









THE **EXPRESS** 



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10 MCQ QUIZ



"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people."

- Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

Petitions in HC seek

independent probe



India listed 683 new species, 433 taxa in 2024 HEWS IN PAGE &



Israel bombs Gaza in run-up to truce talks

**GST** reform and tobacco control The shortcomings in taxing tobacco products must be addressed EDITORIAL S PAGE II



Ayush wins his first **BWF World Tour title** BPORT # PAGE 17

#### INSIDE

HEWE IS PAGE 4



Terror in J&K is a legitimate struggle: Munir

DEAMARAD Padutan Army Chief Asim Morer has described terrorism in Jamenu and Rashmir as a Segitimate struggle? saying is country would always stand by the propie of Kashouir in that strupple, is page as

Border dispute with India was complex: China

boundary dispute with India was complicated and would take time to settle but at the same time. It are same time, it expressed its readiness to hold discussions on the delimitation of the border, to make 4

Pharma unit blast kills 17 near Hyderabad Rescue work under way at the site with teams Official inquiry on to determine the cause of the combing the debris for survivors and victims disaster; suspects explosion of air handling unit

a many as 17 per-sons were killed and 30 injured tion," said Paritosh Pankaj, Kangareddy Saperinten-dent of Police. when a massive explosion ripped through a pharma centical unit of Agacht industries at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad on Monlay morning.
Most of the workers em-

ployed at the unit are mi-grants from Bihar and West Bengal. One of them had said the factory had 12hour work shifts from 8 a.m. uz 8 p.m. At the time of the blast,

At the time of the blast, around 80 workers were believed to be working it the production unit.

"Five of the persons were claim of the production of the persons were charted in the fire," said Daimodar Bingh, National Diamodar Bingh, National Diamodar Respected Commander, Officials Indicated their, while the blast tion, many fives were lost

due to the subsequent col-lapse of the building.
"DNA teeting has been ordered to identify the de-ceased, whose bodies were charred beyond recogni-

30 workers suffer injuries with many crushed or

trapped under the debris amid chaos of explosion

A majority of the victime were trapped under the production unit housing the reactor when it collapsed.

The Fire Control Boom reserves the distress call shortly before 9.37 a.m., af-

her which 18 fire tenders including robots, hazmats and multipurpose vehicles were deployed.

Rescue efforts
Volucies were rushed from
as far as Securedershad (40
ion away) and Rependrana
gar five stations (48 km).
Rescans efforts continued
tate into the evening, with
tearns coronally combine
through the debris for any survivors or victims.

Reactive trains, including the Fire Department, NDRF, and local police, managed to pull out 30 in-dividuals alive from the de-brits, many of whom suf-ferred sovere burns and other critical injuries. An official inquiry is un-

der way to determine the - the deadly explosion Pank and her gripped the industrial belt of Pashamylaram as plumes of smoke, the wall of sirens, and a stream of ambulances and emergency vehicles

The deadly explication.

The air near the blast some hung thick and heavy, difficult to breathe as one approached the shattered remains of Sigachi Indus-

tored in the blast.
Initially all of the injured individuals were rushed to Kakatiya Hospital, located 3.8 km from the blast size.
From stere, depending

on the severity they were shifted to Obrava Hospital, Franam Hospital, Archana Hospital, Star Hospital, Yashoda Hospital in Mad-hapur, and Panacea Meri-dian Hospital near Decramguda.

DNA teetings ordered slangareds/y stuperintendent of Police Partners between the property of t DNA testings ordered

residents at bay. The said-den influx of omergency personnel and the pensis-tent smell of chemicals in the air left the neighbour-bood in a state of alarm.

Director of Factories Ra-jagopal Ran said that the unit was engaged in the manufacture of Microcryatalline Cellulose (MCC), a white, odourless, tasteles powder derived from

powder durived from wood pulp.

"It is widely used as a binding agent in tablets and in various industries cale, commercies, and food. While not inherently ha-ardous, officials are inves-igning the possibility that pressure heliclup in the caused the blast. Prelimin-ary assessments suggest ary assessments suggest that the air handling unit may have exploded," ex-plained the officer.

#### Precautions and preparations



### EC clarifies on rules for intensive revision of Bihar's electoral rolls

### Sceoparna Chakrabarty

As the electoral rolls in Bi-har are undergoing a spe-cial intensive revision (SID), the Election Com-mission (EC) on Monday uploaded the 2003 list of 4-98 evere electors and clarified that a person born to the control of the con-proof of birth of parents if their sames flaure on the As the electoral rolls in Biheir names figure on the 1903 rolls. An extract of he voter rolls will suffice in

as now nearly 60% of the total electorate would not have to almost any doculaw to almost any docuterm of the second of the s

much cases, it said.

Major relief
The ease of availability of 2003 electoral rolls of 61-bar would beging facilitate the ongoing special inter-street of the 2003 electoral rolls of 81-bar erceivion Silbi in filher



rolls rather than providing any other documents for his or her mother or father 'In each cases only the re levant extract/details of the 2003 ER would be suffi-cient. Such electors would have to submit the docu-ments, only for them-selves, along with the

gin, 34, and Lengouhao, 35. The slain woman was identified as 72-year-old Phallting from Koite

Allage.
The KNA is the armed

wing of the Kuki Nationa

filled-up Enumeration Form, "a middlethines caid any person whose name is not recorded on the 2003 election? I roll shall for enable to the state of the state of

- PAGE S S PAGE S RELATED REPORT

### Not offering Iran 'anything', nor speaking to them: Trump | shot dead in Manipur's Churachandpur

Agence France Presse

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was not offering fran anything nor talking to it "since we totally obliterat-ed" the country's nuclear "I am not offering tran

ANYTHING, unlike Oba-ma," Mr. Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Nor um I even talking to them since we totally OBLITERATED their No-

ORLITERATED These No-clear Facilities."

The statement comes as train's Deputy Foreign Mi-nister fold the BRC that talks between Washington and Tehran cannot resume strikes the U.S. rules out further strikes on bun. Majid Takht Ravanchi



Denoted Trump Feet hand No. broops "totally oblikerated" frant's masteur facilities, at

told the British breadcastold the British breastess for that the U.S. had sig-nelled it wants to return to the negotiating table, a factor of the transfer of the "We have not agreed to any clate, we have not agreed to the modelity," Mr. Talche-Ravanchi said. "Right now we are seek-

ing an answer to this spec-tion. Are we going to see a repetition of an act of aggreation while we are en-inging in dialogue?"

The U.S. needs to be

"quite clear on this very important question", he important question", The two countries were in talks over Tehran's no-

clear programme when tarael hit frunian nuclear aites and military infras-tracture this month, with the U.S. Johining by tendi-field, Nature and Islahun on Jine I. The Deputy Minister re-vealed to the BRC that the vealed to the BRC that the "not want to engage in re-gime change" by targeting Supreme Leader Aystollah All Klameren. pur district of Manipur on Monday by unidentified gunmen who ambushed An elderly woman was also killed after a stray bulalso killed after a stray bul-let hit her. Officials said the inci-dent occurred around 2 p.m. on Jesami Road near

Mongjong village, about 10 km. from the district km from the district headquarters. Security personnel found more than a dexest empty shells at the speet, in-dicating that the assallants fired a volley of shots from clear range at the ear in

The Blinds Bureau

extremus leader from

the Kuki-zo community and his two bodyguards

were killed in Churachand

# most: #

Kuki extremist leader and three others

Orussems Hilling: A positiated photo of a victim of the anticult in Churachandpur of Manipur on Monday, article, Alexanderical which Themkhothang, allos Thalipi Haokip, the 48-year-old 'slepsity cominan-der-in-chief' of the Kiki National Army (KNA), was rewelling with his two-bodyguards. No group has claimed responsibility for the at-

#### IIP growth at 9-month low of 1.2% in May

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

ty in India slumped to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May, with the mining, else-treity, primary goods, and contracting, and manufac-ontracting, and manufacturing growth slowing sharply as compared with their levels in May last year, their levels in May tast year, as per the the Index of In-dustrial Production re-leased on Monday. The manufacturing sec-

wing of the Kuki National Organisation, one of about 25 Kuki extremist groups that signed a suspension of operations agreement with the Centre to cease bostilities. Manipur has been The manufacturing sec-tor saw its growth rate mearly halving to 2.6% in May from last year's level while the electricity sector contracted 5.8% against a growth of 13.7% in last May.

PULL REPORT ON

# Pharma unit blast kills 17 near Hyderabad

30 workers suffer injuries with many crushed or trapped under the debris amid chaos of explosion

Rescue work under way at the site with teams combing the debris for survivors and victims

Official inquiry on to determine the cause of the disaster; suspects explosion of air handling unit

### Naveen Kumar HYDERABAD

s many as 17 per-

sons were killed 30 injured when a massive explosion ripped through a pharmaceutical unit of Sigachi Industries at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad on Monday morning.

Most of the workers employed at the unit are migrants from Bihar and West Bengal. One of them had said the factory had 12hour work shifts from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

At the time of the blast, around 80 workers were believed to be working in the production unit.

"Five of the persons were charred in the fire," said Damodar Singh, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Deputy Commander. Officials indicated that, while the blast caused the initial devastation, many lives were lost

due to the subsequent collapse of the building.

"DNA testing has been ordered to identify the deceased, whose bodies were charred beyond recognition," said Paritosh Pankaj, Sangareddy Superintendent of Police.

A majority of the victims were trapped under the production unit housing the reactor when it collapsed.

The Fire Control Room received the distress call shortly before 9.37 a.m., after which 15 fire tenders. including robots, hazmats, and multipurpose vehicles were deployed.

### Rescue efforts

Vehicles were rushed from as far as Secunderabad (40 km away) and Rajendranagar fire stations (45 km). Rescue efforts continued late into the evening, with teams carefully combing through the debris for any survivors or victims.



Site of shock: Emergency response teams at work after an explosion in the Pashamylaram industrial area in Sangareddy of Telangana on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Rescue teams, including the Fire Department, NDRF, and local police, managed to pull out 30 individuals alive from the debris, many of whom suffered severe burns and other critical injuries.

An official inquiry is un-

der way to determine the exact cause of the disaster.

Panic and fear gripped the industrial belt of Pashamylaram as plumes of smoke, the wail of sirens, and a stream of ambulances and emergency vehicles descended upon the site of the deadly explosion.

The air near the blast zone hung thick and heavy, difficult to breathe as one approached the shattered remains of Sigachi Indus-

The window panes of nearby offices were shattered in the blast.

Initially all of the injured individuals were rushed to Kakatiya Hospital, located 3.8 km from the blast site.

From there, depending on the severity they were shifted to Dhruva Hospital, Pranam Hospital, Archana Hospital, Star Hospital, Yashoda Hospital in Madhapur, and Panacea Meri-Hospital dian near Beeramguda.

### DNA testings ordered

Sangareddy Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankai confirmed that 15 deaths have been officially recorded, although more casualties may lie beneath the rubble.

"DNA testing has been ordered to identify the deceased, whose bodies were charred beyond recognition," said the SP.

In the aftermath, police cordoned off a 500-metre radius around the site to keep onlookers and local

residents at bay. The sudden influx of emergency personnel and the persistent smell of chemicals in the air left the neighbourhood in a state of alarm.

Director of Factories Rajagopal Rao said that the unit was engaged in the manufacture of Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC), a white, odourless, tasteless powder derived from wood pulp.

