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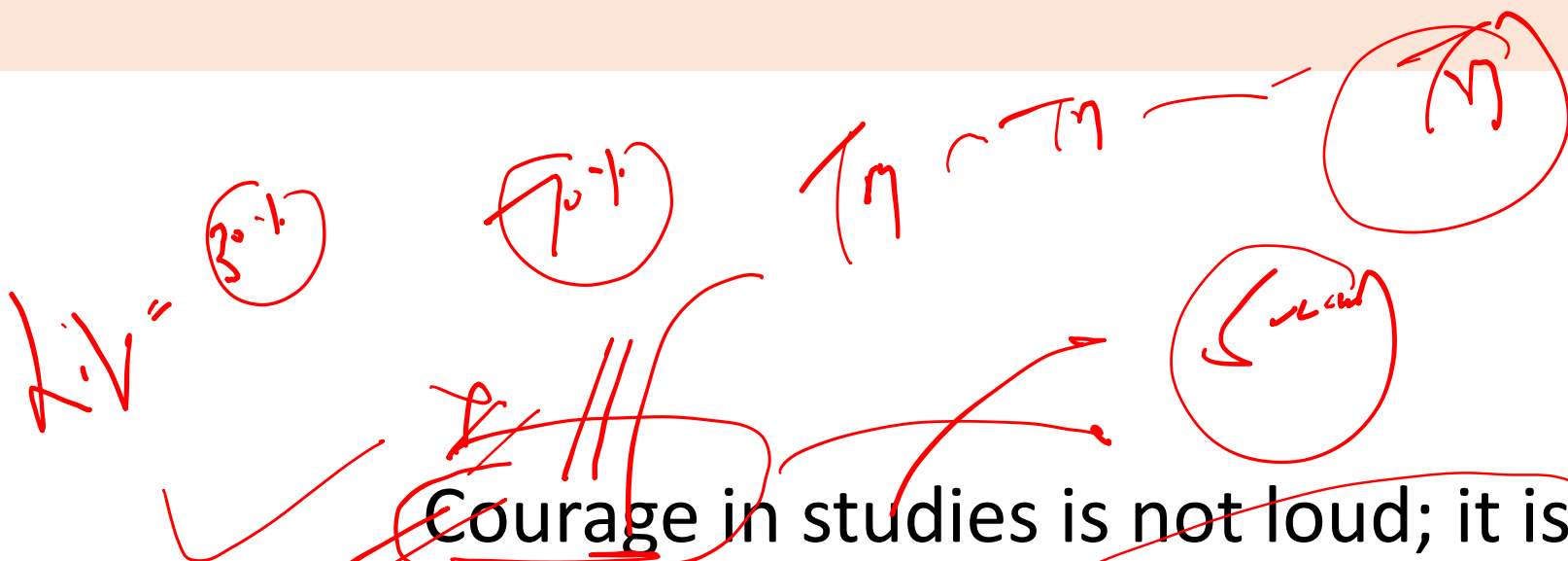


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Jansatta



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Express**





Courage in studies is not loud; it is sitting again after a disappointing score.



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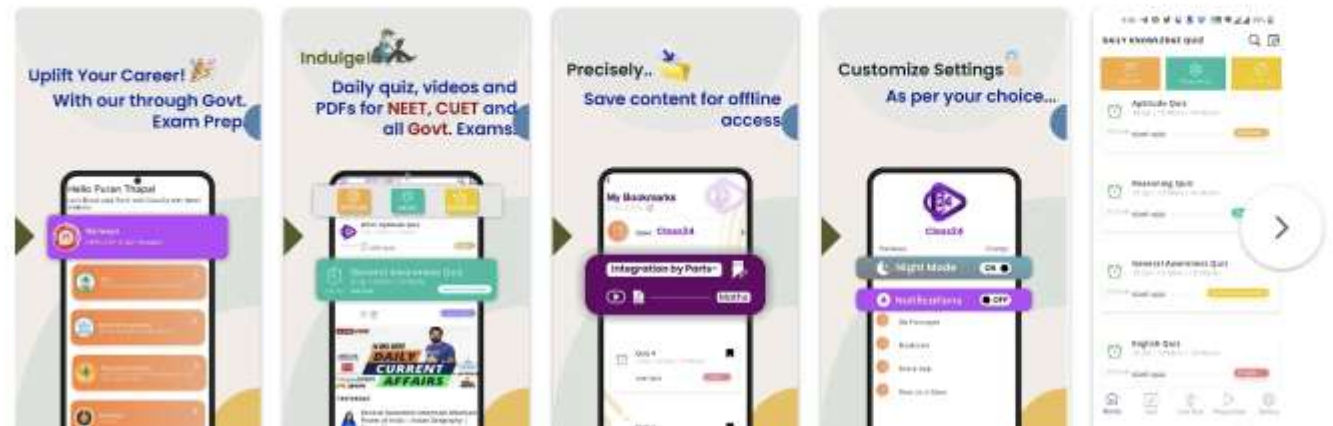
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Pinarayi's daughter appears before ED
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Full body scanners on trial at four airports
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TIGHT SECURITY
Injured Kukis shifted from Imphal hospital
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A.P.'s incentive for large families is misplaced
A one-time aid cannot offset childcare costs
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MAGICIAN AT WORK
Messi treble powers Argentina to victory
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INSIDE

Grok was used in strikes against Iran, admits U.S.
SAN FRANCISCO
Elon Musk's AI Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the U.S. government revealed in a legal briefing seen on Tuesday. The brief defends the gas turbines used by a giant data center belonging to MS, which are the target of an environmental lawsuit. | PAGE 14

Rebuild system to reduce cost and stress, says Rahul
JAMSHEDPUR
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday called for rebuilding the country's education system, saying it puts pressure on children, and exports money from parents. The "San 2 families" were spending an amount three times the Centre's education budget on top five competitive exams, he said. | PAGE 8

Bangladesh PM's adviser was on Centre's blacklist
NEW DELHI
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser Tariq Rahman was slapped with a suspension order by the Centre on June 15, 2020, his name was added to a "blacklist" generated by the External Affairs Ministry in 2015. | PAGE 4

Man abducted from 'no-man's land' returned
NEW DELHI
The Border Guard Bangladesh returned a 60-year-old farmer from Assam's Cachar district more than 16 hours after he was allegedly abducted from the Indian side of the border on Tuesday evening. The BGB personnel handed him over to their Border Security Force counterparts at the Bhanu border outpost. | PAGE 5

Ganja smuggling ring busted in Andhra Pradesh
NEW DELHI
The Border Guard Bangladesh returned a 60-year-old farmer from Assam's Cachar district more than 16 hours after he was allegedly abducted from the Indian side of the border on Tuesday evening. The BGB personnel handed him over to their Border Security Force counterparts at the Bhanu border outpost. | PAGE 5

Modi meets Trump, raises safety of Indian sailors

PM Modi commends President Trump for his efforts to restore peace in the West Asia region

The Prime Minister stresses the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open for trade

Trump praises Modi, says U.S. and India are 'very close' to finalising a trade agreement

Strain Lakeland
LONDON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised the issue, in broad terms, of the safety of sailors at the sidelines of his meeting with U.S. President Trump during their bilateral meeting in Evian, France, on the fringes of the G7 summit.
"Mr. President, you are aware across the world, Indian sailors in the hundreds of thousands are working and performing their duties across global maritime trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, and their safety is of utmost importance to us," Mr. Modi said, referring to the killing of three Indian sailors in a U.S. strike last week off Oman coast.



Shaking hands: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France on Wednesday.

"I'm confident that the issue of sailors will remain the highest priority during the implementation of the agreement," Mr. Modi said. "I'm confident that we will be able to restore peace in the West Asia and that we will be able to ensure the safety of our sailors in the region. The Prime Minister said that both agreed that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open was vital for the world economy. Mr. Trump was asked by a pressperson if he had words of condolence for the grieving families of the sailors. "I heard about that. It is a rough profession. There is no question about it," he said, adding, "This has been happening throughout time, but we work together. We love all of these people."

Trump praised Modi, saying the U.S. and India are "very close" to finalising a trade agreement. He said that the two countries are "very close" to finalising a trade deal, calling Mr. Modi a "very tough" negotiator. The two countries announced the finalisation of a deal in February this year but it is yet to be signed, led up partly over charges to U.S. tariff policies and some gaps in the finer details. The President also dismissed perceptions that the India-U.S. relationship was fraying, saying that as long as the President, Modi, would have a "great friend" in the White House. He lavished praise on Mr. Modi and their friendship, pointing a picture at him while the morning challenges the two have had in recent times, including a protracted trade negotiation, criticism on skilled migration, death of Indian sailors, and a chessmate with the Pakistani government that has ruffled feathers in New Delhi.

Moving to safety



Water works: Villagers load their buffaloes across the Bahmanpura in Assam's Majuli district on Wednesday to safer areas amid heavy rain and rising water levels. (PTI)

Framework deal outlines Tehran's pledge on nuclear weapons, \$300-bn U.S. relief

Standby jobby
The United States has agreed to facilitate the release of frozen Iranian assets, contingent on progress in negotiations towards a final agreement, and craft a plan for Iran's economic development, involving a \$300-billion loan, according to a leaked text of the 18-point framework agreement reached between Tehran and Washington.
The draft, published by Saudi Arabia's Al Arabiya news agency, states that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons. On its part, the U.S. Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his troops would not withdraw from Lebanon. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia group that has close ties with Iran, has also said it will continue to resist Israel's military occupation. Under the agreement, the U.S. and Iran have pledged to "respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs".

Peace process

The U.S. will immediately lift its naval blockade and Iran will allow traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to reach pre-war volumes within 30 days, "taking into account the need for the removal of residual mines and the generalisation of mines by Iran".
Mr. Netanyahu said that traffic through the Strait will be resumed according to the framework agreement, however, Iranian ships will have to pay a fee. Iran's newly elected President Ebrahim Raisi has said that the Strait Agreement, for environmental upkeep and other reasons, it will not reduce nuclear weapons. Iran and the U.S. have agreed that the fate of all other mutually agreed issues related to Iran, including Iran's nuclear needs, will be addressed in a final agreement. The leaked text says Iran has hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium, which the U.S. and Iran want to take out of the country and dilute or destroy. Tehran has also insisted that nuclear enrichment is a right which it will not surrender, while Mr. Trump has called for zero enrichment on Iran. On June 15, Mr. Trump said he did not believe in regime change. But on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said that the MoU is only a preliminary agreement, adding that if Iran did not honour its obligations, he would resume the war.

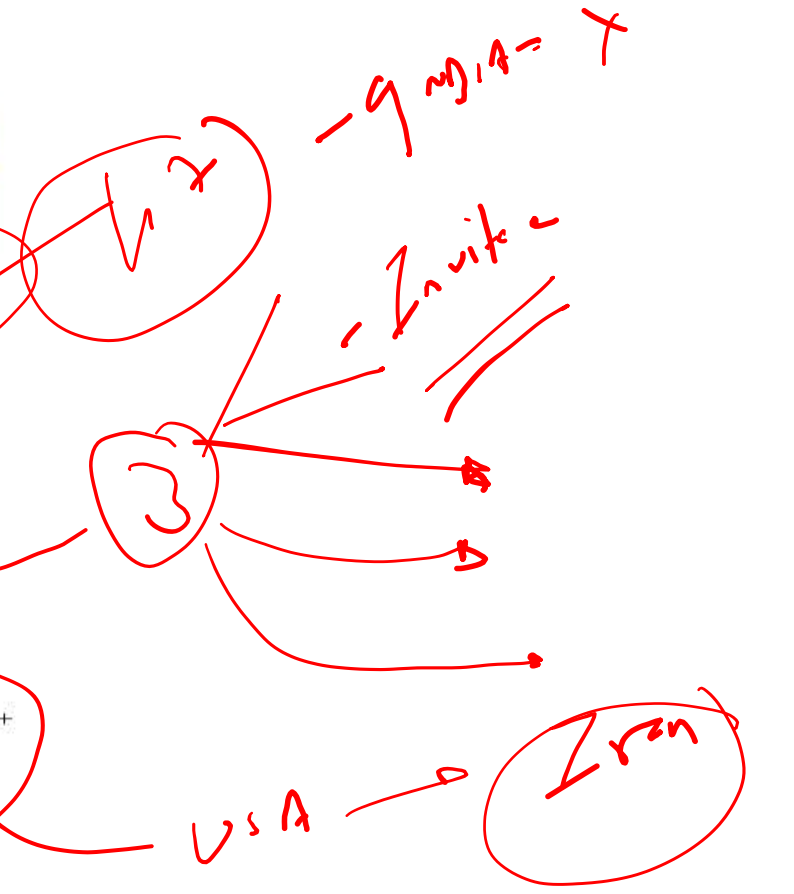
Telegram was warned about misuse before blanket ban, says NTA chief

