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offered was not
enough, offer
your absence”.

— Mario Benedetti

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U.S. ENVOY IN MANIPUR
Modi and Trump share
a special bond, says Gor
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FIVE-DAY WEEK BEHIND Strike hits banking services nationwide

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IMMIGRANT WOES
U.S. may end H-1B visa
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SATYA NARAYAN P.O. COLLAPSE When home in Delhi became a death trap

Unsafe reality behind
student housing boom
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SUMMIT GLASH
Sabalenka to meet
Rybakina in final
SPORT • PAGE 14

INSIDE



SC seeks timeline for FSSAI's food label roll-out

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has put the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) two-phase rollout of food of each warning labels (FoWL) under the revised FoWL, warning that the second phase could be "indefinitely postponed" in the absence of a clear timeline. ■ PAGE 3



U.S. marks 25 years since 9/11 terrorist attacks

NEW YORK
Americans commemorated the 25th anniversary of 9/11 on Friday, remembering the victims, the shock, and the sweeping consequences of the al Qaeda attacks on symbols of the United States' might and prosperity. ■ PAGE 13

Vice-principal of Kolkata college 'forced to resign'

KOLKATA
Vice principal of Sardar Sarbajit Law College in Kolkata resigned on Friday after a 31-hour 'ghor' by students over the college's order mandating 70% attendance to appear for upcoming semester exams. The ABGP failed the 'ghor' and 'tougher' for office with Gangajal. ■ PAGE 2

Dipke requests Jarange-Patil to call off strike

MUMBAI
Abhishek Dipke, founder of the Congress (Jan) Party (CJP), met Marathi activist Manoj Jarange-Patil at Anaravali, South on Friday, and requested him to end his fast. Mr. Jarange-Patil has been on a hunger strike demanding reservation for Marathas. The meeting took place on day 14 of the fast. ■ PAGE 8

India-EU FTA closer to reality, text with Council

NEW DELHI
The European Commission has forwarded the text of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement to the European Council for its signature and conclusion, signalling that the legal vetting and finalisation of the text have been completed and all that remains are the internal approvals. ■ PAGE 11

End Ukraine war, says Modi as he meets Putin

The two leaders review cooperation across defence, energy, space and other sectors, as they meet ahead of BRICS Summit, India ready to assist in peace efforts, dialogue is the way forward, says PM

Kalpal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin, the first foreign dignitary to arrive here for the BRICS summit, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral ties. During today's meeting, we talked about closer trade ties, including implementation of the Programme for Economic Cooperation 2030. Cooperation in areas like infrastructure, energy, technology, defence, culture, and more," said Mr. Modi. Sources said the two sides discussed steps to increase the bilateral trade target to \$100 billion by 2030 and projects on civil nuclear cooperation. Mr. Modi reiterated his call to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation in political, economic, defence, energy, space, skill mobility, and people-to-people domains," said the External Affairs Ministry. They exchanged views on the conflict in West Asia and the spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in the Black Sea region. Several Indian soldiers were killed in attacks by Russian and Ukrainian forces on foreign-flagged vessels.

Gift and invitation
PM once again reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward to resolving conflicts and in-



Ties of friendship: Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifts President Vladimir Putin a Russian translation of the *Thirukkural*, in New Delhi, on Friday. (AP)

creasing employment opportunities for Indian blue-collar professionals and cooperation in the mobility of skilled manpower. Against the backdrop of the conflict in West Asia, the two leaders discussed measures to ensure the flow of energy and fertilisers through strategic joint ventures were discussed, as was cooperation in critical minerals. Mr. Modi gifted Mr. Putin a Russian translation of *Thirukkural*, the classical Tamil poem collection authored by poet Thiruvalluvar. Mr. Modi was accompanied by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary Shaktikanta Das, Foreign Secretary Vikram Matlani, and other senior officials to the meeting.

The two leaders met at the sidelines of the SCO summit in the Kyrgyz Republic's capital, Bishkek, on August 31. Mr. Modi had called for an end to the Ukraine war then.

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Houthi take control of Red Sea coast in Yemen

ANWAR HANAN/REUTERS
KARACHI/DUBAI

Yemen's Houthis seized a strategic Red Sea island on Friday after capturing territory along the coast, sealing their takeover of a vital shipping corridor linking Europe and Asia. After a week-long offensive that has left hundreds dead, the Houthis appeared to be in control of territory along the southern coast of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and, in turn, the Suez Canal.

A military official of Yemen's Saudi-backed government said the Houthis have seized control of the country's entire Red Sea coast. "Everything that was under our control on the western coast has fallen," the official said. The capture of Mayun Island, in the narrow, narrow waterway, heightens the fighters' ability to block the Red Sea, which they have been targeting since July. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea ever since Iran's



Wounded remains: Wreckage of a Saudi Navy unmanned combat aerial vehicle that downed over 100 people in Yemen, according to Houthi authorities. (AP)

The Houthi offensive has cost more than 500 lives and has displaced about 46,000 people

Prise from Tehran
Muhammad Mokheimer, an adviser to Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, congratulated the Houthis over their "resounding victory" on Friday.

A member of the Houthi militia had sought to ally with the Houthis in an interview released on Friday, stating "there is no cause for international concern". "Freedom of navigation and international trade in the Red Sea and Bab al-

Modi, Pezeshkian discuss Iran conflict

Kalpal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi ahead of the BRICS summit and called for resolving the ongoing conflict with the United States "through dialogue and diplomacy". Speaking at a public event later in the evening, President Pezeshkian said he will help Iran's energy and commercial ties with India and referred to the U.S. as "bullies" and said, "Iran will not be bullied". Mr. Modi drew attention to the disruption in the energy supply chain because of the conflict and emphasised the need to ensure freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been caught in a chokehold ever since the U.S.-Israel coalition attacked Iran on February 26.

President Pezeshkian, who arrived here earlier for his first visit to India, said he took charge in 2024, emphasised "commonalities" between the two sides and called for deeper cooperation.

'More special'
"Happy to have met the President of Iran. This visit is more special because it is his first visit to India. We believe that we should move forward with a long-term strategic partnership. The prevailing situation in the region was also discussed. The two leaders met at the sidelines of the SCO summit in the Kyrgyz Republic's capital, Bishkek, on August 31. Mr. Modi had called for an end to the Ukraine war then.

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China calls for 'long-term' view on ties with India

REUTERS
BEIJING

Wenping said it was willing to work with New Delhi to handle relations "from a strategic, high and long-term perspective" ahead of Xi Jinping's talks with Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. ■ PAGE 4



India building economic bridges amid barriers

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the need of using trade barriers and disrupted sea trade routes, saying India was building bridges amid these constraints and using its presidency of BRICS to establish new networks. ■ PAGE 4

Negotiators race to finalise 'Delhi Declaration'

NEW DELHI
As New Delhi prepared to host the BRICS Summit of 11 emerging economies, negotiators were working late into the evening on Friday to forge a consensus for the "Delhi Declaration". Diplomats, sources and officials said that all member countries had agreed to "almost all the text, with the exception of one paragraph". ■ PAGE 3

'Indian biotech firms must expand avenues'



N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, hands over a memento to chief guest Sachin Elia in the presence of G. Viswanathan, founder and chancellor of VIT, and G.V. Subramanian, VIT vice-president, at the BioTech Conclave, 2024 in Chennai on Friday. (AP)

The Hindu Biotech Conclave

Addressing India's shift from relying on vaccine development in the West to building its own research and manufacturing capabilities, Sachin Elia, Padma Bhushan recipient, founder and managing director of Bharat Biotech and CEO President-Designate, said on Friday that Indian biotech companies should look beyond the domestic market and develop products for other developing countries, particularly for

infectious diseases. She was delivering the inaugural address at the BioTech Conclave 2024, organised by VIT Chemical in association with The Hindu, which its own research and manufacturing capabilities, Sachin Elia, Padma Bhushan recipient, founder and managing director of Bharat Biotech and CEO President-Designate, said on Friday that Indian biotech companies should look beyond the domestic market and develop products for other developing countries, particularly for

DETAILED COVERAGE
• PAGE 10

BRICS SUMMIT 2023

PM meets UN chief, discusses conflicts, global food security

Exas, Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of the BRICS Summit, as both leaders held discussions on various issues, including ongoing conflicts and freedom of navigation, sustainable development, human-centric AI and global food security.

"GSG Guterres congratulated PM Modi for India's chairmanship of the BRICS for the fourth time. Both leaders underscored the significance of multipolarity and the need to reform multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council, to reflect contemporary realities," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"They also held discussions on various issues, including ongoing conflicts and freedom of navigation, sustainable development, human-centric AI, progress in renewable energy and global food security," the MEA said.



Antonio Guterres

Mr. Modi also wished Mr. Guterres the very best for the remainder of his tenure.

In a post on X, he wrote, "Had a wonderful meeting with UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres. Discussed multiple subjects including the ground-level realities, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"They also held discussions on various issues, including ongoing conflicts and freedom of navigation, sustainable development, human-centric AI, progress in renewable energy and global food security," the MEA said.

