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Almatti, Tungabhadra get big inflows holding hope for downstream projects

Hyderabad: In a positive sign for water-starved farmers under major irrigation projects of the Krishna Basin in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, heavy rains in the catchment of Upper Krishna is bringing in big inflows to Almatti dam.The Almatti dam started receiving inflows that are in the range of about 1,00,000 cusecs on Tuesday. The catchment of the upper Krishna irrigation projects in Karnataka have been receiving heavy rains for the last four days. Almatti, at this rate of inflows, would be adding to its storage by about nine TMC a day. Its present storage has only seven TMC. It had a flood cushion of about 105 TMC to be filled to the brim for letting water to the downstream projects.

The Tungabhadra project also started receiving inflows of about 31,000 cusecs adding to its storage by 2.5 TMC a day. Tungabhadra, where in the present storage is about 20 TMC, has a flood cushion of 86 TMC to be filled in further. Once Tungabhadra receives significant inflows, the Srisailam project will become the immediate beneficiary. Srisailam, as against its gross storage capacity of 215 TMC, has only 36 TMC as part of its present storage. Its cumulative inflows received so far in the present water year are less than seven TMC.Water level in Nagarjuna Sagar dipped to 503 feet as against the minimum draw down level of 510 ft. The project has been left with very little water to support the drinking water supply in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad along with the towns of Nalgonda, Khammam and Suryapet in its command area. Officials are optimistic that Nagarjuna Sagar will receive first inflows of the year by the end of July and that the irrigation schedule for its ayacut can be finalised in August.This rise in the inflows to Almatti is expected to alleviate some of the water scarcity issues faced under multiple projects downstream and communities dependent on the Krishna River.Medigadda barrage also gets big inflows

As for the Godavari basin projects, only the Medigadda barrage has been receiving over 30,000 cusecs and a significant part of it was the sole contribution of Pranahita, a major tributary of Godavari. The scope for lifting water from the Kannepalli pump house was being examined without putting up a weir at the barrage. Officials said the pumping units could be operated during the flood time provided the inflows are more than 30,000 to 35,000 cusecs. All the gates of the barrage were kept open as advised by the NDSA.In anticipation of inflows into the Sripada Yellampalli reservoir, the emergency pumping operations aimed at supporting water supply to the twin cities, were stopped. The project had less than four TMCs as part of its present storage. The Kaddam project has also been receiving an average inflow of about 3000 cusecs.

When will Gopanpally flyover be open to public?

Hyderabad: Constructed at an approximate cost of Rs. 18 crore, the Gopanpally flyover which has been completed for weeks now is yet to be opened to the public. Despite multiple requests from the residents, the authorities seem to be deliberating on an inauguration date.

Starting from Gopanpally Junction, the facility has two exit ramps – one near the back gate of the University of Hyderabad towards Nallagandla, and the other towards Tellapur. With an uptick in development in these areas due to their proximity to the IT hub, this 0.5 km one-way overpass was constructed by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department to cater to the growing vehicular traffic.After the flyover was constructed, it was expected to be inaugurated after the Lok Sabha elections in June, once the poll code was lifted.

"We are into July month now and the Gopanpally flyover is still waiting to be opened for public. Anyone knows why? #Hyderabad #Telangana #Roads (sic)," tweeted RTI activist Vijay Ivaturi who has been campaigning for the flyover and substandard roads in the area for years.With lane markings, streetlights, signboards, and other facilities, the flyover seems to be fully equipped. However, it is blocked with barricades.The flyover is complete, and we have sent a list of projects that have to be inaugurated to the CMO. It will be opened to the public shortly," informs a senior official from the R&B department.

A book by a political scientist on chaos, black swans and the butterfly theory

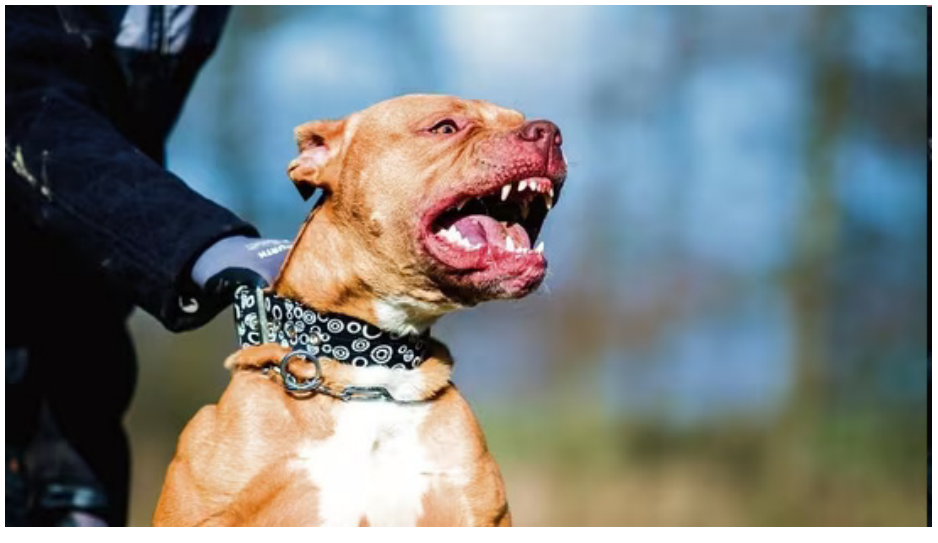
With that sensational declaration, the political scientist-associate professor at University College London has our attention. His book Fluke: Chance, Chaos, and Why Everything We Do Matters is a Malcolm Gladwell-like mix of theory and stories on chance and chaos determining our lives.Klass has previously written books on the nature of power and the subversion of democracy. This time round, he has turned his attention to chaos theory, chance and black swans, in a book inspired by his unusual personal story and his research as a social scientist.Fluke is a warning against human hubris, of assuming we can control our world. The book focuses on chaos theory, which studies unpredictable behaviour in systems including the black swan phenomenon, which is a rare event without precedent, and on the butterfly effect, the idea that seemingly trivial events may ultimately result in something with much larger consequences, that a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil could trigger a tornado in Texas.Klaas, who calls himself a “disillusioned” social scientist, illustrates and amplifies the work of Edward Lorenz and James Gleick on Chaos Theory, of Nassim Taleb on Black Swans and many others, weaving in thoughts and theories and stories from a rich mix of disciplines.

