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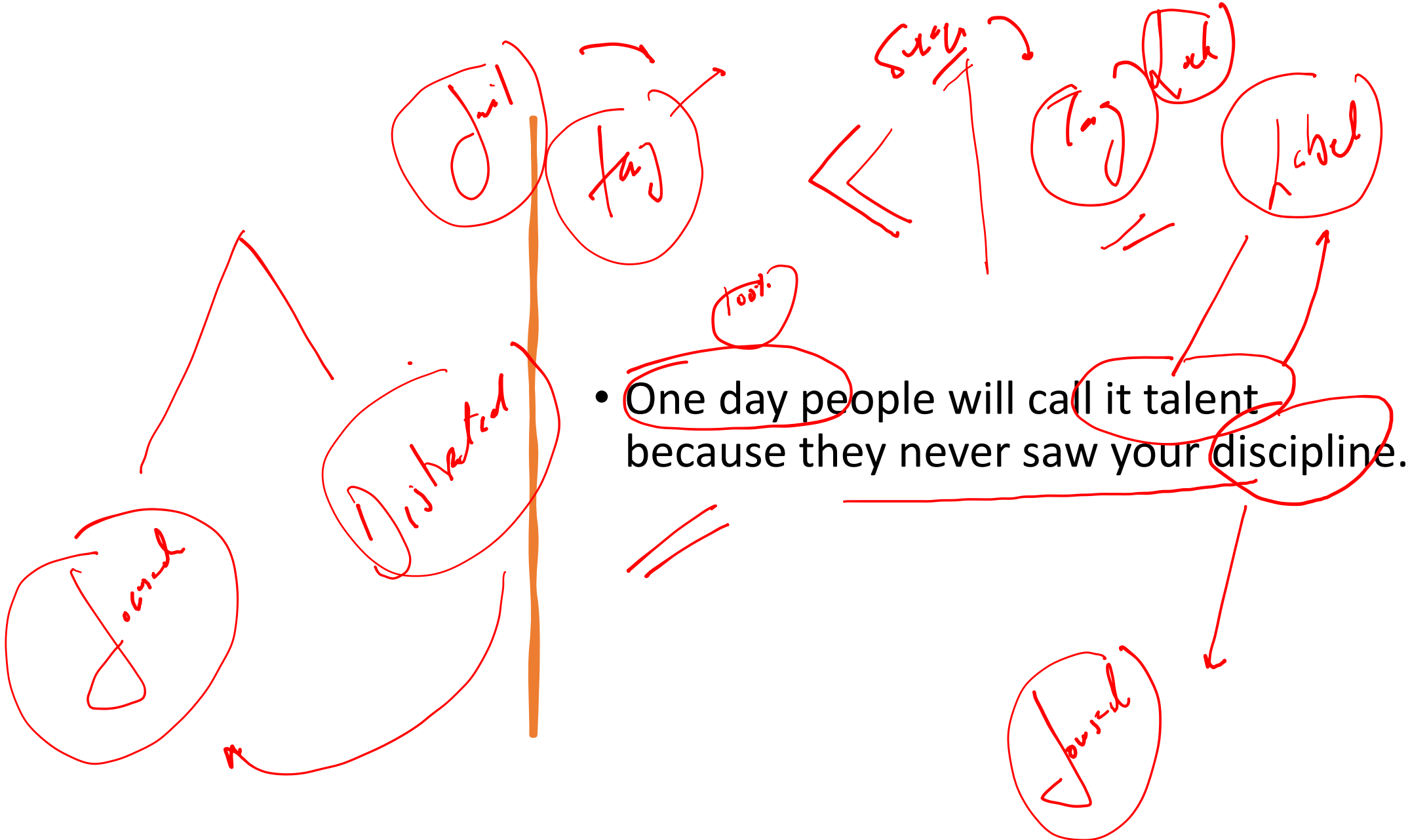


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• One day people will call it talent because they never saw your discipline.

UMANG 360



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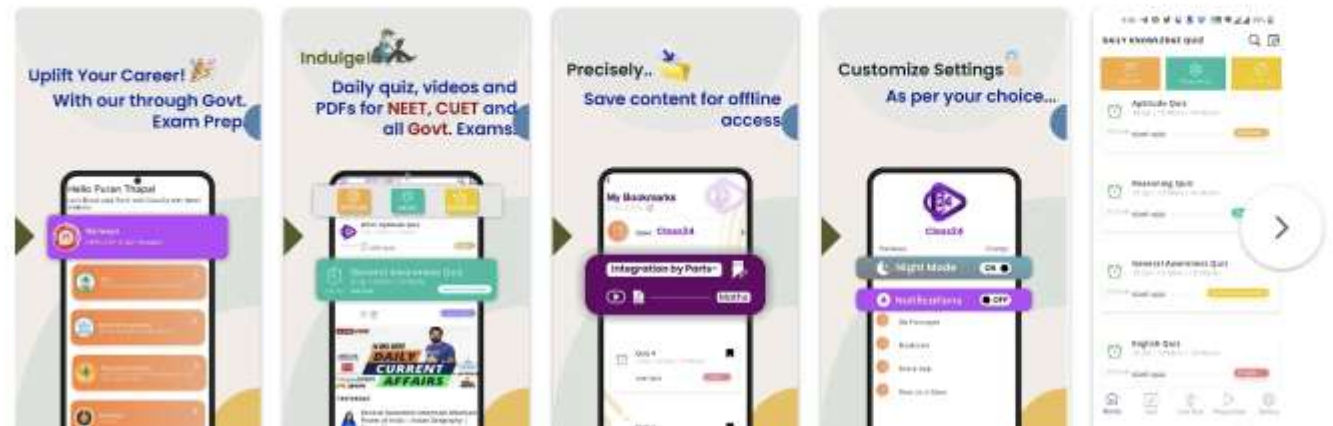
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 2
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 NEWS 3 PAGE 8

FIFA WORLD CUP
Resilient Brazil enters the last 16
 SPORT 3 PAGE 14

MAHARASHTRA TET ROW
Inter-State racket may be behind paper leak
 NEWS 3 PAGE 4

BNB TRANSITION
Delhi govt. approves new policy for EVs
 BUSINESS 3 PAGE 11

Industrial output growth hits 5-month high of 5.1%

Strong show by manufacturing, electricity, capital, and consumer goods sectors drives growth mining and quarrying sector contracts for fifth straight month as govt. further tweaks IP system

Growth in industrial activity accelerated to a five-month high of 5.1% in May, buoyed by stronger performance by the manufacturing, electricity, capital goods, and consumer goods sectors, the latest government data show.

While releasing the data, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation also said that it has further tweaked the new series of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which had first been released on June 1. The new series has an updated base year of 2012-23 and incorporates new data sources. It explained that it has decided to discontinue the use of the old series.

Index (IIP) in the manufacturing of some value-added outputs in the IIP and has instead adopted the Producer Price Index (PPI) for the purpose. "Accordingly, the present release supersedes the earlier WPI-based IIP 2012-23 series from Jan 2020, 2020," the release said.

The PPI-based IIP series, presented in this release for all analytical, research, and policy purposes.

According to Bhubaneswar, the IIP series must at the BERA, this change has led to material changes in growth across segments such as manufacturing and is also likely to lead to revisions in the GDP data. "The manufacturing sector grew 5.8% in May, down from 6.1% in April but faster than the 4.2% growth registered in May last year.

"Manufacturing has grown by 5.5% which can be attributed to a revival in consumption – both consumer durables and non-durables have done well at 7.3% and 3.6%, respectively," Madan Mohan, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "Within durable, the auto sector was once again the leader followed by computers and other electronic goods."

The electricity and gas supply category saw growth quicken to a two-year high of 5.9%, driven by a delayed monsoon and higher temperatures. The mining and quarrying sector contracted by 1.6%, the fifth consecutive month of contraction.



Dozens killed as Pakistan targets Afghan militants

At least 29 Afghan militants were killed in a Pakistan air strike on a village in Fata province on Saturday.

Pakistan launched its latest attack on Afghanistan in months, with the military saying it had killed dozens of militants as the Afghan government reported civilian casualties.

The night-time strikes are the latest flare-up of violence between the two neighbours, after the Taliban took power in Kabul, and follow a weeks-long war that erupted in February.

Pakistan's Information Minister Anasudh Khan said air and ground operations in Kabul killed 29 militants and wounded 10 others and were aimed at a group that it blames for a steady offensive against Islamabad, although Afghan authorities have repeatedly denied their territory harbours attackers. The Taliban regime said the air strikes hit three eastern provinces, killing 26 civilians and wounding 103.

The Pakistani operation along the border in the deadliest since March, when an attack on a drug treatment centre in Kabul killed 100 people, including 20 United Nations.

Mr. Khan said the latest offensive targeted Jaish-e-Millat, a splinter group of the Taliban-Falihin Pakistan (TFP), in the country's capital, the Foreign Ministry announced each other's diplomats over the attack in Afghanistan's border area and earlier in Karachi.

On Saturday, explosives were detonated and gunners opened fire inside a Bangora paramilitary camp in Karachi, killing three personnel.

Pakistan says its forces use "precision targeting" to aim at militant hideouts and weapons stores, especially those of the TFP that has waged a violent campaign against it for years.



In a video Afghan residents look at a building damaged in a Pakistan air strike at a village in Fata province on Saturday.

AYODHYA THEFT
All 8 accused in judicial custody
 A special court in Ayodhya on Monday sent all eight accused in the alleged encroachment of the 14-day in judicial custody. The court is expected for hearing on July 31. PAGE 8

DEATH PENALTY
For accused in Pune rape case
 A special court in Pune on Monday sentenced a 65-year-old man to death after he was convicted of rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in a village of Bhor. PAGE 8

CONG. DEMANDS
Rajnath Singh's resignation
 NEW DELHI: Stepping up its attack on the Centre over the deaths of its military personnel during Operation Bandra, the Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. PAGE 4

GOLD CASES
report alleges criminal conspiracy
 BANGALORE: An interim report submitted before the Kerala High Court by the SPF probing the alleged theft of gold from Sree Narayana Temple, mentioned criminal conspiracy by then president of the TDP, among others. PAGE 4

Govt. lifts curbs on sale of petrol, diesel

Union Petroleum Ministry has lifted curbs on the sale of diesel in the country from July 1.

The Centre on Monday removed all restrictions on the sale of diesel in the country from July 1. It removed the cap on the retail sale of diesel of 200 litres per consumer per day and removed the restrictions on industrial consumers from purchasing fuel from retail pumps.

"Improving situation" – The latest directive – pointing to easing supply situation – builds on the Union government's June 28 order that restricted the supply of industrial and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to levels supplied before the Covid-19 crisis.

