

Daily Current Affairs





2
The Hindu



0
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



2
**The Indian
Express**



0
Jansatta



1
**Financial
Express**

Great results demand obedience to effort before they offer applause.

UMANG 360



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

+
+
+
+
+
+

- ✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE
- ✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE
- ✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES
- ✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION
- ✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS
- ✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF (DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



 Class24

HOME / COURSES / CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GK / UMANG 360 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE 2026

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

LIVE



Class24: Team



Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

★★★★ (4.8)

Overview

Videos

Test

QUIZZES



TESTS

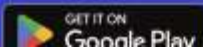


CLASSES

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

999 ₹149

BUY NOW

☐ Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry

Whatsapp

Relative To

Science Special 100 Test By :



Class24 Support

Hi, how can we help

Class24: Govt Exam Prep App

OTSAdda

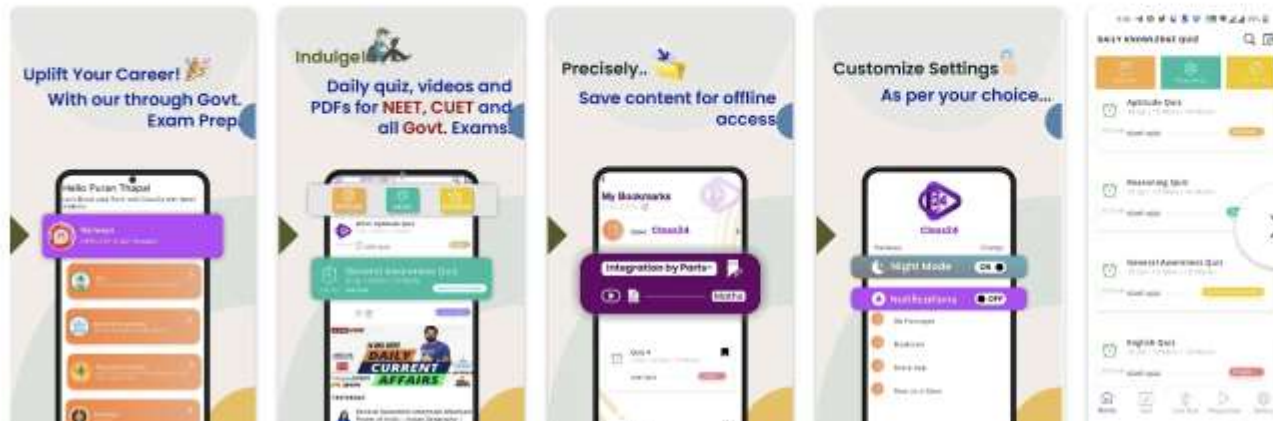
4.5★
22.1K reviews

1M+
Downloads

Install on more devices

Share

This app is not available for your device



Rated for 3+
[Learn more](#)

App support

More apps to try

Microsoft Outlook

SC weighs SOP for urgent cases affecting citizens' life and liberty

Constitutional remedies must be accessible at all time, says petition in top court; Bench headed by CJI Kant says an SOP could be put in place to reduce 'response time' in cases such as illegal detentions, demolition drives or other state actions

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider framing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to allow citizens to knock on the doors of the courts any time, day or night, in cases affecting life and liberty, including illegal detentions, imminent demolition of homes, deportations, custodial violence, or other state actions.

Beyond court schedules
A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing a petition filed by a top court advocate, Maheravish Rein, who said the courts cannot afford to close especially against the background of credible reports of late-night arrests, early-morning demolition drives, and deportation or executive actions undertaken during weekends or holidays.

"The absence of a structured and institutionalised

 The absence of a structured and institutionalised mechanism ensuring continuous judicial accessibility may result in irreversible consequences

MAHERAVISH REIN
Petitioner

 Preparation of an SOP should be undertaken by the Supreme Court on its administrative rather than judicial side

TUSHAR MEHTA
Solicitor-General

 Maybe the response from the court should come within an hour of an urgent mention

SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

mechanism ensuring continuous judicial accessibility may result in irreversible consequences before affected persons are able to approach constitutional courts... The protection of liberty cannot remain dependent upon the temporal boundaries of court schedules. In a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law, the Constitution cannot fall silent at night, nor can the protection of liberty await the morning bell of the courts," Ms. Rein sub-

mitted. Access to justice cannot exist merely in theory. Constitutional remedies must be practically accessible at all times, she said.

The Bench noted that an SOP could be put in place to reduce the "response time" to urgent requests in cases of life and liberty. "Maybe the response from the court should come within an hour of such an urgent mention," Chief Justice Kant noted.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the prepara-

tion of an SOP should be undertaken by the top court on its administrative rather than judicial side.

In response to the law officer, the Chief Justice noted that High Courts did not come within the administrative ambit of the top court in a federal set-up, indicating that the petition may have to be heard and orders passed on the judicial side.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a part of the Bench, said there was a difference in approach in accessing justice during office hours and after office hours. The judge said a "graded approach" to access to justice after court hours cannot be interpreted as a denial of justice.

Digital access

The judge pointed out that courts never "close-up" when there was digital access to justice through e-filing. "A letter, an email or a phone call would be enough to activate the justice system," Justice Bagchi said.

Ms. Rein agreed with Justice Bagchi that technological advancements, including digital filing, electronic court records and virtual hearing infrastructure had significantly enhanced the capacity of courts to provide remote access to justice.

"The present institutional framework of courts largely restricts access to judicial remedies to designated court hours, working days and limited vacation benches. As a result, individuals facing urgent violations of liberty and fundamental rights often encounter significant practical difficulty in obtaining immediate judicial protection during nights, weekends, public holidays and court recesses," Ms. Rein submitted.

"However, these technological capabilities have not yet been integrated into a uniform institutional framework enabling emergency judicial access for urgent constitutional matters outside regular court hours," she submitted.

Supreme Court considers SOP for urgent cases affecting citizens' Life and Liberty (July 2026)

This news is significant because the Supreme Court is examining whether **citizens should be able to approach constitutional courts 24x7 in emergencies**, even outside normal court working hours. It has **not yet issued a final judgment**; it has only agreed to examine the proposal and sought responses from High Courts.  Outlook India +2

At a Glance

Aspect	Details
Court	Supreme Court of India
Bench	CJI Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi & Justice V. Mohan
Issue	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for urgent constitutional matters
Petitioner	Advocate Maheravish Rein
Constitutional Basis	Article 21 (Right to Life & Personal Liberty), Articles 32 & 226
Status	Notice issued to all High Courts; matter under consideration
Importance	Could create a nationwide mechanism for emergency judicial access after court hours.  Outlook India +1

Why was this petition filed?

The petitioner argued that **violations of fundamental rights do not occur only during court hours.**

Examples include:

- Illegal police detention
- Custodial violence
- Midnight arrests
- Early morning demolition drives
- Deportation orders
- Forced eviction
- Urgent threats to life
- Other emergency executive actions

Many such actions happen:

- at night
- on weekends
- during holidays
- during court vacations

By the time courts reopen, **irreparable damage may already have occurred.**

Problem in the Present System

Currently,

- Courts have fixed working hours.
- Vacation benches are limited.
- No uniform emergency mechanism exists across India.
- Emergency hearings often depend upon individual judges or administrative arrangements.

Therefore,

Constitutional remedies exist legally,
but immediate practical access is sometimes difficult during emergencies.

What does the petitioner want?

A nationwide SOP ensuring:

1. 24x7 access to Constitutional Courts

Citizens should be able to approach courts anytime.

2. Emergency Constitutional Benches

Special judges available during

- nights
- weekends
- public holidays
- vacations

3. Dedicated Duty Judges

Like hospitals have emergency doctors,

Courts should have emergency judges.

4. Digital Emergency Access

Allow urgent matters through

- E-mail
- Phone
- E-filing
- Video conferencing

without waiting for office hours.

