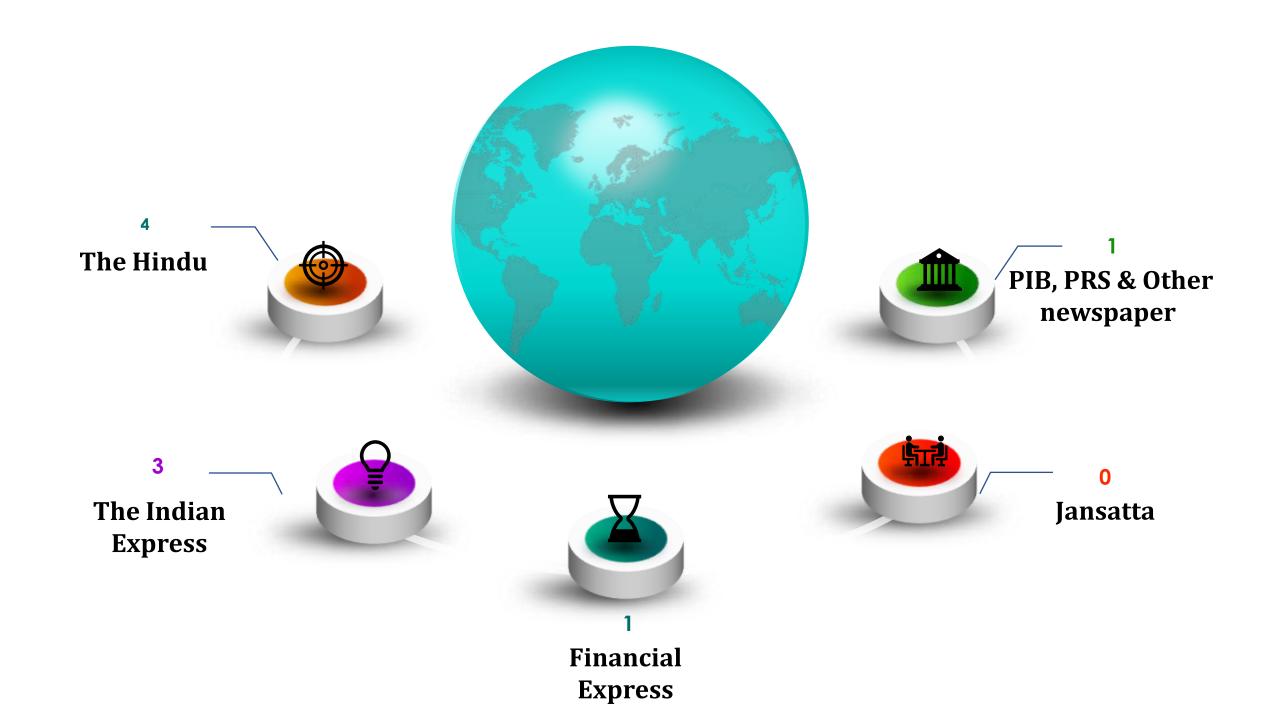
Daily Current Affairs



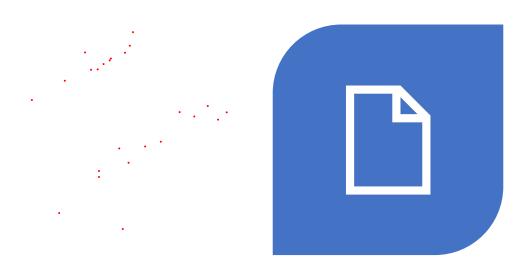








Download class24





PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ



"Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow."

- Anita Desai

Correct & Company of Separate & Horizont & Making & State & Making



Vladimir Putin to visit India in December NEWS > PAGE I





CJI administers oath to two new SC judges

In Sirsa town, Nikki Bhati's trial by fire A death and allegations of domestic violence



LEADING BY EXAMPLE Harmanpreet helps India edge past China



8 States propose a GST cess on sin. hexury goods

NEW SIDEASS in the run-say to the Goods and feerbars. The Council remeding, a group of eight Gates proposed a cost to the tooled on an and leasity ground over sent above the proposed 40% GST rate. Without such a case, the reverse tosses from the Centre's proposed rate rationalisation, which they enthropism as at least 1579 woodd "drastically" hampe expenditure on developme they warned in PAGE 6.

Women scientists await funds for research

Almost five morning after beir selected for the DST Biocare none of the 75 candidates to received the funds promised nor extense. The biff, which is under Ministry of Science and echnology, has been running



Ranil discharged from hospital a week after arrest

consistent of Sri Larka Ranii Wickremesingle was on Friday discharged from the Colornic Mational Hospital, where he was treated for nearly a week, following his resulth grounds, a page 12

Explosives recovered from Maoist dump'

orests of Harayanpur district escape, is made a

Panel to probe Vaishno Devi route landslip

BRINAGAB

RBITAGAR
Facing growing criticism
over the reported death
of 34 pagerms in a levelally on
the Valahos Devi pagermageroute, farmine and Kashmir,
Lieutenant Governor Manaj linha on Prislay constitu

GDP growth quickens to five-quarter high of 7.8%

Manufacturing, construction, and services sectors propel growth, defying RBI predictions; the momentum will continue, says CEA Anantha Naucswaran, seeking to allay fears over U.S. tariffs

ndia's economic growth rate in the first quarter (April June) of the current financial year quickented to a five quarter high of 7.8%, driven by strong performances by sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and services, government data

showed.
Gress formestic Product
(GEP) growth, as shown by
dust released by the Minisdust released by the Minisgramme Implementation
on Friday, was previously
quicker during JamanyMarch 2004. The
Ministry of the State of the
higher than the 6.5% predted by the Reservo Rank
guest 6.

gust 6.
The government also sought to ease worries about growth slowing in on its imports from India.

Some impacts expected "We do see the momen-rum continuing," Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V

Present perfect, future tense nerry arrow F. 856 to apple home 2020.

"There will be some im-pact on domestic spending because of uncertainties in

had in degree the proposed parallel the export actors, which are affected because of exposure to the U.S., as those stone regarding their labour force?

That we die capter the "Hat we die capter the very modern tature," Mr. Nagowaran added.

"Overall aggregate demy abould hold up specifically because of the government's decision in cales."

meeting would reverse it-self well before the upcom-

Nageswaran expressed confidence that the temporary dip in con-amer demand in the run-up to the GST Council

Mr. Nageswaran also said the government was retaining its growth esti-mate for the full financial

Mixed sector trends Growth in the manufactur-ing sector quickened to 7.7% in the April-June 2028

this was also faster than the 4.8% growth the sector naw in the January-March 3038 quarter.

The construction sector grew at 7.6%, on a high base of 10.1% in Q1 of last

year.
The Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and Other Utility Services sector, bower.

Rupee crashes to an all-time low of 88.09 against USD

MUNIANA

Rupee fell to 488.00 against the

1.5. dofter, responding to the

additional terms imposed by

the U.S. The domestic currency

may depreciate further to

889.5.490 in the coming weeks,

analysis satis, a page 5.4

IO.28 in the same quarter of the previous year. The quarter's CDP growth was also propelled by the services sector, agree 9.3%, saver than the 6.6% ascer in the same quarter of last year, or the 7.5% growth in the inner. Within this, the Public Administration, Defence and Other Services acctaring to a three-year high of 9.2%, conting on top of a 9% growth in QI of the previous sector of great and Professional Services sector of great at 3.9%, or size of the previous sector of great at 3.9%, or size of the previous sector of great at 3.9%, a 10.2% in the same quarter

vices sector grew at 9.9%, a wo-year high. Similarly, the Trade, Ho-

tels, Transport, and Com-munication Services sector grew at 6.6%, also a two-year high.

