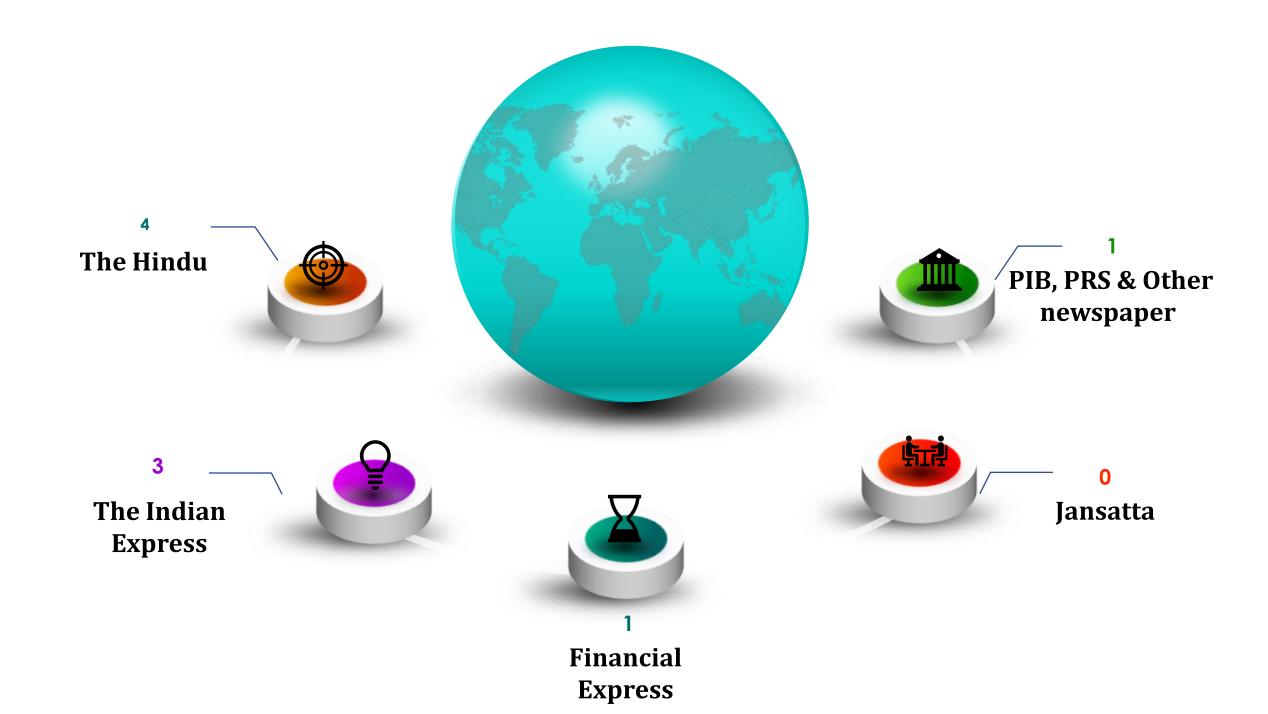
# Daily Current Affairs



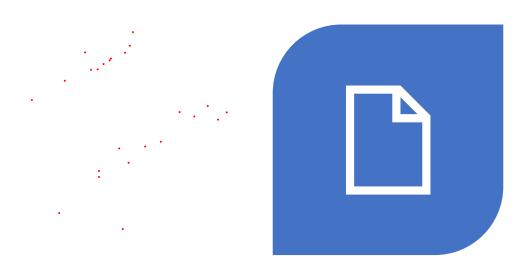








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**PDF** 

10 MCQ QUIZ



"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

- Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning



PRESIDENTIAL REPERENCE Governor cannot act as a 'super CM': T.N HEWS I PAGE 4



the tariffs right now if they agree to stop buying (Bus-sian) oil and feeding the war machine," said Mr. Tramp's Trade Advisor be-ter Navarro, who has been

or Navarri, who has been leading the charge on ta-riffs. He accused findian ne-gotiators of falsely claiming that india does not charge high tariffs, and of "arro-ling or the false of the "profiteering" from refi-ing Russian oil in partner-ship with Russian refinera, a reference to the Vadinar refinery in Ciquida.

"Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers and businesses lose, workers

lose because bulla's high tariffs cost us jobs, income and higher raises. The tax-

payers lose because we've got to fund Modi's war." Mr. Navarro told the

America's cost

VIRAN TRANSPIR

17 killed as illegal building collapses HEWS - PAGE 4

Should States be compensated for revenue loss? New GST reforms raise



CAUSING A PLUTTER Sindhu stuns Wang enters quarterfinals SPORT - PAGE 46

#### ENMEDIE



Kim, Putin will join Xi at Sept. 3 victory parade

Jong-un will join Chines President III. Jimping and Sussan President Visuli Busian President Madenii Putin at Beiging's September parade marking 80 years sind resistance against Japanese aggression," Chinese Poreign Ministry seid. 9-PAGE 24

New amoebic encephalitis case in Kerala

A new case of amoebic meningoencepholitis has been reported from Kashbade Estrict in Kerala, taking the millergoing treatment here to see. This rare train whet there is suited by amorbies found in untermedated waters. In PAGE

#### Security pact to be upgraded on PM's Japan visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart.

nigeru tahiba, will trave together on a loafet train during two day out to Japan from Friday. The two are also expected to apprade the 2008 Enoperation, is page 4

#### CPI(ML) and RJD file 82 objections against poll rolls

The Election Communion on Thursday said it had received 82 claims and objections from booth level agents of pullitical parties in the special interests cision of electoral rulls in Sither as against 1,85,802 from

## U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'

of 'arrogance' and 'profiteering' from refining

Trump Trade Advisor accuses Indian officials 🚪 Democrats slam Trump govt, for extra 25% sanctions Democrats slam Trump govt, for extra 25% sanctions on India, noting that the Chinese buy more Russian oil be solved at highest levels, possibly through talks



Bloomberg news agency, accusing India of "getting in bad with the authoritar-ians" like Bussia and

China. U.S. Treasury Secretary U.S. Treasury Secretary facor flesseric called India-U.S. ties a "complicated re-lationship", despite good ties between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi, and said that

the issue was not just Russian oil purchases but In-dia's failure to make a deal with the U.S. on trade. "I thought lindia could

be one of the earlier deals and they kind of tapped us along in terms of the nego-tations. Then there is also the aspect of the Ruisian crude purchases which

Removal of tariffs not a prerequisite for trade talks'

PERSON - PAGE -

The removal of the additional 20% tariff on Judia is not a prerequiate for trade States, but a trade deal would test "tre practical" if these tariffs were to remain, according to government SCHOOL OF PAGE AR

they've been profiteering on," Mr. Bessent said on Wednesday, where he said the Indian rupes is at "an all-time low" due to recent developments.

Demogratic lawmakers.

however, attacked the Trump government, point-ing out that China buys more flustian oil than in-

dia, in the past month, China has increased its intake of Russian oil even as India decreased its purchases.
"Instead of imposing sanctions on China or oth-

sanctions on China or offi-ers purchasing larger amounts of Russian oil, with usrfis, hurring Ameri-cans and sabotaging the U.S. India relationship in the not about Ulraine at 18", not about Ulraine at 18", not about Ulraine at 18", the Democrate in the House Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, a mumber of former U.S. officials who have dealth with India in the

past expressed their disap-pointment with the situa-tion leading to the U.S. slapping 80% tariffs on in-

dian goods from August 27. "Unfortunately, the United States and India have managed to convert what appeared to be a true and trade into a remarkable lose-lose," suid Mark Lin-scott, former U.S. trade negotiator, calling for "cooler heads who understand the value of the relationship"

value of the relationships to prevail.

