

Daily Current Affairs



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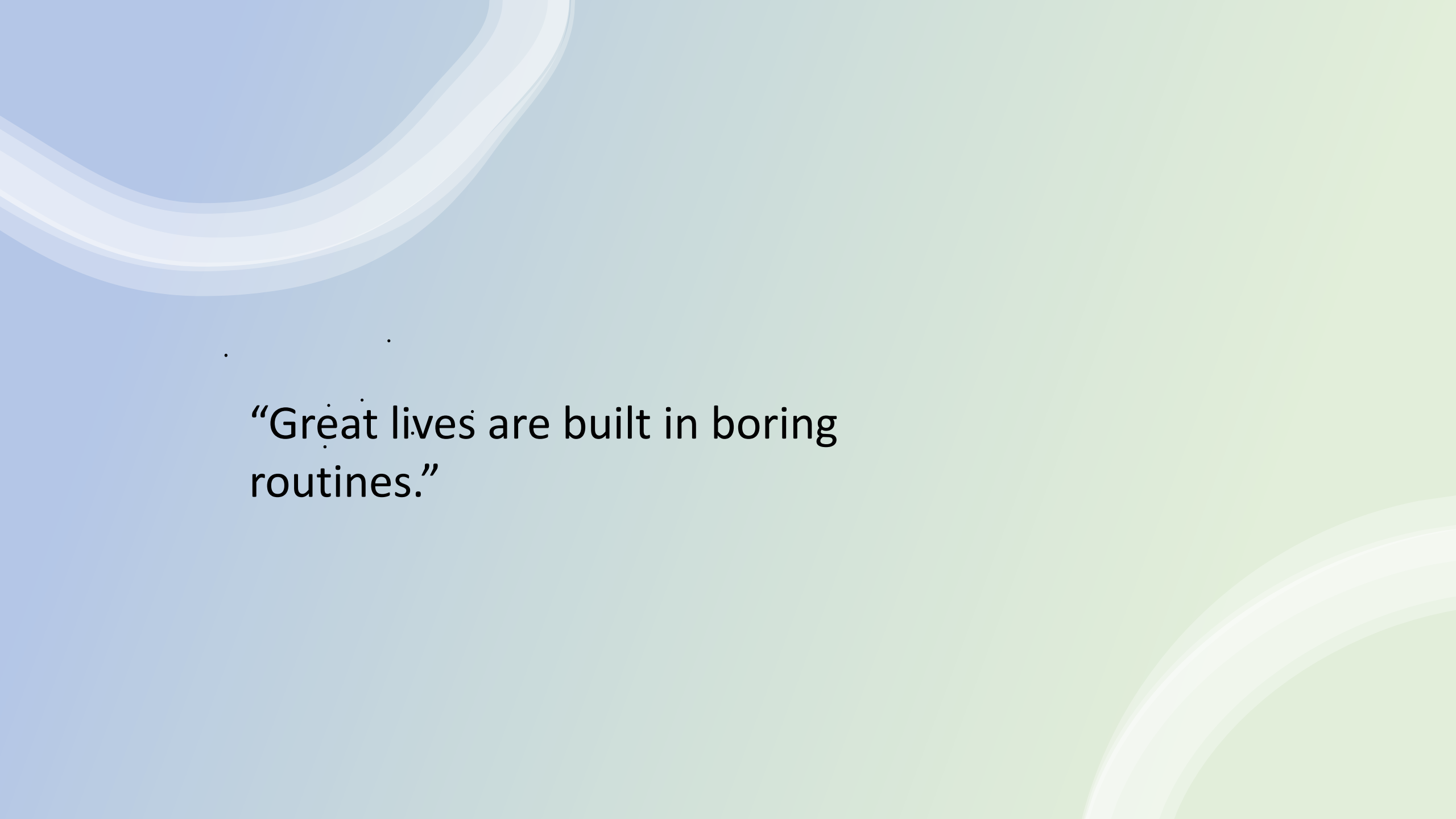


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“Great lives are built in boring routines.”

UMANG 360



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Scarcity of ships hits LPG imports from U.S.
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Shared use of disputed religious sites should be allowed to continue
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Rahul reappointed India's vice-captain
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INSIDE
Supreme Court refuses to modify stray dog order
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to modify its 2015 order directing all states and Union Territories to ensure removal of stray dogs from high-footfall public institutions while clarifying that such dogs cannot be "retained" even after vaccination and sterilisation. > PAGE 5

StanChart to cut over 7,000 jobs globally by 2030
MUMBAI
British bank Standard Chartered (StanChart) as part of its plans to invest ahead of long-term trends (automation, AI to maintain strong growth, boost productivity, further improve the quality of earnings, and maximise competitive advantage) is cutting more than 7,000 corporate jobs globally in the next few years. > PAGE 14

U.S. investigating mosque shooting as hate crime
SAN DIEGO
Police were investigating a shooting in the U.S. state of California as a hate crime on Tuesday after a pair of teenage gunmen killed three persons at a mosque complex. Police said the victims were found outside the sprawling complex, before finding the shooter, aged 17 and 18, dead in a car from apparent self-inflicted gunshot wounds. > PAGE 14

Kerala portfolio allocation is held up by discord
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The UDF in Kerala held on Monday that it had reached a verbal agreement among various factions in the Congress and crucial allies on portfolio allocation. However, the apparent dawdling in announcing the appointments in the government Gazette suggests that haggling over portfolios continued unabated in the alliance. > PAGE 5

Telangana police to seek custody of Minister's son
HYDERABAD
Three days after the arrest of Haris Sai Nagarathin in connection with a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act case, the Cyberabad police are preparing to file a petition seeking his custody for interrogation. The son of Union Minister Barish Dhanraj, will seek to stay his arrest on a complaint by the mother of a minor girl. > PAGE 5

Delhi Police ask SC to review UAPA bail terms

Under the UAPA's provision on bail, presumption of innocence takes a 'backseat', the govt. states | **On May 18, the court said that the principles laid down by a three-judge Bench were not followed**

Aasanka Bhanuik
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay of trial could override the statutory restrictions on bail under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, may warrant consideration by a larger Bench in view of two "conflicting" judgments rendered by coordinate Benches.
The oral submission was made before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and D.B. Viswanath. The hearing of bail petitions filed by the 2020 Delhi riots accused Abdul Khamid Saif and Faheem Ahmad, challenging the September 2, 2020, order of the Delhi High Court denying them bail. Referring to a judge-

ment delivered a day earlier by a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, which held that "bail is the rule and jail is an exception" even in proceedings under the UAPA, Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, submitted that the ruling may not have laid down the correct position in law.
"When there is a presumption in law, as contained in Section 431(B) of the UAPA, which is a mandatory presumption, and the word used is 'shall', then the presumption of innocence of the accused takes a backseat. I am not opposing the interim plea, but the issue of statutory restrictions on bail under anti-terror laws requires consideration by a larger Bench in view of the two conflicting judgments," he said.
During the hearing, Justice Kumar asked Mr. Raju whether his position was that the coordinate Bench had committed an error.
"That is going to be your

Umar Khalid's petition on bail for 15 days dismissed
LADIA AHMED
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed Umar Khalid's 15-day interim bail plea to attend bereavement rituals for his uncle and to care for his ailing mother. This came a day after the top court voted "reserved" over about its jurisdiction in a decision denying him bail.
The judgment by the two-judge Bench, including the former judge Justice J. S. Khanna, held that prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the statutory restrictions on bail under Section 431(B) of the UAPA.
Taking note of the submissions, the top court posted the matter for hearing on May 20 to consider the interim bail plea.
"Bail is the rule" Justice Bhagwati, who autho-

red the May 18 judgment, had observed that the phrase "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" was not merely an empty slogan but a constitutional principle flowing from the fundamental rights to life, speech, trial, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention. He also expressed concern over certain verdicts "underlining" larger Bench rulings such as *K.A. Najeeb*, which championed personal liberty against state powers.
The Delhi High Court on September 2, 2020, had dismissed Mr. Ahmad's bail plea, saying "delay in trial" cannot be the sole ground for consideration. It had said that except in cases of palpable violation of fundamental rights or breach of constitutional rights, bail cannot be granted on the sole factor of long incarceration or delay in trial.

