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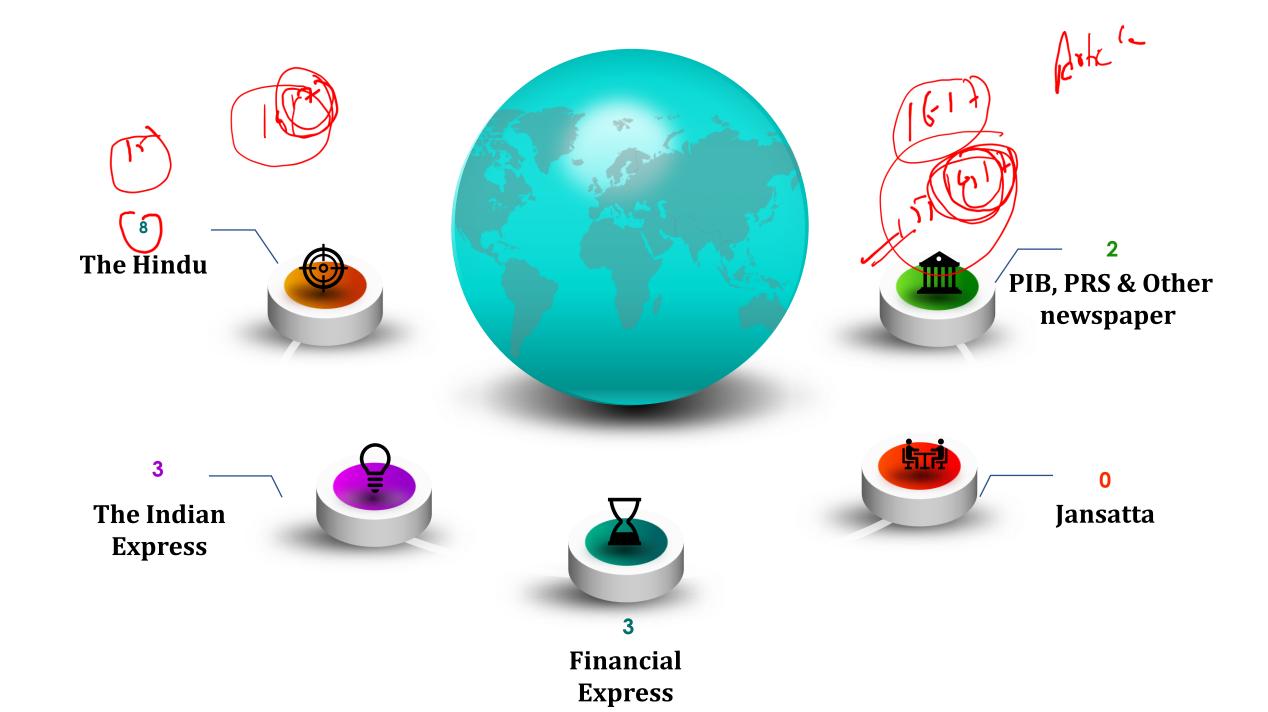












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Topic-Wise Current Affairs

- National Current Affairs
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- India recently became the fourth country to achieve satellite docking and undocking after which nations?
- भारत उपग्रह डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करने वाला चौथा देश बना। इससे पहले कौन-कौन से देश इस उपलब्धि को प्राप्त कर चुके हैं?
- 🥠 U.S., Russia, China / अमेरिका, रूस्, चीन
 - B. U.K., France, Germany / यू.के., फ्रांस, जर्मनी
 - C. Japan, Israel, South Korea / जापान, इज़राइल, दक्षिण कोरिया
 - D. Brazil, Canada, Australia / ब्राजील, कर्नाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया

What was the altitude and inclination at which ISRO conducted the undocking operation of SpaDex satellites?

इसरो ने स्पा-डेक्स उपग्रहों की अनडॉकिंग किस ऊंचाई और झुकाव पर की?

- A. 400 km, 30-degree inclination
- 460 km, 45-degree inclination
 - C. 500 km, 50-degree inclination
 - D. 600 km, 60-degree inclination

What is the main objective of the SpaDex mission? स्पा-डेक्स मिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- A. To improve remote sensing technology / रिमोट सेंसिंग तकनीक में स्धार करना
- हैं To develop spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking technology / अंतरिक्ष यान की मुलाकात, डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग तकनीक विकसित करना
 - C. To launch reusable satellite systems / पुन: उपयोग योग्य उपग्रह प्रणाली लॉन्च करना
 - D. To test interplanetary travel techniques / अंतरग्रहीय यात्रा तकनीकों का परीक्षण करना

Why is Starlink struggling to compete in the Indian market? स्टारितंक भारत में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में क्यों संघर्ष कर रहा है?

• A. It has slow internet speeds compared to Jio and Airtel / इसकी इंटरनेट स्पींड जियो और एयरटेल की त्लना में धीमी है B. Its pricing is 10-14 times higher than local broadband providers / इसकी क़ीमत स्थानीय ब्रॉडबैंड प्रदाताओं की तुलना में 10-14 गुना अधिक है

E. It lacks government approval for operations / इसे संचालन के लिए सरकारी मंजूरी नहीं मिली है D. Both B and C / बी और सी दोनों

In which country did Starlink reduce its prices to \$10/month to attract users?

किस देश में स्टारिलंक ने उपयोगकर्ताओं को आकर्षित करने के लिए अपनी कीमतें \$10/महीना कर दीं?

- A. India / भारत
 - 🥦. Kenya / केन्या
 - C. Thailand / थाईलैंड
 - D. Indonesia / इंडोनेशिया

What major change did Tamil Nadu's government make in its 2025-26 budget?

तमिलनाडु सरकार ने अपने 2025-26 के बजट में कौने सा बड़ा बदलाव किया?

- A. Introduced new taxes on IT companies / आईटी कंपनियों पर नए कर लगाए
- В. Replaced the rupee symbol with the Tamil letter '(ҧ' (ru) / रुपये के प्रतीक को तमिल अक्षर '(ҧ' (रु) से बदल दिया
 - C. Implemented a Tamil-only official language policy / केवल तमिल को आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में लागू किया
 - D. Declared Tamil Nadu a 'Digital Economy Hub' / तमिलनाडु को 'डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था हब' घोषित किया

What was the Centre's reaction to Tamil Nadu's rupee symbol change? तिमलनाडु द्वारा रुपये के प्रतीक में किए गए बदलाव पर केंद्र सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या थी?

• A. It supported the move / इसने इस कदम का समर्थन किया

B. It called the move 'absurd' and 'against national unity' / इसे
'मूर्खतापूर्ण' और 'राष्ट्रीय एकता के खिलाफ' कहा

C. It proposed a nationwide adoption of the Tamil rupee symbol / इसने

तमिल रुपये के प्रतीक को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अपनाने का प्रस्ताव दिया

D. It remained neutral / इसने तटस्थ रुख अपनाया

What does Holika Dahan symbolize in Indian tradition? भारतीय परंपरा में होलिका दहन किसका प्रतीक है?

- A. Victory of evil over good / बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत B. Victory of good over evil / अच्छाई पर बुराई की जीत
 - C. Harvest season celebration / फसल उत्सव का प्रतीक
 - D. Transition from monsoon to winter / मानसून से सर्दी के बदलाव का प्रतीक

What is the main principle behind a polygraph (lie-detector) test? पॉलीग्राफ (झूठ पकड़ने वाली मशीन) परीक्षण का मुख्य सिद्धांत क्या है?

- A. Detecting changes in voice tone / आवाज़ के स्वर में बदलाव को पकड़ना
- B Measuring physiological responses like heartbeat and sweating / हृदयं गति और पसीना जैसे शारीरिक प्रतिक्रियाओं को मापना C. Scanning brain activity to detect lies / मस्तिष्क गतिविधि को स्कैन कर झूठ पकड़ना
 - D. Using AI to analyze verbal responses / मौखिक उत्तरों का विश्लेषण करने के लिए एआई का उपयोग करना

What did the Supreme Court rule in the 'Selvi vs. State of Karnataka' (2010) case regarding lie-detector tests?

'सेल्वी बनाम कर्नाटक राज्य' (2010) मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने झूठ पकड़ने वाली मशीनों पर क्या फैसला दिया?

- A Lie-detector test results are legally valid as confessions / झूठ पकड़ने वाली मशीन के परिणाम कानूनी रूप से स्वीकार्य हैं

 B. Lie-detector test results cannot be considered as confessions / झूठ पकड़ने वाली मशीन के परिणाम को स्वीकारोक्ति नहीं माना जा सकता
 - C. Lie-detector tests are banned in India / भारत में झूठ पकड़ने वाले परीक्षणों पर प्रतिबंध है
 - D. Lie-detector tests are mandatory for criminal investigations / आपराधिक जांचों में झूठ पकड़ने वाले परीक्षण अनिवार्य हैं

By Bhunesh Sir

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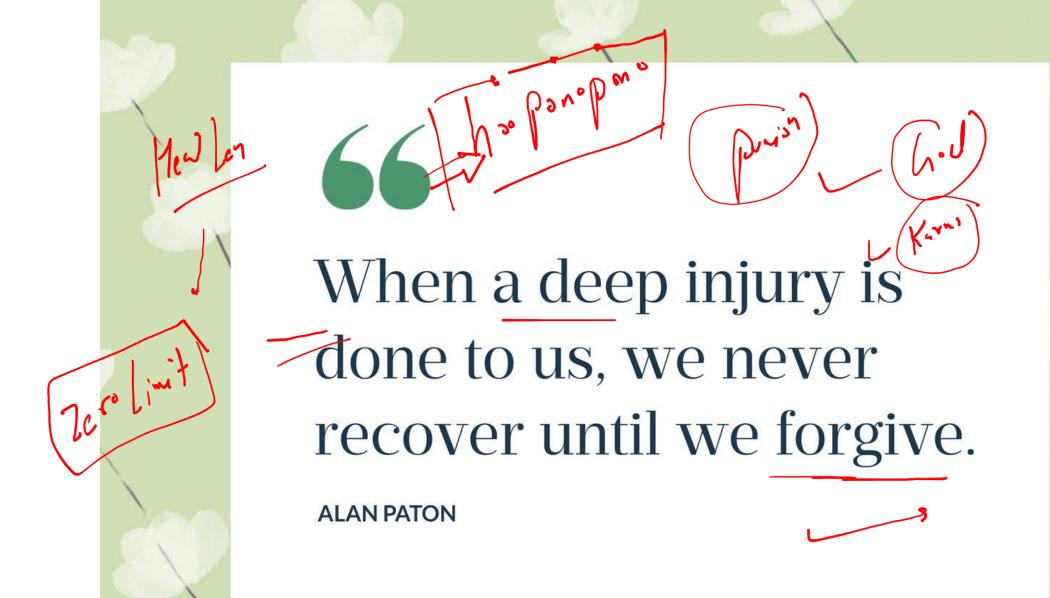
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'Will not apologise for remarks against RSS'



"We strongly reject the

"We strongly reject the baseless allegations made by Pakistan. The whole world knows where the ep-icentre of global terrorism lies. Pakistan should look inwards instead of pointing fingers and shifting the blame for its own internal problems and failures on

problems and failures on others," the Ministry of Ex-ternal Affairs spokesper-son Randhir Jaiswal said. Earlier, Pakistan Foreign

Office spokesperson Shaf-gat Ali Khan blamed the at-

tack on India. "India has been involved in terrorism in Pakistan in the particu-

lar attack on Jaffar Ex-press," he alleged, adding that "the terrorists had

been in contact with their

'Hike MGNREGS wages to match price rise

A school closure that must be called out

The only Gondi-medium school needs support



MI takes on DC in WPL summit clash

INSIDE



None of the 1.275 gazetted posts in Ladakh are filled

NEW DELHI None of the 1,275 gazetted posts in Ladakh have been filled since it became a Centrally administered territory in 2019, according the Ministry of Home Affairs. It informed a parliamentary committee that recruitment rules for 75 categories of gazetted posts have been framed. » PAGE 3

Gaming firms flag rapid growth of illegal websites

illegal offshore gambling sites in India, but have not yet been able to convince the

the legal industry as a way to curb illegal players. Indian RMC firms offering paid games and fantasy sports that allow users to stake money for rewards with the risk of losses - are legally recognised. 39 PAGE 5

President Trump hails productive talks with Russia

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump
announced on Friday that his
administration had
"productive" talks with Russia about a ceasefire in Ukraine.
Mr. Trump urged Russian
President Vladimir Putin to
spare Ukrainian soldiers. His
envoy, Steve Witkoff, met Mr. Putin late Thursday to discuss a joint U.S.-Ukrainian plan, which proposes a 30-day paus

slamabad should "look inwards" instead of pointing fingers and shifting blame, India said in its first official
comment after an attack
on a Quetta-Peshawar train
by the Baloch Liberation
Army (BLA) left 21 passengers dead. At least 33 Ba-loch rebels were killed by

Pakistan security forces.

India pushed back against allegations made by the Pakistan Foreign Office and military establishment, who claimed that the Baloch militants were receiving support from In-dia and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. This was the largest attack by the Baloch rebels in nearly two

handlers and ring leaders in Afghanistan."

India denies role in Pakistan train attack

The whole world know where the epicentre of terrorism lies, say an MEA spokesperson Afghan weapons in their ambush of the Jaffar Express

The BLA says at least 100 or the passengers were personnel from the military, police, ATF, and ISI



Inter-Services Public Rela-tions (GSFN) Director Gen-eral Li. Gen, Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry amplifying the Chaudhry amplifying the Alghan Sharif Chaudhed Sharif Aghters had used Afghan attempt to blame India as the main sponsor of terror.

etta with Dochawar Mr Quetta with Peshawar. Mr. Chaudhry claimed that none of the hostages were harmed during the two-day operation that began on Tuesday and concluded on Wednesday. However, Pakistani me-dia had earlier cited sourc-es to report that at least four members of the Fron-tier Corps died while clear-ter Corps died while clear-

ing the rebel fighters from the ambushed train.

Cover up of lies, defeat' BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch disputed Mr. Chaudhry's remarks about the operation, terming it an "attempt to cover up lies and defeat" in an email to The Hindu

On March II, Mr. Baloch had announced the dra-matic escalation in the group's activities in a state-

ment, claiming that nearly 182 passengers were taken hostage after the Jaffar Ex-press was forced to stop. The BLA alleged that at least 100 of the passengers were "active-duty person-nel from the Pakistan mili-tary, police, Anti-Terrorism Force (AtP., and Inter-Ser-vices Intelligence (ISD) "During Baloch had added: "During the operation, BLA fighters have released women, chil have released women, chil-dren, and Baloch passen-gers, ensuring that all re-maining hostages are serving personnel of the occupying forces."

The BLA was declared a terrorist organisation by the United States during the first presidency of Do the first presidency of Do-nald Trump on July 2, 2019. Insurgency in Balochis-tan — Pakistan's largest

province, which has rich petroleum and natural gas resources – is an old pro-blem that goes back to the country's inception. T he Baloch have tradi-tionally resisted the State, with various clans and tribes joining hands, in-cluding the Marris, Buetis.

cluding the Marris, Bugtis and Bizenjos. The last big crackdown against the traditional Baloch resistance came in 2006, in the last days of President Pervez Musharraf's rule, when Nawab Akbar Bugti and his followers were killed in a helicopter gunship attack. Younger Baloch rebels have thereafter teamed up under more militant ban-ners like the BLA, while most of the traditional Ba-loch elite now live in exile in Europe and the Gulf

Pink brigade



Kerala CM backs Stalin's push against delimitation

The Hindu Bureau

Kerala Chief Minister Pina rayi Vijayan has expre solidarity with the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to unite non-BP-ruled form to resist any move by the Union government for arbitrary definitation of the Union government for the put forward Kerala's stance on the issue to DMK leaders during their tisk part of the John Action Committee led by Tamil Committee Minister M.K. Sallin, Med Minister M.K. solidarity with the Tami

Hamas ready to free dual citizen. remains of others



Agence France-Presse GAZA CITY

Hamas on Friday said it was ready to free an Israeli-American hostage and the remains of four other dual nationals, after the Palesti nian militants and Israel gathered for indirect Gaza

ceasefire talks.

The first phase of a truce between Hamas and Israel in the Gaza Strip ended on March I without agreement March I without agreement on the next stages. A senior Hamas official said on Tuesday fresh talks had be-gun in Doha, with Israel al-

gun in Botta, with Israel al-so sending negotiators. "Yesterday, a Hamas lea-dership delegation re-ceived a proposal from the brotherly mediators to res-ume negotiations," the Isla-mist movement said in a tatement. It added that its reply

"included its agreement to release the Israeli soldier Edan Alexander, who

ship, along with the re-mains of four others holding dual citizenship". A Hamas official, Taher al-Nounou, said that "the five individuals that Hamas

who were deceased, in ex-change for about 1,800 Pal-estinian detainees held in Israeli prisons. Militants also preased

five Thai captiles outside the accord Israel has said it wants Israel has said is ants to extend the fur phase of the ceaseful but Hamas has insisted on talks for the which the United States, Qatar and Egypt had mediated and took effect on Despite the expiry of the first phase, the ceasefire has largely held.

Israel's military on the court of the cour

out an airstrike targeting militants who were plant-ing explosives in central Gaza, the latest such strike. Israel halted aid flows

into Gaza 13 days ago over the truce impasse. At the weekend, it also cut off the electricity supply to the territory. Hamas spokesperson

pulled out of a strip of land

pulled out of a strip of land along the Gaza-Egypt bor-der under the first phase. Second phase of the truce, yet to take effect, in-volves the release of re-maining hostages, withdra-wal of all Israeli forces left in Gaza, and establishment of a permanent ceasefire.

withheld by Centre

Prioritising the welfare of schoolchildren, Tamil Na-du Finance Minister Than-tum Thennarasu on Friday announced that the State ernment has allocated foods from its exchanges. funds from its exchequer to compensate for ₹2,152 crore withheld by the Centre under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

The Centre has withheld the funds as the State re fused to onboard the PM SHRI scheme that man-dates implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in its entirety. Last on the includes the north describing NEP, but would take the State backward by 2,000 years, Chief declared that he would not implement it even if the Centre disbursed 0,0000 to the NEP, which including salaries of teaching the north of the New York (New York) (New National Education Policy



crore with such a mandate. Presenting the Budget 2025-26, Mr. Thennarasu said the Centre has withheld the approved amount of \$2,152 crore citing the State's non-acceptance of

T.N. covers ₹2,000 cr. | Democrats press Rubio for details of 'voter turnout' funds to India

Two Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) have written to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio seeking details of the alleged \$2 million the alleged \$21 million spent by the U.S. Agency for International Develop-ment (USAID) on "voter

ment (USAID) on "voter turnous" in India. They also ask in details on how the separtment for Government Efficiency (DOGE cancelled the pro-gramme and communicat-ed the cancellation to

ed the cancellation to stakeholders. The letter, dated March 13, 2025, refers to the "\$21 million for voter turnout in India" – an alleged pro-gramme cancelled by DOGE, led by billionaire and Trump administration adviser Elon Music.



U.S. President Donald

U.S. President Donald Trump had repeatedly Cities they had written as an example of wasteful foreign assistance.

A trump had been as a many place of the foreign assistance and the trump out in Parliament with the BIP and the Congress trading charges.

The congress trading charges.

We have been as the congress of the Congress trading charges.

State Department and the authors of the letter say

Kanlager-Dove.

they had written to Mr. Ru-bio three times in February seeking details of the funding, but had not received a

reply.

The letter is signed by
HFAC's Ranking Member
(i.e., a Democrat) Gregory
Meeks and the ranking
member of its South and
Central Asia subcommit-Sydney

U.S. lawmakers say in their letter.

Citing examples such as
the USAID had provided
for the setting up of IITKanpur, the letter says Mr.
Trump's "inflammatory
statements" had created
suspicion around the development agency's work in
India and Jeopardised a

"The President's [Mr.

India and jeopardised a long-lasting partnership. "India is a key strategic partner and sustaining this relationship requires skilled diplomacy," it says. The lawmakers ask Mr. Rubio for a response to their letter by March 21, 2025.

Edan Alexander, who holds American citizen-

five individuals that Hamas agreed to release under the new American proposal are Israell prisoners hold-ing American nationality." During the initial six-week phase of the cease-fire, militants released 33

INBRIEF



Search teams deploy pump to remove silt from SLBC tunnel

The multi-agency search teams engaged in tracing the remaining seven persons trapped under the debris inside the Srisaliam Left Bank under the debris inside the Srisaliam Left Bank (February 1997). The search of the search of

Court rejects Ranya Rao's bail plea; committee begins probe

The Special Court for Economic Offences on Friday dismissed the bail petition of Ranya Rao, who was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after she was caught smuggling Intelligence (DRR) after she was caught smuggling 44.2 kg of gold at Kempegowda International Airport on March 3. DRI had objected to her bail plea arguing that the case possibly involved an international smuggling syndicate. Meanwhile, the inquiry committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta began its investiga

Kerala's Vagamon gears up for international paragliding fest

Eighty-six participants from II countries will descend on Kolahalamedu in scenic Vagamon, nestled along the Western Ghats, for a five-day paragliding competition beginning on March 19. The event, a highlight of the International Paragliding Festival, will see competitors vying for top honours in six categories, including the prestigious International Top Landing Accuracy Cup, an official release said on Friday. The mega event is being organised by the Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society.

