

The image is a collage of newspaper front pages from various countries, including India, the USA, and the UK. The word "Affairs" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center. The collage includes headlines such as "id': Trump lationship", "Lawlessness, disorder as protesters run riot", "THE REAL BAIT", "Trump trust on diversity", "भारत में देश का विकास", "भारत को दिखी 'महाशक्ति'", "दैनिक जागरण", "सीए पर यमुनाघाट में बढ़ी हिंसा, पांच की मौत", "THE HINDU", "Policeman among 5 killed in Delhi violence over CAA", "Donald Trump calls Modi a 'true friend', lavishes praise on PM", "The Indian EXPRESS", "Good Morning Indiamerica", and "\$3-bn deal with I most feared milit".



# जनसत्ता



# THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



2

**The Hindu**



2

**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



2

**The Indian  
Express**



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**Jansatta**



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Express**



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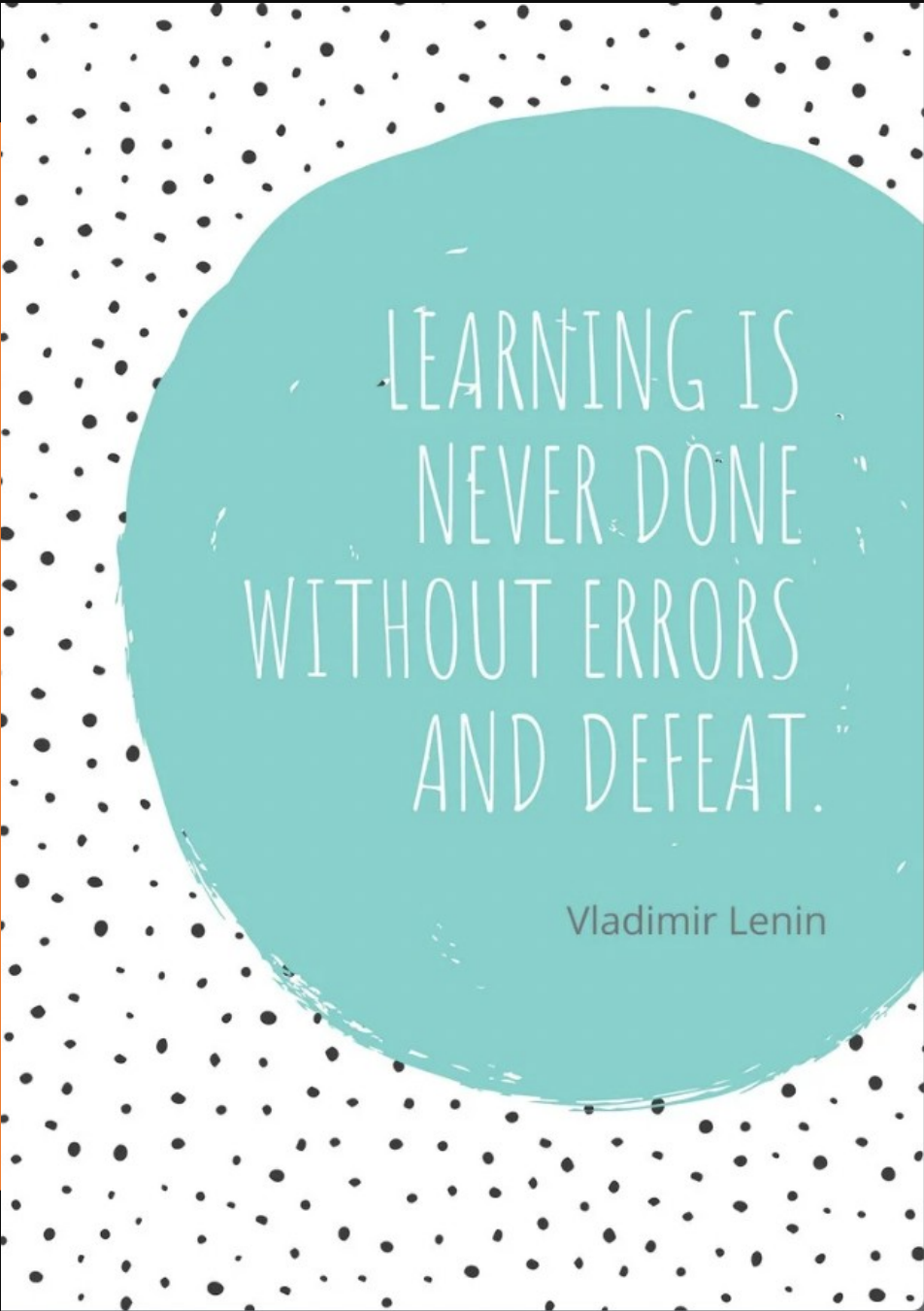


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# We Want to make your RAS jour



LEARNING IS  
NEVER DONE  
WITHOUT ERRORS  
AND DEFEAT.

Vladimir Lenin



■ The Supreme Court was hearing pleas against the special intensive revision of the voter list in Bihar ■ It says issue goes to very roots of democracy, and list of 11 documents for voter verification is not exhaustive ■ Court notes that the revision in Bihar appeared nebulous – neither ‘summary’ nor ‘special’



The Ministry of Defence has identified an Indian firm to establish a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 air defence system in the country.

India now has three S-400 missile systems. Officially named Sudarshan Chakra, the S-400 had played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards more than 15 Indian cities, in retaliation for Operation Sindoor launched by India in May.

A senior official in the Defence Ministry has confirmed that the plan to es-



**"Landmark move"**  
Another official who was aware of the development said that it is a landmark achievement under India-Russia military technical cooperation. "New India will be self-reliant in maintaining advance air defence systems and it aligns with the 'Make In India' initiative of the government. It will help to overcome challenges posed by international sanctions and supply chain disruption," the official said.

ror camps in Pakistan, in response to the attack on tourists in Pahalgal on April 22. On the intervening night of May 7-8, Pakistan attempted to engage Indian warplanes in the Indian airspace using drones and missiles in northern and western parts of the country. The target was the UAS Grid and Air Defence systems intercepted and neutralised the ballistic missiles and drones aimed at military installations. India had already received an order with Russia for five S-400 missile systems, and three have been delivered. Russia confirmed that the rest of the S-400s, one will be delivered in 2026 and in 2027.

