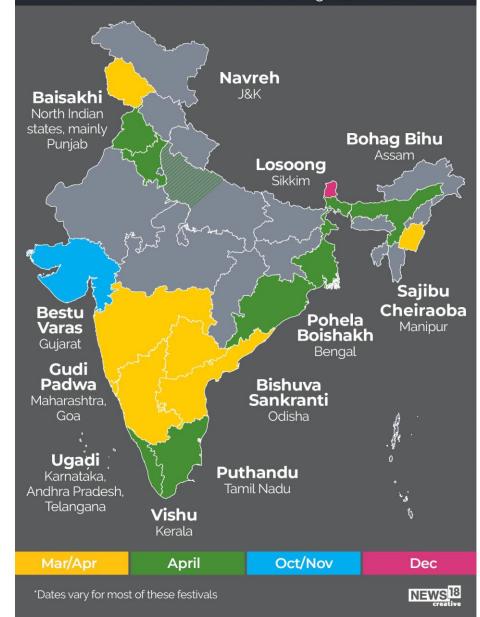
Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya on this day. Many rural communities congregate at Siva temples on this day. In Maharashtra, it is also the commemoration of Chhatrapati Sivaji's victory over the Mughals.

The festival is celebrated by cleaning and decorating homes with rangolis. People start the day by having neem and jaggery, believed to purify the body and signifying the acceptance of bittersweet experiences in life. Sweets are prepared and shared, and it's considered auspicious to undertake new business ventures, conduct vastu puja, and purchase new vehicles etc.

The words Gudi Padwa have a special significance. Padwa refers to the first day of the lunar fortnight, while Gudi refers to a flag made of bamboo that is decorated with garlands of flowers, mango and neem leaves, sugar crystals, and an overturned silver or copper vessel. The Gudi is hoisted to the right of the house. As the flag is hoisted, it brings good luck, eclipsing negativity. All the constituents of the Gudi signify something. The yellow stands for *sato guna* (seven attributes) by eliminating all impure and negative energies from the surroundings. Green and saffron represent life and pure fire. Mango leaves reflect immortality, red flowers show the intensity of passion against negativity, and sugar crystals reflect sweetness.

THE NEW YEAR MAP OF INDIA

New Year festivals in different regions of India





THE HINDU Business

Eid boosts travel demand: fares rise on West Asia-India routes



Aneesh Phadnis

Airfares on the busy West Asia. India routes are up to 50% higher than normal this year due to higher travel demand during Eid holidays. Schools in the UAE are closed for a three-we ed for a three-week Schools in the UAE are closed for a three-w spring break till April 14. Unlike last time, the school break coincides with week-long public holiday for Eid. As such, more families are visiting home on holidays, resulting in brisk business for adrilnes and travel companies.

+ 'Riot' of colour

Demand surge "We have seen a surge in demand for travel to India during the Eid holidays. Demand is especially strong from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha and Riyadh, where we have seen double-digit growth in bookings compared with last year, said an Air India Express executive.

"Eld holidays are a peak season in Kuwait and Gulf Co-operation Council countries. Bookings and loads are always higher during this time, and we are on par with the demand we had last year, said Barathan Pasupathi, CEO of Kuwait-based

said Barathan Pasupathi, CEO of Kuwait-based Jazeera Airways. According to aviation consultancy CAPA India, 2023 was more than 33 million. This included passengers travelling onward via hubs. The UAE accounted for about 57% of all traffic, followed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. (The writer is with The Hindu businessline)



after spraying orange paint on a sales centre building of German carmaker Porsche. Activists sprayed paint in a campaign to rate Switzerland' from cars, following a historic ruling by Europe's top rights court faulting the country for climate inaction. APP

Global companies with China units tempted by cheaper renminbi funding

For the first time in six years, the option has become cheaper to do so rather than raising money in U.S. dollars; Divergence in rates is now allowing companies to save as much as 150 to 250 basis points in interest costs by raising money in renminbi, according to traders and corporate advisers

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters Global companies with China businesses are in-creasingly issuing renmin-bi debt to finance operations there, as for the first time in six years it has be-come cheaper to do so rather than raising money in U.S. dollars. In recent years, multinationals have tended to raise inancing in dollars or their

local currencies, which

local currencies, which they then converted to ren-minish, or the yuan, to lead issues that the second second issues and the second half of last year, the fund-ing advantage in favour of more pronounced as the Pederal Reserve has kept interest rates high while as its growth slowed after tives called cross-currency swaps and bonds denom-nated in the Chinese cur-mated in the Chinese cur-market experts. "It means for those who may have remainful be-borrowing in remninkl be-borrowing in remninkl be-siree Pires, managing di-rector and head of corporate sales for the UK. "The move to tails: more contra has not to cut them as its growth slowed after COVID-19. The divergence in rates is now allowing companies to save as much as 150 to

The move to raise mo-ney in the Chinese curren-cy shows how global com-250 basis points in interest costs by raising money in renminbi, according to traders and corporate panies are navigating the many surprises thrown by the economy in the after-

the economy in the after-math of the pandemic. They are also trying new ways to bring down their cost of capital in a high in-terest-rate environment. It also underscores the grow-ing acceptance of the Chiadvisers. The lower costs and the added benefit of being able to avoid currency risks by raising the funds where they need them has led to a surge in interest in deriva-



andemic driven: The mu ev in the Chi shows how global com

> **ee** A currency trader at a blue-chip U.S. company

said in the past, firms would not use renminbi as a funding source because it was not very liquid; this perception is now changing

nese currency in international markets. One currency trader at a blue-chip U.S. company said that in the past, comsaid that in the past, com-panies would not use ren-minbi as a funding source because it was not very li-quid, but that this percep-tion was now changing. The window for the trade, however, may close

Reuters LONDON

he said in the coming months. The renminbi's funding advan-tage would start to evapo-rate if the Fed starts cutting interest rates later this year. Popular derivatives Cross-currency swaps, which allow companies to exchange cash flows from one currency to another at a defined rate, have been increasing in recent months as China's rate cuts since June pushed the dif-ferential between U.S. and Chinese government bond yields to their widest levels

n many years. As of April I, a one-year cross-currency swap bet-ween U.S. dollars and offween U.S. donars and on-shore Chinese renminbi, or CNH, was trading 2.28% lower than U.S. rates, said

Amol Dhargalkar, global head of corporates at risk management advisory Chatham Financial. That means a company could save as much as 228 basis points by borrowing in CNH versus dollars. OHV versus dollars. OHV and the same period in 2022. match assets and liabilities in the same currency rela-tively cheaply, more com-panies are looking to lock in the benefits for longer. Most China cross-cur-pency way trades users for rency swap trades were for maturities up to 3-5 years, but demand for CNH for up to 10 years is also growing, said Antoine Jacquemin, managing director of cor-porate derivatives sales at 2022. Mr. Dhargalkar said he started seeing demand for offshore renminbi cross-currency swaps kick off late last year. "It was not a Societe Generale. By swapping into ren-minbi or the currency of their local operations, companies were able to protect the dollar value of positive opportunity for them before. Today, it is," their local cash, said Garth Appelt, head of foreign ex-change and emerging marhe said. Data about over-the-counter market is patchy. In February, the most re-cent month for which data is available, there was \$5.5 billion in new USD/CNH cross-currency swaps con-tracts, up from \$4.7 billion in December, according to the Hong Kong Eschange's some char, ross-currency change and emerging mar-kets derivatives, at Mizuho kets derivatives, at Mizuho Americas. "They're a little worried about the value of all the things they have invested, not just the dividend pay-ments, not just the ex-ports," he said. The strategy also allows companies to avoid volatilisome cross-currency swaps. companies to avoid volatili-ty in the currency's value if In another sign of this trend, renminbi-denomi-nated debt issued by nonthere are any changes in trade policy after the U.S. presidential election in No-Chinese companies, called panda bonds, totalled nearly \$50 billion this year,

vember, said BNP's Sun. Former President Do-nald Trump, the Republi-can candidate challenging President Joe Biden in the November 5 U.S. election, nearly \$50 billion this year, and is on pace to beat the \$143 billion record total in 2023, said George Sun, who runs BNP Paribas' glo-bal markets business for Greater China. November 5 U.S. election, imposed tariffs on Chinese products during his White House term, ending de-cades of free trade policy Mr. Biden maintained those tariffs but has them

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Navigating uncertainty With the difference in rates allowing companies to Mr. tho

Global accounting rule ends leeway + over operating profit of companies

Currently, many companies report EBITDA, a figure that Companies will have to pu-bilsh standardised operat-ing profit figures from 2027 under new requirements from a global accounting rulesetter to help end what international investor War-ren multi-muss called "mis-tion" in the international Ac-counting Standards Board (IASB) writes book-keeping rules used by about Companies will have to puis not defined under IASB rules

rules used by about 50,000 companies across 147 countries, but not in the United States, which has its own rules. IASB Chair Andreas taxes, depreciation and amortisation or EBITDA, a figure that is not defined under IASB rules and therefore can be compiled in different ways to flatter

Barckow said it marks a sig-

nificant change by ending the discretion of compa-nies to decide what consti-

Mr. Barckow told Reuters. Mr. Barckow told Reuters. "We need a standar-dised version so that we can actually base our ana-lysis on the same anchor point".