"It is widely used as a binding agent in tablets and in various industries including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food. While not inherently hazardous, officials are investigating the possibility that pressure build-up in the air-handling line may have caused the blast. Preliminary assessments suggest that the air handling unit may have exploded," explained the officer.

### LOCAL PEOPLE TAKE CHARGE

» PAGE 3

### **⊀** Incident Overview

- A massive explosion occurred at Sigachi Industries' pharmaceutical unit at Pashamylaram, near Hyderabad.
- 17 workers killed, 30 injured, many charred or trapped under debris.
- Most workers were migrants from Bihar and West Bengal.
- Approx. 80 workers were in the production unit at the time.

### Cause of the Disaster

- Suspected explosion of the air-handling unit due to pressure build-up.
- Official inquiry initiated to ascertain the exact cause.
- DNA testing ordered to identify deceased as many bodies were charred beyond recognition.

### ★ Industrial & Safety Aspects

- Factory manufactured Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC), a pharmaceutical and food-grade binding agent derived from wood pulp.
- MCC is generally considered non-hazardous.
- Area cordoned off; nearby residents reported panic due to chemical odor and smoke.

### Key Concerns for Governance

- Industrial safety lapses.
- Working conditions for migrant labor.
- Emergency response preparedness.
- · Regulatory oversight in pharmaceutical industries.

#### Manipur civil groups Bihar has consistently fallen behind meet officials in Delhi seeking peace plan

### Vilaita Sioch

Three civil society groups from Manipur met Union Home Ministry officials on Monday where a road may

Money and revision to the form of a pipular government was discussed, a sentor government was der Prosident's Rule on February 13. The official self-of-that though the insue of was discussed, in some contract was given to the deligation.

ing Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCCMP), All Manipur United Clubr Or-ganisation (AMUCO), and Poderation of Civil Society Organisations (POCS) — that arrived in New Delhi Inchale Meliel and name Meinet members from Ma-

ofpur. The official said that this adviser (Northeast), Home Ministry, and Intelligence

Bureau (IB) officials, "They raised the issues of free movement on highways, security to farmers, action against illegal mi-

grants, resettlement of in-ternally displaced per-sons," the official said.

The groups also raised the May 20 incident in Gwaltabl when security forces allegedly tried to cover the worst Marigue, that was ferrying learned. that was ferrying journal-ters to the hill district of Ukhrul for the shirul Lily fea-tival. The groups were assured by the officials that the lasur will be taken up with the Manipur

with the Manipur government.

In June, Ministry offi-cials revived meetings with East-So innergent groups or the groups in Supern-sion of Operations past (SoO) with the government-stressing upon the opening of national highways for free movement of vehicles from Mellett areas and vice versa. National Highway-2 and NH-37, which connect the land-lecked Imphal valley to Nagaland and Amam-respectively pass through Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

### It was the first time that the groups came together for the talks

coording to the 2009 Cold Registra report compiled by the Registrar-General of India (Reil), the lovel of registra-2000 steed at 3.7% compared with the national average of 56.2% the name births registered across the enumy in 2000 was proposed to the register of across the name of the register of the name of the register of the registe

For those born in 2004 and 2005, the level of registration in the State was 11.5% and 16.9%, respec-B.5% and B.5%, respectively. The countrywide registration was 60.4% in 2004 and 62.5% in 2005. The total registered births in 2004 and 1,005 were 1,37,77,612 and 1,61,94,628, respectively.

The 2000 report sold that "in order to quantify the impact of filture and two in Yackets, which are per-

forming abyumally poor for the last so many years, the level of registration for the country excluding these two States have been worked out", which rose to



in registering births, report shows

ing their date of birth and/ or place and furnish simi-lar documents belonging to the father and mother of the applicant also. There were over 772 crore efec-tors in Bihar sharing the 2024 Lok Sablia election. The Election Commis-sion of Intia (RC) on Mon-day said. 4-50 crore efec-tors do not need to submit

any documents as they can verify their details from the 2003 electoral rolls when

the last such exercise was

The Union Home Minis

burths and deaths within 21 days of the event's accurrence so

78.3% in 2005. 78.3% in 2005.
"On comparison of exti-mated and registered births, it is found that there is significant gap in esti-mated and registered births in Bibur, Urter Pra-desh," the report said.

Revision for election The Special Intensive Revi-sion GBR of electoral rolls, which is currently going on in Bibar, attpulars that those born in India after Dicember 2, 2004 would have to provide any of il documents, which inclinds

dated digital furth derthi-cates for those bern after October 1, 2023 for admis-sions in schools, colleges and for updating electoral rolls.
However, periodic CRS reports show that not all

tion of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in 2023 that man-dated digital birth certifi-

births are registered. On March 17, the BGI office cautioned private and government hospitals to re-port incidents of births and deaths within 21 days after it was found that many medical institutions were flouring the law adding that nearly 10% births were not getting registered.

CHS and SHS CHS and SHS
"To get an idea as to the caverage of civil registration in the country, the data generated from the Civil 
legistrated from the Civil 
legistration System CSMS 
has been compared with 
corresponding estimates 
thrown up by the Sample 
legistration System (CSM)."

the 2009 report said. While the CRS is the acmal numbers, the SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country man-

Though registrations rose from 3.7% in 2000 to 16.9% in 2005, they were way behind national average of 56.2% and 62.5%, timates of fertility and mortality indicators at the state and national level.

State and national level.
The EC's move to conduct the SIR has invited criticism from Opposition extracts and the SIR has invited produced to the SIR has been seen to the

Owaist said the govern-ment should furnish the data on total number of illegal migrants in the Country.
"How is the BLO Glooth

#### Pakistan calls upon India to restore Indus Waters Treaty

#### Press Trust of India

Pakistan on Monday urged Pakistan on Monday urged india to resume the normal functioning of the India Waters Troaty, which New Delhi has held in abeyance since May, saying the re-cent decision by the Per-

operational".
India has never recognised the proceedings at the Permanent Court of Ar-bitration after Pakistan design elements of th Rishenganga and Ratie by

Constitution that BLO (Hood).

Level (Officer) going to extra trains the documents Why should people pay penalty for government not been grants. We want to know the criteris that was full lowed during the SM in the statement, Paking the SM in 2022, as many as 2,54,39,164 burths were registered. In 2022, 6that seems that the statement of the sta

#### Senior officer dragged from office, beaten up in Odisha

### Hatyasundar Barth

+ An officer of the Odisha Administrative Service was brutally threshed at the Bhubansiswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), evok-ing shocked reactions from officials and Opposition political parties here on Monday

Soon after Ratnakar Sahoo, Additional Commis-sioner, Bhubaneswar Mun-icipal Corporation. al Corporation, inded a weekly grie group of persons, said to be supporters of a Blazasi ya janua Party (BJP) leader who had unsuccessfully contested the Odisha Ac-sembly election in 2024. The officer was injured.

He later filed a complaint at the local police station. Outrage over attack

Outrage over attack
"The officer was drugged
from his office and brought
kicked and associated in
kicked and associated in
allegedly linked to a defeatof HP MLA candidate."
Former Odisha Chief Mintster Faveen Patnaik and on
social maddis platform X.

sealing, that this butcelling, that this butcelling, that this butpolling is that this hap-gened in broad daylight, in the heart of the capital city of Bhubaneswar, to a se nior officer, while he was in his office hearing grievances of people," Patronik said.

"I ask Chief Minister Mo-ban Majhi (@MohanMOd-laba) Il to take immediate and exemplary action against not only those who perpetrated but more imperpetrated but more im-pertunity the political lead-ers who orchestrated and conspired this shameful ar-tick. The Blu Janara Dal OHD president said. The people named by the officer in bis FIR IFirst

Information Reporti have behaved like criminals. If a senior officer is not safe in his own office, then what law and order will ordinary citizens expect from the government? Mr. Patnaik aid. RJD corporators led

### Independent probe sought in Kolkata rape case

Three public interest litigation (PIL) petitions were filed before the Calculta High Court seeking "inde-pendent investigation" into the gangrape of a sta-dent at a law college in Kolkuta on Monday even as a fact-finding defenation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BUP) visited the college, where the incident oc-

curred on June 25. A Division Bench led by A Division Bench hed by justice Soumen Sen of the right cours admitted the right cours admitted the come up for hearing later this week, Providing an up-date on the investigation buts politie, in a social me-da poor, said, "Medicole-gal examination of the port and, "Medicole-gal examination of the persons has been complet-ed. Forensis examination of the place of occurrence "agob good sail

this been done".

The investigation is being monitored by a special investigation team 05FD under the dose supervision of senior officers.



"The Kolkata police are committed to ensure that the purpetrators of the crime face the barshess possible legal action and the victim gets jostice at the earliest," a statement

The RIP fact-finding toam comprising former Union Ministers, Satpal Singh and Meenakshi Lek-hi, and MYs Biplab Kumar Deb and Manan Kumar Mishra, met Kolkata police Commissioner Manoj Ku-mar Verma, and vialted the South Calcutta Law

The BJP team negotiated with the police present on the spot to let them enter the college premises. Stu-dent protesters clashed with BJP workers. Many students were injured in the scuffle.

Classes suspended Classes have been indefi-nitely suspended at the col-lege. The institution, now a crime scene, has been sealed, suspending teach-ing and learning activities of about 600 students. Members of the 807

gal... The kind of incidents raking place in West Bengal are not just incidents, it is a pattern now. BP leader Mr. Saspal Singh said.

The BP coam pointed out that there have been algustions and profise coams against Mishra in the past and upon the profit of the prof

iege. The governing body of the college is presided by Trinamool Congress Att.A from Budge Budge Ashok Deb. The photographs of Mis-lus who was associated

Charries Partiched till 2022

the recurring incidents of sexual around in the State and questioned why the in-utuation appointed Mona-jo Mishra, one of the prime accused and a law college graduate, as a contractual staff. Arrests made Mishra, 21, was arrested along with two others Zaib Ahmed (19) and Pramit Mukherjee (20) and charged with gang rape "We have not just come here only to take stock of the investigation into the gangrape case, but we have come here to give a and wrongful detention on the basis of a complaint made by a student of the message that every mem-ber of the HJP, every citizen college on hine 26 gal... The kind of incidents

college on pane 28:
Protests over the fruitdent combined to rage in
with supporters of the Abhii tilaratiya virlyartil Parshad and the hil' heidingrent places and the policesoring force to disperse and
Meanwhile, the West
Hengal government has dieccted the governing body
together the police of the

or south Cancarta Law Cos-iege to remove Mishra as a contractual staff member. The Director of Public In-atraction has also directed that the two other stu-dents, Zalls Ahmed and Framit Mukherjee, should be metested.

### Delhi court accepts CBI closure report in missing scholar case

Sheerving that the Central Sureau of Investigation CBD had investigated all plausible avenues in the missing case of Jawaharlal Netur University (JNU) scholar Najeeb Ahmed, a

echolar Najeeb Ahmed, a Debt court on Monslay ac-cepted the agency's dis-nate report in the matter. Additional Chief Judicial Magiatrate ACJPB Jyol Ma-healwart of the Rouse Ave-rue Gourt said that the Chi-could not be faulted for the investigation curried out. Mr. Ahmed, 27, a sin-dern of M.Sc. Bloosethnole-

derit of N.S.; Biosecondin-gy, went missing from the BNU's Mahi-Mandvi hostel on October 15, 2016, fol-lowing a souffle with some students allogedly affiliated to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidwarthi Parishad

The court expressed sympathy rewards Mr. Al-med's mother, who was al-

China says border dispute

with India complicated.

case and had been on a quest to find out about her missing son for the past nine years. The CBI in Oc-

tigation into the case. The quest for truth is foundation of every criminal investigation. Yet, there are cases where the investigation conducted cannot achieve IIa logical conclusion, despite best efforts of the inv the process must remain fair, unblased and exhau-tive, even when results re-mained inconclusive.

