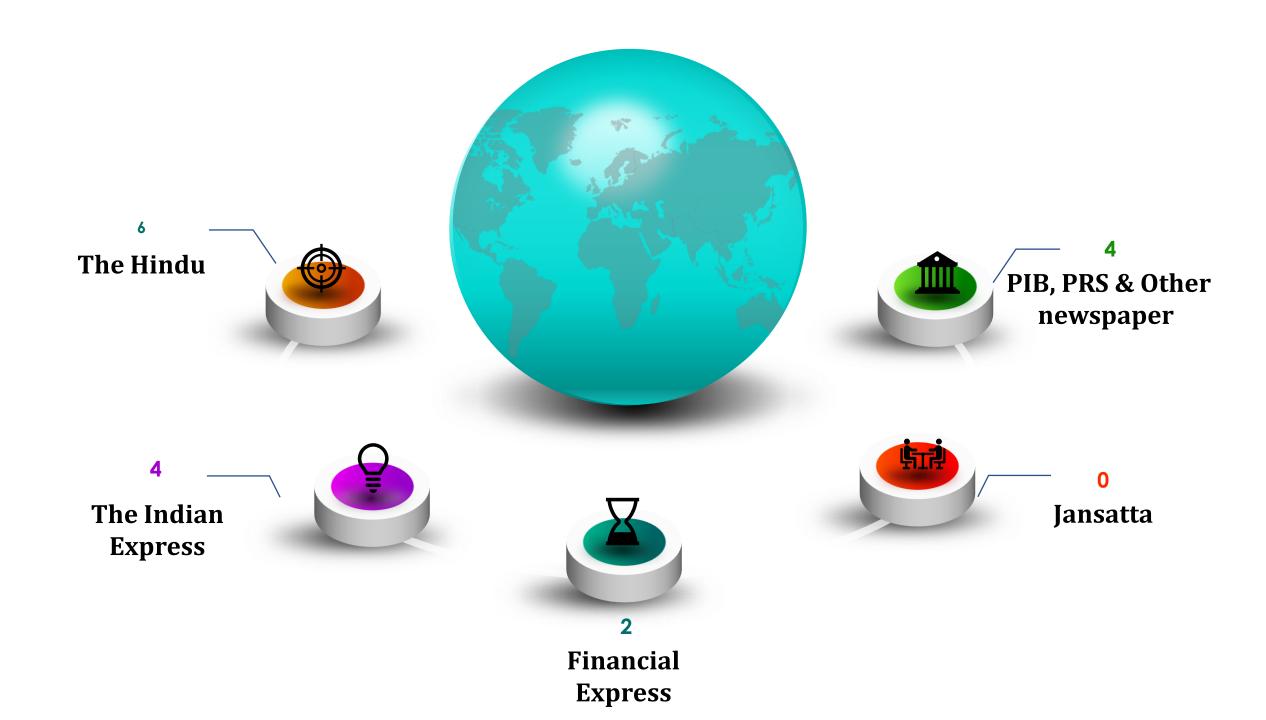
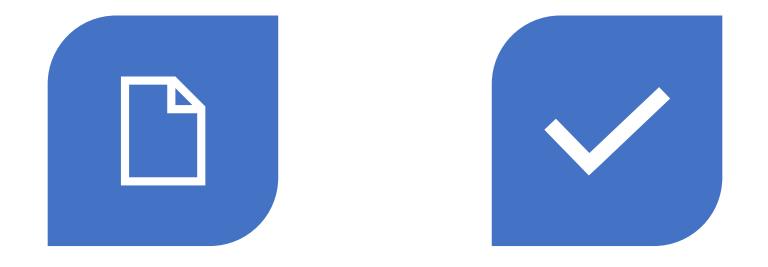
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#### 'Pak. did not resort to nuclear signalling'

U.S. was not involved in truce talks, Foreign Secretary tells parliamentary standing panel on External Affairs 'satisfactorily', says Tharoor, who heads panel also helps terrorists cross the LoC, says Centre

himself requested that there should be no resolu-tion but it was unanimous sentiment of the commit-tee that he has performed

good service for the na-tion, we all stand with him," Mr. Tharoor said.

Aiding terror activities

The investigations by se-curity agencies, Mr. Misri

said, had revealed that the

Teachers should have trusted the govt.: Bengal CM

#### KOLKATA

INSIDE

KOLKATA West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday said the protesting teachers should have trusted the Trinamool government and fought the situation legally. 30 PAGE 2

#### Order to survey Sambhal mosque in U.P. upheld

LUCKNOW The Allahabad High Court on Monday upheld a lower court's order appointing an Advocate Commissioner to survey the "disputed" Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. » PAGE 6

+ Rain havoc in Bengaluru

sobhana K. Nair (DGMO) spoke to his Pakis (DGMO) spoke to his Pakis-tani counterpart about Op-eration Sindoor only after the "first strike". Mr. Misri detailed the recent spike in article of Delated sort to a sort to "nuclear signalling" in the activities of Pakistani-sponsored terrorists operating on Indian soil. Pakistan wake of Operation Sindoor and the United States was continues to extend sup-"neither involved nor inport for terrorists, helping them in training and by providing financial and formed" about cessation of firing between the two countries, the Union go-vernment told the parlia-mentary Standing Commit-tee on External Affairs, technical support. In the past year, Mr. Misri report-edly told the panel that there were at least 24 terrothere were at least 24 terro-rist-initiated attacks, lead-ing to the deaths of 24 se-curity personnel and more than 30 civilians. headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on Monday. Foreign Secretary Vik-ram Misri, who briefed the panel, rebutted Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Shak Rahul Gandhis reg informed at the "start of our attack", sources said.

Solidarity with Misri Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Tha-roor said External Affairs Ministry officials and Mr. Misri "satisfactorily" an-swered all questions raised by the members. There was a "commerbensive and our attack", sources said. Mr. Misri told the panel that India's Director-Gen-eral of Military Operations was a "comprehensive and



Key meet: Members of the Par Akram Misri in New Delhi on M rich discussion", he said.

The Trinamool Con The Trinamool Con-gress's Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee asked if the government had any information about the ter-rorists involved in the Pa-Congress MP Deepen-dra Hooda asked if India had lost any jets in the operation, to which, as per sources, MEA officials said it was beyond their domain to answer this. halgam attack. There was no immediate reply.

"Many of the MPs had thoughtful questions to ask. There was even a de-sire to have a resolution expressing solidarity with the Foreign Secretary in the face of the unwarranted attacks and comments, he

MEA officials said, for oth-er countries to respond similarly. Mr. Misri clarified that said, had revealed that the Pakistan state apparatus has been aiding and aber-dian soil. Pakistan, through "coordinated cea-sefire violations", also helps terrorists cross the also lends them assistance through drones, the go-vernment said. Wernment said. diad Marxist MP John Bri-tas asked for clarification Mr. Misri clarified that India has clearly stated its position to world leaders that it is only responding to the Pahalgam attack. The MEA officials further said that India has responded through proper channels on Mr. Trumy's statements. statements. Mr. Misri reiterated the

even before the two cour even before the two coun-tries did, to which the go-vernment said that the U.S. was "neither involved nor informed". Conversation

was neither involved nor informed". Conversation with U.S. officials was part of a routine process, offi-cials explained, equating it with India's own interven-

tions urging both Russia and Ukraine to de-escalate. It was only natural, the

and step in again to literal-ly "re-write" the offences listed against the Minister in the FIR.

in the FIR. Justice Kant said a fair and transparent SIT probe against a sitting Minister would be a "litmus test" for the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh.

The court fixed the next hearing for May 28. The court directed Mr.

Shah to "to join and fully cooperate with the investi-gation", subject to which his arrest would remain

tas asked for clarification on why U.S. President Do-nald Trump was the first to announce the "ceasefire" government's stance that there was no deviation from the stated policy of no third-party mediation.

#### Form SIT to probe FIR on Madhya Pradesh Minister's remarks: SC

#### Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the con-stitution of a three-member Special Investigation Team to probe the FIR against Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah for his derogatory remark against Colonel Sofiya Qu reshi, who briefed the me-dia during Operation Sin-door, and submit its findings to the top court in a status report. In the second second second the Madbya Pradesh Direc-tor-General of Police to constitute the STT with di-rectly recruited IPS officers of the Madbya Pradesh day. reshi, who briefed the m

by an officer of Inspector

General rank with two members of Superinten-dent of Police rank. One member must be a wo-man, and none of the members should belong to the State, the top court said.

