

Daily Current Affairs





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10 MCQ QUIZ



“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.”

— Ernest Hemingway

... ..



FURIOUS MEANS FLAGGED
FATF condemns terror attack in Pahalgalam
NEWS • PAGE 5



COUNT BEGINS
Union Home Ministry notifies 2027 Census
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AIR INDIA CRASH
119 victims identified through DNA profiling
NEWS • PAGE 6



'STAGGERING DISCREPANCIES'
Exposing Israel's hidden ambition
Envoys for the State of Palestine calls out 'hollow slogans' of Israel
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MERCEDES' BAY OUT
Russell takes top spot in the Canadian GP
SPORT • PAGE 16

INSIDE



BRS leader KTR questioned for 8 hours by ACB

HYDERABAD Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao's eight-hour appearance before Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday over the BRS intra-Formula 1 deal amid high security fuelled speculation of his arrest. ■ PAGE 3

ADGP 'secured' by T.N. police in kidnap case

CHENNAI Tamil Nadu Additional Director-General of Police (Armed Police) H.M. Jayaram was on Monday "secured" by the police on the elements of the Madras High Court in a case of kidnapping in which, Rishabh/Prakash (Pseudonym) M.A. Tiroori/M. Jagan Moorthy is also a suspect. ■ PAGE 3



Cong. takes up Adani scam amid PM's Cyprus visit

NEW DELHI The Congress has said that a key figure in the alleged Adani scam had Cyprus citizenship, but SCRT's probe was impacted by insufficiency in information sharing by tax haven countries. The charge came amid PM Modi's Cyprus visit. ■ PAGE 8



ISRO, Axiom work on time-sensitive experiments

BENGALURU With the launch of astronaut Gaurav Shukla's mission to the International Space Station on June 15, ISRO is conducting time-sensitive experiments. ■ PAGE 8

Bangladesh court orders Hasina to return for trial

DHAKA Bangladesh's war crimes court ordered fugitive former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday to return to face trial on charges amounting to crimes against humanity. Ms. Hasina has defied an extradition order. The trial will resume on June 24 without her if she fails to return. ■ PAGE 14

India moving citizens in Iran, Israel to safety

Embassy working with Iran to transport Indian citizens out of Tehran by bus as conflict grows; the government has as yet not spoken about an evacuation plan; more than 100 students crossed over to Armenia; Indians told to limit movement; embassy officials in Tel Aviv are advising citizens on using the land borders with Jordan and Egypt to exit

Kallol Bhattacharjee
Sahana Haldar
NEW DELHI

As the conflict between Iran and Israel continues to escalate, the Indian government has initiated efforts to move its citizens in both countries to safer areas, though no evacuation plans are currently in progress. It has also advised them to limit their movements, given the daily aerial strikes.

The Indian embassy in Tehran began working with local Iranian authorities on Monday to shift Indian citizens from the capital and other cities being targeted by Israeli strikes by bus to safer places, while more than 100 students have crossed the border to Armenia.

In Israel, where the airspace is closed completely, Indian embassy officials in Tel Aviv are guiding citi-

zens who can move out through land borders with Jordan and Egypt. At present, it is possible to leave Israel through the border crossings to Jordan and Egypt, officials said, and those wanting to return to India are being advised on the best possible routes to reach the border area.

However, an Indian research scholar based in Israel, who asked not to be named, told *The Hindu* that "no details of arrangements for transport and visas or an evacuation plan have been shared so far". "It would be good to know what the government is thinking about," the scholar added.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who has been in touch with his counterparts in Iran and Israel in the last few days, also spoke with others in the region on Monday. In separate posts on social media, Mr. Jaishankar



Uncertain skies: Smoke and fire seen in Tel Aviv during an Iranian missile attack on Israel early on Monday.

said that he had "discussed ongoing developments in the region and (India-Armenia) close cooperation" with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, and also discussed the "role of diplomacy" with the Foreign Minister of the



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UAE, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Indian embassy in Tel Aviv has registered Indian citizens, held some calls with them and issued an advisory telling them not to undertake "unnecessary movements". The



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In Iran, sources said that buses have started relocating Indian students from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University-Tehran Medical Sciences, and the Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran. India has been discussing with Iranian authorities to evacuate Indian citizens cross the border at Ajlakh. While border crossings from Iran to Turkey and Azerbaijan are also open at present, sources suggested that those crossings may prove less convenient given the tense ties with both countries in the aftermath of Operation Shakti.

A similar relocation of students is expected to take place soon from the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran and Urmia University of Medical Sciences near Iran's border. Indian offi-

cials have advised students that "it is highly advisable to move out of Tehran by availing of this last facility". Indian visitors are entitled to a 14-day visa-free period but with no easy way out of the country; travellers and religious pilgrims are worried that their permits will run out.

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Market fire



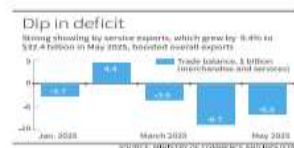
Roaring the flames: A massive blaze (topped through parts of the Khudapasa market in Raibela early on Monday. A number of shops were gutted by the fire, no casualties were reported. (ANUPAM MISHRA)

India's total trade deficit narrows to \$6.6 billion as total exports grow

T.C.A. Bharat Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

India's overall trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 billion in May 2020, down nearly 30% from its level in May last year, as total imports fell largely due to a fall in oil prices while total exports grew on the back of a strong performance by the services sector, official data show.

According to the monthly data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday, total exports grew 2.8% to \$71.1 billion in May 2020 — up from \$69.3 billion in May 2019 — with exports in the services sector growing 9.4% to \$32.4 billion. Merchandise exports, on the other hand, contracted



2.2% to \$36.7 billion, while non-petroleum exports reported a 5.1% growth. The data shows that India's exports grew 2.8% in May 2020. Taken together, total imports contracted 9% to \$77.7 billion. Merchandise imports too were impacted by falling oil prices. While total

merchandise imports contracted 1.7% in May 2020, the non-petroleum imports grew 10% in the same month. Services imports grew 1.8%. Taken together, total imports contracted 9% to \$77.7 billion. Merchandise imports too were impacted by falling oil prices. While total

According to Commerce Secretary Ravi Shankar, a

India backs a 'peaceful resolution' of the Cyprus question: Prime Minister

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held talks with Cyprus President Nicos Christodoulides, and sent an indirect message to Turkey by reiterating his support for the unity of Cyprus and "peaceful resolution" of the "Cyprus question".

He also reiterated his call for ending the Israeli-Iran and Russia-Ukraine conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. A joint statement issued at the end of the visit called for "lasting settlement" of the Cyprus question.

Since 1974, Cyprus has been divided between Turkey-backed Northern Cyprus and the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, and the dispute has been known as the Cyprus question.

Message to Turkey: Cyprus is the first foreign destination that Mr. Modi has visited after the conclusion of Operation Shakti. In an indirect reference to Turkey's support for the independence of Cyprus, the joint statement mentioned India's "unwavering and consistent support for the territorial integrity, and unity of the Republic of Cyprus". In an indirect reference to Turkey's support for the independence of Cyprus, the joint statement said, "Both sides emphasised the need to avoid unilateral actions as essential for creating a conducive environment for the resumption of meaningful negotiations."



PM Modi with Cyprus President Nicos Christodoulides after he was honoured with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit (R. P. C.)

Northern Cyprus, consisting of the north and eastern part of Cyprus, is backed by Turkey. Mr. Modi toured the divided capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, and parts of Northern Cyprus featured in a photograph of Mr. Modi that was taken during the tour.

