

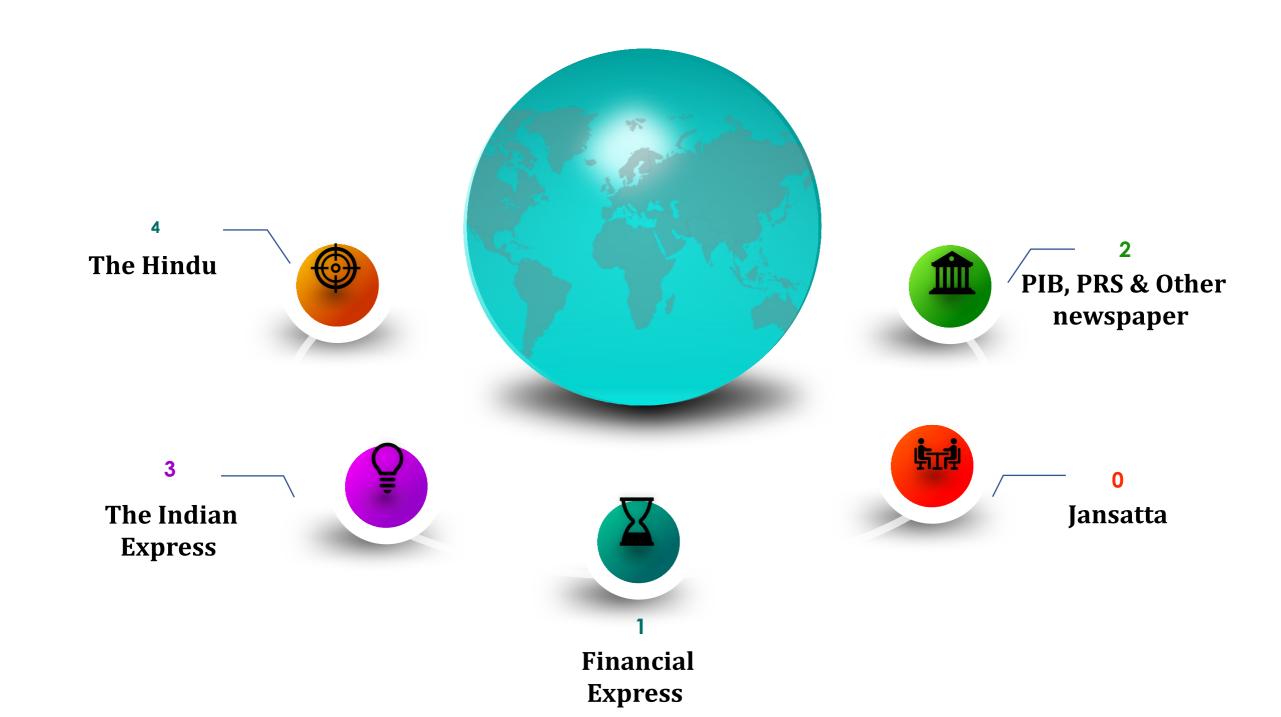








THE **EXPRESS** 



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10 MCQ QUIZ

# STILL CONFUSED! **HOW TO PREPARE**

**RASonly** 

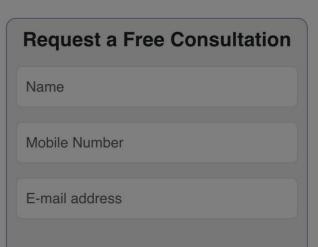
For English Medium Candidates Only





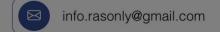
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"Winners are not people who never fail, but people who never quit."



30-40 crore labourers to join protest: unions NEWS to PAGE 4





Massive protest against panel in Maharashtra

Credit struggles for woman MSMEs despite schemes Limited access and widening credit gap HON IN PAGE 9



#### INSIDE

Russia fires over 100 drones into Ukraine; 10 killed

KYIV
Russia fired more than 100
drones at civilian areas of
Ukraine overnight, authoritis
said on Monday. At least 10
civilians were killed and 38
injured, including three
children, in Russian attacks,
officials said. » PAGE 14

173 people on Nipah contact list in Kerala

KOZHIKODE As a Palakkad native who tested positive for Nipah is fighting for her life, the Kerala rnment has intensified measures to prevent the spread of the disease around ner village. As many as 173 the contact list. » PAGE 3

#### China slams PM's greetings to Dalai

NEW DELEG

The Chinese government h protested to India over PM Narendra Modi's greetings for Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai

#### J&K witnessing rise in tourism, says Minister

SRINAGAR

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday appreciated the recen rise in tourist footfall in Kashmir. He added that the Centre and the ISK ked in tander

## SC will hear roll revision pleas on July 10 Opposition parties, NGOs, and activists move top

court challenging the legality of the exercise

They say crores of people in the election-bound State face the prospect of disenfranchisement

Bench told to ensure EC explain its 'ill-timed and hasty' decision to conduct the exercise in Bihar

Immediately stop

roll revision, say

INDIA leaders

The Hindu Bureau

he Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear urgently on July 10 a batch of petitions challenging the legality of the special intensive revi-sion (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission in poll-bound Bihar.

poll-bound Bihar.
The petitions were mentioned for early hearing before a Bench of Justicesbeen and the state of the state of the state of lawmalya Bagchi by a battery of lawyers, including senior advocates Kapil Sibal,
A.M. Singhvi, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, and Shadar
the petitioners to supply the petitioners to supply the Centre, the Election Commission, the Attorney-General, and other respon-dents with copies of their

petitions in advance.
The petitioners for whom the mentioning was

cluded Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha, Trina-mool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, the non-govern-mental organisations Asso-ciation for Democratic Reforms and People's Union for Civil Liberties, and acti-

for Civil Liberties, and acti-vist Yogendra Yadav. However, the day saw the challenge against the exercise gain further mo-mentum, with leaders mentum, with leaders from various other Opposi-tion parties, including K.C. Supriya Sule of the Nation-alist Congress Parry (SP). D. Raja of the Communist D. Raja of the Communist Mailk of the Samajwadi Party, Arvind Sawant of the Silv Sena (UP). Sar-thand Mukti Morcha, and Dipankar Bhuttacharya of moving the top court. moving the top court. Mr. Sibal informed the

Bench that the need for an urgent hearing and an intemade in the morning in- rim relief of stay of the



nouncing the SIR was ne-cessary as crores of voters from marginalised sections of society had been put on a tight leash to produce documents to prove their domicile or face the pros-

ment. The petitioners' side urged the Bench to issue notice to the EC and en-sure that the poll body explain its "ill-timed and has-ty" decision to conduct the

date for the submission of

'No prior consultation The applicant's name would not feature on the draft electoral rolls, to be published on August 1, if

ted in time.

Mr. Jha, in his petition, argued that the decision was taken by the poll body without prior consultation with political parties and would be employed to "justify aggressive and rai rois that disproportion-ately target Muslim, Dalit, and poor migrant communities". The petitioners con-tended that the SIR pro-

cess violated the provi sions of the Representation special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound of the People Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of the Registra-Rule 2IA of the Registra-tion of Electors Rules, 1960. The petitioners va-riouslyargued that the SIR shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the state to the crizzens. Appearing for the Asso-ciation for Democratic Re-forms, advocate Prashant Borns, advocate Prashant cess had "excluded item: fication documents such as Bihar, INDIA bloc leaders on Monday said the Election Commission was in a confused situation. The INDIA bloc headed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, asked the Election Commission to

nalised communities and the poor more vulnerable to exclusion from voting\*.

PAGE 8 1977 VERDICT

#### Floating homestead



## Conflict in Myanmar drives 4,000 into Mizoram

#### The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

A battle between two ethnic armed groups in Myan-mar has forced some 4,000 Chin people in the country to take refuge in Mizoram. Officials in Champhai

district of Mizoram said waves of Myanmar nation-als began crossing a border ais began crossing a border bridge at Zokhawthar and the Tiau river since the gunfights broke out on July 3. The river demarcates a 3. The river demarcates a part of the 510-km border between India and Myan-mar. "The refugees are tak-ing shelter in the houses of their relatives, schools, and community halls. They are concentrated in CM (IIII

gees," the official said.
On Sunday, Mizoran
Chief Minister Lalduho Chief Minister Laiduho-ma's political adviser Lai-muanpuia Punte reported-ly visited the border area to hold talks with the leaders of the two extremist groups for cessation of vio-lence.

tion across the border, we have not asked these refugees, many of them wo-men and children, to go back. Our villagers and members of NGOs such as the Young Mizo Associa-tion are looking after the basic needs of the refu-

The Chins of Myanmar relatives on either side of the border. According to communi-ty elders in Zokhawthar, the refugees started trick-ling in after observing the movement of armed men in areas close to the border less than a week ago. relatives on either side of and the dominant Mizos of and the dominant Mizos of Mizoram are members of the greater Zo community, as are the Kukis, Zomis, Hmars, and Kuki-Chins (Bangladesh). It is not unusual for these ethnic groups to have

The "warning shots" erupted into a fierce gunfight on Saturday.

Security officials guarding the border said the fight was between the Chin

which accounts for about half of the world's popula-tion, as "an important plat-form for cooperation bet-National Defence Force (CNDF) and the Chinland Defence Force-Hualngo-ram (CDF-H) for the contegic for border trade with

The two groups are part of the People's Defence Force that is leading a resis with the U.S.

"China has repeatedly stated its position that trade and tariff wars have no winners and protection-ism offers no way forward," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said. tance movement against Myanmar's military junta, which captured power through a coup in 2021. Af-ter two days of exchanging fire, the CNDF was learnt to have captured all eight camps of the CDF-H in the

#### Trump issues Web portal, apps to threat of extra make Census data 10% tariffs on BRICS nations 'available early': RGI

#### Agence France-Presse

the bloc - which also in-cludes U.S. allies Brazil.

