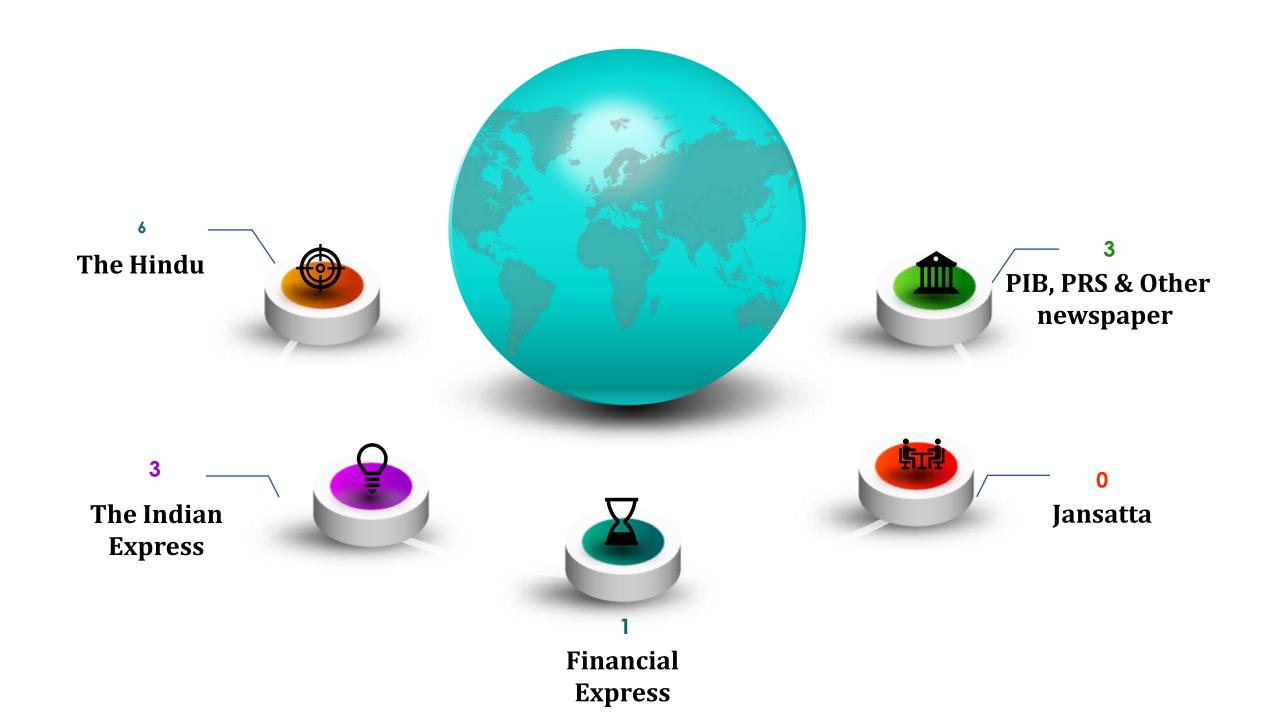




SIFERENT & The Indian EXPRESS FINANCIAL NDU



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"A truth that's told with bad intent Beats all the lies you can invent." – William Blake, Auguries of Innocence

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had not been admitted.

"Requirement met"

Lok Sabha to take up bipartisan motion to remove Justice Varma

After proceedings in the Lower House, it will go to the Raiya Sabha: Rijiju says 152 ruling and Opposition MPs have signed the motion against the HC judge, who has been under scanner after half-burnt currency notes were found at his residence

185 Pak. refugees granted Indian citizenship The Lock Subha will take up a biparti-move justice Yashwant Var-ma of the Allanabad ligh Gourt, Parlianeensary Af-fairs Minare Kiene Rijlu The sand that it was a un-minimous decision of all pol-

The Hindu Burnan

animous decision of all pol-itical parties, and 182 MPs

from the ruling alliance and the Opposition had signed the motion.

Gash recovery row Justice Varma, then with the Delhi High Georr, was caught in a continuously af-ter wads of half-burnt cur-

ter wads of half-burnt cur-rency notes were found at his official residence in the capital when a fire broke out there on March 14. He was transferred to the Alla-

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INSERT.

ARMEDABAD After years of uncertainty, 185 multiced persons from Pakistan were granted indian citizenship under the m) Art Ettipership (Amenorman (CAA), 2019. The recipie

many of whom mulderin of Gujarat's Rajhot, Morlet, and Kutch districts for years, we given ritizenthip documents a an event in Rajkot, a PAGE 3



Governor returns Aparajita Bill to West Bengal govt.

SOLEATA. Baising concerns over the death penalty provisions in the electify persistive or the Aparapita Weenes and Child Offers Dengal Criminal Lane Amendments Bill, 2024, which introduced schopper publishment for second assault focurrent of A Amanda Boos has returned the lagoistics to the biale goovernet. In further sumsideration, to PAdd 3



for Vice-President election named

-----The Election Commission on Friday Micked off the process for bodding vice presidential pulls by appointing Secretar General of the Raya Sabra. where Resources P.C. Medy, as the Retu Officer. The election h tion has been Officer. The election true be necessitated following the sudden resignation of Jagd bhaldar from the post on Monday, a Marg e



delimitation on par with J&K'

NEW DELM The Supreme Court on Friday held that States carsnot plemand deliveitation by claiming parity with Jammu and Kashmir, where the ervise was done based on the 5011 Century if sold that olike ABR. all higher and sound to a cu o on delimitation till : post-2020 Census, a PAGE S

ALC: ADDRESS

eee All parties have aproved that removal of Justice Varma has to be a joint call. Now there should be no beau with regards to which House I has to be moved, we have agreed that it will be meyed in the Lok Sabha and concurred in the Roba -salaha as ner rule SHREN HITH

hubad trigh Court later. Mr. Bijju said all parties had agreed that the remo-phonored motion that was be a joint call, adding that the proseedings will be from some rolling that the proseedings will be for taken up in the Lob fablus and them in the Ra-tablus and them in the Ra-tablus and them in the Ra-tablus and them in the Rathe Lok Sabba Speaker Om Bida is expected to an-nounce a three-member jya Sabha in line with the Judges (Inspiry) Act. "We shouldn't remain in

"It is signed by more than 80 members of the Council of States and thus it meets the numerical requirement of signing by members of Parliament for setting in inquiry committee to probe the charges against justice Varma. Official sources said the any doubt, proceedings will begin in the Lok Sab-ba," he said. His remarks notice in the Rajya Sabha

school roof collapses in Rajasthan

Seven children killed, 28 injured as

futidat Local residents join a e efforts, searching through debris after a gove linge to Halawar district of Reportion on Felday, my

The Hindu Bureau

ver the past few days.

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chading the parents and vil-lagers, searched through mounds of debris, bricks and stones to evacuate the children and rushed them to the hospital. The injured students were first taken to decommunity heads Seven children were killed Seven children were killed and 26 injured when a por-tion of the roof of a govern-wers schede and a govern-trier on Priday. The build-ing had reportedly deve-lepted cracks and weakened under the in-pact of continuous rainfall the community locality centre (CHC) at Manohar Thana, from where eight in a critical condition were referred to the District Hos-

pital in Ihalawar. The root of one of the five classrooms in the Ga-short at Physical Control Science of the second second science of the second second term of the second second second second second term of term of term of term of term of terms term of term term of term term of term term of term term of term term of t Villagers protest Doctors at the CHC de-clared seven children dead charnel severe children dead during various stages of treatment, while access others were in the inten-sive care unit (ICO). The angry villageris, who said their complaints to the of-herer absout the achoef's di-lapidated condition had et-letted no necessary. during various stages of prestruction, while several event states while several been against white we have the state of the set the state of the set photos complaints to the set light complaints to the set light set of the set light set light