West Asia war and with drew all caps on sector-specific allocations. The Union Petroleum Ministry has lifted curbs on the sale of diesel in the country from July 1. It removed the cap on the retail sale of diesel of 200 litres per consumer per day and removed the restrictions on industrial consumers from purchasing fuel from retail pumps.

"Improving situation" – The latest directive – pointing to easing supply situation – builds on the Union government's June 28 order that restricted the supply of industrial and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to levels supplied before the Covid-19 crisis.

U.S. and Iran pause strikes but disagree on dialogue

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that Iran had requested a meeting with U.S. counterparts, though one of his top aides said no further talks had been scheduled.

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Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the two sides had agreed to pause their attacks.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that Iran had requested a meeting with U.S. counterparts, though one of his top aides said no further talks had been scheduled.

West Bengal govt. will table Uniform Civil Code Bill soon

The West Bengal government will introduce a Bill in the Assembly to amend the Uniform Civil Code in the State, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

The West Bengal government will introduce a Bill in the Assembly to amend the Uniform Civil Code in the State, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

Mr. Banerjee informed the Assembly that the State Cabinet would give its in-principle approval to the UCC on July 2. He said the State government had set up a committee led by retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Khosla, to conduct a comprehensive study of family laws in the state.

The committee will submit a report to the State government in four weeks. The committee will have one retired IAS officer, one legal expert, one educationist, one social worker, and one additional secretary of the State government. Apart from family laws relating to marriage and succession, it will also look into its relationship.

"The Bill, in its manifesto, had promised the UCC in the State within six months of coming to power. We believe in the idealogy of Swarna Prabandh Meo-herjee that in one country there cannot be two sets of laws for the people," Mr. Adhikari said.

Tribal groups exempt indigenous people, kurmis and other recognised ancient tribal communities of the proposed law.

With tribal communities out of its ambit, the law may impact Muslims and Christians, who have a different set of family laws. West Bengal has a Muslim population of about 27%, as per the last census.

In April, the Bharatiya National History Society (BNHS) and the Karnataka Forest Department had

Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted

A captive-bred, radio-tagged white-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis) that was released earlier this year at the Mahanadi Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu was electrocuted on Sunday.

The bird came into contact with a power line and was killed at Elbamud village overlooking the Nilgiri plateau, Forest Department officials said.

The bird, initially released in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra in December 2015, made its way into Karnataka, where it had to be captured and treated after showing signs of illness.

In April, the Bharatiya National History Society (BNHS) and the Karnataka Forest Department had

the region. However, officials said, the release proved to be more difficult than expected, with the vulture failing to acclimatise to its new surroundings and embarking on exploratory forays around the tiger reserve, including to Gudalur, and later up the slopes towards Kallhaty and Elbamud.

"We had captured the bird multiple times and released it into the Nilgiris, hoping it would acclimatise," said H. Sriharsha Kumar, Field Director of Mahanadi Tiger Reserve.

However, on Sunday, during one of the bird's explorations of Elbamud in the Nilgiris forest division, it came into contact with a power line and was electrocuted.

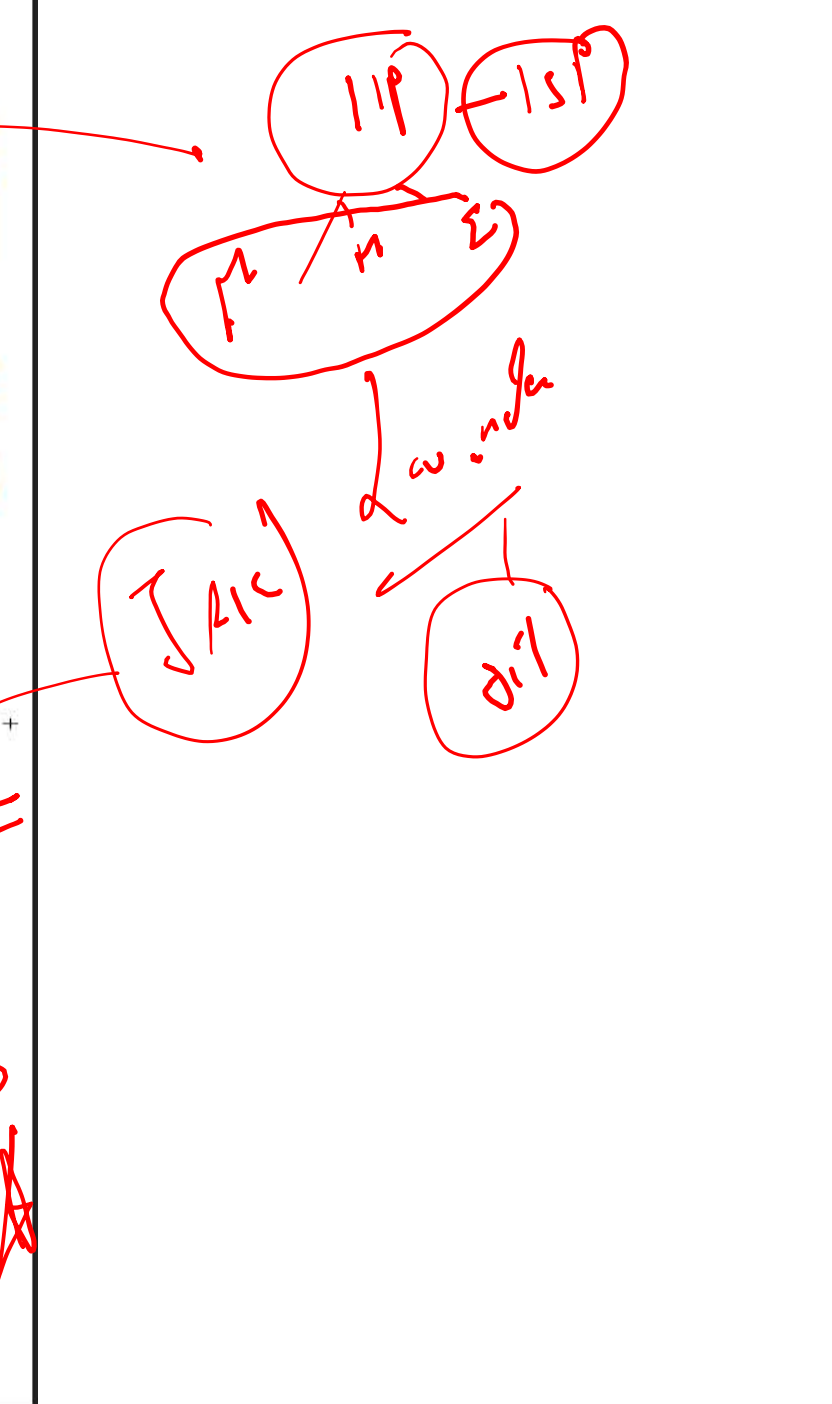
The death of the vulture has signalled the end of the first attempted reintroduction of a captive-bred bird of the species into the landscape and could have consequences for conservation policies in the future.

Identifying threats – "There have long been calls for captive-bred birds to be released into their natural habitat to bolster population. With this reintroduction, having failed, steps must be taken to identify why the bird was unable to adapt and also to identify the threats to the endangered species, such as power lines which have led to multiple vulture deaths in the region over the last few years," said a conservationist from the Nilgiris.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagan, a conservation NGO working on protecting vultures in the region, said power lines that cause the vulture habitat to be so inhospitable and need to be insulated to prevent birds and other wildlife from being accidentally electrocuted.

"We will have discussions with the BNHS and other researchers to understand the reasons for why this particular bird was unable to acclimatise to its natural habitat, and find out if the other captive-bred birds released in other parts (on have faced similar challenges)," said Mr. Krishna Babakar.

Besides, the Forest Department is also looking into the possibility of adapting power infrastructure in the region to reduce the threat to certain species, such as installing bird diverters on transmission lines.



Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted

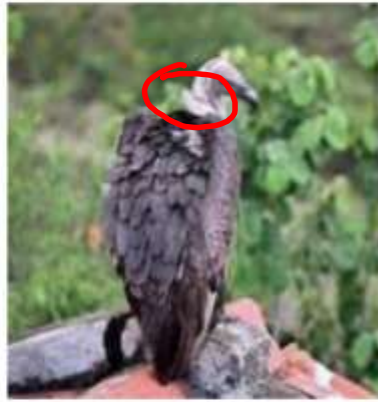
Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A captive-bred, radio-tagged white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) that was released earlier this year at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu was electrocuted on Sunday.

The bird came into contact with a power line and was killed at Ebbanad village overlooking the Sigur plateau, Forest Department officials said.

The bird, initially released in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra in December 2025, made its way into Karnataka, where it had to be captured and treated after showing signs of illness.

In April, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Karnataka Forest Department had



The radio-tagged vulture that was electrocuted on Sunday.
M. SATHYAMOORTHY.

discussions with their counterparts in Tamil Nadu and received permission to release the bird in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, which is home to the last sizeable population of white-rumped vultures in South India.

Failed to acclimatise
Foresters hoped the bird would associate with other vultures and acclimatise to

the region. However, officials said the release proved to be more difficult than expected, with the vulture failing to acclimatise to its new surroundings and embarking on exploratory forays around the tiger reserve, including to Gudalur, and later up the slopes towards Kalhaty and Ebbanad.

“We had captured the bird multiple times and released it into the Sigur, hoping it would acclimatise,” said R. Kiruba Shankar, Field Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

However, on Sunday, during one of the bird’s explorations of Ebbanad in the Nilgiris forest division, it came into contact with a power line and was killed, officials from the forest department confirmed.

The death of the vulture has signalled the end of the

first attempted reintroduction of a captive-bred bird of the species into the landscape and could have consequences for conservation policies in the future.

Identifying threats

“There have long been calls for captive-bred birds to be released into Mudumalai to bolster populations. With this reintroduction having failed, steps must be taken to identify why the bird was unable to adapt and also to identify the threats to the endangered species, such as power lines which have led to multiple vulture deaths in the region over the last few years,” said a conservationist from the Nilgiris.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, a conservation NGO working on protecting vultures in the

region, said power lines that cross through vulture habitats need to be reinforced with bunch-cabling and need to be insulated to prevent birds and other wildlife from being accidentally electrocuted.

“We will have discussions with the BNHS and other researchers to understand the reasons for why this particular bird was unable to acclimatise and adapt. We will also find out if the other captive-bred birds released in other parts too have faced similar challenges,” said Mr. Kiruba Shankar.

Besides, The Forest Department is would also looking into the possibility of adapting power infrastructure in the region towards minimising threats to avian species, such as installing bird diverters on transmission lines.