Will support move against delimitation, says Pinaravi

Expressing solidarity with the T.N. government, the Kerala CM says the Centre should be ready to take a decision on delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after arriving at a consensus with the States

The Hindu Bureau

erala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi-iayan has exjayan has expressed solidarity with the Tamil Nadu government's proceed that a party-ruled States on a common platform to resist any move by arbitrary delimitation of arbitrary delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. Constitution's federalist principles and allegedly seeks to favour the ruling the principles and allegedly seeks to favour the ruling the put forward kerala's He put forward kerala's

He put forward Kerala's stance on the issue to Ta-mil Nadu IT Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian during their visit on Friday to invite Mr. Vijayan to the Joint Action Committee (JAC)

The High Court of Karnata-ka on Friday stayed the trial court's order of taking

cognisance of offences against former Chief Min-ster B.S. Yediyurappa

based on the charge sheet filed under provisions of the Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on the



POCSO: HC stays order against Yediyurappa

that Tamil Nadu Chief Mi-nister M.K. Stalin is spear-heading to bring together leaders from States likely to be affected by the delim-

Meet on March 22 A solidarity meeting has been convened in Chennai on March 22 in what is seen as the beginning of a unit-ed movement against the to delimit the Lok Sabha

allegation of sexually as-saulting a 17-year-old girl at his residence in February

2024. Iustice Pradeep Singh Yerur passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Yediyurappa. The inte-rim order would be in

force till adjudication of the petition by the High

Mr. Yediyurappa had hallenged the FIR regis-

Mr. Vijayan said, "The Centre should be ready to take a decision on the issue of delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after arriving at a na seats arter arriving at a consensus with the States. It should be carried out without reducing the exist-ing proportional share of seats of any State. States that have effectively imple-mented population control

tered on March 14, 2024, on the alleged incident that occurred on February 2, 2024, the charge sheet filed by the Criminal Inves-

tigation Department (CID), and the February 28, 2025,

order of taking cognisance of offences afresh by the

of onences are as your trial court. The trial court had passed the order of taking cognisance afresh based on the February 7, 2025,

'No clarity'

arguments that the south-ern States would get addi-tional share of seats on a consistency of the state of the ken at face value. The Centre has not been able to provide clarity on whether hased on the percentage of the current parliamentary southern the state of the population figures. The Tamil Nadus Minis-ter and the MP also called noy Viswam, CPI(M) State

noy Viswam, CPI(M) State Secretary M.V. Govindan, representatives of Kerala Congress Chairperson P.J. Joseph, IUML president Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal and extended the

Online registration
Mr. Raja said the details of
all the registered homestays should be made available online for easy access.
The district administration
aims to register all the
homestays in the district
and even facilitate online
register all the
of 500, he said.
The Deputy Commis-

The Deputy Commis-ioner warned of strict legal action against unregistered homestays if any illegal activities or unto-ward incidents occur on their premises. He said the homestay owners in re-

Registration must for all homestays in Kodagu district

The Kodagu district admi-nistration in Karnataka has directed owners of all nomestays in the district to mandatorily register them-selves with the Tourism

selves with the Tourism Department.

Kodagu Deputy Commissioner Venkar Raja.

Tourissioner Venkar Raja.

For the Commissioner Venkar Ve

Anita Bhaskar, Deputy Director of the Depart-ment of Tourism, Kodagu, said there were around 3,500 homestays in Koda-gu district. Of them, 2,269 had got registered so far.



There are around 3,500 homestays in Kodagu district of Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

tained prior approval from

Trade licences While issuing directions for the installation of CCTV cameras, posting of home guards or security person-nel, and ensuring adequate lighting at night for the sa-fety of the guests at all ho-tels, resorts, and homestels, resorts, and homes-tays, Mr. Raia also directed tays, Mr. Raja also directed the executive officers of ta-luk panchayats and tahsil-dars to hold regular meet-ter of the state of the state of the with the government direc-tives, before issuing them trade licences, basised the He also emphrening se-curity measures in border

curity measures in border areas of the district like Chelavara, Iruppu, and Du-bare. The district administration has also empha-

children at their facilities

Supporters

wave Tamil placards at JSP plenary

The Hindu Bureau

ing to Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Telangana turned up for the Jana Sena Party's plenary at Pithapu-ram in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district on

The supporters displayed placards in Tamil, frawing the attention of

drawing the attention of Telugu-speaking suppor-ters. They were also seen dancing to the Telugu songs propagating the ide-ology of the JSP. It may be recalled that JSP chief and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan recently visited Tamil Na-du as part of a pilgrimage to various temples.



Summer is here

Ganja seized from college hostel, 3 held

sery, were arrested from the men's hostel and near-ly 2 kg of ganja seized from two rooms in a raid by the Kochi City police, which started at 9 p.m. on Thurs-day and ended at 4 a.m. on

order passed by the High Court, which had termed the July 4, 2024, order of the trial court in taking cognisance of offences as 'baid, laconic and cryptic' while directing the trial court to pass the order abecidence the beauty

elucidated by the top court, based on the charge sheet submitted by the Cri-

Investigation

Friday,
About 1.9 kg was seized from one room and 10 grams from another. Incidentally, one of the arrested students is the general secretary of the college union led by the Student Fed-eration of India. The aca-demic council of the

a few students had man-aged to flee on seeing the police party, who did not try to give them a chase to avoid any unforeseen accidents.

The policy of the policy of the growth had received intelli-gent had received intelli-gent beautiful to the policy of the policy of the policy of the quantity as part of the Holy

quantity as part of the Holy celebrations on Friday. Re-portedly, donations were collected from students for buying ganja. Rather than waiting for the celebra-tions, we chose to raid the hossel a day ahead to catch them by surprise," said P.V. Baby, Assistant Commis-sioner of Police, Thrikkak-

Nearly 50 personnel drawn from the Kalamas-sery police, narcotics cell, and the District Anti-Nar-cotics Special Action Force participated in the raid.

11 members of + CPI (Maoist) surrender in A.P.'s Paderu

The Hindu Bureau

As many as II militia mem-bers of Galikonda Area Committee of the banned CPI (Maoist) Party voluntarily surrendered before the Superintendent of Police, Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district, at Paderu in Andhra Pradesh on Friday

The militia member

offences.

The police said the militia members were vexed of the outdated ideology adopted by the Maoist party and were attracted towards the developmental

Woman can opt for surrogacy till 51: HC

The Hindu Bureau

A Division Bench of h A Division Bench of heral High Court of the Martingary services est of the Martingary services of the Martingary

Published by Minute Labshman at Kasturi Buildings. 557-860. Anna Salai. Chernai 600002 perbuild of THS PUBLISHMS PVT.LTD. Editor: Seresh Navibath (Responsible for selection of news under the PSP Act).

gacy on the ground that she became ineligible on turning 50. The Bench said the question in the appeal is whether she is entitled to

the squeezion in the appear awail of surrogacy till the beginning of the 50th year or at the end of it. The provision of the surrogacy till the provision of the surrogacy are surrogacy practices rather than creation. The court said in this case, what is at stake is the portunity to become a mother.

at Kerala farm to curb elephant intrusion The Hindu Bureau

The Kerala Forest department has initiated the construction of a solar fence at Aralam farm in Kannur dis trict to prevent wild ele-phants from straying into human settlements. The fencing is part of an ongo-ing effort to drive ele-phants away from the tri-bal resettlement area in

bai resettlement area in the farm. The temporary solar fence, spanning 4 km, is being set up between Pa-ripputhodu and Kottapara along the forest borders within the Tribal Resettle-ment and Development ment and Development

Mission (TRDM) limits. So far, 3 km of fencing has been completed, with elec-tricity already flowing through it. The structure guard until a permanent elephant wall is built, said Vysak Sasi, Divisional For-est Officer (DFO). He said Forest departserves as a temporary safe- ment officials, along with

Officials begin installation of solar fence

employees from the Ara-lam and Kannur forest divi-sions and Rapid Response Team members, working together on the project. In addition to the solar fence, the governsoiar tence, the govern-ment has proposed con-structing a hanging fence along the river. The tem-porary fence will be dis-mantled once the elephant wall and hanging fence are completed.

wall and hanging fence are completed.

Meanwhile, a 5-km fence from Valayanchal to the Kotappa river has al-ready been made function-al, and night patrol teams have been deployed for en-hanced forest monitoring, the DPO said.

'No decision vet on closure of varsities'

The Hindu Bureau

Karnataka Chief Minister Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told the Assembly on Friday that the government would take a continuation of seven universities, established during the previous BIP godinding to the sub-committee of the State Cabinet. Earlier, former Higher Education Minister C.N. owanted to initiate a debate on the government's move, said closure of universities would lead to denial of opportunities for students to



undertake higher studies.
Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, who is the panel
chief, had said last week
that the government was
planning to merge the new
universities with their pareput institutions, "as they

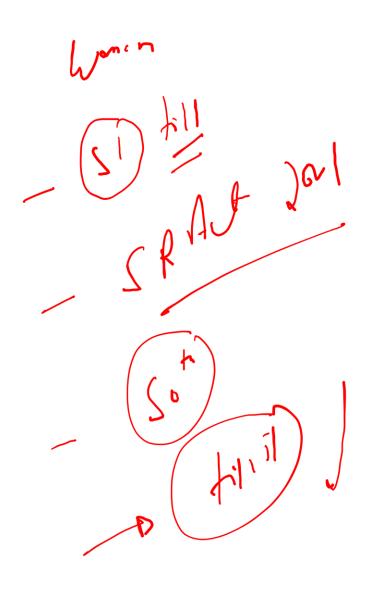
Woman can opt for surrogacy till 51 HC

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has held that the eligibility of a woman intending to avail of surrogacy services extends throughout the 50th year of age and she becomes ineligible on the day she turns 51 under Section 4(iii)(c)(I) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice S. Manu made the ruling on Friday while allowing an appeal filed by a woman against a single judge's verdict refusing her permission to go for surrogacy on the ground that she became ineligible on turning 50. The Bench said the question in the appeal is whether she is entitled to avail of surrogacy till the beginning of the 50th year or at the end of it.

The court said the intention of the Act is to ensure ethical and legal safeguards. The provision on age eligibility should be understood in a way that ensures ethical surrogacy practices rather than creating unnecessary restrictions. The court said in this case, what is at stake is the permanent loss of the opportunity to become a mother.



Many barriers

The Surrogacy
(Regulation) Act, 2021
was introduced to curb
unethical practices
related to issues such
as sex selection and
exploitation of
surrogate mothers, with
provisions for jail term in
case of violations

- Under the Act, a couple can opt for surrogacy only on medical grounds and should produce certificates of eligibility
- The couple should have been married for five years and not have a living child
- The surrogate mother



has to be a close relative of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own and aged between 25 and 35

- Though the law allows a single woman to resort to surrogacy, she has to be a widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45
- Single men are not eligible

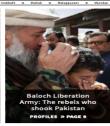
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Ukraine presses

Zelenskyv said on Saturday be had urged Kviv's Western allie:

Two mega deals with France wait for panel nod

NEW DELHI Two mega defence deals with France — for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets and three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines worth close to \$11 billion are ow awaiting final approval b the Cabinet Committee on

Security, as PAGE 3

'Congress-scarred Assam rebuilt with Modi's help'

GUWAHATI Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday during his three-day tour of North-east India said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had beloed a "Congress-scarred" Assam rebuild by restoring peace and

Aadhaar. Election Commission

Trinamool complaint

Earlier, the Congress had alleged manipulation of voters' lists during the Maharashtra Assembly

The Election Commission had clarified that the duplication had occurred due to manual errors be-

EC revisits EPIC-Aadhaar link plan after 2015 halt

Chief Election Commissioner calls meeting with Home Secretary, Legislative Secretary and UIDAI official, days after Opposition alleged duplication in EPIC numbers and manipulation in voter lists

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

mid Opposition al-legations of manip-ulation of voters' lists, Chief Election Com oner Gyanesh Kumar missioner Gyanesh Kumar has called a meeting with the Union Home Secretary, the Legislative Secretary and the Chief Executive Of-ficer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDA) to explore linking of voter ID with Aadhaar.

(EC) sources on Saturday said that Mr. Kumar will meet the officials on Tuesday.

Trinamool complaint
The move comes close on
the heels of the ruling Trinamool Congress in Westnamool Congress in Westby election is due in 2026,
Hagging the issuance of
same elector photo identity card EBTLO numbers to
voters in different States,
reased the matter in Parliament and outside. The
Leader of the Opposition,
Rahul Gandhi took it up in
the State of the Congress of the Congress
Earlier, the Congress

The missing links A brief timeline of the efforts to link Aadhaar with voter ID

fore the ERONET adriat platform for vote effor-ment was introduced. I the state of the state of the test that voters with san e EPIC numbers registed of still vote using eight of the state of the state of the promise of the state of the state

rolls.

It had linked more than 300 million votes in a span of three ments. span of three ments. However, the Supreme Court, in a interim order in August 2015, held that the mentatory use of Aadhaa should only be for

fore the ERONET



AUG. 2015: Supreme Court issues an interim order restricting Aadhaar's

MARCH 11, 2025: Trinamool Congres

ing their identity on a voluntary basis. Meanwhile, the Trina-mool Congress on Satur-day said the meeting con-vened by the CEC was a "face-saving measure".

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"face-saving measure".
"First, three statements.
Now this meeting. This is,
just a face-saving, as-sufficjust a face-saving as-sufficjust a face-saving as-sufficjust a face-saving as-sufficjust a face-saving asjust a fa issue of duplicate EPIC numbers.

'Face-saving measure' According to section 23 of In a memorandum to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as amended by the Election In a memorandum to the EC, the party had also said that there had been "credible allegations of Aadhaar cards being cloned and the use of these cloned Aadhaar cards to fa-cilitate fake water Laws (Amendment) Act in 2021, electoral registration 2021, electoral registration officers are required to ask existing or prospective vo-ters to provide their Aad-haar number for establish-

go to deport her. Ms. Srinivasan had "self-

deported* or voluntarily left the United States after

her visa was revoked for al-legedly "advocating for

violence and terrorism' and involvement in activi-ties supporting the Palesti-

ties supporting the Palesti-nian group Hamas. She said that last Sunday evening around 5 p.m., her service as a Teaching Assis-tant and her I20 visa were

India plans to entirely fence its 1.643-km-long border with Myanmar in 10 years

The 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar will be en-tirely ringed with an "anticut, anti-climb" fence in the next 10 years, accordand a parliamentary panel

and a parliamentary panel report.

repo

erating bases (COBs) for the Assam Riffes, which is responsible for guardige the Myanmar bades. "Is a support of the Myanmar bades." Is a support of the Myanmar bades and the M

runs along four States.
Both countries have a unique arrangement called
the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people to visit families re-siding within 10 km on both sides of the border without visas or a

Former Manipur Chief linister N. Biren Singh had

candidate who 'self-deported' from the U.S.



A March 10 parliamen-A March 10 parliamen-ary panel report said that he Cabinet Committee on security (CCS) had in March 2024, approved a proposal worth 231,000 crore to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and to better connectivity to com-pany operating bases

better connectivity to com-pany operating bases (COBs) of the Assam Rifles. "For creating infrastruc-ture along the IMB (India-Myanmar Border), the CCS granted in-principle appro-val for construction of fence and 64 border roads. Construction of fence and Construction of fence and road of 1,610.2 km along IMB in 10 years and its at cost of ₹20.264.4 crore:

six approach roads (78.7 km) to IMB in 10 years and its maintenance for five years, at cost of ₹10,767.5 crore (total cost ₹31,031.9 crore)," the report said. The model is likely to be replicated along the inter

national border with Pakis tan and Bangladesh, the of tan and Bangladesh, the of-ficial said.

The fencing proposal has faced stiff opposition from Naga and Kuki-Zo bo-dies, who say that it will disrupt ethnic and familial ties for people living on both sides of the border. "Surveillance cameras

the fence to monitor the area better. The border gates and the fencing will ensure that people who counted for. So far around 9,000 people have used the border gates to enter Manipur. There have been

U.S. planning to issue travel | 'Super afraid of retaliation', says Indian Ph.D. restrictions on 41 nations

The Trump administration is considering issuing sweeping travel restrictions of the control of t

Turkmenistan, would be considered for a partial suspension of U.S. visa issuance if their govern-ments "do not make efforts In the second group, five nations – Eritrea, Hai-ti, Laos, Myanmar and to address deficiencies within 60 days", the memo South Sudan - would face partial suspensions that would impact tourist and

student visas as well as oth-er immigrant visas, with some exceptions. me exceptions. In the third group, a to-

ountries.
The move harkens back
President Donald The move harkens back to President Donald Trump's first-term ban on travellers from seven majority-Muslim nations, a several iterations before it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

The U.S. President issued an executive order on January 20 requiring intenancy and president issued an executive order on January 20 requiring intenant president is several terms of the president in the control of the president in the presiden

any foreigners seeking admission to the U.S. to detect national security threats. That order had directed

several cabinet members to submit by March 21 a list of countries from which Changes expected A U.S. official speaking on the condition of anonymi-ty said that there could be changes on the list and that it was yet to be approved of countries from which travel should be partly or fully suspended because their "vetting and screen-ing information is so deficient."

by the administration, in-cluding U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The New York Times first reported on the list of

An Indian Ph.D. candidate at the prestigious Colum-bia University in the U.S., bia University in the U.S., who was accused of being a "pro-Hamas sympathie er", narrated how the U.S. immigration and customs enforcement agents raided her apartment on the cam-pus housing and she had to seek help from immi-tion attorneys. She has one to the control of the con-trol of of the c

welfare schemes and PAN

linking.
Following this order, the
NERPAP exercise was

discontinued. The Centre has in-formed Parliament that the

Aadhaar-voter ID seeding exercise was "process-dri-ven" and no target or time-lines have been set for the

lines have been set for the proposed linking. It has a so clarified that the names of those who do not link their Aadhaar details with their voter IDs will not be struck off the electoral rolls.

discontinued.

exercise was

in Canada. Speaking to *The Hindu* in an online interview, Ranjani Srinivasan, who is in her fifth year of Ph.D., said she is "super afraid of retaliation" and that she is not yet aware of what specific charges were brought against her by the Ameri-can authorities that led to can authorities that led to her being "disenrolled" from the university just six months before she was to complete her thesis. "My flatmates and my

friends started helping me and I felt that the Columbia housing was unsafe. S I moved to another addres to stay with some people who could support me.

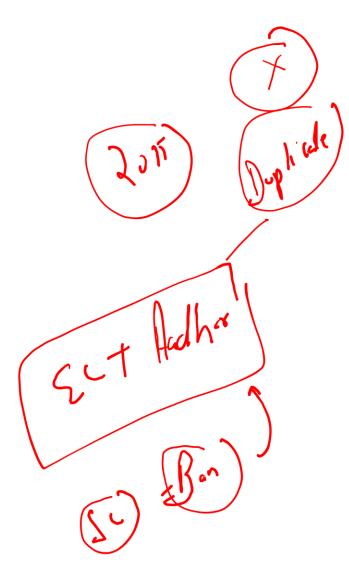
who could support me, critical me, and the first disappearance from the Columbia dinpus -Mahmoud disappeared -the columbia disappeared -the columbia disappeared -the columbia disappeared -the columbia disappeared -tion in Canada saying that it took her several days to understand the extent that go to deport her.

"disenrolled" following which she had 15 days grace period to leave the grace period to leave the country. "It's kind of inex-plicable how it happened. There aren't any legal grounds to deport me," said Ms. Srinivasan elaborating how she witnessed a marked change in the be-haviour of university auth-orities in those few tense "My lawyers tell me very frankly that this is unprece-dented but also unpredictable. There are so many facets of the FI visa over facets of the F1 visa over which the Department of State has full discretion. So, we don't really know what they are charging me with but it seems like that they will charge me with something," said Ms. Srini-vasan adding that "there is no de-escalation" from the side of the U.S. authorities. Expressing apprehensions Expressing apprehensions that she could be "charged with something", she said that she is "super afraid of retaliation at this point". Ms. Srinivasan said that ov-

Ms. Srinivasan said that ov-er the past week and a half, she had heard of several students facing similar charges of activism and be-ing similarly deported. She said she wants to come said she wants to come back to India from Canada. "I have not slept in al-most a week. I thought it would be easier to nego-tiate with Columbia from

san.
"Columbia itself has a long history of dissent. That is the case with most universities in the U.S. The issue here is that some of

and now I am in Columbia. I have no criminal record. I feel like that if it can happen to someone who does not have the markings of targeted, then it could real-ly happen to anyone with an F1 visa." said Ms. Srini-



EC revisits EPIC-Aadhaar link plan after 2015 halt

<u>Chief Election Commissioner calls meeting</u> with Home Secretary, Legislative Secretary and UIDAI official, days after Opposition alleged duplication in EPIC numbers and manipulation in voter lists

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

NEW DELHI

mid Opposition allegations of manipulation of voters' lists, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has called a meeting with the Union Home Secretary, the Legislative Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to explore linking of voter ID with Aadhaar.

Election Commission (EC) sources on Saturday said that Mr. Kumar will meet the officials on Tuesday.

Trinamool complaint

The move comes close on the heels of the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, where the Assembly election is due in 2026, flagging the issuance of same elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers to voters in different States. Opposition parties have raised the matter in Parliament and outside. The Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi took it up in the Lok Sabha.

Earlier, the Congress had alleged manipulation of voters' lists during the Maharashtra Assembly election.

The Election Commission had clarified that the duplication had occurred due to manual errors be-

The missing links

A brief timeline of the efforts to link Aadhaar with voter ID



FEB. 2015: EC launches NERPAP to link Aadhaar with voter ID and eliminate duplicate entries. Over 300 million voters were linked within three months

AUG. 2015: Supreme Court issues an interim order restricting Aadhaar's mandatory use to welfare schemes and PAN linking

MARCH 11, 2025: Trinamool Congress delegation meets the Election Commission over allegations of duplicate EPIC numbers and cloned

fore the ERONET digital platform for voter enrolment was introduced.

It had also assured parties that voters with same EPIC numbers registered in different States could still vote using their domicile documents. The EC had promised to resolve the issue in the three months.

The Election Commission first tried the Aadhaarvoter ID linking in February 2015 when it launched the National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NER-PAP) to address the duplicate entries in electoral rolls.

It had linked more than 300 million voters in a span of three months.

