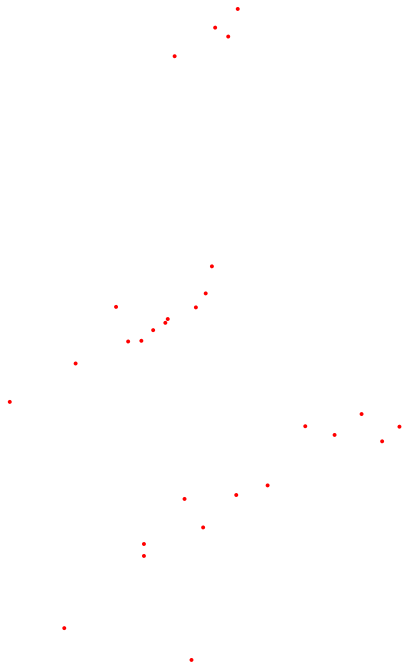


Daily Current Affairs





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10 MCQ QUIZ

- **“Your morning sets the tone for your entire day — win your morning, and you’ve already won the day.”**  

Cong. seeks probe into LIC's Adani investment

Party alleges misuse of public savings, claiming nearly ₹33,000 cr. is invested in the Adani Group

It reiterates the demand for Joint Parliamentary Committee investigation into 'Modani MegaScam'

No immediate response from the Adani Group or the government on Congress's allegations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament into what it described as a "disturbing misuse" of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) funds to benefit the Adani Group.

The party alleged that officials of the Union Ministry of Finance and the NITI Aayog pushed through a proposal in May to invest nearly ₹33,000 crore of the LIC's funds in the Adani Group to "signal confidence" in the conglomerate, and "encourage participation from other investors".

The allegations follow an exposé in *The Washing-*

ton Post, which cited internal documents to report how the LIC invested money in the Adani Group after a U.S. court had indicted business tycoon Gautam Adani in a bribery allegations case.

There was no immediate response from the Adani Group or the government on the Congress's allegations.

'Close friends'

However, referring to *The Washington Post's* report, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "squandering" the hard-earned money of 30 crore LIC policyholders.

"The real beneficiaries of Direct Benefits Transfer are not the common peo-

Bond controversy

LIC was allegedly pushed to buy Adani bonds after fraud charges, a claim denied by the public sector insurer



■ *The Washington Post* alleges that the Department of Financial Services instructed LIC to buy around \$3.4 billion worth of bonds issued by Adani Group firms

■ This was allegedly to shore up investor confidence in the companies after the U.S. indictment of senior Adani Group executives and business partners

■ Claims of any instructions were denied by the insurance major

ple of India but rather Mr. Modi's close friends. Does a common salaried middle class person, who saves every penny to pay the LIC premium, even know that Mr. Modi is using his hard-earned savings to bail out Adani? Isn't this a breach of trust? Isn't this looting?"

Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

The move amounted to using public money to bail out a private business house facing "serious allegations of criminality", Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a state-

'Investments in Adani firms made independently'

NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation of India said its investments in Adani group companies have been made independently and in accordance with its board-approved policies. "Department of Financial Services does not have any role in decisions." » PAGE 11

ment. "Under whose pressure did government officials decide their job was to rescue a private company? Is this not a textbook case of 'mobile phone banking'?" he asked.

Mr. Ramesh cited internal documents reported in the media. The invest-

ments led to losses for the LIC, including a ₹7,850 crore fall in just four hours of trading on September 21, 2024, following the indictment of Mr. Adani and seven associates in the U.S., he said. The business tycoon has been accused by U.S. authorities of a ₹2,000 crore bribery scheme related to solar power contracts, he added.

'Need for investigation'

The Congress reiterated its long-standing demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani matter, which it first raised through its '*Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun*' ('who are we to Adani') campaign.

"As a first step, the PAC should investigate how LIC

was forced to invest in Adani Group companies. That will be well within its powers," Mr. Ramesh said.

He alleged the Modi government had "refused for nearly a year" to serve a summons from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to the Adani Group, which he described as "the Prime Minister's most favoured business conglomerate".

Calling it the "Modani MegaScam", Mr. Ramesh said the issue went beyond the LIC's investment, and included alleged misuse of Central agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Income Tax Department to pressure private firms into selling assets to the Adani Group.

The **Indian National Congress** has demanded an **inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of Parliament into what it terms a “**disturbing misuse of public funds**” by the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** for allegedly investing heavily in the **Adani Group**.

The issue follows a report by *The Washington Post*, alleging that Indian government officials pushed LIC to invest about **₹33,000 crore (~\$4 billion)** in Adani Group bonds after a **U.S. court indicted Gautam Adani** and associates in a **bribery case**.

Issue

Details

Misuse of Public Savings

LIC funds, which are people's life-insurance savings, were allegedly diverted to **shore up investor confidence** in the Adani Group.

Government Pressure

Ministry of Finance & NITI Aayog allegedly instructed LIC to invest despite corporate-governance concerns.

Conflict of Interest

Congress claims this was done to “bail out” the PM’s “close friends” in the Adani conglomerate.

Financial Loss

Congress cites a **₹7,850 crore fall in LIC's market value** within four hours of trading on Sept 21 2024, after Adani's indictment.

Entity

Statement

LIC (Public Sector Insurer)

Denied any external pressure, saying investments in Adani firms were made **independently** under **board-approved policies**.

Department of Financial Services

Stated it had **no role** in LIC's investment decisions.

Adani Group / Govt

No immediate response to the allegations as of the report's publication.

Background: The “Bond Controversy”

- *The Washington Post* claimed LIC was **instructed** to buy Adani bonds worth **\$3.4 billion** after U.S. charges against Adani executives.
 - It alleged this was intended to **shore up confidence** among Indian investors post-indictment.
 - LIC and the Finance Ministry have **denied** these instructions, calling them “**false and speculative.**”
-

Legal & Institutional Aspects

Element	Relevance
Public Accounts Committee (PAC)	A parliamentary committee that scrutinises govt spending and CAG reports; can summon ministries and PSUs for explanations.
Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	India’s largest insurer; holds major stakes in public-sector and private companies — making its investment policies of public interest.
Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)	A higher-level multi-party probe body; previously formed in major financial controversies (e.g., 2G & Harshad Mehta scams).

Founded	1 September 1956 (69 years ago)
Headquarters	Mumbai, Maharashtra , India
Key people	R. Doraiswamy (CEO & MD) Ratnakar Patnaik (MD) Dinesh Pant (MD)
Products	Life insurance Health insurance Mortgage loans Investment management Asset management Pensions
Revenue	▲ ₹8.88 lakh crore (US\$105.0 billion) (2025)
Operating income	▲ ₹56,267 crore (US\$6.7 billion) (2025)
Net income	▲ ₹48,320 crore (US\$5.7 billion) (2025)
Total assets	▲ ₹56.12 lakh crore (US\$660 billion) (2025)
Total equity	▲ ₹1.28 lakh crore (US\$15 billion) (2025)
Owner	Government of India (96.5%) ^{[1][2]}
Number of employees	98,661 (2024) ^[3]
Subsidiaries	LIC Pension Fund Ltd. LIC Mutual Fund LIC Cards Services Ltd. LIC Housing Finance
Website	licindia.in ↗
Footnotes / references	
Financials as of 31 March 2025. ^[4]	

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

College students to help monitor traffic violations in Bengaluru on ASTraM app

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

To curb traffic violations near educational institutions, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) will roll out a new feature on the AS-TraM app, enabling college students to report offences occurring around their campuses.

The BTP will partner with the Aarohan Foundation, which runs the 'Police Marshals' initiative aimed at conducting drug awareness campaigns among college students.

The foundation currently operates in 100 colleges with 14,000 student marshals, who will now also



Police will partner with Aarohan Foundation, running the 'Police Marshals' programme with 14,000 students for the drive. FILE PHOTO

participate in the BTP's traffic violation monitoring drive.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *The Hindu* that the foundation's student network represents a

large and valuable resource that can be mobilised to promote traffic awareness and help identify violators. "We will add a 'Police Marshals' option on the ASTraM app, which on-boarded students can use

to upload traffic violation photos," Mr. Karthik said.

Data-driven approach

While this initiative will enable the police to fine violators, it will also help gather specific data to improve traffic management and planning.

A source from the AS-TraM team explained that when a police marshal logs into the app, a menu will list various types of violations. The marshal can select the relevant category and upload a photo.

This data will help the police study traffic violation trends around educational institutions and their frequency.

- The **Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP)** is rolling out a new feature in the **ASTraM (Automated System for Traffic Management) app**, enlisting **college students** to monitor and report **traffic violations** near educational institutions.
- The initiative aims to **enhance road safety**, encourage **citizen participation**, and leverage **data-driven insights** for better **urban traffic management**.

Key Highlights

Aspect	Details
Implementing Agency	Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP)
Partner Organization	Aarohan Foundation , which runs the <i>Police Marshals</i> initiative
Participants	14,000 college students across 100 institutions
Technology Platform	ASTraM App (Automated System for Traffic Management)
Objective	To curb violations around educational campuses and collect real-time data on traffic patterns

How the Initiative Works

1. Integration with AStraM App:

- A new "**Police Marshals**" option will be added to the app.
- Registered student volunteers can log in and **upload photographs** of traffic violations.

2. Violation Categories:

- The app's interface provides a **menu of common violations** (signal jumping, wrong-side driving, helmetless riding, etc.).
- Students select the relevant category and upload photographic evidence.

3. Data Collection & Use:

- The system compiles reports to **identify hotspots** of repeated violations.
 - Enables BTP to **plan enforcement drives** and **infrastructure improvements** around schools and colleges.
-

Feature	Details
Scope	Operates in 100 colleges in Bengaluru
Activities	Drug awareness, social sensitization, and civic engagement
New Role	Monitoring and reporting road safety violations under the BTP partnership

Expected Benefits

✓ Community Policing:

- Promotes collaboration between youth and police, encouraging responsible citizenship.

✓ Behavioral Change:

- Increases deterrence among habitual violators near campuses.

✓ Technology-Enabled Governance:

- Utilizes citizen-generated data for evidence-based decision-making.

✓ Urban Planning Insights:

- Helps identify accident-prone zones and improve traffic infrastructure.
-

Challenge

Required Safeguard

Data Privacy

Ensure photos and user information are protected under IT & privacy laws.

False Reporting Risk

Verification mechanism by BTP before initiating fines.

Over-policing Concerns

Maintain focus on awareness, not punishment.

Tensions rise in U.P. over slogans on temple walls

The party alleged that despite claims made ahead of the State elections, only around 1,500 trains were operated, leaving thousands of passengers stranded or forced to travel in unsafe conditions.

Mr. Gandhi said that trains are not only "runned beyond capacity, making the journey 'inhuman'", "This is a month of festivals - Diwali, Bhadoj and Chhath - when people long to return home to their families. But trains are overcrowded, tickets are impossible to get, and people are hanging onto doors and roofs. We need 2,500 special trains" he said in a post on X.

Centre announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar for scientific achievements

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Centre announced the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) – its Padma-style national awards for scientific achievement with 24 individual awards and one team honour – on Saturday. Eminent physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna, an award for lifetime contribution.

This year, eight scientists were selected for the Vigyan Shri awards: Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Yusuf Mohammed Shaikh, K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thapalil, Aniruddha Balchandra Pandit, Venkata Mohan, Mahan Mj and Jayan N.