Mr. Juster, also a former U.S. Commerce official who served as ambiassador to India during the first Framp term, told the Council for Foreign field tions that Mr. Trump between the U.S. India sections of the Council for the Council for the Council for the Council for Foreign field tions that Mr. Trump between the U.S. India sections of the Council for the many years. "[Mr.] Modi needed to respond firmly to the new tariffs, But he should also be careful no to paint himself into a cor-ner and to remain open to discussing ways to resolve the trade dispute," he said, expressing the hope that the leaders would meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

#### Until next year

unived at the highest levels

potentially through a meet-ing between U.S. President

Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

And year the U.S. impressed 28% second or the contest of the term of the contest of the term of the te



### 2 terrorists, soldier killed as gunfight | Industrial erupts during infiltration bid in J&K

#### Peersada Ashiq

during an infiltration bid in standipora in north Kash-mir, the Army said on Thursday A soldier died in the line of duty in Rupwa-

Fit. B udded.

Speaking on the Bandigora incident, where 'Operation Naushera Nar' was in
progress, an Army spokesmin said, 'Alert troops



neutralising two and Kashmir Police sug-terrories."

The operation was attempt in the Garse Sec-launched after furolligence provided by the Januar hy forces continued comb-

Gures Sector "to ensure more infiltrators were not hiding in the area". Gures, located close to the Line of Control (Lot), used to be an infiltration route for the terrorists in the past too.

Soldier dies
In a separate incident, the
Army's Chinar Corpe said a
soldier made the "superior
sacrifice during operational duty" in north sashmir's
Kupewar district. The deceased soldier was identified as travillar with desiration will forever impire
ing, "the Army said. Soldier dies

#### growth jumps to four-month high of 3.5%

self-enumeration, digital mapping tools, and a webndustrial growth jumper to a four-month high of 3.5% in July 2025, driven by a broad-based recovery in sed portal for real-time nonitoring and manage-nest will also be tried out the manufacturing, elec-tricity, capital, and con-numer goods sectors.

However, the Index of during the pre-test, the DCOs were informed.

industrial Production for July 2025, released by the Ministry July 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementa-tion on Thursday, grew at a slower pace.

#### Pre-test for Census 2027 to be held in October-November

Population Cennus. 2027 will be conducted in October and November, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner (RG

Commas Commissioner IIIG

& CCD has informed the Directorates of Cernasi Operations OCCAD in the States.

A pre-test is enquired to
test the efficacy of the enthed for the total will be
the officer of the enclisting and Housing Schedute (TiLO) and Population
Fourmerships to the Commission between
April I, 2026 and Pebruary
38, 2027.

2027. This will be the first digital Census and the first to mumerate caste in Indesendent fudia. The test will evaluate

place in 2019, covering more than 26 lash people in 76 districts of 36 States and Union Territories. Around 6,000 snutmers tors and 1,100 supervisors from Mate governments were engaged in 2019. That exercise included questions on household amendice from the first phase, and queries for the National Population Regis-ter (NPR) and population enumeration from the sethe proposed questions, stata collection methodologica, training affectiveness, logistics, printing process, logistics, printing process, and state opening a second printing process, and identify potential and a second printing printing and printing a second printing and printing a second printing and printing affects and printing affects

enumeration from the se-cond playe, tested its suc-cession from August 12 to september 39, 2019.
Unlike the previous in-stances, however, this year's pre-test this time will only cover questions about the first phase and not the second penalusion collect data.
Other aspects such as

Militarijay Kumar Narayan

not the second population enumeration phase where case is to be tabulated. On July 29, the Union go-vernment informed the Lok Subha that no decision has been taken to update the NPR during the upcom-ing Population Census 2027 exercise.

thring the pre-tox, the DCOs were informed.

Phase I questions only:
This is the first census
This is the first the Citizenship Act,
1983.
The NPR was first crisis
of 1990 The pre-tex for the
This is the first phase of
the 2010 Census took
the 2010 Census
th

#### India, Canada name envoys. signal end to bilateral row

in a move signalling normalisation of diplomatic malisation of diplomatic properties of a properties of a pro-ballistan activist in 2023 in British Control of the properties of a pro-ballistan activist in 2023 in British Control of the proposition of High Commissioner of High Commissioner or a properties of the properties of the properties of the properties of the Commission of the State of the Prince Minister Narra-counterpart, Mark Carney, on the sidelines of the Commission of the Commission of the State of the Prince Minister State of the Prince State of the Prince Minister State of the Prince State of the Pr in a move signalling nor-malisation of diplomatic

nada, where both leaders agreed to appoint sinveys and upgrade thes. Canada's Minister of Fo-reign Affairs Anita Anand said that Christopher Coo-ter, a career foreign service officer with 35 years of diplomatic experience, will be the new High Commis-sioner to India.

House to India.
House later, the Ministry
of External Affairs here are
nounced that tripesh K.
Parnais of the 1990 Indian
Foreign Service cadre will
take up charge of the High
Genmissioner to Ganada
Schootel Me.

"The appointment of a new High Commissioner reflects Canada's step-bystep approach to deepen ing diplomatic engagement and advancing bilateral cooperation with India This is an important deve lopment toward restoring services for Canadians, said Ms. Anand.

said Ms. Anamd.
India and Canada engaged in a tit-for-tat diplomatic apat after relations
deteriorated over Canadian authorities binming
indian agents for the assesstration of Handrey Singh
Nijar in Surrey, on June 18,
2023.

## 1. U.S. Sanctions on India

- Tariffs imposed: 25% reciprocal + 25% secondary sanctions (effective Aug 27, 2025).
- Reason: India's continued purchase of Russian crude despite Western sanctions.
- Impact: ~50% tariffs on Indian goods → India's exports to U.S. made uncompetitive.

## 2. U.S. Allegations

- Navarro accused India of:
  - Arrogance in refusing to cut Russian imports.
  - Profiteering from refining Russian crude and exporting refined products.
- He claimed U.S. taxpayers "fund Modi's war" indirectly.

## 3. India's Position

- India has repeatedly stated:
  - Purchases are based on energy security needs.
  - Oil is bought at discounted prices to protect its economy.
  - Other countries, esp. China, import more Russian oil, yet India is being targeted.

## 4. U.S. Domestic Reactions

- Democratic lawmakers criticized Trump administration for targeting India while ignoring China.
- Former U.S. officials (Mark Linscott, Kenneth Juster) urged "cool heads" to prevent U.S.-India ties from worsening.
- Hope expressed for resolution via Trump-Modi meeting at UNGA (Sept 2025).

## 5. Economic Impact on India

- 55% of Indian exports to U.S. (worth ~\$47–48 bn) face tariff disadvantages of 30–35%.
- Risk of Indian goods losing competitiveness to China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines.

#### ■ 「● 養養養養 ■ 単三種?



#### India hosts international meeting on military medicine

Union Missacer of State for Defence Sanjay Seeh on Thursday imaginzated "MLMEDICON-2025: international conference on physical and mental trauma in military settings" at Manokshaw Centre, New Delbi. The two-day event has been organised by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army), Mr. Seth underlined Index commitment to advancing military medicine through global partnerships and research. "It is a fitting tribute to our warriors and a crucial step fitting fribule to our warriers and a criscial step towards fusies ready insulfaces esolutions. Its said. Marking the indianada warrier was ele-Referent. It is positioned as a strategic initiative to strengthen international cooperation and enhance trauma care in operational settings.

#### Maoists kill visiting teacher in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district

Manists killed a 30-year-nld man working as a shikshalori (temporary visiting teacher in greenunent schucks) in Chhattiggarh's Sukinu-dietrict on Wednesday evening, the police said. Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran S. Chavan sold that around 7.30 p.m., they received information that shikshadoot Laxman Bares bad been murdered by Naxalites, armed with been murdered by Naxaltea, armed with sharp-edged weapons, in Silger village. He added that Barse's family members tried to intervene but were also assaulted by the attackers. The police asspect that Barse was killed on asspicion of being a police offormer, Baster inspector General of Police P. Sandaraj said.

## Water levels begin to recede as J&K battles flood impact

CM directs officials to restore transportation and electricity in all affected areas. Jammu-Srinagar NH still out of bounds for traffic, schools across Jammu division to remain closed till tomorrow

after levels hargan receding in post rivers of Jamma and Kashmir an Thursday, bringing relief to hundreds affected by the heavy rain, dash floods, and landslips over the part few days in the Union Turnitury.

