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INDIA

Indian Constitution's Role in Manipur Crisis and Tripura

- Manipur crisis has led to demands for greater control over security operations.
- The Constitution's capacity to reconcile identitarian differences is questioned.
- The Constitution has been used to institutionalize power sharing, representation, and guaranteed autonomy in governance.
- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Article 371F(f) and the amendment to the Representation of Peoples Act 1951.

Tripura and the Constitution's Role in Peace

- Tripura was a case of peace established through the Constitution during the insurgency movement.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution allows district and regional councils to administer tribal areas.
- The Tripura Accord in 1988 granted a third of the seats in the State Assembly to the Scheduled Tribe population.

Manipur's Constitution and Hill Area Committee

- The Sixth Schedule does not apply to Manipur.
- Manipur is governed by Article 371C, which provides for the creation of a Hill Area Committee.

Protesters return to Ladakh with hope, but believe the fight for rights will continue.



- 150 protesters from Ladakh, including Padma Stanzin and Sonam Wangchuk, are preparing to leave Delhi after a meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs in December.
- Despite their educational qualifications, many of the protesters are unemployed and worried about their future.
- Some protesters are concerned about the impact of climate change on agriculture and tourism sectors in the Union Territory (UT).
- Mehdi Shah, a freelance educator and farmer, argues that Ladakh lacks a Legislative Assembly and no public representation.
- Liyaqat Loshay, a native of Kargil, has been seeking a full-time job for three years but left to join the protesters led by Wangchuk on September 1.
- Some protesters argue that the administration has not worked towards developing sports facilities in the region.

- The Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance have been raising their voice for the past four years, seeking Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule, employment opportunities for local people, and a Rajya Sabha seat and a Lok Sabha seat each for Leh and Kargil.

India-China Bilateral Meeting: Modi, Xi Welcome Border Agreement

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first formal bilateral meeting in five years.
- They welcomed the agreement for a resolution of the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Modi emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the border.
- The leaders decided to restart dialogue mechanisms between Foreign Ministers and other officials to "stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations."
- Special Representatives on the border question were tasked to meet at an early date to resolve the border dispute.

Indian and Chinese disengage at last two friction points

- Disengagement process started on Tuesday, aiming to remove structures and restore landforms.
- Some tents and structures have been removed.
- Once disengagement is complete, patrolling will resume as before the stand-off.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attributed progress to the power of continuous dialogue.
- Restoration of "ground situation" based on equal and mutual security principles will be included.

Whether 'buffer zones' will continue is unclear.

- The Indian government has stated that troops will return to pre-2020 positions, but senior officials suggest that buffer zones will not be included in the current patrolling arrangement.
 - Former Ambassador to China Ashok Kantha criticizes the government's statement that disengagement has been completed prematurely.
 - The MEA did not respond to requests for comment on whether buffer zones would remain, but an official denied any "contradiction" in the statements.
 - Experts suggest that the confusion over buffer zones is related to the original statements about the "breakthrough" announced on October 21, two days before a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.
 - Manoj Joshi, a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, questions whether patrolling will be allowed in the buffer zones.
 - A return to 'business as usual' is ill-advised as structural problems remain unresolved.
 - Both sides need to continue working on peace and confidence-building processes.

SC orders Ajit Pawar to use 'clock' symbol.

- The Supreme Court has directed Ajit Pawar to comply with earlier directions to inform voters about his ownership of the NCP's 'clock' symbol.
- The orders were issued in March and April, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.
- Sharad Pawar was barred from using his uncle's photos in his poll campaigns.

- The court extended the orders to the Maharashtra Assembly election on Thursday.
- The dispute arose after Pawar and his uncle parted ways, with Pawar's faction being recognized as the "real" NCP.
- Sharad Pawar appealed the EC decision, allowing his camp to contest under the name 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' and the 'man blowing turha' symbol.

Gap in law allowed 'ticket scalping', say lawyers

- 'Ticket scalping' is an illegal practice where tickets for concerts and similar events are resold at inflated prices.
- The issue gained attention after concerns about ticketing scams clouded the highly anticipated Coldplay concert in Mumbai and singer Diljit Dosanjh's show in Delhi.
- After tickets were sold out within six minutes of being put out by the official vendor, Zomato Live, the tickets are now offered for resale on several third-party platforms.
- Two public interest litigation (PIL) pleas were filed before the Delhi High Court, accusing resellers of exploiting high demand and pushing fans to purchase tickets at exorbitant prices.
- The High Court asked the Centre to respond to one of the petitions seeking a framework to regulate the resale of concert tickets through authorised platforms and avoid illegal selling activities.
- Advocate Jatin Yadav suggests advanced technological measures, such as restricting the use of bots for bulk ticket purchases, ensuring identity verification during transactions, and imposing penalties on unauthorised sellers to check the practice of ticket scalping.

Madrasas, Muslim alienation

The Supreme Court of India's Recommendations on Madrasas

- The Supreme Court of India has stayed the recommendations of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to stop government funding to madrasas that do not comply with the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and to conduct an inspection of all madrasas.
 - The NCPCR's initiative is guided by the ideology of 'vicharadhara', which declares religious minorities as enemies of the nation.
 - The NCPCR's directive issued to State governments on October 11, 2024, was under this Act.
 - The NCPCR has been accused of manipulating rules and regulations to achieve their ulterior motives.
- The Concept and History of Madrasas
- The NCPCR demands that children belonging to other religious groups should be thrown out of madrasas.
 - The concept of madrasas is inconsistent with the realities of Indian history and society.
 - The madrasa system has been used for both religious and secular schools since the days of the Delhi Sultanate.
 - The government has the power to prevent anything illegal and detrimental to national security.

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Social Justice and Not Appeasement

- Kerala, a state with an exemplary system of primary education, does not need to run madrasas with financial assistance from the government.
- The Madrasa Teachers' Welfare Fund, the financial source of pension and other benefits, is based on the policy of social justice.
- The action of the NCPCR fuels the alienation of religious minorities, showing justice neither to the Child Rights Act nor to the country.

Aggressive Majoritarianism

- The NCPCR has shut its eyes to the fact that religious minorities are passing through days of insecurity.
- The move of the NCPCR can only be approached in this socio-political context.
- The people of India, upholding constitutional values, urge the NCPCR to step back from its present move.



School Education Issues in Delhi

- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) pledged in 2015 to revolutionize school education, increasing education allocation to 25% of the budget.

- AAP sent teachers and principals for training programs at various institutions.
- Government decentralized funds for school management committees, vested more community powers, introduced 'happiness curriculum', and proposed guidelines to prevent private school fees increase.
- Challenges include curbing absenteeism and encouraging school attendance.
- Government mandates counseling for Class 9 students who have failed twice.
- Segregation of children based on learning abilities: Pratibha (intelligence) and Nishtha (steadfast).
- North East District government schools face overcrowding, forcing students to attend only two hours.
- Delhi High Court has stayed the government's decision to regulate fees of unaided private schools.

Boeing 737 Rudder System Issues

- Boeing 737 variants with a 'rollout guidance actuator' are under scrutiny due to potential jammed or restricted rudder control system issues.
- The United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued safety alerts to Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued directives to Boeing 737 operators in India.
- The issue arose after an NTSB investigation into an incident on February 6, 2024, involving a United Airlines Boeing 737-8 MAX flight, UA 1539.
- The issue was reported to the airline's maintenance department, but no damage was reported.
- A recurrence of the malfunction was reported in a test flight with the incident aircraft on February 9, 2024.

- The DGCA has asked Indian 737 operators to simulate scenarios involving a jammed or restricted rudder control system during pilot training and instrument rating/pilot proficiency checks.

K.G. Subramanyan's Centennial Year: An Examination of His Artistic Vision

- K.G. Subramanyan, known as 'Mani-da', is a significant figure in the Indian art scene.
- His five collections of essays, published by Seagull Books, celebrate his omniscient presence in the field.
- The essays cover 19 topics, including the meaning of culture, the value of art, the difference between the average person and the professional, the concept of global art, the morality and truthfulness of the artist, the survival of rural and tribal art, and the balance between integration and accommodation.
- Subramanyan's perceptive vision suggests that "culture" is more than a commodity or ritual, but a human being's relationship with the self, fellow humans, and their relationship with the environment.
- He aims to achieve a balance between traditional past and modern innovations and infrastructure to create a culture-intent society.
- Subramanyan has received all the Padma awards, three of India's four highest civilian accolades.
- He understands the psyche of policy makers, social activists, industrialists, politicians, sociologists, educators, and the audience.
- He acknowledges that serious art has never been a mainstream concern, falling short in its 'recreational' value.
- Subramanyan shares his perspective with mentors and historical figures, including Abanindranath Tagore, Coomaraswamy, Nandalal Bose, and M.K. Gandhi.

- His works, including his satire on democracy and understanding of the human condition, demonstrate his breadth as an artist and observer of the world in its socio-political context.

- He believes that Indian culture needs preservation amidst progress, and protecting art and artisans may be the way to do it.

PM inaugurates three airports in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh's airport will connect Surguja to cities like Raipur, Jagdalpur, Jabalpur, Kolkata, and Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh's airport will improve connectivity in Vindhya region with 19-seater aircraft and two flights.
- The sixth airport in Madhya Pradesh, built by the Airports Authority of India, cost ₹450 crore in about 1.5 years.
- Saharanpur's airport, built next to the Airforce Station, has not yet received a flight operation schedule.

MP smashes bottle in Waqf Bill House panel

- Banerjee was suspended for a day from the Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, after allegedly slamming a glass water bottle and throwing it towards Chairperson and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal.
- Banerjee had a heated exchange with BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay, a former judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- The panel voted 9-8 in favor of suspending Banerjee, a decision backed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.
- Chairperson Jagdambika Pal defended the suspension, stating there is no place for violence in democracy.

- The panel was listening to the views of two Odisha-based organizations, raising questions about their connection to the Waqf Bill.

Vijaya Rahatkar becomes ninth NCW Chair.

- Vijaya Rahatkar, the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, succeeds Rekha Sharma.
- Rahatkar, a senior BJP functionary and former Chairperson of Maharashtra State Commission for Women, pledges continued efforts on gender rights.
- Rahatkar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and emphasized her commitment to advancing women's rights and ensuring justice for gender-based violence victims.

What is Section 6A of the Citizenship Act?

Supreme Court Upholds Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955

- The Supreme Court upheld Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which allowed migrants from East Pakistan to obtain Indian citizenship in Assam before March 25, 1971.
- The decision was made by a 4:1 majority, with Justice Surya Kant authored the lead majority opinion.
- Section 6A was established from the "Assam Accord," a political settlement signed in 1985.
- The provision established a framework for granting or denying Indian citizenship to migrants in Assam based on a cut-off date - March 25, 1971.
- The provision also conferred Indian citizenship to migrants of "Indian origin" who entered Assam

before January 1, 1966, and had been "ordinarily resident" in the State since then.

