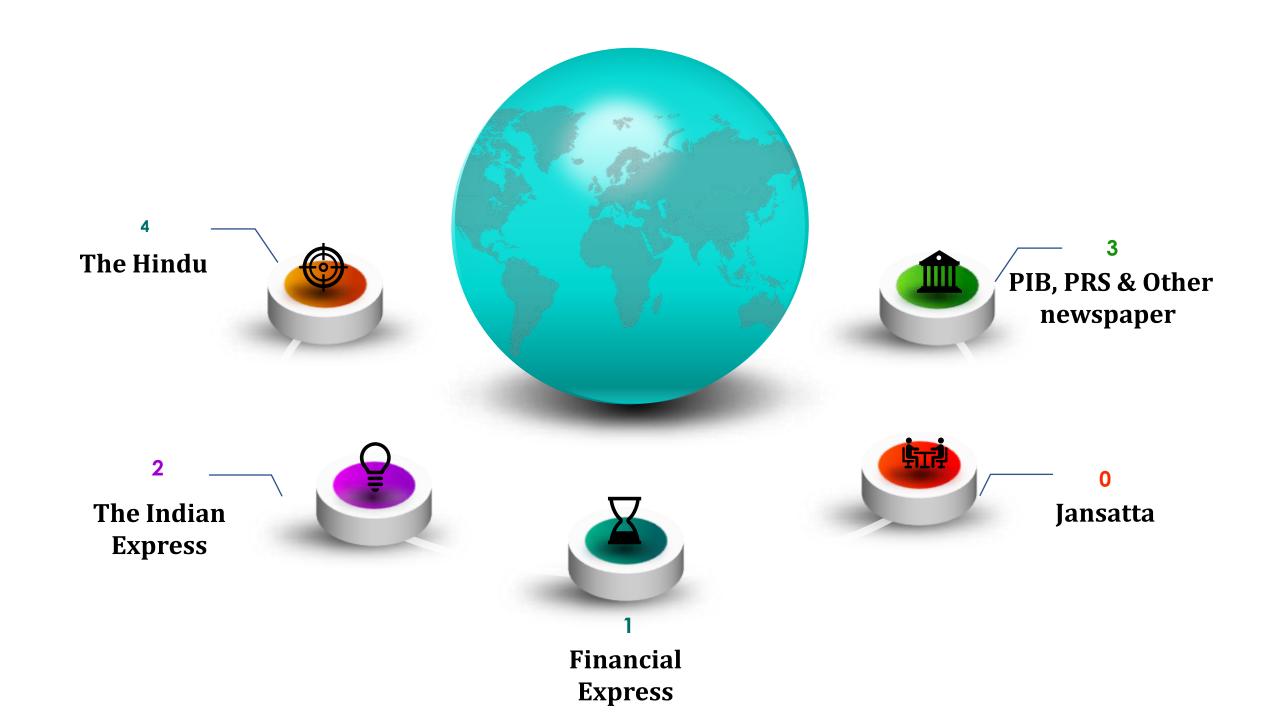
# Daily Current Affairs



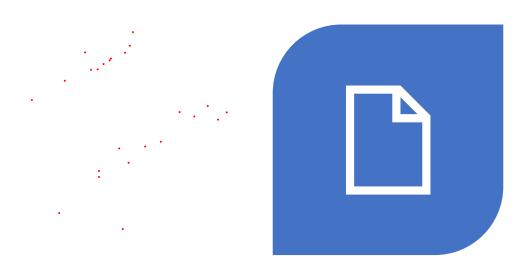








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**PDF** 

10 MCQ QUIZ

"Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions." — Dalai Lama



Lalu to take final call on candidates: RJD ARTERS - PAGE 9





On the trail of a killer cough syrup How a weak regulatory system claimed 20 lives



Joiswal, Sai Sodharsan put India in command SPORT IS PROSE 24

#### INSIDE

Trump calls off Xi

hydropower project gets nod new occur

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India's Kabul mission to be upgraded to embassy

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#### Tech on track



#### Gaza ceasefire takes effect as Israel forces pull back to agreed deployment lines

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#### Venezuela's Opposition leader María Machado wins Nobel Peace Prize 'promoting democracy'

#### Assessment Prints

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TRUMET'S QUEET Mr. Marhado, 46, was - 0000 13

# India's Kabul mission to be upgraded to embassy

Jaishankar announces this while meeting Taliban's Muttaqi; condemns refugee repatriation by Pak.

Muttaqi welcomes decision; says diplomats will go to Afghan Embassy, may not send Ambassador initially

Jaishankar says India, Afghanistan share growth goals; cross-border terror a common challenge

#### Kallol Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

ndia will upgrade its 'technical mission' in Kabul to the status of an embassy, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday.

The announcement came during Mr. Jaishankar's meeting with Amir Khan Muttaqi, Foreign Minister of the Taliban administration in Afghanistan. at Hyderabad House. Mr. Jaishankar also raised India's concerns over the forced repatriation of Afghan refugees by Pakistan and described "cross-border terrorism" as a common challenge to both India and Afghanistan.

"India is fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Closer cooperation between us contributes to your national development, as well as regional stability and resilience. To enhance that, I am pleased to announce today the upgrading of India's technical mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India," said Mr. Jaishankar.

India had shut its embassy in Kabul in 2021 after the U.S.-led forces withdrew from Afghanistan.

In an interaction at the Embassy of Afghanistan, Mr. Muttaqi welcomed the decision and said, "We will send our diplomats to the Embassy of Afghanistan." He clarified that the Taliban may not send an ambassador at the beginning.

#### TTP leader killed

Mr. Jaishankar noted that India and Afghanistan share a "common commitment towards growth and



Reaching out: S. Jaishankar with Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttagi in New Delhi on Friday, ANI

prosperity" but cautioned that "these are endangered by the shared threat of cross-border terrorism that both our nations face." He did not name Pakistan but urged Mr. Muttaqi to "coordinate efforts" to counter the threat.

The meeting took place

hours after an explosion in Kabul reportedly killed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, a claim later denied by TTP sources.

Mr. Jaishankar thanked Kabul for condemning the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which killed 26

## Pak. violating Kabul's sovereign territory: Taliban

#### KABUL

The Taliban regime on Friday accused Pakistan of "violating Kabul's sovereign territory", a day after two explosions were heard. The Taliban have previously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this is the first time they have alleged an incursion deep into their territory, calling it an "unprecedented act". » PAGE 12

people, saying, "We appreciate your sensitivity towards India's security concerns." He also reiterated India's commitment to facilitating travel for Afghan nationals through a new visa module introduced in April 2025, with more medical, business, and student visas being issued.

A joint statement issued after the meeting of the officials said that scholarships from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and other organisations are "under active consideration" to enable more Afghan students to study in India.

Mr. Muttagi had earlier met Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in Dubai on January 8, where the two sides discussed the roadmap for bilateral relations amid evolving regional developments. Since assuming power, the Taliban has established diplomatic ties with several countries, including Russia and China. Mr. Muttagi arrived in New Delhi from Moscow, where he attended the Moscow Format Dialogue.

Global recognition of the Taliban government -

the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - has been impeded by concerns over the human rights situation in the country, which did not feature in Mr. Jaishankar's remarks. Highlighting the importance of Mr. Muttagi's first visit to New Delhi, Mr. Jaishankar said, "...a meeting between us in person has a special value in allowing us to exchange perspectives, identify common interests and forge closer cooperation." The Minister also announced six new health projects for Afghanistan, with details to be shared soon. India will gift 20 ambulances to Afghanistan as a "symbolic step". The visiting side also invited Indian companies to invest in the mining sector of Afghanistan.

#### 'WON'T ALLOW TERRORISTS'

» PAGE 3

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced that India's 'technical mission' in Kabul will be upgraded to the status of an Embassy of India.
- The announcement came during his meeting with Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's Foreign Minister, who was visiting India.
- This is the first high-level engagement between India and the Taliban administration since it took power in August 2021.

## 2. Background Context

Event	Details	
India's withdrawal (2021)	India shut its Kabul embassy in August 2021 after the U.S. troop withdrawal and Taliban takeover.	
Technical Mission (2022)	India reopened a small "technical mission" in June 2022 to handle humanitarian aid and consular functions.	
<b>Current Decision (2025)</b>	Mission to be upgraded to <i>Embassy</i> , signalling formal diplomatic reengagement, though no ambassador to be sent initially.	