5. Quick Decision

Urgent petitions should be examined immediately.

What is an SOP?

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

It means:

A written set of uniform rules explaining

- who receives emergency requests
- how urgency is assessed
- who hears the case
- how fast the court responds
- digital filing procedures
- communication methods

What did Justice Joymalya Bagchi say?

Justice Bagchi observed:

There is a difference between

- access during normal court hours
- emergency access after court hours.

He noted:

- Courts never completely "close."
- E-filing exists.
- Even an email, phone call or letter can bring an urgent matter to the court's notice.

However,

these facilities are not yet part of a **uniform institutional emergency framework.**

What did Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argue?

The Solicitor General supported careful planning but said:

- determining true urgency is difficult;
- an SOP should preferably be framed administratively rather than through judicial directions.

He also cautioned against misuse, where litigants may seek midnight hearings for matters that are not genuine emergencies.  India Legal

Why can't the Supreme Court simply direct all High Courts?

India has an **integrated but federal judicial structure**.

High Courts are constitutional courts with administrative independence.

Therefore,

the Supreme Court cannot simply impose an administrative SOP on all High Courts.

That is why it issued notices to seek their views.  India Legal

Article	Provision	Relevance
Article 21	Right to Life & Personal Liberty	Core right requiring immediate protection
Article 32	Right to move Supreme Court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights	Constitutional remedy
Article 226	High Courts' writ jurisdiction	Wider powers for urgent relief
Article 14	Equality before law	Equal access to justice
Article 39A	Equal justice and free legal aid	Supports accessible justice



Writ

Purpose

Habeas Corpus

Release from illegal detention

Mandamus

Direct public authority to perform duty

Certiorari

Quash illegal order

Prohibition

Prevent lower court from exceeding jurisdiction

Quo Warranto

Challenge illegal occupation of public office



Benefit

Explanation

Faster justice

Immediate response in emergencies

Better Article 21 protection

Life and liberty receive prompt judicial oversight

Uniformity

Same emergency process across courts

Digital access

Email, e-filing and virtual hearings

Public confidence

Greater trust in the justice system

Reduced arbitrariness

Standard procedure for urgent matters



Challenge

Explanation

Misuse

Non-urgent matters may be labelled urgent

Manpower

Judges and staff required round the clock

Administrative burden

Maintaining emergency benches

Cost

Technology and staffing expenses

Defining urgency

Need clear criteria





Country

Emergency Court Access

United States

Emergency federal judges available for urgent matters

United Kingdom

Duty judges available in exceptional cases

Canada

Emergency judicial relief available in limited situations

Australia

After-hours judicial procedures exist in some jurisdictions

India

No uniform nationwide SOP yet; proposal under consideration



'Gold standard' India-U.K. trade deal is coming into effect today

Commerce Secretary describes pact as one of the most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements signed by the country; he adds that it will benefit farmers, fisherfolk; officials in UK, welcome deal and highlight its multi-sectoral impact

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) that will come into force on Wednesday are a "gold standard" and one of the "most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements" signed by India, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Tuesday.

He added that the deals benefit India's farmers, fisherfolk, workers and women entrepreneurs. The India-U.K. CETA and the DCC were signed in July last year.

"This is one of the first trade agreements (PTAs) of its kind, which establishes a future-oriented economic architecture between two major economies of the world," Mr. Agrawal said at a media briefing. "This is also one of the most ambitious and aspirational FTAs of India, which we are operationalising as it is due."

"It is a gold standard and the best of its kind be-

Terms of trade

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) are set to come into force on Wednesday.

- Under the CETA, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on 97.7% of its trade with India.
- India has promised sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, pulses, vegetables, gold and jewels, fisheries, smartphones, and critical polymers.
- India has promised sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, pulses, vegetables, gold and jewels, fisheries, smartphones, and critical polymers.
- The DCC will exempt Indian workers and their employers from paying social security contributions in the U.K. for 8 years if their contributions are being made in India.

India, on the other hand, will immediately eliminate tariffs on 99.2% of the trade value, with 47% more seeing tariffs reduced to zero.

Under the deal, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on 96.8% of its tariff lines, accounting for 97.7% of the trade value. An additional 2% of tariff lines, accounting for 0.8% of the trade value, will see reduced tariffs based on quotas. In total, the U.K. will eliminate 99.8% of its tariff lines and 99.9% of trade value.

London, the agreement provides a strong platform to unlock even greater cooperation in financial and professional services, insurance, health, sustainable finance and infrastructure investment.

"As India continues its remarkable economic growth story, London stands ready to support the mobilisation of global capital and expertise needed to help deliver those goals," he added.

Mr. Agrawal said that the DCC changes, which negotiations have taken place under this pact, extend beyond conventional tariff liberalisation to cover digital trade, government procurement, SMEs, innovation, labour, environment and investment.

He added that the deal addresses non-tariff barriers as well, so that the U.K. will not need to put additional contributions towards their social security. That if they are paying social security in India, then they will not have to pay in the U.K. as well for a period of five years.

According to Mr. Agrawal, this will benefit over 75,000 Indian workers and over 200 employers in the U.K. with inputs from various industries.

India bans import of goods made using forced labour amid pending U.S. probe

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Government of India has issued a notification banning the import of goods manufactured using forced labour, a significant step towards clearing the path towards the signing of an interim trade agreement with the U.S.

The U.S. is currently in the process of releasing its decision on the tariffs it plans to levy on countries that it says have not done enough to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.

"The import of goods produced or manufactured wholly or in part through the use of forced labour is prohibited," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in its notification.

The notification, which is a part of the Foreign Trade Regulation, will be in force from July 15, 2020.

The govt. said it may, from this, to India, specify the goods whose import shall be prohibited

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal confirmed on Monday that India has made its submissions to the U.S. on the matter and the U.S. has responded.

This pending decision has led to significant uncertainty surrounding the India-U.S. trade deal, with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Mr. Agrawal separately saying India would sign a deal only once it is established that it will receive a competitive advantage over its competitors.

One key factor in establishing the competitive advantage is to see what the U.S. plans to levy

under its various investigations. The second investigation is to see whether the U.S. trade partners are using various capacity to export to the U.S. to the detriment of the American economy.

According to the month-long investigation by the Commerce Ministry, "forced labour" means "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily," as defined under the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).

According to Mr. Agrawal, Partner and Tax Consultant, Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, the introduction of a prohibition on imports of goods produced through forced labour marks a significant policy shift in India's trade framework.

"While India has not relied largely on labour and criminal laws to address forced labour domestically, the Foreign Trade Policy now incorporates a dedicated trade measure aligned with international standards under the ILO Forced Labour Convention," Mr. Mishra said.

EC extends SIR schedule for A.P. and Haryana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday extended the schedule of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. The two States are part of the Phase 3 of the SIR rolled out on May 14, which is covering 10 States and Union Territories.

In separate letters to the Chief Electoral Officers of both States, the poll body extended the deadline for various activities under the SIR. In both Haryana and Andhra Pradesh, the house-to-house, visit by booth-level officers, known as the enumeration phase, will continue till July 24. The earlier deadline was July 14. The draft rolls were earlier scheduled to be published on July 26. Now, they will be published on July 31. The final list in these two States will now be published on October 3, a week later than originally scheduled.

With this phase, the exercise will cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

CPI(M) says Kerala govt. is showing 'soft Hindutva' tendencies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Tuesday accused the Congress government in Kerala of displaying "soft Hindutva" tendencies and said that it was increasingly working in the interests of corporate entities rather than people.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a three-day meeting of the Chief Electoral Officers of both States, the poll body extended the deadline for various activities under the SIR. In both Haryana and Andhra Pradesh, the house-to-house, visit by booth-level officers, known as the enumeration phase, will continue till July 24. The earlier deadline was July 14. The draft rolls were earlier scheduled to be published on July 26. Now, they will be published on July 31. The final list in these two States will now be published on October 3, a week later than originally scheduled.