In remarks to the media, Tansu E. I. Secretary West, Ministry of External Affairs, further emphasised India's support for the territorial integrity of Cyprus and said, "The friendship and the trusted partnership between India and Cyprus has a long history. In the 1980s, India had advocated for the independence of Cyprus. Cyprus supports India for a permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council and India supports Cyprus on the Cyprus question."

The Cyprus question: The joint statement said, "Cyprus and India expressed their strong commitment to the resumption of UN-facilitated efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus question on the basis of a bilateral, bicommunal federation with political equality, in accordance with the agreed UN framework and the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions."

The visit is also a timely revival of India-Cyprus political contact ahead of Cyprus taking over the Presidency of Council of the European Union in the first half of 2020. Cyprus had condemned the terror attack in Pahalgalam on April 22, facilitating the deepening cooperation between India and Cyprus at the EU. Mr. Modi said, "Cyprus is a trusted partner of India in the European Union." Earlier, Cyprus bestowed its highest honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit on Mr. Modi, speaking at the ceremony. Mr. Modi said, "I dedicate this honour to the friendship ties between India and Cyprus and our shared values and mutual understanding."

Cyprus has been consistent in its support to India on the Kashmir issue and achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus question on the basis of a bilateral, bicommunal federation with political equality, in accordance with the agreed UN framework and the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions."

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Kallol Bhattacharjee
Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

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EDITORIAL

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Iran-Israel Conflict and Indian Response



Escalating Tensions

Rising tensions between Iran and Israel

Military actions exacerbate the conflict

Military Strikes



Safety Concerns

Concerns for foreign nationals' safety arise

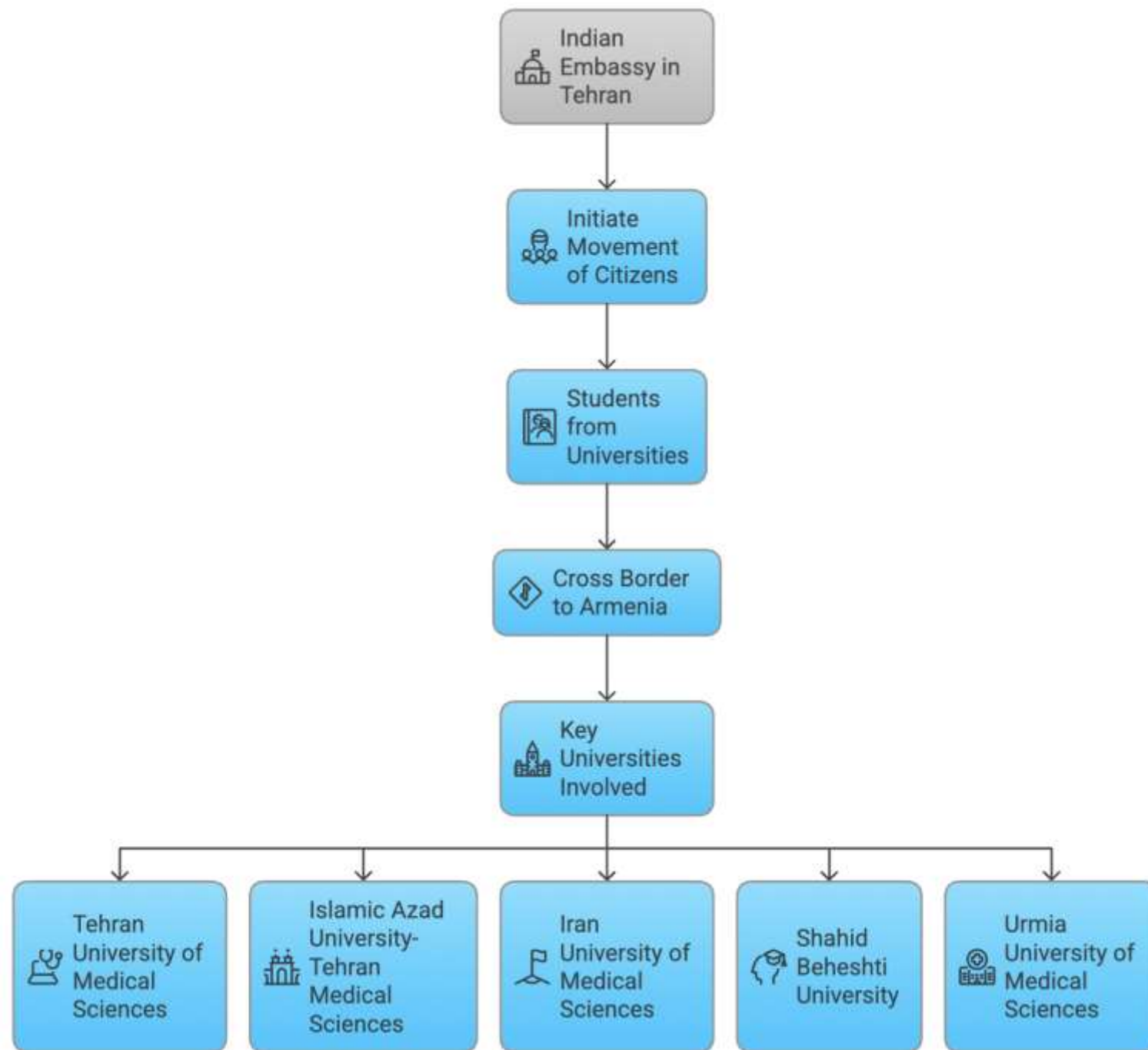
Indian government has not announced a plan

No Official Plan



Relocation Steps

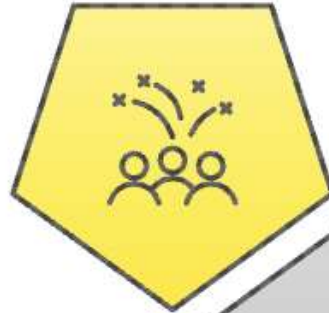
Steps are being taken to relocate citizens



Conflict Pauses Recruitment of Indian Workers

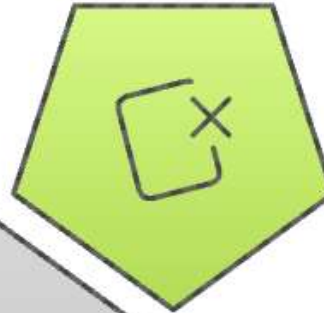
Workers Affected

25,000 workers in Israel



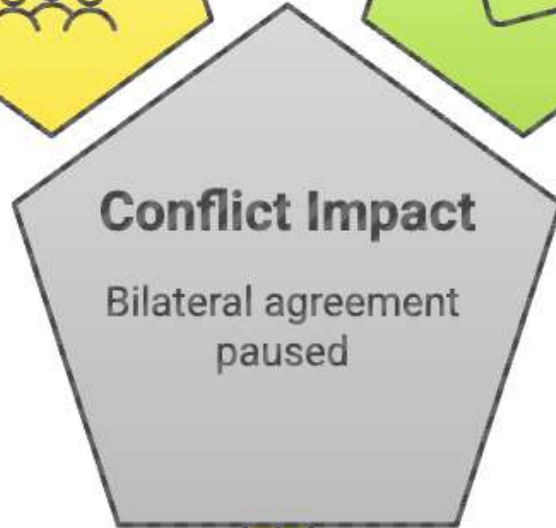
Projects Cancelled


Some projects are cancelled



Conflict Impact

Bilateral agreement paused



Topic	Insights	
Iran-Israel Tensions	Rooted in ideological conflict, Iran supports groups like Hezbollah and Hamas; Israel views Iran's nuclear ambitions as existential threat.	
Operation Swords of Iron	Launched by Israel in response to regional hostilities; India's citizens affected in the fallout.	
India's West Asia Policy	India maintains strategic autonomy by balancing ties with Israel (defense, tech) and Iran (energy, regional connectivity via Chabahar).	