Mahesh Pareekha
New Delhi

Representatives of the messaging app Telegram were called in for meetings "at the highest level", and warned about the misuse of the app's features that facilitate "paper leaks" before a blanket ban was imposed, Mahesh Pareekha, Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), told The Hindu on Wednesday.
Mr. Singh said the primary motive behind government intervention was to halt the spread of unauthorised fake leaks that had spread panic among the students ahead of the National Entrance Exam Eligibility Test (NEET) re-test scheduled for Sunday. "The government had previously been warned by Telegram regarding the misuse of two specific features, including making edited timestamps visible with the actual question paper. While the post inside the channel stores an 'edited' tag, the linked group retains the timestamp of the original post. This creates a highly convincing illusion that the actual question paper was available on the platform before the exam began, sparking panic."
"After the ban, Telegram founder Pavel Durov said on X that they are making the 'edited' label more visible to prevent backlisting features. However, this change is still not visible on the app," Mr. Singh said. "Why can Telegram simply fix its metadata so that timestamps change are accurately reflected in linked group chats, he asked."
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country, has remained a flashpoint. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his troops would not withdraw from Lebanon. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia group that has close ties with Iran, has also said it will continue to resist Israel's military occupation. Under the agreement, the U.S. and Iran have pledged to "respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs".
The U.S. also commits itself to lifting all sanctions against Iran, both primary and secondary, as part of a final agreement.
After launching the war on February 20, U.S. President Donald Trump had indirectly called for regime change in Tehran, asking Iranians to take over their institutions and adding that they had a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" on their hands. After announcing the MoU on June 15, Mr. Trump said he did not believe in regime change. But on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said that the MoU is only a preliminary agreement, adding that if Iran did not honour its obligations, he would resume the war.



Modi meets Trump, raises safety of Indian sailors

PM Modi commends President Trump for his efforts to restore peace in the West Asia region

The Prime Minister stresses the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open for trade

Trump praises Modi, says U.S. and India are 'very close' to finalising a trade agreement

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised the issue, in broad terms, of the safety of seafarers with U.S. President Trump during their bilateral meeting in Evian, France, on the fringes of the G7 Summit.

"Mr. President, you are aware across the world, Indian seafarers in the hundreds of thousands are working and performing their duties across global maritime trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, and their safety is of utmost importance to us," Mr. Modi said, referring to the killing of three Indian seafarers in a U.S. strike last week off Oman coast.

"I'm confident that the issue of seafarers will receive the highest priority during the implementation of this agreement," Mr. Modi said. The Prime Minister "commended" Mr. Trump for his efforts to restore peace in West Asia and said he was confident this would lead to a long-term peace in the region. The Prime Minister told the President that they both agreed that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open was vital for the world economy.

Mr. Trump was asked by a pressperson if he had words of condolence for the grieving families of the sailors. "I heard about that. It is a rough profession. There is no question about it," he said, adding, "this has been happening



Holding hands: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 meet in France on Wednesday. AP

throughout time, but we work together. We love all of those people."

Mr. Trump said Iran would not have a nuclear weapon and that Mr. Modi

felt "very strongly" about that as well. Mr. Trump said the U.S. and India were "very close" to finalising a trade deal, calling Mr. Modi a "very tough" nego-

tiator. The two countries announced the finalisation of a deal in February this year but it is yet to be signed, held up partly over changes to U.S. tariff poli-

cies and some gaps in the finer details.

The President also dismissed perceptions that the India-U.S. relationship was fraying, saying that as long as he was President, India would have a "great friend" in the White House. He lavished praise on Mr. Modi and their friendship, painting a picture at odds with the mounting challenges the ties have had to weather in recent times, including a protracted trade negotiation, restrictions on skilled migration, death of Indian sailors, and a closeness with the Pakistan government that has ruffled feathers in New Delhi.

"He's the most beautiful looking man. He looks so nice. He's like an angel, but actually he's a killer," Mr.

Trump said, praising Mr. Modi. "He's as tough as they come, but he looks so good. So he gets you by surprise," he added.

Mr. Trump said he appreciated Mr. Modi (i.e., India) investing in the U.S.

Asked to speak on the India-U.S. defence relationship, Mr. Trump said that though they did not have a contract, if India were to be attacked "we would be there to help", stretching out his hand to hold Mr. Modi's.

Mr. Trump suggested he would go to India at some point in the future.

Following the meeting, Mr. Modi posted on social media saying the two sides had reviewed U.S.-India cooperation in trade, energy, defence, technology and people-to-people ties.



Swiss F/S

Topic

Indian Sailors' Safety

Oman Incident

West Asia Peace

Strait of Hormuz

India-US Trade Deal

Defence Cooperation

Investment

What Happened

PM Modi raised concerns about Indian seafarers working across global shipping routes, especially around the Strait of Hormuz.

Modi referred to the killing of three Indian sailors in a U.S. strike near Oman.

Modi appreciated Trump's efforts to restore peace in West Asia.

Both leaders agreed that keeping the Strait open is vital for global trade.

Trump stated the two countries were "very close" to finalizing a trade agreement.

Trump said the U.S. would support India if attacked.

Trump praised India's investments and economic growth.

Importance for India

Thousands of Indians work in global shipping; safety directly affects Indian citizens and trade.

Major humanitarian and diplomatic concern.

Peace reduces risks to energy supplies and shipping routes.

India imports a large share of crude oil through this route.

Could increase exports, investments, and market access.

Indicates strong strategic partnership.

Positive signal for bilateral business relations.

Calicut

Gulf

Gulf

India–US Trade Negotiations

Area	Likely Issues
Tariffs	Reduction of import duties
Agriculture	Market access for farm products
Manufacturing	Electronics, automobiles, engineering goods
Services	IT and professional services
Digital Trade	Data and technology regulations

India–US Economic Relationship

Indicator	Approximate Value
Bilateral Trade	Over \$190 billion annually
Major Indian Exports	Pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, IT services
Major US Exports	Aircraft, energy, machinery, defence equipment

Framework deal outlines Tehran's pledge on nuclear weapons, \$300-bn U.S. relief

Stanly Johny

The United States has agreed to facilitate the release of frozen Iranian assets, contingent on progress in negotiations towards a final agreement, and create a plan for Iran's economic development, involving \$300 billion, according to a leaked text of the 14-point framework agreement reached between Tehran and Washington.

The draft, published by Saudi Arabia's *Al Arabiya* network and the Bloomberg news agency, states that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons. On its part, the U.S. will lift sanctions on the sale of Iranian crude oil, petrochemical products, and financial services, including banking, during the negotiation period.

The memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed in Geneva on Friday. The draft stated that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons and, pending a final agreement, maintain a status quo on its nuclear programme. However, the AP reported later that unnamed U.S. officials read out the draft to presspersons, according to which Iran has agreed to downblend (dilute) its highly enriched uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The draft, which has not been released officially, calls for an "immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon" – a key Iranian demand.

While the U.S. and Iran announced a ceasefire on April 8 after 40 days of bombing, Lebanon, where Israel occupies parts of the

Peace process

The 14-point framework is expected to be signed in Geneva tomorrow

U.S. PLEDGES

- Lifting sanctions on Iran's products and services, including crude and banking
- Immediate lifting of naval blockade
- Withdrawing forces from 'surrounding areas'

IRAN PLEDGES

- Restoring pre-war traffic through Strait of Hormuz
- Never produce nuclear weapons

country, has remained a flashpoint. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his troops would not withdraw from Lebanon. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia group that has close ties with Iran, has also said it will continue to resist Israel's military occupation.

Under the agreement, the U.S. and Iran have pledged to "respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs".

The U.S. also commits itself to lifting all sanctions against Iran, both primary and secondary, as part of a final agreement.

After launching the war on February 28, U.S. President Donald Trump had indirectly called for regime change in Tehran, asking Iranians to take over their institutions and telling them that they had a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" on their hands. After announcing the MoU on June 15, Mr. Trump said he did not believe in regime change. But on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said that the MoU is only a preli-

minary agreement, adding that if Iran did not honour its obligations, he would resume the war.

Once the MoU is signed, Iran and the U.S. will start negotiations on core issues.

Strait to reopen

The U.S. will immediately lift its naval blockade and Iran will allow traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to reach pre-war volumes within 30 days, "taking into account the need for the removal of technical obstacles and the neutralization of mines by Iran".

Mr. Trump has said that traffic through the Strait will be toll-free. According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, however, Tehran will not impose a toll but ships will have to pay a fee to Iran's newly created Persian Gulf Strait Authority, for environmental upkeep and other services.

"Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons. Iran and the U.S. have agreed that the fate of enriched material and the fate of all other mutually agreed nuclear-related issues, including Iran's nuclear needs, will be adequately addressed in a final agreement," the leaked text says.

Iran has hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium, which the U.S. and Israel want to take out of the country and dilute or destroy. Tehran has also maintained that nuclear enrichment is a right which it will not surrender, while Mr. Trump has called for zero enrichment on Iranian soil. These contentious issues will be discussed in the next phase.

MORE REPORTS

» PAGES 14, 15

Issue

7 Points

Nuclear Weapons

Sanctions

Frozen Assets

Oil Exports

Banking

Strait of Hormuz

Regional Security

Iran's Commitment

Will never produce nuclear weapons

Continue negotiations and IAEA supervision

— 2030 DD

Restore normal oil trade

—

Reopen shipping route

Respect sovereignty of neighbors

U.S. Commitment

Recognition of peaceful nuclear program under final agreement

Gradual lifting of sanctions

Facilitate release of Iranian assets

Allow Iranian crude exports

Reconnect banking and financial services

~~Lift naval blockade~~

Respect Iranian territorial integrity

What is the Proposed \$300 Billion Relief?

The framework reportedly envisions economic normalization for Iran.

Component	Estimated Benefit
Release of Frozen Assets	Tens of billions of dollars
Oil Export Revenue	Major increase
Banking Access	Reconnection to global financial system
Foreign Investment	Potential inflow from Asia and Europe
Infrastructure Development	Energy, ports, transport projects
Total long-term economic impact is estimated around \$300 billion.	

Iran's Main Pledges

Commitment	Significance
Never produce nuclear weapons	Addresses U.S. and Israeli concerns
IAEA monitoring	International verification
Dilution of highly enriched uranium	Reduces weaponization risk
Reopen Strait of Hormuz	Restores global shipping
Restore pre-war maritime traffic	Stabilizes energy markets

U.S. Main Concessions

Concession

Lift sanctions on oil exports

Allow banking transactions

Remove naval blockade

Facilitate release of frozen assets

Future removal of primary and secondary sanctions

Impact

Boosts Iran's economy

Reintegrates Iran into global finance

Normalizes shipping

Provides liquidity

Larger economic revival

Europe

China

America

Asia

Levelling

Iran

IRAN



Strait of
Hormuz

Persian Gulf

QATAR

SAUDI
ARABIA

UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

OMAN



Strait of Hormuz

Connects oil and LNG production in the Middle East to global markets via the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean

Volume transported through the strait in 2024 (daily average)

Oil and petroleum products
20.3 MILLION barrels

LNG
290 MILLION cubic meters

Shipments through the Strait of Hormuz

30% of global seaborne oil trade

20% of global LNG trade

Saudi Arabia is the largest exporter of oil through the strait, while Qatar leads in LNG exports

Strait of Hormuz

80% of LNG passing through the strait goes to Asia, 20% to Europe

to Europe

to Asia





Feature	JCPOA 2015	Proposed 2026 Framework
Objective	Limit nuclear program	Prevent <u>weaponization</u> <u>permanently</u>
Sanctions Relief	Yes	<u>Larger relief package</u>
Oil Exports	Partially restored	<u>Broad restoration</u>
Banking Access	Limited	<u>Wider access proposed</u>
Strait of Hormuz	Not central issue	<u>Major component</u>
Regional Security	Limited	<u>Included in discussions</u>

BS+1

Obama

Trump

Volz

Trump

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Let Opposition MPs be guided by their conscience: Omar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jamini and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that Opposition MPs from the DMK and Shiv Sena should be guided by their conscience on whether they back or deny support to the NDA over its pending bills in Parliament but "our party will not back them".

