Daily Current Affairs











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10 MCQ QUIZ



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belo regional peace'

OpenAl pits 'Atlas' against Google Chrome SUBSCIENCES IN PAGE 13.



Immigration and the politics of fear Now, legal migration too gets a bad rep OPINION O PAGE .



ALL TO PLAY FOR India, New Zealand in a crucial contest SPORT IS PAGE 16

INSIDE

HEWS - PAGE 4

Israel must ease passage of aid Into Gaza: ICJ

Justice and that toract was obliged to ease the passage o aid into Gora, stressing it had the "basic needs". The ruling came as aid groups span to scale up humanitarian assistance, w PAGE La

3D sensors will detect potholes on NHAI roads

NEW YEARS is order to identify road defects, including protheles an cracks on road surfaces, the National Highways Authority o India will deploy sensors and data acquisition systems across 23 Status, is PASE 4

+ Fugitive Choksi denied reprieve by Belgian court

SKW DELIII

A Reigian court has concluded that fugitive Melice Choker, the main accused in the Purgab reational bank (PNR) "scam" cases, falled to demonstrate a risk of III treatment upon restractition to Irolla, a trace a

Notices to three States for attacks on journalists

NEW HILLIE The National Human Rights Commission (HHRC) on he Berete, Tripurs, and Manipur governments over the alleged attack on three purpolists at different places in

Modi, Trump speak; U.S., India versions vary

U.S. President extends Deepavali greetings to Modi ahead of a possible meeting in Malaysia President Trump says PM Modi has conveyed India's decision to stop purchasing Russian oil

We talked about trade. We talked about rade.

of things, but mostly

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in that

Trump says call focused on trade deal, oil, and Pakistan; India denies Pakistan was discussed

Submitted Halder

ays ahead of a pos-able meeting in Eucla Lumpur, and amidst intense ongo-ing trade negotiations, U.S. President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Na-rendra Mudi on Tuesday to extend Deepavail greet-ings, the leaders said. Ho-wever, the two sides dif-feced varily in their comments following the call.

Mr. Modi referred to a Mr. Modd referred in a united state on ferro-riam, while Mr. Trump said the conversation focused on the trade deal, Russian id, and sourting 'no war with Pakinsan'. However, government sources inside government sources inside the Pakins and Indi-tinctioned during the eat.

For the fourth time in a week, the U.S. President and that Mr. Medi had conveyed the government's decision to cut its imports of Bussian oil in an effort to end the Ukraine conflict, a claim he asserted in the presence of Indian Ambas andor to Washington Vinus fewatra, which was not refuted. Trade talks

"I just spoke to your Prime Minuter today," the U.S. President said on Tucsday, addressing the "people of India" directly in comments at the White House, where he held a special Deepavali celebration for preminent Indian Ameri cars and Indian Embassy officials.
"We had a great conver-sation. We talked about On this featival We had a great conversation. our two great democracies continue wanted with home and all its forms NARENDRA DONALD TREMP

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A few hours later, the Prime Minister thanked the U.S. President for his phone call and "warm Di-

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Affairs did not comment on the discussion between the two leaders, who are both due to fravel to Malay-sia this weekend to attend ARRAN-related summits, including the East Asia

for declined to confirm that Prime Minister will be visiting Kuala Lampur for the summits, as well as the annual fodia-ASEAN

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that the government would make decisions based on

Indian trade negotiators about a broader Free Trade agreement (FTA) which would include lowering U.S. tariffs, while todia would also cut tariffs.

whether such a deal that is agreeable to both sides can be hammered out in time for an announcement of

President's pilgrimage



EC reviews progress in mapping electors

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The Election Commissi The Ebettion Commussion on Wednesday reviewed the progress made in maping current electors with those present on the electoral role prepared after the previous special intensive revision (RIR) carried out in most Status between 2002 and 2004.

2002 and 2004. The mapping exercise involves standardising addresses and correcting discrepancies through house to-house visits by bactle leavel officers. It is being carried out in various states abased of the roll-out of the SIR across India.

Kerala to be first State 'free

of extreme poverty'

Deadly standoff



Rept. 26. Clinian artists funcer Wangshule, leading the write, detailed ander HAB. Rept. 20: LNR and KDS second

Ladakh delegates offered terms of Article 371 by govt.

A month after four per-sons, including a Kargil war veteran, were killed in war venerati, wore killed in police section against propolice section against prosection of the policy of the section of the policy of the section of the region's status with Mipolitical officials with section of the section

cial provisions guaranteed under Article 371 of the Constitution can be consi-dered for Ladakh, people who attended the meeting told The Hinds.

ever, both groups said they continued to de-mand inclusion under the sixth Schedule of the Canstitution, which recogn

tribul status and provides as measure of autonomy and self-governance. They also imcident, Not in the police for release of Sonam Wangthus and other proteins detained after last mouth's distribution of the providence of the prov

nuchal Pradesh, Gua, Rik-kim, and Karnataka. Cherting Darjay Lakruk, co-convenor of the LAB and the president of the in-fluential Ladakh Buddhist Association, said the civil succiety groups were still holding out for Statehood. "It was tablicated to us by "It was indicated to us by MHA officials that Article 37i can be considered for Ladakh, but we were adaheard us patiently, took notes of our demands, and us soon. No assurance was

the release of Sonam Wangchuk and other detaitempensation to the fami-lies of the four men killed in police firing and also to those injured during the incident," Mr. Lakruk said.

available under Article 271
can be oxplored, However,
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jud Rargili of the ROA.
The sub-committee is
expected to meer again in
the next test-days, following which the high-powered committee led obcommittee led obthose Nityanand Rai will
tone Nityanand Rai will

Union govt. proposes mandatory labelling of synthetic AI-generated content on social media

Armon Deep

The Electronics and Infortry on Wednesday pro-posed mandatory disclosure and labelling of artificial intelligence (AI)-generated "synthetic" con-tent on social media platforms.

The Ministry released a draft amendment to the in-formation Technology (information Technology (Intermedial Auditorities) present and institute Media Rithes Ended Studes, 2021, that requires area, and applies to all account of the content's area, and applies to all the content they upload it has content they upload it has content declarations, platforms must procurity decrea and label Algenerated content. The declaration must be declaration must be declarated to the content of the

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that mere get to know whether something is syn-thetic or real. Once users letter, they can take a call-That distinction will be led through mandatory data labelling."

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Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

ays ahead of a possible meeting in Kuala Lumpur. and amidst intense ongoing trade negotiations, U.S. President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to extend Deepavali greetings, the leaders said. However, the two sides differed vastly in their comments following the call.

Mr. Modi referred to a united stance on terrorism, while Mr. Trump said the conversation focused on the trade deal, Russian oil, and ensuring "no war with Pakistan". However, government sources insisted that Pakistan was not discussed during the call.

For the fourth time in a week, the U.S. President said that Mr. Modi had conveyed the government's decision to cut its imports of Russian oil in an effort to end the Ukraine conflict, a claim he asserted in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Washington Vinay Kwatra, which was not refuted.

Trade talks

"I just spoke to your Prime Minister today," the U.S. President said on Tuesday, addressing the "people of India" directly in comments at the White House. where he held a special Deepavali celebration for prominent Indian-Americans and Indian Embassy officials.

"We had a great conversation. We talked about

On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms NARENDRA MODI

trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that," he

A few hours later, the Prime Minister thanked the U.S. President for his phone call and "warm Diwali greetings".

added.

"On this festival of

lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms," Mr. Modi said, without offering any further details.

No comment from MEA The Ministry of External

Affairs did not comment on the discussion between the two leaders, who are both due to travel to Malaysia this weekend to attend ASEAN-related summits, including the East Asia Summit together.

The Ministry has thus far declined to confirm that Prime Minister will be visiting Kuala Lumpur for the summits, as well as the annual India-ASEAN Summit.

While side-stepping Mr. Trump's other comments, a government source pointedly denied that Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi had spoken about Pakistan, a sore point as the U.S. President has repeatedly claimed he mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire despite India's denials.