100

the comments and said it amounted to "crass,

lay. The SIT must be headed

**'Crass, thoughtless'** Justice Kant said the Bench had viewed video clips vene for the State to regisshowing Mr. Shah making

the comments and said it amounted to "crass, thoughtless remarks". The court further during shown by the State of Mad-hya Pradesh to register an FIR against the Minister or bring him to book. Justice Kant said the High Court had to interhis arrest would remain stayed for the time being. "If you want we can show them to you here... Instead of leading by exam-ple, you, a public figure do this most unfortunate dressed senior advocates Maninder Singh and Vibha Dutta Makhija, who ap-

Dutta Makhija, who ap ter an FIR in the first place peared for Mr. Shah.



#### Trump calls Putin, says Russia-Ukraine will 'immediately' begin ceasefire negotiations

Associated Press Reuters WASHINGTON

Russia and Ukraine will "immediately" begin ceasefire negotiations, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday after what dia post. The conversa-tions came after the White House said the U.S. leader he described as an "excelent" call with Rus sian Pre sident Vladimir Putin that continuing war in Ukraine. lasted more than two 'Find compromises' After the call, Mr. Putin Mr. Trump also spoke with Ukrainian leader Vo-

After the call, Mr. Putin said Russla was ready to continue discussing an end to the fighting, but he indi-cated there was no break-through in what he termed a "very informative and ve-ry frank" conversation with Ukrainian leader Vo-lodymyr Zelenskyy and Eu-ropean leaders in hopes of making progress toward a ceasefire. "The conditions for that will be negotiated between

CM (CM)



with Mr. Trump. Mr. Putin said the warring countries should "find compromises that would suit all parties." "At the same time, I would like to note that, in general, Russia's position is clear. The main thing for us is to eliminate the root White House, if not even before he took office. Prior to the call, Mr. Trump expressed his hopes for a "productive day" on Monday – and a ceasefire – in a social me-dia post over the weekend. His effort will also include calls to NATO leaders. But



#### SC agrees to hear academic's plea against arrest urgently

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI Khan's lawyers have said that the Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Monday agreed to an oral request for an ur-gent hearing of a petition filed by Ali Khan Mahmu-dabad, an Associate Profes-sor of Political Science with the Ashoka University, who was arrested for his rest on Sunday. social media posts in connection with Operation Sindoor, "He has been arrested for a patriotic state-ment," senior advocate Kament," senior advocate Ka-pil Sibal told the CJI while seeking an urgent hearing. CJI Gavai agreed to the an oral mention by Mr. Si-bal urging the top court to list for "tomorrow or the

111

Khan were "frivolous" and that similar comments had been made by many politi-cal leaders and retired Ar-my officers on social media. charges against him were 'frivolous' day after" the plea by Mr. Mahmudabad challenging the FIR at the Rai Police Station in Sonipat of Harvana and his subsequent ar Mr. Khan's lawyers have briefed the media that he was arrested on charges of endangering the country's sovereignty and integrity and promoting enmity bet-ween different groups, among others, under the Bhatatiya Nyaya Sand hat They malmage against Mr. briefed the media that he RELATED REPORT » PAGE 4

#### edia. The Haryana Police had said that Mr. Khan was ar-rested on the basis of an FIR registered on the complaint of Haryana State Wo men Commission Chair person Renu Bhatia. Jathedi Sarpanch and BJP Yuva Morcha general-se-cretary Yogesh Jathedi had also lodged a second FIR against Mr. Khan on May 17.

» PAGE 8

ABX

INBRIEF

Railways features Operation

Sindoor 'tribute' on e-tickets

Indian Railways is featuring messaging related to Operation Sindoor on its e-tickets along with a photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a

photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a Railway Ministry spokesperson said on Monday. The message on the e-tickets reads, "Operation Sindoor has drawn a new line in the fight against set "Peaturing this messaging related to Operation Sindoor on e-tickets is our way of saluting the brave hearts of the Indian Army," the spokesperson added. The messaging is also being highlighted on the Railways' ticket booking During Corporation (BRCTO website.

'India monitoring Singapore,

Hong Kong COVID situation'

The set of the set of

Fourism Corporation (IRCTC) website

#### THE HINDU News

Amit Shah

#### launches e-Zero FIR initiative

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

version of place of worship The Indian Cybercrim was taking place or any re-ligious character of the Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced a new system that automatically con-verts financial cybercrime complaints with a fraud vacomplaints with a fraud va-lue above %10 lakh, and re-gistered on the 1930 hel-pline or cybercrime.gov.in portal, into first informa-

cybercriminals will soon be extended to the entire nation, the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

implementation of the in itiative at a recent review meeting of the I4C, keep ing in view the difficulties faced by victims of finan cial cybercrimes in reco

servation of Ancient Monu-ments) and, thereafter, to 1958 (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act), he can-not take shelter of the Plac-es of Worship Act of 1991 that aims at preventing the conversion of any place of worship and maintaining worship and maintaining the religious character as it was on August 15, 1947.

when the notification was made and, thereafter, the laws enacted to govern such protected monument." the court said It added that once the revisionist himself has subjected to the Act of 1904 (Act to provide for the pre-servation of Ancient Monu-

place of worship was being changed and that the Hin-du petitioners had only sought the right to access to a protected monument declared in 1920, under Section 18 of the Act of Section 18 of the Act of 1958. "Once, It is an admitted for the the structure in question has been de-clared as a protected mon-ument in 1920 and the same remained unchal-lenged till date, it is bound to be governed by provi-sions of law which existed portal, into first informa-tion reports (FIRs). The e-Zero FIR initiative has been launched on a pilot basis first in Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday. The new system that will drive investigations.

will drive investigations to swiftly cracking down on

Mr. Shah directed the

cial cybercrimes in reco-vering the money lost. The newly introduced process involves the inte-context involves the inte-context involves the inter-context involves the inter-context interaction of the context interaction of the context interaction of the National Crime Record Bu-reau's Crime and Criminal Vactomic Network and Vactomic Network and

the cases were mild, with no hospitalisation required. A robust system for surveillance of respiratory viral illnesses, including COVID-19, also existed in the country, they added.

#### Follow OROP **Allahabad HC upholds order** principle for to survey Sambhal mosque all retired HC judges: SC

The court dismisses the mosque panel's plea, noting that this is not a case of conversion of place of worship and that the Hindu plaintiffs only wanted right of access to a protected monument

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said that all High those who retired as addi-tional judges, will be enti-tional judges, will be enti-tioned the second second second termemer benefits. "One rank, one pension must be the norm in res-thief functice of India B.K. tice Gavai said that varying standards of retirement and pension benefits and pension benefits atte the right to equality Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI he Allahabad High Court on Monday upheld a lower court's order appointing an Advocate Commissionan Advocate Commission er to survey the "disputed" Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Utar Pradesh. The mosque committee Mourt challenging the sur-vey, which was ordered un-der the suit filed by Hindu plaintifis claiming the mos-que had been built on the site by Maghal emperor Ba-ing the Harthar tembel. late the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution. "We direct that the Uning the Harihar temple, dedicated to Kalki.

ion of India shall follow the principle of 'one rank one pension' to all the retired Last November, a civil court in Sambhal ordered a judges of the High Courts survey of the mosque by an Advocate Commissioner. Soon after, Ramesh Raghmective of their source of entry i.e., district judici soon after, kamesn kagn-av, the designated officer, conducted a hurried sur-vey of the mosque. The survey was followed by communal violence in the town, leading to the death of four persons. ary or the Bar, and irres-pective of number of years that they have served eiththat they have served eith-er as a district judge or a High Court Judge and all of them shall be paid full pen-sion," Chief Justice Gavai, who authored the Judg-ment, said. The court directed the Centre to pay full pension

Not lower court's error The mosque committee, in its arguments, submitted that the dispute regarding the mosque had already been settled in 1877 and Centre to pay full pension of ₹15 lakh per annum indi-vidually to retired Chief Justices of High Courts.

