Daily Current Affairs



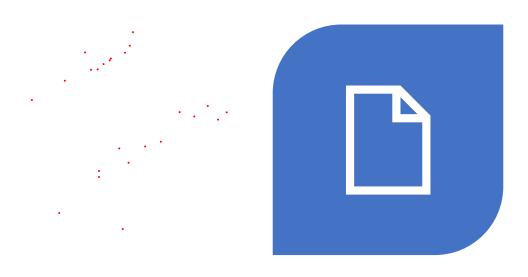








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10 MCQ QUIZ

• Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."





TRADE TALKS India to host U.S. chief negotiator today BUSINESS IN PAGE 13





Three Maoists killed in Jharkhand: officials

Boosting Kerala's secular legacy Sabarimala's inclusivity stands in opposition to sectarian narratives



at FIDE Grand Swiss

INSIDE



Nepal PM orders probe into riots during protests

BATTIMANIN Stepai's interim Cabinet led by Prove Minister Bashila Karbi or Monday held the first Cabinet meeting and decided to Sectors all those killed durin the youth movement, dubbed Sen 2 protests, martyrs. It also agreed to form a judicial commission to investigate

Three on missing after heavy rain lashes Hyderabad

ashed Hyderabad city on Sunday night. The missing o are J. Dinesh Kumar, 24, Ram 25, and Adjun, 26. Dinesh was wavest Into a drain at Vinesta Nagar in Paraguita sturing the design on hunday, in Habeet Magar's Mangany Basti, Rami and Ariun slipped into a opded drain beside their

PM asks Army to be ready for 'swift action'

house, a page a

ROLLATA
Prime Minister Navendra Medi
on Monday insugurated the
19th Combined Communicier
Conference (600) in Netketa
and asked the Defence Minist
to take "owiff" measures to "prevail against any eventuality": Prime Minister also reviewed the recartly stuation and the operations regaredness of the armed forces. Held once in two the the conference is the

SC stays 'arbitrary' Waqf changes; upholds Act

Top Court says judgment based on only a prima facie consideration of the 2025 law

Krishmadas Balagopal

sun intending to create a Wayf to prove that he had been practising blaim for five years.

The court said there was nothing wrong in requiring a person to prove that be had been practising the faith for at least five year, considering that Wayf endowments were misure were misure. he Supreme Court on Monday struck a balance by stay ing crucial portions of the Wauf (Amendment) Act, 2028, which it found "pri-mo finite arbitrary" while refusing to freeze the law dowinsnts were mixined as a "clever device to the up-property in order to defeat creditors and generally to avade the law under the cloak of a plausible desines tion to file Almighty". its entirety. In a judgment on a plea

for interim stay of the law, a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih reasoned that a tion to the Almighty".
However, the Benech found it arbitrary that the law failed to provide a basic mechanism or procedure to sacertain whether the person had indeed been practiting islam for at least five years. Chief Justice Claval directed the prevision to be shelved until the government came us A.G. Massh reasoned that a parliamentary begislation was naturally presumed to be constitutional as the lawmakers would only have the public's best inter-ests in mind, so much so that even discrimination wowen into the stante would be based on adeq-uate grounds. the government came up with a mechanism. The court found "totally unconstitutional" a provi-so in Section 30, which manulated that a Wayf would lose its character

However, this reasoning did not stop the court from

Its observations will not prevent parties from making future submissions about the validity of provisions

■ Bench limits the number of non-Muslims on the Central Wagf councils and State Wagf Boards

Yes and no | A linek at some of the key features of the Septeme Court ruling - Yotally appropriate transfer Section 36 possible

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Against the mandaners

raised a doubt that it was

after revenue and Waqf board records, respectively, changing the status of sex serious and the sex serious agreement property.

Title of properties
Title to contendable of a property came within the arbit of the judiciary, and the executive weed to be the principle of separation that principle of separation series are seased of the property nor seased of the property nor series. raised a doubt that it was government property. Chief Justice Gaivat said though any government property was public assat, or present in conduct an inquiry, but it could not suicklenly case to be one before the designated offi-er aubunts the report. The court stayed parts of the court stayed parts of the signated officer and a fine signated officer and a fine tal principle of separation of powers by one sidedly depriving citizens posses signated officer and a State government to unilaterally

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Mutawallis (managers) of these disputed Wagh did not create any third-party rights until the final decision of the competent tri-bunal on the status of

property.
The Bench directed that
Central Waqf Council
would not have more than four non-Muslims out of a total 22. State Ward Boards would limit the number of its non-Mudim members its non-Muslim members to three out of a fotal II. The apex court ordered that the Clief Keecutive Offices of State Walf Boards must be picked from the Muslim community "as far as possible".

"Right from 1923, in all the Walf enactiness we

the Waqf enactments we have referred to, there was a requirement of registra-tion of Wagis. We are, the-refuer, of the view that if Mutawallis (managers) for *** PAGES**

Amaruath Tewary

the Wast Board shall be af- a period of 102 years could forced, the court said for balance the equities and to protect valuable gover-tient properties, the court said it was imperative that the Wagf even if they are not registered," Justice Ga-vai said.

The court noted that the Waqf Act, 1998, had al-lowed registration without any requirement to pro-vide a formal deed, "If for 30 long years, the Muta-wallis had chosen not to make an application for re-gistration, they cannot be heard to say that the provi-sion which now requires

Imphal inundated



'Aadhaar is part of statute, can be used by voters'

part of the right to-vote staate, and voters were permitted to utilise the unique identity proof to the extent A Beach of hutters for

Fyw Kant and Joymalya Bag chi was responding to sub-missions intended to portray Andhaur as inferior to the II documents listed by the Election Commis-sion for voter verification during the special inten-

claims and objections for including or excluding names on the voter list. Petitioner advocate Ash-wini Kumar Upadhyay, who wants the court to

rethink its August # order listing Audhour as the 12th document, said any person could get an Aadhaar, and that they need not necessarily be a cittzen.

"Aadhaar is not proof of age, citizenship, residence, or domicile." Mr. Upadhyay said. justice Bagchi asked then what Audhaur was

by the Election Commis-sion for voice verification of the order of the order of the order of the six recition of fills at elec-toral rolls.

Pisa against order
This has come bursly a week after the court de-clared Andhara at the "Gall documents" aggrieved vo-sers could affect in their SC with regard to the variety of the SC with regard to the variety of the startice which governed the

Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act allows use of Audhaar to authenticate entries

to vote and inclusion on the rolls. The Section permits EC officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate entries on the

vision. It said its judgment would prevail over anyth-ing that may happen. Mr. Upadhyay argued the 5its order of June 24 er-semior advocates visaged not only a proof of identity but also support-ing evidence of eligibility.

including place of birth or residence as per the 1950 Act. Consequently, accep-tance of Audhaur alone, cance of Aadhaar alone, without accompanying proof of place of birth or other eligibility criteria, di-luted the intended scheme of the order. He also ar-gued in forour of a "pan-in-dia" Bilt to root out "foauthenticate entities on the selectional rolls of the country, selectional rolls of the country, and the selectional rolls of the selectional rolls of the selectional rolls of the selection of

Amid an export surge, trade deficit falls by 54%

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIH

India's trade deficit con-iracted by more than 84% to \$8.9 billion in August, driven by a surge in mer-chandase exports, a conti-nued strong performance in services exports, and a significant reduction in merchandise imports.

The trade deficit stood

at \$21.7 billion in August last year. The data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed that exports to the U.S. in crewed to about \$6.66 bil

creased to about \$6.66 bil-lion in August 2025, from \$6.7 billion in August last year. This is despite the visit of the second of the slan exports to the U.S. for most of that month, and 50% for a few days at the "Despite the global un-certainties and the trade palley suserstainties, In-dia's exporters have done merce. Necretary Smill Barthwal said at a press must. "It shows that the of most palley susers of the finds have paid off well," India's total exports in India's total exports in-creased to \$69.2 billion in

August 2028, up 9.3% over its level in August last year. Within this, merchandise exports increased to \$35.1 billion in August 2025. compared with \$32.9 bil-lion in August last year, a growth of 6.7%. Services exports increased to \$34.1

could distinguish between citizens and infiltrature on the voter list.
Senior advocates A.M.

Senior advocates A.M. Singhyl and Gopal Sanka-ranaraynan urged the court to hear their peti-tions on the validity of the SIB exercise itself. They said the EC was well into conducting SIBs in other

parts of the country.
"We are watching this

RJD: PM in Bihar

Infiltrators being

shielded by Cong.

Prime Minister Nacessira Modi said here on Monday said that "every initiaties" would have to exit the country as people in Bhar, West Bengal, and Assam were "worried about the safety and security of their safety and security of their He was addressing a pu-tille meeting in Purnea dis-trict in the seemanchal re-

gion of Bihar, where alleged infiltration from Bangladesh has been a ma-jor issue and there is a stee.

able Muslim population.
"I want to tell this today
from the land of Purnea are worried about the se-curity and safety of their sisters, daughters... The leaders who protect the in-filtrators should listen loud

and clear that we will contimie to send them out. We have announced the fornuation of a demographic th his seventh visit to the poll-bound State since January, Mr. Modi trangu-rated or laid the founda-

osports increased to 244-t billion in August 2625, 50 the import side, in-dian total imports side in-dian total imports side in-dian total imports side in-dian total imports side in-compared with 585 billion in August Just year, a con-traction of 78 and 18 and 1

where flight services start-

ed on Monday. He said the NDA government was continuously working for the develop-ment of Biltar. Targeting Congress leader Rabid Gandhi is a weiled refe-rence, he said, "We have set up a Board for makha-ne doorned here; but I must heard even the name of makhana before." He was referring to Mr. Gandhi, ken a 14-day Voter Adhikar har, covering 1,300 km

The Seemanchal area of will benefit from this," he said of the Board, "Until evand of the Mount. "Onto ev-ery paser of the country gets a punca house, Modi will not stop... four cross-paces beaues have already been distributed to the

SC stays 'arbitrary' Waqf changes; upholds Act

Top Court says judgment based on only a prima facie consideration of the 2025 law

Its observations will not prevent parties from making future submissions about the validity of provisions

Bench limits the number of non-Muslims on the Central Wagf councils and State Wagf Boards

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court on Monday struck a balance by staying crucial portions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which it found "prima facie arbitrary" while refusing to freeze the law in its entirety.

In a judgment on a plea for interim stay of the law, a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih reasoned that a parliamentary legislation was naturally presumed to be constitutional as the lawmakers would only have the public's best interests in mind, so much so that even discrimination woven into the statute would be based on adequate grounds.

Key provisions

However, this reasoning did not stop the court from staying key provisions of the 2025 Act, including the one which required a perWaqf to prove that he had been practising Islam for five years.

The court said there was nothing wrong in requiring a person to prove that he had been practising the faith for at least five years, considering that Waqf endowments were misused as a "clever device to tie up property in order to defeat creditors and generally to evade the law under the cloak of a plausible dedication to the Almighty".

However, the Bench found it arbitrary that the law failed to provide a basic mechanism or procedure to ascertain whether the person had indeed been practising Islam for at least five years. Chief Justice Gavai directed the provision to be shelved until the government came up with a mechanism.

The court found "totally unconstitutional" a proviso in Section 3C, which mandated that a Wagf would lose its character

son intending to create a

'Prima facie arbitrary': The

> the moment someone raised a doubt that it was government property.

Chief Justice Gavai said though any government property was public asset, a designated officer had every reason to conduct an inquiry, but it could not suddenly cease to be one before the designated officer submits the report. The court staved parts of Section 3C that allowed the designated officer and a State government to unilaterally

alter revenue and Waof Board records, respectively, changing the status of a Waqf property into a government property.