As Wangchuk's condition deteriorates, leaders urge him to end hunger strike

Arjun Dasgupta
NEW DELHI

The 17th day of protests at Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Droupadi Murmu has seen large crowds than Monday, following an increase in the number of voices urging activist Sonam Wangchuk to end his hunger strike.

Mr. Wangchuk has lost 8.5 kg, the GoKrookh Jantar Mantar said on Tuesday. A growing chorus of Opposition voices urged Mr. Wangchuk, 39, to end his fast. Activist Naseruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah, economist Jayati Ghosh, senior journalist Ravi Roy, and multiple Professors from Jawahar Nehru University, either sent in written petition or showed up in person to appeal to Mr. Wangchuk.

In separate posts on social media platform X, the Union Education Minister said that he had not lost his fast. "Don't ask me to end my fast," he quoted the activist as saying. "I am not leaving a challenge to the govt. why they won't even have a dialogue."

Three student members of the All India Students' Union (AISU), affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-Leninist, showed their fast, with one being hospitalised on Monday. There

other students, however, are still fasting.

Call to political leaders The CPI invited the leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to the protest, along with 19 other leaders, including Union Health Minister C. Joseph Vijay. Most of them have not spoken on the issue.

"We again sincerely appeal to the leaders to keep aside their politics and lend to end their voice to provide India a constitutional amendment," said C. Joseph Vijay. Most of them have not spoken on the issue.

Deeply concerned over hostilities in West Asia: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday expressed concern over the conflict in West Asia, accusing the Narendra Modi government of failing to safeguard India's strategic interests, and allowing Pakistan to expand its regional footprint.

In a statement, the Congress National Executive Committee chairman Kamal Khandair said the party was deeply concerned over the resumption of hostilities and attacks on commercial shipping. The free movement of vessels and trade should not be "severely impacted" by the war in the region.

The Congress also expressed concern over attacks on Iran's Chabahat Port, which Mr. Khandair described as a strategic asset developed by successive Indian governments to provide access to India and Central Asia. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take urgent steps to protect India's geopolitical and geo-economic in-

terests, and brief Parliament on the government's response during the coming Parliament session.

Pakistan's footprint "The BJP government's inexplicable silence and lethargy in safeguarding Indian interests in West Asia is unacceptable. This inertia is severely curtailing India's strategic autonomy and leaving space to other actors, including Pakistan, to expand their regional footprint," Mr. Khandair said. Although the recently announced Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Iran had "all but collapsed," the growing tensions between Washington and Islamabad through dialogue Pakistan's rising influence in the region, Congress leaders said.

Calling the expedition a symbol of national unity, Mr. Singh said it brought together serving personnel, veterans and civilians from different parts of the country, reflecting India's diversity under the Tricolour. He expressed confidence that the yatra would inspire patriotism among the youth and ensure that the legacy of the Kargil warriors remain alive for future generations.

The expedition is scheduled to culminate on July 26, commemorating the 27th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War.

Rajnath flags off 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' motorcycle rally for Kargil heroes

Saurabh Tripathi
NEW DELHI



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagging off the 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra', a 6,150 km motorcycle expedition, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday flagged off the 13-day 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra', a commemorative motorcycle expedition from the National War Memorial in New Delhi to the Kargil War Memorial in Dras.

The 1999 Kargil conflict was not just a military victory, but a chapter of courage, fortitude, discipline, and unwavering patriotism. The expedition, with the theme of 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute', has been organised as part of the nationwide observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas. It will see 28 riders, including serving and retired armed forces personnel and their family members, where oxygen was scarce and temperatures plunged to minus 40 degrees Celsius. Despite the strenuous journey, the expedition is expected to reach Dras on July 26.

The occasion was not merely about flagging off a motorcycle expedition but about "rekindling the indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifice of the soldiers who had laid down their lives defending the nation's honour."

Recalling Operation Vijay, the Minister said in-

'Gold standard' India-U.K. trade deal is coming into effect today

Commerce Secretary describes pact as one of the 'most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements' signed by the country; he adds that it will benefit farmers, fisherfolk; officials in U.K. welcome deal and highlight its multi-sectoral impact

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) that will come into force on Wednesday are a "gold standard" and one of the "most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements" signed by India, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Tuesday.

He added that the deals benefit India's farmers, fisherfolk, workers and women entrepreneurs. The India-U.K. CETA and the DCC were signed in July last year.

"This is one of the first free trade agreements (FTAs) of its kind, which establishes a future-oriented economic architecture between two major economies of the world," Mr. Agrawal said at a press briefing. "This is also one of the most ambitious and aspirational FTAs of India, which we are operationalising as till date."

"It is a gold standard and the first of its kind be-

Terms of trade

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) are set to come into force on Wednesday

- Under the CETA, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on **96.8%** of its tariff lines, accounting for **97.7%** of the trade value

- India will immediately eliminate tariffs on **30.3%** of the trade value, with **47%** more seeing tariffs eliminated in a phased manner

- The DCC will exempt Indian workers and their employers from paying social security contributions in the U.K. for **5 years** if contributions are being made in India

- India has protected **sensitive sectors** such as dairy, cereals, pulses, vegetables, gold and jewellery, smartphones, and critical polymers



cause of its wide sectoral coverage and deep reduction in both tariff and non tariff barriers," he added.

Under the deal, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on 96.8% of its tariff lines, accounting for 97.7% of the trade value. An additional 2% of tariff lines, amounting to 1.8% of trade value, will see reduced tariffs based on quotas. In total, this covers 98.8% of tariff lines and 99.5% of trade value.

India, on the other hand, will immediately eliminate tariffs on 30.3% of the trade value, with 47% more seeing tariffs eliminated in a phased manner. It will also provide reduced quota-based tariffs on 12.1% of the trade value. In total, this would cover 89.5% of tariff lines and 89.4% of trade value.

Officials in the U.K. have also welcomed the deal, highlighting a multi-sectoral impact. "For the City of

London, the agreement provides a strong platform to unlock even greater collaboration in financial and professional services, insurance, fintech, sustainable finance and infrastructure investment," Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation, told *The Hindu*.

"As India continues its remarkable economic growth story, London stands ready to support the mobilisation of global capital and expertise needed to help deliver those goals," he added.

Mr. Agrawal said that the 30 chapters across which negotiations have taken place under this pact extend beyond conventional tariff liberalisation to cover digital trade, government procurement, SMEs, innovation, labour, environment, and gender.

He added that the deal addresses non-tariff barriers as well, so that issues like Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) "do not become unjustified trade restrictions for our businesses in the future".

He further explained that the deal protects India's sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, pulses, vegetables, gold and jewellery, smartphones, and critical polymers.

'Game changer'

On the DCC, he said that the agreement was a "game changer" for India's services sector and skilled workforce. "Indian employees and their employers contribute around 25% of their salary to the U.K.'s national insurance system," he said. "Their contribution is like a tax of 25% as employees are unable to draw benefits. These are like sunk costs."

He said that the DCC will ensure that workers will not need to pay double contributions towards their social security. That is, if they are paying social security in India, then they will not have to pay it in the U.K. as well for a period of five years.

According to Mr. Agrawal, this will benefit over 75,000 Indian workers and over 900 employers. (With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in London)

Particular	Details
Agreement	India–U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
Additional Agreement	Double Contribution Convention (DCC)
Effective Date	16 July 2026
Type	Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
Negotiated Between	India & United Kingdom
Signed	July 2025
Objective	Trade liberalisation, investment, services, labour mobility, digital trade

Background

After Brexit, the U.K. sought independent trade agreements outside the European Union.

For India,

- U.K. is among India's largest trading partners.
- Important destination for Indian IT professionals.
- Major investor in India.
- Gateway to European financial markets.

Hence both countries negotiated a modern FTA.

What is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)?

