

Daily Current Affairs





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The Hindu



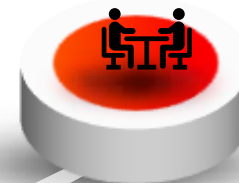
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**PIB, PRS & Other
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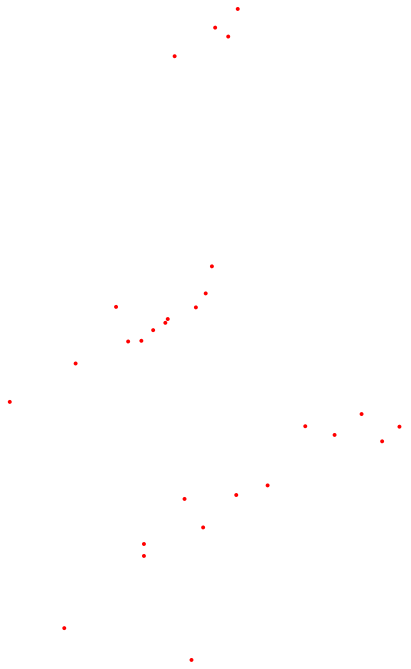
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10 MCQ QUIZ

"Respect other people's feelings. It might mean nothing to you, but it could mean everything to them."

Roy T. Bennett



REBUILDING CANADA TIES
Jalshankar meets Anita Anand in New York
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India got 8% more monsoon rainfall: IMD
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100 years of the UPSC
Millions of aspirants have reposed faith in the body
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SMOOTH START
Amanjot and Deepthi star in India's big win
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INSIDE



Stalin must focus anger on me, not TVK cadre Vijay

CHENNAI
Tamilaga Vetti Kathagam president Vijay on Tuesday said he had never experienced a situation as painful as the one in Kumar. He also stated that if CM M.K. Stalin wished to take 'revenge', it should be directed at him. ■ PAGE 8

Taliban telecom blackout leaves Afghans in dark

KABUL
The United Nations on Monday called on Afghanistan's Taliban authorities to restore internet and telecommunications in the country, 24 hours after a nationwide blackout was imposed. Online businesses and banking systems were also frozen. ■ PAGE 18

Bomb attack on paramilitary in Pakistan kills 10

KARACHI
At least 10 persons were killed and over 30 injured on Tuesday in a bomb attack against the paramilitary forces in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province. The blast struck a street close to headquarters of Frontier Constabulary in Quetta. ■ PAGE 14

THE HINDU
There will be no issue of THE HINDU on October 2, 2025, as **Ayudha Pooja** is a holiday. Readers can access the Online edition at www.thehindu.com

Bihar's final poll list has 7.42 crore voters

Physical, digital copies of final electoral rolls are being shared with all political parties, says EC | Electors with complaints can file a first appeal before District Magistrate and second appeal before the CEO | Bihar's ruling parties welcome final electoral rolls; opposition to review before commenting

Amid Bihar's PATNA

Ahead of the Assembly election in Bihar, the Election Commission on Tuesday released the final electoral rolls in the state with nearly 7.42 crore names on the completion of the special intensive revision of the list. Prior to the revision, the State had 7.09 crore voters as on June 24. When the draft list was released on August 1, there were 7.24 crore names with 68 lakh removed. On the final list, 21.53 lakh names were added and 3.66 lakh removed, a press statement from the Election Commission said. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar thanked the electors, officials, booth-level agents and

Final count

January 7.42 crore voters will form the electorate in Bihar for the upcoming Assembly election. This final figure comes after a month-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the rolls, which saw large-scale deletions, fresh additions and many corrections.

7.09 crore Electors as on June 24, 2025	7.24 crore Electors in draft list prepared (Aug. 1, 2025)
68 lakh Deleted during SIR	3.66 lakh Deleted from draft list
21.53 lakh Added to draft list (through Form 6, applications)	67.42 crore Final number as of Sept. 30, 2025

they may, under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, file a first appeal before the District Magistrate and a second appeal before the CEO. Physical and digital copies of the rolls are being shared with political parties. Mr. Singh said the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and district, constituency, and block-level election officers had shared with political parties both levels of electors who were reported as deceased, whose enumeration forms were not received, who had permanently migrated, or who could not be traced, with the objective of identifying eligible voters.

The draft electoral rolls were shared with all political parties, while the list of names not included on the draft rolls was displayed by the district election officers and district magistrates, as well as on the website of the Bihar CEO. **Successful exercise** He said the SIR exercise was carried out in line with Article 326 of the Constitution, and the commission's motto: "No eligible voter to be left out, and no ineligible person to be included in the electoral rolls." "This large-scale exercise was made successful through the sincere efforts of Chief Electoral Officer

Bihar, District Election Officers of all 38 districts, 243 Electoral Registration Officers, 2,976 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, around 1 lakh Booth Level Officers, lakhs of volunteers and the full involvement of all the 12 major political parties, including their district presidents and over 16 lakh booth-level Agents appointed by them," Mr. Singh said in the statement.

Bihar's ruling parties welcomed the final electoral rolls. "We welcome the final voter list of Bihar after SIR has been completed successfully. This is certainly a step towards strengthening democracy and will increase transparency in elections," BJP State spokesperson Niraj Kumar said.

Janata Dal(U) MLAs and spokespersons Nirmal Kumar slammed the Opposition for questioning the EC's credibility. "The Opposition parties were raising a finger against the EC with the slogan of 'Vote Short (vote theft)' and now the final list has been published in which more than 21 lakh names have been added. In Bihar, the maximum population is of marginalised section and their names have been added. The Opposition is exposed now," he said. Opposition leader Shriyati Janata Dal spokesperson Chitrangidha Das said that after reviewing with booth-level agents and panchayat representatives, the party would give its official statement on the completion of SIR.

Spirit of Telangana



FLORAL OFFERINGS: Women celebrating Navaratri at Tarnak in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The floral festival represents the spirit of Telangana and is celebrated for nine days during Navaratri. (NAGARA GOPAL)

9 workers killed in accident at power plant in Ennore

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Nine migrant workers from Assam were killed and one person was injured when scaffolding came crashing down on a construction site in the Ennore special Economic Zone thermal power project near Porur on Tuesday. The group of workers were building a concrete arch for the 1,320-MW Ennore SEZ thermal power station when the accident took place, according to a senior official in the Area Police Commissioner's office. They were working at a height of more than 20 feet when the iron scaffolding collapsed. Twelve workers rescued the 10 injured people and



The remains of the collapsed scaffolding crane. (PTI/ANASSOCIATED PRESS)

rushed them to the Government Stanley Hospital, but nine of them died on the way. The nine deceased have been identified as Munakempral, Vidyanth Praveksha, Somen Karthik, Deepak Rajaling, Sarbomni Dasgupta, Praveksha, Paban Jorung, Phalish Pholung, and Himraj Thasun. All migrant workers from Assam. rushed them to the Government Stanley Hospital, but nine of them died on the way. The nine deceased have been identified as Munakempral, Vidyanth Praveksha, Somen Karthik, Deepak Rajaling, Sarbomni Dasgupta, Praveksha, Paban Jorung, Phalish Pholung, and Himraj Thasun. All migrant workers from Assam.

Trump gives Hamas an ultimatum to respond to his Gaza ceasefire plan

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE JERUSALEM

U.S. President Donald Trump gave Hamas an ultimatum of "three or four days" on Tuesday to respond to his plan for Gaza, as the militant group reviewed the proposal backed by Israel. The plan calls for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, disarmament of Hamas and gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Mr. Trump himself. World powers, including Arab and Muslim nations, welcomed the proposal, but Hamas had yet to issue its response on the ceasefire plan. "We are going to do

about three or four days," Mr. Trump told reporters when asked about any timeframe. "We are just waiting for Hamas, and Hamas is either going to be doing it or not. And if it's not, it's going to be a very sad end." **Trump Netanyahu meet** Mr. Trump announced the deal at the White House on Monday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Tuesday, a Palestinian source said Hamas had begun consultations on the plan "within its political and military leadership, both inside Palestine and abroad." "The discussions could take several days due to the complexities," the Palestinian source added.