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villagers say govt. officers paid no heed classrooms, Some of the students also reportedly noticed the plaster falling from the roof in the to their complaints about the school's dilapidated condition Morning. While Education Minis-ier Madan Dilawar rushed to Pipledi after cancelling his tour to Bharatpur-Deeg, the department placed the school's princina Akiera road by staging a dharna with a domand for compensation. Inalawar District Collec tor Alay Singh Rathore said the school had not figured in the list of weak buildings in the district sent by the Education Department re-cently. "Action will be ta-

pal. Meena Garg, and four teachers under surpen-sion. They were accused of non. They were accused or megligence and not inform-ing the higher authorities about the building's could tion, buildes failing to make any alternative ar-rangements for the safety of studems. After Priday's accident, the State povernment is likely to conduct an infra-tructure audit of all build

had not been admitted. Maya Sabha Deputy Chatrman Harfsonnh, new the officiant presiding of teor, has been with the ga-vernment and within Par-harment over the issue. The three member committee will include ather the miprove Court Jakge, a High Court Chief Jacke and a distinguished jurist. Porture Takja Sabha har, on July 21, Informed medico a process for r val of a High Court judge val of a High Courr Judge." Mr. Thankhar had said. At the same time, he had di-rected the Becretary-Gen-eral to find out if a similar motion had been moved in the Lek Sabha or not. He word on describing the provisions of the Judges General will take necessary General will take necessary General will take necessary. Moora Sriniyasan steps in this direction." The Opposition insisted that this should be treated as Maldivian President Mohamed Mulzzu on Friday thunked India for its "pive-tal role" in helping the is-

har, on July 21, informed the House that he received a notice socking the Judge's removal. acceptance of the motion, signed by 63 Rajya Sabha MDs from the Opposition, Pollowing an inquiry by a Supreme Court commit-tee into the cash recovery tee into the cash recovery row, then Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, had forwarded the committee report to the President and the Prime Minister, paving

the Prime Minister, paving the way for the motion. France will recognise Palestine as state: Macron Agence France Presse French President fimma nuel Macron said on Thurs-day his country would for-mally recognise a Palestinian state during a

Palestinian state futuring a UN misseting in September. The U.S. strongly op-poned Prance's move, with its Secretary of State Marcu Rubbo calling it a "reckless decision (that) only serves fammas propagandu". Is-rasell Prime Minister Benja-min Neuranyubu said the de-cision "rewards terror". VLL REPORT

PAGE 13

Centre blocks 25 OTT platforms over 'obscene, vulgar content'

land nation deal with its economic crunch and li-

ouldity challengies, and

The Hindu Bureau

The information & Broad-casting Ministry has direct-ed the blocking of websites and apps of 25 OTT plat-forms for allegedly carry-ing obscience, volgar, and in unre-surger obscience. orne cases, pornegraphic ontent. The action was taken in onsultation with the Mi-

conjutation with the Mi-nistries of Home Affairs, Women and Child Deve-legement, Electronics and Information Technology, the Department of Legal Affairs, industry limites much as PICCI and CB, and

....

nuch as PICCI and CD, and experts in the fields of we-men and child rights. "Utility the provisions of the Information Tech-nolisy Act, 2000, and the IT Rules, 2021, notificia-time have fares insued to the various intermediaries to ensure that access to the ings of government schools and Anganwadt centres.



Muizzu thanks India for its 'pivotal role' in

economic recovery

has been a ready reset in the between the two na-tions since Mr. Mulizm vi-sited India in October 2024, following a sectous strain in the preceding year after his decition. Mr. Modi's visit is seen Foreign Secretary Vikran Misri later told a press con as reflecting a significant improvement in India's re-lationship with a crucial neighbour. "Maldives is an forence in Male. Significantly, the two countries signed an amen-datory agreement on re-ducing the Maldiver's an-nual dolar repayment obligations. Following "a sharp 40% robuston, and dia conference, Male would have to pay 520 mil-tion annually, instead of 381 million, as it repays an earlier \$600-million LoC estimated by India. diversities are file renoved collaboration haven the countries signed an amer neighbour. "Maldives is an important part of india's "neighbourhood first" poli-ogy." Mr. Modt said in This modia statement in Male. In a availa tosela post on the rolease of a stamp to mark 60 years of India Maldives. Riemdalijs, has werry cherished friend-ship".

Three pacts signed Following talka between collaboration between the beaters, the two sides countries as a becessary and positive development.

concerned websites and apps is disabled," a source said on Friday. Pornographic content

tion of nudity and sex is several inappropriate con texts...including family re tationahips", he added. sites and H apps - nine on Google Play Store, five on totogle Play Store, five on Apple App Store - have been blocked. The OTP platforms, which have been blocked include fig shots App, Daulith, Boo-mex, Neorx VIP, Navarasa Like, Gulah, Kangon, Bull, Shovefilt, Julya, Wow En-bertainment, Lank Kener. The government had re-ceived references from the ceived references from the National Commission on Protection of Child Rights in July and August 2024, Sarging the Ullu and AUT plaints were also made by the general public.

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(MoUs) and signed three agreements taking forward

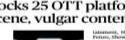
cooperation in several key

sectors, including fishes

les, aquaculture, tourbre environment, digital solu

tions, and finalising the terms of reference to

launch negotiations of a





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Muizzu thanks India for its 'pivotal role' in economic recovery



Boost to ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu in Male on Friday, WaPRESIDENCHW

| Meera Srinivasan | da of Understanding |
|----------------------------------|--|
| MALE | (MoUs) and signed three |
| | |
| very cherished friend- ship", | earlier \$800-million LoC extended by India. Observers of India-Mal- |
| Three pacts signed | dives ties see the renewed |
| Following talks between | collaboration between the |
| the leaders, the two sides | countries as a necessary |
| exchanged four Memoran- | and positive development. |

- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu thanked India for playing a "pivotal role" in Maldives' economic recovery.
- Statement made during PM Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the Maldives (post UK visit).
- Seen as a **reset in India-Maldives relations**, which were strained after Muizzu's election in 2023.

2. Bilateral Engagements

- India and Maldives exchanged **4 MoUs** and signed **3 major agreements** on:
 - Fisheries & aquaculture
 - Tourism
 - Digital solutions
 - Environment
 - Free Trade Agreement terms of reference

3. Line of Credit (LoC)

- India extended a fresh Line of Credit (LoC) of ₹4,850 crore to Maldives.
- Purpose: Support twin deficit problem and fund infrastructure projects.
- It's the first such credit in Indian rupees.

4. Debt Relief Initiative

- India signed an amendment agreement to reduce Maldives' debt repayment burden.
- Reduction from \$51 million to \$29 million annually (a ~40% cut) for repaying an earlier \$800-millio
 LoC.

5. Strategic Importance

- India emphasized Maldives as:
 - Integral to Neighbourhood First Policy
 - Key partner in Indian Ocean Region
- PM Modi released a commemorative stamp to mark 60 years of India–Maldives friendship.

| Торіс | Details |
|----------------------|---|
| Country | Maldives |
| Leader | President Mohamed Muizzu |
| Event | PM Modi's visit to Maldives in July 2025 |
| Credit Line | ₹4,850 crore Line of Credit (first in INR) |
| Debt Relief | Maldives' repayment reduced from \$51M to \$29M |
| MoUs Signed | Fisheries, tourism, digital, environment, FTA talks |
| Policy Link | Neighbourhood First Policy |
| Friendship Milestone | 60 years of diplomatic ties marked by commemorative stamp |

| Aspect | Details | ð |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Diplomatic Relations | Established in 1965 (post Maldives independence) | |
| Geographic Proximity | ~700 km from Indian coast (Kerala), close maritime neighbor | |
| Strategic Importance | Key Indian Ocean partner; near important sea lanes | |
| High-Level Visits | Frequent PM/President-level visits (e.g., PM Modi visited in 2018, 2019) | |
| Defence Cooperation | India provides training, equipment, coastal surveillance systems, Dornier aircraft, helicopters | |
| Key Defence Agreements | Coastal radar systems, hydrography surveys, Composite Training Center, National College for Policing and Law Enforcement | & |
| Economic Assistance | India has provided grants, credit lines (e.g., \$1.4 billion in 2018) | |

| Major Projects by India | Greater Male Connectivity Project, Hanimaadhoo Airport redevelopment |
|---------------------------|--|
| People-to-People Ties | Strong cultural, tourism, and educational links |
| Tourism | India is a top source of tourists to Maldives |
| COVID-19 Support | India sent vaccines, medicines, medical teams under "Vaccine Maitri" |
| Recent Issues (2024–25) | Strain under President Mohamed Muizzu; "India Out" campaign, calls for removal of Indian military presence |
| Current Diplomatic Status | Tense but functioning; both sides exploring rebalancing without breaking ties |
| Multilateral Cooperation | Both are members of SAARC, IORA, UN |



| Aspect | India → Maldives |
|--|--|
| Bilateral Trade (2024–25) | Exports from India ~ USD 825 million; imports from Maldives much lower (<usd +15="" 5m)="" economics="" th="" trading="" trendeconomy<=""></usd> |
| Indian diaspora in Maldives | ~ 29,000 Indians live in Maldives (mainly in Malé), working in health, education, tourism; about 25% of doctors & teachers are Indian Wikipedia civilspedia.com |
| Maldivian diaspora in India | |
| Population | India: 1.438 billion; Maldives: ~515,000 (2022 census) Worlddata.info Wikipedia |
| Strategic & Economic Initiatives | India has granted a Rs 4,850 crore (~USD 565 m) line of credit; major infrastructure collaboration on projects like Greater Malé Connectivity, water/sanitation, naval base harbour The Economic Times Wikipedia civilspedia.com |

