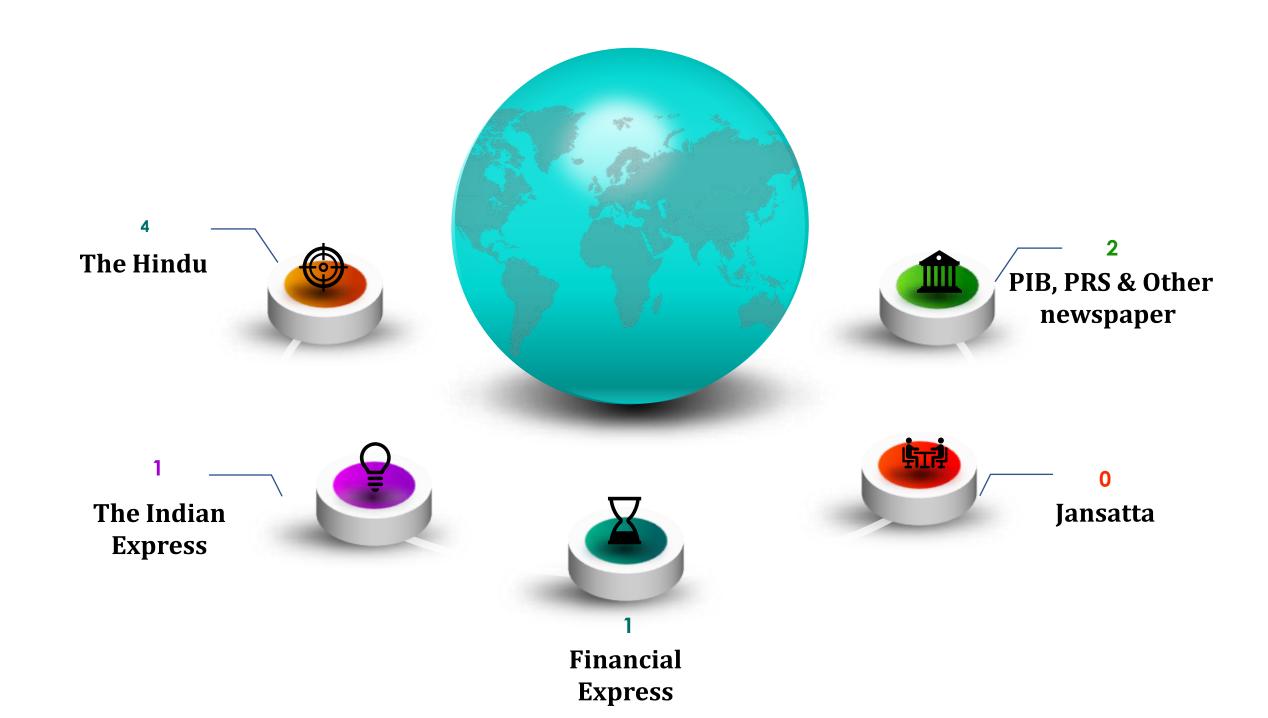
Daily Current Affairs



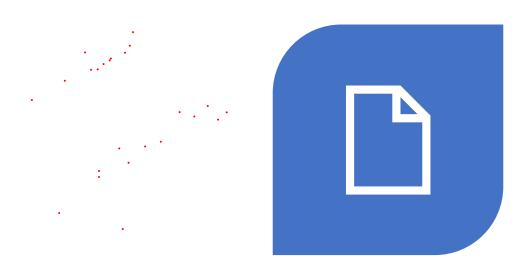








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10 MCQ QUIZ



• "Man may have discovered fire, but women discovered how to play with it. They are more mature than man, so trust their instinct



SISSIFICANT BREACHES DGCA flags 51 safety lapses by Air India HEWS - PAGE 6





NUN VIIILENCE Policeman among 4 shot down in New York WORLD I PAGE 44

From glory to decline The Chola capital needs asic infrastructure. not historic statues PERSONAL OF PERSONS IN



INSIDE

Water Alling

Protests over arrest of Kerala nuns continue

VIHIBLIVANANTHAPURAN sontroversial errest of two Revalle nain at the Durg Revalle nain at the Durg grainway station in the Buth-side Chhattispart hast Friday horse valled Kersia far the third consecution day un Tuerday. The Chhattispart jumice had arrevised the muss after Bayrang Dai wenture mobilised them exittle charge of spiriting out life charge of spiriting out life women. In PAGE 8

Countdown to NISAR satellite launch begins

The 27.5 hour countrieses to the NISAB satellite mission started at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The Geosynchronous satellite Launch vehicle with the 2.302-bg satellite is schooled to lift off from the a Westnesday, Allouic 10 chinuses after 8ft off, the GSAV-F16 rocket will inject the setolitie into a 743-bit som symphomisis orbit, is shade a

At least 27 killed as Russia targets a Ukraine prison

NYIV

Russian gilde bornion and
failight missiles struck a
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boutheastern Zapon'stehla
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3 terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: govt.

and killed in Dachigam, says Home Minister Shah

| Ballistic, forensic reports and testimony of four witnesses used to confirm their identities, he adds | PM slams Opposition for failing to acknowledge operation's success and questioning its timing

SPORT II PAGE 10

The Illinda Bureau

hree Pakistani ter-resista who had April 22 serves situda in Pa-halgain were killed in a sec-curity operation at Pachi-hornals, the Union govern-ment told the Lok Sobia Minister. Narendes Modi-and Union Hone Alfiniae April 20 serves and the Con-traction and that the Union State of the Con-traction and that the Union State of the Con-traction and that the University of the Con-plet Con-traction and that the

ple dead. In his speech during a debate on Operation Sin-door, the Prime Minister usid that daugits the secur-ity forces' success in elimiating these terrorists. ome sections of the Oppo

mid, pointing to Opposi-

tion MPs.

Earlier in the day. Mr.
Shah informed the Lok
The Shah Informed the Shah
The Shah Informed the Lok
The Shah
The Shah his own speech during the Operation Sindoor debate.

Voter cards, chocolates Sharing the details, Mr. shah said that the three terrorists have been identi fied as Indeman, alias Pai-zal Jatt, Hamza Afghani, and Zibran, all Pakistani nationals and members of



the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Suleiman was an A-cate-gory terrorist who was also involved in the Gagangir terror attacks in October

The three men were tracked with the help of human and technical intelligence provided by the Intelligence Bureau GR), Army, Central Reserve Police my, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPP), and J&K pol-ice, the Minister said.

identity of the turnorists and their involvement was confirmed with the help of ballistic and forensic re-ports and the testimony of last other witnesses, in-

chiding two accused, who had given them shelter a day before the attack. Pakistant voter identity cards and chocolates made in Pakistan were found on the two terrorists, esta-

No one asked India to stop Operation Sindoor: Modi

Mistula Hebbar

India had our Pakistan on India had par valuation over notice of retaliation over terror attacks through Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narcardra Modi-said on Tuesday during a

blishing that they came from Pakietan, he said. "Two AK-47 rifles and an "Two Alt-47 filles and an M4 carbine rifle were reco-wered from their bodies. The spent cartridges reco-vered from Batsaran (Pahidgam) meadow were matched with the weapons matched with the weapons recovered during Opera-tion Mahadev yesterday. These weapons were flown on a special plane to the Chandigarh forensic laboratory last night. I had a vi-deo call with six ballistic experts at 5 a.m. today. tise of these weapons at Pa-halgam," the Minister added.