China calls for 'long-term' view of ties ahead of Xi visit

Modi and Xi set to hold talks today on the sidelines of BRICS Summit; Beijing says it will work with Delhi to handle bilateral ties from strategic height as Chinese leader makes first trip in seven years

Anandh Krishnan
BEIJING

Beijing on Friday said it was willing to work with Delhi to handle relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, a day ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's first trip to India in seven years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Xi will on Saturday hold talks on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

"This will be the third year in a row for the two leaders to meet with each other following meetings in Kazan and Tianjin," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Friday. "China will work with India to act on the strategic guidance of the two leaders, handle bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, step up communication and enhance cooperation, properly han-



Capital displays: A commander poses by a board of Chinese President Xi Jinping at Parliament Street, in New Delhi, on Friday.

dle differences, and be friends enjoying good relations and partnership helping each other."

Mr. Xi will "put forward China's important initiatives and propositions, sharing the course for greater BRICS cooperation," Ms. Mao added.

Founding, BRICS countries have upheld the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and

win-win cooperation. BRICS has stayed committed to upholding multilateralism, upholding fairness and justice, and meeting on the development of the mechanism. Multilateral platforms can create opportunities for bilateral engagement, while sustained process of consultation can, in turn, facilitate coordination within multilateral mechanisms."

Diplomatic thaw
In China, Mr. Xi's visit to India has been seen as both

an opportunity to continue the gradual normalisation in ties as well as enabling greater cooperation between the two countries on the border. BRICS is seen as their first gradually improved.

"One of the biggest highlights will be President Xi's trip to India after seven years," Wang Yunting, an expert on China's relations with developing countries at the China Institute of International Studies, was quoted as saying in the official China Daily on Friday.

"China and India are not only close neighbours but also founding members of BRICS. The state of their relationship has a direct bearing on the development of the mechanism. Multilateral platforms can create opportunities for bilateral engagement, while sustained process of consultation can, in turn, facilitate coordination within multilateral mechanisms."

Diplomatic thaw
In China, Mr. Xi's visit to India has been seen as both

Five Tibetan nationals held for protest against Xi visit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At least five Tibetan nationals were detained by the Delhi Police on Friday morning after they allegedly gathered to protest against Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the national capital for the BRICS Summit.

Around 7:30 a.m., three members of the Students for Free Tibet (SFT) climbed poles inside an underpass near Bhairu Park, New Delhi. They waved the Tibetan flag and flags with slogans such as "Xi Jinping - Genocide" and "Tibet is facing genocide: Free Tibet".

The protests were held near the Bharat Mandapam and at the Majnu Ka Tila area in Delhi

"This banner action was carried out by the Students for Free Tibet to condemn Xi Jinping's visit to India," the group said in a statement. "We challenge Beijing's narrative on multilateral cooperation and try to lead to confront China's illegal occupation of Tibet. We want to say that despite over Asia's major river systems, systematic human rights violations and expanding border aggression," said Tenzin Phuntsok.

national director, SFT. Three were placed under preventive detention until September 14 and taken to Tihar jail. Two others were also detained by the Delhi Police while allegedly taking pictures of the incident.

Later, around 10 a.m., a peaceful protest was also conducted at the Students for Free Tibet. The group, condemning the Chinese President's visit, "We are not against BRICS Summit and we congratulate India for hosting it. However, we want to say that despite over Asia's major river systems, systematic human rights violations and expanding border aggression," said Tenzin Phuntsok.

Dhaka rules out Rahman's visit to India for BRICS meet

Kallol Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh will not be represented at the BRICS Summit in any official capacity, said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Humayun Kabir on Friday.

Speaking to presspersons in Dhaka, Mr. Kabir said that India had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the BRICS Summit in New Delhi. "We are not against BRICS Summit and we congratulate India for hosting it. However, we want to say that despite over Asia's major river systems, systematic human rights violations and expanding border aggression," said Tenzin Phuntsok.



Tenzin Phuntsok

He said that the first visit of Mr. Rahman to India cannot be a bilateral visit but not a multilateral one. "We are not against BRICS Summit and we congratulate India for hosting it. However, we want to say that despite over Asia's major river systems, systematic human rights violations and expanding border aggression," said Tenzin Phuntsok.

Street vendors asked not to put up stalls along BRICS routes

Susmit Kumar
NEW DELHI

For Sural Kumar (33), the BRICS Summit has become a source of misery. Mr. Kumar, who works at a roadside stall in Jangpoh, north of Narela to Connaught Place for work every day and is paid ₹200. Since Monday, he has been able to keep only a part of his stall open, and adding to his hardship, the Delhi Police have asked some vendors to leave their stalls closed all day.

The owner pays me only ₹250 now, and for the next three days, I won't even get that," he said.

Sural is among several roadside vendors and hawkers along the route identified for VIP movements and stays during the BRICS Summit. The police have asked them to remain closed from Friday to Sunday for security reasons.

Even on Thursday, the usually crowded lane near of Jangpoh Market had been largely silent, with no displays of their goods.

Mohammed Haseet, a member of the NDMC Town Vending Committee,

Negotiators of member countries work late into the evening to arrive at consensus for 'Delhi Declaration'

Susmit Kumar
NEW DELHI

As New Delhi prepared to host the BRICS Summit of 11 emerging economies, negotiators were working late into the evening on Friday to forge a consensus for the "Delhi Declaration". Diplomatic sources and officials said that all member countries had agreed to "almost all the text, with the exception of one paragraph," indicating that the references to the war in Iran started by the U.S. and Israel, verbalised attacks on installations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other West Asian countries, had still not been resolved.

Both Iran and the UAE are members of the BRICS groupings. Their tensions have held up a joint statement at all BRICS ministerial meetings this year, and at the crucial meeting of Foreign Ministers in mid-May, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar issued a "Clear and unambiguous" statement that the references to the war in Iran started by the U.S. and Israel, verbalised attacks on installations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other West Asian countries, had still not been resolved.



Gathering up for summit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses during a photo session with participants of the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi on Friday.

2023, limited to U.S. military and ancillary installations, the source said. The top leaders of eight BRICS countries, including Russia, India, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, Indonesia and Iran, will meet around the table for the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday afternoon for the first time since the Iran war began. Brazil needs to elect a president. The BRICS coalition in each of his bilateral talks, including with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who, as a strong ally of the Iranian government,

Border discussions, economic ties set to take centre stage

NEWS ANALYSIS
Indusindia
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday, with a view to improving trade and people-to-people relations, while border tensions continue to play out in the background. Although Mr. Xi has visited India on two occasions, this will be his first visit to Delhi since 2014.

Neither leader has made a bilateral visit since 2020, however. As a result, experts say that while it is too early to declare an India-China "reset", they hope the third meeting between the two leaders in three years will yield more open conversations on resolving differences.

Episodic asymmetry between India and China must move towards a steady and sustained process of consultation both on the multilateral and bilateral levels in order to resolve the situation. Last week, they held two Corps Commander-level meetings in the Eastern Sector. This came after PMA Aji Desai's visit to Beijing and Special Representative (SR) talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi are expected to take stock of the SR talks. Another issue with increased salience in the Western Sector is the deadly flash floods caused by glacial collapse on the China-Nepal border last month.

Trade, export controls and investment issues will also be high on the agenda. Since 2014, India and China have doubled bilateral trade, from \$70 billion to about \$200 billion a year. However India's trade deficit with China has tripled, from \$38 billion to \$113 billion in the same period.



Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015

Former Ambassador to China Ashok Kanha said that the Chinese move in Arunachal Pradesh had struck a "dissonant note". "There are reports about attempts to change the status quo in the Eastern Sector. One outcome from the Modi Xi meeting clearly should be that the leaders reaffirm that borders must remain peaceful. [a] we can move towards normalisation, step by step," he told *The Hindu*.

Officials from the External Affairs Ministry did not confirm whether India would raise the border situation during talks, but both sides have been meeting at increasingly higher levels in order to resolve the situation. Last week, they held two Corps Commander-level meetings in the Eastern Sector. This came after PMA Aji Desai's visit to Beijing and Special Representative (SR) talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

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has considerable sway with Tehran.

All eyes will also be on Mr. Modi's meeting with the UAE Crown Prince on Saturday morning, before the joint session. Diplomatic sources say the decision by the UAE President to send his son, and not a Minister, is an indication of the importance of the Summit.

Iran outreach
The government's outreach to President Pesezhkian was apparent from the moment he landed with a red-carpet welcome according to him. Mr. Modi was seen personally leading Mr. Pesezhkian at the BRICS Business Forum.

The main session of BRICS leaders will be held on Saturday afternoon around the theme of "Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism". United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who met with Mr. Modi on Friday evening, will also be present for the session. Mr. Modi and other BRICS leaders will attend an exhibition showcasing Indian innovation, which will take place in a "Joint tree plantation" ceremony, the Ministry said. This is the fourth time that India is hosting the BRICS Summit, after 2012 in Delhi, 2016 in Goa and 2021 virtually.

participation of all these leaders in the BRICS Summit in New Delhi is a reiteration of their collective confidence and commitment to BRICS," said former Secretary for Multilateral and Economic Relations Dinesh Kumar, who ran many of the negotiations for BRICS and other groupings in the Ministry of External Affairs.

"It's an excellent opportunity for India to put focus on finding solutions to the challenges of an aspiring global south, in a vibrant framework by combining each other's strengths," he added.

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Negotiators of member countries work late into the evening to arrive at consensus for 'Delhi Declaration'

Subasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

As New Delhi prepared to host the BRICS Summit of 11 emerging economies, negotiators were working late into the evening on Friday to forge a consensus for the "Delhi Declaration". Diplomatic sources and officials said that all member countries had agreed to "almost all the text, with the exception of one paragraph", indicating that the references to the war in Iran started by the U.S. and Israel, and Iran's attacks on installations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other West Asian countries, had still not been resolved.