2. Diplomatic & Political Context

- India's foreign policy leans on "**multi-alignment**": maintaining ties with conflicting powers.
- Strategic partnerships with **UAE, Israel, Armenia** are relevant for regional evacuation coordination.
- India is part of the **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** — this crisis could impact its implementation.

Operation Swords of Iron

Israeli operation against Iranian proxies

Chabahar Port

Iran-based port developed by India, gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia

Agarak Border

Armenia-Iran border crossing used by fleeing Indian students

14-day visa-free entry

Offered by Israel to Indian citizens (but limited during conflicts)

Estimated Indian citizens in Israel

~25,000 skilled and unskilled workers



- The Indian government has officially launched a military-led evacuation from both Iran and Israel.
- The Indian embassy in Israel has advised using land borders with Egypt and Jordan for exit.
- Agarak is a border town used for crossing from Iran into Armenia.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Registrar-General of India issues notification for Census

Census will be conducted in 2027 using digital tools; 34 lakh enumerators, supervisors set to be deployed; boundaries of administrative units by States cannot be changed till exercise is complete

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The next Census will be conducted in 2027, the Union Home Ministry notified on Monday.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that with the publication of the notification, the freezing of administrative boundaries comes into effect, barring States from making any changes to the maps of police stations, districts, and tehsils, among others, as enumeration blocks form the basis of the Census.

The boundaries of administrative units by States cannot be changed till the Census process is complete, the official said.

The Registrar-General of India, under the Home Ministry, issued the notification in the Gazette of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.

"The reference date for the said census shall be 00.00 hours of the 1st day of March, 2027, except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a review meeting for the preparations of the upcoming Census, in New Delhi on Sunday. Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan and others were also present. @AmitShah/X

respect of the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of the 1st day of October, 2026," the notification said.

The Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that the ensuing Census will be conducted through digital means, using mobile applications, where the provision of self-enumeration would also be made available to the people.

"Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure da-

ta security at the time of collection, transmission and storage," it said.

The official said that, in the coming days, separate notifications would be issued for the pre-test exercise and the House Listing Operations, which will specify the dates of the first phase of the Census.

The pre-test exercise is necessary to determine the efficacy of mobile apps and the enumerators' familiarity with the process.

On July 30, 2019 three months after Census 2021 was notified, another notification for updating the National Population Register (NPR) under the Citizenship Act, 1955 was pu-

blished by the government in the official gazette.

The NPR, which is the start of the creation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), was first collected in 2010, and later updated in 2015. It has data of 119 crore residents, and was to be updated with the first phase of Census 2021.

This time, there has been no official announcement regarding the NPR.

The Census will be conducted in two phases – House Listing Operations and Population Enumeration. Around 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, and 1.3 lakh Census functionaries will be deployed for the exercise.



Census 2027 Notification Process



Union Home Ministry Decision

The ministry decides to conduct the census in 2027.

The notification is published in the Gazette of India.

Notification Publication



Legal Basis Established

The notification is based on the Census Act, 1948.

Administrative Freeze Process

Initiate
Administrative
Freeze

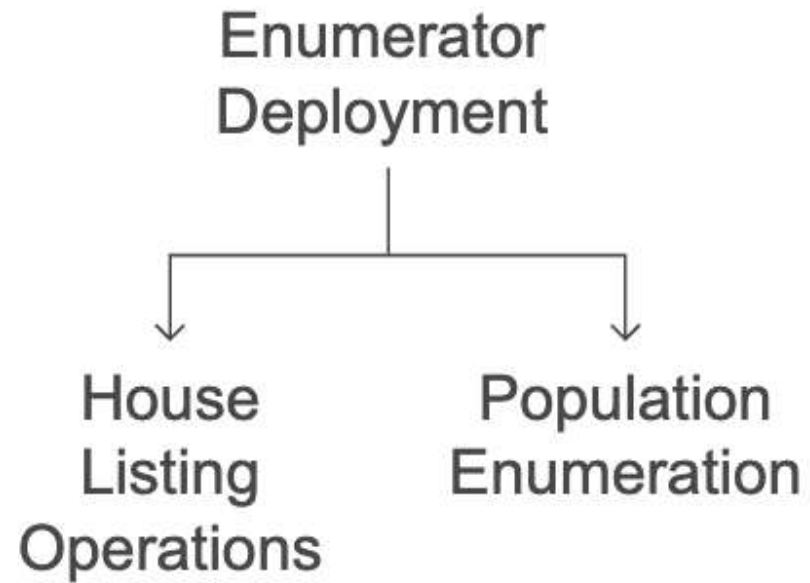


Freeze
Administrative
Boundaries



Maintain
Data
Consistency

Census Deployment Process



Census 2027: Key Dates and Regions

1st October 2026

Census reference date for snow-bound regions

1st March 2027

Census reference date for most areas



1. Census of India – Historical Context

Year	Significance
1872	First non-synchronous census during British rule
1881	First synchronous census across India
Every 10 years	Conducted under Census Act, 1948
2011	Last completed Census (16th in series)
2021	Postponed due to COVID-19

- **Q. With reference to the upcoming Census of India 2027, consider the following statements:**
- The Census 2027 will be the first to be conducted entirely using digital tools.
- States can make changes to administrative boundaries during the census process.
- The National Population Register (NPR) will be updated alongside the census.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Census will include caste enumeration, says Home Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in a post on X on Monday, reiterated that caste will be enumerated in the forthcoming Census.

"The notification to conduct Census has been published in the Official Gazette today. The Census will include caste enumeration as well. However, some misleading information is being spread that there is no mention of caste census in the notification. It has already been mentioned in the Press Release dated 30 April, 4 June and 18 June, 2024 that Census will also have caste enumeration," the MHA said.

Earlier in the day, the Congress had said the notification by the Centre was a "damp squib" and was silent on the inclusion of caste enumeration.

"It is quite a damp squib and merely repeats what has already been announced on April 30, 2025," Congress general secretary (communications) Jai Ram Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Is this yet another U-turn by the usual of the Union? It will be announced later?" Mr. Ramesh asked. He said that Mr. Modi had consistently opposed the caste census. On 26 April 2024, Mr. Modi termed those wanting a caste census "urban Naxal programmes."

Earlier in the day, the Congress said the notification was silent on the issue of caste count.

Mr. Ramesh said it was entirely because of the persistence and insistence of the Congress that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "surrendered" to the demand for a caste count.

The Congress leader said that according to the Constitution of India, the Seventh Schedule, the Census is the responsibility of the Union government. If the Centre does not want to carry out the census, there is no alternative left for States except to do caste surveys. Thus, various States have done caste surveys, including Telangana, Karnataka, and Bihar.

"The Indian National Congress wants the Telangana model to be used at the national level. In Telangana, it's not just the caste enumeration that has been done — it also includes the socio-economic status. All this is missing in this notification by the government," he said.

Congress leader Manickam Tagore said: "The Telangana model has helped the State government for planning future programmes."

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Vishala Singh
NEW DELHI

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He alleged that there were several issues with that report, which was not made public, and communal appeasement had also been there.

Mr. Yadav disputed the process being adopted for the survey, saying that the 90-day timeline was "unrealistic". Citing Chief Minister Siddharath's remarks that the decision was taken to do a caste survey, but that of the Congress leadership, he questioned the party's "interference" in the state government's functioning and said it was akin to the National Advisory Council's role during the UPA regime.

