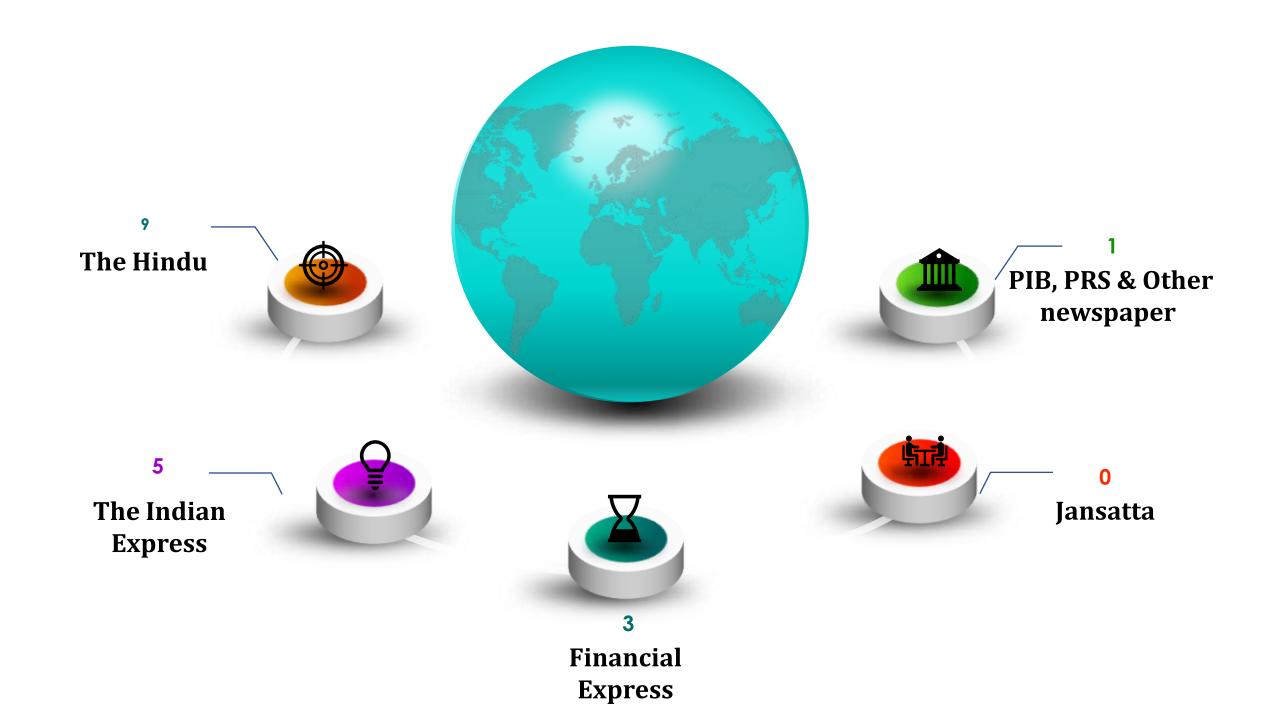
Daily Current Affairs



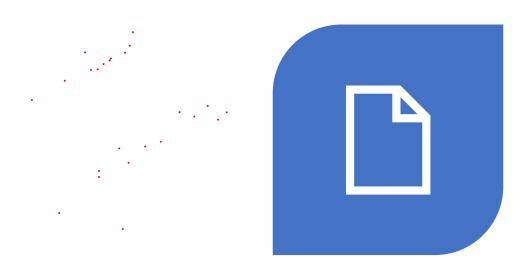








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PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ



"Don't waste your time with explanations: people only hear what they want to hear."

- Paulo Coelho



two more in Kerala





Carbon pricing and taxes Global accord is critical to align methods, back green tech transfer



ON THE BAMPAGE India scores 15 goals against Kazakhstan SPORT - PAGE 16

SCO heads condemn Pahalgam terrorist attack

NEWS - PAGE 4

Declaration signed and adopted by all members; it called for an end to the 'cross-border movement' of terrorists

They expressed their opposition to 'unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature'

India joined nations in the grouping to condemn the strikes by brasel and the U.S. against Iran, a member state, in June

Vighnesh P. Venkitsah

STATES O PAGE S

The 10-member shanghat Coopera-tion Organisation on Monday "strongly con-demned" terrorism in all gam attack and the attacks on Jaffer Express and Ebusidar in Pakistan.

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U.S. tariffi.
Chinese President Xi
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menther states, in his
opening remarks, criticlesed the "bullying behasiour" in the world order
and called upon leaders to
"affere to lairness and juetice" while opposing " cold war montality". "The shadows of Cold

"The abadows of cold War mentality, bullying, are not dissipating, and there are new challenges that are increasing, not di-minishing," said Mr. XI. who has often used the War was a superior of the to refer to the uncertain-ties over the U.S. tariffs,

"NCO plus" meeting
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PM at SCO summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-asked whether "open support" of terrorism by some countries of state of the SCO on Munday chained by Chrimes President 3s anging, Mr. Model said by 6° in 8CO should also staned for security, and members of the April 23. Palmingare terror attack that hilled 26 selfiam. Whe roast jorothy oppose terrorism in all 46 forms and colours. This is our duty towards humanity? The said: a meant 5

The declaration at the numnity, which fiscused on
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velopment of diplomatic relationship at the aummit. Announcing that the man the second 27 with 10 members and 17 27 with 10 members and IT partners.

Secretary-General of the SCO, Nurlan Vermekbayev, said at the bricking that an agreement was made at the summit to establish an SCO development bank, a long-term ambition of Beiline.

Modi touts peace as he meets Putin

met Bussian President Vladinsi Puttis on Monday and stressed the need for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Hussian state media reported that the leaders spoke for almost an hour in the vehicle before sitting down for vehicle before sitting drawn for the meeting. "Had an assellant needing with Freshlors Public., Discussed whys to deeper bilatess) cooperation in all sectors," he said in a social needia post, adding that the leaders "see hanged visues or regions and gibbal discussions and gibbal

tarian situation empoling the Casa Strip, all the member states expressed strongly condemned "actions that have fed to numerous causaltes among the stellar pepulation of the grouping to strongly condemn the strikes by found in the fellow members of the grouping to strongly condemn the strikes by found and the

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attuation to Abdiantaran The members resterated that the formation of an "inclusive government with broad meticipation of no political groups" of the society is the only way to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan, All the member states, except India, also reaffire support for China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr. Xi, in his opening re-marks, pledged to provide \$2 billion in grants to mem-her countries within this tor examine within this great and an additional Nio idillies in loan to mounter the control of t

ENSERDE



Landslip leaves **Kedarnath** route

DESIBADUN A landslip on the Kedamath nutte on Manufay marries killed two prigrims and left sin Injured while heavy rain truest by lead various marts of Uttarakhand, a PAGE 4

Indonesian govt. deploys Army in restive Jakarta

JAKARTA.

unands rathed across Thousands raifed arross indureds un Menday as the military was duployed in the capital after air persons were billed in the ratio-value protests that was sparked by argor rave lavels puries for leaving the person of the person



Elections are the 'only alternative for Bangladesh'

"extremely dangerous" for the

10 M

Earthquake kills over 800 and injures at least 2,800 in Afghanistan; rescue efforts under way

Agence France-Presse

A strong carridousle und multiple affershocks cut lapsed hoines outo sleep the production of the produ

scross at least five provinces and rescuers were still pulling people from destroyed homes and evacuaring the injured by helicopter as evening approached.

"The search operation is

still going on. Many people are stuck under the rubble of their roofs," the disaster management head to east ern Kunar province, Rhsa-nullah Ehsan, told APP, warning the death toll could rise.
Around 800 people were killed and 2,500 in-

were killed and 2,800 in-jured in Kumar aktore, near the opiceotre, Taliban go-ternment apokeman Za-bibuilah Mulabid said. Another 12 people were killed and 285 injured in neighbouring. Sangarhar were injured in Laghman province.

ADDRESS

province. In Wadir village in Ko-nar's Nurgal district, do-sens of residents of the sur-

warned in a statement to rescuers to pull people from the rubble of flat-tened homes, sometimes with their bare hands. Ma-

blocked nearly 20 hours af ter the earthquake, despite resident efforts to clear the

Way.

"There is a lot of fear children... Children The area and tension."
Fear and tension.

homes here." Nangarhar and Kunar

provinces border vanishing with the Torkham crossing the site of many waves of Alghan returnees deported or forced to leave, often with no work and nowhere

Pope expresses grief UN chief Antonio Gaterres added the conducences to those shared by the bu-thing of the conduction of the al nations. "I stand in full solidarity with the people of Afghanistan after the de-vastating earthquake that hit the sountry earlier in

doy," he said.
In a post shared by the

Vaitean, Pope Leo XIV said he was "deeply saddened by the significant loss of life caused by the earthquake in the area of eastern Alghanistan's. Alghanistan is frequent

Aghanistan is frequently hit by carifupakee, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, near the juristion of the European India tectoric plates. India tectoric plates, and the property of the property of

Will accept claims on SIR until last day of nominations: EC

Sreemarna Chakrabarty. NEW DELID

Even as the deadline for fil-Even as the deadline for fli-ing claims and stiperitions to the draft electoral rolls of fillar ended on Monday, the Blection Commission said that as per the June 24 special Internates revision (BIN) order, applications would still be accepted till the last thate of nomina-tions before the Assembly election.

However, these claims, accepted, would not hake it to the final list to be out on September 30, but would be addressed as sep-arate additions later. Earlier, in the Supreme

Court, which heard pleas for extending the deadline to file claims and objections in the SIR process, the RC submitted it would accept revision forms even after the deadline, and these would be integrated nto the final list.
The court had already

The court had already autor the pull autority to accept Andhaar or any of the it listed documents from those seeking inclusion in the voter list.

A senior EC official told The Hindu that Para 12(a)

The thinds that Fara 126a;
(ii) of MR previoled for any melanism or election till the last date of the last

have been filed for re-inclusion of name

According to the EC data released on

Monday, nearly 37,000 applications

those in the earlier July 2028 list. Most claims and objectose filed by political parties, the EC said, were for exclusion, not inclu-sion, of names from the rolls.

rolls.

The poll panel has since last week began issuing notices to those electors whose electors whose electors. already been issued.

As per the KR order, the Riectoral Registration Of-ficer (ERO) has powers to scrutinise all claims and conduct a see more inqui-ry as well as issue notice to any elector. In case the per-

any elector. In case the per-sent is escluded from the list, the EIGO will issue a "speaking order" stating the reacous for the same.

A greaking order by our case of the same of the city states the reasons be-tind its decision, listing is to the evidence, facts, and applicable laws. This en-sures that the relation to the contract of the con-served of the con-served of the con-served of the con-traction of the con-served of the con-serve

SCO heads condemn Pahalgam terrorist attack

Declaration signed and adopted by all members; it called for an end to the 'cross-border movement' of terrorists They expressed their opposition to 'unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature'

India joined nations in the grouping to condemn the strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran, a member state, in June

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh TIANJIN

he 10-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on Monday "strongly condemned" terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the Pahalgam attack and the attacks on Jaffer Express and Khuzdar in Pakistan.

The Tianiin Declaration. signed and adopted by all members, including India, Pakistan, and Russia, called for an end to "crossborder movement" of terrorists. The declaration reaffirmed the bloc's "firm commitment to fight against terrorism, separatism, and extremism", and stressed the inadmissibility of attempts to use terrorist. separatist, and extremist groups for "mercenary purposes".

The member states also opposed "unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature", that contravene the United Nations charter and principles of the World Trade Organization, in a possible reference to the

U.S. tariffs.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who chaired the meeting of the heads of the member states, in his opening remarks, criticised the "bullying behaviour" in the world order and called upon leaders to "adhere to fairness and justice" while opposing " cold war mentality".

"The shadows of Cold War mentality, bullying, are not dissipating, and there are new challenges that are increasing, not diminishing," said Mr. Xi, who has often used the term "cold war mentality" to refer to the uncertainties over the U.S. tariffs.

'SCO plus' meeting

The declaration at the summit, which focused on strengthening the Global South amid global uncertainties in trade and a "fluid and chaotic global situation", opened by stating that the world was undergoing "profound historical changes that affect all spheres of political, socioeconomic, and social relations".

Mr. Xi, who chaired the

Oppose terrorism: PM at SCO summit

TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked whether "open support" of terrorism by some countries was acceptable, as he spoke at the summit meet of the heads of state of the SCO on Monday. Addressing the meeting chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Mr. Modi said the 'S' in SCO should also stand for security, and mentioned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. "We must jointly oppose terrorism in all its forms and colours. This is our duty towards humanity," he said. » PAGE 5

'SCO plus' meeting on Monday afternoon, proposed a Global Governance Initiative (GGI), calling on countries to work in concert for a more just and equitable global governance system adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach,



Power point: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President XI Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin on Monday. ANI

and focusing on taking real actions.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, briefing the press on Monday night, said the SCO encourages all countries to utilise UN mechanisms and multilateral ideals and that global governance should not be attained by unilateral bullying. He also said that Pakistan and Armenia had announced de-

velopment of diplomatic relationship at the summit.

Announcing that the grouping has decided to merge the statuses given to non-member countries – dialogue partner and observer – to a single partner status, Mr. Wang said that Laos has been accepted as a partner country of the SCO, taking the total strength of the grouping to

27 with 10 members and 17 partners.

Secretary-General of the SCO, Nurlan Yermekbayev, said at the briefing that an agreement was made at the summit to establish an SCO development bank, a long-term ambition of Beiling.

Taking note of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza and the catastrophic humaniModi touts peace as he meets Putin

TIANIIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and stressed the need for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Russian state media reported that the leaders spoke for almost an hour in the vehicle before sitting down for the meeting. "Had an excellent meeting with President Putin... Discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all sectors," he said in a social media post, adding that the leaders "exchanged views on regional and global developments", » PAGE 5

tarian situation engulfing the Gaza Strip, all the member states expressed "deep concern" and strongly condemned "actions that have led to numerous casualties among the civilian population" in the enclave.India also joined the fellow members of the grouping to strongly condemn the strikes by Israel and the

U.S. against Iran, a member state, in June that targeted Tehran's nuclear facilities.

The declaration also took note of the political situation in Afghanistan. The members reiterated that the formation of an "inclusive government with broad participation of representatives of all ethno-political groups" of the society is the only way to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan. All the member states, except India, also reaffirmed their support for China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr. Xi, in his opening remarks, pledged to provide \$2 billion in grants to member countries within this year, and an additional \$10 billion in loan to member banks of the SCO Interbank Consortium over the next three years. He also said that the group should set up an "SCO development bank" as soon as possible.

(The writer is in China at an invitation from the China Public Diplomacy Association.)

(With inputs from Suhasini Haider)

1. Condemnation of Terrorism

- The 10-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) strongly condemned terrorism in all forms, including the Pahalgam terror attack (April 22, killed 6 civilians).
- Declaration called for an end to the "cross-border movement of terrorists", targeting separatist and extremist groups.

2. Tianjin Declaration

- Adopted unanimously by SCO members (India, China, Russia, Pakistan, etc.).
- Reaffirmed bloc's commitment to:
 - Fight terrorism, separatism, extremism.
 - Reject "mercenary purposes" of terror financing.
- Opposed "unilateral coercive measures" → implicit reference to U.S. tariffs on China and Russia.
- Supported inclusive government formation in Afghanistan with participation from all ethnic/political groups.

3. China's Position (Xi Jinping)

- Xi criticized "bullying behaviour" in world order → reference to U.S. sanctions/tariffs.
- Called for fairness and justice in global governance.
- Pledged ¥2 billion in grants to SCO members + ¥10 billion SCO Development Bank fund.
- Reaffirmed support for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (India did not endorse).

4. India's Position (PM Modi)

- Modi emphasized "S" in SCO = Security, called for united stand against terrorism.
- Mentioned Pahalgam attack specifically as an example of cross-border terror.
- Highlighted need for joint global cooperation against terrorism in all forms.
- Stressed bilateral peace with Putin → discussed Ukraine ceasefire and deepening cooperation in energy, trade, defence.