"Bullshit earnings" Warren Buffett, chair of congiomerate Berkshire EBITDA as a "misleading statistic" by failing to in-clude the cost of deprecia-tion. His deputy Charlie Munger, who died in No-wenders when died in No-wenders when died in No-bullshit tutes operating profit in their income statement that investors rely on. Currently, before arriv-ing at a net profit or loss, many companies report earnings before interest, terming depresentements.

profit, which some already do. Barckow said compaearnings". The new IASB rules denies can use the new rules before statements for 2027 if they want to. U.S. accounting rules fine mandatory sub-totals for operating profit, which will include depreciation. performance. Investors have called for more rigour

are not being reformed in the same way as IASB norms. amortisation and impair-ment on goodwill, and pro-

Cash-strapped Argentines queue up for eyeball scans

Agence France-Presse BUENOS AIRES

Argentines eyeing a finan-cial boost are lining up by the thousands to have their irises scanned in exchange for a few crypto tokens as part of an online biometrics project under scrutiny in several countries. Angenting

Some three million people worldwide have so far Digital identification provided their iris data to Vorldcoin, an initiative of

Digital identification The project seeks to use these iris specs – unique to each person on Earth – to develop a digital identifica-bene digital identifica-port that will guarantee the holder is a real human be-nig and not a bot, thus se-curing online transactions. Volunteers do not pro-vision as their name, ad-dress or phone number. Worldcoin, an initiative of OpenAI chief Sam Ahrman, but few have embraced the project more fervently than Argentines. Half-a-million people in the South American nation have participated since Worldcoin launched last July, and queues for scans have grown longer in re-the grown longer in re-the grown longer the second dress or phone number. The personal iris data is ing disposable income

SM (1999)



r to Public I 's "security measures with a view to "protecting the privacy of the users

encrypted and, according to Worldcoin, safe. Yet Kenya, Spain and Portugal have ordered it to pause collecting biometric data on their territories pending investigations by numerous countries into possible privacy concerns. Argentina's own Agency for Access to Public Infor-mation has avaid it is used for

ing Worldcoin's "security measures" with a view to "protecting the privacy of the users." for Access to Public Infor-mation has said it is verify-ing and has not suspended

Marrero received theirs, 10 tokens were worth the equivalent of about \$80. data collection. "There are people going through very tough times, where one salary is not enough. That is why they 'Out of necessity' do these things," Miriam Marrero, a 42-year-old su-permarket cashier, said afer being scanned in Bue Affordability

"Sometimes, to have a roof over your head, you need to do other things to be able to afford it. Otherwise, transactions."

•••

to standardise information on operating profit and

Natalia Zuazo, a technolo gy policy specialist and di-rector of digital consulting firm Salto Agencia, told AFP Worldcoin was attracting most volunteers in "countries in crisis... the poorest countries, because people are more likely to enter into such

"the world's largest priva cy-preserving human iden tity and financial net vork," providing universal access to the global economy no matter your country or back ground." The company in sists it never has and never will sell personal data. But the initiative has triggered alarm bells, with regulators worldwide con-cerned about the collec-

tion, storage and use of personal information. able to afford it. Otherwise, in Argentina today, you For volunteering their data, initial participants and the self-described data, initial participants and the self-described araanstatic self-described araans personal information. According to Zuazo, per-son-specific blometric data tra-sensitive" and could theoretically be employed for nefarious identification, people do not understand the implications, "she said. "They just do it out of necessity."

ABAX



Cash-strapped Argentines queue up for eyeball scans

Agence France-Presse BUENOS AIRES

Argentines eyeing a financial boost are lining up by the thousands to have their irises scanned in exchange for a few crypto tokens as part of an online biometrics project under scrutiny in several countries.

Some three million people worldwide have so far provided their iris data to Worldcoin, an initiative of OpenAI chief Sam Altman, but few have embraced the project more fervently than Argentines.

Half-a-million people in the South American nation have participated since Worldcoin launched last July, and queues for scans have grown longer in recent months of fast-shrinking disposable income.

CM YK

"I did it because I don't have any money, for no

other reason," 64-year-old martial arts teacher Juan Sosa told AFP after staring for a few seconds into a silver iris-scanning orb roughly the size of a bowling ball at one of 250 Worldcoin locations across Argentina.

Digital identification

The project seeks to use these iris specs – unique to each person on Earth - to develop a digital identification system, a sort of passport that will guarantee the holder is a real human being and not a bot, thus securing online transactions. Volunteers do not pro-

vide any other information such as their name, address or phone number. The personal iris data is



Privacy concerns: Argentina's own Agency for Access to Public Information has said it is verifying Worldcoin's "security measures" with a view to "protecting the privacy of the users." AFP

encrypted and, according to Worldcoin, safe. Yet Kenya, Spain and

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"There are people going through very tough times, where one salary is not enough. That is why they do these things," Miriam Marrero, a 42-year-old supermarket cashier, said after being scanned in Buenos Aires.

Affordability

"Sometimes, to have a roof over your head, you need to do other things to be able to afford it. Otherwise, in Argentina today, you can't afford a roof."

For volunteering their data, initial participants receive 10 tokens each of Worldcoin's own cryptocurrency, the WLD.

In Argentina, with its notoriously unstable exchange rate, the value differs wildly; when Sosa and

Marrero received theirs, 10 tokens were worth the equivalent of about \$80.

'Out of necessity' Natalia Zuazo, a technolo-

"countries in crisis... the

poorest countries, because

people are more likely to

into

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transactions."

energy subsidies

"universal access to the global economy no matter gy policy specialist and diyour country or backrector of digital consulting ground." The company infirm Salto Agencia, told sists it never has and never AFP Worldcoin was attractwill sell personal data. ing most volunteers in But the initiative has

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triggered alarm bells, with regulators worldwide concerned about the collection, storage and use of personal information.

"the world's largest priva-

cy-preserving human iden-

tity and financial net-

providing

According to Zuazo, per-Argentina today battles annual inflation over 200% son-specific biometric data at a time self-described such as iris specs are "ul-"anarcho-capitalist" Presitra-sensitive" and could dent Javier Milei has theoretically be employed slashed transport and for nefarious identification purposes. "I don't think and wage-earners lost a fifth of people do not understand their purchasing power. the implications," she said. In Worldcoin's own "They just do it out of words, it seeks to become necessity."

It has vet to make a rul-

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			esident e President ief of the abinet of inisters esident of the namber of eputies esident of upreme Court	Javier Milei Victoria Villarruel Nicolás Posse Martín Menem Horacio Rosatti		
			slature	National Congress		
			per house wer house	Senate		
	and the second sec			Chamber of Deputies		
Argentine territory in dark green; territory			Independence from Spain			
			y Revolution	25 May 1810		
			clared nstitution	9 July 1816 1 May 1853		
claimed but not controlled by Argentina in light		Area				
Capital and largest city	green Buenos Aires Q 34°36'S 58°23'W	• Tot		2,780,400 km ² (1,073,500 sq mi) ^[B] (8th) 1.57		
Official languages	Spanish (de facto) ^[a]	Ρορι	ulation			
Co-official languages	Guaraní in Corrientes ^[3] Quechua in Santiago del Estero ^[4] Qom, Mocoví, and Wichí in Chaco ^[5] Welsh in Chubut ^[6]		22 census nsity	47,327,407 ^[9] (31st) 14.4/km ² (37.3/sq mi) ^[8] (178th)		
		GDP • Tot	(PPP) tal	2023 estimate ▲ \$1.239 trillion ^[10] (30th)		
		• Pe	r capita	▲ \$26,506 ^[10] (66th)		
Religion (2019) ^[7]	78.2% Christianity 62.9% Catholicism 15.3% other Christian 20.5% no religion 1.3% other	• Tot		2023 estimate ▼ \$621.833 billion ^[10] (24th) ▼ \$13,297 ^[10] (66th)		
		·Fe	r capita			
		Gini	(2020)	▼ 42.3 ^[11] medium		
Demonym(s)	Argentine Argentinian Argentinean (uncommon)	HDI ((2022)	▲ 0.849 ^[12] very high (48th)		
		Curr	ency	Argentine peso (\$) (ARS)		





Lithium Triangle

The intersection of Chile, Bolivia, and Northwest Argentina constitutes the region known as the Lithium Triangle.

