

Daily Current Affairs





4

The Hindu



2

**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



3

**The Indian
Express**



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Jansatta

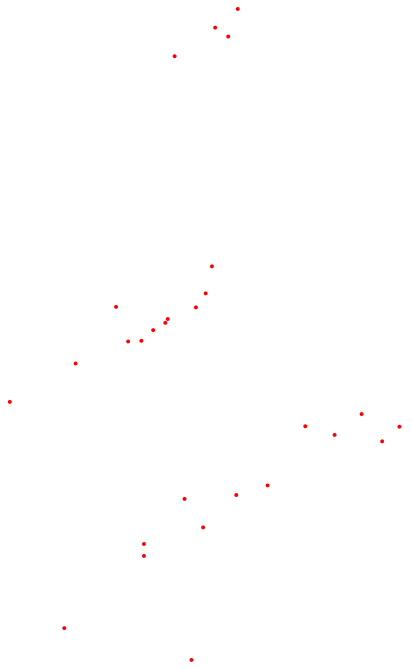


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**Financial
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10 MCQ QUIZ

-  **“The harder you work for something, the greater you’ll feel when you achieve it.”**

04/07/2004 09:30:00 AM 07/05/2004 09:30:00 AM

and the latest contracts value roughly \$4,000 crore with countries, signalling India's emergence as a global defence partner.

At a press conference, Atmanirbhar Bharat is now a "reality taking shape" and India now stands "confidently on the global stage for its defence production capabilities". "Today, India is attracting global attention as the fourth-largest economy. Even in the defence sector, the vision that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had 11 years ago is now taking shape under the leadership of Rajnath

INBRIEF



Chhattisgarh HC verdict on forest rights 'dangerous': Cong.

The Congress on Saturday criticised the Chhattisgarh High Court's decision to set aside forest rights granted to a community, calling it a "dangerous" blow to the very foundation of the forest rights Act (FRA), 2006. In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said one of the "extraordinary reasons" cited in the ruling was that since the land had earlier been diverted for mining and no legal challenge was made then, no claim for forest rights now survives. "There's no mystery about the beneficiary," he said, adding, "Mafadi hut to monster hut," hinting at Modi-Adani ties.

Soldier posted in Assam saves eight-month-old on train

A soldier posted at a forward hospital on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary saved an eight-month-old aboard the Rajdhani Express on October 13. The infant had developed sudden respiratory distress and became unresponsive. As the family panicked, the baby's mother fainted. Sepoy Rauli, who was returning to his base from leave, saw the baby in the same coach, found that the had no pulse and was not breathing. He initiated paediatric cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After two cycles of CPR, the baby showed signs of life and was evacuated at Rangpo station.

3 Indians killed, five rescued in Mozambique boat accident

Three Indian nationals were killed, one was injured, and five were rescued after a boat accident off the coast of Beira in Mozambique on Thursday, the Indian High Commission said on Saturday. In a social media post, the Indian mission expressed "heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives", and said it was in touch with the families of the deceased. In another post, the High Commission said a Consular Officer visited an Indian national who survived the accident and was receiving medical attention in a hospital in Beira. The launch boat, carrying crew members of a tanker including two Indian nationals, capsized during crew transfer operations.

Eight killed, 15 injured as truck falls into gorge in Maharashtra

At least eight persons were killed and 15 injured when a mini-truck fell into a 200-foot-deep gorge in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra on Saturday, the police said. The accident occurred around 10.30 a.m. in the Chatekhadi ghat section within the jurisdiction of the Taloda police station. The mini-truck was returning from a pig-broilage site with nearly 40 persons when its driver lost control of the vehicle, an official said. The injured persons, including the driver, are being treated at the sub-district hospital and Civil Hospital in Nandurbar. A case has been registered against the driver for rash driving, the official said.

SUDOKU

7	2	3	8	6	5			
6	9	8						2
					6	4		
9				1				8
	5	3						
2						9	6	4
		6	4	8	2	3	1	
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★								

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku									
7	2	9	4	3	8	5	6	1	
3	6	8	6	5	1	9	2	4	
4	5	1	2	7	3	6	8	9	
8	4	3	5	7	6	1	9	2	
1	9	6	3	1	7	2	4	5	
9	8	6	3	1	7	2	4	5	
1	7	4	2	6	5	3	8	9	
5	3	2	9	8	4	7	1	6	

Gudalur's violet revival: the kurinji blooms again

K. Ishai
 COMMENTARY

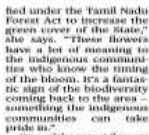
Gudalur is shrouded in mist and kurinji. These clusters of bell-shaped flowers have burst over the hills after eight years, coaxing them vider.

"What is special is that it has blossomed at Tamil Nadu's newly notified reserve forest in Gudalur, the Nilgiris," says Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests. The kurinji is not just a rare flower but also an indicator of climate change. The flowering offers an excellent barometer of the grasslands. Where there are healthy grasslands, there is mass flowering, while disturbances and degradation lead to patchy flowering. "When you provide protection and conserve the area, kurinji will certainly bloom and will bring along with it a lot of wildlife," she adds.

Ms. Sahu says the Tamil Nadu government is committed to create new forest areas. "In the last four and a half years, over 10 new forests have been notified in Tamil Nadu which is unprecedented. These are legacy projects that they have been notified under the Tamil Nadu Forest Act to increase the green cover of the State," she says. These forests have a lot of meaning to the indigenous communities who know the timing of the bloom. It's a fantastic sign of the biodiversity coming back to the area — something the indigenous communities can take pride in.

One of the rarest flowers in the world, the neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) blooms once every 12 years in the high altitude grasslands of the Western Ghats. In Gudalur, the mass bloom is of another species of kurinji, *Strobilanthes scindia*, which blooms once in eight years. Both are grassland species but isolated to different altitudes. neelakurinji occurs in grasslands of altitude above 1,300 metres, and scindia in the lower altitudes.

"Kurinji blooms are fascinating," says K. Kumbharan, an expert on the Western Ghats, adding there are as many as 60 species of kurinji that are endemic to the Western Ghats and they do not grow anywhere else in the world. "While the neelakurinji is the most famous and charismatic,



Kurinji species: Strobilanthes scindia that blooms once in eight years. (HINDU/SHRUTHI)

there is kurinji that blooms annually and several others that bloom in the periphery of four years (eight species), 10 years (over 20 species), and 12 years.

The mass flowering often provides a feast for butterflies, honeybees and other insects. The purple flowers hold a large amount of nectar, which especially attract the eastern bluebirds. In the shades varying from dark to light. There are 37 varieties of kurinji in the Nilgiris," he adds.

