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“Things change. And friends leave. Life doesn't stop for anybody.”

— Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*



JOINT OPERATION
Another Maoist leader killed in Jharkhand
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AMCA PROJECT
Fighter jet execution model gets green light
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IMD retains 'above normal' outlook
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SHIRANI UTSAV
It is time to stop ritualistic hunting in W.B.
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Jitesh's knock propels RCB into Qualifier 1
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INSIDE



Centre considers 15-year stay for Ladakh domicile

NEW DELHI
The Union government is considering a new policy for Ladakh under which citizens who have had a continuous 15-year stay in the region may be granted domicile, according to a consensus reached at a panel meeting. » PAGE 3

EU slams Israel's strikes on civilian locations in Gaza

BRUSSELS
EU chief Ursula von der Leyen denounced as "abhorrent" Israel's deadly wave of strikes on civilian facilities in Gaza during a call with Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday. Israeli strikes killed at least 12 people in Gaza on Monday. » PAGE 3

SC Collegium proposes major shuffle of judges

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.R. Gove, has recommended the transfer and reappointment of 21 High Court judges across the country. This is one of the largest proposed shuffles of High Court judges in recent months. » PAGE 5

Ex-CJF among 68 honoured with Padma awards

NEW DELHI
Former Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khosla, dancer Shobana Chandrasekar, actor Anant Nag, footballer Vijayaraj, music composer Rishi Raj were among 68 eminent personalities who were honoured with the Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday. » PAGE 6

U.S. may curb student visa processing, tighten 'vetting'

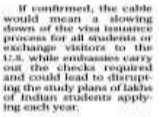
Subhasini Halder
Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Days after trying to ban international students at Harvard University, the Trump administration appears to be slowing down all international student visa processing and tightening requirements for international students on campus.

According to reports by the U.S.-based *Politico* and the *Bloomberg* news agency, a cable sent by Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday ordered that no "visa appointment capacity" should be added at embassies worldwide until arrangements for "social media screening and vetting" are put into place.

The *Hindu* could not corroborate the reports, and the U.S. Embassy in Delhi did not respond to requests for a comment or whether it had received the cable as well.

However, Mr. Rubio had in early April sent a cable calling for the screening of



Marco Rubio

all social media accounts of student applicants for U.S. visas, especially those critical of the U.S. and its allies such as Israel.

According to the latest U.S. reports, Mr. Rubio ordered that "effective immediately, in preparation for an expansion of required social media screening and vetting, consular sections should not add any additional student or exchange visitor (O, M, and J) visa appointment capacity until further guidance is issued", adding that a separate cable would be sent in the next few days. However, it reportedly also stated that pre-scheduled interviews would not be affected.

Protesters lock Central govt. offices in Manipur

Amid rising protests, offices of Geological Survey of India and Chief Electoral Officer were sealed. Imphal has been on the boil since May 20, when security personnel 'insulted' the State's identity

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The civil disobedience campaign in Manipur's Imphal valley intensified on Tuesday with protesters fan-fanning out to lock Central government offices. The action was concentrated in the State's capital, Imphal, which straddles two of the five districts comprising the Valley.

The protest was announced on May 24 by a Meitei organisation, which alleged that the Central armed forces insulted the State's identity by making the words "Manipur State Transport" on a state-run bus on May 20. The protesters have been seeking Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla's apology for the incident.

Among the offices the protesters locked on Tuesday, after overcoming re-



Protesters lock Central govt. offices in Manipur

stance from security personnel along the way, were that of the Geological Survey of India and the State's Chief Electoral Officer. One of the banners put up at these offices read: "Protesters have been seeking Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla's apology for the incident." Mr. Bhalla has been administering Manipur since the President's Rule was imposed on February 13,

days after BJP leader N. Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister. He was a casualty of the ethnic conflict that broke out in the State on May 3, 2023, killing more than 200 people.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COMI), a Meitei organisation, had announced the civil disobedience movement after the expiry

of a 48-hour deadline set for the Governor to apologise for the incident involving the bus carrying a team of media and State Information officials from Imphal to cover the Shringi Festival in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district.

"Undermined the pride" At a checkpoint about 25 km from Imphal, the Central armed forces allegedly made the passengers of the bus cover the words "Manipur State Transport" displayed on the State-run bus. No reason was given, but Meitei organisations said the act "undermined Manipur's identity, name, pride, and respect".

The Opposition Congress criticised the government over the incident.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 6

Coastal contamination



Beach debris: Scores of thermoplastic waste washed ashore in the Uttaraanchal Pradesh on Tuesday as debris from a sunken Liberian container ship continues to surface and litter the coastline. (news, p. 10)

INDIA bloc to seek special session on Pahalgam

Subhansu K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties under the banner of the INDIA bloc are gearing up to demand a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent developments. Several Opposition leaders have individually made this demand, including the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Dal (BJD), and the Indian National Congress.

In 1947, Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi was the first to urge the government to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the "nation's unity in this hour of grief" on April 28, three days after the attack. This was followed by the BJP and the Congress also writing to the government on the issue.

As per sources, the Opposition parties are making coordinated efforts to finally a draft of the letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue.

The government should convene a special session to discuss the 22 April Pahalgam attack and the subsequent developments. The government should not have any doubts about the fact that the terrorist attack was a national tragedy. This is a fairly straightforward request and both the government and the Opposition leader said.

The Opposition parties maintain that they have unconditionally backed the government's decision to hold the Cabinet meeting in Pahalgam as "not just a routine security exercise, but a clear message".

Terrorism is a declared strategy by Pakistan: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that Pakistan's prolonged sponsorship of terrorism against India must not be described merely as a proxy war, but a deliberate and sustained military strategy that traced its roots to 1947. He made these remarks while addressing an event in Gandhinagar to launch Gujarat's Urban Development Year 2025.

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Tourism should be conflict-neutral, says Omar

Exercised Ashu
PAHALGAM

Making a strong statement by holding a Cabinet meeting in south Kashmir's Pahalgam five weeks after the terror attack, Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said tourism should be treated as a conflict-neutral activity and not a tool of politics.

"Tourism is an economic activity and a means to earn a livelihood. Time and again, tourism has gets entangled in politics. My government will ensure that the tourism sector is insulated from the situation in J&K," Mr. Abdullah said, after chairing the Cabinet meeting.

The Chief Minister's remarks were apparently addressed to those political parties, which included the BJP, which correlated the growing tourism in the Union Territory to signs of normalcy. "There could be other parameters to register the return of normalcy in J&K," he added.

Referring to the recent military confrontation between India and Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah said, "The past five to six weeks were not easy for the country. But J&K suffered the most. The government will take all the measures and will ensure the return of normalcy." The Chief Minister also questioned the security agencies' decision to con-

nor Manoj Sinha holds the charge of security agencies in J&K. However, Mr. Abdullah stated confidence over the support his government was receiving from the Centre to revive tourism in J&K after the Baramulla terror attack, which left 26 civilians, including 25 tourists, dead on April 22.

The Chief Minister also announced that a memorial would be established for the 26 victims of April 22.

The Chief Minister described the decision to hold the Cabinet meeting in Pahalgam as "not just a routine security exercise, but a clear message".

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U.S. may curb student visa processing, tighten 'vetting'

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Days after trying to ban international students at Harvard University, the Trump administration appears to be slowing down all international student visa processing and tightening requirements for international students on campus.

According to reports by the U.S.-based *Politico* and the Bloomberg news agency, a cable sent by Secretary of State Marco Rubio late on Tuesday ordered that no "visa appointment capacity" should be added at embassies worldwide until arrangements for "social media screening and vetting" are put into place.

The Hindu could not corroborate the reports, and the U.S. Embassy in Delhi did not respond to requests for a comment or whether it had received the cable as well.

However, Mr. Rubio had in early April sent a cable calling for the screening of



Marco Rubio

all social media accounts of student applicants for U.S. visas, especially those critical of the U.S. and its allies such as Israel.

According to the latest U.S. reports, Mr. Rubio ordered that "effective immediately, in preparation for an expansion of required social media screening and vetting, consular sections should not add any additional student or exchange visitor (F, M, and J) visa appointment capacity until further guidance is issued", adding that a separate cable would be sent in the next few days. However, it reportedly also stated that pre-scheduled interviews would not be affected.

If confirmed, the cable would mean a slowing down of the visa issuance process for all students or exchange visitors to the U.S. while embassies carry out the checks required and could lead to disrupting the study plans of lakhs of Indian students applying each year.