Approaches to Lithium Exploitation

The three countries have taken different approaches to exploit Lithium, also referred to as 'White Gold'.

Global Lithium Reserves

Approximately 66% of the world's lithium reserves are in South America.

Key Suppliers

Due to high-altitude salt flats, South American nations are the main suppliers of Lithium, with vast deposits.

Peru's Hard Rock Lithium

Recent discoveries of hard rock lithium in Peru have attracted consumer attention and presented a lucrative opportunity for Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers.

All and San Di

Peter Higgs, who proposed existence of 'God particle', dies

Associated Press LONDON

Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so-called "God particle" that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang, has died at age 94, the University of Edinburgh said Tuesday.

The university, where Mr. Higgs was emeritus professor, said he died on Monday "peacefully at home following a short illness."

Mr. Higgs predicted the existence of a new particle – the so-called Higgs boson – in 1964. But it would be almost 50 years before the particle's existence could be confirmed at the Large Hadron Collider.

Mr. Higgs' theory related to how subatomic particles that are the building blocks of matter get their mass. This theoretical understanding is a central part of the so-called Standard Model, which describes the physics of how the world is constructed.

Edinburgh University said his groundbreaking 1964 paper demonstrated how "elemental particles achieved mass through the existence of a new subatomic particle" which became known as the Higgs boson.



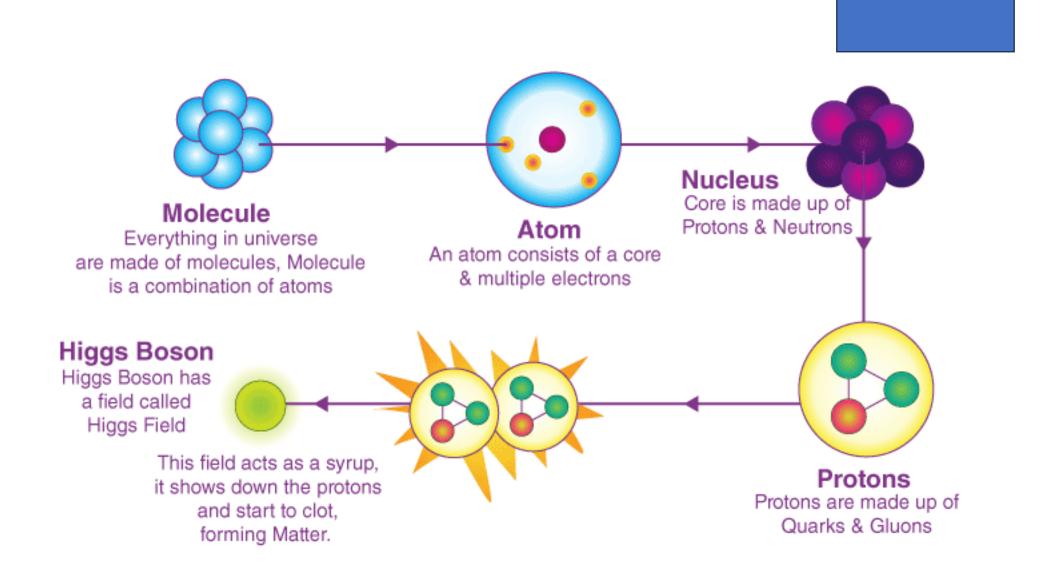
Peter Higgs

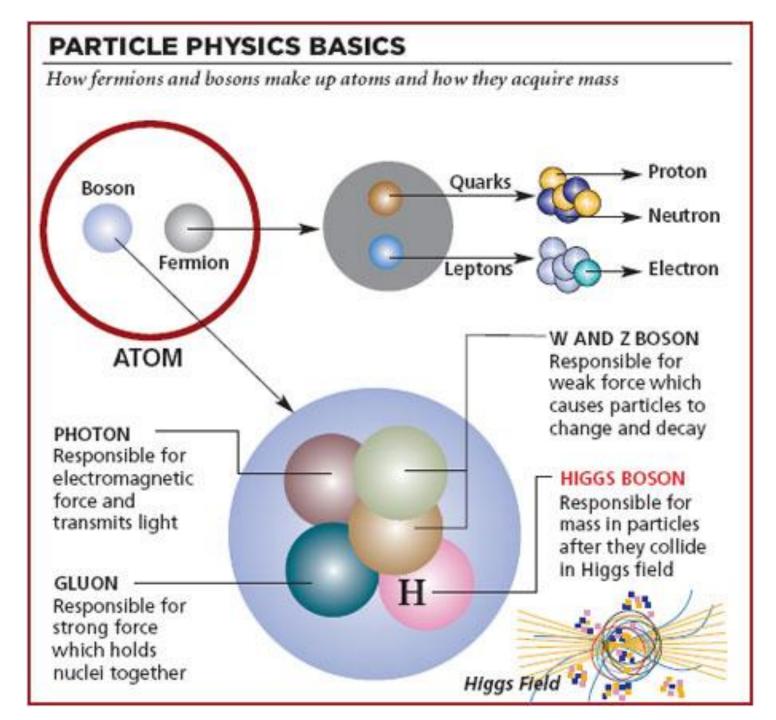
In 2012, scientists at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, announced that they had finally found a Higgs boson using the \$10 billion particle collider built in a 27-km tunnel under the Swiss-French border.

Mr. Higgs won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work, alongside Francois Englert of Belgium, who independently came up with the same theory.

Edinburgh University Vice-Chancellor Peter Mathieson said Mr. Higgs, who was born in Newcastle, was "a remarkable individual – a truly gifted scientist whose vision and imagination have enriched our knowledge of the world that surrounds us."

"His pioneering work has motivated thousands of scientists, and his legacy will continue to inspire many more for generations to come."





Swiss women win climate case at human rights court

Reuters

STRASBOURG

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled on Tuesday in favour of a group of elderly Swiss women who had argued that their government's inadequate efforts to combat climate change put them at risk of dying during heatwaves. The European court's decision on the case, brought by more than 2,000 women, could have a ripple effect across Europe and beyond, setting a precedent for how some courts deal with the rising tide of climate litigation argued on the basis of human rights infringements. Court President Siofra O'Leary said the Swiss government had violated the human right to a private and family life, by failing to put in place sufficient domestic policies to tackle climate change. "This included a failure to quantify, through a carbon budget or otherwise, national greenhouse gas emissions limitations," Ms. O'Leary said. She also noted the Swiss government had failed to meet its past greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, by not putting in place measures to ensure

the goals were achieved.

INBRIEF



Djokovic breaks Federer's record, becomes oldest No. 1

Novak Pjokovic has surpassed Roger Pederer to become the oldest man ranked No. 1 in the ATD here the oldest man ranked No. 1 in the ATD here the the there are the there are the there are the turns 37 next month – and is now older than Pederer was on his last day atop the rankings in June 2018. Indian termis legend Rohan Bopanna, 44, was already the oldest player to hold World World World World State and the the there are the there are the potential of the the there are the the the the the the the the both of them for a short conversation. Termis swo. I rank in doubles. The ATP Tour brought both of them for a short conversation. "Tennis teaches us so many wonderful things. Experience wins and that is where I have got it," Bopanna told Djokovic in a video posted by ATP. "What an incredible moment to be oldest number in singles and doubles. It is great for Serbian and Indian tennis," said Djokovic.

Riya-Mettraux pair makes the quarterfinals in Bujumbura

Riya Bhatia was beaten 6-2, 7-6(2) by Maelys Bougrat of France in the first round of the \$25,000 TIF women's tennis tournament in Bujumbura, Burundi, on Tuesday. Riya, how made the doubles quarterfinals with Marie Mettraux of Switzerland.