Q. With reference to recent India-Maldives developments, consider the following statements:

- India extended a fresh Line of Credit to the Maldives in Indian Rupees to support infrastructure projects.
- 2. Maldives agreed to provide India access to its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for naval operations.
- 3. A recent agreement reduced Maldives' annual debt repayment to India by nearly 40%.
- 4. The visit marked 75 years of India-Maldives diplomatic relations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only



the 2028 electoral rolls. The forma of 7.23 grore electors have been re-ceived and digitised, and the numes of all these elec-tors will be installed in the draft electoral roll, the EC add in a statement. It said that the digitization of forms of the remaining

Received over 6,900 inputs on draft data rules: Ministry

The Hindu Bureau

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2028, have received 6,015 Inputs and comments from the public, firms, and oth-The Union Public Service Commission (UP8C) has defarred a conditate from appearing in all future ex-aminations for a period of er stakeholders, the Minis-try of Electronics and In-formation Technology told Parliament on Friday. three years after the indivi-dual was found in possession of incriminating mate rial during at

examination, the commis-sion said on Friday. In a post on Linkedin, The volume of com-ments reflects the back-to-back comultation session the government has held since the draft was pu-blished in January, with a lengthy written comment period, as well as sessions the UPSC said the condi-date was found guilty un-der Rale (2000) of the Ksamination Bales - "being in possession of or using unfair means during the examination". period, as well as sensions with state governments, private industry, and other forum 4 invited stateshalt forum 4 invited stateshalt being held in comfidence, the Minutery soul. The DPDF Rules (and the pursuit Act) provide for penalties against firms that full to take effective most

undar means during the examination". "Accordingly, UPSIC has taken stringers disciplin-ary action in hims with stan-dardbatten of penalities by esneelling the candidature for the current year's ea-amination and debarred the individual frien ap-pearing in all hittare exami-national/velocitions to be sures to safeguard perso-nal information. - M -

with booth-lovel officer (bLO) reports. During the month-long SIR exercise, which began on June 24, the BLOs have reported for names of ap-proximately 22 lakh de-isenaed electrics, 7 lakh re-gistered in more than one location, and 38 lakh who

UPSC bars candidate

conducted by the Commi

conducted by the Commis-tion for a period of three years," it added. The harther said such mea-sures are essential to pre-serve the sanctity of the se-lection process and ensure that merit remains the sole

criterion for recruitment to

Commenting on the ac-tion, UPSC Chairman Alay Kumar said, "UPSC is firm

ly committed to upholding the highest standards of in-

tegrity, transparency, and fairness in its examination

fairness in its examination processes. Any candidate found guilty of including in unfair twents or miscon-tunfair twents or miscon-tion, including thearment from huize examinations, as the atricted actions, why UPPC, for the last 100 years, has been an epitome of meet and a fair system, Mr. Kumar added.

government services.

'Strict action'

for three years over

exam misconduct

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Vilaita Singh

members of the Lok Sabha, In-cluding nominated mem-bers. According to the rules, the nonitiution pap-bers. According to the rules, the nonitiution pap-poners and at least 20 elec-ters as accordient and has to be presented to the Re-turning Others, between II a.m. and 2 pan- any day appointed for the pap issie of the paper set. signation of logdeep plankbar on Monday, which has led to a rare mid-term vacancy in the

The Hindu Bureau

As farmers of north Karna-taka have started staging protests and queuing up in front of fortilizer single seeking uslequite supply of unea, chief Minister Sidda

urea, Chief Minister Sidda ramaiah on Friday urged the Centre to supply the shortfall of 1,65,841 tonnes

of upon as per the State's

allocation. With the early arrival of

monsoon and increase in the area coverage under

different crops during the current kharif season, Mr.

current kharif season, Mr. Siddaramatah urged the Centre to supply urea in the interest of farmers. The Centre has allocat-ed II,17,000 tonnes of urea

ed 11,17,000 tonnes of urea to Rarnataka for kharft this year, out of which the quantity supplied till date is 8,180,1800 tonnes. The Nate's requirement is 6,80,480 tonnes, the Chief Minister said.

'Spurt in demand' In a letter to Union Minis-

Karnataka CM urges Centre

to supply urea to meet need

ter for Chemicals and Fer-

ter for Chemicals and Per-tilizers, J.-P. Nadda. M. Bid-daramiaah asla, "The State has received monscoon ear-ly this year and at the same time, area coverage under different crosps has in-creased, compared with previous years. The early vertexes of water in com-mand areas of Tungabha-dra. Cauvery, and Rrishna

dra, Cauvery, and Erishna has resulted in early sow-ing activity. Area under

The Centre had allocated 11,17,000 termes of urea for kha which 5.16,555 tonnes have been supplied, resource corve

matte, which is a

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this March, the Union Law Minister, in a written reply apocify the government's specify the government's tance on legislative re-ference to address jud-clatine on the specific pro-procedure to address jud-clatine on the Lek Subha whether solutions were to optical in the Lek Subha whether solutions were to optical in the Lew Subha whether solutions were to described the solutions described the solutions

removed from his office by the President in the man-mer provided for in clause (4) of Article 124 for the re-moval of a judge of the su-preme Court, 'he said. The Minister skipped the reply to a question about steps being taken set reforms, and if there has been any consultation with experts on this.

Phone survey of 338 migrant workers reveals gaps in SIR

| | The Hindu Foreau New Detail Around 60% of the migram workers from Ribar verk- toring the second second second to the second second second the second second second second second second second second the second s | though their sample 'is not a statistically representa- tive survey', the findings provide atrong evidence that migrant workers are metration deficit. SWAN said that it found that among the respon- dents, there were 248 indi- cisewhere. Of this, 75% 'had not even heard of the ender one of the state of the online period to submit the |
|------------|--|--|
| | durm not have any of the 15 | enumeration form for SBC", |
| it, aut of | documents required for the exercise, the study formal. | adding that they found just two of these people had submitted the forms on |
| higher - | A phone survey of mi- | line. It found that out of 333 |

at they found just here people had d the forms onmaties, which is a higher fortiliser-community crops has increased by two lakih bectares and the area us compared with previous years. A balant is a set of the set large of the set of the set of the large of the set of the set of the target of the set of the set of the target of the set of the set of the target of the set of the and that out of 213

distant in the

line. It found that out of 23.0 respondences, N75, said that an official had visited their hornes in bilar for the 500 with the said for the 500 with the said for the 500 with their hornes, and thout 24% said for were not aware if officials had of about 40% said for work of had someone visit their hornes, about 40% said forms were collected with copies of Authing to ware id. abbotics.

Modi overtakes Indira, clocks second-longest continuous stint as PM

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday became the second longest-serving Prime Minister of India in consecutive terms, surpassing former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's record.

days in office in an unbro-

ken tenure on Friday. Indira Gandhi had served for

4,077 days continuously,

death in 1984.

people."

matched Nehru in winning



He completed 4,078 Narendra Modi

> three successive Lok Sabha elections - in 2014, 2019, and 2024.

from January 24, 1966, to March 24, 1977. She was reelected in 1980 and remained in office until her Marking the occasion, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "Today, PM Modi has become the second longest-serving PM of the country with an uninterrupted tenure. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi became the Prime Ministers of the country, it was the result of term in office. the prevailing circumstances. However, PM Mo-

di has achieved this record with the mandate of the The record for the longest unbroken tenure is held by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. However, Mr. Modi has

This milestone also coincides with another: Mr. Modi is the longestserving non-Congress Prime Minister, and the first such leader to complete two full terms. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, also of the BJP, was elected thrice - in 1996 (for a 13-day government), in 1998 (for 13 months), and in 1999, when he served a full term. However, he did not complete more than one full Another record held by Mr. Modi is that of being

the elected head of government at both the State and Central levels for the longest continuous stint. He was appointed Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 and held the post until 2014, when he became Prime Minister.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the second-longest-serving PM of India in uninterrupted consecutive terms, overtaking Indira Gandhi.
- He completed **4,078 days** in office **continuously**.

2. Comparison with Indira Gandhi

- Indira Gandhi held continuous office from:
 - January 24, 1966 to March 24, 1977 (4,077 days).
 - Returned in 1980 and served until her assassination in 1984.

| Rank | Prime Minister | Exact Tenure | Number of Days |
|------|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Jawaharlal Nehru | 15 Aug 1947 – 27 May 1964 | 6,130 days |
| 2 | Indira Gandhi | 24 Jan 1966 – 24 Mar 1977 14 Jan 1980 – 31 Oct 1984 | 5,829 days |
| 3 | Narendra Modi | 26 May 2014 – 24 July 2025 | 4,080+ days (and counting) |

Note: Narendra Modi will surpass **5,000 days** if he completes his third term (ends in 2029).

3. Other Longest Tenures

- Jawaharlal Nehru still holds the record for longest unbroken PM tenure.
- Modi has matched Nehru in winning 3 successive Lok Sabha elections (2014, 2019, 2024).

