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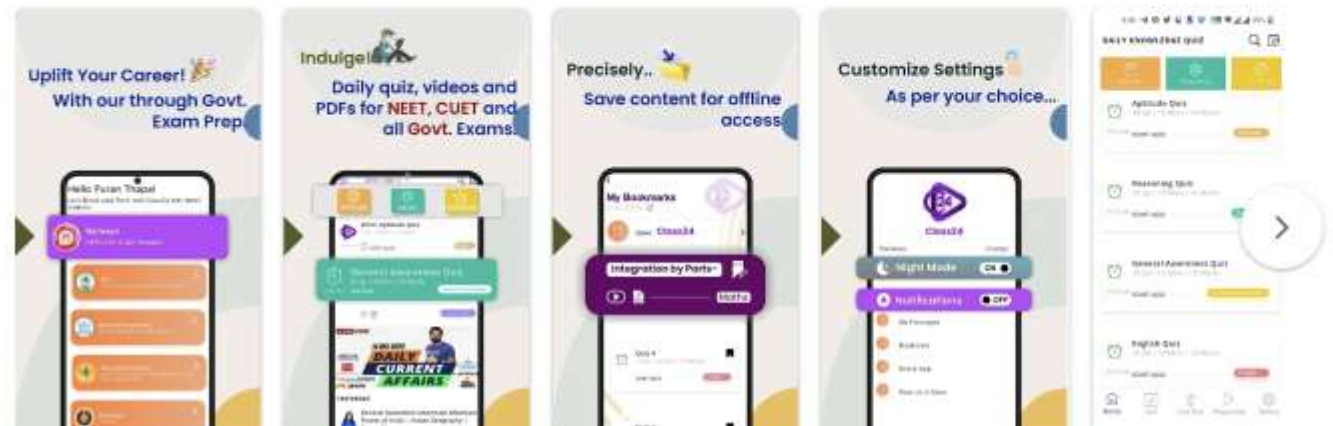
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Defending champion Argentina scrap past the debutant with a 3-2 win in extra-time  
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**INSIDE**  
Bharatiya Janata Party

**Delhi court denies bail to Khalid, Imam**  
NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed the bail applications of Umar Khalid and Shehryar Imam, accused in the large conspiracy case related to the 2001 northeast blast riots. The court said it was bound by the Supreme Court's January 2019 order, which had imposed certain conditions on bail for the two who have been languishing in jail for over five years in a row.

**Centre asks Telegram to take anti-pracy action**  
NEW DELHI  
The Ministry of Information and Public Relations has demanded that Telegram take proactive action in taking down content on its platform, a senior official said. The platform has been asked to comply to the Ministry's demands within 15 days. The move is a fresh escalation of issues between the government and the messaging app. PAGE 8

# India navigated West Asia crisis efficiently, says Modi

Fuel rationing, LPG disruptions, and price surges avoided with refineries upping production and public OMCs bearing the losses, says PM; politically motivated rumour-mongering failed, he adds

**Bharatiya Janata Party**  
NEW DELHI  
India successfully weathered the challenges triggered by the West Asia conflict through effective assessment and strategic, timely decision-making while efficiently tating its domestic economic and diplomatic ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.



Central sector's 10th petrochemical complex in Raheja, Rajasthan, on Saturday. PTI

The country avoided fuel rationing, assured working gas supplies, and shielded consumers and farmers from global price spikes, with state-run oil marketing firms (OMCs) bearing the losses, he said, adding that certain politically motivated rumour-mongering which had erupted in various corners, during the crisis had failed and may be deemed in an aspect of disappointment.

"Effective strategies", "India took prompt decisions, made correct evaluations, charted effective strategies, used its domestic resources effectively and constructively leveraged its diplomatic power to successfully weather the challenges," Mr. Modi said, adding that the government had taken steps to increase capacity in the coming year, he added.

The Prime Minister insisted that there had not been any major supply disruptions during the crisis, even in remote areas, barring certain minor hiccups, he pointed out that India had not adopted any rationing measures for petrol and diesel, unlike certain other countries.

With regard to cooking gas, Mr. Modi told the gathering that prices of domestic LPG - which could have gone up to ₹2,000 per cylinder - were shielded and restricted to less than ₹500 per cylinder and ₹650 per cylinder for Ujjwala beneficiaries.

India also continued to provide areas for 7000 per bag. Though the fertilizer could have been priced at ₹2,000 per bag if it had followed the global price surge after the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

While customers were thus protected, state-owned oil marketing companies absorbed losses of about ₹75,000 crore in the June-end quarter, the Prime Minister said. "This is equivalent to the cost of building one refinery," he noted.

"Delayed completion" of the refinery was also a concern, he said, adding that the government had taken steps to ensure the refinery's completion by the end of 2023. He said that the government had taken steps to ensure the refinery's completion by the end of 2023.

# Chinese investment influx good for wider ties, says India's envoy

Greater investment from China into India will be good both for the economic and for broader bilateral ties, Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami said on Saturday. The Indian envoy also made a pitch for greater Indian exports to China, especially in areas such as pharmaceuticals, where India is globally competitive.

**Ananth Krishnan**  
BANGALURU  
Greater investment from China into India will be good both for the economic and for broader bilateral ties, Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami said on Saturday. The Indian envoy also made a pitch for greater Indian exports to China, especially in areas such as pharmaceuticals, where India is globally competitive.



Vikram Doraiswami

"Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. There is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that," he said, speaking at the World Peace Forum, an annual foreign policy forum in Beijing.

India's trade with China has begun the process of normalising relations following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in October 2023, in the wake of disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

However, trade remains lagged, with a ballooning deficit. According to Commerce Ministry data, China was India's largest trading partner in 2023, with a trade surplus of \$15.1 billion, while the deficit stands at \$12.16 billion.

"Particularly in areas where we believe we have a competitive advantage, pharmaceuticals. For instance, you're one of the world's big exporters of pharmaceuticals to advanced markets. We hope Chinese partners will work with us to ensure that Indian producers firms, producing high quality generic medicines, being the same products that have been exported to the U.S. and elsewhere, can be exported to the Chinese market. We think there is a balance of advantage for both countries, including value for China and of course, value for the relationship."

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# Bengaluru man among 23 designated as 'terrorists'

An engineer hailing from Bengaluru is among the 23 individuals designated as "terrorists" by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

**Vijaya Singh**  
NEW DELHI  
An engineer hailing from Bengaluru is among the 23 individuals designated as "terrorists" by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The 23 individuals, who are known to MHA, are accused of roles ranging from recruitment, training, infiltration and logistic support to financing, arms supply, drone-based weapons delivery and planning or facilitating terrorist attacks in India. With the latest additions, the individuals designated as terrorists under the UAPA now stand at 90.

Mohammed Shafiqul Faisal, 40, has been identified by the National Investigation Agency as the handler of the "terror module" that carried out an IED explosion at The Ramswararam Cafe in Bengaluru on March 1, 2024. He is currently residing in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and associated with Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, an MHA notification said. Wounded by NIA since 2012, he carries a reward of ₹10 lakh and is alleged to have funded three terror modules in Karnataka in the past 14 years.

UPDATE: TERRORIST LIST PAGE 8

# Only talks can bring peace, says Manipur CM at funeral for MLA who died in Feb.

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI  
Late Manipur Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Vang Jagin Vaite, a victim of a mob attack in May 2023, was laid to rest near his residence in Churachandpur district on Saturday, more than four months after he died in a Charaichandpur hospital.

Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh attended Vaite's funeral service, marking the first visit by a Chief Minister to the district since the volatile conflict broke out in May 2023, as certain Kuki groups called for a boycott, demanding a permanent solution to the crisis.



Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh pays tribute to the late BJP MLA Vang Jagin Vaite, in Charaichandpur on Saturday. PTI

He said that he regretted not having been beside his "friend" when the incident happened. Later, he said Vaite, the late BJP MLA, was the only way forward to restore peace, which was essential for development in Manipur. "Your smile is the way for peace," he said, responding to the request for the road map to peace to the state.

Vaite's family is his family. His friends and close ones are my friends, too. I will always extend any support to all of them when or if the need arises," a former Minister and three-time MLA, the late Vaite, said in a letter to the Thouban Assembly constituency. He was one of 10 Kuki-20 MLAs in Manipur and an advisor to former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh when he was brutally murdered in a mob attack a day after violence swept large swathes of the state. The news of Vaite's death in the assault, which left him with multiple fractures and in need of ventilator support. He died in a Guwahati hospital on February 24 this year, days after he was attacked from Imphal.

Members of his family and the Zomi Council, the Charaichandpur-based apex body of eight tribes, put the last rites on hold after his body was brought back home. The body was shifted to the morgue in the Charaichandpur Medical College.

The Zomi Council refused to enter the body unless the Chief Minister ordered an investigation into his assassination to a central agency and facilitated a separate administrative investigation for the Kuki Zomi people. The council also sought the arrest of those who assaulted the former MLA.

The council, however, refused a few days ago to meet with Vaite's family and the decision to return the former MLA's body was made to honour the wishes of his ailing widow.

SECURITY REVIEW PAGE 8

# India's essential medicine list lags behind global benchmark; unrevised in 4 years

The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is outdated and lags behind global benchmarks, says a group of doctors. The list, which is used to guide the procurement of essential medicines by the government, has not been updated in nearly four years, even as the World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its list twice in the same period, says a civil society network of activists and organisations working for affordable healthcare.

**Binod Shivan Terapanjan**  
NEW DELHI  
The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is outdated and lags behind global benchmarks, says a group of doctors. The list, which is used to guide the procurement of essential medicines by the government, has not been updated in nearly four years, even as the World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its list twice in the same period, says a civil society network of activists and organisations working for affordable healthcare.



A box of medicine, likely an essential medicine, with text in Hindi and English.

The collective - Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment - has written to the government demanding an urgent revision to the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), free access to the National Pricing Authority (NPA) to ensure that essential medicines are available at affordable prices. The NLEM is a curated list of medicines compiled by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. It promises drugs that satisfy the critical health care needs of the population based on safety, efficacy and cost effectiveness. Medicines on this list - 384 at present - are generally dispensed free of cost by government hospitals. The government uses the NLEM to instruct the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to ensure that essential medicines are available at affordable prices. The list was last overhauled in 2022.

The WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (MLEM), which is used as a benchmark, was revised in 2023 and again in 2025, and countries like India are lagging behind. The WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (MLEM), which is used as a benchmark, was revised in 2023 and again in 2025, and countries like India are lagging behind. The WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (MLEM), which is used as a benchmark, was revised in 2023 and again in 2025, and countries like India are lagging behind.

Outdated prescription  
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hing cancer and diabetes. Its letter identifies 17 active cancer-treating agents and four supportive cancer-care medicines that feature on the WHO list but not the NLEM. Also, missing, it says, are nine monoclonal antibodies none of which currently appear on India's list. "We urge immediate initiation of a transparent, time-bound, and conflict-of-interest-free process to revise the NLEM, ensuring that it reflects the latest evidence, public health priorities, and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. Timely updates are essential to safeguard the constitutional guarantee of the Right to Life for it ensures equitable access to essential medicines for all citizens," said K.M. Gopakumar, co-convenor, Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment, which comprises patient advocates, patient groups, civil society organisations, academicians, lawyers and journalists.

# India's essential medicine list lags behind global benchmark; unrevised in 4 years

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**

NEW DELHI

India's roster of essential medicines has not been updated in nearly four years, even as the World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its own list twice in the same period, says a civil society network of activists and organisations working for affordable healthcare.

The collective – Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatments – has written to the government demanding an urgent revision of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), so that such drugs are available at affordable prices. The NLEM is a curated list of medications compiled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It prioritises drugs that satisfy the critical healthcare needs of India's population based on safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. Medicines on this list – 384 at present – are

## Outdated prescription

The National List of Essential Medicines prioritises drugs that satisfy the critical healthcare needs of India's population



### POINTS RAISED BY THE COLLECTIVE

- The NLEM, last notified in 2022, contains 384 medicines while the WHO list runs to 523 drugs
- At least 17 active cancer-treating agents, 4 supportive cancer-care medicines, and 9 monoclonal antibodies feature on the WHO list but not on the NLEM

generally dispensed free of cost by government hospitals. The government uses the NLEM to instruct the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to enforce a strict price ceiling on them. The list was last overhauled in 2022.

The WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, meanwhile, was revised in 2023 and again in 2025, and contains 523 medicines – leaving India's list trailing well behind the global benchmark, said the group in its letter on Friday.

“The prolonged delay results in medicines being denied to millions of citizens – who could have had free access to newly recognised essential medicines within the public health system, while also restricting affordable access in the private sector,” the letter said, adding that the delay was not merely a bureaucratic lag but a matter with “profound constitutional and human rights implications”.

The consequences, the Working Group argues, fall hardest on patients bat-

ting cancer and diabetes. Its letter identifies 17 active cancer-treating agents and four supportive cancer-care medicines that feature on the WHO list but not the NLEM. Also missing, it says, are nine monoclonal antibodies none of which currently appear on India's list. “We urge immediate initiation of a transparent, time-bound, and conflict of interest-free process to revise the NLEM, ensuring that it reflects the latest evidence, public health priorities, and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. Timely action is essential to safeguard the constitutional guarantee of the Right to Life for it ensures equitable access to essential medicines for all citizens,” said K.M. Gopakumar, co-convenor, Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment, which comprises patient advocates, patient groups, civil society organisations, academics, lawyers and journalists.

Aspect	Key Details
<b>Issue</b>	India's <b>National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)</b> has not been revised for nearly <b>4 years</b>
<b>Last Indian revision</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Medicines in India's NLEM</b>	<b>384 medicines</b>
<b>WHO Model List</b>	<b>523 medicines</b>
<b>WHO revisions since India's update</b>	Revised in <b>2023 and 2025</b>
<b>Cancer-treatment gap</b>	At least <b>17 active cancer-treatment agents</b> on the WHO list are absent from NLEM
<b>Supportive cancer medicines</b>	<b>4 medicines</b> missing from NLEM
<b>Monoclonal antibodies</b>	<b>9 listed by WHO</b> , but none included in India's NLEM according to the article
<b>Main demand</b>	Immediate, transparent, time-bound and conflict-of-interest-free revision of NLEM

## Why NLEM is important

Dimension	Importance
Public Healthcare	Essential medicines are generally provided free in government hospitals
Price Control	NLEM is used by the <u>National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority</u> for imposing price ceilings
Affordability	Price regulation makes critical medicines more accessible in the private market
Health Policy	The list prioritises medicines on the basis of <b>safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness</b>
Constitutional dimension	Delay is linked by the civil-society group to equitable healthcare access and <b>Article 21 — Right to Life</b>

## NLEM vs WHO Model List

Point	India NLEM	WHO Model List
Latest revision mentioned	2022	2025
Number of medicines	384	523
Updating pace	Delayed	Periodically revised
Key concern	Newer essential therapies may remain outside public procurement and price-control mechanisms	Reflects evolving global evidence and public-health priorities

### 3. Why is NLEM Economically Important?

The significance of NLEM extends beyond medical classification. It has a strong connection with India's **drug price-control system**.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority uses the pharmaceutical pricing framework to regulate prices of scheduled formulations linked to the essential medicines framework.

NLEM Role	Impact on Citizens
Identifies priority medicines	Helps focus government health policy
Supports public procurement	Government hospitals can prioritise essential drugs
Connected with price-control architecture	Helps improve affordability
Encourages generic availability	Can strengthen access to lower-cost alternatives
Supports rational drug use	Helps focus treatment on evidence-based essential medicines

#### The key problem raised by the article

If an important new medicine remains outside NLEM for years, it may not benefit from the same policy attention and affordability mechanisms associated with essential medicines.

This is particularly serious for **high-cost cancer therapies**, where treatment costs can be financially catastrophic for families.

Basis	India: NLEM	WHO Model List
Institution	Government of India	World Health Organization
Purpose	Indian healthcare priorities	Global reference framework
Latest revision mentioned in article	2022	2025
Number mentioned in article	384	523
Geographic focus	Indian disease burden and health system	Global public-health guidance
Binding nature	National policy relevance	Model/reference list for countries
Main concern	Revision delay	More frequent updating highlighted by article

## 5. Cancer Medicine Gap: The Article's Biggest Concern

According to the article, the civil-society collective identified substantial gaps in cancer medicines.

Category	Reported Gap
Active cancer-treatment agents	17
Supportive cancer-care medicines	4
Monoclonal antibodies	9
Overall concern	New therapies recognised internationally may remain outside India's essential medicines framework

### What are supportive cancer-care medicines?

These medicines may not directly destroy cancer cells but help patients manage complications and adverse effects associated with cancer or its treatment, such as:

- nausea and vomiting,
- infection risks,
- pain,
- bone complications,
- treatment-related adverse effects.

Thus, cancer care is not limited to chemotherapy alone.

## 6. What are Monoclonal Antibodies?

**Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)** are laboratory-developed proteins designed to target specific molecules or cells.

In cancer treatment, some monoclonal antibodies can recognise particular targets on cancer cells and help block their growth or enable the immune system to attack them.

### Why are they important?

#### Traditional approach

May affect both healthy and cancerous cells

Broad mechanism

Often older treatment architecture

Generally broader systemic effects

#### Targeted antibody approach

Designed for more specific biological targets

Target-specific mechanism

Important part of modern targeted and immunological treatment strategies

Potential for more targeted treatment, though side effects still occur

The article's concern is that newer categories of cancer treatment may remain outside the national essential-medicine framework if revisions are delayed.

## 7. Why Can a Delayed NLEM Revision Become a Public-Health Problem?

Problem	Possible Consequence
New medicines excluded	Patients may not receive newer recognised therapies through public systems
Lack of price-control coverage	Some treatments may remain expensive
Public procurement delay	Government hospitals may be slower to prioritise new essential medicines
High out-of-pocket expenditure	Families may bear substantial treatment costs
Cancer treatment gap	High-cost therapies become less accessible
Inequality	Wealthier patients have greater access to newer treatments
Regional disparity	Availability may differ significantly between states and hospitals

### The central argument of the article

The civil-society collective quoted in the report argues that prolonged delay is not merely an administrative problem. It can have consequences for:

**Access → Affordability → Equity → Right to Health → Right to Life**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Development</b>
<b>1996</b>	First National List of Essential Medicines
<b>2003</b>	Revision
<b>2011</b>	Further revision
<b>2015</b>	Major updated list
<b>2022</b>	Current revision referred to in the article
<b>2026 context of article</b>	Demand for another revision due to changes in WHO list and medical evidence

# Vaibhav, 15, becomes youngest India debutant; scores 14

**Shuvaditya Bose**  
*New Delhi, July 4*

ON THE day he became the youngest cricketer to represent India, at 15 years and 99 days, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi offered an important reminder: prodigies are burdened with countless narratives, but only one of them is true — their own.

The pre-match discourse demanded another miracle, the sort he performed in the IPL. Instead came a 10-ball 14, punctuated by the kind of misjudgements one would expect from a 15-year-old. It served as a timely reality check.

The second T20I in Manchester will be remembered for

Sooryavanshi's debut. There was, however, the minor matter of a match to be won — and England took the bragging rights in that regard — courtesy Jacob Bethell. The hosts secured a four-wicket win, reaching the target of 191 with an over to spare to take a 1-0 lead after the Durham game was washed out.

At the opposite end, Abhishek Sharma began where he left off at Chester-le-Street. Three boundaries came off Sam Curran's first over, but a wicket off the last delivery of the Powerplay set India back.

With a 49-run knock, Ishan Kishan averted the questions heading towards the team management. With captain Shreyas



**Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.** CREIMAS

Iyer playing an enforcer's role with his 22-ball 37, Kishan constructed a 65-run third-wicket stand, accumulating 9.3 runs per over in the process.

India were comfortably placed at 130/3 after 13 overs. The spanner in the works was thrown by Curran, with the wickets of Kishan and Shivam Dube in quick succession. That, India eventually got to 190, was courtesy a 17-run final over in which Tilak Varma struck a four and two sixes.

Arshdeep Singh struck early with the ball for India, not once but twice, with both Phil Salt and Jos Buttler departing for ducks.

However, the joy was short-lived as Brook struck two fours and three sixes off his next over.

Axar Patel's dismissal of Brook in the fifth over, hence, was of immense significance to India's cause. With the captain

gone, Jacob Bethell and Tom Banton prioritised consolidation, which saw England scoring 67 in the next 50 deliveries. Iyer recalled Arshdeep, who got his third scalp of the match in Banton. Will Jacks fell prey to Varun Chakaravarthy.

A 29-run 17th over, in which Bethell struck three sixes and a four off Ravi Bishnoi, effectively sealed the game, with him unbeaten on a 46-ball 76.

**BRIEF SCORES: India 190/7 in 20 overs (Kishan 49, Abhishek Sharma 43; Sam Curran 3/33) lost to England 191/6 in 19 overs (Jacob Bethell 76, Harry Brook 39; Arshdeep Singh 3/30) by four wickets.**

Player	Approximate Age at International Debut	Historical Significance
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi	<b>15 years 99 days</b>	Youngest India men's international debutant
Sachin Tendulkar	16 years 205 days	Debuted in Tests against Pakistan in 1989
Parthiv Patel	17 years 153 days	One of India's youngest Test debutants
Maninder Singh	17 years 193 days	Among India's youngest Test players

## 7. The Broader Story of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Vaibhav's rise is significant because it reflects a major structural change in Indian cricket.

Earlier pathway:

**School Cricket → District → State → Ranji Trophy → India A → National Team**

Modern pathway can be:

**Age-group cricket → Domestic cricket → IPL scouting → High-performance exposure → India selection**

This does not mean domestic first-class cricket has become irrelevant. Rather, **T20 talent identification has created an additional fast-track route**, especially for exceptional power-hitting talent.

---

Factor	Sachin Era	Vaibhav Era
Debut period	1989	2026
Dominant pathway	Domestic first-class cricket	Multi-format + franchise ecosystem
Video analysis	Limited	Advanced
Social media	Absent	Extremely influential
Franchise cricket	Absent	Major talent pathway
Sports science	Limited	Advanced
Public pressure	Newspapers and television	24×7 digital ecosystem
Data analysis	Basic	Detailed analytics



# Meta told to disable 'child sex abuse' content

Instagram asked to provide explanation in seven days; 'action' to be decided after reviewing reply

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has directed Meta, the parent body of several social media platforms, to disable advertisements and content promoting and facilitating access to child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) on Instagram, according to government sources.

It has also sought an explanation on the issue.

"The Ministry has ordered Instagram to disable such advertisements. The government has also demanded a detailed explanation on the action taken and other relevant information within seven days. A notice in this regard was

issued on Saturday," said a source.

It is learnt that the notice was sent following a directive from IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to senior Ministry officials. Further course of action will be decided after reviewing the reply, said the source.

## Policy and standards

The move came a day after the BBC Eye published its investigation revealing that Instagram had allegedly been running "paid adverts promoting child sexual abuse material in India" and that such advertisements linked users to channels on Telegram, where they could buy the material.

Meta's policy on advertisements, meanwhile,

IT Act, 2000, penalises obscene material; the IT Rules, 2021, enforce obligations on social media

Social media firms in breach may lose exemption under the law for third-party information or data

The notice comes amid allegations that Meta's algorithm had been promoting videos with child sexual abuse material on its platforms

The government has demanded a detailed explanation from the corporation on actions taken against the advertisements and other relevant information within seven days

Instagram is alleged to have shown paid advertisements with child sexual abuse material which directed users to Telegram channels where such content was reportedly on sale

Meta's advertisement policy prohibits content with sexually suggestive activities

Meta is in a 'constant battle with criminals who hide among our 3.5 billion users and try to evade detection', a spokesperson said

stipulate that their content must comply with community standards and must not have imagery depicting nudity and activities that are sexual or sexually suggestive.