team visits the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. could not be adjudicated in the instant suit. Justice Ro-hit Ranjan Agarwal observed that the lower court had not committed any er-ror, irregularity, or illegal-ty in allowing the surveys. By advocate S.F.A. Naqvi that dispute in regard to Maglid already atood set-ing been confirmed by this Gourt cannot be accepted at this stage in view of the speaks of an old building, whereas in 1820 juma Mas-jid was declared as a pro-tected mounternt under served that the lower court

West it is to



A Pressention

by Archaese Department. The court said this was

#### 'One of two accused in Surankote attack case is based in Pak.

Investigators stated that Ahmed exfiltrated to Pakis-tan in 2001. He subse-quently Joined the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and later aligned with the Jammu Kashmir Gaznavi Force (JKGF). "Towards the end of 2022, Nazir Ahmed re established contact with his relative Aziz using encrypted messaging appl cations and Pakistan-b numbers," an SIA officia caid said. During this period, Ahmed is alleged to have radicalised Aziz and re-cruited him into the HM-JKGF network. He also pur-portedly provided Aziz JKGF network. He also pur portedly provided Aziz with hand grenades and in-structions for the attack. "The investigation re-veals a broader conspiracy by the Pakistan-sponsored HM to destabilise the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the SIA said in a

#### Report reveals delayed wages are a key factor to mismatch between MGNREGS coverage, delivery a budget allocation of \$2.64 lakh crore for the MGNREQS for FY 2022-23 itself. However, the Union government has allocated only ₹86,000 crore for FY 2024-25. There was no revi-sion in the MGNREGS bud-out for FY 2024-25 Sobhana K. Nair of regional variations con-tinues. Odisha (34.8%) Ta-mil Nadu (25.1%) and Rajas-than (15.9%) saw the sharpest decline in person days, while Maharashtra (39.7%), Himachal Pradesh (20.7%), Himachal Pradesh

#### + The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

NIA arrests

in Manipur

two persons

violence cases

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two persons, including one alleged militant, in connection with the Manipur violence cases.

The "militant" was arrested in the case related to the murder of a woman and the burning and looting of houses in a village in liribam, Raikumar Maipak-Jiribam. Rajkumar Maipak-sana was picked up from Kannur in Kerala. "He is as-insurgent kerala. "He is as insurgent group. People's Revolutionary. Party of Kangleipak," the NIA said. In another case, one of the "miscreants" involved in an attack on the India Tenerpoung. I, in which one

Tengnoupal, in which one policeman was killed and two were injured on Janu-ary 17 last year, was



days of employment per household fell by 4.3%, from 52.42 person days in FY 2023-24 it went down to 50.18 person days in FY constrain the programme's effectiveness," the report said. Also, the persistent problem with the programme



delay in wage payments re-ported from across the observed from across the observed payments of the power highlighted on va-rious platforms. The par-liamentary Standing Com-Development in the past has raised concerns over reduction in budget alloca-tion in budget alloca-ment and its effect on the progress of the scheme. People's Action for Em-Penge's Action for Em-tended and the action of t (PAEG) had recommended

SUDOKU 4 8 5 4 2 2 9 1 4 9 3 769 1 5 З 6 2 8 1 9 З 5 4 5 est order DIFFICULTY RATING: www.gooing.(%,10) Overwhelmed by storm in Aug, resolved to get meteorological device (4,5) Member in cabaret ordered seafood (8) Floral spikes in rooms captivating princess (8) 19 See 14 Across Troublesome chap supporting immature idea [6] 22 Revel in English dinner jacket, turning to entertain lady (5) 61823 :::

#### FAITH

#### Ambal Pattabhishekham

Two pattabhishekhams are spiritually very renovned. The first one is the ever popular Rama Pattabhishekham and the second one is Ambul Pattabhishekham at Ambaji in Gujarat, said Damodara Dikshidhar. Milless. In the first sloka of Soundarya Lihari, Acharya says, "From Brahma, Vishnu everyone did puja for you and became gods of the universe." This ability to rise above all is obtained only by praying to Her. Ambal is the only one who shines as the powerful one, even Bhagavan scriptures. She is worshipped in various places as a diffe-rent deity: as Kamakshi, Karpagambal, Katyayin, Gorent deity: as Kamakshi, Karpagambal, Katyayini, Go-mathi, Visalakshi, to name a few. There are many Sakti peetams and the swayambu Sakti kshetras are of the high

The SI swayambu kshetras are the places where She let go of pieces of Herself in various locations. Our scriptures say this happened when Daksha troubled and humiliated Swa. Unbaie to counterance it, Said ecited to shed her of which, She surrendered to Him and shed Her parts. Her waist is aid to have fallen on earth where Kanchipuram is, her tongate in Kolkata, while Her heart fell in Ambaji, Guj-tees and evolved souts. Numerous accetts and others who have prayed to Her steadfastty at her shrine on a hillock there, have spoken of He having appeared to them, as a vision. Amba's Gri Haja Kajeswarth Patabhishekham fait between use 2 and hub et his year. The 51 swayambu kshetras are the places where She le A 842



The Hindu Bureau The Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Monday filed a chargesheet against The LibTech report also wo persons in connection with the grenade attack on a temple in Surankote, Poonch, in November 2023. The accused innotes that the deletions of cludes one individual based in Pakistan, alleged to be affiliated with proto be affiliated with pro-scribed terror outfits. The chargesheet names Hari Safeda in Surankote, Poonch, and Nazir Ahmed, alias Nazir oo r Ali Khan, a Pakistan-based operative who also hails from the same village. Aziz executed the attack

According to the SIA, Aziz executed the attack under instructions from Ahmed, who is currently operating from across the border.

#### 7.8 crore workers were deleted. The Ministry main tained that both deletions and additions are part of a regular process. But the rate of deletions far ex-tance of deletions far ex-tance of the second second term of the second second period, only 1.52 crore workers were added. For the first time in VY 2024-25, the first time in VY 2024-25, the first time in VY 2024-25, so, while 99 lakh workers were deleted, 2.22 crore were added. tained that both deletions

get for FY 2024-25.

MGNREGS workers across

the country have been ar-rested at least partially.

Between 2022 and 2024.

TH CROSSWORD+14489 13 Most cheap witness backtracked, essentially lying in case (9) Lines unear survey memors Dacktrackee, essentially ying in case (9)
 14/23/19 Possess confidential info about a group's misdeeds, like a gravedigger? (4,53,63,6)
 18 Form of high-speed transport by trains, a day trip perhaps (5,7)
 21 See 14
 22 See 14 21 23 Punishment is severe, giving up cocaine for good (5) 24 Cover with a hard coating once perhaps, wanting zero 6 corrosion (7) 25 Praising ad with lungi dance (7) 26 Foremost of tailors altering vests and boob tubes (2,4)
 27 Pilot cuddling model in red, becoming intimate (3) Stopwatches, say, in rows outside entrance to mall (6) Stopwatches, say, in rows outside entrance to mail (6) Wind is remarkably clean source of energy (6) Concerned by red tape in work (9) Police documents of sty campaign organised to infiltrate gangs (6,6) (6,8) Hotel certainly has power plugs (5) Endless anxiety on reflection, securing enclosure for snakes (8) Concoction of tea and rys is more frodby (8) University administrator's haphazard record reviewed after wrongdoing (4,10)



romises guaranteed em-

Enter unlawfully in health resort, breaking lock (8)

SM (1998)

- Enter unlawfully in health resort, breaking lock (8) Wife is extremely kinky after drinking hard liquor (6) Alarm about one essentially spreading disease (7) Supreme powers of one politician backing character smuggling
- ecstasy (7) 12 Correct apparatus to preserve body parts (5)

Inadequate allocation Among the key factors leading to an overall em-ployment drop are the inadequate allocation of bud-get and extraordinary get and extraordinary delay in wage payments re ported from across the

#### Amit Shah launches e-Zero FIR initiative

#### <u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

NEW DELHI

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced a new system that automatically converts financial cybercrime complaints with a fraud value above ₹10 lakh, and registered on the 1930 helpline or cybercrime.gov.in portal, into first information reports (FIRs). The e-Zero FIR initiative has been launched on a pilot basis first in Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday. The new system that will drive investigations to swiftly cracking down on cybercriminals will soon be extended to the entire nation, the Ministry of Home Affairs said. Mr. Shah directed the implementation of the initiative at a recent review meeting of the I4C, keeping in view the difficulties faced by victims of financial cybercrimes in recovering the money lost. The newly introduced process involves the integration of I4C's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal system, the Delhi Police's e-FIR system, and the National Crime Record Bureau's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems.