However, the Supreme Court, in an interim order in August 2015, held that the mandatory use of Aadhaar should only be for welfare schemes and PAN linking.

Following this order, the NERPAP exercise was discontinued.

The Centre has informed Parliament that the Aadhaar-voter ID seeding exercise was "process-driven" and no target or timelines have been set for the proposed linking. It has also clarified that the names of those who do not link their Aadhaar details with their voter IDs will not be struck off the electoral rolls.

'Face-saving measure'

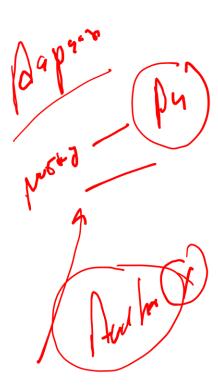
According to section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as amended by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act in 2021, electoral registration officers are required to ask existing or prospective voters to provide their Aadhaar number for establishing their identity on a voluntary basis.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress on Saturday said the meeting convened by the CEC was a "face-saving measure".

"First, three statements. Now this meeting. This is just a face-saving measure. We will keep a hawk-eye vigil till the elections," Sagarika Ghose, deputy leader of the Trinamool Congress in the Rajya Sabha, said.

A 10-member delegation of the party met the full Election Commission bench on March 11 over the issue of duplicate EPIC numbers.

In a memorandum to the EC, the party had also said that there had been "credible allegations of Aadhaar cards being cloned and the use of these cloned Aadhaar cards to facilitate fake voter registrations".









EPIC Number Explained

EC Reconsiders EPIC-Aadhaar Linkage | चुनाव आयोग ने EPIC-आधार लिंकिंग पर पुनर्विचार किया

• The Election Commission (EC) is reconsidering linking voter ID (EPIC) with Aadhaar after a 2015 halt.

चुनाव आयोग (EC) 2015 में रोक के बाद फिर से मतदाता पहचान पत्र (EPIC) को आधार से जोड़ने पर विचार कर रहा है।

• EPIC refers to the Electors Photo Identification Card,



 Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar called a meeting with key government officials.

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार ने प्रमुख सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक बुलाई।

• The move comes after Opposition parties alleged voter list

manipulation and duplicate EPIC numbers.

यह कंदम विपक्षी दलों द्वारा मतदाता सूची में गड़बड़ी और डुप्लीकेट EPIC नंबर के आरोपों के बाद आया है।

Make De Mi- (WB)

(20)

EC's Previous Attempt to Link Aadhaar | चुनाव आयोग का आधार लिंक करने का पूर्व प्रयास

• In February 2015, the EC launched the NERPAP program to eliminate duplicate entries.

फरंवरी 2015 में, चुनाव आयोग ने डुप्लीकेट प्रविष्टियों को समाप्त करने के लिए NERPAP कार्यक्रम शुरू किया।

• Over 300 million voters were linked to Aadhaar within three months. तीन महीनों के भीतर 30 करोड़ मतदाताओं को आधार से जोड़ा गया।



- However, the Supreme Court's August 2015 interim order restricted Aadhaar's mandatory use. हालांकि, सप्रीम कोर्ट के अगस्त 2015 के अंतरिम आदेश ने आधार के
 - हालांकि, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अगस्त 2015 के अंतरिम आदेश ने आधार के अनिवार्य उपयोग पर रोक लगा दी।
- The linking process was halted, and NERPAP was discontinued. लिंकिंग प्रक्रिया रोक दी गई और NERPAP कार्यक्रम बंद कर दिया गया।

Current Status and Government Stand | वर्तमान स्थिति और सरकार का रुख

- The Centre told Parliament that Aadhaar-voter ID linking is voluntary. केंद्र सरकार ने संसद में बताया कि आधार और मतदाता पहचान पत्र को जोड़ना स्वैच्छिक है।
- Names of voters who do not link Aadhaar will not be removed from voter lists.
 - जो मतदाता आधार से लिंक नहीं करते, उनके नाम मतदाता सूची से नहीं हटाए जाएंगे।
- No deadline or mandatory target has been set for the linking process. लिंकिंग प्रक्रिया के लिए कोई समयसीमा या अनिवार्य लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है।

Social Aspects | सामाजिक पहलू

• Ensuring clean voter lists can strengthen democracy by preventing fraud.

स्वच्छ मतदाता सूची सुनिश्चित करना धोखाधड़ी को रोककर लोकतंत्र को मजबूत कर सकता है।

• However, concerns over privacy and misuse of Aadhaar data remain. हालांकि, आधार डेटा की गॉपनीयता और दुरुपयोग को लेकर चिंताएं बनी हुई हैं।

Economic Aspects | आर्थिक पहलू

- Aadhaar linkage can reduce election fraud costs and streamline voter verification.
 - आधार लिंकिंग चुनावी धोखाधड़ी की लागत को कम कर सकती है और मतदाता सत्यापन को सरल बना सकती है।
- However, implementing such a large-scale project requires significant financial and technical resources.
 - हालांकि, इतने बड़े पैमाने की परियोजना को लागू करने के लिए पर्याप्त वितीय और तकनीकी संसाधनों की आवश्यकता होगी।





India plans to entirely fence its 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar in 10 years

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

The 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar will be entirely ringed with an "anticut, anti-climb" fence in the next 10 years, according to government officials and a parliamentary panel report.

The fencing project was announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February 2024 and the work has gathered pace in the past three or four months, officials said.

From April 1-December 31, 2024, an amount of ₹114.09 crore has been spent on constructing the fence and the company operating bases (COBs) for the Assam Rifles, which is responsible for guarding the Myanmar border. "The technology is entirely indigenous and developed by our own engineers. It has anti-cut and anti-climb features that will deter illegal infiltration," said a senior official of the Assam Rifles.

Free Movement Regime

India and Myanmar share an unfenced border, which runs along four States. Both countries have a unique arrangement called the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people to visit families residing within 10 km on both sides of the border without visas or a passport.

Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had



Jawans patrol the India-Myanmar border. FILE PHOTO

attributed the ongoing ethnic violence to the unregulated movement of people from across the border.

Till last year, only 10 km of the border near Moreh in Manipur had been fenced.

A March 10 parliamentary panel report said that the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had in March 2024, approved a proposal worth ₹31,000 crore to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and to construct roads to provide better connectivity to company operating bases (COBs) of the Assam Rifles.

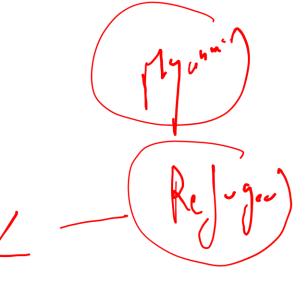
"For creating infrastructure along the IMB (India-Myanmar Border), the CCS granted in-principle approval for construction of fence and 64 border roads. Construction of fence and road of 1,610.2 km along IMB in 10 years and its maintenance for five years, at cost of ₹20,264.4 crore; construction of 58 roads (1,467.5 km) to connect the

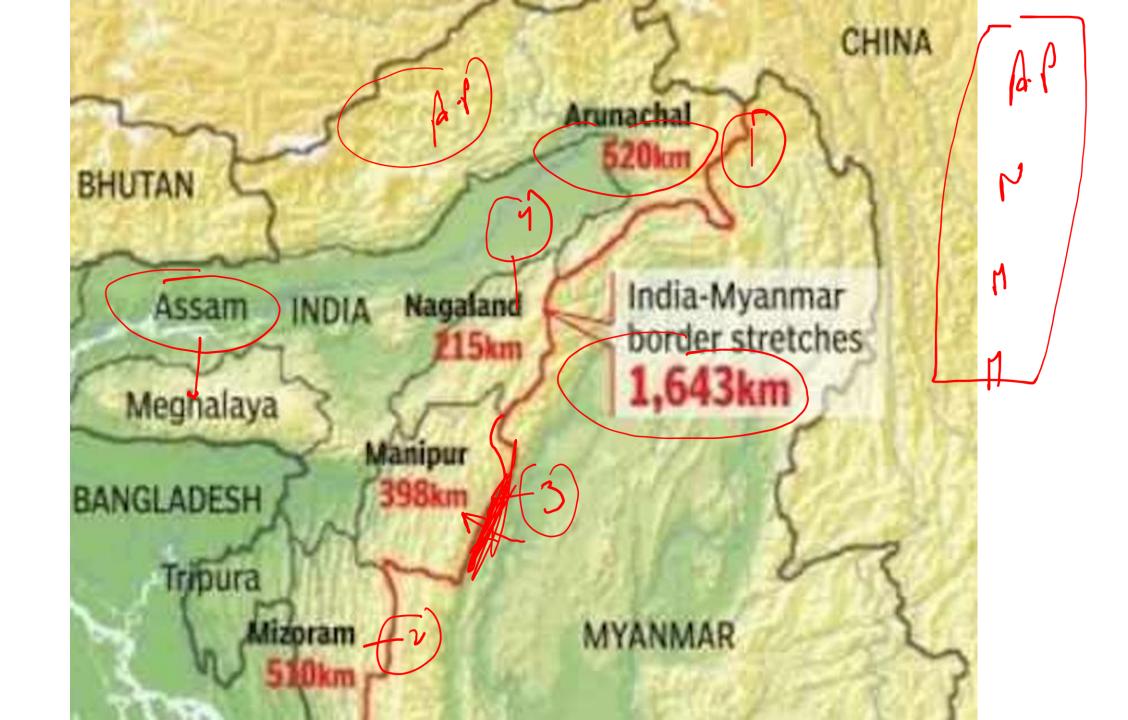
COBs of Assam Rifles and six approach roads (78.7 km) to IMB in 10 years and its maintenance for five years, at cost of ₹10,767.5 crore (total cost ₹31,031.9 crore)," the report said.

The model is likely to be replicated along the international border with Pakistan and Bangladesh, the official said.

The fencing proposal has faced stiff opposition from Naga and Kuki-Zo bodies, who say that it will disrupt ethnic and familial ties for people living on both sides of the border.

"Surveillance cameras will also be placed along the fence to monitor the area better. The border gates and the fencing will ensure that people who cross the border are accounted for. So far around 9,000 people have used the border gates to enter Manipur. There have been very few cases of overstaying," said another government official.





- . India's Plan to Fence the Myanmar Border | भारत का म्यामार सीमा पर बाड़ लगाने का निर्णय
- India will completely fence its 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar within 10 years.

भारत अगले 10 वर्षों में म्यांमार के साथ अपनी 1,643 किमी लंबी सीमा पर पूरी तरह बाड़ लगाएगा।

- The fence will be designed with 'anti-cut' and 'anti-climb' technology to prevent illegal infiltration. यह, बाड़ 'एंटी-कट' और 'एंटी-क्लाइंब' तकनीक से बनाई जाएगी ताकि
- अवैध घुसपैठ को रोका जा सके।
- The project was announced by Home Minister Amit Shah in February 2024.

इस परियोजना की घोषणा गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने फरवरी 2024 में की थी।

Current Status and Budget Allocation | मौजूदा स्थिति और बजटीय प्रावधान

• From April 1 to December 31, 2024, ₹114.09 crore has been spent on fencing and constructing Company Operating Bases (COBs).
1 अप्रैल से 31 दिसंबर 2024 तक, बाड़ और कंपनी ऑपरेटिंग बेस (COBs) के निर्माण पर ₹114.09 करोड़ खर्च किए गए हैं।

• As of last year, only 10 km of the border near Moreh (Manipur) had been fenced.

पिछले वर्ष तक, मणिपुर के मोरेह के पास केवल 10 किमी सीमा पर बाड़ लगाई गई थी।

• A March 10 parliamentary report approved ₹31,000 crore for fencing and roads along the border.

10 मार्च की संसदीय रिपोर्ट में सीमा पर बाड़ और सड़कों के लिए ₹31,000 करोड़ को मंजूरी दी गई।

Free Movement Regime (FMR) and Its Impact | फ्री मूवमेंट रीजीम (FMR) और इसका प्रभाव

• India and Myanmar currently have an FMR arrangement, allowing people within 10 km of the border to travel visa-free. भारत और म्यांमार के बीच वर्तमान में एक फ्री मूवमेंट रीजीम (FMR) व्यवस्था है, जिससे सीमा के 10 किमी के भीतर लोग बिना वीजा के यात्रा कर सकते हैं।

• Former Manipur CM N. Biren Singh linked ongoing ethnic violence to unregulated border movement. मिणपुर के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री एन. बीरेन सिंह ने चल रही जातीय हिंसा को बिना नियंत्रण वाली सीमा पार आवाजाही से जोड़ा।

• Opposition from Naga and Kuki-Zo communities, who fear the fence will disrupt ethnic and familial ties. नागा और कुकी-जो समुदायों ने इसका विरोध किया, क्योंकि उन्हें डर है कि यह बाड़ जातीय और पारिवारिक संबंधों को बाधित करेगी।

Infrastructure Plans Along the Border | सीमा पर बुनियादी ढांचे की योजनाएँ

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved fencing and 64 border roads. कैबिनेट कमेटी ऑन सिक्योरिटी (CCS) ने बाड़ लगाने और 64 सीमा सड़कों को मंजूरी दी।
- 1,610.2 km of fence and roads will be built in 10 years, costing ₹20,264.4 crore.
 1,610.2 किमी की बाड़ और सड़कें 10 वर्षों में बनाई जाएंगी, जिसकी लागत ₹20,264.4 करोड़ होगी।
- Another 1,467.5 km of roads will be built to connect COBs and improve connectivity.
 COBs को जोड़ने और संपर्क सुधारने के लिए 1,467.5 किमी अतिरिक्त सड़कें बनाई जाएंगी।

Security Measures and Monitoring | सुरक्षा उपाय और निगरानी

- Surveillance cameras will be placed along the fence to monitor illegal crossings.
 - अवैध सीमा पार करने की निगरानी के लिए बाड़ के साथ निगरानी कैमरे लगाए जाएंगे।
- Border gates will track individuals crossing, and ensure accountability. सीमा द्वार पार करने वाले व्यक्तियों को ट्रैक किया जाएगा और उनकी जिम्मेदारी तय की जाएगी।
- So far, 9,000 people have legally crossed into Manipur using border gates.

अब तक 9,000 लोग सीमा द्वारों का उपयोग करके कानूनी रूप से मणिपुर में प्रवेश कर चुके हैं।

U.S. planning to issue travel restrictions on 41 nations



Reuters

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is considering issuing sweeping travel restrictions for the citizens of dozens of countries as part of a new ban, according to sources familiar with the matter and an internal memo seen by Reuters.

The memo lists a total of 41 countries divided into three separate groups.

The first group of 10 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea among others, would be set for a full visa suspension.

In the second group, five nations – Eritrea, Haiti, Laos, Myanmar and South Sudan – would face partial suspensions that would impact tourist and student visas as well as other immigrant visas, with some exceptions.

In the third group, a total of 26 countries, includ-

No entry

1 Citizens of 10 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea, will be totally barred from entering U.S.

2 Five countries, including Eritrea, Laos and Myanmar, will face partial visa suspension

Twenty-six nations, including Pakistan, whose citizens will have 60 days to address U.S. concerns

ing Belarus, Pakistan and Turkmenistan, would be considered for a partial suspension of U.S. visa issuance if their governments "do not make efforts to address deficiencies within 60 days", the memo said.

Changes expected

A U.S. official speaking on the condition of anonymity said that there could be changes on the list and that it was yet to be approved by the administration, including U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The New York Times first reported on the list of countries.

The move harkens back to President Donald Trump's first-term ban on travellers from seven majority-Muslim nations, a policy that went through several iterations before it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

The U.S. President issued an executive order on January 20 requiring intensified security vetting of any foreigners seeking admission to the U.S. to detect national security threats.

That order had directed several cabinet members to submit by March 21 a list of countries from which travel should be partly or fully suspended because their "vetting and screening information is so deficient."

Ret

PROPOSED TRAVEL BAN LIST

RED

All travel banned



- Bhutan
- Cuba
- Iran
- Libya
- North Korea Syria
- Somalia
- Sudan





- Venezuela
- Yemen



ORANGE

Visas sharply restricted

- Belarus Pakistan
- EritreaRussia
- HaitiSierra Leone
- Laos
 South Sudan
- Myanmar Turkmenistan

Source: NYT



- . Countries Given a 60-Day Deadline | 60-दिन की समय सीमा पाने वाले देश
- 26 nations, including Pakistan, Belarus, and Turkmenistan, have been given 60 days to address U.S. security concerns. पाकिस्तान, बेलारूस और तुर्कमेनिस्तान सहित 26 देशों को अमेरिकी सुरक्षा चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए 60 दिन का समय दिया गया है।
- If these countries fail to meet U.S. security standards, visa issuance will be partially or fully suspended.
 यदि ये देश अमेरिकी सुरक्षा मानकों को पूरा करने में विफल रहते हैं, तो उनके लिए वीजा जारी करने की प्रक्रिया आंशिक या पूरी तरह से निलंबित कर दी जाएगी।

Social Aspects | सामाजिक पहलू

 The travel restrictions could impact families, students, and professionals from affected countries. यात्रा प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित देशों के परिवारों, छात्रों और पेशेवरों पर प्रभाव पड सकता है।

It may also lead to protests from immigrant communities within the

यह अमेरिका के भीतर अप्रवासी समुदायों के विरोध को जन्म दे सकता है।

The rebels who shook Pakistan

The militant group, which has overshadowed the traditional nationalist movements of Pakistan's restive province, mobilised thousands of fighters and stepped up operations in recent months, says 'Free Balochistan is our only demand'

ctober 18, 2018 came bearing bad news for the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), On that day, across the Afghan-Pakistan border, Kandahar's police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq Achakzai was assassinated by the Taliban, who were still three years away from capturing Kabul. Raziq was known for his brutal tactics in dealing known for his brural tractics in dealing with the Tallban but his assistantion in the house of the Kandahar Governo with the Tallban but his assistantion in the house of the Kandahar Governo wounded, left lingering quie on a about the fate of the BLA because among many things, Razdig also militants within the AFPak. terr lory. The BLA suffered another set Jack when its top commander Aslam when the tracking the properties of the properties o

months later, in December 2018 Weeks earlier, the BLA had attacked the Chinese consulate in Karach the chinese consulate in Karacti where two policemen and four cadre were killed. After the targeted assassinations of Raziq and Agram, there were signs that the Blev's logistical network would be disturbed. The next big set, at was the U.S. designation of the BLA as a terrorist outfit, on July 2, 2019.

ver, the BLA carried out some more daring attacks, including the May 2019 attack on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar, the newest port of Pakistan which is also vital for the was the last major attack by the group which came under pressure after the Tallban took over Kabul on August 15. 2021. But the calm did not last long. On March II. 2025, the BLA carried

On March 11, 2025, the BLA carried out its biggest attack in its nearly 25 years of operation against the Pakistani state when its militarts assaulted the Quetta-Peshawar Jaffar Express.

Solvent of the Pakistani state of the State of the

Months before the Jaffar Express attack, the BLA had been expanding



of its claims of attacks shows that the Jaffar Express attack came after nearly two years of escalation during which it carried out an exhaustive series of operations across Balochistan. The BLA claimed to have carried out attacks almost every week

attacks almost every week if 2024.

Support base
On October 7, 2024, the set claimed reaponability for a bias of all tagered reaponability for a bias of all tagered of the control of the part of the part

new generation of young social media savvy Baloch university graduates is

the main support base of the group, and the Majeed Brigade, the wing of the BLA that carried out the attack on the train, has been consistently at the forefront of violent operations.

sprang from the dispute of sovereignt in the princely states in the region that were to join Pakistan, However, the armed struggle under the 21st century BLA is markedly different from the tradition of armed militants who were earlier indirectly supported by the Marri, Bugti, Mengal and other Marri, Bugti, Mengal and other dominant clans or tribes. A dispute over sovereignty at the end of the British colonial rule, coupled with negation of the federal spirit in military-dominated Pakistan, has been the driving force for the Baloch and the property of the Baloch of the Baloch

the driving force for the succession national movement.

A major element, orbital visual relation in the language of the succession of the

Baloch figures during the period of 1950s to 1970s. Long before the BLA, in 1964, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely

wershadowed by the BLA. The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploring the rich resources of the province without giving due of the province without giving due share to the indgenous people and the tribes. It was a be ment with a wide emerged as I be ment with a wide emerged as I be ment with a wide of the same and the same as a second of the for itself and from the traditional hold of the same of the same as a second of the property of the same as a second of the property of the same as a second of the latest and the same as a second of the latest and the same as a second of the BLA suffered from lack of coordination and internal controversies. 2020 attack by the BLA on the Karachi Stock Exchange created an internal problem

attack by the BLA on the Karachi Stock Exchange created an internal problem for the organisation, after Majeed Brigade claimed that it was carried out by Tasleem Baloch, Shehzad Baloch, Salman Hammal and Siraj Kungur. The claim immediately triggered a protest

from the BLA spokesperson Azad Baloch, who claimed that the four were already expelled from the group. His statement indicated that the attack was part of an Iranian effort to maligr the group because it had not compromised with Iran. Baloch nationalist sentiment is prevalent both in Balochistan of Pakistan s well as Sistan-Balochistan, the eaternmost

Voice of the rebels
Traditional Baloch sardys I we been
cautious and refused to colowledge
any link with the BLA, I have
London-based pro-individually the lence
leader Hyrbair Marri it norn aliv
considered to be an oregre ind voice

of the group.
Following the Jaffir Expres attack, in which, according to the Paketani in which, according to the Pals tani military, 31 people, including five civilian passengers, were killed, Mr. Marri said: "We are Baloch and we reject Pakistan's flag. Remove ir. We have our own. Free Balochistan is our only demand."

nly demand." By drawing n India, Pakistan has highlighted ar old link between Baloch nationalist ledders and India. Non-violent Baloch nationalist leaders and huma Qadeer an Naela Qadri visited India several tires in the past. In the last

Geoere an Naeia (garri visited india decade, the re were instances when BLA communders visited india ostensifir be seek medical treatment. Strengther of the seek of the Alghant of the seek of the seek of the Alghant of the seek of the seek of the habitan to look inwards. Palsard political from the seek of the bedges allegations", and asked Palsatan "to look inwards". With the BLA gaining strength in which the law of the seek of the seek of the palsard of the seek of the seek of the palsard of the seek of the seek of the palsard of the seek of the seek of the seek of the palsard of the seek of the se

chailenges, at a time when the country's economy is struggling to stabilise itself amid unresolved political tensions between the military backed government and the jailed former Prime Minister, Imran Khan.

