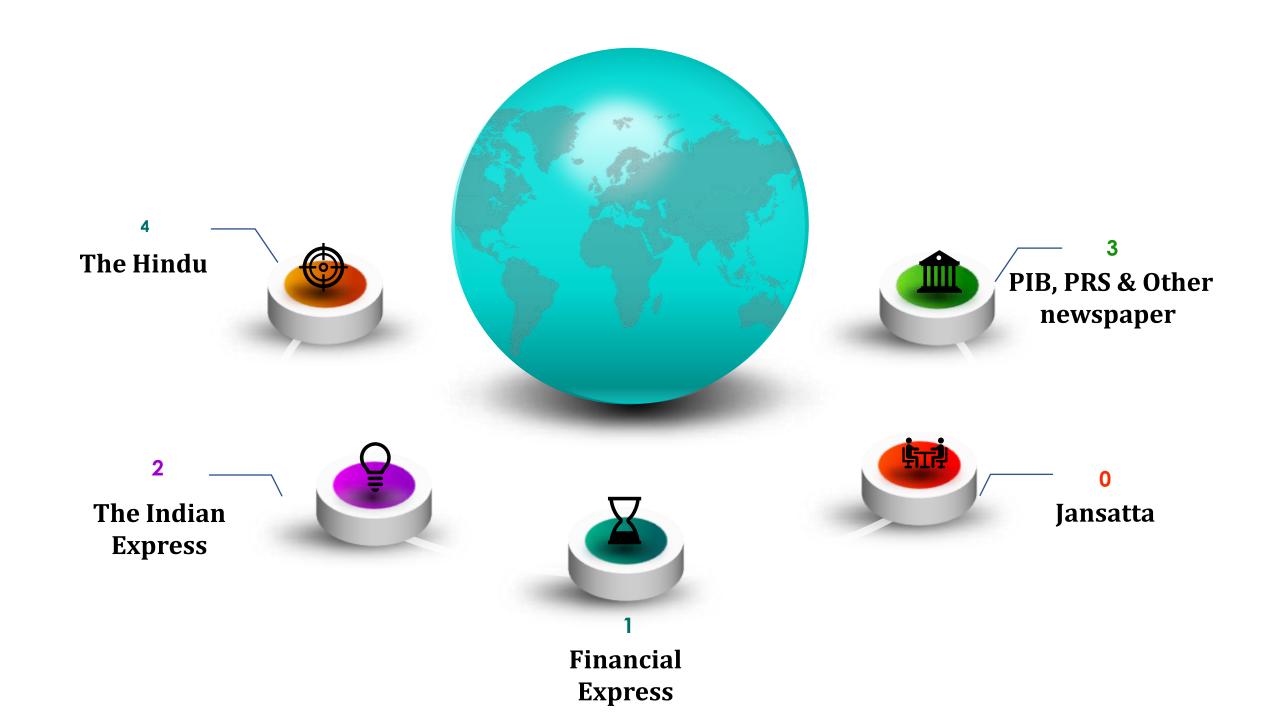
Daily Current Affairs



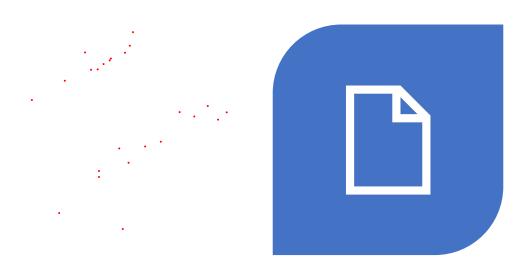








Download class24





PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ



• "Believe in your infinite potential. Your only limitations are those you set upon yourself."

www.thebindu.com

etural a commune a displace a diplomat a Hadan a firm a Vandaporal a Holomathapitan a babt a equipmen a Magnitus a trafficial a Hadan









ENSHIPE



Medical student alleges gang rape in West Bengal

ROLEATA A condical student was allogually gang raped at Durgapur in West Bangal on Friday right. The survivor, who haits from Odlisha, complaines that she was gang-raped by unidentified men after the reportedly left the comput with a male friend on Filday night. the matter confirmed that



Cough syrup deaths: Congress seeks CBI probe

Mudbya Pradesh Congres alleged that the State government's negligence last to the deaths of more than 20 onsumption of a "toxic" ough syrup, and sought a CBI robe into the lace, a PAGE 2

Unease in Cong. over delay in seat sharing talks

among constituents of the Muhapathonshan (grand alliance), a section of leaders of the Congress, a part of the and they were getting 'reative and unrerved'. They said the party should enterge out of the red GLB with her weekends form Bihar and contest Assembly electron on the own, a PAGE 1

Trump envoy meets PM, raising hopes of a thaw

toda's Bussian oil imports

India's Russian oil importa, and differences over the narrative on Operation Sin-door. However, Mr. Midli and Mr. Trump have had we telephone calls in the past morall, which have raised begue they can re-pair the rupture in ties. In particular, any move

Ambassador-designate meets with Jaishankar, Doval and Misri, holds a series of discussions

Talks cover bilateral issues including defence, trade, technology, and cooperation on critical minerals

The meetings take place amid strains in ties caused by U.S. tariffs on Indian goods

n an effort to repair bi-lateral ties and fast-track the India-U.S. trade agreement, U.S. Am-bassabor-thesignate to in-dia and Frendern Donald Tyumpy apecial erocy for louth and Central Adan Affairs, Sergio Ger, arrived in Delhi on Saturday and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nureridea Modi.
Mr. Gor, who will be in India for a few days, is achestited to take sharge—in the New Year", the U.S. Embassy said, raising speculation that he is here to firm up details for a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi on the side-lines of the upcoming AASIAN related annulus in inals Lumpur on October in and 37. "I'm confident that his

tenure will further arreng-then the India-U.S. Com-prehensive Global Strateg-ic Partnership," Mr. Modi-said on X. In a post, Mr. Gor said he was confident the U.S. India relationship would

"unly strengthen over the months alread". Mr. Gor told pressper-sons that he discussed bi-lateral issues with Mr. Mo-di, including defence, trade, and mulnology. "We also discussed the impor-tance of critical minerals and the importance of that to both of our nations."

to both of our nations."

Raising hopes
In a series of meetings on an index or of the U.S. goin in index or of the U.S. goin index or of the U.S. goin in index or o

by India to reduce its in-take of Rassian trat will be watched closely, with the import level having disped already despite larger dis-counts being offered in re-Mr. Modi's pease of Mr.

Trump's Gase peace pro-posal and tweets in seven different languages are be-lieved to be aimed at ad-dressing Mr. Trump's ob-vious amoyance that india-did not join other crosstries in endorsing him for the Nobel Peace Prize and has desied that the U.S. had any role in ending the Operation Sindoor conflict with Pakistan.

"Productive exchange"
"Discussed the India-U.S. relationship and its global significance," Mr. Jaidan-lar posted on social media after the meeting with Mr. Gor, wishing him for his

new responsibility in Del-

new responsibility in bel-hi. According to the Mini-try of External Affairs Spo-lesgerson, Mr. Gor and Mr. Mart had a "productive ex-change on the Indu-U.S. Comprehensive Global Brategge Partureship and its shared prioritize." Mr. Got is incompanied by Deputy Secretary for

Management and Resources Michael I. Biggs, arriving days after the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment as the U.S. Ambassa for to India. His visit is surdor to India. His visit is un-ternal, as according to normal presented, he would arrive in foelds and conduct meetings only after be has presented his credentials to President Droupadi

Murros.

However, the timing of the meeting just weeks be-fore the ASEAN manning, as well as the unorthodox

manner of U.S. diplomacy, are seen as reasons for the sudden vieit. In particular, Mr. Gor is believed to have conveyed the urgency of fi-nalising the india-U.S. trate arrennent at the car-

According to a U.S. State Department release, Mr. Gor was to be in India from October 9 to 14. However, he attended the Indian Emhe attended the Indian Em-bassy Deepevali party in Washington on October 10 Infore arriving in Delhi on Saturday for the meetings. Saturday for the meetings. According to sources, Mr. Cor will stay on for the next few days for meetings inside the U.S. embassy as well as with other stakeholders in Delhi. He is expected to return at a later date to present his credentials to present his credentials and take charge of the U.S. embassy in Delhi, as well as his role in the region.

Return to ruins



The reforms in Goods and Services Taxes (GST) have resulted in double the sav-ings for rural famoundals and lowered costs on both daily-use items and farm-ing tools, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday while launch-

on Saturday while launching two schemes — the Dhan Dhannya Krishi Yojana and the Pulses RelF Reliance Mizsion — for the agriculture sector.

He asked farmers to not only work towards self-sufficiency but also target the global market by growing export-eriented crops that can reduce impuris and



boost India's agricultural

Beyond flour, rice Mr. Modi said the Pulse Self-Reliance Mission is al-

so a mission to empower future generations. He asked farmers to think beyond flour and rice. "While flour and rice can satisfy lourger, adequate

Grow export-oriented crops, Modi tells farmers

nutrition requires more, and we need to plan for that. Protein is crucial for India's nutrition today, su-postally for vegetarians. It is equally important for our children, for their physical development as well as mortal desister. well as mental develop-ment," he said, adding that

ment," he said, adding that pulses are the way to go. "Today, the country im-ports pulses in large quan-ment of the country im-said for the country in-said for the country in-said for the country in-said for the country in-tingue country in the country of the country in the country of pulses by 35 light hec-teres, "This will directly benefit about the course

pulse farmers of the country," Mr. Modit said.
Maintaining that the
Conne's effect is to reduce
the expenses of every
farmer and provide them
with more profile, he said
that following the UST rethat following the GPT re-forms, the news coming the common term of the com-tractors in large numbers during the forther season, come even cheaper, just sond at tractors; the Con-charge at act of FO,000 on a tractor. After the new CPT reforms, the same of the CPT of the CPT of the PT of the CPT of the CPT of the CPT of the CPT of the er by about \$40,000," he sales.

India-Afghan ties will grow in the coming days: Muttaqi

Kallot Mustacheries

Incha Afirbaniatura reduticona

india-Afghanistan relations have a bright future, said visiting Afghan Taliban actualistation of the said visiting Afghan Taliban actualistation of the said of th

"God willing, India-Af-Mr. Muttagt is on a six-day visit to India.

'Deoband, alma mater' At the heavily packed ve-me, Mr. Muttagi took the microphone and said, "Demicrophene and said, "De-obard harmara madar-e-li-on het (Deuband is our si-ran mater", indicating the management, indicating the Deuband's Tarul thoom has played in straighten-ing the Taliban movement during the years of occupa-tion of Algbanistan under the Soviet ea in the 1980s.

Absence of women scribes sparks a row

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIG

The Opposition slammed the Modi government over the absence of women journalists at a press meet addressed by Taliban Dulbi: The Expersal Affairs Ministry, in a statement, mid that it had "no involvement in the press interaction held yester by the Alghan Foreign Minister in Delhi".

and the U.S.-led NATO in the 2st century. Daruf Ulcom Dechand had been the inspiration behind the seminary of Da-rul Uloom Haggania in Khyber Pakhnunkhwa in Pakistan. The seminary, started by Abdul Haq, a teacher in Darul Uloom Deteacher in Darud Liboom be-oband, was one of the main centres of the Tablan movement during the Ra-land of the Commission of the island when the Maghideen island when the Maghideen reading, then spread terroliton, then spread the providing the Tabland with Tabland or audients. Mr. Muttagi me Exster-nal Affairs Muniter & Jacks-

400.00

ankar on Thursday and raised the case of Aighan prisoners in Indian Jalls, and discussed intensifying Indian humanitarian assis tance to Afghanistan. Pollowing this, the Indian technical mission in Kabui banded over a substantia tarion assistance to the Te bul on Saturday. It will be sent to the quake-hit east ern Alghanistan's Kunar. At Deoband, Mr. Mutta-

Al Deoband, Mr. Malla-gi prayed with students and teachers and read a liadith (Propher's teach-ings). The special honour bestowed on him qualified him to be a teacher at the

Trump envoy meets PM, raising hopes of a thaw

Ambassador-designate meets with Jaishankar, Doval and Misri, holds a series of discussions Talks cover bilateral issues including defence, trade, technology, and cooperation on critical minerals

The meetings take place amid strains in ties caused by U.S. tariffs on Indian goods

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

n an effort to repair bilateral ties and fasttrack the India-U.S. trade agreement, U.S. Ambassador-designate to India and President Donald Trump's special envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs, Sergio Gor, arrived in Delhi on Saturday and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Gor, who will be in India for a few days, is scheduled to take charge "in the New Year", the U.S. Embassy said, raising speculation that he is here to firm up details for a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the upcoming ASEAN-related summits in Kuala Lumpur on October 26 and 27.

"I'm confident that his

tenure will further strengthen the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," Mr. Modi said on X.

In a post, Mr. Gor said he was confident the U.S.-India relationship would "only strengthen over the months ahead".

Mr. Gor told presspersons that he discussed bilateral issues with Mr. Modi, including defence, trade, and technology. "We also discussed the importance of critical minerals and the importance of that to both of our nations."

Raising hopes

In a series of meetings on Saturday, Mr. Gor met with Mr. Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

The intensity of the



Strengthening relations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sergio Gor during a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

meetings with India's foreign policy leadership is an indicator of the U.S. government's eagerness to get India-U.S. relations back on the rails after months of strain over the 50% tariffs on Indian goods, visa crackdowns, U.S. pressure over ending India's Russian oil imports, and differences over the narrative on Operation Sindoor. However, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump have had two telephone calls in the past month, which have raised hopes they can repair the rupture in ties.

In particular, any move

by India to reduce its intake of Russian Ural will be watched closely, with the import level having dipped already despite larger discounts being offered in recent weeks.

Mr. Modi's praise of Mr. Trump's Gaza peace proposal and tweets in seven different languages are believed to be aimed at addressing Mr. Trump's obvious annoyance that India did not join other countries in endorsing him for the Nobel Peace Prize and has denied that the U.S. had any role in ending the Operation Sindoor conflict with Pakistan.

'Productive exchange'

"Discussed the India-U.S. relationship and its global significance," Mr. Jaishan-kar posted on social media after the meeting with Mr. Gor, wishing him for his

new responsibility in Delhi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson, Mr. Gor and Mr. Misri had a "productive exchange on the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and its shared priorities".

Mr. Gor is accompanied by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J. Rigas, arriving days after the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment as the U.S. Ambassador to India. His visit is unusual, as according to normal protocol, he would arrive in Delhi and conduct meetings only after he has presented his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu.

However, the timing of the meeting, just weeks before the ASEAN summit, as well as the unorthodox manner of U.S. diplomacy, are seen as reasons for the sudden visit. In particular, Mr. Gor is believed to have conveyed the urgency of finalising the India-U.S. trade agreement at the earliest, before the leaders meet.

According to a U.S. State Department release, Mr. Gor was to be in India from October 9 to 14. However. he attended the Indian Embassy Deepavali party in Washington on October 10 before arriving in Delhi on Saturday for the meetings. According to sources, Mr. Gor will stay on for the next few days for meetings inside the U.S. embassy as well as with other stakeholders in Delhi. He is expected to return at a later date to present his credentials and take charge of the U.S. embassy in Delhi, as well as his role in the region.

Trade and Market
Access: Removing
tariffs on Indian steel,
aluminium, textiles.

Defence Cooperation:
Expanding joint R&D
under the Defense
Technology and Trade
Initiative (DTTI).

Technology & Critical Minerals: Ensuring secure supply chains for rare earth elements and semiconductors.

Energy & Oil Imports:
Discussion on India's
purchase of Russian
crude and U.S. energy
exports.

Regional Security:
Afghanistan, IndoPacific, and Operation
Sindoor coordination.

Reviving the Trade
Policy Forum and 2+2
Dialogue.

Issue

U.S. Tariffs

Visas

Russian Oil Imports

Operation Sindoor Narrative

Trade Deficit

Status / Tension

Additional duties on Indian steel & textiles hurt exports.

Restrictions on H-1B extensions affect Indian tech workers.

U.S. pressure on India to cut purchases of Russian crude.

Different public positions over India's Afghan engagement.

U.S. seeks market access for agriculture & medical devices.