#### 2. Key Features of e-Zero FIR:

- Purpose:
  - To automate the conversion of cybercrime complaints (financial fraud over ₹10 lakh) into First
     Information Reports (FIRs).
- Process:
  - Complaints registered through:
    - 1930 helpline
    - Cybercrime.gov.in portal
  - If the **fraud value exceeds ₹10 lakh**, it is **automatically converted** into an FIR.
- Integration:
  - Combines systems from:
    - National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (I4C)
    - Delhi Police's e-FIR system
    - National Crime Record Bureau's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)

#### 3. Significance of the Initiative:

- Enhanced Efficiency:
  - Automates FIR registration, speeding up the investigation process.
- Nationwide Rollout:
  - After the **pilot phase in Delhi**, it will be **extended across the country**.
- Support for Victims:
  - Especially useful for victims of **financial cybercrimes** who face challenges in **money recovery**.
- Proactive Law Enforcement:
  - Aimed at swift action against cybercriminals.



#### 4. Context and Background:

- Problem Addressed:
  - The increasing number of financial cybercrimes and the difficulty victims face in filing FIRs and recovering money.
- Government's Focus:
  - Part of the Digital India initiative to enhance cybersecurity and public safety.
- Policy Alignment:
  - The initiative aligns with the Home Ministry's focus on strengthening cybercrime reporting and criminal tracking.



- 5. Technological Integration:
  - Key Technologies Involved:
    - Automated FIR system
    - Data sharing between I4C, Delhi Police, and NCRB
    - Real-time data processing
  - Cybercrime Helpline:
    - Victims can report via **1930** or **cybercrime.gov.in**.
  - Data Monitoring:
    - Centralized data handling for **faster case resolution**.

## **Text&Context**

#### - THE

labourers identified in

#### **NEWS IN NUMBERS**

Fine collected from Olive Ridley turtles protected under people spitting in 'Operation Olivia' railway stations

6.98 In lakh. Conducted annually from November to May, 'Operation Olivia' is an initiative of the Indian Coast Guard aimed at ensuring safe nesting grounds for the turtles, particularly at Gahirmatha Beach and surrounding stal areas of Odisha. en

322 In T lakh. The Eastern Railway (ER) has collected over T32 lakh in fines from people 10,336 Pradesh govspitting in railway stations in the first three months of this year, an official said. A total of 31,576 individuals were penalised for spitting and littering from January to March 2025 across the FB network. m

ernment has launched a State-wide campaign aimed at eradicating child labour by 2027. Between 2017-18 and 2024-25, as many as 12,426 child labourers have been rehabilitated educationally. m

Number of child

U.P. from 2017-25

20,000<sup>m</sup>least 20,000 people have fied the Marte town following increasing attacks by Islamist militants in Nigeria's northeastern Borno state, its governor said, four years after residents

People who have fled

the insurgency-hit

town in Nigeria

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## The ongoing oil price tensions

Global oil demand is approaching a plateau, with the International Energy Agency expecting it to grow only by 0.73% in 2025 despite sharply lower prices. The 'peak demand' theory does not appear as outlandish now as it did two years ago when the Agency predicted that global oil consumption would peak before 2030

10

#### WORLD INSIGHT

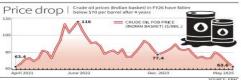
Mahesh Sachdev

ust when you had your surfeit of headlines screaming of blood and gore, come the drumbeats of a new conflict. However, in this a new conflict. However, in this new one, the belligerents do not swap builters but barrels. Yet, this incipient limpact than the destruction being that they perform that the second matching the second second second second matching the second second second second matching the second sec

downwards. While these processes were ongoing, Saudi Arabia, OPEC\*'s largest producer, which took nearly three million bpd or (June). This was the third month in a row that the oil cartel decided to raise crude production, cumulatively undoing the 9,60,000 bpd or nearly half of the 2.2 million bpd "voluntary" output cuts ei of its members undertook in 2023, to of its members undertook in 2023, to increase global oil prices in an oversupplied market. There are hints that the full 2.2 million bpd cut would be unwound by October 2025. Though the announced preduction rise was less than half a per cent of global daily production, the oil market was so jittery that the Brent crude price plummeted by almost 2% to \$60.23/barrel, the lowest since the pandemic. It has since recovered to \$65/barrel with support from the strategy to punish perceived overproducers. In the past, this market flooding strategy of Saudi enabled Riyadh to eventually impose production U.S.-China stopgap trade deal and reports of stalemate in the U.S.-Iran nuclear talks.

small's strategy The oil nurkes is still gutted and crude price is nowhere near the triple dollar mark that OPEC: a imred for. Why, then, has this 25-member producer clique supplies to raising production? To find the reasons, we need to deep dive into the oil market of the post-GOWD era.

An oversupplied oil market However, many observers are less sanguine about the outcome of the Saudi Despite the expectation of a quick turnaround, global post-COVID economic recovery was mostly K-shaped leading to campaign this time owing to several an anaemic growth in oil demand. Meanwhile, oil producers were desperate unique and different fundamentals. To Meanwhile, oil producers were desperate to ramp up their outputs to make up for lost revenue. It also did not help that several new producers, from the shale oilers to non-OPEC: countries, such as Brazil and Quyana, also wanted a piece of the shrunken demand. To square the production cut of five million bpd, nearly 10% of its total pre-pandemic output. begin with, this time the Saudis do not have the usual deep pockets needed to prevail. The oil market is more fragmented with large flocks of freelancing producers. High Capex has been sunk in ultra-deep offshore fields and other difficult geographies whichs need necovering, even at marginal costs, to avoid adverse political and economic consequences. Moreover, the crude begin with, this time the Saudis do not



When even this move did not shore up the oil price, a further "voluntary" cut of 2.2 million bpd was taken by eight members. This rope trick also failed to raise oil prices which continued to slide exports by major oil producers such as Russia, tran and Venezuela are currently hobbled by U.S. economic sanctions which may not last long. The global oil demand is approaching a plateau and the international Energy

Agency (IEA) expects it to grow only by 0.73% in 2025 despite sharply lower prices. The controversial "peak demand" which took nearly three million bpd or 40% of the total production cuts, got increasingly infuriated by endemic OPBC, the UAE and Nigeria. The Kingdom, often called a "swing producer" for its large spare production capacity, prefers stable and moderately high oil prices to ensure a steady oil evenae. However, it has made exceptions in 1985-866, 1998, 2004-165, and exceptions in 1985-866, 1998, 2004-165, and stratese to onugha hereceived. prices, the controversial peak demand theory does not appear as outlandish now as it did only two years ago when the IEA predicted that global oil consumption would peak before 2030. The signs in that would peak before 2030. The signs in that direction are ubiquitous – from the global economic slowdown to the growing popularity of non-internal combustion engine vehicles, particularly in China, the largest oil importer, and growing climate change mitigation. These pessimistic projections are likely to be further compounded by the huge disruption unleashed by U.S. President Trump's tariff war. The S&P Global agency lowered its discipline among its peers, allowing prices to return to Riyadh's desired levels. global GDP forecasts to 2.2% for 2025 and 2.4% for 2026 - historically weak levels since the 2008-09 recession except for Now, when repeated pleas failed to stop overproducers, and when Saudi Arabia's average production fell below nine million bpd in 2024, its lowest level since 2011, Riyadh decided to repeat the since the 2008-09 recession except for the pandemic period. The World Trade Organization recently predicted a 0.2% annual decline in world trade in 2025 unless other influences intervene. The since 2011, Riyadin decided to repeat the playbook: an oil price war in the guise of accelerated restoration of voluntary production cuts. aforementioned bearish factors can create an inelastic situation causing oil prices to not return to previous levels even after supply-side impetuses are

reversed. All this background begets the question: why has Riyadh picked this noment to unleash the oil war? To some observers, the likely rationale lies in a mix of economic and political factors. To begin with faced with the inevitable begin with, faced with the inevitable long-term prospects of a buyers' market for the foreseeable future, Saudi Arabia may be trying to frontload and maximise their oil revenue. They may also be aiming at positioning themselves at the lower end of the oil price spectrum in contribution of evertue between and anticipation of sanctions being removed from Iran, Russia and Venezuela, three of

the bigggest producers as well as the full rollout of Mr. Trump's "Drill, Baby, Drill" campaign. Last, but not least, the move was probably intended as a curtain raiser for President Trump's high-profile state visit to the Kingdom with Al-Sand wishing to be seen as heeding Mr. Trump's call for lower oil prices to help contain U.S. domestic inflation despite his higher import tariffs hurting consumers. With defence guarantees, a nuclear agreement and over \$100 billion in American weapon sales lined up, the Saudis have a lot to gain from the U.S. President's