- The provision was challenged as discriminatory and violated the right to equality enshrined in Article 14.
- The majority ruled that the provision does not violate the equality clause under Article 14, as it represents Parliament's careful balancing act between its humanitarian approach towards Bangladeshi immigrants and the strain their mass exodus has imposed on Assam's economic and cultural resources.

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Section 6A in Assam's Constitutional Framework

- The majority ruled that Section 6A aligns with Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, granting citizenship to Indians migrating from Pakistan due to political disturbances in a foreign territory.
- Justice Kant agreed, stating that Section 6A aligns with the constitutional philosophy of Articles 6 and 7 and grants Parliament flexibility in formulating laws related to citizenship.
- The judges adopted a multicultural and pluralistic interpretation of Article 29, observing that Section 6A does not violate the cultural rights of the "indigenous" Assamese people.
- Justice Kant urged the Chief Justice to establish a Bench to monitor the identification, detection, and deportation of illegal immigrants in the State.
- The judges found no breach of the Union's duty under Article 355, stating that "external aggression" referred to military actions and did not cover humanitarian migration driven by economic or other distress.
- Justice Pardiwala dissented, declaring Section 6A unconstitutional, effective only from the judgment date, and arguing that it does not allow for self-declaration or voluntary identification as a foreigner, marking a departure from the scheme of the Citizenship Act and Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution.
- The ruling bolsters the demand of Assamese organizations to repeal the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA), which sets December 31, 2014, as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to non-Muslim migrants who illegally entered India from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

- Farmers face charges of disobedience to order and violation of Air Pollution Act provisions.
- FIRs registered under Section 223A of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 39 of the Air (Prevention And Control Of Pollution) Act.
- Farmers informed about a State government scheme offering ₹1,000 per acre for crop residue management.
- Four mobile vans used to raise awareness.
- Around 60% drop in stubble burning cases recorded last year.

India and Singapore to collaborate on military equipment development and production.

- India and Singapore extend the 'Joint Military Training-Army' agreement for five years.
- The agreement also includes co-development and co-production of defence equipment.
- The decision was made during the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi.
- The two nations agreed to enhance industry cooperation, including in niche domains like automation and AI.
- They also agreed to advance cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security.
- The meeting is significant given India's decade-long Act East policy and Singapore's role in promoting economic cooperation and strategic connectivity.

16 farmers arrested for burning stubble

- 22 first information reports registered and 16 farmers arrested in Kaithal, Haryana.

Two Navy task forces develop niche technologies: Vice Admiral

- Navy has established two task forces led by Rear Admirals to induct niche technologies.
- The task forces aim to fill capability gaps and acquire advanced technologies.
- The task forces are part of the Navy's technology development accelerator cell (TDAC).
- The task forces focus on fuses, radars, quantum computing, interface devices, electronic and weapon technologies, and ammunition indigenisation.
- The TDAC will continue to engage with start-ups and MSMEs.
- The event, Swavlamban 2024, will showcase the indigenisation efforts of the armed forces, innovation partners, and the Indian industry.

India, Pakistan renew Kartarpur Corridor deal

- India and Pakistan have agreed to renew their agreement for another five years to operate the Kartarpur Corridor.
- The agreement, signed on 24 October 2019, aims to facilitate pilgrims' visits to the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan.
- The extension until 2029 will ensure uninterrupted operation of the Corridor.
- The announcement follows a visit by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Pakistan and brief meetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.
- Despite the agreement's renewal, Pakistan has not reduced its service fee of \$20 per pilgrim.

Fourth nuclear submarine with advanced arms launched in India

- India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, S4*, was launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.
- The submarine is larger and more capable than the first, INS Arihant (S2).
- The S4* has significant indigenous content, with Indian industry heavily involved.
- India currently has two operational SSBNs: INS Arihant (S2), INS Arighaat (S3), and SSBN Aridhman (S4).
- The S4* carries the advanced 3,500 km range SLBM K-4, which will be the mainstay of India's undersea nuclear deterrence.

Creating a meaningful Bastar 'victims' register

- The Union Home Minister met 55 people affected by Naxalite violence in left-wing extremism-hit areas of Chhattisgarh.
- The Bastar division of Chhattisgarh is the ground zero of left-wing extremism activities.
- The government's approach to dealing with left-wing extremism is holistic, focusing on security, development, community rights, governance, and public perception management.
- Vijay Sharma, the Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of Chhattisgarh, has stated efforts to improve the victims' register.
- Victim identity is not a monolith in conflict zones, with two main categories: those who have suffered at the hands of Maoists and those who have suffered at the hands of the state, including security forces and the criminal justice system.

- The Salwa Judum vigilante army and the vigilante army Salwa Judum have victimized the tribal community.
- The victims of structural violence vis-à-vis tribal communities has been an ongoing process since colonial times and post-independence era.
- The initiative to identify victims and register details in the victims' register has potential to alleviate the plight of tribal communities.
- The victims' register experiment has been tried in over a dozen countries as a conflict resolution or peacebuilding effort.
- The exercise of identifying victims should be truthful and agnostic to the nature of the perpetrators.
- The rules of the victims' register experiment should be based on trust and provide victims and their families with a benefit of doubt when they tell their stories.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari claims India would surpass the U.S. in road infrastructure.

- Gadkari predicts India will have superior road infrastructure than the US.
- He emphasized the role of good road connectivity, waterways, and railways in economic growth.
- He cited John F. Kennedy's quote: "American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good."
- Gadkari urged municipal bodies to segregate waste for road construction.
- He highlighted lapses in coordination and lack of site visits by consultants and engineers.
- Gadkari expressed concern over road accidents and deaths.

Complicit India

- The U.S. Department of Justice has indicted Vikash Yadav, an Indian intelligence officer, in the alleged plot to kill American-Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.
- The indictment, released publicly, includes an arrest warrant and his listing on the FBI's "most wanted" list.
- The move comes after a high-level Indian security delegation visited the U.S., and the U.S. State Department expressed satisfaction with India's cooperation.
- The second indictment repeats linkages to the Canadian case of the 2023 killing of Canadian-Khalistani activist Hardeep Nijjar.
- The indictment coincides with the Canadian expulsion of Indian diplomats and statements by the "Five Eyes" urging India to cooperate in the investigation with Canada.
- India needs to clarify whether Mr. Yadav was a "rogue" agent or carrying out orders from senior officials.
- The government's image on intelligence and national security operations is dimmed if the indictment is prosecuted or turned over to U.S. agencies.

India's options in a world becoming bipolar again

The government must be more transparent about its policy on transnational killings and conduct a more detailed investigation into its internal processes.

- India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The question arises whether India's diplomatic engagement with China, strained since the June 2020 Chinese incursion into Galwan Valley, is

about to improve.

- India's relations with the U.S. have been thriving, with the U.S. viewing India as a useful partner to counter Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific.
- The U.S. and China are vying for global hegemony, but this is not the bipolarity we knew during the Cold War.
- The U.S. is the largest investor in China's economy, owns more U.S. Treasury Bonds than any other country, and sends more tourists to China than any other Asian country.
- The U.S. has been contested in political, military, economic, and technological spheres since the end of the Cold War.
- China's rise, fuelled by American investment in its industries and booming export trade, has rehailed the global order.
- The U.S. is evolving a strategy to counteract China, similar to the U.S.'s "containment" during the Cold War.
- The U.S. and China are intertwined economies, unlike the total economic separation during the Cold War.
- China's economic might makes its claim to global hegemony greater than the Soviet Union's ever was.
- The term "cold war" is used to describe the Sino-American bipolarity, preferring terms like "competitive coexistence" or "conflictual coexistence".
- The U.S. and U.S.S.R. were nearly equal militarily, but China is nearing parity with, and in some areas, threatens to outstrip the U.S.
- The Pentagon reports that China's navy has surpassed America's in the number of battle-force ships over the past decade.
- The People's Liberation Army Air Force has the potential to become the world's largest air force.
- Unlike in the Cold War, proxy wars between the two rivals do not litter the world today.
- The Sino-American competition is not about ideology, but the axis of China and Russia.
- The new canvas of the Indo-Pacific includes

China's goal of creating a blue water navy, India's emergence as a possible counterbalance to China, and the role that the U.S. will play in shaping the contours of the shift in power from the west to the east

SC grants Radhakrishnan-led committee two weeks to submit NEET overhaul report.

- The Supreme Court has given a two-week extension to the committee, led by former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairperson K. Radhakrishnan, to submit a report on recommendations for a top-to-bottom overhaul of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) exam process.
- The committee was tasked to rectify "serious security lapses", introduce data protection measures, and implement rigorous checks.
- The committee was also directed to introduce surprise inspections of exam centres, grievance redressal mechanisms for students, and foolproof logistics.
- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud emphasized the need for the Centre to restructure the entire NEET process.

On the Maratha reservation, there is close social consensus

- The survey aimed to understand voters' perceptions on the demand for Maratha reservation, its agitation, and its social acceptability.
- Four out of 10 respondents agreed that Manoj Jarange Patil and his followers should contest the Assembly elections.

- Patil and his supporters have threatened existing political players with their own political outfits, indicating the potential of independent Maratha candidates.
- Two-fifths of respondents believed movement and strikes were the correct way of making demands for reservation.
- Less than three out of 10 respondents believed the demand could have been pursued through different means.
- Only four out of 10 respondents knew about a new law providing 10% reservation to Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.
- An overwhelming share of respondents supported the demand to some extent, with Maratha voters supporting it more than other groups.
- The demand received strong support from Scheduled Tribe respondents and those identifying themselves as Kunbi.
- Among Other Backward Classes, one out of 10 opposed any kind of reservation to Marathas, while one-fifths of respondents from Scheduled Castes and upper castes opposed it.

Putin applauds Modi's concern and claims there is no timetable for the Ukraine conflict

- Putin acknowledges the difficulty in defining a timeline for ending the Ukraine war, but assures his country will win.
- Putin endorses Prime Minister Narendra Modi's description of the 16th BRICS Summit, stating it is a non-western grouping.
- Modi is due to visit Kazan for the summit on October 22-23.
- Putin also indicated he could discuss boosting Indian movies with Modi.
- Putin referred to Modi's concern and expressed gratitude for his support.

