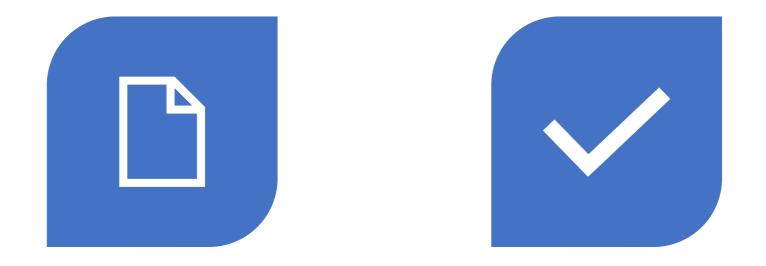


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"Life is better when you're laughing."



INSIDE



37 bodies found in Telangana factory blast

Kallol Bhattacherjee

ndia and Brazil will discuss ways to ad-vance the priorities of

the Global South in the coming days, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

ahead of his five-nation vi-sit beginning on

Mr. Modi, who will attend the BRICS summit to be held in Brazil's Rio De

Wedne

HYDERABAD The body of one more worke was recovered at the Sigachi ndustries blast site or Wednesday afternoon, taking the number of recovered bodies to 37. The company told the NSE that 40 of its workers were killed. » PAGE :

Phone taps 'not allowed as crime fighting measure

create a "balanced multi-polar world order". He further said the five-nation visit will help strengthen cooperation within the Global South. The Prime Minister is expected to hold several bilateral meet-ings on the sidelines of the summit as well. CHENNAL CHENNAI in a significant verdict on a ples field on behalf of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the Madras High Court refused to expand the scope of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to permit the Central and State governments to resort to phone tapping as a covert measure for crime detection a Back 3 Argentina on itinerary

Uddhav urges SC to hear plea on Shiv Sena name

NEW DELHI

detection. >> PAGE 2

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddha Thackeray urged the Supreme Court on Wednesday to hear an application to let his factio to use the 'Shiv Sena' name with its reserved symbol of 'bow and arrow', 'saffron flag with two horizontal conical ends' with the emblem of 'roaring tiger' for the upcomin Maharashtra polls. » PAGE 4

'Bihar voter roll revision to affect two crore people

NEW DELH

The Special Intensive Rev of electoral rolls currently under way in Bihar could disenfranchise at least tw crore voters in the State, especially the migrant population, a delegation leaders from the Indian National Developmenta Inclusive Alliance said o Wednesday. » PAGE 5



Toll rises to 11 as heavy rain batters Himachal's Mandi

CHANDIGARH At least 11 people have died in incidents of cloudburst and flash floods triggered by a heavy spell of rain in Mandi district of Himachal Prades district of Himachai Pradesn between the intervening night of June 30 and July 1. At least 40 people are missing across the State. >> PAGE 4

CM (

which included facial-re-cognition systems and de-signation of yatra routes as no-fly zones, while local people extended a warm welcome. The annual pilgrimage will officially kick off from Thursday will officially kick off from Thursday. The first batch arrived in 299 vehicles at the base camps of Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal dis-trict and Nunwan in south



BRICS will create a balanced

'multipolar' world order: PM

PM lands in Ghana as he begins his five-nation trip; he says the visits will strengthen cooperation within Global South; Modi

Janeiro during the trip, said the summit will help create a "balanced multiant ties: Prime M Ghana President John Mahama in Accra on Wedr

"As a founding member, India is committed to BRICS as a vital platform or cooperation among

sday. ANI emerging economies. To-gether, we strive for a more peaceful, equitable, Just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order," said Mr. Modi in a depar-ture statement as he board-ed the official aircraft that landed in Ghana for a bilat-eral visit. The Prime Minister will emerging economies. To genter, we strive for a more heat of the form on 194 9. According to Ghamaian news outlet *Graphic*-compt, the Foreign Minis-ture statement as he board ed the official aircraft that aral visit. The Prime Minister will bago, Argentina, and Namibia, before concluding



Pilgrims' progress: Devotees arrive at Baltal base camp in Ganderbal, Jammu and Ka Kashmir opens arms to first batch of

Amarnath pilgrims amid tight security Kashmir's Anantnag, for toric than previous years." facial recognition system Peerzada Ashio The unprecedented se-curity cover comes in the wake of the Pahalgam at-RINAGAR

acclimatisation a bead of the pilgrimage, which re-quires trekking to an alti-tude of over 14,000 feet. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Ma-noj Sinha, who flagged off The first batch of around 5,485 pilgrims undertaking the annual Amarnath Yatra eached the Kashmir Valley n Wednesday under a multi-tier and revamped security arrangement, which included facial-re-

noj Sinha, who Bagged off the first batch of devoteses from the Bhagwati Nagar watch and the Bhagwati Nagar The administration, neo-ple of J&K, the Shri Arnar-nath Shrine Bourd, J&K Pol-ka, and security forces and security forces and security forces and security forces and the security for the security and the security for the security for and the security for the secu

have been set up at the en-try point of Pahalgam. The systems are connected to a database of militants and tack that left 26 civilians dead in the Baisaran mea-dow, which falls near the traditional Nunwan-Chantheir alleged supporters in the Valley. Also, the twin routes of traditional Nunwan Chan-danwari yatra route in Amarag. With Rower were greeted with Rowers. Let us walk together in the spirit of peace and brotherbood. With Rowers. Let us walk together in the spirit of the spirit of the spirit together in the spirit of the spirit of the spirit kashnir to win." Mushtag Pahalgami, who heads the chan Amore gradi Chan Spirit of the spirit chan and the spirit of the chan and the spirit of the chan and the spirit of the yatra – Pahalgam-Chandanwari-Pissu Top-Sheshnag-Panchtarni-Holy snesnnag-Panchtarni-Holy Cave and the Baltal-Do-mail-Barari-Holy Cave – were designated as no-fly zones. zones. Enthusiastic devotees expressed satisfaction over the security measures put in place for the yatra J&K Chief Minister Omar Ab-dullah extended his "heart-felt wishes to all devotees embarking on the sacred journey".

and talks would be held with Mr. Modi during the clude the late French President Jacques Chirac, King Mohammed VI of Morocvisit regarding vaccine pro-duction in Ghana. From Ghana, Mr. Modi will fly to Trinidad and Toco, President Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva of Brazil, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former Namibian Presibago where he will be host-ed by Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar.

ed by Prime Minister Kam-la Veran Bissessar. An opportunity to rejuve-nate the special bonds of or unite us," said Mr. Modi. The Government of Trini-dad and Tobago has an the conferred with the Or-der of the Republic of Tri-nidad and Tobago, the be conferred with the Or-der of the Republic of Tri-nidad and Tobago, the Carlbean nation. Following the BRICS summit, Mr. Modi will pro-visit. Child will back home bia. Mr. Modi will meet President Neturnbo Nandi Nelarwing an darbess the Parliament. with President John Dra-mani Mahama in Ghana. "Ghana is a valued partner in the Global South and In the Global South and plays an important role in the African Union and the West African States (20:Co-WAS)," said Mr. Modi, ad-ding that his vair will build Glana and help in opening up areas like investment, energy, health, capacity ipartnership. Mr. Modi will also ad-dress the Parliament of Ablakwa has said that Cha-na plants to emerge as the

na plans to emerge as the "vaccine hub" for Africa

Iran halts cooperation with nuclear watchdog

Agence France-Presse Iran on Wednesday official ly suspended its coopera tion with the UN nuclear watchdog, a move trig gered by the unprecedent ed Israeli and United State: strikes on its nuclear facil

ties. Last month's 12-day co-flict between Iran and Is-rael has sharply escalated tensions between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. FULL REPORT

....

The police said The Hindu Bureau affected individuals, or their families, can The Jammu & Kashmir Polcontact the helpline ice on Wednesday started number circulating special phone numbers to reopen cases of victims of militancy in harvefers to respense to the Union Perritory and identify the perpetrators currently working in geo According to the just Police, declared gris hore been set up in Anarr nag, Awantipart, Budgmin Baramulla, and Sopore in the function of the set of the set of the set up the been set up in Anarr nag, Awantipart is a long to the set of the set up the been set up in Anarr nag, Awantipart is a long to the set of the set up the been set being set up the barmen rebeing set up the set of the set of the set of the set up the set of the set up the set of the set o



The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism

Bring perpetrators

QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' JOINT STATEMENT

Suhasini Haidar actively with all relevan NEW DELHI authorities in this regard, the joint statement added. New DBLHI The Quad Foreign Minis-ters have condemned the Phalagan terror attack in called for the perpetrators of the attack to be brought to justice "without any de-lay", a joint statement its mean transmission of the statement mean the statement was is-sued on Tuesday night af-ter the four Ministers – Ik-sued on Tuesday night af-ter the four Minister – Ik-pisihankar, Australiu's Fo-reign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's Foreign Wong, and Japan's Foreign were hosted by U.S. Secre-tary of State Marco Rubio ability of the second s

tary of State Marco Rubio dent Donald Trump in tary of State Marco Rubio for the Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), held ahead of the Quad Summit expected to be held in No-vember in India this year. January this year. However this is the first formal Quad FMM since the Trump ad-ministration took over. In a significant departure from previous Quad Foreign Mi-Condemns terror nisters' statements, mos "The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terronotably under the previous U.S. administration under Joe Biden, the latest joint statement dropped refe-rences to the Russia-Uk-

rism and violent extre-mism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, raine war and the Israel and renews our commit-Gaza conflict, indicating a more narrow geographica focus than before, with ment to counterterrorism cooperation," the state-ment said, condemning the Pahagam attack. Transmission of the september trators, organisers, and fi-nanciers of this reprehen-sible act to be brought to justice without any delay estimation of the september States, in accordance with their obligations under in-ternational law and rele-vant UNSCRs [United Na-ther States] to cooperate ment to count rnorism greater emphasis on the In-do-Pacific region. Without directly naming

Without directly naming China, the grouping ex-pressed "serious con-cerns" over the situation in the East China Sea. The Quad Ministers said South China Sea. The Quad Ministers and they strongly opposed "any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coerclor" in the Indo-Pacific.

