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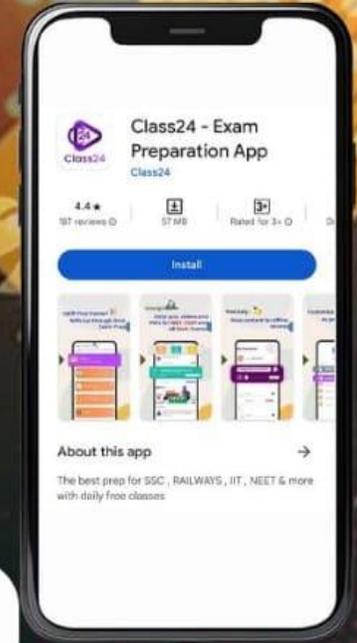
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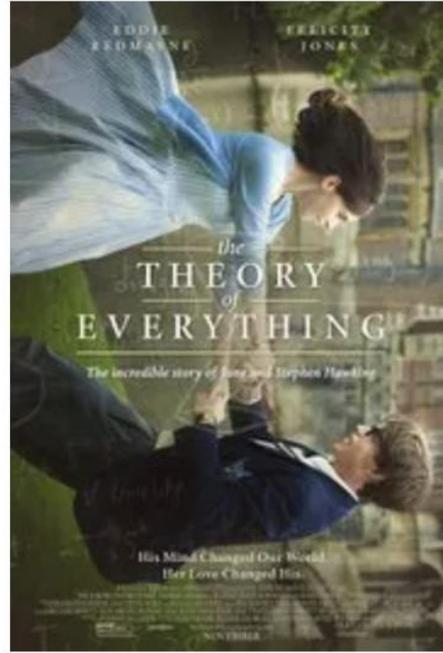
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“There should be no boundaries to human endeavor. We are all different. However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there’s life, there is hope.”

–Stephen Hawking

Centre tweaks Green Credit Programme norms; to focus on restoration of ecosystem

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

Amid concerns that the Green Credit Programme (GCP), which encourages organisations and individuals to invest in afforestation project in 'degraded' forest lands for 'green credits,' may encourage tree planting for financial gains, the Union Environment Ministry – the overall coordinator of the programme – has clarified that primacy must be accorded to restoring ecosystems over merely tree planting.

So far, *The Hindu* has learnt, forest departments of 13 States have offered

Parties can apply to 'restore' forests, and the actual afforestation will be carried out by State Forest departments

387 land parcels of degraded forest land – worth nearly 10,983 hectares. Individuals and companies can apply to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous body of the Environment Ministry, to pay to "restore" these forests. The actual afforestation will be carried out by State forest departments.

Two years after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, each such planted tree could be worth one 'green credit'. These credits can be claimed by the financing organisation and used in two ways: either using it to complying with existing forest laws that require organisations, which divert forest land for non-forestry purposes, to recompense by providing an equivalent amount of land elsewhere. Or be used for reporting under environmental, social and governance leadership norms or to meet corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

IN FOCUS

Areas which will be part of the credit system

- Tree plantation

- Water

- Sustainable agriculture

- Waste management

- Air pollution reduction

- Mangrove conservation and restoration

- Ecomark

- Sustainable building and infrastructure

■ The mechanism will be implemented in a phased manner

■ Initially, two to three activities from the eight sectors are under consideration for designing and piloting the Programme

■ Further, more activities will be added from the selected sectors

Topic	Details
	<div> <p>Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) (launched in Oct 2022) is a global movement initiated by India to promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle.</p> </div> <div> </div>
Need	Addressing environmental degradation and climate change at the individual and community level
Aim	It aims to replace mindless consumption with mindful utilization and encourages individuals and communities to undertake climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
Approach	Focus on individual behaviours, co-create globally, leverage local cultures
Objectives	Promote environmentally conscious lifestyle , nudge individuals to undertake climate-friendly actions, create a global network of Pro-Planet People (P3)
Example	Promoting Sustainable Transportation: Encouraging individuals to use public transport, carpooling, cycling, or walking instead of private vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and promote a greener commute.
Other related initiatives	Glasgow Climate Meet (Cop26), Panchamrit strategy, International Solar Alliance, National Action Plan on Climate Change, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), National Biofuel Policy



A carbon credit is a unit of exchange that can be used to offset greenhouse gas emissions.



One carbon credit is equivalent to one metric ton of carbon dioxide or equivalent greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.



The concept of carbon credit originated from the Kyoto Protocol.

Weather extremes



Flooded desert: A street in Dubai flooded after heavy rain on Tuesday. REUTERS (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

ALIND CHAUHANNEW DELHI, APRIL 17

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) recorded the heaviest rain ever after a severe thunderstorm hit the country on Monday night, killing at least one person, and causing damage to homes and businesses.

According to the state-run WAM news agency, the rain was “a historic weather event” that surpassed “anything documented since the start of data collection in 1949” — that was before the UAE was established in 1971.

Heavy rain is unusual in the UAE, which is an arid, Arabian peninsula country. However, it occasionally rains in the region during the cooler winter months.

What happened?

The thunderstorm began on Monday night, and by Tuesday evening had dumped more than 142 millimetres (mm) of rain onto the desert city of Dubai. Usually, the city witnesses this much rain in a year and a half. An average year sees 94.7 mm of rain at Dubai International Airport.

The heavy rain led to disruption of air travel as flights were either diverted or delayed. Operations at the airport were temporarily suspended for 25 minutes on Tuesday afternoon. Across Dubai, homes were flooded and vehicles were abandoned on roadways. Popular shopping centres like Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates were also flooded.