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At IMO, 57 nations vote for delaying framework for carbon-free shipping

Vote on implementation of the framework aimed at moving shipping industry away from fossil fuel has been postponed for a year amid U.S. President's outrage; Trump administration had issued threats against countries that had supported it

Jacob Koshy
 NEW DELHI

Pursued by the United States and other countries of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), postponed a vote on a strategic plan to move the shipping industry away from the use of fossil fuel and become "net-zero" by 2050. In April, a sub-committee of the IMO approved a framework to bring in a new fuel standard for ships and a global pricing mechanism for carbon emissions. It was decided then that countries would formally vote in a meeting in October to bring these measures into force beginning 2027.

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At the time, 63 countries voted 'yes' (including the U.S., European Union members, Brazil, China, India, Canada, the U.K., Korea and Japan) and 10, including the United States, against it. U.S. threats While countries such as Saudi Arabia and Russia have been opposed to the framework, the United States administration since then continues to issue explicit threats against countries that had supported the framework. Ahead of the vote in

Carbon-free vision: In April, a sub-committee of the IMO approved a framework to bring in a new fuel standard for ships. (AP)

London on Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump posted on Truth Social: "I am outraged that the International Maritime Organization is voting in London this week to pass a global Carbon Tax. The United States administration since then continues to issue explicit threats against countries that had supported the framework. Ahead of the vote in

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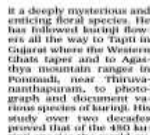
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Mysterious flora: Pradeep Kumar,

At IMO, 57 nations vote for delaying framework for carbon-free shipping

Vote on implementation of the framework aimed at moving shipping industry away from fossil fuel has been postponed for a year amid U.S. President's 'outrage'; Trump administration had issued threats against countries that had supported it

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Pressured by the United States, member countries of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) postponed a vote on a strategic plan to move the shipping industry away from the use of fossil fuel and become "net-zero" by 2050.

In April, a sub-committee of the IMO approved a framework to bring in a new fuel standard for ships and a global pricing mechanism for carbon emissions. It was decided then that countries would formally vote in a meeting in October to bring these measures into force beginning 2027.

At that time, 63 countries voted 'yes' (including the 27 European Union members, Brazil, China, India, Canada, the U.K., Korea and Japan) and 16,



Contentious issue: In April, a sub-committee of the IMO approved a framework to bring in a new fuel standard for ships. AFP

including the United States, against it.

U.S. threats

While countries such as Saudi Arabia and Russia have been opposed to the framework, the United States administration since then continues to issue explicit threats against countries that had supported the framework.

Ahead of the vote in

London on Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump posted on Truth Social: "I am outraged that the International Maritime Organization is voting in London this week to pass a global Carbon Tax. The United States will NOT stand for this Global Green New Scam Tax on Shipping, and will not adhere to it in any way, shape, or form. We will not tolerate in-

creased prices on American Consumers OR, the creation of a Green New Scam Bureaucracy to spend YOUR money on their Green dreams. Stand with the United States, and vote NO in London tomorrow!"

When proceedings began on October 14, deliberations reportedly became fractious. Ultimately, Singapore brought in a proposal to delay a decision for a year. Saudi Arabia proposed a vote. This resulted in 57 countries voting in favour of delay; 49 against it; and 21 not voting.

The Hindu could not confirm which way India voted.

"We regret that IMO members followed Singapore's initial proposal to delay the adoption of the framework by 12 months, which Saudi Arabia called to a vote. This is unacceptable given the urgency we

face in light of accelerating climate change," Ralph Regenvanu, Minister for Climate Change, Republic of Vanuatu, who was present at the meeting, said in a statement.

"The IMO's failure to adopt the framework this week marks a failure of this United Nations agency to act decisively on climate change. This makes the road to B  lem and beyond more difficult. But we know that we have international law on our side and will continue to fight for our people and the planet," he added.

Shipping emissions

The 2023 IMO GHG (greenhouse gas) Strategy – the umbrella framework – envisages, in particular, a minimum 40% reduction in carbon intensity of international shipping (to reduce CO₂ emissions per transport work) by 2030.

- The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** postponed adoption of a plan to make global shipping **"net-zero by 2050."**
- **57 countries** voted for delay; **49** against.
- Decision followed **U.S. pressure** and threats against supporters of the carbon-reduction framework.

2 Background

Aspect	Details
Framework origin	Approved April 2025 by an IMO sub-committee — aimed to set a new fuel standard and global pricing mechanism for carbon emissions .
Planned start	Implementation by 2027 after formal vote in Oct 2025.
Supporters	EU 27, China, India, Brazil, Canada, U.K., Japan, Korea etc. (≈63 countries).
Opposition / Delay bloc	U.S., Saudi Arabia, Russia + developing shipping-dependent nations (57 votes for delay).

3 U.S. Position and Threats

- The U.S. administration under President Donald Trump called the IMO plan a **“Global Green Scam Tax on Shipping.”**
- Trump warned countries supporting the plan of retaliation and urged them to vote **NO** in London.
- His post on Truth Social attacked the proposal as a “bureaucratic Green dream” that would raise costs for American consumers.

4 Outcome of Vote

Result	Count	Implication
For delay	57	Vote to postpone framework implementation by 12 months to 2026 / 2027.
Against delay (Proceed now)	49	Wanted carbon pricing and fuel standards to begin 2025 itself.
India's vote	Not confirmed in the report.	—

5 Global Reactions

- **Ralph Regenvanu (Vanuatu Minister for Climate Change):**

“IMO’s failure to adopt the framework marks a failure of the UN agency to act decisively on climate change.”

- **Singapore** initially proposed the delay as a “pragmatic step,” later supported by Saudi Arabia.
 - **Small Island States** criticized the decision as betrayal of climate justice since they face existential threats from rising seas.
-

6 IMO’s GHG Strategy (2023 Revision)

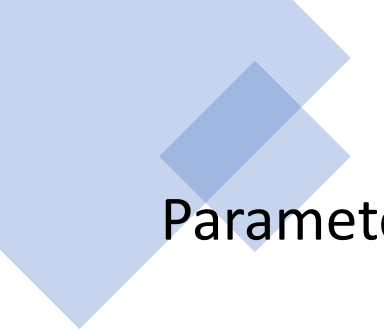
- **Target:** Net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping by 2050.
- **Interim goal:** 40% reduction in carbon intensity by 2030 and 70% by 2040 compared with 2008 levels.
- **Means:**
 - Low-carbon fuel standards (ammonia, methanol, biofuels)
 - Carbon-pricing mechanism (Carbon Levy per ton CO₂)
 - Energy-efficiency index for ships.

7 Reasons for the Deadlock

Category	Explanation
Economic concerns	Shipping costs may rise → trade impact on developing nations.
Political pressure	U.S. threatened to withdraw support from IMO programmes.
Equity debate	Developing countries demand funding support for green transition.
Technology gap	Alternative fuels still costly / limited availability for long-distance routes.

8 Significance of the Delay

- **Climate Impact:** Postpones key decarbonization of global shipping sector that emits ~3% of world CO₂.
- **Diplomatic Impact:** Shows fracture between developed and developing nations within IMO.
- **Economic Impact:** Delays green fuel markets and ship retrofits worth billions.



