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Start badly, but start—perfection is just
delay in disguise.”

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INSIDE

States directed to fix panic buttons in public vehicles

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Wednesday, in a public interest litigation, directed all State and Union Territories to urgently install speed governors, location tracking devices, and emergency panic buttons in passenger transport vehicles. ■ PAGE 4

Minister's son skips summons in PCCSO case

HYDERABAD
Ravi Ch. Chaganti, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ravi Varma Reddy, failed to appear before police for questioning on Wednesday in connection with a case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. ■ PAGE 3

Runaways allege torture at Islamic school FIR filed

BANGALORE
The rescue of 24 runaway minors from a madrasa in Tumakuru in Karnataka has led to the registration of an FIR against the institution's management over allegations of torture, forced labour, and harassment of students. They had been rescued from a railway station. ■ PAGE 2

CBI chief Sood's term extended by another year

NEW DELHI
Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director P. V. Sood has been given another one-year extension, beyond May 24, 2009, as announced on Wednesday by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) based on the recommendations of the selection committee. ■ PAGE 4

Vijay wins floor test with 144 votes; AIADMK divided

TVK-led coalition government secures confidence vote in Tamil Nadu Assembly with 25 AIADMK MLAs voting in its favour; rift widens in AIADMK as Palaniappan removes 26 rebel functionaries

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI
Chief Minister C. Jayaram Vijay comfortably won the trust vote in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Wednesday with the support of the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK, and IUML, as well as that of 25 rebel AIADMK MLAs and the lone AMMK MLA.



Support shows Chief Minister Vijay delivers a speech at the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday. (AP)

The confidence motion moved by Mr. Vijay was put to vote by speaker J.C.L. Prabhakar after the Deputy Minister of State for Law, M. Munirathnam, moved a resolution to allow the House to discuss the motion. Among those who were sacked from their posts were Mr. Velumani and C.V. Shanmugam, both former Ministers.

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Moving up the ladder



Students celebrate in a New Delhi school after the declaration of CBSE Class 12 results on Wednesday. While the national pass percentage at 85.2% marked a drop of 3.2 points from last year's 88.3%, girls outshone boys by a margin of 0.73%. (AP)

Three tribal church leaders killed by gunmen in Manipur ambush

One of the survivors told security personnel that the assailants came on foot and slipped away after firing a volley of bullets for three or four minutes from the hillside of the road that connects the Talsang district headquarters Chuchangpur and Kangpokpi districts, by passing the non-tribal Metropolitan Baptist Association of India (TBMAB) and the United Baptist Council (UBC), were travelling in two vehicles from a Baptist convention in Chuchangpur to Kangpokpi when they were ambushed. The incident occurred on "High Road" between Kotten and Kotsim villages around 10 a.m.



Chief Minister V. Shreshth Singh and his team talk to injured people at a hospital before the injured were admitted.

Several Thadou in a section claim it is a Thadou community and not a constituent of the Kuki group of tribes, Kuki, and Zomi. The Thadou community has been in Manipur since the British rule. The Thadou community has been in Manipur since the British rule. The Thadou community has been in Manipur since the British rule.

Centre doubles the import duty on gold, silver; move is criticised as retrograde

J.C.A. Abhadh Bagwan NEW DELHI

The Centre has doubled the effective tax paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 16.4% from the previous 9.2%. The changes, which came into effect on Wednesday, were made through two separate notifications issued late on Thursday.

Bullion burden
The decision comes soon after Prime Minister Modi's courtesy appeal to the public to reduce gold purchases.

Item	2007-08	2008-09
Gold (customs duty)	9%	18%
Gold (excise duty)	0%	0%
Silver (customs duty)	9%	18%
Silver (excise duty)	0%	0%
Gold (total)	9%	18%
Silver (total)	9%	18%

According to sources in the government, the decision was taken against the backdrop of the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's current account deficit (CAD). The CAD is the margin by which a country's total imports of goods, services, and transfers exceed its exports.

Customs duty up to 10% Previously, the basic customs duty on gold and silver stood at 9%, with a 1% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), and a 3% Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) rate on the total assessable value of the imports, which includes the cost, insurance, and freight price, and the applicable basic customs duties, taking the effective import tax to about 9.2%.

CBI arrests 5 persons in NEET paper leak probe

Delhi, J. Pandey Special Delhi NEW DELHI
The CBI has arrested five persons and conducted searches at multiple locations across the country in connection with alleged irregularities related to the NEET-UG paper leak. Several other suspects are currently being examined, the agency said.

Centre doubles the import duty on gold, silver; move is criticised as retrograde

T.G.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Centre has doubled the effective tax paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 18.4% from the previous 9.2%.

The changes, which came into effect on Wednesday, were made through two separate notifications issued late on Tuesday night.

According to sources in the government, the decision was taken against the backdrop of the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's current account deficit (CAD). The CAD is the margin by which a country's total imports of goods, services, and transfers exceeds its exports.

However, industry players and experts said this "retrograde" and "blunt" decision will not only encourage a shift to smuggling but also have other negative effects on employment.

The Finance Ministry has not yet released an official statement on the duty hikes or its justifications.

Customs duty up to 10%

Previously, the basic customs duty on gold and silver stood at 5%, with a 7% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), and a 3% Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) rate on the total assessable value of the imports, which includes the cost, insurance, and freight price, and the applicable basic customs duties, taking the effective import tax to about 9.2%.

Now, the customs duty has been hiked to 10%, and the AIDC has become 5%, taking the effective tax rate, including the IGST, to about 18.4%. The decision comes soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortations to the public to reduce gold purchases for at least a year, among other actions, to help protect India's foreign exchange reserves and the rupee exchange rate.

"The current geopolitical situation has created significant volatility in glo-

Bullion burden

The decision comes soon after Prime Minister Modi's austerity appeal to the public to reduce gold purchases

Tax	Earlier	Now
Basic customs duty	5%	10%
Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess	7%	5%
Integrated Goods and Services Tax*	3%	3%
Total	-9.2%	-18.4%



Note: IGST is applicable on the assessable value of the gold, which includes the Cost, Insurance, and Freight (C&I) value and the basic Customs duty.

bal crude oil markets and international shipping routes," a government source explained. "As a large importer of crude oil, India remains vulnerable to elevated energy prices and supply-side disruptions, which can increase the import bill, exert pressure on inflation, and the CAD."

They further said that the government was prioritising India's foreign exchange resources towards essential imports such as crude oil, fertilisers, industrial raw materials, defence requirements, critical technologies, and capital goods.

"In contrast, precious metals, while culturally and financially significant, are predominantly consumption and investment driven in nature," they said. "Such imports involve substantial outflow of foreign exchange."

Industry players, economists, and investment advisors have said that the decision is not likely to impact Indians' demand for gold, and would instead increase smuggling.

"Our consistent position is that hiking import duties rarely curbs gold imports – it merely inflates prices," the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council said in a statement. "Despite gold prices doubling recently, imports have not declined proportionally. Such measures often fuel smuggling and escalate export costs."

This sentiment was echoed by Sachin Sawrikar, founder and managing partner at Artha Bharat Investment Managers, who

termed the import duty hike as a "blunt instrument that history tells us rarely achieves its intended purpose".

The GJEPC also said that the most severe impact of this policy will be felt by MSME manufacturers, who are the "backbone" of the industry, accounting for 80% of GJEPC's membership and who are currently facing a critical liquidity crunch.

According to industry insiders, the decision to hike the import duties on precious metals will see imports fall by about 15-20%.

According to data with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India imported \$71.9 billion of just gold in 2025-26, up 24% from the previous year.