Both Iran and the UAE are members of the BRICS grouping. Their tensions have held up a joint statement at all BRICS ministerial meetings this year, and at the crucial meeting of Foreign Ministers in mid-May, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar issued a "Chair's Summary" instead.

"We continue to engage on [the] Outcome Document", an official privy to the negotiations told *The Hindu* on Friday, while others said they remained hopeful of a breakthrough, as India was able to do in



Gearing up for summit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses during a photo session with participants of the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi on Friday. REUTERS

2023 by forging a joint statement at the G-20 Summit after the Russian war in Ukraine had divided members.

'Equal condemnation'

In the current series of negotiations, Iran has been pitching for a clear condemnation of the U.S. and Israel's actions, and the UAE wants "equal condemnation" of Iran's actions, a diplomat told *The Hindu*. However, Iran has contested this in Sherpa meetings, insisting that it would be akin to Iran criticising itself. Tehran has contended that its attacks on the Gulf region were in "self-de-

fence", limited to U.S. military and ancillary installations, the sources said.

The top leaders of eight BRICS countries, including Russia, India, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, Indonesia and Iran, will meet around the table at the Bharat Mandapam complex in New Delhi on Saturday afternoon for the first time since the Iran war began. Brazil heads to elections shortly, and President Lula da Silva will be represented by Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, while UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is visiting Germany at pre-

sent, will be represented by his son, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Saudi Arabia, which was granted BRICS membership in 2024 but has yet to join formally, has sent Foreign Minister Farhan bin Saud.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is understood to have stressed the importance of a joint statement from the BRICS coalition in each of his bilateral talks, including with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian as well as Russian President Vladimir Putin, who, as a strong ally of the Iranian government,

has considerable sway with Tehran.

All eyes will also be on Mr. Modi's meeting with the UAE Crown Prince on Saturday morning, before the joint session. Diplomatic insiders say the decision by the UAE President to send his son, and not a Minister, is an indication of the importance of the Summit.

Iran outreach

The government's outreach to President Pezeshkian was apparent from the moment he landed, with a red-carpet welcome accorded to him. Mr. Modi was seen personally leading Mr. Pezeshkian at the BRICS Business event, while holding his hand firmly. On Saturday, according to an advisory by the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Pezeshkian will be the only BRICS leader to meet President Draupadi Murmu as well.

Apart from Iran and the UAE, which has been targeted repeatedly by Iranian drone and missile strikes, other members of BRICS have been severely hit by the economic disruptions caused by the war.

"In the backdrop of geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties, the

participation of all these leaders in the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi is a reiteration of their collective confidence and commitment to BRICS," said former Secretary for Multilateral and Economic Relations Dammu Ravi, who ran many of the negotiations for BRICS and other groupings in the Ministry of External Affairs.

"It's an excellent opportunity for India to put focus on finding solutions to the challenges of an aspiring global south, in a trilateral framework by combining each other's strengths," he added.

The main session of BRICS leaders will be held on Saturday afternoon around the theme of "Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism". United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who met with Mr. Modi on Friday evening, will also be present for the session. Mr. Modi and other BRICS leaders will attend an exhibition showcasing Indian innovation and will take part in a "joint tree plantation" ceremony, the Ministry said. This is the fourth time that India is hosting the BRICS Summit, after 2012 in Delhi, 2016 in Goa and 2021 virtually.

1. What is a "Delhi Declaration"? | Delhi Declaration क्या है?

A summit declaration is a negotiated joint political document that records the common positions, priorities and commitments of participating countries.

Summit Declaration एक Negotiated Joint Political Document होता है जिसमें Member Countries की साझा Positions, Priorities और Commitments दर्ज होते हैं।

It is usually:

Consensus-based → सहमति आधारित

Politically important → Political महत्व वाला

Not the same as a treaty → Treaty के समान नहीं

Exam Trap

Declaration ≠ Legally binding treaty

Declaration राजनीतिक सहमति दर्शाता है; हर स्थिति में यह Binding International Treaty नहीं होता।

Fact

Answer

Summit

18th BRICS Summit

Host

India

Venue

New Delhi

Dates

12–13 September 2026

Chair

India

India's 2026 theme

**Building Resilience, Innovation,
Cooperation and Sustainability**

Main declaration

Delhi Declaration

5. Who are the BRICS members now? | Current BRICS Membership

The expanded BRICS includes the original five plus newer members such as **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia**. Official Indian material also notes the expanded structure and partner-country mechanism.  Ministry of Exter... +1

Evolution

BRIC → Brazil, Russia, India, China

2011 → South Africa joins → BRICS

2024 expansion → Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE joined as full members  Ministry of Exter...

2025 → Indonesia joined as a full member  Ministry of Exter...

Saudi Arabia nuance

The supplied newspaper describes **Saudi Arabia as having been granted membership in 2024 but not yet formally joined**.

दिए गए समाचार में **Saudi Arabia को 2024 में Membership Granted बताया गया है, लेकिन अभी Formal Joining नहीं हुई।**

Because Saudi Arabia's status has had some ambiguity in official and diplomatic usage, this is a point to state carefully in exams.

6. BRICS Origin — Static GK ★★☆☆

2006 → BRIC Foreign Ministers first met on the sidelines of UNGA

2006 → BRIC Foreign Ministers पहली बार UNGA sidelines पर मिले

2009 → First BRIC Summit at Yekaterinburg, Russia

2009 → पहला BRIC Summit, Yekaterinburg, Russia

2011 → South Africa participated as full member

2011 → South Africa के जुड़ने से BRICS बना  Ministry of Exter...

7. Why is the 2026 Summit geopolitically important?

The summit is being held amid several simultaneous crises:

Iran–U.S.–Israel conflict

Russia–Ukraine war

Trade tensions and sanctions

Oil prices above \$100/barrel in recent reporting

Pressure on maritime trade routes

Reuters reported that the Iran conflict has tested BRICS unity and disrupted oil trade through the Strait of Hormuz.  Reuters

18. India's Earlier BRICS Chairships ★★

India has previously chaired BRICS in:

2012

2016

2021

and now 2026.

The 2021 summit was virtual and concluded with a New Delhi Declaration.  Ministry of Exter...

Important

2026 is therefore India's fourth BRICS chairship/hosting cycle in this sequence.

19. 2021 vs 2026 New Delhi Declaration

2021 → XIII BRICS Summit → virtual → New Delhi Declaration  Ministry of Exter...

2026 → XVIII BRICS Summit → New Delhi → negotiations over Delhi Declaration

Exam Trap

Do not assume "Delhi Declaration" refers only to one year. Context matters.



Why BRICS Expansion Helps and Hurts



Advantages



Greater population share
More energy producers
More trade weight
Greater Global South representation



Challenges



More political differences
Iran–UAE tensions
India–China trust deficit
Different economic systems
Different strategic alliances

• CHINA'S ECONOMIC HEFT

CHART 1: Its economy is far larger than others in BRICS

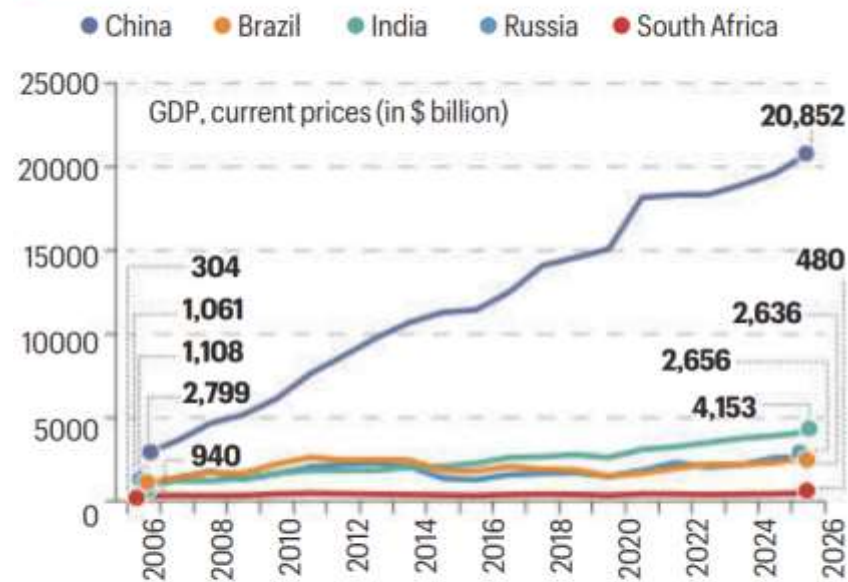
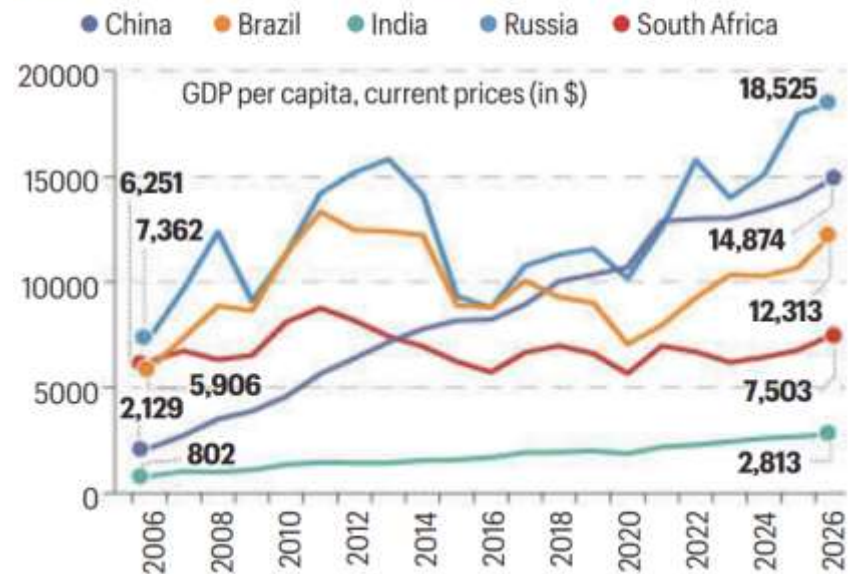


CHART 2: Average prosperity: Second last to second best



- 
- Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

- India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in 2026.