THE GIST

The Baloch nationalist

the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely overshadowed by the BLA

The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploiting the rich resources of the the indigenous people and the

Market watchdog

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

The new SEBI chief says his focus will be on optimum regulation, not on maximum regulation, as he seeks to ensure fair practices at India's security's markets

uhin Kanta Pandey, the former Union Finance Secretary, took charge as the Chair man of Securities and Ex-change Board of India (SE-BI) on March 1, Saturday. The next day, the news broke that a Mumbai Spe-cial Court Judge directed the city's Anti-Corruption Bureau to file FIRs on former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and three of the regulator's for their alleged complicity in listing of a now delisted

ithout wasting any Mr. Pandey, 59, In a statement, SEBI said that even though

In a statement, SEBI said that even though these officials were not holding their respective positions at the relevant positions at the relevant positions at the relevant lowed the application (to register the FIR and a court monitored investigation) without issuing any notice or granting any opportunities on record. "The applicant on record." The applicant is media reporter who la media reporter who could get a court order on Saturday, the day after Ms. Buch exited office and the day Mr. Pandey took over] is known to be a frivolous and habitual litigant, with with imposition of costs in ome cases," it said.

SM

SEBI said it would in-itiate appropriate legal steps to challenge the order.

On the day he took over, at the SEBI headquarters in Mumbai, Mr. Pandey faced a lot of questions from journalists, particularly a lot of questions from journalists. particularly a period of his predecessor. In his response, he firmly put the period of his predecessor. In his response, he firmly put the period of his predecessor. In the period of his pe

cretaries as regulators – Sanjay Malhotra, who was appointed as the RBI Go-vernor in December last year, and now Mr. Pandey.

During his over three decades career as a bureaucrat, Mr. Pandey has held noteworthy positions in the Union Government and the State Government

of Odisha, besides serving a stint in the Regional Of-fice of the UN Industrial Development Organisa-tion. Rich experience

Rich experience
Before joining SEBI, Mr.
Hone Finance Secretary, ReJone Finance Secretary, ReJone Finance Secretary, ReJone Finance Secretary, ReJone Finance Secretary, Department of Public
Secretary, Department of Public
And Department of Personnel & Training, He was also
Jone Finance Finance

the past. After Mr. Malhotra's posting at the RBI, Mr. Pan-dey had played a key role in the preparation of the last Union Budget. As the disi

cretary for five years, he has handled the divest-ment of the government's stake in many Public Sec-tor Enterprises, including Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and several companies from the Indian Railways stable. He had also handled the strategic sale of Air India to

the Tata Group in 2021-22, His former colleagues describe him as someone who is thorough and meth-odical. He has a very good sense for numbers and most importantly as a person, he is uncomprom and unyielding, they say.

Having a Mas in Economics from Panjab University, Chandigarh and an MBA from the Un-

and an Mila from the thiliversity of Birmingham
(U.K.), Mr. Pandey has a
tough task shead – he has
as markets have been volatile in recent weeks due to
"Trump tantrums", and
fight manipulations in the
dot tough measures. Mr. Pandey is no stranger to such
tough measures. Mr. Pandey is no stranger to such
is a dynamic space so
change is imminent but we
will certainly not be looking the such to the such to the
tile but for optimum regulation," Mr. Pandey said on RBI, Mr. Pandey said on ed a key role ration of the diget.

Mr. Spech since assuming the chairmanship of the regulator.

Mr. Spech since assuming the chairmanship of the regulator.

Enter India Starlink

Elon Musk's satellite Internet service Starlink is entering India again, this time flanked by Airtel

n March 6, an account on the social media platform X claimed that Reliance Jio, Airtel, and VI wanted "fair competition" as the Indian government mulled over the possibility of granting the possibility of granting Starlink a license. In response to the post, the U.S. President's advisor and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk commented, "Fair compecommented, "Fair compe-tition would be much ap-preciated." Netizens en-joyed the interaction, with many joking about Re-liance Industries potentially finding its 'fair market' match in Tesla CEO Musk.

Days later, however, Air-tel announced that it had inked a deal to bring Star-link to India. Hot on its heels was Jio Platforms with the same announce-

ment.
India's two major telecom companies announced their Starlink
partnerships after a White
House meeting last month
between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The
Prime Minister shared that
he had met Mr. Musk and
discussed a range of subdiscussed a range of sub-jects with him, including space, mobility, technolo-gy, and innovation.

"This is the first agree-ment to be signed in India, which is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authori-Fiber satellite Internet service. In a press release zations to sell Starlink in India," noted Airtel in a Jio shared that it was "partnering with SES to access statement on March II. The the world's latest in meditwo would also explore of-fering Starlink products in um earth orbit satellite technology." SES has 70 sa-Airtel's retail stores and Starlink service via Airtel tellites operating in two dif-ferent orbits and broadbusiness customers. A day later, Jio Platforms casts to over 1 billion TV

STARLINK

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Meanwhile, Starlink not-come of the still starlink not-come of the still starlink not still starlink not still starlink not still starlink not me. Step in mind, however, that the winner is not me. Keep in mind, however, that the winner is not me. Keep in mind, however, that the winner is not me. Starlink's assigned location - in low, the starlink is starlink's assigned location - in low, bit - greatly affects its build, its orbital speed, the area it can cover by itself, areas it can cover by itself, areas it can cover by itself, are provides to users. For example, a Starlink satellite 630 satellites along 12 care-fully synchronised orbital planes 1,200 km above, in low Earth orbit (LEO)." ample, a Starlink satellite system in low Earth orbit that enables users to watch w Earth orbit (LEO)." movies while camping will Jio, during the India Mo-drastically differ from a sathat enables one country' military to monitor an ene

my region.

As of March 15, the Star link availability map still marked service in India as bour that currently enjoys official access to Starlink is Bangladeshi companies have entered into agree-ments with Starlink, and service-related discussions are taking place, reported

mise refunds for pre-or-ders after the government said it was not licensed to operate in the country, re-ported TechCrunch. In December 2024, sa-tellite Internet equipment with Starlink branding was seized from Manipur's Im-phat East and linked to mil-mbat East and linked to mil-tits was foise and that sa-tellite beams were turned tellite beams were turned

vernment needs to formal ly bless Starlink's latest at tempt to land in the country, the high-profile

Baloch Liberation Army

The militant group, which has overshadowed the traditional nationalist movements of Pakistan's restive province, mobilised thousands of fighters and stepped up operations in recent months, says 'Free Balochistan is our only demand'

Kallol Bhattacherjee

ctober 18, 2018 came bearing bad news for the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). On that day, across the Afghan-Pakistan border, Kandahar's police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq Achakzai was assassinated by the Taliban, who were still three years away from capturing Kabul. Raziq was known for his brutal tactics in dealing with the Taliban but his assassination in the house of the Kandahar Governor Zalmay Wesa, who was also critically wounded, left lingering questions about the fate of the BLA because among many things, Raziq also handled the movement of Baloch militants within the Af-Pak. territory.

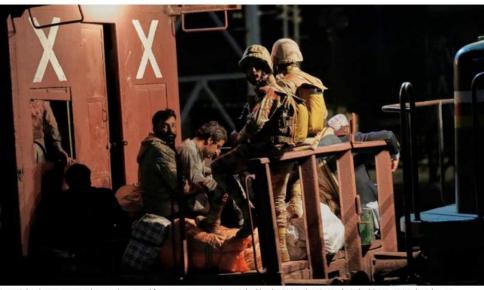
The BLA suffered another setback when its top commander Aslam Baloch was killed in a blast three months later, in December 2018. Weeks earlier, the BLA had attacked the Chinese consulate in Karachi where two policemen and four cadre were killed. After the targeted assassinations of Raziq and Aslam, there were signs that the BLA's logistical network would be disturbed. The next big setback was the U.S. designation of the BLA as a terrorist outfit, on July 2, 2019.

However, the BLA carried out some more daring attacks, including the May 2019 attack on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar, the newest port of Pakistan which is also vital for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It was the last major attack by the group which came under pressure after the Taliban took over Kabul on August 15, 2021. But the calm did not last long.

On March 11, 2025, the BLA carried out its biggest attack in its nearly 25 years of operation against the Pakistani state when its militants assaulted the Quetta-Peshawar Jaffar Express.

The latest attack, executed through a series of actions spread across a vast area interspersed with mountain tunnels, has indicated that the BLA has bounced back from the setbacks of 2018-21, and highlighted the souring state of relationship between Pakistan and the Taliban.

Months before the Jaffar Express attack, the BLA had been expanding



A special train to transport the people rescued from a passenger train attacked by the BLA arrives in Much, Balochistan, on Wednesday. AP

the footprint of its firepower. A survey of its claims of attacks shows that the Jaffar Express attack came after nearly two years of escalation during which it carried out an exhaustive series of operations across Balochistan. The BLA claimed to have carried out attacks almost every week in 2024.

Support base

On October 7, 2024, the BLA claimed responsibility for a blast that targeted Karachi's airport road, killing two Chinese nationals and injuring 10 Pakistani nationals. The blast revived fears about the BLA. The group rose out of the Baloch nationalist movement, which was traditionally dominated by the Baloch nawabs or sardars belonging to the Bizenjos, Bugtis and other clans.

The BLA does not possess a formal structure like other armed nationalist groups in South Asia and West Asia. The total strength of the group is believed to be around 6,000 cadre, though the number of sympathisers to the Baloch cause is much higher. The new generation of young social media savvy Baloch university graduates is

the main support base of the group, and the Majeed Brigade, the wing of the BLA that carried out the attack on the train, has been consistently at the forefront of violent operations.

The Baloch nationalist movement sprang from the dispute of sovereignty in the princely states in the region that were to join Pakistan. However, the armed struggle under the 21st century BLA is markedly different from the tradition of armed militants who were earlier indirectly supported by the Marri, Bugti, Mengal and other dominant clans or tribes. A dispute over sovereignty at the end of the British colonial rule, coupled with negation of the federal spirit in military-dominated Pakistan, has been the driving force for the Baloch national movement.

A major element of the Baloch nationalist struggle, which was parallel to the linguistic nationalism of Bengali-speaking East Pakistan, was that it unfolded during the Cold War era. The Baloch movement was influenced by the Soviet Union and radical Marxist ideology in the past, and Moscow trained many radical

Baloch figures during the period of 1950s to 1970s. Long before the BLA, in 1964, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely overshadowed by the BLA.

The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploiting the rich resources of the province without giving due share to the indigenous people and the tribes. In recent years, the BLA has emerged as a movement with a wide network in both urban and rural areas of Balochistan that has carved a space for itself away from the traditional hold of the sardars or tribal chieftains. BLA rebels claim that they are aiming for both freedom from Pakistan and internal reform of Baloch society.

After the death of Aslam Baloch, the BLA suffered from lack of coordination and internal controversies.

For example, the June 29, 2020 attack by the BLA on the Karachi Stock Exchange created an internal problem for the organisation, after Majeed Brigade claimed that it was carried out by Tasleem Baloch, Shehzad Baloch, Salman Hammal and Siraj Kungur. The claim immediately triggered a protest

from the BLA spokesperson Azad Baloch, who claimed that the four were already expelled from the group. His statement indicated that the attack was part of an Iranian effort to malign the group because it had not compromised with Iran. Baloch nationalist sentiment is prevalent both in Balochistan of Pakistan as well as Sistan-Balochistan, the easternmost province of Iran.

Voice of the rebels

Traditional Baloch sardars have been cautious and refused to acknowledge any link with the BLA, but the London-based pro-independence leader Hyrbair Marri is generally considered to be an overground voice of the group.

Following the Jaffar Express attack, in which, according to the Pakistani military, 31 people, including five civilian passengers, were killed, Mr. Marri said: "We are Baloch and we reject Pakistan's flag. Remove it. We have our own. Free Balochistan is our only demand."

By drawing in India, Pakistan has highlighted an old link between Baloch nationalist leaders and India. Non-violent Baloch nationalist leaders and human rights activists like Mama Qadeer and Naela Qadri visited India several times in the past. In the last decade, there were instances when BLA commanders visited India ostensibly to seek medical treatment.

It is said, the slain Aslam Baloch had visited India under an assumed identity provided by the intelligence agency of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (before the 2021 Taliban takeover). After the train attack, Pakistan pointed fingers at India. However, India "strongly rejected the baseless allegations", and asked Pakistan "to look inwards".

With the BLA gaining strength in Balochistan and the Pakistani Taliban stepping up attacks in the tribal region, Islamabad-Rawalpindi is once again facing multi-pronged security challenges, at a time when the country's economy is struggling to stabilise itself amid unresolved political tensions between the military backed government and the jailed former Prime Minister, Imran Khan.

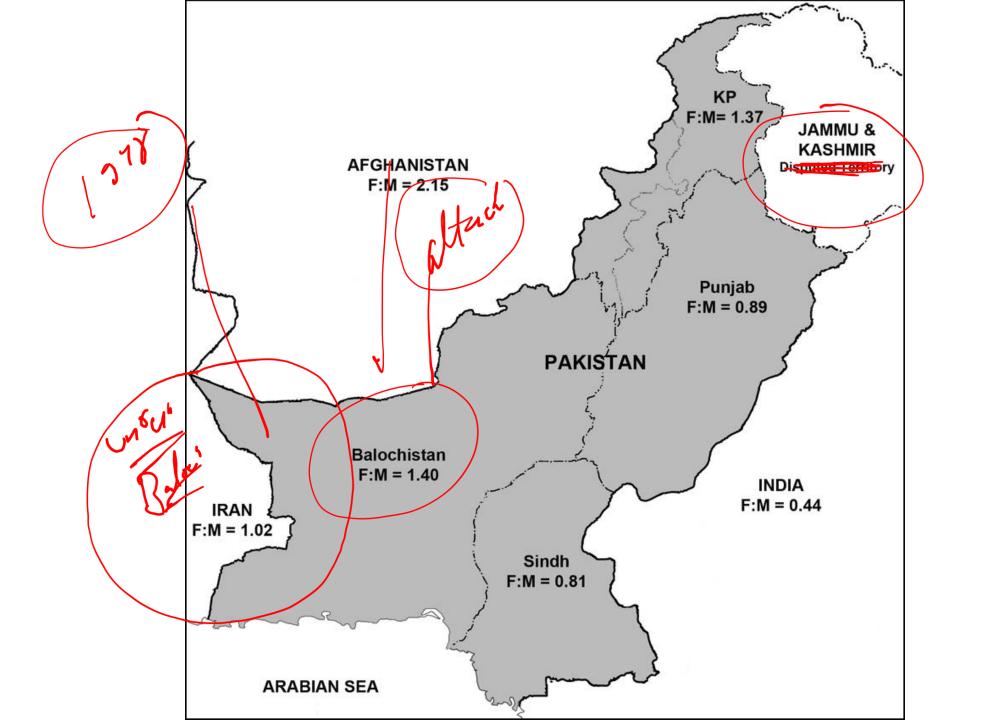
THE GIST

The Baloch nationalist movement sprang from the dispute of sovereignty in the princely states in the region that were to join Pakistan

Long before the BLA, in 1964, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was launched by Jumma Khan but that outfit is now completely overshadowed by the BLA

The BLA rebels claim that Pakistan has been exploiting the rich resources of the province without due share to the indigenous people and the





Rise of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) | बलूच लिबरेशन आर्मी (BLA) का उदय

- The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has overshadowed traditional nationalist movements in Balochistan.
- बलूच लिबरेशन आर्मी (BLA) ने बलूचिस्तान में पारंपरिक राष्ट्रवादी आंदोलनों को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।
- BLA has mobilized thousands of fighters and intensified operations against the Pakistani state.
 - BLA ने हजारों लड़ाकों को संगठित किया है और पाकिस्तानी राज्य के खिलाफ अपने हमलों को तेज किया है।
- The militant group's primary demand is "Free Balochistan." इस उग्रवादी समूह की मुख्य मांग "मुक्त बलूचिस्तान" है।

BLA's Major Attacks and Setbacks | BLA के प्रमुख हमले और झटके

• BLA has carried out high-profile attacks, including the 2018 chinese Consulate attack in Karachi.

BLA ने कई हाई-प्रोफाइल हमले किए हैं, जिनमें 2018 में कराची में चीनी वाणिज्य दूतावास पर हमला शामिल है।

• In March 2024, the BLA targeted the Quetta-Peshawar Jaffer Express, killing 31 people.

मार्च 2024 में, BLA ने क्वेटा-पेशावर जाफर एक्सप्रेस को निशाना बनाया, जिसमें 31 लोग मारे गए।

- Despite setbacks such as the 2019 designation of BLA as a terrorist group by the U.S., it has rebounded strongly.
 2019 में अमेरिका द्वारा BLA को एक आतंकवादी संगठन घोषित किए जाने के बावजूद, यह समूह फिर से सक्रिय हो गया है।
- BLA leaders such as Aslam Baloch and Abdul Razzaq Achakzai have been assassinated, but the group continues operations. असलम बलूच और अब्दुल रज़ाक अचकज़ई जैसे BLA नेताओं की हत्या कर दी गई, लेकिन समूह अभी भी सक्रिय है।

BLA's Support Base and Recruitment Strategy | BLA का समर्थन आधार और भर्ती रणनीति

• BLA recruits from Baloch nationalist movements, particularly among university students.

BLA बलूच राष्ट्रवादी आंदोलनों से भर्ती करता है, विशेष रूप से विश्वविद्यालय के छात्रों के बीच।

 The group claims to be fighting for Baloch rights, opposing Pakistan's exploitation of Balochistan's resources.

यहं समूह बलूच अधिकारों के लिए लड़ने और बलूचिस्तान के संसाधनों के पाकिस्तानी दोहन का विरोध करने का दावा करता है।

 BLA has a well-structured network with hideouts in the South and West Asian regions.

BLA का एक संगठित नेटवर्क है, जिसमें दक्षिण और पश्चिम एशिया के क्षेत्रों में ठिकाने हैं।

 The group has also engaged in information warfare and media outreach to gain support.

यह समूह सूचना युद्ध और मीडिया अभियानों के माध्यम से समर्थन हासिल करने की कोशिश करता है।

Pakistan's Response and Security Challenges | पाकिस्तान की प्रतिक्रिया और सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ

 Pakistan considers BLA a major security threat and has intensified counterterrorism efforts.

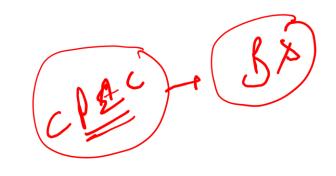
पाकिस्तान BLA को एक प्रमुख सुरक्षा खतरा मानता है और आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियानों को तेज कर रहा है।

• BLA attacks have strained Pakistan-China relations, as China has major investments in Balochistan.

BLA के हमलों ने पाकिस्तान-चीन संबंधों को तनावपूर्ण बना दिया है, क्योंकि चीन का बल्चिस्तान में भारी निवेश है।

- Pakistan has accused India of supporting the BLA, a claim India denies. पाकिस्तान ने भारत पर BLA का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया है, जिसे भारत ने खारिज किया है।
- There is increasing cooperation between the Pakistani military and the Taliban to counter BLA operations.

BLA के खिलाफ अभियान चलाने के लिए पाकिस्तानी सेना और तालिबान के बीच सहयोग बढ़ रहा है।



International and Regional Implications | अंतरराष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव

- BLA's actions have drawn attention from global security agencies. BLA की गतिविधियों ने वैश्विक सुरक्षा एजेंसियों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।
- Iranian Baloch nationalists in Sistan-Baluchestan province have shown solidarity with the BLA. इरान् के सिस्तान-बलूचिस्तान प्रांत के बलूच राष्ट्रवादियों ने BLA के प्रति समर्थन दिखाया है।
- The growing insurgency complicates Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan and Iran. बढ़ते विद्रोह से पाकिस्तान के अफगानिस्तान और ईरान के साथ संबंध जटिल हो गए हैं।
- The instability in Balochistan could impact China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in the region. बलचिस्तान में अस्थिरता से चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) परियोजनाओं पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

Historical Aspects | ऐतिहासिक पहलू

- Balochistan has a long history of demanding autonomy since it was annexed by Pakistan in 1948.
 - बलूचिस्तानं में 1948 में पाकिस्तान द्वारा विलय के बाद से स्वायत्तता की मांग का एक लंबा इतिहास है।
- The Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) was the first nationalist movement in 1964, later overshadowed by BLA.
 - 1964 में बलूच लिबरेशन फ्रंट (BLF) पहला राष्ट्रवादी आंदोलन था, जिसे बाद में BLA ने पीछे छोड़ दिया।

Social Aspects | सामाजिक पहलू

 Balochistan remains one of the most underdeveloped regions in Pakistan.