The impact on India Although the low-intensity oil war may not hit the headlines the way shooting wars do, it is arguably far more consequential. It is particularly true for India, the world's third-largest crude importer, which shelled out \$137 billion in 2024-25 for crude. India's crude demand rose by 3.2% or nearly four times the global growth. A U.S. study last year predicted that in 2025, nearly a quarter of global crude consumption growth would come from India. Even further down the line. India's oil demand is widely line, india's oil demand is widely expected to be the single largest driver for the commodity till 2040. Consequently, although we may not be a combatant in the oil war, we have high stakes, with a one-dollar decline in oil price yielding an annual saving of roughly \$1.5 billion.

While the downward drift of crude prices in the short run due to the ongoing "oil war" may be in our interest, the picture is not entirely linear. Lower oil revenue hurts our economic interests in several ways. It causes a general economic decline of oil exporters which are among our largest economic partners, affecting bilateral trade, project exports, crude prices also affect the value of our refined petroleum exports, often the largest item in our export basket, and could push down refinery margins. Moreover, the lower unit price of oil and the Coulf economies sustain over nine million of our export sustain over nine revenue burts our economic interests in million of our expatriates, many of whom may lose their jobs. Their annual remittances, estimated at over \$50 billion, may suffer, hurting our balance of

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## may suffer, hurting our balance of payments. Trespective of the outcome of the ongoing oil war, unless we find a new set of drivers to replace hydrocarbons, the lower synergy may become the "new normal" across the Arabian Sea. Mothesh Sachdev, retired Indian Ambissador, focusies on the Arab world and oil issues. He is currently president of Eco Diplomacy and Strategies, New Delhi.

ABX



Number of persons

bomb blast

killed in Balochistan

A bomb exploses the Balochistan Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, killing four people and

injuring 20 others, according to a media report on Monday. Several shops

collapsed, and fires erupted in multiple establishments following the explosion. In

A bomb exploded near a market in

On May 3, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+) decided to go ahead with a collective output increase of

tion rise was less than production rise was less than half a per cent of global daily production, the oil market was so jittery that the Brent crude price plummeted by almost 2% to \$60.23/barrel, the lowest since the pandemic

Despite the expectation of a quick turnaround, global economic recovery was mostly K-shaped leading to an anaemic growth in oil demand. Meanwhile, oil producers were desperate to ramp up their outputs to make up for lost

4,11,000 barrels per day (bpd) from next month (June).

### Though the announced



## **NEWS IN NUMBERS**

## Olive Ridley turtles protected under 'Operation Olivia'



'Operation Olivia' is an initiative of the Indian Coast Guard aimed at ensuring safe nesting grounds for the turtles, particularly at Gahirmatha Beach and surrounding coastal areas of Odisha. PTI

#### THE HINDU **Business**

MONEWY 82,059 85.42 97,030 65.88 -0.13 0.17 0.60

PRC2 2460.43 1286.33 8774.53 2751.44 1282.43 8851.03 2755.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1362.53 1363.55 1363.55 1 

677.88 32.58

1149.30 729.58 157.57 3504.65 1587.68 9607.78 9551.69 1609.69 251.75 -28.75 -1.18 -0.02 -42.58 -29.28 -29.28 -29.28 -29.28 -2.56

#### INBRIDE



#### Myntra enters Singapore, eves 6.5 lakh Indian diaspora

Myntra, a fashion, beauty and lifestyle e-commerce platform headquartered in Bengaluru, on Monday announced its foray into global markets with the launch of Myntra Global The company also announced its entry into the inganore market to take Indian fashion to a 6.5 Singapore market to take indian fashion to a 6.5 lakh Indian diaspora in the country. Myntra further said that the platform had already been witnessing notable 'organic traffic' to the tune of more than 30,000 users from Singapore.

#### Nissan Motor India denies reports on plant closure

Nissan Motor India has denied reports on potential closure of certain plants in India, terming them 'speculative', "Nissan remains committed to its India operations, dealers, committed to its India operations, dealers, partners, and customers, said a company spokesperson. "Regarding the recent reports on potential closure of certain plants, Nissan wants to clarify that this news is speculative and not based on any official information of the company," the spokesperson said in a statement.

#### SEBI unveils norms to set up internal audit panel for MIIs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has listed guidelines for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) to set up an internal audit committee, according to a circular on Monday. SEBI said the audit would be on three verticals and must be done by an ndependent audit firm. The MII policy should have a policy to appoint the audit firm with approval from the internal audit committee

Celebi plea on

The Centre on Monday op-posed a plea in the Delhi High Court by Turkish firm Celebi Airport Services In-dia Pvt. Ltd. and another recorded firm challemptor

ssociated firm challenging

the Bureau of Civil Aviation

Security's decision to re

voke security clearances. Solicitor General Tusha

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the

revocation was a national

security measure based on specific intelligence inputs.

"I am saying this is a na-tional security issue and the order (revoking clea-rance) reflects the same." The case is scheduled to be heard on May 21.

security nod

revocation

The Hindu Bureau

+ Govt. opposes | RBI revises draft on

The Hindu Bureau

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised draft directions on investment by Regulated Entities (REs) in Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) after observ-ion, fitz venuleters, chem

ing its regulatory steps brought financial disci-

pline among REs concerning investments in AIFs. The Securities & Ex-change Board of India had

also issued guidelines on specific due diligence with

respect to investors and in-

vestments of AIFs. As per the draft, a single RE's contribution to any AIF scheme will be capped at 10% of corpus and col-lectively a ceiling of 15% will apply for investment by all REs in AIF scheme.

stments of AIFs.

**REs' AIF investments** 

26

ment of Bhutan

#### Apex court refuses to entertain telcos' pleas for AGR relief

Companies sought waiver of interests, penalty and interest on penalty invoking right to equality provision; SC terms the petitions 'misconceived'



Fair chance: The telecom sector had long reaped the fruits of the Centre's liberalised mode of payment, the 2019 verdict read. PTI

**Climate of change** 

of Telecom's (DoT) move to not pay the licence fee to "misconceived." The telcos had wanted relief in the payment of their interest on the dues, penalty and interest on the penalty. They appealed to distribute the vertices of the penalty. They appealed to distribute to distribute the vertices of th objection to the govern-ment's formulation of AGR. fruits of the Centre's liber-alised mode of payment by revenue sharing regime der this mechanism, the operators had to pay a cer-trum usage fee to the DoT mu usage fee to the DoT as a percentage of the AGR. The dispute between private telecom players and the government over thas seamed two decades. Following the dismissal of the review plea, the TSPs had moved a curative ing to a series of court rul-ings on AGR over the years. TSPs had moved a curative petition alleging errors in computation of AGR dues. This was despite a July 2020 order, which had said that applications filed by the telecom majors to "cor-rect" math mistakes, which at "first blush" look "innocuous", was a roun-Ings on AGR over the years. The companies sought a waiver of more than \$40,000 crore in liabilities related to the AGR, invok-ing the fundamental index ing the fundamental right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution to afford all players an equal opportunity and level field. The companies had argued that waiver was the "innocuous", was a roun-dabout way to recompute their AGR debts – a path has spanned two decades. need of the hour to ensure "The sector has benefit-ed immensely under the expressly forbidden by the SC in an earlier order. The the stability of the sector. In September last year, scheme as apparent from July 2020 order had made In September last year, the apex court had dismis-sed curative petitions filed by the telecom service pro-viders (TSPs) against an October 2019 judgment upholding the Department July 2020 order had made tr clear that "no disput of AGR dues that had been arrived at, on the basis of calculations made by the Union of India". the gross revenue trend from 2004 to 2015... The from 2004 to 2015... The telecom service providers in spite of the financial be-nefits of the package start-ed to ensure that they do

#### Govt. tweaks import MARKETS rules on certain MARKET WATCH Sersen US Dellar Geld Barrt eil gold, silver products The Hindu Bureau

metals.