Recipients for the Vigyan Yuva awards: Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Debarka Sengupta, Deepa



Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May this year, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna. THULASI KAKKAT

Agashe, Dibyendu Das, Waliur Rahman, Arkaprava Basu, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Shweta Prem Agrawal, Suresh Kumar, Amit Kumar Agrawal, Surhud Shrikant More, Ankur Garg and Mohansankar Sivaprakasam.

The Vigyan Team award went to the CSIR Aroma Mission.

Last August, ahead of National Space Day, 2024,

the inaugural RVP ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to 33 scientists. This year, the announcement had been delayed for nearly two months. Last year, there were allegations that the award selection process was not fair, and speculation that those scientists critical of government poli-

cies had been ousted at the last minute. An independent panel – the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee, steered by the Principal Scientific Adviser – decides on award recipients and makes a recommendation to the Minister of Science and Technology. It is unclear if the Minister has a veto on the recommendation.

The Vigyan Ratna aims at recognising lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Shri is awarded for distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Yuva award is for young scientists under the age of 45 years to recognise their exceptional contributions. Vigyan Team award will be given every year to a team, comprising three or more scientists, researchers or innovators.

The **Government of India** has introduced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)** — a **Padma-style national honour** dedicated to recognizing **excellence in science and technology**.

The awards aim to celebrate **scientists, researchers, and innovators** for their significant contributions across various fields of science.

Category	Description
Type of Award	National-level scientific honour (similar to Padma Awards)
Launched by	Ministry of Science and Technology
Administered by	Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC), chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser
Venue of Ceremony	Rashtrapati Bhavan
Presented by	President of India
Frequency	Annually

Category	Purpose / Criteria
Vigyan Ratna	Lifetime achievement award for outstanding contributions to science and technology.
Vigyan Shri	For distinguished scientific contributions across disciplines.
Vigyan Yuva	For scientists below 45 years of age showing exceptional promise.
Vigyan Team Award	For team contributions (minimum 3 members) in collaborative research or innovation.

2024 RVP Highlights

- **Total Awards:** 25 (24 individual + 1 team)
- **Chief Recipient:**
 - Late **Jayant Vishnu Narlikar**, eminent astrophysicist — awarded the **Vigyan Ratna** (posthumously) for lifetime achievement.
- **Vigyan Shri Awardees (8 scientists):**
 - Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Yusuf Mohammed Shaikh, K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thapa, Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit, Venkata Mohan, Mahan MJ, Jayan N.
- **Vigyan Yuva Awardees:**
 - Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Debarka Sengupta, Deepa Agashe, Dibyendu Das, Waliur Rahman, Arkaprava Basu, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Shweta Prem Agrawal, Suresh Kumar, Amit Kumar Agrawal, Surhud Shrikanth More, Ankur Garg, Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam.
- **Vigyan Team Award:**
 - **CSIR Aroma Mission** — recognized for collaborative excellence in applied science and innovation.

Key Objectives

1. National Recognition:

Honour Indian scientists working in diverse research domains — from fundamental sciences to applied technology.

2. Encourage Young Talent:

Provide motivation to emerging researchers and innovators below 45 years.

3. Promote Team Collaboration:

Acknowledge institutional or interdisciplinary scientific teamwork.

4. Highlight India's Scientific Identity:

Establish a national equivalent to international honours like the Nobel or Breakthrough Prize, rooted in Indian ethos.

Governance & Selection Process

- The **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC)** recommends recipients to the **Minister of Science & Technology**.
- **Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India** heads the committee.
- The selection is based on **scientific merit, innovation, and impact**.
- Notably, it is **unclear whether the Minister retains veto power** over the committee's recommendations.



Rank	Award	Prize Money	Notes
1	India Science Award	₹ 25 lakh (~US \$30,000) (Wikipedia)	Lifetime contribution award in India (though currently discontinued).
2	Infosys Prize	US \$100,000 (~₹ 80+ lakh) (IndiaBioscience)	Indian-based prize, awarded to researchers (India/abroad).
3	G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research	₹ 5 lakh (Wikipedia)	Indian scientists below age 50.
4	Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology	₹ 5 lakh (ssbprize.gov.in)	Prestigious Indian award for outstanding research (age <45).
5	Vigyan Ratna Award	(Cash prize details not clearly specified) (Wikipedia)	New Indian award for lifetime achievement in S&T.

Rank	Award	Prize Money	Notes
1	Breakthrough Prize	US \$3 million (~₹ 25 + crore) (Wikipedia)	One of the largest cash prizes in science globally (Life sciences, fundamental physics, mathematics).
2	TWAS Apex Award	US \$100,000 (TWAS)	Prize for scientists from developing countries.
3	Balzan Prize	CHF 750,000 (~US \$840,000) (AP News)	For major scientific and humanitarian achievements.
4	Wittgenstein Award	Up to €1.5 million (~US \$1.6–1.7 million) (Wikipedia)	Austrian science award for excellent scientific work.
5	Kavli Prize	US \$1 million (crdfglobal.org)	For astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience; top global recognition.

IN BRIEF



Soldiers begin rally to honour fallen Assam Rifles personnel

The Indian Army's Gairg Corps is organising "Saddle-Borne Warriors", a seven-day motorcycle rally, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of four Assam Rifles personnel near a Himalayan pass on the Tibetan border in 1973. The rally will cover more than 320 km from north-central Assam's Misingmari Cantonment to Tuting La in Arunachal Pradesh. The rally is scheduled from October 26 to November 1. "This rally is dedicated to the courage, discipline, and patriotism of Indian soldiers. The initiative aims to keep alive the memory of their sacrifice while inspiring the younger generation," Lt. Col. Mahendra Kanoj, the Gairg-based Defence Ministry spokesperson, said.

"Rendering justice is a profoundly human effort"

The Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant said technology was a powerful ally in the legal profession, but providing justice would always be a profoundly human enterprise. "The essence of our calling lies not in data or algorithms, but in conscience and compassion," Justice Kant said in his keynote address at the National Law Conference organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, speaking on "Technology in the aid of the legal profession: a global perspective" on Friday, he said. "Let us be crystal clear: We are not replacing the lawyer or the judge, we are simply augmenting their reach and enhancing their capacity to serve."

Mehbooba moves PIL plea to shift J&K undertrials home

Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has moved a public interest litigation (PIL) petition before the J&K High Court on shifting local undertrial prisoners to J&K from all jails outside. Being a political activist and a former Chief Minister, she is getting requests from family members of undertrials to take up the issue with the government, the PDP leader said in the petition. "We urged the government on the issue of return of the undertrial prisoners who are lodged in jails outside J&K to jails in J&K but no action has been taken by the government," the petition said.

First unit of Arunachal hydel project begins test run

One of the eight units of India's largest hydropower project, which straddles the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary, has begun undergoing a test run, signalling its commissioning soon. Officials of NHPC Ltd. said the wet commissioning of the first 260-megawatt unit of the 2,000-MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project was commenced on Friday. "Wet commissioning is basically a test run of the turbine to check several parameters without generating electricity. The test run with water flow may take four or five days," an NHPC spokesperson told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

SUDOKU

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	3						4	2
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7	4			9	2			
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9	3					8	8	
		7	6		8		9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	3	7	5	4	7	6	1
8	1	5	4	3	2	9	6	2
6	7	2	8	9	4	1	3	5
7	4	9	8	6	1	2	5	3
3	6	8	2	7	9	1	4	5
5	2	7	6	9	1	3	4	8
9	4	1	2	8	3	6	7	5
6	3	7	1	5	4	2	9	8

Sharp reduction in number of complaints received by Lokpal

Data show the tally going down from 2,469 in 2022-23 to just 233 this year; only 289 preliminary inquiries ordered so far; activist says the body has not uploaded annual reports since 2021-22; its prosecution wing was notified in June 2023

Soliham Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

While the Lokpal's decision to float a tender for seven luxury BMW cars has triggered public outrage, the anti-graft body's performance record shows a sharp decline in public engagement. The number of complaints the body has received since it began functioning in 2019-20 has dropped sharply from a peak of 2,469 in 2022-23 to just 233 this year till September.

The Lokpal has the jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against individuals, including the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, and government officials.

Of a total 6,955 complaints received by the Lokpal to date, 90%, or 6,264, had been received in the first four years of its establishment till 2023. The remaining 691 were received in the past three years.

The data available on the Lokpal's website re-

Fading engagement

Complaints in the Lokpal have trended over the years, with 90% of them being made in the first four years of its establishment

Year	Complaints registered	Preliminary inquiries	Prosecution initiated
2019-20	1,477	5	0
2020-21	415	13	0
2021-22	2,378	23	0
2022-23	2,469	84	0
2023-24	233	289	0
Total	6,955	125	0

Mandate of Lokpal
It has the jurisdiction to investigate corruption allegations against: * Prime Minister * Union Ministers * Members of Parliament * Senior government officials

vealed that the body has ordered preliminary inquiries in only 289 cases against all the complaints it has received so far, and that prosecution sanctions have been granted in just seven cases.

Right to Information activist Anshu Bhardwaj told *The Hindu*, the Lokpal website was created after a massive

The Lokpal is in the news over its controversial tender seeking supply of seven luxury cars

public campaign to ensure an independent authority could investigate big-ticket corruption involving top

Concerns raised by activists
The anti-graft body's reports have been delayed since 2022-23

The Lokpal was created after a massive public campaign to ensure an independent authority could investigate big-ticket corruption involving top officials

ANSHU BHARDWAJ
BET activist

institutional development. "It hasn't uploaded any annual report since 2022-23, and shockingly, its prosecution wing was notified only in June 2023 — 12 years after the Lokpal law was enacted. This reflects a lack of seriousness and accountability," she said.

The controversial tender floated on October 16 by the Lokpal reads, "The Lokpal of India invites open tenders from registered agencies for supply of seven BMW 3 series 330Li cars to the Lokpal of India."

The luxury sedan was meant for its Chairperson and members. The Lokpal currently has seven members, including its Chairperson, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (retd.), though its sanctioned strength is eight.

BET activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd.) said the Lokpal, being anti-corruption body should "save public money".

Ms. Bhardwaj also questioned the Lokpal's transparency and the pace of

Centre plans to safeguard traditional media amid digital disruption: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre will take initiatives for the protection of conventional media against the disruption caused by digital media, Union Information and Public Relations Minister Anshu Vaidya said on Saturday.

He rationalised to ensure a level playing field for conventional media, including print media, courses said.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) had intended to launch efforts, including backgrounders and press releases, to strengthen public dissemination of information about government activities, achievements, Mr. Vaidya said, speaking in a

The Registrar of Newspapers for India, the PIB, and the Central Bureau of Communication would soon be integrated for efficient coordination and convergence across media outreach and regulatory functions. A shoddy online content flagged as fake by the PIB's fact-check unit was being developed. Efforts were under way to introduce watermark to enable swift authentication of videos circulating on social media platforms, Mr. Vaidya said.

"Creator economy" The government is focusing on strengthening the "creator economy", Minister said, adding that initiatives such as WAVIC (Mass and the new Indian Institute of Creative Technology in Mumbai are driving global engagement and is offering industry-oriented courses of three months to three years.