Title of properties

CII held that determination of the title (ownership) of a property came within the ambit of the judiciary, and the executive would be breaching the fundamental principle of separation of powers by one-sidedly depriving citizens posses-

"It is directed that unless the issue with regard to title of the Waqf property in terms of Section 3C of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 is not finally decided in proceedings under Section 83 before the Waqf Tribunal, and subject to further orders by the State High Court, neither the Waqfs will be dispossessed of the property nor the entry in the revenue records and the records of the Waqf Board shall be affected," the court said. To balance the equities and to protect valuable government properties, the court said it was imperative that Mutawallis (managers) of these disputed Wagfs did not create any third-party rights until the final decision of the competent tribunal on the status of property.

The Bench directed that Central Waqf Council would not have more than four non-Muslims out of a total 22. State Waqf Boards would limit the number of its non-Muslim members to three out of a total 11. The apex court ordered that the Chief Executive Officers of State Waqf Boards must be picked from the Muslim community "as far as possible".

"Right from 1923, in all the Waqf enactments we have referred to, there was a requirement of registration of Wagfs. We are, therefore, of the view that if Mutawallis (managers) for a period of 102 years could not get the Waqf registered, as required under the earlier provisions, they cannot claim that they be allowed to continue with the Waqf even if they are not registered," Justice Gavai said.

The court noted that the Waqf Act, 1995, had allowed registration without any requirement to provide a formal deed. "If for 30 long years, the Mutawallis had chosen not to make an application for registration, they cannot be heard to say that the provision which now requires the application to be accompanied by a copy of the Waof deed is arbitrary," the court reasoned.

The judgment prima facie refused to accept an argument by the petitioners that a Waqf property would lose its status if it was notified as a "protected monument".

RELATED REPORTS

» PAGE 5

Yes and no

A look at some of the key features of the Supreme Court ruling on the Waqf (Amendment) Act

lack of a basic mechanism to ascertain whether the person has been practising Islam for at least five years, which is requirement to create a waqf

'Totally unconstitutional': Section 3C proviso that a Waqf loses its character immediately upon doubt of being government property, before inquiry completion; allowing the designated officer and State government to unilaterally alter revenue and Waqf Board records, respectively, changing the status of a Wagf property into a government property

> 'Mandatory registration': The court rejected arguments against the mandatory registration of Waqfs prospectively

> > sion of a Wagf property.

'Protected monument'

status: The argument

that Waqf property loses

its status if notified as a

protected monument'

donations: It addressed

restricting tribal Muslims

Wagfs, over the potential

from donating land as

was termed a 'fallacy'

■ Tribal community

concerns about

threat to cultural

minorities

n

1. Current News (Judgment Highlights)

Bench: Chief Justice B.R. Gavai & Justice A.G. Masih.

Observation:

- Prima facie, mandatory registration of Waqfs is not arbitrary.
- However, certain provisions were stayed as they were arbitrary/unconstitutional.
- Struck Down (Prima Facie Arbitrary):
 - Five-year practice requirement → To prove someone creating a Waqf had practiced Islam for 5 years.
 - Section 3C → Allowed government officers to declare Waqf property as govt. property immediately before tribunal decision.

Upholdings:

- Mandatory registration of Waqfs prospectively.
- Waqf Boards must have majority Muslims but may include limited non-Muslims.

2. What is Waqf?

 Definition: A permanent dedication of movable or immovable property by a Muslim for religious, pious, or charitable purposes.

Types:

- Waqf-alal-aulad: For family benefit.
- Public Waqf: For community purposes (mosques, graveyards, schools, etc.).
- Administrator: Managed by a Mutawalli (caretaker).

3. Legal & Historical Background

- Waqf Act, 1995:
 - Established Waqf Boards in each state.
 - Provided for registration of Waqf properties.
- Amendment 2013:
 - Strengthened powers of Waqf Boards to protect encroachments.
 - Result: Waqf land area shot up to 8 lakh acres → 20 lakh acres in affidavits.
- Amendment 2025:
 - Introduced strict provisions (5-year Islam practice, government officer powers, etc.) which SC stayed.

- Key Supreme Court Directions
- Title determination of Waqf property = Judicial matter, **not administrative**.
- Mutawallis (managers) cannot create 3rd party rights until tribunal decides.
- Central Waqf Council: max. 4 non-Muslims out of 22.
- State Waqf Boards: max. 3 non-Muslims, with Chairperson from Muslim community.

(a) Constitutional Aspect

- Linked to Right to Property (Art. 300A).
- Separation of powers: Judiciary, not executive, to decide property ownership.
- Balancing religious freedom (Art. 25, 26) with secular governance.

(b) Economic Aspect

- India has ~8–9 lakh acres of Waqf property → real estate worth ₹1.2 lakh crore+.
- Potential for use in education, welfare, healthcare projects if managed properly.
- Issues: Encroachment, underutilisation, lack of transparency.

(c) Social Aspect

- Waqf properties provide mosques, graveyards, madrasas, schools, hospitals → critical for minority welfare.
- Tribal donations & "protected monument" waqf issues raised by govt. to avoid misuse.

(d) International & Historical Angle

- Ottoman Empire legacy: Waqf was a dominant institution in Islamic world for social welfare.
- British India: Waqf validated in Privy Council (1894) & Waqf Validating Act, 1913.
- Global comparison: Countries like Turkey & Egypt have state-controlled Awqaf ministries.

Yes and no

A look at some of the key features of the Supreme Court ruling on the Waqf (Amendment) Act

'Prima facie arbitrary': The lack of a basic mechanism to ascertain whether the person has been practising Islam for at least five years, which is requirement to create a waqf

■ 'Totally unconstitutional': Section 3C proviso that a Waqf loses its character immediately upon doubt of being government property, before inquiry completion; allowing the designated officer and State government to unilaterally alter revenue and Waqf Board records, respectively, changing the status of a Waqf property into a government property



- 'Protected monument' status: The argument that Waqf property loses its status if notified as a 'protected monument' was termed a 'fallacy'
- Tribal community
 donations: It addressed
 concerns about
 restricting tribal Muslims
 from donating land as
 Waqfs, over the potential
 threat to cultural
 minorities

'Aadhaar is part of statute, can be used by voters'

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said Aadhaar was part of the right-to-vote statute, and voters were permitted to utilise the unique identity proof to the extent permitted by the law.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was responding to submissions intended to portray Aadhaar as inferior to the 11 documents listed by the Election Commission for voter verification during the special intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls.

Plea against order

This has come barely a week after the court declared Aadhaar as the "12th document" aggrieved voters could attach in their claims and objections for including or excluding names on the voter list.

Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who wants the court to rethink its August 8 order listing Aadhaar as the 12th document, said any person could get an Aadhaar, and that they need not necessarily be a citizen.

"Aadhaar is not proof of age, citizenship, residence, or domicile," Mr. Upadhyay said.

Justice Bagchi asked then what Aadhaar was meant to prove. Mr. Upadhyay said it was merely a "simple" proof of identity.

Referring to Section 23 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, Justice Bagchi asked if Aadhaar was not part of the statute which governed the EC with regard to the right

Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act allows use of Aadhaar to authenticate entries

to vote and inclusion on the rolls.

The Section permits EC officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate entries on the electoral rolls.

To this, Mr. Upadhyay argued that Aadhaar could not be equated with any of the other 11 documents. "So, are you saying that a land record (one of the 11 documents) is more relevant than Aadhaar?" Justice Bagchi queried.

The court issued notice on Mr. Upadhyay's plea, and fixed October 7 to hear arguments on the legality of the special intensive revision. It said its judgment would prevail over anything that may happen.

Mr. Upadhyay argued the SIR order of June 24 envisaged not only a proof of identity but also supporting evidence of eligibility, including place of birth or residence as per the 1950 Act. Consequently, acceptance of Aadhaar alone. accompanying without proof of place of birth or other eligibility criteria, diluted the intended scheme of the order. He also argued in favour of a "pan-India" SIR to root out "foreign infiltrators" who had sneaked their way into the electoral rolls, "Bihar has lakhs of Bangladesh nationals and Rohingyas..." the petitioner-advocate submitted.

To this, Justice Surya Kant responded that the EC knew the law, and could distinguish between citizens and infiltrators on the voter list.

Senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Gopal Sankaranaraynan urged the court to hear their petitions on the validity of the SIR exercise itself. They said the EC was well into conducting SIRs in other parts of the country.

"We are watching this with great trepidation... A meeting of the EC was held on September 10. It is crucial that this court hears the case soon or SIR would soon become *fait accompli*," Mr. Sankaranaraynan submitted.

"Why should I, as a citizen, suffer from the illegality of SIR," advocate Vrinda Grover, also appearing for the petitioner's side, asked.



1. Supreme Court's Position (2025)

Bench: Justices Surya Kant & Joymalya Bagchi.

Verdict:

- Aadhaar is part of the statute governing voting rights.
- Can be used as an identity proof under Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act (1950).
- Permits EC to authenticate entries in electoral rolls using Aadhaar.

2. Case Context

- Petitioner: Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.
- Issue Raised:
 - Aadhaar was treated as "12th document" for voter verification.
 - Argument: Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship/residence/domicile, hence inferior to other 11 listed documents.
- Court's Query:
 - Justice Bagchi questioned why Aadhaar, as a government-issued identity, should be considered less relevant than land records or other listed proofs.

Arguments Presented

For Aadhaar:

- Simple, universal proof of identity.
- Ensures "One voter One ID".
- Helps root out *bogus voters* (illegal migrants, duplicate entries).

Against Aadhaar:

- Aadhaar is available to residents, not necessarily citizens.
- Risks inclusion of non-citizens (Bangladeshis, Rohingyas).
- May dilute intended scheme of electoral verification.
- Fear of **mass disenfranchisement** if authentication errors occur.

Aadhaar Act, 2016

- Provides unique identity number based on biometrics.
- Initially voluntary → expanded for DBT, subsidies, PAN, etc.
- SC in Puttaswamy Case (2018):
 - Upheld Aadhaar's validity.
 - Restricted mandatory use to subsidies & tax purposes.

Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951

- 1950 Act: Deals with preparation & revision of electoral rolls.
- 1951 Act: Conduct of elections, disqualifications, etc.

Voter ID vs Aadhaar

- Voter ID = proof of citizenship (through scrutiny).
- Aadhaar = proof of identity (but not citizenship).

- Ethical & Security Concerns
- Ethical: Risk of exclusion (poor biometrics, rural areas).
- **Privacy**: Aadhaar-voter linkage may enable surveillance.
- Security: Illegal migrants may obtain Aadhaar, posing internal security risks.

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News

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INS Nistar makes maiden port call at Singapore

The Indian Navy's indigenently designed and constructed diving support vessel, the INN Nistar, made its made not call at Changi in Singapore on Sunday, shead of its participation in the multinational Pacific Reach 2025 OCPR 25; searches, which begins on September 18. The exactine, which negline on September 18, The KPR2S is a biermal event aimed at enhancing coundituation in authoration rescue operations. The exercise will unfold in two phases—a harbour phase featuring subject matter expert eachanges, and cross-deck visits, a sea phase, where intervention and rescue operations in the where intervention and rescue South China Sea will take place.