He said that the first in He said that the first in formation about the pre-sence of torrorists in the trachigam area was re-ceived on May 22.

"On May 22, 18 got hu-mon intelligence that the

debate on the military action that followed the Pahlagam attack.
"Not a single world leader asked us to stop it. Our actions were precise."

Communication signals were tracked from May 22 to July 23 and continuous 23 to July 23 and 24 to July 22 with the help of sensors. 4 Fars unit of the Army, CRPF, and 28 k police 20 and 24 to July 25 to July 25

Mr. Shah said. The National investiga-tion Agency (NIA) had ear lier arrested two men who provided food and shelter to the terrorists a day be-fore the attack.

He said the NIA inter-viewed LOSS people, in-cluding all the victims of

Tiger's tale



strips speak! A fell performer takes part in the tree nal Tiger Day entries to its Hengahara on Tuesday. The July 29 evers promote

Will intervene without fail if 'mass exclusion' is found in Bihar draft poll rolls: SC

Final call

Partitionary france controllume

the EC's claims regarding the scatter of 65 falch waters who are likely to be excluded four-the draft list in 60-lar

The shade out will be bound DA clays | * Final cult to

2029 electoral roll would feature in the draft roll on August 1, provided they submitted their enumera-

tion forms, with or without

for persons omitted from the draft roll to apply for corrections. This means

Bagchi reasoned.

Lack of information

to make it to the draft roll

"No. this tanuary 2028

Krishmadas Rajagupal

The Supreme Court promised on Tuesday to step in without fail, and imme-dately, it, for instance, perdiariely, if, for instance, per-sone omitted as dead from the deaff electroal red in the har, achievabled to the pu-lification of the pu-ticipation of the product of the special internative re-vision (SiD) conducted by the flection Commission (EC), are found "very much allie".

A Rench of funders Su-rva Kane and kovasidy flas-

rys Kant and Joymalys Bag-chi made it clear to the EC that the court would not besitate to act if the list was riddled with "mass exclu-

Bring 15 people they first is people they first any are dead, but found afree... we will look into it," Justice Bagebi as-sured senior advocate Ka-

aniel amini advocate Ka-pil Silnd and advocate Prasliant Bluudian, appear-ing for the potitioners. The oral statement came in response to appre-tentions raised by Opposi-tion parties and NGOs that its labb records been been list would be the starting point. Your apprehension is that 65 lakh odd voters in the frait on lake odd voters in the January 2028 list would not feature in the draft list of August L... However, the EC schedule allows time 65 lakh people have been excluded from the draft roll with an explanation that most of them were either dead or had permathat these voters are not new. They would only be ently shifted. seeking correction vis-a-vis the 2025 entry," Justice During the hearing, hus-

tice Kant asked the petitioners to wait for the pusaying their apprehensions were at best speculative The peritioners had crit-

The petitioners had crit-ichard the alls as sitteen and the sitteen of the sitteen of the had a harther period of 31 had a harth

was a complete lack of in-formation from the RC on whom they had identified as dead or relocated. The details were not available

to them.
"We do not have the list "We do not have the list for persons identified as dead as shifted out. If they are not monitoned in the draft list on August 1, these people would not be able to object... At least, we must know who they are so that the same and the same Mr. offset on behalf of the Opposition parties.

Ser. Order on behalf of the Opposition parties.

Mr. Dwivedi and 'all the law' had been given to political parties. Details were advertised and post-ed on the website. While EC affidavit in the apex court had stated that vo-ters in the existing January Mr. Sibal sought a copy of the list of the dead, Mr. Dwivedi asked the petition-ers to check the details from the website. "What website? We do

not know who all luve left and what enquiries yes (BC) have made..." Mr. Si-

hal countered.

Justice Bageli told the
peritioners that the draft
roll on August I would any
way provide the names of
those omitted as either
dead or shifted permanently. Justice Kant Inter-vened to point out that the EC was a constitutional in stitution, and the sumption was it would act "The moment they de-

viate, we will definitely in-tervene... If someone omit-ted as dead comes and

T.N. and Kerala petitions will kick off Presidential Reference hearing

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to begin its August 19 bearing on a Pre-sidential Reference by first hearing the simultanessis challenge raised by Turuli Nadu and Kerala against its maintainability. The refeof the Court to draw time-ines for the President and Covernors to deal with State Bills sent for appro-

A Constitution Bench A Constitution Besich headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Cavat said the two Status, respressmed by sentor advocates E.K. Ve-nugopal, A.M. Singhvi, and F. Wilson, will get an hour to convince the Court to re-

CM appropri

A preliminary hearing should be held on the maintainability of the reference. This should be done first R. St. VENUGORAL

turn the reference unan-

turn the reference unan-swered.

Mr. Venugonal, appear.

Mr. Venugonal, appear.

Bonch must hear the States
before the Union Govern-ment began its abmis-sions in support of the pre-sidential questions. "A preliminary hearing should be held on the

first," he pressed.
Attorney General of in-dia B. Venkstaramani in-tervened, saying the States must get their "full say", after which he would res-pond on the question of maintainability and conti-mic with his submissions on behalf of the reference.

on benalt of the reference.
The Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant,
Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasim-ha, and And Chandurkar,
asked the parties to the
their written aubmissions

September 10.
"Timelines must be fol-lowed scrupulously," the Chief Justice told the la-

week.
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta supported this
wholeheartedly, saying
that the distinguished counsel was "sui generie (unique)". Turnil Nadu and Kerala

preising Justices Surya Kam. Yanni Nadu and Korala Yakam Nath. P.S. Narasim-ha, and Attal Chandurkar, and Attal Chandurkar, and the Chandurkar, and the Chandurkar, and the Presidential Refused to the Refused to the President

SC asks if T.N. is delaying Senthilbalaji case trial

Tuesday asked if the State of Tamii Nadu was trying to delay the trial in the cases of cash-for-jobs "scam" involving former Minister V. Senthilbalaji by incrimi-nating more than 2,000 people as accused.

A Bench of Justices Su-

rya Kare and Joymalya Bag-chi called for listing all. chi called for latting all pending cases involving the former Minister Sen-thibalaji before the Su-preme Court and posted them for hearing on Au-

400000

3 terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: govt.

Pak.-based LeT terrorists were tracked for 2 months and killed in Dachigam, says Home Minister Shah

Ballistic, forensic reports and testimony of four witnesses used to confirm their identities, he adds

PM slams Opposition for failing to acknowledge operation's success and questioning its timing

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

hree Pakistani terrorists who had carried out the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam were killed in a security operation at Dachigam in Srinagar on Monday, the Union government told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed the operation, and that the three slain terrorists had been involved in the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

In his speech during a debate on Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister said that despite the security forces' success in eliminating these terrorists, some sections of the Opposition were raising questions on the timing of the operation. "What has happened to these people?" he said, pointing to Opposition MPs.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah informed the Lok Sabha about Operation Mahadev. "The three terrorists who killed our civilians at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam have been killed," the Minister said. Since local residents in Jammu and Kashmir are not joining the militant ranks. Pakistan is sending terrorists from across the border to strike terror, he added. "We ensured that the terrorists do not flee to Pakistan," Mr. Shah said, in his own speech during the Operation Sindoor debate.

Voter cards, chocolates

Sharing the details, Mr. Shah said that the three terrorists have been identified as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt; Hamza Afghani; and Zibran, all Pakistani nationals and members of



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday. PTI

the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Suleiman was an A-category terrorist who was also involved in the Gagangir terror attacks in October 2024.