The city of Al Ain, which is nearly 130 kilometres (km) away from Dubai, witnessed record rainfall of 254 mm.

What led to the heavy rainfall?

The primary reason for this heavy rain was a storm system, which was passing through the Arabian peninsula and mov-



A person walks in flood water in Dubai on Wednesday. *Reuters*

ing across the Gulf of Oman.

According to a report by the *Associated Press*, the rain could have been exacerbated by cloud seeding, a process of spraying salt mixtures in clouds that would result in condensation of the cloud and eventually cause rainfall. The UAE's National Center for Meteorology had flown six or seven cloud-seeding flights before the rain, the *AP* report said.

Some experts suggested that climate change could also be behind the heavy rain. The UAE's average surface temperature has increased by 0.4 degree Celsius between 2003 and 2022.

Higher temperatures cause evaporation of water not only from land but also oceans and other water bodies, meaning a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture. For every 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature, the atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture. This leads to an increase in precipitation intensity, which ultimately can cause severe flooding.

However, it is extremely difficult to attribute any particular extreme weather event to climate change. Multiple factors, like patterns of natural climate variability, such as the El Niño, contribute to such events.



Online harassment charge by Shailaja gives a twist to poll campaign narrative in Kerala

Row erupted after the former Health Minister accused the UDF camp of disseminating morphed images spliced with obscene content to degrade her; police and EC have taken cognisance of her complaint; Congress accuses the CPI(M) leader of exploding a 'lie bomb' to play the victim card

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A row over the misuse of cyberspace for denigrating candidates appears to have polarised the Lok Sabha campaign narrative in Kerala on Wednesday.

Online slander spreads like invasive digital weeds, dehumanising candidates and blurring their political messaging, as the former Health Minister and Left Democratic Front candidate in the Vadakara Lok Sabha constituency, K.K. Shailaja, learnt to her dismay recently. She is in a high-stakes battle with

Congress legislator Shaif Parambil in the key parliamentary segment.

Morphed images
A spirited row erupted on Tuesday when Shaif Parambil accused the Congress-led UDF camp of disseminating morphed images spliced with obscene content to degrade her. "I have never felt so hurt. I appeal to good minds in the UDF to restrain the slanders," she said. Ms. Shailaja's impassioned plea went viral on social media, prompting the CPI(M) to weaponise the clipping to turn the tables on the UDF campaign in Vadakara.



Intense canvassing: K.K. Shailaja, UDF nominee in Vadakara seat, campaigning in Kozhikode district on Wednesday. THULAKSHANAN

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan claimed in Alappuzha that Ms. Shailaja's "victimisation at the hands of the UDF" had hardened the electorate against Mr. Parambil.

Ms. Shailaja also seemed to find some sympathy from the Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) leader and Congress ally, K.K. Rema, M.L.A., and Congress legislator, Uma Tho-

mas, with specific riders. Both condemned the cyberattack, but distanced Mr. Parambil from the smear campaign.

Meanwhile, the UDF scrambled to save its campaign from the CPI(M) attempt to stir outrage against Mr. Parambil.

Satheesan attacks
Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan accused Ms. Shailaja of exploding a "lie bomb" to play the victim in front of voters in Vadakara. He said Ms. Shailaja had done the role of an injured party to save her falling campaign.

"Ms. Shailaja wanted to

divert public attention from the tough questions she faced on the campaign trail, including corruption in the purchase of COVID-19 kits and also obfuscating pandemic causality figures to claim false credit for mitigating the outbreak. So, she has resorted to political theatre. The UDF has no troll farms or cyberbullies like the CPI (M). Moreover, she has turned a blind eye to CPI (M) cyberattacks against Congress leaders, especially women," he said.

The State Police and the Election Commission of India have taken cognisance of Ms. Shailaja's complaint.

Rajnath slams CPI(M) promise to dismantle nuclear weapons

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday questioned the intention behind the CPI(M)'s poll manifesto promise to dismantle nuclear weapons in the country and demanded to know the stance of the Congress on the issue.

Mr. Singh said any talk of dismantling nuclear weapons amounted to playing with national security and there was a "deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken the country".

He accused the Left and the Congress, allies in the BJP-led government, of trying to weaken the country.

Speaking at a campaign meeting in Kasaragod, he said the Congress should clarify its stand on the CPI(M)'s promise as it was the Indira Gandhi government which kicked off the country's nuclear programme in 1974. India worked hard to become one of the 11 nuclear power nations in the world and dismantling its nuclear weapons would weaken the country whose neighbours Pakistan and China were nuclear powers, he said.

He raised concerns about the alleged corruption in the State cooperative banking sector, accusing the CPI(M) of siphoning off funds.

He said ₹1 lakh crore was at risk due to malpractices in these banks.

Prof. Jodhka to get Malcom Adisheshiah Award 2024

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Surinder S. Jodhka, professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been chosen for the Malcom Adisheshiah Award 2024. Vikas Kumar, associate professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, will receive the Elizabeth Adisheshiah Citation 2024. Every year, the awards are given to outstanding social scientists.

EC serves notice on KCR for abusing Congress leaders

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday served notice on Bharat Kishore Samithi (BKS) president and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao regarding his recent remarks targeting Congress leaders during a press conference in Sicilia.

Mr. Rao has been asked to explain his reported derogatory comments by 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The EC said it would proceed with appropriate action if no

Committee (TPCC) senior vice-president G. Niranjan, in which he had alleged that Mr. Rao made vulgar, derogatory, and objectionable remarks against the Congress party. He also allegedly threatened violence, stating that the Congress leaders would have their throats bitten if they did not provide a bonus of ₹500 per quintal of paddy to farmers.