PM vows India will become 3rd largest economy, weeks after Trump's 'dead' swipe

Against the backdrop of trade-related uncertainties with the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Medi on Frickey made a strong case for investing in india, declaring that fire in-tions are seen only will "very seen" be the third largest seen" be the third largest

conomy in the world.

Addressing the India-japan Economic Forum in Tokyo, Mr. Modi said that Tokyo, Mr. Modt said that most Japanese companies find India attractive, ad-ding that India is a "apring-broard" in access the Global South. Welcoming the vis-ring Indian Prime Mini-ter, Japan announced a

ter, japan announced a private investment target of Vi0 trillion for India over the next decade.

"lapanese companies have invested more than \$40 billion in India. In the last two years alone, there has been private investcapan bank of Internation al Cooperation) says India is the most 'promising' destination JETRO (Japan External Trade Organisation) says 80% of compa-nies want to expand in In-dia, and 72% are already profitable," the Prime Mi-nister said. "Which neems, in India, capital does not just gress, it multiplies."



the India-Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo un Priday, PT

high tariffs and cited its purchases of Russian crude as his main reason for imposing the additional penalty tariff. He said: "I penalty tariff. He said: "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together."

Joint Al Initiative
After the India-Japan Anmust kummit, Japanuse
Prime Minister Shigeru Isha said the two comunities
has discussed a "wide
range of areas, including
defence and the economy". They banched an inthe Japan Al Initiative asthe state of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said of the said

of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of the said of ty initiative to promote supply sham resilience in sectors like pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and new and emerging technologies.

The interaction also saw

terprises Forum to streng-then cooperation between SMRs in both nations.

Financing green energy Noting that India has en-joyed "deep economic ties with Japan", btr. Modi held up their collaborations in the main sector as the tho

cluding several MoUs, such as the agreement on a Joint Credit Mechanism aimed at financing green energy security cooperation, and cooperation in nuneral resources. An action plan was adopted to promote the two-way exchange of five lakh people between India and Japan from India

Bihar SIR: court to hear plea to extend claims deadline

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELIH

The Supreme Court on Fri-day has agreed to hear pleas from political par-ties, including the Rashtri-ya Januta Dal (IJD) and Communist Party of India Marsist-Leninist) Libera-ion, seeking an extension of the September 1 dea-dline to file claims and oboffine to file claims and ob-jections on the draft electo-ral roll, published during the organisy special inten-sive revision (SIII) exercise in Bihar.

in Bihar.

The parties have urged the court to direct the Idection Commission (RC) to extend the last date to deptember 15 to provide more time for excluded voturs who carn now submit claims using their Addinar cards, as well as those hit be severe funds. The 8C by severe floods. The SC will hear the plea on Sep-

tember 8.

The oral mentioning was made before a Bench besided by Justice Surya Kant by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Nebu Bathi, appearing for the petitioner NGO Associa tion for Democratic Re forms, on Friday.

Increase in claims



August 22 permitting the filing of claims along with Aadhaar card, the number of claims has doubled from 14,208 on August 22 to 1,76,948 electors on August 27 in only five days, Howevecept the claims only with the Aaslhaar card," the RJD

The CPI(M-L) said booth-level officers (BLOs) were insisting on the sub-mission of Form 6 for re-inclusion into the fither elec-toral roll, though the form is meant for new voters or

is meant for new voiers or those transferred from one constituency to another. The RD said claims and Audhuser cards collected by its booth-level agents (SLAM) and submitted to BLOs are acknowledged, but not reflected in the ECs thatly elementary in the ECs thatly elementary in the The parties argued that claims have increased sig-nificantly over the last week. Since the last order of the Supreme Court on

Border districts account for most EC notices

started issuing notices this week to voters in Bihar whose documents have not been found satisfactory during the ongoing 5th, officials told Phe Plints that most of these cases have been identified in hunder districts of the State, a PAGE 4

"This is to start a wrong narrative that the BLAs of political parties are not cooperating and filing claims..." It said.

The party said it had

ried to counter the BC's
"narrative" by posting the
BLOs' acknowlestgements
on social media on August 28. "The EC was also marked on the post. Ho-wever, the EC did not corwewer, the EC did not cor-rect its daily status re-port... The status report for the status report feet three claims against ED, when the number of claims filled by HiAa is sig-material. The IJD added that out of the 7.2 crore electors who had submitted their were included in the draft roll, many were yet to sub-mit only of the II indicative documents.

Five dead and 11 missing as heavy rain wreaks havoc in Uttarakhand

The Hinds Bureau NEW DELIG

rive people died and it went missing after torren-tial rain wreaked havoc in several parts of Uttarak-hand on Friday. Eleven districts have issued travel ad-visories for pilgrims and tourists as the India Metecorological Department OMD) issued orange and red sierrs for different plac-es in the Himalayan hill

State. The downpour which started on Thursday triggered landstilde in Churto,
it, belar, Barkaprayag and
laggathwar districts, camting heavy losses to both
public and private infrarecture. Several houses
were stranged and people
were stranged and people
were stranged on roads.

Heavy damage According to the State Disaster Management Author-ity (SDMA), a house and owshed were buried on der debris in Mopata vil-lage of Chumoli district, killing a couple while another couple were

another couple were pulled out. The lincesant rain and landslides in the landsc-dar area of Rudraprayag caused heavy damage in more than half a dozen vil-lages, said the SDMA. One-worman died in a rain-rela-nal heidelent while sight



labourers.
"The worst-hit villages are Dungar village of Che-nagasth, where some pec-ple are missing after a land-slide hit houses. A similar slitation was reported in faula-Bhadeth village," said Prateck Jain, District Ma-gistrate, Budraprayag. A landdide also fut the

A landside also fit the Kodarnath valley in Rudra-prayag, and a bridge at Lawara village was swept away. Even the Alakinanda river had crossed the dan-ger mark in the district, creating a flend-like situa-tion in the ravines on both sides of basheth, Rugaddhar

rain damaged nearly half a dozen houses in Pausari gram panchayat in Kapkot area, killing two women and leaving three others

fected areas said all necessary steps are boing taken to provide immediate assistance and shift affected residents to safe locations. Tourne of the National Disaster Response Force (MDHP), Nade Dianster Response Force (SDRP), the police, and enyenue offi fected areas said all neces

in relief work.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over the loss of life and ordered the district immediate relief and res-

Utrarakband has been one of the worst disaster-bit States in India during the ongoing monsoon seathe origining monocon season. Earlier this meanth, flash floods washed away the entire tharait village in Uttarakaath. Sixty-eight people are still missing in Dharait and neighbouring Harait, where an Army carp bore the brant of the flood flay.

GDP growth quickens to five-quarter high of 7.8%

Manufacturing, construction, and services sectors propel growth, defying RBI predictions; the momentum will continue, says CEA Anantha Nageswaran, seeking to allay fears over U.S. tariffs

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

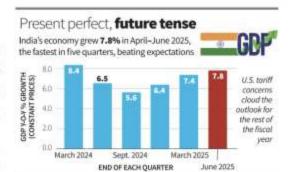
ndia's economic growth rate in the first guarter (April-June) of the current financial year quickened to a five-quarter high of 7.8%, driven by strong performances by sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and services, government data showed.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, as shown by data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday, was previously quicker during January-March 2024. The 7.8% growth recorded in Q1 of this financial year was higher than the 6.5% predicted by the Reserve Bank of India as recently as August 6.

The government also sought to ease worries about growth slowing in the coming quarters as a result of the 50% tariffs imposed by the United States on its imports from India.

Some impacts expected

"We do see the momentum continuing," Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said during a press briefing following the release of the



government data.