Saudi Arabia, and Indone-sia – described Mr.

utput.
Defending the bloc,

U.S. President Donaid Trump has threatened Chi-na, India, and some of the world's fastest-emerging economies with higher im-port tariffs, hitting back at BRICS's criticism of his trade policies as the II-na-tion bleece shades it rate. Data from the 2027 Census will be "available early" as the exercise will be con-ducted digitally, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) posted on X on tion bloc concludes its two-day summit in Rio de Janei-ro on Monday. On Sunday, leaders of

(RGI) posted on X on Monday. The country's "first digi-tal Census" will be con-ducted in two phases, and "for the first time, technol-ogy will be used to collect data and send it electronidata and send it electroni-cally to the central server", the KGI said, adding this billity of Census data". Af-ter the previous Census ex-ercise concluded, it took for primary data to be available. Of said Census 2022 would offer the op-tion of self-enumeration "through a declared web portal". All States have also

Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia — described Mr.
Trumps stop-start tariff respective of the stop-start tariff damaging, and illegal, drawing a quick rebuke from the puglistic U.S. Preparation of the stop-start of the start o been asked to appoint no-dal officers for the exer-cise, and "residents will be able to self-enumerate in both phases", the RGI said.
"Data will be collected using Mobile Apps (both Android & iOS) in English,
Hindi, and regional languages. Enumerators/Supervisors will use their

ween developing countries", China on Mon-day insisted that BRICS was own mobile device for data collection," the RGI added. The Census will have a The Census will have a focused publicity cam-paign for nationwide awareness, inclusive parti-cipation, last-mile engagenot seeking confrontation with the U.S. cipation, last-mile engage-ment and support for field operations. "It'll empha-sise on sharing accurate, authentic & timely infor-mation ensuring cohesive & effective outreach ef-fort," the KGI said, while adding that "caste of hou-sehold members will be

# Undated count

regional languages

enumerated in the ensuing Census".

Census".

According to the constitutional mandate, the first Census after 2026 can be used as the basis to redraw the new general election is due in 2029.

The first phase of Census 2027, Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO), will lowed by the Population Enumeration (PE) phase in Enumeration (PE) phase in

Enumeration (PE) phase in February 2027.

For the 2021 Census, 3: questions were notified for the first phase, related to household particulars such as building number; Census house number; predominant material o the roof: floor of the house name and sex of the head of the household; number of persons residing in the household; main source of household; main source of drinking water; main source of lighting; access to latrine; main fuel used for cooking; access to radio, TV, laptop, computer and car; main cereal con-sumed; and mobile num-bor.

sumed; and mobile num-ber.
On June 16, the RGI not-ified the process in the Ga-zette of India.

# SC will hear roll revision pleas on July 10

Opposition parties, NGOs, and activists move top court challenging the legality of the exercise

They say crores of people in the election-bound State face the prospect of disenfranchisement

Bench told to ensure EC explain its 'ill-timed and hasty' decision to conduct the exercise in Bihar

## <u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

**NEW DELHI** 

he Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear urgently on July 10 a batch of petitions challenging the legality of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission in poll-bound Bihar.

The petitions were mentioned for early hearing before a Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Iovmalya Bagchi by a battery of lawyers, including senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, and Shadan Farasat. The Bench asked the petitioners to supply the Centre, the Election Commission, the Attorney-General, and other respondents with copies of their petitions in advance.

The petitioners for whom the mentioning was made in the morning included Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, the non-governmental organisations Association for Democratic Reforms and People's Union for Civil Liberties, and activist Yogendra Yadav.

However, the day saw the challenge against the exercise gain further momentum, with leaders from various other Opposition parties, including K.C. Venugopal of the Congress, Supriva Sule of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP), D. Raja of the Communist Party of India, Harendra Malik of the Samajwadi Party, Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Sarfraz Ahmed of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, and Dipankar Bhattacharya of the CPI(ML) Liberation moving the top court.

Mr. Sibal informed the Bench that the need for an urgent hearing and an interim relief of stay of the



**Serious questions:**The petitioners variously argued that the SIR shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the state to the citizens. ANI

June 24 notification announcing the SIR was necessary as crores of voters from marginalised sections of society had been put on a tight leash to produce documents to prove their domicile or face the prospect of disenfranchise-

ment. The petitioners' side urged the Bench to issue notice to the EC and ensure that the poll body explain its "ill-timed and hasty" decision to conduct the exercise in Bihar.

Mr. Sibal said the last date for the submission of

the enumeration forms was July 25.

## 'No prior consultation'

The applicant's name would not feature on the draft electoral rolls, to be published on August 1, if the forms were not submit-

## Immediately stop roll revision, say INDIA leaders

#### **PATNA**

Demanding a halt to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, INDIA bloc leaders on Monday said the Election Commission was in a confused situation. The INDIA bloc coordination committee, headed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, asked the Election Commission to stop the SIR immediately and continue it after the election. » PAGE 5

ted in time.

Mr. Jha, in his petition, argued that the decision was taken by the poll body without prior consultation with political parties and would be employed to "justify aggressive and opaque revisions of electo-

ral rolls that disproportionately target Muslim, Dalit, and poor migrant communities".

The petitioners contended that the SIR process violated the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The petitioners variously argued that the SIR shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the state to the citizens.

Appearing for the Association for Democratic Reforms, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the SIR process had "excluded identification documents such as Aadhaar or ration cards which further make marginalised communities and the poor more vulnerable to exclusion from voting".

# PAGE 8 1977 VERDICT PAGE 5

- The Supreme Court of India has agreed to urgently hear petitions on July 10 challenging the legality
  of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.
- The Election Commission (EC) initiated the SIR before the Bihar Assembly elections.

## Petitioners and Issues Raised:

- Petitioners include:
  - Political leaders (e.g. Manoj Jha, Mahua Moitra)
  - NGOs (e.g. Association for Democratic Reforms, PUCL)
  - Activists (e.g. Yogendra Yadav)
- Legal provisions cited:
  - Representation of the People Act, 1950
  - Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960

- EC's move termed "ill-timed" and "hasty".
- The revision disproportionately impacts:
  - Muslims, Dalits, and poor migrant communities.
- Petitioners argue:
  - The burden of proof was unfairly shifted to citizens to prove residence.
  - Documents like Aadhaar/ration cards were excluded, causing exclusion.
  - No prior consultation with political parties.

## Supreme Court Directions:

- Bench: Justices S. Dhulia and J. Bagchi
- Petitioners urged:
  - EC be directed to justify the necessity of the June 24 notification.
  - Interim relief to halt the process.
  - Inclusion of respondents like EC, Centre, Attorney General.

# Q. Consider the following statements about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar:

- 1. It was initiated by the Election Commission of India in the run-up to Bihar Assembly elections.
- 2. The petitioners have challenged it on the grounds that it violates the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- 3. The Supreme Court has dismissed the petitions stating it is a routine electoral process.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## **Business**

#### INBRIEF



#### Kalyan Jewellers reports 31% revenue growth in Q1 FY26

Kalyan Jewellers on Monday reported a 31% Of of the FY 2025-26, despite multiple pauses in QI of the FY 2025-26, despite multiple pauses in demand, majorfy due to volatility in gold prices and geopolitical tensions. The company had reported a consolidated net revenue of 45,557.63 crore in the first quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal. India operations saw 315 revenue growth during QI of the FY 2025-26 company said in a filing. m

#### Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC mobilises ₹700 cr. via AIF

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC on Monday said it has raised ₹700 crore through the first closure of its Structured Opportunities Fund - Series II, a Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). The fund aims to raise \$1,250 crore with a greenshoe option of an additional \$1,250 crore, greensine option of an additional x1,250 crore aiming for a total mobilisation of ₹2,500 crore The fund focuses on credit opportunities, offering capital solutions across growth, strategic, and opportunistic requirements.

#### JioBlackRock MF raises over ₹17,800 cr. via maiden NFO

JioBlackRock Asset Management Pvt. Ltd., a 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) and BlackRock, on Monday announced closure of its maiden New Fund Offer (NFO), recording a total investment of \$17,800 crore (~USD 2.1 billion). The fund was mobilised from three cash/debt mutual fund schemes – JioBlackRock Overnight Fund, JioBlackRock Liquid Fund and JioBlackRock

## 'Capgemini's \$3.3-bn WNS deal leaves the Big Four in big shock'

Transaction may kick off a round of industry consolidation as the large strategics prepare for massive changes AI begins to bring: Everest Group

apgemini, the Paris-based technology and digital transforand digital transformation major, made the Big 4 - Delottre, Pwc, EY, Born and Born

premium of 28% to the last 90-day average share price, of 27% to the last 30-day average share price and a premium of 17% to the last closing share price on July 3, 2025.

ine list cloons nare price
"This acquisition will
give Capgenini a new positioning in the global tech
market against the Big 4
comprising Deleitte, PwC.
comprising Deleitte, PwC.
traditionally dominated
the consulting and technology services," Phil Fersht,
CEO, HFS Research, a Cambridge-based analyst firm
Mr. Fersht said, from a
Mr. Fersht said, from a

Mr. Fersht said, from a competitive perspective, a potential big win for Cap-gemini was its new positioning against the Big 4, which have traditionally dominated consulting and



Great expectations: Both firms could deliver end-to-end services the Big 4 cannot, and at lower price points, say observers. REUTERS

"With Capgemini's glo-bal scale and depth of tech-nical capabilities, the addi-tion of WNS could create an ideal incubation busi-ness to develop leadingedge Services-as-Software solutions to attack this huge \$1.5 trillion emerging marketing opportunity," Mr. Fersht said.