The Commission cautioned Mr. Rao to strictly adhere to the provisions of the MCC in all public addresses and statements.

response is received within the specified timeframe.

This notice follows a report submitted by the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana on a complaint filed by Telangana Pradesh Congress

Music composer Ilaiyaraaja is not above everybody else, says Madras High Court

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

"The musical trinity - Muthuswami Dikshitar, Tyagaraja and Syama Sastri - can claim to be above everybody but you (music composer, R. Ilaiyaraaja) are not above everybody else," the senior-most judge of the Madras High Court, said on Wednesday.

Presiding over the second Division Bench along with Justice Mohammed Shaifiq, the senior judge recalled senior counsel Sar-

ish Parasaran, representing Mr. Ilaiyaraaja, saying during a hearing on April 10 that his client was below only God and above everybody else.

In response, the music composer's counsel-on-record, Saravanan, said that the senior counsel had made the statement only in the context of copyright and to assert Mr. Ilaiyaraaja's right over the songs composed by him, since Echo Recording Private Limited had questioned that right.

"The press took it in a

different context. Your Lordship is aware that he (the composer) never proclaims himself to be in terms of his right that the senior counsel made that statement," the counsel said, and sought an adjournment due to the unavailability of the senior counsel.

Right over songs
Mr. Saravanan, representing the appellant, insisted on staying the single judge's order or, alternatively, directing Mr. Ilaiyaraaja to deposit in court the revenue being earned by him through the playing of his songs on music streaming platform Spotify.

Karnataka to capture rogue wild elephants and fix radio collars

The Hindu Bureau
SHIMOGA

The Forest Department in Karnataka has launched an operation to capture rogue wild elephants and fix radio collars in Hassan division.

The operation that started on Wednesday will continue up to April 24.

Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests of Hassan Division, urged the media on Wednesday that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) has given permission to capture rogue elephants roaming in parts of Ahur, Belur, Sakaleshpur, and Arakalgudi ranges of forest. The department would either release

The Forest Department will release or translocate lumbos after fixing radio collars.

or translocate them after fixing radio collars.

The department fixes radio collars on elephants that lead the herds so that their movements can be tracked. The officer has sought the cooperation of the farming community and the locals during the operation. Many elephants have been roaming in several parts of Hassan. The locals have been demanding the government to capture all the elephants and translocate them.

Spectacular display



In perfect order: People taking a look at the chormoyam (decorations) for the Thissur Pooram on Wednesday. Pooram will be celebrated on Friday. The State government says that no fitness test by a special team for elephants is needed. K.K.NAJEER

Pinarayi blasts BJP over CAA, questions silence of Congress

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi failed to respond against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, during their campaigns or in the election manifesto, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan repeated his allegation during an election meeting in Palakkad on Wednesday.

The second term of the Modi government is open to implementing the communal agenda of the RSS. They are targeting the minorities with draconic Acts like the CAA. No development country will decide citizenship on the basis of religion, he said.

"But the Congress kept mum. The Congress was nowhere in the protest against the CAA. No Congress leaders were named in FIR of anti-CAA protests. Mr. Gandhi (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, during their campaigns or in the election manifesto, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan repeated his allegation during an election meeting in Palakkad on Wednesday.

"Why is the Congress silent about it. Don't they think it is an issue. They are concerned whether they can remain in the country, where they have been living for generations. Are they supporting the Sangh Parivar agenda," he asked.

When voter ID card serves as a licence to move along the Red Corridor

L. Appala Naidu
CHITTAGARH

Ravva Deve, a Muria tribal woman and mother of four, fled the Dandakaranya region in Chhattisgarh a decade ago to rebuild a new life in Andhra Pradesh while the conflict between Naxalites and State-sponsored Sabra Jadhav got at its peak between 2004 and 2014.

Since then, Ms. Deve's family, along with 33 more families from her native village, formed a settlement, Chukkalapadu, in a reserve forest in Chintoor Agency in Alluri Sitarama Raju district. By 2024, over 6,200 Murias have settled in the 54 settlements, locally known as Internal Displaced People (IDP) settlements, in the Godavari

region of Andhra Pradesh. All those who fled Chhattisgarh have the privilege of possessing two voter identity cards in their name - one when they enrolled as voters and their native village, and another in their new settlement in Andhra Pradesh.

In Andhra Pradesh, Ms. Deve got her vote in 2018 and exercised her franchise in the 2019 general election. She is again registered as a voter in Chhattisgarh.

I have two voter ID cards issued each in Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. I have decided not to return to our home State."

the Murias need to venture out of the reserve forest for weekly shandies, visit families in the nearby settlements and attend functions. They have to cross the border between Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh both to visit their families and relatives in Chhattisgarh.

Connection with roots
Many Murias who are still in touch with their families in Chhattisgarh exercise their franchise in Chhattisgarh, while others use their voter ID card for their identity purposes while moving along the State boundaries.

Many families are still engaged in the cultivation of their family land in Chhattisgarh.

They would also send their children to pursue studies in Chhattisgarh.

Muria farmer Ravva Poojays says, "We will make sure that every voter exercises his/her franchise in every election in Andhra Pradesh. We see the right political parties extended their fullest cooperation to the Murias for the voter enrolment in Andhra Pradesh. However, there are no schools

in many Muria settlements. No access to safe drinking water and no mid-day meal for children. Obtaining a caste certificate in the name of 'ST-Murias' is still a dream in Andhra Pradesh, where we cannot claim any right that is guaranteed for the rest of the tribes," said Ravva Poojaya, Chukkalapadu Patel (Village Head).