Indians in a spot

The new checks add to problems Indian students already face in the U.S. after receiving deportation notices and the cancellation of their visa status over minor infractions, after a crackdown on all international students by the Trump administration in the past few months.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy in India added new warnings that foreign students could also end up losing their student visas if they "skip classes or leave their programmes without informing campus authorities in the United States", urging all students to "adhere to the terms" of the documents.

P.V. Anvar

Kerala bypoll: P.V. Anvar sets deadline; UDF unfazed

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A seemingly intractable All India Trinamool Congress leader P.V. Anvar evidently raised the spectre of throwing a spanner in the works of the United Democratic Front's (UDF) Nilambur Assembly by-election campaign by signalling non-cooperation if he does not get "concrete accommodation" in the Opposition alliance within 48 hours.

Mr. Anvar termed the UDF's offer to billet him as an "associate member" in the alliance as anathema. He said the Trinamool reserved the right to recall the party's support to the task in the Nilambur bypoll.

"The Trinamool can ill afford to remain on the sidelines in Nilambur as a fence-sitting, politically shapeless entity. The national committee will take a call after the 48-hour deadline for the UDF expires," he said.

However, the UDF leadership appeared not to blink.

Low pressure likely to trigger fresh round of intense rain in Kerala

IMD issues red alert for Kozhikode and Wayanad, warning of extreme rainfall, yellow alert for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, and an orange alert for the remaining districts today

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For the fourth consecutive day since the onset of the southwest monsoon, heavy rain lashed parts of Kerala, disrupting daily life on Tuesday. The strong wind that accompanied the rain has left a trail of destruction across the State, although the intensity of rain was relatively low.

Meanwhile, a fresh low pressure has formed over the Northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast. The system is likely to move slowly northwards and become more marked during the next 48 hours.

This, along with the prevailing strong westerlies at lower tropospheric levels over Kerala and Lakshadweep region, is likely to trigger some intense spells of rain for the next few days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Kozhikode and Wayanad districts on Wednesday, warning of extreme rainfall. An orange alert has been issued for the remaining districts, where a yellow alert for rain for the next few days.

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha districts, where a yellow alert has been issued with warnings of isolated heavy



Tidal intrusion: Children play in the water entering their locality from the sea during high tide, at Thiruvananthapuram.

Dams in Karnataka see rise in water inflow

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The early onset of monsoon with torrential rains in Kodagu and Chikmagalur in Karnataka, and Wayanad in Kerala, has augmented the water inflow into major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka.

These are early days of the onset of monsoon in the reservoirs in the downstream regions of the catchment areas of major rivers are registering copious inflow including at the Kottahalli Dam in Mandya district, Hemavathi in Hassan district and Kallur in Mysuru district.

The storage in the reservoir is expected to reach comfortable positions earlier than expected.

The Indian Meteorological Department has forecast heavy to very heavy rains in Kodagu, Chikmagalur, Hassan, and Mysuru districts during the next 48 to 72 hours.

Digitisation of T.N. Assembly records is under way: Appavu

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

People will soon have access to the historic proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly as digitisation of the records of sessions held since 1952 is going on, Speaker M. Appavu said in Tirunelveli on Tuesday.

In an informal chat with journalists after participating in the foundation stone laying ceremony for the session citizens' house coming up in Palayamkottai, Mr. Appavu said active steps had been initiated to digitise the Assembly proceedings since 1952 so that the people could access the historic speeches made in the Assembly by veteran leaders. Efforts are on to digitise the records of the current Assembly," Mr. Appavu said.

Speaking on other issues, he said the people living around the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project should be given priority in the recruitment of the personnel for C-category posts at the plant. T.N. 201, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), the parent of KKNPP, had been giving preference to locals and those who had given their lands for the project.

"Hence, we are holding talks with the KKNPP and the NPCIL to give priority to locals during recruitment," Mr. Appavu said.

When asked about Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's charge that Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao was "playing a dual role" in the Centre's One Nation, One Election move, Mr. Appavu said:

"The Chief Minister never acts on any issue as he is only for the welfare of Tamil Nadu and its people."



M. Appavu

NDRF fishes out 7 bodies from Godavari branch in A.P.

T. Appala Naidu
MUMBAIVARAM

A team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Tuesday fished out seven bodies from the Godavari river, in Andhra Pradesh. Eight young persons were missing on Monday after going for a bath in the river. The search for 19-year-old Krunal Mahesh will resume on Wednesday.

The bodies of seven persons have been retrieved from the river by Tuesday evening. They have been identified as Vaidi Mahesh (18), Elipala Mahesh (18), Eliparthi Satish (18), Subbarthi Paul (18), Eliparthi Satish Mahesh (18), Pappabharathi Rohit (18), and T. N. Kumar (18). The deceased belong to Kakatiya and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Khammam districts. The retrieved bodies have been sent to Mummadiyavaram Primary Health Centre for post-mortem. Amalapuram Deputy Superintendent of Police T.S.R.K. Prasad told The Hindu.

The bodies of Vaidi Mahesh, Elipala Mahesh and Eliparthi Satish were retrieved by the NDRF personnel during search operation at Kunturam Lake under Mummadiyavaram police limits in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Khammam district.

All eight youth reportedly ventured into the main course of the river, unaware of its depth, and might have drowned as they were not familiar with the location," he said.

IN BRIEF



Anil Kumble to be named as Forest, Wildlife ambassador

Former cricketer Anil Kumble will be nominated as the Forest and Wildlife Ambassador, Forest, Biology and Environment Minister K. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Tuesday. Mr. Kumble said Anil Kumble is of world-class fame and will help create awareness among the public about forest conservation, forest development, and wildlife conservation. "Anil Kumble has an immense concern for wildlife. Hence, he has agreed to become an ambassador without receiving any remuneration," Mr. Kumble said.

Will punish those involved in corruption, says A.P. CM

TDP national president and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu called upon the party leaders and cadres to strive to take governance to the last mile, while expressing his resolve to hold all those who indulged in large-scale corruption and irregularities accountable for their misdeeds. "We have ordered investigations into all those acts of corruption and punish whoever looted the people's money," he asserted. He was addressing the inaugural session of the TDP's three-day Mahanadu here on Tuesday.

Case against Unni Mukundan for 'assault on his manager'

The Infopark police in Kochi on Monday registered a case against actor Unni Mukundan for allegedly assaulting his manager. The petitioner was identified as Vipin Kumar. The alleged assault occurred over the positive review of a recent Malayalam film in which Mr. Mukundan's contemporary played the lead character. Meanwhile, actor Babu, a member of the ANMA ad hoc committee, said the organisation had received a petition from Mr. Mukundan raising serious professional allegations against Mr. Kumar.

Celebrating farming



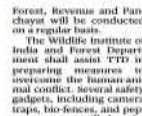
Some of the folk. Kerala's Agriculture Minister P. Jayaram inaugurates the 'Nattada Kottai' (capturing kottai) organised by the Thiruvapur Parithipatt in Kottayam on Tuesday. (Source: masthead)

TTD to step up surveillance on Tirumala trekking route to counter leopard threat

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Tuesday conducted a meeting at the Gubulam Conference Hall to discuss the increased movement of wild cats along the footpaths and roads in Tirumala.

TTD Executive Officer J. Senthil Kumar, participated virtually, along with Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkatesh Choudhary and officials from the TTD Forest, State Forest, Wildlife Institute of India, and other stakeholders, discussed short-term and long-term plans to tackle the situation. The meeting discussed the overall management of the MANIMAL Plan in TTD and decided to deploy additional forces and ensure timely garbage management along the All India footpath route. It was decided that a joint drive along the footpath route with officials from various departments, including



A photo of a leopard captured on the Tirumala footpath. It was decided to conduct a joint drive along the footpath route regularly.

After a long wait, B.J.P expels 2 rebel MLAs for anti-party activity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALEE

The BJP has expelled two rebel MLAs and former ministers - S.T. Somashekar and Arshad Shivarani Helbar - from the party for six years for indulging in "anti-party activity". The action against them was long awaited.

These MLAs, who were among those who came from the Congress to the BJP in 2019 through Operation Lotus, had been given ministerial berths in the Cabinet of the then Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa. They also continued as Ministers when Basavaraj Bommai succeeded Mr. Yeddyurappa as Chief Minister.

