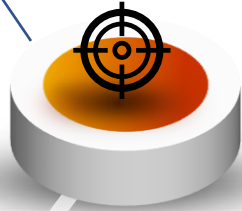


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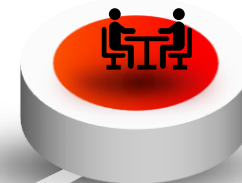
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“You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one.”

— John Lennon



SC RULING FOR CAPF
'Group A officers are
organised services'
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PROTEST IN KARNATAKA
Tamannaah's
pick as soap
brand icon
kicks up row
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IN THE FOCUS
A travel vlogger
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INSIDE

Russia, Ukraine initiate first phase of prisoner swap

CHERNIHIV REGION
A major prisoner exchange
between Russia and Ukraine
began on Friday, President
Zelenskyy said 390 Ukrainians
were returning home, with
more releases expected amid
ongoing U.S.-led ceasefire
efforts. > PAGE 12

Phone deposit facility soon near polling booths

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on
Friday announced mobile
phone deposit facilities outside
polling stations and eased
canvassing norms. It is aimed
to boost voter confidence and
assist seniors, women etc.
facing challenges managing
cells on polling day. > PAGE 9

'Caste census is a moral obligation of our democracy'

NEW DELHI
A caste census is not a mere
statistical exercise but a "moral
obligation" of Indian
democracy, Congress president
Mallikarjun Kharge said on
Friday as he urged party
spokespersons to take the
message of social justice to the
people. > PAGE 4

NE to be gateway for trade with Southeast Asia: Modi

Inaugurating Rising Northeast Summit, PM says region is no longer a 'frontier', but a 'frontrunner' of growth; the region offers a wide range of economic and industrial opportunities, he points out

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India's Northeast is not a "frontier region" any more, it is the "frontrunner of growth," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, pitching for investments in the eight States that constitute the region.

Inaugurating the Rising Northeast Summit, the Prime Minister said that the region offers wide range of economic and industrial opportunities. India has "new dreams" for the Northeast, he said, adding that the region would emerge as a gateway for trade with Southeast Asia over the next decade.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the diversity of the region, referred to its products and people. "India is termed as the most diverse part of the world. But our Northeast is the most diverse part of our diverse nation. From trade to tradition, textile to tourism, Northeast's diver-



Manifesting a dream: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Rising Northeast Investor Summit 2025 in New Delhi on Friday. (two)

city is a very big strength of the region," Mr. Modi said.

"Powerhouse of energy" He listed the bio-economy, bamboo, tea production, petroleum, sports and ecotourism as some of the areas where the region is emerging as a "North-east is the powerhouse of energy," said Mr. Modi, describing the region as "Asia's Lakshmi" or the eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi.

"These projects will give the Northeast a new commercial identity among the Indo-Pacific countries," he added. "East does not mean just direction for us. It means, Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform," Mr. Modi said.

Union Ministers have visited the region more than 700 times in the decade, the Prime Minister said. "They saw hope in the eyes of the people of the Northeast and they converted that trust into principles of development. We moved from Look East to Act East mantra," he said.

The summit is being attended by a large number of industry representatives, foreign delegates and development strategists. Chief Ministers in attendance include Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam, Manipal's Komal Singh, Tripura's Manik Saha, Ladakh's Prem Singh Tamang.

Hailstorm-struck aircraft denied permission to enter Pakistani airspace

Jagriti Chandra
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

When an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Srinagar was caught in a hailstorm earlier this week, air traffic controllers in Pakistan denied its pilots permission to enter the weather by using 'Pakistan' airspace. A request for permission to divert the aircraft towards the international border was also "not approved" by the Indian Air Force, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Friday.

Pakistan's notice to airmen, closing its airspace for all Indian-owned and operated aircraft, remains in effect till midnight on May 23.

IAP sources later said that the Northern Area Control Centre (NACC), managed by the IAF, is not authorised to permit Indian aircraft to enter international airspace as this authority rests with Delhi Air Traffic Control.



The IndiGo aircraft's nose cone was damaged in the turbulence, leading to its grounding for inspection and maintenance. (PI)

their airspace to avoid the weather but the same was refused too," it said. Though passengers and crew escaped the storm-hit flight without injuries, the aircraft's nose cone was damaged, leading to its grounding for inspection and maintenance.

"Crew initially attempted to return but as they were close to the thunder storm cloud, they decided to penetrate the weather. Subsequently, they encountered hailstorm and severe turbulence. Crew chose to continue at same heading to exit the weather by the shortest route towards Srinagar," the DGCA statement said.