"The long-rumoured ac-quisition of WNS is finally quisition of WNS is finally here. Capgemini is return-ing to its acquisition lead growth model and acting as a major force in industry consolidation.," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, founder and executive chairman of Dallas-based Everest Group. Group. According to the Everest

Group's chief, Capgemini is betting that the WNS book of business will provide a fertile ground for AI-driven transformation and allow it to develop new transfor-

forms. "The potential is clearly there, but the jour-ney will require significant additional investment and a resolute leadership

team," Mr. Bendor-Samuel

He said BPM as a space has held up well in a world rocked by AI, which has rocked by AI, which has yet to have a significant impact on the space. However, a start of a significant industry consolidation," he sick off another round of industry consolidation as the large strategies look to great the significant of th

Tech industry observers said Capgemini, with WNS's operational exper-tise integrated into its of-ferings, could deliver endto-end transformation ser-vices that the Big 4 cannot, and at lower price points.

Tariff trodden

## SEBI mulls expanding **AMC** businesses with safeguards

The Securities and Ex-change Board of India (SE-BI) said in its paper that it had received a representa tion from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and other industry participants saying that broad-based funds – at broad-based funds — at least 20 investors; and no single investor accounting for more than 25% of the corpus of the fund — were barriers to do business as they did not provide a le-vel-playing field with no-broad based funds. "In view of the same, it was decided to review and consider relaxing the

consider relaxing the broad basing requirement and permitting asset maninsider trading or even transfer low quality assets from non-broad based funds to mutual funds, vioagement companies (AMCs) to serve pooled non-broad based funds as well, subject to strong golating the principle of fair treatment. SEBI. however. proposed not to allow this transfer and that all the vernance and regulatory controls that would ad regulation would come ur der the ambit of Prever dress any concerns related to conflicts of interest sit-uations," SEBI said.

The regulator proposes that in case the two diffetion of Insider Tradin

regulations.

Apart from these, SEBI also proposed that subsidiaries of AMCs registered as a pension fund manager may be allowed to be point of presence (POP) for pension funds and collecting commissions or fees from the investor as permitted by PPRDA, all while protecting the interest of muthat in case the two diffe-rent services are to be con-ducted under the same company, they could be separated by "Chinese Walls" or through "opera-tional segregation." The paper also delineat-ed the conflicts that could arise, like diversion of re-sources from mutual funds to more exclusive investto more exclusive investment management servic-es. To solve this, SEBI pro-posed to introduce caps on the difference between the fee charged for non-broad

tecting the interest of mu-tual fund investor. SEBI al-so proposed that AMCs can regulator has given time till July 28 for stakeholders to

	MONDWY	No CHANGE
ersex	63,442	0.66
5 Dollar	85.94	0.65
elid	96,530	-0.55
ment eil	69.38	

	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE
Arteri Enter	2520.15	-22.00
Adani Perts		
Arreito Hess	7000.00	F3.00
Asian Paints		
Asia Floris	2447.60	20.00
Raini Auto		
Bajaj Fireery	8447.50	30.54
Bajaj Finance	2000.40	12.08
Object Flec	924.65	-0.00
Strart Airtel	417.10	-30.45
Ciple	2033.99	36.79
Ciglia Coal India	1550.50	-2.88
Coal India	384.25	-L.85
Or Reddys Lab		
Eicher Mators	5682.58	\$3.54
Eteral Utd.	258.55	- 2.85
Grasine Ind	2779.19	-24.88
HCL Tech	1710.48	-25.58
HDPC Bank	1967.48	-1.96
HDFC Life	789.45	4.35
Here MetoCerp		
Hindster	692.38	-7.35
Hind Unitever	2410.48	71.14
ICICI Bank	1435.78	·7.18
Industrial Bank		
Inferra	1627.00	-22.79
rnc .	416.15	2.68
Jio Pinancial Servic- es Utd.		
estad	328.05	3.11
JSW Steel	1042 68	1.24
Hotals Burnis	2149.68	20.06
LST	2581.40	-33.26
PREMI	7180 12	(3.78
Haruti Sundi	13530.00	-175.00
Negdelodia.		
NTPC	227.45	1.00
OMOC	241.40	1.99
PowerGrid Corp	207.00	1.00
Reliance Ind	1041.00	24.26
SBI Life	1001.00	24.21
State Bank	1440.50	8.08
Shriram Finance Lad		
Sun Pharmo	671.30	-4.85
Sun Pharma	1679.90	3.66
TateConsumerPro-		
duct		
Tata Motors	680.65	-0.26
Tata Steel	352.48	-0.60
TCS		-8.18
Tech Mahindra		
Titlen	3086.12	-20.88
Trent Utd.	5459.00	45.00
Ultraffech Cement	12345.00	-161.00

## Implementation of OCO for cotton bales postponed to 2026

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has postponed the implementation of Quality Control Order (OCO) on cotton bales to (QCO) on cotton bales to August 2026 from August this year. The Cotton Bales (Quality Control) Order, 2023 has been amended for implementation from for implementat August 27, 2026.

Industry sources said the textile industry, the main cotton consumer, welcomed the move.

However, the sources said the Centre should withdraw the QCO as the withdraw the QCO as the BIS specifications for cot-ton bales do not have norms for contamination levels permitted for cotton. The contamination le-vels are high in Indian cot-ton and the industry im-vorte high-anality cotton

ports high-quality cotton that is contamination free. Cotton growers in other



The textile industry welcomed the Centre's move.

countries will not go in for BIS stamp. Further, overseas gar-

Further, overseas gar-ment brands are nominat-ing raw material suppliers now and the Indian textile industry sources substan-tial quantity of cotton or yarn from the nominated suppliers.

## June auto retail sales rose 5% backed by all segments: FADA

#### The Hindu Bureau

Automobile retail sales in June grew 4.84% year on year (YoY) backed by growth in all segments of

the industry.
Two-wheelers (2W) rose
at 4.73%, three-wheelers
(3W) grew 6.68%, passenger vehicles (PV) inched
2.45%, tractor sales surged
8.68%, and commercial vehicles (CV) rose by 6.6%, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associa-

ing raw material suppliers now and the Indian testific industry sources substantial quiantity of cotton or the control of the

Several dealers cited com-pulsory billing and forced stock lifts – often via auto-debit wholesales – leading to mandated high days of inventory aligned with fes-tival-season targets. Overall, June demonstrated a resilient two-wheeler per-formance amid mixed mar-ket signals," he said.

PV retails slipped 1.49% month on month (MoM) and heavy rains and tight market liquidity weighed on footfall and conversion. even as elevated incentive schemes and fresh book-

schemes and fresh bookings lent selective support.
"Some dealers indicated
certain PV OEMs introduced compulsory billing
procedures such as automatic wholesale debits to
meet volume targets; inventory consequently
stands at around 55 days.
June thus painted a picture
of modest but steaddars ted



Berthed and burdened: Containers are seen at the International Container Terminal in Surabaya on Monday, While U.S. President Donald

## Škoda Auto Volkswagen to import, sell Bentley

#### The Hindu Bureau

Škoda Auto Volkswagen In dia Private Ltd. (SAVWIPL) tion of Rentley as the sixth brand under the group's

brand under the group's umbrella.

From July 1, 2025, the company said it will exclu-sively import, distribute and service Bentley vehi-cles across the country.

All marketing, sale will be conducted under a new-ty established entity. Ben-

oversee the British brand's India strategy and retail network.

Abbey Thomas has been appointed as the Brand Di-rector of Bentley India and ly established entity, Ben-



Indian market.

Bentley India will have three new dealers across

## Rising cost of living setting off a chase for adequate paycheck in key cities

Rising rent and childcare and lifestyle costs are pushing employees to look for better wages.

According to the latest India Talent Trends 2024 report by ACCA, 65% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with cur-rent compensation and

teners, include with a development of the control o

For 53% of Indian professionals, salary is the top deciding factor when applying where rent increases have

the technology sector has seen wage stagnation fol-lowing the hiring boom of 2021-22. In banking and financial

job postings on 'Indeed' that include salary infor-

mation has nearly dou-bled, from 26 % in March

2022 to 50 % in early 2025.

Managing Editor. "The salary dyn far outpaced wage growth. This financial stress is influencing hiring patdeed India.
In response, firms are slowly evolving compensaterns, too. Over the past three years, the share of

## 'Capgemini's \$3.3-bn WNS deal leaves the Big Four in big shock'

<u>Transaction may kick off a round of industry consolidation as the large</u> strategics prepare for massive changes AI begins to bring: Everest Group

## Mini Tejaswi

BENGALURU

apgemini, the Parisbased technology and digital transformation major, made the Big 4 - Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG - sit up globally on Monday with its announcement of buying the India-grown business process management firm WNS for a total cash consideration of \$3.3 billion, said global analysts.

The French tech major said it would acquire U.S.-listed WNS for a cash consideration of \$76.50 per share, which represents a premium of 28% to the last 90-day average share price, of 27% to the last 30-day average share price and a premium of 17% to the last closing share price on July 3, 2025.

"This acquisition will give Capgemini a new positioning in the global tech market against the Big 4 comprising Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG, which have traditionally dominated the consulting and technology services," Phil Fersht, CEO, HFS Research, a Cambridge-based analyst firm told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Fersht said, from a competitive perspective, a potential big win for Capgemini was its new positioning against the Big 4, which have traditionally dominated consulting and



**Great expectations:** Both firms could deliver end-to-end services the Big 4 cannot, and at lower price points, say observers. REUTERS

technology services.

"With Capgemini's global scale and depth of technical capabilities, the addition of WNS could create an ideal incubation business to develop leadingedge Services-as-Software solutions to attack this huge \$1.5 trillion emerging marketing opportunity," Mr. Fersht said.

"The long-rumoured acquisition of WNS is finally here. Cappemini is returning to its acquisition lead growth model and acting as a major force in industry consolidation.," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, founder and executive chairman of Dallas-based Everest Group.

According to the Everest Group's chief, Capgemini is betting that the WNS book of business will provide a fertile ground for Al-driven transformation and allow it to develop new transformative Al-powered platforms. "The potential is clearly there, but the journey will require significant additional investment and a resolute leadership team," Mr. Bendor-Samuel cautioned.

He said BPM as a space has held up well in a world rocked by AI, which has vet to have a significant impact on the space. "However, this deal could be the start of a significant industry consolidation," he opined. "This may well kick off another round of industry consolidation as the large strategics look to grow inorganically and prepare for the massive changes that AI is starting to bring," he forecast.