Eight Arab or Muslim world leaders said they "welcome the role of the American President and his sincere efforts aimed at ending the war in Gaza." In a joint statement, they said they "affirm their readiness to engage positively and constructively with the United States and the Palestinian leadership in the agreement and ensuring its implementation." The countries include Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey — which all recognise Israel, although some have turbulent relationships. Qatar, which hosts Hamas, said the group had promised to "act responsibly," and also said it would hold a meeting with Hamas and Turkey later on Tuesday. "It is still too early to speak about responses, but we are truly optimistic that this plan, as we said, is a comprehensive one," Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al-Ansari said. In a video statement

hostages, alive and well, while the deal would remain in most of the Gaza Strip," he said. Still, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotich, a member of Netanyahu's coalition government, blasted the plan as a "receding diplomatic failure." "In my estimation, this plan is a failure. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again in the future," he said. "Unrealistic plan" In Gaza, people were sceptical. "It is clear that this plan is unrealistic," 39-year-old Ibrahim Joudah said from his shelter in the so-called humanitarian zone of Al-Musheirah. He said the plan was "drafted with conditions that the U.S. and Is-

rael know Hamas will never accept. For us, that means the war and the suffering will continue," said the computer programmer, originally from the southern city of Be'er Sheva, devastated by a military offensive that began in May. Israeli air strikes and shelling continued across Gaza on Tuesday, killing 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's offensive has reduced much of Gaza to rubble and killed 66,000 Palestinians, also mostly civilians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers

had, on the other hand, said the plan would fuel further aggression against Palestinians. "Through this, Israel is attempting — via the United States — to impose what it could not achieve through war," the group said in a statement. The Gaza war was triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which killed 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's offensive has reduced much of Gaza to rubble and killed 66,000 Palestinians, also mostly civilians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers

Bihar's final poll list has 7.42 crore voters

Physical, digital copies of final electoral rolls are being shared with all political parties, says EC

Electors with complaints can file a first appeal before District Magistrate and second appeal before the CEO

Bihar's ruling parties welcome final electoral rolls; opposition to review before commenting

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Ahead of the Assembly election in Bihar, the Election Commission on Tuesday released the final electoral rolls in the State with nearly 7.42 crore names on the completion of the special intensive revision of the list.

Prior to the revision, the State had 7.89 crore voters as on June 24. When the draft list was released on August 1, there were 7.24 crore names with 65 lakh removed. On the final list, 21.53 lakh names were added and 3.66 lakh removed, a press statement from the Election Commission said.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar thanked the electors, offi-

cials, booth-level agents and leaders of political parties in Bihar for the completion of the special revision in the State after a gap of 22 Years today.

Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer Vinod Singh Gunjyal said voters could check their details on voters.eci.gov.in/download-eroll.

"If any eligible person still wishes to apply for inclusion of their name in the Electoral Roll, they can submit an application up to 10 days before the last date for filing nominations for election," Apurva Kumar Singh, Assistant Director, EC, said in the statement.

Mr. Singh said if any person was not satisfied with the decision of the electoral registration officer on entry on the electoral rolls,

Final count

Nearly 7.42 crore voters will form the electorate in Bihar for the upcoming Assembly election. This final figure comes after a months-long **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of the rolls, which saw large-scale deletions, fresh additions and many corrections.

HERE'S HOW THE NUMBERS CHANGED:



21.53 lakh: Added to draft list (through Form 6 applications)

7.89 crore: Electors as on June 24, 2025

65 lakh Removed during draft preparation

7.24 crore Electors in draft List (Aug. 1, 2025)

3.66 lakh: Removed from draft list

≈7.42 crore: Final electors as on Sept. 30, 2025

they may, under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, file a first appeal before the District Magistrate and a second appeal before the CEO.

Physical and digital copies of the rolls are being shared with political parties.

Mr. Singh said the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and district-, constituency-, and block-level election officers had shared with political parties booth-level lists of electors who were reported as deceased, whose enumeration forms were not re-

ceived, who had permanently migrated, or who could not be traced, with the objective of identifying eligible voters.

The draft electoral rolls were shared with all political parties, while the list of names not included on the draft rolls was displayed by the district election officers and district magistrates, as well as on the website of the Bihar CEO.

Successful exercise

He said the SIR exercise was carried out in line with Article 326 of the Constitution, and the commission's motto: "No eligible voter to be left out, and no ineligible person to be included in the electoral rolls."

"This large-scale exercise was made successful through the sincere efforts of Chief Electoral Officer

Bihar, District Election Officers of all 38 districts, 243 Electoral Registration Officers, 2,976 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, around 1 lakh Booth Level Officers, lakhs of volunteers and the full involvement of all the 12 major Political Parties, including their district presidents and over 1.6 lakh Booth Level Agents appointed by them," Mr. Singh said in the statement.

Bihar's ruling parties welcomed the final electoral rolls.

"We welcome the final voter list of Bihar after SIR has been completed successfully. This is certainly a step towards strengthening democracy and will increase transparency in elections," BJP State spokesperson Niraj Kumar said.

Janata Dal(U) MLC and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar slammed the Opposition for questioning the EC's credibility.

"The Opposition parties were raising a finger against the EC with the slogan of 'Vote Chori (vote theft)' and now the final list has been published in which more than 21 lakh names have been added. In Bihar, the maximum population is of marginalised section and their names have been added. The Opposition is exposed now," he said.

Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal spokesperson Chitraranjan Gagan said that after reviewing with booth-level agents and panchayat representatives, the party would give its official statement on the completion of SIR.

- **Total voters:** 7.42 crore (as of September 30, 2025)
 - **Before revision:** 7.89 crore (as on June 24, 2025)
 - **Removed names:** 65 lakh (due to deaths, migration, duplication)
 - **Added names:** 21.53 lakh new voters
 - **Draft list (Aug 1):** 7.24 crore voters
 - **Final list after corrections:** 7.42 crore
-

2. Process of Revision

- **Authority:** Election Commission of India (ECI)
- **Exercise name:** *Special Intensive Revision (SIR)* after **22 years**
- **Objective:**
 - To ensure accurate and updated voter data
 - Remove ineligible entries (deceased, migrated, duplicates)
 - Include new eligible voters
- **Legal Basis:**
 - **Section 24 of Representation of People Act, 1950** — provides appeal mechanism for inclusion
 - Appeals can be made before **District Magistrate** (1st appeal) and **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** (2nd appeal)

3. Administrative Mechanism

- **Officials Involved:**
 - District Election Officers (38 districts)
 - 243 Electoral Registration Officers
 - 2,976 Assistant Electoral Officers
 - ~1 lakh Booth Level Officers
 - 1.6 lakh Booth Level Agents
 - **Political Parties Involved:** 12 major parties (including BJP, RJD, JD(U))
-

4. Public Participation

- **Citizen Access:**
 - Website: voters.eci.gov.in/download-eroll ↗
- **Appeals:** Citizens can apply for inclusion **10 days before nomination filing date**
- **Transparency:**
 - Digital and physical copies shared with all political parties
 - Booth-level lists displayed at offices

Representation of People Act, 1950

- Deals with **electoral rolls, qualifications, delimitation**

Representation of People Act, 1951

- Deals with **conduct of elections, disqualification, etc.**

Booth Level Officer (BLO): Acts as grassroots verifier

-
- **India's total voters (2024):** ~97 crore (EC data)
 - **First Voter:** Shyam Saran Negi (Himachal Pradesh)
 - **Digital Initiatives:**
 - *Voter Helpline App, NVSP portal, Garuda App* for officials
 - **Bihar's Population (2025 est.):** ~13.2 crore
 - **Elector-Population Ratio:** ~56%



Lament for Lashkar: Memorial services of Tawang Tharchin being taken for his last rites amid sorrow, in Leh on Monday. (P)

Congress slams BJP over death of Kargil veteran in Leh stir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "betraying" the people of Ladakh, with the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanding a judicial probe into the death of four protesters in police firing in the Union Territory.

Kargil war veteran Tawang Tharchin was one of those killed on September 24, when violent protests over the Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule turned violent.

Taking to social media platform X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Mr. Gandhi posted on the anguish caused by the Kargil veterans' death.

Mr. Kharge shared a video of Tharchin's father and said, "Ladakh's sorrow is the sorrow of the entire nation." He targeted the BJP for its hollow nationalism, "silenced" Tawang Tharchin fulfilled his duty towards Mother India in the Kargil War, but he did

he get in return? A bullet from the Modi government in Ladakh! The father was also in the Army, the son was also in the Army," Mr. Kharge said.