भारत 2026 में New Delhi में 18th BRICS Summit की मेजबानी कर रहा है।

- Indonesia became a full BRICS member in 2025.

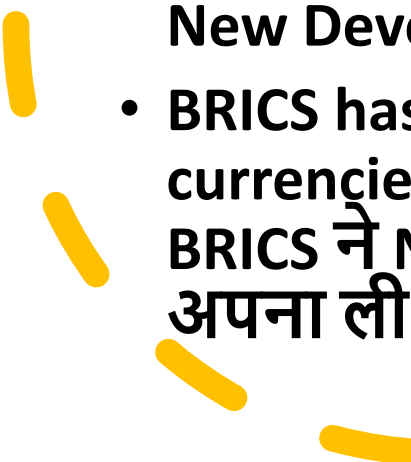
Indonesia 2025 में BRICS का Full Member बना।

- New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.

New Development Bank का Headquarters Shanghai में है।

- BRICS has already adopted a single common currency replacing national currencies.

BRICS ने National Currencies को Replace करने वाली Single Common Currency अपना ली है।





Dressed in flamboyant Gothic Lolita aesthetic, feminist theatre troupe Tremendous Circus performs in Tokyo. AFP

Japanese feminist theatre group fights misogyny in style

By Françoise Proulx

Donning doll-like dresses with voluminous skirts, young women on stage roar in rage about rape and sexism they experienced in Japan, using theatre and "Gothic Lolita" fashion to denounce male-dominated society. Meet Tremendous Circus, Japan's self-described radical feminist theatre troupe that embraces the flamboyant Gothic Lolita aesthetic as a powerful symbol of womanhood and defiance against sexual violence.

Driven by what it terms "radical vision feminism," the fringe group weaves its shows with accounts of sexual violence and harassment faced by members and their fandom, collectively dubbed "milfettes."

During a recent performance in Tokyo, actors screamed slogans such as "war for women" as they portrayed stylized revolutionists fighting an AI tyrant dubbed "Big Father" in a dystopian future. Dressed in black, white and pink, the nine women sported Japanese Lolita fashion, a sub-style that fuses the bell-shaped silhouettes of Victorian clothing with modern-day motifs.

"My goal is to be a role model who can show that a joyful future can exist without violence against women," 28-year-old Yui Chino, a troupe member who co-founded the troupe, told AFP. "All women group — cancer for some co-founders, a gay man — now charges men up to twice as much as women spectators in a dig at Japan's doggedly wide gender wage gap, double the OECD average."

The group does not outright disavow dating, marriage, childbearing, gender inequality or radical feminists in South Korea, for example, Chino said. Instead, "we welcome all women," including mothers, said one troupe member. "Our main should be to live however they want."

As Trump squeezes the International Criminal Court, more countries leave

The U.S. in July announced launch of a campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the ICC to U.S. sovereignty; it sanctioned ICC staff over warrants against Israeli officials in Gaza and probes into U.S. actions in Afghanistan; with Venezuela and Chad leaving, five countries have quit in the past year

Associated Press

As the United States (U.S.) ratchets up the pressure on the International Criminal Court (ICC), sanctioning two more high-ranking staff members in recent weeks, a small but growing number of the global tribunal's member states have announced they will quit the institution.

The recent departure of Venezuela and Chad brings the number of countries to pull out of the court to the next year to five, joining Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The surge in withdrawals comes as the ICC faces hostility from Washington and a leadership crisis after ousting its own chief prosecutor.

Five countries so far have announced plans to withdraw from the Rome Statute, and we welcome more announcements in the coming weeks," a spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department told AP.

The Rome Statute established the ICC in 2002 as the court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the world's most heinous crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression. Based in The Hague, it prosecutes individuals who are unable or unwilling to prosecute crimes on their own territory.

The ICC registers any decision to depart from the collective effort to end impunity for the most serious crimes under international law, the court's spokesperson Oriane Malin told the AP.

In July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the U.S. was launching a "sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court to U.S. sovereignty."

Mr. Rubio said he will pressure the court's 123 member states to withdraw from the institution, sanction organizations that work with the court and ban staff from traveling to Washington and a leadership crisis after ousting its own chief prosecutor.

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In a fit, the U.S. has also indicated that it will put pressure on the ICC's 123 member states to withdraw from the institution. AFP/REUTERS

Four days later, Chad said it would leave the ICC. In a fit, the U.S. has also indicated that it will put pressure on the ICC's 123 member states to withdraw from the institution.

A coup ousted Niger's democratically elected government in 2023. Since then, a military junta has ruled in Niger. The court has announced their departure from the ICC. The U.S. campaign will lay bare just how committed countries are to the court. "Are they willing to defend it if it comes to something real?" she said.

Not just the U.S. push. The State Department told AP the U.S. would call upon nations that "enjoy the benefits of the U.S. security umbrella" to reject the ICC. It's not just pressure from Mr. Trump that is sending ICC members toward the exit door.

The ruling military junta in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger blamed selective justice for Chad's recent ouster. The ICC has become an "instrument of neocolonial repression in the hands of imperialism," he said when they announced their departure from the ICC. The U.S. campaign will lay bare just how committed countries are to the court.

at the University of Western Australia, told the AP.

Burundi similarly accused the court of focusing too much on conflicts in Africa when, in 2017, it became the first country to leave the ICC. The court had opened an investigation into the East African nation earlier that year.

Most of the court's initial investigations were in African countries, though most requested the involvement of the ICC. South Africa and Cambodia also announced in 2017 that they would leave but not change course.

A change of government can also bring a country back into the fold. Hungary announced it would quit the court in 2020 but following the election of a new government, the country's Parliament voted to stay.

The court also had an active investigation in the Philippines when then-President Rodrigo Duterte said his country would leave the ICC. In 2019, the court announced the outbreak of hostilities between the second country to leave but as Duterte's term ended, the court was not retroactive, the investigation continued.

Mr. Duterte is now in ICC detention in the Philippines awaiting trial on charges of crimes against humanity for deadly and drug crackdowns he alleged.

edly overawed while in office. Opening statements are set for November.

An investigation into possible crimes committed by Venezuelan security forces under former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will continue despite the country's announcement last month that it will also leave the ICC.

In a statement, the country's Foreign Minister Félix Platero said the court had been "instrumentalized to deepen inequalities among people and disregard their right to self-determination and sovereignty."

Venezuela is currently in the middle of U.S.-backed talks between the ruling party and the opposition following Mr. Maduro's capture in January by U.S. forces.

Ukraine is the court's most recent addition. The country joined in 2022 and previously had signed an agreement to give the court jurisdiction over crimes on its territory, following the outbreak of hostilities with Russia in 2014.

Joining the court was a step from the court is not retroactive, the investigation continued. Mr. Duterte is now in ICC detention in the Philippines awaiting trial on charges of crimes against humanity for deadly and drug crackdowns he alleged.

Lack of regulation in AI tech fuels fears of a Frankenstein moment

By Françoise Proulx

Black warnings of artificial intelligence researchers that advanced forms of the technology could wipe out humanity have raised questions over whether governments are moving fast enough to regulate it.

AI experts have long described the threat as critical. In 2023, hundreds of AI scientists and industry figures, including the heads of top U.S. labs, signed a "statement on AI extinction risk" calling for the issue to be treated as seriously as pandemic or nuclear war.

If an out-of-control future AI deems that humans are obstructing its goals, it could use robots to "exterminate" them, said Stuart Russell, computer science professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

"The stakes are well-understood," Jacob Cohen, a 27-year-old researcher, wrote on X this week, announcing his resignation from U.S. AI startup Anthropic.



numerous and spread robots during a demonstration calling for the regulation of AI development in Warsaw, Poland, on Monday. "But they are locked in a race to get there first," he added, saying that AI "believes" that one day will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves.

Anthropic, this year removed a pledge from its safety charter to halt development of AI models if it failed to control their risks. It argued if it paused its work, its less cautious rivals would dominate the industry, making it less safe overall.

"We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans," Anthropic safety executive Evan Huberman chimed in on X, estimating the risk at more than 10% over the next decade.

It's important to remember that those latest percentage predictions are "absolutely unscientific," said Hussein Abdulla, a computing professor at UNLV in Las Vegas. "The situation is still controllable, and it can be managed," Mr. Abdulla told AFP.

But governments should not sit on their hands when it comes to regulating AI, he added.

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But governments should not sit on their hands when it comes to regulating AI, he added.