BRICs' countries last Sunday, and he was taken down on it during a Cabinet briefing on Tuesday. "Anybody that's in BRICs is getting a 10% charge pretty soon, and that's a real deal," he said. "We're a member of BRICs, then we're doubling the tariff. We're going to have to pay a 10% tariff."

**Tariff letters**

His announcement came a day after he sent letters to 14 countries reimposing higher tariffs on them effective from August 1. Then, on Wednesday, he sent similar letters to eight more countries.

The recipients of the letters include three BRICs countries — Brazil, South Africa and India — and Trump's threat of a BRICs tariff is, therefore, causing

"They have already sent letters to some countries and have entered into an agreement with China, and they are saying that they imposed additional tariff on BRICS countries. Do the tariffs in the letters include this 10% additional tariff on copper? Will this tariff affect India and the current proposed deal that is being negotiated?"

Apart from the letters to specific countries, Mr. Trump said that he will impose 50% tariff on all copper imports coming into the U.S.

Another government official confirmed to *The Hindu* that the U.S. has not provided additional clarity on this.

"We are engaged with

"Trump's unpredictable nature concerning even assigned tasks may be revisited," said Ajay Srivastava, former Director-General of Foreign Trade and founder of the think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative.

"Trump's warning makes it clear: any country seen as aligning with his position will face new tariffs, regardless of previous deals."

# 'Consider Aadhaar, EPIC, ration card as proof'

The Supreme Court was hearing pleas against the special intensive revision of the voter list in Bihar

It says issue goes to very roots of democracy, and list of 11 documents for voter verification is not exhaustive

Court notes that the revision in Bihar appeared nebulous – neither 'summary' nor 'special'

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar, elector photo identity card (EPIC), and ration card as proof for voter registration in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

The court referred to the EC's submission that its list of 11 documents for verification of voters was not "exhaustive". "Therefore, in our *prima facie* view, since the list [of documents] is not exhaustive, it would be in the interest of justice if the EC would also consider the following documents, Aadhaar, EPIC, issued by the EC itself, and ration card," the court dictated in its order.

## No stay

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymaya Bagchi allowed the SIR in Bihar to "go on". It did not pass any interim order

of stay. The court listed the case for further hearing on July 28, prior to the publication of the draft electoral rolls in August.

The court said its judicial review of the SIR would focus on the EC's power to undertake the exercise, the manner in which it was conducted, and the chosen timing, which, it described as "very short". It noted that the revision in Bihar appeared nebulous – neither "summary" nor "special" as defined under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"This issue is very important. It goes to the very roots of our democracy. It is about the right to vote," Justice Dhulia observed.

The EC objected to Aadhaar, stating it was a document for identity verification and not proof of citizenship. Aadhaar, it said, was also issued to non-citizens who were ordinarily resident at a place.

"The Aadhaar Act

## SIR in top court

The Supreme Court will take up for further hearing on **July 28** the case against the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar



**1** What the court will focus on: **Election Commission's power to undertake the exercise**; the manner in which it is conducted; and the **chosen timing** just months ahead of the Assembly election

**2** Court finds the revision **nebulous** – neither 'summary' nor 'special' as defined under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950

clearly says it is not proof of citizenship. The EC cannot exalt the status of the Aadhaar," senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the commission, submitted.

Justice Dhulia, however, remarked that Aadhaar was one of the primary identity documents, and the SIR was about establishing identity. "If I want a caste certificate, I

**3** Petitioners call it 'citizenship screening' of vulnerable groups under the guise of voter registration; Election Commission has no jurisdiction to ascertain citizenship

The Aadhaar Act clearly says it is not proof of citizenship. The EC cannot exalt the status of the Aadhaar. – **EC**

If I want a caste certificate, I show my Aadhaar. A document like Aadhaar, considered basic for getting other documents, is not part of the 11 documents? The entire exercise of SIR is about identity only.

**JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA**



show my Aadhaar. A document like Aadhaar, considered basic for getting other documents, is not part of the 11 documents? Caste certificate is one of the documents among the 11, but not Aadhaar? The entire exercise of SIR is about identity only. You want to know whether this person is A or B," he said.

Justice Bagchi con-

curred, stating that none of the 11 documents listed in the EC's June 24 notification established citizenship. "The statute, Representation of the People Act, allows Aadhaar," Justice Bagchi said.

The EC was also represented by senior advocate K.K. Venugopal.

Mr. Dwivedi urged the court to clarify that it would be at the commis-

sion's "discretion" to accept Aadhaar, EPIC or ration cards. Justice Dhulia responded that the court's order was "clear".

Mr. Dwivedi said the revision was necessary, as the last intensive revision in Bihar was in 2003. He said 60% of enumerations – around 5.5 crore – had already been completed, with half uploaded on the EC's new digital platform, ECI Net. "For the first time, we have created ECI Net where the documents would be uploaded. This drive need not be repeated, except for adding names," he said.

## 'Citizenship screening'

The petitioners, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Shadan Farasat and Vrinda Grover, described the SIR as "citizenship screening" of vulnerable groups under the guise of voter registration. They argued that the EC had no jurisdiction to ascertain citizenship, which

was the responsibility of the Union Home Ministry.

Citing a Bihar government survey, Mr. Sibal submitted that 87% of the population had Aadhaar, while only 14% had matriculation certificates and 2% had passports. "This means a substantial portion of the population risk disenfranchisement despite having an Aadhaar. The burden has suddenly fallen on the citizen to prove she is indeed a citizen," he said.

Justice Bagchi raised questions about the strict deadlines of the SIR process. "You say within 30 days citizens have to do this and another 30 days they have to do that... The timing is very short... Why is SIR so election-focused," he asked.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan questioned why the SIR, meant to be implemented nationwide, began in Bihar ahead of the election later this year.

**USED IN EARLIER ELECTIONS**  
» PAGE 5

Supreme Court asked the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar, EPIC (Voter ID), and ration card as valid proof for voter verification in Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Court criticized the SIR as being “neither summary nor special”, hence ambiguous.

