

SEBI ROW: BJP REJECTS CALLS FOR JPC PROBE

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The ongoing dispute between the BJP and Congress centres around allegations by Hindenburg Research against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, with the BJP rejecting Congress's demands for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe, alleging a broader conspiracy.



The BJP has rejected the Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. The BJP claims the Congress is involved in a "wider conspiracy" with Hindenburg and other groups to destabilize India's economy and create financial chaos. Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad suggested that investor George Soros, linked to Hindenburg, is part of this agenda against the Modi

government, labeling the allegations as fictitious.

In response, the Congress has threatened nationwide protests and urged the Supreme Court to transfer the investigation of the Adani Group to the CBI or a Special Investigation Team, questioning SEBI's credibility. The Congress criticized the Modi government for allowing Ms. Buch to continue in her position despite serious accusations. They also highlighted SEBI's delay in concluding its investigation into the Adani Group, arguing that it conveniently allowed Prime Minister Modi to avoid scrutiny during the general election.

The opposition demands a JPC, accusing the government of stalling investigations to protect its interests.

TAIL PIECE:

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC)

A joint parliamentary committee (jpc) is a temporary committee established by the Indian Parliament to conduct in-depth investigations into specific matters of public importance or to scrutinize bills in detail.

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

- Formation: the parliament decides to form a JPC through a motion passed in one house and agreed upon by the other.
- Membership: composed of members from both the Lok Sabha (lower house) and Rajya Sabha (upper house), representing both the ruling and opposition parties.
- Chairperson: a member of the Lok Sabha, appointed by the speaker.
- Size: no fixed number of members, determined by parliament for each committee.

- Powers:
 - can summon witnesses, call for documents, and conduct hearings.
 - has the authority to examine public bodies, associations, individuals, and experts.
 - submits its findings and recommendations to parliament.
- Recommendations: advisory in nature and not binding on the government, though those from committees with a majority of ruling party members often carry more weight.
- Dissolution: the committee is dissolved upon completion of its task or after a specified period.

NOTABLE JPCS

JPCS has been formed to investigate several high-profile cases, including:

- Bofors scandal (1987): investigated allegations of corruption in the purchase of howitzers from bofors.
- Harshad mehta stock market scam (1992): examined irregularities in securities and banking transactions.
- Ketan parekh share market scam (2001): investigated the stock market scam involving ketan parekh.
- National register of citizens (nrc, 2016): scrutinized the process and implications of the NRC in assam.
- Personal data protection bill (2019): examined the proposed legislation to protect personal data.

ON THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SEBI CHIEF

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Hindenburg Research has accused SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband of conflicts of interest related to their investments in offshore funds linked to the Adani Group. The short seller claims these ties compromise SEBI's investigation into the Adani Group's alleged stock market manipulations. The Buchs have denied the allegations, while SEBI maintains its investigation is unbiased.



THE GIST

Ø New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator — the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) — is compromised.

- At the centre of the allegations are the Buchs' alleged "hidden stakes" in certain offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, two tax havens, and their professional engagements during and before Ms. Buch's tenure at SEBI.
- The Supreme Court in an order this January had, among other things, sought SEBI to also probe whether the losses suffered by Indian investors because of Hindenburg's erstwhile report involved any "infraction of the law".

HINDENBURG'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEBI AND THE ADANI GROUP

Hindenburg's Claims

- Conflict of Interest: Hindenburg Research has accused SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband of having undisclosed stakes in offshore funds linked to the Adani Group.

These investments, according to Hindenburg, create a conflict of interest that could compromise SEBI's investigation into the Adani Group's alleged financial irregularities.

- **SEBI Bias:** The short seller claims that Ms. Buch's alleged connections to the Adani Group have influenced SEBI's approach to the investigation, allowing the conglomerate to evade scrutiny and potentially engage in "money siphoning."
- **Professional Engagements:** Hindenburg also questions Ms. Buch's previous consulting firm and her husband's role at Blackstone, suggesting potential conflicts of interest related to SEBI's regulatory actions.