"As a parting note, the Court also earnestly hopes that Najeeb Ahmed shall be traced soon," it said, giving liberty to the Central agen

### India fast-tracks 52 satellites for precision surveillance following Operation Sindoor

### The Hindu Bureau

After defence forces realsed the need for more precision surveillance during Operation Sindoor, the Unton government has or-dered the fast-tracking of the launch of 82 dedicated

the learnch of 82 desticated surveillance satellites, on handing round-the-clock monitoring of coastline and land borders.

In October last year, the Prime Minister Narendra Modè-led Cablinet Committee approved \$3.2 billion for the \$58-41 programme to develop uses generation satellites over the next decaste. Under the pro-gramme, BRO will manu-facture and launch the first 21 satellites, while private companies will handle the remaining 31. The Defence

ISRO will make and launch the first 21 satellites, while

Apace Agency (DSA) will overnee the operation of the newly launched safel-ite system.
"We have asked the priv-

"We have asked the priv-ate companies and BRO2 for sarly launch of satel-lites. We are expecting first set of satellites to be launched by 2636," said a senior official. The official added that the new satellites will be using artificial intelligence (Al) to make smarter decisions and improve overall performance and efficiency in space. During Operation Sin-

door, satellite-based our veillance helped Indian de isince forces to act widthy
by offering accurate intelligence, including the trajectory and movement of
du's satellites, like the Cartonat and BEAT, helped actonat and BEAT, helped acmenty mobilisation, conmaintain real-time situamaintain real-time situamaintain real-time situational awareness, which
provested any major damany users. Country's militity users.

After the successful india will become more selfidia will become more selfpendenses. fence forces to act swiftly

pendence on other countries. It will help focus more clearly and accurate ly on the Pakistan and China border and the Indian Ocean Region.

#### Army chief embarks on four-day visit to Bhutan

### The Hindu Bureau

Chief of the Army Stat (CDAS) General Upendra Dwiveds on Monday de-parted for Bhasan on a four-day official visit aimed at further enhancing the defence cooperation but ween the countries.

During the visit, he will call on Jigme Khesar Nam-gyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhaian and held discus-sions with Lieutenant Gen-eral Baroo Tahering, Chief Operations Officer of the

Royal Bhutan Army.
The COAS will also inte-ract with senior officials of the Indian limbassy, Indian Military Training Team and Project DANTAK. The visit reflects the time-tested ties between india and libutan, said a

### ready for delimitation talks Press Trust of India

### China on Monday said the boundary dispute with in-dis was complicated and would take time to settle

would take time to settle but at the sum time, it ex-pressed its readiness to pressed its readiness. The Intilation of the border and keep if peaceful.

Defences Minister Ray with Chinese Defence Mi-marer Bong Jun in Gingda-ert June 26, price of the control of the sum of the control of the price of the control of the sum of the control of the control of the de-control tension along de escalate tensions along the frontiers and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders.



held bilisteral talks on the sidelines of a conclave of the Sharghal Gooperation Organisation (SCG) in the Chinese port city of

Asked for China's reaction to demarcate the solution to demarcate the orders.

Mr. Singh and Mr. Dong "What I can tell you is that



Gingdan. Asked for China's reac-

China and India have esta blished the Special Repre sentatives (SRs) mechan ism on the boundary question and reached the question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Sertle-Boundary Question".
"China stands resalt to maintain communication with India on Issues, in-cheding delimitation near the India on Issues, in-cheding delimitation near ment, jointly keep the

prolonged delay in resolving the border issue, Ms Mao said, "The boundary

ment, jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil, and promote cross-border exchange and cooperation," she said. Questioned about the

question is complicated and it takes time to settle

## India fast-tracks 52 satellites for precision surveillance following Operation Sindoor

### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

After defence forces realised the need for more precision surveillance during Operation Sindoor, the Union government has ordered the fast-tracking of the launch of 52 dedicated surveillance satellites, enhancing round-the-clock monitoring of coastline and land borders.

In October last year, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee approved \$3.2 billion for the SBS-III programme to develop next-generation satellites over the next decade. Under the programme, ISRO will manufacture and launch the first 21 satellites, while private companies will handle the remaining 31. The Defence

ISRO will make and launch the first 21 satellites, while private companies will handle the remaining 31

Space Agency (DSA) will oversee the operation of the newly launched satellite system.

"We have asked the private companies and ISRO for early launch of satellites. We are expecting first set of satellites to be launched by 2026," said a senior official. The official added that the new satellites will be using artificial intelligence (AI) to make smarter decisions and improve overall performance and efficiency in space.

During Operation Sin-

door, satellite-based surveillance helped Indian defence forces to act swiftly by offering accurate intelligence, including the trajectory and movement of drones and missiles. India's satellites, like the Cartosat and RISAT, helped defence forces to track enemy mobilisation, confirm strike impact, and maintain real-time situational awareness, which prevented any major damage to the country's military assets.

After the successful implementation of SBS-III, India will become more self-reliant and reduce its dependence on other countries. It will help focus more clearly and accurately on the Pakistan and China border and the Indian Ocean Region.

- Union Government approves fast-tracking of 52 dedicated surveillance satellites to enhance realtime monitoring of:
  - Coastlines
  - Land borders
- Decision follows the success of Operation Sindoor, where satellite-based surveillance aided defence forces in swift action.

### Implementation Details

- SBS-III Programme:
  - Approved by the Cabinet Committee in October last year.
  - Budget: \$3.2 billion.
  - Aim: Develop next-generation satellites over the next decade.

- Responsibility Split:
  - ISRO: Manufacture & launch first 21 satellites.
  - Private Companies: Handle remaining 31 satellites.
  - Defence Space Agency (DSA): Will operate and monitor the entire satellite system.
- Timeline:
  - First set of satellites expected to be launched by 2026.

### Technological Advancements

- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for:
  - Smarter decision-making.
  - Enhanced space performance.
  - Improved efficiency.

### **★** Strategic Significance

- Enhances India's:
  - Border security (Pakistan, China borders).
  - Maritime security (Indian Ocean Region).
  - Self-reliance in space-based surveillance.
  - Reduced dependency on foreign technologies.

### **★ UPSC GS Paper Linkages**

GS Paper	Relevance
GS-II	National Security, Defence preparedness
GS-III	Space technology, AI in defence, Indigenisation
Essay/GS-I	Internal security, Border management

#### ■ N 田本田本田田2日7



#### Navy stealth frigate INS Tabar extends help to tanker on fire

The Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Tabar responded to a distress call from Palau diagreed NT Yi Cheng 6 on axunday. The MT Yi Cheng 6 on axunday. The MT Yi Cheng 6 respectively of the Palau diagreed stransiting from Kandla, India, to Shinas, Graan, experienced a major fire in the engine room and total power failure onloand, the Indian Navy's fire the power failure onloand, the Indian Navy's fire the Indian Search of the Indiana Search of the India

#### Centre launches WAVEX Start-up Challenge 2025

The Union Information and Broadcasting
Miniatry has launched the WAVES Start-upte in
a natural hashabon to therebye and Alpowered
multilingual translation solution to be named
filiashabots. The challenge attas to encourage
the development of innovative artificial
multilingual roots open of a fail time storage
the development of innovative artificial
multiplicate roots capable of rail-time storage. transliteration, and voice localisation across at least 12 major Indian languages," said the Ministry on Monday. The challenge has no minimum eligibility criteria, allowing start-ups at any stage of development to apply.

### India to get above-normal rain in July, forecasts IMD

States such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Telangana should be watchful as catchment areas of rivers such as the Krishna, Godavari, Mahanadi could receive heavy rain, says meteorological body



in agreement of the control of the c

The IMD has retained its

The MD has retained its forecast of the monascon (June-September) being 6% above normal.

"Stant Maulitys Pradesh. "Chishta. Harden Chishta. Odisha. In the Control of the Mahanadi will be impact



rainfall is expected in the coming weeks sharts the absence of an El Ring, says IMD chief, support social

ed. Very high rainfall is expected in the upper Maha-nadi catchinent covering Chhartingarh, and parts of the continuation of the continuation of the hanadi catchinent. We should keep watch and monitor rainfall activity. Mr. Mohaputra sald. the manatom covered the entire country — nearly inte days afteral of in me-mal achedited date of July corn, occurred the entire

country within June was in

2020, and this year is only the 13th instance of such a rapid coverage since then, in six cost of 12 years of such coverage, the men-soon trainfall in june-dep-tembers has been above nermal, the agency's data

June 1. However, it stalled within a week, and only appreciably picked up pace after june to 30 far, the rainfall in June has

is usual for this time of this year.

Year.

Except for sustern and Except for sustern and Except for mids, most region have as any pur-rain. Northwest india has seen 42% more rain than its quota, central india has seen 24.8% more rain than is quota, while itsush in-tall of almu. 3%. The sussess dia has witnessed a learn-fall of about 3%. The etcong rainfall that is expected in the weeks about is largely due to the abounce of an IQ Nino, the IMO chief said.

### Online, hybrid LL.M. degrees without BCI nod deemed invalid

The Bar Council of India (OCD has clarified that any Master of Law (LL.M.) or equivalent legal pro-gramme offered through online, distance, blended, ordine, distance, blended, or bybrid trudes without its prior approval will be considered unauthorised and will not be recognised for any professional or academic purpose. "This includes employment, academic appointments, research registration, or judicial service and department approximant of the control of the control

lepartmental promotional ligibility," the BCI stated in a recent communica-tion. The regulatory body emphasised that it governs legal education standards and that such programmes fall afoul of its Legal Educa-

fall afoul of its Legal Educa-tion Rains, 2520.

The Council said it has already issued show cause notices and is in the pro-against several prominent institutions, including the National Law Institute Un-tweestly (Buspath, Indian Octavagappin, O.P. Jondal Global University (Bein-pat), and National Law Un-versity (Belli). These insti-lutions, 8 allegad, ar-dutions, 8 allegad, ar-

The council said such programme fall afoul of its Legal Education

offering Lt.M. or similarly designated legal pro-grammes via online, dis tance, or blended format

grammes by suggesting they were 'executive' in nagree. However, these claims were found to be untenable, particularly untenable, particularly where the protected no-menciature 'Li\_M' was used in ada, brochures, and scademic communica-

tioner, Carnesa, and Other Continuing Education) Rules, 2020, categorically predishs LL.M. pro-grammer from being deli-vered, through online or hybrid modes. Although the Rules have been challenged before the

### After 5-year gap, Railways announce 'rationalisation' of fares from July 1

Maltel Porncha

In a move aimed at stream-lining fare structures and chinacing the financial austalmability of passenger services, the Ministry of Kallways has rationalized the basic fare of passenger train services, with the re-vised structure set to take

viced structure set to take effect from July I. There will be no change in suburban single-journey fares or season tickets for both suburban and son-

classes on non-suburban trains, second class fares have been increased by half a pains per kilometre, with no change applicable for travel up to 500 km. Beyond this threshold, the increase will be 18 for dis-tances between 801 and 1,500 km. 10 for distances 1,500 km, 410 for distances between 1,801 and 2,500 km, and 418 for distances between 2,501 and 3,000 km, Sleeper class and first class fares will also see an



Official data: Indian Railways carried TST crore passengers during the figarcial year April 2024 - March 2023, N.A. Stream

ncrewe of 0.5 pains per

In the case of mail and express trains (non-AC), fares for second class and first class passengers have been hiked by one pains per kilometre. For AC classes in mail

For AC classes in mall and express trains, fares will rise by two pales per kilometre across all catego-ries — AC chair car, AC three-ter and 3-contony, AC two-ter, and AC first, executive class and execu-tive Analibius.

apply to premier and spe-cial trains such as Rajcha-ni, Shatabdi, Duronto, Vande Blurat, Tajas, Hunsofar, Amerit Bharat, Mahasafar, Amrit Bharat, Maha-mana, Gattmana, Antyo-daya, Jan Shatabih, Yuvo-daya, Jan Shatabih, Yuvo-kapress, AC: Viatadome-coashes, Anubhusi coach-urban services in accor-dance with the revised class-wise fare structure.