Commenting on reports that the DMK and Shiv Sena were likely to support the NDA on pending legislation like the women's reservation Bill, Mr. Abdullah said, "It is up to the conscience of these MPs how far they want to go with our party will not support them".

"We remain committed to our political ideology and will not alter it for the sake of power. Every party is free to make its own decisions, but the NC's position is clear. We are guided by a set of values. These principles are not for sale," he said.

The J&K Chief Minister said his party is focused on

Reports say DMK and Shiv Sena are likely to support NDA on pending legislations such as the women's reservation bill

fulfilling commitments made to people and "not securing political advantage through shifting alliances".

In a separate event in the Valley, National Conference MP Milan Afzal reiterated that the NC plans to hold a protest in New Delhi on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

"[Protest] will be held at the scheduled time. It is our duty," said Mr. Afzal. Senior BJP leader and J&K Leader of Opposition Sushil Kumar Shringar said that the bloodshed witnessed in Kashmir over the past 25 years was "due to regional parties".

"The bloodshed ended after J&K was made a Union Territory and the J&K Chief Minister said his party is focused on

After protests, injured Kukis shifted from Imphal hospital

Three youth were moved 60 km away to Churachandpur Medical College under tight security; protesters earlier tried to storm RIMS and take away the trio injured in an attack in Kangpokpi

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Three Kuki youth, injured in an armed attack on their village in Kangpokpi district in Manipur, were shifted on June 15, were moved out of Imphal's Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) early Wednesday morning.

Officials said the trio—18-year-old Genleming Vajphei and Paogodul Chongdi, and 20-year-old Luandilaw Vajphei—were shifted from the RIMS on Wednesday night.

Tight security around 12.15 a.m. to the Churachandpur Medical College, about 60 km south of Imphal.

The youths are in a majority in Imphal and the valley beyond, while the Kuki-Zo dominate Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts. An ethnic conflict broke out between the two communities in May 2023, claiming more than 200 lives.

Protesters gathered outside RIMS soon after the



Wielding business premises in Imphal on Tuesday.

They said the three were injured when armed cadres of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) and the Khamti faction of the Zeliang United Front (ZUF) fired at people near Laitumkhring village around 6 a.m. on June 15.

The NSCN and ZUF are Naga armed organisations, the Naga news, whose offices were recovered all but a month after they were abandoned under the terms of a ceasefire after the killing of these

church leaders, belonged to Laitlum Vajphei village. Meanwhile, the state police said a suspected militant killed two people in joint operations by security forces, launched in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and Ukhrul districts to dismantle extremist bases.

"During the encounter, suspected militant was killed. An AK-47 rifle, along with magazines, ammunition, explosives, and other accessories were recovered from the spot," the statement read.

Fake encounter: MLA Local MLA Laitumkhring had claimed the person killed was a civilian named Laitumkhring, and not a militant.

Condemning the "shocking killing," in what he said could be a fake encounter, he demanded a thorough judicial and independent probe into the incident and stringent action against those responsible for his death.

Delhi Police reply sought on bail plea of IM operatives

Anantika Bhasumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Delhi Police to respond to bail plea filed by two men accused of operating a jasthan module of the banned anti Indian Mujahideen (IM). The accused, who have been in custody for 12 years, are challenging a Delhi High Court order denying their bail.

On April 24, the court had rejected the bail plea of Mohd Saadik Anwar and Waqar Ahmad, holding that they were active members of the banned terrorist organisation. In their petition, the two accused contended that a jasthan module placed on accused had already been dismantled.

They also pointed that they had spent nearly 12 years in custody awaiting the conclusion of the trial.

CBI arrests senior Indian Forest Service official in CREST case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Navneet Srivastava, an accused in the case of alleged forest services (IFS) official, in connection with the alleged misappropriation of funds belonging to the Changanasserai Renewable Energy and Technology Promotion Society (CREST).

Loss of ₹78 crore: The accused was then Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CREST. During his tenure, funds worth ₹78 crore were misappropriated from the bank accounts of CREST, maintained with IMFC Bank in Chandigarh, were allegedly diverted to various shell companies and converted for personal use by the beneficiaries, causing a loss of about ₹78 crore to CREST.

Bangladesh PM's adviser was stopped at airport as name was on 'blacklist'

Vijeta Singh
Kathol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's advisor Zaidur Rahman was stopped at the Delhi airport on June 14 as his name had been included in a "blacklist" generated by the External Affairs Ministry in 2020.

Zaidur Rahman was travelling using a regular passport with a SAARC visa to participate in a conference in India. As his name had not been withdrawn from the blacklist, the immigration officials stopped him at the Delhi airport following a system-generated alert against his name, government sources told The Hindu.

According to Pravash Aho, a Bangladesh-based newspaper, the Bangla-



Zaidur Rahman

deshipower in the neighbouring country in February. Mr. Rahman was stopped on an advice to hold the rank of a State Minister in the Bangladesh government.

He was scheduled to attend a meeting in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Delhi.

House-long walk: "After Rahman, Information & Broadcasting Advisor of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was stopped by immigration officials at the airport in Delhi," said a source.

Mr. Rahman was reportedly placed on the blacklist by the Ministry as he had made anti-India remarks in the past on social media platforms.

After the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) as-

Manipur Governor discusses security situation with Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Armed continuing violence in Manipur, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhatia met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Wednesday.

Mr. Bhatia is said to have apprised the Minister of the security situation in the northeastern state where tensions have escalated between the Kuki and Naga communities over the past one month.

The ethnic violence, which first erupted in the state on May 3, 2023, between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people, has claimed the lives of more than 200 people so far.

"The overall security situation in the state was discussed," said a senior government official.

While no details were provided, the Union Home Ministry posted on X, "Governor of Manipur met Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Shah in Delhi today".

After remaining under President's Rule for a year,



Ajay Kumar Bhatia

the elected government in Manipur was restored on February 4 this year.

Other than Chief Minister Numbam Khombouh Singh and Home Minister Govindas Routhangam, two Deputy Chief Ministers—Lalit Dikho and Numbam Kippan, representing Naga and Kuki communities—were sworn in.

The restoration of the Manipur Cabinet is yet to take place even as Assembly elections in the state are due early next year.

Mr. Ripper, who met with Shah in Delhi, is yet to travel to Imphal and attend all meetings online.

Defence production hits record ₹1.78 lakh cr.

Sansrath Tripathi
NEW DELHI

India's annual defence production has soared to an all-time high of ₹1.78 lakh crore in the financial year (FY) 2022-23, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry, the defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1.78 lakh crore, an increase of 10% over FY 2020-21 when the figure was ₹1.62 lakh crore.

The Ministry said defence production increased about four times from ₹43,746 crore in FY 2013-14. Defence Public Sector undertakings and other PSUs accounted for approximately 70% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%.

Indian, Thai officials talk on bilateral, defence ties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 10th Thailand-India Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok on Tuesday with both the countries reviewing bilateral defence cooperation and exchanging views on regional and global security issues of mutual interest.

The dialogue was co-chaired by Thailand's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence, Adinart Naitip Diawanch, and India's Permanent Secretary for Defence, Sanjay Mohanty. According to the Ministry, both sides discussed the evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific region and shared their perspectives on key regional developments. Defence industry cooperation featured prominently in the talks. They emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation to promote stability and prosperity across the region.

Full-body scanners on trial at four key airports; three more next in line

Vijeta Singh
NEW DELHI

Passengers flying from Sri-nagar, Jaipur, and Agartala may soon pass through full-body scanners at airport security, with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) having required operators at these airports to install the advanced imaging technology on a priority basis.

The Bureau has also asked of other airport operators handling the movement of more than 50 lakh passengers annually to install the machines. These scanners are already being used on a trial basis in the Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kochi airports. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which provides aviation security cover at 73 civil airports across the country, is evaluating the functioning of the scanners in these airports. The



Through and through: The scanners detect metallic items under clothing, reduce the need for physical frisking. Items, accessories

(full-body scanners) is expected to significantly enhance threat detection capabilities by minimising physical frisking. The trial initiated in May 2023 will evaluate its operational effectiveness, passenger convenience, privacy safeguards, and integration with existing security procedures," the official said, adding that the evaluation will guide future policy decisions.

Other security measures include bomb detection and disposal squads that have been deployed at 25 airports, with bomb detection teams have been activated at 35 additional airports. The teams have been established at most airports to augment security operations, the official said.

'Parasites': SC denies bail to man accused of cyberfraud, calls for sterner legislation

Anantika Bhasumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on a cyberfraudster, describing them as "parasites" who prey on unsuspecting citizens, and observed that such offenders should be dealt with firmly. Refusing to entertain a plea by an accused being illegally transferred through airports, SCB said multiple criminal cases are pending against him.

He said the accused is a parasite. We have to be very hard on such offenders in order to protect the interests of society as a whole. We have to be very hard on such offenders in order to protect the interests of society as a whole. We have to be very hard on such offenders in order to protect the interests of society as a whole.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by Ma-



Cyberfraudster cannot

be granted bail. He was accused of multiple criminal cases and was being illegally transferred through airports. The court said the accused is a parasite and should be dealt with firmly.

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Production
1.78 lakh cr
Exp

Defence production hits record ₹1.78 lakh cr.

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India's annual defence production has surged to an all-time high of ₹1.78 lakh crore in the financial year (FY) 2025-26, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry, the milestone represents a 15.6% growth over the previous fiscal year's output of ₹1.54 lakh crore and a staggering 110% increase since FY 2020-21 when the figure was ₹84,643 crore.

The indigenous defence production has increased almost four times from ₹43,746 crore in FY 2013-14.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other PSUs accounted for approximately 76% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%.

1.78 lakh cr

India's Defence Production Hits Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore (FY 2025-26)

Key Highlights

Indicator	FY 2013-14	FY 2020-21	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Growth
Defence Production Value	₹43,746 Cr	₹84,643 Cr	₹1.54 Lakh Cr	₹1.78 Lakh Cr	+15.6% YoY
Growth Since FY 2020-21	—	Base	—	—	+110%
Growth Since FY 2013-14	Base	—	—	—	~307%

43K Cr

₹1.78 Lakh Cr

12 Yr
Unit

Production Share

Sector	Share in Total Production
Public Sector (DPSUs + PSUs)	76%
Private Sector	24%