It is a commodious canvas; it is also convoluted and contentious, shifting from parallel universes in the world of the film Sliding Doors and the Jorge Luis Borges short story, The Garden of Forking Paths, to the mutant Mamokreb fish from Madagascar who no longer need a male to reproduce. It also takes in perhaps the most catchy of modern-day stories, about an army commander in Zambia who is being chased over a wall, but who escapes leaving his trousers behind in the hands of his pursuers, thereby defeating the coup and letting democracy survive, literally, by a thread.“On June 15, 1905, Clara Magdalen Jansen killed all four of her children, Mary Claire, Frederick, John, and Theodore, in a little farmhouse in Jamestown, Wisconsin in the northern United States. She cleaned their bodies up, tucked them into bed, and then took her own life. Her husband, Paul, came home from work to find his entire family under the covers of their little beds, dead, in what must have been one of the most horrific and traumatic experiences a human being can suffer…The Paul who came home to that little farmhouse in Wisconsin was my great-grandfather, Paul F. Klaas. My middle name is Paul, a family name enshrined by him. I’m not related to his first wife, Clara, because she tragically severed her branch of the family tree just over a century ago. Paul got remarried, to my great-grandmother.”When he heard this story, Klaas realised that his life was made possible only through a gruesome mass murder. Four innocent children died, and now he is alive.Changing anything changes everything, Klaas explains, telling us the story of an American couple who holidayed in Kyoto and found it beautiful. Nineteen years later, when the man got to be America's Secretary of War (Henry L Stimson), that one vacation taken by one couple became the most important reason why Hiroshima, and not Kyoto, was incinerated, with more than a hundred thousand people dying in one city rather than another.The many stories in this book showcase a breadth of scholarship and research in the fields of evolution, psychology and prediction. A chapter on probability has stories of weather forecasting and the phenomenon of p hacking (a misuse of data through analysis) as well as fascinating trivia, like why there are seven days in the week and where they got their names from.For human beings, who need to see meaning in everything, such a view of the universe is hard to process. Our brains distort reality to give us a picture of coherence. Our most popular stories are situated in a moral universe, one of cause and effect, says Klaas."As a social scientist, I've long felt that we are creating fiction by trying to cram the infinitely complex array of causes and effects into simplified models that provide a straightforward – but wrong – understanding of our world. Fluke takes chaos theory seriously — and applies it to our own lives and our societies instead," Klass said.

Fluke is thought-provoking but seemingly paradoxical. If we are to believe that the human brain is cognitively unable to accept chaos, why then should we accept these stories to prove the opposite? With the weight of evidence, this book provides so articulately, if the world is indeed all chaos and chance, how then do we believe that everything we do matters?The paradox isn’t an either-or conundrum, Klass explained in an interview.“I don't believe in free will, simply because I don't believe there is a difference between our minds and our brains,” Klaas said. “My mind is my brain; it's a physical system, an infinitely complex chemical reaction that is shaped by my genes, my upbringing, and every experience and input that has shaped how my neurons interact with the rest of my body and environment. As a result, I think that the world is generally deterministic, effectively a chain reaction of infinite causes and effects, stretching back to the very beginning,” he said.“However, humans still make decisions – even if we can't independently control them separately from the physical matter in our brains. And those decisions have a profound influence because chaos theory teaches us that every action—no matter how tiny—produces ripple effects that can profoundly affect a system over time (in our case, our lives, or our societies).”

Animal activists, rescuers welcome ban on ‘ferocious’ dogs, not the reason

After recent incidents of dog attacks, the Centre has sought ban on ‘ferocious’ breeds. Animal activists, rescuers welcome the move, but detest the reason.The Centre has sought a ban on import, breeding, and sale of several “ferocious” dog breeds such as pitbull, rottweiler, terrier, wolf dogs, and mastiffs as pet dogs, deeming them “dangerous for human life”. The restrictions will also extend to mixed and cross-bred canines. Existing house pets of these breeds are to be sterilised.



“We applaud the Centre for taking this step to safeguard vulnerable dog breeds commonly exploited by criminal elements of society for illegal dogfighting, as well as children and elderly citizens who are wounded and even killed by specific types of dogs who are manipulated and trained to consider other living beings ‘prey’,” says Shaurya Agarwal, advocacy research associate, PETA India, adding that the order will help address the misuse of these animals as weapons, as well as “provide vital protection for both humans and dogs”. Agarwal adds, "Pitbulls and related breeds are the most commonly abandoned dogs in India, and this action will prevent a great deal of suffering.”But not everyone is convinced about the reason behind this plea by the Centre to seek a ban. “There is no such thing as an aggressive breed,” notes Ambika Shukla, animal rights activist and a trustee of People for Animals (PFA).

“We welcome the regulation on sale and breeding of certain breeds, but not for the reason that the Centre has specified but because of the enormous cruelty these dogs are subjected to by unscrupulous breeders. These breeds are kept confined, not given any medical attention, are sold for dog fights and get hurt or harm each other in the process. No breed is intrinsically dangerous to humans,” she adds.Concurring that these breeds are not “ferocious”, Anupam Mehta, founder of Touch And Treat, says, “Breeders abandon these breeds when the dogs grow old. In India, 90% of breeding is illegal (without license).

PPS Motors Achieves Historic Milestone; Becomes Country's first multi-state dealer to sell 40,000 Volkswagen Vehicles in India

PPS Motors - part of a larger automobile group - one of the country's largest spread automobile conglomerates, has announced that it has reached a milestone of selling 40,000 Volkswagen vehicles and therefore becoming India's first multi-state dealer to record this feat. PPS Motors has the largest network of touchpoints for Volkswagen in India with 33 touchpoints spread across in five states viz; Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal & Assam.Despite a slowdown in the auto industry post-pandemic, PPS Motors has expanded to 33 touch points becoming the largest network partner of Volkswagen. Currently every 10th Volkswagen vehicle sold in India is through PPS Motors determining market leadership and exceptional commitment to customer satisfaction. The high Google Rating of 4.8 for PPS Motors-Volkswagen touchpoints showcases exceptional service quality and customer satisfaction.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Rajiv Sanghvi, Managing Director of PPS Motors, said "We are delighted to partner with Volkswagen in our journey of over one and half decades which has been very fruitful. We are grateful and thankful to our customers for their trust and support because of which PPS Motors has been able to reach the milestone of 40,000 cars sales. We are proud to be the largest partner of Volkswagen in India with every 10th Volkswagen being sold by PPS Motors."On this achievement, Mr. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director of Volkswagen Passenger Cars India also commented, "We would like to congratulate PPS Motors for this incredible feat. They have been a long-standing partner, driving growth across key markets for Volkswagen. We are confident PPS Motors will continue raising the bar by providing exceptional customer satisfaction to our expanded Volkswagen family."The 40,000th Volkswagen car, a Reflex Silver coloured Virtus Comfortline, was handed over in a special ceremony at PPS Motors' Kukatpally City showroom in Hyderabad.During its 15+ years of relationship with Volkswagen, PPS Motors has been bestowed with over 15 accolades and recognitions. PPS Motors stood No. 1 in All India sales with Volkswagen presenting the Highest Sales Contribution Award for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023, Best Performance in Focus Segment 2023, Best Exchange Sales Penetration for 3 years in a row (2021, 2022 & 2023), Highest Sales Awards for Taigun & Tiguan, apart from other recognitions to PPS Motors.