required consideration by a larger Bench in view of the two conflicting judgments," he added.
The judgment by the Bench headed by Justice Nagarathna was handed down on May 18 while granting bail to Jinnah and Kashmir resident Iqbal HUSSAIN Saifuddin in a narco-terror case involving the National Investigation Agency (NIA). In its ruling, the Bench voted "various re-

Ravaged earth



Devastated area in the Palani river by heavy vehicles and excavators has damaged roads and made it difficult for farmers to access fields in Vengalpur village in Pudukottai district of Andhra Pradesh. Villagers are urging authorities to intervene. *Komalika Sankar*

Democracy, rule of law make Nordic nations, India natural partners: Modi

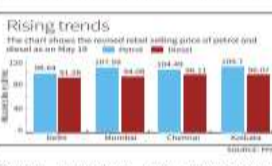
Sushant Dastidar
DELHI
India and the Nordic countries are committed to "democracy, rule of law and multilateralism", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday, speaking after the Third India-Nordic Summit.
The summit, where Mr. Modi met leaders of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, ended with a declaration to upgrade ties between India and the five northernmost European countries to a "Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership". In particular, they will work on initiatives for sustainable energy, maritime cooperation and po-

litical research in the Arctic region, the leaders said.
"Our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and multilateralism makes us natural partners. And our shared passion for technology and sustainability make our relationship full of op-

portunities," said Mr. Modi, standing with Prime Ministers of Norway (Jonas Gahr Støre), Finland (Petteri Orpo), Iceland (Bjarni Benediktsson), Sweden (Ulf Kristersson) and Denmark's acting Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.
NARRATIVE
> PAGE 4

Govt. firms increase petrol, diesel prices by 90 paise; second hike within a week

Santosh Singh
NEW DELHI
Government-owned oil marketing companies raised the prices of petrol and diesel on Tuesday by about 90 paise a litre across the country across all variants. This was the second increase in five days following the hike by 91 paise on May 15 after a 90 paise increase.



Effective Tuesday, the price of petrol in Delhi has increased by 97 paise to ₹94.64 a litre and of diesel by 91 paise to ₹91.58 per litre.
On Monday, the government had said that losses the India roping weakening, both of which increase the landed cost of imports, OMCs continue to operate under materially significant cost pressure, with currency depreciation also potentially affecting substantial amount of gains from the price revision," Mr. Mitra said.
India's crude oil basket price rose by 1.06% over the month as averaged \$107.3 per barrel, according to government data. Further, in the early evening hours of Tuesday, Brent crude futures (July) were trading 1.06% lower over its previous close at \$103.9 per barrel.
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Pradipn Vashisht, senior vice-president and corporate head, Corporate Ratings at ICRA Ltd, held that "short-term benchmark Brent crude futures (July) were trading \$105 and \$100 for every barrel, based on a 10-year average between the price of crude oil and the refined petroleum products, the latest price in-

crease would help curtail the existing losses of OMCs from domestic LPG, petrol and diesel to ₹480 crore per day.
"Losses unsustainable" Further, responding to a query about adjusting for OMC's losses and fears about inflation, Mr. Yadav said, "The losses being made at present are unsustainable. The OMCs are opting for gradual increases so that there is no shock," he said. "Inflation may occur but the losses [of OMCs] are unsustainable."
The 97 paise hike on prices of petrol and diesel on Friday was the first major price increase by more than 45 paise since April 2022.
Back then, a 45 paise hike was resisted by a staggered manner between March 28, 2022, and April 8, 2022. The hike coincided with the peak of the Russian-Ukraine conflict. According to government data, India's crude oil basket averaged \$112.87 per barrel and \$102.97 per barrel in March and April of 2022.
MAINTAINING STOCK, ICCL
> PAGE 11

Church leaders begin peace mission, meet Manipur Naga group

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A 10-member team of church leaders representing four national and global organisations began its peace mission in Manipur by meeting leaders of an apex Naga body, in its Kuki counterpart, extended its shutdown by another 48 hours from Tuesday midnight.

The church leaders represent the Baptist Convention, the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI), the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation, and the Baptist World Alliance. They met leaders of the United Naga Council (UNC) in Senapati, one of four hill districts caught in a conflict between the pro-military Christian Ekaik-Zo and Naga communities, led by Rev. Nannong K. Marak, the secretary general of CBCNEI, told participants that the focus of the meeting was on defusing the present crisis arising out of the hostage situation following the killing of three Anglican Thadou church leaders on May 13. A section of "Thadou claims it is not the dependent of the Kuki tag."



Church leaders discuss the killing of three church leaders in New Delhi. (H)

"This is a difficult situation for the affected families. We appeal to all communities to remain patient, and move forward in the spirit of forgiveness and peace," he said, hoping that the Kuki and Naga communities would uphold "brotherhood and harmony" for the restoration of peace in Manipur. A.C. Tholin, the member-secretary of the UNC's Working Committee, welcomed the church leaders' peace initiative. He said the matter would be considered by the decision-making bodies of the organisation, while reiterating that peace can prevail only when there is acknowledgment.

Hope India can push for Ukraine truce: Norway PM

Store says Modi can use channels to Russia to help bring a ceasefire; he says the Nordic country respects India's energy needs but there has to be 'more pressure on Russia to come to the table'

Subashini Nadar
OSLO

Norway hopes India will use its channels to Russia to push for a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine, said Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. Speaking to Indian journalists here in Oslo during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Norway, Mr. Store indicated that while the two sides had differences on the issue, the international community's need to source energy.



Greeting India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, in Oslo, Norway on Monday. (H)

"We should respect that," Mr. Store said in response to a question from *The Hindu*, but added that there had to be "more pressure on Russia to come to the table and make an effort to end the war". Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, India has increased its intake of Russian oil, but has not been as vocal as the U.S. government in condemning the invasion. Mr. Store said it was useful to exchange views with Mr. Modi on Tuesday on geopolitical issues, and he had "respect" for the realisation of the Russian position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He also said that he had met with Norwegian counterparts for further discussions on the issue. "India is a huge country and has needs for its energy supplies. And Norway still said it would continue

its oil imports from Moscow. "We believe that when Russia can feel that energy [imports] are also being restricted — their sales — that creates pressure on Russia. At the same time, we know that the Indian leadership have channels with the Russian leadership, and I hope to see that they can use them to get a ceasefire going," Mr. Store continued, when asked about his comments during a joint press appearance earlier in the day, where he referred to issues where "Norway and India do not always see eye to eye". However, he denied that the differences had impacted the bilateral relationship between India and

Norway in any negative way.

On the Arctic Council Mr. Store was also asked about whether the decision over Russia would affect India's engagement with the eight-nation Arctic Council that includes all Arctic states: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the U.S. India has been a permanent member of the grouping that discusses trade issues, climate change and ocean management since 2013.

"We wish to see that India, with its science can do a lot for the rest of the world in respect to Arctic climate, which is important for India," he added. The meeting is taking place a year after it was originally scheduled, as Mr. Modi had to cancel his visit over the terror strikes in Pakistan and the four-day India-Pakistan conflict. Mr. Store said that all countries must take a firm position against terrorism. "We have to stand together against terrorism, to fight it in its darkest shapes, but also to prevent it. And it is our fundamental rights of cooperation and today's world has confirmed that Norway and India, which is very important," he said.

