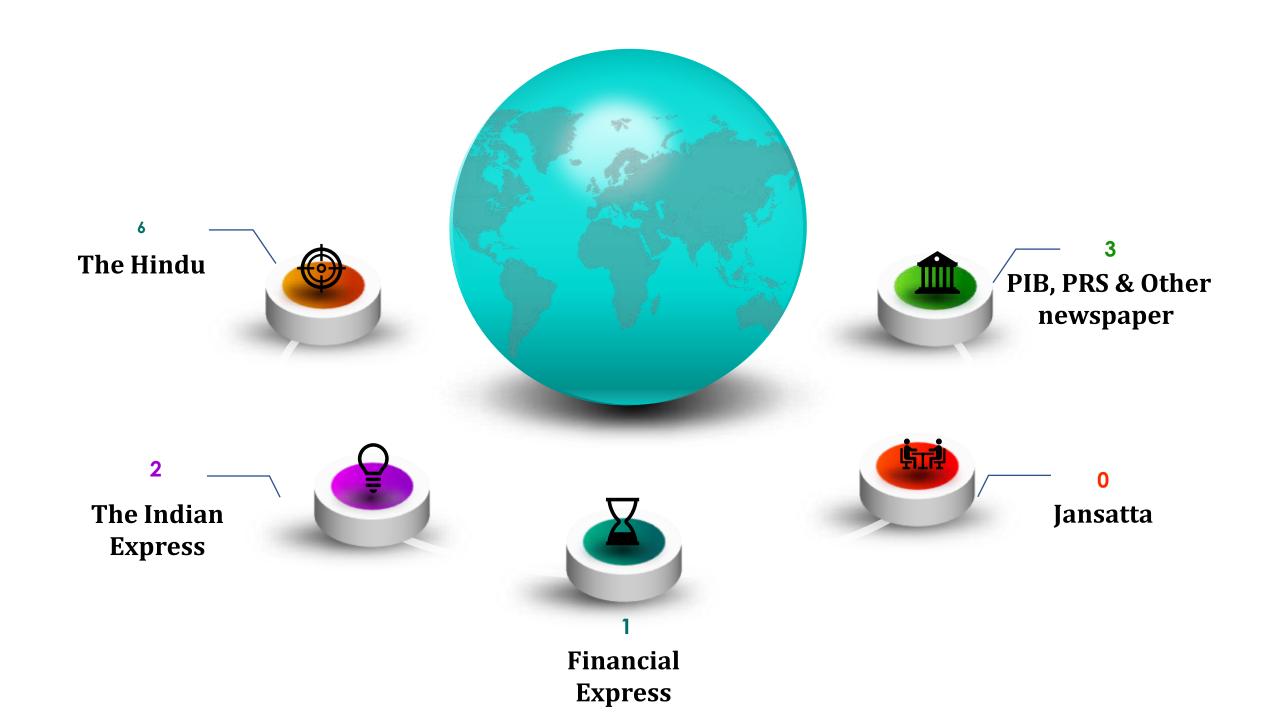


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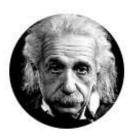


PDF

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"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science."

- Albert Einstein, The World As I See It







the Prime Minister and

expressed his support ownrds indian futuration futuration therease home because

eral Munir to hanch after

eral Munix to hansh after the latter suggested the No-held Paice Prize be given to rough the presenting a nu-clear war". "This man Huniri was extremely influential in an side, Modi from the h-dia side and others. They are both nuclear coun-ties, "An Trump added,

INSIDE

Opening a Consistent R. Transition R. Threaden R.

India won't accept mediation, PM tells Trump

But Estopped the war between Pakistan

and India

Subasini Haidar

ndia doss not and will newsr accept midia-tion by the United Status, Frime Ministor Na-rundru Moet has told U.S. President Donald Thurny directly over a tolephone call, foreign Secretary Vik-am Misri solid on Webless day. He added that the Prime Minister dismissed

fr. Trump's slaims over operation Hindoor in clear

Operation Number in clear terms during the 38-mi-nuis telephone call. However, a fire hours la-ter. Mr. Trump repeated has claims, even adding that Mr. Modi and Pakietan Army chief Field Marihan General Asim Munit had

in a televised statement in a televised statement

tom the Prime Miniater's dance 'India I', Mr. Minit

said the call was requeste-

by Mr. Trump after a meet-ing between the two lead-

ers was cancelled as the U.S. President left the G-7

Summit in Canada a day early, "Mr. Modi firmly stated that hulta does not and will never accept mediation. There is complete political emsensus in India on this matter," Mr. Misri said, in-

dicating the critician from the Opposition parties ov-er Mr. Trump's allegations.

"I stopped war" The U.S. Prusident, a faw hours larer, and. "I stopped a war hotween Pa-adding thus the "lowed Pa-leton" and "(PAI) Medi is a adding thus he "lowed Pa-leton" and "(PAI) Medi is a fantastic man" he would conclude a trade deal with. A While House apoles person add Mr, Trump had derided to novies the Gen

nit in Canada a day

Israeli fire kills 30 in Gaza, over 100 are injured

GARA CITY Gasa's civil defence agency said 30 people were billed by locaet fire in the Palestiman territory on Wednesday. including 11 who were anothing and, is PAGE 14

Telangana flays water diversion project of A.P.

STREEABAR faking strong objection to Janakactsets Polavaram ection to the project proposed by the Andhra Pradish government Telangona said It violates existing norms and will seriously affect the interests the litate or manual of

Back to business + Climber stranded on Mount Denali sends out an SOS

PATHANABETHITTA Shelds Hasan Khan Rom Kerala un a ression to scale the highest peaks of all seven continents, has sent an 80% measage after being trapped term on Hours Denali, the tablest peak m North America, in PAGE 4

Chandigarh tops school education index, says report

NEW DELET Chandigarti has been adjudge

the leat performer in school exturation for the academic year 2028 24, schile Meghadays approach in the inwest rang of a report released by the Green Ministry said, to Pacel a



Fresh sately & followman with his catch of Coles ligh at a joint in Barneswaram. Tamil Nadu on Wednesday after the han on follow imposed by the Mane government ended on Monday. The bar is enforced annually to protect fish during the breeding session . As Action

In a reset, India and Canada agree to appoint High Commissioners and restart visa services

Subastai Haldar

Two years after a major rupture in ties, india and Ganada have agreed in res-tore the High Commission tore the High Commission-ers in Delhi and Ortwa, and discussed restarting talks for a trade agree-ment, visa services, and other dialogue mechan-iama. The decisions came-during Prims Minister Na-rendra Modi's talks with Canada's nowly decided Canada's newly elected Prime Minister Mark Car-ney on the additions of the

ney on the sidelities of the 67 outrach washin in Ka-man to each other's capital indust is a special invities. The Prince Ministers "The Prince Ministers, agreed to take calibrated takes and the statement of the meeting, adding that "sensor and takes and the statement of the statement of the sensor of sensor sensor of sensor of sensor of sensor of

CM ANDRESS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi mesta Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney on the addition of the G-7 Summit at Pananasia. Promis restore High Commission

had also been reanned. bud also been reaumed. "The leaders also dis-cussed the importance of restarting the salide mago-tistions on the Early Pro-green Trade Agreement GPTA, with a view to pav-ing the spream to partner-blag Agreement (CEPA).

AMERICAN IN

They agreed to task their respective officials to en-gage further in this re-gard," Mr. Misri said.

Names ready Officials said the appoint-Officials and the appoint-nueri of High Commission-ers may be processed as early as july, once Canada names it nomines. New Delhi has already forward-ed the name of indix Am-basador to Spain Dinesh. Bernale - Grease Die Se Patnaik to Ottawa as its noninee, it is learns. In addition, the two Prime Minister's discussed

denticitit.

collaborationa in "clean energy, digital transforma-tion, artificial intelligence, tion, artificial intelligence, LNG, food security, critical minerals, higher educa-tion, meshility, and supply chain resilience", a state-ment by the Ministry of Eu-ternal Affairs (MEA) said.

Significantly, neither side directly referred to the case of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who

was garined down in Gana-da two years ago, which led to a rift in bilateral ties. led to a rift in bilaterial line. However, Mr. Carruey re-ferred to the problem of "manufactional representation". "PM Carruey raised priorities on the Gr Agen-da, including transmitional crime and represention, ac-carity, and the rules-based order." a readout by the Caorder," a readout by the Ca-

nadian Prime Minister's of-fice said. In a joint statement on anstational repression in In a joint statement on transmittonal repression la-sued aeparately, G-7 lead-ers condemned all vio-lencer and hurasment agoinst "dissidents, jour-nalists, human rights de-fenders, religious minuri-ties" by other countries.

(Shinis) and a second



Mr. Minri said Mr. "Prime Mi clearly conver dent Trump point during I quence of eve

tell the hat was 'ump'	India, Croatia plan long-term defence ties: PM	dia's strikes on Pakistan on May 2. Mr. Trump had re- peatedly-claimed credit for the ceasefice on May 10,
s Wednesday Minister must take the Idense and what he has what he has built Danald	NEW DRLID India and Craatis will inside bing term plans for deepening the defence partnership, PM Narendo Mont and in Starych, ensemble work on separation in space venues with the country, a PAGE 8	mying he had averied a "nuclear conflict" between india and Pakistan using trade as a leverage, and both U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rulino, and Com- merce Secretary Howard Latnick have officially re- peated the claims. In this statement on
inister Modi yed to Prosi- that at no this onlire ac- nits was there in, at any le- the U.S. bes- nol Pukistan, ⁹ I, adding Mr. and Pukistan, ⁹ I, adding Mr.	pressed his support to- wards india's highs against terrorians. Fight against terror The Miniatry of Saternal Affairs (MEA) did not res- pond to Mr. Prump's latest pond to Mr. Prump's latest respeated more than a do- respeated more than a do- respeated more than a do- past six weeds alnce Opera- past six weeds alnce Opera-	board the Prime Stinatory attractar, Mr. Marri said the two isaders had also di- cussed the singeing conflict and called first a "first di- order and a struct di- order de alled first a "first di- caterided an invitation to accerded an invitation to the Quad summit, expect- el to be hedd in Nevember files year, and that the US, President accepted the

Iran will never surrender. says Ayatollah Khamenei

Iran's Supreme Leader Agatoliah Ali Khamensi anid on Wednesday that the nation would never surrender, and warned the

nurrender, and warned the United Stores of "irrepara-ble damage" if it inter-vence, while firstal stati it had destroyed the internal sociently hoostkynatives in which is the statistical statistics of the statistical statistics of the Mr. Rhamment's appech came six days into the coor-flict that bagan when israel launched a borbhing cam-paign that prompted fran to respond with mitaide honaid Triang- had de-manded Triang- 'uncordimanded Iran's "uncondi-tional surrender" on Tues-day. "This nation will never surrender," Mr. Khamenei surrender," Mr. Khamenei said in a speech, in which he called Mr. Trumy's ulti-manum "unacceptrable". "America shauld know that any military interven-tion will undoubtedly re-uult in treparable dam-age," he said. Mr. Khamenei in power since 1989, had surfler vowed he country would show