SEBI's Response

- **Denial of Allegations:** SEBI and Ms. Buch have vehemently denied Hindenburg's accusations, labeling them as baseless and malicious.
- **Ongoing Investigation:** The regulator has emphasized that the investigation into the Adani Group is ongoing and being conducted impartially.
- **Legal Action:** SEBI has issued a show-cause notice to Hindenburg and is considering further legal action to protect its reputation.

Key Issues

- The credibility of both Hindenburg Research and SEBI is at stake.
- The allegations have raised concerns about corporate governance and regulatory oversight in India.
- The outcome of the investigation will have significant implications for the Adani Group and the Indian financial market.
- The case highlights the complexities of investigating complex financial transactions involving offshore entities.

ANALYSIS

- The Hindenburg-SEBI-Adani dispute has far-reaching implications. The allegations against SEBI have eroded investor trust, necessitating regulatory reforms. The dispute has caused market volatility, damaged India's image, and triggered complex legal battles. It has also raised public awareness about corporate governance and ethical business practices.

J&K NEEDS A PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC SET-UP TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE'S NEEDS

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Jammu and Kashmir's need for a participatory democratic setup is highlighted by the growing demand for Assembly elections to address governance issues and foster peace in the region.



Historical Context

- Jammu and Kashmir was a state with special status until 2019 when it was bifurcated into two Union Territories.
- The region has not had a representative government since 2018.
- There has been a history of low voter turnout, especially in the Kashmir Valley.

Recent Developments

- The Supreme Court has mandated elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024.
- The recent Lok Sabha elections saw a historic voter turnout, indicating a desire for political participation.

Importance of Elections

- Elections will restore democratic processes in the region.
- It will allow people to choose their representatives and address local issues.
- Elections can help in rebuilding trust between the people and the government.
- A participatory democratic setup is essential to tackle challenges like unemployment, power crisis, and healthcare.

Challenges

- The region faces security threats from militant activities.
- There is a need to balance security concerns with the democratic process.

Conclusion

Holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is crucial for restoring democracy, addressing people's needs, and fostering peace and stability in the region.

DISINFORMATION, AI AND 'CYBER CHAKRAVYUH'

CYBER SECURITY



CONTEXT: AI, disinformation, and cyberattacks pose a significant and growing threat to global security.

Rising Security Threats in 2024

The year 2024 has been marked by heightened concerns about global security threats, with a particular focus on the dangers posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cyber threats. Security specialists worldwide have been bracing for attacks across various domains, with AI and its advanced forms, including Generative AI and Artificial General

Intelligence (AGI), at the forefront of these concerns.

The Paris Olympics and Digital Threats

The 33rd Summer Olympic Games in France were anticipated as a prime target for digital and cyber criminals. Despite the absence of major incidents during the Games, the potential for future digital threats remains high, necessitating continued vigilance by security agencies.

AI-Driven Disinformation

The rise of AI has significantly facilitated the spread of disinformation, making it easier to create deep fakes that can cause substantial damage before the truth is uncovered. This trend was evident during the lead-up to the Taiwan elections in January 2024, where AI-enabled disinformation created widespread confusion. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine further illustrates how AI and cyber-attacks can be used to disrupt critical infrastructure.

Preview of Cyber Threats: The CrowdStrike Outage

A recent software glitch involving Microsoft Windows provided a glimpse of the potential disruption a cyberattack could cause. This incident, while not a cyberattack, highlighted the vulnerability of global systems to such threats. Past cyberattacks, such as WannaCry, Shamoon, Petya, and Stuxnet, serve as

reminders of the devastating impact these incidents can have.

Growing Cybercrime and Digital Bullying

Cybercrime, including fraud, identity theft, and phishing, has become increasingly prevalent, threatening individuals and businesses alike. The rise of digital bullying, often involving unauthorized use of Generative AI content, poses a significant challenge that requires substantial effort and resources to combat.

Need for Coordinated Action

Addressing these evolving digital threats requires a coordinated approach, particularly in democracies. Awareness and understanding of the dangers posed by AI-driven disinformation, cybercrime, and digital bullying are essential. Governments and private industries must work together to counter these threats and protect against digital surveillance, disinformation, and manipulation.

