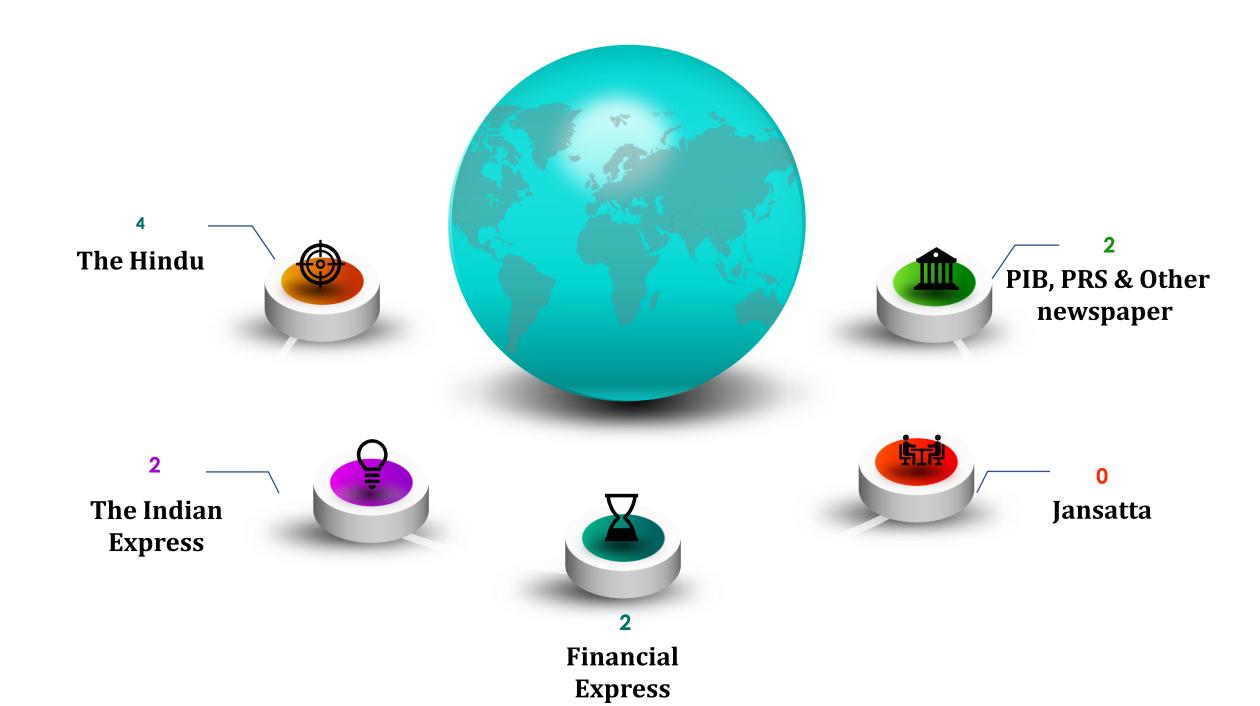
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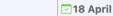












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"Time is a drug. Too much of it kills you."

- Terry Pratchett, Small Gods

tags: humor, science

FEB. 29, 2024: State govern out of the tripartite suspen



Canada PM defends G-7 invite to Modi, says India



Naidu confident PM will



NSIDB



Five more Maoists killed on the fourth day

RAIPUR Five more Maoists were killed by security forces during an ongoing operation in the Indravati National Park area of

stampede: KSCA officials resign

BENGALURU

Two key office-bearers of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) have quit their posts, taking moral responsibility for the stampede responsibility for the stampede that occurred at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. KSCA management committee has been listed as an accused in

Absurd to defame us after loss in Maharashtra: EC

NEW DEELHE On a day when the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, levelled allegations of irregularities in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election yet again, the Election Commission on Saturday said it was "absurd" to "defame" the poll body after

Centre set to resume talks with Kuki-Zo insurgents

No immediate extension of suspension of operations pact; it will be renegotiated with stringent norms; it was signed in 2008 and extended each year till 2024 when Manipur govt. pulled out

he Union Home Mi-nistry is all set to resume talks with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Manipur after a gap of two years.

A senior government of-ficial told *The Hindu* that the suspension of opera-tions (SoO) pact with the insurgent groups in Mani-pur will be "renegotiated vith stringent ground rules". The SoO framework has

to be in existence before any "political solution" can be reached.

The Kuki-Zo SoO groups will hold the talks with the Ministry's Northeast advis-er A.K. Mishra and Intelligence Bureau officials on June 9.

Changing demands
Before May 2023, when
ethnic violence erupted in
ethnic violence erupted in
ethnic violence erupted in
mand of the SoO groups
was to have autonomous
territorial councils within
Manipur. After the conflict
Manipur. After the conflict
ethnic manipul ethnic
ethnic manipul
ethn

tory with a legislature.
The 2008 agreement
has been periodically extended each year, except on February 29, 2024, when the Manipur govern-ment pulled out from the tripartite pact. The other two signatories are the Ministry and the SoO groups.

Obstacle course ure an agreement with Kuki-Zo groups,

Churachandour in March, serces

One of the conditions that has been set forth to hold further talks is the re-moval of SoO camps from locations close to the valley iocations ctose to the valley districts, which are domi-nated by the Meitei people. Security forces have sug-gested that the number of camps be reduced from the existing 14 to seven.

Exchanging accusations Meitel groups have ac Carrying out armed artacks during and after the ethnic violence between the Kuki-violence between the Kuki-violence between the Kuki-violence between the Kuki-which erupted in the State on May 3, 2023, and claimed the lives of 250 pe-dicional control of the control of the control of the control of the former Manipur Chief Miniater N. Biren Singh

claimed that the SoO groups had violated ground rules and instigat-ed the ethnic violence. The

the Manipur government of using the State machin-

ery against them.
The official quoted above said that there will above said that there will be no immediate extension of the SoO pact, which pro-tects the identified cadres from arrest and criminal cases if they follow ground rules. It will be extended only after the negotiation is complete, he said.

"Separate set of rules'
"Some camps will have to be shut down, few have to be relocated. Separate set of ground rules are being formulated. Without its im-plementation, the SoO pact cannot be extended," the official said.

After a peace pact is signed with an insurgent group, the cadres are expected to stay in ear-marked camps.

Weapons and ammuni-

tion are accounted for, and

address Southern States' concern on delimitation

Varghese K. George

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Nai-that Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi will address the concern of the southern based only on population will reduce their represen-tation in Parliament. Mr. Ly is a key constituent of the ruling National Demo-centre. "I am 100% confi-Centre. "I am 100% confi-dent in the Prime Minis-ter's wisdom. He will work with everybody and then take forward [the delimita-

tion exercise]," he said. Mr. Naidu spoke to The Mr. Naidu spoke to The Hindu at his private resi-dence in the city on a wide range of issues as he com-pletes the first year of his third term as Chief Minis-ter, that started on June 12, 2024. Mr. Naidu had

ter, that started on June 12, 30 played a critical role in 2001 when the NDA was in power, in the consensus Constitutional amendment distribution of parliamentary representation for 25 per service of the sentiment of the Southern States it was thought, in south india, we thought, in south india, we were able to control population. Today, we have realised population is an asset, nor liability, sould in the proposition of the propulation. The played one a good job., "Mr. Naidus said, good job " Mr Najdu said



The demand [for fair delimitation] is being made too early... When they (the Centre) made too early... When they (the Centre) come with a policy, and if then there is any problem for south India, we can talk. Without having anything, if you raise it, it is only political slogan N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU Andhra Pradesh Chief Ministe

explaining the 2001 deci- said, in response to a sion and the present situa-tion. "...we have to keep our sentiment intact, [Regardingl delimitation, appropriate policy will come. They will work it out. That will work it out. That time also fin 2001. This time also fin 2001. This time also fin will happen, breasts. Most owner has present. Most owner that happen government in this page government in this appended to the second of the garding] delimitation, ap-

important...." Mr. Naidu said he had Mr. Naidu said he had discussed the demograph-ic changes "broadly" in meetings at NITI Aayog, but did not have an oppor-tunity to speak to the Prime Minister on the issue. "No, not yet. The time has not yet come [to talk to Mr. Modi]. At an appro-priate time [I will talk]," he

question.

question.

Mr. Naidu repeated his call for faster population for faster population down. South findia has to go for demographic mander of the faster population is increasing. Migrations will happen. Migrations will happen way... Very difficult task... he was considering any incentive for having more children, he said such experiments of the property of the considering any incentive for having more children, he said such experiments of the considering any incentive for having more children, he said such experiments. successful in any part of the world. "South India had advanced thinking, for population management and also economic pro-gress. People are not hav-ing children now. So we need [to go in] the reverse way. We have to think here about population manage-ment. You have to do," he

Delhi and Rajasthan begin storing fingerprints, iris scans of arrestees

The police in Delhi and Rajasthan have become the first in India to record, store, and analyse biomet scans of all those arrested and others accused of

Due to the limitations of forensic capabilities, the collection of DNA, likely drawn from blood sam

drawn from blood sam-ples, is yet to be rolled out, police officials said.

These biometric sam-ples are being collected since March in compliance with the Criminal Proce-dure Identification Acr-liament in 2022 and has now come into effect on a pilot basis in Delhi and Ra-jasthan after three years.



ice and Central investigat-

drawn from blood samples, is yet to be rolled out, police officials said.

These biomic collected since March in compliance with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, illument in 2022 and has now come into effect on a pilot basis in Delhi and Rajasthan after three years.

The Act cambles the ped-will all the policy of the collect of the process of the policy of the policy

around 1.300 locations spread across police dis-tricts, commissionerates, and Special Investigation

Units at State headquarters. The NCRB has been The NGRB has been tasked with implementing the Act and has finalised the Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by police officials. Such guidelines have been completed for the

collection of finger-impres-sions, palm-prints, foot-prints, photographs, iris and retina scans, physical and biological samples and their analysis, and beha-vioural attributes including vioural attributes including signatures, handwriting,

The NCRB has held meetings with forensic lab-oratories to finalise the

Don't equate India with Pakistan, Jaishankar tells David Lammy

ducted by a monitoring agency decided by the

State government.

An SoO representative said: "The talks are being

As and representative shall be a preliminary held in Delhi after a histus. It will be a preliminary meeting with the Centre."
A round 2,200 cadres of Around 2,200 cadres of Around 2,200 cadres of Around 2,200 cadres of Around 2,200 cadres of the Around 2,200 cadres are to the compact of the Around 2,200 cadres are entitled to a stipend of \$6,000 per month, which has not been greated as the Around 2,000 carry of the Around 2,000 cadres are the violence of the Around 2,000 cadres are the

The SoO agreement was signed in the aftermath of the Kuki-Naga clashes in

the 1990s when hundreds were killed. The insurgent groups demanded an inde-pendent land for the Kuki-

India expects its partners to understand its "policy of zero tolerance" on terro-rism, External Affairs Mi-nister S. Jaishankar told visiting British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Saturday, adding that the country could not "counte-

DNA loci pointers to be used in DNA profiling under the profile of the bused in DNA profiling under the profile of the profile



Mr. Lammy's comments on May 17 had ruffled feathers in New Delhi as India has repeatedly denied the four-day conflict between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror the Pahalgam terror gazinst terrorism and expect our partners to understand it, and we will never counternance per petrators.

of evil being put as par with its victims, Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Lammy. He thanked the U.K. govern-ment of the Pahalgam attack and support for India's fight against terrorism. Mr. Jaishankar's strong Mr. Jaishankar's strong comment against other countries over what is seen as India's "hyphenation". of evil being put at par with

with Pakistan in the after-math of Operation Sin-door, where many coun-tries expressed concern-and offered to help stop the military escalation dur-ing the four-day conflict. The government has faced criticism from the Opposition over U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that he mediated the crisis.

The Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to requests for a comment on whether the issue of Pakistan's role in the UNSC ter-ror committees had been discussed between Mr.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Mr. Jaishankar referred to the India-U.K. FTA, as a "milestone" in ties, and the potential of other bilat-

Delhi and Rajasthan begin storing fingerprints, iris scans of arrestees

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

The police in Delhi and Rajasthan have become the first in India to record, store, and analyse biometric data such as fingerprints and retina and iris scans of all those arrested and others accused of crimes.

Due to the limitations of forensic capabilities, the collection of DNA, likely drawn from blood samples, is yet to be rolled out, police officials said.

These biometric samples are being collected since March in compliance with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2022 and has now come into effect on a pilot basis in Delhi and Rajasthan after three years.

The Act enables the pol-

CM



Biometric samples are being collected since March in compliance with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act. AP

ice and Central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples.