Element	Details
Judicial Review Focus	EC's <b>power, manner, and timing</b> of conducting SIR
Concerns Raised	Timing just before elections; possible <b>citizenship screening</b> of vulnerable groups
EC's Stand	Aadhaar is an ID document, <b>not proof of citizenship</b>
Court's View	Aadhaar, EPIC, and ration cards should also be <b>considered valid documents</b> for identity

### Bihar Statistics (as per hearing)

- **87%** have **Aadhaar**
- Only **14%** have **matriculation certificates**
- Only **2%** have **passports**

**Q.** With reference to the Supreme Court's observations on voter list revision in Bihar (2024), consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court ordered that Aadhaar must be considered proof of citizenship for voter registration.
2. The Court noted that the list of 11 documents used by the EC for voter verification is not exhaustive.
3. The Election Commission argued that Aadhaar should not be used as it is not proof of citizenship.
4. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was questioned for being neither clearly "summary" nor "special."

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

## IN BRIEF



## U.K. to join France, Bharti in capital infusion in Eutelsat

Eutelsat Group, which runs the OneWeb satellite internet constellation, will receive an additional investment of €90 million (€90 crore) from the U.K. government as part of a fresh capital infusion. "This new capital injection will allow Eutelsat to go further in developing innovative new technologies under the leadership of its new CEO, Jean-François Fallacher," Sunil Bharti Mittal, Bharti Group chairman who also serves as Eutelsat's co-chairman, said in a statement.

## Reliance Jio is likely to delay IPO beyond this year

Reliance Jio Platforms, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has decided to postpone its planned IPO this year, sources said. Valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, Jio has chalked up ambitious plans to achieve higher revenue. The share price of Reliance Industries Ltd., which owns Jio, fell 1.8% after the Reuters report. Reliance Jio is set to lock horns with Elon Musk's Starlink when it forays into the Indian market. Jio has partnered with Nvidia to develop AI infrastructure.

## Government mulling stake sale in LIC to meet norms

The government is working on further stake sale in Life Insurance Corporation of India and the disinvestment department will work out details, sources said. The government, at present, holds 56.2% stake in the insurance behemoth. It sold 3.5% through an initial public offering in May 2022 for over ₹1,000 crore. The government needs to offload 6.5% in LIC to meet the mandated 10% public shareholding by May 16, 2027.

## Google unveils AI innovations to make agri practices more data-driven, efficient

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Google on Thursday unveiled new open-source AI innovations and initiatives aimed at strengthening India's agriculture sector and making AI models more sensitive to India's linguistic and cultural diversity.

The company unveiled the Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API that provides information on crops and field activity across India, empowering the farmers to build targeted solutions that support agricultural productivity and resilience.

Researchers at Google DeepMind have also collaborated with IIT Kharagpur to build localised datasets on India's rich cultural heritage as part of Google's Amplify Initiative.

Foundational research "At Google, along with charting new frontiers in foundational AI, which forms the backbone of many of our launches in the Gemini era, we have continued advancing fundamental research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity," Dr. Manish Gupta, Senior Director for India and APAC at Google DeepMind said at a roundtable in Ananta, Google's office in Bengaluru.

According to Alok Talekar, lead, agriculture, at sustainability research Google DeepMind, with AI research and especially with AMED building on the foundation of Agricultural Landscape Understanding, Google was working on ac-



Google DeepMind researchers have tied up with IIT Kharagpur to build localised datasets.

celebrating crucial shifts, transforming broad insights to granular, real-time data, so that increasingly impactful solutions not only translate into benefit for India's farmers, but also bolster the nation against rising climate risks.

Madhurima Maji, lead program manager, Amplify Initiative for India at Google said, AI models could be even more helpful with a deeper understanding of the vastness and diversity of the lived human experiences. "Through the Amplify Initiative, we are meticulously building the rich, hyperlocal datasets and cultural understanding that transforms raw information into profound knowledge. So that any and every Large Language Model can be fundamentally helpful and genuinely research analysis."

"We expect IQ FY26 net income of the KIE universe to increase 10.6% year-on-year (YoY), largely driven by a strong rebound in profits of the oil marketing companies (OMCs). Excluding OMCs, net income will see a modest rise of 4.5% YoY. The net income of OMCs will rise sharply, driven by higher gross re-

Priya Nair

## Priya Nair to be CEO and MD of HUL

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has announced that Priya Nair, who is currently president, beauty and well-being, Unilever, will be appointed Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, HUL, effective August 1. She will be the first woman to hold the post in the FMCG major.

Ms. Nair will also join the HUL Board, subject to required approvals, and continue to be a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive. Rohit Jawa will step down as CEO and MD on July 31.

## Life insurance companies record 3% dip in new business for June

N. Ravikumar  
HYDERABAD

Life insurers in India reported new business for June declined 3% to ₹24,433.69 crore from ₹25,433.69 crore a year earlier, after two months of uptick in the insurance behemoth. It sold 3.5% through an initial public offering in May 2022 for over ₹1,000 crore. The government needs to offload 6.5% in LIC to meet the mandated 10% public shareholding by May 16, 2027.

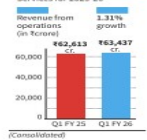
For the quarter ended June, the new business

premium rose 4.25% to ₹53,544.54 crore (₹53,726.70 crore). This came on a more than 10% decline in the number of policies/schemes sold during the three months ending June 30, 2025 (₹53.68 lakh). In June, the insurers sold 20,06 lakh (21.79 lakh) policies, the updated numbers including that of the new business sold by Life Insurance Council showed.

The new business of

## TCS Q1 Results

Highlights of the first quarter results of Tata Consultancy Services for 2025-26



Revenue from operations was 20.1% higher at ₹63,437 crore compared to ₹52,804 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

The board has announced an interim dividend of ₹11 per share. Record date of dividend is July 16 and payment date is August 4.

K. Kirishivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of TCS, said: "The continued global macro-economic and geo-political uncertainties caused a demand contraction." Aarthi Subramanian, Executive Director - President and Chief Operating Officer who addressed the TCS press conference for the first time after joining during the last quarter, said: "Operating margins are increasingly shifting the focus from on-quadrant case-based approach to ROI-led scaling of AI. We

are investing across the AI ecosystem, including infrastructure, data platform solutions, AI agents and applications.

Launching TCS Sovereign Secure™ Cloud, TCS Digital™, and TCS Cyber Defense Suite, to accelerate India's AI led transformation was a particular highlight of this quarter," she said. Due to uncertainties in business environment, the company has not announced any wage increase neither during any time frame. However, it said wage increase should be announced during the year. It said it would honour all the job offers it had made on the campuses.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Canara Bank on Thursday informed the Bombay High Court that it has withdrawn its order classifying the bank as "fraudulent" the loan account of Reliance Communications of Industrialist Anil Ambani.

