

Decoding The Hindu Article

EU slaps anti-trust charge against Apple

The tech firm is accused of blocking rivals from its iPhone payment system

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

The EU accused Apple on Monday of blocking rivals from its popular "tap-as-you-go" iPhone payment system, opening a fresh battleground between the U.S. tech giant and Brussels.

"The preliminary conclusion that we reached today relates to mobile payments in shops, by excluding others from the game," said Margrethe Vestager, the EU's anti-trust chief.

"Apple has unfairly shielded its Apple Pay wallets from competition. If proven this

behaviour would amount to abuse of a dominant position, which is illegal under our rules," Ms. Vestager told reporters.

The European Commission, the bloc's competition watchdog, specifically charged the iPhone maker with preventing competitors trying to enter the contactless market "from accessing the necessary hardware and software... to the benefit of its own solution, Apple Pay".

The accusation is the latest salvo against U.S. tech giants by EU regulators, who have also taken aim at Ap-



Margrethe Vestager

ple's music streaming and e-book businesses.

The company is also a main target of the Digital Markets Act, a landmark EU law that will prohibit Apple and other US tech giants from privileging their own

services in its products and platforms.

The EU's outline of the case came after the commission launched an investigation in 2020 that was fuelled by complaints from European banks that resist paying a fee to Apple in order to reach their customers via apps.

The battle comes as tech giants eye personal finance as a new moneymaker, with Google, Amazon and Facebook owner Meta also seeking ways to replace credit cards or the need of carrying a wallet.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Steep	(Adjective): (of a price or demand) not reasonable; excessive.	अनुचित

Static News

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The union has a total area of 4,233,255.3 km² and an estimated total population of about 447 million.

Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands

Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Meta Platforms, Inc., doing business as Meta and formerly known as Facebook, Inc., and TheFacebook, Inc., is an American multinational technology conglomerate based in Menlo Park, California. The company is the parent organization of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, among other subsidiaries.

Grammar

News, innings, politics, summons, physics, economics, ethics, mathematics, mumps, measles, rickets, shingles, billiards, athletics are certain nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning. They take singular verb.

Example: No news is good news.

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Yellow Represents the Static News

Red Represents the Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

'Govt. must cut duty on fuel if oil price stays above \$100'

CII president urges 'efficient welfarism', flags inflation

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The government should consider offering relief to Indian consumers by paring excise duties on petroleum products, if global crude oil prices remain above \$100 a barrel, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president T.V. Narendran said on Monday.

Mooting a mix of 'some efficient welfarism with appropriate policy action to control inflation', Mr. Narendran indicated it was essential to sustain consumption.

"While most sectors have recovered to pre-pandemic activity levels, the recovery in consumption had been a bit fragile and demand is



T.V. Narendran

starting to strengthen now," he said in an interview.

"If oil prices stay above \$100, then if there is something that can be done on excise duties, etc. to reduce the pressure on the common man... that's something to be considered along with

checking if there is some room between the refiners' margin and the retail margins," he suggested. The CII is also mooting a simplification of the Goods and Services Tax regime with fewer rates and resolution of anomalies in norms relating to taxes deducted at source and tax collected at source to spur the economy amid the heightened uncertainty caused by the war in Europe and surging input costs.

"To be fair to the RBI, it has been very prudent so far and too much inflation is also not good for economic activity," he said, adding that the government must persist with its infrastructure spending focus.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Denude	(Verb): strip (something) of its covering, possessions, or assets.	उघाड़ना
Abets	(Verb): encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong, in particular to commit a crime.	शह मिलती है
Preclude	(verb): prevent from happening; make impossible.	रोकना

Static News

The Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in New Delhi, India, founded in 1895. CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organisation.

President: T. V. Narendran

Members: Direct 9,000+; Indirect 3,00,000

Director General: Chandrajit Banerjee

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Grammar

A descriptive adjective is a word which describes nouns and pronouns. Most of the adjectives belong in this type. These adjectives provide information and attribute to the nouns/pronouns they modify or describe. Descriptive adjectives are also called qualitative adjectives.

The descriptive adjectives can be simply defined as the type of adjectives that are used to express the size, color, or shape of a person, a thing, an animal, or a place. They are used to provide more information to a noun by describing or modifying it.