Though the Act and its Rules do not explicitly mention the collection of DNA samples and face-matching procedures, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has informed State police officials that such measures will also be rolled out in

around 1,300 locations spread across police districts, commissionerates, and Special Investigation Units at State headquarters.

The NCRB has been tasked with implementing the Act and has finalised the Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by police officials.

Such guidelines have been completed for the collection of finger-impressions, palm-prints, footprints, photographs, iris and retina scans, physical and biological samples and their analysis, and behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting, or any other examination.

The NCRB has held meetings with forensic laboratories to finalise the DNA loci pointers to be used in DNA profiling under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) System, which it has developed.

Rajasthan Director General of Police U.R. Sahoo told *The Hindu* that the Act has been implemented in some police districts.

A Delhi Police official said that such data is being recorded for all accused persons, irrespective of whether they have been arrested or not.

 Delhi and Rajasthan have become the first states in India to implement the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 by collecting biometric and biological data—including fingerprints, palm-prints, iris and retina scans—of arrestees and accused persons.

1. What's Being Implemented?

- States involved: Delhi and Rajasthan
- V Biometric data collected includes:
 - Fingerprints, palm prints, footprints
 - Iris and retina scans
 - Photographs
 - Signatures, handwriting
- Also involves:
 - Collection of physical and biological samples
 - Behavioural attributes (if applicable)

2. Legal Framework: Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

Aspect	Details
Enacted	Passed by Parliament in 2022
Purpose	Allow police and investigating agencies to collect, store, and analyze biometric/biological data of arrestees
Coverage	All accused persons, irrespective of whether they are convicted
Implementing Agency	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
SOP Finalised	Standard Operating Procedures shared with state police forces
Pilot Started	March 2025 in Delhi and Rajasthan

3. Operational Details

- P Around 1,300 locations (police districts, commissionerates, special units)
- Meetings held with forensic labs to define DNA loci pointers for future profiling

4. Statements from Officials

- Delhi Police: Data is being recorded for all accused, whether arrested or not.
- Rajasthan Police (U.R. Sahoo): Pilot implementation in selected districts is ongoing.

C. Ethical & Constitutional Concerns (GS IV & Essay)

Pros:

- Helps in faster identification of repeat offenders
- Strengthens forensic-backed policing

Cons:

- Potential misuse of data
- Absence of comprehensive data protection law
- May violate bodily autonomy and due process rights

INBRIDE



NIA charges Goldy Brar, four others for Gurugram blasts

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against five persons, including Canada-based designated 'terrorist' Satinderjit Singh, alias Goldy Brar, in connection with the 2024 twin bomb attacks at clubs in Gurugram, Haryana. The others named in the chargesheet are Sachin Taliyan, Ankit, Bhawish, and are Sacnim Taliyan, Ankit, Bhawish, and U.S.-based Randeep Singh, alias Randeep Malik. The NiA has invoked provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BiNS), the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "Barring Goldy Brar and Randeep Malik, all others have been arrested in the case," the agency stated.

Sonia Gandhi visits hospital in Shimla for routine check-up

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday visited the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (GMC) in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla. According to IGMC spokesperson, Ms. Gandhi had come for a routine medical check-up as a part of preventive and diagnostic care. A few medical checks were conducted under the supervision of specialized doctors, and she was edically fit and fine, said the spokesperson in a statement. All necessary protocols were maintained without disturbing the visitors, it added. The former Congress president is in Shimla on a personal visit along with her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Wadra.

Department of Posts seeks feedback on Digipin service

The Department of Posts has sought the The Department of Posts has sought the participation of various stakeholders, including citizens, developers, and institutions, for refining according to an official statement. The postal department had announced the launch of 'Know Your Digipois' and 'Know Your Pia Code' on May Your Digipois' and 'Know Your Pia Code' on May Policy, 2022, which envisions an advanced geospatial infrastructure for digital governance and public service delivery. The Digipin initiative aims to simplify location mapping, enhance emergency response, and ensure last-mile delivery in rural, underserved areas.

YouTuber remanded to police custody on espionage charges

The Haryana Police had summoned Punjab-based YouTuber Jasbir Singh on June 6 in Could join the investigation, he was arrested by the Punjab Police, his counsel said on Saturday. He denied the charge that Singh was an agent of the County of the County of the County of the (SSD, A court on Saturday extended for two days the police remand of Singh, who was arrested on espionage charges on June 4. Jasbir Singh, alias Punjagar district, was running a YouTrube channel, "JaanMahal Video", with over II lakh subscribers, posting travel and cooking Vigo. **

SUDOKU



Govt. eases procurement norms for research labs

Finance Ministry allows select institutions to buy equipment outside the GEM portal; move

mid complaints from scientists on sub-standard equipment affecting their research, the Finance Mi-nistry has rolled back restrictions imposed on how scientific labs procured equipment, through a cir-cular issued on June 5.

The first significant change was allowing affi-liated scientific institutions lated scientific institutions to bypass the Government e-marketplace (GEM), a Commerce Ministry initiative meant to prioritism made-in-india equipment. government purchases from laptops to furniture to be made with the cheapest vendor identified through the GEM portal. The control of the co

viously reported, this was often a stumbling block for scientists who required customised equipment conforming to high quality standards to replicate experiments. The vendors of the GEM, scientists had told The Hindu, were often unable to meet such stan dards. For procurement outside the GEM universe, scientists had to first establish that the necessary wares were unavailable on the site. This often led to delays and compromise on



Thursday's notification allowed Directors of select institutes and Vice-Chan-cellors or Chancellors of lopment," he told The Hindu. "This reverts to how procurement used to happen before the GEM, universities to make "non-Government e-market place procurement of scientific equipment and

greater autonomy."

The circular also allows heads of scientific institutions to approve "global tender enquiry" up to \$200 crore. Prior to this, consumables".

The Director of a leading biology institute, who declined to be identified, said he could "scarcely bedepartmental Secretaries such as the heads of the lieve" that the government had eased procurement Department of Science and Technology, Department norms via GEM in a "single of Biotechnology or Minis-try of Earth Sciences (MoES) – were required to stroke". "This has been a major demand from the scientific community and a restriction imposed after 2019. It is a positive deve-lopment and should greatissue such clearances. This usually led to a "pile-up" of requests and concomitant procurement delays, a scientist told The Hindu. doubled the ceiling on goods that can be procured by scientific departments without quotations from ₹ lakh to ₹2 lakh. For a pur chase committee, the ceil-ing was raised from \$10 lakh to 25 lakh and for ten-

ned was assess from the control of t tural Research and educa-tional institutions conduct-ing postgraduate research under various Ministries.

Science Minister litendra Singh said that this was a "landmark" step. "This will reduce delays, also enhance autonomy and flexi-bility for research institudited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "trans

Bihar pushes up its Ayushman Bharat health insurance coverage

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Bihar is now among the States leading in the enrolment of cardholders under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), with 3.94 crore Ayushman cards created till date, according to data released by the

As part of its drive to ensure maximum coverage, a recent four-day drive, from recent four-day drive, from May 26-30, brought 17.38 lakh more cardholders into the Central government-rance scheme, offering treatment for secondary and tertiary care hospitali-sation for the economically weaker sections of society. by Pradesh are the other



rolment rate.
The flagship health insurance scheme, launched in 2018, offers cashless healthcare treatment of up to ₹5 lakh per family per

year.

Initially, the State government had adopted the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011) data for implementing the AB-PMJAY

scheme, Shailesh Chandra Diwakar, Administrative Officer, Bihar Swasthya Su-raksha Samiti (Ayushman Bharat), said on the recent focus to expand the cover-age. In February 2024, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database was adopted and coverage was provided to all NFSA-regis-tered family members. scheme. Shailesh Chandra

where institute heads had

The State has also regis-tered enrolment of 2.82 lakh persons under the Ay-ushman Vaya Vandana card (for senior citizens 70 years and above). According to the State

government, the total claims paid rose from 3.03 lakh cases in the financial year 2023-24 to 7.52 lakh cases in 2024-25, and more than 2.83 crore Avushman cards were created in 2024. It has also helped benef-

It has also helped beneficiaries save over ₹1,000 crore in out-of-pocker medical expenses within a medical expense of the first sample of the

Former Jammu and Kash-mir Governor Satyapal Ma-lik said on Saturday that the Centre was trying to frame him in false char-gesheets by threatening him with cases filed by the CBL a post on X in Hindi.

Consistent dip





Bihar sex ratio drops from 964 to 891 in two years: CRS data

Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI

lowest sex ratio at birth for 2022 among all States and Union Territories, report Union Territories, report-ing just 891 girls born for every 1,000 boys, accord-ing to the Civil Registration System (CRS) vital statistics

Bihar is the only State that has seen its sex ratio at birth (SRB) declining consistently since 2020, the year from which this data is available for the State. In 2020, the State reported an SRB of 964, which re-duced to 908 in 2021, be-fore further dipping to 891 in 2022.

The next Assembly election will be held in Bihar la-

ter this year. Other States in the lower Other States in the lower SRB bracket for 2022 were Maharashtra (906), Telan-(908). On the other hand, 1908). On the other hand, Nagaland was the State with the highest SRB at the control of the state of the the lowest SRB of 2021 at SRB of the lowest SRB for 2021 at SRB of the lowest SRB for 2021 at SRB, showed a spike in 2022, reporting 933.

Delayed reports

A month after the Office of the RGI released the CRS, Sample Registration Sys-tem (SRS) and Medical Cause of Certification of Causes of Deaths (MCCD) Causes of Deaths (MCCD) reports for 2021 after a four-year delay, the go-vernment this week re-leased the data from CRS and MCCD for 2022. However, the Sample Regis-tration System statistical report for 2022 has not yet

report for 2022 has not yet been put out in public. The SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country, meant to prove the country meant to prove the country meant to prove the country and mortality indicators such as birth rates and death rates. The CRS re-port and MCCD report pro-vide data on registered

births and deaths and causes of medically certi-fied registered deaths respectively.

COVID undercount While the 2021 CRS report registered a total of 102.2 lakh deaths for the year, suggesting that the initial government reporting of COVID-19 deaths for the tered a total of 86.5 lakit deaths closer to the total for 2019, the year before

the pandemic struck. The CRS 2022 data births had seen an increas across the country, with a total of 254.4 lakh births

registered compared with the 242 lakh registrations the previous year. The State-level birth re-

The State-level birth registration data tables in the viral statistics report for 2013, States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Uttarakh, Bihar, Madhya Uttarakh, Bihar, Madhya Uttarakh, Bihar, Madhya Uttarakh, Bing despite occasion on the other hand, States and Union Territo, States and Union Territo, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Delhi saw a general trend of registered fluctuations ming despite fluctuations.

Of the total registered births, the share of males was 52.4% whereas the was 52.4% whereas the share of females was 47.6%, the CRS report for 2022 said. It added that while about 43% of the rural areas, 56.5% were re-gistered in urban areas. The report said the num-ber of still births in 2022 had reduced to 1.15 lakh from 1.24 lakh the pre

Helicopter to Kedarnath Centre is trying to frame makes emergency landing me: former J&K Governor

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The pilot and five passengers aboard a helicopter grant and a helicopter a helicopter a helicopter and a hel



"A helicopter of Kestrel
Aviation Private Limited
developed a technical faul
developed a technical faul
day afternoon. The pilot,
realising the situation on
time, made an emergency
landing on the road nearby, which averted a major
accident.

The officials said that

However, the pilot suffreed minor injuries during
the emergency landing
the emergency landing
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the pilot suffreed minor injuries during
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the pilot suffreed minor injuries during
the emergency landing
the pilot suffreed minor injuries during
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In a post on X in Hindi, Mr. Malik said, "The tender Mr. Malik said he had they want to implicate me in was one I personally cancelled. I had informed the Prime Minister about been admitted to the inten-sive care unit of a hospital for kidney-related ailment.
"My condition is becoming
very serious. Whether 1
survive or not, I want to tell the corruption in that mat-ter, and after informing him, I cancelled that ten-der myself. After my transf-er, that tender was ap-proved with someone

but like my political men-tor, the late farmer leader Chaudhary Charan Singh, I worked with honesty, and my integrity could never be shaken," he said. The case in which Mr. Malik has been chargesh-ing of 72,200 crore worth of civil works for the Kiru Hydroelectric Project.

Hydroelectric Project. "The government has

put all its strength into de faming me... what did you find against me in your investigations? The truth is that after serving the na-tion for over 50 years, I still live in a single-room house and am in debt. If I had wealth today, I would be

Bihar sex ratio drops from 964 to 891 in two years: CRS data

Abhinay Lakshman

NEW DELHI

Bihar has recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth for 2022 among all States and Union Territories, reporting just 891 girls born for every 1,000 boys, according to the Civil Registration suggesting that the initial System (CRS) vital statistics government reporting of report, released this week COVID-19 deaths for the by the Office of the Registrar- General of India (RGI).

sistently since 2020, the the pandemic struck. vear from which this data 2020, the State reported duced to 908 in 2021, before further dipping to 891 in 2022.