"We are out of danger for now. Waters have start-ed receding in [rivers] of the samma and Rashmir dithe Januari and Rabriari di-visiones. They recorde fastion in Januari and take some rected (official) to resure smooth transportation, restoration of electricity, restoration of electricity, carups in all affected areas. Chief Minister Grand of the Minister subjection measures were augitavatifig the flood situa-cial initiatives that were launched after the devar-ating floods for 2018 that

inflicted unprecedented damage to private and pu-blic infrastructure in the

Union Territory.

"Head the rainfall conti-mued for a day or more, we would have faced immense difficulties, I will have to sit



tionness on Thursifus, mnou second

with the officers and unwith the officers and in-derstand what we have done after 2014. It was af-ter six to seven days of rains that floods hit Kash-mir. This time, just two days of rain lavought Kash-mir to the brink of floods," Mr. Aladde asis. Mr. Abdullah said.

He said the government needs to take corrective measures to end the per-petual fear of floods in the Kashmir Valley, "Where was the morey apent? How was the money spent? How much carrying capacity of the flood channels was in-creased? How much did we asceed by undertaking dredging in the fleshing?" Mr. Abdullah satal.

Meanwhile, the flush floods and landslips that left over 40 civilians dead in the past few days in J&K continued to disrupt nor

continued to disrupt nor-mal life.

The jamma Srinogar Na-tional Highway remained closed for traffic due to multiple landslips, officials said.

The Jal Shakti Department grappled to fidly res-tore water supply in Jam-mu, which was badly his by flash floods in the Tawi by flash floods in the Yawi river. "Water supply in some areas is likely to re-main disrupted till the res-tocation work is comple-ed," Mohammad Hanief, Chiof Engineer, Jai Shakii, Jammu, said.

was yet to assion the extent of damage inflicted on pu-bile structures in the past few days.

Hundreds of houses were affected by flood wa-ters and landslips in jam-mu Division districts such as Kishtwar, Doda, jam-mu, Reast and Kathus.

Unsafe conditions Officials said due to the continuous heavy rainfull and unsafe conditions, all schools across the lamn livision will remain closed

division will remain closed till August 30. In the Che-nab Valley, the administra-tion stepped up measures to restors electricity, Inter-net, and communication services in Duda district. acretices in Doda district.
Communist Party of In-dia Offarsist) leader and MLA of Kulgaro, M.Y. Tart-gami, said the floods have wreaked haves on bridges, roads, infrastructure, agriculture, and left thousands

of residents in distress.
"The horriculture and "The horiculture and agriculture sectors have suffered massive losses both in Jammu and Kash-nie. The catastrophe should serve as a wake-up call. The government should be set the natural scanning and dis-serve," Mr. Tarigami said.

# Nearly 60% of MGNREGS

ment mandrers may bergely be attributed to demo-gocyble shifts with falling special shifts with falling self-man proposition. In addition, the she has condi-dent in pre-primary stan-dations private institu-dation private institu-tion in pre-primary stan-dations private institu-tion in pre-primary stan-dations private institu-tion in pre-primary stan-dation private institu-tion in pre-primary stan-dation private institu-tion in pre-primary stan-dation private institu-tion private institu-private institu-private institu-private

funds were allocated to the programme. According to sources, sop officials of the Ministry of Rural Development have agains reached out to the Fi-nance Ministry asking for a revised allocation, but sources said that so far there were ne indication for the triantee Ministry or allotting additional funds.

Declining enrolments



#### School enrolment in 3-11 age group down by 25 lakh: UDISE+

Maitri Porecha

dents aged between three and It in schools across india - encompassing angan-wadi, pre-school and Classwadt, pre-school and Clause si 1 to 8 — dropped by nearly 25 lakh in 2024-25 compared with the 2023-24 figures, say the fatest United District Informa-tion System for Edharation Plan (UIDER) data re-leared by the Edharation Ministry on Thurschie

port said that 12,00 crore students enrolled in foun-dational and preparatory stages, which declined to

stages, which declined to 1.94 ctore attulents, a dip of 24.95 lakh, in 2024-25. that the total school enrol-ment number (from Class-es I is 13.7 bas fallen by II lakh studeous, from 24.8 cores (2024-25), an all-time low since 2018-15. These in-clude students in govern-ment, government-aided, private and other schools.

Falling birth rates "The decline in the enrol-ment members may largely

ing born may be leading to lower enrolment," an offi-cial said. India's total fertilcial said, India's total fertility rate (TPR) dropped to 1.91, per woman by 2021, below the replacement level of 3.1, accurating in the level of 3.1, accurating in the level of 3.1, accurating in the level of the level of English said that for calculating parameters such as Gross Rurellinerii Katio (GRO) — the total sireolment in a specific level of education and expressed

as a percentage of the eligi-ble official school-age pop-ulation — the 2011 Census data were used. "Once the 2026 Census data is availa ble, a lot of these projec-tions will be modified," the official added.

official added.
In the 2012-13 report,
the total number of students studying in India
from Classes I to 12 was reported to be 26.3 crore. In
Nuvember 2023, when the
2021-22 data were released,
2021-23 data were released,
assued 26 crore. The 202223 data segment the encolaround 26 crore. The 2023-23 data pegged the enrol-ment at 25.18 crore, which further fell to 24.8 crore in

figure. Ministry officials have given a disclaimer that the reports of 2022-22 and 2023-24 are not strictly comparable to previous years' because of a change in the 'methodology' of da-ta collection. Officials said there was an increase of total error-ment of students by ap-proximately 6 latch bet-ween 2022-24 and 56 6.21

in Classes 6 to 8. While 6.31 crore students were accounted for in the 2021-24 report, this increased to 6.36 erors in 2024-25. Total enrolment in Classes 9 to 12 saw an increase of roughly 8 lash, a spike from 6.39 crors in 2022-24 from 6.39 crore in 2023-24.

to 6.46 crore in 2024-25.

While the total annohment has gone down, officials said that GER has improved. At middle level, GER rose from 89.5% in 2023-24 to 90.3% in 2024-28, while at secondary level it increased from 66.3% in 2024-24 to 88.8%. in 2024-24

Lower dropouts Dropout rates have re-duced as those joining school are not leaving compared with earlier years, ir from 3.7% to 2.3% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Dur-ling the same years in mid-dle school, dropouts re-duced from 3.2% to 3.3% and in secondary school from 10.9% to 8.2%.

#### Bihar on alert over suspected entry of three Pak. terrorists

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Bittar Police put all border districts on high al-ert and tightened security acress the poll-hound State on Thursday after intelli-gence inputs suggested that there asspected terror-rists from Paksitan had en-tered by the company of the put to tered the State through Ne-pal. A cash reward of \$50,000 was announced for information on the sus-pected Jaish e-Mohammad

The police said Hasnair and Melsammal Uman from Bahawipur had se-reed in Kadimundu during the second week of August sed crossed into Araria dis-titot of Bihar lau week, Vehicles are being checked in the border areas, a pol-se official said.

#### Mumbai and Vizag among safest cities for women: NARI

Press Trust of India

Mumbal: Washbaratram Mumbal, Visakhapatnam, Kohima, Ishahameswar, Al-zawi, Gangtok, and Isau-gar have smerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patra, Jaipur, Farishibad, Della, Kolkara, Krinagar and Ran-chi were ranked the low-est, according to the Na-tional Annual Report and Index on Wamen's Kafety Index on Women's Safety (NARD 2025.

The nationwide index released on Thursday, based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, placed the national safety

phased the national safety score at 65%. Kollina and other top ranked cline were associat-ed with seconger gentler equity, elvic participation, policing and women-riendly infrastructure. Whereas, cities like Patna

TH GROSSWORD + 14575



due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriar-chal norms and gape in urban infrarructure, the re-

44 Angry shorter leaves good eggs with nothing but fruit (fi).

24 Curriculty spending time finally in 12 to get a spice for Indian culture (t)

25 Something is distinctly better then cave about to conspse CLA.

Hotel that a souther mainly to show decimal raughty (8)
 Regiment, of puppy line that's not real (6)

 Smoked, used feel language forgetting saint (SI
 Bay this when you dun't understand, maybe file langual back?
(3.3,5,2,2) Losing weight? dut energy in the first place for putting things in presentable shape 177 presentable stage (7)

Fool made up story after breaking law (6)

15 Tell a tale of state about to restrain American marine (4,1,4)

18 Sprones says "Naybe Jank respired materials for stories" (4,4)

7 Main wheel advances stoody in Ulting devices (7)

26. Destroy term of Chimese, blank but and cold (8,2,8,8)

L. Cryptic solver thinking about setter as introvert (8,46

49 Divorced wives essentially set out to hit the roof (8.8)

23. Money to circulate without automoby multipart (4.5.2)

Head sweeper strips tops in total (4,4)

ban infrintricture, the re-port and,
Overall, six in 10 women aureveed felt "nafe" in their city, but 40% still comi-dered themselves "nut so safe" or "unsafe", The stil-dy revealed sharp dropp in perceptions of safety at night; particularly in pu-blic transport and recrea-tional space.

## budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year In reply to a question in the Lock Sabha posed by Primmrool Congress Miller Control of the Miller Congress of the Miller Sabha Congress of the Miller Sabha Congress of Sabha Congress of Sabha Congress of the Congress of th

Nearly 60% of the budget allocated for the Union go-vernment's flaphip rural employment programme

– Mahatma Gandhi Nation-al Barai Employment Gaa-rantee Scheme

al Bural Bimpleyment Gas-rantee Scheime (MGNIEGS) — has been ex-bausted with a month still left to go for the second quarier to end. As per the data available with the Mi-nistry of Sural Develop-ment, 481,522 crore out of 866,000 crore earmarked in the Union Budget for 2085-26 has been spent till

date. The Finance Ministry re-The Pinance Ministry re-cently capped spending under the programme at 60% of its annual alloca-tion for the first half of the financial year. The govern-ment thus will be left with





T79 crore under the programme for September. There are 12.15 crore active workers who rely on the scheme to supplement their household's income. Nearly 1885 of the badget allocated in 202525 went thus covering the pointing liability from the pointing liability from the 202526. Binarchi year of 202526.

#### SUIDONE



#### RATE I

#### Moksha in modern times

A person who was from in Krita Yuga or Treta Yuga or Dwapara Yuga had the same goal Uhar someone born in Kai Yuga has. The goal then was meaksha it will it madelate a Kai Yuga has. The goal then was meaksha it will be madelate working towards that goal was different in these yugan. White one had to spend many years striving for modelat in Krita Yuga. It got sasier with the subsequent yuga, with Kail having the suniest way of coaching the Lord's feet. The suniest way for coaching the Lord's feet, the suniest way to reaching the Lord's feet of the suniest way to reaching the Lord's feet. The suniest way to be supplied to the suniest way to reach the suniest way of the sun

or on a river basik, or near the ocean, and do dhyana in si-lence. Solitude and silence are required for uninterrupted meditation. Conditions is other yugas were conductve for such solitary meditation. This sind of solitary wurship is not possible in Kail Yuga, and certainly not in the modern

nor possible in Kall Yuga, and servating not in the modern ent, with Crowds converging everywhere, Giwen our preoccupations, we may not have control over and indrous. 
There are two weys of practing distance. Ane way is to 
expect the support of others when you follow your dharman, Another way is to do your distance without depending 
when we do our dharma. To worship without being in the 
company of others, and to pursue dharma soltrarily, reterminate of others, and to pursue dharma soltrarily, rewithin very few in Kall Yuga posteess. So, in Kall Yuga we do 
not including in regies or medication as its past yugas. 
Temple worship is a great boon in Kall Yuga. We can invisit to temple worship in a great boon in Kall Yuga.

visits to temples along with our families or other devotees



- Rarely horsest dearling, crafty more to cut rate (8,4) Biogosting action time networks of hone (9)
   Rage in the resolute of crisis after consuming horses (1)
   The Freech about to stop by to pay attention (4,2,3)
   Husband withing flood sharp in rity (3)
   A matter death and slug or return for poose (9)



# India hosts international meeting on military medicine

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Thursday inaugurated "MILMEDICON-2025: international conference on physical and mental trauma in military settings" at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The two-day event has been organised by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army). Mr. Seth underlined India's commitment to advancing military medicine through global partnerships and research. "It is a fitting tribute to our warriors and a crucial step towards future-ready healthcare solutions," he said. Marking the Indian Army's 'Year of Reforms', it is positioned as a strategic initiative to strengthen international cooperation and enhance trauma care in operational settings.

## Mumbai and Vizag among safest cities for women: NARI

#### **Press Trust of India**

**NEW DELHI** 

Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kohima, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, and Itanagar have emerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar and Ranchi were ranked the lowest, according to the National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.

The nationwide index released on Thursday, based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, placed the national safety score at 65%.

Kohima and other topranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing and womenfriendly infrastructure. Whereas, cities like Patna



The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night across cities

and Jaipur fared poorly due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriarchal norms and gaps in urban infrastructure, the report said.

Overall, six in 10 women surveyed felt "safe" in their city, but 40% still considered themselves "not so safe" or "unsafe". The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night, particularly in public transport and recreational spaces.

- Report Released: National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.
- Survey Coverage: 12,770 women across 31 Indian cities.
- National Safety Score: 65%.
- Safest Cities Identified:
  - Mumbai
  - Visakhapatnam (Vizag)
  - Kohima
  - Bhubaneswar
  - Aizawl
  - Gangtok
  - Itanagar

## Lowest Ranked Cities:

- Patna
- Jaipur
- Faridabad
- Delhi
- Kolkata
- Srinagar
- Ranchi

## Reasons for High Safety in Top Cities:

- Stronger gender equity
- Civic participation
- Effective policing
- Women-friendly infrastructure

## Reasons for High Safety in Top Cities:

- Stronger gender equity
- Civic participation
- Effective policing
- Women-friendly infrastructure

## Reasons for Poor Ranking in Bottom Cities:

- Weak institutional responsiveness
- Patriarchal norms
- Gaps in urban infrastructure

## Perception of Safety:

- 60% women felt "safe" in their city.
- 40% considered themselves "not so safe" or "unsafe".
- Sharp drop in feeling of safety at night, especially in public transport and recreational spaces.

## **NARI Index:**

Part of the government's effort to measure gender inclusivity & safety.

Similar to international indices like the Global Gender Gap Index.

## Women's Safety in India:

Constitutional Provisions: Article 14 (Equality before law), Article 15 (prohibition of discrimination), Article 21 (Right to life & liberty).

Laws: Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013, POSH Act 2013, Nirbhaya Fund.

Schemes: Safe City Project, Mahila Police Volunteers Scheme.

# Global Comparison:

- According to UN Women reports, perception of safety is a major barrier to women's workforce participation in urban areas.
- Countries like Sweden and Japan consistently rank high in women's safety due to strong gender-sensitive urban design.

# **Urban Safety Concerns:**

- NCRB 2023 data: Delhi has highest crimes against women among metros.
- Smart Cities Mission is integrating CCTV, emergency response systems, and women-friendly transport measures.

# • Consider the following statements regarding the National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025:

- The NARI 2025 survey covered over 30 Indian cities and found Mumbai and Visakhapatnam among the safest cities for women.
- Patna, Jaipur, and Delhi were ranked among the lowest in women's safety.
- The nationwide safety score was below 50%.
- Weak institutional responsiveness and patriarchal norms were cited as reasons for poor safety rankings in some cities.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1, 2 and 4 only
- C) 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## The India-Japan partnership

The relationship is stable and deepening at a time of uncertainties around the world. PM Modi's visit is expected to further consolidate the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries

#### SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi left for Japan on Thursday night for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit with his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba.

The August 29-30 visit will be Modi's eighth trip to Japan, and his first since Ishiba took office last year. The two leaders have met earlier on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane last October, and on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis this June.

Modi last travelled to Japan for the Annual Summit in 2018; he has since visited the country for multilateral engagements such as the G20 summit in Osaka in 2019, and the C7 summit in Hiroshima in 2023.

From Japan, the Prime Minister will travel to China for the Heads of State Council meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tianjin.

#### Old ties, shared vision

Japan and Russia are India's two oldest Annual Summit-level mechanisms. India-Japan bilateral relations were elevated to Global Partnership in 2006, Strategic and Global Partnership in 2006, and Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014.

