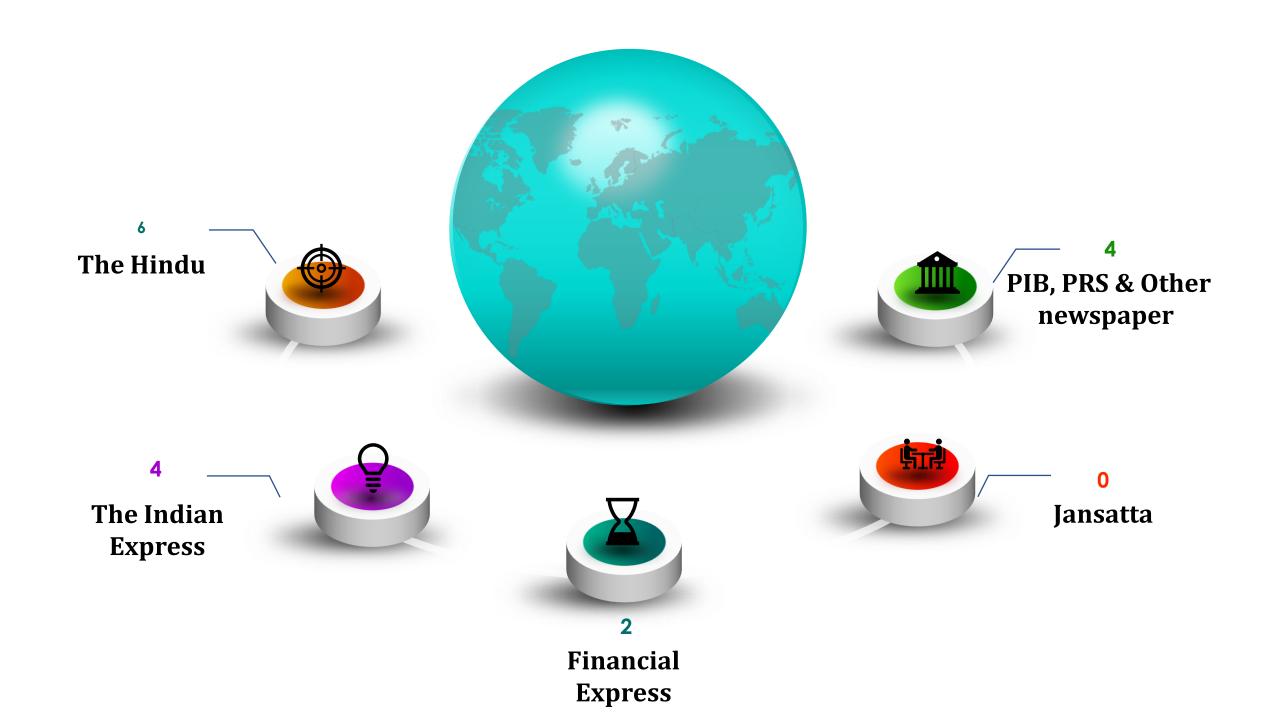
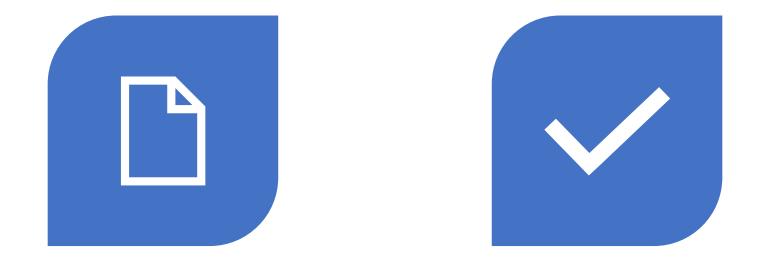
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States

**"LOSE AN** HOUR IN THE MORNING, AND YOU WILL SPEND ALL DAY LOOKING FOR IT."







Punjab. "He had inadver-tently crossed over to Pa-

tentry crossed over to Pa-kistan territory, while on operational duty in area of Ferozepur sector on April 23 and detained by Pakis-

tan Rangers," the BSF said. Mr. Shaw had strayed bare-ly 4-5 metres into Pakistan

when he was apprehended. A BSF official said that Mr. Shaw will have to un-

Mr. Shaw will have to un-dergo "debriefing" before he could meet his family or poin the dury. "This is the new of the second second second Pakistani custody, he will be interviewed at length by senior officials. There is a procedure in place and we will follow that," said the BSF official.

FAMILY RELIEVED

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» PAGE S

#### **BSF constable detained by Pakistan Rangers released**

Purnam Kumar Shaw was held a day after Pahalgam attack when he 'inadvertently crossed over' while on duty in Punjab, says BSF; India sends back Pakistan Rangers member held along border

Open to talks on deploying French nukes: Macron

Vijaita Singh EW DELHI

Border

A member of the Pakis-tan Rangers who was de-tained in India along the border in Rajasthan on May 3 was also returned to Pakistan on Wednesday, a senior government official relid

id. The BSF said that "repa-

triation" of constable Pur-nam Kumar Shaw became possible due to the "consis-tent efforts of BSF through

regular flag meetings with

**Basket of berries** 

INSIDE

LONDON French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday said France was "ready to open" cussions about stationing the country's puclear we the country's nuclear weapons in other European nations. President Macron's comments come as Europeans seek to bolster their defences, especially against Russia, and as the Donald Trump administration has signalied that the United States will no longer underwrite European security. a PAGE 14

#### **Minister faces** FIR for remark on Col. Qureshi

#### BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High + Court on Wednesday directed the State Police to register a the State Police to register a first information report against State Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah for allegodly making inflammatory remarks against Soya Qureshi. Mr. Shah reportedly said, "Those people (terroristic) who had wiped out the sindoor of our sisters... we avenged theme people by sending these sister to destroy them." a PAGE 4

#### Congress to hold rallies on Trump mediation claim'

NEW DELHI Accusing the BJP of "politiciang" Operation Sindoor, the Congress on Wednesday announced that it would take out Jai Hind rallies across the country to questio the Prime Minister's "silence" on U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan and the "halting" of the military operation. "Operation Sindoor doesn't belong to one party, it belongs to the nation," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, >> PAGE 5



#### Cancellations of SIPs tripled to 162.3 lakh

#### MUMBAI

The number of SIP ncellations more than tripled to 162.3 lakh in April con with March, creating a perception that market perception that market velatility had spooked investors in mutual funds. However, The Hindo has learnt that this surge in cancellations had more to do with the nules laid out in a SEBI circular rather than fears among investors. >> PAGE 12

CM CM

struggles to emerge from decades of international solation. isolation. The meeting, on the si-delines of Mr. Trump's get-together with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, marks a major Council, marks a major turn of events for a Syria still adjusting to like after Assad family, and for its new leader, who once had s10 millio U.S. bourny for his arrest. Mr. Trump praised al-



with BSF per Back hos Purnam Kumar Shaw ( Wagah after being handed over by Pakistan on Wedr

Pakistan Rengers and through other communica-tion channels." The return of the jawa comes days after India and the sector. The neturn of the jawa comes days after India and the face in Ferosepur tion of military operation. "Shaw "taken back on May 10. The constable was detained while he was accompanying farmers, Attari-Wagah border in

Social media India 'pushing back' **Bangladeshis held** Turkiye, China without documents outlets barred



Suspected Bangladeshi migrants without documents who were detained by the Gujarat Police in Ahmedabad on April 26. AFP were accessible to readers

> been identified as residing in different parts of the State, "The first batch of

later in the day. China's state-run Xin-hua news agency was also blocked and remained in-Vijaita Singh blocked and remained in-accessible in social media platforms thereafter. "It is understood that they (news outlets) have to be impartial... but if they merely provide the Pakis-tani side and neglect In-dia's view on Pakistan-based terrorism, then we will take action. It is a mes-sage to these orranhsa-India has been "pushing back" undocumented Ban-gladeshi migrants detained across the country through the eastern border over the past month, government officials told The Hindu. win take action. It is a mes-sage to these organisa-tions," a senior official said. "Our fight is against ter-rorism from Pakistan but (Turkish) President (Recep

handles of

Kallol Bhattacherjee

Tayyip) Erdogan has been totally silent on terrorism. India wants to know what Turkiye's position on terro-rism is," the official said, adding that Turkish and the Chinese news outlets had been downplaying the terror attack in Pahalgam, The Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh sent a letter to India on May 8 "raising India on May 8 "raising concern over people being pushed into the country and urged New Delhi to adhere to established repawhich India has described as the "original escalation". "A war room has been

"A war room has been created where inputs are taken from various agen-cies and Ministries of the government on misleading content and news. Action is being taken only when certain outfits are seen in-dulging in spreading mis-leading news over a susadhere to established repa-triation mechanisms", ac-cording to the Duly Star, a University of the star of the star in the External Affairs Mi-nistry is yet to comment on the acciency 2005 Rengladesh rationals 2005 Rengladesh and the and this year till April 30, around 100 Bangladeshi ci-tizens have been deported Border Guards Bangladesh leading news over a sus-tained period of time, and appear biased in their con-tent," an official source said. TRT was blocked soon after Mr. Erdogan, in a message to Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, expressed support for Pakistan. referring to Turkiye-Pakistan re-lations as a "brotherhood"

and "one of the best exam-

Hamas in the Gaza Strip

rages on. Mr. Trump said al-Sha-raa had agreed to join the Abraham Accords and

eventually recognise Is-rael, but Syria has not con-

cretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that Mr.

White House press se-

111

firmed that.

ples of true friendship"

State. "The first batch of 148 Bangladeshi nationals was transported to Jodh-pur and flown to Kolkata there, they will be deport-ed to Bangladesh," he said. According to sources, most of the detainees brought to Jodhpur were from Sikar district. The vilofficials told *The Hindu*. In one instance, on May 4, two Air India planes transported 300 such mi-grants, including 200 wo-men and children, who were earlier held in Guja-rat, to Agartala in Tripura. They were subsequently sent to Bangladesh via the land border. On April 26, the Gujarat Police detained over 1,000 suspected Ban-gladeshi nationals from Ahmedabad and Surat. days.

> ment had decided to im ment had decided to im-plement the "push back" mechanism to check infil-tration instead of going tration instead of going through the legal route. "Infiltration is a big issue. We have now decided we will not go through the le-gal process. Earlier, deci-and then bring him to the Indian legal system... Ear-lier also we used to arrest 1,000-1,500 foreigners-...Now, we have decided inside the country, we will inside the country, we will push them," he said. On concerns raised by

Trump meets Syria's interim leader al-Sharaa in Riyadh Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier asked Trump not to lift sanctions on Syria, again underscoring a grow-ing discontent between the White House and the Israe-li government as its war on Hamae in the Grap Strin

#### Associated Press

Sharaa to reporters after the meeting on Air Force One. "He's got a real shot at holding it together," Mr. Trump said. U.S. President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Isaria (Muhammad al-Jo-lani) in Saudi Arabia on Wedneaday, the first en-counter between the two nations' leaders in 25 years and one that could mark a Sanctions, Israeli ties

Mr. Trump had announced that he would also move to lift U.S. sanctions imposed on Syria under the de-posed autocrat Bashar al-Assad. and one that could mark a turning point for Syria as it I am "ordering the ces-

sation of sanctions against sation of sanctions against Syria to give them a fresh start," Mr. Trump told the Gulf Cooperation Council after his meeting with al-chance for greatness. The sanctions were really crip-pling, very powerful," People across Syria Cheered in the streets and



Out of the box: (from left) Donald Trump, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Ahmad al-Sharaa in Riyadh. AFP

0

and global finance - might "The removal of these and global finance – might rejoin the world's economy when they need invest-ment from Syria's Foreign Ministry called the an-nouncement "a pivotal turning point for the Syrian people as we seek to emerge from a long and painful chapter of war." "The removal of these sanctions offers a vital op-portunity for Syria to pur-sue stability, self-sufficien-cy, and meaningful national reconstruction, led by and for the Syrian

said in a statement that Mr. Trump urged al-Sharaa to the state of the state of the state israel, "toll all foreign ter-rorists to leave Syria" and help the U.S. stop any re-surgence of the Islamic SMr. Trump also asked for the Syrian government to "assume responsibility" for over a dozen detemtion people," the statement ad-ded. The meeting came even after Israeli Prime Minister (Contraction)

Justice Gavai takes over as Chief Justice

of India The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI ustice Bhushan Ramkrish

centers holding some 9,000 suspected members of the islamic State group, Ms. Leavitt added. The pri-backed and Kurdishield forces that spearheaded forces that spearheaded forces that spearheaded for the extremists and controlled the last silver of hanch 2019. As part of a deal reached na Gavai was sworn in by President Droupadi Mur-mu as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief Justice March 2019. As part of a deal reached in March between the Syrof India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday ian government and the Kurdish-led forces, all bor-He took his oath of of fice, pledging his con der crossings with fraq and Turkey, airports, and oil fields in the Northeast would be brought under the central government's control by the end of the wear ment to uphold the Consti-tution and faithfully discharge duties, in Hindi. year. Mr. Trump's desire for

Chief betice Cavai has a tenure of over six months till November 23. He was till November 23. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 from the Bombay High Court. Mr. Trump's desire for Syria to take over the pri-sons also signals the poten-tial of a full American mili-tary withdrawal from Syria.

CIULI REPORT



Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB). On Wednesday, Rajas-On concerns raised by Bangladesh, the govern-ment official quoted above said, "These are their citi-zens and they should ac-cept them." (With inputs from On Wednesday, Rajas-than Law and Parliamen-tary Affairs Minister Joga-ram Patel said in Jaipur that about 1,000 suspected Bangladeshi nationals had Mohammed labal in laipur

lage Development Officers' Training Centre in Jodhpur has been temporarily con-verted into a detention facility for the Bangladeshi nationals. Mr. Patel said a similar deportation pro cess would be followed for pushing back the foreign nationals in the coming On May 10, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the govern-

# Trump meets Syria's interim leader al-Sharaa in Riyadh

#### Associated Press RIYADH

U.S. President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first encounter between the two nations' leaders in 25 years and one that could mark a turning point for Syria as it struggles to emerge from decades of international isolation.

The meeting, on the sidelines of Mr. Trump's gettogether with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, marks a major turn of events for a Syria still adjusting to life after the over 50-year rule of the Assad family, and for its new leader, who once had a \$10 million U.S. bounty for his arrest.

Mr. Trump praised al-

Sharaa to reporters after the meeting on Air Force One. "He's got a real shot at holding it together," Mr. Trump said.

#### Sanctions, Israeli ties

Mr. Trump had announced that he would also move to lift U.S. sanctions imposed on Syria under the deposed autocrat Bashar al-Assad.

I am "ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria to give them a fresh start," Mr. Trump told the Gulf Cooperation Council after his meeting with al-Sharaa. "It gives them a chance for greatness. The sanctions were really crippling, very powerful."