AB

Special cells to reopen cases of militancy victims in J&K

kin on priority". The Lieutenant-Gover nor also directed the Depu ty Commissioners and Se nior Superintendents o Police to take immediat measures to free proper ties of the families of terror victims and land grabbed by terrorists or their symnathisers "Identify those elements from the terror ecosystem who were in ecosystem who were in-volved in killing of com-mon Kashmiris and cur-rently working in government departments. Financial assistance under MUDRA and handholding must be extended to the terror victim family mem-bers who want to start their self-employment ven-ture."

BRICS will create a balanced 'multipolar' world order: PM

<u>PM lands in Ghana as he begins his five-nation trip</u>; he says the visits will strengthen cooperation within Global South; Modi will also attend the BRICS summit in Brazil and hold meetings; he will receive state honours of Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

ndia and Brazil will discuss ways to advance the priorities of the Global South in the coming days, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his five-nation visit beginning on Wednesday.

Mr. Modi, who will attend the BRICS summit to be held in Brazil's Rio De Janeiro during the trip, said the summit will help create a "balanced multipolar world order". He further said the five-nation visit will help strengthen cooperation within the Global South. The Prime Minister is expected to hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit as well.

Argentina on itinerary "As a founding member,

India is committed to BRICS as a vital platform for cooperation among



Pleasant ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Ghana President John Mahama in Accra on Wednesday. ANI

emerging economies. Together, we strive for a more peaceful, equitable, just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order," said Mr. Modi in a departure statement as he boarded the official aircraft that landed in Ghana for a bilateral visit.

The Prime Minister will also visit Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Na-

mibia, before concluding the trip on July 9.

According to Ghanaian news outlet *Graphic*. .com.gh, the Foreign Minister of Ghana Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa had announced that Mr. Modi will receive the country's highest state honour, the Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana, during the visit. Previous recipients of the honour include the late French President Jacques Chirac, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, President Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva of Brazil, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Mr. Modi will hold talks with President John Dramani Mahama in Ghana. "Ghana is a valued partner in the Global South and plays an important role in the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECO-WAS)," said Mr. Modi, adding that his visit will build on India's historic ties with Ghana and help in opening up areas like investment, energy, health, capacity building and development partnership.

Mr. Modi will also address the Parliament of Ghana during the visit. Mr. Ablakwa has said that Ghana plans to emerge as the "vaccine hub" for Africa

and talks would be held with Mr. Modi during the visit regarding vaccine production in Ghana.

From Ghana, Mr. Modi will fly to Trinidad and Tobago where he will be hosted by Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar.

"This visit will provide an opportunity to rejuvenate the special bonds of ancestry and kinship that unite us," said Mr. Modi. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has announced that Mr. Modi will be conferred with the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the highest state honour of the Caribbean nation.

Following the BRICS summit, Mr. Modi will proceed to Brasilia for a state visit.

On the way back home, Mr. Modi will stop at Namibia. Mr. Modi will meet President Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah and address the Joint Session of Namibian Parliament.

Countries on the Itinerary

- Ghana
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Namibia
- Argentina
- **Brazil** (for BRICS Summit)

📌 Key Objectives

- Strengthen cooperation within the Global South.
- Promote a balanced, democratic, multipolar world order.

 \checkmark

- Advance discussions on:
 - Investment
 - Energy
 - Health
 - Capacity building
 - Development partnerships

Image: BRICS Summit - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- PM Modi to attend BRICS Summit.
- India committed to BRICS as a platform for Global South cooperation.
- Focus on creating a "balanced multipolar world order".
- Emphasis on:
 - Peace
 - Equity
 - Justice
 - Democratic international order

🚅 Bilateral Engagements - Ghana

- Talks with President John Dramani Mahama.
- Ghana's role:
 - Key partner in African Union and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States).
 - Historic ties with India.
- PM Modi to address Ghanaian Parliament.
- To be conferred:
 - Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana, country's highest civilian honour.

💌 Trinidad & Tobago Visit

- Hosted by PM Kamla Persad Bissessar.
- Highlights:
 - Focus on cultural and ancestral ties with the Indian diaspora.
 - PM Modi to be honoured with:
 - Order of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, nation's highest civilian honour.

🌌 Namibia Visit

- Meeting with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.
- Address to Joint Session of Namibia's Parliament.

🖾 Argentina Engagement

- India's commitment to deepening ties with Argentina.
- Strengthening BRICS as a cooperation platform for emerging economies.

Significance for India & Global South

- India positioning itself as a leader of **Global South**.
- Advocating:
 - Reform of global governance structures.
 - Greater voice for developing nations.
- Strengthening partnerships with Africa, Latin America, and Caribbean nations.

Full Form	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
Founded	2009 (South Africa joined in 2010)
Initial Term (BRIC)	Coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001
Members	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
2024 Members (Post Expansion)	Total 10 members (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE added)
Total Members (2024)	10 Countries
Population (2024)	Approx. 3.6 billion (~45% of world population)
Population (2024) Total GDP (2024)	Approx. 3.6 billion (~45% of world population) Approx. \$28 trillion (about 27% of global GDP)



BRICS Bank	New Development Bank (NDB), established in 2014, HQ: Shanghai, China
Recent BRICS Summit (2024)	Hosted by South Africa (Johannesburg)
Next BRICS Summit (2025)	To be hosted by Russia
Key Institutions	New Development Bank (NDB), Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS Business Council
Recent Expansion Countries (2024)	Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE
Notable Initiatives	BRICS Payment System (under development), Local Currency Trade Discussions, Global South Cooperation
Challenges	Internal political differences, Geopolitical tensions (e.g., China-India), Economic disparity among members
Opportunities	Strengthening Global South voice, Alternative to Western-dominated institutions, Boost to intra-BRICS trade

THE HINDU States

cheque was given to Ajith Kumar's mother on behalf of the DMK. Manamadurai MLA A. Tamilarasi Raviku-

mar was also present on

the occasion. Ajith Kumar, a security

temple in Madapuram vil-lage, was taken into police custody last week, after a

woman lodged a complain

that gold jewellery and cash were missing from

guard at Bathrakaliami





Mohali court extends remand of Majithia by four days

A Mohali court on Wednesday extended by four A Mohali court on Wednesday extended by four Alexan and the second second second second Alexan and the second second second second Majithia was produced before the court and the second second second second second second remand ended on Wednesday. Public prosecutor Ferry Sofat told the media that the court days after the Vigilance Bureau (and application. The Punjab Vigilance Bureau application. The Punjab Vigilance Bureau with allegedly laundering of 5500 crose of 'drug with allegedly laundering of ₹540 crore of "drug money". On June 26, Mr. Majithia was remanded to seven days of vigilance custody. m

NHRC notice to Odisha govt. over assault of two persons

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday said it had issued notices to the Oddsha government and the State's police chief over reports that two people belonging to the distribution of the state state of the state to ear grass, and drink drain water on suspicion of llegal cattle smaggling in Ganjam district. Their mobile phones were reportedly snatched and their heads were also forcibly tonsared by the people belonging to another community, it of a media report revealing that two persons of a media report revealing that two persons were beaten up, forced to eat grass and drink drain water, on suspicion of illegally smuggling cattle by people belonging to other community on June, 26," it said in a statement.



Mohamed Imranullah S. The Madras Highe day refused to ex-band the scope of Section 5CD of the Indian Tele-mit the Central and State governments to resort to measure to detect crimes. Usatice N. Anand Venka quart made on behalf of the Union Ministry of the Union Ministry of

of phones in this instance cannot be justified, says judge. REUTERS court is unable to accept this submission since the boundaries for invasion of a fundamental right through the medium of enacted law is a function of

interest of public safety. "The role of the court is confined to seeing as to whether this threshold is ssed or not," the judge

firmed by a Bench of the top court in the 2019 K.S. Puttaswamy case. Saying he had no choice but to follow the decisions to follow the decisions judge added that it was another reason why he could not accept the re-quest to expand the scope of Section 5(2) to help the top prevent serious crimes to prevent serious crimes such as corruption involv-5(2) sets out the Lakshman Rekha for resorting to the extreme measure of phone tapping, which amounts to invasion of the right to pri-vacy, a right that had been recognised as an integral part of the fundamental right to life and personal li-berty, suaranteed under Declining to expand the Declining to expand the scope of the legal provision any further, he said: "As sentinels on the qui vive, the courts are gate-keepers (Gate-keepers) and be-come gate-makers to repo-sition the gates as and when the executive re-quires, without the inter-vention of the legislature." such as corruption involv-ing public servants and others. "However noble and well-intended the ob-jective may be, tapping of phones, dehors a "public more servation the sinter the right to privacy since 1604, the judge said it finalemergency' or in the 'inter-

Two contingencies As per Section 5(2), the Centre or the State governly came to be recognised as ests of public safety' as

ever noble and well-intended the objective may be, the tapping phone tapping only in case of two contingencies: on the occurrence of any pu-blic emergency, or in the

the PUCL verdict was af-firmed by a Bench of the

the petitioner. Justice Venkatesh held the Home Secretary's or-der to be unconstitutional, since it had been passed in violation of Section 5(2) of the 1885 Act. Further, the precodural provingment of procedural requirement of placing the Secretary's authorisation before the

review committee had not been followed, he said.