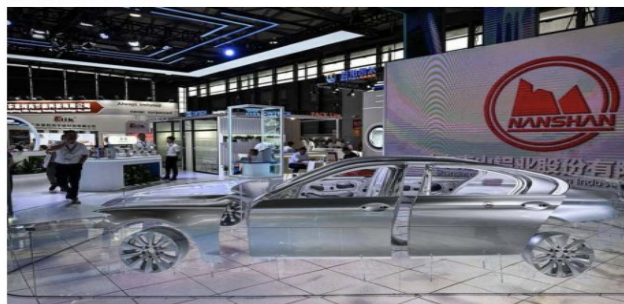
After the bank's disclosure, a Bench of Justices Ravindra Mohite Dhere and Justice Gokhale disposed of

## 'Order on RCom's loan account withdrawn'

the petition filed by Mr. Ambani challenging the bank's order, saying nothing survives in it.

The Bench said the withdrawal order shall be informed to the Reserve Bank of India. On November 8, 2024, the bank classified the loan account as "fraud" for reasons including that the ₹1,500 crore loan extended in 2017 was "routed" to a group company.

## Men and metals



Hot wheels: Aluminium car parts are seen at a Nanshan stand during the Aluminum China 2025 Trade Fair in Shanghai on Thursday. AP

## Corporate net profit may be lukewarm in Q1 of FY26: Analysts

Ashokamithran T.  
MUMBAI

Net profit of Nifty 50 companies may continue to be lukewarm at not more than 4.5% without accounting for oil companies in the first quarter of the current fiscal, according to equity research analysts.

"We expect IQ FY26 net income of the KIE universe to increase 10.6% year-on-year (YoY), largely driven by a strong rebound in profits of the oil marketing companies (OMCs). Excluding OMCs, net income will see a modest rise of 4.5% YoY. The net income of OMCs will rise sharply, driven by higher gross re-

## Excluding oil marketing firms, net income will see a modest increase of 4.5% YoY

fining margins (GRMs) and strong marketing margins," said analysts at Kotak Securities.

Analysts at Equitas Securities were a bit more conservative, forecasting a 3% growth in net profit of companies whose numbers they deal with. "Indirectly (ex-defence), capital market, NBFC, chemical, IT, healthcare, OMCs, and cement will report strong

earnings growth. Autos except ancillary, consumer durables, and construction will report decline in earnings and FMCG, banks, building materials and metals will report flat earnings," Equitas said in the report.

Barring some sectors including health care and telecom, which are expected to show some optimism, most sectors will have no positive surprises in Q1 FY26, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research at Kotak Securities.

"This time will be difficult for banks to show growth on account of foreign net outflow of foreign investments and a correction in the value of stocks, said Mr. Chouhan.

Growth of net profit of private sector companies has slowed on a year-on-year basis for at least three quarters now and this led to outflow of foreign money from Indian equities as the price of the domestic stocks did not justify the fundamentals.

## Trump threatens 500% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia

Rishi Ranjan Kala  
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump has endorsed a bill that proposes a 500% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia, a development that can disrupt India's crude oil supplies.

India's crude oil purchases from Russia has risen from less than 2% of total imports in 2022 to as high as 40% in a couple of years. In FY25, Russia accounted for 35% of India's total crude oil imports.

Responding to reports on further sanctions on Russia, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri explained that Russian oil was never under global sanctions. Sensible decision-makers around the world were aware of the realities of global oil supply chains and how India was only helping global markets by buying discounted oil under a price cap from wherever it can.

Russia is one of the largest crude producers with an output of over 9 million barrels/day. Imagine the chaos if this oil, amounting to about 10% of the global oil supply of around 97 million, vanishes from the market. It will force the world to reduce its consumption, as consumers will be chasing reduced supplies, and the prices would be spiralled to over \$120-\$130/barrel," the Minister said on X.

Any disruption of the Russia oil trade will not only jeopardise India's energy security but also lead to a higher import bill and possibly a higher current account deficit (CAD).

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

Market	Today's High	% Change
Sensex	85,200	+0.4%
Nifty 50	25,170	+0.0%
Bank Nifty	86,200	+0.3%
Midcap 100	85,200	+0.3%

## NIFTY 50

Stock	Price	Change
Axis Bank	258.00	+0.0%
Axis Finance	242.00	+0.0%
Axis Infra	250.00	+0.0%
Axis Power	242.00	+0.0%
Axis Real Estate	242.00	+0.0%
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# Google unveils AI innovations to make agri practices more data-driven, efficient

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Google on Thursday unveiled new open-source AI innovations and initiatives aimed at strengthening India's agriculture sector and making AI models more sensitive to India's linguistic and cultural diversity.

The company unveiled the Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API that provides information on crops and field activity across India, empowering the ecosystem to build targeted solutions that support agricultural productivity and resilience.

Researchers at Google DeepMind have also collaborated with IIT-Kharagpur to build localised datasets on India's rich cultural tapestry as part of Google's Amplify Initiative.

## Foundational research

"At Google, along with charting new frontiers in foundational AI, which forms the backbone of many of our launches in the Gemini era, we have continued advancing fundamental research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity," Dr. Manish Gupta, Senior Director for India and APAC at Google DeepMind said at a roundtable in Ananta, Google's office in Bengaluru.

According to Alok Talekar, lead, agriculture and sustainability research Google DeepMind, with AI research and especially with AMED building on the foundation of Agricultural Landscape Understanding, Google was working on ac-



Google DeepMind researchers have tied up with IIT-Kharagpur to build localised datasets.

celerating crucial shifts, transforming broad insights to granular, real-time data, so that increasingly impactful solutions not only translate into benefit for India's farmers, but also bolster the nation against rising climate risks.

Madhurima Maji, lead program manager, Amplify Initiative for India at Google said, AI models could be even more helpful with a deeper understanding of the vastness and complexity of the lived human experience. "Through the Amplify Initiative, we are meticulously building the rich, hyperlocal context and cultural understanding that transforms raw information into profound knowledge. So that any and every Large Language Model can be fundamentally helpful and genuinely relevant to diverse realities," he added.

Dr. Mainack Mandal, Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur said, "We've been inspired by the results this initiative has achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa, and look forward to ensuring the groundwork we lay here translates into AI that is more responsive to India's incredible plurality."