- Modi backed a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict in August and visited Moscow in July

20 bomb threats in a day; regulator meets with airline CEOs

- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) held a meeting with CEOs of various airlines to discuss minimizing disruptions from bomb hoaxes.
- The meeting was held on the sixth consecutive day of threats to airlines.
- The meeting aimed to strike a balance between maintaining safety and minimizing inconvenience to passengers and airlines.
- Over 50 threats have been issued since Monday.
- Air India CEOs Campbell Wilson, Air India Express CEO Alope Singh, and Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan attended the meeting.

The President concludes his first visit to three African countries

- President Droupadi Murmu completed three-nation visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi.
- Visit established new benchmarks in India-Africa relations.
- First visit by an Indian Head of State to these African nations.
- Discussed bilateral cooperation in agriculture, mining, tourism, and energy with Malawian counterpart Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera.
- Visit reflects India's desire to strengthen African partnership.

The FBI wanted Vikash Yadav, who was arrested by Delhi Police for kidnapping before being released on bail

- Former Indian government official Vikash Yadav, charged by U.S. authorities for allegedly plotting to murder Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, was arrested in December 2023.
- He was granted interim bail in March 2024 due to his one-year-old daughter's acute respiratory infection.
- Yadav was arrested on December 18, 2023, for kidnapping a businessman and demanding money in the name of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.
- He was granted interim bail for six days until March 28, 2024, with a bail bond of ₹30,000 with a surety.
- Bail conditions included not tampering with evidence, not leaving Delhi, and providing an active cellphone number to the investigating officer.
- Regular bail was granted on April 22, 2024.
- Yadav was arrested under various sections of the IPC.

The NCW will be led by Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar going forward

- Appointed under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- Tenure to begin immediately.
- NCW's mandate includes reviewing constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- Announcement to be published in India's Gazette.

ENVIRONMENT

Fair Carbon trade

- Indian government is aiming to accelerate the transition to carbon markets ahead of the 29th Conference of Parties in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Article 6 of the Paris Climate Agreement outlines the operationalization of carbon markets.
- Carbon markets incentivize climate action by allowing trading in carbon credits generated by greenhouse gas reduction or removal.
- Article 6 provides guidelines on carbon-reduction activities and verification mechanisms, and how countries can enter into bilateral agreements.
- Despite their revival, confusion remains about how credits can be verified.
- India's voluntary commitment to generate half its electricity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030 will attract several carbon-reduction projects.
- Private sector enterprises in India are setting up innovative forestry projects that can be claimed as credits by multinational companies.
- India's iron and steel industries are expected to meet emission intensity standards by 2025, potentially launching India's carbon market.

World behind 2030 nature goals as COP16 talks begin

- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreement, reached in 2022, has been met with a lack of progress.
- Nearly 200 nations are meeting at COP16 in Colombia to prove their support for these goals.
- The focus is on developing new initiatives to generate revenues for nature.

- The rate of nature destruction continues, with governments missing deadlines on biodiversity action plans and funding billions of dollars away from meeting a 2025 goal.
- The summit, marking the 16th meeting of nations that signed the original 1992 Convention on Biodiversity, is set to be the largest biodiversity summit to date.
- Most countries have yet to submit national conservation plans, known as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- As of October 18, 31 out of 195 countries had filed a plan with the U.N. biodiversity secretariat.
- The "30 by 30" goal of preserving 30% of the land and sea by 2030 is likely to be questioned due to the lack of plans.

Consider 'green bonus' for hill States, Sukhu tells NITI Aayog.

- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu urges a 'green bonus' for hill states to provide financial support.
- Sukhu believes hill states' needs differ from other states.
- Himachal Pradesh acts as a lungs for northern India, requiring a green bonus for forest cover and natural resources protection.



Delhi's Air Pollution Problems and Solutions

- Delhi Chief Minister Atishi blames farm fires in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, BJP-ruled states, for high air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- AAP-led Punjab has seen a drastic reduction in farm fires, while Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have increased.
- The BJP has rejected these claims, and Delhi chief Virendra Sachdeva accused the AAP government of being unresponsive to the pollution issue.
- Pollution levels in NCR are peaking again, reaching two to three times the permissible limit.
- Despite increased pollution, incidents of stubble burning, primarily causing pollution in the capital, have been on a decline.
- All three states mentioned by Atishi have shown fewer paddy residue burning events over the past eight years. Punjab recorded the most drastic decline of the three, attributed to stringent fines and cases filed against offenders.
- All districts have recorded sharp reductions in farm fires, except for Amritsar, which saw only a 5% drop between the two periods.
- The contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 pollution levels in Delhi has remained below the 1% mark this October.
- With peak winter approaching, the air quality in NCR is bound to worsen further.

India close to setting industry carbon targets before COP

- India is deciding carbon dioxide emissions intensity targets for select industries ahead of the 29th COP in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The targets are a precursor to establishing a "compliance" carbon market.
- Companies must ensure their carbon emissions intensity meet the specified limit or buy credits from surplus organizations.

- The price of a credit varies based on demand, supply, and regulatory pressure.
- The final position on the targets is expected soon, with industry discussions ongoing.
- India is obliged to launch its compliance market in the financial year 2025-26.
- The National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSC-ICM) is tasked with overseeing the functioning of the Indian carbon market.
- The emission caps for industries will build on the Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme.

On climate finance to developing countries

- The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC is expected to focus on climate finance issues.
- Developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change due to geographical factors and reliance on sectors like agriculture.
- Despite being vulnerable, developing countries have contributed relatively little to the cumulative emissions causing climate change.
- The 2009 Copenhagen Accord had developed countries commit to providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries by 2020, later made applicable through 2025.
- Climate finance is defined as local, national, or transnational financing drawn from public, private, and alternative sources.
- Developing countries require external financing for climate action due to lack of access to electric power, smaller domestic financial systems, and higher capital costs.
- India has both short-term and long-term climate targets, including installing 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources, five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen production capacity, and differentiated levels of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories.

- The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is a top priority, including actual disbursements, new and additional public capital in the form of direct grants, and private capital mobilised by public capital.

Cyclone Dana is expected Thursday in Odisha.

Odisha Prepares for Cyclone Dana Impact

- Odisha is preparing for potential Cyclone Dana impact in coastal areas.
- Wind speeds are forecasted to reach 100 to 120 kmph.
- An upper air cyclonic circulation is over the north Andaman Sea.
- A low pressure area is likely to form over the eastcentral Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea.
- The Odisha government has deployed disaster response forces in coastal districts.
- Yellow and red warnings issued for coastal districts.
- Fishermen are moving vessels to safer locations and halting deepsea fishing.
- State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari warns against panic over cyclone prediction.
- District Collectors are asked to identify vulnerable individuals and shift them to shelters.
- Women due to be delivered of babies are asked to move to hospitals.

Company improves carbon capture with mining dust

- Darjeeling-based company, Alt Carbon, is focusing on reducing carbon emissions by using rock weathering to capture carbon.
- Rock weathering is a geo-chemical process where atmospheric carbon reacts with minerals, forming bicarbonates.

- The carbon is then released into the oceans, where it is stored for aeons.
- The oceans are major carbon sinks, capturing about 30% of CO₂ from human activities.
- With rising carbon dioxide levels and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's consensus that some amount of carbon dioxide in the air needs to be removed by 2050, governments and businesses are investing in schemes to accelerate natural carbon removal processes.
- Alt Carbon uses basaltic rock, rich in minerals like calcium and magnesium, to crush into a fine powder, increasing its effective surface area and accelerating bicarbonate formation.
- The company collects tonnes of crushed basalt from Rajmahal mines, transports it to Darjeeling, and sprinkles it on tea estates.
- The basaltic dust enriches the soil and accelerates carbon sequestration.
- Alt Carbon has used about 500 tonnes of dust so far, and has entered into an agreement with Frontier to buy a tranche of carbon sequestered in advance for \$5,000.

SCIENCE & TECH

ISRO satellites track Cyclone Dana since Oct. 20.

- ISRO's EOS-06 and INSAT-3DR satellites have been tracking Cyclone Dana since October 20.
- The satellites provide valuable information on the cyclone's status, including ocean winds and their circulation.
- ISRO's satellite inputs aid in better monitoring and mitigation of the cyclone threat to India.



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India to seek WHO certification for eliminating Kala-azar

- India has managed to keep Kala-azar cases under one in 10,000 people for two consecutive years, meeting WHO's elimination certification criteria.
- Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in India.
- The disease, caused by a protozoa parasite transmitted by a female sandfly bite, is fatal if left untreated in more than 95% of cases.
- India's National Health Policy (2002) set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, which was revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020.
- The WHO is now accelerating work to achieve the target by 2030.
- India's Kala-azar programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Uttar Pradesh have seen the highest number of Kala-azar cases, with Bihar alone accounting for over 70% of India's cases.
- Dr. Gopal emphasizes the need to address root causes like poverty and inadequate sanitation, improve surveillance, expand access to rapid diagnostic tools, and make treatments readily available.

Black holes in Webb data protect cosmology's standard model.

- Astronomers have been exploring how galaxies grew in the early universe since NASA launched JWST three years ago.
- The universe began with a Big Bang about 13.8 billion years ago as a hot, dense mixture of gases and subatomic particles.

- Over time, the universe expanded and cooled, creating larger structures such as stars, galaxies, and galaxy clusters.
- The standard model of cosmology suggests the first stars formed around 100-200 million years after the Big Bang and the first galaxies within the first billion years.
- JWST revealed massive, fully-developed galaxies around 400-650 million years after the Big Bang, a mismatch with the standard model.
- The study, led by Katherine Chworowsky and Steven Finkelstein at the University of Texas at Austin, suggests that the early universe produced stars more efficiently than the current galaxies.
- The study also examined the black holes at the centers of these ancient galaxies, also known as "little red dots," which rapidly consume the galaxies' gas, causing them to emit heat and light.
- The researchers found that the star mass of galaxies may have been overstated in previous studies due to the additional light emitted by their black holes.
- The standard model could explain more efficient star formation in the early universe in the form of extreme physical conditions and abundant gas.
- Previous JWST observations of massive, well-developed galaxies in the early universe have questioned the standard model, including the universe's age, the timeline for the formation of the first galaxies, and galaxy formation theories.
- The team is working on including more data from JWST in addition to CEERS to push the analysis to higher redshifts and higher masses.

ISRO and DBT sign agreement for space station biotechnology experiments.

- ISRO and DBT to design and conduct experiments for BAS, India's proposed indigenous space station.

- Experiments include exploring weightlessness's impact on space-based muscle loss, suitable algae for food preservation, and potential use of algae for jet fuel.

- The Gaganyaan mission, India's first crewed space mission, is set to launch in 2025-2026.

- ISRO's primary plan is for BAS, with potential inclusion of some biology missions in uncrewed test missions.