The Murias also cast their vote in the local body election, with the hope that the local bodies would meet their basic needs. By 2024, the voters of many Murias are believed to have been deleted in Chhattisgarh. However, the people are keeping their voter ID cards as a source of their nativity.

Lorry driver arrested over road rage

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A lorry driver was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly driving in a "negligent manner" and dragging a biker for about half a kilometre over an argument in Hyderabad.

Prithvi Raju had an argument with the biker who decided to hit the two-wheeler. "After the altercation, the lorry driver crashed the vehicle into the biker. The biker was dragged for about 500 metres, and got severely injured. However, the case was filed under Section 337 of the IPC against Mr. Raju, and he was produced before court.

Prof. Jodhka to get Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Surinder S. Jodhka, professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been chosen for the Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024. Vikas Kumar, associate professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, will receive the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024. Every year, the awards are given to outstanding social scientists.



Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah (18 April 1910 – 21 November 1994), was an Indian development economist and educator.



In 1976 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award.



In 1998, UNESCO created the Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize in recognition of his contribution to education and literacy.



He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, in 1978



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Born Malcolm Sathyanathan
Adisheshaiah
18 April 1910
[Vellore, Madras Presidency,](#)
[British India](#)

Died 21 November 1994 (aged 84)

Alma mater [Loyola College, Chennai,](#)
[London School of Economics,](#)
[University of Cambridge](#)

Occupation(s) Development economist,
educator

Spouses Helen Paranjothi
Elizabeth Pothen

Parent(s) Paul Varanasi Adisheshaiah,
Grace Nesamma Adisheshaiah

Member of Parliament, [Rajya Sabha](#)

In office

14 April 1978 – 13 April 1984

IN BRIEF

Sakshi listed among 100 most influential people by Time

Sakshi Malik has been listed among the 100 most influential people of 2024 by Time magazine. Sakshi, India's only women's Olympic medalist in wrestling, has been honoured for her relentless fight against alleged harassment of women wrestlers by former WPI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Manika, Sreeja exit in group stage of ITTF World Cup

India's Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula exited in the second-round group stage after losing to China's Wang Manyu and defending champion Chen Meng respectively at the ITTF World Cup in Macau on Wednesday. Sreeja lost 4-11, 4-11, 15-23, 2-11 to reigning Olympic champion Meng of China and finished second in Group 4. Manika went down 6-11, 4-11, 9-11, 4-11 to World No. 2 Wang.

Jeruto faces doping case hearing in June

Former steeplechase world champion Norah Jeruto faces a doping case hearing in June, five weeks before the Paris Olympics open. The CAS said on Wednesday that it will hear an appeal by World Athletics on June 17 against a ruling last year that cleared her of suspected blood doping.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, FanCode, 8 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

McIlroy rubbishes rumours of him jumping ship to LIV

Associated Press

This wasn't the kind of attention Rory McIlroy was hoping for on the day after the Masters. A London financial paper, City A.M., cited anonymous sources as saying McIlroy was believed to be close to an \$850 million deal to join LIV Golf. The publication did not say how the sources would know. That set off speculation and innuendo across the internet. McIlroy was able to shut it down when he arrived at RBC Heritage. "I've never been offered a number from LIV and I've never contemplated going to LIV."

Giant-killer Atalanta ready to deal fatal blow to Liverpool

EUROPA LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse

Atalanta has a chance to make history on Thursday as it welcomes Liverpool to Bergamo with one foot in the Europa League semifinals thanks to a stunning first-leg win at Anfield. Atalanta once again punched way above its weight last week by dishing out a 3-0 hammering to Liverpool and is on the verge of reaching the last four of a European competition for the first time since 1988. Back then Atalanta

PSG and Dortmund enter semifinals after incident-filled wins over Barca and Atletico

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse

Kylian Mbappe struck twice as Paris Saint-Germain battled back to beat 10-man Barcelona 4-1 and book a place in the Champions League semifinals with a 6-4 aggregate on Tuesday. Raphinha fired Barcelona ahead early on but Ronald Araujo's 20th-minute red card turned the tide in PSG's favour, despite the Spanish champion winning the quarter-final first-leg win. Ousmane Dembele and Neymar levelled the tie for PSG and the dead-end Mbappe hit a brace to put it into the final four for the first time since 2021. Barcelona was dream-



Off we go! Brandt kickstarts Dortmund's comeback after the first leg with this strike, on Tuesday.

ing of a first semifinal return since 2019 but Araujo's red card for pulling Neymar's hair out immediately dented Barcelona's hopes of a comeback. PSG coach Luis Enrique said he believed his team would turn things around despite never having managed to after a first-leg de-

feat, and so it proved. Borussia Dortmund fought back to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 in their quarter-final second leg, securing a 5-4 aggregate victory and a first Champions League semifinal since 2013. Trailing 2-1 from the first leg, goals from Julian Brandt and Ian Maatsen had Dortmund 2-0 up at half-time. Diego Simoes made three changes at half-time including bringing on Angel Correa and his energy told immediately. Matej Hummel conceding a peer own goal before the Argentine netted to put Atletico back ahead in the tie. But those goals brought Dortmund back to life, with Nicolas Fullkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a three-minute period. Dortmund's comeback face PSG in the semifinal at Wembley on June 1.

The results (quarterfinals, second leg): Dortmund 4 (Brandt 34, Maatsen 39, Fullkrug 74) beat Atletico 2 (Hummel 49-og, Correa 64) (Dortmund leads 4-2 on aggregate); Barcelona 1 (Raphinha 12) lost to PSG 4 (Brandt 40, Vinicius 54, Mbappe 61-pen, 89) (PSG wins 6-4).