## 1. Launch of AMED (Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection) API

- Offers **real-time insights** into crops and field activity across India.
- Helps create **targeted, AI-driven agricultural solutions** for better productivity and resilience.
- Supports **granular, data-driven policy & farming decisions**.

## 2. Collaboration with IIT-Kharagpur

- Focus: Build **localized datasets** based on India's linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Part of Google's **Amplify Initiative**.
- Leverages India's **rich cultural context** to improve **Large Language Models (LLMs)**.

## 3. Goals & Benefits

- Address foundational issues in agriculture via **AI innovations**.
- Empower Indian farmers with **timely and context-aware** solutions.
- Support India in adapting to **climate change** through better agricultural practices.

## Foundational AI Research

- Google's **DeepMind division** continues **foundational AI research** in India (especially in the **Gemini era**).
- Focuses on **landscape understanding**, contextual comprehension, and **hyperlocal AI** for India.

Dr. Manish Gupta (Google): "We are building the cultural and linguistic context into AI to ensure it is useful for India's realities."

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## Global Context

- The success of similar models in **Sub-Saharan Africa** inspired this India-focused initiative.

**Q.** With reference to Google's recent AI initiatives in Indian agriculture, consider the following statements:

- 1.** The Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API launched by Google offers real-time insights into crop yield prediction.
- 2.** Google DeepMind has partnered with IIT-Kharagpur to build localized datasets based on India's cultural and linguistic diversity.
- 3.** The AMED initiative is part of Google's Amplify Initiative aimed at making AI more contextually relevant to India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.** 1 and 2 only
- B.** 2 and 3 only
- C.** 1 and 3 only
- D.** 1, 2 and 3

INBRIEF



**Arsenal signs midfielder Norgaard from Brentford**

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said Christian Norgaard will bring "a wealth of experience" after signing for the Gunners from Brentford on Thursday. The 31-year-old Danish midfielder has joined for a reported initial £10 million fee plus a further £2 million in add-ons, according to *The Athletic*. Norgaard scored 13 times in 196 appearances for the Bees and was crucial to establishing Brentford as a Premier League club over the past four seasons.

**Suraj bags 60kg gold in Asian U-20 wrestling**

Suraj (60kg) won a gold medal, while Prince (82kg) and Naman (97kg) bagged a bronze apiece in Greco Roman competitions at the Asian under-20 wrestling championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Thursday. Suraj, a former World under-17 gold medalist in 55kg, rallied to beat local favourite Erbol Ogzonov 3-3 via criteria in the final to claim the top honour. Indian Greco Roman wrestlers collected a gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

**Steroids found in Reetika's sample**

After a few days of uncertainty, it has been learnt that Paris Olympic wrestler Reetika Hooda, who was provisionally suspended for failing a dope test, returned a positive result for steroids. Even as news regarding Reetika's suspension hit the headlines, there was no clarity about the substances that resulted in the positive result. According to a reliable source, the heavyweight wrestler, a former World under-23 champion and a current Asian silver medalist, tested positive for "androstane and etiocholanolone". Reetika's sample was collected during the selection trials in Delhi on March 15.



**Semenya gets a partial victory in legal battle**

Two-time Olympic champion runner Caster Semenya won a partial victory at the European Court of Human Rights on Thursday in her seven-year legal fight against track and field's eligibility rules. The court said in a 15-2 vote that Semenya had some of her rights to a fair hearing violated at Switzerland's Supreme Court, where she had appealed against a ruling by the CAS in favor of World Athletics. Her case should now go back to the Swiss federal court in Lausanne.

**No one to blame' for serious leg injury, says Musiala**

Bayern Munich star Jamal Musiala said "there's no one to blame" for the left leg fracture he sustained in a tackle from Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma at the Club World Cup. The German star posted an update on Instagram on Wednesday, when he thanked people for their support after he fractured his fibula (bone in the lower leg) during Bayern's loss to PSG in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

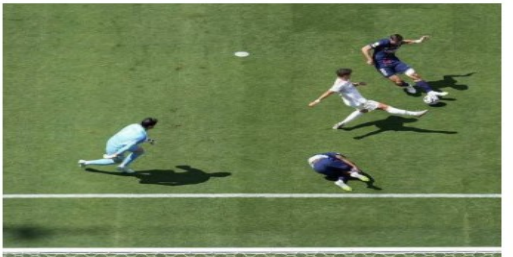


**Correa leaves Atletico after 10 years to join Tigres**

Angel Correa is leaving Atletico Madrid after 10 years to join Tigres UANL in Mexico's Liga MX. Both clubs announced on Wednesday they had agreed a deal for the right winger. The 30-year-old Argentine scored 88 goals with 65 assists in 469 matches with Atletico, where he helped the team win the Spanish league title in the 2020-21 season.

**PSG makes Real Madrid eat humble pie on way to Club World Cup final**

Ruiz at the fore with a brace as the Parisians run riot; the European champion now eyes another title with Chelsea standing in its way



Setting the ball rolling: Ruiz fires in PSG's opener past a scrambling Real defence. REUTERS

**Tamil Nadu holds Maharashtra; Karnataka defeats CBDT**

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan  
CHENNAI

Defence held the center-stage in low-scoring matches on the opening day of the 96th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup invitation hockey tournament at the SDAF-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Thursday.

Host Tamil Nadu held Maharashtra 1-1 in a Pool-A contest while Karnataka shut out Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) 2-1 in Pool-B.

Both the matches were engaging with fast break-throughs, the defence and midfield in union. But in the final third, the forwards kept striking a discordant note. More often than not, it was the defence that held strong.

Maharashtra opened the account against the host. Rohan Patil converted a penalty corner when his strike hit the middle of



On target: Somanna (yellow jersey) scored the equaliser for Tamil Nadu against Maharashtra. R. RAJU

the net in the second quarter. An inconsistent Tamil Nadu struck back through star forward B.P. Somanna, whose grounder off a penalty corner went through the left leg of goalkeeper Shivratna Rasal in the right side of the roof in the fourth, which pretty much sealed the contest in Karnataka's favour.

**The results:**  
Pool-A: Haryana 1 (B.P. Somanna 42) drew with Maharashtra 1 (Rohan Patil 15).  
B: Karnataka 2 (C. J. Rahul 45, Bharath Mahalingappa 52) beat CBDT 1 (Pranav Gowda 36).