Maharashtra doctor death: police official, another man named in note held

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

The police on Saturday arrested a software engineer and a police sub-inspector in connection with the death of a 28-year-old woman doctor in Satara district of Maharashtra, an official said.

A team from the Phaltan police arrested the engineer, Prashant Bankar, one of the two men the doctor had named in a note written on her palm, from Pune in the morning, he said.

Later, Gopal Badane landed at the Phaltan Police Station and surrendered, Superintendent of Police, Satara, Dusha, said.

Mr. Bankar was produced before a Satara district court which sent him to judicial custody for four days, he said.

The doctor posted at a government hospital in Satara district was found hang-

ing in a hotel room in Phaltan town on Thursday night.

In the note written on her palm, she alleged that Mr. Bankar had raped her on multiple occasions, while Mr. Bankar allegedly threatened to harm her.

A case of rape and abetment of suicide was registered against the duo in Phaltan in Satara district.

The police said Mr. Bankar was the son of the landlord of the house where the doctor resided. She had allegedly called him over the phone and spoken to him before ending her life, they said.

Family's claim Her relative claimed the victim was pregnant to a doctor in the sub-district hospital where she worked.

"Political people in Phaltan often asked her to change medical reports. She had complained multi-

ple times against the PSI named in the note, but her complaints were not looked into," the relative stated.

Another relative said that the hospital administration assigned her short-duration duties only to harass her.

Meanwhile, Ashwini Datta (UBT) leader Ambadas Datta hit out at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who holds the Home portfolio, over the doctor's death.

"There is a need for women's security more than that of Lokesh Babbar (a financial scheme for women from low income families). If people who are under the wings of Fadnis are harassing women, then Fadnis has failed as the Home Minister and should resign,"

Mr. Datta wrote on X. (Those in distress can call the helpline connecting NGO, 1800 843 4353 (Toll Free) 9822001322, daily 12 noon to 8 p.m., Pune)

Lifeline of sitcoms and satire, Satish Shah passes away

Anil Kumar
NEW DELHI

An effortless performer who made over a dozen timeless moments of Indian cinema, Satish Shah bid adieu in Mumbai on Saturday from kidney failure. Not just a supporting player, Shah was often the spark that lit scenes with humour and elevated his co-actor's performance.

Creating an endearing amalgam of instinct, intellect, and improvisation, Shah brought an irreverence to his roles that few could match. Lifeline of many a sitcom, he became a household name with *Ye Hai Mohabbat*, where he played a rainbow of roles, and he the high point of his career with *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* in which, as the mischievous, Gajendra, patriarch Indravardhan Sarabhai, he made fun of the bourgeoisie class and impact

of western values on Indian society. The series and his playful take on his elitist wife, Maya, played by Ratna Pathak Shah, have stood the test of time and found love across generations. He maintained that Indian cinema was a reflection of his real self.

As Indian television shifted from the aspidochelone of the aspidochelone to the sparkling private satellite television, Shah was among the most popular faces on the small screen, with series like *Pyar Ka Chakkar*, *Ghar Jamai*, and *Alif*.

He was born in Mumbai in 1951 into a Gujarati business family. After his acting bug early, he started with the Gujarati theatre. A product of St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, where his cultural scene was at its acme in the 1970s, Shah was junior to Shahana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh, and senior to Anil



SATISH SHAH (1951 - 2023)

Kapoor and Madhur Khan. He took the theatre route to the film and television industry of India, where he came into contact with Nargis Dutt, Karan Khanna, and his life partner, Madhu.

A gold medalist in acting, Shah was not considered here material by Bollywood. After a few years of struggle where he featured

most of the running time of the film, he made his performance as a corpse become an enduring statement of a rotting bureaucracy and an absurd system. The lifeline form became the living symbol of the rot that spurs the comedy of the ridiculous. He would say he never played a role; he became one.

From the physical comedy of *Peecheh Kaaro* and *Termin* (1990) to the pure masala comedy of *Main Hoon Na* (2004), over the years Shah displayed his mastery of all forms of comedy. He turned comic relief in a series of horror flicks in the 1980s. His turn as a war-nabe director Hitcock in *Verona* (1988) became quite a rage.

Off-screen, he was a soft-spoken person who loved good food and would indulge in serious discussion of the art of acting, music, and the role of an artist in

India's health parameters has improved, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the next five years, an additional 75,000 medical seats are expected to be added across both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, said Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, addressing the 80th annual convocation ceremony of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, on Saturday.

The Minister added that India's health parameters including maternal and child health have registered progress while tuberculosis incidence in India has dropped by 17.7%, over twice the global rate of 8.3%, as reported by *The Lancet*.

Highlighting the progress achieved in India's healthcare and medical education sector over the past decade, the Minister said that in the last 11 years, the number of medical colleges in the country has increased from 387 to 816. Similarly, undergraduate medical seats have risen from 31,000 to 1,25,000, and postgraduate seats from 31,000 to 78,000.

Health activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd.) said the Lokpal, being anti-corruption body should "save public money".

Ms. Bhardwaj also questioned the Lokpal's transparency and the pace of

spapers for India, the PIB, and the Central Bureau of Communication would soon be integrated for efficient coordination and convergence across media outreach and regulatory functions. A shoddy online content flagged as fake by the PIB's fact-check unit was being developed. Efforts were under way to introduce watermark to enable swift authentication of videos circulating on social media platforms, Mr. Vaidya said.

"Creator economy" The government is focusing on strengthening the "creator economy", Minister said, adding that initiatives such as WAVIC (Mass and the new Indian Institute of Creative Technology in Mumbai are driving global engagement and is offering industry-oriented courses of three months to three years.

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Lifeline of sitcoms and satire, Satish Shah passes away

Anuj Kumar

NEW DELHI

An effortless performer who made even a corpse a timeless monument of Indian cinema, Satish Shah bid adieu in Mumbai on Saturday from kidney failure. Not just a supporting player, Shah was often the spark that lit scenes with humour and elevated his co-actors' performances.

Creating an endearing amalgam of instinct, intellect, and improvisation, Shah brought an irreverence to his roles that few could match. Lifeline of many a sitcom, he became a household name with *Ye Jo Hai Zindagi*, where he played a rainbow of roles, and hit the high point of his career with *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* in which, as the mischief-loving, Gujarati patriarch Indravardhan Sarabhai, he made fun of the shenanigans of the bourgeois class and impact

of western values on Indian society in a measured performance. The series and his playful jabs at his elitist wife, Maya, played by Ratna Pathak Shah, have stood the test of time and found love across generations. He maintained that Indravardhan was a reflection of his real self.

As Indian television shifted from the sedate Doordarshan to the sparkly private satellite television, Shah was among the most popular faces on the small screen, with series like *Filmy Chakkar*, *Ghar Jamai*, and *All The Best*.

He was born in Mumbai in 1951 into a Gujarati business family. Bitten by the acting bug early, he started with Gujarati and Hindi theatre. A product of St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, where the cultural scene was at its acme in the 1970s, Shah was junior to Shabana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh, and senior to Anil



SATISH SHAH (1951 - 2025)

Kapoor and Mazhar Khan. He took the theatre route to the Film and Television Institute of India, where he came into contact with Naseeruddin Shah, Kundan Shah, and his life partner, Madhu.

A gold medallist in acting, Shah was not considered hero material by Bollywood. After a few years of struggle where he featured

in bit roles in films like *Umrao Jaan*, Shah, ironically, made his presence felt as the corpse of the corrupt Municipal Commissioner De Mello in Kundan's cult comedy *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro* (1983). His chemistry with Kundan went back to *Ye Jo Hai Zindagi* days, and the two Gujaratis conjured up comedy gold. Stuffed into a coffin for

most of the running time of the film, Shah made his performance as a corpse become an enduring statement of a rotting bureaucracy and an absurd system. The lifeless form became the living symbol of the rot that spurs the comedy of the ridiculous. He would say he never played a role; he became one.

From the physical comedy of *Peechha Karo* (1986) and *Hatim Tai* (1990) to the pure masala camp of *Main Hoona Na* (2004), over the years Shah displayed his mastery of all forms of comedy. Shah provided comic relief in a series of horror flicks in the 1980s. His turn as a wannabe director Hitcock in *Veerana* (1988) became quite a rage.

Off-screen, he was a soft-spoken person who loved good food and would indulge in serious discussion of the art of acting, timing, and the role of an artist in

society. Not one to plan his career, whenever he was tested, he imbued light-hearted roles with emotional depth. Be it the dean of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995) or Shah Rukh Khan's uncle in *Kal Ho Naa Ho* (2003), Shah was the emotional pillar of many a star-studded structure.

Elevating ensemble casts without overshadowing leads, Shah appeared in cameos marked by nuanced pauses, sarcasm, and impeccable comic timing. His unique dialogue delivery and improvisation turned ordinary lines into punchlines.

When social media gained currency, his characters and dialogues became a popular ingredient for the meme mills. In the past decade, he had cut down on assignments due to a lack of challenging roles and had focused on mentoring.

Veteran actor **Satish Shah**, one of Indian cinema and television's most beloved comic performers, passed away in **Mumbai** on Saturday, after suffering from **kidney failure**.

Renowned for his effortless humor, sharp wit, and improvisational brilliance, Shah was more than a supporting actor — he was the **spark** that elevated every ensemble he was part of.

Early Life and Education

- **Born:** 1951, Mumbai, into a Gujarati business family.
- **Education:** Studied at **St. Xavier's College, Mumbai**, where he was junior to Shabana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh.
- Trained at the **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune**, alongside Naseeruddin Shah, Kundan Shah, and Mazhar Khan.
- A **gold medallist in acting**, Shah's early years were spent doing Gujarati and Hindi theatre before transitioning to film and television.

Show	Character / Role	Impact
Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi (1984)	Played multiple comic roles	Made him a household name; first Indian sitcom to reach urban families.
Sarabhai vs Sarabhai (2004–2006, 2017)	<i>Indravardhan Sarabhai</i> – witty, mischievous patriarch	Became one of Indian television's most iconic comic characters; his humor defined middle-class satire.
Filmy Chakkar, Ghar Jamai, All The Best	Leading comic roles	Reinforced his status as the "Face of Indian Sitcoms" during the 1990s satellite TV boom.

Cinema Contributions

- **Notable Films:**

Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983), *Peechha Karo* (1986), *Hatim Tai* (1990), *Main Hoon Na* (2004), *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995), *Kal Ho Naa Ho* (2003).