The 222 passengers onboard included five Trinamool Congress MPs who were flying to meet people affected by the recent cross-border shelling near

the Line of Control. The NACC directs all air traffic ahead of Udhampur, but has no authority to give clearance to aircraft seeking to enter international territory, for which the authority lies with the Delhi area. The aircraft was immediately assisted in co-ordinating their route diversion by contacting Delhi Area and passing requisite contact frequencies of Lahore control for an over-flight weather diversion request, IAF sources said.

Once Lahore refused overflight clearance, and the aircraft proceeded towards Srinagar, the flight was subsequently professionally assisted by giving control vectors and ground speed readouts, till it made a safe landing at Srinagar airport, IAF sources added.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

Trump threatens EU with 50% tariff in fresh trade showdown

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to impose a 50% tariff on imports from the European Union, accusing the 27-member trading bloc of stalling trade talks. Lamenting that negotiations with the EU "are going nowhere", Mr. Trump said on Truth Social that he is recommending "a straight 50% tariff on the European Union, starting on June 1, 2025".

Stock futures on Wall Street fell on the news. If the new duties come into effect, they would dramatically hike the current U.S. baseline 10% levy against goods coming from the EU, and ratchet up the economic tensions between the world's biggest economy and its largest trading bloc.

Last month, Mr. Trump imposed sweeping tariffs against most countries, introducing steep duties for several trading partners - including the EU - and sector-specific measures against automobiles, steel and aluminium not introduced in the United States. A few days later, he an-



Donald Trump

Make in U.S. or pay 25% tariff: Trump to Apple

NEW DELHI
Reiterating that he does not want iPhones to be assembled in India, U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened Apple Inc. with 25% tariff on iPhone imports if it does not make them domestically. > PAGE 11

announced a 90-day pause on the levies for most countries to allow for negotiations, while keeping that lower 10% baseline in place.

The talks between the United States and the EU have not gone as smoothly as with other partners, with the EU recently threatening to hit U.S. goods worth nearly 100 billion euros with (50% tariff on the EU's goods if the ongoing talks fail to lower levies on European goods.

"EU taking advantage" In a social media post on Friday, Mr. Trump said the EU had been "formed for the primary purpose of taking advantage of the United States on TRADE". An EU spokesperson de-

clined to comment on the threats of new tariffs, saying that a call was set to take place Friday between EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and U.S. Trade Representative Jamie Green.

Mr. Trump's fresh criticism of Apple revived the pressure on chief executive Tim Cook to move to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. from Asia. The problem, according to Wedbush securities analyst Dan Ives, is that reshoring iPhone production to the U.S. "is not feasible." "This would result in an iPhone price point that is a non-starter for Cupertino and the likes of Apple," he said.

Precarious condition



Desperate times: Women and children returning home with pots full of water in Shankar Garh, on the outskirts of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. Large parts of north India, including U.P., Haryana, Punjab, and Bihar, are suffering from drought-like conditions. (PTI IMAGES)

4 Maoist operatives killed in Gadchiroli

Shubhomo Sikdar
RAIPUR

The encounter took place along the Maharashtra-Gadchiroli border, barely 25 km from the site where 27 Maoists, including Nambala Kesab Rao alias Basavaraju, general secretary of the outlawed CPI (Maoist), were killed in an encounter with the

Gadchiroli Police District Reserve Guards two days ago. Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Neelopal told The Hindu.

Mr. Neelopal, however, added that the slain cadres were active in Maharashtra and that the forces had another gunbattle with them ten days ago.

FULL OPERATION
» PAGE 3

India to push watchdog FATF to put Pak. back on its 'grey list'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India will send a dossier to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) before its plenary meeting in June to push for the re-inclusion of Pakistan on its 'grey list' of countries that are subject to increased scrutiny. The Hindu has learnt. The government will also oppose further World Bank funding to Pakistan.

Pakistan had been included on the grey list in 2018, and had been removed from it in 2022.

"Enough reason" India will send a dossier to the FATF about including Pakistan in the terror grey list again, a government official said.

"In 2022, Pakistan was removed from the list and one of the conditions was that it would enact an anti-terror law. That law hasn't come, so the FATF itself has enough reason to put Pakistan back on the list. India's dossier will state this," the official further said.