The results: First round: \$25,000 ITF women, Bujumbura, Burundi: Maelys Bougrat (Fra) bt Riya Bhatia

6-2, 7-6(2) o(z). Jes: Riva Bhatia & Marie Mettraux (Sui) bt Saoir Coher (hr) & Julia Peer (ita) 6-1, 6-3; Kamila Bartone (Lat) & Sada Nahimana (Bdi) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Amanda Elk (Mex) 6-0, 6-2.



Alcaraz withdraws from Monte Carlo Masters

Carlos Alcaraz has withdrawn from the Monte Carlo Masters due to a forearm injury, the Carlo Masters due to a forearm injury, the Spanish number three seed said on Tuesday, with his place in the second round going to Lorenzo Sonego. "I have been working in Monte Carlo and trying to recover until the last minute from an injured pronator teres in my right arm, but it was not possible and I cannot play," Alcaraz posted on social media. Italian Sonego, who lost posted on social media. Italian Sonego, who lost in the second qualifying round to Roberto Bautista Agut, has been handed a second chance as a lucky loser, and will play Auguer-Aliassime who defeated another Italian, Luca Nardi in the first round.

Malvika and Panda sisters enter BAC main draw

Malvika Bansod won both her matches to qualify Malvika Bansod won both her matches to quality for women's singles main draw of the Badminto Asia Championships in Ningbo, China, on Tuesday. The 22-year-old world ranked 50 will face South Korea's Sim Yu Jin in her round of 32 match on Wednesday. The Panda sisters – Rutaparna and Swetaparna – also won both their doubles group A qualifying matches to make the main draw where they will take on Chinese Shu Xian Zhang and Yu Zheng.



Aishwarya's Asian 400m bronze upgraded to silver

SM (1999)

Top Indian athlete Akhwarya Mishra's 400m became medal at 2002 Asim Championships minister, Farida Solyeva of Utbekistan, failed a dope test. "The AU has banned Parida Solyeva dope test. "The AU has banned Parida Solyeva for presence/use of prohibited substance (Meldonium). DQ (disqualify) results from 13 July 2023," the Athletics Integrity Unit said, Solyeva had finished second with a time of 52.95 seconds while Aishwarya was third in 53.07 seconds. Nadeesha Ramanyake of Sri Lanka had won gold (52.61).

6



THE HINDU

Sport



an an Nepormiachtchi, who is leading the mannetika chess tour neuronalithe chess tour neuronalithe chess tour four rounds, is playing at a very high level, showing the form that won him the pieces and trawn he oth-er tous with buck. The has chosen openings very intelligently, lines that are unpleasant over the Against Alireza Firouzja he

Against Alireza Firouzia he went deep into an obscure line, and once the position got chaotic, he showed he could navigate well. This was a crucial win. In the fourth round against Vidit Gujrathi, who

against Vidi Gujrathi, who is normally very well pre-pared, he chose Berlin De-fence. Hardly anyone plays the end-game, so he was the end-game, but the not be as conversant with not be as conversant with the details. A mistake came late in the game, but that is modern chess, in which it is so difficult to get an opening advantage. In the third round, D. tournament Caruana had chances to put Nakamura under pres-sure, but very uncharacte-ristically squares and the square of the Not too many chances has the ability to win games and is only half-a-point behind Nepomniachtchi.



Gukesh outplayed Nepom-niachtchi and came very close to winning. Gukesh has been impressive. He defended a difficult Praggnanandhaa has been impressive so far. He shows the right attitude by going for full-blooded bat-ties. He is defending very well. He is ready to fight for the top prize even though the defeat to Cakesh leaves position against Caruana and punished R. Praggnanandhaa for the risks he the defeat to Gukesh leaves him a point behind the took. He is showing he is fully in place in this Hikaru Nakamura hasn't Caruana had chances to had much of a presence in this tournament so far. But he is known for having quiet tournaments and pouncing at some late op-portunities, of which there will be many.

will be many. Firouzja has a similar problem in that he has lost one game and drawn three. However, he is creat-

Lavanya L

National

League

Sports Bureau

Women's

launched

HOCKEY

Hockey India on Tuesday announced a new National Women's League featuring the top domestic teams in the country. The league, to be played in two phases, teams from the recent Na-tional Championships. The first phase, will be

The first phase will be played in Ranchi from April 30-May 9.

The teams: Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur, and Odisha.

INTER-ZONAL FINAL

ing chances, so he will have opportunities. Vidit showed probably the most impressive play in the first two rounds and played some pretty moves with bishop, against Gu-kesh and Nakamura. He is showing the right attitude but his two defeats must be

on against Firouzia, FID

easily.

upsetting. Hopefully he would have recovered his mood nave recovered has mood on the rest day. Nijat Aba-sov will need to play much better.

better. In the women's tourna-ment, Tan Zhongyi started off with two impressive wins, beating her great Chinese rival Lei Tingjie and then R. Valshali to

East enjoys a slight advantage as

Defending champion Punjab off to a winning start

17

sports Bureau

Defending champion Punjab defeated Uttar Pradesh in the boys' category in the opening rounds of the 38th youth National basketball nship in Pudu cherry on Tuesday

jump to an early lead. Perhaps the crucial game was the fourth, in your and the second second managed to continue de-fending. By a miracle, she forday, any a miracle, she for any, and she grabbed it. Like all great performanc-es, it is sometimes the tough ones that you save that are more valuable easily. The results: Boys: Level-1: Rerala bit Chandigarh 93-70; Punjab bit Uttar Pradesh 57-46 Level-2: Kamataka bit Himach Pradesh 69-44; Telangana bi Sikkim 72-16; Delhi bi arkum /2-16, Dethi bt Chhattisgarh 71-44; Gujarat bt Andhra Pradesh 77-55; Uttarakhand bt Puducherry 61-56 Girls: Level-1: Kerala bt Dethi 61-39; Karnataka bt Madhya lesh 74-33: Ma Punjab 61-45; Level-2: Carnataka bt Himac 69-44; Puducherry bt Bihar 69-11

Bouncing back Aleksandra Goryachkina trails Tan by half a point and is playing well. Vaishali had a very tough defeat against Tan, but then came India has an

easy outing back with a very nice win against Nurgyul Salimova and is in fourth place. BJK CUP

Lagno has made four draws so far. She benefited from a miraculous escape Sports Bureau

from a miraculous escape against Anna Muzychuk, but she spolit a totally won position against the leader tournament considerably by beating Koneru Humpy. Humpy played very aggres-sively and took a lot of risks. Her defeat leaves her in a difficult situation with The Indian team got acclimatised to the conditions with an easy 3-0 outing against Pacific Oceania in the first league match of the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis in Changsha, China, on The Changsha, China, on Tuesday

The results (league): India bt Pacific Oceania 3-0 (Rutuja Bhosale bt Tarani Kamee 6-0, 6-0; Ankita Raina bt Soirse Breen 6-1; 6-3; Shrivalii Bhamidipaty & Prarthana Thombare bt Mehetia Lei Tingjie can be happy that she saved a lost end-game against Muzychuk, who is playing very well but hasn't converted great positions and is on -1 after four games. Boosie & Ruby Coffin 6-1, 6-1]; China bt Taiwan 3-0, Korea bt New Zealand 3-0.