Acceptable of things and Acceptable of the safety fast surcharges, and others

remain unchanged. GST will continue to be levied as per the applicable rules, the Indian Hallways spo-losperson said. The Ministry has issued directives to all conal railways for the smooth implementation of the revised fare structure.

the revised fare structure.

Zonal rallways have also been instructed to update fare slaplays at all attents.

Assurding to data evaluations, data realizable to data evaluations that the structure of the core passengers during the financial year 2024-25.

Of those, 31 cross passengers traveled in AC and alseper class, while 634 crore travelled in the unre-served category.

Passenger revenue dur-ing the period stood at \$78,780 crore. The revision marks the

The revision marks the first bile in train faces in five years. M. Jamelesh, former Member Crimbo of the Railway Board, described the increase of one to two paise per kilometre as "a rationalisation that was long overther."

### 683 species added to India's fauna. 433 taxa to its flora during 2024

Shiv Sahay Singh

India added 683 new specles to its fauna in the year 2024, which included 459 new species and 224 spe-cies new records. The country also added 433 taxa of flora during the

taxa of flora during the same perient, which inshul-ed-410 specific and 23 infra-specific taxa of plants. In-specific taxa of plants. In-coveries and new records were released by Union Mi-nister. For Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Bhuperider Yadav in Kolka-a on Monday.

The maximum number of new discoveries of faunce in 2024 was recorded from Kerala - with 101 specier (80) new species and 21 new records) – followed by Rurnataka – 82 (68 new species and 14 new records). Tank Nidu records, Tank Nidu records, Tank Nidu records discoveries with 50 new species and 13 new records. In the east and north-east, Arunachal Prodesh

SELEDADE E



recented 73 animal discov-eries (43 new species and 30 new records), Megha-Jaya 42 new discoveries Cd new species and 17 new re-cords and West Bengal 56 cores and west sengal so new discoveries (25 new species and 31 new re-cords). Andaman and Ni-cobar islands, another bio-logical hotspot in the country, recorded 43 new discoveries of fama from 14 new discoveries of fauna and 29 new records.

In terms of plant discre-eries, the highest number of flora discovered were from Kersia (188), followed by Maharushtra (45) and Uttarakhand (46). The new plant discoveries for 2024 record 154 angiosperms, 4 ptersiophytes, 15 brye-phytes, 63 lichens, 186 fungt, 32 algae and 9 mi-crobes. The hotspot regions such as Western Ghats and North-Eastern regions have contributed 38% of total discoveries. In-

38% of total discoveries. In dis has recorded and docu-mented \$6,477 procies of gymnospectrus. Beristo-phytes, heyophytes, it-chem, fings, and algae etc. diacoveries for the year \$2524 include two new ge-mus and 37 species of rep-tings of amphibians. The signifi-cant discovery of reprile mentals. included Dravidoseps governos, belonging to the new genus, and Anguladus dissiprior to a member of Cobabridae family, named after Hollywood star, Lee

nardo Di Caprio. In terms of flors, the sigin terms of tiers, the sup-inficant discoveries in-cluste important orchid species such as hubephyl-hum gepallamum, Goeto-gone tripurensis, Gastrodia indica and Gastrodia sikki-ments.

# TH GROSSWORD + 14525

- 14 After weekend rams join regular Chinese characters (fil) 45 First of all, make missing employace go into shorter with lifere will be resistance shown (ii)

  18 Plants spaked device (ii)
- 38 'Hayal Errorn', part of News Sentis rail most (6) 33 Cup of two left to become cold (7)
- 36 Books houses : more to go for hotel (fil)
- ## Grounds restrict parking as they got into their shads (9) Deporters go about collecting some money to back horses (II) 29 Cancel river crossing permit its
- Bunkers (overland a state (8)
- 2 Average in America for a factory to manage (1) A new car, perhaps this could be revolutionary (III)

Other corrects put yet extracised (4.3.8)

- Opt for the emert activity usually (3,3,4,4) Figh bit the Ry finally - you're not telling the truth (5)
- 16 Following girls without station: how ald are viet (ii)
  17 Willingness to provide goariess version (iii) 19 Harry name in amount the second of January (nothing pair (7) 23. Spanish's advession to a square perhaps is obsaud (?)
- 24 Norwegier of gweight in describing our shock market (III

#### 3 4 6 2 3 6 3 9 8 9 9 9 4 3 8 6 3 4



#### FAITH

#### The Lord followed him

Thiramagai Ashvar, while praising Lord Sarangapani of Kumbakonam, uses the phrase "that Kudandal: Kudandal known as Thiruveldia, where again the Lord broke the rules of the archa form for Thirumashisai Ashvar. Lord Yatoktakari of Thiruvekha followed Thirumashi-

Level Vatoritakari of Thiruvekha followed Thirumashinal Adhura, upon the luxer's command. Thirumashinal and Adhura, upon the luxer's command. Thirumashinal night in a place nor for from Kanchi, Kumaragarupura describes the incident in a verse. The Lord followed Thirumashinai Ashwar, holding this rolled-up serpent bed on this bead with one hand. With the other hand, he held his yell-

low rote.

The control of the contro shrines dropped the practice of closing for half a day.

# Online, hybrid LL.M. degrees without BCI nod deemed invalid

### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has clarified that any Master of Law (LL.M.) or equivalent legal programme offered through online, distance, blended, or hybrid modes –without its prior approval – will be considered unauthorised and will not be recognised for any professional or academic purpose.

"This includes employment, academic appointments, research registration, or judicial service and departmental promotional eligibility," the BCI stated in a recent communication. The regulatory body emphasised that it governs legal education standards and that such programmes fall afoul of its Legal Education Rules, 2020.

The Council said it has already issued show cause notices and is in the process of initiating action against several prominent institutions, including the National Law Institute University (Bhopal), Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur), O.P. Jindal Global University (Sonipat), and National Law University (Delhi). These institutions, it alleged, are

The council said such programmes fall afoul of its Legal Education Rules, 2020

offering LL.M. or similarly designated legal programmes via online, distance, or blended formats without requisite BCI approval.

"Some institutions sought to justify their programmes by suggesting they were 'executive' in nature, or 'not equivalent' to the traditional LL.M. degree. However, these claims were found to be untenable, particularly where the protected nomenclature 'LL.M.' was used in ads, brochures, and academic communications," the BCI said.

It added that the Legal Education (Post-Graduate, Doctoral, Executive, Vocational, Clinical, and Other Continuing Education) Rules, 2020, categorically prohibit LL.M. programmes from being delivered through online or hybrid modes.

Although the Rules have been challenged before the Supreme Court, no stay has been granted.

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) has clarified:
  - Any LL.M. (Master of Law) or equivalent legal programme offered via:
    - Online
    - Distance
    - Blended
    - Hybrid modes
       Without prior BCI approval will be considered unauthorised.
- Such degrees will not be recognised for:
  - Employment
  - Academic appointments
  - Research registration
  - Judicial service eligibility
  - Departmental promotions

### Legal Basis

- These programmes violate:
  - Legal Education Rules, 2020
  - Legal Education (Post-Graduate, Doctoral, Executive, Vocational, Clinical, and Other Continuing Education) Rules, 2020
- The rules strictly prohibit LL.M. programmes in online or hybrid formats.

### Institutions Facing Action

- Show-cause notices issued to:
  - National Law Institute University (Bhopal)
  - Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur)
  - O.P. Jindal Global University (Sonipat)
  - National Law University (Delhi)

### Other Observations

- Institutions claimed programmes were:
  - "Executive" in nature
  - "Not equivalent" to traditional LL.M.
- However, BCI found such claims untenable, especially when "LL.M." was used in ads, brochures, or academic documents.

### Current Status

- The Rules are being challenged in the Supreme Court, but:
  - No stay granted yet.

### COVERING DISTANCE IN MINUTES

### DUBAI CONDUCTS FIRST TEST FLIGHT OF AERIAL TAXI

Dubai has successfully completed the first test flight of an aerial taxi, a fully electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, marking a major step in its efforts to introduce sustainable and next-generation urban transport.

The aircraft has a range of up to 160 kilometres and a top speed of 320 kilometres per hour.



## 81% OTT ads during ICC World Cup on unhealthy products: Study

### 'Alcohol and tobacco companies are exploiting OTT platforms through surrogate advertisements to bypass norms'

### ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE, JUNE 30

ASTAGGERING 80.9 per cent of all advertisements aired on over-the-top (OTT) platforms during the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's World Cup held in India in October-November 2023 promoted tobacco, alcohol, and high-fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) products, a study has found.

The study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR-NICPR) was published recently in the journal Frontiers in Digital Health. Dr Prashant Kumar Singh, lead author and senior scientist at ICMR-NICPR, told *The Indian Express* that the study provides the first systematic evidence from a low- and middle-income country showing how sporting events have become vehicles for promoting products that contribute to non-communicable diseases.

A team of experts from ICMR-NICPR, Vital Strategies, Institute of Public Health Bengaluru, and Al-IMS New Delhi conducted the research.

"As India aims to reduce premature non-communicable disease (NCD) deaths by 25 per cent by 2025, we cannot allow commercial interests to undermine public health through unregulated digital platforms. Immediate policy intervention is crucial," said Dr Shalini Singh, senior author and director of ICMR-NICPR. She also stressed that their findings revealed a concerning loophole in digital advertising regulation.

"While we have strict laws against tobacco and alcohol advertising, companies are exploiting OTT platforms through surrogate advertisements, particularly targeting the massive Indian cricket audience. With 422 million viewers exposed to these promotions, this represents a public health crisis hiding in plain sight," said Dr Singh.

The analysis of 341 hours of

streaming across 48 matches revealed disturbing patterns of targeted marketing such as that 80.9 per cent of all advertisements (1,769 out of 2,118) promoted unhealthy products, 90.7 per cent of advertisements during India matches belonged to the unhealthy products category, and 86.7 per cent of surrogate tobacco advertisements were specifically aired during matches involving India.

It also found that 60.6 per cent of unhealthy advertisements during over-breaks targeted products commonly consumed by children. Celebrity endorsements were common, with 17.5% featuring Bollywood actors and 17% cent featuring cricket celebrities.

### Children vulnerable

The study identified children as especially vulnerable targets, with edible products commonly consumed by them comprising the highest frequency of unhealthy advertisements during cricket breaks. Products included chocolates, potato chips, noodles, and biscuits – all heavily marketed during peak viewing times.

Despite existing laws such as the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, that prohibit direct tobacco and alcohol advertising, the study revealed that companies successfully circumvent these restrictions through surrogate advertising on digital platforms.