T.N. custodial death: victim's brother given government job

The Hindu Bureau cting on Tamil Nadu

ted in Section 5(2) subulated in Section 5(2) o the Act, cannot be legally justified as the law present ly stands," the judge said while allowing a 2018 wri-petition

P. Kishore of Chenn

P. Kishore of Chennai-based Everonn Education Limited had filed the peti-tion to quash an authorisa-tion issued by the Union Home Secretary on August 12, 2011, for the CBI to in-tercept his phone calls. The intercepted calls led to the arrest of Additional Commissioner of Income Tax Andrean Beninder, for Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's orders, Minister for Co-op-eration K.R. Periyakarup-Tax Andasu Ravinder for pan and Sivaganga Collec-tor K. Porkodi handed over allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹50 lakh. Holding that there was a job appointment order and a patta (bond) to B. Naabsolutely no question of 'public emergency' or 'pu-blic safety' in the present veen Kumar, 27, the broth-er of Sivaganga custodial death victim B. Ajith Kubic safety' in the present case, requiring the tapping of the petitioner's phone, the judge ordered that the intercepted calls should not be used for any pur-pose, not even as evidence in the criminal trial against the period death victim B. Ajith Ku-mar, at his house in Madap-puram on Wednesday. Mr. Stalin on Tuesday spoke with the family over

cash were missing from her car when she returned after darshan. Ajith Kumar had helped her park the vehicle, police sources said. He was reportedly tortured, and died in pol-ice custody. On Monday, free policemen were errort. spoke with the family over the phone and assured them of assistance. The appointment order for the post of technician at the Sivagnaga District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union, Karaikudi, was handed over to Mr. Naveen Kumar. Besides, the bond for three cents of land at Theli revenue village was five policemen were arrest ed and charged with his murder. On Tuesday, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, directed the Fourth Additional District Theli revenue village was given to the family. Judge, Madurai, S. John Sunderlal Suresh, to con Mr. Periyakaruppan also handed over a ₹5 lakh a duct a thorough inquiry in-to the case and submit a recheque to the family. The port on July 8.

Maharashtra Opposition stage + walkout over plight of farmers

The Hindu Bureau

Opposition legislators staged a walkout from the Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday, raising con-cerns over the deepening agararian crisis, including alleged irregularities in combon soybean procurement, non-payment of dues, and rising farmer suicides. Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar led the charge, highlighting the plight of soybean farmers who have

not received payments un-der the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. "Anthe matter. Cooperation and Mar-Price (MSP) scheme. "An-nadata has been betrayed," he said, accusing the go-vernment of making false promises and delaying rightful payments

Cooperation and Mar-keting Minister Jaykumar Rawal claimed soybean procurement was conduct-ed on a record scale across 562 centres, involving more than 51,000 farmers. rightful payments. Mr. Wadettiwar said that more than 51,000 farmers. He said \$5,500 crore had already been transferred directly into farmers' bank accounts. However, a con-troversy emerged during the discussion involving the Andura Shetkari Com-Mr. Wadettiwar said that in just the past three months, 767 farmers have died by suicide, with 200 cases declared ineligible for compensation and inquiries still pending in 194



journment motion seeking pany, a farmer collective detailed discussion on from Balapur tehsil in Ako-la district. The group failed to deliver 1,297 quintals of homes. soybean to the government warehouse despite logging procurement records. The Minister assured The Minister assured the House that efforts were ongoing to ensure affected farmers receive their dues. Dissatisfied with the go-vernment's response and the rejection of the ad-journment motion, Oppo-sition members staged a walkout from the House. schools under the guise of pairing or integration of primary schools appears unfair, unnecessary and anti-poor at first glance. It is an appeal to the govern-ment to immediately with-draw this decision in the larger interest of the poor students, wrote Ms. Maya-

the legislature and not of the court," he said. Section 5(2) sets out the Lakshman

berty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitu-tion, the judge said.

ments could authorise



Mayank Kumar U.P. govt. is planning to merge schools Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Wednesday described the Uttar Pradesh govern-ment's plan to merge or consolidate primour having enrolment of less than 50 students with nearby school wati, on X. The U.P. government is planning to merge schools having enrolment of less than 50 students, with nearby educational faciliconsolidate primary schools with low student enrolment as "anti-poor and unfair", saying that it will "deprive" crores of children from economically weaker backgrounds of ties to make the education accessible and affordable education near their system "more functional and viable". As a part of the consolidation plan, stu-

"The decision taken by the consolidation plan, stu-dents from these schools will be accommodated in nearby facilities to ensure their continued education. the Basic Education Coun-cil to close down many schools under the guise of 'Will withdraw it'

"Will withdraw it? The former four-time U.P. CM said if the school merg-er plan is implemented, she will withdraw it and bring in the old system whenever her party forms the government.

crowd control. Exit routes

The Odisha Administrative Service Association (OA-SA), the largest body of State-level civil servants, between protest, demanding the immediate arrest of Bharatiya Janata Party swho allegeddy orchestrate, who allegeddy orchestrate, and a second second second second second second a second second second second a second second second second a second second second second second a second second second second second a second second second second a second second second second second a second second second second a second second second second second a second second second second second a second second second second second second a second second second second second second a second second second second second second second second a second second second second second second second a second second second second second second second second a second second second second second second second second second a second s The Odisha Adminis tack on Ratnakar Sahoo, Additional Commissioner of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, who was dragged from his office and beaten by BJP workers. The OASA condemned the The OASA condemned the incident and issued an ulti-matum, declaring their de-mand for Mr. Pradhan's ar-rest as "urgent and non-negotiable." "This heinous act is a stark reminder of the risks

stark reminder of the rises and vulnerabilities faced

::::

"heinous act" of duty. It is not just an asor daty. It is not just an as sault on an individual, but a direct attack on the digni-ty and sanctity of public service in the State,", " said OASA president Jyoti Ran-jan Mishra. 'Dangerous precedent' The association warned that unless swift and strong that unless swift and strong action is taken, such inci-dents could set a "danger-or proceeder the lives and dignity of officers working under difficult circum-stances with limited pro-tection. They also demand-ed increased security for officersi-level executive officersi-level sum

Hathras stampede: one year on, families mourn as trials continue

hi village. Although per

Press Trust of India

One year after the Hathras stampede that claimed 121 lives, families of the victims continue to grapple with grief as the legal battle

drags on. "If Baba really had any powers, he would have shown a miracle that day," snown a miracle that day," says Vinod, who lost three generations of his family – his mother, wife, and daughter – in the deadly stampede during a reli-gious gathering on July 2, 2024. Vinod, 46, runs a shop in Sokhana village of Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district

CM (

Daunkeli village in Hathras. FILE PHO

viving children. But the sorrow weighs heavily. "Kuch nahi, bas mitti kha-rab ho rahi hai (There's nothing left, just my life and cares for his three sur- crumbling)," he says. Additived by Nirmala Labshynan at Kasturi Buildison, 859-860. Anna Salai. Obernai 600502 on behalf of THG PUBLIDHING PVT. LTD. Editor: Saresh Narnbath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).

mission had been granted for 80,000 people, the tur-nout far exceeded expecta-tions. After the event, were inadequate, and no effective security arrangements were in place. "I miss her every day," chaos erupted as devotees rushed toward Bhole Basays Rekha from Sokhana village, who lost her moth-er-in-law. Naina Devi from rushed toward Bhole Ba-ba's vehicle, reportedly to touch his feet and the ground he walked on. Among them were Vinod's Navipur echoes the senti-ment, breaking down as she recalls her own loss. Among them were Vinods mother Jayawati, wife Raja bhoot stampede victima in the dash of atampede victima in the tragedy occurred when over 2.5 lakh follows. Bug There eluster by solf attiged godman Su Bhoote Baba, in Mughal Gar-



"All officers will remain on leave until the demands

Goa govt. combines two schemes, widows to get ₹4,000 monthly

age of 21 in the State will get a financial assistance of 4,000 per month as it has brought under one roof two different women-cen-tric schemes. Addressing a press con-ference in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sa-want, Social Welfare Minis-ter Subhash Phal Desai said until now the eligible cantion had to be submitted to the State Women and Child Welfare Department for the monthly aid of \$2,500 as a widow," he said. Mr. Desais said now both these women-centric schemes have been "brought under the social welfare department" and the widows will get \$4,000 per month. until now the eligible canper month.



condemnation. Forme Chief Minister Naveen Pat naik, without namin naik, without naming Pradhan, urged CM Majhi to take action against the BJP leader. Mr Pradhan who narrowly lost the 2024 Assembly alexit Assembly electionmet se nior BJP leaders at the par ty office for over two host on Wednesday. "Party pre sident Manmohan Sama ned me. I have dis cussed the matter with him. Now I am going home," he said after the

home," he said after the meeting. While earlier specula-tion suggested that Mr. Pradhan might surrender to the police, his meeting has fueled perceptions that the BJP is backing him.