The Annual Summits between former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and PM Modi gave a strategic edge to the ties.

Ahead of the PM's visit, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India and Japan "share values, trust, and strategic outlook".

The India-Japan partnership is rooted in civilizational ties that have been reinforced by convergence in their regional and global outlooks, India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) align closely with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (POIP) policy, Japan leads IPOI's connectivity pillar, and is India's largest Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) donor.

Cooperation between the countries extends to plurilateral platforms such as the Quad, International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDR), and Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).

A joint statement and a vision statement will be issued during the PM's visit. Sources said the two sides will exchange notes on the current global scenario, specifically, in the walke of the tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump administration, and in the context of trust.



Ishiba (left) with Modi at Vientiane, Laos, last October, X/@norendromodi

#### STORY OF FRIENDSHIP OVER PAST TWO DECADES

2007: Japan PM Shinzo Abe delivers the landmark "Confluence of Two Seas" speech in Parliament.

2013: Emperor Akihito & Empress Michiko visit India, 2014: Abe is Republic Day

2014: Abe is Republic Day chief guest; ties elevated to 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.

2019: President R N Kovind attends

Emperor Naruhito's coronation 2022: Kishida visits India, pledges JPY 5 trillion in investment

2023: Modi attends G7 Summit in Hiroshima, unveils Gandhi statue near Peace Park

2024: Modi meets Japanese PM thrice, marking 10 years of Special Strategic Partnership

uncertainties about US security commitments in the Indo-Pacific,

### Realms of cooperation

Defence and Security

Key agreements on defence and security include the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation (2008), Defence Cooperation and Exchanges MoU (2014), Information Protection Agreement (2015), Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services Agreement (2020), and co-development of the UNICORN naval mast (2024).

EXERCISES: Malabar (with the US and Australia), Milan (multilateral naval), JIMEX (bilateral maritime), Dharma Guardian (Army), and Coast Guard cooperation are held regularly, 2024-25 saw the participation of service chiefs in India and Japan, strengthening interoperability.

DIALOGUE MECHANISMS: Defence Ministers' meetings, Chiefs' visits, and Joint Service Staff Talks (2024) have consolidated meet.

India and Japan will move towards upgrading the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Coperation, and will review progress in defence and technology transfers.

#### Trade and Investment

TRENDS: Bilateral trade reached \$22.8 billion in 2023-24. In Apr-Jan 2024-25, trade reached \$21 billion, demonstrating stability.

Imports from Japan continue to outweigh exports. India's main exports are chemicals, vehicles, aluminium, and seafood; imports include machinery, steel, copper, and reactors.

INVESTMENT: Japan is India's fifth-largest source of FDI, with \$43.2 billion cumulative investment up to December 2024. Annual inflows have been strong — \$3.1 billion in 2023-24 and \$1.36 billion in 2024-25 (Apr-Dec).

Japan has consistently ranked India as the most promising long-term investment destination.

BUSINESS PRESENCE: Around 1,400 Japanese companies with nearly 5,000 establishments operate in India; more than 100 Indian companies are present in Japan. Profitability is high.

EMERGING FOCUS AREAS: Digital cooperation (semiconductors, startups), clean energy, supply chain resilience, industrial competitiveness, and skill development.

Modi and Ishiba are likely to launch an economic security initiative focused on semiconductors, critical minerals, Al, telecommunications and clean energy. The two sides are expected to frame economic and science and technology cooperation as the "backbone" of bilateral ties.

They will also encourage the unscaling of Japanese investments in India. The original target of 5 trillion yen in public and private investments and financing by 2026 has been achieved, and the two sides will look to revise it to 7-10 trillion yen, sources said.

The two sides are expected to start a digital partnership involving AI and semiconductors, and focussed on public infrastructure. They are also likely to promote a bilateral energy partnership in hydrogen and nenewable energy projects.

#### Development and Infrastructure

Japan has been India's largest ODA donor since 1958, supporting critical infrastructure and human development projects, ODA disbursement stood at about JPY 580 billion (\$4.5 billion) in 2023-24.

HIGH SPEED RAIL: The flagship Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail is the flagship project symbolising advanced technology transfer and skill development. The latest tranche of JPY 300 billion (\$2.2 billion) was signed in March 2023.

In view of the Japanese involvement in the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project, the two sides are considering launching a mobility partnership encompassing railways, roads, and bridges across India. Modi and Ishiba are expected to travel to Sendai, a city known for its semiconductor provess, in a bullet train.

#### Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

QUAD & OTHER INITIATIVES: India and Japan coordinate closely with the US and Australia to ensure a fire, open, and inclusive indo-Pacific. The two sides will discuss the future of Quad in view of Trump's decisions.

The two countries are looking to diversify and secure supply chains through the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), which also involves Australia.

#### LONGER VERSION ON

indianexpress.com/explained



Ishiba (left) with Modi at Vientiane, Laos, last October. X/@narendramodi

## STORY OF FRIENDSHIP OVER PAST TWO DECADES

**2007:** Japan PM Shinzo Abe delivers the landmark "Confluence of Two Seas" speech in Parliament.

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2019: President R N Kovind attends

**Emperor Naruhito's coronation** 

2022: Kishida visits India, pledges

JPY 5 trillion in investment

2023: Modi attends G7 Summit in Hiroshima, unveils Gandhi statue near Peace Park

**2024:** Modi meets Japanese PM thrice, marking 10 years of Special Strategic Partnership

## 1. India-Japan Relations

- Post-WWII: Japan assisted India in development projects (Delhi Metro, Maruti-Suzuki).
- 2000: Global Partnership established.
- 2006: Strategic & Global Partnership.
- 2014: Elevated to Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

## 2. Bilateral Summits

- Annual summits since 2007 (only exception: COVID-19 years).
- Leaders regularly meet on sidelines of ASEAN, G7, SCO summits.

## 3. Friendship Timeline (Highlights)

- 2007: Shinzo Abe's "Confluence of Two Seas" in Indian Parliament.
- 2013: Emperor Akihito & Empress visit India.
- 2014: Republic Day Chief Guest (Shinzo Abe).
- 2022: Kishida pledged \$42 bn investment in India.
- 2023: Modi visits Hiroshima (G7).
- 2024: Modi & Ishiba meet in Paris.

## • 1. Defence & Security

- Joint military exercises: Malabar (India—US—Japan—Australia), Dharma Guardian (Army), Shinyuu Maitri (Air Force).
- India—Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (2020).
- Collaboration in cyber security, maritime domain awareness.
- Counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Trade & Economy



Japan is India's **5th largest FDI source**(cumulative \$42 bn till 2022).



Bilateral trade 2023–24: \$22.8 bn.



India seeks greater access to Japanese markets in pharma, IT, and agriculture.



Japanese companies in India: ~1,400 (Suzuki, Toyota, Honda, Hitachi, NEC, etc.).

Infrastructure Development

Japan's **ODA (Official Development Assistance)** largest for India.

Flagship project:

Mumbai–Ahmedabad

High Speed Rail (Bullet

Train), with ~₹3 lakh

crore investment.

Japan is investing in smart cities, metro projects, roads, renewable energy.

4. Technology & Innovation

Collaboration in: semiconductors, critical minerals, AI, green energy, space cooperation. Human resource exchange programs:
Japanese language training, skill development.

**Geopolitical Significance** 



Indo-Pacific Balance: Both nations counterbalance China's assertiveness.



QUAD: With US and Australia, India—Japan partnership forms the QUAD security dialogue.



Energy Cooperation: Japan supporting India in clean energy & hydrogen-based projects.



**Resilient Supply Chains:** 

Focus on reducing dependency on China, especially in semiconductors and rare earths.