Cubarsi key in Barca defensive revival ahead of PSG clash



tant duel: Cubarsi will be key to Barcelona stopping PSG's pe from hurting it. AP, AFP

BARCELONA

is quick and if anyone can help contain Mbappe, he CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Agence France-Presse

help contain Mbappe, he has the best chance. Another important fac-tor is goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen's return from a back injury. Mbappe may still give PSG the edge in the tie but Sid the edge in the tie but Sid the start back heves it has the tools to stop him. The resurrection of Barce-lona's defence gives the Spanish champion hope ahead of its Champions League duel with Paris Saint-Germain and young stop him. In the day's other game, Atletico Madrid will welster Pau Cubarsi's emer gence has played a major

The 17-year-old has become Borussia Dortmund. Atletico has slumped in re-The 17-year-old has be-Xawi Hermander and de-bured for the Spanish na-tional team in March, high-lighting his meteoric rise. Can bandle the pressure at elite level – just as well, for Cubarsi will face arguably the quarterfinal first leg clash in Paris. Mer Schlighting attacks from the quarterfinal first leg clash in Paris. Mer Schlighting attacks from ther wear his young age. Cubars's ability on the ball hands to the pump. Cubar-it will be all hands to the row an -mater is well see the bis team-mater is will need his team-mater is best level after a midential for coach cent weeks, with six losses and only four wins in its last 12 games overall, as it missed the goals and crea-tivity of Antoine Griez-mann. The France forward is now back playing and will be looking for his first goal since Jan. 18.

goal since Jan. 18. Diego Simeone's side was enjoying a 25-game unbeaten run ai Its Metro-celona delivered a 3-0 rout on March 27. Dortmund has generally saved its best for the Cham-pions League this season. Itender this wear, but wins it isn't a Bundesinga con-tender this year, but wins over Newcastle, AC Milan and most recently PSV Eindhoven have shown it means business in Europe. season dip. The Uruguayan

(C)



Lone warrior: On a day when wickets fell like nine pins, Arundhati, left, scored a half-century. LAMANAL

on Tuesday. South opted to bat in the hot and dry conditions. Young speedster Titas Sad-hu came through imme-diately, cleaning up the South top four within the first 15 owers. The onus then hait Reddy who looked to lead hat their way to safery into Sajana's off stump. Arundhati then found support in teenager Shab-nam Shakil with a 44-run stand off 77 balls for the ninth wicket – the highest of the innings. The former also reached her fifty, her dead bat their way to safety to begin with. Deepti Shar-ma struck in the 25th over second in as many games, struggling with heat ex-haustion all through. Sushwith a ball that rocked back ree Dibyadarshini soon saw

ISL-10

111 (1998)

the back of Arundhati after she holed out to Uma Che-try. Deepti removed Shab-nam to wrap up South's innings for 133. When East began its res-ponse, Shabnam, bowling in tandem with Arundhati, gave South a breakthrough in the second over itself, re-moving Uma Chetry for just four runs

Deepti and Richa Ghosh then steadied the ship with a 34-run stand off 58 balls for the second wicket. Skip Deepti off her very first de-livery. She also had Richa caught and bowled, a fan-tastic effort as the ball stayed low. Dhara Chom the quarter-final. could not repeat her

+

final, could not repeat her feat, falling to Sunanda Ye-trekar in the 23rd over. From there on, Rizu Saha and Durga Murmu added a vital 44 runs off 70 balls for the fifth wicket, which Sunanda broke on the last de-livery of the day.

ute - one that saw Aa-

ABA

kash Sangwan make jaws drop with a left-footed cur-ling Olympic goal.

The scores: South Zone 133 in 54.5 over Grundhati Reddy 57, Deepti (Arundhati Reddy 57, Deepti Sharma 4/28, Titas Sadhu 4/30) vs East Zone 108/5 in 34 overs

Chennaivin delivers a knockout punch to NorthEast United



Just when the match looked to be heading to a 1-1 draw, Ankit put his foot on the gas, storming into the box and shooting into the net, turning the match on its head. With 27 points from 21 games, Chennaiyin is sixth in the standings and will need just a point

in its final league against FC Goa, to secure a playoff spot.

The results: Chennalyin FC 2 (Sangwan 72, Ankit 90+1) bt NorthEast United FC 1 (Jithin 49); Jamshedpur FC 2 (Tachikawa 17, Doungel 73) lost to FC Gos 3 (Sadaoui 21, Martinez 28, Hernera









Djokovic breaks Federer's record, becomes oldest No. 1

Novak Djokovic has surpassed Roger Federer to become the oldest man ranked No. 1 in the ATP Tour's computerised rankings. Djokovic is 36 – he turns 37 next month – and is now older than Federer was on his last day atop the rankings in June 2018. Indian tennis legend Rohan Bopanna, 44, was already the oldest player to hold World No. 1 rank in doubles. The ATP Tour brought both of them for a short conversation. "Tennis teaches us so many wonderful things. Experience wins and that is where I have got it," Bopanna told Djokovic in a video posted by ATP. "What an incredible moment to be oldest number in singles and doubles. It is great for Serbian and Indian tennis," said Djokovic.



Aishwarya's Asian 400m bronze upgraded to silver

Top Indian athlete Aishwarya Mishra's 400m bronze medal at 2023 Asian Championships will be upgraded to silver as original second-place finisher, Farida Soliyeva of Uzbekistan, failed a dope test. "The AIU has banned Farida Soliyeva (Uzbekistan) for 3 years from 13 September 2023 for presence/use of prohibited substance (Meldonium). DQ (disqualify) results from 13 July 2023," the Athletics Integrity Unit said. Soliyeva had finished second with a time of 52.95 seconds while Aishwarya was third in 53.07 seconds. Nadeesha Ramanayake of Sri Lanka had won gold (52.61).



VEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

HAD CHALLENGED ARREST, REMAND IN DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE



EXPLAINED

HC rejects Kejriwal petition: ED material shows he 'conspired', sought 'kickbacks' volved in formulation of the Excise Policy and in demanding biddbacks. Secondly, in his capac-ity as the National Convenor of Aam Aadmin Party as per Section 70 (1) of PMLA, for use of pro-ceeds of crime of Rs 45 crozes in

Was arrested on March 21

"He is allegedly involved in he offence of money laundering n two capacities. Firstly, in his sersonal capacity as he was in-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a roadshow in Chennai in support of BJP candidate Tamilisai Soundararajan on Tuesday. Ph

AAP says it will move SC immediately, BJP pushes for his resignation as CM Instice Swarana Kanta Sharma

ruling on the matter after reserv-ing the verdict on April 3, said,

To summarise, the material ...

"To summarise, the material... reveals that Arvind Kejerival had opersons and was involved in the formulation of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, in the process of demanding kickbacks from the South Croup, as well as in gen-eration, use and concealment of

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THE DELHI High Court Tuesday Reprint The Start High Control of the Start Reprival's plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the Delhi excise policy case, noting there was "sufficient manoting there was "sufficient ma-terial" with the agency for his ar-rest and remand. The single-judge bench of

INDIA NUMBERS

lepatitis B (Total) 2.97 cr

Source: Global Hepatitis Report 2024 (figures pertain to 2022);

In India, while the tubers

The Kerala Story in state poll theatre:

Dioceses back screening, BJP cheers

Being screened with agenda, don't fall into RSS trap: CM

KERALA

50.083 98.30

2.43

0.55 cr

11.23 1,44,187

26,206 28%

TWO REASONS WHY FOOD INFLATION MAY SOFTEN PAGE

India has 2nd highest hepatitis cases, 11% of global burden: WHO

Deaths

Deaths

Treatment"

ANONNA DUTT

DIA HAS the world's second ghest prevalence of viral hep-itis cases, accounting for over per cent of the global burden 2022, according to the Global patitis Report 2024 released the World Health anisation (WHO) on Tuesday. According to the report, there re 254 million people living h Hepatitis B and 50 million Hepatitis Cacross the world 022. Of these, India accounted 29 million Hepatitis B cases, cond only to China at 79 mil-ri: and 5.5 million Hepatitis C ses, after Pakistan at 8.8 millio An estimated 1.23 lakh per

Ais estimated 1.25 takh peo-le died due to hepatitis in India, while over 50,000 new Hepatitis cases and 1.4 takh new Hepatitis Colobally, with an est2022 Colobally, with an est2022 an illion deaths per year, viral nepatitis kills as many people as uberculosis. In India, while the tuber cus-sis toll remains higher – 3.31 lakh people are reported to have died due to TB in 2022 – what is concerning is that bepatitis diagconcerning is that hepatitis diag-nosis and treatment remains verylow. According to the report, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



DECISION 2024 MVA: 21 SEATS FOR DAYS AFTER the TMC alleged UBT SENA, 17 CONG, 10 SHARAD NCP VERIFY POLL PAPER OF CHANDRASEKHAR: EC TO CBDT PAGES 8.9

NIA calls its officer to Delhi as TMC and BJP trade charges over 'meeting' constant it is leavent SWEETY KUMARI & MAHENDER SINGH KOLKATA, NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

CHENNAI ROADSHOW

that a BJP leader carrying cash in an envelope visited a Superintendent of Police with National Investigation ncy at the latter's home near cata, the NIA has asked the erto report to its Delhi head-



shattered us': Family of student found dead in US





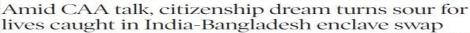
the ruling CPI(M) and Opposition Congress of State-run Doordarshan for its screen-ing of the film, days ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Kerala. They had also approached the ssion seeking a Election Commission seeking a direction commission seeking a direction of the second of the order women from Kerala con-verting to Islam and joining the Islamic State (IS), with the film-makers claiming that thousands of women from the state had fallen to this. The film had faced Was released in May last year

teenagers against love jihad". several court cases ahead of its CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 sion of the dioceses ement criticism by



