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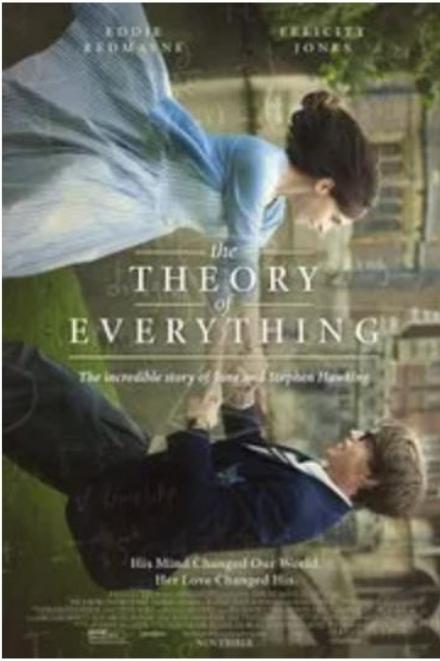
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“There should be no boundaries to human endeavor. We are all different. However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there's life, there is hope.”

—Stephen Hawking



NETANYAHU FIRM
Israel says it
has right to
protect itself

WORLD > PAGE 14

KANKER SHOOTOUT
Anti-Naxal operations
will continue: Shah
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DATA POINT
T.N. tops in
socio-economic
parameters
State has recorded
holistic development
OPINION > PAGE 9

DOMINANT DISPLAY
Capitals prove too
good for Titans
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE



Rajnath slams
CPI(M) pledge to
'destroy' nukes

KASHMIR
Defence Minister and BJP leader Rajnath Singh criticised the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s promise to dismantle nuclear weapons in the country. > PAGE 3

Bihar man shot
dead by militants
in Anantnag

SRINAGAR
A Bihar resident was shot dead by militants in the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, just two days ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. According to reports, the militants fired upon Raju Shah at Jabilpora in south Kashmir's Anantnag. > PAGE 4

Musk likely to
unveil investment
of \$3 bn in India

NEW DELHI
Tesla chief Elon Musk is set to announce an investment in India of up to \$3 billion, mainly for building a new factory, when he visits New Delhi next week. The visit comes after Narendra Modi, two sources familiar with the discussions, said, sources familiar with the discussions said. > PAGE 12

U.S. Navy plane
transits disputed
Taiwan Strait

TAIPEI
The U.S. said a Navy aircraft flew through the contentious Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, a day after Chinese defence chiefs held their first talks since November 2022 in an effort to reduce tensions in the region. > PAGE 12

EC halts Bengal Governor's Cooch Behar trip on poll eve

Poll body says Ananda Bose's programme will violate Model Code of Conduct and disturb poll officials and the police; it feels there is no 'imminently known' need for the tour on April 18, 19

SREEParna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Taking a tough stance, the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday advised Bihar Governor C.V. Ananda Bose to halt his plan to tour Cooch Behar district on April 18 and 19, saying that it would violate the Model Code of Conduct.

Cooch Behar is set to vote in the first phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 11. The Governor had planned to visit the place and such a tour would disturb polling officials on the eve of the election, the EC said. The EC also advised the Governor [the] Model Code of Conduct and being poll day, no local programme can be organised for the Governor as proposed in his issued



programme," the EC noted in its communication to the Office of the Governor. It added that the entire district administration and police force would be fully occupied in election-related arrangements, and would have to divert from those time-

periods if there were requirements to provide any protocol and security cover for the Governor.

Silence period
Under Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the "silence period" brings in a multitude of restrictions on a huge range of enforcement by poll authorities.

In March, the ruling Trinamool Congress had lodged a complaint with the EC against the Governor for his visit to Cooch Behar had created a new "Lok Sabha" portal to listen to the concerns of voters and directly connect with them during the election.

No deals on Manipur's territorial integrity: CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Peace talks between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities of Manipur will not be held as they compromise Manipur's territorial integrity, Chief Minister Biren Singh said on Wednesday, echoing Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stand that the Manipur rally is a few days ago.

Speaking at the launch of the BIP's manifesto in the State, Mr. Singh said such talks between the two communities should also end the tension triggered by a Manipur High Court order regarding the Meitei community's demand for ST status.

In a letter to the EC, the Trinamool Congress had created a new "Lok Sabha" portal to listen to the concerns of voters and directly connect with them during the election.

Speaking at the launch of the BIP's manifesto in the State, Mr. Singh said such talks between the two communities should also end the tension triggered by a Manipur High Court order regarding the Meitei community's demand for ST status. The Meiteis claimed that they are an indigenous tribe and hence should qualify to be called a tribe. Formal peace talks between the two communities have yet to begin. (With inputs from PTD)



Manipur CM Biren Singh with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a campaign rally in Imphal on April 15, 2019.

Mr. Singh added that the Home Minister had acknowledged deliberate attempts to disrupt the democratic process of the State, asking why "this fact was apparently unknown to the OBC community." The Kuki-Zo community is demanding a more favourable treatment in retaining AFSPA in the hill districts, which keeps it from the Imphal Valley.