Lack of transparency

In a note, the think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) pointed out that the notifications issued by the government continue to be very difficult to understand, which defeats the objective of transparent taxation the government is trying to achieve.

Determining the actual applicable duty now requires going through multiple layers of amendments, corrections and tariff changes issued over several decades, the note added.

"Such drafting defeats the objective of transparent taxation and runs contrary to India's stated goal of improving ease of doing business and simplifying customs procedures," GTRI said.

- Centre doubled import duty on gold and silver from **9.2% to 18.4%**.

समाचार: केंद्र सरकार ने सोना और चांदी पर आयात शुल्क **9.2% से बढ़ाकर 18.4%** कर दिया।

- **Reason given by government:** To reduce gold purchases, protect India's foreign exchange reserves and support the rupee.

सरकार का कारण: सोने की खरीद घटाना, विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार की रक्षा करना और रुपये को सहारा देना।

- **Criticism:** Experts called it a “retrograde” and “blunt” step because it may increase smuggling and hurt jewellery exporters/MSMEs.

आलोचना: विशेषज्ञों ने इसे “पिछड़ा” और “अप्रभावी” कदम बताया क्योंकि इससे तस्करी बढ़ सकती है और ज्वेलरी निर्यातकों/MSMEs को नुकसान हो सकता है।

Point	English	शुद्ध
Commodity affected	Gold and Silver	दुग्ध रू घ दुग्ध
Earlier total import duty	Around 9.2%	चणकण थकण
New total import duty	Around 18.4%	चणकण इतकण
Basic Customs Duty	Increased from 5% to 10%	इप दुग्ध प्रवड् घ इजप
AIDC	Increased from 1% to 5%	इप दुग्ध प्रवड् घ इप
IGST	Remains 3%	टप गव्वत्रल
Government objective	Reduce gold imports, save forex, support rupee	दुग्ध इव्र ष गव्रल त ब्रव्र अदुह रकव्र दुग्ध इव्र इह गव्रल दुग्ध
Industry concern	Smuggling, higher costs, export loss	लW घह चणल पप्र अगव्र रकव्र
Sector affected	Gems & Jewellery, MSMEs	घु इअ ष कवडुर् MSMEs
India's import data	Gold and silver import rose 24% in 2025-26 to \$71 billion	2025-26 रकव्र दुग्ध ष गव्रल इतप पड् घ \$णइ १ घ इ



Tax Component	Earlier	Now	Exam Note
Basic Customs Duty	5%	10%	Direct import duty increased
Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess	1%	5%	AIDC also increased sharply
IGST	3%	3%	No change
Total Effective Duty	~9.2%	~18.4%	Almost doubled

Why Gold Import Matters for India

भारत के लिए सोना आयात क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

Dimension	Explanation	हिंदी
Current Account Deficit	Gold is a major import item; high imports widen CAD	सोना बड़ा आयात है; अधिक आयात CAD बढ़ाता है
Forex Reserves	Gold import requires payment in foreign currency	सोना आयात करने के लिए विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च होती है
Rupee Value	Higher imports increase dollar demand, pressuring rupee	अधिक आयात से डॉलर मांग बढ़ती है, रुपये पर दबाव आता है
Inflation	Higher import duty may increase domestic gold/silver prices	आयात शुल्क बढ़ने से घरेलू कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं
Smuggling Risk	High duty creates incentive for illegal imports	ज्यादा शुल्क से अवैध आयात/तस्करी बढ़ सकती है
Jewellery Exports	Higher input cost can reduce export competitiveness	लागत बढ़ने से निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा घट सकती है

Positive Side

सकारात्मक पक्ष

English

हिंदी

May reduce non-essential gold imports.

गैर-जरूरी सोना आयात घट सकता है।

Can help protect foreign exchange reserves.

विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार को बचाने में मदद मिल सकती है।

May reduce pressure on current account deficit.

चालू खाता घाटे पर दबाव कम हो सकता है।

Can support rupee stability in the short term.

अल्पकाल में रुपये को सहारा मिल सकता है।

Negative Side

नकारात्मक पक्ष

English

हिंदी

Higher duty may increase gold smuggling.

अधिक शुल्क से सोना तस्करी बढ़ सकती है।

Jewellery exporters may face higher input cost.

ज्वेलरी निर्यातकों की लागत बढ़ सकती है।

MSMEs in jewellery sector may suffer liquidity pressure.

ज्वेलरी क्षेत्र के MSMEs पर नकदी दबाव बढ़ सकता है।

Consumers may face higher prices.

उपभोक्ताओं को अधिक कीमत चुकानी पड़ सकती है।

Policy may not reduce demand because gold has cultural and investment value in India.

भारत में सोने का सांस्कृतिक और निवेश महत्व है, इसलिए मांग कम होना कठिन है।

Q. With reference to the recent increase in import duty on gold and silver, consider the following statements:

हाल ही में सोना और चांदी पर आयात शुल्क वृद्धि के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The total effective duty was increased from around 9.2% to 18.4%.
कुल प्रभावी शुल्क लगभग 9.2% से बढ़ाकर 18.4% किया गया।
2. The IGST component was also increased from 3% to 5%.
IGST घटक भी 3% से बढ़ाकर 5% किया गया।
3. One objective of the increase is to reduce pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves.
इस वृद्धि का एक उद्देश्य भारत के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार पर दबाव कम करना है।

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

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

The 'cinematisation' of politics

Throughout the recent election season in Tamil Nadu, there was an unmistakable air of contentment and glory among voters. Most youth – the largest share of the electorate that led to actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vetti Kaatchagan (TVK) winning over 100 seats – seems to have looked at the elections as one that would lead to "a change."

Tamil Nadu, of course, has seen its share of youth revolution in politics. The very Dravidian government that Mr. Vijay defeated was built by a student political movement more than six decades ago. But unlike the DMK, this new "change" wasn't built up through protest, against an oppressive force. It largely transpired on social media, in the minds of youth, amid a pandemic of political indifference.

A narrative of change During the election campaign, two statements largely captured the opposing viewpoints. Politicians had said Mr. Vijay's TVK, one was that "Vijay doesn't understand TV politics isn't cinema" and two, "we need Vijay because we need a change." There's more to these statements than what meets the eye. The question is not whether politics is cinema but about how politics needs to be understood, which Mr. Vijay understands. And change? The youth don't necessarily crave for a change – what they crave for is a narrative, some purpose that empowers them with direction.

Sociologically speaking, life in a democracy cannot get more routine for a youth of the state. They work a nine-to-five job, and endlessly scroll through various social media platforms. Beyond personal goals, life hardly allows one a purpose, let alone a larger-than-life vision for a revolution. But cinema does. Cinema offers an augmented reality where narrative is celebrated. This is why we live in a time when escapist cinema is so



Dharmaraj Chandrasekaran

remained, and political news consumption has declined. Throughout the election season, a large chunk of TVK voters were reportedly criticised as "thick-skulled," meaning "insensitive" for their alleged lack of political insight or their inability to articulate why they wanted to vote for Mr. Vijay. "Ammal brother will do his good," they said. How or when would they ever bothered, as was evident from the many videos that went viral. However, it would be unfair to blame these youths, as what we are seeing is political indifference and political illiteracy that came from the State's inability to educate the youth in their language. Depoliticised campaigns have long been the cause of this aversion to politics.