बलूचिस्तान पाकिस्तान के सबसे अविकसित क्षेत्रों में से एक है।

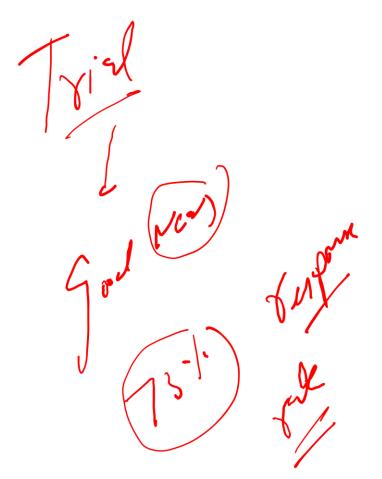
• Human rights groups have accused Pakistan of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of Baloch activists. मानवाधिकार संगठनों ने पाकिस्तान पर बलूच कार्यकर्ताओं के अपहरण और गैर-न्यायिक हत्याओं का आरोप लगाया है।

ol Minimum

undrødevelopet

Economic Aspects | आर्थिक पहलू

- Balochistan is rich in natural resources, including gas, minerals, and coal, but locals see little benefit. बल्चिस्तान प्राकृतिक संसाधनों, जैसे गैस, खनिज और कोयले से समृद्ध है, लेकिन स्थानीय लोगों को इनका लाभ नहीं मिलता।
- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Balochistan have faced attacks from BLA militants. चीन-पाकिस्तान इकोनॉमिक कॉरिडोर (CPEC) की बलूचिस्तान में परियोजनाएं BLA के हमलों का शिकार हुई हैं।



CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS

India's CAR T-cell therapy for cancer patients shows 73% response rate: Lancet

Also warns of high incidence of complication affecting immune cells

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

THE CLINICAL trial results of India's first CAR T-cell therapy, published in *The Lancet*, showed a 73 per cent "response rate" in patients suffering from specific types of blood cancer. However, the results also pointed to the "challenge for broader clinical adoption" due to the high incidence of a known complication of CAR T-cell therapies, where the immune cells get overactive, leading to hyper-inflammation and organ failure.

Response rate refers to the percentage of patients who responded to the treatment — cases

in which the progression of cancer was either halted or reduced

The results — from the Phase I and II trials, where researchers assessed safety and effectiveness against a given condition — are significant as this is the first clinical trial of CAR T-cell therapy from India to be published in an international journal.

CAR T-cell therapy, or chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy, trains the body's immune cells to identify and destroy cancer cells. This treatment is designed for specific types of blood cancer, and is given in cases where cancer has relapsed or there has been no response to first-line treatment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• 73% response rate to India's CAR T-cell therapy for cancer: Lancet report

Based on unpublished, yet-tobe peer-reviewed results, India's drug regulator had granted approval for this therapy in 2023. It is now available at several hospitals across the country, including Apollo, Fortis, Amrita and Max, among others.

Given that the treatment is novel and intended for cancer patients who have exhausted other options, the regulator allowed the company which developed the therapy to forgo a Phase III clinical trial to demonstrate its efficacy in a broader population. However, the company — a start-up incubated at IIT-Bombay — must follow up with all patients who receive the therapy for 15 years.

According to *The Lancet* report, while a total of 64 patients participated in the Phase 1 and II trials, another 79 were administered the therapy after the government's approval.

The findings

Along with a response rate of 73%, the study reported an average six months survival without any progression in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia patients and four months in lymphoma

patients.

While the response rate was found to be similar to other therapies approved across the world, a commentary published alongside the report highlighted a high incidence of haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis — a serious but known complication of CAR T-cell therapies, where the immune cells get overactive, leading to hyper inflammation and organ failure.

This complication was seen in 12% of the study participants, leading to the death of at least one patient. "...persistently high incidence of IEC-HS seen in this Phase 1/2 study as well as a real-world analysis poses a challenge for broader clinical adoption," it said.

The study reported another treatment-related death caused by bleeding in the lungs and multi-organ failure.

The most common side effects reported were anaemia in 61% participants, thrombocytopenia (low platelet count increasing the risk of bleeding) in 65% patients, neutropenia (low count of white blood cells) in 96% patients, and febrile neutropenia (neutropenia along with fever) in 47% of the pa-

tients. To be sure, these were cancer patients who had failed to respond to other treatments.

The therapy

Apatient's T-cells (types of immune cells) are collected and genetically modified into potent cancer fighters known as CAR T-cells so that they express chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) specific to cancer cells. The modified CAR T-cells are then multiplied in the laboratory before being infused back into the patient. Once in the body, these engineered cells recognise and attack cancer cells, with a focus on B-cell cancers, thus offering a targeted and potent immunotherapy.

The treatment developed in India is meant for patients with two types of blood cancers that affect the B-cells — acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and large B-cell lymphoma.

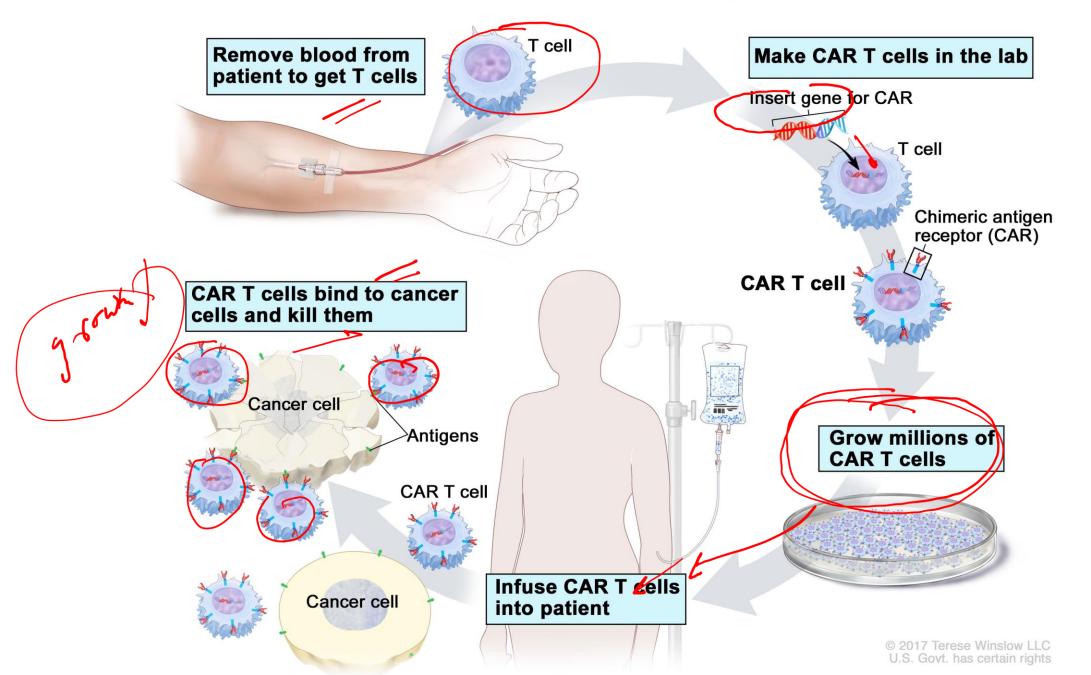
The significance

Access to cutting-edge cancer treatment like CART-cell therapy remains restricted to a handful of countries owing to technological challenges and associated costs. "The only countries or regions with access to at least one anti-CD19 CAR T-cell product are the USA, EU, UK, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Israel, Switzerland, Brazil, South Korea, Canada and China," the report said.

The therapy, developed by researchers from IIT-Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital and marketed by the start-up ImmunoAct, is the first to be approved for use in India. Besides bringing the technology to the country, it also costs less than similar therapies available globally. "Approved CAR Tcell products cost US\$ 373,000-475.000, and clinical care and possible relocation expenses bring the total treatment cost to over US\$1,000,000... (This therapy) was marketed at a relatively low cost of approximately US\$30,000," the report said.

"This is really a world class innovation done within the country. The treatment has been found to be comparable to others approved globally and the cost is 1/20th of those therapies. This will improve access and affordability of such high-end cancer treatments," Rahul Purwar, founder and CEO of ImmunoAct, told *The Indian Express*.

CAR T-cell Therapy



India's CAR T-Cell Therapy Show 73% Response Rate | भारत की CAR T-सेल थेरेपी में 73% प्रतिक्रिया दर दर्ज

India's first CAR T-cell therapy for cancer, developed by IIT-Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital, has shown a 73% response rate.

आईआईटी-बॉम्बे और टाटा मेमोरियल अस्पताल द्वारा विकसित भारत की पहली CAR T-सेल थेरेपी ने 73% प्रतिक्रिया दर दिखाई है।

- The treatment is now available in hospitals like Apollo, Fortis, Amrita, and Max. यह उपचार अब अपोलो, फोर्टिस, अमृता और मैक्स जैसे अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध है।
- It is primarily intended for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and large B-cell lymphoma who have exhausted other options. यह मुख्य रूप से तीव्र लिम्फोब्लास्टिक ल्यूकेमिया और बड़े बी-सेल लिम्फोमा से पीड़ित मरीजों के लिए हैं, जिनके लिए अन्य विकल्प उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

Findings from The Lancet Report | द लांसेट रिपोर्ट के निष्कर्ष

- The Phase 1 and 2 trials included 64 participants, and after government approval, 79 more patients received the therapy. पहले और दूसरे चरण के परीक्षणों में 64 प्रतिभागी शामिल थे, और सरकारी मंजूरी के बाद 79 और मरीजों को यह थेरेपी दी गई।
- Patients with leukemia showed an average survival of six months without disease progression. ल्यूकेमिया के मरीजों में छह महीने तक बिना बीमारी बढ़े जीवित रहने की औसत दर्ज की गई।
- Lymphoma patients showed four months of progression-free survival. लिम्फोमा के मरीजों में चार महीने तक बिना बीमारी बढ़े रहने की अविध दर्ज की गई।

Side Effects and Risks | दुष्प्रभाव और जोखिम

 Common side effects include anemia (61% cases), thrombocytopenia (65%), and neutropenia (96%). आम दुष्प्रभावों में एनीमिया (61% मामलों में), थ्रोम्बोसाइटोपेनिया (65%) और न्युट्रोपेनिया (96%) शामिल हैं।

 A serious but known complication, haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, was observed in 12% of participants. एक गंभीर लेकिन ज्ञात जटिलता, हीमॉफेगोसाइटिक लिम्फोहिस्टियोसाइटोसिस, 12% प्रतिभागियों में देखी गई।

 At least one treatment-related death occurred due to lung bleeding and multi-organ failure.

कम से कम एक मरीज की मौत फेफड़ों में रक्तस्राव और बहु-अंग विफलता के कारण हुई।

How the Therapy Works | यह थेरेपी कैसे काम करती है

- Patient's T-cells are collected and genetically modified to express cancer-fighting antigen receptors (CARs).

 मरीज के टी-सेल्स को इकट्ठा करके आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है ताकि वे कैंसर-रोधी एंटीजन रिसेप्टर्स (CARs) व्यक्त कर सकें।
- The modified CAR T-cells are multiplied in the lab and reinfused into the patient.

संशोधित CAR T-सेल्स को प्रयोगशाला में बढ़ाया जाता है और फिर मरीज में पुनः डाला जाता है।

• These engineered cells recognize and attack B-cell cancers, making the treatment highly targeted.

ये अनुकूलित कोशिकाएं बी-सेल कैंसर को पहचानकर उन पर हमला करती है, जिससे उपचार अधिक प्रभावी होता है।

Cost and Global Comparison | लागत और वैश्विक तुलना

- Globally, CAR T-cell therapies cost between \$373,000 to \$475,000, with additional costs exceeding \$1 million. वैश्विक स्तर पर, CAR T-सेल थेरेपी की लागत \$373,000 से \$475,000 तक होती है, और कुल खर्च \$1 मिलियन से अधिक हो सकता है।
- India's CAR T-cell therapy is available at approximately \$30,000, making it 1/20th the cost of international treatments. भारत में यह थेरेपी लगभग \$30,000 में उपलब्ध है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय उपचारों की तुलना में 1/20वां खर्च है।
- The affordability makes it accessible to a larger population in India. यह किफ्रायती दर इसे भारत में अधिक लोगों के लिए सुलभ बनाती है।

Significance of This Development | इस विकास का महत्व

- India joins an elite group of countries with approved CAR T-cell therapies, including the U.S., U.K., Japan, and China. भारत उन चुनिंदा देशों में शामिल हो गया है जहां CAR T-सेल थेरेपी को मंजूरी मिली है, जिसमें अमेरिका, यूके, जापान और चीन शामिल हैं।
- This innovation highlights India's growing capabilities in cutting-edge cancer research. यह नवाचार भारत की उन्नत कैंसर अनुसंधान क्षमताओं को दर्शाता है।
- The therapy is expected to improve cancer treatment accessibility in low and middle-income countries. यह थेरेपी निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में कैंसर उपचार की उपलब्धता में सुधार कर सकती है।

Historical Aspects | ऐतिहासिक पहलू

 CAR T-cell therapy was first approved in the U.S. in 2017 for blood cancers.

CAR T-सेल थेरेपी को पहली बार 2017 में अमेरिका में रक्त कैंसर के लिए मंजूरी दी गई थी।

 India's approval of its first CAR T-cell therapy marks a major milestone in cancer treatment.

भारत में पहली CAR T-सेल थेरेपी की मंजूरी कैंसर उपचार में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। India may face AI talent shortage of 1 mn by '27

Job openings in India's AI sector could surpass 2.3 million by 2027, even as its talent pool is expected to grow to around 1.2 million, says a Bain & Co report

- Al-related job postings have exploded since 2019, posting a 21 per cent annual increase
- Compensation for these roles has risen by 11 per cent each year since 2019
- The supply of qualified AI professionals has not kept pace with the demand, creating a widening talent gap that risks slowing down AI adoption across industries, according to the study.
- Absence of in-house Al expertise is a major obstacle to



implementing generative AI technologies, say executives surveyed globally

Al-trained staff shortage is projected to persist through at least 2027

How to address AI talent shortage

Addressing the Al talent

shortage requires a multipronged approach. Companies must move beyond traditional hiring practices. They must prioritise continuous upskilling initiatives to cultivate internal talent, according to the report.

Source: PTI/ Bain & Company study

(10 laks ahr)

-22)
AZ
Trained

fills

WPL FINAL

Mumbai's Kaur and Kerr deliver to clinch title; third heartbreak for DC

SYNOPSIS

Mumbai Indians won their 2nd WPL title, riding on clutch performances from their star players, led by a Harmanpreet Kaur special. For Delhi Capitals, three straight final defeats.

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN

MARCH 15

MEG LANNING'S Delhi Capitals faced yet another final heartbreak after having made it to three finals in three Women's Premier League editions. Once again – as in the last two editions – it was their batting that let them down, as they fell short in the final hurdle at the Brabourne Stadium. Mumbai Indians clinched their second title, winning by 8 runs while defending 149/7, riding on match-winning performances from their star players. Leading the charge was Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain playing a sensational knock under pressure that proved to be the difference in the end.

Harmanpreet steps up

Before the tournament began, in the captain's press meet, a question was posed whether we will finally see the first cen-

tury in WPL this season. Meg Lanning predicted it would happen and three Australian batters, including the former Aussie captain, came close in Lucknow. Harmanpreet Kaur then chimed in with a prediction on who it might be, she put her own name up. It wasn't quite a ton on the big night, but Harmanpreet's 44-ball 66 is worth more than any century.

When she came into bat, MI were 14/2 in the 5th over. At the other end of the powerplay, the scoreboard read 20/2. DC couldn't have possibly dreamt of a better start. In the Eliminator, she had to come in late after a huge partnership and blasted her way to a 12-ball 36. But here, she had to dig in. Unsurprisingly, she played a few pre-meditated sweeps for singles to steady the ship, moving to 11 off 15 balls at the end of the 9th over. Then came the acceleration, as she welcomed Annabel Sutherland with a six over square leg. That was followed by a gorgeous off-drive past mid-off for a four. In the 11th over, she hit Jess Jonassen for a hattrick of fours, manipulating the field expertly on the offside. Even when she was evidently starting to struggle with a leg issue, she cleared the field on the leg side off Ionassen for a huge six. Her last 55 runs came off just 29 balls.

At one point, when the stadium DJ was asking the crowd to chant her name, her teammates from the dugout joined in too, it was that sort of an innings.



Harmanpreet Kaur slammed 66 runs at a strike rate of 150 to take Mumbai to a first-innings total of 149, which they defended to win the WPL final. *Amit Chakravarty*

Mumbai-Kerr magic

Her scores with the bat this season read: 9, 19, 2, 17, 10, 5, 9, and 2 in the final. Amelia Kerr is a much better batter than those numbers suggest and it was yet another disappointing effort from someone

who sets high standards for herself. But that is the beauty of having an allrounder as elite as Kerr, because she can deliver on the other two skills.

With the ball, she picked up 2/25, with two big breakthroughs. DC had managed

to score 37/2 in the powerplay despite early setbacks, miles ahead of 20/2 from MI. But Kerr struck right after the 6-over mark to dismiss Jonassen, who had won a couple of matches for DC when promoted to bat at No 3.

Then came perhaps a bigger turning point. Jemimah Rodrigues was looking determined to finish a lean season on a high and hit Kerr for back-to-back fours at the start of the 11th over.

Then Kerr threw one up slowly outside off, to draw a false shot from Rodrigues, following that up with her trademark wrongun. Rodrigues could only get a leading edge, and there was Kerr, ready to show her fielding skills, sprinting forward in the followthrough and diving forward to take a brilliant return catch. Kerr finished the season with 18 wickets, joint top with Hayley Matthews.

NSB, the MVP

She became the first batter to score 1,000 runs in the history of WPL, and also crossed 500+ in a single season. But Nat Sciver-Brunt's most significant contributions came with the ball in hand, in the company of retired South African legend Shabnim Ismail.

Despite a decent comeback with the bat, Lanning's team would have taken 150 as a target to chase in a ground conducive to boundary hitting. With Shafali Verma and Meg Lanning at the top of the order who have scored more than 1000 runs to gether, MI desperately needed a good start Sciver-Brunt produced the first break through to get one through Lanning's defence and then Ismail bowled one of he expert off-cutters with the new ball, trapping Shafali plumb in front. Ismail finished with figures of 1/15 in her four overs.

Then, at the death, Sciver-Brunt came back to pick up the big wicket of Marizanne Kapp, who was playing her best innings o the season. Batting on 40 off 25 balls, the South African tried to hit one on the up down the ground but Hayley Matthew: completed the catch. Shikha Pandey was bowled the next ball.

And with 14 needed off 6 balls, she calmly delivered a final over with her cutters proving near impossible to put away for Delhi's lower order. With figures of 3/3(in 4 overs – on a night when she couldn' quite go big with the bat – Nat Sciver-Brun signed off an incredible season with a clutch performance. By some distance, the WPL's Most Valuable Player.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians 149 for 7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 66, Na Sciver-Brunt 30; Jess Jonassen 2/26, Shree Charani 2/43) defeated **Delhi Capitals** 141 for 9 in 20 overs (Marizanne Kapp 40 Jemimah Rodrigues 30; Nat Sciver-Brun 3/30) by eight runs.



Countries India

Administrator Board of Control for Cricket

in India

Headquarters Cricket Centre, Churchgate,

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Format Twenty20 cricket

First edition 2023

Latest edition 2025

Next edition 2026

Tournament Double round-robin

format Playoffs

Number of

teams

Current / Mumbai Indians (2nd title)

champion

Most

Mumbai Indians (2 titles)

successful

Most runs Nat Sciver-Brunt (1,027)

Most wickets Hayley Matthews (41)



MDMA worth ₹75 cr. seized in Bengaluru STATES » PAGE 5





We oppose gunpoint

imposition of policies

Ukraine's main backer, U.S., changes stance Move leaves a void in its defence against Russia NION » PAGE 9



Norris wins a chaotic Australian Grand Prix SPORT » PAGE 16



Bodo accord proved Cong. wrong: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Assam on Sunday that the Congress had mocke him after he signed the third Bodo Peace Accord, but it had sustained to prove the party wrong. He was speaking at A ference of the All Bods



Spy chiefs from across the globe converge in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Global challenges and intelligence-sharing systems, immigration and extradition, were among the issues discussed at a conference of global intelligence and security chiefs hosted by National Security Advisor Apt Doval on Sunday.» PAGE 4 Global challenges and

Uttarakhand Minister quits

NEW DELEG Weeks after his controversia Weeks after his controversial remarks against pointodis Uttarakhand Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Premchand Aggarwal submitted his resignation to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday. 39 PAGE 5

New Zealand and India resume FTA talks after decade

After a gap of about 10 years, India and New Zealand on Sunday announced resumptio of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) to boost economic ties. Disparity in tariffs may pose a major



Trump, Putin to discuss Ukraine truce this week

U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian counterpart Wadimir Putin are expected to Sunday, as Washington an Kyiv's European allies press Moscow to accept a ceasefin in the war now in its fourth year, to PAGE 14

U.S. strikes of Yemen kill 31; Houthis hit back

The rebels say their armed forces lay ched an attack on a U.S. carrier in the Red Sea; 'hell will ran, down upon' the militant group and Iran, its main backer, warns President Frump, Pentagon chief vows 'unpelenting' campaign until Houthi attacks on shipping stops; Tehran slams Washington, says it had 'no authority' to dictate Iran's foreign policy

Agence France-Presse

he first U.S. strikes against Yemen's Houthis since Do-nald Trump took office killed 31 people on Satur-day evening, the rebels sald, with the United States President warning "hell will rain down upon" the Iran-backed group if it did not stop attacking

on Sunday, hours after the deadly strikes.

"In response to this (U.S.) aggression, the armed forces conducted a military operation... target ing the US aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman and its eccompanying warships." the group said in a state-ment, adding it had launched 18 missiles and a frone. There was no imthe United States about the Iran's Minister of Fo-

reign Affairs Abbas Aragh-chi condemned the deaths, chi condemned the deaths, and said Washington had "no authority" to dictate Tehran's foreign policy. The Houthis, who have attacked Israel and Red Sea shipping throughout the Gaza war, said children

will rain down upon" the tran-backed group if it did with "mong those killed. with "mong the shipping shipping shipping shipping shipping shipping (U.S. carrier in the Red Sea on Sunday, hours after the "In response to this (U.S.) aggression, the armed forces conducted armed forces conducted armed forces conducted the shipping shipping shipping shipping shipping Ana, 4l-Asbahi said.