4. Other Key Records of PM Modi

- Longest-serving non-Congress PM.
- First non-Congress PM to complete two full terms.
- Longest continuous elected head of government at both state and central levels:
 - Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014.
 - Prime Minister from 2014 to present (2025).

5. Contrast with Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- Vajpayee was elected three times:
 - 1996 (13 days), 1998 (13 months), 1999 (full term).
 - But did not complete more than one full term.



| Record | Held By | Details 🗇 |
|---|------------------|--|
| Longest uninterrupted PM tenure | Jawaharlal Nehru | First PM of India |
| 2nd longest uninterrupted PM tenure | Narendra Modi | 4,078 days as of July 2025 |
| First non-Congress PM to serve 2 full terms | Narendra Modi | 2014–2019, 2019–2024 |
| Elected thrice as PM with full mandate | Narendra Modi | 2014, 2019, 2024 |
| Longest elected head of government (state + centre) | Narendra Modi | Gujarat CM (2001–2014), PM (2014–) |

Q. With reference to the Prime Ministerial tenure of Narendra Modi, consider the following statements:

- Narendra Modi is the longest continuously serving Prime Minister of India, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru.
- 2. He is the first non-Congress leader to complete two full terms as Prime Minister.
- 3. Narendra Modi has served more uninterrupted days as PM than Indira Gandhi.
- 4. Atal Bihari Vajpayee completed three full terms as Prime Minister of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

UPSC bars candidate for three years over exam misconduct

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has debarred a candidate from appearing in all future examinations for a period of three years after the individual was found in possession of incriminating mateduring rial an examination, the commission said on Friday. In a post on LinkedIn, 5 the UPSC said the candidate was found guilty under Rule 12(1)(h) of the Examination Rules – "being

in possession of or using
 unfair means during the
 examination".

"Accordingly, UPSC has
 taken stringent disciplinary action in line with standardisation of penalties by
 cancelling the candidature
 for the current year's examination and debarred
 the individual from appearing in all future examination(s)/selection(s) to be

conducted by the Commission for a period of three years," it added.

It further said such measures are essential to preserve the sanctity of the selection process and ensure that merit remains the sole criterion for recruitment to government services.

'Strict action'

Commenting on the action, UPSC Chairman Ajay Kumar said, "UPSC is firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and fairness in its examination processes. Any candidate found guilty of indulging in unfair means or misconduct during examinations faces strict disciplinary action, including debarment from future examinations, as the strictest action."

"This is the sole reason why UPSC, for the last 100 years, has been an epitome of merit and a fair system," Mr. Kumar added.



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THE HINDU World

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the most significant Euro

pean power to recognize a Palestinian state, others have hinted they could do the same. Norway, Spain, treland

and Slovenia all an nounced recognition fol lowing the outbreak of the

Gaza conflict, along with neveral other non-Euro-pean countries. an countries. Reanish Prime Minister

Pedro Sanchez, whose country already recognises Paleatinian statebood, wel-

comed Mr. Macron's an

Saturday, July 26, 2028

BLANTE.A

Philippine Supreme Court blocks Sara Duterte impeachment trial



The Philippine Supreme Cosist ruled on Friday that the opeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte violated the Consultations on a technicality, blocking for spreening stat for criminal allegations, including her threat to have the President milnated, and halting proceedings against her in the Senats



INTANHUL

man diplomata met ununkerparta from Germany, Britain and France on Prislay for renewed nuclear talks, amid warnings that the three European powers could trigger "inaphack" ranctions outlined under the 2015 deal. The meeting in tataotical was the first since taraet's mid-have attack on iran, att

ople's rights to self-de-

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dent state". Mr. Macron said the "ur great priority boday is to ond the war in Gaza and rescue the civilian population".

"We must finally build be state of Palestine, en-improvement in advantage of the iaritation and fully record initiality strate, to contribute to the security of all in the Middle East," be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth an Middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth and the security provide the middle East," be worth an Middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth and the middle middle East," be worth and the middle middle East, "be worth

Iran meets European powers amid



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European nations urge immediate

aid for Gaza

Palestinian territory we

not eating for days. In a joint statement, the leaders of the three fluro

leaders' of the three fun-pean powers urged turael "to immediately life rearri-tions on the flow of aid and urgently allow the UN" and NGOs in "take action against starvation". "The most basic needs of the ci-vilian population, includ-ing access to water and food, must be met without and delaw" they aid.

any delay," they said. Israel bas, bowever,

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jected accumitions it is res ponsible for the deepening

dentified wanners on Thursday and/ushed vehicles returning Georges Brahm Abdattats, 76, sone of Promor's longest-held invision from Bokkos market in Nigeria's Plateau state, killing 14 people vas released and disported to Lebanon on Friday after over 40 years recluding women and children. Two more died in reta ement in the 1882 murders of two dialors an in prison for healthy dolence. The region faces recurring land disputes, 'bandit' attacks ted by depens of supporters in Reirut, he was freed under and nising food prices driven by climate challenges. Are conditions barring return to france. AFF

F.A.D. D. BURGHUR, A.D.



Lebanese militant released from

French prison after 40 years

gie who fled their homes near the Car latent rated in Coldar Man where eren

Thailand warns of war with Cambodia as over 1.38 lakh flee

Agence France Press Thailand's acting Prime Mi-

of urgency," Mr. Phum tham said.

Thailand's acting Prines Mi-nister Phumfham We-chayachai warned on Pri-chashes with Cambodie that have uprested more than 1,30,000 people "could develop into war", a saily diversion second day. 'Limited to clashes' "If the situation escalates it could develop into war-though for now, it remain limited to clashes," he told reporters in Bangkok. By the afternoon, Foday. A long-running border reign Miniatry spokesper-son Nikorndej Balankara said there were signs the fightley was easing off, and dispute erupted into intenise fighting with jets, artroops on Thursday, and the UN Security Council to set to hold an emergency said Thailand was open to talks, possibly aided by Malaysia. est to hold an envergency meeting on the crisis later of Alday. And Alday and Alday and Alday leys arribes champs of arti-leys arribes could be heard from the Cambolian side where the day on a for the day Meanchey reported one stellant hold been killed mere than hold been killed More than 1,38,000 pe ophe have been evocutated from Thailandy booder re-pole have been evocutated from Thailandy booder re-neld, reporting its faultites Malaysia currently holds the chair of the Association the chart of the Association of Southwast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc, or which Thailand and Cam-ber and the second second second However Cambridge Prime Minister Hum Maner claimed Thailantel fuel at prime Minister Ium Maner claimed Thailantel fuel at anglock's "genuine wil-lingness" to de-acalate. Ser Wang V und Cambridge said, reporting 15 fatalities with a further 46 wound-ed, including 15 troops. On Friday evening, a Thailand millitary horder commander declared mar-tial law in eight districts on the frontier with Cambo-dia, citing "Cambodia's use of force to enter That

France will recognise Palestine as a state in September, says Macron

French President says he Intends to make a formal announcement at the UN General Assembly, Palestinian Authority welcomes the decision, saving it reflects France's commitment to international law; brachs Netanyahu slams the move

Agence France Press

only serves propagarula".

French President Emcountry would formally re-cognitie a Palentinian state during a UN meeting in September, the most po-worful European nation to amountee such a newse. At least 142 countries At least 142 countries new recentise or plan to recognise Palestinian state-bood, according to an AFP tally - though farael and the U.S. strongly oppose the nove. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called it a "reckless decision (that) only serves Hamas



A Palestman mother cradies her maindurished the Al-Shatt rehiges camp, west of Gaza City, are

Senior Palostinian Auth-ority official Hussein al-Sheikh welcomed the move, saying it "reflects Pranov's commitment to international law and Bs Mr. Macron's announce ment drew turnsdiate an-ger from Israel, with Prime Minister Benjamin Nota-nyahu saying it "rewards terror" and poses an exteteenthal threat to barnel. support for the Palastinian



Local media. Mr. Maczon and he m. "Together, we must pro-ter what Netamyahu is ry-ter what Netamyahu is ry-set what Netamyahu is ry-ter what Netamyahu is ry-set what Netamyahu is ry-ter what

DR Congo tries former leader Kabila for treason in absentia

Kabila stands

Agence France Press

accused at a military court of plotting to Former Democratic Repuoverthrow the blic of Congo leader Joseph government of President Tshisekedi Rabila went on trial in ab-sentia on Friday on charges including treason over alleged support for Rwan

da-backed militants, a re-porter at the court said. Mr. Kabila, who has Mr. Rabila, who has lived custalie the DRC for two years, stands accused at a military court of plot-ting to overthrow the ga-warmnest of President Fe-its Tablesked! - a charge that could yield a death service. Heriterice. The also faces charges in cluding homicide, forture and rape inded to the anti-government force M23, the chargesheet said.