People across Syria cheered in the streets and set off fireworks on Tuesday night to celebrate, hopeful their nation – locked out of credit cards



**Out of the box:** (from left) Donald Trump, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Ahmad al-Sharaa in Riyadh. AFP

and global finance – might rejoin the world's economy when they need investments the most. A statement from Syria's Foreign Ministry called the announcement "a pivotal turning point for the Syrian people as we seek to emerge from a long and painful chapter of war." "The removal of these sanctions offers a vital opportunity for Syria to pursue stability, self-sufficiency, and meaningful national reconstruction, led by and for the Syrian people," the statement added.

The meeting came even after Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier asked Trump not to lift sanctions on Syria, again underscoring a growing discontent between the White House and the Israeli government as its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages on.

Mr. Trump said al-Sharaa had agreed to join the Abraham Accords and eventually recognise Israel, but Syria has not confirmed that.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that Mr. Trump urged al-Sharaa to diplomatically recognise Israel, "tell all foreign terrorists to leave Syria" and help the U.S. stop any resurgence of the Islamic State group.

Mr. Trump also asked for the Syrian government to "assume responsibility" for over a dozen detention

centers holding some 9,000 suspected members of the Islamic State group, Ms. Leavitt added. The prisons are run by the U.S.backed and Kurdish-led forces that spearheaded the military campaign against the extremists and controlled the last sliver of land they once held in March 2019.

As part of a deal reached in March between the Syrian government and the Kurdish-led forces, all border crossings with Iraq and Turkey, airports, and oil fields in the Northeast would be brought under the central government's control by the end of the year.

Mr. Trump's desire for Syria to take over the prisons also signals the potential of a full American military withdrawal from Syria.

# Context:

- U.S. President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Riyadh.
- This was the first meeting between the U.S. and Syrian leaders in **25 years**.
- The meeting marks a significant moment for Syria, which is emerging from decades of international isolation.

# **Key Points:**

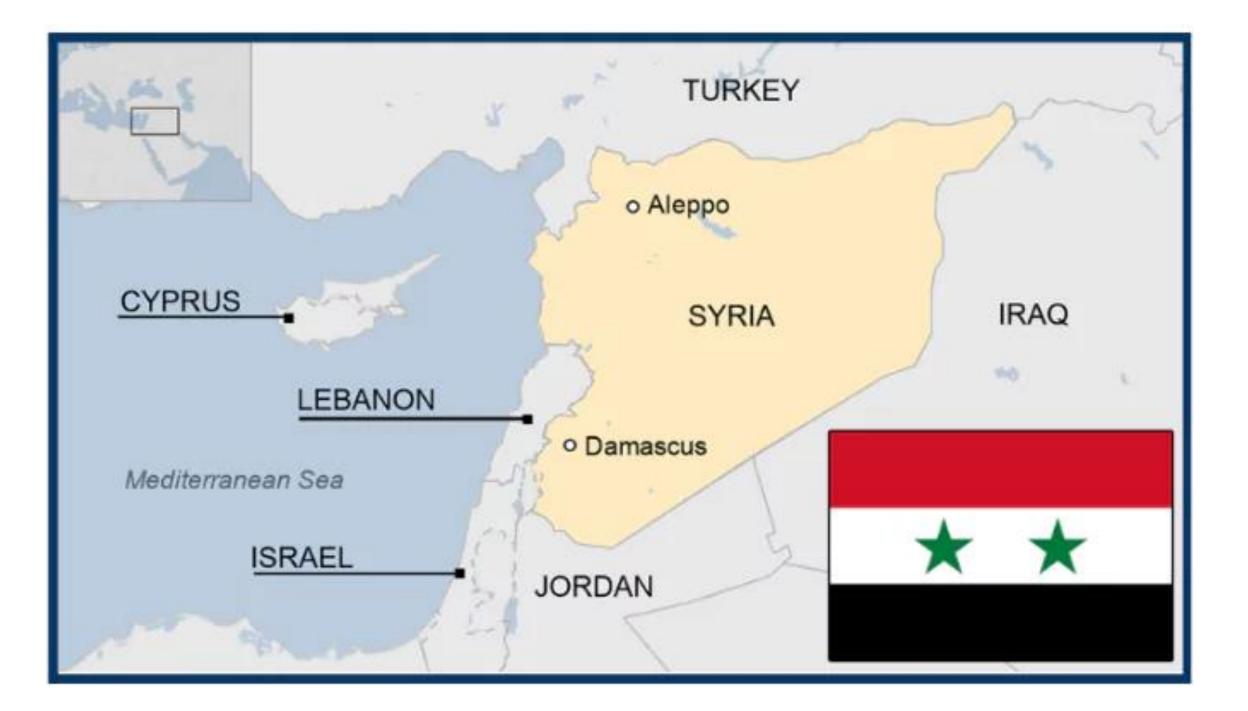
- 1. Purpose of the Meeting:
  - Held on the sidelines of Trump's meeting with the **Gulf Cooperation Council** leaders.
  - Aimed to **normalize relations** and address **sanction relief** for Syria.
  - Focus on **rebuilding Syria's economy** and ensuring **stability** post-Assad era.

# 3. Geopolitical Context:

- Trump urged Syria to recognize Israel and stop any resurgence of the Islamic State group.
- Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed discontent, especially with the ongoing conflict with Hamas.
- Trump called on Syria to assume control over detention centers holding 9,000 suspected ISIS members.
- 4. Syria's Future:
  - Trump expressed the need for Syria to take over prisons that house members of the Islamic
     State group.
  - The move is seen as a precursor to a full U.S. military withdrawal from Syria.
  - Trump emphasized self-reliance for Syria, pushing for the Abraham Accords and diplomatic ties with Israel.

- - · · -

- 5. Regional Reactions:
  - Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was present, indicating Saudi support.
  - Mixed reactions globally:
    - Syrians celebrated, hoping for economic recovery.
    - Israel and its supporters are cautious about Syria's rehabilitation without strict conditions.
  - Trump's strategic move: Signaling U.S. disengagement from Middle Eastern conflicts while encouraging regional stability.





1918–1920 CE	Arab Kingdom of Syria declared after World War I.	Short-lived independent state, later defeated by French forces.
1920–1946 CE	French Mandate of Syria under the League of Nations.	Development of modern infrastructure, rise of Arab nationalism.
1946	Independence from France.	Establishment of the Syrian Republic.
1949–1970	Political instability, series of coups, including Ba'athist takeover.	Rise of military and socialist rule, suppression of political dissent.
1970–2000	Hafez al-Assad's rule, establishment of a stable authoritarian regime.	Centralization of power, economic modernization.
2000–2011	Bashar al-Assad's presidency.	Attempts at limited economic liberalization, continued political repression.
2011-Present	Syrian Civil War triggered by the Arab Spring.	Humanitarian crisis, rise of ISIS, international military interventions, severe socio-political fragmentation.

# Justice Gavai takes over as Chief Justice of India

### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

He took his oath of office, pledging his commitment to uphold the Constitution and faithfully discharge duties, in Hindi.

Chief Justice Gavai has a tenure of over six months till November 23. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 from the Bombay High Court.

- 1. Swearing-in Ceremony:
  - Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI).
  - The ceremony took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan, administered by President Droupadi Murmu.
  - Chief Justice Gavai took his oath in Hindi and pledged to uphold the Constitution.
- 2. Dignitaries Present:
  - Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Home Minister Amit Shah were present.
  - Former CJI Sanjiv Khanna also attended the ceremony.
  - Family members and other judicial dignitaries witnessed the event.

## 1. Personal Background:

- Justice Gavai hails from Amravati, Maharashtra.
- Born on **November 24, 1960**.
- Son of Ramakrishna Suryabhan Gavai, a former Governor of Bihar and a prominent Dalit leader.

# 2. Professional Journey:

- Started his career as a lawyer at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court in 1987.
- Became Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in 2003.
- Elevated as a **Permanent Judge** in 2005.
- Appointed as a Supreme Court Judge on May 24, 2019.
- 3. Notable Judicial Contributions:
  - Upheld the **abrogation of Article 370** of the Constitution.
  - Gave verdicts on significant issues such as electoral bonds and Scheduled Castes classification.
  - Known for his **bold and decisive** judgments.

## Significance of Tenure:

- 1. Challenges Ahead:
  - Will hear challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.
  - Expected to play a key role in shaping judicial discourse on **constitutional matters**.
- 2. Judicial Philosophy:
  - Believes in judicial independence and the faithful discharge of duties.
  - Advocates for maintaining the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

# Insights:

- As the first **Buddhist Chief Justice of India**, Gavai's tenure is symbolically significant.
- His appointment reflects the **diversity and inclusivity** of the Indian judiciary.
- Given his track record of upholding constitutional values, his tenure is expected to be marked by progressive legal interpretations.

Role and Functions	- Head of the Judiciary of India
	- Presides over the Supreme Court of India
	- Appoints Constitutional Benches and allocates judicial work
Appointment	- Appointed by the President of India
	- Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is generally appointed
Tenure	- Holds office until the age of 65 years
	- Can resign or be removed via impeachment under Article 124(4)
Removal Procedure	- Initiated by either House of Parliament
	- Requires a majority of the total membership and a 2/3rd majority of members present and voting
	- On grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity

First CJI of India	Harilal Jekisundas Kania (1950)
Current CJI (as of 2025)	To be updated with the latest information
Significant Powers	- Administrative head of the Supreme Court
	- Recommends names for appointment of SC and HC judges
	- Plays a pivotal role in judicial appointments through the collegium system
Collegium System	- Comprises the CJI and four senior-most SC judges
	- Recommends appointments and transfers of judges

Salary and Perks	- Salary: Approximately ₹2.80 lakh per month
	- Perks: Residence, staff, security, and other allowances
Landmark Judgments under CJI	- Keshavananda Bharati Case (1973) - Basic Structure Doctrine
	- S.R. Bommai Case (1994) - Presidential Rule
	- Puttaswamy Case (2017) - Right to Privacy
Notable Reforms	- E-courts initiative
	- Fast-tracking judicial processes
Retirement and Succession	- Immediate successor takes charge on retirement of the current CJI
Significance in Judiciary	- Upholds the Constitution and ensures judicial independence

#### Indian team in UN to present evidence on Pahalgam attack

\$2.1

The technical team will appris the 1267 Sanctions Committee

of The Resistance Front's role

entry of "outsiders" i

Kashmir and over the last few years, it has come un-der the focus of the Indian

authorities. The group started by spreading anti-India mes-post-Pahajagan, it has also been described as an off-shoot of the Pakistan-bion Lashkar-e-Taiba that India has accused of carry-ling out a large number of and outside Kashmir. During the Operation bombed a large complex in

bombed a large complex in Muridke near Islamabad that India claims to be the

base of the Lashkar-e-Tai-

of view, the attack in Pahal

gam is an extension of the Lashkar-e-Taiba's list of ter-

ror strikes that also include

the 26/11 attack in Mumbai.

From the Indian point

States of Female States of States

authorities.

#### Kallol Bhattacherjee

4

An Indian technical team has reached New York to present evidence regard-ing the Pahalgam terror at-tack to the monitoring team of the 1267 Sanctions team of the I267 Sanctions Committee that decides on global listing of terrorist groups, official sources said on Wednesday.

Looking for a ban India has accused The Resistance Front (TRF) of carrying out the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, and it is expected that the meeting with the monitor-ing team will be the first step towards getting the TRF banned under the

1267 Committee. "An Indian technical team is in New York. They are interacting with the Monitoring Team of the 1267 (constituent) 1267 Sanctions Committee and other partner coun-tries in the UN. They will also be meeting with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN-OCT) and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)," an official source said

Under the lens TRF, founded in 2019, beas a little-known anti-India front that opp hear

SC rejects urgent plea for FIR against Justice Varma

#### Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to list Wednesday refused to list for urgent hearing a plea seeking the registration of an FIR against the Allaha-bad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma in con-nection with the cash discovery row.

A Bench, comprising ChiefJustice B.R. Gavai and lustice Augustine Georg Masih, asked lawyer and petitioner Mathews Ne-dumpara to follow the mentioning procedure.<sup>1</sup> Please go through the mentioning procedure.<sup>1</sup> (Khanna had said no to oral mentioning for urgent list-ing and hearing of cases and said the lawyers or the litigants will have to write our Registry first. After an in-house panel indicted petitioner Mathews an in-house panel indicted the judge, he had nudged Justice Varma to resign. He wrote to President Droupa di Murmu and PM Naren dra Modi after Justice Varrefused to resign

A rich haul

feet. Mr. Modi was also seen going up to the Chief Justice's mother to greet

Indges of the Supreme

Court and High Courts, both sitting and retired, were present at the

ire of over six m

Chief lustice Gavai has a

her.

The Hindu Bureau

-From sea to plate: Fishermen rinsing a fresh catch of sardines before its auction on the

Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The pre-monsoon period window for fishing at some locations before the rains bring changes to the habitat. NIRWAL apuram on Wednesday. The pre-monsoon period is a golden

## Justice B.R. Gavai takes over as CJI for a six-month tenure

THE HINDU

News

His time in office could see important hearings in the challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act: he has been part of many impactful decisions at the Supreme Court, including upholding of abrogation of Article 370

U ustice Bhushan Ram-krishna Gavai was worn in by Presi-dent Droupadi Murmu as the 52°° Chief Justice of In-dia at the Rashtrapati Bha-van on Wednesday. He took his oath of of-fice, pledging his commitfice, pledging his commit-ment to uphold the Constitution and faithfully discharge duties, in Hindi, Chief Justice Gavai ack-nowledged the applause with folded hands, shook hands with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Law Minister Arjun Ram Maghwal, Home Ministor-les and family members sit-ting in the foremost row, including his immediate predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Manna. Manna. Manna Maghustan Maghustan Manna Maghustan Magh hands with Vice-President

In high office: Justice B.R. Ga of India during the

till November 23. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 from the Bombay Wich Court lit leader. Known as a bold and decisive judge who speaks his mind, Chief Jus-tice Gavai will have a te-nure that may see impor-Justice Gavai is the first Buddhist Chief Justice of India. He was born on Notant hearings in the challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqt vember 24, 1960 at Amra-(Amendment) Act of 2025 vati. He joined the Bar on March 16, 1985. Justice Ga-As a Supreme Court judge, he was part of many impactful decisions at the wai's father, Ramakrasan Suryabhan Gavai, also known as 'Dadasaheb', was a former Governor of "ibar and a prominent Da-Supreme Court, including the upholding of abroga-tion of Article 370 of the n and the strik-

High Court.