**Malaysian coach Saiful wants to give maximum exposure to his junior team**

K. Keerthivasan  
CHENNAI

In his first stint as the head coach of the Malaysian National junior men's hockey team, Nor Saiful Zaini is pragmatic of his team's chances in the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup, which commenced here on Thursday, and the FIH junior men's World Cup to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10.

"We don't have any high hopes. Ours is an inexperienced and young bunch. It will be great if we make it to the knock-out stages of the MCC-Murugappa tournament, and I will be delighted if we maintain the 12th place finish that we did in the previous edition of the World Cup in 2023," Saiful told *The Hindu* here.

**Running out of time**

According to Saiful, the National team is running out of time. Since taking over in May this year, the 39-year-old has been keen to give maximum exposure and make it the best possible team.



Saiful. B. JOTHI RASALINGAM

"Before coming here, we had three months of training preparation, playing against a top division club in Liaoning (China), coached by South Korea's top coach Kim Sang-ryul, at Dalian City.

"After Murugappa, we are going to Perth and will also compete in the Sultan of Johor Cup (from Oct. 10 to 18 at Johor Bharu). And then may be train again in China," said the three-time

FOOTBALL  
Agence France-Presse  
EAST RUTHERFORD

Paris Saint-Germain turned on the style in its reunion with Kylian Mbappe on Wednesday, thrashing Real Madrid 4-0 in the semifinals of the Club World Cup to set up a final showdown with Chelsea.

Ruiz and Ousmane Dembele scored inside nine minutes to stun Real and silence the majority of the 77,542 crowd who were wearing white at the MetLife Stadium outside New York. The Spanish midfielder added another before half-time and Goncalo Ramos got a late fourth as

Luis Enrique's side moved one game away from glory at FIFA's new tournament. Victory against Chelsea on Sunday would complete a campaign of unparalleled success for the Parisians, who won the French title and then the first UEFA Champions League in their history in May.

After blowing away Inter Milan 5-0, the biggest victory in European Cup final history, PSG began its Club World Cup bid by putting four past Atletico Madrid and the ease with which it disposed of Real was striking.

PSG's fluidity contrasted starkly with Madrid, which is a work in progress under new coach Xabi Alonso. Mbappe struggled to make any impact on his first start at the tournament and in his first game

against PSG since leaving the French club last year.

The defeat is a blow to Real as it hoped to win the first 32-team Club World Cup to add to its record tally of 15 European cups.

PSG was without imposing centre-back William Paqueta due to suspension following his sending-off against Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals, but that did not matter.

Lucas Beraldo slotted into the defence with ease, and the rest of PSG's first-choice line-up was there.

Real was missing central defender Dean Huijsen through suspension, while the absence of Trent Alexander-Arnold was an added blow.

**The results:** Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Ruiz 6, 24, Dembele 9, Ramos 87) beat Real Madrid 0.

**India to host shooting World Cup and junior World Championship**

Sports Bureau  
NEW DELHI

India has been given a World Cup to host in 2027 and the World Junior Championship in 2028, by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), as announced by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday.

India is set to host the Junior World Cup in September this year. It will also host the Asian rifle and pistol championships in February next year.

The first ever Shooting League of India, featuring the best of shooters from around the world, competing in a novel format, is also scheduled to be hosted in Delhi in November this year.

"With the Los Angeles Olympics as our target,

hosting at least one international event every year leading up to it is a tremendous opportunity for our shooters. It boosts the preparation of the senior athletes and gives juniors invaluable exposure to the atmosphere of elite competition at home.

"The launch of Shooting League adds an exciting dimension to our sport. We are committed to making India a global hub for shooting," said the president of NRAI, Kalish Singh Deo.

"India is now a key stop on the global shooting calendar. I thank the Government, the Sports Ministry, the Sports Authority of India and all our stakeholders for their unwavering support," said the secretary general of NRAI, Sultan Singh.

**Indian recurve teams' campaign ends early**

Sports Bureau

The Indian recurve men's and women's teams' campaign ended early after they lost their respective second-round matches at the Archery World Cup Stage-4 in Madrid on Thursday.

On their previous evening, B. Dhiraj and Ankita Bhakat emerged as the best Indians in individual qualifying rounds.

**The results:**  
**Qualifying round: Individual:**  
Men: B. Dhiraj (139), B. Raju (140), N. Suresh (140), B. Suresh (139), G. Gopal (139), G. Gopal (139), G. Gopal (139), G. Gopal (139), G. Gopal (139), G. Gopal (139).  
Women: Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139), Ankita Bhakat (139).

**Elimination rounds: Team:**  
Men: India (Dhiraj, Raju, Neeraj) beat Poland 6-2 (first round), lost to Brazil 2-4 (second round).  
Women: India (Ankita, Deepika, Gopal) got a bye (first round), lost to France 3-5 (second round).

**Talia beats Sahaja in pre-quarterfinals**

TENNIS  
Sports Bureau

Third seed Talia Gibson of Australia beat Sahaja Yamsani 6-3, 6-3, in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$200,000 WTA tennis in Newry, Ireland.

Sahaja won 15 WTA points in the FIH Junior men's World Cup, Malaysia will find it tough and Saiful admitted it as much.

"England and the Dutch are very strong teams. And some of the number two teams from other groups are also quite strong. We still try to finish 12th. We don't want to finish behind 16. It is going to be tough all the way, but I want my players to play modern hockey. That's my philosophy," he said.

Having assisted other coaches of the Malaysian National junior team from 2016-20, Saiful knows what all the game in his country. "We need time to build the team and require more exposure tours. In my six months (before the FIH junior men's World Cup), I can't do wonders. I want my boys to play their best," he said.

**Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Aditya Balsekar & Dhanish Sarkar (Arm) beat Aditi Quakka (Tun) & Billy Suarez (USA) 1-6, 6-4, (10-8).

**Women: \$40,000 ITF, Corrois-Seixal, Portugal:**  
**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Bruna Bessa & Elena Micu (Aur) beat Weronika Melnikova & Wozniak Melnikova (RSA) 6-2, 6-2.

**\$30,000 ITF, Hildesheim:**  
**Pre-quarterfinals:** Stephanie Wichter (Ned) beat Sofia Soder 6-3, 6-3.

**\$30,000 ITF, Don Benito, Spain:**  
**Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Esther Acedillo & Victoria Allen (GBR) beat Paula Roldando (Esp) & Madhurima Sawant 6-3, 6-2.