Mr. Trump also said that

he had spoken to Mr. Modi earlier about "having no wars with Pakistan", suggesting again that he had used trade as a leverage to "talk [PM Modi] out of that".

On Russian oil

Addressing India's imports of Russian oil, Mr. Trump said that he believed India had already reduced its intake.

"[Mr. Modi] wants to see that war end as much as with Russia and Ukraine as much as I do. And as you know, they're not going to be buying too much oil. So, they've got it way back, and they're continuing to cut it way back," Mr. Trump said.

The government has not explicitly denied that it is reducing Russian oil im-

ports, although the Ministry of External Affairs said that the government would make decisions based on consumer prices and supply reliability.

Indian trade negotiators are believed to be speaking to their U.S. counterparts about a broader Free Trade agreement (FTA) which would include lowering U.S. tariffs, while India would also cut tariffs, increase market access for U.S. agricultural and other products, and give up its Russian oil imports.

It remains to be seen whether such a deal that is agreeable to both sides can be hammered out in time for an announcement of some sort on the sidelines of the ASEAN summits, to be held from October 26 to 28.

The report covers a telephonic conversation between PM
Narendra Modi and U.S. President
Donald Trump held ahead of a possible meeting in Kuala Lumpur during the upcoming ASEAN and East Asia Summits.

The discussion occurred amid ongoing trade negotiations and U.S. pressure on India to reduce imports of Russian oil amid the Ukraine conflict.

Aspect	India's Version	U.S. Version (Trump's Statement)
Focus of Call	India emphasized "shared commitment against terrorism in all forms."	Trump emphasized trade , Russian oil , and no war with Pakistan .
On Pakistan	MEA sources denied any discussion on Pakistan.	Trump claimed he had earlier told Modi about "no wars with Pakistan," implying the topic was referenced indirectly.
On Russian Oil	No official comment from India.	Trump claimed Modi agreed to cut Russian oil imports and support global efforts to end the Ukraine war.
Tone & Outcome	Modi thanked Trump for Deepavali greetings, calling it a "warm conversation."	Trump described it as a "great conversation" mainly on "the world of trade."

Issue

India's Position

U.S. Expectation

Russian Oil Imports

Continue purchases for energy security

Cut imports to support Ukraine sanctions

Trade Tariffs

Seek tariff reduction for Indian exports

Increase market access for U.S. farm goods

Pakistan Relations

Dialogue only if terrorism ends

Use trade leverage to prevent conflict

Union govt. proposes mandatory labelling of synthetic AI-generated content on social media

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry on Wednesday proposed mandatory disclosure and labelling of artificial intelligence (AI)generated "synthetic" content on social media platforms.

The Ministry released a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, that requires social media companies to allow users to self-declare if the content they upload is AI-generated. In cases where users fail to make such declarations, platforms must proactively detect and label AI-generated content.

The declaration must

Disclosure mandate

The draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, outlines the Ministry's proposed approach to regulating synthetic content

- All synthetic content whether video, photo, audio, or text - must carry a disclosure
- The disclosure should cover at least 10% of the surface area in all Al-generated audiovisual posts



Users must be given the option to self-declare Al-generated posts

cover 10% of the content's area, and applies to all types of synthetic content, including text, video, and audio, and is not limited to photorealistic content, according to officials and the draft text.

"In Parliament as well as many other fora, people have demanded that something should be done

about the deepfakes which are harming society," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told presspersons.

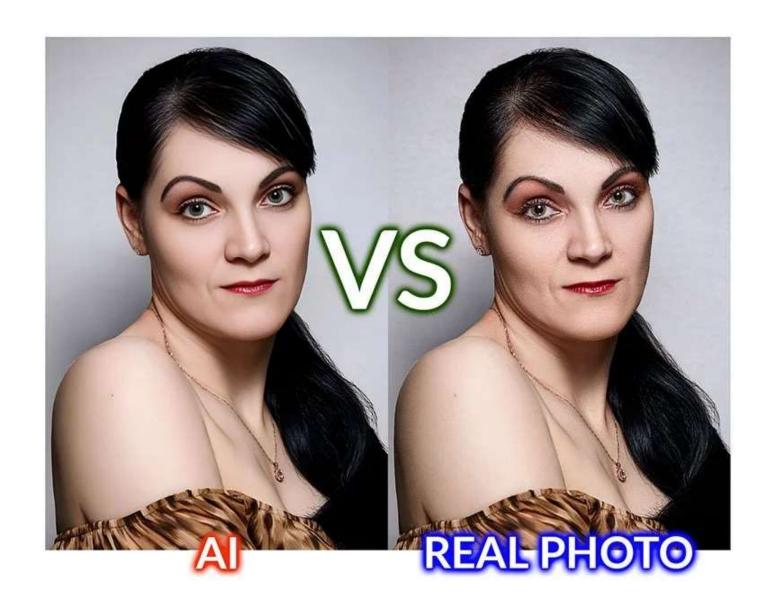
"People are using some prominent persons' images and creating deepfakes, which are then affecting their personal lives, privacy as well as [creating] various misconceptions in society. So the step we have taken is making sure that users get to know whether something is synthetic or real. Once users know, they can take a call-.That distinction will be led through mandatory data labelling."

The proposal marks a shift in the Ministry's approach to synthetic content. It had previously contended that existing penalties against impersonation were sufficient to address the worst harms from AI-generated content. The proposal brings a long-foreshadowed "tweak" to that stand, a se-

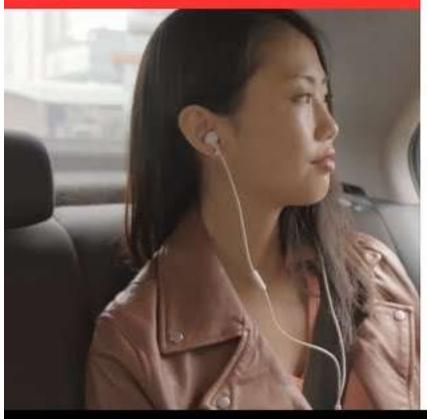
nior official said.

It says that "[w]here an intermediary offers a computer resource which may enable, permit, or facilitate the creation, generation, modification or alteration of information as synthetically generated information, it shall ensure that every such information is prominently labelled or embedded with a permanent unique metadata or identifier, by whatever name called, in a manner that such label, metadata or identifier is visibly displayed or made audible in a prominent manner on or within that synthetically generated information, covering at least ten per cent of the surface area of the visual display".

The Ministry has sought feedback on the draft amendment to the IT Rules till November 6. Officials claimed that in private conversations, social media platforms had indicated that they had the technical capabilities to implement what these rules require.



REAL



AI GENERATED



а

b

Five faces judged as human most often



Al female 29 (93%)



Al male 45 (92%)



Al male 13 (90%)



Human male 40 (90%)



Al male 34 (89%)

Five faces judged as Al most often



Human male 37 (90%)



Human male 47 (86%)



Human female 31 (84%)



Al female 44 (82%)



Human male 18 (79%)

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- The amendment seeks to make it mandatory for social-media platforms to label or disclose Al-generated "synthetic content" (text, audio, image, or video).
- The move comes amid growing concerns about deepfakes, Al-generated misinformation, and impersonation of public figures.

Provision

Mandatory Disclosure

Area of Disclosure

Self-Declaration Option

Platform Responsibility

Metadata Requirement

Details

All synthetic or Al-generated content (video, photo, audio, or text) must carry a visible disclosure.

The disclosure label should **cover at least 10% of the surface area** in Al-generated audio-visual posts.

Users must be given an option to **self-declare** if their uploaded content is AI-generated.

If users fail to disclose, **social-media intermediaries** must proactively detect and label such content.

The label must be **embedded with a permanent metadata tag or identifier**, ensuring traceability of synthetic content.

Earlier Position (2023-24)

Relied mainly on existing impersonation & misinformation penalties.

Focused on **post-facto removal** after harm.

New 2025 Proposal

Introduces **proactive labelling** and **traceability** for all AI-generated content.