Topic	Details
News	A radio-tagged <u>White-rumped Vulture</u> was electrocuted after coming into contact with a <u>power line</u> in Tamil Nadu.
Species	White-rumped Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>)
IUCN Status	Critically Endangered (CR)
Location of Death	Ebbanad village, near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve , Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
Cause of Death	Electrocution due to overhead power line
Type of Bird	Captive-bred and radio-tagged for conservation monitoring
Released By	Forest Department in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Karnataka Forest Department
Initial Release	Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra) in December 2025
Reintroduced To	Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in April 2026
Conservation Concern	First reintroduction attempt failed due to inability to acclimatize and eventual electrocution

(Vipassana)

Meditation

Aspect	Details
Conservation Challenge	Difficulty in reintroducing captive-bred vultures into the wild
Major Threat Identified	<u>Uninsulated power transmission lines</u>
Suggested Solutions	Insulated power lines, bird diverters, bunch cabling, safer power infrastructure in wildlife habitats
Future Action	Study causes of failure and improve future reintroduction programmes

Conservation Challenge

Difficulty in reintroducing captive-bred vultures into the wild

Major Threat Identified

Uninsulated power transmission lines

Suggested Solutions

Insulated power lines, bird diverters, bunch cabling, safer power infrastructure in wildlife habitats

Future Action

Study causes of failure and improve future reintroduction programmes

Scarcity

Feature	Details
Scientific Name	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
Family	Accipitridae
Distribution	Indian Subcontinent
Habitat	Open forests, grasslands, agricultural landscapes
Food	Scavenger (feeds on animal carcasses)
Ecological Role	Natural disposal of carcasses; prevents spread of diseases

Conservation Status

Category

Status

IUCN Red List

Critically Endangered (CR)

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Schedule I

CITES

Appendix II

Major Threats to Vultures

Threat

Impact

Diclofenac (veterinary drug)

Causes kidney failure; primary reason for population collapse

Electrocution

Death from power transmission lines

Habitat loss

Reduced nesting and feeding areas

Poisoning

Secondary poisoning from contaminated carcasses

Food scarcity

Decline in availability of safe carcasses

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6 - 7

Threatened Species = CR + EN + VU

Vulture
★

Ext
JAC Addⁿ

Ext = CR

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5

About Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Feature	Details
State	Tamil Nadu
District	Nilgiris
Part of	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
Connected Protected Areas	Bandipur (Karnataka), Wayanad (Kerala), Nagarhole (Karnataka)
Important Species	Tiger, Asian Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, Dhole, White-rumped Vulture

About BNHS

Feature	Details
Full Form	Bombay Natural History Society
Established	1883
Headquarters	Mumbai
Role	One of India's leading biodiversity and wildlife research organizations

IN BRIEF



Jharkhand govt. appoints 1,042 new teachers for govt. schools

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Khoru on Monday handed over the job letters to 1,042 newly appointed teachers for government schools during a programme held in Ranchi. Addressing the teachers, Mr. Khoru said they will determine the future of the State's intellectual landscape and how the next generation will stand on its own feet. He said if the teachers discharge their duties with honesty and diligence, both society and the State will get the benefits. He urged teachers to adopt a sensitive and child approach in their interactions with children.

Nishant moves into house adjacent to CM's residence

Bihar Health Minister Nishant Kumar on Monday moved into a sprawling bungalow adjacent to the residence of the Chief Minister, which had served as his home until his father Nishik Kumar deeded the office. The 41-year-old exclusive politician entered 8, Dush Ratan Marg, which has for nearly half a decade served as the official residence of the Deputy Chief Minister, after a religious ceremony, which was attended, among others, by his representatives from the new government headed by BJP leader Sunar Choudhary, a former deputy of Nishik Kumar who occupied 8, Dush Ratan Marg until he devolved to the Chief Minister's post, he allotted a new bungalow, 7, Circular Road, to the JDU's supreme. —

Police file FIR after Shia groups clash in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Monday registered an FIR to countermeasures with a scuffle between groups of the Shia community in Badgam's Hardipora.

The All J&K Shia Association president Moin-ud-Din Raza Ansari blamed Pakistan-backed elements for the violence.

"A fair, impartial and evidence-based investigation is underway. Anyone found involved, irrespective of affiliation, will face strict legal action as per law," the police said.

The fight happened over a religious site where a procession is taken out on the day of Ashura every year. Officials said Mr. Ansari's relatives were among those attacked.

"We have full faith in the police and our Constitution," said Mr. Ansari.

Death penalty for accused in Pune rape-murder of child

Terming it a 'rarest of the rare' case, Judge rejects leniency plea based on age verdict comes within 60 days of the crime; Maharashtra CM hails the judgment as a 'new benchmark' in speedy justice

Chinmaye talkwad
MUMBAI

A special court in Maharashtra on Monday sentenced a 16-year-old man to death after he was convicted of rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Naranpur village of Bhor taluka.

Special Judge S.R. Bahadke pronounced the sentence days after the court convicted Chinmaye Prabhakar Kamble on June 25 under multiple provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The court held that the prosecution had established the charges against the accused.

The verdict comes within 60 days of the crime on May 1 that sparked widespread outrage and protests across the state. "Turning the case 'rarest of the rare', the judge rejected the defense's plea for leniency based on the age of the accused, highlighting his history of violence." "The offence was committed outspite of the age and involved inhuman treatment and torture of



A file photo of the auto-digging printers who blocked the Pune-Bangalore highway on May 2 after the rape and murder.

The police filed a charge sheet, including statements of more than 55 witnesses, within 15 days of the incident.

the victim. The victim was an innocent, helpless child. It was a cold-blooded murder without provocation. The judge avowedly shocked the conscience of the judiciary and society," the judge observed. The victim's family was present in the court when the sentence was read out. The ruling is expected to be reviewed by the Bombay High Court if the accused files an appeal. Kam-

ble will remain in judicial custody pending further legal proceedings.

The trial, which commenced on May 21, concluded within two months of the crime, making it one of the fastest cases to be disposed of in the State's judicial history. The court conducted daily hearings in camera given the sensitive nature of the case.

The judge filed a 1,200-page charge sheet within 10 days of the incident. It included statements of more than 55 witnesses, circumstantial evidence, and technical evidence.

'Landmark ruling' Speaking to reporters outside the court, Special Pu-

blic Prosecutor Ajay Misar termed the ruling "landmark". He said the prosecution relied on 62 forensic and circumstantial evidence to establish the "rarest of the rare" criterion. During the trial, the court recorded the statements of 10 witnesses, including children, in a single day, he said.

The prosecution proved all charges, including kidnapping, molestation, rape and murder, along with offences under the POCSO Act, Mr. Misar added.

The father of the victim expressed satisfaction over the verdict and said the fast trial, the court recorded the statements of 10 witnesses, including children, in a single day, he said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis hailed the verdict as a "new benchmark" in the State's judicial history. The court conducted daily hearings in camera given the sensitive nature of the case.

The judge filed a 1,200-page charge sheet within 10 days of the incident. It included statements of more than 55 witnesses, circumstantial evidence, and technical evidence.

'Landmark ruling' Speaking to reporters outside the court, Special Pu-



Amr Shah (center), Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini (left) and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashokrao (right) in a photo on Monday.

Haryana, Rajasthan ink pact to implement Yamuna water accord

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Haryana and Rajasthan on Monday signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Treatment Plant.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on May 12 by the Haryana and Rajasthan Chief Ministers, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashokrao, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

After the ceremony in 2009, the MoU was not implemented. The MoU was signed on Monday after the completion of over 55 weeks and completion of all legal procedures.

H Minister C.B. Patel and senior officials from the Central government and the State governments were present during the ceremony.

Underground pipeline Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shah said the project seeks to facilitate the conveyance of Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna waters through underground pipeline system from the Western Yamuna Canal, enabling the State to effectively utilise the water allocated to it under the 1994 MoU on the sharing of surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.

He said the agreement has resolved the nearly three-decade-old water-related problem faced by the people of Haryana and Rajasthan.

Omar seeks Mann's help to stop 'illegal' taxation on J&K livestock vehicles passing through Punjab

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday wrote to his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann over "unauthorised levy on livestock transport vehicles passing through Punjab".

Referring to protests by the All Kashmir Wholesale Traders Union, Mr. Abdullah said, "Livestock transport vehicles for J&K are allegedly being stopped by certain contractor groups and subjected to unauthorised fee collection and levies. This is in violation of all valid permits and requisite documentation."

Mr. Abdullah said such interruptions "cause avoidable delays, financial losses and hardship to transporters, besides adversely affecting animal welfare."

Seeking the intervention of Mr. Mann on the is-

Such practices are inconsistent with the spirit of mutual cooperation, the J&K Chief Minister says

According to the letter, the findings indicate that transporters are reported to be being compelled to make substantial payments per vehicle during transit without any apparent legal sanction.

"Exempted from GST" The committee has further observed that livestock movement is exempted from GST and that the continued imposition of such charges is placing an additional burden on the livestock trade, with consequential impact on meat prices and consumers in J&K," said Mr. Abdullah.

Stating that Punjab and J&K "share longstanding bonds of friendship, cooperation and economic interdependence", Mr. Abdullah said any such practices, if found to be continuing, are inconsistent with the spirit of mutual cooperation.

We have lost all hope," Ms. Lakshmi said.

Upon entering the transit camp at Anand Parbat, she said, "The situation is immediately confronting by open defecation, overflowing human faeces, mounds of garbage, and a stench that pervades the air. We are forced to rely on buckets to collect water for drinking."

to double blind The residents here are trapped in a double bind. They are allowed to enter their transit camps only if they sign up for the terms of the contract, if any family is found to be in violation of the terms, the DDA or the developers can evict them from the transit camp, their name can be struck off the beneficiaries list.

The family of 10 had plenty of work to sustain their livelihoods before moving to Anand Parbat, she said.

Ms. Lakshmi added, "Our work continued through all means. People were used to come looking for art and performers in Kathputli Colony. Now we have to find them."

When reached for comments, the DDA and Rajeev Developers did not respond.

Prakash Bhatt, a 58-year-old puppeteer, quotes from the folklore story Amar Singh Rathore to describe the helplessness of the families at Anand Parbat. "The mother has six children and her husband is a daily wage earner. He has to show up in a year."

Another generational puppeteer, Bhanu Bhatt, said his work has been severely affected. His family

Initiative for exports



Meet to trade: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (left) with a delegation of the J&K International Buyer Seller Meet, 2020, at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar, on Monday, June 29, 2020.

Delhi revives PPP slum revamp model; 'magicians' of Kathputli Colony still in transit

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

Lakshmi was born and raised in a family of performers in the now-situated Kathputli Colony in west Delhi's Shadipur. She was 15 when her family moved from the 'magicians' ghetto, as Shriani Bhattacharya dubbed the settlement in *Mahabharat Children*, into a public housing project in a hillside named Anand Parbat about 3 km away. The arrangement was supposed to be temporary.