- In *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*, Shah's portrayal of **Municipal Commissioner De Mello's corpse** became a timeless satire on corruption and bureaucracy — a role that turned absurdity into art.
 - Over four decades, he mastered physical, situational, and dark comedy — often through nuanced sarcasm and timing unmatched by his contemporaries.
-

Acting Style & Legacy

- Blended **intellect with instinct**, **irony with empathy**, and **satire with sensitivity**.
 - His humor, while effortless, was rooted in **keen observation of middle-class life** and **bureaucratic absurdities**.
 - **Improvisation**, a hallmark of his craft, made even the simplest dialogues memorable.
 - Whether in *DDLJ* as the genial uncle or in *Kal Ho Naa Ho* as Shah Rukh Khan's affectionate relative, Shah lent warmth and emotional depth to comedic settings.
-



TEJASHWI'S PROMISE
"Will scrap Waqf Act
if voted to power"
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ASIAN POPULATION
Japan seeks
workers from
India, but
people ties lag
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LOUVRE HEIST
French officials
arrest two suspects
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DATA POINT
Extraditions
to India
Most of them are
economic offenders:
analysis of RTI data
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PERFECT FINISH
Jones powers England
past New Zealand
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INSIDE



Cricketers told to
inform officials
when going out

BRIEF
Cricketers should inform the local administration or their team security officials when stepping out, Madhya Pradesh Minister Ranvijay Singh has said, days after two Australian women players were allegedly stalked and molested in Indore. » PAGE 8

Trump hikes U.S. tariffs on Canada by additional 10%

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was hiking tariffs on Canadian goods by an additional 10%, in the latest fallout over a Canadian auto-tariff act that featured late U.S. leader Ronald Reagan. » PAGE 14

Pakistan ties will not be at India's expense: Rubio

WASHINGTON
The U.S. sees an opportunity to expand its strategic relationship with Pakistan but it will not be at the expense of its historic and important ties with India, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said. » PAGE 8

CBI takes charge of probe into the Karur stampede

NEW DELHI
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the probe into the Karur stampede case, agency sources said on Sunday. A special CBI team has been pressed into action to gather evidence. » PAGE 5

'Motorcyclist involved in Kurnool bus tragedy was drunk and riding rashly'

HANDESH E. KURNOL

The motorcyclist involved in the bus tragedy in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, which left 19 passengers dead, was drunk, the police said on Sunday.
"The Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL), Kurnool, submitted its report confirming that the rider, B. Shiv Shankar, was drunk," Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil said. The report showed the vicers samples of the dead motorcyclist were alcohol traces, he added.
The private sleeper bus travelling to Bengaluru from Hyderabad caught fire after hitting the motorbike lying on the road in the early hours of Friday.



At least 19 people died and several others were injured in the accident.

Shiva Shankar of Kurnool had lost control over the two-wheeler that hit the divider, a while later, the bus hit the vehicle and caught fire, the police said.
CCTV footage from a nearby station showed Shankar, with his friend riding pillion, entering the bus around 2.25 a.m. on Friday and filling fuel for ₹500. Shankar then rode the motorcycle rashly and almost fell at one point before regaining balance. A few minutes later, Shankar hit the divider and fell, according to police.
The pillion rider reportedly told the police that he tried to remove the motorbike from the road, but the bus hit it and dragged it for a few metres.
The district administration handed over the bodies of 17 passengers to their family members after the Andhra Pradesh FZL released DNA test reports of 18 victims. Under the supervision of Collector A. Sri and Mr. Patil, the bodies were

handed over and sent in ambulances to the native places of the deceased. She said the passenger whose identity could not be ascertained initially as he did not have a pre-booked ticket was identified as Trimurthy. DNA samples of Trimurthy's family members were collected and the results were expected on Monday. Mr. Sri said the remaining two bodies would be handed over on Monday.
The Collector said the district administration had provided accommodation, transport and food to family members of the deceased who had come from other states. With inputs from *Rajula Sudha Ravi*

Goyal to visit Brussels as India-EU trade talks intensify

T.G.A. SHARAD BAHAYAN NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Brussels on October 27 and 28 to hold high-level discussions with his counterpart in the European Union (EU) to provide "strategic direction and political impetus" to the ongoing negotiations on a free trade agreement between India and the European Union.
At the same time, a delegation of the European Parliament Trade Committee will be in New Delhi from October 27 to 29.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 6

Festive theme



Early evening: A Chhatra Puga-themed mural in Pitha on Sunday. The four-day festival, dedicated to the sun god and Chhatra Maya, will conclude on Tuesday PM

Andhra Pradesh braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert for 23 districts

The Hindu Bureau VIZAG/RAJAHMUNDRAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu put the entire administrative machinery on high alert on Sunday as the India Meteorological Department issued red and orange alerts for 23 of the 26 districts in the State for Monday in view of Cyclone Moha.

During a teleconference with senior officials, Mr. Naidu reviewed the preparedness of all the departments. He instructed the officials to ensure there was no disruption to power, supply, telecom, connectivity, or any other essential service. The IMD said the deep depression over southeast India was likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Monday morning. Therefore, it was likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning and was very likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Rajahmundry on Sunday night. While crossing, the severe cyclonic storm could have a maximum wind speed of 90-100 kmph, the IMD said. The deep depression over southeast Bay of Bengal, formed at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday, moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 10-15 kmph. At 11.30 a.m. and by 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, it was likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast. According to the IMD, the deep depression was 780 km from southeast



Kakinada and 790 km from south-southeast of Visakhapatnam. An orange alert has been issued in the District Collector, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and South Odisha as that they could begin taking precautionary measures. Red alert, which indicates a possibility of extremely heavy rainfall, has been sounded for seven districts of Andhra Pradesh - SPBR Nellore, Prakasam, Rajahmundry, West Godavari, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema and Sakti.

The IMD has warned that the sea condition may be 'very rough' along and off the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coast on Monday. It would further worsen, becoming 'very rough' by Tuesday. According to the A.P. State Disaster Management Authority, nine State Disaster Response Force teams and seven National Disaster Response Force teams have been on high alert. It is the third severe cyclonic storm after Asani in 2022 and Michaung in 2021 to cross the A.P. coast.
Mr. Naidu ordered all departments to ensure there was no loss of life or property. "Information and alert systems must be kept fully operational to continuously update and warn people. Alerts should be sent through SMS, social media, IVRS (Interactive Voice Response) calls, and WhatsApp. Ensure that information from the village level reaches the State control room in real time," the Chief Minister said.
Mr. Naidu said State and national disaster response teams have already been deployed in the coastal districts, and that predictive models and real-time data were being used for accurate analysis. "All irrigation projects and reservoirs should be closely monitored for water levels, and corrective action taken immediately," he added.
The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, had forecast light to moderate rain at a few places, thunderstorm and lightning at one or two places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, and Puducherry. Heavy rain was forecast at places over Chennai, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Ramanathapuram, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, and Tiruvannamalai and Pudukkottai, it said.

India-ASEAN ties making steady progress: PM

He says the current century belongs to India and ASEAN, which represent a quarter of the globe | PM announces further deepening of relations in the domain of maritime security in the year 2026 | Modi promises that India will work for digital inclusion, and also resilient supply chains

Katibul Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

India-ASEAN strategic partnership has continued to prosper despite the prevailing "era of uncertainties", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.
Delivering his opening remarks virtually at the 22nd ASEAN-India summit being held in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Modi described ASEAN as a "cultural partner" of India, and announced further deepening of India-ASEAN cooperation in the domain of maritime security in 2026.

"Even in this era of uncertainties, India-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership has continued to make steady progress. And this strong partnership of ours is emerging as a robust foundation for global stability and development,"



ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

ment," the Prime Minister said in his remarks that were telecast to the summit.
"Shared values" Mr. Modi welcomed Timor-Leste as the newest member of ASEAN, and said India and ASEAN together represent one-fourth of the global population and the two



ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

sides were connected by "historical ties and shared values".
"The 21st century is our century, the century of India and ASEAN," he said. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is co-chairing the ASEAN-India summit, said India-ASEAN relationship was rooted in the "values of friendship, trust, and

Cong. targets PM as Trump repeats oil imports claim

NEW DELHI

Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated that India will cut down its imports of Russian oil "completely", the Congress criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying his "hugedomany" was not visible in Kuala Lumpur. » PAGE 6

shared interests

"Among the issues and matters discussed were efforts to finalise the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) and the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030 to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, education, food security and technological development," Mr.

Ibrahim said. He appreciated close ties between India and the ASEAN region in the fields of education, economy, and technology. He said, "The shared cultural heritage and 'people-to-people' ties between India and the ASEAN member-states."

While addressing the heads of governments of the ASEAN region, Mr. Modi conveyed his condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Thailand on the passing of the Queen Mother.
The ASEAN summit began on Sunday with the arrival of heads of the member-countries as well as

2026 would be declared "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation".
Mr. Modi mentioned the danger posed by terrorism and reminded the need for unity in fighting terror. "At the same time, we are steadily advancing our cooperation in education, tourism, science and technology, health, green energy, and cybersecurity," he said, highlighting the "shared cultural heritage" and "people-to-people" ties between India and the ASEAN member-states.
The ASEAN summit began on Sunday with the arrival of heads of the member-countries as well as

President Donald Trump of the United States. Ahead of the ASEAN summit, Mr. Modi had called Mr. Ibrahim on October 23 and informed him that he would deliver the speech at the summit virtually.
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation at Kuala Lumpur and he will lead the Indian delegation at the East Asia summit on Monday.
India's relations with the ASEAN member-states had received top level focus since January this year when Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto was hosted here as the guest of honour at the 76th Republic Day celebration. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Long visited India in September, and before that, Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited India in the first week of August.

India-ASEAN ties making steady progress: PM

He says the current century belongs to India and ASEAN, which represent a quarter of the globe

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Modi promises that India will work for digital inclusion, and also resilient supply chains

Kallol Bhattacharjee
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NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



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‘Shared values’

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“The 21st century is our century, the century of India and ASEAN,” he said.

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Cong. targets PM as Trump repeats oil imports claim

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“Among the issues and matters discussed were efforts to finalise the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030 to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, education, food security and technological development,” Mr.

Ibrahim said.

He appreciated close ties between India and the ASEAN region in the fields of education, economy, and culture.

Mr. Modi said the AITIGA could “unleash the full economic potential” of India-ASEAN relationship.

Humanitarian aid

Mr. Modi said India and the ASEAN member-states in Southeast Asia were “companions in the Global South”, and promised that India would work with the ASEAN countries to advance digital inclusion, food security, and resilient supply chains “amid global challenges”.

The Prime Minister referred to India’s active participation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities in the ASEAN region, and said that to deepen maritime relation between the two sides,

2026 would be declared “ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation”.

Mr. Modi mentioned the danger posed by terrorism and reminded the need for unity in fighting terror. “At the same time, we are steadily advancing our cooperation in education, tourism, science and technology, health, green energy, and cybersecurity,” he said, highlighting the “shared cultural heritage” and “people-to-people” ties between India and the ASEAN member-states.

While addressing the heads of governments of the ASEAN region, Mr. Modi conveyed his condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Thailand on the passing of the Queen Mother.

The ASEAN summit began on Sunday with the arrival of heads of the member-countries as well as

President Donald Trump of the United States. Ahead of the ASEAN summit, Mr. Modi had called Mr. Ibrahim on October 23 and informed him that he would deliver the speech at the summit virtually.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation at Kuala Lumpur and he will lead the Indian delegation at the East Asia summit on Monday.

India’s relations with the ASEAN member-states had received top level focus since January this year when Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto was hosted here as the guest of honour at the 76th Republic Day celebrations.

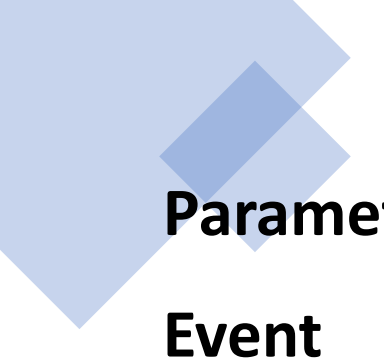
Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong visited India in September, and before that, Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited India in the first week of August.



