Daily Current Affairs





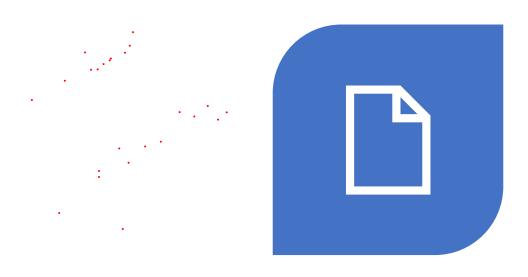




21st to 29th Sep 2025



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10 MCQ QUIZ

 Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" — Mary Anne Radmacher







India

www.thehindu.com









RINGHEDE

'Hydrogen bomb' of vote theft to be revealed: Rabul

KOZNIKODE Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Bahul Gandh said he would reveal "a hydrogen learnts" that would eave our one in India in slouds regarding his altegation or "yote theft" in PAGE 3

Kurmi protest in Jharkhand hits rall passengers

Hundreds of pussengers were stranded across various ratios resolvents of passengers servines strained a accole verticus entires strators of Jhackband on seturniay as trains were halted to cancellied due to a blockede by the Kurwi community, who are protesting for fashesided Yrite status. In PAGE 3

Soldier killed on second day of Jammu operation

BRENAGAR

One soldier was killed in the organing and terrorist operation in the operation in the Dode-Udhempus forest belt in Jarrens division on Saturday. The decased solder was identified as Larce Datadar Baldev Chand to PAGE 2

Three killed in Ukraine as Russia steps up attack

Russia launched a turim-scale missile and drone attack targeting nine regions seriesa Ultraine on Raturday, killing at boost throw norsons and

Trump govt. hikes H-1B visa fees to \$100,000

The order officially comes into effect in a day: current fee is in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000

Measure may have humanitarian consequences, full implications being studied, says Union govt.

Orbital La. of Stan

COMPANDE ACTION

2 Secretary

Come BLT

Indian missions abroad told to help visa holders and families scrambling to rush back to the U.S.

companies will be hit Nasscom NEW DELIN Apex industry body Nasscon has said the move would impact tockers technology servicus companies as but

Tech service

inuity would be disrupted for southern projects which may require "edjustments". The association also flagged concerns over the September ### And the second of the seco

"American workers are being replaced with lower-paid foreign labor, creating an economic and national security threat to the na-tion. The share of IT work-ers with H-HR visas has it sen from 32% in FY 3003 to over 68% in recent years,"
the White House said, air-nouncing the U.S. Freil-dent's signing of the order.
In India's first reaponae,
the Ministry of External Ai-fairs (MEA) said the full im-plications of the order are

Congress calls Modi 'weak PM' over II-III visa fee

PEW 063.03 The Congress on Naturday cited U.S. President Donald rump's imposition of a \$300,000 arroual fee on H-3B visas to target Prime Minister Naveroira Modi. Leader of the Opposition in the Lek Saliha Mahui Clandhi highlighted reports, on social media datform 8, that the H-18 was the hise would hit Indiana hardest. 'I repeat, india has a weath PM,' he said, a pane a

being studied by "all concerned". "Selfield labour mobility and exchanges have contri-buted enormously to tech-nology development, into-vation, estimants growth, competitiveness—and

wealth creation in the Unit-ed States and India. Policy makers will therefore as-ness the recent steps, taking into account mutual benefits, which include strong people to people ties between the two coun-tries. This measure is likely to have humanitarian con-

requirement by way of the disruption caused for furni-lies," MEA spokesperson Randbir Jaiswal said. Official sources said that india sees the order as a "pressure tactic" by the U.S. President shead of the

next round of trade talks, with Commerce and In-clustries Minister Physik district Minister Psychology Goyal leading an indian de-legation to Washington DC to hold faller with U.S. offi-cials on September 22, the Ministry announced.

PAGE 4

Kallot Bhattacheries

to disrupt the mobility of skilled workers om India to the U.S., U.S.

President Isonald Trump sharply raised 14-IB visa fees on Friday, from the current \$2,000-\$5,000

range to a flat \$100,000, or diment 190 lides.

Noting that the decision will have "humanitarian consequences", the Indian government and it was stured by the order and direct and order and the standard their families who are securability to return to the U.S. before the order origin of the order origin of the order or the original origi

Noting that the decision



the H-III non-tunnigrant visa ... has been deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement. American

workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labour

curity to "restrict appro-vals" for H-H vian pertitions "currently" custode the bi-reference of the curve of the cur-rent of the U.S. Depart-ments of State, Labour and tomeland Security to take from the current of the current of the Br. Trump's latest of the current of the current of the current ments of the current of the current tensor of the current of the current of the current tensor of the current of the current of the current of the the current of the current of the current of the current of the tensor of the current of the current of the current of the current of the tensor of the current of the current of the current of the current of the tensor of the current of the current

Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELFR

The Ministry of Informa-tion & Broadcasting on Sa-turday amounted the ac-presented the country's lighted film humour, the precitions I bedianthy. The precitions I bedianthy in The sward will be present-ed at the TP National Film of the Property on Rep Indiana Compensating the every in a post on S, Prime Minis-rian thousand if epitomies as excellence and versatili-ty. With a rich hosty of The Ministry of Informs

work spanning decades, he stands as a leading light of Malaydam cinerus, theatre about the culture of Kerala. He has also delivered remarkable performances in rankable performances in the culture of Kerala. He has also delivered remarkable for formances in the control of the culture of the

ome."
Information and Broadcaeting Minister Ashwini
Visishnaw congratulated
the actor saving, "Congratulations to Lalettan @Mohanial #. From the adipoli,



the Ministry said: "On the recommendation of the Badasshot Phalic Award Selection Committee, the Government of India is pleased to amnounce that Sitri Mobanial will be com-ferred the prestigious Di-dacabels: Phalic Award 2003."

behavided

breautiful land of Kerala to audienses workfelvide, file to audienses workfelvide, file culture and magnified our applrations, tile legacy will keep Inspiring Bhara's creative spirit.

Though another post life in the file of the work have set a golden standard in Indian Bharatte in the work have set a golden standard in Indian Bharatte in the work have set a golden standard in Indian Bharatte in In

be presented at the 7± Na-tional Film Awards cere-mony on Sept. 23, 2025; It-ture of the Park of the Park Marian one of India's most respected coffured com-mains one of India's most respected coffured com-pany of the Park of the Park Jamillay and enduring contribution to world sine may be Minaray added. The Park of the Park State Turned 68 this year Park of the Park of the Park Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the All Offines and Isaged free al Kernial State bonours, He was given the Park of the Was given the Park of the Was given the Park of the In 2001 and the Park of the Bondon of the Park of the Bondon of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park of the Park of the Park of the Hall of the Park of the Park

If we have an enemy, it is dependence on other countries: PM in Gujarat

Burnit Bhattacharjes

Modi said that nobody in the world can be consi-dered a major enemy of

dered a major enemy of the country on a nemy, it is the dependence on oth-or countries, he said. If we have to defeat that enemy and see that our IAO crore people are not left at the unercy of other countries and they live with pride, in the live with pride, with the countries and they live with pride, in the live with pride, with the countries and they live with pride and they live with pride, and they live with pride, and they live with pride and public meeting at historia. sublic meeting at Bhavna gar in Gujarat on Saturday after virtually inaugurating and laying the foundation atone of multiple development projects worth more than £34,200 crore in the

ment projects worth more markine sector and other projects in the State. The projects in the State. The sector is the State. The sector is the sector in the sector is the sector in the sector was shown that the sector was sector was sector was pointly housed by Make in sector was sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine sector was pointly housed by Make in the markine in the sector was pointly housed by Make in the sector was set to be a sector with the sector was set to be a sector with the sector was set to be a sector with the sector was set of the sector was set to be set of the sector was set of the sector was self-reliant.

"As a result, even after six to seven decades of free-dom, India could not achieve the success it truly deserved? be said." in India," and the PM.

Among the new projects, Mr. Modi launched
and laid the foundation
stone for multiple development projects in the martime field worth over
\$7.870 cross. He virtually

sone for this-prolonged en-tanglement in the licencefrom global markets. He added that when the era of globalisation arrived, the then ruling governments focused solely on imports which led to acame worth

The PM said a historic decision has been taken to strengthen India's mar-time sector, the governtime sector, the govern-ment now recognises large-ships as infrastructure ex-tor and bits will transform that from today, all major parts in the country will be freed from multiple docu-ments and fragmented ments and fragmented today of 'One Nation, One Locument' and 'One Na-tion, One Port' will aimpli-by teals and commerce.

Modelated Incomes a recommendation of the Modelate Recommendat

67,870 crore. He virtually trangurated the Mumbal International Gruise Termi-

nal at Indira Dock, laid the

foundation stone of a new container terminal and as-sociated facilities at Syama

Prasad Mookerjee Port in

Trump govt. hikes H-1B visa fees to \$100,000

The order officially comes into effect in a day; current fee is in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000

Measure may have humanitarian consequences, full implications being studied, says Union govt.

Indian missions abroad told to help visa holders and families scrambling to rush back to the U.S.

Kallol Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

n a move that is likely to disrupt the mobility of skilled workers from India to the U.S., U.S. President Donald Trump sharply raised H-1B visa fees on Friday, from the current \$2,000-\$5,000 range to a flat \$100,000, or almost ₹90 lakh.

Noting that the decision will have "humanitarian consequences", the Indian government said it was studying the order and directed its missions abroad to aid H-1B visa holders and their families who are scrambling to return to the U.S. before the order comes into effect, at midnight on September 20 by New York time.

The presidential proclamation directed the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Se-



curity to "restrict approvals" for H-1B visa petitions from applicants who are "currently" outside the United States, unless they are accompanied by the new

Mr. Trump's latest or-

der, which comes ahead of crucial negotiations for an India-U.S. trade pact, directed the U.S. Departments of State, Labour and Homeland Security to take necessary administrative measures.

"American workers are being replaced with lowerpaid foreign labor, creating an economic and national security threat to the nation. The share of IT workers with H-1B visas has risen from 32% in FY 2003 to

Tech service companies will be hit: Nasscom

NEW DELHI

Apex industry body Nasscom has said the move would impact India's technology services companies as business continuity would be disrupted for onshore projects which may require "adjustments". The association also flagged concerns over the September 21 timeline, saving a one-day deadline creates considerable uncertainty for businesses and professionals. » PAGE 4

over 65% in recent years," the White House said, announcing the U.S. President's signing of the order.

In India's first response, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the full implications of the order are weak PM," he said. » PAGE 4

being studied by "all

concerned".

"Skilled labour mobility and exchanges have contributed enormously to technology development, innovation, economic growth, competitiveness and

Congress calls Modi 'weak PM' over H-1B visa fee

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday cited U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of a \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi highlighted reports, on social media platform X, that the H-1B visa fee hike would hit Indians hardest. "I repeat, India has a

"pressure tactic" by the U.S. President ahead of the next round of trade talks. with Commerce and Industries Minister Pivush Goval leading an Indian delegation to Washington DC

to hold talks with U.S. offi-

cials on September 22, the

wealth creation in the Unit-

ed States and India. Policy

makers will therefore as-

sess the recent steps, tak-

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ties between the two coun-

tries. This measure is likely

to have humanitarian con-

sequences by way of the

disruption caused for fami-

lies," MEA spokesperson

Official sources said that

India sees the order as a

Randhir Jaiswal said.

60% EARN LESS THAN FEE

Ministry announced.

» PAGE 4

One-time H-1B fee for new applicants: U.S.

Only fresh H-1B visa applicants will have to pay starting with the 'next upcoming lottery cycle' Announcement eased fears among NRIs that triggered surge in flight bookings to the U.S.

Lutnick had stated that no more would these giant tech companies train foreign workers

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

day after U.S. President Donald Trump hiked H-1B visa fees to \$100,000, the White House clarified that the fee will not be an annual feature, but rather a "one-time" payment that will have to be made by companies for fresh H-1B visa applicants, starting with the "next upcoming lottery cycle".

The announcement eased the fears that had triggered a surge in last-minute flight bookings to the United States by Indian H-1B visa holders who are currently outside the country, after U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick's earlier remarks indicating that the fee amount would have to be paid ev-

ery year. However, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt contradicted the Commerce Secretary's comments in a social media post early on Sunday.

"To be clear: this is not an annual fee. It's a onetime fee that applies only to the petition. Those who already hold H-1B visas and are currently outside of the country right now will not be charged \$100,000 to reenter. H-1B visa holders can leave and re-enter the country to the same extent as they normally would: whatever ability they have to do that is not impacted by vesterday's proclamation," the Press Secretary said.

"This applies only to new visas, not renewals and not current visa holders. It will first apply in the next upcoming lottery

Clarity emerges

The White House issued a clarification after an initial announcement on the H-1B visa fee led to panic

- The \$100,000 fee will be a 'one-time' payment
- The fee applies only to new applicants. Those applying for renewals or current visa holders need not make the payment
- U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick had initially said that the fee would be applied annually, leading to much of the confusion



cycle," she added.

Lutnick's remarks

During the signing of the proclamation by Mr. Trump, Mr. Lutnick had said, "No more will these big tech companies train foreign workers. They have to pay the government a

hundred thousand dollars and then they have to pay the employee. So it's just non-economical. If you are going to train somebody, you are going to train one of the recent graduates from one of the great universities across our land."

He added, "A hundred

Opposition decry failure to take a strong stand

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Sunday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not taking a firm stand against the "strong-arm tactics" of the U.S. and instead adopting an

"escapist approach" by giving "vague sermons" about self-reliance. They targeted the PM over U.S. President Trump's move to impose a fee of \$100,000 for H-1B visas.

FULL REPORT ON

» PAGE 5

thousand dollars a year for H-1B visas and all of the big companies are onboard."

Rush for tickets

In its first response on September 20, the Ministry of External Affairs had cautioned that the order would have "humanitarian consequences" due to family disruptions.

Soon after the proclamation by Mr. Trump, several corporate giants, including Microsoft, JPMorgan and Amazon, instructed their H-1B visa holding employees who were outside the U.S. to return before midnight on Saturday, telling others to remain in the U.S.

Mr. Lutnick's remarks created a rush among H-1B visa holders for last minute purchases of air tickets.

The Hindu reported on Sunday that travel agents observed a surge in last-minute flight bookings to the U.S. on Saturday as H-1B visa holders attempted to reach their work stations in the U.S. ahead of the September 20-21 midnight deadline when the proclamation came into effect.

Officials also observed the spike in last-minute flight bookings, following which the Indian government instructed its missions and embassies across the world to provide "all possible help" to Indians trying to return to the U.S. before the deadline.

1. Background

Current Fee: \$2,000-\$5,000

New Fee: \$100,000 (≈ ₹90 lakh)

Effective Date: Midnight of September 20 (New York time)

Target Group: Skilled workers from India and other countries

Objective (as per U.S.): Protect local jobs and reduce dependency on foreign worke

2. Impact on India

- India's Share of H-1B Visas: ~71% of total approvals (FY2024)
- Potential Consequences:
 - Mobility of Indian tech workers will be disrupted.
 - May affect India's IT sector (Infosys, TCS, Wipro).
 - Could have "humanitarian consequences" for families abroad.
- Indian Govt Response:
 - Studying full implications.
 - Directed missions abroad to help visa holders return before deadline.
 - Sees move as a "pressure tactic" before trade talks (USTR negotiations).

■ Data Snapshot (FY2024)

Country	Share (%) of H-1B Petitions
India	71%
China	11.7%
Philippines	1.3%
Canada	1.1%
South Korea	1%
Others	13.9%

A. About H-1B Visa

- Type: Non-immigrant work visa
- Purpose: Allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations (IT, engineering, etc.)

B. India-U.S. Relations Context

- People-to-people ties: ~4.5 lakh Indian H-1B holders in U.S.
- Trade Talks: India seeking broader FTA / tech mobility.
- Geopolitical Angle: May push India to diversify towards Europe, Canada, and Gulf markets.

C. Economic Angle

- Potential decline in Indian IT exports to U.S. (~60% revenue share).
- Risk of brain drain reversal.