Parameter

Data

Organisation

International Maritime Organization (IMO),
UN agency for shipping safety & pollution
control (Headquarters: London).

Framework Goal

Net-zero shipping by 2050.

Vote Result

57 for delay

Major Opponents

U.S., Saudi Arabia, Russia.

Major Supporters

EU bloc, China, India (expected), Brazil,
Japan.

Implementation Year (if delayed)

2026 / 2027.

Shipping emissions share

≈ 3% of global CO₂.



LARGEST FDI IN INDIA'S FINANCIAL SERVICES

Emirates NBD to buy 60% stake in RBL Bank

● Set to become new promoter via ₹26,853-cr issue

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, October 18

EMIRATES NBD BANK PJSC (Emirates NBD) is set to acquire a controlling 60% stake in RBL Bank through a ₹26,853-crore preferential equity infusion. The deal marks the largest foreign direct investment in India's financial services sector to date. Emirates NBD will be allotted up to 959 million equity shares at ₹280 per share, 6.5% lower than Friday's close of ₹299.50 per share.

The preferential allotment has also triggered a mandatory open offer under Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers Regulations, 2011. Emirates NBD will make a mandatory open offer for 415.5 million shares (26% of the expanded capital, including the preferential allotment) to existing shareholders, to acquire at least 51% of the paid-up share capital post-

CONTOURS OF DEAL

■ NBD will get up to **959 mn** equity shares at **₹280** a piece

■ NBD will make open offer for **415.5 mn** shares to existing shareholders

■ This is to buy at least **51%** of paid-up share capital post-issue

■ RBL Bank has proposed revised MOA to hike authorised share capital from **₹1,000 cr to ₹1,800 cr**

■ This will enable issuance of up to **1,800 mn** equity shares of ₹10 each



issue. To ensure sufficient headroom for foreign investment, RBL Bank will seek approval to cap aggregate foreign ownership at 24% until the transaction is consummated.

In tandem with the capital raise, RBL Bank has proposed key amendments to its constitutional documents. The Memorandum of Association (MOA) will be revised to increase the authorised share capital from ₹1,000 crore to ₹1,800 crore, enabling the issuance of up to 1,800 million

equity shares of ₹10 each. The Articles of Association (AOA) will be restated to grant Emirates NBD special rights, including the ability to nominate all non-independent directors to the board, subject to minimum shareholding thresholds. These changes reflect the governance realignment that accompanies the new promoter's entry and are subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

Continued on Page 2

Emirates NBD Bank PJSC (UAE's largest bank) will acquire a **controlling 60% stake** in **RBL Bank Ltd** through a ₹ 26,853 crore preferential equity infusion.

This becomes **India's largest FDI transaction in the financial services sector** to date.

After completion, **Emirates NBD will become the new promoter**, and RBL Bank will turn into a **subsidiary of a foreign bank**.

Component	Details
Investor	Emirates NBD Bank PJSC (Dubai Government-owned)
Indian Entity	RBL Bank Ltd
Investment Value	₹ 26,853 crore (~USD 3.2 billion)
Type of Issue	Preferential allotment of equity shares
Share Price	₹ 280 per share (≈ 6.5 % below market price ₹ 299.50)
Shares Allotted	959 million equity shares @ ₹ 10 face value
Open Offer	Additional 415.5 million shares to existing shareholders
Post-Issue Stake	Up to 60 % of paid-up capital
Target Threshold	Minimum 51 % to qualify as “promoter ownership”
Authorised Capital Hike	From ₹ 1,000 cr → ₹ 1,800 cr (to enable 1.8 billion shares issue)

Aspect

FDI Milestone

Capital Strength

Foreign Bank Entry

Banking Reform

Geopolitical Context

Impact / Rationale

Marks the largest foreign investment in India's banking sector.

RBL Bank to gain ₹ 26,000 + cr capital → meets Basel-III and growth norms.

Positions UAE as a major stakeholder in Indian financial ecosystem.

Demonstrates India's openness to foreign ownership in private banks with RBI oversight.

Reinforces India–UAE strategic partnership within the CEPA framework (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement 2022).

Parameter**Value****YoY Change****Net Profit**

₹ 178.5 crore

▼ 20 % (vs ₹ 223 cr in Q2 FY 2025)

Net Interest Income (NII)

₹ 1,551 crore

▼ 4 % (vs ₹ 1,615 cr)

Reason

Slower loan growth and margin compression ahead of capital infusion.

Date	Event
Oct 2025	MoU announced & preferential issue proposed.
Nov 12, 2025	Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to approve transaction.
2026 (Q1)	RBI and SEBI clearances expected.
FY 2026-27	Completion of allotment + possible amalgamation.

Parameter**Data****Investor**

Emirates NBD Bank PJSC (UAE)

Target

RBL Bank Ltd (India)

Stake Acquired60 % ($\approx$ ₹ 26,853 cr FDI)**Share Price**

₹ 280 per share

Foreign Ownership Cap (before approval)

24 %

EGM Date

Nov 12 2025

Approving Bodies

RBI, SEBI, CCI, Shareholders

Nature of DealPreferential allotment + open offer +
amalgamation plan



CONGRESS ON US-INDIA TIES
'INDIA bloc will decide on alliance partner'
NEWS IN PAGE 5



THIEVES HACK INTO LOUVRE, STEAL FRENCH CROWN JEWELS
WORLD IN PAGE 14



CHANDRAYAAN-2 MAKES OBSERVATION OF MOON
SPACE IN PAGE 5



RECORD ARRESTS, SURRENDERS DENT MAOIST NETWORK
Geographic spread of insurgency has reduced
UPDATES IN PAGE 5



TRAVERS THE LAMAR
Australia cruises past India in the first ODI
SPORT IN PAGE 14

INSIDE



TRUMP CUTS U.S. AID TO COLOMBIA OVER 'NARCOTICS'

PALESTINE
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would slash U.S. funding to Colombia because the country's leaders "have nothing to offer" along production, a what is the latest sign of rift between Washington and one of its closest allies. **IN PAGE 14**



MAHARASHTRA ROLLS BACK 'NEARLY 96 LAKE LAKE VOTERS'

MAHARASHTRA
Maharashtra Governor Devendra Fadnis said on Sunday he would roll back the state's decision to allow 96 lake voters to vote in the state's upcoming assembly elections. **IN PAGE 14**

SC'S CONVERSION RULING OPENS THE DOOR TO REVIEWS

COCHIN
Days after the Supreme Court issued multiple five-judge benches against several persons, including the then-Chancellor of a university in Kerala, the court has allowed appeals against the Kerala High Court's decision to allow the state to enforce the provisions of the Kerala Prohibition of Christian Conversion Act, 2011, legal experts say. **IN PAGE 14**

KARNATAKA DENIES RSS PERMIT TO CONDUCT MARCH

KARNATAKA
Karnataka's Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa said on Sunday he would deny a permit to the RSS to hold a march in the state on Sunday, citing potential law and order issues. The decision came after the state government received a request from the RSS to hold a march in the state on Sunday, citing potential law and order issues. **IN PAGE 14**

THE HINDU
There will be no issue of THE HINDU dated October 23, 2020 as Deepavali is a holiday.
Readers can access the Online edition at www.thehindu.com

Pakistan, Afghanistan sign truce agreement in Doha

Both sides decided to establish mechanisms for lasting peace and stability, a statement said after talks between the Defence Ministers of the two neighbours also agreed to hold follow-up meetings

From East of India

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to an interim ceasefire and setting up of "mechanisms" to ensure lasting peace after days of violent clashes along the border that left several soldiers, civilians and hostages dead on both sides, officials said on Sunday.