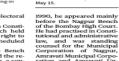
The case was then posted on May 15. ing down of the electoral bonds scheme. He was part of a Consti-tution Bench which held that States have a right to sub-classify Scheduled

Castes. He headed the Bench which had ordered the release of Perarivalan, a con-vict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case

As a lawyer, he had practised independently in the Bombay High Court from 1987 to 1990. After

and the second second

While the Minister did



NEW DELHI

Amravati Municipal Corpo-ration and Amravati University. He was elevated as Addi-High Court in 2003 and be-came a Permanent Judge in November 2005.

swarms of Turkish drones to target Indian military

#### HC orders FIR against M.P. Minister over remarks on Col. Sofiya Qureshi

#### Mehul Malpani BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday di-rected the State Police to register a first information report (PIR) within four Minister Vilay Shah for al-legedly making inflamma-tory remarks against In-dian Army officer Colonel Softya Qureshi. Justice Atul Sconpliance of the matter following me-The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday di-

of the matter following me dia reports, and directed Director-General of Police we avenged these people by sending their sister to (DGP) Kailash Makwana to file the FIR under Section 196 (promoting enmity destroy the file the FIR under Section 196 (promoting enmity between groups) and Sec-tion 152 (act endangering sovereignty, unity, and in-tartya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "Prima facie, the state-ment of the Minister that Colonel Sofiya Qureshi is the "sister of the terrorists" of Pabharan encommers While the Minister did not initially name Colonel Qureshi, he later identified her in a clarification, stat-ing that his comments had been "distorted". The High Court termed the remarks "dangerous", noting that such state-

ments now appear to tar-get personnel of the armed forces. "Now, they have started reaching out to the of Pahalgam encourages feelings of separatist activi-ties, which thereby endanarmed forces of this coungers the sovereignty and integrity of India," Justice try," Justice Sreedharan remarked.

Minister's Office confirmed + (BJP) leaders were deliber-ating possible disciplinary that Bharativa Janata Party ating possible disciplinary measures against Mr. Shah. BJP State president V.D. Sharma said the party lea-dership had taken cogni-sance and warned the Mi-niater, affirming that Coloned Qureshi is "the and worthy of national pride.

"The leadership of the Bharativa Janata Party is very sensitive. If any such incident happens, the par-ty immediately undertakes the necessary review. He calling the remarks "dis graceful" and a reflection of a "diseased mindset" was warned and told no Similar criticism was

was warned and told no one has the right to say such things," Mr. Sharma told presspersons. A senior BJP functionary informed The Hindu that Mr. Shah was summoned by the party's State general secretary (orrangisation) Similar criticism was voiced by leaders including Sachin Pilot, Y.S. Sharmila, Harish Rawar, Bahujan Sa-maj Party supremo Maga-mages MP Sagarika Chosh. State Congress Ieaders, including MPCC chief Jitu Patwari, filed police com-plaints across multiple cl-ties, while party workers brotest. secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma, at th

BJP headquarters in Bho pal on May 13. "He was sternly in-structed to refrain from making such statements

Amid mounting pres-sure, sources in the Chief The Minister also issued an apology," the leader said.

tions as JNU stands with

A 863



#### <u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

cellations for Turkiye, and 30% for Azerbaijan. "Indian travellers have expressed strong senti-ments over the past one week, with bookings for Azerbaijan and Turkiye de-Amid a call to "boycott" travel to Turkiye and Azerbaijan, tour aggregators have reported widespread cancellations in holiday bookings to both these countries from India. creasing by 60%, while cancellations have surged by 250% during the same period," a MakeMyTrip

In response to the "sup-port" extended to Pakistan by the two countries, "boy-cott" calls swept social me-dia after Operation Sin-door was carried out. "We have already dis-continued promotions and offers on our platform to discourage tourism to these two destinations," he

Aftermath of conflict Tour aggregator MakeMy-Trip said cancellations in bookings to Turkiye and Azerbaijan jumped by 250%. EaseMyTrip report-ed a 22% increase in cansaid. "There is a preference shift when it comes to choosing a destination. Bookings to impacted areas have halted due to post-ceasefire uncertain



major disruptions," Rikant Pittie, CEO and co-founder, ties, while unaffected airports and regions maintain normal operations without EaseMyTrip, said.

"At EaseMyTrip, we maintain cautious opti-mism while prioritising tra-veller safety. We encourage all customers to only refer to reliable information roused interference sources, and exercise pru-India. dence when making inter national travel plans. We are currently advising

against non-essential trave o affected regions, and have released a formal travel advisory," Mr. Pittie said. "Recent

said. "Recent geopolitical tensions are substantially affecting travel patterns, with travellers increasingly choosing other destina-tions, including Georgia, Serbia, Greece, Thalland, and Vietnam," he said. Travel company Cox

and Kings had on May 9 is-sued a statement on its de-cision to temporarily pause all new travel offer-ings to Azerbaijan, Uzbe-kistan, and Turkiye from bodts. The Hindu Bureau On non-essential travel "This decision is driven by

protest

"This decision is driven by our commitment to uphold principles that matter deeply to us and the people of our country. We also advise Indian travellpeople of our country. We also advise Indian travell-ers to exercise discretion and avoid any non-essen-tions until there is greater clarity and alignment in the broader geopolitical environment, "Karan Agar-wal, director, Cox & Kings, had said.

:::

the nation and the armed forces, many of whom are JNU alumni," Ms. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru University on Wednesday said that due to national security said. The MoU was inked on considerations, a me February 3 for a period of randum of agreement with three years, Inonu Univer Inonu University, Turkiye, stood suspended till furth-er notice. sity, at Malatya in Turkiye, had entered into the aca had entered into the aca-demic partnership with JNU as part of efforts to boost cross-cultural re-search and student collab-oration. There were also plans for student and facul-ty exchange programmes. Corrently, JNU has arrose the world In a statement, JNU Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said that the MoU was like the other academic agreements that JNU had signed for mutual cooperation in research and teaching. "JNU has sus-pended the MoU due to na-tional security consideraacross the world. (With PTI inputs)

#### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SIM), the eco Bench to hear Manch (SJM), the econom-ic wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on Wednesday condemned Turkiye's military support to Pakistan. The organisapleas against Waof law today A Bench of Chief Justice of

to Pakistan. The organisa-tion urged the government to impose economic sanc-tions on the country for its "unholy alliance" with Pa-kistan and suggested a ban on flights and tourism. The SJM appealed to the India B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih is scheduled to hear the scheduled to hear the challenge to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, on Thursday. The case last cam up before a three-judge Spee Bench led by Chief Justice people of India to boycott nations actively helping Pa-kistan build its offensive capabilities and urged the citizens to boycott Turkish products, travel, and cultu-Gavai's predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, on May 5. Justice Khanna had at the expressed reluctance to continue hearing the case, aying he had very little time ill his retirement on May 13.

products, travel, and cultu-ral exports as a mark of so-lidarity with the soldiers and national interest. "The principle of put ting nation first must guide our trade, investment, and let us choose solf-reliance over strategic dependence over strategic dependence on nations that sympower on nations that empowe our adversaries," said Ash wani Mahajan, national co

convener of the SJM. The SJM's appeal came amid tensions between India and Pakistan following their recent military con-frontation after the Pahalgam terror attack. The con flict saw Pakistan unleash



Thursday, May 15, 2025

# Many travellers cancel bookings to Turkiye, Azerbaijan

#### <u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

Amid a call to "boycott" travel to Turkiye and Azerbaijan, tour aggregators have reported widespread cancellations in holiday bookings to both these countries from India.

In response to the "support" extended to Pakistan by the two countries, "boycott" calls swept social media after Operation Sindoor was carried out.

#### Aftermath of conflict

Tour aggregator MakeMy-Trip said cancellations in bookings to Turkiye and Azerbaijan jumped by 250%. EaseMyTrip reported a 22% increase in cancellations for Turkiye, and 30% for Azerbaijan.

"Indian travellers have expressed strong sentiments over the past one week, with bookings for Azerbaijan and Turkiye decreasing by 60%, while cancellations have surged by 250% during the same period," a MakeMyTrip spokesperson said.

"We have already discontinued promotions and offers on our platform to discourage tourism to these two destinations," he said.

"There is a preference shift when it comes to choosing a destination. Bookings to impacted areas have halted due to post-ceasefire uncertain-



**Effect on tourism:** 'Boycott' calls swept social media after Turkiye 'supported' Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. FILE PHOTO

ties, while unaffected airports and regions maintain normal operations without major disruptions," Rikant Pittie, CEO and co-founder, EaseMyTrip, said. "At EaseMyTrip, we maintain cautious optimism while prioritising traveller safety. We encourage all customers to only refer to reliable information sources, and exercise prudence when making international travel plans. We are currently advising against non-essential travel to affected regions, and have released a formal travel advisory," Mr. Pittie said.

"Recent geopolitical tensions are substantially affecting travel patterns, with travellers increasingly choosing other destinations, including Georgia, Serbia, Greece, Thailand, and Vietnam," he said.

Travel company Cox

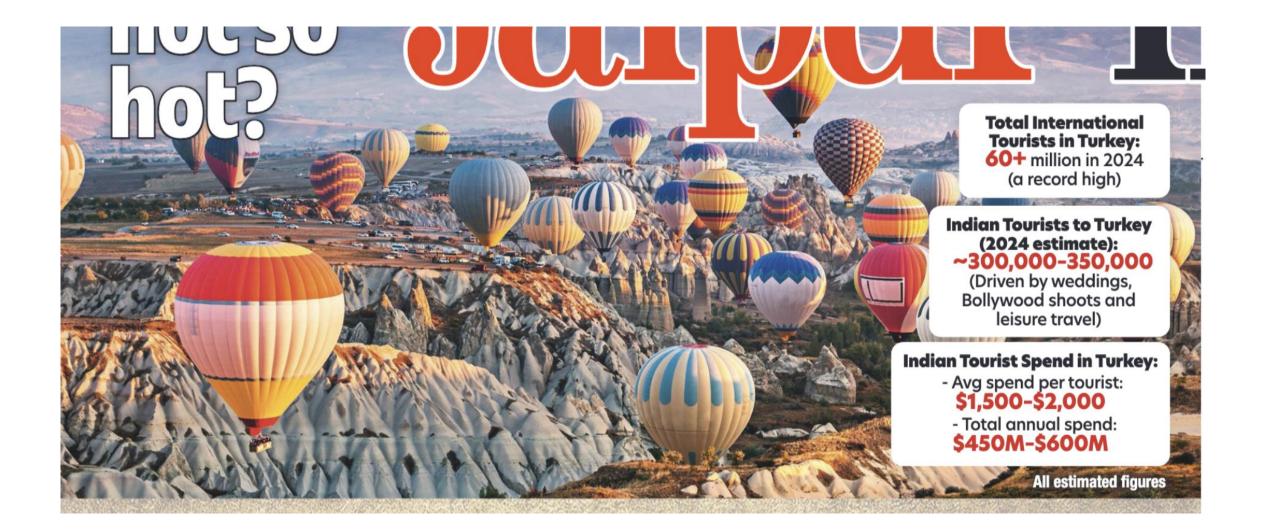
and Kings had on May 9 issued a statement on its decision to temporarily pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkiye from India.

#### On non-essential travel

"This decision is driven by commitment our to uphold principles that matter deeply to us and the people of our country. We also advise Indian travellers to exercise discretion and avoid any non-essential travel to these destinations until there is greater clarity and alignment in the broader geopolitical environment," Karan Agarwal, director, Cox & Kings, had said.



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#### Thursday, May 15, 2025

THE HINDU News

Govt. notice to e-commerce firms over sale of Pak. flags

#### Press Trust of India

Consumer protection regu-lator CCPA has issued notices to several e-commerce companies, including Amazon India and Walmart-owned Flipkart, di-recting them to remove merchandise featuring Pa kistani flags from platforms, Consume platforms, Consumer Af-fairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday. The Central Consumer Protection Authority

Dinakar Peri

Love for country: Children hold the national flag as they take part in a Tiranga Yatra [

get as the visit of its mis-sion to Islamabad was de-layed due to security concerns in the region. With the transfer, the to-tal disbursements stand at approximately \$2.1 billion under the DMER EEE of 67

under the IMF's EFF of \$7 billion, which was signed between Pakistan and the

is planning to unveil the Budget for fiscal 2025-26

on June 2. The IMF talks will continue until May 16.

The federal government

global lender last year.

Rishra.

he performance of indigenous defence systems against

Chinese and Turkish wea

pon systems stood out dur ing Operation Sindoor, go vernment and militar

tively intercept the preci-sion-guided munitions launched by India.

nt and military

vernment and military officials have said. For in-stance, the indigenous Akash short-range surface-to-air systems proved their capability, while the Chi-nese HQ-9 SAMs deployed by Pakistan failed to effec-tional determent the second Protection Authority (CCPA) also sent notices to Ubuy India, Etsy, The Flag Company, and The Flag Corporation, saying the sale of Pakistani flags and selected related merchandise would not be tolerated.

"Such insensitivity will not be tolerated. E-commerce platforms are here-by directed to immediately remove all such content and adhere to national laws." Mr. Joshi said in a solaws," Mr. Joshi said in a so-cial media post. The Minis-ter's post, however, did not specify which laws were being violated by selling the merchandise. India and Pakistan were engaged in a conflict ear-blue blue work of the size

lier this month following the killing of 26 persons by terrorists in Pahalgam

Tricolour everywhere



**Indigenous weapon systems** 

highly effective, says Centre

Show of strength: Akash short range surface-to-air systems proved their capability during Operation Sindoor, officials say, FILE PHOTO

calibrated," it said. a 34-fold rise." Several countries in southeast Asia, west Asia and Africa have expressed The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakis-tan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completand Africa have expressed interest in the Akash and BrahMos systems among others, an official noted. and another and another validation of the perfor-mance of these systems in real-time. We anticipate further interest in Indian systems," he said. Out the course for Six. ing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge, India's technological edge, the statement said. In a social media post, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office said: "India's defence sector is growing stronger than ever, driven by the spirit of Atmanirb-har Bharat. Defence ex-norts have, jumped from days since Operation Sin-door was launched on the ports have jumped from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to

Most of them were shot down, and only a few made an impact. The Indian armed forc-es struck several air de-fence radar sites, among others, disabling the HQ-IS SAM system in Luhore. The air defence networks of the Army and the IAF were Army and the IAF were backed by the Akashteer air defence and the Inte-₹23,622 crore in 2024-25 grated Air Command and Control Systems (IACCS), respectively. operation Sindoor also produced concrete evi-dence of hostile technolo-gies neutralised by the In-

gies neutralised by the In-dian systems – with the recovery of pieces of Chi-nese PL-IS air-to-air mis-siles, Turkish-origin UAVs, long-range rockets, quad-copters and commercial drones, the PIB statement model with or set of the statement Current conflict." The situation along the western borders remained calm on the intervening night of May 13-14. Army sources said there was no schedule as yet for the next round of talks between the Dimetro Conceller of Mill noted. "These were reco-vered and identified, show-Directors-General of Mili-tary Operations of India and Pakistan. night of May 6-7, the couning that despite Pakistan's

try's air defence networl proved its capability and resilience as Pakistan launched hundreds of

drones in waves, un-manned combat aerial

vehicles and missiles in

clining high-speed ones. Most of them were shot

tronic warfare networks remained superior."

remained superior." The nearly ₹2,000-crore contract for Akashteer, a networking and automa-tion project, was signed in March 2023 and was field-ed a year later. Bharat Elec-tronics Ld. (BEL) said on social media that its in-house designed and manu-fiad provide its metle on the war field "Cround-

the war field. "Ground-based defence systems in-tegrated with Akashteer

made it hell for Pakistan's

air adventures," it said. "The system performed beyond users' expecta-

tions, providing robust air defence to India during the

A Local

who asked the Americans

to intervene". He lauded the armed

forces for doing a "pheno-menal job within a limited

mandate" and argued that "if the forces didn't want to

disclose certain tactical de-

tails, it must be respected'

Seeks accountability The Congress resolution questioned the govern-ment over the sudden an-nouncement of ceasefire and halting of military op-erations and targeted it for not fixing accountability nock halagam terror at-tack.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal at a meeting held at the AICC headquarters on Wednesday. RX MORTHY

current conflict."



