

Decoding The Hindu Article

Race finds bulk of feathered friends in water

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A unique bird race organised near the waterbodies and at wetlands, grasslands, forest, hills and scrub habitats around Jaipur recently has found **preponderance** of water-centric bird species in the vicinity of the Rajasthan capital. The comprehensive bird species spotting was the first activity of its kind undertaken in Jaipur.

The bird race coincided with the 25th **Indian Birding Fair**, as part of which five teams having four members each were constituted and were provided with open

jeeps to visit different habitats for three hours in the morning. The birding fair's **organiser, Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI)**, was entrusted to execute the activity.

All **avian** data was analysed and habitat-wise quantification was carried out. TWSI secretary Harsh Vardhan said here on Friday that about 20 members of the teams spent 15 hours and totalled 151 bird species within 250 sq. km area around Jaipur. The team members went to places like Nevta dam, Chandlai lake and Jhalana leopard reserve.

The maximum species and their numbers detected during the activity were water-centric. They included the birds such as shoveler, bar-headed goose, spot-bill duck, little grebe, coot, Indian cormorant, black-winged stilt and great white pelican.

Surprisingly, all bird-watchers could score only 158 house sparrows. Mr. Vardhan said the figures indicated the decline of house sparrows and the need to start their breeding through nest boxes at homes. TWSI president Anand Mishra has offered to supply 5,500 such

boxes at the citizens' premises in the city.

The least numbers happened to be of the bird species like Indian nightjar, Eurasian wryneck, pipit, prinia, warbler, purple heron, spoonbill and chestnut-bellied sandgrouse.

The observations were quantified and the top bird-watchers were selected. **United Nations Environment Programme's former Executive Director Erik Solheim** gave away prizes.

Mr. Solheim released a book titled "Green Living Example", authored by Mr. Mishra, on the occasion.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Preponderance	(Noun): the quality or fact of being greater in number, quantity, or importance.	□□□□□□□□
Avian	(Adjective): relating to birds.	□□□□□

Static

The TWSI (Tourism & Wildlife Society of India) is a registered charity in India that attempts to generate appreciation and delight in the natural world, its wild species and habitats, making people better aware of what they ought to do to conserve natural resources. It is administered by elected members of its executive committee.

The United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system. It was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in June 1972.

Headquarters location: Nairobi, Kenya

Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya

Head: Inger Andersen

Grammar

A modal verb is a kind of an auxiliary verb. It assists the main verb to indicate modality – that is: likelihood, ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestions, order, obligation, or advice.

The modal verbs are can, could, must, may, might, ought to, shall, should, will, would.

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Decoding The Hindu Article

e-DAR portal to speed up accident compensation claims

It will be linked to other databases for instant information

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A web portal designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.

The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has developed the portal named 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report). Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded on the portal for easy access.

The web portal will be linked to the **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)**. From iRAD, applications to more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR. Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal informa-

tion for the e-DAR forms. Thus, e-DAR would be an extension and e-version of iRAD.

An apex court Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul expressed satisfaction after technicians demonstrated the working of the portal to the court and amicus curiae, advocate N. Vijayaraghavan and advocate Vipin Nair.

The court, in its detailed order, recorded that e-DAR portal would conduct multiple checks against fake claims by conducting a sweeping search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the First Information Report number.

The portal would be linked to other government portals like Vaahan and would get access to information on driving licence details and registration of vehicles.

For the benefit of investi-

gating officers, the portal would provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot along with the site map. This would notify the investigating officer on his distance from the spot of the incident in the event the portal is accessed from any other location.

Details like photos, video of the accident spot, damaged vehicles, injured victims, eye-witnesses, etc., would be uploaded immediately on the portal.

"Apart from the state police, an engineer from the Public Works Department or the local body will receive an alert on his mobile device and the official concerned will then visit the accident site, to examine it, and feed the required details, such as the road design. Hotspots for accidents would also be identified so as to obtain solutions to avoid accidents at these hotspots," the apex court's order noted.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Surge	(Noun): a sudden powerful forward or upward movement, especially by a crowd or by a natural force such as the tide.	लहर
Manifold	(Adjective): having many different forms or elements.	विविध

Static News

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is a ministry of the Government of India, that is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to road transport, transport research and in also to increase the mobility and efficiency of the road transport system in India.

Founded: July 1942

Annual budget: ₹91,823 crore (US\$12 billion) (2020-21 est.)

Officeholders: Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister), Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State)

The Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) Project is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India and is funded by World Bank, with objective to improve road safety in the country.

Grammar

A linking verb doesn't always act like a linking verb. Well, that's because a word like "is" can also play an auxiliary or helping role in a sentence.

For example, in the sentence, Malcom is drawing a picture, the word "is" isn't a linking verb. It's a helping verb. It's there to "help" the main verb in the sentence (drawing)

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Decoding The Hindu Article

India gets S-400 training equipment

Second regiment from Russia likely to see some delay due to Ukraine war

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

There is a delay in the delivery of the second regiment of S-400 from Russia due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, some training equipment and simulators arrived in India, official sources confirmed.