This lack of purpose is why propaganda on social media and movies work – audiences need to feel a win, and cinema offers a narrative. And a narrative is what the politician in Mr. Vijay – a face they have seen so often saving them with a purpose – offered them when he took to the stage and begged the government of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) to "thrust a stake" into their regis. If not, perhaps, the most election manifesto these days, change is just a pre-election commodity. Cinema against cinema, change in government – it needs a government that acknowledges its role in the deep-seated poverty in society and takes steps towards abolishing the socio-political factors that lead to social ailments. Until then, a change in this regard would be cosmetic.

Need for dramatic change This need for a purpose through a narrative has now reshaped itself. Mr. Vijay, to his credit, seems to have learnt this from his decades as the film industry – for an actor to win, politics must become his cinema. Which is why Mr. Vijay's election campaign, which ranged from the young children to their parents to vote for the TVK to a repeatedly criticised film as a villain, seemed straight out of the cinema of a summer.

Needless to say, if anything, the DMK did not lose to an actor who sold cinema, but to a strategist who offered the satisfaction of a social media campaign win. This is also

why Mr. Vijay's victory feels so personal to most of his voters. What they have done is essentially been the force that was unofficially called "thick-skulled" – they voted for the political indifference that politics needs to become more. They need to see variety in politics, and stability can seem boring. Development shouldn't just improve upon what exists, it should demand something pre-existing, for the lack of dramatic film would simply be akin to death.

There must be development, but through a steady supply of "something different." Because "we need a change." In fact, if anything, this statement from supporters of the TVK says enough about the crisis of "purposelessness." For example, many TVK supporters wished for a government change due to the many crimes against women in the last few years. This is one definition of change they have attached to. Now, all one must do to check if this was a genuine concern is to see if similar social media campaigns hold the TVK accountable should there be any further marginalisation. On the other hand, even if it doesn't, the other faction, led by former ministers K.P. Velupillai Prabhakaran and C. V. Annamalai, may gain the upper hand within the party structure. However, what stands in his favour is that the incidents are in no the deep-seated poverty in society and takes steps towards abolishing the socio-political factors that lead to social ailments. Until then, a change in this regard would be cosmetic.

How Mr. Vijay and the TVK define this victory and govern in the years to come remains to be seen. For the social media warriors who voted for them, this victory is a respite under the punishing sun. Who cares if there's a happily ever after? We don't bother about what happens to the hero after the climax.

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The law does not favour AIADMK rebels

The divide needs to be evaluated under the anti-defection law

STATE OF PLAY
K. Venkatasubramanian

A many at 25 of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)'s 47 legislators voted in favour of the late Vetti Kaatchagan (TVK) government in the confidence vote moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. This has further deepened the crisis within the party that finished third in the recent Assembly election. The party's general secretary, Rajagopal K. Palaniswami, and 21 of his supporters voted against the TVK government.

A key question is whether the dissidents have incurred disqualification under the anti-defection law. Mr. Palaniswami is in an ambivalent position. If he seeks the rebels' disqualification, the move may lead to a formal split in the party, and may result in speculations that would lead to further marginalisation. On the other hand, even if it doesn't, the other faction, led by former ministers K.P. Velupillai Prabhakaran and C. V. Annamalai, may gain the upper hand within the party structure. However, what stands in his favour is that the incidents are in no the deep-seated poverty in society and takes steps towards abolishing the socio-political factors that lead to social ailments. Until then, a change in this regard would be cosmetic.

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Yamini Reddy

ruing in the judgment is that it is the political party and not the legislature party that appoints its whip and gives the direction to vote in a particular manner or abstain. There are, any claim by another faction that it has its own whip and its own direction to vote cannot be commensated by the Speaker. The second principle in the judgment is that the numerical strength of respective factions is irrelevant. The percentage of members in each faction is irrelevant to the determination of whether a defence to disqualification is made out." The five-judge bench said. However, the Court also recognised that the Speaker may have to determine which of the two factions constitute the original party and be the original party's own constitution and other regulations that spell out its structure. The Speaker must not base their decision as to which group constitute the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly, it said. The structure of leadership outside the House is also a relevant consideration.

The Speaker's determination on which group constitute the party is only a prima facie finding, and would not have any impact on the Election Commission's power to adjudicate the question under Paragraph 15 of the Election

Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, which deals with recognition to parties and allotment of symbols.

Mr. Palaniswami will have to decide whether to seek the disqualification of those who voted against him. The DMK should give a political party the option of contesting such a vote within 15 days. In 2017, he did not seek action against 11 AIADMK legislators of the O. Panneerselvam faction when they voted against him. A related question is whether a whip was issued and received by all members of the AIADMK. In the 2017 assembly, Mr. Panneerselvam and his supporters claimed that they had not received it as they were not part of the group of MLAs housed in a resort by the party leadership. Under the rules governing the question of disqualification in the Assembly, each party has to submit a list of its members and designations within 30 days of the first sitting of the House. It is not known whether this was done. The appointment of a member as the Whip, as well as the existence of a whip, are essential facts that may require adjudication.

The AIADMK members who voted for the TVK, have rendered themselves vulnerable to disqualification by violating a party direction. However, they may depend on the Speaker's indulgence in not acting on disqualification petitions, if any, and may continue to dispute on facts such as which of them is the authority and whether one was issued at all. The Speaker will have to read in mind the facts and adjudicate the question under Paragraph 15 of the Election

China's economic strengths now rival that of the U.S.

Beijing continues its economic rise and has now become a diplomatic powerhouse

DATA POINT

Sanjay Parthasarathy

U.S. President Donald Trump commenced his highly anticipated three-day visit to China on May 13, amid the ongoing trade war with the Asian nation, and a year after Mr. Trump imposed steep import tariffs on several countries. China was one of the countries on which the U.S. imposed the highest tariffs. Mr. Trump's previous visit to Beijing was in November 2017 during his first term as U.S. President. Interestingly, it was a few months after his 2017 visit that he started a trade war with China by levying high import tariffs on various products to fight the latter's "unfair trade practices" and address the huge trade imbalance between the two countries. China retaliated with its own tariffs.

Though Mr. Trump escalated this trade war between the two countries in his second term with a further increase in tariffs, he will be visiting China after having backed down following Beijing's retaliatory tariffs and steps taken by it to restrict vital rare earth exports to the U.S.

A look at multiple economic indicators over the years shows that China is catching up at a steady pace with the U.S., considered the world's lone superpower, both economically and militarily since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, China's economic strength has grown dramatically to rival that of the U.S.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the U.S. in 1989 was about 11 times the size of China's economy, by 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund's data, the U.S. GDP was only 1.5 times larger than that of China (Chart 1). Despite growing into an economy comparable in size to the U.S., China has managed to maintain a strong GDP growth rate of at least 8% even after it became a 140 tril-

lion economy in 2014, barring the exceptions of 2020 and 2022. Since becoming a \$10 trillion economy in 2020, the U.S. economy's growth rate has crossed the 3% mark in 2005. The only exception was 2021 because of the negative growth caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the year before.

The gap is even starker when it comes to labour productivity growth – that is, output per worker. Beating being far higher than the U.S., China's growth rate of labour productivity is at a level that the U.S. has not even reached in the past 28 years (Chart 2).

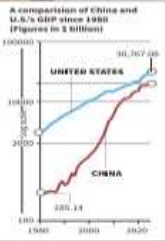
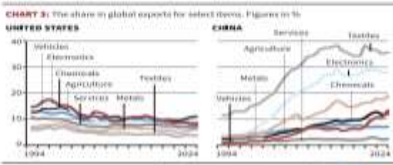
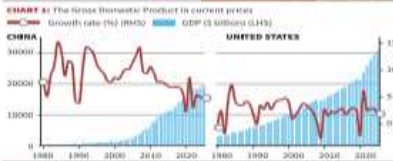
In many key export sectors, China now occupies the place once held by the U.S. While China's share in global exports across sectors such as electronics and minerals has grown, the U.S. share has seen a gradual decline (Chart 3). China's share in global vehicle exports has grown from less than 1% in 1995 to over 12% in 2024.