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has branded him the brains behind the armed group, which has neised swathes of the resource-rich Congolese east with Rwanda's help.

'Political trial' Emmanuel Shadari, secre-

There charges include than movement, "string by of humanity" and "factor ble acception of the citik bl

including for statting down U.S.-funded media Agence France Presse VARION outlets covering the conflict.

The United States has lifted an actions on several allies of Maximus' ruling semen-al and their nultrary-linked the shows, after the jump chief sem a glowing letter indif thump. Junta chief Man Aung Haiting seind heart the sense and the set of the sense and the set of the sense of the set of the set of the set of the thread of the two of the set of t A United States Treasuanctions on several allies ry notice on Thursday said sanctions were dropped against KT Services and Lo-gistics, the Myanmar dependent of the Select Log Chernical and Machinery Company, and Machinery Technologies – as well as the selection of the Selection for any selection of the Selection for any selection of the Selection Selection of the Selection of the Selection of the Selection Selection of the Selection of the Selection of the Selection Selection of the Selection of the Selection of the Selection Selection of the Selection of the Selection of the Selection of the Selection Selection of the Selection of the

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Oo, and Sunta Technologies owner Sit Taling Aung were anciconed later that year for producing arms, successful that the second second memory takes and A third Myanomer na-tional, The Late Min who the U.S. previously de-sortiened as owning "ownican companie that are clonely related to the regime

La Manager

Kurds with Agence France Presse

removal. Mr. Trump sent a letter to junta chief Min Aung Haing earlier this month, me annung a raft of mis-sives despatched to foreign leaders during his global tariff bitz. removal. Syrta, Prance and the Unit-ed States, in a statement, said they agreed on Friday to convene "as soon as passible" talks in Paris to inte grate the automomous Kur dish administration into

tampfilm. The letter - believed to be washingtors first public recognition of the fur-the restanced Myannar with a 40% levy lutters at tank. Min Annu filming res-pressition" for Min Trump's inscape, prainting "treated adversity".

and the local division of

Talks in Paris on integrating

Syrian state

was also removed from the sanctions list. The Treasury notice did not give a reason for their



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Brazil ex-general tells court he drafted Lula assassination paper

Agence France-Presse

is on trial for allegody plot-ting a coup to cling to pow-er after losing the 2022 election to leffisit Lala de Silva, The plot allegedly in chuded a plan – dubbed "Green and Vellow Dog ger," after the colours of Brazil's flag and Mr. Bolso-naro's norty – to essenti-A retired general told Bra-zil's Supreme Court he shafted a document plan-ning for Provident Laia In-acto Laia de Siba's anomi-nation to the Siba's anomination, as part of an alleged coup plot for which former President Jair Boleonaro is also on trial. General Mario Fer-nandes, a former acting

chief of the General Secre-tariat of the presidency an der Mr. Rolsonaro, con-firmed in his testimony on Thursday that he drafted and printed the discument, though he described it as a personal "thought" of his. The far-right Bolsonaro

naro's party - to assist-nate Mr. Lula, according to General Permandes said the printed the document at the Planatic presidential office only to read 11 "on paper" and then fore it up. "It was not presented to anyone," he added. anyone," he added. The alleged plan was to be carried out on the ber 15, 2022.

> U.S. drops sanctions on Myanmar junta allies after letter of praise to Trump

France will recognise Palestine as a state in September, says Macron

French President says he intends to make a formal announcement at the UN General Assembly; Palestinian Authority welcomes the decision, saying it reflects France's commitment to international law; Israel's Netanyahu slams the move

Agence France-Presse PARIS

rench President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday his country would formally recognise a Palestinian state during a UN meeting in September, the most powerful European nation to announce such a move.

At least 142 countries now recognise or plan to recognise Palestinian statehood, according to an AFP tally – though Israel and the U.S. strongly oppose the move.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called it a "reckless decision (that) only serves Hamas propaganda".



A Palestinian mother cradles her malnourished 18-month-old son at the Al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. AFP

Mr. Macron's announcement drew immediate anger from Israel, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying it "rewards terror" and poses an existential threat to Israel. Senior Palestinian Authority official Hussein al-Sheikh welcomed the move, saying it "reflects France's commitment to international law and its support for the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and the establishment of our independent state".

Mr. Macron said the "urgent priority today is to end the war in Gaza and rescue the civilian population".

"We must finally build the State of Palestine, ensure its viability and enable it, by accepting its demilitarisation and fully recognising Israel, to contribute to the security of all in the Middle East," he wrote on social media.

Mr. Macron said he intended to make the announcement at the UN General Assembly in September.

While France would be

the most significant European power to recognise a Palestinian state, others have hinted they could do the same.

Norway, Spain, Ireland and Slovenia all announced recognition following the outbreak of the Gaza conflict, along with several other non-European countries.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, whose country already recognises Palestinian statehood, welcomed Mr. Macron's announcement.

"Together, we must protect what Netanyahu is trying to destroy. The twostate solution is the only solution," the Socialist leader said.

1 in 3 US smartphone imports now made in India, China's lead shrinks

AGGAM WALIA & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA'S SHARE in US smartphone imports surged to nearly 36 per cent in the first five months of 2025, from about 11 per cent in 2024. China, which continues to dominate the product category, saw its share drop from 82 per cent to 49 per cent over the same period.

India's growing share — now 1 in 3, driven largely by Apple iPhones — comes amid ongoing trade talks with the US. While smartphones are India's top export to the US by value, President



Donald Trump has threatened a 25 per cent tariff on Indianmade iPhones.

US smartphone imports from India jumped by over three times year-on-year to 21.3 million units between January and May this year, according to data from the US International Trade Commission (USITC). In value terms (CIF), imports of Indian-made **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

1. India's Growing Market Share

- India's share in US smartphone imports (Jan–May 2025): 35.6%
 - Up from:
 - 10.5% in 2024
 - 7.1% in 2023
 - 2.4% in 2022
- China's share dropped from 79.9% (2022) to 49.1% (2025).

2. Key Drivers of India's Rise

- Driven largely by Apple's iPhone production shift.
- · Apple now produces all iPhone models, including Pro series, in India.
- Apple moved significant manufacturing to Foxconn India, especially in Tamil Nadu.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme played a crucial role.

3. US Imports and Tariffs

- US imported **21.3 million smartphones from India** (Jan–May 2025).
- Total smartphone imports from India surged 182% year-on-year in value terms to \$9.35 billion.
- Donald Trump has threatened a 25% tariff on Indian-made iPhones unless manufacturing returns to the US.

4. China's Decline

- China exported 29.4 million smartphones to the US in Jan–May 2025.
 - A 27% drop year-on-year.
 - Worth around **\$10 billion**.
- Vietnam: Third largest exporter with 14% share.

5. Apple Supplier Base Shift

- Apple's official supplier list (2023):
 - 157 vendors still in mainland China
 - Indian suppliers increased to 64 (up from 14).

6. Indian Electronics Sector Growth

- Mobile manufacturing units in India: 300 (2024–25) up from 2 (2014–15).
- Production increased 28x to ₹5.45 lakh crore.
- Exports rose 172x to ₹2 lakh crore.
- FDI (FY 2020–2025) in electronics: US\$ 4,071 million.
 - Of this, \$2,802 million from MeitY PLI beneficiaries.

| Indicator | Data |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| India's share in US smartphone imports (2025) | 35.6% |
| Apple's local partner in India | Foxconn |
| State leading iPhone production | Tamil Nadu |
| Key Govt Policy | Production Linked Incentive (PLI) |
| FDI in Electronics (FY 2020–25) | \$4.07 billion |
| Number of mobile units (2024–25) | 300 |
| Trump's threat | 25% tariff on Indian iPhones |

Q. With reference to India's smartphone export trends, consider the following statements:

- India's share in U.S. smartphone imports increased to over 35% in 2025, largely due to Apple iPhone exports.
- China's smartphone export value to the U.S. increased in 2025 due to the shift of Apple's base to India.
- 3. Under India's PLI scheme, over 60 of Apple's global suppliers have shifted manufacturing to India.
- 4. Tamil Nadu is currently the hub for Foxconn's iPhone production in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Three times the price of other oils: Why coconut oil is on fire

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HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA'S ANNUAL retail food inflation rate fell to minus 1.06% in June, the lowest since January 2019. But consumers continue to feel the pinch from high prices on some items, Among them is vegetable oils, where the

year-on-year price increase reached 17.75% in June, according to the National Statistics Office.