Since 2023, however, they started identifying themselves with the Congress since 2023 when the BJP lost power. Both had embarrassed the BJP several times by voting against the party's official candidates in the elections to the Council and to the Rajya Sabha. They also attended Congress Legislature Party meetings and had refused to toe the BJP line in the Assembly. They also participated in protests against the ruling Congress.

Mr. Somashekar had even criticised the BJP leadership publicly and defended his proximity with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Mr. Kumar's say to get developmental grants for his Assembly constituency.

Expelled rebel leader Basavaraj Bommai said the BJP had taken exception to the BJP acting against him



Arshad Shivarani Helbar (top) and S.T. Somashekar are the two MLAs expelled from BJP.

while ignoring these two legislators. Subsequently, the party central disciplinary committee issued show-cause notices to them, and both had replied to them.

Finally, the party central disciplinary committee expelled them for six years with effect from Tuesday. While Mr. Somashekar represents Yeshwanthpur in Bengaluru in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Helbar was elected from Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district.

Only expected Mr. Somashekar told media persons that the expulsion was expected. He said that the two had selectively been made scapegoats in the party, he wondered why the BJP did not act against those who were accused of rape. Mr. Helbar said he welcomed the action, but chose not to reveal his future plans.




Anil Kumble to be named as Forest, Wildlife ambassador

Former cricketer Anil Kumble will be nominated as the Forest and Wildlife Ambassador, Forest, Biology and Environment Minister Eshwar. B. Khandre said on Tuesday. Mr. Khandre said Anil Kumble is of world-class fame and will help create awareness among the public about forest conservation, forest development, and wildlife conservation. "Anil Kumble has an immense concern for wildlife. Hence, he has agreed to become an ambassador without receiving any remuneration," Mr. Khandre said.



Brand Ambassadors of Indian Government Schemes & Departments (2025)

Brand Ambassador	Associated Scheme/Department	Notes	
Amitabh Bachchan	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pulse Polio, City Compost Campaign	Prominent face of cleanliness and health campaigns.	
Anil Kumble	Forest & Wildlife Ambassador, Karnataka	Appointed in May 2025 for wildlife conservation efforts.	
Priyanka Chopra	Incredible India	Promotes tourism under the Incredible India campaign.	
Vidya Balan	Samajwadi Pension Yojana, National Sanitation Ambassador	Advocates for sanitation and women's welfare.	
Sakshi Malik	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Haryana)	Olympic medalist promoting girl child education.	

Bhawna Dehariya	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Madhya Pradesh)	Mountaineer promoting girl child education.
Deepika Padukone	Indian Psychiatric Society	Advocates for mental health awareness.
Dia Mirza	Swachh Saathi (Swachh Bharat Mission)	Engages youth in cleanliness drives.
Madhuri Dixit	MAA – Mothers Absolute Affection	Promotes breastfeeding and maternal health.
PV Sindhu	Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	Represents CRPF and promotes sports.
Nawazuddin Siddiqui	Samajwadi Kisan Bima Yojna (Uttar Pradesh)	Supports farmers' insurance schemes.
John Abraham	Arunachal Pradesh Tourism	Promotes tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.
Shah Rukh Khan	West Bengal Tourism	Brand ambassador for West Bengal's tourism initiatives.

Kichcha Sudeep	Punyakoti Dattu Yojana (Karnataka)	Advocates for cattle adoption schemes.
Ira Singhal	Department of Disability Affairs	Promotes disability rights and inclusion.
Neeraj Chopra	RBI's Banking Fraud Awareness Campaign	Educates public on banking fraud prevention.
Suniel Shetty	National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)	Promotes clean sports and anti-doping measures.
Varun Dhawan	Skill India Campaign	Encourages youth skill development.
Alia Bhatt	Gucci Global Brand Ambassador	First Indian global ambassador for Gucci.
MS Dhoni	Drone Start-up GARUDA AEROSPACE	Promotes indigenous drone technology.

I took neither a white flag nor a saffron flag to Delhi, says T.N. CM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Tuesday rejected criticism from AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniyandam over his recent visit to New Delhi and other developments in the state.

During a brief interaction with journalists in Chennai, Mr. Stalin, when asked about Mr. Palaniyandam's remarks over his visit to the national capital to attend the NITI Aayog meeting, said: "He has nothing else to criticise this government for, so he keeps repeating this. I don't want to keep responding to them. I don't want to lower my stature by doing so."

To persistent questions on Opposition parties' criticisms, Mr. Stalin recalled his previous responses. "I have responded to them earlier too. He [Mr. Palaniyandam] said that I took a white flag to Delhi. I said that I took neither a white flag nor a saffron flag."

On Mr. Palaniyandam's recent remarks over an incident in Arakkonam, that people should protect



M.K. Stalin

themselves under the DMK rule, Mr. Stalin said: "He was a government that looted. There were many incidents during the erstwhile AIADMK regime, such as Subashkumar (father of son of a dead) and Theerthakudam (police firing). Time would not be sufficient if I mention them all. He is just being adamant."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Stalin visited his Kolathur Assembly constituency and unveiled the foundation for the construction of homes for senior citizens by the Hindu Religion and Charitable Endowments Department at a cost of ₹2 crore. He also inaugurated renovated facilities at General Kumaraswamy Park.

Another Maoist commander eliminated in joint operation

Talab Bhuiya was killed in Bharkhand's Palamu. Nitesh Yadav, carrying a bounty of ₹15 lakh on his head, also reportedly shot. Bharkhand Jagur officials and Palamu SP are camping in the area

Amol Bhaskar
PATNA

In the ongoing fight against Maoists, the Bharkhand Police on Tuesday gunned down Maoist commander Talab Bhuiya in Palamu district during a joint operation with the Bharkhand Jagur, a specialised police unit.

"Operation is going on against Maoists in Palamu since early morning. Bharkhand Jagur and Palamu police personnel are involved in this operation. A Maoist commander has been killed in the encounter and a weapons cache has been recovered. There are reports of many Maoists being shot during the operation. Jawans are conducting search operations in a large scale in the area," Bharkhand Police spokesperson said.

On Monday, another encounter with the Maoists resulted in Lalhar police forces being involved in the entire area. The body of a Maoist commander, Talab Bhuiya, was recovered from the spot.

Mr. Homkar said the Maoist operative Nitesh Yadav, who was carrying a reward of ₹15 lakh, and arrested Maoist leader Kishan Singh Kharwar, who has a bounty of ₹10 lakh, were in the squad of Bhuiya.



Palamu Superintendent of Police Rishina Ranveer (left) leading the joint operation against Maoists on Tuesday. A search is under way to find operatives who had after the encounter. (SPCA, Anantpur)

On Saturday, two dead Maoists, including one Bharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JMP) supreme leader, were killed by the security forces in the Lalhar police station area. The Maoists who fled have been chased with a search operation is being conducted in large numbers. Security forces have cordoned off the entire area. The body of a Maoist commander, Talab Bhuiya, was recovered from the spot.

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He said that in the encounter, Yadav is reported to have been shot. The officials of Bharkhand Jagur, including Palamu SP Rishina Ranveer and Bharkhand Jagur are continuously monitoring the situation. Police have been alerted that the Maoists who fled have been chased with a search operation is being conducted in large numbers. Security forces have cordoned off the entire area. The body of a Maoist commander, Talab Bhuiya, was recovered from the spot.

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Alleged BKJ terrorist dies in Punjab blast

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Even at a suspected Bahar Khalsa International (BKJ) terrorist, died on Tuesday in a blast in Punjab's Amritsar district. The AAP government, blaming the government for the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

Not an isolated incident: Punjab's internal general secretary Tarun Chaudh said the State government has completely failed in curbing terrorism and maintaining law and order in Punjab.

This horrifying incident (blast) is not an isolated one. It reflects the complete collapse of the State's internal security unit, he said, denouncing the National Investigation Agency (NIA) take over the probe to expose the broader terror nexus operating in Punjab.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) criticised the AAP government, blaming the government for the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

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DRDO chief gets second one-year extension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) on Monday granted a further one-year extension to Samir V. Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defense Research and Development, and Chairman, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), up to May 31, 2024.

Mr. Kamat was first appointed to the post in August 2022 and took over from G. Rathesh Reddy.



Samir V. Kamat

Defence Minister approves AMCA fighter jet execution model through industry tie-up

Hinakar Pari
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajiv Singh has approved the execution model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), under which Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will compete with private industry to manufacture the indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet. The Aerospace and Defence Agency (ADA) is set to execute the programme, through a tripartite partnership, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Speeding up the development and induction of AMCA has become critical since China has already fielded two fifth-generation fighters and is set to supply 40 J-35 to Pakistan.