The three men were tracked with the help of human and technical intelligence provided by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and J&K police, the Minister said. Mr. Shah said that the identity of the terrorists and their involvement was confirmed with the help of ballistic and forensic reports and the testimony of four other witnesses, including two accused, who had given them shelter a day before the attack.

Pakistani voter identity cards and chocolates made in Pakistan were found on the two terrorists, esta-

No one asked India to stop Operation Sindoor: Modi

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

India had put Pakistan on notice of retaliation over terror attacks through Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during a debate on the military action that followed the Pahlagam attack.

"Not a single world leader asked us to stop it. Our actions were precise."

FULL REPORT ON

» PAGE 5

blishing that they came from Pakistan, he said. deo call with a experts at 5 a

"Two AK-47 rifles and an M4 carbine rifle were recovered from their bodies. The spent cartridges recovered from Baisaran (Pahalgam) meadow were matched with the weapons recovered during Operation Mahadev yesterday. These weapons were flown on a special plane to the Chandigarh forensic labo-

ratory last night. I had a video call with six ballistic experts at 5 a.m. today, and they confirmed the use of these weapons at Pahalgam," the Minister added.

He said that the first information about the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam area was received on May 22.

"On May 22, IB got human intelligence that the

presence of terrorists has been tracked in Dachigam. Communication signals were tracked from May 22 to July 22 and continuous attempts were made to track them. IB and Army set out on foot patrol to catch the signals, we got the first confirmation on July 22 with the help of sensors. 4 Para unit of the Army, CRPF, and J&K police jawans cornered the terrorists. Five human assets were also sent and we killed the three terrorists." Mr. Shah said.

The National investigation Agency (NIA) had earlier arrested two men who provided food and shelter to the terrorists a day before the attack.

He said the NIA interviewed 1,055 people, including all the victims of the terror attack.

RELATED REPORT ON

» PAGE 5

1. Attack Background:

- April 22, 2024: Terror attack in Pahalgam, J&K.
- Resulted in 26 civilian deaths at Baisaran meadow.

2. Terrorists Neutralized:

- Operation conducted by Army, CRPF, IB, and J&K Police.
- Killed in Dachigam forest area.
- Neutralized terrorists:
 - Suleman
 - Hamza Afghani
 - Zibran
- All three were Pakistani nationals, affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

3. Tracking & Confirmation:

- Surveillance began on May 22, confirmed via sensors on July 22.
- Communication intercepts used to locate them.
- Confirmed using:
 - Ballistic & forensic reports
 - Witness testimony (4 total, 2 accused who gave shelter)
 - Pakistani voter ID cards and chocolates found
 - Matching spent cartridges with those from Pahalgam.

4. Operation Support:

- 4 Para unit, IB, CRPF, and J&K Police involved.
- 5 human assets deployed for confirmation.
- Weapons flown to Chandigarh lab to match attack forensics.

5. Political Context:

- PM Modi and HM Amit Shah addressed Lok Sabha.
- PM criticized Opposition for raising doubts on operation timing.
- Emphasized: "Not a single world leader asked us to stop it."

6. NIA Investigation:

- Over 1,000 people interviewed.
- 2 men arrested for sheltering the terrorists.

Tiger's tale



Stripe speak: A folk performer takes part in the International Tiger Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The July 29 event promotes awareness about tiger conservation and threats from poaching. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

"Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart."

| | | I | | | |
|----|---|----------------|------------------------|------|----------|
| 54 | Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | Central India | 2023 | 1414.28 |
| 55 | Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve | Rajasthan | Aravali Range | 2023 | 599.64 |
| 56 | Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve | Chhattisgarh | _ | 2024 | 2,829.38 |
| 57 | Ratapani Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | _ | 2024 | 1,271.4 |
| 58 | Madhav Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | Gwalior-Chambal region | 2025 | 1,751 |



DRDO successfully holds back-to-back Pralay test flights

The Hindu Bureau

The Defence Besearch and Development Organisation (DRDD) successfully con-sharted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Ka-lam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday and

Tuesday.

The test flights were carried out as a part of user evaluation trials to validate. system, the Defence Minis-try said. The missiles pre-cisely followed the intended trajectory and reached ed trajectory and reached the target point with pin-point accuracy, meeting all the test objectives. All sub-systems performed as per expectations. Pralay is an isoligenous-ty developed solid-propul-larit quasi-ballistic missile with state of the oil gui-with state of the oil gui-

dance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carry-ing multiple types of war-beads against various tor-

gets.
The test flights were will-The test flights were wil-nessed by senior scientists of the DRDO, representa-tives of users from the in-dian Air Porce and the in-dian Army, as well as the

Rajnath Singh praised the DRDO, the armed forces, and the defence industry for the successful test Congratulating

teams, the Secretary, De-partment of Lefence (As), and DROS Chairman Sa-mir V. Karnar said the suc-cessful completion of the frest phase of teat flights paved the way for the in-duction of the system into the armed forces in the orar fattee, the MeD said.

Manipur preparing for special intensive revision, says Joint CEO

BLO training, meetings with political parties under way; Joint CEO adds no specific timelines have been communicated for SIR in Manipur Opposition parties, including Congress, criticise exercise as a roundabout way of implementing the NRC

anipur has begun truining seastons for booth-level offor booth-beef at-beer off-Loo and meetings with political parties for a special intensive revision (iii) of the photo electoral rolls of the State, an exer-cise that the Klection Com-nuision is Currently held-ing in Illhar drawing flat-from Opposition parties for allegedly being a roun-dabeaut way to a National

Register of Citizens (NRC). Election officials in the State said the training and meetings were being con-ducted as per communica-tion from the MC 'both for

tion from the ISC "both for mally and informally". Joint Chief Electoral Ce-ficer, Manipus, Ramananda Nongmeikapani told The Hindu, "This is in keeping with the SIR preparation under way across several other States. In Bilbar, this exercise is already under way. The preparation here is as per the RC's proposal to hold SR across the country So far, no commu-nication has been given on specific timelines for this exercise in Manusur?

exercise in Manipur."
According to notifica-tions made public by the office of the Dierrist Rec-tion Officers across Mani-pur for meetings with pol-itical parties, there is a reference to "the ensuing special intensive revision

sons to the relief camp lo-cations where they are temporarily living. This was opposed by us as it

would lead the State awa

Training seasions
According to the CEO's official posts on social media,
training sessions with

of Photo Electoral Kolla w.r.t. 1.1.2026 as the quali-fying date? One of these notifications - from takeh ing district - said the mee-ing would be about 58s, looused-bouse auvey, and rationalisation of pol-ing staticts. Under Pre-Re-vision activities as part of the upcoming Summary Revision of Electoral On July 25, at a meeting

shaired by the joint CRO, "The participating parties were sensitized about the were sensitised about the RC's proposal to conduct a special intensive revision across the country, almed at safeguarding the integri-ty and accuracy of our de-inceratic process." the poll

parties have been held this month across several As-sembly constituencies in the State such as Khanga-bok, Phungyar, Lamlai, Heirok, Noney, Ukhrul, gress Committee president Ketcham Meghachandra, who attended the July 25 meeting, told The Houte, "It seemed like through the SIR, they also want to change voting address of internally displaced per-

among others.
The Clust Electoral Of-ficer of Nagaland has also held training sessions in the State this July where "duties of BLOs in special intensive revision" was among the topics for the among the topics for the sessions, according to a pu-blic statement issued through the Department of Information and Public Re-lations of Nuguland. The training sessions for SIR in Manipur comes even as the State continues in

HC acquits 3 in 2002 riots case, cites lack of evidence

rat High Court has acquit-sed three men in a 2002 ted three men in a 2002 post-Godhra riots case, rul-ing that the evidence against them was unrelia-ble and insufficient for

bouring Myanmar.

