

Daily Current Affairs





4
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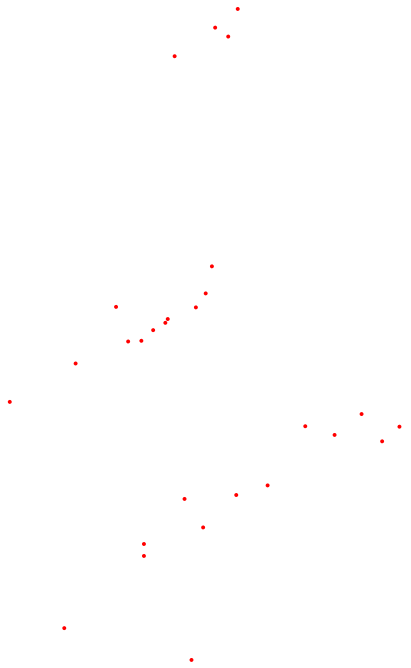
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Jansatta



1
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10 MCQ QUIZ

- “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”
— **Socrates**



THE HINDU'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919



RUD FOR TERMS
Pay Commission report in 18 months
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Cloud seeding trials held in parts of Delhi
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U.S. SANCTIONS
Minister allays fears over crude oil supply
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DATA POINT
India has world's third-largest Metro network
Ridership quadrupled in the last decade
OPINION • PAGE 9

T20 CHALLENGE
India meets Australia in five-match series
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INSIDE



32% of candidates in Bihar poll face criminal cases

NEW DELHI
Around 32% of candidates contesting Phase 1 of the Bihar Assembly election have declared criminal cases against themselves. Out of them, 27% have serious criminal cases of murder and crimes against women, according to an analysis done by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).
» PAGE 6

HAL gets rights to build Russian commuter plane

BENGALURU
Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for production of the civil commuter aircraft 52-100As on date, more than 200 aircraft have been produced and are being operated by more than 10 commercial airlines operation. » PAGE 6

Race meeting on RSS march ends in acrimony

KALABURGI
The controversy over the proposed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) march in Chitambar town in Karnataka descended on Tuesday when a peace meeting convened by the Kalaburagi district administration, as directed by the Karnataka High Court, ended in acrimony. The RSS delegation rejected the demand to replace tathas with national flags. » PAGE 8

Rift widens in Tata Trusts as 3 trustees block Mehli Mistry's return

Lalateshwar Shiksha

MUMBAI

The rift in Tata Trusts, the philanthropic parent of Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group, intensified and became wide open on Tuesday with three trustees — Chairman Noel Tata, former Deputy Secretary Vijay Singh and TVS Motor Company chairman K. Venu Srinivasan — disagreeing the reappointment of fellow trustee Mehli Mistry, whose current three-year tenure ended on Tuesday.

As per a decision on October 17, 2024, soon after former Tata Trusts trustee Mehli Mistry's death, the reappointment of each trustee has to be unanimous and for lifetime "if they are re-nominated". "Re-nomination is not compulsory. If their term is renewed then it is for lifetime subject to periodic renewal," a person familiar with the pro-

cess said. Thus Mr. Mistry, a close friend of Ratan Tata and one of the executors of his will, will cease to be trustee from the early hours of Wednesday. On Tuesday, there was no voting per se and the approval process was conducted electronically. A person familiar with the development said, while three trustees approved, another three gave it a pass thus breaking the unanimity clause in the bylaw, the person said.

Unanimous approval
It was on Mr. Mistry and other trustees' unanimous approval that Mr. Srinivasan was reappointed. According to people close to Mr. Mistry, the approval for Mr. Srinivasan's reappointment was conditional that he (Srinivasan) must approve the reappointment of Mr. Mistry.



Tata Group headquarters, Bombay House, in Mumbai. AP

son familiar with the development said. The current three trustees senior counsel Darshan Khanna, former CEO Bank India CEO Pravin Baveri and former CEO of Tata Steel Jharkhand HC Jehangir had approved Mr. Mistry's reappointment. Mr. Mistry was first made a trustee in 2022 and was in the Executive Committee of the Tata Trusts, which he had been a part of since 2015, after Mr. Noel was appointed as chairman to

replace his half brother. Mr. Mistry, the estranged cousin of late Tata Trusts chairman Ratan Tata and someone who had played a major role in his abrupt removal in 2016, had recently raised a banner against chairman Noel Tata who has the strong backing of Mr. Singh and Mr. Srinivasan. The Mistry faction lost its first success when it blocked the reappointment of Mr. Singh into the board of Tata Sons as Tata Trusts' nominee saying he had crossed 75. Mr. Singh stepped down. The Mistry faction also tried to get people familiar with the development, the plan was to also to oust Mr. Srinivasan from Tata Sons' board and get two fresh faces from the Mistry faction in the Tata Trusts inducted into Tata Sons' board to have a firm grip on the affairs of the group. Recently, two Union Mi-

nisters had to intervene to bring unity in Tata Trusts but this recent feud has widened the rift and indifference is now out in the open.

Warning factions
Thus the Tata Trusts had two factions: one led by Mr. Tata and the other by Mr. Mistry. It is believed Mr. Mistry paid the price for causing the rift which the government was also not reportedly comfortable with. The two sides seemed to have hardened their stance and the one led by Mr. Tata seems to be having an upper hand. It is believed some more trustees will likely go.

There are two main

trusts namely Sir Ratan Tata Trusts & Allied Trusts and Sir Dorab Tata Trust & Allied Trusts that form Tata Trusts. While five trustees are common (Mr. Tata, Mr. Singh, Mr. Srinivasan, Mr. Mistry and Mr. Khanna) in both the Trusts, Mr. Jehangir is trustee in Sir Ratan Tata Trusts. Mr. Bhavani is in Sir Dorab Tata Trust. Though there are many trustees in all the trusts, their sever matters.

The feud in the Tata Trusts, that controls 65% of Tata Sons, clearly indicates that Mr. Tata does not enjoy the same authority as Mr. Ratan Tata had on the affairs of the Trusts as well as that of the Tata Sons and Tata Group, a Tata Group veteran said. "Mr. Noel Tata is not seen at the same pedestal. This is why the group led by Mr. Mistry is being headed and challenged," he said.

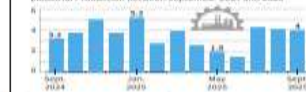
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Industrial slowdown

The chart shows the year-on-year growth (in %) in the Index of Industrial Production between September 2022 and 2023



IIP growth dips to three-month low of 4% in Sept.

T.G.A. Sharad Bagwanan
NEW DELHI

Industrial activity dipped marginally to a three-month low of 4% in September. The data also shows that the growth in industrial activity during the first half of the financial year was the slowest in at least five years.

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, stood at 3.2% in September, last year. However, growth had since accelerated to 4.3% by July 2023, following which it slowed again. The overall index grew 3% in the April-September period, the first half of the financial year 2023-24. This is the slowest in at least five years, the period for which data are readily available.

The index grew 24% in the first half of 2022-23, owing to the low base of the previous pandemic-affected year 2020-21. In the first half of 2022-23, the index grew 7%, which slowed to 6.3% and 4.1% in the corresponding periods of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

In September, the slowdown in industrial growth was mainly led by the mining, primary goods, and consumer non-durables sectors. Activity in the mining sector contracted 0.48% in September 2023

from growth of 6.6% in August 2023 and 0.2% in September last year.

The consumer non-durables sector continued to contract for the second consecutive month in September 2023, by 2.4%, compared with a contraction of 6.4% in August 2023, and a growth of 2.2% in September last year.

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INDIA bloc's manifesto for Bihar offers host of sops

Anil Khetari

MUMBAI

In a poll manifesto for Bihar, the INDIA bloc promised to enact a law within its first 20 days in power to ensure that one member of every family in the State is given a government job and give permanent government employee status to all contractual and outsourced employees. It also promised to create 20 lakh jobs in the next 100 days, 200 units of free power, and the restoration of the Old Pension system and the agricultural mandi system are other highlights in the 22-page manifesto released on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

Crops, power sector bear cyclone's brunt

Paddy and cotton are the worst hit, together accounting for more than 80% of the total damaged area in Andhra Pradesh; power sector records losses worth around ₹2,200 crore; restoration work under progress; Chandrababu Naidu orders round-the-clock monitoring in vulnerable districts

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Cyclone Montha has inflicted extensive damage on agricultural and power infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh.

The preliminary assessment by the Agriculture Department reveals that over 43,000 hectares of crops have been submerged, affecting nearly 83,000 farmers across 292 mandals and 1,712 villages.

According to the three power distribution companies in the State — APEPDCL, APCPDCL, and APSPDCL — the total estimated loss to the power sector would be around ₹2,200 crore, with large-scale damage done in power substations, transform-



Evacuated fisherfolk families have food at a relief camp set up in a government school in Kakina district of Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday (left). High tidal waves lash the shore under the influence of the Cyclone Montha in Kakina district, K.A. DEENA



ers, poles, and power lines.

Worst-hit crops

According to the Agriculture department's data, paddy and cotton are the worst hit, together accounting for more than 80% of the total damaged area.

Paddy fields in 31,267

hectares were inundated, while cotton crops over 15,680 hectares suffered extensive damage due to continuous rainfall and flooding.

Among the districts, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema reported the highest crop damage with 10,099 hectares being submerged.

In addition to paddy

and cotton, maize over 4,393 hectares and blackgram in 3,004 hectares were damaged, while bagra, redgram, and soybean suffered partial losses. The report noted that 53 hectares of nurseries were affected in several regions, compounding the impact on farmers' livelihoods.

The officials said that

restoration work of power infrastructure was progressing rapidly, despite heavy rains and flooding in several coastal areas.

With teams working round-the-clock and power being restored in a phased manner, the authorities hope that supply to all urban centres and essential installations would

be normalised within the next 24 hours.

Constant monitoring

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday instructed officials to take all necessary preventive and precautionary measures as Cyclone Montha approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast. Mr. Naidu stressed the need for round-the-clock monitoring and utmost vigilance in all vulnerable districts.

The Chief Minister directed that NDRF and SDRF teams be deployed in and around Kakina, where the cyclone is likely to make landfall.

Officials said that enumeration teams were conducting detailed field assessments to ascertain the full extent of damage.

Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P.

35,000 people evacuated; crops on 43,000 hectares submerged

Power infrastructure, including substations, suffer massive damage

Twenty trains and more than 50 flights cancelled



Swept away: A home destroyed by the cyclonic swell in Kakina district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. K.A. DEENA

T. Appala Naidu
Nellore Screenshot
VIJAYAWADA

The severe cyclonic storm Montha began its landfall near Kakina in Andhra Pradesh around 7 p.m. on Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Between 11.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., the storm moved with a speed of 17 kmph. It was positioned around 120 km east of Machilipatnam, 110 km south of Kakina, and 220 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and 460 km south-west of Gopalpur in Odisha at 5.30 p.m.

The storm triggered very heavy rain in the State and neighbouring Odisha. After lashing north coastal Andhra on Monday, the

rainfall activity moved to SPSR Nellore and Prakasam districts in south coastal Andhra. Many places in these two districts received more than 100 mm rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The IMD said Ulavapadu in SPSR Nellore district recorded the day's maximum rain of 167 mm, followed by Kavali and Dagadurthi of the same district at 162.75 mm and 147.5 mm. In Prakasam district, Singarayakonda, Pakala and Ongole received 131.5 mm, 122 mm and 100.5 mm rain respectively.

Kakina received only light showers till 7 p.m.

The IMD withdrew red alerts issued for a few districts for Wednesday, and issued orange alerts for the districts of Srikulam, Parvatipuram, Nandyam, Visakhapatnam, Visakhapat-

nam, Aluri Sitharama Raja, Anakapalli, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, and Nandyal.

The two days of heavy to very heavy rain in the State has left crops on more than 43,000 hectares submerged and affected 83,000 farmers, according to initial assessments made by the agricultural department. Paddy and cotton were the worst hit.

The total estimated loss to the power sector has crossed ₹2,200 crore, with massive damage to substations, transformers, and power lines.

In Visakhapatnam district, which recorded more than 147 mm rainfall on Monday, the municipal corporation cleared 119 fallen trees. The Kakina district administration has kept

ready 401 relief camps. At least 35,000 people have been evacuated so far.

"The number of people to be evacuated is expected to rise as 67 villages and five towns and Kakina city are falling in the cyclone-affected area," said Kakina District Collector S. Shan Mohan. Nearly 1,600 school bus services have been deployed to evacuate people.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed that the NDRF and SDRF teams be deployed in and around Kakina, where the cyclone is likely to make landfall.

Trains, flights cancelled Twenty trains, 10 originating in Visakhapatnam, and 11 operating from various divisions of South Central Railway (SCR) in Andhra and one from Eubanes-

war, passing through Visakhapatnam, were cancelled due to heavy rain and gales on Tuesday.

A total of 52 flights from Visakhapatnam were cancelled. The lone flight which operated was a nine-seater Visakhapatnam flight.

The Vijayawada-Vizag-Vijayawada IndiGo flight for Wednesday has been cancelled. The other flights from Visakhapatnam to various destinations are expected to operate normally on Wednesday, said airport director N. Purushottam.

The Vijayawada airport cancelled 16 flights, while four flights from Tirupati were cancelled.

MORE REPORTS

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EDITORIAL

► PAGE 8

Parameter	Details
Cyclone Name	<i>Montha</i>
Type	Severe Cyclonic Storm
Origin	Bay of Bengal
Landfall Location	Near <i>Kakinada</i> , Andhra Pradesh
Date of Landfall	October 28, 2025
Wind Speed at Landfall	~167 km/h (max recorded at Ulavapadu, Nellore district)
Affected States	Andhra Pradesh (worst-hit), parts of Odisha
IMD Alert	Red alert for Nellore, Prakasam, Krishna, and coastal Andhra districts
Naming	"Montha" — <i>Named by Myanmar</i> (as per WMO's regional naming system)



Category

Impact



People Evacuated

35,000 (from 67 villages and 5 towns)

Relief Camps

401 camps set up

Transportation Disruption

20 trains and 50+ flights cancelled

Educational Institutions

1,600 schools closed temporarily

Casualties

No large-scale fatalities reported (due to timely evacuation)





Crop Type

Area Damaged (Hectares)



Paddy

31,267

Cotton

15,680

Maize

4,393

Black gram

3,004

Bajra, Red gram, Soybean

Minor

Nurseries

53 (fully damaged)





Sector

Impact

Power sector

Damage to 3 major distribution networks — APEPDCL, APCPDCL, APSPDCL

Substations & transformers

Extensive flooding and short circuits

Estimated financial loss

₹2,200 crore (approx.)