"There will be some impact on domestic spending because of uncertainties in the export sectors, which are affected because of exposure to the U.S., as those units may take some decisions regarding their labour force."

"But we do expect the impact on demand to be of a very modest nature," Mr. Nageswaran added.

"Overall aggregate demand growth in the economy should hold up specifically because of the government's decision to lower the indirect tax rates."

Mr. Nageswaran expressed confidence that the temporary dip in consumer demand in the runup to the GST Council meeting would reverse itself well before the upcoming festival season.

Mr. Nageswaran also said the government was retaining its growth estimate for the full financial

Mixed sector trends

Growth in the manufacturing sector quickened to 7.7% in the April-June 2025 quarter, coming on top of a high base of 7.6% in the same quarter of the previous year.

This was also faster than the 4.8% growth the sector saw in the January-March 2025 quarter.

The construction sector grew at 7.6%, on a high base of 10.1% in Q1 of last

The Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and Other Utility Services sector, however, saw growth slow down sharply to 0.5%, from

Rupee crashes to an all-time low of 88.09 against USD

MUMBAI

Rupee fell to ₹88.09 against the U.S. dollar, responding to the additional tariffs imposed by the U.S. The domestic currency may depreciate further to ₹89.5-₹90 in the coming weeks. analysts said. » PAGE 11

10.2% in the same quarter of the previous year.

The quarter's GDP growth was also propelled by the services sector. which on a combined basis grew 9.3%, faster than the 6.8% seen in the same quarter of last year, or the 7.3% growth in the immediately preceding quarter.

Within this, the Public Administration, Defence and Other Services sector saw the growth accelerating to a three-year high of 9.8%, coming on top of a 9% growth in O1 of the previous year.

The Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services sector grew at 9.5%, a two-year high.

Similarly, the Trade, Hotels, Transport, and Communication Services sector grew at 8.6%, also a twoyear high.

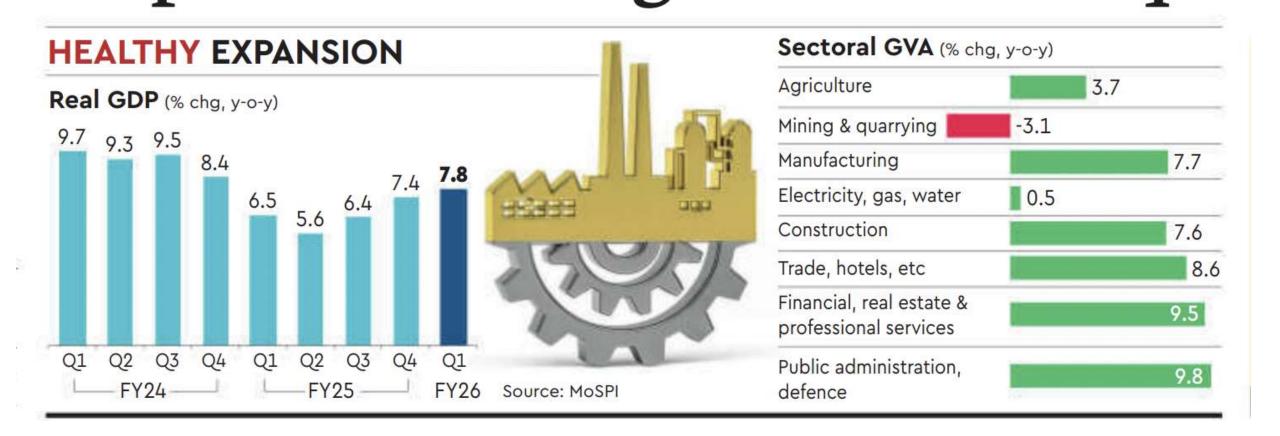
- GDP Growth Rate
- India's economy grew **7.8% in Q1 (April–June 2025)**, the **highest in five quarters**.
- Growth was driven by manufacturing, construction, and services sectors.
- This exceeded the **RBI's prediction of 6.5%** made on August 6, 2025.
- Sectoral Contributions
- Services Sector: Grew at 9.3%, led by Public Administration, Defence & Other Services (9.8%).
- **Construction Sector**: 7.6% growth (slightly lower than last year's 10.1%).
- Manufacturing Sector: 7.7% growth (higher than 7.6% last year).
- Electricity, Gas, Water Supply, Utilities: Slowed to 4.5%.
- Financial, Real Estate, Professional Services: 9.5% growth (two-year high).
- Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication: 6.8% growth.

- Government's View
- **CEA Anantha Nageswaran** said growth momentum will continue.
- Warned of some impact on domestic spending due to **U.S. tariff uncertainties** on Indian exports.
- Government confident of sustaining demand due to **indirect tax rationalisation** and strong festival season demand.
- Rupee Decline
- Rupee crashed to an **all-time low of ₹88.09 per USD** after the U.S. announced 50% tariffs.
- Analysts warn it may further weaken to ₹89.5–₹90/USD

India's Growth Pattern

- Since 1991 reforms, services sector has been the **largest contributor** to GDP (~50–55%).
- Manufacturing has struggled due to **infrastructure & export challenges**, though schemes like **PLI** aim to boost it.
- Global Comparison
- India remains the **fastest growing major economy** (ahead of China's ~4.5–5% growth).
- However, heavy dependence on services makes growth vulnerable to **global demand shocks**.
- Rupee Depreciation Trend
- Rupee has depreciated steadily since 1991, driven by **current** account deficits and oil imports.
- The recent fall is aggravated by U.S. tariffs and capital outflows.
- Impact of U.S. Tariffs
- U.S. is India's largest export destination (~17% of exports).
- Tariff hikes on sectors like textiles, gems, machinery may affect jobintensive industries.

- Consider the following statements regarding India's recent GDP growth trends (Q1 2025):
- India's GDP growth of 7.8% was the highest in five quarters, surpassing RBI's prediction.
- The services sector grew slower than the construction sector.
- The rupee touched an all-time low of ₹88.09/USD in August 2025 due to U.S. tariffs.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3



■ 「● 雑本品を用品で展す



Army, ITBP conduct firepower drills in Arunachal Pradesh

Troops of the Indian Army's Spear Corps and the India-Tibetan Border Folice (FTHP) undertook four days of frepower drills under studied bestelnield conditions in central Armachal conditions in central Armachal conditions in central Armachal conditions in central Armachal with the conditions of the Armachal conditions of the Armachal conditions of the Armachal conditions of the Armachal conditions to the conditions to the armachal conditions of the A

Against bad-mouthing people in high offices, says Mayawati

Taking strong exception to derogatory remarks betry mude publicly about people holding high being mude pursuity about people holding high positions in politics and government, hishigan Samaj Parry (BSP) president und former Utue Pealesh Child Ministee Mayawati on Friday blamed eelf-interests of political parties for the distanting trend. The RSP whier's comment is believed to be aliading to the "abuntee works" directed at Prime Minister Parendra Modi and his directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and na mother at an Opposition rally in Mhar's harbitanga, "The politics of all parties should be in the interest of the country and crores of poor and seminon people, based on ideas and, principles as per the Constitution, which has not been area in the last few years," she said on X.

Bihar Cabinet approves new aid scheme to help women start businesses

One woman from each family will be given 710,000 as first instalment, which will be released from next month. CM underscores that it will empower women, create better tob opportunities

Amii Bhelari



ter stx months, an additional \$2 lakh will be additional 42 lash will be given as grant to the wo-men entrepreneurs. The precess of releasing the first instalment will begin from September and It will bank accounts of the wo-men, he said. Clearing the scheme was the only agords of the Gabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister blish kit.