During the Lok Sabha elections in the Seate in 2024, the Bharadya Januta Parry had included the promise of an NBC as one of its top poll planks during

between the valley-based Meitel community and the

of its top poll planks theiring campalagring for the Irmer Marigure constituency. Mr. Meghachandra said, "We made it clear at the pub-y 34 meeting that the pro-should not be any attempt to add began voters either. Even Home Minister Ami Stah and former GM N, Bi-ren Singh have spoken about Blegal immigration in the State?

tion in Manipur was held in 2022, which saw RIP emerge as the single largest party in the Assembly. with the government being formed with N. Biren Singl

Mestes community and the hills-based. Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo group of communities, Neiably, one of the key lostes that Mestes (vil) society organisations and erstwhile Chief Minis-ter N. Biren Singh had blaused for the conflict was alleged. "Blegal immigra-tion of Kukie" from neigh-lection was a second

barmati Express were set on fire at Godhra station on February 27, 2003, kill-

The Hindo Bureau

corneletton.

A Bench of Justice Gita
Gopt overturned the May
39, 3008, judgment by a
fast-track court in Anand,
which had sentenced Sachin Patel, Ashok Parel,
and Ashok Gupta to five
were. rigorous

"The learned trial cours udge had erred in the ap previation of the evidence

ing 59 people and trigger-ing widespread riots in

ujarat. According to the prose According to the prose-ciution, the three appel-lants were part of a meb that gathered in a locality in Anand, damaged shops, and set some of them on fire, sillegedly violating probability unders under Section 135 of the Bombay Pelice Act.

onion farmers seek MSP hike as prices drop

Purninsa Sah

As wholesale onion prices fell by nearly 18% over the past two weeks at Asia's largest onion market in La-Central governments to in-tervene immediately.

In a meeting held at the salgaon Agricultural Produce Market Commit Produce Market Commit-iese (APMC) premises in Monday, the Maharashtra State Onion Producers Parmers Association passed multiple resolu-tions socking price support and long-term policy

measures.
The meeting, chaired by the association's founding president Bharat Dighole, was attended by farmer re-presentatives, APMC members, and cooperative lead-ers from across the State. The primary demand put forth was for an assured forth was for an assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) of \$3,000 per quin-tal - significantly above the

nor just economic exploita-tion - it's a disrespect to their year-round labour," Mr. Dighole said. He added farmers would be com-pelled to launch a State-wide agrintion. "We will wast till August 10. If the go-veriment doesn't care to address our concerns, we will hold a statewide prot-est," he said. According to the Land-giann APMs., the average wholessie price of ontons

dropped from €1,800 on July 16 to €1,275 per quintal on July 26.

No decision has been taken to update National Population Register: Centre

Fuenday that no decision had been taken to update the National Population Register (NPR) during the 27 Cenius exercise. The NPR is the first step

for the creation of a Nation-d Register of Citizens (NBC), according to the Gi-tzenship Rules, 2003 untisemahip Rules, 2003 under the Citivernship Act, 1985. The NPR was first created in 2010 and data were collected simultane of the 2011 Census - called the flours Listing and Housing dering the first phase of the 2011 Census - called The NPR database, which has the details of 190 crow residents, was produced in residents, was updated in 2015-16.



tions by several Lok Sabha tions by several Lok Rabha members, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, in a written reply, and, "No decision has been taken to update the National Population Register, The intent or conduct Census has been nortified. The period of conducting bouselisting.

and housing Cennas will be testified in due course."

He added that the Gre-berment of finds had not their to finds had not their to their to conduct Censas in the Casette on June 16 and the Cennas would be conducted in two phases — the heastellating and housing Census, where the heasting condtons, assets and amenities of each household will be collected, and the popula-tion enumeration phase, where the demographic, and other details of every

and other details of every persons in each household will be collected. "In Genaus, Caste enum-eration will also be done," the reply said. It said that the estimated financial outlay for con-ducting Genaus was under finalisation.

Form panel to address exam grievances. HC tells NTA

The Delhi High Court has directed the National Test-ing Agency (NTA) to consti-tute a standing grievance examination time due to technical difficulties for

2023 candidate sough 2029 candidate sought compressiory marks after allegedly losing time and suffering mental distress due to biometric verifica-tion irregularities at the ex-am centre. Such issues ought to be evaluated tran-

Indian officials reach out to post-Assad

Marking a fresh beginning in ties with Damascus in the post-Assad era, India reached out to the Syrian provisional government under the leadership of President Ahmed Hussein at Sharas, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolant, this week. Suresh Kumar, Joint Se-

Suresh Kuman, John Sz-cerary For the Wood Asia and Borth Africa division listry, met the division listry, met the division listry, met the division listry, met the division of the division of the division listry, met the division of the cording to officials includ-toring the division of the companied by several other companies of the division of the companies of the division of the several other division of the several othe

explored new averues to

explored new avenues to trengthen bilateral tan for the benefit of both ma-terior to be the control of intry said on its official Te-legram channel. The interior to This is bridge from the fischer at Annal, when won outside in Decentives 2024 in the control of the con-trol of the control of the power links had main-tained close the with the Syrian Axia Republic untion,com, or call 191
9339551230. The Hinds in School is
the media partner, and the
organising partners are
VIT Chennal, Amer Edites
Kalha, MCC BOYD Tandon
School of Business, The
Bit Horstelli Lish, and the
World Discrytelling Cham-

This is India's first outreach to Syria since the fall of Assad, who was ousted in Dec. 2024

der his rule and that of his father Hafer al-Assad, who was President for three decades, from 1970 onwards Since the end of the As-sad era though, India has been championing a "Syr lar-led" government to re-solve the political crisi-

saab al-Ali. Syria has a large war affected population in need of urgent medical care and the two sides dis cussed cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and n the training of medica

in the training of medical personnel to help the affected population. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson. Rundhir Interval Section 1997, and the inches had also handed the inches had also handed MT of exsential this saving medistines, imbalding articulaters, authorises and animal and the inches and animal animal

which they are not responsible. The court was hearing a putition where a NEICT-DG government in Svria

Navy Chief on 4-day ACEnovation invites visit to Japan to applications for National boost defence ties Storytelling Championship

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh E. Tripathi has embarked on a four-day visit to Japan from July 20 to strengthen defence ties and enhance maritime cooperation un-der the 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.

and Global Partnership',
According to Navy, the
Chief Admird is scheduled
to hide bilateral discusline of the second of the
foliateral discusgovernment officials including Minister of Defonce, Gien Nakarani, VecHinister of Defonce, MesuMinister of DeMinister of De-



The discussions are expected to cover a wide range of defence cooperation areas, with a force on longical collaboration, and exploring now opportunities to enhance taxed system of the control of the co

The National Storytelling Championship India 2028, organised by Acknovation, is inviting participants from ages 3 to over 103, across six categories, to share their stories, wheth-

The Hindu Bureau



tive abilities and confidentthe abilities and confident by share their voices.

If you have their voices are to extension accidat insues, preserve level folkers, their voices are to the con-cepts.