Parameter

Envoy Name

Designation

Meeting Date

Indian Leaders Met

Focus Areas

Upcoming Event

Issue Backdrop

Detail

Sergio Gor

U.S. Ambassador-designate to India / Special Envoy for South & Central Asia

October 2025

PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar, NSA Doval, FS Misri

Trade, Defence, Technology, Critical Minerals

ASEAN Summit – Kuala Lumpur (Oct 26–27 2025)

Tariffs + visa strains + Operation Sindoor differences



Three men arrested for Bengal gang rape



Mr. Murrard was holding

MODI AMONO INVITEES India sends Minister to

Egypt for Gaza summit

Do cash transfers build women's agency? There is a need to ensure they control, grow money



ENSUIDE

China will stand firm against tariff threat by Trump'

Billying China signation on Sunday that it would not look down in the face of a 200% tariff threat from U.S. President Sonetd from U.S. president Sonetd from U.S. president Sonetd from U.S. president Sonetd repolve differences through

Sabarimala scam into other States

threats, a room sa

THIBUTANANTHAPURAM THIBUTANANTIAPURAN The Spenial Investigation Team probing the misappropriation of gold-plated copper coverings on Sobarmaia temple's stone carvings and sculptures expended its investigation to other Basis o

Mutinous unit claims control in Madagascar

ANYANANABIVO muticious army unit is Madagescar declared it was taking control of the military, as President Andry Hajostina grab." The CAPSAT corningent for account gernlarence of deadly crackdowns, a Phot As

Philippines, China trade blame over collision of boat

coast guard ship deliberately fired its water cannon at one of its government vessels 69% Johr Paghuaya in the stisputed Bouth China Sea on

Open to Pak. talks, but have options: Muttagi

Taliban say Pakistan harbouring IS fighters from West Asia and must look into its 'internal failures'

Pakistan has been claiming that the TTP is using Afghan support and territory to launch attacks

Minister says women journalists were left out of Friday's press conference due to 'technical error'

Kallof Bhattacheries

fighaniatan is open to dialogue and di-peaceful resolution of its peaceful resolution of its somilies with Pakistan, but if the efforts do not suc-ceed, it has 'other means', and the acting Poreign Mi-nister of the Tallban admi-nistration, Amis shan Min-nistration, Amis shan Min-ture. tagi, on Sunday in response to the border clashes between the two

"There are some special groups in Pakistan that are trying to disturb our rela-tions. After they initiated hostile activities last week, we responded to defend our turritory, and after that, our friends Saudi Ara-bia and Qatar intervened. Our doors are open for dis-logue, but if Pakistan does not take this opportunity, then we have other

Mr. Muttaqi was holding a second pross conference in the limbassy of Afghanistan here after factor a backlash for not including the second processor with the media. He said the previous interaction was organised at "short notice, and the seclusion of women journalists happened from a "seclusion of organisms." Retaliatory strikes Pakistan curried out air-strikes against targets in Kabul on Thursday, and in

response, the Afghan De-fence Forces conducted operations across the Du-rand Line in which 58 Parand Line in which 58 Pa-kirtani soldiers were killed, said Zabisillah Mujahid, spokesperson of the Tali-ban administration. Mr. Mujahid accused Pa-kirtan of sheltering Br fight-ers from multiple coun-

tries in West Asia, and said that Thursday's air strikes in Kabul eliminated the leader of the Tehreek-e-Tu-ilban Pakistan (TTP), Mufti Pakistan based IS elements were behind the attacks in Russia and Iran. unto and tran. Following heavy clashes

Talking taught Talitan Famign Minister Amir Shan Munaqi, left, addressing a joint conference in New Delhi on Sunday, PT

on Sunday, Pakistan has captured to Alghan border posts, and the burder Noor Wall Metaood, a claim that was denied by sources in the TTP. Palestan has been claiming that TTP is draw-ing support from the Af-ghan Taliban administra-

surrincy to latterth attacks against it. Responding to the accusations, Mr. Muttacks against it. Responding to the accusations, Mr. Muttacks against it. Responding to the accusation and accusation and accusation and accusation and accusation accusation and accusation accusation and accusation acc

place deep inside its own territory. They should look into their internal failures, said Mr. Manned, urging Pakistan to control the faw and order situation along the Darand Line.

The Durand Line.

"We have established our control inside Alghanistan after four decades of war. Why is Pakistan un-

able to establish control on able to establish control on its own territories?" asked Mr. Muttaqi who advised the press conference with a large flag of the Tallbun-run ladmic firnirate of Afghanhstan (RA) and espressed "regret" for many of the deaths that took place during the war in Afghanhstan.

Condition of women Faced with multiple ques-tions on the condition of women in Tallhan-ruled Afghanistan, Mr. Muttagi said, "Afghanistan has is-lamic rule. In Islam, everante ruse. In talam, ever-yone's rights are protect-ed, be it mon or women. Derryone has rights. There is no restriction us snyone."

He said Afgunistan has 10 million students attend 10 million students attending schools and other edu-cational institutes, of which 2.8 million are wo-men and girls, adding.

"There are limitations in specific parts, and that does not mean that we oppose education. We have not disclared it to be his formation of the specific parts of the women in Alghanian, Mr. Muttagl said the "Taillnam's first priently was "We have adopted such policies that will slowly bring charge so that no conflict arises in the furyone along with us and twone along with us and make policies according-ly," said Mr. Muttaqi in his first extensive remarks about the harsh anti-wo-men policies that the Tali-ban has adepted since re-

He is expected to hold a day where Aighan Indian trade interests will be in fo-

Monumental task



Email accounts of 12 lakh Central govt. employees, including the PMO, have now migrated to Zoho

Vijaka Singh Aroon Deep

Over the past one year, all 12 lakh email addresses of Union government em-ployees, including those of the Princ Minister's Office (PMO), have migrated from a National Informatica Centre-based system to a platform developed by so platform developed by So ho, officials told The Hin-du. Zoho is headquartered in Tamii Nadu.

in Tamil Radii.

A sender official said Zo-ho's suite had also been ac-tivated to ensure that go-vernment employees did not use open source appli-cations to create text files, spreadsheets—and

available earlier, not many employees were uning it.

"It was found that many government employees were using upon source tools, which could com-promise security of files, and it was decided to make them aware of, and the

nal mail platform," the offinal mail platform," the offi-cial knid.

On October 3, the Union Education Minimitry issued an order to its officials to use the Zoho suite "im alignment with the Ge-

vernment of India's broad-er vision of transforming the nation from a service building a self-reliant eco-system in technology, hardware, and software

It said the Zoho Office It said the Zoho Office Suite was already incorpo-rated in the NIC mail sys-tem and "by embracing Zo-ho's indigenous office productivity tools, we take a bold step in the Swadeshi a bold step in the Swadeshi movement, empowering india to lead with home-grown innovation, streng-thm digital sovereignty, and secure our data for a self-reliant hunge." Another official added that the domain name of the emails remained the

same – nicin or gov.in – but the host atoring and processing the dara has charged from NiC to Zoho. The NiC, established in 1976, is the technology partner of the Union go-vernment and provides technology-driven solu-

tions to it and the State go Asked about the securi-Asked about the securi-ty framework of the said services, the official said.
"We took reports from the security of the said dies such as NIC and CRICT. In [Computer Emergency Rasponne Toan-india), while RQSs (boffware Qual-withs RQSs (boffware Qual-the Zoho platform. "We the property of the said the said and secure," the of-ficial saides.

Police add charges to FIR on death of Harvana IPS officer who 'shot himself'

The Hindu Bureau

The Chandigarh Police on Sursiay added charges to the first information report 0710 filed in connection with the alleged suicide of Haryana IPS officer Y. Pu-ran Kurnar, following a re-spect made by the officer's wife.

wife.
Earlier, a 31-member committee formed to press for acceptance of the family's domands sought the immediate removal of Ha-ryana Director-General of ryans Director-General or Police (PGP) Sharruper Ka-pur from the post, Mr. Ka-pur was among the officer-named in the "final note" left behind by Mr. Puran Kuman, a 2004-batch IP4 of heer who was found dead with a gunshot wound as his residence here on Oc-

tober 7. On October 10, IAS officer Amneet P. Kumar, the wife of the deceased offic-er, had written to the Chandigarh Senior Superinten-dent of Police, pointing our 'irregularmes' in the FIR registered over the case and domanded changes. She said that 'the Section mentioned under the SC/ ST (Breswitzer of Arrest ST (Prevention of Atroci-ties) Act in the FIR was di-luted* and that Section 3(2)

(v) must be added. On Sunday, Chandigarh Impector-General of Police Pushpendra Kumar con-Fusiperstra stamar con-firmed Section 3 (200) of the Act has been invoked. The police, earlier, had re-gistered the FIR under Sec-

gistered the FPR under Rec-tion 108 read with 369 (abstraces of suicide) and 3 (1)(2) of the Agr. Section 3 (2)(v) of the Agr state any offence un-der the Indian Penal Code (48 of 1800), positional site with imprisonment for a term of 10 years on more, Gurmail Singh said they were still waiting for any meaningful proble in the marter, which he said has not yet been done by the administration. We are also dermanding that a judicial proble the done, liquistics was being done to the family. We fear that once



Y. Puran Kurnar, where he was found dead in Chandigath. see.

shall be punishable with intprisonment for life and with fine.

34 member panel Meanwhile, the 31-member committee, 'Justice for Y. Puran Kumar', held a "ma-hapanchayar" (meeting) here under tight security, after which if announced

after which if announced that the Haryana DGP and furner Rubink SF Nares-dra Bijamiya should be ar-rested. Mr. Bijamiya was at-ar named in the deceased officer's "final note" and was transferred from his post as Robtak SP follow-ing the incident. ing the incident.
"The DGP should also

be removed from the post immediately, and if the go-vernment does not take a decision in the next 48 hours, we will decide the further course of action," said a spokesperson of the

ittee after the meeting Committee member Curmail Singh said they

the nat cres are per-formed, the government will take no action against the accused," be added. During the meeting, Mr. Paren Kumur's family is-sued an appeal that was read at the gathering, urging support in their quest for justice.

Mr. Puran Kumar's post-morteon has not been con-

withlield consent. Chand-garb DGP Sagar Priori Hoo-ds on Saturday, respond-ing to a question about why the family had with-beld consent, said "they

discussion". Mr. Puran Kumar, 52, was serving as IGP at the Police Training Centre, Sunaria, in Haryana's Robial

In the "final note" reco In the "final note" reco-vered from the pocket of the deceased officer, he had named slight senior IP's officers, including Mr. Kapur and Mr. Bijarniya, for albagedly harassing and maligning from, which his wife described as trigger points for the satelets.

Open to Pak. talks, but have options: Muttaqi

Taliban say Pakistan harbouring IS fighters from West Asia and must look into its 'internal failures' Pakistan has been claiming that the TTP is using Afghan support and territory to launch attacks Minister says women journalists were left out of Friday's press conference due to 'technical error'

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

fghanistan is open to dialogue and diplomacy for a peaceful resolution of its conflict with Pakistan, but if the efforts do not succeed, it has "other means", said the acting Foreign Minister of the Taliban administration, Amir Khan Muttaqi, on Sunday in response to the border clashes between the two countries.

"There are some special groups in Pakistan that are trying to disturb our relations. After they initiated hostile activities last week, we responded to defend our territory, and after that, our friends Saudi Arabia and Qatar intervened. Our doors are open for dialogue, but if Pakistan does not take this opportunity, then we have other

means," he said.

Mr. Muttaqi was holding a second press conference in the Embassy of Afghanistan here after facing a backlash for not including women media professionals in his Friday interaction with the media. He said the previous interaction was organised at "short notice, and the exclusion of women journalists happened from a "technical error".

Retaliatory strikes

Pakistan carried out airstrikes against targets in Kabul on Thursday, and in response, the Afghan Defence Forces conducted operations across the Durand Line in which 58 Pakistani soldiers were killed, said Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesperson of the Taliban administration.

Mr. Mujahid accused Pakistan of sheltering IS fighters from multiple coun-



Talking tough: Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, left, addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

tries in West Asia, and said Pakistan-based IS elements were behind the attacks in Russia and Iran.

Following heavy clashes on Sunday, Pakistan has captured 19 Afghan border posts, and the border crossings between the two countries have been shut temporarily in view of the prevailing tension. Pakistan had claimed that Thursday's air strikes in Kabul eliminated the leader of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Mufti Noor Wali Mehsood, a claim that was denied by sources in the TTP.

Pakistan has been claiming that TTP is drawing support from the Afghan Taliban administration and is using Afghan territory to launch attacks against it. Responding to the accusations, Mr. Muttaqi said the real problem is Pakistan's inability to maintain law and order along the Durand Line and the forced expulsion of the Afghan refugees from Pakistan.

"There are no terror groups inside Afghanistan. We have removed them all over the last four years. Pakistan, which carried out attacks deep inside Afghanistan, is unable to stop attacks that are taking place deep inside its own territory. They should look into their internal failures," said Mr. Muttaqi, urging Pakistan to control the law and order situation along the Durand Line.

"We have established our control inside Afghanistan after four decades of war. Why is Pakistan unable to establish control on its own territories?" asked Mr. Muttaqi who addressed the press conference with a large flag of the Taliban-run Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and expressed "regret" for many of the deaths that took place during the war in Afghanistan.

Condition of women

Faced with multiple questions on the condition of women in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, Mr. Muttaqi said, "Afghanistan has Islamic rule. In Islam, everyone's rights are protected, be it men or women. Everyone has rights. There is no restriction on anyone."

He said Afghanistan has 10 million students attending schools and other educational institutes, of which 2.8 million are women and girls, adding, "There are limitations in specific parts, and that does not mean that we oppose education. We have not declared it to be 'haram'".

Continuing his remarks on the women in Afghanistan, Mr. Muttagi said the "Taliban's first priority was to bring an end to the war. "We have adopted such policies that will slowly bring change so that no conflict arises in the future. We have to carry everyone along with us and make policies accordingly," said Mr. Muttagi in his first extensive remarks about the harsh anti-women policies that the Taliban has adopted since returning to power in August 2021.

He is expected to hold a meeting in FICCI on Monday where Afghan-Indian trade interests will be in focus.

- Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, announced that the Taliban government
 is open to dialogue with Pakistan for peaceful resolution of recent border clashes, but warned that
 Kabul has "other means" if diplomacy fails.
- The statement comes after retaliatory strikes between Pakistan and Afghanistan near the Durand Line.

2. Key Developments

Event	Details
Trigger Incident	Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Kabul on Thursday, claiming to target Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leaders.
Afghan Response	Taliban forces retaliated with ground operations , killing 58 Pakistani soldiers and capturing 19 posts.
Pakistan's Claim	Said the airstrikes eliminated TTP chief Mufti Noor Wali Mehsood (denied by TTP).
Afghanistan's Claim	Pakistan shelters IS (Islamic State) fighters and blames Kabul to hide its "internal failures."

- Women's Rights & Governance Remarks
- Muttaqi addressed global criticism of **Taliban's restrictions on women**, calling earlier exclusion of women journalists from press events a "technical error."
- Stated:
 - "Afghanistan has 10 million students, including 2.8 million women."
 - "There are limitations in specific areas, but education is not declared haram."
 - Promised gradual easing of restrictions "to avoid internal conflict."

6. Broader Implications

Regional Diplomacy

- Saudi Arabia and Qatar are attempting quiet mediation.
- India hosted Muttaqi in New Delhi indicating growing India-Afghanistan engagement under Taliban rule.

Security Risks

- Prolonged hostilities could escalate into a border war, destabilizing South-Central Asia.
- Possibility of IS resurgence amid chaos between Kabul and Islamabad.

Geopolitical Realignment

- Taliban signals independence from Pakistan's control, contradicting earlier dependence.
- Kabul's outreach to India reflects a bid for legitimacy and diversification of allies.

Parameter Details

Leader Amir Khan Muttaqi (Afghanistan Acting FM)

Country Accused Pakistan

Accusation Harboring IS fighters; destabilizing border

Retaliation Afghan forces attacked 19 Pakistani posts

Mediators Saudi Arabia, Qatar

Venue of Remarks Embassy of Afghanistan, New Delhi

Focus Issue

Durand Line conflict and TTP's use of Afghan territory

Email accounts of 12 lakh Central govt. employees, including the PMO, have now migrated to Zoho

Vijaita Singh Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

Over the past one year, all 12 lakh email addresses of Union government employees, including those of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), have migrated from a National Informatics Centre-based system to a platform developed by Zoho, officials told *The Hindu*. Zoho is headquartered in Tamil Nadu.

A senior official said Zoho's suite had also been activated to ensure that government employees did not use open source applications to create text files, spreadsheets and presentations.

Though the suite was



Threat to data: A senior official said use of open source tools could compromise security of files. Representative photo. GETTY IMAGES

available earlier, not many employees were using it.

"It was found that many government employees were using open source tools, which could compromise security of files, and it was decided to make them aware of, and display, the suite's features prominently on the internal mail platform," the official said.

On October 3, the Union Education Ministry issued an order to its officials to use the Zoho suite "in alignment with the Government of India's broader vision of transforming the nation from a service economy into a product nation, and in pursuit of building a self-reliant ecosystem in technology, hardware, and software solutions".