President briefed on **Operation Sindoor by** CDS. Service Chiefs

The Hindu Bureau van, in a post on the socia media platform X, con-firmed the briefing and highlighted the President's recognition of the armed forces' efforts. "The Presi-Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, accom-panied by the three Service Chiefs, briefed President dent commended the va lour and dedication of the Droupadi Murmu, in her capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Indian read.

armed forces that made In dia's response to terrorism a sterling success," the pos in-Chief of the Indian armed forces, on the pro-gess of Operation Sindoor The meeting included General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Air Staff, and Chief of the Air Staff, and Admiral Dinesh K. Tri-the Staff, They provided her updates on the ongoing operation. The Rashtrapati Bha-Operation Sindoor launched on May 7, is In launched on May 7, is In-dia's strategic counterof-fensive in response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians. The operation aims to target and neutralise terror

cupied Kashmir

Shed politics till Operation ends. BJP tells Opposition

camps operating within Pakistan and Pakistan-Oc-

The Hindu Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday said the Op-position should show its "true spirit and shed the politics at least until Opera-tion Sindoor finishes". "Still, if they want to go ahead, this poses a serious question over their inten and commitment on the is and commitment on the is-sue of national security in the eyes of the public," BJP MP and party spokesper-son Sudhanshu Trivedi

son Sudhanshu Trivedi told presspersons. "On the issue of media-tion, which the Opposition has left behind a trail of unanswered questions. The sudden halt, without clarity or communication, has led to speculation and contried to raise, it is being ve ry unequivocally ex pressed by the Govern ment of India that the issue cern across the country," the resolution read. Meanwhile, the party distanced itself from the of Pakistan occupied Kash distanced itself from the public comments of Mr. mir is a bilateral issue. It i to be settled on bilatera Tharoor, who had earlier said ceasefire was at the in-stance of Pakistan. terms between India and Pakistan." Mr. Trivedi said. There was no scope fo ediation from any othe stance of Pakistan. This was at odds with the Congress' official posi-tion on the matter. "When Mr. Tharoor speaks, it does not reflect the views of the party." Mr. Ramesh said in response to a question on ceasefire. In the closed-door meetmediation from any mediation from any other country, he said. "With due respect to all the coun-tries of the world which have a positive outlook for India, we want to say that this issue of DeV is just a bil this issue of PoK is just a bi lateral issue between India and Pakistan. There is no a question on ceasenre. In the closed-door meet-ing, without naming Mr. Tharoor, several leaders, including Mr. Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala raised the issue of statements and scope for any mediation by any country, including those countries which were said to be the guar dians of democracy and dians of democracy and were asked to interfere in comments made by party leaders that are at odds with the party position. the democratic process of

Congress set to organise rallies to question Modi's Sandeep Phukan NEW DELHI

country to question the Prime Minister's "silence" Prime Minister's "silence" on U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of mediat-ing a ceasefire between In-dia and Pakistan and the "halting" of the military operation

loesn't belong to one party, it belongs to the na-tion," Congress leader Jai-ram Ramesh, addressing a press conference jointly with Pawan Khera, said after a Congress Workin (CWC)

Committee (CWC) meeting. The CWC adopted a re-solution that said Mr. Trump's claim of brokering had internationalised the Kashmir issue and repre-sented a "dangerous and unprecedented hyphena-tan" of India with Pakis-tan" of India with Pakis-

tion in the Lok Sabha Ra-hul Gandhi chaired the meeting that was

on television; it demands professional rigour, vigi-lance, and institutional ac-countability. Equally sur-prising was the abrupt end Gandhi as saying, "ques-tions must be asked as to to India's retaliatory action against Pakistan, which

#### Family heaves sigh of relief as BSF jawan captured by Pak. returns to India

#### Shrabana Chatterjee

Press Trust of India

International Mon

tary Fund has disbursed a second tranche of \$1.023 billion under the Extended

Fund Facility (EFF) pro-gramme for Pakistan, the central bank said on

Wednesday. The disbursement of the

second tranche comes on a day when the IMF is hold-

ing virtual discussions on Pakistan's upcoming Bud-

The family members of Purnam Kumar Shaw, the Border Security Force ja-

wan who was returned to India on Wednesday after spending over 20 days in the custody of Pakistan the custody of Pakistan Rangers, heaved a sigh of relief as the news came in. An official statement said Mr. Shaw, a resident of Rishra in Hooghly district of West Bengal, was hand-ed over to the BSF at 10.30 a m on the Attrict border.

a.m. on the Attari border 

in Punjab. As the family got the much-awaited call, they broke into tears of joy Shaw's pregnant wife, Raj-ni, said. and distributed sweets to relatives and neighbours in Emotional message

In an emotional message to the nation, she said even "Operation Sindoor ho-noured the sindoor of 26 noured the sindoor of 26 women. And now, the go-vernment has also ho-brought my husband back. Chief Minister Mamata Ba-nerjee has called me four times since morning. She had said she would get my husband back. In seven days and she did, Mr.

the \$1.4 billion Resilience

(RSF). The RSF is intended to

support countries facing climate vulnerabilities and



:::

He had inadvertently entered Pakistani territory while on duty along the In-ternational Border betthe family. Ms. Banerjee took to the social media platform 'X' to express her joy over the jawan's return. Bharatiya Janata Party MP Sukanta Majumdar shared a message of joy. "After so many days, our ja-wan has been brought back. This has been only back. This has been only possible due to the leader-ship of Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi," he added. Mr. Shaw was detained by Pakistan Rangers on April 23, a day after the Pa-halgam terror attack which left 26 people dead.

ween the two countries in the Ferozepur area of Pun-Wife's appeals Soon after his held vielted Ms. Shaw at her home in Rishra to assure her of im-mediate action. On April 28, the preg-nant Ms. Shaw had tra-velled to the BSF camp in Pathankot, Punjah, to meet

A ser

senior officials and appeal for her husband's return. Ms. Shaw began losing hope when tensions esca-lated between India and Pakistan following Opera tion Sindoor. With the ten sions easing and diploma ic efforts bearing fruit, the anxiety that had gripped the family has given way to

The West Bengal Chie Minister and Trinamoo Congress and Lok Sabh MP Kalyan Banerjee had a so been in contact with th formity family. 

jubilation. The West Bengal Chief



thening long-term macroe-conomic stability and resilience. Pakistan is heavily de-pendent on the IMF bai-lout package which helped

"National security can-Leader of the Opposi to shore up its dwindling reserves. The country got backing of the fund at a not be managed through public relations exercises on television; it demands critical time last year when

it was on the verge of bank-ruptcy and was saved by the lender by providing \$3 Referring to contradic-tory reports over the cea-sefire, a leader quoted Mr. billion on a short-term



# Indigenous weapon systems highly effective, says Centre

All offensive strikes on Pakistan military targets were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of the surveillance, planning, and delivery systems, says statement; situation along the western borders remains calm

#### **Dinakar Peri** NEW DELHI

he performance of indigenous defence against svstems Chinese and Turkish weapon systems stood out during Operation Sindoor, government and military officials have said. For instance, the indigenous Akash short-range surfaceto-air systems proved their capability, while the Chinese HQ-9 SAMs deployed by Pakistan failed to effectively intercept the precision-guided munitions launched by India.

"All offensive strikes on Pakistan military targets were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems," the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on Wednesday about India's offensive against Pakistani military installations on May 10.

"The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and



Show of strength: Akash short range surface-to-air systems proved their capability during Operation Sindoor, officials say. FILE PHOTO

#### calibrated," it said.

The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge, the statement said. In a social media post,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office said: "India's defence sector is growing stronger than ever, driven by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Defence exports have jumped from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to

₹23,622 crore in 2024-25 a 34-fold rise."

Several countries in southeast Asia, west Asia and Africa have expressed interest in the Akash and BrahMos systems among others, an official noted. "The recent episode is a validation of the performance of these systems in real-time. We anticipate further interest in Indian systems," he said.

Over the course of five days since Operation Sindoor was launched on the night of May 6-7, the country's air defence network proved its capability and resilience as Pakistan launched hundreds of drones in waves, unmanned combat aerial vehicles and missiles inclining high-speed ones. Most of them were shot down, and only a few made an impact.

The Indian armed forces struck several air defence radar sites, among others, disabling the HQ-15 SAM system in Lahore. The air defence networks of the Army and the IAF were backed by the Akashteer air defence and the Integrated Air Command and Control Systems (IACCS), respectively.

Operation Sindoor also produced concrete evidence of hostile technologies neutralised by the Indian systems – with the recovery of pieces of Chinese PL-15 air-to-air missiles, Turkish-origin UAVs, long-range rockets, quadcopters and commercial drones, the PIB statement noted. "These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's

attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior."

contract for Akashteer, a networking and automation project, was signed in March 2023 and was fielded a vear later. Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) said on social media that its inhouse designed and manufactured Akashteer system had proved its mettle on the war field. "Groundbased defence systems integrated with Akashteer made it hell for Pakistan's air adventures," it said. "The system performed beyond users' expectations, providing robust air defence to India during the

current conflict." The situation along the western borders remained calm on the intervening night of May 13-14. Army sources said there was no schedule as yet for the next round of talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan.

The nearly ₹2,000-crore

- **1.** Performance of Indigenous Defence Systems:
  - Indigenous defence systems, particularly Akash short-range surface-to-air systems, proved highly effective during Operation Sindoor.
  - The Chinese HQ-9 SAMs used by Pakistan failed to intercept India's precision-guided munitions.
- 2. Success of Indian Offensive Operations:
  - All offensive strikes on Pakistani military targets were carried out without any loss of Indian assets.
  - This highlights the effectiveness of India's surveillance, planning, and delivery systems.
  - The Indian Air Force's quick action (just 23 minutes) exemplified its operational efficiency.

# 3. Technological Superiority:

- India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks proved resilient despite Pakistan's use of drones, UAVs, and high-speed missiles.
- Pakistan's air defence network was unable to withstand the precision strikes.
- The Indian Air Force successfully neutralized incoming threats, including the HQ-15 SAM system in Lahore.

# 4. Significant Defence Exports:

- Defence exports from India surged from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to ₹23,622 crore in 2024-25, marking a 34-fold rise.
- Indian weapon systems like Akash and BrahMos are generating interest in Asia and Africa.

# 5. Technological Advancements:

- Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) showcased the Akashtester, a networked and automated air defence system developed in collaboration with the Indian Air Force.
- The system demonstrated robust performance in field tests and combat situations.

# INDIA'S 'AKASH' TO COUNTER Dragon Fire

Mission » To track & destroy hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones & sub-sonic cruise missiles

Surface-to-Air missile (SAM) system was one of the five core missile systems of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched by India in 1983. After long delays due to technical glitches, Akash now finally being deployed by IAF & army

# IAF »

Inducting eight squadrons, each with 2 'flights' of 4 launchers

Cost | ₹6,200 Cr

# Army »

Inducting 2 Akash regiments, with six firing batteries & hundreds of missiles each

Cost | ₹14,180 Cr

# MISSILE CHARACTERISTICS

# 5.6 metre in length;

integrated two-stage Ramjet rocket propulsion technology; powered by an air-breathing engine; can carry warhead of **60kg** 

AKASH

# 25-km interception range

Low reaction, all-weather capability

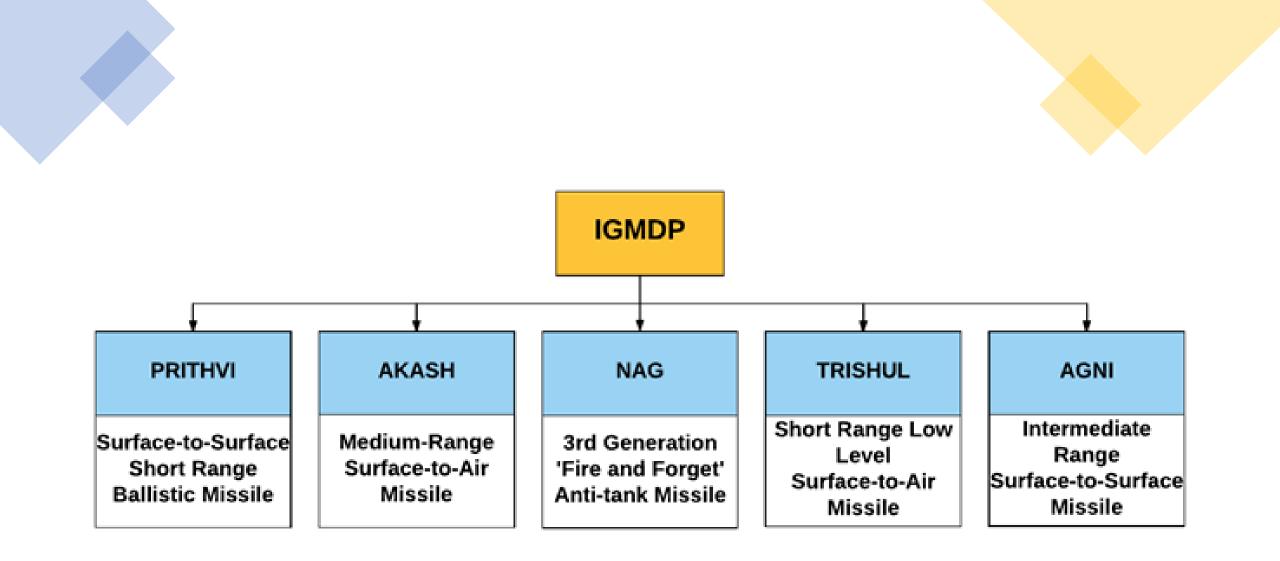
# 96%

## indigenous

Can handle multiple aerial threats from several directions simultaneously

88% kill probability within a specified kill zone







**'21-day anti-Naxal operation** 

#### INBRIER

6



#### Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar is UPSC Chairman

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has been appointed Chairman of the UPSC, says a Union Personnel Ministry order. The post of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman fell vacant after the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure on April 29. Mr. Kumar's appointment was ared by President Droupadi Murmu, s ler issued on Tuesday, A 1985-batch re mu said the order issued on Tuesday. A 1985-batch retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre, Mr. Kumar worked as Defence Secretary from August 23, 2019 to Cotober 31, 2022, according to his service records. An UPSC Chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age. m

#### Film workers' body urges boycott of Turkiye for shoots

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), representing over 3.5 lakh members from 36 cinematic fields, on Wednesday called from 36 cinematic helds, on Wednesday called upon Indian filmmakers to refrain from choosing Turklye and Azerbaljan as shooting destinations. The appeal, the organisation stated, was made in light of Turklye's diplomatic position, which it alleged runs counter to India's national interest. In view of recent international developments, we have called for a boycott of Turklye and Azerbaijan. These nations have shown open support for Pakistan, a country that continues to sponsor terrorism and bloodshed," Ashoke Pandit, chief advisor to FWICE, told The Hindu.



ns seized by the police on display in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, on Wednesday. PTI

May II in the areas around the Karegutta Hill, "a very difficult, hilly terrain about 60-km long and 5-20-km No. 1, their strongest miliwide", officials said. tary formation, the Telan-gana State Committee, and the Dandakaranya Special According to the police, 21 encounters took place as part of the operation that saw large mobilisation of forces and led to the Zonal Committee, the pol-

ice claimed. deaths of at least 31 un-iformed Maoists, including

16 women. Preliminary investiga-tion suggested that the de-ceased were members of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) group, and were part of the People's Liberation Guer-rilla Army (PLGA) Battalion

along the Karegutta Hill after anti-Naxal operations located. Even their military dinated anti-Maoist operaformations have been splintered into smaller groups," said Chhattisgarh tion" in Chhattisgarh till date. Officers said that in the Officers said that in the past two-and-a-half years, the past two-and-a-half years, the past of the past which became the refuge of 300-330 of armed cadres became the past of the PLGA that manufac-tures weapons, and other in the shifting of Maoi to Kareguitta Hill, hey ad-ded, had happened as a re-sult of the increasing domi-Additional Director-General of Police (Naxal Opera-tions) Vivekanand Sinha.