Emphasizes pre-emptive disclosure and transparency.

Dimension

Ethical Governance of AI

Digital Trust

Election & Security Safeguard

Data Governance Reform

Impact

Aligns India's digital policy with **global Al safety norms** (like EU Al Act, U.S. Al disclosure rules).

Enhances accountability and transparency in online communication.

Helps prevent misuse of deepfakes during elections or public crises.

Strengthens India's broader framework for responsible AI and misinformation control.

Kerala to be first State 'free of extreme poverty'

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare the State free from extreme poverty at a function to be held at Central Stadium in the capital on November 1.

Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh said at a press conference on Wednesday that the extreme poverty eradication programme began in 2021 as one of the first Cabinet decisions of the LDF government.

"Kerala will become the first State in the country to achieve this landmark," the Minister said.

Securing future

Through the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project launched in 2021, the Kerala government prepared micro-plans for every family

 1,03,099 individuals families identified as extremely poor

 21,263 families received essential documents

3,913 families were provided new houses

1,338 families were



received up

Kerala will officially be first State 'free of extreme poverty'

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan will officially declare the State free from extreme poverty at a function to be held at Central Stadium in the capital on November L

Actors Mohanlal, Mammootty and Kamal Haasan will be special guests at the event to which all State Ministers as well as Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan will be invited, Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh said at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Mr. Rajesh said the extreme poverty eradication programme began in 2021 as one of the first Cabinet decisions of the Left Demo-Front government.

"According to the NITI Aayog's study in 2021, Kerala is the State with the lowest poverty rate in the country with a poverty rate of 0.7% of the total population. The government took the lead in reaching out to

this small population and meeting their needs. Kerala will become the first State in the country to achieve this landmark." the Minister said.

Over 64,000 families

After ground-level surveys, 64,006 families across the State were identified as extremely poor, based on factors such as food, health, livelihood, and shelter.

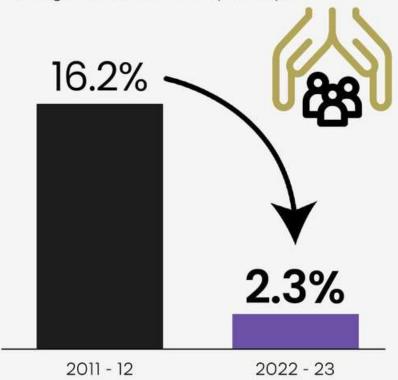
Many marginalised people, whose names were not even on the voters' list and who did not even have a ration card or Aadhaar, were on this list. Micro plans on the immediate and long term needs were prepared for each of the families. Essential documents were given to 21,263 individuals lacking these. Houses were provided to 3,913 families, land for 1,338 families, house repair works of up to ₹2 lakh each done for 5,651 families, he said.

"It is the result of a collective effort as all local bodies, including those ruled by the Opposition front, also had a role to play in this," Mr. Rajesh said.

India Charts a New Path: 17 Crore Indians Escape Extreme Poverty, Says World Bank!

Extreme Poverty Shrinks

(living on less than \$2.15 per day):





Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India's extreme poverty rate slid sharply to 5.3% over a decade from 27.1% in 2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to \$3 per day.

Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of \$3 would constitute a 15% higher threshold than \$2.15 expressed in

2021 prices and result in a 5.3% poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said.

In India, 54,695,832 people lived on less than \$3 per day in 2024. Thus, the poverty rate at \$3 per day (2021 PPP – percentage population) was 5.44% in 2024. Extreme poverty rate slid from 16.2% to 2.3% between 2011-12 and 2022-23 while the poverty rate at the lower middle income country line declined by 33.7 percentage points.

01

Kerala will become the first Indian State to officially declare itself "free of extreme poverty".

02

The announcement will be made by Chief
Minister Pinarayi
Vijayan at a public event on November 1, at Central Stadium,
Thiruvananthapuram.

03

The declaration marks the culmination of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project, launched in 2021 by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

Parameter	Data / Action Taken
Individuals identified as extremely poor	1,03,099 people
Families identified	64,006 families
Families provided new houses	3,913
Families receiving house renovation aid (₹2 lakh each)	5,651
Families allotted land	1,338
Families provided livelihood assistance	3,822
Families given essential documents (Aadhaar, ration	21 263

card, etc.)

21,263

About the Project

- The Extreme Poverty Eradication Project was one of the first Cabinet decisions of the LDF government in 2021.
- Aimed at ensuring no family in Kerala remains in extreme poverty, defined by lack of access to food, health, shelter, and livelihood.
- Micro-plans were prepared for every identified family addressing immediate and long-term needs.
- Implementation was through Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs) in coordination with state welfare departments.

Methodology & Identification

- Ground-level surveys across all districts to locate families living in extreme deprivation, including those:
 - Not on the voters' list.
 - Without ration cards or Aadhaar.
- The government prioritized direct field verification, ensuring even marginalised and invisible populations were covered.
- Actors Mohanlal and Kamal Haasan will attend the formal declaration ceremony.

Indicator

Poverty rate (2021)

Study Source

Major Factors for Success

Kerala's Standing

0.7% of total population — lowest in India

NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Strong public health system, decentralized governance, and social welfare infrastructure

Focus Area	Intervention
Shelter	New houses and renovation support up to ₹2 lakh
Health	Linking families to health insurance & PHCs
Livelihood	Assistance and skill development for 3,800+ families
Documentation	Identity documents provided to over 21,000 families
Land Access	1,300+ families allotted land for permanent settlement



- First Indian state to eradicate extreme poverty: Kerala.
- ✓ **Project launched:** 2021 under LDF government.
- ✓ Beneficiaries: 64,000+ families, 1.03 lakh individuals.
- Core approach: Micro-plan for every family.
- Support areas: Housing, documents, land, livelihood, financial
- aid.
- Poverty rate: 0.7% (lowest in India).
- ✓ Event Date: November 1, 2025.

Ahead of pan-India SIR, EC tracks voter mapping progress

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

hose present on the elec-oral rolls prepared after the previous special inten-sive revision (SIR) carried out in most States between 2002 and 2004.

The mapping exercise involves standardising addresses and correcting discrepancies through bouse to figure visits by booth to vel officers (BLO). It is being carried out in various States ahead of the roll-out of the SIR across

India.
"Bi.Os would already have this list (votors in last SIR). This would ensure that around 60%-70% voters would already be covered by the time the SIR.

The EG top brais met the Chief Electoral Officers of all States during a two-day conference in the na-tional capital. The meet-ing, presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, in the pre-sence of Election Commis-sioners Sukhbir Singli Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, is being held as a follow-up to

the SIR preparedness meet held on September 10. In the MR preparedness conference, all states and Union Territories gave de-tailed presentations on the

Indian Embassy in Kabul will help 'regional peace': Taliban spokesman

india restored diplomatic links with Kabul by upgrading Technical Mission into an embassy. Qatar has also introduced its Ambassador and special representative in its embassy in Kabul: Taliban administration welcomes both the moves

he Taliban adminis-tration in Afghanis-tan has welcomed India's decision to upgrade the Indian Technical Mis-sion in Kabul into an em-bussy. In a statement to The Hindu, the spokesman for nternational media for the Faliban administration, Suhall Shabeen, said the In

unibed relectors, quali-number of electors, quali-number of electors, quali-post of the control of the control of the electoral roll in their res-pective States and LTS. A specific roll-out of a thorough the control of the A specific roll-out of a thorough the control of the the control of the control of the thorough the control of the control of the control of the tho

India," said Air. Shabsen, who is also serving as Ka-bul's Ambassador to Qutar.
"It is an important and needed decision for rela-tions between the two countries in various areas," be said.