It said the Zoho Office Suite was already incorporated in the NIC mail system and "by embracing Zoho's indigenous office productivity tools, we take a bold step in the Swadeshi movement, empowering India to lead with homegrown innovation, strengthen digital sovereignty, and secure our data for a self-reliant future."

Another official added that the domain name of the emails remained the same – nic.in or gov.in – but the host storing and processing the data has changed from NIC to Zoho.

The NIC, established in 1976, is the technology partner of the Union government and provides technology-driven solutions to it and the State governments.

Asked about the security framework of the said services, the official said,

"We took reports from security agencies and bodies such as NIC and CERT-In [Computer Emergency Response Team-India], while SQSs [Software Quality Systems] regularly audit the Zoho platform. "We have ensured that the data are safe and secure," the official added.

- Over the past year, 12 lakh email accounts of Union government employees, including those of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), have migrated from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) mail system to an indigenous platform developed by Zoho.
- The move is part of the Government of India's broader vision of digital self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and reducing dependency on foreign or open-source systems.
- Zoho is a Tamil Nadu-based software company known for its Zoho Office Suite, including email, documents, spreadsheets, and presentation tools.

2. Background: From NIC to Zoho

Aspect	Earlier (NIC)	Now (Zoho)
Email Hosting	National Informatics Centre (est. 1976)	Zoho Corporation, Tamil Nadu
User Base	12 lakh govt. officials (including PMO, ministries, state govts.)	Same users, migrated to Zoho
Domain Name	Remains @nic.in / @gov.in	Remains same, only host changed
Storage & Processing	NIC servers	Zoho's indigenous secure platform
Integration	NIC mail system integrated with Zoho Office Suite	Fully functional across ministries

3. Rationale Behind the Migration

1. Security Concerns:

- Many govt. employees were using open-source tools to create files, risking data leaks and file insecurity.
- The govt. wanted a controlled, audited, indigenous platform for handling official communication.

2. Digital Sovereignty:

- Promotes "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and Swadeshi digital solutions.
- Strengthens homegrown innovation and data sovereignty.

3. Productivity Integration:

Zoho's suite enables email, text, spreadsheet, and presentation creation on one secure platform.

4. Implementation & Monitoring

- The Union Education Ministry (on October 3) ordered all officials to use Zoho tools in alignment with the Government's "self-reliant technology vision."
- NIC and CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team India) conducted security checks.
- SQS (Software Quality Systems) audits Zoho regularly.
- Officials confirmed that "the data are safe and secure."

Parameter Detail

Platform Adopted Zoho Office Suite

Migrated From NIC email system

Users Covered 12 lakh central govt. employees (including PMO)

Headquarters of Zoho Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Supervising Agency National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Auditing Bodies CERT-In, SQS

Key Vision Atmanirbhar Bharat in Digital Ecosystem



U.P. CM is an infiltrator, send him to Uttarakhand: Akhilesh

Samajovali Pariy chiof Akhilesh Yadav on Samslay liborach U.P. CM Yogi Adiyanath to an infiltrator, anying he is from Utranshana and should be sent back to the State. Speaking to reporters in back to the State. Speaking to reporters in back to the State. Speaking to reporters in Back of the State of State. Speaking to reporter in the State State of State. Speaking the State Statistics. "People who are giving the statistics." People who are giving the statistics of Secolus. We also have infiltentors in U.H. The CM is from Utranshand. We want him to be seed to Utranshand. He is not the only declared to the State Statistics. The CM is from Utranshand. He is not the only declared to the seed to Utranshand. He is not the only declared to the Statistics.

Conduct error-free bypoll to Ghatsila seat: Jharkhand CEO

Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) K. Bavi Kinnar on Sunday directed officials to ensure an error-free conduct of the November II Ghatalla Assembly bypodt. Chairing a review meeting at the Ghatalla Sub-Divisional Auditorsum, Mr. Kumar instructed officials to strictly follow the guidelines laid down by the filection Commission for the 45-Ghatsila GF reserved) seat, which fell vacant following the death of Education Minister and IMM MLA Ramdae Soren. ...

EPS claims cracks in DMK alliance as CPI(M), Cong. eve more seats in 2026 poll

AIADMK general secretary says while the party's allies functioning independently, those in the

and AlADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami claimed on K. Puloniswami claimed on sunday that while the par-ty's allies were functioning independently, parties in the parties of the parties of the parties of the parties of parties on their own, "Ma-uy in the Congress are de-manding more seats and a slaze in power. So, there is a crack in the DMK al-lience," be said.

His comments came even as the Congress and Communist Party of India (Macsiss) are likely to seek more seats from the DMK for the 2028 Assembly

election.
Addressing journalists in Chemnai, TNGC president
K, Selvaperunthagai said he would not discuse the issue in public, but he hinted that his party would bargain for a hetter deal than the 25 seats it got in 2021.



However, CPIOD Turnil Nada secretary P. Shannu-gun said in Namakkal that his party would ask the DMK for more seats this time. In 2021, the party had cies as part of the DMK-led

tested five elections togeth er (Including the local bo-dies elections) and have been successful. Why would we not continue this alliance.
Mr. Selvaperunthagai said be would communiraid be would communi-cate the expectations of the TNCC to the All India Con-gress Committee (AICC) and the DMK leadership. He said there was no need would we not continue the winning alliance? Any deci-sion on moving out of the alliance can be taken only by the AICC/* he said.

of the Opposition's accusa tion that the DMK's allies were unable to speak freely. "Palaniswami should read -Palaniawami abould read the newspapers every day. When the government in-creased the electricity to riff, we opposed the steel-sion in the Assembly. Similarly, we opposed the increase in property and road taxes," he alleged.

TVK flags Addressing the media after visiting Nangavalli in Salem district, Mr. Palantewami algam (TVK) flags being seen at his compation rallies. He said the TVK cadre had attended them voluntarily. "AIADMK district secretar-"AADMK district ascretar-tes have instructed them ITVK cadrel to participate in the rallies only after re-ceiving permission from their party's high com-mand," he said.

'Govt. embrace of Taliban shows hypocrisy of BJP'

the Mode Bureau

Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Meh brobs Mufil on Sunday questioned the Centre's move to engage the Taliban government of Afghanistan and "targeting" its own

and "largeting" its own Muslims.

"While fostering good relations with Arghanistum may be strategically impor-tant, it raises a glaring con-tradiction. India's own Muslim population who Muslim population who has contributed to the na-tion's independence, iden tity and progress are being systematically marginal-hed. The BIP's withdrawal of scholarships for Muslim students and closing madrasas is a stark reminder of this internal hypocrisy,"

Addressing a party workers' convention to Srinagar, Ms. Multi said New Delhi used to describe the rellii used to describe the Tallban as terroriets, but was now engaging with them. "If the Government of india can talk to the Tall-ban, whom they were criti-cising, why don't lyou



speak) to your own people in Jammu and Kashmir?" she said.

The PDP president said.

The PDP president said.

The IDP has repeatedly tar-jeted its own Muslim pep-idation in the name of love plant. 'Sand jihad.' 'see jihad.' and cow jihad.' 'The Muslim population is de-monised by propagating caustic narvatives. At the some time, India, the mother of democracy, un-der the MJP has decided to

"Hope Bulldozer Baba is listeningt" she remarked in an apparent swipe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yo

Bareilly clash: main accused in petrol bomb attack arrested

Press Trust of India

A man has been arrested in A man has been arrested in connection with petrol bomb attack on a police team during the Septem-ber 26 violence in Bereilly, officials said on Sunday.

Islamic cloric Tumpers Raza Khan's call for protest supporting the 1 love Mu-hammad campaign led to a violent clash in Barolly on September 26, Police said Arif played a key role in the violence, and a long flat of serious charges base been filed against fum.

OBC youth forced to wash Brahmin man's feet. | More bonhomie as Rai, Uddhay drink water over AI-edited image; 4 booked

The Hindu Bureau

Four men, have been housed in Madhya Fra-desh's Damish for allegedly desh's Damish for allegedly wash the fest of a Brahmin person and drink the water as a punishment over than ing an "effensive" At-edited image, officials said on Samalay.

According to the police, the incident took place on the evening of October 10 on the premises of a temple in Satariya village under Patera police station limits when Purushottam Kushwhen Particulations (Lish-walta, who beforings to an Other Backward Class (OBC) community, was forced to wash the feet of Anuj Pandey "to apologise to liun fue sharing an Al-edited picture of him showThe incident took place at a temple in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh on October

ing him wearing a garland of shoos".

Damoh Superintendent of Police Shruk Kirtl Som-warshi told The Himfu that Mr. Pundey and three of his relatives have been broiked ander Sections 208, 196(1) (b) and 3(5) of the Bharati-ya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and a probe has been launched.

A video of the alleged in-A video of the alleged in-cident has also appeared on social media shewing Mr. Kushwaha, nurrounded by local residents instruc-ing him to apologise white weating the man's feet.

According to the first in-mention report GIB), Mr. Rundwahn and Mr. Pandey-er 6 after the fatter op-rosed a fection by local-to-problem to sale and the village. After the argu-ment, Mr. Kanhwaha shared the "objectionable" shared the "objectionable" the to-which the local-gathered at the temple and rose of him to approach to mic community, the com-mic community, the com-Mr. Panatey and the first min community, the com-plateant has alleged in the PIR. A penalty of \$5,000 was also imposed on Mr. Kushwaha by the villagers.

"Purushottam Kushwa ha was threatened and forced to declare that he would worship Brahmins for the rest of his life. Thus for the reat of his life. This incident is a diagrace to but mainly. It is against the country's Constitution. The Constitution grants equal status to every citates of the country, such incidents happening with Dalits and backward classes are a biot on the entire country and society," the Congress par-ty said on X, while asking the RIP government to take strict action in the matter and set an example.

were speaking openly about their expectations and said the DMR-Congress alliance was strong and it

had won in consecutive elections. "We have con-

"The BJP government should take the strictess possible action against the criminals... This country will be governed by Raba Sabeb's Constitution, not by the Manayaad favored

The Hindu Bureau

The countdown for the DMK government in Tamil

DMK government in Tamil
Nadu has began, and its
life has been left with only
177 slaw, said BP State president Safrar Sugenthran.
Its was addensing a public
meeting organised to mark
the beganing of his Yamilagon Thahai Nimtra, Tamilania Payanam campaign in Madarai on
sandara

meet for second time in a week

Press Trust of India

Maharashtra Navoteman Rena president Raj Thacke-ray met his cousin, Shiv Se-na (UBT) chief Uddhav

indicating that it was a fa-mily get-together. Mr. Raywife, Sharmila, was also present.

The visit, however, came amid heightened speculation about the two cousins coming together for the all-important elec-This was the sixth pu-

Countdown has begun for

DMK govt. in T.N., says BJP



ween Mr. Uddhav and Mr. Raj since July 5, when the Thackeray cousins had come together to celebrate a victory rally after the Maharashtra government withdrew two contentious GRs of making Hindi "man-datory" by the State go-vernment and implemen-tation of the

Mr. Raj had also visited 'Matoshri' last on October 5, after attending a func-tion at Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's family The two cousins will al

so meet again when a dele war and other Opposition leaders, will call upon the

Initial findings point to Iron Age origins at new excavation site in T.N.

S. Sat Charan

The first season of excavations carried out by the Ta-mil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) at Thisumolapurari in Tenkast diartict has brought to light the presence of fron Age culture close to the Western Chata in Tamil Nach.

According to tentative estimates, the site could

estimates, the site could date back to the early to mid-third millennium BCE, similar to Adichanaflur and Sivagalat. Official sources the exact period d be confirmed through scientific analyses

Burial site released report, Archaeo-logical Excapations in Ya-mil Natu: A Preliminary mil Nachi: A Preliminary Report, the burial site at Thirturnalapurant covers nearly M arres and lies about 40 km northwoot of the present day village, between two seasonal atteanns that rise from the Western Ghata near the Ku-



Bick yeeld: An am bank site at Thrumstepurers in Tamil Madu's Trinkert district, 4600a, americans

ing the first senson of exca-vations started last year, TNSDA archaeologists dug 37 trenches and uncarried several artefacts, including

ware, red wire, red-slipped ware, black-pol-lated ware, and coarse red ware.

several artisfacts, multuling a rectangular stone stab chamber with ucro burishs and ucro, a fivre-deficient dark condition of the chamber, made of 3s atone stabs, was filled with cobblestones up to a The escavations asset yielded a rich cellection of coramics found in grave goods.

These trachised white-pointed designs, and kirchall, the report and kirchall designs and kirchall, the report state of the collection of the c

uram. One red-slipped po featured dotted design:

The Opposition Con-gress has slammed the rul-

A total of 7% antiquities sade of bone, gold A total of H antiquities made of bone, gold, bronze, and iron were also found. They include a tweezer, sword, spran-head, gold ring, axe, dag-ger, chizel, bornehead, and arrowhead. Three riny gold rings were found in an urn at a depth of 0.49 metrus. Each ring measures 4.8 mm in diameter and weight less than one milligram. Based on the uncarthed

Based on the invarrhead materials, archaeologists believe this atta dates to believe this atta dates to easily the dating remains entative as studies are still under way. Comparisons and Adichanallar, distell terveen 3,348 BCE and 3,348 BCE and 3,348 BCE and 5,340 BCE and 5,400 BCE and 1,400 BCE

cated to its alliance partners during the Assembly election even as its allies, such as the Congress and

Sunday.

Recalling the remarks of Chief Minister M.K. Sulin that BP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah could not defeat the DMK. the VCK, aimed to be part of the next State Calsinet. in the Amenially election, he said, "Even Mr. Shah has said that he will not de-feat the DMK, but the rul-ing party will be defeated by the very people of Tamil Nadu." State Centre relations Stating that no State can progress without the help of the Contre, the MP lead-

of the Centre, the MP lead-or said even former Chief Minister M.G. Ramuchan-dran maintained a cordial culationship with the Un-ten government during his tenure, and Tarnil Nadas be-nefited from the funds giv-ven by the Centre.

"Even the previous AIADME government, headed by Mappadi K. Pe-headed by Mappadi K. Pe-Me. Nagenthran's camgrievances.

He said the DMK was planning to reduce the number of seats to be allo-

faniswami, got a whopping t40,000 erore from the Centre. Only a double-ongine government can bring development to the State (with the help of t Centre), and it would be fit the people," he said.

"Blue in crimes"
Tamil Nado has seen a rise
in crimes, proliferation of
deags, increase in property
tax and electricity charges,
and price of milk, be al-

up the campaign to make Tamil Nadu proud by bringing about a change of goard in the State," he said. Even after four years of administration, the Deputy Chief Minister, Udhayanid ht Stalin, was now promis-ing that the women who were left-out would get the benefits of Mahalir Uri-

benefits of Mahalif Uri-mailthogal scheme.

The diusth of 41 persons in the stumpede during the TVK cally in Karur was a re-flection that the police force in the State was not under the State was not under the constru

Kamal Nath blames cough syrup deaths on M.P. govt

Fress Trust of India

Former Madfeya Pradesh Former Maditya Pradesh Chief Minister Karnal Nath on Sunday met families in Chhindwara whose chil-dren died after consuming a contaminated sough sy-rup and claimed "adminis-trative negligenes" led in the reaindw.

the tragedy.

Speaking to reporters, the Congress MLA from Chinindwara blamed the MLP, government for the deaths of more than 20 children, alleging that it al-lowed the use of the medimil Nachr, without any

sting. Demanding the strictest ponsible for the tragedy Mr. Noth, the former nine time MP from Chbindwara

PERCENTAGE AND THE PERCENTAGE AND THE PERCENTAGE AND THE CALL TRANSPORT OF THE PERCENTAGE POT THE PERCENTAGE AND THE PERCENTAGE

Initial findings point to Iron Age origins at new excavation site in T.N.

N. Sai Charan

CHENNAI

The first season of excavations carried out by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) at Thirumalapuram in Tenkasi district has brought to light the presence of Iron Age culture close to the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

According to tentative estimates, the site could date back to the early to mid-third millennium BCE, similar to Adichanallur and Sivagalai. Official sources said the exact period would be confirmed through scientific analyses.

Burial site

According to the recently released report, Archaeological Excavations in Tamil Nadu: A Preliminary Report, the burial site at Thirumalapuram covers nearly 35 acres and lies about 10 km northwest of the present-day village, between two seasonal streams that rise from the Western Ghats near the Ku-



Rich yield: An urn burial site at Thirumalapuram in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lasegarapereri tank. During the first season of excavations started last year, TNSDA archaeologists dug 37 trenches and unearthed several artefacts, including a rectangular stone slab chamber with urn burials and urns, a first-of-its-kind discovery in Tamil Nadu.

The chamber, made of 35 stone slabs, was filled with cobblestones up to a depth of 1.5 metres.

The excavations also yielded a rich collection of ceramics found in graves and among grave goods. These included white-

painted black-and-red ware, red ware, redslipped ware, black-polished ware, and coarse red ware.