NE to be gateway for trade with Southeast Asia: Modi

Inaugurating Rising Northeast Summit, PM says region is no longer a 'frontier', but a 'frontrunner of growth'; the region offers a wide range of economic and industrial opportunities, he points out

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India's Northeast is not a "frontier region" any more, it is the "frontrunner of growth," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, pitching for investments in the eight States that constitute the region.

Inaugurating the Rising Northeast Summit, the Prime Minister said that the region offers wide range of economic and industrial opportunities. India has "new dreams" for the Northeast, he said, adding that the region would emerge as a gateway for trade with Southeast Asia over the next decade.

The event comes against the backdrop of the May 17 order by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to close land ports with Bangladesh. Officials have said that the decision will provide the Northeast a level playing field to develop the commercial potential of its own supply chains, and an impetus to manufacture competitively.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the diversity of the region, reflected in its products and people. "India is termed as the most diverse nation in the world. But our Northeast is the most diverse part of our diverse nation. From trade to tradition, textile to tourism, Northeast's diver-



Manifesting a dream: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025 in New Delhi on Friday. PMO

sity is a very big strength of the region," Mr. Modi said.

'Powerhouse of energy'

He listed the bio-economy, bamboo, tea production, petroleum, sports and eco-tourism as some of the areas where the region is an emerging hub. "Northeast is the powerhouse of energy," said Mr. Modi, describing the region as 'Ash-ta Lakshmis' or the eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi.

He said the Northeast would emerge as a gateway to trade with the ASEAN bloc over the coming decade. "Northeast will be a strong bridge of trade with Southeast Asia. We are working on the necessary infrastructure to realise that goal," Mr. Modi said, announcing that India is working on projects to directly connect Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos to India.

"These projects will give the Northeast a new commercial identity among the Indo-Pacific countries," he added. "East does not mean just direction for us. It means, Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform," Mr. Modi said.

Union Ministers have visited the region more than 700 times in the past decade, the Prime Minister said. "They saw hope in the eyes of the people of the Northeast and they converted that trust into principles of development. We moved from Look East to Act East mantra," he said.

The summit is being attended by a large number of industry representative, foreign delegates and development strategists.

Chief Ministers in attendance include Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam, Meghalaya's Konrad Sangma, Tripura's Manik Saha, Lalduhoma of Mizoram, and Sikkim's Prem Singh Tamang.

The Northeast's economic future received considerable attention in March when Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Mohammed Yunus described the region as "land locked" and offered his country as the "guardian of the ocean" that could help China access the region's commercial space. India had strongly objected to that characterisation.

◆ Strategic Vision by PM Modi:

- Northeast is no longer a "frontier" but the "frontrunner of growth."
- PM said the region will emerge as **gateway to ASEAN** countries like:
 - Myanmar
 - Thailand
 - Vietnam
 - Laos

◆ Economic & Industrial Potential:

- Offers **diverse economic opportunities**:
 - Bio-economy
 - Bamboo industry
 - Tea production
 - Petroleum
 - Sports and ecotourism
- Described as "**Powerhouse of energy**"
 - Rich in natural and human resources
 - Culturally vibrant

RBI to transfer ₹2.69 lakh crore to Govt. via dividend

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday approved the transfer of ₹2,68,590.07 crore surplus to the Union government as dividend for the accounting year 2024-25. This is 27% more than ₹2,10,874 crore paid as dividend in the previous year.

Based on revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment, the board decided to further increase the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) to 7.50%.

During accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, owing to the then prevailing macroeconomic conditions and the onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic, the board decided to maintain CRB at 5.50% of RBI's balance sheet size to support growth and economic activity. The CRB was raised to 6% for FY2022-23 and to 6.50% for FY2023-24.

"The transferable surplus for the year (2024-25) has been arrived at on the basis of the revised ECF as approved by the board on May 15, 2025," the RBI said.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor, SBI, said, "In a prudent move, RBI has raised risk buffer, otherwise the dividend transfer could have topped ₹3.5 trillion.

"The Union Budget for 2025-26 had projected a di-



RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra

vidend income of ₹2.56 lakh crore cumulatively from RBI and public sector financial institutions. With today's transfer, this would now be much higher than budgeted estimates. We expect fiscal deficit to ease 20 bps from budgeted level to 4.2% of GDP," he said.

"This payout is driven by robust gross dollar sales, higher foreign exchange gains and steady rise in interest income. Notably, RBI was the top seller of foreign exchange reserves in January among other Asian central banks."