Modi skips questions from press; Store says 'different traditions'

Subashini Nadar
OSLO

The External Affairs Ministry defended India's refusal to answer questions from the press on Monday, for the second time during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's European tour, over Mr. Modi's decision not to take questions from the press. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store called the practice a "different tradition" from Nordic countries that he had to "respect".

During the joint press appearance with his counterpart, Mr. Modi was confronted by a Norwegian journalist who asked him to respond to media questions, as was the norm in the European countries. Later in the day, after the same journalist confronted the External Affairs Ministry on the issue, as well as on human rights during a briefing, a senior Ministry official said India was a "civilisational country". "We hear a lot of people asking why this, why that, but let me tell you this. We are one-sixth of the total population of the world, but not one-sixth of the problems of the world," he said. Mr. Store said that he had raised questions on the practice of the person who asks the questions. "Mr. George had replied, citing India's historic democratic freedoms and human rights record."

Earlier in the day, Helle Lyring Sverre, a correspondent for the Norwegian media, stood up after the press statements made by Mr. Modi and Mr. Store in Oslo. "Prime Minister Modi, why don't you take questions from the front press in the world," she said, then following him out of the room, asking, "Do you deserve the trust of our government?" On Tuesday, leaders of Nordic states and Mr. Store also addressed the press at the end of the India-Nordic Summit, but did not take questions. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Store said he had to respect the wishes of other leaders from countries of "different traditions". "All my Nordic colleagues have talked to journalists from different media, but I have to respect that India may have different traditions. That's for Indians to resolve," he said.

During the PM's visit to the Nordic lands on Saturday, Dutch journalists had similarly raised objections to the practice of his questions with Mr. George during a press briefing. "We face these kind of questions basically because of the lack of understanding of the person who asks the questions," Mr. George had replied, citing India's historic democratic freedoms and human rights record.

Modi and Meloni outline road map for India-Italy strategic partnership

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, in a joint op-ed across several news platforms, outlined an expanded road map for cooperation between the two countries across areas, including trade, technology, energy, space, and security, against the backdrop of an emerging Indo-Pacific and Mediterranean corridor.

"The relationship between India and Italy has now reached a decisive stage. In recent years, our ties have expanded with unprecedented momentum, evolving from cordial friendship into a special strategic partnership grounded in the values of freedom and democracy and a common vision for the future," said Mr. Modi and Ms. Meloni in the op-ed titled "A Strategic Partnership for the Indo-Mediterranean". "Both India and Italy are located at the very heart of two crucial hubs of the global economy — the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean — regions that cannot be viewed as separate spheres, but instead as increasingly interconnected spaces," it said.

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"At a number of fact, we are witnessing the emergence of what might be termed the Indo-Mediterranean, an important corridor for trade, technology, energy, data and ideas linking the Indian Ocean to Europe. It is precisely within this interconnected space that our bond naturally evolves into a special strategic partnership, one that bridges two continents and shapes new global dynamics," said the op-ed. In this context, it added, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

reflects India's position as an industrial powerhouse and India's rapid economic growth, engineering, talent, science, innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem with over 100 unicorns and 200,000 start-ups," said the op-ed, adding that it would lead to the co-creation of value.

"The growing interest of Italian businesses in the production for India and India's interest in Italian industries in Italy — numbering over 1,000 from both sides — is a positive sign that will strengthen the integration of our supply chains," it said. The op-ed also highlighted cooperation in digital infrastructure and AI. "India's Digital Public Infrastructure is already finding resonance with a large number of countries, particularly in the Global South. Italy and India have long been collaborating to ensure that AI development is responsible and human-centred," it said, emphasising that both countries see AI as a powerful technology for inclusive development, particularly for the Global South.

"Our approach combines India's digital scale with Italy's ethical and industrial expertise, ensuring technology serves human dignity. By sharing best practices in secure data cooperation, privacy-by-design and resilient cyber infrastructure, we aim to create an open, trustworthy and equitable digital space in which every nation can shape and benefit from AI," said Mr. Modi and Ms. Meloni. They said the partnership between the two nations is a key element of the Indo-Pacific Summit 2026, held in Delhi.

India and Vietnam deepen defence ties with focus on maritime security

Subashini Nadar
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Phan Van Giang in Hanoi on Tuesday, with both sides agreeing to further strengthen defence and strategic cooperation.

The Defence Ministry said the talks focused on enhancing collaboration in maritime security, defence industry, military training, cybersecurity, capacity building, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. "The leaders reviewed regional and global security developments and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, safety, and freedom of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a meeting with General Phan Van Giang in Hanoi on Tuesday. (H)

navigation in the region. Both countries agreed to expand cooperation through regular dialogue, joint military exercises and exchange programmes between their armed forces. Mr. Singh reiterated India's commitment to supporting Vietnam's defence modernisation and capacity enhancement initiatives.

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U.S. approves \$198-mn deal for Apache support

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Department of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to India for defence on equipment support and related equipment for AH-64E Apache attack helicopters at an estimated cost of \$198.2 million.

According to the notification issued by the U.S., India has requested Apache helicopter sustainment support services, along with contractor-provided engineering, technical and logistics support services. The package also includes technical data, publications, personnel training, and other related elements of logistics and programme support.

During the visit, the two Defence Ministers virtually inaugurated a language lab at the Air Force Officers' College in Vietnam, established with Indian assistance. Mr. Singh also inaugurated the setting up of an Artificial Intelligence lab at the Telecommunications University in Ho Chi Minh City, and the Vietnam-India Joint Key Development, India's Military College of Telecommunications Engineering and Vietnam's Telecommunications University signed an MoU on cooperation in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity.

Later, Mr. Singh also called on Vietnam's President and General Secretary Tu Lam and conveyed strategic greetings from India's President and Prime Minister. The 21st century should be a period of "intellectual decolonisation" that will help in the recovery of civilisations and cultures, said P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, at the third convocation of Nalanda University in Bihar's Bihar on Tuesday.

"Essential to the future" There are universities that are institutions. And there are universities that are civilisational symbols. Nalanda belongs to the latter category. The revival of Nalanda University reflects India's belief that civilisational values such as dialogue and inquiry remain essential to the future of

Modi and Meloni outline road map for India-Italy strategic partnership

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, in a joint op-ed across several news platforms, outlined an expanded road map for cooperation between the two countries across sectors, including trade, technology, energy, space, and security, against the backdrop of an emerging "Indo-Mediterranean" corridor.

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"Both India and Italy are located at the very heart of two crucial hubs of the global economy – the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean – regions that cannot be viewed as separate spheres, but instead as increasingly interconnected spaces," it said.

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In this context, it added, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor



Giorgia Meloni

(IMEC) represents a vision aimed at connecting the regions through modern transport and infrastructure, digital networks, energy systems, and resilient supply chains; and that India and Italy are also committed to working together with other partners to make this vision a reality.

"Our cooperation mirrors our shared awareness that prosperity and security in the 21st century will be shaped by the ability of nations to innovate, manage energy transitions, and strengthen strategic sovereignty. To this end, we have committed to deepen and diversify our bilateral relationship with a view to pursuing new objectives and pooling our complementary strengths," said Mr. Modi and Ms. Meloni.

Stating that India and Italy want to reach and exceed the €20-billion bilateral trade target by 2029, the leaders said the free trade agreement between the European Union and India paves the way in the same direction. In focus are defence and aerospace, clean technologies, machinery, automotive components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agri-food, tourism, and other sectors.