## Consider the following statements about India–Japan relations:

- The India–Japan Annual Summit is India's oldest institutionalised bilateral summit mechanism.
- Japan is India's largest FDI source in Asia.
- The Mumbai–Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project is financed primarily through Japanese ODA.
- India and Japan are members of QUAD, along with the US and Australia.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- a) 1, 3, and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

# Looking for Prithu, the Assam king said to have defeated Bakhtiyar Khilji

**EXPLAINED** 

HISTORY

#### SUKRITA BARUAH

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 28

EARLIER THIS month, the Assam Cabinet decided that a new flyover being constructed in the heart of Guwahati would be named after Prithu, a 13th century ruler of Kamrup. This would be "a timeless reminder that Assam has always stood as the defender of Bharat's soul", Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

"When Bakhtiyar Khilji destroyed Nalanda, the symbol of our ancient civilisation, he believed India's spirit could be broken. But in the sacred soil of Assam, Maharaja Prithu of Kamarupa rose in valour and struck him down, avenging that desecration," he said.

Today, Prithu is being projected as an Assamese icon, much like the Ahom general Lachit Borphukan, who is credited with defeating the Mughal Army in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat, But unlike Borphukan, who has long been central to Assam's historical imagination, Prithu's emergence is relatively recent.

#### Bakhtiyar Khilji in Assam

Bakhtiyar Khilji was a military general of the invader Muhammad of Ghor. He led a series of campaigns in eastern India, and is most commonly associated with the sacking of the Buddhist monastery in Nalanda.

Historians agree that the first Turko-Afghan incursion through modern day Assam in 1206 CE was thwarted. But the identity of the local ruler who defeated Khilji's armies is unclear.

The most direct local written reference is a rock inscription in Kanai Barasi Bowa, an archaeological site on the river bank in North Guwahati. The inscription states that the Turks who entered Kamrup were destroyed in the Saka area 1127 (1206 CE) but does not name any local ruler.

The Persian chronicle Tabaqat-i-Nasiri contains details of a military defeat at the hands of the "Rae of Kamrud" (Kamrup), and refers to a ruler named Bartu.

Based on these two facts, and later material referring to a ruler called Prithu, historian Kanak Lal Barua in his 1933 book Early History of Kamarupa wrote that "it is very probable that this Prithu Raja was the king of Kamarupa who caused the de-

struction of Bukhtiyar's forces in 1206 AD".

"The capital of Prithu was North Guwahati in the vicinity of which he repulsed... Bukhtiyar," Barua wrote.

However, the broad consensus among scholars, as noted by historian Nirode Baruah in his 2011 paper 'Kamarupa to Kamata: The political transition and the new geopolitical trends and spaces' had been that "the identity of Prithu is very difficult to establish."

#### Product of RSS project

The emergence of Prithu as a notable historical figure is, in no small part, due to the efforts of Raktim Patar, a historian from Assam associated with the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bhartiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana (ABISY), and his 2021 book Maharuja Prithu: The Unsung Warrior King Who Annihilated Bakhtiyar Khalji. Patar joined Jawaharlal

Nehru University's Centre for Historical Studies last year.

"Many people have said many conflicting things. Some historians have grudgingly mentioned who the individ-

ual is, but it has been clouded by confusion. But the sources were there, they were overlooked," Patar told The Indian Express.

These sources, he said, include references by 19th century Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton of the remains of a fort in present-day Rangpur division (Bangladesh) and an oral tradition that this was a capital of King Prithu, multiple gazetteers, and discovered remains of a stone bridge that is believed to have been instrumental in a battle between the Turko-Afghan and Kamrup armies.

Nilanjan De, the state secretary of the ABISY's Assam chapter, said that his organisation is "working on aspects [of history] that have not been popularised". De spoke about multiple seminars and articles about Prithu, including in Organiser, the Sangh's weekly magazine.

"Now people are aware that there was this great ruler of Assam. But there is more work to be done, especially among younger children. Even primary school children know about Lachit Borphukan and we want the same in the case of King Prithu," he said.

A historian from Assam who did not want to be identified said, "There have been a series of seminars held with attendance by senior RSS functionaries, And the importance is understandable. The 12th century was a very important period for the rise of Islam in the

Bengal frontier. In a similar context, a king in Assam successfully challenging Khilji is very important to Hindutva history writing."

#### More research needed

Some historians are still unsure of the status of the ruler who had defeated the Turko-Afghan army. I S Mumtaza Khatun, who retired from Gauhati University's Department of History and focuses on medieval history, said, "the challenge is that there is no indigenous record from that time on this figure."

But as archaeologist Manjil Hazarika puts it, "the absence of evidence should not be treated as evidence of absence".

"I think we should try to find more inscriptions and more texts on this person (Prithu), because it is also not enough to establish that someone has defeated someone. We ought to know more about the state and the society. More research on this period will be a contribution in the history of Assam, we should fill up the gaps," he said.

## 1. Assam Govt Decision

- Assam Cabinet named a new Guwahati flyover after Prithu, a 13th-century ruler of Kamrup.
- Projected as an Assamese icon who defended India's "soul" against invaders.

## 2. Historical Context - Bakhtiyar Khilji in Assam

- Bakhtiyar Khilji, general of Muhammad of Ghor, infamous for destroying Nalanda University (1200
   CE).
- In 1206 CE, he attempted to invade Assam through Bengal but was defeated in Kamrup (Battle of Saraighat often linked with later Lachit Borphukan, but here the earlier Battle of 1206 AD is being discussed).
- Identity of the ruler who defeated him is debated, but many sources associate it with a king named Prithu.

## 3. Sources & Evidence

- Tabaqat-i-Nasiri (Persian chronicle) mentions a ruler of Kamrup (Rae of Kamrud) defeating Bakhtiyar.
- Historian Kanak Lal Barua (1933) identified this ruler as Prithu of Kamarupa.
- Archaeological references: rock inscription at Kanai Barasibowa near Guwahati mentioning destruction of Turks in 1206 CE.

## 4. Controversy & Research Gaps

- Some historians argue evidence is scarce; Prithu is a relatively recent figure in historical imagination.
- RSS-linked historians and Assam groups highlight Prithu as a symbol of resistance.
- Scholars like I.S. Mumtaza Khatun (Gauhati University) emphasize the absence of conclusive indigenous sources.

## Bakhtiyar Khilji (1200–1206 CE):

- Military general under Qutbuddin Aibak/Muhammad Ghori.
- Destroyed Nalanda & Vikramshila Universities.
- Expanded Ghurid rule into Bengal but failed in Tibet & Assam.

## Kamarupa Kingdom (Ancient Assam):

- Covered parts of present-day Assam, Bengal, and Bhutan.
- Known for strong military resistance against northern invasions.
- Earlier famous ruler: Bhaskar Varman (7th century, ally of Harshavardhana).

## Archaeology:

- Kanai Barasibowa rock inscription (North Guwahati) → evidence of Turkic defeat.
- Nalanda's destruction (1200 CE) seen as cultural trauma in Indian civilization.

## Q. With reference to Prithu of Kamrup and Bakhtiyar Khilji, consider the following statements:

- 1. Bakhtiyar Khilji, who destroyed Nalanda, was defeated in Assam around 1206 CE.
- 2. The *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, a Persian chronicle, mentions a ruler of Kamrup who repelled Khilji's forces.
- The Kanai Barasibowa rock inscription near Guwahati is associated with the defeat of the Turks in Assam.
- 4. The identity of King Prithu as the ruler who defeated Bakhtiyar Khilji is unanimously accepted by historians.

## Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## US duties deal a lethal blow to India's second-largest employment-generating sector; industry warns of large-scale job losses

# Textile units in Surat, Tiruppur, Noida halt production

MUKESH JAGOTA & NARAYANAN V

New Delhi/Chennai, August 26

EXPORT-ORIENTED TEX-TILES AND apparel manufacturers in the industrial hubs of Tiruppur, Noida, and Surat have halted production, fearing a worsening of cost competitiveness in the US market owing to the 50% additional tariffs, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said on Tuesday.

The traders' body also said that among seafood export units, the tariff increase risks stockpile losses, disrupted supply chains, and farmer distress.

The textile units are losing ground to lower-cost rivals from Vietnam and Bangladesh, FIEO president S C Ralhan said, while urging the government to unveil support measures to sustain the export momentum from the labourintensive industry.

"About 55% of India's USbound shipments worth \$47-48 billion are now exposed to pricing disadvantages of 30-35%, rendering them uncompetitive in comparison to competitors from China, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines and other Southeast and South Asian countries," Ralhan said.