“Simulators and training equipment have arrived. The second operational unit is likely to be delayed by a few months,” a defence source said and this was confirmed by another official.

Last December, India took delivery of the first S-400 regiment, five of which were contracted from Russia under a \$5.43 billion deal signed in October 2018. The first unit has been deployed



Full unit: An S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile system at Kaliningrad in Russia. •FILE PHOTO

in Punjab and is operational, officials have confirmed.

With the threat of U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions

Act), New Delhi and Moscow had worked out payments through rupee-rouble exchange for this deal.

The two sides are now exploring the same payment

route for larger bilateral trade.

The Defence Ministry and Services have carried out assessments and are closely monitoring the impact of sanctions can have on timely deliveries and supplies from Russia. Officials had expressed concern that there could be some shipping delays given the prevailing situation. China too possesses the S-400 Triumph long-range air defence system, currently being inducted by India. Earlier, an Indian Air Force representative had told the parliamentary standing committee on defence that “direct tactical planning” would be a key requirement for India in countering Chinese forces.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Grappled	(Verb): struggle to deal with or overcome (a difficulty or challenge).	□□□□□□ □□□□□□

Static News

The S-400 Triumpf, previously known as the S-300 PMU-3, is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering as an upgrade to the S-300 family.
 Manufacturer: Fakel Machine-Building Design Bureau

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia. The bill was passed by the Senate on 27 July 2017, 98–2, after it passed the House 419–3

Grammar

All English verbs are either regular or irregular, depending on how they are conjugated (It means to give the different forms of (a verb in an inflected language such as Latin) as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person.). The majority are regular verbs, which means that “-d” or “-ed” is added to their base form (the infinitive of the verb without to) to create both the past simple tense and past participle.

		
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Tatas rejig Air India board, appoint top-level executives

Chairman Chandrasekaran to oversee airline for now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tata Sons on Friday reshuffled Air India's board and made new appointments to top management roles.

Senior airline officials, who held board positions, have stepped down and will assume management roles.

Air India's Director-Finance Vinod Hejmadi has been redesignated as Chief Financial Officer, Director-Commercial Meenakshi Malik will be an Adviser to CEO for Commercial and Technology, Director-HR Amrita Sharan will serve as Adviser to CEO for HR and Capt. R. S. Sandhu, who was Director-Operations, will be designat-



ed as Chief of Operations.

Tata Sons also named a Senior VP at the group's holding company Nipun Aggarwal as Chief Commercial Officer and Accountable Manager, former Tata Steel VP HR Suresh Dutt Tripathi as Chief Human Resources Officer, Tata Digital's Satya

Ramaswamy as Chief Digital and Technology Officer and Rajesh Dogra of TCS as Head of Customer Experience and Ground Handling.

Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran also wrote to the airline's employees informing them that the two newly appointed advisers to the CEO would report to him until a new CEO was appointed.

Former Turkish Airlines Chairman Ilker Ayci last month declined Tata Sons' offer to head Air India as its Chief Executive Officer following questions over his political links. His decision had left the top executive post at the airline vacant.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Expeditious	(Adjective): done with speed and efficiency.	□□□□

Static News

Tata Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Mumbai, India. It is one of the largest and most highly profitable companies of India. Established in 1868, it is India's largest conglomerate, with products and services in over 150 countries, and operations in 100 countries across six continents.

Owner: Tata Sons

Founder: Jamsetji Tata

Founded: 1868, Mumbai

Revenue: 10,300 crores USD (2021)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Subsidiaries: Tata Motors, Tata Steel Ltd, MORE

Grammar

Forming the past simple tense of regular verbs is mostly straightforward, and you use the same form for the first, second, and third persons, singular and plural:

- ☐ If the basic form of the verb ends in a consonant or a vowel other than e, add the letters -ed to the end (e.g. seem/seemed, laugh/laughed, look/looked).
- ☐ For verbs that end in -e, add -d (e.g. love/loved, recede/receded, hope/hoped).
- ☐ If the verb ends in a consonant plus -y, change the y to an i before adding -ed (e.g. hurry/hurried, clarify/clarified). But if the verb ends in a vowel plus -y, just add -ed (e.g. play/played, enjoy/enjoyed).



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RBI to 'focus' on inflation, lifts estimates

Central bank holds interest rates, lowers GDP growth forecast as war clouds India's economic outlook

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday raised its estimate for inflation in FY23 to 5.7%, from the 4.5% forecast in February before Russia invaded Ukraine, and stressed that it would now turn its focus to the "withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward".

"In the sequence of priority we have now put inflation before growth," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said at a press conference after announcing the MPC's decision to hold interest rates at its first policy review of the new fiscal year. "For the last three years growth was ahead of inflation in sequence. This time we have reversed it be-



On guard: The stance continues to be accommodative but RBI is focussing on withdrawal of accommodation, says Das. •PTI

cause we thought the time is appropriate," he added.

The RBI has also started withdrawing some of the accommodation it had provided in the last two years, though gradually.

"The stance continues to

be accommodative but we are now focussing on withdrawal of accommodation. So, gradually we are moving away from an 'accommodative' stance which has been there for more than two years," Mr. Das stressed.