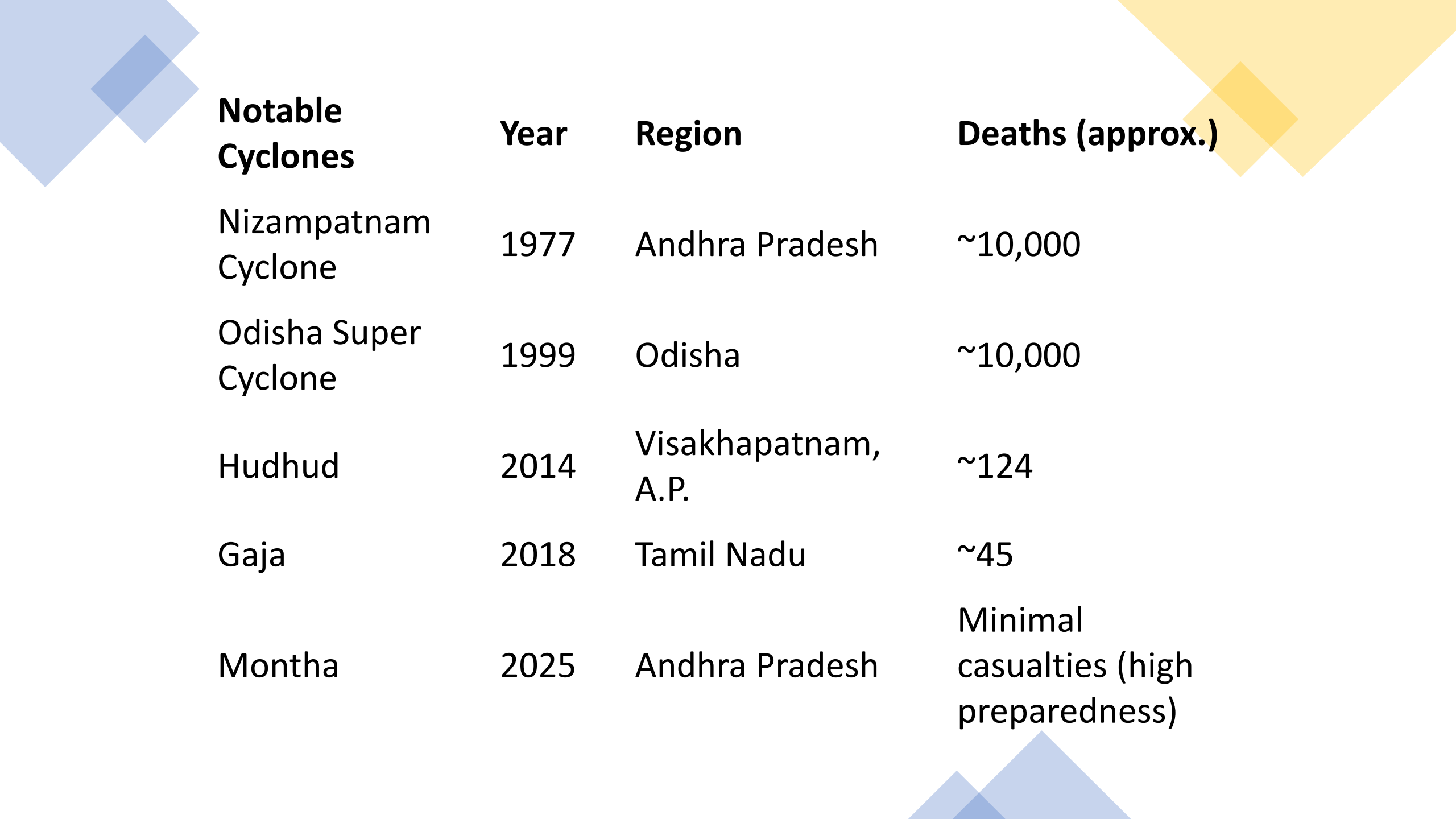
Rail & Air transport

20 trains cancelled, 32 flights from Visakhapatnam suspended

Road network

Several stretches in coastal Andhra washed away





Notable Cyclones	Year	Region	Deaths (approx.)
Nizampatnam Cyclone	1977	Andhra Pradesh	~10,000
Odisha Super Cyclone	1999	Odisha	~10,000
Hudhud	2014	Visakhapatnam, A.P.	~124
Gaja	2018	Tamil Nadu	~45
Montha	2025	Andhra Pradesh	Minimal casualties (high preparedness)

✓ Strengths

- Effective coordination between **IMD, NDMA, and state disaster teams**.
- Timely evacuation reduced casualties.
- Enhanced coastal forecasting technology (INSAT & Doppler radar networks).

⚠ Challenges

- Massive crop damage leading to **livelihood insecurity**.
- **Power sector fragility** in low-lying areas.
- Delayed compensation may strain small farmers.

🔄 Way Forward

- Strengthen **coastal embankments** and **early-warning communication**.
- Promote **crop insurance penetration (PMFBY)** in cyclone-prone areas.
- Diversify power grids and adopt **elevated substations** in coastal belts.
- Enhance **community-based disaster preparedness**.

Rift widens in Tata Trusts as 3 trustees block Mehli Mistry's return

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The rift in Tata Trusts, the philanthropic parent of Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group, intensified and became wide open on Tuesday with three trustees – Chairman Noel Tata, former Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and TVS Motor Company chairman Emeritus Venu Srinivasan – disapproving the reappointment of fellow trustee Mehli Mistry whose current three-year tenure ended on Tuesday.

As per a decision on October 17, 2024, soon after former Tata Sons and Tata Trusts chairman late Ratan Tata's death, the reappointment of each trustee has to be unanimous and for lifetime "if they are re-nominated". "Renomination is not compulsory. If their term is renewed then it is for lifetime subject to periodic renewal," a per-

son familiar with the process said.

Thus Mr. Mistry, a close friend of Ratan Tata and one of the executors of his will, will cease to be trustee from the early hours of Wednesday.

On Tuesday, there was no voting per se and the approval process was conducted electronically, a person familiar with the development said. While three trustees approved, another three gave it a pass thus breaking the unanimity clause in the bylaw, the person said.

Unanimous approval

It was on Mr. Mistry's and other trustees' unanimous approval that Mr. Srinivasan was recently reappointed. According to people close to Mr. Mistry, the approval for Mr. Srinivasan's reappointment was conditional that he (Mr. Srinivasan) must approve the reappointment of Mr. Mis-



Tata Group headquarters, Bombay House, in Mumbai. ANI

try. But since Mr. Srinivasan stayed away, his nomination would be made null and void.

As per legal opinion believed to have been sought by the Trusts, Mr. Mistry's contention is not legally trainable. "There is no such provision for conditional approval. It is either you approve or abstain which means no. If one trustee says no, there would be no renomination of that particular trustee. So, Mr. Mistry has no case,"

a person familiar with the development said.

Three other trustees senior counsel Darius Khambata, former Citi Bank India CEO Pramit Jhaveri and Pune-based philanthropist Jehangir HC Jehangir had approved Mr. Mistry's reappointment.

Mr. Mistry was first made a trustee in 2022 and was in the Executive Committee of the Tata Trusts, the top decision-making body, after Mr. Noel was appointed as chairman to

replace his half-brother.

Mr. Mistry, the estranged cousin of late Tata Sons former Chairman Cyrus Mistry and someone who had played a major role in his abrupt removal in 2016, had recently raised a banner of revolt against chairman Noel Tata who has the strong backing of Mr. Singh and Mr. Srinivasan.

The Mistry faction tasted its first success when it blocked the reappointment of Mr. Singh into the board of Tata Sons as Tata Trusts' nominee saying he had crossed 75. Mr. Singh stepped down.

According to people familiar with the developments, the plan was to also oust Mr. Srinivasan from Tata Sons' board and get two fresh faces from the Mistry faction in the Tata Trusts inducted into Tata Sons to have a firm grip over the affairs of the group.

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nisters had to intervene to bring amity in Tata Trusts but this recent feud has widened the rift and the difference is now out in the open.

Warring factions

Thus, the Tata Trusts had two factions: one led by Mr. Tata and the other by Mr. Mistry. It is believed Mr. Mistry paid the price for causing the rift which the government was also not reportedly comfortable with.

The two sides seemed to have hardened their stance and the one led by Mr. Tata seems to be having an upper hand. It is believed some more Trustees will likely go.

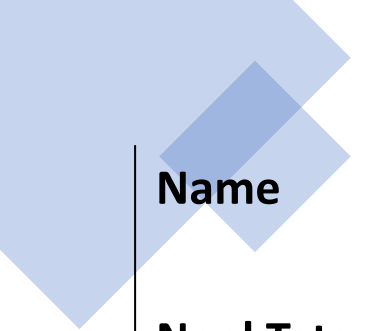
In a similarity with what had happened in 2016 at the time of Cyrus Mistry's removal, the Tatas (Tata Trusts) have secured proper legal advice from top lawyers before acting.

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trusts namely Sir Ratan Tata Trusts & Allied Trusts and Sir Dorab Tata Trust & Allied Trusts that form Tata Trusts. While five trustees are common [Mr. Tata, Mr. Singh, Mr. Srinivasan, Mr. Mistry and Mr. Khambata] in both the Trusts, Mr. Jehangir is trustee in Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mr. Jhaveri is in Sir Dorab Tata Trust. Though there are many trustees in all the trusts, these seven mattered.

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"Mr. Noel Tata is not seen at the same pedestal. This is why the group led by Mr. Mistry raised their head and challenged," he said.



Name	Role / Position	Alignment / Faction
Noel Tata	Chairman of Tata Trusts	Ratan Tata's half-brother; supported by Singh & Srinivasan
Mehli Mistry	Former trustee; close friend of Ratan Tata	Estranged cousin of late Cyrus Mistry
Vijay Singh	Former Defence Secretary; Trustee	Aligned with Noel Tata
Venu Srinivasan	TVS Motor Co. Chairman Emeritus; Trustee	Backed Noel Tata
Ratan Tata	Former Chairman of Tata Sons; Senior Trustee	Founder-figure but now largely symbolic
Cyrus Mistry (late)	Former Chairman, Tata Sons (removed 2016)	Cousin of Mehli Mistry



'CUSTODIAN OF TATA LEGACY'

COMPOSITION OF TRUSTS

5 trustees common to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) and Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)

➤ Chairman **Noel Tata**

➤ Vice-chairman **Venu Srinivasan** (chairman emeritus, TVS Group)

➤ Vice-chairman **Vijay Singh** (former defence secretary)

➤ **Darius Khambata** (Former Maharashtra advocate general)

➤ **Mehli Mistry** (director, M Pallonji Group)

Others at SRTT | Bizman **Jehangir Jehangir**, Ratan Tata's younger brother
Jimmy Tata

SDTT | Ex-Citibank India head **Pramit Jhaveri**



2:3 VOTE ON MEHLI REAPPOINTMENT

➤ Mehli kept away, Jimmy abstained
➤ Noel, Srinivasan & Singh declined to approve reappointment in both trusts

➤ Khambata and Jhaveri approved it at SDTT

➤ Khambata & Jehangir approved it at SRTT

VERDICT

➤ Mehli's term as trustee came to an end Tuesday

OCT 17, 2024 RESOLUTION

➤ SDTT & SRTT passed resolutions to confirm 'all trustees are equally responsible'; 'upon expiry of tenure of any trustee, that trustee will be reappointed... without any limit... attached to period of tenure'

FALLOUT | By convention, all appointments & reappointments at Tata Trusts are unanimous without a vote. Question of whether trustees can be voted out may face legal scrutiny



Noel Tata



Venu Srinivasan



Vijay Singh



Against



Pramit
Jhaveri



Darius
Khambata



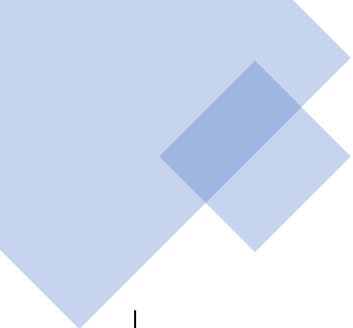
Jehangir HC
Jehangir



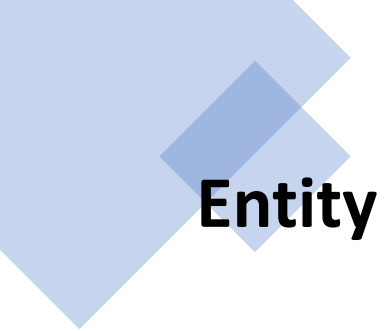
For



Mehli Mistry



Faction	Led by	Key Supporters	Objective
Faction 1	Noel Tata	Vijay Singh, Venu Srinivasan	Consolidate control over Tata Trusts and Tata Sons
Faction 2	Mehli Mistry (Ratan Tata's confidant)	Darius Khambata, Pramit Jhaveri, Jehangir Jehangir	Push for autonomy and legacy control linked to Ratan Tata



Entity

Role

Stake in Tata Sons



Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Philanthropic arm

66% controlling stake
in Tata Sons
(collectively with
others)

**Sir Dorabji Tata
Trust**

Major shareholder &
grant-giver

Major influence on
Tata Group governance

Allied Trusts

Support charitable and
institutional projects

-



6 Why It Matters

1. Governance Implications

- The Trusts control **66% of Tata Sons**, meaning internal rifts could directly impact corporate decision-making.

2. Legal & Ethical Precedent

- Follows the 2016 **Cyrus Mistry ouster episode**, where boardroom politics at Tata Sons led to prolonged legal battles (finally resolved by Supreme Court in Tata's favour in 2021).

3. Power Shift from Ratan Tata Era

- The current split suggests that **Ratan Tata's personal influence is waning**, with Noel Tata and the board asserting more autonomy.