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

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

And concerns that the Green Credit Programme (GCP), which encourages organisations and individuals to plant trees on degraded land, may not be effective in green credit for financial gains, the Union Environment Ministry – the overall coordinator of the GCP – has clarified that primacy must be accorded to restoration of degraded land 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. Two years after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, each such planted tree could be eligible for green credit. These credits can be claimed by the financing agencies in two ways: either using it to complying with existing norms or organisations which divert forest land for non-forestry purposes to compensate for loss of forest land elsewhere. Or be used for reporting under environmental and governance leadership norms or to meet corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

Weather extremes



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

Campaigning ends for 102 seats in first phase of polls scheduled for tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Political parties held their last rallies in 102 Lok Sabha constituencies on Wednesday as campaigning came to an end for the general election.

Polls will be held in these constituencies across 21 States and Union Territories, on Friday.

While the BJP ended its campaign with the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Opposition parties, including the ruling party over issues such as unemployment, price rise, Mr. Modi, the "star campaigner", crisscrossing roadshows, and the BJP's manifesto revolved around his government.

In the Lok Sabha election in 2019, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance had an edge in these

deaths. Akhilash Yadav addressed rallies in Moradabad and Bijnor, in Saharanpur, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar (reserved for the Scheduled Castes), Moradabad, Kannauj and Bulandshahr. The stage is set for a three-way contest between the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the INDIA bloc, and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Muslim voters comprising 10 per cent of the electorate in these constituencies are in the fray.

36 seats in Bihar, campaigning ended in the four seats of Aurangabad, Gaya, Jamui, and Nalanda, where all contestants in the fray, with Gaya having the highest number of candidates, are going to the polls in the first phase. In Chhatarpur, Saifai and Mahua regions, which are in the first phase, are going to the polls in the first phase. In Chhatarpur, Saifai and Mahua regions, which are in the first phase, are going to the polls in the first phase.

Kama Nath's son and sitting MP Nakul Nath is the Congress candidate, being challenged by the BJP's Vivek Bandy. Saifai and Mahua are Congress MP in these six seats, with the BJP holding the other five, total of 88 candidates are in the fray.

In Jharkhand, the Congress candidate, and former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi is pitted against the mahagathbandhan candidate, Kumar Sarvajeet of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the Congress candidate, Nitin Gadkari, who had won the third term from Nagpur, the home city of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent. In 2019, the BJP-Sheva Sena (undivided alliance) won in four of these seats.

In West Bengal, polling will be held in three seats

eastern Rajasthan in 2019, while the Jats will play a crucial role in the Shekhawati region, comprising Sikar and in some areas of Nagaur, Bharatpur and Jaipur districts. The Congress has lags of lists from Bharatpur and Dholpur districts, seeking their nomination in the third phase. The Congress is likely to impact the BJP's performance.

In Maharashtra, five constituencies include the INDIA bloc nominees, the Congress candidate, and Nitin Gadkari, who had won the third term from Nagpur, the home city of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent. In 2019, the BJP-Sheva Sena (undivided alliance) won in four of these seats.

Parties to play crucial role
Twelve of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state will go in the first phase. Constituencies include the INDIA bloc nominees, the Congress candidate, and Nitin Gadkari, who had won the third term from Nagpur, the home city of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent. In 2019, the BJP-Sheva Sena (undivided alliance) won in four of these seats.

In Andhra Pradesh, elections are also taking place simultaneously with the Legislative Assembly polls. In Andhra Pradesh, polling will only be held in 50 of the 60 Assembly seats in the state, which is unaffected in 10 seats.

In Maharashtra, 133 candidates, including seven women, are in the fray, contesting 50 seats and the Congress 19. The Nationalist Congress Party is contesting 14 seats.

For the 32 Assembly seats in Sikkim, there are 147 candidates of which 12 are women.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGES 2, 4, 5 & 6

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

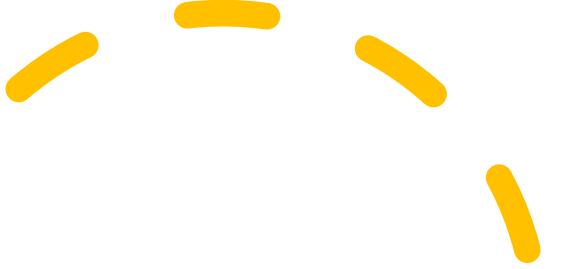
■ Sustainable building and infrastructure

■ 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 |
|--|---|
| <p>Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) (launched in Oct 2022) is a global movement initiated by India to promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle.</p> |  <p>LiFE Lifestyle For Environment</p> |
| 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 CHAUHAN