Unique feature

The black-and-red ware, black ware, and blackslipped ware types had white-painted designs, a unique feature first reported from T. Kallupatti and later from Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Thulukkarpatti, and Korkai, the report said.

According to the report, symbols on the urns were among the most striking discoveries at Thirumalapuram. One red-slipped pot featured dotted designs showing a human figure, a mountain, a deer, and a tortoise.

A total of 78 antiquities made of bone, gold, bronze, and iron were also found. They include a tweezer, sword, spearhead, gold ring, axe, dagger, chisel, bonehead, and arrowhead. Three tiny gold rings were found in an urn at a depth of 0.49 metres. Each ring measures 4.8 mm in diameter and weighs less than one milligram.

Based on the unearthed materials, archaeologists believe this site dates to Iron Age. Official sources said the dating remains tentative as studies are still under way. Comparisons with sites such as Sivagalai and Adichanallur, dated between 3,345 BCE and 2,513 BCE respectively, suggest that Thirumalapuram could be placed in the early to mid-third millennium BCE.

- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has unearthed new evidence of Iron Age culture at Thirumalapuram in Tenkasi district, near the Western Ghats.
- This site, according to **tentative estimates**, could date back to the **early to mid-third millennium BCE** contemporaneous with sites like **Adichanallur** and **Sivagalai**.
- The findings may significantly **push back the timeline** of Iron Age culture in South India.

Parameter Details

Department Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA)

Site Name Thirumalapuram, near Western Ghats, Tenkasi district

Area Covered ~25 acres (about 10 km NW of present-day village)

Excavation Started 2024

Report Title

Archaeological Excavations in Tamil Nadu: A

Preliminary Report

Current Stage 1st phase completed; scientific dating in progress

3. Major Discoveries

(a) Burial Chamber

- Rectangular stone slab chamber with urn burials and urns first-of-its-kind in Tamil Nadu.
- Chamber built with 35 stone slabs and cobblestones (1.5 m depth).
- Located between two seasonal streams near the Lasagaparaperi tank.

(b) Pottery and Ceramics

- Over 37 trenches unearthed rich pottery collection:
 - Black-and-red ware
 - Black ware
 - Red ware
 - White-painted slipped ware
 - Coarse red ware
- Notable artefacts:
 - Red-slipped pot with dotted designs depicting a human figure, mountain, deer, and tortoise.

(c) Metal & Bone Artefacts

- 78 antiquities of bone, gold, bronze, and iron:
 - Tweezers, sword, spearhead, dagger, axe, chisel, bonehead, arrowhead.
 - Gold rings (3 tiny rings) each 4.8 mm diameter, less than 1 milligram weight.

Site Estimated Period (BCE)

Adichanallur

3,345 – 2,513 BCE

Sivagalai 3,000 – 2,600 BCE

Thirumalapuram *Early to mid-3rd* (Tenkasi) *millennium BCE*

Cultural Phase

Iron Age / Early Historic

Iron Age

Proto-Iron Age (based on tentative estimates)

- Unique Features
- **Black-and-red ware** with **white painted designs** similar to earlier finds from:
 - Kallupatti
 - Adichanallur
 - Sivagalai
 - Thulukarpatti
 - Korkai
- Distinct **urn symbols** suggest a **shared cultural continuum** across South Tamil Nadu's Iron Age settlements.

Parameter Detail

New Site Thirumalapuram (Tenkasi District, TN)

Department Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA)

Estimated Period Early to Mid-3rd Millennium BCE

Key DiscoveriesUrn burials, black-red ware, gold rings, bone artefacts

Artefacts Found 78 (Bone, Iron, Bronze, Gold)

Similar Sites Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Korkai

Cultural Phase Iron Age / Proto-Iron Age

Region Feature Western Ghats, Lasagaparaperi tank vicinity

Canadian Foreign Minister set to meet Jaishankar today

Press Trust of India

Canadian Foreign Minister Anits Anand arrived in the national capital on Sunday, a day before talks with her Indian counterpart, 5. Jaishankar. The discussions are ex-

pected to focus on artising up a framework for bilator-al "strategic" cooperation in areas of trade, energy

in areas of trade, energy and security.

It is Ms. Anand's first vi-pit to India after assuming charge as the Foreign Mi-nister in May. She is also scheduled to meet Com-merce Minister Plyush Goyal to discuss ways to boost two-way trade ties. oost two-way trade ties. "This visit will help "This vier will help hulld on the positive mo-mentum in india-Canada relations by revitalising our hilateral mechanisms, dee pening economic coopera-tion, and further strengpeople to people ties that anchor our partnership, forernal Affairs Ministry wat said on X.

Three matter tour New Delhi is Mr. Amand's first stop of her three ma-tion tour of the con-tion tour that will also take her to Chana and Singa-pore. In New Delhi, Mini-ter Amand will meet with Mr. Jatshunkar and Mr. tioyal, as "both countries move toward establishing a framework for strategic cooperation on issues such



energy transformation and security", a Ganadian rea-dout said in Saturdey, description of the control minister's viait center more than three weeks af-ter Canada's National Se-curity Advises Nathalis-triouin viaited India and held extensive talks with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval. Days after the meet-ing, Canada designated the Lawrence Bishnot gang as a terrorist entity for "vic-lently targeting" certain communities and creating

a "climate of fear".
The renewed vibrancy in the ties between the two countries followed Prime countries followed Prime Minister Narendra Model's talks with his Canadian rounsterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 Summit at Canadia's Kana-nashis in June. In Singapore, Ms. Anand will renet with her counterpart Vivian Halak-riahnan, to further streng-

then Canada's cooperation with "one of its most important partners" in Southeast Asia, the rea-

India sends Minister to Egypt for Gaza summit

New Delhi will be represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtivardhan Singh in place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who declined the invitation from Egypt due to the short notice

India will send Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtlyardhan Singh to represent the country at the Peace Summit on Gaza in Sharm el-Sheikh to be co-hosted by

Shelish to be cs-hosted by kgypt and the United States on Monday, officials confirmed to The Hundu. Prime Minister Nazer-tics Moll was among more than 20 world leaders in-vited over the weekend to attend the ammit, which will be co-hosted by kgyp-tian President Abdel Furtah. el-Sist and U.S. President Donald Trump, to discuss the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, brokered mainly by negotia-tors from the U.S., Egypt, and catac

and Galar.

However, given the short notice, Mr. Most eliwhose invitation was delised to the model of the sador Kamel Galal, desedor Kamel Galal, desedor Kamel Galal, declined the invitation. Mr.
Modi had also rest U.S. special envey and Ambassider-designate Sergio Gor
in Felhi on Sameday.

Egypt's PM to visit Delhi Sunday and will travel to Sharm el-sheikh on Mon-day, the officials said. Mr. Modi is, however, expected to ment Egyptian Fureign Minister Badr Abdelarty la-



Key gathering: More than 20 world leaders are expected at the sharm of Shotki Suremit for Peace on Monday, REUTERS

ter this week, who is tra-velling to thelhi to hold the India-ligypt Strategic

Dialogue.
According to sources, Mr. Abelelatty's visit is part of the Sist-Modi Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in January 2023, and this is his first visit to India since taking over in 2024. Mr. Abdelatty has been in frequent contact with External Affairs Miniswith Exerrol Affair Mini-ter S. jaishnikar, including during Operation Sindoor in May, and Egypt had provided the Company of the Parksham terror attacks. Mr. Aldelasty is also es-pected to brief the govern-ment on the plans for the Although Egypt is not a member of the India-Mid-dia East-Europe Economic been been to discuss after been been to discuss after

Pinalise truce deal Mr. Abdelatry spoke by te-lephone to his counter-parts in a number of coun-tries, said the figyptian through Sharm of Sheikh with India, given the secur-ity issues with foracl's Haifu Foreign Ministry on Sun-day, and conveyed the invi-tation from President Sist and President Trump to port, where the current

alignment lies.

Among those who have confirmed their participation at Monday's event in Sharm el Sheikh are UN Secretary-clienteral Antonio Gusterres and the leaders of France, Hally, Spain, and the U.R. A number of lead-ers from Europe, the Gulf Ania are expected to be there as well.

Pakistan Prime Mutater Shebbaz Sharif will attend, tran's leader ordin, which re-tion, has devident it, as has Hattian. cretary-General Antonio

Hamas. It is still unclear wheth-

of the aumnit, which is a historic summit aimed at ending the war on the class Strip, "said the statement." "The summit needs to "The summit needs to ity and alleviate the suffer-ing of the Palestinian people in Gaza, in line with U.S. President Donald Trump's vision for peace in Mr. Modi had welcomed the Gaza causefire agreeer Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Notanyahu or the Palestinian Authority President, Malimond Alb-bas, would attend. the Gaza ceasefire agree-ment last week and spoke to Mr. Tramp over the telephone to congratulate him.

Three arrested for gang rape of medical student in Bengal

Shiv Sabay Singh

The West Bengal Police on The West bringst Police on Sunday arranged three per-sons in connection with the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durga-pur on Friday night.

All the accused are local

All the accused are local persons and worse apprehended from the forest area where the incident oc.

A subdivisional court is remarked to accused in police existed for the days. The police are conducting searches to apprehend the other accused. In the conducting searches to apprehend the other accused. In the conducting searches to apprehend the other accused. In the conducting searches the conducting searches are conducted from Odisha, had reportedly gone out of the private

edly gone out of the private college with a male friend on Priday night. She was alegedly gang-raped by un-dentified men near the

vollege campus Meanwhile, West Bergal Chief Minister Manuela Baperiee's remarks on Sun-

nerjew's remarks on Mut-thay asking gifd students er-esiding in hoseles not to vonture out a tight trig-common to the student of the con-writh expressing shock over the sexual assault on the medical student. Me-batterjes urged boys and batterjes urged boys and batterjes urged boys and when thengel not to venture out at night. Speaking to prevejersams, she said, night time, they should not be allowed to come-oustide. They have to pro-tor the supplementation of the medical colleges should at



time. 'If someone gives out at 12.30... anyone can go anywhere that is their right... but there is a sys-tem for those who stay in bostels.' 'In Bengal we have zero tolerance (apatter such crimes) and I will appeal to the boys and girls who come to study here not to venture out a police are not aware who is

State BIP president Sa mik Bhattacharya said Ms nerjee's comme proved that the Trinamool Congress government Thas no accountability regarding worsen's sofety. Chicks Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urged his West Bengal counterpart to take swift action against the perspectors.

against the perpetrators.

Later in the evening, Ms.

Banerjee said that her address at Dum Dum Airport had been "deliberately

WTI report highlights crucial role + played by India's forest protectors

by the Wildlife Trust of to-dia (WTO has highlighted the role of India's forest

The report, "Guardians of the wild: supporting In-dia's frontline forest staff", da's frontine forest statt, features 540 rungers who were killed or injured in the line of duty. It includes personal narratives from the test.

personal narratives from the field.

A WTI spokesperson midd the report was re-leased by kirrivardhan singh. Union Minister of State for Environment, Porest, and Climate Change, in Also Disable on saturable, The report sporights the critical role and minister for the critical role and ministers. immense challenges faced by India's frontline forest staff, the "unaung heroes" safeguarding the rich bio-



india's Van Rakshaks, known globally as forest rangers, are responsible for protecting more than 1,000 protected areas and numerous other forests and natural habitats. Their duries include round-the-clock patrolling, wildlife monitoring, mitigaring ha-man-wildlife conflict, com-bating wildlife crime, and responding to emergen-cies, often under life-threa-

The WTI launched the Van Rakahak Project (VRP) in 2000 with the Interna-tional Fund for Animal Welfare's (IFAW) support. It aimed at building a well-equipped, and motivated force of frontline forest staff across India. The pro-ject has supported more than 31,000 personnel na-tionwide through a diverse range of capacity-streng-thening initiatives.

A key component of the

VRP is the Supplementary Accident Assurance Scheme, which offers in-mediate financial assis-tance to frontline forest staff in the event of injury or death in the line of duty. Since 2001, financial aid has been provided to 367 frontline staff or their fami-

lies, with nearly 74% of these cases involving fatalithese cases involving fatali-ties.
During the COVID-19
pandemic, WTI extended
support to 173 families of
forest staff who lost their
lives through a dedicated
Conservation Herces CO-VID Casualty Fund.
"This epport bonours

Rakshaks and highlights the urgent need for more ment, recognition and support for those who protect our natural herit-age." WIT'S Executive Di-rector and BJCN Councilfor Vivek Menon said.

Congress reaches out to alliance partners over Bills to remove PM, CMs, Ministers

On Monday morning, Mr. Trump will be in Jeru-salem to address the Israeli

parliament as he and Mr. Netanyahu await the re-

lease of 20 teraeli hostage

still alive and the return of remaining bodies of those who have died since they were abducted by Hamas

during the 2023 terror at tacks. Israel will release about 2,000 Palestinian

witness the signing of a peace agreement. "During the calls, Minis-

ter Abdelatty discussed the substantive arrangements of the summit, which is a

The Hindu Bureau

The Congress has reached out to constituents of the Indian National Develop-mental, Inclusive Alliance UNDIA) to take a final call on whether or not to join the Joint Committee that the Joint Committee that will review the three Bills on the remnal of the Frime Minister, Chief Minister, and Ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for 30 days.

Sources on Sunday told The Hinds that the government had reached out to the principal Oppwalton party to haue to surpluse a support of the principal Oppwalton party to haue to incumber

o the Joint Committee of

130th Amendment Bill The Lok Sabha had passed a resolution to refer the fulls to the Joint Committee soon after Union Home Mi-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the Bills in the Lower House

nister Amic Shah Introer House on August 20 this

The three Hills are the Constitution (One fundred and Thritish Amendment) Bill, 2028; he jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amend-ment) Bill, 2025; and the Government of Union Ter-sitories (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Divergent views However, the INDIA bloc is divided on the issue. While the Trinamool Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP),

have declared their intent to keep away from such a panel, the Left parties and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) are keen to join. The DMK too had publicly stated that they would go with the majority option within the bloe.

the this:

Those who advocate keeping away from such a parlamentary panel argue that six major Opposition parties had bryvotred the joint Parliamentary Committee on the Bolors case in 1987.

Those who favour joining the committee asy in would leftly record the Cyr.

position's objections to the Bills.

We are speaking to our "We are speaking to our allies to take a united post-tion as we don't want Op-position unity to be divid-ed over this issue," a senior Congress leader said.

BJP names three candidates

gang-raped in Lucknow, four arrested

The Hindu Bureau

Minor girl

gang-raped allegedly by five persons in the Banthaarrested, the police said or

The incident took place live men approached them. They beat up her ac-quaintance, who fled the scene. The men then raped the girl," the police said. BSP chief Mayawati said

the government must us-gently take effective steps to prevent such incidents.

BJP, SGPC take dig at Cong. after Chidambaram remarks

The Hindu Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiromani Gued-wara Parbhandak Commitice (SGPC), the body res-ponsible for the management of historical management of historical gurdwaras, on Sunday took a dig at the Congress, saying the late Prime Mi-nister Indira Gandhi went ahead with "Operation file Star for political reasuras"

resettis".

RJP national spokesper-son R.P. Singh said Opera-tion Blue Star was com-pletely avoidable, as rightly mentioned by form-er. Home Minister P. Chidamburam.

"Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for political reasons, chose the path of confrontation for electoral gain, seeking to ignite nationalist fervour before the 1984 parkamen tary elections by portray-ing the most patriotic com-munity of India, the Sikhs, se anti-national," he said in

The reaction came after The reaction came after senior Gongress leader Mr. Chidambaram said on Sarturday. There was a way to retrieve and capture all milliants, but Operation Bite Star was the wrong way, and I agree that Mr. Canchi paid with her life for the mistrake but the mistrake was cumulative declared to the control of the Army, intelligion of the Army, intelligion of the Army, intelligion of the Army, intelligion.

gence, police and civil defence and you cannot completely blame Mrs. Gandh." SGPC secretary Gurcha

ran Singh Grewal said the

ran singh Grewal said the remark nade by Mr. Chi-dambaram "speaks about."
"He has revealed the traith, which we welcome, that we disagree when he on barbar saidh wasn't solely lettic candibly deci-serince because fodira Gandhi was the Prime Mi-tator. The action Opera-tion to reside the pro-licat ground," Mr. Grewal said.

Kaziranga director receives award for sustainability model

The Hindu Bureau

nali Chosh, the director of Kastranga National Park and Tiper Reserve, has be-come the first Indian to reseive an international

area sustainability.
She received the limited.
R. Miller Award, constitutional by the Warlad Commission on Protected Award control Award of the Commission of Protected Award of the Commission of the Commission of the Commission of the William of

Conservation of Nature GUCNs, a GUWAHATI glo-bal network dedicated to the conservation of nature and the sustainable use of natural resources.