"However, leveraging the negotiating window for urgent diplomatic engagement with the US still remains the key. Yet another approach could be the promotion of Brand India and innovation through enhanced Nearly a third of

Nearly a third of India's textile and apparel exports of

50% tariff places India at a major disadvantage against Bangladesh and Vietnam (20%), and Indonesia (19%)

to level the prices with competing countries

Exporters say

**US-based buyers** 

are asking for a

30% discount

Textiles and apparel is the country's secondlargest employment-generating sector, which employs over 45 million people

global branding, investment in quality certifications, and embedding innovation in export strategy to make Indian goods more attractive globally," he added. Among various product categories, India's competitors include Myanmar that has 40% US tariff, Thailand (19%), Cambodia (19%), Bangladesh (20%), Indonesia (19%), China and Sri Lanka

on an ar financial aversage name

(both 30%), Malaysia (19%), the Philippines (19%) and Vietnam (20%).

On other labour-intensive sectors of exports like leather, ceramics, chemicals, handicrafts and carpets, the industry faces a sharp erosion of competitiveness, particularly against European, Southeast Asian and Mexican producers. Delays, order cancellations, and negated cost advantages loom large on these sectors, Ralhan said.

The FIEO chief said there is a need for immediate government support which includes push for interest subvention schemes and export credit support to sustain working capital and liquidity. To further support this, low cost of credit and easy availability of credit with emphasis on MSMEs with the support from banks and financial institutions with special direction in this regard both from the government

and the Reserve Bank of India is needed. Ralhan also called for a moratorium on payment of principal and interest for loans up to a period of one year. Additionally, automatic enhancement of the existing limit by 30% along with collateral free lending.

Exporters said trade agreements with the EU, Oman, Chile, Peru, Gulf Cooperation Council, and African and other Latin American countries with a provision for early-harvest for labour-intensive sectors should be prioritised. However, leveraging the negotiating window for urgent diplomatic engagement with the US still remains the key, they feel.

Continued on Page 18

## Production Halt

- Export-oriented textile & apparel hubs (Surat, Tiruppur, Noida) have halted production.
- Reason: **50% additional U.S. tariffs** on Indian exports → cost disadvantage.
- Export Losses
- Nearly 55% of India's textile & apparel exports (\$47–48 bn) head to the U.S.
- New tariffs render them **30–35% more expensive** than competitors from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, etc.
- Employment Impact
- Textiles & apparel = India's 2nd largest employment sector → employs 45 million people.
- Large-scale job losses expected due to halted production.

- Competitor Advantage
- India's rivals in textile exports:
  - Bangladesh (20%), Vietnam (20%), Indonesia (19%), Cambodia (19%), Myanmar (30%), China (30%).
- Exporters warn of order cancellations & loss of U.S. buyers.
- Industry Demands
- Moratorium on loan payments (up to 1 year).
- 30% enhancement of credit limit & collateral-free lending.
- Interest subvention schemes + support from RBI & Govt.
- Push for new trade deals with EU, Gulf, Latin America, Africa.

- Indian Textile Sector
- One of India's **oldest industries**, contributing ~2% to GDP & ~12% to total exports.
- Key clusters: Surat (synthetics), Tiruppur (knitwear), Noida (garments).
- Past U.S.–India Trade Issues
- U.S. had earlier withdrawn **GSP** (**Generalized System of Preferences**) benefits for Indian exporters (2019).
- India also faces anti-dumping duties in U.S. & EU on certain products.
- Employment Significance
- Labour-intensive sector → absorbs rural/semi-skilled workers, especially women.
- Disruptions → risk of migrant labour distress, similar to COVID lockdown impact.

- Consider the following statements regarding India's textile industry:
- It is the second-largest employment generating sector in India after agriculture.
- Nearly half of India's textile exports are U.S.-bound.
- The major hubs include Surat, Tiruppur, and Noida.
- Bangladesh and Vietnam are India's key competitors in global textile exports.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 1, 3 and 4 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

# NDB Appoints Dr Rajiv Ranjan as Vice President

The New Development Bank (NDB), founded by the BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa—has appointed Dr Rajiv Ranjan as its vice president and chief risk officer.

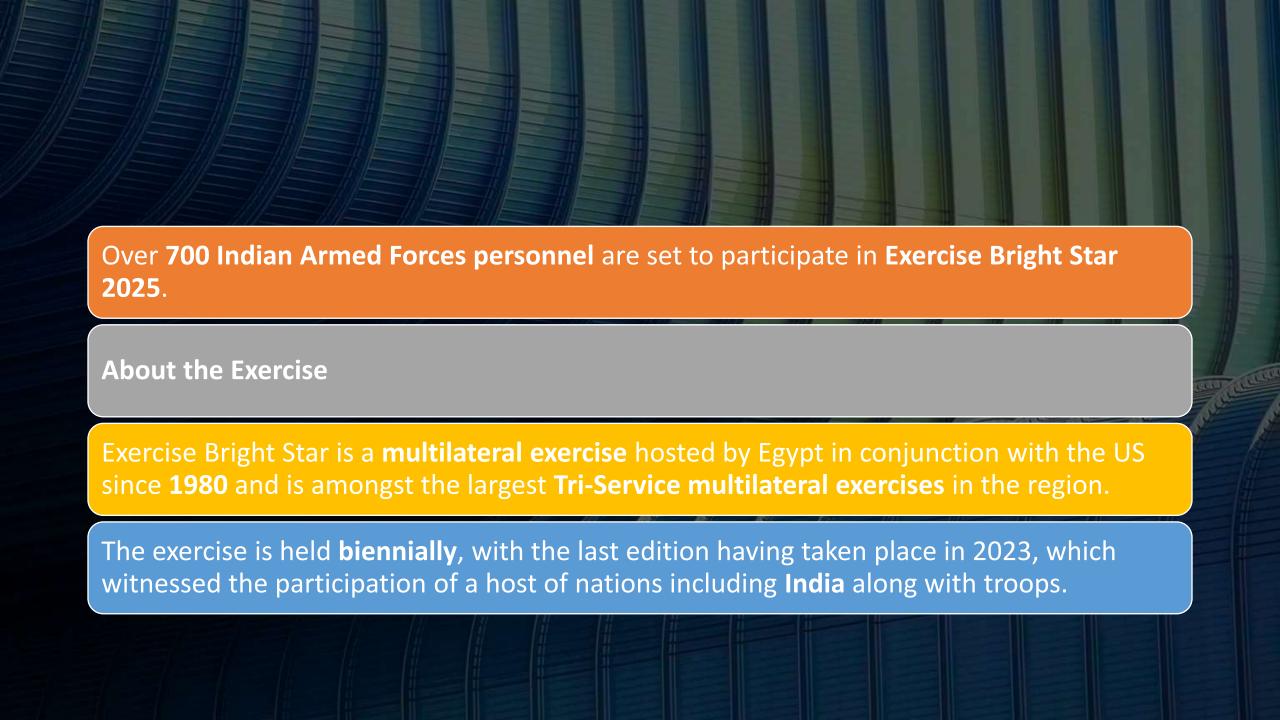
This appointment marks step in India's growing influence in multilateral financial institutions.