→

76%

24%

Private

Why This Matters

1. Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

Objective

Impact

Reduce Imports

Lower dependence on foreign weapons

Indigenous Manufacturing

Domestic job creation

Technology Development

Strategic autonomy

Export Promotion

Foreign exchange earnings

2. Strategic Significance

Area

Benefit

National Security

Faster military preparedness

Border Management

Better equipment availability

Geopolitical Influence

Defence exports increase influence

Crisis Situations

Less dependence on foreign suppliers

Major Indigenous Defence Systems



Platform

HAL Tejas

Arjun Mk-1A

Akash Missile System

INS Vikrant

Pinaka

Brahmos

Type

Fighter Aircraft

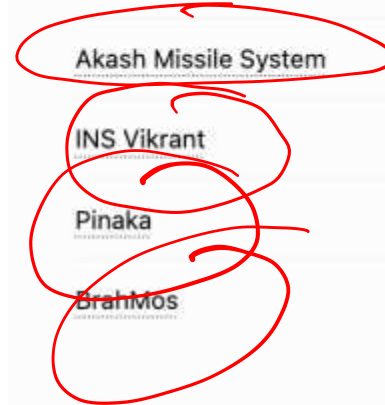
Tank

Air Defence

Aircraft Carrier

Artillery

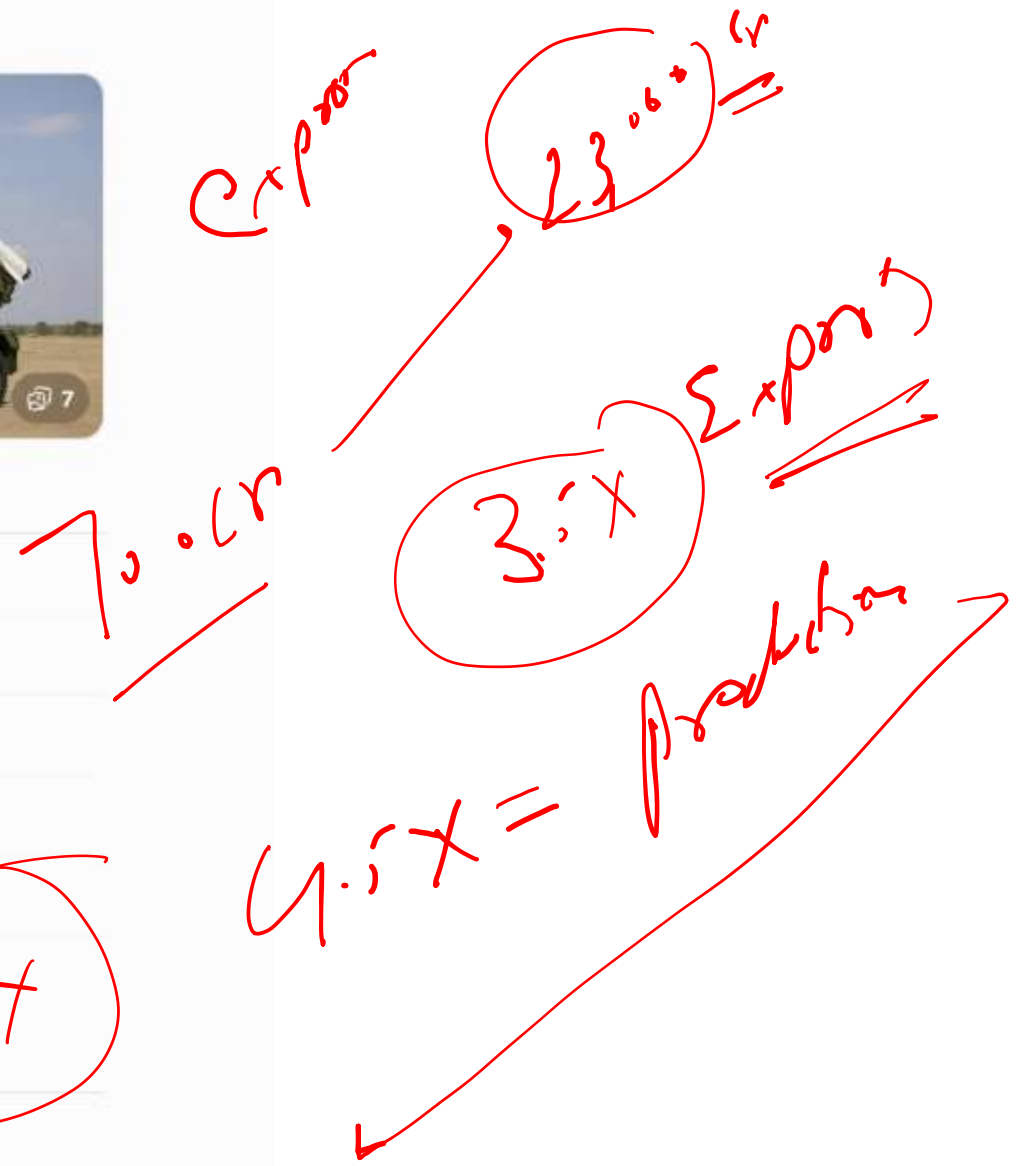
Missile



107

Defence Production vs Defence Exports

Indicator	FY 2013-14	FY 2025-26
Production	₹43,746 Cr	₹1.78 Lakh Cr
Exports*	~₹700 Cr	>₹23,000 Cr (recent years)



Text & Comment

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Additional military aid to be received by Ukraine from allies

20 in \$ billion. Ukraine is working to receive additional \$20 billion in military funding from its allies. Ukraine's Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov said. A source earlier said that Ukraine would make the request at a meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group on Thursday. **Source:**

Retired military personnel to be recruited by Kerala

1,000 Kerala will recruit 1,000 retired military personnel at home guards to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Fire and Rescue Services. State Home Minister Ramesh Chelvathirai said on Wednesday. **Source:**

Persons killed by Israeli fire since the Gaza ceasefire

1,000 Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip have killed 1,000 Palestinians in the eight months since a ceasefire was declared between Israel and Hamas. Earlier this week, the death toll from the Israel-Hamas war surpassed 93,000 in Gaza. **Source:**

Number of countries in Kenya to adopt the Mombasa declaration

15 Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific adopted a declaration to clamp operations to combat illegal fishing. The Mombasa declaration calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership and licensing. **Source:**

Share of stock in reservoirs supplying water to Mumbai

10 in per cent. Amid concerns over the delay in the arrival of the Southwest monsoon, the seven reservoirs supplying drinking water to Mumbai stood at 10.01% of their total useful capacity on Wednesday. **Source:**

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The RBI as its growing fiscal role

RBI's record ₹2.87 lakh crore surplus transfer to the Centre shows its growing fiscal significance, as earnings from reserve management and foreign assets support govt. finances; the trend raises questions about central bank independence, fiscal centralisation, and exclusion of such transfers from fiscal devolution to States

ECONOMIC NOTES

Debanjan Mukherjee
Anshu Singh

Central banks occupy a peculiar position in modern democracies. Governments spend, tax, and borrow. Central banks manage inflation, preserve confidence in the currency, and safeguard financial stability. Their credibility rests on maintaining a degree of distance from the fiscal compulsions of the governments they serve.

Recent developments surrounding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invite a closer examination of that relationship. Much of the recent discussion has focused on the RBI's management of foreign exchange reserves, inter alia, with respect to managing the rupee, including insurance of reserves, hedging through gold sales, and increased foreign-currency holdings.

Yes, the most consequential story surrounding this is the extent to which the institution may be seen to be becoming more executive or fiscalised in its role to support the government.

In May, the RBI approved a record surplus transfer of ₹2.87 lakh crore to the Union government for FY26. While fully consistent with the Economic Capital Framework, it scale raises questions about the evolving role of the central bank within India's fiscal architecture.

A structural shift Surplus transfers have been around the ₹30,000 crore to ₹65,000 crore level for the past few years. The tipping point was reached in 2019 after the implementation of the revised Economic Capital Framework.

The transfer is now at a record high of ₹2.87 lakh crore for FY26.

This move coincides with the phenomenal growth of the RBI's balance sheet. It increased by 20.0% in one year to ₹91.97 lakh crore by March 2024. Gross income increased by over 2% during the same period.

Traditionally, governments fund expenditure through taxation, borrowing,



The Reserve Bank of India continues to operate within a well-defined framework. **Source:**

and revenue growth. Political content is needed for inflation. Borrowing is disciplined by markets and future repayment obligations. Economic growth requires real growth in productive capacity.

Central-bank transfers are different. They generate fiscal space without new taxes, new borrowing, or commensurate growth in economic production. The latest transfer alone is higher than the annual budgets of several Indian States.

This is not a bad practice to make such transfers. However, it does pose an interesting question: What does a stabilising institution start to act as a fiscal instrument?

The evolution of the RBI's reserve management is a good example. The RBI may have sold almost \$12 billion worth of gold and bought foreign-currency assets by about \$7.5 billion in the face of rupee pressures, according to recent reports.

These are standard reserve-management decisions when looked at superficially. Central banks are constantly adjusting their portfolios based on market conditions. Gold is a strategic reserve asset. Foreign-currency assets are the source of liquidity for intervening in exchange-rate markets.

However, the management of reserves has become a financial issue. The recent surplus transfer included a significant portion of gains from foreign

assets, foreign exchange transactions, and interest earned on assets held. The activities are mainly being carried out to ensure monetary and financial stability, but are also producing increasingly significant fiscal revenues for the government.

This is where the discussion transcends accounts. The RBI's balance sheet is now at ₹92 lakh crore. The composition of reserves, intervention in the exchange rate, and asset allocation decisions now impact not just monetary stability, but also the economy's overall health. They are becoming more and more important for fiscal results as well.

The experience of India is different from that of the advanced economies, where central banks became entangled with fiscal policy by engaging in quantitative easing and buying a large number of bonds. In this case, the link has come about because of the increasing significance of the fiscal value of central-bank earnings.

The federal bond split The latest talked about part of this debate is fiscal federalism.

The total amount of ₹2.87 lakh crore transfer is not tax revenue and hence it is a Union government gain. It is not part of the divisible pool of income tax collections or GST revenues which are subject to Finance Commission formulas. There is no automatic share to the States.

States still have significant spending obligations. Consequently, they have restrictions on borrowing under Article 293 and have much less fiscal flexibility than the Union government.

However, since the biggest transfers of resources from the public sector in recent years is still not part of fiscal devolution. The point is whether States have a legal claim to RBI profits. They do not.

The question is whether a central institution acting on behalf of the monetary union as a whole should indirectly support fiscal centralisation, without any notion of accountability, transparency or federal balance.

Dividend transfers, interest, and charges and borrowing restrictions are all instruments used to individual policy instruments when viewed individually. Together, they show a progressive shift in the fiscal landscape of India towards the centre.

An evolving institution The debate over the RBI's record surplus transfer is therefore not ultimately about the dividend itself. It is about how resources are allocated and how the central bank has evolved from being primarily a guardian of monetary stability into an increasingly important source of fiscal capacity. The latest transfer may have eased borrowing pressures and allowed the government's fiscal position, but it also underscores how closely monetary institutions and fiscal outcomes have become intertwined.

The RBI continues to operate within a well-defined framework and retains substantial operational autonomy. Yet central bank independence is not merely a matter of legal design. It is also a function of institutional character.

As surplus transfers become larger and fiscal pressures intensify, preserving that distance may become more difficult. It may also become more important.

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THE GIST

The RBI's balance sheet increased by 20.0% in one year to ₹91.97 lakh crore by March 2024, while gross income rose by over 2% during the same period.

The RBI may have sold almost \$12 billion worth of gold and bought foreign-currency assets by about \$7.5 billion in the face of rupee pressures, with the recent surplus transfer including gains from foreign assets, foreign exchange transactions and interest earned on securities holdings.

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What does the India-Russia logistics agreement allow?

What is BILCOS and does it allow India and Russia to station troops on each other's territory?

Disclaimer

The story so far

The India-Russia Bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (BLSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELA), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of 3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is far from LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

What are Logistics Support Agreements?

A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between

countries for administrative purposes that includes the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel. The agreement also stipulates the manner in which this can be utilised, primarily for exercises, joint training, port visits, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. As defence cooperation and military-to-military relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.

For instance, the agreement with the U.S. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMEOA) signed in 2016, the first such, provides a framework for reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services for activities such as joint exercises, training, or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It does not provide for the establishment of any

bases or hosting arrangements." Millions of States for Defence Subah Bhasme and as a written reply in the Parliament in February 2017.

The total amount of ₹2.87 lakh crore transfer is not tax revenue and hence it is a Union government gain. It is not part of the divisible pool of income tax collections or GST revenues which are subject to Finance Commission formulas. There is no automatic share to the States.

remains the same. There is also one with Oman covered under the overarching defence cooperation agreement.

What is the agreement with Russia? Like other agreements, BILCOS defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airports and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries and the organisation of logistic and technical support of military formations, port calls, warships, military aircraft, and other support.

The agreement was signed in Moscow on February 16, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the federal law ratifying it on December 15, 2025. According to the Kremlin, the purpose of the agreement is to define the procedures for the deployment of military formations, port calls, warships, and the use of airports and airfield infrastructure by military aircraft of the two countries.

Broadly, BILCOS covers joint military support agreements since the LEMEOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries — the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia — concluded on similar lines, which provide logistic support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these

of 3,000 troops, representing a bound upper limit that takes into account the size of contingents and the number of ships or aircraft that may visit during engagements mutually agreed upon by both sides. It is valid for a period of five years, allowing for revision later to reflect changing circumstances and requirements. The upper limit for positioning of assets and personnel would be subject to the mutually agreed upon by both sides, one official said.

In fact, the scale of bilateral and multilateral relations between India and other countries is much larger. Indian armed force exercise with the U.S. now. Also, the agreement does not contain any provision for permanent basing of assets, and the agreement shall be exercised during joint exercises, port calls, or visits mutually agreed by both nations based on provisions of the agreement, officials clarified. "No permanent or long-term stationing has been agreed upon as part of the Agreement."