1989, had airlier vowed the country would show "no metry" towards is-med's leaders. The long-range bits br-gen on lure D, when isned launched a maniwe bomb-ed tran is respond with missiles and domes. Over 50 fighter jets tense's Defence Minister is-rael Kats on Wednesday sold that jets had destroyed tensor presented

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India's Operation Sindhu evacuates 110 from Iran

Alisha Dutta

110 Indian students from IIO Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi on Thursday morning. The embasy assisted the students to cross over to Yorevan, Armenia via land reason or Torestor. As Israel-Iran conflict rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Studius on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran. As a first step, the Indian routes on Tuesday. PHLL REPORT **Erchancy has evaluated** I PAGE A

symbols of governance and hit the Avatollah regime wherever it may be", "More than 50 Israeli scrambled to evacuate their citizens from both countries. Some braelis stranded Air Force fighter jets... car-ried out a series of air strikes in the Tehran area abroad ance last week de cided to return home however. however, Since Friday, at least 24, people have lisen killed in lettel and hundreds wounded, Netanyahu's of-fice said on Monilay. Iran said on Sunday that branch strikes had killed at here its research side designed. strikes in the "behan area over the past few hours," the toract military said, ad-ding that several weapons manufacturing facilities and a centrifuge produc-tion aire were hit. rand that your Addestroyed and that your Addestroyed ran's firsteriad security my announced it was arrive ung announced it was arrive and that your Addestroyed addestroyed its was arrive and they have a security my announced its was arrive and they have a security my announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive and they have a security the announced its was arrive to the announced its arrive to the announced its was arrive to the announc

least 224 people, including military commanders, m char scientists tarnal said its surprise air campaign was aimed at preventing from from acquiring nuclear weapons an ambition Tehra

U.S. MAY OR MAY NOT JOIN IF diam's and -.....





In a phone call, Modi dismissed U.S. President's distribution of brokering Indo-Pak. ceasefire, says Misri chief Munir had been 'helpful' in 'stopping the war' Meditor and the was travelling to Croatia rikes on Pakistan or

I CALLER P. Farm

Iran will never surrender, says Ayatollah Khamenei

Agence France-Presse TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that the nation would never surrender, and warned the United States of "irreparable damage" if it intervenes, while Israel said it had destroyed the internal security headquarters in Tehran.

Mr. Khamenei's speech came six days into the conflict that began when Israel launched a bombing campaign that prompted Iran to respond with missile and drones. U.S. President Donald Trump had demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender" on Tuesday. "This nation will never surrender," Mr. Khamenei said in a speech, in which he called Mr. Trump's ultimatum "unacceptable". "America should know that any military intervention will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage," he said. Mr. Khamenei in power since 1989, had earlier vowed the country would show "no mercy" towards Israel's leaders. The long-range blitz began on June 13, when Israel launched a massive bomb-

ing campaign that prompted Iran to respond with missiles and drones.

Over 50 fighter jets Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz on Wednesday said that jets had destroyed Iran's internal security headquarters after the Ar-

my announced it was striking military targets in Iran's capital Tehran. "Air Force jets have just destroyed the internal se-

curity headquarters of the Iranian regime - the main arm of repression of the Iranian dictator," the Israeli Minister said in a statement, vowing to "strike



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the United States of 'irreparable damage' if it intervenes. AFP

India's Operation Sindhu evacuates 110 from Iran

Alisha Dutta NEW DELHI

As Israel-Iran conflict rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran. As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated

the Israeli military said, ad-

ding that several weapons

manufacturing facilities

and a centrifuge produc-

site in Tehran, "one build-

ing was hit where ad-

vanced centrifuge rotors

were manufactured and

tested", the agency added

Guards said they had

launched hypersonic Fat-

Residential areas in Is-

tah-1 missiles at Tel Aviv.

Iran's Revolutionary

In another strike on a

tion site were hit.

in a post on X.

symbols of governance and hit the Ayatollah regime wherever it may be".

"More than 50 Israeli Some Israelis stranded Air Force fighter jets... carried out a series of air strikes in the Tehran area however. Since Friday, at least 24 over the past few hours,"

people have been killed in Israel and hundreds wounded, Netanyahu's office said on Monday.

> Iran said on Sunday that scientists and

Israel said its surprise air campaign was aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons an ambition Tehran

U.S. HAY OR MAY NOT JOIN IN

110 Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi on Thursday morning. The embassy assisted the students to cross over to Yerevan, Armenia via land routes on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 4

scrambled to evacuate their citizens from both countries.

> abroad since last week decided to return home,

Israeli strikes had killed at least 224 people, including military commanders, nuclear civilians.

denies.

rael have also been hit, and foreign governments have » PAGE 14

India launches Operation Sindhu, evacuates 110 students from Iran

90 students are from Jammu and Kashmir, while the rest are from Karnataka and U.P.; they will arrive in New Delhi today morning; nearly 90 pilgrims from U.P. who are stuck in Iran say they are not aware of Centre's evacuation plan

Alisha Dutta NEW DELHI

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s the conflict between Israel and Iran rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran. As a first step, the Indian

Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi on Thursday morning.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the
embassy assisted the students to cross over to Yerevan, Armenia via land
routes on Tuesday, from
where they left on a special
flight at 2.55 p.m. (IST) on
Wednesday. They will arrive in New Delhi in the
early hours of Thursday as
part of the first phase of

Mohammad Javad Hosseini, Deputy Ambassador of Iran to India, told presspersons that Iran was committed to protecting the foreign nationals hosted by the country. "We had strong cooperation between our Ministries in Tehran and the Indian Embassy to ensure the safe evacuation of Indian nationals or those who are willing to leave the country, in line with the evacuation programme defined

Operation Sindhu.

tion programme defined by the Indian Embassy in Tehran," he said.

Safe passage

Tamheed Mughal, one of the 110 students on the flight from Yerevan to New Delhi via Doha, told *The Hindu* that after Tehran was bombed by Israel, they were moved to a safe accommodation in Qom



Rescue bird: Kashmiri students wait to board a flight to India at the Yerevan International Airport in Armenia on Wednesday. PTI

he said.

from where they were taken to Armenia on a bus.

"After reaching Yerevan, we were informed that we will be boarding a flight around 3 p.m. IST to Doha. From there, another flight is scheduled to New Delhi around 10.15 p.m. (IST)," He said that 90 out of the 110 students were from Jammu and Kashmir who were pursuing medical degrees in Iran, while the rest were from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Another student, Abrar,

a final-year MBBS student from the Tehran University who is yet to be evacuated, said: "When Israel launched an air strike in Tehran, the men's dormitory [in the university] was hit, and two of my peers were injured," he said. Both were Kashmiri students, he added.

In Qom, Tatheer Fatima, a 35-year-old pilgrim from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, told *The Hindu* that the situation is worsening by the hour.

"We have not been able to contact the Indian Embassy and have no idea about the evacuation plan; meanwhile accessing essential medicines and child care has become increasingly difficult," she said.

The Lucknow resident is accompanied by 96 people, mostly elderly women and at least two minors.

1. Operation Sindhu – Evacuation Diplomacy

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Operation	Country	Trigger
Sindhu (2025)	Iran	Israel-Iran conflict
Raahat (2015)	Yemen	Civil war
Ganga (2022)	Ukraine	Russian invasion
Devi Shakti (2021)	Afghanistan	Taliban takeover

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- 1. Operation Sindhu Launched
 - India began evacuating Indian nationals from Iran due to the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict.
 - The first batch of 110 Indian students, mostly from northern Iran, was flown back to India.
- 2. Breakdown of Evacuees
 - 90 out of 110 students were from Jammu & Kashmir, mostly medical students.
 - Others were from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - Route:
 - Tehran → Yerevan, Armenia (by bus)
 - Yerevan → Doha → New Delhi

3. Iranian Govt Support

- Iran's Deputy Ambassador to India, Mohammad Javad Hosseini, confirmed Iran's support and safety cooperation for Indian nationals.
- Coordination was maintained between the Indian Embassy in Tehran and Iranian ministries.
- 4. Critical Situation on the Ground
 - Students reported:
 - Injuries from Israeli airstrikes at **Tehran University dormitory**.
 - Worsening access to essential medicine and childcare.
 - Example:
 - **Tatheer Fatima**, a pilgrim from Lucknow, mentioned the plight of 96 other pilgrims (women, elderly, minors) stranded in Qom.
- 5. Challenges for Remaining Indians
 - 90+ pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh unaware of evacuation plans.
 - Complaints of no contact with Indian Embassy, especially in cities like Qom.

- Q. With reference to 'Operation Sindhu' conducted by India in 2025, consider the following statements:
- It was launched to evacuate Indian nationals from Yemen.
- The majority of evacuees were medical students from Jammu & Kashmir.
- The operation involved travel through Armenia and Qatar before reaching India.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3



THE HIND News

Goyal optimistic about signing initial part of trade deal with U.S. by July 9

Union Commerce Minister says the two countries are in continuous dialogue, and given that the US and India are very triendly countries and trusted partners, 'we will be able to come up with a win-win for the businesses of both countries'

Sciram Labahman

starting in early July.

discounts .

try university (iii)

an Hushi of wirst transfe big ships? (kil)

Man mates in Irolla, they provide support 100 Spiders are set in shot mi

houses under PMAY scheme

R . Dr. Barris

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The Garties on Wednesday approved constraint on of 2.38 lakh houses under the systemation of 2.38 lakh houses under the given at the final meeting of the Consta Sanctoning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) Chaired by Strinkes Kathkahai, Secretary and the Constant of the Constant of the Constant and the Constant of the Constant of the Constant and the Constant of the Constant of the Constant of t

Centre greenlights 2.35 lakh

FASTag pass for ₹3,000 to allow 200 trips a year

Scient, read users driving through Patting highways will be able to make 200 trips by highways will be able to make 200 trips to the provide the pattern of the pattern Pattern of the pattern of the pattern Pattern of the analysis would be infinite Pattern of the analysis would be infinite and fees. The pass is designed seclasively for nee curnercial private which as a driving a period of 22 months in 200 trips, which we do the pattern of the pathern of the pattern of the pattern of the pattern of the pathern of the pattern of the pattern of the pattern of the pathern of

Maitri Porecha

Mr. Goyal dist not com-ment on whether a deal on the dairy and agricultural poods sectors would form part of the preliminary Trade Agreement under discussion with the U.S. "I think negotiations are best left to the negotiations and the negotiating table," Mr. Goyal also did not want to comment on the Mr. Greyal dist not a s the clock licks to wards U.S. Prost-trumps, "reciprocal ta-riffs" to kick in on July 3 Commerce Mitakies Psycho-mice and the state of the second target of the second target of the U.S. could sign a prelimiting any of early transfer of the bias dates, though he simpled abset of combine the second target of the second target of the second target of the simpled abset of combine the second target of the second target of the simpled abset of combine the second target of the second target of the simpled abset of combine the second target of the second target of the simple of the second target of the second targe want to comment on the impact a lapse in the U.S.'s Trade Promotion Audion't ty (TPA) would have on the margedia beard at company "We are in continuous dialogue. I have always been an optimize". Brown with The Hindu con the things of a configuration of things of a configuration of the second second second permutation of the second permutation of the second second second second second second second permutation of the second second second permutation of the second second second the able to come up with a win with for the besides second the second second second second things standard, result in the business second second second second business second second second things standard, result in the business second second second second business second second second the second second second second things standard, result in the business second second second the second second second second second second the second second second second second second second second the second se trade deal. The TPA is a process in the U.S. Con-gress to delegate authority

on the india to trade talks, Mr. Goyal said the sides were looking to con-clude a trade deal by the end of this salendar year. to the U.S. President to fast track trade deals, which of-ten involve tariff rates that are more fevourable than the best rate offered to oth-er World Traile Organiza-tion (WTD) member coun-"There's that famous English phrase aince we English plusse aince we are in threat Britain ... the

sensitive to one another's

Part plans A fair deal in time may spend the proposed zero tariff on imports from hidia starting early July. W

concerns, setting aside is- Kaja Kallas, had said at a sues that could not be ne-gotiated easily. On the India-EU trade

Joint preas conference with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishardkar that the EU was a "reliable, predictable and credible partner for India". "I don't think there's any impact of any other situation on a negotiation between two countries, because these negotiations because these negotiations are not a short term arian-gement. These are like long-term marriages you are negotiating after crys-tal-gazing ... 25 years, 50 years, into the future," Mr. Goyal said.