Railways gives Aadhaar users 15-minute booking edge

The indian Railways has said that from October 1, only Audhian-authenticated users will be able to brook reserved general tickets during the first 18 minutes of the opening of general reservation.
The tickets can be bushed duringly the website of
the bidian Kallway Catering and Toucism
Corporation GRCTC) and its app. "There shall, however, be no change in the timings of booking of general reserved tickets through computerises passenger reservation system counters of Indian passenger reservation system continers of indian Railways, ar present? said the Indian Railways spokesperaon. This is to ensure that the benefits of the reservation system are not misused by unacrupulous elutionts.

Reconsider Nankana Sahib decision: Sikh bodies to govt.

Political parties and Sikh bodhes on Morolay-unged the Centre to reconsider its decision asking State governments note process applications for the providing security leaves in Pakistan, on the necession of the little suntwessery of Caru Sanak-Pakistan is the borrhyster of Coru Nanak-Punjal-Chief Minister strongly objected to the Centre's Pakistan is the borrhyster of Coru Nanak-Punjal-Chief Minister strongly objected to the Centre's the HPP's policy is against Fakistan or against in own people, adding that it reflects the hostile attitude of the Centre tweened Punjals. Political narties and Sikb bodies on Monday

PM to launch campaign for women and child healthcare

To strengthen healthcare and nutrition services for women, adolescent girls, and children across India, the Gentral government will launch the "worsth Navi, Sajhaki Parivar Abhbyani" (braidby woman, strong family campaign), along with the sighth 'Poshan Maah' tnutrition month) on September I7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the initiative jointly led by the Ministry of Health and Furnity Welfare (MotiffW) and the reatts and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Miniatry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD). More than one lash health camps will be set up across the country, making it the largest the country has ever seen. Daily health camps will also be held in all government health fucilities.

China's rise as potential superpower changing complexion of ties; India needs more nuanced policies, says Tirumurti

The Hindu Bureau

While India-China rela-tions as neighbours, after 1982, had entered a "nor-mal" that held up till re-cently, China's rise as a pocomp, China's the as a po-tential superpower was changing the complexion of lifateral ties, T.S. Tru-marti, former Permanem Representative of linds to the United Nations, said

here on Monday.

At the launch of the book China: Indian Perspectives on China's Political China's Pol specities on China's Politi-ca, Economy, and Foreign Relations, brought out by The Hindu Group Publish-ing Private Ltd., Mr. Tru-murti and China's rise as a potential superpower meant that for the first time, India was sharing a border with a superpower, which changed the com-plexion of their relation-

ship.
"The old template is not enough, and we need to



From right) Nirmals Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group; E.S. Tirumurti, former Permanent. Representative of India to the 1/9; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; and B. Santhanam, Independent Director, The Hindu Group; at the release of a book on China in Chennal on Monday. It was a

develop a new one to deal with claim in both these with claim in both these distinguished and services, meets to put in place a far more sourced see of political reached, he said.

Curated by Amanth Richland, Director, The water leaves the control of the contro

develop a new one to deal. Imbalance, access to In-such as the political trends

parcel commodities. The eight-parcel van coach

eight-parcel van couch train has a total weight ca-pacity of around 180 tonnes (23 tonnes per coach).

but facing enormous eco-nomic problems, and deal-ing with geopedicial chal-lenges with tensions with the U.S. and some neigh-hours, while having suc-cess in aprending its in-fluence in Central Asia. Africa, and Lain America.

Intractable issue Intractable Issue
N. Ram, Director, The Hinth Group, said a real
breakthrough in India-China relations post-1962 occurred when then Prime
Minister Rajly Gandhi visited China in 1986, setting the path for bilateral trade which increased from

1990s to \$140 billion now 1990s to \$440 billion now.
The boundary tow, he
said, was an intractable issue that would take long to
resolve in view of domestic
constraints to polleymaling on both sides.
Nirmala Lakshiman,
Chairperson, The Hindu
Ciroup, said the book became impertant especially

in view of the changing or-der of the world that had provided an opportunity to look at China in a new

paradigm.

B. Santhanam, Independent Director, The Hindu Group, said entrepreneurs in China had deep, handaon technical expertise in their domains and always focused on full stack deve-lopment. As India attempted to go up the value chain of semiconductors, solar power, energy, or mobility, an entrepreneurial per-spective, he felt, was more important than a state's policy driven abjective dominating the thought ргоская.

process.

Nursik Nambath, Editor, The Hindu, Namyan Lakshman, Opinion Page Edstor, The Hindu, and Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor, The Hindu

Kashmir's fruit markets shut down over highway closure

Parcel train service launched to take apples from Valley to New Delhi; however, fruit growers say it is inadequate as huge stocks remain stranded on roads. CM blames Centre for delay in road work

I rule markets across the Roshmir Valley Monday in protest against the government's failure to reopen the 2016 Am offine, recogning the 2016 Am offine, was yeen after two weeks of closure due to beavy even after two weeks of closure due to beavy exp. Jammu and Rashmir Chief Minister Omar Albanda Daines of the Chief Amister Chief The Chief Chi

ers took to the streets in the Kashmir Valley and closed the markets operat-ing in north, central and south Kashmir. "Our pa-tence is running thin. Trucks lasten with apple

Trucks latten with apple produce are rotting in from of our oyes. 15 and in from of our oyes. 15 and made disaster, Rains have stopped but the officials have finised to re-open the highway even after 15 days apple dealer in north Kashmir's Supere manul, said.
According to the apple trailers, the cost of an apple best has dropped from



6000 to 6400 due to failure to failure to fairy them in time to fail people directly or markets across the country. The new freight train markets across the country. "The government and the National Highways Authority of India Ostrali Authority of India CNIAD
should urgently ensure
smooth passage for trucks
and compensate farmers
for the lower incurred,
Zahaor Ahmad Bailwer, senior member of the 16K
Apple Furmers Federation,
said.

nor Manoj Sinha, as be flagged off a parcel train from Budgam to Adarsh

coach). With the parcel train service inadequate to deal with the crisis of farmers, i.e. Chief Minister Ornite Abdullah blamed for the Center for falling to upon the Sringar farmin highway, key to forty essentials into the Valley and export first the the Second of th

criticism from Opposition parties in J&K over the issue. chact of J&K and employs 35
table people directly on

"The new freight train
ervice is a big stop for the
Perritarity to transport their
products to different parts
of the cuntity. This will
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ter said.

He added that he had spoken to Union Minister Nitto Galkari late Monday evening and some concrete measures would be taken in the nest 24 hours.

India gets licence to scour Indian Ocean for precious metals

Inchia has humand an exelleration contract from the in-ternational Seabed Author-ity (SA) to hook for a class of precious metals in the Olivest Indian Ocean

on processus metans in the many process and the first konce granted globally for exploring polymeratic authorized processing polymeratic authorized fitting. M. Ravichandron, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told The Jamaica-based 15A was suggested in Delhi on Sonday. These nodules are concentrations of ruck finuse in the deep second and and cottant, include, and copport cottant, in the cottant of the c

cobalt, nickel, and copper.
The Carisberg Ridge is a 3,00,000-9, km stretch that lies in the Indian Ocean, specifically in the Arabian Sea and northwest

Arabian Sea and northwest Indian Ceans. It forms the Indian Ceans. It forms the Indian and Arabian tectoric plates, extending from rear Rodrigues Island to the Owen fracture zone. For exploration in areas part of the recentive is or part of the recentive is as far away from any country.

the DiA. Currently, 19 countries have such exploration

rights.
India too had applied in January 2024 for explora-tion rights in two regions of the Indian Ocean, While of the Indian Ocean, While time in the Carlaberg Ridge has been granted, the se-cond - the Afansay-Siktim cond - the Afansay-Siktim be approved. The AMS is treated in the Central for dian Ocean, and the terri-tory has been claimed by tights, While countries can claim up to 380 nautical miles from their coasts as those in the Bay of Bergal those in the Bay of Bergal their 'continental shelf', those in the Bay of Bengal can, in theory, claim up to soo nautical miles as per the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Earlier exploration Previously, India had ob-tained such exploratory rights from the ISA in the Central Indian Ocean Resin. The first was aigned in March 2002 and is set to

THEROS SWORD + 14590 and Jerose to our crossword day

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- Advance of one million initially paid, balance to follow
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 1.8 Back for sure's turrigue in the Borral sincles (9)
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 1.8 Precent judge pitched up (4)
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- Big shot involved with grant caught red-handed (4,2,6)
- Nervous man, married, captivated by prize (6,2)
 Gas masks with time becoming standard unit for force 4 Denounce one jamming Democratic broadcast (6)

- 16 Stretch scandal involving Music? (8) New upset spiked (6) Fork out ahead? Sprey throttles up to take off (6) 23 Parthenos Island takes part in proposed Greek Cypriot union (6)

SER INDEDNICE



FARTER

The eternal Ramayana

In Brahma Loka, the Ramayana was recited in a hundred crore vortee, but sage Naruda condensed it into a hundred verses as the Sankahepa Ramayanum, and narrated it to sage Valmiki. The upushesa (teaching) of sage Naruda to Valmiki was tilke a seed that grew within him, impiring

deep reflection. Laire, Rushma appeared and asked Valmi-lat to expand upon the brief version.

Reases Vajapeya Swamp said in a discourse that, initially, Valeniki hesitated and doubted his ability to write the

India gets licence to scour Indian Ocean for precious metals

Jacob Koshy COPENHAGEN

India has bagged an exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to look for a class of precious metals in the northwest Indian Ocean.

This is the first licence granted globally for exploring polymetallic sulphur nodules in the Carlsberg Ridge, M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told *The Hindu*.

The agreement with the Jamaica-based ISA was signed in Delhi on Monday, he added.

These nodules are concentrations of rock found in the deep ocean and said to be rich in manganese, cobalt, nickel, and copper.

The Carlsberg Ridge is a 3,00,000-sq.km stretch that lies in the Indian Ocean, specifically in the Arabian Sea and northwest Indian Ocean. It forms the boundary between the Indian and Arabian tectonic plates, extending from near Rodrigues Island to the Owen fracture zone.

For exploration in areas part of the 'high seas' or part of the ocean that is so far away from any country, that it is not part of their territories, countries must obtain permission from the ISA. Currently, 19 countries have such exploration rights.

India too had applied in January 2024 for exploration rights in two regions of the Indian Ocean. While one in the Carlsberg Ridge has been granted, the second - the Afanasy-Nikitin Sea (ANS) mount - is vet to be approved. The ANS is located in the Central Indian Ocean, and the territory has been claimed by Sri Lanka for exploration rights. While countries can claim up to 350 nautical miles from their coasts as their 'continental shelf', those in the Bay of Bengal can, in theory, claim up to 500 nautical miles as per the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Earlier exploration

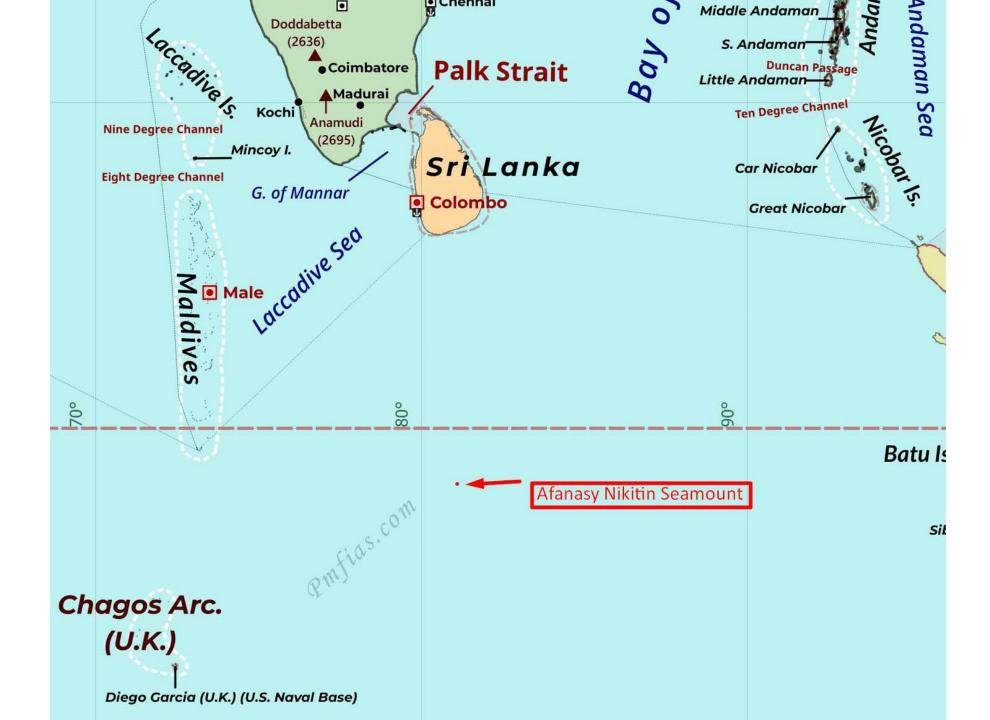
Previously, India had obtained such exploratory rights from the ISA in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. The first was signed in March 2002 and is set to expire on March 24, 2027, after two extensions. The second was for polymetalic sulphides in the Indian Ocean Ridge. It was signed on September 26, 2016, with validity till September 2031.