5. Geopolitical Dimensions

U.S. Tariffs & Cold War mentality → China, Russia framed U.S. actions as unilateral bullying.

SCO's position on **Gaza war**: condemned strikes by Israel & U.S. on Iran (a member state).

Expansion of SCO: Pakistan & Armenia elevated diplomatic roles; Laos admitted as a new partner.

- SCO Formation: Established in 2001 (Shanghai), aimed at security, regional stability, economic cooperation.
- **Members**: India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran.
- Observer/Dialogue Partners: Belarus, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Turkey, etc.
- Relevance for India:
 - Provides platform to raise **terrorism issue** (esp. vis-à-vis Pakistan).
 - Balancing act: India aligns with Russia, Central Asia while managing friction with China & Pakistan.
 - India has not endorsed BRI, citing sovereignty concerns (CPEC through PoK).

- Expansion of SCO
- Laos admitted as new partner, expanding SCO's global reach.
- SCO encourages UN mechanisms for global governance instead of unilateral measures.
- 6. Gaza Crisis and U.S.-Iran Tensions
- SCO condemned Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran (a member-state).
- Called for inclusive government in Afghanistan.
- Xi pledged ¥2 billion in grants and ¥10 billion loan fund to SCO members.

Earthquake kills over 800 and injures at least 2,800 in Afghanistan; rescue efforts under way

Agence France-Presse

A strong earthquake and multiple aftershocks collapsed homes onto sleeping families in a remote, mountainous region in Afghanistan on Monday, killing more than 800 people and injuring at least 2,800.

A massive rescue operation is underway, according to the Taliban authorities. The 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck just before midnight, rattling buildings from Kabul to neighbouring Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. The epicentre was about 27 km off Jalalabad, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Destruction swept across at least five provinces and rescuers were still pulling people from destroyed homes and evacuating the injured by helicopter as evening approached.

"The search operation is still going on. Many people are stuck under the rubble of their roofs," the disaster management head in eastern Kunar province, Ehsanullah Ehsan, told AFP, warning the death toll could rise.

Around 800 people were killed and 2,500 injured in Kunar alone, near the epicentre, Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Another 12 people were killed and 255 injured in neighbouring Nangarhar province, while 58 people were injured in Laghman province.

In Wadir village in Kunar's Nurgal district, dozens of residents of the sur-



Devastating disaster: Civil defence workers, local people, and soldiers helping the injured in earthquake-hit Afghanistan. AP

rounding area helped rescuers to pull people from the rubble of flattened homes, sometimes with their bare hands. Many injured were transported to hospitals in Jalalabad city in Nangarhar province.

'Fear and tension'

Relatively shallow quakes can cause more damage, especially since the majority of Afghans live in lowrise, mud-brick homes vulnerable to collapse.

Some of the most severely impacted villages in Kunar "remain inaccessible due to road blockages", the UN migration agency warned in a statement to AFP.

Roads remained blocked nearly 20 hours after the earthquake, despite resident efforts to clear the way.

"There is a lot of fear and tension... Children and women were screaming. We had never experienced anything like this in our lives," a member of the agricultural department in Nurgal Ijaz Ulhaq Yaad said.

He added that many living in quake-hit villages were among the more than four million Afghans who have returned to the country from Iran and Pakistan in recent years. "They wanted to build their homes here."

Nangarhar and Kunar provinces border Pakistan, with the Torkham crossing the site of many waves of Afghan returnees deported or forced to leave, often with no work and nowhere to go.

Pope expresses grief

UN chief Antonio Guterres added his condolences to those shared by the Taliban government and several nations. "I stand in full solidarity with the people of Afghanistan after the devastating earthquake that hit the country earlier today," he said.

In a post shared by the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV said he was "deeply saddened by the significant loss of life caused by the earthquake in the area of eastern Afghanistan".

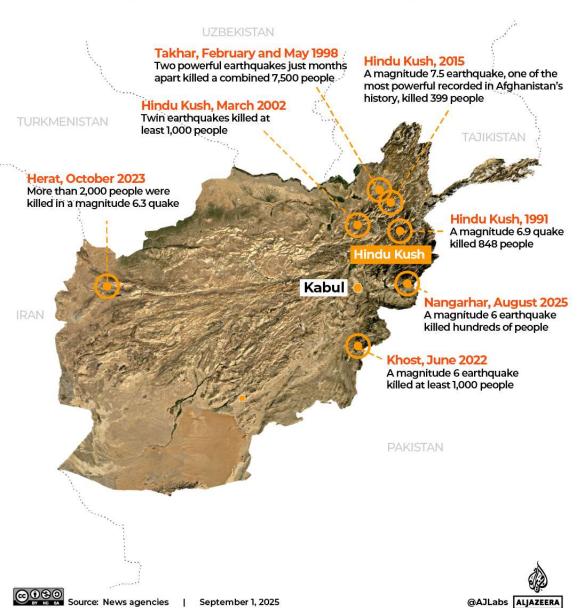
Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, near the junction of the Eurasia and India tectonic plates.

Since 1900, there have been 12 earthquakes with magnitudes greater than seven in northeast Afghanistan, according to Brian Baptie, a seismologist at the British Geological Survey.

EARTHQUAKE

Deadly earthquakes in Afghanistan

Afghanistan sits in one of the most seismically active zones on Earth, with the Hindu Kush a hotspot due to powerful surface faults and deep plate movements.



AFGHANISTAN

Powerful earthquake kills hundreds

At least 1,000 killed and more than 1,500 injured after a huge earthquake hits southeastern Afghanistan.





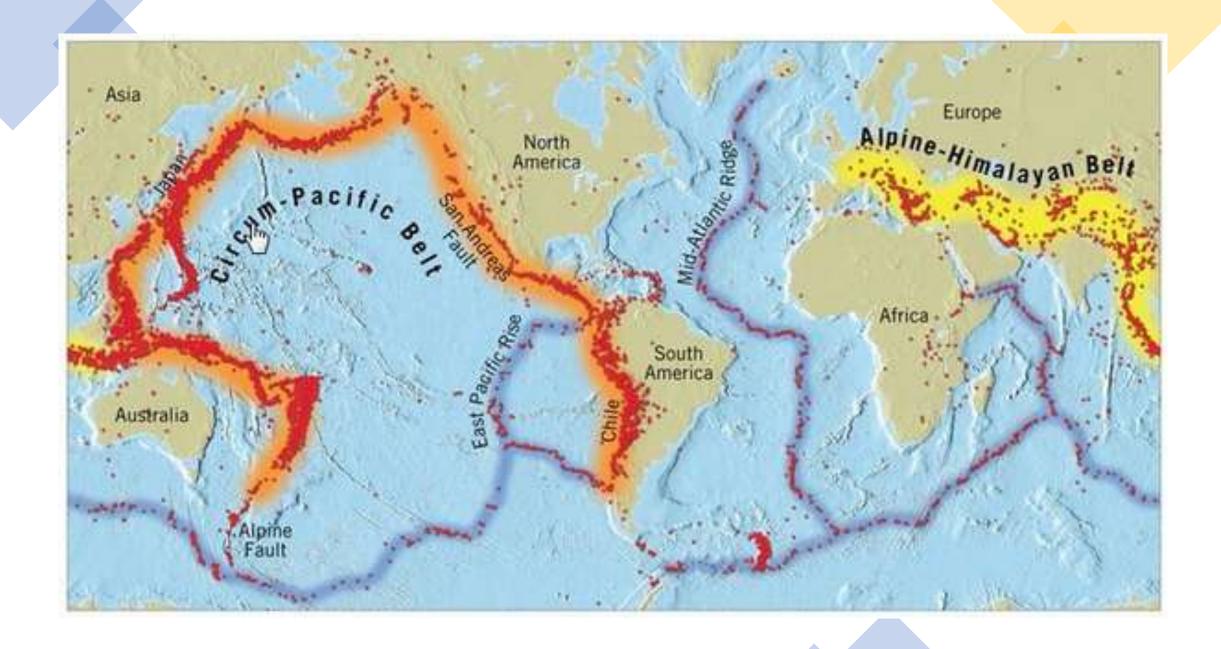
- ▶ The magnitude
- earthquake struck about 44km (27 miles) from the city of Khost, near the Pakistan border, at a depth of 51km (31 miles)
- > At least

people killed

▶ More than

people injured





1. Event Overview

- A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan (near Jalalabad, ~27 km away).
- Time: Shortly before midnight.
- Casualties:
 - 800+ dead
 - 2,800+ injured
- Widespread destruction across at least five provinces.
- Epicentre tremors also felt in Pakistan (Islamabad, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman).

2. Humanitarian Impact

- Thousands trapped under rubble; rescue teams engaged in pulling survivors.
- Hospitals in Jalalabad and nearby provinces overwhelmed.
- Families in remote villages severely impacted.
- Fear & Tension: Frequent aftershocks made survivors reluctant to return home.

3. Response Measures

- Taliban administration coordinating rescue with local defence and volunteers.
- Helicopters & local villagers assisting in evacuation and rubble clearance.
- International solidarity:
 - UN Chief António Guterres: Called for global support.
 - Pope Francis: Condoled and expressed deep sadness.
 - Vatican, NGOs, and neighbours expected to contribute aid.

4. Geographical Context

- Afghanistan lies in the Hindu Kush mountain range, near the Eurasian & Indian tectonic plates junction.
- Prone to frequent, devastating earthquakes.
- Since 1900: 12 quakes of magnitude >7 recorded in Afghanistan.

- 2015 Earthquake: 7.5 magnitude killed >380 across Afghanistan & Pakistan.
- 2002 Earthquake: 1,000+ dead in northern Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan has weak infrastructure & high rural poverty, making quake impact severe.
- 6. Strategic Concerns
- Earthquake adds pressure on already strained Afghan economy under Taliban.
- Large number of refugees returning from Pakistan now face added vulnerabilities.
- Possibility of **international aid diplomacy** countries may leverage relief for political ties with Taliban.



- **Disaster Management Act, 2005 (India)** parallels in institutional framework for quick response.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)** UN initiative for reducing disaster risk.
- India's role: As a neighbour, India may provide humanitarian assistance through initiatives like **Operation Dost** (as in Turkey-Syria 2023 earthquake).
- Earthquake-prone regions: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and India's Himalayan belt.

SC issues notice over 'denial' of Samagra Shiksha funds to T.N.

The Supreme Court decided to step in after 1 mml Na-du complained on Monday about having to hear over \$3,000 crore in reinflures-ments to private schools for admissions to economi-cating under the Right to Isducation (PTD Act, after with its share under the Sa-with its share under the Sawith its share under the So-ringra Shilesha scheme. A Bench headed by Jus-

tice Vikram Nath Issued formal notice to the Centre on an appeal by the State against a Madras High Court decision of June 10, which delinked the reim-bursements under the ETE bursements under the Kris. Act from the Centre's fi-nancial obligations to Ta-mil Nada under the scheme. The 2009 Act rescheme. The 2009 Act re-quires private school man-agements to admit chil-dren from economically disadvantaged back-grounds to the event of 20% of their exercipit in en-try-level classes. Free of charge. The 8tate is oldiged to reinfluirae the schools.

Doubts raised Doubts raised. The Centre had argued in the High Court that "there are issues regarding the bursement of funds" under the Samagra Suksha cheme as Tamil Nada had refused to implement the National feducation Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The State had raised dealers

Appearing for Tamil Na-du, senior advocate F. Wil-son submitted that the son submitted that the current responsibility to fund the education of poor and situation of poor and situation of poor and the submitted of the EFE Act, 2009. "The Market High Court Free Line Line of the ponsible for these expendients. The Market High Court of the State of the Court of the State to Dear the entire fi-ction of the Court of the State of the Court of the rected the Court of the C rected the Central government to contribute." Mr.

Arbitrary move

Arbitrary move
He said that the Centre's insistence on Hoking fund
dichiaramical under Samadichiaramical under Samadichiaramical under Samalines was arbitrary. The
Bench ordered the Centre
to respond to the States
The Secondary Market
ledge that the Central government has been propatrioning the SamagraShikaha scheme. A diaagreement in political ideology cannot become an
ment born implementing

mont from implementing the provisions of the Sama-gra Shiksha scheme and the KTK Act. Unless both the Central and the State governments work in un-ison, the provisions of the RTE Act and Samagra Shiksha Scheme cannot be implemented in their hill

2 more die of brain-eating amoeba' infection in Kerala

The toll due to amosebic meningoencephalitis in the State this year has risen to three; so far. 42 cases have been reported, the infection mainly spreads through contaminated water

wo more people lost their lives to amorbic mentiopencephalitis at the Covernment Medical College thousand MCOD in Results on losted to the Country of Results on losted to the Country of nday. The deceased included

three-month-old infant, the had been undergoing reatment at the hospital or nearly a month. The infant, who died is suspected to have contracted the disease from the well water used at home.

The other deceased is

R. Ravikanth Reddy

Telangana Jagrum presi

dent and Bharat Bashtra Saniti (880) MLC Kalva-kuntla Kavitha blamed

handla Kavitha blamed former brigation Minister T. Hartsh Rao and her cou-sin loginapally Santosh Rao as the persons behind former Chief Minister K. Chandraghukar Rao (ECR) being "tamed" in the P.C. Chose Commission of In-quiry on Kaleshwaram

Harda, 52, from Kanna-mangalani in Malappuram district. She started treat-ment on July 8, She was

KCR being made a

scapegoat: Kavitha

there are two variants

CM vows to establish

Ramarajya in A.P.

Blaky dip: The pond is Kazhihode where the nine-year-old airl who died by the infection is said to have taken bath, a receive

care Unit at the MCH. Her condition further wor-sened on August 26, and she died on Sunday. The death toll due to amoebic meningoence-phalitis in Recala this year

project.
Ma. Kavitha told prose-persons that KCR was be-ing made a scapegoat in the controverse. She ac-cused Mr. Santosh Rao and Mr. Santosh Rao of a cen-tral role in the alleged ir-regularities.
She also asid that Chief Minister A. Rovanth Stealdy

minister A. Revanth Beildy was "protecting" them, "My father is being unfairly targeted while the real cul-jorits are being shielded," she said.

has now risen to three. A nine-year-old girl had deed due to the illheas on Au-gust 14 at the MCH. Of the 13 still under treatment, eight are at MCH. Is far, 42 cases have been reported. The 'brain-eating amos-

Andhra Pradesh Chief Mi-

nister N. Chandrahalru Nai-du on Monday chargest the previous YSR Congress

Party (YSRCP) regime with destroying Andbra Pra-desh's future, misusing welfare schemes and mis-

weture schomes and nis-appropriating public funds, and stalling major irrigation projects. Addressing a public meeting at Botyanapalli vil-

through the nose from con-tendinated water, while hathing or eximuling. The common symptoms of the infection are fever, has dache, nauses and vomiting, experienced within five to 10 days of contract

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday inked some memorands of understanding (Mothy) in Germany, including the conwill the Manidah haad-quartered Knort-Hromes, during Chief Minister ALK. Stallary singoing viet to the European nation. of the infection, primary \$2,000 crore in the esta bilishment of an advanced facility for making railway amoebic meningoence phalitis (PAM) and granulo matous amostic encephal-tis (GAIO, the latter being the one reported in Kerala new. The mortality rate is doors and broking systems. This will be Knorr normally 95%.
The Bealth Department

the state of the s

The Hindu Bureau

motors and air movement solutions. The company will expand its global capability centres and manufacturing bear in the State. The company of the State was solved in the State of the State

T.N. signs MoUs with

₹3,200-cr. investment

3 German firms for

Chief Minister Stalin says the agreements reflected the world's

mil Nadu. The Chief Minis-ter highlighted Tamil Nado's dominance in the automotive and electric vehicle sectors and invited MMW to deepen its engage-

said, "Tamil Nadsi moves ahead as a centre of excel tence, carrying strength, vision, and the promise of shaping global industry. HIP State president Nat-nar Nagenthran said the

companies with which the government algoed the MoUs had been operating

in the State for many years.
In a poat on S, he said the
news about the MoUs
raised suspletin.
Mr. Nagembran said the
total levestment of \$3,200
crore was meager, given
that the State is now of the
largest economies in India.