In response to a query on the notice, a Meta spo-

kesperson pointed to an earlier statement shared after the BBC report came out, where Meta said it had a "zero tolerance policy for soliciting or sharing CSEAM" and added that while the company deployed technology to de-

tect such advertisements, it was in a "constant battle with criminals who hide among 3.5 billion users and try to evade our detection".

According to Meta's policy, advertisements must "comply with the community standards on adult nudity and sexual activity. Ads must not contain imagery depicting nudity, sexual activity, depictions of people in explicit or sexually suggestive positions, or activities that are sexually suggestive".

## Rules and punishments

The policy sets additional restrictions beyond the Community Standard on Adult Nudity and Sexual Activity, says its sub-site.

According to a written reply by Mr. Vaishnaw to

the Lok Sabha last year, the IT Act, 2000 provides punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material and material containing sexually explicit acts in electronic form.

The Act also provides for stringent punishment for publishing or transmitting material depicting children in sexually explicit acts in electronic form.

Besides, the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 enforces obligations on the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, to observe due diligence.

If they fail to observe it, they lose the exemption under law for third-party information or data or communication links hosted by them. The intermedi-

aries are required to remove any such content within 24 hours.

The Ministry of Home Affairs operates the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to receive complaints against cybercrimes, with special focus on cybercrimes against children.

It has also set up the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) for such crimes.

The government has, from time to time, blocked websites containing CSAM, based on lists from Interpol received through the Central Bureau of Investigation. It has issued an order to Internet Service Providers (ISPs), directing them to block access to such web pages or websites, said the reply.

Aspect	Details
Main issue	Alleged advertisements promoting access to CSAM
Platform concerned	Instagram
Parent company	<a href="#">Meta</a>
Government ministry	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Immediate direction	Disable such advertisements and associated content
Response period	<b>7 days</b>
Trigger mentioned	Investigation by BBC Eye
Allegation	Paid advertisements allegedly linked users to Telegram channels where illegal material was reportedly offered
Legal framework	IT Act, 2000 and IT Rules, 2021
Platform risk	Possible loss of intermediary liability exemption if due diligence obligations are not met
Reporting mechanism	National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
Coordination body	Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

### 3. CSAM: Meaning and Terminology

**CSAM = Child Sexual Abuse Material.**

This term is generally preferred over older terminology because it accurately describes the material as **documentation of abuse and exploitation**, rather than treating it as ordinary adult sexual content.

Concept	Meaning
CSAM	Visual or other material depicting sexual abuse or exploitation of children
Online grooming	Building trust with a child for exploitation or abuse
Sextortion	Coercion using sexual images or threats of disclosure
Trafficking-linked exploitation	Use of digital platforms in facilitating exploitation
Algorithmic amplification	Recommendation systems increasing visibility or reach of harmful content
Platform monetisation concern	Harmful or illegal content potentially being promoted through paid advertising infrastructure

## 4. Legal Framework in India

India uses a **multi-layered legal framework** against online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Law/Framework	Major Relevance
Information Technology Act, 2000	Addresses electronic publication and transmission of unlawful material
Section 67	Obscene material in electronic form
Section 67A	Sexually explicit material in electronic form
<b>Section 67B</b>	Material depicting children in sexually explicit acts and related prohibited online conduct
Section 79	Conditional intermediary liability protection
IT Rules, 2021	Due diligence and grievance obligations for intermediaries
POCSO Act, 2012	Comprehensive law against sexual offences involving children
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita framework	General criminal-law provisions may apply depending on the conduct involved

## What is Safe Harbour?

Under **Section 79 of the IT Act**, intermediaries may receive conditional protection from liability for third-party information hosted or transmitted through their systems, subject to statutory conditions and due diligence requirements.

### Simple flow

User uploads illegal content

↓

Platform acts as intermediary

↓

Platform follows legal due diligence requirements

↓

Conditional liability protection may apply

But where the legal requirements for the exemption are not satisfied, the intermediary may lose the benefit of that statutory protection.

### Important nuance

Loss of safe-harbour protection does **not automatically mean conviction or liability in every case**. It means the platform may lose the statutory immunity it could otherwise invoke, and liability would then depend on the applicable facts and legal provisions.

## 6. IT Rules, 2021 and Social-Media Responsibility

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 establish due-diligence obligations for intermediaries.

Obligation Area	Broad Purpose
Due diligence	Reasonable platform governance
Grievance mechanism	User complaints and redressal
Grievance officer	Institutional accountability
Time-bound response	Faster handling of serious complaints
Compliance framework	Greater responsibility for large platforms
Cooperation with lawful orders	Support lawful investigation and enforcement

## 11. POCSO Act and Online Abuse

The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)** is India's specialised child sexual-offence law.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Importance</b>
Child	Person below 18 years
Nature	Child-protection criminal law
Approach	Gender-neutral protection of children
Coverage	Various forms of sexual assault, harassment and pornography-related offences
Special Courts	Designed for specialised and speedier adjudication
Child-friendly procedures	Intended to reduce secondary trauma

### **IT Act vs POCSO**

<b>IT Act</b>	<b>POCSO Act</b>
Focuses on electronic and cyber dimensions	Focuses on sexual offences against children
Section 67B is especially relevant	Special child-protection legislation
Digital publication/transmission dimension	Broader substantive child sexual offence framework
Platform and online conduct may be relevant	Offender conduct and child protection central

Both legal frameworks can become relevant depending on the facts of a case.

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# U.S. DoJ sought to drop Adani charges to avoid possible 'diplomatic strife'

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has cited possible "diplomatic strife" to justify its move to drop all charges against Indian industrialist Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and their associates over securities fraud allegations.

The indictments against the Adanis and associates pertain to a foreign case and the U.S.'s actions as "world police can cause diplomatic strife", the DoJ said on Saturday, adding that "not a penny has been lost" due to the alleged fraud. "This is a foreign case... several Indians (with maybe a European or



Gautam Adani

two) allegedly tried to bribe other Indians by paying the Indian government via complex Indian rebate programs to get Indian contracts to provide electricity in India," said a 10-page note submitted by the DoJ to a U.S. court.

The two indictments in

November 2024 against the Adanis and their associates involve two separate cases: one under the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in which it was alleged that the defendants had bribed government officials in India. The second case was brought by the U.S. Securities and Exchange commission in which the allegation was that these parties had raised funds in the U.S. without first disclosing these allegedly corrupt practices.

In May 2026, the DoJ first sought approval from the Eastern District Court of New York to drop the cases entirely. The court, however, asked for reasons for dropping the case.

While resisting an explanation by saying the DoJ was not constitutionally required to provide a reason, it said it was providing a "limited waiver" of this privilege this one time.

## **Political move**

It further said that India has investigated many of the allegations in the case and has found no actionable misconduct.

"So, the country with by far the strongest interest here seems to have concluded nothing inappropriate happened," the DoJ said.

It further indicated that revealing the contents of the indictment was a political move by the Biden Administration.





Aspect

Original action

Main individuals mentioned

Broad allegations

DOJ's reported 2026 position

Major justification cited

DOJ argument reported

Financial-loss argument

Indian dimension

Court response

DOJ procedural position



Details from the article

U.S. proceedings announced in **November 2024**

Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and associates

Bribery-related allegations and securities/investor disclosure allegations

Sought approval to drop the cases

Risk of possible **diplomatic strife**


Case primarily concerned alleged conduct involving Indians and Indian government-linked contracting

DOJ note reportedly said “**not a penny has been lost**” due to the alleged fraud

DOJ reportedly noted that India had investigated many allegations and found no actionable misconduct

Court reportedly sought reasons for dropping the case

Provided a limited waiver of its claimed privilege to explain its reasoning



## 2. Understand the Case Structure: Two Separate Legal Tracks

The article refers to **two distinct proceedings**, which is important for exam and analytical understanding.

Case	Institution	Broad Nature
Criminal prosecution	U.S. Department of Justice	Alleged bribery and related criminal conduct
Civil enforcement action	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission	Alleged misleading disclosures to U.S. investors concerning the alleged corrupt practices

The distinction matters because the **DOJ prosecutes federal crimes**, whereas the **SEC is primarily a securities-market regulator and civil enforcement agency**.

### DOJ vs SEC

Parameter	U.S. DOJ	U.S. SEC
Full name	Department of Justice	Securities and Exchange Commission
Nature	Federal executive department	Independent federal regulatory agency
Main function	Criminal prosecution and federal law enforcement	Securities-market regulation and investor protection
Typical action	Criminal indictment and prosecution	Civil enforcement, penalties and market-related sanctions
Standard of proof	Criminal standard	Civil standard

## 5. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act: Core Concept

The article refers to the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

Feature	Explanation
Enacted	1977
Country	United States
Main objective	Combat certain forms of bribery of foreign public officials
Additional dimension	Accounting and internal-control requirements for covered issuers
Enforcement	DOJ and SEC have important, but distinct, enforcement roles
Global significance	One of the world's most influential anti-corruption legal frameworks

### Two Broad Dimensions of FCPA

Dimension	Purpose
Anti-bribery provisions	Prohibit covered persons/entities from corruptly offering or providing value to foreign officials to obtain or retain business
Accounting provisions	Require covered issuers to maintain accurate books, records and adequate internal accounting controls

## 6. What Does “Diplomatic Strife” Mean Here?

The DOJ's reported argument is politically and diplomatically significant.

According to the article, the DOJ argued that the case was predominantly foreign in character and that U.S. action as a kind of global enforcement authority could create diplomatic friction.

### Possible diplomatic concerns

Issue	Possible Concern
Foreign sovereignty	Another country may view prosecution as interference
Domestic investigation	Conflict can arise if the home jurisdiction reaches a different conclusion
Bilateral relationship	High-profile prosecutions can spill into diplomatic relations
Strategic partnership	Wider security, defence, trade and technology ties may be affected
Enforcement legitimacy	Question of whether the U.S. should prosecute predominantly foreign conduct

This is closely connected to the debate over **extraterritorial jurisdiction**.

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Aspect	India	United States
Anti-corruption framework	Prevention of Corruption Act and other laws	FCPA and other federal statutes
Securities regulator	SEBI	SEC
Main criminal investigative ecosystem	CBI, State Police and specialised agencies depending on offence	DOJ, FBI and other federal agencies
Market jurisdiction	Indian securities market	U.S. securities market
Extraterritorial corporate enforcement	Comparatively limited global footprint	Extensive international enforcement influence

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## India needs a second home for Asiatic lions

India's conservation of the Asiatic lion is widely celebrated as a remarkable success story. From a population which was reduced to just a few dozen in the early 20th century, the number of Asiatic lions has increased to approx. 300 today. Yet, behind this achievement lies a persistent policy failure: the inability to establish a second, geographically separate population. Scientific institutions, government bodies, and even the Supreme Court have long warned that without such a step, the species remains vulnerable to extinction from a single catastrophic event.

**A second dwelling**  
The need for a second home for Asiatic lions is rooted in decades of government-backed research. Multiple reports of the Wildlife Institute of India have consistently emphasized that a single population confined to one landscape is inherently vulnerable. Research conducted since the 1980s have concluded that threats such as epidemics, forest fires, or other natural disasters could potentially wipe out the entire species if it remains geographically concentrated.

This scientific consensus was formally acknowledged by the landmark Supreme Court judgment of April 15, 2013, which directed the translocation of Asiatic lions from Gujarat's Gir Forest to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. The Court made it clear that conservation must be guided by ecological principles rather than regional considerations, stating that a second population was essential for the species' long-term survival. The judgment explicitly recognized the risk that a single colony could eliminate the entire population if it remained confined to one location.

Despite this clear directive, the translocation project has been stalled for over a decade. Gujarat has consistently resisted the relocations of lions outside the

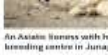


**Nisha Sinha**  
Senior Consultant at IVS India, with a focus on forest management, wildlife conservation and biodiversity assessment

State, citing its success in conserving the species and raising concerns about habitat suitability elsewhere. This has created a policy impasse between scientific recommendations, judicial mandates, and State-level political considerations. While the Kuno National Park was prepared specifically to leave the lions — by relocation of villages and habitat restoration among others — no lions have been introduced there.