Tech industry observers said Capgemini, with WNS's operational expertise integrated into its offerings, could deliver end-to-end transformation services that the Big 4 cannot, and at lower price points.

- Capgemini, a Paris-based tech giant, has acquired WNS, an Indian-origin business process management (BPM) firm, for \$3.3 billion in cash.
- This marks one of the largest acquisitions in the technology consulting and BPM space.

## Strategic & Economic Implications:

## For Capgemini:

- New positioning against Big Four consulting firms Deloitte, PwC, EY, KPMG.
- Strategic entry into Al-driven transformation and Services-as-Software (SaaS).
- WNS expertise to boost end-to-end services at lower price points.

## For WNS:

- U.S.-listed firm acquired at \$76.50/share, reflecting:
  - 28% premium to 90-day avg.
  - 27% premium to 30-day avg.
  - 17% premium to July 3 share price.

## Technological and Market Insights:

- Estimated \$1.5 trillion market for emerging marketing technologies (Al-powered platforms, SaaS, etc.).
- Capgemini aims to incubate these innovations leveraging WNS's capabilities.
- Al's disruption of traditional BPM and tech-consulting landscape has begun.

## Impact on Big Four (Deloitte, PwC, EY, KPMG):

- They have traditionally dominated the consulting + tech services space.
- This acquisition creates a serious competitive challenge.
- Capgemini + WNS might outperform in price + integrated delivery, unlike Big Four's segmented approach.

## Q. Consider the following statements about the Capgemini-WNS acquisition:

- 1. Capgemini acquired WNS for a total consideration of over \$3 billion.
- 2. The deal is expected to position Capgemini competitively against the Big Four consulting
- 3. WNS is a U.K.-listed BPM firm.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### DUBAL

Yemen's Houthis launch missiles in response to Israel's air strikes



Trump slams former ally Elon Musk's political party as 'ridiculous'



launching of a new political party as "ridiculous", after the tech billionaire said he wanted to challenge the United States' "one-party system." Third parties have never worked. So he can have fun with it, but I think it's ridiculous," Mr. Trump said. APP

#### Poland reinstates border controls with Germany and Lithuania



following similar German restrictions imposed earlier this year aimed at discouraging asylum-seekers. Pressure has been mounting after far-right groups alleged that Germany was transporting migrants into Polish territory after they reached Western Europe. AP

U.S. revokes 'foreign terrorist group' designation for Syria's HTS



The U.S. said it was revoking its designation as a Troteign terrorist organisation" of Hayat Tahiri al-Sham (HTS), a group once linked to al-Queda that took control of Syria in December. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio made the announcement in a memo, with the move to formally take effect on Tuesday. APP

## At least 10 killed, 38 injured as Russia | Iran President is still open to launches over 100 drones at Ukraine

Kremlin dismisses its transportation chief after a weekend of travel chaos; Moscow captures its first village in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region: Kviv signs deals with European allies and a U.S. defence company to step up drone production

III III III

ussia fired more than 100 drones at civilian areas of Ukraine overnight, author-ities said on Monday, as the Kremlin dismissed its tran-sportation chief after a weekend of travel chaos when airports grounded hundreds of flights during the busy vacation seasor due to the threat of attacks At least 10 civilians were

killed and 38 injured, in-cluding three children, in Russian attacks over the previous 24 hours, Ukraiian officials said. Puecia said it cantured

its first village in Ukraine's

gion after grinding towards the border for months. dealing a psychological blow for Kyiv as its worries

mounting Russian air attacks.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday that Ukraine had signed deals with Euro-pean allies and a leading U.S. defence company to step up drone production, ensuring Kyiv receives "hundreds of thousands" more this wear.

more this year.

"Air defence is the main thing for protecting life," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on Te-legram on Monday. That includes developing and ma nufacturing interceptor drones that can stop Rus-sia's long-range Shahed sia's long-range drones, he said.

Extensive use of drones has also helped Ukraine compensate for its troop shortages on the front line.

Russian President Vladi-mir Putin dismissed Tran-sport Minister Roman Sta-rovoyt on Monday, who later killed himself. His bo-dy was found in the Mos-cow suburb of Odintsovo. Mr. Putin named Mr. Staro-voots deputs. Andres Wild voyt's deputy, Andrey Nikigovernor of Russia's Nov-gorod region until February.

Over the weekend, hun-dreds of flights were can-celed or delayed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo and St. Petersburg's Pulkovo airports, and thousands of travelers faced long waits. Other airports in western and central Russia also faced disruptions because of Ukrainian drone attacks.

## talks with U.S., accuses Israel of assassination attempt

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said he be-lieves Iran can resolve its Iranian resolve its States through dialogue, States through dialogue, but trust would be an issue after U.S. and Israeli at-cording to an interview re-leased on Monday. "I am of the bellef that we could very much easily conflicts with the U.S.

conflicts with the U.S. through talks," Mr. Pezesh-kian told conservative U.S. podcaster Tucker Carlson in an interview conducted

Iranian leader urged U.S. President Do-nald Trump not to be drawn into war with Iran by Israeli leader Benjamin



Masoud Pezeshkian

Netanyahu, who is visiting Washington on Monday for talks at the White House. "The United States' Pre-sident, Mr. Trump, he is

capable enough to guide the region towards peace and a brighter future and put Israel in its place. Or get into a pit, an endless pit, or a swamp," Mr. Pe-zeshkian said. "So it is up to the United States President to choose which path," he added.

"Blame on Israel"
He blamed Israel, Iran's
arch-enemy, for the collapse of talks that were in
place when Israel began its
strikes on Iran on June 13,
starting a 12-day air war
with Israel in which top Iranian commanders and nuclear scientists were killed.
"How are we going to trust "How are we going to trust the U.S. again?" Mr. Pe-zeshkian said. "How can we know for sure that in the middle of the talks the Israeli regime will not be gi-

Mr. Pezeshkian also said that Israel tried to assass

## Bangladesh lawvers seek to quash ex-PM Hasina's murder trial

Agence France-Presse

State-appointed defence lawyers sought on Monday to throw out the charges against Bangladesh's convicted former Prime Minis-ter Sheikh Hasina in her crimes against humanity trial.

Up to 1,400 people were killed between July and Au-gust last year, according to the United Nations, when Ms. Hasina's government ordered a crackdown on protesters in a falled bid to

protesters in a failed bid to cling to power.

Ms. Hasina, 77, fled to India at the culmination of the student-led uprising in August and has defied or-ders to return to Dhaka, where her trial in absentia

"I sought discharge from all the allegations... as they appear false, fabricated and politically motivat-ed," Md Amir Hossain said. He added that he had not been able to speak to Ms. Hasina directly.

Prosecutors say that Ms.
Hasina held overall command responsibility for the
violence. Prosecutors have violence. Prosecutors have filed five charges against her – including failure to prevent mass murder – which amount to crimes against humanity under Bangladeshi law. The trial resumes on July 10. convicted of contempt of court in a separate case on July 2, receiving a six-month sentence.

### Nairobi unrest

nistry said its forces cap-tured the village of Dachne in the Dnipropetrovsk re-gion, an important indus-trial mining territory that has also come under



A protester sits on the road during the Saba Saba Day demonstrations on the outskirts of Nairobi on Monday. Ten persons were killed in clashes with the police during demonstrations commemorating the 1990 pro-democracy protests. . GETTY IMAGES

#### Japan and South Korea with 25% tariffs Agence France-Presse President to sign an

Trump slaps allies

Trump said Monday he was slapping 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea, in his first letters to trading partners ahead of a dea-dline to reach a deal with

Washington.

Mr. Trump had said at
the weekend that starting
from Monday he would send a first batch of up to send a first batch of up to 15 letters to countries in-forming them that he would reimpose harsh le-vies that he had postponed in April

in April.

in near-identically worded letters to the Japanese and South Korean leaders, Trump said the tariffs would apply from August 1 because their trading relationships with Washington were 'unfortunate's, far from Recipeocal.'

Mr. Trump warned the leading to both key but her better the leading to both key but her warned the leading to both key but her warned the leading to both key but her warned the leading the leading to both key but her warned the leading the l

ies in Asia, of an escalation if they responded to the new U.S. tariffs. But he also said he was

ready to modify levies "downwards" if Japan and South Korea changed their

South Korea changed their trade policies. Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Sun-day that he "won't easily compromise" in trade talks with Washington. White House Press Se-

White House Press Se-cretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Monday that Mr. Trump would sign of the Mr. Trump would sign for steeper tariffs to take ef-fect – postponing their im-position to August 1. position to August 1. position to August 1. position to August 1. position would be approxi-mately 12 other partners receiving letters from Mr.

order delaying the deadline for steeper tariffs to take effect

Trump soon. With the deadline exten sion, Ms. Leavitt said Mr Trump would be setting out the "reciprocal tariff rate" for economies in the

rate" for economies in the coming month as negotiations continue.