The family was among the 4,500 displaced between 2014 and 2017 after the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) entered into an in situ slum redevelopment agreement with private builder Rajesh Developers. It was the first time the urban body had signed an agreement for

such a project under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

As per the terms, the developer was to hand over 2,000 Economically Weaker Section (EWS) flats, along with all basic facilities, on around 60% of the 12.89 acres of land to the authority free of cost, and receive the remaining 40% for remunerative housing for sale in the open market and for commercial complexes. Of the remaining available, 492 were allotted flats in Narula while others were deemed ineligible for resettlement. The contract also held the developer responsible for covering the basic civic expenses at the completion of the project.

The DDA has not entered into another PPP in situ redevelopment project since. However, the model is now set to be adopted



Left: The transit camp at Anand Parbat where 2,000 families have been staying for as many as 13 years, buildings under construction at the now-rare Kathputli Colony. Inset: A family of 10 in the transit camp.

under the Delhi Slum and Cluster Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Policy 2020, announced by Union Minister Anil Singh on June 16. Under the policy, which is yet to be notified, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board is the nodal agency for works

carried out on Delhi government land.

Ms. Lakshmi is now 31 and lives with seven members of her family, including her children, in two one-room public cabins, with no sign yet of the promised flats.

"When we came here in



Amit Shah (centre), Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini (left) and Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma (right) in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Haryana, Rajasthan ink pact to implement Yamuna water accord

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Haryana and Rajasthan on Monday signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project, officials said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on May 12, 1994 by the Yamuna basin States - Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and the National Capital Territory of Delhi - regarding allocation of the surface flow of the river.

After its creation in 2000, Uttarakhand was also included in the MoU.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Jal Shak-

ti Minister C.R. Patil and senior officials from the Central government and the State governments were present during the ceremony.

Underground pipeline

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shah said the project seeks to facilitate the conveyance of Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna waters through underground pipeline system from the Western Yamuna Canal, enabling the State to effectively utilise the water allocated to it under the 1994 MoU on the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.

He said the agreement has resolved the nearly three-decade-old water-related problem faced by the people of Haryana and Rajasthan.

Topic

Details

News

Haryana and Rajasthan signed an agreement to implement the **Yamuna Water Project**.

Date

June 2026

Agreement Signed In Presence Of

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**

Chief Ministers Present

Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) and **Nayab Singh Saini** (Haryana)

Objective

Construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project to supply Rajasthan's allocated Yamuna water.

Aspect

Details

Water Transfer Mode

Underground pipeline

Source

~~Western Yamuna Canal~~

Beneficiary

~~Rajasthan~~

Purpose

Efficient utilization of Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna waters

Major Benefit

Reduces water loss through seepage and evaporation; ensures reliable water supply

1997

327 km²

31 KCR

300 km



Topic

Details

Original Agreement

**Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) MoU –
12 May 1994**

States/UT Involved

Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan,
Himachal Pradesh, National Capital
Territory (Delhi)

Later Addition

Uttarakhand became a signatory after its
formation in **2000**

Purpose

Allocation of utilisable surface waters of the
Upper Yamuna Basin

State/UT	Approximate Allocation (BCM/year)
Haryana	5.73
Uttar Pradesh	4.03
Rajasthan	1.12
Delhi	0.72
Himachal Pradesh	0.38
Total	≈11.98 BCM

About the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)

Feature	Details
Established	1995
Parent Ministry	Ministry of Jal Shakti (earlier Ministry of Water Resources)
Purpose	Regulates and monitors water sharing among Upper Yamuna basin states
Headquarters	New Delhi

About the Yamuna River

Feature	Details
Origin	Yamunotri Glacier, Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand
Length	1,376 km
Confluence	Meets the Ganga at Prayagraj (Allahabad)
Largest Tributary of	Ganga
Major States Traversed	Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh (boundary), Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh

Major Tributaries of the Yamuna

Right Bank Tributaries

Chambal

Betwa

Ken

Sind

Tons (largest tributary)

Left Bank Tributaries

Hindon

Somb

Rind

Handman Ganga

Kali River

Significance of the Agreement

Area

Benefit

Water Management

Better utilization of Rajasthan's allocated share

Agriculture

Improved irrigation facilities

Drinking Water

Enhanced supply in water-scarce regions

Infrastructure

Modern underground pipeline network

Interstate Relations

Resolves a nearly **three-decade-old** implementation issue

Conservation



Current Affairs
6 Marks
Output
Efficient, Judicious,
Intelligent,
Purpose



IN BRIEF

Attack on ex-Kerala Minister: KSU worker withdraws plea

A petition before the Kerala High Court by Kerala Students Union (KSU) worker Arjun M.C., one of the accused in the alleged attack on former Health Minister Venu George, was withdrawn on Monday. The plea sought to dismiss the FIR registered over the alleged attempt to attack Mr. George at Kannur Railway Station in February. The petitioner requested withdrawal since the FIR had been amended to exclude "attempt to murder" in the course of the investigation.

Two bodies retrieved from water tank in Krishna district

In a shocking incident, police on Monday retrieved two bodies allegedly dropped in a tank tied to a lake in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. As per witness accounts, unidentified persons allegedly tied the bodies to the lake and threw them into the tank. The victims had been reported missing since Saturday, said family members. A case under Section 154 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been registered, and a probe is under way, the police said.

Lokesh, Singapore Consul General discuss investment

Singapore Consul General in Chennai Edgar Pang Yee Cheung called on Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen the partnership between the state and Singapore. Mr. Lokesh sought Singapore's support in enhancing bilateral cooperation in technology, trade, investments and the maritime sector. He outlined the state's 'Speed of Doing Business' initiative and investment opportunities.

BJP leader arrested in Telangana over ruckus in school

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

The Telangana police arrested a local BJP leader from Nizamabad district on Monday, two days after he and his supporters entered a school and caused the principal, citing unauthorised conduct of Urdu classes.

Urdu classes

The issue began after a recently appointed Hindi teacher was found teaching Urdu to students of Classes I to V during Hindi classes. An inquiry by education and police officials had confirmed the allegation against the teacher. BJP Amravar town president Mandula Bala and his supporters entered the school and confronted the management over the issue. During the altercation, the principal was allegedly assaulted in the presence of police personnel.

The police registered a first information report against Mr. Bala and his associates under provisions relating to rioting, voluntarily causing hurt, grievous hurt and mischief. The Bharatiya Jyotya Sanhita (BNS). A second case was registered against school representatives Malahalli, principal Anant Khan and teacher Harna Harna under Section 150(1) of the BNS for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups and acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony.

Field day



Auspicious starts: Farmers join their family members in celebrating 'Dussehra Purnima' to mark the beginning of the sowing season, in Gunur district in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. Farmers perform pujas for their cattle and pray for a good harvest during the festival. (ANI)

Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

TRIAL courts cannot straightforwardly award maintenance to a wife because she files a petition against her husband under various laws, especially when she earns more than her husband, observed the High Court of Karnataka. "Only because a wife files a petition invoking the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act or the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act or the Code of Criminal Procedure, the courts cannot straightforwardly pass an order awarding some amount to wife maintenance payable by the husband," said Justice Chhabra, while writing aside an

Maintenance need not be granted on the ground women must be maintained by men, says court

award passed by a court. The High Court said that "where the wife is financially sound and in a case where her income is more than that of the husband and where no other liabilities are found on part of the wife, like looking after the children, courts should not be inclined to pass an order granting maintenance on the ground that women are required to be maintained by men or wife

is required to be maintained by her husband". It should be borne in mind that only when it is shown the wife has no financial means to maintain herself according to the standards of her husband, then courts are required to award maintenance either interim or final, the High Court clarified. It made these observations while allowing a plea filed by a man who had challenged an award passed by a magistrate outside their native State in country. "After countless efforts, their goal materialised 10 years later as they created 'CoolTalker', an app they designed with the help of a small team. Writing is a dying art, says Mr. Rajith when asked why they felt the need to develop such an app. Mr. Rajith, son of postgraduate engineer Vikram Rajith, moved to the U.S.

Sabarimala gold theft: report finds conspiracy by TDB staff

Court permits SIT to register fresh case against officials, as per interim report, while giving permit for gold-plating *dwarapalakas*, the officials deliberately described the coverings as copper plates

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

A n interim report submitted before the Kerala High Court by the Special Investigator Tivan (SIT) profiling the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayappa temple during the course of gold-plating works, has mentioned criminal conspiracy by P.S. Prushanth, who was then the president of the Travancore Devaswam Board (TDB), among others. Following this, the court permitted the SIT to register a fresh case against Mr. Prushanth and the others.



Judicial probe: The Kerala High Court has asked the SIT to submit its final report immediately, it reports.

The report states that collected materials clearly establish the role of Mr. Prushanth, Executive Officer, Sabarimala, Unnikrishnan Pillai, assistant to gold-plating the *dwarapalaka* idols, Panaji Bhandari, proprietor of a Creations, Chennai, where the idols

were taken for gold-plating, among others. Based on the interim report by Z. Badarhan, an officer leading the SIT, a Division Bench said it might be initiated under the BNSR. The bench also asked to ensure the final report is submitted as early as possible. As per the interim report, the *dwarapalaka* gopuram deities, which were originally clad with gold in 1908, were transported to Chennai in 2010 at Mr. Prushanth's request. While granting permission for the same, the TDB officers, deliberately described the gold-plating works as copper plates. This was to avoid the gold from the idols and instead plate a thin film of gold over them. The original gold cladding was removed at the Chennai firm. The artefact was misappropriated by the accused. The case has been postponed for hearing on July 20.

'No proof required in enumeration stage'

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Electors in Karnataka will not have to produce any documents during the final enumeration stage for the Special Elective Revision (SER) of electoral rolls, beginning on Tuesday, Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar said on Monday. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Kumar said that only documents and valid electoral rolls will be published on August 5, after which electors can file claims and objections until September 4. Following disposal of valid objections by October 3, the final electoral rolls will be published on October 7.

Karnataka ex-CM's 'audio clip' stirs row

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

An audio clip purportedly of senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister E.V. Sridharan Gowda asking the party to wait till State president B.V. Visveswara completes his term in November before "backing him out" went viral on Monday, causing a stir in the party. Following the clip, several reactions from Mr. Vijayendra's camp, even as it yet again exposed factionalism within

in the state BJP. The clip, which Mr. Gowda said was fake, caused amid speculation that the party high command may opt for a re-nomination of Mr. Gowda as the party's leader, unhappy over the state affairs of the party, especially after cross-voting in the recently held Legislative Council polls. Mr. Gowda said he would not comment on the clip, but would answer only if the high command asked him about it. Except Mr. Vijayendra, the others later joined the ruling TVE. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, ousted from Karnataka, and retaining Perumbarasi. Meanwhile, the Assembly Secretary informed the Madras High Court that the law does not require an Assembly Speaker to sit in judgment on the matter behind an MLA tendering resignation, and such resignations become accepted if they are found to be genuine and voluntary.