Meanwhile, the ecological risks identified by experts have only intensified. The concentration of the entire global population of Asiatic lions within the Gir landscape makes them uniquely vulnerable to disease outbreaks. The 2018 outbreak of the Canine Distemper Virus among the population, which killed several lions and infected many others, serves as a stark reminder of this danger. Such diseases spread more rapidly in dense, socially structured populations, and their impact is amplified by the limited genetic diversity of the lions.

Government-supported studies and conservation plans have repeatedly highlighted that geographically isolated carnivore populations face extinction risks from both biological and environmental factors. In a single site population, even non-threatening events — such as drought, wildfires, or sudden prey decline — can have disproportionate effects. This is why conservation science advocates for a "metapopulation



An Asiatic lions with their lion cubs at the Lakkarbaugh Safari breeding center in Junagadh in 2023. *View name*

approach", where species are distributed across multiple habitats to reduce risk. Recognising these concerns, recent policy initiatives such as Project Lion (2020) have attempted to revive the discussion on expanding lion habitats. There have been proposals to develop alternative sites such as the Bardia Wildlife Sanctuary within Gujarat itself. However, experts argue that sites close to Gir, may not adequately address the core issue of risk diversification. A second population must be sufficiently distant to prevent the spread of disease or disaster across both populations simultaneously.

The delay in establishing a second viable population raises the question about environmental governance in India. It reflects a tension between national conservation priorities and State-level interests, where wildlife — though constitutionally recognised as a shared responsibility — can become entangled in regional identity and political considerations. The Supreme Court had clearly stated that Asiatic lions are a national heritage, not the property of any single State, yet implementation of this principle remains incomplete.

**From savanna to security**  
Ultimately, the issue is whether India is willing to move from conservation success to conservation security. The current situation represents a paradox: a thriving population that remains ecologically fragile. Without establishing a second free-ranging population, the goals of decadal conservation efforts remain vulnerable to reveal. The case of the Asiatic lion underscores a fundamental principle of modern conservation: numbers alone do not ensure survival, resilience does. Creating a second home is an ecological necessity, continuing delay in implementing this vision risks turning a global conservation triumph into a preventable ecological vulnerability.

Ultimately, the issue is whether India is willing to move from conservation success to conservation security. The current situation represents a paradox: a thriving population that remains ecologically fragile. Without establishing a second free-ranging population, the goals of decadal conservation efforts remain vulnerable to reveal. The case of the Asiatic lion underscores a fundamental principle of modern conservation: numbers alone do not ensure survival, resilience does. Creating a second home is an ecological necessity, continuing delay in implementing this vision risks turning a global conservation triumph into a preventable ecological vulnerability.

## A legislative tangle in Maharashtra

The grey areas in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution needs urgent revisiting

### STATE OF PLAY

Niyasa Deshpande Pandit

The legislative tangle that has bedeviled the political switch in Maharashtra raises questions about the grey areas in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. On June 26, Shri. Ahir, a Shiv Sena UPT (Gadchodkar, Babasaheb Thackeray) leader, switched allegiance from Mr. Thackeray to Kishan Shinde's Shiv Sena. The very next day, he was unambiguously sworn as an MLC (Member of the Legislative Council) in 2022 as a Shiv Sena leader. The vertical split in the party happened after he became the MLC, and therefore, on paper, Mr. Ahir has continued to be a Shiv Sena MLC.

This event seemed like a replay of an incident which happened in Maharashtra two years ago. On July 7, 2023, Neelam Gorli, another senior Shiv Sena UPT leader and the then Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, had similarly switched from the UPT group to Mr. Shinde's Shiv Sena. She too claimed that she was elected as a Shiv Sena leader in 2020 and that she had not changed parties.

In 2022, the Shiv Sena faced an internal rebellion wherein Mr. Shinde ousted himself against Mr. Thackeray to hold such a claim to be the leader of the original party. While the Election Commission has handed over the original party name and symbol to the Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in the presence of the Chief Minister two years ago, Mr. Thackeray's party had sought Ms.

Maharashtra

Gorli's disqualification as an MLC. Currently, it is mulling on the possibility of legal action against Mr. Ahir.

Mr. Ahir is not the only switch which drew political attention in the last few weeks in Maharashtra. Six of the nine Lok Sabha MPs of the UPT group also moved over to Mr. Shinde's Shiv Sena last month.

**Consequences of defection**  
All these switches have led to discussions about whether these legislators can be disqualified. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the provisions of the disqualification of legislators.

At the heart of Mr. Ahir's change in loyalty is Paragraph 1 of the Tenth Schedule. Paragraph 1 gives the grounds for disqualification if the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker or the Chairperson of the Deputy Chairperson shall not be disqualified if "he, by reason of his election to another office, voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election and does so, so long as he continues to hold such office thereafter, upon that condition, that the party or parties to which he belongs shall not be another political party".

Mr. Ahir filed his nomination papers for the Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in the presence of the Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Minis-

ters. He was elected unopposed to the position just 48 hours after changing loyalties. However, importantly, both Mr. Ahir as well as the Shiv Sena have claimed that the legislative records show Mr. Ahir as a Shiv Sena UPT MLC. Therefore, the question of disqualification does not arise.

But legal experts say that the exemption is applicable only if the Deputy Chairperson wants to discontinue his with the party he belonged to. He cannot claim allegiance to another party. In this case, Mr. Ahir's legislative conduct for the last four years, from 2022 to 2020, shows his allegiance to Mr. Thackeray.

It will also need to be verified if Mr. Ahir had submitted an affidavit to the Election Commission supporting Mr. Thackeray during the legal battle for the name and symbol of the party.

The other contention is about the definition of the six Lok Sabha MPs. Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule pertains to how disqualification on the grounds of defection does not apply in the case of a merger. It states that a member of a house shall not be disqualified "where his original party merges with another political party". Legal experts point towards the Supreme Court observations in the *Just Desai* case about the "ambiguity" between the original political party and the legislator party. In this case, they say, it has been overplayed.

While discussions about the political implications of these defections have taken centre stage, experts say there is an urgent need to address the grey areas in the 10th Schedule on a priority basis.

*niyasa.deshpande@hindu.com*

## Questioning the hype around UP's 'revenue surplus'

Data shows that the so-called surplus stems from the State's persistent inability to spend its own budget

### DATA POINT

Pun Vasanth B.A.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who spoke about the State's growth as his government's Industry Leaders Roadshow in Bangalore on June 24, emphasized how U.P. has had a "revenue surplus in the last six years". The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s 2024-25 State Finance Report released on June 10 said that U.P. not only reported revenue surplus in 2024-25, but its ₹30,327 crore surplus was the highest, accounting for nearly 50% of the total revenue surplus of ₹1.27 lakh crore reported by 15 States.

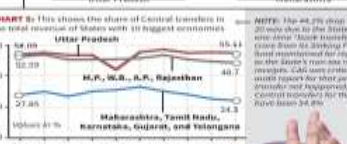
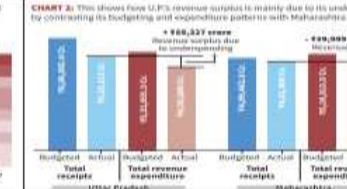
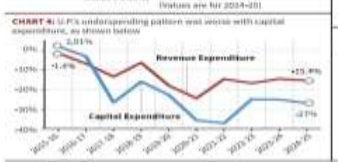
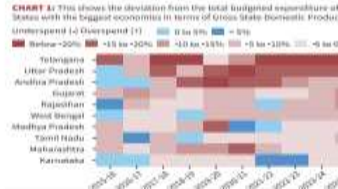
Yet an analysis of CAG and RBI data shows that this surplus stems from U.P.'s persistent inability to spend its own budget. Over the past decade, it has consistently under-spent its budgeted expenditure, by at least 15% every year since 2019-20 (Chart 1).

A revenue surplus is merely the gap between total receipts and revenue expenditure. In 2024-25, U.P.'s revenue realization fell about 16% short of budget, yet it still reported a surplus because its revenue expenditure fell short by a larger 15.4%. Maharashtra, by contrast, nearly met its revenue targets and spent more than budgeted (Chart 2). Had U.P. spent at the efficiency of Maharashtra, its surplus would have shrunk sharply or turned into deficit (Chart 3).

In 2024-25, U.P. spent only ₹1.13 lakh crore capital outlay, which is a gap of 27%, suggesting that the under-spending is systemic, rather than mere caution towards controlling revenue expenditure (Chart 4). U.P.'s revenue surplus is contributed in no small measure by Central transfers (Chart 5). Yet, U.P. under-spends even the funds budgeted by the Centre, despite receiving the highest allocation.

### Prudence or inefficiency?

The data for the charts and the analysis were sourced from the State Finance reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Reserve Bank of India. The statements of Finance and Appropriation accounts of State governments submitted to the CAG were also used.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

### FIVE YEARS AGO JULY 6, 1979

#### Ford asks Americans to preserve peace

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), July 5: President Gerald Ford marked the 200th birthday of the United States yesterday by telling more than 1,00,000 cheering people that peace and justice throughout the world would depend in large measure on the way Americans preserved peace and justice in their own country during its third century.

President Ford was speaking at Independence Hall in Philadelphia where representatives from 13 American cities proclaimed their rejection of British rule by signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Earlier, Mr. Ford visited Valley Forge, where George Washington's army endured terrible hardship during the winter of 1777. The President chose the occasion to warn Americans that no great power could survive unless it observed force of character and courage.

The Americans must not give themselves over to the pleasures of easy living and prosperity. Mr. Ford declared that more than 30,000 persons gathered at the historic camp site for the bicentennial celebrations.

Covered wagons from the States that formed the 13 colonies and from other States gathered at Valley Forge for the celebration. Mr. Ford mounted a wagon from Michigan, his home State, together with his daughter, Susan.

Later, the President reviewed an armada of sailing ships on the Hudson River, where warships from more than 50 nations assembled to salute the bicentennial.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 6, 1926

#### Torrential rains at Bombay

Bombay, July 5: During the last two days, Bombay has been receiving a heavy downpour of rain accompanied by high wind registering nearly 8 inches, since Saturday early morning. It rained furiously from Sunday afternoon till midnight on Monday.

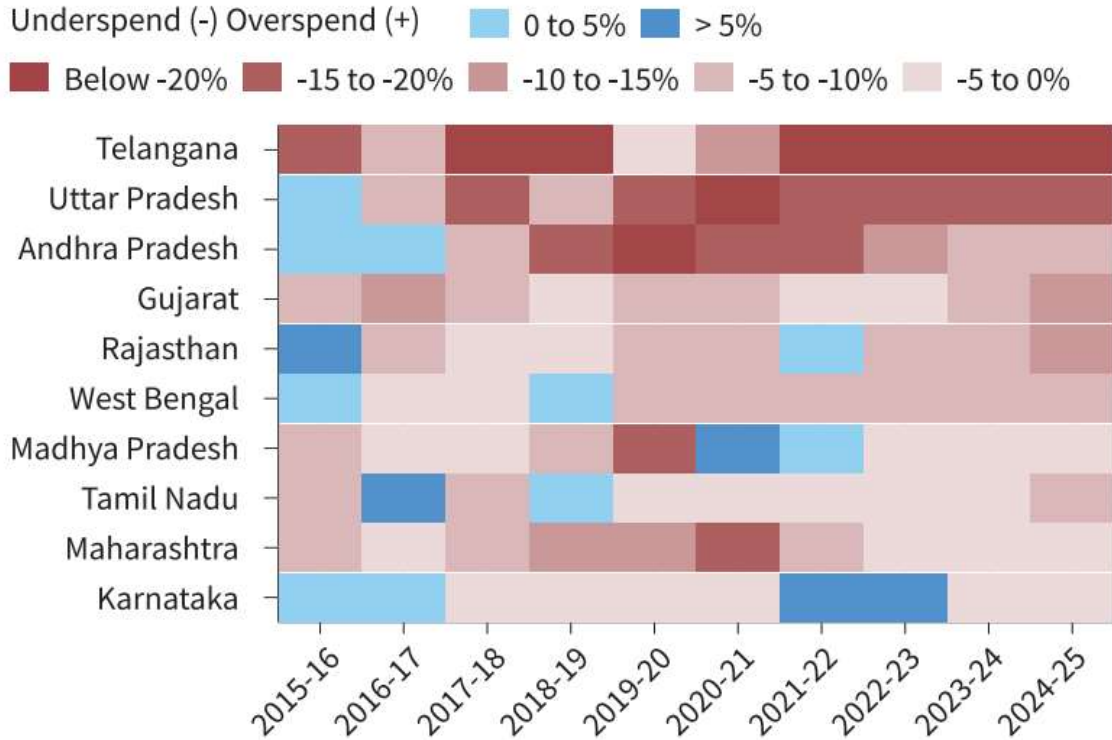
The streets were flooded, dislocating tram and other vehicular traffic. The heavy rain did great damage to the underground telephone cables, cutting off some of the bridge stations. The greater part of the city had to put up with partial absence of telephone service.