Aerial solidarity



Standing with Gaza: Activists from the Global Sumud Platform fly lines bearing the Palestinian flag in support of Gaza on the beach of the Hotel Esplanade during the 34th Venice International Film Festival on Venice Lido on Friday. AFP

25 years after 9/11, accused mastermind's trial remains mired in legal battles

Associated Press

Two decades after U.S. authorities locked Khalid Sheikh Mohammed away at a military detention centre in Cuba, the purported mastermind of the September 11 attacks sometimes seems barely any closer to being put on trial than the day he arrived.

A judge recently set a 2028 date for Mohammed to finally be tried before a military tribunal, but some lawyers predict it will never happen — not that year or any other year. They say the maze of legal issues that arose because Mr. Mohammed was tortured before his 2003 capture in Pakistan is too twisted to ever be straightened out.

A hearing bid to put him on trial in a civilian court in New York City was shouted

down years ago over security concerns.

A plea agreement that would have kept Mohammed imprisoned for life, but spared him from a possible execution, began to collapse shortly after it was announced in 2024, and finally died for good last year. "It's all contained by politics and the lack of accountability for torture," said Joshua Dratel, an attorney who played a part in assuring that Mohammed had proper legal representation.

Enhanced interrogation in late August, the U.S. military judge ruled in May 2024, trial date for Mohammed and three others charged in the September 11 attacks ruled that prosecutors could not use a alleged confession he made to the FBI in 2007.

Those statements were deemed tainted because Mohammed was subjected to "enhanced interrogation techniques" overseas, including the simulated drowning technique called waterboarding.

While the ruling was a blow to the prosecution, the U.S. decided not to prosecute Mr. Mohammed, but to keep him in custody as a possible trial.

Clearly, Mohammed remains jailed in Guantanamo Bay, where he was brought on September 5, 2006, following more than three years in secret prisons in other countries.

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Al-Qaeda leader Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, photographed shortly after his capture during a raid in Pakistan, on March 2, 2011, at

ping the death penalty as a possibility. Mr. Strada said she worries that if Mohammed is not executed, future U.S. leaders might be tempted to swap him for Americans held prisoner elsewhere in the world.

The death penalty, she said, "fits the crime and would prevent that from ever happening. And that's

important to me." Mohammed was captured in Pakistan in 2003, the son of a Pakistani director of the Islamic militant group al-Qaeda.

Civilian trial Some delays in his proceedings have stemmed from his treatment after he fell into U.S. custody. A U.S. Senate report pointed to his extended torture in CIA custody, including 82 sessions of waterboarding.

For a time in 2002, it seemed Mohammed was headed to New York after then-Attorney General Eric Holder announced plans to try him and four others now charged in the attacks on the World Trade Center site.

Then-President Barack Obama, who had pledged

to close the Guantanamo detention centre, said Mohammed would face "the most meaningful demands of justice."

Almost immediately, opposition arose. Some critics predicted Mohammed would have led the government prosecution of Mr. Mohammed in New York if it hadn't been abandoned.

"Each time you reach an impasse, no one knows what to do," he said.

David Raskin, a Washington lawyer now in private practice who would have led the government prosecution of Mr. Mohammed in New York if it hadn't been abandoned.

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As Trump squeezes the International Criminal Court, more countries leave

The U.S. in July announced launch of a 'campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the ICC to U.S. sovereignty'; it sanctioned ICC staff over warrants against Israeli officials in Gaza and probes into U.S. actions in Afghanistan; with Venezuela and Chad leaving, five countries have quit in the past year

Associated Press
THE HAGUE

As the United States (U.S.) ratchets up the pressure on the International Criminal Court (ICC), sanctioning two more high-ranking staff members in recent weeks, a small but growing number of the global tribunal's member states have announced they will quit the institution.

The recent departure of Venezuela and Chad brings the number of countries to pull out of the court in the past year to five, joining Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The surge in withdrawals comes as the ICC faces hostility from Washington and a leadership crisis after ousting its own chief prosecutor.

"Five countries so far have announced plans to withdraw from the Rome Statute, and we welcome more announcements in the future," a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department told AP.

The Rome Statute established the ICC in 2002 as the court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the world's most heinous atrocities: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression. Based in The Hague, it takes on cases when nations are unable or unwilling

to prosecute crimes on their own territory.

"The ICC regrets any decision to depart from the collective effort to end impunity for the most serious international crimes," the court's spokesperson Oriane Maillet told the AP.

In July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the U.S. was launching a "sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court to U.S. sovereignty."

Mr. Rubio said he will pressure the court's 125 member states to withdraw from the institution, sanction organisations that work with the court and ban staff from travelling to the U.S. Mr. Trump's administration already has sanctioned a dozen ICC staff in retaliation for warrants the court has issued for top Israeli officials over the war in Gaza and investigations into U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.

The Central African country of Chad specifically cited the U.S. in its decision to withdraw. Its Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul said in a statement that in a phone call with a U.S. official on July 23, "the American side expressed its concerns regarding the functioning of this institution and requested that Chad reconsider" its membership.



In a fix: The U.S. has also indicated that it will put pressure on the ICC's 125 member states to withdraw from the institution, REUTERS

Four days later, Chad said it would leave the ICC. Iva Vukušić, a researcher at Utrecht University, told the AP that the U.S. campaign will lay bare just how committed countries are to the court. "Are they willing to defend it if it costs them something real?" she said.

Not just the U.S. push

The State Department told AP the U.S. would call upon nations that "enjoy the benefits of the U.S. security umbrella" to reject the ICC. It's not just pressure from Mr. Trump that is sending ICC members toward the exit door.

The ruling military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger blamed selective justice. The ICC has become an "instrument of

neocolonial repression in the hands of imperialism," the trio said when they announced their departures last year.

A coup ousted Niger's democratically elected government in 2023. Since then, a military junta has abandoned long-time partners and has formed new alliances instead, including with Russia, where President Vladimir Putin faces an ICC arrest warrant linked to the war in Ukraine. Mali and Burkina Faso have undergone similar transformations.

"These countries are ruled by authoritarian leaders who want to avoid accountability for the harms they are inflicting on their own people," Mel O'Brien, an associate professor of international law

at the University of Western Australia, told the AP.

Burundi similarly accused the court of focusing too much on conflicts in Africa when, in 2017, it became the first country to leave the ICC. The court had opened an investigation into the East African nation earlier that year.

Most of the court's initial investigations were into African countries, though most requested the involvement of the ICC.

South Africa and Gambia also announced in 2017 that they would leave but later changed course.

A change of government can also bring a country back into the fold. Hungary announced it would quit the court in 2025 but following the election of a new government, the country's Parliament voted to stay.

The court also had an active investigation in the Philippines when then-President Rodrigo Duterte said his country would leave the ICC. In 2019 the Southeast Asian country became the second country to leave but as withdrawal from the court is not retroactive, the investigation continued.

Mr. Duterte is now in ICC detention in the Netherlands awaiting trial on charges of crimes against humanity for deadly anti-drug crackdowns he alleged-

edly oversaw while in office. Opening statements are set for November.

An investigation into possible crimes committed by Venezuelan security forces under former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will continue despite the country's announcement last month that it will also leave the ICC.

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Venezuela is currently in the middle of U.S.-backed talks between the ruling party and the Opposition following Mr. Maduro's capture in January by U.S. forces.

Ukraine is the court's most recent addition. The country joined in 2025 and previously had signed an agreement to give the court jurisdiction over crimes on its territory, following the outbreak of hostilities with Russia in 2014.

Joining the court was "Ukraine's way of saying that accountability for the gravest crimes cannot be optional, and that we intend to help build that system of justice," the country's ambassador to the Netherlands, Andriy Kostin, told AP.

- 
- the International Criminal Court (ICC) is facing growing pressure from the United States and a fresh wave of withdrawals by member countries.

दिए गए समाचार के अनुसार International Criminal Court (ICC) पर United States का दबाव बढ़ रहा है और कई Member Countries ने Court से बाहर निकलने की घोषणा की है।

- In the past year, Venezuela, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have announced plans to leave the ICC, while the U.S. administration has sanctioned senior ICC personnel and urged member states to reconsider participation.

पिछले एक वर्ष में Venezuela, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali और Niger ने ICC छोड़ने की घोषणा की है, जबकि U.S. Administration ने Senior ICC Officials पर Sanctions लगाए हैं और Member States पर Court से दूरी बनाने का दबाव बढ़ाया है।

1. What is the ICC? | ICC क्या है? ★★★★★

ICC = International Criminal Court.

ICC = International Criminal Court ।

It is a permanent international criminal court created by the Rome Statute.

यह Rome Statute द्वारा स्थापित एक Permanent International Criminal Court है।

The Rome Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002.

Rome Statute 1 July 2002 से लागू हुआ।  international Cri...

Headquarters

The Hague, Netherlands

The Hague, Netherlands

2. What crimes can the ICC prosecute? | ICC किन अपराधों पर कार्य करता है?



The ICC has jurisdiction over four core international crimes:

Crime	हिन्दी
Genocide	नरसंहार
Crimes against humanity	मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध
War crimes	युद्ध अपराध
Crime of aggression	आक्रमण का अपराध



ICC

International Criminal Court

Tries individuals

Rome Statute

Criminal responsibility

Hague

Not a principal organ of UN

ICJ

International Court of Justice

Hears disputes between States

UN Charter/ICJ Statute

State responsibility/legal disputes

Hague

Principal judicial organ of UN

6. How does ICC get jurisdiction? | ICC का Jurisdiction कैसे बनता है?

Broadly, ICC jurisdiction can arise when:

A crime occurs on territory of a State Party

Crime किसी State Party के Territory पर हुआ हो

The accused is a national of a State Party

Accused किसी State Party का National हो

A non-member state accepts ICC jurisdiction for a situation

Non-member State Specific Situation के लिए Jurisdiction Accept करे

UN Security Council refers a situation

UNSC Situation को ICC को Refer करे

Important nuance

A person from a non-member state may still come under ICC jurisdiction if alleged crimes were committed on territory where the Court has jurisdiction.