HAL has the advantage of experience, but they will have to bid along with the industry either individual



A full scale model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet at New Delhi 2023 on September 14.

ly or in a consortium with others, two defence sources independently said.

"They (HAL) will have to fight it out," one of the sources added. HAL will not be the default manufacturer, the other source stated. So far, the defence public sector undertaking is the country's sole manufacturer of fighter jets.

The AMCA project is



A full scale model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet at New Delhi 2023 on September 14.

received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2024 at an approximate cost of ₹18,000 crore as a 28-tonne, twin-engine stealth aircraft.

This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards self-reliance in the aerospace sector, the Ministry said, adding that ADA will shortly issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development phase.

AMCA will feature an internal weapons bay and a stealthy supercruise capability, which has been developed in India for the first time with an internal payload of 1,800 kg of payload and 8,500 kg of external payload with 6,500 kg of internal fuel. Officials had stated earlier that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will be the lead production agency with significant involvement of the private sector to speed the project.

Development of AMCA is planned to be carried out in two phases, a Mk1 with the General Electric F-41 engine and a Mk2 with a more powerful engine, which will be co-developed in partnership with Safran of France for which discussions have been under way over the last few years.

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Bengal govt. to begin recruitment as well as push for review plea in SC: CM

Shib Sankar Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said her government will start a fresh recruitment process for teachers as per a Supreme Court order, while simultaneously pursuing a review plea in the top court's decision.

The Supreme Court had on April 3 upheld an earlier order of the Calcutta High Court cancelling an interim selection process, which had led to the appointments of over 18,000 teachers to government schools across the State. This development triggered a wave of protests over the past few months with employees who lost their ap-

pointments demanding that the State government file a review petition and insisting that they will not participate in any fresh recruitment process.

The Chief Minister also announced an age relaxation for teachers to apply for the fresh recruitment process. "Those who lost their jobs will be allowed to sit for the exam even if they have crossed the upper age limit. They will also receive the benefit of the Supreme

CRPF official, held for spying, says he was trapped into it

Naitia Singh
NEW DELHI

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) official, who was arrested for alleged espionage activities by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) earlier this week, had information and photographs on his phone that he allegedly shared with his Pakistani handlers, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

The arrested Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) reportedly told CRPF officials that he was "trapped" and could not escape his circumstances once caught in it.

Monthly payout: Mr. Naitia Singh, who was dismissed on May 21, was employed by the CRPF for several days before he was handed over to the NIA.

"When he was questioned, conversations with his Pakistani handlers were found on his phone. He had not deleted any content. The NIA would interrogate him further to see if he had deleted any of the messages. He did show remorse, adding that he kept sinking in the trap and

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Indian X accounts that were withheld now restored

Aaron Dean
NEW DELHI

Even as a clutch of Indian accounts on X (previously Twitter) challenge their accounts' censorship in India from May 7 onwards, the Union government unblocked access to many of them, including a court hearing.

On May 17, a New Delhi-based online outlet was restored after 10 days of being "withheld" on government orders from viewers in India.

While much of the 8,000 accounts on X — the only platform to disclose statistics on the scale of blocking orders it received in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor — were Pakistani, many Indian and non-Pakistani handles were restricted from view as well.

The orders were issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

Storytelling contest calls for raconteurs to showcase skills

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A national storytelling championship, in which participants can narrate folklore, personal anecdotes or original stories, would be held for budding and seasoned storytellers to showcase their talent and skills.

The competition will be conducted by ACEnovation, with The Hindu in school as the media partner and VYT Chennai as the organising partner. The registration fee per participant is ₹100.

Participants from the age of 3 and above can submit stories in any language in a total of six categories.

Every region will be able to avail gift subscriptions to The Hindu Group's children's products. Two months' subscription to The Hindu Young World or three months' subscription to Young World Club digital or six issues of The Hindu in school. They can also access free online workshops on the art and science of storytelling and those to attend any two workshops on a variety of topics. A free entry into the 'Hiccup! Calls' Leader List series is also on offer.



ACEnovation logo.

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National Storytelling Championship logo.

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Bengal govt. to begin recruitment as well as push for review plea in SC: CM

Shib Sankar Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said her government will start a fresh recruitment process for teachers as per a Supreme Court order, while simultaneously pursuing a review plea in the top court's decision.

The Supreme Court had on April 3 upheld an earlier order of the Calcutta High Court cancelling an interim selection process, which had led to the appointments of over 18,000 teachers to government schools across the State. This development triggered a wave of protests over the past few months with employees who lost their ap-

pointments demanding that the State government file a review petition and insisting that they will not participate in any fresh recruitment process.

The Chief Minister also announced an age relaxation for teachers to apply for the fresh recruitment process. "Those who lost their jobs will be allowed to sit for the exam even if they have crossed the upper age limit. They will also receive the benefit of the Supreme



Protesting teachers taken to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's address regarding the issue of the new recruitment process.

Court and fresh appointments will continue simultaneously," Ms. Banerjee said at the State Secretariat.

The Chief Minister also announced an age relaxation for teachers to apply for the fresh recruitment process. "Those who lost their jobs will be allowed to sit for the exam even if they have crossed the upper age limit. They will also receive the benefit of the Supreme

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Defence Minister approves AMCA fighter jet execution model through industry tie-up

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the execution model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), under which Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will compete with private industry to manufacture the indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is set to execute the programme through industry partnership, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Speeding up the development and induction of AMCA has become critical since China has already fielded two fifth-generation fighters and is set to supply 40 J-35s to Pakistan.

HAL has the advantage of experience, but they will have to bid along with the industry either individual-



A full-scale model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K

ly or in a consortium with others, two defence sources independently said. "They [HAL] will have to fight it out," one of the sources added. HAL will not be the default manufacturer, the other source stated. So far, the defence public sector undertaking is the country's sole manufacturer of fighter jets.

The AMCA project re-

ceived approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2024 at an approximate cost of ₹15,000 crore as a 25-tonne, twin-engine stealth aircraft.

Equal opportunity

"The execution model approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on a

competitive basis. They can bid either independently or as joint venture or as consortia. The entity/bidder should be an Indian company compliant with the laws and regulations of the country," a Defence Ministry statement said on Tuesday.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the design of AMCA is ready and the first prototype is expected to roll out by 2028-29 and production is expected to begin from 2032-33. The target is to have the aircraft ready for induction in 2034.

This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards self-reliance in the aerospace sector, the Ministry said, adding that ADA will shortly issue an Expression of In-

terest (EoI) for the development phase.

AMCA will feature an internal weapons bay and diverterless supersonic intake which has been developed in India for the first time with an internal carriage of 1,500 kg of payload and 5,500 kg of external payload with 6,500 kg of internal fuel. Officials had stated earlier that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will be the lead production agency with significant involvement of the private sector to speed up the project.

Development of AMCA is planned to be carried out in two phases, a Mk1 with the General Electric F-414 engine and a Mk2 with a more powerful engine planned to be co-developed in partnership with Safran of France for which discussions have been under way over the last few years.

✓ Defence Ministry Approval

- **Rajnath Singh** approved the execution model for AMCA.
 - To be developed by **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** in **industry partnership**.
 - **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** will **compete with private sector** firms for the production role.
-

🔧 Execution Model Details

- The model allows **equal bidding rights** for both:
 - Public sector (e.g., HAL)
 - Private companies (individually or as consortiums)
- Bidder must be an **Indian entity** complying with national regulations.
- HAL is not guaranteed production; will have to "fight it out" competitively.

Parameter	Details
Cost	₹15,000 crore
Aircraft Type	25-tonne, twin-engine stealth fighter
Internal Weapons Bay	1,500 kg payload
Supersonic Air Intake	Developed indigenously (first time)
Internal Fuel Capacity	6,500 kg
External Payload	5,500 kg



Timeline

- **Prototype rollout:** Expected in **2028–29**
 - **Production begins:** **2032–33**
 - **Induction into IAF:** Targeted by **2034**
-



Strategic Importance

- Counter to China's 5th-gen fighters & Pakistan's JF-17s.
- India needs indigenous stealth fighters amid rising regional threats.