- The collaboration aligns with the BIOE3 policy by DBT, aiming to stimulate 'bio-manufacturing' in India.

Hospital deaths with centre eyes 'presumed consent' for cornea retrieval

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare may amend the Act to allow cornea retrieval from all Indian patients who die in hospitals without family consent.

- The initiative is in response to a high demand for cornea donation, with the country meeting only 50% of the requirement.

- The new initiative will presume every person dying in a hospital to be a cornea donor.

- Those not willing to donate should register their unwillingness to donate while alive.

- The decision was made after a high-level meeting convened by Director-General of Health Services Atul Goel on "Cornea donation/retrieval/distribution and other related issues" in Delhi.

- Medical colleges and hospitals will be directed to provide compulsory training in cornea/eye retrieval to all postgraduate trainees, resident doctors, and medical officers working in eye departments.

- The training of technicians in cornea or eye retrieval will be instituted by the governments in the States and the Union Territories.

Brown dwarfs—star-potential

- Brown dwarfs are bodies too small to be a star and too big to be a planet.

- They are considered wish stars that didn't reach the mass necessary to ignite nuclear fusion.

- They are more massive than the biggest planets.

- They can burn heavy form of hydrogen, deuterium, but not the most common basic form.

- Recent research found two brown dwarfs orbiting close to each other and circling a small star.

- These two brown dwarfs are gravitationally locked in a binary system, a rare arrangement among brown dwarfs.

- They are located 19 light-years from our solar system in the constellation Lepus.

TB Programme

Challenges and Future Directions

- The TB programme staff feel overburdened by the processes of facilitating the direct benefit transfer.
- The most vulnerable communities cannot access the benefit due to lack of proof of identity, residence, bank accounts, or distances involved.
- There is a need for dedicated human resources for NPY activities, locally contextualised counseling material, and energy-dense supplements.
- The coverage of the most vulnerable is inadequate in Nikshay Mitra and an explicit advisory against pictures of patients and families receiving food baskets is needed.

The Constitution emphasizes secularism: SC

- The Supreme Court affirmed secularism as a fundamental part of the Constitution's Basic Structure.
- The court ruled against the inclusion of "socialist" and "secular" words in the Preamble to the Constitution.
- Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar emphasized that secularism is a core feature of the Constitution.
- Justice Khanna disagreed with the argument that "socialism" would curtail personal liberty and individualism.
- Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay argued against the insertion of these words into the Preamble in 1976, retrospectively from November 26, 1949.
- The Preamble was amended in December 1976 by the Indira Gandhi government to introduce "socialist" and "secular" words.
- The Supreme Court's largest Bench in the Kesavananda Bharati case held that the Preamble was an integral part of the Constitution, subject to the amending power of Parliament.

Tea consumption in India

- Tea plants were introduced to India by British colonialists about three centuries ago.
- Tea plants with thicker leaves thrived in Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- Uttaranchal and U.P. have also started growing tea.
- India has the largest total consumption of tea (540,000 metric tonnes of tea, or 620 grams per capita).
- India is the world's fourth largest exporter of tea and generates about \$800 million.
- According to the National Sample Survey Organization, India consumes 15 times more tea than coffee.
- Tea leaves are rich in aroma, vitamins, and protective compounds that improve blood pressure, cardiovascular health, reduce diabetes risk, and improve gut health.
- Tea scores better than coffee due to less caffeine, a nervous system stimulant.
- The aroma of tea leaves is due to the presence of carotenoids like lycopene, lutein, and Jasmonate.
- The Central Food Technology and Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) in India is studying antioxidants, polyphenols, and other health-promoting molecules in Indian food.

Why are Big Tech companies like Google seeking nuclear power?

Google's First Corporate Agreement to Buy Nuclear Energy

- Google announced the first corporate agreement to buy nuclear energy from Small Modular Reactors (SMR) developed by Kairos Power.

- The initial phase of the work will bring up the first SMR by 2030, with subsequent deployments continuing through 2035.
- The deal will provide 500 MW of carbon-free power to the U.S. electricity grid.

Why Nuclear Energy?

- Google sees nuclear energy as clean, available round-the-clock, and carbon-free.
- Google sees next-generation nuclear reactors as a way to power global data centres and its offices with clean energy.

Companies Partnering with Nuclear Reactor Makers

- Microsoft and Constellation signed a 20-year power purchase agreement to launch the Crane Clean Energy Center (CCEC) and restart the Three Mile Island Unit 1.
- Amazon has signed three new agreements to support nuclear energy projects, such as the construction of SMRs.

- OpenAI CEO Sam Altman backed the nuclear startup Oklo, which aims to build a commercial microreactor in Idaho and have it operational in 2027.

Is Nuclear Energy Truly Clean?

- Nuclear energy has a serious reputation problem due to public memory of past accidents and crises.
- Environmental groups are actively protesting nuclear energy and its presentation as "clean."
- SMRs have potentially lower building and operational costs and can function in areas unable to withstand larger or older nuclear power plants.

The U.S. Government's Stance on Nuclear Energy

- The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy highlights the importance of re-establishing the U.S. as a nuclear leader to stay ahead of China and Russia.

Tata Projects considers green hydrogen, ammonia, and pump-storage hydro: CEO Pai

- Tata Projects Ltd. is planning to build green hydrogen and green ammonia units as part of its expansion strategy.
- Vinayak Pai, MD & CEO, believes sustainability will open up new sectors.
- Green hydrogen and ammonia are expected to accelerate due to India's high renewable energy generation, particularly solar energy.

- The company is also exploring the concept of pump storage hydro, where water is pumped during the day and electricity is generated at night.
- Tata Projects is also exploring sustainable aviation fuel and battery manufacturing units.

House panelists question the lack of a joint statement from India and China.

- MPs questioned Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri about the lack of a joint statement from India and China on the "disengagement" at the

Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

- Misri stated that Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators had reached an agreement on "patrolling arrangements" along the LAC, leading to "disengagement" and resolution of issues that arose in these areas in 2020.

- Despite this, the governments of India and China have not issued a joint statement on the agreement, leading to MPs' queries.

- Misri emphasized that the two governments are committed to the agreement and sought to alleviate fears about possible "grey areas" in the agreement.

- The panel's agenda shifted to the Israel-Palestine conflict, with Misri focusing on the implications for the nine million Indians living in West Asia.

FDA approval of Cobenfy illuminates schizophrenia's evil.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Cobenfy, a drug combining xanomeline and trospium chloride.

- Cobenfy, a combination of these drugs, has a novel mechanism of action that avoids the side effects of older drugs.

- Schizophrenia is a serious psychiatric disorder with life-changing consequences, including social isolation, stigma, and diminished chances of finding a partner.

- The disease affects one in a hundred people in their lifetime, with a slightly higher prevalence in men.

- The clinical phenotype of schizophrenia includes reality distortion, disorganisation, and negative symptoms.

- Positive symptoms include delusions, hallucinations, and a pattern of speech difficult to follow.

- Negative symptoms include reduction in the quantity of words spoken, reduced goal-directed activities, apathy or lack of motivation, anergia, reduced experience of pleasure, and reduced expression of emotions.

- Disorganisation symptoms include formal thought disorder, disorganised behaviour, and inappropriate affect.

- Cognitive impairment is ubiquitous in schizophrenia, with patients showing impaired performance on various cognitive tests.

- Schizophrenia is a multifactorial disorder, with genetic variants playing a direct role in the brain by changing gene expression.

- The drug Cobenfy targets cholinergic receptors, unlike dopamine receptors, which have been implicated in the genesis of schizophrenia.

- The FDA stated that Cobenfy's most common side-effects include nausea, indigestion, hypertension, tachycardia, and dizziness.

Anti-defection law should be strengthened for democracy.

Historical Genesis of the Law

- The law was introduced in 1985 to address party-switching by legislators, which often led to political instability.

- The law was enacted through the 52nd Amendment to the Constitution, introducing the Tenth Schedule during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister.

- The law aimed to provide stability to governments and ensure elected representatives remained loyal to the party's mandate.

Loopholes and Implementation Issues

- The initial law had loopholes, such as allowing a split in a party if at least one-third of the members defected.

- The 91st Amendment in 2003 addressed this

issue by requiring at least two-thirds of the members of a party to agree for a “merger” to avoid disqualification.

Challenges in Implementation

- The law has faced criticism and challenges in its implementation, including inordinate delay in deciding defection cases and lack of transparency in the issuance and communication of party whips.

Proposed Amendments

- A four-week time frame for decisions on defection cases and a framework for public notice of party whips are proposed to strengthen the law.
- The government should explore various suggestions made by the Dinesh Goswami committee report (1990), the Hashim Abdul Halim committee report (1994), the 170th report of the Law Commission of India (1999), the Report of the National Commission to review the working of the Constitution of India (2002), the Hashim Abdul Halim committee report (2003) and the 255th report of the Law Commission of India (2015) for strengthening the anti-defection law.

Need for Political Will

- The anti-defection law has historically played a crucial role in preventing instability caused by defections and maintaining the sanctity of the electoral mandate.
- The amendments to the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution should be prioritized to facilitate the effective implementation of the Union Government’s “One Nation, One Election” initiative.

Extremely processed foods are harmful

- Consumption of ultra-processed foods linked to higher blood sugar levels.

- Additives in ultra-processed foods increase average blood glucose levels over months.
- Ultra-processed foods linked to higher rates of cardiovascular disease, obesity, and early death.

The RSV vaccine protects adults against serious sickness and death

- Identifies high effectiveness in older adults, even those with immunocompromised conditions.
- Provides 80% protection against disease, hospitalization, ICU admission, and respiratory infection death.
- Protects against less severe disease in adults not requiring hospitalization.

COURT CASES

SC requests response to non-believer's plea

- Kerala-based woman, Shafiya PM, a non-believer, has urged the Centre to follow the secular status of the Indian Succession Act of 1925.
- The petition, filed by Shafiya PM, argues that the fundamental right to religion under Article 25 of the Constitution includes both the right to believe and not to believe.
- The Supreme Court emphasized the “fundamental postulate of secularism”, which treats all religions equally and allows individuals the fullest liberty to believe or not to believe.
- The petition argues that a person who leaves her faith should not incur any disability or disqualification in matters of inheritance or other civil rights.

For now, the SC prohibits the Gujarat government from allocating Gir Somnath land to a third

- The Gujarat government is prohibited from transferring land in Gir Somnath district to third parties.
- The land is disputed by the local Muslim community, who claim illegal demolitions of religious structures.
- The Auliya-e-Deen Committee, claiming the lands are Waqf property, argues that nine Muslim religious places of worship, graveyards, and hutments were razed.
- The committee claims the people were not given an opportunity to remove their personal effects.
- The land, which was allotted to the Muslim community by the former princely State of Junagadh, has been in existence for over a century.