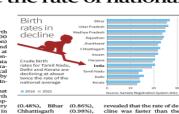
Take steps to ensure proper footpaths, SC tells States

The Hindu Bureau

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the States and local authornance of the security forces, which had set up new camps and executed sustained operations in other areas. The Maoists ities must safeguard the undamental right of ped estrians to clear and unhi had formed a Unified Comdered footpaths. "This court has recog mand and taken refuge on the hill as they considered nised that the right of ped-estrians to use footpaths is t was impregnable. CBFF Director: General Cyandendra Pratap Singh said that in recent years, the CRPF along with the relations of the country that rations in inaccessible re-gions of the country that Naxal basicions. He men-tioned the chakarbanda Hilly Region and Boodha Philly Region and Boodha the Kareguta Hill. "These inaccessible regions were acting as bastions for the areage for the security force areas in the security force CRPF Director-General maranteed under Article 21 fright to life and dignity of the Constitution. Right to have footpaths that are unobstructed is an essen-tial characteristic," a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Uj-jal Bhuyan said. The court directed the States and Union Territo-rises to forme guidelings to ries to frame guidelines to ensure proper footpaths for pedestrians calling is their constitutional right. The Bench was hearing a case over the delay in th implementation of the areas for the security forc-es. With them being cleared, achieving the goal cashless scheme for treat ing road accident victims. The court said the absence cleared, achieving the goal of Naxal-free India in the future seems easy," he said. Reiterating the deadline of March 31, 2026 set by Union Home Minister Amit Shah for eradication of Navalium Mr. Fiord do The court said the absence of footpaths contributed to road accidents, as it forced pedestrians to walk on roads. "It is necessary to reads. "It is necessary to have proper footpaths for citizens. They should be such that they are access-ble to persons with disabil-ities, and removal of en-Naxalism, Mr. Singh de-scribed the latest encoun-ter as the "beginning of the end" for Naxals. croachments is mandat orv," it said.

#### Himalavan leap for at twice the rate of national average: report yak genomic science mographic survey in the showed that the number of Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI + The Hindu Bureau Birth Bihar registered births were see-ing a rise in about II States and Union Territories, which included Bihar, Racountry, meant to provide annual estimates on fertili-The annual crude birth rates (live births per 1,000 people in the population) in Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala are declining at rates in ty and mortality indicators such as birth rates and ad hose Practicult decline Specialists from four institutions of the Indian Coun death rates. Apart from the southern cil of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have assembled the Chhattisear States, birth rates were seen declining faster than first-ever chromosome-le twice the rate of the nati Inst-ever chromosome-le-vel genome of the Indian yak. The Indian yak (Bos grunniens), often called the 'ship of the Himalayas', is an integral part of the economy of high-altitude

twice the rate of the nation-al average, showed data from the Sample Registra-tion System (SRS) Statistical the Registrar-General of In-dia last week. The data showed that the all-India crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021, drop-page from 2016 in 2021, in page from 2016 in 2021, in national average economy of high-altitude dwellers, who depend on it for meat, milk, and transportation. Mihir Sarkar, the Direcyear from 2016 to 2021. In tor of the ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak in Arunachal Pradesh's Dicomparison, in the same period, the birth rate in Ta-mil Nadu has been declining at a rate of 2.35% every year, Delhi's at a rate of 2.23% and Kerala's at rang, said the "leap for yak genomic science" marks a significant milestone that nises to revolutionise 2.05% 2.05%. The data showed that the slowest rate of decline in birth rate was seen in States such as Rajasthan yak breeding programmes and the understanding of



cline was faster than the national average for 13 large States and Union Ter-Chhattisgarh (0.98%), Jharkhand (0.98%), Assam (1.05%), Madhya Pradesh (1.05%), West Bengal ritories. (1.08%), and Uttar Pradesh All southern States (1.09%). The data further revealed that Uttarakhand Andhra Pradesh (1.26%) Telangana (1.67%), Karnawas the only State which saw a rise in birth rate in taka (1.68%), Kerala, and Tamil Nadu – featured among these 13 large States and Union Territories. this period. The birth rates data from the SRS 2021 further The SRS is the largest dethe national average for Maharashtra (1.57%), Guja-rat (1.24%), Odisha (1.34%), Himachal Pradesh (1.29%), Humachai Pradesh (1.29%), Haryana (1.21%), and J&K (1.47%), with Punjab's birth rate declining almost at the same rate as that of the na-tioned morene **Registered births** Corresponding to this data set in the SRS 2021 Statisti-cal Report, the Civil Registration System 2021 dataset showed that some of the States seeing the slowest decline in birth rates are also reporting increasing number of registered births. The Vital Statistics

jasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep. Kashimir, Ladasin, and Lakshadweep. The SRS 2021 data on to-tal fertility rate (TFR) and griss reproduction rate draw the state state and the birth rate data — show-ing that States such as Bi-har, Uttar Pradesh Rajas-than, Madhya Pradesh had a TFR and GRB hieber than a TFR and GRR higher than the national average. The TFR measures aver-age number of children expected to be born per wo-man during her entire span of reproductive period and GRR refers to the average number of daughters each woman has who survive to reproductive age and have children of their own.

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...

of places by China would not alter the ground reality that Arunachal Pradesh is an "inalienable part of In-dia". The Ministry-level response came after Chi-na's Ministry of Foreign Af-fairs announced a change in the names of some plac-fairs announced a change in the names of some plac-monachan and the source and the source of the s vain and preposterous at-tempts to name places in the Indian State of Aruna-chal Pradesh. Consistent with our principled posi-tion, we reject such at-tempts categorically. Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that

FAITH

#### Keeping mind worry-free

If people load their minds with unwanted thoughts, their minds will become confused and agitated. Thanneerpalli minds will become confused and agitated. Thanneerpalli Krishnan Swamy said here are three reasons for confu-sion to arise in our minds. Firstly, expecting results for those activities performed that are against the Satras. Vas completion of their stay in the forest, and they asked for their portion of the kingdom. Out of biln affection to-wards his son Duryodhana, the King was reluctant to part with them the kingdom. He asked vidhura why he could the king drifted away from the virtuous path. Secondly, people sometimes get confused them understanding and people sometimes get confused when understanding and identifying what is righteous and what is not. Arjuna became confused at the beginning of the war and requested "With my heart stricken by the fault, with my mind per

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednes-Creative naming will not alter the undeniable day said "creative naming" of places by China would reality that the State is integral part of India RANDHIR JAISWAL MEA spokesperson part of India," the MEA's of

ficial spokesperson, Rand hir Jaiswal, said in a state ment. Earlier, the spokesper son of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lin Jian, had said that China had "standardised" names o some places in Arunacha Pradesh, which Beijing ref ers to as Zangnan China and India have had tough exchanges re-garding Beijing's attempts

+

at the so-called "standar of names in the border Stat ular attempts were

Arunachal Pradesh, was, an integral and inalienable made in April 2024

SUDOKU TH CROSSWORD+14485 To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. 7 8 2 5 13 Cut to equally divide a sweet (5) 5 6 Cubbs, say, in environs of Paris (7)
 Custom houses withdrawing concession counter (7)
 Customary number by comedian taking off Chaplin's 964 original (5) 2 6 3 21 Creature's lair old man briefly disturbed (9) 24 Endlessly rich king doubling gold enthralled by craven, evil route to wealth (6.5.4) 8 2 6 -1 25 Key opener for India only scoring zero (4)
 26 Neutralizing agent shrinking stuff that is spread over hides (9) 9 4 4 6 2 Small space in pantry, type designed for pots (1.6.5) 6 Cow could be cogitating (8)
 Staff drawing up slogan (6)
 Shot dead after row about money (6) 1 37 5 Make up excuse, primarily fabricated, entirely without a hint of truth (8) DIFFICULTY BATING: 218495673

#### 6 Mark of identification to dispatch most important part (8). Mark of identification to dispatch most important part (8) Maiden I save following behind mother (6) Corporate members are hard pressed by bears, at first usually going short (12) Shut in, infimate in conclusion (8)

- 16 Bar stops good friends turning violent (4-4) 18 Old man is cooking fish (8)
- Harass sleepers close to midnight (6)
   Male bounding first is in the first place (6)
   Animal, little goat, child rears (3-3)

#### 8 Majority of the country switching sides in shame (9) Some flea preparing to jump (4)

Simple test is mostly good base for philosophers studying knowledge (15)

genetic complexities of vital species.

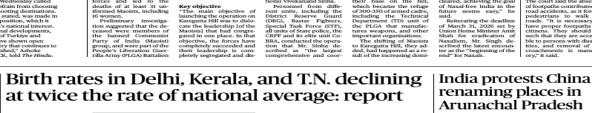
SM (1999)

16 16

Across

12 Adolescent drinking a nuisance around outdoor café

17



tional average.

Report based on CRS 2021

## renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh

NBRIER

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# Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar is UPSC Chairman

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has been appointed Chairman of the UPSC, says a Union Personnel Ministry order. The post of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman fell vacant after the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure on April 29. Mr. Kumar's appointment was cleared by President Droupadi Murmu, said the order issued on Tuesday. A 1985-batch retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre, Mr. Kumar worked as Defence Secretary from August 23, 2019 to October 31, 2022, according to his service records. An UPSC Chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age. PTI

Established	October 1, 1926
Constitutional Provision	Article 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution
Primary Function	Conduct recruitment exams for All India Services, Central Services, and other Group A and B services
Headquarters	New Delhi, India
Chairperson (as of 2025)	To be updated (current data required)
Appointment of Chairperson	Appointed by the President of India
Tenure of Chairperson	6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier
Composition	- One Chairperson
	- Up to 10 other members

Functions and Duties	- Conducts exams for Civil Services (IAS, IPS, IFS) and various other services
	- Advises the government on recruitment methods
	- Disciplinary matters and promotions
	- Matters related to the transfer and deputation of officers
Examinations Conducted	- Civil Services Examination (CSE)
	- Indian Forest Service (IFoS)
	- Engineering Services Examination (ESE)
	- Combined Defence Services (CDS)
	- National Defence Academy (NDA)
	- Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
	- Indian Economic Service (IES)
	- Indian Statistical Service (ISS)

Civil Services Exam (CSE)	- Conducted annually
	- Three stages: Prelims, Mains, and Interview
Eligibility Criteria for CSE	- Nationality: Indian
	- Age Limit: 21 to 32 years (general category)
	- Educational Qualification: Graduate from a recognized university
	- Number of Attempts: 6 (General), 9 (OBC), Unlimited (SC/ST)
Reservation	- OBC: 27%, SC: 15%, ST: 7.5%, EWS: 10%
Application Mode	Online through UPSC official website

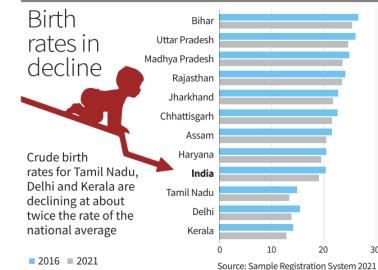
# Birth rates in Delhi, Kerala, and T.N. declining at twice the rate of national average: report

#### Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI

The annual crude birth rates (live births per 1,000 people in the population) in Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala are declining at twice the rate of the national average, showed data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report, 2021, released by the Registrar-General of India last week.

The data showed that the all-India crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021, dropping at a rate of 1.12% every year from 2016 to 2021. In comparison, in the same period, the birth rate in Tamil Nadu has been declining at a rate of 2.35% every vear, Delhi's at a rate of 2.23% and Kerala's at 2.05%.

The data showed that the slowest rate of decline in birth rate was seen in States such as Rajasthan



(0.48%), Bihar (0.86%), Chhattisgarh (0.98%), Jharkhand (0.98%), Assam (1.05%), Madhya Pradesh (1.05%), West Bengal (1.08%), and Uttar Pradesh (1.09%). The data further revealed that Uttarakhand was the only State which saw a rise in birth rate in this period.

The birth rates data from the SRS 2021 further revealed that the rate of decline was faster than the national average for 13 large States and Union Territories.

30

All southern States -Andhra Pradesh (1.26%), Telangana (1.67%), Karnataka (1.68%), Kerala, and Tamil Nadu – featured among these 13 large States and Union Territories.

The SRS is the largest de-

mographic survey in the country, meant to provide annual estimates on fertility and mortality indicators such as birth rates and death rates.

Apart from the southern States, birth rates were seen declining faster than the national average for Maharashtra (1.57%), Gujarat (1.24%), Odisha (1.34%), Himachal Pradesh (1.29%). Haryana (1.21%), and J&K (1.47%), with Punjab's birth rate declining almost at the same rate as that of the national average.

#### **Registered births**

Corresponding to this data set in the SRS 2021 Statistical Report, the Civil Registration System 2021 dataset showed that some of the States seeing the slowest decline in birth rates are also reporting increasing number of registered births. The Vital Statistics Report based on CRS 2021

showed that the number of registered births were seeing a rise in about 11 States and Union Territories, which included Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep.

The SRS 2021 data on total fertility rate (TFR) and gross reproduction rate (GRR) too correspond to the birth rate data - showing that States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh had a TFR and GRR higher than the national average.

The TFR measures average number of children expected to be born per woman during her entire span of reproductive period and GRR refers to the average number of daughters each woman has who survive to reproductive age and have children of their own.

## 1. Decline in Birth Rates:

- The annual crude birth rates in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala are declining at twice the rate of the national average.
- Data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2021 reveals a consistent decline.
- 2. National vs State Data:
  - National Average:
    - The all-India crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021, declining at a rate of 1.12% per year from 2016 to 2021.
  - State Data:
    - Tamil Nadu: Decline rate of 2.35% per year.
    - Delhi: Decline rate of 2.23% per year.
    - Kerala: Decline rate of 2.05% per year.