"We aim to forge a powerful synergy between Italian design, manufacturing excellence, and world-class supercomputers – re-

flecting Italy's position as an industrial powerhouse – and India's rapid economic growth, engineering talent, scale, and innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem with over 100 unicorns and 200,000 start-ups," said the op-ed, adding that it would lead to the co-creation of value.

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They said the perspective forms the core of Italy's G7 Presidency and outcomes of the AI Impact Summit 2026, held in Delhi.

Main Theme	Strategic partnership between India and Italy has entered a decisive stage.
मुख्य विषय	भारत और इटली की रणनीतिक साझेदारी एक निर्णायक चरण में पहुँच गई है।
Key Sectors	Technology, energy, space, security, connectivity, defence, trade, AI, digital infrastructure and supply chains.
मुख्य क्षेत्र	तकनीक, ऊर्जा, अंतरिक्ष, सुरक्षा, कनेक्टिविटी, रक्षा, व्यापार, AI, डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और सप्लाई चेन।
Important Corridor	India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor — IMEC.
महत्वपूर्ण कॉरिडोर	भारत–मध्य पूर्व–यूरोप आर्थिक कॉरिडोर — IMEC।
Geopolitical Focus	Indo-Pacific and Mediterranean are being seen as connected strategic spaces.
भू-राजनीतिक फोकस	इंडो-पैसिफिक और भूमध्यसागर को जुड़े हुए रणनीतिक क्षेत्र के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।
Economic Target	Both sides aim to cross €20 billion bilateral trade by 2026 .
आर्थिक लक्ष्य	दोनों देश 2026 तक €20 बिलियन द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को पार करने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं।
Digital Focus	India's Digital Public Infrastructure and Italy's AI expertise can support inclusive digital growth.
डिजिटल फोकस	भारत का डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और इटली की AI विशेषज्ञता समावेशी डिजिटल विकास में मदद कर सकती है।

Challenge

EU Regulatory Barriers

EU ଆଇନଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅଧିକାଂଶ

Explanation

India has to deal with strict EU standards on quality, environment and labour.

କମଳା ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଉପରେ ଅଧିକାଂଶ ଉଚ୍ଚ-ସ୍ତରୀୟ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ, ପରିବେଶ ଓ ଲାବର ଉପରେ କଠିନ ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଥିବାରୁ ଏହି ପ୍ରକାରର ବାର୍ଧକ୍ୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୁଏ।

Trade Imbalance Risk

କମଳା ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଉପରେ ଅଧିକାଂଶ

Both sides need balanced trade growth across sectors.

ଉଭୟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସମତୁଲ୍ୟ ଚଳାଚଳନର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି।

Slow FTA Progress

FTA ରାଜନୀତିଗତ ଅସ୍ଥିରତା

India–EU Free Trade Agreement talks have been slow and complex.

କମଳା–EU ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚଳିଥିବା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା ଉପରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାରଣରୁ ଧୀର ଗତି ଦେଖାଯାଇଛି।

Geopolitical Instability

କମଳା ଉପରେ ଅଧିକାଂଶ

West Asia conflicts can affect IMEC and energy connectivity.

ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଏସିଆରେ ଚାଲୁଥିବା ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଇମେକ୍ ଏବଂ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଯୋଗକୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିପାରେ।

Implementation Gap

ଆଇନଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅଧିକାଂଶ

Announcements need to be converted into real projects, investments and outcomes.

କମଳା ଉପରେ ଅଧିକାଂଶ ଉଚ୍ଚ-ସ୍ତରୀୟ ଉପଲବ୍ଧି ଉପରେ ଆଧାର କରିବାକୁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ।

Text & next

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Persons arrested in Turkey on suspicion of ties with the IS

110 Turkish counter-terror police on Tuesday arrested 110 people on suspicion of activities in support of the Islamic State (IS) group in an operation largely targeting Istanbul, the Anadolu state news agency said. The suspects are accused of organising classes in madrasa associations, educating young children with IS ideology, and seeking to recruit new members. —

Reported deaths in Eastern Congo due to Ebola outbreak

131 At least 131 deaths and over 500 suspected cases have been reported in the ongoing Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo, the Congolese Health Ministry said on Tuesday, as details emerged about the government's delayed response. Health authorities say the current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, a rare variant of the Ebola disease. —

Worth of MoUs signed by Maharashtra in nuclear energy sector

6.5 In 1 lakh crore. The Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to attract investments worth Rs 6.5 lakh crore in the nuclear energy sector. The MoU was signed with NPC Limited, Adani Power Limited, Steris Energy Industries Limited and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited. —

Cuts in public sector jobs by New Zealand govt. to slash spending

14 In per cent. New Zealand's government will lay off nearly 4,000 workers, amounting to 14 per cent of public sector jobs, by mid-2026 as part of a plan to save \$1 billion in spending, Finance Minister Nicola Willis said on Tuesday. The cuts will be made over a 24-month period, the minister said. —

Amount sought by Malaysia from Norway over axed defence deal

250 in \$ million. Malaysia's defence minister on Tuesday said a request has been sent to Norway seeking compensation of more than 1 billion ringgit (\$231.76 million), after Oslo abruptly cancelled export approvals for a naval strike missile system intended for Malaysian combat ships. —

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Decoding the Musk vs. Altman verdict

OpenAI was founded as a nonprofit aiming to build ethical, open-source artificial general intelligence. Years later, Elon Musk filed a lawsuit accusing CEO Sam Altman, OpenAI president Greg Brockman, and Microsoft of manipulating him into donating to a public-interest organisation which later created a for-profit subsidiary.

EXPLAINER

Armed Arms

In 2019, a small group of researchers and technology entrepreneurs gathered in San Francisco to create what they described as a gift to humanity, eventually to turn into entities defining the future of artificial intelligence (AI) in a courtroom.

OpenAI was founded on the premise that artificial general intelligence (AGI) was coming regardless. It was better to have safety and ethics-conscious researchers build it. AGI is the kind of AI that can match or surpass human cognition. The group decided to create the initiative as a nonprofit and if the technology ever arrived, it would belong to everyone, an open source. OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman even went so far as to suggest the company's board such that it could fire him too if he ever came in the way of its core mission. That founding promise, to build ethical AGI, years later brought Elon Musk and Mr. Altman to federal courtrooms in California.

Mr. Musk brought forward the lawsuit against Mr. Altman, accusing him, OpenAI president Greg Brockman, and Microsoft, of manipulating him into donating to a public-interest organisation only for it to later attach a for-profit subsidiary and accept billions from Microsoft.

On May 18, a nine-person jury took less than two hours to return on Mr. Musk's case against Mr. Altman. The verdict did not settle the question of whether OpenAI broke faith with its founding mission. Instead, it was settled on a procedural issue — that Mr. Musk had waited too long to sue. In the American legal system, such claims must be filed within a fixed window of time, crossing which the claim becomes invalid. The jury said Mr. Musk's claim fell outside the statute of limitations. The judge concurred, but Mr. Musk's lawyers have signalled that they might appeal. The merits of the case were



Elon Musk's attorney Marc Toberson outside the federal courthouse in California on May 18. (AP/WIDE WORLD)

never disclosed.

The nonprofit debate

Trial testimony and evidence showed OpenAI's leadership had audaciously tracked Google's acquisition of another AI research giant DeepMind in 2014. OpenAI's executives argued that the nonprofit structure was not sufficient to compete with bigshots like Google.