#### EXCHANGE RATES enhance the transparency in the import of precious

W 4844 45.52 19.42 19.44 19.00 11.36 90.56 61.04 15.96 55.14 "Separate codes for gold and silver ore help cus-toms track semi-processed forms of these metals. 95.96 113.98 56.78 11.81 100.16 65.82 62.00 18.84 54.90 which are someti nes used to bypass higher duties on refined gold and silver," the GTRI added.

#### NSDL reduces + IPO size to 5 crore shares

from 5.7 crore

#### The Hindu Bureau

NSDL has reduced its in-itial public offering (IPO) from 5.7 crore to five crore equity shares, according to revisions to the prospectus filed with SEBI. filed with SEBI. The IPO would be fully offer for sale. HDFC Bank, NSE, IDBI Capital, Union Bank of India, SBI and Administrator of the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India would dilute heir stakes in NSDL. IDBI and NSE own IDBI and NSE own 26.01% and 24% stakes res-pectively in NSDL. SEBI rules prohibit an entity from owning more than 15% stake in any market in-force to the state of the state of the state of the force to the state of the state of the state of the state for the state of the state of the state of the state of the state for the state of the sta frastructure institutio

New barcodes to go live from 2027: GS1

#### The Hindu Bureau

The next-generation QR Codes will be introduced by GSI, a global standards 4% organisation, from 2027 to bring in more transparen-cy, traceability and to proct consumer interest. Currently being tested

in three countries, includ-ing in Australia, the QR The QR codes are currently being tested in three countries codes will be rolled out in India depending on the preparedness of manufac-turers who need to incor-

"What we do is for re-India depending on the preparedness of manufac-turers who need to incor-tall, we will have a period where you find on the barcodes in their products, said top GSI executives. So, it will ensure for certain "As far as India is con-cerned, 2027 is an ambi-tion and we invite retailers and manufacturers to atham, CES (CSI India. nathan, CEO, GSI India. more information.



The Hindu Bureau Reliance Power Ltd. said it signed a commercial term sheet for long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Green Digital Private Ltd. (GDL), owned by Druk

Holding and Investments Ltd. (DHI), the investment arm of the Royal Govern-Reliance Power and DHI outlay of up to \$2,000 crore.

Reliance Power and DHI will jointly develop Bhu-project reliance Joseph Socio-capacity of 500 MW. The capacity of 500 MW. The project erialis a capital project erialis a capital construction of the second social social construction of the second social social permeted in tranches or-erithe next 24 months, the project erialis a capital construction of the second social social permeted in tranches or-persenting the largest priv-ate sector freque dataset.

Gold bounces on cut

company, has proposed to sell its investment in Mag-nasoft Consulting India nydropower projects in As part of the pact, Reliance Enterprises and Private Ltd. (MCIPL) for an Druk Holding and Invest-ments Ltd. will jointly deaggregate consideration of \$23.56 crore.

velop the 500 MW solar velop the 500 MW solar power project. The part-mentality also entails execu-tion of 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I hydro-lectric project, aru-offri-lectric project, aru-offri-del, aligned with libutary tailong erem concession mo-talional energy strange.

....

growing concerns about the U.S. economic outlood and fiscal stability follow than \$3500 per ounce. In India, as per India Bullion & Jewellers Asso-ciation (BJA), gold 999 (purity), which closed at \$92,301/10 gm on Friday rose to \$33,785 on Monday. Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-commodity research, Ko-boanded its, and a fay to close the week at \$3,187 per ounce, supported by ing credit downgrade re newed safe haven bids," COMEX Gold fell to

nufacturing/services PMI and housing data," said Pranav Mer of JM Financial Services Ltd. 



Bhutan.

#### CDTL to sell Magnasoft

#### in Moody's U.S. rating

federal budget deficit and a national debt that now stands at \$36 trillion. "Gold extended its re-covery on Monday, with COMEX futures surging above \$3,250 per ounce, as Lalatendu Mishra

As per a filing, CDTL's

COMEX Gold fell to a one-month low of \$3,123 per ounce last week, a sharp 4% weeky loss and worst performance of the year on easing geopolitical tensions and improving trade sentiment. "Focus during the week will be on U.S. data on ma-nufacturing/services PMI

Moody's downgrade of U.S. credit rating has given a breather to gold prices which rebounded a bit following correction from his-torically high levels of ₹1,00,000/10 gm or more than \$3500 per ounce.

stake for ₹23.56 crore In October 2024, Re In October 2024, Re-liance Enterprises, pro-moted by Reliance Power Ltd. and Reliance Infras-tructure Ltd., initiated partnership with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. to develop solar and budrapower, predicets in The Hindu Bureau Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd. said, the Coffee Day Trading Ltd. (CDTL), a ma-terial subsidiary of the

have now been allowed for import under particular conditions. For example,

the import of unwrought, semi-manufactured, or

powdered gold containing

## Reliance Power signs pact with Bhutan's Green Digital

#### The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Reliance Power Ltd. said it signed a commercial term sheet for long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Green Digital Private Ltd. (GDL), owned by Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. (DHI), the investment arm of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Reliance Power and DHI will jointly develop Bhutan's largest solar power project through a 50:50 venture, with an installed capacity of 500 MW. The project entails a capital outlay of up to ₹2,000 crore under Build-Own-Operate (BOO) model, representing the largest private sector foreign direct in-



The project entails a capital outlay of up to ₹2,000 crore.

vestment (FDI) in Bhutan's solar energy sector to date.

The project will be implemented in tranches over the next 24 months, closely aligned with Bhutan's sustainability framework, and broader regional energy transition agenda across South Asia. In October 2024, Reliance Enterprises, promoted by Reliance Power Ltd. and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., initiated partnership with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. to develop solar and hydropower projects in Bhutan.

As part of the pact, Reliance Enterprises and Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. will jointly develop the 500 MW solar power project. The partnership also entails execution and long-term operaof 770 tion MW Chamkharchhu-I hydroelectric project, a run-of-river asset structured under a long-term concession model, aligned with Bhutan's national energy strategy.

- Partnership Announcement:
  - Reliance Power Ltd. signed a commercial term sheet for a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Green Digital Private Ltd. (GDL).
- Involved Parties:
  - Green Digital Pvt. Ltd. (GDL): Owned by Druk Holding and Investments Ltd. (DHI), the investment arm of the Royal Government of Bhutan.
  - Reliance Enterprises: Promoted by Reliance Power Ltd. and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd.



#### . Project Details:

- Project Scope:
  - Jointly develop Bhutan's largest solar power project with an installed capacity of 500 MW.
- Capital Outlay:
  - Up to ₹2,000 crore under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) model.
- Project Implementation:
  - Timeline: To be completed in 24 months.
  - Execution Model: Implemented in tranches.
- Significance:
  - Represents the largest private sector FDI in Bhutan's solar energy sector.
- Energy Strategy:
  - Aligned with Bhutan's sustainability framework and the broader regional energy transition agenda across South Asia.

#### 3. Historical and Geographical Context:

- Historical Partnership:
  - In October 2024, Reliance Enterprises partnered with DHI to develop solar and hydropower projects.
- Hydroelectric Project:
  - Chamkharchhu-I (770 MW):
    - A run-of-river asset structured under a long-term concession model.
    - Aligned with Bhutan's national energy strategy.
- Bhutan's Renewable Energy Vision:
  - Hydropower Dominance: Bhutan is known for hydropower exports to India, contributing significantly to its GDP.
  - Sustainability Focus: Incorporating solar energy as part of a diversified energy mix.