The all-India average modal (most quoted) retail price of palm oil is currently Rs 132 per kg, compared with Rs 95 a year ago, data from the Department of Consumer Affairs show. The prices of soyabean, sunflower, and mustard oils have risen from Rs 120 to Rs 154, Rs 115 to Rs 159, and Rs 150 to Rs 176 respectively over the same period. However, the increase in prices of these oils is nothing compared to what coconut oil has seen.

Since the beginning of this year, the wholesale price of coconut oil at Kerala's Kochi market has zoomed from Rs 22,500 per quintal to Rs 39,000 per quintal. At the retail level, the oil is selling for around Rs 460 per kg, close to double its early-January price of Rs 240-250.

This makes coconut oil more expensive now than even sesame (or gingelly) oil, a traditionally premium oil that is retailing for about Rs 425 per kg.

"Not only are coconut oil prices at all-time

highs, I haven't in my 50 years of trading seen these go up so much in such a short time," Thalath Mahmood, president of the Cochin Oil Merchants'

Association (COMA), said.

EXPLAINED

ECONOMICS

Global factors Tom Jose, chairman of the Irinjalakuda

(Kerala)-based KSE Limited, India's largest solvent-extracted coconut oil producer, attributes the unprecedented price rise mainly to output in the Philippines and Indonesia falling due to El Niño-induced drought.

These two countries are the world's top producers-cum-exporters of the oil that is extracted from the dried white flesh or ker-

TABLE 1

COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION IN TOP 3 COUNTRIES

| | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Philippines | 18.50 | 16.30 | 16.65 |
| | (14.90) | (11.30) | (11.30) |
| Indonesia | 10.30 | 9.90 | 10.00 |
| | (7.06) | (6.50) | (6.80) |
| India | 5.70 | 5.70 | 5.73 |
| | (0.19) | (0.15) | (0.15) |

Numbers in lakh tonnes; figures in brackets are exports; data are for marketing year (October-September). Source: US Department of Agriculture

nels of coconuts (Table 1).

The El Niño event, which lasted from July 2023 to June 2024, affected the growth of coconut flowers and fruit development during the 2024-25 marketing year that began in

| TABLE 2 |
|------------------------|
| INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL |
| CONSUMPTION IN 2023-24 |

| Palmoil | 97.54 | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| ioyabean oil | 52.8 | |
| Austard oil | 37.81 | |
| iunflower oil | 35.85 | |
| Rice bran oil | 11 | |
| Cottonseed oil | 9.42 | |
| Groundnut oil | 6.98 | |
| Coconut oil | 3.9 | |
| OTAL* | 58.66 | |
| | | |

Numbers in lakh tonnes; "includes sesame, safflower & other minor oils. Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India

October. The impact is being felt now, as it takes roughly a year for a single coconut to go from flowering on the tree to a fully mature fruit that is ready for harvesting.

"The weather disturbances, on top of ag-

ing coconut plantations in the two countries, have led to global supply tightness, and to buyers scrambling to stock up," Jose said. Production in India, which is an insignificant exporter, has been flat, if not down.

No immediate supply response to high prices is expected because coconut trees even the improved dwarf and hybrid palm varieties — start bearing fruit only in 3-5 years.

The price sentiment has been further boosted by reports of the Indonesian government planning restrictions on the export of raw whole coconuts, amid concerns over the shortage of the fruit for local processors.

Meanwhile, the government of the Philippines has introduced a 3% mandatory blending of coconut oil-based CME (cocomethyl ester) in diesel sold in the country from October 2024. The blend could go up to 4% from October 2025 and to 5% from October 2026, which would reduce the exportable surplus of coconut oil further.

A marginalised oil

Of the 5.7 lakh tonnes (lt) of coconut oil produced in India, only about 3.9 lt is used for food (cooking and frying). The rest goes into the manufacture of hair oil, cosmetics, soaps, and in other industrial applications.

Like other indigenous cooking oils (mustard, sesame, groundnut), coconut oil has lost market share to the predominantly imported oils — palm, soyabean, and sunflower.

The three imported oils accounted for about 72% of the almost 260 lt total domestic edible oil consumption during the year ended October 2024. The only indigenous oil that has held out is mustard; coconut is low down the list (Table 2).

Even in Kerala — the state that is named after Kera or the coconut tree — the annual consumption of coconut oil is just 2 lt, estimates Mahmood. That is half the consumption of palm oil (4 lt) and more than sunflower oil (1.5 lt). From being the top producer of coconut, Kerala has now slipped to third place, behind Tamil Nadu and the No.1 producer, Karnataka.

On the whole, the record high prices of coconut oil may not hurt that much, given the extent of its marginalisation. If anything, it may accelerate the shift to other oils, particularly imported oils.



1. Price Trends & Comparison

- Coconut oil retail price: ₹460/kg in Kerala (July 2025)
 - Wholesale price: Up from ₹22,500 to ₹39,000 per quintal.
- Retail price of other oils:
 - Palm oil: ₹132/kg (was ₹95 last year)
 - Soybean: ₹154/kg
 - Sunflower: ₹159/kg
 - Mustard: ₹176/kg
- Coconut oil price is almost triple that of other edible oils.





2. Reasons for the Surge

Global Factors:

- El Niño-induced drought (July 2023–June 2024) hit production in:
 - Philippines (largest exporter)
 - Indonesia
- Export restrictions by Indonesia.
- Philippines imposed mandatory blending of coconut oil in diesel from Oct 2024.

Domestic Factors:

- India is a minor coconut oil producer (only 5.7 lakh tonnes, ~0.19 lakh tonnes exported).
- Long coconut tree gestation (3–5 years) means no short-term supply response.
- India's production is stagnant.
- Consumption marginalised (only 3.9 lakh tonnes used domestically out of 260 lakh tonnes of edible oil).

3. Coconut Oil's Reduced Role

- Once a leading edible oil in India (especially in Kerala), now:
 - Only 3.9 lakh tonnes consumed (vs. palm 97.5, soy 52.8).
 - Mostly used in hair oil, soaps, cosmetics.
- Even in Kerala, per capita consumption now just 2 litres/year.



| Oil | Sat. | MUFA | PUFA |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| 1. Ghee | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| 2. Butter | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| 3. Coconut | 92 | 6 | 2 |
| 4. Olive Oil | 14 | 78 | 8 |

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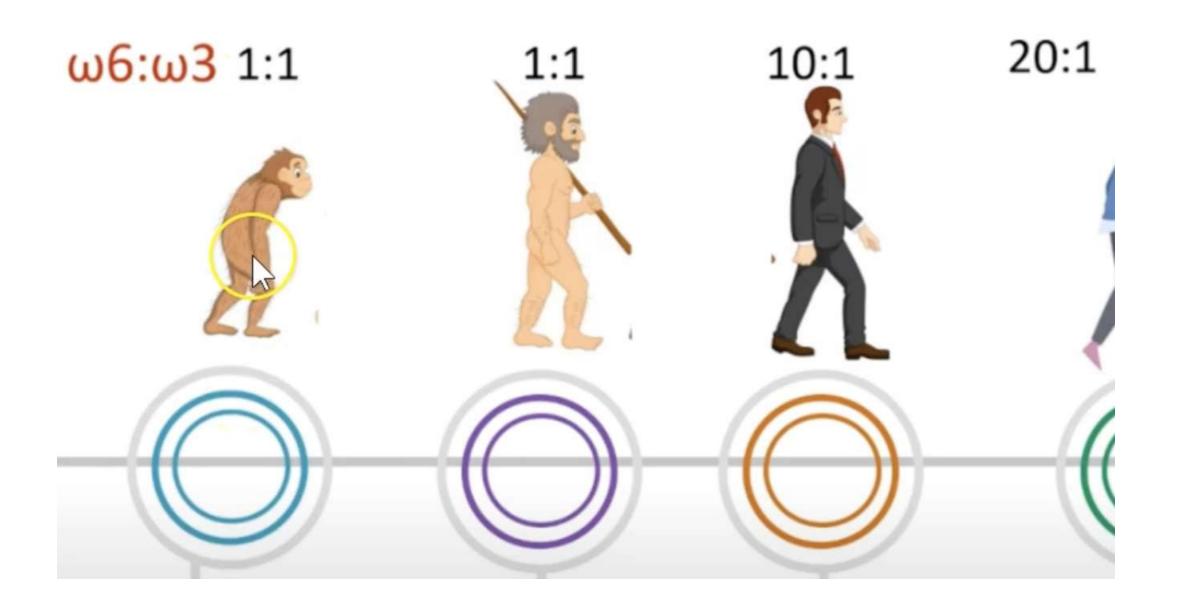
from research organizations

Frequent consumption of peanuts by cancer patients may increase risk of cancer spread, study finds

Date: August 4, 2021

Source: University of Liverpool





FAT

- 60% of brain is made of fat.
- Brain needs healthy fats for constant growth.
- Omega 3 fats and cholesterol.
- Omega 3 fats from flax oil/seeds, raw nuts, (walnuts).
- Mono-unsaturated fats from avocadoes, olive oil.
- Saturated fats from coconut oil, ghee.
- Avoid: Oxidized cholesterol from sunflower, soyabean, groundnut oil. These also have omega 6 fats which are inflammatory.