Mr. Trump originally announced sweeping tariffs 
on world economies on 
what he called "Liberation 
Day" on April 2, claiming 
the United States was being 
"ringed off"

the United States was being "ripped off." Amid market turmoil, Mr. Trump then suspend-ed the initial tariffs for 90 days, a deadline that ex-nires on Wednesday But the Trump ad

back until August 1, appa rently extending the dea While the Trump admi

hopes of striking dozens of deals by early July - at on point boasting of "90 deals in 90 days" – there have

been limited results so far.
Washington has unveiled pacts with only Birtain and Verman, whileina agreed to temporarily
lower tariff levels on each
other's products that earlier reached three-digits.
Scott Bessent said there
would be a number of
deals coming up.
We are products the service of the service of
the service of the

## Macron due in U.K., as London tries to balance ties with Europe, U.S. Castle, just outside Lon-don, where they will be hosted by the King and the

French President Emma-nuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron are due to arrive in London on Tuesday for a state visit

Tuesday for a state visit, hosted by Britain's monarch Charles III and the This is the first European head of state to be hosted by King Charles on the control of the cont

were last hosted by the Ma-crons in Paris in Septem-ber 2023.

the ceremonial aspects and State dinner are in-struments of the host country's soft power and used to bolster culture ties

Three-day visit The three-day visit will cul-minate in a summit level meeting led by Mr. Macron

meeting led by Mr. Macron and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday. The visit comes at a time when the U.K. is trying to balance its ties with the EU and the U.S., as President Donald Trump has over-

seen a downgrading of ties between the U.S. and the EU. were last hosted by the Ma-crons in Paris in Septem-crons in Paris in Septem-Angio-French security Regrot in Service Mandional Mr. Barrot and Mr. Barrot in France's National Mr. Barrot in



The visit will end in a summit level meeting led by Emmanuel Macron and Keir Starmer on Thursday, FILE PHOTO

2010, will be updated dur- Ukraine's defence (by leading the sammit, as per a statement by French For Feign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot in France's National Assembly.

Mr. Barrot cited London Mr. Barrot discomentioned the two countries conditioning their res-

and migration.

The U.K. and the EU recently concluded an agreement allowing reciprocal
access to fishing waters until 2038.

First programmes On Tuesday, the French first couple will be wel-comed on arrival by Prince William and Catherine Middleton, the Prince and Princess of Wales, before being taken to Windsor

Germany, which, accord-

ing to him, paved the way for negotiations (i.e., the June 20 negotiations in Ge-

Mr. Barrot also high-ghted cooperation on the

The visit will also see politically sensitive issues discussed – such as fishing

lighted coopera crisis in Sudan.

Trump invite
Mr. Trump, who has expressed a fondness for the
British Royal Family, has
U.K. on a state visit, his second such visit, since 2019,
when he was hosted by
Queen Elizabeth
The Market of the state of t

Queen. The visit will include a

carriage ride through the town of Windsor and a

state dinner Mr. Macron is

scheduled to address the U.K. parliament on Wednesday.

second visit to France is ex-

pected in September, though no dates have been

## Trump slaps allies Japan and South Korea with 25% tariffs

**Agence France-Presse** WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday he was slapping 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea, in his first letters to trading partners ahead of a deadline to reach a deal with Washington.

Mr. Trump had said at the weekend that starting from Monday he would send a first batch of up to 15 letters to countries informing them that he would reimpose harsh levies that he had postponed in April.

near-identically worded letters to the Japanese and South Korean leaders, Trump said the tariffs would apply from August 1 because their trading relationships with Washington were "unfortunately, far from Reciprocal."

Mr. Trump warned the countries, both key U.S. allies in Asia, of an escalation if they responded to the new U.S. tariffs.

But he also said he was ready to modify levies "downwards" if Japan and South Korea changed their trade policies.

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Sunday that he "won't easily compromise" in trade talks with Washington.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Monday that Mr. Trump would sign an order later in the day to delay his July 9 deadline for steeper tariffs to take effect - postponing their imposition to August 1.

She added that besides Japan and South Korea, there would be approxireceiving letters from Mr. Bessent told CNBC.

President to sign an order delaying the deadline for steeper tariffs to take effect from August 1

Trump soon.

With the deadline extension, Ms. Leavitt said Mr. Trump would be setting out the "reciprocal tariff rate" for economies in the coming month as negotiations continue.

Mr. Trump originally announced sweeping tariffs on world economies on what he called "Liberation Day" on April 2, claiming the United States was being "ripped off."

Amid market turmoil, Mr. Trump then suspended the initial tariffs for 90 days, a deadline that expires on Wednesday.

But the Trump administration has said that the duties will not "boomerang" back until August 1, apparently extending the deadline despite denials from officials.

While the Trump administration has signalled hopes of striking dozens of deals by early July - at one point boasting of "90 deals in 90 days" - there have been limited results so far.

Washington has unveiled pacts with only Britain and Vietnam, while the United States and China agreed to temporarily lower tariff levels on each other's products that earlier reached three-digits.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said there would be a number of deals coming up.

"We are going to have several announcements in mately 12 other partners the next 48 hours," Mr.

- U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea, citing imbalanced trade relationships.
- This marks a major escalation in global trade tensions with U.S. allies in Asia.

## **(#)** Key Points:

## **◆** Tariff Policy Details:

- Tariffs will apply from August 1.
- U.S. accuses Japan and South Korea of trade relations that are "unfortunately, far from Reciprocal".
- Trump had **originally announced** such tariffs on April 2, called "**Liberation Day**", but suspended them for 90 days.

## Strategic Timeline:

- First batch of up to 15 letters sent to global partners informing them of renewed tariff plans.
- July 9 deadline extended to August 1 for steeper tariffs.
- U.S. Treasury and Trade Office signal multiple deals are upcoming.

## Geopolitical Implications:

## U.S.-Asia Relations:

- Targeting Japan and South Korea, traditional U.S. allies, may affect:
  - Military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
  - Quad and U.S. strategic containment of China.
  - Global value chains in automotive, tech, and electronics.

## Trade Diplomacy:

- Trump's trade strategy termed as "reciprocal tariff rate" policy.
- May lead to trade retaliation or currency balancing measures from affected countries.

## Q. Consider the following statements about the 25% U.S. tariffs imposed in 2025:

- 1. The U.S. imposed tariffs on Japan and South Korea starting July 9, 2025.
- 2. The U.S. administration cited "non-reciprocal" trade relations as the reason.
- 3. The tariffs were part of a broader U.S. strategy of introducing a "reciprocal tariff rate".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### INBRIBE



#### Former Croatia midfielder Rakitic retires aged 37

Former Cootta international ban Rakitic, who spent much of his career with Barcelona and Sevilla, announced his retirement from football on Monday aged 37. "Football, you gave me more than I ever dreamed of, You gave me friends, the football of the second of the secon played 106 times for Croatia and started his country's World Cup final loss to France in 2018.



#### Chennai Bulls wins Equestrian Champions League

Chennai Bulls tallied 109 points for the top spot in the inaugural edition of the Equestrian Champions League, organised by Equine Sports India Federation and Indigenous Horse Society. Tamil Nadu, in Coimbatore on Sunday. Bulls performed well right through and were richer by \$15 lakh. Pegasus Sports (\$10 lakh) and Golconda Chargers (₹5 lakh) followed in that order.

Final standings: 1. Chennai Bulls 109 pts, 2. Pegasus Sports 97, 3. Golconda Chargers 73, 4. Quantum Reins 66, 5. Bangalore Knights 62, 6. Elite Equestrian 53.

#### Prithvi Shaw formally joins Maharashtra

Prithvi Shaw, the dashing opener whose fortunes have not been good for sometime, has formally joined Maharashtra in a bid to revive his career. Shaw, who was dropped from Mumbai's team midway through the last season, had obtained the No Objection Certificate from the Mumbai Cricket Association last week. On Monday, the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) welcomed him aboard. "At this stage of my career, I believe joining the Maharashtra team will help me grow further as a cricketer," Shaw



Sai Kishore to play two matches for Surrey

India left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore has signed for English county side Surrey for two championship fixtures later this month. He will play for Surrey against Yorkshire (July 22-25) and Durham (July 29-August I).

#### Ganemat Sekhon eyes final berth at Shotgun World Cup

Ganemat Sekhon put herself close to the top with the third best score of 96 after four rounds of women's skeet at the Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, on Monday. Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon had identical score of 93 and found themselves in the 30th and 31st spots respectively. In men's skeet, Bhavtegh Singh Gill shot 98 following rounds of 23, 25, 25 and 25. Asian Games silver medallist Anantjeet Singh Naruka had 95. Mairaj Ahmad Khan had completed three rounds with 73 out of 75.

#### Brian Campbell clinches John Deere Classic

Brian Campbell won for the second time this year on the PGA Tour, both in a playoff, when he closed with a 4-under 67 and beat Emiliano Grillo with a par on the first extra hole in the John Deere Classic at Silvis (USA). It extended the wirt-or-bust season for Campbell, who won the Mexico Open in a playoff in late February. He has finished out of the top-30 every tournament except for his two victories.

## Silva's Fluminense faces vibrant Chelsea for a place in the final

There are more young players coming in too, with 23-year-old Brazilian forof Fluminense, making his debut in the quarterfinals. Brazil prodigy Estevao Willian, 18, will join from

The Brazilian side comes into the semifinal after an impressive run; the Premier League team gets its first taste of MetLife Stadium

#### CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse

helsea's young side is targeting a place of the final of the takes on Fluminense in the last four on Tuesday, with the Brazilian team marshalled by former Blues defender Thiago Silva.

Silva was already a vete-

ran when he signed for Chelsea in 2020 before go-ing on to have an impres-sive four-year stint at Stam-

ford Bridge. An impressive run in the tournament has seen Fluminense hold Borussia Dortmund in the group stage, eliminate Inter Milan in the last 16 and get the house Al Hilal in the quar-terfinals. "If you had asked me beforehand if we would PSG. With Silva gone, Mar-resca has been working with a young squad at Chelsea, and the average age of his starting line-up against Palmeiras last Fri-day was just 24. have got this far, I would have said we were a long way away from doing so,"

way away from doing so, Silva said after the victory over Al Hilal.

Silva said after the victory over Al Hilal.

The said of the way of the state of the Met-Life Stadium, the hulking 82,500-ca. Heart of the said of the sa League. But suddenly the side But suddenly the same stands one game from the final, in which it would

the midfield against Flumi-nense after suspension. face either Real Madrid or

Moises Caicedo, the midfield linchpin who is still only 23, will return to Match starts at 00.30 hrs IST (Wednesday), live on DAZN.



## Mexico wins CONCACAF Gold Cup for record-extending 10th time

Agence France Presse

Mexico defeated USA 2-1 to retain the CONCACAF Gold Cup and lift the title for a record-extending 10th time on Sunday.
An Edson Alvarez head-

An Edson Alvarez head-er 13 minutes from time completed a come-from-behind victory for Mexico after a typically hard-fought tussle between the North arch-rivals.