"Strengthen WTO" On the relevance of the WTO, given the change in the U.S. administration and its retrenchment from multilateralian, Mr. Goyal said the world trade body

Cong. leader urges Centre to strengthen air safety

Thurnday, June 10, 2020

The Hindu Bureau

Service Congress leader E.C. Veinagapai, MF, on Wednesdy aid there was all travellers after the Ah-medabal cosh and the go-vernment needed to reas-strongtheuing safety. by The accial media point on A, MF. Venugopal axid the record all accidents "are some of the safety of the record all accidents "are some of evitemic stream. had an "important" role to play and that India be-lieved "very strongly" in "India to the second strongly" in "Brade Strongly" in the weather of the strongly of the weather of the second strongly of the continue to play an in-creasingly important role continue to play an in-creasingly important role continue to play an in-traction of the second strongly import research and the second strongly in the second strongly in the continue to play an in-traction of the second strongly in continue to play an in-traction of the second strongly in the second strongly in the behad of the second strong strongly plant in court wides the plant in court wides the plant in court wides the had an "important" rate to stana of systemic stress within our aviation sec-tor", "We have not yet re-covered from the horror of the Ahmedabad flight crash... In the days that fol lowed, concerns have only plant has had to import raw material from India and furope following the closure of its blast furnace last year as it prepares deepened with reports of technical glitches, emer-pency landings, flight can-cellations, and repeated bait pear as it prepares to operationalise an elec-tric-are harmon in 2027. This may mean it runs inputs to qualify for any ta-inputs to qualify for any ta-inputs to qualify for any ta-tiff reduction that the U.K. and the U.S. agrees to. The theory ment to fully or par-tially maintain Gariffs of 28% on fittilis steel unless the U.S. provides gualan-any for the steel of the Garachan. "That, the U.K., has to "Mr. Goyal said. helicopter accidents, espe-nally along high-risk pil-grinage routes," he said. Former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel ques-tioned the "allence" of Sintioned the "allences" of Sim-gapore Aufines over the borrific crash, fra an X pest, be axid Singapore Arbitres was a 28.7% statebolder in Tata Greugerun Air Insta. Sihuraty, Dietoafter, the Singapore Airlines festued in a statement, saying it was in "close contact" with "affer full support and af "refer full support and af necessary assistance

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The Gujarat government is yet to officially declare the total doubt hold from the distance, which is a straight of committee, field by Union Hume Recretary Goving Mohan, is expected to sub-mit its report within three monthe, Union Minister of State for CPU Astation Mur-lishian Minister of

tion (WT0) member com-fires. Known as the Moze Paroured Rutton rate, participated in a moderat construction with his U.K. construction, Russines and Reprods. The two, com-trises had amounced a free times had amounced a free times inda amounced a free times in the second of the Reprods. The two, com-traction and the test of the Reprods. The two, com-traction and the test of the results of the test of the results of the test of the results of the test of the conclusion of the test of the test of the conclusion of the test of the test of the conclusion of the test of the test of the conclusion of the test of the test of the test of the conclusion of the test of the test of the test of the conclusion of the test of t are in Groat Britain ... the art is pregnant with possi-billises? The said, adding and shape the agreement would have. ... On obtention the Tromp ... Dissipation for the Tromp pasted the appendant dis-traction of the speed and dis-table with the Bouse had in-table with the BU. May table with the BU. May appared the star third parties did not. Impact his parties did not the star the parties did not the start the parties did not the start the starts of the start the start the BU's Provident Minister. the EU's Foreign Minister,

Yuva and Bal Puraskar awardees announced

42

THE NEW YORK

The Hindu Bureau

Chandingsth has been ad-judged the basi performer in school education for the academic year 2023/24, in the lower rang of the performance Grading in dex (PG) 2.0 report re-leased by the baten Release ted Milary on Milary on The States are graded in ducion and the states of the may define the states of the school of the states of the states in ducion of the states of the states of the may when states of the states of the states of the school of the states of The Sahirya Akademi or The Sahirya Akudemi on Wednesday armounized die names of 23 writers for the Yuva Puraskar and 24 for Bal Puraskar awards. The Yuva Puraskar swardees include Advats fortary in English, Paradi Fickey in Hindi, Latahmi-fickey in Hindi, Latahmi-ban for Tologa. The Bal Sahirya Puras for With the Sahirya Puras for With the Sahirya Puras

on a wide range of Indica-turs, including learning outcomes and quality, ac-cess, infrastructure, equikar will go to Nirin Rusha-lappa M.P. for English, sushil Shukia for Hindi, Tridib Kumar Chattopad-hyay for Bengali, K. Shiva Bugappa Handihat for Kan ty, governance processes, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 soula. ada, Vishnupuram aravanan for Tamil and points. None of the States fea-

The visual for Tanul and The visual set will reverse carge of 70% 1000. Solution the carge of 70% 1000. Solution and the set of the set of the second of the second of the second of the set of the second of a casket contab

nents cured by fourth-grade laws! (b) Britiant boy, reportedly (5) Madhya Pradesh engineer boring base out (7) Districe a censored transforment in
 Alarm starts to interrupt consciousness after short reat in

CM (COM)



Chandigarh tops school education

index, Meghalaya comes last: report

and Union Territories im-proved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Terri-torion naw declining scores. Chandigarh achieved a score of 719, and is the sole state to reach Grade Prachesta-1, for scores between 701 to 790, Ten States and Union Territories - Pon-Union Territorisa - Pun-jab, Delbi, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli

For anders this manufe confirm

Kennes basis sails for jame (0)
 Casting sought camer film, answer NOT (8,7)
 Orphan cat chewed up fruit with part of flower attached (w)

Energin diaco "26.8. Rot with antit" (3,4) Sneekily get in, sos for free (3,2) "Percussion industration? Play guilar, Richard?" says ignore

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domain, Delhi, JAK, Telan-gana have made highest progress between 3022-23 and 2023-24, officials said.

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The authorities have collected DNA samples from 250 victims, including those on the ground. "Since DNA sample matching is a scruitive process and involves legal aspects.

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Air India crash: over 208

victims identified. DNA

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'Long-haul flights

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utmost seriousness and speed," Dr. Rukesh Joshi, Medical Superinterdent of Alimeilabad Civil Hospital sold. The process has be come vital due to the con-dition of many bodies, which are either charred beyond resentations beyond

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Rama, the Supreme One

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beside Him, He is the One who illuminates Paramapada with His brightness. Desika celebrates Rama as *jayothi* in white the solutation. Why does he begin with the word 'appendic' When Perlyashvar saw Lord Narayana, he was alkald puo ple would cast evil eyes on Him, and that this would harm the Lord. So he sang pallonshi verses to ward off the evil

..... ACCOUNT OF A And Distances

Sole survivor Vishwas Etamar Ramesh the only survivor of the plane tragedy, was dis-charged on Tuesday even-ing and subsequently at-tended his brother's cremation on Wednesday officials confirmed.

The 40-year-old British national had been under-ming treatment since the going treatment since the air crash that claimsd sev-eral lives, including that of



Chandigarh tops school education index, Meghalaya comes last: report

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Chandigarh has been adjudged the best performer in school education for the academic year 2023-24, while Meghalaya appears in the lowest rung of the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report released by the Union Education Ministry on Wednesday.

The States are graded on a wide range of indicators, including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure, equity, governance processes, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 points.

None of the States feature in the top scoring range of 761-1,000, which suggests that there is huge scope for improvement, Ministry officials said. The report shows that 24 States



More scope: Twenty-four States & Union Territories improve scores, report says, but no States in the top scoring range. K. MURALI KUMAR

and Union Territories improved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Territories saw declining scores.

Chandigarh achieved a score of 719, and is the sole State to reach Grade Prachesta-1, for scores between 701 to 760. Ten States and Union Territories – Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan – have scored between 581 and 640, called Grade Prachesta-3.

At the other end of the scale is Meghalaya, which scored 417, thus falling into the category of scorers between 401 and 460, labelled as Akanshi-3. Other States which have a long way to go to improve the quality of school education are Te-

langana, Assam, Jharkhand, Tripura, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, which have been put in the Akanshi-2 category, as they have scored between 461 and 520. In the middle ranks are 14 States and Union Territories - Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh - which scored between 521 and 580, labelled Akanshi-1.

Bihar and Telangana have made the highest improvement in access to school education. With regard to the infrastructure domain, Delhi, J&K, Telangana have made highest progress between 2022-23 and 2023-24, officials said.

- 1. Top and Bottom Performers
 - Chandigarh: Highest score in school education index (719/1000); only one in Grade Prachesta-1 (701–760).
 - Meghalaya: Lowest score (417), placed in Grade Akanshi-3 (401–460).
- 2. Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0
 - Assesses 1000 points across multiple domains:
 - Learning outcomes and quality
 - Access
 - Infrastructure
 - Equity
 - Governance processes
 - Teacher education & training

- 3. Improving and Declining Trends
 - 24 States/UTs improved their scores from 2022–23.
 - 12 States/UTs saw decline.
- 4. Mid-Level Performers
 - Grade Prachesta-3 (581–640): e.g. Goa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu, Haryana.
 - Grade Akanshi-1 (521–580): Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Sikkim, UP, J&K, Uttarakhand, Ladakh etc.
 - Grade Akanshi-2 (461–520): Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur etc.
- 5. Improvement in Access and Infrastructure
 - Bihar and Telangana: Notable improvement in access to school education.
 - Delhi, J&K, Telangana: Leading in infrastructure development.