Q. With reference to the recent surge in coconut oil prices in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Coconut oil accounts for more than 10% of India's total edible oil consumption.
- 2. The El Niño phenomenon in 2023–24 contributed to a reduction in global coconut oil production.
- 3. Indonesia and Philippines are the world's largest producers and exporters of coconut oil.
- 4. Coconut oil's high prices may lead to greater substitution by imported oils.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

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Numbers in lakh tonnes; figures in brackets are exports; data are for marketing year (October-September). Source: US Department of Agriculture



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| Coconut oil | 3.9 | |
| TOTAL* | 58.66 | |

safflower & other minor oils. Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India

| MOST RUNS IN TEST MATCHES | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|
| PLAYER | MATCHES | INNS | RUNS | HS | AVE | | |
| STendulkar | 200 | 329 | 15921 | 248* | 53.78 | | |
| JRoot | 157* | 286 | 13409 | 262 | 51.17 | | |
| R Ponting | 168 | 287 | 13378 | 257 | 51.85 | | |
| JKallis | 166 | 280 | 13289 | 224 | 55.37 | | |
| R Dravid | 164 | 286 | 13288 | 270 | 52.31 | | |

Shifting price gears, British ultra-luxury cars set to get cheaper

FTA lowers duties on high-end imports, shields domestic players

NITIN KUMAR New Delhi, July 25

THE INDIA-UK FREE Trade Agreement (FTA) is set to sharply reduce the price tags of ultra-luxury imported cars. but with a calibrated structure that protects domestic automakers, smaller vehicles, and emerging technologies like electric vehicles.

Under the deal, import duties on high-end internal combustion engine (ICE) cars will be cut from 110% to 30% in the first year, bringing down the price of a ₹5 crore fully built luxury car to around ₹3 crore.

By the fifth year, as tariffs fall further to 10%, the same



car could retail at just around ₹2.62 crore.

As earlier reported, the agreement specifically targets top-end ICE vehicles, meaning petrol engines above 3,000cc and diesel above 2,500cc, leaving out lowercapacity cars, EVs, hybrids, and hydrogen-powered mod-

els for the first five years. This would enable British luxury brands better access to Indian buyers while insulating the domestic car market from immediate disruption.

Among the main beneficiaries are British brands like Jaguar Land Rover (ILR), Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, Bentley, Lotus, McLaren, and MINI, brands long associated with steep prices in the country due

to very high import duties. "While the highly complex deal confirms some compromises, its entry into force will provide commercial opportu-







Under the deal, import duties on high-end internal combustion engine (ICE) cars will be cut from 110% to 30% in



"To ensure maximum and timely benefit, we now need rapid ratification and renewed efforts to agree fair and workable solutions on

It will bring

down the

price of a

fully built

₹3 cr

luxury

₹5 cr

tariff-rate-quotas administration," he added. Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover is best positioned to

epaper.financialexpress.com



still imported from the UK will



For JLR's Range Rover Ranthambore Edition,

New Delhi

Masala Edition, Sport SV Edition, and Discovery Metropolitan Edition, currently priced at ₹4.98 crore, ₹4.99 crore, ₹2.95 crore, and ₹1.47 crore, the revised duties are expected to lower prices to ₹3.08 crore, ₹3.09 crore, ₹1.82 crore, and ₹91 lakh. respectively. These models account for just 5-10% of ILR's overall sales.

A JLR spokesperson said, "We welcome this free trade agreement between the UK and India, which over time will deliver reduced tariff access to the Indian car market for ILR's luxury vehicles. India is an important market for our British built products and represents significant future growth opportunities". The spokesperson added that no pricing decisions had been finalised vet.

may not surge, the recali-Other luxury brands will brated pricing is expected to benefit selectively. MINI's lead to the long-term growth Cooper and Countryman, with of the luxury segment.



engines around 2,000cc, will

attract a reduced 50% duty in

the first year instead of 30%.

Priced today at ₹45 lakh and

₹48 lakh, they may come

down to around ₹32-35 lakh.

like Bentley and Aston Mar-

tin, the impact will be deeper.

Bentley's Bentayga, currently

in the ₹4-6 crore range, could

retail between ₹2.47 crore

the DB11, Vantage, DB12, DBX,

and Vanquish, priced from

₹3.29 crore to ₹8.85 crore.

could see reductions to as low

as ₹2.04 crore in some cases. Though these ultra-luxury

brands sell only about 50 cars

a year in India combined, JLR

and MINI move over 1,000

While immediate volumes

Aston Martin models like

and ₹3.72 crore.

units annually.

For ultra-luxury players

fall further to 10%, the same car could retail at just around ₹2.62 cr The agreement

By the fifth year, as tariffs

specifically targets top-end ICE vehicles, meaning petrol car to around engines above 3.000cc and diesel above 2,500cc

It leaves out lower-capacity cars, EVs, hybrids, and

hydrogen-

Main beneficiaries are British brands like Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, powered models Bentley, Lotus, for first five years McLaren, and MINI

> For ultra-luxury players like Bentley and Aston Martin, the impact will be deeper

- The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has sharply reduced import duties on high-end internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.
- It aims to promote trade while protecting domestic automakers and EV sectors through a calibrated structure.

2. Key Provisions

- Import duty cuts for ICE vehicles:
 - From 110% to 30% in year 1
 - To 10% by year 5
- Applicable to **petrol cars above 3,000 cc** and **diesel cars above 2,500 cc**
- Lower-capacity vehicles, EVs, hybrids, and hydrogen-powered vehicles are excluded for 5 years

3. Price Impact

- Fully built ultra-luxury cars may see price drops:
 - From ₹5 crore → ₹3 crore (year 1)
 - To ₹2.6 crore by year 5
- British brands to benefit:
 - Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, Bentley, Lotus, McLaren, MINI

4. Model-specific Reductions

- JLR:
 - Special edition imports like Range Rover Masala, Sport SV, and Discovery Metropolitan Edition will drop by ₹1–2 crore.
- Bentley Bentayga (₹4–6 crore): price may drop to ₹2.47–₹3.72 crore.
- Aston Martin (DB11, DB12, Vantage, Vanquish): may see cuts up to ₹2.04 crore.

5. Strategic Implications

- Most JLR volume models (like Evoque, Velar) are locally assembled → won't benefit from reduced tariffs.
- FTA limited to direct UK imports (e.g., Land Rover Defender from Slovakia is excluded).
- Long-term goal: open access to electrified vehicles and parts too.
- Volume impact small initially, but expected to boost luxury segment in long run.

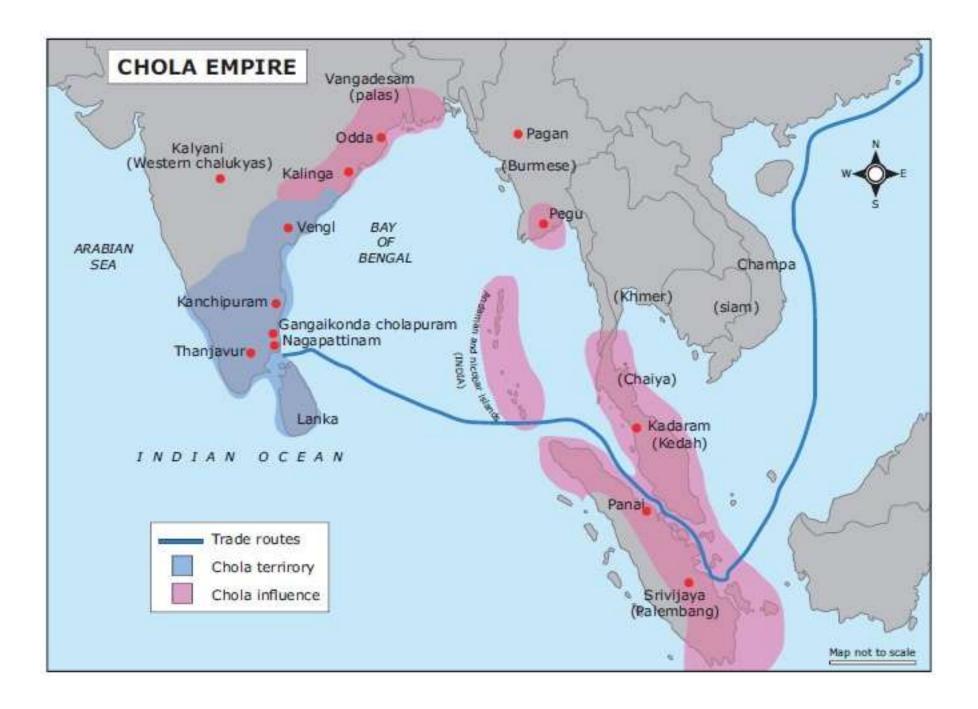
Q. With reference to the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and luxury car imports, consider the following statements:

- 1. The FTA immediately removes duties on all British-made internal combustion and electric vehicles.
- 2. The tariff reduction applies only to petrol cars above 3,000 cc and diesel cars above 2,500 cc.
- **3.** The agreement excludes electric, hybrid, and hydrogen vehicles from concessions for the first five years.
- 4. Locally assembled British luxury cars in India will benefit the most from this FTA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Chola Gangam Lake



• The Tamil Nadu government has recently announced a major initiative to develop the historic **Chola Gangam Lake** (also known as **Ponneri Lake**).