The next Assembly election will be held in Bihar later this year.

Other States in the lower SRB bracket for 2022 were Maharashtra (906), Telan-(908). On the other hand, 1,068, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,036), Ladakh (1,027), Meghalaya (972), and Kerala (971). Assam, which had reported the lowest SRB for 2021 at ries such as Tamil Nadu, 863, showed a spike in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, 2022, reporting 933.

Delayed reports

A month after the Office of the RGI released the CRS. Sample Registration System (SRS) and Medical was 52.4% whereas the Cause of Certification of share of females was Causes of Deaths (MCCD) 47.6%, the CRS report for reports for 2021 after a 2022 said. It added that four-year delay, the government this week re- births were registered in leased the data from CRS and MCCD for 2022. However, the Sample Registration System statistical report for 2022 has not yet been put out in public.

The SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country, meant to provide annual estimates on fertility and mortality indicators 60.4% and 39.6% respecsuch as birth rates and tively. The report showed death rates. The CRS re- that 59.5% of the deaths port and MCCD report pro- were in rural India while vide data on registered 40.5% were in urban areas.

births and deaths and causes of medically certified registered deaths

COVID undercount

While the 2021 CRS report registered a total of 102.2 lakh deaths for the year. year was an under-estimate, the 2022 data regis-Bihar is the only State tered a total of 86.5 lakh that has seen its sex ratio at deaths closer to the total birth (SRB) declining con- for 2019, the year before

The CRS 2022 data is available for the State. In further showed that the number of registered an SRB of 964, which re- births had seen an increase across the country, with a total of 254.4 lakh births registered compared with the 242 lakh registrations the previous year.

The State-level birth registration data tables in the vital statistics report for 2022 showed that since gana (907), and Guiarat 2013, States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Nagaland was the State Pradesh, Telangana, and with the highest SRB at Uttarakhand have seen a general trend of registered births rising despite occasional dips.

On the other hand, States and Union Territo-Punjab, and Delhi saw a general trend of registered births declining despite fluctuations.

Of the total registered births, the share of males while about 43% of the rural areas, 56.5% were registered in urban areas. The report said the number of still births in 2022 had reduced to 1.15 lakh from 1.24 lakh the previous

Of the total registered deaths in 2022, the shares of men and women were According to the Civil Registration System (CRS) 2022 data released by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI), Bihar recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth (SRB) in India — falling from 964 in 2020 to 891 in 2022. This indicates 891 girls born per 1,000 boys, a significant decline over two years.

◆ 1. Key Data Highlights

Year	Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in Bihar	
2020	964 girls per 1,000 boys	
2021	908	
2022	891 (lowest in India)	

◆ 2. Other Low SRB States (2022)

State	SRB
Maharashtra	906
Telangana	907
Gujarat	908

◆ 3. States with Highest SRB (2022)

State	SRB
Nagaland	1,068
Arunachal Pradesh	1,036
Ladakh	1,027
Meghalaya	972
Kerala	971

4. Birth and Death Registration Data (CRS 2022)

Indicator	Value
Total registered births (India)	254.4 lakh (up from 242 lakh in 2021)
Stillbirths	1.15 lakh (↓ from 1.24 lakh in 2021)
Registered deaths	86.5 lakh (↓ from 102.2 lakh in 2021 due to COVID undercount)
Deaths - Male	60.4%
Deaths - Female	39.6%
Rural share of deaths	59.5%
Urban share of deaths	40.5%

✓ Top 5 States by Improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth

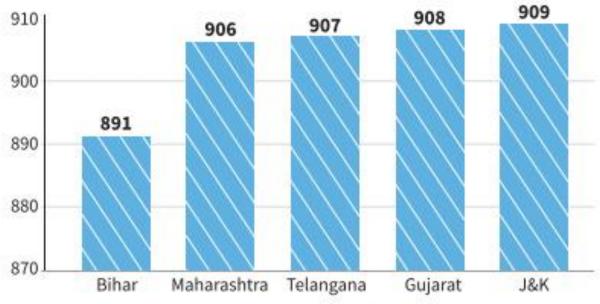
Rank	State	SRB (NFHS-4)	SRB (NFHS-5)	Improvement
1	Uttarakhand	888	984	+96
2	Karnataka	910	978	+68
3	Tripura	969	1,028	+59
4	Haryana	836	893	+57
5	Gujarat	906	955	+49

Consistent dip

The chart shows the States with the lowest sex-ratio at birth in India as of 2022. Bihar's ratio has declined from 964 in 2020 to 891 in 2022.



Source: Civil Registration System





IndiGrid to buy transmission, solar assets for ₹2,108 cr. EV

IndiGrid, a power sector infrastructure investment trust (InvIT), announced executi definitive agreements to buy a solar and a transmission asset each, aggregating to an enterprise value (EV) of about E2,108 crore, excluding networking capital and cash adjustment. "This aligns with our long-term strategy by owning and operating essential infrastructure that supports grid stability and energy access," said Harsh Shah, MD, IndiGrid.

Govt. names RBI DG Sankar as 16th Finance Panel Member

RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar has been appointed as a part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission, the Finance Ministry said. The appointment, it said, is consequent to the resignation of one of the full-time members, resignation of one of the full-time members, Former Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha, on personal grounds. Mr. Sankar will hold office from the date of assuming charge until the submission of the Commission's report or October 31, 2025, whichever is earlier.

Sundaram Home breaches ₹1,000 cr. in non-south market

Sundaram Home Finance, which has been ₹1,000 crore-mark in its disbursements made in non-south markets in FY25, a top official said. Sundaram Home Finance is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Ltd. The traditional player in south India, expanded its presence in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It also entered Chhattisgarh market.

'Govt. must tackle structural textile/apparel sector issues'

Exports must grow at 17% CAGR to achieve the target of \$100 billion by 2030; since return on investment is not viable, industry is not ready to invest in expansion projects and build capacities

M. Soundariya Preetha COIMBATORE

he government must address the estaced by the Indian tex-tile and apparel industry to achieve \$100 billion ex-ports by 2030, stakehol-ders at a meeting held here on Eriday to discuss the

on Friday to discuss the challenges faced by the tex-tile and apparel exporters, they discussed the reasons for the nil growth in textile and apparel exports for al-most a decade. The exports are stagnant at \$37 billion - \$42 billion in va-

Any GST returns such as GSTR1, GSTR 3B, etc. due on or before June 20, 2022, will be barred from filing from July 2025 onwards as the GST Administration

has set a date of July 2025 for barring GST returns on

Also, auto-populated lia-

bilities in GSTR-3B will turn

non-editable to curb reve-nue leakage.

the expiry of three years.

From July, GST

returns to be barred

after 3-year window



has shrunk, which is a matter of concern, they said. The exports should row at 17% CAGR to

As per an advisory on the GST portal, the Fi-nance Act 2023 amended the CGST Act, which pre-scribed taxpayers will not be allowed to file GST re-

turns after expiry of three years from the due date of furnishing the said return.

Rajat Mohan, senior partner, AMRG & Asso-

ciates said the move is

aimed at bringing certainty

(The writer is with The

billion by 2030. The indus-try needs to invest \$100 billion to achieve overall mar-ket size of \$350 billion,

including the \$100 billion exports (10% of global tex-tile and apparel trade). The properties of the state of the ment is not viable, the in-dustry is not ready to in-vest in expansion projects. The meeting discussed structural issues, including raw material prices and high labour costs, that are cost of capital, power ta-cost of capital, power ta-

cost of capital, power ta-riff, and relatively higher lead time to deliver orders

The fundamental issue is raw material prices and there should be no restric-VinFast, the first automaker from Vietnam to expand into the global market, is tion on imports and ex-ports, they said. into the global market, is set to make inroads into the Indian EV space with production at its plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district set to begin in July. The Vietnamese car

Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to

\$3 per day. Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of \$3 would con

2021 prices and result in a 5.3% poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said. In India, 54,695,832 people lived on less than \$3 per day in 2024. Thus, the

poverty rate at \$3 per day (2021 PPP - percentage population) was 5.44% in 2024. Extreme poverty rate slid from 16.2% to 2.3% between 2011-12 and 2022-23 while the poverty rate at the lower middle income country line declined by 33.7 percentage points.

Anirudh Parthasarathy

opportunity to enter the narket," VinFast Asia CEO Pham Sanh Chau said. Mr. Chau said VinFast with competitive pricing and excellent after-sales service. Asked about its USP, Mr. Chau said, "We don't want to just sell cars. We want to bring in the whole EV ecosystem."

The Vietnamese car brand, which currently sells its products in 16 countries across North, will manufacture the VF-will manufacture the VF-and VF6 models in Thooth ukudi, for which bookings will open in June. Will pes 10,000 vehicles per year initially with a poten-tyle of the VF-year initially with a poten-ties of the VF-per view of the VF-view of the VF-view

'Promising market'
"India is a promising and growing market. EV adop-tion is comparatively low; so, we decided to take this

He said VinFast would build a network of dealers/ showrooms, authorised re pair shops and chargin points; promote green mo bility and facilitate buy

in track: VinFast will make VF7 and VF6 models in Thoothukudi

Vietnam automaker

VinFast to tap India's 'huge EV potential'

> vernment sops and be more competitive. VinFas company was already

sourcing some product from Indian suppliers. On the notion EVs were too expensive for the cor mon man, he said it may be the case with some brands but not all

'RBI gold loan directions to

protection, transparency' The Hindu Bureau

aid consumer

"The "Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral Directions, 2025" notified by the Reserve Bank of In-dia (RBI) on Friday has brought clarity, standardi-sation, and greater con-sumer protection to the gold and silver loan seg-ment, said V. P. Nandaku-rows MD and CFD of Mamar, MD and CEO of Ma

nappuram Finance Ltd. "The guidelines on valuation, assaying, and loan-to-value (LTV) ratios are owing a maximum LTV ra up to ₹2.5 lakh. It will sig

nificantly benefit small-ticket borrowers," he said. Stating the directions have consolidated and rehave consolidated and re-placed earlier circulars, he said these have created a uniform code applicable to all regulated entities, in-cooperative institutions. "These guidelines aim to promote transparency, ethical practices, and pru-dential discipline while en-fort individuals and micro-enterprises;" he said.

nterprises," he said

Highlighting the conti nued eligibility of gold je wellery, ornaments and coins as collateral reflected the RBI's recognition of the critical role of gold loans in meeting short-term liquidity needs, he said the stan dardised assaying pro cess-mandating borrowe presence and use of refe-rence prices from the In-dian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) or SEBI-

Proceedings were for fina years 2018-19 to 2021-22.

DGGI closes ₹32.400-crore GST notice to Infosys

Press Trust of India

The Director General of GST Intelligence has closed pre-show cause notice pro-ceedings against Infosys for financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22, involving a GST amount of 522,403 crore, the communication from the communication from the communication from

communication from DGGI, "this matter stands closed", India's second-largest IT firm Infosys said.
"In continuation to our

earlier communications or July 31, 2024; August 1 2024, and August 3, 2024, on GST, this is to inform that the company has to day received a communica tion from the Director Gen tion from the Director Gen-eral of GST Intelligence (DGGI), closing the pre-show cause notice pro-ceedings for the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22,"

years 2018-19 to 2021-22; the firm said in a filing. Infosys said it received and responded to a pre-show cause notice issued by DGG for the period July 2017 to March 2022 on the issue of non-payment of IGST under the Reverse Charge Mechanism. "With the receipt of to-

day's communication from DGGI, this matter stands closed," Infosys said.

Packaging ink firm Siegwerk plans to double capacity

Lalatendu Mishra

With the demand of pack-aging ink growing in dou-aging ink growing in dou-ce with the country's eco-nomic growth, Siegwerk Druckfarben AG & Co. a Druckfarben AG & Co. a pany clocking an annual turnover of over \$1,000 crore in India, is planning crore in India, is planning the country in five years as the packaging on needing safe packaging.

branded products needing safe packaging.

To cater to the domestic demand and achieve it's target, the company has decided to add capacity at it's existing factory in As-sam and plans a new facto-ry in Western India to cater to the southern and west-ern markets where packag-ing printing has picked up. ing printing has picked up

over the past years.
"In the last five years, we have grown at an annual compounded growth of more than 12% to 13%. And we see the same continue in the future. We plan to double by 2030. In the next 5 years, we would cross \$2,000 crore revenue," said Ashish Pradhan, president, Asia, Siegwerk in an interview.

in an interview.