Engine Development


- To be developed in **two phases**:
 1. **Mk1 variant**: Uses **General Electric F-414** engine.
 2. **Mk2 variant**: A new engine to be co-developed with **Safran (France)**.
-

✓ Examples of 4.5 Generation Fighters:

Aircraft	Country
Dassault Rafale	France
Eurofighter Typhoon	UK/Europe
F/A-18E/F Super Hornet	USA
Sukhoi Su-30MKI	Russia/India
MiG-35	Russia
HAL Tejas Mk 1A	India
Saab JAS 39 Gripen E/F	Sweden

✓ Examples of 5th Generation Fighters:

Aircraft	Country
F-22 Raptor	USA
F-35 Lightning II	USA
Sukhoi Su-57	Russia
Chengdu J-20	China
KF-21 Boramae (<i>under dev.</i>)	South Korea (future 5th Gen)
AMCA (<i>under dev.</i>)	India (DRDO)

Category	4.5 Generation Fighters	5th Generation Fighters	
Stealth Capability	Partial (reduced radar cross-section, not full stealth)	Full stealth design (internal weapons bay, stealth coating)	
Avionics	Advanced avionics and radar (AESA radar introduced)	Fully integrated avionics with sensor fusion	
Network-Centric Warfare	Supported, but limited compared to 5th gen	Highly integrated, real-time data sharing	
Maneuverability	Super maneuverable (with thrust vectoring in some)	Extreme agility + stealth optimized design	
Supercruise (Supersonic without afterburner)	Available in some models	Core feature in most aircraft	
Multirole Capabilities	Yes, air-to-air and air-to-ground	Yes, with superior situational awareness	
Cost	Relatively cheaper	Extremely expensive	
Radar & Sensor Tech	AESA radar,IRST	AESA + IRST + multi-sensor fusion	
Combat Roles	Upgraded 4th gen roles with enhanced capabilities	Designed for deep strike, stealth, and electronic warfare	



KEYWORD



ISTOCKPHOTO

Experiential learning: how students can learn more effectively

The present education system remains exam-centric. Teaching focuses on providing information, and students only cultivate lower-order thinking skills. Students must move beyond these basic skills to critical thinking and problem-solving

Manaswini Vijayarajam

Humans are a learning species. Our very survival depends on our ability to react and adapt to situations. To thrive, students should proactively create and shape their worlds. The sheer scale of learning is unprecedented in today's world. Children can access information at the click of a button. rote can teach them concepts and clarify doubts. Conventional schools are information disseminators could become redundant in the near future.

Yet, schools serve a purpose beyond mere knowledge acquisition. They must learn foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, yes. But they must also develop social, emotional, and cultural skills. They must navigate interpersonal relations, understand different views, and become self-aware.

They should also learn how to contribute to society. This is all knowledge that comes from the school environment. It should be a microcosm of the world the students will eventually enter.

The need for reform

At present, schools are found lacking on most counts. Children from government and private schools receive differing quality of education, with the majority struggling with crumbling infrastructure, poorly trained teachers, and an outdated curriculum. There still exists a vast urban-rural divide and therefore, unequal access to resources. Laboratories, functional toilets, potable water, and computers continue to be problem areas in the poorest of schools.

However, even when schools get many things right, they remain stuck in a loop of exams, where the value-add is minimal. There is a need to reimagine the present approach to teaching, learning, and testing. Memorisation combined with high-stakes testing has not made children competent; it has merely helped them pass examinations that test a narrow range of abilities.

Moreover, children learn and understand in different ways. They have differing aptitudes, as Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences (the idea that

intelligence is not a unified ability, but more a collection of distinct and independent intelligences) explains. Some children learn visually, by watching someone and mimicking them, others learn by reading text, and others understand and learn only when they apply it practically by themselves. The brain is capable of reorganising and rewiring itself to keep learning and develop newer skills — a concept called neuroplasticity.

Here is where experiential learning becomes useful. It offers a more wholesome approach to teaching and learning. As the term suggests, experience is key. It is "learning by doing," focusing on the "how" of learning or the process rather than the outcome. Experiential learning is a continuous, lifelong process of knowledge construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction.

On experiential learning

David Kolb, an educational theorist, first developed the Experiential Learning Theory (ELT), with psychologists such as Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget, and John Dewey laying the groundwork.

The present education system remains exam-centric. Teaching focuses on providing information, and students only cultivate lower-order thinking skills. These are recall and understanding, as per the revised Bloom's taxonomy (Bloom's taxonomy is a hierarchy or classification of cognitive levels and learning objectives constructed by Benjamin Bloom in 1956, and revised by Lorin Anderson and David Krathwohl in 2001). Students must move beyond these

basic skills to critical thinking and problem-solving. They must learn to question received information and learn through peer relations. These capabilities parallel higher order thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and creation. These levels could translate to the ability to compare, differentiate, and invent. Experiential learning makes students active and involved learners rather than passive recipients of information. Hands-on experiences engage the students' senses and encourage them to think about and apply concepts to the

world they've seen around them. By learning this way, children acquire skills they can apply across contexts. They learn how to learn.

Stages of experiential learning Individual-environment interaction is at the core of experiential learning. This is the dialectical tension that creates growth. The student constructs new knowledge by interacting with the environment. These phases progress cyclically as the student learns and re-learns.

The stages of Kolb's experiential learning cycle are concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation. These stages are inter-linked, iterative and occur throughout an individual's lifetime. Each spiral of learning further deepens a student's understanding.

Through a concrete experience (phenomenon, the students' sensory-motor faculties are engaged, and they grasp and assimilate information from the environment. In the next stage, that is, reflective observation, students try to understand and interpret the information received via the experience.

There may be a difference between their expectations and the experience which would lead to cognitive dissonance. This essentially means that the new information does not fit into their existing mental models. In this process, beliefs do not match the behaviour expected.

Moving on to abstract conceptualisation, students rationalise the new information, adding it to their pre-existing mental models. And by doing so, concepts are changed or created with new or conflicting information. In the final stage of active experimentation, the learner acts on the knowledge received, makes decisions, and solves problems. This action leads to new experiences that, in turn, reshapes cognition once again.

Implementing the model

Experiential learning is a teaching-learning philosophy that comprises many pedagogical approaches. It can be implemented through a wide range of methods. Doing experiments

related to a specific topic and facilitating student questions is a form of inquiry-based learning. Teamwork (collaborative learning) on projects and problems helps build a variety of perspectives. Interactive games, group discussions, role playing, and arts and crafts are also promising. Real-world immersion through outdoor learning and field trips are similarly very engaging for students.

Integrating technology and having simulations is also instructive.

The "flipped classroom" is a prime example of an experiential learning setup. Rather than have the teacher lead the class, it places the student front and centre. Students explore a topic at home through reading materials and online resources. Then the student solves the problem together with the teacher and the whole class by discussing concepts together. This kind of pedagogy makes students take responsibility for their learning and creates meaningful interactions and deeper learning.

Critiques and challenges

Experiential learning can isolate the student process from the classroom context.

Factors like peers, family background, and culture also affect learning, which are not considered.

Implementation of experiential learning can also be a logistical nightmare. It requires a battalion of resources, be it personnel, materials, or training. This is particularly true in the Indian context, given the size and diversity of students. Student readiness to learn experientially may also be overestimated. For example, are Class VIII students who struggle with grade two English comprehension ready to think critically? A one-size-fits-all solution is not advisable.

However, this does not mean that experiential learning requires a wholesale overhaul of the system; it can fit into the existing setup for a more holistic approach. Experiential learning has the potential to empower students of different learning styles.

Manaswini Vijayarajam is an intern at The Hindu.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian.
S. Upendran

"Hey, how are you doing? Isn't it a great day?"
"What's the matter with you? You seem to be in an upbeat mood today?"
"What mood?"
"An upbeat mood. It means 'cheerful, optimistic'. For example, I can say, you must meet my cousin Bharathi. He's a real upbeat guy."

"Meaning, he's always cheerful?"
"Yes, that's right. Here's another example. The conference on AIDS ended on an upbeat note."
"Yes, I tend about that. Some scientists believe they are close to finding a cure. Can I say, I prefer upbeat songs to sad songs?"

"You certainly can. So, tell me, why are you so upbeat today?"
"It's Shalaja's birthday today! I called her to wish her a happy birthday and she invited me to her birthday party."
"That's a good enough reason to be upbeat. Tell me, how did you do in your test yesterday?"

"Would you please don't remind me of it?"
"Would you please don't remind me of it?"
"What?"

"Would you please" is never followed by don't. For example, you never say, "Would you please don't smoke?"
"Then what do you say?"
"Would you please not smoke?"
"I see. So, do I say, would you please not talk about the test?"