The breakthrough came following negotiations between Pakistani Defence Minister Khwaja Asif and Afghanistan's Acting Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Nasseer in Doha, facilitated by Qatar and Turkey, according to a statement issued by Qatar's Foreign Ministry.

During the negotiations, both sides agreed to an immediate ceasefire and establishment of mechanisms to ensure lasting peace and stability along the border, the statement said.

The two neighbours also agreed to hold "follow-up meetings" in the coming days to ensure the "sustainability" of the ceasefire.

The Foreign Office, in a statement on Sunday, said Pakistan had agreed to the need for the Afghan authorities to ensure their "sovereignty and territorial integrity" and to address Islamabad's "legitimate security concerns" by taking verifiable action against terrorist threats.

Pakistan launched an air strike near Kabul last week. The strike also began on Saturday with Pakistan saying the Afghan Taliban had launched an air strike against the Taliban in Pakistan's FATA, which Islamabad accused of launching cross-border terrorist attacks from Afghan soil.

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Afghanistan's Acting Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Nasseer (right) and Pakistan's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif (left) after signing a ceasefire agreement in Doha on Sunday.

peacefully raising concerns over the use of Afghan soil by militants carrying out cross-border attacks.

The situation further deteriorated following reported terrorist attacks in FATA, including one in the restive Kohat district in the Peshawar district in recently, which claimed the lives of 10 military personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major.

The Foreign Office on Wednesday announced that a temporary ceasefire had been agreed with Afghanistan for the next 48 hours and the extent of the ceasefire was not specified.

However, hours after it launched an air strike near Kabul, Pakistan launched an air strike near Kabul last week. The strike also began on Saturday with Pakistan saying the Afghan Taliban had launched an air strike against the Taliban in Pakistan's FATA, which Islamabad accused of launching cross-border terrorist attacks from Afghan soil.

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Monsoon wreaks havoc in Idukki, Theni, more water released from Mullaperiyar

Heavy rain in the region has caused flooding in several areas, including Idukki and Theni, and has led to the release of more water from the Mullaperiyar dam.

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Big party: The Republic of India in 2019 to mark the 75th anniversary of its independence.

Israelis allege violation of ceasefire, launch new attacks in Gaza

Associated Press

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Smoke rises following an Israeli attack on a Gaza Strip, in the southern Gaza Strip, on Sunday.

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Pakistan, Afghanistan sign truce agreement in Doha

Both sides decided to establish mechanisms for lasting peace and stability, a statement said after talks between the Defence Ministers; the two neighbours also agreed to hold follow-up meetings

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and setting up of “mechanisms” to ensure lasting peace after days of violent clashes along the border that left several soldiers, civilians, and terrorists dead on both sides, officials said on Sunday.

The breakthrough came following negotiations between Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Afghanistan’s Acting Defence Minister Mullah Yaqoob in Doha, facilitated by Qatar and Türkiye, according to a statement issued by Qatar’s Foreign Ministry.

“During the negotiation, both sides agreed to an immediate ceasefire and establishment of mechanisms to consolidate lasting peace and stability between the two countries,” the statement read.

The two neighbours also agreed to hold “follow-up meetings” in the com-



Afghanistan’s Acting Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid and Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif after signing a ceasefire agreement in Doha on Sunday. REUTERS

ing days to ensure the “implementation” and “sustainability” of the truce “in a reliable and sustainable manner” to achieve security and stability in both countries, it said. The development comes amid heightened tensions along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, triggered by cross-border clashes after alleged Pakistani air strikes near Kabul last week.

The Doha talks began on Saturday with Pakistan urging the Afghan Taliban authorities to take “verifiable action” against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which Islamabad accuses of launching cross-

border terrorist attacks from Afghan soil.

The Foreign Office, in a statement on Saturday, said Pakistan had stressed the need for the Afghan authorities to honour their “commitments to the international community” and to address Islamabad’s “legitimate security concerns” by taking verifiable action against terrorist entities. “Pakistan appreciates the mediation efforts of Qatar and hopes these discussions contribute to peace and stability in the region,” it said.

Relations between the countries have remained strained since 2023.

Islamabad has been re-

peatedly raising concerns over the use of Afghan soil by militants carrying out cross-border attacks.

The situation further deteriorated following repeated terrorist attacks by TTP, including one in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Orakzai district recently, which claimed the lives of 11 military personnel, including a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Major.

The Foreign Office on Wednesday announced that a temporary ceasefire had been agreed with Afghanistan for the next 48 hours amid the recent border hostilities. Later on Friday, the ceasefire was extended.

However, hours after Islamabad and Kabul extended their two-day ceasefire, Pakistan launched fresh air strikes targeting terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan late on Friday. Three Afghan cricketers were among several people killed in the strikes, which followed a terror attack at a military installation in North Waziristan, claimed by TTP.

- Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to an **immediate ceasefire** and to set up **mechanisms for lasting peace and stability** after days of intense border clashes.
- The truce was signed **in Doha, Qatar**, facilitated by **Qatar and Turkiye**, following deadly exchanges between the two sides that left soldiers and civilians dead.

2 Key Participants

Country	Representative	Designation
Pakistan	Khawaja Muhammad Asif	Defence Minister
Afghanistan	Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid	Acting Defence Minister (Taliban govt)
Facilitators	Qatar & Turkiye	Mediators
Venue	Doha, Qatar	Neutral ground for peace talks

3 Terms of the Truce

- **Immediate ceasefire** along the Afghanistan–Pakistan border.
 - **Mechanisms established** to ensure:
 - *Verification of ceasefire violations,*
 - *Long-term peace implementation,*
 - *Sustainability and stability of security cooperation.*
 - Both countries agreed to **hold follow-up meetings** in the coming days to ensure effective monitoring and implementation.
-

4 Background: Rising Tensions

- Relations deteriorated due to **frequent cross-border clashes** between Pakistan and Taliban forces.
- Pakistan accused **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)** militants of launching **terrorist attacks** from Afghan soil.
- Afghanistan accused Pakistan of **border strikes near Kabul** that killed civilians and Taliban fighters.
- Pakistan's **Foreign Office** cited "*legitimate security concerns*" and urged Kabul to prevent TTP attacks.