China has also massively increased its spending on R&D, which assumes significance in the backdrop of the race between the two countries in AI. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China overtook the U.S. in R&D expenditure for the first time in 2024. The U.S. spent \$781.9 billion while China spent \$785.9 billion, which is a 20-fold jump from the \$41 billion spent in 2000. Between 2000 and 2024, Beijing's share in global R&D expenditure increased by 23 percentage points while that of the U.S. declined by 3.71 percentage points (Chart 4).

The Asian giant is using its economic growth to increase its diplomatic influence. According to Asia Data, China was the world's largest official creditor in 2022, having lent about \$140 billion to public and private sector borrowers. The U.S. is the largest recipient of China's official sector credit. Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index ranked Beijing's "diplomatic" influence and "economic relations" higher than those of the U.S. for 2022.

Tipping the scales

The data for the charts were sourced from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labor Organization, World Growth Lab, Index of Economic Complexity and World Intellectual Property Organization.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Archipelago

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1970

Archipelago status for Andaman to be sought

New Delhi, May 13: India will continue to try in world forums for the archipelago status for Andaman which will enable it to exercise control over the 12-mile territorial sea and enjoy rights in regard to living and non-living objects in the 200-mile economic zone around them.

Mr. H.R. Gokhale, Union Law Minister, who has just returned here after attending the New York conference on the law of the sea, said today that the Indian stand on the rights of the coastal State on archipelago has not been accepted. India, he said, will continue to work through bilateral talks, in secure acceptance for its viewpoint. The big powers, he noted, had combined to deprive the coastal countries of their rights in regard to their islands and were prepared to treat only the archipelago States as an independent entity. "It is a very vital issue for us and we are not happy about the position that has emerged so far. We will continue to fight," he said.

About the outcome of the New York conference, Mr. Gokhale mentioned that on the positive side was the near-universal acceptance of the idea of the territorial water with the limit extended to 12 miles and that of the economic zone 200 miles beyond the territorial waters. On the negative side, he listed, besides the difference over archipelago, disagreement over the rights of the landlocked countries, India and some others wanted the landlocked countries to have access to the sea, through transit arrangements could be made only through negotiations with the coastal States on reciprocal basis. Some others were not prepared to recognise this right.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1920

Merchandise marks bill

London, May 12: The House of Commons, by 221 votes to 65 passed the second reading of the Merchandise Marks Act, which Mr. V. Chandler-Lester declared as enabling the purchaser to know whether he was buying British produce, British agricultural produce and British produce. Mr. Sidney Webb moved the rejection as the bill would create obstacles to the importation of certain classes of goods, increase prices, and encourage monopolies.

SEEKING BUSINESS GAINS

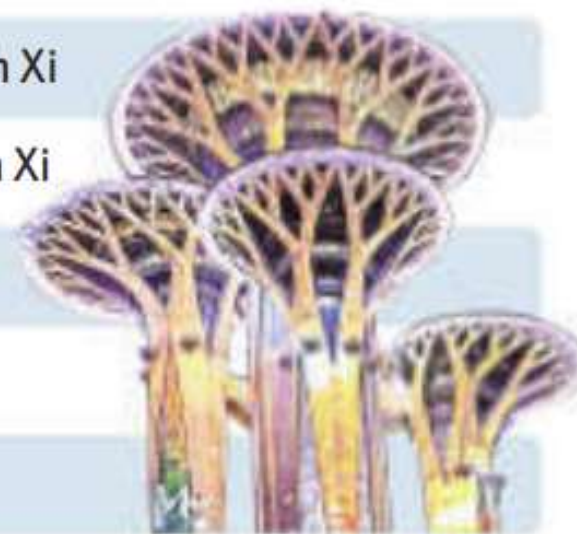
CEOs joining Trump's trip to China

Executive	Company
Jensen Huang	Nvidia
Elon Musk	Tesla
Tim Cook	Apple
Larry Fink	BlackRock
Steve Schwarzman	Blackstone
Kelly Ortberg	Boeing
Brian Sikes	Cargill
Jane Fraser	Citigroup
Larry Culp	GE Aerospace
David Solomon	Goldman Sachs Group
Sanjay Mehrotra	Micron Technology
Cristiano Amon	Qualcomm

Note: List comprises executives named by Trump on social media only.

Trump's agenda for the meeting

Date	Time	Key activities
May 13	Evening	Arrives in Beijing
May 14	10 a.m.	Welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People
	10:15 a.m.	Meeting with Xi
	6 p.m.	State banquet with Xi
May 15	11:30 a.m.	Photo session with Xi
	11:40 a.m.	Tea with Xi
	12:45 p.m.	Lunch with Xi
	Afternoon	Departs Beijing



Source Bloomberg

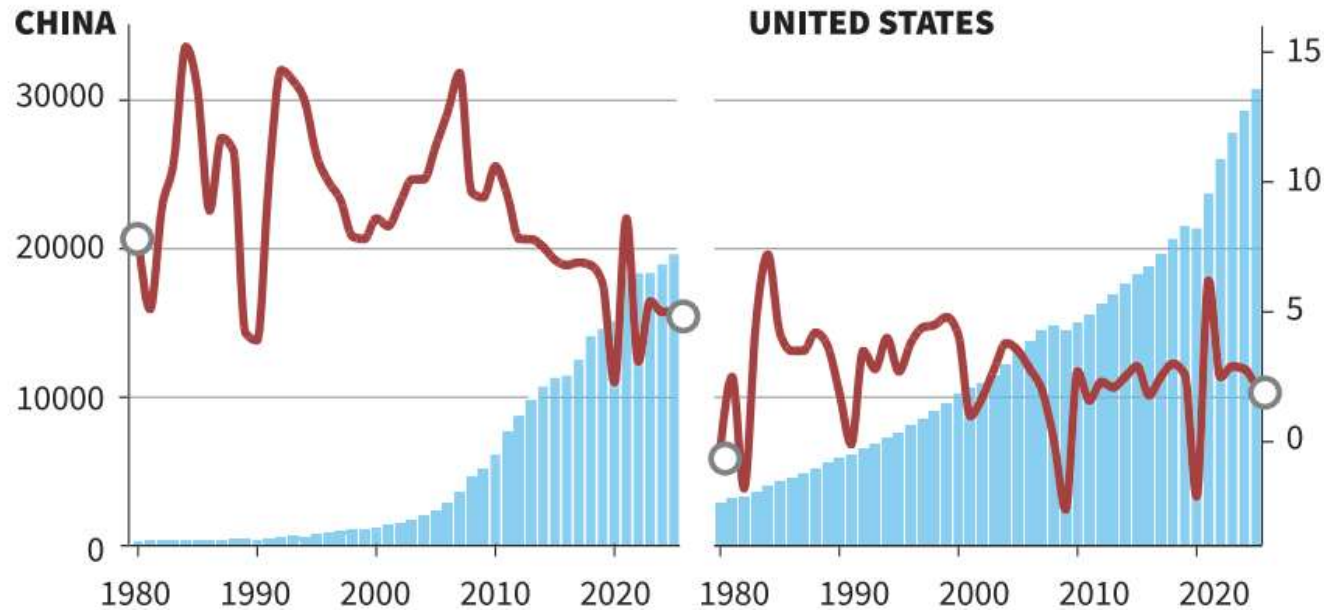
Tipping the scales

The data for the charts were sourced from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organisation, Harvard Growth Lab's Atlas of Economic Complexity and World Intellectual Property Organisation