Making a political charge, the Congress chief said the Prime Minister himself gave China a clean chit when 20 brave soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh's Galwan.

"If he didn't remember the valor of our brave soldiers, what chance is there now? Those who care for China a CLEAN CHIT, what chance will they show for the martyrdom of brave soldiers like our Tawang Tharchin? This is the BJP's hollow nationalism," Mr. Kharge alleged.

Judicial probe Mr. Gandhi, who is on a four-nation tour of South America, said, "We demand that an impartial judicial inquiry be conducted into these killings in Ladakh, and the culprits be given the harshest punishment."

'Wangchuk suggested overthrow of government'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ladakh administration on Tuesday accused climate activist Sonam Wangchuk of suggesting "self-immolation" to the people of Ladakh on "multiple occasions" on "lines of protests in Tibet".

In a statement issued late on Tuesday, the Union Territory administration said the "grounds of detention etc." had been duly served on Mr. Wangchuk, who is presently detained under the National Security Act (NSA) at the Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.

Mr. Wangchuk's wife, Tansil Angmo said she was yet to speak to her husband who was detained on September 26 or get a copy of the detention order.

'Investigated protest' Sonam Wangchuk had suggested 'overthrow' of government on lines of Arab Spring, if their demands were not met, but was putting forward the idea of self-immolation for instigating agitation for this, said the high-powered committee appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"The KDA will not return to the negotiating table until its key demands are addressed, which include the unconditional release of those detained and halting of further military operations in the region," the statement said.

Blaming him for the violence in Leh city on September 26, the Ladakh administration said that "even though other Leh Apex Body leaders included the arrested individuals in the aggressive crowd, Mr. Wangchuk made no attempt to ensure peace."

Kargil group sets terms to resume talks with Centre

Kargil Democratic Alliance seeks judicial probe into civilian killings; says people who stand up for the rights of Ladakh cannot be labelled anti-nationals; Leh Apex Body too had ruled out dialogue

Perazala Ashin
SHIMLAGH, LEH

Curfew was relaxed on Tuesday in Ladakh's Leh town, where violent protests over the demands for Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution left four civilians dead on September 24.

Amid the efforts to restore normalcy, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), a Kargil-based umbrella organisation of social, political and religious groups, on Tuesday announced its decision to withdraw from talks with the Centre scheduled for October 6. The KDA decision came a day after the Leh Apex Body (LAB) decided to boycott the talks for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The KDA took exception to the branding of Ladakh residents as "anti-nationalists". "People who stand up for the rights of Ladakh cannot be dismissed with the tag of anti-nationalists," Sonam Wangchuk is a respected figure not just in Ladakh but across the nation.

Mr. Karbala said, "Initially, curfew was relaxed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Later, shopkeepers were told they can keep



Shopkeepers' security personnel keep watch during relaxation of the curfew in Leh on Tuesday. (P)

shops open till 5 p.m.," a shopkeeper in Leh market said.

Internet suspended Though the curfew was relaxed, the authorities announced a complete suspension of mobile Internet and fixed Wi-Fi services in Leh district till October 3.

A Home Ministry order said the suspension of Internet was enforced "due to unavoidable circumstances" and to "avert public emergency and prevent incitement of offences".

Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Ravinder Gupta again chaired a high-level meeting to review law and order situation in the Union Territory. It was attended by top officials of the police, CRPF, Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). An official spokesman said Mr. Gupta made a

detailed assessment of the ground situation in Leh market of the recent developments and the relaxation of curfew in certain areas."

While appreciating the "responsible conduct of the people", the L-G warned locals against falling prey to the designs of "anti-social and anti-national elements".

"The people of Ladakh have shown remarkable maturity, restraint, and commitment to peace even in such challenging circumstances. Their patience and cooperation reflect the true spirit of harmony that defines our region," the L-G said.

He assured them that every legitimate concern of the people "will be addressed through dialogue and democratic means," the spokesman said.

'Bridging the fighter jet gap is Air Force's top priority'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force is banking on the LEA Mk2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) for the future, but the efforts they will take time, efforts are being made to bridge the immediate capability gap, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, said on Tuesday in Delhi.

He was addressing Aero Tech India 2025, which is organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, in partnership with the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies.

He also mentioned that a contract for the procurement of an advanced LEA Mk2A aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) was signed last week.

Ayush and Alopathy complement each other, says Union Minister

Hindu Shiksha Perambalan
NEW DELHI

To give Ayurveda global recognition, India is placing emphasis on evidence-based research and clinical trials through the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and other institutions, Union Minister of State for Ayurveda, Prashant Prasad Gangaputra said in an interaction with The Hindu.

The Minister said that the aim of the Ministry is to develop an integrated healthcare model.

"Alopathy and Ayurveda systems complement each other, but they are not competitors. Through the National Ayurveda Mission and Ayurveda Grid, we are working to combine the strengths of both systems to provide better and comprehensive healthcare," he said.



Modern labs, testing protocols, and digital tracking systems are being developed. Manufacturers are also being encouraged to adopt good practices. (P)

"Under the NAM, Ayurveda health centres and medical colleges are being developed across the country. The National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCISM) and the National Council of Yoga and Naturopathy (NCY) have been set up ensuring standardisation for research, faculty, infrastructure, and research," he added.

The Minister said the government was also working



Modern labs, testing protocols, and digital tracking systems are being developed. Manufacturers are also being encouraged to adopt good practices. (P)

to strengthen public health infrastructure, and that under NAM, Ayurveda doctors were being deployed in health and wellness centres to ensure access to primary healthcare in rural and remote areas.

"Together with WHO, we have set up the Global Ayurveda Health Leadership by 2047. For this, we are focusing on evidence-based research, digitalisation, Ayurveda education and the start-up ecosystem," he said.

reach of Ayurveda systems," the Minister said.

On the issue of poor quality and counterfeit Ayurvedic medicines, he said the government was strengthening the drug quality control network.

"Modern labs, testing protocols, and digital tracking systems are being developed. Manufacturers are also being encouraged to adopt good practices," he said.

Responding to a question on the inclusion of Ayurveda education curriculum as a school and college level, he said efforts to integrate them into curricula were ongoing.

"Our goal is to position India at the forefront of global health leadership by 2047. For this, we are focusing on evidence-based research, digitalisation, Ayurveda education and the start-up ecosystem," he said.

Trump's Gaza peace plan is comprehensive, provides viable pathway to peace: PM

Kaifol Bhattacharjee

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace proposal, which Mr. Trump released on Monday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House.

Mr. Modi said the proposal will help Palestinian and Israelis as well as the West Asia region.

In response to Mr. Modi's remarks, Israeli ambassador to New Delhi, Gadi Shalom, said India can participate in the reconstruction of Gaza.

"We welcome President Donald Trump's announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. It provides a vi-



Peace pathway to long term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people. We hope that all concerned will come together behind President Trump's initiative and support this effort to end conflict and secure peace," the Ministry of External Affairs is yet to respond to a question from The Hindu on how India's policy of "two-state solution" will be harmonised with the new policy of Palestinian territory (Gaza) as President Trump's plan envisages.

He assured them that every legitimate concern of the people "will be addressed through dialogue and democratic means," the spokesman said.

India got 8% more monsoon rainfall this year, says IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India this year received 8% more monsoon rainfall than normal, the fifth highest since 2001 and the 36th highest since 1901, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The IMD considers only the rainfall from June 1 to September 30 to calculate monsoon data.

While the southwest monsoon season largely boded well for agriculture by boosting moisture in reservoirs, it wreaked havoc in several parts of the country — particularly in North India — leading to

loss of life and property. Seasonal rainfall over northeast India, central India, and south peninsula was 27%, 15% and 10% more than their respective averages. However, rainfall in eastern and northeast India was 80% of their respective averages.

The rainfall over west India was 74.7% of the highest since 2001 and sixth highest since 1901, while that over east and northeast India was 100% of the highest since 1901.

The monsoon season saw extremely heavy rainfall in several parts of northern

Pouring patterns

Monsoon rains were uneven across India, with rainmakers filling in some regions while others faced a dry spell.



and southern India, thanks to the coupling of storms that originated in the Mediterranean region and merged with the monsoon trough that hovers over the Indian subcontinent during the monsoon season. When paired

by monsoons, rainfall was 9% more than what is usual in June, 8% more in July and 10% more in August, except in the extended spells of heavy rain. Though the monsoon system has not fully with-

drawn and will prevail over the next couple of weeks, the IMD does not consider that rain in its quota of monsoon rainfall. For October, the agency has forecast 'above normal' rain in the country, except for the north and northeast India.