THE TOP COURT AS CUSTODIAN OF LIBERTIES

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Supreme Court upheld its duty to protect individual liberties by granting bail to Manish Sisodia after prolonged incarceration.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS LIBERTY AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT



The Sisodia Case and the Judiciary's Role

The prolonged incarceration of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has sparked a critical debate about the balance between the rights of the accused and the powers of the state. The Supreme Court's decision to grant him bail has reaffirmed its role as the guardian of individual liberties.

The Court emphasized that liberty is a cornerstone of constitutional

democracy and that bail is the norm, not the exception. It criticized the excessive delays in the judicial process, highlighting the erosion of the right to a speedy trial. The misuse of stringent laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), leading to disproportionate incarceration, was also a point of concern.

Concerns Over Prosecutorial Power

However, the judgment also raised questions about the Court's reliance on the prosecution's assurances regarding the trial timeline. While granting bail, the Court appeared to accept the prosecution's claim that the trial would be completed within a specific timeframe. This raises concerns about the potential for prosecutorial overreach and the erosion of the principle of the prosecutor not being a judge in their own case.

A Call for Reform

The judgment is a significant step towards protecting individual liberties, but it also underscores the need for systemic reforms. The criminal justice system must be expedited to prevent prolonged pre-trial detentions. The misuse of stringent laws for political purposes must be curtailed. Ultimately, the balance between the rights of the accused and the interests of society requires a delicate touch, and the judiciary has a crucial role to play in ensuring that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

THE TECH THAT HELPS VEHICLES FROM BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER

SCIENCE & TECH

CONTEXT: Collision Avoidance Systems (CAS) across various transport modes, detailing their technologies, functionalities, and advancements, including satellite integration and the impact of AI on safety is increasingly gaining significance.



The Challenge of Modern Traffic

The increasing volume and complexity of modern transportation have made collisions a significant concern across various modes of transport. To mitigate this risk, collision avoidance systems (CAS) have emerged as crucial technologies.

How Collision Avoidance Systems Work

At the core of CAS is the ability to accurately determine the location of vehicles and obstacles. This information, combined with real-time data on vehicle movement, enables CAS to predict potential collisions and initiate preventive measures.

CAS in Land Vehicles

For cars, CAS typically involves radar, lidar, and cameras to track surrounding vehicles. Advanced systems can automatically apply brakes to avoid collisions. In railways, the Kavach system employs a combination of onboard computers, trackside infrastructure, and communication networks to prevent accidents.

CAS in Air and Sea

Aircraft rely on transponders, radar altimeters, and satellite-based systems like ADS-B for collision avoidance. Ships utilize AIS and LRIT to maintain awareness of their surroundings.

The Role of Satellites

Satellite technology has revolutionized CAS by providing precise location data and enabling communication across vast distances. Systems like GPS and India's NavIC are integral to the effectiveness of these systems.

CONCLUSION: collision avoidance systems, aided by advanced technologies, are playing a vital role in enhancing safety across various transportation modes.



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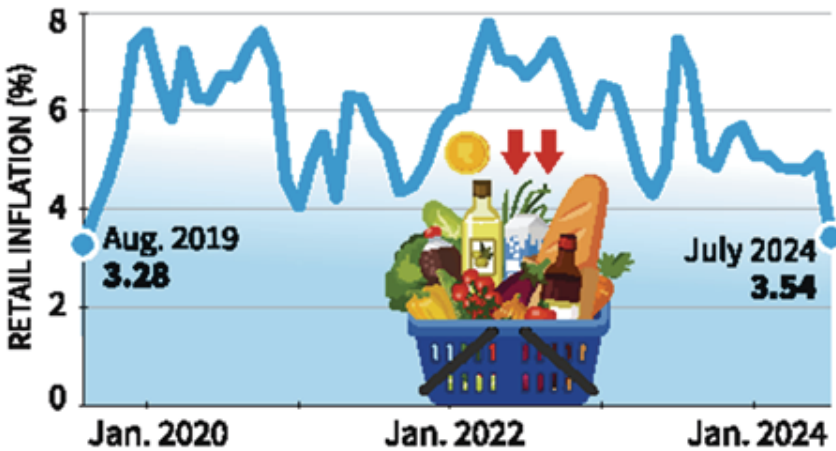
RETAIL INFLATION SLIPS TO 59-MONTH LOW