What does the new 'Lady Justice' statue represent?

- The Chief Justice of India unveiled a new statue of the 'lady justice' in the Supreme Court premises, replacing the 'original lady justice'.
- The statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold, holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.
- The statue is an attempt at decoloniality, aiming to shed colonial symbols.
- The saree replacing the western attire brings the statue closer to Indian tradition.
- The removal of the blindfold and open eyes is significant in the Indian context, indicating that the law is not blind and sees everyone equally.

- The sword being replaced with the Constitution symbolizes the supremacy of the Constitution and its value in jurisprudence.
- Urgent actions needed include finalizing the revised Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of judges, addressing the representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, and religious minorities, appointing collegium recommendations for High Courts, filling vacancies in lower courts, and prioritizing cases dealing with the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty.

Sonowal: India's lighthouses becoming tourist attractions

- Lighthouses are integral to India's marine heritage and are being transformed into tourist hubs.
- The Minister emphasized the 400% rise in tourist footfall at lighthouses since 2014, with 9 lakhs crossed in the first half of the current fiscal.
- A national framework is being proposed to ensure lighthouses remain symbols of India's maritime history.
- 75 iconic lighthouses across nine coastal states and one union territory have been developed, with modern amenities and job creation.
- Two new lighthouses were inaugurated on Odisha's coastline and the Kalwan Reef Lighthouse at Jamnagar in Gujarat

Creating a crime syndicate

- Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique was shot dead by three men in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar area on October 12. Shubuu Lonkar, alias Shubham Lonkar, claimed responsibility on Facebook.
- Investigations revealed that Instagram and Snapchat were used for communication.
- Multiple reconnaissance were conducted to track Siddique's movements in Bandra.

- Bishnoi's crime syndicate runs deep in India and beyond.
- Bishnoi, a lawyer-turned gangster, is currently lodged in Sabarmati central jail.
- The Bishnoi syndicate is associated with pro-Khalistani elements due to their wide base across states, availability of shooters, and easy availability of funds.
- The NIA draws parallels between the Bishnoi gang and Dawood Ibrahim, the kingpin of D-Company.
- Bishnoi's followers are mainly young men with a weak socio-economic background, hit by unemployment or drug addiction, usually in the age group of 18 to 25.
- Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube are extensively used to promote criminal activities.
- Bishnoi is adept at operating from inside the jail and has not applied for bail in any case for many years.



INTERNATIONAL

BRICS

- The summit was Russia's biggest since the Ukraine war began in 2022.
- The summit agenda and Kazan Declaration emphasized strengthening economic bonds within the group, signaling that unilateral sanctions against members are unacceptable.
- Agreements included an interbank cooperation mechanism, a grain exchange, a cross-border payment system, and growth of the BRICS New Development Bank.
- The induction of members Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia signified the counter-balancing arrangement of emerging economies.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended BRICS as an inclusive organization, emphasizing dialogue and diplomacy over war.
- India supported the Declaration on Israel in Gaza and support for the state of Palestine.
- The summit also provided a platform for discussing thorny bilateral issues, including Iran-UAE and Egypt-Ethiopia.



PM: BRICS should integrate finances.

- BRICS member-countries support local currency trade, a move away from the U.S. dollar.
- The use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and trading partners is welcomed.
- The summit encourages strengthening of correspondent banking networks and enabling settlements in local currencies.
- BRICS should not replace other global institutions as it expresses collective aspirations.
- The 16th BRICS summit, attended by new member-countries, released a common statement, the Kazan Declaration, outlining BRICS' position on global challenges and creating a more responsive international financial architecture.

Prime Minister discusses Ukraine, Gaza with German Chancellor.

- PM Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz discussed Ukraine and Gaza conflicts.
- Modi expressed India's desire for a solution to these crises.
- He stated that war is not a solution to problems.
- The discussion was part of the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations between the two nations.

Quad countries play naval war games back-to-back.

- India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. held naval war games, "Exercise Malabar" and "Exercise

Kakadu," to enhance interoperability and anti-submarine warfare skills.

- "Exercise Malabar" concluded off the coast of Visakhapatnam, part of the multilateral "Exercise Kakadu" hosted by the Royal Australian Navy.
- The Indian Navy deemed "Exercise Malabar" the most comprehensive of all editions, with the harbour phase in Visakhapatnam and the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Quad partners focused on anti-submarine warfare and undersea domain awareness due to concerns over the Chinese Navy's expansion into the Indian Ocean Region.
- Exercises included surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defence exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, and extensive operations of ship-borne helicopters.

Philippines' Tropical Storm

Trami submerges towns, kills

66.

- Residents clear homes of debris.
- Death toll from Tropical Storm Trami rises to 66.
- Tens of thousands displaced due to floods.

Zelenskyy rejects UN chief's

Kyiv visit over Russia trip

- Guterres urged for "just peace" in Ukraine at the BRICS summit in Kazan, calling for an end to over two years of fighting.
- His participation in the summit, the largest diplomatic event in Russia since Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in February 2022, sparked ire in Kyiv.
- Guterres reiterated that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was in violation of the UN Charter and international law.
- He emphasized his commitment to establishing

freedom of navigation in the Black Sea for both Ukraine and Russia, and global food and energy security.

- The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry criticized Guterres' decision to visit Kazan and criticized his absence from a peace summit hosted by Ukraine in Switzerland in June.

West vs. rest

- The US and Canada have accused India of covert operations targeting terrorists, causing embarrassment to India, its government, and its people.
- India denies any involvement and insists it is not its policy to engage in such acts.
- The US and Canada are expected to provide evidence of official Indian sanction for the alleged plots.
- The allegations are seen as a political use of the argument against a fellow democracy, with India's enhanced engagement with its diaspora in the West and domestic political calculations in these countries.
- The facts and circumstances of the controversy indicate continued western insensitivity towards India's security concerns.
- Open calls for violence against India, threats to blow up aircraft, and public celebrations of past violence against India are being tolerated in the name of free speech.
- The West is debating whether free speech protections extend to hate speech.
- The diaspora in western countries contributes to the vibrancy of western societies but also holds the risk of conflict.
- The India-West partnership is critical for democracy and progress in the current century.

Over the line

- China's confirmation of a four-year military standoff with India is a positive development, paving the way for new bilateral ties.

- The agreement, announced by Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, is expected to restore troops to pre-2020 levels and positions.
- The agreement comes ahead of the BRICS Summit in Russia, paving the way for a possible formal interaction since 2020.
- Despite China insisting its troops are in its territory, there is a perception that Chinese troops have occupied more Indian land.
- The government's refusal to fully brief Parliament or allow media access to forward areas has added to misgivings.
- It is crucial to demonstrate that Chinese troops have vacated the forward areas, and to learn from past lessons.
- The two sides will need to discuss whether the old framework of the 1993 Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and the 2013 Border Defence Cooperation Agreement still holds or if a new modus vivendi is needed to manage their differences over the border.

South Korea slams Russian treaty with Pyongyang

- South Korea expresses "grave concern" over Russia's ratification of its defense treaty with North Korea.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warns of Russia's plans to send North Korean troops into battle.
- Russian lawmakers unanimously ratify a treaty providing mutual assistance if either party faces aggression.
- South Korea and the US report thousands of North Korean troops are training in Russia.
- South Korea plans to work with allies to address the move.
- North Korea denies sending weapons or soldiers to help Moscow.

Shifting Global Supply Chains: A Shift towards Security

- COVID-19 pandemic has shifted focus from efficiency to resilience in global supply chains.
- US proposed rules prohibiting import or sale of connected vehicle systems from entities with a nexus to the PRC or Russia.
- US case against Chinese connected car tech based on potential misuse of hardware and software components.
- Israeli supply chain attack on pagers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon reignited supply chain security debate.
- Supply chain security concerns have spread to other tech industries like semiconductors.
- Shift from "just in time" to "just in case" influenced by U.S.-China rivalry, technology decoupling, and COVID-19.
- India can ensure supply chains security through a two-pronged approach: "just to be secure" through "trust but verify" and "zero trust."

Enough proof North Korea sent troops to Russia: Austin

- U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin warns of serious consequences if North Korea joins Ukraine war.
- South Korean National Intelligence Service Director Cho Tae-yong reports 3,000 North Korean troops in Russia for training before deployment to Ukraine.
- U.S. hasn't confirmed North Korea's troop dispatch.

Sullivan defends Biden's industrial policy

- Sullivan's remarks come just two weeks from the upcoming presidential election, with Vice-President Kamala Harris expected to follow Biden's industrial policies.
- Former U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed a reliance on import tariffs as a principal economic policy tool.
- The Biden administration's 'small yard, high fence' approach to safeguarding U.S. industrial and technological interests was laid out at the Brookings Institution.
- Sullivan emphasized the mutual benefits of international trade and investment, protected against harmful non-market practices, labor and environment abuses, and economic coercion.
- He criticized China for over-producing and dumping goods on the world market, citing higher tariffs on some green technology, medical equipment, and steel from China.
- He urged partners to invest in their own industries, citing India's Production Linked Incentive scheme and Japan's green transformation policy.

North Korea calls new sanctions monitoring committee 'unlawful'

- North Korea's Foreign Minister, Choe Son Hui, criticizes the US-led sanctions monitoring team.
- The 11-member team was formed after Russia vetoed the renewal of a UN expert panel monitoring North Korea's banned nuclear and weapons programs.
- Choe argues the new group, including the U.S. and Japan, is "unlawful and illegitimate" and a denial of the UN Charter.

Bangladesh bans Hasina's Awami League student wing

- Bangladesh banned the student wing of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's party due to its involvement in violent attacks on demonstrations.
- The student wing of the Awami League party was accused of supporting Hasina's rule, leading to mass detention and extrajudicial killings.
- The Chhatra League, a student group, was outlawed under anti-terrorism laws.
- Protests against Hasina's government escalated into violence, leading to Hasina's overthrow.
- Over 700 people were killed in the unrest, mostly in clashes between police and anti-Hasina protesters.
- Hasina fled to India on the day of her overthrow.

World needs blue helmets who act blue.

The Concept of 'Bystander'

- Yehuda Bauer, Holocaust historian, emphasized the importance of the 'bystander' in peacekeeping.
- The UN's Charter, Chapter VI, advocates for peaceful dispute settlement, but Chapter VII prescribes the use of armed force in cases of aggression and breaches of peace.
- Chapter VIII prescribes robust regional arrangements for enforcing peace.