countries in various he said. India's move coincided

has websomed both the In-dian and Qatari moves to upgrade diplomatic ties. As decladed during the recent visit of Foreign Mi-cister Armir Shan Muttaul, India restored formal di-plomatic links with Kabul on Tuesday by apgrading the "visional Mission into an embassy with "imme-diate effect". Official sources as said this will lead to In-

dia appointing a CDA charge d'affaireo in the Indian embassy in Kabul.
"The Embassy of India "The Rudoney of India in Rubul will further ang-ment India's contribution to Afghanistan's Compre-heissive development, ha-manistrian assistance, and capacity building initia-tives, in keeping with the priorities and aspitations of Afghan seciety,' said the

Ministry of Raternal Affairs (MEA) in the statement an-nouncing the restoration of formal diplomatic con-tact with 'Raiban-adminia-tered Alghanistan, India shut its embasay in Kabul and withdrew exis-ing staff in August 2021 when law and order attus-tion had brisken shown as

tion had broken down as Talifian overthrew the go-vernment of President Ashraf Chani. The Indian consulates in Maxar+Sha-rif, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Herat had also been

Assam govt. to introduce Bills on love jihaď, polygamy: CM

Press Trust of India

Speaking to pressper-sons on the sidelines of an official function, Mr. Sarma said details will be shared once the draft Bills are approved by the Cabinet.

of the Assam Assembly, we will introduce some imporand Berrat had also theen closed on the conflict intendence and conflict intendence and a serial extendence and a few and a fe

On the draw



Another man held in West Bengal doctor assault case

arrested in connection with the case involving threats and assault on a woman doctor at Uluberia Medical College and Hospital tal in Howeah, taking the otal number of arrests to three. The incident has sparked widespread protpolitical parties over the safety of women and med-ical professionals in West

"One person was arrest-ed in the early hours of Westnesday. The total ar-

forsage, and if we find more outputs, we will not spare anyone." Jadhay Shothant Bancharag, Sul-Divisional Police Diffice (Uluberia), and on Wednesday. According to the police, two persons were arrested on Menskay for assaulting a woman juntor regularing

woman junior resident dector at Uluberia Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay Government Medical College and Hospital. The ar-rests followed a police complaint filed by the doctor on Monday evening. The accused, reportedly family members of a pa-tient, had allegedly abused

acted swittly to make the arrests; however, the mat-dent has reignited debate over repeated assaults on women and healthcare personnel in the State. The three arrested men-have been identified as Sheikh Samrat, Sheikh Balsulal, a Hume Guard in the traffic police depart-ment, and sheich Hashai. It has also been alleged that sheikh Babulai had

close ties with the Tymamool Congress.
Taking note of the inci-Taking from of the inci-dent, West intugal Gover-tor GV. Attanda Bose said: against doctors is neither a against doctors is neither a civilised behaviour nor is it desirable. — Missier P. Chi-pinarca Missier P. Chi-

Cong. slams Lokpal for floating tender to buy 7 luxury cars

As decided during the recent visit of Taliban Minister Amir Khan Multagi, India restored diphonatic links with Rabut on Tuesday. APP

The Hindu Bureau

The Congress on Wednes-day criticized the anti-cor-ruption body Lokpal after it floated a tender to pre-cure seven luxurious BMW cars for its members.

cure seven luxurious BMW cars for its members.
Taking to X, senior Congress leader and Rajva Sah ha member Abhishek Marau Singhvi said. "I chaired the Parliamentary Committee on Lokpal, Dr. L.M. Simrhol for conceived the Singhyi first conceived the dea of Lokpal in the early 1960s. To see this anti-cor ruption body now order-ing BMWs for its members is tragic frony, the guar-dians of integrity chasing husury over legitimacy."

Very few probes
In another post, he stated:
9,703 complaints. Only 24
probes. It presention
searctions. And now, BNWs
assections. And now, BNWs
is our anti-corruption
watchbug, its more possile
than parather."
According to the tender
and the manufacturer's
website, the long-wheel
base seeden, with an onbase seeden, with an onbase seeden, with an on-

ly £69.5 lakh per unit in Delhi, is described as the beint, is described as the longest and most spacious car in the segment de-signed for outstanding comfort in an extremely luxurious cabin. The col-

with Quar's which also in-troduced its Ambassaker and special representative in its embassy in Katul on Tuesday, Zabihullah Muja-hid, spokeaperson of the Taliban administration, in an interview with the Af-ghan news curlet Tolonews

ee 8.703 complaints Only 24 probes.. And now, BMWs worth 170 lakh each. If this is our anti-corruption warchdog, it's more poodle than panther ARRESTS MANUSENCHYS

slambaram said "Why spend public money to ac-quire these cars? I hope-that at least one or two members of the Laksal false, to accept these cars." Congress communica-tions chief Jatran Ramesh ableged that a false narra-tive thad been created against the Molinichan against the Molinichan (India Against Gorruption; India Against Corruption', and the BSS but now the reality of the Lokpal is be "reality of the Lokpal is be-fore the people". "This is not Lokpal but theuth! (in-dulgence) pal or "shock" pal," Mr. Ramesh said on his X handle, adding. "The mindset is that "we are Lok-pal, we are almore everyth-ing and not accountable". What kind of levestigation have they exactly done?"

NHAI to deploy 3D sensors to identify potholes, road cracks across 23 States

in order to identify road defects, including portsoles and cracks on road surfac-es, the National Highways Authority of India [914]. Authority of India [914]. will deploy advanced sen-sors and data acquisition systems across 22 States, covering a distance of over 20,000 km in order to take

corrective action.

The move is being undertaken to improve the riding experience of commuters, a statement by the NHAI said.

NHAI said.

The data collected by the Central government agency in-charge of developing and maintaining National Highways will help with the inventory of roads and the condition of their and the soundition of their powing in order to take de-cisions on maintenance, as est management, infra-tructure planning, and improving the safety and officiency of the country's work across the country. Work across the country, The exercise will involve deploying vehicles squipped with advanced sensors and total assigna-tion systems, including a 20. Dater based system.

global positioning system GPS), and an electronic device that measures an device that measures an object's acceleration and angular velocity. "The data collectes will be uploaded on the NHAI's AI (Artificial intelligence) based portal Data Lake, ed for all projects involving two- to eight-lane high-



Data on the status of roads shall be collected for all projects. numbers two- to eight large highways, Fill Fest

The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAI's Al-based portal Data Lake. where it will

where it will be analysed by a dedicated team of experts at NHAI to transform data into knowledge and subse-quem actionable insights. Finally, the data collected at regular intervals as per Covernment of India guide-lines shall be preserved for inters shall be proserved for future technical purposes in Road Asset Management system in prescribed for-mats," the NHAI said. The data shall be collect-

start before road develop-ment work starts, and the-reafter, with a gap of six months. The NHAI has also

months. The NHAT has also invited bids for the project. Separately, the NHAT has also been identifying "black spots" based on the accaded reports received from the concurred state governments, which is based on the occurrience of a certain number of aces. a certain number of acci-dents involving fatalities

until March 2028, long-term rectification has been completed on 5,036 black spots. The Electronic De-tailed Accident Report (e-DAB) project is a central re-

Political row erupts in U.P. over 'halal certification' remarks

Mayank Kumar

A political slugfest broke out in Uttar Pradesh after out in Ultra Pratient after Clair Minister Vogl Aditya-nath urgod psople to check for "hada certification" on products before purchas-ing them, colterating his to such certification. The Chief Minister al-loged that profits from ha-la-certification were being used for conversion, which is a superior of the collection.