"That's right. Or you could say, 'Please don't talk about the test.'"
"Please don't talk about the test, o.k.?"
"What would you like to talk about then?"
"I would like talking about today's party."

"I would like to talk about today's party, not talking about today's party." But wait a minute. I can say, "I like watching movies" and "I like to watch movies", right?"
"That's right."

"Then why can't I say, I would like talking about today's party?"
"Because when you use the word 'would', the verb 'like' has to be followed by 'to'. For example, I would like to get a haircut in the next test."

"Who wouldn't? I would like Tendulkar to score a double century in the next test match."
"Good example. Here's another one. Nowadays, many young people would like to make money very quickly."
"They should become politicians, then! Ha! Ha! Is that the phone ringing?"

"Yes, it is. I'll be back in a minute."
"Wrong number, right?"
"No, it wasn't. It was Shalaja."
"Shalaja? What did she want? Don't tell me she's invited you to the party as well?"
"No, she wanted me to tell you that the party has been cancelled!"
Published in The Hindu on August 25, 1996.

Word of the day

Voluble:

marked by a ready flow of speech

Synonyms: articulateness, fluency

Usage: she is an extremely voluble young woman who engages in talkative conversations.

Pronunciation: /vəʊləb(ə)l/

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vəʊləb(ə)l/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

This year's edition of the French Open started on May 25. A quiz on the tournament

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Let's start with an easy one. The tournament is also known by what name?

QUESTION 2

Another easy one! Which is the type of court in this tournament?

QUESTION 3

Let's move up the ladder a little bit. What are the names of the trophies for both men and women singles called?

QUESTION 4

Who is the player to have won the most number of singles titles in the open era? How many times?

QUESTION 5

In 1997, India won their first Grand Slam title at the French Open in the mixed doubles. Who was the Indian player who won?



Visual question!

Identify the players in the image. In which year did they win the French Open, and in which category?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz

1. The first Star Wars movie that was released, was retrospectively named with less other movies to become this trilogy. **Ans: The Skywalker Saga**

2. The previous name of Return of the Jedi. **Ans: Revenge of the Jedi**

3. This animal was supposed to play Yoda. **Ans: A monkey**

4. During the production of A New Hope, the Libyan government mistakenly identified this vehicle as a military tank. **Ans: The Jawa Sandcrawler**

5. This was supposed to be Yoda's last name. **Ans: Blinch**
Visual: The breed of dog which was the inspiration for Chewbacca. **Ans: Alaskan malamute**
Early Birds: Rishabh Jai Sidhartha (Vasanthan) Bhanu Oomari (code: Jayaditya Yamin Arvika)

Experiential learning: how students can learn more effectively

The present education system remains exam-centric. Teaching focuses on providing information, and students only cultivate lower-order thinking skills. Students must move beyond these basic skills to critical thinking and problem-solving

Manaswini Vijayakumar

Humans are a learning species. Our very survival depends on our ability to react and adapt to situations. To thrive, students should proactively create and shape their worlds. The sheer scale of learning is unprecedented in today's world. Children can access information at the click of a button. Bots can teach them concepts and clarify doubts. Conventional schools as information disseminators could become redundant in the near future.

Yet, schools serve a purpose beyond mere knowledge acquisition. They must learn foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, yes. But they must also develop social, emotional, and cultural skills. They must navigate interpersonal relations, understand different views, and become self-aware.

They should also learn how to contribute to society. This is all know-how that comes from the school environment. It should be a microcosm of the world the students will eventually enter.

The need for reform

At present, schools are found lacking on most counts. Children from government and private schools receive differing quality of education, with the majority struggling with crumbling infrastructure, poorly trained teachers, and an outdated curriculum. There still exists a vast urban-rural divide and therefore, unequal access to resources. Laboratories, functional toilets, potable water, and computers continue to be problem areas in the poorest of schools.

However, even when schools get many things right, they remain stuck in a loop of exams, where the value-add is minimal. There is a need to reimagine the present approach to teaching, learning, and testing. Memorisation combined with high-stakes testing has not made children competent; it has merely helped them pass examinations that test a narrow range of abilities.

Moreover, children learn and understand in different ways. They have differing aptitudes, as Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences (the idea that

intelligence is not a unified ability, but more a collection of distinct and independent intelligences) explains. Some children learn visually, by watching someone and mimicking them; others learn by reading text; and others understand and learn only when they apply it practically by themselves. The brain is capable of reorganising and rewiring itself to keep learning and develop newer skills – a concept called neuroplasticity.

Here is where experiential learning becomes useful. It offers a more wholesome approach to teaching and learning. As the term suggests, experience is key. It is "learning by doing," focusing on the "how" of learning or the process rather than the outcome. Experiential learning is a continuous, lifelong process of knowledge construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction.

On experiential learning

David Kolb, an educational theorist, first developed the Experiential Learning Theory (ELT), with psychologists such as Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget, and John Dewey laying the groundwork.

The present education system remains exam-centric. Teaching focuses on providing information, and students only cultivate lower-order thinking skills. These are recall and understanding, as per the revised Bloom's taxonomy (Bloom's taxonomy is a hierarchy or classification of cognitive levels and learning objectives constructed by Benjamin Bloom in 1956, and revised by Lorin Anderson and David Krathwohl in 2001). Students must move beyond these basic skills to critical thinking and problem-solving. They must learn to question received information and learn through peer relations. These capabilities parallel higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and creation. These levels could translate to the ability to compare, differentiate, and invent.

Experiential learning makes students active and involved learners rather than passive recipients of information. Hands-on experiences engage the students' senses and encourages them to think about and apply concepts to the

world they've seen around them. By learning this way, children acquire skills they can apply across contexts. They learn how to learn.

Stages of experiential learning

Individual-environment interaction is at the core of experiential learning. This is the dialectical tension that creates growth. The student constructs new knowledge by interacting with the environment. These phases progress cyclically as the student learns and re-learns.

The stages of Kolb's experiential learning cycle are concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation. These stages are inter-linked, iterative and occurs throughout an individual's lifetime. Each spiral of learning further deepens a student's understanding.

Through a concrete experience/phenomenon, the students' sensory-motor faculties are engaged, and they grasp and assimilate information from the environment. In the next stage, that is, reflective observation, students try to understand and interpret the information received via the experience. There may be a difference between their expectations and the experience which would lead to cognitive dissonance. This essentially means that the new information does not fit into their existing mental models. In this process, beliefs do not match the behaviour expected.

Moving on to abstract conceptualisation, students rationalise the new information, adding it to their pre-existing mental models. And by doing so, concepts are changed or created with new or conflicting information. In the final stage of active experimentation, the learner acts on the knowledge received, makes decisions, and solves problems. This action leads to new experiences that, in turn, reshapes cognition once again.

Implementing the model

Experiential learning is a teaching-learning philosophy that comprises many pedagogical approaches. It can be implemented through a wide range of methods. Doing experiments

related to a specific topic and facilitating student questions is a form of inquiry-based learning. Teamwork (collaborative learning) on projects and problems helps build a variety of perspectives. Interactive games, group discussions, role-playing, and arts and crafts are also promising. Real-world immersions through outdoor learning and field trips are similarly very engaging for students.

Integrating technology and having simulations is also instructive.

The 'flipped classroom' is a prime example of an experiential learning setup. Rather than have the teacher lead the class, it places the student front and centre. Students explore a topic at home through reading materials and online resources. Then the student solves the problem together with the teacher and the whole class by discussing concepts together. This kind of pedagogy makes students take responsibility for their learning and creates meaningful interactions and deeper learning.

Critiques and challenges

Experiential learning can isolate the student process from the classroom context.

Factors like peers, family background, and culture also affect learning, which are not considered.

Implementation of experiential learning can also be a logistical nightmare. It requires a battalion of resources, be it personnel, materials, or training. This is particularly true in the Indian context, given the size and diversity of students. Student readiness to learn experientially may also be overestimated. For example, are Class VIII students who struggle with grade two English comprehension ready to think critically? A one-size-fits-all solution is not advisable.

However, this does not mean that experiential learning requires a wholesale overhaul of the system; it can fit into the existing setup for a more holistic approach. Experiential learning has the potential to empower students of different learning styles.

Manaswini Vijayakumar is an intern at *The Hindu*.

What is Experiential Learning?