Fiscal Year	Exports to ASEAN	Imports from ASEAN	Total Trade	Trade Balance (Exports - Imports)
2018-19	~ 37.47	~ 59.32	~ 96.80	~ -21.85
2019-20	~ 31.55	~ 55.37	~ 86.92	~ -23.82
2020-21	~ 31.49	~ 47.42	~ 78.90	~ -15.93
2021-22	~ 42.32	~ 68.08	~ 110.40	~ -25.76
2022-23	~ 44.00	~ 87.57	~ 131.57	~ -43.57



- 
- At the **22nd ASEAN-India Summit** held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** reaffirmed that the **India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** continues to make “steady progress” despite global uncertainties. He called ASEAN a “**cultural partner**” of **India** and emphasized deepening cooperation in **maritime security, education, technology, and resilient supply chains** by **2026**.
- 



Parameter

Event

Venue

Mode

Host

Indian Delegation Lead (on-site)

Key Theme

Upcoming Year Declared as

Details

22nd ASEAN-India Summit (2025)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

PM Modi addressed virtually

Malaysian PM **Anwar Ibrahim**

External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**

“Shared Values, Shared Future”

ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation – 2026



PM Modi's Key Messages

1. Robust Strategic Partnership

- Despite the "era of uncertainties", India-ASEAN relations remain a **pillar of stability and development** in the Indo-Pacific.
- ASEAN described as India's "*cultural and civilizational partner*".

2. Shared Values and Complementarity

- India and ASEAN together represent **one-fourth of the global population** and share **historical, cultural, and economic ties**.
- The **21st century**, Modi said, "*belongs to India and ASEAN*".

3. Economic & Trade Cooperation

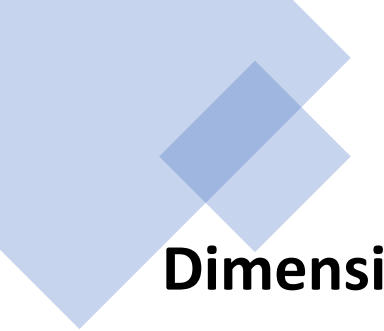
- India aims to **finalise the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** and implement the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030** to expand cooperation in:
 - Trade & investment
 - Food security
 - Technology
 - Green energy & digital economy

4. Humanitarian and People-to-People Linkages

- India to enhance cooperation in:
 - **Education, tourism, science & technology, health, cybersecurity, and disaster response.**
- Emphasis on "**people-to-people**" ties, a key element of India's *Act East Policy*.

5. Security & Maritime Cooperation

- India reaffirmed its support for a **free, open**  **and rules-based Indo-Pacific** aligned with **ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**.



Dimension

India's Strategic Interest



Geopolitical

Counterbalance to China's influence in Indo-Pacific.

Economic

Boost trade (currently ~\$110 billion); diversify supply chains.

Security

Collaborate on counter-terrorism, maritime patrols, and cyber resilience.

Cultural

Promote Buddhist and civilizational linkages.

Humanitarian

Disaster relief, pandemic response, and digital inclusion.



- **India–ASEAN Relations Overview**
- **Established:** 1992 (Sectoral Dialogue Partner)
- **Upgraded to Summit Level:** 2002
- **Strategic Partnership:** 2012
- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP):** 2022
- **Trade Target:** \$200 billion by 2030
- **Connectivity Projects:**
 - India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway
 - Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project
 - Digital and maritime connectivity initiatives





WHAT?

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation. It was established in 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).

MEMBERS

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, India participated in the 17th ASEAN-India Virtual Summit. The summit focused on measures to recover from the economic turmoil triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and ways to further broad-base strategic ties.

OTHERS

ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. It is India's 4th largest trading partner with about USD 86.9 billion in trade.

ASEAN Member Countries



MYANMAR



LAOS



PHILIPPINES



THAILAND



VIETNAM



CAMBODIA



SINGAPORE



MALAYSIA



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



INDONESIA



IN BRIEF

Indrapuram, Chazhathur, Uthirapatti



Murmugha inaugurates Yashoda Medcity in Chazhathur

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Yashoda Medcity, a private hospital, at Indrapuram in Chazhathur on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, P.N. Arora, chairman, Yashoda Medcity and Yashoda Group of Hospitals, said the healthcare facility was among North India's most advanced and sustainable multi-specialty healthcare destinations. Other dignitaries included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel. Yashoda Medcity, with a capacity of 1,200 beds, offers over 65 specialities.

Film and TV personalities pay tribute to actor Satish Shah

Family members, friends, and colleagues from the film and television industry paid a heartfelt tribute to actor Satish Shah, who was cremated here on Sunday. Industry veterans Naseeruddin Shah and wife Ratna Pathak Shah, who was also Mr. Satish Shah's co-star in *Sarfarosh* or *Sarfarosh*, other actors from the fan-favourite show, and members of the film fraternity attended the final farewell. Shah passed away at the age of 74 following a kidney ailment. He is survived by wife, Madhu Shah. The last rites were conducted by Shah's personal assistant Ramesh Kadatala at a crematorium in Vile Parle. The actor's friends and colleagues, Pankaj Kapur, Supriya Pathak, Swaroop Sampat, and Suresh Oberoi, were also present.

Prepare for Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in November, Centre tells States

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the fifth Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15, which will mark the end of tribal icon Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, the Union government has written to the States, including Jharkhand, Bihar, and Union Territories, asking them to "must organise" commemorative events at the State and district levels from November 1 to 15.

In a letter sent to the Principal Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments in the States and Union Territories last week, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said that since November 15 marked the end of Birsa's 150th birth anniversary year, "all the States/UTs must participate in celebrating" the occasion.

"However, States where



Tribal artists performing traditional dance during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas programme in Bhopal in 2021. A.P. Sinha

the model code of conduct is in force are being requested to celebrate the day as adhering to the MOC."

The letter asked the States and Union Territories to "actively participate" in "transfiguration or hereditarily dispirited targeting of tribal population, launch of tribal-focused schemes, capacity building and highlighting government schemes such as PM-JAN

MAN, Dharati Aba Janjatiya Gran Utkarsh Abhiyan, and Aikarmayog Abhiyan.

The letter said that for the national-level event at this year's Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected, and the letter requested of 25 States and Union Territories, excluding Bihar.

In the suggested activities

annexed with the Tribal Affairs Ministry's letter, the government has recommended the display of "Tribal Village Vision 2030" documents prepared under the Aikarmayog scheme, interactions of state VIPs with PM-JANMAN beneficiaries, and painting exhibitions of artworks by students of tribal schools for tribal students. The list also recommends events like Aikarmayog products made by Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, self-help groups, and tribal artisans.

The government has also suggested that the States and Union Territories hold campaigns for saturation of individual settlements and contests in schools, colleges, to celebrate tribal heritage, in addition to arranging health awareness campaigns through Mobile Medical Units.

Subashini Haidar
TOKYO

Since 1981, when Suzuki Motor Corporation set up a factory in India to manufacture the Maruti car, the Japanese company has been a keyword for bilateral ties. Kenji Aoyama, executive vice-president and chief global marketing officer, who headed Maruti Suzuki operations in India from 2003 to 2022, says:

Suzuki was among the first to bring Japanese engineers to India to stream-line processes and train Indian workers to build the car. With both New Delhi and Tokyo seeking solutions to Japan's ageing population and India's burgeoning youth population, the company is now reversing that trend.

"India is now trying to invite a lot of Indians to Japan, training them and helping them develop technology in Japan," Mr. Aoyama said, accompanied by Indian scholar and Suzuki executive Chandrabhaskar. Ms. Sarkar first came to Japan to study at Keio University and has been working on India operations at Suzuki's Hamamatsu headquarters, about 250 km from Tokyo, since 2015 to 2019. "It is important that we change the mindset of Indian youth that Japan is a special language barrier, but it is not a barrier," she said, noting that the current number of Indians studying in Japan is far below its potential.



Last month, Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue higher education. Only about 1,500 Indian students are currently registered in Japan, says

matu headquarters, about 250 km from Tokyo, since 2015 to 2019. "It is important that we change the mindset of Indian youth that Japan is a special language barrier, but it is not a barrier," she said, noting that the current number of Indians studying in Japan is far below its potential.

Japan opens doors
According to a parliamentary response from the Indian Ministry of Education last year, Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue higher

education (HRD), and Japan's Ambassador to India from Andaman Islands is currently registered in Japan, says a small fraction of more than 3.3 lakh foreign students in the country. The broader challenge is a skills gap, noting that the current number of Indians studying in Japan is far below its potential.

Japan opens doors
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Japan opens doors
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Modi and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in August. The plan aims to facilitate five lakh workforce exchanges over the next five years, including the movement of 50,000 skilled personnel from India to Japan.

Officials in the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs point to the "perfect complementarity" between the two countries. Japan, with one-third of its population over the age of 65, requires a workforce, academics for research, and a market for its goods. India, with 65% of its 1.4 billion population under 35, faces rising pressure to create opportunities for its youth and stricter immigration policies in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and Chinese restrictions on high-tech and semiconductor exports.

Despite decades of growing government-to-government and business-to-business ties, the officials said, people-to-people connections between India and Japan continue to be weak.

(The correspondent is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Satellite for armed forces to be launched next week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch military communications satellite CMS-03 on November 2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The CMS-03 communications satellite, also known as GSAT-7A, will be launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LV-M3).

Heavy satellite
"CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass. CMS-03, weighing about 4,400 kg, will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil," the ISRO said on Sunday.

The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft, and has been moved to the launch pad on Sunday for further pre-launch operations, it added.

The launch of CMS-03 will be the first by the LV-M3 rocket in over two years. The last time the rocket was deployed was in July 2023 to launch the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission from Sriharikota.

Piyush Goyal to visit Brussels today as India-EU trade talks intensify

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Brussels on October 27 and 28 to hold high-level discussions with the European Union (EU) to provide "strategic direction and political impetus" to a free trade agreement between India and the European Union.

At the same time, a delegation of the European Parliament Trade Committee will be in New Delhi from October 27 to 28 to enhance "mutual understanding and intensive trade negotiations" between the EU and India.



Piyush Goyal

Vice-President and European Commissioner for Trade of the European Union, comes at a "crucial stage" in the negotiations.

"Will cover key areas"
"Building on the momentum generated by the 14th round of negotiations held earlier this month, the Minister's visit aims to provide a strategic direction and political impetus to the talks," the Ministry said in a release.

to cover key areas of the proposed FTA, including market access, non-trade measures, and regulatory cooperation." The release added, "The visit will also serve to review progress achieved so far and to identify areas requiring further convergence."

Mr. Goyal will hold a bilateral meeting with Mr. Sauter, which will be followed by a working dinner. This will not be considered a formal round of negotiations, but a continuation of discussions.

The *Hindu*, on October 16, reported that while discussions were ongoing between India and the EU, the next formal round of negotiations had not yet been finalised as the issues held up the talks required continuous communication rather than waiting for a formal round.

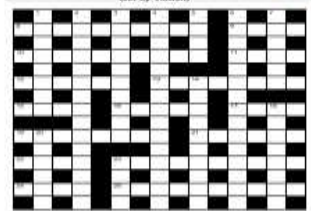
market access, regulatory cooperation and agricultural sensitivities.

The delegation of the Trade Committee will include seven members of the European Parliament, according to a press release issued by the European Parliament.