Enflowing evaluation the entrepreneurial months, an additional ₹2 lakh will be given as grant to the women AMBIT CAL MEENA

his social media post on X, Mr. Kumar exuded con-fidence that the implemen-tation of the scheme would not only further strong then women but also help in creating "better employ-

dies in 2006 and 2007 res-pectively for women's pol-itical empowerment". He added that the State government also implemented prohibition in 2016 in response to wo-men's demand. "The ban (on liquor) is quite escoss-ful in the State besides it helped a lot in improving women's lot," Mr. Meens

He also pointed out ma-He also pointed out ma-ny government schemes lauriched to "educationally empower" women, espe-cially girls. Schemes were lauriched to provide school uniforms, bisveles, and erholarishps at Glassen 10, 12, and grashatton levels to git students, he added.

J&K L-G forms panel to probe landslip on Vaishno Devi route

Peersada Ashiq



the "reasons behind the tragic incident near Adh-kuwart" in Beast distinct's

Katra.

The committee was di-rected to examine in detail the causes and point out es in the form of rescue and relief measures underand relief measures under-taken, and suggest stan-dard operating procedures said measures for preven-ing the recurrence of such incidents in future, a go-vernment apokesperson said. The committee will

said. The committee will submit its report within two weeks to the L-G. Earlier, the board said the location where the dis-site rook place was near indrapeaths. Bhojanakya



on the old track and was one of the safest locations on the pilgrim route.

"However, nature's fury struck in the form of a aud-den, severe cloudburst in this stretch of around 50

The board claimed that the weather conditions were "clear and conducive were "clear and conducive for pilgrimage on August 26 morning until around 10 a.m. sharing which time the yatta proceeded nar-mally, so much as that oven helicopter services were operating seamless-ly". The board said it mon-tored weather updates closely and as even as the was received, registration

Petitions received under T.N.'s 'Ungaludan Stalin' programme found floating in Vaigai river

The Hindu Bureau

Petitions received from the public under the 'Ungalu-dan Stalln' programme were found floating in Vaigatives at Thirupuvanam in Tamil Nadu' Sivaganga district on Friday. 'Ungaludan' Stalln' camps are being held accose Tamil Nadu with a focus on receiving wife.

focus on resolving grie-vances related to El depart-ments, including patra transfers and name corre tions in electricity cards and ration cards, among others. In rural areas, pesitions are being received for 46 services through the departments.

departments.

In Sivaganga district, thousands of people sub-mitted petitions at camps held in the Thirupuvanum.



ter M.K. Stalin had an-nounced that action would be taken on the petitions within 45 days, many per-ple had been submitting pte had been submitting petitions at the camps with the hope of a speedy reso-lation of their grievances. Against this backdrop, the public were shucked to

name correction. The documents had the signatures of officials, including the Village Administrative Of-ficer and Revenue Inspector.

Collector's response

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla flags 'decline in standards of debate'

The Hinda Bureau

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Hir-la on Friday expressed con-curn over the lack of mea-ningful discussions in the

ningful discussions in the Lock Nabha, Raiya Nabha, and Stare Legislative Speaking at the two-day Septiality of Conference of Reheathed Casten and of Parliamont and State and Crision Turritory Legisla-tures, which began on Fri-widespread Concern over the language used and the conference of the conference of the guide such differentees. guide much deliberations.

'Rise above party lines' "In parliamentary commit-tees, the language, thoughts, and viewpoints of the members are always above party politics," Mr. Birla said, He urged law-makers to rise above party

Ice Age-era dragon fly rediscovered

interest. "If we want to take the country forward, we must improve the social and concernic conditions of Dalite, tribule, and other marginalised sections. To build an equity-based na-tion, we must ensure that their rights are upheld in line with their needs." Mr. Birla pointed out.

move out of the State in search of job opportunities

out of compulsion. Heat basers will be developed in

hazars will be developed in villages and towns to boose the asles of the products. Villages and the products. The products of the products of the construction of the products of the grant the file, food given as grant. But, Meens made it seared to find the products of the tears of the products of the pro-tears of the products of the seared of the products of the seared of the products of the kind of grant or economic skind of grant or economic skind of grant or economic skind. The like is to gree mote and help those we must where sant to become

First meet outside Deflut It is for the first time that the conference is being or-ganised outside Deflut. The first conference of Chairpersons of Committees on the Welfiere of 5Gs and 5Ts was held in 1976 in New Delht. Subsequent confe-

rences took place in 1979, 1983, 1987, and 3001. Speaking on the occa-sion, Oslisha Chief Minister Mohan Majils said 40% of the State's population be-longed to Dalit and tribal

SP and Congress conspired to change demography in U.P.'s Sambhal: Adityanath

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minis-ter Yogi Adityanath on Pri-day alleged that in Samb-hai, Hindus were selectively targeted under successive Samajwadi Parsuccessive Samajwadi Far-ty and Congress govern-tions in the past through "conspiracies aimed at re-ducing the Hindu popula-tion and alsering the de-mography of the area". Sit, Adityanada's remark

came after a three-mem-ber panel on Thursday met him and submitted its re-port on the violence that erupted near the Shahi Ja-na Masjid in Sambbal on November 24 during a sur vey of the mosque, claim-ing four lives and injuring

veral others. "Today, the double-engine government will not telerate such divisive poli-ics, anyone attempting to



raphy will have to migrate from the State," Mr. Aditya-nath said during the inaug-uration and foundation stone laying of 186 deve-lopment projects worth to/o crore in Pratapgarh. He rermed INDIA blos

an "anti-india group".
"The Opposition is flus-tered seeing development works. The Congress and Samajwali Purty's INDIA alliance is actually an anti-fudia alliance. It under"promoted malias, encour-aged hooliganism, and enatched the rights of the

Remarks against PM On the derogatory remarks made against the Prime Mi-ments relact. "Such state-ments reflect the Opposi-

14,000 new polling booths in Bengal for next year's election

Shiv Sahay Singh

The office of the Chief Klex torial Officer (CRO), West Bergial, an Fritaly hold a meeting with representa-tion of the state, where the representatives were the representatives were ment of polding booths. As petiting booth, will have of 1,800 voters who were emission of a polling booth emission at a polling booth emission at a polling booth additional 14,000 prilling booths in the State. GDO Marred Agarval said admits witten edgettims toral Officer (CEO), West

admit written objections

and complaints regarding the new arrangement of additional polling booth till September 8.

Trinamool Congress leader and State Minister Aroop Biswas participated in the meeting on behalf of the meeting on behalf of the ruling party. "We have no objection to the rear-rangement of bueths. We have said that the addition-

have each that the additional bearing should be in the same polling station. Veters should not have to go two killometres away to you." Mr. Biswas said.

The number of polling bootles in the State is about \$0.655. If 13.805 hootbe are added to this, the total number of bootles will be \$4.807.

Elusive species Crocothemis erythraea spotted in high-altitude regions of southern Western Ghats: it has previously been overlooked owing to its resemblance to Grocothemis servilia

donatologists has reconfirmed the presence of the shade dragonfly species of the southern Wester, thats. The species had previously been misidentified or overlooked in this region



servilla is common across towland areas, C. erythrees is known from high-elevation hattests in parts of Europe and Asia, including the Himaleyas. According to Kalosh Nadastvan, the lead author of the present study

out later removed from subsequent checklists following acepticism over the species' identification This prompted multiple field expeditions between 2010 and 2021 in high-altitude sites across he Western Chats. The study confirmed tion the Western Chats

that the Western Ohars heats both the apocies. The researchers explain that C. erythreave estimated soniforn India during the Bishinson Ise Age, when corler climatic conditions allowed temperate fains to estimate the conditions of the conditions of the con-mitted of the conditions. published in the pathished in the international Journal of Odonatelagy, photographs of a potential C. explusion specimen were taken from the Munnar high ranges during an annual faunal survey in 2018. These records were cited in a

Arms and explosives recovered from 'Maoist dump' in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar

Priday said it had reco-

cells, stetemators and car-

dex were seized," Narayan-pur Superintendent of Pol-ice Robinson Guria told

reporters. Mr. Ouria said the oper-

The Massists managed to occape, leaving behind the dump, occape, leaving behind the dump, managed to the dump, pulse and they had received information that a 7-year-old grossry slop a sharp-edged weapon by unidentified persons, villagers told the police that had been abducted and later killeds. The mustice eight and had been abducted and later killeds. The mustice eight and the behind the police to suspect a Manist angle.