The railway lines were submerged but that did not interfere with local train service.

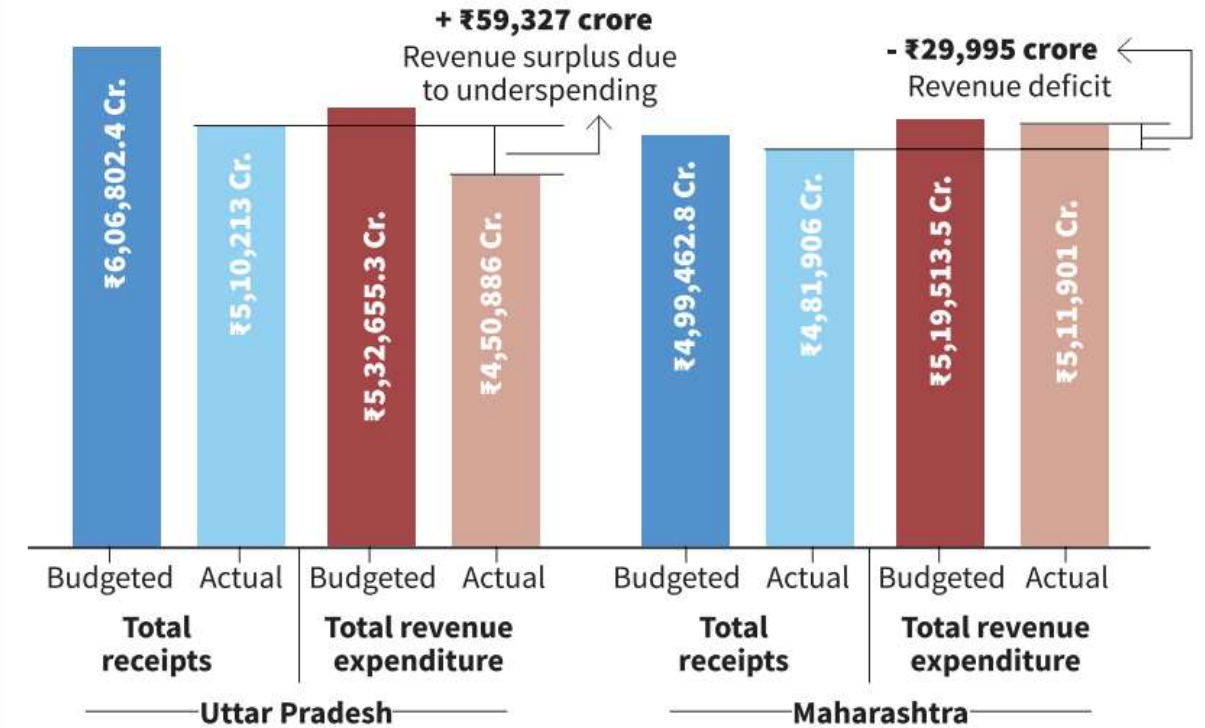
# Prudence or inefficiency?

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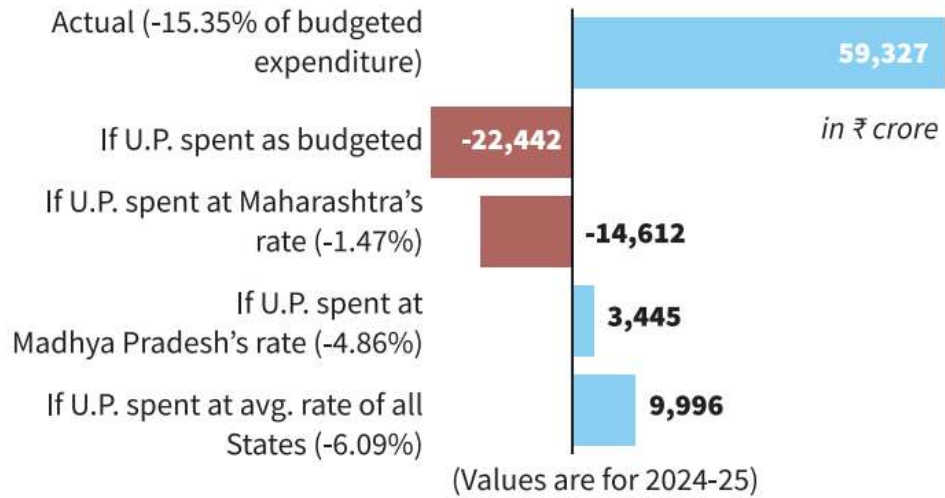
**CHART 1:** This shows the deviation from the total budgeted expenditure of 10 States with the biggest economies in terms of Gross State Domestic Product



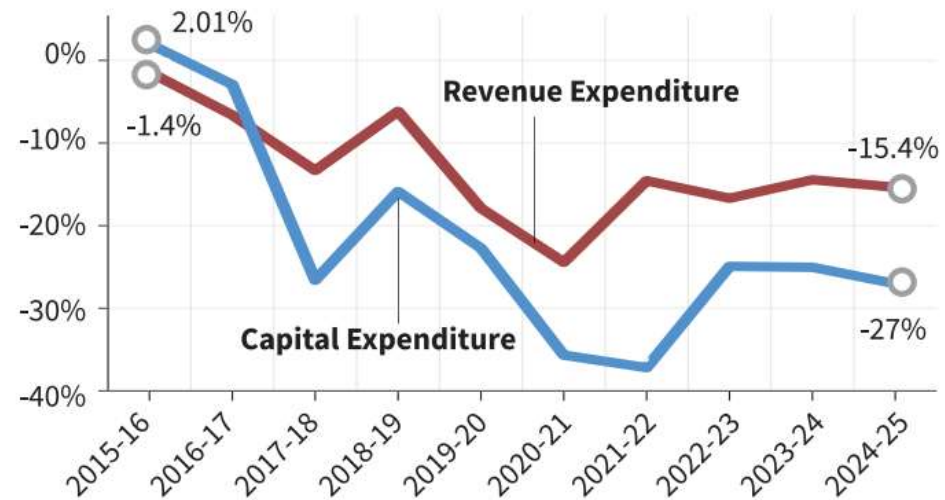
**CHART 2:** This shows how U.P.'s revenue surplus is mainly due to its underspending by contrasting its budgeting and expenditure patterns with Maharashtra



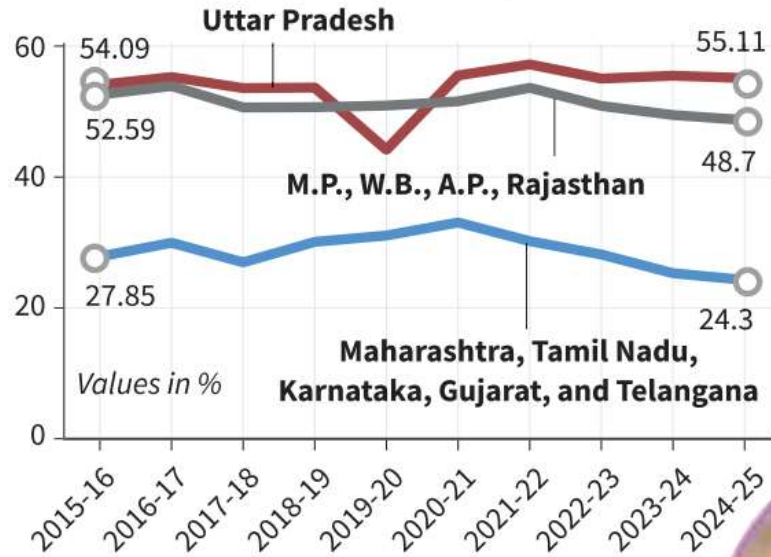
**CHART 3:** This shows different outcomes of U.P.'s revenue surplus status had it spent as budgeted or on par with its peers



**CHART 4:** U.P.'s underspending pattern was worse with capital expenditure, as shown below

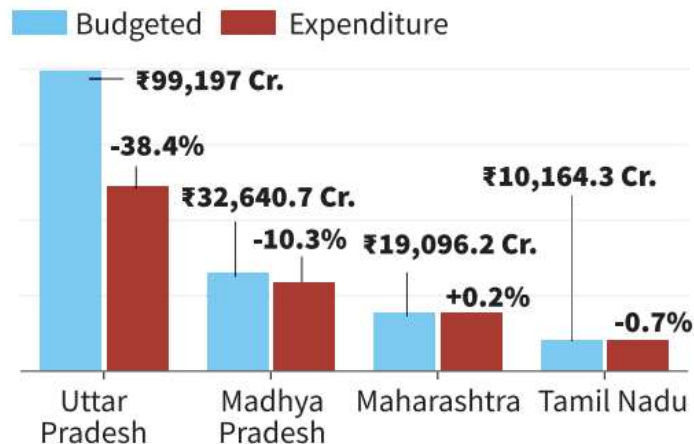


**CHART 5:** This shows the share of Central transfers in the total revenue of States with 10 biggest economies



**NOTE:** The 44.2% drop of U.P. in 2019-20 was due to the State making a one-time "book transfer" of ₹71,180 crore from its Sinking Fund, a reserve fund maintained for repaying debts, to the State's non-tax revenue receipts. CAG was critical of this in its audit report for that year. Had this transfer not happened, the share of Central transfers for the year would have been 54.8%

**CHART 6:** This shows the Govt's budgeted share towards central schemes and percentage of underspending



# Australia lords over England, clinches seventh title

Mooney and Litchfield's century partnership for the second wicket makes the chase a cakewalk after the bowlers restrict the home team to 150 for four despite Sciver-Brunt and Kemp's fightback

## T20 WORLD CUP

### E.K. Ashok Kumar

**A**s these Australian women How on earth a team could be this good. Even in transition, apparently Sophie Moloney and her women lifted the T20 World Cup on a gloriously sunny Sunday afternoon. Respectably, in style. With yet another dominant show.

They crushed England by seven wickets with 2.5 overs to spare. England's 150 for four, after being asked to bat first, was never going to be enough against the strong and incredibly deep Australian batting lineup.

A full house, mostly made up of English fans, had come to watch the final at Lord's. All their loud cheers and all their prayers could not stop the Australians from winning their seventh title in the tournament, of which this is only



In seventh heaven: Australia regained the crown after a gap of three years. It was a thoroughly dominant display by Moloney & Co. as they emerged champion with an unbeaten record. AP

the 10th edition. Opener Beth Mooney led Australia with a superb knock (64, 49B, 10x4). She showed her class and experience, not allowing England to come back into the game, as she composed innings, precisely what was required in a chase like this, in a match like this.

It was her second-wicket stand of 100 off 67 balls with Phoebe Litchfield (48, 35B, 6x4, 2x6) that virtually shut the door on England. The duo may have

felt it had a chance when opener Georgia Ball played on against Lauren Bell. The seamer clenched her fists in delight. The crowd roared. It didn't take Mooney and Litchfield long to silence them. By the time

Litchfield hit, bowled by Charlie Dean, Australia was not far from the 100-wicket partnership of 80 with Freya Kemp (41 n.o., 20B, 4x4, 1x6) gave the team a competitive total.