D. Prelims Focus

- H-1B Visa: Work visa category
- Issued by: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Duration: 3 years, extendable to 6
- Eligibility: Bachelor's degree or higher in specialized fields

BIG IMPACT

Jump in H-1B visa fee

1900%, from \$5,000 to \$100,000 annually

■ New fees more than median annual salary of a fresh H-1B visa holder

Source: USCIS

More than 80% of the average annual salary of all H-1B visa

DONALD TRUMP,

US PRESIDENT

They're (tech CEOs) going to be very happy... The abuse of the H-1B programme is also a national security threat

Cos dependent on US employees with H-1B visas

holders

Employer name	Beneficiaries approved
Amazon Com Services	10,044
Tata Consultancy Services	5,505
Microsoft Corporation	5,189
Meta Platforms	5,123
Apple	4,202
Google	4,181

Foreign workers in US



Foreign share of workforce



Share of IT workers in H-1B programme



\$1-mn gold card

\$1 million to the US
Treasury, or \$2 million if a corporation sponsors them, will get expedited visas and Green Card.

1. Nature of the Fee

- Not annual only a one-time fee.
- Applies only to new H-1B visa petitions.
- Renewals or existing visa holders are exempt.
- Will start from the "next upcoming lottery cycle."

2. White House Clarification

- Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated:
 - The \$100,000 fee does not apply every year.
 - Current visa holders outside the U.S. can re-enter without paying again.
 - Aim: To discourage over-reliance on foreign-trained workers.

3. Trigger for Clarification

- U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's initial remarks created confusion.
- Many NRIs rushed to book last-minute flights fearing an immediate implementation.
- Ministry of External Affairs (India) flagged humanitarian concerns.

Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on Saturday announced that actor Mohanlal will be presented the country's highest film honour, the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, for 2023. The award will be presented at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on September 23.

Congratulating the actor in a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "Shri Mohanlal *ji* epitomises excellence and versatility. With a rich body of

work spanning decades, he stands as a leading light of Malayalam cinema, theatre and is deeply passionate about the culture of Kerala. He has also delivered remarkable performances in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi films. His cinematic and theatrical brilliance across mediums is truly inspiring...may his accomplishments continue to inspire generations to come."

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw congratulated the actor saying, "Congratulations to Lalettan @Mohanlal *ji*. From the adipoli,



Mohanlal

beautiful land of Kerala to audiences worldwide, his work has celebrated our culture and magnified our aspirations. His legacy will keep inspiring Bharat's creative spirit."

Through another post,

the Ministry said: "On the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee, the Government of India is pleased to announce that Shri Mohanlal will be conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023."

Praises pour in

"The legendary actor, director, and producer is being honoured for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema. His unmatched talent, versatility, and relentless hard work have set a golden standard in Indian film history. The award will

be presented at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on Sept. 23, 2025," it said. "Today, Mohanlal remains one of India's most respected cultural icons, admired for his versatility, humility and enduring contribution to world cinema," the Ministry added.

The Malayalam superstar turned 65 this year. During his career spanning more than four decades, he has worked in about 400 films and bagged five national awards and several Kerala State honours. He was given the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2019.

1. Key Announcement

- Recipient: Mohanlal (Malayalam Actor)
- Award: Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023
- Announced by: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)
- Event: Will be presented at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on September 23, 2025

2. About Mohanlal

- Born: 1960 (Age 65 in 2025)
- Industry: Predominantly Malayalam cinema, also acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi films.
- Career: Spanning 4 decades, worked in ~400 films.
- Awards:
 - 5 National Film Awards
 - Several Kerala State Film Awards
 - Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2019)

Recent Recipients:

- 2022 Waheeda Rehman
- 2021 Asha Parekh
- 2020 Rajinikanth
- 2019 Amitabh Bachchan

Award Includes:

- Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)
- Shawl
- Cash prize of ₹10 lakh
- Citation

Breaking the academic paywall

ndia has the fourth highest number of PhD graduates glabally, according to the Co-operation for Economic Co-operation and Development, A number of these students come from regions where universities do not have the resources to subscribe to journals. A PhD student has to read hundreds of papers and books to complete research. How can students, who already suffer resource already safter resource constraints, and get a stipend of \$20,000 38,000, be asked in spend \$20-3,000 (£17,000-2,64 lakb) to access a paper online? This cannot be the norm.

Hocking access to knowledge in August, the Delil High Course ordered the blocking of free access regiment of the section of the access riggered a debate over the rights of students and the scientific community, puritodisty in the knowledge. The sites were blocked on grounds of assyright, plus filed by three of the higgsest academic publishers in the world, which desired the section of the section of the access of the section of the section of access to the section of the section of the create content or review its the free labour of the research. Blocking access to knowledge

the free labour of the research community, which is paid for by taxpayers or student fees. In short multi-billion dollar companies are able to block access to scientific knowledge to the vast majority of the world.

80, who is committing the real theft? A 2021 shady published by Research Found that India accounted for 8.7% of the total accounted for 8.7% of the total amounting to over 12 million, in 2017. Of them, 19% wore related to the medical and localit actencies, tradects and professionals to build on existing lenowledge and tradects and professionals to build on existing lenowledge and regions plaqued by inaccessibility and default in remources. Addr (Oscions Withous Borders)





instruction, research, and deeper understanding of ground realities to deliver the best practices and MSF teams, especially those treating patients with drug-resistant TR and artimization and the second and the second and another remove can be second and abstract remove communities. For best results, health experts must work on countries treatment plans. health experts must work on complex treatment plants, social statements to the patient's weeks, which differ eleperating on cost, severity of infection, geography, malrosutathment, age, and co-morbidities. The fact that two-thirds of 79 cases are reported from eight countries, all in the Clobal Boults, where patients are struggling to access effective treatments that are at least a few decades old, means

has witnessed the painful health realities of countries in the Global South, Overhurdened systems are

unable to meet the growing needs of communities that are often underserved in the face of systemic gaps, climate disasters,

absolute; it evolves with the world around us. As our environment

changes, our bodies adapt, and organisms evolve, the healthcare sector demands constant

and violence. Medicine is not

righting these diseases is a matter of equity and justice. Like medicine, knowledge should never be a luxury commodity. Currently, corporate forces overwhelmingly gateleep scientific knowledge – whether it is in increasingly corporatised universities, or through universities, or through corporate-funded research and journals. The primary motive is profits, and the resultant practices are evenerably of human knowledge within patents and knowledge within patents and intellectual property rights. This exclusionary cystem has a narrow understanding of what knowledge is. Universities have started seeking out researchers who have already published papers in well-known pournats instead of necking research that bruefits the most underserved.

by grassroots communities. The Global South is other vise often treated as an exotic field site for researchers from the Global North. There is gross under-representation of researchers from the Global South researchers from the Global South in authorship; they are typically reduced to field assistants, while the so called 'cerebral' work is the so called 'ceretral' work is relegated to those from the Global North. This is particularly concerning as issues in the Global South are conceptualised under Global North-centric language.

Collective efforts

Collective effects
The Global South is
disproportionately impacted by
increased protectionizm, violence
climate disasters, displacement,
inaccessibility, drug resistance,
and none. These childrages
demand collective effects from demand collective efforts from governments, innovators, and health experts. Daring the transport of the member courses of twisted to the transport of twisted international framework on open science, it make science of the transport of the enthance international scientific cooperation. However, just a few years later, multi-billion dollar publishers continue to hold. We are presiding an artificial We are presiding an artificial

knowledge at ransom.

We are producing an artificial scarcity of knowledge, which is otherwise an infinite resource, a communa. Science is already. produced as a collective exercise it must be recognised as such. Even research conducted in the Global South is inaccessible to the Clobial fourth is transcessibilit to the people who participate in these people who participate in these sear presenter on publishers and power numers to open charmeds for easy accose to scheriffic the search of the participate (gipting charme of facility to (gipting charme of facility the health implications of war, climate systemic inequities, we must distunctio payonlia and stake claims on Kreevledge as commenta-

Caste survey redux

Karnataka's second socio-economic survey gets underway amid objections

Sharath 5. Srtvetsa absorb or text suggester brinds, ou do

acountain will hold its second socio-eco-nomic survey from to-day. The Congress government act acide the report of the first set aside the report of the first survey, combined in 2015, as well as the recommendations based on it and submitted in 2024. The second survey, to be conducted over a fortunity by the Karmitaka State Commis-nion for Haskward Classes, in sion for Haskward Classes, is being held amid a sea of objec-tions raised by the till? as well as some land-owning, political-ly dominant, and numerically

y dominant, and numerically atrong communities.

The Commission has com-piled a tentative list of 1,400 cause. This has opened a Pan-dora's Ros. The HIP has at-tacked the Siddaramaiah go-vernment for attempting to "divide Hindus". The BIP and some cause grown have onsome caste groups have op-posed the inclusion of Christion sub-castes (then thed for the first time shiring the ear her survey based on how peo-ple named themselves) that included nomenclatures such as Vokkaliga-Christian, Brah-mana-Christian, and Lingsyat

Christian.
To the embarrassment of the State government, these nomenclatures have been op-posed by Cabinet Ministers representing the dominant com-munities as well. Leaders of

numities as well, tembers of castes cutting across party linus four that these "new castes" will bring down their population figures. Cabines meeting, it is Chief Minister came under intense pressure to scray the survey or post-ports it until the "anomalies" weie net (sight, beputy Chief Minister D.K. Shlvakhmar, at vokkaliga strongman, and se



nter Ministers M.B. Patil and nior Ministers M.B. Patil and Eshwar Khandre, represent-ing the Versushalva-Lingsout community, opposed the "new casters". The Chief Minu-sion, an independent body, to address the confusion to making some of these "new can be allowed to eminerate themselves in the 'Others' satesory.

themselves in the 'Others' category, While blames the government for the confusion, the Commission has made is clear that during the fast enumeration, members of these "sew Christian and canter" had approached it, requesting it for a separate grouping. It said that the government did not have any role in the inclusion or de-letion of any castes, and castes.

The RSS and BIP are also on-sious about developments in the Veerashatva-Lingayat comthe Voerashava-Lingayat com-munity. The Abilia Bhariatha Voerashawa Mahanabha and the lagarhika Lingayata Maha-aabha, two big caste organisa-tions, have appealed to the community to any that they be-long to the "Voerashawa-Linlong to the Voeranhaiva-Lin-goyat and Uniquey' religions, respectively, in the Others co-lumn. Both organisations are working for a separate religion status. For the community, through they have differencies of opinion on nomenchature. The RIP is upost that the sal-has have appealed to the com-

thenselves as 'Hindu'. Leaders including former Chief Minis-ters Basavaraj Bommai and Ja-gadish Shettar have accused the Congress of using caste or ganisations to "divide the Hin-du community". Incidentally, Cabinet Minister Eshwar Khandre is the general secre-tary of the Veerashalva Mahasabha, while Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa in its president.

for has been about the way that community members would enumerate themselves would enumerate themselves, with major dominimities such as the Veerashaiva-Lingayats, Volksaigas, Brahmins, Mus-lines, and Kurubas trying to consolidate themselves. The findings of the 2015 survey and the recommendations

for political clour using their estimated population data. The Commission's report based on the survey and its re 55% reservation matrix in the Brate. Though determining "backwardness" of various caste groups is the key objec-tive of the survey, the focus of the dominant communities has been primarily on numer

The age of India's leaders has steadily risen

The age profile of the Lok Sabha has shifted markedly over the decades, with the USh Lok Sabha being the "oldest" yet

hen Jagdeup Dhankhur stepped down as Vicerelated the Freidern, etting ageton againg in politics sharpened in Infla. The augustion of Radhirly in Infla. The Inflance of The Augustion of Radhirly in Inflance of The Augustion of Radhirly in Inflance of The Inflance of The Inflance of Radhirly in Inflance of the Inflance of the

already produced as a collective exercise; it must be recognised as

President Luis de Silva, 79, Israel's President Luis de Silva, 79, Israel's Frime Minister Hengamin Netanya-tu, 79, and Narendra Modi, 74. The persistence of gerontecracy is evident even among unelected leaders and dictarors. From long. leaders and discators. From long-ruling strongmen in parts of Arisca in apprenne leaders in off-rich hold on to office well fitto told age. Authoritarian leaders such as Tur-ley's tecopy Trayly Indoan, 72, 1807 and 1807 and 1807 and 1807 72, have extended their grip on power for descules, underspecting him age is narely a fairfast to polit-tic systems.

transferms.

This trend of elderly leaders dominating politics, whether through democratic elections or authoritarian rule, is hardly new. Greintocrary was a debning five fure of governance in the Greek ci-ty-states and the Roman Senate, where advancing age was closely associated with wisdom and experience, creating a form of tradi-tional authority that legitimised the rule of the old.

initiate. Nitiah Kumari's age and health laws emerged as health laws the olders are also as the collections. Reveral instances of temples are interested to the collections of the collections. Reveral instances of temples are also decided about his ability to close decided about his ability to close the collections of the collections of the collections. The in the state of the collections of the collections of the temples of the collections of the co

leaders to power, including Brazil's | party - regional versus national and within national parties bet-ween the Congress and the MP -shows negligible variation, with ween the Congens and the liftalrow neighble variation, with
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across the board hevering around
Severs. The presence of younger
leaders such as Nayab Singh Saint,
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The age instance of the Life can has shifted markedly over the de-cades (Chart D, with the 16th Lok Sahha, which began its torm lan-your, being the "oldest" yet. The average age of parliamentarians

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Windu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1975 100 nations support steps

against torture

New Dolls, Supp. 21. A handred countries, including finds, which attended the fifth finited stations Congress on prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, have approved a self-scale of the state were offences under criminal law and criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the person if investigation established that he

committed an act of torture. orture might not be used as evidence against

erson. On the role of police and other law and the role of police and other law enforcement agencies the Congress concluded that police training should include the subjects of ethics. Women should be employed as police officers on equal terms with man and the police should participate in the legislative pressites.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1925

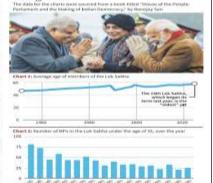
Bombay cotton crisis

Bombay, Sept. 31: More textile mills were closed to day. Of the 92 testile mills in the town and suburits of Bombay, about 98 are idle. The operatives on strike now number close upon 125,000. No one anticipated an early

termination of the strike.

A general exodus of the operatives and their families has begun and steamers bound for the southern districts and Kailway trains are

No serious breach of the peace is reported.



MEN 25-40 MAN 41-55 MAN 56-70 MAN 71-100

The age of India's leaders has steadily risen

The age profile of the Lok Sabha has shifted markedly over the decades, with the 18th Lok Sabha being the "oldest" vet

DATA POINT

Sarthak Bagchi Aria Kakkad

r hen Jagdeep Dhankhar stepped down as Vice-President, citing agerelated health issues, discussions on ageing in politics sharpened in India. The suggestion of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat two months ago that leaders should step aside at the age of 75 had also triggered a debate. Narendra Modi continues as Prime Minister despite crossing the age of 75 and so do several other leaders, underscoring the lack of a clear retirement norm. The BJP's unofficial age limit of 75 years - symbolised by the creation of the Margadarshak Mandal, often seen as a euphemism for the party's retirement cell - has kept the spotlight on the question of when politicians should call it a day.

At the State level too, Chief Minister Nitish Rumar's age and health have emerged as key talking points ahead of the Bihar elections. Several instances of incoherence at public events have raised doubts about his ability to take crucial policy decisions and effectively discharge his duties. This is in sharp contrast to the image of 'sushasan babu (boss of good governance)' that he cultivated during his early years.

In fact, gerontocracy - commonly defined as rule by a group of old men or a council of elders has become an important theme in the global discourse on democracy. In the 2024 U.S. presidential elections, age dominated the campaign conversation: Joseph Biden, the oldest President in American history, left office at 82, while his successor Donald J. Trump took office at 78 years and 220 days, setting a record as the oldest to be inaugurated. That year, celebrated worldwide as the 'year of democracy' for its many pivotal elections, leaders to power, including Brazil's President Lula da Silva, 79; Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 75; and Narendra Modi, 74.