CHART 1: The Gross Domestic Product in current prices

—○— Growth rate (%) (RHS) ■ GDP (\$ billion) (LHS)



A comparison of China and U.S.'s GDP since 1980 (Figures in \$ billion)

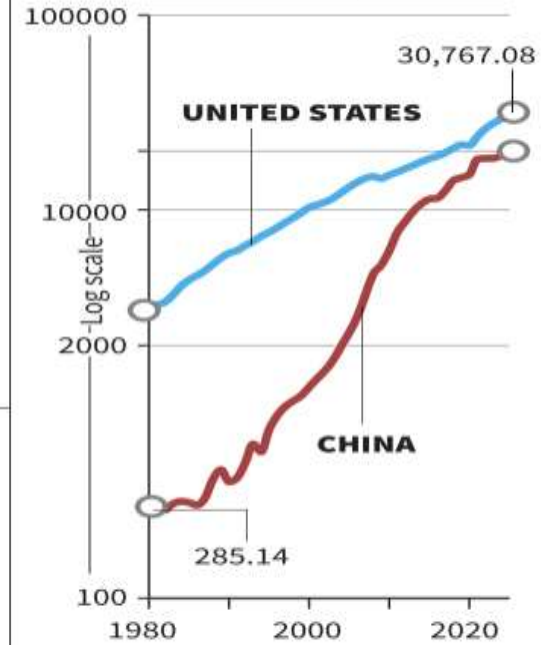


CHART 4: The share in global Research and Development spending

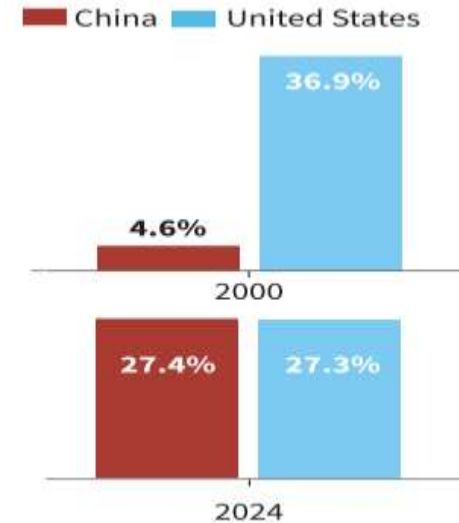
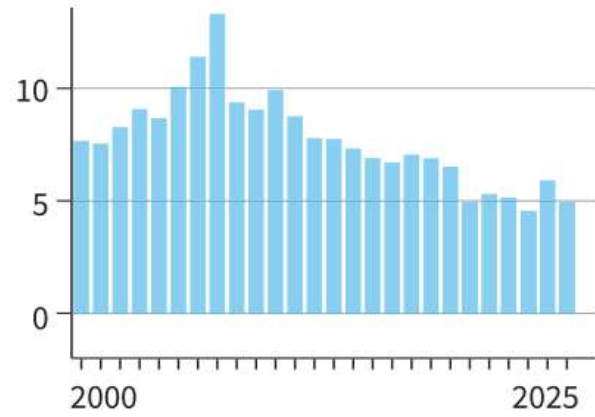


CHART 2: Annual growth rate of output per worker. Figures in %

CHINA



UNITED STATES

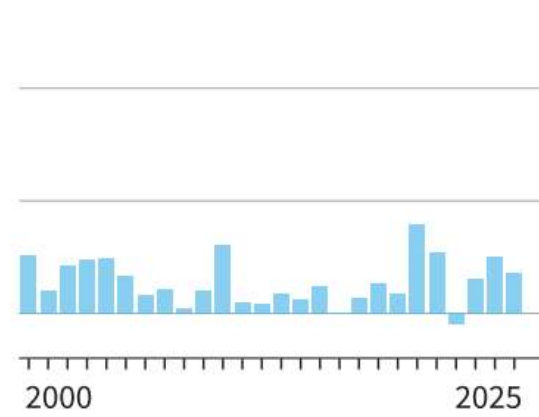
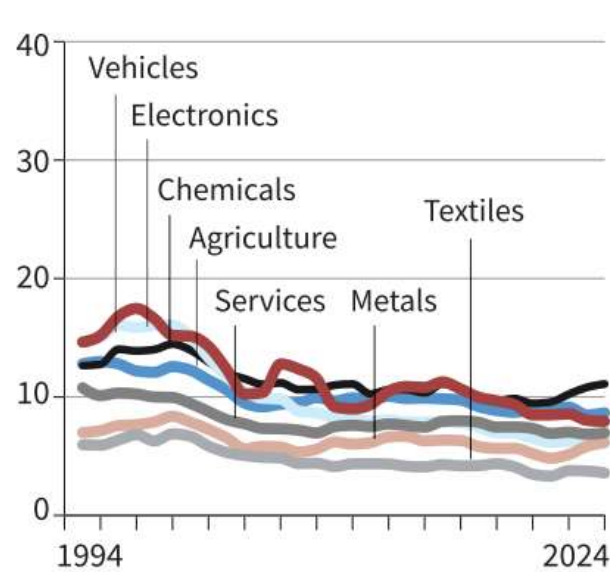
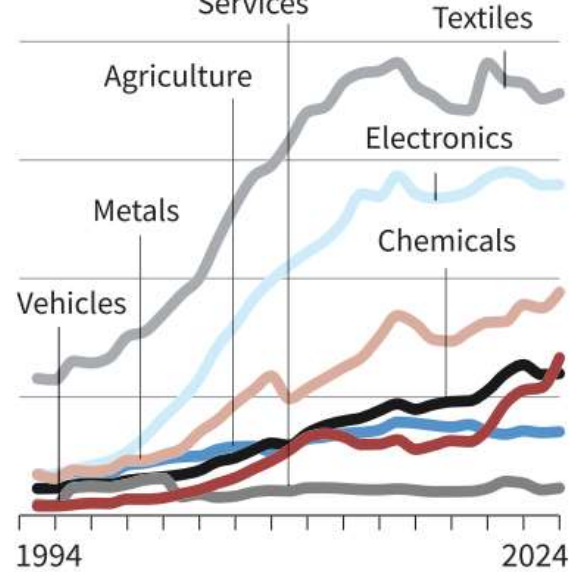


CHART 3: The share in global exports for select items. Figures in %

UNITED STATES



CHINA



India gets its first Alzheimer's therapy at Rs 1 lakh/dose

Anonna Dutt

New Delhi, May 13

INDIANS WITH Alzheimer's disease will now have the option of receiving a new treatment, with pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly launching the donanemab drug in the market under the brand name Lormalzi. The once-a-month 350 mg infusion has been shown to slow the progression of the disease by dissolving the amyloid beta protein plaques in the brain — a classical sign of the neuro-degenerative disease. The drug, costing nearly a lakh rupees per dose, is to be taken for at least 18 months.

Donanemab is a monoclonal antibody treatment for Alzheimer's. This is a disease-modifying therapy that uses laboratory-made proteins to target and remove amyloid-beta plaques from the brain, slowing cognitive decline in early-stage patients by roughly

30%. Approved therapies, including lecanemab (Leqembi) and donanemab (Kisunla), are administered intravenously.

Winselow Tucker, president and general manager, Eli Lilly India, said in a release: "Alzheimer's is a complex, progressive condition that places a significant emotional, clinical and societal burden on patients, caregivers, and healthcare systems. The launch of Lormalzi in India reflects our long-standing commitment to advancing innovation and supporting evidence-based intervention for people living with Alzheimer's."