STREET, WHITE THE PARTY OF THE

Bihar Cabinet approves new aid scheme to help women start businesses

One woman from each family will be given ₹10,000 as first instalment, which will be released from next month; CM underscores that it will empower women, create better job opportunities

Amit Bhelari PATNA

he Bihar Cabinet on Friday approved the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana to provide financial aid to one woman from every family in the State to start a business of her choice. Under the scheme, a woman from every family would be provided ₹10,000 as the first instalment.

Chief Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said, "Following the evaluation of the performance of women's entrepreneurial ventures after six months, an additional ₹2 lakh will be given as grant to the women entrepreneurs." The process of releasing the first instalment will begin from September and it will be transferred into the bank accounts of the women, he said.

Clearing the scheme was the only agenda of the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who announced the Cabinet's decision through



Clearing the scheme was the only agenda of the Cabinet meeting chaired by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday. FILE PHOTO



Following evaluation of the performance of the entrepreneurial ventures after six months, an additional ₹2 lakh will be given as grant to the women

AMRIT LAL MEENA Chief Secretary

his social media post on X.

Mr. Kumar exuded confidence that the implementation of the scheme would not only further strengthen women but also help in creating "better employment opportunities" so that people will not have to move out of the State in search of job opportunities out of compulsion. *Haat* bazars will be developed in villages and towns to boost the sales of the products.

Responding to a query on whether the women entrepreneurs will have to return the ₹10,000 given as grant, Mr. Meena made it clear that "they [entrepreneurs] do not need to return it [to the government] as the amount given to them [entrepreneurs] is a kind of grant or economic aid". "The idea is to promote and help those women who want to become

entrepreneurs on their own," the Chief Secretary said.

Previous schemes

Recounting the schemes rolled out by the State government for women's empowerment, Mr. Meena said the government took a "major decision to give reservation of 50% in both rural and urban local bodies in 2006 and 2007 respectively for women's political empowerment".

He added that the State government also implemented prohibition in 2016 in response to women's demand. "The ban [on liquor] is quite successful in the State besides it helped a lot in improving women's lot," Mr. Meena said.

He also pointed out many government schemes launched to "educationally empower" women, especially girls. Schemes were launched to provide school uniforms, bicycles, and scholarships at Classes 10, 12, and graduation levels to girl students, he added.

- Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana
- Objective:
- To empower women economically.
- To create job opportunities and reduce outmigration.
- To strengthen women's entrepreneurial capacity.
- Financial Aid Details:
- ₹10,000 will be given to *one woman from every family* in Bihar as the **first instalment**.
- After **six months**, based on evaluation of performance, an **additional** ₹2,000 will be given.
- The amount is **not a loan**—women entrepreneurs **need not return it**.

Implementation:

- The first instalment will be disbursed starting
 September 2025, directly to bank accounts.
- Haat bazaars will be developed to promote sales of women-made products.

Chief Minister's Statement (Nitish Kumar):

- The scheme will not only strengthen women but also help in creating better selfemployment opportunities within the state.
- Prevents outmigration of families for jobs.

Previous Women Empowerment Measures in Bihar

50% reservation for women in panchayats and local bodies (2006 & 2007).

Prohibition Policy (2016) – highlighted as beneficial to women's welfare.

Educational initiatives – free uniforms, bicycles, and scholarships for girls up to Class 10, 12, and graduation.

Women's entrepreneurship in India has been supported earlier through national initiatives like:

- Stand-Up India Scheme (2016)
- MUDRA Yojana for microfinance
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana NRLM for SHGs

Bihar's scheme is a **state-specific innovation**, complementing central schemes.

Ice Age-era dragon fly rediscovered

Elusive species *Crocothemis erythraea* spotted in high-altitude regions of southern Western Ghats; it has previously been overlooked owing to its resemblance to *Crocothemis servilia*

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

donatologists have reconfirmed the presence of the elusive dragonfly species Crocothemis erythraea in the high-elevation regions of the southern Western Ghats. The species had previously been misidentified or overlooked in this region due to its close resemblance to the more widespread lowland species Crocothemis servilia.

The genus *Crocothemis* in India includes two known species – *C. servilia* and *C. erythraea*. While *C.*



Lost and found: Crocothemis erythraea. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

servilia is common across lowland areas, *C. erythraea* is known from high-elevation habitats in parts of Europe and Asia, including the Himalayas.

According to Kalesh Sadasivan, the lead author of the present study published in the International Journal of Odonatology, photographs of a potential C. erythraea specimen were taken from the Munnar high ranges during an annual faunal survey in 2018. These records were cited in a

2021 monograph on Kerala's odonata fauna, but later removed from subsequent checklists following scepticism over the species' identification by other researchers.

This prompted multiple field expeditions between 2019 and 2023 in high-altitude sites across the Western Ghats.

The study confirmed that the Western Ghats hosts both the species.

The researchers explain that *C. erythraea* colonised southern India during the Pleistocene Ice Age, when cooler climatic conditions allowed temperate fauna to extend their range southward.

1. Rediscovery of Crocothemis erythraea

- Odonatologists confirmed the presence of Crocothemis erythraea in southern Western Ghats.
- It was earlier misidentified as Crocothemis servilia (a widespread lowland species).
- Study published in the International Journal of Odonatology.

2. Habitat & Distribution

- C. servilia → found in lowland areas, common across India.
- C. erythraea → prefers high-elevation habitats in Europe, Asia, and Himalayas.
- Rediscovery in Western Ghats links it to Ice Age dispersal.

3. Historical Context

- Species likely colonised southern India during the Pleistocene Ice Age (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago).
- Cooler climatic conditions allowed temperate fauna to move southward.

Research Findings

First photographic evidence came in **2018** during faunal surveys in Munnar high ranges.

Multiple expeditions between 2019–2023 confirmed presence.

Western Ghats now known to host both species: *C. servilia* & *C. erythraea*.

Western Ghats → covers 6 states, accounts for 30% of India's plant species, 325 globally threatened species.

Ice Age effect in India → Glacial refugia preserved genetic diversity in species like Nilgiri tahr, lion-tailed macaque.

Similar rediscoveries in India: Forest owlet (Madhya Pradesh), Jerdon's courser (Andhra Pradesh).

India is an 'oil money laundromat for Moscow. says Navarro

Press Trust of India

A day after claiming that the Ukraine conflict was "Modi's war", White House trade advisor Peter Navar ro has accused India of be

ro his accused india of be-ing an "oil money hundro-mat for the Kremlin".

"If India, the world's lar-gest democracy, wants to be treated like a strategic partner of the U.B., it needs to act like one," he said, patting out a series of se-cial media posts attacking New Dolhi. w Deins. Mr. Navarro, the Trump

administration's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, has been constatently targeting india over the last few days after ties between Washington and New Delhi saw a major downturn over Mr. Trump's policies on trade and tariffs.