Paris aims to make the Olympics more desirable

Associated Press

In Paris' outskirts, a bright-eyed young girl is eager for the Olympic and Paralympic Games to end. That's because the swimming club where 10-year-old Lyla Kebbi trains will inherit an Olympic pool that is being dismantled after the Games and trucked from the Olympic race venue in Paris' high-rise business district to Sevran, a Paris-area town with less glitter and wealth. There, the pieces will be bolted back together and - voila! - Kebbi and her swim team will have a new Olympic-sized pool to splash around in. Atalanta's recent form has been patchy with three wins in 11 matches.

ambitious waterborne opening ceremony. But the first Games in a century in France's capital will be judged for spectacle alone. Another yardstick will be their impact on disadvantaged Paris suburbs, away from the city-centre landmarks that are hosting much of the action. By promising socially positive and also less polluting and less wasteful Olympics, the city synonymous with romance is also setting itself the high bar of making future Games generally more desirable. The \$13 billion cost of the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, unfilled promises of beneficial change for host Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi tar-

nished by Russian doping and President Vladimir Putin's subsequent land grabs in Ukraine, the Swiss-led land-based IOC has mountains of scepticism to dispel. Virtuous Summer Games in Paris could help the long-term survival of the IOC's mega-event. The idea that the July 26-Aug. 16 Paralympics should benefit disadvantaged communities in the Seine-Saint-Denis region north-east of Paris. For Seine-Saint-Denis kids facing racial discrimination and other barriers, sports are sometimes a route out. World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe honed his silky football skills as a boy in the Seine-Saint-Denis town of Bondy.

Nadal bows out in Barcelona Open second round

Agence France-Presse

Rafael Nadal suffered his first defeat on his return to tennis after injury as he fell 6-3, 6-3 against Alex de Minaur on Wednesday in the Barcelona Open second round. The 22-time Grand Slam title winner, back on court this week after three months on the sidelines, battled well but eventually crumbled against the hard-working Australian. Norway's three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud came out on top in an entertaining 6-3, 6-4 match against Alexander Muller to reach the third round. The 25-year-old Norwegian was broken twice in the first set and allowed Muller to save 10 of 14 break points. However, despite his stoppiness Ruud still took the set. The third seed looked to have sealed the match when he broke his French journeyman opponent in the third game of the second set. However, the World No. 6 gave up four break points while serving for the match to allow 27-year-old Muller back in at 5-4. Ruud, though, broke Muller to progress with his 25th victory in 2024 and will face Ruud in the quarterfinals on Thursday. This year is much better than last year, I'm having good times," said Ruud, who defeated Novak Djokovic last week.

concentration and may have been disturbed slightly by an interaction with the arbiter. This should not have happened. He should have been able to focus harder. Absosov has defended very well in some games in the second half of the tournament. He drew creditably with Nepomniachtchi and Caruana. Decrease in quality The level of mistakes has increased and the quality of the games has decreased slightly towards the latter rounds. It is possible that the fatigue and the amount of energy spent are catching up with them.

But Tan has recovered slightly from her defeat and I predict it will be a very close finish. Komura Humpy has recovered a little bit. She had a topsy-turvy encounter against R. Vaishali, but won, though both the players were making mistakes. Then Humpy played well against Kateryna Lagno and Tan, and consolidated her situation. Slowly her class is breaking through. Vaishali's tough run of form continued, but a couple of blunders from Nurguly Salimova rescued her tournament. Instead of her fifth consecutive loss, she actually managed a victory.

Women's Chess: Ruzija Ispahovic bt Gao Xinyu (Chn) 3-6, 6-4; 6-3. **Round 5:** Ruzija Ispahovic & Ma Yexin (Chn) bt Alexandra Tringolova & Anastasia Kosheva 6-4, 4-6, 11-8. **Round 6:** Arianne Hartono (Ind) & Prarthana Thombare bt Cho Ji Hye (Kor) & Beatrice Garmulye (Lit) 6-4, 6-3.

Ruud: GETTY IMAGES

All the top five players have good chance as the gap is small

Praggnanandhaa has impressed once again with his opening preparation and there is still much to expect from him. Gujrathi is showing a lot of resilience and strength. Humpy's class is slowly breaking through



Viswanathan Anand

The Candidates chess tournament has entered a very interesting phase after the 10th round. D. Gukesh's victory against Vidit Gujrathi helped him regain the joint lead along with Ian Nepomniachtchi. He then played two good games against R. Praggnanandhaa and Nepomniachtchi. The draw with the Russian was based on intelligent opening selection and good play after that.



giving his all: Gukesh's draw with Nepomniachtchi was based on intelligent opening selection. FIDE

Nakamura but surprisingly collapsed within a space of four or five moves. He tried his best against Absosov, though he was in serious trouble against Alireza Firouzja in the ninth round, but his rival was slightly impatient and didn't press his advantage long enough. Praggnanandhaa had an interesting struggle against Firouzja and he impressed once again with his opening preparation. Against Gukesh and Gujrathi, he played two solid draws. Based on his openings and his play so far, there is still much to expect from him.

His win against Firouzja has suddenly improved his chances and it also must have boosted his morale. Sometimes, an unexpected victory can improve your mood a lot. Flawless Nakamura scored the crucial win over his strongest rival on paper, Caruana, but he had some weak moves against Vidit, who played flawlessly to clinch the game. Nakamura's victory over Absosov took them to 11.