⁺ Panel to draft Bird's-eye view education policy for

Telangana The Hindu Buryau

Telangana government has formed a committee for formulation of Telangana Education Policy as a guid-ing document for Telanga-nakising 2047, keeping in view the National Educa-view the National Educarailising 2047, keeping in view the National Educa-tion Policy (MIP) 2020 and the specific education needs and aspirations of the State.

the State.

A numo was issued by
the Education department's Secretary Yogila Rana on August 29. The Committee is requested to submit its report by Octob-er 30. Its terms of refe-rence include studying the provision of the NKP and



build Andhra bradesh into a Romaraha. With peo-ple's support, I can even more mountains if neces-sary," Mr. Naidu said. Mr. Stalin also met se-nior leaders of the RMW

SC upholds Telangana's

The Hindu Bureau

transform the drought-hit

Rayalaseema into a "Rutu-nata Seema" Gland of

"With reforms in irriga-tion, investments, and wel-fare schemes, we will re-

The Supreme Court of Monday upheld the Telan-gatus government's domi-cile rule regulating underso to have studied in the State ing Clase 12 to quality for admission to medical and dontal colleges under the State quota. A Berech of Chief hestes

A Benefi of Chief Justice of India D.R. Gawal and Justice E, Vinod Chandran at-lowed the State's appeal and affirmed the constitutionality of the Telangana Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Rules, 2017, as amended in 2024. The improgned rules sitpulated that only attainers who had to the company of the state of the control of the in Telangana would be elig-ible for admission under



domicile rule for MBBS seats

the "local candidate" quo-ta for MBBS and BDS cours-es. "The students' writ pe-ditions stand dismissed," the Bench said.

unfairly excluded students whose parents were per-

State but who had tempo-rarily studied outside Fe-langana, often to attend

However, a Division Bench led by Claid Justice Alok Aradhe had declined to strike down Rule Mai of the 2017 Rules, which pre-scribes the criteria for local vandidates, to its entirety.

vandidates, to six entirety.
White setting seids the
tigh Court's order, the top
court noted that in the absence of a statutory definition of methods. fion of residence or a pre-scribed framework for ssuing residence certif cares, the directions would result in an "anomalous sir-uation", rendering the demicile reservation unworkable and exposing 8 to a spate of litigation.

'CBI probe on Kaleshwaram

Funding of Ayyappa meet not decided, Kerala govt. tells HC

The petitioner contended that it was improper to use government funds for an event held in

The Hindu Bureau

The State government ver-bally informed the Kerala stigh Court on Monday that a final decision on the funding and allied aspects of Global Ayyappa Sanga-man to the held in Saluri-mata is yet to be taken, and that only talks were beld in

that only talls were held in this regard.

The submission was made while the court was hearing a petition filed by M. Nendakumar, a Kale-massery resident and se-

cretary of Haindaveeyam Foundation undation. He challenged the alleged move to provide go-vernment funding for the meet which he claimed

under the guise of promot

ment ought to keep off religious matters.

It is not because the control of the c

ment's decision to comhet the meet in association with the Travancore Devas-wom Board (TDB) at Pam-pa on September 20. ing the Sabarimala pilgrim-age and Hindu faith, he al-leged in his petition. Reyond duty of govt? Mr. Nandakumar said it is not proper to spend funds on the event that is report-The court's vacation Bench heated by Justice Anii K. Narendran posted edly being held in the name of religion and con-tended that the governthe case for hearing before the Devarwoin Bench on September 9.

ISRO seeks proposals from scientific community to study Chandrayaan-3 data

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRC) on Monday issued an Amnoun-cement of Opportunity (AO) for scientific analysis and utilisation of data from all experiments of Chan-drayaan-3 lander and

The Chandraysan-I mis-sion achieved historic softlanding in the southern high latitudes of the moon on August 23, 2023, mak-ing helia the first nation to touch down on the polar region of the moon. "To enhance the science outcome of the Chan-drayaan-3 mission, ISRO seeks proposals from the



national scientific community (outside ISRO/De-partment of Space) through this AO, towards scientific analysis and utili-sation of data from all ex-periments of Chan-

strayaan 3 tander rover," the ISRO said. The AO is open to all fa-culty and researchers from

all communications related to the proposal. The proposals must be forwarded through the head of the institutions, with appropriate assurance for providing," the BSRO and. The deadline for sub-mission of proposals is Oc-tober 21, 2028. The space agency said that the pro-ject shall be completed within three years.

project soon' ndia. "Only those having a mi "Cuty those having a mi-nimum remaining service of four years before supe-camuation are eligible to lead the project as Princi-pal Investigator (PI). There could be multiple Co-Pis in the proposal, however, PI will be the focal point for all communications relat-The letter to Central Bu-

The letter to Central Bu-rean of investigation (Cill), seeking it to investigate in-to the findings of the Jus-lice R.C. Ghoose Commis-sion on the Esleshwaram Project, will be written in a day or I two, Telangana Churf Minister A. Revanth Beshly said on Monday.

"We are writing to a con-trial agency, not to the BJP. If State agencies were to handle this accusations of bios would be inevitable," remarked. The Chi tality in addressing one of the biggest infrastructure controversies, the govern

2 more die of 'brain-eating amoeba' infection in Kerala

The toll due to amoebic meningoencephalitis in the State this year has risen to three; so far, 42 cases have been reported; the infection mainly spreads through contaminated water

The Hindu Bureau

KOZHIKODE

wo more people lost their lives to amoebic meningoencephalitis at the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH) in Kozhikode district of Kerala on Sunday.

The deceased included a three-month-old infant, who had been undergoing treatment at the hospital for nearly a month. The infant, who died is suspected to have contracted the disease from the well water used at home.

The other deceased is Ramla, 52, from Kannamangalam in Malappuram district. She started treatment on July 8. She was



Risky dip: The pond in Kozhikode where the nine-year-old girl who died by the infection is said to have taken bath. K. RAGESH

shifted to the Intensive Care Unit at the MCH. Her condition further worsened on August 26 and she died on Sunday.

The death toll due to amoebic meningoencephalitis in Kerala this year has now risen to three. A nine-year-old girl had died due to the illness on August 14 at the MCH. Of the 13 still under treatment, eight are at MCH. So far, 42 cases have been reported.

The 'brain-eating amoe-

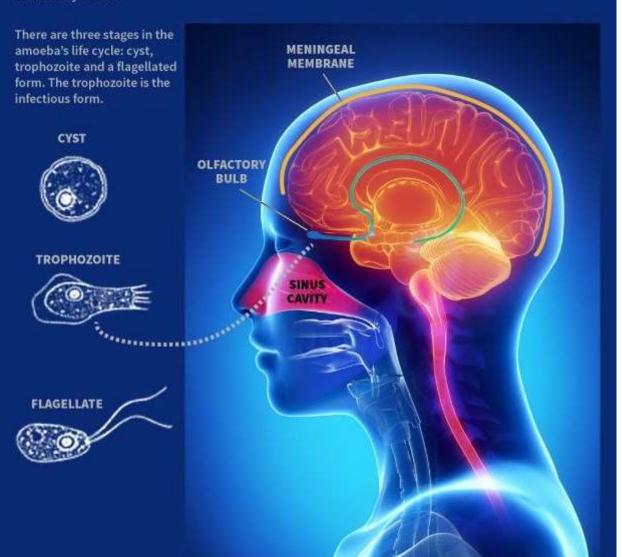
ba,' enters the human body through the nose from contaminated water, while bathing or swimming. The common symptoms of the infection are fever, headache, nausea and vomiting, experienced within five to 10 days of contracting it.

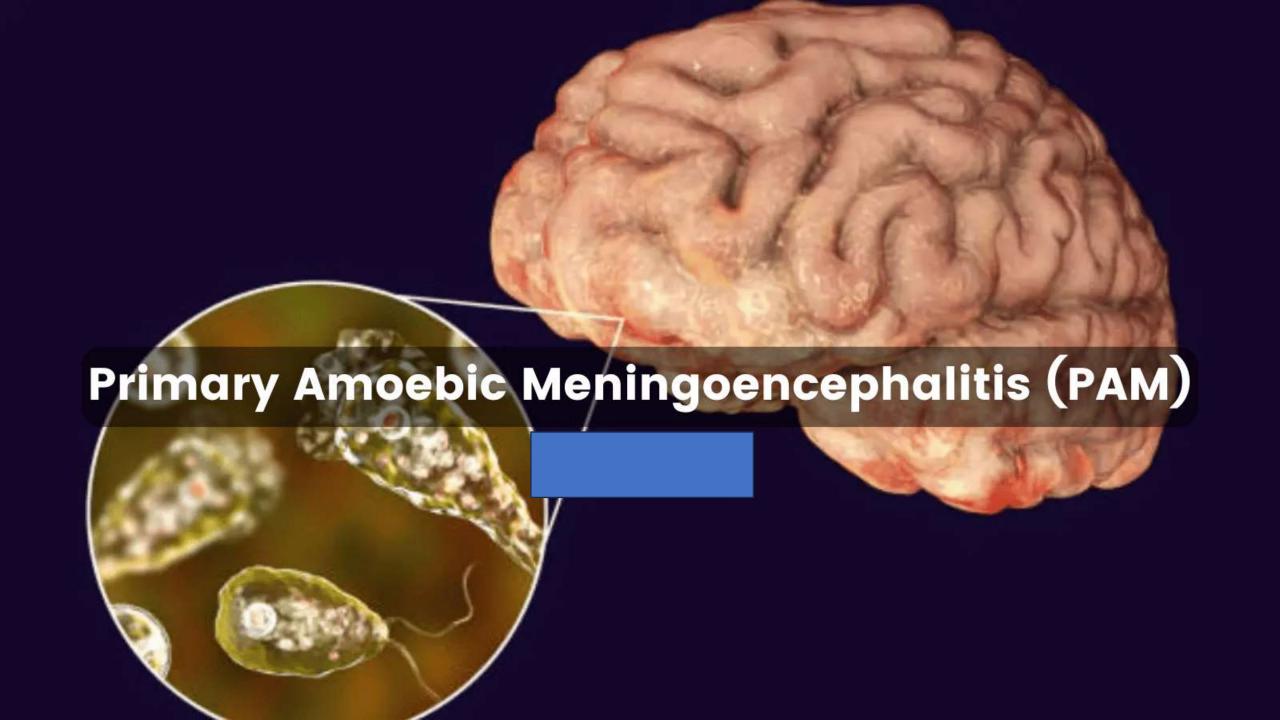
There are two variants of the infection, primary amoebic meningoence-phalitis (PAM) and granulo-matous amoebic encephalitis (GAE), the latter being the one reported in Kerala now. The mortality rate is normally 95%.

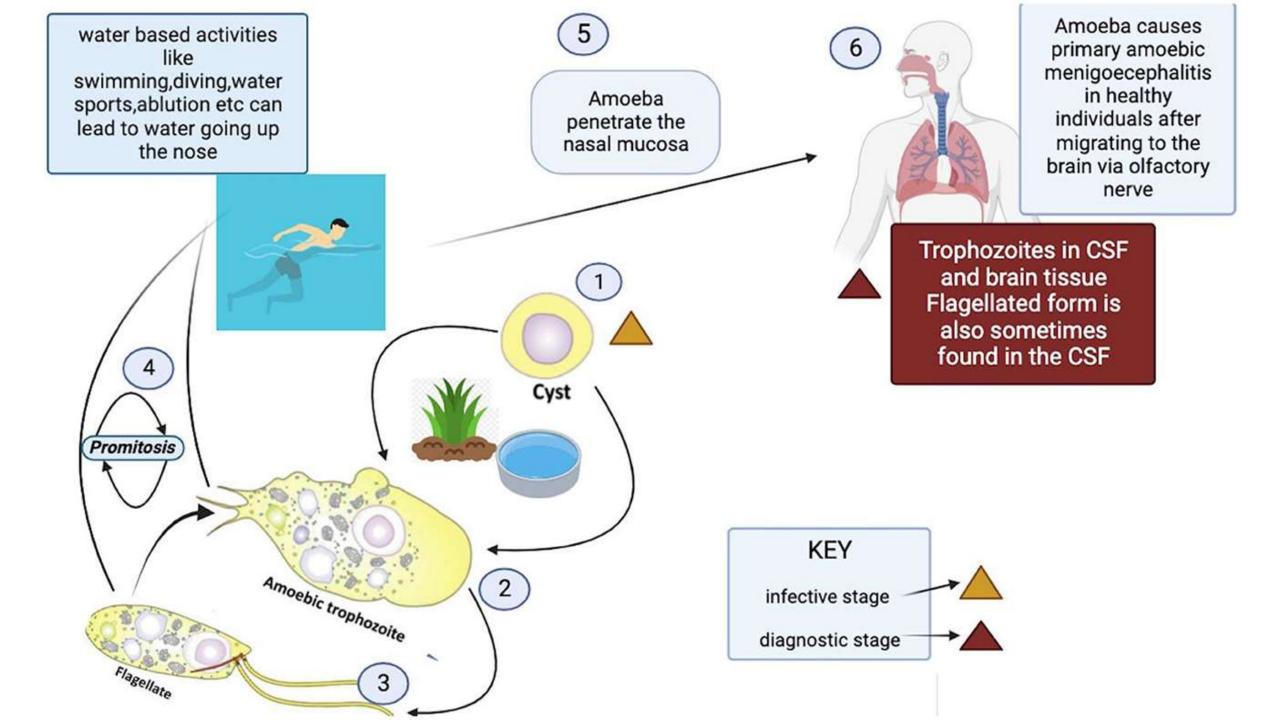
The Health Department has launched a State-wide drive to ensure the cleanliness of waterbodies through chlorination as a precautionary measure.

BRAIN-EATING AMOEBA

Naegleria fowleri is a microscopic amoeba that lives in warm, fresh waters. It can enter the nose and pass through the sinus membranes into the olfactory bulb, reproduces by fission and spreads throughout the brain. The amoeba consumes brain tissue, causes swelling of the brain and finally death.









- **Cause**: Amoebic meningoencephalitis caused by *Naegleria fowleri* (commonly called braineating amoeba).
- **Transmission**: Enters the body through the nose from **contaminated water** while swimming or bathing.
- Mortality rate: ~95% globally.
- Recent Outbreak in Kerala (2025)
- Deaths reported:
 - A **3-month-old infant** (likely contracted from well water at home).
 - Ramla (52) from Malappuram district (treated since July 8, died August 26).
 - 9-year-old girl (earlier death on August 14).
- **Current toll**: 3 deaths this year.
- Cases reported: 42 cases so far, 31 under treatment.

- Symptoms
- Appear within 5–10 days of infection.
- Fever, headache, nausea, vomiting.
- Progresses rapidly → meningitis, brain swelling, death.
- Variants of Infection
- Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) usually more common.
- Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE) the strain now reported in Kerala.

Government Response

- •State-wide water sanitation drive: Chlorination of ponds, wells, and other waterbodies.
- •Public health advisories on avoiding **swimming/bathing in unsafe water**.
- •Patients shifted to intensive care units in critical cases.

Historical/Global Context

- •Kerala past cases: Sporadic, but rising in recent years.
- •India overall: Rare but emerging due to poor water sanitation.
- •Global data: Documented in the U.S., Pakistan, and several tropical countries.
- •Mortality rate remains extremely high despite medical advances.