5 Recent Violence Before Truce

- **TTP attacks** killed 11 Pakistani soldiers, including senior officers, in **Orakzai district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**.
 - Pakistan retaliated with **airstrikes** targeting suspected **TTP hideouts inside Afghanistan**.
 - Afghan officials accused Islamabad of **violating Afghan sovereignty**, further escalating tensions.
-

6 Role of Mediators

- **Qatar** and **Turkiye** facilitated the talks in Doha.
- Their mediation aims to prevent escalation into a full-blown border conflict and maintain **regional stability**.
- The **Doha platform** continues to serve as a hub for diplomatic dialogue involving the Taliban.

Dimension

Implication

Security

Reduces risk of escalation along the Durand Line.

Regional Diplomacy

Strengthens Qatar and Turkiye's role as mediators in South–Central Asia.

Counterterrorism

Addresses Pakistan's long-standing demand to curb TTP operations from Afghan soil.

Economic Stability

Stability along the border crucial for trade routes linking Central and South Asia.

9 Historical Context

- **Durand Line (1893)** remains the contentious border dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan; never formally recognized by Kabul.
 - Post-2021 Taliban takeover, **border skirmishes** and **TTP insurgency** increased sharply.
 - Despite Taliban promises, Pakistan claims **over 400 terror incidents** traced to Afghan-based militants in the past two years.
-

10 Global and Regional Reactions

- **Qatar & Turkiye:** Welcomed the truce as a *"positive step toward sustainable peace."*
- **China & Iran:** Called for *"restraint and regional dialogue."*
- **UN & OIC:** Urged both countries to *"build on the ceasefire for long-term political engagement."*

LDF 'divided' over Kerala govt. move to seek PM SHRI funds

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) appears divided over the Kerala government's move to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Union government to access the Prime Minister's Schools for Rural and Urban Education (PM SHRI) government school modernisation funds, purportedly linked to compliance with the politically controversial National Education Policy (NEP).

Kerala is among the several non-BJP ruled States, including West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, that have not signed up for PM SHRI funds based on the perception that it would be tantamount to complying with the NEP, which the national research, and at Opposition views as the Centre's political tool for influencing on the jurisdiction of State governments over general education, a Concurrent List subject.

However, General Education Minister V. Sankaranarayanan told PM on Sunday signalled a modification in the LDF's political line. He stated that signing the MoU did not signal the Kerala government would comply with the NEP guidelines.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said he advocated a pragmatic approach without compromising the LDF's opposition to the NEP. The Minister noted that Kerala could ill afford to lose the ₹446 crore the Centre owed the State under the PM SHRI scheme.

"The State government



V. Sankaranarayanan

bore the entire cost of school education, including the salaries of 7,000 teachers, with scarce help from the Centre. The PM SHRI outlay would give Kerala a much needed fiscal leg-up to expedite the modernisation of government schools, post-matric hostel, fund educational research, and increase endowments for underprivileged students," he said.

CPM cries foul
The Communist Party of India (CPI) has cried foul. CPI State Secretary Binoy Viswanath told *The Hindu* that the government's last-minute decision to sign up for PM SHRI funds was fiscally non-beneficial.

He noted the 2022 PM SHRI scheme would expire in 2026-27. It entailed no retrospective compensation. "Kerala would only receive meagre funds. However, political rivals could misuse the government's decision to sign up for PM SHRI funds as fiscally non-beneficial," he said.

The incident, which led

Permission denied for RSS march in Karnataka

Group had intended to take out the rally on Privyank Kharge's turf; the police cite law and order concerns as multiple marches were also planned by Bhim Army, Dalit Panthers on the same route

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALORE

Karnataka's Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Khadse announced that the Government had denied permission to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold its route march in the town on Sunday, citing potential law and order issues.

The decision came after the Chittapur police, in a report to talashdar Nagappa Hiranmath, expressed apprehensions that simultaneous processions planned by three organisations — the RSS, Bhim Army, and Bharatiya Dalit Panthers — on the same route on Sunday could lead to clashes between the groups.

Chittapur had attracted political attention as the RSS had planned to take out a route march in the town. Assembly constituency of Chittapur, which was instrumental in the government making it mandatory for all organisations, including the RSS, to hold the route march in Chittapur on November 2 instead of October 18, as was proposed earlier.

Inflammatory ground
According to the report filed by the police, tension had been observed in the town since an earlier incident in which an RSS worker allegedly made derogatory remarks and issued a threat to Mr. Kharge.

The incident, which led



The RSS had put up flags, banners across Chittapur for the march which were later removed by the authorities. (HINDU, ANANTHARAJU)

HC directs administration to give report
Copies of the order have been forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Chittapur. The Assistant Commissioner of Sedam, and the Chittapur Police Inspector for information and necessary action.

Authorise action
Meanwhile, RSS workers, who had made elaborate arrangements for the route march, had put up saffron flags, banners, and bunting across Chittapur town. However, municipal authorities removed them early on Saturday morning, citing the absence of necessary permission for them.

With the talashdar official declining to permit the proposed route march stands cancelled. On Saturday night, Superintendent of Police Adhikari, Srivastava, visited the town and reviewed security arrangements to ensure smooth passage and prevent any disturbances.

Meanwhile, RSS office-bearers have approached the Karnataka High Court over the denial of permission.

The police further noted that the Bhim Army's

State youth wing and the Bharatiya Dalit Panthers had also sought permission to conduct their own route marches along the same path on October 19.

The police feared that simultaneous events by these groups could trigger

confrontation and disturb public peace.

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T.N. govt. prepared to face northeast monsoon, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday said the Tamil Nadu government had taken all precautionary measures to face the northeast monsoon. He also directed officials to pay special attention and closely monitor areas prone to waterlogging in Chennai.

The Chief Minister chaired a review meeting with senior officials at the State Emergency Operations Centre in Ezhilgummi in Chennai.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said, "Heavy rainfall has been recorded in Thiruvananthapuram, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, and parts of the Nilgiris. There is no threat of rain in Chennai. Since forecasts indicate heavy rainfall on October 23 and 24, we have already put in place precautionary measures".

Mr. Stalin said that currently, there was no need to evacuate residents living along riverbanks or coastal areas to relief camps. However, all Collectors have been instructed to remain vigilant, he added.

According to a press release, the onset of the northeast monsoon on October 16 brought widespread rainfall across Tamil Nadu between October 16 and 18. Kanniyakumari, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvallur, Coimbatore, and the Nilgiris districts recorded an average rainfall of 12 mm.

The Chief Minister also reviewed, via video confer-



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and senior officials at the review meeting in Chennai on Sunday. (HINDU, ANANTHARAJU)

ence, the damage caused by heavy rainfall in Tiruvallur, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Kanniyakumari, Thiruvallur, Coimbatore, and the Nilgiris districts, and assessed the precautionary measures in place. He directed officials to ensure the safety of residents in low-lying areas and along riverbanks and relocate them to relief camps if needed.