One important aspect in that BILCOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand resources in the region, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming. (Hindustan Post & Follow; Security Studies at Carnegie India)

Pushis 1 or 20

Del 17

Del 10

Number of countries in Kenya to adopt the Mombasa declaration

1
p

15

15 Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific adopted a declaration to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing. The Mombasa declaration calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership and licensing. PTI



Point

What

Where adopted

Event

Number of countries

Main issue

Global loss

Main method

Details

Mombasa Declaration to fight illegal fishing

Mombasa, Kenya


11th Our Ocean Conference

15

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing — **IUU fishing**

Up to **\$50 billion annually**

More transparency in fishing vessels, ownership, licences and data-sharing



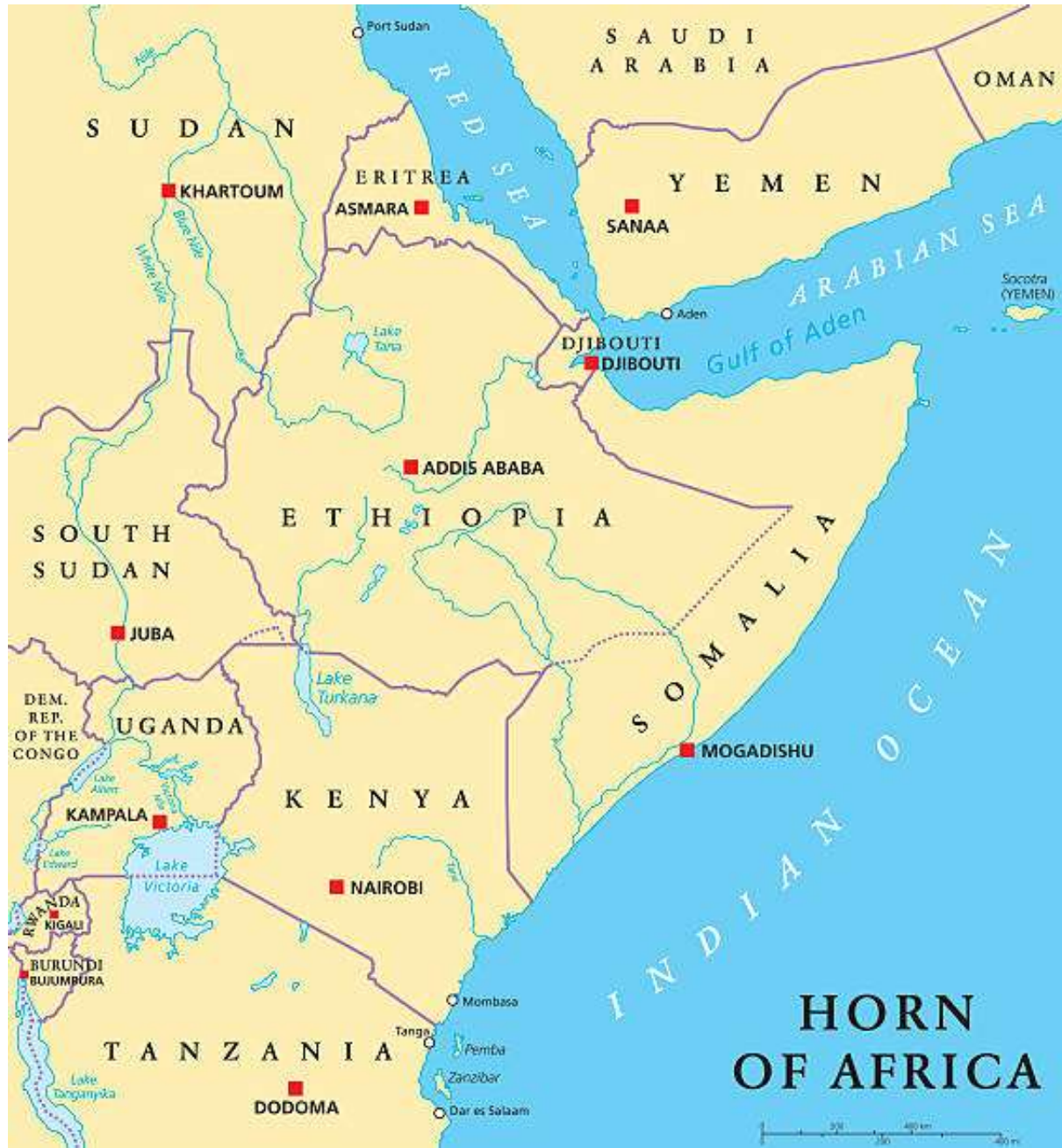
Countries That Signed

Region	Countries
Africa	Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Republic of Congo, Somalia
Europe	Belgium, France
Asia	South Korea
Caribbean	Dominican Republic
Latin America	Chile, Panama, Peru
Pacific	Papua New Guinea

What the Declaration Demands

Demand	Meaning
Vessel data transparency	Public/clear information about fishing boats
Ownership details	Identify real owners, not fake shell companies
Licensing information	Which vessel is allowed to fish, where and how much
Data sharing	Countries share tracking and enforcement data
Modern vessel registries	Updated digital records of fishing vessels
Better enforcement	Easier to catch illegal fishing networks





Why Illegal Fishing is Dangerous

Area	Impact
Economy	Loss of billions of dollars
Food security	Poor coastal communities lose fish supply
Livelihood	Small fishermen suffer most
Environment	Fish stocks decline, marine ecosystem damaged
Crime	Linked with forced labour and unsafe working conditions
Governance	Weakens maritime law and ocean regulation

India Relevance

Area	Importance for India
Blue Economy	India has a long coastline and large fishing economy
Coastal States	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal
Security	Illegal fishing can overlap with smuggling and maritime security threats
Indian Ocean	Transparency helps monitor foreign fishing vessels
SDG Link	Supports SDG 14: Life Below Water



Term

IUU Fishing

Blue Economy

EEZ

FAO

Port State Measures Agreement

Meaning

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

Sustainable use of ocean resources for growth

Exclusive Economic Zone, up to 200 nautical miles from coast

UN body dealing with food and agriculture

Treaty to stop illegally caught fish entering markets



What does the India-Russia logistics agreement allow?

What is RELOS, and does it allow India and Russia to station troops on each other's territory?

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

The India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of 3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is like any LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

What are Logistics Support Agreements?

A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between

countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel. The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief situations. As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.

For instance, the agreement with the U.S., Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed in 2016, the first such, provides a framework for reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services for activities such as joint exercises, training, or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. "It does not provide for the establishment of any

bases or basing arrangements," Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre said in a written reply in the Parliament in February 2017.

If the hyperbole is to be believed, India and Russia can station troops on each other's territory, then by convention, it also means that India and the U.S. can do the same under the LEMOA. But that is grossly incorrect, as clarified by the Minister, and is so for any LSA.

What are the existing agreements?

India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the LEMOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries – the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia – concluded on similar lines, which provide logistics support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these

remain the same. There is also one with Oman covered under the overarching defence cooperation agreement.

What is the agreement with Russia?

Like other agreements, RELOS defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airspace and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries and the organisation of logistics and technical support of military formations of warships, military aircraft, and other equipment.

The agreement was signed in Moscow on February 18, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the federal law ratifying it on December 15, 2025. According to the Kremlin, the purpose of the agreement is to define the procedures for the deployment of military formations, port calls by warships, and the use of airspace and airfield infrastructure by military aircraft of the two countries.

Broadly, RELOS covers joint military exercises, training, HADR missions, port and repair services, medical support, as well as delivery of food and technical resources and reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ship and aircraft personnel.

The agreement stipulates a maximum

of 3,000 troops, representing a broad upper limit that takes into account the size of contingents and the number of ships or aircraft that may visit during engagements mutually agreed upon by both sides. It is valid for a period of five years, allowing for revisions later to reflect changing circumstances and requirements. The time frame for positioning of assets and personnel would be subject to the visit mutually agreed upon by both parties, one official said.

In fact, the scale of bilateral and multilateral relations between India and other countries is much larger. Indian armed forces exercise with the U.S. now.

Also, the agreement does not confer any provision for permanent basing of assets, and the agreement shall be exercised during joint exercises, port calls, or visits mutually agreed by both nations based on provisions of the agreement, officials clarified. "No permanent or long-term stationing has been agreed upon as part of the Agreement."

One important aspect is that RELOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand cooperation there, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming.

(Dinakar Peri is Fellow, Security Studies at Carnegie India)

Item	Details
Full Form	Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)
Countries	India and Russia
Signed	18 February 2025
Ratified by Russia	15 December 2025
Type	Military Logistics Support Agreement
Validity	5 Years (renewable/revisable)
Purpose	Logistics, repair, refueling, port access, airfield access and military cooperation

Refuel / Run / Maintenance / Ship / help

Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)

Military Logistics Support Agreement

5 Years (renewable/revisable)

Logistics, repair, refueling, port access, airfield access and military cooperation

Does RELOS Allow Russian Troops to be Stationed in India?

Short Answer: NO

Claim on Social Media

Actual Position

Russia can permanently station 3,000 troops in India



✗ False

India can permanently station troops in Russia



✗ False

Military bases can be established



✗ False

Temporary visits during exercises allowed



✓ Yes

Port calls and airbase access allowed



✓ Yes

Logistics support allowed



✓ Yes

What RELOS Actually Allows

Activity Allowed?

~~Refueling~~ military aircraft



~~Repair and~~ maintenance



~~Naval port~~ visits



~~Use of~~ airfields



~~Joint military~~ exercises



~~Humanitarian Assistance &~~ Disaster Relief (HADR)



~~Medical~~ support



~~Food and technical~~ supplies



~~Permanent~~ military bases



~~Long-term~~ troop deployment





Requirement

Fuel

Repairs

Port Access

Airfield Access

Logistics

Disaster Response

Benefit

Extends operational reach

Faster maintenance

Supports naval deployments

Supports air operations

Reduces operational costs

Faster humanitarian missions



Similar Agreements Signed by India

Country

Agreement

United States

LEMOA (2016)

France

Logistics Support Agreement

Australia

Mutual Logistics Support

Japan

Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement

Singapore

Logistics Arrangement

South Korea

Logistics Cooperation

Vietnam

Logistics Support Framework

United Kingdom

Logistics Cooperation

Russia

RELOS

India now has logistics agreements with **9+ countries.**

9+

Feature

RELOS (Russia)

LEMOA (USA)

Refueling

Yes

Yes

Repairs

Yes

Yes

Airfield Access

Yes

Yes

Port Access

Yes

Yes

Joint Exercises

Yes

Yes

Permanent Bases

No

No

Troop Stationing

No

No

Logistics Support

Yes

Yes

Strategic Importance for India

1. Arctic Access

The article highlights a major benefit:

Aspect	Importance
Russian Arctic Facilities	Access for Indian military and vessels
Northern Sea Route	Emerging trade route
Polar Research	Strategic and scientific importance
Energy Resources	Arctic contains huge oil and gas reserves

2. Indian Ocean Region

Benefit	Importance
Russian naval cooperation	Maritime security
Joint exercises	Better interoperability
Technology exchange	Defence cooperation
Emergency support	Faster deployments

Area

Russia

Examples

70%

107%

Fighter Aircraft

Su-30MKI

3-66%

Div. 3

~~Air Defence~~

S-400

~~Missiles~~

BrahMos

~~Tanks~~

T-90

Nuclear Energy

Kudankulam Nuclear Plant

Navy

Talwar-class frigates

QS rankings: IIT-Delhi tops India list for 2nd yr, climbs to 118 globally

• TOP 10 IN COUNTRY

National Rank	2027 Global Rank	2026 Global Rank	Institute
1	118	123	IIT Delhi
2	134	129	IIT Bombay
3	170	180	IIT Madras
4	205	215	IIT Kharagpur
5	221	222	IIT Kanpur
5	221	219	IISc Bangalore
7	322	328	Delhi University
8	335	339	IIT Roorkee
9	349	334	IIT Guwahati
10	452	503	Shoolini University*

*BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
New Delhi, June 17

FOR THE second consecutive year, IIT-Delhi ranked highest among Indian institutions in the QS World University Rankings 2027, climbing five places

to 118th globally — the highest ever for an Indian institution, first achieved by IIT-Bombay in the 2025 rankings.

IIT-Bombay, which topped the country's list in the past, dropped from 129 to 134. Last

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- A circle containing "118" with an arrow pointing to it.
- Two arrows pointing towards the bottom right.
- Other scribbles and lines.


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- A circle containing "117 B".
- A circle containing "118".
- A circle containing "100/500".
- A circle containing "M-K-K".
- A circle containing "118".
- Other scribbles and lines.

KNOWLEDGE HUB

QS World University Rankings 2027

2027	2026	
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
2	3	Stanford University
2	2	Imperial College London
4	4	University of Oxford
5	5	Harvard University
118	123	IIT Delhi
134	129	IIT Bombay
170	180	IIT Madras
205	215	IIT Kharagpur
221	222	IIT Kanpur
221	219	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru



India Rank	Institution	QS 2027 Rank	QS 2026 Rank	Change
1	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	118	123	▲ 5
2	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	134	129	▼ 5
3	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	170	180	▲ 10
4	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur	205	215	▲ 10
5	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	221	222	▲ 1
5	Indian Institute of Science	221	219	▼ 2
7	University of Delhi	322	328	▲ 6
8	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	335	339	▲ 4
9	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	349	334	▼ 15
10	Shoolini University	452	503	▲ 51

Indicator	Details
India's Best Ranked Institution	IIT Delhi
Global Rank of IIT Delhi	118
Consecutive Years at No. 1 in India	2
Best Rank Ever Achieved by an Indian Institution	118 (IIT Delhi, 2027)
Largest Improvement in Top 10	Shoolini University (+51 places)
Number of IITs in Top 10 India	7
Public Institutions in Top 10	9 out of 10

University

Mar

Global

What is QS Ranking?