Phone tapping cannot be allowed for crime detection, says HC, rejecting MHA plea

Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 sets out the *Lakshman Rekha* for resorting to phone tapping and the role of the court is confined to see whether it is crossed or not, says Justice N. Anand Venkatesh

Mohamed Imranullah S. CHENNAI

he Madras High Court on Wednesday refused to expand the scope of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, and permit the Central and State governments to resort to phone tapping as a covert measure to detect crimes.

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh rejected such a request made on behalf of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). "This court is unable to accept this submission since the boundaries for invasion of fundamental right а through the medium of enacted law is a function of the legislature and not of the court," he said. Section 5(2) sets out the Lakshman Rekha for resorting to the extreme measure of phone tapping, which amounts to invasion of the right to privacy, a right that had been recognised as an integral part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the judge said.

Two contingencies

As per Section 5(2), the Centre or the State governments could authorise



However noble and well-intended the objective may be, the tapping of phones in this instance cannot be justified, says judge. REUTERS

phone tapping only in case of two contingencies: on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of public safety. "The role of the court is confined to seeing as to whether this threshold is crossed or not," the judge said.

Declining to expand the scope of the legal provision any further, he said: "As sentinels on the *qui vive*, the courts are gate-keepers of fundamental rights. Gate-keepers cannot become gate-makers to reposition the gates as and when the executive requires, without the intervention of the legislature."

Tracing the history of the right to privacy since 1604, the judge said it finally came to be recognised as

a part of Article 21 by the Supreme Court in the 1996 People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) case, and the PUCL verdict was affirmed by a Bench of the top court in the 2019 K.S. Puttaswamy case.

Saving he had no choice but to follow the decisions of the apex Court, the judge added that it was another reason why he could not accept the request to expand the scope of Section 5(2) to help the law enforcement agencies to prevent serious crimes such as corruption involving public servants and others. "However noble and well-intended the objective may be, tapping of phones, dehors a 'public emergency' or in the 'inter-

ests of public safety' as

stipulated in Section 5(2) of the Act, cannot be legally justified as the law presently stands," the judge said, while allowing a 2018 writ petition.

P. Kishore of Chennaibased Everonn Education Limited had filed the petition to quash an authorisation issued by the Union Home Secretary on August 12, 2011, for the CBI to intercept his phone calls. The intercepted calls led to the arrest of Additional Commissioner of Income Tax Andasu Ravinder for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹50 lakh.

Holding that there was absolutely no question of 'public emergency' or 'public safety' in the present case, requiring the tapping of the petitioner's phone, the judge ordered that the intercepted calls should not be used for any purpose, not even as evidence in the criminal trial against the petitioner.

Justice Venkatesh held the Home Secretary's order to be unconstitutional, since it had been passed in violation of Section 5(2) of the 1885 Act. Further, the procedural requirement of placing the Secretary's authorisation before the review committee had not been followed, he said.

- The Madras High Court rejected the Union Home Ministry's plea to expand the scope of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to allow phone tapping for crime detection.
- The Court upheld privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

44 Key Highlights of the Verdict

- Phone tapping amounts to an invasion of privacy, permissible only in:
 - Cases of public emergency
 - Situations concerning **public safety**
- The Court termed Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act as the Lakshman Rekha, setting clear boundaries.
- The role of courts is limited to checking if this threshold is crossed, not to expand its scope.



Background

- The case pertains to a **2018 writ petition** filed by **P. Kishore** of Everonn Education Ltd.
- The Union Home Secretary's 2011 authorisation for phone tapping was challenged.
- The intercepted calls led to a CBI case involving a bribery charge against a senior tax official.

Right to Privacy - Legal Basis

- The Court cited:
 - The PUCL Case (1996): Supreme Court upheld privacy as integral to fundamental rights.
 - K.S. Puttaswamy Judgment (2017): Reaffirmed privacy as a fundamental right.

1 Court's Observations

- Law enforcement agencies cannot bypass legislature to erode privacy protections.
- Even in cases of serious crimes (corruption, public servants' wrongdoings), phone tapping is impermissible unless within the strict boundaries set by law.
- Well-intentioned objectives cannot override legal procedures and privacy protections.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions Involved

Provision/Case	Relevance O
Article 21 of Constitution	Right to life includes right to privacy
Section 5(2), Indian Telegraph Act	Allows phone tapping only for public emergency or public safety
PUCL Case (1996)	Laid down safeguards on phone tapping
K.S. Puttaswamy Case (2017)	Right to privacy as a fundamental right

THE HINDU **Business**

MARKETS

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MARKET WATCH

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INBRIDE



Daimler India unveils trucks for construction, mining

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), a wholly owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, on Wednesday unveiled a range of BharatBenz trucks for construction and mining application While the HX series is for construction, Torqsl Torashif is for mining, and are priced from ₹56 lakh (ex-showroom), the company said. Introduction of HX and Toroshift follows extensive real-world dation, with more than 150 trucks deployed on customer trials, the company said

Indian Bank, PNB drop minimum balance charges

Indian Bank has announced a complete waiver of minimum balance charges across all savings bank accounts effective July 7. Effective July 1, Punjab National Bank, too, has decided to waive penal charges of more on intervences of ownive penal charges of more on intervences of ownive penal charges of more on the second or solution. changes for me, too, international communitial average balance (MAB) in all savings accounts. Indian Bank also announced a reduction of 5 basis points (bps) in its one-year marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR), bringing it down to 9,00%, effective July 3, 2025.

SEBI mandates common contract note with VWAP

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEB) has mandated a common contract note with single volume weighted average price (VWAP) with effect from June 27. "The reform will simplify the post-trade reporting process by output of the second second second second biological second second second second second docupeet, and elimipatine the neget to norcess document, eliminating the need to process multiple contract notes," the regulator said in a

'Mini U.S.-India

likely symbolic'

Mini Tejaswi

Steadfast partnership He added clinching an in-itial agreement would reaf-

enterprise

deal possible but



(RCom) as fraud.

Raising a toast

fund diversion and violations of the terms and conditions of the loan



CHComp as frand. Litt. The country's largest public sector lender has al-so decided to report Mr. the country's largest provide the sector of RCom, to the Re-serve Bank of India (RBI) seeking appropriate action as per the entral bank's the move follows a for-rensic audit by the bank and exchange of show-se spanning over a year. SBI, in a letter to RCom, infimated that its Fraud that its Praud to Lasse. tem. Mr. Ambani is expect-ed to face regulatory and legal action including civil and criminal proceedings and the case might be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (Con Rom, which had turned a near-performing funds which were chan-neiled through related en-ine the second second second second in mutual funds and fixed deposits and cycled via duy to day transactions. Mr. Ambani's lawyers have de-"State Bank of India's or-der referred in the RCom disclosure is shocking and has been passed ex-parts, cibles of natural lustice." tion. RCom, which had surred a non-performing asset (MR), was admitted 2018, and as of March 2025, had a total debt of RC and as of March 2025, had a total debt of RC and a total debt of the RC, the company is protected from any action but its promoter faces lia-bility and critical survey. The source of the source source of the source of the source of the source source of the source of the source of the source source of the source of the source of the source source of the fy the account as fraudu-lent and it had escalated the matter to the banking the matter to the banking regulator for necessary action. FIC's report has mentioned about signifi-cant irregularities, includ-ing fund deversion and vio-ing fund deversion and vio-tor of the bank. SBFs action is in line well of the state of the conditions of the bank. SBFs action is in line well of the state of the rection on Frauds, which provides a framework to deal with entities involved in gaming the banking sysbut its promoter faces lability and criminal pro-bility and criminal pro-ter data and pro-tent pattern of financials RCom and its subsidiaries actions. The forensic au-dit rad revealed large scale diversion of the banks

Jagriti Chandra The guidelines The Centre allowed inclu-sion of "non-transport mo-torcycles" by ride-hailing apps in its revised guide-lines for taxi aggregators at a time States like Karnata-ka have banned bike taxis. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on July 1 provide a regulatory framework for State governments to issue licences and regulate ag gregators. It says State go vernments may adopt these revised guidelines Ind-Ra says M return to not only in H2 of

Centre gives green

Rapido hails move

signal for bike taxis;

The Hindu Bureau Microfinance institution

(MFIs) will return to nor-malcy only by the second half of fiscal 2026, credit half of fiscal 2026, credit rating agency India Ratings aid in a report. The ergans a 'deteriorating outlook.' Ind-Ra cited the recent ordinances by the 'Tamil-vernments creating repay-ment anxieties as one of the reasons for low profits-vernments had brought in ordinances to curb coer-cive practices of collection

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Starlink steps into Sri Lanka, its third market in South Asia

Aroon Deep NEW DELHI Starlink is priced at ₹3.430-4.280 (12.000-15.000 LKR) per month for residential plans