Market disappointment

"The RBI dividend of ₹2.69 lakh crore is lower than the market expectation of ₹3 lakh crore," said Murthy Nagarajan, head - fixed income, Tata Asset Management. "This is due to RBI revising its contingent liquidity buffer to 7.5%. This is a disappointment for the market, and we can expect some profit booking after the steep rally which we saw in the last 10 days."

◆ What happened?

- RBI's Central Board of Directors **approved a dividend transfer of ₹2.69 lakh crore** to the Government of India for the accounting year **2024–25**.
 - This is a **27% increase** from last year's dividend of **₹2.10 lakh crore**.
-

◆ Economic and Policy Context:

- The transfer is **based on a revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF)** approved on May 15, 2025.
- **Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** has been raised to **7.50%** (from 6.5% earlier).
 - CRB is the portion of RBI's balance sheet set aside to manage risks and maintain financial stability.

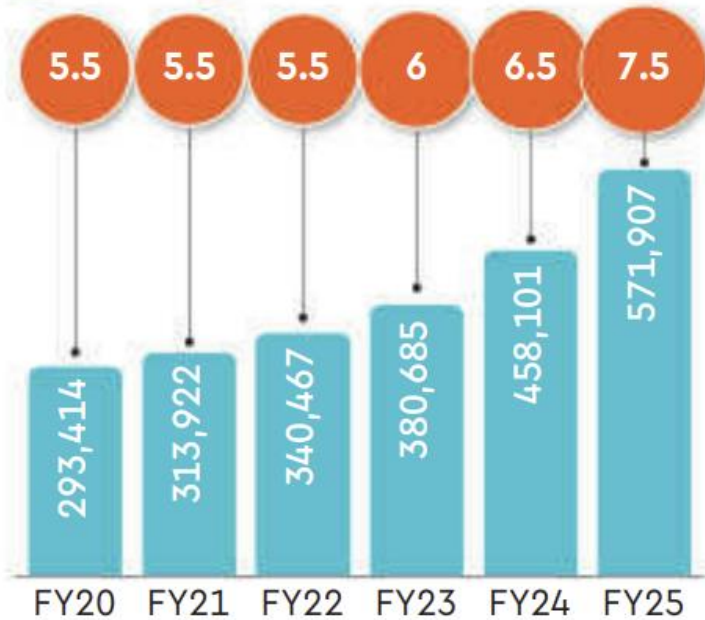
■ **Past CRB levels:**

Accounting Year	CRB Level
2018-2021 (COVID)	5.5%
2022-23	6.0%
2023-24	6.5%
2024-25 (Now)	7.5%

RECORD HIGH BUT SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

Available Realised Equity

■ ₹ crore ● As % of RBI balance sheet

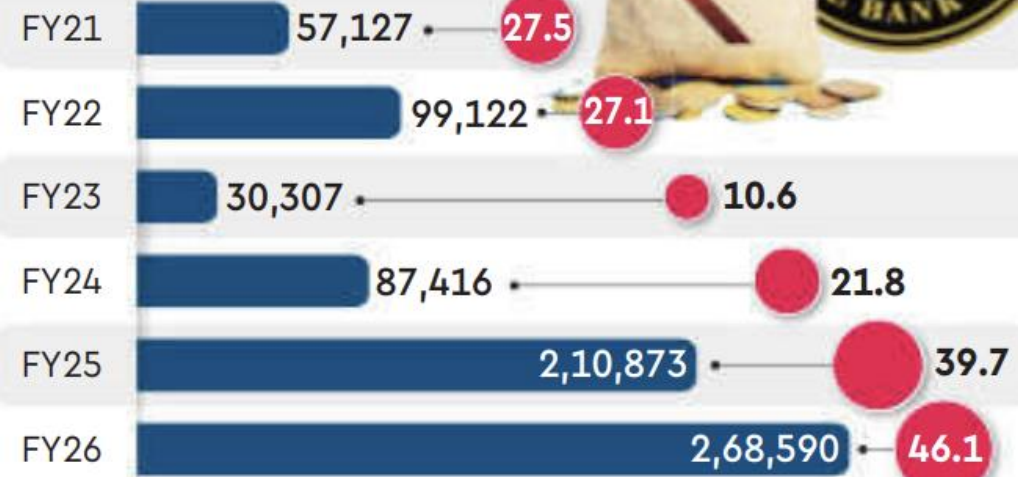


* For FY20, as on June; rest as on March

RBI surplus transfers to the Centre

■ ₹ crore

● As % of Centre's non-tax revenue in the subsequent year



(RBI's accounting year changed to April-March from 2021-22, from July-June)

Source: RBI



◆ Why this payout matters:

- Driven by:
 - Robust **gross dollar sales**
 - **Higher foreign exchange gains**
 - Steady rise in **interest income**
- RBI was the **top seller of forex reserves** in January among Asian central banks.