Centre directs NGOs to seek FCRA renewal 4 months before expiry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday directed non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit applications for renewal of their Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration at least four months before expiry.

FCRA registration, which is mandatory for NGOs and associations to receive foreign funds, is renewed every five years. In a communication, the Ministry noted that several associations had been submitting renewal applications less than 90 days before the expiry of their certificates.

"Such delayed submissions do not allow sufficient time for scrutiny or for obtaining inputs from security agencies," the Ministry said. It stated that NGOs are "actively advised to submit their renewal applications well in advance and, in any case, not later than four months before the validity expires."

India got 8% more monsoon rainfall this year, says IMD

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While the southwest monsoon season largely boded well for agriculture by boosting storage in reservoirs, it wreaked havoc in several parts of the country – particularly in North India – leading to

loss of life and property.

Seasonal rainfall over northwest India, central India, and south peninsula was 27%, 15% and 10% more than their seasonal averages. However, rainfall in eastern and northeastern India was 80% of what those regions usually get.

The rainfall over northwest India was 74.79 cm, the highest since 2001 and sixth highest since 1901, while that over east and northeast India was 108.9 cm, the second lowest since 1901. Overall, the monsoon rainfall was 93.7 cm.

The monsoon season saw extremely heavy spells in several parts of northern

Pouring patterns

Monsoon rains were uneven across India, with reservoirs filling in some regions while others faced a dry spell

■ Northwest sees record rainfall of 27% above seasonal average, the highest since 2001

■ Central India and south peninsula see above-average rainfall 15% and 10% higher than their seasonal averages

■ East and Northeast face deficit, receiving only 80% of usual rainfall, the second-lowest since 1901



and southern India, thanks to the conjoining of storms that originated in the Mediterranean region, along with the monsoon trough that hovers over the Indian landmass during the monsoon season. When parsed

by months, rainfall was 9% more than what is usual in June, 5% more in both July and August, and 15% excess in September.

The southwest monsoon advanced over the south Andaman Sea and

Nicobar Islands on May 13, 2025, nearly nine days ahead of the normal schedule. It arrived in Kerala on May 24, ahead of the usual onset date of June 1, and covered the entire country by June 29.

There were seven monsoon depressions, or sub-cyclonic storms that form in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, during the season. Of the seven, one intensified into a deep depression. Storms falling in this category last an average of 69 days against a normal of 55, contributing to the extended spells of heavy rain.

Though the monsoon system has not fully with-

drawn and will prevail over the next couple of weeks, the IMD does not count that rain in its quota of monsoon rainfall. For October, the agency has forecast 'above normal' rain in the country, except for parts of north and northwest India.

While a La Nina is expected to form in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean and it usually means a stronger winter, IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra said this was not always the case.

A forecast for winter (December, January and February) will be available around November, he added.

- **8% more rainfall** than normal (June 1 – Sept 30, 2025)
- **Fifth-highest** rainfall since 2001
- **38th highest** since 1901
- IMD (India Meteorological Department) considers **June 1 – September 30** for monsoon data.

2. Regional Distribution

Region	Rainfall % of Normal	Remark
Northwest India	127%	Highest since 2001
Central India	115%	Above average
South Peninsula	110%	Above average
East & Northeast India	80%	Deficient – second lowest since 1901

 Overall average: 93.7 cm

3. Monthly Trends

- **June:** +9% above normal
 - **July:** +5%
 - **August:** +5%
 - **September:** +15% (highest surplus month)
-

4. Implications

- 🌾 **Agriculture:** Boosted reservoir storage and sowing
 - ⚠️ **Disaster:** Floods, crop damage, and loss of life in parts of **North India**
 - 📉 **Deficit:** East & Northeast regions faced shortfall
-

5. Meteorological Details

- **Onset:** May 24 over Kerala (ahead of June 1 normal)
- **Coverage:** Entire country by June 29
- **Withdrawal:** Began from south Andaman & Nicobar on May 13
- **Monsoon Systems:** 7 depressions, 1 deep depression (above average)

- **IMD Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1875
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences
- **Monsoon Forecast Model:** Dynamical Coupled Climate Model
- **Normal Rainfall Benchmark:** ~88 cm (long period average)
- **Southwest Monsoon Contribution:** ~75% of India's annual rainfall
- **La Niña:** Cooling of Pacific Ocean → enhances Indian monsoon
- **El Niño:** Warming → weakens Indian monsoon

IN BRIEF



Jointness of Armed Forces is a necessity, says Rajnath Singh

Jointness of Armed Forces is a necessity, says Rajnath Singh. The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday underlined that jointness among the armed forces was no longer a choice but an operational necessity in the evolving security environment. He was speaking at a seminar organised by the Indian Air Force at New Delhi. Referring to Operation Sindoor, Mr. Singh said the IT services synergy created a unified, real-time operational picture that empowered commanders with timely decisions and enhanced situational awareness and reduced the risk of fratricide, and said it was a benchmark for future operations. He noted that the interconnected nature of land, sea, air, space and cyberspace demanded deeper collaboration.

HC directs release of disability pension, rejects AFT order

The Delhi High Court has directed the release of disability pension to a retired Army nursing officer, setting aside an order of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) that had rejected her claim on the ground that her hypertension was attributable to obesity. A bench of Justice G. Hari Shankar and Justice G. Prakash Singh observed that the tribunal was "not justified in drawing, of itself, a causal connection between the hypertension and the obesity from which the petitioner was suffering". The court directed the Centre to release the disability pension to Ms. Deepshikha Tripathi from the date of her release from service, along with arrears, within 12 weeks.

IPS officers appointed as heads of CISF and ITBP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Central Intelligence Security Force (CISF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) got new chiefs on Tuesday with senior IPS officers Praveen Ranjan and Praveen Kumar taking charge of the paramilitary forces.

Mr. Ranjan, a 1993-batch IPS officer, assumed charge as Director-General, CISF following the supersession of R.S. Bharti. He was serving as special D-3, CISF, and heading the southern Airport Security division prior to this post.

Praveen Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer, took charge as Director-General, ITBP, after Rajat Rangra retired from service. The ITBP is the primary border guarding force deployed along the India-China frontier.

Bihar has fewer Passport and Foreigners Act cases

Illegal migration and infiltration have been raised as key issues ahead of the Bihar polls, according to NCRB data, most of such cases in 2023 were registered in West Bengal, followed by Tripura

Vishal Singh

NEW DELHI

With the Bharatiya Janata Party raising illegal migration and infiltration as key issues ahead of the Assembly election in Bihar, latest data by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that only five cases pertaining to the Foreigners and Passport Acts were registered in the State in 2023. The number of such cases in 2022 and 2021 stood at three and one, respectively.

In 2023, across India, a total of 2,390 cases were registered under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; Foreigners Act, 1946; Passport Act, 1967; Emigration Act, 1963; and Citizenship Act, 1955, according to the NCRB in its report released on Monday.

The highest of 1,080 such cases were registered in West Bengal, followed by 277 cases in Tripura, 272 in Maharashtra, 167 in Tamil Nadu, and 76 in Punjab.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have both in-

Behind bars

NEW DELHI

According to the Prison Statistics of India 2023 report, the number of foreigners in the country's prisons had risen from 6,283 in 2022 to 6,395 in 2023, an increase of 1.8%.



voled the issue of infiltration to be a key issue in recent speeches to justify the special intensive residential (SIR) of electoral roll carried out by the Election Commission of India in the State.

The highest of 1,080 such cases were registered in West Bengal, followed by 277 cases in Tripura, 272 in Maharashtra, 167 in Tamil Nadu, and 76 in Punjab.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have both in-

crease of 10.7%. Among these, 21 (0.5% of total) were convicted, 74.3% (1,167 inmates) were convicted and 4% (63) were under detention. Bangladeshis, nationals made up the most number of foreign convicts in Indian jails (59.4%), followed by 13.3% from Nepal, 10.46% from Myanmar, 8.9% from Pakistan, and 3.9% from Nigeria.

Offences against State The total number of cases

pertaining to "offences against the State" declined by 11.1% in 2023 compared with 2022. A total of 3,473 such cases were registered in 2023, compared with 3,910 in 2022.