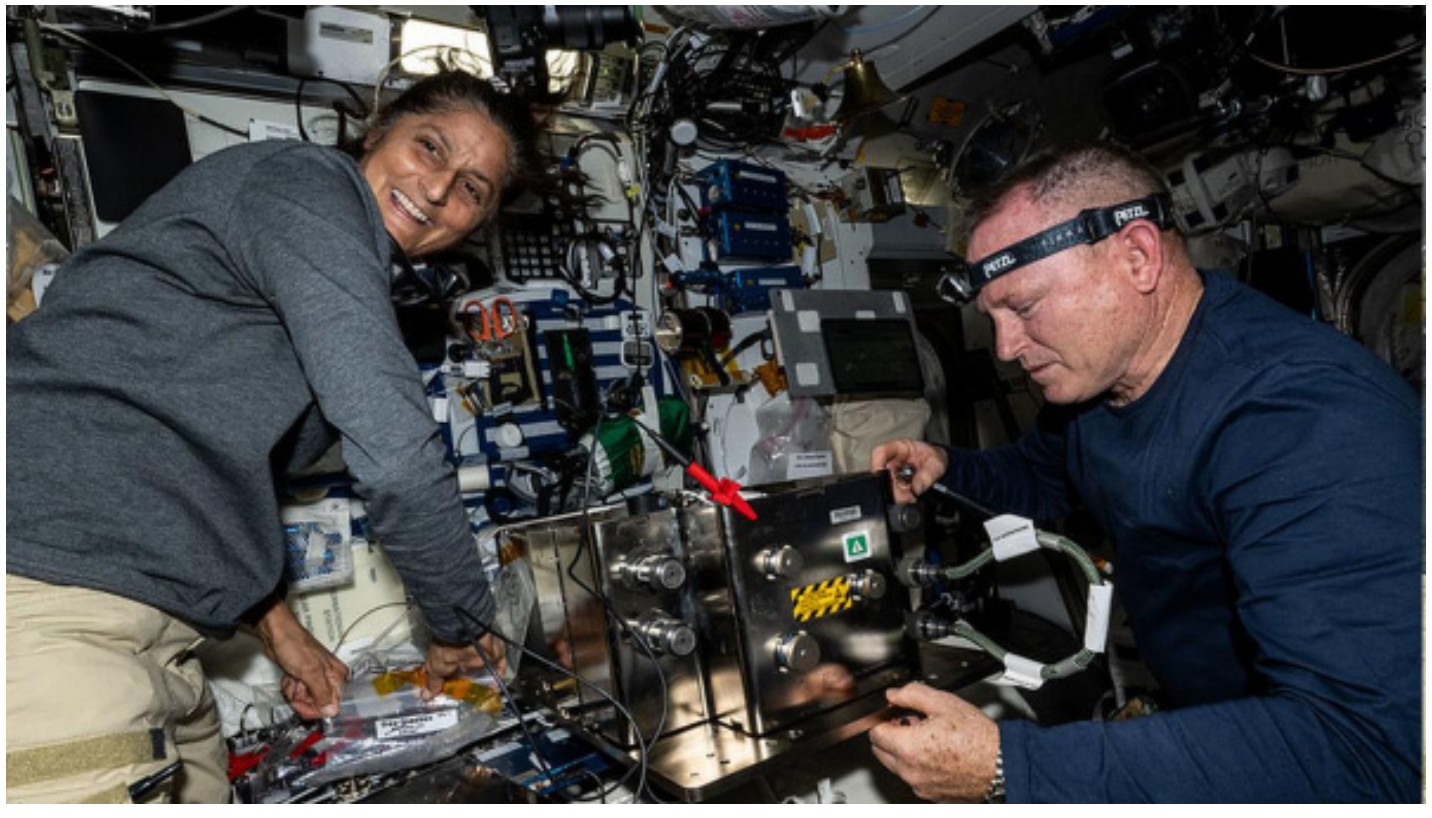
Swaraj Empowers AP and Telangana Farmers with Advanced Puddling Solutions for Efficient Rice Cultivation

Swaraj Tractors, a part of the Mahindra Group, is proud to announce its comprehensive range of puddling solutions, specifically designed to meet the unique challenges of wetland farming in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana markets. Featuring advanced capabilities, Swaraj's models—Swaraj 843 XM, 742 XT, 744 FE and Swaraj 855 FE ensure enhanced efficiency, control, and ease of operation, making them the ideal choice for farmers engaged in puddling activities and efficient rice cultivation.

Swaraj tractors come with a 4-wheel drive option, providing superior traction in wet and muddy conditions, ensuring seamless operation and reducing slippage. Additionally, the Independent Power Take-Off (IPTO) offers full control over PTO-operated implements, enhancing performance and reliability. The tractors also feature a wider speed range with 12 forward and 3 reverse gears, delivering more torque and catering to various soil conditions and operational requirements. The Multi-Speed PTO (MSPTO) and Reverse PTO options allow for both clockwise and anti-clockwise rotation, providing versatility in operating different implements.

Furthermore, Swaraj offers a special South Speed variant specifically designed to match optimal puddling speeds, ensuring efficient and effective puddling. The innovative 1-R gear setup positions the reverse gear opposite the forward gear, enabling quick and easy transitions between forward and reverse movements, ideal for manoeuvring in tight spaces. With an optimized turning radius, Swaraj tractors allow for sharp turns and efficient operation in smaller fields, enhancing overall productivity.Swaraj remains committed to delivering high-performance and reliable agricultural machinery solutions that address the specific needs of farmers. These tractors include a six-year warranty, underscoring Swaraj Tractors' steadfast dedication to quality and customer satisfaction. This warranty guarantees reliability and assurance for the farming community, reflecting the brand's commitment to supporting farmers.

Why are Sunita Williams and Boeing's Starliner still in space? Explained



Story so far: Veteran American astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry (Butch) Wilmore, are still docked with the International Space Station (ISS) since June 6 after facing delays, space debris threats, helium leaks and technical glitches on the Starliner spacecraft on which they travelled.The U.S Space Agency — National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) — held a 'space-to-earth' news conference with the two astronauts on July 10 to receive an update on their mission's progress. Both astronauts said they 'felt confident' that they could return to Earth on Starliner itself."I have a real good feeling in my heart that this spacecraft will bring us home, no problem," said Ms. Williams, while Mr. Wilmore said, "That mantra you've heard, failure is not an option." He added that both crew members were staying on the ISS to test the spacecraft