New Ream Starlink, the SpaceX-oper-ated satellite Internet ser-vice, is now available in Sito vice, is now available in Sito allow the service in South Asia after Bhutan and Ban-gladesh, Elon Musk, Spa-nounced the service's availability in the country on his social media plate. Parnil Urdhwareshe, Starlink's top executive in at India, played a role in at the company thas managed rates, Starlink is priced at \$3,430-4,280 (12,000-15,000 LKR) per month for 15,000 LKR) per month for residential connections, and 44,280-8,560 (15,000-30,100 LKR) for portable 'roam' plans. The one-time hardware equipment is priced at 477,185-33,685 (50,200-1,18,000 LKR). The prices are roughly comparable with those an-nounced for the other two South Asian countries. the company has managed in neighbouring countries: he had met Sri Lanka's Presidential mate Cha wardene Mr. Urdh

Adviser on Cli-	
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last July, In 2023,	Starlink obtained a Global
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'High U.S. tariffs to hit labour-intensive units'

tively raising tariffs on In-dian goods to levels higher than "pre-Trump" era le-vels, says the GTRL A GTRI report said In-dia's merchandise exports to U.S. rose to \$86.5 billion in FY25, up 11.6% in FY24. The risk of high tariffs is particularly acute for la-bour-intensive sectors.

and it the U.S. coses file ex-to U.S. rose to 386.5 thankoff riff (26%) and instead just The risk of high tariffs is reduces it to 10%, Indian goods will attract Most Fa-bourd Nation (MFN) tariff plus 10% surcharge, effect \$44.3 billion in 2024/2025.

The Hindu Bureau

The India-U.S. talks for a free trade agreement are expected to conclude soon and if the U.S. does not ex-

in the co to media : At cu award-winning Health As sessment and Lifestyle En richment (HALE) pro gramme, we continue to

the then Informati nication naid Ahn gladesh, trials for t

foster a culture of health, safety, and overall well-ness," the source said

The country's second-argest to work entry is sourced. The source is all more time at work very source to source in the source is all more time at work very source time at work very time at work very source time at work very time at work very source time at work very time at work very source time at the source tinter at the source time at the source

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ilque flavour: The photograph shows Clos Vougeot castle, France. This vineyard, known as a 'Climat', was listed as an UNESCO World ntage Site since 2015. On July 4, Burgundy will celebrate the 10th anniversary of inclusion of 'Climat's in World Hentage List. These as legard plots with an unique lobentity defined by soil, sunshine and rainfall, emboding the spirit and soul of this wine-growing region. A

Mini Tejaswi

a duranti ci proto a query between lassere a de la de al private protection a de la de al protection a de la de la de al protection a de la de gress and building new commercial opportunities. Responding to a query on likely key sticking points, Mr. Keshap said, "The more trade between two countries, the higher the chances for disagree-ments over trade policy. In the end, we need a deal that enables the private sectors of both countries to sectors of both countries to deliver on the promise of

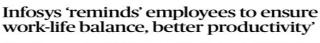


Business Council (USIBC), a mini trade deal would be the first step in the two countries' journey towards achieving the 'Mission 500' target of 5500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030. "There is great promise in building deeper energy and technology ties, in electronics and IT, which will remain strone rollars Africa (MEISA), FedEx, said she was hopeful of seeing a mini deal out by the expected time. "It's due for some time now, and I hope it comes soon. I hope there will be something happening within the timeline itself. That will do good to busi-nesses, trade, and to both countries" she will remain strong pillars of our bilateral trade," Mr. Keshap told The Hindu.

countries," she anticipated. Kumar Deep, Country Director-India, Information Technology Industry Council, a Washington DC based apex body for global tech firms, said, "There is

firm the steadfast partnership between the two governments and show an ever-changing geopoliti-cal situation. We are not sure as to what is going to governments and both parties were committed to trade as a tool for enhancing economic pro-gress and building new





all employees from home and from va-rious offices of the company. "We reach out to em-ployees who are spending more time at work very

SBI classifies RCom loan account as fraud. reports Anil to RBI

The report has mentioned about significant irregularities, including fund diversion and violations of the terms and conditions of the loan

tion. RCom, which had

turned a non-performing

asset (NPA), was admitted

to the IBC process in May

2018, and as of March

2025, had a total debt of

protected from any action

but its promoter faces lia-

bility and criminal pro-

ceedings. SBI's FIC on June

13, 2025 identified a consis-

tent pattern of financial

₹48.216 crore.

Lalatendu Mishra MUMBAI

n a major setback for Reliance Group chairman Anil D. Ambani, the State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to go after him by classifying its loan account of Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom) as fraud.

The country's largest public sector lender has also decided to report Mr. Ambani, the erstwhile director of RCom, to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking appropriate action as per the central bank's guidelines.

The move follows a forensic audit by the bank and exchange of showcause notices and responses spanning over a year. SBI, in a letter to RCom, intimated that its Fraud Identification Committee (FIC) had decided to classify the account as fraudulent and it had escalated the matter to the banking regulator for necessary

action. The FIC's report has mentioned about significant irregularities, including fund diversion and violations of the terms and conditions of the loan. SBI's action is in line with the RBI's Master Di-

misconduct and found that RCom and its subsidiaries were engaged in fund direction on Frauds, which version and opaque tranprovides a framework to sactions. The forensic audeal with entities involved dit had revealed large scale in gaming the banking sys- diversion of the bank's SCN," she said.



funds which were chaned to face regulatory and nelled through related enlegal action including civil tities, temporarily parked and criminal proceedings in mutual funds and fixed and the case might be deposits and cycled via day handed over to the Central to day transactions. Mr. Bureau of Investigation Ambani's lawyers have denied the allegations. (CBI) for further investiga-

"State Bank of India's order referred in the RCom disclosure is shocking and has been passed ex-parte, and in violation of the principles of natural justice," his counsel, Tarini Khura-Under Section 32 A of na, said in response to the IBC, the company is SBI's letter to RCom.

> "SBI has not even responded to Mr. Ambani's communication about the invalidity of the Show Cause Notice (SCN) for almost a year, and has not even provided the information forming the basis of their decision despite being repeatedly requested by Mr. Ambani, to enable him to respond to the

Context

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector lender, has classified the loan account of **Reliance Communications (RCom)** as **fraud**.
- SBI has also reported Anil D. Ambani, former director of RCom, to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for necessary action.

4 Key Developments

- The decision follows:
 - A forensic audit by SBI
 - Exchange of show-cause notices and responses spanning over a year
- SBI's Fraud Identification Committee (FIC) identified:
 - Significant irregularities
 - Fund diversion
 - Violation of loan terms and conditions

Legal and Regulatory Provisions Involved

Provision/Entity	Relevance
RBI's Master Direction on Frauds	Framework to deal with frauds and banking irregularities
Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)	RCom admitted to IBC process in May 2018; ₹48,216 crore debt as of March 2025
Section 32A, IBC	Provides immunity to companies from actions, but promoters can still face liability
CBI	Case may be handed over for criminal investigation

Allegations

- RCom and its subsidiaries engaged in:
 - Fund diversion
 - Opaque transactions
 - Temporary parking of funds in mutual funds, fixed deposits
 - Routing funds through related entities
- The forensic audit revealed large-scale fund diversion.

Vanil Ambani's Response

- Denied all allegations
- Called SBI's action:
 - Shocking, ex-parte, and in violation of natural justice

🏆 Top 5 SBI Borrowers (2015–2025)

- 1. Reliance Communications (Anil Ambani Group)
 - As of March 2025, carried about ₹404 billion in debt—much of it from SBI—before being classified as a **fraudulent account** due to alleged diversion of funds moneycontrol.com +2 reuters.com .
- 2. Adani Group
 - SBI's exposure stands at approximately ₹338 billion (~US\$4 billion), making it the bank's largest
 exposure to the group across all Indian lenders reuters.com +1.
- 3. Reliance Industries (Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate)
 - SBI participated in major syndicated loans, including a **\$1 billion facility** in early 2025—the largest dollar-denominated syndicated loan from India this year (m.economictimes.com +9).
- 4. State Bank of India (self-borrowings)
 - Not a borrower but a major toll: SBI raised \$1–1.25 billion in foreign currency loans for its operations—largest such debt-instrument issuance among Indian banks [loanconnector.com +3]
 business-standard.com +1 .
- 5. Other top-tier corporate borrowers (FY17 data)
 - In FY17, SBI's top 20 corporate borrowers collectively had an outstanding portfolio worth ₹182,000 crore (~₹1.82 trillion), though individual names were not disclosed moneycontrol.com +15.

NUTRITIONAL INTAKE DATA BASED ON HCES FOR 2023-24 India's top 5% cut down on calories in 2023-24, gap with the bottom narrows

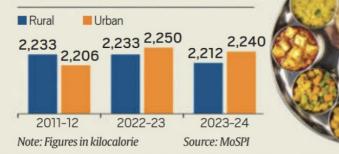
SIDDHARTH UPASANI NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE DIFFERENCE in daily per capita calorie intake between India's top and bottom 5 per cent of consumers narrowed in 2023-24, with the former eating fewer calories and the latter increasing their intake. In 2023-24, the top 5 per cent of Indians urban areas, as measured by their Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE), consumed 3,092 kilocalories (Kcal) per day, 82.3 per cent more than the 1.696 Kcal of the bottom 5 per cent, according to nutritional intake data based on the statistics ministry's latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES). In 2022-23, the difference was 114.3 per cent.