"Surrogate tobacco advertisements were predominantly displayed during India matches (86.7 per cent) while being negligible during other countries' matches," Dr Singh said. Researchers called for immediate action, updated regulatory frameworks to encompass digital and OTT platforms, stricter enforcement mechanisms for surrogate advertising, specific protections for children given their vulnerability to advertisement-induced behaviours, and comprehensive monitoring of OTT platforms.

- Study by ICMR-NICPR (National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research) revealed:
  - 80.9% of OTT advertisements during the 2023 ICC Men's World Cup promoted:
    - Tobacco
    - Alcohol
    - High-fat, sugar, and salt (HFSS) products
  - 90.7% of ads during India matches promoted unhealthy products.
  - 86.7% of surrogate tobacco ads aired during India matches.

### Why It Matters

- India has strict laws like:
  - COTPA, 2003: Prohibits direct tobacco & alcohol advertising.
  - Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995: Restricts unhealthy product ads on TV.
- However, loopholes in digital advertising regulation are being exploited via:
  - Surrogate advertising on OTT platforms.

### ★ Children at Risk

- 60.6% of unhealthy ads targeted products consumed by children (e.g., chocolates, chips, noodles, biscuits).
- Celebrity endorsements prevalent:
  - 17.5% by Bollywood actors.
  - 17% by cricket celebrities.

### Recommendations by Researchers

- Urgent **policy intervention** for:
  - Regulating digital and OTT platforms.
  - Enforcing stricter bans on surrogate advertising.
  - Protecting children from targeted unhealthy product ads.
  - Comprehensive monitoring of OTT platforms.

# Bihar's newly paved ₹100-crore road has a dangerous quirk — trees standing in middle

### **HIMANSHU HARSH**

PATNA, JUNE 30

WHILE BIHAR has constructed thousands of kilometres of roads in the last decade and allocated more than Rs 3 lakh crore in its 2025-26 state Budget for more, a newly paved stretch in Jehanabad has drawn attention for all the wrong reasons.

The Patna-Gaya road in Jehanabad district, which was widened as part of a Rs 100-crore project, has several full-grown trees standing in the middle of it.

Several people took to social media, putting up photos and videos of the road, and commenting on the danger that the trees in the middle posed to commuters. The trees, many of the posts pointed out, are not



The Patna-Gaya road in Jehanabad district. Express

even in a straight line, but are scattered across the road, leading to vehicles speeding through the road in a zig-zag manner.

Jehanabad District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey told The Indian Express that the road was paved only recently and "no accidents have been reported" on the stretch so far.

She said the issue arose during the extension of the existing Patna-Gaya road. She clarified that the particular flank where the new road was constructed "passes through forest land". As

per the administration, clearance for the removal of the trees had been sought from the relevant authorities. However, they saud, before the necessary approvals could be obtained, the agency responsible for the construction proceeded with the roadwork.

"The flank where the road has been made is on forest land. A clearance had been sought, but in the meantime, the agency responsible for the construction of the road, violating the conditions, went ahead with the construction," the DM said.

Taking cognisance of the violation, the district administration has lodged an FIR against the construction agency, she said. "Additionally, the stretch where the trees stand has been barricaded as a precautionary measure," Pandey said.

## NY mayor hopeful Mamdani says he's a 'socialist': What does he mean?

#### **UDIT MISRA**

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

ZOHRAN MAMDANI is a democratic socialist whose unlikely victory in the Democratic Party primary for mayor of New York has triggered a fresh "red scare" for some in the US.

President Trump has called Mamdani "a

**EXPLAINED** 

**ECONOMICS** 

100% Communist Lunatic", and senior Democrats have hesitated to endorse him. Critics say Mamdani's policy prescriptions will push busi-

nesses out of the city and saddle New York

- whose GDP runs into trillions - with excessive government controls and taxation.
What is Mamdani's economics?

### Mamdani's 'socialism'

The US has long been the flagbearer of capitalism, an economic system where the means of production (land, labour, capital) are privately owned, and incomes are distributed through the market. There is overwhelming political consensus in the US about the virtues of this system, and the vices of any alternative.

Socialism refers to a diverse set of economic and political philosophies that have evolved as a reaction to the capitalist system. At their heart is the rejection/critique

> of the "capitalist"; a person who owns the means of production, and hence controls the production process. Some socialists advocate

state ownership, others want workers to own the means of production while competing in a market economy, and still others are in favour of collective ownership.

Mamdani's democratic socialism espouses better distribution of wealth (and power) within a market economy. "Call it democracy or call it democratic socialism, there must be a better distribution of wealth for all of God's children in this country," Mamdani said in a recent interview, quoting civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.

According to the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), capitalism is "a system designed by the owning class to exploit the rest...for their own profit". Democratic socialism advocates "a democracy that creates space for all to flourish, not just survive", for people "to collectively own the key economic drivers", and a guarantee of universal healthcare and other welfare initiatives to ensure "a freer, more just life".

### A resonant message...

Behind Mamdani's success — and that of other anti-status quo politicians, including Donald Trump — is the failure of the present system to deliver for a vast number of Americans. In some ways, New York is a microcosm of the crisis facing the US today.

After its strongest economic boom in decades, the Covid-19 pandemic dealt a se-



Zohran K Mamdani, The NYT

vere blow to New York's economy — one which it is yet to recover; Inflation has outpaced wages making everything from groceries to housing increasingly unaffordable. The median home price in 2022, at \$724,000, was more than 10 times the median household income of \$72,000 per annum.

Mamdani's campaign captured the imag-

ination of voters by promising to make New York more affordable. "I will freeze the rent for millions of tenants, make buses fast and free, and deliver universal childcare. And before you ask, I'll pay for it by taxing the rich...," he said during a televised debate.

He has also promised to create a network of city-owned grocery stores which would focus on keeping prices low, not profits. "Without having to pay rent or property taxes, [such shops] will reduce overhead and pass on savings to shoppers," his manifesto states.

Mamdani has said he will raise the minimum wage to \$30/hour by 2030 (up from \$16.5/hour at present), "In the world's richest city, making the minimum wage shouldn't mean living in poverty," the manifesto says.

### ...And a few concerns

■The belief that government-fixed prices (or wages) can solve real issues in the economy is viewed with suspicion by mainstream economists. If this were the case, there would never be a crisis of affordability. A large body of research shows that while freezing rents may help affordability in the short term, in the long run, it disincentives the building of houses, and decreases future affordability.

■There is concern about the efficiency of government-run enterprises such as grocery stores. There are many examples from around the world that more often than not, shops or businesses run by the government are inefficient and plagued with corruption. Mamdani has glossed over real challenges that his idea, if implemented, will have to grapple with.

■Mamdani's taxation plan is seen as excessive by New York's businesses, which may push them to other jurisdictions. As one of Mamdani's opponents during the primary, former hedge fund manager Whitney Tilson, said: "New York businesses would be paying double the tax rate of New Jersey, triple that of Connecticut, and five times that of Florida, which would lead to an exodus of businesses and jobs, and crash our city."

- Zohran Mamdani, son of Indian-origin economist Mahmood Mamdani, is running for Mayor of New York as a Democratic Socialist.
- His campaign has triggered debates in the US, with critics labeling him a "100% Communist Lunatic" and senior Democrats hesitating to endorse him.

### 8

### What Does Mamdani Mean by 'Socialist'?

### Capitalism in the US:

- Means of production (land, labor, capital) are privately owned.
- Wealth and incomes are distributed via the market.

### Mamdani's Democratic Socialism:

- Critique of capitalism, advocating:
  - Wealth redistribution.
  - Collective ownership of key economic drivers.
  - Universal healthcare, welfare initiatives.
  - Policies promoting "a freer, more just life."



### II His Key Proposals

- Rent Freeze: To combat housing unaffordability.
- Public Grocery Stores: To provide affordable essentials.
- Minimum Wage Increase: \$16.5/hour → \$30/hour by 2030.
- Taxing the Rich: To fund public services and reduce inequality.

### Criticisms & Concerns

- Housing Market Impact: Rent freezes could reduce housing supply long-term.
- Efficiency of Govt Enterprises: Historical inefficiency & corruption risks.
- Excessive Taxation: Fears of businesses relocating to low-tax states.
- Over-reliance on Price Controls: Viewed as simplistic by economists.

### Feature films

Year	Title	Notes
1988	Salaam Bombay!	Nominated - Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film Nominated - BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in the English Language Nominated - Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film Nominated - Filmfare Award for Best Director
1991	Mississippi Masala	Nominated - Independent Spirit Award for Best Film
1995	The Perez Family	
1996	Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love	
2001	Monsoon Wedding	Nominated - BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in the English Language  Nominated - Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film
2004	Vanity Fair	
2006	The Namesake	
2009	Amelia	
2012	The Reluctant Fundamentalist	
2016	Queen of Katwe	



•Japan has successfully launched its GOSAT-GW satellite aboard the H-2A rocket as part of Tokyo's ongoing efforts to monitor and mitigate climate change.

### **About the Satellite**

•The GOSAT-GW, or Global Observing Satellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle, is a third series in the mission to monitor carbon, methane and other greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

•Within one year, it will start distributing data such as sea surface temperature and precipitation with much higher resolution to users around the world, including the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



 The Coast Guards of QUAD nations (India, Japan, the United States, and Australia) launched the 'QUAD At Sea Ship Observer Mission' in line with the Wilmington Declaration (2024) adopted during the 6th QUAD Summit (4th in-person Quad Leaders' Summit) held in Delaware, USA.

- What is QUAD At Sea Ship Observer Mission?
- About:
- It is a first-of-its-kind maritime cooperation initiative aimed at strengthening interoperability, maritime domain awareness (MDA), and operational coordination to uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.





Drive to find multiple voter IDs is on CEC





verification of citizens

A twist in climate trends Bengaluru, Mumbai sec more above-average heat days than Delhi



#### INSIDE.



Kolkata college expels three in gang rape case

NOLEGEA All three assumed in the Kulhais low statest rape case were on Tuesday permanently barred from the college, and the growing public autopps over the June 25 resident, to Page 8

#### Hasina denies charges of crimes against humanity

BARA Bangladesh's Registre former Prince Minister Shelles Hasing has denied accusations that the committed comes anarox humanity, her lawyer said on Hind five charges against Ms. Hesina, to PAGE 34

### Telangana blast toll rises to 36, six workers missing

19 more bodies retrieved during search operations overnight after the explosion at the pharma unit; 14 bodies identified; CM announces री crore compensation to families of workers who died

The doubt toll from the explosion at a unit at Publishing plant to the explosion at a unit at Publishing plant to the explosion at a unit at Publishing plant to the explosion at a unit at Publishing plant to the explosion at a unit at the explosion at a unit at the explosion at

aster Response and Fire Bervices, adding that search operations have been going on without a pause despite adverse weather conditions and lieavy rain.

Officials confirmed that

2025, 3.3% higher than the comparable figure in June 2024.

prevailing geopolitical un-certainties and their dis-cernible impact on con-numer sentiment, we must

tive sign that the data shows strong pockets of growth in GNT collections in regions such as Naga-

land, Sikkim, Tripura, Lakshadweep, and La-

Family members of the victims of the explanion at the government hospital at Patanisheru in Sangeroddy on Tuesday, HGHD offi

facility of the Sigachi In-dustries at the time of the explosion, of whom 74 were affected.