Topic	Details
Total Dividend Transfer	₹2,68,590 crore
Previous Year Dividend	₹2,10,874 crore
Change in CRB (2025)	Raised to 7.5%
Budgeted Fiscal Deficit FY26	4.4% of GDP
Post-Transfer Expected Deficit	~4.2% of GDP
RBI Governor (2025)	Sanjay Malhotra

KINSHASA

Congo to lift immunity of former President Kabila over ties to M23



Congo's Senate voted overwhelmingly in favour of lifting former President Joseph Kabila's immunity from prosecution in a vote on Thursday over his alleged links to the M23 rebel group. Mr. Kabila, who denies any ties to the rebel group, stepped down after almost 20 years in power in 2018, yielding to protests. AP

GENEVA

UN says 427 Rohingya may have drowned in two shipwrecks in May



The United Nations said on Friday it feared that 427 Rohingyas, Myanmar's persecuted Muslim minority, had perished at sea in two shipwrecks on May 8 and 10 off the Myanmar coast. If confirmed, this would be the "deadliest tragedy at sea" involving Rohingyas refugees so far this year, the UNHCR said. AP

ISTANBUL

Turkiye arrests 65 soldiers and police for ties to late Erdogan foe



Turkiye arrested 65 soldiers and police officers early on Friday over alleged ties to the late preacher Fethullah Gulen, who was accused of masterminding the failed 2016 coup. 56 active-duty soldiers from the Turkish armed forces had been arrested, with another seven still being sought. Nine police officers were also arrested. AP

BERLIN

At least 12 injured, six critically in knife attack at Hamburg station



A knife attack at the main station in the Germany's Hamburg left at least 12 people injured with six of them in a life-threatening condition. The suspect was apprehended by the responding forces. The station in downtown Hamburg, Germany's second-biggest city, is a major hub for local, regional and long-distance trains. AP

Court blocks Trump's order barring foreign student enrolment at Harvard

The Ivy League school calls US President's actions unconstitutional retaliation for defying White House's political demands; the varsity had said the government's action will have a devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrolment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands. In its lawsuit filed earlier on Friday in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the government's action violates the First Amendment and will have an "immediate and devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders."



Uncertain future: The move also blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes. AP

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body, international students who

contribute significantly to the University," Harvard said in its suit. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

The temporary restraining order was granted by U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs. Along with its impact on current students, the move blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes. International students who run labs, teach courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing. The impact is heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where almost half the student body comes from abroad, and

Harvard Business School, which is about one-third international. Along with its impact on current students, the move blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes. International students who run labs, teach courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing. The impact is heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where almost half the student body comes from abroad, and

Press Trust of India
Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus is mulling resignation as he is finding it difficult to work in view of political parties failing to reach a common ground to bring a change in the country, according to a media report. However, a Cabinet member and special adviser to Mr. Yunus said on Friday that chief adviser "needs to remain in office as interim leader to ensure a peaceful transition of power."



Difference of opinion: There have been reports of discord between Muhammad Yunus and Bangladesh's military. AP

On Facebook that "For the sake of Bangladesh and a peaceful democratic transition, Professor Yunus needs to remain in office". "The Chief Adviser is not going to step down," he added. "He does not hanker after power."

He later deleted his post. Another media report referring to unnamed sources close to Mr. Yunus said he actually threatened to resign if political parties do not give him their backing.

Mr. Islam told the BBC that he urged Mr. Yunus "to stay strong for the sake of the country's security, and future and to meet the expectations of the mass by implementing first."

Mr. Islam, one of the key coordinators of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), who previously served as one three representatives of the platform in the interim government's advisory council or Cabinet, quit his office to lead the NCP that emerged in February this year vis-à-vis with Yunus's blessings.

The SAD led the July uprising last year forcing the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024.

Mr. Yunus's administration recently disbanded the Awami League sending many of its senior leaders, including former ministers, to jail to face trial for charges like crimes against humanity while former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) emerged as the main actor in the political arena.

The Chief Adviser's reported threat to resign came a day after the BNP rallied thousands of supporters to stage a large-scale protest for the first time with election being held at the earliest being one of their demands while the NCP and several Islamist groups preferred Mr. Yunus's reform agenda while the NCP in response called for ouster of two advisers alleging that they were serving the BNP's purpose by staying in the government.