NEW 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*

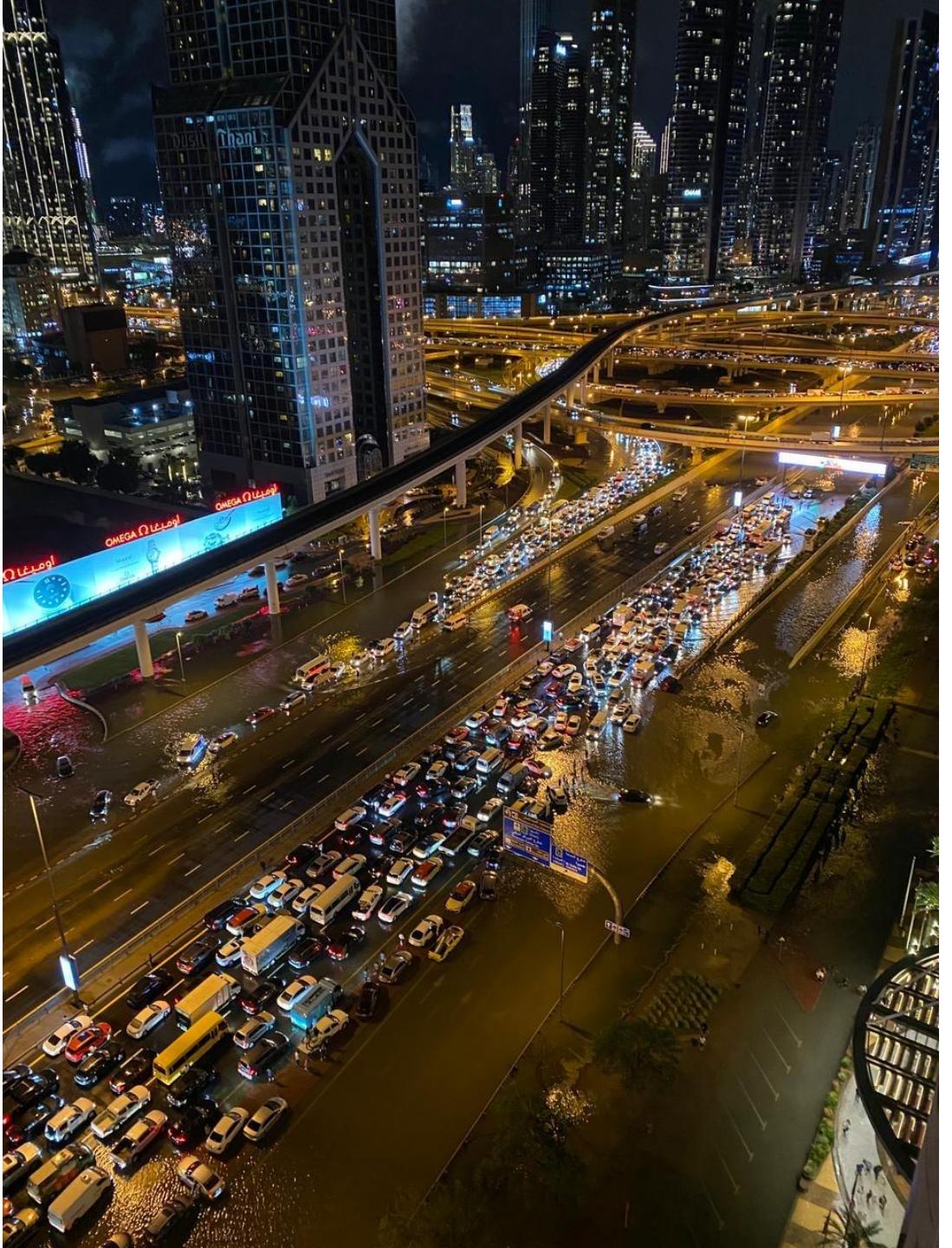
ing across the Gulf of Oman.

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 has begun to complicate the Lok Sabha campaign narrative in Kerala on Wednesday.

Online slander spreads like invasive digital weeds, dehumanising candidates through political messaging, as the former Health Minister and Left leader K.K. Shailaja found out in the Vadakara Lok Sabha constituency, K.K. Shailaja learnt her fate may recently. She is in a high-stakes battle with

Congress legislator Shafi Parambil in the key parliamentary segment.

Morphed images

A split-second captured on Tuesday when Ms. Shailaja 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 go to ground and restrain the slanders," she said. Ms. Shailaja's impulsive piecemeal attack on social media, prompting the CPI(M) to weaponise the clip, to turn the tables on the UDF campaign in Vadakara.



Insease canvassing: K.K. Shailaja, LDF nominees in Vadakara seat, campaigning in Kozhikode district on Wednesday. THILAK KAVATH

CPI(M) State secretary Mr. 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) and Congress ally, K.K. Renuka, and Congress legislator, Uma Tho-

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

Meanwhile, Mr. Parambil seemed to end his campaign from the CPI(M) attempt to stir outrage against Mr. Parambil.

Setheshe attacks

Labeled as the Opposition V.D. Satheshan accused Ms. Shailaja of exploding a "lie bomb" to play the victim. Prof. K. Chandrashekhar, Mr. Parambil's son, said Ms. Shailaja had donned the role of an injured party to have a tailoring campaign.

"Ms. Shailaja wanted to

divert public attention from the tough questions she faced on the campaign, including corruption in the purchase of CO-VID-19 kits and also obfuscate the CPI(M)'s poll manifesto promise to dismantle nuclear weapons.

Mr. Parambil, who had demanded to know the stance of the Congress on the issue, said Mr. Singh said any talk of dismantling nuclear weapons was limited to playing with nations' security and there was a "deep-rooted conspiracy to destabilise India".

He accused the Left and the Congress allies of trying to weaken the country.

Speaking at a campaign

meeting in Kasaragod, he said that Congress should clear 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 powers in the world and dismantling its nuclear weapons would weaken the country while neighbours Pakistan and China were nuclear powers, he said.

He raised concerns about the alleged corruption in the State cooperative banks, especially 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 Adisesiah Award 2024

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Surinder S. Jodhka, professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, chosen for the Malcom Adisesiah Award 2024. Vikas Chaturvedi, professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, received Elizabet Adisesiah 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 Wednesday issued notice on Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao regarding his recent remarks targeting Congress leaders during a press conference in Sircilla.