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The least state to register is August 25. The district can be submitted in any will be held at the veilors will be held at the veilors.

the senior category, among others. Visit www.national com for registration, gui-delines, and more information. For inquiries, contact adminifucenova-ton.com, or call +91



The DRDO successfully conducted two consecutive flight-tests of Pralay missile off the coast of Odisha on Tuesday, ANI

DRDO successfully holds back-to-back Pralay test flights

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday and Tuesday.

The test flights were carried out as a part of user evaluation trials to validate the maximum and minimum range of the missile system, the Defence Ministry said. The missiles precisely followed the intended trajectory and reached the target point with pinpoint accuracy, meeting all the test objectives. All subsystems performed as per expectations.

Pralay is an indigenously developed solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets.

The test flights were witnessed by senior scientists of the DRDO, representatives of users from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army, as well as the industry representatives.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the DRDO, the armed forces, and the defence industry for the successful test flights.

Congratulating the teams, the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat said the successful completion of the first phase of test flights paved the way for the induction of the system into the armed forces in the near future, the MoD said.

1. Type:

- Solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile
- Indigenous development

2. Capabilities:

- State-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems
- Pinpoint accuracy: Met all objectives with precise target hit
- Can carry multiple types of warheads

3. Test Objective:

- Validate maximum and minimum range
- All subsystems performed as expected

4. Significance:

- Tests pave the way for induction into armed forces
- System viewed as crucial for enhancing India's missile capabilities

| Aspect | Details | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Name | Pralay (Rigveda: 'Apocalypse') | |
| Launched By | Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Govt. of India | |
| Development Start | Sanctioned in March 2015 Wikipedia +15 | |
| Туре | Short-range, surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile (SRBM) | |
| Range | 150–500 km (conventional precision strike capability) Wikipedia Defence Blog The Times of India | |
| Payload Capacity | 350–1,000 kg conventional warheads (fragmentation, penetration, anti-runway) Swarajyamag Defence Blog The Times of India | |

| Accuracy | <10 m Circular Error Probable (CEP) Wikipedia Defence Blog |
|------------------------|---|
| Trajectory | Flat, depressed quasi-ballistic with mid-air manoeuvres (MaRV) to evade missile defences Swarajyamag The Economic Times |
| Speed | Up to Mach 1.6 in terminal phase Wikipedia The Economic Times |
| Launch Platform | 8×8 / 12×12 TEL based on Ashok Leyland / BEML chassis Wikipedia Defence Blog |
| Key Technologies | Two-stage solid rocket + MaRV, INS, terminal radar/scene-match guidance Wikipedia Defence Blog |
| Development Agencies | DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, HEMRL, ASL, ARDE, TBRL, R&DE (E), DMRL; industry partners BDL, BEL, MSMEs The Times of India Press Information Bureau |
| Test Milestones | Dec 2021 maiden flight; July 28 & 29, 2025 Twin User Evaluation Trials validated full range & accuracy tribuneindia.com The Times of India The Times of India The New Indian Express Press Information Bureau |
| Purpose / Role | Battlefield precision strikes against high-value targets (radar sites, logistics hubs, enemy HQ) utkarsh.com tribuneindia.com |
| Strategic Significance | Boosts India's conventional deterrence; evades ABM systems; contributes to Integrated Rocket Force Swarajyamag The Economic Times The Times of India |

Q. With reference to the recent tests of the Pralay missile, consider the following statements:

- 1. Pralay is a solid-propellant, surface-to-air missile developed by DRDO.
- 2. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory.
- 3. The test flights were aimed at validating the missile's accuracy and range through user evaluation trials.
- 4. The missile test was conducted off the coast of Gujarat at the Pokhran testing range.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

IN ESSENTE



Torrential rain disrupts life across West Bengal

Life was severely affected acress northern and sunthers parts of West Heigad as rate has been lacking the State for over the edge. The Theesta river awerthesed onto National Highway IC in New York was a state of the Parts of the Parts of the New York West and Tuesday, the water level of the Teesta river rows etseafly and crossed the danger mark, said the daily flood reports issued by the freignition and Weste ways Department of West Ferngal. Landslides were reported in parts of north Hengal. The local administration has shifted people residing along the Teesta river to safer locations.

Govt. grants provisional award letters to selected candidates

Weeke after withholding provisional award letters to 66 selected candidates from marginalised backgrunnida under the government's National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme, the focial patites Mindstry informed Parlament on Theeslay that the letters had been issued to all selected candidates. On July 1, the Ministry declared the list of candidates selected under the NOS scheme meant for students from Scheduled Castes, Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, it said that for the 2025-26 period, it had selected TOG students who will get the scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies in top universities

Countdown on: NISAR satellite launch today

GSLV will lift off with 2.392-kg satellite at 540 n.m.; building a satellite on opposite sides of world during a global pandemic was really hard, but it strengthened ties with ISRO, say NASA officials

the 27.5-hour count-down to the NBAR started at 2.10 p.m. on Theoday.

Geosynctironous Satellite Laurich Vehicle with the 2,392-kg satellite is scheduled to lift off from the second hunch pad of the second hunch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday. About 19 minutes after lift-off, the GSLV-916 rocket will inject the satellite into a 743-km am-synchronous

The NASA DIRECT Symples The NASA-IERO Synthesic Aperture Radar (SHEA) satellite, which will scan the entire globe and pro-vide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day inter-vals and enable a wide range of applications, is the first joint satellite of the two space agenties.

Forging ties

Senior National Aeronaut-ics and Space Administra-tion officials have said that working with the Indian Space Research Organisa-tion on the NBAR satellite



their relationship with the

their relationship with the Indian space agency. Absad of the launch, Ka-ren St. Germain, Director of Earth Science, NASA Headquarters, on Tuesday-said: "Building a satelline on opposite sides of the world during a global pan-demic was really hard, but it strongthened our rela-tional control of the control collaboration, the converse collaboration, the cooperation, information sharing, and, frankly, joint learning between our two agencies

is a foundation that we look forward to continuing to build upon." Ms. St. Germain said it was a model for the ness

portner, BRIC, and it's been a phenomenal journey. The amount that we have learned, from each other learned, from each other been phenomenal. Mr. Barela said.

He said that staring the least learned from the CMUB-10 pantileonic, nearly 68 BillO engitheers had visited the phenomenal. He was the learned from the integration and to conduct tests. He was the learned from the foregration and to conduct tests and present the said pages, NASA has sent out over 175 engineers to DRIC's facilities is keep the linegration and tests going we examited to the property of the said pages. generation of earth obser-vation capability.
"India built the space-craft bus and the 5-band raand get us result for where for laturels, it has been a venderful journey. Fur an icipating is for of very hap-ticipating is for of very hap-disting in the second of the hap-hap-disting is not related to the deadly beeing '89' crash law. dar and is providing the launch vehicle, launch ser-vices, and satellite tribution operations. NASA's Jet Pro-pulsion: Laboratory (JPL) built the L-band radar and

LoIs issued for campuses of 4 foreign varsities;

DGCA audit flags 51 safety lapses in Air India's operations

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation Oxic2A has found 51 safety lapses at Air India in its july assift, including lack of adequate training for some pilots, use of unapproved simulators and a poser restoring system, according to a generation report seen by theses. communications subaye-tem for science dara, GPS nuceivers, a solid-state re-corder, and the paylead da-ta adisystem," site said. Phil Barela, NEAR pro-ject manager, PL, said the two space agencies had learnt a lot from each other.

vermient report seen by Resires.