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

Inflation Cools Sharply but Concerns Remain

Record low

India's retail inflation slid to nearly five-year low of 3.54% in July. CPI inflation stood at 5.08% in June



India's retail inflation experienced a significant decline in July, plummeting to a 59-month low of 3.54%. This sharp drop was primarily attributed to a favourable base effect, as compared to the high inflation rates recorded in July 2022. Food prices, a key contributor to overall inflation, also eased considerably.

However, a closer look at the data reveals a more nuanced picture. While headline inflation has cooled, core inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel prices, has actually risen. This suggests underlying inflationary pressures persist. Additionally, despite the overall decline, certain food items like pulses and meat continue to exhibit high inflation rates.

It's important to note that this sharp decline in inflation is likely temporary. As the base effect fades in the coming months, inflation is expected to gradually rise. The Reserve Bank of India has already acknowledged this trend and has adjusted its inflation forecast accordingly.

While the lower inflation figure offers some respite, it's crucial to monitor these trends closely to gauge the true impact on consumers and the broader economy.

SEVEN KILLED IN STAMPEDE AT TEMPLE IN BIHAR'S JEHANABAD

GOVERNANCE

DEADLY STAMPEDE AT BIHAR TEMPLE

Tragic Incident

A stampede at the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple in Jehanabad, Bihar, resulted in the deaths of seven people and injuries to sixteen others. The incident occurred on Monday during a large gathering of devotees for the fourth Monday of the holy month of Shravan.

Blame and Response

Local residents have blamed the administration for inadequate crowd control measures. The district magistrate, however, attributed the incident to a clash between a flower seller and devotees. Despite conflicting claims, the authorities have initiated an investigation into the matter.

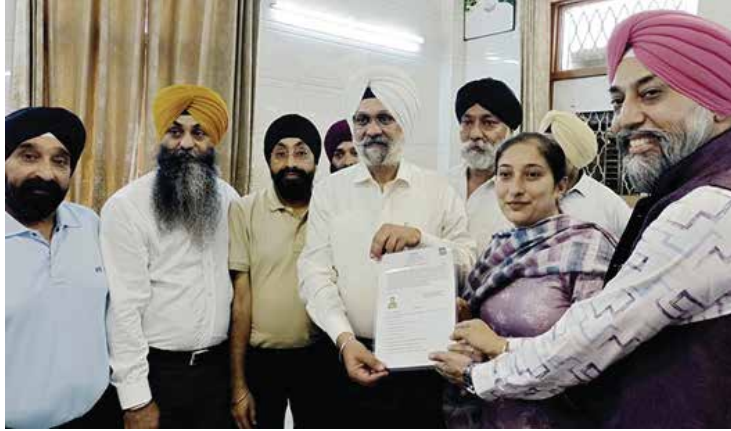
Temple's Significance

The Baba Siddheshwarnath temple is a revered religious site, often compared to the famous Baidyanath Dham temple in Jharkhand.

20 SIKHS FROM AFGHANISTAN GRANTED CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE UNDER CAA

POLITY

CONTEXT: Afghan Sikhs Granted Indian Citizenship Under CAA



A New Chapter for Afghan Sikhs

Twenty Afghan Sikhs have been granted Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019.

These individuals, who had been living in India for years on long-term visas, can now officially call India their home.

Challenges Faced by Afghan Sikh Community

Many Afghan Sikhs have faced difficulties due to the complex process of obtaining citizenship under the previous

Citizenship Act of 1955. This has led to a large number of pending applications. To expedite the process, many are now opting for citizenship under the CAA.