The BNP this week demanded removal of the remaining student representatives from the Cabinet while the NCP in response called for ouster of two advisers alleging that they were serving the BNP's purpose by staying in the government.

NEWS ANALYSIS
PAGE 13

Israeli aid amounts to only a 'teaspoon' for Gaza: UN chief

Associated Press
Reuters
NEW YORK

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Friday said Israel has only authorised for Gaza what "amounts to a teaspoon of aid when a flood of assistance is required" and again signalled that the UN will not take part in a new aid-backed distribution plan.

"Without rapid, reliable, safe and sustained aid access, more people will die — and the long-term consequences on the entire population will be profound," Mr. Guterres told reporters.

Israel says about 300 trucks of aid have entered Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing since it lifted an 11-week blockade on Gaza on Monday, but Mr. Guterres said that so far only about a third of those truckloads have been transported from the crossing to warehouses within Gaza due to insecurity.

Meanwhile, at least 60 people were killed by Israeli strikes across Gaza in a 24-hour period, Gaza's health ministry said on Friday.

The strikes that lasted into Friday morning killed and injured people of Gaza. Let's do it right. And let's do it right away.



Palestinians wait to receive cooked food distributed at a community kitchen in the Muwassi area of Khan Younis on Friday. AP

Russia, Ukraine initiate the first phase of prisoner swap

Associated Press
CHERNIVYI REGION

A major prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine began on Friday, the countries said, in one of the few signs of progress from their direct talks last week in Istanbul.

The UN-led effort that so far has failed to produce a ceasefire in the three-year-old war.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the first phase of the exchange was bringing home 300 Ukrainians, with further releases expected over the weekend.

"It's very important to bring everyone home," he wrote on Telegram, thanking all who worked to secure their return and pledging to continue diplomatic efforts to make more exchanges possible.

The UN and its partners have a plan to get the aid needed into Gaza, he said. The supplies 160,000 pallets, enough to fill nearly 9,000 trucks — are waiting, Mr. Guterres said. "This is my appeal for life-saving aid for the long suffering people of Gaza. Let's do it right. And let's do it right away."

Human Rights Watch said on Friday the U.S. government's deal to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius could "entrench" the exile of Chagossians from the archipelago's biggest island.

While the agreement "may result in some Chagossians returning to some islands," it also appears to entrench their exile from Diego Garcia, the largest island, said Clive Baldwin of the New York-based rights group.

The group described the forcible displacement of the "entire Chagossian indigenous people, mostly



Home coming: Ukrainian prisoners of war are seen at an unknown location in Ukraine following the swap on Friday. REUTERS

Russia's Ministry of Defence said each side had released 270 military personnel and 120 civilian detainees. The exchange is "planned to continue in coming days," it said.

More expected In Turkey last week, Ukraine and Russia agreed to the exchange of 1,000 prisoners from each side in

their first direct peace talks since the early weeks of Moscow's 2022 invasion. That meeting lasted only two hours and brought no breakthrough in efforts to stop the fighting.

The swap was taking place at the border with Belarus in northern Ukraine, according to a Ukrainian official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

'U.K.'s Chagos Islands deal with Mauritius risks entrenching exile of some islanders'

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Human Rights Watch said on Friday the U.S. government's deal to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius could "entrench" the exile of Chagossians from the archipelago's biggest island.

While the agreement "may result in some Chagossians returning to some islands," it also appears to entrench their exile from Diego Garcia, the largest island, said Clive Baldwin of the New York-based rights group.

The group described the forcible displacement of the "entire Chagossian indigenous people, mostly



The deal may result in the exile of Chagossians belonging to the Diego Garcia, the largest island in the group. AP

to Mauritius, for a U.S. military base on the island of Diego Garcia as an "ongoing colonial crime against humanity".

British Prime Minister

U.K. military base on Diego Garcia island.

99-year lease The deal, first touted in autumn last year, will see Britain pay its former colony £201 million (\$136 million) annually for 99 years to lease the facility, Mr. Starmer said.

As part of the agreement, Mauritius will be able to resettle Chagossian islanders, expelled from the archipelago by Britain in the 1960s, all of its over 50 islands, apart from Diego Garcia. Under the deal, the British government will set up a £40-million (\$54 million) trust fund for the 10,000-strong Chagossian diaspora.