NASA along with the space capsule's manufacturer Boeing is evaluating Starliner's propulsion system and the five small helium leaks in the service module. The team is conducting ground tests on identical thrusters at New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range while another investigation is underway at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama to determine why the propulsion system's seal failed, leading to helium leaks.The continued delay in Ms. Williams nd Mr. Wilmore's safe return, which was initially scheduled to begin on June 18, has piqued concerns across the world, including India. Apart from Ms. Williams and Mr. Wilmore, NASA astronauts Michael Barratt, Matt Dominick, Tracy C. Dyson, Jeanette Epps and Russian Cosmonauts Nikolai Chub, Alexander Grebenkin, and Oleg Kononenko are aboard the ISS.Here's a look at the attempted launches, what went wrong, and current efforts for the crew's safe returnStarliner's attempted launches and successSunita Williams, 58, is the pilot of NASA's Crew Flight Test mission aboard Boeing's Starliner space capsule. The mission is a joint venture between NASA and American private space players to open up commercial travel to low-Earth orbits and the ISS to more people for scientific and commercial purposes.United Launch Alliance, a joint venture by Boeing and Lockheed Martin manufactured the Atlas V rocket which transported the astronauts via Boeing's space capsule Starliner to the ISS. With this, NASA will have a second space capsule option (apart from SpaceX's Crew Dragon), which has a crew module which can house up to seven astronauts and a non-reusable service module which houses the equipment and systems (air, temperature controls, water supply etc) needed for a stay in space.The first crewed test flight of Starliner with the above-mentioned astronauts was scheduled for May 6 for a week-long stay at the ISS. However, the flight was scrapped less than two hours before the launch after an issue was detected in an oxygen relief valve of the rocket's second stage. All launch activities were suspended and the flight was postponed to May 17.A helium leak was detected in a thruster in Starliner's service module, further postponing the launch to June 1. Helium is a colourless, odourless, inert and non-toxic gas used to push propellent into the space capsule's thrusters to fire them and help maneuver in space. NASA has assured that Starliner had enough helium left to support seventy hours of free flight activity following undocking.

On June 1, the ground launch sequencer, the computer which launches the rocket, triggered an automatic hold stopping the countdown clock three minutes fifty seconds before the launch. Finally, on June 5, Starliner was launched successfully from NASA's Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida and the two astronauts docked with the forward-facing port of the ISS. During their week long stay, the astronauts were tasked with verifying if Starliner was performing as intended by conducting tests on the various control systems and manoeuvring the thrusters. Prior to takeoff, a small helium leak was noticed in the space capsule's propulsion system but not deemed serious.

What went wrong?

En-route to the ISS, four more small helium leaks sprung up. Both NASA and Boeing officials reviewed flight data to find out the cause of the leaks. On June 6, NASA's Commercial Crew Program manager Steve Stich admitted that similar thruster issues were revealed during the spacecraft's uncrewed test flight in 2022, adding, "thought we had fixed that problem," at a press conference.The undocking and return journey of Starliner, which was scheduled for June 18, was postponed to June 22, then June 25 and later to July 2.This handout image courtesy of Maxar Technologies taken on June 7, 2024 shows the Boeing Starliner spacecraft docked with the International Space Station's (ISS) forward port on the station's Harmony module.This handout image courtesy of Maxar Technologies taken on June 7, 2024 shows the Boeing Starliner spacecraft docked with the International Space Station's (ISS) forward port on the station's Harmony module.: -Mr. Stich opined that thruster issues may have been caused overheating when fuel was burned during the space capsule's rendezvous with the ISS. According to CNN, the Starliner's service module has 28 reaction control thrusters, of which five have failed during flight. Four were brought back online eventually.The Starliner, which had its first uncrewed Orbital test flight in 2019, faced a software glitch, leaving the space capsule in the wrong orbit before it returned to ground without docking with the ISS. In 2022, the space capsule successfully conducted its first uncrewed test flight when it docked with the ISS and then undocked four days later to return to Earth. This flight too faced issues with the thrusters.

What is causing the delay?

Apart from technical issues, the crew also faced a debris collision threat on June 28. The US Space Command alerted the six astronauts onboard the ISS to execute 'safe haven' procedures i.e. crew members board the spacecraft they arrived in, in case an emergency departure is needed. This was necessitated after a defunct Russian satellite (RESURS-P1) broke into more than 100 pieces of debris in an orbit near the ISS. Ms. Williams and Mr. Wilmore were forced to board the Starliner to take shelter for an hour before they resumed their activities on the ISS.This screengrab from NASA shows astronaut Sunita Williams (seated L) and Butch Wilmore (seated R) posing with the crew of the International Space Station (ISS) after the docking of the Boeing Starliner on June 6, 2024.This screengrab from NASA shows astronaut Sunita Williams (seated L) and Butch Wilmore (seated R) posing with the crew of the International Space Station (ISS) after the docking of the Boeing Starliner on June 6, 2024. |On July 2, NASA said that the spacecraft was in good shape to remain docked to the ISS for over 45 days (its upper limit), giving the ground teams of NASA and Boeing time to conduct simulations and tests on the thrusters. Analysis is also underway to determine why several helium leaks have arisen in the capsule, said NASA. Currently, NASA has not set any end date to the mission, making the extension indefinite.How will the crew return?In the July 10 press conference, NASA has said, that if absolutely necessary, Starliner would be capable of returning to Earth – acting as an escape pod. Moreover, NASA also has the option of ferrying Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams to Earth aboard Crew Dragon. The SpaceX spaceship transported four astronauts to the ISS in March and is capable of fitting more people in case of an emergency. However, such an option has would be a last resort in case Starliner is deemed non-functional.But NASA has reiterated its confidence in the Starliner to return the duo, dropping the option of using the Crew Dragon.

Decoding Supreme Court's verdict on divorced Muslim women's right to maintenance under Section 125 CrPC

The story so far: The Supreme Court on July 10 ruled that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to a claim of maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, against her former husband — affirming that a parallel remedy under a secular law cannot be foreclosed by existing personal laws.A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih pronounced separate but concurring judgments upholding the rights of Muslim women after a Muslim man challenged a Telangana High Court direction to pay ?10,000 interim maintenance to his former wife. He had contended that the maintenance claim in his case would instead be governed by the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (1986 Act).

How has the law on maintenance evolved?