1. About PGI (Performance Grading Index)

Aspect	Description	
Introduced	2017-18	
Prepared by	Ministry of Education, Gol	
Purpose	Assess school education system performance at State/UT level	
Latest Version	PGI 2.0 (2023–24)	
Scale	1000 points	
Grades	Akanshi (low) \rightarrow Prachesta \rightarrow Ati-Uttam \rightarrow Uttam (top)	

WINDERS OF A CONTERS

Торіс	Data
Best Performer	Chandigarh (Score: 719)
Worst Performer	Meghalaya (Score: 417)
PGI Full Form	Performance Grading Index
Total Points	1000
Ministry	Ministry of Education
Notable Access Improvers	Bihar, Telangana
Infrastructure Gains	Delhi, J&K, Telangana

- Q. With reference to the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for school education, consider the following statements:
- It is prepared by the Ministry of Education.
- PGI 2.0 uses a 1000-point scale to evaluate States and UTs.
- Meghalaya ranked highest in the 2023–24 index.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
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Centre greenlights 2.35 lakh houses under PMAY scheme

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CONTRACTOR DE

THE HINDU News

Goyal optimistic about signing initial part of trade deal with U.S. by July 9

Union Commerce Minister says the two countries are in continuous dialogue, and given that the U.S. and India are very friendly countries and trusted partners, we will be able to come up with a win-win for the businesses of both countries

Mr. Geyal del not com-ment on whether a deal on the dairy and agricultural goods accros would form part of the preliminary Trade Agreement under discussion with the U.S. "I fluk negotiations are best loft to the negotiators and the negotiations table," he for a second second second for the second second second her. Goyal also did not want to comment on the Sciram Labshmon Mr. Greyal did not cor s the clock licks to wards U.S. Press Trump's "reciprocal ta-riffs" to kick in on July 9. Commerce Mikiske Physiol-metry of the physiol use could sign a prelimin-ary or early transfer of the U.S. could sign a prelimin-ary or early transfer of the third date, though he simpled short of configme want to continent on the impact a lasse in the U.S.'s Trade Promotion Authori-ty (TPA) would have on the

trade deal. The TPA is a process in the U.S. Con-great to delegate authority to the U.S. President to fast track trade deals, which often involve tariff rates that are more favourable than the best rate offered to oth-er World Trade Organiza-tion (WTO) member countion (WTD) member coun-frien, known as the Most Parceared Nation rate participated in a moderat ed discussion with the U.K. counterpart, Bushness and counterpart, Bushness and recent the second second recent participate and the counterpart, Bushness and recent participate and the counterpart of the second the second and the U.S. Second India were successful in correlating a deal because energifies to once another's



Past plans A fair deal in time may spend the proposed 20% tariff on imports from India starting early July. Ar

concerns, setting aside is- Kaja Kallas, had said at a Joint preas confirmers with External Affairs Minister S. Jaisharskar that the EU was a "reliable, predictable and credible partner for fodia". "I don't think there's any impact of any other sit uation on a negotiation between two countries, because these negotiations because these negotiations are not a duct term arran-gement. These are like long-term marriages you are negotiating affect szys-tul-gasing ... 25 years, 30 years, into the famme," Mr. Goyal said.

"Strengthen WTO" On the relevance of the WTO, given the change in the U.S. administration the U.S. administration and its retrenchment from multilateralism, Mr. Goyal said the world trade body

had an "important" role to play and that India ber-multilaterstates. "India's believen we believe the set of the wears through dislugge and dissussions and well ereasingly important role to promote multilateral. M. Gogal also said that finds had not made an in-terstatem with the UK and owned the set of the set of the promote made and the restriction of the set of the se owns the Port Tallot steel plant in south Wales. The plant has had to import raw material from India and Europe following the closure of its blast furnace last year as it prepares bist year as it prepares to operationalise an elec-tricense furmane its 2027. This may mean it runs inputs to qualify for any ta-inputs to qualify for any ta-inputs to qualify for any ta-inputs to qualify for any ta-there were any statistic to the transment to fully or her-tically maintain Gariffs of 28% on firstibis steel unless the U.K. provides gualan-apper a report in the Gaardian. "That, the U.K., has to "Mr. Goyal asid.

Cong. leader urges Centre to strengthen air safety

The Hindu Bureau

New Walkin Genther, Congresse Jonder, K.C. Venagopal, MP, on Wednesday and there was a growing paranoia among medibud cross and the growing medibud cross in and the gro-werment needed to reas-sure the public by many states and the public by many states and the recent air accidents "are not isolated incidents but within our aviation asc-iant", "We have net yet re-covered from the haritor of the Ahmedibad flight lowed, concerns have only lesepoint with reports of deepened with reports of technical glitches, emer-pricy landings, flight can-cellations, and repeated belicopter accidents, espe-itally along high-risk pill gritnage routes," he said. Former Civil Aviation Minisce Praful Patel ques-tioned the "silence" of Sintioned the "allence" of Sin-gapore Alcines over the borrific crash. In an X post, he said Singapore Alrihnes was a 20-175 stateholder in Tata Grosperun Ale India. Shortik, thereadter, the Singapore Airlines issued in a statement sature it in a statement, saying was in "close contact" with Tata Sons and continues b "offer full support and al

on the could not be ne-gotilated easily. On the india-fit trade talks, Mr. toyal and the sides were looking to con-clude a trade deal by the end of this calendar year. "We are in continuous dialogue. I have always been an optimist," Mr. Goyal said in an interview with *The Mindu* on the fringes of a conference or-gamised by the India Global "There's that famous English plusses, since we are in Great Britain ... the

particule II of the Induct Global Forum 2005 in London, "The sorry contribution and the source of the source of the contribution of the source of the contribution of the source of the particular source of the source of the particular source of the source of the win win for the basisnesses of host source is source of the so the EU's Foreign Minister, starting in early July. sensitive to one another's Chandigarh tops school education

Yuva and Bal Puraskar awardees announced

The Hindu Bureau

Chandigarh has been ad-judged the hest performer in achieol education for the scademic year 302334, while Meghalaya appears in the lowest rung of the Performance Grading in-dex (PGB 2.0 report re-leased by the Union Educa-tion Ministry on The kalitiya Akademi on Wednesday amounced the aurons of 23 wellows fast for the functional states of the formation of the states of the provide the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states of the states for the states of the states of the states of the states of the states for the states of the states o The Sahirya Akademi i tion Ministry on Wednesday. The States are graded

sada, Vishmupuram Sarayanan for Tamil and The seminers will receive a casket containing an en-graved copper plaque and an award of \$50,000 as a

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and Union Territories im-proved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Terri-tories saw declining scores. Chandigarh achieved a score of 789, and is the sole state to reach Grade Prach-



States to reach Grade Prach-onta-t, for scores between 701 to 760, Ten States and Union Territories – Pun-jab, Dubis, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli







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DNA profiling had con-hemed the identities of 208 victims of the june 12 Air India crash in Alamedabad, with the authorities in-ching closer to concluding the identification process, the Guissian enversement the Gojarat government said on Wednesday, 80 far, more than 170 bodies, innare than 175 bodies, in-cluding of over 35 foreign nationals from the U.E., Portugal, and Canada, and ground, luve been handed over to their families, offi-cials said.

The authorities have collected DNA samples from 250 victims, including those on the ground. "Since DNA sample matchcome vitat ing is a sensitive proces and involves legal aspects we are conducting it wit which are

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NUMBER OF BRIDE New inclusion dars notio will be cotting down international flights on widdlawing aleraft that connect large baad aver uitra fang haad heatmations by 120%, the attract and take on Wedensidd water and take on the deviced in will be attracted and the deviced in will be attracted and the deviced in will be attracted and the deviced in the flowing 374 attracted and thing gauge/life at tensions. utmost in speed," Di Medical Su Abunedaba said. The

Rama, the Supreme One

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Rama shines because of sita Devi's constant presence Rama strines because of sila Devia constant presence buside Him. He is the One who Burninates Paramapada with His brightman. Deslia celebrates Rama as *kyselti* its its salutation. Why does he begin with the word '*kyselti*'? When Periyashwa naw Lard Namyana, he was affaid pute ple would cast syll spec on Him, and that this would harm the Lord. So he sang pallanda verses to ward off the evil

347162 A DESCRIPTION OF

mecenary analitance Air India crash: over 208

The Gujarat government to yet to officially declare the total death toll from to be cut by 15% the disaster. A high-fevel Central committee, led by Union Home Recretary Govind Mohan, is expected to sub-mit its report within three months, Union Meabor of Sec. Gr. Child Aviance Mar. State for Civil Aviation Mur Jidhar Mohol said. Sole survivor

tensions.	vishwas Kumar Ramesh the only survivor of the plane tragedy, was dis
eriocomess and r. Bakeah Joshi, uperintendent of ad Civil Hospital process has be- l due in the con- many bodies, either charved latest beyond p.	charged on Thanday even ing and subsequently at tended his breaker's cremation on Wednesday afficials confirmed. The 40-year-old initial national had been under going treatment since the air crash that channed sev- erat lives, including that of his brother.

on a wide range of indica-tors, including learning outcomes and quality, ac-cess, infrastructure, equity, governance processia, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 None of the States fea-Notes of the States fea-hare in the top scoring range of 261-1,000, which suggests that there is huge scope for improvement, Ministry officials said. The

Maitri Porecha



go to improve the quality of school education are Te-

The real challenge for foreign campuses

here has been much debate in India about attracting foreign university branch

campuses since the University Grants Commission (UGC) established regulations in 2023. A few have set up shop: two Australian universities – Deakin University and the University of Wollongong – in Gujarat's GIFT City, and the U.K.'s University of Southampton in Gurugram, near Delhi.

The momentum has continued to grow in recent months. Last week, Letters of Intent were issued to five foreign institutions – the University of York, the University of Aberdeen, University of Western Australia, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Italy's Institute Europeo di Design (IED) – to establish campuses in Mumbai.

However, early indicators suggest that Deakin and Wollongong, which began classes last year, and the University of Southampton, which is going to welcome its first batch of students, may be moving too quickly. Admissions were announced often before essential details, such as information about the faculty and other key elements, were made publicly available. While this rapid pace may signal strong intent and enthusiasm, it also raises many concerns.

Challenges to the branch idea

Globally, transnational education is navigating an increasingly uncertain landscape. This may be one of the most difficult global environments for universities to establish branches. The country with the largest number of overseas university branches globally, the U.S., is in complete disarray due to attacks on higher education from the Donald Trump administration. The last thing on the minds of most American university leaders is foreign initiatives. Therefore, the Illinois Institute of Technology's decision to establish a campus in India should be seen as an exception.



Philip G. Altbach Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow, Center for

International Higher Education, Boston College, U.S.



Eldho Mathews Programme Officer (internationalisation)

at the Kerala State Higher Education Council, India

A major issue

for foreign

university

campuses is

India's highly

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navigating

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education

landscape

Even institutions willing to enter the Indian market will have to overcome numerous domestic challenges. A major issue is navigating India's highly competitive higher education

landscape. Most of the institutions seeking to enter the Indian market are not top-tier schools in their own countries. In India, they risk being seen as just one among several "elite" options available to students. These branch campuses follow a market-driven model. offering programmes in high-demand fields such as business, computer science, and data analytics. While this approach may be financially strategic, the narrow academic focus risks making them indistinguishable from India's better-performing private colleges and universities.