"The macroeconomics
in India, one of the largest
in India, one of the largest
and fastest growing econodemographic divident
helping us, he said.

"The per capita on
"The per capita on
what we have in the developed world and there is
grow here," he added.

Stating the market economics were favorable, he



Typically, packaging grows a little faster than GDP, , says Ashish Pradhan.

Gujarat or Maharashtra."

more investment than what we have already had

this, we will see at least 50% what we have already had so far," he added.

"Our growth is linked to "Paradesh Govern-Taylor first and to "Paradesh Govern-Taylor first and to "Our growth is linked to "Our growth is linked



said the company was

said the company was hopeful of achieving up to 20% market share from 20% market share from On capacity expansion, he said, "We have one large plant in Guwahati, large plant in Guwahati, plant in the whole Siegw-erk group. We are making pactey, which will take us to 2027-28. And then, we will invest in a brand-new will invest in a brand-new Gujarat or Maharashtra."

'Eyeing acquisitions' "We are also continuously looking for acquisitions in the Indian market. Over the next five years, in In-dia, we will see at least 50%



As many as 10,000 engineering students will receive skill training over next 2 years.



"We have entered into a memorandum of under-standing with NVIDIA to

build a strong and inclu-sive AI ecosystem in the State," he said in a post on May, it announced a tripar-tite pact with IBM and Tata Consultancy Services to Consultancy Services to canchor a project in the State's up-coming Quantum Service. Park at Amarwati. With IBM Quantum System Two installation, IBM will set up an anchor prosent the service of the serv 'X' (formerly Twitter). With support from NVI-DIA for curriculum and DIA for curriculum and training, 10,000 engineer-ing students will receive skill training over the next two years, while 500 AI start-ups from AP will gain access to its Inception Pro-gram for global exposure

gram for global es and key resources.

Quantum tech tie-up This is the second major tie-up the State has forged with a technology major. In problems.
(The writer is with The Hindu businesline)

No toxins, please!

LACLOUERE EN COLERE Jana L'EAU, L'AIR nous EMPOISONNENT n'est pas des POMMES !

AP ties up with NVIDIA to set up India's first AI university

Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India's extreme poverty rate slid sharply to 5.3% over a decade from 27.1% in 2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to \$3 per day.

Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of \$3 would con stitute a 15% higher threshold than \$2.15 expressed in 2021 prices and result in a 5.3% poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said.

In India, 54,695,832 people lived on less than \$3 per day in 2024. Thus, the poverty rate at \$3 per day (2021 PPP – percentage population) was 5.44% in 2024. Extreme poverty rate slid from 16.2% to 2.3% between 2011-12 and 2022-23 while the poverty rate at the lower middle income country line declined by 33.7 percentage points.



Headline Summary

According to the World Bank, India's extreme poverty rate dropped to 5.3% in 2022–23, down from 27.1% in 2011–12, marking a significant reduction over a decade. The World Bank also revised the global poverty threshold to \$3/day (2021 PPP-adjusted).

◆ 1. Key Figures and Trends

Year	Extreme Poverty Rate (India)	
2011–12	27.1%	
2022–23	5.3%	
2024 (est.)	5.44%	

Year	Poverty Line (PPP/day)	Poverty Rate (%)	People Below Poverty Line (million)
2011–12	\$2.15	16.22%	205.6 million
2011–12	\$3.01 (revised)	27.12%	344.5 million
2022–23	\$2.15	2.35%	35.6 million
2022–23	\$3.65 (2021 PPP)	5.3%	75.2 million

2. Rural-Urban Poverty Decline

Metric	2011–12	2022–23
Rural Extreme Poverty (%)	18.4%	2.8%
Urban Extreme Poverty (%)	10.7%	1.1%
Rural-Urban Gap (pp)	7.7	1.7

▼ 16% overall decline in national extreme poverty rate.

3. World Bank's Updated Poverty Framework

Country Income Group	New Poverty Threshold (2021 PPP)
Low-Income	\$2.15/day
Lower-Middle-Income	\$3.65/day
Upper-Middle-Income	\$6.85/day

India's extreme poverty is now assessed using the \$3.65/day threshold since India is a Lower-Middle-Income Country.

Revised extreme poverty line:

From **\$2.15/day** to **\$3/day** (PPP, 2021 prices)

- Adjusted upward due to inflation (15% higher threshold)
- Stimated 2024 count:

54.7 million people in India live under \$3/day.

2. Other Related Data

Indicator	Value
Decline in extreme poverty (2011–2023)	From 16.2% to 2.3%
Poverty at \$3/day line in 2024 (PPP)	5.44%
Decline in poverty at lower-middle income line	33.7 percentage points

③ Top 10 Countries by Extreme Poverty Rate (≤USD 3.65/day)

Rank	Country	Poverty Rate (%)	Most Recent Year
1	South Sudan	82.3%	2016
2	Equatorial Guinea	76.8%	2006
3	Madagascar	70.7%	2012
4	Central African Republic	68.8%	2021
5	Burundi	64.9%	2013
6	Honduras	64.1%	2023
7	Democratic Republic of the Congo	63.9%	Not specified
8	Zambia	60.0%	Not specified
9	Guatemala	59.3%	Not specified
10	Eswatini	58.9%	Not specified

Top 10 Countries with Lowest Extreme Poverty / Highest Welfare

Rank	Country	Approx. Extreme Poverty Rate	Notable Notes
1	Norway	~0%	Extreme poverty virtually nonexistent; uses high relative poverty line (~50% median income) en.wikipedia.org +1
2	Denmark	5.5% overall low-income poverty (OECD measure)	One of the lowest poverty rates globally
3	Sweden	~ Low	Similar to Denmark (OECD welfare model)
4	Finland	~ Low	Comparable Scandinavian welfare support
5	Netherlands	~ Low	Among Benelux with low poverty
6	Switzerland	~ Low	Consistently high in Human Development Index
7	Germany	Low	High-income, strong social safety net
8	Ireland	Low	Ranked in top 10 HDI

- PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
- Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
- MUDRA Yojana
- Aayushman Bharat
- Swachh Bharat Mission (indirect impact on health, productivity)

C. Why this matters globally

- India's performance is crucial for global poverty trends:
 - World's most populous country (1.4+ billion)
 - Significant for achieving SDG 1: No Poverty
- Helps in:
 - Better sovereign ratings
 - Global FDI inflows
 - Creditworthiness

AP ties up with NVIDIA to set up India's first AI university

K.V. Kurmanath

HYDERABAD

Global chip major NVIDIA will collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh Government to set up the country's first AI University.

"Plans are underway to establish India's first AI University in collaboration with NVIDIA for shaping the infrastructure and research capabilities. From education and skilling to research and innovation, this initiative will lay the foundation for a Swarna Andhra Pradesh," CM N.



As many as 10,000 engineering students will receive skill training over next 2 years.

Chandrababu Naidu said.

"We have entered into a memorandum of understanding with NVIDIA to build a strong and inclusive AI ecosystem in the State," he said in a post on 'X' (formerly Twitter).

With support from NVI-DIA for curriculum and training, 10,000 engineering students will receive skill training over the next two years, while 500 AI start-ups from AP will gain access to its Inception Program for global exposure and key resources.

Quantum tech tie-up

This is the second major tie-up the State has forged with a technology major. In May, it announced a tripartite pact with IBM and Tata Consultancy Services to anchor a project in the State's upcoming Quantum Valley Tech Park at Amaravati.

With IBM Quantum System Two installation, IBM will set up an anchor project. TCS will work with IBM to develop algorithms and applications to help Indian industry and academia solve some of the nation's most challenging problems.

(The writer is with The Hindu businesline)

The Summary

The Andhra Pradesh Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with global chip giant NVIDIA to establish India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) University, aiming to build a robust AI ecosystem focused on education, skill development, research, and innovation.

◆ 1. Key Features of the Initiative

Aspect	Details
↑ Location	Andhra Pradesh (likely in Amaravati region)
>> Partners	Andhra Pradesh Government + NVIDIA
institution	India's first AI University
	Build an inclusive and innovative AI ecosystem
Beneficiaries	10,000 engineering students (skill training) + 500 Al startups (support)
🕏 Focus Areas	Curriculum design, research innovation, Al applications

♦ 2. Skill Development & Startup Support

- 10,000 engineering students to be trained in AI over the next 2 years.
- 500 Al startups from Andhra Pradesh will gain:
 - Access to NVIDIA's Inception Program
 - Exposure to global AI platforms
 - Access to resources, mentorship, tools

3. Quantum Tech Collaboration

Partner Institutions	Collaboration Purpose
IBM + TCS + AP Govt	Quantum Valley Tech Park at Amaravati
IBM Quantum System Two	Anchor project for quantum computing infrastructure
TCS + IBM	Algorithm development, problem-solving applications for academia/industry

RBI's Sankar member of 16th Finance Commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, June 7

RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR T Rabi Sankar has been appointed as a part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

The appointment, the ministry said, is consequent to the resignation of one of the full-time members, former finance secretary Ajay Narayan Jha, on personal grounds. "The president has appointed T Rabi Sankar, deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as a part-time Member of the 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC)," the ministry said.

Sankar will hold office from the date of assuming charge until the submission of the commission's report or October 31,



RBI deputy guv T Rabi Sankar has been appointed as a part-time member

whichever is earlier, it added.

The commission, chaired by former vice chairman of Niti Aayog Arvind Panagariya, has four members and is assisted by secretary Ritvik Pandey, two joint secretaries and one economic advisor. Retired bureaucrat Annie George Mathew and

economist Manoj Panda are full-time members of the commission, while SBI group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh is a part-time member.

Mahendra Dev takes charge as EAC-PM chairman

Former Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research vice chancellor S Mahendra Dev has taken charge as the new chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

The economist replaced Niti Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery, who was holding the additional charge of EAC-PM.

The EAC-PM had been without a full-time chairman since last November, following the death of its first chairman, Bibek Debroy.

Component	Details 🗇
New Appointment	T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of RBI (Part-time member)
Resigned Member	Ajay Narayan Jha (former finance secretary)
Chairman	Arvind Panagariya (former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman)
Other Members	Annie George Mathew, Manoj Panda (full-time), Soumya Kanti Ghosh (part-time)
Secretary	Ritvik Pandey
Tenure	Till October 31, 2025, or till report submission (whichever is earlier)

2. Role of the Finance Commission (FC)

The **Finance Commission** is a **constitutional body** under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution, formed every five years to recommend:

- **Marketical devolution**: Share of Union taxes to states
- II Horizontal devolution: Formula-based allocation among states
- S Grants-in-aid for local bodies, disaster relief, etc.
- Recommendations on fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability

3. About T Rabi Sankar

- Currently Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Areas of expertise include:
 - Financial markets
 - Digital payments
 - Monetary policy operations

■ Finance Commission of India – Key Facts

Details
Article 280 of the Indian Constitution
1951
President of India
Every 5 years
To define financial relations between the Centre and the States
 Distribution of net proceeds of taxes Grants-in-aid Measures to augment State resources Recommend principles governing grants to Panchayats & Municipalities

Composition	1 Chairman + 4 other members
Eligibility (Members)	Experts in public affairs, finance, economics, administration, or law
First Finance Commission	Chairman: K.C. Neogy (1952–1957)
Latest (15th) FC	Chairman: N.K. Singh Term: 2017–2021 (Extended to 2025 for some tasks)
Recommendations Valid	2021–2026 (15th FC Report)
Key 15th FC Recommendations	Vertical tax devolution: 41%Performance-based incentivesGrants for local bodies, disaster management, and health
Reports Submitted To	President of India; laid before Parliament
Nature of Recommendations	Advisory (not binding, but usually accepted by the Government)

Where Are India's Biggest Cities?

UP tops the list with the highest number of million-plus megacities. Kerala is second, surpassing industrial heavyweights like Maharashtra. Tamil Nadu, and 6 Gujarat. In the entire Northeast, only Guwahati makes it to the list

Kerala

Source: UN Population Division Projections

Number of cities with a million+ population Delhi UA UP *Cities here are urban agglomerations (UA) large, continuous urban sprawls like the Delhi UA which includes Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad,

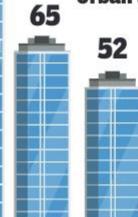
and Faridabad

162

China Has More Million-Plus Cities Than India, US, Brazil Combined

From an Indian perspective, with over a billion people in the country, one might assume that megacities are the norm everywhere. But this isn't true. Most countries in Europe, like Sweden, Spain, and Germany have fewer than five such urban areas.