- India received an exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to search for polymetallic sulphide nodules in the Carlsberg Ridge (NW Indian Ocean).
- First global licence for this region.
- Metals: manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper.
- ISA HQ: Jamaica (established under UNCLOS).

2. Key Details

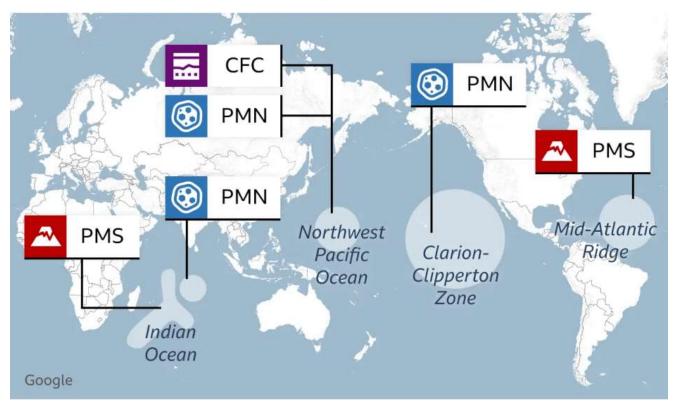
- Carlsberg Ridge:
 - 3,00,000 sq. km stretch in NW Indian Ocean.
 - Lies between Indian & Arabian tectonic plates, extending from Rodrigues Island to Owen Fracture Zone.
- Legal framework:
 - High seas exploration allowed only with ISA approval.
 - Currently 19 countries have such rights.
- India's earlier licences:
 - 2002 Central Indian Ocean Basin (till 2027).
 - 2016 Indian Ocean Ridge for polymetallic sulphides (till 2031).
- India's second application (2024): Afanasy-Nikitin Seamount (ANS), Central Indian Ocean (pending approval, Sri Lanka also claimed).





Exploration areas for minerals in the international seabed area*

Contracts with the ISA for exploration



Number of active contracts

- Polymetallic nodules (PMN): 19 Polymetallic sulphides (PMS): 7
- Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (CFC): 4

^{*}The part under ISA jurisdiction is defined as "the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction."

Background/History

Polymetallic nodules: Rock-like deposits rich in strategic minerals.

India's Deep Ocean
Mission (2021) –
₹4077 crore project
to harness seabed
resources.

ISA created under
United Nations
Convention on the
Law of the Sea
(UNCLOS), 1982.



Divided state

The U.S. needs a new enlightened

leachership in the two major parties.

In the stooming of Charlie Rick, a controversial, outspecken conservative commentasial, outspecken conservative commentator and pointual algo of U.S. Presistent Denald Trump, has revealed, once again, the depth
disturbing proclevity towards using tethal viosence to settle debates. Frontically, Mr. Rirk was a
occal advocate of the Second Amendment right
to bear arms, even as he espoused a range of
and in surfung abortion right, and limiting the
rights of transgender and LGBTQ persons — all
the while restruiting young voters to the Reputiducan cause. The tital arrested on supplies of
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The while restruiting young voters to the Reputiducan cause. The tital arrested on supplies of the
regular to the own conservative family roots
were the process of the verged from his own conservative family roots although few specifics or possible motives are ea-tablished so far. This much is clear; years of polis

attribuguit new specifics or possible motives and establishment of the control of ington Consennie stands in a shambles in some regards, with Mr. Trump's tariff policy that fuelled a worldwide trade was bringing global supply shams in their knees. Nowhere is the imsupply rhains to their knees. Nowhere is the ton-pact of these tectoric shifts in the U.S. sleedings and and policy posture more keenly fell than on. New Twings terms, and Republicans embracing their President's political agenda, which is only at amorphous version of the classic conserva-sations across the able full allerst, fear locus argo, especially for minorities pushed to the size on all alders full back on toxic gain culture to give vent to their frustrations with the stance quo-cities that the size of the control of the con-position of the control of the control of the con-sense gain control reform, including no fewer strenge gain control reform, including no fewer strenge gain control reform, including no fewer sense gun control reform, including no fewer than 17 attempts by Barack Obama to introduce gence of a new, enlightened leadership in both parties that could hold out hope for a less frac-tured and hateful polity in the post-frump years

Field and fraternity

Sport is political, but it must not be the stage for a theatre of conflict

the stage for a theatre of conflict
ports, like war, can be a continuation of
politics by office means, but it always
makes some to question all the forms and
match on september it was preceded by demands that it the superneted, shit Jean Qu'in
antional sentine it is used in a rimant to a
national sentiment. While the Abbit's Anathulnational sentiment while the Abbit's Anathulvalued over the lives lost in Pahalgam, Petitioners
had also asked the Supreme Court to cancel the
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deckled that the team would not alwake hands decided that his ream would not shake bands of the limit of limit of the limit of l

ry that was sporting rather than military.

Today, this tradition is being smaled by the collective transformation of cricket into anothe theatre of conflict. Sportspersons are not soldiers and their gestures matter because they dramaties fellowship. To withdraw from even this minima followed p. To withdear from even this minimal courteys confuses solidarily with victims of terroriam with the reputation of fellow athletes. The with the reputation of fellow athletes, The most of the period of paintons to polarine people.

Unlocking innovation with India's procurement reforms

recurement policies, often designed with framquaemey and out efficiency in mind, have long had unitationaled development. While preventing frault, these frameworks frequently fell innovation, one process at a dime, by pis-tritiang preceduration, one process at a dime, by pis-tritiang preceduration, or referrors to its General Financial Roles GCFR, or particularly assumptions from the Government e-Markenflace GCMB portal and enhanced financial timeducids for research and development of the control welcome change.

Procurement as innovation catalyst
The rig-of-war between procurement policies
and innovation is not new. Studies have shown that public procurement, when done properly, can give a push to private sector R&D by creating stable demand for advanced technologies. Moreover, it has been found that targeted procurement spending is associated with increased patent filings and private R&D increased patent filings and private RAD investment, forming a virtuous cycle of innovation, flowever, as the Braditan case study procurement rules are rated as the standard case study procurement rules are redear flowered to a pair innovation, inflat are redear flowered to a pair innovation, inflat are redear flowered to design the trape common redear to the trape common redear the redear flowered to the trape common redear the redear flowered to the redear the redear flowered activities into a time-concurring exemption process for globally banchinarials of poor duality, commonwhistian research, marrials of poor duality, compromising research, marrials of poor duality, compromising research, marrials of

poor quality, compromising research.
The Government of India's policy changes in June 2025 directly address those issues. By allowing institutional heads to hypeas GeM for appointment of and raising threat purchase limits born of Liaki to 62 lakh, the principal and in the confidence of the property of the confidence of the confidence

Advisory Conincil. These adjustments align with hearies of "establetic procurement", where flowability enables public institutions on at as early adopter of advanced technologies, and advanced technologies, Vot. the reforms stop short of a full paradigm with. White empowering instrutional leaders, they retain safequards such as departmental purchase committees for higher-valua sequisitions. This could be argued as a necessary sequisition. This could be argued as a necessary purchase form to sold ternals madequate for purchase limit could ternain inadequate for high-cost fields such as quantum computing or biotechnology. Additionally, the focus on global tenders, while ensuring quality, could marginalise domestic suppliers unless local K&D systems are empowered and left free to collaborate globally, and compete at that level.

The policy's success will depend to a large success on implementation. Trusting institutional heads with procurement discretion assumes high recase with presument discretion assumes my ethical staindards, which is semesting that will have to be built up, slowly, in a system that have been historically plaqued by inefficiency, as the policy rolls our, monitoring mechanisms will be vital to prevent missue while preserving agility.



Arindam Goswami

is a flesoarch Analys in the High-Tech

How has procurement evolved globally? Clobally, nations loading in R&D naturemes have already reinagened procurement as comething already reinagened procurement as comething control including. India can learn from their experiences. Procurement processes have sovived from ancient recont-beging in Artificial Intelligence AII-driven strategies. India would do well to learn from these.

Germany's approach is a good example of balancing procurement checks and B&D andstinus. Through is High-Yush Strategy, the federal government mandates that public procurement be used to promote movastive solutions, supported by KONNO, which is a dedicated agency advising procurers, curating supplier databases, and hosting cross-sector innovation forums. This institutionalises what economist Mariana Massucato terms "mission original programme,", where state purchasing power deliberately shapes technological markets, Similarly, the "timal"

iselmological markets. Similarly, the "Simal Husinese Innovation Research (BHID program" of the United States reserves 2% of Sederal RAD funds for starting, saing phased procurement the market for the state of the season of the United States reserves 2% of Sederal RAD funds for the state of the season of the me sact that install labs often face delays extending to a few months when dealing with niche instruments. However, the policy lacks Germany's proactive market-shaping sements or the SHIPs staged funding structure. For instance, males 1200 erors global tender limit, but institutional heads still priorities cost the benchmark over 5-4-4-4. benchmarks over technical ambition, unlike south Korea's "pre-commercial procurement-system that pays premium prices for prototypes

Procurement's evolutionary are Procurement's evolutionary are from the most a following pointing, from Egyptia serbes tracking pyramid materials to AI predicting outpity shark adealay, reflects an evolution from control to creativity. The industrial Revolution looked at procurement as a cost-contric function, but the two World Wars exposed to strategic role in securing excrece

resources.
Post-1945, this duality deepened: corporations adopted has in Time inventory systems while governments used procurement in sput sectors such as semiconductors (via National Arransusies and Space Administration contracts) and renewables through the transpear Indion's green

Today's frontier is "cognitive procurement", where tools such as generative Al analyse supplic ecosystems, simulate scarcity scenarios, and automate compliance - freeing researchers to focus on creative sourcing. Consider Piter's COVID-19 vaccine effort, where Al-optimised covered to the control of the contro

labs, as that would probably open up the procurement primess. However, it would be wise to consider that the shabat over privatishing in a consider that the shabat over privatishing is the U.S. oxperience shows, privatisation is not about abandoning public oversight but redefining it. When the Department of Berrigs banded over Saitonal Laboratories in 1929 to a private company, it retained insistent countries through preformance based courtests while undocking private capital for laser and materials research, and partmerling with a number of small and medium partmerling with a number of small and medium

partnerships with a mainler of small and medium enterprises within a decade. India's Council of Scisotific and Industrial Research (CSIO could adopt this hybrid model. Laboratories working in strategic fields such as space tech or quantum computing might benefit from corporate-style agility in procurement and biring, provided the government maintains some rameworks and some alignment with innovation

Procurement as a research variable

Procurement as a research variable india's procurement forms are necessary but insufficient. Four systemic shifts could anchor outcome weighted tenders. Following Pinhandrs example, there must be an evolution of bids not past on cost but also on an index that weight and to cost but also on an index that weight investment and scalability potential.