"When the State govern-ment has already banned

ment has already banned such products, why is the CM making statements on 12 The real aim is the billiar election. The HP has given yog if the job of polarising society for political gains, Ultrar Phalesh Congress president Ajay Rai told The Hindu. Sanajawal Pariy Rajiya Sabba MP Javed Ali Khan asid the Chief Minis tivities, and terrorism. Khon said the Chief Minis-Opposition leaders criti-cised the statement, saying sur for political reasons.

it was an attempt to pola

tract from pressing eco-nomic and employment

posting triggers judicial independence concerns NEWS ANALYSIS bones' collegium resolu-tion does not reveal why the Supreme Court body

gave up its earlier recom-mendation on Justice The Supreme Court Colle-

gium's unexpected change of mind to recommend a Madibys Pradesh High Court pulsas, Justice Attul Court pulsas, Justice Attul Court pulsas, Justice Attul pulsas with the Centre's wishes instead of an arabitar with the Centre's wishes instead of an arabitar court, has brought back into focus executive interference in justical appointments and transfers in constitutional court. In August, the Supreme



SC Collegium's shift in Justice Sreedharan's

the earlier August recom-mendation, following which the government would have to bend. Justice Sreedharan's is not the finit in recom years when the Supreme Court



the Centre objected to a collegium recommenda-tion to appoint Justice Akil Kureshi, whose decision in Kureshi, whose decision in the Gajara' Take' encounter cases had ruffled feathers, as Madbya Pradesh High Court Chief Justice. The collegium, instead, agreed to his appointment as Tripura High Court Chief Justice, a smaller court with four Judges. Though one of the senior most High Court such Court such four Judges. most High Court Judges, he was not considered for the

Supreme Court.

In the J&K and Ladakt the government's wishes as far as transfer of judges were concerned. In 2018, High Court, Justice Sreedly aran was part of a Bench which struck down several preventive detention or ders under the Public Safe ty Act. He was repatriated to

Meditys Praisesh in Marich 2025. Back in Madilys Pra-dosh, he was part of the son metric cognisiance of re-marks allegicity mode by State Minister Viley Shuh anguley Coule State of the media during Operation Simbios, and urdered the the (registration of an FIR separation by Issaels).

Space scientist Eknath Vasant Chitnis passes away at 100

Press Trust of India

on Wednesday at his resi-dence in Pune, his family

NHAI to deploy 3D sensors to identify potholes, road cracks across 23 States

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

In order to identify road defects, including potholes and cracks on road surfaces, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy advanced sensors and data acquisition systems across 23 States, covering a distance of over 20,000 km in order to take corrective action.

The move is being undertaken to improve the riding experience of commuters, a statement by the NHAI said.

The data collected by the Central government agency in-charge of developing and maintaining National Highways will help with the inventory of roads and the condition of their paving in order to take decisions on maintenance, asset management, infrastructure planning, and improving the safety and efficiency of the country's National Highways network across the country.

The exercise will involve deploying vehicles equipped with advanced sensors and data acquisition systems, including a 3D laser-based system, a global positioning system (GPS), and an electronic device that measures an object's acceleration and angular velocity.

"The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAI's AI (Artificial Intelligence)based portal Data Lake,



Data on the status of roads shall be collected for all projects involving two- to eight-lane highways. FILE PHOTO

The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAFs AI-based portal Data Lake, where it will be analysed

where it will be analysed by a dedicated team of experts at NHAI to transform data into knowledge and subsequent actionable insights. Finally, the data collected at regular intervals as per Government of India guidelines shall be preserved for future technical purposes in Road Asset Management system in prescribed formats," the NHAI said.

The data shall be collected for all projects involving two- to eight-lane highways.

The data collection will

start before road development work starts, and thereafter, with a gap of six months. The NHAI has also invited bids for the project.

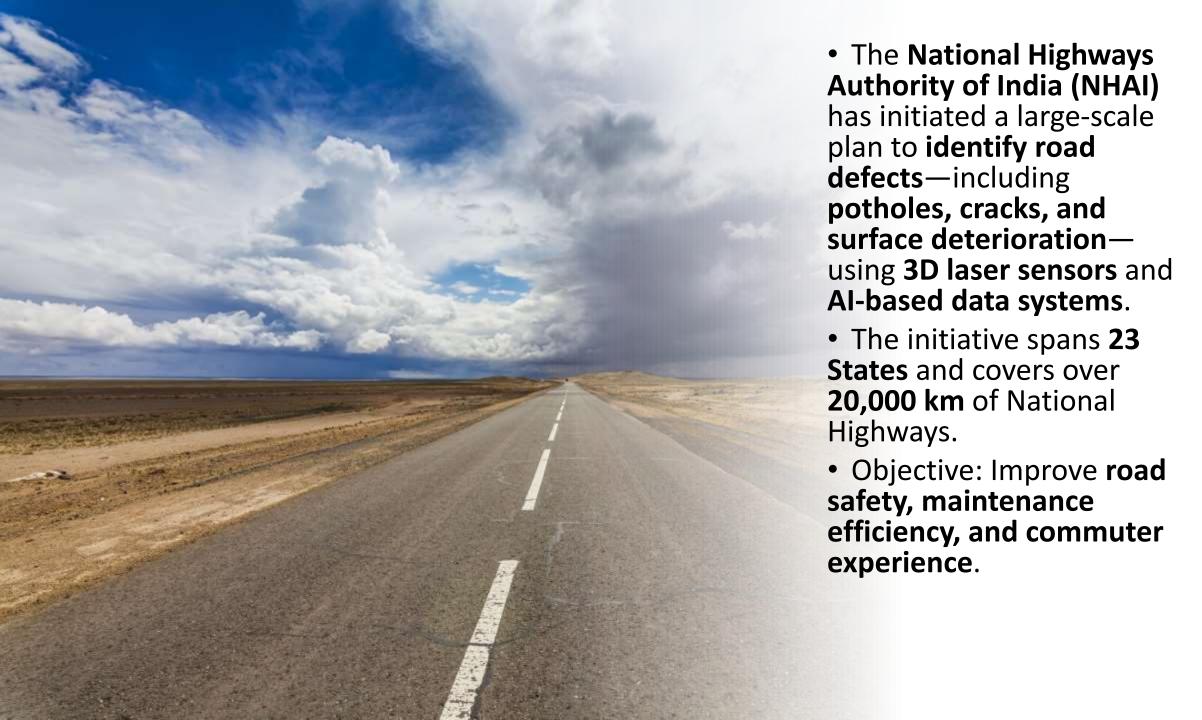
Separately, the NHAI has also been identifying "black spots" based on the accident reports received from the concerned State governments, which is based on the occurrence of a certain number of accidents involving fatalities and grievous injuries.

Of the 13,795 black spots identified on the National Highways in the country until March 2025, long-term rectification has been completed on 5,036 black spots. The Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) project is a central repository for reporting and managing road accidents data.









Component

Technology Used

Data Platform

Coverage

Distance Covered

Frequency of Surveys

Responsible Agency

Details

Advanced sensors + 3D laser-based system + GPS + electronic accelerometers measuring object acceleration and angular velocity

All collected data to be uploaded on NHAI's AI-based portal "Data Lake"

23 States; highways from two-lane to eight-lane

Over 20,000 km in first phase

Data to be collected **before new roadwork** begins, and then **every 6 months**

Dedicated technical team at NHAI for **AI-based** analysis and actionable insights

- Purpose & Objectives
- To create a digital inventory of India's highways
- To support data-driven decisions for:
 - Maintenance & repair
 - Asset management
 - Infrastructure planning
 - To enhance road safety and reduce travel time by early identification of surface defects

Data Collection & Processing

- Vehicles equipped with the 3D sensors and data acquisition systems will collect real-time data.
- The collected data will be uploaded to the AI-powered "Data Lake" portal.
- NHAI experts will analyse the data to:
 - Detect cracks, potholes, uneven surfaces
 - Assess overall pavement health
 - Generate maintenance & rectification plans

"The data collected at regular intervals shall be preserved for future technical purposes in Road Asset Management System (RAMS)," — NHAI Statement

Related Road Safety Measures

- NHAI is also identifying 'black spots'—road stretches with frequent accidents based on fatality data from States.
- As of March 2025:
 - 13,795 black spots identified nationwide.
 - 5,036 have been rectified.
- Linked initiative: Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) a central repository for real-time road accident data and management.