Alleging that the Congress always deceived the

Cong. 'deceives' OBCs, treats them only as vote bank, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the Congress of "always deceiving" the OBC backward Classes (OBCs) and treating them only as a "vote bank", stating that the decision to conduct a fresh caste survey in Karnataka was driven by the motive of "electoral engineering".

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Bhupendra Yadav

OBCs, the Union Minister said that after the Kaka Kalekar Commission's report, which was "suppressed", the subsequent Congress governments did not constitute any other commission. The Mandal Commission was formed under the Janata Party rule. After the Supreme Court upheld the legacy of Mandal Commission, the Congress did the work of weakening it, he alleged.

"Even now, there is no change in the Congress's approach," he said, alleging that the party's objective was "electoral engineering" instead of "social justice". "In India, OBC reservation is neutral. Then how there are Hindu OBC and Muslim OBC in Telangana? This shows that they do the politics of divide and rule," he said.

He said under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government, the National Commission for Backward Classes got constitutional status.

Agents who dupe poor with promises of a future abroad devalue Indian passport: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally observed that agents who dupe "poor and gullible" people with dreams of a fair agent from countries like the U.S. and the U.K. by promising to smuggle them in through the "donkey routes" devalue the Indian passport.

The "donkey route" or "donkey journey" refers to an illegal method of migration which involves utilising human smugglers and negotiating through various countries, often facing harsh and dangerous conditions, to bypass immigration processes.

"Have you seen those poor, gullible people being

brought back in chains? Because of people like you, the Indian passport is devalued," a Bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manjiv Kumar said in their judgment, which appeared for the first time on the court's website. The Bench, comprising Justices Manjiv Kumar and Ujjal Bhuyan, was hearing a writ petition filed by a group of people accused of tricking people off their money by promising to smuggle them over abroad. The lawyer for the petitioners sought the anticipatory bail for the agents.

Serious allegations "Look at the donkey route... Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Chile... Look at the whole of the Americas. Justice Manjiv Kumar remarked.

The Bench termed the allegations "very serious and refused to entertain

the anticipatory bail plea. Mr. Prakash, an FIR alleged, was an accomplice to the main accused, who was working as an agent and had assured the complainant that he would take him to the U.S. through valid means on the payment of ₹40 lakh.

The main accused sent the complainant to Dubai in September 2024, and from there to different countries, then to the forests of Panama and then to Mexico. On February 1, the main accused's agents made the complainant cross the U.S. border. However, the complainant was arrested and jailed by the U.S. authorities and deported to India on February 16.

Security boost



Patrol ready: Indian Coast Guard's Fast Patrol Vessel Archa, built by Goa Shipyard Ltd., during its launch in Goa on Monday. The 47-ft vessel, with 100 indigenous content and dual-class certification, aims at enhancing coastal security and offshore asset protection. IN

Kuki-Zo groups, Centre reach an understanding on closure of camps close to Meitei areas: official

Vishala Singh
NEW DELHI

Kuki-Zo insurgent groups and Union Home Ministry officials, at a meeting on Monday, reached an understanding on the relocation and closure of certain camps run by the groups in Manipur, a senior government official said.

The Ministry laid stress on the recovery of lost weapons and the opening of the national highways, the official added.

Security agencies have proposed the closure of 14 camps, which are located close to Meitei populated areas in the foothills.

The insurgent groups in the suspensions of operations (SOP) pact with the government renewed in 2024, with the Home Ministry on June 9, after a gap of two



Area and ammunition recovered from the outskirts of the 14 camps during a joint operation in Manipur.

years. The official said that the deadline was fixed for the extension of the SOP pact. The agreement was signed as it depended on adherence to ground rules and other conditions. The pact became ineffective on June 9, after the government pulled out from the trilateral agreement. The Home Ministry and the SOP groups are the other two signatories.

"Discussions on ground rules were held on Monday, and an agreement has been reached on certain key changes. These include closure of camps. Making highways fully op-

erational was also stressed upon," said the government official.

National Highways 2 and 37, which connect the landlocked Meitei-dominated Imphal valley to Nagaland and Assam, respectively, are critical for the supply of essentials and other commodities, and pass through Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

The official said that the next round of talks would be held after 15 days.

Changing terms An SOP representative said that since the demands from pre-May 3, 2023, had changed, there was a need to revisit the ground rules of the SOP pact.

"We have also proposed certain plans to the Ministry, which involve security forces. The closure of camps is under discussion. When we signed the pact in 2008, a drill was followed to finalise the ground rules. The same process is being followed now," the representative said.

Around 2,000 cadres of the SOP groups comprising United People's Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) are involved in the SOP pact. The Kuki-Zo umbrella organisations of 28 insurgent groups, live in 14 designated camps in the hill districts of Manipur.

The cadres are entitled to a stipend of ₹6,000 per month, which has not been paid since the violence erupted.

The SOP agreement was signed in the wake of the Kuki-Naga clashes in the 1990s, when hundreds were killed. The insurgent groups, which involve independent land for the Kuki-Zo people.

Shah launches tech platforms for better disaster management

Ecos Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Anshu Shah launched three major technology platforms on Monday to improve the speed and precision of disaster management.

Mr. Shah launched the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICRER), National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) and the National Database for Disaster Response (NDDR).

In a post on X, Mr. Shah said the three platforms will help in disaster management, with the speed and precision

Tool for real-time response: A national database and flood hazard atlas of Assam were unveiled

of the new age technologies. "The ICRER will prompt real-time response to disaster across the nation by streaming satellite data to rescue agencies, and the NDEM 2.0 will provide our response forces spread across the country with the ability to confront any disaster as a single unit," he said. The flood hazard atlas for Assam will help in disaster mitigation by providing real-time data relevant to flood risk management, and water levels in rivers, the Minister said.

Students from J&K shifted to safer areas in Tehran

Pooja Anand
SRINAGAR

Scores of students from Jammu and Kashmir pursuing professional courses in Iran were reportedly shifted from the capital, Tehran, to safer locations on Monday. However, anxious parents are worried about the students who are studying in other cities of Iran, which have been facing a major aerial assault from Israel.

Web communication lines, especially internet service, growing weaker between Iran and India, S. Qadri, a resident of Srinagar, said his daughter in Iran formed the family on Monday morning that Kashmiri students were being shifted in batches to Qom, a city in north-central Iran that is considered a safer location.

Saahil Ali, a resident of Budgam, said her sister, studying in a variety in Tehran, was also shifted to Qom in the last 12 hours. "She said the place is relatively calm compared to Tehran. The internet is slow, and we only manage to message them. I appeal to the Government of India and the J&K government to find out a way to evacuate all of them," Mr. Ali said.

No evacuation in Srinagar Meanwhile, the father of a student from Nawa Kadal, Srinagar, told the family that the students studying in other cities like Shiraz were not being evacuated yet.

A police spokesperson in Srinagar urged locals that if any students, workers or individuals from Srinagar district are presently stranded in Iran due to prevailing situation there and require assistance, they or their family members may kindly reach out to the District Police, Srinagar, for support and assistance.



PM Narendra Modi receives the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III from Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides. *ANI*

From Cyprus, PM on war next door: Need talks for resolution and stability

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

MEETING IN Nicosia as Israel and Iran target each other with air strikes and missiles in the neighbourhood, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides

“expressed concern” Monday over the ongoing conflicts in West Asia and Europe, and said “this is not an era of war”.

