

## International News

### 50 Afghan soldiers killed in border clashes: Pakistan

The Pakistani Army said on Sunday it had killed over 50 Afghan soldiers near the border between the two countries, as tensions between the two forces escalated after clashes earlier this week killed 10 Pakistani civilians.

Major General Nadeem Ahmed said more than 100 Afghan soldiers were also injured in the retaliatory attack by the army to the firing by Afghan forces on Friday in the Balochistan province.

Maj. Gen. Ahmed, however, told reporters he was “not happy” about the incident as “Afghans are Muslims, our brothers”.

Afghan and Pakistani security forces have been fighting since Friday when 10 Pakistani civilians were killed and more than 40 people, including women and children, were injured in firing by Afghan forces on Pakistani census workers and the troops escorting them at border villages in Balochistan.

## Tinge

**A trace of a colour.**

## Annals

**A record of event year by year.**

## Business News

### Where energy is waiting to be tapped

Viewed against the backdrop of the energy history of the country, the main-streaming of wind and solar has been rather sudden. Just three years ago, few would have thought of them as meaningful sources of energy. Today, they account for 7% of the country’s electricity production — small still, but firmly set to grow, by at least ten percentage points in the next five years.

Coal, on the other hand, while still being the dominant player, is on the back foot. Apart from being a source of pollution and global warming, it is also a water guzzler – in ten years, India’s coal-fired power plants will need 12,000 million litres each day, thrice as much as Mumbai consumes daily now. With these issues, there is little reason to believe in the fuel’s resurgence as a dominant force.

But solar is a daytime source, wind is seasonal, and both are on-off energy generators. Even with the advances in storage technology, these two sources cannot replace coal completely. It is unlikely that they have enough power to replace coal. If they can’t, what can?

## Prognosticate

**Forecast or predict from present indications.**

## Implore

**Beg someone earnestly or desperately.**

## State News

### Maintain vigil over mangroves: HC

The Bombay High Court recently directed the State Forest Department and the Thane Municipal Corporation to ensure boundaries demarcated for mangroves remain intact and there is constant flow of water to keep them from drying up. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing PILs on destruction of mangroves by unauthorised constructions. After several orders, the court was informed that substantial restoration of mangroves had been ensured by removal of illegal constructions. Obstructions and rerouting of water channels have been removed as well.

The court said the public should be alerted or cautioned by the concerned department of serious consequences to attempts to destroy mangroves.

## Voracious

**Engaging in a activity with great eagerness.**

## Automaton

**Self-operating machine.**