Therefore, the real challenge is to establish a clear academic identity. Without this, they risk being perceived as little more than diploma mills, ultimately undermining the reputation of the very universities they represent. It is also relevant that most of the branches already established or planning to be established are not comprehensive universities with diverse offerings and research focus, but rather are small specialised schools.

India already boasts renowned public institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which are actively expanding their global engagement and research capabilities. Furthermore, a growing number of elite and semi-elite private universities in India now offer joint and double-degree programmes in collaboration with foreign institutions. In this dynamic environment, foreign branch campuses cannot rely solely on the strength of their brand. A concerning trend among some international branch

campuses already established in

India is their disproportionate

reliance on marketing strategies. often at the expense of academic investment. While marketing has its place, it cannot substitute for substance. Students and parents are increasingly discerning. They examine publicly available information on faculty credentials, curriculum design, industry relevance, and student support systems. Flashy campaigns without academic depth or meaningful student engagement will not build lasting trust. Another key problem lies in students' perception and the reality of campus life. Early observations suggest that most of these branch campuses operate out of vertical buildings, often renting space. If foreign universities wish to be perceived as full-fledged institutions, they must invest in essential "soft" infrastructure as well.

Need for local relevance

From the Indian perspective, selecting the right partner is important. Universities from the Global North are typically interested in branch campuses for several reasons. Host countries or institutions may offer major incentives in terms of facilities or funds. In many cases, the primary motivation is to earn money, as illustrated by several branches in Dubai. Some wish to establish a presence in a country to recruit students to the home campus. Without major incentives, top global universities will seldom be attracted. India will need to carefully evaluate whether a particular branch proposal is suitable for local needs, and whether it is from a foreign institution that is attractive.

The establishment of foreign university branch campuses in India marks a significant milestone in the higher education landscape. However, if these ventures are rushed or poorly managed, they risk becoming cautionary tales – short-lived initiatives that erode trust, dilute brand value, and stall the broader momentum toward meaningful internationalisation.

- 1. New Regulations by UGC (2023)
 - University Grants Commission allowed foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
 - First movers:
 - Deakin University and University of Wollongong (Gujarat GIFT City)
 - University of Southampton (Gurugram)
 - Five new Letters of Intent: University of York, Aberdeen, Western Australia, Illinois Institute of Technology, IED (Italy)
- 2. Concerns Raised
 - Admissions began too quickly, without full disclosure on curricula, fees, faculty, etc.
 - Potential issues: rushing the setup may hurt academic credibility and student experience.
- 2 Challenges for Earsign Compuses

- 3. Challenges for Foreign Campuses
 - Highly competitive Indian education landscape.
 - Most foreign universities entering India are **not top-tier institutions**.
 - Risk of being seen as "just another college," not elite institutions.
 - Academic quality may be overshadowed by flashy marketing.
- 4. Key Structural Concerns
 - Low investment in academic infrastructure.
 - Many operate out of rented spaces, leading to perception as "diploma mills".
 - Focused only on high-demand fields (e.g., business, CS, data), lacking research depth.
- 5. Need for Academic Identity
 - Branch campuses must not appear as "lite" versions.
 - Must contribute to research, curriculum design, local student development.

6. India's Growing Ecosystem

- India already has IITs, IIMs, semi-elite private universities with global outreach.
- Foreign branches must **complement**, not duplicate, Indian institutions.

7. Need for Local Relevance

- Foreign branches must serve local academic and skill needs, not just profit motives.
- Government should vet proposals based on academic value, not brand alone.

- Q. With reference to the foreign university campuses in India, consider the following statements:
- Only the top 100 universities in the QS rankings are eligible to set up campuses in India.
- The University Grants Commission can revoke permissions of foreign branches if regulatory norms are violated.
- All foreign campuses in India must operate as non-profit institutions.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Uttarakhand – a hotbed for helicopter accidents

Fourteen crashes investigated till 2023, coupled with the spate of incidents in 2025, highlight a persistent aviation crisis

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan Sambavi Parthasarathy

he latest helicopter crash in Uttarakhand - which claimed seven lives, among them a two-year-old child, during a Kedarnath pilgrimage flight - adds yet another tragic entry to the State's already long record as a hotbed of helicopter disasters. Within a brief window of barely

two months, the latest is the State's fifth helicopter accident. In May this year, six passengers en route to Gangotri Temple were killed when their aircraft crashed in Uttarkashi district. Reports reveal that the same month witnessed two further incidents - one, a near-catastrophe narrowly avoided in Badrinath, and the other, an AIIMS airambulance crash that, fortunately, caused no fatalities - while, more recently in June, a Kedarnathbound chopper was forced into an emergency landing after a technical snag, highlighting a recurrent aviation crisis in the region.

This spate recalls October 2022, when three separate helicopter accidents claimed 13 lives. Two of those tragedies struck defence helicopters operating in Arunachal Pradesh, and on October 18 that year, a commercial chopper ferrying Kedarnath pilgrims crashed, killing all seven people aboard.

A conservative analysis of incident summaries filed with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau indicates that at least 14 helicopters - many assigned to ferry pilgrims within Uttarakhand's rugged terrain - crashed between 1990 and 2023. Map 1 plots the approximate departure or intended landing sites for 75 commercial helicopters lost during that period, revealing a concentration of accidents in north-eastern hills as well.

In the 1990 and 2023 period, 165 people lost their lives in accidents

involving commercial helicopters, as shown in Chart 2. In these incidents, 126 people were injured, too.

Following the latest tragedy, police have charged two senior officials of Arvan Aviation Pvt. Ltd. the operator of the crashed helicopter - with alleged negligence. Notably, the company also owned the Kedarnath-bound chopper that went down in October 2022, killing seven, and another aircraft that crashed in 2019 after striking an overhead cable.

Operating choppers in harsh weather - whether anticipated or sudden - ranks as the third-most frequent cause of helicopter mishaps in the 1990-2023 period.

Pilot error or improper handling remains the leading factor, with inadequate maintenance close behind. Other recurring causes include non-adherence to flight rules by crew, technical faults, and entangled with cables (where a helicopter gets entangled in wires/cables used by locals in mountainous regions to transport goods). Chart 3 shows the reasons behind accidents in the period.

Moreover, as Chart 4 indicates, the majority of commercial-helicopter accidents occurred in broad daylight, with most such crashes taking place while the copters were cruising. A significant share of accidents also happened during the landing phase, whereas take-off or climb proved to be the safest portions of the journey, registering the fewest accidents in the period, as depicted in Chart 5.

While it is true that, when analysed over time, the overall number of helicopter-related accidents in India has declined, the recent spate of crashes in Uttarakhand is a grim reminder that such tragedies continue to occur, cutting short lives. It should also be noted that in the recent safety audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, India had improved its "effective implementation" score to over 85% from the previously low score of 70%.

Copter crashes: a profile

rom the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

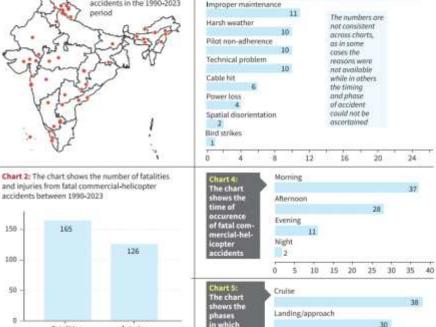


Map 1: The approximate take-off or intended landing spots of 75 commercial helicopters involved in accidents in the 1990-2023 period

Chart 3: The chart shows the reasons for majority of commercial-helicopter accidents Pilot - improper handling

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Fatalities Injuries Compiled by B Renuka Ramakrishna, Safa Salsabeel Z, Niraniana VB, and Manaswini Vijayakumar who are intensing with The Hindu Data Team

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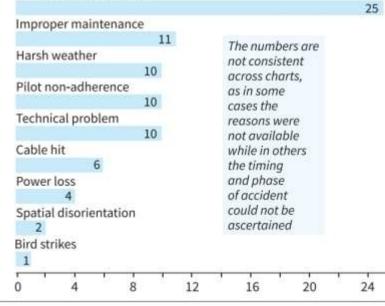
Copter crashes: a profile The data were sourced from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

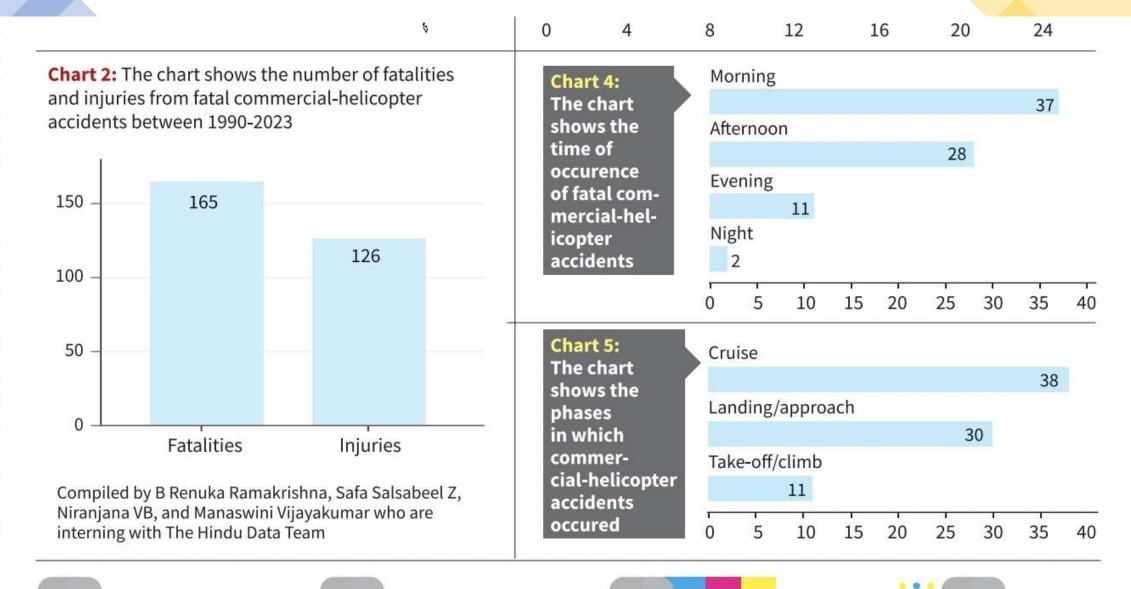


Map 1: The approximate take-off or intended landing spots of 75 commercial helicopters involved in accidents in the 1990-2023 period

Chart 3: The chart shows the reasons for majority of commercial-helicopter accidents

Pilot - improper handling





- Q. With reference to helicopter crashes in India, consider the following statements:
- Uttarakhand has recorded the highest number of commercial helicopter crashes in India since 1990.
- The majority of these crashes occur during cruise phase.
- Pilot error is the most common cause of these accidents.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3



IN BURNER?