- Slowest Decline:
  - Rajasthan recorded the slowest decline in birth rate among Indian states.
- 3. Faster Decline in Specific States:
  - Southern States like Andhra Pradesh (1.26%), Telangana (1.67%), Karnataka (1.68%), Kerala, and Tamil Nadu showed faster decline than the national average.
  - Other states with a faster rate of decline include Maharashtra (1.57%), Gujarat (1.24%), Odisha (1.34%), Himachal Pradesh (1.29%), Haryana (1.21%), and J&K (1.47%).
- 4. Registered Births and TFR:
  - 11 states and union territories, including Bihar, Rajasthan, UP, and others, saw a rise in registered births.
  - States with high Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR) align with higher birth rates.
- 5. Factors Contributing to Decline:
  - Social factors, lifestyle changes, and improved education and healthcare are leading to lower birth rates.
  - Demographic transition in urbanized states also contributes to this trend.

Thursday, May 15, 2025

#### THE HINDU SCIENCE



# Scientists make unique 2D metals much sought after for future tech

The unique material properties resulting from quantum confinement have great real-world applications; this has driven scientists to pursue creation of 2D metals, inspired by materials like graphene and quantum dots; but they've encountered a challenge: the behaviour of metal atoms themselves

#### Vasudevan Mukunth

quantum dot is a type of semiconductor that's only a few nanometres wide. It has a wide range of applications, including in LED lighting, medical diagnostics, printing, semiconductor fabrication, and solar panels. They're very small, but they've had a big impact on our world as we know it. This is why the people who found a quick, reliable way to make quantum dots were awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2023. the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2023. Quantum dots get their curious but powerful abilities from a phenomenon called quantum confinement. When you the sense and the sense of the sense based of the sense of the sense source to the bulb through copper wires. Because the wires are fairly thick (from an electron's perspective) and very long, the dectron's perspective) and very long, the move freely. But in a quantum dot, there relatively closer to each other. So even though they're free to move around the to their atoms, their movement is still restricted.

restricted. In this situation, the amount of energy each electron can have changes. In a copper wire in your house's circuit, if an electron gains some extra energy in some way, it can simply move around faster. But in a quantum dot there's nowhere to go, so the electrons can't simply acquire more energy even if, say, you increase the voltage on the dot. Instead, the electrons can have only specific amounts of energy each. This is exactly how electrons in an each. This is exactly how electrons in an atom behave: they have limited energy levels. It's like they're in a movie hall. The copper-wire electrons are free to fill any seats they like. But in an atom, some rows seats they like. But in an atom, some rows are closed off, and in the other rows, only specific seats are available. Because all the electrons in a quantum dot behave in this way, the dot itself behaves like a giant

#### The materials not in 3D

The materials not in 3D The restrictions the electrons feel because they're so packed in are said to be due to quantum confinement. A material is described as ID or 2D depending on how much it confines its electrons. A quantum dot is considered to be a zero-dimensional material: while its

electrons can technically move in three dimensions, the volume available is so small that it might as well be a point in Likewise, graphene is a famous 2D

material: it consists of a single sheet of carbon atoms bonded to each other in a vagonal pattern. The electrons in this sheet can only move around in two ns, thus 2D. As a result, they behave as if they don't have mass, for example, giving rise to properties not seen in other materials.

seen in other materials. The unusual material properties quantum confinement gives rise to are clearly of graat read-world value. This is create 2D metals – but they we been running into a thorny problem. If one graphene sheet is placed above another, the two sheets will develop weak links between them called a van der bonds: they can keen the sheets from

bonds: they can keep the sheets from drifting apart, but if you tug even one sheet just a little, the interaction will 

eak and allow the sheets to be separated. The scientists who discovered graphene also found that by attaching some cellophane tape on graphite, then pulling it in one smooth motion, they could get a few layers of graphene to come off with the tape

#### Really, really flat metals This wouldn't have been possible if

carbon had been a metal. The problem with a metal atom is that it likes to bond with all the same atoms around itself. Put differently, the atom readily forms bonds in 3D. Forcing it to form bonds only in 2D is very difficult. This is why materials is very difficult. This is why materials scientists have been trying for a decade to create 2D metals using different carefully depositing metal atoms on a substrate, and sandwiching metal allocs when hum are ing metal pieces down. They've only been able to manage metal sheets a few nanometres thick. This are 10 times thinner, at best a few angstroms thick do deps. Scientists have also found the surface of these materials to be found the surface of these materials to found the surface of these materials to the surface of these materials to be found the surface of these materials to be the surface of these to be also found the surface of these materials to be

interact with oxygen in the atmosphere to form oxide compounds. Yet they've been motivated to keep ret they we been motivated to keep going because 2D metals are expected to have highly unique properties that can be exploited for next-generation technologies, including super-sensitive technologies, including super-sensitive sensors with applications ranging from medicine to the military. 2D bismuth and tin, in particular, are expected to be exotic materials called topological insulators, conducting electric currents only along their edges, not anywhere else in such astate, the material can become in such a state, the material can become magnetised in small islands – a phenomenon physicists have said can be exploited to make faster computers of the future.

A high-pressure sandwich Now, if a study published recently in The use of MoS2 and sapphire wasn't

2D metals are expected to have unique properties that can be used for super-sensitive sensors with applications ranging from medicine to the military. 2D bismuth and tin are expected to be exotic materials called ogical insulators

Nature is to be believed, there may finally be light at the end of the 2D tunnel. A be light at the end of the 2D runned team of scientists from the Beijing be light at the end of the 2D turnel. A team of scientists from the Beijing Matter Physics and Inatitute of Physics, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (both in Heijing), and Songshan has reported a way to produce 2D sheets of bismuth, gallium, indium, tin, and lead. The team's ischnique isn't complicated either – although thronogies have taken a long time to go to their current advanced state. It goes roughly like this: (6) Create a may call the single layer of molybdenum disulphile (MoSs) has been deposited. The dominant is harded, the morth powder of which a single layer of molybdenum disulphile (MoSs) has been deposited. The dominant is harded, the next proved on top of it will melt and spread out, (4).

on top of it will meet and spread out. (iv) The droplet is overlaid with the top anvil, which also consists of a single MoSs layer pasted on a sapphire substrate. At this point the droplet is sandwiched between two layers of MoS<sub>2</sub>, which in turn are sandwiched between two layers of sapphire. (v) The top anvil is twisted by a

supplier, (v) The top anvil is twisted by a small angle and then the two anvils are presided together. The presence is is an up temperature, then removed, (vi) The sameobred sheet of metal is peeled off, abeet was just 6.3.4 thick – a depth of roughly two atoms and sufficient for operating the metal to be confined in ju-

A representative image of droplet of solidified molten tin. 2D tin is expected to be an exotic material called a topological insulator, which conducts electric currents only along its edges, not anywhere else.

Brazilian wins World Food Prize for raising vield using biological processes

accidental. MoS: has a Young's modulus – the amount of force required to deform it – of 430 billion pacal (Pa), and sapphire, has one of 300 billion Pa. That's more than a million times the

atmospheric pressure at sea level. The squeeze the scientists applied to make 2D bismuth was 'just' 200 million Pa. Both MoS<sup>3</sup> and sapphire also have smooth

surfaces, which means their atoms don't

try to bond with the bismuth atoms near

bismuth sheet thus produced exhibits a

strong field effect and a nonlinear Hall effect. A field effect means how well the

sheet conducts electricity can be changed

sheet conducts electricity can be changed by applying an external electric field. The nonlinear Hall effect was more peculiar: when an electric field was applied, the bismuth sheet acquired a voltage in the perpendicular direction. Both the strong field effect and the nonlinear Hall effect occur in 2D metals, not in 3D metals.

To change the world The new effort is "not the first to grow thin crystals between layers of van der Waals materials. In the past year, there have been reports of single-atom-thick graphene nano-ribbons grown between layers of hexagonal boron nitride, and of

gold nanocrystals just a few nanometres thick grown between flakes of MoS<sub>3</sub>," University of California, Irvine,

commentary accompanying the paper. "My own group has also produced ultra-thin crystals of bismuth by squeezing the metal between layers of

hexagonal boron nitride, although the minimum thickness of our crystals was 5

"A key difference between our method

"A key difference between our method and that of Zhao and colleagues is that they used large (centimetre-scale) saphires covered with MoSa, which the saphires covered with MoSa sourchez? A same same same same sanchez? A same same same same sanchez? A same using more expensive and complex using more expensive and complex more concortunities as well as new

more opportunities as well as new challenges await. For example, researchers can look for ways to use the

technique to make 2D sheets composed of

multiple metal species, not just one. For another, the geometric arrangement of bismuth atoms in the 2D

sheet the team made allows it to become a topological insulator only in particular

conditions. Future research can improve

the technique to make room-temperature topological insulators in a more reliable

we shaped in the dimension in a more reliable way – just the way the 2023 chemistry hold brize laureates changed the world been they discovered a simple, reliable states of the simple, reliable states of the simple, reliable states of the simple and the simple sindependent simple s

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condensed-matter physics researcher Javier Sanchez-Yamagishi wrote in a

The researchers also found the

#### Associated Press

A Brazilian scientist who pushed back against the use of chemical fertilizers and studied biological approaches to more robust food production has been honoured with this year's World Food Prize, the organisation annoured May 13. ry 13. Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria ha

Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been researching biological seed and soil treatments for 40 years and has worked indings. Here accomplabment has now work has a complabment has now work food POID from the low-based World Food Hile, H's improbable, you said, my whole Hile, H's improbable, you said, my whole Hile, H's improbable, you like chemicals and so on. And then, 1 received the most important prize in the

received the most important prize in the world of agriculture," Ms. Hungria said in

Norman Borlaug, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work to dramatically increase crop yields and reduce the threat of starvation in many countries, founded the World Food Prize Since the first prize was handed out in 1987, 55 people have been honoured.

She studied how bacteria interact with roots to produce nitrogen, and worked directly with farmers to convince them that they wouldn't have to sacrifice yields if they switched to a biological

Ms. Hungria said she grew up wanting to alleviate hunger. Early in her career, biological nitrogen fixation, in which soil bacteria could be used to promote plant growth. At that time, farmers in Brazil and around the world were reluctant to reduce their use of nitrogen fertilisers, reduce their use of nitrogen fertilisers, production but lead to greenhouse gas emissions and pollute waterways. Ms. flugging in studied how bacteria can be used to be used to be an end of the produce nitrogen. She then demonstrated her work on test plots and began working that they wouldn't have to sacrifice high copp yields if they awitched to a biological The work is credited for increasing

The work is credited for increasing yields of several crops, including wheat, corn, and betten, but it has been has since become the world's largest soybean producer, surpassing the U.S. description of the several several several explosion of farms in other countries, soybean production in the U.S. is different than it is in Rezall. American farmers corn and soybeans, knough nitrate fertilizer applied to corn still remains in fertilizer applied to corn still remains in the soil when soybeans are planted, and little or no fertilizer needs to be applied. Hungria said.

Brazilian agricultural companies have faced fierce criticism for clearing forested land to create farmland, largely to grow and to create farmand, argety to grow soybeans. Much of that criticism is justified, Ms. Hungria said, but she added that her approach builds up the soil and makes further encroachment into forested areas less necessary

forested areas less necessary. "If you manage the crop well, the crop will enrich the soil with nitrogen," she said. Ms. Hungria will be awarded her prize at an annual October gathering in lowa of agricultural researchers and

lowa of agricultural researchers and officials from around the world. Gebisa Ejeta, chair of the World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee, cred ited Ms. Hungria for the transformative effects of her research in South America.







Brazilian wins World Food Prize for raising yield using biological processes

Associated Press A Brazilian scientist who pushed back against the use of chemical fertilizers and studied biological approaches to more robust food production has been honoured with this year's World Food Prize, the organisation announced on May 13, Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been researching biological seed and soil treatments for 40 years and has worked with Brazilian farmers to implement her findings. Her accomplishment has now won her \$500,000 from the Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation "I still cannot believe it. Everybody said, my whole life, it's improbable, you are going the wrong way, just go to things like chemicals and so on. And then, I received the most important prize in the world of agriculture," Ms. Hungria said in an interview. Norman Borlaug, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work to dramatically increase crop yields and reduce the threat of starvation in many countries, founded the World Food Prize Since the first prize was handed out in 1987, 55 people have been honoured. She studied how bacteria interact with roots to produce nitrogen, and worked directly with farmers to convince them that they wouldn't have to sacrifice yields if they switched to a biological process Ms. Hungria said she grew up wanting to alleviate hunger. Early in her career, she decided to focus on a process called biological nitrogen fixation, in which soil bacteria could be used to promote plant growth. At that time, farmers in Brazil and around the world were reluctant to reduce their use of nitrogen fertilisers, which dramatically increase crop production but lead to greenhouse gas emissions and pollute waterways. Ms. Hungria studied how bacteria can interact with plant roots to naturally produce nitrogen. She then demonstrated her work on test plots and began working directly with farmers to convince them that they wouldn't have to sacrifice high crop yields if they switched to a biological The work is credited for increasing yields of several crops, including wheat, corn, and beans, but it has been especially effective on soybeans. Brazil has since become the world's largest soybean producer, surpassing the U.S. Although Ms. Hungria's research could be applied on farms in other countries, soybean production in the U.S. is different than it is in Brazil. American farmers typically rotate crops between growing corn and soybeans. Enough nitrate fertilizer applied to corn still remains in the soil when soybeans are planted, and little or no fertilizer needs to be applied,

Hungria said. Brazilian agricultural companies have faced fierce criticism for clearing forested land to create farmland, largely to grow soybeans. Much of that criticism is justified, Ms. Hungria said, but she added that her approach builds up the soil and makes further encroachment into forested among less personal the soil and the forested areas less necessary. "If you manage the crop well, the crop will enrich the soil with nitrogen," she said. Ms. Hungria will be awarded her prize at an annual October gathering in Iowa of agricultural researchers and officials from around the world. Gebisa Ejeta, chair of the World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee, cred-ited Ms. Hungria for the transformative effects of her research in South America.

## **World Food Prize** WORLD FOOD PRIZE Awarded for "a specific, exceptionally significant, individual achievement that advances human development with a demonstrable increase in the quantity, quality, availability of, or access to food"<sup>[1]</sup> Sponsored by General Foods, John Ruan and family, followed by numerous others Location Des Moines, Iowa, US World Food Prize Foundation Presented by Hosted by Mashal Husain, President of WFP<sup>[2]</sup> Reward(s) A diploma, a commemorative sculpture and a monetary award of US\$500,000 First award 1987 **Final award**

2024

# 1. Award and Achievement:

- Brazilian scientist Mariangela Hungria has been honored with the World Food Prize 2023.
- She received the award for her pioneering work in **biological processes** to enhance **crop yields**.
- The award includes a \$500,000 prize from the lowa-based World Food Prize Foundation.

# 2. Research and Contributions:

- Hungria has focused on reducing chemical fertilizer use and promoting biological methods in agriculture.
- Her key research involved:
  - Using **bacteria to fix nitrogen** in plants naturally.
  - Working directly with farmers to implement these biological methods.
- Hungria's research particularly impacted soybean production, making Brazil the world's largest soybean producer.