The Tata Group-owned from the Tata Group-owned was a second from the tata of the in the pair decade.
"We have been at this
for over a decade with our
partner, ISBO, and it's been

impose related to crew fi-tigue managorism.

The 11-page confidential there were seven "Level I"-significant breaches which need to be fixed by Wed-compliances classified which need to be resolved by August 23.

"resources training gape-for some unspecified floo-ping 78° and 77° pilors, any-ling 78° and 77° pilors, any-



month in Ahmedabad

month that killed 260 per ple in Ahmedabad, but its hadings come as the airline faces renewed accruting af-

The officials wrote in their report that Air India did not do "proper route assessments" for rome soassessments" for rome ac-called Category C steports which may have chal-lenging loyouts or terrain— and conducted training for each airfields with simula-tors that del not med qual-fication standards. "This may account to hon-conduring approaches to chal-lenging airpures," the re-port said. Air India said it was "ful-

by transparent: during the audit, it added it will "auti-nii our response to the regulator within the stipu-lated time frame, along with the details of the cor-

Kaziranga in Assam records third-highest tiger density in India after Bandipur, Corbett

+ The Hindu Bureau

The Kaziranga Tiger Re-serve QCTO in Assam has received the third-highest tiger density in India after the Bandpur Tiger Re-serve in Karnotaka and the Corbott National Park in Uturnikhand, 200 a report on the status of there in the on the status of tigers in the reserve, which is better known for its one-horned

Have Sarina released the report online to mark Gle-bal Tager Day on Tuesday. The report stated that 148 tiges were recorded across the 1,207,48 M, but 2024. The "remarkable" increase since the 2022 es-timation was attributed to the first-ever sampling of



A royal Bangal ligar inside the Kaziranga National Park, an

were recorded.

The tiper count grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024 in the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, while the Naguen Wildlife Division in aintained a

third-highest tiger density in the world, extensive for ext cover and bold steps against infiltration, the tig-er, the treasure of Assam's forests, is walling proudly and bravely today," Mr. Sar.

ma said.
The report said the KTR has 18.68 tigers per 100 sq. km — behind Bandipur's ion — behind Bandspur's 19.03 tigers in 1,489 sq. km and Corbett's 19.56 in 1,288 sq. lem, KTR effectals said the survey was conducted between December 2023 and April 2024 using camera traps, following the pro-tocol of the National Tigor Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of

india.
The spatially explicit capture-recipture method, which provides a more precise and ecologically relevant approach, was employed to determine tiger combon.

Pradhan announces projects worth ₹4,000 cr. Mattri Porcelia

Union Rahacation Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday Issued Letters of Issuen Gonto for foreign universities for establish-dia. They are Western Syd-dia. They are Western Syd-oby University (WKU), Victoria University and La Trobe University of Austra-lia and the University of Speaking or the Akhil Speaking or the Akhil

Bristol of the U.K.

Speaking at the Akhill
Bhartlys Shiksha Samagam
(ABSS), an event to com-memorate five years of the National Education Policy, 2020, Mr. Pradhan said that up to 15 international universities would establish their campuses in in-

"Of these Australia's "Of these, Americals beakin University and University of Wollongong have already established campus in Gujarat's 6#7 city and U.K.'s Southamp-



ton University in Dellid NGR's Garagram," Mr.

Prodition said. The ABSS serves as a platform for policymakers, educators, industry leadeducators, industry lead-its, and government re-presentatives to review progress under the NRP, 2020 and chart the way forward.

The WSU will open a campus in Greater Noida and Victoria University in

Bengaluru. The University of Bristol will establish a campus in Mumbai. The WSU plans to offer BA programmes in business analytics and business marketing and MBA in inVictoria University pro-proses to offer undergrad-unte degrees in business, data science and cytoruc-curity and bills and Mas-ters in information and the bands and

Technology.

La Trobe University is proposing to effer undergraduate degrees in business dinance, marketing, and Minanagement), computer science (AI, software contraction), and adjust and the contraction and applied to the contraction of t engineering), and public health and open a joint Ph.D. academy with the Indian institute of Technology, Easpur for health, wa-ter and urban planning.

The University of Bris-ial, planning to start opera-tions in 2020, will offer joint undergraduate-to-Master's programmes, stu-dent exchange, and collab-orative research in AL, deoranve research in Al, de-signs, and digital technologies to collabora-tion with ATLAS SciProch University in Mumbai and a "3+1" degree pathway with Krea University Sri City), enabling students to complete undergraduate studies in India and pursue masters degrees at Bristol in introvation, policy, and analytics.

Mr. Pradhen said various States had drawn up plans to implement pre-school or foundational level edugue, which is the spirit of the NEP, 2020. He said introduction of new-age text-books by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCEGET) was a paradigm shift in education the announced education projects worth over 64,000 crors while inaugurating the ABSS. These lineage include in dary Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalalayas.

rhinocuros. Chief Minister Himania Biswa Sarma released the



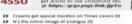


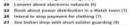
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SHIRDONGE





B'ABBB

Karma and Dharma

The doctrine of Karma implies that a person is subject to pleasure and pain due to the effect of the deeds undertaken in previous births. Karma has no beginning and can-not be traced. Karma gives the cycle of births and rebirths. God does not need the sanction of our belief to run the un-

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the Vodes and the fasting are the convenients. It following
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DGCA audit flags 51 safety lapses in Air India's operations

Reuters

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has found 51 safety lapses at Air India in its July audit, including lack of adequate training for some pilots, use of unapproved simulators and a poor rostering system, according to a government report seen by Reuters.

The Tata Group-owned airline is already facing warning notices for running planes without checking emergency equipment, not changing engine parts in time and forging records, along with other lapses related to crew fatigue management.

The II-page confidential report from the DGCA said there were seven "Level I" significant breaches which need to be fixed by Wednesday, and 44 other non-compliances classified which need to be resolved by August 23.

Officials said they found "recurrent training gaps" for some unspecified Boeing 787 and 777 pilots, saying they had not completed their monitoring duties ahead of mandatory periodic evaluations.

The annual audit was not related to the deadly Boeing 787 crash last



The annual audit was not related to the deadly crash last month in Ahmedabad.

month that killed 260 people in Ahmedabad, but its findings come as the airline faces renewed scrutiny after the accident.

The officials wrote in their report that Air India did not do "proper route assessments" for some socalled Category C airports - which may have challenging layouts or terrain and conducted training for such airfields with simulators that did not meet qualification standards. "This may account to non-consideration of safety risks during approaches to challenging airports," the report said.

Air India said it was "fully transparent" during the audit. It added it will "submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the corrective actions."

Key Safety Concerns Raised

1. Pilot Training:

- Recurrent training gaps in Boeing 787 and 777 pilots
- Incomplete monitoring duties

2. Simulators:

- Use of unapproved simulators for training
- Inadequate simulation for Category C airports (challenging layouts)

3. Crew Management:

- · Poor rostering system
- Crew fatigue not properly addressed

4. Technical Oversight:

- Operating flights without checking emergency equipment
- Delayed engine part replacements
- Forging records

5. Route Planning:

· Lack of proper route assessment for difficult airports

LoIs issued for campuses of 4 foreign varsities; Pradhan announces projects worth ₹4,000 cr.

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) to four foreign universities for establishing their campuses in India. They are Western Sydney University (WSU), Victoria University, and La Trobe University of Australia and the University of Bristol of the U.K.

Speaking at the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS), an event to commemorate five years of the National Education Policy, 2020, Mr. Pradhan said that up to 15 international universities would establish their campuses in India.