Swamp Goud, a police offi-cial, adding that no bodies were retrieved from the site during the day. Of the 36 dead, bodies "During the overnight search operation, a total of 19 budies were retrieved from the debris. Search op-

of it have been identified, as disciss among the loam of 20 deplayed to early six attoplets skill, completed post-metricum or all 56 bedien, the second post-metricum or all 56 bedien, it was extremely difficult for as because many of we have pulsered DNA samples," the doctor asist. "Italiagam, Chler Minter Minter and Chler Mint

explosion and 60 lakh to

- PAGE B SLATER REPORT OR H PAGE I

### Explosion at fireworks unit kills 8 workers in Tamil Nadu

SATION

Eight workers were killed and five inforced in an explosion at a freeworks manufacturing unit at ChinnaUrudhursagen diserter of Tamin Sadu on Tuesday.

According to the police.

According to the police.

Golanies Fireworks, located on Sivakasel Satur road, armind 8-30 a.m. Frickforn chemical section of the policy of the policy

in a critical condition. re a critical condition.

Firefighters from the Sivakast Fire and Rescue Station, led by station officer
T. Scinivasan, rashed to the



Diebrio strawn around after the blast at the Goliules fire man Sattur in Tarcil Hude on Tuesday, straws enterior

Cabinet announces incentive scheme to

generate more jobs

and a same in same in same apor and brought the fire under control. They reco-vered seven bodies from the rubble.

The deceased how been gain, i.s., of Meerampatti. G. Vairumant, 34. of Sco-lakhurst; K. Lukshuni, 28, of Mathiyaseuti; M. Nagapari-di, 38, K. Rainaleyam, 37, the control of the control of

hospital. Two of the bodies were completely charred, officials said.

Virudhunagar District Collector N.O. Sukhaparra inspected the scene of the explosion. explosion.
The flattur Town police

have registered a case. Tamil Nada Chief Minis ter M.K. Stalin condoles and R. Punnyamoorthi of
Servalikaranpath; and C. the accident and anChellajyapondian of Anuplask to the families of the
L. Barnamoorthi, 38, of
Lecusord workers from the
Ch'r Public Relief Fund.

India's gross Growle and Services Tax (1877) collec-tions attood at 5014-month June 2025, 6.2% higher than the collections seen in 5 June 12025, 6.2% higher than the collections seen in 5 June 2025, 6.2% higher than the collections in 5 June 2025, 8.2% higher than 1649 2025. The growth in 5 June 2025 was the lowest growth in The lated data also shows that collections in the first quarter of this first 2025 stood at 22,07 lakh cross.

### GST revenue growth dips to four-year low

#### T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan.

## Nuanced picture "The domestic GST collections for June 2025 present a meanced picture." Surrelit Agarwal, Tax Partner at EV India, said. "White the "White the properties likely influenced by the pressilling according in

The CRT data shows that, once refunds are accounted for the net CRT

### A night's work



### India has right to defend itself against terror: Jaishankar

#### Kallol Bhattacherice

India has "every right" to defend its people against terrorism and the parmers of the Quad grouping should "appreciate" that, Esternal Affairs Minister 8, Jaishankar said in Washing-

Ministers-level meeting on Faseday.

Mr. Jaishankar said a more foamed Quant' will bein deliver better. Minister Penny Wong, in her opening remarks, made the mention of the March 28 earthquake in Myannar where the in Myannar where the "quackly" to help the af-fected communities.

in the light of our recent ex-perience: The world must display zero tolerance. Victhereby services the control of the

"Significant progress" Mr. Jaishankar reiterated India's commitment to a rules-based international



Indo-Pasific have the free dom of choice, no essential to make right decisions on development and securi-ty," and the Esternal Af-fairs Minister, acrossucing that the grouping had made "agnificant pro-gress" in marking do-main, lugistics, education order and the "free and open Indo-Pacific", and amounced that India was on track to host the next. The meeting in Washington DC is being attended by Japanese Poriegn Minister Takeshi twoys, "It is essential that nations of the

and political coordination in the last few mentals. "The working of the Cusad is also being made more efficient through streamliting the Working Groups. A more cohesive, numble and focused Chaid with the control of the con-better," Mr. Jaieltankar said.

better, Mr. Jaselankar said. He said India had some proposals to make the next Quad summit "produc-tive".

Ahead of the ministerial meeting, Mr. Jakshankar meet like Japanese counterpart and held "compenhers and held "compenhers with the meeting of the meeting of

Rubio's earlier remarks and described the Indo-Pacific as the region where the "hatter of the 21st cen-tury is being shaped". "Un-fortunately, we meet in the backdrop of conflict and of excalating competition, said Mr. Wang, arguing that in the backdrop of va-

sense and worm, or public, the control control

### **Incentive boost** The Hill servence will press The Union Cultinet on The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved an Employment-Linked incentive (E.3) acknow with an allocation of 199,446 core to output an employment general properties of the employment of the acknow, while the first-time employmen will get one month's wage (ap to 198,000), the suppleyers in period up to two years a period up to two years or generating additional - Around 3.83 crore

trie to \$15,000 to

ing sector," Union Informa-tion and Broadcasting Mi-nister Ashwani Vatshnaw told prespersons after the Cabiner meeting.

Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi sald the RLI scheme would boost job creation. "The focus on manufacturing and incen-

for generating additional employment, with extend-ed benefits for another two years for the manufactur-

manufacturing and incen-tives for Int-time em-ployees will greatly lenseli our youth, 'he eald. Labour Minister Man-nidh Mandaviya said the scheme was aimed at pro-viding jobs for 3.5 crore youth. The governmen aid in a statement that the ELI scheme was ai-nounced in the Union Budresulting of the Union Bud-got of 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's package of the Selment to facilitate of the Selment to facilitate of the supportunities for 4.1 cores system with a total budget outlay of 22 lake "With an outliny of "With an outliny of 1014-460 errors, the KL Selment aims to incentive the Core of the Core of the 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Out of these, 1.52 crore beneficiaries will be first threes, research.

40000

# workforce. The benefits of

scheme. "The governmen will incentivise employers will incentricise employers, up to \$3,000 per month, for two years, for each ad-ditional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, in-centives will be excended to the third and fourth

to the third and fourth years as well," the release added.
While the industries have welcomed the an-nouncement, trade unions claim. Tapan Sen, Centre of Indian Trade Unions of: TUJ general sucreary, and the move was a deceptive scheme for transferring the control of the em-ployers' claim.

# Cabinet announces incentive scheme to generate more jobs

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved an Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme with an allocation of ₹99,446 crore to support employment generation, primarily in the manufacturing sector.

"Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage [up to ₹15,000), the employers will be given incentives for a period up to two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw told presspersons after the Cabinet meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the ELI Scheme would boost job creation. "The focus on manufacturing and incentives for first-time employees will greatly benefit our youth," he said.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the scheme was aimed at providing jobs for 3.5 crore youth. The government said in a statement that the ELI scheme was announced in the Union Budget of 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling, and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of ₹2 lakh crore.

"With an outlay of 199,446 crore, the ELI Scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Out of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first-timers, entering the

### Incentive boost

The ELI scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to improve creation of job opportunities

 Around 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first-time employees

■ Scheme offers one-month wage up to ₹15,000 in two instalments

 Benefits applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027



workforce. The benefits of the scheme will be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027," the release said, adding employees with salaries up to & lakh would be eligible for the scheme. "The government will incentivise employers, up to ₹3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, in centives will be extended to the third and fourth years as well," the release added.

While the industries have welcomed the announcement, trade unions are looking at it with suspicion. Tapan Sen, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CI-TU) general secretary, said the move was a deceptive scheme for transferring public funds to the employers' class.



Aspect	Details 🗇
Total Outlay	₹99,446 crore
Coverage Period	Jobs created between August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027
Target Beneficiaries	3.5 crore youth; 1.92 crore will be first-time employees
Employee Incentives	First-time employees to receive <b>one-month wage</b> (up to ₹15,000) in two instalments
Employer Incentives	Up to ₹3,000/month per additional employee with sustained employment for at least 6 months
Extended Benefits	For manufacturing sector, incentives continue in the 3rd and 4th year

## **%** Objective

- Incentivise employers to hire first-time employees.
- Focus on skilling, manufacturing, and job creation for youth.

## Concerns & Criticism

- Trade Unions' View: Allegations that the scheme may merely transfer public funds to private employers.
- Skepticism: Potential loopholes regarding genuine job creation and the quality of employment.



#### Indo-French Army exercise Shakti 2025' concludes

The eighth edition of the Indo-French Army The eighth edition of the Indo-Princh Army sessercies, "shaki 2025", that started on June 18 concluded in Francie on Tuesday. The French Kinthasey in Francie on Tuesday. The French involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the Franch Army, the French Army, the French Army. The mad Space Store, and the French Army. The ndian contingent of 90 personnel comprised a attalion of the Jammu and Kashenir Rifles. besides personnel from other services. Exercise Shakit was a vital opportunity for Indian and French military personnel to been joint operational preparedness, the statement said

#### NCB busts top darknet-based drug vendor, seizes drugs

The Narcotics Control Bureau has busted a top darknet-based drug vender named 'Kotamelon', which had been operating for the pust race years. The vender had established a wide network for shapping beergiz cael diethylamide (LSD) to onajor chies such as Berugaluru, Cheunat, Bhopal, Patna, and Delhi, and in Himachal Pradesh and Patria, and befits, and to immerial trauters and Uttarakhand. The agency suspects that over the past is months, 850 shipments were delivered by the venior. This high impact operation, codenamed 'Adelon', was led by the NGB Cochin small unit and collimated in the existin of large quantities of LeD (1,127 LAD blors) and Meanthies (01,166 g) as well as digital assets worth \$70 lakh,"

#### Digital copy of certified adoption orders valid

Press Trust of India

The Central Adoption Re-source Authority (CARA) has clarified that adoptive has clarified that adoptive parents do nist need hard copies of adoption orders as digitally certified ver-sions sent via e-mail are le-gally valid and sufficient under the current rules. In a letter issued to all Status, Union Territories, specialised adoption agen-cies, and District Child Pretection Units (DCPUs), CA-BA addressed the confusion surrounding Regulation 13(8) of the Adoption Regulations, 2022, which outlines the procedure for delivering

ndoption orders.
The clarification comes The clarification comes amid reports that some adoption agencies and protection units were uncertain about the validity of emailed orders.

The regulation mandates that a certified copy of the adoption order.

of the adoption order -authenticated by the office of the District Magistrate -must be obtained by the SAA through the DCPL. This copy must then be sent to the adoptive pa-rents via e-mail within 10 rents via e-mail within 10 days and uploaded to the designated portal. CARA said "certified co-py" refers to a digitally authenticated version.

#### Navy inducts second indigenous stealth frigate in record time

Delivered in 37 months, INS Udavgiri represents a 'quantum leap' in the



The project is a successor of the Shivalik class frisor of the Shivalik class fri-paies of Project 17 (9-47). That are now in active sor-vice. Udagori's the second among the seven Project 17A (9-47A) frigates under construction at Masagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDSL) in Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuil-ders and Engineers in Kolkan

Kolkata. These multi-mission frigates are capable of operating in a 'blue water' environment - referring to the open ocean - dealing with both conventional and teeth conventional directs non-conventional directs in the area of India's mari-time interests, the Ministry said, adding that the re-maining five ships will be



the end of 2026.
"Udnygiri has been deli-vered to the Indian Navy in a record time of 37 months from the date of launch-ing," the Ministry state-ment said. "It is a modern avatar of its predecessor, the erstwide INS Uditionis, which was a steam ship, decommissioned on August 24, 2007 after render-ing 31 years of service to the nation."