A statement from the IUCN said Dr. Uhosh was recognised for clumpion-ing a "model of conserva-tion rooted in community engagement, swareness-building, and the seandless recongical knowledge with modern scientific exper-tise". The model has been impactful to the landscape ttee". The model has been context three seats out of impactful in the landscape of Manas and Kasiranga in Assam, it added.

from J&K for Rajya Sabha polls Peerzada Ashiq

The BIP on Sunday an-nounced three candidates for the Rajya Sabba elections in Jamesa and Each-mic scheduled for October 24.

"The names were decid The names were occid-ed by the Parliamentary Board of the party, Today, all 27 MLAs held a meeting to stratugue and plan the upcoming elections," se-nior RIP leader and Leader of the Opposition Stant Basens and of the Opposition Suni Starras said. The hip has decided to

J&K is witnessing the ürst Kajya Sabba elections since the erstwhile State was Territory in 2019

denr Rakeuh Mahajan, and dear Makern Mahajah, and Ali Mohammad Mir. JAK is witnessing the first Rajus Sabba elections since the erstwhile State was re-duced to a Union Territory in 2019.

Congress opts out The Congress decided against fielding any candi-date for a "less sale" seat and accused the coalition partner of betraval.

ween the National Conference leadership and Congrees's central leadership, our party had demanded one cate seat, which is seat number one or seat minioffered seat number four which is less ande. We have decided against fielding any caudidate for this seat," said Turl Hamsed Karra, 1868. Fradesh Congress Committee president. He added it was a "unanty" nous decision of the par-ty's core committee meet-ing, including legislators. Mr. Karra also noted the

growing unease between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress.

general Ann

India sends Minister to Egypt for Gaza summit

New Delhi will be represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtivardhan Singh in place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who declined the invitation from Egypt due to the short notice

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

ndia will send Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtivardhan Singh to represent the country at the Peace Summit on Gaza in Sharm elsheikh to be co-hosted by Egypt and the United States on Monday, officials confirmed to *The Hindu*.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among more than 20 world leaders invited over the weekend to attend the summit, which will be co-hosted by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and U.S. President Donald Trump, to discuss the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, brokered mainly by negotiators from the U.S., Egypt, and Qatar.

However, given the short notice, Mr. Modi, whose invitation was delivered by Egyptian Ambassador Kamel Galal, declined the invitation. Mr. Modi had also met U.S. special envoy and Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor in Delhi on Saturday.

Egypt's FM to visit Delhi Mr. Singh left for Cairo on Sunday and will travel to Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday, the officials said. Mr. Modi is, however, expected to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty la-



Key gathering: More than 20 world leaders are expected at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit for Peace on Monday, REUTERS

ter this week, who is travelling to Delhi to hold the India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue.

According to sources, Mr. Abdelatty's visit is part of the Sisi-Modi Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in January 2023, and this is his first visit to India since taking over in 2024. Mr. Abdelatty has been in frequent contact with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, including during Operation Sindoor in May, and Egypt had strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attacks.

Mr. Abdelatty is also expected to brief the government on the plans for the reconstruction of Gaza.

Although Egypt is not a member of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), it has been keen to discuss alternative route alignments through Sharm el-Sheikh with India, given the security issues with Israel's Haifa port, where the current alignment lies.

Among those who have confirmed their participation at Monday's event in Sharm el-Sheikh are UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the leaders of France, Italy, Spain, and the U.K. A number of leaders from Europe, the Gulfregion, and other parts of Asia are expected to be there as well.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will attend. Iran's leadership, which received a surprise invitation, has declined it, as has Hamas.

It is still unclear whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, would attend. On Monday morning, Mr. Trump will be in Jerusalem to address the Israeli parliament as he and Mr. Netanyahu await the release of 20 Israeli hostages still alive and the return of remaining bodies of those who have died since they were abducted by Hamas during the 2023 terror attacks. Israel will release about 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Finalise truce deal

Mr. Abdelatty spoke by telephone to his counterparts in a number of countries, said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Sunday, and conveyed the invitation from President Sisi and President Trump to witness the signing of a peace agreement.

"During the calls, Minister Abdelatty discussed the substantive arrangements of the summit, which is a historic summit aimed at ending the war on the Gaza Strip," said the statement.

"The summit seeks to help restore regional stability and alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza, in line with U.S. President Donald Trump's vision for peace in the region," it added.

Mr. Modi had welcomed the Gaza ceasefire agreement last week and spoke to Mr. Trump over the telephone to congratulate him.

India will be represented at the Peace Summit on Gaza in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) by Minister of State for External Affairs
Kirtivardhan Singh, in place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who declined due to short notice.

The summit is co-hosted by Egypt and the United States and seeks to consolidate the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, brokered earlier by Egypt, Qatar, and the U.S.

Aspect

Conflict Context

Summit Venue

Summit Hosts

Objective

Participants

Detail

The 2023 Gaza War left thousands dead; the recent ceasefire has seen exchange of hostages and prisoners.

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (Egypt)** & U.S. President **Donald Trump**

Cement ceasefire, initiate reconstruction of Gaza, ensure regional stability

20+ world leaders from the U.S., Europe, Gulf, and Asia; UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and leaders from France, Italy, Spain, U.K.

. Egypt-India Bilateral Component

Egyptian FM **Sameh Shoukry** is visiting India later this week for the **India–Egypt Strategic Dialogue**.

His visit is the first since January 2023 under the **Sisi–Modi Strategic Partnership Agreement**.

Discussions include:

- Reconstruction of Gaza
- Maritime security (Haifa port alignment)
- Counter-terror cooperation (Operation Sindoor)

Interest Area	India's Objective
Diplomatic Balance	Maintain neutrality—support humanitarian cause without alienating Israel.
Energy Security	Stability in the Middle East ensures uninterrupted oil supplies.
Global South Voice	Project India as a peace-building partner under "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".
Defence & Tech	Strengthen India—Egypt defence cooperation (joint production of LCA Tejas & MRO deals).



Tamil Nadu shuts down Sresan Pharma STATES > PAGE S



India, Canada agree to restart trade talks HEWR IS PAGE 4

Accelerating green transition of Railways Decarbonisation plan can become benchmark

EDITORIAL * PAGE I



India on the cusp of a series sweep SPORT N PAGE 16

INSTITE



All five accused in West Bengal gang rape case nabbed

on Memillay in connection with the gaing rape of a medical student in Durgepur district of West Bengal. The other three accused were arrested a day cerber, a PAGE 2

Birth registration declines, deaths increase: report

NEW DELIN India registered 2.52 cross forths in 2023, around 2.32 lakh fewer than in 2022, the What Scotledies of Inche Person part for 2023 shaves, it state shat 86.6 labb deaths w

PF pension hike under Cabinet review Minister

NEW DELIN

Urean Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told a meeting of the Carried Buard of Trustee Fund Organisation (EPFO) he on Monday that the Cabinet

Pak, troops on border clashes

PERIAMAN
Padoldani troups were on high
alert on the border with
Alghanistan on Monday after
fierce fighting between the two
sides at the weekentil left
dispensional and drew the

Gaza declaration inked as Hamas sets hostages free

Trump, leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye sign document meant to cement the peace plan, Hamas releases last of 20 surviving hostages and Israel hands over 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners, Harnas is due to return bodies of 27 hostages

Reuters PRUSALEM/CARG/DONA

S. President De-naid Trump halded for the Middle East (West Asia)* as he and regional leaders signed a declara-tion on Monday meant to cement a cusseine in Gasa. hours after trael and Ha-mas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Arriving to a hero's wel-come earlier in limit, fit. Trump had said, "This is a great day. This is a new be-gioring." Asked if the two-year Gaza war was over, he said: "Yes."

Later in the day Mr. Triump sat down at a resort in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh with more than two dezen with more than two descen-world leaders to discuss the deal. The U.S. Presi-lent along with leaders of Egypt, Quter and Turkiye signed the dealaration as anarations to the deal. "The document is going to spell out rules and regu-lations and lots of other things," Mr. Trump said be-

fore signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up."

As part of Mr. Trump's

plan to end the Gasa war, Hamas on Monday freed the last 20 surviving hos

the last 2O surviving hos-inges is hold after two years of captivity in Gaza. In ex-change, I area! released 1,909 mostly Palestinian principles held in the julic, agreement, Harnes is also due to return the bedies of 27 hestages who died or were killed in captivity, as well as the rearniss of a sof-ment of the particular of the previous Gaza conflict.

previous Gaza conflict. Israel has said it does not expect all of the dead hostages to be returned on Monday, though the army said it had received the budies of two captives that were handed over to the Red Cross by Hames, and





Violent clashes

that it was still expecting the remains of two more. Of the prisoners it freed in return, around 290 were security detainers, including many convicted of kill-ing brasils, while about

1,700 were taken into exis-tody by the laraeli army in Gaza during the war. On October 7, 2021, indi-itants esized 251 hostages

during Hamas's unprece-dented attack on Israel, which led to the deaths of 1,219 people, most of them

civilians.

All but 47 of those hos-tages were freed in earlier cassetires, with the fami-lies of those who have re-mained in captivity leading lives of constant pain and worry for their loved ones.

Sticking points Sticking points
Among the potential cricking points are Hamas's rerusal to dissern and larger's
failure to pledge full withdrawal from the devastated territory.
The U.S. leader, howev-

or, repeatedly signalled he was confident the case-fire would hold, saying at a joint appearance with Egypt President Abdel Fat-tals 12-5in in abarts of Sheikh that talks on the next steps of the plan were underway. The started, as

these steps of the plan were the steps of the plan were for as we're concerned, phase 2 has started, he said. The planes are all a started, he said. The planes are all a started, he said. The planes are all the planes are all the planes are all the planes are all the said. At his appearance with Mr. Sei, he lauded the best of the planes are said. The said of the said has been "seep the planes are said on the said has are he said to the said of th crowd that had gathered to support hostage families orupted in joy, tears and

nong as news broke of the first releases, though the pairs at the loss of those who had not survived was palgable, in the occupied West Bank city of Ramai-lath, huge crowde gathered to welcome home the first huase carrying prixapers, nesses who spoke with AFP on condition of ano-nymity, citing fears for their safety. "About 200 members of

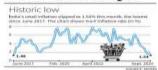
the (Hamas) security forces were present and fought until they completely sub-dued" the clan members, a with some chanting Allahu akhar, or God is the greatbeal resident said. "There were dead and wounded Violent clashes Separately, saveral people were killed over the wee-kend in Gaza city in violent clashes between Hamas se-curity forces and the mem-bers of an armed clas, mai-tiple sources reported on Manklay, and the second of the con-cept of the con-traction of the con-tra

were dead and wounded among the Coplimath) family members, has also among the Coplimath of out last week between the Palestinian Islamist group and the Doghmush clan af-ter a ceasefire between istry source said around six ty members of the family had been arrested. rael and Hamas came into effect.
Dis Sunday evening.

The ferral periodical for the ferral periodical ferral periodical for the ferral periodical ferral

gunlights took place in the Saltra neighbourhood of Claza City, according to wit-BELATER BEFORTS

Retail inflation hits 8-year low of 1.54% in Sept.



T.C.A. Sharad Baghayan

Retail inflation fell to a more than eight-year-low of 1,54% in September on falling food and fuel prices, official data showed on Manday. This is more again below the Reserve Bank of India's lower comfort bound of 2%.

beamd of 2%.
Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,

The food and beverages grouping aw a contraction of 1.4% in September, com-pared with a growth of 0.05% in Augur and n.4% inflation in September last

Proof toffaction

-Looking ahead, food inflation is likely to stay hereign
base and good moneson,
Bajant Siriha, chief economist at Carefidge Ratings,
selfs

which could risk grop damage; for addition, Ms. Sinha said that persistently high double-digit inflation in ed-blie oils warrants close monitoring, given weak sawwing trends, import de-pendence, and elevated

Inflation in the oil and fats category stood at in 3% in september, the fifth con-secutive month of double-digit inflation in the sub-grouping. Inflation in the fuel and

light category came in at 1.98% in September, down

Lifes, in September, down from 2.3% in August, Save for one month, inflation in this category has been eas-ing since April.

"The moderation in food and fuel prices has provided much-needed re-lief to households and im-proved prochasing power," proved purchasing power," Rajeev Juneja, president of the PHDCCI, said.

ginally lower than the 2.33% seen in August 2025

last year. This is the fifth consecutive month of slow-ing inflation in this sangage. Inflation in the part, in-baces and other intesi-cants category, however, quickerned to 2.7% in Sep-tember from 2.8% in Au-gust.

Committee revising down-wards its inflation forecast for the year for the fourth time in a row during its most recent monetary pol-

SC orders CBI investigation into stampede that left 41 people dead in Karur

Aaratrika lihaumik

du's Karur as one that "shook the national conscience", the Supreme Court on Monday ordered obe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBD, As many as 41 people died at a

many as il people died at a rally originated by the Ta-milaga. Verri Kashagam (TVK) led by actor Vyay. A Benish of histiens J.K. Maheshwari and N.V. Anja-ria said the incident had "left an imprint to the minds of citteens across the country" and that the kin of the deceased had knocked on its "Secur".

CM ARRIVA

to supervise progress.
The flench observed

that entrusting the investi-gation to the same police force whose senior officials had publicly exonerated their subordinates would compromise the credibility of the probe, it pointed out that "eop officials" of the mate administration had

State administration had conducted press confe-cences to "adjuse the fault authorithms of the confection in "prima face" in na-cioni in "prima face" in na-tioni in "prima face" in na-ting of counter-affidavits by the parties concerned, the prima face of the prima face language of the prima face language in the prima face language in the prima face language continities was authorised to undertake an inquiry in incidental" to the state.

pede, as may be necessary to ensure a fair and tran-sparent investigation. The CMI has been directed to submit monthly progress reports before the panel. Justice Rastogi has also

two senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, who

are not natives of the State and hold the rank of Inspector-General of Police, to serve on the committee. to serve on the committee.
The court was hearing a
barak of positions, including one filed by the TVR,
challenging the Madras
High Gourt's October 3 order that had accused party
president foseph Vijay and
other leaders of "flexing"
the seems

Maheshwari and N.V. Alaperta and the incident had releft an imprint in the minds of cutters across the country' and that the kinds of commers altered and subject to the nill ingle of commers difficult by the parties concerned, the knocked on its "doors" and that the production of the "special production of the "speci

The Bonch and assigning the probe to the police force whose officials cleared subordinates earlier will understone its credibility. 8. VEX.OCC.54-

'Completely silent'
The judges also pointed
out that the High Court
Judgment was 'completely
alent' on how the single
judge arrived at his conclusions or why he disegard
od the fact that Chief Minister M.R. Naith had already
constituted a one-man
commission of Inquity to probe the stampede. ...

In his October 3 order, justice Senthilkumar had described the stampede as a "large man-made disas-ter" and said the court was already seized of relat-ed matters. "There was no occasion for the single judge to pass such directions without orders of the Chief fastice of the High Court," the Bench said, ad-ding that the order had been leaused "without imcould not remain a "mute spectator" in the face of such a calamity, particularly since several women and children had died. He pleading TVK or its mem-bers and without affording also remarked that the par-ty-leadership had shown no remorse" even after

"int remotive" even after the tragedy. The dright judge's order came house after a Division of the control of the control bench of the Madrae High Court dismissed a barch of petitions. Including one Annusian, seeking a CBI probe. A Bench of Justices M. Dhardsequent and M. Johnston and tion was still at a pascent. Division Bench

allegations had been made suggesting interference by the State government. "If aggrieved persons come to this court, we will rescue. Don't treat this court as the political arena," the Bench had said. Terming the develop-

Terming the development a "motter of con-sorin," the apos court sought an explanation from the Registrae Conseat peritions seeking the formu-lation of SOPs and guide-lines for regulating poli-tical railies came to be registrated as a criminal registrate of the con-putition seeking the formu-pristic interest Registra-portion, it also seaght to petition. It also sought to know whether the petition would be need or the listed before the single judge or a

Gaza declaration inked as Hamas sets hostages free

Trump, leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkive sign document meant to cement the peace plan; Hamas releases last of 20 surviving hostages and Israel hands over 1.968 mostly Palestinian prisoners; Hamas is due to return bodies of 27 hostages

JERUSALEM/CAIRO/DOHA

.S. President Donald Trump hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East (West Asial" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration on Monday meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Arriving to a hero's welcome earlier in Israel, Mr. Trump had said, "This is a great day. This is a new beginning." Asked if the twoyear Gaza war was over, he said: "Yes."

Later in the day Mr. Trump sat down at a resort in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh with more than two dozen world leaders to discuss the deal. The U.S. President along with leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye signed the declaration as guarantors to the deal.