Of these, 81.0% of cases (2,808) were registered under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and 18.9% cases (665) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

In 2023, the number of cases registered under the UAPA stood at 1,208. Most of the cases under the UAPA were filed in Uttar Pradesh (224), followed by Jammu and Kashmir (78), Manipal (33), Assam (73), and Rajasthan (30).

Environmental offences Environment-related offences saw an increase of 40.4% in 2023 with 68,894 cases registered as against 49,081 in 2022. With regard to types of environmental-related crimes registered, data revealed that the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) accounted for 65.9% of cases (59,279), followed by the Motor Vehicles Act (14,390) and the Forest (State/Central), with 9.6% of cases (6,640).

Over 1.73 lakh killed in road accidents in 2023, 1.6% rise: NCRB

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

More than 1.73 lakh people were killed and 4.47 lakh injured in road accidents across the country in 2023 with nearly 46% of the victims being two-wheeler riders, according to a report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Spending and careless driving were found to be the two major causes of road accidents.

A total of 4,64,029 road accidents took place in the country in 2023, 17,261 more than in 2022 - with a 4.6% increase in fatalities, from 1,71,100 in 2022 to 1,73,826 in 2023.

The highest number of accidents (20.7% of total) were reported between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Two-wheelers accounted for the highest number of fatal road accidents, causing 79,331 deaths, or 45.4% of total deaths, followed by pedestrians at 22,686 (13.0%) and SUVs/cars at 21,776 (12.5%).

Most of the deaths in two-wheeler accidents were reported in Tamil Nadu (11,490) and Uttar Pradesh (10,270). A large number of deaths due to road accidents were reported in Uttar Pradesh (19.2% of total) and a

Crash course

NEW DELHI

The NCRB report of 2023 has found that the major for most fatal road accidents was speeding.

■ 46.4% of deaths attributed to speeding

■ 23.4% (4,141) of deaths attributed to careless driving or overtaking

■ Poor weather, driving under the influence of alcohol, excessive overtaking caused 4,954 deaths

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Maharashtra, Karnataka report most number of farmer suicides

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has said in its report that 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers committed suicide in 2023. The most number of cases was from Maharashtra (36%), followed by Karnataka (22.3%).

The organisations of farmers blamed the Narendra Modi government's policies for the situation, and said the decision to waive off import duty on cotton would vitiate the situation as most of the suicides were still from the cotton belts of the country.

Of the 10,786 suicides from the Maharashtra and Karnataka, 4,696 were farmers or cultivators, and 6,090 were agricultural workers. The farm suicides accounted for 6.3% of total suicides

Fields of despair

NEW DELHI

The loss of 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers were lost to suicide in 2023, according to the NCRB report.

STATE-WISE FIGURES

■ Maharashtra 36.0%

■ Karnataka 22.3%

■ Andhra Pradesh 8.8%

■ Madhya Pradesh 7.2%

■ Tamil Nadu 6.4%

■ Other states 18.9%

■ Other states 18.9%

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showed the systemic crisis that the Modi government could not group or combat.

"This crisis is going to aggravate at a large number of farmer suicides take place in the cotton and soybean belt. Maharashtra turned out to be the graveyard of farmers. The Maharashtra and Karnataka regions are cotton and soybean belts. In spite of this, the Union government is hesitating to the pressure to sign Free Trade Agreements, and to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff terrorism, the government cancelled the 15% import duty on cotton. This means that American cotton is going to come cheap. Agriculture will be hit by these treaties," Mr. Dhawale said, adding that the NCRB data could not be trusted.

For those in distress, counselling is available at Tel: 1800-120-0000.

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"This crisis is going

Over 1.73 lakh killed in road accidents in 2023, 1.6% rise: NCRB

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

More than 1.73 lakh people were killed and 4.47 lakh injured in road accidents across the country in 2023 with nearly 46% of the victims being two-wheeler riders, according to a report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Speeding and careless driving were found to be the two major causes of road accidents.

A total of 4,64,029 road accidents took place in the country in 2023, 17,261 more than in 2022 – with a 1.6% increase in fatalities, from 1,71,100 in 2022 to 1,73,826 in 2023.

The highest number of accidents (20.7% of total) were reported between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Two-wheelers accounted for the highest number of fatal road accidents, causing 79,533 deaths, or 45.8% of total deaths, followed by pedestrians at 27,586 (15.9%) and SUV/car/jeep at 24,776 (14.3%).

Most of the deaths in two-wheeler accidents were reported in Tamil Nadu (11,490) and Uttar Pradesh (8,370). A large number of deaths due to SUV/car/jeep accidents were reported in Uttar Pradesh (19.2% of total) and a

Crash course

The NCRB report of 2023 has found that the reason for most fatal road accidents was speeding



■ **58.6%** (1,01,841) of deaths attributed to speeding

■ **23.6%** (41,035) of deaths attributed to dangerous driving or overtaking

■ Poor weather, driving under the influence and animal crossings caused **4,952 deaths**

large number of deaths due to trucks/lorries/mini truck accidents were also reported in the State (29.9% of total).

The NCRB said cause-wise analysis of fatal road accidents revealed that 58.6% (1,01,841) and 23.6% (41,035) of fatalities were due to speeding and dangerous/careless driving or overtaking, respectively.

Poor weather conditions, driving under influence of drug/alcohol and animal crossing caused 4,952 deaths.

The highest number of deaths were reported on the National Highways accounting for 34.6%, followed by State Highways at 23.4%.

- **Total deaths:** 1,73,826 (↑ 1.6% from 2022's 1,71,100)
- **Total accidents:** 4,64,029
- **Total injured:** 4.47 lakh
- **Highest time slot:** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (20.7% of accidents)

Type of Vehicles Involved

- **Two-wheelers:** 45.8% of deaths (79,533 fatalities)
- **Pedestrians:** 15.9% (27,586 deaths)
- **SUV/Car/Jeep:** 14.3% (24,776 deaths)

State-Wise Highlights

- **Tamil Nadu:** Highest deaths in two-wheeler accidents (11,490)
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Next highest (8,370)
- **UP** also led in **SUV/car/jeep** deaths (19.2% of total)

Main Causes

- **Speeding:** 58.6% (1,01,841 deaths)
- **Dangerous/careless driving or overtaking:** 23.6% (41,035 deaths)
- **Others** (poor weather, alcohol, animal crossing): 4,952 deaths

Road Category

- **National Highways:** 34.6% deaths
 - **State Highways:** 23.4%
-

Important Insights

- Two-wheelers remain the most vulnerable group.
- Speeding continues to be the top killer on Indian roads.
- Urban congestion and weak traffic enforcement remain key issues.
- India continues to record one of the **highest road fatalities globally**.

Maharashtra, Karnataka report most number of farmer suicides

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has said in its report that 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers committed suicide in 2023. The most number of cases was from Maharashtra (38.5%), followed by Karnataka (22.5%).

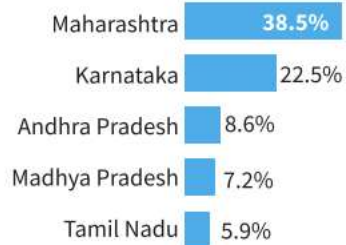
The organisations of farmers blamed the Narendra Modi government's policies for the situation, and said the decision to waive off import duty on cotton would vitiate the situation as most of the suicides were still from the cotton belts of the country.

Of the 10,786 suicides from the farming sector, 4,690 were farmers or cultivators, and 6,096 were agricultural workers. The farm suicides accounted for 6.3% of total suicides

Fields of despair

The lives of 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers were lost to suicide in 2023, according to the NCRB report

STATE-WISE FIGURES



A large number of farmer suicides take place in the cotton and soybean belt in Maharashtra.

(1,71,418 suicides in 2023) in the country.

Out of the 4,690 farmers who committed suicide, 4,553 were male and 137 were female, and out of the 6,096 suicides by farm workers, 5,433 were male and 663 were female.

After Maharashtra and Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (8.6%), Madhya Pradesh (7.2%), and Tamil Nadu (5.9%) registered the most number of suicides. West Bengal, Bihar, Od-

isha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Lakshadweep reported no suicides from the farm belt.

Commenting on the NCRB data, the president of the All India Kisan Sabha, Ashok Dhawale, said more than 10,000 suicides had been reported from the farm sector in 2021, 2022 and 2023, and it

showed the systemic crisis that the Modi government could not grasp or combat.