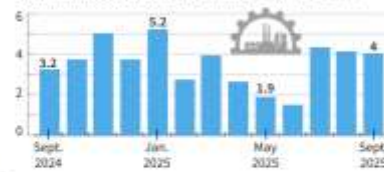
4. Philanthropy vs. Corporate Control

- Originally founded for social service, Tata Trusts' operations are now deeply intertwined with corporate control, raising questions on governance purity.
-

Year	Crisis	Outcome
2016	Ouster of Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons Chairman	Boardroom coup led by Ratan Tata; legal dispute followed
2025	Rejection of Mehli Mistry's reappointment	Marks new internal factionalism under Noel Tata's leadership

Industrial slowdown

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In September, the slowdown in industrial growth was mainly led by the mining, primary goods, and consumer non-durables sectors. Activity in the mining sector contracted 0.45% in September 2025

from growth of 6.6% in August 2025 and 0.2% in September last year.

The consumer non-durables sector continued to contract for the second consecutive month in September 2025, by 2.9%, compared with a contraction of 6.4% in August 2025, and a growth of 2.2% in September last year.

Impact of GST cuts

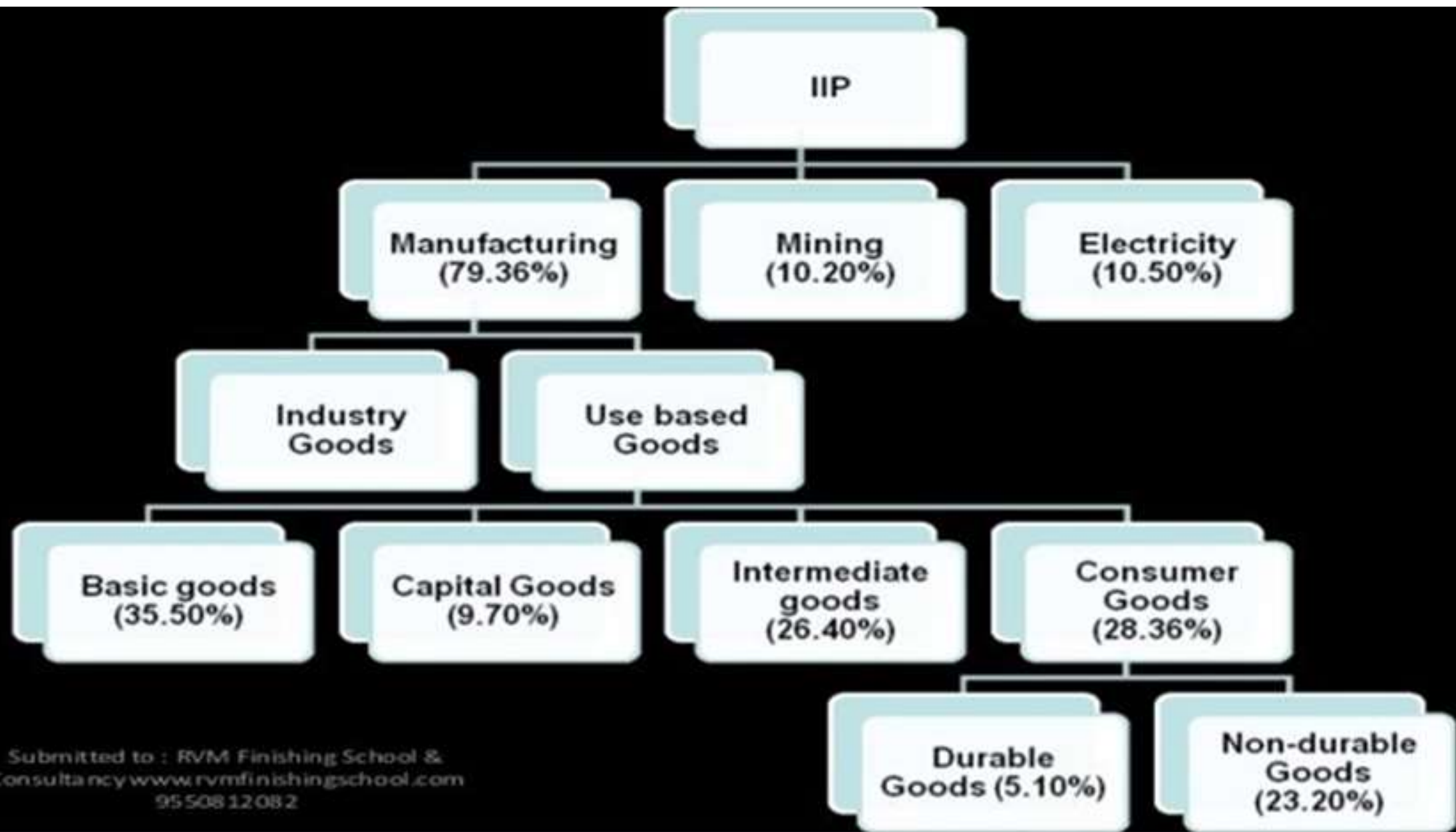
According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, this could be due to the fact that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts were implemented late in the month.

"As the GST cuts have targeted this industry, it can be assumed that the real impact will be seen in October-November as dealers have been facing a challenge of selling products with the older price labels," Mr. Sabnavis said.

Growth in the consumer durables segment sector surged to 10.2% in September 2025, from 3.5% in August 2025, and 6.3% in September last year.

The primary goods sector saw growth slowing to 1.4% in September 2025 from 5.4% in the previous month and 1.8% in September last year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 4.8% in September 2025 from 3.8% in the previous month and 4% in September 2024.



Use-based Classification of Industries under IIP

New Series (Base year 2011-12)	No of Item Groups	Weight %
Primary Goods	15	34.05
Intermediate Goods	110	17.22
Capital Goods	67	8.22
Infrastructure/Construction Goods	29	12.34
Consumer Durables	86	12.84
Consumer Non-Durables	100	15.33
Total	407	100

1 What is the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

Parameter	Details
Definition	A composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industrial production in the economy over a period.
Base Year	2011–12
Compiled By	Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
Coverage Sectors	Mining (14.4%), Manufacturing (77.6%), Electricity (8%)
Frequency	Monthly
Use	Indicator of short-term industrial performance and input for GDP estimation.

Indicator	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024
Overall IIP Growth	4%	6.6%	3.2%
Mining Sector	0.45%	—	—
Manufacturing Sector	4.8%	3.8%	4%
Electricity Sector	10.2%	3.5%	6.3%

Half-Yearly Performance (Apr–Sept 2025)

The **first half of FY 2025–26** recorded the **slowest growth in at least five years**.

The **overall index grew 3.2%**, compared with 6.3% in 2023–24 and 4.1% in 2022–23 for the same period.

Industrial output expanded by **24% in FY 2021–22**, rebounding post-COVID, but has since decelerated steadily.

Sector

Trend & Explanation

Mining

Growth decelerated sharply to **0.45%**, indicating weak extraction output, possibly due to monsoon disruption.

Manufacturing

Slight recovery to **4.8%**, driven by base effect and modest production revival in autos and capital goods.

Electricity

Strong rebound at **10.2%**, likely due to increased energy demand from summer spillover and infrastructure projects.

Consumer Non-Durables

Contracted by **2.9%** — second straight month of negative growth, indicating weak rural demand.

Consumer Durables

Rose modestly, but facing GST-related uncertainty and inventory issues.

Causes of Slowdown

Base effect normalization after high growth in August 2025.

Weak demand in rural and semi-urban sectors.

Consumer goods slump, especially non-durables (FMCG, textiles).

Mining disruption due to extended monsoon.

GST restructuring impact on retail and dealer-level sale

Year	IIP Growth (%)	Remarks
2020–21	-8.4	COVID lockdown impact
2021–22	+24.2	Base-effect rebound
2022–23	+5.3	Normalization phase
2023–24	+6.3	Pre-election growth revival
2024–25	+4.1 (so far)	Demand moderation & GST impact

Crops, power sector bear cyclone's brunt

Paddy and cotton are the worst hit, together accounting for more than 80% of the total damaged area in Andhra Pradesh; power sector records losses worth around ₹2,200 crore; restoration work under progress. Chandrababu Naidu orders round-the-clock monitoring in vulnerable districts

G.V.R. Subbarao
CHENNAI

Cyclone Montha has inflicted extensive damage on agriculture and power infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh.

The preliminary assessment by the Agriculture Department reveal that over 43,000 hectares of crops have been submerged, affecting nearly 18,000 farmers across 292 mandals and 1,712 villages.

According to the three power distribution companies in the State — APEDCL, APSPDC, and APSPDC — the total estimated loss to the power sector would be around ₹2,200 crore, with large-scale damage done to power substations, transform-



Evacuated fisherfolk families have food at a relief camp set up in a government school in Kakarla district of Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday (left). High tidal waves lashed the shore under the influence of the Cyclone Montha in Kakarla district. K. G. G. G.

ers, poles, and power lines.

Worst hit crops

According to the Agriculture department's data, paddy and cotton are the worst hit, together accounting for more than 80% of the total damaged area.

Paddy fields in 31,267

hectares were inundated, while cotton crops over 15,000 hectares suffered extensive damage due to continuous rainfall and flooding.

Among the districts, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, East Godavari, and Krishna reported the highest damage, with over 1,000 hectares being submerged. In addition to paddy

and cotton, maize over 4,300 hectares and black gram in 3,004 hectares were damaged, while bajra, redgram, and soybean suffered partial losses.

The report noted that 53 hectares of nurseries were affected in several regions, which could hamper the supply to urban centres and essential installations would be normalised within the next 24 hours.

Constant monitoring: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday instructed officials to take all necessary preventive and precautionary measures as the cyclone Montha approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast. Mr. Naidu stressed the need for round-the-clock monitoring and utmost vigilance in all vulnerable districts.

The Chief Minister directed that NERF and SDRF teams be deployed in and around Kakarla, where the cyclone is likely to make landfall. Officials said that evacuation teams were constituted to ensure the safety of all urban centres and essential installations would be normalised within the next 24 hours.

restoration work of power infrastructure was progressing rapidly, despite heavy rains and flooding in several coastal areas.

With teams working round-the-clock and power being restored in a phased manner, the authorities are ensuring that all urban centres and essential installations would be normalised within the next 24 hours.

'BJP's daydream will not become a reality when DMK is active'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said the Assembly election due next year would determine the future of the State, adding that it would witness a fight between the DMK, which stands tall with its unique role, and the "sleeping Indian federalist".

The election will help protect Tamil Nadu's self-respect and individuality," he said at Mamallapuram while addressing a programme titled, 'My Polling Booth, Victory Booth', aimed at training DMK members in managing their polling booths during elections.

Mr. Stalin said the enemies and betrayers of the Tamil race were directly and indirectly trying to cause trouble, and the DMK had allies should defeat them and protect the Tamil land, language, and pride.

"The State is facing an invasion of its sociocultural system and economy. Injustice is being done to it on all fronts. They trouble Tamil Nadu through Hindi, Sanskrit, GRT, and the Government. Only we have the strength to overcome these assaults. The BJP's daydream will not become a reality as long as the DMK is active," he said.

Criticsless SR: The Chief Minister said the BJP was also aware of the DMK's strength, and was



M.K. Stalin

trying to find new ways to cause trouble.

The Election Commission has announced the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) for the electoral rolls, and they are threatening that if we do not bow down to them, the designs of the SIR will not work in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Mr. Stalin alleged that the Election Commission had deprived more than 65 lakh people of their voting rights on the pretext of SIR. The DMK condemned the EC's action, he said.

I have warned that the BJP is using the EC as its puppet to follow the same method (of allegedly depriving voters of their rights through SIR) in Tamil Nadu. Its calculation is to remove the voting rights of the working class, the Scheduled Caste, the minority communities, and convey a sense of political apathy to the people. As the party lacks the courage to face the people, it has made the wrong calculation of denying the people their right to vote," the Chief Minister said.

'Rising sea surface temperatures leading to more cyclones'

Ramkumar
VISHAKHAPATNAM

Since 2010, Andhra Pradesh has borne the brunt of at least 10 major tropical cyclones, some of them categorised as severe and very severe cyclones. The Bay of Bengal has recorded a consistent rise in the SST.

Meteorologists have identified a consistent upward trend in the high intensity of the storms and the trails of the cyclones they left — and they blame the rapid rise in sea surface temperature (SST) over the last few decades.

Rising SST

According to Prof. S.M.S. Ramakrishna, former Head of Department (HOD) of Oceanography and Meteorology, Andhra University, the Bay of Bengal has recorded a consistent rise in the SST.

Sea temperatures have regularly exceeded the 30°C mark, creating an ideal environment for the formation of tropical cyclones. "As the water gets warmer, latent heat energy increases, increasing the

Cyclone trail

Cyclones that hit Andhra Pradesh in the past 15 years

Name	Category	Date	Landfall	Wind Speed	Death
Phailin	Extremely Severe	Oct. 12, 2013	Orissa	180	48
Phailin	Severe	Nov. 20-21, 2013	Madhya Pradesh	130	80
Phailin	Severe	Oct. 12-14, 2013	Madhya Pradesh	130	124
Phailin	Severe	Oct. 12-14, 2013	Madhya Pradesh	130	86
Phailin	Severe	Oct. 12-14, 2013	Madhya Pradesh	130	86
Phailin	Severe	Oct. 12-14, 2013	Madhya Pradesh	130	86



A fallen tree blocks a road in Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday.

possibility of cyclones. In the last 80 years, studies conducted by ITM Pune have indicated that the SST in Bay of Bengal has gone up by 0.3°C to 1°C," he said.

Prof. G.S.R. Ramakrishna, former HOD, said the same department, attributed the changing factor to global warming and climate change. The warming

CPI(M) looks to assuage hurt sentiments over PM SHRI row

A. Ananthan
TIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the Communist Party of India (CPI) demanding a referendum to resolve its stance that the Kerala government led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) withdrew from the Memorandum of Understanding with the Centre, subjecting to the contentious PM SHRI, the CPI(M) is contemplating a move to restore the party's relations with the CPI in view of the upcoming local body elections.

Senior leaders of the CPI(M) confirmed to The Hindu that the party would try to verify whether any financial transactions had taken place between him and Mr. Potti.