A Free Trade Agreement is an agreement where countries reduce or eliminate:

- Customs duties
- Tariffs
- Non-tariff barriers
- Import restrictions

to increase bilateral trade and investment.

Components of this Agreement

Agreement	Purpose
CETA	Goods, Services, Investment, Digital Trade
DCC	Prevent double social security contributions

Major Features of CETA

1. Massive Tariff Reduction by the U.K.

The U.K. will:

- Eliminate tariffs on **96.8% of tariff lines immediately.**
- This covers **97.7% of India's export value.**
- An additional **2% tariff lines** will see phased tariff reductions.
- Overall coverage:
 - **98.8% tariff lines**
 - **99.5% trade value**

Benefit

Indian exporters gain nearly duty-free access to the U.K. market.

2. India's Tariff Commitments

India will:

- Eliminate tariffs immediately on **30.3% of trade value.**
- Another **47%** will have tariffs reduced gradually.
- Reduced quota-based tariffs on **12.1%** of trade value.
- Overall:

Coverage	Percentage
Tariff lines covered	89.5%
Trade value covered	89.4%

India has taken a more gradual approach to protect domestic industry.

Sensitive Sectors Protected by India

India has **excluded or protected** several sensitive sectors from full tariff liberalisation.

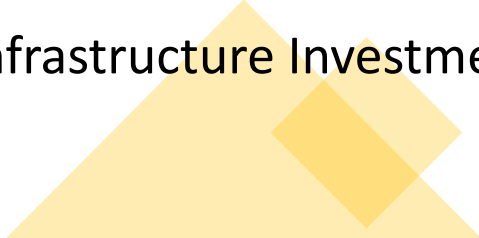
Protected Sector	Reason
Dairy	Farmer protection
Cereals	Food security
Pulses	Farmer welfare
Vegetables	Agriculture
Gold & Jewellery	Domestic industry
Smartphones	Manufacturing protection
Critical Polymers	Strategic manufacturing

Non-Tariff Barriers Addressed

The agreement also aims to reduce regulatory barriers, including:

- SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
- TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade)
- Certification standards
- Customs procedures
- Regulatory transparency

This should make exports smoother and reduce hidden trade costs.



Sector	Coverage
Digital Trade	✓
Government Procurement	✓
MSMEs	✓
Innovation	✓
Labour	✓
Environment	✓
Gender Inclusion	✓
Sustainable Finance	✓
FinTech	✓
Professional Services	✓
Infrastructure Investment	✓

Double Contribution Convention (DCC)

Problem Earlier

Indian professionals working temporarily in the U.K. had to:

- Pay social security in India, **and**
- Pay National Insurance (social security) in the U.K.,

even if they could not claim U.K. benefits due to short stays.

This effectively increased employment costs.

What changes now?

Under the DCC:

- Indian workers sent temporarily to the U.K. who continue contributing to India's social security system will be **exempt from paying U.K. social security contributions for up to five years**, subject to the agreement's conditions.

Expected Beneficiaries

- Over **75,000 Indian workers**
- More than **900 employers**



Area

Exports

Employment

MSMEs

Services

IT Sector

Investment

Technology

Farmers

Women Entrepreneurs



Benefit

Higher exports to the U.K.

More jobs in export industries

Better market access

Easier mobility for professionals

Reduced operating costs through DCC

Increased U.K. investment in India

Greater collaboration

Expanded export opportunities for agricultural products

Better access to international markets

Benefits for the U.K.

- Better access to India's growing consumer market.
- Opportunities in:
 - Financial services
 - Insurance
 - Education
 - Infrastructure
 - Sustainable finance
 - Green technology
- Stronger investment environment.

India–U.K. Trade Snapshot

Indicator	Value (Approx.)
Bilateral Trade	~US\$60 billion
Target (Long Term)	Double bilateral trade over the coming years
Major Indian Exports	Textiles, pharmaceuticals, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, IT services
Major U.K. Exports	Machinery, automobiles, beverages, financial services, education, technology



Agreement	India–U.K. CETA	India–UAE CEPA	India–Australia ECTA
Goods	✓	✓	✓
Services	✓	✓	✓
Digital Trade	✓	Limited	Limited
Labour	✓	Limited	Limited
Gender	✓	No	No
Environment	✓	Limited	Limited
Double Social Security Relief	✓	No	No

Agreement	Year
India–UAE CEPA	2022
India–Australia ECTA	2022
India–EFTA TEPA	2024
India–Mauritius CECPA	2021
India–ASEAN FTA	2010
India–Japan CEPA	2011
India–South Korea CEPA	2010
India–Sri Lanka FTA	2000

IN BRIEF

IBM warns AI boom is squeezing software budgets

IBM said it had "faltered" in keeping pace with a shift in corporate spending toward data center infrastructure from software and forecast second-quarter revenue below estimates, the clearest sign yet of AI's growing toll on the sector. The warning triggered a 22% slump in IBM's shares and a selloff in the broader software sector. It also dragged Dow futures lower, while the S&P 500's Expanded Tech-Software Sector ETF fell more than 4%, sources.

Bharat Tex expected to attract investments, increase exports

Bharat Tex 2020 will help the Indian textile and apparel sector increase exports and attract investments, said Union Textiles Minister Chiranjit Singh, inaugurating the four-day event in New Delhi on Tuesday. Spread across nearly 1.6 million sq ft, Bharat Tex 2020 has over 1,600 exhibitors, more than 7,000 international buyers from 44 countries, and 64,000 registered trade visitors. The event will also see the signing of over 30 MoUs. The expo has eight sponsor states, including TN, and Karnataka.

Texprocil, Amazon ink MoU to accelerate e-commerce

Amazon India signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil) at Bharat Tex on Tuesday to accelerate e-commerce exports from India's cotton textile sector. The collaboration aims to help cotton textile manufacturers, exporters, and the council members to build global business through Amazon Global Selling by strengthening supplier readiness and expanding access to international markets.

Railway reforms to cut red tape, boost freight: Vaishnaw

Maiti Parashar
NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced policy reforms to modernise railway infrastructure, streamline freight logistics and transition to eco-friendly operations. To curb pollution and simplify logistics, railways is shifting the movement of major bulk commodities from open wagons to closed containers.

Of the 340 million metric tonnes (MT) freight carried every year in India, only 13 million MT is transported by rail in open wagons. "Under the new reforms, by shift will be transported to closed, leak-proof containers," he said.

The railway transports



Ashwini Vaishnaw

about 80% of India's fertilisers. Under the new policy, fertilisers and food grains can be transported in containers to remove storage bottlenecks. Complex, multi-slab freight structures for fertilisers and foodgrains are replaced by pre-tariffed per-tonne rate structure.

Further, container train operators had four route

India's imports from China soar to \$80 bn in first half of 2020

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 bn after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, on track to surpass record \$155.62 bn figure from 2025

Ananth Krishnan

India's imports from China rose 21.8% in the first half of 2020 to a record \$79.41 billion, according to data released by China's General Administration of Customs on Tuesday.

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 billion after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, and on track to surpass the record \$155.62 billion trade figure from 2020, when China was again India's biggest trade partner in goods.

While the trade deficit reached \$67.1 billion after the first half of the year — also on track to exceed last year's record \$103.12 billion figure — India's exports to China have also registered strong growth, up by 37.2% to \$12.31 billion.

Trade deficit: India's official data on Monday showed the overall trade deficit in the month of June 2020 rose over fourfold year-on-year to \$19.3 billion in June 2020, on the back of high growth in merchandise exports and a rise in the value of crude oil, electronics and gold imports.

Indian officials are less concerned by the quantum of the trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods India imports. Not only large quantities of finished electronics and other equip-



Chinese shoppers: India is fast becoming the quantum of trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods, sources.

Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that

VIKRAM DORAIWANI, India's Ambassador to China

ment from China, but also intermediaries that are needed for Indian manufacturing and fuel India's own exports. A particular concern is the nature of India's exports to China, which in the past have been dominated by low value-added products such as organic chemicals, ores, and seafood.