In rural India, the daily calorie intake of the top 5 per cent was 2,941 Kcal, 74.2 per cent higher than that of the bottom 5 per cent's 1,688 Kcal. In 2022-23, the difference was 93.9 per cent.

"The difference between the

INDIANS' DAILY CALORIE INTAKE MODERATED IN 2023-24



bottom fractile class (bottom 5 per cent of population ranked by per capita expenditure level) and the top fractile class (top 5 per cent of population ranked by per capita expenditure level) in per capita calorie intake as well as per consumer unit calorie intake has narrowed significantly in 2023-24 in rural as well as urban India," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said on Wednesday.

Overall, the daily per capita calorie intake in rural India in 2023-24 was down 0.9 per cent

from 2022-23 at 2,212 Kcal, while that in urban areas was 0.4 per cent lower at 2.240 Kcal.

Compared to 2011-12, the daily per capita calorie consumption in urban areas was 1.5 per cent higher in 2023-24, although it was down 0.9 per cent in rural areas. However, MoSPI cautioned that the HCES conducted in 2022-23 and 2023-24 had undergone some changes compared to the previous ones, including an increase in the number of items covered to 405 from 347 in 2011-12, changes in the questionnaire,

multiple visits for data collection. and household interviews being moved from pen-and-paper mode to computer-assisted. These changes, MoSPI said, must be kept in mind while comparing the results from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 HCES with previous surveys.

Cutting down fat

The narrowing of the gap in daily per capita calorie intake between the top and bottom 5 per cent in both rural and urban areas was primarily a result of lower consumption by the top 5 per cent and an increase in intake by the bottom 5 per cent. According to the MoSPI data, the calorie intake of the top 5 per cent of Indians in urban regions fell by as much as 11.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 2022-23. The reduction in calorie intake of the top 5 per cent in rural areas was 5.6 per cent.

Meanwhile, the bottom 5 per cent saw their daily calorie intake rise by 5 per cent in rural areas and 4.5 per cent in urban areas. Interestingly, Indians in urban areas reduced their daily consumption of fat in 2023-24 to 69.8 grams (gm) from 70.5 gm in 2022-23, while those in rural areas increased it to 60.4 gm from 59.7 gm.

Protein intake, meanwhile, was largely steady. In rural areas, the daily per capita protein intake in 2023-24 was 61.8 gm as against 61.9 gm in 2022-23. The intake was higher in urban areas at 63.4 gm, marginally up from 63.2 gm in 2022-23.

This marks a departure from the situation in 2011-12, when daily per capita protein intake was slightly higher in rural India than urban. In 2011-12, the average daily protein intake was 60.3 gm in urban areas and 60.7 gm in rural areas.

The increase in fat intake, meanwhile, has been much higher. In 2011-12, the daily per capita fat intake in rural areas was 46.1 gm, which rose 31 per cent to 60.4 gm in 2023-24. In urban India, the increase in the fat intake was much lower at 20.3 per cent from 58 gm to 69.8 gm.

- Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released nutritional intake data based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24.
- Focus on calorie, fat, and protein consumption trends in rural and urban India.

Key Findings

Parameter	Rural (2023-24)	Urban (2023-24)	Remarks
Daily Calorie Intake	2,212 Kcal (↓ 0.9%)	2,240 Kcal (↓ 0.4%)	Overall moderation in calorie intake
Top 5% Calorie Intake	2,941 Kcal	3,092 Kcal	Top 5% cut calories, especially in urban areas
Bottom 5% Calorie Intake	1,688 Kcal	1,696 Kcal	Bottom 5% saw calorie intake rise
Gap (Top vs Bottom 5%)	74.2%	82.3%	Gap narrowed significantly from 2022-23
Fat Consumption	60.4 gm (↑)	69.8 gm (↓)	Rural areas saw significant rise
Protein Consumption	61.8 gm	63.4 gm	Marginal change compared to 2022- 23

뛝 Major Trends

- **Gap Narrows**: The calorie intake gap between India's top 5% and bottom 5% reduced in both urban and rural areas.
- Top 5% Cut Calories: 11.1% fall in calorie intake among top 5% in urban areas, 5.6% fall in rural areas.
- Bottom 5% Improved: Calorie intake rose by 5% in rural and 4.5% in urban areas among bottom 5%.
- Fat Intake Surge in Rural India: Jumped from 46.1 gm (2011-12) to 60.4 gm in 2023-24.
- Protein Intake Stable: Slight improvement, still lower compared to 2011-12 levels.

Reasons for Change

- Rise in food prices, particularly for edible oils.
- Survey Methodology Changes:
 - Larger sample size (405 items vs 347 in 2011-12).
 - Switch from paper-based to computer-assisted surveys.
 - Multiple household visits for improved accuracy.

The average daily calorie requirement for males and females in India, considering Indian climate conditions and typical activity levels, is based on recommendations from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).

Here's a **simplified summary** for Indian adults:

Category	Average Daily Calorie Requirement
Adult Male (Sedentary Work)	2,320 kcal/day
Adult Male (Moderate Work)	2,730 kcal/day
Adult Male (Heavy Work)	3,490 kcal/day
Adult Female (Sedentary Work)	1,900 kcal/day
Adult Female (Moderate Work)	2,230 kcal/day
Adult Female (Heavy Work)	2,850 kcal/day

What is Required to Meet Calorie Needs?

A **balanced Indian diet** typically includes:

Food Group	Calories Contribution	Examples	ð
Cereals & Millets	~50-60%	Rice, Wheat, Roti, Bajra, Millets	
Pulses & Legumes	~10-15%	Dal, Rajma, Chana, etc.	
Vegetables	~5-10%	All green leafy & other vegetables	
Fruits	~5%	Bananas, Apples, Seasonal Fruits	
Milk & Dairy	~10%	Milk, Curd, Paneer, Buttermilk	
Fats & Oils	~5-10%	Cooking oil, Ghee, Butter	
Nuts & Seeds	Small but energy dense	Almonds, Groundnuts, etc.	
Non-veg (Optional)	Additional calories	Eggs, Chicken, Fish, etc. (if consumed	d)

THE HINDU World



CBS parent Paramount has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle U.S. President Donald Trump's lawsuit over the contents of an interview with then Vice-President Kampal Harris. This resolves Mr. Trump's \$20 billion lawsuit against the network over its 60 Kinutes interview with Ms. Harris during the 2024 presidential campaign. AFF



na-based IAEA. State me-

flash floods will remain high until at least Saturday. PTI

Starel's military said on Wednesday its had apprehended members of an Iranian-backed 'terrorist cell' in southern Syria, where state TV reported three arrested by larael it roops. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor reported an operation which free Neuran Neurant of three sciences of Indentitions entited the resulted in the arrest of three citizens of Palestinian origin". AFI

Bangladesh court sentences Hasina to six months in jail

day of her arrest or surrer

der before the court," chief prosecutor Mohammad

Press Trust of India

Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Ha-sina was on Wednesday sentenced to six months in prison in a contempt of court case by the Interna-tional Crimes Tribunal, while it now tries her on a major charge of commit-ting crimes against human-ity in absentia. Sheikh Hasina ity in absentia. since she left office in Au-

A three-member panel of the tribunal-1 (ICT), led gust last year. "According to the ver-dict, the sentence will come into effect from the by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, simultaneously sentenced to two months a fugitive leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, Shakil Akanda Bul-bul, in the same case.

der before the court," chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told reporters after the verdict was hand-ed down. First conviction It marks the first time that 77-year-old Ms. Hasina has been sentenced in any case

the tribunal which earli declared her a "fugitive" while her trial was opened on Monday initially of the murder of stud protester Abu Sayeed. Inflection point Sayeed's killing in north western Rangpur Universi-ty during a demonstration escalated a nationwide vio-lent protest that ultimately

ousted her nearly 16-year-long regime on August 5 last year, when she secretly left the country on a mili-tary aircraft. Three days later Nobel laureate Muhammad Yu-U.S. strikes on its nuclear facilities Last month's 12-day con Last month's 12-day con-flict between Iran and Is-rael has sharply escalated tensions between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. On June 25, a day after a truce took hold, Iranian lawmakers voted over-whelming/t to suspend cooperation with the Vien-na-based IAFA State me. nus, 85, flew from Paris to take charge of an interim government as the nomitake charge of an interim government as the nomi-nee of the protesters who were waging the move-ment under a platform called Students against Dis-crimination (SAD).

Agence France-Presse ran on Wednesday of-ficially suspended its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, a move triggered by the un-precedented Israeli and

> and zero: The ove rview of the For

dia confirmed the legisla-tion had now taken effect. The law aims to "ensure full support for the inhe-rent rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran" under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, with a particu-lar focus on uranium en-richment, according to Iranian media While IAEA inspectors

Iran halts cooperation with nuclear

watchdog after strikes by Israel, U.S.