Decoding The Hindu Article

India's Russian oil imports in 2 months exceed twice 2021 total

40 mn barrels bought since Feb. 24 versus 16 mn in 2021

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India has bought more than twice as much crude oil from Russia in the two months since its invasion of Ukraine as it did in the whole of 2021, according to Reuters calculations, as Indian refiners snapped up discounted oil that others have **shunned**.

Refiners in India have placed orders for at least 40 million barrels of Russian oil since the invasion on February 24, Reuters calculations based on information from crude tenders and traders show. The purchases are for loading in the June quarter.

That compares with total imports of Russian oil into



India of 16 million barrels in the whole of last year, according to Reuters calculations. India ships in more than 85% of its crude oil needs of 5 million barrels per day. Its refiners are buying cheaper Russian oil to partly offset the impact of higher official selling prices of producers like Saudi Ara-

bia, company sources said.

According to Reuters calculations, purchases of Russian barrels by private refiners outstrip imports by state refiners IOC, HPCL and BPCL. Reliance has bought at least 15 million barrel of Russian oil so far for the June quarter, trade sources said last week.

Nayara Energy, part owned by Russia's Rosneft, has purchased 8-9 million barrels of Russian crude for loading in April-May, trade sources said. Analysts said India's Russian oil imports may taper off as a full-scale implementation of the European and U.S. sanctions from mid-May and late June might hit logistics.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Flutter	(Noun): a small bet.	स्पर्दन
Shunned	(Adjective): persistently avoided, ignored, or rejected.	त्याग

Static News

Nayara Energy Limited is a privately-held downstream oil company based in Mumbai, India, that encompasses refining, marketing, production and a network of over 6,000+ retail fuel outlets in India. It operates India's second-largest oil refinery in Vadinar, Gujarat. Wikipedia

Owners: Rosneft (49.13%) Trafigura Group and United Capital Partners (49.13%)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Revenue: 87,371 crores INR (US\$11.93 billion, 2020)

Founded: 1989

Grammar

Predicative adjectives go after the verb, in the second position. They often function as the object of the verb. Since the verb and the object are the predicate of the sentence, we use the term "predicative."

They are describing the subject of the sentence. These adjectives are essential information in the sentence - in fact, the goal of sentences is usually to share this information.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Improved GSLV to be ready by this year

Modifications have been made to its cryogenic upper stage as per panel's recommendations

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with improvements added to its cryogenic upper stage (CUS) is expected to be ready in the second half of this year.

A high-level panel which examined last year's failed GSLV-F10/EOS-03 mission had recommended measures for making the CUS more robust. Indian Space Research Organisation's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is tasked with making the required modifications to the cryogenic engine-powered upper stage of the GSLV Mk II rocket.

A senior official of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre



Fixed up: The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle failed to inject into the orbit on August 12, 2021. • FILE PHOTO

(VSSC), ISRO's lead unit on launch vehicles, says the next GSLV flight will be held once the modifications are incorporated.

The GSLV-F10 mission on August 12, 2021 was designed to place the earth observa-

tion satellite EOS-03 in a geosynchronous transfer orbit, but the upper stage of the rocket malfunctioned, forcing the space agency to abort the mission. A national-level Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) later concluded that a

leak in a Vent and Relief Valve (VRV) had led to a lower build-up of pressure in the Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellant tank, leading to a failed mission.

To avoid leaks

Modifications planned include a mechanism to ensure sufficient pressure in the tank before the engine burns and strengthening of the VRV to avoid leaks.

On Thursday, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that computer simulations as well as multiple ground tests, "closely simulating the conditions in the GSLV-F10 flight, had validated the ana-

lysis of the FAC." He points out that the satellite for the next GSLV mission is expected to be ready for launch in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the mission failure is not likely to delay "related projects".

The FAC, whose report was published in March, points to a leak in the VRV as the underlying reason for the failure. Pressure build-up in the liquid hydrogen (LH2) propellant tank was low when the upper stage engine was to ignite. This caused the fuel booster turbo pump inside the LH2 tank, which feeds the main turbo pump of the engine to malfunction, affecting the flow of propellant into the engine thrust chamber.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Robust	(Adjective): strong and healthy; vigorous.	मजबूत

Static News

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle is an expendable launch system operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation. GSLV was used in fourteen launches from 2001 to 2021, with more launches planned. Even though GSLV Mark III shares the name, it is an entirely different launch vehicle.