Earlier this month, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiwani pitched for greater Indian exports to China, especially in the form of goods that are globally competitive such as pharmaceuticals. "Obviously, we would like to be

able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that

VIKRAM DORAIWANI, India's Ambassador to China

ment from China, but also intermediaries that are needed for Indian manufacturing and fuel India's own exports. A particular concern is the nature of India's exports to China, which in the past have been dominated by low value-added products such as organic chemicals, ores, and seafood.

Earlier this month, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiwani pitched for greater Indian exports to China, especially in the form of goods that are globally competitive such as pharmaceuticals. "Obviously, we would like to be

Natco Pharma raises stake in South Africa's Adcock to 49%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Natco Pharma completed the acquisition of an additional 0.25% stake in South Africa pharmaceutical and healthcare company Adcock Injuran Holdings Proprietary.

Consequently, the acquisition for about \$AR 1.81 billion (about \$1.26 crore), its stake in Adcock Injuran increased to 49%. Natco Pharma said the acquisition it completed through Adcock Injuran subsidiary Natco Pharma South Africa Proprietary.

The additional stake acquisition is part of Natco's long-term Africa strategy.

The Hindu Bureau

The people (human resource) agenda has emerged as a critical business priority today, driven by the need to combine artificial intelligence (AI) with human ingenuity rather than relying on traditional, he said.

Natcom president Rajesh Namdar said, "The structural shift may effectively eliminate the historic campus-to-campus pipeline that previously served as the primary training ground for fresh graduates, he said."

However, Mr. Namdar added that true competitive advantage no longer stemmed from simply de-

'Deep-Tech, AI, Innovation will shape India's future'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Deep-tech innovation, artificial intelligence (AI) and inclusive technologies will be the defining pillars of developed India, provided the country focuses on creating affordable, globally competitive solutions that benefit millions rather than a privileged few, said Dr. Rajesh A. Mashelkar, Fellow of the Royal Society and former General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Dr. Mashelkar said India must transition from being a consumer of global technologies to becoming a

ENDS SERIES
MUMBAI

Dr. Rajesh A. Mashelkar addressing a FICCI Legends event, on Wednesday.

Dr. Mashelkar said India must transition from being a consumer of global technologies to becoming a

Inaugural Index of Services Production shows 14 sectors grew in double digits in April

T.C.A. Sharad Nishan

As many as 14 of the 19 sub-sectors in the trial and inaugural release of the government's new Index of Services Production (ISP) witnessed double-digit growth in April 2020, with the best-performing sectors including accommodation and food, retail trade, administrative and support services, and real estate.

The 19 sub-sectors measured account for about 60% of India's services sector.

The ISP is meant to be the services sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which the IIP is released on the 26th of every month unless it is a weekend or holiday, the ISP will be released on the 29th henceforth.

"The ISP represents an important milestone in strengthening India's statistical system and improving the measurement of the services sector, which accounts for more than half of the country's economic activity," the Ministry of Statistics and Pro-

gramme Implementation said in a release.

While the inaugural release does not provide a composite growth rate for the entire index, this growth rate can be calculated using the sector-wise growth rates and weighting, said T.C. Arivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India.

"Considering the year-on-year growth in April 2020 over that in April 2019, the 19-services sector growth is at 20.87%," Mr. Arivastava said.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at 2024-25, and the index covers data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

The base year of the trial IIPs has been set at

India's imports from China soar to \$80 bn in first half of 2026

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 bn after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, on track to surpass record \$155.62 bn figure from 2025

Ananth Krishnan

India's imports from China rose 21.8% in the first half of 2026 to a record \$79.41 billion, according to data released by China's General Administration of Customs on Tuesday.

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 billion after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, and on track to surpass the record \$155.62 billion trade figure from 2025, when China was again India's biggest trade partner in goods.

While the trade deficit reached \$67.1 billion after the first half of the year – also on track to exceed last year's record \$116.12 billion figure – India's exports to China have also registered strong growth, up by 37.2% to \$12.31 billion.

Trade deficit

India's official data on Monday showed the overall trade deficit in the month of June 2026 rose over fourfold year-on-year to \$15.3 billion in June 2026, on the back of high growth in merchandise imports and a rise in the value of crude oil, electronics and gold imports.

Indian officials are less concerned by the quantum of the trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods. India imports not only large quantities of finished electronics and other equip-



Chinese checkers: India is less concerned by the quantum of trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods. REUTERS



Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that

VIKRAM DORAISWAMI,
India's Ambassador to China

ment from China, but also intermediates that are needed for Indian manufacturing and fuel India's own exports. A particular concern is the nature of India's exports to China, which in the past have been dominated by low value-added products such as organic chemicals, ores and seafood.

Earlier this month, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami pitched for greater Indian exports to China, especially in areas where India is globally competitive such as pharmaceuticals. "Obviously, we would like to be

able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that," he said, speaking at the World Peace Forum, an annual foreign policy forum in Beijing.

"How do we find ways in which India and China can be connected, with a widening basket of goods that both sides can provide each other, but also a sense that reasonable mechanisms to protect consumers can be applied in a way that enables India also to export more of the goods that it can export elsewhere in the world also to China?" he said. "In other words, it would be easier to consider that the trade wouldn't be exactly 50-50 balanced, but one side would have more exports, provided that exports consist of goods that we can also add value. If it is pure consumption goods, that becomes a little harder to sell as a reasonable mechanism for the deficit."

Particular	Details
Period	January–June 2026 (H1 2026)
India's Imports from China	US\$79.41 billion
Growth in Imports	21.8% YoY
India's Exports to China	US\$12.31 billion
Export Growth	37.2% YoY
Total Bilateral Trade	US\$91.72 billion
Growth in Total Trade	23.6% YoY
Trade Deficit (H1 2026)	US\$67.1 billion
Previous Record Trade (2025)	US\$155.62 billion
China's Position	India's largest trading partner



Indicator	Value (US\$ Billion)
Imports from China	79.41
Exports to China	12.31
Total Trade	91.72
Trade Deficit	67.10





Year	Total Trade (Approx.)
2023	~136
2024	~140
2025	155.62 (Record)
H1 2026	91.72

Why Have Imports Increased So Much?

India imports many products that are essential for manufacturing rather than direct consumption.

Major Imports from China

Category	Importance
Electronics	Mobile phones, laptops, consumer electronics
Semiconductor components	Electronics manufacturing
Machinery	Industrial production
Electrical equipment	Power and infrastructure
Solar cells & modules	Renewable energy
Chemicals	Pharmaceutical and industrial inputs
APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients)	Drug manufacturing
Auto components	Automobile industry
Industrial raw materials	Manufacturing sector



Intermediate Good

Semiconductor chips

Steel

APIs

Electronic circuits

Plastic granules



Final Product

Smartphones

Automobiles

Medicines

Computers

Consumer goods

India's Exports to China

Although smaller than imports, exports grew significantly.

Export Growth

- 37.2% increase
- Reached US\$12.31 billion

Major Exports

Product	Value Addition
Organic chemicals	Medium
Iron ore	Low
Ores & minerals	Low
Seafood	Low
Agricultural products	Medium

India's Official Position

The Government is **less concerned about the size of the trade deficit** than about **what India imports and exports**.

Why?

Many imports from China are:

- Machinery
- Industrial equipment
- Components
- Manufacturing inputs

These help Indian industries produce goods domestically and for export.

Challenges

Challenge	Explanation
Heavy dependence	Critical sectors rely on Chinese imports.
Supply chain risks	Disruptions can affect manufacturing.
Large trade deficit	Persistent imbalance in bilateral trade.
Low value-added exports	India's exports earn relatively less value.
Limited market access	Some Indian products face barriers in China.