The law governing maintenance for destitute wives, children, and parents has been codified under Section 125 of the CrPC. It stipulates that if any person "having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain" his wife, then a magistrate of the first class may, upon proof of such neglect or refusal, order such a person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife at a monthly rate as the magistrate thinks fit.The explanation to this provision clarifies that a "wife" includes a woman who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from, her husband and has not remarried. It does not specify anything about the woman's religion. Many States have made region-specific amendments to the section to allow a ceiling on the maintenance amount the court can order.The 1986 Act, on the other hand, is a religion-specific law that provides for a procedure for a Muslim woman to claim maintenance during divorce. It was enacted to essentially nullify the Supreme Court's 1985 decision in the case of Mohd. Ahmad Khan v. Shah Bano Begum (Shah Bano case) which upheld a Muslim woman's right to seek maintenance from her divorced husband under Section 125 of the CrPC. The verdict was, however, perceived by many to be an affront to religious personal laws.Section 3 of the 1986 Act guarantees the payment of maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman by her former husband only during the period of iddat — a period, usually of three months, which a woman must observe after the death of her husband or a divorce before she can remarry. Such an amount shall be equal to the amount of mahr or dowry given to her at the time of her marriage or any time after that. After the completion of the iddat period, a woman can approach a first-class magistrate for maintenance in case she has not remarried and is not in a position to take care of herself financially.Subsequently, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the Danial Latifi v. Union Of India (2001) case upheld the constitutional validity of the 1986 Act by extending the right of a Muslim woman to get maintenance till she re-marries. It, however, reduced the period of maintenance to the completion of iddat. In 2009, a Division Bench of the top Court in Shabana Bano v. Imran Khan reiterated a divorced Muslim woman's right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC as long as she does not remarry. It further highlighted that such a relief would be extended even after the expiry of the iddat period.Similarly, in 2019, Justice Ahsan Amanullah of the Patna High Court set aside a family court order rejecting a Muslim woman's plea for maintenance by underscoring that she has the option to avail of maintenance both under the CrPC and the 1986 Act. If she chose the CrPC, she could not be said to be debarred from seeking maintenance on account of being a divorced Muslim lady, the order added.

What was the case?

The top Court was dealing with an appeal by a man named Mohd. Abdul Samad, whose former wife had approached a family court in Hyderabad alleging that he had given her 'triple talaq', and claimed a monthly maintenance of ?50,000 under Section 125 of the CrPC.The husband on the other hand contended that the provisions of the 1986 Act, being a special law, would prevail over Section 125 of the CrPC. He argued that the 1986 Act gives jurisdiction to the First-Class Magistrate to decide the issue of mahr and payment of other subsistence and thus relief cannot be sought before the family court. He further pointed out that he had already paid ?15,000 to his former wife during the iddat period.In June 2023, the Hyderabad family court ordered that ?20,000 interim maintenance be given to the wife. On appeal, the Telangana High Court in December 2023 reduced the interim maintenance to ?10,000. Fifty percent of the arrears were ordered to be paid by January 24, 2024, and the remaining by March 13, 2024. Without delving into any questions of law, the High Court observed that "several questions are raised which need to be adjudicated." It also directed the family court to dispose of the main plea within six months.

What does the verdict say?

'Social justice' measure insulated from applicable personal lawsThe Bench at the outset acknowledged that Section 125 CrPC was introduced as a measure of social justice to protect women and children. It pointed out that the provision manifested the constitutional commitment under Article 15(3) towards special measures to ensure a life of dignity for women at all stages of their lives.Highlighting the secular nature of this relief, the judges underscored that a claim under Section 125 CrPC is maintainable irrespective of the applicable personal laws of the parties. "...This ought to be irrespective of the faith a woman belongs to. The remedy of maintenance is a critical source of succour for the destitute, the deserted and the deprived sections of women. There can be no manner of doubt that it is an instantiation of the constitutional philosophy of social justice that seeks to liberate the Indian wife including a divorced woman from the shackles of gender-based discrimination, disadvantage and deprivation," Justice Nagarathna asserted. She further recognised that married women often sacrifice employment opportunities to nurture the family, pursue child rearing, and undertake care work for the elderly.""...an Indian married man must become conscious of the fact that he would

have to financially empower and provide for his wife, who does not have an independent source of income, by making available financial resources particularly towards her personal needs; in other words, giving access to his financial resources. Such financial empowerment would place such a vulnerable wife in a more secure position in the family. Those Indian married men who are conscious of this aspect and who make available their financial resources for their spouse towards their personal expenses, apart from household expenditure, possibly by having a joint bank account or via an ATM card, must be acknowledged."Justice B.V. Nagarathna Mohd. Abdul Samad v. The State of Telangana [2024]Equivalent rights of maintenance

After referring to a catena of judicial precedents, the Bench concluded that equivalent rights of maintenance under both — the secular provision of Section 125 of the CrPC and the personal law provision of Section 3 of the 1986 Act, parallelly exist in their distinct domains and jurisprudence. "A divorced Muslim woman is not restricted from exercising her independent right of maintenance under the secular provision of Section 125 of CrPC 1973, provided she is able to prove the requisites encompassed by the said statute," Justice Masih opined. Thus, the passage of the 1986 Act was said to not "militate against or dilute" relief under Section 125 of the CrPC.Referring to the non-obstante clause "notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force" envisaged under Section 3(1) of the 1986 Act — which was argued to purportedly bar any concurrent relief under Section 125 of the CrPC —Justice Nagarathna elucidated that the intent of the Parliament behind such usage was to provide an additional remedy for divorced Muslim women."This is evident from the fact that while enacting the 1986 Act, Parliament did not simultaneously or at anytime thereafter create any bar for a divorced Muslim woman from claiming maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC and thereby constrain her to proceed to make a claim only under the provisions of the 1986 Act. Neither is there any bar, express or implied under the 1986 Act, to the effect that a divorced Muslim woman cannot unilaterally seek maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC. One cannot read Section 3 of the 1986 Act containing the non-obstante clause so as to restrict or diminish the right to maintenance of a divorced Muslim woman under Section 125 of the CrPC and neither is it a substitute for the latter. Such an interpretation would be regressive, anti-divorced Muslim woman and contrary to Articles 14 and 15(1) and (3) as well as Article 39(e) of the Constitution of India," the judge reasoned.Harmonious interpretation

Advocating for a harmonious and purposive interpretation of the seemingly conflicting statutes, the Court said that the choice lies with the Muslim woman to apply for maintenance either under Section 125 of the CrPC or the 1986 Act. If she is unable to provide for herself, she can seek remedy under Section 125. Alternatively, if she is financially independent, she can seek maintenance under the 1986 Act till the expiry of the iddat period."The Parliament did not simultaneously, or at any time, thereafter, create any bar for a divorced Muslim woman from claiming maintenance under Section 125 CrPC, and thereby constrain her to proceed to make a claim only under the provisions of the 1986 Act… If a divorced Muslim woman approaches the Magistrate for enforcement of her rights under Section 125 CrPC, she cannot be turned away to seek relief only under the 1986 Act. In other words, a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to seek recourse to either or both the provisions. The option lies with the woman," Justice Masih observed.Muslim women divorced through triple talaq entitled to relief

Justice Nagarathna further clarified that Muslim women who have been divorced through illegal methods such as triple talaq are also entitled to maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC. The practice was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2017 and later criminalised under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019."Section 125 of the CrPC cannot be excluded from its application to a divorced Muslim woman irrespective of the law under which she is divorced... The same cannot be a basis for discriminating a divorced woman entitled to maintenance as per the conditions stipulated under Section 125 of the CrPC or any personal or other law such as the 1986 Act," the judge reasoned.