Earlier, England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt returned the team yet again. She remained unbeaten 38 (32B, 8x4). Her unbroken 100-wicket partnership of 80 with Freya Kemp (41 n.o., 20B, 4x4, 1x6) gave the team a competitive total.

The second over after opener Amy Jones failed yet again. Jones fell to a sharp, low catch at backward point by Vull of Lucy Hurrobin's second ball.

awesome in the group stage, but had failed in the semifinal against South Africa. And she disappointed again. She was beautifully caught behind the stumps by a diving Mooney. It had taken a review by Australia to get that wicket though; the umpire had called that ball from Anabel Sutherland a wide, but the replay revealed Wyatt-Hodge had played it.

Alize Capony gave England a mini-revived boom when she swept after Ashleigh Gardner, hitting her for two fours and a six — the first of the innings — as she came off the ninth over. Then Kemp, one of the game's bright young stars, provided some flourish at the finish, striking at close to 100. That helped, but it would not prove enough against an all-time great team.

The winners: England 150-4 in 20 overs (Lucy Hurrobin 58 n.o., Kemp 41 n.o.) beat Australia 153-0 in 17.3 overs (Mooney 64, Litchfield 48, Sciver-Brunt 38, Kemp 41). **PHOTO: AP**

## Osaka stops Sabalenka; Djokovic marches on



Calling the shots: Osaka was at her brilliant best as she took out Sabalenka in straight sets. AP

## WIMBLEDON

### S. Sudarshan

**L**ate in their careers, legends are masters at rationing excellence. It is an act of self-preservation, for trying to radiate class for sustained periods can often be energy sapping. Instead, they choose to remain steady, hang in there when needed, and go for the kill in short bursts.

On a hot Sunday afternoon at Centre Court here, Novak Djokovic did exactly this to quell the challenges from Roman Safiullin 7-6 (6), 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

It was a record 10th match-win for the 39-year-old Serb at Wimbledon as he went past Roger Federer, and it propelled him in to his ninth straight singles quarterfinal at the All England Club.

**Good club.** At the start, it was Safiullin, with his ruffled look, loose-fitting T-shirt, and expansive style, who was better. He ran up a 2-0 lead as Djokovic struggled with his depth and appeared troubled by the sun directly hitting his eyes while serving.

Safiullin also had significant momentum coming into the match. Grazie to one surface where the value of early rounder media compounds. The Russian had started in the qualifying, beating the 18th seed Andrey Rublev in the second round, and then ousted rising star Joso Fonseca in the third.

## THE RESULTS

**Men: Fourth round** 7 Djokovic (SRB) vs Safiullin (UZB), 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. **Third round** 6 Fritz (USA) vs Lamotte (FRA), 6-4, 6-4, 4-6 (10). 10 Djokovic (SRB) vs 17 Osaka (JPN), 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(2), 4-6, 9-8.

## Women: Fourth round

**Six matches** are generally a good enough to get a feel for the lines and find your footing on the slippery turf, and Safiullin, whose best result is a Major win at Wimbledon quarterfinal in 2023, seemed at ease.

**Champion stuff** But not for nothing is Djokovic a seven-time Grand Slam, and he showed this in the eighth game of the first set by sending two winners with a service winner and an ace-serve.

The value of this hold was fully realised in the subsequent game when he broke the Safiullin serve after recalibrating his power and range. The set was secured in the tie-break for the loss of six points.

In the second stanza, Djokovic, again, chose his moments wisely. He broke in the sixth game after serving a break-point with a scaring forehand winner, and then executed two break points at 3-0, 30-30.

In the third set, however, the 24-time Slam champion's level dropped. After an early trade of breaks, he fought hard in the sixth game, but Safiullin five chances to go 4-2 up by coming up with ace, on-

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## Eala provides another reminder of her potential

### S. Sudarshan

**T**o be a left-hander is to be a player apart. Assumed to possess innate grace and style, they are instantly placed in a separate aesthetic category.

It is also that they are extremely rare in the current tennis landscape. There is no active left-handed Major Open winner Madison Keys, the then World No. 2 Swiatek. Before, Iona

Now, after her third straight success over a top-10 player, with Elina Svitolina and Elena Rybakina on the heels, Iona last month and the other two, she is set to better her career-high ranking of No. 29.

Concomitantly, after Raika's win over Swiatek, a video on Saturday was an incredible show of her shimmering potential.

Eala is an unlikely tennis player. She comes from the Philippines but a long way to go before she can what the fans' appetite for a champion outsider, but her 7-6(9), 6-2 third-round triumph over defending champion and World No. 3 Iga Swiatek on Centre Court on Saturday was an incredible show of her shimmering potential.

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lot because then I would hit the backhand loop". The victory over Swiatek, however, was not lost on the fans. An early glimpse of her immense talent came last year in Miami, where she made a glorious dash to the semifinal while ranked No. 140.

She beat 2017 French Open champion Johanna Konta, 2022 Australian Open winner Madison Keys, the then World No. 2 Swiatek. Before, Iona

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## Leclerc hands Ferrari its 250th GP victory

### FORMULA ONE

### Agnes France-Franco

**C**harles Leclerc gave Ferrari its 250th Grand Prix victory when he won a gripping British GP, which ended under a safety car on Sunday.

Championship leader Kim Antonelli missed out on a top-10 finish.

Antonelli's Mercedes teammate and championship rival George Russell came through to take second place while Lewis Hamilton, in the other Ferrari, crossed the line in third.

The time-time Silverstone winner, however, was under investigation for a yellow flag infringement, having already served a five-second penalty for a false start.

Antonelli, who won the 2023 title, leads the title race with 179 points, 25 ahead of Russell with Hamilton a further seven points back in third.

It was Leclerc's ninth GP victory and first since a five-second penalty, he could only finish 16th.

**The results (10 laps):** 1 Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), 2 George Russell (Mercedes), 3 Kim Antonelli (Mercedes), 4 Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes).

**Technique a casualty of franchise era: Ranatunga**

**E.K. Ashok Kumar** CHENNAI

Arjuna Ranatunga has never been one to soften his words, and she's not an exception. In a frank assessment of the current state of Indian cricket, he headed off who is to blame.



Playing strong: Leclerc came out on top as the end of a gripping race. AP

particularly good," said Leclerc over the radio after taking the chequered flag.

Antonelli began on pole but was overtaken by both Ferraris at the start before battling back to make it a double for Leclerc.

On lap 42 of 52 the 19-year-old Italian reported a brake problem and was forced to pit.

When he came out he lapped out before returning to the pits where the mechanics removed a brake cooling inlet. It didn't help him and, combined with a five-second penalty, he could only finish 16th.

**The results (10 laps):** 1 Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), 2 George Russell (Mercedes), 3 Kim Antonelli (Mercedes), 4 Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes).

up with broken fingers for their country, but now sit out with niggles while grinding through pain for club contracts.

He raises the current Sri Lankan crop as more talented than his own 1990s side, with one exception: "Nobody came close to Aravinda de Silva." He was the greatest talent Sri Lanka has produced.

On India's current side without Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, Ranatunga was characteristically blunt — he'd back his old bowling attack to displace them twice over. Asked about teenage sensation Yashasvi Jaisankar, Ranatunga turned protective father than critic. "Most importantly, let him be a child. He's still a kid."

Technique and commitment were, as are the real casualties of the franchise era: players once turned



On the ball: Eala makes an accurate return. AP/USA

## Del Toro wins second stage

### Agnes France-Franco

**M**exican Isaac Del Toro won the second stage of the Tour de France ahead of reigning champion Tadeo Pogacar on Monday.

Del Toro led home his UAE team leader Pogacar

on the short steep climb to the finish at Montjuic, with Pogacar over World No. 1 Pogacar taking third just ahead of the all-around Pogacar took six times seconds at the finish to Del Toro on Monday.

Del Toro led home his UAE team leader Pogacar

# Australia lords over England, clinches seventh title

Mooney and Litchfield's century partnership for the second wicket makes the chase a cakewalk after the bowlers restrict the home team to 150 for four despite Sciver-Brunt and Kemp's fightback

## T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

LONDON

**A**h, these Australian women! How on earth a team could be this good. Even in transition, apparently.

Sophie Molineux and her women lifted the T20 World Cup on a gloriously sunny Sunday afternoon. Expectedly. In style. With yet another dominant show.

They crushed England by seven wickets with 2.5 overs to spare. England's 150 for four, after being asked to bat first, was never going to be enough against the strong and incredibly deep Australian batting line-up.

A full house, mostly made up of English fans, had come to watch the final at Lord's. All their loud cheers and all their prayers could not stop the Australians from winning their seventh title in the tournament, of which this is only



**In seventh heaven:** Australia regained the crown after a gap of three years. It was a thoroughly dominant display by Molineux & Co. as they emerged champion with an unbeaten record. AFP

the 10th edition.

Opener Beth Mooney led Australia with a superb knock (64, 49b, 10x4). She showed her class and experience, not allowing England to come back into the match. It was a well-composed innings, pre-

cisely what was required in a chase like this, in a match like this.

It was her second-wicket stand of 100 off 67 balls with Phoebe Litchfield (48, 35b, 6x4, 2x6) that virtually shut the door on England. The host may have

felt it had a chance when opener Georgia Voll played on against Lauren Bell. The seamer clenched her fists in delight. The crowd roared.

It didn't take Mooney and Litchfield long to silence them. By the time

Litchfield fell, bowled by Charlie Dean, Australia was not far from home: only 34 runs were required.

Mooney was trapped in front by Sophie Ecclesstone, but it was too late.

Earlier, England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt rescued

the team yet again. She remained unbeaten 58 (53b, 5x4). Her unbroken fifth-wicket partnership of 80 with Freya Kemp (44 n.o., 28b, 4x4, 1x6) gave the team a competitive total.

Sciver-Brunt had to walk out to the middle in just

the second over after opener Amy Jones failed yet again.

Jones fell to a sharp, low catch at backward point by Voll off Lucy Hamilton's second ball.

Her opening partner Danni Wyatt-Hodge was in

awesome in the group stage, but had failed in the semifinal against South Africa. And she disappointed again. She was beautifully caught behind the stumps by a diving Mooney. It had taken a review by Australia to get that wicket though; the umpire had called that ball from Annabel Sutherland a wide, but the replays revealed Wyatt-Hodge had gloved it.

Alice Capsey gave England a much-needed boost when she went after Ashleigh Gardner, hitting her for two fours and a six – the first of the innings – as 16 came off the ninth over. Then Kemp, one of the game's bright young stars, provided some flourish at the finish, striking at close to 158. That helped, but it would not prove enough against an all-time great team.

### The scores:

England 150/4 in 20 overs (Sciver-Brunt 58 n.o., Kemp 44 n.o.) lost to Australia 153/3 in 17.1 overs (Mooney 64, Litchfield 48).

**Toss:** Australia.

**PoM & PoS:** Mooney.

Parameter

Tournament

Edition

Final

Venue

England

Australia

Result

Balls remaining

Australia captain

Player of the Match

Player of the Tournament

Australia titles

Tournament record

Details

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

**10th**

Australia vs England

Lord's, London

**150/4 in 20 overs**

**151/3 in 17.1 overs**

Australia won by **7 wickets**

**17 balls**

Sophie Molineux

Beth Mooney

Beth Mooney

**7**

Australia finished **unbeaten**



Edition Year

2009

2010

2012

2014

2016

2018

2020

2023

2024

2026

Champion

England

**Australia**

**Australia**

**Australia**

West Indies

**Australia**

**Australia**

**Australia**

New Zealand

**Australia**



Champion



<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
Australia	<b>7</b>
England	<b>1</b>
West Indies	<b>1</b>
New Zealand	<b>1</b>



Factor

Australian sports Team Strength

World Cup culture

Repeated success across generations

Domestic structure

Strong professional pathway

Player depth

Competition for every position

All-rounders

Flexibility in team combination

Fast bowling

Multiple pace options

Spin

Match-up-based tactical options

Fielding

Consistently high standards

Mental strength

Excellent record in knockout games

• SPORT

# Cape Verde: The tiny African nation that scripted 2026 WC's underdog story

Abhinav Chakraborty  
New Delhi, July 5

"SIZE DEFINES nothing in football." Argentina's talisman and arguably the greatest footballer on the planet, Lionel Messi, would probably agree with this assessment by Pedro "Bubista" Brito, the head coach of what has become the 2026 FIFA World Cup's most celebrated underdog.