Elaborating on the change in tack, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said, "We have taken the policy repo rate to an all-time low which is 4%. If you adjust it with the targeted inflation then the real rate is zero. That was ultra accommodation. The situation is changing and now we want to withdraw the ultra accommodation but there is scope to remain accommodative."

'War-induced factors'

Mr. Das said the MPC had decided to revise the inflation projections for FY23 upwards with the estimate for Q1 at 6.3%; Q2 at 5.8%; Q3 at 5.4%; and Q4 at 5.1% due to "war-induced factors".

He pointed to the sharp increase in crude oil, edible

oil and wheat prices, and the cost of feed – which has pushed prices of poultry, egg and dairy products – as reason for the higher estimates.

Earlier, the MPC voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%.

Mr. Das said escalating geopolitical tensions had cast a shadow on India's economic outlook. As a result, real GDP growth for FY23 has been projected at 7.2%, compared with 7.8% estimated earlier.

Asked about the likely impact of any economic fallout due to India's ongoing trade with Russia, which is facing sanctions from western nations, Mr. Das said, "The government is seized of the issue... as far as RBI is concerned, we will not do anything that goes against the sanctions."

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Fallout	(Noun): the adverse results of a situation or action.	□□□□

Static News

Shaktikanta Das is a retired 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre. Currently serving as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India, he was earlier a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20

Michael Debabrata Patra is an Indian economist and central banker. A career Reserve Bank of India officer, he is currently serving as one its four deputy governors

Grammar

If a subject and the verb are joined by a relative pronoun, the verb used will agree with the antecedent to the relative pronoun.

EXAMPLES:

☑ She is one of the noblest women that has ever lived on this earth. (That is a relative pronoun whose antecedent is "women" and hence, here we use 'have' in place of 'has')

☑ I am not one of those who will trust everyone whom I meet. (who is a relative pronoun, so here we use 'they meet' in place of 'I meet')



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Woods launches unlikely Masters quest with one-under

South Korean Im Sung-jae tops the leaderboard after the first round

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
AUGUSTA

Tiger Woods called on all of his hard-won stamina and the knowledge **gleaned** in five past triumphs to launch his boldest Masters bid yet with a one-under-par 71 at Augusta National on Thursday.

The 46-year-old superstar, whose February 2021 car crash left him with injuries so severe he feared he might lose his right leg, said just being able to play his first competitive round in 17 months was a victory.

But it might not be the only one he celebrates this week.

"I was able to finish up in the red," Woods said. "I'm right where I need to be."

Woods was tied for 10th, four shots behind South Korean Im Sung-jae, who

launched his round with three straight birdies and finished with five birdies and an eagle in his five-under 67.

Australian Cameron Smith, like Im chasing a first major title, was a stroke back after a 68 that was all the more remarkable considering it was bookended by double bogeys at the first and 18th holes.

Woods had indicated as recently as February that he was unlikely to be ready to tee it up in the first major of the year, and said all week that his biggest challenge would be negotiating the hilly, 7,510-yard Augusta National course on his surgically repaired right leg.

"It did not get easier, let's put it that way," he said after a round in **blustery** winds that lasted nearly five and a

half hours. "I can swing a golf club. The walking's not easy.

"With all the hard work, my leg, it's going to be difficult for the rest of my life."

Meanwhile, first round leader Im – who finished tied for second on his Masters debut in 2020 – powered up the leaderboard with a trio of birdies on his first three holes.

While excited by his first round performance, Im cautioned that he would remain "humble."

Top scores: Im Sung-Jae (67); Cameron Smith (68); Dustin Johnson, Scottie Scheffler, Danny Willett and Joaquin Niemann (all 69); Corey Conners, Jason Kokrak and Patrick Cantlay (all 70); Matthew Fitzpatrick, Tiger Woods, Kevin Na, Webb Simpson, Tony Finau, Harold Varner III, Daniel Berger, Will Zalatoris and Harry Higgs (all 71).



'Not easy': Woods, who was tied 10th, said the challenge would be negotiating the course with his surgically repaired leg. •AFP

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Gleaned	(Verb): obtain (information) from various sources, often with difficulty.	चमका हुआ
Blustery	(Adjective): (of weather) characterized by strong winds.	धमकी से

Static News

Eldrick Tont "Tiger" Woods is an American professional golfer. He is tied for first in PGA Tour wins, ranks second in men's major championships, and holds numerous golf records. Woods is widely regarded as one of the greatest golfers of all time and one of the most famous athletes in modern history.

Im Sung-jae, also known as Sungjae Im, is a South Korean professional golfer. Im won twice and was Player of the Year on the 2018 Web.com Tour. He was Rookie of the Year for the 2018–19 PGA Tour, and got his first PGA Tour victory at The Honda Classic in March 2020

Grammar

If a sentence states an imaginary position, it starts with if, as if, as though, suppose, I wish, in case, would that etc. In such sentences 'were' is used as the verb irrespective of the number of the subject.

EXAMPLES:

- ☐ I wish, I were bird.
- ☐ If he were rich, he would help others.

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