# By India (Jaishankar)

- Upgradation of the technical mission → Embassy of India, Kabul.
- India will not send an ambassador immediately, but will station senior diplomats.
- Announced 20 ambulances and six new health projects for Afghanistan.
- Stressed cross-border terrorism as a common threat to both India and Afghanistan.
- Raised concerns over refugee repatriation by Pakistan, urging humane treatment of Afghan refugees.

# 🔵 By Taliban (Muttaqi)

- Welcomed the embassy upgrade; pledged non-use of Afghan soil for terrorism.
- Invited India to invest in mining and infrastructure.
- Requested greater trade via Wagah border (Pakistan route) and Chabahar Port (Iran route).
- Stated that terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been pushed out of Afghan territory.
- Condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam (April 2025), showing willingness for counter-terror cooperation.

## 4. India's Key Objectives

Goal	Strategic Purpose
Reopen full diplomatic presence	To restore influence in Afghanistan's political and humanitarian affairs.
Counter Pakistan's dominance	Prevent Pakistan from monopolizing Kabul's diplomatic space.
Safeguard investments	India has invested over \$3 billion in Afghan infrastructure and capacity building (e.g., Zaranj–Delaram Highway, Parliament building, dams).
Engage Taliban pragmatically	Without formal recognition, maintain dialogue on security, trade, and development.

### 5. Taliban's Assurances

- Afghanistan will not allow any terror group to use its soil against another country (a veiled assurance to India).
- Rejected joint military operations with India but agreed on "coordinated anti-terror efforts."
- Denied U.S. demand to hand over Bagram airbase and asserted national sovereignty.
- Sought recognition and investment from India and other countries.

## 6. Areas of Cooperation

Area	Current / Future Scope
Health	6 new projects + 20 ambulances announced by India.
Education	ICCR scholarships "under active consideration" for Afghan students.
Infrastructure	Mining, connectivity (Chabahar Port), and physical infrastructure cooperation.
Trade	Emphasis on routes via Pakistan (Wagah) and Iran (Chabahar) for cost- effective trade.

## 7. Security and Terrorism Issues

- India continues to be wary of terror groups like LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed using Afghan soil.
- TTP leader Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud was reportedly killed in a Kabul explosion recently (denied by TTP).
- Jaishankar and Muttaqi both condemned terrorism as a cross-border problem, hinting at Pakistan's role.
- Taliban accused Pakistan of violating Afghanistan's sovereignty after recent border incidents.

Country

Russia & China

Iran

**Pakistan** 

India

**Current Engagement with Taliban** 

Full diplomatic missions in Kabul.

Active trade and energy cooperation.

Deep political and economic linkages, though strained by TTP tensions.

Limited engagement, now expanding diplomatically and developmentally.

# Venezuela's Opposition leader María Machado wins Nobel Peace Prize 'promoting democracy'

#### **Associated Press**

OSLO

Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her struggle to achieve a democratic transition in the South American nation, winning recognition as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness".

The former Opposition presidential candidate is a "key, unifying figure" in the once deeply divided Opposition to President Nicolas Maduro's government, said Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel committee.

Reacting to the honour, Ms. Machado said she was



María Corina Machado is a 'key, unifying figure' in the once deeply divided Opposition to President Nicolas Maduro's government. AFP

confident the Opposition would succeed in securing a peaceful transition to democracy in her country.

"We're not there yet. We're working very hard to achieve it, but I'm sure that we will prevail," she told Kristian Berg Harpviken, the director of the Nobel Institute and secretary of the Nobel Committee.

#### **Dedicates win to Trump**

"I dedicate this prize to the suffering people of Venezuela and to President Trump for his decisive support of our cause!" she later wrote on X.

"This is something that the Venezuelan people deserve," Ms. Machado said in a call with the Norwegian Nobel Institute. "I'm honored not only by this recognition, but I'm honored to be part of what's going on in Venezuela today."

"In the past year, Ms. Machado has been forced to live in hiding," Mr. Frydnes said. "Despite serious threats against her life, she has remained in the country... When authoritarians seize power, it is crucial to recognise courageous defenders of freedom who rise and resist."

Mr. Maduro's government has routinely targeted its real or perceived opponents.

Ms. Machado, 58, was

set to run against Mr. Maduro in last year's presidential election, but the government disqualified her.

The crackdown on dissent only increased after the country's National Electoral Council, which is stacked with Maduro loyalists, declared him the winner despite credible evidence to the contrary. The election results announced by the Electoral Council sparked protests to which the government responded with force that ended with more than 20 people dead.

Ms. Machado becomes the 20th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. (With inputs from AFP)

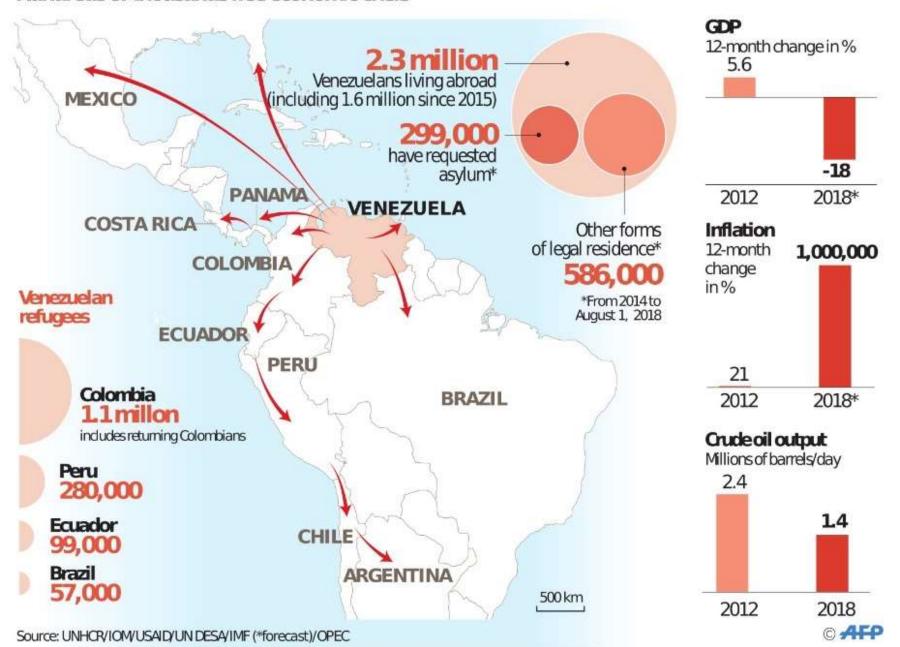
#### **TRUMP'S QUEST**

» PAGE 13



# Venezualan migration routes

Hundreds of thousands flee economic crisis



Routes of Venezuelan migration Main destinations for Venezuelan migrants in 2018 US MEXICO. United Spain States 208,333 290,224 COSTA RICA VENEZUELA Qucuta o COLOMBIA Colombia o Boa Vista 1(000,000 Venezuela ECUADOR Quito Panama Manaos 94,000 Ecuador 220,000 BRAZIL o Lima Brazil PERU Peru 85,000 500,000 Chile 100,000 Argentina CHILE 130,000 9 Buenos Aires Santiago o ARGENTINA Figures for Spain and United States are latest available Google Source: UN International Organisation for Migration, November 2018. BBC **BBC** Source: UNHCR

## **Nobel Prizes 2025**



#### **PHYSICS**



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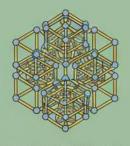
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© Johan Jarnestad/The Rayal Swe5/h Accsing

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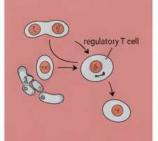
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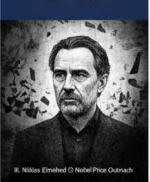
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#### LITERATURE



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© The Swedish Academy

- María Corina Machado, Venezuelan Opposition leader, has been awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace
   Prize for her "struggle to achieve democratic transition" in Venezuela.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized her as a "key, unifying figure" who kept "the flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness."

## 2. About María Corina Machado

Category	Details
Country	Venezuela (South America)
Political Affiliation	Opposition leader against President Nicolás Maduro
Profession	Former presidential candidate; founder of "Vente Venezuela" (political party)
Notable Traits	Outspoken advocate for democracy, human rights, and political freedom
Quote	"This prize belongs to the Venezuelan people I dedicate it to the suffering people of Venezuela and to President Trump for his support."