"The main objective of this visit is to contribute to increasing our mutual understanding and intensive trade negotiations between the EU and India," the co-heads of delegation from India, Mr. Ramesh Chandra Prasad, said in a joint statement.

"The minutes is expected to be finalised a few months ahead of the deadline to conclude negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025."

During their visit to India, the delegation will meet a variety of stakeholders.

CROSSWORD 14623
(Set by Vidwan)

Across

- 8 Spooner's blending alternate for a cocktail (8,4)
- 9 Bare element for God of the widows (4)
- 10 Real at once! Difficult for women (10)
- 11 Love cannot measure (8)
- 12 Dancer was complicated, like a puzzle (8)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://www.india.com/crossword>

- 13 Young few jiggles, gets in line occasionally (8)
- 15 Wrong return? Hunt (4)
- 16 Cell where the two, together welcomed love (5)
- 17 Every pain in the end comes to the fore (4)
- 18 A very loud score reaching inwardly towards the core (8)
- 21 Agitating over European Union works, totally! (6)
- 22 Unwritten unboundaries (10)
- 23 Oscar admits a case of subterfuge (10)
- 24 Phil's cold circle (4)
- 25 Tell about new English royal's unexpected meeting (10)
- Downs
- 1 More sticky like power and lust! That is right! (8)
- 2 Technical task! Go rushing! As fast as possible (7,3,5)
- 3 Lost without direct, like went at a blind, that is something beyond comprehension (10)
- 4 Measure of pollution by a person or vehicle, good base to record on paper (8,3)
- 5 Bits found in twisted safety belts (4)
- 6 Fitting in elusive clue on a French culinary style (8,7)
- 7 Substitute fitter getting sick (6,2)
- 14 Most choose fancy look over piece of basic student literature (10)
- 15 Song about purpose of cowboy belt (8)
- 20 Ben because of command (10)
- 21 Antipodes are distributed after end of tails (8)

SUDOKU



Solutions to previous puzzle



FAITH

Tiruchendur Murugan

Tiruchendur's Subramanyya Swamy temple, one of the six famous abodes of Muruga, is celebrated in ancient Tamil works, including Skandapurana, Agastya's Purananthi. Scholars say this temple finds mention in the Ramayana as well. Dating back centuries, this temple which attracts devotees round the year, has witnessed the patronage of various powerful kings, including the Pandavas, the Nayakas, the princely Travancore state, apart from a number of revered saints. The great Adi Sankara came to this temple, seeking to be cured of his illness and rendered his moving words, Subramanyya Bhajaganam, said P. Swaminathan.

The legend of Tiruchendur Subramanyya (Murugan), chronicling the fall of the powerful asura Soorapadman at the hands of Murugan, whose army included the nine warriors, is well known. This event, underscoring the outcome of failure to lead a dharmic life despite being pious, is celebrated as Soorasaaharanam, among devotees across the world.

Unlike the other famous abodes of Murugan which are on hills, this temple, where the deity is also known as Teri thandavar, is situated on the seashore. However, it is believed there was once a hillside thick with sandalwood trees, eroded by the vicissitudes of time. Historically, this place was called Kandhamadhaparavadam (Kandham means sandalwood and paravadam, a hillside). The Kanda Purana says Veerabahu stood on top of the Kandhamadhaparavadam hill and worshipped Murugan before facing his opponent, Asura. After Murugan defeated Soorapadman, he prayed to live at this situation, in order to expiate the sin of killing.

Satellite for armed forces to be launched next week

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch military communications satellite CMS-03 on November 2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The CMS-03 communication satellite, also known as GSAT-7R, will be launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3).

Heavy satellite

"CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian land-mass. CMS-03, weighing about 4,400 kg, will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil," the ISRO said on Sunday.

The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft, and has been moved to the launch pad on Sunday for further pre-launch operations, it added.

The launch of CMS-03 will be the first by the LVM3 rocket in over two years. The last time the rocket was deployed was in July 2023 to launch the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission from Sriharikota.

-
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to launch a new **military communications satellite — CMS-03 (GSAT-7R)** — on **November 2, 2025**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

The launch will mark a significant boost to India's **defence communication network** and the **first deployment of the LVM3 rocket** since the Chandrayaan-3 mission in **July 2023**.

-

Parameter**Details****Satellite Name**

CMS-03 (also known as GSAT-7R)

Mission Type

Military communication satellite

Launch Vehicle

LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3)

Launch Site

Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

Launch Date

November 2, 2025

Orbit Type

Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)

Satellite Weight

~4,400 kg (one of India's heaviest communication satellites)

Coverage

Indian landmass + wide oceanic region

Primary ObjectiveSecure, multi-band communication support for India's armed forces

About CMS-03 (GSAT-7R)

- **Purpose:**

Designed to enhance **real-time, secure communication** among the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**, and other strategic defence users.

- **Features:**

- Multi-band transponders (UHF, S-band, C-band, and Ku-band).
- Extended coverage across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** — vital for **naval operations**.
- Improved **encryption, redundancy, and data throughput** for secure military communications.

- **Significance:**

- Serves as the **successor to GSAT-7A and GSAT-7B series**, which currently serve the IAF and Navy.
- Enhances **network-centric warfare capabilities** — enabling seamless coordination between sea, air, and land forces.
- Reduces dependence on foreign satellites for strategic communication.

Strategic Importance

Defence Communications Backbone:

Provides dedicated, encrypted communication channels for the armed forces.

Maritime Security:

Expands surveillance and coordination capability across the **Indian Ocean Region**, crucial for India's naval dominance.

Space-Based Command Systems:

Supports integrated command operations, joint military exercises, and emergency responses.

Indigenisation:

Reinforces India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision in defence technology.

Japan seeks Indian workers but people-to-people ties lag

Japan, with one-third of its population over the age of 65, requires a workforce, academics for research, and a market for its goods, while India, with 65% of its 1.4 billion population under 35, faces rising pressure to create opportunities for its youth

Suhasini Haidar
TOKYO

Since 1981, when Suzuki Motor Corporation set up a factory in India to manufacture the Maruti car, the Japanese company has been a byword for bilateral ties, Ken-ichi Ayukawa, executive vice-president and chief global marketing officer, who headed Maruti Suzuki operations in India from 2013 to 2022, says.

Suzuki was among the first to bring Japanese engineers to India to streamline processes and train Indian workers to build the car. With both New Delhi and Tokyo seeking solutions to Japan's ageing population and India's burgeoning youth population, the company is now reversing that trend.

"Suzuki is now trying to invite a lot of Indians to Japan, training them and helping them develop technology in Japan," Mr. Ayukawa said, accompanied by Indian scholar and Suzuki executive Chandrali Sarkar. Ms. Sarkar first came to Japan to study at Keio University and has been working on India operations at Suzuki's Hama-



Low numbers: Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue higher education. Only about 1,500 Indian students are currently registered in Japan. AFP

matsu headquarters, about 250 km from Tokyo, since 2022. She noted that while some hesitation among Indians stems from limited Japanese language skills, the broader challenge is unfamiliarity with Japan.

"Japan should know more about India and vice versa. Especially the next generation needs to connect, and we need more Indian students, engineers, professionals to come to Japan," said Kenji Hiramatsu, Chairman of the Institute for International Strategy at The Japan Research In-

stitute (JRI), and Japan's Ambassador to India from 2015 to 2019. "It is important that we change the mindset of Indian youth that Japan is a special partner for India," he added, noting that the current number of Indians studying in Japan is far below its potential.

Japan opens doors

According to a parliamentary response from the Indian Ministry of Education last year, Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue high-

er education. Only about 1,500 Indian students are currently registered in Japan, a small fraction of more than 3.3 lakh foreign students in the country. Employment figures are similarly modest: about 54,000 Indians work in Japan, one-fourth of the 2.3 lakh Nepali citizens among a total of 23 lakh foreign workers.

To address this shortfall, Japan is preparing to open its doors to thousands like Ms. Sarkar under an "Action Plan" launched by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and former Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in August. The plan aims to facilitate five lakh workforce exchanges over the next five years, including the movement of 50,000 skilled personnel from India to Japan.

Officials in the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs point to the "perfect complementarity" between the two countries. Japan, with one-third of its population over the age of 65, requires a workforce, academics for research, and a market for its goods. India, with 65% of its 1.4 billion population under 35, faces rising pressure to create opportunities for its youth amid stricter immigration policies in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and Chinese restrictions on high-tech and semiconductor exports.

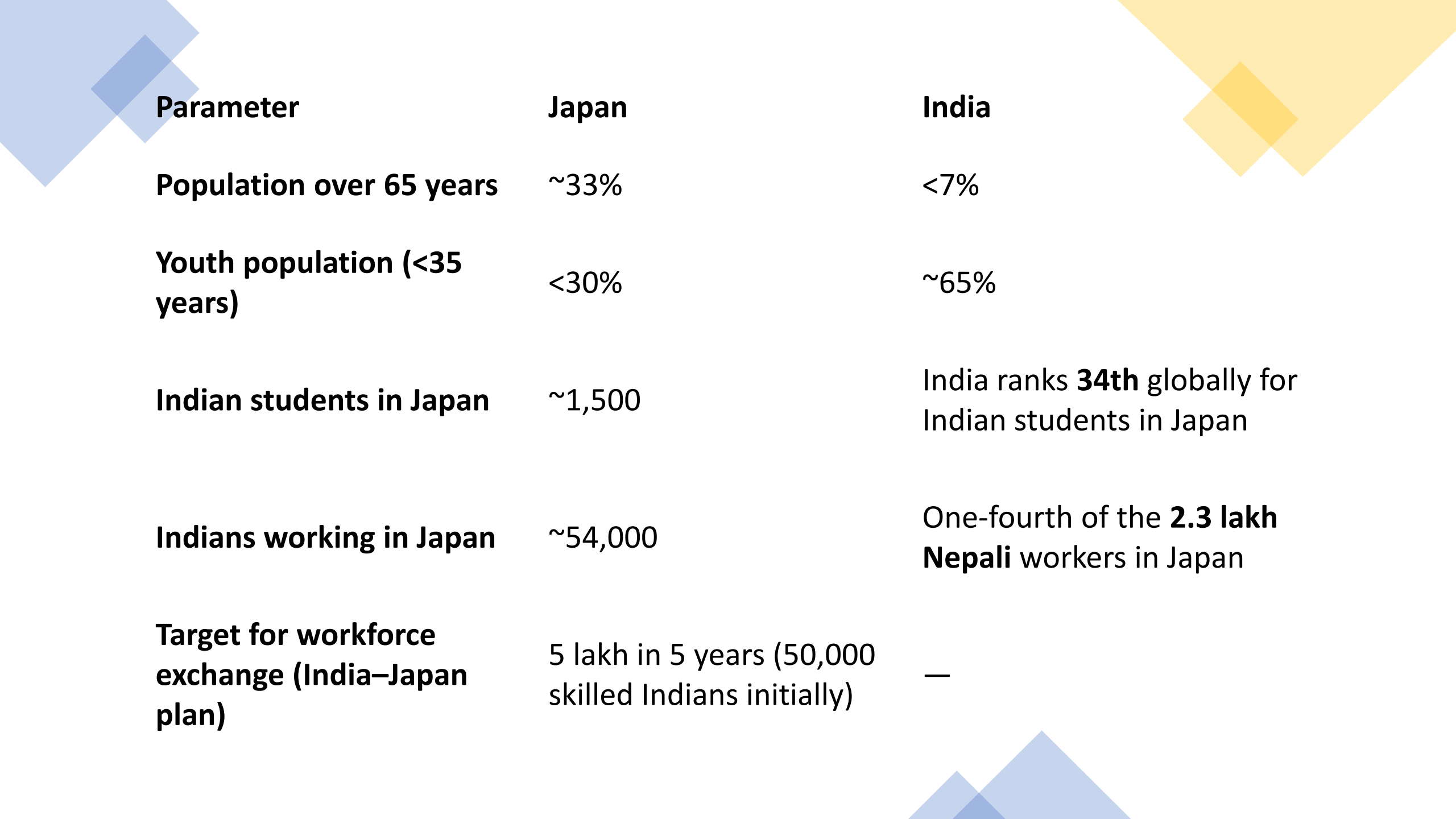
Despite decades of growing government-to-government and business-to-business ties, the officials said, people-to-people connections between India and Japan continue to lag.