But those goals brought Dortmund back to life, with Nicolas Fullkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a three-minute period. Dortmund's comeback face PSG in the semifinal at Wembley on June 1.

concentration and may have been disturbed slightly by an interaction with the arbiter. This should not have happened. He should have been able to focus harder. Absosov has defended very well in some games in the second half of the tournament. He drew creditably with Nepomniachtchi and Caruana. Decrease in quality The level of mistakes has increased and the quality of the games has decreased slightly towards the latter rounds. It is possible that the fatigue and the amount of energy spent are catching up with them.

But Tan has recovered slightly from her defeat and I predict it will be a very close finish. Komura Humpy has recovered a little bit. She had a topsy-turvy encounter against R. Vaishali, but won, though both the players were making mistakes. Then Humpy played well against Kateryna Lagno and Tan, and consolidated her situation. Slowly her class is breaking through. Vaishali's tough run of form continued, but a couple of blunders from Nurguly Salimova rescued her tournament. Instead of her fifth consecutive loss, she actually managed a victory.

In the women's section, Tan Zhongyi was leading alone after seven rounds. In the eighth, she unnecessarily took great risks against Lei Tingjie, who had just started her own series of victories. Given Lei's run of form, and it backfired. She lost and allowed Lei and Aleksandra Goryachkina to join her in the lead.

In the 10th round game between Lei and Goryachkina, a last-minute blunder by the latter turned a dead draw into a loss. That meant Lei would join Tan in the lead and Goryachkina fall to third place.

Given Lei's run of form - 4.5 points from the last five games - it is clear that the momentum is with her. But Tan has recovered slightly from her defeat and I predict it will be a very close finish.

Komura Humpy has recovered a little bit. She had a topsy-turvy encounter against R. Vaishali, but won, though both the players were making mistakes. Then Humpy played well against Kateryna Lagno and Tan, and consolidated her situation. Slowly her class is breaking through.

Vaishali's tough run of form continued, but a couple of blunders from Nurguly Salimova rescued her tournament. Instead of her fifth consecutive loss, she actually managed a victory.

Getting ready: People walk down the stairs painted in the colours of the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics in front of the Sacre Coeur Basilica on top of the Montmartre hill in Paris. AFP



Sakshi listed among 100 most influential people by *Time*

Sakshi Malik has been listed among the 100 most influential people of 2024 by *Time* magazine. Sakshi, India's only women's Olympic medallist in wrestling, has been honoured for her relentless fight against alleged harassment of women wrestlers by former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Editor-in-chief	Sam Jacobs
Categories	News magazine
Frequency	Weekly (1923–2020); twice monthly on Fridays (2020–present).
Total circulation (2023)	1,256,572 ^[1]
First issue	March 3, 1923; 101 years ago
Company	Time Inc. (1923–1990; 2014–2018) Time Warner (1990–2014) Meredith Corporation (2018) Time USA, LLC. (Marc & Lynne Benioff) (2018–present)
Country	United States
Based in	1095 Sixth Avenue , New York City , New York, U.S.
Language	English
Website	time.com  

Ahead of Musk visit, rules notified for FDI up to 100% in space

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

THE FINANCE Ministry has notified amended rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act to operationalise its earlier decision to allow up to 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) for the space sector through three categories of liberalised entry routes.

The notification dated April 16 comes ahead of Tesla chief Elon Musk's visit to India early next week during which he is expected to meet space startups, make a push for his space venture Starlink's plans and announce his electric vehicle (EV) investment plans.



Musk is due to travel to India next week

Starlink is a project by SpaceX, the firm founded by Musk, to provide high-speed Internet access to anywhere in the world using a constellation of thousands of low-earth-orbit satellites.

In February, the Cabinet had approved the amendment to the FDI policy for the space sector, allowing up to 100 per cent investment in certain categories.

According to the latest Finance Ministry notification,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

100 per cent FDI has been allowed for the space sector category of manufacturing and operation of satellites, satellite data products, and ground segment and user segment, out of which up to 74 per cent would be through the automatic route and government nod would be required for investment beyond 74 per cent.

Under the earlier policy, any foreign investment in manufacturing and operating satellites was allowed only with government approval.

Automatic FDI has also been permitted up to 49 per cent for launch vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, and creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft. Government approval would be required for investments beyond 49 per cent.

Manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment will be fully under the 100 per cent automatic route, the ministry said.

The investee entity shall be subject to sectoral guidelines as issued by the Department of Space from time to time, the notification said. The new rules came into effect from April 16.

ON THE ROAD

■ EVs made up just **2%** of total India car sales in 2023

■ But India is targeting **30%** of new cars to be EVs starting 2030

■ For years, Musk opposed India's high import taxes for EVs

■ New Delhi in March unveiled a new **EV policy lowering import taxes** to **15%** from as high as **100%** on some models

■ But this is only if a carmaker invests at least **\$500 mn** and sets up a factory



Nestle adds sugar to infant milk and cereal, finds report

FE ONLINE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 17

A NEW REPORT has revealed that Nestle, the world's largest consumer goods and manufacturer of baby formula, is adding sugar to infant milk and cereal products sold in India, and other Asian, and African countries.

According to a report by *The Guardian*, campaigners from Public Eye, a Swiss investigative organisation, sent samples of the Swiss multinational's baby-food products sold in Asia, Africa and Latin America to a Belgian laboratory for testing. The team found added sugar in the form of sucrose or honey in samples of Nido which is a follow-up milk formula brand intended for use for infants aged one and above. The sugar content was also found in Cerelac, a cereal aimed at children aged between six months and two years.