## 3. Background

- Venezuela has faced authoritarian rule, economic collapse, and political repression under President Nicolás Maduro.
- Ms. Machado was barred from contesting the 2024 presidential election despite widespread public support.
- Despite death threats and house confinement, she continued to lead opposition protests and advocate for democratic reforms.

## 4. Nobel Committee's Citation

- Honoured Machado for:
  - "Tireless efforts to achieve peaceful democratic transition."
  - "Courageous defense of freedom under authoritarian power."
- The committee highlighted her symbolic role in representing hope and civic resistance in Latin America.

## 5. Venezuela's Political Context

Issue	Details
Regime Type	De facto authoritarian under Maduro since 2013
Crisis	Economic sanctions, political persecution, hyperinflation, mass migration (7M+ refugees)
Opposition	Deeply fragmented until Machado's leadership unified resistance
Repression	Election manipulation, arrests, media censorship, military control of institutions

## 6. International Reactions

- U.S. and EU leaders praised the award as a "symbol of democratic courage."
- President Maduro's government dismissed the Nobel Committee as politically motivated.
- Machado dedicated the prize to:
  - The suffering Venezuelan people, and
  - Donald Trump, recognizing his "decisive support" to anti-Maduro efforts.

Aspect	Fact
Prize	2025 Nobel Peace Prize
Laureate	María Corina Machado
Country	Venezuela
Reason	Promoting democracy and peaceful transition
Awarding Body	Norwegian Nobel Committee
Total Women Peace Laureates	20 (as of 2025)

# Trump's quest for Nobel Peace Prize falls short again despite nominations

The White House is responding bitterly to U.S. President being passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize despite efforts from Republicans and world leaders; it also did not comment on Machado's recognition: Trump has been outspoken about his desire for the honour during presidential terms

#### Associated Press

WASHINGTON

J.S. President Donald Trump was passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday despite jockeying from his fellow Republicans, various world leaders and – most vocally – himself.

Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado was awarded the prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it was honouring her "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy."

The White House responded bitterly, with communications director Steven Cheung saying members of "the Nobel Committee proved they place politics over peace" because they didn't recognise Mr. Trump.

"He has the heart of a humanitarian, and there will never be anyone like him who can move mountains with the sheer force of his will," Mr. Cheung wrote on social media.

The White House did not comment on Ms. Machado's recognition. Her opposition to President Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela aligns with the Trump administration's own stance on Venezuela, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio



No dice this time: President Donald Trump and his supporters are likely to view the decision to pass over him for the award as a deliberate affront to the U.S. leader. FILE PHOTO

has praised her as "the personification of resilience, tenacity, and patriotism."

Mr. Trump, who has long coveted the prestigious prize, has been outspoken about his desire for the honour during both of his presidential terms, particularly lately as he takes credit for ending conflicts around the world. The Republican President has expressed doubts that the Nobel committee would ever grant him the award.

"They'll have to do what they do. Whatever they do is fine. I know this: I didn't do it for that. I did it because I saved a lot of lives," Mr. Trump said on Thurs-

The Hostages Families Forum in Israel issued a statement on Friday continuing to support Mr.
Trump. "President
Trump's unprecedented
achievements in peacemaking this past year
speak for themselves, and
no award or lack thereof
can diminish the profound
impact he has had on our
families and on global
peace," it said.

#### Crossed deadline

Although Mr. Trump received nominations for the prize, many of them occurred after the February I deadline for the 2025 award, which fell just a week and a half into his second term. His name was, however, put forward in December by Republican Rep. Claudia Tenney of New York, her office said in a statement, for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between Israel and several Arab states in 2020.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump and his supporters are likely to view the decision to pass over him for the award as a deliberate affront to the U.S. leader, particularly after his involvement in getting Israel and Hamas to initiate the first phase of ending their devastating two-year-old war.

war.

Jørgen Watne Frydnes,
chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the
committee has seen various campaigns in its long
history of awarding the
peace prize. "We receive
thousands and thousands
said

of letters every year of peo-

ple wanting to say what for them leads to peace," he said. "This committee sits in a room filled with the portraits of all laureates, and that room is filled with both courage and integrity. So we base only our decision on the work and the

will of Alfred Nobel."

The peace prize, first awarded in 1901, was created partly to encourage ongoing peace efforts. Alfred Nobel stipulated in his will that the prize should go to someone "who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

#### Three U.S. leaders

Three sitting U.S. Presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize: Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Woodrow Wilson in 1919 and Barack Obama in 2009. Jimmy Carter won the prize in 2002, a full two decades after leaving office. Former Vice President Al Gore received the prize in 2007.

Mr. Obama, a Democrat who was a focus of Mr. Trump's attacks well before the Republican was elected, won the prize early in his tenure as president.

"He got the prize for doing nothing," Mr. Trump said of Mr. Obama on Thursday. "They gave it to Obama for doing absolutely nothing but destroying our country."

As one of his reasons for deserving the award, Mr.Trump often says he has ended seven wars, though some of the conflicts the President claims to have resolved were merely tensions and his role in easing them is disputed. But while there is hope for the end to Israel and Hamas's war, with Israel saving a ceasefire agreement with Hamas came into effect on Friday, much remains uncertain about the aspects of the broader plan, including whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza. And little progress seems to have been made on Russia's war in Ukraine, a conflict Mr. Trump claimed during the 2024 campaign that he could end in one day - he later said he made that remark in jest.

The full list of people nominated is secret, but anyone who submits a nomination is free to talk about it.

Others who formally submitted a nomination for Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize – but after this year's deadline – include Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Pakistan's government, all citing his work in helping end conflicts in their regions.

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump was nominated multiple times for the Nobel Peace Prize (2020–2025) for:
  - The Abraham Accords (2020) normalization deals between Israel, UAE, Bahrain, and Sudan.
  - His role in the hostage release forum and peace efforts in the Middle East.
- However, the Nobel Committee awarded the 2025 Prize to María Machado, not Trump.

## 2. Trump's Response

- Expressed disappointment, claiming the decision was "a deliberate snub" from the Nobel Committee.
- Said, "I did it for peace, not for prizes but I did more for world peace than anyone else."
- His supporters accused the Committee of political bias, noting Barack Obama's 2009 Nobel Peace
   Prize.

## 3. Nobel Committee's Position

- Chair Jørgen Watne Frydnes emphasized that the award is for ongoing global peace efforts, not "self-promotion or past deals."
- The committee recognized Machado's grassroots democracy work as "more pressing in today's context."

U.S. Presidents Who Won Nobel Peace Prize	Year
Theodore Roosevelt	1906
Woodrow Wilson	1919
Jimmy Carter	2002
Barack Obama	2009

Theme	Venezuela (Machado)	U.S. (Trump)
Focus	Democracy & civil resistance	Diplomatic accords
Nature of Work	Grassroots struggle under dictatorship	High-level political negotiation
Recognition Basis	Human rights, democratic courage	State diplomacy & peace talks
Outcome	Awarded Nobel Peace Prize 2025	Rejected by Nobel Committee
Message	Emphasis on people-led democratic change	Shift away from political power recognition

#### ■ 「製造器を開催されて



#### Sea phase of KONKAN 25 ends with high operational tempo

The sea phase of the bilateral maritime exercise RENKAN 28 between the Indian Navy and U.K.v. Royal Navy controlled on Wednesday following a series of high-tempo naval operations designed to enhance interoperability, operational readiness, and maritime cooperation between the participating navies. Indian Navy informed that during the sea phase, the torces undertook a encompassing tactical air warfare, air defence, surface and anti-submarine operations, and inderway replenishment. The sea phase ended with a ceremonial steampast, where participating units exchanged traditional naval courtesies.