A meeting of the LDF

to be convened soon to give an explanation to allies

he convened soon to give an explanation to the allies. The withdrawal of federal funds due to the Samagra Shiksha Kerala created a dire situation, but allies should have taken into confidence before pressing ahead with joining the scheme, a leader or said.

Contrary to their previous stance, the CPI(M) leaders contended that the state would be at liberty to formulate its school curriculum, and that the current nature of education would not be affected by the scheme. They re-

mained hopeful that the CPI would eventually come around.

"Withdrawal from the scheme is not among the options before us," said a CPI(M) leader. But the government could write to the Centre expressing its disapproval. An alternative would be to go down on the implementation of the scheme, he said.

Decision to boycott: The CPI State leadership on Tuesday resolved to boycott Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, maintaining that "even a hint of a compromise with the BJP-RSS in Kerala would have national consequences". R. Vinayak, CPI State secretary, remained hopeful that an early resolution of the issue.

Two senior Maoist leaders surrender

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two senior leaders of the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) Puluri Prasad Rao and Bhadrachari, who served as a CCN guiding Telangana State committee. Once considered one of the senior-most ideologues of the CPI (Maoist), he cited ill-health, chronic ailments, and financial constraints as reasons for leaving the organisation.

Prasad Rao, 55, who carrying a reward of ₹20 lakh, was a SCIM in charge of the party's propaganda and the Singareni Coal Belt Committee. He had spent over 40 years in the underground network. His two assistants, who were also deteriorating health, disillusionment within the organisation and desire to prioritise family.

Chandran, 64, carry-

ing a reward of ₹25 lakh, had been part of the Maoist movement for 45 years and served as a CCN guiding Telangana State committee. Once considered one of the senior-most ideologues of the CPI (Maoist), he cited ill-health, chronic ailments, and financial constraints as reasons for leaving the organisation.

Prasad Rao, 55, who carrying a reward of ₹20 lakh, was a SCIM in charge of the party's propaganda and the Singareni Coal Belt Committee. He had spent over 40 years in the underground network. His two assistants, who were also deteriorating health, disillusionment within the organisation and desire to prioritise family.

AICC issues ultimatum to KPCC to end factionalism

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has reportedly issued an ultimatum to the Congress leadership in Kerala to end factional polarities, present a united front, and convey a sense of political purpose in the crucial election year.

The AICC on Tuesday summoned the State leadership to Delhi for closed-door discussions with the national leadership comprising AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and AICC general secretary, K.C. Venugopal.

The summit assumed significance amid public expressions of dissent over the Youth Congress and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) resignations, with some influential social organisations warning of an intra-party discord.

Former KPCC president K. Sudhakaran, hinted that the alleged "one-upman" of leaders vying to secure their loyalists in crucial constituencies, questioned why the RSS should "follow others' dictat" on how to conduct its event.

As the meeting ended, protesters raised slogans against RSS and in "divisive politics," prompting the police to secure the gathering. Police have been deployed in front of RSS activists' houses. When M. Varman, a senior leader of the RSS, was ready to hold their respective route marches on a different date, the same day as the RSS refused to replace the rally. "We will show our commitment to the Constitution," he said.

IN BRIEF



TDB official remanded in Sabarimala gold 'theft' case

The Magistrate Court at Ram in Kerala on Tuesday remanded Murali Babu, a Travancore Devaswam Board (TDB) employee currently under suspension, in four days of police custody for interrogation in the Sabarimala gold 'theft' case. Official said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) would question him alongside Undersecretary Potti, the prime accused in the case. The SIT sought his custody to probe a suspected conspiracy involving the accused and to verify whether any financial transactions had taken place between him and Mr. Potti.

Hyderabad jets new aero engine manufacturing facility

Tata Advanced Systems in collaboration with Indian Airforce Engines, has established an aero engine engine component manufacturing facility in Adilabad, Hyderabad. Office of Telangana IT and Industries Minister D. Jayaram Babu said the new manufacturing facility has been set up with an investment of ₹425 crore and is expected to generate employment for about 800 people. The facility will manufacture Boeing Business Jet (BBJ) engines for LEAP engines used by Airbus and Boeing, the office said.

Cabin crew member found dead in Hyderabad apartment

A 25-year-old cabin crew member from Jamnabai was found dead at her flat in Rajendra Nagar in Hyderabad last week. The police have launched a probe. The death of the woman, who had been residing in Hyderabad for nearly five years. The death came to light on October 24 when Jamnabai's friends found her lifeless in her house. Investigations revealed that Jamnabai had been reportedly struggling with depression. (Hindu daily news headline numbers: 8142020033/44 and 040 06202000/20013)

Karnataka HC stays GO restricting use of public properties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While staying the Karnataka government's recent order that restricted the use of public properties, including roads, parks, playgrounds, etc., without prior permission, the High Court on Tuesday, in a landmark gathering of 30 or more persons, the High Court on Tuesday stayed the restriction "prima facie is violative of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India".

The government order was interpreted by some as an attempt to curb the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), as the Cabinet approved

the G.O. a few days after Karnataka's Minister Priyanka Kharge wrote a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on activities of organisations such as the RSS in public properties.

The court pointed out that the order was issued when the regulation of assembly of people is governed under the Karnataka Police (RP) Act.

Peace meeting in Chittapur on RSS march ends in acrimony

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTAUR

The controversy over the proposed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) march in Chittapur town in Karnataka descended on Tuesday when a peace meeting convened by the Kalaburagi district administration, including the RSS, Bhim Army, Bharatiya Jan Party, and others, ended in acrimony.

The RSS delegation rejected the demand made by the RSS to replace the RSS (wooden staff) and replace them with national flag and copies of the Preamble to the Constitution during its centenary march.

RSS rejects demand to give up Indian flag and replace them with national flag and copies of Preamble.

Deputy Commissioner Pooja Tarasani, was attended by representatives of all organisations, including the RSS, Bhim Army, Bharatiya Jan Party, and others. When M. Varman, a senior leader of the RSS, was ready to hold their respective route marches on a different date, the same day as the RSS refused to replace the rally. "We will show our commitment to the Constitution," he said.

'Rising sea surface temperatures leading to more cyclones'

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

Since 2010, Andhra Pradesh has borne the brunt of at least 10 major tropical cyclones, some of them categorised as severe and very severe cyclonic storms. Tamil Nadu and Odisha have also been affected by these storms.

Meteorologists have identified a common element in these storms – the high intensity of the storms and the trails of destruction they left – and they blame the rapid rise in sea surface temperature (SST)

over the last few decades.

Rising SST

According to Prof. S.S.V.S. Ramakrishna, former Head of Department (HoD) of Oceanography and Meteorology, Andhra University, the Bay of Bengal has recorded a consistent rise in the SST.

Sea temperatures have regularly exceeded the 20°C to 30°C mark, creating an ideal environment for the formation of tropical cyclones.

"As the water gets warmer, latent heat energy increases, increasing the

Cyclone trail

Cyclones that hit Andhra Pradesh in the past 15 years

Name	Category	Date	Landfall	Wind speed	Death toll
Phailin	Extremely Severe	Oct. 8 to 14, 2013	Gopalpur, Odisha	260 kmph	45
Helen	Severe Cyclonic	Nov. 20–23, 2013	Machilipatnam, A.P.	130 kmph	Nil
Hudhud	Very Severe	Oct. 7–14, 2014	Visakhapatnam, A.P.	150-180 kmph	124
Titli	Very Severe	Oct. 8–13, 2018	Near Palasa, A.P.	195 kmph	89
Michaung	Severe	Dec. 1 To 6, 2023	Near Bapatla, A.P.	120 kmph	17

possibility of cyclones. In the last 50 years, studies conducted by IITM Pune have indicated that the SST

in Bay of Bengal has gone up by 0.5°C to 1°C," he said.

Prof. O.S.R.U. Bhanu Kumar, former HoD, from the



A fallen tree blocks a road in Machilipatnam as Cyclone Montha brought in heavy rain in Andhra Pradesh. PTI

same department, attributed the changing factor to global warming and climate change. The warming

of the atmosphere increases the capacity of air to hold moisture, leading to heavier rainfall during cyclones.

In recent times, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and La Niña have contributed to more favourable conditions for cyclonic formations over the Bay of Bengal, he said.

Both experts cautioned that deforestation and degradation of coastal ecosystems like mangroves and wetlands, have reduced the natural buffers, amplifying the damage caused by cyclones.

Since **2010**, Andhra Pradesh has faced at least **10 major tropical cyclones**, several classified as *severe* or *very severe*.

Tamil Nadu and Odisha have also been heavily impacted.

Meteorologists attribute this increasing frequency and intensity to the **rise in sea surface temperatures (SSTs)** in the **Bay of Bengal** — one of the world’s most cyclone-prone regions.

2 Cyclone Data: Andhra Pradesh (2010–2025)

Name	Category	Date	Landfall	Wind Speed	Death Toll
Phailin	Extremely Severe	Oct 8–14, 2013	Gopalpur, Odisha	260 kmph	45
Helen	Severe Cyclonic	Nov 20–23, 2013	Machilipatnam, A.P.	130 kmph	Nil
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Titli	Very Severe	Oct 8–13, 2018	Near Palasa, A.P.	195 kmph	89
Michaung	Severe	Dec 1–6, 2023	Near Bapatla, A.P.	120 kmph	17
Montha	Severe	Oct 28–30, 2025	Near Kakinada, A.P.	~150 kmph	TBD

Scientific Observations

According to Prof. S.S.V.S. Ramakrishna (Andhra University, HoD of Oceanography & Meteorology):

- Bay of Bengal has recorded a **consistent rise in SST**.
- Average SST now regularly exceeds **27–30°C** (ideal for cyclone formation).
- Over the last **50 years**, SST in the Bay has increased by **0.5°C to 1°C**.

Prof. O.S.R.U. Bhanu Kumar attributes the trend to:

- **Global warming**
- **Climate change**
- **Positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**
- **La Niña phase**

Process	Effect
Warmer sea surface (>27°C)	Enhances evaporation and moisture content
More latent heat release	Intensifies low-pressure systems
Warm air expands upwards	Fuels cyclone circulation
Higher atmospheric moisture	Results in heavier rainfall and flooding
Longer heat retention	Prolongs cyclone life and strength

Climatic Phenomenon	Effect on Cyclones
Positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)	Enhances convection over western Indian Ocean, boosting Bay activity.
La Niña	Strengthens monsoon winds, raises SSTs in the Bay.
Global Warming	Long-term increase in SST and humidity.

6 Environmental Degradation and Coastal Vulnerability

- Experts warn that **deforestation, urbanisation, and loss of mangroves and wetlands** have:
 - Reduced **natural barriers** against storm surges.
 - Increased **coastal flooding and erosion**.
 - Amplified the **human and economic damage** of cyclones.

Example: *Loss of mangrove buffers in Kakinada and Konaseema worsened Montha's impact.*

7 Key Data: Bay of Bengal Cyclone Trends

Parameter	1960–1980	2000–2025	Change	
Avg. SST (°C)	27.0	28.0–28.5	+0.8°C	
Avg. Cyclones per Decade	6–8	10–12	+40%	
Share of India's Total Cyclones	60%	75%	↑	
Avg. Fatalities per Cyclone	500+	<100	↓ (due to improved warning systems)	

Centre approves terms of 8th Central Pay Commission

The panel, headed by Justice Ranjana Desai (retd.), will make its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution; it will propose changes in salaries of Union government employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the Terms of Reference of the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC), the body in charge of deciding the pay structure and recommendations of Union government employees, the government announced on Tuesday.

The government had announced the formation of the CPC in January this year to examine and recommend changes in the salaries and other benefits of Central government employees.

'Formed in quick time'
"As you know, the in-principle approval for the formation of the eighth Central Pay Commission was granted only recently in January, and within a short span, the commission has now been formally constituted," Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a



Major steps: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (left) and Justice Ranjana Desai (right) at a meeting.

press conference announcing the Union Cabinet's decision here.

"This is a major step that involves extensive consultations. Several Ministries with large numbers of Central government employees, such as Defence, Home, Railways, and others, will be consulted on the pay structure and other benefits of the personnel and Training, were part of the process," he said.

The Commission will

comprise one chairperson, one part-time member and one member secretary. It will make its recommendations within 18 months of the date of its constitution. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.) will act as the chairperson.

Professor Pulak Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has been appointed a part-time member, while Petroleum Secretary Pratik Jain

will serve as the member secretary. "There are about 80 lakh Central government employees, and consultations were also held with many State governments, most of which extended their cooperation," Vaishnaw added.

The government said the CPC would have to keep several factors in mind while coming up with its recommendations. These included the economic conditions in the country and the need for fiscal prudence, the need to ensure that adequate resources are available for developmental expenditure and welfare measures, the unfilled cost of non-contributory pension schemes, the impact of its recommendations on state finances, as well as the current employment structure, benefits and working conditions of employees of central government undertakings and the private sector.

Amir Bhachar
MUMBAI

In a poll manifesto focused on jobs, the INDIA bloc promised to enact a law within its first 20 days in power to ensure that one member of every family in the State is in government job and give permanent employment to government employees and contract employees, and Jevika community mobility.

Higher financial aid for women, 200 units of free power, and the restoration of the Old Pension System and the agricultural mandi system are other highlights in the 32-page manifesto released on Tuesday.

Chief Minister candidate and Rashtriya Janata Dal (BJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav released the manifesto along with Congress leader Pawan Khera, Vice-President of the party (VPP) and Deputy CM candidate Mukesh Sahani, the state president of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (CPI(M-L)) and the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Bhattacharya, and other leaders.



Grand promises: INDIA bloc leaders releasing their manifesto for Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna on Tuesday.

The Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project, known as Jevika, largely works through women's self-help groups facilitated by community mobilisers. Apart from permanent government employee status, the manifesto promised to give these local mobilisers fixed salaries of ₹30,000 per month and two-year interest-free loans. Jevika cadre members were promised an allowance of ₹2,000 per month for performing other tasks, with the cadre president and treasurer to also receive an honorarium.

The manifesto also promises to waive forms and examination fees for competitive exams, and provide free travel in and from examination centres. Strict action will be taken to prevent paper leaks and a domicile policy will be implemented to ensure priority in employment for Bihar voters.