Handhelds, Tablets, and in-flight entertainment: Gaming on the move

Hyderabad: Long flights and train journeys that can span days are easy for those of us for whom sleep comes easy. However, for the rest of us who aren't gifted with such superhuman abilities, the challenges of getting through an inter-continental 8-hour flight surrounded by the ubiquitous crying toddler can be daunting.At such times I have often found respite in the distraction and immersion of a favorite game — I have found the system so effective that I now often spend a couple of weeks in advance deciding what games to play on my trusty Nintendo Switch when I am getting ready for large amounts of travel.

For example, I spent a fair bit of 2022 playing Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and Scarlet. Similarly, travel in 2023 was reserved for the spectacular Tears of the Kingdom as I hopped conferences and countries solving one puzzle after another in Link and Zelda's unending saga.

The freedom a device like the Switch offers on an inter-continental flight or a cross-country train ride is unparalleled and increasingly I have found that I am not the only one playing games on handhelds during long journeys. In the last couple of years, I have seen the number of inquisitive looks and questions from fellow passengers and airport security personnel transition from "What is this device?" and "What do you do?" to polite conversation about my gaming choices and preferences.For example, last summer, I was on a flight to London seated beside two young Indian students flying to the US for their second year of undergraduate studies who spent nearly six of the eight hours on flight playing Hollow Knight and other games on their Steam Decks.

I was impressed not just by their customized devices (with decals, cases, and what not) but also their preparation as they carried charging bricks and noise cancelling headphones to almost cancel out the flight experience almost entirely.Similarly, since the arrival of the ROG Ally and the Legion Go the number of people playing games while traveling is increasingly more evident. While the argument of the portable handheld is not a new one – I have advocated for one as a trusty side kick since the days of the trusty brick game handhelds when I relied on them to navigate 26-hour long train rides from Delhi – Hyderabad on the AP Express (now called the Telangana Express).I also believe there are enough opportunities for games in long journeys without carrying dedicated gaming devices. Most in-flight entertainment systems offer a mix of games in their roster now that are suitable across ages and genres.For example, I spent over an hour on my last long flight (a Boeing 777) playing Chess and the numerical puzzle game 2048. There were also a lot of other popular games to choose from and considering how they were all running quite smoothly on the screens at the back of the seats, I couldn't help but dig a bit more.I realized that the games were being offered via Android as most of the screens were functioning as tablet devices running on the platform with a custom UI/forked interface/skin that mimicked the experience the Airline was trying to offer. On spending more time with the system, I couldn't help but notice how such a device was no different than say an Amazon Fire tablet.If that is the case, how close are we to seamlessly gaming mid-air provided airlines allow us to sync our smartphones with the screens on the plane? Most airlines already do offer Wi-Fi to some degree on long flights, would it then be possible to play a game like Genshin or Honkai or even an in-plane multiplayer CoD Mobile?The possibilities are several and while I understand that entertainment on planes is limited more for security reasons than anything else, I think we are onto something here. Is there a more effective way to tune out crying toddlers in tight spaces? Boring answers like earplugs and noise cancelling headphones not allowed.

What is Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), and why are people worried about it?

In a recent interview, Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, expressed his commitment to invest billions of dollars towards the development of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). But even as Altman continues to champion what is considered to be the pinnacle of AI development, many in the global tech community are very apprehensive. Here is why.AGI refers to a machine or a software that can perform any intellectual task that a human can do. This includes reasoning, common sense, abstract thinking, background knowledge, transfer learning, ability to differentiate between cause and effect, etc.

In simple words, AGI aims to emulate human cognitive abilities such that it allows it to do unfamiliar tasks, learn from new experiences, and apply its knowledge in new ways.Humans learn through their experiences — in school, home, or elsewhere; by talking to people or observing things; by reading books, watching television, reading articles, etc. The human brain then uses the information it has gathered to make decisions (often subconscious) that solve any given problem, or come up with a new one.With AGI, researchers aim to build a software or computer that can do all this — everything that a human computer does. Think of having a super intelligent robot friend who can understand everything you say, learn new things just the way you do, and even think of problems to find solutions.

How is AGI different from AI we already use?

The main difference between AGI and the more common form of AI, also known as narrow AI, lies in their scope and capabilities.Narrow AI is designed to perform specific tasks such as image recognition, translation, or even playing games like chess—at which it can outdo humans, but it remains limited to its set parameters. On the other hand, AGI envisions a broader, more generalised form of intelligence, not confined to any particular task This is what puts AGI at the summit of all developments in artificial intelligence. Since the very beginning, the thrust behind AI development has been to broaden its capabilities. The reason why ChatGPT, launched in November 2022, piqued global interest was its ability to come up with human-like text responses.Since then, AI models have gotten progressively better and more sophisticated, as billions of dollars have been pumped in to fuel research. The creation of AGI is like the final frontier in this development.

Is this a new idea?

No. The idea of AGI first emerged in the 20th century with a paper written by Alan Turing, widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.In 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence' (1950), he introduced what is now known as the Turing test, a benchmark for machine intelligence. Simply put, if a machine can engage in a conversation with a human without being detected as a machine, according to the Turing test, it has demonstrated human intelligence.When Turing wrote this influential paper, humans were nowhere close to developing artificial intelligence — even computers were in their nascency. Yet, his work led to wide-ranging discussions about the possibility of such machines, as well as their potential benefits and risks.

How can AGI help humanity?

In theory, AGI has innumerable positive implications. For instance, in healthcare, it can redefine diagnostics, treatment planning, and personalised medicine by integrating and analysing vast datasets, far beyond the capabilities of humans.In finance and business, AGI could automate various processes and enhance the overall decision-making, offering real-time analytics and market predictions with accuracy.When it comes to education, AGI could transform adaptive learning systems that work towards the unique needs of students. This could potentially democratise access to personalised education worldwide.OpenAI's Sam Altman in an interview with The Wall Street Journal said that AGI will lead to a "lot of productivity and economic value", and will be "transformative", promising unprecedented problem-solving capabilities and creative expression.

What then drives the skepticism regarding AGI?

Despite the promise AGI holds, it continues to fuel widespread apprehensions, due to a number of reasons. For instance, the humongous amount of computational power required to develop AGI systems raises concerns about its impact on the environment, both due to the energy consumption and generation of e-waste.AGI could also lead to a significant loss of employment, and widespread socio-economic disparity, where power would be concentrated in the hands of those who control the AGI. It could introduce new security vulnerabilities, the kind we have not even thought about yet, and its development could outrun the ability of governments and international bodies to come up with suitable regulations.