#### 14

#### THE HINDU World

LAHORE

Thursday, May 15, 2025

No. of Concession, Name

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#### MONTEVIDEO

Latin America mourns world's 'poorest President' Mujica



Uruguay began bidding farewell to its former leader Jose "Pepe" Mujica, a former leftist guerrilla fighter who won global fame for his humility as the so-called "world's poorest President". The 89-year-old, who spent a dozen years behind bars for revolutionary five years in prison, part of an intensifying crackdown by the Kremlin against independent critics and opponents. Grigory Melkonyants, 44, is the co-chair of the Russian vote-monitoring NGO activity, lost a year-long battle against cancer on Tuesday, AFP Golos, which records alleged fraud in Russian elections. AFP



Russia jails prominent election

MOSCOW



om their lands by the mafia i Pakistan's Punjab and the provincial government appears to be a silent spectator, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HR said on Wednesday. The HRCP said the Christian community's ission of Pakistan (HRCP)

nle

that the discussions had al-ready begun. Mr. Macron and Frie-drich Merz, newly swom-in German Chancellor, had discussed a nuclear deter-

rent during Mr. Merz's visit to Paris last week. The Chancellor had said there

nent the framework

plement the framework with the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-tion (NATO). American nu-clear weapons (all of them gravity bombs) have been stationed in Europe since the 1950s.

aimed at deepening coop-eration, including on in-

frastructure and clean

order". "As staunch defenders

....

programmes

Rights body raises concern over

military exercises, involving advanced Chinese military hardware including artillery, warships and robot battle dogs. Nearly 900 Chinese military personnel and more than 1,300 Cambodia farmlands have been occupied in Kot Addu, 400 km from Lahore. F soldiers are taking part in the drills that will last until May 28. AFF

PHNOM PENH

of the second second

#### Kremlin slams **Open to begin talks on French nukes** Macron's plan in European countries, says Macron for nuclear deployment

#### The framework for deployment of nuclear weapons would be discussed in the weeks and months ahead, subject to Agence France-Presse conditions, French President said; Poland had recently said it would like to host American and French nukes on its soil

The possible deployment of French nuclear bombers across the EU will not en Sriram Lakshman hance security on the con-tinent, the Kremlin said on Wednesday, after French President Emmanuel Macron said he was ready to discuss the issue. "The proliferation of nuclear weapons on the Eu-ropean continent is so-mething that will not add

mething that will not add security, predictability, or stability to the European continent," Kremlin spo-kesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Russia possesses about Russia possesses about Reances muclear deter-rence as a potential threat to its national security.

France's nuclear de rence as a potential th to its national security.



that Poland would like to host both American and French nuclear weapons on its soil, Mr. Macron said his country was "ready to open this discussion". The framework for de-ployment of nuclear wea-pons would be discussed in the weeks and months

ahead, subject to condi-tions, Mr. Macron said, in a lengthy discussion with te-levision channel TF1 on Two of the termine Tuesday evening. "Let's be clear, France will not pay for the security of others. It can be a Euro-pean effort or the effort of each nation, " Mr. Macron said, enlisting the first of three conditions. Second, the transfer of nuclear bombs to other countries would not come

countries would not come at the expense of France's own deterrence, according to Mr. Macron. Finally, the French President would be ultimately in charge of whether they could be used, he said. The President indicated



Two dozen children

among 70 killed in

Cambodia and China begin their

dia and China on Wednesday began their largest-ever join

largest-ever military exercises

was a need to discuss nu-clear deterrence with France and the U.K. - Europe's only two nuclear ms the death of loved ones killed in powers - and that any such deterrent would supeli strikes on Jabalia in Gaza Stri

Associated Press children's bodies DEIR AL-BALAH There had been wides

There had been wides-pread hope that Mr. Trump's visit to West Asia could usher in a ceasefire deal or renewal of humani-tarian aid to Gaza. An Is-raeli blockade of the terri-tory is now in its third month Israeli airstrikes pounded northern and southern Ga-za on Wednesday, killing at gamma and southern Ga-almost two dozen chil dren, according to local hospitals and health offi-cials, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "ma waw", be would halt is-

month. The war began when Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in a 2023 in-tracion into couthern In "no way" he would halt Is-rael's offensive in the Pales-tinian territory before Hatrusion into southern Is rael. Israel's retaliatory of fensive has killed over mas is defeated. 52,928 Palestinians, many of them women and chil-dren, according to Gaza's At least 50 people, in-cluding 22 children, were

> times. Israeli media reported Israeli media reported that one target in a strike on a hospital in Khan You-nis on Tuesday was Mo-hammed Sinwar, younger

brother of the late Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces last October. The military would not

had targeted a Hamas "command and control center" which it said was located beneath the Eurolapsed concrete slabs using hand tools, lit by the light

+ Trump says Iran must | Forever in vogue end support for West Asia's proxy groups

#### Associated Press

U.S. President Donald Trump told Guil leaders on Wednesday he urgently wants "to make a deal" with Iran to wind down its nuclear programme but Tehran must end its sup-throughout the region as part of any potential agree-ment. U.S. President Donald

ment. Iran "must stop spon-soring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars and perma-nently and verifiably cease pursuit of nuclear wea-pons," Mr. Trump said in ful" but did not directly address the U.S. leader's call dress the U.S. leader's call on Iran to cease support of proxy groups. Later, Mr. Trump, in an exchange with reporters aboard Air Force One, urged Iran "to remarks at a meeting of leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council hosted by Crown Prince Mo-hammed bin Salman in the Saudi capital. "They can-not have a nuclear make the right decision' about its nuclear pro gramme "because someth ing's going to happen one way or the other."

The U.S. and Iran have engaged in four rounds of talks since last month on Iran's nuclear programme The U.S. and Iran have engaged in four rounds of talks since early last month focused on Iran's nuclear programme. In Iran, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called Mr. Trump's remarks "deceit-



#### Colombia joins Belt and Road initiative as China courts Latin America to counter U.S.

#### Agence France-Presse

Colombia formally agreed on Wednesday to join China's vast Belt and Road inastructure initiative, as Beijing draws Latin Ameri ca closer in a bid to coun-

ca closer in a bid to coun-ter the United States. Latin America has pround in U.S. President bonald Trump's confron-tations with China, and the region is coming under to choose a side. China has surpassed the U.S. as the biggest trading Chile and other Latin Chile and other Latin emerged as a key battle ground in U.S. President bonald Trump's confron-region is coming under pressure from Washington choose a ide. China has surpst frashing partner of Brazil, Peru, Chile and other Latin American nations, and two-thirds signed units to the emerged as a factor of the surgest transmission of the surgest transmission of the surgest surgest transmission of the surgest with Colombian President with Colombian President to poportially on the surgest and two-thirds signed units to the surgest surgest transmission of the surgest transmissi transmission of the surgest transmission of the surgest tran

SM (1999)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's Belt and Road infrastruc-"Belt and Road Initiative fa-mily" to enhance their ture drive. On the sidelines of a macooperation. Posting a video of the jor gathering of regional leaders in Beijing on Wed-nesday, Colombia became the latest country to join signing to social media platform X, Mr. Petro wrote that "the history of

our foreign relations is the global initiative changing" "From now on, Colom Historic step Colombia's Foreign Minisbia will interact with the entire world on a footing of equality and freedom," Mr.

Petro wrote. The BRI is a central pil-lar of Mr. XI's bid to expand China's economic and pol-itical clout overseas. For more than a decade, it has provided investment for infrastructure and oth-er large-scale projects around the world, offering Beijing political and eco-nomic leverage in return. -

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The BRI is a central pillar of President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's economic and political clout overseas. FILE PHOTO

Last year, Mr. Xi inaugu-rated Latin America's first Beijing-funded port in Chancay, Peru – a symbol of the Asian superpower's growing influence on the seen China cast itself as the defender of the multilater-al order and the backer of the Global South, with Xi pledging on Monday \$9.2 billion in credit towards development

continent. This week's China-CE-LAC Forum in Beijing has a broad set of initiatives of multilateralism and free trade, China and Chile

energy. Beijing will also cooperate in counterterrorism and fighting transnational organised crime, Mr. Xi said, as well as enhancing **Ties with Brazil** Also in attendance at the China-CELAC forum was Brazilian President Luiz Inexchanges such as scholar-ships and training acio Lula da Silva, who ar training rived in Beijing on Satur-day for a five-day state visit. programmes. During a meeting with Chilean President Gabriel Boric on Wednesday, Mr. Xi said that the "resur-gence of unilateralism and protectionism is severely impacting the internation-al economic and trade order". visit. Addressing delegates, Lula said his region did not "want to repeat history and start a new Cold War, adding."Our goal is to be an asset to the multilateral on nails, with Lula on Tuesday, Mr. Xi said the two countries should

of multilateralism and free two countries should trade, China and Chile "strengthen cooperation" should strengthen multilat-and together "oppose un-

eral coordination and jointly safeguard the comalism", according to Chinese state media. The U.S. and China have mon interests of the Global South," Xi told Boric. faced off in Latin America, including over the Panama Canal, which Trump has for months you claim from alleged Chinese influence. Washington considered

Washington considered a Hong Kong company's operation of ports at both ends of the interoceanic waterway to be a threat to its national security, but Beijing has dismissed the claims

Beijing has dismissed the claims. And China's market reg-ulator is looking into a deal by Hong Kong conglomer-are CK Hurchison to offload 43 ports in 23 countries – including its two on the Pa-nama Canal – to a U.S.-led consortium.

consortium. -ANX

killed in strikes around Ja-baliya in northern Gaza alone, according to hospi-tals and Gaza's Health Ministry. Fading hopes

Israel's military refused to comment on the strikes. It warned Jabaliya resi-dents to evacuate late on

Tuesday, citing militant in-frastructure in the area, in-cluding rocket launchers. comment beyond saving it In Jabaliya, rescue work-s smashed through coled concrete slabs

Health Ministry, which does not say how many were combatants. Almost 3,000 have been killed 3,000 have been killed since Israel broke a cease-fire on March 18, the minis-try said. Israel's offensive has obliterated vast swathes of Gaza's urban landscape and displaced 90% of the population, often multiple times. Fading hopes The strikes came after Ha-mas on Monday released an Israeli-American hos-transpace of the strike of the thought could lay the groundwork for a cease-fire, and as U.S. President Donald Trump visited Sau-di Arabia during a malti-date and the strike of the branch confisced to the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike confisced to the strike of the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike of the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike of the strike arms of the strike of the strike of the strike of the strike arms of the strike arms of the strike of the strike

# Colombia joins Belt and Road initiative as China courts Latin America to counter U.S.

#### **Agence France-Presse** BEIJING

Colombia formally agreed on Wednesday to join China's vast Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, as Beijing draws Latin America closer in a bid to counter the United States.

Latin America has emerged as a key battleground in U.S. President Donald Trump's confrontations with China, and the region is coming under pressure from Washington to choose a side.

China has surpassed the U.S. as the biggest trading partner of Brazil, Peru, Chile and other Latin American nations, and two-thirds of countries there have signed up to

CM

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's Belt and Road infrastructure drive.

On the sidelines of a major gathering of regional leaders in Beijing on Wednesday, Colombia became the latest country to join the global initiative.

#### **Historic step**

Colombia's Foreign Ministry hailed the agreement as a "historic step that opens up new opportunities for investment, technological cooperation, and sustainable development for both

countries". And following a meeting with Colombian President Gustavo Petro, Mr. Xi urged the countries to take the opportunity of Colombia formally joining the

"Belt and Road Initiative family" to enhance their cooperation.

Posting a video of the signing to social media platform X, Mr. Petro wrote that "the history of our foreign relations is changing". "From now on, Colom-

bia will interact with the entire world on a footing of equality and freedom," Mr. Petro wrote. The BRI is a central pillar of Mr. Xi's bid to expand China's economic and pol-

> itical clout overseas. For more than a decade, it has provided investment for infrastructure and other large-scale projects around the world, offering Beijing political and economic leverage in return.



The BRI is a central pillar of President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's economic and political clout overseas. FILE PHOTO

Last year, Mr. Xi inaugurated Latin America's first Beijing-funded port in Chancay, Peru – a symbol of the Asian superpower's growing influence on the continent.

This week's China-CE-LAC Forum in Beijing has seen China cast itself as the defender of the multilateral order and the backer of the Global South, with Xi pledging on Monday \$9.2 billion in credit towards development.

That pledge was part of a broad set of initiatives

aimed at deepening cooperation, including on infrastructure and clean energy.

Beijing will also cooperate in counterterrorism and fighting transnational organised crime, Mr. Xi said, as well as enhancing exchanges such as scholarships and training programmes.

During a meeting with Chilean President Gabriel Boric on Wednesday, Mr. Xi said that the "resurgence of unilateralism and protectionism is severely impacting the international economic and trade order".

"As staunch defenders of multilateralism and free trade, China and Chile should strengthen multilat-

•••

eral coordination and jointly safeguard the common interests of the Global South," Xi told Boric.

**Ties with Brazil** 

Also in attendance at the China-CELAC forum was Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who arrived in Beijing on Saturday for a five-day state visit.

Addressing delegates, Lula said his region did not "want to repeat history and start a new Cold War", adding: "Our goal is to be an asset to the multilateral order for a global good".

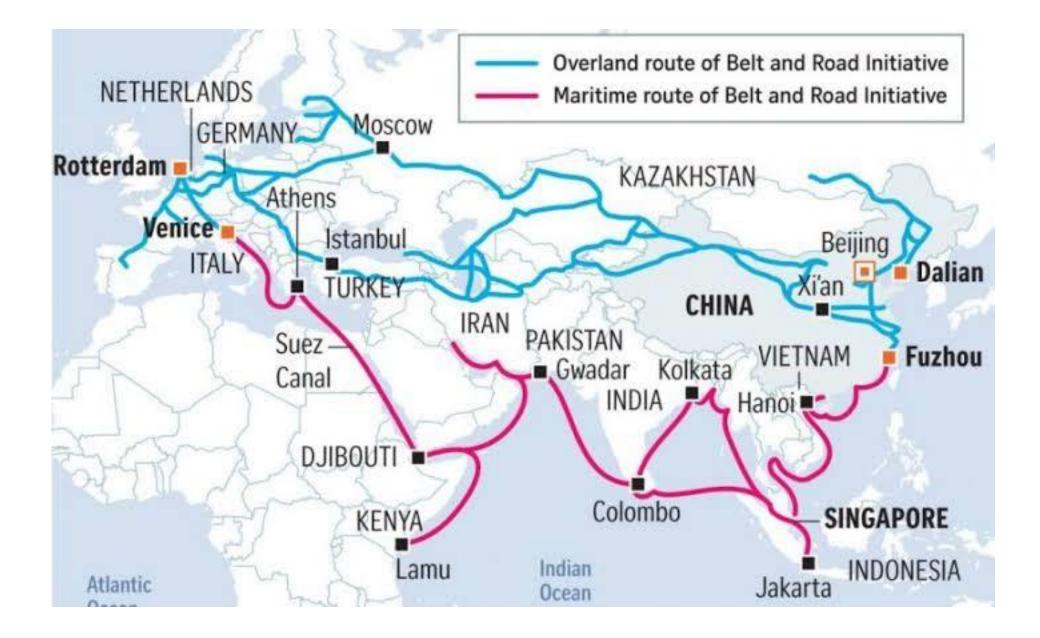
In talks with Lula on Tuesday, Mr. Xi said the two countries should "strengthen cooperation" and together "oppose unilateralism", according to Chinese state media. The U.S. and China have

faced off in Latin America, including over the Panama Canal, which Trump has for months vowed to reclaim from alleged Chinese influence.