When Cape Verde managed to hold Argentina to a 1-1 scoreline at the end of 90 minutes in their Round of 32 knockout match late Friday, there was a real possibility that the tiny African island nation could prevail, having already denied victory to two former world champions — Spain and Uruguay — in the group stage.

That was not to be, but the result ensured that the Blue Sharks — the nickname

Cape Verde's football team goes by — had etched its place on the world football map.

## Archipelago in the Atlantic

The Cape Verde Islands, officially the Republic of Cabo Verde, is an archipelago of 10 islands — nine of them inhabited — and various islets located some 450 km off the west coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean.

The islands were uninhabited until the Portuguese discovered them in 1456. Over the next few years, Portuguese settlers arrived and brought African slaves with them to work on plantations. By the 16th century, it became a hub for the transatlantic slave trade. This history meant that Cape Verdeans are of mixed African and European origin. It shows in the languages spoken there: while Portuguese is the official language, most local people also speak Crioulo,



a Creole dialect based on archaic Portuguese but influenced by other languages. The rise of anti-colonialist nationalisms



Argentina's Lionel Messi (R) with Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha after the World Cup match on Friday. AP

across Asia and Africa in the 20th century did not bypass the island nation. To suppress calls for independence, Portugal

changed Cape Verde's status to an overseas province in 1951. That failed to quell growing unrest, and on July 5, 1975, Cape Verde's newly elected National Assembly received the instruments of independence from Portugal. After almost a decade-and-a-half of one-party rule, the country conducted a multi-party general election in 1991.

Since then, Cape Verde has been a stable electoral democracy.

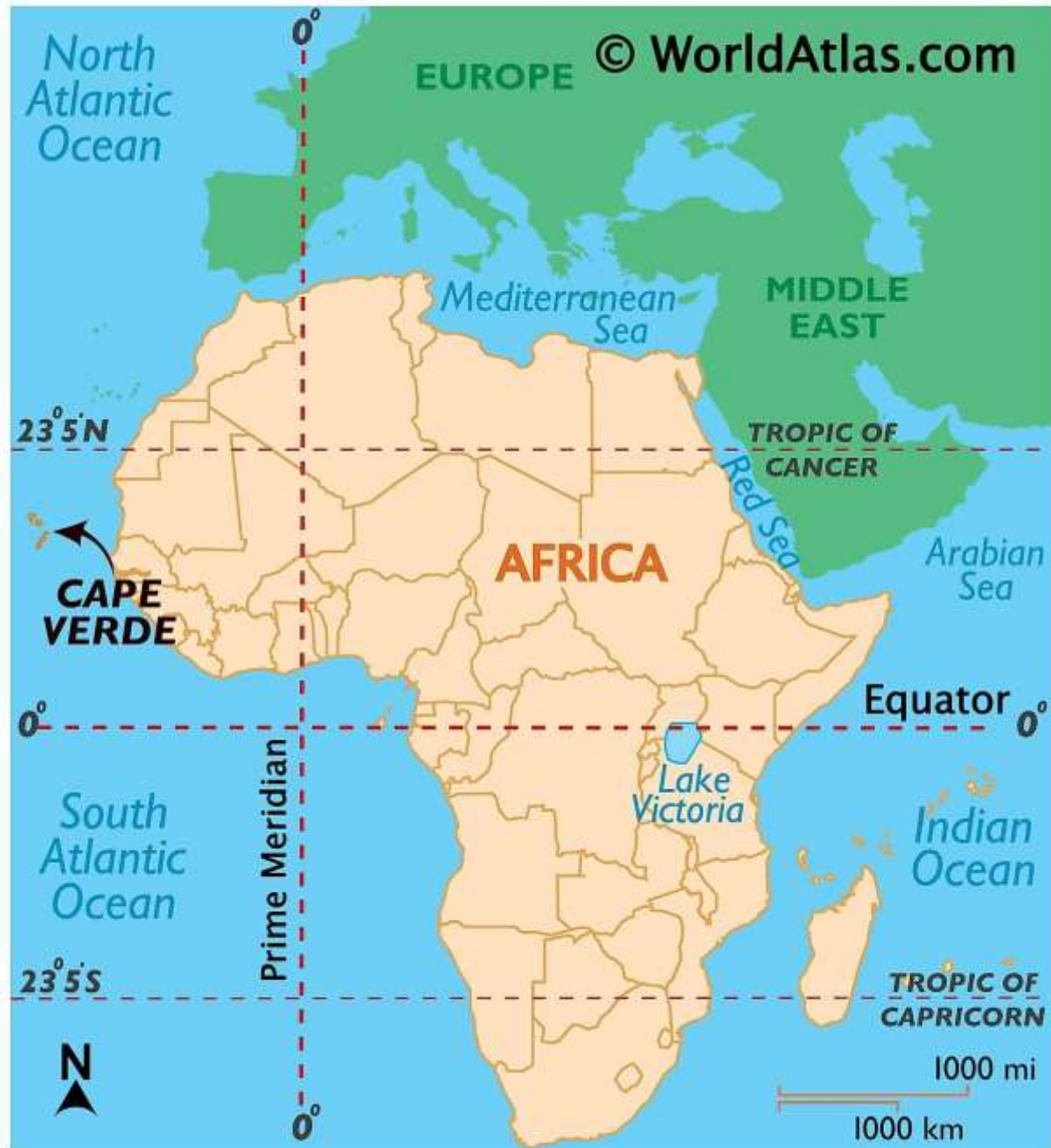
## World Cup exploits

The Blue Sharks joined FIFA only in 1985. But that they managed to qualify for the 2026 World Cup with a stellar record (7 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss in 10 games) and their subsequent performance in the tournament seem to have vindicated FIFA's decision to go in for an expanded 48-team format and enable smaller countries to

shine on the global stage.

Cape Verde are only the third smallest nation (by population) in the history of the World Cup — after Iceland (which played in 2018) and fellow 2026 debutants Curacao. The team derives strength from its compact organisation and tactical discipline.

That a country with a resident population of just over 500,000 has managed such a feat is down to history: unfavourable climate and few natural resources forced natives to emigrate abroad over the years, with over one million people of Cape Verdean ancestry presently living in the US, Europe, and even African countries such as Senegal. This diaspora came to Cape Verde's service: more than half (14) of the 26-member squad came from these communities, with those selected hailing from France, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Ireland.



24°

# ATLANTIC OCEAN

SANTO ANTÃO  
Tope de Coroa  
1979 m

SANTA LUZIA ISLAND

BRANCO ISLAND

RASO ISLAND

SÃO VICENTE

SÃO NICOLAU

SAL

BOA VISTA

16°

## CABO VERDE

ILHÉUS SECOS

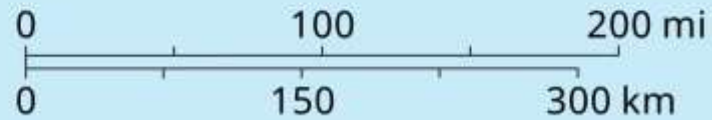
BRAVA

Pico  
2829 m

FOGO

SÃO TIAGO

MAIO



© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.







Parameter

Country

Location

Geography

Population

Area

Capital

Colonial ruler

Independence

Official language

Widely spoken language

Football nickname

FIFA World Cup debut

Pre-tournament FIFA ranking reported

Qualification record

World Cup achievement

Knockout exit

Details

Cabo Verde / Cape Verde

Atlantic Ocean, off the west coast of Africa

Archipelago of **10 islands**, 9 inhabited

About **500,000–525,000**

About **4,033 sq km**

Praia

Portugal

**5 July 1975**

Portuguese

Cape Verdean Creole/Kriolu

**Blue Sharks**

**2026**

Around **67th**

7 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss in 10 qualifiers

Reached Round of 32 on debut

Lost 3–2 to Argentina after extra time



## Geographical Feature

Continent

Sub-region

Physical location

Type

Number of islands

Inhabited islands

Nearest mainland region

Climate challenge

Strategic character

## Details

Africa

West Africa

Atlantic Ocean

Volcanic archipelago

10

9

West African coast

Dry climate and limited freshwater resources

Historic Atlantic maritime crossroads



## Period

Before 15th century

Mid-15th century

Late 15th century onward

Colonial era

1951

5 July 1975

Post-independence

1991

Present

## Development

Islands were uninhabited

Portuguese explorers reached the islands

Portuguese settlement expanded

Became an important Atlantic trading and slave-trade hub

Portuguese administrative status changed to an overseas province

Independence from Portugal

Initially a one-party political system

Multiparty elections and democratic transition

Generally regarded as one of Africa's more stable electoral democracies

## Traditional Small-Country Problem

Small population

Limited domestic league depth

Limited facilities

Small scouting market

Limited high-level competition

## Cape Verde's Response

Global talent pool

Players developed in European systems

Overseas professional training

Diaspora identification

Players gain experience abroad



Country	Major Diaspora Connection
Cape Verde	Portugal and wider Europe
Morocco	France, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium
Senegal	France
Algeria	France
Ghana	UK and Europe
Jamaica	UK
Curaçao	Netherlands

## 11. Smallest Countries to Reach the World Cup: Population Context

Cape Verde is among the smallest countries by population ever to qualify for the men's World Cup. With Curaçao also qualifying in 2026, Cape Verde became the **third-smallest by population** among World Cup qualifiers, behind Curaçao and Iceland. [ESPN India +1](#)

Country	Approx. Population Context	World Cup Significance
Curaçao	~156,000	Smallest by population to qualify
Iceland	~400,000	Famous 2018 qualifier
Cape Verde	~500,000–525,000	Third-smallest by population
Larger football powers	Millions to hundreds of millions	Much larger talent pools

### Comparison with India

The contrast is striking:

Indicator	Cape Verde	India
Population	~0.5 million	1.4 billion+
World Cup 2026	Qualified and reached knockouts	Did not qualify
Talent strategy	Diaspora + overseas professionals	Primarily domestic pathway
Football ecosystem	Small but focused	Large but fragmented
Key lesson	Population size alone does not create sporting success	Systems matter more than population

## Cape Verde Approach

Small but focused scouting network

Diaspora recruitment

Tactical consistency

International exposure

Strong federation-team connection

Focus on team organisation

Overseas player development

## Possible Indian Lesson

Build systematic national scouting

Identify eligible overseas-origin talent where applicable

Develop a coherent national playing identity

Increase competitive matches

Improve institutional coordination

Do not depend only on individual stars

Create more pathways into stronger leagues

KOLKATA HAS THE GREATEST NUMBER OF UNINCORPORATED ENTERPRISES AT 8.84 LAKH

# 2 cr informal workers in India's big cities; Hyd tops with 15.7 lakh

Roughly 26% — or 52 lakh — of the informal workers in the country's most populous 46 cities are women

Siddharth Upasani  
New Delhi, July 5

INFORMAL BUSINESSES are widely thought to operate largely in the rural heartland of the country. However, a new government report has shed light on the size of the informal sector in India's urban centres, estimating that the country's 46 most populous cities have 1.98 crore people working in 1 crore informal establishments.

Greater Hyderabad tops the list of cities with the highest number of informal workers at 15.7 lakh, with Kolkata home to the greatest number of informal establishments — 8.84 lakh.