Indian Navy ships conclude Saudi visit with joint exercise

Indian Navy warships INS Tamal and INS Surnt (in picture) concluded their port call at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on August 20, with a pansage essective alongside the Royal Saudi Naval Fureen (RSNP) convecte IMS Jasan, before proceeding on deployment. The ships engaged extensively with the RSNP and Saudi Broster Saudi Hizzagh sports fixtures and interactions with personnel On August 28, the vessels hosted India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Subsi Ajas Khan, onboard. The visit underscored India's ornmitment to strengthening defence

Centre launches 'Adi Vaani' to translate Adivasi languages

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Monday launched the beta version of its Adi Vasni Adivasi language translation application and website at the Dr. Ambedkar International Gentre in New Delhi, with Minister of State Durgadas Ulkey saying that it will "help bridge communication

saying that it will "help bridge communication agaps for tribal communities in centest areas and empewer tribal yound digitally." The government, in a sistemest, called it or brid empewerment and linguistic preservation." The appr, which has been in development for over a year now, has capabilities to translate Adiusal languages to and from Hindl and English. In its first phase, the supported languages include comd, Bibli, Mundari, Sartali, Rol, and Gairo,

Cancellation of Javed Akhtar event sparks row in Bengal

Civil rights groups accuse the State government of bowing to fundamentalist forces by cancelling the Urdu Academy programme, calling the move politically driven and a betrayal of secularism

ivil rights groups in feelballs have ear present concern ov-event of the West Bengal Urdu Academy in which lyricist faved Akhtar was scheduled to participate. While human rights groups say the State go-

ernment has bowed down o fundamentalist forces. those opposing the event say they do not want to disrupt communal amity in West Bengal. To an official statement.

to an official statement, Nuzhet Zuinst, merther-securiary of the Urda Asia-demy, Bad said. "Due to the Company of the Company es, the four-day pro-gramme, Urda in Hindi Ci-ticmia, schedulad from August 21-september 2, is being postporsed."

The Association for Pro-

tection of Democratic Rights, one of the oldest human rights group in Kol-kata, has condemned the kata, has condemned the cancellation, and said the government is not denice to duty of protecting securia-form as most effect to the use appealing to the go-vernment to start the event again, it will not help be-cause this decision has come from the top-most



ments against any religion, it will disrupt the peace in this State," Zilhar Rahman Arif, general secretary, Kol-kara Jamiat Ulema e-Hind, said.
Mr. Arif added that they

people of the government. This is a political decision right, before the elections right, before the elections because the State does not seemed the State does not proup," Ranjit Sur, general eccretary of the APPS, told The Hindu on Monday.

The major of the APPS, told the Property of the APPS, told the Control of the State of the APPS, told the APP were not against any other events organised by the Ur-du Academy of West Bengal but rather only against the one to which Mr. Ak-htar was invited. However, the APDR said

the decision to postpose the event was politically militaried as the Assembly election was due in 2026. Mr. has said the real reason was the fear of political unreat.

"We therefore demand from the state government that the government

should explain to the peo-ple of the State why it did this. The State government this. The State government should change its decision and bring loved Akhitar to Kolkata with respect and meas from the APDR said. Sadimul Haque, Trinamool Congress Rajva Sabha member and Vice-Chairman of the Urdu Academy, did not answer any

questions on the cancella-tion of the event. Chief Minister Mamuta Banerjee is the Chairman of the acade-

Author Tasliena Sincreen

Bengal.
The CPM government "The CPM government of West Bengal forced me to leave the State. Whose power old that strengthen? The power of Islamiat fun-damentalist forces. Now they are enraged against preed Akhtar, who has been invited by the Urdu Academy. They are declar-ing, Javed Akhtar has criti-cised blam – we will not al-lew him to enter West Bengal. If he enters, we will Beiggd, I'llo enters, we will drive him out the way we dreve out Tuslima! The Ur-du Academy stands help-less before the Islamist fun-damentalists. Even the state government trieff is perhape helpless."

SC seeks response to transgender-inclusive sex education plea

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Union government, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCBR), and and Training O'CLOCY), and several States on a petition seeking the integration of transgender-inclusive com-prehensive sexuality edu-cation into school curricu-

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CIO Bhushan R. Gavat and Jus-tice E. Vinod Chandrun is-ssed notice on the petition filed by Kaavya Mukherjee Saha, a 16 year old student from Hellit, and directed the respondents to file their replies within six weeks.

weeks.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advected Go-pal Sankaranarayanan sub-mitted that despite the Supreme Court's 2014 judgment in National Legal Services Authority v Union of India mandating the in-tegration of comprehen-sive sexuality education in-to school education, the directive remains unimple-mented. He clied a recent Right to Information (RTI) light to Information (ITT) reply in which NCERT ad-mitted if had "no informa-tion" on the infroduction of such material in its curriculum.
"This shows the orders of this court remain unim-



arayanan said, stressing that sexuality education sensitization and transacer

der inclusive perspectives.
The plea alleged that the NCHRT and most State Councils of Educationa Research and Training Councils of Educational Research and Training GCERTSO had failed to the clude examinable mutules on gender identity, gender diversity, and the distinc-tion between ess and gen-der, despite explicit obliga-tions under Sections 26th and 13 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, Textbook reviews from Maharashtra, Andhra Praciesh, Telanga na, Punjah, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka revealed

New Bairabi-Sairang rail line set to improve connectivity in Mizoram

Anti Kumar Santes

Misoram will soon be con-nected to the national rail-way network when Frime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the St. 36-km Bai-rabi-Sairang broad-gauge line, comstructed at an esti-mated \$5.021 crore, in the second week of second Septendies

Regressible.
The new line terminating al Sabrang will connect Aizawd, the State capital about 20 km away, with the resi of the country. The line links Silchar in Asaam via Bhodalpur Junction, integrating the network Arvanschal Fradesh.

Indian Ballways has big plans to connect the other

plans to connect the other rtheastern States of Naava, and Sikkim with the



national network by 2030.

presspersons on Sunday that the project fulfilled the cherished dream of Mizoram residents for rallway connectivity to the State

capital.
While access by road

bridges with the longest being about 1.3 km and the talliest, Krung Bridge at Sal-rang, being 114 in from the bases, 87 minor bridges, five road overbridges, and stx road underbridges.

see road underbridges.

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people of the govern

Othe reporter to field visit organised by the Indian Ballways to get a first-hand experience of the Batrahi-Satrang-Line.)

schools are exempted from RTE Act

Krishnadas Raiagupal

The Supreme Court on Monday referred to a larger Beach the question of whether minority educational institutions are extirely exampt from the pur view of the Right b

Education (RTID Act, 2009) A two-judge Bench of Justices Dipanhar Dutta and Justices Diparther Dutts and Mammohan made the refe-rence in a padgment based on a basic of civil appeals questioning school educa-tion departments' insis-tence on faculty clearing the Yeachers Highbilty Year CTKTy in minority multiplices.

ornations. The reference stems from apprehensions over a Constitution Bench verdict of 2014 in Pramatt Educa-tional and Cultural Trust case. In the case, a five



judge Beach was testing the constitutionality of Sec-tion 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act. The provi-sion mandates eshecational institutions to provide 29% reservation for children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections at the entry level in order to fos-ter social inclusion in ele-

mentary education. However, the 2014 judg-ment concluded that Section (2006) violated the mi-

Larger Bench to rule if minority-run

Mirrority status sectors to have become a vehicle for circumventing the mandate of the RTE Act and tool to achieve autonomous status DEPARKAR DATTA

nority character of these institutions and impacted their institutional automo-my. The Constitution lew Justice Daria, writing for the Bench, observed that the Promoti Educa-tional and Cultural Trust udgment has "unknowing y jeopardised the very oundation of universal ele ordised the very mentary education

"Exemption of minority institutions from the ETR Act leads to fragmentation of the common schooling vision and weakening of the idea of inclusivity and universality envisionsed by Article 24A. We are attaid, instead of uniting children across caste, class, creed, and community, it reinforces 'divides' and 'dilutes' the

transformative proteintal of shared learning spaces, fusite Datta pointed out. The judgment has led to missus. "Minority status seems to have become a vehicle for circumventing the mandate of the ETE Act. In our humble opi-nion, it has opened up a sit-cation whereby multiple cation whereby multiple institutions have sought to acquire ininority status to tice Datta observed.

took long hours of travel, about 1.37 km; 55 major

To solve this excelle ordina

sides boosting economic activities in the region with a special focus on tourism, the official said.

The new line has 48 tun-nels with a total length of 12.85 km, the longest being





Acress

- 10 Shabby wager about a state in India (4-2)

and derived for their exemptioned alto. Honey producer's bitter chase meets dead end? (8) Nut delivered a mouth freshener (6)

- Do these small bruken pieces somehow endorse thetam? (13)
- 18 A fire and secure state (6)
 20 Repudiate unfortunate han on 8 Portal (8)
 21 Courte a mountainese, say (8)
 23 Dany date exages for a bit of letoure modesty (8).
 24 Every now and them has been procured cleaners in
- celscles (II) 25 Fortern and bowildered, Hoef's extremely (aggardly (6)
- Whost Eros (Olympian-God) smuggled an atomiser (7) Unit of measurement's converted? Not grams (8) Tailless ricer in fiction loves grass (6)
- Oddly Beau robbed crude grill (6) Confused about small submarines (1-5) Chapters about the French Applications (7)
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 Trash power interruptions library deviced (Fig.)
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- ted opening large tollets in accommodations for
- 21 Specifically shap returns to city in England (8)

SUDOKU





Duties of a householder

Duties of a nousernoicer
vish the Pandavas, that while he likes the company of
some ones, he does not want then it suffer in the forsarind news, he does not want then it suffer in the forsarind news, he does not want then it suffer in the forrashita to always seek the company of the learned. These
with knowledge will give proper and timely advise to
those they are with, Yadhishthira tells the sages that he
must in a discourse. But wealth is necessary if he is to riske
care of the interests of the sages, a householder has the
important day of theiring or provide for surjeast. A sariyasi
place to carry out his duties. A householder mast enumplace to carry out his duties. A householder mast enumthat sage are given whetever they meat,
the sage and food for
the sage of the sages. The same strainsage a cesting place for these who are tired, and food for
the hungry, Unfortrastately, Nullishithira now has nothing.

the hungry. Unfortunately, Yuelhishthira now has nothing. He has been stripped of all his possessions. Here then can be take care of the sadhus if they insist on following him: he take care of the saddus if they meist on following him? That is his worry. Sewy man should read guests, relatives to the control of the control of the control of the control cooks food, one muist never do it with the thought that one is preparing from for smeelf. One must think of how to share the food with those who lack the means to have a learty meal. Suppose one corner across a man who is a to-should immediately give him food. This too is the duty of a should immediately give him food. This too is the duty of a householder. Yudhishthria tells sage sannak that the highest dharms is five a man to carry out all the thetes of a householder without fail.

New Bairabi-Sairang rail line set to improve connectivity in Mizoram

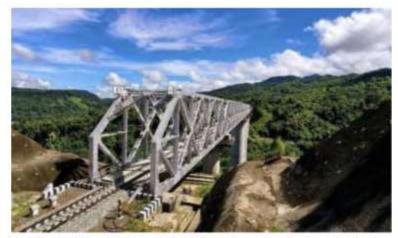
Anil Kumar Sastry

AIZAWL

Mizoram will soon be connected to the national railway network when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge line, constructed at an estimated ₹5,021 crore, in the second week of September.

The new line terminating at Sairang will connect Aizawl, the State capital about 20 km away, with the rest of the country. The line links Silchar in Assam via Bhodahpur Junction, integrating the network with Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Railways has big plans to connect the other northeastern States of Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim with the



The line ending at Sairang, about 20 km from Aizawl, connects the State capital with other northeastern States. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

national network by 2030, a senior Northeast Frontier Railway official said.

The official told visiting presspersons on Sunday that the project fulfilled the cherished dream of Mizoram residents for railway connectivity to the State capital.

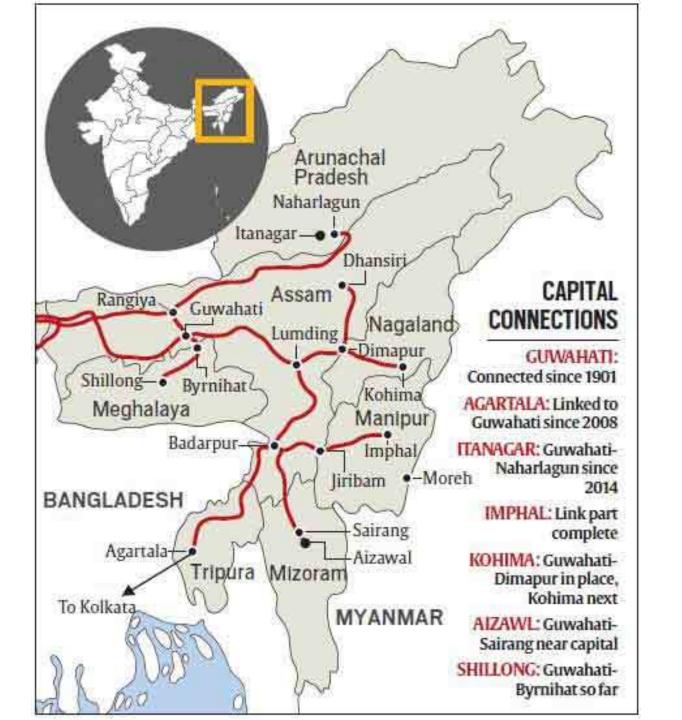
While access by road took long hours of travel, flying was expensive. Travel by train would provide an affordable options to all categories of people, besides boosting economic activities in the region with a special focus on tourism, the official said.

The new line has 48 tunnels with a total length of 12.85 km, the longest being about 1.37 km; 55 major bridges with the longest being about 1.3 km and the tallest, Krung Bridge at Sairang, being 114 m from the base; 87 minor bridges; five road overbridges; and six road underbridges.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for the project on November 29, 2014. He virtually flagged off the first passenger train between Bairabi and Silchar on May 27, 2016.

The official said almost all essential items to Mizoram were brought from Silchar in Assam, a journey of about 10 hours by road. With the new line, the travel time gets reduced to about three hours.

(The reporter is on a field visit organised by the Indian Railways to get a first-hand experience of the Bairabi-Sairang-Line.)

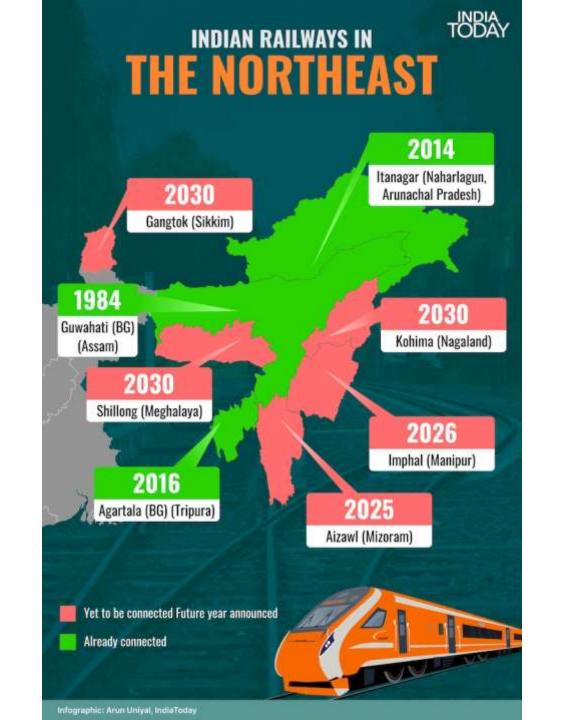


DEEPER CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH-EAST



Projects in the Northeast





- **Project Inauguration**: PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the **51.38 km broad-gauge rail line** in September.
- **Cost**: ₹5,021 crore.
- Connectivity: Connects Silchar (Assam) → Bhodaphur Junction → Sairang (20 km from Aizawl).
- Integration: Links Mizoram with the national railway grid and Northeastern states (Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim).