The INDIA bloc vowed to generate skill-based employment by creating IT parks, special Economic Zones, and encouraging agro-based industries, dairy-based industries, agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, and tourism, with special attention for

fisheries and animal husbandry. An educational city, industry clusters, and five new expressways will be built on 2,000 acres in the State. A coherent policy will be developed for the financial and skills development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the manifesto said. A labour census will be conducted to provide monthly financial assistance and skill training, while a dedicated department will be set up for the welfare of migrant workers.

While Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has provided ₹25 units of free electricity, the Opposition has promised to give 200 units of free electricity to every household. The INDIA bloc vowed to generate skill-based employment by creating IT parks, special Economic Zones, and encouraging agro-based industries, dairy-based industries, agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, and tourism, with special attention for

As SIR expands, questions on EC's power to conduct it, check citizenship pending in SC

NEWS ANALYSIS
Krishnasdas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission's authority to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls remains under question in the Supreme Court, even as the poll body announced the SIR's second phase that will cover 51 crore voters in 12 States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry.

The Supreme Court, in a July 10 order, had highlighted the basic questions posed by petitioners challenging the first phase of the SIR exercise were not arbitrarily excluded from the electoral rolls in Bihar.

mission (EC) has the "very powers to undertake the exercise".

Second, the court had flagged the petitioners' objection to the "procedure and the manner in which the SIR exercise is being undertaken".

Violating voters' rights
The court recorded the petitioners' contention that the SIR, notified on June 24 under Section 21C of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, broke that the SIR exercise is being undertaken in a manner that violates the fundamental rights of the voters.

However, later orders of the court on the SIR had diverged into ensuring that the SIR exercise was not arbitrarily excluded from the electoral rolls in Bihar.



Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Kumar.

Though the court did not say the Bihar SIR exercise is a "violation" of the Constitution, it made several timely interventions to infuse more transparency into the process, order the inclusion of Aadhaar as a 12th factor in the SIR exercise, and to ensure the publication of the draft electoral roll, among other steps.

Learning experience
An October 9 hearing gave the first indication that a

pan-India SIR had more or less become *fait accompli*, though the court has agreed to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the SIR exercise from November 3.

Addressing the EC's counsel and senior advocate Rakesh Desai, Justice Surya Kant, who headed the Bench, really said that "since 1951, the EC has decided to carry out SIR on a pan-India basis, and this exercise (between Bihar) would have made you aware of the same".

A cardinal point raised by petitioners was whether the citizenship criteria in the EC's purview when specific statutes like the Citizenship Act and the Foreigners Act address the issue of acquisition of Indian citizenship and illegal aliens, respectively.

proof of identity and the exemption from filing documents in the examination stage. The onus to be included on the voters' list, however, comes from November 3 on the election.

The process of enumeration itself does not have the benefit of any statutory backing. Again, the question about the EC's jurisdiction to delay into the citizenship claims of an already registered voter without any formal objection lodged against the person came to the fore. The next time you introduce a SIR module, owing to what you have learned now, you would also bring some improvements."

The second phase of the SIR in 12 States and UTs has introduced several modifications, such as the inclusion of Aadhaar as a

pan-India SIR had more or less become *fait accompli*, though the court has agreed to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the SIR exercise from November 3.

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The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday decided to provide ₹37,952 crore as fertilizer subsidy for the ongoing crop cycle of this winter season. The subsidy on phosphorous (P) and sulphur (S) fertilizers was increased by ₹736 crore, while the subsidy for nitrogen (N) and potash (K) will remain the same as the kharif (summer) crops.

The subsidy approved for 2025-26 is higher by about ₹14,000 crore from the previous year. In 2024-25, the subsidy for nitrogen was ₹7,360 kg in the 2025 kharif season, the subsidy was about ₹2,600 kg in the 2024 kharif season. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini

Union Cabinet decides to raise fertilizer subsidy for winter crops to ₹37,952 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
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(kharif); and the subsidy rate for nitrogen and potash will remain ₹43.02 a kg and ₹2.38 a kg, respectively.

The rates will be applicable from October 1, 2025 till March 31, 2026.

Special package
The Centre had fixed the subsidy rate considering the input prices and other factors, including nutrient requirements, multiple burden, and maximum retail prices, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Centre had provided a special package to ensure adequate availability of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and triple super phosphate (TSP) to farmers, he added.

Women vital for peace that is sustainable, says MP in UN

Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India was among the first countries to recognise the role of women in building sustainable peace, said a Sabha member P. Wilson said at the UN Peacebuilding Commission on Monday.

Presenting India's statement, Mr. Wilson, who is leading the Indian delegation at the Commission in New York, said sustainable peace required "full and equal participation" of women.

"What sets India's peacekeeping legacy apart is not only the scale of our contributions, but our early recognition of women as indispensable agents of sustainable peace," said Mr. Wilson, who started his statement with the Tamil greeting "vanakkam".

"Long before Resolution 1325, Indian women medical officers served in the Congo in 1975, marking one of the earliest instances of women serving in UN peacekeeping operations," the MP added.

'Relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves must be voluntary'

Ashwin Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry has mandated that the relocation of forest-dwelling communities from tiger reserves must be an "exceptional, voluntary, and evidence-based measure".

The new policy framework also spells out the mechanisms that allow communities to continue living in the forest, and the procedures to be followed once they are relocated.

The policy calls for a National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Rehabilitation, through which the Forest Conservation Ministry and the Tribal Affairs Ministry can jointly set procedural standards, timelines, and accountability.

It also suggests a National Database on Conservation-Community Interface to record and track relocation of forest-dwelling communities post-relocation. It recommends annual independent audits of relocation projects by empa-



The Tribal Affairs Ministry's new policy spells out the mechanisms that allow communities to continue living in the forest, e.g., in tiger reserves.

nelled agencies that assess compliance with the Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and human rights standards.

In such cases, authorities must ensure the *in situ* development of basic infrastructure, include Gram Sabha members in Tiger Conservation Foundation and Eco Development

Committees, and "generate evidence on sustainable livelihoods and the need for wider replication", the policy adds.

Against NTCA directive
This NTCA, titled "Recommendations on the National Tiger Conservation Authority's directive to States asking them to relocate villages in core areas of tiger reserves," has provoked several protests from several Gram Sabhas and forest rights activists.

The NTCA had asked the States to relocate villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, according to the NTCA. In his letter to the Environment Ministry, the Tribal Affairs Minister, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the NTCA had asked the States to relocate villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, according to the NTCA.

Centre has 'deceived' Agniveers, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday criticised the Centre over a purported Home Ministry notification proposing that retiring Agniveers be absorbed into the country's job market.

The party accused the government of misleading Agniveers by promising to provide pensionable jobs to Agniveers in government services.

Colonel Rohit Chaudhary (retd.), a former Agniveer, said the government's ex-servicemen department, said the government had misled Agniveers by promising to provide pensionable jobs to Agniveers in government services.

"If the government cannot reward those who performed well during Operation Sindoor, it should not reward those who did not," Colonel Chaudhary said.

NSCN(IM) is firm on Naga political demands: Muivah

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Less than 48 hours before his scheduled departure from his birthplace in Manipur's Ukhrul district, NSCN(IM) general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah said his group would not budge from its position on the Naga political issue.

The armed group wants New Delhi to recognise the Naga national flag and the Naga constitution, which it has been demanding since 1979.

NSCN(IM) expands to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Muivah. The group prefers to be called the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN).

"If you don't come to understand us and appreciate, then there is no point in us going forward," he said, insisting that the peace negotiators representing New Delhi understood his position.

He reached Sonoma, his birthplace, on October 22, six decades after he left home in 1964 to join the Naga Freedom movement. He is scheduled to depart for NSCN(IM)'s central headquarters near Nagaland's Dimapur after a stopover in Manipur's Senapati district.

"We will not come taking your (India's) history to surrender to you. We will never do that... Whether it is today or tomorrow, Nagas are Nagas and Indians are Indians," Mr. Muivah, the chief negotiator in the peace talks, said.

"If you don't come to understand us and appreciate, then there is no point in us going forward," he said, insisting that the peace negotiators representing New Delhi understood his position.

The NSCN(IM) general secretary claimed that the NSCN(IM) has been clear about its position since the day it declared a truce in 1997 and that the Centre's negotiators were aware of it.

Centre approves terms of 8th Central Pay Commission

The panel, headed by Justice Ranjana Desai (retd.), will make its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution; it will propose changes in salaries of Union government employees

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the Terms of Reference of the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC), the body in charge of deciding the pay structure and retirement benefits of Union government employees, the government announced on Tuesday.

The government had announced the formation of the CPC in January this year to examine and recommend changes in the salaries and other benefits of Central government employees.

'Formed in quick time'

"As you know, the in-principle approval for the formation of the eighth Central Pay Commission was granted only recently in January, and within a short span, the commission has now been formally constituted," Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a



Major step: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media on decisions taken by the Union Cabinet in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

press conference announcing the Union Cabinet's decisions here.

"This is a major step that involves extensive consultations. Several Ministries with large numbers of Central government employees, such as Defence, Home, Railways, and the Department of Personnel and Training, were part of the process," he said.

The Commission will

comprise one chairperson, one part-time member and one member-secretary. It will make its recommendations within 18 months of the date of its constitution. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.) will act as the chairperson.

Professor Pulak Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has been appointed a part-time member, while Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain

will serve as the member-secretary.

"There are about 50 lakh Central government employees, and consultations were also held with many State governments, most of which extended their cooperation," Mr. Vaishnaw added.

The government said the CPC would have to keep several factors in mind while coming up with its recommendations. These included the economic conditions in the country and the need for fiscal prudence, the need to ensure that adequate resources are available for developmental expenditure and welfare measures, the unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes, the impact of its recommendations on State finances, as well as the current emolument structure, benefits and working conditions of employees of Central public sector undertakings and the private sector.

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)** — the statutory body responsible for recommending changes in the **salary, pension, and allowances** of Central government employees and pensioners.

The decision formalizes the panel's formation, announced earlier in **January 2025**, and sets the stage for revising pay structures for over **50 lakh Central government employees** and **68 lakh pensioners**.

Parameter

Details

Constitution Announced

January 2025

ToR Approved

October 2025

Chairperson

Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai

Members

Prof. Pulak Ghosh (IIM Bangalore), Pankaj Jain
(Petroleum Secretary)

Member-Secretary

Notified official from Department of Expenditure

Recommendation Timeline

Within **18 months** of constitution

Coverage

50 lakh employees, ~68 lakh pensioners

Consultations

Defence, Railways, Home, and Personnel Ministries +
States

- **Mandate of the 8th Pay Commission**

- The Commission will:

- Examine and recommend **revised pay structure and pensions** for Central government employees and retirees.

- Ensure **fiscal prudence** while balancing **employee welfare**.

- Align salary revisions with **economic conditions** and **inflation trends**.

- Suggest measures for **non-contributory pension schemes** and impact on **State finances**.

- Assess **working conditions** and **benefits** for employees in **public sector undertakings**.

Pay Commission	Constituted	Implemented	Key Highlights
6th CPC	2006	2008	Introduced Pay Bands & Grade Pay System
7th CPC	2014	2016	Implemented “Fitment Factor” (2.57x) and rationalized allowances
8th CPC	2025	Expected 2027	Likely to focus on digital-era performance & pension rationalization

IN BRIEF



At least 2 killed, 10 injured as bus catches fire in Rajasthan

At least two persons were killed and 10 injured when the private sleeper coach in which they were travelling caught fire after hitting a high-tension power line near Mandawa in the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway on Tuesday. The bus was carrying over 50 labourers from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh to a brick kiln. Gas cylinders and two-wheelers kept on the roof of the bus touched an 11 kV electricity line when the vehicle was crossing an internal road. Six critically injured persons were referred to Rajaw Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur, while others are receiving treatment at the sub-district hospital in Mandawa. Investigation is under way. Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bhatnagar said.

Cough syrup deaths: medical representative held in M.P.

A medical representative of Sreem Pharamaceuticals, the Tamil Nadu-based manufacturer of an adulterated cough syrup linked to the death of 25 children in Madhya Pradesh, has been arrested in Chhindwara district, officials said on Tuesday. Satish Verma was arrested in the early hours of Monday in connection with the fatalities, the police said. The children died of renal failure after allegedly consuming the 'Golden' cough syrup. With the arrest of Mr. Verma, a total of six people have been held so far in the case, including the owner of the pharma company, G. Ranganathan, and Dr. Praveen Soni, who prescribed the medicine.

40 kg IED planted by Maoists seized in Chhattisgarh

Security forces on Tuesday recovered a 40-kg improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Maoists, in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, officials said. A joint team of the CRPF's 150th battalion and district police unearthed the explosive along the Fulbagh-Budeshpuri road, they said. "The explosive was related to largest security forces. It was safely neutralised," an official said, adding that a major tragedy was averted. Maoists often plant IEDs to target security personnel, who use such routes during anti-Naxal operations in the pockets of the Bastar region, which includes Sukma district.

Pilots' body slams move to dilute High Court order

On the day Air India informed its cockpit crew of a dilated version of the rest and duty norms mandated by the Delhi High Court in April, and documents showed the DGCA had granted exemptions to some airlines, a pilots' group called the move a "breach of law" and sought its immediate withdrawal. "The reported grant of exemption to airlines amounts to a deliberate departure from the timeline affirmed before the Hon'ble Court, undermining the sanctity of judicial pronouncement and eroding the confidence of stakeholders in the regulator's adherence to the rule of law," the Federation of Indian Pilots wrote in its letter to the DGCA.

Trade talks with EU reduced 'outstanding issues', says Goyal

Foundation laid for balanced and robust agreement, says Minister after meeting with counterpart, high-level EU team to visit India next week

Prakash Goyal
LONDON

India and the European Union have "significantly" reduced the gaps in their negotiating positions after three days of trade discussions in Brussels, Commerce and Industry Minister Prakash Goyal said on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Goyal and his EU counterpart, Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, held discussions to provide a political push to help get the negotiations for an India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) over the finish line. "The talks have significantly reduced our outstanding issues," he followed up to create the framework that will help deliver a win-win for both economies," Mr. Goyal said on X, describing his discussions as "intense" but "very productive".