The first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus in 23 years, Modi said a “resolution through dialogue and restoration of stability is the call of humanity”.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





PM Modi's Historic Visit to Cyprus

June 2025



PM Modi's first visit to Cyprus



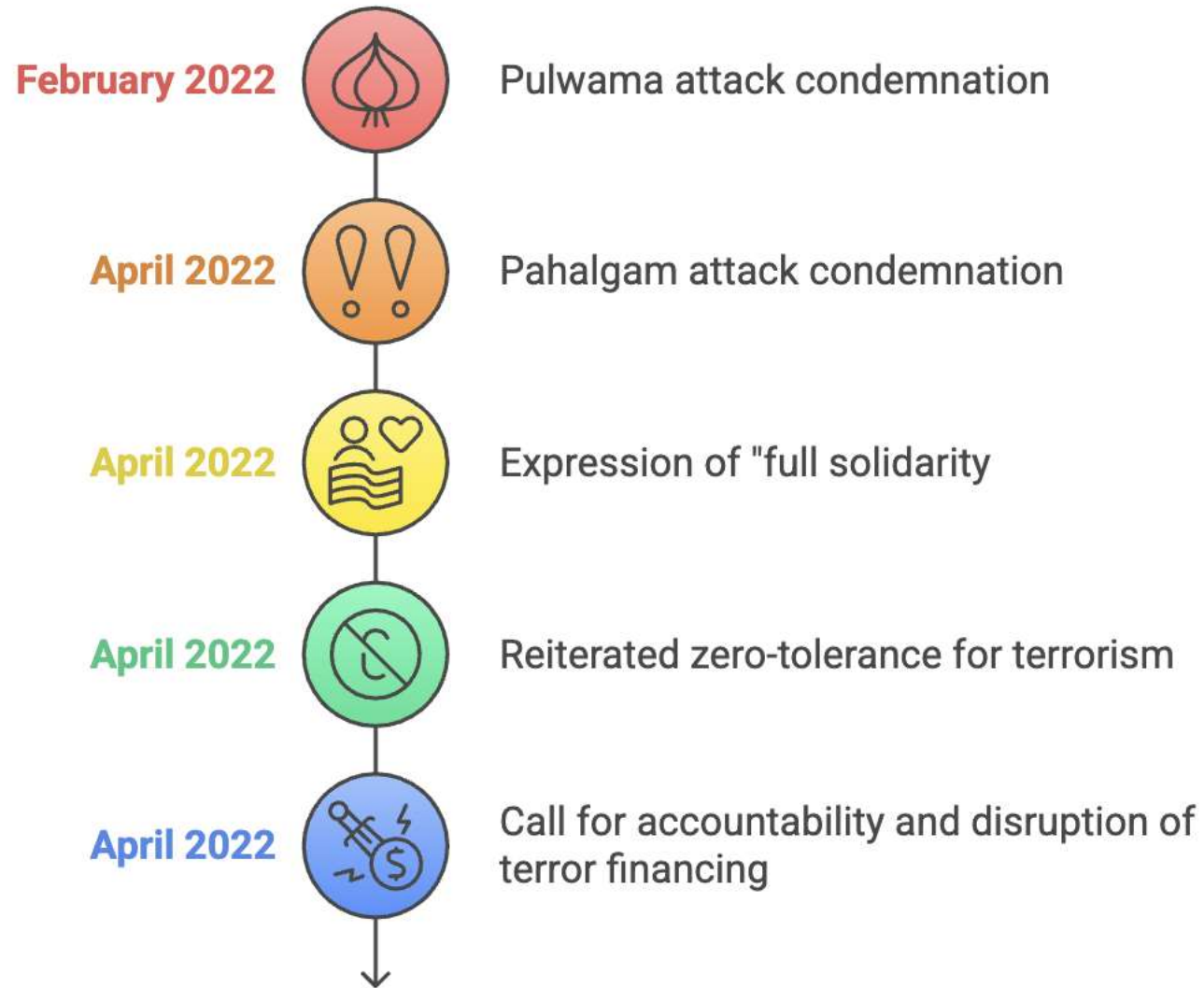
June 2025

Modi conferred with Grand
Cross of the Order of Makarios
III

India-Cyprus Collaboration

	 India	 Cyprus
Strategic Autonomy	Agreed to enhance	Agreed to enhance
Defence Cooperation	Agreed to deepen	Agreed to deepen
Cybersecurity	Agreed to cooperate	Agreed to cooperate
Emerging Technologies	Agreed to cooperate	Agreed to cooperate
Defence Industries	Agreed to collaborate	Agreed to collaborate

Cyprus's Solidarity with India Against Terrorism





Cyprus Issue

Cyprus brought up
Turkey's "illegal
occupation" of
northern Cyprus.



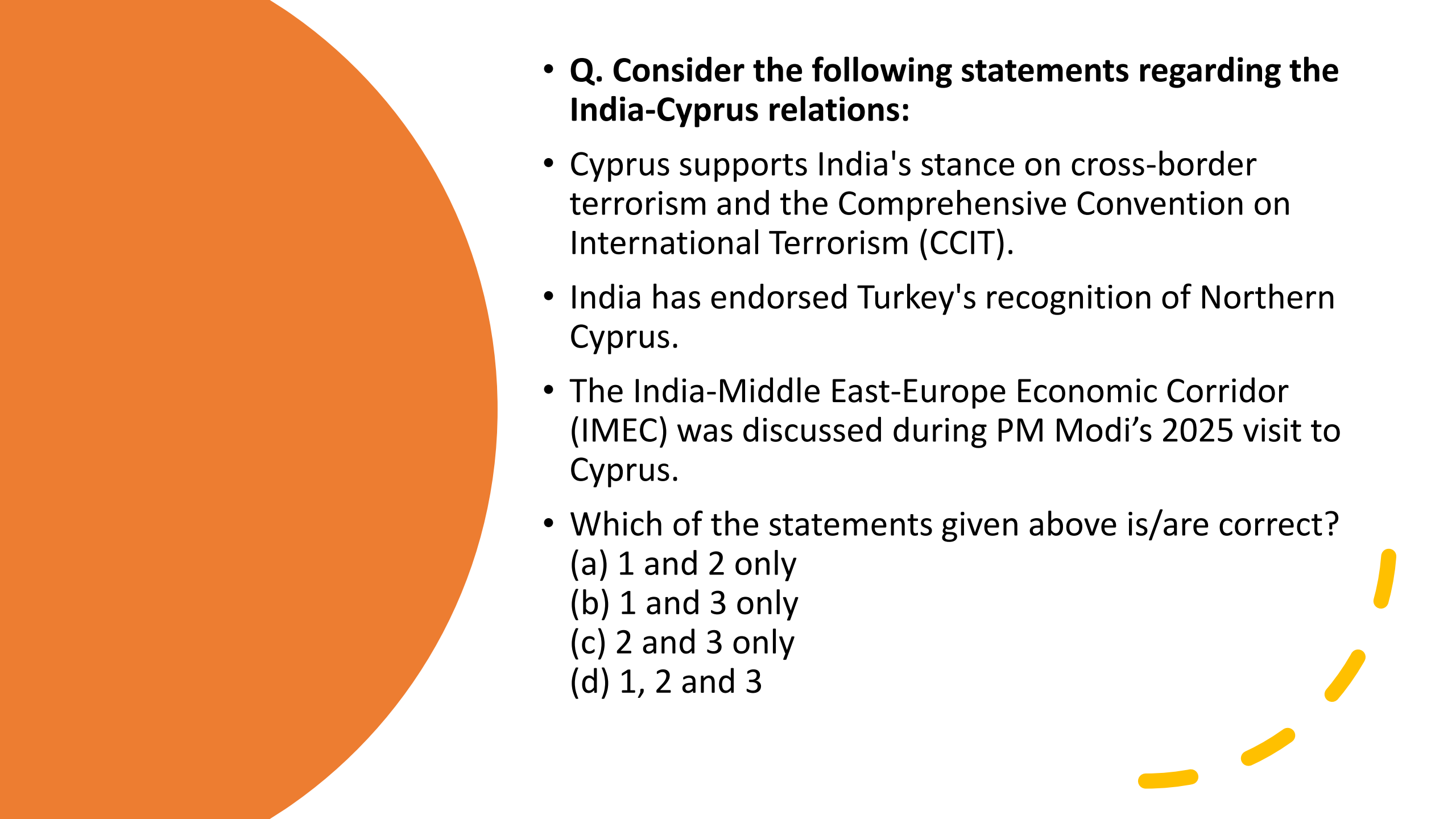
India's View

India emphasized
the importance of
finding a peaceful
solution.