Mr. Rao is reported to have explained his reported derogatory comments by 11 a.m. on Thursday. The EC said it would proceed with appropriate action if no



response is received within the specified timeframe.

This notice follows a report submitted by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Telangana, based on a complaint filed by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) senior vice-president G. Nirajran, in which he had alleged that Mr. Rao made vulgar, derogatory and obscene remarks against the Congress party. He also allegedly threatened violent assault on Congress leaders.

The commission cautions Mr. Rao to strictly adhere to the provisions of the MOC in all public addresses and statements.

ish Parasanaru, representing Mr. Balavaraaja, saying during a hearing on April 10 that his client was below only 100 and above everyone else.

In response, the music composer's counsel-on-record, S. Venkatesan, said that the senior counsel had made the statement only in terms of his right to sue and to assert Mr. Ilaiyaraaja's right over the songs he composed. He also asked Echo Recording Private Limited to deposit in court the records held by him through the playing of these songs on music streaming platform Spotify.

poser's special moral right over 4,500 songs composed by him for more than 1,000 movies between the 1970s and the 1990s.

During the last hearing of the appeal, senior counsel V. Venkatesan, representing the appellant, insisted on staying the single injunction issued earlier, directing Mr. Ilaiyaraaja to deposit in court the records held by him through the playing

of these songs on music streaming platform Spotify.

+ Karnataka to capture rogue wild elephants and fix radio collars

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department in Karnataka has launched an operation to capture trouble-causing wild elephants and fit radio collars in Hassan division.

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

South Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Hassan District, informed the media on Wednesday that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) has given permission to capture rogue elephants and fit radio collars.

The department has issued a circular stating that the herds to be tracked are those that have strayed outside their natural habitat and are causing damage to agriculture or other activities.

The department will release or translocate them after fixing radio collars.

Spectacular display



In perfect order: People taking a look at the chomoyam (decorations) for the Thrissur 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.NAJEEB

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

T. Appala Naidu
CHINTOOR

Rava Deva, a Muria tribal woman and mother of four, fled the Dantakarla region of Odisha a decade ago to rebuild a new life in Andhra Pradesh with her husband, a former naxalite and State-sponsored Salwa Judum was at its peak between 2004 and 2010.

Since then, Ms. Deva's family, along with 33 more families from their original village, formed a settlement, Chukkalapadu, in a remote area in Chintoor Agency in Alluri Sitarama Raju district. By 2024, over 6,000 families have moved in the 54 settlements, locally known as Internal Displaced People (IDP) settlements, in the Godavari

region of Andhra Pradesh. Those who fled Chintoor have two voter identity cards in their names, one when they enrolled as voters in their native village, and another in their new settlement in Chintoor.

In Andhra Pradesh, Ms. Deva got her voter in 2018 and an electoral ID card in 2023 in the 2019 general election. She is again set to cast her vote in 2024.

Her voter ID card issued each in Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, though they are used for their identity purposes while moving along the State boundaries to show my identity", said Ms. Deva.

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.

Murias need to venture out of their settlements for weekly shanbias, visit families in the nearby settlements and attend functions. Then have to cross the Andhra-Orissa boundary to visit their families and relatives in Chintoor Agency.

Living in the reserve forests, the Murias face the threat of "displacement" from their various settlements whenever the Forest Department launches an eviction drive. The political parties, except the CPI(M), have promised their fullest cooperation to the Murias for the voter enrolment in Andhra Pra-

desh. By 2024, the Murias have now been officially recognised as Revenue Villages, according to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. However, they have not been listed as voters in their nearby Gram Panchayats in the Godavari region, including V.R. Puram, Kumavaram and Chintoor - in Chintoor Agency.

Supposing Murias bonds with their ancestral villages, where Left Wing Communist parties are still active, some political leaders who contest from the Andhra Pradesh launches an eviction drive to vote in their official constituency that we belong here. We have decided not to return to our home State",

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"But the Congress kept mum. The Congress was nowhere in the protest against the CAA. No Congress leader was present in FIR of anti-CAA protests. Mr. Gandhi should answer whether he did not raise any issue across the country raising various issues. But he did not utter a word against the CAA. Nor did he raise any issue about the election manifesto of the Congress," doesn't say anyone who knew him well.

"The second term of the Modi government is open-ended and has no agenda of the RSS. They are targeting the minorities with draconian Acts like CAA. No developed country will decide citizenship on the basis of religion," he said.

"Why is the Congress silent about it. Don't they care about the people? We 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.

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Pinarayi blasts BJP over CAA, questions silence of Congress

The Hindu Bureau
PATTAMBI

The Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi failed to respond against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act that was passed in Parliament in December 2019. In the election manifesto or in the election campaign or in the election manifesto, Kerala Minister Minister Pinarayi Vijayan did not raise any issue during an election meeting in Palakkad on Wednesday.

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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 hitting a biker for about half a kilometre over an argument in Hyderabad.

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

in many Muria settlements, there is no access to safe drinking water and no midday meal for children. Obtaining a caste certificate in the name of ST-Murias is a dream in Andhra Pradesh, where we cannot claim any right that we have been denied by the tribes", said Ravva Jagalai, Chukkalapadu Patel (V.R. Puram).