"This crisis is going to aggravate as a large number of farmer suicides take place in the cotton and soybean belt. Maharashtra has turned out to be the graveyard of farmers. The Marathwada and Vidarbha region are cotton and soybean belts. In spite of this, the Union government is bowing to the pressure to sign Free Trade Agreements, and to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff terrorism. The government cancelled the 11% import duty on cotton. This means that American cotton is going to come here. Agriculture will be finished by these treaties," Mr. Dhawale said, adding that the NCRB data could not be trusted.

For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416

- Total suicides (2023): 1,71,418
- Farm sector suicides: 10,786
 - Farmers/Cultivators: 4,690
 - Agricultural labourers: 6,096
- Share in total suicides: 6.3%

◆ State-wise Breakdown (Share of Total Farmer Suicides):

State	% Share	Remarks
Maharashtra	38.5%	Highest, mainly in cotton & soybean belts (Marathwada, Vidarbha)
Karnataka	22.5%	2nd highest
Andhra Pradesh	8.6%	
Madhya Pradesh	7.2%	
Tamil Nadu	5.9%	

Other states: West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and NE states reported lower numbers.



◆ Gender Breakdown:

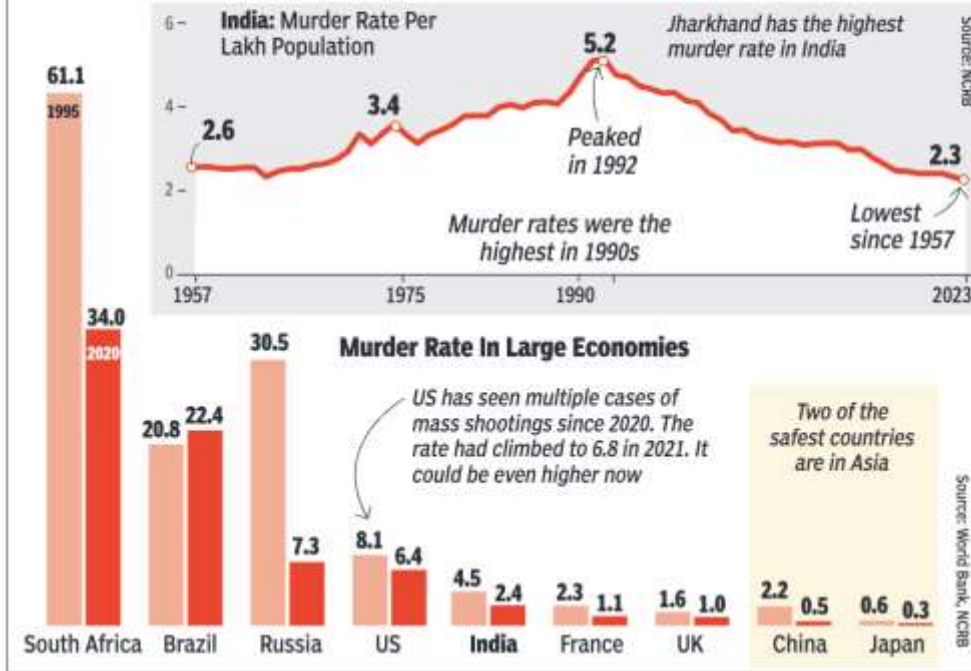
- **Farmers/Cultivators:** 4,690 total
 - 4,553 male
 - 137 female
 - **Agricultural workers:** 6,096 total
 - 5,433 male
 - 663 female
-

◆ Context & Causes:

- Crisis worsened by:
 - **Low prices** for produce
 - **Debt burden**
 - **Climatic stress** (drought, crop failure)
 - **Policy factors:** Import duty waiver on cotton (11%) criticized as worsening distress.
- Farmer organizations blame:
 - **Government policies**, especially **Free Trade Agreements** and **tariff reduction**, leading to foreign competition.

Safest time to be alive, in India & the world?

Brazil Is The Only Country Where Murders Have Gone Up



Atul.Thakur@timesofindia.com

This may seem very hard to believe, but now is probably the safest time to be alive. Murder rates in India are at their lowest since we started tracking such data, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). And it's the same story for most countries globally. NCRB started releasing data for murder and culpable homicide in 1957. In that year, India's murder rate per lakh was 2.57. By 2023, the latest year for

which NCRB has released its data, this had dropped to 2.25.

The murder rate rose steadily since 1957, and peaked in the 1990s, after which it has kept dropping. It fell below 4 in 2001, and dropped to under 3 in 2013.

Among large states that registered more than 1,000 cases of murder and culpable homicide, the rate is highest in Jharkhand – at 3.8 per lakh population. Jharkhand is followed by Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha and Telangana – each reporting a

rate of 3 or higher.

Globally, Japan is the safest country and South Africa the most dangerous, according to World Bank data. Japan, in 2020 – the last year for which comparable data across countries is available – saw only 0.3 murders per lakh population. South Africa, which was doing much better than before, was at 34. Brazil, however, is the only country where the rate increased – from 20.8 in 1995 to 22.4 in 2020.

► See **OTHER BOOK**, P 6


- **India's murder rate** is at its **lowest since 1957**.
- **Murder Rate in India:**
 - 1957: 2.57 per lakh population
 - 1992 peak: 5.2 per lakh
 - 2023: 2.3 per lakh
- **Jharkhand** has the highest state-wise rate (**3.8 per lakh population**), followed by **Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha, and Telangana**.
- Globally, murder rates are also declining, except in **Brazil** where murders rose from 20.8 (2010) to 22.4 (2020).
- **South Africa** has the highest murder rate among large economies (**34 per lakh population**).
- **Japan** is the safest country, with a rate of **0.3 per lakh population (2020)**.

India's Trend

- **1957:** 2.57
- **1992 (Peak):** 5.2
- **2001:** < 4
- **2013:** < 3
- **2023:** 2.3 (lowest since tracking began)

Murder Rate in Large Economies

- **South Africa** – 34
- **Brazil** – 22.4
- **Russia** – 30.5
- **US** – 6.4 (but higher if mass shootings factored in)
- **India** – 2.3
- **France** – 1.1
- **UK** – 1.6
- **China** – 0.5
- **Japan** – 0.3

-
-  **Causes of Decline (India & Globally)**
 - Better policing & forensic systems.
 - Decline of organized crime in many regions.
 - Social awareness + better reporting.
 - Demographic shifts (lower proportion of young males, historically associated with higher crime).
 - Economic growth & welfare schemes improving stability.

What You Should Know About Kidney Stones

Kidney stones, hard mineral deposits that form in the kidneys, are an ancient health problem — found even in Egyptian mummies. Today, around 12% of Indians suffer from them, with prevalence rising to 15% in northern India's so-called 'stone-belt'



What increases your risk

There has been a reported 30-40% rise in kidney stone cases among young adults (age 20-40), particularly during hot weather. One big reason is dehydration. Dietary factors — consumption of high-oxalate foods like spinach, potatoes, nuts, tea and chocolate, excess salt, and protein-rich diets — can also lead to stones



Types of kidney stones

Calcium Oxalate Stones

Usually due to dehydration and low urine output. But don't cut dietary calcium as it binds to oxalate in intestine, so there is less in urine to form stones. Limit high-oxalate foods instead



Cystine Stones | Due to a genetic condition that results in high levels of cystine (an amino acid) in urine, which then forms stones. These can be managed by increasing hydration and medications that change urine pH



Uric Acid Stones

Most patients with these stones don't have too much uric acid. Instead, their urine is too acidic. Adjusting urine pH (with potassium citrate) helps. For those with high uric acid, less animal protein can help, as can medicines



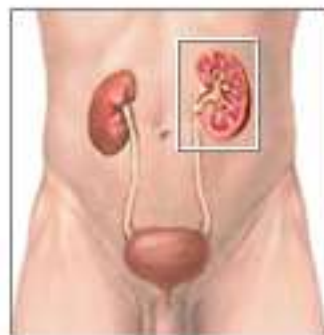
Struvite Stones | Made of magnesium ammonium phosphate, they form in alkaline urine due to a bacterial infection that raises urine pH to neutral or alkaline. Acetohydroxamic acid can reduce urine pH to help dissolve stones