#### Govt. to introduce AI in school curriculum from Class 3

The Ministry of Education is set to introduce Artificial Intelligence (Ab) in the school curriculum for all students from Class 3 onwards from next academic year (2006-27), according to and teachers are properly aligned with this technology over the next two to three years. The challenge will be to reach out to over one crore importing Arceleact education. The CSRS is developing the framework for Al integration across grades, "School Education Secretary Sensity Kumar and," A pilot project is already sensitive to the control of the control o The Ministry of Education is set to introduce

### Hydropower project on Chenab gets clearance

The Sawalkote project was first accorded an environmental clearance in 2017; the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan added momentum to the approval process, says official

n apex committee of the Environment of Ministry has a coorded a fresh environ-mental clearance to the Sowalkote hydroelectric project, proposed to come up on Cherub river in Ramban, Jamunu and Kadhuri. Planned as a run of the

river project utilining the flow of the Chenab to gen-erate electricity, it is re-portedly the first major by drepower, project on the industivers to be accorded environmental elegance following India's suspen-sion of the India Waters Treaty (IWT) on April 23, following the Pahalgam terror attack. "The Expert Appraisal

The Expert Appraisal Clammittee (EACS, after earning the information continuous and the information of the i



While the process of transferring the project to the NHPC has been on

since 2021, a slew of appro-vals from the Central Blee-tricity Authority and the

were accorded in July 2025. Public hearings, re-gated to be done under

Central Water Com-

was originally being steered by the Jammu and Kashmir Power Develop-ment Corporation CIKPDCS. However, the IKPDC signed a deal with the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. in 2021 to build and com-

effectively in charge of it urtil 2004, the designated committee's need, the Knyl-romneut Ministry could not clear the project and the forest clearance. which follows a parallel approval 2022, the project was friet accorded a stage I forest clearance are per publicly.

sion of the IWT and the plan to utilise the full po-cential of the eastern Imbus rivers have added momen-tum to the approval pro-cess," a senior official, aware of the approval pro-cess of hydroelectric pro-jects, told The Hinds, but declined to be identified.

Project cost goes up From an earlier estimate of about £22,000 crore, esti-mated cost of the project has ballooned to £31,380 Preject took goes up.

Motives being probed about £22,000 crore, estimated cost of the project has belioned to £3,800 the project has belioned to £3,800 the project for the p

#### Cough syrup deaths: pharma firm owner sent to police custody

#### Mehal Malpuni

The owner of Sresan Pharmacouticals, a Tamil Nach-based firm that made a cough syrup linked to the death of 24 children in Maditya Pradesit, was re-manded in police custody for 10 days by a const in Tablindware district of

Friday. G. Hauganathan was arrested from his home in Chemnal by a Madhya Pra-desh Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday. He was produced in a court in Parasia, where a case has been registered.

He was booked after the Caldrif cough syrup, ma-nufactured at his factory in Kaneheepuram in Tamil Nadu, was linked to the death of children due to kidney failure.

labalpur Impector-Gen-eral of Police Premod Ver-ma told The Hindu that Mr. Ranganathan would be in-terrogated for details on the manufacturing proce-dures inflewed at his factor

## SC rejects plea

NEW DILLIN seeking an independent investigation by a judicial

him or booking more peo

usual" that such high amounts of a toxic chemi-cal could be added by mistake or due to negligence. The cough syrup's samples were found to be adulterat-ed with more than 46% diethylene glycol (DEG) in tests conducted by the drug control authorities of

### Centre issues guidelines for retiring govt. employees;

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Department of Per-sions and Persioners' Wel-ters and Persioners' Wel-vernment officials, which entual appointment of a welfare officer, or pression "The officer would be de-puted by the head of office and assigned to each retir-and suspinged to each retir-ber formalistic. The officer shall also be responsible pendents for documents.

event of death of the pen-sioner while submitting



Central Civil Services (CCS)

employees,
"Major procedural reforms siglance clearance be-form the neutroment has on vigilance clearance beture the returnment has
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issued litree munits prior
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to retirement since theyindependent of the prior
to retirement since theythe prior to retirement since theymorran, the Evipartment
stated.

#### Bodies of 2 missing soldiers recovered in south Kashmir

and dedication will forese The bodies of two soldiers said. The Army identified the

The Army identified the deceased soldiers as Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh,
"The team confronted a severe snowsterm and whiteour conditions in the whiteour esenditions in the mountain of south Kash-ruir. Since then, the two soldlers have gone out of communication," the Ar-ity spokesperson and. The Ariny launched search operations from multiple points in south Kashruir and Kishtwar on Tuesday to trace the mic-

sing soldiers frience search and rescue opera-tions were hampered due to prevailing adverse weather conditions, the

#### 6 State-level RTI panels are defunct; appeals can take vears to be heard: report

#### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIG

the Eight to Information Act, 2003 approaches, ma-ny State Information Com-missions (SICs) and the missions (MCs) and the Central Information Com-mission (CIC) are either pa-ralysed or so understaffed that hearings could take years to happen, according to a report by a citizens' group working to promote transparency in govern-ment functioning.

transparency in govern-ment functioning.

The SIGs and the CRC
bear appeals and some plaints when citizens are disastisful with the result of an RTI application. There were over 2.4 lash appeals in 2024.
The larest edition of the Saturk Nogrik Sengathan

shows that six SICs - Jhark-hand, Himschal Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Tripura and Mudhya Pradesh -were defunct for varying

periods of time between Ju-ly 1, 2024 to October 7, 2025 as no new Commis-sioners were appointed upon the incumbents de-mitting office."

The SiCs of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pra-desh, Tamii Nadu and Bi-har are functioning with-out a full strength of

cancies, including for the Chief Information Commis-sioner, and boarings can take over a year to come

The backlog is mountthe tracking is mount-ing, with Comenisations on ly able to dispose of Lif lakit cases in a year with 2.4 lakit appeals. In some States, the current speed of hear-

information Commission, which hears appeals against RTI responses to Union government organisations, its functioning with only two information Commissioners, with time varieties of the commissioners, with time varieties of the commissioners with time varieties of the commissioners with time varieties of the commissioners o

# welfare officer to assist them

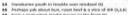
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#### Murugan's abode

After killing the demon Socrapadman, Lord Murugan

After killing the demon's secongosimum. Lord Murugan sensited for evil in a service attempediture, Sic. the fravolled for Truttani. On the way, the halfed every now and then to do Sleap puls. Murugan never missed this daily pain to the faith and the second of the pain them. He situationed as lings and decided to do then pain them. He missibilitied as lings are lined to second of the pain them, He missibilitied as lings are standarded to the faith of the second of the pain them to be known as Kandarzeekin lings own established by Kandala, which is another name for Murugan, the lings carne to be known as Kandarzeekin et al. (1998) and the sharp of the second of the sec

From each side, we can see Murugan with one of fils con-sorts, but not with both of them. The hill is a small one, with 84 steps. Murugan is known by the name of Subrahmanya Swarny in this attuda

# Hydropower project on Chenab gets clearance

The Sawalkote project was first accorded an environmental clearance in 2017; the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan added momentum to the approval process, says official

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

n apex committee of the Environment Ministry has accorded a fresh environmental clearance to the Sawalkote hydroelectric project, proposed to come upon Chenab river in Ramban, Jammu and Kashmir.

Planned as a run-of-theriver project utilising the flow of the Chenab to generate electricity, it is reportedly the first major hydropower project on the Indus rivers to be accorded environmental clearance following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on April 23, following the Pahalgam terror attack.

"The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), after examining the information submitted and detailed deliberations, reiterated its earlier recommendation on the project and recommended the proposal for grant of prior Environmental Clearance to Sawalkote H.E. Project," said the minutes of a meeting conducted on September 26.

The project was first accorded an environmental clearance by a designated committee in 2017, when it



Earliest project: A view of the Salal Dam on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir. ANI

was originally being steered by the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC). However, the JKPDC signed a deal with the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. in 2021 to build and commission the project and be effectively in charge of it until 2061.

Despite the designated committee's nod, the Environment Ministry could not clear the project as the JKPDC could not procure a forest clearance - which follows a parallel approval process. In September 2023, the project was first accorded a 'stage 1 forest clearance' as per publicly available records.

While the process of transferring the project to the NHPC has been on since 2021, a slew of approvals from the Central Electricity Authority and the Central Water Commission were accorded in July 2025. Public hearings, required to be done under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, were done between December 2022 to February 2023.

"The Sawalkote project was already going through various stages of approval. Given its size – though it does not have a storage dam – it will be the largest project of its kind and has always had certain strateg-

ic importance. The suspension of the IWT and the plan to utilise the full potential of the eastern Indus rivers have added momentum to the approval process," a senior official, aware of the approval projects, told The Hindu, but declined to be identified.