According to the report, data from Euromonitor International revealed global retail sales of above \$1 billion for Cerelac. The highest figures are in low- and middle-income countries, with 40% of sales

BITTER TRUTH

■ Samples of the Swiss giant's baby-food products were sent to a Belgian laboratory for testing



■ The team found added sugar in the form of sucrose or honey in samples of Nido

■ Nido is a follow-up milk formula brand for infants aged one and above

■ Sugar content also found in Cerelac sold in Asia, Africa and Latin America

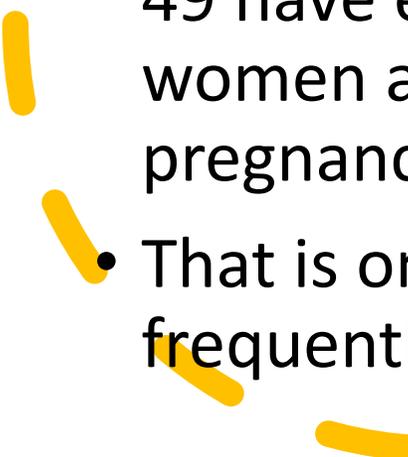
just in Brazil and India. It was found that biscuit-flavoured cereals for babies aged six months and older contained 6g of added sugar for every serving in Senegal and South Africa. The same product, sold in Switzerland, had no sugar. Tests on Cerelac products sold in India showed, on average, more than 2.7g of added sugar for every serving.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

The Delhi High Court recently emphasised the universality of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, stating that it applies to all women regardless of their religious or social background.

The High Court made these observations while dismissing a plea filed by a husband and his relatives.

The plea challenged an appellate court order that reinstated a domestic violence complaint filed by the wife.

- 
- In India, 32% of ever-married women reported having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands in their lifetime.
 - According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), 2019-2021, “29.3% of married Indian women between the ages of 18 and 49 have experienced domestic/sexual violence; 3.1% of pregnant women aged 18 to 49 have suffered physical violence during their pregnancy.”
 - That is only the number of cases reported by women. There are frequently many more that never make it to the police.
- 

- **According to NFHS data, 87% of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help.**

-



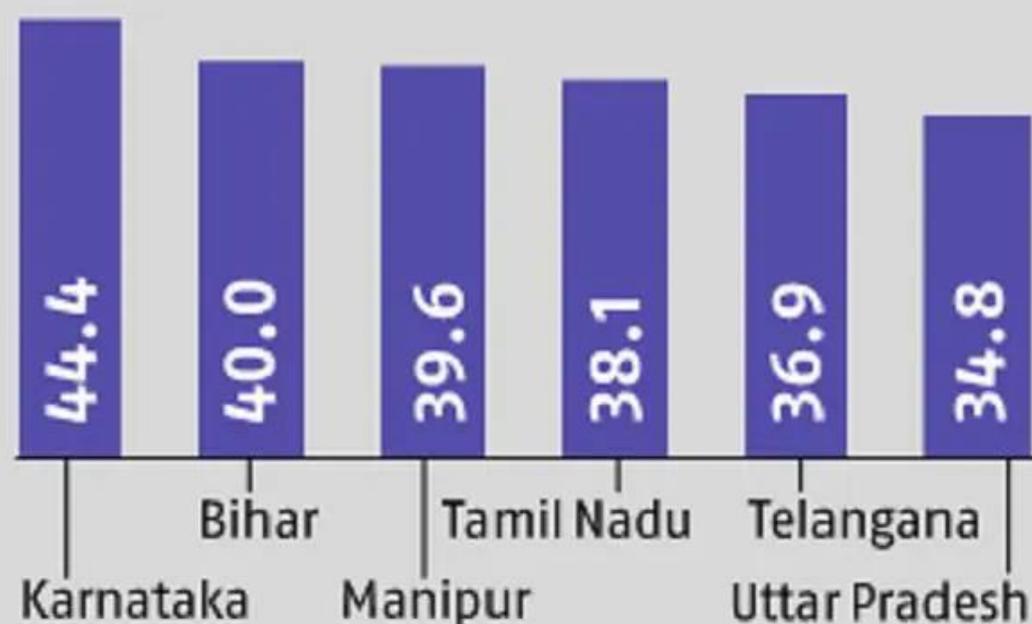
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACED BY INDIAN WOMEN

29.3
2015-16

31.2
2019-21

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Married women, 18-49, spousal violence)





- **What are the Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence?**

- **Gender Disparities:**

- **Substance Abuse:**

- **Sociocultural Norms**

- **Dowry Culture:**

- **Lack of Education and Awareness**



Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aims to protect women from domestic violence. Covers physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Provides various orders for protection, residence, and relief.
Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 498A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deals with cruelty by a husband or his relatives towards a woman. Criminalises acts of cruelty, harassment, or torture.
Indian Evidence Act, 1872	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ While not exclusively focused on domestic violence, this act provides rules for evidence in legal proceedings. Relevant in cases related to domestic violence.
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Addresses dowry-related offences. Makes giving or receiving dowry a crime.
Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Section 354A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Amended the IPC to include new offenses related to sexual harassment. Relevant in cases of domestic violence.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', often seen in the news, is (2015)

(a) a strategy to tackle the regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(b) a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum

(c) an agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations

(d) a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit



Geroscience

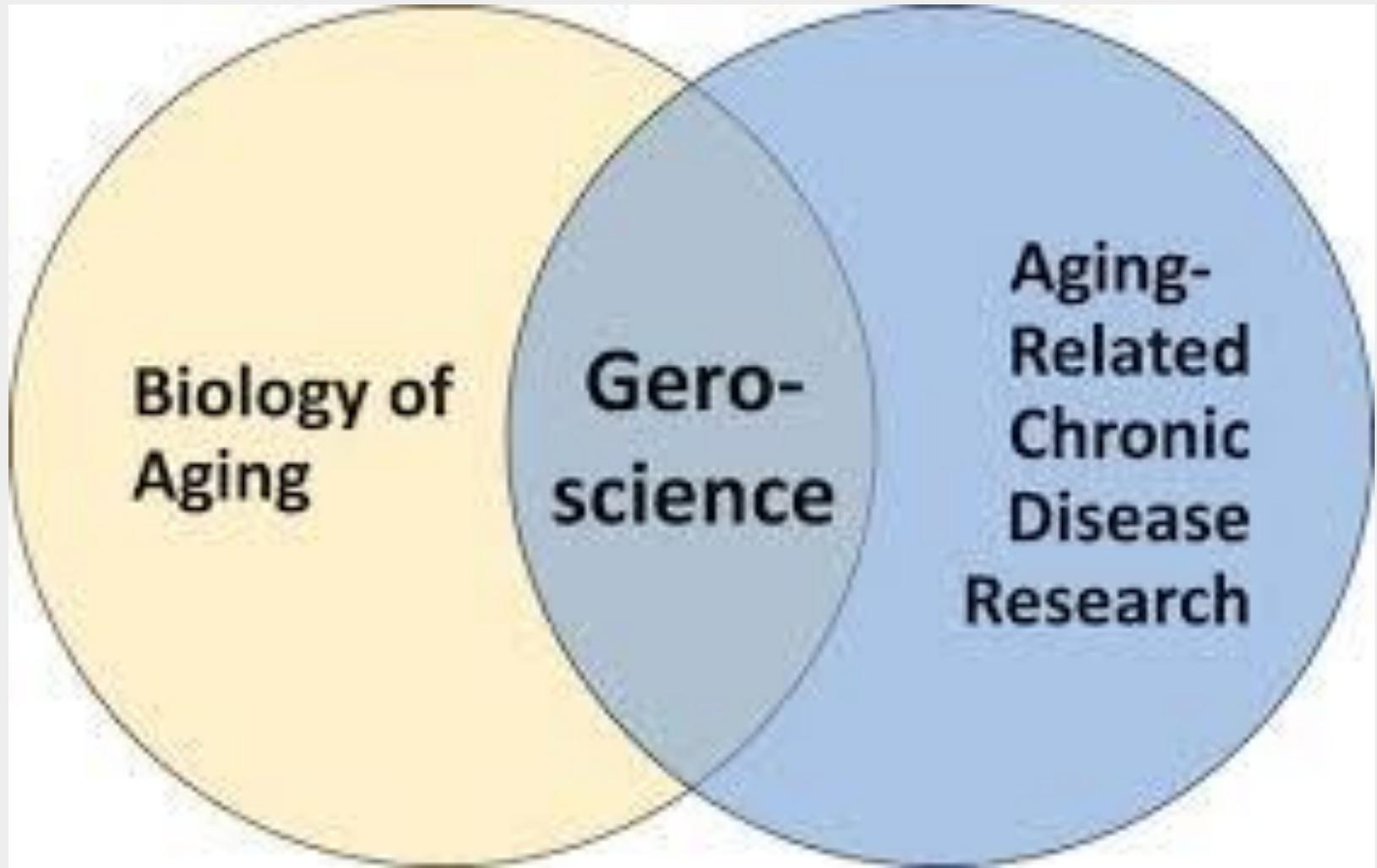
- Researchers have developed a blood test to measure ageing pace by studying DNA methylation.
- This blood test investigates how an enzyme adds methyl groups to DNA in older adults, revealing a link between this process and aging.





- **Geroscience:**

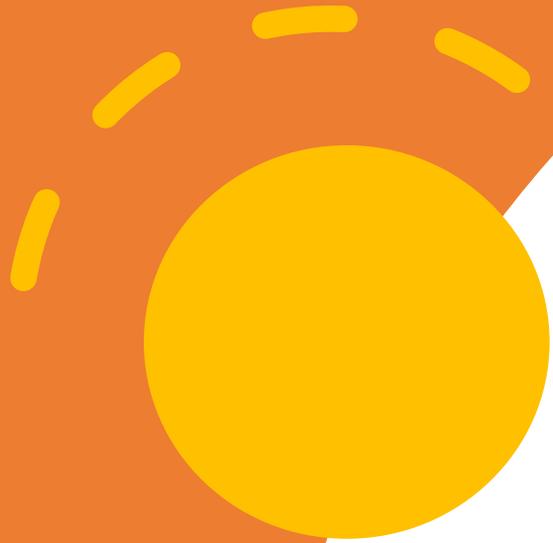
- **It refers to the interdisciplinary field focused on understanding the biological mechanisms of aging and age-related diseases.**
 - **It involves studying various factors, including DNA methylation, enzyme activity (such as the gerozyme (aging-associated enzyme), socio-economic influences, and lifestyle interventions like nutrition, exercise, and music therapy.**
- 



**Biology of
Aging**

**Gero-
science**

**Aging-
Related
Chronic
Disease
Research**



Meningitis

Nigeria has become the **first country in the world** to introduce a **new, highly effective vaccine against meningitis**.

About

Meningitis is a dangerous **inflammation of the membranes** surrounding the **brain and spinal cord**.

It can be caused by **viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites** and can lead to serious complications, including **brain damage, hearing loss and learning disabilities**.

Bacterial meningitis, specifically caused by the **meningococcus bacteria**, is a particular concern in Africa.

- 
- A region of **26 countries** known as the “**African meningitis belt**” stretches across the continent, including Nigeria.
 - The vaccine, called **Men5CV**, is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and offers protection against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria in a single shot.
 -
- 

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you
guys.