Setback for AIADMK as yet another MLA quits from Assembly

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

In yet another setback to the AIADMK, the party's MLA and former Minister, M.R. Vijayabaskar, resigned his Assembly membership on Monday. Mr. Vijayabaskar, who won from Karur in 2008 by 1,821 votes, submitted his resignation to the Speaker in his Chamber. As the request was in order, Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar accepted his resignation, an official release said. He is the sixth AIADMK MLA to resign.

Seven seats vacant

Now, seven seats in the 24-member Assembly are vacant. Five AIADMK MLAs had already resigned. They are Margayya, an Kumaravel (Madurai), S. Jayabalan (Perundurai), P. Sathyabama (Dharmapuri), Sanku Subaya (Andamanamalai), and former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar (Virudhunagar).

Except Mr. Vijayabaskar, the others later joined the ruling TVE. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, ousted from Karnataka, and retaining Perumbarasi. Meanwhile, the Assembly Secretary informed the Madras High Court that the law does not require an Assembly Speaker to sit in judgment on the matter behind an MLA tendering resignation, and such resignations become accepted if they are found to be genuine and voluntary.

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'Voluntary move'

The counter-affidavit was filed in response to two writ petitions filed by AIADMK whip Agri S.S. Rajinikanth. The petitioner had challenged Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar's decision to accept the resignations of S. Jayabalan, P. Sathyabama, Margayya, Kumaravel and Sanku Subaya who had been elected on AIADMK ticket from Madurai, Perundurai, Dharmapuri and Andamanamalai constituencies respectively. Mr. Sanku said the Speaker had accepted the resignations because four MLAs had submitted their handwritten resignation letters in person.

BJP Cong. leaders come to blows at corporation meet

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A council meeting of the BJP-led Thiruvananthapuram Corporation in Kerala on Monday witnessed the first scuffle as BJP councilor and Education Standing Committee member, Chairman Chempazhathu Udayan allegedly attacked Union Minister Ponnai (UDF) council leader K.S. Sabarinadhan and two women councilors of the Congress on Monday.

Mr. Udayan was seen charging at Mr. Sabarinadhan and a group of women councilors and forcefully snatching away the council agenda from the latter. Mr. Sabarinadhan alleged the fight broke out af-



A scuffle from Monday's scuffle at the corporation meeting in Thiruvananthapuram.

New mobile app aims at helping children master their mother tongue the fun way

Neelore Savand VIVAVADA

Since 2010, Kollu Rajith, a software engineer hailing from Vijayawada and settled in the U.S., and his friend Varada, had been focused on a single goal - to make learning languages easier for children settled outside their native State in country. "After countless efforts, their goal materialised 10 years later as they created 'CoolTalker', an app they designed with the help of a small team. Writing is a dying art, says Mr. Rajith when asked why they felt the need to develop such an app. Mr. Rajith, son of postgraduate engineer Vikram Rajith, moved to the U.S.



The app supports Telugu, Hindi, and Marathi, and will soon be available in other Indian languages.

in the U.S. "Writing is dying, and the user base and a part of our culture," says Mr. Rajith, who now works at Dell Technologies in Boston. But many children, settled outside their home States or abroad, begin to lose touch with the roots of their mother tongue gradually.

ter the meeting, the Mayor claimed that the UDF councilors had refused to return the attendance register after signing, leading to the scuffle. The Mayor presented 700 agenda items within seven minutes and ran away from the council meeting. The attack on Mr. Sabarinadhan is the latest instance of BJP's use of red. Heal violence against the Opposition. Last week, the Mayor himself led an attack on protesting BJP councilors. UDF council party leader S.P. Deepak said.

CPIMG leader V. Srinivasa Kumar demanded the State government to initiate action against Mr. Udayan for the "unprovoked" attack. Since the app focuses on writing, it helps trace a child's strokes, saves their handwriting, and reads every letter back in a native Indian voice, he says, adding that the app has 45 games to make the learning process easier. The app is available on iPhone and iPad at present, and supports three languages - Telugu, Hindi, and Marathi. The app will soon be available on Android devices and in all major Indian languages, Mr. Rajith says. Mr. Rajith, who has come to Vijayawada, is in talks with the Andhra Pradesh government to provide the app, which operates on a subscription model, to State-run schools free of cost.

Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trial courts cannot straightaway award maintenance to a wife because she files a petition against her husband under various laws, especially when she earns more than her husband, observed the High Court of Karnataka.

“Only because a wife files a petition invoking the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act or the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act or the Code of Criminal Procedure..., the courts cannot straightaway pass an order awarding some amount towards maintenance payable by the husband,” said Justice Chillakur Sumalatha while setting aside an

Maintenance need
not be granted on
the ground women
must be maintained
by men, says court

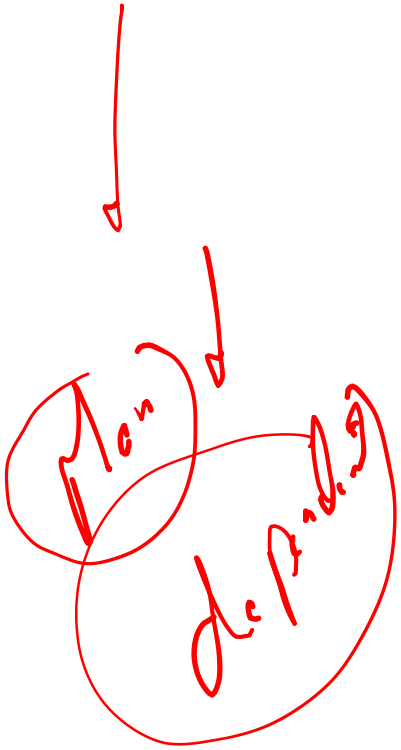
award passed by a trial court.

Income, other factors
The High Court said that “when the wife is financially sound and in a case where her income is more than that of the husband and where no other liabilities are found on part of the wife, like looking after the children, courts should not be inclined to pass an order granting maintenance on the ground that women are required to be maintained by men or wife

is required to be maintained by her husband”.

It should be borne in mind that only when it is shown the wife has no financial sources to maintain herself according to the standards of her husband, then courts are required to award maintenance either interim or final, the High Court clarified.

It made these observations while allowing a plea filed by a man who had challenged an award passed by a magistrate court in Mysuru under the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, directing him to pay ₹20,000 per month as interim maintenance to his wife, who had sought an interim maintenance of ₹1.13 lakh per month.



5610 — Finance 17.

Topic

Details

News

Karnataka High Court held that maintenance should not be granted automatically merely because a wife files a petition, particularly when she earns more than her husband.

Court

High Court of Karnataka

Judge

Justice Chillakur Sumalatha

Case Type

Handwritten: *Handwritten*

Challenge to an interim maintenance order under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act

Key Principle

Maintenance depends on financial need, not on gender alone.

Handwritten: *A*

Issue

Automatic maintenance

Wife earning more than husband

Financially independent wife

Children's responsibility

Objective

Court's Observation

✗ Not permissible merely because a petition is filed.

Courts should carefully examine whether maintenance is actually required.

If she has sufficient income and no exceptional liabilities, maintenance may not be justified.

If the wife is solely caring for children or has other financial burdens, courts may still consider maintenance.

Maintenance is to prevent destitution, not to provide an automatic financial benefit.

Law

Protection of Women
from Domestic Violence
Act, 2005

Provision

Section 20

Purpose

~~Monetary relief,
including maintenance~~

Code of Criminal
Procedure, 1973

Section 125 (*now
substantially reflected in
Section 144 of the
Bharatiya Nagarik
Suraksha Sanhita, 2023*)

Maintenance for wife,
children and parents

~~Hindu Adoptions and
Maintenance Act, 1956~~

Sections 18–20

Maintenance rights
under Hindu personal
law

Facts from the Case

Aspect	Details
Trial Court Order	Husband directed to pay ₹20,000 per month as interim maintenance
Wife's Claim	₹1.13 lakh per month
High Court	Set aside the trial court's order and emphasized that financial capacity and actual need must be assessed before awarding maintenance.

Important Legal Principles

Principle	Meaning
Maintenance is need-based	Award depends on financial necessity and circumstances.
No gender-based presumption	Courts should not assume every wife must be maintained by her husband.
Comparative income matters	Income of both spouses should be considered.
Holistic assessment	Liabilities, dependents, standard of living, health and earning capacity are relevant factors.

Slipping safety standards

The data for charts were sourced from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India and the World Health Organization



Quality check: Food safety officials conducting inspections in a milk booth in Visakhapatnam in February 2026 in the wake of a milk adulteration incident in Rajahmundry. V. RAJU

CHART 1: More than a thousand cases and deaths due to food poisoning were reported in 2024

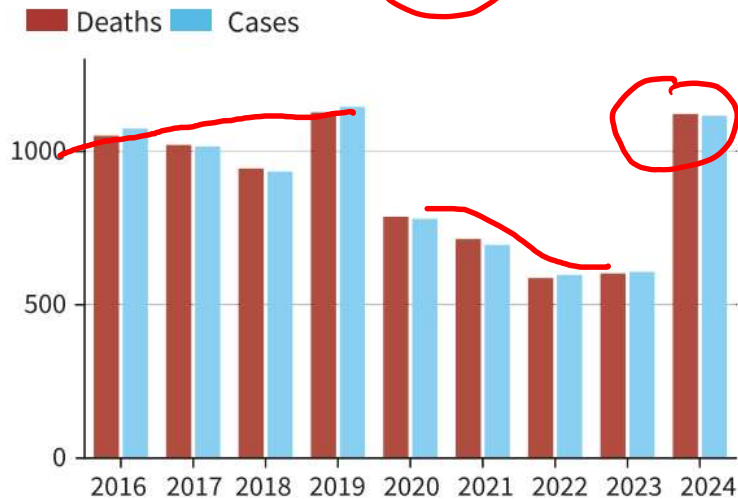
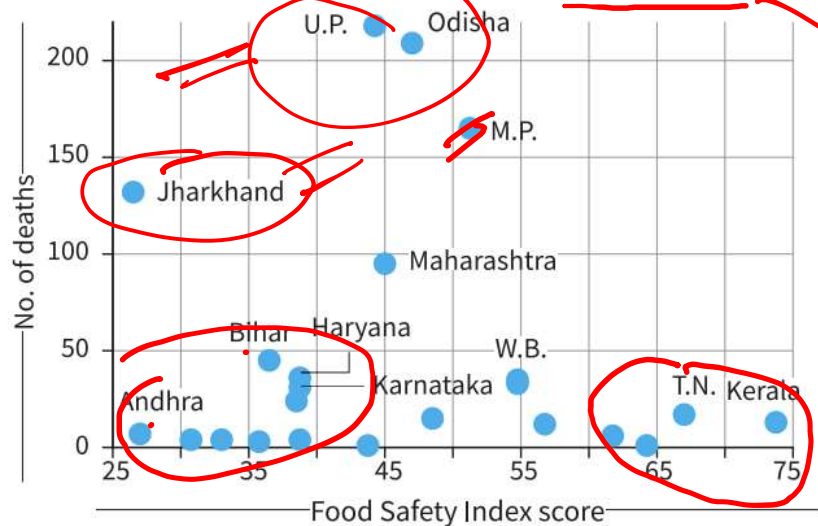


CHART 2: States that saw a high number of food poisoning cases tended to have low or moderate scores on Food Safety Index



9/10

Adulteration



FASSAI
M...
Health
FSSAI
J...
↓
↓
↓
J...