Domain	Key Facts
Diplomatic ties	Established in 1962
Support to India	On J&K, NSG, UNSC Reforms, Terrorism
High-level visits	Cyprus leaders visited India in 2012 & 2016; Modi's visit in 2025 is first by Indian PM

2. Cyprus-Turkey Conflict

- **Northern Cyprus** under Turkish control since **1974 invasion**.
- Only **Turkey** recognizes it as independent.
- India supports **territorial integrity of Cyprus**.

- 
- **Q. Consider the following statements regarding the India-Cyprus relations:**
 - Cyprus supports India's stance on cross-border terrorism and the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).
 - India has endorsed Turkey's recognition of Northern Cyprus.
 - The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was discussed during PM Modi's 2025 visit to Cyprus.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

India has more nukes than Pak, China far ahead: SIPRI report

'India has 180 stored nuclear warheads, Pak 170 and China has 600 as of Jan 2025'

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

INDIA HAS more nuclear warheads than Pakistan, even as China has over three times more warheads than what India has, the latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) yearbook released Monday stated.

As per the SIPRI yearbook 2025, India has 180 nuclear stored warheads as of January 2025, while Pakistan has an estimated 170. China has 600 nuclear warheads as of January 2025, of which 24 are deployed warheads or those placed on missiles or located on bases with operational forces.

The report said that India is believed to have once again slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2024 and continued to develop new types of nuclear delivery systems. It said India's new 'canisterised' missiles, which can be transported with mated warheads, may be capable of carrying nuclear warheads during peacetime, and possibly even multiple warheads on each missile, once they become operational. It added that Pakistan also continued to develop new

delivery systems and accumulate fissile material in 2024, suggesting that its nuclear arsenal might expand over the coming decade.

It also briefly referred to India's launch of Operation Sindoor. "The combination of strikes on nuclear-related military infrastructure and third-party disinformation risked turning a conventional conflict into a nuclear crisis," said Matt Korda, Associate Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme.

The SIPRI report also said Russia and the US have the largest military stockpile of the nine nuclear forces at 5,459 and 5,177, respectively, including retired warheads.

It said Russia, China, India, Pakistan and North Korea deploy dual-capable missiles and all are believed to be modernising these capabilities. "Up until the mid 2000s, only France, Russia, the UK and the USA deployed missiles with multiple warheads. Since then, China has developed two missiles to carry multiple warheads, while India, Pakistan and North Korea are all currently pursuing this capability," it said.

1. Nuclear Warhead Numbers (as of Jan 2025)

| Country | Nuclear Warheads |

|-----|-----|

| India | 180 (stored) |

| Pakistan | 170 |

| China | 600 (24 deployed with forces) |

2. SIPRI Report Findings

- India's nuclear arsenal has **slightly expanded in 2024**.
- India is working on '**canisterised**' missiles, which:
 - Can carry nuclear warheads during peacetime.
 - May carry **multiple warheads** once operational.

3. China's Lead

- China has over **3x more nuclear warheads** than India.
- It already has **two missile systems capable of MIRV** (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles).

4. Modernization by All Major Asian Powers

- **India, Pakistan, China, and North Korea** are modernizing their nuclear delivery capabilities.
- Dual-capable missiles (nuclear + conventional) are being deployed.

5. India's Operation Sindoor

- SIPRI mentions India's launch of **Operation Sindoor**.
 - Targeted nuclear-related military infrastructure.
 - Disinformation & escalation risks may lead to **nuclear crisis**.

6. Russia & US Nuclear Stockpile

| Country | Total Warheads (incl. retired) |

|-----|-----|

| **Russia** | 5,177 |

| **USA** | 5,459 |

7. Global Trend

- Nations are **moving towards MIRV capabilities**.
- Up to mid-2000s, only **France, Russia, UK, USA** had MIRV missiles.
- Now **China has 2 MIRV missiles**, while **India, Pakistan, North Korea** are working towards them.

2. India's Nuclear Doctrine

Element

India's Position

Adopted in

1998 (after Pokhran-II)

Key Principles

- **No First Use (NFU)**
- **Minimum credible deterrence**
- **Second-strike capability |**
| Delivery Systems |
- Agni-series (land)
- Prithvi
- Submarine-launched (INS Arihant class)
- Fighter-based (Mirage, Rafale) |

- **Q. With reference to SIPRI's Yearbook 2025, consider the following statements:**
- India has a higher number of stored nuclear warheads than Pakistan as of January 2025.
- India currently deploys multiple warheads on a single missile.
- SIPRI has confirmed that Russia has the largest stockpile of nuclear warheads in the world.
- **Which of the statements is/are correct?**
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Decades after Judi Dench played M in Bond films, MI6 gets first woman chief

ARJUN SENGUPTA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THIRTY YEARS after Dame Judi Dench first appeared on the silver screen as M, the head of British foreign intelligence agency MI6 in the James Bond universe, reality has finally caught up with fiction.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Sunday announced that Blaise Metreweli would succeed outgoing MI6 chief Richard Moore later this year, making her the first woman to lead the covert agency in its nearly 116-year-long history. Metreweli, 47, is currently leading MI6's Q section, responsible for technology and innovation.

Art imitates life, life imitates art

Much has been written about Dench being cast as M in *GoldenEye*, the 1995 Bond classic that introduced Pierce Brosnan as the eponymous British spy.

Dench's character was inspired by Stella Rimington, who in 1992 became the first woman to lead a British intelligence agency (she headed MI5). "There is now a woman at the head of the British secret service and

this Bond film reflects that — quite rightly, in my view," Dench had said in an interview.

For a film franchise steeped in sexism, Dench being cast as M was significant. In her very first interaction with Bond in *GoldenEye*, M calls him "a sexist misogynist dinosaur" — overtly signalling the filmmakers' intent to adapt to the times.

But not much actually changed in the films. Introducing a female authority figure did not make Bond any less sexist, nor did it make any larger feminist point.

That said, it would take MI6 another three decades to get a woman chief in reality — unlike two of its sister spy agencies, MI5 and GCHQ. MI5 has had Rimington and later Eliza Manningham-Buller as women chiefs, and GCHQ is currently headed by Anne Keast-Butler, its first woman leader.

As per long-standing MI6 convention, Metreweli, a career intelligence officer who has also worked with MI5, will take over with the codename C. As MI6 chief, she will be the agency's only publicly-named officer, and directly report to the Foreign Secretary (currently, David Lammy).

How British spy agencies work

The United Kingdom has several intel-



(Left) Metreweli; Daniel Craig as Bond with Dench as M in *Skyfall*. UK Govt, X/0007

ligence agencies with different, sometimes overlapping, remits. Over the last three-and-a-half decades, they have somewhat emerged from the shroud of secrecy that covered them during the Cold War, providing more perspective on what they do, and how they operate.