Hits and Misses in UN Peacekeeping

- The UN has established peace in many theatres, including Cambodia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Angola, Timor Leste, Liberia, and Kosovo.

- However, instances like Rwanda (1994) and Bosnia (1995) have seen the UN accused of being a bystander, unable to protect noncombatants and vulnerable sections.
- The UN has brought the protection of civilians centrestage in subsequent missions, restoring its commitment to its core values.

The Need for UNSC Reform

- The UN has been reduced to a 'Bystander' status in the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the war in Ukraine.
- The UN's response in both conflicts has failed to call out the perpetrator and take decisive action in protecting civilian lives.
- The UN's strong forces could have been deployed in robust numbers to contain further loss of life and destruction.

The Lost Chance to Act with Decision

- Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary interventions.
- The UN's commitment to enforce peace implies their consent to protect civilians.
- The UN must act impartially and decisively, as seen in Kosovo and Timor Leste.

The Need for UNSC Reform

- The veto power of the Permanent Security Council members has often acted as a millstone around their neck.
- The case for reform includes expanding Permanent membership to include India and South Africa and banning the veto cat.
- The deployment of UN standing troops or shifting troops between 'missions' should be enabled under Chapters VII and VIII of the UN Charter.
- If the UN cannot enforce peace despite having standing uniformed forces, UN-led peace operations must close and be used only for exalted discussions by another international non-governmental organization or a think-tank.

US investigating leak of Israel's Iran attack plans

- Three US officials claim the documents, attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, assess Israel's plans to attack Iran.
- The documents, posted on the Telegram messaging app, indicate Israel was still preparing for a military strike in response to Iran's October 1 missile attack.
- The investigation is also examining how the documents were obtained, whether it was an intentional leak or a hack, and if any other intelligence information was compromised.
- The U.S. has urged Israel to press for a ceasefire in Gaza and caution against further military expansion in Lebanon.

Former General Prabowo becomes Indonesian president.

- Former General Subianto sworn in as President.
- Aims for global prominence.
- Alleged rights abuses during military tenure.
- Takes oath at parliament to succeed Joko Widodo.

Anti-China activities are banned in Nepal: Oli

- No anti-China activities allowed in Nepal.
- Reaffirms commitment to 'One China' policy.
- Remarks made in meeting with high-level Chinese delegation.

Musk promises \$1 million daily to petition signers.

- Billionaire pledges \$1 million daily until November election.
- Offers \$1 million check to attendees of event rallying for Trump.

Moldovans vote on president and EU path.

- Moldovans vote in two elections.
- Allegations of Russia's interference in electoral process.
- Maia Sandu is favorite for presidential term.

Sydney Beaches Reopen after Pollution Balls Clear

- Sydney beaches reopened after thousands of black pollution balls washed ashore.
- Testing found the balls to be made from chemicals similar to those in cosmetics and cleaning products.
- Around 2,000 of the mystery black balls washed onto beaches since October 15, forcing the closure of eight, including Bondi Beach.
- The Environment Protection Authority confirmed the balls are made up of fatty acids and some fuel oil.
- The balls are not harmful when left on the sand but should not be touched.
- Laboratory testing is ongoing to determine the origin of the balls.

What does the Atlantic hurricane forecast for India say?

- The 2024 hurricane season was predicted to be historic due to strong La Niña, but it has evolved to be a year with no major hurricanes.

- The strong La Niña has been a significant factor in the current hurricane season, with weather agencies downgrading their La Niña forecasts.
- The 2023 hurricane season was the fourth-most active despite the strong El Niño.
- The record warming during 2023-2024 has flipped the hurricane season on us, and the link between hurricanes and El Niño/La Niña has flipped.

Cyclone Forecasting Challenges

- Forecasting cyclones is a challenging task, but hurricane forecasts have become more accurate.
- The forecasting community has hardly acquired skills in the aftermath of a hurricane, which can lead to significant damage to property and loss of lives.
- The North Indian Ocean is experiencing an increasing number of cyclones, especially in the Arabian Sea.

India's Progress in Forecasting Cyclones

- India has made impressive progress in forecasting cyclones and a disaster management plan that has been effective at reducing the loss of lives.
- The typical stretch of ocean where cyclones intensify is relatively small, over both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian subcontinent and other countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean are highly vulnerable to both chronic and acute stressors of climate change.

From Nation to Region

- The region needs critical advances in the quality of the predictions of rapid intensification and landfall and of the cyclones post-landfall.
- India is investing in renewable energy, electric vehicles, weather and climate forecasting, early warning systems, and disaster management.
- India's dreams of sustained economic development cannot materialize without the entire subcontinent being resilient.
- The country's strategies for building cooperation, trade, and stability in the region

must now include the constituent countries' climate risks as well.

Important business priorities in a changing world

Global Economy Stabilization

- Global economy appears to have stabilized, with geopolitical risks remaining.
- G-20 economies showed varying growth rates in Q1 of the year, with some growing faster than expected and others experiencing setbacks.
- Businesses can leverage new growth opportunities and benefit from wider dispersal of developmental gains.

B-20 Process

- The B-20 process has been led by emerging economies over the last three years.
- With the handover to South Africa, an unprecedented agenda for the Global South has been catalyzed.

Bangladesh court rules Parliament cannot remove judges

- The Supreme Court reinstates the Supreme Judicial Council to investigate judicial misconduct allegations.
- The ruling upholds the previous ruling declaring the 16th constitutional amendment as "illegal."
- The ruling also scraps the 16th constitutional amendment, which transferred power of removing judges to Parliament.

Pakistan Senate passes constitutional amendment Bill

- The Senate approved the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, ending Pakistan's Chief Justice's three-year tenure.

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- The upper house of parliament voted 65-4, requiring a two-thirds majority for the bill to pass.
 - The bill included 22 clauses of amendments, all with 65 senators' support.
 - The bill established a 12-member commission to appoint the chief justice, who will serve for three years.
 - The bill will now go to the National Assembly for a two-thirds majority, and the President's approval for it to become part of the constitution.
- Key Priorities and Policy Actions**
- Focus on inclusive development: Equitable growth, skill development, and education are key to promoting inclusive development.
 - Financial access and tailored credit solutions, diversity and inclusion policies, and diversity and inclusion policies have been highlighted.
 - Africa's inclusion in the G-20 during the India presidency opens up new opportunities in the continent.

Ensuring Better Food Security

- Businesses can play a pivotal role in addressing food security by advocating sustainable practices, investing in infrastructure and agricultural technologies, and fostering collaborations with governments and international organizations.

Accelerating Resilient Global Trade Flows

- Businesses must lead in digital transformation and innovation, including AI for the common good.
- Businesses should engage youth in developing innovative solutions to pressing contemporary issues and drive positive societal impact.

Sustainability Mission

- Fair and just climate policies can enable businesses to work towards carbon mitigation.
- Availability of finance is required for all enterprises, particularly for small and medium enterprises.
- Building renewable energy capacity and greater use of biofuels and green hydrogen can be promoted by businesses.

Aiming for the Highest Standards

- Corporate governance of the highest standards must be prioritized by businesses.
- The private industry should drive ethical operations to build trust between stakeholders.

Peacekeepers are under attack

- UNIFIL, a peacekeeping force patrolling southern Lebanon, has been attacked by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) following an attack on its premises.
- UNIFIL, established in 1978, is responsible for ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and maintaining peace and security in the region.
- The force operates across 29 locations between the Litani River and the Blue Line, with Indonesia being the largest contributor.

- UNIFIL's mandate has expanded to monitor cessation of hostilities, support the Lebanese Army, ensure humanitarian aid access, and assist the Lebanese Army in securing its borders.

- The IDF escalated the war against Hezbollah in September, leading to the attack on UNIFIL's premises.

- The IDF's actions have caused concern among Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UNIFIL, who have urged UNIFIL to temporarily withdraw from harm's way.

- India, a contributing country of UNIFIL, has called for action to maintain the safety of UN peacekeepers but has not condemned the IDF.

Drone targets Netanyahu's house; strikes kill 50 in Gaza

- Israeli drone targeted Prime Minister's house in Caesarea, causing no casualties.
- Iran's Supreme Leader vowed to continue Hamas' fight after the killing of the mastermind of last year's attack.
- Israeli military reported dozens of projectiles launched.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to pay "a heavy price" to Iranian-backed groups who attempted to kill him and his wife.
- Israel is considering its response to an Iranian attack and pressuring offensives against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Cuba's power grid goes down, plunging the country into darkness

- Cuba's electrical grid went down after Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant failed.
- The grid went down after a massive blackout across the Caribbean island.
- State-owned power company UNE used distributed generation to provide power.
- A gas-fired thermoelectric plant was starting operations.

- Millions of Cubans remained without power as darkness fell.
- This supply collapse is unprecedented, aside from intense hurricanes.
- It's unclear if other Cuban plants remain functional.

SPORTS

Price of Games

- The scaled-down Glasgow 2026 has led to a decrease in the number of multi-sport events, impacting India, the most populous country in the Commonwealth Games family.
- India has consistently earned top-five finishes in the new millennium, including its best-ever second place showing with 101 medals in 2010.
- The Games have been limited to 10 integrated disciplines, including para-sports, which has led to the drop of some medal-producing disciplines.
- India's medal prospects in 2026 will be restricted to athletics and para-athletics, weightlifting and para-powerlifting, boxing, judo, bowls and para-bowls.
- Shooting and wrestling have produced glorious moments for the Games, with top medal-getting shooters Jaspal Rana, Samaresh Jung, and triple goldwinning wrestlers Sushil Kumar and Vinesh Phogat.
- The Indian women's hockey team's gold medal-winning moment in Manchester in 2002 and wrestler Geeta Phogat's historic gold in Delhi in 2010 inspired blockbuster movies.
- India has consistently been placed among the top countries in table tennis, with Manika Batra's superb showing of four medals in 2018.
- The cost burden has impacted the staging of what appears to be a dying 'spectacle'.

Morkel says India paid dearly for no partnership.

- India's bowling coach, Morne Morkel, admits India is in danger of losing its first Test series on home soil in 12 years due to poor batting performance.
- Morkel believes that the team's lack of a partnership has cost them dear as they trail by 301 runs with New Zealand still five wickets in hand in the second innings.
- He also acknowledges that New Zealand has outplayed India so far, creating pressure with the ball and putting bowlers under pressure.
- Morkel believes that the team's planning and unwavering approach to tours are contributing to their current performance.

Jashbir Nayak aims for the Asian Games with speed, height, and endurance.