U.S. tariffs on India The 50% tariffs slapped on India by the Trump admi-nistration came into effect on Wednesday. The trade advisor said the 50% tariff

 28% for unfair trade and 28% for national security was a direct response.
"Indis's Big Oil lobby

has turned the largest de-mocracy in the world into a massive refining hair and



Russian President set to visit India in December: Kremlin

Agence France:Presse

Putin will pay an official vi-sit to India in December, the Kremlin said on Friday, as the between the countries grow closer after the U.S. imposed tariffs on New Delhi over its purchas-

New Delth over its purchases of Russian oil.

Mr. Puttis will also meet Prims Minister Norendes Mods at a regional summit in China on Montaly, Kernin China on Montaly, Kernin China on Konday, Kernin China of the December visit.

U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs of the December visit.

U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs of the disposed tariffs of third angoods as pursive purchases of Russian.

sive purchases of Russian oil, part of a campaign to pressure Moscow into ending its offensive in Ukraine.
Russia is also one of in-dia's top arms suppliers. and the warm ties between the two countries date back to the Soviet era. Uksought to cut Russia's ex-port earnings since Mos-cow launchest its military

moault in February 2022. But Russia has been able to redirect energy sales away from Europe to countries including India and China, ensuring the multi-billion-dollar flow of funds

billion-dollar flow of funds has continued.

India has argued that it imported oil. Troom Russia leciance (radilional sup-plies were thereted to Ru-rope after the unthreak of the conflict.

Mr. Putin has signifi-cantly curtailed his foreign travel amid the offensive on Ulratine, for which be

was slapped with an Inter-national Criminal Court ar-rest warrant. India is not a party to the ICC and there-fore not obligated to detain

India and China must collaborate for stable world economic order'

Amicable ties amid the two largest nations on earth can have a positive

Press Trust of India

rime Minister Na-rendra Modi on Fri-day and it was im-portant for India and China to work together to bring stability in the work economic order as he as-acrited that New Delhi is ready to advance bilatera-ties from a strategic and long-term perspective

ong-term perspective saed on mittual respect, nerust and sensitivity. In an interview with The rominer Shimbun pu-silabed during his ossening visit to Japan, Mr. Mod also seserted that stable, pred-

von to appart, en Anton and scalle, and amissable initia-scal relations between tri-dia and China, as two dia and China, as two largest nations on earth, can have a positive impact on regional and global Askerd abroat the impo-tance of improving rela-tions with China at this chine with China at this president XLipping, I will be travelling to Tranjin the 870 Summit Sheet up the SCO Summit. Since my meeting with President XI in Kasan last year, steady and positive progress has



'China taking advantage of slump in Indo-U.S. ties'

The Congress on Friday alleged India was being "forced" to normalise its relations with China, largely on their terms, which is "trying to take advantage of the

been made in our bilateral ties." Mr. Modi said that in the Mr. sector and that in the BRICS alliance, India was actively engaged in work-ing towards the benefit of the Global South. India attaches high in-instance to its engagement

with BRICS, which has emerged as a valuable fo-rum for consultation, and cooperation and has helped promote mutual understanding on a specif ic set of issues of common interest to emerging eco-nomies, he said.

downturn in Indo-U.S.

downtum in Indo-U.S. Item", "Chinais Jigodhandi with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor — revealed by our own military establishment — has been forgotten; Congress's general secretary Johann Barnesh said in a post on X.

Pact with Tokyo to advance low-carbon technology projects

Iscob Koshy

With Prime Minister Na-rendes Medi on a visit to Ja-pan, India's Knyironment Ministry said on Priday that it had signed a Merico randum of Cooperation (MoC) with Tokyo earlier

OboC) with Tokyo earlier this month on a first-of-its kind Joint Crediting Me-chanusus (JCM). The JCM is a Japanese in stative, whereby the coun-try implements and invests in tow-carbon technologies in the countries. in developing countries and the resulting savings in emissions are credited to Japan's account as carbon credita, which it can use to meet its national emis-sions-reduction targets.

"The JCM will encourage the flow of investment, technology assistance, in-cluding technology transf-er and organity building support for the implement that of the properties of the third of the properties of the dements ecosystem and partnerships to heading tow carbon technologies low carbon technologies low carbon technologies have been technologies and the properties of the properties of the properties of the properties of the action of the properties of the properties of the second of the properties of the p ed to equipment, machin-ery, products, systems and infrastructure, paving the way for their large-scale deployment," the Ministry

said in a statement. The MoC would further facilitate the implementa-tion of projects contribut-ing to greenhouse gas reduction or removal, and sustainable development in India.

it will also enable the international trading of car-tion credits generated from such projects under Article such projects under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreements with Japan and other coun-tries on similar lines, "without adversely impac-ing," india's NDC (hystonal-by Determined Contribu-tion) commitments, the

cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and creating an additional car-bon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of GO2 equivalent by 2000 through afforests

Earlier this week, the Earlier this week, the Ministry constituted the National Designated Auth-National Designated Auth-comment of the Comment agency to approve such projects, evaluate emission resident and oversee the carbon market. The Ministry said is laid also received authorisation to the Commentation of the Commentation of the Commentation and for signing agree-ments with their conductors.

on similar lines under Arti cle 6.2 of the Paris Agree-ment, in consultation with ment, in co concerned Ministries and the Ministry of External Af-fairs, the statement added.

SC asks Centre to clarify if Bengali speakers are considered foreigners

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The Supreme Court on Friday sought clarity from the Centre on a petition claim-ing authorities presume mpsh speakers are them. innigrants from Bangla dech, leading to bias, dis-crimination and "wides pread and arbitrary detention" of migrant workers in multiple States.

workers in multiple States,
"We would like you to
clarify... The petition seeks
to demonstrate there is a
certain bias, namely, the
use of a presumption that the
speaker is a freeigner.
Whether this is correct of
not. You clarify that," Juntice I youngh to dearly, part
the I you have a present the correct
to the correct of
not. You clarify that," Junof a Bench bunded by Jus-tice Surya Kant, orally ad-dressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, represent-

ing the government.

The petition filed by an NGO, West Bengal Migrant



Prashant Bhushan, alleged labourers from West Ben-gal were detailed without all were detailed without ral sufficiently or com-pliance with established in-ter State coordination plane with established in-claimed large were deport-ed in spite of documenta-cion proving Indian citizen-olip. The NGO challenged workers, particularly workers, particularly workers, particularly against the backdrop of a Home Ministry letter of May 2 "authorising inter-liate verification and de-tention of suspected illegal immigrants". Vehemently we have to understand we and hernage in Purgab-and Bengal where borders divide us POWTHCK DIVERALVA BAGGIN

na fide of the patitioner, the countered why none of the aggrieved per sons, alleged-new per sons and the per sons alleged per sons and the pe not "est away our resourc-es which we can divert to

Justice Kant agreed ille-gal immigration through porous borders from Assam. Trimura to West Burngal was a reality. But Justice Bagchi, on a

lighter note, reacted with a question: "Mr. Solicitor, do you propose to build a wall like in America?"

The coart scheduled the

case on September II.
"There are sensitive is case on separation of the teachers of the season ferrs. One is the national seesowing of our crust-free or the season ferrs of the season ferror of our resources. It goes without saying this set parameters common culture and the season of common culture and and heavy of common culture and and the season of common culture t

any authority could push out people without an order from a court or foreign-ers' tribunals, or without with the foreign country.

"This has drastic consequences," he submitted.

SC returns to full strength of 34 with two new judges

The Hindu Bureau

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday swore in Justices Alok Aradhe and Vigui M. Paradadi as palges of the Supreme Court. With their app

His appointment pro-cess witnessed a care dis-sent from one of the Colle-gium members, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who noted that Jostice Parcholl was ranked \$7th in the all India High Court Judges' seniori-ty list and that several meritorious judges senior to him could be considered



Nagarathua wrote that his appointment would be "counter-productive" to the administration of jus-tice and that the credibility of the Collegium was at

of the Collegium was at stable. However, the Collegi-um, by a 4-1 majority, re-commended Justices Pan-choli and Arathe on August 25. Their appoint-ment to the top court was notified within 46 hours, no August 25.

on August 27. Justice Pancholi was



Justice Paraction was born on May 28, 1968, in Ahmedahad and was con-firmed as a Permanent Judge of the Gujarat High Court in June 2016. He was transferred to the Patna

High Court in July 2023 and appointed its Chief Ju-tice on July 2d.