Japan is wrong to try to prop up the yen

It is easy for investors to lose a fortune in the financial markets—and even easier for governments. In 2022 Japan spent more than $60bn of its foreign-exchange reserves defending the yen, its first intervention to strengthen the currency since 1998, after the exchange rate fell to nearly ¥146 to the dollar. And for what? Today the yen is weaker still. Yet instead of learning that fighting the market is futile, policymakers are repeating the mistake. After falling to ¥160 to the dollar on April 29th, its lowest in 34 years, the currency twice moved sharply upwards in the subsequent days. It seems the government is buying again, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars.The yen has been falling primarily because of simple economic logic. The gap in interest rates between Japan and America is yawning. Although the Bank of Japan raised rates in March, it did so by only a smidgen: they increased from between minus 0.1% and zero to between zero and 0.1%. Rates in booming America, by contrast, are more than five percentage points higher. Investors expect the gap to shrink a little over time, but not by much. As a result, a ten-year Japanese government bond yields just 0.9%, compared with 4.6% for an American Treasury of the same maturity.

The gulf exists because of differences in the outlook for inflation. It is still unclear just how emphatically Japan has broken out of the low-inflation—and at times deflationary—trap in which it has been stuck since asset prices collapsed in the 1990s. Although headline annual inflation has been above the central bank's 2% target for nearly two years, there are signs that price rises have been slowing. Rightly, rate-setters at the Bank of Japan seem more concerned with hitting their inflation target than with using monetary policy to support the yen. All told, therefore, the country's interest-rate outlook is diverging from America's, where there are growing worries that inflation is not falling as it should and that the Federal Reserve will, as a result, not cut interest rates any time soon.Given that Japan has an open capital account, an inevitable side-effect of its low relative interest rates is a weak currency. Higher rates abroad make profitable a "carry trade", whereby investors borrow in yen and invest in dollars; that weakens the yen and strengthens the greenback. In theory, the yen must depreciate until its cheapness—and hence the higher likelihood of a rebound in future—means this trade is no longer expected to yield profits. Currencies can overshoot the fundamentals, but it is difficult to tell when they have, and harder still to calibrate an appropriate response. The thresholds at which the Japanese government has chosen to intervene are arbitrary. It says that volatility in the currency has been excessive, but its opaque criteria for selling reserves may well have made that problem worse.

After the last intervention, economic logic was temporarily obscured by good luck. Towards the end of 2022 America's bond yields fell, allowing the yen to strengthen in the months that followed the intervention, before its slide resumed the next year. There is no guarantee that this pattern will be repeated. Instead, resisting the adjustment is likely to create opportunities for speculators, who will gladly treat the government as dumb money. After the apparent interventions, the exchange rate quickly began drifting back towards its previous level.The Japanese government's urge to intervene is driven by a combination of political calculation and national pride. A cheaper yen makes imports, most notably of energy, more expensive, which is painful for voters. There is no doubting Japan's firepower: at last count, it had almost $1.3trn of foreign exchange reserves to run down. But it is a waste to spend them doing battle with currency traders who—thanks to the choices of Japan's own policymakers not to follow the Fed—have good reasons to be selling yen and buying dollars.

The promise, and the fallibility, of forensics

On March 20, Anokhilal walked out of an Indore jail as a free man, having spent almost 11 years on death row. He was convicted and sentenced to death twice for the same offence — the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl — before being exonerated by the Khandwa Sessions Court (Madhya Pradesh) in the third trial. After the completion of the first trial within 13 days, his case was remanded for retrial twice, by the Supreme Court in 2019 and thereafter, by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2023. The very deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA, or a person's genetic signature) evidence used to find him guilty twice ultimately turned out to be his saviour. Anokhilal's tragic journey speaks to the urgent need to subject forensic evidence to more critical scrutiny in individual cases.

Forensics as a field comprises different disciplines, but not all of them meet the requisite thresholds of accuracy and precision to qualify as a "science". Empirical studies have shown that the long-standing pattern of matching forensic evidence like fingerprints, ballistics, and bite mark evidence are incapable of unique identification, and are highly prone to error and bias. In contrast, forensic applications of scientific disciplines like DNA profiling, toxicology, chemical analysis and digital forensics which are backed by rigorous research, do not present similar concerns with their foundational validity.DNA profiling offers unparalleled individualisation and incorporates checks for greater objectivity and verification of results. However, it has inherent limitations and is susceptible to error. DNA profiling cannot determine how and when the DNA was deposited. DNA is highly susceptible to contamination and may be deposited on an item either through direct contact or indirect transfer. DNA mixtures (i.e. samples with DNA from more than one individual), common in criminal cases, are more difficult to analyse than single-source DNA profiles. Various factors affect the complexity of DNA mixtures, and the more complex a DNA mixture, the greater the uncertainty surrounding its interpretation. Errors can occur at all stages of DNA profiling, therefore rigorous compliance with validated protocols is essential.Anokhilal's case underscores the problems with blind acceptance of DNA evidence. It was not until the third trial that the DNA expert was examined as a witness after obtaining the underlying laboratory documentation. It took repeated attempts to ensure proper appreciation of a main piece of evidence — a basic tenet in any criminal trial. While the science behind DNA profiling is foundationally valid, it does not mean that its practice in every case, by every "expert", in every laboratory will be correct.In this case, the DNA report concluded that the unknown hair strands found in the deceased's fist, the DNA on her fingernails, and the DNA from one of the unknown stains on her pyjama, belonged to Anokhilal. The report also concluded that the deceased's DNA was

present in the DNA mixture on Anokhilal's underwear. Based on these findings of the DNA report along with the circumstantial evidence that the deceased was last seen alive in Anokhi's company before her body was found 36 hours later, the court concluded he was guilty.After a detailed cross-examination of the DNA expert in the third trial, it emerged that, firstly, the male DNA found in the vaginal and anal samples excluded Anokhilal as the source of the DNA. Secondly, there were discrepancies between the composition of the DNA detected in the samples and what was stated in the DNA report. Thirdly, the court recognised the possibility of tampering due to serious gaps in the collection and storage of samples in police custody and while they were at the lab. The chain of custody concerns with the unknown hair strands seized from the fist of the deceased were most significant. The prosecution claimed that these hair strands belonged to Anokhilal but the sample was never sealed or deposited in the police malkhana (evidence room) and the quantity and description of the hair strands received for DNA examination were different from the one that was seized initially.

This case presents an important lesson for our criminal justice system — forensic science is a realm where the line between truth and error can be perilously thin. If the gold standard of forensic science, DNA profiling, is prone to faulty application,

View from the Himalayas | Why Nepal's new currency note has reignited discourse over border disputes

A raft of positive developments has recently bolstered bilateral ties between Nepal and India. However, despite much progress in bilateral relations, the Kalapani border dispute remains a thorny issue. This dispute was brought into the spotlight recently after the Nepal government announced last week that the new 100-rupee note would bear a map which includes the disputed border territory in its strategic northwest trijunction between the two countries and China. The currency note also shows the controversial territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, which Nepal has long claimed as its territories that were illegitimately occupied by India after the 1962 border war with China.