How much will it cost?

The innovative drug — third to be approved for the disease by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the first to be launched in India — will be prohibitively expensive. A single dose of the drug will cost Rs 91,688. The company



Winselow Tucker, president and general manager of Eli Lilly India that launched donanemab drug under the brand name Lormalzi

will run an access programme to ensure that patients get the drug at lower prices. Despite this, not many are likely to be able to afford the drug.

Eligible for treatment

The treatment is meant for patients in early stages of Alzheimer's disease — those with mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia. It is not meant for those already progressed to advanced stages,

which is an important caveat. While the drug can dissolve the build-up of plaque in the brain, it cannot reverse the damage that has already happened.

Importance of the drug

Considering the increasing burden of Alzheimer's in India, the drug is an important innovation. Dementia currently affects over 8.8 million people in India, with Alzheimer's accounting for the majority of cases. This number is projected to nearly double to 16.9 million by 2036. Experts say that therapies have been notoriously elusive. And while they may be inaccessible to many now, they present hope for more affordable options becoming available in the future.

The phase 3 study with 1,736 patients, 860 of whom received the infusion every four weeks till the plaque cleared, showed that donanemab slows down cognitive decline in early Alzheimer's

patients by 35.1% in 76 weeks. The drug is, however, known to cause amyloid-related imaging abnormalities — such as brain swelling in 24% participants and brain bleeding in 19.7% participants — most of which is asymptomatic. The study reported three treatment-related deaths.

In India, the challenges

Treatment with donanemab would require an early diagnosis, something that hardly happens with Alzheimer's in India. The health systems in India may not be ready for this, and it would further add to the cost of the medicine.

Other drugs available

There are two other therapies, aducanumab and lecanemab — both by Eisai-Biogen and working on the same principle. They were approved by the US FDA within two years of each other.

• India has received its first Alzheimer's therapy with Eli Lilly launching **donanemab** under the brand name **Lormalzi**.

Alzheimer's disease therapy & Eli Lilly **donanemab** **Lormalzi**

• **Cost:** Around ₹91,688 / nearly ₹1 lakh per dose.

चक्रणः चक्रण ₹91,688 / डघह ₹1 चक्रण भ्रल
dose

• **Dose:** Once-a-month 350 mg infusion, generally for at least 18 months.

Dose: 350 mg infusion, 18

•

Point	English	शुद्ध
Disease	Alzheimer's disease	१ द्रुवस्वघ क्षुण
Drug	Donanemab	मडुवडुवडुव
Brand name in India	Lormalzi	कुडुवडुव ह
Company	Eli Lilly	डुवडुवशुद्ध
Type of drug	Monoclonal antibody	रडुवडुवडुवडुव डुवडुवडुव
Mode of use	Monthly infusion	रडुवडुव सुडुवडुव
Dose mentioned	350 mg once a month	350 mg रडुवडुवडुवडुव डुवडुव
Cost	₹91,688 per dose	₹91,688 डुवडुव dose
Target protein	Amyloid beta plaques	Amyloid beta plaques
Best suited for	Early-stage Alzheimer's	डुवडुवडुव १ डुवडुव डुव Alzheimer's
Not useful for	Advanced Alzheimer's	कुडुव १ डुवडुव डुव Alzheimer's
Major limitation	Cannot reverse existing brain damage	हणुवडुवडुवडुव brain damage डुवडुवडुव डुवडुवडुव डुव डुव
Major risk	Brain swelling and brain bleeding	शुद्धरडुव रडुवडुव डुव डुव bleeding डुव डुव लुवडुव

English

Alzheimer's is a progressive neurodegenerative disease.

It mainly affects memory, thinking and behaviour.

It is the most common cause of dementia.

It is linked with abnormal build-up of amyloid beta plaques and tau proteins in the brain.

शुद्ध

Alzheimer's इन्द्र progressive neurodegenerative disease ण्डु

गण रक्षु ल्थि memory, thinking ः घ्र behaviour इन्द्र इन्द्र इन्द्र इन्द्र ण्डु

गण dementia इन्द्र इन्द्र इन्द्र इन्द्र इन्द्र ण्डु

गण brain रक्षु amyloid beta plaques ः घ्र tau proteins इन्द्र abnormal build-up इन्द्र इन्द्र ण्डु

English

Alzheimer’s burden is rising in India.

Dementia affects over **8.8 million** people in India.

This number may nearly double to **16.9 million by 2036**.

Alzheimer’s accounts for the majority of dementia cases.

Donanemab gives hope for early-stage patients.

शुद्ध

Alzheimer’s burden is rising in India.

dementia affects over **8.8 million** people in India.

This number may nearly double to **16.9 million by 2036**.

dementia accounts for the majority of Alzheimer’s cases.

Donanemab gives hope for early-stage patients.

Point

Detail

Trial phase

Phase 3 study

Total patients

1,736

Patients receiving infusion

860

Frequency

Every 4 weeks

Result

Slowed cognitive decline by **35.1% in 76 weeks**

Major side effect

Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities

Brain swelling

Seen in **24% participants**

Brain bleeding

Seen in **19.7% participants**

Deaths reported

3 treatment-related deaths

Challenge

Explanation

शुद्ध

High cost

₹1 lakh per dose is unaffordable for many

₹1 चक्रदं ब्रह्म dose षड्दल रणप्रव प्र

Early diagnosis required

Drug works mainly in early stage

द्वत्र रक्ष लै early stage रक्ष क्रकह प्र

Low awareness

Alzheimer's is often diagnosed late

Alzheimer's इह diagnosis १ इ घ इघ
द्वप्रकह प्र

Health system readiness

Requires advanced diagnosis and monitoring

advanced diagnosis इघ monitoring
द्वप्रकह

Safety risk

Brain swelling/bleeding monitoring required

brain swelling/bleeding इह
monitoring न च घह

Long treatment duration

At least 18 months of treatment

इप्र द्वइप्र 18 रणहइइप्र सचक्र

Q. With reference to Donanemab, recently launched in India, consider the following statements:

भारत में हाल ही में लॉन्च Donanemab के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. It is a monoclonal antibody therapy for Alzheimer's disease.
यह Alzheimer's disease के लिए monoclonal antibody therapy है।
2. It works by targeting amyloid beta plaques in the brain.
यह brain में amyloid beta plaques को target करता है।
3. It can reverse brain damage already caused by Alzheimer's.
यह Alzheimer's से पहले ही हुए brain damage को reverse कर सकता है।
4. It is mainly useful for early-stage Alzheimer's patients.
यह मुख्यतः early-stage Alzheimer's patients के लिए उपयोगी है।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

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

● EDUCATION

Why NEET is more prone to paper leaks than JEE

Anonna Dutt

New Delhi, May 13

SEVERAL PEOPLE have been detained in Maharashtra and Rajasthan amid a widening probe into the NEET-UG paper leak which led to the exam being cancelled. Lakhs of students have been affected by the cancellation. But this is not the first time irregularities have surfaced in this medical entrance exam. In contrast, the JEE, the engineering entrance exam, has seen relatively fewer controversies.

What are NEET and JEE?

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) is a pen-and-paper entrance exam for admission to undergraduate medical institutions. It is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in 13 languages — English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

The Joint Entrance Examination (Main), meanwhile, is for admission to Centrally Funded Technical Institutes. Students who

clear JEE (Main) are then eligible to sit for JEE (Advanced), for admission to IITs.

While JEE (Main) is conducted by the NTA, with some involvement of the IITs, JEE (Advanced) is handled completely by the IITs. There are two key differences in how the exams are held: More students take NEET; and the JEE is a computer-based exam rather than an offline one.