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Mr. Trump said before signing, repeating ing many convicted of killtwice that "it's going to hold up."

plan to end the Gaza war. Hamas on Monday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years change, Israel released prisoners held in its jails.

Under the ceasefire agreement, Hamas is also due to return the bodies of 27 hostages who died or were killed in captivity, as dier killed in 2014 during a previous Gaza conflict.

Israel has said it does not expect all of the dead hostages to be returned on Monday, though the army said it had received the bodies of two captives that were handed over to the Red Cross by Hamas, and





Sweet relief: A released israeli hostage, held in Gaza since the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, with his mother; and (right) a freed Palestinian hugging a relative after his release from an Israeli jail. RELITERS

the remains of two more.

Of the prisoners it freed in return, around 250 were security detainees, includ-1,700 were taken into cus-As part of Mr. Trump's tody by the Israeli army in Gaza during the war.

On October 7, 2023, militants seized 251 hostages during Hamas's unpreceof captivity in Gaza. In ex- dented attack on Israel, which led to the deaths of 1,968 mostly Palestinian 1,219 people, most of them civilians.

All but 47 of those hostages were freed in earlier ceasefires, with the families of those who have remained in captivity leading well as the remains of a sol- lives of constant pain and worry for their loved ones.

Sticking points

Among the potential sticking points are Hamas's refusal to disarm and Israel's failure to pledge full withdrawal from the devastat-

The U.S. leader, howev-

that it was still expecting er, repeatedly signalled he song as news broke of the nesses who spoke with was confident the ceasefire would hold, saying at a joint appearance with Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Sharm eling Israelis, while about Sheikh that talks on the lah, huge crowds gathered phase 2 has started," he said. "The phases are all a little bit mixed in with each other," he added.

At his appearance with Mr. Sisi, he lauded the Egyptian leader as having been "very instrumental" in talks with Hamas.

Mr. Sisi, for his part, said Mr. Trump was the "only one capable of bringing peace to our region".

Mr. Trump also briefly met with Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas at the summit, which representatives of Israel and Hamas did not attend.

In Tel Aviv, a huge crowd that had gathered to support hostage families erupted in joy, tears and

first releases, though the pain at the loss of those who had not survived was palpable. In the occupied West Bank city of Ramalnext steps of the plan were to welcome home the first underway. "It's started, as buses carrying prisoners, far as we're concerned, with some chanting Allahu akbar, or God is the great-

Violent clashes

Separately, several people were killed over the weekend in Gaza City in violent clashes between Hamas security forces and the members of an armed clan, multiple sources reported on Monday.

Skirmishes first broke out last week between the Palestinian Islamist group and the Doghmush clan after a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect.

On Sunday evening, gunfights took place in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City, according to wit * PAGES 14 & 15

AFP on condition of anonymity, citing fears for their safety.

"About 200 members of the [Hamas] security forces were present and fought until they completely subdued" the clan members, a local resident said. "There were dead and wounded among the (Doghmush) family members, but also martyrs and injured among the security forces," he added.

A source within Gaza's Hamas-run Interior Ministry acknowledged that there had been fatalities on both sides. Accusing the Doghmush clan of being affiliated with Israeli forces and of having carried out several murders, the ministry source said around sixty members of the family had been arrested.

(With inputs from Reuters in Jerusalem)

- •The "Gaza Declaration", a multilateral peace accord mediated by the U.S. (Donald Trump), Egypt, Qatar, and Türkiye, has formally ended the two-year Gaza war between Israel and Hamas.
- •The declaration followed a large-scale prisoner-hostage exchange:
- •Hamas released 20 surviving Israeli hostages and pledged to return the bodies of 27 more.
- •Israel freed 1,968 Palestinian prisoners, mostly from Gaza and the West Bank.

2. Key Features of the Agreement

Aspect	Details
Name	Gaza Declaration / Gaza Ceasefire Agreement
Mediators / Guarantors	U.S., Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye
Primary Signatories	Israel & Hamas (with regional and international witnesses)
Objective	To cement ceasefire, enable prisoner exchange, initiate Gaza reconstruction
Hostage Exchange	20 Israelis released ; 1,968 Palestinians freed ; return of 27 bodies pending
Next Phase (Phase 2)	Gradual demilitarization of Gaza and reopening of border crossings
Ceasefire Oversight	Monitored by a joint regional–UN mechanism

Parameter Detail

Ceasefire Agreement Name Gaza Declaration (2025)

Mediators U.S., Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye

Hostages Released 20 Israelis ; 27 bodies to follow

Prisoners Freed 1,968 Palestinians

Conflict Duration 2023 – 2025 (2 years)

Next Step

Phase 2 – Demilitarization +

Reconstruction talks

Vews



SC refuses to quash FIR against folk singer over posts

The Supreme Court of Monday refused to quasi-the First Information Report (200 against 6th of the Court of the Court of the Court of the of talety decreasely remarks towards Prime Minister Narvodta Mond and promoting harred towards Prime Court of the Court of the Court of the Provinced the Court of the Court of the Court of the Publiques terror attack. A Bench said it was not suchast of the Court of the Court of the Court of the medical of the Court of the Court of the Court of the such of the Court of the that Ms. Rathere could rulse her objections when charges are framed before the trial court. Appearing for Ms. Rathere, senior advocate Kapil Situal questioned how provisions relating to matiny and waging war against the State could be invoked for her social media posts.

Over 3 lakh schools register for Viksit Bharat Buildathon

The Union Education Ministry's Vilest Bharat Buildathon 2025 was inaugurated on Monday by Education Minister Dharmendra Prudhan, with about 1 crore students from across 2 lakh schools about I crore students from across 2 takit mouse in the country participating in what the government has billed as "India's largest synchronized funcevation hackation for school studens". Students from Glasses 6 to 12 were students". Students from Casses 6 to 12 were asked to come up with ideas and product protestypes for Vilial Bheret. The two-bour "live innovation event" on Monday awe teams of 3-8 students gather to brainstorm ideas.

HC grants interim relief to actor in deepfake case

in a errongly worded order that addresses the growing threat of artificial intelligence-driven impersonation and miserpresentation, the bombay High Court has granted actor Sunisi Shetty urgeni exparts interior relief against the manufactured use of his personality through despitakes and Algeria pressuancy direight 8. Doctor, in an order passed on October 10 and made available on October 13, doccribed the infringing material as "a lethal combination of a deprayed mind and the misuse of technology, resultantly causing barm to the plaintiff's personality rights.

Baramulla bans use of drones after Army raises alarm

The Baracutth administration in north Kashmir in Mantaly ordered a complete lan on drones in Mantaly ordered a complete lan on drones organizing across the district. The order will be in effect until October 81. This follows untelligence District Maghartat, Baramilla, Minga Sherpa (JAS), said the prohibition was ordered "Under Section IGO of the Shaenshy Ragark Surakshy Sauthia (1698), 2003, and follows a reguest from the Complete Complete

Number of births declines: deaths rise slightly: report

The Vital Statistics of India, based on the Civil Registration System report for 2023, shows 86.6 lakh deaths were registered that year, recording a marginal increase from the 86.5 lakh in 2022

radia registered 2.82 crosses births in 2022, around 2.32 lable few-ers and 2.32 lable few-ses around 2.32 lable few-ses around 2.32 lable few facilities around 2.32 lable few The report, compiled by the Registrar-Conseal of the 48 0000 and released of Mondiey, assect that 86.6 in 2023, a marginal in

in 2023, a marginal in-crease from 86.8 lakh deaths in 2022. The report shows that

there was no major spike in deaths in 2022 and 2023, despite the COVID-19 dash board maintained by the Health Ministry showing that the total number of pandemic-induced deaths stood at 5,33,665 as on May

significant rise in deaths in 2021, the second-year of COVID-19 lockdown, which recorded an excess of 21 lakh deaths from the 2020

However, there was a

The report also said that

Gender imbalance Smires Himsley of House Affaire

Jharkhand recorded the 972, and Kerala at 967.
The share of institution 899, fullowerd by Bihar at 900, Telangana at 906, Maharashtra at 909, Guja-rat at 910, Haryana at 911 al births in total registered births is 74.7 % in 2023. However, the report did not include information from sildim, Overall registration and Misoram at 9tt. Since 2020, Bihar has been reof births for the year 2023 ittood at 96,4%.

six, which is defined as the number of formates burn per LOOD males.

Matewise data

desh, Goa and Punjab. Pive States -- Odisha, Mixoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarli Moharashtra, Cibhattisgari and Andhra Pradesh – re-ported 80-90% rughtra tion, while in H Mates – Ac-nam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tiyaura, Tolanga na, Kerala, Karnataku, Bi-tur, Rajayishan, Jamutu & Kashmir, Barkhand, West Pengal, Magbalaya and Dr Tengal, Magbalaya and Dr Hon stood at 80-80%.

Nadu, Lakshudwerp, Anda-man and Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Himachal Pra-

Hike in PF pension under consideration of Cabinet: Minister

The Hindu Dureau

Union Labour Minister Manuakh Mandariya told a meeting of the Central Board of Trastees (CBT) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

the companyers considered the companyers considered the companyers considering increasing the unit-mann FF persion.

Though the issue was not on the agentle, trade said during the discussions that the minimum FP persion should be revised from the present \$1,000 a month. The Minister did not rule it see and daring the control of the co dering the proposal," a 20" member told The Hin-fit after the meeting. The meeting also dis-

ussed the more of delay in distributing higher pen-don as per the Supreme Court order, Some CBT nembers argued that the PFO must withdraw the udelines framed on the emented in tune with the ptemosted in time with the top court order. "The res-ponse was not positive," another member said. The Labour Ministry, in a release, said the meeting took a number of path-breaking decisions, includ-

have crossed 19,261 crors (\$1.08 billion), benefiting over 16 labb beaseholds. As of July 2028, the 4.0 GW

of installations added un-der the PMSGY accounted der the PMSGY accounted for approximately 44,5% of the country's total residen-tial rooftop capacity. The PM actio scheme only incemivises solar in-stallations, whose compo-nent parts are entirely ma-

nufactured in India. Called "DCR-compliant mo-dules", they are on average

decided to simplify the provisions for partial withdrawal

ing simplification and lib

merging D complex provi-sions into a single, stream-lined rule catuporised into three types namely, Kasen-tal Needs (illness, education, marriage), Housin Needs, and Special Cir cumstances. Now, mem-bers will be able to with draw up to 100% of the slightle balance in the Pro-vident Fund, including em ployee and employe share," the Ministry said.

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised - educa tion withdrawals will be al-lowed up to 10 times and marriage up to five times (from existing limit of a total of three partial withdr wals for marriage and edu cation in all "Beguirement of minimum

Singur land meant for defenceless people: SC

quired for Tata Motors 'Na-no' car project in Singor. West Bengal would not be restored to the industrial entities that had been op-erating there prior to its

sequisition,
A Bonch of Justices Sure Kant and Joynulya Bagthi clatthed the acope of
the court's 2016 rolling,
which had quashed the acquisition proceedings for
the Tata Motors plant and
directed that the land bereturned to its original
owners within 12 weeks.

dules, they are on average coulder by #12/wast over imported variants. These larger residential musilia-tions less economically at time-bound reorbor selar capacity targets at the capacity targets at the creating a coherent vi-tion, and What Garg, Director, 18478-5 cmb author, in a statement

The Hinds Bureau NEW DELTI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that land ac-

Authorities meet officer's wife over autopsy

Burnh Kushy

Despite a near four-fold in-

croise in applications bet-ween March 2024 and July 2025, only 13.1% of the tar-

geted I erore solar rooftop installations, under the PM

Surys Gleer Yojana (PMRGY), has been achieved, and just 14.1% of the allocated \$65,700 crore

The Hinda Bureau

A week after Haryana IPS officer Y. Puran Rumar was found dead, his autopsy re-

matric pending.
His family has refused to allow the postmortem to proceed until two key ac-cused in the case — Harya-na Director-General of Police (DGP) Shatrujeet Kapur and former Robtak Supe rintendent of Police Nazen

intendent of Police Naren-dea Bijarniso – are arrest-ed. Officials of the Haryana government were seen vi-ning the residence of Ru-pernucle her to agree to the autopsy. The Chanellgorh Police said the algorial investiga-tion Mr. Kumar, adding her to come forward for identifi-cation of the body to the revealing of the re-cept the memorium of the investigation.

enetite to get out - It's part of febrit (7)

Print grown in hisctories (A)
Sharis Instituting hand interest — sufficient for one with a fall.

(4)
— South be load sign for componence (7)
appears to contribute (14)

(5)

appear is noted inver-field (S):
Bake instruction are constructed in the Bake in the Bake

(8) Foreing self-advension from a model about work (8)

at Time to support a band (%)

Cease to prevoke and import (8)
Therefore, it's a sountry supported by a country (7)
Team on tour, taking except to a group of reptiles, broks and
mammais (7)

THE GROSSWORD + 14613 of notice to the party of the party

The scheme has facilitated the installation of 4,946 MW of rooftop-siter repairty till July 2025 across filetes and Union Territories.

targets to remain a challenge: study

Achieving Centre's rooftop solar

n subsidies released till Ju-ly 2025, a report said. ming largely from "meter shortages, lack of coord-ers, invallers, and DBS-GOMs, and procedural implications at the utility testing the processing led endeavour to encour-age more homes to listfall The government provides onjust upflower via inone. As of July 2028, the pe-

"In this assistation, the PYZGOT target for is reviewed as a considerable challenge," each the report on the performance of the scheme, jointly published by the Inditte for Rivery for the performance of the scheme, jointly published by the Inditte for Energy Economics and Pinancial Analysis (RIKPA) and JMK Research and Analysis on Tuesday.

Tuesday.

Reasons included turdy approval processes, which could used anywhere from 45 to 120 days, stem

riod until which the report tracked progress, the PMSGY had received 57.9

ing "robust on-ground exc-cultion", the report said. Subsidy disbursements

SUDOKL



PARTE

Lessons from Nala's life

The Mahabharata is hailed as the fifth Veda and whosees or listens to discourses from it, or simply reads the text at home will reap rich rewards. There are numerous life guides to be had from it. The Pandavas too gained valua-ble lessons from the life of Nalu when they heard a dis-

ble lessons from the life of Nola when thuy heard a dis-course during winn una, and Damedhara Deckshithur.

I have been been been a support of the property of the lesson of the lesson

mayairdis's encytomeratum was held, a the Chloro Nata, who is the lived in the live

or look in this life or the next



- Superis but not fear to reign supreme (5)

 Development gone selece reduced charge to enter (9)

 St. Circulate colors say, 8's conked with chiens (9)

 Agree to a relationably with an animal (6)

Number of births declines; deaths rise slightly: report

The Vital Statistics of India, based on the Civil Registration System report for 2023, shows 86.6 lakh deaths were registered that year, recording a marginal increase from the 86.5 lakh in 2022

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

ndia registered 2.52 crore births in 2023, around 2.32 lakh fewer than in 2022, the Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS) report for the year 2023 shows.

The report, compiled by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) and released on Monday, stated that 86.6 lakh deaths were registered in 2023, a marginal increase from 86.5 lakh deaths in 2022.

The report shows that there was no major spike in deaths in 2022 and 2023, despite the COVID-19 dashboard maintained by the Health Ministry showing that the total number of pandemic-induced deaths stood at 5,33,665 as on May 5.

However, there was a significant rise in deaths in 2021, the second-year of COVID-19 lockdown, which recorded an excess of 21 lakh deaths from the 2020 count.

There were 81.2 lakh deaths in 2020 and 102.2 lakh in 2021.

The report also said that

Gender imbalance The chart shows five States/Union Territories each with the highest and lowest sex ratios at birth (SRB) in 2023. SRB is commonly defined as the number of female births for every 1,000 male births ■ Highest SRB ■ Lowest SRB 1,007 972 Arunachal Ladakh Maharashtra Pradesh Nagaland Tripura Jharkhand Gujarat Telangana Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Jharkhand recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth at 899, followed by Bihar at 900, Telangana at 906, Maharashtra at 909, Gujarat at 910, Haryana at 911 and Mizoram at 911. Since 2020, Bihar has been recording the lowest sex ratio, which is defined as the number of females born per 1,000 males.

Sex ratio count

The highest sex ratio was reported by Arunachal Pradesh at 1,085, followed by Nagaland at 1,007, Goa at 973, Ladakh and Tripura at 972, and Kerala at 967.

The share of institutional births in total registered births is 74.7 % in 2023. However, the report did not include information from Sikkim. Overall registration of births for the year 2023 stood at 98.4%.

Statewise data

The report said that II States/Union Territories achieved more than 90% registration of births within the prescribed time limit of 21 days.

These States are Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh,

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Punjab. Five States - Odisha, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh - reported 80-90% registration, while in 14 States - As-Delhi, Madhya sam, Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Iharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh - the registration stood at 50-80%.