The Murias live in the local villages, where Left Wing Communist parties are still active, some political leaders who contest from the Andhra Pradesh launches an eviction drive to meet their basic needs. By the time the voters do not come to the Panchayats and skip their election campaign.

No amenities "We have the right to vote in Andhra Pradesh. However, there are no schools

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 Sathiyanathan 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 Adiseshaih
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 Adiseshaih,
Grace Nesamma Adiseshaih

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 WFI 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 Munich on Wednesday. Manika went down 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 just five weeks before the Paris Olympics open. The IAS 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) & Jee Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
New Zealand: 1st 720L, Paricodes, 8 p.m.
Europe League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & L1, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

+ McIlroy
rubbishes
rumours of
him jumping
ship to LIV

Associated Press

AUGUSTA
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 had agreed to move 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 immediately across the world. McIlroy was unable to shut it down when he arrived at Augusta National.

"We have never been closer to a number from LIV and I've never contemplated going to LIV."

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

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA



Kylian Mbappe struck twice as Paris Saint-Germain banished back-to-back 10-man Barcelona 4-1 and book a place in the Champions League semifinals with a 6-4 aggregate win on Tuesday.

Raphael Guerreiro scored early on but Raul Araujo's 29th-minute red card left the tide in PSG's favour, despite the Spanish champion leading by two goals following a 3-2 quarterfinal first-leg win.

After a goalless draw, Vitinha levelled the tie for PSG and the steady Klopp added a brace to put it into the final four for the first time since 2021. Barcelona was dream-



feet, and so it proved. Dortmund fought back to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 in their quarterfinal first leg to reach a 5-4 aggregate victory and a first Champions League semi-final since 2013. Coming from 2-1 from the first leg, goals from Julian Brandt and Iman Maatzen had Dort-

mund 2-0 up at half-time. Diego Simeone made three changes at half-time including bringing on Angel Correa and Yannick Carrasco immediately. Mats Hummels conceding a poor own goal before the Argentinian equalised to give Atletico back ahead in the tie. But those goals brought Dortmund back into it, with Nicolas Fullkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a 10-minute period. Dortmund will meet face PSG in the semifinal at Wembley on June 1.

The results (quarterfinals, first leg)

Dortmund 4 [Brandt 24, Maatzen 39, Fullkrug 71, Sabitzer 74] bt Atletico Madrid 4-2 (Correa 64) [Dortmund wins 5-4 (on aggregate); Barcelona 1-0 (Guerreiro 29), Vitinha 40, Brandt 61 (pen, 89) [PSG wins 6-4].

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Dortmund back into it, with Nicolas Fullkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a 10-minute period. Dortmund will meet face PSG in the semifinal at Wembley on June 1.

The results (quarterfinals, second leg)

Dortmund 4 [Brandt 24, Maatzen 39, Fullkrug 71, Sabitzer 74] bt Atletico Madrid 4-2 (Correa 64) [Dortmund wins 5-4 (on aggregate); Barcelona 1-0 (Guerreiro 29), Vitinha 40, Brandt 61 (pen, 89) [PSG wins 6-4].

Giant-killer Atalanta ready to deal fatal blow to Liverpool

EUROPA LEAGUE
Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Atalanta has a chance to make history on Thursday as it welcome Liverpool to Bergamo with one foot in the Europa League semifinals and another still clinging to a first-leg win at Anfield. Atalanta once again pushed the Reds to the limit last week by dishing out a 3-0 hammering to Liverpool, which is on the verge of reaching the last four of a European competition for the first time since 1988. Back then Atalanta

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 I swim will inherit an Olympic pool. It will be dismantled after the Games," said the greatest European night in Atalanta's history as its run to the 2024 Paris Olympics' quarterfinals where it was desperately trying to live up to the height of the Covid-19 pandemic which delayed the Games. It was also unexpected as Atalanta's recent form has been patchy with three wins in 11 matches.

In 100 days as of Wednesday, the Paris Olympics will kick off with a wildly

ambitious waterborne opening ceremony. But the first Games in a century in France's capital won't be judged for spectacle alone. Another yardstick will be the greatest distance targeted Paris suburbs, away from the city-centre landmarks that will be hosting much of the action.

By promising socially positive and inclusive living, the less affluent, the city synonymous with romance is also seeking to demonstrate its capacity of making future Games generally more desirable.

The \$13 billion cost of the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, unless promised a beneficial change for host Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi as well as the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, was a record. The IOC's management of the Games has been criticised for being too focused on the bottom line and not the legacy. The Paris bid, which was successful, was based on the idea that the July 26 Aug. 11 Games and August 28-Sept. 8 Paralympics should benefit disadvantaged communities in the Paris region north-east of Paris.

For Sébastien Riou, a kickboxer whose discrimination and other barriers, sports are sometimes a way out. "The World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe has his silly football skills as a boy the Seine-Saint-Denis town of Bondy.



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

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



Giving his all! Gukesh's draw with Nepomniachtchi was based on intelligent opening selection. AFP

The 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 the Indian Nepomniachtchi. He then played two good games against Praggnanandhaa and Nepomniachtchi. The draw with the Russian was based on intelligent opening selection and a good play after that.

Nepomniachtchi tried his best against Arshavov, who defended well. He then drew two games, though he was seen as trouble again. Alexei Firouzja in the ninth round, but his rival was slightly improved and his moves were better than his advantage, long enough.