How to prevent stones

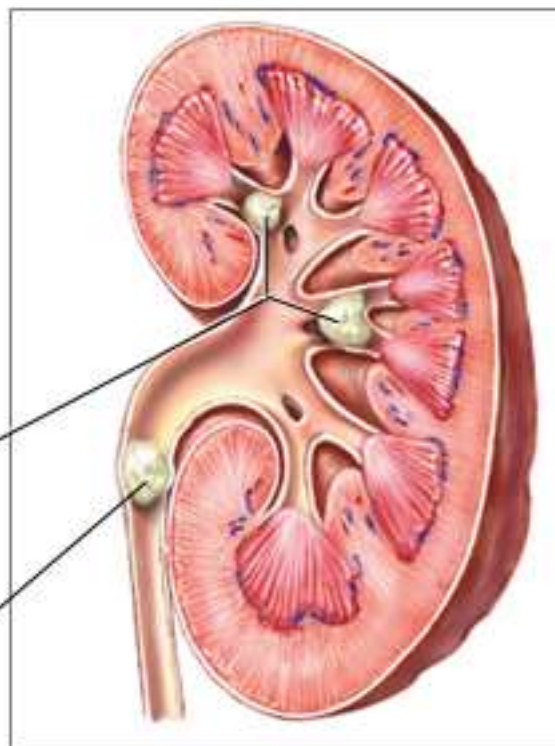
- Hydrate. A study showed 2 litres/day cut 50% risk
- Balance calcium intake (1,000-1,200 mg/day from food)
- Eat citrus fruits. Citric acid binds to calcium, helps break them down
- Limit oxalate-rich foods; also sodium as excess increases calcium

World's largest kidney stone was removed from a patient in Sri Lanka. It was 5.26 inches long and weighed 801g



Kidney stones in
the minor and
major calyces
of the kidney

Kidney stone
in the ureter





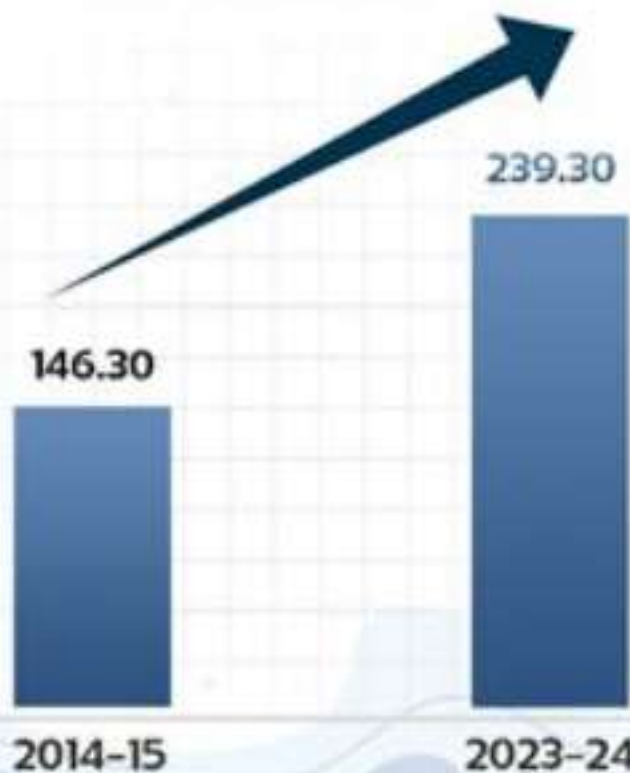
Trends in India's Dairy Sector

India continues to hold 1st position in global milk production, contributing nearly 25% of the world's supply.

Dairy sector contributes 5% to GDP, employing over 8 crore farmers, with milk production rising 63.56% in the last decade.

Milk Production In India

(Million Tonne)



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Daily Milk Intake INDIA OUTPACES WORLD AVERAGE 2023-24



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

- **About Trends in India's Dairy Sector:**

- **Rising Production:** Milk output grew from **146.3 MT (2014-15)** to **239.3 MT (2023-24)**, at an annual growth rate of 5.7%.

- **Per Capita Supply:** Availability rose by **48%**, reaching **471 g/person/day** (well above world average of 322 g).

- **Bovine Productivity:** Productivity increased by **27.39% (2014–22)**, the highest globally, aided by schemes like Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

- **Women's Role:** Nearly **70% of workforce are women**, with 48,000+ women-led dairy cooperatives enhancing inclusive growth.

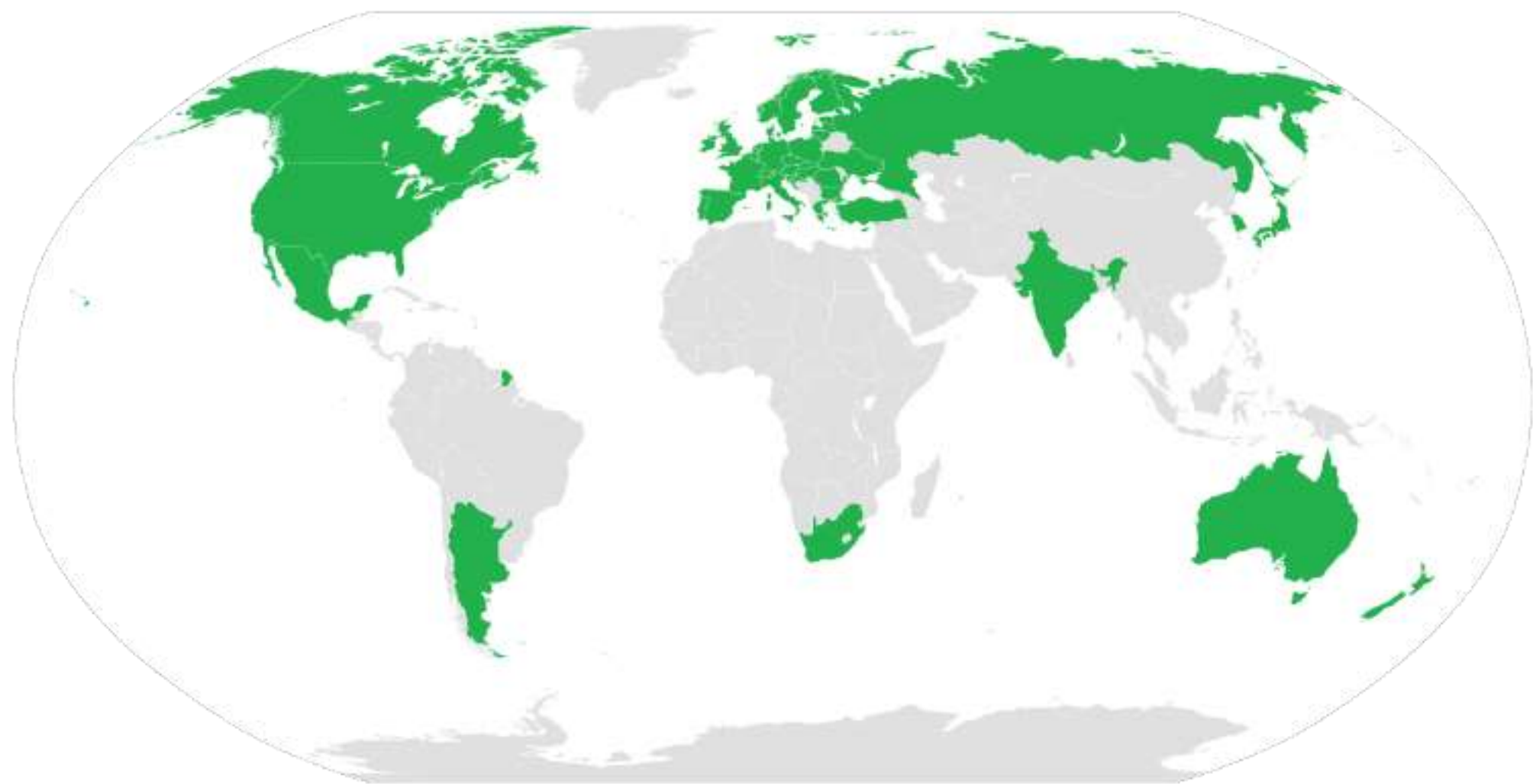
Technological Adoption: Over 565 lakh AI procedures and 38,000+ MAITRIs deployed; IVF, sex-sorted semen, and progeny testing modernise dairy genetics.