Inaugural Index of Services Production shows 14 sectors grew in double digits in April

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

As many as 14 of the 19 sub-sectors in the trial and inaugural release of the government's new Index of Services Production (ISP) witnessed double-digit growth in April 2026, with the best-performing sectors including accommodation and food, retail trade, administrative and support services, and real estate.

The 19 sub-sectors measured account for about 60% of India's services sector.

The ISP is meant to be the services sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). While the IIP is released on the 28th of every month unless it is a weekend or holiday, the ISP will be re-



Accommodation and food was among best performing sectors.

leased on the 29th henceforth.

"The ISP represents an important milestone in strengthening India's statistical system and improving the measurement of the services sector, which accounts for more than half of the country's economic activity," the Ministry of Statistics and Pro-

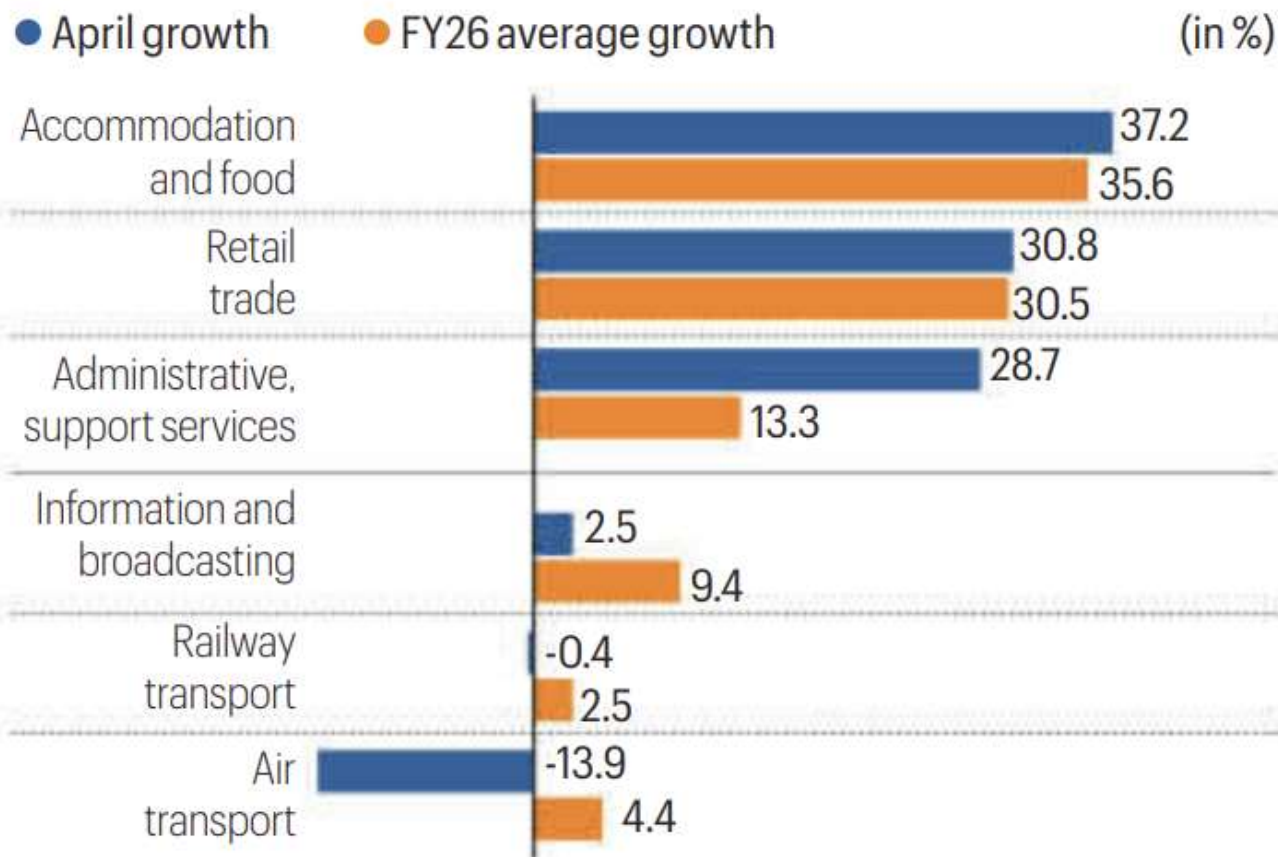
gramme Implementation said in a release.

While the inaugural release does not provide a composite growth rate for the entire index, this growth rate can be calculated using the sector-wise growth rates and weightages, said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India.

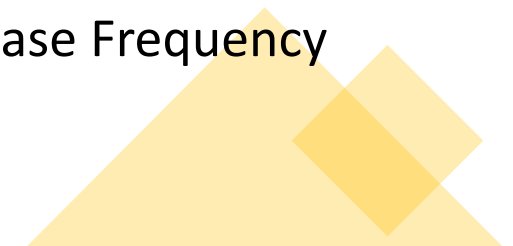
"Considering the year-on-year growth in April 2026 over that in April 2025, the 19-services sector growth is at 20.8%," Mr. Srivastava said.

The base year of the trial ISPs has been set as 2024-25, and the index sources its data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

• Fastest, slowest growing sub-sectors



NOTE: DATA IS FOR TOP, BOTTOM 3 SUB-SECTORS AS PER YOY GROWTH IN APRIL SOURCE: MOSPI



Particular	Details
Index	Index of Services Production (ISP)
Released By	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
First Release	July 2026
Reference Month	April 2026
Base Year (Trial Series)	2024–25 = 100
Number of Sub-sectors	19
Coverage	Around 60% of India's services sector
Best Performing Sectors	Accommodation & Food Services, Retail Trade, Administrative & Support Services, Real Estate
Release Frequency	Monthly (around the 29th of every month)

What is the Index of Services Production (ISP)?

The **Index of Services Production (ISP)** is a **monthly indicator** that measures changes in the output (production) of major service sector activities over time.

Purpose

- Track monthly growth of services.
 - Complement the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
 - Improve national income estimation.
 - Provide timely data for policymakers, RBI, investors, and businesses.
-

Why Was the ISP Introduced?

Until now, India had:

- **IIP** for industry.
- Agricultural production estimates.
- GDP estimates released quarterly.

However, there was **no high-frequency monthly indicator** for services, despite the sector contributing **over half of India's GDP**.

The ISP fills this statistical gap.



Indicator	Approximate Share
Share in India's GDP	~55–57%
Share in Employment	~30–35%
Share in Exports	More than 40% (including IT and business services)
Global Competitiveness	IT, BPO, Financial Services, Healthcare, Tourism

Coverage of the ISP

The trial ISP covers **19 service sub-sectors**, representing about **60% of the services sector**.

Examples include:

Major Service Sector	Included
Accommodation & Food Services	✓
Retail Trade	✓
Wholesale Trade	✓
Real Estate Activities	✓
Administrative & Support Services	✓
Transportation & Storage	✓
Information & Communication	✓
Professional Services	✓
Financial Services (selected activities)	✓

Key Findings (April 2026)

Indicator	Result
Total Sub-sectors	19
Double-Digit Growth	14
Top Performers	Accommodation & Food, Retail Trade, Administrative & Support Services, Real Estate

This indicates broad-based expansion across most measured service activities.

Why Did Services Grow Strongly?

Several factors likely contributed:

- Strong domestic consumption.
- Rising tourism and hospitality demand.
- Increased business activity.
- Recovery in real estate.
- Growth in retail spending.
- Expansion in logistics and support services.