• About

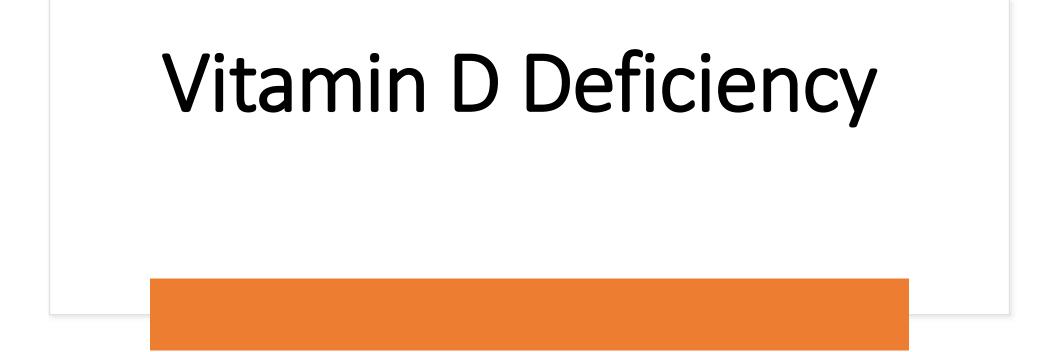
- Chola Gangam Lake was constructed by **Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044 CE)** and is an exemplary work of **Chola-era hydraulic engineering**, originally built to commemorate his victorious northern campaign and bring sacred Ganga water to his new capital.
- The lake and its associated canals were integral to the functioning and prosperity of **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, illustrating advanced water management and urban planning under the Cholas.

The Ministry of Culture to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chola emperor Rajendra Chola
 I with the Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Tamil Nadu.

- Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044 CE)
- He was one of the most powerful and visionary rulers in Indian history.
- Under his leadership, the Chola Empire expanded its influence across South and Southeast Asia.
- He established **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** as the imperial capital after his victorious campaigns, and the temple he built there served as a beacon of Shaiva devotion, monumental architecture, and administrative prowess for over 250 years.
 - Today, the temple stands as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, renowned for its intricate sculptures, Chola bronzes, and ancient inscriptions.

Who was Rajendra Chola I?

- He is often described as Rajendra the Great, was a Chola emperor who ruled between 1014 and 1044 CE.
- Rajendra succeeded his father, Rajaraja I, in 1014 CE.
- He was also known as Gangaikonda Cholan, meaning "Bringer of the Ganges River".
 Another title was Kadaram Kondan, which means "Conqueror of Kedah".
- In order to commemorate his victory to the Ganges and over the northern kings, Rajendra Chola I assumed the title of 'Gangaikondachola' and had a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva built, which he named 'Gangaikondacholeshwaram Mahadev'.
- He also founded the city of 'Gangaikondacholapuram' and shifted his capital there from Thanjavur



- A major new study suggests that the vitamin D levels might contribute to psychological and neurodevelopmental conditions.
- Vitamin-D
- It is a **fat-soluble vitamin** essential for bone and immune health.
- Two main forms:
 - Vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol) from plant sources and fortified foods.
 - Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol) produced in the skin upon sunlight (UVB) exposure; also found in animal sources

Recommended Intake: 600 IU/day for adults.

- Higher needs in the elderly, pregnant and lactating women.
- 1 IU is the biological equivalent of 0.025 mcg cholecalciferol or ergocalciferol.

Functions:

- Calcium and phosphorus absorption from the intestine.
- Maintains bone and dental health.
- Supports immune system regulation.
- Plays a role in muscle function and cell growth.

Sources: Natural Sources – Sunlight, Fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), Egg yolks Diseases: Rickets in children (bone deformities), Osteomalacia in adults (soft bones), Osteoporosis (brittle bones), Increased susceptibility to infections.

Supplements – Common in case of deficiency, especially in northern latitudes or sedentary indoor lifestyles. 0

+

individuals

| Variable | | No. (%) | Vitamin D level (ng/mL) |
|------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Genderª | Males | 45 (44.1) | 17.35 ± 11.6 |
| | Females | 57 (55.9) | 17.29 ± 12.69 |
| | Total | 102 | 17.32 ± 12.16 |
| a D = O CC | | | |

^a *P* = 0.66.

ADB Lowers India's FY26 Growth Forecast to 6.5%

• The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its Asian Development Outlook July 2025, revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY2025–26 downward to **6.5%** from 6.7%, primarily due to the **effects of US tariff policies**.

- About Asian Development Bank
- ADB is a regional development bank established in **1966** for Social and Economic Development. It has **68 members.**

• It is a **multilateral development bank**, which seeks to help its developing member countries to reduce poverty and improve their people's quality of life through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration.

• Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.

Study on GST Burden on Indian Households

• A recent study analysing India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime using the 2022–23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) has revealed that the bottom 50% of consumers bear the same GST burden as the middle 30%, raising important questions about the tax system's progressivity and equity.

- The study by **Prof. Sacchidananda Mukherjee** of the **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy** (NIPFP) highlights the following:
 - Rural Areas:
 - Bottom 50% bear **31%** of the GST burden
 - Middle 30% also bear 31%
 - Top 20% carry **37%**
 - Urban Areas:
 - Bottom 50% bear **29%**
 - Middle 30% account for 30%
 - Top 20% shoulder the highest burden at **41%**
 - These findings contrast with earlier reports, such as Oxfam's 2023 Analysis, which claimed the poorest 50% contributed nearly two-thirds of total GST collections, while the richest 10% contributed only 3–4%.

• What is GST?

– **Definition:** GST is a comprehensive, destination-based indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services, subsuming multiple indirect taxes (such as VAT, excise, service tax).

- Rate Structure: Multiple rates (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%) depending on the goods/services, plus some special rates and cess for sin/luxury goods.

1. Some items like **petroleum**, **alcohol**, **and electricity** remain outside the GST ambit, leading to calls for further inclusion.

- Input Tax Credit: Allows seamless credit for taxes paid at previous stages, reducing cascading tax effects.

– GST Council: The GST Council, a federal body comprising the Union Finance Minister and State Finance Ministers, governs the structure, rates, and reforms of GST, ensuring cooperative federalism.

Henley Passport Index 2025



• According to the Henley Passport Index 2025, the Indian passport has jumped eight spots, moving from 85th to 77th rank, now offering visa-free access to 59 countries.





• Published by:

• The index is compiled by Henley & Partners, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm.

Criteria Used:

- Passports are ranked by the **number of countries accessible without a prearranged visa** (including visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or electronic travel authorizations).
- 227 destinations are considered in total.

Key Global Trends in 2025 Rankings:

- <u>Top Performers:</u>
 - Singapore ranks 1st with visa-free access to 193 countries.
 - Japan and South Korea share 2nd position with access to 190 destinations.
 - Several European nations—Germany, France, Italy—dominate the top 5.

Major Climbers:

- UAE surged from 42nd to 8th place in a decade.
- China jumped from 94th to 60th since 2015.
- Saudi Arabia gained access to 91 destinations, up by 4 in 2025.

Lowest Rank: Afghanistan remains at the bottom, offering access to only 25 destinations.

Declining Powers: USA fell to 10th place; UK stands at 6th, both losing past top ranks.

UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3

India successfully conducted flight trials of the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 at the NOAR test range, Kurnool.

The missile marks a significant milestone in India's indigenous drone warfare capabilities.

What it is:

• A UAV-Launched air-to-surface precision guided missile, designed for engaging static and moving targets with minimal collateral damage.

Developed by: DRDO, in collaboration with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, Adani, and multiple **MSMEs and start-ups** under the Make in India initiative.

Objective: To enhance India's **autonomous strike capability**, allowing drones to deliver pinpoint attacks without risking pilots or manned aircraft.

• Variants:

- ULPGM-V1: Baseline prototype.
- **ULPGM-V2:** Production-ready variant (standard issue).
- ULPGM-V3 (ULM-ER): Extended-range, improved variant.



Thank you 😊