The persistence of gerontocracy is evident even among unelected leaders and dictators. From long-ruling strongmen in parts of Africa to supreme leaders in oil-rich Asian republics, many continue to hold on to office well into old age. Authoritarian leaders such as Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, 72, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, also 72, have extended their grip on power for decades, underscoring how age is rarely a barrier to political dominance outside democratic systems.

This trend of elderly leaders dominating politics, whether through democratic elections or authoritarian rule, is hardly new. Gerontocracy was a defining feature of governance in the Greek city-states and the Roman Senate, where advancing age was closely associated with wisdom and experience, creating a form of traditional authority that legitimised the rule of the old.

An analysis of the ages of India's Prime Ministers shows a steady upward trend. At independence in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister at 58, serving with a median age of 66 during his tenure. By 2014, Narendra Modi entered office at 63, and the median age of Prime Ministers had climbed to 76. The range has been wide: Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest to assume office at 40, while Morarji Desai was the oldest, taking charge at 81. Tellingly, Nehru demitted office at 74 in 1966, whereas Manmohan Singh, the last Prime Minister before Modi, stepped down in 2014 at 81. Across India's history, the median age of Prime Ministers has hovered around 67.

fice at 78 years and 220 days, setting a record as the oldest to be inaugurated. That year, celebrated
worldwide as the 'year of democracy' for its many pivotal elections,
saw the rise of several geriatric

party - regional versus national, and within national parties between the Congress and the BJP shows negligible variation, with the average age of Chief Ministers across the board hovering around 58 years. The presence of younger leaders such as Nayab Singh Saini, Mohan Yadav, and Yogi Adityanath might suggest that the BIP promotes younger talent, especially when contrasted with the Congress's image as India's 'Grand Old Party'. However, our analysis shows minimal difference in average age between the two.

In general, the younger appointments across parties are balanced out by veterans such as the late Prakash Singh Badal in Punjab, the late V.S. Achuthanandan in Kerala, and the late M. Karunanidhi in Tamil Nadu, all of whom served well into their late 80s and 90s.

The age profile of the Lok Sabha has shifted markedly over the decades (Chart 1), with the 18th Lok Sabha, which began its term last year, being the "oldest" yet. The average age of parliamentarians rose from 46.5 years in 1952 to 56 years by 2014. Meanwhile, the share of younger members (25-40 years) declined sharply from about 25-30% in the early years to under 10%. In contrast, the share of members aged 56-70 grew from less than 25% to nearly 40% by 2019. The data makes clear that India's Parliament is ageing, with fewer young politicians making it into the House over time.

If we were to pick out a random Indian, there is a 50% probability that they are less than 30 years old. However, this probability is 0.007% if we were to do the same for a member of the Lok Sabha. Chart 2 shows the number of MPs in Lok Sabha under the age of 35, over the years. Chart 3 shows the age-profile of MPs in the Lok Sabha over the years.

Sarthak Bagchi teaches at Ahmedabad University and Arja Kakkad, studies in Asboka University

Old guard

The data for the charts were sourced from a book titled "House of the People: Parliament and the Making of Indian Democracy," by Ronojoy Sen



Chart 1: Average age of members of the Lok Sabha

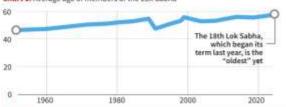


Chart 2: Number of MPs in the Lok Sabha under the age of 35, over the year

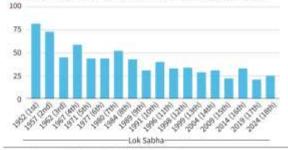
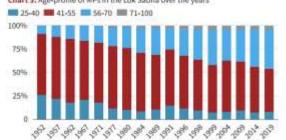


Chart 3: Age-profile of MPs in the Lok Sabha over the years



- RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat suggested leaders step aside at 75.
- Debate on retirement age for politicians gained traction.
- PM Modi himself is nearing 75, but continues actively.
- The 18th Lok Sabha (2024) is the "oldest" yet.

2. Global Comparisons

- Many world leaders continue into their 70s and 80s:
 - Joe Biden (81), Donald Trump (78), Lula da Silva (79), Benjamin Netanyahu (75).
- Authoritarian leaders also extend grip:
 - Erdogan (72), Xi Jinping (71), Putin (72).
- Trend of gerontocracy (rule of the elderly) visible globally.

- Chief Ministers' average age across states ≈ 58 years.
- Examples of aged leaders:
 - Prakash Singh Badal (Punjab), Karunanidhi (TN), M. Karunanidhi & N.T. Rama Rao continued late into 80s & 90s.
- Persistence of gerontocracy in India cuts across parties (BJP, Congress, regional).

4. Lok Sabha Age Profile

- Average age:
 - 1952 (1st Lok Sabha): 46.5 years
 - 2014: 56 years
 - 18th Lok Sabha (2024): oldest ever.
- Youth Representation (25–40 years):
 - 1950s: 25–30%
 - 2019: less than 10%.
- Senior Representation (66–70 years):
 - 1950s: < 25%
 - 2019: nearly 40%.

- India's median age: ~29 years (2023) → world's youngest democracy.
- Nehru's first cabinet median age: ~50.
- Oldest Lok Sabha MP historically: Najma Heptulla (Rajya Sabha, age 75+).
- Youngest MP in 2024: ~25 years (minimum constitutional age).
- Global Comparison:
 - Finland's former PM Sanna Marin became PM at 34.
 - Austria, Ireland, and NZ had leaders < 40 recently.
- Debate: Should India have a formal political retirement age like judiciary (65) or civil services (60)?

Old guard

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Chart 1: Average age of members of the Lok Sabha

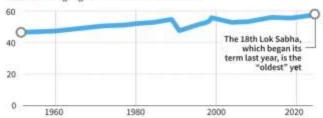


Chart 2: Number of MPs in the Lok Sabha under the age of 35, over the year

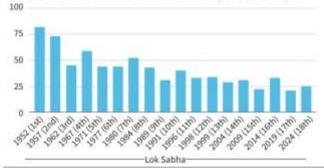
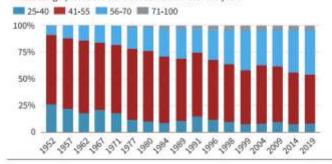


Chart 3: Age-profile of MPs in the Lok Sabha over the years



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Italy outclasses USA to retain Billie Jean King Cup

An inspired traly successfully defended its ttillie lean King Oup with a 2-0 victory over record 18-time champion the United States in Sherothen on Sunday, taking its own tally in the premier in Sunday, taking its ower tally in the premier comen's team competition to six titles. Elisabetis Sociaretto and Jamiine Paulist both won their ingles matches to help their country friumph and probong the American wait for another title ofter the last success in 2017.

The result: Haly bt USA 2-0 (Elicabetta Considerito bi Emmi

Abhigyan, Vedant fifties script India under-19's victory

Valbhav Suryavanshi showed glimpees of his batting prowess before wicketkeeper Abhlgyan Kondu and Vedant Trivedi's unbeaten half-centuries powered India u-19 to a comprehensive seven wicker win over Australia u-19 in the first Youth ODI in Briebane on Sunday

The scares: Australia or 19 325/9 in 80 overs Dohn, James 77



Deva and Madina clinch Udaipur Half Marathon titles

Deva Ram and Madina Paul emerged victorious Deva Ram and Madina Paul emerged victorious in the mera and winners categories, respectively, in the Vechanta Zinc City Hange, which is being championed as Infals's most beautiful ona author, saw over 7000 people from 27 states decreased the vechanta of the language of the

Sprint relay teams help USA finish the Worlds on a high

Brilliant Botswana wins men's 4x400m, Neugebauer claims the decathlon crown; Odira erases four-decade old mark in women's 800m; Olystagers, Hocker, and Stahl also taste success

ATHLETICS

Heuters

he United States finished the World was commissionably in style as Noah Lykes and Melissa Efferson Weoden completed memorable in dicidual weeks by helping their country to emphatic golds in both 4x100 meter relays in driving rain on sunday.

Sunday. USA finished on top of the table with 26 medals,

including II gold.

Jefferson Wooden, who
became the second woman to sweep all three sprint titles at one cham-pionahips, helped the Unit-ed Status to a lead at the last exchange and Sha'Car-ri Richardson brought the baten home in 41.7% se-

Jamaica finished second in 41.79 to send sprint queen Shelly-Ann Fraserqueen 20:68y-Ann Fraser-Fryce, whose 2013 sweep jefferson-Wooden emulat-ed, into retiresson with a 17th World championahip medal. Germany came illard in 41.87 for bronze. In the men's race, the fi-

in their handovers despite the testing conditions. Fast finishing Canada took aliver in 37.88, with the



Blumping Func Oilins gets the better of Olympic champion Hodghinson and Bell to win the 800m. At

Paris Olympic aliver to take the decathlon gold thanks to a huge javelin personal heat. He scored a season's

record 37.81.
Earther, Botswami produced a brilliant performance to win the men's world 48400 metres relay in atrocious conditions, enging not the United States and South Africa in a blanket finish to become the first African winners of se event. Collen Kebbushhipi, the

87.76 seconds.

UDA, winner of nine of the last 10 World tides, changed all four athletes for the final from the morning run-off and took silver from South Africa by Neitherlands delighted to two thousandths of a se-best of 8804 points to fin- the discus to 70.47m for take bronze in a national cond after both being sub-ahead of Puerto Rico's the final gold of the meet.

timed at 2:57.83.
USA resumed normal service in the women's fi-nal that followed on the drawnhed track with indivi-Ayden Owens-Delerme (8784) and USA's Kyle Gar-

land (#703).
Kenya's Lillian Odira pro-duced a storming finish to win an the women's 800m gold while erasing a 42-year-old championship re-cord. dual 400m champion Syd-ney McLaughlin-Lewrone anchoring II to gold in 3.16.61.

3.6.6.0.

The jamaicane hold onto to second place in 3.19.25 despite the efforts of 400m hurdles gold medility femile hold over the final log for the butch defending champions, who finished third in 3.20.8.

Germany's Leo Neugebauer stepped up from his parts obtained the risk and the parts obtained since in the parts of the parts of the parts obtained since in the parts obtained since in the parts of the parts of the parts of the parts of the parts obtained since in the par Her time of one minute, 54.62 seconds took down the oldest championship the oldest champlorship record in the book - the 155.66 set by Geech athlete Jarnola Kratoshvilova in 1982. Australia's Nicola Olye-lagers, twice an Olympic silver medallist, won the

women's high jump, USA's Cole Hocker claimed the men's 5000m and Swe-den's Daniel Stahl heaved

Manhas set to be elected as the new **BCCI** president

Amol Karhadkar

Mithun Manhan, a stalwart of domestic cricket, is set to be elected unopposed as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on September 28. Manhas, the formur Delhi caprain who is a vete-san of 187 First Glass

san of 187 First Class
matches, filed his nomination papers at the IECS
headquarters on Sunday.
All the six Apes Council
siots are sor to be obscude
unopposed with the respective cancilidates filed
the nomination papers in
person on Sunday.

"Stince Marshas is form
relayer it was decided to

er player it was decided to make him the president," Rajeev Shukla, who is set o continue as the vice-president, told the mediaper-

my & Kashmir, is const-dered to be a trusted ally of the forces that administer

Manhas has been nomi-nated to represent J&K in the AGM. Former Test go to Jayslev Shah.



spinners Harbhajan Kingh-and Ragburam Blast will re-present Pauglat and Karna-taka, respectively.

The BCSI election is scheduled during its an-nual gasteral meeting at te-headeparters need Sunday. The Hindu understands that after considing some of the top ministers in the grachly served in the Man-has as the consensus can-didate.

Devajit Saikia and Shuk sident, told the mediaper-sons.

Manhae, who had a pre-longed career as Delh's lasting mainstay before ending his staint with Janeses on Sankay for the treasurer's post. Prabble



Fritz stuns Alcaraz as Team World roars back

LAYER CUP

Agence France-Presse

American Taylor Fritz shocked World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz 6:3, 6:2 as Team World swept all four matches at the Laver Cup on Saturday to power into the lead in the global ten-

world, notched up his first victory over the Spanish superstar after three presuperstar after three presuperstar after three prethree semifinate or Windbledon this year.

Australian Alex De Mituiur and Agentin's Frangles victories and De
Minaur teanned with Alex
Michalen to with the doubles to give capanh Adore. nts event. Again's team a 9-3 lead ov Fritz, ranked 66th in the er Team Europe.

Pramod strikes gold on comeback up a strong show in the men's singles &L4 varigory, batting through a longh draw before finishing with the swort down to France's Lucas Masur 9-24, 6-21. Takys 2020 Faralympic champion Krishna also at-dot to Indica tally with a allver medal in the men's nagios alld south.

PARA HADSENTON

Press Trust of India

India's Pramed Bhagat, Su-kam Kadam and Krishna Nagar brought glery to the sountry at the China Para Badminton International 2028 with their remarkable performance. Pramod made a golden comeback after 18 months,

clinching the men's singles \$1.3 gold medal.

Facing stiff competition from Indonesia's Much Al Inzan, Fannod lost The Market Market Much back brilliantly to win the next two sets 21:19, 23-16 and sealing the top price is in men's doubles, he patred with Kadam and se-cured silver after falling short against comparints Steakonser in a gripping fi-Sivakonser in a gripping fi-Sivalcumar in a gripping fi-nal that ended in 21, 22-20, 18-21. World No.1 Kadam put

Thailand's Natthapong Meechal in a close three

setter before settling for se-cond place, with the final scoreline reading 22-20, 7-21, 17-21.

Men's singles 83.2 (Finally Framusid Bragas ht Mait Al Ironas Grad 21-19, 21-16.

Eingles SL4 (fleat): Laures Manu (Fra) St Subject Mariem 21-9, 31-8 ent Kadem St.6, 31-8 Singles St.S (final): North 88-89, 91-7, 91-17

Verstappen makes it two in a row; Piastri crashes | Ishaan wins both races in

PURMULA ONE

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Grund Prix from pole position while Ozear Pisotri crashed on the opening jap and had his Pormila One lead over McLaren teammate Lando Norria slashed to 25 points.

Podjum finishers George Russell finished se-cond for Mercedes and Carlos Sainz third for Wil-Bama's first podium finish

of the season. Norris started and finished seventh, with his

ished seventh, with his chances of scoring more points seuppered by a slow pitton for the second suction of the second suction of the second second to a row second to a row and the wear absolutely donition and the second for a row of the second se

the opening lap when Plas-tri, who crashed in qualify-ing and started minth,



tumped the start and went to the back of the field being the only driver to score poloughing into the wall at surn five.

The crash ended the jumped the mart and went to the back of the field be-fore ploughing into the wall at turn five.

New Yealander Liam Law son enjoying a career-fifth for facing fulls.

Lewis Hamilton and Char-les Leclerc following Nor-ris home in eighth and ninth.

Double delight French delight
French to devible points
finish for Racing Bulls in
10th.

t, Westsppier (Med Buil) 15:32m-20.40Ms, 2. forsiell (Marcodini) 154,609s, 5. Gair (Milliamol 10.139, 4. Antonio (Manustes) 21,760, 6. Lavoss Others melling 3.1 (VO), 5. Lincolson Ordering Build 3.2 (Mo), 7. Normicol Chief Build 3.2 (Mo), 10. Health (Farmard) 40. 774, 10. Health (Farmard) 47, 10. F. Health (Farma

Dyfusem 1. Prastri, 324, 2. Teorris 200, 3. Verstappen 265, 4. Bussell 212, 3. Lecture 105. Constructors: 1. McLeron 023, 3

MRF Formula 2000 category

Madesh made up for a dis appointing outing on sa-turday by winning both races on Sunday in the pre-mier MRF Formula 2000 category in the second round of the MKF MMX: FM8CI National car racing championships at the Madrag International Circuit

The results (provisional - all 10 lags unless mentioned): MRF Vert 12-0-13-2846, 3. F2000: Race-2:), Ishaan Madish Porformance Bacings (2015): Reco-2 (8 Lapsis): J. Hibanth (15:09,509); J. Vidyaprakash (16:09,724); J. Mohammad (1804.180), 8. Yanga (1804.180), WDF F46400 Raza, 241, Tahun MDF F46400 Raza, 241, Tahun Custowanarat (1747.271), 9. Sul Bibro Midaton Karibaran (1756.774), 3. Sulph Michael Thomas, 1757.461, 1866.248, lagger), 1. Sul Shiko (1807.963), 5. Appara, 2. Nair (12.90.784), 3. Oyan 6. (1807.864), 8. Oyan 6. (1806.864)

Indian Youring Cars: Base & L. Bitosh Ric (Buzzing Hornets) 10 07 4125 2. Breen PSPrawatta Tearn NJ Backegy (19: 12: 550), 3.

ere anab Burn.br b.