'Ready relief camps'
Mr. Stalin instructed officials to keep relief camps ready with essential facilities such as food, drinking water, and medical services.

He directed authorities in Tiruvallur district to maintain uninterrupted paddy procurement and expedite transport of paddy bags procured at district purchase centres to warehouses. He also reviewed the rainfall preparedness in Chennai and directed officials to pay special attention and closely monitor areas prone to waterlogging, the release added.

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Khurshid gets Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration held at Charminar on Sunday.

During the programme, the Chief Minister presented the "Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award" to former Union Minister Salman Khurshid for his contribution to promoting harmony and national unity. He said that Mr. Khurshid's association with the Gandhi Yatra spans three generations.

"It is a matter of pride for all of us that Salman Khurshid is receiving the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award," Mr. Reddy said.

Buffalo carnival



Fried buff: People gather for Sada Sarmatha, a traditional buffalo carnival, in Hyderabad on Sunday. (HINDU, ANANTHARAJU)

A.P. is recovering, thanks to Centre's support: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VISHAKHAPATNAM

People have pulled the curtain down on the "dark rule of YSR Congress Party" by voting the TDP-Jana Sena Party-BJP alliance a mandate unheard of in a very long time, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said.

Participating in the Purnima Ghosha here on Sunday, Mr. Naidu asserted that Andhra Pradesh was recovering from the darkness which the State's finances were facing a decade ago. The Union government



N. Chandrababu Naidu

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi supported A.P. by all possible means, because of which the State's finances were facing a decade ago. The Union government

scheme and was also giving many benefits beyond those schemes, he said.

The government sanctioned one Dearness Allowance and one surrender leave to the employees and police personnel, and it was streamlining the "Employees' Health Scheme".

Mr. Naidu said the GST 2.0 reforms came as a boon for business and the common people, and claimed that such a benefit was able to save up to ₹8,000.

He wished that A.P. should become an "AI State", and expressed his resolve to develop Amaravati as a model capital city.

Karnataka's Social and Educational Survey extended again after review

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALORE

The Social and Educational Survey being conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes received another round of extension on Sunday, with the State-wide survey now to be held till October 31.

Teachers who have played a crucial role in the door-to-door survey, will, however, return to their academic responsibilities in schools.

By Sunday evening, the commissioners had reached out to 6.42 crore people in about 1.43 crore house-



Taking stock: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewing progress of the Socio-Educational Survey in Bengaluru. (HINDU, ANANTHARAJU)

holds across the State, barring the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) region reaching 96.58% of the estimated household. In Bengaluru, the survey reached 18.31 lakh households out of the total 38.88 lakh. The progress has been 49.97%, government data showed.

Kerala HC directs TDB to shift to digitised accounting

John L. Paul
KOCHU

The Kerala High Court has directed the Travancore Devaswam Board (TDB) to shift to a digitised accounting system to modernise the Board's accounting practices and ensure financial discipline.

The Division Bench issued the directive while considering a report of the State deputationary regarding alleged objections to paying pension benefits to employees who had retired in 2017 as Deputy Deputationary.

The court was informed that audit objections had been raised, citing a liability of over ₹7 lakh, as many vouchers relating to his accounts were reportedly missing. Following this, the court summoned the



The HC expressed concern over the reliance on archaic manual registers by the TDB.

officers concerned to present an action plan outlining the steps to implement modern accounting and auditing practices, including software systems and digital maintenance of records.

A perusal of broader issues regarding the TDB's financial administration showed that the audit re-

port pertaining to the accounts of 150 temples, schools, and other institutions under the Board was incomplete even now. Expressing concern over the continuing reliance on archaic manual registers and paper vouchers, the court said these enabled potential falsification and misappropriation of funds.

The failure to conduct timely audits reflected gross administrative indifference. Such neglect had rendered the Board a passive creditor and an active participant in financial discipline.

The divine assets of temples cannot be left vulnerable to outdated ledgers and missing records, the court added and directed the Director of the Audit Department to appear before it on October 30.

Kavitha's son takes part in protest, sparks political buzz

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The third generation of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Chief Kalyanadas Chandralekshmi Rao's family is all set to take a plunge into politics, it is believed, going by the surprise appearance of Aditya, son of MLC and Telangana Jagruti president Kalyanadas Kavitha, at a political event.

Mr. Aditya was seen at the Telangana Jagruti protest during the State-wide BRS demanding 42% reservations for Backward Classes on Saturday.

Khurshid gets Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award

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“It is a matter of pride for all of us that Salman Khurshid is receiving the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award,” Mr. Reddy said.

- **Occasion:** Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration
- **Venue:** Charminar, Hyderabad
- **Chief Guest:** Telangana Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy**
- **Award Recipient:** Former Union Minister **Salman Khurshid**

2 About the Award

Aspect	Details
Name	<i>Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award</i>
Instituted in	Memory of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
Objective	To recognize individuals promoting communal harmony, peace, and national unity
Organised by	Generally associated with the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation / Congress-led events
Spirit of Award	"Sadbhavana" means <i>goodwill, harmony, and mutual respect</i> among communities

3 Citation / Reason for Award

- **Salman Khurshid** was honoured for:
 - His *longstanding contribution to harmony and national unity*.
 - His *association with the Gandhi family* over three generations.
 - CM **Revanth Reddy** said it was *“a matter of pride”* for Telangana to host the event.
-

4 About the Recipient

Name	Salman Khurshid
Profession	Senior Congress leader, lawyer, author
Positions Held	Former Union Minister for External Affairs and Minister for Law & Justice
Contributions	Advocate for secularism, minority rights, and interfaith harmony
Notable Works	Author of <i>“Visible Muslim, Invisible Citizen”</i> and <i>“Sunrise over Ayodhya”</i>

Chandrayaan-2 makes first-ever observations on lunar exosphere: ISRO

The CHACE-2 payload aboard the spacecraft's orbiter showed an increase in total pressure of dayside lunar exosphere when impacted by the sun's coronal mass ejection, says space agency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The lunar orbiter of India's second moon mission, Chandrayaan-2, has made the first-ever observation of the effects of the sun's coronal mass ejection (CME) on the moon.

The Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2) payload onboard the orbiter had made the observation.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Saturday that the observations from CHACE-2 showed an increase in the total pressure of the dayside lunar exosphere (very thin atmosphere) when the CME impacted the moon.

"The total number density (number of neutral atoms or molecules present in an environment per unit volume) derived from these observations showed



Direct impact: An artistic rendition of the Coronal Mass Ejection, or CME, hurled by the sun towards the moon. ISRO.GOV.IN

an increase by more than an order of magnitude. This increase is consistent with earlier theoretical models, which predicted such an effect, but CHACE-2 onboard Chandrayaan-2 has observed such an effect for the first time," the ISRO said.