Mr. Musk was the company's biggest early donor, contributing around \$3 million. But, the economics of building AGI turned out to be brutal. Training large models requires computing infrastructure that costs billions of dollars. By 2019, a year after Mr. Musk's departure from the OpenAI board, the company decided it could not remain competitive as a pure nonprofit. It attached a for-profit subsidiary to the existing organisation, with the nonprofit retaining oversight and a capped return structure for investors.

Microsoft came in with an initial investment that year, and kept coming, eventually investing more than \$35 billion and holding a significant share in

OpenAI. This is the transformation Mr. Musk's lawsuit sought to attack, from nonprofit to a commercially driven AI laboratory he had set out to suppress. Claims that did not make it to trial: The lit did want to trial evidence was a much smaller subset of the original claims Mr. Musk had filed in 2024. Several of his claims were dropped or narrowed before the trial even began.

Mr. Musk claimed that Microsoft's investment in OpenAI had aided it to breach its charitable mission. But, despite a Microsoft executive testifying that the company had invested billions in OpenAI, the jury dismissed the claim.

Mr. Musk also filed an antitrust claim against OpenAI and Microsoft, alleging that the two companies were colluding to dominate the AI market. This claim has not reached the jury yet. Judge Gonzalez Rogers heard arguments and signalled she was sceptical, noting the aggressive competition already playing out across the AI industry. OpenAI on its part filed a countersuit accusing Mr. Musk of running

a years-long harassment campaign against the company. That case is separate and still ongoing.

Key takeaways from the proceedings
The legal questions the jury resolved were procedural. But the three weeks of testimony preceding the verdict were pure Silicon Valley tech theatre.

Mr. Musk's lawyers assembled a long roster of witnesses who testified that Mr. Altman is not trustworthy. Mira Murati, who served as OpenAI's chief technology officer, told the court that Mr. Altman had had about a subtle review in the past. Bya Butskov, one of the company's founding researchers, had spent more than a year building a case for Mr. Altman's removal from the company, assembling a 32-page memo that described a pattern of dishonesty and internal manipulation.

In November 2023, OpenAI's board briefly fired Mr. Altman and reversed course within days. Mr. Altman returned and Mr. Sunkever eventually left the company.

OpenAI's lawyers demonstrated that would be on the board by 2027. Mr. Musk himself had pushed to restructure OpenAI as a for-profit entity, including an attempt to fold it into Tesla under his control. Mr. Musk's argument that he had also opposed a commercialisation move sat awkwardly alongside evidence that he had sought to commercialise the company himself, especially on the condition that he be in charge.

The immediate winner from the latest verdict is OpenAI. The lawsuit had cast a shadow over the company's plans for its upcoming IPO that could value it at close to a trillion dollars. There is a larger question the verdict leaves entirely unanswered. The trial showed how OpenAI's founding principles were abandoned in pursuit of competition. The nonprofit structure still exists, and the OpenAI nonprofit now controls assets of more than \$200 billion. But what that oversight means in practice was not explored in court.

THE GIST

By 2019, OpenAI decided it could not remain competitive as a pure nonprofit and attached a for-profit subsidiary to the existing organisation. This was the transformation that Elon Musk sought to challenge in court.

The verdict did not determine whether OpenAI had abandoned its founding mission, but instead rested on the procedural finding that the lawsuit fell outside the statute of limitations.

China's new worldview and the future of global politics

Through its initiatives and its critique of the current order, China is seeking to lead multilateralism

Ashish Joshi

U.S. President Donald Trump completed his visit to the People's Republic of China on May 14 and 15, 2026, a first in nine years. The entire world watched this visit with great anticipation. However, it appears that the visit was elaborate and little was achieved by way of progress, and the two sides are not even closer to returning to the state of managing their China frictions as "constructive strategic stability", but it seems to be unwilling to make any concessions to achieve that and puts the burden of instability squarely on the U.S.

China's strategic outlook
One of the expressions used by Chinese President Xi Jinping right at the start of his re-election, that the "transformation now seems to a century is accelerating across the globe", merits special attention. While

this is not the first time Mr. Xi has used this expression in front of the U.S. President, his last usage led to a history in which the ball was in the American court to choose whether they wanted confrontation or cooperation. This time, it is a choice on whether or not the two sides can avoid a "Thucydides" trap that would eventually lead them towards conflicts or confrontations.

This term made its first appearance in December 2021, during China's ambassadorial work conference, when Mr. Xi said that the world is undergoing "profound changes unseen in a century". It reflects China's assessment that the global power transition has entered its most decisive stage and China's rejection of the U.S. as a matter of time. Chinese analysts have assessed that China's GDP is set to bypass the United States by 2035.

The reformation to a century is what makes it especially chilling. China seems to be thinking that a century ago, driven

by the decline of Europe across two world wars, global power made a transatlantic shift, making the U.S. the most powerful country in the world, and made liberalism its most central standpoint. Before that, the 19th century saw a different form of globalisation in the rise of colonialism and imperialism. In a similar fashion, China's world will eventually lead them towards conflicts or confrontations.

It seems that China views Brexit and the first election of Donald Trump as U.S. President — driven by a conservative, insecure, to a large extent supremacist and deglobalisation-driven agenda as signs of the inevitable decline of the West. The events of which were seen in the 2026 financial crisis. After this, China emerged as a new voice of globalisation and began strongly criticising the West for its withdrawal from globalisation, just as the

prosperity was beginning to spread away from traditional centres of power.

Reshaping global dynamics

Towards the goal of its rise, China has accelerated its assault on the current international order through initiatives like the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). China is using these to discredit the U.S. led order by portraying it to be divisive and disruptive, while presenting its own approach to global security as driven by "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable" security. Through its initiatives, China is seeking to end its long case in, leading multilateralism and globalisation to its end, and is undermining the core of the liberal order. A constant like India, this increased power rivalry makes life more difficult. In the places where there was a managed competition between the West and China, other countries worked their way to hedge their bets between the two.

However, new they are in trade wars and tariffs, supply chain volatility, the global power rivalry makes life more difficult. In the places where there was a managed competition between the West and China, other countries worked their way to hedge their bets between the two. However, new they are in trade wars and tariffs, supply chain volatility, the global power rivalry makes life more difficult. In the places where there was a managed competition between the West and China, other countries worked their way to hedge their bets between the two. (Views expressed are personal.)

THE GIST

China has accelerated its challenge to the current international order through initiatives such as the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

During the phase of managed competition between the U.S. and China, many countries sought to hedge their bets between the two powers. However, they now face trade wars, supply chain volatility and risks from the West Asia crisis, among other factors, creating a volatile mix.

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Areena Arora

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Why in News & OpenAI Background | चर्चा में क्यों

Why in News / द्दकारण

9-person jury dismissed Musk's lawsuit in <2 hours (May 18, 2026)

9 सदस्यीय जूरी ने 2 घंटे में मस्क का मुकदमा खारिज (18 मई 2026)

Dismissed on statute of limitations — not on mission breach merit

परिसीमा विधि पर — मिशन उल्लंघन के मेरिट पर नहीं

OpenAI IPO (~\$1 trillion) major legal obstacle now cleared

OpenAI IPO (~\$1 ट्रिलियन) की बड़ी कानूनी बाधा हटी

Antitrust case (Microsoft + OpenAI monopoly) still pending

एंटीट्रस्ट मामला अभी भी लंबित

OpenAI History / OpenAI स्थापना

2015

Founded as non-profit — AGI for humanity

एन-प्रॉफिट के रूप में स्थापित — AGI के लिए

2017

Musk tried to merge with Tesla — board refused

मस्क ने टेस्ला के साथ विलय करने की कोशिश की — बोर्ड ने अस्वीकार किया

2018

Musk left board

मस्क ने बोर्ड छोड़ दिया

2019

For-profit subsidiary added; Microsoft invested

प्रॉफिट-फॉर-गैर-प्रॉफिट उपसहायक कंपनी जोड़ी; माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने निवेश किया