Justice Arashe, ranked third among High Court Chief Justices, has his par-rent High Court in Madhys Frathesh, while justice Par-choli, rathed 19th among High Court Chief Justices, he also Justice High Court

in Gujarat. Justice Aradhe, boen in April 1964, was appointed an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Madilya Pradesh High Court in December 2009 and a Permanenr Judge in Pebruary 2011. He was ap-pointed Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on Ja-mary 2t this year.

SC notice to Centre over plea to make Ram Setu a monument

The Hindu Bureau new orsan

The Supreme Court on Fri day lisued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by former Rajya Rabha MP Subramarian Swamy seeking directions to the Minitry of Culture for an expeditional decision on his
representations for declaring the fam Setu a montang the fam Setu a montaturice. A found feed of the
passice Vikeam Nath Insect
the wase for hearing after
four works.

Barn Refu, also known
as Adam's Birdgie, is a
chain of lineatons should
the south-seators coar of

the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nodu and Monnar Is-land, off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka. Mr. Swa-my had earlier raised the issue in a plea challenging the Sethusamudram Ship

Court issues notice to three promoters of real estate firm

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIG

A special court has issued notice to three promoters and directors of a real esand directors of a real es-tate company, SRS Group, under the Fugitive Roo-requise from the Enforce-ment Birectorate GED in an alleged case of fraud, the in Georgia and the 158. The escuted are the other than the court of the court of the court to allow confucing of the court to allow confucing of american

"They had committed the offence of cheating, criminal breach of trust for diversion/criminal misar-propriation of the property, criminal conspi-

property, criminal compi-racy, etc. by defrauding ho-mbuyers/plot buyers, bunks, and other financial bunks, and other financial of the probability of the The ED probability of the majority of the probability of the majority of the probability of the lected about £2,200 cross-from the public and banks on the protext of invest-ment for hope returns.

Congress takes a dig at RSS chief for 'contradictory statements in 1 month'

The Congress on Friday took a swipe at Bashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwar over his cemarks that he had never stated that he or

never stated that he or anyone else should retire at the age of 75.

The Opposition party's dig came a day after Mr. Blugwar sought to put to rest speculation over his recent comments on the recent comments in the retirement of leaders, which had been seen as a reference to Prime Mini-ter Navendra Mods, Reib Mr. Mods and Mr. Bhagwat turn 75 next mouth. "We are ready to work as long as the Sangh wants us to work," Mr. Bhagwat had said on Thursday. Responding to these re-

marks, Congress commu-nteation chief Jairum Ranication whief Jairam Ra-mesh, in a past on X, shared two news reports that sarried what he de-scribed as completely dif-ferent statements by the Ras chief. "One month, one person, two contradi-tory statements," Mr. Ba-meth said.

away" the disputed mos-ques in Mathura and Kashi for "brotherbood" the for "brotherhood", the party flagged the Places of party hagged the Praces of Worship (Special Praces slons) Act, 1991 which pro-hibits the alteration of any religious site that existed before 1947.

Defore 1947.
Mr. Bhagwai is altempting to reignite the disputes to "shield the BIP government from poblic anger shead of the coming election", the Polit Bureau sald.

saist.

Stuch demands are aimed at provoking communal passions, diverting paties attention, and polarising society along religious lines. The RSS chief is 'Reigniting disputes' Meanwhile, the CPI(M) Po-lit Bureau, queting Mr. Bhagwar's statement that Muslims should "give

raking up these divisive in-sues to shield the BIP go-vernment from public an-ger ahead of the upcoming elections? the party mend. The CPION said this was

a long held practice of the RSS and its affiliates to "incite communal divise whenever they seek to

cite communal divisions whethere they seek to the tract people from worsening economic conditions.

a weakening economy, growing attacks on workers, and mainting proof of electron's unification with the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government, seeiing list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government and list failurem concentration in the HP leaf government and list failurem concentrat

V-P poll is a battle to guard our syncretic culture: Left parties

The Hindu Bureau

The Left parties, in a joint statement endorsing the candidature of Justice Balk-rishna Sudershan Reddy,

ture of India - whether our nation will continue as a constitutional democracy authoritarian State," the

"It is a battle to safe-guard our syncretic culture and to resist the BIP-led NGA government's orago-ing attempts to undermine demonstracy and enforce authoritarianism through the missac of constitution-al positions such as those of the VP, Election Cammission, and tiovernors, among others," it added.

Pact with Tokyo to advance low-carbon technology projects

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a visit to Japan, India's Environment Ministry said on Friday that it had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Tokyo earlier this month on a first-of-its kind Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

The JCM is a Japanese initiative, whereby the country implements and invests in low-carbon technologies in developing countries and the resulting savings in emissions are credited to Japan's account as carbon credits, which it can use to meet its national emissions-reduction targets.

"The ICM will encourage the flow of investment, technology assistance, including technology transfer and capacity building support for the implementation of projects involving these low carbon technologies. It will also develop domestic ecosystem and partnerships to localise low carbon technologies and associated high technology interventions related to equipment, machinery, products, systems and infrastructure, paving the way for their large-scale deployment," the Ministry said in a statement.

The MoC would further facilitate the implementation of projects contributing to greenhouse gas reduction or removal, and sustainable development in India.

It will also enable the international trading of carbon credits generated from such projects under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement with Japan and other countries on similar lines, "without adversely impacting" India's NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) commitments, the statement added.

India's NDC commits to reducing emission intensity by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels, achieving 50% cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030 through afforestation.

Earlier this week, the Ministry constituted the 'National Designated Authority,' which is the nodal agency to approve such projects, evaluate emission reductions and oversee the functioning of the Indian carbon market.

The Ministry said it had also received authorisation from the Cabinet to finalise the rules of implementation and for signing agreements with other countries on similar lines under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, in consultation with concerned Ministries and the Ministry of External Affairs, the statement added.

India-Japan Low-Carbon Pact

- India's Environment Ministry signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Tokyo under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).
- Purpose: to implement and invest in low-carbon technologies in developing countries.
- Savings in emissions → credited to Japan's carbon account as carbon credits to meet its emission reduction targets.

Features of the JCM

- Technology transfer & capacity building support.
- Domestic partnerships for localising low-carbon technologies.
- Encourages investment in:
 - Equipment
 - Machinery
 - Products
 - High-tech infrastructure for large-scale deployment.

+

0

India's Climate Commitments

NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions):

Recently, the government set up the National Designated Authority (NDA) to approve & monitor such projects.

45% reduction in emission intensity by **2030** (from 2005 levels).

50% cumulative electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

Additional carbon sink of **2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent** via afforestation.

Paris Agreement (2015) → aims to limit global warming to below 2°C.

Carbon Credits → tradable permits giving right to emit CO2 (1 credit = 1 tonne CO2).

Japan has been actively using the JCM with Asian & African nations to achieve its **2050** carbon neutrality target.

India, being a developing nation, benefits through **finance** + **technology transfer**.

India's major climate change initiatives:

- National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC, 2008) 8 missions including solar, energy efficiency, water, etc.
- Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT) Scheme market-based mechanism for energy efficiency.
- Renewable Energy Goals 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

India-Japan ties in green energy:

• Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance) funding Indian metro rail, renewable projects, and high-speed rail.