#### 4. Economic Impact:

- FDI and Investment:
  - The ₹2,000 crore investment marks a major private sector FDI in Bhutan.
- Energy Security:
  - Supports regional energy security by leveraging Bhutan's hydropower potential.
- Job Creation:
  - Likely to generate employment during construction and operation phases.

#### 5. Significance for India:

- Strengthening Ties:
  - The project reflects strong bilateral relations between India and Bhutan.
- Green Energy Push:
  - Supports India's green energy goals by enhancing cross-border renewable energy trade.
- Strategic Importance:
  - Strengthens India's position in **South Asia's energy landscape**.

Hydropower Cooperation	- Major source of revenue for Bhutan. - Projects: Chukha (336 MW), Kurichhu (60 MW), Tala (1020 MW), Mangdechhu (720 MW). - Bhutan exports surplus electricity to India.
Military Cooperation	- Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) stationed in Bhutan. - Regular bilateral military exercises like "IMBAX".
Security and Strategic Ties	- Coordination on border management and security issues. - Close cooperation during the Doklam standoff (2017).
Cultural Ties	- Shared cultural and historical links through Buddhism. - Regular cultural exchange programs.
Educational and Social Exchange	<ul> <li>India provides scholarships for Bhutanese students.</li> <li>Institutions like the Royal Bhutan University have academic ties with Indian universities.</li> </ul>

## New barcodes to go live from 2027: GS1

#### <u>The Hindu Bureau</u> MUMBAI

The next-generation QR Codes will be introduced by GS1, a global standards organisation, from 2027 to bring in more transparency, traceability and to protect consumer interest.

Currently being tested in three countries, including in Australia, the QR codes will be rolled out in India depending on the preparedness of manufacturers who need to incorporate the new generation barcodes in their products, said top GS1 executives.

"As far as India is concerned, 2027 is an ambition and we invite retailers and manufacturers to reach that," said S. Swaminathan, CEO, GS1 India.



The QR codes are currently being tested in three countries.

"What we do is for retail, we will have a period where you find on the package both traditional lineal barcode and QR code. So, it will ensure for certain period of time, even if the retailer hasn't upgraded point of sale, you can sell but you will also get the benefit of the QR code with more information."

# Traffic fines worth ₹12,000 cr slapped in '24,75% unpaid

#### NITIN KUMAR New Delhi, May 19

OVER ₹12,000 CRORE worth of traffic fines were issued across India in 2024, but nearly ₹9,000 crore—a staggering 75% of the total—remained unpaid, according to the latest challan report by autotech firm Cars24

Titled 'The Great Indian Challan Crisis', the report highlights that over 80 million challans were issued last year, with almost every second vehicle on the road fined at least once. Of these, 55% were issued to fourwheelers, while the remaining 45% were to two-wheelers.

This distribution highlights how violations occur across all types of vehicles, cities, and income groups. It shows that no single category is solely responsible, and the problem is widespread. Despite the presence of stringent regulations, enforcement remains weak, resulting in persistent non-compliance.

"The data points to a system where penalties exist on paper, but deterrence remains weak.

#### **CHALLAN CRISIS**

Major traffic offences in India during 2024

#### Violation type





Signal jumping & Obstructive parking driving 10 1/.



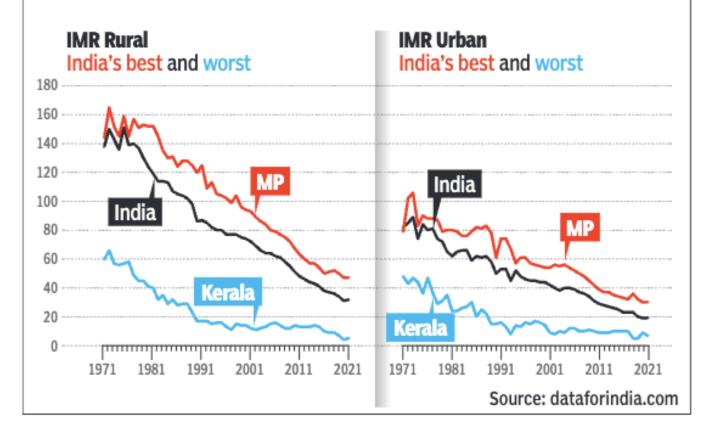
Source: Cars24

₹12,000 crore is a mirror that reflects on how often and easily traffic laws are broken across the country," Cars24 said.

#### **STATO STICS** A slice of life in numbers

## MP's at level of sub-Saharan Africa, while Kerala is better than US

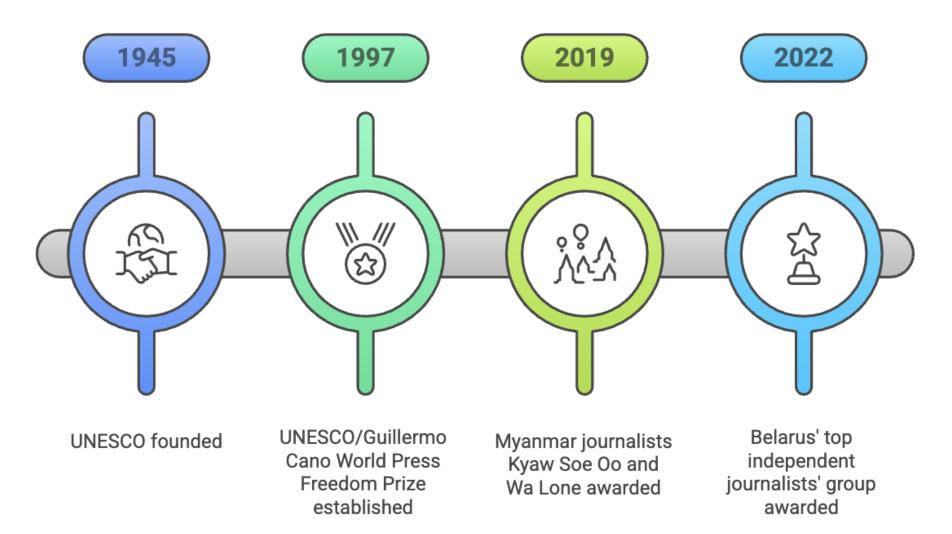
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of children below one year per 1,000 live births. It's an indicator of challenges of poverty, sanitation, nutrition, healthcare and education in a society