ICAI to take six months to probe IndusInd Bank, Gensol

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India dCAII president Charanjet Singh Nanda said on Wednesday that their review of the financial Weshieselay that their review of the financial statements of Gansol Fingineering, Rhisteart Mobility and Industrial Bank would take at least at morithe. These are presently being evaluated by the Financial Reporting Review Hoard (PRRI) Schould the PRRB determine anything subpictors, the matter would be referred to the foliciplinary Committee for a detailed lowestigation, he said

Abbott to distribute MSD's diabetes drug in India

Abbott and MSD Pharmaceuticals have entered into a distribution agreement for MSD's oral anti-diabetic medicine sitagliptin, its combination situgliptin/metformin and the extended-release version in India. Leveraging its fastprint, Abboit said, it will distribute the portfolio. The products and, it will disk that the transport of the periods of a are marked of under the ment and a particular forument and familines XR, the firms said in a joint statement. Stragiptin is a Dipeptidy Peptidase IV Inhibitors used for treatment of Type 2 diabetus.

Tata Elxsi, German chip firm to develop EV solutions for India

Tata Elissi, a design and technology services company from Tata Group, and Infineon Technologies, a German player in semiconshuctur solutions, have signed an MoU to jointly develop application-ready EV solutions tailored to the Indian market. This strategic solitatoration aligns with India's rapid shift towards electrification, with KV sales growing by 28-30% year-on-year in 2020, including a 20% increase in electric two-and three-whoeler alles. Tata Electration.

Dassault. Reliance ally for making Falcon 2000 business jets

Inscitt Chandra.

French maker of military alecraft and business jets, Dassault Aviation and Reliance infrastructure ubai-diary, Reliance Aerostruc-ture 1.4d. (RAL) antiosmood a strategic partnership to make Palcon 2000 business moccutive jets in India for global markets with fi-The first flight of the 'Made in India' Paleon Made in India Patern 2000 is filely in 2025. This was announced at the weak long Parts Air Staw. The second parts are staw make these jets outside of france for the first time, a juint press statement said. This amouncement well second parts are star-ted by the second parts of the second parts of the second part of the second parts of the seco end business jet manufac turing and paves way fo-india's entry into the elite club of countries making next-generation business jets alongside U.S., France, Canada and Brazil."

The joint venture DRAL, will also become Centre of Excellence (Cold for Falcon series, including Falcon fix and Falcon 83 assembly programmes for Dassault Aviation, the first such Coll outside France. Deparault Availion will al-no transfer the assembly of

no transfer the assembly of the front section of Falcon 8X and Falcon 8X, in addi-tion to the wings and com-relation 2000 to DRAL. "This collaboration is a powerfait expression of sar commission to b PA Star Make in India for the Workf initiative," said Anti D. Ambani, founder-chaic tion, Bellan e or one.

CM (dottern

'Founders can now hold employee stock options post listing' SEBI move aimed at increasing ease of doing business; regulator also relaxes norms to allow PSUs with minimal public shareholding to delist

Ashokamithran T.

in its board meeting that concluded on Wednesday, the nurkets regulator said that founders or promo-

that intenders ar promo-ters can now continue to benefit from employee stock options even after listing. If they started re-ceiving them at least one year prior to filing for IPOs.

Alding reverse flipping Moreover, compulsory convertible accurities (CCS) will be exempted from a minimum disars holding period of one year, addn to equity shares. This will assist compa-nies contemplating reverse

niss contemplating reverse flipping. Reverse flipping is when Indian start-ups, ori-gitally incorporated over-seas, move their headspar-

ers and ownership back to

India. The regulation will

now also include relevant persons other than just the

Reconnecting with the world



THE REAL PROPERTY AND INCOME Basing normor SEM Charpenson Tubic Kanta Panelay addressing the media in Marthar on Weitherday, as

- THE HINDU

Business

founders. Category 1 and II All's can now offer co-invest-ment schemes (CIV) to "fa-culture AIPs and investors

tors has been changed to \$10 labb to \$25 crore. Earlier, this threshold was \$25 labb to \$10 crore. In addition to these, SIGH also offered settlement op-pertunity for venture cap-talists (VCA) to migrate to All comparisons. to co invest" and "support capital formation in unlat-ed companies," according Lation (VCa) to migrate to All regulation. The methods (PSUs, in-which the Government of India holds more than 905 which the Government of India holds more than 905 "They are not companies," SEBS (Data-person Think Kanta Fan-bergulation with the regulation also brought in order regulations that re-ricing noticible investment regin to the section of the sec-tion of the regulation of the sec-tion of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the sec-tion of the section of the section of the sec-tion of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the section of the section of the regulation of the section of the to a statement from SEBL This initiative is in addi-tion to the existing opinion for accredited investors to co-invest in unlisted enti-ties through portfolio man-agement system (PMI0. Angel Investors The board also approved proposals to ensure that only angel investors would need to be accredited in-vestors (A) new. Moreover, Als will be inreign portfolio investments (FPIs) exclusively investing in G-secs, simplified docu-ments for qualified institucluded as qualified institu-tional buyers (2005) for the limited purpose of investments into angel hands. The floor and cap on in-vestments by angel investional placements (QIPs), and rationalisation of mer-chant banking regulations.

NI A BREADING India's rice and tea exporters hit by the MARKET WATCH States States Iran-Israel conflict M. Soundariya Preetha T.C.A. Sharod Bagbayan shipments of a significant quantity of hearnal rice and two, the two major commodilies that are as are on hold due to the tran-benet conflex, putting ex-porters on a wait and Tax is the largest ma-tex of tradian bornal rice. Of als wallow tommes of an example the second second trade of the second second second trade of the second second trade of the second second second second second trade second second second second second trade second second second second second second trade second second second second second second second trade second secon Shipments of a significant - martine and International price for leasenals rice is said to have dropped by \$100 a torme, nut resorts Wednesday, "There is fear that exports to countries such as Azerbaijan and Ka-sabistan may also get af-fected in the future if the omfliet continues," he said. Officials from the Minis-try of Commerce and In-dustry will meet stakeholbasmati rice has dropped by \$100 a tonne because of the condites and stocks are ders from the trade, shipping, and export oriented sectors on Friday The extent of the said beginning to pile up with the expertens," he said. One of the major expor-ies of tea said 20,000 25,000 tonnes of tea goes to Iran from India annual-by, mainly orthodox tea. to discuss the problems they are facing due to the Israel Iran conflict, and how the government could

by, mainly orthodox tea. "There are withdrawals and drop in price at the auction. Miniments have been atopped and no one knows how the situation will develop, especially with the attacks escalating, resporters will get the pay-ment only after shipment, light up as, the priors," he remover a situation and the situation temporter situation and the situation and the situation and the situation and the situation temporter situation and the situation and the situation and the situation temporter situation and the situation and the situation and the situation temporter situation and the situation and the situation and the situation temporter situation and the situ is to resentiate, the exporter said. B. Bajesh Chander, member of the Tea Board India, said many of House operating to Iran did not take part in the auctions on

Sector Sector Sector Los Yes Martin 10. 10000000 00.07 00.07 00.07 MITTY SO 1410 10.00 - 112 israel-fran comflict, and how the government could help address these insues. Secureal and the Cash more and the contract more security of the sec-tem of impact due to the tran brasel iensions, how these factors, and their these factors, and their filler Filler Material Tatle Material Children and store EDUCIDANISE BATER these factors, and their expectations. While these inputs are cording in, exporters had said that air freight costs had already increased and was freight costs to you up the sevents to you up. They have also factored in a supple in order and risk And Station 1122512522 insurance premiums.

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Wipro Infra may buy Vedanta divests about a majority stake in ₹3,028-crore France's Lauak HZL stake Lauak is 50-year-old. family-owned. renowned French acrospace manufacturer

Group, on Wednesday en-tered into an eachsive me-gotation at the Paris Air acquisition in the compa-regulation in the compa-ry. However, financial de-tails are net yet known, which details of the pro-posed transaction were abbritted to the relevant tor representation of the censury approvals have now been received. The transaction is ex-posed transaction is ex-posed to the relevant of the transaction is ex-posed to the source of the so-posed to the the the com-

Press Trust of India Antil Agerwal-led Vedanta Lid, said is had dirented a 16% atake in its arm. Hin-dustan Zine Lid, 042.5 for As Vedanta actively pro-gresses towards the directory merger of its businesses, the money raised through tasks sale will help de-lev-ored by the same and the alth-ored by the same and the same vedant by each of the deing months, subject to cus-tomary closing conditions. Major supplier Latack Group is a 80-year-old, fumly-owned, re-movies of the supplier of the supplier ball serospace companies. The proposed acquisition then would reinforce Wi enhance financial flexibili-ty, enabling each of the de-morgod within in pursue independent growth plant. In a logislatory filing that it has "sold 66.7 mil-lion shares in Hindustan Sime Ltd. (ELL), to institu-tional investors by way of an accelerated backchuld tion would reinforce Wi-pro's commitment to ex-panding its footprint in the European aerospace sec-tor and enhancing its glo-bal casebilities to sumort tor and enhancing its gro-bal capabilities to support kay industry players, the company added. process, represent ing...1.8% of the issued of dinary share capital."

4

Offer structured products only to eligible clients: Stanchart India

revised to 8% them the ex-Renturn isting 8.40%) on deposits with a tenure of 36, 50 and

VIEW DELEM Sumidant Chartered de-nied lapses in its deriva-tives aides and said it of early in the second second in after a finominery News reported the lender was being second financies of the Bhoomberg reported, ch-ing people familiar with the matter, that the Re-concern about processes

prises of target redemption forwards, a product that can cause significant

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in (the) bank's derivative sale processes and risk controls," Standard Chortered india's spokespersor said. The Bloomberg re port said the BBI's review

port said the BBTs review of Standard Chartered was engoing, with a factus on derivative products and the same same same same Bark maintain the highest levels of compliance, train-generacity," in a protectors contributy," in a protectors contributy," in a protectors contributy, The BBC fails and immediately respond to Reuters' request for com-

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ure around lapses



cash is king a hank staff shows journalists 52 million in cash as the clarks count money and deal with customers in the Central Bank of Syna in Damascus. Spria will be reconcepted to the International SWIPT payment system within works, marking a major shore in the country's alternative to receive the commony on the reconception with a plantal marking alter more them a shorake of war and installion. Circles

Shriram Finance to revise interest rates on FDs

depositors would receive

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Press Trust of India

depresition would receive an additional 6.01% per annum on fixed deposits. For deposits of 12 months, the existing rute of 7.65% would be revised to 7.5% while for deposits Shrivam Finance Ltd., the Shrinam Finance Lid., the flagship company of the di-versified congloanerate shrinam Group, would re-vise its interest rates on faced disposits with effect from June 20, the company said on Wednesday.

denistra in Taman

2.33% while for deposits made through digital mode for a period of 18 meanine would be revised to 7.80% from the current 7.90%. Shtriam Finance said in a company statement on Wednesday, the inter-ent raise would be revised to 7.40% Gurrent 2.80%, 44 months 7.20% from the For senior citizens As per the revised since-ture, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above at the time of deposit or renewab would be slightle for an ad-ditional interest of 0.80% per annum while women existing 2.90%. Interest rates would be

othe, respectively.