(The correspondent is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

-
- Japan is facing an **acute labour shortage** due to its **aging population** — with **one-third of its citizens over the age of 65**.

India, on the other hand, with **65% of its 1.4 billion people under 35**, is under pressure to generate employment for its youth.

Despite this “**perfect demographic complementarity**”, **people-to-people ties between India and Japan remain weak**.



Parameter

Japan

India

Population over 65 years

~33%

<7%

Youth population (<35 years)

<30%

~65%

Indian students in Japan

~1,500

India ranks **34th** globally for Indian students in Japan

Indians working in Japan

~54,000

One-fourth of the **2.3 lakh Nepali** workers in Japan

Target for workforce exchange (India-Japan plan)

5 lakh in 5 years (50,000 skilled Indians initially)

—

- **Historical Background**

- **Since 1981**, Japan's presence in India has been symbolised by **Suzuki Motor Corporation**, which set up the **Maruti factory**.
- Japanese executives like **Kenichi Ayukawa** (Maruti Suzuki) highlight that Indo-Japanese cooperation has matured — from manufacturing to technology and now **workforce mobility**.
- However, Japanese employers still find **Indian workforce integration slow** due to **language barriers, limited awareness, and few structured exchanges**.

Aspect

Key Data / Highlights

Source

Trade (FY 2023-24 / FY 2024-25)

Total bilateral trade approx **US\$ 22.85 billion** in FY 2023-24. For FY 2024-25, ~US\$ 25.17 billion. India's exports to Japan ~US\$ 6.25 billion; imports from Japan ~US\$ 18.92 billion.

([India Brand Equity Foundation](#))

Trade share & ranking

In 2021: India was the 18th largest trading partner of Japan; Japan was the 13th largest trading partner of India. Japan is among the top investors in India.

([Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#))

Japanese investment in India

Over 1,400 Japanese companies have operational presence in India (2021 figure). Japan was India's 5th largest investor in FY 2021.

([Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#))

Strategic & sectoral cooperation

The two countries have a "Special Strategic & Global Partnership". Collaborations include: semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy, ICT, resilient supply chains. Launched India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security (Nov 2024).

([MEA India](#))

Key exports & imports (2024)

Imports by India from Japan: nuclear reactors/boilers (~US\$ 3.31 billion), electrical machinery/equipment (~US\$ 2.01 billion) etc. Exports from India to Japan: engineering goods (~US\$ 2.44 billion), chemicals (~US\$ 1.06 billion), marine products, electronic goods etc.

([India Brand Equity Foundation](#))

Key Issues Highlighted

1. Low Mobility of Indian Workforce

- Japan's strict immigration policies and language requirements discourage skilled Indian professionals.
- Indian workforce participation is far below Japan's needs despite numerous **bilateral agreements**.

2. Weak Educational Exchange

- Only **1,500 Indian students** study in Japan (2025), compared to **33,000 Chinese** and **8,000 Vietnamese**.
- India ranks **34th** in number of students in Japan — reflecting the lack of institutional collaboration and scholarships.

3. Cultural & Language Barriers

- Indian youth are unfamiliar with Japanese work culture and language.
- Employers hesitate to hire foreigners who cannot integrate easily into Japan's homogenous corporate ecosystem.

4. Underutilised Bilateral Potential

- Despite decades of cooperation in industry and technology, **people-to-people links** lag far behind **government-to-government (G2G)** and **business-to-business (B2B)** collaborations.

Recent Initiatives

1. India–Japan “Future Talent Partnership Plan”

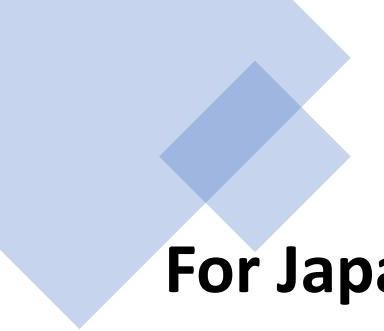
- Announced by **PM Narendra Modi** and **former Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba (2024)**.
- Aims to:
 - Facilitate **5 lakh workforce exchanges** in 5 years.
 - Initially move **50,000 skilled Indian personnel** to Japan.
 - Strengthen mutual recognition of skills under the **Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)** and **Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)** scheme.

2. Japanese Language & Skill Centres in India

- Set up with Japanese funding to train Indians in workplace Japanese.
- Focus on **IT, engineering, caregiving, and manufacturing** sectors.

3. Indian Scholars & Institutes

- Efforts by individuals like **Kenji Hiramatsu (former Japanese Ambassador)** and **Chandrali Sarkar (Keio University)** have improved academic and youth exchange visibility.



For Japan

Needs **skilled workers** to sustain economic output and care for aging population.

Requires foreign students to sustain research and innovation.

Wants to diversify supply chains and workforce beyond China & ASEAN.



For India

Seeks **overseas employment** opportunities for its youth amid domestic job pressure.

Can leverage Japan's advanced technology ecosystem and stable employment environment.

Opportunity to deepen engagement with a strategic Indo-Pacific partner.



- **Challenges**

- Stringent **visa and residency regulations** in Japan.
- **Cultural conservatism** and limited English-speaking environment.
- India's **lack of awareness** about Japanese universities and job pathways.
- Weak promotion of **student and labour mobility agreements**.

-
- **Way Forward**
 - **Institutionalising Mobility Frameworks**
 - Fast-track **mutual recognition of skills**, credentials, and professional qualifications.
 - **Language Integration**
 - Expand Japanese language training through NEP 2020's foreign language hubs.
 - **Higher Education Partnerships**
 - Create Indo-Japan research universities and dual-degree programmes.
 - **Youth Awareness Drives**
 - Campaigns to promote Japan as a study-and-work destination among Indian graduates.
 - **Cultural Diplomacy**
 - Use “soft diplomacy” tools — anime, cuisine, arts, and tourism — to build familiarity among youth.



People hold portraits of Sirikit, ahead of the transfer of her body to the Grand Palace in Bangkok on Sunday. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

Year-long funeral begins for former Thai queen Sirikit

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thousands of grieving Thai royalists lined the streets of Bangkok on Sunday, saluting a procession bringing former queen Sirikit's body to lie in state for a year-long funeral at the Grand Palace.

Members of the royal family are venerated in Thailand, treated by many as semi-divine figures, and lavished with glowing media coverage and gold-adorned portraits hanging in public spaces and private homes nationwide.

Former queen Sirikit, the mother of the current king Vajiralongkorn and wife of the longest reigning monarch, died on Friday at the age of 93. Her body was carried in a slow-moving ambulance from Chulalongkorn Hospital late on Sunday afternoon, flanked by motorcycle outsiders on a 10-km procession to the Grand Palace.

Crowds of nurses clasped their hands and bowed as the convoy passed, while other spectators cheered portraits of the queen or wept as ranks of saluting police officers fell to one knee. "I want to send her back home to the land of her last journey, as one of her children — as a Thai who loves and respects her," 86-year-old Buranham Kongsawat said. The former queen's body will lie in state at the seat of the Thai royalty for one year before cremation.

Throughout her 66-year marriage to king Bhumibol Adulyadej, Sirikit carved a reputation as a glamorous fashionista and the nation's caring mother figure.

Sirikit "suffered several illnesses" and was hospitalized, since 1999, including a blood infection this month, the palace said in a statement.

In Thailand, she was well referred to as the "mother of the nation" and her birthday was designated as the country's Mother's Day.

Thousands gather in Germany to revive once-silenced Yiddish

The language, which had more than 10 million speakers before the Holocaust, is classified as endangered by the UNESCO. At a recent festival, several people flocked to Weimar to celebrate the culture with workshops, cabarets, circus and other events

Agence France-Presse
WEIMAR

A push to revitalize Yiddish and its cultural traditions has gained momentum in Germany, the very place where the Nazi regime's Holocaust sought to eradicate the Jewish communities who spoke it.

Thousands flocked to the city of Weimar for a recent festival that celebrated the linguistic tradition with workshops, cabaret performances and even heart-stopping circus acrobatics.

Musical offerings ranged from traditional klezmer performances on violin and accordion evoking the Central Europe of old times to more modern shows, including psychedelic Yiddish songs by Ashkenazi Jews.

Yiddish, the language spoken by Ashkenazi Jews across Europe before the Holocaust, is now perhaps best known to many English speakers through the words of such authors as Sholem Aleichem and Chaim Potkin.

Over the past decade Weimar has become the heartland of the far-right and anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

But the festivities, which drew visitors and artists from as far as the United States, Ukraine and Austria, ended with a call from the event's artistic director, Alan Bern, to protest a "diverse society" spanning



Rhythms of vitality: Members of the Tzfat Orchestra musical circus perform in Weimar's Plaza des Demokratie square in eastern Germany as part of the Yiddish Summer Weimar festival. **AP**

many parts of the world.

At a recent performance in Weimar's Market square, Bern reminded the audience that "we are standing on a square where fascism was once celebrated". "Here we are — and, until now, they are not here," Mr. Bern said to enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

After an open-air Yiddish sing-along, Jan Wagner, a 35-year-old teacher, said the community got together was "fond for the soul". Other festival-goers joined hands in a circle for a folk dance.

Loss and assimilation

Before the Second World War there were estimated to be more than 10 million speakers of Yiddish globally.

Large numbers perished in the Holocaust, yet even immediately after the war,

Yiddish was the pre-eminent language among the Jewish Jews.

Over the second half of the 20th century the number of speakers dwindled further. That was due in part to assimilation of the Ashkenazi population — forced and otherwise — in the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Israel, where Hebrew is the official language.

Today, there are fewer than a million people who speak Yiddish in their daily lives, overwhelmingly in ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities.

UNESCO classifies it as an endangered language in Germany and throughout its former sphere of influence in Europe — from the United Kingdom to Russia and from Scandinavia to Italy — as well as in Israel.

'Danger of nostalgia'

Born, for a time in the early 20th century, was a haven for Yiddish writers and artists, said poet and

activist Jake Schneider. "It was absolutely essential to go to Berlin if you wanted to see and be seen," said Mr. Schneider.

Today, the city has once again become one of the most important centres of secular Yiddish life.

Its longstanding arts scene and anarchic energy feed into vibrant pop-up art exhibitions, Yiddish open mic nights and dance parties.

Mr. Schneider said he and many of those active in the Yiddish cultural scene are alive to the "danger of becoming really wrapped in a ball of nostalgia and whiffling".