- Infrastructure Details
- Tunnels: 48 tunnels, total length 12.85 km (longest 1.37 km).
- **Bridges**: 55 major bridges (longest 1.3 km, tallest Krung Bridge at 114 m); 87 minor bridges; 5 road overbridges; 6 underbridges.
- Foundation: Laid in November 2014.
- First Passenger Train: Between Bairabi & Silchar, May 27, 2016.

★ Socio-Economic Impact

1. Economic Benefits

- Reduces Silchar–Mizoram travel time from 10 hours (by road) → 3 hours (by rail).
- Boosts trade, agriculture, and tourism in Mizoram.
- Affordable transport → Encourages business activity.

2. Strategic Significance

- Enhances connectivity in the Northeast border state.
- Reduces dependence on roads (long travel, landslide risks).
- Strengthens India's Act East Policy by improving access to Southeast Asia.

3. Local Benefits

- Fulfills Mizoram's long-cherished demand for railway access to Aizawl.
- Facilitates easy transport of essential commodities.

01

Railways in Northeast: India aims to connect all Northeastern state capitals to the national rail grid by 2030. 02

Historical Background:

The Northeast Frontier
Railway has been working
on expanding lines since
colonial times but
progress was slow due to
terrain and insurgency.

03

Strategic Context:
Strengthens border
infrastructure amid
China's increasing activity
near Mizoram &
Arunachal borders.

Larger Bench to rule if minority-run schools are exempted from RTE Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday referred to a larger Bench the question of whether minority educational institutions are entirely exempt from the purview of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

A two-judge Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan made the reference in a judgment based on a batch of civil appeals questioning school education departments' insistence on faculty clearing the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in minority institutions.

The reference stems from apprehensions over a Constitution Bench verdict of 2014 in *Pramati Educa*tional and Cultural Trust case. In the case, a five-



judge Bench was testing the constitutionality of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act. The provision mandates educational institutions to provide 25% reservation for children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections at the entry level in order to foster social inclusion in elementary education.

However, the 2014 judgment concluded that Section 12(1)(c) violated the mi-



Minority status seems to have become a vehicle for circumventing the mandate of the RTE Act and tool to achieve autonomous status

DIPANKAR DATTA SUPREME COURT JUDGE

nority character of these institutions and impacted their institutional autonomy. The Constitution Bench went on to take minority institutions entirely out of the ambit of the RTE law. Justice Datta, writing for the Bench, observed that the *Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust* judgment has "unknowingly jeopardised the very foundation of universal elementary education".

"Exemption of minority institutions from the RTE Act leads to fragmentation of the common schooling vision and weakening of the idea of inclusivity and universality envisioned by Article 21A. We are afraid, instead of uniting children across caste, class, creed, and community, it reinforces 'divides' and 'dilutes' the transformative potential of shared learning spaces," Justice Datta pointed out.

The judge wrote that the 2014 judgment has led to misuse. "Minority status seems to have become a vehicle for circumventing the mandate of the RTE Act. In our humble opinion, it has opened up a situation whereby multiple institutions have sought to acquire minority status to become autonomous," Justice Datta observed.

- Case Reference: SC referred the issue to a larger Bench on whether minority educational institutions
 are exempt from the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
- Triggered by civil appeals questioning school education departments' insistence on faculty clearing
 Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in minority institutions.

2. Constitutional Context

- Article 21A: Ensures free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14.
- Section 12(1)(c), RTE Act, 2009: Mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged children in all schools at the entry level.
- 2014 Constitution Bench Verdict (Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust Case):
 - Ruled that applying Section 12(1)(c) to minority institutions violated their minority rights under Article 30.
 - Emphasized institutional autonomy of minority schools.

3. SC's Observations Now

- Justice Dipankar Datta (writing for the Bench):
 - Expressed concern that minority status is being misused.
 - Many institutions use minority status as a tool to bypass RTE compliance and become autonomous.
 - Warned this trend could "jeopardise the very foundation of universal elementary education".

4. Key Concerns Highlighted

- Fragmentation of Education:
 - Exempting minority schools from RTE could weaken inclusivity and universality of Article 21A.
 - Could reinforce caste, class, creed, and community divides.
- Impact on National Integration:
 - Risk of diluting the transformative potential of shared learning spaces.
- Balance of Rights:
 - Need to reconcile minority rights under Article 30 with children's right to education under Article 21A.

- Judicial Review: The Larger Bench ruling will clarify if all minority-run schools are entirely exempt or if limited RTE compliance can be mandated.
- **Policy Impact**: May affect thousands of minority institutions nationwide.
- Educational Equity: The decision could set precedent for how India balances cultural autonomy vs. social justice in education.

Past Cases:

- T.M.A. Pai Foundation vs. State of Karnataka (2002) → Recognised minority institutions' rights but subject to reasonable regulations.
- Pramati Case (2014) → Minority institutions exempted from RTE obligations.

Policy Dimension:

- Debate between autonomy of minority institutions vs. inclusivity in schooling.
- Could redefine scope of Article
 30 in light of Right to Education
 as a Fundamental Right.

Covernor cannot sit

over the windom of the legislature

vernors had absolute pow-er to withhold State Bills under Article 200 (Cover-nors' power to assent to Bills).

Countering the Centre, he said States cannot go in search of political solu-

indefinition

Rrishmadas Rajagopal

hree of the five judges on the Presi-dential Reference bench on Tuesday orally observed stong with the States of Tanul Nada and

States of Tamil Nath and West Bengal that Gover-rors vannet at sealessly over Bills placed before the property of the Child Child Jastice of India B. E. Gava, Jastices Viscous Superately remarked that Governors could nother glabuter indentately nor impede the functioning of the Constitution. "Ne or ingoing the Constitution." The origan can impair the func-tion," Justice Margarities

tion," Justice Piarasituba

Tamil Nadu, represent-



Umar Khalid, others





Modi-Xi-Putin's show of unity troublesome WORLD IN PAGE 14

Lessons from Gauri Lankesh's murder trial Its slow pace is part of an unfortunate trend OPINION S PAGE S



Harmanpreet's India faces a strong Korea SPORT N PAGE 16

Sibal argues that States cannot go in search of

ENSHIPE



Modi slams Cong. R.ID over remarks about his mother

reacted to the episode in which a youth abused him and his nother during the Opposition "Voter Adhikar Vetra" in Darbhango, He said, ". These aboutes are not best an insuff to my mother. It is an insult to the mothers and sisters of the mentry" a page s

Singapore PM begins 3-day visit to India

NEW DELLER Continuing the celebraters activities to mark the 60th monitorrang of the establishment of diplomet relations between India and Singapore, Lawrence Wood, Prime Minister of the city stat ermed here on Tues Buring the three-day visit, Mr. Wong will hold take with Prone Minister Nacoustra Modil: to PAGE 8

Israel mobilises reservists as part of Gaza offensive

DRINGAL-BALAN israel began mebbising tens-thousands of reservists and on Tuesday as part of its plac City, which has spected bernnation abroad

Governors can't sit on Bills endlessly: SC judges

A.M. Singlyi and P. Wil-son, said Governors "can-not assume to be royalty in a Republic" while senior

a Republic While senior advectate Kapil Shai, for West Bengal, admitted that high offices under the Constitution must work collaboratively and not combatively with each

other. "When the Constitution

Judges say that Governors could neither delay the legislature's wisdom nor impede the Constitution

No organican impair the functioning of the

constitution

■ Governors 'cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic', say senior advocates representing T.N.

political solutions to coax Governors' assent

in selecting V-Cs

NEW DELIN Rerata Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arletar on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to exclude the State Chief Minister from the process to select the vice-Chancellars for two State-run ordversities, is PAGE 2

Arlekar moves SC

against CM's role

May quantitating time it may placed on the Gover-ture and the President of deal with state Illia.

The Beforence followed an April 8 judgment pro-nounced by a two-judge bench of the apex court in the case of the Tarnil Nadu Governor, who had de-layed assent to 10 State Bills since 2020, The Divi-

Agence France Presse

1,411 people dead and 3,124 injured in Eunar alone, a Taliban spokesperson said

sion Bench had imposed a three-month deadline for the President and Gover-nors to decide the fitte of the Bills, if the Bills were left pending beyond three months, they would be "deemed" to have received assert and become taxes.

Time Banks
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to be a supposed to th He queried why it was "deemed assent" alone. "Why cannot the other op-tions – withholding assent time limits could be pre-scribed in individual cases after considering the pecu liar facts and circumstan

Chief partice Gavai said a broad brushstroke of a "general" timeline applica ble to all cases of delay ma ble to all cases of delay may amount to overreaching by the judiciary. "Timelines help in maintaining disci-pline and immediacy. This dispuise began with miller dual cases. Keralu and Ta-nill Nadu came with their own cases. However, the problem indiversalization of the problem. profilem (gubernatorial delay) has proven to be en-demic and repetitive," Mr. Singhvi said explaining the reason for the Tamit Nads

When the Constitution is clear that a Governor should act with immediacy, why should be hold of the constitution of the constitution of the constitution of the constitution is a severeign art. It cannot wait; Mr. Sibal amphasized. Mr. Singler realise the fell necessity of the times. Mr. Sibal arqued that "absurdiey" would follow if Contre's argument that Governor are constitutions. "This Constitution has its genesis in history, but its alignment is with the future... And who decides the fister of this country? You five in this case. The future of thois is at stake if you give such absurd powers to the Governor," Mr. Sibul submitted. The function of the foresting a assent: Gubernatorial de-lay thwarts the comittu-tional scheme, he said. Centre's argument that Go-Fast and furious As death toll passes 1,400, another earthquake hits an +

India sets eyes on \$1-tn semiconductor market; PM promises faster approvals

Saptaparno Ghosh

india will soon hold a sig-nificant share in the global semicorolactor market, which is set to reach \$1 tri-lion in size, Prime Minister ensure faster approvals to reduce the time it takes to dart manufacturing semi-conductors in India. He added that work is

"underway" on the next phase of the India Semi-conductor Mission.

Speaking at the 2028 edition of Semicon India, the arroad semiconductor conference, the Prime Mi-mister noted that India has achieved a GDP growth rate of 7.8% even as the rest f the world is mired in "In 2025, we gave clea-

century, the Prime Minis-ter said, in much the same

way as crude oil drove growth in the previous

count to 10 projects," Mr. Modi said. "These projects have drawn a combined investment of \$18 billion or \$1.5 lakh crore. This is re-flective of the world's con-fidence in India."

"The shorter the time from the to factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the somer water work can be 'Rey economic drivers' Semiconductor chips are the "digital diamonds" and the most important eco-

all approvals from both the Centre and States on a six gle platform, he said.

ple platform, he said:
It is time for "securion
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BRS chief's daughter Kavitha suspended

n. Chandrashekha

Fuesday suspended party chief R. Chandrashekha her outbursts against party leaders T. Harish Rao and I. Santosh Rao. The two leaders, rela-tives of KCR, are consi-dered close to the party

Mr. Harish has been associated with the party sirice its inception, with a wide following of his own across Telangana and all

Speaking smides global trade uncertainties trig across Telangana and all first Modil proisest India's growth in Challenging times. "There is convert in world; there are challenges created by economic self-interest," Mr. Nodel said

poorest countries in the world, with dwindling aid since the Talthan seized power in 2021 undermin-ing its ability to respond to

already fragile Afghanistan

Afghanistan on Tuesday, jolting a region still strug-gling with the aftermath of affect "hundreds of thou-sands", said United Na-tions humanitarian coordi-nator for Afghanistan a powerful earthquake that killed over 1,400 people. The epicentre of the tre-The epicentre of the tre-mor was close to where a magnitude 6.0 cord-spake list late on Sunday night, devastating remote areas in mountainous provinces Indrika Ratwatte. Rescuers searched through the night and all

day for survivors in the rubble of homes flattened ountainous provinces the border with in Kunar, where more than 5,400 houses were destroyed, government spo-kesman Hamdullah Fitrat said on X.

near the border with Publishm.

The "quake was felt in the asme areas which were affected in Kinner gree vince) in the first earth-quake", filosomuliah Ehson, the disaster management apolosoperasir in the hard province, said.

The province, said.

The province continues to the province of the province are consistent, but they have not caused any canadiant, but they have not caused any canadiants. Unreachable spots
Many of the wornt-affected
areas were still unreachable by road, but emergenup and multiple countries
had announced they
would provide aid, Mr. Fitrat said.
The European Union caused any casualties yet."
The number of victims from Sunday's earthquake has mounted steadily, with

said it was sending 130 tonnes of emergency sup-plies and providing one million euros (\$1.2 million) to help victims of the deadquake. Obaidullah Stoman, 26,

who travelled to the village received 600 of Wadir to search for a Sunday right.

difficult for me to see th

The dead, including children, were wrapped in white shrouds by villagers who prayed over their bo

who prayed over their to-dies before burying them.

The earthquake epi-centre was about 27 km from plataband, seconting to the USCS, and struck just eight kilometres below the Earth's surface.

the Earth's surface.
Such relatively shallow
quakes can cause more
damage, enpretally since
the majority of Afghans
live in machbrick home
variancable to collapse.
Many of those living in
the quake-tit villages were
among the more than form
million Afghans forced
back to the country from back to the country from Iran and Pakistan in recent years, many coming through the Torkham box der crossing in Nangarhai

revenue. Rahmatullah Khaksar. who heads the emergency ward at a hospital in Jalak-bad. Nangarbar's provin-cial capital, said they had

Taiban spokesperion said on Tuesday. Another dozen people were killed and hundrada injured in neighbouring Nangarhar province. Afghanistan is one of the

Governors can't sit on Bills endlessly: SC judges

Judges say that Governors could neither delay the legislature's wisdom nor impede the Constitution

Governors 'cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic', say senior advocates representing T.N.

Sibal argues that States cannot go in search of political solutions to coax Governors' assent

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

hree of the five judges on the Presidential Reference Bench on Tuesday orally observed along with the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal that Governors cannot sit endlessly over Bills placed before them for assent.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Justices Vikram Nath and P.S. Narasimha separately remarked that Governors could neither delay the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely nor impede the functioning of the Constitution. "No organ can impair the functioning of the Constitution," Justice Narasimha said.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, said Governors "cannot assume to be royalty in
a Republic" while senior
advocate Kapil Sibal, for
West Bengal, submitted
that high offices under the
Constitution must work
collaboratively and not
combatively with each
other.

"When the Constitution is clear that a Governor should act with immediacy, why should he hold back Bills? There is a sense of urgency associated with the Governor's assent. Legislation is a sovereign act. It cannot wait," Mr. Sibal emphasised. Mr. Singhvi said that Bills are meant to realise the felt necessity of the times.

Mr. Sibal argued that "absurdity" would follow if the court agreed with the Centre's argument that Go-



vernors had absolute power to withhold State Bills under Article 200 (Governors' power to assent to Bills).

Countering the Centre, he said States cannot go in search of political solutions to coax Governors' assent. Gubernatorial delay thwarts the constitutional scheme, he said. "This Constitution has its genesis in history, but its alignment is with the future... And who decides the future of this country? You five in this case. The future of India is at stake if you give such absurd powers to the Governor," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Bench is hearing a Presidential Reference of

Arlekar moves SC against CM's role in selecting V-Cs

NEW DELHI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to exclude the State Chief Minister from the process to select the Vice-Chancellors for two State-run universities. » PAGE 3

May questioning time limits placed on the Governors and the President to deal with State Bills.

The Reference followed an April 8 judgment pronounced by a two-judge Bench of the apex court in the case of the Tamil Nadu Governor, who had delayed assent to 10 State Bills since 2020. The Division Bench had imposed a three-month deadline for the President and Governors to decide the fate of the Bills. If the Bills were left pending beyond three months, they would be "deemed" to have received assent and become laws.

Time limits

The Bench, however, expressed doubts about the court imposing "general" time limits on the President and Governors and granting "deemed assent" to Bills. "What happens if the time limit of three months set by the Supreme Court fin the TN Governor judgment] is not followed by the President or Governors," Justice Nath asked. He gueried why it was "deemed assent" alone. "Why cannot the other options - withholding assent

or reference to the President – also be "deemed".