Performance Reside (1797) 270)

(19-56, 948), 3. Billyok Thomas

Hace Concepts (No. 2, 200). Race-5 (8 lags): 1. Despik (10:51.700); 2. Hartim Shabe (10:m Vertomanni Racm) (10:11.000); 3. Viewas Vijeyana Super Stock: Hace-\$1 1. Digith. T.S. (DTS Stational) (2005): BSA); 2. Rece-3 (B logs): 1. Diljiil (16:0):953); 2. Gudage (17:04:878); 3. Bulayesial

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Appendix.

Manhas set to be elected as the new BCCI president

Amol Karhadkar MUMBAI

Mithun Manhas, a stalwart of domestic cricket, is set to be elected unopposed as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on September 28. Manhas, the former Delhi captain who is a veteran of 157 First Class matches, filed his nomination papers at the BCCI headquarters on Sunday.

All the six Apex Council slots are set to be elected unopposed with the respective candidates filing their nomination papers in person on Sunday.

"Since Manhas is a former player it was decided to make him the president," Rajeev Shukla, who is set to continue as the vice-president, told the mediapersons.

Manhas, who had a prolonged career as Delhi's batting mainstay before ending his stint with Jammu & Kashmir, is considered to be a trusted ally of the forces that administer BCCI.

Manhas has been nominated to represent J&K in the AGM. Former Test



Manhas, FILE PHOTO

spinners Harbhajan Singh and Raghuram Bhat will represent Punjab and Karnataka, respectively.

The BCCI election is scheduled during its annual general meeting at its headquarters next Sunday. The Hindu understands that after consulting some of the top ministers in the government, the BCCI hierarchy zeroed in on Manhas as the consensus candidate.

Devajit Saikia and Shukla are set to continue as the secretary and vice-president, respectively. Bhat filed his nomination papers on Sunday for the treasurer's post. Prabhtej Singh Bhatia is likely to be elected unopposed as the joint secretary.

The sixth slot in the BCCI apex council is set to go to Jaydev Shah.

- Name: Mithun Manhas
- Position: To be elected unopposed as President of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)
- Election Date: September 28 (nomination filed), official election at AGM next Sunday
- Background:
 - Former Delhi captain
 - Veteran of 157 First Class matches
 - Also played for Jammu & Kashmir
 - Known as a stalwart of domestic cricket
- Reason for Selection: Consensus candidate after consultation with government ministers; trusted figure in domestic circuit.

Other Office Bearers:

Position	Candidate	Status
Vice-President	Rajeev Shukla	Continuing
Secretary	Devajit Saikia	Continuing
Treasurer	Prabhtjeet Singh Bhatia	Unopposed
Joint Secretary	Jaydev Shah	Likely to be elected

About BCCI:

- Governing body for cricket in India.
- Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- Conducts domestic & international cricket in India.
- President plays a key role in policy, IPL governance, and ICC representation.
- 2. Significance:
- Reflects politico-sports nexus in India's sports administration.
- Domestic cricket experience is increasingly seen as a criterion for leadership.
- Continuity in office bearers (Shukla, Saikia) indicates stability and internal consensus.

_ China announces two-month social media crackdown

Agence France-Presse

China's top Internet regulator announced on Monday a sweeping two-month crackdown on social media, vowing to combat content containing "malicious incitement of conflict" and "negative outlooks on life such as world-weariness."

Beijing requires social media companies to moderate content on their platforms, with posts strictly controlled to avoid anything deemed to be too subversive, vulgar, pornographic or generally harmful.

The notice from the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) follows announcements of penalties this month against three popular digital platforms, which it said had neglected content management duties.

Punitive measures

On Saturday, the CAC said it would carry out "disciplinary and punitive measures" against micro-blogging platform Weibo and short video platform Kuaishou, accusing them of highlighting celebrity news and "undestrable" content.

The announcement followed similar action taken by the CAC on September 11, 2025, against the Instagram-like Xiaohongshu, known as Rednote in English. Authorities have not specified what punitive actions are being taken against the three platforms.

The two-month campaign - whose start date was not specified in Monday's statement - aims "to regulate the malicious incitement of conflict and and vicious currents," the ment," the statement said.

Beijing has vowed to combat content containing 'malicious incitement of conflict'

CAC said.

The statement then listed specific online issues authorities hope to tackle in the crackdown. They include "exploiting social hot spots to forcibly associate identity, region or gender with other information, stigmatising and hyping them."

In practice, this could mean a clampdown on posts about discrimination. In July, local officials in eastern Zhejiang province warned comedians against stirring up gender discord through stand-up routines that joked about the battle of the sexes.

Other problems targeted by the campaign include disseminating "rumours" about the economy, finance, social welfare and public policy. Weibo has previously warned against posting "pessimistic" views about the economy, social media users said in late 2023.

Monday's notice also mentioned *maliciously interpreting social phenomena, unilaterally exaggerating negative individual cases and exploiting them to promote negative outlooks on life such as worldweariness." That could be seen as a reference to "lying flat" or "letting it rot" culture - widespread phrases used by young Chinese to describe lifestyles that snub gruelling work culture in favour of taking it easy.

"The crackdown aims to "foster a more civilised and the promotion of violence rational online environ-

- Announced by Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).
- Aim: To combat "malicious incitement of conflict" and "negative outlooks on life" such as worldweariness.
- Part of a broader effort to tighten online content regulation and maintain "social harmony."

2. Key Objectives

- Regulate content moderation on platforms:
 - Remove content deemed subversive, vulgar, pornographic, or harmful.
 - Avoid posts with negative worldview or pessimism.
- Platforms must strengthen content management duties.

3. Targeted Content

- "Malicious incitement of conflict"
- Exaggeration of negative individual cases
- Promotion of pessimistic lifestyles like lying flat (躺平) or letting it rot (摆烂)
- Online discrimination, including:
 - Gender discord,
 - Identity- or region-based stigmatization.
- Dissemination of rumours on economy, finance, and public policy.

4. Punitive Measures

- "Disciplinary and punitive measures" announced against:
 - Weibo (micro-blogging platform),
 - Kuaishou (short-video platform),
 - Earlier, Xiaohongshu (Rednote).
- Accused of spreading celebrity gossip, "undesirable" content, and inadequate moderation.

Punitive Measures

"Disciplinary and punitive measures" announced against:

- Weibo (micro-blogging platform),
- Kuaishou (short-video platform),
- Earlier, Xiaohongshu (Rednote).

Accused of spreading celebrity gossip, "undesirable" content, and inadequate moderation.

India may increase energy efficiency target for COP30

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

India will submit its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) around the commencement of the UN Climate Change Conference COP30 in Brazil on November 10, likely with an increased target for energy efficiency improvement, sources in the Environment Ministry indicated to *The Hindu*.

The NDCs are renewable-energy adoption goals set by a country as part of being a signatory to the Paris Agreement - under which countries must regulate their fossil fuel consumption to keep the globe from heating 2 degrees Celsius, and as far as possible, 1.5 degrees Celsius above that in pre-industrial times.

As part of this, countries are required to update their NDCs every five years. India last updated its NDCs in 2022, when it committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% of 2005 levels; source half of its electric power capacity from nonfossil fuel sources; and create a carbon sink of at least two billion tonnes by 2030.

Emissions intensity of the GDP refers to the amount of carbon emitted per unit of GDP and does not mean a reduction in net emissions. As of December 2023, India reported to the United Nations climate-governing body that the emissions intensity of its GDP had been reduced by 33% between 2005 and 2019. This June, India reported installing at least 50% of its power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.

Planet getting warmer

The NDCs are of particular significance this year because Brazil, which as-



Clean energy: India has committed to source half of its electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. REUTERS

sumes the COP presidency in Belém, has stressed that a major effort this year will be to assess what hindered countries from achieving their stated NDCs.

All commitments by countries, even if achieved perfectly, cannot stop the globe from heating to an average of 3 degrees Celsius by the century - well short of the Paris Agreement goals.

Overall, the ambition to

undertake significant emission cuts seems muted.

EU climate target looms

The European Union has yet to announce a 2035 target, though it has a long-term goal to be "net zero" by 2050.

The EU commission this July had proposed an amendment to the EU climate law enabling a 90% cut in emissions compared to 1990 by 2040. Though they were to vote on a target for 2035 last week, France and Germany weighed in to postpone a vote on the matter.

The EU is expected to submit its NDCs ahead of COP30 with an indicative 2035 target in a range from 66.25% to 72.5%, compared with the 1990 levels. Australia this month updated its NDCs to say that it "aimed" to cut emissions to 62%-70% of 2005 levels by 2035.

The United States has exited the Paris Agreement and it remains to be seen if China will announce ambitious NDCs ahead of COP3O.

Major reductions, sources in the Environment Ministry suggest, would likely result from bilateral agreements between countries where developed and developing countries jointly invested in clean energy projects and shared the resulting cut in emissions, as

computed by an approved methodology, as carbon credits.

Indian initiatives

India has recently signed such an agreement called a JCM (Joint Crediting Mechanism) with Japan and is in talks with other countries. However it will be a few years before such projects practically kick in.

"Developed countries are not willing to part with the necessary finance to make good on ambitious goals and developing countries require fossil fuels for their development," an Environment Ministry official added.

India is also expected to operationalise the India Carbon Market by 2026 – under which 13 major sectors will be given mandatory emission-intensity targets – and can trade their resulting savings, if any, via emission reduction certificates.

- India is preparing to submit its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at COP30 (to be held in Brazil on November 10, 2025).
- Likely to include an enhanced target for energy efficiency improvement.

2. Background: Paris Agreement & NDCs

- Under the Paris Agreement (2015), countries must:
 - Limit global temperature rise to below 2°C, aim for 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
 - Submit updated NDCs every 5 years.
- India's current NDCs (2022 update):
 - 1. Reduce emission intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.
 - 2. Source 50% of electric power capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
 - 3. Create carbon sink of 2 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2030.

3. India's Progress So Far

- As of Dec 2023:
 - Emission intensity reduced by 33% (2005–2019).
 - 50% power capacity now from non-fossil fuel sources.
- India aims to further enhance its energy efficiency target in upcoming NDC.

4. Key Features of COP30

- Hosted by Brazil in Belém.
- Focus: Assessment of progress & hindrances in achieving NDC goals.
- Nations must announce their 2035 targets before COP30.

5. International Commitments

- EU: Expected to target 62–72.5% emissions cut (1990 baseline) by 2035; long-term "net zero" by 2050.
- Australia: New NDC aims for 62–70% reduction of 2005 levels by 2035.
- USA: Withdrew from Paris Agreement; future stance unclear.
- Brazil: As host, focusing on global cooperation.

6. India's Domestic Initiatives

(a) India Carbon Market (expected operational by 2026):

- Covers 13 major sectors.
- Mandatory emission intensity targets.
- Trading of carbon credits.

(b) Bilateral Agreements:

- Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with Japan for clean energy projects.
- Similar pacts being explored with other nations.

Criminal past alone cannot be a ground to deny bail: SC

A Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta sets aside a 2024 Kerala High Court decision, overturning the bail granted to the five 'RSS workers' in the murder of SDPI leader K.S. Shan

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

riminal antecedents alone cannot be a ground to deny bail, especially in cases in which the accused have suffered long incarceration as undertrials, the Supreme Court held in a judgment restoring the bail of five alleged Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) workers involved in the murder of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) leader K.S. Shan in Kerala in 2021.

A Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta, in a recent judgment, set aside a Kerala High Court decision in 2024, overturning the bail granted to the five men of a total 10 accused persons in the case.

The High Court had set aside the bail granted by a Sessions Court in 2022. The trial Judge had reasoned that the accused had been incarcerated for over a year and the Public Prosecutor did not object to a grant of bail.

The High Court, in December 2024, found the Sessions judge had acted in a mechanical manner. The judge, the High Court had noted, did not take into consideration apprehensions that the accused would influence witnesses and tamper with the case evidence.

Rather than sending the case back to the trial judge for a fresh consideration of the question of bail, the High Court cancelled the

Murder and trial

A timeline of the Shan murder case and the trial



SDPI supporters march to the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram in 2021, seeking a proper probe into the Shan murder case. 5 MAMBISTA DEC. 18, 2021: SDPI leader K.S. Shan was murdered. According to the prosecution, the accused persons collided their vehicle with the victim's scooter, and then brutally attacked him.

DEC. 19, 2021: FIR registered against unknown persons; the accused were arrested later

MARCH 15, 2022: Chargesheet filed against the accused, who were described as activists of a particular political organisation

DEC. 2022: Trial court grants bail to the accused persons through multiple orders

DEC. 11, 2024: Kerala High Court sets aside the bail of five out of the 10 accused, who were directly involved in the murder

bail for the five men while also taking into account their criminal antecedents.

Violated bail conditions

The Supreme Court, interestingly, ruled in favour of bail despite allegations made by the State that two of the five accused had violated the conditions of their interim bail by entering Alappuzha district to threaten a person.

The defence lawyers had brushed it off, saying he had only come to attend the trial and the person claimed to have been threatened had denied the allegation.

Shan was murdered in 2021 while returning home on his motorcycle. The attack was said to be a retaliatory act following the killing of an RSS worker, allegedly by SDPI activists.

Justice Datta, who authored the judgment, pointed out that the High Court ought to have considered the fact that the accused had spent over a year behind bars before they were granted bail by the Sessions Court in 2022.

Since then, they have already been on bail for nearly two years until the High Court revoked their bail in 2024.

'Bail is the rule'

"Cancellation/revocation of bail, no doubt, seeks to uphold trial integrity. The dominant purpose thereof is to ensure a fair trial and protect societal interests by preventing persons accused of a heinous or grave crime and having tendencies to influence or intimidate witnesses or to tamper evidence from being released," the court stated.

Justice Datta, said if the accused interfered with witnesses or tampered with the evidence, the courts would be justified in ordering them to be taken back into custody. However, the apex court said it would lean in favour of the "golden rule of bail jurisprudence propounded by Justice V.R. Krishna lyer of 'bail being the rule and jail an exception'".

Issuing a series of directions to ensure non-interference of the accused in the expeditious disposal of the case, Justice Datta set aside the High Court decision.

"Taking back the appellants in custody for no better reason than that the Sessions Court should not have been swayed by omission of the public prosecutor to raise any objection to grant of bail should not operate to the appellants' prejudice, more so when two years have passed in the interregnum," the Court reasoned.

- Bench: Justice Dipankar Datta
- Case: Restoration of bail for five alleged RSS workers accused in the murder of SDPI leader K.S.
 Shan (Kerala, 2021)
- Judgment:
 - · Criminal antecedents alone cannot be grounds to deny bail,
 - Especially when the accused have already undergone long incarceration as undertrials.

Key Observations

1. Bail vs. Jail Principle

Courts must lean in favor of bail, following the "golden rule" propounded by Justice V.R. Krishna
 lyer:

"Bail is the rule, jail is the exception."

2. Long Detention

- Accused spent over a year behind bars before Sessions Court granted bail in 2022.
- They remained on bail for nearly two years before HC revoked it in 2024.

3. Kerala HC Error

- The HC mechanically revoked bail, overlooking:
 - Long incarceration,
 - Compliance with bail conditions,
 - · Absence of evidence tampering.