The second would be providing sandton from the following problems. Allow insufations such as the first measurement and scalability potential.

The second veod by providing sandton from the first past of the first past o

third parties.
The third intervention should be Al-augmented sourcing, Deploy the INDIAsi ecosystem to create a procurement assistant that scane global catalogues, predicts customs delays, and suggests alternative materials—reducing decidion cycles from months to hours.

decidant sydes from months to frours.

And fluidly, go in for experiencement alliance
Roplicate the European Union's Joint
Procurement Agreement, engine the procurement of code,
leaves such as cryogenic coolers, achieving occomentes of code,
Privatisation is not a silver builde by a form of the procurement of the pr

pressure risks creating ineffective labs. The goal must be creating a procurement continuum where public and private entities coexist — each accessing shared innevation marketplaces but governed by distinct risk-reward matrices. India's GeM reforms are a tentative step toward procurement systems that value time to lab as much as cost savings. By marrying these changes with global frest practices in market chaping, cognitive tools, and hybrid governance, the nation could transform procurement from a from history is clear; civilisations that po suments left rutni; those that procured for

India's economic ambitions need better gender data

omen contribute just 19% to Irulia's GDP coday, but contribute with the of Indian increase as usual means that trillions aspiration to become a SIO trillion economy by JOH7 resis on a simple truth inclusive growth cannot happen if half its population remains unvisible in the data that drive policy and investment. Nearly 196 million employable women are outside the worldorce. While the Female Labour Force Participation Bate has Female Labour Force Participation Bate has improved to 41.7%, only 16% of these women are in formal employment. The question is not just how fulls creates opportunities for women, but how it ensures that these opportunities are visible, measurable, and acted on across every

A dilatrict-level tool
The launch of the Worners's Economic
The launch of the Worners's Economic
The launch of the Worners's Economic
of Uttar Pradash — the first in India — offers a
gliunpae of what is possible. This district level tool
track women's participation across five
tracks women's participation across five
and skilling, entrepreseuratipp levelihood and
mobility, and anticy and inclusive infrastructure.
Its significance less beyond the index. It signilar
stift toward embedding a gender lens in every

dataset, every department, and every decision. India produces multiple indices on health, economic well-being and infrastructure. Very few disaggregate this data by gender. Without this lens, gaps remain hidden. Without visibility. ms stall. And without reforms, exclusion



Research and

development

blending these

changes with global best

practices in-

marketahaning cognitive tools and hybrid

Prote Sharma Guyal



is Program Lead, The Addeti Foundation

Government of Uttar Pradesh's Women's Beonomie Index is a model that can be replicated

the country

When inequities become visible, action follows. In Uttar Pradealy's transport sector for instance, data analysis of bus drivers and conductors in the State and the low percentage conductors in the Mate and the two percentages owners in this segment prompted the women in this segment prompted the conductors and settled and self-time foundational infrastructure gaps and self-time foundational infrastructure gaps. These changes, while modest, are catalytic, and are unifiely to have occurred without gender-specific insights.

The WEI findex shows how such insights can.

be systematised. By mapping where women dro off – from whool to skilling, skilling to work, or entrepreneurship to credit - it moves the entrepreneurship to Credit – It moves the conversation beyond participation rates to structural barriers, Consider the striking patterns while women dominate (more than 50%) enrodment in Otta Pradeshri skilling report of the properties of the pro

If India is serious about closing its gender gap at scale, gender-disaggregated data must become universal and normative. This requires integrating gender breakdowns into every departmental management information system from miero, small and medium enterprises to transport to housing – and building the capacity of local governments to collect and use this data effectively to create effective gender action plans. it also calls for moving beyond aurisce-level counts to track retention, leadership, re-entry, and quality of employment, particularly at stages after Class 12 in school and pret-graduation,

where Remain draposit rates surge.

Where Remain draposit rates surge.

By dealing the process of the median process of the pr and more. It is simple - you cannot budget for what you do not measure.

Help for States moving ahead

What Ultar Pradesh has piloted is a foundation that can be replicated and scaled, States such as Andhra Pradesh, Mahamahtra, Odisha and Andhra Fradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha usd Fradagana have already set trillion-dollar scomenik goals. To achieve them, they must framework such as the WRE Index can help framework such as the WRE Index can help States translater intent into implementation turning data into district-wise gender action plans that guide budget allications, infrastructure

priorities and programmatic reforms.
India's gender gap is not new, but India's response to it must evolve. The solution would involve a fundamental change in how India sees, seasures and responds to gender across ever

vel of governance. The WKE index is not the finish line but the starting block. It makes visible what has long been invisible and offers a road map to move women from the margins to the mainstream of India's growth story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The dreat Hischier project
The article, "A project of a statement conducted was importance" (California) page, haptornian 12, 2025), by the form of the project of the proj

preservent began even before terms of reference for it were issued. The project will disrupt and displace the tribal communities of Great Nicebar The idea that notifying additional areas as tribal reserve will

compensate for the areas being de-notified indicates a lack of understanding about the needs of the endigenous people as well as the bio-geophysical heterogeneity of Great Nicobar, Ecologically, planting trees in Haryana

(which needs to be done anyway) will just not compensate for clear-felling of multi-species, brodiversity rich forests in the Great Nicobar Island. Specific in middle Scientists in public institutions themselves heve spoken about being

asked to provide reports. favourable to the project. Jairam Ramesh, been Celler must carry the full poster

Field and fraternity

Sport is political, but it must not be the stage for a theatre of conflict

ports, like war, can be a continuation of politics by other means, but it always makes sense to question all the forms and avatars of politics. The India-Pakistan Asia Cup match on September 14 was preceded by demands that it be suspended. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray called it an "insult to national sentiment" while the AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi argued that commercial gain had been valued over the lives lost in Pahalgam. Petitioners had also asked the Supreme Court to cancel the game. Yet, India captain Survakumar Yadav had decided that his team would not shake hands with its Pakistani counterpart, calling it an "alignment" with government policy. It is striking that Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Owaisi, from different ends of the political spectrum, echoed the BJPled government's policy of disengagement from Pakistan, revealing how this debate has been circumscribed by notions of national solidarity. But the BCCI is also partly to blame for having long operated outside the purview of sports governance law, sustained by networks that still link administrators to ruling parties. Cricket has never been immune to politics: colonial India used it to negotiate power with imperial rulers and independent India and Pakistan invested their encounters with the weight of Partition. Yet, cricket, especially in the 1970s and 2000s, opened spaces for contact, with the field allowing a rivalry that was sporting rather than military.

Today, this tradition is being eroded by the collective transformation of cricket into another theatre of conflict. Sportspersons are not soldiers and their gestures matter because they dramatise fellowship. To withdraw from even this minimal courtesy confuses solidarity with victims of terrorism with the repudiation of fellow athletes. The Asia Cup game showed how far Indian cricket has moved from the position that sport affirms the fraternity of ordinary life, with its rituals of rivalry and joy rising in defiance of violence and bloodshed. It is bad enough that the ICC places the India and the Pakistan teams in the same group in multilateral tournaments, creating repetitive match-ups to go with the inordinate influence the BCCI exerts on these events. Rather than compound these artificialities, Suryakumar and team should adopt the more responsible course and restore hand-shaking for the rest of the tournament. Sport is political, but it does not have to be war minus the shooting. International contests might mimic warfare, but the whole point of sport is lost if sportspersons behave as proxies of political leaders seeking to inflame passions to polarise people.

1. News in Brief

- Debate over India-Pakistan Asia Cup match (Sep 14, 2025).
- Political leaders (Uddhav Thackeray, Asaduddin Owaisi) opposed the game citing "national sentiment" & terror attacks.
- Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav announced refusal to shake hands with Pakistani players, citing govt. alignment.

2. Key Issues Raised

- Politicisation of sports:
 - Sports events increasingly seen as extension of national policy.
 - Cricket used historically for political signaling.
- Role of BCCI:
 - Long functioned outside strict governance law.
 - Heavy influence on ICC scheduling → repeated Indo-Pak matches in tournaments.
- Symbolism vs Fellowship:
 - Players' gestures (handshakes, camaraderie) reflect fraternity.
 - Withdrawing such gestures confuses solidarity with militarism.

3. Background/History

- India-Pakistan cricket rivalry: Rooted in Partition legacy.
- 1970s-2000s: Cricket acted as "bridge diplomacy" (e.g., Vajpayee's 2004 Indo-Pak series).
- Past boycotts: Sporting bans used as political tools (e.g., South Africa apartheid era, Cold War Olympics).

4. Polity & IR Angle

- Soft power & diplomacy: Sports as tool of people-to-people ties.
- Government policy: India follows disengagement stance post-Pulwama & border tensions.
- Debate: Should sporting bodies follow govt. policy or remain autonomous?

5. Society & Ethics Angle

- Fraternity (Preamble of Indian Constitution): Sport seen as a unifier.
- Moral dilemma: Balancing solidarity with terror victims vs preserving cultural/sporting exchange.
- Civil society role: Cricket matches have mass emotional impact, risk of political exploitation.

Court's nod to mental health as right

called a constitutional landmark. The case, Sukaleb Salus or The State Of Andhra Fradesh, was unclosed in the augusts of a father who had lost his 17-year-old daughter, a NEET candidate, in a Visakhapatnam bostel. Dissatisfies with what he believed was the failure of the local police to make a full investigation of the cause, be demanded a Central Bureau of investigation (CBD inquiry. His petitions were rejected by the Andlina Fradesh High Cours. Andhan Peadesh High Colurs, which then sue bim approach the Supreme Court. The result was not only an order shifting the most only an order shifting the most only an order shifting the most of the shifting the shi

criminological perspective, the case highlights what can be rmed structural victimisation. udent suicides are rarely framed in these terms. Yet, systemic neglect of mental health combined with the exploitative culture of coaching centres and the indifference of schools and the indifference of schools and universities, produce an environment where young people become vulnerable to harm. By falling to provide safeguards, the state and insitiations become state and institutions become complicit. When testitutions create or ignore conditions that drive individuals to the brink, the line between personal trappedy and institutional culpability becomes

he gase of victimology, which has long examined the dynamics between victims and perpetrators, can be extended to state Institutions as de facto perpetrations. Students are not just "victims" of internal psychological battles. They are the victims of an education system that treats them

shabbily, it is also about social

Shabin D.S.



is Assistant Professor, Vinapalia Mission's Lee School, Vinapalia Missions Research Foundation Deserved to Jos University, Chersoni

The Supreme Court's judgment in

acknowledges

mental health to be an integral

Andhra Pradesh',

Sukdeb Saha ve The State Of

values that link self-esteem to nierarchy and of a governance collapse that subordinates mental sealth as a secondary concern. By recognising mental health as an inherent right, the Court was recognising the structural aspect of victimisation. It recast the problem not as a personal bereavement but as a public

injustice.
Legally, the verdier fills a vital gap. The Mernal Healthcare Act 2017 already enshrines the right to receive mental health care. But it has not been implemented considerably, and enforcement consistently, and enforcement ruccharisms are still poor. If the constitution, the Court is made constitution, the Court is market benchmark, Chikom can insist on affeguarding their poychic health as a fundamental right, not just a statutery right. To ensure that this tild not forcome more rhetoric, the criterium is the constitution of the criterium is the constitution of the con-trading internal pulsars. binding interim unlers - new referred to as the "Saha Guidelines". Here, schools, colleges, hostels and coaching institutes are required to proactively develop support systems to address the issue of mental health. They instruct States and Union Theritories to being the rules into force in two

bring the rules tolo force in two morning and tollagate the setting up of charitie bevel insulationing of charitie bevel insulationing and the charities of the ennally blameworthy as direct violence. By not creating a safe environment, the state and educational institutions indirectly perpetuate harmful circumstances. This perspective

njustice. As a victimology case, if a a point where hidden victims become visible. Students, frequently silenced by stigma or

system competitiveness, are seldem heard as rights holders Placing psychological integrity in Article 21 means that the Court has mened up room for these victi opened up room for these victims to be heard and safeguarded. It leaves the door ajar for restorative measures – counselling, reform in institutions, mechanisms of

insufficiations, mechanisms of accountability that go beyond retribution to prevention.