"Of these, Australia's Deakin University and University of Wollongong have already established campus in Gujarat's GIFT city and U.K.'s Southamp-



Dharmendra Pradhan issues Letters of Intent to representatives of foreign universities at an event to mark five years of NEP 2020. PIB

ton University in Delhi NCR's Gurugram," Mr. Pradhan said.

The ABSS serves as a platform for policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and government representatives to review progress under the NEP, 2020 and chart the way forward.

The WSU will open a campus in Greater Noida and Victoria University in Noida. La Trobe University will establish its campus in Bengaluru. The University of Bristol will establish a campus in Mumbai.

The WSU plans to offer BA programmes in business analytics and business marketing and MBA in innovation and entrepreneurship, and logistics and supply chain management on its Greater Noida campus.

Victoria University proposes to offer undergraduate degrees in business, data science and cybersecurity and MBA and Masters in Information and Technology.

La Trobe University is proposing to offer undergraduate degrees in business (finance, marketing, and Mmanagement), computer science (AI, software engineering), and public health and open a Joint Ph.D. academy with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for health, water and urban planning.

The University of Bristol, planning to start operations in 2026, will offer joint undergraduate-to-Master's programmes, student exchange, and collaborative research in AI, design, and digital technologies in collaboration with ATLAS SkillTech University in Mumbai and a "3+1" degree pathway

with Krea University (Sri City), enabling students to complete undergraduate studies in India and pursue masters degrees at Bristol in innovation, policy, and analytics.

NEP features

Mr. Pradhan said various States had drawn up plans to implement pre-school or foundational level education in their mother tongue, which is the spirit of the NEP, 2020. He said introduction of new-age textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was a paradigm shift in education. He announced education proiects worth over ₹4,000 crore while inaugurating the ABSS. These include infrastructure upgrades in Central Board of Secondary Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalalayas.

| Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|--|
| Ministry | Ministry of Education |
| Minister | Dharmendra Pradhan |
| Event | Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) |
| Occasion | 5 years of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 |
| Key Outcome | Lols issued to 4 foreign universities |
| Investment Announced | Projects worth ₹4,000 crore for education infrastructure |

| University | Country | Campus Location in India | Proposed Programs |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Western Sydney University (WSU) | Australia | Greater Noida | BA in business analytics, MBA, logistics & supply chain |
| Victoria University | Australia | Delhi NCR's Gurugram | UG in business, cybersecurity; PG in IT & data science |
| La Trobe University | Australia | Bengaluru | UG in business, AI, public health; joint Ph.D. with IIT Kanpur |
| University of Bristol | UK | Mumbai (starting in 2026) | UG-to-Master, AI, digital tech (with ATLAS SkillTech Mumbai) |

X Other Foreign Campuses Already Operational

| University | Country | Indian Campus Location |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Deakin University | Australia | Gujarat's GIFT City |
| University of Wollongong | Australia | Gujarat's GIFT City |
| Southampton University | UK | Gurugram (Delhi NCR) |

Kaziranga in Assam records third-highest tiger density in India after Bandipur, Corbett

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has recorded the third-highest tiger density in India after the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, says a report on the status of tigers in the reserve, which is better known for its one-horned rhinoceros.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the report online to mark Global Tiger Day on Tuesday.

The report stated that 148 tigers were recorded across the 1,307.49-sq. km expanse of the KTR in 2024. The "remarkable" increase since the 2022 estimation was attributed to



A royal Bengal tiger inside the Kaziranga National Park. AP

were recorded.

The tiger count grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024 in the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, while the Nagaon Wildlife Division maintained a count of six tigers.

"From Kaziranga to Manas, Assam is not only limited to protecting the tigthird-highest tiger density in the world, extensive forest cover and bold steps against infiltration, the tiger, the treasure of Assam's forests, is walking proudly and bravely today," Mr. Sarma said.

The report said the KTR has 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km — behind Bandipur's 19.83 tigers in 1,456 sq. km and Corbett's 19.56 in 1,288 sq. km. KTR officials said the survey was conducted between December 2023 and April 2024 using camera traps, following the protocol of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The spatially explicit capture-recapture method, which provides a more precise and ecologically re-

Number of countries to join International Big Cat Alliance

The International Big Cat
Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led
global initiative to protect
seven species of big cats. 12 countries —
India, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia,
Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia,
Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Surinam
— are members of the alliance. PTI

| Parameter | Details |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location | Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR), Assam |
| Tiger Density Rank (India) | 3rd highest |
| Tiger Density Rank (World) | 3rd highest |
| Highest Tiger Density in India | 1. Bandipur (19.83 tigers/100 sq.km) 2. Corbett (19.56/100 sq.km) |
| Kaziranga Tiger Density | 18.65 tigers per 100 sq.km |
| Total Tiger Count in 2024 | 148 tigers (up from 104 in 2022) |
| Area Surveyed | 1,307.49 sq.km |
| First-time Survey | Biswanath Wildlife Division – 27 tigers found |
| Techniques Used | Camera trap, spatially explicit capture-recapture method |
| Survey Period | December 2023 – April 2024 |
| Conducted by | National Tiger Conservation Authority & Wildlife Institute of India |

| Aspect | Details | ð |
|------------------|--|----|
| Name | International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) | |
| Launched by | Government of India | |
| Year of Launch | 2023 (Officially announced in April 2023) | |
| Initiative by | National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) | |
| Objective | Conservation of big cats globally through collaborative efforts | |
| Headquarters | India (Proposed) | |
| Initial Funding | ₹100 crore (India's contribution for 5 years) | |
| Members Targeted | 97 range countries of big cats (including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah etc. | .) |

| Big Cats Covered | Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, Cheetah, Puma |
|-------------------------|--|
| India's Role | Founding country and host; aims to lead global big cat conservation efforts |
| Key Focus Areas | Capacity building Research & development Best practices sharing Combatting illegal wildlife trade |
| Significance | Enhances India's soft power in wildlife conservation; global leadership role |
| Why Important for India | India hosts 5 of the 7 big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah |
| Related Initiatives | Project Tiger, Project Lion, Project Snow Leopard, Cheetah Reintroduction |
| First Global Meet | April 2023 in Mysuru, Karnataka (marking 50 years of Project Tiger) |

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Name | Project Tiger |
| Launched By | Government of India |
| Year of Launch | 1st April 1973 |
| Nodal Agency | National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (since 2006) |
| Ministry | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) |
| Objective | Ensure viable population of tigers in India and protect their habitat |
| Initial Reserves | 9 Tiger Reserves in 1973 |
| Current Tiger Reserves | 54 (as of 2024) across 18 states |

| Area Covered | Over 78,000 sq km under tiger reserves |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tiger Population Trends | 2006: 1,411 |
| | 2010: 1,706 |
| | 2014: 2,226 |
| | 2018: 2,967 |
| | 2022: 3,167 |
| Latest Census | 2022 Tiger Census – India has ~75% of world's wild tiger population |
| Important Features | Core-buffer strategy, relocation of villages, anti-poaching squads |
| Key Components | Habitat restoration, eco-development, voluntary relocation, monitoring via M-STrIPES |
| Funding Model | Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - 60:40 (Centre: State) |
| M-STrIPES | Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status |
| Significance | One of the most successful conservation initiatives globally |

Q. With reference to the recent tiger population data from the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR), consider the following statements:

- 1. Kaziranga Tiger Reserve has the highest tiger density in India as per the 2024 report.
- The 2024 tiger survey in Kaziranga was conducted using a spatially explicit capture-recapture method.
- 3. The Biswanath Wildlife Division was included for the first time in the 2024 Kaziranga tiger estimation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

EXPLAINED HEALTH

EXPOSURE OVER LONG TERM TO AIR POLLUTION INCREASES DEMENTIA RISK, SAYS A LARGE NEW STUDY

LONG-TERM exposure to air pollution is linked to an increased risk of developing dementia, a new large-scale study by Cambridge University researchers has found. The report, published in The Lancet Planetary Health last week, is the most comprehensive assessment of its kind, involving a systematic review of 51 studies and drawing on data from more than 29 million participants who had been exposed to air pollutants for at least one year,

The findings

The study, the most comprehensive of its kind, found a positive and statisticallycommon air pollutants and dementia.