Nov

2023

Altman fired & reinstated; Sutskever left

अल्टमैन को firing किया गया और फिर वापस लाया गया; सुत्स्केवर ने इस्तीफा दे दिया

2024

Musk filed lawsuit against Altman + OpenAI

मस्क ने अल्टमैन और ओपेनएआई के खिलाफ मुकदमा दायर किया

2026

Case dismissed — statute of limitations

मुकदमा खारिज — कानूनी बाधा

Key Players & Legal Framework | मुख्य पक्ष और कानूनी ढाँचा

Elon Musk

Co-founder, Plaintiff

Donated ~\$38M | Left 2018
Filed lawsuit 2024 | Own xAI company

Mira Murati

Witness (ex-CTO)

Testified Altman lied about
safety review in the past

Sam Altman

CEO — Defendant

Testified against by Mira Murati
52-pg removal memo by Sutskever

Ilya Sutskever

Witness (co-founder)

Built 52-pg memo for Altman removal
Later left OpenAI

Microsoft

Defendant (Investor)

Invested \$135B+ | Major shareholder
HQ: Redmond, WA | CEO: Satya Nadella

Judge Rogers

Presiding Judge

Sceptical of antitrust claim
Antitrust case still pending

Legal Concepts / ड़वकूत १ अश्वरघरकु

Statute of Limitations: Max time to file a civil claim — if missed, case is invalid regardless of merit.

हप्रघदूरकप्रः वकूत वकूतवगघ ड़घ ड़ड़ह १२१३ लख दूरवग-दूरकप्र — दूह न्वड़दघरकककककक ड़ड़वकूत १२कूड़

Antitrust: Sherman Act 1890 (USA) — prohibits monopolies. India equivalent: Competition Commission of India (CCI).

ड़कूतकः दूरकः ड़ड़ 1890 — ड़ड़कूत ड़वघ ड़कूतकः ड़कूतकः ड़कूतकः १२कूत गकूत (CCI)ड़

Multi-Subject Connections | बहु-विषय संबंध

History / इतिहास

- ARPANET (1969) public→commercial internet
- Standard Oil monopoly (US, 1911)
- Industrial Revolution: private vs. public good

Geography / भूगोल

- Silicon Valley, San Francisco, California
- India: Hyderabad, Pune = AI/tech hubs
- AI data centres need massive land & water

Polity / शासन

- Sherman Antitrust Act 1890 (USA)
- Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- EU Digital Markets Act (DMA) — Big Tech

Economy / अर्थशास्त्र

- Microsoft invested \$135B+ in OpenAI
- OpenAI IPO target ~\$1 trillion
- AGI training costs: billions of dollars

Environment / पर्यावरण

- AI training = massive energy consumption
- Data centres use large amounts of water
- Sustainability challenge for AI expansion

Sci & Tech / विज्ञान-तकनीक

- AGI: AI matching human cognition (any task)
- OpenAI products: ChatGPT, GPT-4, DALL-E, Sora
- Competitors: DeepMind, Anthropic, xAI, Meta AI

⚡ 10 Quick Revision Points | 10 त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति बिंदु

- 1 OpenAI founded 2015 as non-profit — AGI for all humanity**
OpenAI 2015 में गैर-लाभकारी संस्था — AGI सभी के लिए
- 2 2019: For-profit subsidiary added; Microsoft \$135B+ invested**
2019: लाभकारी सहायक; Microsoft \$135B+ निवेश
- 3 Musk donated ~\$38M; left board 2018; founded xAI**
मस्क ~\$38M दान; 2018 बोर्ड से हटे; xAI बनाई
- 4 May 18, 2026: Jury dismissed case in <2 hours**
18 मई 2026: जूरी ने <2 घंटे में मामला खारिज
- 5 Dismissed on statute of limitations — NOT on merits**
परिसीमा विधि पर — मेरिट पर नहीं
- 6 Antitrust (Microsoft-OpenAI monopoly) still pending**
एंटीट्रस्ट (Microsoft-OpenAI एकाधिकार) अभी लंबित
- 7 Key witnesses: Mira Murati + Ilya Sutskever**
मुख्य गवाह: Mira Murati + Ilya Sutskever
- 8 Nov 2023: Altman fired & reinstated; Sutskever left**
नवम्बर 2023: Altman हटाए, वापस; Sutskever गए
- 9 OpenAI IPO ~\$1 trillion — legal obstacle now cleared**
OpenAI IPO ~\$1 ट्रिलियन — कानूनी बाधा हटी
- 10 Core unanswered Q: Who governs AGI? No global framework exists**
मुख्य प्रश्न: AGI का शासन कौन करे? कोई वैश्विक ढाँचा नहीं



SHE-MART Initiative

Aspect	Details
Full form	SHE-MART means Self Help Entrepreneurs – Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation .
पूर्ण रूप	SHE-MART का अर्थ है Self Help Entrepreneurs – Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation ।
Ministry	It is linked with the Ministry of Rural Development – MoRD .
मंत्रालय	यह ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय – MoRD से जुड़ी पहल है।
Related scheme	It is connected with DAY-NRLM – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission .
संबंधित योजना	यह DAY-NRLM – दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना–राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन से संबंधित है।
Recent context	MoRD held a national consultation in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to finalise operational guidelines for SHE-MARTs. The Tribune
हालिया संदर्भ	MoRD ने भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा में SHE-MARTs के संचालन दिशानिर्देशों को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय परामर्श आयोजित किया। The Tribune
Core idea	To create a women-led rural marketing ecosystem for products made by Self Help Groups.
मुख्य विचार	स्वयं सहायता समूहों द्वारा बनाए गए उत्पादों के लिए महिला-नेतृत्व वाला ग्रामीण विपणन तंत्र बनाना।
Main beneficiaries	Rural women, SHG members, women entrepreneurs, producer groups and cluster-level federations.

What is SHE-MART?

SHE-MART क्या है?

Point	Explanation
Women-led market platform	SHE-MARTs are proposed as organised retail/marketing outlets for rural women-led enterprises.
महिला-नेतृत्व वाला बाजार मंच	SHE-MARTs ग्रामीण महिला उद्यमों के लिए संगठित खुदरा/विपणन केंद्र के रूप में प्रस्तावित हैं।
SHG product promotion	It will help sell products made by SHGs such as food items, handicrafts, textiles, agro-products and household goods.
SHG उत्पादों का प्रोत्साहन	यह SHGs द्वारा बनाए गए खाद्य उत्पाद, हस्तशिल्प, वस्त्र, कृषि उत्पाद और घरेलू सामान बेचने में मदद करेगा।
Aggregation model	It will aggregate products from rural producers and connect them with larger markets.
एकत्रीकरण मॉडल	यह ग्रामीण उत्पादकों के उत्पादों को एकत्र कर बड़े बाजारों से जोड़ेगा।
Formalisation of rural enterprises	It will help women move from informal small-scale production to formal retail and enterprise systems.
ग्रामीण उद्यमों का औपचारिककरण	यह महिलाओं को अनौपचारिक छोटे उत्पादन से औपचारिक खुदरा और उद्यम व्यवस्था में लाने में मदद करेगा।
Community-based ownership	SHE-MARTs are expected to be community-owned and managed through SHG institutions or federations.

Objective

Market access

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜਨਾ

Women entrepreneurship

ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਮਹਿਲਾ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ

Income enhancement

ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ

Supply-chain strengthening

ਦੀਰਘ-ਦੂਰ ਸਪਲਾਈ ਚੇਨ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨਾ

Local economic growth

ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ

Social empowerment

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ

Details

To provide assured and organised market access to SHG products.