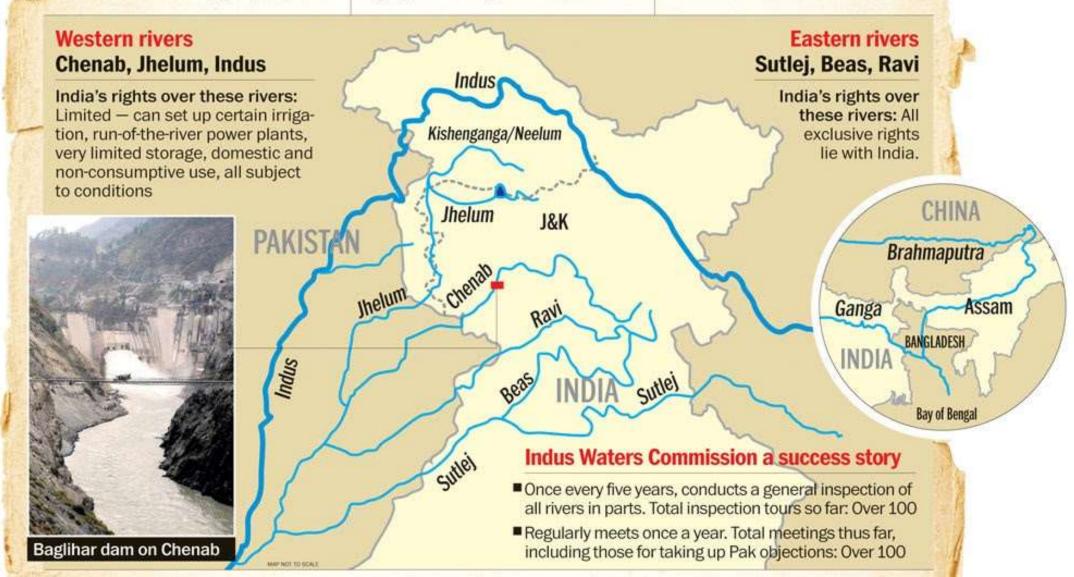
#### Project cost goes up

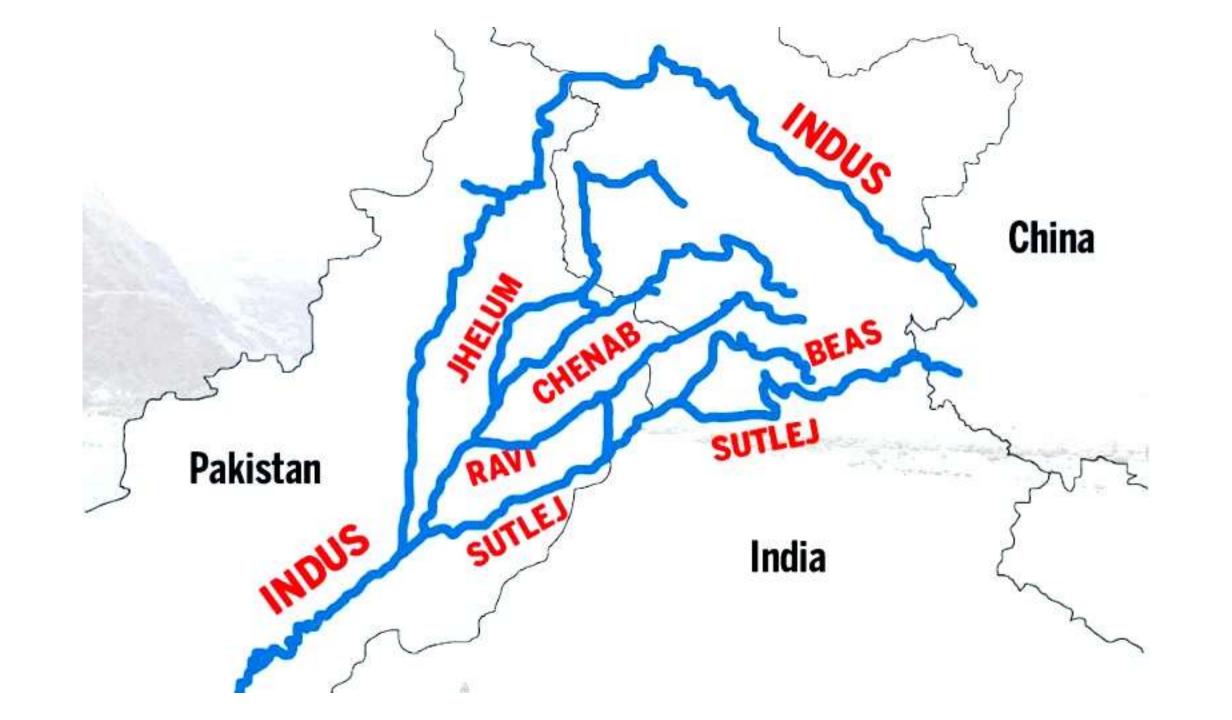
From an earlier estimate of about ₹22,000 crore, estimated cost of the project has ballooned to ₹31,380 crore.

It is projected to have an installed power capacity of 1,856 MW and generate about 8,000 million units of electricity annually.

# The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).
- Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.
- Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.





- The Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project (HEP) on the Chenab River has received fresh environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- It is the first major hydropower project on the Indus basin to get such clearance after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan in April 2023.

## 2. About the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project (HEP)

Parameter	Details 🗇
River	Chenab River
Location	Ramban district, Jammu & Kashmir
Туре	Run-of-the-river project
Installed Capacity	1,856 MW
Estimated Cost	₹31,380 crore (earlier estimate ₹22,000 crore)
Power Generation	Approx. 8,000 million units annually
Implementing Agency	National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC)
Project Owner (initially)	Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC)
Project Transfer	Transferred from JKPDC to NHPC in 2021

Year	Development
2017	Project first received environmental clearance.
2021	JKPDC signed MoU with NHPC Ltd. to implement and complete the project.
2023 (Feb)	Public hearings and forest clearance under the <b>Forest Rights Act</b> completed.
2023 (Apr)	India suspended the <b>Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)</b> with Pakistan following the <b>Pahalgam terror attack</b> .
2023 (Sep)	Project received Stage-I forest clearance.
2025 (Oct)	Final environmental clearance granted by MoEFCC Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

# 4. Project's Strategic and Environmental Significance

## Hydrological Importance

- The Chenab River is one of the three western rivers (along with Jhelum and Indus) allocated to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960).
- The project aims to maximize India's utilization of its share of Indus basin waters post-IWT suspension.

## Energy & Infrastructure Goals

- Will be largest hydroelectric project in J&K, boosting local grid stability and employment.
- Supports India's clean energy transition and energy security goals under the National Hydropower
   Policy 2024.

## **§** Strategic Importance

- Enhances India's control over upstream flows of the Chenab a crucial geo-strategic asset in J&K's river basin management.
- Strengthens India's water leverage with Pakistan after IWT's suspension.

Approval Stage	Authority / Year	Remarks
Environmental Clearance	EAC, MoEFCC (2017 & 2025 renewed)	Needed updated EIA & public hearings
Forest Clearance (Stage-I)	MoEFCC, 2023	For diversion of forest land
Central Electricity Authority (CEA)	2021	Technical feasibility approved
Central Water Commission (CWC)	2021	Hydrological & dam design vetted
Public Hearings	2022–23	Under Forest Rights Act, 2006

Treaty Aspect Key Details

Signed 1960 (India–Pakistan; mediated by World

Bank)

**Rivers Allocated to India** Eastern Rivers — Ravi, Beas, Sutlej

Rivers Allocated to Pakistan (with Western Rivers – Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

limited Indian use)

Suspension (2023)

India's Rights

Run-of-river hydro projects permitted

without altering flow volume

India halted cooperation after Pakistan's

inaction on terror and repeated objections on

Kishanganga & Ratle projects

## 8. Current Relevance

- With IWT suspended, India can now:
  - Fully utilize western river potential under its territorial jurisdiction.
  - Expedite projects like Ratle (850 MW), Baglihar (900 MW), and Pakal Dul (1000 MW) on the Chenab.
  - Strengthen energy sovereignty in J&K region.

# 9. Broader Impact

Domain	Impact	
Economic	Boosts regional infrastructure, job creation, and industrial power availability.	
Environmental	Promotes renewable energy but risks biodiversity loss.	
Strategic	Enhances water resource control; bolsters national security.	
Diplomatic	May trigger renewed debate on India–Pakistan water sharing.	