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Total Births Registered	2.54 crore	2.52 crore	↓ 2.32 lakh fewer
Total Deaths Registered	86.5 lakh	86.6 lakh	↑ Slight rise
Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)	_	_	Varies widely across states

Source & Background

Report prepared by the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Data drawn from the **Civil Registration System** (CRS) – the official national mechanism for recording **births and deaths**.

Released annually as part of the Vital Statistics of India series.

Highest SRB (Females per 1000 males)

Lowest SRB (Females per 1000 males)

Arunachal Pradesh – **1085**

Jharkhand – 899

Nagaland – 1007

Bihar – 900

Goa – 973

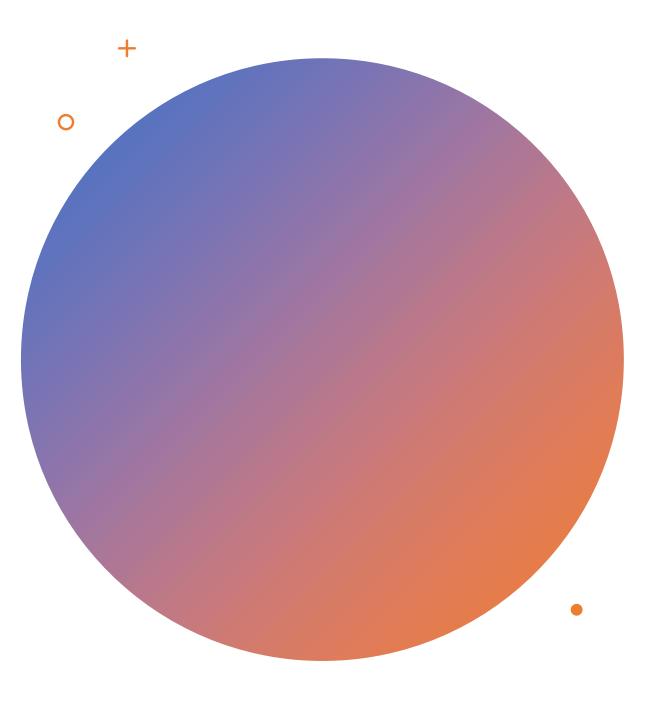
Telangana – 906

Tripura – 972

Maharashtra – 909

Ladakh – 972

Gujarat – 910



- Observations:
- Arunachal Pradesh tops the list for female births (1,085).
- Jharkhand, Bihar, and Telangana record severe gender imbalance below 910 females per 1,000 males.
- **Bihar** has consistently remained at the bottom since 2020.



- Registration Coverage
- Overall Birth Registration: 98.4% in 2023.
- States with >90% registration within 21 days:

Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, Odisha, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh.

• States with 50–80% registration: Assam, Delhi, MP, Tripura, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, J&K, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya, UP. **Sector**

Implication

Population Planning

Reinforces focus on health & education over coercive population control.

Gender Equality

Need for targeted schemes in low-SRB states (Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat).

Public Health

Higher institutional birth rates → better maternal outcomes.

Data Governance

CRS strengthening shows improved administrative reliability for vital stats.

Parameter 2023 Data

Total Births 2.52 crore

Total Deaths 86.6 lakh

Highest SRB Arunachal Pradesh – 1,085

Lowest SRB Jharkhand – 899

Institutional Births 74.7%

Overall Registration Coverage 98.4%

Report Published By Registrar General of India (RGI)

System Used Civil Registration System (CRS)

Achieving Centre's rooftop solar targets to remain a challenge: study

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

Despite a near four-fold increase in applications between March 2024 and July 2025, only 13.1% of the targeted 1 crore solar rooftop installations, under the PM Ghar Surya Yojana has (PMSGY), been achieved, and just 14.1% of the allocated ₹65,700 crore in subsidies released till July 2025, a report said.

"In this scenario, the FY2027 target [of 1 crore installations] continues to be viewed as a considerable challenge," said the report on the performance of the scheme, jointly published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics on Tuesday.

Reasons included tardy approval processes, which could stretch anywhere from 45 to 120 days, stem-



The scheme has facilitated the installation of 4,946 MW of rooftop solar capacity till July 2025 across States and Union Territories.

ming largely from "meter shortages, lack of coordination between consumers, installers, and DIS-COMs, and procedural inefficiencies at the utility level," it noted.

The PMSGY is a Centreled endeavour to encourage more homes to install rooftop solar connections. The government provides capital upfront via loans.

As of July 2025, the pe-

riod until which the report tracked progress, the PMSGY had received 57.9 lakh applications for residential rooftop solar installations. The scheme has facilitated the installation of 4,946 MW of rooftop solar capacity till July 2025 across various States and Union Territories, indicating "robust on-ground execution", the report said. Subsidy disbursements

have crossed ₹9,281 crore (\$1.05 billion), benefiting over 16 lakh households. As of July 2025, the 4.9 GW of installations added under the PMSGY accounted for approximately 44.5% of the country's total residential rooftop capacity.

The PM solar scheme only incentivises solar installations, whose component parts are entirely manufactured in India. Called "DCR-compliant modules", they are on average costlier by ₹12/watt over imported variants. "These higher prices are making larger residential installations less economically attractive," the report said.

"Establishing clear, time-bound rooftop solar capacity targets at the State level is essential for creating a coherent vision," said Vibhuti Garg, Director, IEEFA-South Asia, and a contributing author, in a statement.

- A joint study by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics highlights serious implementation delays in the PM Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY) India's flagship rooftop solar initiative.
- Despite increased applications, only 13.1% of the target (1 crore households) has been achieved by July 2025.

Feature	Details
Launched	2023
Objective	Install rooftop solar in 1 crore households (FY 2027 target)
Implementing Agencies	MNRE (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy), DISCOMs, State Nodal Agencies
Subsidy Outlay	₹65,700 crore
Achievement (as of July 2025)	13.1% of target; 14.1% subsidy utilized
Installed Capacity	4.946 GW (4,946 MW)
Beneficiaries	~16 lakh households
Contribution to Total Rooftop Capacity	~44.5% of total residential rooftop solar capacity

a. Slow Progress

- Only 13.1 lakh of 1 crore target households installed systems.
- Subsidy disbursed: ₹9,281 crore (14.1% of total fund).

b. Administrative Delays

- Approval and installation period expanded from 45–120 days, leading to applicant dropouts.
- Issues: meter shortages, weak consumer—installer coordination, inefficiencies in DISCOM processes.

c. Cost Barriers

- Scheme mandates 100% India-made solar modules and components called DCR-compliant modules.
- These are ₹12/watt costlier than imported alternatives, making large installations less viable for middle-class households.

d. Policy Implementation Gaps

- Lack of State-wise solar capacity targets.
- Poor monitoring and inconsistent coordination among central, state, and local bodies.



Parameter Status (as of July 2025)

Applications Received 57.9 lakh

Installed Capacity 4.946 GW

Subsidy Disbursed ₹9,281 crore

Total Outlay ₹65,700 crore

Beneficiary Households 16 lakh

Share of National Rooftop Solar 44.5%

Challenge Area	Description
Procedural Delays	Lengthy approval and metering; fragmented communication.
Utility Inefficiency	DISCOMs slow in rooftop integration, citing grid safety.
Cost Competitiveness	Domestic modules expensive vs. Chinese imports.
Consumer Awareness	Low understanding of application & subsidy processes.
State-Level Targets	Absence of granular capacity goals hampers accountability.

National Goal (India)

500 GW renewable capacity by

2030

280 GW solar energy target

(2030)

Rooftop solar share target (40%)

Net-zero emissions by 2070

Progress/Status

~197 GW achieved (as of mid-

2025)

~87 GW achieved

Currently ~18% of total solar capacity

Dependent on acceleration in distributed solar energy

Parameter Value / Note

Scheme Name PM Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY)

Target Year FY 2027

Total Target 1 crore rooftop installations

Total Subsidy Outlay ₹65,700 crore

Installed Capacity (till July 2025) 4,946 MW

Beneficiaries 16 lakh households

Implementing Agency MNRE

Study Published By IEEFA & JMK Research

Top State (as per earlier reports)Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

※ 「N 日本日本 日日ご覧り

12



Jio Payments Bank wins contract for MLFF project

Jio Financial Services on Monday said in subsidiary Jio Payments Bank has secured a contract in implement the PASTing Australia Past Services of the Past Services of the collection system at two toll places between Curugaran and plagur. With Inia, Jio Payments Bank Lid, has funged itsis nest generations tolling ervices for Multi-Auer Prev Plany road projects, which is an electronic bill collection system that shimitates physical toll booths. secure

BMS introduces selective cardiac myosin inhibitor drug

Bristol Myers Squibb (BM20 has unveiled a selective cardiac myosin inhibitor Koposgo (Mavacamten), BMS builds on the company's strong presence in oncology and haematology the firm said in a release on its decision to launch the drug to treat adults with symptomatic the drug to from addiss with symptomatic obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Mavacamiesi was approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation with an import license issued on March 6, 2025.

Tata Capital makes subdued debut, valuing at \$15.78 billion

Tata Capital, India's third-largest non-bank lender by revenue, was market in its debut trade on Norsday, valuing the firm a 'C4 wrillion GHS.78 billions, with inventors coorningly not that keen to be considered to the constraint of the con-trol of the constraint of the constraint of the con-trol of the constraint of the constraint of the way years. That Capital's uselfoot debars has come in a busy IPO market, where analysis say investors appear to forcout IC Electronics India's \$1.3 billion share sale as they respect strenger letting gains and forst-form growth. some

Mokyr, Aghion and **Howitt win Nobel** economics prize

tee, said.

Winners are professors in U.S., French and British universities, prize worth \$1.2 mn highlights work on innovation-driven economic growth

out Mokyr, Philippe Agbion and Peter Howitt was the 200 Nobel economics prize for "having explained innova-tion-driven economic

raving expanses intover growth, the Boyal Sweds and on Monslay.

The prestigious wards, region files and on Monslay.

The prestigious wards, region files and the files an

granted," the prize-award-ing body said in a state-

sing bendy said in a seate-ment. Economic stagas-tion, and growth, has been the norm for most of his-terior to the norm for most of search of the norm of the search of an armony of the search of the norm of the search of the norm of the way of the norm of the way of the norm of the search of the norm of the norm of the search of the norm of the search of the norm of the norm of the search of the norm of the norm of the search o sor at Brown University, in Providence in the United States. Mr. Mokyr was

vourable trade deal.

India has been esadfast
on its commitment to
maintaining domestic
energy security. New Delhi
has been procuring Russian oil at a discount after

the latter found itself mired in sanctions following their

actions in Ukraine. While Indian state-run

refiners have cut purchases from Moscow, India's privately-owned refiners.

awarded balf the prise with the other half being shared hatween Aghton and Howitt. "Joel Mokyr used historter, being given out first in 1969 when it was won by Norway's Rappar Prisch and fan Timbergen from the Netherlands for work ical observations to identi-fy the factors necessary for sustained growth based on technological innova-tions," John Hamler, mem-ber of the Nobel Commitin dynamic economic mo-delling. Tinbergen's broth-er Nikolaas also won a

prize, taking home Medi-eine in 1973. While few economists are household names, rela-Creative destruction
"Philippe aghton and Peter Howitt produced a
mathematical model of
mathematical model of
mathematical model of
sendless process in which
now and better products
regimes the old."
The dwarf of terminity,
peace and literature were
amounced last week.
These prises were estated dynamic reventer and Creative destruction

are boundeded names, rela-tively well sknown winnests include former U.B. Federa-tively well sknown winnests bernanke, and Paul Krug-rian and Milton Friedman. Law year?—economics academies limon Johnson, James Roblinson and Davon James Roblinson and Davon James Roblinson and Davon patroles in the participation of the explored the relationship between colonization and the establishment of public some countries have been nined in poverty for de-catles. ish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel and have been handed out since 1901, with a few inter-ruptions mostly due to the

HCLTech posts flat Q2 net profit at ₹4,235 cr.; revenue rises 11%

The Hindu Bureau storgatoro

HCL Tech on Monday re-ported a flat net profit of \$4,238 crore during the July September quarter of PV36. However, requen-tially, its net profit and rethally, its net profit and re-venue grew 10% and 8.2%, respectively. The compa-ny's Q2 revenue grew at 153,942 etere, up 11%, as against 25,652 erore it posted in the same quarter a year earlier. The compa-ny also declared an interior dividend of 122 per equity share for the financial year 2025/26.

On FY26 guidance, the company executives said at a press conference that its pected to be between 3.8% yoy in constant currency (CC), while the services revenue growth is expected to be between 4-2% YoY in OC. The Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) margin is likely to remain between 17-18%.

the tween TF-1875.

MD & CEO C. Vigovida-tinat, in his commentary, called the quarter "a star-cialed the quarter "a star-cialed the quarter "a star-geoscation, growing de-mand for our Al-powered solutions, and Advanced colutions, and Advanced man this quarter." He further said the company's reve-tue grev 2.4% sequentially a strong recovery of oper-ating margin to 17-39s.
"For the first lines, our "For the first lines, our S.3.5, billion, without re-liance on any mega-deal."

liance on any mega-deal. We added 3,480 people to our employes base while



continuing to increase o revenue per employes

Al growth strategy."
HCLTech delivered strong 18th revenue growth of 5.2% QoQ and 10.7% YoY in Q2 FY26, and this revenue growth was accompa-nied by enhanced profite-bility and solid cash goneration, said Chief Fi-nancial Officer shiv Walla. According to Blawajit Maity, Sr Principal Analysi at Gartner, given the ongoing economic headwinds global instability, and re-duced budgets for non-ca-sential technology initiatives, major Indian IT companies were anticipat

three, major Indian. IT companies were anticipal companies were anticipal companies. It is a superior to the property of the p

duced to 12.6% in the quar-ter, from 13.9% in the year earlier period.

MISTY SE

BEST	WATCH	
	Mileson	in homes
	ALM'S	70.44
40		0.00
40	1277000	104

	1994	33444.0E
milari Erine	dist et	51.54
NORTH PRINT	1411100	20.76
Spirito Hasa	1971.04	-94-04
Victor Flent II	1171-00	4.14
et direct	1330066	934
BOARD PROPERTY.	WHEN PA	12275
August 7 to Section 1		199.44
Hatt France	Miles, TE.	13:46
Carel Circumstance Communication Circumstance Communication Communicatio	400.44	4410
Breed Water	1994.46	10.04
	1955.66	1.66
	344.44	4.64
	1161-11	77.00
NORWAL Markets	10111.00	93.06
Berthart Lane.	246.44	0.500
substitution for the	10086-04	11.66
NO. Face	1488.16	10.49
1042-144	Ten 44	475
endstea.	140.00	0.15
and Maleson	1991.90	20.16
ninis Rippi.	2177.10	18.70
SEC PROPERTY.	ATK1.00	
7910	1493.34	41.76
in .	490.15	19.99
or Francis Asses	150,44	100
	199.44	50.00
SA SANCE		2.46
THE PARTY.	4151-10	
41	7130-00	14.16
	2120.11	A88
	10455.55	3446
Man Third Bellion	1135.11	15.15
tartista by	1100.10	11.46
100	241.70	7.00
HANN	241.70	2.75
Annual Control	180.10	1000
NAME OF THE OWNER.	1575.00	
NIS 100	1410.44	411
tore sure	1811.00	777
CAR SALE	**0.56	
Beker Huntel	277.15	***
hate Chapters	1000.00	110
THE PROPERTY.		
And House	1955.05	0.58
and believed	680.18	18,55
Win Street	ireas	31.16
ES .	6147,33	
		15.56
Side .	7155.65	3.16
NO F LUE	9081.00	0.00

rest and in this is, in	nmar	The second
ASSESSMENT TO A STATE OF	TT BUT	27 3814
NO THE R.	88.00	40.64
SIACE.	102.55	193.55
School Swand	118.03	110.48
INCLUDING THE PROPERTY.	108.10	18.15
Chinese Visers	TEAL	18.55
SHOW FIRST	110.12	410.30
Distriction Posts	68.18	46.46
CHESARTAN PROPERTY	64.03	45.40

Indian refiners cut Russian oil imports by 45% between June and Sept.: Kpler data

Santaparno Ghosh

State-owned refiners trimmed down purchases of Bussian oil by more than 48% between June and September this year, ac-cording to data from realtime maritime and analyt-ics provider Kpler.

Speaking to The Hindu, Naveen Day, Senior Cruste Oil Analyst at Epter said tate-owned refiners took deboth of oil from Hussia in tkb/d) of oil from Russia in seprember, a "fairly sub-stantial" cut from 1.1 mil-lion harrelat/ay they took in June this year. The triuming down of Russian oil imports fall signitist a larger geospolitical artiting centred around U.S.