CHART 3: Samples collected for testing in 2024-25 compared with the total registered food business operators in select States

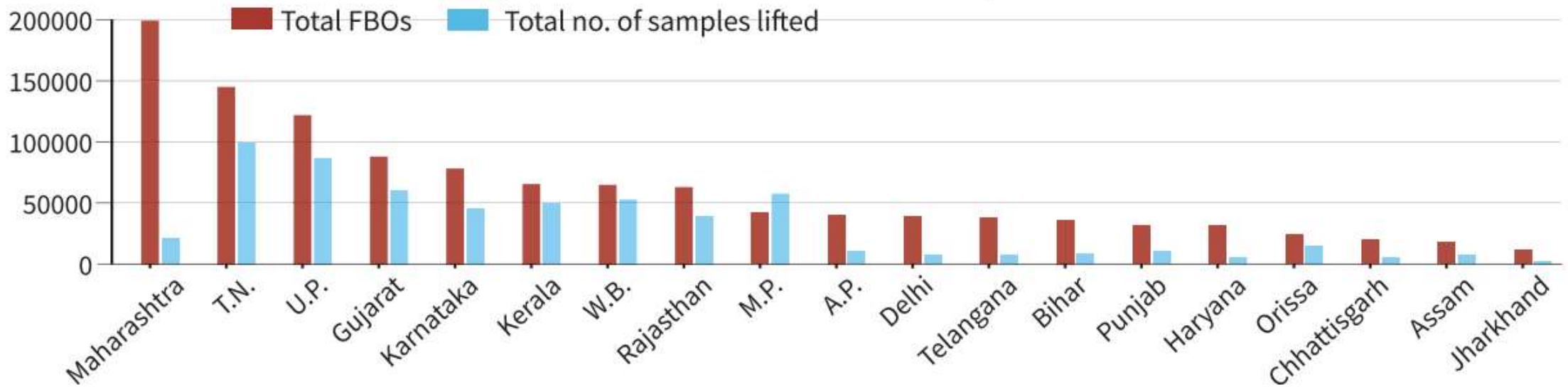
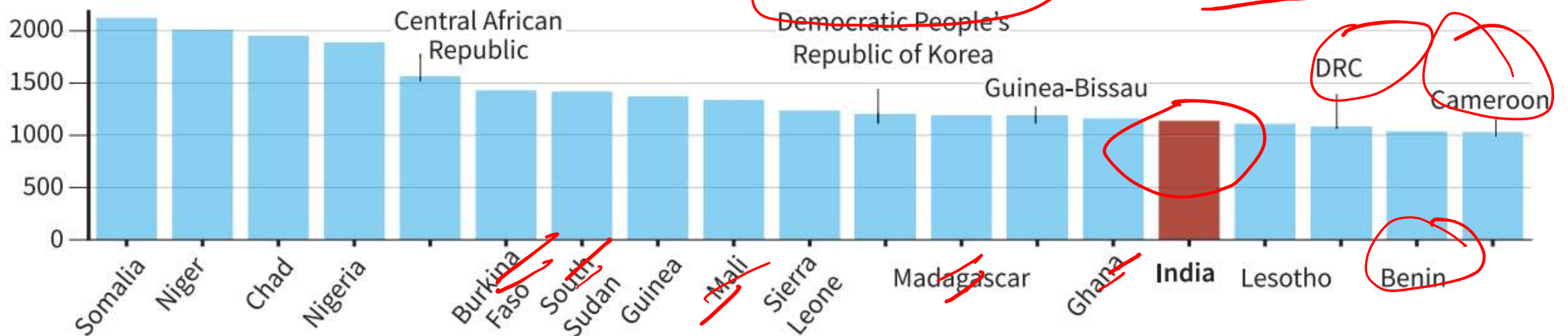


CHART 4: "Foodborne years of lives lost" per 1,00,000 persons. India is ranked 15th, along with many African countries



Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Outlay of clean technology scheme for steel sector

5,000 crore. The Centre is planning to introduce a scheme to promote the adoption of clean technologies in steel-making processes. The scheme named National Strategy for Sustainable Secondary Steel is expected to be launched in the next three months.

Number of civilians in Afghanistan killed by Pakistan airstrikes

36 Overnight airstrikes by Pakistani forces have killed at least 36 civilians and injured more than 100 others, Afghan officials said on Monday. Hundreds of people have been killed in cross-border fighting since February, when Afghanistan launched retaliatory strikes after Pakistan carried out airstrikes inside Afghan territory.

BLOs conducting special intensive revision in Delhi

13,000 The special intensive revision (SIR) of Delhi's electoral rolls will begin on Tuesday, with over 13,000 booth-level officers (BLOs) undertaking a door-to-door verification exercise. Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ashok Kumar said on Monday.

Japanese entities on which China imposed export controls

40 China imposed new export controls Monday on 40 Japanese entities it says are contributing to the country's "militarisation," as tensions with Tokyo continue to rise. Twenty entities have been placed in a "black list" and will be barred from selling to Chinese and foreign exporters from selling to them dual-use items made in China.

People in Europe facing temperatures above 35°C

130 million. At least 130 million people in Europe, mainly located in the central and eastern parts of the continent, are set for temperatures exceeding 35°C on Monday, according to AFP calculations. This is down from more than 181 million on Sunday.

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On the delay in India-U.S. trade deal

India and the U.S. announced in February 2025 that they would work towards a Bilateral Trade Agreement, but differences over agriculture and Russian oil, along with legal battles in Washington and investigations initiated by the Trump administration, have clouded its prospects

EXPLAINER
T.G.A. Sharad Bahayyan

The story so far: India and the U.S. in February 2025 announced that they would work towards a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) that was to be finalised by fall 2025. The BTA, February 25, 2025, they signed a framework agreement for an interim trade deal that was to be implemented by April-May 2025. Neither deal has come to pass.

Why was the BTA delayed? Since after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump announced their intentions to complete a BTA in February 2025, it became clear that a comprehensive deal would be elusive. The talk among government officials was about finalising at least the first tranche of the deal by fall 2025 (September-November 2025). Talks intensified post April 2025 after Mr. Trump first announced his "Liberation Day" restrictions on them and then that they had 90 days to be could negotiate deals with U.S. trade partners. However, despite several meetings, India and the U.S. could not finalise the first tranche, with key sticking points being India's reluctance to open up its agricultural and dairy sectors, and its decision to buy oil from Russia.

In two successive announcements in late July and early August, Mr. Trump raised tariffs on imports from India to 25% and then to 50%, with the latter hike being a penalty for India's Russian oil imports. This decision froze negotiations for a few months before matters thawed once again and talks resumed in October.

What is the interim deal? Once talks resumed, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump in February 2025 signed a



framework for an interim agreement on trade. This was not a trade deal itself, but the framework along which one could be worked out. At the time, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal expressed his confidence that the deal would be completed by April, or at the latest by early May 2025. Under the framework, the U.S. was to reduce total tariffs on Indian imports to 10%, providing it a competitive advantage over its competitors. Both sides also committed to providing each other preferred market access in "sectors of respective interest".

Why has this deal been delayed? Soon after the framework was announced, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the reciprocal tariff system itself, saying the law it was based on—the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of the U.S. — did not allow for such tariffs. That removed a major foundation on which the deal negotiations had taken place.

Since then, the U.S. has taken several decisions that have further added to the tariff uncertainty. Right after the Supreme Court's decision, Mr. Trump announced that he would be imposing a 10% tariff on imports from all countries under the Trade Act of 1974, which he said would lead him to take action to address the U.S.'s ballooning trade deficit. This tariff was temporary, supposed to last 180 days up to July 24. Mr. Trump said he would raise it to 15%, but never did. The U.S. Court of International Trade deemed these illegal as well, but an appeals court put a stay on that order.

What fresh investigations have added more uncertainty? In March, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said it had initiated two investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act into several of its trade partners that could potentially see further tariffs being imposed on them. The first investigation against it

economics, including India, was to see whether these economies were using excess manufacturing capacity to export to the U.S. in a manner that was hurting American businesses. The second one, against 60 countries including India, was to look into whether they had taken "adequate and sufficient steps" to prohibit the import of goods produced with forced labour and how the "failure to do so" affects U.S. workers and businesses. Under the forced labour investigation, the U.S. government in early June proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 14 countries, including India, as they have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour. To be sure, this does not mean the U.S. is saying that India uses forced labour, but that it has not stopped the import of goods that have been manufactured using forced labour. India has made its representation to the U.S. on this matter and the final hearing is on July 7. The findings of the excess capacity investigations are expected in mid-July.

What is India's stance on the draft? As repeatedly expressed by Mr. Goyal, India remains committed to finalising a trade deal with the U.S. but is keen about the fact that it should receive a comparative advantage over its competitors as well agreed in February. For this, the Section 301 investigations will have to be completed and the tariffs decided on various countries. In the meantime, the two sides continue to negotiate on the other non-tariff aspects of the deal, such as enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors. The latest visit by USTR Assistant Chief to India on June 25-26 did not yield any headlines.

THE GIST

India and the U.S. missed both the planned 2025 Bilateral Trade Agreement and the 2026 interim deal after 10 months of talks. Disagreements over agriculture, dairy and Russian oil imports, followed by shifting U.S. tariff policies and legal challenges that disrupted negotiations.

New U.S. Section 301 investigations into excess manufacturing capacity and forced labour-related imports have delayed tariff decisions, while both sides continue negotiating non-tariff issues, with India insisting on a comparative tariff advantage before finalising the deal.

Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation?

Who can claim compensation, how much can they receive, and what are the eligibility conditions?

Account Debit

The story so far: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued fresh rules to protect customers in scam transactions where they lose money to fraudsters and cybercriminals. These directions amend the RBI's 2017 circular on "Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Banking Transactions". That previous framework only left banks liable to compensate scammed customers if transactions were not even authorised by customers, such as in a phishing incident. These rules are only a pilot for now, but may be extended in the future. They are effective from January 1, 2027, and last for the year.