'Quantum leap' 1'-17A ships have enhanced steakh features and are fit-ted with an advanced,

state-of-the-arr and sensor suite, a signifi-cant upgrade from the P-tr class, the Miniarry said. "The ships represent a quantum leap in the Indian Nawy's In-bouse design capabilities at the Warship Design Bureau," the state-ment added.

The weapons saite com-prises a supersonic surface-to-surface missile sys-tem, a medium-range surface-to-air missile syssurface-to-air massie sys-tem, a 76 mm gun, and a combination of 30 mm and 12.7 mm rapid-fire close-in weapon systems, accord-ing to the Ministry.

#### INS Tamal, last of foreign-built Navy ship, commissioned

The Hindu Bureau

The Indian Navy on Tues-day commissioned INS Tuday commissioned INS Tumod (F71), a multi-role
steadth, guided missile frigate, at the Vantur Shipyard in Kaliningrad,
the state of the state of the
built major warship to be
inducted into the landar
Nieve, in line with the government's emphasis in

ndigenisation under the latmanichbar Bharat and

take in India initiatives.

The ship is eighth in the series of Project 105.6 (al-no known as the Talwar class) and the second of the follow-on Tushil-class the followent Tushil class Figation. All seven previous ships of the class are part of the Navy's Wottern Fleet under the Western Naval Command. The wurship is com-manded by Captain Srid-har Tura. a specialist in gamery and missile

warfare.
Mikhaeil Babich, Deputy Director General of the Federal Service for Military Technical Coeperation of the Rassian Federation, highlighted the long-stand-ing maritime cooperation between the two nations. Vice-Admiral R. Swami-nathan, Controller of War-



tion, noted that Tamas symbolised the depth of he do-Russian defence part nership. "The Indo-Rus with Tamal being the 8tm ship produced under this collaboration over the

ship produced under this collaboration over the past 50 years," he suid. Vice Admired Sarajay Jaa-jit Singht, the chief queet at commissioning of Tumal marked a key milestone in intilies martine defence capability and bilaterial teaching the control of the control of the capability and bilaterial teaching the control of the capability and the capability of the capabilit

#### Railways launches RailOne app to ease ticket booking, travel services

#### + The Binds Bureau

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Valehnaw on Tuesday launched a new app. Railtzne, in New Delhi.

Oelhi.

The app has been con-ceived by the Railways' pu-blic sector undertaking (PSU), the Centre for Railway information Systems (CRIS), RailOne is focused

(CHS). RailOne is focused on improving the pissen-per interface with the Rail-ways, officials said.

"It is a comprehensive, all in one application with a user-friendly interface. The app is available for download on Android Play Store and IOS App Store," a Railways spokesperson

aid. The RailOne app integrates all passenger servic-es, including a 2% discount



sal, e-catering, porter booking, and last mile taxi

IRCTC (the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Cor-poration, the PSU provid-

app has also been author-ised by the IRCTC, just like many other commercial apps that have partnered with the IRCTC," the spo-

busperson added.
The RailOne app fea-tures a single sign-on with

login via mPIN or biomet-rica. The app also supports existing RallComners and UTS oredentials. UTS is the indian Rallways' mobile ticketing application, which allowe daily train travellers to book unre-served tickets.

served tickets. RailOne saves space on devices as there is no need to install multiple apps, of

Heinis said.
Urging GRBS to focus on further strengthening the digital core of the Indian Railways, Mr. Vaishnaw also commended the GRB lasin for the progroms made on ungraveling the extinting passonger reservation spaces (1923). ficials suid.

"The modern PRS will be agile, multilingual, and scalable to handle 10 times the current load. It will be capable of 1.5 lakh ticket bookings and 40 lakh en-quiries per minute," the spokespecton said.

#### India reserves right to deter terror attacks, Rajnath tells Hegseth: thanks U.S. for help

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday thanked U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth for the U.S. support during Operation Sindoor and told him that India reserved the right to pre-empt and deter cross-border terror attacks and

defend their.

Mr. Singh said India's actions during the operation was excepted and a scientific their research, non-side latury, proportionate and focused on disabiling terrorist inflatituation.

It was the first time the

two leaders spoke after Op-eration Studoor. It was their third telephonic conversation since January this year, when Mr. Heg-seth assumed office. They spoke last just after the Pa halgam attack on April 22.



ship forward. The Defence Minister sought the timely delivery of the U.S. made General idectric engines for the Te-jae light combat-MkiA air-craft, being manufactured

## Ltd. He also spoke on set-ting up a production unit for jet engines in India. Mr. Hegseth said he would ensure the timely delivery of the jet engines. adding that the production unit will be set up within a

"The two leaders dis-

caused a wide canyas of is-mes ranging from long-tern cooperation in the defence sector," the Mini-try of Defence said in a statement. Mr. Singh appreciated

Mr. Singh appreciated the unwavering support extended by the U.E. to In-dia in its fight against terro-rism, the statement said. He also complimented the Sucretary of Defense for his dynamic leadership, which has propelled de-fence cooperation bet-ween the U.S. and India to

#### 'Artificial rain trial moved to August 30 due to monsoon'

The Hinda Bureau

Delhi Environment Minis project for artificial rain has been postponed due to the monsoon and will now be conducted between Au-

gust 30 and September 10.
Addressing the media, the Minister said that while Meteorology in Pune sug-gested shifting the dates, as may not support optimal cloud seeding.

The new dates were re-

portedly decided in con-sultation with HT Kanpur.

## datform tickets, live train

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#### SUDOKU





#### FAITH

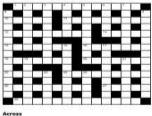
#### Maricha's warning

INGILICIAS WATHING IN THE PLANS TO A STATE OF THE PARTY O

noble and upright and has mercy towards all. When Kai-keyi wanted him to leave the kingdom, He did not hea-tare. He gave up the comforts of the palace and moved to

Maricha tella Ravana that he should not spoul. If of flat-ins, Sita is proteined by Rama, Stow then can Ravana hope to curry ther off? Rama will be like a raging fits on the bat-and Sita can never be separated. Tagether, they glow with an indescribable brilliance.

In the provide the separated the separate of the servi-lant the power to sill Ravana, says Maricha. Maricha advise se Ravana to seek the advice and guidance of his mini-rers, and of his brother Vibereshaua. Maricha tells Rayana that he should not speak III of Ra



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## Indo-French Army exercise 'Shakti 2025' concludes

The eighth edition of the Indo-French Army exercise, 'Shakti 2025', that started on June 18 concluded in France on Tuesday. The French Embassy in New Delhi said that the exercise involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the French Army, the Foreign Legion, the French Air and Space Force, and the French Navy. The Indian contingent of 90 personnel comprised a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, besides personnel from other services. Exercise Shakti was a vital opportunity for Indian and French military personnel to boost joint operational preparedness, the statement said.

Exercise Name	Туре	Partners
Dharma Guardian	Bilateral Army	Japan
Ekuverin	Bilateral Army	Maldives
Cyclone	Bilateral Army	Egypt
Sea Dragon	Multilateral Navy	USA, Japan, Australia, South Korea
La Pérouse	Multinational Navy	France, Australia, Canada, UK, US, others
Malabar	Multilateral Navy	USA, Japan, Australia
Varuna (23rd edition)	Bilateral Navy	France

Tiger Triumph	Trilateral (Army-Navy- Air)	USA
TROPEX	Domestic Navy	Indian naval forces
AIKEYME	Multilateral Navy	African nations (Tanzania, Kenya, etc.)
Shakti VIII	Bilateral Army	France
Cyclone, Yudh Abhyas, Shakti, Nomadic Elephant, Yudh Abhyas, Shakti etc.	Mixed (Army/Air)	France, US, Mongolia etc.

# Railways launches RailOne app to ease ticket booking, travel services

#### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday launched a new app, RailOne, in New Delhi.

The app has been conceived by the Railways' public sector undertaking (PSU), the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS). RailOne is focused on improving the passenger interface with the Railways, officials said.

"It is a comprehensive, all-in-one application with a user-friendly interface. The app is available for download on Android Play Store and iOS App Store," a Railways spokesperson said.

The RailOne app integrates all passenger services, including a 3% discount on unreserved tickets and platform tickets, live train



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during the launch of the RailOne app at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday. PIB

tracking, grievance redressal, e-catering, porter booking, and last-mile taxi services.

"Reserved tickets will continue to be offered on IRCTC (the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, the PSU providing ticketing, catering, and tourism services for the Railways). The RailOne app has also been authorised by the IRCTC, just like many other commercial apps that have partnered with the IRCTC," the spokesperson added.

The RailOne app features a single sign-on with login via mPIN or biometrics. The app also supports existing RailConnect and UTS credentials. UTS is the Indian Railways' mobile ticketing application, which allows daily train travellers to book unreserved tickets.

RailOne saves space on devices as there is no need to install multiple apps, officials said.

Urging CRIS to focus on further strengthening the digital core of the Indian Railways, Mr. Vaishnaw also commended the CRIS team for the progress made on upgrading the existing passenger reservation system (PRS).

"The modern PRS will be agile, multilingual, and scalable to handle 10 times the current load. It will be capable of 1.5 lakh ticket bookings and 40 lakh enquiries per minute," the spokesperson said.

# Railways Launches RailOne App to Ease Ticket Booking and Travel Services

### Context

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the new RailOne app in New Delhi.
- Developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), a PSU under Indian Railways.

## Key Features of RailOne App

Feature	Details	ð
All-in-One Application	Integrates all passenger services in a single app	
User-Friendly Interface	Easy to navigate; no need to install multiple apps	
3% Discount	On unreserved ticket booking	

Passenger Services	Unreserved tickets, live train tracking, grievance redressal, e-catering, porter booking, last-mile taxi services
Reserved Tickets	Still offered on IRCTC platform
Authorisation	App authorised by IRCTC
Security Features	Single sign-on with mPIN or biometrics; compatible with RailConnect & UTS credentials
Language Support	App is multilingual

# Navy inducts second indigenous stealth frigate in record time

Delivered in 37 months, *INS Udaygiri* represents a 'quantum leap' in the Indian Navy's in-house design capabilities, says the Defence Ministry

#### Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

howcasing the country's growing military manufacturing capabilities and enhancing its naval power, INS Udaygiri – the second ship of Project 17A's stealth frigates – was delivered to the Indian Navy on Tuesday, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

The project is a successor of the Shivalik class frigates of Project 17 (P-17) that are now in active service. Udaygiri is the second among the seven Project 17A (P-17A) frigates under construction at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDSL) in Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.

These multi-mission frigates are capable of operating in a 'blue water' environment – referring to the open ocean – dealing with both conventional and non-conventional threats in the area of India's maritime interests, the Ministry said, adding that the remaining five ships will be



Udaygiri, the second ship of Project 17A stealth frigate, was delivered to the Indian Navy on Tuesday. PTI

delivered progressively by the end of 2026.

"Udaygiri has been delivered to the Indian Navy in a record time of 37 months from the date of launching," the Ministry statement said. "It is a modern avatar of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS Udaygiri, which was a steam ship, decommissioned on August 24, 2007 after rendering 31 years of service to the nation."

#### 'Quantum leap'

P-17A ships have enhanced stealth features and are fitted with an advanced, state-of-the-art weapon and sensor suite, a significant upgrade from the P-17 class, the Ministry said. "The ships represent a quantum leap in the Indian Navy's in-house design capabilities at the Warship Design Bureau," the statement added.

The weapons suite comprises a supersonic surface-to-surface missile system, a medium-range surface-to-air missile system, a 76 mm gun, and a combination of 30 mm and 12.7 mm rapid-fire close-in weapon systems, according to the Ministry.