Praggnanandhaa had an interesting struggle against Firouzja and he impressed once again with his opening preparation.

Against Kaidanov and Gujrathi, he had some weak moments but still managed to play flawlessly to clinch the game. Nakamura's victory over Arshavov took him to +1.

All the top five players –

Nepomniachtchi, Gujrathi, Nakamura and Caruana have good chances, because the gap is so small. Against Gujrathi, the defeat to Gukesh must have been costly. But he recovered quickly and managed to draw with Firouzja.

Gukesh defended very well in some games in the second half of the tournament. His draw with Nepomniachtchi was a close finish.

Konstantinos Tsimberidis, who had a topsy-turvy encounter against R. Vaidhyanathan, but though he was bad, the players were making mistakes. Then Humpy played credibly with Nepomniachtchi and Caruana.

Decrease in quality

The level of mistakes has increased and the quality of the games has decreased, especially towards the latter rounds. It is possible that the fatigue and the amount of energy spent are catching up with them.

In the women's section, Tan Zhongyi was leading alone after seven rounds. She had been playing really well, rarely took great risks against Lei Tingjie, who had just started her own series of victories. Tan gambled for a win in the eighth round but lost and allowed Lei and Alexandra Goryachkina to join her in the lead.

In the 10th round game between Lei and Goryachkina, a last-minute blunder from Lei led to a draw in a loss. That meant Lei would join Tan in the lead and Goryachkina fell to third place.

Given Lei's run of form in the last few rounds, she is a strong candidate to win the tournament.

Given Gukesh's

run of form, he is

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strong

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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.
-

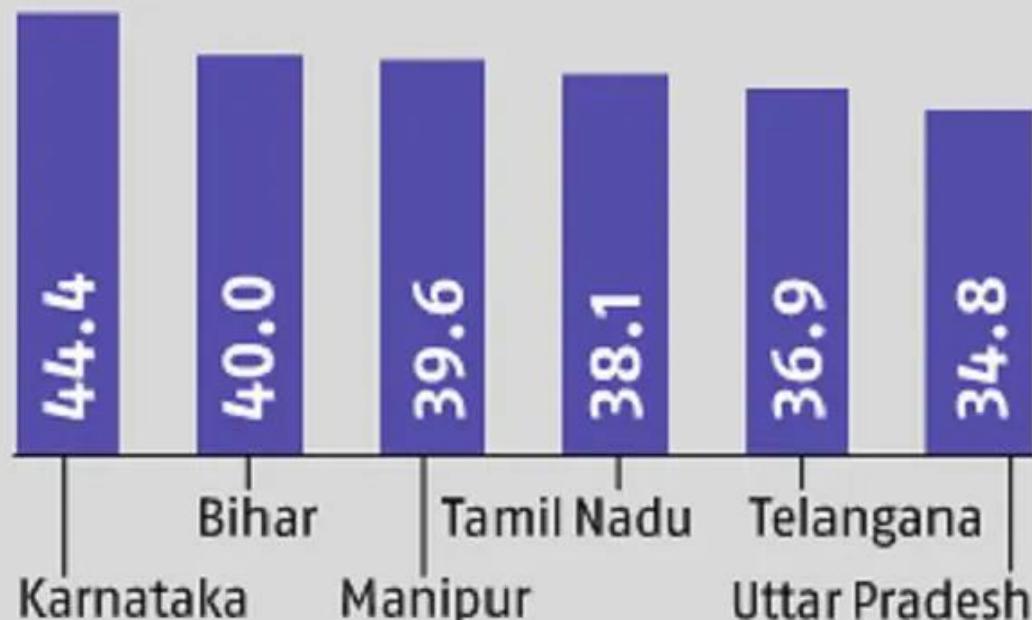
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACED BY INDIAN WOMEN

29.3
2015-16

31.2
2019-21

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Married women, 18-49, spousal violence)