Feature	ISP	IIP
Full Form	Index of Services Production	Index of Industrial Production
Measures	Output of service activities	Output of industrial activities
Sector Covered	Services	Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity
Released By	MoSPI	MoSPI
Frequency	Monthly	Monthly
Importance	Services performance	Industrial performance



Indicator	Measures	Frequency
GDP	Overall economy	Quarterly
IIP	Industrial output	Monthly
CPI	Inflation	Monthly
WPI	Wholesale inflation	Monthly
ISP	Services production	Monthly



ROME

Israel ready to move forward on
pilot zones amid Lebanon talks

Israel said it was ready to move forward with plans to withdraw troops from two areas of south Lebanon, as the two countries held a new round of talks in Rome on Tuesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Schar said on Tuesday that his country was "ready to move forward implementing these two pilot zones". AFP

CAIRO

Israeli fire kills 10 Palestinians in
Gaza, including a 10-year-old boy

An Israeli strike and gunfire killed at least 10 Palestinians, including a 10-year-old boy, and a senior Hamas police officer, in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, Gaza health and police officials said. The deaths add to a toll of more than 1,100 Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks since an October ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. REUTERS

TEHRAN

Iran slams U.K. plan to ban support
for the Revolutionary Guard Corps

Iran slammed on Tuesday a British plan to ban support for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, alongside an Iran-linked group accused of a series of attacks against the Jewish community. British Foreign Minister Keir Starmer had said that "anyone found supporting these groups will now face up to 14 years in prison". AFP

PESHAWAR

11 killed in northwest Pakistan as
roof collapses amid heavy rain

Eleven people were killed overnight when heavy rain caused the roof of a small brick house to collapse in northwest Pakistan, police and rescue officials said on Tuesday. The accident occurred in Kohat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to Bat Feroz of the provincial emergency service. AP

U.S. hits Iran and Tehran retaliates
across West Asia; 3 tankers struck

The U.S. Central Command says it hit several areas in Iran, targeting coastal defence systems, missile and drone sites and maritime capabilities. Tehran responded with attacks on Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that travelled through Hormuz.

Associated Press
DUBAI

The U.S. launched strikes on Iran early on Tuesday, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to renege an American blockade of Iranian ports and charge allies for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded with attacks on West Asia allies of the U.S.

The focus of the conflict now is the Strait of Hormuz. Iran effectively shut the passage during the war by attacking and threatening ships. It sent the Strait of oil, fertilizer and other goods flowing at a time when world leaders were



An explosion at Bandar Abbas port in Iran, as three Iranian-controlled surface vessels fired by the U.S. military, hit the port, already struggling to address rising costs. An Iranian deal signed by the U.S. and Iran was supposed to reopen the waterway, but Iran has attacked ships moving

struck several areas in Iran, targeting "coastal defence systems, missile and drone sites and maritime capabilities". Iran responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that travelled through the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. military said.

Iran responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that travelled through the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. military said. Two of the ships were associated with the UAE and were set to leave for a time. The British Defence

Ministry said the attack on the tankers Aboumoud and Al-Bahar killed one sailor and wounded eight others. The Emirates threatened to retaliate. Dutch shipping firm Bulk Tankers said that one of its ships came under attack. The attack on the 500t Magnesium off Oman sparked a fire in the engine room, but at the same time, said all the mariners were safe.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said the Aboumoud and Al-Bahar "ignored repeated warnings." Iran has targeted ships that use a route through the Strait that passes near Oman outside of its territorial waters.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he was scrapping a planned levy on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz a day after he announced it, and replacing the fee with trade deals with Gulf allies. Mr. Trump said his sudden decision to withdraw the toll — which he imposed amid fresh clashes with Iran over the vital waterway — was "based on highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership".

"I have decided to replace the 20% United States Reimbursement Fee with Trade and Investment Deals that the various Gulf States will be making into the United States," Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network.



Mr. Trump did not mention any commitments by Gulf states, saying "investments will be MASSIVE but, at the same time, extraordinarily good for them, and their future".

The U.S. leader said he would continue with a "FULL Blockade" on ships coming to and from Iranian ports, or carrying anything liable to do with Iranian cargo.

Mr. Trump had declared on Monday that Washington was now the "THE GUARDIAN OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT" and would impose hefty fees on shipping to renege the United States for protecting the key conduit for oil and gas. Shortly after Mr. Trump made the 20% fee proposal on Monday, the UN's shipping agency said it expected fees on ships passing through maritime waterways but added it would await more details of what Mr. Trump had in mind.

Iran's military command had insisted it would not allow the United States to "interfere" in the Strait, while also warning to Gulf neighbours who have seen the brunt of its retaliatory attacks — against those cooperating with Washington.

Cuba faces third nationwide
blackout in less than 10 days

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Cuba's power grid failed for the third time in less than 10 days, sparking another nationwide blackout, the national electricity company said on Tuesday.

The national power grid completely went offline at about 11.00 a.m., according to the state-run UNEC electricity company.

It was the third complete blackout on the Caribbean island since early July and the fifth since the start of 2023. Authorities did not immediately reveal the cause.

Cuba is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades — one made worse by the fuel blockade imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump in January as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending six decades of communist

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

rule, in both of last week's blackouts, it took more than 24 hours to restore power across the island of 11.6 million people, a process made slower and more complex by fuel shortages.

In the capital Havana, power outages lasted more than 36 hours at a time, while in the satellite provinces, it was several days before electricity was restored.

Residents in the worst affected areas have vented their frustrations by setting piles on trash on fire or hanging out pots and pans.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages.

Under control



A firefighter sprays water to extinguish flames in the Fontainebleau forest during a wildfire, in La Vaucluse. Two fires that have burned just over 2,000 hectares since Sunday have been contained, but not extinguished, the local prefect said on Tuesday evening. REUTERS

Outgoing U.K.
PM Starmer gets France's
highest award

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Britain's outgoing Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been awarded France's highest honour, in recognition of his work on the security of Europe and Ukraine.

President Emmanuel Macron's office said he presented Mr. Starmer with the Legion d'honneur on Monday in Paris, where he was attending a summit of Ukraine's allies.

Mr. Starmer is due to leave office within days of losing the confidence of his governing Labour party on or a slew of domestic policy issues that hit his popularity. In contrast, he is held in high regard by many foreign leaders on issues from Ukraine to forging closer European ties.

China expels former
Xinjiang official from
party over corruption

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China expelled a former top Xinjiang official from the ruling Communist Party and removed him from all his posts over corruption allegations, including nepotism, bribery, and paying for sex, state media said on Tuesday.

Ma Xingrui, 66, was a member of the Communist Party's Politburo, a top decision-making body headed by President Xi Jinping that effectively runs the

country. The Politburo approved a report by the party's anti-corruption watchdog that set out a long list of allegations against Mr. Ma, who has been under investigation since April, news agency Xinhua said.

NASA astronaut Anil Menon embarks on
8-month stint to International Space Station

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

NASA astronaut Anil Menon and two Russian cosmonauts on Tuesday left on board a Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft from Kazakhstan on an eight-month mission to the International Space Station.

The Roscosmos spacecraft, carrying Mr. Menon and Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anton Kishinev, took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome.



A Soyuz 2.1a booster rocket with the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft blasts off to the ISS from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. AFP

European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kuznetsov, Sergei Mikheyev, and Andrey Feduyev.

Mr. Menon, Mr. Dubrov and Mr. Kishinev's mission will last about eight months, and they are scheduled to return to Earth in April 2024.

Ukraine PM resigns
in Zelenskyy-ordered
government reshuffle

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko resigned on Tuesday as part of a government reshuffle ordered by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The Ukrainian leader has yet to name a replacement and has said only that Kyiv is "changing its political strategy" and "new challenges and new tasks".

Mr. Menon's father, K.P. Shankaran Menon, hails from Ottapalam in Kerala's Palakkad district. He is the great-grandson of former Indian National Congress chief Sir C. Shanmukam Nair.

NASA astronaut Anil Menon embarks on 8-month stint to International Space Station

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON

NASA astronaut Anil Menon and two Russian cosmonauts on Tuesday lifted off onboard a *Soyuz MS-29* spacecraft from Kazakhstan on an eight-month mission to the International Space Station.

The Roscosmos spacecraft carrying Mr. Menon and Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome.