'Some progress' at the latest round of U.S.-Iran nuclear talks

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Iranian and U.S. negotiators closed on Friday a fifth round of nuclear talks in Rome with "some but not conclusive progress", mediator Oman said, after a public disagreement over Tehran's uranium enrichment.

The talks, which began in April, are the highest-level contact between the two sides since the United States quit a landmark 2015 nuclear accord during President Donald Trump's first term.

Since returning to office, Mr. Trump has re-

vived his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran. Iran wants a new deal that would ease the sanctions which have battered its economy.

The fifth round of Iran-U.S. talks have concluded today in Rome with some but not conclusive progress, Oman Foreign Minister Badr Abbasadi said on X, adding that he hoped "the remaining issues" will be clarified in the coming days.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagheri had earlier said that chief U.S. negotiator Steve Wilkoff had left the talks "due to his flight schedule".

Court blocks Trump's order barring foreign student enrolment at Harvard

The Ivy League school calls U.S. President's actions unconstitutional retaliation for defying White House's political demands; the varsity had said the government's action will have a devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrolment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands.

In its lawsuit filed earlier on Friday in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the government's action violates the First Amendment and will have an "immediate and devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders."



Uncertain future: The move also blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes. AFP

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body, international students who

contribute significantly to the University," Harvard said in its suit. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

The temporary restraining order was granted by U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs.

The Trump administration move has thrown campus into disarray days before graduation. International students who run labs, teach courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing. The impact is heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where almost half the student body comes from abroad, and

Harvard Business School, which is about one-third international.

Along with its impact on current students, the move blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes.

Disadvantage

Harvard said it immediately puts the school at a disadvantage as it competes for the world's top students. Even if it regains the ability to host students, "future applicants may shy away from applying out of fear of further reprisals from the government," the suit said.

◆ Background of the Case

- A federal judge in Boston, U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs, blocked a Trump administration order.
- The order aimed to **bar international students' enrolment at Harvard** if their courses were online-only.
- Harvard called the move "**unconstitutional retaliation**" for defying political pressure from the White House.

◆ Harvard's Stand

- Harvard filed a lawsuit stating the order:
 - Violates the **First Amendment**.
 - Would have an **"immediate and devastating effect"** on:
 - Harvard itself.
 - Over **7,000 visa holders**.
- Quote:

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body."

◆ Impact on Students

- Foreign students make up:
 - ~25% of Harvard's student body.
 - ~50% in graduate schools like:
 - Harvard Kennedy School.
 - Harvard Business School.
- Affected students include those:
 - Already studying.
 - Planning to enroll for **summer or fall classes**.
- They face risk of:
 - Losing **legal status**.
 - Being forced to **transfer or leave the country**.

◆ Quote from Harvard's suit:

"Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

◆ Academic & Global Repercussions

- Harvard argued the ban would:
 - **Disrupt labs, teaching, and research.**
 - Harm participation in sports, TA duties, etc.
- Fear among prospective international students:
 - **Reputational risk:** US schools may lose top global talent.
 - **Future applications may drop** due to fear of government action.

International Students At Harvard

Harvard is home to
6,700+
international degree
students

From **147**
countries

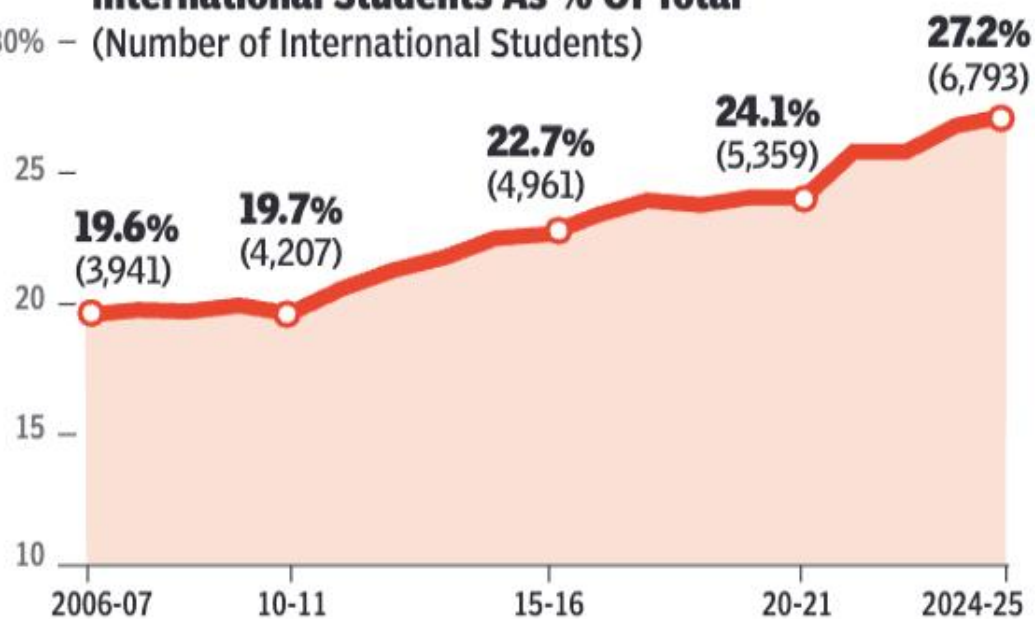
Top 5 countries of
origin of international
students:

- China
- Canada
- India
- Republic of Korea
- United Kingdom



International Students As % Of Total

30% – (Number of International Students)



Cost Of Studying

➤ An Indian studying at Harvard would have to pay a **tuition fee of \$57,000** for undergrad, and **\$31,000-\$77,000** for postgrad and professional courses

➤ Living expenses will be upwards of **\$20,000**

SOME WORLD LEADERS WHO STUDIED AT HARVARD

1 Duma Gideon Boko | Botswana Prez | Law, Master's degree

2 Tshering Tobgay | Bhutan PM | Public Administration, Master's degree

3 Mark Carney | Canada PM | Economics, Bachelor's degree

4 Shankar Dayal Sharma | India President (1992-1997) | Brandeis fellow

5 Shimon Peres | Israel PM (1984-86, 1995-96, Prez 2007-14) | Advanced Management course

6 Benjamin Netanyahu | Israel PM | Political Science

7 Jafar Hassan | Jordan PM | Public Administration, Master's degree

13 Maia Sandu | Moldova Prez | Public Administration, Master's degree

12 Kyriakos Mitsotakis | Greece PM | Business Administration, Master's degree

11 Lai Ching-te | Taiwan Prez | Public Health, Master's degree

10 Han Duk-soo | Acting president of South Korea | Economics, Master's degree, PhD

9 Lawrence Wong | Singapore PM | Public Administration, Master's degree

8 Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrain | Mongolia PM | Public Policy, Master's degree



Transfat

Countries eliminating trans fats



Austria

Eliminated industrially produced trans fats.

Eliminated industrially produced trans fats.

Norway



Oman

Eliminated industrially produced trans fats.

Eliminated industrially produced trans fats.

Singapore



Trans Fats Characteristics



Trans Fats Definition

Unsaturated fats from industrial and natural sources.

Chemically altered by adding hydrogen atoms to oils.





Hydrogenation Process



Health Impacts of Trans Fats

- Both industrial and naturally occurring trans fats are equally detrimental to health.
- Trans fats increase levels of bad cholesterol—specifically VLDL and LDL-C—while reducing good cholesterol (HDL). The buildup of bad cholesterol in artery walls causes them to harden and narrow, significantly raising the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Initiatives to Reduce Trans Fatty Acids (TFA)

Characteristic	Trans Fat Free Logo	Heart Attack Rewind	Eat Right India Movement	Regulatory Limits
 Goal	Healthier consumer choices	Eliminate industrial TFA	Promote healthy food habits	Cap TFA content
 Type	Voluntary labeling	Mass media campaign	Nationwide promotion	Legal regulation
 Scope	TFA-free products	Industrial TFA	Food habits	Oils and fats
 Details	Helps consumers choose	Creates awareness	Promotes safe, sustainable habits	TFA capped to 2% by 2022

Global Efforts to Eliminate Trans Fats by 2025

Launch of WHO
Validation
Programme

2023

Target for 90% of
global TFA burden
countries to adopt
policies

End-2025





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Word of the day

Specious:


plausible but false; based on pretense;
deceptively pleasing

Synonyms: gilded, glossy, meretricious,
spurious

Usage: *It was a specious claim which I am
glad I didn't believe.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/speciouspro

**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /'spi:ʃəs/

A blurred background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference, with several hands raised in the air, suggesting applause or a group exercise. The image is soft-focused, with a warm, slightly hazy light. In the foreground, a person's hand is visible on the right, wearing a black watch and a grey sleeve, reaching out. Another hand is visible on the left, also reaching out. The overall mood is positive and collaborative.

Thank you
guys.