- Jashbir Nayak, a 22-year-old athlete from Odisha, has made significant progress in the decathlon over a year. He won the gold medal in Patna with a new meet record of 7065 points.
- Nayak's performance has highlighted his potential in athletics' toughest event and propelled his ambition to do well in the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.
- Nayak's journey as an athlete began with his 12th standard, where he was encouraged to take up an individual sport. He switched to multi-event competitions after being

recommended by his father, Siba Prasad Mishra sir, who was working with Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS).

- After a year, Nayak trained with multi-event coach Sanjay Garnaik, who helped him achieve silver medals in the Indian Open under-23 meet in Chandigarh and the National inter-State meet in Panchkula.

- Nayak's improvement in the under-23 meet in Chandigarh was attributed to his body structure, ability, talent, and discipline.

- With an overall increase of 1244 points since starting training with Garnaik, there is scope to raise the bar further, with plans to improve about 150 points in pole vault and 150 in high jump.

- Nayak plans to compete alongside elite decathletes who have crossed the 7000 mark, including Asian Games silver medallist Tejaswin Shankar, Yaman Deep, and N. Thowfeeq.

- He appreciates the teamwork and camaraderie in decathlon, and believes that if he continues to improve, he may end up winning a medal.

'I will be, really surprised if Gukesh doesn't win the World title'

Giri's Chess Performance

- Giri is the 15th strongest chess player of all time, with a rating of 2798 on three FIDE lists during the 2015-16 period.

- Despite a slight drop from his highs, Giri remains one of the world's top players, as evidenced by his performance in the Tata Steel tournament at Wijk aan Zee.

- He led PBG Alaskan Knights to victory in the Global Chess P.K. AJITH KUMAR, League, but lost the final to defending champion Triveni Continental Kings.

Giri's Interview with The Hindu

- Giri expressed surprise at the potential loss of Ding Liren to D. Gukesh, citing his tremendous performance and the fact that Gukesh's performance was more artificial than expected.

- He questioned the need for FIDE to change the rules and improve the circuit, as it is difficult to model.

Giri's View on World Chess Championship Match

- Giri expressed his dissatisfaction with the notion that it is easier to beat Carlsen than to beat Giri.

- He praised the team's dominance and the unpredictable nature of the tournament, which added to the excitement.

Nihal's Potential in Classical Chess

- Giri, a tactical player, has shown potential in rapid and blitz chess, but needs to adjust to classical chess.

- He believes that Giri needs to make his own decisions and adapt to the individualistic nature of chess.

Santner shines as New Zealand eyes history

- India's batters surrendered for the second week in succession, allowing New Zealand to win its maiden Test series on Indian soil.

- Mitchell Santner's clever speed variation and inexplicable strokeplay by India's batters resulted in his maiden five-wicket haul in Tests.

- New Zealand's captain's knock by Tom Latham built on India's 103-run advantage.

- At the end of the second day, New Zealand had a lead of 301 runs.

- India's batting was poor, with Virat Kohli missing a slow full-toss and Rishabh Pant and Sarfaraz Khan both failing to capitalize on

opportunities.

- Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar's cameos after the break helped India cross the 150-mark.

- New Zealand's spinners never appeared to be threatening, rotating the strike regularly and feasting on loose balls.

Exclusion of 'medal-yielding' sports surprises India's sports community.

- Hockey, shooting, cricket, badminton, and wrestling are excluded from the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games roster.
- Table tennis, squash, and archery are also excluded.
- The Games will feature 10 events, nine less than the previous 2022 edition.
- The decision could have a significant impact on India's overall medal tally.
- Table tennis great Sharath Kamal and squash star Dipika Pallikal express shock and disappointment.
- Hockey India secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh and Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh have lodged grievances with FIH and the Commonwealth Games Federation.
- National Rifle Association of India offered to host the shooting events of the 2026 Games in India.
- India sent 210 athletes to the 2022 Birmingham Games, winning 61 medals, with 30 of those from disciplines not included in Glasgow.

Afghanistan-A eliminates India-A in semifinals.

- Afghanistan-A 206/4 in 20 overs (Sediqullah 83, Rasikh Salam 3/25)
- India-A 186/7 in 20 overs (Ramandeep 64).

We aim to get more Bihar athletes on the Indian team for the 2028 Olympics.

- Bihar State Government's comprehensive approach to sports development, including grooming youth, infrastructure development, and support for elite athletes, has led to significant progress.
- Bihar has identified disciplines that could produce international athletes and bring glory to the country in multi-sport events.
- The Bihar State Sports Authority (BSSA) has been instrumental in these efforts.
- BSSA director general, Raveendran Sankaran, emphasized the mandate to ensure Bihar athletes are part of the Indian contingent in the Olympics by 2028.
- The BSSA plans to increase the number of athletes from Bihar in the 2028 Olympics and aim for a medal in 2032 and 2036.
- The Bihar Sports University, built on 92.6 acres, is the first of its kind and is currently 90% completed.
- The State Sports Academy, Rajgir, will cater to 23 disciplines, both indoor and outdoor.
- The Chief Minister identified a large strip of land for an airport in Rajgir, with the goal of hosting an international event.
- The National Institute of Sports (Patiala) offers diploma courses for six weeks, but plans to introduce short courses in sports psychology, sports nutrition, or sports physiotherapy.
- The vision for the sports academy is to cater to the entire East Zone and the North Eastern states, with Kolkata as a potential hub.

Bihar Government's Talent Scouting Programs and Plans

Strategic Approach to Talent Selection

- Bihar Government has strategically selected sports like volleyball, basketball, and kabaddi that are part of the Asian Games, Commonwealth, or Olympics.
- These sports are chosen for their immediate results and are not easily scouted by other states.

Talent Selection in Rugby Sevens and Fencing

- Rugby sevens was scouted by coaches from South Africa and Sri Lanka, especially from the rural belt.
- The Indian team has won medals in the National Games and has been part of the Asian Rugby Championship.
- Akash, an athlete in fencing, represented India in the Asian Games after training in Italy.

Talent Shifting in Sepak Takraw

- The Bihar Government has shifted volleyball players to sepak takraw, resulting in three boys joining the Indian team and going to the World Championship.

Plan for Talent Identification and Grooming

- The Bihar Government conducted the National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet (NIDJAM) to scout talents from all over the State.
- The plan is to conduct one of the largest talent scouting programmes, Mashal, in the State, scouting talent in 40,000 primary and high schools.
- A scholarship scheme has been implemented, with a one-time ₹3 lakh sports scholarship per year for selected athletes.

Recruitment Policy and Funding

- A new recruitment policy, Medal lao, naukri pao (Win a medal, get a job), has been implemented.

- Cash rewards for athletes have been given to them for participation in the Asian Games and the Olympics.

State Level Leagues and Live Telecasts

- State level leagues have started in kabaddi, volleyball, and football.
- Live telecasts have been used to spread sports fever and train athletes to play with crowd pressure.

Budget Increase

- The BSSA's budget has increased from ₹30 crore to ₹680 crore.
- The commissionerate level plans to build an international standard indoor sports complex for 10-11 indoor games.

Delhi hopes to improve in a crucial match against Assam.

- Delhi's second-round draw against Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy was marred by a lack of positives.
 - Despite Yash Dhull's unbeaten century and Sanat Sangwan's 83 in the second essay, Delhi's players struggled to make a mark.
 - Delhi will face Assam at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday, with the visitor having managed only one point from the first two rounds.
 - Navdeep Saini is unavailable for this fixture, but Harshit Rana will return.
 - Riyan Parag, the middle-order batter for Assam, is currently unavailable due to a right shoulder injury.
 - Assam captain Denish Das views Parag's absence as an opportunity for a different player.

Raza shines as Zimbabwe scores highest T20I total.

- Posted highest team total in history.
- Achieved 344 for four against Gambia.
- Sikandar Raza's unbeaten 133.
- Won by 290 runs in ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Qualifier.

ECONOMY

One lakh workers join 21st livestock census

- Five-yearly count of livestock.
- Key role in shaping sustainable livestock sector policies.
- Engages one lakh field officials and veterinarians.
- Conducted over four to five months.

Digital insurance platform Bima Sugam launches soon: IRDAI

- IRDAI chairperson Debasish Panda announces launch of Bima Sugam, a digital insurance platform.
- The company is formally registered and CEO appointed.
- Other key management personnel appointments are in advanced stages.
- A separate portal will be created for onboarding Bima Vahaks, local intermediaries for insurance distribution.

- Bima Sugam is part of the Bima Trinity initiative to improve insurance coverage.
- Other components include Bima Vistaar and Bima Vahak.

Some slackening of momentum but GDP may have risen 6.8% in Q2'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) predicts a 6.8% growth in India's GDP in Q2 2024-25, slightly higher than the 6.7% increase in Q1.
- The growth is supported by robust domestic engines despite geopolitical tensions.
- High-frequency indicators such as GST collections, automobile sales, bank credit growth, merchandise exports, and the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) have shown a slackening of momentum in Q2.
- The article highlights a sequential improvement in consumer perceptions about the current situation and future expectations, and continued optimism among industry players about future growth prospects.
- Supply chain pressures eased in September, falling below historical average levels, but remain vulnerable to geopolitical risks.
- The article also flags concerns around stretched valuations in Indian stock markets and the uncertainty surrounding geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East.
- Inflation surged in September due to an adverse statistical base effect and a resurgence in food price momentum.
- The article warns that food price pressures in respect of vegetables could be transitory with robust kharif harvest arrivals.
- Net importer countries face the passthrough risk of increase in commodity prices, especially of crude oil and metals.

Muizzu launches UPI to boost economy.

- Set up consortium for UPI introduction.
- Appointed TradeNet Maldives Corporation Limited as leading agency.

'Steel import curbs hurt MSMEs' competitiveness'

- EEC India, representing engineering goods producers, warns that domestic steel output has not kept pace with consumption, affecting smaller engineering firms' competitiveness.
- Domestic steel output has increased by about 5% between April and August, but consumption has climbed 13.8%.
- China's finished steel imports have risen 31.7%, while imports from Japan and Vietnam have also grown.
- The "Make in India" initiative will face challenges without affordable inputs like steel, highlighting the need to keep domestic steel prices competitive.
- The price differential between Chinese and Indian-produced steel is significant, enabling downstream industries, especially MSMEs, to remain competitive.

Reliance Infra will invest ₹10,000 cr in a Maharashtra ammunition and explosives unit.

- Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., led by Anil Ambani, plans to invest over ₹10,000 crore over

the next decade in a project in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

- The project will produce an ammunition range including small, medium, large caliber, and terminally-guided munition.
- The project will address export markets for both civil and military applications.
- Reliance Defence Ltd. will manage the project, which will be the largest greenfield project in India's defence sector.
- The projects could involve potential joint ventures with up to six global defence companies.

IMF predicts 7% FY25 growth for India.