SREENIVAS JANYALA

ily had been holding on to hos Arfath had gone to the US in working with law enforcement authorities to find him, the fam-May 2023 to pursue Masters in CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PAGE 1

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA COOCH BEHAR, APRIL 9 ONC REFORE the Citiz nt) Act (CAA) be ame a reality, they were the owhere people of Partition

zens of India. Nine years later, living up to 25

otsteps of the Idukki diocese



At Madhya Masaldanga in Cooch Behar district. Parthe Paul

job options, they say they want to return across the border. On April 19, as Cooch Behar votes in the first phase of the Lok S abb adaptions on the a Cooch Behar WEST BENGAL Sabha elections, on the elector, rolls will be the 15,421 people in the local people of the second s who became indians over a pe-riod after Delhi and Dhaka signed a historic land boundary agreement in 2015 covering NDIA BANGLADESH heir respective enclaves lying in

ch other's territories It will be their second trys ople in two-bedroom apartits, with property papers still with general elections. In 2019, continued to them, awaiting CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 epaper.indianexpress.com



amid China bid to expand influence



try had cited Nane

ELFS, AFRICS	
REVAMPED airfields and o additional logistics and e facilities, habitat for to a robust surveillance ructure, the strategic an and Nicobar Islands he middle of a major mil- nfrastructure upgrade, officials familiar with the pments have told The Equess.	THE ANEDAMAN and Nicobar Islands are of Eance since they straddle one of the busiest sea lances in the world and give India the reach to monitors the flow of traf- actions the flow of traf- Sea (Pacific Ocean) to the Arddaman Sea (Indian
enhanced infrastructure	Ocean) via the Strait of
d to facilitate deployment	Malacca that's key to
tional military forces, fa-	trade and oil shipments

an Sea (Indian via the Strait of a that's key to is aimed to facilitate of additional military forces, ta-cilities for larger and more war-chins, aircraft, missile barro trade and oil shipments in the Indo-Pacific. ships, aircraft, missile batteries and troops. The ongoing large-scale con-The Andaman and Nicol

struction activities come amid growing Chinese attempts to ex-pand its influence in the region, command (ANC) is the first ind only tri-service command it the islands and was establishe pantors includes construction of a military facility at Myanmar's Coco Islands lying 55 km north of A&N Islands. There are 836 Islands in A&N, of which only 38 are inhabited. in 2001. Sources said there are pla to significantly enhance the

CONTINUED ON PAGE

AKADEMI CHAIRMAN'S POWERS CURTAILED Lalit Kala Akademi: Fallout with ministry before the curb order

MANRAL

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itary in

challenged his arrest as "illegal" and was not an application seek-ing grant of bail. It said the "cumulative effect of material collected by the ED

so far" on Kejriwal's alleged rok reflected ED's "reasons to be

lieve" that he was "guilty of of-fence of money laundering", and the need to interrogate, confront

him with witnesses statemen

and other material, coupled with his conduct of not joining inves-tigation after being served nine summons in a six-month period.

tated" his arrest

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY

OPPOSITION PP17

Manpur Ortman

DIVYAA

WEW DELHLAPRIL 9

of the premier arts institut Indian Express has learnt.

on, The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ofm

the election campaign of Aam Aadmi Party in Goa Elections 2022, which are prima facie ap-

parent from the material relied

upon by the respondent (ED) as well as the statement recorded on 08.03.2024 of one of the candi-dates of Aam Aadmi Party in Goa Elections 2022," the bench said.

It clarified that Kejriwal's plea



failure to respond to an earlie "complaint" and also allege non-compliance with its "ad ministrative directions". The Indian Express has no learnt that the order came a the ministry over administra issues, including the aspo ment of coordinates, transf

ithin the Akademi CONTINUED ON PAGE



India has 2nd highest hepatitis cases, 11% of global burden: WHO

ANONNA DUTT NEW DELHI. APRIL 9

INDIA HAS the world's second highest prevalence of viral hepatitis cases, accounting for over 11 per cent of the global burden in 2022, according to the Global Hepatitis Report 2024 released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Tuesday.

According to the report, there were 254 million people living with Hepatitis B and 50 million with Hepatitis C across the world in 2022. Of these, India accounted for 29 million Hepatitis B cases, second only to China at 79 million; and 5.5 million Hepatitis C cases, after Pakistan at 8.8 million.

An estimated 1.23 lakh people died due to hepatitis in India, while over 50,000 new Hepatitis B cases and 1.4 lakh new Hepatitis C cases were reported in 2022.

Globally, with an estimated 1.3 million deaths per year, viral hepatitis kills as many people as tuberculosis.

Hepatitis B (To	tal) 2.97 cr				
Infection load*	11.7%				
Incidence	50,083				
Deaths	98,305				
Diagnosis	2.4%				
Hepatitis C (To	tal) 0.55 cr				
Infection load	11.2%				
Incidence	1,44,187				
Deaths	26,206				
Diagnosis	28%				
Treatment**	21%				
Source: Global Hepatitis Report					
2024 (figures pertain to 2022);					
*Proportion of global infections;					
**Hep B treatment coverage: 0%					

In India, while the tuberculosis toll remains higher — 3.31 lakh people are reported to have died due to TB in 2022 — what is concerning is that hepatitis diagnosis and treatment remains very low. According to the report, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

What is hepatitis?

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



What vaccines are available for which types of hepatitis?

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis D

Hepatitis E

Inflammation

of the liver

Estimated cases worldwide (per year)

Hepatitis B and C: 400 million cases

Gradual death:

An estimated **1.4** million people die worldwide from hepatitis every year

Treatment:

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



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



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

Disease	Pathogen	Symptoms	Incubation period	Method of transmission	Diagnostic test
Hepatitis A	HAV, Picornaviridae	Fever, headache, malaise, jaundice	2-6 weeks	Ingestion	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis B	HBV, Hepadnaviri- dae	Severe liver dam- age, chronic dis- ease occurs	3-26 weeks	Parenteral, sexual contact	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis C	HCV, Flaviviridae	Same as HBV, more chronic	2-33 weeks	Parenteral	PCR of viral RNA
Hepatitis D	HDV, Deltaviridae	Severe liver dam- age, high mortality rate	6-26 weeks	Parenteral, when co- infected with HBV	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis E	HEV, Caliciviridae	Pregnant women may be at high risk and show high mortality, not chronic disease	2-6 weeks	Ingestion	IgM antibodies, PCR of viral RNA

Ramdev, Balkrishna tender unconditional apology to SC over Patanjali ads 'lapses'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

YOGA GURU Ramdev and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd managing director Acharya Balkrishna on Tuesday tendered "unconditional and unqualified apology" to the Supreme Court in a matter in which they had been sued by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for allegedly publishing misleading advertisements, claiming cure for diseases and criticising allopathy.

On April 2, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah had said it was was not inclined to accept the apology tendered by Ramdev and Balkrishna in response to notices, asking to show cause as to why contempt-of-court proceedings should not be initiated against them for "flouting its directions" but gave them one last opportunity to file proper responses.

The court was upset about a press conference held by Ramdev on November 22, 2023, in Haridwar and an advertisement issued by the company on December 4, 2023, after it had assured the court on November 21, 2023, that it would not make any "casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any



Ramdev, Balkrishna

system of medicine".

In a fresh affidavit filed a day before the SC is set to take up the matter again, Ramdev said: "I hereby tender my unconditional apology in regard to the issue of advertisements which occurred after the statement of counsel of Respondent No. 5 (Patanjali Ayurved) which was recorded in the order dated 21.11.2023, which I am informed has the force of an injunction. I sincerely regret this lapse and I wish to assure the Hon'ble court that the same will not be repeated".

Extending his "unconditional and unqualified apology" to the court for the "lapse", Ramdev sought to assure "to be more vigilant in future".

Acharya Balkrishna too undertook not to issue any "such offending advertisements...in the future" and said "no further offending advertisements were issued after 27.02.2024".

Kill elephants, save them: why Botswana wants to gift 20,000 to Germany

ALIND CHAUHAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

BOTSWANA HAS literally an elephantine problem — it has too many elephants. And President Mokgweetsi Masisi has now said he would like to send 20,000 of the animals to Germany, where there is a proposal to make it tougher to import trophies from hunting animals.