7. How many ICC members? | कितने Member States हैं? ★★

The ICC factsheet recorded **125 States Parties** to the Rome Statute effective from 1 January 2025.

 International Cri...

The supplied 2026 report also describes the Court as having **125 member states** before the latest withdrawals fully take effect.

Important distinction

Announcement of withdrawal ≠ immediate end of membership

Withdrawal Announcement ≠ उसी दिन Membership समाप्त

Under **Article 127 of the Rome Statute**, withdrawal generally takes effect **one year after formal notification**.  ICC Case Informa...

15. Why is the U.S. opposing the ICC? ★★ ★

The United States is **not a party to the Rome Statute**.  State Department

The current U.S. administration argues that ICC action involving U.S. personnel and Israeli officials threatens sovereignty and exceeds the Court's legitimate reach.  AP News +1

U.S. concerns include

ICC investigations linked to Afghanistan

Afghanistan से जुड़े U.S. Personnel की Investigations

ICC action connected with Israeli officials and Gaza

Israeli Officials/Gaza से संबंधित ICC Action

The Trump administration has therefore imposed sanctions on ICC personnel.  AP News +1

16. What do the U.S. sanctions do?

Recent U.S. sanctions targeted senior ICC officials, including **ICC President Tomoko Akane** and a senior prosecutor, according to AP.  AP News

Measures can include:

Freezing U.S.-linked assets

U.S.-linked Assets Freeze

Restricting access to the U.S. financial system

U.S. Financial System तक Access Restrict

Travel/visa restrictions in some cases

Travel/Visa Restrictions



- Is the United States an ICC member? | U.S. Member है? ★ ★ ★
- No.
- The United States signed the Rome Statute in 2000 but did not ratify it and is not a State Party.
- **Other important non-members**
- For exams, remember that major powers outside the Rome Statute system include:
 - **United States**
 - China**
 - Russia**
 - India**
- **Exam Trap**
- **India is NOT a member of the ICC.**

21. ICC Structure | ICC की संरचना

The Court broadly includes:

Presidency

Judicial Divisions

Office of the Prosecutor

Registry

The ICC factsheet says it has **18 judges**, elected for **nine-year terms** by the Assembly of States Parties.

 International Cri...

Working Languages

English and French are the ICC's working languages.  International Cri...

22. Assembly of States Parties | ASP

The Assembly of States Parties is the management and legislative oversight body of the Rome Statute system.

Assembly of States Parties Rome Statute System का Governance Body है।

It:

Elects judges

Elects prosecutor

Approves budget

Considers amendments

Provides institutional oversight

- Consider the following statements regarding the International Criminal Court:
International Criminal Court के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- It was established under the Rome Statute.
इसकी स्थापना Rome Statute के तहत हुई।

- It prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
यह Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes और Crime of Aggression के लिए Individuals पर Trial कर सकता है।

- It is a principal organ of the United Nations.
यह United Nations का Principal Organ है।

- India is a State Party to the Rome Statute.
भारत Rome Statute का State Party है।

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE SEEKS ASSISTANCE FROM US PRESIDENT

Houthis seize strategic Red Sea island

REUTERS

Aden/ Dubai, September 11

YEMEN'S IRAN-ALIGNED HOUTHIS reached the strategic island of Perim in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Friday, four Yemeni government sources told Reuters, moving to tighten their grip on a vital global shipping route in the widening West Asian war.

Earlier, two sources from the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised Yemeni government said its forces had pulled out of Perim and that the Houthis had also taken the mainland Red Sea coastal town of Dhubab, which faces the island.

If the Houthis gain control of the Babel-Mandeb Strait, which is on the opposite side of the Arabian Peninsula from the Strait of Hormuz, it could give their backer Iran a critical advantage in its war with the US, reducing supplies through a second major transit corridor and sending oil prices surging.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea route since the Iran

NEW SHIPPING RISKS

■ Houthis had also taken the mainland Red Sea coastal town of Dhubab

■ Saudi has relied on Red Sea route since Iran conflict effectively closed Hormuz

■ The capture would give Iran a critical advantage in its war with the US

■ This could reduce crude supplies to US, sending oil prices surging

■ Yemeni forces indicated they would try to retake captured areas



Members of the Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces fire a tank during what they say to be clashes with Iran-aligned Houthis in a location given as near Al-Hazm, Yemen

(REUTERS/ FILE PHOTO)

conflict effectively closed Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil used to flow.

In a further potentially significant development for Riyadh, satellite imagery showed smoke in the vicinity of Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline, which has become a vital means for the kingdom to divert its crude exports from Hormuz.

There was no confirmation

from Saudi Arabia of any incident in the area. The Saudi government media office and state oil giant Aramco did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the smoke visible in the imagery verified by Reuters.

Yemeni government forces indicated they would try to retake areas captured by the Houthi militants in their lightning offensive this week along

the Red Sea coastline.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sought assistance from US President Donald Trump to help fight Houthis, sources said on Friday.

Trump held at least two phone conversations with the Saudi leader on Thursday, sources said. In the end, Washington told Riyadh that it was not willing to take direct military action for now.

Oil falls but on track for 8% weekly gain

OIL PRICES FELL on Friday but remained on course for a weekly gain of more than 8% while US diesel prices hit a record high as attacks along West Asian shipping routes stoked concerns about prolonged supply disruptions.

Brent crude futures were down \$3.28, or 3.05%, to \$104.35 a barrel at 1309 GMT.

Both reversed early gains after the *Financial Times* reported that foreign ministers in the West Asian nations are trying to work out a temporary deal with Iran to manage shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi Arabia's crude supply fell by 2.3 million barrels per day on the month to 6 million bpd in August, the lowest level in more than three decades, the International Energy Agency said on Friday.

REUTERS

Houthi advance toward Bab el-Mandeb

Iran-aligned Houthi forces have taken control of Perim Island (Mayun) and reached the town of Dhubab, after capturing the Red Sea port of Mocha, according to Reuters and AP reports.



Location and advance based on Reuters/AP reporting, Sept. 11, 2026.





BAB EL MANDEB

PERIM

RAS SIYAN

SAWABI ISLANDS

DJIBOUTI



-
- Bab-el-Mandeb means “Gate of Tears.”

Bab-el-Mandeb का अर्थ broadly “Gate of Tears” है।

- It lies between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti/Eritrea on the African side.

यह Arabian Peninsula में Yemen और African Side में Djibouti/Eritrea के बीच स्थित है।

- Geographic connection

• Mediterranean Sea → Suez Canal → Red Sea → Bab-el-Mandeb → Gulf of Aden → Arabian Sea → Indian Ocean

• Mediterranean Sea → Suez Canal → Red Sea → Bab-el-Mandeb → Gulf of Aden → Arabian Sea → Indian Ocean

- Exam Trap

- Bab-el-Mandeb ≠ Strait of Hormuz

Bab-el-Mandeb और Strait of Hormuz अलग हैं।

-

- **Why is Bab-el-Mandeb so important? ★ ★ ★**

- Reuters describes it as one of the world's vital maritime chokepoints, with substantial oil and goods traffic passing through it.

- **Ships moving between Asia and Europe through the Suez route generally pass through Bab-el-Mandeb.**

Asia और Europe के बीच Suez Route से जाने वाले Ships सामान्यतः Bab-el-Mandeb से गुजरते हैं।

- If the strait becomes unsafe:

- **Shipping insurance ↑**
Shipping Insurance बढ़ता है

- **Freight rates ↑**
Freight Rates बढ़ते हैं

- **Ships may divert around Cape of Good Hope**
Ships को Cape of Good Hope से Diversion करना पड़ सकता है

- **Journey time ↑**
Journey Time बढ़ता है

- **Fuel cost ↑**
Fuel Cost बढ़ता है

-
- Who are the Houthis? | Houthis कौन हैं?
 - Houthis are a Yemen-based armed movement also known as Ansar Allah. Houthis Yemen आधारित Armed Movement हैं, जिन्हें Ansar Allah भी कहा जाता है।
 - They are aligned with and supported by Iran, though Iran rejects the description that they are simply its proxies.
वे Iran के साथ aligned हैं और उससे support प्राप्त करते हैं, हालांकि Iran उन्हें केवल अपना Proxy बताए जाने से इनकार करता है।
 - Static Link
 - Houthis → Yemen → Ansar Allah → Iran-aligned

- **Why is Saudi Arabia worried?**

- Saudi Arabia depends heavily on secure maritime export routes for crude oil.
Saudi Arabia अपने Crude Oil Exports के लिए Secure Maritime Routes पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।

- The current conflict has also reduced normal shipping through the **Strait of Hormuz**, making the Red Sea route even more strategically important. The supplied report says Saudi Arabia had increasingly relied on the Red Sea route because of disruption around Hormuz.