What has the RBI changed? In Wednesday's amendments, a draft version of which was released for public comment in March, customers can get reimbursed when they fall prey to certain scams, like digital or coin (where they are "coaxed" into paying money), or when

one-time passcodes (OTPs) are "fraudulently" stolen from them. Most scam types that customers fall on "social engineering" attacks, which require the banking customer in one way or another, since banks' core cybersecurity infrastructure is heavily regulated and subject to RBI audits, "zero-click" hacks are catching up. The new key concept is "fraudulent electronic banking transactions (EBTs)". RBI defines these as transactions which are "executed by a third-party using the credentials obtained from the customer through fraudulent means or executed by the customer by granting approval under coercion or duress from the third party" or "an EBT which is not authorised by a customer and later also includes an EBT occurring on account of negligence by a bank and/or a third-party branch." This means that customers who ignore fraud alert warnings, such as those on a UPI PIN screen that a given transaction could be a scam, would not be eligible for any compensation. In cases of a third-party hack, the timeline for a customer to report the loss has been

increased to five calendar days from three working days. As in the 2017 rules, if any amount is disbursed after a customer reports a fraud, the customer bears no liability and is entitled to a reversal of the transaction. Banks can waive customer's liability even if a transaction is negligent, but this is subject to their own discretion. If a user does not have their latest phone number or email address registered with their bank, this counts as negligence, as the bank would not send fraud alerts to the right contact. **How much compensation can customers receive?** For losses up to ₹10,000, individual victims can claim 60% of the amount as compensation, only once in their lifetime, up to ₹25,000. (This includes for any amount from ₹25,42 to ₹10,000, customers will receive a flat ₹25,000 compensation.) Roughly three-fourths of the amount will be paid by RBI itself, while the customer and intermediary banks will pay half the remaining amount. A customer must report to the

cybercrime helpline (1930) within five days to be eligible for this. It is worth noting that scams above ₹50,000 don't again to be covered in this framework at all.

What changed between the draft and final rules? From the March draft, banks have been given more time to implement this new system; the draft rules had a July 1 effective date. This is now January 1, 2027. Complaint settlement timelines are also now increased to 48-60 days, with the latter applying for international transactions.

Dyan Research, a non-profit financial inclusion think tank, had suggested that the vulnerability of customers be taken into account. "Research suggests that India's customer fraud environment has multiplied times a week, that these scams are becoming more sophisticated, and therefore, it is not unlikely that customers may fall for them more than often," the body wrote. "Vulnerable customers may not be equipped to meet high standards of attentiveness or defend themselves against frauds that are sophisticated even for the more evolved customers... Under the Indian Contract Act, contracts sanctioned under information asymmetry, external influence, or fraudulent pretext are voidable... Handling such different transactions in a uniform manner, definition of 'authorised transaction' diminishes their fundamental difference and may even erode the significance of a liability framework."

THE GIST

RBI's revised rules expand customer protection by allowing compensation for certain fraud caused by coercion or stolen credentials, not just unauthorised transactions.

Eligible customers can claim up to ₹25,000 for losses of up to ₹50,000 if they report the fraud within five days; the pilot framework takes effect from January 1, 2027.

Handwritten notes in red ink:
- "Kisan" (circled)
- "Sugar" (circled)
- "Wheat" (circled)
- "Dising" (circled)
- "Pro-Jach" (circled)
- "Wheat/Rice" (written at the top right)

Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation?

Who can claim compensation, how much can they receive, and what are the eligibility conditions?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued fresh rules to protect customers from scam transactions where they lose money to fraudsters and cyberattacks. These directions amend the RBI's 2017 circular on "Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions". That previous framework only left banks liable to compensate scammed customers if transactions were not even authorised by customers, such as in a successful hacking incident. These rules are only a pilot for now, but may be extended in the future. They are effective from January 1, 2027, and last for the year.

What has the RBI changed?

In Wednesday's amendments, a draft version of which was released for public comment in March, customers can get reimbursed when they fall prey to certain scams, like digital arrests (where they are "coerced" into paying money), or when

one-time passcodes (OTPs) are "fraudulently" stolen from them. Most financial fraud currently relies on "social engineering" attacks, which require hoodwinking customers in one way or another; since banks' core cybersecurity infrastructure is heavily regulated and subject to RBI audits, "zero click" hacks are vanishingly rare.

The new key concept is "fraudulent electronic banking transactions (EBTs)". RBI defines these as transactions which are "executed by a third-party using the credentials obtained from the customer through fraudulent means or executed by the customer by granting approval under coercion or duress from the third-party" or "an EBT which is not authorised by a customer and inter alia includes an EBT occurring on account of negligence by a bank and/or a third-party breach."

This means that customers who ignore fraud signal warnings, such as those on a UPI PIN screen that a given transaction could be a scam, would not be eligible for any compensation. In cases of a third-party hack, the timeline for a customer to report the loss has been

increased to five calendar days from three working days. As in the 2017 rules, if any amount is deducted after a customer reports fraud, the customer bears no liability and is entitled to a reversal of the transaction.

Banks can waive customers' liability even if a transaction is negligent, but this is subject to their own discretion. If a user does not have their latest phone number or email address registered with the bank, this counts as negligence, as the bank would not send fraud alerts to the right contact.

How much compensation can customers receive?

For losses up to ₹50,000, individual victims can claim 85% of the amount as compensation, only once in their lifetime, up to ₹25,000. (This means that for any amount from ₹29,412 till ₹50,000, customers will receive a flat ₹25,000 compensation.) Roughly three-fourths of the amount will be paid by RBI itself, while the customer and beneficiary banks will pay half the remaining amount.

A customer must report to the

cybercrime helpline (1930) within five days to be eligible for this. It is worth noting that scams above ₹50,000 don't seem to be covered in this framework at all.

What changed between the draft and final rules?

From the March draft, banks have been given more time to implement this new system; the draft rules had a July 1 effective date. This is now January 1, 2027. Complaint settlement timelines are also now increased to 45-60 days, with the latter applying for international transactions.

Dvara Research, a non-profit financial inclusion think tank, had suggested that the vulnerability of customers be taken into account. "Research suggests that Indians encounter fraud attempts multiple times a week, that these attempts are growing more sophisticated, and therefore, it is not unlikely that customers may fall for them more than once," the body wrote.

"Vulnerable customers may not be expected to meet high standards of attentiveness or defend themselves against frauds that are sophisticated even for the more evolved customers ... Under the Indian Contract Act, contracts executed under information asymmetry, external influence, or fraudulent pretext are voidable... Bundling such different transactions under the common definition of 'authorised transaction' diminishes their fundamental difference and may even reduce the significance of a liability framework."

THE GIST

RBI's revised rules expand customer protection by allowing compensation for certain fraud caused by coercion or stolen credentials, not just unauthorised transactions.

Eligible customers can claim up to ₹25,000 for losses of up to ₹50,000 if they report the fraud within five days; the pilot framework takes effect from January 1, 2027.

Topic

1930

Details

2023 - 9.7 lakh
cybercrime
complaints

News

1 - VJA - 2018

RBI has expanded customer protection by revising rules on compensation for certain digital frauds.

Issued By

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

RBI

Effective From

1 January 2027

220 cr

Nature

gumma.

Pilot framework (valid initially for one year)

270 cr

Amends

2
Amends
3

RBI's 2017 Circular – Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions

Earlier (2017 Rules)

Compensation mainly for **unauthorised electronic transactions**

Focus on hacking/unauthorised access

Reporting window: **3 working days**

Implementation earlier

Revised Rules (2026)

Expanded to include **certain authorised transactions obtained through fraud, coercion or stolen credentials**

Also covers **social engineering scams**, digital arrest scams, OTP/credential theft (subject to conditions)

Reporting window extended to **5 calendar days**

Effective from **1 January 2027**

What is a "Fraudulent Electronic Banking Transaction (EBT)"?

Covered Cases

Transactions done using ~~stolen credentials~~

Transactions made under ~~coercion, duress or fraud~~

Digital ~~arrest~~ scams

OTP or credential theft through social engineering

Not Covered

Customer knowingly ignores bank warnings

Fraud due to customer's gross negligence

Failure to update mobile number/email with bank

Scams involving losses above ₹50,000 (under this pilot framework)

Compensation Structure

Criteria

Maximum eligible loss

Compensation

Maximum compensation

Eligibility

Losses above ~~₹50,000~~

Details

Up to ₹50,000

85% of loss

₹25,000

Once in a lifetime under the pilot scheme

Not covered under this framework

85% of loss

₹50,000

₹25,000

Eligibility Conditions

Condition	Requirement
Report fraud	Within 5 calendar days
Helpline	1930 (National Cybercrime Helpline)
Customer negligence	May make customer ineligible
Bank may waive liability	At its own discretion

Timeline for Banks

Process	Timeline
Customer reports fraud	Within 5 days
Complaint resolution	45–60 days
Framework effective	1 January 2027

Key Features

Feature	Details
Covers	Certain frauds involving coercion or stolen credentials
Not limited to	Pure hacking/unauthorised transactions
Objective	Strengthen consumer protection against sophisticated cyber fraud
Pilot Period	Initially one year

Important Terms

Term	Meaning
Social Engineering	Manipulating users into revealing passwords, OTPs or banking credentials
Digital Arrest Scam	Fraudsters impersonate officials and coerce victims into transferring money
OTP	One-Time Password used for transaction authentication
EBT	Electronic Banking Transaction

Delhi mandates all new 2-wheelers be electric from '28 to fight pollution

100% road tax waiver for four-wheelers priced up to Rs 30 lakh; cash incentives for buying electric two- three-wheelers

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, June 29

NO PETROL motorcycles and scooters can be registered in Delhi after March 31, 2028, the Delhi government announced on Monday. The registration of new CNG auto-rickshaws will stop at the end of this year. Beginning April 2028, therefore, every new two- and three-wheeler sold in Delhi will have to be an electric vehicle (EV).

The decisions, part of the Delhi government's EV Policy 2.0, represent a sweeping, first-of-its kind policy reform in the country, aimed at making a significant contribution to the Capital's chronic air pollution problem.