Deadly hit: Smoke rises from a location reportedly hit by U.S. strikes in Sanaa, Ye

the Houthis accountable, but we're going to hold fran, their backers, ac-countable as well." Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth echoed that mes-

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'Iran accountable'
The airstrikes "actually targeted multiple Houthi lead
U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Waltz told
ABC News. He added that
the U.S. "will held not only

about freedom of naviga-tion and restoring deter-rence," Mr. Hegseth said in a televised Fox Business

interview. Mr. Trump, in a post on social media, vowed to "use overwhelming lethal force" to end the Houthi at-tacks, which the rebels say are in solidarity with Pales

tinians amid the Gaza war. Mr. Trump also issued a stern warning to the group's main backer. "To Iran: Support for the Houthi terrorists must end IMMEDIATELY!" he said, adding it would be held "fully accountable" for any

Wanted LeT

Press Trust of India

terrorist Abu

Oatal killed in Pakistan

D Lashkar-e-Taiba

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, wanted by Indian s mirry agencies so mi deadly terror at-sis in Jammu and Kash-mir, was eliminated by gummen in an attack in Pa-kistan, officials said on Sunday. Zia-ur-Rehman, alas Naceem, alias Abe-lum area of Punjab on Sa-turday evening officials

turday evening, officials said, quoting information received from Pakistan

and that is how we decided to induct them in the

various Opposition parties, Mr. Stalin said: "If the criti-

FULL REPORT ON

Home Guards. Rejecting criticism from

sed threats. In its response, Iran

brutal air strikes" in a statement, denouncing them as a "gross violation of the principles of the UN Charter".

Revolutionary Guards, Hossein Salami, said: "Iran will not wage war, but if anyone threatens, it will

give appropriate, decisive and conclusive responses." He also denied his coun-try's involvement in the try's involvement in the Houthis' attacks, saying it "plays no role in setting the national or operational policies" of the militant groups it is allied with across the region, according to state-run TV.

The Houthis' political bureau said its "forces are fully prepared to confront excelation, with

with

escalation".

The rebels, who have controlled much of Yemen controlled much of Yemen country's sovereignty and for more than a decade, stability".

sistance" of pro-Iran groups staunchly opposed to Israel and the United

States. They have launched

They have launched scores of drone and missile attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said the Houthis had "attacked U.S. warships 174 times and commercial vessels 145 times since 2023"

The campaign put a ma-jor strain on the vital route, which normally carries about 12% of world shipping traffic, forcing many companies to take a costly detour around southern

Africa.
The Palestinian group branding them "a stark violation of international law and an assault on the

Every peace move met with hostility by Pakistan: Modi



Press Trust of India

Noting that all of India's atrooting that all of india's at-tempts to foster peace with Pakistan have been met with hostility and betrayal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed hope that wisdom will prevail on the leadership in Islama-bad to improve bilateral

relations.
In a three-hour conver-sation with American scientist and podcaster Lex Fridman, who re-leased the episode on Sunday, Mr. Modi emphasised Mr. Stalin said: "I'the criti-cism is constructive, we can consider it. If they are making criticism with only negativity, it only shows their angst against the government." Pointing out that the debts were increasing bet-ween 2011 and 2021, Mr. Stalin said it had come down since 2021, Borrow-

day, Mr. Modl emphasised his similarities to U.S. President Donald Trump, noting that Mr. Trump seems to have a clearer road map
for his second term.
With regard to China, he
cited the return to normalcy on the border as evitogne over discord and
called for the neighbours to cooperate in the interest to cooperate in the interest of global stability and

prosperity. Recalling his own swearing-in ceremony in 2014, Mr. Modi said he had spe-

Mr. Modi said he had spe-cially invited his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif with the hope that the two countries could turn over a new leaf.

"This sent a clear mes-sage to the world about In-dia's commitment to peace and harmony, but we

didn't get the desired outcome... Yet, every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and betrayal. We sincerely hope that wisdom prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace."

Dialogue over discord Dialogue over discord Despite past tensions with China, Mr. Modi said he fa-vours dialogue over dis-cord. "Differences are nat-ural. When two ural. When two neighbouring countries ex-ist, occasional disagree-ments are bound to happen... but our effort is to ensure that the differenc-es don't turn into dises dont den into dis-pute. He emphasised ant stronger cooperation between the neghbours is also key to global stability and a cosperity, drawing om historical examples. "Since the 21st century is Asia's century, we want In-dia and China to compete dia and China to compete in a healthy and natural way. Competition is not a bad thing, but it should

Mr. Modi said he shares a bond of mutual trust with Mr. Trump and they con-nect well because they be-

Taking wing



'еъ' made into news by those who dislike Tamil: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday connded that incorporating the Tamil letter '55' in the logo for the State Budget

logo for the State Budget 2025-26 was to assert the State government's lan-guage policy. He said it was made into 'big news' by "those who did not like the Tamil

language."
"That was nothing. I had
released the logo for the
Budget. We incorporated
"
"to show how assertive we are in our language pol-icy. That was it. But, those who did not like Tamil.

who did not like Tamil, they made it into big news!" Mr. Stalin said. In a video clip of the Un-galil Oruwan Q&A posted on his social media handle, he recalled having pleaded with the Centre over sever-al demands including real demands, including re-leasing of funds towards

tional Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, and disaster management, school education, among

others.
"The Union Finance Mi-"The Union Finance Minister, who did not respond to all those, has spoken about this. Even she has mentioned 'e' in nonly of her posts. Even see uses the simple 'Be in English to denote upleas,' he said "in all, our Budget as well as Tamil are a hit autionalas Tamil are a hit ational-ly," Mr. Stalin and. To a query on the prepa-

rations for the State Bud-get, Mr. Stalin said inputs from members of the Chief Minister's economic advisory committees, responsive to the society, and case studies from other States and countries were considerated to the state of the state Minister's economic advi-

Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin with Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu ahead of the State Budget on March 14, PTI Secretariat to finalise the response to the Budget. He

State Budget for 2025-26, he said.

When he came across the news that Telangana was proposing to allow members of the transgen-der community in regular-ing traffic, Mr. Stalin said: "I thought we should do

ing was inevitable for any government, he contended and further said his go-vernment was using it as an investment for future also recalled how he took feedback from social media while finalising the Budget. When he came across

generations.
As for what was he plans

Budget were implemented

U.S. strikes on Yemen kill 31; Houthis hit back

The rebels say their armed forces launched an attack on a U.S. carrier in the Red Sea; 'hell will rain down upon' the militant group and Iran, its main backer, warns President Trump; Pentagon chief vows 'unrelenting' campaign until Houthi attacks on shipping stops; Tehran slams Washington, says it had 'no authority' to dictate Iran's foreign policy

Agence France-Presse Associated Press SANAA

he first U.S. strikes against Yemen's Houthis since Donald Trump took office killed 31 people on Saturday evening, the rebels said, with the United States President warning "hell will rain down upon" the Iran-backed group if it did not stop attacking shipping.

The Houthis said they launched an attack on a U.S. carrier in the Red Sea on Sunday, hours after the deadly strikes.

"In response to this (U.S.) aggression, the armed forces conducted a military operation... targeting the US aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman and its accompanying warships," the group said in a statement, adding it had launched 18 missiles and a drone. There was no im-

mediate comment from the United States about the claim

Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi condemned the deaths, and said Washington had "no authority" to dictate Tehran's foreign policy.

The Houthis, who have attacked Israel and Red Sea shipping throughout the Gaza war, said children were among those killed.

Attacks on Sanaa, as well as on areas in Saada, Al-Bayda and Radaa, killed at least 31 people and wounded 101, "most of whom were children and women", Houthi Health Ministry spokesperson Anis Al-Asbahi said.

'Iran accountable'

The airstrikes "actually targeted multiple Houthi leaders and took them out," U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Waltz told ABC News. He added that the U.S. "will hold not only



Deadly hit: Smoke rises from a location reportedly hit by U.S. strikes in Sanaa, Yemen, on Saturday. AP

the Houthis accountable, but we're going to hold Iran, their backers, accountable as well."

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth echoed that message on Sunday, vowing an "unrelenting" missile campaign until the Houthi attacks stop. "I want to be very clear, this campaign is about freedom of navigation and restoring deterrence," Mr. Hegseth said in a televised Fox Business interview.

Mr. Trump, in a post on social media, vowed to "use overwhelming lethal force" to end the Houthi attacks, which the rebels say are in solidarity with Pales-

tinians amid the Gaza war.

Mr. Trump also issued a stern warning to the group's main backer. "To Iran: Support for the Houthi terrorists must end IMMEDIATELY!" he said, adding it would be held "fully accountable" for any continued threats.

In its response, Iran

"strongly condemned the brutal air strikes" in a statement, denouncing them as a "gross violation of the principles of the UN Charter".

'Appropriate responses'

The head of the country's Revolutionary Guards, Hossein Salami, said: "Iran will not wage war, but if anyone threatens, it will give appropriate, decisive and conclusive responses."

He also denied his country's involvement in the Houthis' attacks, saying it "plays no role in setting the national or operational policies" of the militant groups it is allied with across the region, according to state-run TV.

The Houthis' political bureau said its "forces are fully prepared to confront escalation with escalation".

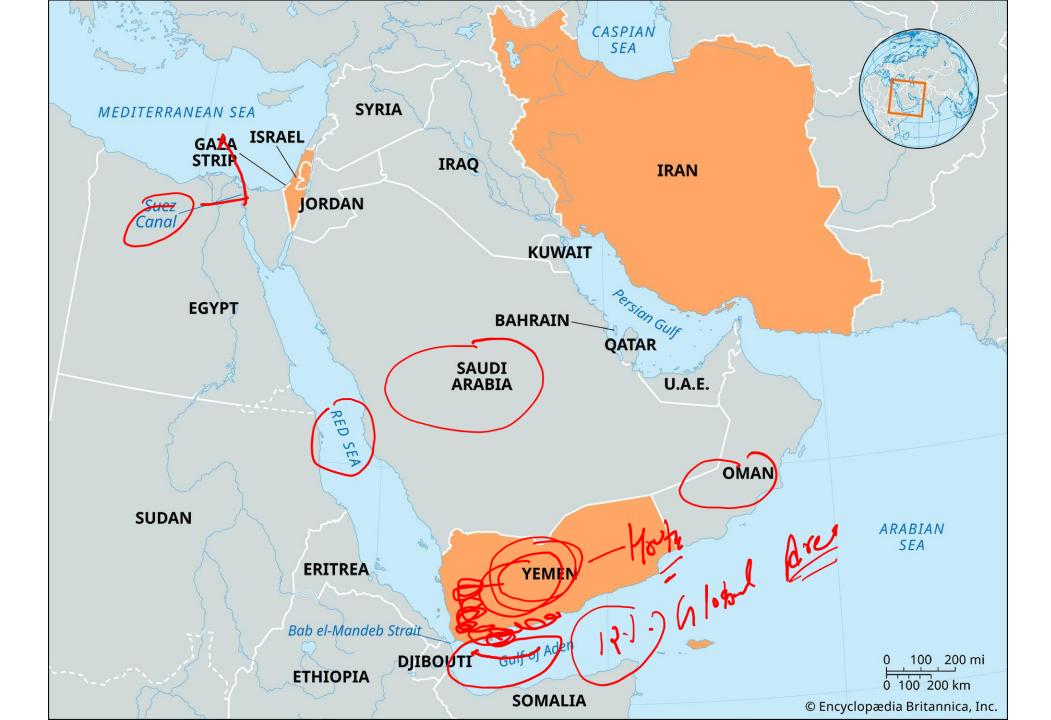
The rebels, who have controlled much of Yemen for more than a decade, are part of the "axis of resistance" of pro-Iran groups staunchly opposed to Israel and the United States.

They have launched scores of drone and missile attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

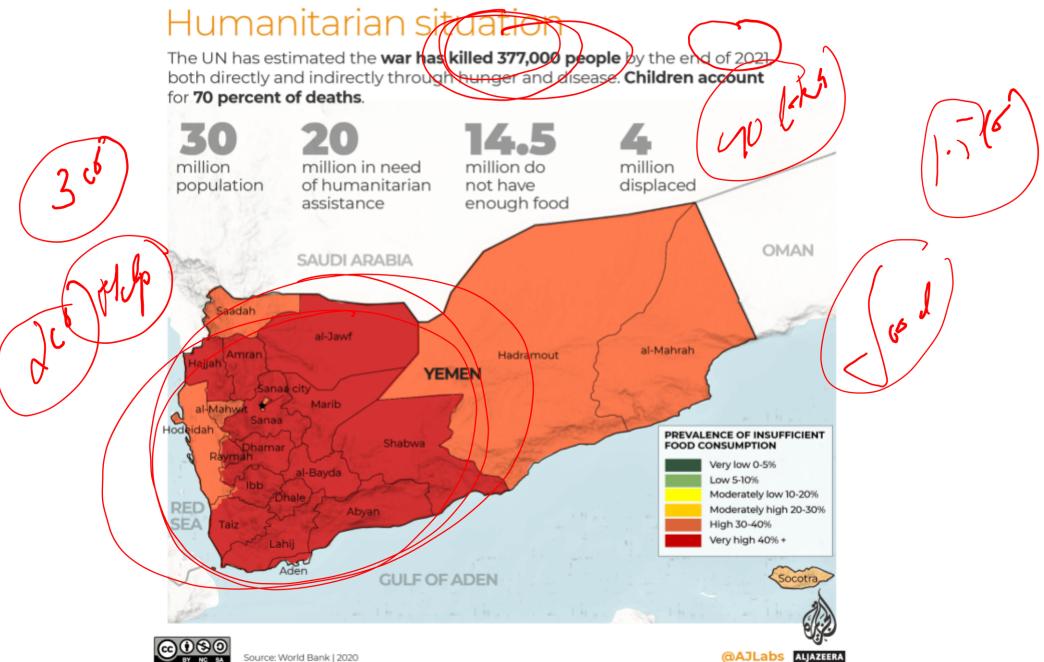
Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said the Houthis had "attacked U.S. warships 174 times and commercial vessels 145 times since 2023".

The campaign put a major strain on the vital route, which normally carries about 12% of world shipping traffic, forcing many companies to take a costly detour around southern Africa.

The Palestinian group Hamas, which has praised the Houthi support, lashed out at the U.S. strikes, branding them "a stark violation of international law and an assault on the country's sovereignty and stability".



YEMEN



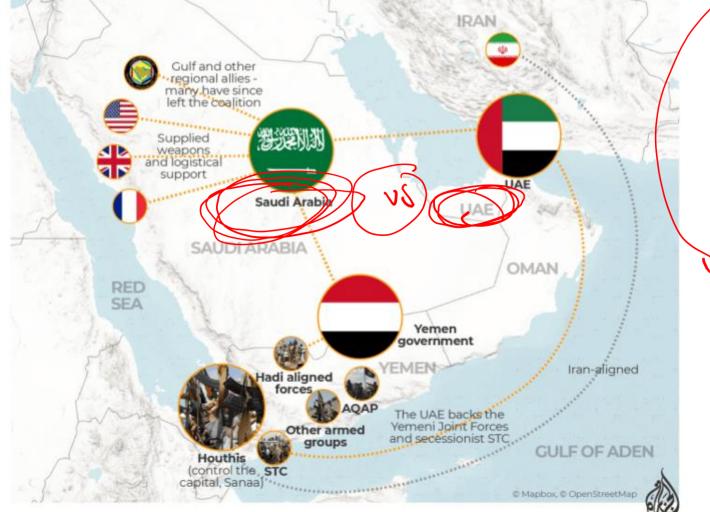
YEMEN

Key players in the conflict

In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition – backed by the US – intervened militarily in Yemen in a bid to fight the Houthis, restore Hadi's government, and reverse what they say is growing Iranian influence in the region.

youte Robel

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA



YEMEN

Saudi and Emirati military capabilities

The UAE and Saudi Arabia have both **purchased multibillion-dollar** missile defense systems **from the US** to intercept missiles fired by Houthi rebels.

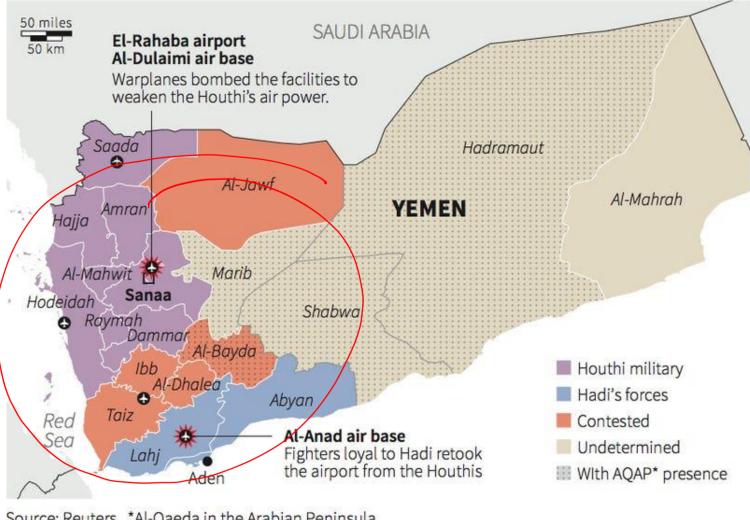
Saudi Arabia		UAE
225,000	Active personnel	65,000
6,202	Armoured vehicles	9,255
1,062	Tanks	354
897	Total aircraft strength	554
\$48.5bn (2020)	\$ Defence budget	\$19.8bn (2020)
Surface-to-air missiles (SAM) 817+ Patriot PAC-2/-3 108 launchers in service THAAD 44 launchers on order	Air and missile defence	Surface-to-air missiles (SAM) 42+ Patriot PAC-3 unknown number of launchers in service THAAD 12 launchers in service



Battle for Yemen

Warplanes from Saudi Arabia and Arab allies launched air strikes in Yemen on Thursday to stop the advance of the Iran-allied Houthi militia towards President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's southern refuge.

TERRITORIAL CONTROL



Source: Reuters. *Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- 1. U.S. Strikes on Yemen Kill 31; Houthis Retaliate | यमन पर अमेरिकी हमलों में 31 की मौत; हौथियों ने जवाबी हमला किया
- The U.S. launched its first airstrikes against Yemen's Houthis since Donald Trump took office.

अमेरिका ने डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के कार्यकाल के दौरान पहली बार यमन के हौथियों पर हवाई हमले किए।

• The strikes killed 31 people, including civilians and children, according to Houthi sources.

हौथी सूत्रों के अनुसार, इन हमलों में 31 लोग मारे गए, जिनमें नागरिक और बच्चे भी शामिल थे।

• U.S. President Trump warned that 'hell will rain down' if the Houthis continue attacking Red Sea shipping.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि हौथी रेड सी में जहाजों पर हमले जारी रखते हैं, तो उन पर 'भयावह हमला' होगा।

2. Houthi Retaliation | हौथियों की जवाबी कार्रवाई

• The Houthis claimed they attacked a U.S. aircraft carrier, USS Harry Truman, in the Red Sea on Sunday.

हीथियों ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने रविवार को रेड सी में अमेरिकी एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर 'यूएसएस हैरी डूमैन' पर हमला किया।

- They launched 18 missiles and a drone in response to the airstrikes. जवाबी कार्रवाई में होथियों ने 18 मिसाइलें और एक ड्रोन दागे।
- Iran condemned the U.S. strikes, calling them a violation of international law. ईरान ने अमेरिकी हमलों की निंदा की और इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून का उल्लंघन बताया।

5. Strategic and Economic Impact | रणनीतिक और आर्थिक प्रभाव

• Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have disrupted global shipping routes.

रेट भी भीर भटन की साही में होशी हमतों ने वैश्विक शिपिंस मार्गी को

रेड सी और अदन की खाड़ी में होथी हमलों ने वैश्विक शिपिंग मार्गों को बाधित कर दिया है।

 Around 12% of global shipping traffic uses this route, forcing companies to take a costly detour around Africa. The conflict increases tensions between the U.S., Iran, and its allies, impacting oil prices and regional stability. यह संघर्ष अमेरिका, ईरान और उनके सहयोगियों के बीच तनाव बढ़ा रहा है, जिससे तेल की कीमतों और क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता पर असर पड़ सकता है।

Historical Aspects | ऐतिहासिक पहलू

- The U.S. and Houthis have been in conflict since 2015 when the Saudiled coalition intervened in Yemen. अमेरिका और हौथी 2015 से संघर्ष में हैं, जब सऊदी गठबंधन ने यमन में हस्तक्षेप किया था।
- Houthis claim their attacks are in solidarity with Palestine against Israel.

हौथी दावा करते हैं कि उनके हमले फिलिस्तीन के समर्थन में इज़राइल के खिलाफ हैं।

Taking wing

Nascent hope: An Indian long-billed vulture with its chick at India's only vulture sanctuary, Ramadevarabetta in Karnataka on Sunday. The season marks the fourth consecutive year of successful breeding at the sanctuary, a sign of hope for the endangered species. K. MURALI KUMAR

Romados

Voltora

IN BRIBE



'Grenade-like object' hurled at YouTuber's house in Punjab

A Pakistani gangster has claimed responsibility after a "grenade-like object" was huried at the residence of Jalandhar-based YouTuber Rozer Sandhu on Sunday. Two videos have emerged since the incident, one in which a Pakistani gangster, Shahzad Bhatti, purportedly claims that he carried out the attack against the YouTuber for allegedly using derogatory language against did not explode, and the house was not

Seven policemen injured in spate of mob attacks in Bihar

Seven policemen were injured in three incidents of mob attacks in Bihar, officers said on Sunday. These attacks happened in Bhagalpur, Madhubani, and Nawada districts on Saturday, and were similar in nature – police visiting an area on receiving information about a fight and getting assaulted by a mob, they said. Two more such incidents happened in the State in the last five days. While an Assistant Sub-Inspector died on Saturday after he was assaulted in Munger district, another policeman of the same rank died in Araria district on Wednesday.