Definition	A class of warship designed to be less detectable by radar, sonar, or infrared sensors.
Primary Purpose	Naval warfare, anti-submarine operations, escort missions, and surface combat with stealth capabilities.
Key Feature	Reduced radar cross-section (RCS) to avoid enemy detection.
Stealth Techniques	<ul> <li>Angled surfaces to deflect radar waves</li> <li>Radar-absorbent materials</li> <li>Minimal external equipment</li> <li>Reduced heat and noise signature</li> </ul>
Armament	Typically equipped with:  - Anti-ship missiles  - Anti-aircraft missiles  - Torpedoes  - Naval guns  - Helicopter for reconnaissance or attack
Advantages	<ul><li>Difficult to detect and track</li><li>Higher survivability in modern warfare</li><li>Versatile operational roles</li></ul>

Examples (Global)	<ul> <li>- INS Shivalik (India)</li> <li>- La Fayette-class (France)</li> <li>- Type 054A (China)</li> <li>- Freedom-class (USA)</li> </ul>
Indian Context	India operates stealth frigates under <b>Project 17 (Shivalik-class)</b> and is building advanced versions under <b>Project 17A</b> .
Difference from Destroyers	Frigates are generally smaller and optimized for multi-role tasks like anti-submarine warfare, while destroyers are larger and more heavily armed for fleet defense and offensive operations.

Feature	Details
Ship Name	INS Udaygiri
Project	Project 17A (P-17A) Stealth Frigates
Position in Series	2nd of 7 planned P-17A frigates
Manufacturers	Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL), Mumbai Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata
Predecessor Project	Shivalik-class frigates (Project 17)
Delivery Time	Record 37 months from date of launching
Previous INS Udaygiri	Steamship decommissioned on 24 August 2007 after 31 years of service

## **Teatures & Capabilities**

- Stealth Features: Reduced radar cross-section, low detectability
- Blue Water Capability: Can operate in open ocean environments for long durations
- Multi-Mission Role:
  - Surface and sub-surface warfare
  - Air defence
  - Electronic warfare

### Weapons Suite:

- Supersonic surface-to-surface missiles
- Medium-range surface-to-air missile system
- 76 mm main gun
- Close-in weapon system: 30 mm & 12.7 mm rapid-fire guns

## **%** Significance

- Enhances India's maritime security in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Boosts India's indigenous defence production under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Represents a "quantum leap" in:
  - In-house ship design by the Warship Design Bureau
  - Technology and stealth capabilities compared to older Shivalik-class frigates

## **Project Timeline**

Total of 7 Project 17A frigates to be delivered by end of 2026

#### CM, L-G HOLD KEY MEETING

## Night shifts for women, new layoff rule: Labour dept gets fresh directions

#### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

IN A significant measure, the Delhi government has directed the Labour Department to make necessary changes to allow women to work in night shifts, but only with their consent, officials said on Tuesday.

The Labour Department has been asked to put in place all safeguards by amending the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act and issuing notifications under the Factories Act, said officials from Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's office.

Officials said that directions were also given to amend the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act to increase the threshold of minimum number of employees from one to 10 for the applicability of the Act and to allow shops and establishments to work 24/7.

The government has also given directions to "increase the threshold of workers from 100 to 200, in the Industrial Dispute Act, for seeking permission for closure." Explaining this further, a senior official from the Labour department said, "Currently, if any factory or a company wants to exit the business and do layoffs, it has to seek clearance from the departments concerned and the authority. But now, if a fac-

tory has 200 or fewer employees, it does not have to seek permission for the closure of the factory and layoffs. This has been done as part of the ease of doing business..."

When asked about the move's likely impact on labourers, the official said, "The labourers will have options to approach the labour court. At present, if the company wants to exit and they don't have the profit to pay the labourers in future, there is no point."

Responding to this, Krishna Yadav, General Secretary of Shramik Vikas Sanghatan, said, "If the government is allowing a factory or industry to exit the business and do layoffs without seeking permission from any authority. There should also be an act to provide compensation to the workers because they are the ones who will be affected and end up losing jobs without any employee funds or benefits."

The government issued a slew of directions, including these in a high-level meeting held by the L-G, along with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, on Tuesday to review the status and progress of various aspects related to the BJP government's flagship policies — 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Maximum Governance — Minimum Government', enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## **Key Announcements**

Aspect	Details
Night Shifts for Women	Permitted with consent, safeguards to be put in place via amendments to Delhi Shops & Establishment Act and notifications under Factories Act.
24x7 Operations for Shops	Directions to amend law to allow shops & establishments to operate 24/7.
Minimum Employees Threshold (Delhi Shops & Establishment Act)	Raised from 1 to 10 for applicability of the Act.
Layoff Permission Threshold (Industrial Disputes Act)	Raised from 100 to 200 employees for seeking permission for closure or layoffs.

## Rationale & Implications

#### Ease of Doing Business:

- Reduces regulatory burden on small businesses.
- Part of government's flagship initiatives: Ease of Doing Business and Maximum Governance Minimum Government.

#### Labour Welfare Concerns:

- Labourers can approach labour court if aggrieved.
- Trade Unions demand:
  - Compensation safeguards for affected workers.
  - Legal provisions to prevent job losses without benefits.

#### Women's Employment:

- Consent-based night shifts aim to promote women's workforce participation.
- Safeguards yet to be finalized.

#### **EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

## WHAT IS THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA?

THAILAND'S CONSTITUTIONAL Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtam Shinawatra from office on Tuesday pending an ethics investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader that followed a border row that erupted on May 28. The leaked call has set off political turmoil in Thailand as Paetongtam faces growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the conflict.

#### The leaked call

The phone call between Paetongtam and Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen was made on June 15 and was leaked days after. Hun Sen said in his Facebook post that he recorded the conversation and had shared it with at least 80 people.

In the call, the two were heard talking through a translator discussing the tensions at the border, and about whether they should lift restrictions imposed after the deadly clash.

Paetongtarn could be heard addressing Hun Sen as uncle. He is a longtime
friend of her father, Thaksin Shinawatra,
a popular but divisive former Prime
Minister. She urged him not to listen to a
Thai regional army commander who had
publicly criticised Cambodia about the
border dispute. She also told Hun Sen to
let her know what he wanted, and she
would try to manage that.

Critics said she went too far in appeasing Hun Sen, and that what she said, especially her comments about the army commander, damaged Thailand's interests.

#### The border dispute

The recent dispute was triggered in May after the armed forces of Thailand and Cambodia briefly fired at each other in a relatively small contested border area that both countries claim as their own.

Both sides have said they acted in selfdefence, One Cambodian soldier was killed.

While the countries said afterwards they had agreed to de-escalate the situation, Cambodian and Thai authorities continue to implement or threaten measures short of armed force loeping tensions high.

Thailand and Cambodia share around 800 kilometres of land border. The contesting claims stem largely from a 1907 map drawn under French colonial rule that was used to separate Cambodia from Thailand.



Thai PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra was suspended on Tuesday. AP

Cambodia has been using the map as a reference to claim territory, while Thailand has argued the map is inaccurate.

The most prominent and violent conflicts broke out around the 1,000-yearold Preah Vihear temple.

In 1962, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) awarded sovereignty over the area to Cambodia and that became a major irritant in relations.

Cambodia went back to the court in 2011. The ICJ reaffirmed the ruling in 2013, a decision that still rattled Thailand.

#### What happens next

Cambodia is seeking a ruling again from the ICJ over several disputed areas, including where the deadly clash happened.

Thailand has said it does not accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ and that any conflicting border claims between the two should be solved by the existing bilateral mechanism.

Cambodia nevertheless said it has submitted the case to the ICJ, and insisted that it would no longer discuss these areas under the two countries' bilateral mechanism.

#### Bickering neighbours

The ill feeling between the two neighbours is not just about overlapping border claims, but also deep-seated cultural enmity that has its roots from centuries ago when they were large and competing empires.

In more modern times, bad feelings have lingered, as Cambodia's development has falled well behind Thailand due to French colonialism and the brutal rule of the communist Khmer Rouge in the 1970s, AP

- Thailand's Constitutional Court has suspended PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra over a leaked phone call with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen.
- The call, made after a deadly border clash on May 28, discussed easing restrictions and managing tensions.
- Political turmoil has erupted in Thailand over dissatisfaction with her handling of the conflict.

## **†** The Border Dispute

- Root Cause:
  - Stemming from a 1907 map drawn under French colonial rule, used to separate Cambodia from Thailand.
- Contested Area:
  - Both countries claim a small, strategically significant stretch of land along their 800 km shared border.

- Major Flashpoint:
  - The Preah Vihear Temple, a 1,000-year-old temple, is the focal point of disputes.

## International Legal Aspect

- 1962: International Court of Justice (ICJ) awarded sovereignty over Preah Vihear temple area to Cambodia.
- 2011: Cambodia returned to ICJ; 2013 ruling reaffirmed Cambodia's claim, which angered Thailand.
- Cambodia now seeks ICJ intervention for other disputed areas.
- Thailand rejects ICJ jurisdiction, insists on bilateral mechanisms to resolve disputes.

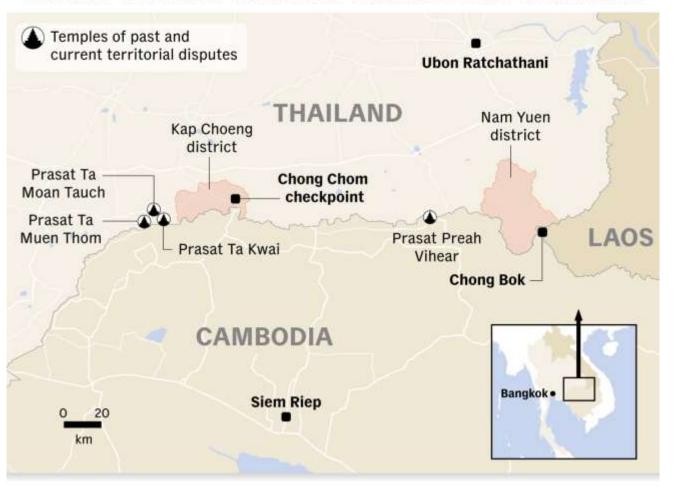
## Recent Developments

- May 2024: Armed forces from both sides engaged in a brief firefight; one Cambodian soldier killed.
- Both sides claimed self-defence but agreed to de-escalate.
- Tensions remain high with no permanent resolution.

## Political Fallout

- Paetongtarn criticised for being too conciliatory toward Hun Sen.
- Critics argue her approach undermined Thailand's military and national interests.

## **Border tensions between Thailand and Cambodia**



#### Feb 13

Ta Muean Thom temple anthem protest by Cambodian soldiers and civilians

#### May 28

Chong Bok border clash, one Cambodian soldier killed

#### Jun 2

Cambodia National Assembly backs petition to bring four disputed areas to the International Court of Justice

#### Jun 6-7

Thai military says ready for a "high-level operation", as both countries beef up troops at border

#### Jun 8

Both sides agree to withdraw troops to previous border positions

#### Jun 14

Key meeting scheduled by Thailand-Cambodia Joint Boundary Committee





## Word of the day

## **Extemporaneous:**

with little or no preparation or forethought

**Synonyms:** ad-lib, impromptu, off-the-cuff, offhand, unrehearsed

**Usage:** He gave an extemporaneous piano recital.

## **Pronunciation:**

newsth.live/extemporaneouspro

# International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɛksˌtɛm.pɜː(ɹ)'eɪn.i.əs/