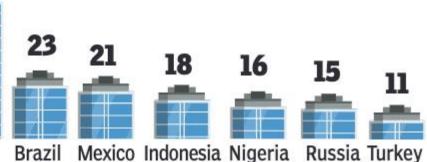
Urban agglomerations with over a million people



India

China

These are continuous urban sprawls with high population density



Source: UN Population Division Projections

'People to decide where

I should contest from'





Trump sends National Guard to Los Angeles WORLD » PAGE 14

Decoding the Kamal-Kannada episode **Issuing violent threats** must be seen as a crime



Alcaraz gets the better of Sinner in a thriller

NEWS » PAGE S



Israeli strikes kill 10 in Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks on Sunday killed at least 10 persons including two girls in the Palestinian territory, as the

COVID case tally crosses 6,000

NEW DELHI India's active COVID case tally crossed the 6,000 mark with 769 new infections being reported in the past 48 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Sunday. » PAGE 6

Manipur erupts as Meitei leader is held

role in the 2023 violence in the State, says CBI

State govt. clamps ban orders following clashes; Arambai Tenggol imposes shutdown in 5 districts MLAs apprised the Governor of the current law

The Hindu Bureau

in Imphal Valley af-ter a top leader of Arambai Tenggol, armed Meitei ra group, was picked up by security forces on Saturday evening. Four more Aram-bai Tenggol members were reportedly detained for

reportedly detained for questioning. Members of the Aram-bai Tenggol clashed with security forces when they went to pick up A. Kanan Singh, a former Manipur Police head constable. A volley of gunshots was heard, and supporters of the group burnt tyres and Webbles of security for. Vehicles of security forc-

es were torched on Airport Road, and scores of peo-

Internet suspended As the violence spread, the government clamped pro-hibitory orders under Sechibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita vander Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and mobile data services in the five Imphal West, Bishmupur, Kakching, and Thoubal for five days.

Which came into prominence after the ethnic connected the three days, which came into prominence after the ethnic contained the section of the se



Tenggol member at the Imphal airport on Sunday.

"He was involved in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023. The information related to his arrest has been given to his family members." It said. tened self-immolation by pouring inflammable fluids on themselves.

on themselves.

By morning, the streets
of Imphal and the valley
beyond wore a deserted
look. Later, the Central Buthese five districts. Some youth, believed to be mem-bers of the group, threa-it had arrested an Arambai

CBI said it was investigat-ing the Manipur violence cases on the direction of "The trial of the cases

hati in view of the law and order situation in Manipur The said arrested member of Arambai Tenggol has been brought from Imphal to Guwahati, and he will be produced before the com produced before the com-petent court for police re-mand. Investigation is con-tinuing," the CBI said.

The day saw a delega-tion of MLAs from various parties meet with Gover-nor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan.

MLAV staterment from the Raj Bhavan later said the MLAs apprised the Go-

vernor of the current law and order situation in Mamembers," it said. and order situation in Ma-in the statement, the nipur and sought his inter-

solution. "The Governor informed the delegation that all necessary steps are being taken to address the concerns and restore nor malcy," the statement said.

Top security officials were present at the meeting.

Three insurgents held
The National investigation
the National investigation
three insurgents' in a
case related to an attack on
the police commandos and injured several
tilled two police commandos and injured several
tollers'. The three men,
had planned, conspired,
and executed the attack on
post and security forces in
Moreh, Tengnoupal district, on 17th January
2024, the NIA said. The

Thangminlen Mate, Kam-ginthang Gangte, and Hentinthang Kipgen alias Thangneo Kipgen.

calm after the imposition of President's Rule on Fe bruary 13. The Imphal Va lev descended into chao over the alleged "disres-pect of Manipur" by secur-ity personnel on May 20. A "civil disobedience f Manipur ersonnel on May civil disobedience sign" launched by a oup thereafter wher

Rest ashore



al break: A fishing boat being pulled ashore at the Puthiyappa harbour in Kozhikode on Sunday ahead of Kerala's trawling ban which

mes into effect from midnight of June 9 to midnight of July 31. The ban is an attempt to conserve marine re-

Jaishankar to step up diplomatic push on week-long visit to France, Belgium

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar left on Sunday for a week-long visit to France and Belgium, France and Belgium, where he will meet with his counterparts in both the governments and in the European Commission and European Parliament headquartered in Brussels.

This is his third visit to Europe in the past fev months, and a part of the government's efforts to step up its diplomatic engagement post Operation Sindoor to garner support for India's fight against

for India's ngm agamist terrorism.

"The visit of EAM is ex-pected to further deepen India's friendly relations with the European Union, France and Belgium and give renewed momentum to onegoing cooperation in to ongoing cooperation in diverse areas," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)



from June 8 to 14. In March, Mr. Jaishankar had travelled to the U.K. and Ire-land, and in May, he had vi-sited the Netherlands.

sited the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. The Ministry said that in France, Mr. Jaishankar will visit Paris for bilateral talks with French Foreign Minister Jean Noel Barrot, and Marseille to address the "Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue", a conference of the Conference of the Conference of the Conference of the Research Foundation. Marseille is one of the

Marseille is one of the European ports along with Trieste, Italy, and Piraeus,

Greece that are in the run-ning for the India-Middle East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEC) route, and although ambitions for the although ambitions for the project launched in 2023 have been dimmed due to the Israel-Gaza conflict, New Delhi is keen to keep discussions on it alive.

FTA talks on agenda

In Brussels, Mr. Jaishankar will hold a "Strategic Dia-logue" with EU High Representative and Vice-Pre-sident Kaja Kallas, the Ministry said. He will also Ministry said. He will also meet Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Fo-reign Minister Maxime Pre-vot for talks on bilateral is-sues, and is expected to raise india's request for the repartiation of diamond merchant Mehul Chokes, who is under arrest pend-who is under arrest pend-india to face charges of fraud and embezzlement.

ment (FTA) talks that both sides have committed to sign by the end of the year. On each of his stops, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to

during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Jaishankar had dis cussed the matter with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who visited Delhi on Saturday. He will also request sup

He will also request sup-port for India's fight against terrorism at multi-lateral organisations in-cluding the United Na-Council and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). During his visits to Paris and Brussels, Mr. Jaishan-kar will also lay the generatives for Print Mi-lateral meetings during his

lateral meetings during his upcoming visit to Canada as a special invitee to the G-7 summit in Kananaskis

Bangladesh student protester is a voter in Bengal | Russian forces pushing into

Amid the row over alleged irregularities in the voter lists of West Bengal, a per-son who was active in the students' protest in Bangla-desh in 2024 has been found to be a registered vo-ter in the Kakdwip Assembly constituency of the

State. While several photographs of the youth, New-ton Das, participating in the movement that brought a regime change in the neighbouring country last year are available on social media, Mr. Das him-

election He did not specify last year are available on social media, Mr. Das himsocial media, Mr. Das himsocial media, and the was a cuiton India. However, he did not decided in the protests in Bangladesh, and the protests in Both the countries.

message.

'Voted in 2016 polls'

Mr. Das confirmed that he had voted for Mr. Pakhira,

Trinamool Congress MLA

in the 2016 Assembly



"He [Mr. Das] had come here after the pandemic for selling some land and since then, he has not since then, he has not come here. Since he was born in Bangladesh, he is a voter of Bangladesh too. It is his fault that he is regis-tered as a voter in both the countries," Mr. Tapan Das, who resides in Kakdwip, told presuperson. born in Bangladeah, he is a
in the second of the second of

to the Sundarbans, which shares borders with Ban-gladesh. The revelation sparked a major row in pol-tical circles with the Bha-ratiya Janata Party accus-ing the ruling Trinamool of enlisting Bangladeshi na-tionals as voters in West

'Foreigners in voter list' Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said

Bengal BJP president Su-kanta Majumdar, in a social media post, described the latest incident as another shining example of the "so-called Egiye Bangla Model". The Trinamool leader-

lakhs of Bangladesh na-tionals are registered as voters in West Bengal. West Bengal BJP president Su-

that the job of safeguarding international borders and preventing illegal infiltra-tion rested with the Border Security Force (BSF). "Whether these people come by land, water or air, the BSF and Union seween. the BSF and Union govern-ment are responsible. The State administration will do its role for sure," Trinamool leader Kunal Ghosh

in February, Ms. Banerjee had alleged irregulari-ties in the voter list of the State, saying voters from other States had electoral photo identity card (EPIC) numbers similar to those

Ukrainian industrial hub

fraud and embezzlement. Also on the agenda is the India-EU Free Trade Agree-

t was pushing into Uk-aine's eastern industrial Dnipropetrovsk region for the first time in its threeyear offensive - a signifi amid stalled peace talks.

Dnipropetrovsk is not among the five Ukrainian regions over which Russia hais asserted a formal terri-torrial claim. It is an impor-torrial claim. It is an impor-tance of the many control of the emillion before Russia hub for Ukraine, and deep-er Russian advances into the region could have as-kylv's struggling military and economy.

Dispropetrovosk had an has asserted a formal terri-



propetrovsk region*

estimated population of three million before Russia launched its offensive.

propetrovsk region".
There was no immediate response from Ukraine to Russia's statement.
Moscow in 2022 claimed annexation of the frontline Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk and Zaporizhzhia re-

improves: three more deaths push toll to 26

Press Trust of India

sam continued to improve on Sunday as the number of affected people reduced to 2.59 lakh, even as the toll in this year's deluge and landslides rose to 26 with three more fatalities,

No major river was flowing above the danger level

ing above the danger level in the state, with ferry services over the Brahmapurity of the state of the state

(36,271), it said. Around 3.37 lakh people in 12 districts were affected till Saturday. The three deaths on Sunday were re-ported from Nagerbera re-venue circle of Kamrup district, pushing the toll to 26, including six in mudslides, the bulletin said. Affected population stands at 2.59,093; the three Barak valley districts remain the worst-hit

More than 24,000 dis placed people were taking shelter in 100 relief camps, while another 30 relief distribution centres were also functional. Crop land of over 6.3II hectares remain in undated. ASDMA said.

Ferry services resume Meamwhile, ferry services over the Brahmaputra in Guwahati resumed partial-ly on Sunday, an Inland Water Transport Depart-ment release said. The Gu-wahati Madhyam Khanda Ferry Service will tempora-tery Service will tempora-tery Service will tempora-tery Service will tempora-tery Service will tempora-wahati Rajaduar Ferry Wahati Rajaduar Ferry Chat. until the approach Ghat, until the approach road on the north bank side is restored, it said.

The Guwahati Kurua Ferry Service will resume on Monday. The operation of wooden boats in Guwaor wooden boats in Gawa-hati area will remain prohi-bited, and the decision re-garding its resumption will be taken after reviewing the river conditions, the re-lease added.

Assam flood situation | President's Rule has made no | No more unlawful difference to Manipur: Cong.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh blames Centre's insensitivity and questions Prime Minister's

he imposition of President's Rule has made no difference to Manipur, Congress general secretary nications) lairam Ramesh said on Su Violent protests erupted

Violent protests erupted in Manipur over the arrest of a leader of the Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol on Saturday. The situation remained tense on Sunday, with the administration imposing prohibitory orders and suspending Internet services in five Imphal Valley districts, the police said.

said.
Hitting out at the go-vernment, Mr. Ramesh claimed that in February 2022, the BJP "engineered a majority for itself alone" in the Assembly election. "But less than fifteen

months later, from the night of May 3, 2023, Manipur was made to burn. Hundreds of innocent men, women, and children were killed. Thousands were displaced. Places of worship were destroyed,"



Keeping watch: Security personnel keep vigil protests in in Imphal, Manipur, on Sunday. คา

The Congress leader said the Union government set up a three-member Commission of Inquiry on June 4, 2023. The commission has been siven repeated exten-

June 4, 2023.

The commission has been given repeated extensions to submit its report, and the latest deadline is November 20, 2025, he noted. On August 1, 2023, Mr. Ramesh said, the Su-preme Court observed that there had been an "absolute breakdown of constitutional machinery" in the State for the past two

'State of peril' "The Union Home Minister went through the motions of visiting Manipur while the Prime Minister mainthe Prime Minister main-tained absolute silence, re-fusing to say anything and meet anybody from the State," he said. It was the Congress's announcement to bring a no-confidence motion against the govern-ment's former Chief Minis-ter, N. Biren Singh, in the Assembly session begin-ning February 10, 2025, that jolted the Centre to impose President's Rule, Mr. Ramesh claimed. "President's Rule, ho-

wever, has made no difference. The Governor himself has been forced to travel from Imphal airport to his residence by helicop-ter. Law and order in many parts of the State remains

mesh added.
The Congress leader

di's absence. Mr. Ramesh asked, "When will the Prime Minister find the time and inclination to visit Manipur?" He further said that Mr. Modi has travelled to different parts of the world and visited numerous States for "trademark inaugurations" but he has never met with political leaders or civil society or-ganisations from Manipur, having outsourced the management of the State's affairs to the Union Home Minister who, Mr. Ramesh claimed, had "failed "The insensitivity of the Frequent Flyer PM to the suffering of the people of

suffering of the people of Manipur is truly shocking and defies understanding. He stands totally exposed, just as the people of the State continue to pay the price for his callous and complete indifference. Their suffering is that of not only the State and the

demolitions: Delhi CM to slum dwellers

The Hindu Bureau

Gupta said on Sunday that the government cannot go against court orders to demolish slums or remove encroachments. She pro-mised the slum dwellers that there will be no unlaw-ful demolitions.