Advantages of CAA for Afghan Sikhs

The CAA has simplified the process of obtaining citizenship for minorities from neighboring countries facing religious persecution. This has resulted in a quicker processing time for Afghan Sikhs compared to the previous Act.

Hope for the Future

With the successful grant of citizenship to the first group of Afghan Sikhs under the CAA, there is hope for a brighter future for the remaining community members still awaiting their citizenship.

CONCLUSION: the development marks a significant step towards integrating the Afghan Sikh community into Indian society.

CENTRE TAKES A GUARDED POSITION ON SUPREME COURT'S SUB-QUOTA VERDICT

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The Indian government has adopted a cautious stance on the Supreme Court's verdict allowing states to sub-categorize Scheduled Castes for quotas, despite earlier advocating for such a move. While opposing the idea of a "creamy layer" within these castes, the government remains silent on the broader issue of sub-quotas.



CENTRE'S AMBIGUOUS STANCE ON SC SUB-CATEGORIZATION Government's Contradictory Position

The Central government has adopted a perplexing stance on the Supreme Court's verdict allowing states to sub-categorize Scheduled Castes for quotas. Despite previously advocating for sub-categorization, the Centre is now maintaining a cautious silence on the issue.

Focus on Creamy Layer

The government has primarily focused its attention on opposing the suggestion of a "creamy layer" within Scheduled Castes, a concept similar to that applied to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). However, the core issue of sub-categorization remains largely unaddressed.

State Governments Given Power

The Supreme Court's verdict has granted states the authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes, subject to specific conditions. The Centre has acknowledged this power but has refrained from providing clear guidelines or directives to the states.

Political Divide

The issue of sub-categorization has exposed a deep divide within the Dalit community, with opinions varying on the potential benefits and drawbacks of such a move. Both the ruling and opposition parties have been cautious in their public statements on the matter.

CONCLUSION: the government's ambiguous position on sub-categorization, coupled with the lack of clarity on implementation guidelines, has created uncertainty and confusion among affected communities.

JUNE INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT GROWTH SLUMPS TO 5-MONTH LOW OF 4.2%

ECONOMICS



INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH SLOWS DOWN

- Industrial output in June saw a significant drop, falling to a five-month low of 4.2%.
- Manufacturing sector took a major hit, with growth plummeting to a seven-month low of 2.6%.
- Power generation also declined due to the end of the heatwave.
- Consumer non-durables sector contracted for the second time in three months.
- Mining was the only sector to show growth, but at a reduced pace compared to the previous month.
- Overall industrial output for the quarter ending June 2024 showed a slight improvement over the previous quarter.

- Economists predict a further slowdown in industrial growth due to factors like reduced government spending and weak rural demand.

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BANGLADESH IS EXPERIENCING A STUDENT-LED REVOLUTION: YUNUS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, describes the current unrest as a "student-led revolution," following the ouster of Premier Sheikh Hasina and legal resignations of top officials.

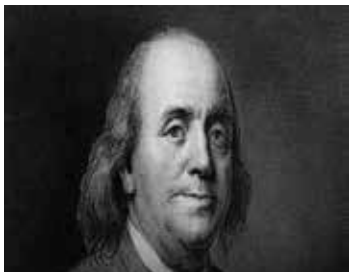


- **Student-led Revolution:** Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, labels the current unrest as a "student-led revolution" following the removal of Premier Sheikh Hasina.
- **Yunus's Role:** Yunus, recently returned from Europe, was asked by student leaders to oversee democratic reforms and has expressed admiration for their actions.
- **Resignations:** Key figures from Hasina's administration, including the Chief Justice and the central bank governor, resigned following student ultimatums.
- **Legal Process:** Yunus stated that these resignations were conducted lawfully and expects legal justification for all actions taken.
- **Current Situation:** Yunus made these comments at an off-the-record briefing in a state building serving as a temporary government seat.