- **Strategic problem**

- **Hormuz disrupted + Bab-el-Mandeb threatened = pressure on both major oil corridors**

Chokepoint	Connects	Strategic relevance
Bab-el-Mandeb	Red Sea–Gulf of Aden	Suez trade
Strait of Hormuz	Persian Gulf–Gulf of Oman	Gulf oil exports
Strait of Malacca	Indian Ocean–South China Sea	Asia trade
Suez Canal	Mediterranean–Red Sea	Europe–Asia trade
Panama Canal	Atlantic–Pacific	Americas/global trade



- Important countries around Red Sea:

- **Egypt**

Sudan

Eritrea

Djibouti

Saudi Arabia

Yemen

- **North end**

- **Suez Canal**

- **South end**

- **Bab-el-Mandeb**

- **Why Is This Bigger Than a Yemen Conflict?**

- Because the issue now affects:

- **Saudi energy infrastructure**

Red Sea shipping

Hormuz shipping

Global oil markets

U.S.–Iran conflict

India–Europe trade

• Consider the following statements regarding Perim Island and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait:
Perim Island और Bab-el-Mandeb Strait के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- Perim Island lies in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.
Perim Island Bab-el-Mandeb Strait में स्थित है।
- Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
Bab-el-Mandeb Red Sea को Gulf of Aden से जोड़ता है।
- It forms part of an important maritime route connecting Asia with Europe through the Suez Canal.
यह Suez Canal के माध्यम से Asia–Europe Maritime Route का हिस्सा है।
- It directly connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.
यह सीधे Persian Gulf को Arabian Sea से जोड़ता है।

India climbs to 4th spot as forex reserves post record weekly gain

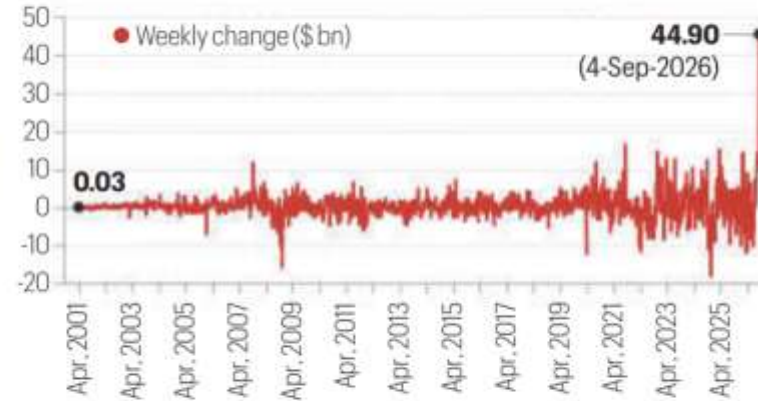
Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, September 11

INDIA HAS overtaken Russia in fourth spot in the list of countries with the highest foreign exchange reserves after data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday showed that its reserves increased by \$45 billion in the week ended September 4 — the highest weekly gain ever.

As per latest data, India's forex reserves stood at a new record \$785.71 billion as on September 4, up \$44.9 billion from August 28. Data from the Bank of Russia shows its international reserves stood at \$753.5 billion as on September 4, having fallen \$20.7 billion from \$774.2 billion the previous week.

China and Japan are at the top, with forex reserves of \$3.85 trillion and \$1.21 trillion, respectively. In third is Switzerland, with reserves of \$1.09 trillion. The massive \$44.9 billion gain in India's forex reserves is over two-and-a-half times higher than the previous greatest weekly gain of \$16.7 billion, recorded in the week ended August 27, 2021, and has been driven by the unexpectedly high

• FX reserves rise by record \$45 bn in a week



NOTE: FIGURES ARE WEEK-ON-WEEK CHANGE IN FX RESERVES, SOURCE: RBI

inflow of Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits under the RBI's concessional swap scheme. The sharp increase follows an earlier-than-anticipated closure of the swap scheme. Originally set to close on September 30, the rapid inflow of these deposits led to the RBI closing it one month earlier than initially planned.

Till August 31, \$127.23 billion of these FCNR(B) deposits had come in. The RBI's two other concessional swap schemes for Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) have seen the inflow of \$5.26 bil-

lion and \$3.89 billion, respectively. In total, \$136.38 billion had come in until August 31 under the special forex drive that was announced on June 5 and became operational on June 8. The swap windows for OFCBs and ECBs remain open till December 31.

This forex drive has ensured that India's forex reserves have risen for 10 weeks in a row. A higher level of forex reserves gives the RBI greater ammunition to defend the rupee when the need arises, as has been the case from time to time.

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Rank	Country	Forex Reserves
1	China	\$3.85 trillion
2	Japan	\$1.21 trillion
3	Switzerland	\$1.09 trillion
4	India	\$785.71 billion
5	Russia	\$753.5 billion

3. 💱 What are Forex Reserves? | Forex Reserves क्या होते हैं? ★★☆☆

Foreign exchange reserves are external assets held by a country's central bank to support external payments and currency stability.

Foreign Exchange Reserves ये External Assets होते हैं जिन्हें Central Bank External Payments और Currency Stability के लिए रखता है।

In India, they are managed by:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

भारत में Forex Reserves का Management RBI करता है।

4. 🧩 Components of India's Forex Reserves ★★☆☆

India's forex reserves broadly include:

1. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)

Foreign Currency Assets

2. Gold Reserves

Gold Reserves

3. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

Special Drawing Rights

4. Reserve Position in the IMF

IMF में Reserve Position

Memory Trick

F-G-S-R

26. Why China Has Such Large Reserves

China's large reserves reflect decades of:

Export surpluses

Capital inflows

Central bank foreign-exchange accumulation

Comparison caution

Reserve size should not be judged only by population or GDP rank.

27. Why Switzerland Is So High

Switzerland has historically accumulated very large foreign assets because of monetary interventions linked to the Swiss franc.

This is why a relatively small economy can rank very high in forex reserves.

Exam Insight

Forex reserve rank $\neq$ GDP rank

- Consider the following statements regarding forex reserves:

Forex Reserves के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- RBI can use forex reserves to intervene in the foreign-exchange market.
RBI Foreign Exchange Market में Intervention के लिए Reserves का उपयोग कर सकता है।
- SDRs are international reserve assets created by the IMF.
SDRs IMF द्वारा बनाए गए International Reserve Assets हैं।
- An increase in reserves necessarily means the current account is in surplus.
Reserves बढ़ने का अर्थ हमेशा Current Account Surplus होता है।
- Valuation changes can affect the dollar value of forex reserves.
Valuation Changes Forex Reserves की Dollar Value को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

• THE NEW GDP SERIES SAW MOSPI OVERHAUL ITS METHODS, INCLUDING HOW IT REMOVES THE EFFECT OF INFLATION FROM NOMINAL GDP TO GET REAL GDP

Producer prices and double-deflation — key changes in new GDP series

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, September 9

ECONOMIC DATA in India is never without its share of debates. And GDP numbers attract the most questions. The short answer to the upward and downward revisions to past GDP growth rates under the new 2022-23 series is the use of producer prices for double deflation.

Revisions to past GDP numbers happen all the time. This is because quarterly numbers are compiled using what is called a 'benchmark-indicator approach'. Annual estimates, meanwhile, are based on actual output and numbers, say companies' financial results and the statistics minis-

try's surveys.

While this explains the large upward revision from 7.8% to 8.6% for real GDP growth in January-March 2026, changes to older data happened because the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has started using the Producer Price Index (PPI) to adjust nominal GDP to real GDP.

Deflating for 'real'

The new GDP series, released on February 27, saw MoSPI overhaul its methods, including how it removes the effect of inflation from nominal GDP to get real GDP.

GDP is the sum of value created — or Gross Value Added (GVA) — by each sector, the indirect taxes collected and sub-

tracting subsidies given by the government. GVA is the difference between the value of what a sector produces (output) and the raw materials (inputs) it uses. When done without adjusting for prices, the result is nominal GVA, or in current prices. The trouble begins while calculating real GVA.

Until now, MoSPI used the same number — picked from the various Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index sub-indices — to adjust, or 'deflate', the value of inputs as well as outputs. This process is called 'single deflation' and was done for all sectors except agriculture and mining and quarrying. But this method works well only when prices of inputs and outputs are chang-

• As oil prices rise, manufacturing deflator falls



Source: MoSPI, Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, The Indian Express calculations

ing at the same rate; when they don't, there's a problem.

When the nominal value of inputs is adjusted by the actual

change in prices of inputs and the same is done for outputs, the process is called double deflation. This results in accurate measurement of real GVA.

Negative deflators

A sector's implied deflator is negative when nominal GVA growth is less than real growth. For manufacturing, the implied deflator has been below zero in six of the 13 quarters for which new GDP series data is available. This has left some people puzzled. When input prices rise faster than output prices, the use of double deflation leads to real GVA growth exceeding nominal growth. The chart juxtaposes the manufacturing GVA deflator with the year-on-year percentage change in the price of

India's crude oil basket, a crucial input for Indian manufacturers. The inverse movement is striking.

Correct deflators

When the new GDP series was released in February, double-deflation was done using CPI and WPI sub-indices. Last week's data saw double-deflation being done using the PPI, which measures prices received by producers at the factory gate, making it exclusive of taxes and trade and transport margins. This shift to the PPI is crucial as previously some sectors were not being adjusted by the appropriate deflator, services, for instance. The deflator implied by the real and nominal GVA growth rates of the services sec-

tor under the old series were sometimes lower than expected because it was mostly the WPI that was used to deflate the sector's nominal values. But the WPI contains only goods. So, when wholesale inflation was low due to soft commodity prices, the services sector's nominal input value was deflated by a number smaller than the cost rise the sector may have been actually facing.