Broader Impact

Area	Expected Outcome	
Safety	Faster identification of accident-prone areas	
Efficiency	Optimized repair & maintenance schedules	
Cost Saving	Reduced long-term resurfacing & repair costs	
Governance	Integration with AI for predictive asset management	
Sustainability	Less material wastage through preventive maintenance	

France's Macron orders tighter security as Louvre reopens doors



measures at the Laurers, as the Parts measure responsed its doors days after a shocking deptime held. The requesting comes hours before the museum's director is set to face a grilling by senaturs to esplain how thinks made off with \$102 million in jewels, Arr

Vance moots the 'tough task' of disarming Hamas, rebuilding Gaza



U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance watnest on Wednesday of the tough. Cask ahead in disarming Hamas and huilding a peaceful huns for Gaes, as Washington sought in reasons its ally larsed over the need steps to its ambellious coasefier shock. Mr. Varous rest Prime Minister Bregarini Bestanyahu on the section day of the trip to total. AHP

SpaceX cuts off 2,500 Starlink devices at Myanmar scam centres



racell has not service to more than 2,500 Startink internet devices at Myanmar scam control, a company executive said. Sprawling companiests where interest intestions target hereigners with remainer and business cars been thrived along Myanmar's Lossel proceed funder during its cod war quarked by a 2021 caus, are

Two dead in U.S. strike on alleged drug-smuggling boat in Pacific



A new U.S. strike up an alleged drug smuggling bust killed two purpole, Defenue Secretory Pale Higgseth said in a post on X on Wednesday, Announcing the first such attents on a vessel operation in the Pacific Cocont. The stitle brings the total number to at least mater, leaster at least 34 apopte dead, en-

Israel must ease passage of aid into Gaza, provide 'basic needs', says ICJ

Israel is under an obligation to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the UN and its entities, says ICJ President

The International Court of Justice said on Wednesday that Israel was obliged to ease the passage of aid into Gaza, stressing it had to provide Palestinians with the "basic needs" to

The wide ranging ICI ruling, quickly rejected by Israel, came as aid groups scrambled to scale up much-needed humanitarian assistance into Gasa, seizing upon a fragile cea-selire agreed earlier this

The EE's "Advisory Opt-nion" is not begoly binding but the court believes it.



Beeking chears: Palestinians bury 54 undentified bodies in Der at Batah on Wednesday after they were returned by larged are

and moral authority? ICJ President Yuji Iwasa wa said Israel was "under sparked the war.

The ICI ruled that larsel had not substantiated the allegations, bracel did not take part in the precent ings and hit back at the

findings.

"Israel categorically rejects the ICFs 'advisory option,' which was entirely predictable from the outset regarding UNRWA," foreign ministry spokesman. Oren Marmorstein, posted on S. "This is yet another on X. "This is yet another political attempt to impose political measures against tirsed under the guise of 'international Law'" Mr. Iwasawa said the ICJ ties". That included UNR-WA, the UN agency for Pal-estinian refugees, which is not have after ac-uating some of its staff of taking part in the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack that

rejects the argument that the request abuses and weaponises the interna-tional judicial process.".

Another Israeli official added that Israel "cooper-otes with international or-ganisations, with other UN agencies regarding Gaza But Israel will not cooper

ate with UNRWA".

Within hours of the ruling. Norway said it would
propose a UN General Assembly resolution de-manding that Israel lift restrictions on Gaza aid. And the Palestinian de-And the Palestinian de-legate to the ICJ, Ammar Hijsel, urged nations to en-sure Israel compiles with the court to let aid into Ga-za. "The responsibility is in the international com-

to the Neverpoints penal colony.

Mate Amaghisheli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media en-lets, was convicted in Aumurity to uphold these va-tures and oblige Israel, bring birael into com-pliance," he told reporters.

Imprisoned journalists win EU's top human rights award

Two journalists, one impri-soned in Belacus and the

orned in Belavia and the
orned in Belavia and the
ther is Georgia, have won
the European Union's top
the European Union's top
Radiance Price, Rurapean
Parliament President Roberta Mescola announced
Ardezel Poucosbar is a
correspondent for the inthuential Polish newspaper
convicted of "harming helarus" national securityvears, which he is serving
vears, which he is serving years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal



sent protest She was semenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an at-tempt to curb media

freedom.

"Both are journalists currently in poison on trumped up charges simp-

ly for doing their work and for speaking out against in-justice. Their courage has

struggle for freedom and democracy," Ms. Messola said at the parliament in Mradiourg, France.

The annual EU award,

named after Roylet dissi dent Nobel Peace Prize lau reate Andrei 5akharov, was created in 1968 to honour individuals or groups who defend burner rights and basic foredoms.

Iran ratifies law to join UN convention against terror finance

Agence France Presse

tran ratified a law joining a United Nations convention against terror financing, lo-cal media reported on Wednesday, in hopes that is will lead to access to glo-bal banking, an easing of trade and relieving pre-sure on its sunctions-bit

economy. Transar President Ma-acuel Peseshkian was electmust Pressibilian was elected has year on a promise to same relations with the west and occurre the lifting of sanctions that are hurr-ing the economy.

It is administration is signing the longitude country into line with the demands of the Financial Action Task Porce (PATP), which monitors money launder-

Task Force (PATP), which monitors money hundering and terrorist financing. Tulrcan has for years provided support to the relationary forms from militant group, Lebason's Fuedos. However, and the provided support to the first provided support to the particular forms of the provided support to the provided support of the provided support to t Corps (BRGC).

fran was returned to the PATE blacklist of noncooperative countries in North Rorea and Myanmar

North Korea and Myanmar.
Along with hency inter-national sanctions, partic-ularly by the U.S., ranch in-clusion on the blacklist has beclused the country's fi-nantial sector and severely restricted its access to the international banklog system. The rather a banking yearm.

"President Masoud Pegeshkian has promulgated, the law on the Islamic Reguldie of Iran's accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Phashcipt of Perrorian (CFT). Tax Some in Iran argue that inining the GPT would grant enemy countries access to

nim news agency used on Westnessky.

Joining the CPT treaty has been the subject of a subject of a subject of a subject of the subject of the

Reformists and moder ates in Tehran view com-pliance with PATF stan-dards as a vital step toward reconnecting with the international banking system and stabilising the econo

However, Internationa sanctions remain the primary obstacle to tran's global financial and trade

financial and trade activities.

Local media reported in Tuesday that an feature from the second media from the first fine in six years. In September, the United Section of Iran. The move came after months of tense diploratcy aimed at roviving nuclear when Iranel and U.S. force when Iranel and U.S. force

when Israeli and U.S. forces bombed tranian nuclear facilities.

White House down



Bangladesh court detains 15 high-ranking Army officers for enforced disappearances

Agence France-Presse

A Bangladishi const re-manded in custody on Worksonday II high-rank-way of enforced disappea-rances and arrocition 2024 uprising that toppled \$2034 uprising that toppled \$2034 uprising that toppled the government. If he first high conforced disappearances in Bangladesh, and the resident properties of the military officials have faced a chelian trial. The men, isotolettic for running a secret detention of running a secret detention. A Bangladeshi court re-

running a secret detention centre during the tenure of the now-ousted Prime Mi-



Towards Justine: Police assert detained Army officers to the international Crimes Tribunal court in Chaba on Westwaday. Aft nimer Shelkh Haatna.

All have served in Ban-gladeshi military intelli-gence or the fearest para-military Rapid Action Battation (RAB). Defence lawyer Sarwar

the charges.

The Army has said it will assist the judicial process, but the almoston has been tone since the court is said arrest warrants ear-

"They declared their a "Trey declared their allegiance to the law of the
land and their respect for
the indicial processor the
count's chart processor
Tajul balan told reporters.

"That was reflected in
the cooperation they have
extended."

the cooperation they have extended."

UN Flamous Rights Chief Volker Turk, in a statement on Cetolue II, and that the court process was an im-portant step towards accountability.

"It is a significant me-ment for vectims and their families," Mr. Turk said. Bandadoch in resease.

Bangladesh is prosecut-ing furner senior figures connected to Ms. Hasina and her now-banned Awa-mi League party.