1. Article 21 - Right to Life and Liberty

- Unwarranted prolonged detention violates Article 21 (right to personal liberty).
- Bail ensures balance between individual liberty and societal interest.

2. Judicial Precedents

- Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. Public Prosecutor (1978): Bail not to be denied merely on moral grounds.
- State of Rajasthan v. Balchand (1977): Introduced the phrase "bail is the rule, jail the exception."
- Hussainara Khatoon (1979): Emphasized the plight of undertrials and need for speedy trial.

3. Factors for Bail Decision

- Nature of offense, severity of punishment, likelihood of tampering, antecedents, and length of custody.
- Criminal history alone is insufficient unless it affects trial fairness.

India's Bail System Challenges

- 70% of India's prison population are **undertrials**.
- Delay in trials leads to "punishment before conviction."

Law Commission Reports

• 268th Report (2017): Reform bail system, introduce bail bonds and reduce arbitrary denial.

Recent SC Stance

- Courts must adopt a **humanitarian approach**, avoid excessive pre-trial detention.
- Cites Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978) "Procedure must be just, fair, and reasonable."

India to hold mega drone drill 'Cold Start' in Oct. to test air defence capabilities

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

The Army, Navy, and Air Force will conduct a joint exercise in the first week of October to test drones and counter-drone systems.

Named "Cold Start", the exercise is likely to be held in Madhya Pradesh. Officials described it as the biggest such drill to be conducted since Operation Sindoor, aimed at assessing the effectiveness and shortcomings of the current air defence capabilities.

Confirming the development, a senior official said the exercise would focus on evaluating operational readiness against evolving aerial threats.

Industry partners, research and development agencies, academia, and other stakeholders too will participate in the exercise.

Speaking at a conference on "Counter UAVs & air defence systems - the future of modern warfare" organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in



On alert: An Army jawan operating a drone in J&K, PTI

New Delhi, the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who was the chief guest at the event, made a pointed reference to Pakistan.

Integrated system

"They too are working to become like India, so we must always stay a step ahead. Our counter-drone and GPS jamming systems performed effectively during Operation Sindoor, ensuring no damage from adversary drones. But the adversary has also learned our capabilities. Next time, we have to be ahead and much better," he said.

He said the vision for

the future involves an integrated defence system, inspired by the Sudarshan Chakra concept, to counter drones, UAVs, hypersonic weapons, and other threats.

The Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (Operations), Rakesh Sinha, who was guest of honour at the event, said: "The future of warfare will be shaped by the ongoing race between drones and defensive measures. Nations investing in counterdrone systems will gain a strategic edge. Counterdrone technologies must evolve continuously to address drone capabilities."

- Event: India will conduct a joint military exercise named "Cold Start" in the first week of October.
- Forces involved: Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Purpose:
 - To test drones and counter-drone systems.
 - To assess current air defence capabilities, identify gaps, and strengthen integrated defence systems.
- Venue: Madhya Pradesh.
- Scale: Described as the largest drill since Operation Sindoor.

- Key Focus Areas
- (a) Operational Readiness
- Evaluate the **effectiveness** of existing air defence systems.
- Ensure readiness against **evolving aerial threats** such as UAVs, drones, and hypersonic weapons.
- (b) Integration & Collaboration
- Involves:
 - Industry partners
 - R&D agencies
 - Academia
 - Private defence firms
- Aim: Develop an integrated defence ecosystem.

Rajnath Singh launches India's first overseas defence facility in Morocco

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart, Abdelatif Loudyi, inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco, on Tuesday. This is the first such overseas plant by an Indian firm.

The 20,000 square metre facility will produce the indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, jointly designed by TASL and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

According to the Ministry of Defence, it was a "historic moment" in India-Morocco ties.

Mr. Singh said the plant marked a new chapter in the strategic partnership and symbolised the



Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh attends the inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) state-of-the art defence manufacturing facility at Berrechid, in Morocco on Tuesday. PIB

strength of India's growing defence industry. Initial deliveries of WhAP vehicles to the Royal Moroccan Army will begin next month, with production starting three months ahead of schedule. It is Morocco's largest defence manufacturing facility and the first such overseas plant by an Indian private company in Africa.

The WhAP is a modular combat platform with advanced protection, mobility, and adaptability. Configurations include infantry fighting vehicle, armoured personnel carrier, reconnaissance, command post, mortar carrier, and ambulance variants, with options for remote weapon stations and antitank guided missile sys-

tems, said the MoD.

Mr. Singh highlighted that India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat extends beyond self-reliance to "Make with Friends" and "Make for the World." He noted that the project will generate defence-related jobs in Morocco, with one-third of components sourced locally at the outset, rising to 50% in the coming years.

He stressed Morocco's strategic location as a gateway to Africa and Europe, making the facility an export hub that will deepen bilateral defence ties, strengthen local capacity, and contribute to regional security.

The ceremony was attended by Morocco's Minister of Industry & Trade, Ryad Mezzour, senior officials from both governments, the Royal Armed Forces, and TASL representatives.

- Occasion: Inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco.
- Date: Tuesday (recent event).
- Dignitaries: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Moroccan counterpart Abdelatif Loudyi.
- Significance:
 - First overseas defence plant by an Indian company.
 - Marks a milestone in India-Morocco relations.

2. Facility Details

- Area: 20,000 sq. m.
- Product: Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8
 - Jointly developed by TASL and DRDO.
 - Modular design: used for multiple roles infantry fighting, reconnaissance, mortar carrier, ambulance, command post.
 - Features:
 - · Advanced protection
 - Mobility
 - · Remote weapon stations
 - · Anti-tank guided missile systems
- Initial deliveries: To Royal Moroccan Army next month.

Strategic Importance

Symbolism:

- Represents India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision beyond borders:
 - "Make with Friends"
 - "Make for the World"

Economic impact:

- Defence jobs in Morocco
- Local sourcing:
 - 33% initially
 - To increase to 50%

Geostrategic angle:

- Morocco's location: **Gateway to Africa and Europe**
- Will enhance bilateral defence cooperation, local capacity, and regional security.

India's Defence Exports Drive:

- India targets ₹35,000 Cr defence exports by 2025.
- Major recipients: Africa, Southeast Asia,
 West Asia.
- India now ranks among top 25 arms exporters.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence:

- 5 Positive Indigenisation Lists (prohibiting imports).
- DRDO, HAL, BEL, TASL, L&T leading exports.

Defence Exports Milestones

2016–17: ₹1,500 Cr

2023–24: ₹21,000+ Cr

Major buyers: Philippines (BrahMos), Armenia (Pinaka), Africa (vehicles, radars)

C. India-Morocco Relations

Diplomatic ties since 1957

MoUs: Defence cooperation (2018), Counter-terrorism, Mining, Education

Morocco: key partner in **North Africa**, supports **India's UNSC aspirations**

Dembele, Bonmati crowned the best in the world

The latter becomes only the third player in the award's history to win three in a row after Platini (1983–85) and Messi (2009-12); the Frenchman pips Barcelona's Yamal for the title; PSG and Arsenal claim the Club of the Year honours

BALLON D'OR

Associated Press PARIS

usmane Dembele won the Ballon d'Or for leading Paris Saint-Germain to its first Champions League title, and Aitana Bonmati received the women's award for a third successive year.

Dembele succeeded Manchester City midfielder Rodri to become the sixth Frenchman to win it after Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini, Jean-Pierre Papin, Zinedine Zidane and Karim Benzema.

Bonmati won ahead of her Spain teammate Mariona Caldentey. She's only the third player in the award's history to win three in a row after Platini (1983-85) and Lionel Messi (2009-12).

Dembele delivered 35 goals and 16 assists in 53 official matches last season,



Glorious day: Bonmati and Dembele pose with the coveted Ballon d'Or award. AFP

and was involved in 14 goals (8 goals, 6 assists) in the Champions League in 15 appearances.

Dembele received the Ballon d'Or from former winner Ronaldinho and teared up during his acceptance speech, in which he asked his mother to join him on the stage.

"It's incredible to win a trophy like this," he said in French. "I worked for the team to help win PSG's first Champions League... to then be rewarded with an individual trophy like the Ballon d'Or is truly exceptional."

Dembele won ahead of

teenage star Lamine Yamal.

The forward, who turned 18 in July, helped Barcelona win LaLiga and the Copa del Rey last season and reach the Champions League semifinals. Yamal was given the Kopa award for the best under-21 player for the second straight year.

"I need to keep on working to win other awards in the future," Yamal said through a translator.

The winners: Men's and Women's: Ballon d'Or:

Ousmane Dembele & Aitana Bonmati.

Kopa Trophy (under-21): Lamine Yamal & Vicky Lopez. Yashin Trophy (goalkeeper):

Gianluigi Donnarumma & Hannah Hampton.

Johan Cruyff coaching award: Luis Enrique & Sarina Wiegman.

Gerd Muller top-scorer honour: Viktor Gyokeres & Ewa Pajor.

Club of the Year: Paris Saint-Germain & Arsenal. Socrates award (humanitarian work): Xana Foundation.

- Ousmane Dembele (France) won the Ballon d'Or 2024 (Men).
- Aitana Bonmati (Spain) won the Ballon d'Or Féminin (Women).
- Both recognized for exceptional performance in club and international football.

2. About Ousmane Dembele

- Club: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)
- Achievements:
 - Led PSG to its first UEFA Champions League title.
 - Recorded 35 goals and 16 assists in 53 matches.
 - Involved in 14 goals (8 goals + 6 assists) in the Champions League alone.
- Awards Context:
 - Succeeds Rodri (Manchester City).
 - Sixth Frenchman to win after Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini, Jean-Pierre Papin, Zinedine Zidane, Karim Benzema.
- Statement: Dedicated the award to his mother; called it "a dream come true".

4. Other Winners

Category	Winner	
Kopa Trophy (U21)	Lamine Yamal (Barcelona), Vicky Lopez	
Yashin Trophy (Goalkeeper)	Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG), Hannah Hampton	
Club of the Year	PSG (Men), Arsenal (Women)	
Johan Cruyff Coaching Award	Luis Enrique, Sarina Wiegman	
Gerd Müller Award (Top Scorer)	Viktor Gyokeres, Ewa Pajor	
Socrates Humanitarian Award	XANA Foundation	

Leh stir explodes into deadly violence; govt. blames activist

BJP office torched and Ladakh Hill Council premises vandalised as protesters seeking Statehood, tribal status for region go on a rampage; Centre says an unruly crowd destroyed public property, attacked the police; 30 security personnel injured



Public outcry: A vehicle belonging to the security forces was set on fire during the protests in Leh demanding Statehood for the Union Territory of Ladakh, on Wednesday. AP

Vijaita Singh Peerzada Ashiq NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

feared dead and many injured in Leh city in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Wednesday after an ongoing protest demanding the constitutional safeguards of Statehood and tribal status for the region bordering China turned violent.

The Union Home Ministry, in a statement, said an guards," the Ministry said. unruly mob destroyed public property and attacked the police, injuring around 30 security personnel. The police had to resort to firing, in which "unfortunately some casualties are reported", it said.

The Ministry said a hunger strike was started by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on September 10 to press for Statehood

been actively engaging with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Demoon September 26 with the leaders, "a mob guided by Sonam Wangchuk's provocative statements* caused

government stands committed to the aspiration of people of Ladakh by providing adequate constitutional safe-

It added that the demands on which Mr. Wangdiscussion of a high-powered committee.

'Mislead the people'

"In spite of many leaders urging to call off the hunger strike, he continued with the hunger strike and misleading the people (tribal status). It said the protest and references to firmed the deaths but did that a large number of peo-

Gen Z protests in Nepal... Amidst these violent developments, he broke his fast and left for his village in an cratic Alliance (KDA), and ambulance without makdespite a planned meeting ing serious efforts to control the situation," it said. The protesters, mostly youth, torched the BIP office and vandalised the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council

The Ministry added that the process of dialogue through the high-powered committee had yielded phenomenal results, such as increasing reservation chuk was on hunger strike for Ladakh Scheduled were an integral part of the Tribe from 45% to 84%, providing one-third reservation for women in the councils, and declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official

languages. The process for

recruitment for 1,800 posts had also commenced, the Ministry said. Ladakh Lieutenant-Goand inclusion of Ladakh through provocative men-vernor Kavinder Gupta, in had been spearheading the

not specify the number, adding that curfew had been imposed as a precautionary

"Deployment of security personnel was made in the wake of a shutdown call to maintain law and order in Leb. The security personnel were provided with lathis (batons). However, there was an attempt to burn down a CRPF vehicle with personnel in it. The vehicle of the Director-General of Police was attacked with

stones," Mr. Gupta said. On Tuesday, Home Ministry officials had called a delegation of seven leaders from Ladakh to Delhi on September 26 for a preliminary meeting, Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, the president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), told The Hindu.

Mr. Lakruk, who is also the co-convener of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which under the Sixth Schedule tion of Arab Spring-style a televised address, con-protests, told The Hindu

ple in the age group of 14-25 joined the protests on Wednesday, a day after two elderly protesters, who were on hunger strike along with Mr. Wangchuk for 14 days, were hospitalised.

Following the violence, Mr. Wangchick called off the hunger strike. Addressing a virtual press conference, he said that "nobody had an inkling something like this will happen".

"Many leaders who came here said that peaceful protests are not enough. We never thought it will explode like this. Ladakh wit nessed Gen Z frenzy today. They were not listening to anybody. They were not even afraid of bullets. This is the fifth time we have sat on a hunger strike. The youth said peaceful protests are not working... we were being told by the youth for the past few days," Mr. Wangchuk said.

Leh tense, under curfew a day after death of four protesters

Dozens of people detained; bodies of people killed handed over to kin for last rites; at least 15 suffered serious injuries. says DGP, security forces warm people against venturing out of their houses; residents observe a shutdown in Kargii

Vijaita Singh Peerzada Ashiq NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR

eh town of Ladakh remained tense on Thursday amid curfew as the bodies of four local people, who were killed during violent protests, were handed over to the families for last rites. Dozens of people were detained in a crackdown on those suspected to have participated in the street protests on Wednesday.

The prominent Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) was engaged by the Leh administration to perform the last rites of the four persons. "The bodies were handed over to the families. As per the family wish, all the four, who belong to different villages, will be cremated in Leh with all respect," Chering Dorjey Lakrook, president of the LBA and also co-chairman of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), said.

Vigil up

Violent clashes broke out at the BJP office and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh (LAHDC) on Wednesday, leaving scores injured.

Extra deployments were made across Leh. Security forces, their vehicles mounted with speakers, kept warning the people from venturing out of their

S.D. Singh Jamwal, Director-General of Police, Ladakh, confirmed Wednesday's deaths, adding that 15 were seriously injured and one injured person was airlifted to Delhi for treatment. Thirty others received minor injuries, and around 30 security personnel were injured in the violence, he said.

Mr. Jamwal told The Hindu that a case invoking riot-



Unwary calm; Charred remains of vehicles outside the BJP office in Leh that was set on fire after a violent protest in Ladakh over demands for Statehood and the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. AM

ing and other sections was registered in Leh and 42 people have been arrested

Protests were held on the 15th day of the threeweek hunger strike called by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and his supporters. The strike was being held to press the Centre to advance the Ladakh-Delhi dialogue over the demands of Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

Mr. Lakrook told The Hindu that the deaths of the four men during Wednesday's protests were caused by bullet wounds, indicating "indiscriminate firing by the police".

The deceased were identified as Tsewang Tharchin, 46, Jigmet Dorjay, 25, Stanzin Namgyal, 23 and Rinchen Dadul, 20. Tharchin was a retired soldier from the Ladakh Scouts.

Mr. Lakrook said that a meeting was held with representatives of the Union

that a preparatory meeting with the Ministry will take place in Delhi on September 27 or 28, subject to confirmation of date by the Ministry. The meeting shall be attended by three representatives each from the LAB and the KDA, along with the Member of Parliament from Ladakh," he

Call for judicial probe

The members met the DGP and demanded judicial inquiry into the deaths of protesters. "Several people had bullet wounds, many had pellet gun injuries," Mr. Lakruk said.

Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Kavinder Gupta has sorted to violence "will not be spared". He chaired a high-level security review meeting in Leh and assessed the situation.