Feature	Details
Full Form	<u>Quacquarelli Symonds</u> <u>World University Rankings</u>
Started	2004
Coverage	<u>1,500+</u> <u>universities globally</u>
Purpose	Global comparison of higher education institutions
Publisher	<u>QS Rankings</u> ↗

Parameter

Weightage

Academic Reputation

30%

Employer Reputation

15%

Faculty-Student Ratio

10%

Citations per Faculty

20%

International Faculty

5%

International Students

5%

Employment Outcomes

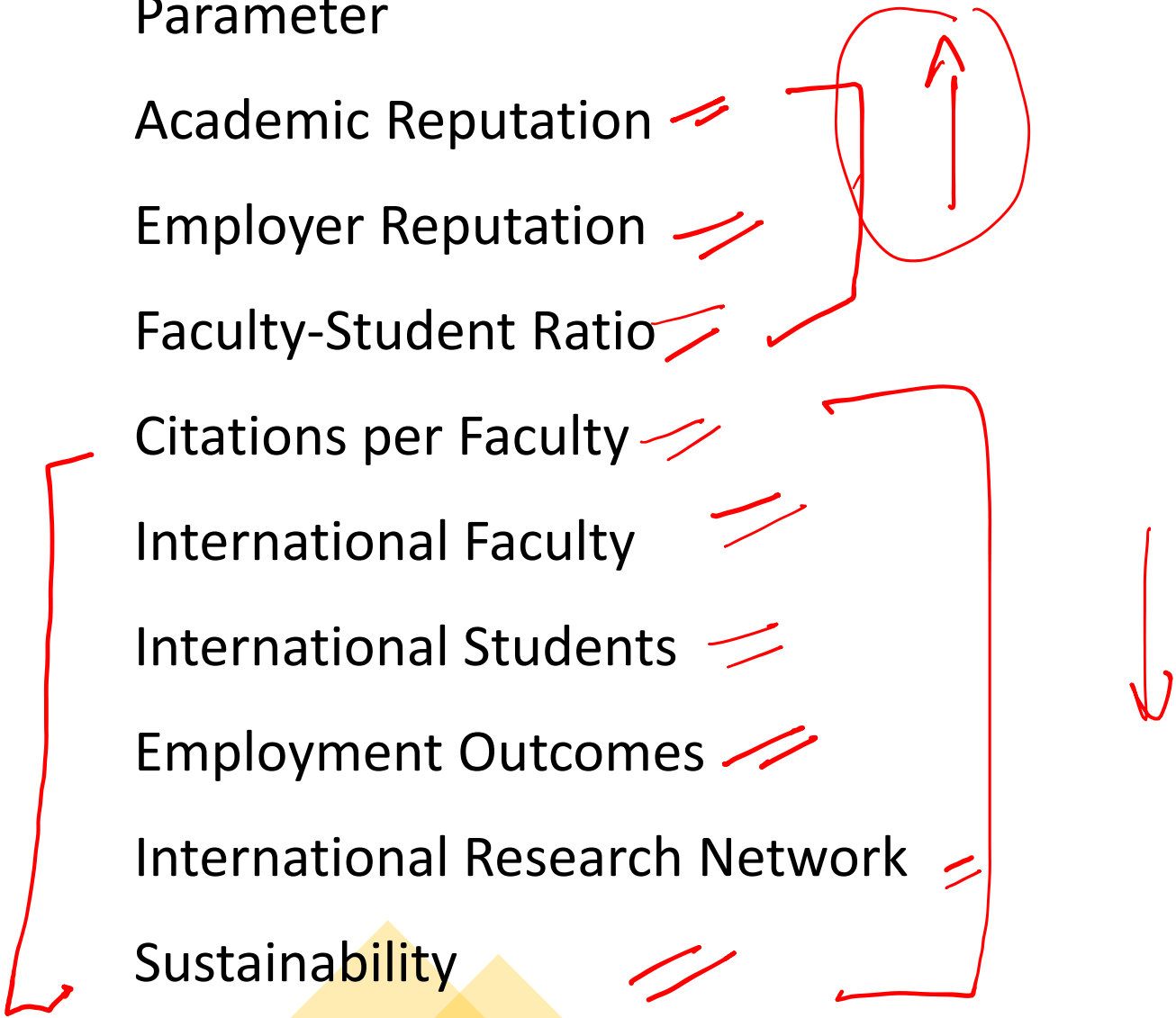
5%

International Research Network

5%

Sustainability

5%



India's Performance Trend

Year	Best Indian Institution	Global Rank
2023	IIT Bombay	172
2024	IIT Bombay	149
2025	IIT Bombay	118
2026	IIT Delhi	123
2027	IIT Delhi	118

Observation

India's top institutions have improved significantly over the last five years, especially IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, and Delhi University.

Why IIT Delhi Improved?

Factor	Contribution
Research Publications	Increased global visibility
Industry Collaboration	Strong employer reputation
Start-up Ecosystem	Large number of incubated startups
International Collaborations	Better global research networks
Faculty Quality	Improved citation impact

LARGEST OFFER IN INDIA'S CAPITAL MARKET HISTORY

10-yr wait ends: NSE files for IPO, may raise ₹30K cr

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 17

THE NATIONAL STOCK Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), setting in motion its long-awaited initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO will comprise entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 148.90 million equity shares with a face value of ₹1 each. State Bank of India (SBI), the largest selling shareholder, plans to offload 24.75 million shares. Overall, the shares on offer represent about 6% of the

»INSIDE«
NSE'S LONG ROAD TO IPO STARTING LINE
PAGE 7

post-offer paid-up capital, implying a relatively limited free float. According to people familiar with the matter, the

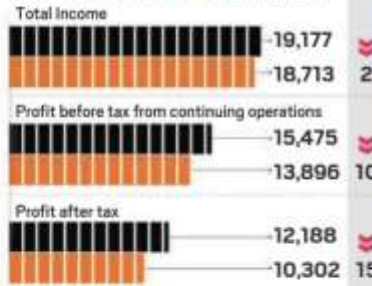
issue is expected to raise around ₹30,000 crore (based on prevailing unlisted market valuations), making it the largest IPO in India's capital market history.

Besides SBI, the selling shareholders include Bank of India, MS Strategic (Mauritius) Ltd, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments (Mauritius), Bank of Baroda, Stock Holding Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, The New India Assurance Company, National Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company.

Continued on Page 16

SET FOR D-ST DEBUT

(₹ cr) ■ 2025 ■ 2026 ■ Growth (% y-o-y)



Top five Issue size (₹ crore)



Source: Prime Database

■ Up to 148.9 million shares will be sold by existing shareholders, LIC will not participate in the share sale

■ SBI is the largest seller, offloading 24.75 mn shares; shares offered account for roughly 6% of NSE's equity capital, implying a relatively small public float

■ The exchange's revenue from operations fell 3% in FY26 to ₹16,601 crore while the total income was down 2% at ₹18,713 crore

■ NSE was the largest multi-asset class exchange in terms of trades in cash equities and contracts traded in equity derivatives in FY26

Reliance Jio set to file for IPO this week

URVI MALVANIA
Mumbai, June 17

RELIANCE JIO PLATFORMS is expected to file draft papers for a roughly ₹38,000-crore initial public offering (IPO) with markets regulator Sebi within days, moving the largest telecom operator a step closer to what

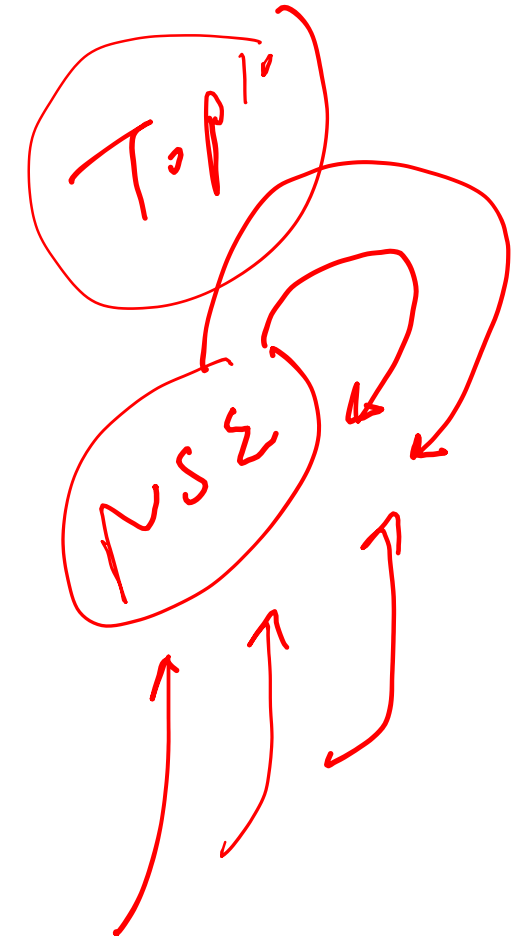
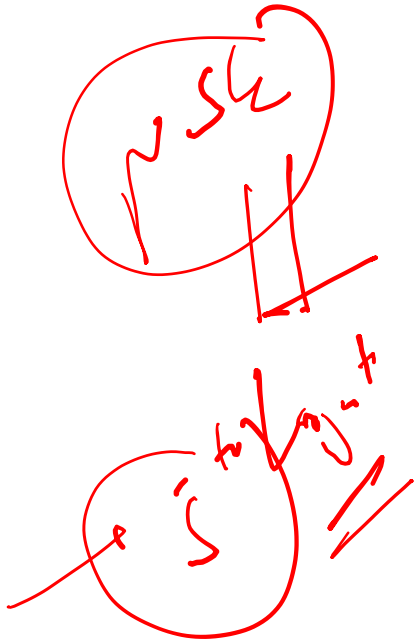
could become the country's biggest-ever stock market listing.

According to a *Financial Times* report, the filing could come just ahead of Reliance Industries' annual general meeting on June 19, where investors will be watching for fresh commentary from Chairman Mukesh Ambani

on the group's listing plans and the future of its digital businesses.

While Reliance has not officially announced a timeline for the IPO, preparations for the offering are understood to be at an advanced stage.

Continued on Page 10



Corporate headquarters in Mumbai

Type	Stock exchange
Location	<u>Mumbai, Maharashtra</u> , India
Founded	27 November 1992, 33 years ago
Owner	Various domestic and global financial institutions, public and privately-owned entities, and individuals ^[1]
Key people	<u>Ashishkumar Chauhan</u> (MD & CEO)
Currency	Indian rupee (₹)
No. of listings	2,671 (December 2024) ^{[2][3]}
Market cap	₹438 lakh crore (US\$4.6 trillion) (December 2024) ^{[2][4]}
Indices	<u>NIFTY 50</u> <u>NIFTY Next 50</u> <u>NIFTY 500</u>
Company	
ISIN	INE721I01024
Headquarters	<u>Mumbai</u>
Revenue	▲ ₹19,177 crore (US\$2.0 billion) (2025)
Net income	▲ ₹12,188 crore (US\$1.3 billion) (2025)

36 L Cr

12 K Cr

AT A GLANCE

Top 10 companies by market cap

Company	Market cap (₹ crore)
Reliance Industries	1,803,278
HDFC Bank	1,211,487
Bharti Airtel	1,142,795
ICICI Bank	958,769
State Bank of India	947,061
TCS	804,156
Bajaj Finance	596,509
Larsen & Toubro	578,762
LIC	528,960
Hindustan Unilever	516,428

Source: BSE



SS Nadkarni (left) and RH Patil — the two architects of the National Stock Exchange