Six killed in massive missile, drone attack on Ukraine by Russia

Associated Press

large-scale Russian drone und missile attack across Ukraine killed at least sis persons, including a weman and her two young daughters, officials said on Wednesday, as U.S.-led efforts to end the war floundered and Uk-

wer floundered and Ukraine's President sought more foreign millient help. Waves of missibn and Waves of missibn and Ukraine's elike, as well as utgist intgetted at boat eight Ukraine's elike, as well as a village in the kylv region where a artist seed fire to a where it was to be a support of year-old daughters were saying, regional head My-kola Kalachiye, and. At five chuldren, were injured in kylv, authorities and,

n Kyty, authorities said. Russian drones also hit a lindergarten in Klustky, Ukraine's second-largest esty, later on Wednesday when children were in the building, Mayor ther Te-rektov asid. One person was killed and six were injured but no children were physically harmed, be said.

Ukrainian President Vo-lodymyr Zelenskyy said many of the children were in shock, He said the attack

Odesa, Chernihiv, Dnipro-petrovsk, Kirovohrad, Pol-tava, Vinnytsia, Zapocizhz-bia, Cherkasy, and Sumy

regions.

Russia fired 405 strike
and decay drones and 28 and desiry drones and 28 misalis at Ubraine, mainly targeting kylv, Ukraine's air force said. Mr. Trump has repeatedly expressed frustration with Russian President Visilinis. Patrix's refusal to

shrisis Patitive retinal to budge from his conditions for a settlement after the raine offered a ceaselire and direct peace talks. The peace of the condition of the day that his plant for a swift meeting with Mr. Putin was on hold bocause he didn't want if to be a "waste of time." Rucepean bades accused Putin cyanidad. Tramp's proposal to freeze

Trump's proposal to freeze the conflict where it stand on the front line "was good compromise" - a step that could pave the

way for regotiations. Kremiin spoke Kremlin spokesman Omitry Peskoy said that the planned summit requires careful preparation suggesting that laying the grainalwork could be pretracted. "No one wants to waste time: neither Presi-dent Trump nor President Putin," he said.



Imprisoned journalists win EU's top human rights award

Associated Press

BRUSSELS

Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced on Wednesday.

Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.

Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was convicted in August of slapping a police chief during an anti-go-



Long fight: Georgian journalist Mzia Amaghlobeli is one of the recipients of this year's Sakharov human rights prize. AFP

vernment protest.

She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom.

"Both are journalists currently in prison on trumped up charges simply for doing their work and for speaking out against injustice. Their courage has made them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy," Ms. Metsola said at the parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The annual EU award, named after Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms.

- Two journalists Andrzej Poczobut (Belarus) and Mzia Amaghlobeli (Georgia) have won the European Union's top human rights award, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (2025).
- The award was announced by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola in Strasbourg,
 France.

About the Laureates

Name	Country	Background & Charges	Sentence / Status
Andrzej Poczobut	Belarus	Journalist with Gazeta Wyborcza (Poland-based newspaper). Convicted of "harming Belarus' national security."	Serving 8 years in Novopolotsk penal colony.
Mzia Amaghlobeli	Georgia	Prominent journalist, founder of independent media outlets in Georgia. Convicted of slapping a police officer during a protest.	Sentenced to 2 years in prison (August 2025).

Aspect Information

Award Name Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought

Established by European Parliament (EU)

Year Instituted 1988

Named After

Andrei Sakharov — Soviet dissident & Nobel Peace

laureate

Purpose To honor individuals/groups defending human rights

and freedom of expression

Prize Ceremony To be held in Strasbourg, France

About the Sakharov Prize



Named after **Andrei Sakharov**, Soviet nuclear physicist and human rights activist.



Previous winners include:

- Nelson Mandela (1988)
- Alexei Navalny (2021)
- Mahsa Amini and Iran's "Woman, Life, Freedom" Movement (2023)
- Maria Kalesnikava & Belarus opposition (2020)



Recognizes those who defend freedom of thought, human rights, and democracy.

Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System





The Kafala System

The Kafala system, meaning "sponsorship" in Arabic, is used in Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE.

Kafala regulates the relationship between employers and migrant workers, requiring foreign workers to have an in-country sponsor, typically their employer.

This sponsor controls the worker's visa and legal status. Workers cannot change jobs or leave the country without the sponsor's permission, leading to potential exploitation, non-payment of wages, poor working conditions, and restricted freedom of movement.



Saudi Arabia has officially abolished the decades-old kafala labour sponsorship system, a controversial practice long criticised by international labour and human rights groups as a form of modern-day slavery.

The move marks a major policy shift under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform programme, aiming to reshape the country's global image and attract foreign investment.

End of a Controversial Era

The kafala system, introduced in the 1950s, governed the employment of foreign workers by linking them to a local sponsor, or kafeel.

This arrangement granted employers excessive control, including the authority to confiscate passports, restrict movement, and decide job changes or exits from the country. The system left millions vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, with limited legal recourse.

• Human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and the (ILO), have repeatedly condemned the practice.

• It was particularly harsh on domestic workers and women, who were often subject to physical and sexual abuse by their sponsors.

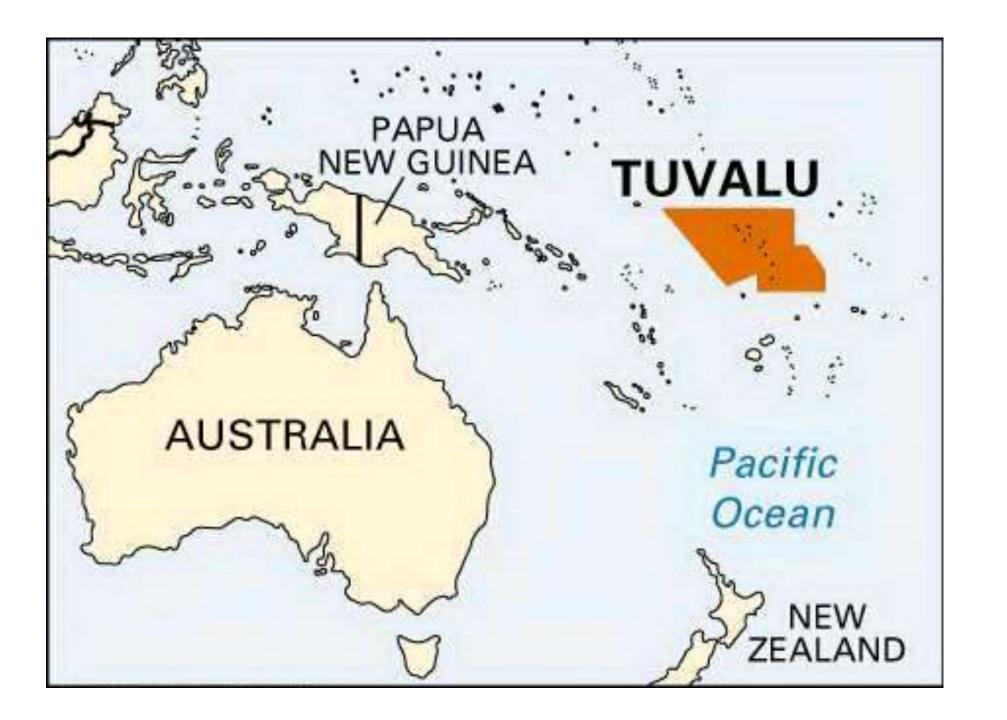
OpenAl Launches ChatGPT Atlas Browser

- OpenAI has unveiled ChatGPT Atlas, a new web browser designed to integrate its AI assistant directly into everyday internet use.
- Positioned as a direct competitor to Google Chrome, Atlas aims to make browsing and searching more conversational, efficient, and personalised, marking a significant shift in how users interact with the web.

What Is ChatGPT Atlas?

- ChatGPT Atlas is a full-featured web browser that embeds OpenAl's ChatGPT into the browsing experience itself. Users can interact with the Al on any webpage without switching tabs or copying content. Acting as a "super-assistant," Atlas helps users find information, automate tasks, and manage workflows within a single interface.
- The browser is now available globally on macOS for Free, Plus, Pro, and Go users, while Business users can access a beta version. Versions for Windows, iOS, and Android are expected soon, with enterprise and education access dependent on administrator permissions.