Mr. Goyal posted a video statement by the two Ministers in which Mr. Goyal said the EU characterised the talks as having occurred in an atmosphere of "full transparency and trust". The Commission also said that "further work is required". He said substantial progress had been made in a number of areas and that the EU had given specific guidance to their teams on industrial tariffs.

Mr. Goyal confirmed that a high-level EU trade delegation led by Director General Sabine Weyand would be in New Delhi next week to conclude "technical tariff negotiations". A trade delegation from the European Parliament is in New Delhi this week to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by the trade negotiations. Some of the sticking points have included tariffs around agricultural products, a sensitive area for both sides and particularly for India. Tariffs on European automobiles being sold in India have also been under discussion in recent weeks. Regulatory issues, including the EU's carbon tax on imports (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism), have been contentious issues to work through.

"The negotiations and discussions have laid the foundation for a robust and balanced agreement," Mr. Goyal said.



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Prakash Goyal meeting EU Commissioner for Trade Margrethe Vestager in Brussels on Monday.

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NDRF posted teams in five States ahead of cyclone landfall

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Cyclone Motla's landfall on Tuesday night, the National Disaster Response Force deployed 20 teams across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, while another 10 teams were sent to Kerala.

"The Director General, NDRF, has directed all formations to maintain a high level of readiness to provide immediate response for search, rescue, and relief operations," the organisation said in a statement.

Each team is equipped with boats, cutting equipment, communication equipment, and other specialised rescue tools to carry out evacuation, relief efforts, and restoration operations.

Coordination meetings are being held with the National Disaster Management

Teams are equipped with boats, cutting and communication equipment to carry out relief operations

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, next month, the United Nations made public a synthesis report on Tuesday that finds countries are on track to meet emissions by only 17% of 2019 levels by 2035, well below what is required to keep earth from heating up by 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

To keep temperatures below these limits, countries must cut emissions by 37% and 57%, respectively, of 2019 levels by 2035.

The synthesis is based on countries' updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are promises to cut fossil fuel emissions or plant forests for carbon sinks, until 2035. Tuesday's report is only a partial picture as only 64, out of a po-

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALURU

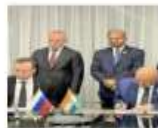
Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding for production of the civil computer aircraft 30-100.

The 30-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft. As on date, more than 200 aircraft have been produced and are being operated by more than 16 commercial airline operators.

HAL said the 30-100 would be a game changer for the trade negotiations. Some of the sticking points have included tariffs around agricultural products, a sensitive area for both sides and particularly for India. Tariffs on European automobiles being sold in India have also been under discussion in recent weeks.

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Officials from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov sign an MoU for making of the aircraft 30-100.

the next 10 years, the Indian aviation sector will require over 200 jets in this category for regional connectivity and an additional 350 aircraft for the Indian Ocean region to serve near-to international tourist destinations, it said.

He said they were generating data from the trials. "We are learning a lot, as cloud seeding has never been done for pollution control in India or India before this."

As per officials, 0.1 mm rainfall was observed in Noida and 0.2 mm in Greater Noida around 2 p.m.

Delhi Environment Minister Manoj Kumar Singh said more trials would be done in the coming days. He said the humidity on Tuesday was only 15% to 20%.

Cloud-seeding trials done in Delhi to tackle air pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid surging pollution levels, the Delhi government, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, on Tuesday conducted two cloud-seeding trials to induce rain. However, negligible rainfall was observed till late in the evening. The first such trial was conducted on October 23.

"Today, the clouds had very little moisture content. We are doing a series of trials to see if we can get some rain by tomorrow morning and the clouds are expected to have higher moisture content than today, and there are better chances of rainfall," Manoj Kumar Singh said.

He said they were generating data from the trials. "We are learning a lot, as cloud seeding has never been done for pollution control in India or India before this."

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UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris

Jacob Koshy
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comprehensive scope of the Paris Agreement," the report notes.

With regard to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions, the total GHG emission level resulting from the implementation of Parties' new NDCs is projected to be around 13 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2035, which is 6% below what they promised in their previous NDCs submitted from 2009-2022.

Domestic pledges Afforestation, reforestation and shifting solar energy were identified as the options with the greatest need for support. Some Parties have announced domestic pledges and projects, such as rippling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, enhancing low-carbon hydrogen production and expanding carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) capacity.

adaptation and resilience, such as NDCs including an "adaptation" component, the report notes. Adaptation refers to steps that must be taken by countries to adapt to ongoing and future impact from warming.

All NDCs go beyond mitigation to include elements, from solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, capacity building and addressing loss and damage, reflecting the

comprehensive scope of the Paris Agreement," the report notes.

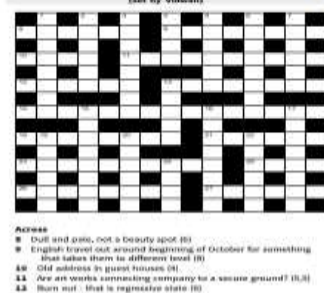
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TH CROSSWORD 14625



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

- Pompeo mysteriously over playing organ (8)
- Olympian hero flame, mostly lighting for what was founded by Charlemagne (13,3)
- First show of enduring on-stage support (8)
- Leaving hoodlums regularly involved in sex trafficking (8)
- Resident of popular hotel - a scrap worker (10)
- Occasionally shoulds hard to silence (4)
- Unusual value, age, eating and eating exactly (8)
- Lafour has no time to check out small spotted bottle for lubrication (8)
- Success and other times so far (8)
- Round shapes could be unaccompanied (6)
- One item negatively into a laptop (8)
- Bamboo shoot cropped for herb (8)
- Austria persisted, holding back restoration (8)
- Showing enthusiasm for Putin again, surprisingly! (5,2)
- Stone age words of deceased old soldiers (8)
- Benefit from loss of travels (8)
- Requires in type love resistance, evolved in various reserves (8)
- English king going back into silent action (8)
- Philosopher answers, transforms you in the end (8)
- 8 numbers backing a verse (8)
- Time for getting at Barbara hospital (8)
- Barely done, but and occurred in suspension (3,4)
- Has no fear of gas burning? Could be against (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's puzzle

FAITH

The Lord of Thiruvellarai

Lord Narayana is identified by His lotus eyes. And He has lotus eyes no matter what avatars He takes, elaborated R. R. Devarajan in a discourse. When Hanuman meets Sita, He has to convince Her that He is genuine and is not one of Rama's, avatars in disguise. So He describes Rama, to show Her that He has indeed seen Her Consort. Here Hanuman uses the words - *Ramaya kamala patra aksha* - Rama's eyes are like the petals of a lotus.

When Krishna chooses to stay with Vidura, instead of in the Raivara palace, Duryodhana says to Him, *Kumartham maharajakshaya* - why oh lotus-eyed One? His eyes in the archa form are celebrated by Thiruppankaval. In his Anandashilpan, Thiruppankaval sang of the beauty of Lord Ranganatha of Srirangam, including His long eyes. In the Thiruvellarai temple, He is known as Pundarikaksha - the One with lotus-like eyes. The Goddess in the temple is known as Sengamavalai and Panganyacheli. The vimana is vimalakuruthi. There are many sacred teachings in this vimana.

King Sibi, who established the temple, wanted to avenge 3,200 Sri Vaidyanavas here. Unfortunately, one of them died. The Lord suggested that the king include Him as one of the 3,200 Sri Vaidyanavas, to bring the count to 3,200 as he had wished. So the Lord became one among His devotees. This reminds one of the occasion when Lava and Susan sang before Rama. Rama was so impressed by their singing, that He forgot Himself, rose from His throne and sat among the citizens of Ayodhya. Just as the quality of sanctity was evident in the Lord's Rama avatars, it is also evident in His archa form, as we see in Thiruvellarai.

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding for production of the civil commuter aircraft SJ-100.

The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft. As on date, more than 200 aircraft have been produced and are being operated by more than 16 commercial airline operators.

HAL said the SJ-100 would be a game changer for short-haul connectivity under the UDAN scheme in India. Under this arrangement, HAL will have the rights to manufacture SJ-100 aircraft for domestic customers.

Production in India

"This collaboration between HAL and UAC is the result of mutual trust between the organisations. This will also be the first instance wherein a complete passenger aircraft will be produced in India. The last such project was HAL's production of AVRO HS-748, which started in 1961 and ended in 1988," HAL said.

It is estimated that over



Officials from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov sign an MoU for making of the aircraft SJ-100.

the next 10 years, the Indian aviation sector will require over 200 jets in this category for regional connectivity and an additional 350 aircraft for the Indian Ocean region to serve nearby international tourist destinations, it said.

"The manufacturing of the SJ-100 aircraft marks the beginning of a new chapter in Indian aviation industry. Manufacturing will also strengthen the private sector and create direct and indirect jobs in the aviation industry," the Bengaluru-headquartered PSU said.

The MoU was signed in Moscow on Monday by Prabhat Ranjan from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov from UAC.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has signed an **MoU** with **Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC)** for the **production of the civil commuter aircraft "SJ-100"** (Sukhoi Superjet-100) in India.

The pact signifies a **major step in India's civil aviation manufacturing**, a sector historically dominated by imports.

Parameter**Details****Parties Involved**

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (India) & United Aircraft Corporation (Russia)

Aircraft Type

SJ-100 – Twin-engine, narrow-body civil commuter jet

MoU Signed At

Moscow

Signatories

Prabhat Ranjan (HAL) & Oleg Bogomolov (UAC)

Purpose

Joint production and manufacturing of SJ-100 aircraft in India

Target Market

Domestic operators under UDAN + regional routes in Indian Ocean countries

Feature**Specification****Type**

Regional Jet (short-haul)

Capacity

75–100 passengers

Range

2,400–3,000 km

Engines

Twin-engine (narrow-body)

Status

Over 200 aircraft already produced; used by 16+ commercial airlines globally

Category

Civil commuter aircraft for regional connectivity

Dimension

Significance

Defence–Civil Synergy

HAL diversifying from defence to civil aviation, boosting industrial balance.

India–Russia Ties

Reinforces long-standing Indo-Russian cooperation in aerospace (MiG, Sukhoi, BrahMos).

Regional Aviation Demand

India expected to need **200+ short-haul aircraft** for domestic connectivity & **350 more** for Indian Ocean tourism routes in the next decade.

Export Potential

Future prospects for export to South Asia, ASEAN, and Africa.

Project

Period

Outcome

AVRO HS-748

1961–1988

India's last full passenger aircraft manufactured by HAL.

SARAS (NAL)

1999–Present

Ongoing indigenous light transport aircraft project by NAL.

**Tejas / LCA / ALH
Dhruv**

2000s

Defence aircraft; paved the way for civilian tech spin-offs.

UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil, next month, the United Nations made public a "synthesis report" on Tuesday that finds countries are poised to reduce emissions by only 17% of 2019 levels by 2035 – well below what is required to keep earth from heating up by 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

To keep temperatures below these limits, countries must cut emissions by 37% and 57%, respectively, of 2019 levels by 2035.

The synthesis is based on countries' updated nationally determined contributions (NDC), which are promises to cut fossil fuel emissions or plant forests (to capture carbon dioxide) until 2035. Tuesday's report is only a partial picture as only 64, out of a po-



The report says countries will cut emissions by only 17% by 2035, far below the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit. GETTY IMAGES

tential 190 countries, have submitted updated NDCs until September 30. India is among the countries that is yet to submit updated NDCs, after its last submission in August 2022.

While conversation in the lead-up to climate COPs generally end to weigh heavily towards emissions reductions, the NDCs that have been submitted so far are also stressing two other important pillars of climate ac-

tion – adaptation and resilience, with 73% of the new NDCs including an 'adaptation' component, the report notes. Adaptation refers to steps that must be taken by countries to adapt to ongoing and future impact from warming.

"All NDCs go beyond mitigation to include elements, inter alia, on adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and addressing loss and damage, reflecting the

comprehensive scope of the Paris Agreement," the report notes.

With regard to greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions, the total GHG emission level resulting from the implementation of Parties' new NDCs is projected to be around 13 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2035, which is 6% below what they promised in their previous NDCs (submitted from 2020-2022).

Domestic pledges

Afforestation, reforestation and adding solar energy were identified as the options with the greater need for support. Some Parties have announced domestic pledges and projects, such as tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, enhancing low-carbon hydrogen production and expanding Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) capacity.

Ahead of **COP-30** (to be held in **Belem, Brazil**, next month), the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** has released a **“Synthesis Report”**.

The report evaluates progress made by countries toward their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** — the emission reduction pledges made under the **Paris Agreement (2015)**.

Parameter

Findings (2025 Report)

Emission Reduction by 2035

Only **17% reduction** compared to 2019 levels

Required Reduction (Paris Goal)

37–57% cut needed to limit global warming to **1.5°C–2°C**

Total GHG Emissions (Projected 2035)

~13 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, 6% higher than earlier commitments

Countries Covered

64 countries (out of 190) submitted updated NDCs

India's Status

Yet to submit updated NDC since August 2022

Target

Objective

 **Temperature**

Limit global temperature rise to **below 2°C**, ideally **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels.

 **NDCs**

Countries submit **Nationally Determined Contributions** — their plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate change.

 **Finance & Support**

Developed nations to provide **\$100 billion/year** to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.

India's Position

India's last NDC submission (2022) includes:

- Reducing emission intensity of GDP by **45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels).
- Achieving **50% cumulative electric power capacity** from **non-fossil fuel sources** by 2030.
- Net-zero emissions target by **2070** (announced at COP-26, Glasgow).

India is yet to submit its **updated 2035 NDC**, though it continues to expand **renewables, afforestation, and hydrogen production** initiatives.

Target Year	Current Pathway	Required Pathway (1.5°C)	Gap
2030	-5% (from 2019 levels)	-43%	38% gap
2035	-17%	-57%	40% gap
2050 (Net Zero)	Achievable only if immediate action taken	Needed by mid-century	Decade delay risk

Math is not a tool for cultural nationalism

In August, the University Grants Commission (UGC) released the draft undergraduate curriculum for nine subjects, including mathematics, as part of the National Education Policy (NEP). The next month, 900 Indian mathematicians signed a petition calling for the UGC to withdraw the draft math curriculum.