Justice Narasimha said time limits could be prescribed in individual cases after considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of each.

Chief Justice Gavai said a broad brushstroke of a "general" timeline applicable to all cases of delay may amount to overreaching by the judiciary. "Timelines help in maintaining discipline and immediacy. This dispute began with individual cases. Kerala and Tamil Nadu came with their own cases. However, the problem [gubernatorial delay] has proven to be endemic and repetitive," Mr. Singhvi said explaining the reason for the Tamil Nadu Governor case judgment fixing a "general" threemonth deadline.

1. Supreme Court's Observations

- Judges' stance:
 - Governors cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills passed by state legislatures.
 - Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, Justice Vikram Nath, and Justice P.S. Narasimha emphasized that "No organ can impair the functioning of the Constitution."
- The Bench highlighted the urgency associated with Governor's assent as a sovereign act.

2. Background Context

- Case arises from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal challenging gubernatorial delays.
- Tamil Nadu Governor had withheld assent to 10 State Bills since 2020, leading to judicial scrutiny.
- The Bench is examining Presidential Reference regarding time limits on assent.

3. Arguments by Senior Advocates

- Kapil Sibal (for West Bengal): Governors must work collaboratively, not combatively, with legislatures.
- A.M. Singhvi & P. Wilson (for Tamil Nadu): Governors cannot act like "royalty in a Republic."
- Governors' delays distort constitutional balance and thwart democracy.

4. Governor's Powers Under Article 200

- Governors may:
 - Give assent.
 - 2. Withhold assent.
 - 3. Reserve for President's consideration.
 - 4. Return Bill (once) for reconsideration.
- But SC judges stressed these powers cannot be misused to paralyze state legislatures.

Time Limits Debate

Justice Narasimha: Suggested that delays beyond 3 months could mean "deemed assent."

Justice Nath: Questioned why "deemed assent" should apply only to Bills and not to Presidential references too.

Justice Gavai: Warned against a general timeline, as it may overreach judicial boundaries.

- Historical & Constitutional background aapke liye
- Article 200: Provides the Governor with options on Bills but does not specify a time frame.
- S.R. Bommai Case (1994): Limited arbitrary use of Governor's powers under Article 356.
- Constituent Assembly Debates: Ambiguity left in Governor's powers to ensure Centre—State balance.
- Chlo thoda Comparative study bi kr lete hai 😊
- **UK System**: Royal assent is a formality; refusal is unheard of.
- Indian Context: Unlike the UK, Governors have discretion but must act within constitutional spirit.

India sets eyes on \$1-tn semiconductor market; PM promises faster approvals

Saptaparno Ghosh

NEW DELHI

India will soon hold a significant share in the global semiconductor market, which is set to reach \$1 trillion in size, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, adding that the government is working to ensure faster approvals to reduce the time it takes to start manufacturing semiconductors in India.

He added that work is "underway" on the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission.

Speaking at the 2025 edition of Semicon India, the annual semiconductor conference, the Prime Minister noted that India has achieved a GDP growth rate of 7.8% even as the rest of the world is mired in "self-interest", adding that this growth has come from across sectors.

"In 2025, we gave clea-



Focus area: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the gathering at the Semicon India 2025 in New Delhi. PTI

rance to five more projects to bring the cumulative count to 10 projects," Mr. Modi said. "These projects have drawn a combined investment of \$18 billion or ₹1.5 lakh crore. This is reflective of the world's confidence in India."

'Key economic drivers'

Semiconductor chips are the "digital diamonds" and the most important economic drivers of the 21st century, the Prime Minister said, in much the same way as crude oil drove growth in the previous century.

"The shorter the time from file to factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the sooner wafer work can begin," Mr. Modi said, explaining the government's approach. In this regard, the national single window system enables access to all approvals from both the Centre and States on a single platform, he said.

It is time for "execution with precision" and delivery on scale, the Prime Minister said. He emphasised that the government's policies were not directed at "short-term signals but long-term commitments", assuring the semiconductor ecosystem in India of his full support.

"The days are not far when the world will take note of [chips] designed in India, made in India, and trusted by the world," he said.

Speaking amidst global trade uncertainties triggered by new U.S. tariffs, Mr. Modi praised India's growth in challenging times. "There is concern in economies around the world, there are challenges created by economic self-interest," Mr. Modi said

- Target Market Size: Global semiconductor market expected to reach \$1 trillion; India aims for a significant share.
- PM's Announcement: Narendra Modi at Semicon India 2025 stressed on faster approvals for projects.
- India Semiconductor Mission: Work underway on next phase; 10 projects cleared so far.

Investment & Economic Confidence

- Projects Approved: 10 projects, with a combined investment of \$18 billion (₹1.5 lakh crore).
- Global Confidence: Investments reflect trust in India's semiconductor potential.
- Economic Growth: India's GDP growth at 7.8%, despite global slowdown.

Strategic Importance of Semiconductors

- Called "digital diamonds" drivers of 21st-century economy.
- Compared to crude oil of the past century in terms of importance.
- Critical for electronics, defence, space, telecom, and automotive sectors.

Policy & Governance Measures

- Single-window system for faster clearances from Centre and States.
- Focus on execution with precision, long-term commitments over short-term gains.
- Emphasis on "Made in India, trusted by the world" chips.

- **Semiconductor Mission launched in 2021** with ₹76,000 crore incentive package.
- PLI scheme (Production-Linked Incentive) supports electronics manufacturing.
- **Global Precedent**: Taiwan dominates chip manufacturing (TSMC >50% global share); U.S. announced *CHIPS Act 2022* with \$52 billion subsidies.
- Challenges Ahead
- High capital intensity fabrication plants require \$10–15 billion per unit.
- **Skilled workforce shortage** India needs semiconductor engineers at scale.
- **Geopolitical risks** supply chain disruptions due to China-Taiwan tensions.

News

■ N 服務 開放 Ⅲ 服公服?



SJM seeks lower rate of GST on beedi and plastic waste

The Soudeshi Jagran Maneh (SJM), the examine wing of the Rashiripa Nonyamievak Sangh, on Tusadiay requised Pinance Minitarte Nirmades requised Pinance Minitarte Nirmades real Pinance of Tax (SST) on beed and platfix ware, saying lighter tax will affect the people working in this sector. In a letter to the Pinance Minister, the SJM and that the beed industry is a major source of employment, especially for women in more than only and the size of th ragpickers are engaged in collection of plastic waste and an 18% GST reduces incentives for rag pickers who collect and recycle plastic waste. the SIM said. The GST council is set to meet on September 3 and 4.

HC judge recuses himself from illegal mining case

A Madhya Pradesh High Court Judge has recussed himself from hearing a position in an alleged Bleggd mining case, sosying that a bharatiya Jamus Party (1919) MJA had "attempted to call him" to have a discussion regarding the matter, thattee Vishal Mishra, at the Jabaipur Hench, was hearing a petition seeking action against some companies linked to BJP MLA and former State Minister Saniay Pathaic's family for alleged illegal mining anique Pastiale a fatinity for a integer transport in an order dated September 1, Justice Misfara sald, "Mr. Sarijay Pathak has made an attempt to call me to have discussion regarding this particular matter, therefore, I am not inclined to entertain this writ petition." "Let the matter be placed before the Flon ble Chief Justice for lists

SC Collegium proposes 26 new judges in Allahabad HC

The Hinds Bureau

The Supreme Court Colle-gium has proposed 26 jud-ical officers and advocates to fill vacancies in the Alla-habad High Court. The collegium, in two

The collegium, in two separate proposals, has re-summended 14 junicial of-ficers and 12 advocates, the latter batch of which in-clude two senior women-lawyers, Garima Parahad and Swarupuma Chaturve-ill, from the Suprema County of the Suprema County of the Suprema County of the Suprema County of the Suprema Court Col-legium had mer on Sep-tember 1. The sustements

tember t. The statements were published on Tues-day on the court website. The two proposals together form one of the largest recommendations for recommendations for fresh appointments to a according to Department of Justice (DoD statistics, It has a sanctioned judicial strength of 160 judges, Car-rently, the High Court is functioning with a working judicial strength of 84 judges, a little over half of its

sanctioned number. The Doj figures show that Bombay, Calcutta and Punjab and Haryana High Coorts also have consider-able vacancies.

Singapore PM Wong begins India visit for partnership talks

Lawrence Wong will meet Modi, Jaishankar, Pradhan; External Affairs Ministry says the visit is a chance to review ties between the two sides

Kalled Bhattacherice



The External Affairs Miprovide an opportunity to review the "robust" rela-tion between India and ingapore. During the three-day vi-

During the three-day vi-sit, Mr. Wong will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modt, and the two leaders will inaugurate Phase 2 of P5A Mumbai (Bharat Mambai Container Terminer)

Terminal).
Mr. Modi visited Sings-pore in September 2024, when the two sides agreed o upgrade the partnership o the level of Comprehenwe Strategic Partnership. The visit by Mr. Wong will be observed keenly as it is one of the major in-coming visits by a head of government after U.S. Pre-sident Donald Trump im-posed 30% tariffs on fudia.



Singapore PM Lawrence Wong being welcomed by MoS for Finance Panksy Chaudhary upon his arrival in New Dethi. X/gMEAndia

Mr. Worig will hold a Stow Huang.

The visit by Mr. Wong Mr. Wong will hold a clossid-door meeting with indian business leaders. He will also meet texternal Affairs Minister 5, Jaioban-kar and Education Minister kar and Education Minister Dharmender Pradhan. The celebratory events to mark the important diphanatic calendar started in January with the Biete visit by Presi deni Tharman Shammigaratiam. Mr. Wrop is being ac-companied by Pareign ac-inter Vivian Balakrishnan,

Roundhable (ISMR) here on August 13. The ISMR, which saw participation by multiple Musiaters from both sides, firmed up the agenda of the visit of the Prine Minister of Singa-core pore.
The ISMR was struc-tured along six pillars – ad-vanced manufacturing. Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance leffrey Slow, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trude and Industry Gan

COP-30 to focus on known solutions, says its President

tacob Koshy

Instead of big-ticket an-nouncements, the forth-coming selfition of the UN climate summit is expected to focus on "well-known soto tools on "well-known so-buttons", with the heat country, Brasil, moving to cleave the "negotiations" aspect of climate talks from the "implementation" of

greements. The UN Framework Conintion on Climate Change INFOCO will hold its 30th the Brazilian port city of Belem, a gateway to the Ama-zonian rainforest.

zonian rainforest.

With U.E. President De-nald Trump having with-drawn his country from the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement ONFCCCs buts Agreement for the second time and casting global trade into flux with bis suriffs, liptomats and seasoned climate negotiators said that this was a "difficult year seal bits of the COP" process. However, COP-30 process, Hussilian Manteer, Linguised that these connectivity, digitisation, healthcare and medicine, skill development and usustantability — that gave a hint of the programme that Mr. Wong would follow shring his visit.

viders to the Telecommi

nications Department due to various reasons. We tho-

es said. Connectivity is extreme

ers were asked by the pa-

nel to take more care to ex-

pand their networks in such remote districts. The members also flagged the



like the UNFOCC are designed for negotiation -from that of

most COPs focusies on coenting a "test", said Mr. Lago, noting that it was "borribly difficult" to an-aemble all countries and have them agree on one.

COP-21 Paris Astronment The Paris Agreement fronted out at COP-21 in 2015 is considered historic as a committed all countries, not just developed countures from exceeding 2 deturn of the century. Howey suggest that the impact of all countries' current com-

Two villagers killed by Maoists in . Sukma district

The Hindu Bureau

Two villagers were killed by Maoists in Sukona dis-trict of Chhattisgarh, the police said on Tuesday. With this, the total num-ber of civilians killed by Maoists in Chhattisgarh this year has touched 36. Sukma Superinsendent

Pojja, residents of the Nan-dapara area of Streetti vil-lage in the jurisdiction of lage in the jurisdiction of the Kerkaph policie dation, Mr. Chavan said. "The pol-ice have been verifying the inputs and taking legal ac-tion in this connection, be-talls of the incident will be shared later, he said.

Banking industry plays a key role in India's growth story, says President

that the Indian economy was among the world's fas-test-growing large econo-mies, and the banking in-dustry played a pivotal role in its growth story. Addressing the 120° foundation thy celebra-tions of City Union Bank (210°), to be said

(CUB) in Chennal, she said banks could play an impor-tant role in transforming MSMIs into engines of growth, and urged them to prioritise empowerment of farmers and the rural



sustainable and profitable The MSME sector was inportant for the economy, as it generated employand

tainable development. One of the critical pillars of the country's development country's development was financial inclusion. In a developing country such as India, a large population still lived in rural and semi-

remarkable progress in the field of financial inclusion. Out of its total network of branches across the coun-try, over 80% of them are in rural and semi-urban

in rural and semi-urban areas, she said.

The Government of In-dia has launched several key initiatives to boost il-nancial inclusion. The Prudhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yujana (PMIOY) enabled the opening of over 56 erore zero-balance bank accounts. Through schemes such as direct beerous zera-balance bank scomins. Through schoines such a direct be-side the second second second second and welfare benefits reached beneficiaries with-out lookage and intermedi-ult lookage and intermedireached beinchcaries with-out leakage and intermedi-aries. Mobile banking and Unified Paymento Inserface had faeilitated tightal rins sactions and strengthened the digital economy. Ms Murma calit.

Parliament panel seeks better rural mobile services

The Hindu Burgan

The Public Accounts Com-The Public Accounts Com-mittee (PAC) of Parliament, headed by Congress gener-al secretary (organisation) K.E. Ventigopal, has direct-ced india? leading telecom services providers to share details of steps taken to im-prove the network. Expressing consecritivity of er poor connectivity of the poor connectivity of the poor connectivity of the poor connectivity of

sides held the third india-singapore Ministerial Repurchable (ISMR) here on

to various reasons. We thereusibly swarmined the is-sus," Mr. Venugopad said at the conclusion of the meet-ing. The members pointed out that the problem was pronounced in border dis-tricts, especially in the northeastern States, sources said. ly poor in villages on the india Nepal Torder that many residents opted for Nepal networks, one of the

Akhtar voices pain over protests in Kolkata

The Hindu liureau

mired. He said that he had hever faced a communal backhash here. An event or-ganised by the West Bengal Urdu Academy was can-selled following proteins by fringe latamic groups over Mr. Akhna's participation.

"For all my life, I have faced this backlash for things I believe and speak. I

The Illindu Burgan President Droupadi Murmu said here on Tuesday that the Indian economy

President Broupadi Murmu, Finance Minister Nemata Sitheraman, and City Universitant Managing Director N. Kamahadi at the 120° foundation day relebrations of the bank in Chennal, axious

ment and drove innovation.

She said the role of banks had expanded beyond financial transac-tions and they offered a ve-riety of financial services,

All Bold, hot and sexy with on hint of limiting its 89 Pleads of state could have influenced social media division (f) 28 Use the method of brene and pound (4)

SUDOMU



FARTH

Celebrating Vinavaka

Celebrating Vinayaka is an ancient practice, and finds

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Singapore PM Wong begins India visit for partnership talks

Lawrence Wong will meet Modi, Jaishankar, Pradhan; External Affairs Ministry says the visit is a chance to review ties between the two sides

Kallol Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

ontinuing the celebratory activities to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of the city-state, arrived here on Tuesday.

The External Affairs Ministry said the visit would provide an opportunity to review the "robust" relation between India and Singapore.

During the three-day visit, Mr. Wong will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the two leaders will inaugurate Phase 2 of PSA Mumbai (Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal).

Mr. Modi visited Singapore in September 2024, when the two sides agreed to upgrade the partnership to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The visit by Mr. Wong will be observed keenly as it is one of the major incoming visits by a head of government after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India.