Washington considered a Hong Kong company's operation of ports at both ends of the interoceanic waterway to be a threat to its national security, but Beijing has dismissed the claims.

And China's market regulator is looking into a deal by Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison to offload 43 ports in 23 countries including its two on the Panama Canal - to a U.S.-led consortium.

A IN-X





### 1. Colombia Joins Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- On Wednesday, Colombia formally agreed to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- The BRI aims to expand **China's economic and political influence** through large-scale infrastructure and investment projects worldwide.
- Colombian President Gustavo Petro described the move as "changing the history of our foreign relations".
- Colombia will now interact with the world on a **footing of equality and freedom**.

## 2. Strategic Context:

- The BRI is considered a **central pillar** of Chinese President **Xi Jinping's foreign policy** to enhance global influence.
- The initiative has already drawn many Latin American countries, including Brazil, Peru, and Chile.
- China has surpassed the U.S. as the **biggest trading partner** of several Latin American nations.
- The initiative is seen as part of China's effort to **counter U.S. influence** in the region.

## 3. Significance for Colombia:

- The Colombian government called the decision a "historic step" that opens up new opportunities for:
  - Investment
  - Technological cooperation
  - Sustainable development

### 4. China's Strategic Expansion in Latin America:

- China is actively engaging Latin American nations through investment and infrastructure projects.
- A major recent project is the Beijing-funded port in Chancay, Peru, symbolizing China's influence in the continent.
- Latin America as a Battleground:
  - The region is becoming a geopolitical battleground between the **U.S. and China**, with countries feeling pressure to align with either side.

## 5. Beijing's Broader Plan:

- President Xi Jinping pledged \$9.2 billion in credit for development in the region.
- China aims to enhance cooperation in infrastructure, clean energy, counterterrorism, and fighting transnational organized crime.
- There is also a focus on scholarship exchanges and training programs.

## 6. Diplomatic Moves:

- During the China-CELAC forum, attended by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Xi promoted multilateralism and free trade.
- Xi emphasized that unilateralism and protectionism harm international trade.
- China's Market Regulation:
  - China's regulator is scrutinizing a deal involving Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison, which may impact the Panama Canal ports.

# Internship target up nearly 6 times

• Intake this fiscal pegged at 700,000 despite tepid FY25

#### MANU KAUSHIK New Delhi, May 14

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** making its best efforts to salvage the PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) which has met with a lukewarm response so far. The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has set a target of 700,000 for intern intake by India Inc in the current financial year. This is nearly six times the goal for FY25, when the pilot for the flagship scheme was launched.

The ambition has been scaled up even though not even half of the 125,000 internship opportunities envisaged under the scheme for FY25 might actually have been created. To achieve the

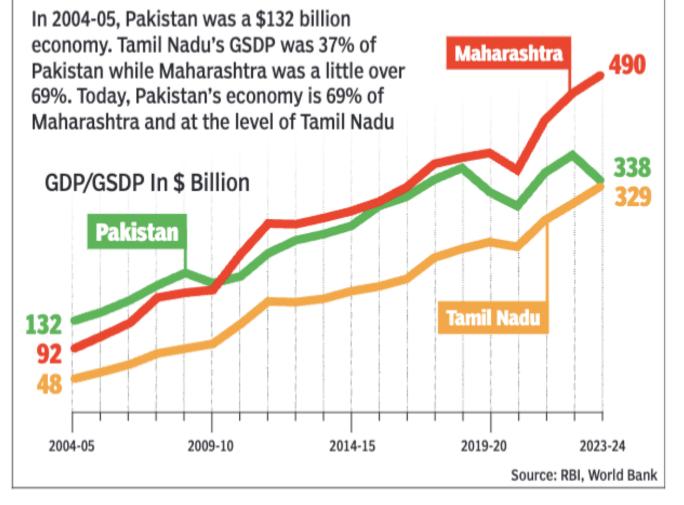


target in FY26, the MCA is looking at various proposals, including giving an option to companies to hire candidates throughout the year. Currently, companies can hire interns in phases staggered over a year, and only when the government tells them to. The government's optimism also stems from a large pool of candidates who have applied for the unique skillling opportunity. Besides, the scheme has been tweaked to allow candidates to opt for companies and units closer to their domiciles.

#### Continued on Page 7

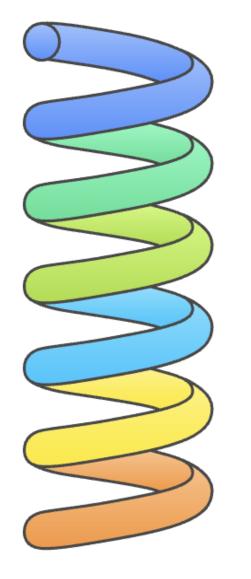
## STATUSTICS A slice of life in numbers

# Tamil Nadu About To Overtake Pakistan's GDP



# Indore Declared India's First Beggar-Free City

# **Indore's Journey to Beggar-Free Status**



Indore Declared Beggar-Free

Ministry Initiative

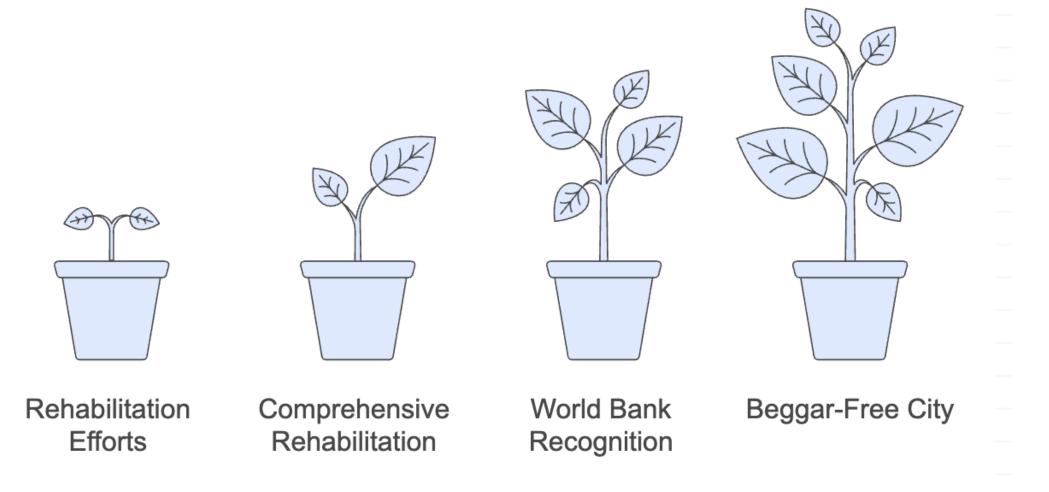
₹) Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat

World Bank Recognition

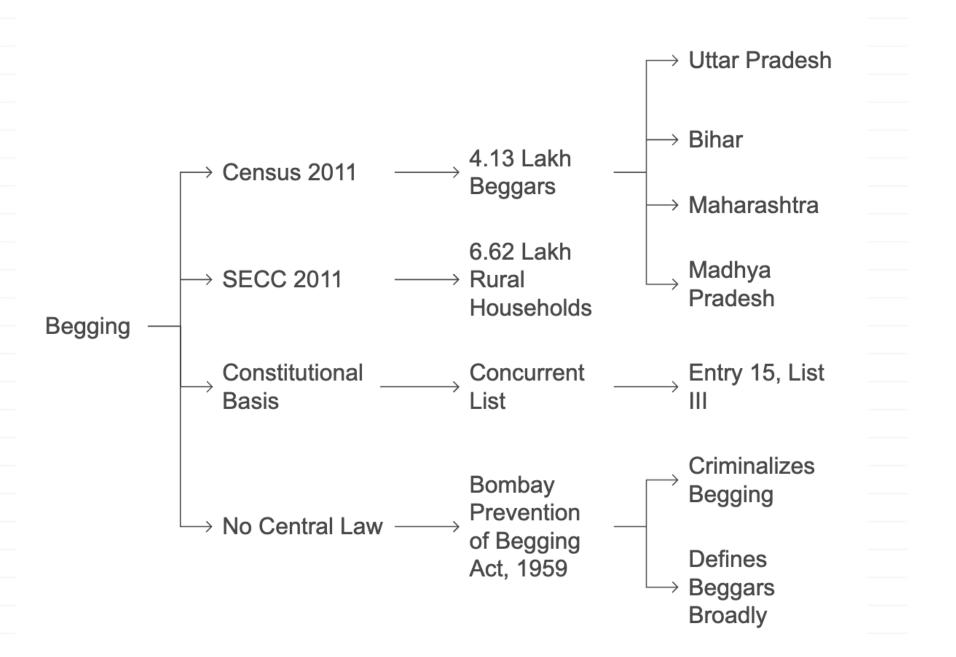
Rehabilitation Efforts



# **Journey to a Beggar-Free City**





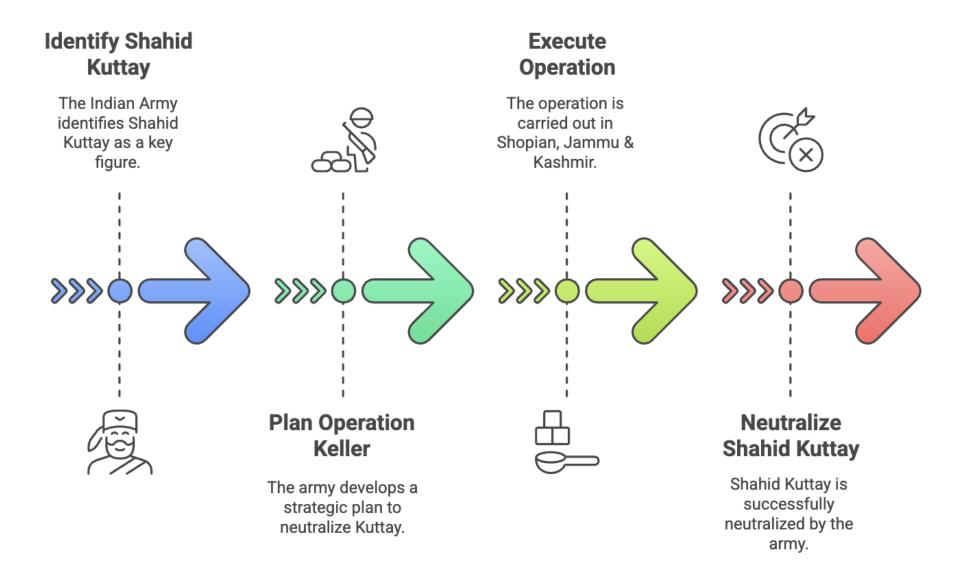


# **SMILE Scheme Sub-schemes Comparison**

Characteristic	Beggary Rehabilitation	Transgender Empowerment	
Objective	Rehabilitate individuals engaged in begging	Not specified in the text	
Focus	Identification and rehabilitation with consent	Not specified in the text	
Rehabilitation Strategy	Coordination with local bodies, empathetic engagement	Not specified in the text	
Stakeholders	District administrations, NGOs, SHGs, Temple Trusts	Not specified in the text	
Target	8,000 individuals (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025- 26)	Not specified in the text	

# **Operation Keller**

# **Operation Keller Sequence**



# Operation Keller: A Strategic Counterterrorism Mission

# 13 May 2025

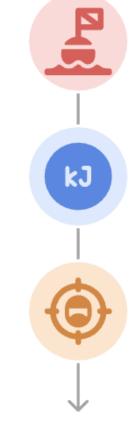
13 May 2025

Shahid Kuttay

Initiation of Operation Keller

**Objectives:** Neutralize TRF

terrorists and eliminate



# 13 May 2025

Coordination with J&K Police and CRPF Here is the list of top-10 highest-paid athletes in the world by 2025:

Rank	Name	Sport	Nationality	Earnings
1.	Cristiano Ronaldo	Football	Portugal	\$260 million
2.	Jon Rahm	Golf	Spain	\$218 million
3.	Lionel Messi	Football	Argentine	\$135 million
4.	LeBron James	Basketball	United States	\$128.2 million
5.	Giannis Antetokounmpo	Basketball	Greece	\$111 million
6.	Kylian Mbappé	Football	France	\$110 million
7.	Neymar	Football	Brazil	\$108 million
8.	Karim Benzema	Football	France	\$106 million
9.	Stephen Curry	Basketball	United States	\$102 million
10.	Lamar Jackson	American Football	United States	\$100.5 million

# Cabinet Approves Rs 3,706 Cr HCL-Foxconn Chip Plant in Jewar

### **Major Highlights**

- Investment: ₹3,706 crore total, ₹1,500 crore from Government incentives.
- Plant Type: Assembly and packaging of display driver chips for devices like phones, laptops, cars, and PCs.
- Capacity: 20,000 wafers/month; 36 million units/month output.
- Location: Near Jewar Airport, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Uttar Pradesh.
- Jobs Expected: 2,000 direct jobs.
- Production Start: 2027.

### **Background & Context**

- Foxconn's Second Attempt: Earlier JV with Vedanta collapsed in 2023 due to lack of a viable tech partner.
- The plant is a key part of the India Semiconductor Mission, launched in 2021 with an initial outlay of \$10 billion (₹76,000 crore).
- India has already attracted \$18 billion worth of investment in this space, with multiple facilities being developed by Tata-PSMC, Micron, Kaynes, and CG Power-Renesas.
- The first made-in-India chips are expected to roll out later in 2025.

US and Saudi Arabia Sign Historic \$142 Billion Arms Deal During Trump's Riyadh Visit

Why in the news?	US and Saudi Arabia Sign Historic \$142 Billion Arms Deal During Trump's Riyadh Visit
Key Participants	US President Donald Trump, Saudi Crown Prince MBS
Major Components	Air-to-air missiles, warfighting systems, gas turbines
Signed On	May 13, 2025
Associated Sale	\$3.3 billion missile sale approved earlier in May 2025
Total Deal Value	\$142 billion
Manufacturer	RTX Corp, Tucson, Arizona
Purpose	Strengthen defence, regional security, US-Saudi ties
Trump's Goal	Attract Gulf investments, reach \$1 trillion commitment

# Word of the day

# **Tranche:**

a portion of something (especially money)

Synonyms: part, percentage, share

**Usage:** The second tranche of lottery funding was released.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tranchepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /uãʃ/, /uãnʃ/, /uãn͡ʃ/, /uæn͡͡ʃ/















24 States

# Thank you guys.