Why is NEET not computer-based?

There are two main hurdles to implementing a computer-based NEET-UG.

First, a very small number of centres are equipped to conduct computer-based tests. With NEET-UG being one of the biggest competitive exams in India in terms of the number of aspirants — around 23 lakh students every year — there aren't enough centres to accommodate them. To compare, around 14 lakh students appear for the JEE.

The NTA can conduct computer-based tests for only about 1.5 lakh students in a single shift. This would mean the NEET-UG would have to be conducted over at least 15 shifts and a period of weeks.

Second, if the exam is held over several

Rush for seats

● NEET-UG is extremely competitive, with nearly 23 lakh students appearing for around 1 lakh medical seats across the country.

● Students strive to get into government colleges, which account for around half the medical seats, since they are far cheaper than private colleges, where fees can run into crores.

shifts, the process of normalisation would be a challenge. To ensure fairness across shifts, questions for an examination are divided into different levels of difficulty, with a statistical process determining that each paper contains a certain percentage of questions from these different levels.

"While a normalisation process exists, as is done with examinations such as JEE, it will be very difficult to do so across multiple shifts and will lead to litigation and delay the admission process," said an official from the Health Ministry.

Another official from the Health Ministry said that this was also in line with the indication given by the Supreme Court.

After irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, there were "rumours" of a NEET-PG paper leak, which led to its postponement. The National Board of Examinations under the Health Ministry, which conducts the NEET-PG test, decided to conduct it only in the most trusted testing centres across two shifts. Litigation, however, led to the Supreme Court directing that the examination be conducted in a single shift and it proceeded as it used to.

Are computer-based tests secure?

While there have been irregularities even in computer-based tests, they are generally more secure.

The question papers for these tests are not prepared by a single person. A bank of questions of varying difficulty is prepared by several experts and the system chooses the questions on its own, based on a blueprint of what type of questions and how many of them are needed. The question papers are opened at the designated time across examination centres together, removing the likelihood of it being leaked from one centre to others.

There is no physical transportation of these papers. The second official quoted above said: "When the papers are being transported physically across the country, there are multiple points of leak no matter how much security is put in place. It can leak from the printing agencies or simply a vehicle that is transporting it."

This official added: "NEET is an extremely high-stakes examination, meaning there are always people who are willing to pay to get the paper."

Point	NEET-UG	JEE Main
Full Form	National Eligibility cum Entrance Test	Joint Entrance Examination
Purpose	Admission to undergraduate medical courses	Admission to engineering courses
Conducted by	National Testing Agency	National Testing Agency
Mode	Pen-and-paper/offline	Computer-based test
Candidates	Around 23 lakh	Around 14 lakh
Main Risk	Paper printing, transport, storage leak	Technical irregularities possible but leak risk lower
Admission Target	Medical colleges	NITs, IIITs, CFTIs; JEE Advanced for IITs

Why NEET is More Prone to Paper Leaks

NEET में Paper Leak का खतरा अधिक क्यों है

Reason	Explanation	हिंदी
Offline exam	Physical paper has to be printed, packed, transported and stored	Physical paper को print, pack, transport और store करना पड़ता है
Large number of candidates	Around 23 lakh students appear	लगभग 23 लाख छात्र शामिल होते हैं
Single-shift exam	One paper is used across centres at same time	एक ही paper अलग-अलग centres पर एक साथ जाता है
More handling points	Printing press, transport vehicles, storage rooms, exam centres	printing press, transport, storage और centres पर leak risk
High-stakes exam	Medical seats are limited and valuable	Medical seats कम और बहुत valuable हैं
Huge demand for govt medical seats	Govt colleges are cheaper than private colleges	Govt medical colleges private colleges से सस्ते हैं
Private medical fees are very high	Fees may run into crores	Private medical fees करोड़ों तक हो सकती है
Criminal incentive	Some people may be ready to pay for leaked paper	कुछ लोग paper खरीदने के लिए पैसे देने को तैयार होते हैं

Why NEET is Not Yet Computer-Based

NEET अभी Computer-Based क्यों नहीं है

Challenge	Explanation	हिंदी
Huge candidate base	NEET has around 23 lakh candidates	NEET में लगभग 23 lakh candidates हैं
Lack of CBT centres	Enough computer-based centres are not available	पर्याप्त CBT centres उपलब्ध नहीं हैं
NTA capacity issue	NTA can conduct CBT for around 1.5 lakh students in one shift	NTA एक shift में लगभग 1.5 lakh students का CBT करा सकता है
Multiple shifts needed	NEET would need at least 15 shifts	NEET के लिए कम से कम 15 shifts चाहिए
Normalisation problem	Different shifts may have different difficulty levels	अलग-अलग shifts में difficulty अलग हो सकती है
Litigation risk	Normalisation may lead to disputes and court cases	normalisation से विवाद और court cases बढ़ सकते हैं
Admission delay	Multiple shifts may delay counselling and admissions	multiple shifts से counselling/admission delay हो सकता है

Are Computer-Based Tests More Secure?

क्या Computer-Based Tests अधिक सुरक्षित हैं?

Point	Explanation	हिंदी
Generally more secure	CBT reduces physical handling of question papers	CBT में physical paper handling कम होती है
Question bank system	Questions are selected from a question bank	question bank से questions चुने जाते हैं
No single paper copy	Paper is not physically transported across India	paper को physically transport नहीं करना पड़ता
Lower leak possibility	Leak from printing/transport centres is reduced	printing/transport से leak की संभावना कम होती है
Still not risk-free	Technical irregularities and cyber issues may occur	technical/cyber irregularities हो सकती हैं

Reform

Gradual shift to CBT

Increase CBT centres

Strong encryption

Randomised question sets

Aadhaar/biometric verification

CCTV and live monitoring

Strict punishment

Transparent investigation

Better normalisation formula

Purpose

Reduce physical paper leak risk

Build capacity for large exams

Secure digital transmission of questions

Reduce common paper leak risk

Prevent impersonation

Improve centre-level security

Deter organised paper leak gangs

Restore public trust

Reduce litigation in multiple-shift exams

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a sack of maize. The sack is made of a coarse, brown fabric. Numerous golden-brown maize grains are shown in motion, falling from the top of the sack and scattering across the surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor agricultural setting. The overall lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the grains and the sack.

Maize Emerges as India's Largest Ethanol Feedstock

Why Maize is Becoming Important

मक्का क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हो रहा है?

Reason	English	हिंदी
Shorter Crop Cycle	Maize has a shorter growing cycle than sugarcane.	मक्का का फसल चक्र गन्ने की तुलना में छोटा होता है।
Less Water Requirement	Maize needs less irrigation water than sugarcane.	मक्का को गन्ने की तुलना में कम सिंचाई जल चाहिए।
Multiple Seasons	It can be cultivated in multiple seasons in many regions.	इसे कई क्षेत्रों में कई मौसमों में उगाया जा सकता है।
Suitable for Water-Stressed Areas	It is better suited than sugarcane in water-scarce regions.	जल-संकट वाले क्षेत्रों में यह गन्ने से अधिक उपयुक्त है।
Diversification	Reduces dependence on sugarcane for ethanol.	Ethanol के लिए गन्ने पर निर्भरता कम करता है।
Farmer Income	Creates an additional market for maize farmers.	मक्का किसानों के लिए अतिरिक्त बाजार तैयार करता है।

Basis	Sugarcane	Maize
Crop Type	Tropical crop	Cereal crop of Poaceae family
Water Requirement	Very high	Lower than sugarcane
Growing Cycle	Longer	Shorter
Ethanol Role	Traditional major source	Emerging major grain-based source
Suitability	Better in water-rich areas	Suitable in many water-stressed regions
Risk	Water stress, sugar diversion concerns	Food-feed-fuel balance concern
Policy Use	Molasses/juice-based ethanol	Grain-based ethanol

English

Reduces pressure on sugarcane-based ethanol.