Responding to criticism from the Aam Aadmi Party from the Aam Aadmi Party
(AAP) over the demolition
of Madrasi Camp on June 1.
(AAP) over the demolition
of Madrasi Camp on June 2.
(AAP) over the demolition
as the Camp had encamp the Camp had encamp the Camp had encamp at the Camp had encamp at a significant of the Camp had enlarge the Camp the Camp the Camp the Camp the Camp at a Sium
cluster in Haiderpur, Miscup at the Camp at a Sium
cluster in Haiderpur, Misont to worry as they are the

not to worry as they are the lifeline of the city, and the lifeline of the city, and the Delhi government would not demolish their homes. "There were three recent demolitions. The first at Madrasi Camp was on the orders of the court. The second was at Wazirpur, where a railway line was being encroached upon, and the third at Jailorwala-bagh, where flats have

been handed over to resi-dents," she said. "If a rail-way line is being en-croached, and there is an if slum dwellers are reha bilitated and new people come and settle in the slun demanding compensation the government will have

Protest path AAP Delhi State president Saurabh Bharadwai said the party held meeting with slum dwellers and had decided to launch a vernment to take appr

The party criticised Mr Gupta, saying the dis-placed residents of Madrasi Camp were provided homes in faraway Narela, and even those lack basis amenities. Leader of the Opposition Atishi ques tioned why the BJP was no rehabilitation)

16 arrested in Assam for illegal cattle slaughter

The Hindu Bureau

The Assam Police have arrested 16 people for illegal cattle slaughter during Idul-Azha on June 7, Chief Minanta Biswa Sar ma said on Sunday.

He said five illegal cattle slaughter sites, all in south-ern Assam's Barak Valley, ern Assam's Barak Valley, were uncovered during the festival. Three were in Ca-char district's Gumrah, Sil-char, and Lakhipur, and two were in Karimganj dis-trict's Badarpur and Bangs

Banga. Mr. Sarma said the government was "committed to preserving communal harmony, but not at the cost of lawlessness or cruelty". He warned viola-tors of strict action.

Maharashtra and Karnataka account for 51% of FDI: Centre

Press Trust of India

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 51% of the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the cour try during the last financial year 2024-25, according to the latest data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIT).

Trade (DPIIT).

Maharashtra attracted maximum foreign inflows at \$19.6 billion and accounted for 31% of the country's total FDI during April-March 2024-25.

Karnataka received \$6.62 billion in overseas investments during the last fiscal year, the data showed.

showed.

The two States were fol-lowed by Delhi (\$6 billion),

Gujarat (\$5.71 billion), Ta-mil Nadu (\$3.68 billion), Haryana (\$3.14 billion), and Telangana (\$3 billion).

Infrastructure the key According to experts the main reason for the maximum inflows in Maha rashtra and Karnataka is a substantial improvemen in infrastructure. Infras in infrastructure. Infras-tructure has improved considerably, and that is making them attractive destinations for FDI in In-dia, an economist said.

capital, grew 14% to \$81.04 billion during the last fi-nancial year. It is the high-est in the last three years. The same stood at \$71.3 bil-lion in 2023-24.

Guardians on watch



HC dismisses Punjab's plea for recall of order

Press Trust of India

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed the Punjab government's plea seeking a recall or modification of its May 6 order asking Punjab to re-lease water to Haryana. Punjab had sought a re-call or modification of the

call or modification of the High Court's order pertain-ing to Union Home Secre-eary Govind Mohan's May 2 decision to release 4,500 yana. The High Court had directed Punjab to abide by the decision. Punjab had alleged concealment of "material facts" by the Bhakra Beas Management Bhakra Beas Management Board, which led to the Board, which led to the

Will bring Sandeshkhali perpetrators to justice after BJP wins in 2026: Adhikari

The Leader of the Opposi-tion in the West Bengal As-sembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Sunday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will bring the perpe-trators involved in the violence and sexual assault at former Trinar gress leader Sheikh Shahja-han, to justice within days of the party coming to power. The Assembly elec-tion is due in the State in

Addressing a public



hind bars since then.

Addressing a public gathering at Sandeshkhali, Mr. Adhikari said that the regime of Mr. Shahjshan the perpetrators would be brought to justice soon after the BJP came to power the the BJP in the 2624 Lok Sabha the would ensure that "Sheikh Shahjahan is hanged". Basel the the sandeshkhali Assembly sear, the party lost the BJP came to be said that the sandeshkhali Assembly sear, the party lost the BJP came to be said the said that the sandeshkhali Assembly sear, the party lost the BJP came to be said the said that the sandeshkell the sandeshkell the sandeshkell the sandeshkell to be said to be

hali seat falls, to the Trinamool.

On Sunday, hours after the BJP leader's rally, a team of officials of the Cen-tral Bureau of Investigation visited Sandeshkhali and recorded a statement from legations against Mr. Shah-jahan. The Trinamool lea-dership said Mr. Adhikari has set the ground so that the investigating agencies could work accordingly. Mr. Adhikari also al-

leged that "Hindu BJP Ka-ryakartas Pradip Mandal, Debdas Mandal and Sukan ta Mandal" were killed on

ta Mandal" were killed on June 6, 2019, in Sandeshk-hall by "Trinamool Con-gress leader Shahjahan Sheikh and his gang". Mr. Adhikari once again called for consolidation of Hindu votes and said that irrespective of caste and other differences, the "Hindus have to unite for the 2026 Assembly elsethe 2026 Assembly elec-tion in West Bengal" to de-feat the Trinamool.

Be careful with your words, Shiv Sena MLA tells BJP leader

ra Fisheries and Ports De-elopment Minister Nitesh Rane's recent comments have sparked a backlash from Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's MLAs, with Mr. Rane's brother and Shiv Sena leader Ni-lesh advising him to speak cautiously, hinting at underlying tensions within the ruling alliance.

Mr. Nilesh asked Mr. Rane "not to forget that we are in alliance", over his re-marks that the BJP is at the

marks that the BIP is at the top, as the Prime Minister at the Centre and the Chief Minister at the State are should be supported in the Centre and Centre and



so from the BIP, so no mat ter who shows power, the father of all in Maharashtra is Devendra Fadnavis." The is Devendra Fadnavis." The statement was seen as a warning, particularly tar-geted at the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, high-lighting the cracks in Ma-hayuti. Mr. Rame's remarks were based on the recent stalling of \$256-crore pro-jects in Dharashir on the-cis. Shiv Sena leader Pra-vis. Shiv Sena leader Pra-tap Sarnaik has been the tap Sarnaik has been the Guardian Minister of Dharashiv.

28 stranded people, 20 Army personnel airlifted from landslide-hit Chaten

At least 28 people, stranded at Chaten in north Sik-kim, and 20 Army person-nel were airlifted on Sunday as the road connectivity in the region had been snapped due to mul-tiple landslides triggered by heavy rain, the officials

A chopper evacuated 28 nors, tourist taxi drive and government officials, from Chaten in the first sortie, while 20 Army per-sonnel returned to Pa-kyong Greenfield Airport in another trip, the officials

said. The MI-17 helicopter alarranged a helicopter to provide immediate relief and safe evacuation of



Back to safety: Army personnel arrive at the Pakyong Greenfield Airport after being airlifted from Chaten. PTI

those affected by the land-sides in the region after some them, they added. The helicopter sortic them, they added. The helicopter sortic them are the sortic sortic sortic from the signature of the the first one taking off to-wards Chaten to initiate the first one taking off to-wards Chaten to initiate another official said. The State government is safety and well-being of all citizens in disaster-affected regions, the officials said.

those affected by the landhit by multiple landslides triggered by heavy rain, disrupting road and tele-communication connectiv-

Search on Three Army personnel were killed, four injured, and six others went mis-sing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chaten or the examing of huna 1 Etc. cate the missing soldiers.

Maharashtra and Karnataka account for 51% of FDI: Centre

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 51% of the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country during the last financial year 2024-25, according to the latest data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Maharashtra attracted maximum foreign inflows at \$19.6 billion and accounted for 31% of the country's total FDI during April-March 2024-25.

Karnataka received \$6.62 billion in overseas investments during the last fiscal year, the data showed.

The two States were followed by Delhi (\$6 billion),

Gujarat (\$5.71 billion), Tamil Nadu (\$3.68 billion), Haryana (\$3.14 billion), and Telangana (\$3 billion).

Infrastructure the key

According to experts, the main reason for the maximum inflows in Maharashtra and Karnataka is a substantial improvement in infrastructure. Infrastructure has improved considerably, and that is making them attractive destinations for FDI in India, an economist said.

Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, grew 14% to \$81.04 billion during the last financial year. It is the highest in the last three years. The same stood at \$71.3 billion in 2023-24.

◆ 1. State-wise FDI Inflows (2024–25)

State	FDI Inflows (USD Billion)	% Share of Total FDI
Maharashtra	\$19.6 B	31%
Karnataka	\$6.62 B	20% (approx.)
Delhi	\$6.0 B	_
Gujarat	\$5.71 B	_
Tamil Nadu	\$3.68 B	_
Haryana	\$3.14 B	_
Telangana	\$3.00 B	_

Combined share of Maharashtra + Karnataka = 51%

2. Total FDI Statistics

Year	Total FDI (USD Billion)	Growth
2023–24	\$71.3 B	_
2024–25	\$81.04 B	↑ 14% (highest in last 3 years)

• Includes: Equity + Reinvested earnings + Other capital

3. Reasons for Maharashtra & Karnataka's Lead

- **Improved Infrastructure** (logistics, power, IT parks)
- <u>All</u> Skilled manpower & startup ecosystem (especially in Karnataka)
- 🌃 Large urban centers (Mumbai, Bengaluru) act as economic hubs
- Presence of multinational HQs and IT/tech zones

Decoding the Kamal-Kannada episode

ctor Kamal Haasan's remark that "Kannada was born from Tamil" has snarked several debates. But this is not a new idea it has existed within the Tamil ourse for two centuries. Robert Caldwell and other linguists have said Dravidian languages branched off from a shared language, termed Proto-Dravidian. However, Turnil this view. They have claimed that all Dravidian languages are offshoots of Tamil. At its peak, this belief extended to proclaiming that Tamil is the world's first language and that all other world languages were born from it. Robert Caldwell and other

The more acceptable idea
Even today, these two schools of
thought continue to thrive in the
Tamil intellectual space. The idea
of a Proto-Dravidian language has
gained traction beyond Tamil
Nadu. In contrast, the notion that
Tamil is the source of all languages has little traction or acceptance outside. We now live at a time when awareness around linguistic dominance has grown politically in India's multilingual context. Every national group tends to hold its language as the primary marker of its identity. Any idea or action

amen the idea that an Dravidian languages emerged from a common Proto-Dravidian root. Culturally and politically, this view fosters harmony and equality. To say other languages came from Tamil can easily be perceived by others as demeaning to their language and identity. They may see such a claim as a form of dominance imposed on them. For Tamil nationalists, who mix ancestral pride with political messaging, such assertions may help construct a narrative of ancient great that, in contemporary politics, this view only serves to isolate Tamil



opposition to views can be

issuing violent

someone their

as punishable

right to live

voiced, but

threats or

denying

Perumal Murugar Scholar and literary

occepted academic evidence, here is no need to insist that Tamil is the source of all

nguages. The classical attributes of Tamil its antiquity literary richness its antiquity, literary richness, and unbroken literary tradition – are well known to other language communities and to the world at large. Merely presenting these strengths is enough to bring honour to Tamil. Even when honour to Tamil. Even when compared with modern literature of any Indian language, Tamil literature stands equal, if not superior. What we need are conscious efforts to take this richness of Tamil to a wider world. In 2022, Hindi writer Gectanjali

Shree won the International Booker Prize. This year, Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq received the same honour. Tamil, too, deserves to be taken to such global heights. What we need is a sustained cultural effort in that direction not the unproductive habit of making provocative stateme that alienate speakers of other

languages.
When Mr. Haasan said
"Kannada was born from Tamil." his intent was not to insult that language. Karmada actor Shivarajkumar was on stage, and pyride about his warm relationship with that family, ite was pointing with that family, ite was pointing kennada and was trying to say "we are family; ours are abbling languages," it is likely that in that the origin — an idea long held by a section of Tamid thinkers — came to his mind. But there is no reason to his mind. But there is no reason for feedom to express such a view in freedom to express such a view in his intent was not to insult that freedom to express such a view in public. Those who hold opposing views can disagree, and speak or write in response. But to issue threats to him is a violation of his right to express an opinion.