Following the move, the work of the IAEA inspectors, who had access to Iran's nuclear sites, remains suspended: Guardian

Council, President Masoud Pezeshkian formally enact the suspension after parliament voted to severe relations with IAEA

have had access to Iran's access nuclear sites. declared nuclear sites. Separately, the Mehr their current status is un-sion. On Sunday, Iran's Ambassador to the Unite allowing IAEA. comeras in Autor and the suspen-sion and the suspen-tion of the International and the International Internation allowing IAEA cameras in nuclear facilities. Nations, Amir Saeid Irava-ni, said the inspectors' work had been suspended. After parliament passed the Bill, it was approved by the Guardian Council and President Masoud Pezesh-He said the "inspectors are in Iran and are safe", but "their activities have been kian formally enacted the suspension on Wednesday

"their activities have been suspended, and they are not allowed to access our sites". The law did not specify exact steps follow-ing the summation ing the suspension. The ISNA news agency cited lawmaker Alireza Sa-limi as saying the inspec-tors now needed approval

Israel's response In response, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged European signato-ries of the 2015 nuclear deal to trigger the "snap-back," mechanism and reinstate all UN sanctions from Iran's Supreme tional Security Council to on Iran

ed down. A state-appointed la-wyer is defending Ms. Hasi-na, now staying in India, in + Ukraine left Sweltering Berlin scrambling as

U.S. reduces arms supply

Agence France-Presse

Ukraine appealed to the U.S. for clarity on Wednesday after it was caught off guard by a White House announcement that Wash-ington was halting some arms shipments to the war-battered country. The Ukrainian Defence

Ministry, which is deeply dependent on U.S. arms, said it had not been notified about the reduction in aid announced one day

earlier. Moscow revelled in the decision, saying it could bring the end of the war closer. Any slow down in U.S. support could harm Kyiv's ability to fend off es-calating Russian aerial bombardments or frontline gains.



Hamas is open 'Imran Khan held to Gaza truce in 22-hour solitary but refrains confinement daily' from U.S. offer

Imran Khan

ment." PTI senior leader

ment," PTI senior leader Moonis Elahi said. Mr. Moonis further said Mr. Khan is being denied ac-cess to adequate food and medical care, and there are concerning reports of sig-nificant weight loss.

-

Press Trust of India

Associated Press

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan is be-ing held in solitary confine-ment for at least 22 hours daily, in 'blatant violation' Hamas suggested on Wed-nesday that it was open to a ceasefire agreement with Israel, but stopped short of accepting a U.S.-backed proposal announced by President Donald Trump hours enfler, insisting on its longstanding position of prison rules and human rights, his party claimed on Wednesday. The 72-year-old has been behind that any deal bring an end to the war in Gaza. bars since August 2023 af-ter he was booked in multi-

CM

to the war in Gaza. Mr. Trump said on Tues-day that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day cea-sefire in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the deal ple cases. rump said on Tues-t Israel had agreed is for a 60-day cea-saf (PTI) patron-in-chief n Gaza and urged to accept the deal in solitary confinement for at least 22 hours a day with trip. Hamas to a before cond in the Strip.



Agence France-Presse tech giant did not disclose the total amount of lost jobs but as of June 2024 it employed 2,28,000 peo-ple, bringing the latest lay-offs to about 9,000 people. AN FRANCISCO Microsoft on Wednesday said it was slashing a little less than 4% of its global workforce as it seeks to cut layers of middle manage-

Culling in May The job cuts follow a round in May that saw about 6,000 positions culled from its global workforce. nent and leverage new echnologies. Organisational changes Organisational changes - We continue to imple-enecessary to best posi-tion the company and teams for success in a dy-teams for success in a dy-teams for success in a dy-team for success in a dy-

ile, and other stakeholders. The statement sparked a response from Beijing, which has said any succes-sion must be "approved" by the Central govern-ment, and has passed a law in Tibet in 2007 mandating its authority over the issue tech giant did not disclose its authority over the issue, although this has not been accepted by the Tibetan

cognised would now begin with consultations with

leaders, members of the Tibetan Government in Ex-ile, and other

accepted by the Tibetan community. Med not ended to the statement reacted to the statement from Dharamshala. India has maintained that the Dalai Lama is an "ho-tual leader in the country and the Prime Minister sends greetings to him on that year, Minister for Mi-nority Affairs Kiren Rijlju nority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Chief Ministers of Hi-machal Pradesh and Sik-kim will attend the celebra-

tions.

Buddhist monks watch a recorded video message by Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in Dharamshala on Wednesday. A

Nobel Peace Laureate said the responsibility for the succession "will rest exclusively with members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust, the Office of His Holin less the

The line will continue after +

Office of His Holinesi the Dalai Lam" - a trust he set up in 2011. "They should consult be a structure of the The betan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are inkned inseparably in the structure of search and recognition in accordance would pretry to the procedures of search and precognition in accordance widd pretry to the pro-send present and the structure of the widd pretry to the structure of the widd pretry to the structure of the structure of the structure of the structure of the structure widd pretry to the structure of the structure of the structure widd pretry to the structure of the tion of recognising a Dalai Lama through reincarna-tion or rebirth, or "emanation" since the First Dalai lama was ordained in 1411. In Delhi, Chinese Am-bassador to India Xu Feibassador to India Xu Fei-hong said the Chinese go-vernment "protects the tradition" of reincarnation, but added, in accordance with the law. "The reincar-nation of the Dalai Lama plan would have to "comp-ly with Chinese laws and regulations as well as reli-gious rituals and historical must follow the process that consists of search and identification in China...," he said. The Dalai Lama's stateconventions



sday is th

.....

ment on Wedne continuation of a lengthier statement he issued in 2011, after he had decided to separate the political leadership of the Tibetan movement from the spiri tual one. At the time, he had said he would decide by 2025 or thereabout whether the institution o whether the institution of the Dalai Lama would con-tinue after his demise.

time after his demise. While he did not refer directly to China or Beij-ing's role in his latest state-ment, the Dalai Lama said that apart from the Gaden Phodrang Trust "no one else has any such authority to interfici in shire parts. to interfere in this matter". The Chinese govern-ment, which has long staked a claim over choosing or "approving" the next Dalai Lama. Beijing al-so claims that the practice so claims that the practice of approving high lamas was in line with a Qing dy-nasty tradition where high lamas were decided by drawing their name from "golden urn". On Wedn day, China's Ministry of "golden urn". On Wedness-day, China's Ministry of Fo-reign Affairs rejected the Dalai Lama's statement, and said any succession



Context

- Starlink, the satellite internet service by SpaceX, has launched operations in Sri Lanka.
- It is now the **third market in South Asia** after **Bhutan** and **Bangladesh** to allow Starlink services.

🚀 Key Details

Aspect	Details
Company	SpaceX (founded by Elon Musk)
Service	Starlink satellite internet
Availability in Sri Lanka	Announced by Elon Musk on X (formerly Twitter)
Other South Asian markets	Bhutan, Bangladesh
Key Role	Parnil Urdhwareshe (Starlink's top executive for India)
Engagements	Met Sri Lanka's and Bangladesh's government officials for approvals

\$ Pricing in Sri Lanka

Plan Type	Price (₹)	Price (LKR)
Residential	₹3,430 - ₹4,280	12,000 - 15,000 LKR
Portable 'Roam' Plan	₹4,280 - ₹8,560	15,000 - 30,100 LKR
Hardware Equipment	₹17,185 - ₹33,685	60,200 - 1,18,000 LKR

Prices comparable to Bhutan and Bangladesh

🖾 India Journey

- Starlink secured Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) authorisation last month.
- Pending:
 - Orbital slot assignments from IN-SPACe
 - Spectrum allocation from Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

Iran halts cooperation with nuclear watchdog after strikes by Israel, U.S.

Following the move, the work of the IAEA inspectors, who had access to Iran's nuclear sites, remains suspended; Guardian Council, President Masoud Pezeshkian formally enact the suspension after parliament voted to severe relations with IAEA

Agence France-Presse TEHRAN

ran on Wednesday officially suspended its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, a move triggered by the unprecedented Israeli and U.S. strikes on its nuclear facilities.

Last month's 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel has sharply escalated tensions between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On June 25, a day after a truce took hold, Iranian lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to suspend cooperation with the Vienna-based IAEA. State me-



Ground zero: The overview of the Fordow enrichment facility in Iran on Tuesday following strikes by Israel and the Unites States. AP

dia confirmed the legislation had now taken effect.

The law aims to "ensure full support for the inherent rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran" under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, with a particular focus on uranium enrichment, according to Iranian media.

While IAEA inspectors

have had access to Iran's declared nuclear sites, their current status is uncertain amid the suspension. On Sunday, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, said the inspectors' work had been suspended. He said the "inspectors are in Iran and are safe", but "their activities have been suspended, and they are not allowed to access our sites". The law did not specify exact steps following the suspension.

The ISNA news agency cited lawmaker Alireza Salimi as saying the inspectors now needed approval from Iran's Supreme National Security Council to access nuclear sites.

Separately, the *Mehr* news agency cited lawmaker Hamid Reza Haji Babaei as saying Iran would stop allowing IAEA cameras in nuclear facilities.

After parliament passed the Bill, it was approved by the Guardian Council and President Masoud Pezeshkian formally enacted the suspension on Wednesday.

Israel's response

In response, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal to trigger the "snapback" mechanism and reinstate all UN sanctions on Iran.