**\$15,000 ITF, Huesca, Mexico:**  
**First round:** Sebastian Leon (Mex) beat Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-2.

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Amanda Elkin & Ximena Santos (Bolivia) beat 7-6(7), 7-6(5), (10-8).

**\$15,000 ITF, Huesca, Mexico:**  
**First round:** Gabriela Mikula (USA) & Emily Sanchez (USA) beat 7-6(7), 7-6(5), (10-8).

**\$15,000 ITF, San Diego:**  
**First round:** Kirti Koushtev (Ind) beat Lucia Nalal (Esp) & Sharmy Vig 6-3, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF, San Diego:**  
**First round:** Kirti Koushtev (Ind) beat Lucia Nalal (Esp) & Sharmy Vig 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Camille Kiri & Kaede Usui (USA) beat Jane Durson (USA) & Krishna Mahendran 2-6, 6-3, (10-4).

**Another big victory for India-A men's hockey team**

Press Trust of India  
KENDHUVEN

The India-A men's hockey team continued its dominant run on the European tour, posting a crushing 10-0 defeat against Ireland here on Wednesday. This is the second successive victory for India-A against Ireland, after the 6-1 victory in the tour opener.

Uttam Singh opened the scoring while captain Sanjay made it 2-0. Midfielder Mohammed Rabeel Moussee came up with back-to-back goals, followed by a strike each from Amandeep Lakra and Varun Kumar.

The team will next play France on Saturday.

Coach Shivendra Singh said the team will look to build on the fine performances against France.

"We've had two good matches against Ireland, and I'm happy with how the players are shaping up. We'll play France next and hopefully do well," he said. Besides Ireland and France, India will also play England, Belgium and Netherlands over two weeks.

# India to host shooting World Cup and junior World Championship

## **Sports Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India has been given a World Cup to host in 2027 and the World Junior Championship in 2028, by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), as announced by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday.

India is set to host the Junior World Cup in September this year. It will also host the Asian rifle and pistol championship in February next year.

The first ever Shooting League of India, featuring the best of shooters from around the world, competing in a novel format, is also scheduled to be hosted in Delhi in November this year.

“With the Los Angeles Olympics as our target,

hosting at least one international event every year leading up to it is a tremendous opportunity for our shooters. It boosts the preparation of the senior athletes and gives juniors invaluable exposure to the atmosphere of elite competition at home.

“The launch of Shooting League adds an exciting dimension to our sport. We are committed to making India a global hub for shooting,” said the president of NRAI, Kalikesh Singh Deo.

“India is now a key stop on the global shooting calendar. I thank the Government, the Sports Ministry, the Sports Authority of India and all our stakeholders for their unwavering support,” said the secretary general of NRAI, Sultan Singh.

# US crude supplies to India surge 50% in H1, Brazilian inflows jump 80%

## Indian refiners' preference for non-OPEC crude growing: S&P

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ  
New Delhi, July 10

**INDIA'S CRUDE OIL** inflows from the US surged more than 50% and from Brazil 80% in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period last year, according to data from S&P Global Commodity Insights.

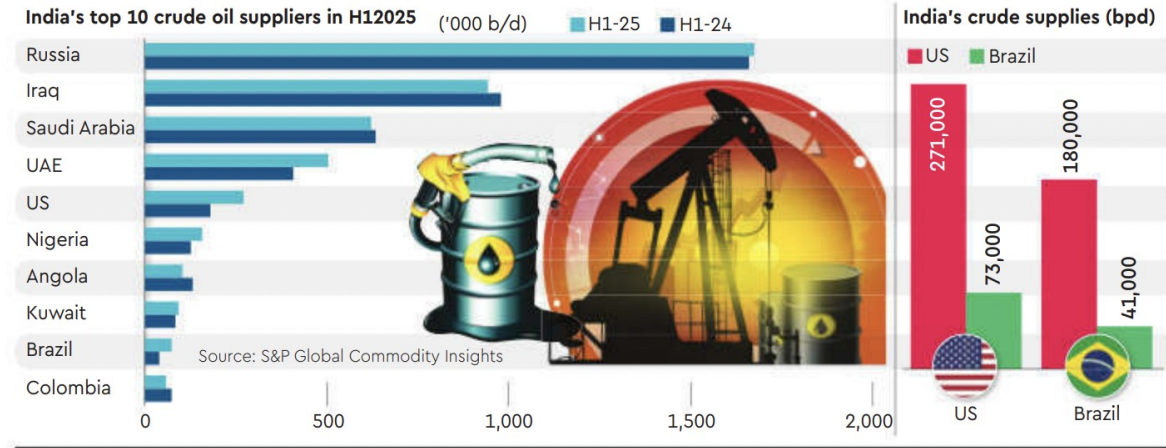
The trend signals a growing affinity of Indian refiners for non-OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) crude as the country looks to widen its source of supplies.

S&P noted that while sluggish purchases by China amid higher tariffs have opened up a window for India to ship in more US crude and work towards bridging the trade

deficit with Washington, multiple recent diplomatic visits by petroleum minister Harddeep Singh Puri and other government officials to Brazil to strengthen energy ties have started to yield results. "Crude supplies from the US have been rising but have been limited to a few refiners in India. This allows room for other refiners to grow US imports further during the year," said Abhishek Ranjan, South Asia oil research lead at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

According to data from S&P Global Commodities at Sea, India imported 271,000 barrels per day of crude oil from the US in the first half of 2025, up around 51% from 180,000 b/d imported in the same period in 2024. Indian refiners have been used to relatively large volumes of US crude in the past, but volumes had slowed down over the past two-to-three years when India turned to Russia after the lat-

## WIDENING CRUDE SOURCES



ter started providing heavy discounts on its crude.

India's appetite for US crude is again showing signs of revival amid renewed diplomacy with the new US government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in mid-February and

the pledge by the two countries to boost energy ties would mean increased US crude flows to India in the whole of 2025, both on spot and term-contract basis, S&P said. Even the tariff scenario has implications for crude flows. The US announced reciprocal

tariffs on India and a host of other nations on April 2 and then paused the increase for 90 days from April 10 to negotiate trade deals with these countries.