New Delhi, meanwhile, has taken exception to Nepal's decision. Responding to the Pushpa Kamal Dahal government's move last week, external affairs minister S Jaishankar reiterated the Indian position on the Kalapani border issue, saying, "...they unilaterally took some measures on their side. But by doing something on their side, they are not going to change the situation between us or the reality on the ground."The origins of the Kalapani dispute

The dispute over the Kalapani area, however, is not a recent one. It has a long and complicated history. The key disagreement between the two sides is the headwaters of the Kali River. The dominant political view in Nepal is that the river, which flows to the west of the disputed region, is the main Kali River, and because the Kali or Mahakali forms the demarcation line between the countries, the territory east of the river belongs to Nepal. New Delhi, meanwhile, holds that the Kali originates from a smaller rivulet, Pankhagad, on the southern part of the disputed region and that the ridge on the eastern part of the area is the border. According to this school of thought, this makes the disputed territory India's.The dispute originates in the eighteenth century, when the then Gorkha Kingdom expanded aggressively both to the east and the west, particularly under its King Prithvi Narayan Shah. At its height, the Gorkha empire (the current-day Nepal) extended up to the Teesta River in the east (which includes current-day Sikkim and Darjeeling) and in the west to Kumaon and Garhwal. However, after the war between the Kingdom of Nepal and the British forces of the East India Company, Nepal ceded vast swathes of its territory. The Gorkha War, or the Anglo-Nepalese War ended with the signing of the Sugauli Treaty in 1816. To the west, the Mahakali River was designated as the line of border demarcation with India and to the east, it was the Mechi River.

In an explainer by the Observer Research Foundation published in May last year, Sohini Nayak suggests that Kalapani was regarded as a "safe zone" for Indian troops to be stationed, as its high altitude of 20,276 feet was "effective defence against the Chinese" and China recognised Kalapani as India's during the 1962 war between the two countries. Nepal, however, had conducted elections in the area in 1959 and collected land revenue from its residents, until 1961, the article adds. Hence, the contradictory readings of Kalapani.

Analysts in Kathmandu say that after India's defeat in the border war with China in 1962, King Mahendra allowed India to establish a 'check post' in Kalapani. In an article for the People's Review Shahi Malla argues, "Subsequent Nepalese governments failed to request India to vacate the check post, nor did they undertake any action to again take physical control of the area." Thus, India came to consider Kalapani its own and continued its presence there. Its location had obvious geostrategic implications because of its proximity to the sensitive Indo-Chinese border.

New currency note fuels political rumours in NepalThe current development comes on the heels of the government reshuffle in Kathmandu, on the one hand, and, on the other, at a time of general elections in India where Prime Minister Modi seeks a third term. In early March, Maoist Prime Minister Dahal evicted the centrist Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, from his government, replacing it with a fellow communist party, the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist, or the CPN-UML, the second-largest party. CPN-UML last week won both seats up for grabs in parliamentary by-elections.To put things in context, the new political map has enjoyed broad support in Nepal. In June 2020, after the map was released showing the disputed territories, it was endorsed by an overwhelming majority in Parliament: the constitutional amendment bill redrawing the national boundary received 258 votes in the 275-member lower house. And no one voted against the bill.From Jaishankar's comments, it isn't immediately clear whether the term "unilaterally" refers to the Nepali Parliament's 2020 move, the latest one by the Dahal government, or both. The amendment bill in 2020 was tabled by the government of Khadga Prasad Oli, the current chairman of the CPN-UML, the Maoist party's largest coalition partner.The current turn of events has fuelled a new round of political rumours and speculations in Kathmandu that a new kind of ruling coalition is just around the corner: First, the NC is set to rejoin the Dahal government, replacing CPN-UML and restoring the status quo ante; second, the NC and CPN-UML, two largest parties, will join hands for long-term political stability until the next election in three and a half years, instead of allowing PM Dahal, with a much smaller Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), to overplay his political card. Many also believe that "external players" are again very active in the powerplay, with the Chinese side rooting for the continuity of the Maoist-UML combine, while New Delhi is hard-pressed to see the Nepali Congress make a comeback in the government.Nepal government's release of the new political map in 2020 led analysts to observe that it marked the beginning of a "cartographic war" between the two sides. Unfortunately, their analysis has stood the test of time: Kalapani continues to stick out like a thorn in Nepal-India ties.Akhilesh Upadhyay is former Editor-in-Chief of The Kathmandu Post and a Senior Fellow at IIDS, a Kathmandu-based think tank. Views expressed are personal.

Stanford AI leader Fei-Fei Li building 'spatial intelligence' startup

Prominent computer scientist Fei-Fei Li is building a startup that uses human-like processing of visual data to make artificial intelligence (AI) capable of advanced reasoning, six sources told Reuters, in what would be a leap forward for the technology.Li, considered a pioneer in the AI field, raised money for the company in a recent seed funding round. Investors included Silicon Valley venture firm Andreessen Horowitz, three of the sources said, and Radical Ventures, a Canadian firm she joined as a scientific partner last year, according to two others.

Spokespeople for Andreessen Horowitz and Radical Ventures declined to comment. Li did not respond to requests for comment.Li is widely known as the "godmother of AI," a title derived from the "godfathers" moniker often used to refer to a trio of researchers who won the computing world's top prize, the Turing Award, in 2018 for their breakthroughs in AI technology.

In describing the startup, one source pointed to a talk Li gave at the TED conference in Vancouver last month, in which she said the cutting edge of research involved algorithms that could plausibly extrapolate what images and text would look like in three-dimensional environments and act upon those predictions, using a concept called "spatial intelligence."

To illustrate the idea, she showed a picture of a cat with its paw outstretched, pushing a glass toward the edge of a table. In a split second, she said, the human brain could assess "the geometry of this glass, its place in 3D space, its relationship with the table, the cat and everything else," then predict what would happen and take action to prevent it."Nature has created this virtuous cycle of seeing and doing, powered by spatial intelligence," she said.Her own lab at Stanford University was trying to teach computers "how to act in the 3D world," she added, for example by using a large language model to get a robotic arm to perform tasks like opening a door and making a sandwich in response to verbal instructions.Li made her name in the AI field by developing a large-scale image dataset called ImageNet that helped usher in a generation of computer vision technologies that could identify objects reliably for the first time.

She co-directs Stanford's Human-Centered AI Institute, which focuses on developing AI technology in ways that "improve the human condition." In addition to her academic work, Li led AI at Google Cloud from 2017 to 2018, served on Twitter's board of directors and has done stints advising policymakers, including at the White House.Li has lamented a funding gap on AI research between a well-resourced private sector on one side and academics and government labs on the other, calling for a "moonshot mentality" from the U.S. government to invest in scientific applications of the technology and research into its risks.Her Stanford profile says she is on partial leave from the beginning of 2024 to the end of 2025. Among the research interests listed on her profile are "cognitively inspired AI," computer vision and robotic learning.