IRAN COULD LAUNCH 'SIGNIFICANT' ATTACK ON ISRAEL THIS WEEK: U.S.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Potential Attack:** The White House warned of a possible "significant" Iranian attack on Israel this week.
- **Military Support:** The U.S. is deploying an aircraft carrier strike group and a guided missile submarine to support Israel.
- **Retaliation Vows:** Iran and Hezbollah have promised retaliation for the recent killings of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr.
- **Diplomatic Efforts:** President Biden has spoken with European leaders from France, Germany, Italy, and Britain about the crisis.
- **Ceasefire Talks:** There is a push for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, with challenging negotiations scheduled for Thursday.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

AFGHANISTAN'S TALIBAN RULERS SCORE DIPLOMATIC WINS AND CONSOLIDATE POWER

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Three years into its rule, the Taliban government has gained some international engagement despite ongoing isolation and criticism over its treatment of women. With diplomatic ties expanding and a focus on economic and security issues, the Taliban emphasizes its achievements while continuing to enforce strict Islamic laws domestically.

Diplomatic Engagement Amid Isolation

Three years into their rule, the Taliban government in Afghanistan has made notable diplomatic strides while reinforcing their strict version of Islamic law. Despite operating without official recognition from any country—primarily due to severe restrictions on women—the Taliban has engaged internationally driven by humanitarian concerns, terrorism threats, and pragmatic interests.

International Talks and Relations

A significant diplomatic milestone for the Taliban was their participation in UN-hosted talks in June in Qatar, marking their first involvement in such a forum. The discussions focused on economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts, demonstrating that "Afghanistan has come out of isolation," according to Chief Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. The UN agreed to exclude civil society and women's rights groups from these talks, which the Taliban sees as a validation of their position.

Regional Diplomatic Ties

The Taliban have expanded regional relationships, with around 40 countries maintaining embassies or consulates in Afghanistan, including Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran, and Central Asian republics. Russia is considering removing the Taliban from its list of terrorist organizations, while China has appointed its first Ambassador to Kabul since the takeover. These relationships are partly driven by concerns over the Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K), which the UN has identified as a major external threat to Europe.

Security Priorities

The Taliban's administration prioritizes security, allocating a substantial portion of the national budget to this sector despite the ongoing economic crisis. They argue that their efforts have significantly diminished the IS-K threat, although the UN and other international observers remain concerned about the group's growing strength.

Domestic Conditions and Governance

While the Taliban's rule has restored a degree of security after decades of conflict, it has also led to increasingly stringent daily life restrictions. Government operations are largely controlled through religious edicts from the Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, with political parties banned and no elections held. Civil society activists describe the environment as a "climate of fear" with little room for dissent or protest.

Official Stance and Mechanisms

The Taliban deny accusations of totalitarianism, asserting that they have established mechanisms to allow for public input through provincial councils of clerics and tribal elders. They maintain that these mechanisms are suited to their Islamic governance model, although they diverge from traditional democratic processes.

ANALYSIS

The Taliban's return to power poses significant challenges for India. Despite international isolation,

the group has gained diplomatic recognition, particularly from regional rivals China and Pakistan. This strengthens their position and increases India's security concerns due to potential terrorism and drug trafficking. The humanitarian crisis and economic instability in Afghanistan further complicate the situation. India must balance security concerns with humanitarian aid, while also exploring opportunities for future engagement to counter growing Chinese and Pakistani influence.

THE CITY OF LIGHT SERVES UP A VISUAL SPECTACLE TO MARK THE END OF THE GREATEST SPORTING SHOW ON EARTH

SPORTS



Paris 2024 Olympic Games Closing Ceremony

Stade de France Spectacle: The closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics took place at the Stade de France, celebrating the end of the Games with a grand display of tradition and modernity. The event, attended by over 71,000 spectators, featured a vibrant mix of musical performances, ceremonial traditions, and a celebration of athletic achievements.

Ceremonial Highlights: The ceremony began with a musical tribute to Paris, the Olympic flame's journey from the Louvre to the Stade de France, and the raising of the French and Olympic flags. French President Emmanuel Macron and IOC President Thomas Bach were present. The event also showcased the parade of athletes from 205

nations and honored India's flag-bearers, Manu Bhaker and P.R. Sreejesh.