Parameter Fact

Project Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project

River Chenab River

Capacity 1,856 MW

Location Ramban district, Jammu & Kashmir

Implementing Agency NHPC Ltd.

Project Type Run-of-the-river

Cost ₹31,380 crore

Power Generation ~8,000 million units annually

Clearance Granted MoEFCC Expert Appraisal Committee (2025)

Austria finds Microsoft 'illegally' tracked students, watchdog says



"Regults" tracked students using its education software and must grant them access to their date, privacy campaign group Recyb said on Fishay, it had complained that the Microsoft All enfaultien.

#### At least 20 wounded, child killed in Russian strikes across Ukraine



Nov., damaged excitorate buildings and caused blackouts across Union on Friday. Five people were hospitalised, while others reserved first sid at the teams, authorities said. A 7 year sid lawy was billed in separate attacks to southwater Zapurishehia region. As

#### Japan's ruling coalition collapses, putting Takaichi's PM bid in a bind



Japan's ruting coslition collagred on feldey as jurilor partner isometin quit, parting in part Libera Democratic firstly chief Sanae Takakin's bit to become the country's first woman Prime Minoster. Komstets idention to und the alliance that has governed Japan für alternat 35 years has stirred up a new publical critic. yer

ties, what measures need to be taken will be taken." Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaud-hry told reporters in the ci-ty of Peshawar. The Pakistani Talifsan

The Pakintani Taliban (TTP), a separate but linked group to the Afghan Taliban, along with its affi-lates, are behind most of the violence – largely di-

rected at security forces. Meanwhile, the Pakista

ni Army said 30 Taliban fighters involved in the kill-ing of It soldiers, including

a 14. Col. and a Major, were "sent to hell" in a series of

"retribution operations" conducted in Oralizat district of northwest Pakistan. Eleven military personnel were killed in clashes with

the TTP earlier this week.

Agence France-Press

Multiple people were dead

or missing after a massive blast rocked a U.S. explo-

Peru lawmakers oust President blamed for failing to stem crime



just after midnight on Friday, ending a stirt plagued by protests, corruption probes and rampart crime. Congress that Jose Jert, who assumed the South American country's presidency, will lear transitional government until elections in April 2026, are

### Taliban slam 'violent, heinous' Pakistani attack in Afghanistan

Pakistan violated Afghanistan's airspace, bombing a civilian market near the Durand Line and also violating Kabul's sovereign territory, says the Taliban regime, Islamabad says to safeguard Pakistani lives, 'what should be done will be done

he Tuliban regime on Friday accused Pakistan of "violat-ing Kabul's sessering teris tory", a day after two ex-plosions were heard in the contral

capital.
The Taliban have pre-viously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this is the first time they has al-leged an incursion deep in to their territory, describ-ing it as an "imprecedented act". "Pakistan violated Af-ghardstan's altspace, bombing a civilian market

and also violating Kabul's



The faliban have previously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this time, they allow a deep territorial incursion, an

Defence Ministry and in a peat on social media. "This is an unprecedented, vis-lent, and helmous set in the history of Afghanistan and instory of Afghanistan and

denns in the border town of Marghi reported that a market selling second-hand weapons had been beenbed. "If the situation there action, the cense-quences will be attributed to the Pakistani army," the statement added. It comes as Afghan For-rigin Minister Anti Khon to India. lents in the border town of

to India.

#### Anti-TTP raid

Pakintan's military apokes-man, in a televised press conference on Friday, did not directly respond when questioned whether Pakis-tan was responsible for the attacks. "To saleguard Pakistant lives and proper-

# earth move, threatens tariffs

M.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he nu lenger feels the need for a summit with Chinese leader M. Enping the month, alamming litiging for hostile trade practices and threatening "massive" tariffa.

In a lengthy and unex-pected Truth Social post, Mr. Trump railed against China imposing export controls on rare earth minerals – a critical compo-nent in modern

rechnology.

"Some very strange things are happening in chinal They are becoming very hostile," Mr. Trump and in the post.

"I was to need President

XI in two weeks, at APEC but now there seems to be no reason to do so," he said, adding that he had al-



Trump slams Beijing's rare

Mr. Xi about the issue.
Mr. Trump added, "One of the policies that we are calculating at this moment is a massive increase of ta-riffs on Chinese products coming into the United States of America."

As recently as last week, Mr. Trump had stressed the importance of his plans to meet Mr. XI at the Asia-Pacific Economic Coopera-Pucific Economic Coopera-tion (APIC) manualt, which was to be their first on-

## Chinese monopol

Chinese manopoly
But on Friday, Mr. Trump
said China had sent letters
to countries around the
world detailing export controls on "each and every
element of production having to do with Bare Earths,

just put out, I will be forced, as President of the United States of America, to financially counter their

move," he said. Wall Street stocks quick-by tumbled into negative territory as traders wor-ried the simmering trade war between Washington and Retting sould retente

#### Violence in Pakistan after Islamists clash with police at rally

#### Associated Press

Violent clashes erupted on Friday between police and Islamists in Pakistan's La-hore after security forces tried to stop thousands of demonstrators from leav-ing for the capital, Islams-had, where they planned to stage a pro-Palestinian eatly outside the U.S. Res-bassy, officials said.

tractions, officials and the capital of Punjab province be-gan on Thursday but intensified Friday after police baton-charged the demonstrators and fired that gas to disperse them at multi-side beautions.

response. Tehroek e-Labbutk Pakistan party (TLP) claimed that two of its supporters had been killed and 80 oth-ers injured. There was no nediate comment from the Punjab provincial go-vernment headed by Chief Minister Maryam Nawas

Sharif.
The protest comes after Hamas and brack agreed to a ceasefire plan brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump. Earlier, authorities had

#### Where there's a will

The same evening, rest-



#### U.S. proposes ban on Chinese airlines from flying over Russia

#### Agence France-Presse

The United States has pro-

The United States has pro-posed produlting Claimes altimes from using Russian of the Common Common Common States of the Common Common States of the Common Common States of the Common Common Common Claimes and common to the Common Common States of the Common Common Common Claimes and con-trers in exercising Russian overflights in the conduct of the Common Common

carriers," the U.S. Depart-

China slams move China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson tiuo jiakun told a news conference in Beijing on Friday that American "restrictions on Chinese airline operations are detrimental to person-nel exchanges between the

not oxchanges between the reconstriets."
The U.S. proposal comes as Washington and Beijing work to negotiate a deal to end a bruising trade war, with a truce on most resignocal tariffs extended to November 10.

#### Taiwan President pledges to build air defence system in face of China threat

#### Associated Press

Taiwan will accelerate the building of a "Taiwan Shield" or "T-Donie" air China, its leader said on

China, its leader said on Pritchy, the Lai Ching-te-Pritchy, the Ching-te-Pritchy of GDP and to the China Ch ing our defence Mr. Lai called Taiwan a

Lai Ching-to

"beacon of democracy" in Asia, drawing a distinction with China's one-party state of the control of the Tempocratic Talwan and the will strive to maintain the status quo, protect peace and stability in the Talwan Nirah, and promote region at prosperity and develop-ment," he said.

The Chinese military

regularly sends fighter jets and warships into the skies and waters off Tabvan and has staged major military exercises in the area in re-

Thome's system
Mr. Lat said his government would entibblis a risement would entibblis as insert to the state of the state

military spending to 10% of its GDP. The "T Dome" altowa Trilwan to signal to the U.S. that it is increasing its defence spending rapid-by, while isosping its infli-tary buildup defensive in nature, said Wen-Ti Sung, a fellow with the Atlantic Council.

icliow with the Atlantic Council.

A Chinese Foreign Mi-man A Chinese Foreign Mi-philip and Chinese Council and Friday Pitichest U.S. urms sales to Tawan and mili-tary ties between Washing-ton and Talpet.

Ordical Structure of the Chinese Council and Chinese Chinese Council and Chinese Chinese Council and Chinese Chinese

name for existing a perfloir situation of mill-initiatives.

Mr. Trump has pres-person Guo Jiakum.

# black rocked a U.S. explo-sives factory on Friday, sending emergency res-ponders rushing to the site and prompting official warnings for the public to avoid the area, authorities



Multiple people dead, several missing as blast rocks explosives factory in U.S.