The District Magistrate, Leh, has announced the closure of all educational Home Ministry in Leh on institutions across Leh dis-

Thursday, "It was decided trict for two days from September 26.

> In Kargil, another major town of Ladakh, a shutdown was observed by locals. All shops, offices and educational institutes remained closed in Kargil to express "solidarity with Leh and their demands*. The shutdown call was issued by the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), an amalgam of social, political organisations.

"Instead of handling the protest peacefully, the protestors were shot at when the protest turned violent. Instead of sympathising with people, witch-hunting is being done," Asger Ali Karbalai, warned that those who re- co-chairman of the KDA, which held a press conference on violence, said.

> Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa said, "We are of the opinion that extreme force should not have been used against a population widely known as peace-loving people."

Govt, withdraws FCRA permit of Wangchuk's outfit

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of an organisation founded by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, citing violations. The CBI is also investigating another non-profit established by him, It PAGE 4

Ladakh crisis is BJP govt's own creation: Cong.

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the crisis in Ladakh is the BJP-led Union government's own creation and asserted that the demand of the people to bring the region under the Sixth Schedule for the protection of their identity and dignity is legitimate. IP PAGE 4

- The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh witnessed deadly violence during ongoing protests demanding:
 - Statehood for Ladakh.
 - Sixth Schedule tribal safeguards for the region.
- The situation escalated when protesters torched the BJP office and vandalised Ladakh Hill Council premises.

Background

- Since the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K into two UTs (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) in August 2019, Ladakh has been demanding:
 - Full-fledged statehood.
 - 2. Sixth Schedule status (for protection of tribal rights and land).
 - 3. Public Service Commission and separate parliamentary seats.
- Two key groups lead the movement:
 - Leh Apex Body (LAB)
 - Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)

•On **September 25–26, 2025**, protests intensified:

- Security vehicles set on fire, public property damaged.
- 30 security personnel injured; several protestors feared dead.
- Curfew imposed as precaution.

•Government's statement:

- Blamed activist Sonam Wangchuk for "provocative statements."
- Claimed he ended his hunger strike abruptly without aiding calm.
- Described the mob as "guided by misinformation".

•Protesters' view:

- Alleged government inaction on promises made earlier.
- Demanded immediate talks and concrete steps on Statehood
 & Sixth Schedule.

• Over 90% of Ladakh's population belongs to Scheduled Tribes. They seek inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

• The Sixth Schedule provides Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for tribal areas. ADCs have legislative and administrative powers over land, forests, water, agriculture, health, and policing. Currently, six northeastern states have ADCs.

 Ladakh's demand aims to secure similar autonomy and protect tribal rights.

No relief

The Karnataka High Court rejected X Corp.'s petition challenging blocking orders issued under the Information Technology Act

- · Regulation of information in this domain is neither novel nor unique. Every sovereign nation regulates it. India likewise cannot, by any stretch of constitutional imagination, be branded untawful for doing so, says court
- . Content on social media must be regulated, particularly in cases of offences against seemen, failing which the right to dignity of citizens is undermined, it says



HC rejects appeal by X Corp. against takedown orders

The Hindu Bureau HENGALURO.

Observing that "social media, as a modern amphitheatre of ideas, cannot be under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, while reading out the operative portions of the subjected to a regulatory judgment, said: "Content regime in the U.S., which is on social media must be the platform's birthplace, regulated, particularly in the court said that "under cases of offences against the Take It Down Act of the women, failing which the United States, it [X Corp.] right to dignity of citizens chooses to follow the said is undermined." "Order is Act as it criminalises the the architecture of our de-violation of orders of takemocracy. Every platform down, but the same petithat seeks to operate with- tioner refuses to follow the in the jurisdiction of our nation must accept that liberty is yoked with responsibility, and the privilege of access carries with it the der, the twin pillars upon solemn duty of accountability," the court said.

'Matter of regulation'

Pointing out that information and communication and its spread or its speed of exemption from rigour have never been left un- or discipline of the laws of checked or unregulated the land." but have always been the subject matter of regula- treat the Indian markettion, the court said, "As place as a mere playground and when technology de- where information can be veloped, from messengers disseminated in defiance to the postal age till the age of statutes or disregard to of WhatsApp, Instagram legality, and later adopting and Snapchat, all have a posture of detachment or been regulated by regula- a hands-off," Justice Nagatory regimes subsisting prasanna said.

then and subsisting today, both globally and locally; and regulation of information in this domain is neither novel nor unique."

Referring to laws in the left in a state of anarchic U.S. on social media, the freedom", the Karnataka court said, "The United High Court on Wednesday States of America regulates rejected a petition filed by it, every sovereign nation X Corp. challenging orders regulates it, and India's reissued by Central and State sult likewise cannot, by authorities to take down any stretch of constitutioncertain content on its mi- al imagination, be branded cro-blogging platform, X, as unlawful. Unregulated speech under the guise of liberty becomes a licence for lawlessness."

Noting that X Corp. is + same in the shores of this nation..."

Regulated speech preserves both liberty and orwhich a democracy must stand, the court said, while emphasising that "no social media platform in the modern day agora may even feign the semblance

"None may presume to

1. Case Background

- Petitioner: X Corp. (Twitter)
- Respondent: Government of India (Ministry of Electronics and IT)
- Issue: Challenge to blocking/takedown orders for certain posts/tweets under Section 79 IT Act.
- Court's Decision: Dismissed the petition; upheld the validity of government orders.

2. Court's Observations

- Social Media Regulation:
 - Social media is a "modern amphitheatre of ideas," but cannot function in "anarchic freedom".
 - Needs regulation, particularly for offensive content and posts that violate dignity of citizens.
- Right to Liberty ≠ License for Lawlessness:
 - Freedom under Article 19(1)(a) carries reasonable restrictions.
 - Liberty must coexist with responsibility and accountability.

3. Reasoning Behind the Judgment

Global Precedents:

- The U.S. also regulates online content under the Take Down Act.
- India's regulation is neither novel nor unconstitutional.

Platform Accountability:

- Platforms enjoy privileges but must adhere to local laws.
- Cannot claim exemption citing birthplace jurisdiction (U.S.).

Unregulated Speech = Lawlessness

Court warned against treating India as a "playground" for unregulated content.

4. Legal Provisions Involved

- Section 79, IT Act, 2000:
 - Provides intermediary liability exemption if due diligence is followed.
 - Allows government to issue blocking orders under Section 69A.
- Article 19(1)(a) & 19(2):
 - Freedom of speech is subject to reasonable restrictions (sovereignty, security, morality, public order).

Legal Provisions Involved

Section 79, IT Act, 2000:

- Provides intermediary liability exemption if due diligence is followed.
- Allows government to issue blocking orders under Section 69A.

Article 19(1)(a) & 19(2):

 Freedom of speech is subject to reasonable restrictions (sovereignty, security, morality, public order).

Past Precedents

- •Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015):
 - Struck down Section 66A (for being vague).
 - Upheld Section 69A and blocking rules as constitutional.
- •Facebook v. Union of India (2021):
 - Platforms must follow traceability norms under IT Rules, 2021.
- 📃 IT Rules, 2021
- •Mandate Grievance Redressal Officers, traceability, and compliance officers.
- •Platforms must remove flagged content within **36 hours**.
- Recent Developments
- •Government's fact-check unit (under PIB) can mark misinformation.
- •Debate on **Digital India Act** replacing **IT Act, 2000**.

Centre clears scheme to add medical seats across country

5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats to be added; existing medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and hospitals run by the governments will be upgraded

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

he Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Phase 3 of a Centrally sponsored scheme that will add 5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats in the country by 2028-29.

Under the scheme, existing medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and hospitals run by the Union and the State governments will be strengthened and upgraded at an enhanced cost ceiling of \$1.5 crore a seat.

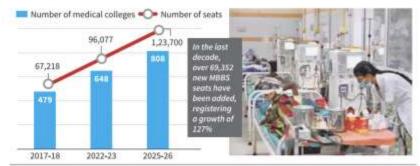
The Union government said the initiative would significantly augment the number of MBBS seats and availability of specialist doctors by creating additional postgraduate seats, and enable introduction of new specialities across government medical institutions.

"This will strengthen the overall availability of doctors in the country," the Health Ministry said in a press release.

The total financial implications of these two schemes is ₹15,034.5 crore from 2025-26 to 2028-29. The Central share is

Improving conditions

The chart shows the number of medical colleges in India over the years and the number of MBBS seats they offer



Source: PIB

A more inclusive and competency-based Qualifications of Faculty Regulation issued, says Ministry

₹10,303.20 crore and the States' ₹4,731.30 crore.

"The target of these schemes is to increase 5,000 PG seats and 5,023 UG seats in government institutions by 2028-2029," the Ministry added.

Detailed guidelines will be issued by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry for implementation of the schemes. Currently, India has 808 medical colleges with 1,23,700 MBBS seats.

Over the past decade, 69,352 MBBS seats have been added, a growth of 127%. Similarly, a total of 43,041 postgraduate seats have been added, a 143% rise.

"Despite the addition, certain regions in India still need to enhance capacities to match the demand, access and affordability of healthcare," the Ministry said. Further, there are 22 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

"Apart from providing tertiary healthcare services, they also play an important role in building a pool of health professionals with highest standards of medical competence with their latest teaching learning facilities," the Ministry said.

Faculty eligibility

The New Medical Institution (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations 2025 have been issued by adopting a more inclusive and competency-based approach to faculty eligibility and recruitment. These changes aim to address the growing requirement of teaching personnel and meeting the academic and professional standards, it added.

- Approved Scheme: Phase 3 of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
- Aim: Increase the number of medical seats (both UG & PG) in government institutions
- Timeline: Implementation from 2025–26 to 2028–29

2. Seat Expansion

UG seats: +5,023

PG seats: +5,000

Total new seats: 10,023

Target: Strengthen medical education, increase availability of doctors & specialists

3. Financial Outlay

Total Cost: ₹15,034.5 crore

Central Share: ₹10,303.2 crore

State Share: ₹4,731.3 crore

Upgradation cost per college: ₹1.5 crore (for infrastructure and capacity building)

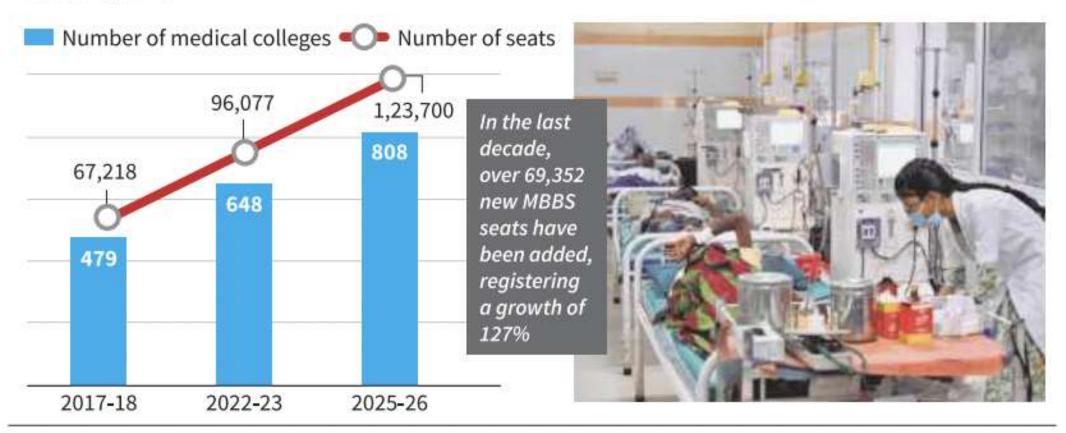
Data & Trends

Year	No. of Medical Colleges	No. of MBBS Seats
2017–18	479	67,218
2022-23	648	96,077
2025–26*	808	1,23,700

- "69,352 MBBS seats added (+127% growth)"
- "43,041 PG seats added (+143% growth)"

Improving conditions

The chart shows the number of medical colleges in India over the years and the number of MBBS seats they offer





DRDO conducts rail-based launch of Agni-Prime missile

The Defence Research and Development
Organisation (DRDO) and the Strategic Forces
Command (SFC) successfully test-fired the
Intermediate Range Agni-Prime missile from a
rail-based mobile launcher on Thursday, under
full operational conditions. The Defence Ministry
said the next-generation missile, designed for a
range of up to 2,000 km, incorporates advanced
features and marks the first launch from a
specially developed rail-based system capable of
rapid, low-visibility deployment with
cross-country mobility. The missile's trajectory
was tracked by multiple ground stations, with the
test meeting all mission objectives.

- Type: Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)
- Range: Up to 2,000 km
- Developer: DRDO
- Command User: Strategic Forces Command (SFC)
- Purpose: Designed to replace older Agni-I class missiles with better accuracy and mobility.
- Features:
 - Lightweight (uses composite materials)
 - Dual-stage solid propulsion
 - Advanced navigation and guidance systems
 - Integrated with canisterized launcher
 - Capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads

3. Significance of Rail-Based Launch

- First launch from a specially developed rail-based mobile launcher.
- Enhances:
 - Mobility: Cross-country movement
 - · Stealth: Low-visibility deployment
 - Survivability: Dispersed deployment complicates enemy targeting
- Ensures rapid deployment across India's vast railway network.

4. Strategic Importance

- Complements India's nuclear triad (Land, Air, Sea delivery systems).
- Aligns with "Credible Minimum Deterrence" under India's No-First-Use nuclear policy.
- Increases flexibility and survivability of missile assets during conflict scenarios.

5. Test Details

- Conducted under full operational conditions.
- Missile trajectory tracked by multiple ground stations.
- All mission objectives met, confirming reliability.

Agni Series Overview:

- *Agni-I*: 700–1,200 km
- Agni-II: 2,000–3,500 km
- *Agni-III*: 3,500–5,000 km
- *Agni-IV*: ~4,000 km
- Agni-V: 5,000+ km, canisterized ICBM
- Agni-P (Prime): Advanced version with better accuracy, mobility, and lightweight design.

7. Global Comparison

- Russia & China operate similar rail-mobile ICBM systems (e.g. Russia's Barguzin concept).
- India's adoption of this system enhances second-strike capability.

At least 38 dead in stampede at Vijay's rally

Chaos as crowd rushes to see the actor on a congested road; eight children and 16 women among those dead

T.N. CM leaves for Karur, announces ₹10 lakh for kin of deceased; retired judge to head probe panel

Over 80 injured rushed to hospitals; PM, President, top leaders express condolences

C.Jaisankar Nacchinarkkiniyan M. KARUR

t least 38 people, including eight children and 16 women, died in a stampede at a rally addressed by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay in Karur on Saturday, as part of his Statewide political tour. Over 80 people were injured.

The meeting, held at Velusamypuram, began at 7.20 p.m. and drew several thousand people who had been packed into congested roads from the morning, waiting to see and hear Mr. Vijav. As the crowd, mostly youngsters, surged towards the vehicles to see actor-turned-politician, many people who had been standing at the meeting point since 10 a.m. were forced to move to give way for Mr. Vijay's vehicle. With very little room left to move, chaos and confusion ensued. triggering a stampede. Several people fell on a covered shed, where a generator had been placed to provide electricity to illuminate the area.

Mass fainting

As the event progressed, there were repeated instances of people fainting. Witnessing their distress, Mr. Vijay paused his speech, threw water bottles from his van, and asked one of his aides to check on the gathering.

When he noticed someone collapse near his vehicle, he used the microphone to instruct party members to call an ambulance immediately.

Seeing many people fainting and sensing that the situation was getting out of control, Mr. Vijay cut short his speech and left the spot, which by then resembled a war zone, with hundreds of shoes and sandals, water bottles, clothes, and other possessions strewn on the road.