They argued that it is "riddled with grave defects" that could harm students' academic and career prospects. They raised concerns about the limited coverage of core subjects, the neglect of applied math, and the poorly conceived design of elective courses. They also voiced reservations about the promotion of a political agenda related to ancient Indian knowledge systems — the draft curriculum includes courses on *Rishi Ganita* (traditional Indian mathematics), *Bharatigana* (Indian algebra), *Shulba Shastr* (mathematics of fire altar measurements), and others.

One of the key promoters of the NEP and of the draft curriculum is Manoj Bhargava, a recipient of the 2014 Fields Medal, and a Professor of Mathematics at Indian University. He said at a talk in New Delhi on September 4, "It is not about trying to kill the helix of our culture or civilisations and glorify your own. Every civilisation has made important contributions to math that we can be proud of. We must own our and be proud of them. It acts as an inspiration to the current generation." He argued that proponents of "western math" often derive a sense of the immense contributions of non-Western civilisations. In doing so, they leverage math — perceived as universal and objective — as a tool for culturally marginalising these civilisations' contributions. Through this critique carries some elements of truth, it raises a crucial question: are we not committing a parallel error by forcing math into a nationalist ideology?



C.P. Rajendran
An Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

model? To focus a singular "Indian" lineage in the teaching syllabus for the subject requires an equally problematic distortion of the universal character, selectively highlighting one culture's contributions while ignoring the indispensable role of others. This approach replicates the very colonial logic it seeks to oppose. While the social and historical context of math is undeniably cultural, the truth of its statements is universal. The truth of the statement $2 + 2 = 4$ is not a "Western" truth; it is a mathematical truth, independent of the culture that discovers or uses it. In this light, the project of cultural nationalism in India, which seeks to highlight mathematical contributions as belonging exclusively to a single civilisational lineage and an essence of its cultural superiority, commits the same error as that of the Western colonisers they often accuse. Both attempts aim to monopolise math culturally, which undermines its status as an objective, universally accessible pursuit of truth.

Thus, many critics are wary that a nationalist or revivalist agenda could overshadow historical accuracy and academic rigour. The fear is that the narrative could become "India invented everything first," which is not only historically inaccurate but also counterproductive in the spirit of scientific inquiry. Politics often provide fodder for this concern. For instance, a politician from the ruling party recently declared in a school that a Hindu deity was the first to travel to space; this is part of a continuing sequence of such pseudoscientific pronouncements.

A collaborative effort The foundations of mathematical thought emerged from a transcontinental endeavour. It was shaped by transactions and exchanges among cultures such as the Babylonian, Egyptian, Indian, Chinese, Arabic, and European. Greek, it cannot be denied, is the remnant of knowledge, water facilities, and aqueducts left by the Harappan

civilisation, which predate the composition of the Vedas, one can see engineering math in a Vedic form. To confine mathematical thoughts to a distinct "Vedic" category in a college-level syllabus, therefore, is also culturally and geographically insular. Early civilisations naturally contained immature ideas and assumptions incompatible with scientific methods, reflecting an imperfect understanding of the world. While teaching includes must incorporate all major ancient schools of mathematical thought, it must emphasise their interactive nature; it should not be mixed up with a modern math syllabus.

Trained in conventional pedagogy and content, most math teachers lack the training in pedagogy required to teach ancient Indian math texts (such as those of Aryabhata and Brahmagupta) with an objective lens. Would they be capable of imparting training free of ideological bias to students? To teach ancient math is to teach a stream of historical math, with all its imperfections, as an instrument to establish cultural superiority to do them a profound injustice.

This approach becomes a bigger picture: that math is a universal human achievement, refined across centuries and continents through collaborative efforts. It is also unclear what measurable for math skills students will gain from this study component that they recently declared in a school that a Hindu deity was the first to travel to space; this is part of a continuing sequence of such pseudoscientific pronouncements.

The foundations of mathematical thought emerged from a transcontinental endeavour. It was shaped by transactions and exchanges among cultures such as the Babylonian, Egyptian, Indian, Chinese, Arabic, and European. Greek, it cannot be denied, is the remnant of knowledge, water facilities, and aqueducts left by the Harappan

When healthcare becomes a business

Andhra doesn't need more medical colleges, and not under the PPP model

STATE OF PLAY

Nehru Sevani
Deputy Chief Minister, A.P.

A political storm is brewing in Andhra Pradesh over the State government's decision to run 10 new government medical colleges in the state under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Y.S. Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a "one crore signature campaign" to oppose the privatisation of medical colleges. The head of the State Congress, Y.S. Marudam, has also spoken against it.

A PPP model in healthcare is not new. Private hospitals are under way in Maharashtra and Karnataka against a proposed PPP model for medical colleges. Critics feel such a model will undermine the public sector in medical education.

In Andhra Pradesh, amid opposition from public health experts and political leaders, the State government in September 2 issued a Government Order (GO) approving the establishment of four medical colleges — Adoni, Markapuram, Madanapalle, and Palvanchanda — under the PPP model. These projects are being awarded under an Annual Concession Fee model using a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer framework. Six more medical colleges will be developed under the PPP model later.

All the 10 colleges were part of a set of 17 new medical colleges announced by Mr. Reddy in 2020, together pegged at ₹4,000 crore, to decentralise healthcare services and improve public access. But by the time of the 2024 Assembly elections, only five colleges had become functional. The

ANDHRA PRADESH

responsibility of completing the remaining fell on the shoulders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Alleging that the previous YSRCP government spent only 10% of the total amount, the TDP-led NDA government, which is already cash-strapped, said the only way to give shape to these colleges is by developing them under a PPP model.

While governments may differ, the overwhelming consensus is that PPP is a gateway to better healthcare. In hospitals attached to these medical colleges, 70% of the 620 beds will be brought under Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva, a scheme under which people receive free treatment in government and private sector hospitals. The remaining 30% will be governed by market rates. The ongoing strike called by private hospital staff on October 10, due to pending dues from the State government, indicates how this may work out. About 85% of the people in the State are covered by the NTR Vaidya Seva cardholders. Most of them have to pay out of pocket for treatment at private hospitals.

According to official information from the Department of Health, Family Welfare, and Medical Education, Satya Kumar Yadav, has clarified that the PPP model does not equate to privatisation, and that the land, seats, fee, and regulations will remain under government control under the PPP model. However, health activists have not bought into this argument. According to official information from the Department of Health, Family Welfare, and Medical Education, Satya Kumar Yadav, has clarified that the PPP model does not equate to privatisation, and that the land, seats, fee, and regulations will remain under government control under the PPP model. However, health activists have not bought into this argument.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1975

Indo-Pak dialogue: Moves to bring about resumption

New Delhi, Oct. 26: A rather strange nontheoretical combination of international influences is at work these days providing the necessary encouragement for an early resumption of the Indo-Pakistani dialogue to facilitate the process of normalisation in the sub-continent.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. V.K. Meawar, returned from his recent visit to Washington with the feeling that the United States which in the past pursued policies that tended to hinder and not help the settlement of Indo-Pakistani disputes is now taking a less partisan view of the situation in the subcontinent.

The Soviet Union, in turn, has been exerting some healthy pressures on Pakistan to shed some of its pet obsessions and strengthen its own bargaining position by grasping and not spurning India's hand of friendship which held out the promise of an honourable reconciliation. A recurring feature of the present-day superpower rivalry in South Asia is the mutual recognition of the basic reality that without some degree of tranquillity in the sub-continent the Indian Ocean region will become a hotbed of tensions despite the detente in Europe.

Though the United States and the Soviet Union have not so far carried forward their new spirit of moderation to the point of developing a common interest in nudging a combined contribution through some joint initiative to speed up the process of normalisation in the sub-continent, there is no doubt that the two super powers are becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of allowing a country like China to impede the process of Indo-Pakistani reconciliation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1920

Submerged Asiatic city

Moscow, Oct. 26: A Soviet merchantman bound from Baku to Portia which was unfortunately wrecked from its usual course has discovered, near Shilova, the sandbank of an ancient submerged city, whose streets and buildings of ancient Asiatic architecture were clearly visible. The city is near the ruins of the prehistoric discovered submerged city, whose old name was Harabodag and where there was a sub-aquatic passage connecting with the fortress of Baku.

India's metro network and ridership quadrupled in the last decade

The country is now home to the world's third largest metro train network

DATA POINT

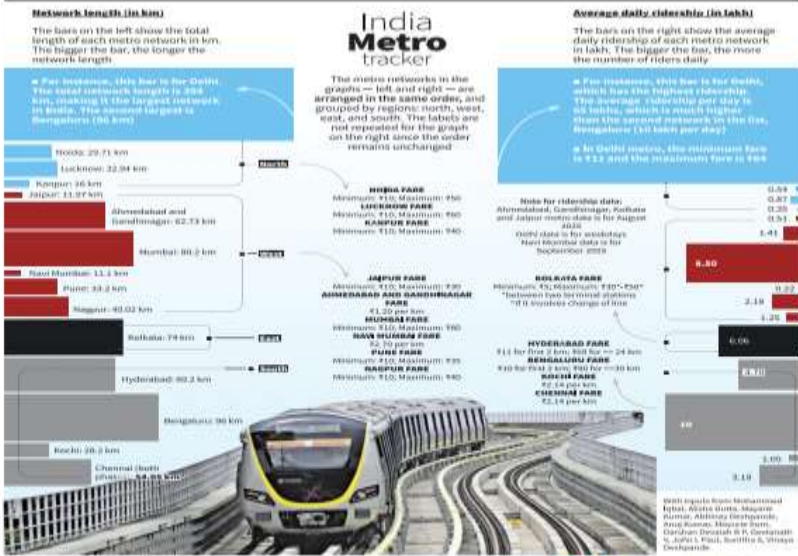
The Hindu Data Team

India's metro train networks have significantly developed in just over a decade. In 2014, India's metro network covered 240 km across five cities; by 2020, it covered more than 1,000 km across 23 cities. That makes India home to the world's third largest metro train network, behind China and the U.S., according to the Press Information Bureau.

Delhi leads with a sprawling 304 km network, followed by Bengaluru (196 km), Mumbai (160.2 km), and Kolkata (74 km). Many of the newer, smaller networks, such as in Nagpur, Lucknow, and Pune, are also expanding at a brisk pace. Consequently, the average daily ridership has quadrupled over the past decade, from 26 lakh in 2014 to 1.12 crore in 2020.

The Delhi metro alone carries about 68 lakh passengers each weekday, while Bengaluru handles around 10 lakh and Mumbai about 6.5 lakh daily. Kolkata, one of the oldest metro systems, carries more than 6 lakh passengers daily. In 2024, Kolkata launched India's first underwater metro tunnel. Networks such as Pune and Chennai (2.19 lakh passengers daily), Chennai (2.19 lakh), and Hyderabad (1.7 lakh) are seeing steady growth in patronage. Smaller metros such as Lucknow, Nagpur, and Jaipur record between 0.5 to 1.5 lakh commuters a day.

Fares vary widely, though the minimum base fare is generally ₹10 across most metro systems. Many metro systems also charge customers on a per km basis. For instance, in the Chennai, the base fare is ₹2.14 per km and in the Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar metros, it is ₹1.2 per km. For longer distances, most metros have a fare cap. For instance, the Bengaluru metro caps fares at ₹90 for journeys of 30 km or more.



India's metro train networks have significantly developed in just over a decade. In 2014, India's metro network covered 248 km across five cities; by 2025, it covered more than 1,000 km across 23 cities. That makes India home to the world's third largest metro train network, behind only China and the U.S., according to the Press Information Bureau.

Delhi leads with a sprawling 394 km network, followed by Bengaluru (96 km), Mumbai (80.2 km), and Kolkata (74 km). Many of the newer, smaller networks, such as in Nagpur, Lucknow, and Pune, are also expanding at a brisk pace.

Consequently, the average daily ridership has quadrupled over the past decade, from 28 lakh in 2014 to 1.12 crore in 2025.

The Delhi metro alone carries about 65 lakh passengers each weekday, while Bengaluru handles around 10 lakh and Mumbai about 8.5 lakh daily. Kolkata, one of the oldest metro systems, carries more than 6 lakh passengers daily. In 2024, Kolkata launched India's first underwater metro tunnel.

Networks such as Pune (carrying 2.18 lakh passengers daily), Chennai (3.19 lakh), and Hyderabad (4.7 lakh) are seeing steady growth in patronage. Smaller metros such as Lucknow, Nagpur, and Jaipur record between 0.5 to 1.5 lakh commuters a day.