Smale file the er as debits covers the ground after a blast ripped through a military explosives plant in Tennessee, U.S. on Friday, Ar

"We can confirm there has been an explosion at Acturate Sengratic. Not content there has been an explosion at Acturate Sengratic. Not comment and the comment of the content through a military explosive proper and commercial polarity and the scene working to address the situation," it added.

The manufacturing

sion had apparently oblit-erated one of the facility's hilltop huddings, leaving only smoldering wreckage and the burnt out shells of vehicles.

website.

Website.

Aerial footage of the aftermath showed the exploremath showed the explo

explosion. But Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis report ed "some" fatalities and added that several people

were missing in the "very devastating blast" that enguified an entire building at the facility. the facility.

"We do have several people at this time that's unaccounted first. We are trying to be mindful of long." We have some that are deceased, But we're going to go back and like I say, talk these families.

Mr. Davis said authorities has secured the area, but worned of the pinsality around the area of the property of the pr

## Taliban slam 'violent, heinous' Pakistani attack in Afghanistan

Pakistan violated Afghanistan's airspace, bombing a civilian market near the Durand Line and also violating Kabul's sovereign territory, says the Taliban regime; Islamabad says to safeguard Pakistani lives, 'what should be done will be done'

#### Agence France-Presse

KABUL

he Taliban regime on Friday accused Pakistan of "violating Kabul's sovereign territory", a day after two explosions were heard in the capital.

The Taliban have previously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this is the first time they has alleged an incursion deep into their territory, describing it as an "unprecedented act".

"Pakistan violated Afghanistan's airspace, bombing a civilian market in the Marghi area of Paktika near the Durand Line and also violating Kabul's



The Taliban have previously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this time, they allege a deep territorial incursion. AP

sovereign territory," the Defence Ministry said in a post on social media. "This is an unprecedented, violent, and heinous act in the history of Afghanistan and Pakistan," it added. The statement did not specify how Kabul's territory had been violated, but *AFP* journalists heard two loud blasts in the capital late on Thursday.

The same evening, resi-

dents in the border town of Marghi reported that a market selling second-hand weapons had been bombed. "If the situation becomes more tense after these actions, the consequences will be attributed to the Pakistani army," the statement added.

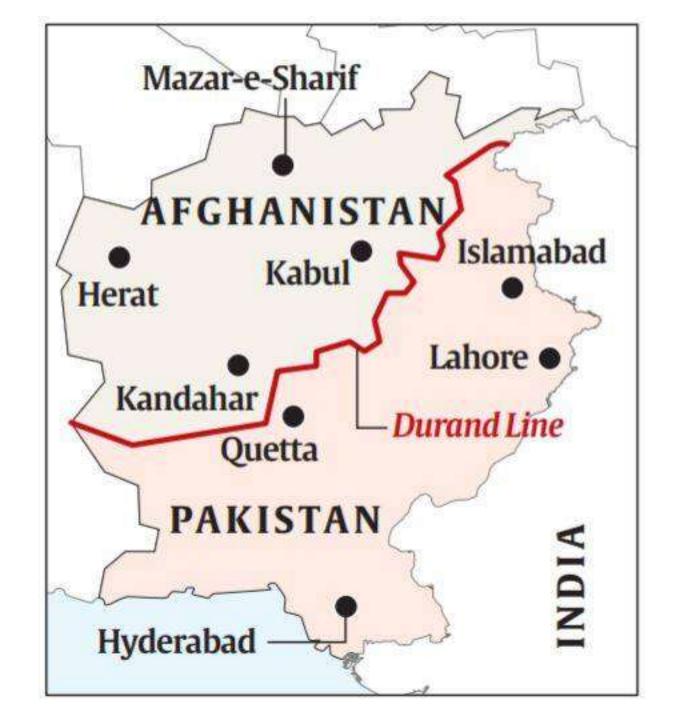
It comes as Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi made his first visit to India.

#### Anti-TTP raid

Pakistan's military spokesman, in a televised press conference on Friday, did not directly respond when questioned whether Pakistan was responsible for the attacks. "To safeguard Pakistani lives and properties, what measures need to be taken will be taken," Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told reporters in the city of Peshawar.

The Pakistani Taliban (TTP), a separate but linked group to the Afghan Taliban, along with its affiliates, are behind most of the violence – largely directed at security forces.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Army said 30 Taliban
fighters involved in the killing of 11 soldiers, including
a Lt. Col. and a Major, were
"sent to hell" in a series of
"retribution operations"
conducted in Orakzai district of northwest Pakistan.
Eleven military personnel
were killed in clashes with
the TTP earlier this week.







- The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of violating its sovereign airspace and conducting airstrikes inside Afghan territory, calling it an "unprecedented act of aggression."
- The alleged strike targeted a civilian market in Marghi area of Paktika province, close to the Durand
   Line (the disputed border between the two countries).

### 2. Taliban's Reaction

- The Taliban's Defence Ministry stated that Pakistan's attack was "unprecedented, violent, and heinous", marking a serious breach of sovereignty.
- It warned Islamabad that any escalation or cross-border aggression would have "serious consequences."
- The Taliban claimed this was the **first deep incursion** into Afghan territory, not just a border skirmish.

### 3. Pakistan's Justification

 Pakistan's military spokesman, Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, confirmed that operations were carried out to "safeguard Pakistani lives" and neutralize terrorists, saying:

"What should be done will be done."

- He did not directly acknowledge violating Afghan territory.
- Pakistan maintained that its actions were retaliatory strikes against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
   (TTP), responsible for killing 11 Pakistani soldiers earlier this week.

## 4. Background: TTP & Cross-border Tensions

Aspect	Details
Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	A terrorist organization ideologically aligned with the Afghan Taliban but operating inside Pakistan.
Pakistan's Allegation	TTP enjoys safe havens inside Afghanistan under Taliban rule.
Taliban's Stand	Denies harboring TTP; calls it an internal issue of Pakistan.
Recent Context	The attack follows escalating border clashes and terror incidents in Orakzai and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**Date / Period** 

**Event** 

**Early October 2025** 

11 Pakistani soldiers killed by TTP in Orakzai region.

**Following days** 

Pakistan conducts airstrikes near the **Durand Line**, allegedly hitting Afghan side.

Same week

Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi visited India (New Delhi).

Day after visit

Explosions reported in Kabul; Taliban accuses Pakistan of "air incursion."

**Aspect** Details ~2,640 km border between Pakistan and Afghanistan Length Drawn in **1893** by British India (Sir Mortimer Durand) Origin Never officially recognized it as an international **Afghanistan's View** boundary Claims the **Pashtun regions** along the border are part **Taliban's Stance** of historic Afghan territory Frequent skirmishes, air violations, and militant Result movements across border areas

# Empowering Framers throughSkill Development

With two-thirds of India's
 population
 dependent on agriculture, empoweri
 ng farmers through skill
 development has become a priority.

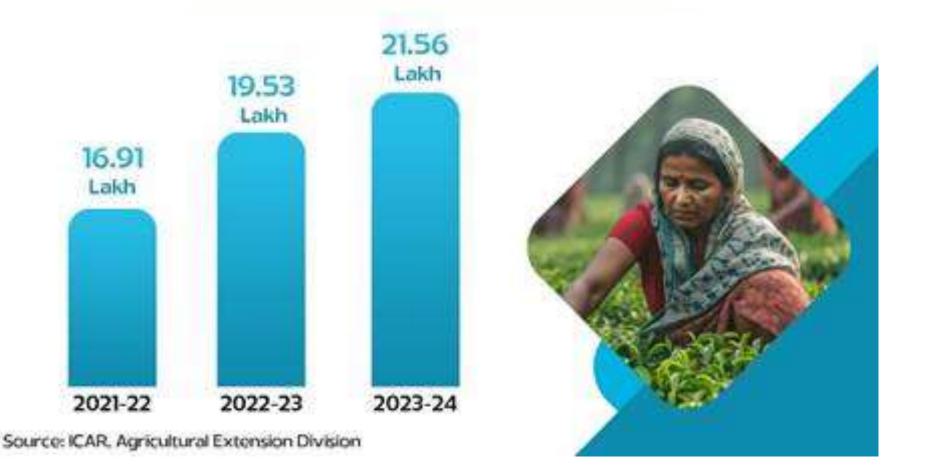
• The government is prioritizing skill development to boost farmers' productivity and ensure sustainable growth.