Rare occurrence

The space agency added that the opportunity to directly observe the effects of the CME on the moon came on a rare occur-

rence, on May 10, 2024, when a series of CMEs were hurled by the sun. "This increased quantity of solar coronal mass that impacted on the moon enhanced the process of knocking off the atoms from the lunar surface, thereby liberating them to the lunar exosphere, which manifested as the enhancement of the total pressure in the sunlit lunar exosphere," it added.

The space agency said that this observation

would provide scientific insight into the understanding of the lunar exosphere and space weather effects on the moon.

Lunar base

"Apart from pushing the edge of our scientific understanding about the moon and the lunar space weather, this observation also indicates the challenges of building scientific bases on the Moon. Lunar base architects need to account for such extreme events, which would temporarily alter the lunar environment, before the effects subside," it said.

Launched on July 22, 2019 using the GSLV-MkIII-M1 rocket, Chandrayaan-2 carried eight experiment payloads. However, the Vikram lander, while attempting to make a soft landing on the moon's surface, lost communication from the lander and the ground stations.

- The **Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter** has made the **first-ever observation** of the effect of the **Sun’s Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)** on the **Moon’s exosphere**.
- This discovery provides key insights into **lunar atmosphere dynamics** and **space weather interactions** on airless celestial bodies.

2 Key Instrument Involved

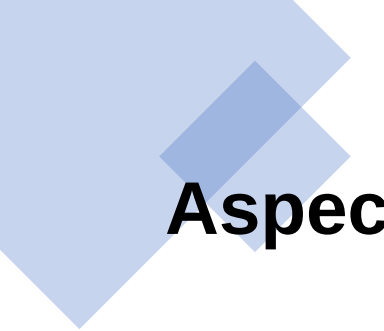
Payload Name	Chandra’s Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2)
Purpose	To study the composition and variability of the Moon’s thin exosphere
Location	Onboard Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter
Observation	Detected an increase in total pressure of the dayside lunar exosphere during CME impact
Agency	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

3 What Was Observed?

- During a **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)** event, the **Sun ejected charged particles** toward the Moon.
 - When this CME impacted the Moon's dayside, **CHACE-2 recorded a sharp rise in total neutral particle density**, i.e., the exosphere's total pressure increased **by more than 10 times**.
 - This validated **theoretical models** predicting solar effects on the lunar environment.
-

4 Rare Event

- The event was observed during a **rare CME sequence on May 10, 2024**.
 - A series of powerful CMEs struck the Moon, **enhancing the process of atom liberation** from the lunar surface.
 - These liberated atoms **temporarily thickened the lunar exosphere**, a phenomenon never before observed.
-



Aspect

Lunar Exosphere Dynamics

Space Weather Effects

Lunar Base Design

Insight Gained



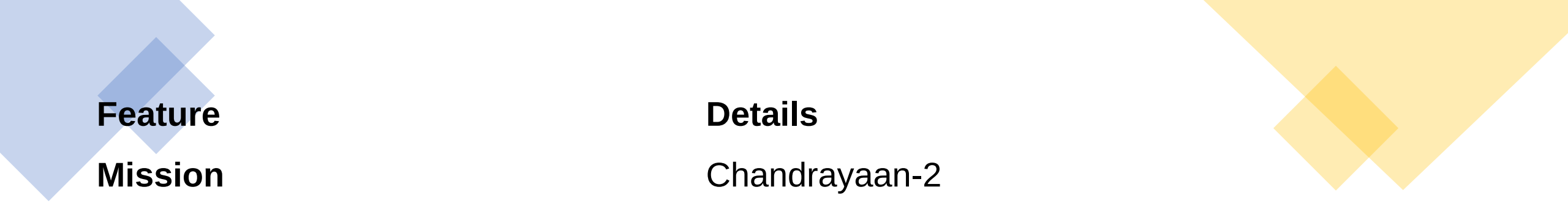
Demonstrates how solar events modify the Moon's thin atmosphere.

Helps understand how solar radiation and CMEs affect airless bodies.

Provides data for future **habitation and infrastructure planning** to withstand solar storms.



Launched On	July 22, 2019
Launch Vehicle	GSLV Mk-III (now called LVM3)
Orbiter Status	Operational and transmitting scientific data
Payloads	8 scientific instruments
Vikram Lander	Lost communication during soft landing attempt
Scientific Success	Orbiter continues to produce valuable lunar atmospheric and mineralogical data



Feature

Mission

Payload

Agency

Observation

Date of Observation

Phenomenon

Outcome

Importance

Details

Chandrayaan-2

CHACE-2 (Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2)

ISRO

Increase in total pressure of dayside lunar exosphere during CME impact

May 10, 2024

Sun's Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

First-ever direct measurement of CME effects on the Moon

Enhances understanding of space weather and lunar atmospheric science



Feature	Chandrayaan-1	Chandrayaan-2	Chandrayaan-3
Components	Orbiter + Impact Probe/MIP	Orbiter + Lander (Vikram) + Rover (Pragyan)	Lander + Rover (using existing Chandrayaan-2 orbiter/relay)
Primary objective	Survey lunar surface, map, detect water	Soft-landing + roving + surface studies	Soft-landing (target: south pole) + rover operation; design optimised after lessons from C2
Landing attempt	No landing (only impactor)	Landing attempt but failed (crash)	Successful landing near lunar south pole
Target region / focus	Entire Moon (including poles)	South-pole region (but attempt)	South-pole region with refined targeting & tech
Tech/complexity	Baseline for India's lunar programme	Higher complexity (lander + rover)	Focused refinement: stronger legs, improved descent, fewer modules, reliance on existing orbiter/relay
Outcome	Success in mapping & discovery (water)	Partial (orbiter success, lander failure)	Full success (landing + rover)
Significance	Entry into lunar exploration	Intermediate leap and lesson-phase	Achievement of critical capability and strategic milestone

The background of the image shows a large stadium with rows of white plastic seats. A set of stairs with yellow steps and red handrails is visible in the middle ground. In the foreground, there are green, leafy plants on the left side. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

Khelo India University Games 2025 Launches in Rajasthan

The fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will take place in Rajasthan from 24 November to 5 December 2025.

The event will be hosted across seven cities – Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur. Over 5,000 athletes will compete in 23 medal sports and one demonstration sport, kho-kho. This edition marks the introduction of beach volleyball, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling to the Games.

- **Sports Disciplines and New Additions**

- The Games will feature 23 medal sports including archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, fencing, football, hockey, judo, kabaddi, mallakhamb, rugby, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling, yogasana, cycling, beach volleyball, and canoeing and kayaking. Kho-kho will be included as a demonstration sport. The inclusion of beach volleyball, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling reflects the evolving sports landscape in India.

- **Participation and Previous Editions**

- More than 5,000 athletes from universities across India are expected to participate. The previous edition held in North-east India saw Chandigarh University emerge as champions. Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University secured second and third positions respectively. The KIUG continues to grow as a key event in the national sports calendar.