The way the judgment has been received by mental health activists and professionals highlights its revolutionary potential, but along with optimism there must be caution. Powerful judicial processionals in the property of the procaution. Powerful judicial printensicements cannot, by Humicitive, uproof established ruthinal and institutional norms. The challenge is whether schools, universities, and State governments will meaningfully apply the guidelines, invest in resources, and train personnel to deliver real mental health care, Ultimately, Sukaleh Saha

represents a convergence of law criminology and victimology. B

beacon of hope or a missed

celimitology and victimology. It recognises that burn can be produced not just by individuals but also by institutions and systems. It acknowledges that students, often treated as passive subjects of education, are rights Insiders, whose mental well-being Indians whose mental well-long deserves constitutional protection, deserves constitutional protection, confront an uncomfortable trust that neglect, indifference and atructural pressures can be as deadly as acts of direct velocities, and the second of the control of the contr Whether this voice translates into meaningful change will determine whether the judgment remains a

Strengthening Kerala's secular legacy

Sabartmala's inclusivity stands in opposition to sectarian narratives

STATE OF PLAY

A none of the largest an-mual pilgrimage sites in the world, Sabari-The Global Ayappa main has long symbolised de-votion, discipline and fraterni-ty. The Global Ayappa sangamam – an initiative by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) as part of its plati-mam jubbes celebrations – on

hoard (TDB) as part of in plat-man publics embinations—on wards recognising this univer-al appeal, and strengthering for take social and strengthering for take social and embiral to the strength of the strength of kertals's social and embiral synthesis. Oligims from across testebased and reli-tarity of the strength of the strengt pilgrim centre of bistorical sig-nificance.

Equally symbolic is the ren-dering of the devotional song Harrharasamari, played as a bulled yo Aysprpa and his de-day. The song was composed by the late C. Devarajan, also a committed atheist and com-nunts, and munoratalized in context of the composed by the song was composed by the late C. Devarajan, also a committed atheist and com-nunts, and munoratalized in context higher and a Christian by tirth. Together, these ele-mento highlight Sabarimala-secular, formenious, and in-devotion is never reduced to elevation in never reduced to desotion is never reduced to communal identity. The TDB is celebrating and

sheet children from authoritity food more

en de Cristad

...

. ...

reaffirming this long-standing secular tradition. It signals a recognition that Sabarimals



belongs to the world, which is reflected in the words that greet one at the shrine. What greet one at the shrine, "har-team of Olyon art that", indi-cating that the same spirit aproals in veryone, or no one that here. Yes, Opposition as greenive step. Adding to this, the Sabarionala Karms Sa-mith, dominated by commu-nal forces, has armounced in years, and the same same years in the same same and years. wasa Sungumam' (Paith Con-gregation) at Pandalam on September 22. It is a calcular ed attempt to inject a commo nal narrative into what has his-torically been a unifying

R is crucial to recognise the distinction between believers and communal forces. The hrat draws from faith a sense of discipline, moral strength, and fraternity. The second meaning from the faith of the second series of the second series and series and series shown that believen have of ten stood on the side of reform the second series of ten second series and series and series and series of ten second series and series of ten series and series of ten series and series and religious traditions, between the series of heat draws from faith a sens eristion, equality, and social analormation. It is in this re-roots tradition that the Gle-

bal Ayyappa Kangamam musi be located. The secular character of Sabarimals is the outcome of centuries of reform, negotia-tion, and the struggles of or-

came from within acciety it-self. The Left has always held that such internal reform movements are executed to weaken caste hierarchies and communal divisions. This is also why the attempts to communalise the kangamam must be resisted. The BIP and its afbe related. The fill and its ar-filiates have long sought to weaponise Sabarimals for pol-itical gain, portraying progres-sive reform as an attack on sive refurin as an alfault on high Saburinala has never belanged to communal forces, to the communal forces, to the communal forces, history of reforms, and to opposition to sectarian narra-tives. Efforts are on to portest the evert as an effort by the CPUAD to interfere by a refuser, these are critical of religion. communists study and cri-tique all aspects of the society so that a better future can be ensured. So, quite naturally, religion also falls within their radar, as it is part and parcel of the society. Marx said, "Religion is the sigh of the opperand creature... It is the opium of the people." He was highlighting the fact that reli-gion helps the oppressed to forget their sufferings. Back

relieves.

The Global Ayyuppa Sangaman is also a platform to the case developmental projects—the Sabartmala Master Plan, the proposed airport and other initiatives, it is a political statement, which asserts that Kerala's public aphere will not be surrendered to divisive distancement. secularism is not an abstract constitutional principle, but a living practice embodied in M.A. Baby is CPIOD General

Rising obesity, children's exposure to ultra-processed foods

Data show greater availability and widespread promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

recent UNICEF repert. Feeding Frent: How Frost Children, settlings the first three children and adolescents feet week and the pears are Turing with ones weight. It highlights that children settlings the construction of the children and adolescents feet when a settling with ones weight. It highlights that children with the construction of the children with the construction of the children with the children cilities, and even lack adequate le-gal protections against such

avironments.
Children between 8 and 9 years Children between it and 9 years and 10 to 14 years make up the highest shares of children who are 'living with overweight' Chart 25.

The report explores how the retail environment shapes what foods children are expessed to. UN-ICRF found a rise in the density of 'chain' outlers, which include convenience success, successibles. venience stares, supermarkets and hypermarkets with more than 10 outlets (Chart 3).

According to the report, chain sutlets influence food access and flets by facilitating the widespread

availability and promotion of un-healthy foods and beverages. But shibten's exposure to these foods does not stem from chain sales alone. UNICKP's U-Report poll in 2023, which explored both to availability and marketing of eight South Arian countries,

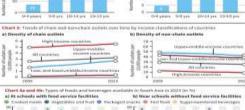
showed that unhealthy fields and beverages were more commonly-osultable in schools than feed-man and the second of the second The report emphasized that muridatory national legal mea-aurs and policies are with to creat-curs and policies are with to creat-tive second of the second of the second of the second of the second countries analysed had mandatory narrition standards for school meab, and only two knew initions rases for both unhealthy foods and nagar-sweetened beverages (Chart

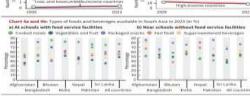
CH CO

Unhealthy diets

Charts were sourced from United Frahms Children's Fund UMICRET's "Feeding Profit: Now food enveronments are failing children", published in September 2025. For Chart 5, the data were examined for 202 countries and for a set. f in legal measures and policies spanning breastfeeding and first hoods, actsoni food erroromants, marketing to children, food reformulation, food labelling, food subsidies and Locations. *Cooks colors to the intermet Marketina of Benast with Substitutes and subsequent World







FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO. SEPTEMBER 16, 1975.

Colonial Rule Ends in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORUSBY (Papua New Guinea), Sept. 15. Frumpets assurded the Last Post and drums beat Trumpen assumed the Law Post and triums book the Refered as the Australian flag was lewered for the last time in Papua New Clubiea, ending 60 years of colonial rule, Prince Charles, helr to the British throne, the

Barbous. Soldiers of the Pacific Islands Regimens fired three volleys in sature as Australia's blue flag with its white stars of the Southern Cross and Union Jack was hauled from the masthead. The Government of Mr. Michael Somare was to take control at one minute past miduight to a ten gun salute from Australian and New Zealand warships anchored off shore. Tribesmen from parts of the world's newest

country in warrior's paint and bare-breasted girls performed tribal dances to the beat of den drums before Prince Charles inspected

wooden frums before frunc Charles suspected the military guard of honour. The red and black flag of Papua New Guines embiazoned with a golden bird of puradise will be holsted to-morrow morning from a flagstaff on the newly-named independence Hill.

Australia's Governor-General, accepting the flag from Sir Guise, and Australia and its closest neighbour, Puppus New Guinea, in a long period of colonisation had managed to avoid policies and relationablys that "have proved so tragic class/lare". — All.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1026 High Jump for Horses

VANCOUVER, Sep. 14.
"Barralao," a horse belonging to Welsh Brothers of Calgary, has brothers the world's record for horse high jump by leaping 8 feet F/s inches.

(Special Gable – Goggydghr)

Rising obesity, children's exposure to ultra-processed foods

Data show greater availability and widespread promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

recent UNICEF report, 'Feeding Profit: How Food Environments Are Failing Children', estimates that one in five children and adolescents between 5 and 19 years are 'living with overweight'. It highlights that children and adolescents are increasingly being exposed to "unhealthy food environments" through advertisements and food service facilities, and even lack adequate legal protections against such environments.

Children between 5 and 9 years and 10 to 14 years make up the highest shares of children who are 'living with overweight' (Chart 2).

The report explores how the retail environment shapes what foods children are exposed to. UN-ICEF found a rise in the density of 'chain' outlets, which include convenience stores, supermarkets and hypermarkets with more than 10 outlets (Chart 3).

According to the report, chain outlets influence food access and diets by facilitating the widespread availability and promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages.

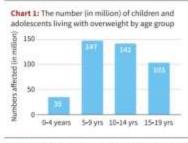
But children's exposure to these foods does not stem from chain outlets alone. UNICEF's U-Report poll in 2023, which explored both the availability and marketing of foods in secondary schools across eight South Asian countries, showed that unhealthy foods and beverages were more commonly available in schools than fresh fruits or vegetables (Chart 4a).