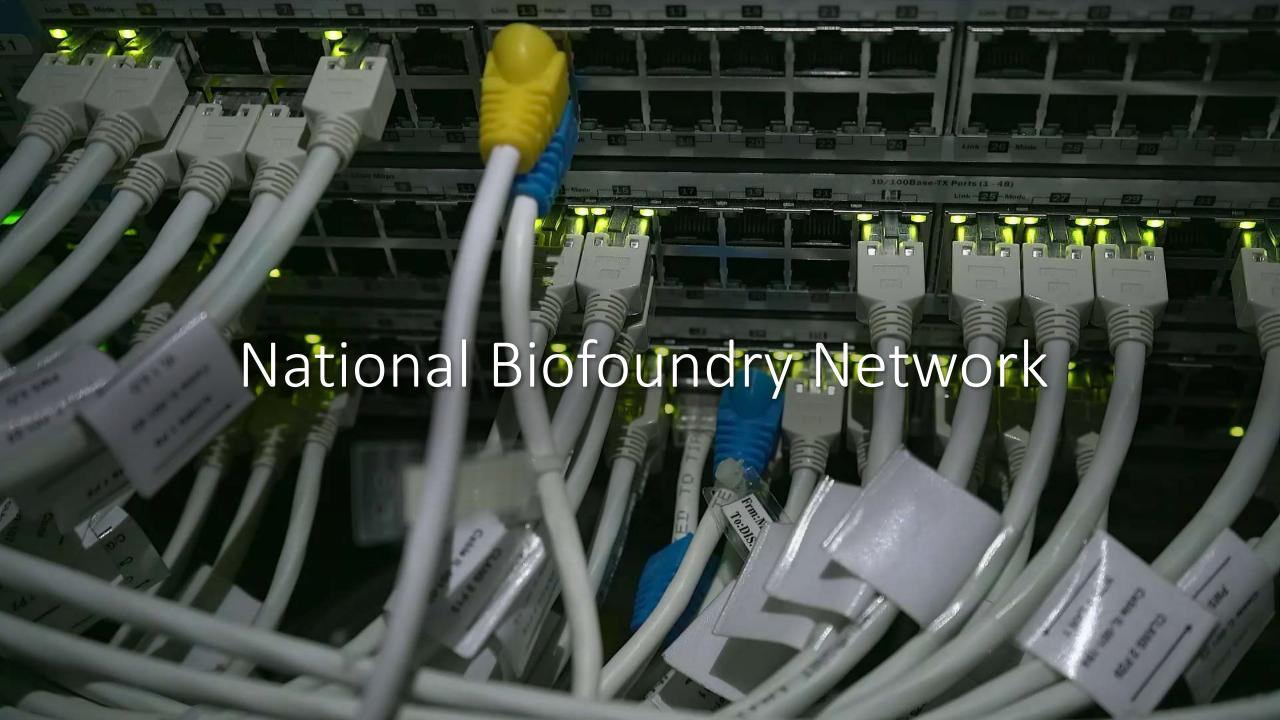
Dr Ranjan's extensive experience in central banking and international finance is expected to enhance the NDB's role in global development finance.

- India's Role in the New Development Bank
- India holds the second-largest project portfolio in the NDB, valued at \$7.5 billion, just behind China's \$8.1 billion. The bank finances infrastructure projects in India such as metro rail systems, water management, clean energy, environmental protection and digital infrastructure.

| Formation                 | July 2014 (Treaty signed) July 2015; 10 years ago (Treaty in force) | Pr | redecessor | 2024 BRICS Summit,<br>Russia   |
|---------------------------|---|----|------------|--------------------------------|
| Туре                      | International financial   | Su | uccessor   | 2025 BRICS Summit, Bra         |
|                           | institution   | Fo | ormation   | 16 June 2009; 16 years a       |
| Legal status              | Treaty  | Fo | ounded at  | Yekaterinburg, Russia          |
| Headquarters              | Shanghai, China   |    |            | (1st BRIC summit)              |
| Coordinates<br>Membership | Algeria   | Ту | уре        | Intergovernmental organization |
|                           | Bangladesh  | Pu | urpose     | Political and economical       |
|                           | Brazil  | Fi | ields      | International politics         |
|                           | Colombia  |    |            |                                |
|                           | China   | Me | lembership | <b>♦</b> Brazil                |
|                           | Egypt   |    |            | Russia                         |
|                           | India   |    |            | India                          |
|                           | Russia  |    |            | China                          |
|                           | South Africa  |    |            | South Africa                   |
|                           | United Arab Emirates  |    |            | Egypt                          |
|                           | Uruguay   |    |            | Ethiopia                       |
|                           | Uzbekistan  |    |            | Indonesia                      |
|                           | Indonesia   |    |            | Iran                           |
| Official<br>language      | English   |    |            | United Arab Emirates           |
| President                 | Dilma Rousseff  |    | hairman    | Luiz Inácio Lula da            |
| Parent<br>organization    | BRICS   |    | ncumbent)  | Silva, President of Brazil     |













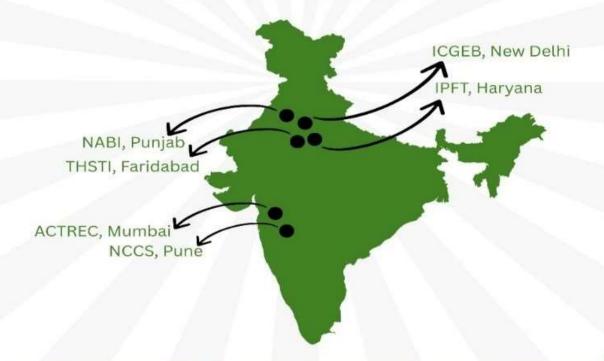




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## **Aims and Objectives**

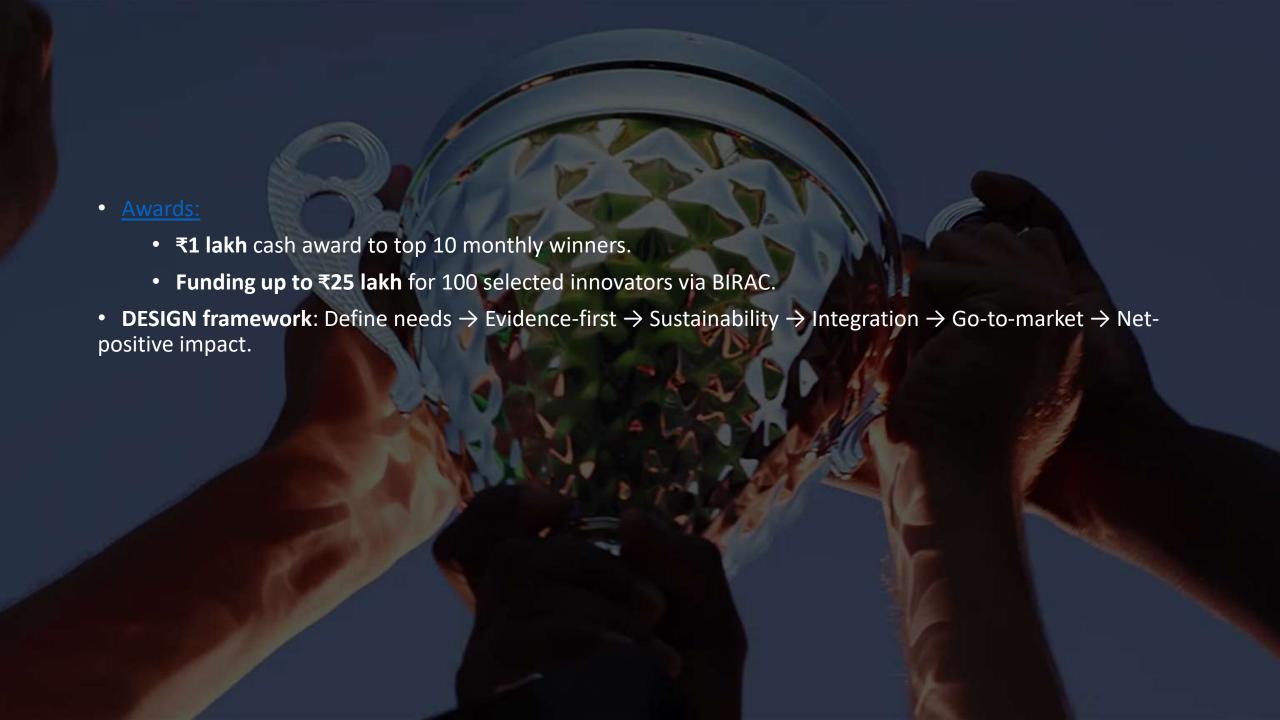
Strengthen indigenous biomanufacturing capacity.

Support BioE3 Policy goals of economy, environment, and employment.

Enable research-to-market translation for biotech solutions.

Promote youth innovation, start-ups, and entrepreneurship.

Position India as a **global hub in sustainable biotechnology**.



## Word of the day

## Altruism:

the quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others

**Synonyms:** compassion, kindness, generosity

**Usage:** She showed altruism by helping the poor.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/altruismpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /æltruzzəm/