Marathon and Gender Equality: For the first time, the women's marathon concluded the Games, with medals awarded to the top three finishers. The inclusion of the Marathon Pour Tous, a public race on the Olympic course, underscored Paris 2024's commitment to gender equality.

Artistic Elements: The ceremony blended ancient Greek references with modern artistic elements, featuring a futuristic extraterrestrial character and a dramatic presentation of the Olympic rings, accompanied by fireworks and music. The Greek flag and Goddess Nike were prominently featured.

Speeches and Handover: Paris 2024 President Tony Estanguet and IOC Chief Bach delivered speeches celebrating the Games' success. The Olympic flag was handed over to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, marking the symbolic transfer of the Games to Los Angeles 2028.

Closing Moments: The ceremony concluded with performances by H.E.R., Tom Cruise, and Snoop Dogg, and a virtual journey to Los Angeles. The iconic song "My Way" by Yseult marked the end of the Games, as Paris prepared to welcome the Paralympic Games.



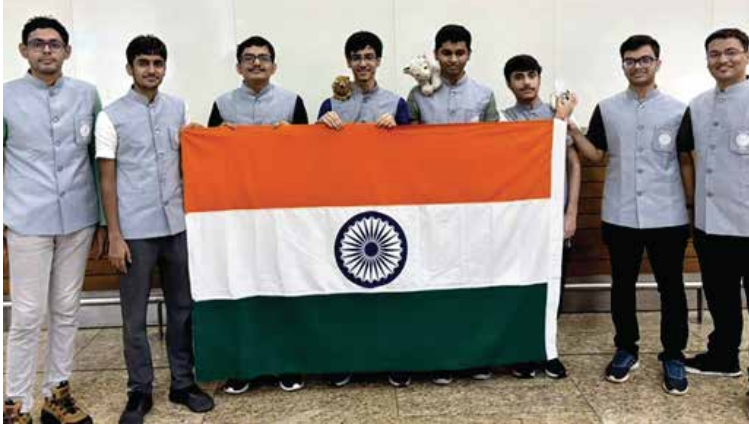
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BEHIND INDIA'S RECORD PERFORMANCE AT INTERNATIONAL MATH OLYMPIAD 2024

SPORTS

Record Performance at the International Math Olympiad 2024



Historic Achievement:

India's team achieved a historic performance at the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) 2024, securing the country's highest-ever rank. The six-member team won four gold medals, one silver, and one honorable mention, placing fourth out of 108 countries. This remarkable feat is India's best result since its first participation in 1989.

Team Members and Preparation:

The Indian team comprised Adhitya Mangudy

Venkata Ganesh, Ananda Bhaduri, Kanav Talwar, Rushil Mathur, Arjun Gupta, and Siddharth Choppara. Their preparation involved a blend of rigorous practice and innovative cross-cultural collaboration. Notably, the Indian and Iranian teams worked together, sharing practice questions and preparing candidates jointly, a strategy that contributed to their success.

Olympiad Format and Focus:

The IMO, established in 1959, is renowned for its challenging problems in mathematics. Unlike other competitive exams, it features only six problems over two days, requiring deep understanding and creative problem-solving. Topics include algebra, number theory, and combinatorics, but do not involve calculus.

Selection Process:

The path to the IMO involves several stages: passing the Indian Olympiad Qualifier for Mathematics (IOQM), Regional Math Olympiad (RMO), and Indian National Math Olympiad (INMO). Top performers from the INMO attend the International Mathematics Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC), where they undergo intensive training and selection tests before representing India at the IMO.

Training and Collaboration:

The success of the 2024 team is attributed to both their individual preparation and the new collaborative approach with the Iranian team. This cross-cultural collaboration, which included joint practice sessions, marked a significant shift in training methods. The innovative approach was inspired by similar collaborations between other countries, such as the U.K. and Hungary.

Future Plans:

India plans to continue and expand its collaborative efforts with other countries. There are also initiatives to increase female participation in the IMO. The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) is focusing on boosting girls' involvement, including training a team for the European Girls Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO), which aims to inspire more girls to participate in mathematical competitions.

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