MI5: Military Intelligence Section 5, officially the Security Service, is the UK's domestic counterintelligence and security agency. It traces its origins to the Secret Service Bureau formed in 1909. Its first chief, Vernon Kell, was a captain in the British Army, who would remain in-charge of the

agency till 1940.

The agency's original remit was focussed on identifying and countering spies of Imperial Germany working on British soil, a mission that grew in importance during World War I (1914-18). The MI5 saw great successes in countering German spies during both World Wars, although its record against Soviet spies during the Cold War was more chequered.

In the post-Cold War era, the bulk of MI5's activities have been focussed on counter-terrorism. Rimington was the very first publicly-declared head of the agency, as

well as the first person to pose openly for cameras. Today, MI5 is Britain's least opaque security agency. The Intelligence Bureau is MI5's Indian equivalent.

MI6: Military Intelligence Section 6, officially the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), is the UK's foreign intelligence agency, tasked with the collection, analysis, and dissemination of foreign intelligence, as well as conducting espionage activities outside British territory.

The agency too traces its origins to the Secret Service Bureau, specifically, its Foreign Section. The first chief of the SIS, Sir Mansfield Cumming, frequently signed his directives with the letter C, giving birth to a codename that remains in use till date.

By the 1930s-40s, the MI6 emerged as the most effective intelligence agency in the world. It made its mark during World War II, when it conducted espionage operations behind German lines in Europe, and in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Like MI5, its record against the Soviets has been chequered: communist double agents had penetrated deep into the agency since as early as the 1930s. Nonetheless, it was a key player operating from the shadows throughout the Cold War, orchestrating coups, covert hit jobs, and gathering cru-

cial intelligence which it routinely shared with the American foreign intelligence agency, the CIA.

Official acknowledgement of MI6's existence came in 1994. India's Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) has a similar remit as the MI6.

GCHQ: The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is specifically responsible for providing signals intelligence (SIGINT) to the British government and armed forces.

Established after World War I as the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), the GCHQ, while operating from Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes, cracked the German enigma code during World War II — an achievement that might have saved millions of Allied lives over the course of the war.

Today, it has two primary tasks: first, to gather and analyse communications and other SIGINT, and second, to secure the UK's own communications and digital space against enemy attack.

In 2013, GCHQ received considerable media attention when American whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that the agency was illegally collecting online and telephone data within the UK.

EXPLAINED
GLOBAL

Blaise Metreweli's Appointment as MI6 Chief



Blaise Metreweli Appointed

Metreweli named first woman chief of MI6

Moore to leave MI6 chief position in 2025

Richard Moore to Step Down



metup

Metreweli to Replace Moore

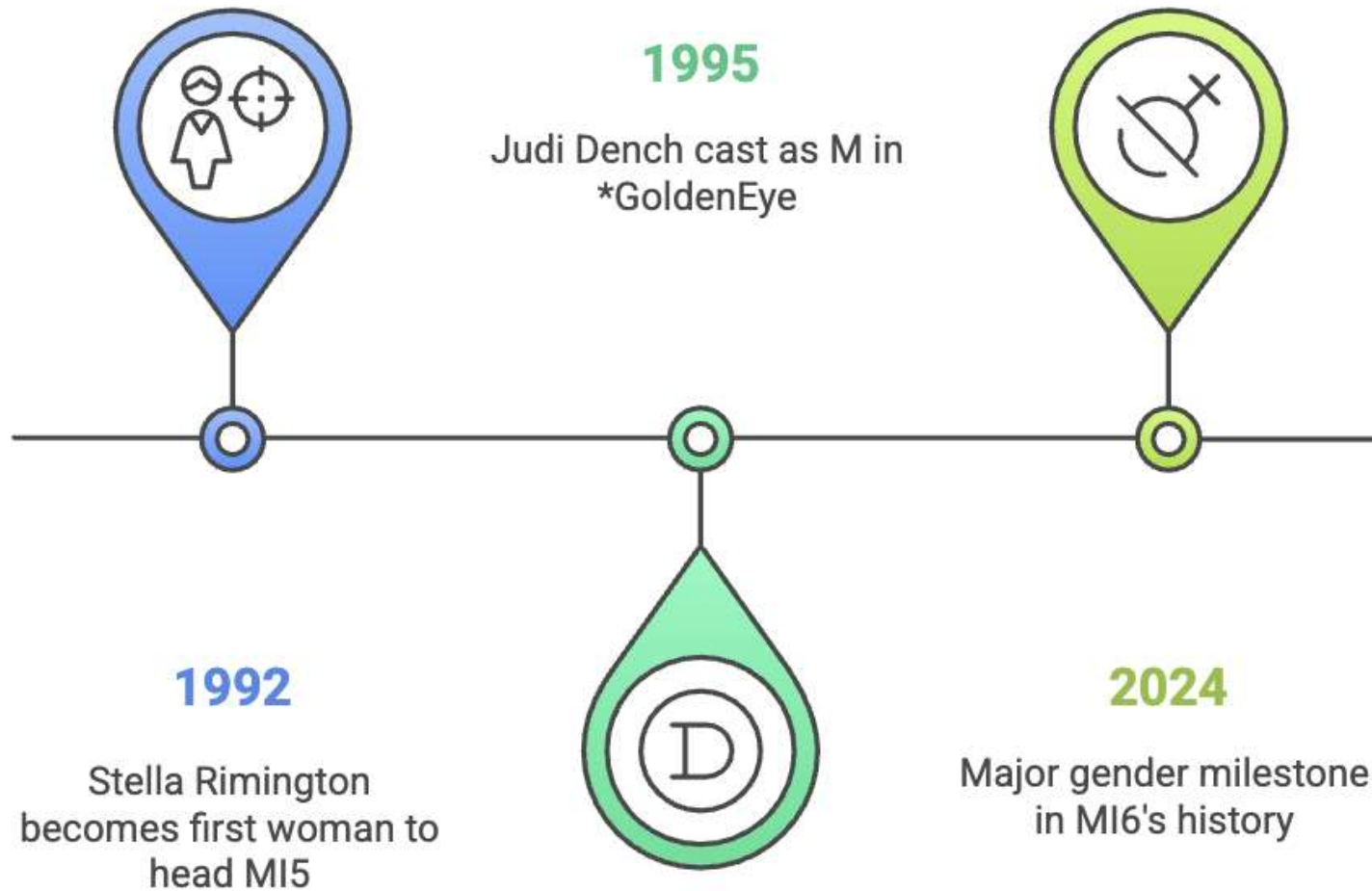
Metreweli to take over as MI6 chief

Metreweli currently leads MI6's technology division

Metreweli Heads Q Section



Breaking Barriers: Women in Intelligence Leadership



1. Comparative Table: Indian vs UK Intelligence Agencies

India	UK
R&AW (Research & Analysis Wing)	MI6
IB (Intelligence Bureau)	MI5
NTRO (Tech/Signal Intelligence)	GCHQ