- Learning by **doing, interacting, and reflecting**, rather than passive intake.
 - Moves beyond rote learning to **critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving**.
 - Builds **personal meaning** from real-life experiences.
-

Need for Reform in Current Education System

- Current system is **exam-centric** and promotes **lower-order thinking skills**.
- Focus is on memorization, not **application, innovation, or creativity**.
- Widening gap between **rich and poor** students due to:
 - Crumbling infrastructure
 - Outdated curriculum
 - Overemphasis on marks and testing

Core Features of Experiential Learning

1. **Personalized Intelligence:** Not one-size-fits-all. Visual, textual, kinesthetic learning modes.
 2. **Learning is a continuous process:** Involves experiencing, reflecting, and constructing knowledge.
 3. **Real-world application:** Bridges gap between classroom learning and societal contribution.
-

Stages of Experiential Learning (Based on Kolb's Model)

1. **Concrete Experience:** Doing or participating in an activity.
2. **Reflective Observation:** Observing and thinking about the experience.
3. **Abstract Conceptualization:** Drawing conclusions and learning general principles.
4. **Active Experimentation:** Applying what was learned to the real world.

These stages are **cyclical, iterative, and interlinked**.

Tools of Experiential Learning

- **Inquiry-based learning:** Posing questions to students.
 - **Project-based learning:** Solving real-world problems collaboratively.
 - **Role-playing, field visits, discussions, and crafts.**
 - **Technology integration:** Flipped classrooms, online simulations.
-

Critiques & Challenges

- Requires **time, space, and resources** (not always available).
- Student performance in experiential models may be hard to assess with traditional exams.
- **Cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds** affect implementation and acceptance.
- In public schools, where **resources are limited**, experiential learning is tough to scale.

✓ Final Takeaways

- Experiential learning helps students:
 - Think independently
 - Apply concepts across domains
 - Retain knowledge longer
 - Become emotionally and socially aware
- Should be integrated with traditional methods for **balanced and effective education**.

गिजुभाई
दिव्यास्वप्न



Gulveer clinches India's first gold

He clocks 28:38.63 with a powerful sprint in the final lap to overtake Bahrain's Rop and Japan's Suzuki for the top spot in 10,000m; Servin begins the country's medal hunt by winning a bronze in 20km race walk; Tejaswin takes lead with 4205 points at the end of five events in decathlon

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sports Bureau

India's best track athlete this season so far, Gulveer Singh continued his impressive performance with the country's first gold at the Asian Athletics Championships, winning the 10,000m on the opening day of the competition in Gumi, South Korea, on Tuesday.

Having missed the automatic qualification for September's World Championships by a mere 22 micro seconds, Gulveer had aimed to finish on top and go under 27 minutes at the Asians but the hot conditions meant he could only manage one of the two.

The result, however, would be useful in improv-

ing his world ranking and chances to qualify for the Worlds. August 24 is the qualification cut-off date. Gulveer has already qualified in the 5000m.

Gulveer clocked 28:38.63 with a powerful sprint in the final lap to overtake Bahrain's Albert Rop and Mebuki Suzuki of Japan for the top spot and his maiden international gold. Sawan Barwal finished fourth in 28:50.53.

"Irrespective of the time, the main goal was to finish first. I'm happy to successfully implement my race strategy. The gold will definitely improve my world ranking and chances to qualify for the World Championships," Gulveer said after the race.

India's medal hunt began in the morning session with Servin Sebastian win-

ning bronze in the 20km race walk.

The 26-year-old clocked a personal best of 1:21:13.90 for his maiden international medal. Amit finished a creditable fourth.

Other Indians in action also stayed in contention by advancing to the finals of their respective events – Yoonus Shah in the 1500m, Sarvesh Kushare in high jump, T.K. Vishal in the 400m and Rupal Chaudhary and Vithya Ramraj in the women's 400m.

However, Jay Kumar was placed fourth to miss out on the 400m semis and Annu Rani managed a best throw of 58.30m to finish fourth in women's javelin.

In the decathlon, Tejaswin Shankar was on top with 4205 points after five events.

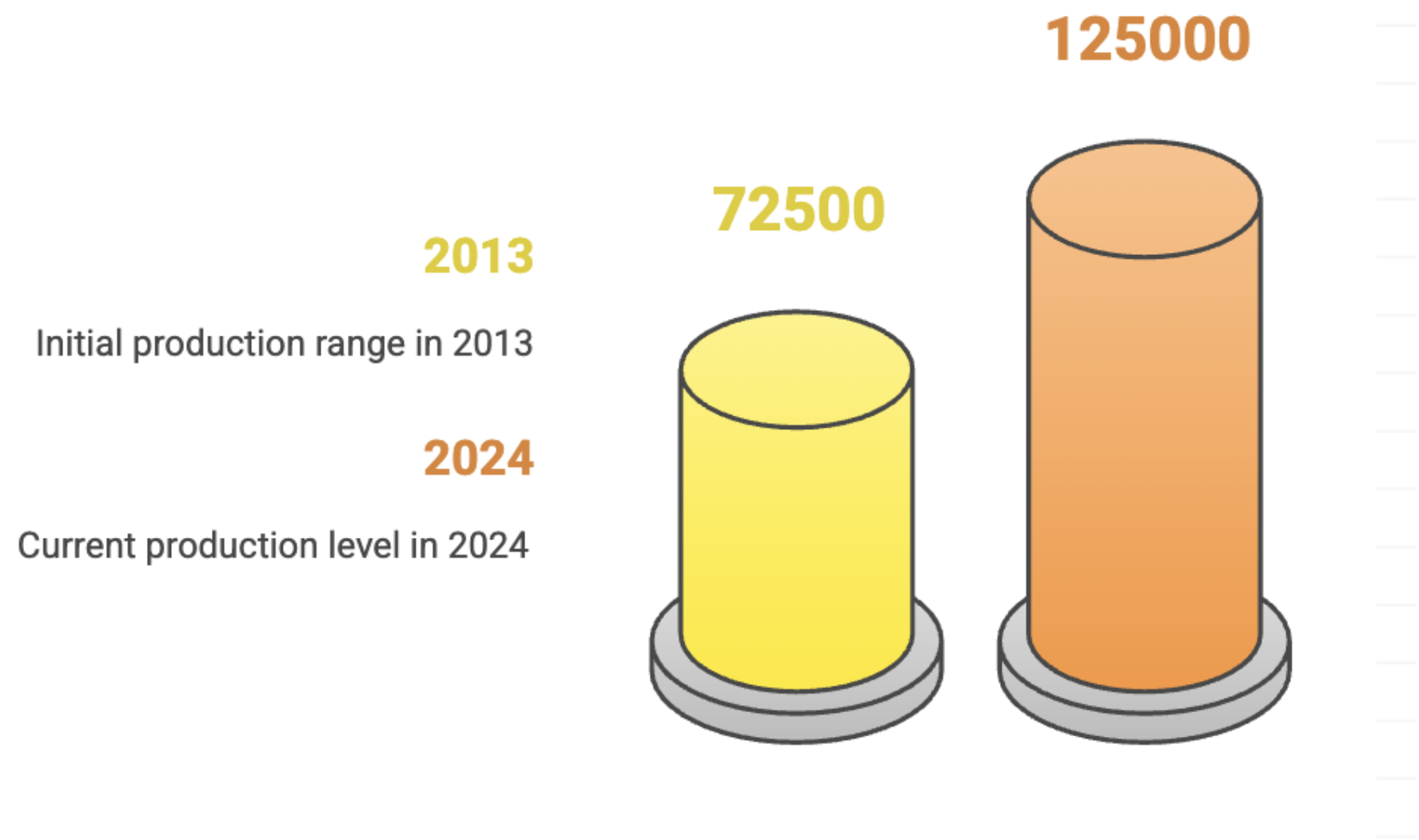


Triumph to cherish: Gulveer celebrates his maiden international gold. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