Soon, ambulances arrived and transported the injured to the old Government Hospital and the Go-



Emergency rescue: People injured during the stampede at a rally being rushed in to the Government Hospital in Karur on Saturday, M. MOORTHY

vernment Medical College Hospital in Karur. Reports of missing children in the aftermath of the stampede added to the chaos.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Karur Medical College Hospital Dean R. Shanthimalar said: "Nearly 50 people are being treated in the ICU ward. More cases are still coming in, and we are in the process of consolidating details." Many of those injured are still in a serious condition, officials said.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who left for Karur on Saturday night, announced a solatium of ₹10 lakh to the families of those who died in the stampede, and ₹1 lakh for those who were hospitalised. The State government has announced a panel to be headed by retired judge Aruna Jagadeesan to probe the circumstances that led to the stampede, Mr. Stalin said.

Mr. Vijay, in a late-night post on X, said his heart was shattered and he was languishing in pain. He expressed his deep condolences and grief to "dear brothers and sisters". He said he was also praying for the speedy recovery of those admitted to hospital.

Karur District Collector M. Thangavel and former Minister V. Senthilbalaji were among the first to rush to the hospitals.

Mr. Senthilbalaji told presspersons that doctors have been summoned from Salem and Namakkal to help out at the Karur Government Medical College Hospital.

"A number of people have been admitted to private hospitals as well. We have told them not to charge these patients anything. The government will take care of the expenses," he said.

A senior police official said TVK functionaries refused to conduct the meeting in an open space at Karur. People walked with the actor's vehicle and got exhausted while the crowd swelled.

"No arrangement was made for drinking water facilities. Many women came with their children to the event. An open ground would have been much safer place for the meeting...but the organisers did not agree to the suggestion," the officer who preferred not to be quoted said.

Deeply saddening: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences. "The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu. is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured," he said on X. President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rainath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and actor Rajinikanth also extended their heartfelt condolences to the families.

Mr. Vijay had embarked on his first State-wide political tour from Tiruchi on September 13 and visited several districts on Saturdays.

LONG WAIT, POOR PLANNING
» PAGE 3



Why Indian Fans Are So BRAINLESS? | Bhunesh Sir

3.2K views • 2 months ago

0.7x

- Incident: Stampede at a political rally addressed by Tamil actor-politician Vijay in Karur.
- Date & Time: Saturday evening, around 7:20 p.m.
- Casualties:

Total deaths: 38

Women: 16

Children: 8

Injured: Over 80; 50 in ICU

Cause: Overcrowding and chaos on congested roads; rush to see actor-politician.

2. Sequence of Events

- Rally organized by: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)
- Crowd buildup: Thousands gathered since morning.
- · Trigger: Rush towards Vijay's vehicle after speech; lack of space and control.
- Consequences:
 - Mass fainting due to congestion and heat.
 - Multiple people trampled.
 - Bottles, sandals, clothes scattered on site.
 - · Missing children reported; search operations launched.

3. Administrative Response

- Rescue Operations:
 - Ambulances rushed to the spot.
 - Hospitals mobilized staff from nearby districts (Salem, Namakkal).
- Government Action:
 - Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visited Karur, announced ₹10 lakh compensation to families of deceased, ₹1 lakh for injured.
 - Ordered judicial inquiry headed by retired judge Aruna Jagadeesan.
- Law & Order:
 - Police cleared area; post-mortem conducted; crowd control measures reviewed.

4. Political & Social Reaction

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi:
 - Called it "deeply saddening"; extended condolences.
- President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and other leaders also expressed grief.
- Actor Vijay:
 - Posted condolence message, paused rallies.
 - Promised support to affected families.

5. Governance & Policy Angles

(a) Disaster Management Lessons

- Lack of crowd control and inadequate planning led to tragedy.
- No pre-defined evacuation route or medical preparedness.
- Highlights need for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for political rallies, like in large religious gatherings (e.g. Kumbh Mela).

(b) Legal Context

- Liability & Inquiry: Judicial probe will examine organizer responsibility under CrPC Section 176
 (Magisterial Inquiry) and Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Accountability: Possible charges under IPC Sections 304A (death by negligence) and 336-338 (endangering life).

(c) Administrative Measures

- Crowd estimation & management tools (Al-based surveillance, drone monitoring).
- Mandatory permissions and risk assessment under Tamil Nadu Public Safety Act.

(a) Historical Parallels

- 2004 Kumbh Mela Stampede 39 deaths.
- 2011 Sabarimala Stampede 106 deaths.
- 2013 Allahabad Kumbh Mela 36 deaths.
- 2022 Hathras Stampede highlights recurring failures in event planning.

(b) Administrative Best Practices

- Deploying crowd simulation models.
- Coordination between district administration, police, fire, and health departments.
- Public awareness on safe exit routes and discipline at large events.

(c) Ethical Angle

- Public leaders must ensure safety over spectacle.
- Responsibility in mobilizing crowds—moral accountability.

UNESCO includes India's Cold Desert to global biosphere list

India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve has been named among 26 new biosphere reserves across several countries, UNESCO announced on Saturday. With this addition, India now has 13 biospheres listed in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Spanning about 7,770 sq. km across the dramatic landscapes of Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district, the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve was included in the WNBR at the 37th session of UNESCO's International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) held in Paris, Union Minister for Environment and Forests Bhupender Yadav said in a post on X.

- India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve has been included among 26 new biosphere reserves
 globally by UNESCO.
- With this addition, India now has 13 sites in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

2. About Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- P Location: Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh
- Area: ~ 7,770 sq. km
- A Characterized by dramatic landscapes, cold arid climate, and unique biodiversity.

3. UNESCO Inclusion

- Added during the 37th session of UNESCO's International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) held in Paris.
- Announced by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

- After inclusion, India has 13 Biosphere Reserves recognized globally.
- Some other Indian biosphere reserves in the WNBR:
 - Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka)
 - Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu)
 - Sundarbans (West Bengal)
 - Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand)
 - Great Nicobar (Andaman & Nicobar)
 - Similipal (Odisha)
 - Nokrek (Meghalaya)
 - Pachmarhi (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Achanakmar-Amarkantak (Chhattisgarh, MP)
 - Khangchendzonga (Sikkim)
 - Panna (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Agasthyamala (TN, Kerala)

- About the MAB Programme
- Example 12 Launched by UNESCO in 1971.
- MNBR = network of all biosphere reserves recognized globally.

•

- 6. Significance of Inclusion
- Enhances **global recognition** of India's conservation efforts.
- Helps promote eco-tourism, research, and funding opportunities.
- Strengthens India's role in **global biodiversity** conservation.

- Siosphere Reserve:
 - A site for conservation of biodiversity, research, and sustainable use.
 - Has three zones:
 - 1. Core: Strictly protected area.
 - 2. Buffer: Limited human activity.
 - 3. Transition: Sustainable use & settlements.
- India updates its list of biosphere reserves under the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme periodically.
- **Y** First Biosphere Reserve in India: Nilgiri (1986)
- Total WNBR sites globally: 748 (as of 2025, across 134 countries)

Trump slaps tariffs on drugs, trucks, furniture

The new tariffs, including 100% duties on branded drugs and 25% on heavy-duty trucks, take effect Oct. 1

Trump justifies the move as a response to the large-scale 'flooding' of such goods into the U.S.

Tariffs to protect manufacturers from unfair outside competition, says administration

Reuters WASHINGTON

J.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday unveiled a new round of punishing tariffs on a broad range of imported goods in the U.S., including 100% duties on branded drugs and 25% tariffs on heavy-duty trucks, set to come into force next week.

The announcements, made on Truth Social, did not include details about whether the new levies would apply on top of national tariffs or whether economies with trade deals such as the EU and Japan would be exempted.

Mr. Trump also said he would start charging a 50% tariff on kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities and a 30% tariff on upholstered furniture, with all the new duties to take effect from October 1.

'Large-scale flooding'

"The reason for this is the large scale "FLOODING" of these products into the U.S. by other outside Countries," Mr. Trump said on Truth Social.

The new actions are seen as part of the Trump administration's shift to better-established legal authorities for its tariff actions, given the risks associated with a case before the Supreme Court on the legality of his sweeping global tariffs.

The new 100% tariff on any branded pharmaceutical product will apply to all imports unless the company has already broken ground on building a manufacturing plant in the



U.S., Mr. Trump said.

The Pharmaceutical Re-

search and Manufacturers

of America, an industry

group, said companies

"continue to announce

hundreds of billions in new

U.S. investments. Tariffs

tion has opened a dozen

probes into the national se-

curity ramifications of im-

The Trump administra-

risk those plans."

More pain points

President Trump slapped fresh tariffs on specific sectors after imposing sweeping global tariffs

100%

tariff on any branded or patented pharmaceutical product unless the firm is building a plant in U.S. 25% tariff on heavyduty trucks; key exporters include Mexico, Canada, Japan.

Germany,

Finland

tariffs on household furniture kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, and uphoistered furniture

ports of wind turbines, airplanes, semiconductors, polysilicon, copper, tim-

ber, and lumber, and critical minerals to form the basis of new tariffs.

New probes

Mr. Trump this week announced new probes into personal protective equipment, medical items, robotics and industrial machinery. Mr. Trump has made the levies a key foreign policy tool, using them to renegotiate trade deals, extract concessions and exert political pressure on other countries.

His administration has touted tariffs as a significant revenue source, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent saying Washington could collect \$300 billion by the end of the year.

Mr. Trump previously imposed national security tariffs on steel and aluminium and derivatives, light-duty autos and parts, and copper.

The Trump administration's trade deals with Japan, the EU, and the U.K. include provisions that cap tariffs for specific products such as autos, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals, which means the new higher national security tariffs likely won't raise it above the agreed rates.

Mr. Trump said the new heavy-duty truck tariffs were to protect manufacturers from "unfair outside competition" and said the move would benefit companies such as Paccarowned Peterbilt and Kenworth and Daimler Truckowned Freightliner. The U.S. pharmaceutical trade group said earlier this year that 53% by value of the \$85.6 billion in ingredients used in medicines consumed in the U.S. was manufactured in the U.S., with the remainder from Europe and other U.S. allies.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce earlier urged the department not to impose new truck tariffs, noting the top five import sources are Mexico, Canada, Japan, Germany, and Finland, "all of which are allies or close partners of the United States posing no threat to U.S. national security." Mexico is the largest exporter of mediumand heavy-duty trucks to the U.S.

SUDDEN IMPACT UNLIKELY

» PAGE 11

Sector	Tariff	Key Exporters
Pharmaceuticals	100%	India, EU, UK
Heavy-duty trucks	25%	Mexico, Japan, Canada, Germany, Finland
Furniture & fittings	30–35%	China, Vietnam, Mexico

- Pharmaceutical industry:
 - 53% of ingredients used in U.S. drugs are already made domestically.
 - Concerns over cost escalation and supply disruptions.
- Chamber of Commerce: Warns new tariffs may hurt U.S. consumers and partners (e.g. Mexico, Germany, Japan).

6. Geopolitical Impact

- Allies affected:
 - Many exporters (Japan, Germany, Canada) are U.S. allies.
 - Could strain diplomatic ties.
 - Seen as part of "America First" economic nationalism.

135 cases of President's Rule, new party at helm 87 times after it was lifted

ANJISHNU DAS

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

IT'S been eight months since President's Rule was imposed in Manipur. During his visit to the state on September 13, first time since ethnic violence broke out in May 2023, PM Narendra Modi called for peace between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

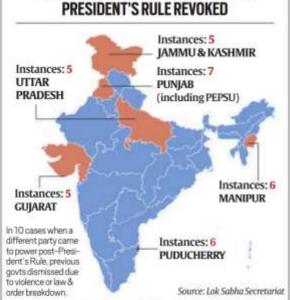
During the Monsoon Session of Parliament, President's Rule in Manipur was extended for another six months.

An analysis shows that since Independence, President's Rule has been invoked 135 times, starting with 1953, and that after its revocation, the party in power before its imposition was dethroned 87 times. Of these, 69 times followed fresh elections. In other words, nearly twothirds of the time, a new party came to power after revocation of President's Rule.

Punjab (including when parts of it were known as the Patiala and East Punjab States Union or PEPSU) has seen the most instances of the state government changing hands after President's Rule was revoked, at seven. From the early 1970s to the late 1980s, power mostly alternated between the Congress and SAD, which had the BJP as its ally, then, as they were the two dominant parties before the rise of the AAP.

During the peak of militancy, Punjab saw the longest spells of President's Rule in the 1980s and 1990s; a total of nine times the state has been under President's Rule for a total of 3,878 days, second only to J&K (4,668 days).

In terms of the total number of times, Manipur has seen the most at 11, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 10. While Punjab, J&K and Manipur all fought periods of militancy, in UP, it was politiSTATES WHERE GOVT CHANGED AFTER



cal instability that led to President's Rule.

After Punjab, it is Manipur that has seen the most political shifts after periods of President's Rule, at six times. Four of those times, Congress came to power, replacing the previous ruling party or coalition. The fall of the previous governments was precipitated by resignations or defections. The other parties that came to power in this manner in Manipur were the Janata Party and the Manipur People's Party.

President's Rule was first imposed in Manipur in 1967, ahead of elections to the then UT's first-ever Assembly. The Congress won 16 seats in the 30-member House, a majority of just one. Then the Speaker, belonging to Congress, resigned, and the majority was lost. After the government collapsed, the Assembly was kept in suspended animation. By 1968, the Congress was able to form the

government again without fresh elections, bringing an end to President's Rule.

In 1972, President's Rule was imposed for the third time in Manipur after a statehood movement turned violent. That year, Manipur became a full-fledged state and in the ensuing elections, the former Congress government was ousted by a Manipur People's Party-led coalition.

In 1977, in the post-Emergency elections where the Congress was swept out of power, the Janata Party also came to power in Manipur, after a series of defections in Congress led to a collapse of the government and the imposition of President's Rule. Several Congress-ruled Houses across the country were similarly dissolved by the Janata Party government.

In 1979, the Janata Party government in Manipur fell amid rising discontent within the party and corruption charges, and President's Rule returned. In the 1980 Assembly polls, the Congress returned.

Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry have seen governments change six times each after President's Rule, while Gujarat and J&K have seen such a change five times each, and Bihar, Karnataka and Kerala four times each.

Kerala was also the first state to get a non-Congress government in 1957, after the E M S Namboodiripad-led CPI came to power dethroning the Congress after a period of President's Rule,

In 25 instances when the Assembly was dissolved despite the ruling party or coalition holding a majority, the party in power got replaced after President's Rule. Ten such instances came in 1977, when the Janata Party government at the Centre dismissed several state governments after the Congress lost power. Of the 10 states, the

Janata Party came to power in eight, with regional parties forming the government in two.

In 1980, when Congress returned to power, it dismissed 8 state governments despite the fact that they held majorities. Congress came to power in all 8 states.

In 10 cases where a different party came to power after first state President's Rule was revoked, the governne E M S dismissed owing to violence or a I came to breakdown of law and order.

For instance, in 1992, the governments of UP, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were dissolved in the wake of Babri Masjid demolition. In each of these states, the BJP lost power in polls held after President's Rule was revoked. Similarly, Manipur, Assam, Punjab and Nagaland, where President's Rule was imposed over violent insurgencies, saw change of government after it was lifted.

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Since Independence, **President's Rule** (Article 356) has been imposed **135 times** across Indian states. In **87 instances**, a **new political party or coalition** came to power once President's Rule was revoked.

Key Facts and Statistics

- Total Instances: 135
- Times New Party Took Power After Revocation: 87
- States with Maximum Government Changes Post-Revocation:
 - Punjab (7) including PEPSU
 - Manipur (6)
 - Puducherry (6)
 - Uttar Pradesh (5)
 - Gujarat (5)
 - Jammu & Kashmir (5)
- Longest Periods Under Rule:
 - Jammu & Kashmir 4,668 days
 - Punjab 3,878 days



• Article 356: Allows President's Rule when a state government cannot function as per the Constitution.

Invoked when:

- Constitutional machinery fails.
- Law and order breakdown.
- Political instability or defections.
- **Approval:** Parliament must approve within 2 months; can extend up to **3 years** in special cases (e.g., national emergency, Election Commission certifies difficulty in elections).