- Iran has officially suspended cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- The move follows recent Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.
- Decision ratified by Iran's parliament, Guardian Council, and President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Key Developments

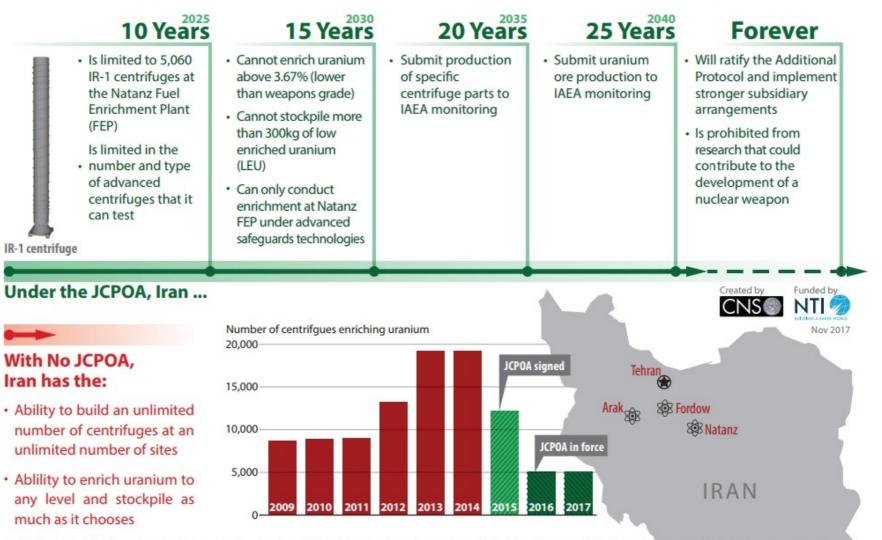
Event	Details	
Conflict Trigger	12-day conflict between Iran & Israel in June 2024	
Parliamentary Decision	June 25: Iranian lawmakers voted to suspend IAEA ties	
Legal Justification	To "ensure full support for the rights of Islamic Republic"	
Status of Inspectors	Work suspended, inspectors not allowed access to nuclear sites	
IAEA Cameras	Iran to stop allowing surveillance cameras at nuclear sites	

• Sackground: JCPOA (2015 Nuclear Deal)

•Aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

•Snapback mechanism allows re-imposition of UN sanctions in case of Iranian noncompliance.

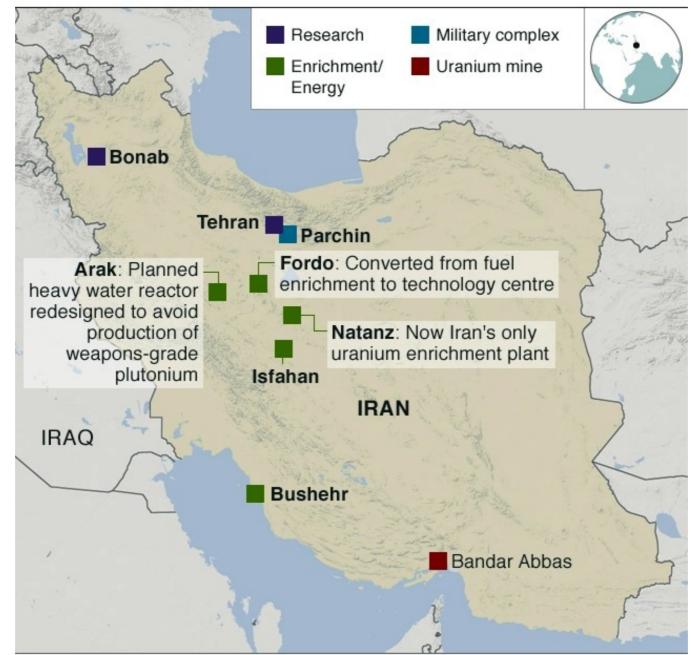
The Iran Nuclear Deal: Blocking Iran's Path to the Bomb



 Ability to develop and test more advanced centrifuges without restriction Prior to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran had built a large uranium infrastructure that would have produced enough highly enriched uranium (HEU) to build a nuclear weapon in a matter of weeks. Iran was also building a heavy water reactor that would open a second route to the bomb.



Changes agreed under Iran deal to limit nuclear programme





Munnar as 'Responsible Tourism Destination'

The Kerala government is working to transform **Munnar into a Responsible Tourism Destination**, aiming to make it a net-zero tourist hub that protects its fragile ecosystem.

Munnar

It is a serene hill station in Kerala's Idukki district and sits 1,600 meters above sea level at the confluence of three rivers—**Muthirapuzha**, **Nallathanni, and Kundala**.



It is bordered by the Anamalai Hills and the Cardamom Hills.



Known for its breathtaking landscapes, it features rolling hills, misty valleys, lush tea plantations, and cascading waterfalls.



It was originally inhabited by the **Muthuvan tribal community** and became a tea hub in the late 19th century when European planter A.H. Sharp established the first plantations.

Munnar is also famed for the **Neelakurinji flower**, which blooms once every 12 years, and the Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr and the towering Anamudi Peak, South India's highest.

EPABX (Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange)

•EPABX or **Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange**, is a technology that has evolved from manual call handling to advanced systems, making office communication faster, easier, and more efficient.

•What is EPABX?

•EPABX is a **private telephone network** used by businesses or offices.

•It allows employees to **talk to each other using extension numbers** and also connect to outside phone lines.

•The system works automatically and doesn't need an operator for each call.

National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

•National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

•It replaced the 2001 policy and it outlines a strategic vision to make India a global sporting powerhouse and a strong contender in international events, including the **2036 Olympics**.

•It is the outcome of extensive consultations involving Central Ministries, NITI Aayog, State Governments, National Sports Federations (NSFs), athletes, domain experts, and public stakeholders.

•It is anchored on **five key pillars** viz. Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement and Integration with Education (NEP 2020).

Importance

National Sports Policy 2025 sets India on a transformative path toward becoming a leading sporting nation globally, while creating healthier, more engaged, and empowered citizens.

It is a major initiative to transform India's sports landscape and empower citizens through sports.

Challenges

India's sports ecosystem faced several challenges — limited budget allocations, poor governance, lack of scientific coaching, and insufficient grassroots engagement.

Sports being a **State subject** also led to fragmented efforts and inconsistent implementation.

Debate Over 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in the Preamble

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a '[SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC] and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the ²[unity and integrity of the Nation];

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty –sixth day of November, 1949 do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

 Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Adl, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.l.3.1, 1977)
 Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Adl, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.l.3.1, 1977) •Insertion of 'Socialist' and 'Secular': Originally, when the Constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950, the Preamble declared India as a Sovereign Democratic Republic, committed to securing: Justice (social, economic, and political),

- •Liberty (of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship),
- •Equality (of status and opportunity), and

•Fraternity (assuring individual dignity and national unity).

•The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act**, **1976**, enacted during the **National Emergency**, (1975-77) added the terms 'Socialist' and 'Secular' to the Preamble.

- Socialist signified the state's commitment to reducing inequality and ensuring distributive justice through a mixed economy model.
- Secular reaffirmed the principle of equal respect for all religions, ensuring that the state maintains neutrality in religious matters without endorsing any faith.
- The word "Integrity" was added alongside "unity" in the expression "unity and integrity of the Nation".

•3-fold Strategy of Indian Secularism: Principled Distance: The Indian State maintains neutrality and does not favour or promote any religion.

- No religious instruction or celebration in government schools
- No religious symbols in courts or public offices
- Ensures equal treatment of all religions in public life
- State remains **equidistant** from all faiths

•Non-Interference: The State respects religious sentiments and avoids unnecessary intrusion into religious practices, as long as they don't violate Fundamental Rights or Constitutional provisions.

• Example: Religious communities managing their own places of worship and festivals.

•Selective Intervention: The State intervenes when religious practices contradict constitutional values such as equality, dignity, and justice.

• **Eg**: Abolition of untouchability (Article 17), Reform of personal laws (ensuring gender equality), Laws enabling equal inheritance rights for women etc.

Key Differences Between Indian and Western Secularism

Aspect	Western Model	Indian Model
Relationship Between State & Religion	Strict separation – Religion and State operate in mutually exclusive spheres.	Principled distance – Flexible engagement between State and religion.
Intervention in Religious Matters	No State interference as long as religion stays within legal bounds.	State can intervene to reform regressive or discriminatory practices (e.g., abolition of untouchability , ban on sati , child marriage).
Religious Funding/Education	No State funding to religious institutions.	State can provide aid to minority-run institutions under Articles 29 & 30 .
Public Display of Religion	Religion is strictly private ; no space in public policy or institutions.	Religion is allowed in public life but with constitutional checks (e.g., religious holidays , boards like Waqf/Endowments).
Purpose of Secularism	Ensure neutrality and non- involvement.	Ensure equal respect and reform , without imposing uniformity.

In Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973), the Supreme Court (SC) ruled secularism and socialism as part of the basic structure, which cannot be removed or amended even by Parliament.

In S. R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994), SC reaffirmed secularism as a basic feature of Indian democracy.

In Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980), the SC held that the socialist objectives in the DPSPs are fundamental to the Constitution, and in certain cases, Articles 39(b) and 39(c) can override Articles 14 and 19 to uphold socialism and economic justice

. In Dr. Balram Singh v. Union of India (2024), the Supreme Court dismissed petitions challenging the insertion of the words "socialist" and "secular" into the Preamble, upholding their validity and alignment with the Constitution.

Word of the day

Pugilism:

fighting with fists

Synonym: boxing

Usage: When their pugilism took on a dangerous character, he decided to intervene.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pugilismpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpju:dʒɪlɪzəm/





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