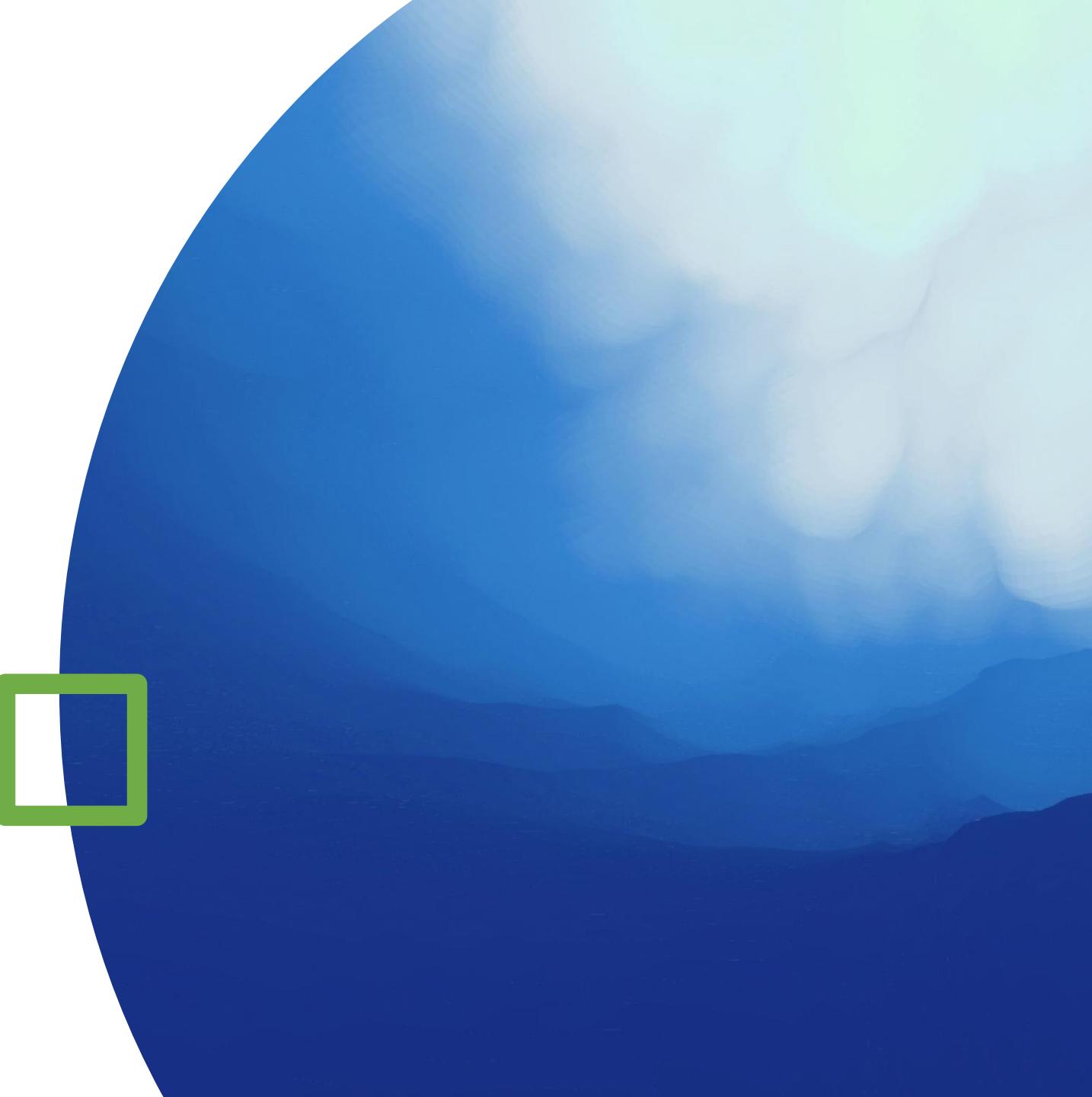


- **What are the Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence?**
- **Gender Disparities:**
- **Substance Abuse:**
- **Sociocultural Norms**
- **Dowry Culture:**
- **Lack of Education and Awareness**