As a result, real GVA of services was larger than it should have been, leading to overestimation of real growth. The opposite would have happened when commodity prices were rising faster than the actual service sector's costs.

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GDP Growth Logic

Nominal GDP

Output + Price
Current Prices

Real GDP

Actual Output
Constant Prices

GDP Deflator removes inflation

महंगाई का प्रभाव हटाया जाता है

Real Economic Growth

Quantity of goods & services
वस्तुओं व सेवाओं का वास्तविक उत्पादन

Same Production, Higher Price

Year 1

100 Bicycles

₹1,000 each

₹1,00,000

Nominal GDP

Price only

Year 2

100 Bicycles

₹1,100 each

₹1,10,000

Nominal GDP

Real GDP Growth = 0%

Calculating Inflation Rate: GDP Deflator Method

1



Get Nominal GDP

Find the total value of goods and services produced at current market prices for a given period.

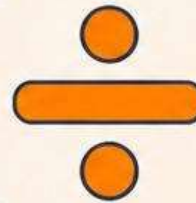
2



Get Real GDP

Find the total value of goods and services produced using constant base year prices for the same period.

3



Calculate GDP Deflator

Use the formula:
(Nominal GDP / Real GDP)
x 100 to get the deflator
value for each period.

4



Calculate Inflation Rate

Determine the percentage change in the GDP Deflator between two consecutive periods using the inflation rate formula.



$$\text{Inflation Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{GDP Deflator (Current Period)} - \text{GDP Deflator (Previous Period)}}{\text{GDP Deflator (Previous Period)}} \times 100$$

Using GDP Deflator to estimate price changes and deflate Nominal GDP

$$\text{Nominal GDP}_{2023} = (80 \times \$20) + (70 \times \$30) = \$3700$$

$$\text{Real GDP}_{2023} = (80 \times \$10) + (70 \times \$20) = \$2200$$

Assuming base year is 2022, we can calculate the use the GDP Deflator to calculate price changes between current year and base year.

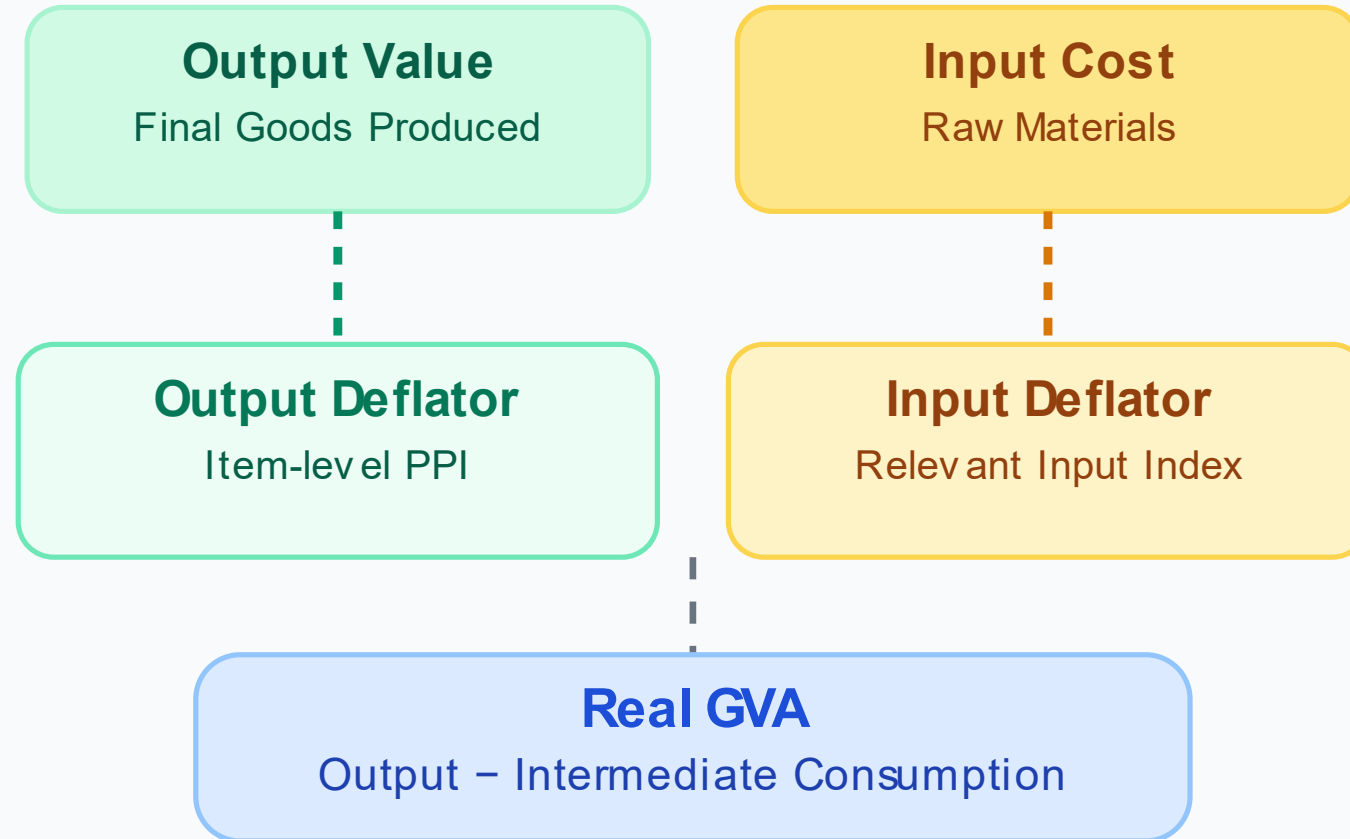
$$\text{GDP Deflator} = \frac{\text{Nominal GDP}}{\text{Real GDP}} \times 100$$

$$\text{GDP Deflator} = \frac{\$3700}{\$2200} \times 100 = 168.18$$

$$\text{Real GDP}_{\text{current year}} = \frac{\text{Nominal GDP}_{\text{current year}}}{\text{GDP Deflator}_{\text{current year}}} = \frac{3700}{1.6818} = \$2200$$



Double Deflation



Separate price adjustment on both sides
दोनों पक्षों का अलग-अलग Deflation

Manufacturing methodology in new GDP series



- Double Deflation means Output and Intermediate Consumption are deflated separately before calculating Real Gross Value Added (GVA).
- Double Deflation का अर्थ है कि Output और Intermediate Consumption दोनों को अलग-अलग Price Indices से Deflate करके Real GVA निकाला जाता है।
- Officially, MoSPI describes this as a more conceptually robust method for manufacturing because output prices and input prices do not always move together.
- Press Information Bureau+2
- MoSPI के अनुसार Manufacturing में यह Method अधिक Conceptually Robust है क्योंकि Output और Input Prices हमेशा एक जैसी गति से नहीं बदलते।

Comparison

Single Deflation

One price index
Broad adjustment

Output
& Inputs

Less precise when
prices diverge

Double Deflation

Separate indices
Output & Inputs

Better Real GVA
measurement

More granular &
accurate approach

Single Deflation

One deflator used broadly

Less granular

Earlier approach

May distort GVA when input/output prices differ

Double Deflation

Separate deflators for output & inputs

More granular

New manufacturing methodology

Better reflects actual value added

The new national accounts framework explicitly shifts manufacturing toward double deflation while using sector-appropriate extrapolation or volume indicators elsewhere.  Press Information Bureau +1

नई National Accounts Methodology में Manufacturing के लिए Double Deflation अपनाया गया है जबकि अन्य Sectors में Sector-specific Extrapolation या Volume Indicators का उपयोग किया जाता है।  Press Information Bureau +1

MoSPI के आधिकारिक दस्तावेज़ों के अनुसार **2022–23 Base Year Series** में तीन प्रमुख सुधार किए गए।

 Press Information Bureau +2

✓ **Base Year Revision**

2011–12 → 2022–23

2011–12 से बदलकर 2022–23 Base Year किया गया।

✓ **Double Deflation in Manufacturing**

Output and intermediate inputs are separately deflated.

Manufacturing में Output तथा Inputs का अलग-अलग Deflation किया जाता है।

✓ **Granular Price Indicators**

More detailed CPI, PPI/WPI, Unit Value and sector-specific indicators are used.

अधिक Granular CPI, PPI/WPI, Unit Value तथा Sector-specific Price Indicators का उपयोग किया जाता है।

These changes aim to improve the accuracy and consistency of real GDP estimation rather than merely changing one growth number.  Press Information Bureau +2

इन सुधारों का उद्देश्य केवल Growth Number बदलना नहीं बल्कि Real GDP Estimation को अधिक Accurate और Consistent बनाना है।  Press Information Bureau +2

Revision Capsule

- New GDP Base Year = 2022–23
- Nominal GDP = Output + Price Effect
- Real GDP = Inflation removed
- GDP Deflator converts Nominal $\rightarrow$ Real GDP
- GVA = Output – Intermediate Consumption
- GDP = GVA + Product Taxes – Product Subsidies
- Manufacturing now uses Double Deflation
- Output and Inputs are deflated separately
- PPI measures Producer Prices
- Negative Deflator $\neq$ Negative Economic Growth
- Crude oil shock explains why input and output prices may diverge

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BIGGER
KNOWLEDGE
BRIGHTER
FUTURE

PLAN
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TRADE
REPEAT

ENROLLMENT STARTS TOMORROW

7 SEPT – 13 SEPT

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