India International Science Festival 2025 Launched to Inspire Innovation and Growth



- The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 was officially launched as a vibrant platform to celebrate and promote science and innovation in India. Scheduled from 6 to 9 December 2025 at Panjab University, Chandigarh, IISF 2025 aims to show the country's scientific achievements and inspire widespread public engagement. The festival's theme, Vigyan Se Samriddhi – Science to Prosperity, reflects India's focus on using science for national growth and self-reliance.

- **Festival Overview and Objectives**

- IISF 2025 brings together scientists, researchers, innovators, and students. It serves as a forum to showcase India's advancements in science and technology. The event promotes collaboration and knowledge sharing. It also encourages innovation that supports sustainable development and economic progress.

Name	Dates	Venue / Location	Notes
India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025	6–9 Dec 2025	Panjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab (IISF 2025)	A Government of India science-festival platform, theme “Vigyan Se Samriddhi – For Atmanirbhar Bharat”.
India Science Festival (ISF) 2025	11–12 Jan 2025	Fergusson College, Pune, Maharashtra (India Science Fest)	A large non-government but nationally significant science outreach / festival event.
India International STEM Education Fest 6.0	~9–10 May 2025 (some sources say)	New Delhi (Iisef)	STEM-education focussed event; useful for STEM policy/education topics.

- Uruguay First Latin American Country to Legalize Euthanasia



Uruguay's Senate passed a law on 15 October 2025 decriminalising euthanasia. This makes Uruguay the first predominantly Catholic Latin American country to legalise euthanasia by legislation.

The law allows seriously ill patients to seek medical help to end their lives under strict conditions. This move follows similar judicial decisions in Colombia and Ecuador and ongoing debates in Chile.

Key Provisions of the Law

Euthanasia must be performed by healthcare professionals.

Assisted suicide, where patients self-administer lethal medication, remains illegal. Unlike other countries, Uruguay sets no fixed life expectancy limit or waiting period. Patients with incurable illnesses causing unbearable suffering may request euthanasia regardless of terminal prognosis. Mental competence is mandatory, confirmed by two doctors.

Euthanasia is prohibited for minors.

- **Regional Impact and Comparisons**

- Uruguay joins Colombia and Ecuador in legalising euthanasia in Latin America. Colombia and Ecuador's courts decriminalised euthanasia, while Uruguay's law is the first legislative act. Chile is actively debating similar legislation. Globally, Uruguay's approach contrasts with countries like Belgium and the Netherlands, which allow euthanasia for minors, and with Australia and New Zealand, which impose strict time limits.

- **Ethical and Legal Considerations**

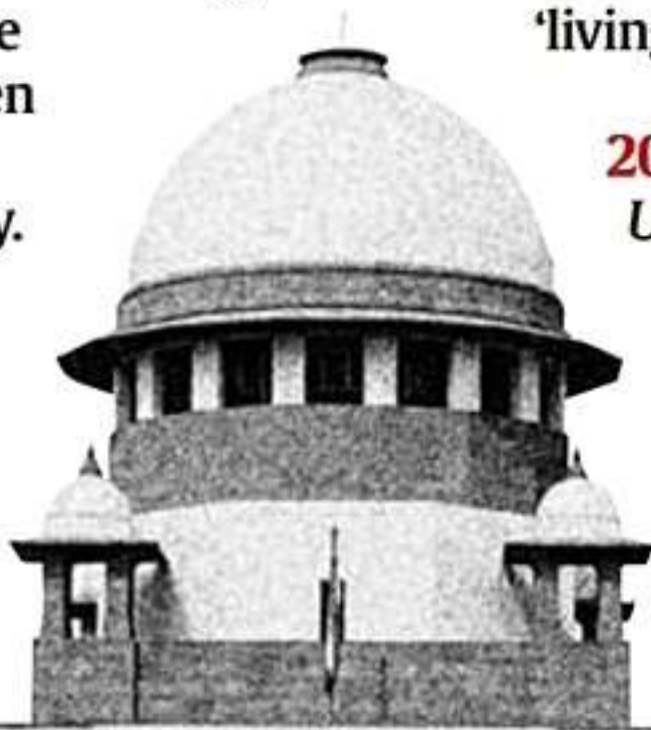
- The law balances patient autonomy with safeguards against misuse. It requires psychological evaluation to ensure informed consent. The absence of time limits broadens access but raises ethical debates on defining unbearable suffering. Uruguay's legislation is legal precedent in Latin America's predominantly Catholic societies.

IN THE SUPREME COURT

2011: *Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India* recognised that life-sustaining treatment could legally be withheld/ withdrawn even from persons without decision-making capacity.

2018: *Common Cause v. Union of India* recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution

of India, and legalised the use of advance medical directives or 'living wills'.



2023: *Common Cause v. Union of India* simplified the process for making living wills and withholding/ withdrawing life-sustaining treatment by removing bureaucratic hurdles.

THE CHANGES BROUGHT

NOW

EARLIER

Living will

An attestation by a notary or a Gazetted officer to be sufficient for a living will

It was necessary that a judicial magistrate attest or countersign a living will

Access to the living will

Living will a part of national health record which can be accessed by Indian hospitals

Living will was kept in the custody of the district court concerned

Primary board to examine patient's condition

Three doctors, including treating physician and two other doctors with five years of experience in the specialty, will comprise the primary board of doctors

Primary board of doctors needs at least four experts from general medicine, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, psychiatry or oncology with overall standing of at least 20 years

Time taken to decide

Primary/secondary board to decide within 48 hours on withdrawal of further treatment

The 2018 judgment did not specify any outer limit on withdrawal of treatment

Secondary board

Hospital must immediately constitute a secondary board of medical experts

The district collector had to constitute the second board of medical experts

State Mining Readiness Index

- The Ministry of Mines has released the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and corresponding State rankings.
- **About the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)**
- The SMRI is designed to **benchmark State performance in facilitating and reforming the mining sector**, particularly focusing on non-coal minerals.
 - The index aims to promote **transparency, efficiency, and sustainable mining** by encouraging competition among States.
- **The structure of the index** comprises indicators like **auction performance, early mine operationalization, thrust on exploration and sustainable mining** pertaining to non-coal minerals.

- **Categorisation of States**

- States have been divided into three categories based on their mineral endowment;

- **The top three ranked States in Category A (Mineral-rich States):** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.
- **The top three ranked States in Category B (Moderately endowed States):** Uttar Pradesh, and Assam.
- **The top three ranked States in Category C (Lesser-endowed States):** Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Tripura.

Word of the day

Slovenly:

negligent of neatness especially in dress and person; habitually dirty and unkempt

Synonyms: frowsy

Usage: *He is very careless and slovenly in his work.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/slovenlypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈslʌv.ən.li/, /ˈslɒv.ən.li/



Thank you 😊