White Revolution 2.0: Aims to set up 75,000 new dairy cooperatives, ensure sustainability, and scale procurement to 1007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29.



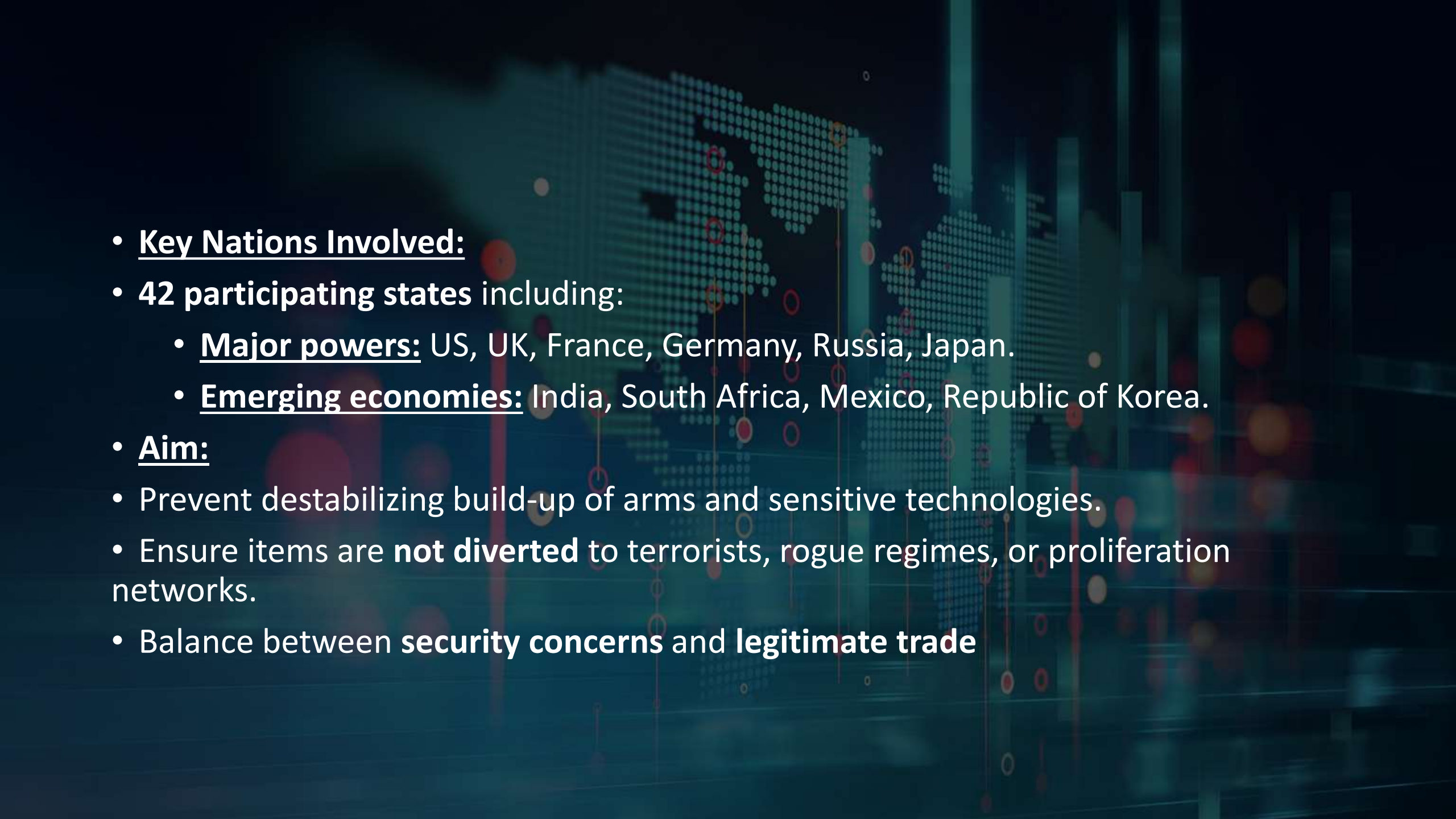
The Wassenaar Arrangement

-
- The Wassenaar Arrangement faces calls for reform as its export-control framework struggles to regulate cloud services, SaaS models, and digital surveillance technologies.



- **What it is?**

- A multilateral export control regime on conventional arms and dual-use goods/technologies.
- Established in **1996** at **Wassenaar, Netherlands** as a successor to CoCom (Cold War era control system).
- **Not a treaty** but its voluntary, consensus-based coordination mechanism.
- **Origin:**
- Set up to **promote transparency and responsibility** in sensitive technology transfers.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria with a small permanent **Secretariat**.

- 
- Key Nations Involved:
 - 42 participating states including:
 - Major powers: US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, Japan.
 - Emerging economies: India, South Africa, Mexico, Republic of Korea.
 - Aim:
 - Prevent destabilizing build-up of arms and sensitive technologies.
 - Ensure items are **not diverted** to terrorists, rogue regimes, or proliferation networks.
 - Balance between **security concerns** and **legitimate trade**

- **Key Features:**

- **Control Lists:** Dual-Use Goods & Technologies and Munitions List.

- **Information Exchange:** Members report transfers/denials every six months.

- **Decision-making:** By consensus, ensuring national discretion.

- **Scope Expansion:** Since 2013, includes **intrusion software** and cyber-surveillance tools.

India Discovers Natural Gas near Andaman Island

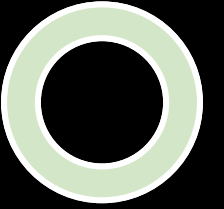




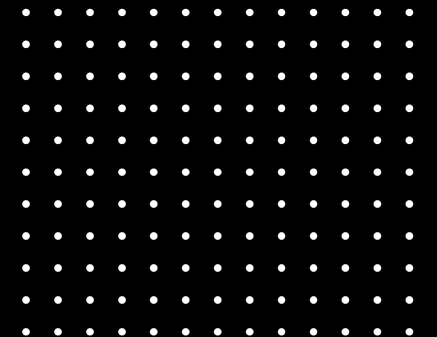
Oil India Ltd (OIL) has announced the discovery of natural gas in the Andaman Shallow Offshore Block.

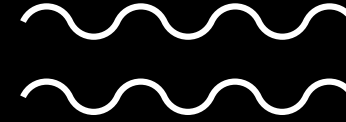
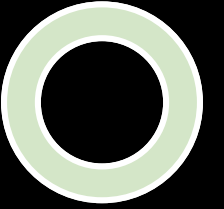


This marks the first reported hydrocarbon find in the region, potentially reducing India's heavy import dependence on oil and gas.

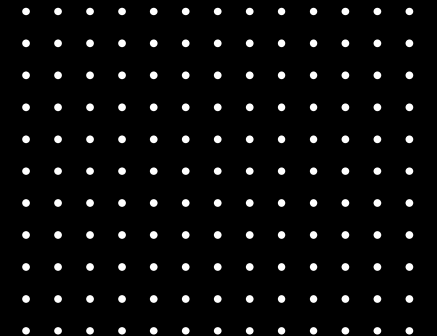


- What it is?
- Natural gas reserves identified in **Vijayapuram-2 exploratory well** under the **Open Acreage Licensing Policy**.
- Gas samples confirmed **87% methane** content, showing commercial potential after further testing.
- Located in:
- Offshore block **9.20 nautical miles (17 km)** from the Andaman east coast.
- Water depth: 295 metres, drilling depth: **2,650 metres**





- **Key Features of Andaman Islands:**
- **Geography:** Archipelago of 300+ islands forming part of Andaman & Nicobar Union Territory, located in the Indian Ocean about 1,370 km east of mainland India.
- **Major Islands:** North, Middle, and South Andaman (together called *Great Andaman*) + Little Andaman. Nicobars lie further south.
- **Topography:** Series of **dome-shaped hill ranges**, highly dissected terrain and **Saddle Peak (737 m)** is the highest.
- **Ecology:** Rich in **tropical rainforests, mangroves, coral reefs**, and biodiversity hotspots; home to **indigenous tribes** like the **Sentinelese, Jarawa, Onge, Great Andamanese**.



Word of the day

Soliloquy:

speech you make to yourself; a (usually long) dramatic speech intended to give the illusion of unspoken reflections

Synonym: monologue

Usage: *In the closing soliloquy, he reveals his true intention.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/soliloquypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /sə'lɪləkwɪ/





Thank you 😊