The win was no less than Mexico deserved after

than Mexico deserved after dominating for long pe-riods against Mauricio Pochettino's inexperienced USA side, which went into the tournament missing pool and I several first-choice regulars, limenez celebrated by last week,



producing a shirt bearing the name and number 20 of late former Wolvermate Diogo lota, the Liverpool and Portugal star who died in a car crash in Spain

tening side as USA strug-gled to create anything at the other end. The breakthrough final-ly came though in the 77th

In the second-half, Mexico looked the more threa-ico looked the more threawho powered a header in-to the net past Freese.

The result: Final: USA 1 (Chris Richards 4) lost to Mexico 2 (Raul Jimenez 27, Edson Alvarez 77).

this year will be held

#### Sanjog Gupta named new CEO of ICC

CRICKET

Press Trust of India



personal reasons. Gupta, who was serving as the CEO (Sports & Live Experiences) at JioStar, will be taking charge of his new role with immediate effect. He will be the seventh CEO of the ICC, which said it received more than 2,500 applications from 25 countries from which 12 candi-



dates were shortlisted

tions Committee compris-ing ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja, ECB chairman Richard Thompson, SLC president Shammi Sil-va and BCCI secretary De-

They recommended Gupta for the role which

vajit Saikia.

## Mehuli, Kiran and Esha | Durand Cup from July 23 sans some ISL sides make teams for Asians and World Cup

Sports Bureau

Mehuli Ghosh, Kiran Jad-hav and Esha Singh are the

three shooters common in both the Indian squad for the Asian Championship in

the Asian Championship in Kazakhstan and the World Cup in China. In the teams announced by the National Rifle Asso-ciation of India (NRAD on Monday, Mehuli makes the Asian team in air rifle, and the World Cup team in rifle 3-position event.

3-position event.
Similarly, Kiran has made the air rifle team for Asian event and the rifle 3-position event for the World Cup.
Suruchi Phogat will

compete in the Asian Championship along with Asian Games champion Palak Gulia and double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker. Manu will shoot sports

Manu will shoot sports pietol as well and will have the pietol as well and will have the factor of the pietol of t

Emami East Bengal FC will take on Bengaluru-based South United FC in the opening fixture of the 134th edition of Durand Cup football tournament which gets underway at the Salt Lake Stadium on 10b 23. The teams: Men: World Cup: Air rifle: Umamahesh Maddineni, Divyansh Singh Panwar, Niraj Kumar. 50m rifle 3-position: Swapnil Kusale, Babu Singh Panwar, Kirar July 23.

Jadhav. Air pistot: Amit Sharma, Nishant Rawat, Samrat Rana. Rawat, Samrat Rana.
Rapid fire pistol: Bhavesh
Shekhawat, Pradeep Shekhawat,
Mandeep Singh.
Aslan Championship: Air rifle:
Rudrankksh Patil, Arjun Babuta,
Kironadhamata

Rudrankish Patil, Arjun Babuta, Kiran Jadhav. 50m rifle 3-position: Chain Singh, Akhi Sheoran, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar. Air pistol: Saurabh Chaudhary, Aditya Maira, Armol Jain. Rapid fire pistol: Anish Bharwala, Neeraj Kumar, Adarsh Singh.

Singh.
Trap: Lakshay Sheoran, Kynan Trap: Lakshay Sheoran, Ryman Chemai, Bhownessh Mendiratta. Skeet: Abhay Singh Sekhon, Bhavbegh Singh Gill, Anantjeet Singh Naruka. Women: World Cup: Air rifle: Ramita Jindal, Meghana Sajjanar

Ramita Jindal, Meghana Sajjanar, Kashika Pradhan. 50m rifle 3-position: Mehuli Ghosh, Surabhi Bhardwaj, Manini Kaushik, Air pistol: Surbhi Rao, Rhythm Sangwan, Esha Singh. Sports pistol: Rahi Samobat, Abhidnya Patil, T.S. Divya. Asian Championship: Air rifle: Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenii Valarivan,

Air pistol: Suruchi Phogat, Palak Air pistot: Suruchi Phogat, Palak Gulia, Manu Bhaker, Sports pistot: Manu Bhaker, Simranpreet Kaur Brar, Esha Singh. Trapt: Neeru, Aashima Ahlawat, Preeti Rajak. Skeeti: Gamemat Sekhon, Raiza Dhillon, Maheshwari Chauhan. standing the fact that Box-ing Federation of India is run by an interim committee due to issues over its pending elections, the country's boxers gave their best in Astana and would hope to gain crucial ranking points.
While two-time World

Building up for the elite competition,

gust 23. The venues for the

this year will be held across five cities in the East and North Eastern States during group league stage.

The group league stage comprises six groups of four teams each, with every group having six matches. The group winders with the compression of the compression of the compression of the compression of the quarterfinals, set for August 16 and 17. Uncertainty
What seems to be taking
the sheen out of this year's
edition is the absence of
many Indian Super League
teams, which have been
participating in full participating in full strength for the last few Positioned as the sea-son-opener of Indian foot-ball ever since it moved out to the quarterfinals, set for August 16 and 17. The semifinals are sche-duled for August 19 and 20 Sociationed as the sea-son-opener of Indian foot on-Della (the Burand Cu) and the grand finale on Au-the Burand Cu) and the grand finale on Au-the Burand Cu) and the grand finale on Au-th College (the Burand Cu) and the grand f

taking part are the three Kolkata sides - Mohun Ba-gan Super Giant, Emami East Bengal and Moham-medan Sporting EC - slong medan Sporting FC - along with Jamshedpur FC, NorthEast United FC and Punjab FC. The other parti cipants include a few sides from the I-League and dif-

the franchises holding back the start of their pre-season preparations. Among the ISL teams

## Coaches see room for improvement after creditable show in World Boxing Cup

With the selection for the With the selection for the World championships ap-proaching fast, the Indian boxers' performance in the second World Boxing Cup in Astana, Kazakhstan, has helped the coaches assess

the coaches assess with the two-time world youth champion Sakshi wing the Internation well.

Which is the two-time world youth champion Sakshi wing the Internation of the Committee Commi helped the coaches assess the situation well. Following the Interna-tional Olympic Committee a new international federa-tion (World Boxing) in Fe-bruary and retain boxing in the 2028 Olympics, the newly formed body has championships in Liver-pool from September 4 to 14.

lia (70kg) and Jugnoo (85kg) won silver, while Nikhil Dubey (75kg) and Narender Berwal (90+kg) got bronze.

Right track
While praising the boxers'
performance in quality
helds, featuring Olympians
from top nations, women's
head coach D. Chandralal
said: "We focused on discipline, endurance and
fround it difficult but got adjusted to it. We are on the
right track, but we have a
long way to go.

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ban and will join." Men's head coach Dhar-mendra Yadav expressed satisfaction over some box ers' showing. "We tried to instil a positive attitude and self-belief in our box ers and focused on endu rance. We need to work on a few areas," said Yaday.

Worlds medallists Amit Panghal and Deepak Bho-ria might not make it to the selection evaluation for the Worlds because of their re-cent performer Worlds me-dallists, Mohammed Hus-samuddin is on the path of recovery while Nishant Dew, who turned profes-sional in the USA, may re-tent to the National fold la-ter.

# Sanjog Gupta named new CEO of ICC

## CRICKET

## Press Trust of India DUBAI

Indian media mogul Sanjog Gupta was on Monday named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Jay Shah-led International Cricket Council (ICC), replacing Australian Geoff Allardice, who stepped down before the Champions Trophy earlier this year citing personal reasons.

Gupta, who was serving as the CEO (Sports & Live Experiences) at JioStar, will be taking charge of his new role with immediate effect. He will be the seventh CEO of the ICC, which said it received more than 2,500 applications from 25 countries from which 12 candi-



Sanjog Gupta.

dates were shortlisted.

The names were forwarded to the Nominations Committee comprising ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja, ECB chairman Richard Thompson, SLC president Shammi Silva and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.

They recommended Gupta for the role which was approved by ICC chairman Jay Shah.

# Mexico wins CONCACAF Gold Cup for record-extending 10th time

## **Agence France Presse**

HOUSTON

Mexico defeated USA 2-1 to retain the CONCACAF Gold Cup and lift the title for a record-extending 10th time on Sunday.

An Edson Alvarez header 13 minutes from time completed a come-frombehind victory for Mexico after a typically hard-fought tussle between the North American arch-rivals.

The win was no less than Mexico deserved after dominating for long periods against Mauricio Pochettino's inexperienced USA side, which went into the tournament missing several first-choice regulars. Jimenez celebrated by



Cup of joy: Mexico proved the better side in the title clash. AFP

producing a shirt bearing the name and number 20 of late former Wolverhampton Wanderers teammate Diogo Jota, the Liverpool and Portugal star who died in a car crash in Spain last week. In the second-half, Mexico looked the more threatening side as USA struggled to create anything at the other end.

The breakthrough finally came though in the 77th minute when Johan Vaz-

quez's flick-on from a freekick was met by Alvarez who powered a header into the net past Freese.

**The result: Final:** USA 1 (Chris Richards 4) lost to Mexico 2 (Raul Jimenez 27, Edson Alvarez 77).

## **EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

# ALL ABOUT THE UAE'S NEW GOLDEN VISA SCHEME FOR INDIANS

THE UNITED ARAB Emirates (UAE) government has introduced a new type of golden visa for residents of India and Bangladesh who seek life term residency in the country.

The new program, which is based on nomination, will award the UAE's golden visa for life for a fee of AED 100,000 (around Rs 23.3 lakh), PT reported. It will also do away with the current requirement of investing in property whose value should be at least AED 2 million (Rs 4.66 crore), or investing a large sum in business in the UAE.

## What are golden visas?

Individuals seeking to migrate to a country are typically required to fulfil criteria such as a minimum educational qualification and/ or an offer letter from a company to work there. This process can be tedious and might take years.