The court's view When a case regarding the release of his film Thug Life came before the court in Karna aka, the judge Mr. Haasan to

apologise. While linguistic fundamentalists are prepared to turn this into a conflict between two regional nationalities, should the court be approaching it in a way that favours them? The police may treat this as a law-and-order issue, but the court cannot view it that way. Should the court function like a kattapanchayat

function like a kottopourcheput (extrajudicia) body enforcing commercial compromiser that is an insuse of readom of expression. Anyone can say they are hurt by a particular view, but are hurt by a particular view, but a consideration of the control of the contr that this has no relation to the release of the film; and that it will allow the film's release with police protection. Whatever way the case came before the court, it should have been approached from the standpoint of freedom of expression. In a democracy, the court is the final refuse that safeguards that right

safeguards that right.

Mr. Haasan did not apologise.
He explained that "the opinion
misunderstood." Normally, if any
issue arises around a film, the
standard response is to issue an
scenes, and make compromises to
facilitate the film's release. For the
first time, someone from the film
indurry has said, 'T will not apologise." Whatever commercial calculations may lie behind that

stance, the courage to make such a statement must be acknowledged. As the court itself said, this is not a matter of arrogance, but of self-respect. A person has every right to express an opinion and to stand by it if they believe it is right. Democratic opposition to such views can certainly be voiced. But issuing violent threats or denying one their right to live must

Using religion for political gains

Religious issues are increasingly dominating political narratives in Andhra

Minister Chandrababu Naidu alleged that the laddu prasa-dam was being made with adulterated ghee containing animal fat. He claimed that the

contract for the supply of sub-

standard ghee had been given to a firm by the earlier YSRCP

government. The accusation caused pol-

itical and religious outrage across the country. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalvan,

sue finally reached the Su-

preme Court. When the controversy died

Sumit Bhattacharjee

or the last four de-cades, political narra-letties in Andras Pra-caste equations. Even if we look at the composition of the current National Democratic parties – the Teligus Deam Party (SP) – are largely repre-sentations of the Practical Practical Party (SP) – are largely repre-sentations of the Practical Practical Party (SP) – are largely repre-sentations of the Practical Prac the Reddy community. This was not always the

STATE OF PLAY

case. Before the 1980s, the key players in Andhra Pradesh were the Congress and Left parties, and their narratives parties, and their narratives were largely based on social is-sues. Though there were un-derlying currents of caste-based politics, these did not based politics, these did not surface often. The narrative of caste-based politics started of caste-based politics started Rea into politics in 1982, Rao, the founder of the TDP, advo-cated for Telisqu pride, yet his 'Kamma party'. Ever since the composite of the telisque pride, and Telian-gana was formed, the politics in the residual State of Andhra sassumed religious overtones. Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who is the JSP chief, claimed that adding adulterated ghee that adding adulterated ghee tack Sanatana Dharma. The parties and aillies of the NDA left no stone unturned in at left no stone unturned in attention of the party. They went to the extent of saying that the practice of fluing staff from order of the party. They went to the extent of saying that the practice of thing staff from order of the party. They went to the extent of saying that the practice of the party of the pa

assumed religious overtones. While this was noticeable dur-ing the previous YSRCP go-vernment headed by Y.S. Ja-gan Mohan Reddy, it has secome all the more evident during the current NDA regime, which came to power in 2024. Political narratives have been based largely on a number of issues revolving around places of worship and have Reddy and his party alleged such as a sale sale such as taking centre stage, core is

NDA responsible for it.

Before this incident too could die down, TTD's former chairman, former MLA Bhu-

chairman, sormer allas suu-Karunakar Reddy, alleged that ower 170 cows had died in a mouth at the dewasthanams that funds for the goshala were being misused by the present TTD board and offi-ments in the temple town. Both the YSRCP and the NIDA icodea horms over the issue. Icode horms over the issue, to the temple town. State, including the Left par-ties, took turns to add to the the political arraritie in the caused quite a stir in the State.

The most prominent of
these is the controversy surrounding the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). It
broke out in September 2024
when Andhra Pradesh Chief
Minister Chandrababu Naidu the political narrative in the

State. However, this is not the case only with the present NDA regime although it seems more prominent now. The de-secration of Lord Rama's idol at the 12th century Ramath-eertham yemple in Vizianaga-ram district in December 2020 gained considerable pol-itical traction. The YSRCP was in power then. All the Opp Narasimha Swamy temple, lo-cated in Sakhinetipalli Mandal in East Godavari district, was set on fire by miscreants. The Opposition parties alleged that people from other faiths had set fire to the chariot. The suspect in the case, who hails from a minority community,

down after a couple of months, Mr. Reddy turned the tables on the NDA following a was killed in a road accident stampede at the Vaikunta Eka-Senior politicians and polit dasi festival at the TTD temple in Tirupati. The incident, which took place on January ical analysts say that this ap-pears to be a new trend in the State. With religious issues

Defence production in India receives a fillip

While India continues to import a large share of its defence equipment and weapons, government data shows that domestic manufacturing has picked up

DATA POINT

Samreen Wani

n the weeks following Opera-tion Sindoor, there have been discussions on the efficacy of India's home-grown defence capa-bilities, and confidence in them. As India's defence production and exports have hit record highs in the past financial year, contribu-tions from private defence compa-

tions from private defence compa-nies and MSMEs have increased. The stocks of various defence companies rose significantly in the week of Operation Sindoor and week of Operation Sindoor and even beat the performance of the largest 50 companies on the Na-tional Stock Exchange. For the storm of the Storm of the Storm of 18 companies included in the Nifty Defence Index were consi-dered for comparison. These in the Storm of the Storm of the Hindustra Aeronautics Limited as well as prominent private compa-nies such as Paras Defence and Storm of the St 21% in the week India conducted its first military strikes against Pa-kistan in May, far exceeding the 3.1% rise seen in the Nifty50 index in the same period. In the follow-ing week, defence stocks rose by 5.4% compared to a 0.5% drop in the Nifty50 index. Operation Sin-door seems to have provided a fil-lip to the performance of defence panies which were otherwis outperformed by Nifty50 compa nies in the weeks preceding th

strikes (Chart).
While India continues to import a large share of its defence equipment and weapons, government data shows that domestic manufacturing has picked up. India's defence production touched a record high in 2023-24 (PV24) at ti.3 lalsh crore, growing at 17% compared to the previous year and exceeding the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the second year in a row. In fact, defence production has been seeing dou-ble-digit growth since FY22. Pro-emerging market economies.

luction had contracted by 2.5% in FY20, the year before the pandem-ic began. While the complete fi-gures for FY25 are not yet in, government data as of December 2024 shows that production is touching ₹90,000 crore against a

touching 190,000 crore against a target of 11.6 lakh crore for the year (Chart 2). Similarly, India's defence ex-ports have picked up and exceed-ed 220,000 crore in the past two fi-nancial years. These figures are twice those of what was seen be-

twice those of what was seen be-fore FY20 Chart 33. India's de-fence exports include small arms, export target set for the current fis-cal is \$100,000 crore. \$100,000 cror 24%. Similarly private defence companies also account for a ma jority of the share of defence exports on account of export author-

isations (Chart 4).

MSMEs have also emerged in
the defence production story by providing components to the de fence industry. The governmen has set mandatory targets of pu blic procurement from MSMEs to nsure state support to such units Goods worth ₹13,000 crore

Goods worth 13,000 crore were procured from MSMEs in FYZS, which is more than double the target set for the facal. Small bearinesses. Cl.000 crosses of the control of the

spends more on its military (rela-tive to GDP) than many other



FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1975

IIT develops solar air-conditioner

Madras: The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has recently developed a system of solar

Madras has recently developed a system of solar air-conditioning, using the "absorption principle," suitable for the hot and humid climate of the constat region of finds. It is now the solar production of the constate region of finds. It is now the solar production of the solar production. Developed by Dr. M.C. Gupta and his associates at the institute with financial support from the Central Department of Science and Technology, the system contemplates the solar production of the contemplate of the solar production. Most production of the contemplates the solar production of the solar production of the solar production of the solar production. Most production of the solar production of the sol chemical solution. Moisture is removed by the drying agent which is then regenerated by solar heating. The room air is dehumidified in a spray tower where regenerated chemical solution is used. This dehumidified air is further cooled by an evaporative cooler and thus the conditione air is now ready to go back into the room.

The heart of the system is the regenerator which regenerates the chemical solution used for dehumidifying the air. It uses sun's energy

or debuggidifying the stir. It uses suris energy directly and so no blowers or other mechanical contrivances are necessary, except a small pump collector-cum-regenerator, developed at the institute, is claimed to be more efficient than its three collectors are necessary, except as the institute, is claimed to be more efficient than its The unit can be operated with much lower irradiation thus permitting operation in the mornings and evenings. Stifficent regenerated equipment during extended cloudy weather and the stiffing of the stopping roof of a building. This integration with the building will bring down the

integration with the building will bring down the cost of the collector further.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1925

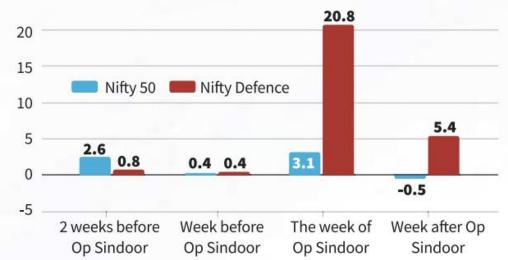
Theft of German colonies

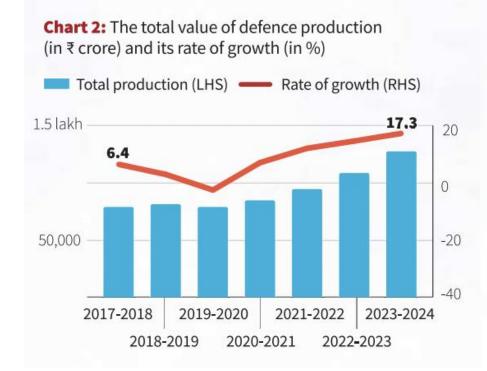
Munich, June 8: The annual meeting of the German Golonial Society has passed a resolution strongly protesting against the theft of Government to ask for their return and requesting the Reich-Commercial Treaty unless the anti-German regulations still enforced in British colonies are cancelled.

Taking Stock

The data for the charts were taken from the Department of Defence production, Ministry of MSME, and the NSE **Chart 1:** The change in the indices before and after Operation Sindoor, in April and May 2025 (in %)

Defence companies were outperformed by Nifty50 companies before the strikes





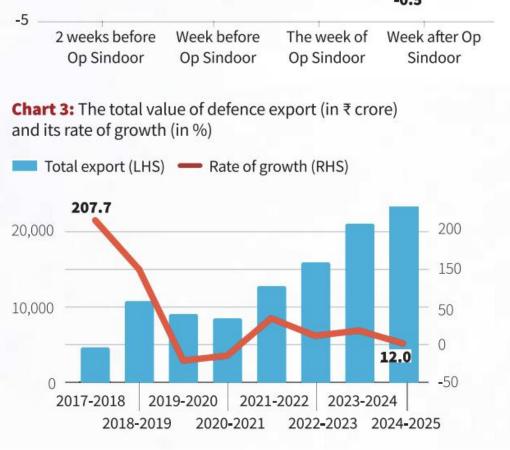


Chart 5: The target set and achieved for public procurement **Chart 4:** The share of private defence companies in total defence production (LHS) and exports (RHS) from MSMEs by the Defence Ministry (in ₹ '000 crore) Target Achievement In production 23.5 100 25 10.0 19.0 **59.1** 50 In exports 10 5.0 0 12.8 Figures in % 2016-2017 2020-2021 2024-2025 2017-2018 2020-2021 2024-2025 In ₹ lakh crore. India's defence Private companies accounted for about 20% of the total defence production in production touched a record high in 2023-24 (FY24) growing at 17% FY17 which continued till FY24. compared to the previous year In FY25, their share has increased

Granollers-Zeballos duo wins first Grand Slam doubles title



Spain's Marcel Granollers, left in pic., and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina won their first Grand Slam men's doubles title on Saturus after edging British duo Joe Salisbury and Nead Skupski. Granollers, 39, and Zeballos, 40, had lost three previous Major finals together, but finally secured a first triumph with a 6-0, 6-7(5), 7-5 win.