- What are the Key Initiatives Focusing on Agricultural Skill Development?
- Institutional Platforms for Farmer Training:
  - Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs): ICAR-established district-level KVKs providing hands-on training; trained 58.02 lakh farmers (2021–2024) and 18.56 lakh till February 2025.
  - Agricultural Technology Management Agency
    (ATMA): ATMA promotes decentralised extension
    reforms; trained 1.27 crore farmers (2021–
    2025) through state-led training, demonstrations,
    and exposure visits.

## Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Skilling Farmers, Empowering India



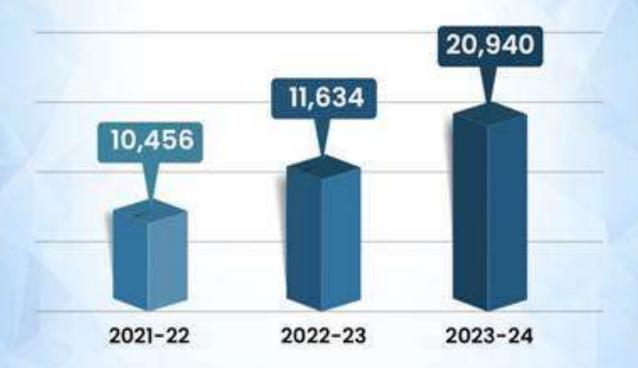
58.02 Lakh Farmers Trained (2021-24)





# Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)

Cumulative Reach: 43,000+ Rural Youths Trained (2021-24)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

- Sector-Specific Skilling Initiatives:
  - Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 4.0) enhances farmers' employability through large-scale agricultural skill training and certification.
    - It integrates agriculture skills, training 1.64 crore and certifying 1.29 crore individuals since 2015.
  - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) promotes scientific horticulture practices for improved productivity and income.
    - The mission trained 9.73 lakh farmers (2014–2024) in horticulture practices.
  - Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) focuses on improving livestock quality through training in breeding and artificial insemination.
    - It trained 38,736 technicians in artificial insemination and livestock breeding.
  - Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) strengthens the agro-processing sector to reduce wastage and increase farmers' income.
    - The scheme approved 1,601 agro-processing projects, benefiting 34 lakh farmers.

# SC Halts Aravalli Jungle Safari Over Ecological Concerns

The Supreme Court of India has temporarily halted the Aravalli Jungle Safari Project in Haryana, citing concerns over its environmental impact on one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions that serves as the green lung of Delhi-NCR. Aravalli Jungle Safari Project:

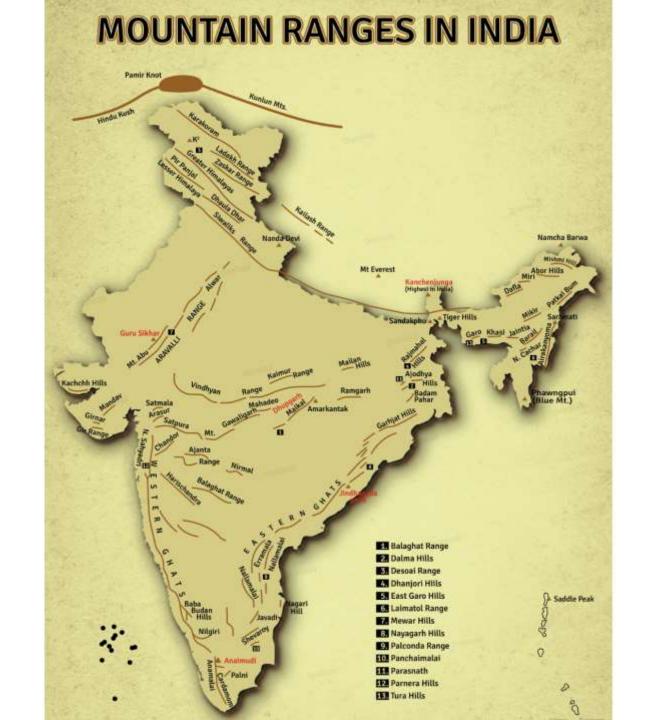
Announced in 2022, the project aims to build the world's largest jungle safari near Gurugram and Nuh. Inspired by Sharjah Safari (UAE) and Gir Sanctuary (Gujarat), it includes zones for big cats, bird parks, herpetarium, underwater world, and eco-tourism trails.

- Aravalli Range: It is considered one of the oldest mountain systems in the world. It spans over 800km from Gujarat to Delhi (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is Guru Peak (Guru Shikhar) on Mount Abu (also known as Arbuda).
- The range gives rise to rivers like the Banas, Sahibi (tributaries of the Yamuna), and Luni (flowing into the Rann of Kutch).

The **Aravalli Range** is divided into two sections: the **Sambhar-Sirohi range**, which includes **Guru Peak**, and the **Sambhar-Khetri range**.

Rich in minerals and natural resources, the range acts as a barrier against the western desert.

It is densely forested in the south, and much of the range is rocky, sparsely populated, and covered with quartzite and sand.



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# Project Waterworth



Meta Platforms has chosen Mumbai and Visakhapatnam as the landing sites for the India leg of its multibillion-dollar undersea cable project Waterworth.

Project Waterworth: It is a subsea cable initiative by Meta Platforms aimed at strengthening global data connectivity.

It connects the US, India, Brazil, and South Africa, making it the world's longest subsea cable, spanning over 50,000 km.



**Route Design:** Project Waterworth features a **W-shaped route** that bypasses the **Red Sea corridor**, reducing risks from **geopolitical conflicts and cable damages**.



**Timeline & Capacity:** Expected to be **operational by 2030**, with a design capacity of **1 petabit per second (Pbps)**.



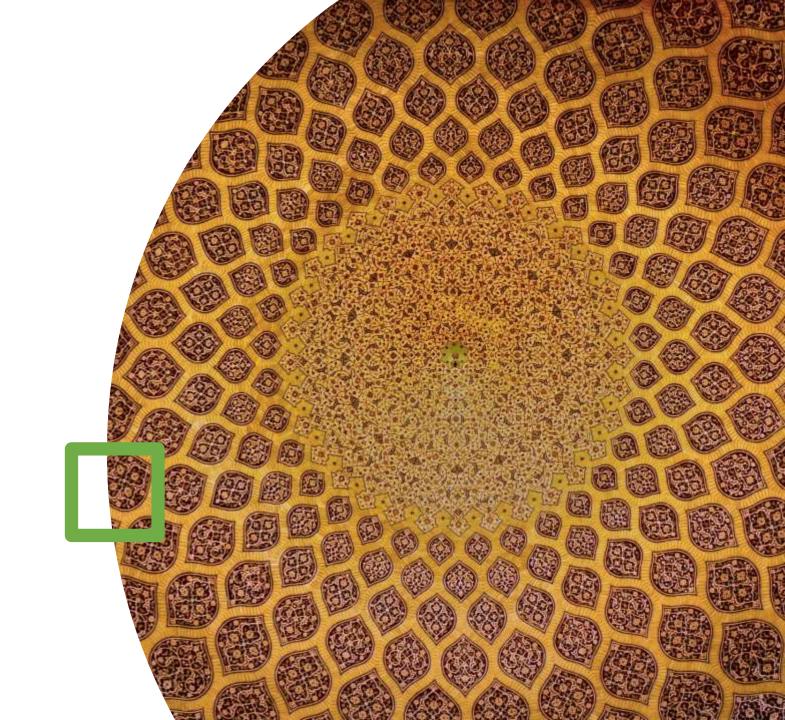
**Strategic Significance:** The chosen **landing sites in India** enhance the country's role in **global AI infrastructure**, support **data localisation**, and strengthen India's **digital ecosystem**.

## Meta's Project Waterworth Map



# Foreign Currency Settlement System

# DRAVYA Portal



 The Ministry of Ayush has launched the "DRAVYA" (Digitised Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of Ayush) portal, developed by CCRAS, to digitally catalogue 100 key medicinal substances in its first phase.



## DRAVYA Portal

DRAVYA (Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances) portal was launched on National Ayurveda Day (Sep 23, 2025).

## **About DRAVYA Portal**

- Ministry: Initiatives of Ministry of Ayush.
- It is the largest collection of data on Ayurvedic Ingredients and Products made available to everyone.
- It is an ever growing, ever evolving database that covers classical Ayurveda textbooks as well as contemporary scientific literature and field studies.