Singapore PM Lawrence Wong being welcomed by MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary upon his arrival in New Delhi. X/@MEAIndia

Mr. Wong will hold a closed-door meeting with Indian business leaders. He will also meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The celebratory events to mark the important diplomatic calendar started in January with the State visit by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

Mr. Wong is being accompanied by Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance Jeffrey Siow, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry Gan Siow Huang.

The visit by Mr. Wong comes weeks after the two sides held the third India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) here on August 13. The ISMR, which saw participation by multiple Ministers from both sides, firmed up the agenda of the visit of the Prime Minister of Singapore.

The ISMR was structured along six pillars – advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitisation, healthcare and medicine, skill development and sustainability – that gave a hint of the programme that Mr. Wong would follow during his visit.

- Visit marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.
- Opportunity to review the "robust" bilateral relationship.
- Comes soon after the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held on August 13, 2025.

2. High-Level Engagements

- Meetings Scheduled:
 - PM Narendra Modi
 - EAM S. Jaishankar
 - Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan
 - Indian business leaders (closed-door meeting).
- Event Inauguration:
 - Phase 2 of PSA Mumbai (Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal) with PM Modi.
- Delegation Accompanying PM Wong:
 - Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan
 - Acting Transport Minister
 - Senior Minister of State for Finance Jeffrey Siow
 - Minister of State in MFA and Trade & Industry Gan Siow Huang.

- Singapore as an Economic Partner:
- One of the largest sources of **FDI inflows into India**.
- Hub for Indian startups seeking Southeast Asia access.
- Singapore GIC, Temasek, and private players invest in Indian infrastructure, digital economy, and fintech.
- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:
- Elevated during PM Modi's 2015 visit.
- Includes defence cooperation, financial technology, smart cities, skill development, and connectivity.

- ISMR Agenda (Six Pillars)
- Advanced manufacturing
- Connectivity
- Digitisation
- Healthcare and medicine
- Skill development
- Sustainability
- (Reflects future directions of India-Singapore cooperation)

Historical Relations:

- Diplomatic ties established in 1965 after Singapore's independence.
- Singapore played a major role in ASEAN's outreach to India in the 1990s.

Defence & Security:

- Defence Cooperation Agreement (2003) and Bilateral Agreement for Navy Cooperation (2017).
- Regular joint exercises: SIMBEX (naval), Bold Kurukshetra (army).

Economic Ties:

- Singapore accounts for ~25% of India's cumulative FDI inflows (2000-2024).
- Major investments in IT parks, ports, startups, fintech, and renewable energy.
- Both nations signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in 2005.

Connectivity:

- Strong aviation linkages: direct flights from 15+ Indian cities.
- Maritime ties through ports like PSA International (in Mumbai & Chennai).

■ N 田本田本田田2田7



Kinetic India urges for uniform GST rate for bikes

Two-wheeler maker Kinetic India has urged for a common tax rate for bikes and continuance of comment tax rate for bites and continuarie of % GET for EW. The Gerier has priposed to reduce the number of slabs under the cloock and Servicee Tax, retaining the 5% and 18% slabs, while introducing a lower concessional rate below the and a high "ain rate" of 40%. The auto-industry is concerned that there could be higher lax rate for vehicles with higher engine power.

Adani Power gets nod to start **Dhirauli Mine operations**

Adam Power Ltd. said it has received approval from the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, to begin operations at the Dhizauli Mine in Singmula district of Modflys Phalesh. The Dhirauli Mins, owned by Mahan Energen Lid., a subsidiary of Adam Power, boasts a peak production capacity of 6.5 MTPA, including 5 MTPA from open-cast mining and the remaining from underground operations.

Blow for Tesla, BMW as panel for steep levies on luxury EVs

An Indian tax panel has proposed steep increases An mann tals parted has proposed neely intereases in consumer bevies on huxury electric care priced above \$40,000, a document showed, a more that could impact ashe of armore manner and a relative to the parted above \$40,000, a document showed, a more that Morrodon Roma, BMW and IVH. The key parted hashed with making rate suggestions to the 62° Council has backed everying cut to many firms but calls for rabing bases on electric case, and the call of the state of the call of the government document abowed, some

Apparel exporters meet FM. seek bailout package

The Hindu Bureau

With the U.S. accounting for 28% of the total Indian textile and apparel exports, the industry turged the government to come our with a ballout package, similar to the one announced during the CO-

anneanced during the CO-VID-16 pandemic.
Representatives of more than 20 textile associations and export promotion councils in family ladd met Driven Finance Mindster Nirmals Ritheraman in Chennal on Tuesday, and seight a vec year more of than for exportment of principal bank leans, 30% collateral-free loans under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) with 52% interest subscention, extension of remis-sion of duties and taxes on sion of duties and tosses or exported products (Both-THP) and rebate of estate view (BoSCTL) schemes heyoned Marsh 31, 2026, enhancement of value cap view (BoSCTL), and an thereses in ROFFEP rates by 28 to 29. Sought re-in-troduction of the Bosts market incomplete sufreme, while for all exports made value for all exports made

value for all exports made to U.S. effective August 27, 2028, in the form of transferable duty credit scrip, and re-introduction of interest equalization scheme for one and near ablement

PM Modi receives first Made in India Vikram 32-bit chip

Utilised for space flights, it is an advanced, refurbished version of the indigenously designed IG-bit VIKRAMIGOI microprocessor, used in the Avionics system of ISRO's launch vehicles

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIN

I nion Minister for Electronics & Infor-mation Technology Ashwini Valshnaw present-ed Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi a memento condra Modi a memente cen-taining the 'Made in India' Vikram 32-bit Processor Launch Vehicle Grade chip at the Semicon India 2028

Sarabhat Space Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and he Semiconductor Laboratory (K.L.), Chandigarh. Utilised for space flights,

is an advanced refu sished version of the indiamously designed in-bit /IKRAMI601 microprocesor, which has been used



Moment of pride: Unio the mumorito to the PM at the Semicum India 2029 on Toesday, PD

since 2009.
Other than the 'Made in India' chip, the memento also contained 31 more prototype chips created by academic institutions in-cluding IIT Jammu, IIT

T Ropar, among others.
In his address at the an-

rence, the Union Minister overseeing technology ob served that in the threeand-a-half years since the mangeration of the Indian Semiconductor Mission "the world is labeling at hi-dia wild confidence".

Elaborating on India's progress in the realm, My. Vaishnaw said construc-tion of five semi-conductor

tion of five semi-conductor units was going on at a ra-pid pase, with the glot line of one units completed. Two more units are sp-pected to start production un a few months from tow', he said. "Overall, foundation of the founda-tional industry is laid very Picting bodie as a po-prential manufactories but ternial manufactories but

terrial manufactoring hub to the participants from the semiconductor ecosys tem on Tuesday, Mr. Vaish-naw said, "In these uncer-tain times, you should come to India because our policies are stable, we have portant aspects of the me

SEBI unveils new framework for monitoring intraday position in index options

Prem Trust of India

SKBI has come out with a new framework for numi-toring intraday positions in equity index derivatives, a move aimed at pre-venting risks caused by

at #5,000 crore per entity in index options as against the end of day limit of \$1,500 order, the Securi-ties and Eachange Board of India said in a circular.

The gross intraday posi-tion has been restricted at troes, a move amond at pre-twenting risks caused by large exposures.

The net totrislay posi-tion has now been capped

to long and short posi-

ty on all trading days while putting a check on crea-tion of outsized intraday position on the expiry day for orderly trading." Addi-tionally, it provides predic-tability, operational clari-

tions, it added. The framework, effective from Getober 1, "would facilit fate market-making active" will be restricted to index options only, which generally dominate the deriva-tives landscape. In simple words, SKBI's new rule would oversee large trad-ing positions held by Indi-vidual entities during the

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Jain Irrigation plans to raise up to #500 cr via OIP

fain brigation Systems on Tuesday said it plans to raise up to \$500 crore by selling shares to institu-

Scandinavia's Tryg inks new €550-million deal with TCS

The Hindu Bureau

Tata Consultancy Services said it has expanded its partnership with Tryg, a Scandingvan non-life insu-

Scandinavian non-life fina-rance firm, by entering in-to a 4550 million digital pans seven years.

As part of the agree-ment, TCS would partner standards operations across three major markets viz-benmark, 5wedon, and seven the seven of the logical transformation to secolerate Tryc's growth. TCS would satisfied.

unified digital-first operat-ing model for managing business across the three key markets that Tryg op-erates in, consolidating functions across the re-gion. This will ensure scal-ability and expedite Tryg's go-to-market timeline.

'Auto loan short-term delinguencies up'

Auto-lean delinquencies increased for all ticket sizes barring those more than 130 lath as of June, year-on-year, according to data in 'flow India Lends' re-

in 'How India Lende' re-port by CRIV, a credit infor-mation company.

(PAR) For two the Hose in 19 to 180 days in June 19 days in June 19 to 180 days in June 19 da

ween \$5 lakh and \$10 lakh, too, increased to 0.92% in the reporting month from 0.73% in June 2023, in the ficket size between tiO lakh and ti5 lakh, the de-linquencies increased to



Even unrepored personal-toon regment any stress

trefault or delay in payments as a share of the advances climbed to 0.67%, even in the 15 lakh to 220 lakh ioan size from 0.87%.

in June 2023. Two-thirds of the origi-nations value as a share of the total loan value were in the 45 lakh to 415 lakh cate-gory, as per the CRIF data. Originations the total

amount as loans Stress was seen in the unsecured personal loan segment too, CRIF said.

Weathering many a storm



Harvest time: Workers put terrors into crates during a terriori flarvest in Adana, Southern Turkey. Like many of its Modifierraneas:

Honour for R. K. Swamv's Srinivasan K. Swamy

The Hindu Bureau

śrinivasan K. Swamy, executive group chairman, R. R. Swamy Lnt., will be in-ducted into the Asian Fed-

ducted frite the Asian Federisation of Advantaging Association (AFAA) fluid of Inaugural session of the presidence of AfAA (AFAA) fluid of Inaugural session of the presidence of AfAA (AFAA) bestower, this is the highest honour AFAA bestower once every two years and leader who has rande an indelible impression on the nature of the AFAA (AFAA) bestower of the AFAA (AFAA) bestower once every two years and indelible impression on the natural of the AFAA (AFAA) bestower of the AFAA (AFAA) bestower on the natural of the AFAA (AFAA) bestower of the AFAA (AFAA) bestored the AFAA (AFAA) be

munications) industry at a pan Asian level. Mr.Swamy, who is cur-rently President of the Advertising Agencies Associa-tion of India, has already held this position for three

'States to 'net gain' via GST rate rejig

Press Trust of India

States will remain 'net gainers' of the proposed GST rate rationalisation exercise with their CRT reve nue, including devolution

nue, including devolution, essimated to be over 144.10 lakh crore this fixed, as per 800 flowers the port. So the control of t

rationalisation of rates and Services Tax (GST) by mov ing to a two-tier tax struc ture of 5 and 18% and 40% rate for select few items.

N. Srinivasan named chairman of CSKCL

India Cements promoter N. Stinivasan is now the chairman of Chennal Sup-er Kings Cricket Limited

cate for select few items.
Currently, GSF is a fourine structure of 8, 12, 18,
min can be in the range of 120076 is levied on Konury
and demeric goods.

The selection of th



upcoming AGM.

The move comes a few months after Ultranech berying out Mr. Srinivasan and Me. Bupa's shares in India Cements in Decem-les 2024. ther 2024. (The writer is with The Hindu businessline)



Crypto derivatives are steading the spetlight in In-dia. Over the past year, trading in futures and op-

trading in futures and op-tions has surged to more than three times the vol-tumes of spot markets on local exchanges.
Due to this, global ve-mises see India as a must-via market, with plat-forms going compliance, frai ty bealising KVC AML, and aligning pro-thers with rothen cubes to capture the country's vast growth potential.

qualify for slab-based taxa-tion with loss offsets. over the past year, there has been a dramatic rise in the trading of crypto derivatives F&O, outpacing spot trades by a factor of three

Crypto's new hotspot: India drives

global surge in derivatives trading

Derivative trades do not involve an outright transfer of the underlying asset be-cause of which the profits trades by a fastor of three or more on major Indian platforms. The factors driv-ing this momentum are the ability of traders to amplify returns through leverage, sharp run-up in global crypto prices, and india's southing tax and regulator y environmental regulator y environmental regulator y environmental regulator to the property of the pro-teed of the pro-teed to the procan be declared as income

can be declared as 'income from other sources', often at a far lower offective tas reactive. Against the second of probts plus I per cent tax deducted at source (FDS), futures avoid TDS and pared to a much lower leverage in equity futures.

"Unlike sports buy and Hindu lusinessime."

ble capital-light exposure, hedging and advanced strategies. Traders use perpetuals for directional plays, options for definedrick structures, and basis risk structures, and basis, funding trades for arbi-trages. Leverage minimises, upfront capital and avoids TDS drag, while hedging al-lows more appliating and portfolio management, said Himanahu Marsellya, Founder and Chairman of CEPDAD, a tryptocurrent oxchange and blockchain reconstruct.

PM Modi receives first Made in India Vikram 32-bit chip

Utilised for space flights, it is an advanced, refurbished version of the indigenously designed 16-bit VIKRAMI601 microprocessor, used in the Avionics system of ISRO's launch vehicles

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

nion Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi a memento containing the 'Made in India' Vikram 32-bit Processor Launch Vehicle Grade chip at the Semicon India 2025 on Tuesday.

The microprocessor chips were designed and developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh.

Utilised for space flights, it is an advanced refurbished version of the indigenously designed 16-bit VIKRAM1601 microprocessor, which has been used



Moment of pride: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presenting the memento to the PM at the Semicon India 2025 on Tuesday, PTI

in the Avionics system of ISRO's launch vehicles since 2009.

Other than the 'Made in India' chip, the memento also contained 31 more prototype chips created by academic institutions including IIT Jammu, IIT Roorkee, IIT Dhanbad, NIT Durgapur, NIT Calicut and IIT Ropar, among others.

In his address at the annual semiconductor conference, the Union Minister overseeing technology observed that in the threeand-a-half years since the inauguration of the Indian Semiconductor Mission "the world is looking at India with confidence".

Elaborating on India's progress in the realm, Mr. Vaishnaw said construction of five semi-conductor units was going on at a rapid pace, with the pilot line of one unit completed.

Two more units are expected to start production "in a few months from now", he said. "Overall, foundation of the foundational industry is laid very well," he observed.

Pitching India as a potential manufacturing hub to the participants from the semiconductor ecosystem on Tuesday, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "In these uncertain times, you should come to India because our policies are stable, we have attempted to cover all important aspects of the manufacturing sector." At Semicon India 2025, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented PM Modi with the Vikram 32bit Processor Launch Vehicle Grade Chip.

Developed by:

Purpose: Designed for **space flights**, used in Avionics systems of ISRO's launch vehicles.

Evolution:

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh

It is an advanced refurbished version of the **16-bit VIKRAM1601** microprocessor.

The VIKRAM1601 has been in use in ISRO missions since the 1990s.

- **Technological Independence**: Marks progress in India's goal of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* in critical tech areas like semiconductors.
- **Pilot Line Progress**: 5 semiconductor units under construction; one pilot line completed; 2 more units to start production in the next few months.
- Academic Contribution: The memento also showcased 31 processor chips designed by IITs and NITs across India (IIT Roorkee, IIT Dhanbad, IIT Ropar, etc.).

VIKRAM1601: First Indian space-grade microprocessor, used in launch vehicle avionics.

Global Comparison:

Past Efforts: Previous attempts (e.g., Semiconductor Complex Ltd., 1980s) were disrupted by fire and lack of ecosystem.

- U.S. & Taiwan dominate advanced chip manufacturing (TSMC, Intel).
- China investing heavily under "Made in China 2025".
- India catching up via ISM (2021 onwards).

Over one billion people living with mental health conditions globally: WHO

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE SEPTEMBER 2

ONE IN every 100 deaths globally is a case of suicide, says new data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to the findings, an estimated 7,27,000 people across all ages lost their lives to suicide in 2021, with one death happening in over 20 suicide attempts. The WHO further says that more than a billion people are living with mental health conditions.