After a two-orbit, three-hour trip to the station, the spacecraft will automati-



A Soyuz 2.1a booster rocket with the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft blasts off to the ISS from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. AFP

cally dock to the Prichal module. This marks Mr. Menon's first spaceflight and the second flight for the Russian cosmonauts,

according to NASA.

Once aboard, the trio will join NASA astronauts Jessica Meir, Jack Hathaway, and Chris Williams,

European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchkov, Sergei Mikaev, and Andrey Fedyaev.

Mr. Menon, Mr. Dubrov and Ms. Kikina's mission will last about eight months, and they are scheduled to return to Earth in April 2027.

Mr. Menon's father, K.P. Shankaran Menon, hails from Ottapalam in Kerala's Palakkad district.

He is the great-grandson of former Indian National Congress chief Sir C. Shankaran Nair.

Particular	Details
Astronaut	Anil Menon
Agency	NASA (USA)
Origin	Indian-origin American astronaut
Mission	Expedition to the International Space Station (ISS)
Spacecraft	Soyuz MS-29
Launch Vehicle	Soyuz-2.1a Rocket
Launch Site	Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan
Mission Duration	Approximately 8 months
Expected Return	April 2027
First Spaceflight	Yes

Crew Members

Launch Crew

Name	Country	Agency
Anil Menon	USA	NASA
Pyotr Dubrov	Russia	Roscosmos
Anna Kikina	Russia	Roscosmos

Other Astronauts on the ISS

The new crew will join astronauts already aboard the ISS.

Astronaut	Agency
Jessica Meir	NASA
Jack Hathaway	NASA
Chris Williams	NASA
Sophie Adenot	European Space Agency (ESA)
Sergey Kud-Sverchkov	Roscosmos
Sergei Mikaev	Roscosmos
Andrey Fedyaev	Roscosmos

Mission Timeline

Stage	Details
Launch	Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan
Spacecraft	Soyuz MS-29
Travel Time	About 3 hours after a two-orbit rendezvous
Docking	Prichal Module of ISS
Stay	Around 8 months
Return	April 2027

Objectives of the Mission

During their stay aboard the ISS, the astronauts will:

- Conduct scientific experiments.
- Perform biomedical research.
- Study the effects of long-duration spaceflight on humans.
- Test new technologies for future Moon and Mars missions.
- Maintain and upgrade ISS systems.
- Participate in educational outreach.



Feature

Orbit

Altitude

Speed

Orbital Period

Ownership

Permanently Occupied Since

Details



Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

~400 km

~28,000 km/h

~90 minutes

International partnership

November 2000



Countries Participating in the ISS

Country/Agency	Contribution
United States	NASA
Russia	Roscosmos
Europe	ESA
Japan	JAXA
Canada	CSA

What is the Soyuz Spacecraft?

The **Soyuz** is Russia's crewed spacecraft and has been one of the world's most reliable human spaceflight systems.

Features

- Carries **3 astronauts/cosmonauts**.
- Used for:
 - Crew transport
 - Emergency evacuation
 - ISS rotation missions
- Developed by **Roscosmos**.

Astronaut	Agency	Achievement
Kalpana Chawla	NASA	First woman of Indian origin in space
Sunita Williams	NASA	Multiple long-duration ISS missions
Raja Chari	NASA	Commander of Crew-3 mission
Anil Menon	NASA	First spaceflight aboard Soyuz MS-29

Feature	NASA	ISRO
Space Station	ISS partner	No operational space station yet
Human Spaceflight	Since 1961 (Mercury programme onward)	Gaganyaan under development
Moon Programme	Artemis	Future lunar ambitions
Mars Human Mission	Planned	Long-term vision





- Home
- Shorts
- Daily Ideas
- Thumbnail Preview
- More Tools

Subscriptions

- Class24
- Metallica
- ANATOLY
- Aamir Khan Talks
- Ravish Kumar O...
- Sandeep Swadia
- The Deshbhakt
- Show more

You

- Your channel
- History
- Playlists
- Watch later
- Liked videos
- Your videos



International Space Station

by NASA Johnson

Playlist • 1,309 videos • 237,990 views

A playlist containing a variety of videos about the International Space Station.

▶ Play all



Unavailable videos are hidden



Astronaut Moments: Anil Menon

NASA Johnson

▶ 1K 10h ago

101 VPH

774k Subscribers



Artemis II Flight Day 7 Highlights

NASA Johnson

▶ 180K 3mo ago

3 VPH

774k Subscribers



Tour the International Space Station: 25 Years of Humans in Space

NASA Johnson

▶ 136K 6mo ago

13 VPH

16x

774k Subscribers



Astronaut Moments: Chris Williams

NASA Johnson

▶ 11K 7mo ago

2 VPH

3.8x

774k Subscribers



NASA's SpaceX Crew-10: Exploring Science

NASA Johnson

▶ 5.6K 11mo ago

1.2x

774k Subscribers



Space to Ground: On The Run: June 13, 2025

NASA Johnson

▶ 13K 1y ago

3.2x

774k Subscribers



Space to Ground: Building a Sustainable Economy: June 06, 2025

NASA Johnson



Word of the day

Gaffer

An elderly man, a person who exercises control over workers

Synonyms: boss, supervisor

Usage: *We need to ask the gaffer if we can leave early today.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gaffer

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gæfə/

UMANG 360



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

+
+
+
+
+
+

✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE

✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE

✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES

✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION

✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF (DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



HOME / COURSES / CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GK / UMANG 360 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE 2026

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

LIVE



Class24: Team



Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

★★★★ (4.8)

Overview

Videos

Test

QUIZZES



TESTS

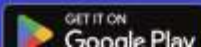


CLASSES

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

999 ₹149

BUY NOW

☐ Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry

Whatsapp

Relative T

Science Special 100 Test By :



Class24 Support

Hi, how can we help

Class24: Govt Exam Prep App

OTSAdda

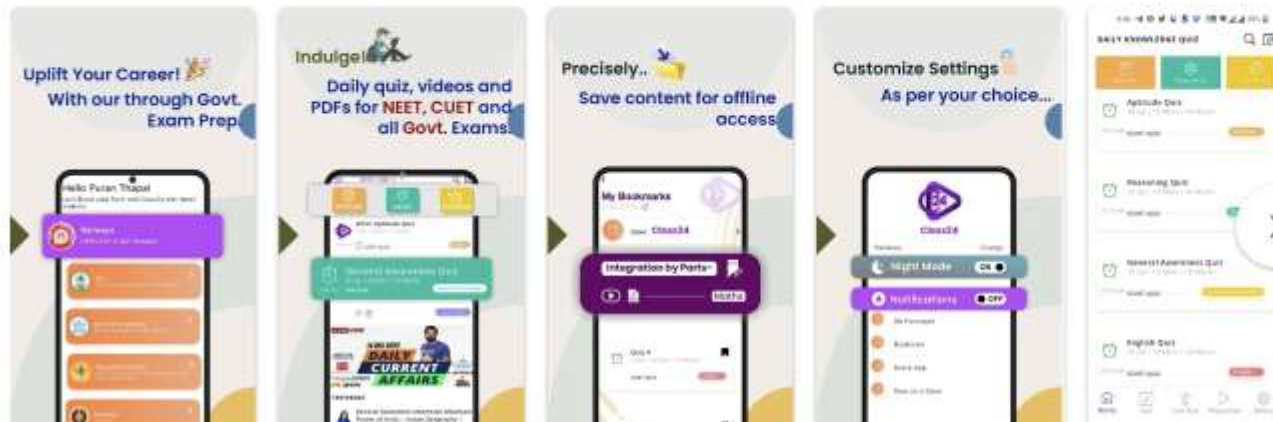
4.5★
22.1K reviews

1M+
Downloads

Install on more devices

Share

This app is not available for your device



Rated for 3+
[Learn more](#)

App support

More apps to try

Microsoft Outlook



Thank you 😊