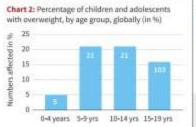
The report emphasised that mandatory national legal measures and policies are vital to creating healthy food environments. Data show that only 18% of the 202 countries analysed had mandatory nutrition standards for school meals, and only 19% have national taxes for both unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages (Chart

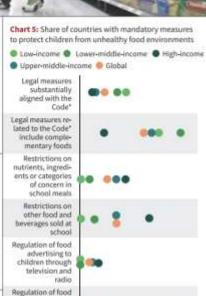
Unhealthy diets

Charts were sourced from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s "Feeding Profit. How food environments are failing children", published in September 2025. For Chart 5, the data were examined for 202 countries and for a set of 10 legal measures and policies spanning breastfeeding and first foods, school food environments, marketing to children, food reformulation, food labelling, food subsidies and taxation. "Code refers to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions.









advertising to

digital media

Food reformu-

lation to reduce trans fat

Front-of-pack food labelling

Price subsidies for

sugar-sweetened

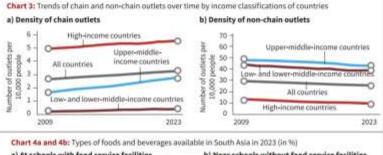
healthy foods

Taxation of foods and

beverages

% 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

children through



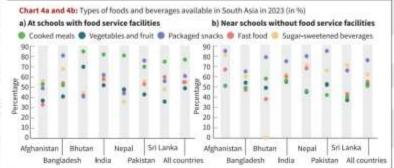


Chart 1: The number (in million) of children and Chart 2: Percentage of children and adolescents Chart 5: Share of countries with mandatory measures adolescents living with overweight by age group with overweight, by age group, globally (in %) to protect children from unhealthy food environments Numbers affected (in million) Low-income Lower-middle-income High-income 25 150 Numbers affected in % Upper-middle-income Global 20 Legal measures 15 substantially aligned with the 10 Code* 5 Legal measures related to the Code* include comple-5-9 yrs 10-14 yrs 15-19 yrs 10-14 yrs 15-19 yrs 0-4 years 0-4 years 5-9 yrs mentary foods Restrictions on Chart 3: Trends of chain and non-chain outlets over time by income classifications of countries nutrients, ingredients or categories a) Density of chain outlets b) Density of non-chain outlets of concern in school meals 6 -High-income countries 70 Number of outlets per Upper-middle-income countries 60 Restrictions on Upper-middleother food and of outlets people people 50 income countries All countries beverages sold at Low- and lower-middle-income countries school 30 10,000 10,000 Regulation of food 20 All countries advertising to Low- and lower-middle-income countries 10 children through High-income countries television and 2009 2023 2009 2023 radio Regulation of food Chart 4a and 4b: Types of foods and beverages available in South Asia in 2023 (in %) advertising to children through a) At schools with food service facilities b) Near schools without food service facilities digital media Cooked meals Vegetables and fruit Packaged snacks Fast food Sugar-sweetened beverages Food reformulation to reduce 80 80 trans fat 70 70 Front-of-pack food 60 60 labelling Percentage 0 0 0 0 Price subsidies for healthy foods 30 Taxation of 20 20 foods and 10 sugar-sweetened beverages Sri Lanka Sri Lanka Afghanistan Bhutan Nepal Afghanistan Bhutan Nepal Bangladesh India Pakistan All countries Pakistan All countries Bangladesh India 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

U.S. will steadfastly back its ally in Gaza war, says Rubio on Israel visit



U.S. Secretary of State Merco Rubio said on Monday, during a visit to luraet, that Washington would rumain steadfast in its support for its ally in the Gara war, Mr. Buisin criti sed plens by West discuss with Mr. Notanyahu brasil plans to secre Gaza City, Are

China says U.S. firm Nvidia 'flouted' anti-trust law, vows extra probe



China said on Monday that a probe found that U.S. chip giant Neidia had run afoul of the country's anti-trust rules, and www.d an adelitional proba just after trade talks fortween Deling and Washington entered a second day. Beijing is engaged in a contex with the U.S. for manemacy in the field of on

Pakistan 'kills 31 militants' in the northwest as TTP offers dialogue



Rhyber (Sakhrunkhwa in the country's northwest, killing 3) insurgents. In a surprise move, the Pakistani Talihan under the group TTP offered to hold talks with the Pakistani government to resa the "root nauros" of two donades of coeffict. At

ROW ANGELEN

Adolescence and The Studio win big at television's Emmy Awards



wards, claiming eight prises including best limited series, white The PVI prevailed in a tight race for best drama at televisi equivalent of the Oscars. Both Rogen's 7he Shoke dominate amonly categories with 13 Emmys - a record for comedies, are

Deal reached over future of TikTok, says Trump

Associated Press

President Donald Trump has posted on his social modia site that a meeting between the U.S. and Chi-ness officials went well and that a deal was reachest regarding "a 'certain' compa-ny that young people in our Country very much wanted to save."

wanted to save."

Mr. Trump's comment suggests that the company is TikToh, the social mostic company associated with China, that U.S. law requires to be sold or also cease operations.
The Republican Prest-

dem has repeatedly ex-tended the deadline on TileTole's fate and was noncommittal on an agree-ment when asked by reporters on Sunday evening. Mr. Frump also said that he would be speaking on Fri-day with Chinese leader XI

TikTok is one of more than 100 apps developed in the past decade by five bance, a technology firm founded in 2012 by Chi-

traction during the abun-downs of the COVID-19 pandemic, when short dances that went viral became a mainstay of the

Trump to arrive in the U.K. as Starmer's leadership is tested

The U.K. and the U.S. will sign a nuclear energy deal, part of which will facilitate the building of small modular reactors through multinational partnerships, and a tech cooperation agreement

3. President Do-nald Trump is the top of the president of the U.K. on Truesday as Prime Minister Refe Starre or tries to manage growing disastisfaction, within his party own this leadership, Mr. Trump and U.S. Peri Lei Welsent Trump.

Mr. Trump and U.S. First Lady Melenia Trump are due to arrive in London in Tuesday evening and travel to Windson Eastle, outside London, where they will spend the right. Wednesday's events are largely extremental. Bit ulti"s monarch King Char-les Bit and Queen Lamilla will swisome their Ameri-will swisome their American guests at a reception and the party will take an open-carriage ride. Mr. Trump will visit the torch of Queen Elizabeth II and attend a State banquet on Wednesday night.

Wednesday right.

The monarchy is being deployed to bolster U.K., U.S. ties, with Mr. Trump being a professed fan of being a professed fan of the Boyal Furnity. The Pre-sident described the king as "a beautiful man, a wor-derful man" when he was presented with an invita-tion for the state visit by Mr. Starmer, when she Prime Minister visited the White Houses in Pebruary. Mr. Starmer has empha-sized a plan Mr. Turni-



ed second state visit for a U.S. President. The Trumps were hosted by the late British monarch, Elizabeth II, and her hun-band, Prince Phillip, in 2019, under Beris Johnson's Conservative government. The U.K has secured re-

latively favourable trade terms with the U.S. com-pared to India (which faces 50% tariffs) and the EU. The U.K.'s 'reciprocal ta-riff' rate for its U.S. exports is at the base level of 10%, is at the basis level of 10%, but some goods such as steel and abuninium are ta-ciffed at a higher rate un-der levelant 222 (the U.E. still faces 25% tariffs for these goods with other countries facing up to 50%). These tariffs are like-tly to be finalised on Thurs-sity, when Mr. Starmer looks 50. Thump for bida-tooks 50. Thump for bidaeral talks at his official country residence, the-

quers. The meeting comes The morning comes days after the Prime Mini-ter was compolled to fire the British Ambassador to Washington, Peter Mandel-son, whose links to con-victed sex offender Jeffrey Epitiett, were closer than previously thought. The extent of Mr. Trump's own links with Epstein have be-come the subject of scrut-ny in Washington.

Under threat

Cuder threat
The visit also comes as Mr.
Nurmer's political fornumer have been under
threat. Days before the
Mandelson candal, Starmer-ally and Deputy Prime
Minister Augola Raymer tesigned for not paying
emough take on a house.
This resulted in a hasty Catimes residualitie. Mr. Starm-

or's long-term prospects in No.10 Downing Street has since become uncertain, as per reports in the British press, with trade unions and Labour MPs growing increasingly discontent with his delivery track re-

member, will not be on the trip. Mr. Musk issued a call

to violence over the wee kend, as he delivered a vi

where they see India fit in-to their scheme of things.

Secondly, they will have n

make sure that our rela-tions are not ephodic by which I mean that every

episode cannot subject ou

relations to trial by fire. You will also notice that the

countries which have cap

with his delivery track re-cired.

The U.K. and the U.S. would sign a nuclear energy deal, part of which will lacilitate the building of small mischilar reactions through multinational partnerships, the U.K. go-vernment announced on Monday. The countries are also expected to sign a techalso expected to sign a tech partnership spanning the Al, quantum computing and semiconductor sec-tors, among others, Ope-nAI CRO Sam Altman and Nyidia CRO Jensen Huang

are expected to accompa-ny Mr. Trump on the visit. Elon Mask, framder of government. The first Cabinet meettech giant X Corp. and former Trump inner-circle

ing on Monday evening de-cided to declare all those killed during the youth movement, dubbed Gen Z protests, martyrs.
The meeting also decided to declare a public holi-

dec message during a 'Un-ine the Kingdom' protest organised by far right lead-er Tommy Robinson. day on Wednesday in me-mory of those who lost their lives.

their lives.
In another decision, the Cabinet agreed to form a judicial commission to trivealigate violent insident during the two-day protests.
"We have agreed in principle to form such a or Tommy Robinson.

Mr. Musk had asked protestors to push back against transgration and to "fight back or die" as he called for a general election, Downing Street son demand Mr. Musk's words

Nepal PM expands Cabinet with three new Ministers. orders probe into violence

Nepal President Ram Chandra Pondel adminis-tered the eath of office to three newly inducted Mi-nisters in the interim Cabi-net led by Prime Minister Syshila Karki on Monday.

Suchila Kariki on Munclay.
Two days after her age-pointment, Ms. Rarki on-sunday formed the Cabi-net with Rameshore Kha-nal, Kulman Ghising, and Gri Prakash Avyal us Fi-nance Minister, Energy Mi-nister, and Herne Minister, respectively.

respectively.

Ms. Karki, Nepal's first Ms. Rarks, Nepai's first woman thief justice, also became the first woman to lead the country last week after nationwide anti-cor-ruption protests, launchad by the youth, killed at least 72 people and led to the full of the K.P. Sharma Oli

Beamomic reforms

Finance Secretary who re-cently admitted a recom-mendation of over 400 pages to the convolte Oli Government, outlining After assuming office as Finance Minister, Mr. Kha-nal said he would imple-ment the recommenda-tions he had made he



(from left) Rameshore Khanal, Rubman Officing, and Om Frakach Aryal at the presidential building in Rathmendu on Monday, 80 (1996)

nance Secretary, ching pol-tical pressure from busi-ness groups resisting investigations into the fake VAT Bill school the fake VAT Bill school the face Ling, 54, is the farmer Exec-utive Director of the Nepal Exertisity Authority, and is widely credited with sending Nepal's chronic commission," newly ap-pointed Home Minister Aryal said after the meet-ing, "Who will be on the commission and its forma-tion will be decided later." As Mr. Karki, according

as Ms. Kark, according to sources, plans to form an Remember Cabinet, more appointments are opported in the coming days. The Karki government is mandated to hold elections in Murch 8, 2026. power outages.
A graduate in Electrical

shedpur, Mr. Ghishig holds a master's degree in Power System Engineering from Pulchowk Engineering Mr. Khanal, 88, is a former Finance Secretary who re-

Campus, Nepal, Home Minister Aryal, 49, is a Supreme Court advocase known for challeng-ing corruption and filing high-profile public interest

litigation.