PM2.5: Predominantly produced by vehicle emissions and thermal power lar damage). plants, PM2.5 is extremely fine particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less. The study found that for every 10 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³) of long-term exposure to PM2.5, an individual's relative risk of dementia would increase by 17% from the baseline. For context, the average PM2.5 levels at Delhi's ITO pollution AQI monitoring station over the last 24 hours (as of Tuesday, 8 pm) was 72.

NO2: Nitrogen dioxide is produced primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels by vehicles, thermal power plants, and various industrial processes. The study found that for every 10 µg/m3 of long-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide, the relative risk of dementia increased by 3%. The average 24 hours (as of Tuesday, 8 pm) was 86.

SOOT: Soot or black carbon PM2.5 jumped by 13% for each 1 µg/m3 of longterm soot exposure. The Central Pollution Control Board does not separately report BC/PM2.5 levels.

The explanation

Over the years, scientists have proposed several mechanisms to explain how air pollution may cause dementia. the brain and oxidative stress (caused by and the study's first author.



Delhi covered in a thick blanket of smog in 2023. Proveen Khanna

significant association between three an imbalance between the production of reactive oxygen species and the body's ability to detoxify them, leading to cellu-

> Both oxidative stress and inflammation play a role in the onset and progression of dementia, and air pollution is thought to trigger these processes through direct entry of pollutants into the brain or via the mechanisms that underlie lung and cardiovascular diseases.

Why this matters

Dementia is a term for several diseases that affect memory, thinking, and the ability to perform daily activities. The illness gets worse over time, and mainly affects older people. According to WHO, some 57 million people had dementia worldwide in 2021, with the number expected to increase to at least 150 million by 2050.

The rise in air pollution, especially in NO2 levels at the ITO station over the last developing countries, might lead to an even sharper rise in cases. WHO data show that 99% of the global population breathes comes from sources such as vehicle ex- air that exceeds WHO guideline limits and haust emissions and burning wood. The contains high levels of pollutants, with study reported that dementia risk low-andmiddle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.

"These findings underscore the need for an interdisciplinary approach to dementia prevention. Preventing dementia is not just the responsibility of healthcare: this study strengthens the case that urban planning, transport policy, and environmental regulation all have a significant role to play," said Dr Christiaan These primarily involve inflammation in Bredell from the University of Cambridge,

| Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|---|
| Study By | University of Cambridge researchers |
| Published In | The Lancet Planetary Health |
| Participants Covered | Over 29 million across 51 studies |
| Core Finding | Statistically significant link between air pollution and dementia |
| Pollutants Studied | PM2.5, NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide), Black Carbon/Soot |
| Study Period | At least 1 year exposure required for inclusion |
| | |
| | |

■ Key Pollutants and Dementia Risk

| Pollutant | Source | Relative Dementia Risk | Delhi Level (as of Tuesday, 8 PM) |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| PM2.5 | Vehicle emissions, thermal power plants | ↑ 17% per 10 µg/m³ | 72 μg/m³ |
| NO ₂ | Fossil fuels, vehicles, thermal power plants, industry | ↑ 3% per 10 μg/m³ | 86 μg/m³ |
| Soot (BC) | Diesel exhaust, burning wood | ↑ 13% per 1 µg/m³ | Not separately reported |

Scientific Mechanism Behind Dementia Due to Air Pollution

 Inflammation & Oxidative Stress: Pollution causes imbalance between reactive oxygen species and detoxifying ability → leads to cellular & brain damage.

Pathways:

- Direct brain entry
- Via bloodstream (cardio-pulmonary link)

Global Concern

- 2021 WHO Estimate: 57 million dementia patients worldwide
- By 2050: Expected to rise to 150 million
- Air Quality Crisis:
 - 99% of the global population breathes air exceeding WHO standards
 - LMICs (Low & Middle-Income Countries) suffer disproportionately

Q. With reference to the recent findings published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* regarding air pollution and dementia, consider the following statements:

- 1. Long-term exposure to PM2.5 was found to increase the relative risk of dementia by over 15% for every 10 μg/m³.
- 2. The study found no significant link between nitrogen dioxide exposure and dementia risk.
- 3. Black carbon or soot was identified as increasing dementia risk even at 1 µg/m³ exposure.
- 4. WHO estimates that global dementia cases will decrease by 2050 due to pollution control measures.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Shailesh Jejurikar gets P&G top post

 First India born president & CEO in global giant's 187-year history

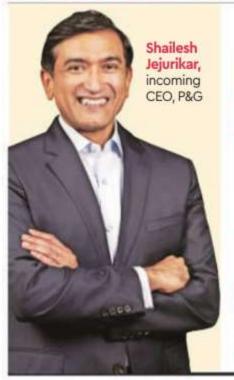
VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO Mumbai, July 29

MUMBAI-BORN SHAILESH JEJURIKAR made history on Tuesday when he was appointed the first Indian-origin president and CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G) in its 187-year existence. Jejurikar, 58, currently the chief operating officer at P&G, will succeed incumbent Jon Moeller, effective January 1, 2026. P&G has also nominated Jejurikar for election to the director's post at the annual shareholder meeting in October.

Moeller will become executive chairman as part of the toplevel rejig, the company said, as the maker of Tide detergent and Pantene shampoo battles slowdown concerns across the globe.

India contributes about 2.5% to its global revenue, which pales in comparison to rival Hindustan Unilever (HUL), which contributes about 12% to parent Unilever's global rev-

IN ELITE COMPANY OF INDIAN-ORIGIN GLOBAL LEADERS









Devika Bulchandani CEO, Ogilvy



Sundar Pichai CEO, Alphabet











Sanjay Mehrotra CEO, Micron

enue.

A P&G veteran of 36 years, who began as an assistant brand manager at P&G India, he rose rapidly through the ranks. He has had close ties with the Indian operations throughout his nearly four-decade journey with the company. An IIM Lucknow alumnus, who did his schooling in Hyderabad and undergraduate studies (BA in

Economics) from Elphinstone College in Mumbai, Jejurikar joins the growing league of Indian-origin executives to lead top companies across the world.

Like HUL, P&G India has been a top exporter of talent to international markets, with over 350 Indian executives placed in roles across the world.

"Shailesh has been an integral part of P&G's leadership team with substantial contributions across multiple businesses and in both developed and developing regions, notably in fabric care and home care and most recently in P&G's enterprise markets. He has consistently delivered strong results in the businesses and markets he has led.

Continued on Page 11

Word of the day

Hewn:

cut or shaped with the hard blows of a heavy cutting instrument like an axe or chisel

Synonyms: cut, carve

Usage: While walking up the street, we saw a path hewn through the hedge of the mansion.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/hewnpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /hju:n/