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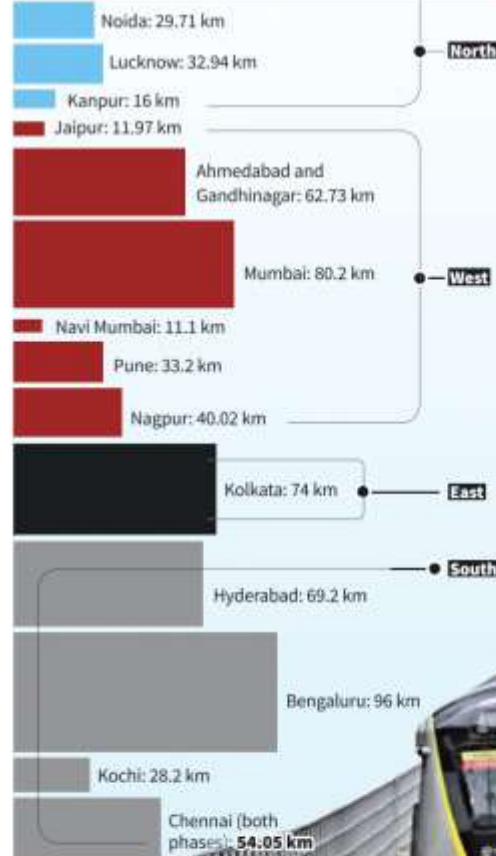
Parameter	Details
Total Network Length	Over 1,000 km across 23 cities
Network Length in 2014	248 km across 5 cities
Rank (World)	3rd largest (after China & USA)
Daily Ridership (2025)	1.12 crore passengers/day (up from 28 lakh in 2014)
Major Systems	Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nagpur, Lucknow, Jaipur

City	Network Length (km)	Daily Ridership (approx.)
Delhi	394 km	65 lakh
Bengaluru	96 km	10 lakh
Mumbai	80.2 km	8.5 lakh
Kolkata	74 km	6 lakh
Pune	—	2.18 lakh
Hyderabad	—	4.7 lakh
Chennai	—	3.19 lakh
Lucknow / Nagpur / Jaipur	—	0.5–1.5 lakh

Network length (in km)

The bars on the left show the total length of each metro network in km. The bigger the bar, the longer the network length

■ For instance, this bar is for Delhi. The total network length is 394 km, making it the largest network in India. The second largest is Bengaluru (96 km)



India Metro tracker

The metro networks in the graphs — left and right — are arranged in the same order, and grouped by regions: north, west, east, and south. The labels are not repeated for the graph on the right since the order remains unchanged

NOIDA FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹50
LUCKNOW FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹60
KANPUR FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹40

JAIPUR FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹30
AHMEDABAD AND GANDHINAGAR FARE
₹1.20 per km
MUMBAI FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹80
NAVI MUMBAI FARE
₹2.70 per km
PUNE FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹35
NAGPUR FARE
Minimum: ₹10; Maximum: ₹40

KOLKATA FARE
Minimum: ₹5; Maximum: ₹30*–₹50*
*between two terminal stations
*if it involves change of line

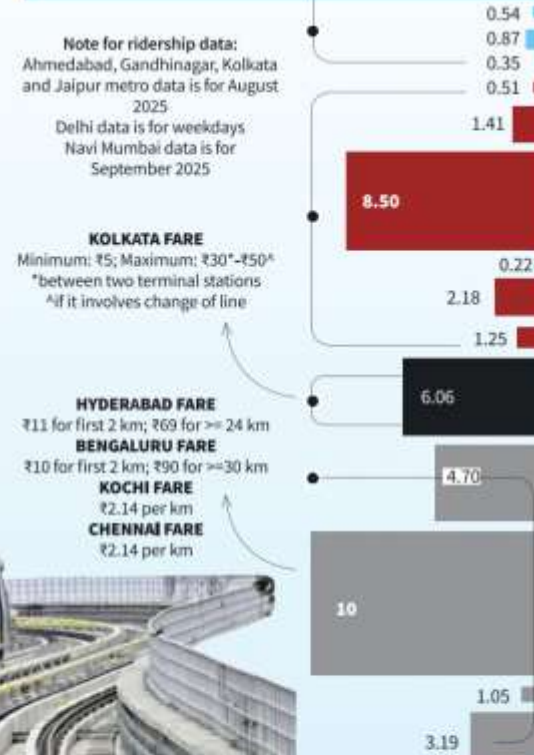
HYDERABAD FARE
₹11 for first 2 km; ₹69 for >= 24 km
BENGALURU FARE
₹10 for first 2 km; ₹90 for >= 30 km
KOCHI FARE
₹2.14 per km
CHENNAI FARE
₹2.14 per km

Average daily ridership (in lakh)

The bars on the right show the average daily ridership of each metro network in lakh. The bigger the bar, the more the number of riders daily

■ For instance, this bar is for Delhi, which has the highest ridership. The average ridership per day is 65 lakhs, which is much higher than the second network in the list, Bengaluru (10 lakh per day)

■ In Delhi metro, the minimum fare is ₹11 and the maximum fare is ₹64



Note for ridership data:
Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Kolkata and Jaipur metro data is for August 2025
Delhi data is for weekdays
Navi Mumbai data is for September 2025

With inputs from Mohammed Iqbal, Alisha Dutt, Mayank Kumar, Abhinav Deshpande, Anuj Kumar, Moyurie Som, Darshan Devalah B P, Geetanath V, John L Paul, Sunitha S, Vinaya Deshpande

Dimension

Impact

Employment

Thousands of direct & indirect jobs created.

Time & Cost Efficiency

Saves urban commuters 30–45 minutes per trip.

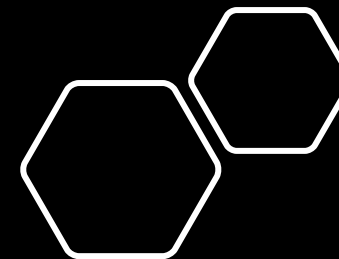
Environmental

Lower air pollution and fuel use.

Real Estate

Boost to commercial & residential property values along corridors.

City	Base Fare	Per Km Rate	Fare Cap Example
Chennai	₹10	₹2.14/km	—
Ahmedabad / Gandhinagar	₹10	₹1.2/km	—
Bengaluru	₹10	₹3/km (approx.)	₹90 cap for 30+ km
Delhi	₹10	₹2–₹3/km	₹60–₹80 max



Challenge

Explanation

Financial Viability

High capex; some metros struggle with low ridership.

Operational Efficiency

Need for integration of ticketing and scheduling.

Intermodal Connectivity

First and last-mile transport still weak.

Standardization

Different fare structures and technologies across cities.

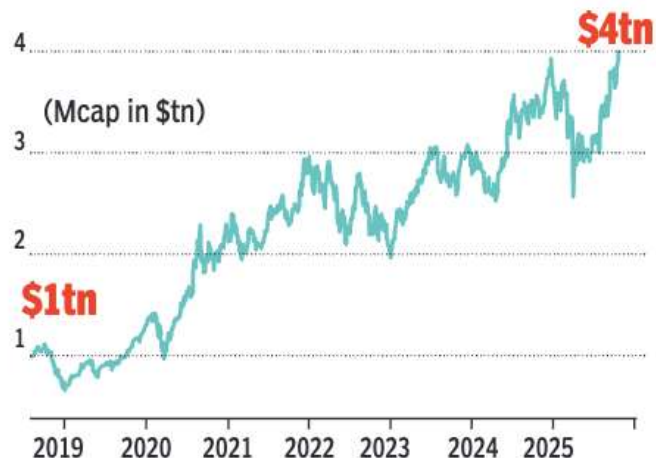
APPLE THIRD CO TO JOIN \$4TN MCAP CLUB

Shares of the Cupertino, California-based company have rallied more than **56%** since its **April low**, adding about \$1.4tn in market value as optimism surrounding its updated line of iPhones and easing tariff pressures have buoyed the stock price in recent months



On The Back Of iPhone, Not AI

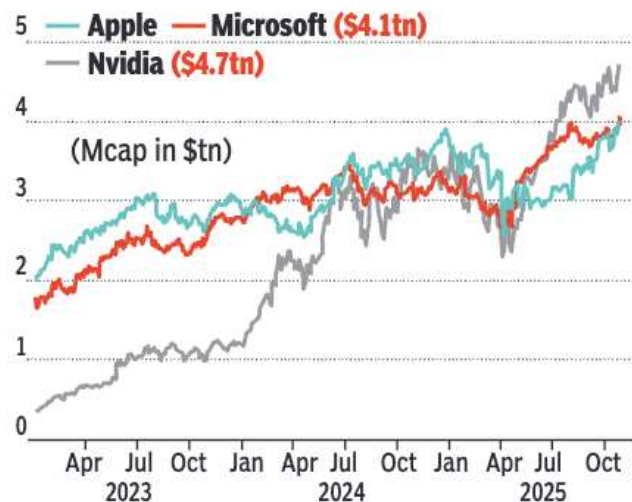
Apple was the first company ever to top \$1tn market cap mark in Aug 2018



- According to Wall Street analysts, the iPhone-maker becoming only the third public company in history to reach the milestone **despite missing out on AI so far** is a 'watershed moment' for Big Tech
- The rally comes on the back of stronger-than-expected demand for its latest iPhone lineup, a signal that analysts say could indicate that a **long-awaited upgrade cycle** is finally underway

Nvidia Leads In Race To \$5Tn Mark

Apple & Microsoft are neck-in-neck for 2nd spot



- Apple's ascension to the \$4tn market cap comes just months after **Nvidia became the first company** in history to achieve the milestone
- Fellow Magnificent Seven giant Microsoft briefly cracked the mark in July after reporting strong quarterly earnings, but failed to close above the level. **Microsoft jumped back above the \$4tn threshold on Tuesday after announcing a new pact with OpenAI**

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, LSEG Data & Analytics

Musk challenges Wikipedia with his own AI encyclopedia

Kate Conger

San Francisco: Elon Musk on Monday unveiled his own version of Wikipedia, the crowdsourced online encyclopedia, with entries edited by xAI, his artificial intelligence company. The new project, Grokipedia, would “purge out the propaganda” flooding Wikipedia, Musk claimed in a post on his social media site, X. Grokipedia, which briefly crashed after its launch Monday, tallied more than 800,000 AI-generated encyclopedia entries, compared with Wikipedia’s nearly 8 million human-written ones.

An entry on Musk said his public persona “blends innovative visionary with irreverent provocateur” and featured details of his diet, noting his consumption of “occasional indulgences like morning donuts and multiple Diet Cokes daily.” Grokipedia also has entries on OpenAI, a competitor of xAI,

and political figures including President Donald Trump and the New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani.

The new site adds to Musk’s online media ecosystem, which coheres with his personal political views. On X, Musk has reinstated right-wing creators and allowed them to reach enormous audiences, and he has used X as a bully pulpit to drive govt funding cuts. He has also tweaked xAI’s chatbot, Grok, to lean further to the right. “The impulse to control knowledge is as old as knowledge itself,” said Ryan McGrady, a senior research fellow at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who studies encyclopedias and social media. “Controlling what gets written is a way to gain or keep power.”

Some Grokipedia entries appeared to align with Musk’s views. On gender transition, which Musk has publicly opposed, the site said medical treat-

DIFFERENT NARRATIVES



The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of encyclopedia entries for George Perry Floyd Jr. The left screenshot is from Grokipedia, showing a more detailed and structured entry with a clear title and a summary. The right screenshot is from Wikipedia, showing a more concise entry with a focus on the date of death and the circumstances of the murder. The Grokipedia entry includes a section titled 'Who was George Floyd?' which provides a narrative of the incident and its impact.

Grokipedia | George Perry Floyd Jr. (Oct 14, 1973 – May 25, 2020) was an American man with a lengthy criminal record including convictions for armed robbery, drug possession, and theft in Texas from 1997 to 2007...

Wikipedia | George Perry Floyd Jr. (Oct 14, 1973 – May 25, 2020) was an African American man who was murdered by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest made after a store clerk suspected Floyd had used a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill, on May 25, 2020...



Who was George Floyd? An African-American man who died in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, after officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck. The incident, captured on video, led to widespread protests against police brutality and systemic racism, with his words, 'I can't breathe,' becoming a rallying cry

ment for transgender people was based on evidence that was “limited and of low quality.” Wikipedia’s page said scientific understanding of the subject had existed for decades.

Wikipedia, which debuted almost 25 years ago, has faced increasing criticism from conservatives in recent months. Musk and his political allies have argued that the online encyclopedia is too “woke” and excludes conservative media outlets from its approved citations.

Musk fiercely criticised the site in Jan, after the entry on him was edited to note that he had thrown his right arm stiffly into the air in front of him — a gesture many onlookers quickly compared to a Nazi salute — during a celebratory speech honouring Trump’s inauguration. Musk has denied any meaning behind his gesture, something also included in the entry. “Since legacy media propaganda is considered a ‘valid’ source

by Wikipedia, it naturally simply becomes an extension of legacy media propaganda!” he posted, calling for its donors to stop contributing to the site.

Musk announced his intention to build a competing site this month. “Wikipedia has achieved a dominant position. I hope Grokipedia challenges it and is able to fix that,” said David Sacks, the AI czar of the Trump administration and an investor in several of Musk’s companies, in his podcast. “But the easier path might just be for Wikipedia to stop blackballing and censoring conservative publications, rather than rebuilding that whole thing.”

Wikipedia faces challenges as its entries are used to train AI, said representatives for the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit that oversees the online encyclopedia. Jimmy Wales, a Wikipedia co-founder, said that he did not think AI could replace the site’s accuracy. **NYT**

- **Elon Musk**, founder of **xAI** and owner of **X (formerly Twitter)**, has launched a new AI-powered online encyclopedia named **“Groklopedia”** — positioned as an **alternative to Wikipedia**.
- Musk claims the new platform will **“purge propaganda”** and provide **“truthful, AI-curated knowledge.”**

2 About Groklopedia

Feature	Details
Developer	xAI (Elon Musk’s artificial intelligence company)
Linked Platform	X (formerly Twitter)
Launch Date	October 2025
Entries at Launch	800,000+ AI-generated articles
Comparison	Wikipedia has ~8 million human-written articles
Purpose Claimed	Counter alleged bias and “woke propaganda” on Wikipedia

3 Key Highlights

- Grokipedia’s entries are **AI-generated and AI-edited**, using xAI’s chatbot “Grok.”
- It crashed temporarily on launch day due to high traffic.
- Musk positioned Grokipedia as **independent of legacy media**, accusing Wikipedia of **bias** and **censorship**.
- The encyclopedia includes **entries on OpenAI**, political leaders (e.g., **Donald Trump**), and controversial topics (e.g., **gender transition**, **George Floyd**).

4 “Different Narratives” — Example: George Floyd Entry

Topic	Grokipedia (AI-edited)	Wikipedia (Human-edited)
Description	Emphasizes George Floyd's <i>criminal record</i> and past offenses.	Describes Floyd as an <i>African American man murdered by a police officer</i> , leading to global anti-racism protests.
Tone	Analytical, data-heavy, often leaning conservative.	Human rights–centered, emphasizing racial injustice.

 **Implication:** Grokipedia’s “factual” framing contrasts with Wikipedia’s “sociopolitical” framing, reflecting ideological divides.

Criticism	Explanation
Bias and Ideology	Despite claims of neutrality, Grokipedia reportedly leans toward right-wing interpretations.
AI Accuracy Issues	AI-generated entries risk misinformation and lack context or human editorial review.
Propaganda & Polarization	Critics argue it may deepen ideological divides rather than bridge them.
Reliability vs Speed	Wikipedia's human moderation offers slower but more reliable editing.

Word of the day

Equivocal:

open to two or more interpretations; or of uncertain nature or significance; or (often) intended to mislead; open to question; uncertain as a sign or indication

Synonyms: ambiguous

Usage: *The officer's equivocal behaviour increased the victim's uneasiness.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/equivocalpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ə'kwɪvəkəl/



Thank you 😊