Instead, the language has become a way for them to discuss Jewish identity and politics today.

In Weimar, one of the best known musicians working in Yiddish, Daniel Katch, said he was the topic of militant group Hamas' October 7 attacks on Israel.

Yiddish emerged around 1,000 years ago from the German spoken in that period, and the two languages still share many words in common.

Even today, "for people who have German as a first language, it's fairly easy to understand," said 66-year-old retired actor and festival attendee Salome Lutz.

As Mr. Kahn told the audience, Yiddish language and culture, with their centuries-old traditions, are alive in a way "confronting the present and even the future".

The Dutch face a crowded field with 27 parties, 1,166 candidates on the ballot

Associated Press
THE HAGUE

Dutch voters in Wednesday's general election are spoiled for choice.

The country's electoral commission has registered no fewer than 27 parties and 1,166 candidates vying for the 150 seats up for grabs in the House of Representatives.

That means a big ballot paper because it bears the names of all the parties and the candidates on each party's list. The result is a ruffled paper as voters wrangle big ballots and use a small red pencil to mark their choice, before folding up the paper and spearing it through a slot in the ballot box.

When polling booths close, vote counts around the country have to unfold the sheets all over again to tally the results.

The unwieldy sheet has become such an issue that this year, five municipalities are experimenting with streamlined smaller ballot papers. They include a list of parties and numbers, while candidate names and titles are on a separate paper in



Setting outreach: Dutch party leader Nienke Berdenbach hands out ballot sausage rolls as part of his poll campaign, in Den Bosch, Apr.

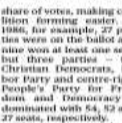
share of votes, making coalition forming easier.

In 1996, for example, 27 parties were on the ballot and nine won at least one seat, but three parties — the Christian Democrats, Labor Party and centre-right People's Party for Freedom — dominated with 64, 52 and 27 seats, respectively.

This year's vote looks close, according to polls, with the far-right Party for Freedom led by anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders on course to win for the second successive election.

But centre-left and centre-right parties are also in contention.

All a party needs to do to get on the ballot is pay a deposit of 11,250 euros (\$13,077) and collect 380 declarations of support.



Rhythms of vitality: Members of the Tzfat Orchestra musical circus perform in Weimar's Plaza des Demokratie square in eastern Germany as part of the Yiddish Summer Weimar festival. **AP**

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Digging up graves



Alleged spectacles: Children watch as Egyptian machinery and workers search for the bodies of hostages at Hamad City in Phnom Penh in the southern Sraa Strip on Sunday. **AP**

New Colosseum chief rules out rave parties at Rome's ancient amphitheatre

Associated Press
ROME

The man who just took charge of Rome's top tourist attraction wants to set the record straight: the Colosseum will not be hosting any electronic dance music parties on his watch.

Simone Quilici, director of the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, shared his plan to bring concerts to the almost 2,000-year-old amphitheatre in an interview with an Italian newspaper earlier this month. And social media proceeded to do what it all too often does: "Massive raves were imminent", multiple accounts reported alongside AI-generated images of multicolored light beams shooting from the arena into the heavens.

Mr. Quilici said that he heard complaints from archaeologists and restorers that the Colosseum, which was designated a world heritage site in 1980, could be so degraded.

Even electronic music fans expressed concern about the damage to the amphitheatre's historic base that would result from an ancient structure that continues yielding new wonders, like the almost 2,000-year-old underground passage that opens today.

'Sacred space'

Comments must respect the Colosseum as a "sacred space", Mr. Quilici said, as it was integral to Roman society, and its restoration is infused with religious significance. Today, it is the site of the Via Crucis Way of the Cross procession

during Easter, traditionally presided over by the pope. "The music must be carefully controlled. I mentioned certain artists — not by accident — who haven't been 'rock' for some time, who play calm music and attract a calm audience, because the important thing is that it's not a wild crowd," Mr. Quilici, 68, said on Friday in his first interview with foreign media since taking over on October 20.

Comments could be acerbic or jaded, he said, referring to it as an example. "The amphitheatre is a host poetry readings, dance performances and theatrical productions on the existing small platform is expanded. Also in the plans, historical re-enactments of gladiatorial bat-



The Colosseum had about nine million visitors last year, up from seven million the year before, as per data provided by the park.

ties rooted in academic research.

"There are people who have extremely knowledgeable about daily life in past eras, with a remarkable level of academic knowledge. In these activities are very welcome within the Colosseum park," Mr. Quilici said. He stressed that such

Only a handful of concerts have taken place within the Colosseum over the years, including Ray Charles in 2002. Paul McCartney in 2003 and Andrea Bocelli in 2005. All were billed as special events and audience members were severely restricted.

Commercial tourism

"Unfortunately, as everyone knows, tourism is a commercial activity — an industry that does not always connect with culture," he said. "Bringing the Colosseum back to life would enrich this place, making it not only a place to visit, but also a place where one can experience and enjoy artistic events."

The Colosseum had almost 9 million visitors last

year, up from 7 million the year before, according to data provided by the park. Even in October, well outside the high tourist season of summer, the place was packed. That's partly due to the Vatican's jubilee year, held once every 50 years, which continues to draw large groups of pilgrims. It's also because the Colosseum is one of just two sites at maximum capacity, Mr. Quilici said.

The park has the other great ambition for its future: inducing tourists to visit the park as well as connecting with others to better understand the growth and establish one consolidated area for exploration.

Bhutan gears up for Global Peace Prayer Festival

Rajul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Bhutan's capital, Thimphu, is gearing up for a fortnight-long spiritual festival to pray for world peace and the healing of humanity.

The Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF), from November 4 to 19, organised by the Royal Government of Bhutan, is expected to bring together eminent lamas or monks from all schools of Buddhism in Bhutan and beyond. The festival seeks to usher in a "shared golden age of peace and prosperity" in a world increasingly characterised by conflict, polarisation, and discord.

The GPPF has attained significance in the context of conflicts and instability in Bhutan's neighbourhood — ethnic and communal clashes in India's north-eastern region, civil war in Myanmar, and violent protests in Bangladesh and Nepal to overthrow governments.

"We live in a time when the need for peace, compassion, and understanding is more than ever. It is with this spirit that we are honoured to host the GPPF," Tenzin Tobgay, Bhutan's Prime Minister, said.

One of the highlights of the festival will be the "Gelongma" or Tibetan Buddhist ordination of more than 280 Buddhist nuns from November 15 to 19. The ordination will be presided over by the spiritual head of Bhutan's largest Buddhist school, the Drukpa Kagyu.

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"We live in a time when the need for peace, compassion, and understanding has never been greater. It is with this spirit that we are honoured to host the GPPF," Tshering Tobgay, Bhutan's Prime Minister, said.

One of the highlights of the festival will be the 'Gelongma' or bhikshuni ordination of more than 250 Buddhist nuns from November 15 to 19. The ordination will be presided over by the spiritual head of Bhutan's largest Buddhist school, the Drugpa Kagyu.

- 
- Bhutan's capital, **Thimphu**, is preparing to host the **Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF)** from **November 4–19, 2025**.

The event is aimed at promoting **world peace, spiritual healing, and human compassion** at a time of rising global conflict and polarization.



Parameter

Event Name

Dates

Venue

Organised by

Main Objective

Participants

Theme

Chief Host

Details

Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF)

November 4–19, 2025

Thimphu, Bhutan

Royal Government of Bhutan

To pray for world peace, healing, and spiritual unity

Eminent lamas and monks from all schools of Buddhism in Bhutan and neighbouring countries

“Shared golden age of peace and prosperity”

Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan



- **About the Festival**

- The **GPPF** is a **fortnight-long spiritual and interfaith event** that brings together monks, scholars, and practitioners from multiple **Buddhist traditions** (Drukpa Kagyu, Nyingma, Sakya, Gelug, etc.).
- The purpose is to promote **compassion, coexistence, and harmony** in a world troubled by violence and social fragmentation.
- It will serve as a **platform for dialogue and collective meditation** on healing global divisions.
-

- **Regional Significance**

- The festival gains importance amid ongoing instability in Bhutan's immediate neighbourhood:
- **India's Northeastern States:** Ethnic and communal tensions.
- **Myanmar:** Continuing civil war and humanitarian crisis.
- **Bangladesh & Nepal:** Periodic political unrest and violent protests.
- By hosting the event, Bhutan reinforces its image as a **neutral zone of peace and spirituality** in South Asia.

- **Highlight: Gelongma Ordination Ceremony**

- A major attraction of GPPF 2025 will be the **‘Gelongma’ or Bhikshuni ordination ceremony**.
- **Over 250 Buddhist nuns** will be ordained between **November 15–19, 2025**.
- The event will be presided over by the **spiritual head of the Drukpa Kagyu school**, Bhutan’s largest Buddhist order.
- This is a **landmark moment for gender equality** in Buddhist monastic traditions, strengthening women’s spiritual leadership.

- **Why It Matters**

- **Spiritual Diplomacy:** Enhances Bhutan's role as a global advocate for peace and Buddhist dialogue.
- **Soft Power Projection:** Positions Bhutan as a moral leader in global peace-building, similar to the role of the Vatican or Dalai Lama-led events.
- **Cultural Integration:** Reinforces Buddhist unity across South and Southeast Asia.
- **Gender Empowerment:** Promotes equality through bhikshuni ordination, addressing a long-standing issue in Buddhist monastic reform.

Aspect

Historical/Political Relationship

Trade Volume & Growth

Trade Dependence & Share

Composition of Trade

Connectivity & Strategic Cooperation

Formal Agreements

Investment Links

Challenges & Future Prospects

Key Details

India and Bhutan share a “special & privileged” partnership. India played a key role in Bhutan’s development since its modernisation era. ([CIAO](#))

- Since 2014-15, bilateral trade has nearly tripled—from US\$ 484 million to around US\$ 1.6 billion (2022-23) excluding electricity. ([indembthimphu.gov.in](#)) • In 2024, India’s exports to Bhutan stood at US\$ 1.17 billion. ([Trading Economics](#))

Bhutan depends heavily on India: ~80%+ of Bhutan’s trade is with India. ([TaxTMI](#))

- Bhutan → India: electricity, ferro-silicon, dolomite, semi-finished steel products, etc. ([mfa.gov.bt](#)) • India → Bhutan: petroleum products, motor vehicles, machinery, steel, consumer goods. ([mfa.gov.bt](#))

- India provides transit routes and land access for Bhutan (land-locked). ([CIAO](#)) • Hydropower cooperation is a major pillar: Bhutan exports electricity to India and India invests in Bhutan’s hydropower. ([EconStor](#))

The Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between Bhutan and India (1972, renewed) provides duty-free trade and transit provisions. ([moice.gov.bt](#))

India is one of Bhutan’s largest investors; Indian companies operate in Bhutan across sectors like electricity, banking, manufacturing. ([cgiphuentsholing.gov.in](#))

- Trade still relatively small in absolute terms, Bhutan’s diversification needed. • Strategic concern: Bhutan’s engagement with China; connectivity and infrastructure remain improvement areas.

Word of the day

Privation:

a state of extreme poverty; act of depriving someone of food or money or rights

Synonyms: deprivation, neediness, want

Usage: *He lived a life of privation and misery.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/privationpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /pɹaɪ'veɪʃən/, /pɹaɪ'veɪʃən/





Thank you 😊