A golden visa bypasses such requirements, and hedges on an individual's ability to pay a significant sum of money to the host country, which can be in the form of investments in government bonds and real estate, etc.

Some countries offer a "golden passport", which is another route to gain citizenship by investment.

## What is the UAE's golden visa scheme?

The UAE's golden visa awards residency in the country for a period of between five and 10 years to eligible candidates without the need for a sponsor.

It allows "residents, foreign expatriates and their families to come to work, live and study in the country, and to have the possibility of enjoying a long-term residency", according to the website of the UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security.

To receive the golden visa, candidates should be public investors, investors in real estate or entrepreneurs. "Eminent persons" such as doctors, scientists.



PM Modi and UAE's President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2017. Reuters

artists, and athletes can also apply.

#### So what has changed now?

Sources told *PTI* that the new nomination-based program will award golden visa holders with lifetime residency in the UAE, as opposed to the current policy of between five and 10 years. For instance, golden visa-holders in the real estate investor category may only enjoy residency status for the duration of their project.

Applicants under the new program can obtain the approval for the golden visa from their country and do not have to visit Dubai, Rayad Kamal Ayub, managing director of the Rayad Group consultancy, which has been entrusted with testing the pilot phase of the program, told *PTI*.

"After getting the Golden Visa, one gets the freedom to bring his or her family members to Dubai," he said.

The consultancy will check the applicant's background, including anti-money laundering and criminal record checks, and their social media.

"The background check will also show if and how the applicant can benefit the UAE's market and business activities in any other way, such as culture, finance, trade, science, start-up, professional services, etc." Rayad Kamal said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## 1. What is the news?

- UAE government launched a new Golden Visa program for Indians and Bangladeshis, offering lifetime residency through nomination.
- It removes the earlier requirement of investing AED 2 million (₹4.66 crore) in property or business.

## 2. What is a Golden Visa?

- A residency-by-investment scheme granting long-term stay without traditional visa processes (education, job offer, etc.).
- Bypasses regular immigration hurdles by requiring financial contribution.

## 3. Features of the New Scheme

- Nomination-based lifetime visa for a one-time fee of AED 100,000 (approx ₹23.3 lakh).
- Applicable to:
  - Public investors
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Eminent persons (doctors, scientists, artists, athletes)
- No property investment needed.

## **4.** Changes from Previous Policy

- Earlier: 5–10 years visa; now: lifetime residency.
- Previous investor visas tied to property value/project timelines.
- Now: can apply without visiting UAE.

- **Q.** With reference to the UAE's new Golden Visa scheme for Indians, consider the following statements:
- 1. The scheme now provides lifetime residency through a nomination-based process.
- 2. It requires investment in real estate worth at least AED 2 million.
- 3. The visa is also available to professionals like doctors and scientists.
- 4. Applicants must first visit UAE to obtain the visa.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

# Behind record-breaking heat in Kashmir: long dry spells, rise in urbanisation

#### **BASHAARAT MASOOD**

SRINAGAR, JULY 7

ON SATURDAY, the maximum temperature in Srinagar city reached a seven-decade high, and Pahalgam recorded its highest day temperature ever. This June was the hottest in the Kashmir Valley in almost five decades.

EXPLAINED

CLIMATE

It rained at several places in the Valley on Monday, but the heat is expected to return. The Jhelum has gone dry in places, and most shops have run out of air conditioners. Why is this happening?

## Kashmir's climate

The Kashmir Valley has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are usually pleasant. In winter

(December to February) temperatures fall below freezing, there is heavy snowfall in high-altitude areas, and moderate snow in

The maximum temperature in summer (June to August) can reach 36 degrees Celsius in the urban areas. In resort towns like Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the day temperature is around 30 degrees. Western dis-

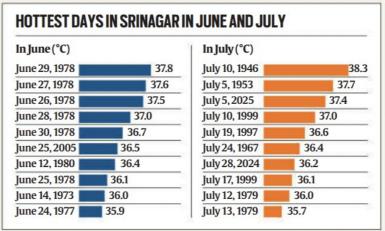
turbances bring rain from time to time, making it cooler. July and August are typically the hottest months.

rose to 38.3 degrees.

## Changes of late

In recent years, Kashmir's weather has become increasingly erratic. Dry spells have become longer, and days hotter. In June, the hottest in half a century, day temperatures were about three degrees above normal.

The maximum temperature in the summer capital rose to 37.4 degrees, the highest since 1953, and the third-highest ever



Source: IMD

In Pahalgam, Saturday was the hottest recorded in the city. The hottest day on the record is July 10, 1946, when the maximum day ever recorded, with the maximum temperature rising to 31.6 degrees, higher than the 31.5 degrees last year.

## Reasons to worry

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the worry is the length of the hot spell in the Valley. "We have had higher temperatures in the past, but those were isolated incidents," Arif said, "This year, temperatures have consistently stayed above normal. Both maximum and minimum temperatures have remained elevated."

This is happening due to a combination of factors, the director of the India Meteorological Department in Srinagar. Mukhtar Ahmad, said.

"First, global warming is causing temperatures to rise worldwide," Ahmad said. "In Kashmir in the past, whenever temperatures crossed 35 degrees Celsius, rainfall would follow, bringing relief. But now we're seeing extended dry spells."

One of the main reasons for this is the reduced availability of water vapour, Ahmad

said. "There's been very little snowfall in the mountains, and whatever snow falls melts by March, leaving the mountains bare."

Ahmad also pointed to the role of urban heat islands (UHIs), in which an urban or metropolitan area is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas. UHIs are created by rapid urbanisation and concretisation, and the reduction in vegetation and the number of water bodies. Concrete surfaces retain more heat, causing temperatures to rise.

Urban areas in the valley — especially Srinagar — have less green cover compared to the surrounding rural areas. Vehicular traffic and industrial activity further worsen the situation.

"This was the hottest June since 1978," Ahmad had told The Indian Express earlier. "The average day temperatures [for June] this year stood between 32 and 33 degrees Celsius. This was some three degrees above normal. The average minimum temperatures, too, have stayed on the higher side."



- Record temperatures: Srinagar hit a 7-decade high (37.4 °C on June 27 2025), highest since 1953;
   Pahalgam saw a peak of 31.6 °C.
- Rain interruption: Brief showers didn't break the heat trend. Air-conditioner sales and "out of stock" notices surged across the Valley.

## 2. Climatic & Meteorological Factors

## 1. Changing seasonal patterns

- Four seasons in the Valley: pleasant spring/autumn; cold, snowy winters (Dec-Feb); traditionally mild summers (June-Aug).
- Extended dry spells: fewer western disturbances → diminished June rainfall.

## 2. Urban Heat Islands (UHIs)

- Rapid urbanisation in Srinagar: concrete replacing green cover and water bodies → surfaces absorb/retain more heat.
- Vehicular traffic & industrial activity add waste heat and pollutants.

## 3. Reduced snowpack & evapotranspiration

Low winter snowfall in Pir Panjal → reduced spring meltwater → lower humidity and soil moisture
 → higher daytime temperatures.

## 4. Global warming baseline shift

• Long-term trend: Himalayan region warming faster than global average (>1.5 °C since pre-industrial) → raises both mean and extremes.

## 3. Historical Temperature Records

- **Highest June** in Srinagar:
  - 1st 29 Jun 1978: 37.8 °C
  - 2nd 27 Jun 1978: 37.6 °C
  - 3rd 27 Jun 2025: 37.4 °C

## Highest July:

- 1st 10 Jul 1946: 38.3 °C
- 2nd 5 Jul 1953: 37.7 °C
- 3rd 5 Jul 2025: 37.4 °C

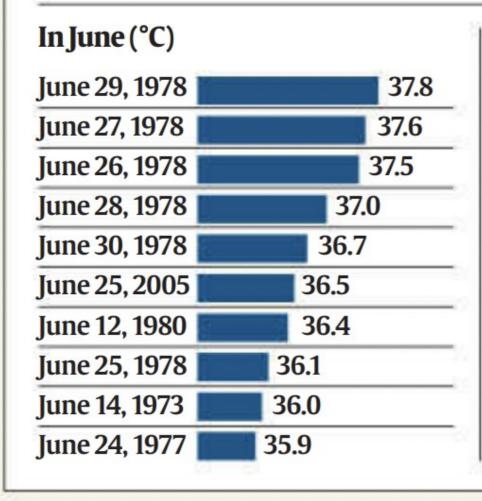


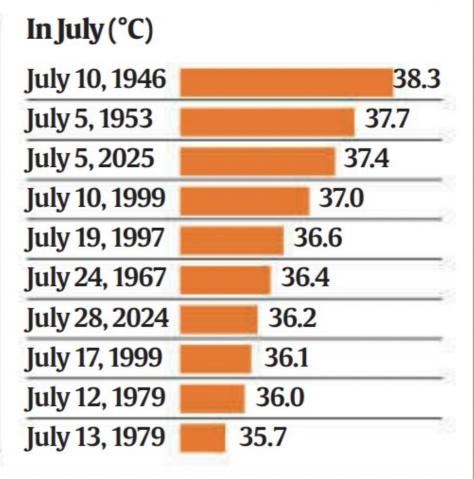
- Q1. Consider the following statements about the recent record heat in the Kashmir Valley:
  - Urban Heat Islands in Srinagar have been exacerbated by the loss of traditional orchard wetlands.
  - 2. Decrease in western disturbances has led to lower June rainfall in the Valley.
- 3. The highest ever temperature recorded in Srinagar was on July 10 1946.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

## HOTTEST DAYS IN SRINAGAR IN JUNE AND JULY





Source: IMD

# Over 250 million workers to go on strike tomorrow

MORE THAN 250 million workers engaged in sectors ranging from banking, insurance, postal to coal mining, highway and construction are set to go on a nationwide general strike on Wednesday, potentially disrupting services across the country. A forum of 10 central trade unions and their associates have called the strike to "oppose the antiworker, anti-farmer and antinational pro-corporate policies of the government".