The policy will come into effect on July 1, following approval from Lt Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who announced the decision of the Delhi Cabinet on Monday, described the EV Policy as a major step to-



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta at the Secretariat, Monday. ABHINAV SAHA

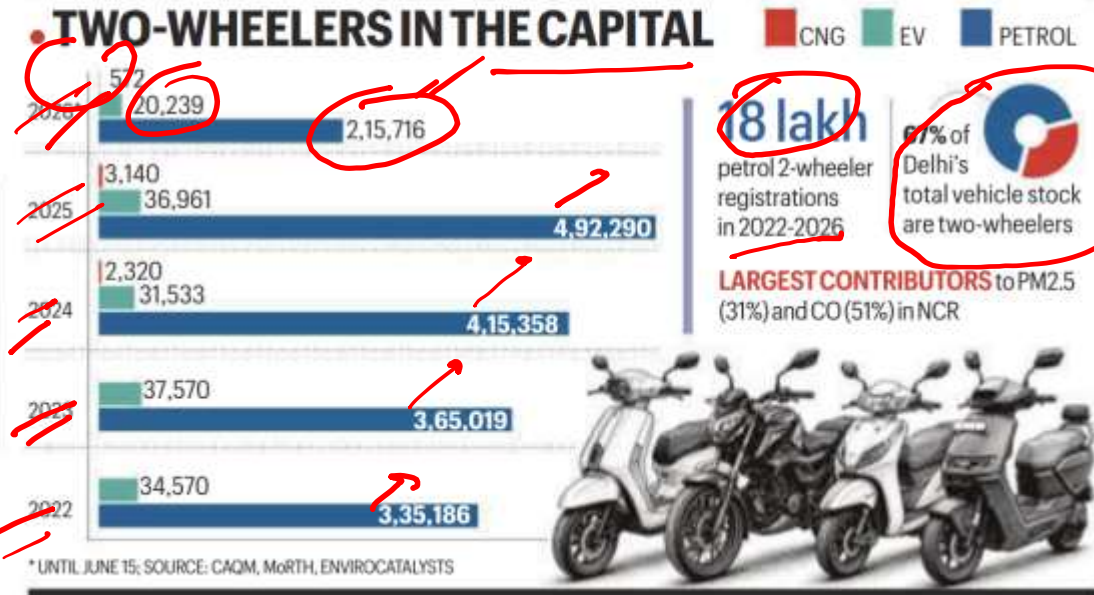
INSIDE PAGE 4

INCENTIVES, TAX EXEMPTIONS: HOW BUYERS BENEFIT

EXPERTS PUSH FOR INFRA BOOST

wards making Delhi pollution-free by March 31, 2030. The government would spend Rs 15,000 crore on incentives and on strengthening the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Two-wheelers constitute two-thirds of Delhi's vehicles, why this shift matters

Sophiya Mathew & Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, June 29

THE DELHI Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy announced on Monday focuses on two priorities: a phased transition to mandatory electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and

light-duty trucks, and a conscious emphasis on pure EVs over strong hybrid vehicles.

The policy aims to achieve a minimum 30% electrification of Delhi's vehicle fleet by March 31, 2030, when the policy runs out.

The transport sector is

among the most significant contributors to Delhi's air pollution. While winter episodes of

bad air get the most attention, vehicular emissions remain a persistent source of pollution through the year, making the transition to

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Handwritten notes in red ink:

- 2 lakh
- 1/10
- 2%
- 2028

Topic

Details

News

Delhi Government has approved **EV Policy 2.0**, making all new two-wheelers electric from **1 April 2028**.

State

Delhi

Policy Name

Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0

Approved By

Delhi Cabinet

Chief Minister

Rekha Gupta

Effective From

1 July 2026

Major Provision

No new petrol two-wheelers can be registered after 31 March 2028.

Provision

New Two-Wheelers

New Three-Wheelers

New CNG Auto-rickshaws

Petrol Scooters/Motorcycles

Four-Wheelers

Purchase Incentives

Details

Only **Electric Vehicles (EVs)** from **1 April 2028**

Only **Electric** from April 2028

Registration ends **31 December 2027**

Registration prohibited after **31 March 2028**

100% road tax waiver for eligible EVs priced up to **₹30 lakh**

Cash incentives for electric two- and three-wheelers

Policy Targets

Target	Details
Fleet Electrification	30% of Delhi's vehicle fleet by 2030
Long-Term Goal	Cleaner transport and reduced air pollution
Government Investment	Around ₹15,000 crore for incentives and EV infrastructure

Why Focus on Two-Wheelers?

Fact	Data
Share of Delhi's vehicle fleet	67% are two-wheelers
Petrol two-wheelers registered (2022–2026)	18 lakh
Contribution to PM2.5 pollution	31%
Contribution to Carbon Monoxide (CO)	51%

Registration Trend (As shown)

Year	Petrol	Electric (EV)	CNG
2022	3,35,186	34,570	—
2023	3,65,019	37,570	—
2024	4,15,358	31,533	2,320
2025	4,92,290	36,961	3,140
2026*	2,15,716	20,239	572

*2026 data is up to mid-June.

151'

Why is the Policy Important?

Area	Impact
Air Pollution	Reduces PM2.5 and vehicular emissions
Climate Action	Supports India's clean mobility goals
Fuel Imports	Reduces dependence on imported crude oil
Public Health	Improves urban air quality

Scheme

PM E-DRIVE ~~Scheme~~

National Electric ~~Mobility~~ Mission
Plan (NEMMP) 2020

Production ~~Linked~~ Incentive (PLI)
Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell
Batteries

Production Linked Incentive (PLI)
Scheme for Automobile and Auto
Components

Purpose

Promote electric mobility and charging
infrastructure

Long-term EV adoption strategy

Domestic battery manufacturing

Boost EV and auto manufacturing

DIKSHA Becomes "One
Nation, One Digital Platform"

Topic

Details

News

DIKSHA positioned as "**One Nation, One Digital Platform**" for school education

Platform Name

DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)

Launch Year

2017

Announced

28 June 2026

Sector

Digital School Education

Managed By

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Technical Support

Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)

Coverage

Foundational Stage to **Class XII**

Target Users

Students, Teachers, Parents, School Administrators

Feature	Details
Curriculum	<u>NCF/Board-based digital learning resources</u>
Education Boards	Used by almost all <u>States & Union Territories</u>
Model	Federated Model (States customize content while using a common platform)
QR-enabled Textbooks	Yes (Energised Textbooks)
Videos	Educational videos
Virtual Labs	Available
2D & 3D Content	Available
Augmented Reality (AR)	Available
Indian Sign Language	Supported
Accessibility	Text-to-Speech, DAISY content for visually impaired learners

Language Support

Category	Number
----------	--------

Indian Languages	36
------------------	----

Foreign Languages	7
-------------------	---

Teacher Training

Programme	Purpose
-----------	---------

NISHTHA	National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement
----------------	--

Training Mode	Self-paced online training
---------------	----------------------------

Certification	Digital certificates after course completion
---------------	--



Topic

Full Form

Parent Ministry

Launch Year

Technical Partner

Academic Body

Education Policy Linked

Learning Mode

Access

Fact

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)

Ministry of Education

2017


CIET

NCERT

NEP 2020

Online & Offline

Mobile App + Web Portal



A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a tiger's face, focusing on its eyes, nose, and whiskers. The tiger has a rich orange-brown coat with dark black stripes and white underparts. Its eyes are a golden-yellow color, and its nose is a reddish-pink hue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown.

All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026

Topic

Exercise Name

Cycle

Started

Conducted By

Scientific Name of Tiger

Objective

Previous Estimation

Tiger Population (2022)

India's Share of Global Wild Tigers

2022

Tiger

2026

Details

All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026

6th nationwide tiger estimation

January 2026

National tiger census across India

Panthera tigris

Estimate tiger population, habitat quality, and distribution

2022

3,682 tigers

Around 75%

Methodology

Phase	Work Done
Phase I	Sign surveys, pugmarks, scat, habitat assessment (Jan–Feb 2026)
Phase II	Camera trapping (40–60 days)
Phase III	Genetic/DNA analysis of collected samples
Expected Final Report	2027

State-Level Highlights

State	Key Update
Tamil Nadu	Phase-I started on 5 January 2026 across all five tiger reserves
Karnataka	Survey in 54 forest divisions , about 400 field staff and 550 camera traps
Telangana	Survey conducted 19–25 January 2026 ; preliminary findings released 27 June 2026

Parameter

Project Tiger

Project Lion

Project Elephant

Launch Year

1973 (1 April)

~~2020~~ (Announced by Government of India)

1992 (~~1991-92~~)

Launched By

Government of India

Government of India

Government of India

Ministry

Ministry of Environment,
Forest & Climate Change
(MoEFCC)

MoEFCC

MoEFCC

Target Species

Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)

Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*)

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*)

IUCN Status

Endangered (EN)

Endangered (EN)

Endangered (EN)

Objective

Tiger conservation and
habitat protection

Long-term conservation of Asiatic
lions and expansion of habitat

Elephant conservation,
habitat protection and
conflict mitigation

Major Focus

Tiger reserves, anti-
poaching, habitat
restoration

Disease management, habitat
expansion, genetic diversity, human-
lion conflict

Elephant corridors, habitat
restoration, reducing
human-elephant conflict

Protected Areas

Tiger Reserves

Gir Landscape and other potential
habitats

Elephant Reserves

Implementing Authority

National Tiger Conservation
Authority (NTCA)

MoEFCC with Government of
Gujarat

Project Elephant Division,
MoEFCC

Flagship Scheme

Yes

Yes

Yes

Word of the day

Pother:

an excited state of agitation

Synonyms: fuss, panic, bother

Usage: *There is no need to pother over every little detail.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pother

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /pɒðə/



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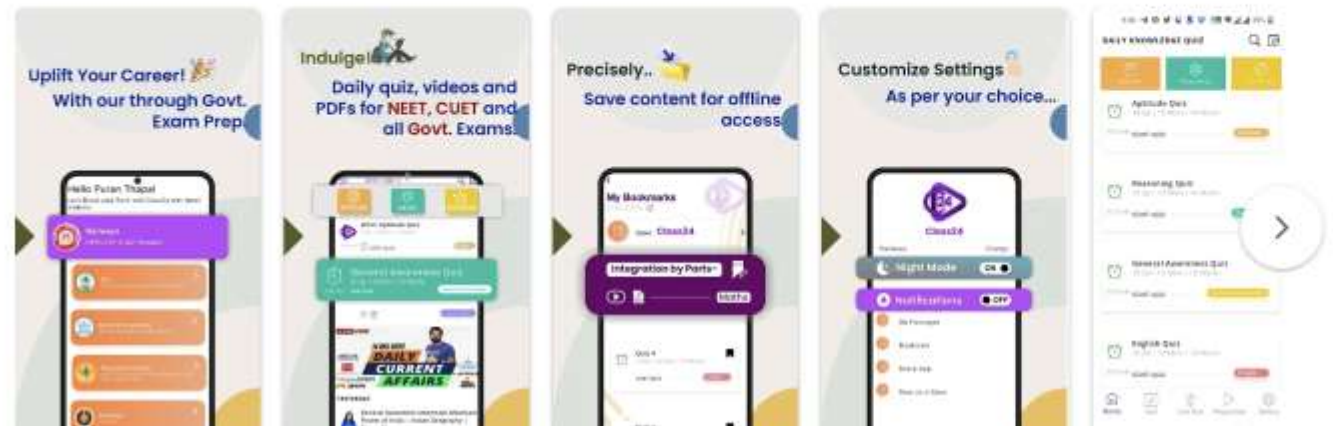
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