As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) report on urban unincorporated enterprises in cities whose population exceeded 1 million (10 lakh) as per Census 2011, six had more than a million informal workers: Greater Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Surat, Greater Mumbai, and Jaipur. Together, these six cities account for 40% of all informal workers in the country's 46 cities with more than a mil-

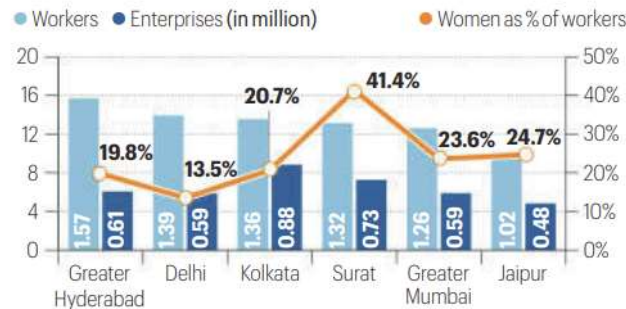
lion people each. The number of unincorporated establishments in these six cities is estimated to be nearly 39 lakh, or around 39% of the total in the 46 cities.

The total number of informal workers in India in 2025 was 12.81 crore.

Of the 1.98 crore informal workers in these 46 cities, roughly 26% — or 52 lakh — were women. Greater Visakhapatnam had the highest percentage of female workers at 42.5%, with Surat close behind at 41.4%. Srinagar was last at 10.5%, just below Varanasi at 12.1%. The report on the unincorporated enterprises in million-plus cities is the second such report released by MoSPI on India's biggest cities. The first was on their labour market dynamics, based on the results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2025.

"This report presents, for the first time, a comprehensive statistical profile of 46 million-plus cities," Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General of MoSPI's National Sample Survey, said. She added that since the estimates are based on sample survey data, "differences observed across

## • Cities with 1 million+ informal workers



NOTE: ESTIMATES ARE FOR UNINCORPORATED ENTERPRISES. SOURCE: MoSPI

cities may arise from variations in economic structure, industrial composition, local conditions and sampling variability".

The city-level estimates are generated from MoSPI's Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2025, which covers India's unincorporated, non-agricultural enterprises, excluding construction. These enterprises make up a sizable portion of the economy and include the likes of small manufacturers, service providers, and trading units.

## Spread of cities

The 46 million-plus cities account for about 13% of establishments, 16% of workers, and 21% of Gross Value Added (GVA) of the unincorporated non-agricultural sector as per the ASUSE

2025 survey. These 46 cities are from 17 states and Union Territories: 10 from Maharashtra, seven from Uttar Pradesh, four each from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, three each from Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, two each from Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and West Bengal, and one apiece from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, and Telangana.

As *The Indian Express* had reported earlier this year in March, the number of informal establishments in the entire country rose by 58.5 lakh in 2025 to 7.92 crore, down from an increase of 83.5 lakh in 2023-24 (October-September). As a result, fewer jobs were created: 74.5 lakh in 2025 compared to 1.1 crore in the 12 months ended September

2024. Informal sector pay rose by just 3.9% in 2025, less than half the 13% increase seen in 2023-24.

## Pay and productivity

In terms of total pay, emolument per worker was the highest in Jaipur, at Rs 2.33 lakh — although this only considers those unincorporated establishments with hired workers. Greater Hyderabad was second, at Rs 2.14 lakh. Emoluments refers to the total compensation a worker receives, inclusive of salary and benefits.

Meanwhile, informal enterprises in Gwalior paid hired workers the least at Rs 88,853, with Varanasi second from bottom at Rs 1 lakh. On average, emolument per worker in the 46 cities was Rs 1.5 lakh per year.

With the government releasing details for the 46 million-plus cities for the first time, comparative data on wages and the number of informal jobs is unavailable. Consequently, there is no way to calculate how much wages increased in 2025.

While informal workers in Jaipur got paid the most, they were not the most productive; that title belonged to Pimpri-Chinchwad, where the GVA per worker stood at Rs 2.9 lakh — significantly higher than Jaipur, which ranked 13th at Rs 2.23 lakh.

FULL REPORT ON  
[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)



Indicator

Major cities covered

Data

**46**

Informal workers in these cities

**1.98 crore**

Unincorporated establishments

About **1 crore**

Share of India's total informal workers

Around **16%**

Share of national unincorporated establishments

Around **13%**

Share in sectoral GVA

Around **21%**

Women informal workers

**52 lakh**

Women's share

**26%**

Six biggest informal-worker cities

Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Surat, Greater Mumbai  
and Jaipur

Workers in these 6 cities

About **79 lakh**

Establishments in these 6 cities

About **39 lakh**

Average annual emolument per worker


**₹1.51 lakh**

Total informal workers in India, 2025

**12.81 crore**

Informal establishments nationally, 2025

**7.92 crore**



## 2. What is an Unincorporated Enterprise?

An **unincorporated enterprise** is generally a business that does not possess a separate legal identity from its owner in the manner of an incorporated company.

Examples include:

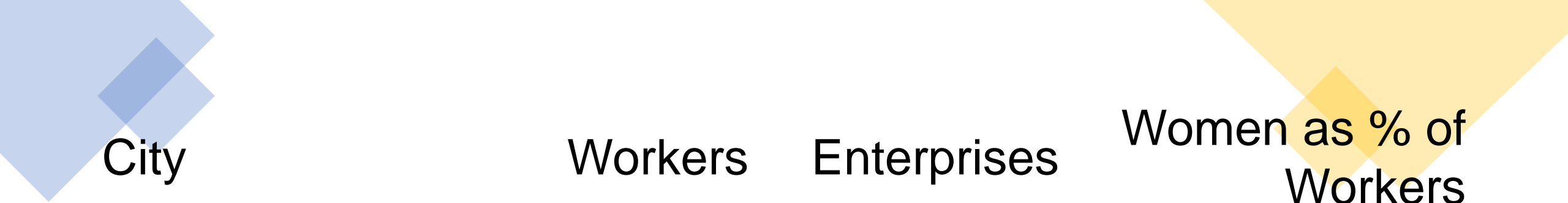
- small retail shops,
- street businesses,
- repair workshops,
- tailoring units,
- small manufacturers,
- restaurants and food businesses,
- transport-related enterprises,
- beauty and personal services,
- household-based production units,
- numerous other small service businesses.

The ASUSE data discussed in the article covers **unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises**, excluding construction.


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Parameter	Formal Enterprise	Typical Informal/Unincorporated Enterprise
Legal structure	Company or formally structured entity	Often proprietorship or household enterprise
Scale	Medium to large in many cases	Mostly micro and small
Accounting	Structured accounts	Often limited accounting systems
Employment contract	More likely formal	Often informal or family-based
Social security	Greater coverage	Generally limited
Access to bank credit	Relatively easier	Often difficult
Productivity	Generally higher	Highly uneven
Regulatory compliance	Structured	Varies considerably

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City	Workers	Enterprises	Women as % of Workers
Greater Hyderabad	<b>15.7 lakh</b>	6.1 lakh	19.8%
Delhi	<b>13.9 lakh</b>	5.9 lakh	13.5%
Kolkata	<b>13.6 lakh</b>	<b>8.8 lakh</b>	20.7%
Surat	<b>13.2 lakh</b>	7.3 lakh	<b>41.4%</b>
Greater Mumbai	<b>12.6 lakh</b>	5.9 lakh	23.6%
Jaipur	<b>10.2 lakh</b>	4.8 lakh	24.7%



**CITY**

**WORKERS PER ENTERPRISE, APPROX.**

Greater Hyderabad

2.57

Delhi

2.36

Kolkata

1.55

Surat

1.81

Greater Mumbai

2.14

Jaipur

2.13

## 7. India's Total Informal Workforce: National Picture

According to the article:

National Indicator	2023–24	2025
Informal establishments	7.08 crore	<b>7.92 crore</b>
Increase	—	<b>58.5 lakh</b> , as reported in the article
Informal workers	11 crore	<b>12.81 crore</b>
New jobs created	—	<b>74.5 lakh</b> , according to the article's comparison

The article also notes that informal-sector pay increased by only **3.9% in 2025**, compared with **13% in 2023–24**.

This suggests an important distinction:

**Employment growth does not automatically mean strong income growth.**

A country can create a large number of jobs, but if these jobs are characterised by low productivity and low wages, household prosperity may not increase proportionately.

## 9. Pay and Productivity: The Most Important Economic Finding

The article gives striking city-level differences in worker compensation.

### Highest Annual Emolument per Worker

Rank	City	Annual Emolument
1	Jaipur	₹2.33 lakh
2	Greater Hyderabad	₹2.14 lakh
—	Average of 46 cities	₹1.51 lakh
Near bottom	Varanasi	₹1 lakh
Lowest	Gwalior	₹88,853

### Monthly equivalent

City	Approx. Monthly Equivalent
Jaipur	₹19,400
Greater Hyderabad	₹17,800
46-city average	₹12,600
Varanasi	₹8,300
Gwalior	₹7,400



## Structural Reason

Rural-to-urban migration

Limited formal job creation

Low entry cost

Skill mismatch

Regulatory costs

Family enterprises

Flexible labour demand

Subcontracting

Urban service demand

## Explanation

Migrants often enter low-entry-barrier jobs

Formal employment cannot absorb all workers

Small businesses can start with limited capital

Workers may not meet formal-sector requirements


Very small businesses may avoid or delay formalisation

Household labour is common

Businesses can hire according to seasonal demand

Formal firms sometimes depend on informal suppliers

Food, repair, transport and personal services create jobs





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## Informal Economy

Much older phenomenon

Street vendors, small shops, workshops etc.

May be offline

Mostly micro-enterprises and workers

Employer relationship may be unclear

Social security often weak

## Gig Economy

Rapidly expanded through digital platforms

Drivers, delivery workers, freelancers etc.

Often digitally mediated

Platform-based task or contract work

Platform-worker relationship often contested

Social-security challenge also significant





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Initiative

Main Purpose

e-Shram

National database and identity framework for unorganised workers

PM-SVANidhi

Working-capital support for street vendors

MUDRA

Credit support to micro and small enterprises

Udyam Registration

Simplified MSME registration

Jan Dhan Yojana

Financial inclusion

Digital payments ecosystem

Transaction formalisation and financial history

Skill India

Employability and skill development

Social-security schemes

Insurance and pension support for eligible workers



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# Word of the day

## **Querulous:**

habitually complaining

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**Synonyms:** restless, grumpy, nervous, dissatisfied

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**Usage:** *The patient became querulous because of the long wait.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/querulous](http://newsth.live/querulous)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /kwerələs/

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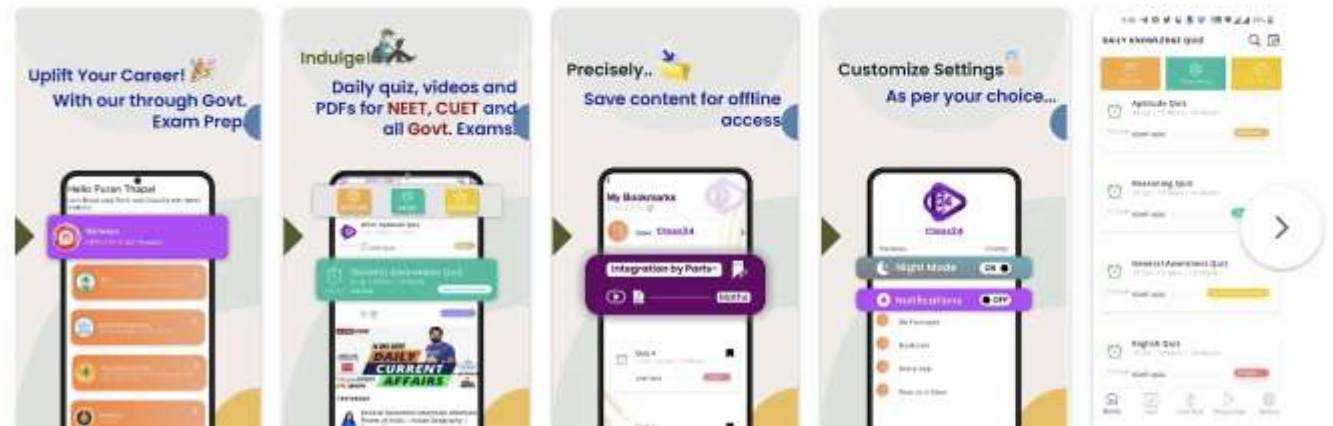
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