NSE's major shareholders

Shareholder	Million shares	% stake
LIC	265.3	10.72
Aranda Invest	112.5	4.54
SHAI	110	4.44
SBI Cap	107.3	4.33
Mahagony	92.3	3.73
SBI	79.8	3.23
Premji Invest	58.9	2.38
Crown Capital	51.4	2.07

as on March 31, 2026

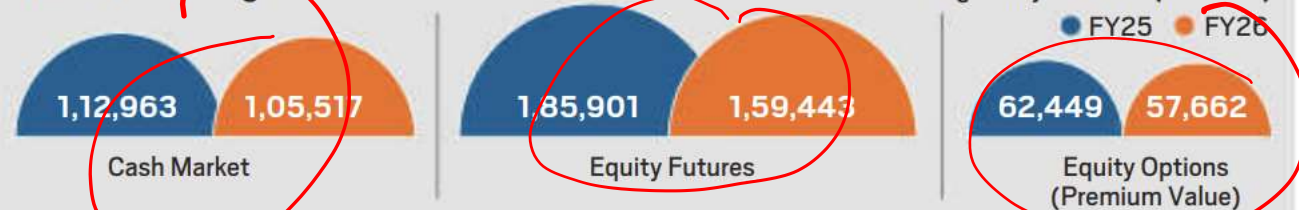
Source: NSE

Market positioning across products

Market Share (%)	Q3FY26	Q4FY26
Cash Market	93%	93%
Equity Futures	~100%	~100%
Equity Options	73%	73%

^ on premium value

Transaction Charges



Word = 75 Bx
= space x

G.M.A = 3 Bx
G.M.A Big 7x

THE TWISTS AND TURNS

2016

NSE withdraws IPO plans amid ongoing investigations

2015

Co-location controversy surfaces; regulatory scrutiny intensifies

2010

NSE files its first IPO application with Sebi

2019

Sebi bars NSE from accessing securities markets for six months over co-location lapses

2022

Chitra Ramkrishna- "Himalayan Yogi" episode triggers fresh governance concerns

2023-2025

Governance overhaul, board changes and compliance measures implemented

June

2026

NSE files DRHP, reviving long-delayed listing plans





1992

NSE

DRHP

Particulars	Details
Company	NSE
IPO Type	Offer For Sale (OFS)
Estimated Size	₹30,000 Crore
Shares on Offer	148.90 million shares
Face Value	₹1 per share
Expected Listing	2026
Regulator	SEBI
Significance	Largest IPO in Indian capital market history

What is an OFS?

Feature	Offer For Sale (OFS)
New shares issued?	 No
Existing shareholders sell shares?	 Yes
Company receives money?	 No
Selling shareholders receive money?	 Yes
Dilution of ownership	Minimal

Meaning

This IPO will mainly allow existing shareholders to sell part of their holdings.

Shareholder	Shares Offered (Approx.)
State Bank of India	24.75 million
Bank of India	Part of OFS
Bank of Baroda	Part of OFS
Stock Holding Corporation of India	Part of OFS
GIC	Part of OFS
National Insurance Company	Part of OFS
New India Assurance	Part of OFS
Canada Pension Plan Investment Board	Part of OFS

NSE Financial Performance

Indicator	FY25	FY26	Change
Total Income	₹19,177 Cr	₹18,713 Cr	▼ 2%
Profit Before Tax	₹15,475 Cr	₹13,896 Cr	▼ 10%
Profit After Tax	₹12,188 Cr	₹10,302 Cr	▼ 15%
EPS	₹49.24	₹41.62	▼ 15%

Why is NSE So Profitable?

Revenue Source	Description
✓ Equity Trading Fees	Cash market transactions
✓ Derivatives Trading	Futures and options
✓ Listing Fees	IPO and company listings
✓ Data Services	Market data sales
Technology Services	Trading infrastructure
Clearing & Settlement	Transaction processing

India's Largest IPOs

Rank	IPO	Size (₹ Cr)
1*	NSE (Expected)	~30,000
2	Hyundai Motor India	27,859
3	LIC	20,557
4	One97 Communications (Paytm)	18,300
5	Tata Capital	15,512
6	Coal India	15,199

*Expected if issue size remains around ₹30,000 crore.

Why Did NSE IPO Take 10 Years?

Issue	Explanation
Co-location Controversy	Allegations of unfair trading access
Regulatory Scrutiny	SEBI investigations
Governance Reforms	Strengthening compliance systems
Approval Delays	Regulatory clearances required

NSE vs BSE

Parameter	NSE	BSE
Established	1992	1875
India's Largest Exchange	✓	✗
Derivatives Market	Dominant	Smaller
Trading Volume	Highest	Lower
Benchmark Index	NIFTY 50	SENSEX

What is DRHP?

Term	Meaning
DRHP	Draft Red Herring Prospectus
Filed With	SEBI
Purpose	Seeks approval for IPO
Contains	Financials, risks, business model, shareholding, litigation, valuation details

Item

Details

Company

Reliance Jio Platforms

Expected IPO Size

~₹38,000 Crore

Status

Expected DRHP filing soon

Potential Impact

Could surpass NSE IPO size



Amid West Asia conflict, bitumen woes hit India's road infrastructure push

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, June 17

THE ONGOING conflict in West Asia has hit India's push to expand road infrastructure. Bitumen, crucial for road construction, was also caught in the crossfire just like oil and gas, with an import dependency ranging between 30 to 40%.

The government has a target of building 10,000-km of highways in the ongoing financial year 2026-27. Additionally, 17,365 km of roads remain to be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Phase-III, a flagship scheme for rural infrastructure.

Bitumen imports have taken a hit after the war, with road construction companies and contractors raising concerns over low supplies and increasing prices with the National High-

way Authority of India (NHAI) and state road agencies.

According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) data, India imported 2.36 lakh tonnes of bitumen in April 2026, compared to 2.97 lakh tonnes imported in April 2025 and 2.74 lakh tonnes imported in April 2024.

Similarly, domestic bitumen consumption has also declined. A total of 5.80 and 5.19 lakh tonnes was used in April and May 2026 — almost 33% lower than the 8.62 and 8.57 lakh tonnes consumed in April and May 2025. It was also lower than the same period in 2024. India requires almost 90 lakh tonnes of bitumen annually. Of this, around 54 lakh tonnes are produced domestically in the refineries of oil companies like IndianOil and Bharat Petroleum. The shortfall is met by imports

• Bitumen import

	Quantity	Amount (in Rs crore)
2016-17	9.51	1,638
2017-18	9.50	1,902
2018-19	8.77	2,149
2019-20	16.3	3,634
2020-21	20.55	4,325
2021-22	25.81	7,678
2022-23	27.97	9,945
2023-24	32.44	10,875
2024-25	29.00	9,326
2025-26	26.51	8,661

Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis cell, MoPNG
Note: Figures in lakh metric tonnes

from West Asia. Over 99% of India's bitumen imports come from Iraq, UAE, Iran, Oman and Bahrain. Zafar Khan, President of the Highways Investor Associ-

ation, said, "The Strait of Hormuz is critical for India's road sector because a substantial portion of the crude oil processed by Indian refineries originates from

• Consumption and domestic production

	Consumption	Production in India
2016-17	59.36	51.85
2017-18	60.86	52.68
2018-19	67.08	55.64
2019-20	67.20	48.92
2020-21	75.24	49.02
2021-22	78.16	51.11
2022-23	80.41	49.14
2023-24	88.07	52.40
2024-25	85.82	53.03
2025-26	88.41	53.60

the West Asia and transits through this route. Any disruption in the region can impact crude supplies, refinery operations, and consequently the

availability and pricing of bitumen, a key input for road construction."

THE MISMATCH

India was not always as dependent on imports. The change has been driven by the mega road projects undertaken within the last decade, through schemes like Bharatmala (for enhancing road connectivity via expressways and economic corridors) and PMGSY.

National Highways have grown from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1.47 lakh km currently (a 61% increase), while the length of expressways increased from 93 km to 3,052 km. However, domestic bitumen production has not kept pace. Imports have more than doubled, and consumption increased by almost 50%. According to data available with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of MoPNG, bitu-

men imports began in 2001-02, at around 9,000 tonnes. A significant increase was recorded in 2013-14, when 2.46 lakh tonnes were imported — more than double the previous year's import volume.

This doubled again by 2014-15, reaching 5.17 lakh tonnes, and continued increasing.

FORCE MAJEURE

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has granted relief measures of force majeure and price adjustment to highway contractors in light of war-related disruptions.

In its June 5 circular, the ministry said for project delays linked to the conflict, contractors can claim force majeure clauses to receive two to four months of relaxation without penalty. The ministry has also provided a cost-escalation compensation mechanism, or

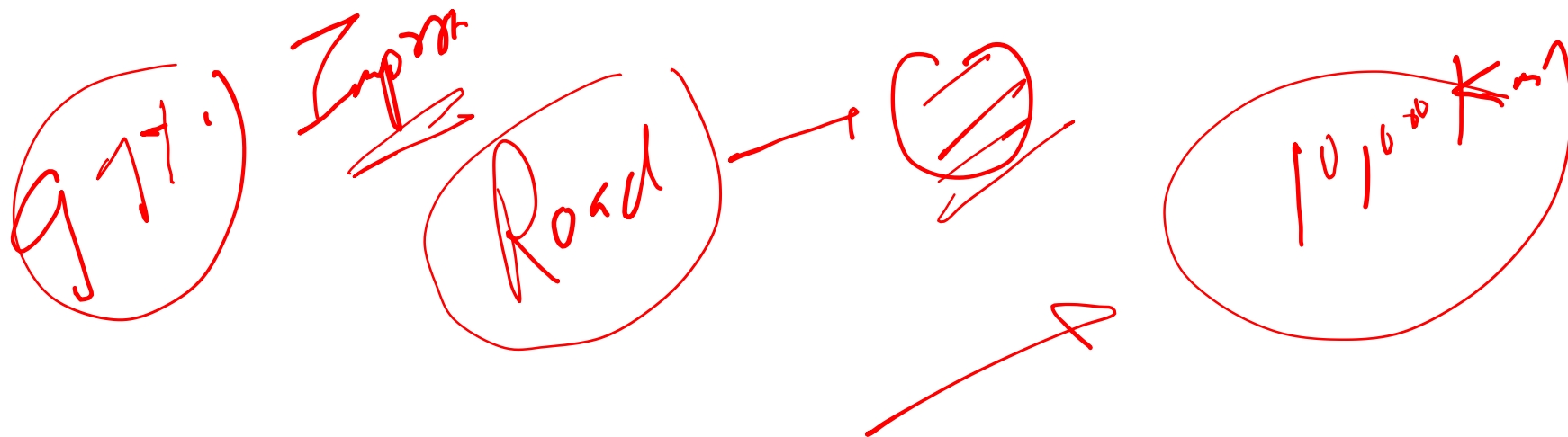
price adjustment, to account for a surge in fuel prices and construction material costs, as well as logistics expenses.

However, contractors availing relief under the price-adjustment circular will not be eligible for force majeure relief. Khan said that those constructing roads under PMGSY and small-Engineering, Procurement and Construction projects are facing the most difficulty.

"While everybody is in distress, the larger highway contractors are better equipped to deal with the situation. The existing crude can be recycled for the bitumen. The government should try to protect smaller contractors from an increase in prices. The price of one tonne of bitumen had shot up to Rs 80,000 from Rs 40,000."

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



What is Bitumen?



Aspect

Details

Definition

Black, sticky petroleum by-product used in road construction

Source

Obtained during crude oil refining

Main Use

Road surfacing and highway construction

Other Uses

Waterproofing, roofing, airport runways

Importance

Essential input for Bharatmala, PMGSY and Expressway projects

India's Bitumen Situation

Annual Requirement

Indicator	Quantity (Lakh Tonnes)
Total Requirement	~90
Domestic Production	~54
Imports	~36
Import Dependence	30-40%

g.g.t.!

Major Sources of Imports

Country	Share
Iraq	Major supplier
UAE	Major supplier
Iran	Important supplier
Oman	Important supplier
Bahrain	Important supplier

Iraq
UAE
Iran
Oman

Import Trends

Year	Imports (Lakh Tonnes)
2016-17	9.51
2019-20	16.30
2020-21	20.55
2021-22	25.81
2022-23	27.97
2023-24	32.44
2024-25	29.00
2025-26	26.51

Observation

Imports have nearly tripled in the last decade because road construction has expanded much faster than domestic bitumen production.