SHG ਖੇਤਰੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜਨਾ

To convert rural women from producers into entrepreneurs and retail owners.

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਪਾਦਕਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਚੀਜ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਦਲਾਉਣਾ

To increase income of rural women and support the larger goal of **Lakhpati Didi**.

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਖਪਤੀ ਡਿੱਡੀ ਦੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਟੀਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਹਾਰਨਾ

To build rural supply chains through aggregation, branding, packaging and logistics.

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਪਲਾਈ ਚੇਨ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨਾ

To strengthen rural economy by promoting local products and local employment.

ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ

To improve decision-making power, financial independence and leadership role of women.

ਮਰਜ਼ਦਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ



India Export Target

Aspect	Details
What is the target?	India aims to achieve \$1 trillion exports in 2026/FY27 and \$2 trillion exports within the next five years. Press Information... +1
लक्ष्य क्या है?	भारत का लक्ष्य 2026/FY27 में \$1 ट्रिलियन निर्यात और अगले 5 वर्षों में \$2 ट्रिलियन निर्यात तक पहुँचना है। Press Information... +1
Announced by	Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.
घोषणा किसने की?	केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने।
Current export base	India's total exports reached around \$863 billion , mainly supported by services exports. Deccan Herald +1
वर्तमान निर्यात आधार	भारत का कुल निर्यात लगभग \$863 बिलियन तक पहुँचा , जिसमें सेवाओं का बड़ा योगदान रहा। Deccan Herald +1
Main idea	To make India a globally competitive manufacturing + services export hub.
मुख्य विचार	भारत को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी मैन्युफैक्चरिंग + सर्विसेज निर्यात केंद्र बनाना।
Related vision	Linked with Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and Viksit Bharat 2047.
संबंधित दृष्टि	यह आत्मनिर्भर भारत, मेक इन इंडिया और विकसित भारत 2047 से जुड़ा है।

Driver	Explanation
Free Trade Agreements — FTAs	FTAs improve market access, reduce tariffs, and make Indian goods more competitive abroad.
मुक्त व्यापार समझौते — FTAs	FTAs बाजार पहुँच बढ़ाते हैं, शुल्क घटाते हैं और भारतीय वस्तुओं को विदेशों में अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाते हैं।
Services exports	IT, software, consulting, fintech, healthcare, education and professional services are India's strong areas.
सेवा निर्यात	IT, सॉफ्टवेयर, कंसल्टिंग, फिनटेक, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और प्रोफेशनल सेवाएँ भारत की मजबूत ताकत हैं।
Manufacturing push	Electronics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, defence, automobiles and engineering goods can increase merchandise exports.
मैन्युफैक्चरिंग पर जोर	इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, वस्त्र, फार्मा, रक्षा, ऑटोमोबाइल और इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुएँ माल निर्यात बढ़ा सकती हैं।
Import substitution	Reducing dependence on imported goods and producing them domestically can strengthen trade balance.
आयात प्रतिस्थापन	आयातित वस्तुओं पर निर्भरता घटाकर घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने से व्यापार संतुलन मजबूत हो सकता है।
Global value chains	India needs deeper integration with global production networks.

Challenges in Achieving \$1–2 Trillion Export Target

\$1–2 ट्रिलियन निर्यात लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने की चुनौतियाँ

Challenge	Explanation
High logistics cost	India's transport and supply-chain costs are still high compared to many competitors.
उच्च लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत	कई प्रतिस्पर्धी देशों की तुलना में भारत की परिवहन और सप्लाई-चेन लागत अभी भी अधिक है।
Global slowdown	Weak global demand can reduce export orders.
वैश्विक मंदी	वैश्विक मांग कमजोर होने से निर्यात ऑर्डर घट सकते हैं।
Protectionism	Countries are increasing tariffs, carbon taxes and non-tariff barriers.
संरक्षणवाद	देश टैरिफ, कार्बन टैक्स और गैर-टैरिफ बाधाएँ बढ़ा रहे हैं।
Low share in global value chains	India needs better participation in global manufacturing networks.
वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखला में कम हिस्सेदारी	भारत को वैश्विक मैनुफैक्चरिंग नेटवर्क में बेहतर भागीदारी चाहिए।
MSME constraints	Small exporters face issues of credit, technology, quality certification and scale.
MSME की बाधाएँ	छोटे निर्यातकों को ऋण, तकनीक, गुणवत्ता प्रमाणन और पैमाने की समस्या होती है।



1. Court Order 1. न्यायालय का आदेश

- On 19 May 2026, Supreme Court allowed euthanasia of rabid, incurably ill, or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs.
19 मई 2026 को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने रेबीजग्रस्त, लाइलाज, या सख्त रूप से खतरनाक आवारा कुत्तों की इच्छामृत्यु को अनुमति दी।
- Bench:** Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria.
पीठ: न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ, संदीप मेहता और एन.वी. अंजारिया।



3. Public Safety Focus 3. जन सुरक्षा पर जोर

- Order linked to public safety and stray dog management.
यह आदेश जन सुरक्षा और आवारा कुत्तों के प्रबंधन से जुड़ा है।
- Court dismissed pleas seeking modification of its 7 November 2025 order.
कोर्ट ने अपने 7 नवंबर 2025 के आदेश में संशोधन की मांग वाली याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया।



5. ABC Framework 5. जबीसी ढांचा

- Animal Birth Control framework covers sterilisation, vaccination, and population management of stray dogs.
एबीसी ढांचा आवारा कुत्तों के बांझीकरण, टीकाकरण और जनसंख्या प्रबंधन को शामिल करता है।
- States and UTs were asked to establish at least one fully functional ABC centre in each district.
राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से प्रत्येक जिले में कम से कम एक पूर्ण रूप से कार्यशील एबीसी केंद्र स्थापित करने को कहा गया।
- Adequate availability of anti-rabies medicines must be ensured.
एंटी-रेबीज दवाओं की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जाए।



6. Important Facts 6. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- Rabies is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system.
रेबीज एक वायरल बीमारी है जो केंद्रीय तंत्रिका तंत्र को प्रभावित करती है।
- It is almost always fatal after symptoms appear.
लक्षण प्रकट होने के बाद यह लगभग हमेशा घातक होती है।
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is a key animal welfare law.
पशु क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम, 1960, पशु कल्याण का एक प्रमुख कानून है।
- ABC Rules, 2023 provide the legal framework for sterilisation and vaccination.
एबीसी नियम, 2023 बांझीकरण और टीकाकरण के लिए कानूनी ढांचा प्रदान करते हैं।

2. Legal Basis 2. कानूनी आधार



- Euthanasia means lawful killing of an animal to end suffering or prevent public health risk.
इच्छामृत्यु का अर्थ है किसी जानवर को पीड़ा समाप्त करने या जन स्वास्थ्य जोखिम रोकने के लिए कानूनी रूप से मारना।
- Action must follow Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 and statutory protocols.
कार्रवाई को एनिमल बर्थ कंट्रोल नियम, 2023 और विधिक प्रोटोकॉल का पालन करना होगा।
- Qualified veterinary experts must assess the animal before action.
कार्रवाई से पहले योग्य पशु चिकित्सक विशेषज्ञों द्वारा जानवर का मूल्यांकन किया जाना आवश्यक है।



4. Public Institutions 4. सार्वजनिक संस्थान

- Removal of stray dogs from educational institutions, hospitals, and bus stands.
शैक्षिक संस्थानों, अस्पतालों और बस स्टैंडों से आवारा कुत्तों को हटाने का निर्देश।
- Sterilised and vaccinated dogs should not be returned to the same locations.
बांझीकरण और टीकाकरण किए गए कुत्तों को उन्हीं स्थानों पर वापस नहीं लौटाया जाएगा।