President Dunald Trump imposing 80% tariff on im-ports from India this Au-gust. This included a 28% penalty for buying Russian off, Washington has been adamant that New India halt their crude purchases from Monore as a preson deton to regolitate a fa-

brokers body raise issue of GST burden

The Hindu Bureau

The Insurance Brokers As-sociation of India (IBAI) has urged the General In-surance Consult for an in-dustry dialogue on transfer of Goests and Services Tax GST) burden to Intermediaries. It also *raised concerns

over market conduct, urg-ing the Council to advise ers to honour existing privately-awned refiners, Reliance Industries and Russials' Rosnell-hucked Nayara Energy, lave raised their uptake. According to Replet data, RLL now im-ports 850 MAd of Russian oil, more than double the 420 Med It was importing in January, Nayara Import in January, Nayara Import ed nearly 400 MAd In Ce-tober - in highest this year. commission arrange-ments, avoid discouraging the servicing of retail health policies and consult information to the strong terms." IBAI said this after its leadership submitted a representation to GI Counsil Chairman Tapan Kingbel on Monday.

Insurance Business as usual



Taliban Minister calls for easing visa regime. enhanced trade

Kallol Kanti Bhattacheries

Taliban administration's Tallian administration?
Foreign Minister Arthr
Khan Muttaqi Monday
pitched for greater connecivity between India and
Afghanistra and said the
via regime between their
via regime between the
problem proper connect.

Speaking at a business
vector at the FECCI boung.

hanced trade in fresh fruits and in the mining sector.
Mr. Muttagt said the Ta-



Amir Khan Mietlasp

dustry majors to to set up manufacturing units in Afghanistan. "Your side should consider it as it will ing into the 4-wheeler af-termarket to serve a wider base of automotive stakecertainly be a profitable venture," he added.

Auto spare parts start-up Partnr plans to expand to 50 cities

The Hindu Dureau

Partnr, a quick commerce platform for automotive platform for automotive spare parts, currently for tower-wineders, and sates-ing to neighbourhood me-tions from the current 30 efficies to 80 cities in finda.
"We are expanding our security deseport hyperfo-cult reach for mechanics and workdups across fo-ture into the current spare.

Partne works with over 20.000 garages across India and operates a network of 90 dark stores

holders," said Vishal Du-bey, founder & CEO, Partnr, "We are also scaling doorstep servicing nation-wide so riders can book a mechanic via the Partnr app and get their vehicle serviced at home, work place, or on the go," he ad-ded. Partnr works with ov-

Tata MF suspends fresh investment in Silver ETF Fund of Fund amid high silver prices

The Hindu Bureau

tara Munual Fund has an Tala Matual Fund has are nonneed a temporary au-ponision of purchases, switch-ins, fresh 31%, and fresh 37% into the scheme in the Tata 31/eer ETF Fund of Fund, effective Tuesday.

Physical silver shortage This decision comes amid a global and domestic shortage of physical silver, resulting in austained pre-mians in silver spot prices over futures prices. er 20,000 garages across India and operates a net-work of 90 dark stores. ITFs – which are backed

by physical silver – are trading at a premium to their respective INAVs. Tain Silver ETP Fund of Tata MF and

Taia Rilee ETP Frant of Fund is an open-ondui Fund of Pund scheme it-teeting in Trata Silver it-teeting in Trata Silver it-teeting in Traded Fund Craix Silver it-FY. Tata Silver it-is an open-onded scheme replicating / fracking fun-eritic Price of Silver. "This is to inform twee-tors that, due to prevailing market

market conditions and shortage of physical silver in the domestic market, silver is trading at a premium relative to international prices. Therefore, the pre-

Two MF said.

"In light of the current market avenario, Tata Mutual Fund has decided to temporarily suspend all lumpsom investment, Switch-in into the scheme & fresh registration of Systematic Investment Plan (SH) and Systematic Investment Plan (SH) and Systematic Transfer Plan (SH) into

registered under the scheme shall remain oper-ational. Summit.

Critical minerals supply secure, says Goyal

The Union government has set a strong foundation to secure Indice critical minerals supply and processing through legal reforms and targeted investments, said Physical Goyal, Section 1998, Ministry of Mines here on Monday.

To build a reallient critical minerals acrossing

the scheme from the effective date," it said.
All existing 3th and 3TP develop domestic process
ing capacities and should also ensure tight industry-

Mokyr, Aghion and Howitt win Nobel economics prize

Winners are professors in U.S., French and British universities; prize worth \$1.2 mn highlights work on innovation-driven economic growth

Reuters

STOCKHOLM

oel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the 2025 Nobel economics prize for "having explained innovation-driven economic growth", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

The prestigious award, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is the final prize to be given out this year and is worth 11 million Swedish Kronor (\$1.2 million).

"The laureates have taught us that sustained growth cannot be taken for granted," the prize-awarding body said in a statement. Economic stagnation, not growth, has been the norm for most of human history. Their work shows that we must be aware of, and counteract, threats to continued growth."

Mr. Mokyr is a professor at Northwestern University, in Evanston in the United States, while Mr. Aghion is professor at the College de France and INSEAD, in Paris, and at the London School of Economics and Political Science, in Britain. Mr. Howitt is a professor at Brown University, in Providence in the United States. Mr. Mokyr was



Moment of pride: Visuals of Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt, recipients of the Nobel Economics prize. REUTERS

awarded half the prize with the other half being shared between Aghion and Howitt.

"Joel Mokyr used historical observations to identify the factors necessary for sustained growth based on technological innovations," John Hassler, member of the Nobel Committee, said.

Creative destruction

"Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt produced a mathematical model of creative destruction, an endless process in which new and better products replace the old."

The awards for medicine, physics, chemistry, peace and literature were announced last week.

Those prizes were established in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel and have been handed out since 1901, with a few interruptions mostly due to the world wars.

The economics prize was established much later, being given out first in 1969 when it was won by Norway's Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen from the Netherlands for work in dynamic economic modelling. Tinbergen's brother Nikolaas also won a prize, taking home Medicine in 1973.

While few economists are household names, relatively well-known winners include former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, and Paul Krugman and Milton Friedman. Last year's economics award went to U.S.-based academics Simon Johnson, James Robinson and Daron Acemoglu for research that explored the relationship between colonisation and the establishment of public institutions to explain why some countries have been mired in poverty for de-

- Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (2025) awarded to:
 - Joel Mokyr (Northwestern University, USA)
 - Philippe Aghion (College de France & INSEAD, Paris; London School of Economics)
 - Peter Howitt (Brown University, UK)
- Prize citation:

"For having explained innovation-driven economic growth."

- Total prize: 11 million Swedish Kronor (≈ \$1.2 million)
- Announced by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

2. Key Contributions

A. Joel Mokyr

- Approach: Historical and empirical analysis of technological innovation as a driver of sustained growth.
- Focus: How societies that embraced knowledge, curiosity, and science experienced sustained prosperity.
- Used historical data to explain how innovation ecosystems not just capital or labor fuel longterm growth.

Mokyr demonstrated that sustained growth is not automatic — it depends on institutions that foster innovation.

B. Philippe Aghion & Peter Howitt

- Jointly developed the "Schumpeterian growth model" a mathematical model of creative destruction.
- Core idea: Economic progress happens through continuous innovation, where new ideas replace old technologies.
- Their model explains:
 - Why competition stimulates innovation.
 - How research & development (R&D) drives productivity.
 - The policy trade-off between short-term disruption and long-term gains from innovation.

"Creative destruction" — the endless cycle in which new and better products replace the old — remains central to modern innovation policy.

3. Broader Economic Context

- The Nobel Committee noted that the laureates' work is especially relevant in an era of:
 - Slowing global productivity,
 - Technological disruption (AI, automation), and
 - Climate transition economics.
- Their research helps policymakers design innovation-based industrial strategies that sustain economic growth.

Parameter Detail

Full name

Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory

of Alfred Nobel

First awarded 1969

First winners Ragnar Frisch (Norway) & Jan Tinbergen (Netherlands)

Prize money (2025) 11 million SEK (\approx \$1.2 million)

Established by Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish Central Bank)

Selected by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Distinct from

Original five Nobel Prizes (Physics, Chemistry, Medicine,

Peace, Literature)

Y	ear	Laureates	Work/Theme
2	024	Simon Johnson, James Robinson, Daron Acemoglu	Institutions & economic development
2	021	David Card, Joshua Angrist, Guido Imbens	Empirical labor economics
2	018	William Nordhaus & Paul Romer	Climate economics & endogenous growth
2	800	Paul Krugman	Trade theory & economic geography

Parameter Answer

Nobel Economic Prize 2025 Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt

Prize Theme Innovation-driven economic growth

Country Affiliation USA, France, UK

Prize Money 11 million SEK (~\$1.2 million)

Key TheoryCreative Destruction Model
(Schumpeterian Growth)

Institution Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



- The Ministry of Finance has given in-principle approval for setting up Maitri II, India's new research station in east Antarctica.
- What is Maitri II?
- About: Maitri II is India's upcoming and fourth research station in Antarctica, scheduled to be completed by January 2029. It strengthens India's long-term scientific presence under the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS, 1959).
- Purpose & Need: It is being built to replace the old Maitri station (1989), which has surpassed its original design life of 10 years and has issues like flawed waste management.

- Nodal Agency: The project is led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Key Features:
 - Larger and Greener: Bigger than the original Maitri, planned as a "green research base."
 - Renewable Energy: Uses solar power for summer and wind energy to harness Antarctic winds.
 - Advanced Technology: Equipped with automated instruments to record and relay data to mainland India even when unmanned.
 - Improved Infrastructure: Features upgraded living conditions and improved toilets.

• Significance:

- Antarctica contains 75% of Earth's freshwater, and studying its ice sheets is crucial for forecasting sea-level rise.
- Critical for understanding untapped mineral deposits, marine biodiversity, and ecological baselines.
- Reinforces India's voice in global climate and polar governance discussions.

- India's Other Research Stations in Antarctica
 - Dakshin Gangotri (1983):Dakshin Gangotri, established under the Indian Antarctic Program in 1983, was India's first scientific research base in Antarctica, but it was submerged in ice and decommissioned in 1990.
 - The Indian Antarctic Programme, led by NCPOR, began in 1981 to conduct scientific research and protect India's interests in the polar region.

- Maitri (1989): Maitri is India's second permanent research station in Antarctica, established in 1989.
 - It is located in the **rocky mountainous Schirmacher Oasis**, and India also created a **freshwater lake** nearby, called **Lake Priyadarshini**.
- Bharti (2012): Located about 3,000 km east of Maitri, the 'Bharati' research station lies between Thala Fjord and Quilty Bay.
 - Commissioned in **2012**, it has a **compact design** and supports **year-round scientific research** under the **Indian Antarctic Program**.



- Five beaches in Maharashtra have received the **international Blue Flag** certification.
 - The list includes Shrivardhan and Nagaon beaches, Parnaka, and Guhagar and Ladghar beaches.
- What is Blue Flag Certification?
- Blue Flag is a **globally recognized eco-label for beaches**, marinas, and sustainable boating operators that meet strict environmental, safety, educational, and accessibility standards, often termed the gold standard of beach cleanliness.



It is administered by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a Denmark-based non-profit recognized by UNEP and UNESCO.



India implements **Blue Flag under BEAMS** (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) within the **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme.**



The nodal agency In India is the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Blue Flag beaches in India (2025)

India has 12 certified beaches: Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod (Karnataka), Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden Beach/Puri (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu), Eden Beach (Puducherry), Minicoy Thundi (Lakshadweep), and Kadmat (Lakshadweep).

Kenton R. Miller Award



• Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park became the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

About Kenton R. Miller Award

- Established in **2006**, the Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability is presented **every two years** by the **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**.
 - WCPA is one of the six technical commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award honors individuals who demonstrate innovation and leadership in conserving national parks and protected areas, particularly in ensuring their long-term sustainability.
- The award is named after Dr. Kenton R. Miller, a former IUCN Director General and a prominent global leader in protected area management.



- Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara was awarded the Abel Prize 2025 for contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory.
- Contributions of Masaki Kashiwara
- He pioneered the theory of **D-modules**, an algebraic framework to study systems of linear partial differential equations (PDEs).
- He developed tools like **microsupport and characteristic varieties**, which reveal how singularities in equations propagate.
- His work on **sheaf theory**, deepened understanding of how local analytical data connects to global geometric structure.

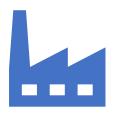
About Abel Prize

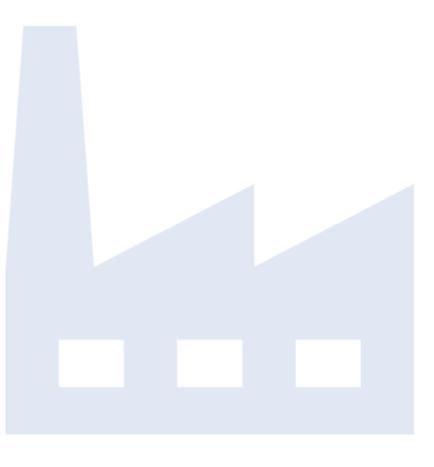
- The Abel Prize is an international award recognizing outstanding scientific work in mathematics, often considered the equivalent of a **Nobel Prize for mathematicians**.
 - It is named in honor of the 19th-century Norwegian mathematician **Niels Henrik Abel.**
- Awarded by: The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on behalf of the Government of Norway.
- Selection process: An expert committee of five internationally recognized mathematicians recommends the laureate(s) to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- The prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2002 and first awarded in 2003.
 - It can be awarded to mathematicians of any age and nationality.



- Some Notable Laureates
- Jean-Pierre Serre: First laureate (2003) for contributions in algebraic geometry and topology.
- Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan: Indian-origin mathematician, won in 2007.
- Michel Talagrand (France) For contributions to probability theory and functional analysis won in 2024.

Base Year Revision of Index of Industrial Production (IIP)





• The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is set to revise the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 2022–23, aligning it with the new base year proposed for GDP estimation.

- Need for Revising the Base Year
- The IIP is a key **short-term indicator** of industrial activity, used by the government, RBI, and researchers for policymaking, forecasting, and national accounts.
- The last IIP base year revision was 2011–12 and since then, major technological changes, product diversification, and digitalization have reshaped industrial production.
 - India's economic structure has transformed: services contribute **62.5% of GVA**, agriculture **15%**, and industry **22%**, indicating scope for growth.

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- The IIP is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- The IIP is compiled as a simple weighted arithmetic mean of production relatives by using **Laspeyre's formula**.
- It is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
- 1. Broad sectors: Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
- 2. **Use-based sectors**: Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- Released by: The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Base year: 2011-2012
- Periodicity: Monthly basis



• The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has launched "Operation Golden Sweep", cracking down on a transnational gold smuggling syndicate at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

What it is?

- A strategic intelligence-led operation by DRI aimed at dismantling a global gold smuggling network using transit passengers and airport insiders to transport contraband gold into India.
- <u>Agency Involved:</u> Conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under the Ministry of Finance.
- <u>Aim:</u> To disrupt organized smuggling cartels, safeguard India's economic security, and curb illicit gold inflows that undermine legitimate trade and drain foreign exchange reserves.

• Features:

- Gold seized: 10.488 kg of 24-carat gold valued at ₹12.58 crore.
- Modus operandi: Transit passengers from Dubai, Singapore, Bangkok, and Dhaka concealed gold in egg-shaped wax capsules inside their bodies.

•



• The International Purple Fest 2025 was recently concluded in Goa, showcasing India's commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PwDs).

• <u>Hosted by:</u> Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Government of India.

Organised by:

- Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa.
- In collaboration with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and United Nations India.

• Aim:

- To mainstream disability inclusion in governance, education, and employment.
- To foster empathy-based awareness and encourage universal design in public spaces.

Armenia Joins IUCN

• Armenia has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, marking its entry into the global coalition for biodiversity protection.

What it is?

- A landlocked transcontinental country situated in the South Caucasus region, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.
- Capital: Yerevan (Erevan).
- <u>Bordering Nations</u>: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey and Nakhchivan exclave (Azerbaijan) to the southwest.

UNESCO launches the World's First Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects

• UNESCO has recently launched the world's first Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects at the MONDIACULT 2025 Conference in Barcelona, Spain.



• India's Representation: Features two 9th-century sandstone sculptures from Mahadev Temple, Pali (Chhattisgarh) — a Nataraja and Brahma figure — stolen during colonial-era looting.

Word of the day

Languish:

lose vigour, health, or flesh, as through grief; have a desire for something or someone who is not present; become feeble

Synonyms: pine away, waste, ache, yearn, fade

Usage: The prisoner has been languishing for years in the dungeon.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/languishpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈlæŋ.gwɪʃ/