# 'Respect for Lara': Mulder declares short of world record

**Bulawayo:** Wiaan Mulder stopped short on Monday of attempting to break the record for the highest score in Test history out of his deep respect for original record-holder Brian Lara.

Mulder made 367 not out for South Africa in the second Test against Zimbabwe here before deciding — in his first match as captain — to declare South Africa's innings on 626/5 at lunch on the second day. In reply, Zimbabwe were bowled out for 170 and were 51 for one in their second innings after being forced to follow on.

Mulder was just 33 runs short of Brian Lara's record of 400 not out for West Indies against England in 2003-04. Given the rate at which he scored his runs, off 334 balls, Mulder might not have needed much more than half an

hour to climb to Test cricket's batting pinnacle. "First, I thought we have enough and we need to bowl," Mulder said. "Secondly, Brian Lara is a legend, he got 400 against England and for someone of that stature to keep that record is pretty special. If I get the chance again I'd probably do the same thing.

"I was speaking to Shuks (Proteas coach Shukri Conrad) and he kind of said to me as well, 'Let the legends keep the really big scores.' You never know what my fate is or what is destined for me. But Lara keeping that record is exactly the way it should be."

Mulder raced past Hashim Amla's previous best for South Africa — 311 not out against England at the Oval in 2012 and climbed to fifth on the world



list before his declaration.

Mulder, 27, made his Test debut in Feb 2019 but did not score his first half-century until his 25th innings in his 15th match — 54 against Bangladesh last Oct. Before that he had scored a total of 401 runs — one more than Lara's single-innings record — at an average of 17.43.

Picked as an allrounder, his bowling figures at that point

## **HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES IN TESTS**

Runs	Balls	SR	Batter	For	Vs	Venue	Series
400*	582	68.72	B Lara	WI	Eng	St. John's	2003-04
380	437	86.95	M Hayden	Aus	Zim	Perth	2003-04
375	538	69.70	B Lara	WI	Eng	St. John's	1993-94
374	572	65.38	M Jayawardene	SL	SA	Colombo	2006
367*	334	109.88	W Mulder	SA	Zim	Bulawayo	2025
365*	NA	NA	G Sobers	WI	Pak	Kingston	1957-58

were better than his returns with the bat, although they were not outstanding — 25 wickets at an average of 25.00.

He was not a guaranteed firstchoice player for a South African team in search of a quality allrounder until Conrad gave him his unequivocal backing. The tide turned for Mulder after the halfcentury in Mirpur. He made 105 not out in his next innings in the second Test against Bangladesh.

Having mainly batted low in the order—his first century was made at No. 7 — Conrad chose him to fill the No. 3 batting position in the Test side. Mulder is in exalted company but given the poor quality of Zimbabwe's attack, there are many statisticians and Test cricket traditionalists who are grateful that he did not scale the summit. AGENCIES

# National Commission for Minorities

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has been functioning without a Chairperson and several members since April 2025, following the retirement of its previous leadership.

What is the National Commission for Minorities?

About: It is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, with the vision to safeguard and protect the interests of minority communities. The first statutory Commission was constituted on 17th May 1993.

- •Genesis: The Minorities Commission (MC) was established in 1978 through a Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution and was moved to the newly created Ministry of Welfare in 1984.
  - In **1988**, the **Ministry of Welfare** excluded **linguistic minorities** from the Commission's **jurisdiction**.
- •Composition: It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and five Members, all nominated by the Central Government but absence of a full body has led to concerns over inefficiency.
  - Each member must belong to one of the six notified minority communities: Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain.

- •Removal: The Central Government may remove the Chairperson or any Member of the NCM if they:
  - Are adjudged insolvent,
  - Take up **paid employment** outside their duties,
  - Refuse or become incapable of acting,
  - Are declared of unsound mind by a court,
  - Abuse their office, or
  - Are **convicted** of an offence involving **moral turpitude**.

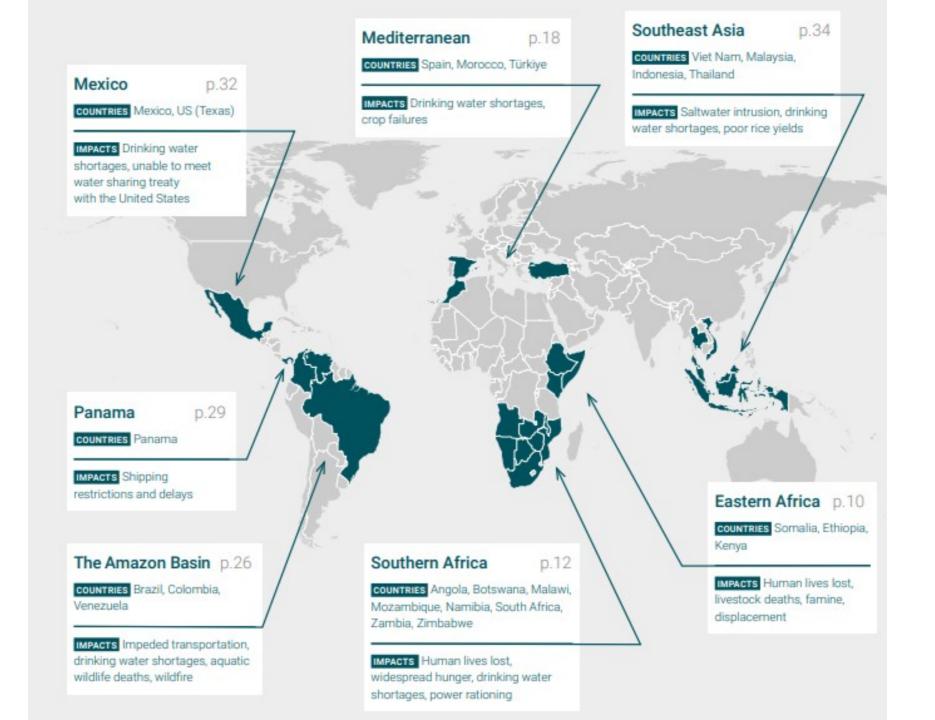
Religion	Number(In crores)	%
Muslims	17.22	14.2
Christians	2.78	2.3
Sikhs	2.08	1.7
Buddhists	.84	0.7
Jains	.45	0.4
Total	23.37	19.30
		Source : Census 2011

#### **•**Safeguards Related to Minorities:

- Article 29: Right of any section of citizens to conserve their distinct language, script, or culture.
- Article 30: Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
- Article 347: Special provision relating to the language spoken by a section of the population of any State.
- Article 350-A: Provision for facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage.
- Article 350-B: Provision for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities and his duties.

# Drought Hotspots Around the World 20232025

•The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the U.S. National Drought Mitigation Centre released a Drought Hotspots Around the World 2023-2025 report highlighting intensifying drought hotspots between 2023–2025.



#### **India and Drought Hotspots:**

Monsoon Variability: India faces increasing intra-seasonal rainfall variability, worsening water security and crop yield uncertainties.

<u>Food Price Vulnerability:</u> As droughts reduce rice and sugar output in Asia, India sees rising pressure on food prices and inflation.

<u>Hydrological Stress:</u> River basins such as Godavari and Krishna face recurrent drought conditions due to over-extraction and mismanagement.

#### **Factors Driving Drought Hotspots:**

<u>Climate Change:</u> Rising global temperatures intensify evapotranspiration, leading to prolonged dry spells and failed rains.

<u>El Niño Amplification:</u> The 2023–2024 El Niño event exacerbated dry conditions across critical agricultural belts worldwide.

<u>Overexploitation:</u> Unsustainable groundwater extraction, deforestation, and mismanaged irrigation aggravate hydrological imbalance.

<u>Poor Governance:</u> Inadequate early warning systems and lack of adaptive land and water policies deepen vulnerability.

- •Recommended Measures:
- •Early Warning Systems: Establish real-time monitoring of drought and impact pathways to trigger faster responses.
- •Nature-Based Solutions: Restore watersheds, promote drought-resistant indigenous crops, and reforest degraded lands.
- •Gender-Sensitive Adaptation: Protect women and girls from drought-linked vulnerabilities such as child marriage and education loss.
- •Transboundary Cooperation: Protect river basins and trade routes through international partnerships.
- •<u>Drought-Resilient Infrastructure</u>: Invest in off-grid power, water harvesting systems, and sustainable agriculture technologies.
- •<u>Financial Mobilization:</u> Scale up climate financing through platforms like IDRA for preparedness in developing countries.





•Archaeologists have discovered a 3,500-year-old ancient city named Penico in northern Peru. It likely served as a major trade centre linking Pacific, Andean, and Amazonian cultures after the decline of the Caral civilization.



**Located in:** Barranca Province, northern **Peru**, ~200 km north of Lima.

Altitude: Situated on a hillside terrace ~600 meters above sea level.

<u>Time Period:</u> Founded between **1800–1500 BCE**, contemporary to early civilizations of Egypt, Sumeria, and India.

#### **Key Features of the Site:**

- <u>Urban Center Layout:</u> A central circular structure surrounded by 18 identified buildings made of stone and mud.
- Structures Found:
  - Ceremonial temples
  - Residential complexes
  - Central plaza with sculpted reliefs

## Word of the day

### **Desultory:**

marked by lack of a definite plan or regularity or purpose; jumping from one thing to another

**Usage:** A few people were dancing in a desultory fashion.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/desultorypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɛs.əl.t(ə).ɹi/, /ˈdɛz.əl.t(ə).ɹi/

### STILL CONFUSED! **HOW TO PREPARE**

**RASonly** 

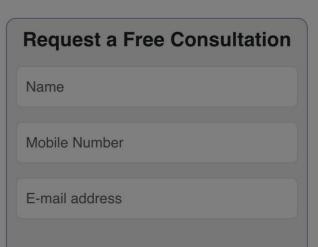
For English Medium Candidates Only





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