Bodo Peace Accord proved Cong. wrong: Shah in Assam

Pact brought peace, development in region, says Union Home Minister at annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union; adds that PM Modi freed Northeast from bandhs and blockades



the Congress while ad-dressing the 57th annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) at Dotma near Kokrajhar, headquarters of the 8,970sq.-km. Bodoland Territo-rial Region (BTR), where tribal council elections are

tribal council elections are due in December.

The BTR is ruled by the United People's Party Lib-eral (UPPL) in alliance with the BJP. The Congress is likely to be the only main-stream party to challenge them in the elections.

"The Congress, made

"The Congress made fun of me when the BTR tun of me when the BIR
peace agreement was
signed. They said there will
be no peace in Bodoland
and this agreement will
turn out to be a joke. Today, the accord has



brought peace and development in a region where discussions once revolved around conflict and

Lauds ABSU's role The Minister lauded the ABSU for its big role in the prevailing peace and deve-lopment in the BTR, which comprises five districts.
"There would have been
no peace in Bodoland
without the union's involvement," he said, adding that the government had provided ₹1,500 crore for the development of the BTR administered by the Territorial Council (BTC).

Focus on rehabilitation Focus on rehabilitation Mr. Shah said the Centre had spent the bulk of ₹287 crore in the past three years on the rehabilitation of 4,881 extremists who signed the 2020 peace ac-cord along with the ABSU.

Altogether nine peace accords had been signed in worth ₹88 crore, and the arrest of four members of Assam, and more than 10,000 youth were brought to the mainstream an international drug car-tel in Imphal and Guwahati recently, Mr. Shah said the Modi government's crack-down on drugs would conbrought to the mainstream under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister said. "Modiji freed the entire tinue. "No mercy for drug cartels." he said on X.

11 arrested in M.P. for killing ASI; ex gratia of ₹1 cr. for kin: CM

Mehul Malpani BHOPAL

At least II people have been arrested in connec-tion with the murder of a Madhya Pradesh Police As-sistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and another person in Mauganj district a day ear-lier, said a senior officer on Sunday even as Chief Mi-nister Mohan Yadav an nounced an ex gratua of the Sarma for employing 400 of such Bodo youth in a commando battalion, he crore for the family of the slain policeman, Ramcha-

ran Gautam. The Chief Minister said Gautam will be accorded the status of a "martyr" as he was killed in the line of duty. One of the family members of the deceased

members of the deceased will get a government job, Mr. Yadav added. A group of tribal people on Saturday allegedly ab-ducted and killed a man, Sunny Dwivedi, and then attacked a police team that tried to rescue him, result-ing in the death of the ASI.

ing in the death of the ASI.

Deputy Inspector General (Rewa) Saket Pandey
told *The Hindu* that five
search parties were constituted for a combing opera-



One of the persons injured in the attack in Mauganj being incident took place. It is lo-

the Mauganj district head-

quarters.
"Some suspects are be-lieved to be fleeing the villieved to be fleeing the vil-lage, so we have expanded our search area. We have also deployed forces in and around the village to en-sure law and order," he said, adding that the situation is returning to

Attacking the ruling BJP over the "law and order collapse", Congress State hief litu Patwari said: "The police committed atroci-ties on tribals in Mauganj,

Mann will complete 5 years as CM; | Prohibit 'non-Hindus' drugs, graft main issues: Kejriwal

Press Trust of India

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday asserted that Bhagwant Mann

ed that Bhagwant Mann would complete his five-year term as Punjab CM, trashing Opposition par-ties' claims that he would be removed from the post. However, Mr. Kejriwal also said drugs and corrup-tion were the "biggest pro-blems" in the State where AAP under Mr. Mann has been in nower for the last been in power for the last three years. The AAP chief and Mr. Mann offered prayers at the Golden Tem-

Arvind Kejriwal with Bhagwant Mann at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Sunday. PTI

ple on the completion of three years of the party's government on Sunday. Mr. Kejriwal, the former Delhi Chief Minister, had arrived in Amritsar on Saturday after completing a 10-day Vipassana session

grove cover in Cuddalore,

249 tonnes/ha, 145 tonnes/ ha, and 77.5 tonnes/ha, res-

Speaking to reporters in Amritsar, Mr. Kejriwal said,

"Today, the biggest pro-blems in Punjab are drugs and corruption. Three crore people of Punjab have come together to wage war against drugs and corruption... this is a battle for nyay (justice)."

'Will fulfil promise' Meanwhile, Mr. Mann told reporters on Sunday that the ruling party had pledged to make Punjab

'Rangla Punjab (prosper-ous)' and his government was working towards ful-filling this promise.

from Char Dham Yatra route: Kedarnath MLA

Alleging that people of a certain community are indulging in anti-social activi-ties with the aim of defamties with the aim of defam-ing the Kedarnath temple in Uttarakhand, BJP legisla-tor from Kedarnath Asha Nautiyal demanded a ban on 'non-Hindus' at the temple and the Char Dham Yatra rouse. Georgiess slammed the BJP leaders for making "provocative" statements

year, said the concerns were raised during a meet-ing with residents to re-view the preparations for view the preparations for the yatra, which is starting in the first week of May-ed out that non-Hindus are deliberately doing certain activities that are hurting activities that are hurting activities that are hurting a check on it; she said. According to sources, complained about the sale of non-vegetarian food and liquor on the roste.

elected in the bypoll last

219 non-existent madrasas face FIRs for drawing U.P. govt. aid

bandhs, and blockades." Lauding Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

initiatives to strengthen peace and development in

nounced that the Centre

would name a major road in Delhi after Bodofa (Guardian of the Bodos)

Upendranath Brahma, who was born at Dotma. "Bodofa's bust will be un-reiled there in April in the presence of all your lead-ers and the Assam Chief Minister," he said.

Referring to the seizure of methamphetamine tablets

The Uttar Pradesh Police have registered FIRs against 219 madrasas in Azamgarh district that were drawing government aid but did not exist on the aid but did not exist on the ground. The FIRs were re-gistered after the Econom-ic Offences Wing (EOW) found irregularities during its probe and informed currborities.

authorities.

"A total of 219 cases have been registered across 22 police stations in the dis-trict," said Hemraj Meena, Superintendent of Police,

Cases registered in Azamgarh district after EOW found irregularities during its investigation

Azamgarh. The FOW Azamgarh. The EOW probe was conducted fol-lowing allegations that go-vernment money was be-ing siphoned off in the name of madrasas through forged documents.

The FIRs were filed in the left to prompts at pal.

the last two months at pol-

education system has been in the news for the last two years after the government announced a 'survey' to map unrecognised madra-sas. Multiple investigations sas. Multiple investigations by the Education Depart-ment and the police were conducted to check the funding of these institu-tions. The continuous probe drew flak from Muslim groups and Opposition parties, which asked the government to "take ac-tion against illegal madra-sas but not terrorise the Muslim community".

T.N.'s mangrove cover has doubled between 2021 and 2024: report

The mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu has almost doubled in the last few years, expanding from 4,500 ha in 2021 to 9,039

The increase can be attributed to both new man-prove plantations and the preservation of existing ones across several de-tricts, according to a rep fit Change and Disaster Man-agement, Anna Univer at The report, tilled fills Carbon Monitosing Mangroves of Tarmb Sadr says Truvarur distray files covering 2,142 ha. Jul. 14-covering 2,142 ha. Jul. 14tributed to both new man

the largest mangrove free covering 2,142 ha. Pilis cludes 1,470 ha of xisth mangroves and 72 ha onewly planted of es. Than newly planted of es. Thari-javur closely follows with a total of 2,063 ha, consist-ing of 854 ha of plantations and 1,209 ha of natural mangroves. Together, these two districts account for almost half of Tamil Na-du's total mangrove and plantation area.

plantation area.

Other key districts con-tributing to the State's mangrove cover include Cuddalore and Nagapatti-nam, with 1,117 ha and 1,021 Cuddalore and Nagapatti-nam, with 1,117 ha and 1,021 Mangrove forests are
Mangrove forests are
State of Forest Report by
ha, respectively. The man-crucial for Tamil Nadu's ec-

Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur also have substantial car-bon storage capacities, with total carbon stocks of

ere and store it in carbon pools such as soil, organic matter, or biomass.

Mangrove areas with lower density, such as those in Villupuram (2.59 tonnes/ha) and Tiruvallur (13.1 tonnes/ha), capture smaller quantities of car-bon

ecosystem services such as coastal protection, nu-trient cycling, and serving as breeding grounds for marine life. These ecosystems also

play a critical role in com-bating climate change by acting as carbon sinks.

Invasive species
However, the report highlighted the presence of the
highly invasive Prosopis juliflora in mangrove forests
across Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Kattur
in Tiruvarur, and Kattur
in Tiruvarur. According to the 2021

ological stability, providing the mangrove forest cover the mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu stood at 4,500 ha. By 2024, this has more than doubled to 9,039 ha, with new plantations making up 40.1% (3,625 ha) of the total area and existing mangrove for-ests comprising 59.9% (5,414 ha).

(5,414 ha).

To ensure the sustaina-bility of these efforts, the report recommends the promotion of sustainable livelihoods like eco-tou-rism and carbon credit

programmes.

Additionally, there is a focus on district-specific planning with conserva-tion strategies tailored to preserve and expand mangrove ecosystems.

Fire at thermal power plant in Thoothukudi shuts down three units

A major fire broke out at the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station (TTPS), leading to the temporary shutdown of units I. II. and III. each having a capacity of 210 MW.

The fire broke out in the cable gallery of the power supply system late on Sa-turday and spread to Unit

II.

The officials immediately alerted the Fire and Rescue Service team, which began the firefighting operation.

Rescue work Speaking to *The Hindu*, J. Radhakrishnan, Chairman

and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Generation the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco), confrimed the temporary shutdown of the three units in
operations were progressing steadily despite the
challenges caused by heavy smoke from the burning
cables, he added, the
site of Sanded of the
operations of the
operation of
operation



said around 50 fire safety

personnel were involved in the operation to control the fire, with 10 water tenders from Thoothukudi and neighbouring districts and neighbouring districts being deployed. Units I and II were affected by the fire and unit III was stopped as a precautionary measure, he noted.

The Collector mentioned that two firefighters who Collector K. Elambahavath due to inhalation of smoke

were admitted to Thoothu kudi Government Medical College and Hospital and their conditions were re-ported to be stable. Addi-tionally, two ambulances

tionally, two ambulances were stationed at the site as a precautionary mea-sure.

To completely extin-guish the fire, some areas of the power station had to be broken open. Engineers ure service personnel worked for over 12 hours to douse the fire.

SKM to march to Puniab Assembly on March 26

Press Trust of India

it would take out a march to the Puniab Assembly or March 26, days after the police thwarted its attempt to go to Chandigarh for a week-long 'dharna'. A decision in this regard

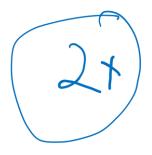
A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting held here in which several SKM leaders, including Darshan Pal, Jangveer Singh Golewall, were Singh Golewall, were present. Sharing details of the meeting, the SKM leaders said the farmers will gather at Sector 34 ground in move towards the Punjab

move towards the Punjab Assembly from there.

The Punjab government will present the State Bud-get for 2025-26 in the As-sembly on March 26. The

accusing them of spread-ing "false propaganda".

T.N.'s mangrove cover has doubled between 2021 and 2024: report



<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

CHENNAI

The mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu has almost doubled in the last few years, expanding from 4,500 ha in 2021 to 9,039 ha in 2024.

The increase can be attributed to both new mangrove plantations and the preservation of existing ones across several districts, according to a report by the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University.

The report, titled 'Blue Carbon Monitoring for Mangroves of Tamil Nadu'. says Tiruvarur district has the largest mangrove area, covering 2,142 ha. This includes 1,470 ha of existing mangroves and 672 ha of newly planted ones. Thanjavur closely follows with a total of 2,063 ha, consisting of 854 ha of plantations and 1,209 ha of natural mangroves. Together, these two districts account for almost half of Tamil Nadu's total mangrove and plantation area.

Other key districts contributing to the State's mangrove cover include Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, with 1,117 ha and 1,021 ha, respectively. The man-



Ecologically crucial: Some of the key districts contributing to the State's mangrove cover, include Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, with 1.117 ha and 1.021 ha, respectively. FILE PHOTO

grove cover in Cuddalore, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur also have substantial carbon storage capacities, with total carbon stocks of 249 tonnes/ha, 145 tonnes/ ha, and 77.5 tonnes/ha, respectively.

High carbon stocks are beneficial as they absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store it in carbon pools such as soil, organic matter, or biomass.

Mangrove areas with lower density, such as those in Villupuram (2.59 tonnes/ha) and Tiruvallur (13.1 tonnes/ha), capture smaller quantities of carbon.

Mangrove forests are crucial for Tamil Nadu's ec-

ological stability, providing ecosystem services such as coastal protection, nutrient cycling, and serving as breeding grounds for marine life.

These ecosystems also play a critical role in combating climate change by acting as carbon sinks.

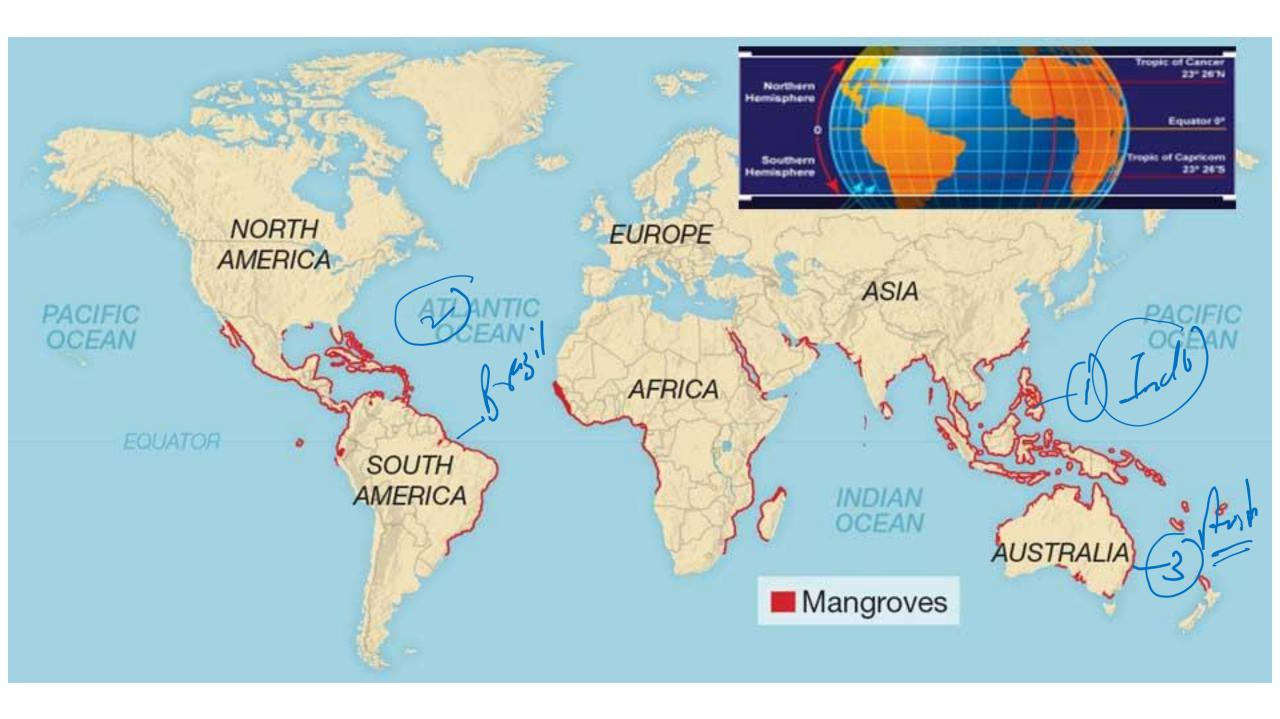
Invasive species

However, the report highlighted the presence of the highly invasive *Prosopis juliflora* in mangrove forests across Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Kattur in Tiruvallur.

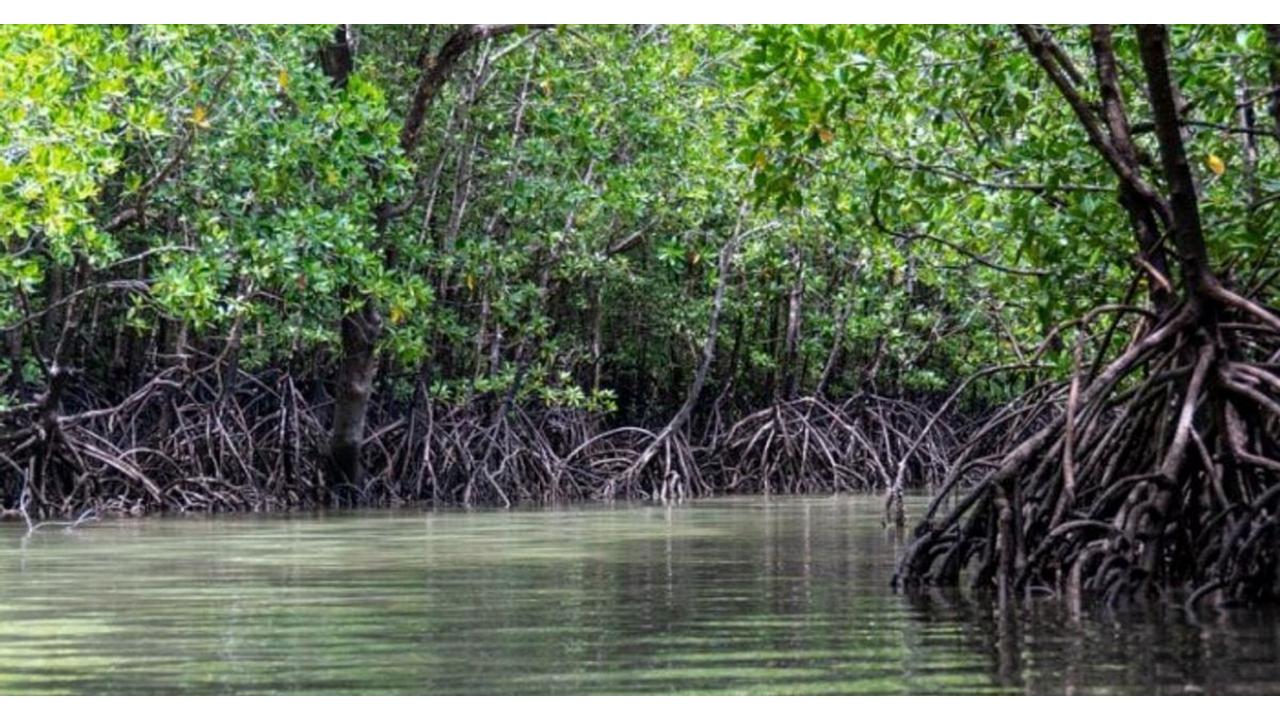
According to the 2021 State of Forest Report by the Forest Survey of India, the mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu stood at 4,500 ha. By 2024, this has more than doubled to 9,039 ha, with new plantations making up 40.1% (3,625 ha) of the total area and existing mangrove forests comprising 59.9% (5,414 ha).

To ensure the sustainability of these efforts, the report recommends the promotion of sustainable livelihoods like eco-tourism and carbon credit programmes.

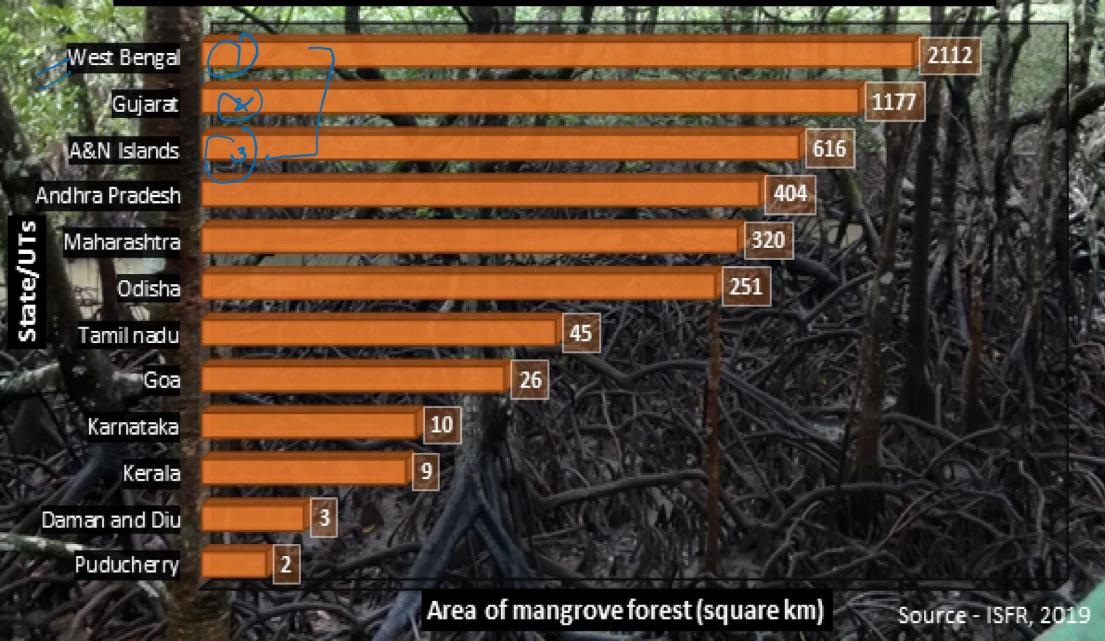
Additionally, there is a focus on district-specific planning with conservation strategies tailored to preserve and expand mangrove ecosystems.