| | |
|---|--|
| 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**

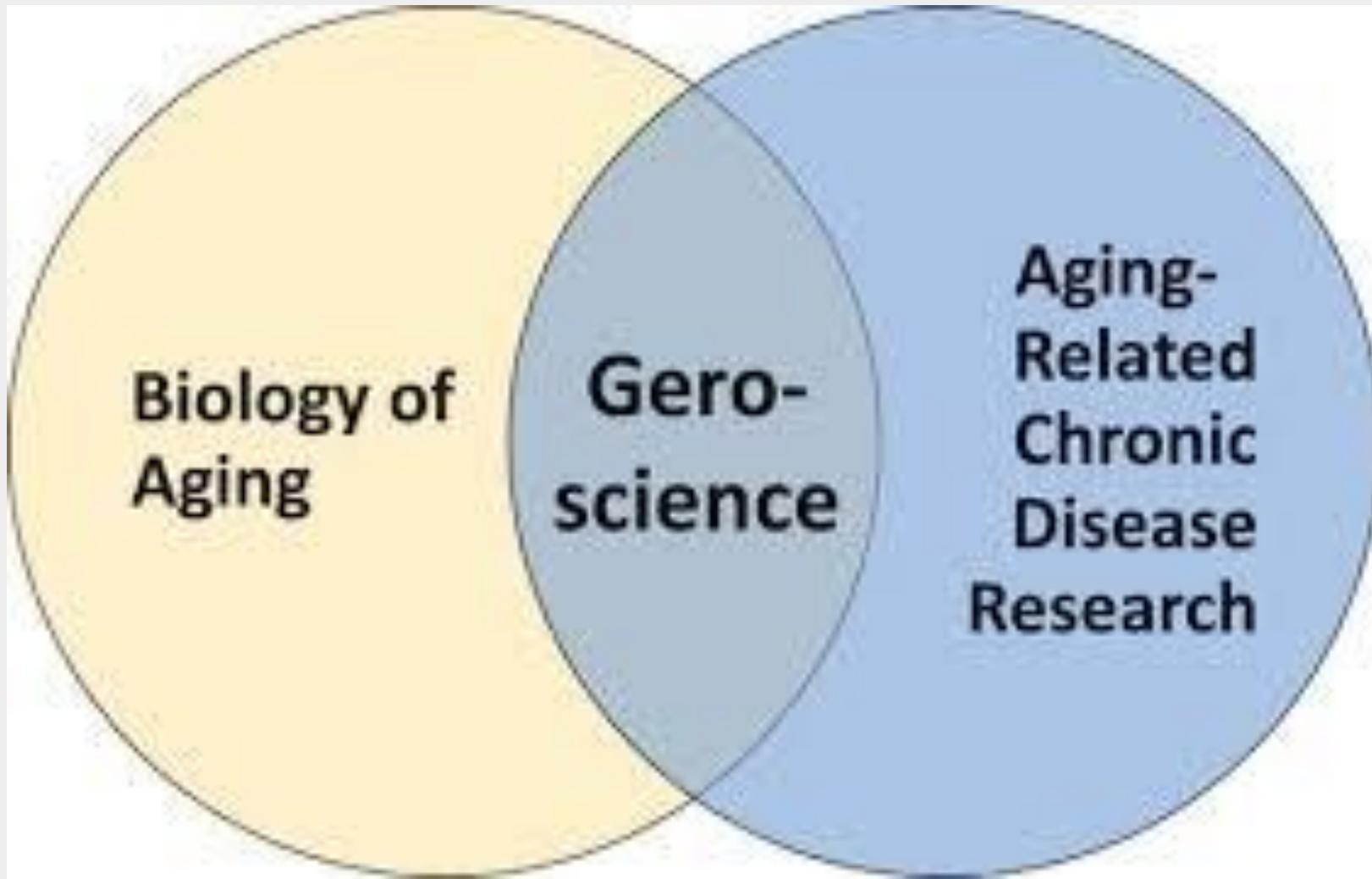


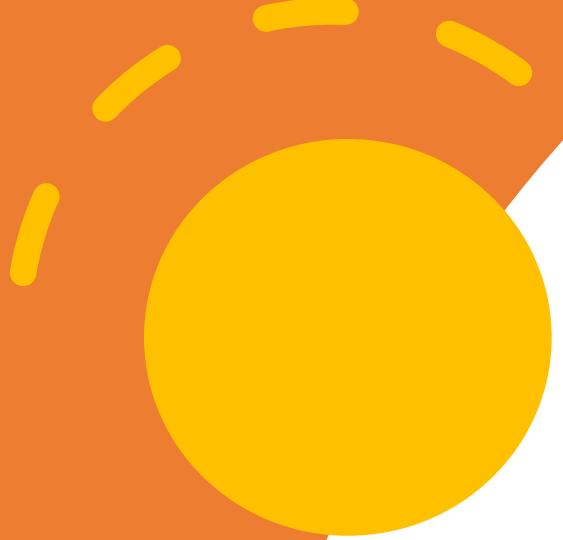
Geroscience

- 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.**



A yellow circular bomb icon with a trail of five yellow dashes on an orange background.

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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- ✓ ECONOMICS
- ✓ SCIENCE

OFFER DATE-
17th APRIL

~~₹1999/-~~ ₹799/-

USE CODE - **B60**



SELF IMPROVEMENT

LANGUAGE SPEAKING

The advertisement features a blue header with the Skill24 logo and a red button showing ₹59999. The main title is "SOFTWARE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION" via Singapore Academy. Below the title are two columns of course benefits: Duration (6 Months), Student Handouts, 100% Career Assistance, Global Recognition, and a 5% Discount; and Learning Options (Live Online, Industrial Projects, Industry Based Trainers, Multiple Simulation Environments). A large white callout box at the bottom contains the text "Software Engineering Course". On the right side, there is a circular inset image showing a person working on a computer in a control room environment.

Skill24

CYBER SECURITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION via Singapore Academy

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① Duration: 6 Months ② Live Online
③ Student Handouts ④ Industrial Projects
⑤ 100% Career Assistance ⑥ Industry Based Trainers
⑦ Global Recognition & Certification ⑧ Multiple Simulation Exams

Cyber Security Course

Skill24

DATA SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION via Singapore Academy

₹59999

- Duration: 6 Months
- Student Handouts
- 100% Career Assistance
- Global Recognition & Exam
- Live Online
- Industrial Projects
- Industry Based Trainers
- Multiple Simulation Exams

Data Science Course

Skill24

₹59999

BLOCKCHAIN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION via Singapore Academy

- ① Duration: 6 Months
- ① Student Handouts
- ① 100% Career Assistance
- ① Global Recognition
- ① Live Online
- ① Industrial Projects
- ① Industry Based Trainers
- ① Multiple Learning Options

Blockchain Course

An advertisement for a Salesforce Admin course. The top left features the Skill24 logo. The top right shows a red button with the price ₹20999. Below the logo is the text 'LET'S START TO LEARN SALESFORCE'. A large central box contains the title 'Salesforce Admin'. In the background, there's a blue gradient with abstract shapes and icons related to technology and data. At the bottom, a white box contains the text 'Salesforce Admin Course'.

An advertisement for a Salesforce Lightning Web Components course. The background is dark blue with white text. At the top left is the Skill24 logo. On the right is a red button with the price ₹20999. Below the logo is the text "LET'S START TO LEARN SALESFORCE". In the center is a large, rounded rectangular box containing the text "Lightning Web Components" in bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of this box is a circular icon showing a hand interacting with a smartphone displaying a lightning bolt icon. At the bottom is a white callout box with the text "Salesforce LWC Course" in bold, black, sans-serif font.

 Skill24

The image shows the Skill24 logo (a stylized 'A' icon) followed by the text "Skill24". To the right is a red speech bubble containing the price "₹3999". Below this, the text "MAKE YOUR BUSINESS THE NEXT UNICORN WITH THE" is visible, along with a small profile picture of a person.

 Skill24



Thank you
guys.

—