Fixed investment plans illutran Finance said the totageneric state of the pro-which are available via the Shriram One' mobile appli-cation and website would also be revised from june 26, 3028. Finance 1ed more the more india pre-Shrirum Finance Ltd. now has pain-India pre-sence of 3,220 branches and a staffbase of 79,872, h serves about 198,56 lakh customers, it said. concerns about processes at the London based len-der following sales to small and medium-sized enter-



Under summers Buyers of Units contracts were out adisputity informed about the risks involved, as per the report. Are

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informed about the risks forwards, a product that can cause significant Buyers of those con tracts were not adequately

'Founders can now hold employee stock options post listing'

SEBI move aimed at increasing ease of doing business; regulator also relaxes norms to allow PSUs with minimal public shareholding to delist

founders.

Angel investors

vestors (AI) now.

The board also approved

proposals to ensure that

only angel investors would

need to be accredited in-

cluded as qualified institu-

tional buyers (QIBs) for the

limited purpose of invest-

vestments by angel inves-

The floor and cap on in-

ments into angel funds.

Moreover, AIs will be in-

Ashokamithran T. MUMBAI

n a bid to increase ease of doing business for market participants, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved proposals to allow founders to hold employee stock options even after listing, relax regulations for alternative investment funds (AIF), and allow public sector undertakings (PSUs) with minimal public shareholding to delist, among other actions.

In its board meeting that concluded on Wednesday, the markets regulator said that founders or promoters can now continue to benefit from employee stock options even after listing, if they started receiving them at least one year prior to filing for IPOs.

Aiding reverse flipping Moreover, compulsory convertible securities (CCS) will be exempted from a minimum shareholding period of one year, akin to equity shares.

This will assist companies contemplating reverse flipping. Reverse flipping is when Indian start-ups, originally incorporated overseas, move their headquarters and ownership back to India. The regulation will now also include relevant persons other than just the



the media in Mumbai on Wednesday, AN

Category I and II AIFs can now offer co-investment schemes (CIV) to "facilitate AIFs and investors to co invest" and "support capital formation in unlisted companies," according AIF regulations. to a statement from SEBL This initiative is in addi-

tion to the existing opinion for accredited investors to co-invest in unlisted entities through portfolio manstake, to be delisted. agement system (PMS).

"There are five such companies," SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said during a briefing. In addition to these, the regulator also brought in other regulations that relaxed compliance for foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) exclusively investing in G-secs, simplified documents for gualified institutional placements (OIPs), and rationalisation of merchant banking regulations.

tors has been changed to ₹10 lakh to ₹25 crore. Earlier, this threshold was ₹25 lakh to ₹10 crore. In addition to these, SEBI also offered settlement opportunity for venture capitalists (VCs) to migrate to

The markets watchdog has also enabled PSUs, in which the Government of India holds more than 90%

- 1. Employee Stock Options for Founders (ESOPs)
 - Founders/Promoters can now continue to hold ESOPs even after IPO,
 - Condition: ESOPs must be granted at least 1 year prior to IPO filing.
- 2. Reverse Flipping Norms Eased
 - CCS (Compulsorily Convertible Securities) now exempt from 1-year minimum holding rule.
 - Will help Indian start-ups shifting HQ back to India (reverse flipping).
- 3. Changes for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)
 - Category I & II AIFs can now offer co-investment schemes (CIV).
 - This will support capital in **unlisted companies**.
 - Accredited investors (Als) can now co-invest via Portfolio Management Services (PMS) too.

- 4. Angel Investors
 - Only accredited individuals can now act as angel investors.
 - Angel Investors classified as Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) for angel investments.
 - Investment limit updated:
 - Lowered floor: ₹10 lakh
 - Upper cap: ₹25 crore
 (earlier ₹25 lakh to ₹10 crore)
- 5. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)
 - PSUs with 90%+ government stake can now be delisted.
 - Impacts at least 5 government-run companies.
- 6. Other Regulatory Simplifications
 - Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) allowed to invest exclusively in G-secs.
 - Rationalisation of:
 - QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement) rules
 - Merchant banking documentation

💞 2. Key Terms Explained

Term	Meaning O
ESOPs	Stock options given to employees or founders, exercised at a fixed price
Reverse Flipping	Indian startups that were registered abroad now shifting base back to India
AIF	Pooled investment vehicle for private equity, venture capital
CCS	Convertible debt instruments that become equity at a future date
Angel Investor	High-net-worth individuals investing in startups
QIB	Financial institutions allowed to invest in IPOs or placements without pricing caps

- Q. With reference to recent SEBI reforms (June 2025), consider the following statements:
- Founders of companies can now retain employee stock options after listing, if granted a year before IPO filing.
- Angel investors must now be registered as Accredited Investors.
- Public sector undertakings with over 90% government holding are now ineligible for delisting.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

QS rankings: IIT Delhi jumps 27 ranks, tops India list, is 123 globally

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

FOR THE first time in eight years, IIT Delhi emerged as the highestranked Indian institution in the QS World University Rankings 2026, trumping IIT Bombay, which had reigned supreme among the country's institutions in six editions of these rankings over the past decade.

Standing at 123 this year, IIT Delhi jumped 27 ranks compared to 150 last year. In contrast, IIT Bombay dropped 11 ranks to 129. With no Indian institution having made it to the global top 100 in these rankings so far, IIT Bombay's 118 last year is the closest the country's institutions have been to that mark.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TOP 10 INDIAN Institutions

	2025 Rank	Institution
123	150	IIT Delhi
129	118	IIT Bombay
180	227	IIT Madras
215	222	IIT Kharagpur
219	211	IISc Bangalore
222	263	IIT Kanpur
328	328	Delhi University
334	344	IIT Guwahati
339	335	IIT Roorkee
465	383	Anna University

1. Global Context

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains Rank 1 (14th consecutive year).
- Top 5 globally:
 - 1. MIT
 - 2. Imperial College London
 - 3. University of Oxford
 - 4. Harvard University
 - 5. University of Cambridge
- 2. India's Top Performer
 - IIT Delhi ranked 123 globally, becoming India's top-ranked institution.
 - Jumped **27 spots** from previous rank of 150 (2025).

4. Declines

- IIT Bombay dropped 11 ranks to 129.
- IISc Bangalore fell from 211 to 222.
- Anna University dropped from 351 to 465.

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🖑 1. About QS Rankings

Feature	Description				
Agency	QS Quacquarelli Symonds (UK-based)				
Criteria	Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Citations, Student Ratio, International Faculty/Students				
Indian Relevance	India has seen 390% increase in ranked institutions over a decade (15 in 2015 → 46 in 2026)				

💞 3. Why IITs Perform Better

- Strong in:
 - Engineering disciplines
 - Research infrastructure
 - International academic tie-ups
- Weaknesses:
 - International diversity & brand awareness
 - Lower performance in Sustainability, Global employability (improving)

- Q. With reference to the QS World University Rankings 2026, consider the following statements:
- IIT Bombay is the highest-ranked Indian institution globally.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology retained its position as the top university globally.
- The rankings consider parameters like citations per faculty, international students, and sustainability.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Annual FASTag pass at ₹3,000 for 'hassle-free travel': Gadkari

DHEERAJ MISHRA NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

MINISTER OF Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari Wednesday announced a FASTag-based annual pass priced at ₹3,000 for "hassle-freehighway travel". He said the new system, exclusively for noncommercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans, will address the "long-standing concerns" regarding toll plazas.

Gadkari said the FASTag-based passes will be effective from August 15 and valid for one year or 200 trips or crossings, whichever comes earlier. For the point-based fee plazas, each crossing of the fee plaza will be counted as one trip. A round trip (to and fro) will be counted as two trips.

For closed tolling fee plazas, one pair of entry and exit will be counted as one trip.

"In a transformative step towards hassle-free highway travel, we are introducing a FASTagbased Annual Pass priced at ₹ 3,000, effective from 15th August 2025. Valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips—whichever comes first—this pass is designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles," said Gadkari in a post on X.

He said that the annual pass

will enable "seamless and cost-effective travel" across national highways throughout the country. A dedicated link for activation and renewal will soon be made available on the Rajmarg Yatra App as well as on the official websites of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), said Gadkari.

A notification issued by MoRTH in this regard says that the amount of fee payable for the pass may be revised annually with effect from the April 1 of every year.

"This policy addresses longstanding concerns regarding toll plazas located within a 60 km range and simplifies toll payments through a single, affordable transaction. By reducing wait times, easing congestion, and minimizing disputes at toll plazas, the annual pass aims to deliver a faster and smoother travel experience for private vehicle owners," said Gadkari. The decision will save at least ₹7000 per pass, he said.

"The pass which has been planned for ₹3000, if the toll is calculated against it, then this amount will be at least ₹10,000. Thus, people will get relief of ₹7,000 per pass. It will be valid for one year or 200 trips. One trip means crossing one toll plaza. Due to this, the average amount for crossing one toll will be only ₹15."

1. FASTag-Based Annual Pass

- New price: ₹3,000 per year.
- Applicable only for non-commercial private vehicles (cars, jeeps, vans).
- Effective from August 15, 2025.
- 2. Validity
 - Valid for **1 year** from activation or up to **200 trips/crossings**, whichever comes earlier.
 - Applies to both:
 - **Point-based toll plazas** Each crossing = 1 trip; round trip = 2 trips.
 - **Closed toll systems** One entry-exit cycle = 1 trip.
- 3. Benefits & Cost Savings
 - Estimated cost of 200 toll trips = ₹10,000.
 - Under new scheme, savings of ₹7,000 per pass.
 - Average cost per toll crossing = ₹15 under the pass, compared to ₹50 currently.

3. Benefits & Cost Savings

- Estimated cost of 200 toll trips = ₹10,000.
- Under new scheme, savings of ₹7,000 per pass.
- Average cost per toll crossing = ₹15 under the pass, compared to ₹50 currently.
- 4. Ease of Use
 - Rajmarg Yatra App and official NHAI/MoRTH websites to offer:
 - Online activation
 - Renewal services
- 5. Review Mechanism
 - Fee amount will be **revised annually** starting April 1 every year.