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), focusing on rocket and space vehicles for India's satellite programme. It is located in Thiruvananthapuram, in the Indian state of Kerala. The centre had its beginnings as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in 1962. It was renamed in honour of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, often regarded as the father of the Indian space program. H.G.S. Murthy was appointed as the first Director of Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station

Grammar

Conjunctive adverbs are parts of speech that are used to connect one clause to another. They are also used to show sequence, contrast, cause and effect, and other relationships. It provides transitions between ideas and shows relationships. Conjunctive adverbs are also called connectors.

Examples:

It rained last night. Nonetheless, the final match has not been canceled



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Tata Steel to stop Russia coal imports on supply uncertainty

'Supplies from U.S., other markets to make up for shortfall'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd., one of the major importers of Russian coal in recent months, has decided to stop procurement from the country citing 'uncertainties' over supplies following international sanctions imposed on it after Ukraine invasion.

"To ensure business continuity, we have sourced alternative supplies of raw materials, as transactions with Russian suppliers and bankers at present come with a lot of uncertainties as a result of international sanctions imposed on Russia," a Tata Steel spokesperson said in a statement.

Though companies from India were still procuring



crude oil and coal at discounted prices from Russia to meet their requirements, payments to Russian suppliers through the prevailing banking channels remained a concern owing to the economic sanctions.

Even though there has been no ban on coal imports from Russia, Tata Steel is believed to have taken the decision to sustain its operations

through reliable supplies from overseas at a time when shortage of coal is threatening to disrupt energy generation in India.

'Diversified supplies'

"We believe that impact will not be there as the company has a very diversified procurement mechanism with supplies coming from Mozambique to Australia," Kamlesh Bagmar, deputy head of research at Prabhudas Lilladher said.

"Increased supplies from U.S. and other markets are likely to make up for the shortfall, if any."

Tata Steel shares gained 1.84% to ₹1,295.10 apiece on the BSE on Monday when the Sensex slid 0.15%.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Clinched	(Verb): grapple at close quarters, especially (of boxers) so as to be too closely engaged for full-arm blows.	जीता

Static News

Who is the biggest export of coal?

Indonesia

Indonesia remained the world's largest exporter of coal (by weight) with total exports of 455 Mt in 2019. Australia ranked second, at 395 Mt, although it remains at the top of the league table ranked by energy and economic values. China was the largest importer of coal in 2019 at 308 Mt, followed by India at 249 Mt.

Grammar

Adverbs of frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. Adverbs of frequency can be split into two main groups. The first, adverbs of indefinite frequency, are terms that have an unclear meaning as to how long or how often something occurs: usually, always, normally. These adverbs will usually be placed after the main verb or between the auxiliary verb and infinitive.

Examples:

- ☐ The adverb is usually placed before the main verb.
- ☐ I can normally make the shot.
- ☐ I will always love



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India bests New Zealand



Breezing through: Ankita is all smiles after her victory over New Zealand's Hourigan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BILLIE JEAN CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Rutuja Bhosale and Ankita Raina won their singles matches as India beat New Zealand 2-1 in the round robin league of the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis tournament in Antalya, Turkey.

Rutuja handled a tricky tie-break in the second set to beat Valentina Ivanov in straight sets, while Ankita was more assertive in her 7-5, 6-3 victory over Paige Hourigan in the second singles.

It was the second victory for India after the one against Indonesia. India had earlier lost to Japan and China.

The top two teams qualify for the World Group play-off while the bottom two teams from the six-team competition would get relegated to group-2.

The results (league): India bt New Zealand 2-1 (Rutuja Bhosale bt Valentina Ivanov 6-1, 7-6(3); Ankita Raina bt Paige Hourigan 7-5, 6-3; Sowjanya Bavisetti & Riya Bhatia lost to Paige Hourigan & Erin Routliffe 2-6, 0-6).

Decoding The Hindu Article

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Enigma	(Noun): a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.	पहेली

Static News

Rutuja Sampatrao Bhosale is an Indian tennis player. She made her debut for the India Fed Cup team in 2012. In that year, she also achieved her highest junior ranking of world No. 55.

Born: 27 March 1996 (age 26 years), Shirampur.

Ankita Ravinderkrishan Raina is an Indian professional tennis player. She is the current Indian no. 1 in women's singles. Raina has won one title on the WTA Tour and one at WTA 125 tournaments, along with 11 singles and 20 doubles titles on the ITF Circuit.

Born: 11 January 1993 (age 29 years), Ahmedabad

Grammar

The complex houses married and single soldiers and their families.

Which Parts of speech does 'houses' in the above mentioned sentence belongs to?



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