7. Exam Relevance 7. परीक्षा में महत्व

- Topics:** Public health, animal welfare, local governance, judiciary.
विषय: जन स्वास्थ्य, पशु कल्याण, स्थानीय शासन, न्यायपालिका।
- Keywords:** Rabies, Euthanasia, ABC Rules 2023, PCA Act 1960, public safety.
मुख्य शब्द: रेबीज, इच्छामृत्यु, एबीसी नियम 2023, पीसीए अधिनियम 1960, जन सुरक्षा।

Supreme Court Allows Euthanasia of Rabid Stray Dogs

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने रेबीजग्रस्त आवारा कुत्तों की इच्छामृत्यु की अनुमति दी



Quick Recall त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

★ Rabid / dangerous stray dogs can be euthanised under law.
रेबीजग्रस्त / खतरनाक आवारा कुत्तों की इच्छामृत्यु कानून के तहत की जा सकती है।

★ Veterinary assessment is essential.
पशु चिकित्सकीय मूल्यांकन आवश्यक है।

★ ABC Rules 2023 guide dog population control.
एबीसी नियम 2023 कुत्तों की जनसंख्या नियंत्रण में मार्गदर्शक हैं।

★ Public safety and anti-rabies measures are central.
जन सुरक्षा और एंटी-रेबीज उपाय केंद्र में हैं।

1. Why in News?



- India is set to receive the fourth squadron of the Russian-origin S-400 air defence missile system by 19 May 2026.
- The system is part of a **\$5.43 billion** agreement signed in 2018 for five S-400 squadrons.

2. S-400 Missile System



- The S-400 Triumf is a long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by Russia.
- Designed to engage aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at different ranges and altitudes.
- Operated by the **Indian Air Force** for air defence deployment.

3. India–Russia Defence Contract



- India signed the contract for five S-400 systems in 2018.
- Original delivery schedule aimed for completion by **2023**.
- Delays due to Russia–Ukraine conflict and disruptions in Russian defence supply chains.
- The fourth unit was inspected in Russia by Indian Air Force personnel in **mid-April 2026** and shipped by sea and air transport.

9. Key Specifications of S-400 (Triumf)



Role	Long-range surface-to-air missile system
Developer	Almaz-Antey (Russia)
Engagement Range	Up to 400 km (varies by missile type)
Targets	Aircraft, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles
Altitude	Very low to high altitude engagement
Mobility	Highly mobile, road transportable
System Components	Radar, command post, launchers, missiles

4. Deployment and Procurement Plans



- The fourth S-400 unit will be deployed in Rajasthan for long-range air defence along the western frontier.



- The fifth and final squadron under the original contract is expected by November 2026 and will be positioned along India's northern border with China.



- In late March 2026, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved a new batch of five additional S-400 missile systems.

India Receives Fourth S-400 Air Defence System



8. Significance for India



- Strengthens **long-range air defence** capability.



- Enhances **deterring** capability against aerial threats.



- Provides **multi-layered protection** against aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles.



- Deepens **India–Russia strategic defence partnership**.

5. Missile Inventory and Associated Procurement



- India has also decided to purchase 288 anti-aircraft missiles for the S-400 system.
- The package includes:
 - 120 short-range missiles
 - 168 long-range missiles
- Estimated cost of this missile replenishment package is about **\$1.2 billion**.

6. Operational Use



- The S-400 systems have reportedly been used by the Indian Air Force during **Operation Sindoor** in May 2025.
- The planned additional procurement could raise India's total S-400 inventory to **ten squadrons**.

7. Important Facts for Exams



- The S-400 Triumf is a Russian-made long-range surface-to-air missile system.
- India signed a **\$5.43 billion** contract in 2018 for five S-400 squadrons.
- The **Indian Air Force** uses the S-400 for air defence against aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the apex body for capital procurement decisions in the Ministry of Defence.

10. Exam Relevance



GS Paper 2	India–Russia relations, bilateral defence cooperation
GS Paper 3	Internal security, defence technology, acquisition, strategic issues
Prelims	S-400, Triumf, Russian defence systems, DAC, Operation Sindoor
Mains Keywords	Air defence, missile systems, strategic partnership, military modernisation



One-Line Summary: The arrival of the fourth S-400 system in May 2026 strengthens India's air defence shield along key frontiers and reinforces India–Russia strategic cooperation.



1. Deal Approval

1. डील की मंजूरी

- On 18 May 2026, the US State Department approved two possible Foreign Military Sales to India.
- Combined estimated value: \$428.2 million.
- Approvals were issued through separate congressional notifications by the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.



2. Foreign Military Sales

2. Foreign Military Sales

- FMS is a US government programme for defence equipment, services, and training for foreign governments.
- It is administered by the US government.
- Proposed sales above specified financial thresholds require congressional notification.



US Clears Apache and M777 Support Deals for India

★
अमेरिका ने भारत के लिए
Apache और M777 सपोर्ट डील
को मंजूरी दी



3. M777A2 Package

3. M777A2 पैकेज

- Estimated value: \$230 million.
- Covers long-term sustainment support for India's M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers.
- Includes ancillary items, spares, repair and return services, training, technical assistance, field service representatives, and depot capability.
- Principal contractor: BAE Systems.



4. AH-64E Apache Package

4. AH-64E Apache पैकेज

- Estimated value: \$198.2 million.
- Covers follow-on support services and related equipment for India's AH-64E Apache helicopters.
- Includes engineering support, technical support, logistics support, technical data, publications, and personnel training.
- Principal contractors: Boeing and Lockheed Martin.



5. Strategic Importance

5. रणनीतिक महत्व

- Improves operational readiness of artillery and attack helicopter systems.
- Strengthens long-range firepower and battlefield preparedness.
- Supports defence modernisation and India-US defence cooperation.



6. Important Facts

6. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- M777 is a 155 mm towed howitzer used for long-range artillery support.
- AH-64E is the latest Apache variant in US Army service and belongs to the attack helicopter class.
- BAE Systems is a major UK defence company.
- Boeing and Lockheed Martin are among the largest defence contractors in the United States.



7. Exam Relevance

7. परीक्षा में महत्व

- **Topics:** India-US relations, defence cooperation, military modernisation, internal security.
- **Keywords:** FMS, M777, AH-64E Apache, BAE Systems, Boeing, Lockheed Martin.
- **Useful for GS Paper 2, GS Paper 3,** defence current affairs, and prelims facts.



Quick Recall

त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति



1 Two US defence support deals approved for India.
भारत के लिए दो US रक्षा सहायता डील को मंजूरी दी गई।



2 Total value: \$428.2 million.
कुल मूल्य: \$428.2 मिलियन।



3 M777 package: \$230 million
Apache package: \$198.2 million
M777 पैकेज: \$230 मिलियन |
Apache पैकेज: \$198.2 मिलियन



4 Key aim: sustainment, logistics, training, and operational readiness.
मुख्य उद्देश्य: सपोर्ट, लॉजिस्टिक्स, प्रशिक्षण और परिचालन तत्परता।

Word of the day

Decrepit:

worn and broken down by hard use

Synonyms: derelict, run-down

Usage: *The decrepit building was on the verge of collapse.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ejeKIM/
decrepit

**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /dɪˈkreɪp.ɪt/



Word of the day

Bombast:


pompous or pretentious talk or writing

Synonyms: rhetoric, exaggeration, rant

Usage: *The speech was full of bombast but said very little.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/bombast

**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /bɒmbæst/



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