Furthermore, crude inflows from Brazil posted the sharpest growth in the six-

month period, rising about 80% year-on-year to 73,000 b/d from nearly 41,000 b/d, the S&P data showed. Puri visited Brazil late last year to discuss how India could expand crude oil purchases from Brazil, as well as look for oppor-

tunities to collaborate on offshore deep and ultra-deepwater exploration and production projects. Modi visited Brazil this week amid deepening energy ties. While the crude inflows from the US and Brazil have been increasing, Russia still remains the top supplier of crude oil to India.

Russia retained the position as India's top crude supplier in the January-June period with shipments of 1.67 million b/d, up marginally from 1.66 million b/d in the same period last week, the S&P data showed. "With a modest level of Russian imports in the early months of 2025, volumes are rising again, supported by lower crude prices that enable higher volumes to be procured below the price cap. As the global oversupply is expected to continue putting pressure on prices, we expect Russian flows to remain at current levels, if not increase," Ranjan said. Spot FOB (free on

board) Primorsk Urals crude rose above the G7-led \$60/barrel price cap on Russian oil for much of the Israel-Iran conflict, exceeding the cap on June 13 and staying above it until June 24. Platts assessed Urals FOB Primorsk at \$56.32/bbl on July 1.

While crude inflows into India from Iraq and Saudi Arabia declined by modest levels of 4% and 2%, respectively, volumes from Angola declined by a sharp 22% year-on-year in the January-June period. Inflows from Nigeria rose 26% to around 158,000 b/d in the six-month period. "However, gradually rising crude throughput in Dangote refinery will mean that those Nigerian crudes will not be able to support crude demand growth from India. There might be a few months of higher crude imports, but they should decline on an annual basis in terms of imports to India," Ranjan said.

## 1. Surge in Non-OPEC Crude Imports

- India's crude imports from:
  - **US** rose by **51%** in H1 2025 (271,000 b/d vs. 180,000 b/d in H1 2024)
  - **Brazil** surged by **80%** (73,000 b/d vs. 41,000 b/d)
- Indicates India's **growing preference** for **non-OPEC** suppliers.

## 2. Top Suppliers to India (H1 2025)

Rank	Country	Volume (b/d)
1	Russia	1.67 million
2	Iraq	Declined by 4%
3	Saudi Arabia	Declined by 2%
4	UAE	—
5	USA	+51% growth
6–10	Nigeria, Angola, Kuwait, Brazil, Colombia	Mixed trends

### 3. Diplomatic Push & Trade Dynamics

- PM Modi visited **Brazil** and the **US** to strengthen energy ties.
- US paused tariff hikes on India for 90 days to negotiate new trade deals.
- Tariff relief + oversupply in global oil markets = increased US shipments to India.

### 4. Geopolitical & Market Factors

- Russia remains top supplier due to **price caps & discounts** post-Ukraine war.
- Brazilian inflows increased sharply after diplomatic engagement.
- Crude flows from **Nigeria, Angola** declined significantly due to:
  - Refinery shifts (e.g., Dangote Refinery in Nigeria)
  - Declining competitiveness.


**Q.** With reference to India's crude oil imports in the first half of 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1.** India's crude oil imports from the United States rose by over 50% compared to H1 2024.
- 2.** Brazil became India's top crude supplier due to the sharpest year-on-year growth.
- 3.** Russia retained its position as the top supplier of crude oil to India.
- 4.** India's crude oil imports from Angola and Nigeria increased due to refinery expansion in those countries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A.** 1 and 3 only
- B.** 1, 2 and 3 only
- C.** 2, 3 and 4 only
- D.** 1, 3 and 4 only

# Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)

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- India conducted successful user trials of the Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR) from INS Kavaratti, demonstrating its enhanced underwater strike capabilities

### •What is ERASR?

- The **Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)** is a state-of-the-art underwater weapon system developed indigenously by DRDO to target hostile submarines.
- It can be launched from Indian naval warships equipped with **Indigenous Rocket Launchers (IRLs)**.

•Developed by: Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

•Objective: To equip Indian naval forces with **long-range, high-precision capability to neutralize underwater threats using indigenous technology and reduce reliance on foreign defence imports.**

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• **Key Features of ERASR:**

- **Twin Rocket Motor System:** Allows engagement of both short- and long-range underwater targets effectively.
- **Electronic Time Fuze:** Designed entirely in India, ensuring precise timed detonation upon nearing submarine threats.
- **High Operational Accuracy:** Proven consistency in performance under real maritime warfare conditions.
- **Warhead Reliability:** Warheads detonated successfully in all trial scenarios, confirming battlefield readiness.
- **Compatible Launch Platforms:** Can be fired from frontline warships using Indian-made rocket launchers.

# Catastrophe Bonds (Cat Bonds)

•India's growing vulnerability to climate disasters has reignited policy interest in catastrophe bonds (cat bonds) as a financial instrument for disaster-risk financing.

•What are Cat Bonds?

•Catastrophe bonds (cat bonds) are insurance-linked securities that convert disaster risk into tradable financial products. They transfer the financial risk of natural disasters—like earthquakes, cyclones, and floods—from governments or insurers to global capital markets.

### •How Do Cat Bonds Work?

- **Sponsorship**: A government or insurance entity (the sponsor) issues the bond and pays a premium.
- **Issuance**: Intermediaries like the World Bank or ADB issue the bond to investors to reduce counterparty risk.
- **Trigger Event**: If a predefined disaster occurs (e.g., a 7.0 magnitude earthquake), investors lose part or all of the principal, which goes to the sponsor for relief and recovery.
- **No Disaster**: If no disaster occurs, investors receive regular high-yield interest (coupon payments), and the principal is repaid at maturity.



## • Key Features of Cat Bonds:

- **High-Yield Returns:** Investors earn higher interest rates due to the risk of principal loss.
- **Parametric Triggers:** Pay-outs are linked to measurable event thresholds (e.g., wind speed, Richter scale magnitude).
- **Independence from Market Risk:** Natural hazards are uncorrelated with stock market fluctuations, offering true portfolio diversification.
- **Fast Disbursal:** Enables **quick financial assistance** post-disaster, reducing reliance on slow government processes.

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# Word of the day

## **Peregrinate:**

travel around, through, or over, especially on foot

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**Synonyms:** walk, roam, wander

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**Usage:** *After retiring, he decided to peregrinate across India.*

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**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/  
peregrinatepro

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /perəgrɪneɪt/

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A blurred background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference, with several hands raised in the air, suggesting applause or agreement. The image is out of focus, emphasizing the collective action over individual faces.

Thank you  
guys.

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