Tuvalu Joins IUCN as 90th Member State



PACIFIC



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Tuvalu: A Nation at Risk

- Tuvalu consists of nine atolls and low-lying islands, covering just 26 square kilometres. Despite its small land area, Tuvalu boasts a vast Exclusive Economic Zone of approximately 900,000 square kilometres.
- This area is rich in marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, fisheries, and migratory seabird populations. However, Tuvalu faces severe threats from climate change, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and invasive species.
- These challenges endanger both the natural environment and the livelihoods of Tuvalu's people.

Centre Launches ₹600 Crore Kapas Kranti Mission

- The central government has launched the ₹600 crore "Kapas Kranti Mission" to enhance high-yield, long-staple cotton cultivation through innovative agricultural practices and technology.
- The mission aims to replicate successful High-Density Plantation (HDP) methods from Maharashtra in Telangana. A new mobile application, "Kapas Kisan App," will facilitate the cotton procurement process, ensuring transparency and fair pricing for farmers.

Rangarajan Poverty Line

• Economists from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department of Economic and Policy Research published a paper in which they 'updated' the Rangarajan Poverty Line for 20 major states of India, using data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23.



- What are the Key Highlights of RBI's Paper on Updated Rangarajan Poverty Line?
- **Biggest Improvements: Odisha and Bihar** showed the largest decline in poverty levels since 2011-12, with rural poverty in Odisha falling from 47.8% to 8.6% and urban poverty in Bihar falling from 50.8% to 9.1%.
- Smallest Declines: Kerala and Himachal Pradesh showed the least decline in poverty percentages because their poverty levels were already low.
- Rural and Urban Extremes: In 2022-23, rural poverty was lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.4%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (25.1%). Urban poverty was lowest in Tamil Nadu (1.9%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (13.3%).
- Consumption Pattern Changes: The study acknowledges that consumption patterns changed between 2011-12 and 2022-23, suggesting that poverty baskets and lines may need further updates in the future.

HIGHEST THREE POVERTY LINES

RURAL	2022-23	2011-12
Delhi	2,577	1,492
Haryana 💌	2,083	1,128
Punjab =====	2,048	1,127
URBAN	2022-23	2011-12
Maharashtra =====	2,791	1,560
Haryana ====	2,696	1,528
Gujarat =====	2,664	1,507
LOWEST THREE P	OVERTYLINES	
RURAL	2022-23	2011-12
Jharkhand 💌	1,621	904
Odisha	1,608	876
Chattisgarh	1,586	912
URBAN	2022-23	2011-12
Bihar 🗰	2,277	1,229
Odisha	2,182	1,205
Chattisgarh	2,149	1,230

Poverty Estimation in India:

- Pre-Independence: Efforts to estimate poverty began with Dadabhai Naoroji's book "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India", followed by the National Planning Committee (1938) and the Bombay Plan (1944), which discussed minimum living standards and income levels.
- Post-Independence: The Planning Commission (1962) initiated an official poverty assessment.
 - Later committees like Alagh Committee (1979) and Lakdawala Committee (1993) refined the methodology, focusing on consumption expenditure and calorie norms.
- Tendulkar Committee (2009): Shifted from calorie-based norms, recommended a uniform all-India
 Poverty Line Basket (PLB), and adopted Mixed Reference Period (MRP) consumption data.
 - It estimated the 2011-12 poverty line at Rs 816 (rural) and Rs 1,000 (urban) per capita per month.
- Rangarajan Committee (2014): Formed after criticism of the Tendulkar method, it reverted to separate rural and urban PLBs, estimating Rs 972 (rural) and Rs 1,407 (urban) per capita per month.
 - However, the government did not adopt its recommendations officially.

- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Launched in 2010 by United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the MPI measures poverty beyond income, considering deprivations in health, education, and living standards.
 - It reflects both the proportion of poor people and the average number of deprivations they experience simultaneously.
 - In 2025, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) shows that 1.1 billion people (18.3%) across
 109 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty, with 43.6% facing severe deprivation in at least half of the indicators.
- National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI): NITI Aayog uses National Family Health Survey (NFHS) to measure the NMPI.
 - The multidimensional poverty in India has declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 with about 24.82 crore people escaping poverty.
 - The Gini index declined from 28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23, showing reduced inequality.

Six-Pocket Syndrome



A Kaun Banega Crorepati episode featuring a child's overconfident behaviour towards Amitabh Bachchan has sparked debate on overindulgent parenting among Generation Alpha (people born from 2010-2024/25), which experts link to the "Six-Pocket Syndrome."

What is Six-Pocket Syndrome?

- About: The Six-Pocket Syndrome, a term from China's one-child policy era (1979-2015), describes how one
 child was doted on by six adults (two parents and four grandparents) who poured all their affection and
 resources into them.
 - This overindulgence fostered entitlement and a sense that every wish deserves to be fulfilled, leaving little room for discipline, patience, or empathy.
- Indian Context: In India, the Six-Pocket Syndrome is common in urban middle-class families, where
 working parents and indulgent grandparents shower children with attention, gifts, and leniency.
 - This overcompensation fosters a belief in the right to demand and be rewarded instantly, without understanding effort, boundaries, or consequences.

- Sociological Perspective: Reflects the shift from a responsibility-based society (where children contribute
 and adapt) to a right-based society (where children feel entitled to comfort and attention).
 - Erving Goffman's "Dramaturgical Perspective": Explains how modern children, shaped by family and media, learn to perform roles that attract validation rather than build character.
 - Childhood becomes a stage for social approval rather than moral learning.
 - Zygmunt Bauman's "Liquid Modernity": States that society now prioritises instant gratification, fluid identities, and social visibility over long-term emotional grounding.
- Psychological and Behavioural Effects:
 - Low frustration tolerance: The child cannot handle rejection, denial, or criticism.
 - Reward-demanding behaviour: They associate love with material rewards and expect instant gratification.
 - Emotional immaturity: Limited capacity for patience, empathy, or self-control.
 - Dependency and fragility: The child struggles with autonomy and resilience when facing failure or peer pressure.
 - In severe cases, such children may exhibit tantrums, aggression, or anxiety when denied their wishes.

What are the Challenges Facing Generation Alpha?

- Impatience and Instant Gratification: Growing up in a digital world of one-click solutions and fast content,
 Generation Alpha struggles with delayed gratification.
 - They expect quick results and often lack patience, persistence, and tolerance for failure.
- Overconfidence and Entitlement: Constant validation both at home and online breed excessive selfassurance without competence.
 - This results in low humility, difficulty accepting criticism, and unrealistic self-perception.
- Erosion of Behavioural Norms: With social interactions increasingly mediated through screens, children show declining respect for elders, authority, and social etiquette.
 - Exposure to unfiltered online content normalises informality and irreverence in language and conduct.
- Emotional Fragility and Mental Health Issues: Overprotection, combined with constant comparison on social media, weakens emotional resilience.
 - Rising levels of anxiety, irritability, and self-esteem issues are evident among school-age children.

- Declining Social and Empathic Skills: Reduced face-to-face interaction limits their ability to read emotions,
 negotiate differences, or handle conflict.
 - Virtual connections often replace real friendships, creating emotional isolation.
- Consumerism: Influencer culture promotes materialism and a performative lifestyle, where self-worth depends on visibility and possessions.
- Overdependence on Technology: Early digital exposure leads to reduced creativity, shorter attention spans, and addictive behaviour.
 - The ability to think critically or solve problems independently is gradually diminishing.
- Data and Privacy Risks: Generation Alpha is the first fully datafied generation, with their information collected from birth.

Word of the day

Precipitate:

bring about abruptly; separate as a fine suspension of solid particles; fall vertically, sharply, or headlong; hurl or throw violently; done with very great haste and without due deliberation

Synonyms: hasty, fall

Usage: Our economy has precipitated into complete ruin.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/precipitatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɹrˈsɪpɪteɪt/, /pɹəˈsɪpɪteɪt/

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