Botswana is home to the world's largest elephant population of 1.3 lakh animals. Hunting has helped keep their numbers in check, and brought revenues from trophyhunting licences issued to rich westerners. Germany is said to be the largest European importer of African elephant trophies.

Why are there so many elephants in Botswana?

Unlike its south-central African neigh-

bours, Botswana has been a safe haven for elephants due to its stable government and small human population. Following conflictspurred mass poaching in Namibia and Angola, elephants in Botswana stopped crossing the Chobe river, a tributary of the Zambezi that marks Botswana's border with Namibia.

Botswana also implemented strict conservation policies, giving shoot-to-kill orders against suspected poachers in 2013. The following year, the country banned licensed trophy hunting — however, it lifted the ban in 2019.

And why was hunting allowed again?

Successful conservation resulted in a steady increase in Botswana's elephant population over the years. In the early 1960s, the country had fewer than 10,000 elephants; by the mid-1990s, the population had reached 80,000, according to the independent newsroom *Conservation Frontlines*.



Today, elephants inhabit about 40% of Botswana's land, which has led to increased human-animal conflict. Herds often damage homes in rural communities, drink water from pipes, feed on or destroy crops, and trample people and cattle to death.

"We are forced to collect our livestock early as we are afraid of the elephants... In the cattle posts, people have deserted... By 4 pm, we have rounded off the animals...so by the time the elephants come, they do not find anyone. We wake up...to find their tracks. There are too many elephants," a resident of Gobojango town told *Voice of America*.

A large population of elephants also injected \$ threatens other species and leads to biodiversity loss and habitat degradation – elephants tear down trees for fodder and consume large amounts of water, which can cause a dethat regul

How does elephant hunting help?

cline in non-elephant wildlife.

Botswana has been donating its elephants — it gave around 8,000 to Angola last year, and 500 to Mozambique in 2022 — but this has not made much of a difference.

Lifting the ban on trophy hunting helps in two ways — it lowers the population, and

helps the economy as hunters cough up as much as \$50,000 for each animal they kill.

A report in *Morning Brew* said trophyhunting brought \$5 million to local communities in Botswana in 2021, according to government figures. Also, "trophy hunters injected \$250 million into South Africa's

economy yearly and supported 17,000 jobs, according to one estimate in 2018," the report said.

It has also been argued that regulated trophy-hunting ultimately helps the species as governments pump the money into conservation and share profits with local communities, which can prevent habitat loss.

So what's the problem, then?

Western countries and animal rights advocates deem hunting to be cruel and unethical, and responsible for quickening population decline in imperilled species. "Trophy hunters prefer to kill the largest, strongest animals, whose loss causes population declines," conservation group Humane Society International (HSI) says on its website.

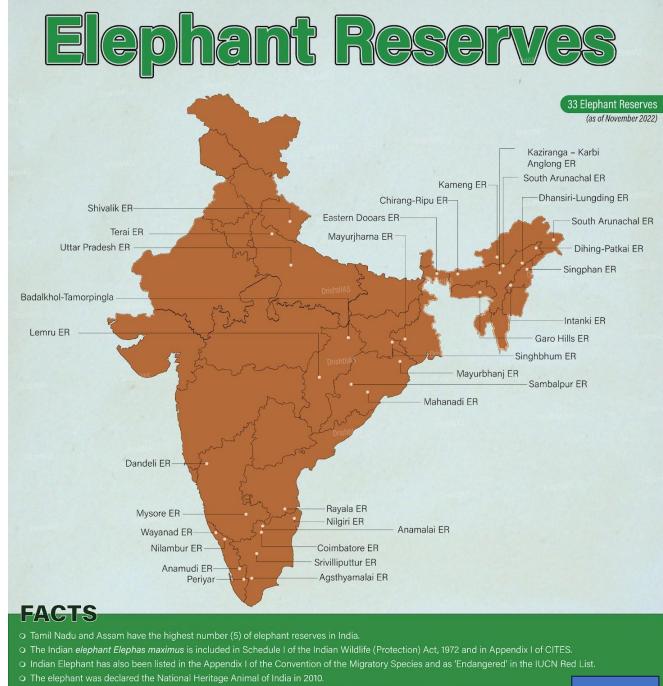
According to HSI, the gains to the economy may be overstated. "In eight key African countries, trophy hunters contribute at most 0.03 per cent of GDP and at most 0.76 per cent of overall tourism jobs," it says. It is also alleged that corruption prevents local communities from benefiting from trophy hunting.

Nonetheless, many experts argue that outright banning is not necessary. Conservation researcher Enrico Di Minin of the University of Helsinki told *NPR*: "If countries want to ban trophy hunting, they need to have an alternative source of revenue worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year... Just banning things without knowing the consequences is actually creating more problems for the species." The key findings of the **Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 Report** are as follows:

The report highlighted a surge of 62 new corridors, marking a 40% increase since 2010, now totalling **150 corridors across the nation**.

West Bengal has the highest number of elephant corridors, totalling 26, constituting 17% of the total corridors.

- The East central region contributes 35% (52 corridors), and the North East region follows as the second-largest with 32% (48 corridors).
- Southern India registered 32 elephant corridors, representing 21% of the total, while northern India has the lowest count of 18 corridors, amounting to 12%.
- Elephants have **expanded their ranges** in the **Vidarbha region** of Maharashtra and southern Maharashtra bordering Karnataka.



• MoEFCC provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country through Project Elephant. Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

- Elephants in India:
- Elephants are keystone species as well as the Natural Heritage Animal of India.
- India has the largest number of wild Asian Elephants.
- The elephant population in the country is estimated to be over 30,000. Karnataka has the highest elephant population in India.

4 Main Species of	Elephant		
Species	Species Found in IUCN Red List Stat		Habitat
Indian	dian Asia EN (WP		Subtropical broadleaf forest, tropical broadleaf moist forest, dry forest, grassland
Sumatran	Asia	CR	Broadleaf moist tropical forests
Savanna (Bush)	Africa	EN	All sub-Saharan Africa except for Central Africa's dense tropical forest
Forest	Africa	CR	Dense Tropical Forests



IN UNDER 3 YEARS, BENCHMARK INDEX MOVED FROM 50K TO 75K

Sensex @ 75,000

Closes at 74,683.7, down 0.08%, after hitting a high of 75,124.28 intraday

HITESH VYAS MUMBAL APRIL 9

THE BSE Sensex created history on Tuesday after it breached 75,000-mark for the first time, driven by anticipation of robust corporate earnings in the January-March 2024 guarter, but pared gains on profit booking.

The 30-share benchmark index closed at 74,683.7, down 58.8 points, or 0.08 per cent, after hitting a record high of 75,124.28 in intraday trades.

The broader Nifty 50 declined 23.55 points, or 0.1 per cent to end at 22,642.75. It touched an all-time high of 22,768.4 during intraday trades.

The Sensex, which was launched on January 2, 1986, with a base price of 100 (base year 1978-19) took 28 years to cross the first milestone of 25,000 on May 16, 2014, after Narendra Modi-led BIP won a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls.

The index touched an alltime high of 25,375.63 in intraday trades.

It took another seven years to reach the 50,000 mark. The index opened at 50.096.57 for the first time on January 21. 2021, led by a rally in the global stock market after loe Biden was sworn in as the President of the United States.

The index took almost three years to surpass the 75,000 mark.

BSE SENSEX MILESTONES

JANUARY 2, 1986: S&P BSE Sensex launched with a base price of 100 (base year 1978-79)

"The Indian market reached

seeing profit-booking at higher

levels in anticipation of tomor-

row's key US inflation data,

which carries weight in deter-

mining future rate cuts by the

US Fed," said Vinod Nair, Head

of Research, Geojit Financial

litical tensions in the Middle

prices upward, impacting over-

near term, the focus will shift

to Q4 earnings, which will kick

off this weekend, he said.

Services.

this year.

MAY 16, 2014: Crosses 25,000 mark intra-day

Source: BSE

JANUARY 21, 2021:

In terms of market capitalia fresh intraday peak before sation, investors' wealth eroded by Rs 94,000 crore on Tuesday to Rs 399.92 lakh crore.