Saves irrigation water compared to sugarcane.

Supports crop diversification.

Increases income opportunity for maize farmers.

Helps achieve E20 blending target.

Strengthens domestic energy security.

आमह

पेँव्रण श्रवण ethanol हघ ढ व्रत्र इख इघलत्र ण्ह

पेँकुह लघण रवणद्रह न च ण्द्रलत्र ण्ह

ण्द्र च श्रवणहडघर् इण्द्र ण्द्र प्रवण्डलत्र ण्ह

खघ व्र श्रु ड्रवण्डह ष ग इड् १ अडघ ण्द्र प्रलत्र ण्ह

E20 blending चद्र ण्द्र च इघण्डरवण्ड ण्द्र इघलत्र ण्ह

तघण्ड न्द्रवण्ड इण्द्र रण्द्र ण्द्र इघलत्र ण्ह

Concerns / Challenges

चिंताएँ / चुनौतियाँ

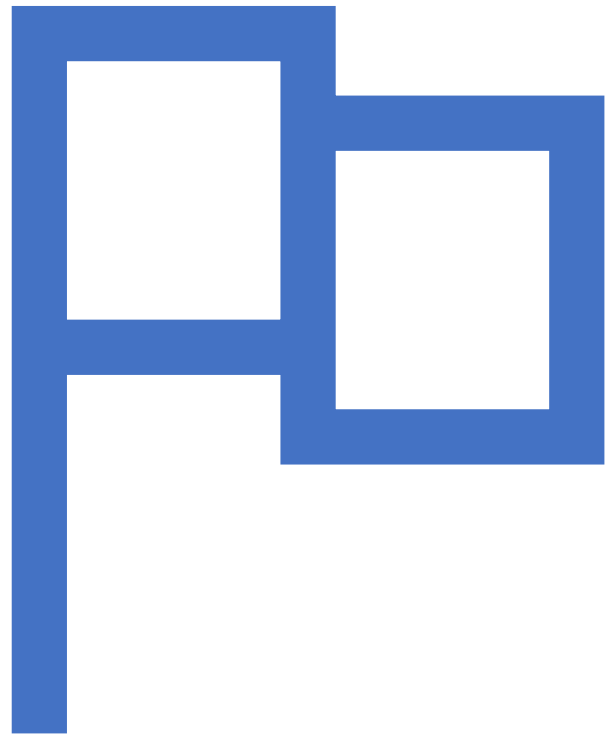
Concern	Explanation	हिंदी
Food vs Fuel	More maize for ethanol may affect availability for food and feed.	Ethanol के लिए अधिक मक्का उपयोग से भोजन और पशु चारे की उपलब्धता प्रभावित हो सकती है।
Poultry Feed Cost	Maize is important for poultry and livestock feed.	मक्का poultry और livestock feed के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
Price Rise	Higher industrial demand may raise maize prices.	औद्योगिक मांग बढ़ने से मक्का कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।
Regional Imbalance	Production may be concentrated in selected States.	उत्पादन कुछ राज्यों में केंद्रित हो सकता है।
Storage and Supply	Regular ethanol production needs reliable grain supply chains.	नियमित ethanol उत्पादन के लिए मजबूत grain supply chain चाहिए।
Sustainability	Excessive monocropping may affect soil health.	अत्यधिक monocropping मिट्टी की सेहत को प्रभावित कर सकती है।

Q. Consider the following statements regarding maize-based ethanol in India:

1. Maize has emerged as an important grain-based feedstock for ethanol production.
2. E20 refers to 20% ethanol blending with petrol.
3. Maize generally requires more irrigation water than sugarcane.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Pakistan Explores “Islamic
NATO” Defence Cooperation

Topic	English	Hindi
Why in News?	Pakistan has discussed expanded regional defence and economic cooperation with Gulf nations under the idea of an "Islamic NATO".	पाकिस्तान ने खाड़ी देशों के साथ "Islamic NATO" जैसी क्षेत्रीय रक्षा और आर्थिक व्यवस्था पर चर्चा की।
Countries Mentioned	Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Türkiye.	पाकिस्तान, सऊदी अरब, कतर और तुर्किये।
Background	The idea follows the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed in September 2025 .	यह विचार सितंबर 2025 में पाकिस्तान और सऊदी अरब के बीच हुए Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement के बाद आया।
Core Principle	Aggression against one side may be treated as an attack on both.	एक पक्ष पर हमला दोनों पर हमला माना जा सकता है।
Nature	Regional defence and economic arrangement.	क्षेत्रीय रक्षा और आर्थिक सहयोग व्यवस्था।
Key Aim	Collective security, reduced dependence on external powers, and regional deterrence.	सामूहिक सुरक्षा, बाहरी शक्तियों पर निर्भरता में कमी और क्षेत्रीय प्रतिरोध क्षमता।
Important Partner	Türkiye is important due to its large defence industry and military strength.	तुर्किये अपने बड़े रक्षा उद्योग और सैन्य क्षमता के कारण महत्वपूर्ण है।
India Concern	Such a bloc may affect India's security environment in West Asia and South Asia.	ऐसा रक्षा समूह भारत के पश्चिम एशिया और दक्षिण एशिया सुरक्षा वातावरण को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

Pakistan–Saudi Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement

पाकिस्तान–सऊदी सामरिक पारस्परिक रक्षा समझौता

Point	English	हिंदी
Signed	September 2025.	सितंबर 2025।
Type	Bilateral defence pact.	द्विपक्षीय रक्षा समझौता।
Principle	Attack on one side may be treated as attack on both.	एक पक्ष पर हमला दोनों पर हमला माना जा सकता है।
Strategic Meaning	Brings Pakistan closer to Saudi security architecture.	पाकिस्तान को सऊदी सुरक्षा ढांचे के और करीब लाता है।
Financial Angle	Saudi Arabia has provided financial support to Pakistan earlier.	सऊदी अरब पहले भी पाकिस्तान को वित्तीय सहायता देता रहा है।

Regional Security Context

क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा संदर्भ

Issue	English	हिंदी
West Asia Crisis	Regional instability has increased demand for security cooperation.	पश्चिम एशिया संकट से सुरक्षा सहयोग की मांग बढ़ी।
Iran Factor	Gulf countries remain concerned about Iran's regional influence.	खाड़ी देश ईरान के क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित रहते हैं।
Pakistan's Role	Pakistan has nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities.	पाकिस्तान के पास परमाणु हथियार और बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल क्षमता है।
Türkiye's Role	Türkiye has a strong defence industry and NATO experience.	तुर्किये के पास मजबूत रक्षा उद्योग और NATO अनुभव है।
Qatar's Role	Qatar is diplomatically active and economically strong.	कतर कूटनीतिक रूप से सक्रिय और आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत है।

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed “Islamic NATO”:

1. It refers to a possible regional defence arrangement involving Pakistan and Gulf nations.
2. Türkiye is relevant to this idea because it is a NATO member and has a strong defence industry.
3. Pakistan is already a formal member of NATO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Word of the day

Spiel:

plausible glib talk

Synonyms: presentation, speech, talk, pitch

Usage: *The waiter gave us a long spiel about the specials.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/spiel

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ʃpi:l/



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