The new findings were published in two reports – 'World Mental Health Today' and 'Mental Health Atias 2024'. Over the next few weeks, WHO will also release country profiles as part of 'Mental Health Atias 2024', the first after Covid pandemic.

The most common mental disorders are anxiety and depressive disorders, which together accounted for more than two-thirds of all mental health conditions in 2021. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people living with mental disorders increased faster than the global population. As a result, the global age-standardised point prevalence of mental disorders reached 13.6%, which is 0.9% higher than a decade ago.

Anxiety disorders typically emerge earlier than depressive disorders, which are rare before 10 years of age. After the age of 40 years, depressive disorders become more prevalent than anxiety disorders, peaking between ages 50 and 69 years.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among young people across all countries and socio-economic

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- In 2021, 14% of the global population was estimated to be living with a mental disorder, as per the report
- Anxiety and depressive disorders together account for more than twothirds of all mental conditions
- Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people with mental disorders increased faster than the global population

- Younger adults (20–29 yrs) have seen the largest increase (1.8%) in prevalence since 2011
- Males more commonly have attention deficit/ hyperactivity disorder,
 - autism spectrum, idiopathic disorder of intellectual development
 - Females more often experience anxiety, depressive, eating disorders
 - In 2021, 57 million people had dementia

contexts. Yet, progress in reducing suicide mortality is too low to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDC) of a one-third reduction in suicide rates by 2030. Given current status, only a 12% reduction will be achieved by that deadline, according to estimates in the report.

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, told The Indian Express that suicides have multi-factorial triggers. "There is an interaction of personal (familial risk), vulnerable temperament and environmental risks such as early exposure to trauma, stressful environment, life events, isolation, lack of support, stigma, poor awareness of help, lack of availability and access to services. A combination of factors

increases the risk," she said.
"There is a need to have psy-

chiatric beds in general hospitals and tertiary care institutions, which can be staffed by well-trained multidisciplinary teams. While acute cases can still be treated at mental health institutions, the model of care must shift from custodial to therapeutic approaches. Bigger tertiary hospitals can even become academic training hubs," said Dr Murthy.

Psychiatric hospitals are often associated with poor living conditions and ill-treatment. This is because of the second challenge — scant funding.

The third challenge is the scarcity of trained mental healthcare personnel. Dr Bharat Vatwani, psychiatrist and Ramon Magsaysay award winner who set up Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, said the number of psychiatrists in the interior parts of the country was abysmal.

1. Suicide as a Major Concern

- 1 in every 100 deaths globally is due to suicide.
- In 2021, ~7,27,000 people died by suicide worldwide.
- Suicide occurs in over 20 countries every single day.

2. Prevalence of Mental Disorders

- Over 1 billion people live with mental health conditions globally.
- In 2021, 14% of global population lived with a mental disorder.
- Most common: Anxiety & depressive disorders (two-thirds of total cases).
- Global age-standardised prevalence: 13.6% (higher than 2010).

3. Trends (2011-2021)

- Number of people with mental disorders increased faster than population growth.
- Younger adults (20–29 yrs): largest increase in prevalence (+1.8%).
- Gender divide:
 - Males → ADHD, autism, intellectual disabilities.
 - Females → anxiety, depression, eating disorders.
- Dementia: 57 million cases reported in 2021.

- Causes & Triggers
- Multi-factorial risks (as per Dr. Pratima Murthy, NIMHANS):
 - Familial/genetic vulnerabilities.
 - Environmental stress (trauma, violence, disasters, loss of support).
 - Social issues: poor awareness, stigma, lack of access to services.

Health System Challenges

- Low investment in psychiatric infrastructure.
- Scarcity of trained mental health professionals.
- Shortage of psychiatric beds in hospitals.
- Existing hospitals still carry stigma → poor utilisation.

Global & National Concerns

SDG Target (2030)

- UN aims: one-third reduction in suicide rates.
- Current pace → only 12% reduction possible.

Challenges in India

- Shortage of psychiatrists in rural areas.
- Rising youth suicides due to exam stress, unemployment, family conflicts.
- Stigma continues despite awareness campaigns.



WHO World Mental Health Atlas (2001 onwards): first effort to globally quantify mental health resources.



India's National Mental Health Programme (1982): among the earliest in developing countries.



Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health (2018): called mental health a "human rights imperative."



SDG 3.4: targets reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, including mental illness.

Studying in US: How rules could change, and their impact

EDUCATION

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

THE UNITED States is preparing to cap the duration for which holders of student visas can stay in the country.

On August 28, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a draft regulation that would abolish the "duration of status" (D/S) system, which has for nearly half a century allowed F-1 academic students and J-1 exchange visitors to remain in the US for as long as they were enrolled full-time, and were compliant with visa rules.

The government has now proposed imposing a stay ceiling of four years, beyond which the student visa holder will be required to apply to the DHS for an 'extension of stay' (EOS).

There are more than a million international students in the US, a third of whom more than 330,000 — are from India.

Why does the DHS want to end D/S?

Currently, no expiry date is put on the I-94 records of students who come to the US on F-1 visas. (Form I-94 is used by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to record the arrival and departure dates of people visiting the US.)

Instead, their stay is marked as "D/S", which means they can remain for as long as they are enrolled full-time. Compliance is overseen primarily by universities through Designated School Officials (DSOs), and reported to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), the student tracking system of the DHS.

DHS is arguing that the D/S system needs to change. It has pointed to cases of students staying in the US for decades, moving from one program to another, and sometimes enrolling in language schools after obtaining advanced degrees.

In 2023, the suspected overstay rate among F-1 visa holders was estimated at 2.69%, a significant number given the very large number of F-1 and J-1 admissions to the US.

F-1 admissions had risen from about 260,000 in 1980-81 to more than 1.6 million in 2023; J-1 exchange visitor admissions had grown 250% since the mid-1980s to cross half a million in 2023.

These numbers "pose a challenge to the Department's ability to monitor and oversee" such visa holders, according to officials. It is argued that assigning fixed end dates will allow the government to reassess compliance more regularly and reduce opportunities for abuse.

What changes have been proposed?

- Students can stay for up to four years or until the end date of their program, whichever is sooner.
- pursue Optional Practical Training (OPT), or enrol for a PhD they would have to apply for an EOS with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under the DHS.

This would involve filling Form 1-539 (application to extend non-immigrant status),

paying fees, providing financial evidence, and submitting their biometrics. DHS may also call applicants for an interview.

- The grace period after completing studies would be reduced from 60 days to 30 days.
- Transfers between schools would be restricted; undergraduate students will have to complete an academic year before moving to another school; graduate students will not be able to change programs mid-course.
- Students will not be allowed to start a new degree at the same or lower level while

staying in F-1 status, which will effectively end the practice of doing a "second Master's".

The duration of language study will be capped at 24 months.

The change in the system will create a new layer of unpredictability, Houston-based immigration attorney Chand Parvatheneni told *The Indian Express*. "Until now, as long as the school was confirming someone was enrolled, USCIS did not get involved. Now USCIS could approve or deny."

Who will be impacted if rules change?

Students in short Master's programs may not be directly

affected, but anyone in a longer program or seeking work experience through OPT, will be impacted.

A two-year Master's followed by three years of STEM OPT already exceeds the fouryear cap. PhD programs, which often take 5-6 years, would almost certainly require one or more extensions.

The elimination of the second Master's route closes a popular fallback option for Indians who miss out on an H-1B visa (meant for speciality occupations).

What happens to students who are already in the US?

Nothing changes immediately.

The State Department and CBP will continue to admit students under the D/S system until a final rule is put in place. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has informed universities that this is currently only a proposal, and students need not take any action at this time.

If and when the rule is finalised, there will be transition provisions, DHS has indicated. Current students will be given fixed end dates based on their existing I-20s (certificate of eligibility for F-1 status issued by SEVP-certified schools), plus a one-time grace period. They would have to comply with the new framework thereafter.

When could this proposed rule come into effect?

Stakeholders have until September 29 to submit comments on the proposal, Comments on paperwork and SEVIS changes are due by October 27.

DHS must then review and respond to submissions before issuing a final rule. If the process moves forward, the changed rule could take effect in early or mid-2026.

What are universities and educators saying?

Universities and advocacy groups have sharply criticised the proposal.

The Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a body comprising 580 American college and university leaders (presidents and chancellors), has described it as "unnecessary", and warned it would worsen USCIS backlogs and deter students at a time when enrolments are still recovering from the shock of the pandemic.

Houston-headquartered RNLawGroup said "only USCIS, not the DSO, can grant legal approval" through Form I-539. It stressed that missing the four-year cap or grace period could trigger a three- or 10-year re-entry ban.

However, Parvathaneni said that despite the uncertainty, "the US is still the best country to get a very good, well-rounded education", and students who are already in the US should focus on compliance.

That said, Parvathaneni acknowledged that frequent regulatory changes were deterring some students from coming to the US,

CHARLES OF COLUMN

EVEL LUCE CALL

Current System (D/S): F-1 academic & J-1 exchange visas allow students to stay in the US as long as they are enrolled full-time and compliant with visa rules.

Proposed Change (Aug 28, 2025 Draft by DHS): Cap student visa duration to four years (or till end of program), replacing the open-ended "duration of status" system.

Why DHS Wants Change

- No expiry dates on current student I-94 records → harder to monitor overstays.
- Overstay rate among F-1 visa holders in 2023: **2.69**% (significant, given large numbers).
- F-1 admissions rose from **260,000 (1980–81)** to **1.6 million (2023)**.
- J-1 exchange admissions tripled since 1980s.
- Proposed cap aims to reduce overstays and increase compliance monitoring.

- Proposed Changes
- Stay limited to 4 years or program end, whichever is earlier.
- To extend stay → must apply for **Extension of Stay (EOS)** with USCIS (Form I-539, fees, biometrics, interviews).
- Grace period after studies cut from 60 → 30 days.
- Transfers between schools restricted:
 - Undergraduates: must complete 1 academic year before transfer.
 - Graduates: no mid-course transfer.
- Ban on second Master's program while on F-1.
- Language study capped at 24 months.

Impact of Rule Change

Students in short
Master's: not directly
affected.

Longer programs (PhD, STEM OPT): need extensions.

Indian students: lose fallback option of doing a second Master's if H-1B not secured.

More unpredictability: USCIS could approve or deny extensions.

India-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025

The 21st edition of the India–USA joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025 commenced in Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Scheduled from 1st to 14th
September 2025, this exercise
involves troops from the Indian
Army's Madras Regiment and the
US 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry
Regiment Bobcats of the Arctic
Wolves Brigade Combat Team, 11th
Airborne Division.

State Energy Efficiency Index 2024

The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024, released by the Union Ministry of Power, ranks Maharashtra first among 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) for fiscal year 2023-24.

2024

2070

The index evaluates energy efficiency across multiple sectors and provides insights to accelerate India's journey towards net-zero emissions by 2070 and a 45 per cent reduction in emissions intensity by 2030

SEEI 2024

The SEEI 2024 was developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). It covers seven demand sectors – buildings, industry, transport, electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), agriculture, municipal services, and cross-sector initiatives. The index uses 66 indicators to assess state performance comprehensively.

State Rankings and Categories

Maharashtra topped Group 1 states with over 15 million tonnes of oil equivalent energy consumption.

Andhra Pradesh led Group 2 (5–15 million tonnes), Assam topped Group 3 (1–5 million tonnes), and Tripura led Group 4.

Compared to 2023, the number of 'Front Runner' states reduced from seven to five.

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu retained this status.

Assam and Kerala were classified as 'Achievers' with scores between 50 and 60 per cent.

Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh fell under 'Contenders' scoring 30 to 50 per cent.

Key Sectoral Progress

- Twenty-four states have notified the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017.
- Thirty-one states implemented electric mobility policies.
- Fourteen states mandated EV charging infrastructure in buildings.
- Thirteen states promoted solar-powered agricultural pumps.
- All states and UTs prepared State Energy Efficiency Action Plans.
- Thirty-one states established State-Level Steering Committees on Energy Transition led by Chief Secretaries.



 India has recently secured government approval to bid for the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
 Ahmedabad has been chosen as the proposed host city due to its advanced sporting infrastructure and vibrant sports culture.
 This decision follows the Indian Olympic Association's endorsement and comes amid Canada's withdrawal from the bidding process.
• The final host will be decided by the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly later this year.

PRATUSH Mission

• India has developed a credit-card sized computer for space missions, designed to catch the extremely faint signals from the universe's earliest moments.

What is PRATUSH?

- Precise Radio Astronomy for Transient Universe Studies from High-lunar orbit (reported in concept stage).
- It envisions placing a payload in **lunar** orbit around the far side of the Moon.
- The mission harness the radio-quiet environment on the far side to conduct low-frequency radio astronomy free from Earth's radio interference and ionospheric distortion.



Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 202

According to the Air Quality Life Index, India is the second most polluted country in the world.

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) is developed by Professor Michael Greenstone and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

It translates air pollution levels into their impact on life expectancy, offering hyper-local data to help users see how much longer people could live if pollution met various standards.

It supports EPIC's Clean Air Program, which aims to inform policy and public action with high-quality pollution data

Key Findings of recent report

South Asia, including
Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and
Pakistan, remains the most
polluted region.

• Bangladesh is the worst globally, with air 12 times dirtier than WHO limits.

China, though still above WHO limits, has cut its pollution by 40.8% since 2014 through aggressive policies, including traffic restrictions, cleaner heating, and reduced coal use.

North America saw major pollution spikes in 2023 due to wildfires, and Bolivia became the most polluted Latin American country.

In Africa, pollution now poses a greater life expectancy threat than HIV/AIDS or malaria in countries like Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- Status In India
- Air pollution is India's most severe health threat, reducing average life expectancy by 3.5 years nearly twice the impact of malnutrition and over five times that of unsafe water and sanitation.
- All 1.4 billion Indians live in areas exceeding the WHO's safe PM2.5 limit (5 μg/m³).
- The worst-hit region is Northern India, especially Delhi-NCR, where residents could lose up to **8.2 years of life**.
 - Other states like Bihar (5.6 years), Haryana (5.3 years), and Uttar Pradesh (5 years) also show severe losses.
- 46% of Indians live in areas that exceed even India's own weaker PM2.5 limit of 40 $\mu g/m^3$.

Suggestions

The AQLI 2025 highlights the urgent need for strong, evidence-based policies to combat air pollution.

It stresses that cleaning the air is vital not just for the environment, but for extending human life.

The report calls for expanding clean energy, stricter emission norms, and investment in green infrastructure, while promoting public awareness and policy action to address this growing health crisis.

Pollutant	Averaging Time	2005 AQGs	2021 AQGs
PM _{2.5} , μg/m ³	Annual	10	5
	24-hour ^a	25	15
PM ₁₀ , μg/m ³	Annual	20	15
W 34	24-hour ^a	50	45
O ₃ , μg/m ³	Peak season ^b	-	60
	8-hour ^a	100	100
NO ₂ , μg/m ³	Annual	40	10
	24-hour ^a	-	25
SO ₂ , μg/m ³	24-hour ^a	20	40
CO, mg/m ³	24-hour ^a	=	4

Aadi Vaani: Al Translator for Tribal Languages

The Union government launched the beta version of **Aadi Vaani**, India's First Alpowered Translator for Adivasi languages, to strengthen communication and capacity-building in tribal districts.

Purpose: Translate speech and text between Hindi, English, and six Adivasi languages: Bhili, Mundari, Gondi, Santali, Kui, and Garo.

• BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) As a National Language Translation Mission, BHASHINI under Digital India, uses artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) to make digital content and services accessible in multiple Indian languages.

Word of the day

Salacious:

suggestive of or tending to moral looseness; characterised by lust

Synonyms: lustful, lewd, obscene, raunchy

Usage: Do not indulge in such salacious gossip.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/salaciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /səˈleɪ.ʃəs/