- Notable Examples
- Punjab (1970s–80s): Frequent changes between Congress and Akali Dal.
- Manipur: Seen six shifts; often due to militancy, defections, or resignations.
- **UP (1992):** Imposed post-Babri Masjid demolition; BJP lost power afterward.
- **Kerala (1957):** First non-Congress government (E.M.S. Namboodiripad-led CPI) came after President's Rule.
- 1980: Congress dismissed 8 state governments simultaneously post-revocation.

• S.R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994):

- Judicial review allowed for Article 356.
- Misuse of President's Rule restricted.
- Floor test mandated to prove majority.
- Federalism declared a basic structure.

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Cancer cases peak amid global decline: Study

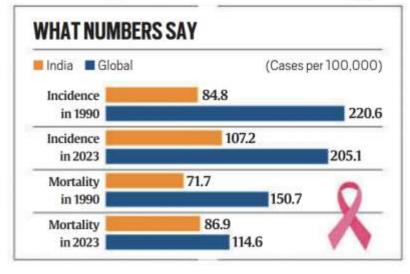
ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

WHILE THE rates of cancer cases and deaths are on a decline globally, they are increasing in India, according to a latest study in *The Lancet*. Data shows the rate of cancer occurrence in India increased from 84.8 per 100,000 population in 1990 to 107.2 per 100,000 population in 2023, which translates to around 15 lakh cases. The rate of cancer deaths in India increased from 71.7 per 100,000 in 1990 to 86.9 per 100,000 in 2023, translating to around 12.1 lakh deaths.

While the cancer and death rates for India are still lower than the global average, they are on the rise in the country. This means that lower-middle income countries, including India, need to future-proof their health systems to tackle the increasing number of such cases.

"The rise of cancer in LMICs is an impending disaster," said coauthor Dr Meghnath Dhimal from the Nepal Health Research Council in a release. While the rate of cancer occurrence and deaths have been going down globally, the cases will continue to increase, affecting 30.5 million people and killing 18.6 million in 2050, according to the latest Global



Burden of Disease estimates. To compare, there were an estimated 18.5 million cases and 10.4 million deaths in 2023, according to data.

The rates of occurrence, on the other hand, dropped from 220.6 per 100,000 population in 1990, to 205.1 in 2023, and will likely drop further to 192.9 in 2025. When it comes to mortality rate, it reduced from 150.7 per 100,000 in 1990, to 114.6 in 2023, and will likely drop to 107.9 in 2025, the data shows. This suggests the increase in the number of cancer cases and deaths are due to growing and ageing populations.

Most of these cancer cases and deaths will be in the low and middle income countries, according to the study. It says over half of the new cases and two-thirds of the deaths will be in these countries, which includes India. The global decline in cancer incidence and mortality rate was largely driven by high and upper middle income countries, the study says.

Dr Abhishek Shankar, oncologist from the AllMS-Delhi and one of the collaborators for the study, said, "We need to work on several fronts. First, there is a need for sustained communication campaigns so that people can seek care early. These campaigns have to happen year-round. Second, all stakeholders need to be involved. Interventions for cancers have largely been led by oncologists, but that is not enough. We need to involve everybody for quick detec-

Tackling cancer triggers

ACCORDING TO an expert, modifiable risk factors such as use of tobacco and alcohol, unhealthy diet and poor control of hypertension and diabetes may play a role in 70% of the cancer cases in India. The high pollution levels also add to the risk factor for Indians. The cancer burden for the country can be reduced via vaccination drives for HPV and Hepatitis B, improvement of air quality and cleanliness to prevent infections,

tion and treatment. Unfortunately, one of the biggest health programmes of the country for noncommunicable diseases focuses largely on screening and not on diagnosis and treatment," he said.

"Screening for cancers also has to be evidence based — using methods and in populations where it will result in maximum benefit. And, importantly, any programme on cancer has to adapt quickly to newer therapies as cancer care is evolving at a rapid pace."

India reported 15.6 lakh cancer cases and 8.74 lakh deaths in 2024, according to estimates based on data from 43 cancer registries across the country. There were an estimated 14.1 lakh cases and 9.16 lakh deaths in 2022, according to estimates from WHO's Global Cancer Observatory. Both these studies — as well as the Global Burden of Disease estimates — depend on data from the same ICMR coordinated cancer registries. They, however, use different models to arrive at the estimates.

The study estimates that around 42% of cancer deaths were attributable to modifiable risk factors such as use of tobacco and alcohol, unhealthy diets, poor control of hypertension and diabetes among others. This means a significant number of the cases and deaths can be prevented through behaviour change.

Shankar says as high as 70% of cancer cases in India may be attributable to modifiable risk factors. "In addition to the high prevalence of obesity and diabetes, India also has a large pool of tobacco users. We have a high incidence of infections that are associated with cancers such as HPV, Hepatitis B, and H Pylori. The high pollution levels are an additional risk factor for Indians." he said.

1. Incidence of Cancer

- India:
 - 1990 84.8 per 100,000
 - 2023 107.2 per 100,000
 - ✓ ~26% increase
 - ≈ 15 lakh cases in 2023
- Global:
 - 1990 220.6 per 100,000
 - 2023 205.1 per 100,000
 - Decline due to better healthcare & awareness

2. Mortality Rate

- India:
 - 1990 71.7 per 100,000
 - 2023 86.9 per 100,000
 - ≈ 12.1 lakh deaths in 2023
- Global:
 - 1990 150.7 per 100,000
 - 2023 114.6 per 100,000
 - Decline due to early detection and treatment

Causes for India's Rising Trend

1. Lifestyle & Risk Factors

- High prevalence of modifiable risk factors:
 - Tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet
 - Poor control of hypertension and diabetes
- 70% of cancer cases in India linked to these factors.

2. Environmental Triggers

High pollution levels add to cancer risk (especially lung & oral cancers).

3. Ageing Population

Growth and ageing are key drivers of increasing cancer incidence.

Vaccination & Preventive Care

- HPV and Hepatitis B vaccines can reduce related cancers.
- Importance of cleanliness and infection control to prevent secondary cancers.

- India's top cancers: Oral, lung, breast, cervical, stomach.
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes,
 Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS):
 - Launched in 2010
 - Aims at early detection and awareness.
- **HPV Vaccine:** Approved for **girls aged 9–14**; part of Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) expansion.
- SDG Goal 3.4: Reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030.

PM launches BSNL's 'swadeshi' 4G network

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

JHARSUGUDA, SEPTEMBER 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated BSNL's 'Swadeshi' 4G stack, marking India's entry into a coveted league of nations that manufacture telecom equipment.

Modi, who launched the facility on the occasion of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's silver jubilee, also commissioned more than 97,500 mobile 4G towers, in-



In a screengrab from a video, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen inaugurating projects, in Jharsuguda, Odisha on Saturday.

@NarendraModi via PTI

cluding 92,600 4G technology sites of the telecom service provider. These towers have been built at a cost of around Rs 37,000 crore with 'swadeshi' (indigenous) technology, he said.

While lauding the BSNL and its partners' dedication, Modi said the launch of the 'Swadeshi' 4G stack marked India's entry into a league of nations such as Denmark, Sweden, South Korea, and China, which manufacture homegrown telecom equipment. Stating that when telecom serv-

ices like 2G, 3G, and 4G were introduced globally and India remained dependent on foreign technology for these services, Modi said, "Now, India is advancing towards becoming a global telecom manufacturing hub".

The PM said the expansion of 4G technology will directly benefit over two crore people nationwide. "Approximately 30,000 villages, which previously lacked high-speed internet access, will now be connected through this initiative," Modi said.

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1. Launch Event

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated BSNL's indigenously developed 4G stack.
- Marked India's entry into the select league of nations that manufacture telecom equipment.

2. Scale of Deployment

- Commissioned 97,500 mobile 4G towers.
- Includes 92,600 4G technology sites.
- Total project cost: ₹37,000 crore.

3. Technology Aspect

- Entirely 'Swadeshi' (indigenous) technology.
- Represents a shift from dependence on foreign vendors for 2G/3G/4G technologies.

4. Impact

- Aims to benefit 2 crore people nationwide.
- 30,000 villages to be connected with high-speed internet for the first time.
- Step toward making India a "global telecom manufacturing hub."

• India joins the league of countries with **indigenous telecom manufacturing**: DK **Denmark**, SE **Sweden**, KR **South Korea**, CN **China**.

•

- Conomic & Social Implications
- Promotes digital inclusion in rural areas.
- Enables **Digital India**, e-Governance, and fintech penetration.
- Expected to generate **employment** and strengthen **Make in India**.

- BSNL Background
- Founded: **2000**
- 100% government-owned telecom PSU.
- Aim: To provide affordable telecom services, especially in rural areas.
- 2. Government Initiatives Linked
- Digital India Mission (2015)
- BharatNet Project connecting gram panchayats via optical fiber.
- PLI Scheme for telecom and networking products (₹12,195 crore outlay).
- 3. Atmanirbhar Bharat Goals
- Indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of core telecom equipment.
- Enhance strategic autonomy and cybersecurity.

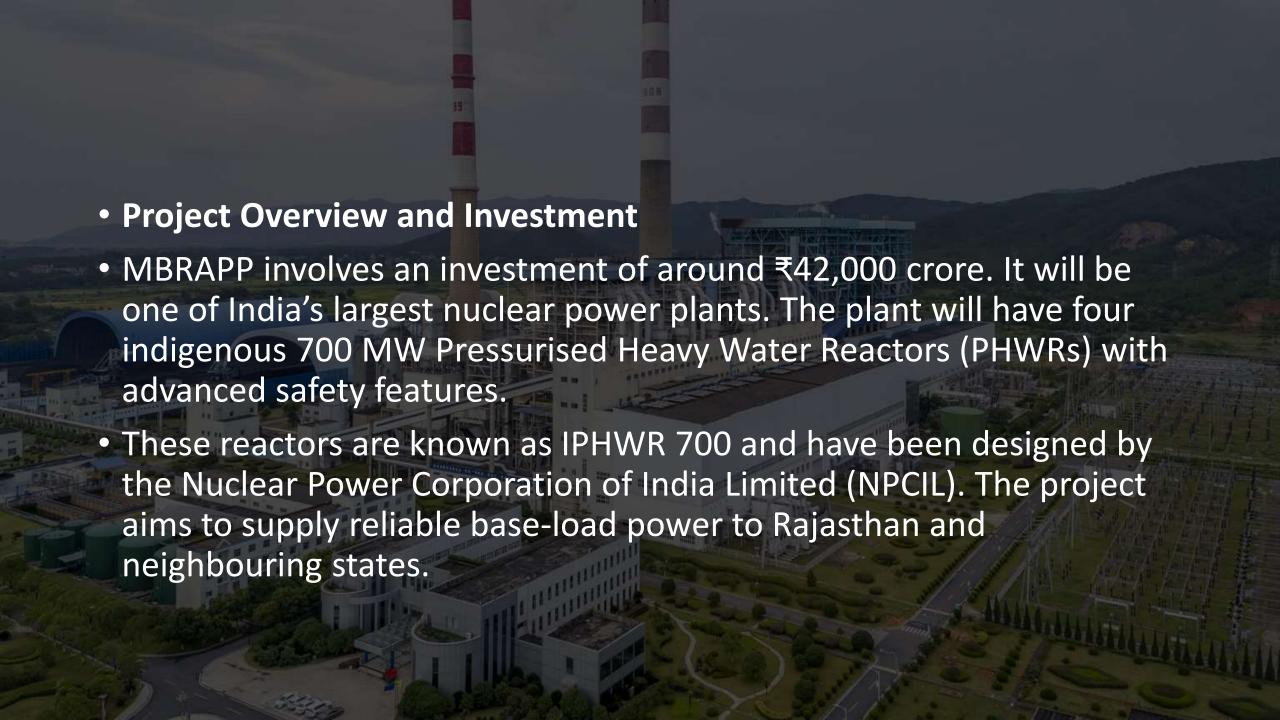


India's Dugong Conservation
Reserve in Palk Bay has
received formal recognition
from the International Union
for Conservation of Nature
(IUCN).

The motion was adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 held in Abu Dhabi

India's Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project







- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with climate tech CEO Chris Kemper announced the 2025 Young Champions of the Earth.
- This year's winners come from India, Kenya, and the United States.
- Their innovations contribute to a global circular economy and tackle urgent environmental challenges such as wastewater treatment, plastic pollution, and sustainable material alternatives.
- The award includes seed funding, mentorship, and a platform to scale their solutions globally



- The Surajpur district of Chhattisgarh achieved a landmark success in 2025 by declaring 75 village panchayats as Child Marriage-Free Panchayats. This recognition came during the launch of the Healthy Women, Empowered Families campaign and National Nutrition Month.
- The declaration was based on the absence of any child marriage cases in these panchayats for over two years.
- This milestone marks the power of community engagement and government initiatives in eliminating child marriage, a deep-rooted social evil.

Astrosat, India's first space observatory, completes a decade among the stars

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

India's first dedicated space astronomy observatory, AstroSat, completed a decade of operations on Sunday.

Ten years ago, on September 28, 2015, the PSLV-C30 (XL) rocket carrying AstroSat lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Though the designed mission life of AstroSat was five years, it continues to provide valuable data.

In the last decade, the multi-wavelength space observatory with five payloads aboard has made major interesting discoveries.

Commemorating the milestone in a post on X, the Indian Space Research Organisation said, "On this day 10 years ago, AstroSat, India's first multi wave-



Keen explorer: Though the designed mission life of AstroSat was five years, it continues to provide valuable data.

length astronomy observatory was launched by ISRO. From black holes to neutron stars, from the nearest star Proxima Centauri to first time detection of FUV photons from galaxies 9.3 billion light years away, AstroSat enabled groundbreaking insights across the electromagnetic spectrum from UV/Visible to high energy X-rays. Congratulating AstroSat for a successful decade and wishing many more years of exciting results and discoveries."

Five payloads

AstroSat was designed to observe the universe in the visible, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum simultaneously with the help of its five payloads.

The five payloads are the Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT), Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter (LAXPC), Cadmi-um-Zinc-Telluride Imager (CZTI), Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT), and the Scanning Sky Monitor (SSM).

Collaborative effort

Astrosat was realised by the ISRO with the participation of all major astronomy institutions, including the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, and the Raman Research Institute (RRI), some universities of India and two institutions from Canada and the U.K.

- Launched by: ISRO
- Launch Date: 28 September 2015
- Launch Vehicle: PSLV-C30 (XL)
- Launch Site: Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota)
- Designed Mission Life: 5 years
- Operational Duration: 10 years (still functioning in 2025)

2. Key Objectives

- To observe the universe in multiple wavelengths ultraviolet (UV), visible, and X-ray.
- Enable simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of celestial bodies such as black holes, neutron stars, galaxies, and quasars.

3. Major Achievements

- Detected far-ultraviolet (FUV) photons from galaxies 9.3 billion light-years away.
- Provided continuous data on variable stars, X-ray binaries, and active galactic nuclei.
- Enabled study of stellar evolution, galactic formation, and black hole behavior.
- Established India as one of the few countries with space-based astronomy capability (others include USA's Chandra, ESA's XMM-Newton).

4. Payloads (Instruments)

Payload	Function
UVIT (Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope)	Observes in UV and visible spectrum
LAXPC (Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter)	Studies X-rays from compact objects
CZTI (Cadmium-Zinc-Telluride Imager)	Hard X-ray imaging and polarization
SXT (Soft X-ray Telescope)	Soft X-ray imaging
SSM (Scanning Sky Monitor)	Monitors X-ray sky for transient sources

National Institutions:

- Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)
- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)
- Raman Research Institute (RRI)

International Partners:

- Canada
- United Kingdom

6. Significance

India joined the elite league of countries with dedicated space observatories.

Provided data for over 1,000 research papers globally.

Helped build scientific capacity and international collaborations in astrophysics.

Similar Missions Globally:

- Hubble Space Telescope (USA) UV, visible, near-IR
- Chandra X-ray Observatory (USA) – X-ray
- XMM-Newton (ESA) X-ray



India's Upcoming Missions:

- XPoSat (2024): X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (launched in Jan 2024)
- Aditya-L1 (2023): Solar mission to study the Sun's corona
- INSAT, GSAT series: Communication & meteorology satellites