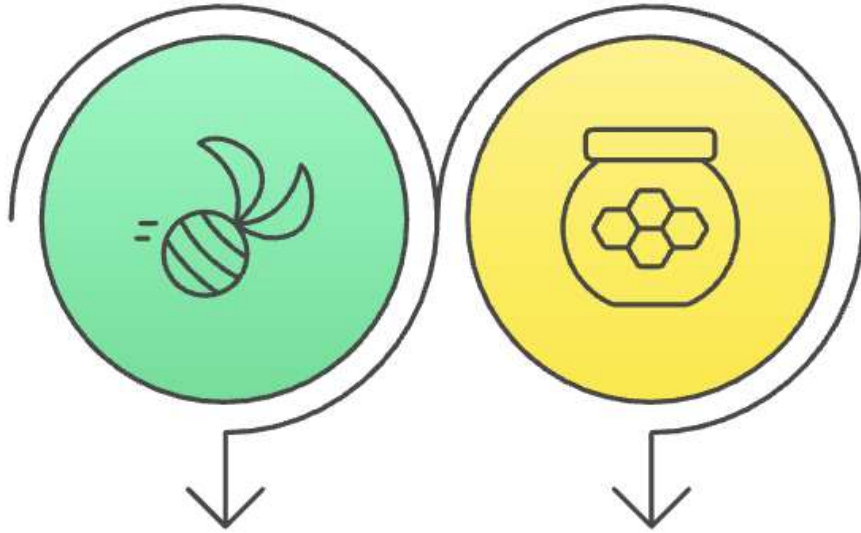
Honey Production In India



India's Honey Production Growth (2013-2024)



Beekeeping advancements



Beekeeping Integration

Combining
beekeeping with
other agricultural
practices

Beekeeping Improvements

Floral diversity,
training, and hive
technology
advancements

Honey Production and Export: India vs. China



Characteristic	India	China
 Global Rank	7th Largest	Top Producer & Exporter
 Production Areas	Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan	Not Specified
 Export Destinations (2023-24)	U.S.A, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya	Not Specified

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Breakthrough Prize Physics 2025

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- The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics has been awarded to major experimental teams at CERN—ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, and LHCb—based on their findings from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) Run-2 data (2015–2024).
- 

LHC Experiment Achievements

ALICE

ALICE experiment at CERN, honored for advancing heavy-ion physics.

ATLAS

ATLAS experiment at CERN, awarded for groundbreaking discoveries.

CMS

CMS experiment at CERN, recognized for significant contributions to physics.



Physics Nobel Prize Contributions

Beyond Standard Model

Research of physics beyond standard model.

Matter-Antimatter Asymmetry

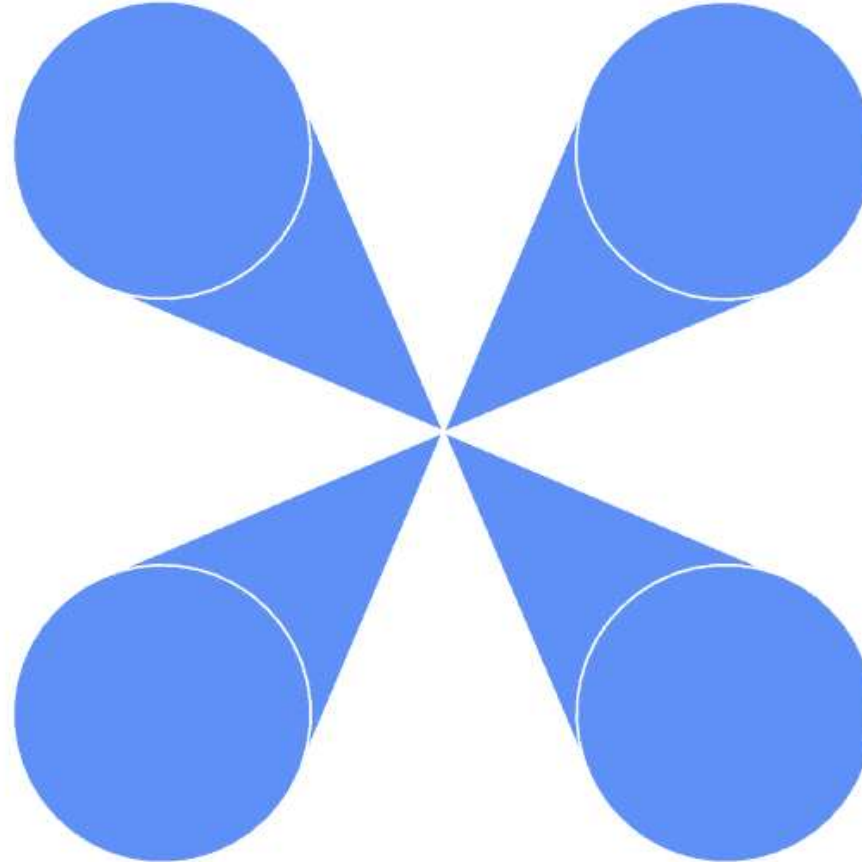
Studies about Matter-Antimatter asymmetry in universe.

Higgs Boson

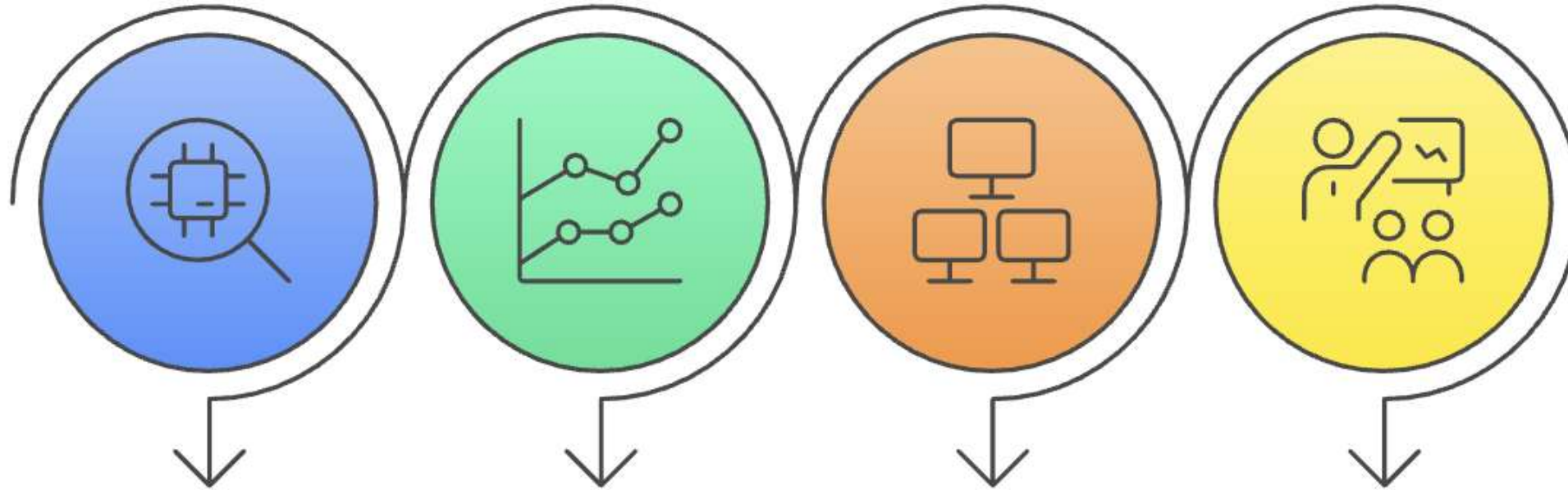
Discovery and research about Higgs boson.

Quark-Gluon Plasma

Research and study of Quark-Gluon Plasma.



CERN Contributions



Detector R&D

Research and development of detectors

Data analysis

Analyzing collected data for insights

Computing Grid

Global network for data processing

Manpower training

Training individuals for skilled labor






Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

What is it?

The LHC is the world's most powerful particle accelerator used to probe the fundamental structure of matter.



LHC Key Aspects

Characteristic	Description
 Structure	27-km ring, superconducting dipole magnets
 Cooling	Operates at -271.3°C with liquid helium
 Collisions	High-energy collisions of protons/heavy ions
 Experiments	Four major detectors at collision points
 Magnets and Control	Dipoles bend, quadrupoles focus beams

LHC Significance

International science

Strengthens international science diplomacy



Progress in theories

Essential for progress in quantum field theory



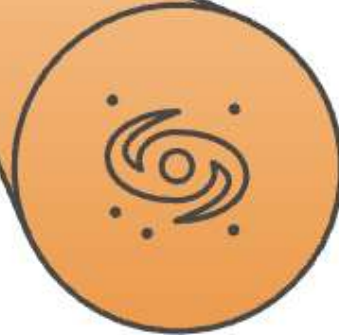
Higgs boson confirmation

Confirmed the existence of Higgs boson



Early universe study

Enabled study of early universe conditions



Word of the day

Voluble:

marked by a ready flow of speech

Synonyms: articulateness, fluency

Usage: *She is an extremely voluble young woman who engages in soliloquies not conversations.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/volublepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /vɒl.jʊ.bəl/



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guys.