2. GCHQ & Edward Snowden Leak

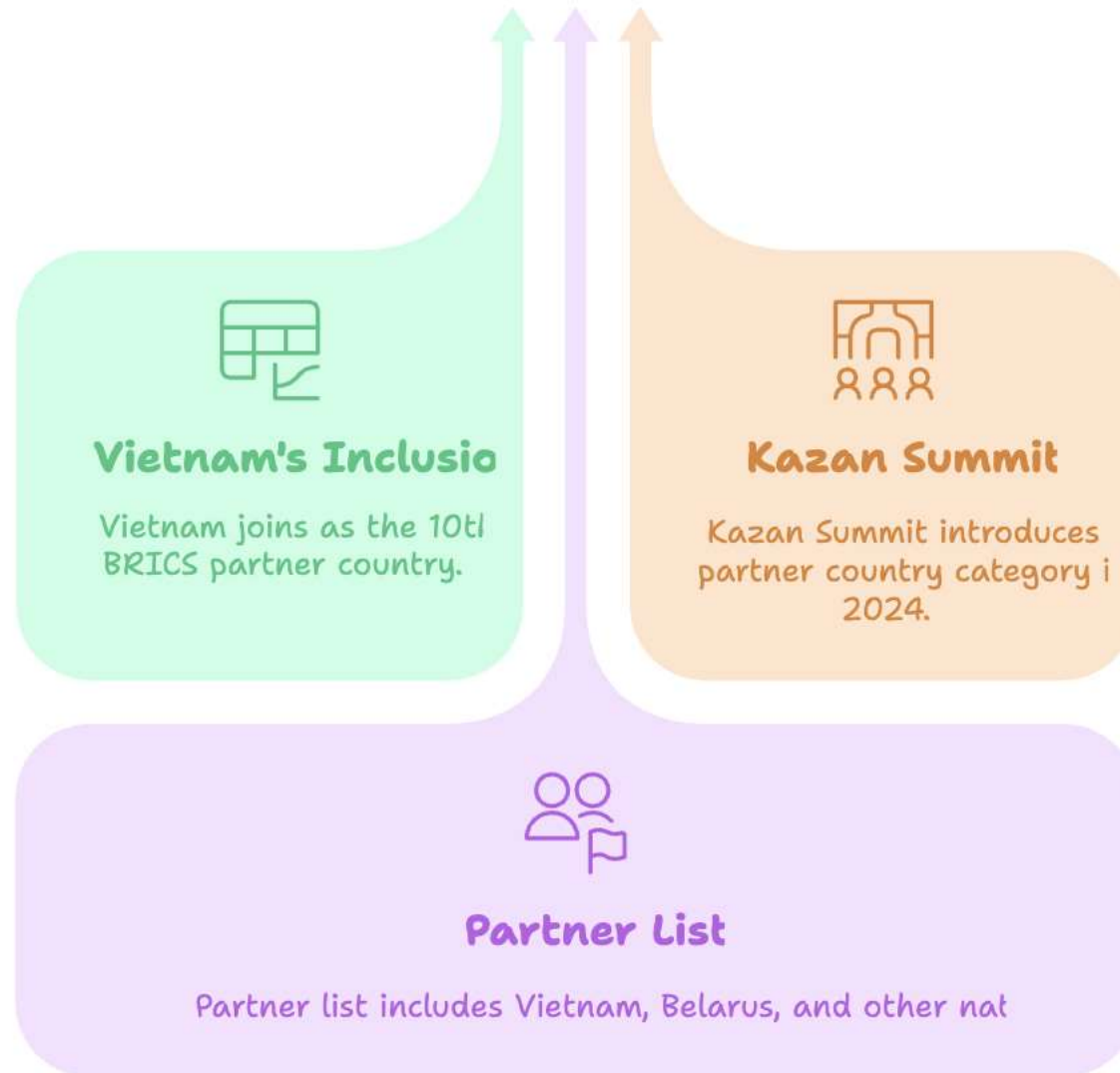
- **2013:** Snowden revealed GCHQ's involvement in **mass surveillance**, including telephone & online communications.
- Partnered with **NSA** (US counterpart).

Rank	Agency Name	Country	Official Name (if different)	Key Functions & Known For	
1	CIA	United States	Central Intelligence Agency	Foreign intelligence, covert ops, drone surveillance	
2	Mossad	Israel	HaMossad leModi'in uleTafkidim Meyuḥadim	Counter-terrorism, Middle East operations, cyber espionage	
3	MI6	United Kingdom	Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)	Espionage, foreign intelligence, James Bond inspiration	
4	FSB	Russia	Federal Security Service	Domestic intelligence, counter-intelligence, successor of KGB	
5	RAW	India	Research and Analysis Wing	Foreign intelligence, Pakistan-China counterintelligence	
6	MSS	China	Ministry of State Security	Cyber surveillance, industrial espionage, internal security	
7	DGSE	France	General Directorate for External Security	Foreign surveillance, counter-espionage	

- **Q. With reference to the United Kingdom's intelligence agencies, consider the following statements:**
- MI5 handles Britain's foreign intelligence operations.
- MI6 reports to the UK's Foreign Secretary.
- GCHQ provides signals intelligence and cyber security support.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Vietnam officially Joins BRICS As 'Partner Country'

BRICS Global Expansion



BRICS Partner Countries



Vietnam

Vietnam is a new BRICS partner.



Belarus

Belarus is a partner country of BRICS.



Bolivia

Bolivia is a partner country of BRICS.



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is a partner country of BRICS.



Cuba

Cuba is a partner country of BRICS.



Malaysia

Malaysia is a partner country of BRICS.



Nigeria

Nigeria is a partner country of BRICS.



Thailand

Thailand is a partner country of BRICS.



Uganda

Uganda is a partner country of BRICS.



Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a partner country of BRICS.



Description

Definition

Five major emerging economies

Members

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa

Additional Members

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE

Origin of Term

Coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001

Formal Grouping

Started in 2006

South Africa Joins

Inducted in 2010

Annual Summits

Since 2009

Pillars

Political/Security, Economic/Financial, Cultural/People

New Development Bank

Multilateral development bank

Nice Ocean Action Plan

- The Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) concluded in Nice, France, with a landmark political declaration and over 800 voluntary commitments by 170+ countries called as Nice Ocean Action Plan.



What is UNOC3?

The **United Nations Ocean Conference 2025**, co-hosted by **France and Costa Rica**, is the third in a series of global efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14 – Life Below Water).

Participation:

Held in **Nice, France** from **June 8–13, 2025**

Over **15,000 participants**, **60+ world leaders**, and **450+ side events**

Built on past UNOC events in **New York (2017)** and **Lisbon (2022)**

- **Key Commitments under Nice Ocean Action Plan:**

- **Political Declaration** titled *“Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action”*
- **30% ocean protection by 2030** reaffirmed under the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework
- **Ratification of BBNJ (High Seas Treaty)** gains momentum – now at **50 countries**
- **€1 billion EU fund** for marine protection and sustainable fisheries
- **Coral Bond by Indonesia & World Bank** to finance reef restoration
- **Largest Marine Protected Area (MPA)** by French Polynesia (entire EEZ – 5 million sq.km)
- **High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean** launched to reduce underwater noise pollution

Fun fact

The Earth is getting greener — thanks to climate change and... China & India!

👉 NASA satellites have found that over the past two decades, **Earth's green vegetation cover has increased by more than 5%**, equivalent to adding a rainforest the size of the Amazon!

🔍 Surprisingly, the two countries most responsible for this greening are **India and China**, due to aggressive tree planting programs and intensive agriculture.

Word of the day

Taunt:

harass with persistent criticism

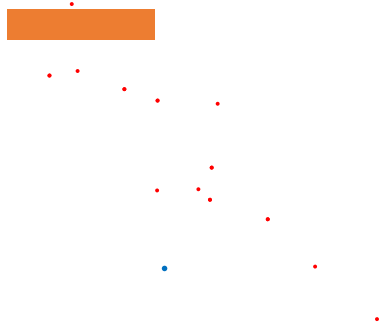
Synonyms: bait, tantalise, tease

Usage: *He loves to taunt new employees.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tauntpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /tɔ:nt/



Thank you
guys.