INDIAN MANGROVES - STATEWISE AREA (2019)



Mangrove Cover in Tamil Nadu Doubles Between 2021 and 2024 | तमिलनाडु में मैंग्रोव वन क्षेत्र 2021 से 2024 के बीच दोगुना हुआ

• Tamil Nadu's mangrove forest cover has expanded from 4,500 hectares in 2021 to 9,039 hectares in 2024.

तमिलनाडु में मैंग्रोव वन क्षेत्र 2021 में 4,500 हेक्टेयर से बढ़कर 2024 में 9,039 हेक्टेयर हो गया है।

• This increase is due to both new mangrove plantations and conservation of existing forests. यह वृद्धि नए मैंग्रोव वृक्षारोपण और मौजूदा वनों के संरक्षण के कारण हुई है।

• The report was prepared by the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University. यह रिपोर्ट अन्ना विश्वविद्यालय के सेंटर फॉर क्लाइमेट चेंज एंड डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट द्वारा तैयार की गई है।

Key Districts with Major Mangrove Cover | प्रमुख जिलों में मैंग्रोव वन क्षेत्र

 Thiruvarur district has the largest mangrove area, covering 2,142 hectares.

तिरुवरूर जिला सबसे बड़ा मैंग्रोव क्षेत्र है, जो 2,142 हेक्टेयर में फैला है।

• Thanjavur follows closely with 2,063 hectares, containing both natural and newly planted mangroves. तंजावुर 2,063 हेक्टेयर के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर है, जिसमें प्राकृतिक और नए लगाए गए मैंग्रोव शामिल हैं।

• Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts contribute significantly, with 1,117 ha and 1,021 ha, respectively.

कुंड्डालोर और नागपट्टिनमं जिलों का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है, जिनमें क्रमशः 1,117 हेक्टेयर और 1,021 हेक्टेयर मैग्रोव क्षेत्र हैं।

- . Environmental Benefits of Mangroves | भैंग्रोव वनों के पर्यावरणीय लाभ
- Mangroves store high amounts of carbon, acting as carbon sinks to combat climate change.

 मैंग्रोव बड़ी मात्रा में कार्बन संग्रहित करते हैं और जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए कार्बन सिंक के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- They provide ecosystem services such as coastal protection, nutrient cycling, and marine breeding grounds. ये पारिस्थितिक तंत्र सेवाएं प्रदान करते हैं, जैसे कि तटीय सुरक्षा, पोषक तत्व चक्रण, और समुद्री जीवों के प्रजनन स्थल।
- Mangrove forests also help in maintaining ecological stability. मैंग्रोव वन पारिस्थितिक स्थिरता बनाए रखने में मदद करते हैं।

Future Sustainability and Recommendations | भविष्य में स्थिरता और सिफारिशें

- The report recommends promoting eco-tourism and carbon credit programs to ensure sustainability. रिपोर्ट में स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इको-ट्रिज्म और कार्बन क्रेडिट कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ावा देने की सिफारिश की गई है।
- District-specific conservation strategies should be implemented for further expansion. आगे विस्तार के लिए जिला-विशिष्ट संरक्षण रणनीतियों को लागू किया जाना चाहिए।
- 40.1% of the total increase in mangrove cover is due to new plantations, while 59.9% comes from preserved existing forests. मैग्रोव क्षेत्र में कुल वृद्धि का 40.1% नए वृक्षारोपण से है, जबकि 59.9% मौजूदा वनों के संरक्षण से हुआ है।

Chandrayaan-5 has received Centre's approval, will carry 250-kg rover, says ISRO chief

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI

The Centre recently accorded approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the moon, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan said on Sunday.

At an event to felicitate him for taking over as the Chairman of the Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO, Mr. Narayanan said that unlike the Chandrayaan-3 mission which carried the 25-kilogram rover 'Prayagyaan', the Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250-kg rover to study the moon's surface.

The Chandrayaan mission consists of studying the lunar surface. Chandrayaan-1, successfully launched in 2008, took



A model of Chandrayaan-4.

chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission (2019) was 98% successful, but just two per cent of the Mission could not be achieved in the final stages.

Still, the onboard highresolution camera on Chandrayaan-2 is sending hundreds of images, Narayanan, also the Secretary of Department of Space, said. Chandrayaan-3 Mission is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-3 success

ISRO successfully launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission with the Lander Vikram successfully 'soft-landing' on the South pole of the Moon on August 23,2023.

"Just three days back, we got the approval for Chandrayaan-5 Mission. We will be doing it in association with Japan," Narayanan said.

The Chandrayaan-4 Mission, expected to be launched in 2027, aims to bring samples collected from the moon.



Chandrayaan-5 Receives Centre's Approval | चंद्रयान-5 को केंद्र की मंजूरी मिली

• The Indian government has approved ISRO's Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the Moon.

भारतं सरकार ने इसरो के चंद्रयान-5 मिशन को चंद्रमा का अध्ययन करने के लिए मंजूरी दे दी है।

• ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed the approval at an event in Bengaluru.

इसरों अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने बेंगलुरु में एक कार्यक्रम में इस मंजूरी की पुष्टि की।

Key Features of Chandrayaan-5 | चंद्रयान-5 की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ

- Unlike Chandrayaan-3, which carried a 25-kg rover "Pragyan", Chandrayaan-5 will carry a much heavier 250-kg rover. चंद्रयान-3 के 25 किलों के 'प्रज्ञान' रोवर के विपरीत, चंद्रयान-5 में 250 किलों का भारी रोवर होगा।
- The mission will focus on chemical, mineralogical, and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon. यह मिशन चंद्रमा की रासायनिक, खनिज और फोटो-भूवैज्ञानिक मैपिंग पर केंद्रित होगा।
- The mission will be carried out in collaboration with Japan. यह मिशन जापान के सहयोग से किया जाएगा।

Success of Previous Chandrayaan Missions | पिछले चंद्रयान मिशनों की सफलता

 Chandrayaan-1 (2008) successfully mapped the Moon's surface and detected water molecules.

चंद्रयान-1 (2008) ने सफलतापूर्वक चंद्रमा की सतह का नक्शा तैयार किया और जल अणुओं की खोजे की।

• Chandrayaan-2 (2019) was 98% successful but faced minor setbacks in the final landing phase. चंद्रयान-2 (2019) 98% सफल रहा, लेकिन अंतिम चरण में कुछ कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा।

• Chandrayaan-3 (2023) achieved a historic soft landing on the Moon's South Pole on August 23.

चंद्रयान-3 (2023) ने 23 अगस्त को चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर ऐतिहासिक साफ्ट लैंडिंग की।

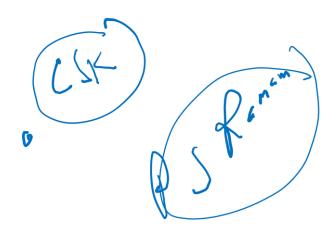
Future Chandrayaan Missions | भविष्य के चंद्रयान मिशन

- Chandrayaan-4, expected to launch in 2027, aims to bring lunar samples back to Earth. चंद्रयान-4, जिसे 2027 में लॉन्च किया जाएगा, चंद्रमा से नमूने पृथ्वी पर लाने का प्रयास करेगा।
- Chandrayaan-5 will further enhance lunar exploration with a heavier and more advanced rover.

 चंद्रयान-5 एक भारी और अधिक उन्नत रोवर के साथ चंद्र अन्वेषण को और बेहतर बनाएगा।

	Mission	Launch Year	Objective	Success/Failure	Key Features
1	Chandrayaan-1	2008	India's first lunar probe, aimed at mapping the Moon and detecting water	Successful in orbit; discovered water molecules on the Moon.	Carried Moon Impact Probe (MIP) and discovered water molecules.
2	Chandrayaan-2	2019	Orbiter, lander (Vikram), and rover (Pragyan) to explore the lunar south pole; lander	Orbiter successful, lander failed due to crash landing.	Included an orbiter, lander, and rover; first attempt to soft-land on the
3	Chandrayaan-3	2023	Lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan) successfully landed on the	Fully successful, with a smooth landing and rover exploration.	Focused only on lander and rover; successfully landed on the Moon's south
4	Chandrayaan-4	Planned Future Mission	Expected future mission, possibly a joint mission with international collaboration.	Planned mission, details not confirmed.	Potential future collaboration with NASA, ESA, or Russia.
5	Chandrayaan-5	Planned Future Mission	Likely to be an advanced lunar exploration or sample return mission in the	Planned mission, details not confirmed.	Expected to include new technology for deeper lunar exploration or

700 274D





Grand occasion: Author P.S. Raman (third from left), with C.D. Gopinath (third from right), K. Srikkanth (right), R. Ashwin, M.S. Dhoni and Anirudh Ravichander at the book release. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Leo — The Untold Story officially launched

BOOK ON CSK

Sports Bureau

CHENNAI

A new book on Chennai Super Kings, *Leo – The Untold Story*, authored by senior advocate and former TNCA vice-president P.S. Raman, was officially launched in the presence of former CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni at a star-studded event on Sunday.

Former India cricketer C.D. Gopinath, a member of India's first Test-winning team, unveiled the book. Composer and playback singer Anirudh Ravichander received the first copy. R. Ashwin, who recently retired from international cricket, was felicitated by former India skipper K.

Srikkanth.

Speaking on the occasion, Gopinath stressed the need to ensure the cricket remains a gentleman's game, played in the right spirit and credited Dhoni for his calm and composed nature on the field.

"My favourite IPL team is Chennai Super Kings. I pick CSK mainly because of MSD - not because of his cricketing brain but because of how he plays. He does not go strutting around the field jumping 10 feet high. He does not make obscene gestures. It makes me very uncomfortable when I see some of that," said Gopinath. "I think it's very unfair and very ungentlemanly. That's not the way it should be played. I know how successful he has been in leading his side and winning tournaments, but playing the game like cricket as it should be played matters to me more than the result. I hope the younger people emulate him."

Ashwin, who will be in CSK colours after a decade, recalled the club's impact on his journey and spoke about how the team still feels the same as it did when he last played for it and is cricket-oriented in its approach.

"I called M.S. (Dhoni) for my 100th Test (in Dharamshala) to hand over the memento. I wanted to make that my last Test. But he couldn't make it. However, I didn't think he would give me the gift of getting me back to CSK. It's a much better one. So thank you MS," he added.



SET TO RETURN

Sunita Williams and other astronauts greet each other after the SpaceX capsule docked with the International Space Station on Sunday. The mission paves the way for the return of Williams and her fellow US astronaut Butch Wilmore after nine months. PTI REPORT, PAGE 14

CHALLENGES THEY COULD FACE ON EARTH

BABY FEET: Losing the thick part of the skin on the soles — they become soft like those of babies

GRAVITY SICKNESS:

Readjusting to Earth's gravity — which can cause trouble with standing, stabilising gaze & walking

ORTHOSTATIC HYPOTENSION: Difficulty

in delivering blood from the heart to the head due to changes in gravity. Other bodily fluids accumulate in the upper parts of the body, making them look bloated.

BONE DENSITY LOSS:

For every month in space, astronauts' weight-bearing bones become roughly 1% less dense if they don't exercise. - PTI Spart

Jaran

Crew Swap and New Arrivals | क्रू की अदला-बदली और नए आगमन

- The Crew-10 mission includes astronauts from the US, Japan, and Russia.
 - क्रू-10 मिशन में अमेरिका, जापान और रूस के अंतरिक्ष यात्री शामिल हैं।
- The four new astronauts will spend a few days learning the ISS systems before Wilmore and Williams depart.

 नए चार अंतरिक्ष यात्री कुछ दिन ISS की प्रणाली को सीखेंगे, उसके बाद विलमोर और विलियम्स वहां से रवाना होंगे।
- NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov will accompany them during departure. नासा के अंतरिक्ष यात्री निक हेग और रूसी कॉस्मोनॉट अलेक्जेंडर गोरबुनोव उनके साथ वापसी करेंगे।

AMID US PRESSURE TO OPEN AGRI, DAIRY SECTORS

India, New Zealand to relaunch FTA talks after a gap of 10 years

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

INDIA AND New Zealand on Sunday announced the relaunch of free trade agreement (FTA) talks after a 10-year break, following a meeting between New Zealand's Trade Minister Todd McClay and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal here, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The announcement of the talks comes as India has stated its aim to conclude trade negotiations with the US and the European Union this year. Trade talks with Australia for a comprehensive deal are also in progress along with renegotiation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) trade deal.

Trade experts said a major challenge in negotiations with New Zealand has been the country's demand for greater access to India's dairy market, which India has traditionally protected to support millions of farmers. However, US pressure on India to open its agriculture and dairy sectors could influence the nego-

Disparity in tariff
structures

A MAJOR challenge in the renewed talks will be the disparity in tariff structures. New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3 per cent, with over half of its tariff lines already duty-free, meaning Indian goods already have substantial access to its market.

tiations this time around, think tank Global Trade and Research Institute (GTRI) said.

The trade talks were announced as the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, began his four-day visit to India on Sunday, during which he is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Luxon will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials, and business representatives. "This will be the first visit to

India by Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon in his current capacity," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"The India-New Zealand FTA negotiations aim to achieve balanced outcomes that enhance supply chain integration and improve market access. This milestone reflects a shared vision for a stronger economic partnership, fostering resilience and prosperity," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Another key issue during the previous round of talks was India's demand for easier movement of its skilled professionals and better access for its IT and services sector, GTRI said.

"India wanted New Zealand to grant work opportunities similar to those given to Australia and China, but New Zealand did not agree. The situation was further complicated by negotiations around the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which India eventually withdrew from in 2019 due to similar concerns about market access and protecting local industries," GTRI said.

A major challenge in the renewed talks will be the disparity in tariff structures. New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3 per cent, with over half of its tariff lines already duty-free, meaning Indian goods already have substantial access to its market. In contrast, India's average tariff stands at 17.8 per cent, meaning it would have to make significant reductions, making a traditional FTA less attractive for India.

India's key goods exports to New Zealand include clothing, fabrics, and home textiles, valued at \$72.8 million. Medicines and medical supplies followed closely at \$67.5 million, while refined petroleum exports totalled \$52.2 million. Other notable exports included automobiles and parts.

New Zealand's goods exports to India primarily consist of agricultural products, minerals, and scrap metals. Key items include apples worth \$22.6 million and kiwifruit valued at \$6.6 million. Meat products such as lamb, mutton, and beef contributed \$1.9 million, while dairy products totalled a modest \$0.57 million due to India's protective policies.

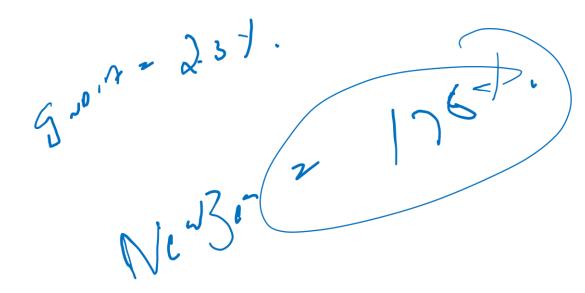
India and New Zealand Resume FTA Talks After 10 Years | भारत और न्यूजीलैंड 10 साल बाद मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) वार्ता फिर शुरू करेंगे

- India and New Zealand have relaunched Free Trade Agreement (FTA) निष्ण negotiations after a decade-long hiatus. भारत और न्यूजीलैंड ने एक दशक के अंतराल के बाद मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) की वार्ता फिर से शुरू की है।
- The decision was announced following a meeting between NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay and Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. यह निर्णय न्यूजीलैंड के व्यापार मंत्री टॉड मैक्ले और भारतीय वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल के बीच बैठक के बाद लिया गया।
- India aims to conclude trade talks with the US and the European Union as well, alongside FTA negotiations with Australia and ASEAN. भारत अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ के साथ व्यापार वार्ता समाप्त करने के साथ-साथ ऑस्ट्रेलिया और ASEAN के साथ एफटीए वार्ता भी आगे बढ़ा रहा है।

Major Challenges in Negotiations | वार्ता में प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ

- New Zealand demands greater access to India's dairy market, which India has traditionally protected. न्यूजीलैंड भारत के डेयरी बाजार में अधिक पहुंच की मांग कर रहा है, जिसे भारत ने पारंपरिक रूप से संरक्षित रखा है।
- The US has been pressuring India to open its agriculture and dairy markets, adding complexity to the negotiations. अमेरिका भारत पर अपने कृषि और डेयरी बाजार खोलने का दबाव बना रहा है, जिससे वार्ता और जॅटिल हो रही है।

- India's demand for better movement of skilled professionals and IT sector access remains a key issue. भारत के कुशल पेशेवरों और आईटी क्षेत्र को अधिक पहुंच देने की मांग वार्ता का एक प्रमुख मुद्दा बनी हुई है।
- Tariff disparity is another challenge—New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3%, while India's is 17.8%. टैरिफ में असमानता भी एक चुनौती है—न्यूजीलैंड का औसत आयात शुल्क केवल 2.3% है, जबिक भारत का 17.8% है।



Key Exports and Imports Between India and New Zealand | भारत और न्यूजीलेंड के बीच प्रमुख निर्यात और आयात

• India's top exports to New Zealand include clothing (\$72.8 million), medicines (\$67.5 million), and refined petroleum (\$52.2 million). भारत का प्रमुख निर्यात न्यूजीलैंड को कपड़ा (\$72.8 मिलियन), दवाएं (\$67.5 मिलियन), और परिष्कृत पेट्रोलियम (\$52.2 मिलियन) हैं।

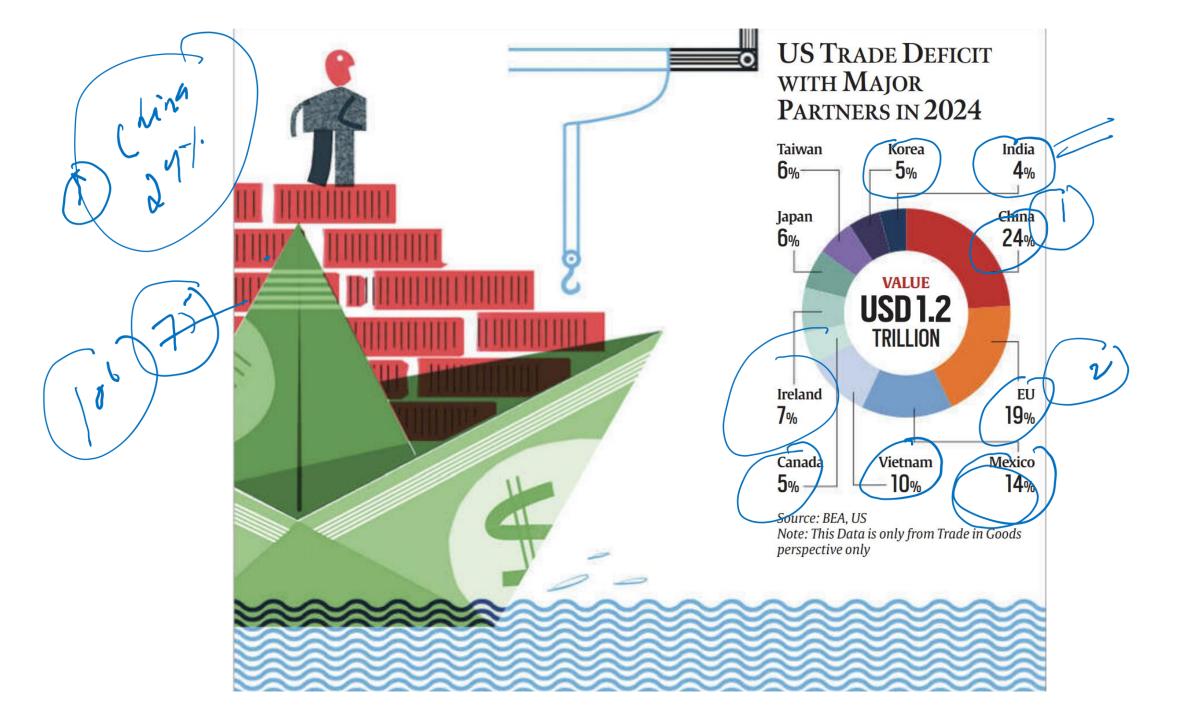
- New Zealand's exports to India mainly include agricultural products, minerals, and scrap metals. न्यूजीलैंड के भारत को निर्यात में मुख्य रूप से कृषि उत्पाद, खनिज और स्क्रैप धातु शामिल हैं।
- Key imports from New Zealand include apples (\$22.6 million), meat products like lamb and beef (\$19.1 million), and dairy (\$0.57 million). भारत के न्यूजीलैंड से प्रमुख आयातों में सेब (\$22.6 मिलियन), मांस उत्पाद जैसे भेड़ और गोमांस (\$19.1 मिलियन), और डेयरी (\$0.57 मिलियन) शामिल हैं।

Strategic and Economic Importance of the FTA | मुक्त व्यापार समझौते का रणनीतिक और आर्थिक महत्व

• The FTA aims to foster supply chain integration and improve market access for both nations.

यह एफटीए आपूर्ति श्रृंखला एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने और दोनों देशों के लिए बाजार पहुंचे में सुधार करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

- India wants a trade deal similar to those with Australia and China but has faced resistance from New Zealand. भारत ऑस्ट्रेलिया और चीन के साथ हुए समझौतों की तरह एक व्यापार समझौता चाहता है, लेकिन न्यूजीलैंड से विरोध का सामना कर रहा है।
- The FTA is crucial for strengthening India-New Zealand economic ties and resilience in global trade. यह एफटीए भारत-न्यूजीलैंड आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत करने और वैश्विक व्यापार में लचीलापन बढ़ाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।





Word of the day

Cogent:

powerfully persuasive

Synonyms: convincing, compelling, forceful

Usage: Her explanation was cogent, making it easy for everyone to understand.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cogentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəʊʤənt/



By Bhunesh Sir

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