TRIUMPH TO SAVOUR

Errani-Paolini pair wins women's doubles crown at French Open



Sara Errani, right in pic., and Jasmine Paolini won the French Open para Errani, right in prc., and Jasmine Paolini won the French Open women's doubles title for the first time. The second-seeded litalian pair defeated Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 on Sunday. It was Errani's second French Open doubles title and her sixth at a Major. Paolini was runner-up in Paris liast year.

TRICKY GROUND

You're never in at Lord's: de Villiers' advice to South African batters



ord's is a tricky ground to play on. You've got the ball movin around more than most grounds in the world for a longer po time. You're never in, whether it's the first over or the 67th o

England post four wkt. win over the West Indies, seal T20I series



Linguand completed a series with over the West indies with a game to spare after chasing down a target of 197 in the second 720 International in Bristol on Sunday, The scores: West Indies 196/6 in 20 overs (190e 49, Charles 47, Wood 2/25) lost to England 199/6 in 18.3 overs (Buttler 47, Joseph 2/45).

Alcaraz battles back from the brink to retain his crown

The Spanish second seed saves three match points in the fourth set to turn the contest around and get the better of top-seeded Sinner in a five-set marathon lasting five hours and 29 minutes for his fifth Grand Slam singles title

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France Presse

arlos Alcaraz saved three champion-ship points as he produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to beat Jannik Sinner in a French Open final for the ages on Sunday.

Reigning champion Al-caraz rallied from the brink of defeat to overcome World No. 1 Sinner 4-6, 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(3), [10-2] to clinch his fifth [10-2] to clinch his fith Grand Slam title after five hours and 29 minutes. The 22-year-old Spaniard is now unbeaten in five Grand Slam finals after - snapping Sinner's 20-match winning run at the Majors.

Longest-ever final

Alcaraz pulled off his first ever comeback from two sets down to stun Sinner in the longest Roland Garros final in history.

It easily eclipsed the 1982 final in Paris when

Mats Wilander triumphed in four sets over Guillermo Vilas in 4hr 42min.

Alcaraz becomes the third youngest man to win five Grand Slams — after Bjorn Borg and compatriot Rafael Nadal – following an incredible duel between the two stars of a new gen-



ingly short of a third suc-cessive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open

tralian Open triumphs.

He suffered his fifth
straight loss to Alcaraz in
what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final —

and the first championship match at a Major between two men born in the Alcaraz leads 8-5 overall

having also beaten Sinner to win in Rome, where the Italian returned to compe-

Khaleel, Rahul, Easwaran come good

Press Trust of India

India-A reached 163 for four in its second innings to extend the overall lead to extend the overall lead to 184 runs on the third day of the second "Test' against England Lions here on Sunday. K.L. Rahul hit 51 to fol-low up his first-innings hundred, while Abhima-

nyu Easwaran impressed with an 80. Earlier, resuming at 192 for three, the host suffered a collapse in the morning session, losing four wickets for just 10 runs.

Khaleel Ahmed set the tone, removing skipper James Rew (10) and George

James Rew (10) and George Hill (0) off successive deliv-eries to trigger the slide. He followed it up with the wicket of Chris Woakes (5) to reduce the Lions to 266 for eight by lunch, After the interval, Nitish Kumar Reddy broke Far-han Ahmed's dogged resis-tance – his 87-ball 24 frus-trating the visitors – to

rating the visitors nake it 279 for nine.

But from there India-/ struggled to break through with the final wicket stand between Josh Tongue and ddie Jack frustrating the visitors. Khaleel was brought back in an attemp to bag a five-for, but it was to bag a five-for, but it was Anshul Kamboj who ended the resistance at the stroke of tea.

The scores: India-A 348 & 163/4 in 33 overs (Rahul 51, Easwaran 80, Chris Woakes 2/31) vs. England Lions 327 in 89 overs (Gay 71, Haines 54, Cox 45, Tongue 36 n.o., Khaleel 4/70).

Indian team begins training in right earnest



eran Jadeja, put in the hard yards at Lord's xgreco



INDIA IN ENGLAND Press Trust of India

India hit the ground run-ning with a high-intensity training session at Lord's, ahead of the five-match series against England begin-ning on June 20.

The pace quartet of Jas-prit Bumrah, Prasidh prit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh, alongside new captain Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Ra-vindra Jadeja trained un-der head coach Gautam Gambhir. the retirements of stal-warts Rohit Sharma and Vi-rat Kohli. He is leading a relatively young side eyeing its first Test series win in England since 2007.

The series begins a Headingley followed by Tests at Edgbaston, Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval.

India-A players, includ-ing some from the main squad, are already acclima-tising in English condi-tions, currently involved in the second "Test' against England Lions in North-

Ankur rises to the occasion as ThunderBlades pip Challengers

UTT

Amol Karhadkar

The overseas duo of Aruna Quadri and Adriana Diaz were at their sublime best consideration of the consideration of Blades' hopes of making it to the Ultimate Table Ten-nis semifinal in its debut season alive with a com-prehensive win against de-fending champion Dempe fonding champion Dempe Goa Challengers. While Quadri and Adria-

na set the pace early on, promising youngster An-kur Bhattachariee took ovkur Bhattacharjee took ov-er by first gelling well with Diaz in the mixed doubles before overcoming Ronit Bhanja in an entertaining duel to give the Thunder-Blades a 9-6 win. It was a rare instance of on Indian male paddlers fense, since a stomach

singles, since a stomach bug ruled Goa Challengers' veteran Tiago Apolonia out of the tie. But Bhanja did

singles ties were one-sided affairs with Indian paddlers from either side bare-ly able to make their respective opponents sweat, Quadri and Challengers' captain Harmeet Desai

captain Harmeet Desai stretched each other. Harmeet matched the Nigerian's powerful fore-hands but ran out of steam in the decider after con-verting one of the two gol-den points. The tie of the match was

his bit by snatching a game the mixed doubles where off Ankur. Adriana and Ankul — the

larmeet and Zenj Jian. An kur's banana receives and Adriana's powerful fore-hand winners left the Challengers challenged.

I ne results:

Kolkata ThunderBlades bt
Dempo Goa Challengers 9-5
(Quadri Aruna bt Harmoet Desai
10-11, 11-10, 11-6; Adriana Diaz
bt Krittwika Sinha Roy 11-1, 11-4,
11-6; Adriana & Ankur 11-1; Selenadeepthi Selvakum lost to Zeng 4-11, 6-11, 4-11).

PBG Pune Jaguars lost to Dabang Delhi TTC 4-11 (Alvare Robies lost to Quek Izaac 5-11, 4-11, 11-4; Taneesha Kotecha to Maria Xiao 5-11, 5-11, 11-9;

to Maria Xiao 5-11, 5-11, 11-9; Reeth Rishya & Robbes lost to Maria & G. Sathiyan 10-11, 9-11, 11-4; Anirban Ghosh bt Sathiyan 8-11, 3-11, 11-4; Zion Lee lost to Diya Chitale 5-11, 8-11, 8-11;

The standings: Dabang Delhi TTC 39 points (4

Dabang Delhi TTC 39 points (4 matches) Q, Jaipur Patriots 32 (4), Dempo Goa Challengers 32 (4), U Mumba TT 32 (4), Kolkata ThunderBlades 29 (4), PBG Pune Jaguars 28 (4), Stanley's Chennai Lions 24 (4), Ahmedabad SG Pipers 22 (4), Q: Quolified

Review system, the need of the hour

Amol Karhadkar

On a day that saw two disputes involving umpiring decisions in both the matches, the coaches and players hoped for the Table mis Review (TTR) sys em to be implen he Ultimate Table Tennis

"The technology is avail-able, so we could use it here also when it comes to the net service and the hid-den service rules. We got den service rules. We got booked for hidden service, but actually when I see how some of the opponents are serving, then you could call every serve as

well.

"Normally the umpire should see this but otherwise technology can be helpful," said Chris Pfeifer, the Ahmedabad SG Pipers

Ahmedabad's Ricardo Walther was vellow-carded Validare was yellow-carded spread with Pfeifer's asthe call was wrong; as the service call that
read that it is not service call that
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read on Saturday after stressing on the replays to be shown for a net service call that was ruled in favour of his opponent, Jaipur Patriots' Jeet Chandra.



could see that it was a net but there are two umpires over here and I think it was TTR has been selectively

implemented at various tournaments across the globe. Sachin Shetty, the Jaipur Patriots coach, dis-agreed with Pfeifer's as-

ture. I think they are look- ra and to the side of the

"With regard to the point, I can understand Ri-cardo felt bad about it but all of us on the bench were convinced that it wasn't a net serve, so I don't think the call was wrong."

ifies that camera as an ex-ternal equipment is considered as net, the TTR would have helped deter-mine whether the ball touched the edge or the side of the table.

"The review system will help but it didn't matter in that game and the match eventually, but everyone will support the review sys-tem," said Szocs' teammate Verbewini Chorpade of Yashaswini Ghorpade, af-ter surprising China's Fan

Alcaraz battles back from the brink to retain his crown

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FRENCH OPEN

Agence France Presse

arlos Alcaraz saved three championship points as he produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to beat Jannik Sinner in a French Open final for the ages on Sunday.

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Longest-ever final

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It easily eclipsed the 1982 final in Paris when Mats Wilander triumphed in four sets over Guillermo Vilas in 4hr 42min.

Alcaraz becomes the third youngest man to win five Grand Slams — after Bjorn Borg and compatriot Rafael Nadal – following an incredible duel between the two stars of a new gentres of the start of the



Phenom! Alcaraz once again proved that he is one of the biggest talents around by scripting a remarkable comeback to best the world's premier player. REUTERS

eration. Sinner fell agonisingly short of a third successive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open title and back-to-back Aus-

tralian Open triumphs.

He suffered his fifth straight loss to Alcaraz in what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final – and the first championship match at a Major between two men born in the 2000s.

Alcaraz leads 8-5 overall

having also beaten Sinner to win in Rome, where the Italian returned to competition after a three-month doping ban.



The Hakuto-R mission was designed to demonstrate the capabilities of private space enterprises in lunar exploration.

The Resilience lander was launched in January 2025 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

It followed a low-energy transfer trajectory to the Moon, allowing for system checks during its journey. The target landing site was Mare Frigoris, chosen for its smooth terrain.

Foreign Direct Investment in India

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's net foreign direct investment (FDI) crashed from USD 10.1 billion in 2023–24, and just USD 0.4 billion in 2024–25.

The sharp decline in net FDI is mainly due to increased repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms, totaling USD 51.5 billion in 2024-25, coupled with a rise in Outward FDI (OFDI) by Indian companies.



FDI Regulation: Currently, FDI in India is regulated by the FDI Policy 2020 and the FEMA (Non-debt Instrument) Rules, 2019 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the main regulator of FDI in India.



RBI also plays a key role by enforcing the FDI Rules.

• FDI Prohibition in India: FDI is strictly prohibited in sectors like atomic energy generation, gambling and betting, lotteries, chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry.



- Current Status of FDI in India: Strong Gross FDI Inflows: Gross FDI rose to USD 81 billion in 2024–25, up from USD 71.3 billion in 2023–24 and \$71.4 billion in 2022–23.
 - Key sectors attracting FDI were manufacturing, financial services, energy, and communication services, together making up over 60% of total inflows.
 - Top investing countries—Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, Netherlands, and the United States—contributed over 75% of gross FDI.

- Outward FDI by Indian Companies: Outward FDI by Indian companies surged to USD 29.2 billion in 2024–25, a 75% increase from 2023-24. Top destination countries for Indian OFDI were Singapore, United States, UAE, Mauritius, and the Netherlands.
 - The sectors driving over 90% of OFDI growth included financial, banking and insurance services, manufacturing, and wholesale and retail trade, restaurants, and hotels.

Difference between FDI and FPI				
Features	FDI	FPI		
Nature of Investment	Long-term	Short-term		
Objective	Long-term presence in a foreign country	Earning quick returns on investments		
Control	Significant (over the invested entity)	No or limited control		
Investments in	Tangible assets (e.g., factories, buildings)	Financial assets (e.g., stocks, bonds)		
Returns	Profits, Dividends, and Capital appreciation	Dividends, Interest, and Capital appreciation		
Policy Regulations	Govt policies and sector -specific regulations	Flexible regulations and easier entry/exit		
Impact on Economy	Job creation, technology transfer, and economic growth	Short-term liquidity and impact on stock market performance		

Word of the day

Vitiate:

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality; make imperfect; take away the legal force of or render ineffective

Synonyms: corrupt, debase, debauch, demoralise, deprave, misdirect, pervert, profane, subvert, impair, mar, spoil, invalidate, void

Usage: The impact of the film was vitiated by the cast.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/vitiatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: //vɪʃ.i.eɪt/