On Monday, the combined market capitalisation, or the total value of all listed shares, of the BSE-listed firms reached Rs 400.86 lakh crore for the first time. "It was expected that the

Concerns have emerged amidst recent better-than-an-Nifty would reach a new allticipated US employment time high in the new fiscal year, and manufacturing data, sugbut the pace of the move has gesting a potential shift in exbeen faster than anticipated," pectations regarding rate cuts said Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer. Axis Moreover, escalating geopo-Securities PMS.

Going forward, the focus East, alongside supply conwill shift to earnings delivery as cerns, have propelled crude the stock prices are factoring in reasonable earnings season exall market sentiment. In the pectations. If the earnings season turns out to be disappointing, then the market will correct.

However, if there are more upgrades than downgrades in earnings momentum, the market will continue to move upwards.

Nevertheless, the market may pause or consolidate before taking a direction based on the earnings in the next 20 days, he said.

According to Kotak Securities' Head of Equity Research Shrikant Chouhan, the benchmark indices hit new all-time highs but failed to sustain at higher levels due to weakness in BFSI and IT stocks.

Among sectors, metals and realty indices outperformed. Although the mid and smallcap indices remained unchanged, a few stocks were seen sliding to their crucial support levels, he said.

"Гог trend-following 22,770/75,125 traders, would act as a trend-deciding level. Above that, the market can move towards 22,850-22,900-23,000/75,350-75,500-75,800," Chouhan said. The Bank-Nifty managed to surpass an all-time high level

of 48,650. The NSE companies that gained the most included Apollo Hospital, Hindalco Industries, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Bajaj Finserv Ltd.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) net sold Rs 593.2 crore of shares whereas domestic institutional investors bought Rs 2,257.18 crore worth of equities, the BSE's provisional data showed on Tuesday.

Breaches 50,000 level APRIL 9, 2024: Sensex surpasses 75,000 mark intra-day

MILESTONE MOMENT	ICICI Bank			503to 5,000 points rally (from 70,000452to 75,000)						Points rally Days tak Fourth fastest 5,000 points rally					
0.08%	5K*	0	15K	20K • 6L	25K	30K	35K	40K	45K • 28£	50K	55K • 821	38 • 00	65K	70K • 011	75K • 28
հլ	2,065	3 1,588		2	ਜ							-	4		
74,742 B Apr (close)	Oct 08, 1999	Feb 06, 2006	Jul 06, 2007	Oct 29, 2007	May 16, 2014	Mar 04, 2015	Jan 17, 2018	May 23, 2019	Dec 04, 2020	Jan 21, 2021	Aug 13, 2021	Sep 24, 2021	Jul 03, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Apr 09, 2024

Atomic Clocks for One-Nation, One-Time

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- India aims to deploy its own atomic clocks across the nation, to enhance its timekeeping infrastructure and national defence capabilities for the future.
- The deployment of atomic clocks across India aims to synchronise all digital devices with Indian Standard Time (IST), ensuring uniformity.
- These atomic clocks are being installed by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

- What are Atomic Clocks?
- About:

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- An atomic clock, is a clock, known for its exceptional accuracy, and functions by utilising specific resonance frequencies of atoms, typically cesium or rubidium. It was invented in 1955 by Louise Essen.
- The extreme precision levels of the atomic clocks can be interpreted by the fact that they will lose one second approximately every 100 million years.
 - Currently, atomic clocks in India are operational in Ahmedabad and Faridabad.

- Why is India Developing its Atomic Clocks?
- Background:
- This initiative was started due to the denial of Global Positioning System (GPS) information during the Kargil War.
- The existence of independent timekeeping capabilities is crucial for defence, cybersecurity, and online transactions.

Tissue Culture Laboratory at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, the Delhi forest department has initiated the establishment of a tissue culture laboratory at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary to conserve rare native trees.
- The primary goal of the laboratory is to grow endangered native Delhi trees in a controlled environment and regenerate saplings of species facing regeneration challenges due to invasive species.

- What are key Facts about the Tissue Culture Laboratory?
- Tissue Culture Laboratory:
- The lab will be able to extract plant tissue from an in-vitro fully grown plant, generating multiple trees from the same tree.
- The forest department will take assistance from botanists and scientists from the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and the Forest Research Institute (FRI).

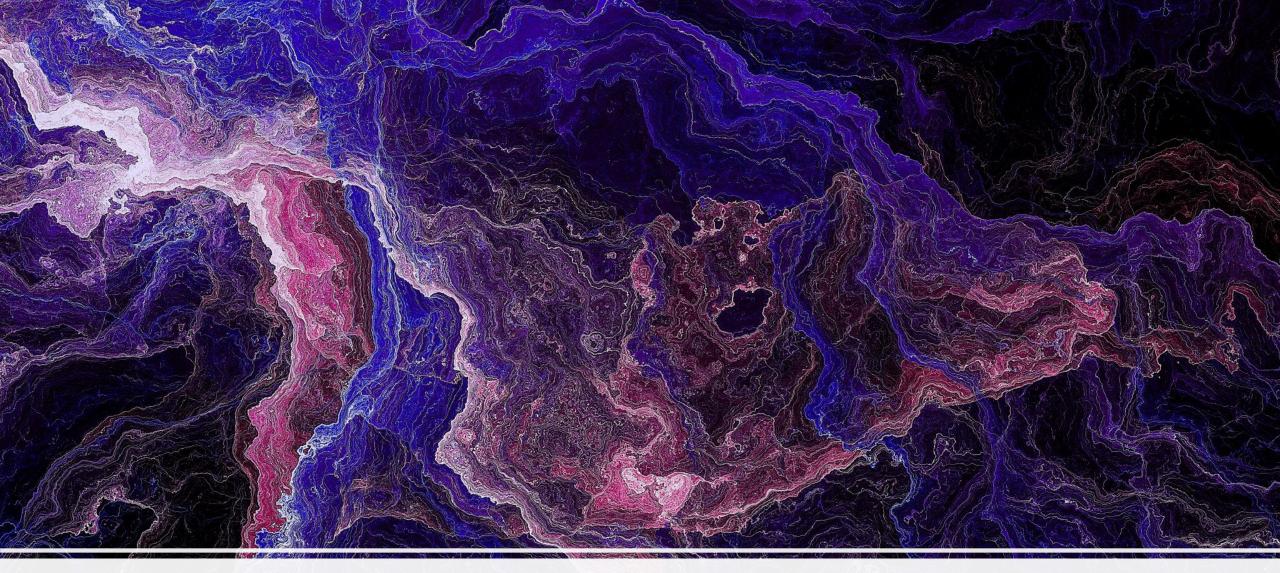
- Other Similar Laboratories:
- The National Facility for Plant Tissue Culture Repository (NFPTCR) was established in Delhi at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in 1986.
- They carry out tissue culture experiments and research on five plant types -- tubers, bulbs, spices, plantation crops, horticultural crops, and medicinal and aromatic plants.

Gulf Cooperation Council's Vision for Regional Security

- Recently, for the first time since its inception, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) announced its 'Vision for Regional Security' in Riyadh.
- About GCC
- It is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.
- It was established in **1981.**



- Energy Security: GCC contributes to 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of gas imports. India is executing the second phase of its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Several GCC countries have expressed their interest in the same.
- Trade and Investment: GCC countries contribute to about one-sixth of India's total trade.

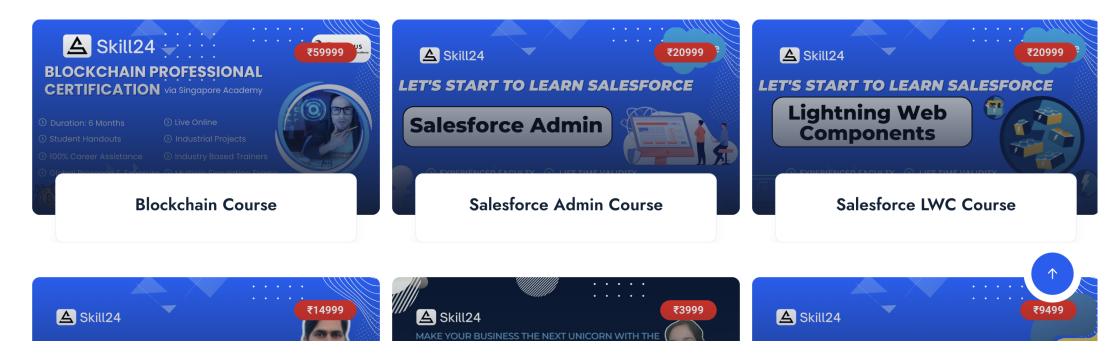


Fun fact

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Thank you guys.