- IMF maintains growth rate projects for India in its latest World Economic Outlook.
- India expected to grow at 7% in FY2025 and 6.5% in FY2025-26.
- World output expected to grow at 3.2% in 2024 and 2025.
- India's growth drop from 8.2% in 2023 due to exhausted pent-up demand.
- U.S. projected to grow at 2.8% this year and 2.2% next year.
- Global battle against inflation largely won, despite price pressures in some countries.

A Nobel, but AJR's model fails.

- Acemoğlu's work, with over 2,47,538 citations, has significantly reshaped understanding of economic success drivers.
 - Their Eurocentric framework oversimplifies complex historical and institutional dynamics.
 - AJR's most cited paper, "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical

Investigation," argues that economic fortunes can be traced to the types of institutions established in the colonial era.

- AJR's framework fails to account for diverse pathways to growth seen in different parts of the world.
- Scholar Yuen Yuen Ang introduces the concept of "directed improvisation", a decentralized mechanism of institutional adaptation driven by iterative experimentation at subnational levels.
- Ang challenges AJR's causal sequencing, demonstrating that China's rapid growth under extractive conditions precedes institutional inclusivity.
- AJR's framework cannot adequately explain western development itself, as inclusion in these institutions was only partial.
- AJR's framework is simplistic and ahistorical, overlooking the role of state intervention and industrial policies in the development of rich countries.
- AJR's institutional framework oversimplifies the complex historical processes that shaped institutions, such as the exploitation of resources by colonial powers.
- AJR's framework overlooks the lasting impact of colonial institutions, which were designed to extract wealth and reinforce structural dependencies, benefiting metropolitans at the expense of colonies.

Ship Dali owner and manager acquiesce to \$102 million settlement for collision with Baltimore bridge.

- Grace Ocean Private Ltd and Synergy Marine Private Ltd, owners and managers of the ship Dali, have agreed to pay nearly \$102 million to resolve a civil claim brought by the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) in Maryland.

- The ship's collision was largely due to two onboard blackouts caused by poor engineering and safety practices, which led to the ship's propulsion system, rudder, and bow thruster inoperable.

- The DoJ claim mainly covered the salvage operation, bridge wreckage clearing, and the clearing of the water channel to the Baltimore port.

- Synergy and Grace Ocean will continue to pursue its original limited liability claim of \$43 million against which the DoJ had claimed the damages.

- The settlement does not include any damages for the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

- Some 45 claims for damages have been filed in U.S. courts regarding Francis Scott bridge damage, with some 40 relating to purely economic losses.

India cannot risk another inflation: RBI Governor Das

- Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das argues against another inflation bout, citing the country's economic progress.
- The MPC's new external member, Nagesh Kumar, supports a 0.25% rate cut to revive demand and boost private investment.
- Kumar warns of currency appreciation if India doesn't follow the normalisation process, as it could hurt the competitiveness of Indian products.
- He suggests a change in stance from withdrawal of accommodation to 'neutral' while keeping the policy repo rate at 6.50%.

Sugar mills want ethanol price increases

- Price increase has been delayed for two years due to rising sugarcane and input costs.

- ISMA director general, Deepak Ballani, hopes for government announcement.
- Sugar mills anticipate 40-42 lakh tonnes of sugar to be diverted to ethanol production.

Auto industry likely to triple to \$250 billion

- The auto industry in India, estimated at \$80 billion with \$15 billion in exports, is projected to grow three times to \$250 billion in the next few years.
- The industry will play a significant role in India's goal to achieve net carbon zero by 2070.
- The auto industry will play a major role in India's growth and opportunities as it aims to become a developed country by 2047.
- Urban mobility challenges include congestion, pollution, and uneven access. Future mobility must be sustainable, integrated, and automated.
- India's automotive component sector has seen steady growth in exports over the past decade, driven by cost optimization, skill development, global standards adherence, and government support.

Jobs crisis undermines state legitimacy

- India's job shortage is a significant issue, with many unpaid, informal jobs and a low unemployment rate.
- The lack of quality employment, especially among youth, threatens the economy and the legitimacy of the state.
- The political problem lies in providing people with dignity and purpose, and means for financial support.
- The liberal and capitalist package deal has prioritized work over traditional community sources, leading to a lack of community and political engagement.

- The elite's control over societal discourse and decision-making, which brings substantial financial rewards, is causing a lack of dignity and financial security among the population.
- The political response to this issue has been inadequate, oscillating between market forces and short-term partisanship.
- The universal basic income (UBI) is a solution, but it is inherently unequal and an assault on human dignity.
- UBI could shift focus from structural reforms to mere economic transfers, entrenching elite power and recasting the state as a mere fund distributor.
- Addressing structural issues is crucial for the future of Indian democracy and the continued relevance of political institutions.
- The failure to anticipate and address long-term structural issues is a key reason why people feel neglected by the political class.
- Political parties must provide meaningful leadership by addressing structural issues head-on without resorting to deflection or partisanship.

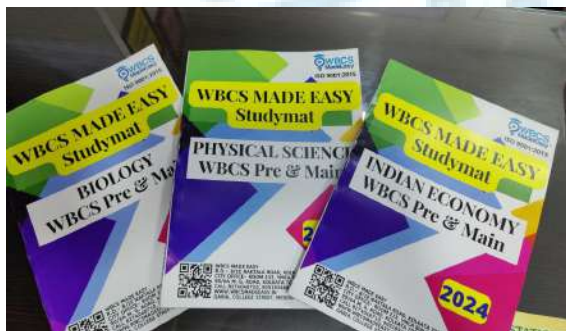
The government doubles the Mudra Yojana loan limit to ₹20 lakh.

- The government has increased the loan limit under PMMY to ₹20 lakh to promote entrepreneurship.
- The increase aims to further the Mudra Scheme's objective of funding unfunded loans.
- The limit was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2024-25.
- The new category of Tarun Plus is for loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh.
- The guarantee coverage of PMMY loans for amounts up to ₹20 lakh will be provided under

the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).

Bear grip: Sensex drops below 80,000

- India's benchmark stock market indices fell to a two-and-a-half month low on Friday.
- The S&P BSE Sensex fell by 7.5% from its all-time high of 85,836.12 points on September 26.
- The NSE Nifty-50 index fell by 0.90% to 24,180.80 points.
- The Nifty fell for the fifth consecutive session, despite a last-hour bounce.
- Small and midcap indices fell more than the Nifty, reflecting panic among retail and high net worth investors.
- The Sensex stocks that lost most ground were IndusInd Bank (18.56%), M&M Lalatendra Mishra, Mumbai (3.93%), L&T (3.35%), NTPC (3.13%), Adani Ports (2.79%), and Tata Steel (2.15%).



WEST BENGAL

Trinamool and BJP prepare for bypolls in West Bengal, amid doctors' outrage

- The Trinamool Congress (TMC) announced candidates for the November 13 byelections in six West Bengal Assembly constituencies.
- The announcement follows the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s list of candidates.
- The bypolls are expected to be a tight contest due to ongoing doctors' protests over a doctor's rape and murder.
- The TMC has fielded Sangita Roy from Sitai, Jay Prakash Toppo from Madarihat, Sanat Dey from Naihati, Sk Rabiul Islam from Haroa, Falguni Singhababu from Taldangra, and Sujoy Hazra from Medinipur.
- The BJP has nominated Rupak Mitra for Naihati, Bimal Das for Haroa, Rahul Lohar for Madarihat, Subhajit Roy for Medinipur, Ananya Roy Chakraborty for Taldangra, and Dipak Kumar Roy from Sitai.
- The byelections were necessary after the MLAs from these constituencies were elected to the Lok Sabha in 2024.
- The TMC has chosen diverse candidates to strengthen its message of secularism, equality, and empowerment.

ART & CULTURE

Centre to revive manuscript preservation mission

- The Union Ministry of Culture plans to revive and relaunch the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- The NMM, part of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, is mulling the formation of an autonomous body, likely named the National Manuscripts Authority.

- A meeting chaired by Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat discussed the future of NMM.
- The NMM has prepared metadata for 52 lakh manuscripts and digitised over 3 lakh titles.
- Over the past 21 years, it has undertaken preventive and curative conservation of 9 crore folios.

Kolkata's horse-drawn carriages face uncertainty due to potential ban and low demand.



- Kolkata's horse-drawn carriages, a symbol of the city's colonial heritage, have become a tourist attraction, transforming from a luxury reserved for high society to a cherished tourist attraction.
- The carriages, which are owned by Rahul Das, earn ₹14,000 a month and provide food and accommodation to passengers.
- However, the market for these carriages has been dire this year, with the usual flow of passengers dwindling due to protests over the rape and murder of a woman trainee doctor.
- Despite the challenges, numerous unlicensed carriages continue to operate, supporting the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

- Animal rights activists and organizations like PETA India have been claiming that horses used in carriages near Victoria Memorial are malnourished and mistreated by owners.
- A Bench of the Calcutta High Court has directed officials of the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department to carry out an inspection, assess the health of horses used in these carriages, and submit a report.
- PETA India and CAPE Foundation have found that at least eight horses have succumbed to neglect and mistreatment in the city this year.
- Despite calls for a ban on horse-drawn carriages, many believe they are part of the city's transport heritage and should be allowed to carry on.
- Advocates for preserving the city's horse-drawn carriages argue that they should exist as a reminder of its rich heritage.
- The ornate horse-drawn carriages were introduced by the British in the 17th century and initially reserved for the elite until the late 19th century.
- Most of the horses used in Kolkata's carriage trade are sourced from States like Bihar and Rajasthan, with prices ranging from ₹70,000 to ₹80,000 depending on the breed.
- For Shahid and Rahul, the horse-drawn carriages represent more than just a nostalgic relic of the past — they are a source of livelihood.

CJI: Madrasa religious instruction cannot be 'wished away'

- The Supreme Court emphasized the importance of preserving India's history of religious instruction.

- The court argued that religious instruction is not unique to Muslims but is present among various cultures and religions.
- The court emphasized the need for mainstream education to prevent ghettoisation and promote unity.
- The Supreme Court's observations were made during a challenge to the Allahabad High Court's decision to strike down the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004.
- The court argued that religious instruction has never been anathema in India and that the state should regulate institutions run by religious or linguistic minorities to maintain education excellence.

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WBCS Group B Top 10: 1. Aniruddha Mondal, 2. Haimantika Das, 3. Monojit Chowdhury, 4. Aniruddha Mondal, 5. Haimantika Das, 6. Monojit Chowdhury, 7. Aniruddha Mondal, 8. Haimantika Das, 9. Monojit Chowdhury, 10. Aniruddha Mondal.



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