5. Review Mechanism

- Fee amount will be **revised annually** starting April 1 every year.
- 6. Objective
 - Addresses:
 - Toll plaza congestion
 - Travel delays and disputes
 - Aims to promote:
 - Seamless travel
 - Digital tolling system
 - Cost-effective road use

1. What is FASTag?

Feature	Description					
Tech	RFID-based toll payment system					
Introduced by	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)					
Linked with	National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC)					
Compulsory since	Feb 2021 for all 4-wheelers					

🖑 2. Ministry Involved

Ministry	Role
MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)	Policy making and implementation
NHAI (National Highways Authority of India)	Operates and maintains the toll infrastructure
NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)	Operates NETC platform linked to FASTag

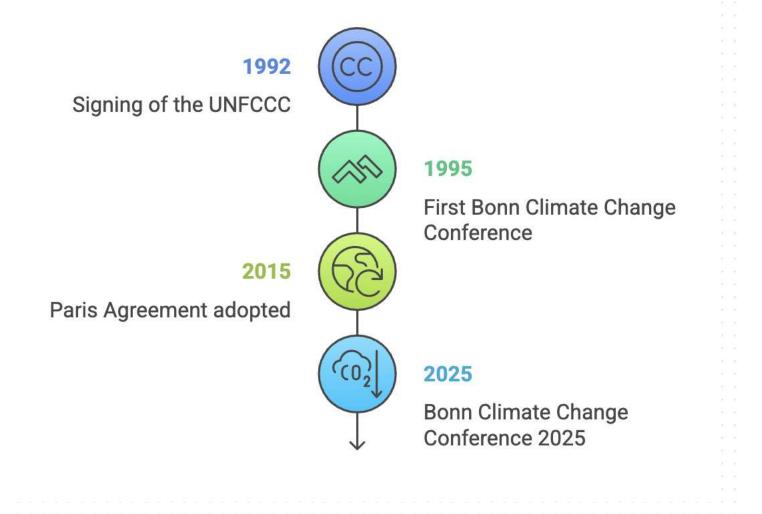
Indicator	Value			
Annual FASTag Pass Price	₹3,000			
Validity	1 year or 200 trips			
App for Access	Rajmarg Yatra App			
Effective From	August 15, 2025			
Average Toll per Trip	₹15			
Savings per Pass	Approx. ₹7,000			
Ministry	MoRTH			

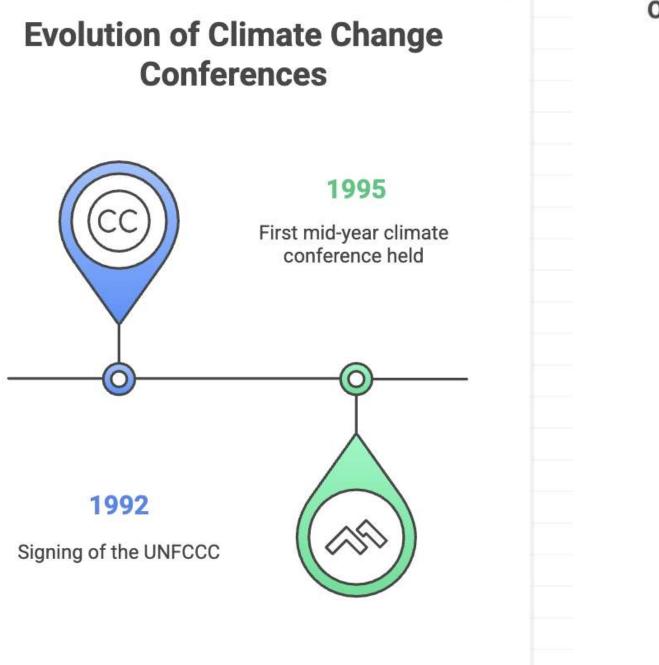
- Q. With reference to the FASTag-based Annual Pass announced by the Government in 2025, consider the following statements:
- It is applicable only to commercial vehicles.
- It allows up to 200 toll crossings in a year.
- The average toll cost per trip under this scheme is ₹15.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
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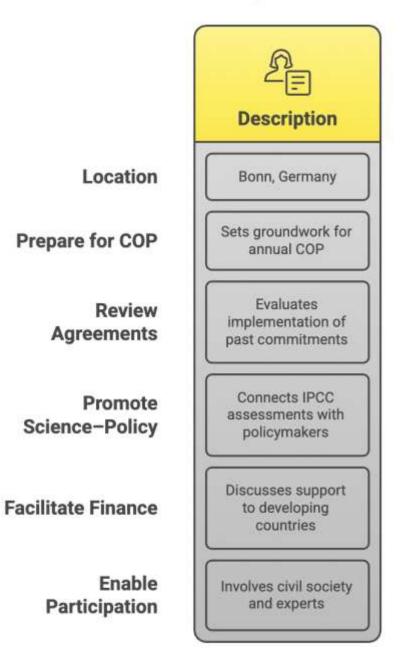
Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025

Key Milestones in Climate Change Conferences

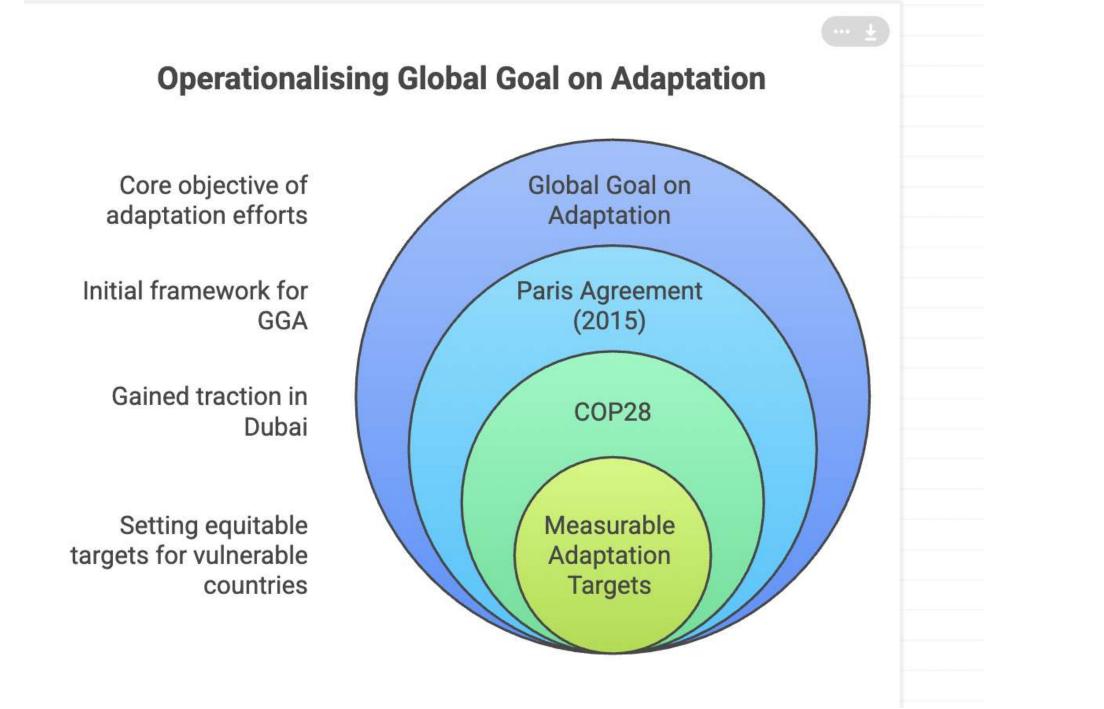




Objectives of Climate Change Conference



Pathways to Climate Solutions SP 7=0 SBI SBSTA Monitors and reviews Integrates scientific climate action advice into climate policy implementation planning_ effectively. Se Se Se **Pre-COP Platform** Multilateral Participation Shapes COP outcomes through strategic discussions. Engages diverse stakeholders in climate action. **Actionable Roadmaps** Develops practical strategies for climate goals.



International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Inaugural Assembly of IBCA





Global cooperation for big cat conservation.

Key Milestones in the Establishment of IBCA

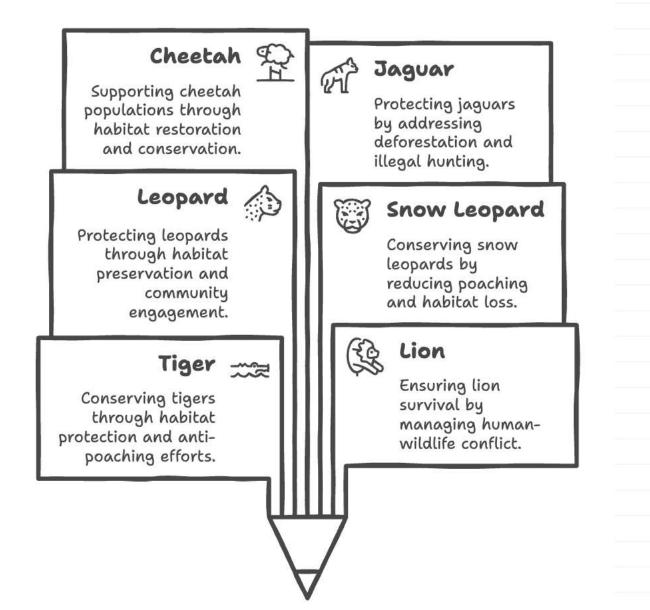


Unified Conservation Efforts

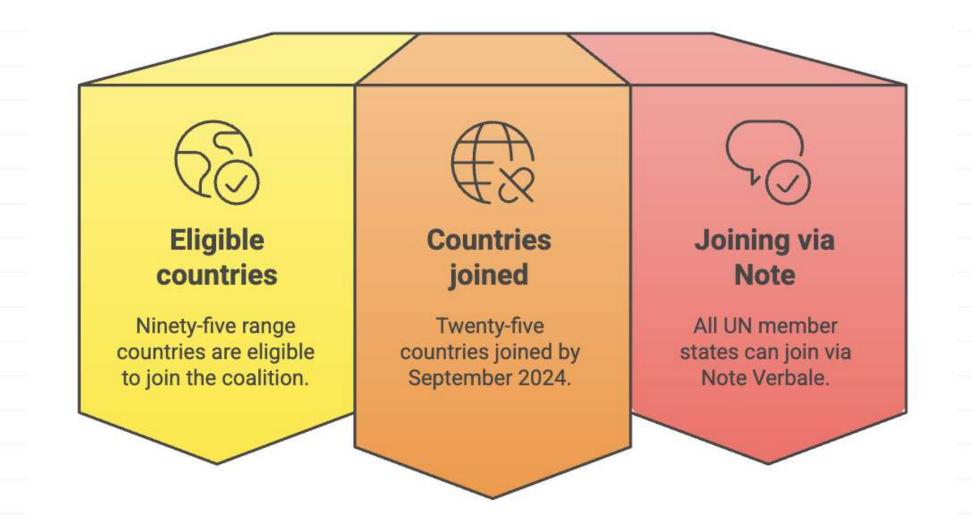
J.

Livelihood

Unified Big Cat Conservation



Joining the coalition



IBCA Highlights

Nations Participated

Nine nations, including Bhutan and Cambodia, discussed conservation.

India as HQ

India is the permanent secretariat of IBCA.



(₹)

Yadav Elected President

Bhupender Yadav is the first Alliance President.

India's Funding

India allocated ₹150 crore to support IBCA.

Word of the day

Recede:

pull back or move away; retreat; become faint or more distant

Synonyms: draw back, pull away, retire, withdraw, drop off, fall back, fall behind

Usage: His footsteps receded down the hall.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/recedepro

Thank you guys.