Consumption vs Production

Year	Consumption	Domestic Production
2016-17	59.36	51.85
2020-21	75.24	49.02
2025-26	88.41	53.60

Impact on Government Projects

Target for FY 2026-27

Scheme	Target
National Highways Construction	10,000 km
PMGSY Phase III	17,365 km remaining

Projects Likely to be Affected

Programme	Objective
Bharatmala Pariyojana	Economic corridors and highways
PMGSY	Rural road connectivity
Expressways	High-speed road network
State Highway Projects	Regional connectivity

Government Relief Measures

Measure	Benefit
Force Majeure Relief	Contractors protected from penalties
Time Extension	Additional 2-4 months
Cost Escalation Clause	Compensation for increased costs
Fuel Price Adjustment	Helps absorb rising expenses

Why has the RSS not registered itself? The law and history behind the debate

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, June 17

THE RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) legal status has once again become a subject of controversy after Congress leader Priyank Kharge questioned why India's largest socio-cultural organisation continues to function without registration. He also raised the issue of the organisation's funding, its tax compliance and need for audits.

In November — even at that time responding to Kharge — RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had argued that Indian law does not make registration compulsory for associations of individuals and that the RSS has legal recognition as a "body of individuals".

But Kharge said, in a June 13 letter, "It is precisely because of... scale, influence and reach that the RSS must be held to the highest standards of transparency, accountability and constitutional compliance."

Is registration mandatory?

No. India has no general law requiring

every association of citizens to register. Societies Registration Act, Trusts Acts, Company law and Trade Union law provide legal vehicles through which organisations may choose to incorporate themselves. But registration is generally optional unless an organisation seeks rights or privileges that require a particular legal form.

This is the basis of Bhagwat's argument. The question of RSS's legal status arose way back in the 1970s through two tax cases in Bombay and Patna. Tax authorities had questioned the status of RSS donations — received in the form of "guru dakshina" from workers — and sought to tax it. However, tax appellate authorities in both cases held that under the rules, "guru dakshina" was exempt. This was also later upheld by the Patna High Court in 1994. It was in these proceedings that the RSS was also recognised as a "body of individuals".

Therefore, the controversy is not about whether the RSS is lawful. The debate is about whether an organisation of such scale and influence ought to remain out-



The question of RSS's legal status first arose way back in the 1970s. PARTHA PAUL/FILE

side the registration framework followed by most modern institutions.

One reason most organisations choose to register is that registration provides a clear legal identity and makes it easier to conduct day-to-day operations. Registra-

tion also creates a defined governance structure and continuity beyond individual office-bearers. An unregistered association generally lacks a separate legal personality.

Conceived as a movement

To understand why the RSS remains unregistered, one must go back to its origins. Founded by KB Hedgewar in 1925, the RSS was conceived less as a conventional association and more as a social movement focused on character-building and social organisation. It did not rely on membership forms, fees or formal enrolment.

This philosophy remains visible even today. There is no membership card. There is no publicly verifiable national membership register. One becomes a swyamsevak through participation in the organisation's activities, particularly the daily shakha.

RSS chronicler Ratan Sharda argued that critics often misunderstand the organisation by judging it through the lens of conventional institutions. "Anyone can start a shakha and close it down," he told

The Indian Express. "Shakhas run independently, raising their own resources. There is no central control. So there cannot be any centralised record keeping," he said.

State repression

Yet organisational philosophy alone does not explain everything. Research by scholars Walter Andersen and Shridhar Damle suggests that concerns about state action have long shaped RSS thinking.

In their book, *The Brotherhood in Saffron*, they note that "from its inception, the RSS adopted a cautious non-confrontational approach toward political authority to reduce the chances of government restrictions".

That caution was not misplaced. The RSS was banned after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination in 1948, during the Emergency in 1975 and following the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992. This, scholars argue, forced the RSS to think of innovative ways to remain operational. Among them was maintaining as little paperwork as possible, keeping core operations informal and

spawning a multitude of associate organisations. An RSS functionary said: "Today, given the RSS structure, you will not be able to raid our office because on paper RSS has no office. You can't arrest our members because there are none documented."

RSS affiliates are registered

The result was that RSS sublet the formal operational structure to its subsidiaries. So, while RSS remained unregistered, most of its major affiliates operated through registered entities. "RSS was always an informal organisation. But its associate organisations are all registered and pay income tax. They are audited and their annual reports are published," said Sharda.

RSS leaders say that whenever money needs to be raised, assets need to be owned or infrastructure needs to be built, separate registered trusts are created. The RSS headquarters in Delhi, for instance, is owned and managed through trust structures.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM/EXPLAINED

Is Registration Mandatory in India?

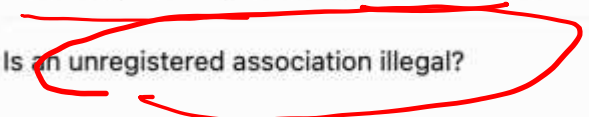
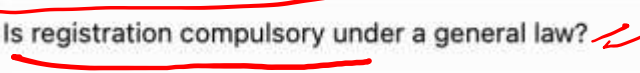
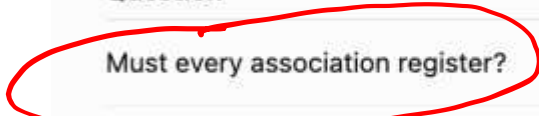
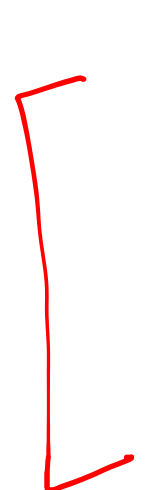
Legal Position

Question	Answer
Must every association register?	No
Is registration compulsory under a general law?	No
Can groups function without registration?	Yes
Does registration provide legal advantages?	Yes
Is an unregistered association illegal?	No

Laws Under Which Organisations Can Register

Law	Purpose
Societies Registration Act, 1860	Educational, social and charitable organisations
Indian Trusts Act, 1882	Trusts and charitable bodies
Companies Act, 2013 (Section 8)	Non-profit companies
Trade Unions Act, 1926	Labour unions

Registration is generally voluntary unless a specific activity requires it.



Smile Journal

Smile Journal

RSS's Legal Status

Aspect	Status
Founded	1925
Founder	Keshav Baliram Hedgewar
Registration	Not registered as a society, trust or company
Legal Recognition	Treated as a "body of individuals"
Headquarters	Nagpur
Nature	Socio-cultural organisation

Historical Origin of the Issue

Tax Cases of the 1970s

The debate first became significant in the 1970s.

Issue	Details
Donations Received	"Guru Dakshina" contributions
<u>Tax Authorities' View</u>	<u>Wanted to tax the donations</u>
RSS Argument	<u>Donations were exempt</u>
Outcome	<u>Appellate authorities accepted RSS's claim</u>
Patna High Court (1994)	Upheld exemption

1970

claim

Dakshina

X

Support

Significance

The cases indirectly recognized RSS as a "body of individuals" rather than a registered corporate entity.

Why Do Most Organisations Register?

Benefit

Explanation

Legal Identity

Separate legal personality

Property Ownership

Easier acquisition and management

Contracts

Can sign agreements in organisation's name

Bank Operations

Simpler compliance

Continuity

Survives change in leadership

Governance Structure

Defined office-bearers and responsibilities

Why RSS Chose Not to Register

According to RSS scholars and leaders:

Reason	Explanation
Movement-Based Structure	Designed as a social movement rather than formal institution
Decentralisation	Local shakhas function independently
Volunteer Model	Focus on participation, not membership
Flexibility	Less bureaucratic structure
Historical Experience	Concern over state restrictions and bans

RSS Organisational Features

Feature	RSS Model
Membership Card	No
Membership Register	No public national register
Formal Enrollment Fee	No
Core Unit	Shakha
Participation	Through regular attendance and activities

Influence of Historical Bans

RSS was banned during:

Year	Event
1948	After assassination of <u>Mahatma Gandhi</u>
1975-77	During the <u>The Emergency</u>
1992	Following demolition of <u>Babri Masjid</u>

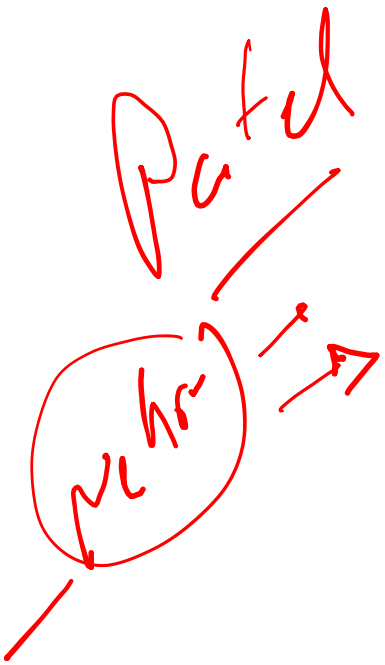
Some scholars argue these experiences encouraged a less centralized and less documented organisational structure.

If RSS Is Unregistered, How Does It Own Property?

Important Point

The article explains that while RSS itself remains unregistered, many associated entities are registered.

Function	How Managed
Land Ownership	Through trusts
Buildings	Through registered trusts
Donations	Through registered entities
Schools	Through registered societies/trusts
Publications	Through registered organisations



RSS Affiliate Organisations

Many RSS-linked bodies are separately registered and audited.

Affiliate	Area
Bharatiya Janata Party	Politics
Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad	Students
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	Labour
Vishwa Hindu Parishad	Social/Religious
Seva Bharati	Welfare

Business

Adu Group

Arguments in the Debate

View Supporting Registration

~~Greater transparency~~

~~Easier audits~~

~~Better accountability~~

~~Public disclosure of finances~~

~~Stronger governance~~

View Supporting Current Model

Registration not legally required

Preserves organisational flexibility

Historical movement structure

Affiliates already audited

Decentralized functioning works effectively

11 year

word

Scoreline

FRANCE	SENEGAL
3	1
Mbappe 66', 90'+6'	Mbaye 90'+5
Barcolo 82'	
IRAQ	NORWAY
1	4
Hussein 39'	Haaland 29', 43'
	Østigård 76'
	Hussein 90'+6
ARGENTINA	ALGERIA
3	0
Messi 17', 60', 76'	

K/105

MESSI FACTS

16 The number of goals Messi has scored at FIFA World Cups — the joint most with Miroslav Klose.

MESSI SCORED HIS FIRST-EVER HAT-TRICK in a FIFA World Cup in his 200th appearance for Argentina.

MESSI BECAME THE OLDEST to score a hat-trick at the World Cup at 38 yrs and 11 mts. Ronaldo held the record at 33 yrs and 4 mts.

Word of the day

Salvo:

an outburst resembling the discharge of firearms or the release of bombs a sudden outburst of cheers

Synonyms: Volley, Burst

Usage: *The jets dropped a salvo of bombs over the target area. There was a sudden salvo of approval.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/salvo

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sæl.vəʊ/



Word of the day

Brummagem:

cheap and showy

Synonyms: kitschy, gaudy, flashy

Usage: *The antique turned out to be a brummagem copy.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/brummagem

International Phonetic Alphabet: /brʌmədʒəm/

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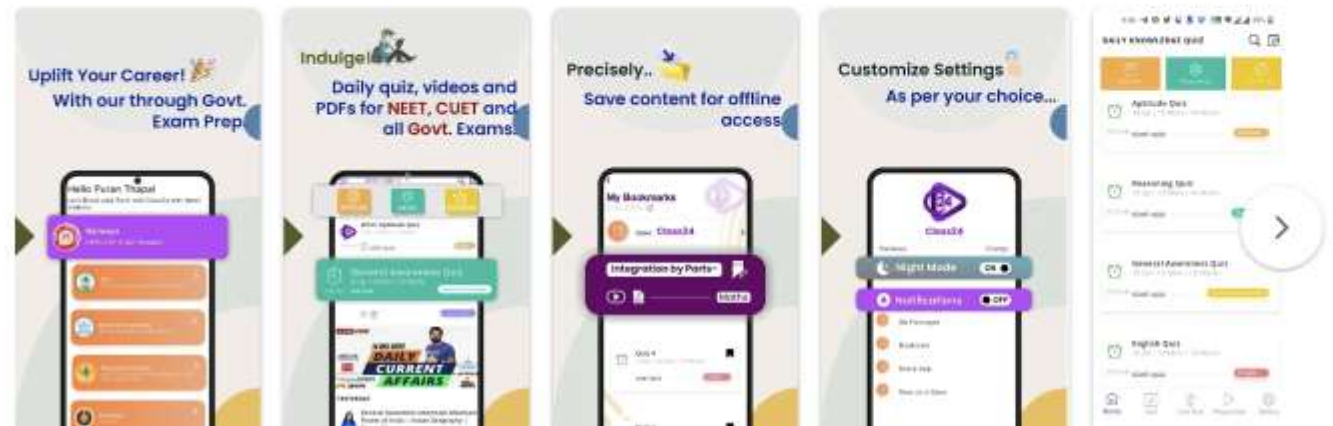
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