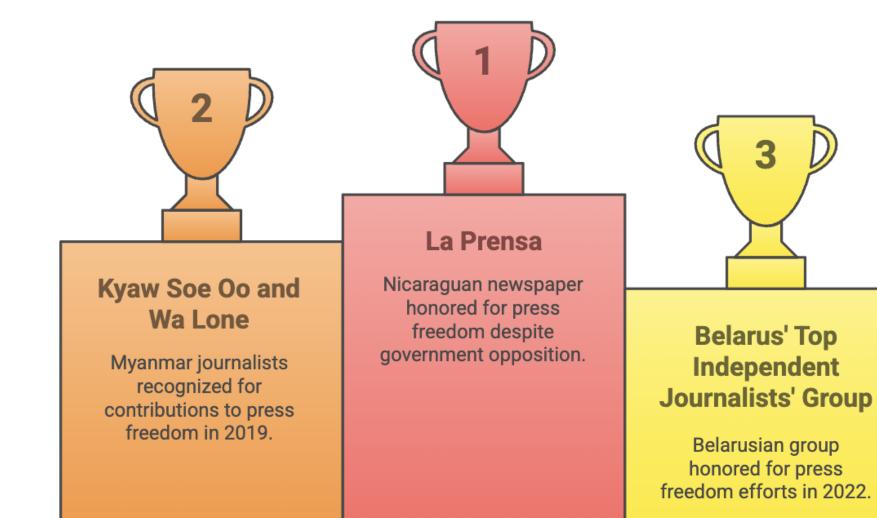
## Nicaragua Withdrawal from UNESCO



## Nicaragua's UNESCO Withdrawal Timeline

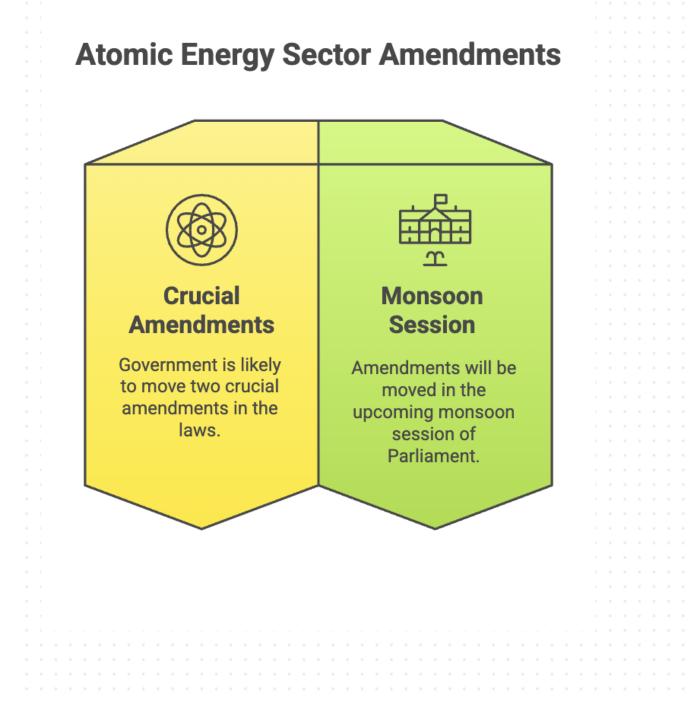


### **Top Press Freedom Advocates**



s the <b>UN's c</b>	only journalism award, presented every year on 3rd May, World Press
reedom Da	
	ed after <b>Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano</b> , it <b>honors individuals or</b>
	nizations for their contributions to press freedom.
	ecipients include Myanmar journalists <b>Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone (2019</b> ) elarus' top independent journalists' group (2022).
UNESCO: UI	NESCO is a United Nations (UN) agency, founded
in <b>1945</b> and	headquartered in Paris.
<ul> <li>It aim</li> </ul>	s to foster peace and equality by promoting education, science, culture,
and c	ommunication through global cooperation and standard-setting.
Nicaragua:	
• Locat	ion: Largest country in Central America, bordered by Honduras (north),
	Rica (south), Pacific Ocean (west), Caribbean Sea (east).
• Histo	ry: Colonized by both Spain and Britain, gained independence in 1821,
	me fully independent in 1838 after briefly joining the Central American
	ation.
• Popu	lation: Predominantly mestizo ethnic group (mixed Indigenous and bean ancestry).

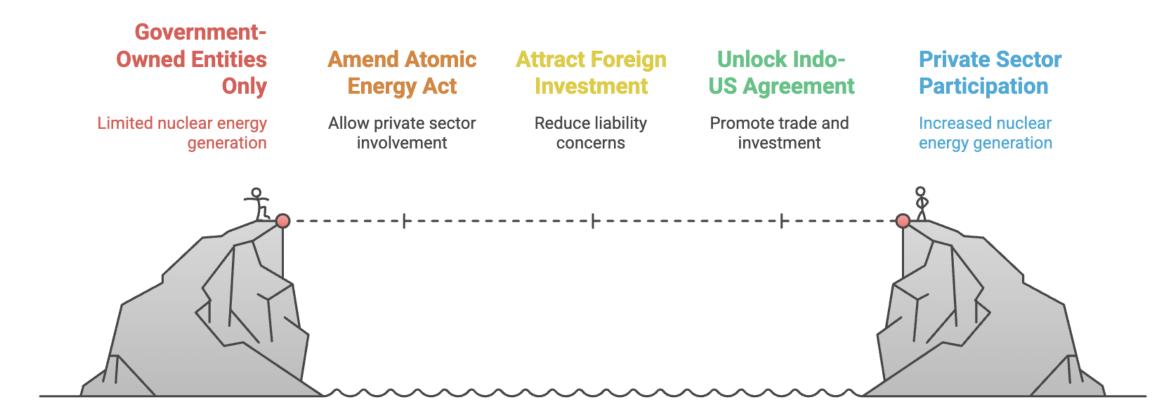
## Govt. to Allow Private Operators in Nuclear Energy Sector



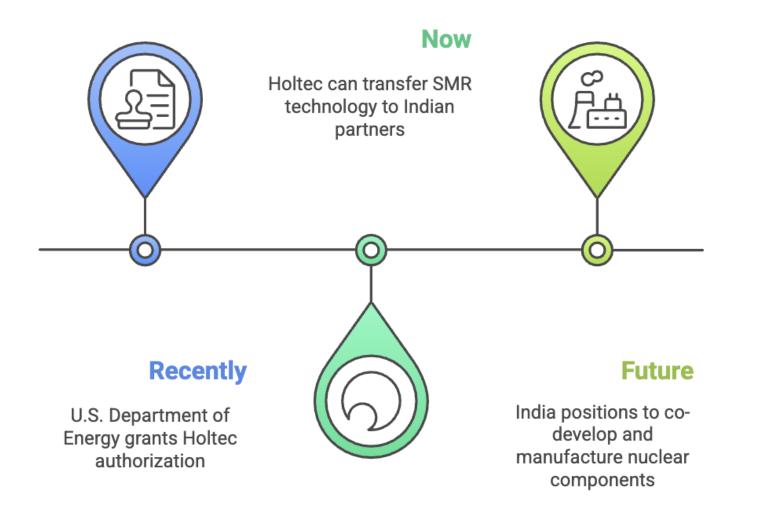
## **Comparison of Nuclear Law Amendments**

Characteristic	Easing Nuclear Liability Law	Amendment to Atomic Energy Act
<b>Dependentiation</b>	Limit vendor liability	Allow private/foreign players
र्द्ध Restriction	Unlimited vendor liability	Only state-owned entities allowed
 ↔ Change	Cap liability to contract value	Permit minority equity participation
E Time Limit	Statute of limitations introduced	No change

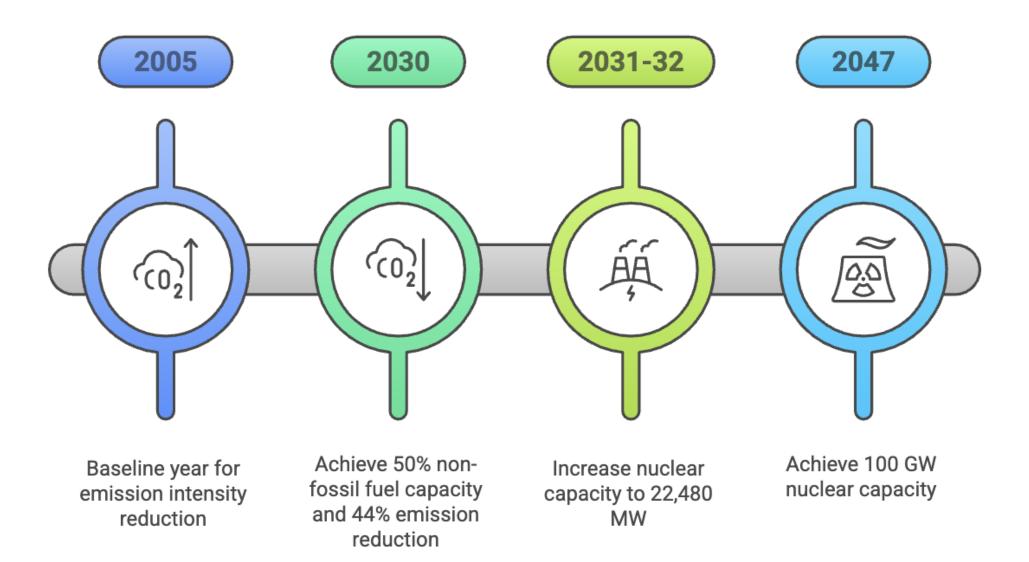
#### **Opening India's Nuclear Sector**



### U.S. Authorization Paves Way for Indian Nuclear Advancement



## India's Nuclear Energy Expansion Journey



# **S3 Selection Batch**



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## Word of the day

## Melange:

a motley assortment of things

Synonyms: farrago, hotchpotch, mishmash, odds and ends, ragbag

**Usage:** As the novel progresses, it turns into a melange of mystery, horror, romance, science-fiction, and conspiracy.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/melangepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /məˈlanʒ/, /meɪ-/, /-'landʒ/

## Thank you guys.