A close confident of PM Karkt, Mr. Aryal played a key role in her behind the

India is keen to preserve its ties with U.S., but not at any cost

As a rising power, India needs to be proactive, it has been second to none in contributing to the global commons such as vaccine maitri during COVID-19 or in combating climate change. However, the world expects India to play a bigger role in conflicts and geopolitics we need to get our geopolitics right; says the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

T.S. Tirumurti

Stanly Johny

he U.S. has to de-cide first where they see India fit into their scheme of things, says F.S. Thumari, India's former Ambassador/ber-

What are your thoughts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to China to siteed the SCO summit? Can we say India and China are now settling into a "new normal" despite persisting differences?

mat in our relations with tionship with China. The China. Yes, it is true that old template is not enough

both sides have signalled an intention to move for-ward. We have certainly to-leen some initial steps, which are important but probably more symbolic than substantive, to bring about a thaw like remaining airlinks. Kallash Manasar

astilists, Kallaub-Manaariv-var yatra, liberalising the vita regime, ere. However, we still need to address to tribute and the control inflatance, market access in tributa genes and service, as, the established, etc. have become active ngain in our neighbourhood. For every control of the control of the providence of the control of the tempt to efastion thring of-peration Rindsor and their attempt to encribe India through groupings are all through groupings are all

either physically or through groupings are all manifestations of this. In addition, we now have to deal with China both a neighbour as well as the No.2 power. For the first time, we have a superpow-er aluring a border with us. All this is changing the complexion of our rela-

these avatars. 80, lot more needs to be done to restore trust before we can reach a new normal in our relations.

> Some say Donald Trump's tariffs have nudged India and China closer. Do you agree?

While it is from that Prent dest Trump has disrupted the trajectory of Irufat L3. Tolktions, if doubt that the Jobations, if doubt that the prent of the Irufat L3. Tolktion is doubt that the control of the Irufat L3. Tolktion is doubt that the Irufat L3 of the While it is true that Presi-

tions, we can manage our differences with China and should not be taken for grantest.
But how serious these



options are is detutable gi-ven the more systemic pro-blems we are currently fac-mentioned earlier. That said, while countering thi-na where necessary, we cause where possible. Neither country is doing enough to find systemy in regional, plurilateral or gibbal teams.

That takes us to the U.S.-India ties, which now face turbulence – 80% tariffs, frictions on trade and repeated public criticisms from U.S. etc. How do you read these developments?



itulated to the U.S. tariff florests and agreed to one-sided deals are the closest of the control of the

I am convinced that we took the right decision in 2002 to abrain so the UN Security Council resolufor a return to diplomacy where the eight make the convention of the convention of the control of the council of the convention of the council of I am convinced that we

West has been upset with same countries to cooper-us. I had pointed our to the are and work together.

With no end in sight for the Ukraine war, Indian

impacts our geopolitical interests. the Korean war in UN se-curity Council between 1951 and 1952, in recogni-The tensions in Indo U.S. relations also bring India's ties with Russia under spotlight. tion of which we were made Clair of Neutral Na-tions Repatriation Commit-tee after the armistice. Op-

gagement of our partners with our conflicts, we need great criticism from the U.S. How do you assess India's Ukraine policy? to engage more with their conflicts.

How do you look at the shifts in the global order? What guiding principles should shape india's foreign policy in such uncertain times?

that if we seek greater en-

There are certainly serious disruptions to the global order. On the one hand, order on the one hand, er apart in conflicts and violating international law with impunity.

On the office mand, glo-mate, change, energy se-curity, pandemics, Al and digital issues, cybes the conflict of the conflict of the manual change, energy se-curity, pandemics, Al and digital issues, cybes the manual change of the conflict of the three conflicts to conflict the

point these two forces meet will determine the trajectory of the global or der. Also, let us not get too nostalgic about a world or der which we neither shaped nor did it really eration Sindoor shows us help us even if we learnt to use it to our advantage des pire all odds.

We were never for status quo and always called for meaningful reform whethmeaningful reterm whether in UN Security Council or other 1948 architecture-linked institutions such as World Bank, IMF or WTO.

World Barth, IMF or WTCL Looking absault, Can only say that as a rising power, we need to be proactive. We have brees seemed to income to contribute to the global common and to WID-49 or to combat cli-mate shange, etc. However, if the world sexpects us to play a bigger role in con-flict and geopolitics. No head down, mind our even business and expect to the business and expect to be-come the third largest eco-nomy or Viksit Bharat by 2047. We need to get our

propolitics right.

LOS ANGELES

Adolescence and The Studio win big at television's Emmy Awards



AFP

Teen murder saga Adolescence was the big winner at the Emmy Awards, claiming eight prizes including best limited series, while The Pitt prevailed in a tight race for best drama at television's equivalent of the Oscars. Seth Rogen's The Studio dominated comedy categories with 13 Emmys — a record for comedies. AFP

77th EMMY AWARDS: THE BIG WINNERS





WITH US-CHINA DEAL ON TIKTOK, RECALLING THE APP'S JOURNEY

UNITED STATES Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday announced a framework deal for the ownership of the social media app TikTok, after trade talks with Chinese officials in Spain, It follows repeated official extensions, which were aimed at preventing a ban on the Chinese-origin app in the US.

Bessent said that US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi linping would speak on Friday to finalise the deal.

How did TikTok arrive in the US?

TikTok was formally launched in 2016 by the Chinese company ByteDance as a challenger to the wildly popular Musical.ly, also a Chinese company. TikTok and its Chinese counterpart, Douyin, replicated Musical ly's short video format, where users lip-synced to audios and sones.

ByteDance acquired Musically in 2017 and later merged it with TikTok. The app subsequently gained global popularity, a rare feat for a Chinese tech company. One key factor was its algorithm, which accurately predicted user interests based on the topics they engaged with.

Who owns TikTok?

Concerns have long been raised by US officials about user privacy and data, with several media reports claiming that TikTok censored information critical of the Chinese government.

Its ownership has been contentious. TikTok's Singaporean CEO, Shou Zi Chew, told a congressional hearing in 2023 that the app was not available in China (only Douyin was) and that TikTok was headguartered in Los Angeles and Singapore.

But a CNN report said the app is owned by California-based TikTok LLC, which in turn is controlled by Shanghai-based TikTok Ltd. TikTok Ltd is ultimately owned by ByteDance Ltd, also based in Beijing,

Also of concern is China's unique political structure, where the state exercises significant power over private entities.



TikTok was launched in 2016, The NYT

hand over user information if the state demanded it.

In 2022, TikTok claimed that it migrated its user data to US servers managed by the US tech firm Oracle, but officials continued to exercise caution.

What has happened under Trump?

At the end of his first presidential term (2017-21). Trump was critical of TikTok, claiming it mishandled the Covid pandemic and spread conspiracy theories. He banned American companies from entering into any "transaction" with ByteDance and its subsidiaries. He later ordered ByteDance to divest from TikTok's US operations within 90 days. TikTok then sued the Trump administration for allegedly violating due process in its executive orders.

There was further bipartisan scrutiny of the app in Joe Biden's (2021-25) presidential term, with a Bill to transfer TikTok's ownership to a US company clearing congressional approval and getting Biden's assent in 2024.

After his re-election, Trump approached the US Supreme Court to pause the TikTok ban until a "political resolution" could be reached. The court upheld this ban in January 2025, leading to a temporary blackout of the app in the US.

Following his inauguration in January, Trump issued an executive order to delay the ban and eventually gave the app several extensions. The last deadline was ByteDance might potentially have to September 17. ENS WITH AP INPUTS

1. Recent Development

- US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced a framework deal on TikTok's ownership after trade talks with China in Spain.
- Aim: Prevent ban on TikTok in the US.
- US President Donald Trump & Chinese President Xi Jinping to finalize soon.

2. TikTok's Entry into the US

- Launched in 2016 by ByteDance (China) as competitor to Musical.ly.
- ByteDance acquired Musical.ly in 2017 and merged it with TikTok → boosted global popularity.
- TikTok's algorithm-driven personalized content led to its explosive success.

3. Ownership & Privacy Concerns

- TikTok's ownership has been contentious:
 - Headquartered in Los Angeles & Singapore.
 - Controlled by Shanghai-based ByteDance Ltd. (Beijing HQ).
 - US concerns: Chinese state influence over private entities → possible forced data handover.
- 2022: TikTok claimed user data migrated to US servers (Oracle), but scrutiny continues.

4. Trump Era Issues (2017–21)

- Trump accused TikTok of:
 - Mishandling COVID-19 info.
 - Spreading conspiracy theories.
- Actions taken:
 - Banned US companies from transactions with ByteDance.
 - Ordered divestment of TikTok US operations within 90 days.
 - TikTok sued US Govt. for alleged violation of due process.

5. Biden Administration (2021–24)

- Bipartisan scrutiny continued.
- 2023 Bill proposed forcing TikTok US ownership transfer.
- Biden approved it in 2024.

Current Status (2025)

Trump (after re-election) approached **US Supreme Court** to pause the ban until a "political resolution."

Court upheld temporary blackout till Jan 2025.

Trump later issued **executive order** delaying ban, allowing negotiations → deadline **Sept 17, 2025**.

A. Geopolitical Angle

- US-China tensions in technology & data governance.
- TikTok as symbol of digital sovereignty & cyber security concerns.
- Similar debates: Huawei (5G), WeChat.

B. Economic Angle

- TikTok valued at \$200+ billion, huge role in global creator economy.
- US wants domestic control over a platform with ~170M American users.

C. Polity & Governance

- US Executive Orders → role of Presidential powers vs. Judiciary checks.
- Reflects data protection vs. free speech debates.

D. India's Angle

- TikTok banned in India in June 2020 under Section 69A of IT Act, citing national security.
- Case study in cyber sovereignty & Atmanirbhar Bharat app ecosystem (rise of Chingari, Moj, Josh).

Australia Approves First Vaccine to save Koalas from Chlamydia

- Australia has approved the first vaccine to protect its shrinking koala population against chlamydia.
- About
- The vaccine was found to have decreased mortality by at least 65%.
- Chlamydia: It is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium Chlamydia pecorum that can cause infertility and blindness. In koalas, chlamydia is a threat to survival and a key conservation issue.
 - It is also found in humans caused by **Chlamydia trachomatis**, in humans, chlamydia is a major sexually transmitted infection (STI) but treatable.

About Koala

The koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) is a **tree-dwelling marsupial native** to **Australia**.

• Often mistakenly called the "koala bear," it is not a bear but a marsupial (a mammal that carries its young in a pouch).

Physical Characteristics: Thick, soft, grey or brown with lighter underside – provides insulation.

• Large and black, with a strong sense of smell (helps detect eucalyptus leaves)



- Habitat & Distribution: Found mainly in eastern and southeastern Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia).
- **Diet:** Herbivores almost entirely eat **eucalyptus leaves.**
- **Behavior:** Mostly nocturnal and sedentary.
- Threats: Along with habitat loss, climate change and bushfires, a major reason for koalas' vulnerability is chlamydia.
- Since 2022, they have been listed as endangered in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory under Australia's national environmental law.
- IUCN Status Vulnerable.

Pink Tax

- As per International Finance Students Association's (IFSA) research 'The Gender Tax: Assessing the Economic Toll on Women,' almost 67% of Indian individuals have never heard of the Pink Tax.
- Pink Tax
- **Pink tax** is neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee.
- It's just a **pricing phenomenon** wherein **women pay more** for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them.
 - Pink toys, haircuts, drycleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.
- The term "Pink Tax" is believed to have originated in the U.S. in California in 1994.

Regulation in India

While there are **no specific laws in India** to address the issue of Pink Tax, the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** ruled that companies must **follow fair pricing policies** and avoid gender-based price discrimination.

In July 2018, the Union Government exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to this rule, these hygiene items were levied 12% GST.

Ways to Avoid Pink Tax

Choose gender-neutral products or men's variants whenever possible.

Compare the quality and if the men's variant is better, skip the pink packaging or choose unisex products.

Instead of comparing prices of the entire package, check the price per unit.

Word of the day

Doughty:

brave and persistent

Synonyms: fearless, confident, determined

Usage: Our doughty colleague kept working late.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/doughtypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /davti/