Detoxifying India's entrance examination system

very year, nearly 70 lakh students in India compete for undergraduate seats appearing for entrance examinations such as the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Common University Entrance Test (CUET), and Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). With a fixed number of seats, the competition is intense, fuelling a coaching industry and a culture of relentless pressure. Recent controversies such as branch closures and financial misconduct at a major JEE coaching centre, an Enforcement Directorate raid and student suicides highlight a broken system. It is time to rethink undergraduate admissions, prioritising fairness, equity and student well-being.

The coaching crisis and its toll

The scale of aspirants – 15 lakh for the JEE alone – has created a coaching empire, with centres charging a fee of ₹6 lakh-₹7 lakh for two-year programmes. Students as young as 14 years sacrifice holistic development for a gruelling routine of solving complex problems from books such as Irodov and Krotov, which go far beyond B.Tech requirements. This rat race breeds stress, depression and alienation, robbing teens of peer bonding and a normal adolescence. With some students unable to handle the pressure, some governments have enacted laws to regulate coaching centres. Yet, the root issue lies in an entrance examination system that overqualifies students and distorts merit.

Entrance examinations aim to filter 15 lakh aspirants for 18,000-plus seats in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), but making a distinction between students scoring 91% or 97% in the Class 12 examination, or 99.9 percentile in JEE, is unreasonable. A decent Class 12 score, say, 70%-80% in physics, chemistry and mathematics, is sufficient for a B.Tech programme. The current system demands extraordinary performance due to the limited seats, vast applicant numbers, and disparities in college academic quality, creating a



Vipul Anekant is Deputy

is Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police



Bhoomi Goval

is an undergraduate student of Economics, Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University

The choice lies between continuing a toxic race that scars students or adopting a system of fairness and equal opportunity false hierarchy with an overemphasis on minor score differences. This sidelines capable students, favours those who can afford coaching, and exacerbates urban-rural, gender, and regional imbalances.

The consequences are severe. Psychologically, students face immense pressure. Socially, the system privileges wealthier families who can afford top-tier coaching, creating an illusory meritocracy. As Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel argues, this fuels a toxic obsession with perceived individual superiority, ignoring the role of luck and privilege. Sandel even suggests lotteries for admissions at elite institutions such as Stanford and Harvard to address these flaws.

The Dutch lottery and beyond

India can draw inspiration from global models. The Netherlands uses a weighted lottery for medical school admissions, introduced in 1972 and reinstated in 2023. Applicants meeting a minimum academic threshold enter a lottery, with higher grades improving odds. This reduces bias, promotes diversity, and eases pressure, recognising that overly precise metrics are often irrelevant, unfair and costly. Outcomes show that lotteries are viable when capacity is limited, aligning with Sandel's critique of meritocratic excess.

In China, the 2021 "double reduction" policy banned for-profit tutoring for school subjects, nationalising coaching overnight to reduce financial burdens, address inequalities and protect student well-being. This tackled issues that India faces – unchecked, excessive and disorderly growth of coaching centres and their impact on youth.

The solution lies in simplifying admissions, trusting the school system and shielding students from an excessive number of examinations. The Class 12 board examinations, with their rigorous curriculum, are adequate to gauge B.Tech readiness. Instead of entrance examinations, a threshold, say, 80% in physics, chemistry and

mathematics, can be set for eligibility. Students meeting this could be grouped into categories (90% and above, 80%-90%) and allocated seats or a rank number through a weighted lottery, incorporating reservations for gender, region and rural backgrounds within existing reservation policy, similar to the Dutch model. Higher grades could improve odds, but all eligible students would have a fair chance, eliminating cut-throat competition.

To enhance equity, 50% of IIT seats could be reserved vertically for rural students educated in government schools, promoting social mobility and reducing structural inequality. If entrance examinations persist, coaching should be banned or nationalised, with free online study materials and lectures. To foster diversity, the IITs could introduce an annual student exchange programme, randomly selecting students to study across different IIT campuses over four years. This would promote national integration and exposure to diverse cultures. Incentivising the transfer of professors between IITs could also ensure uniform academic standards, dismantling artificial hierarchies and reinforcing the equal value of a B.Tech from any IIT.

The path forward

Scrapping undergraduate entrance examinations for a lottery-based system would free students from the coaching treadmill, allowing them to attend school, take part in sports and grow holistically. It would reduce financial barriers, giving every qualified student, regardless of wealth or privilege, a shot at top institutions. Most importantly, it would let youth be youth, and not machines chasing percentiles and becoming too serious at too tender an age.

India's education system faces a choice: continue a toxic race that scars students and society or embrace fairness, sanity, egalitarianism and equal opportunity. The path is clear.

The views expressed are personal

1. Scale of Entrance Exams in India

- Nearly 70 lakh students appear each year for entrance exams: JEE, NEET, CUET, CLAT.
- Limited seats fuel competition, leading to a booming coaching industry.
- Coaching centres charge high fees (₹6–7 lakh for 2 years), starting as early as Class 7–8.
- Rat race → stress, depression, alienation, peer bonding issues, suicides.

2. Current Issues with the System

- Toxic meritocracy: Overemphasis on minor score differences (e.g., 97% vs 99.9%ile).
- Urban-rural disparity: Favours wealthier families who can afford coaching.
- Distortion of merit: Tests academic recall over holistic ability.
- Psychological impact: Stress, burnout, mental health decline.
- Social impact: Inequity, privilege, exclusion of poor students.

Global Comparisons

Netherlands (1972, reintroduced 2023):

- Uses weighted lottery for medical admissions.
- Minimum threshold + lottery → fairer system.
- Reduces bias and overemphasis on marks.

China (2021 Double Reduction Policy):

- Banned for-profit tutoring.
- Promotes equity and reduces stress.

4. Suggested Reforms for India

- Scrap high-stakes entrance exams.
- Adopt lottery-based admissions after minimum eligibility (e.g., 80% in PCM).
- Incorporate reservation for rural students in IITs (50% suggestion).
- Ban/ nationalise private coaching → replace with free online learning.
- Introduce student exchange programs across IITs → cultural integration.
- Professors to be rotated across campuses → uniform standards.
- Promote holistic student life (sports, arts, social skills).

5. Philosophical Arguments

- Reference: Michael Sandel (Harvard philosopher).
 - Meritocracy flawed → ignores luck & privilege.
 - Suggests lotteries even at elite universities (Stanford, Harvard).
- Indian case: same meritocratic flaws visible, worsened by massive population and inequities.

Kothari Commission (1964–66): Suggested reducing over-dependence on rote exams.

NEP 2020: Emphasises holistic, competency-based learning & multiple pathways.

Suicide crisis in Kota: Over 30 student suicides annually highlight systemic pressure.

Double Reduction in China vs **Indian coaching culture** → stark contrast.



India's China challenge

China and India, who have borne the brunt of Trump's tariffs, are working to repair their relationship. But closer trade ties are fraught with questions, including China's capability to overwhelm India's economy



Udit Misra

DAYS AFTER the United States doubled tariffs on Indian exports to 50%, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders' summit this weekend.

Since last October, India and China have worked to mend bilateral ties that collapsed after the border clashes in Ladakh in June 2020. Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Delhi and met PM Modi. Senior members of the Indian administration, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, have travelled to China in recent months.

Shadow of Donald Trump

India has always been wary of Chinese exports flooding Indian markets. This is why New Delhi pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a China-led free trade agreement among 15 Asia-Pacific countries, in 2019.

After the Galwan clashes, there were calls to stop all trade with China. The Indian government banned several Chinese apps and restricted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China into India.

This is why the recent u-turn is significant. It is almost entirely driven by US President Donald Trump's decision to impose reciprocal tariffs on countries world over.

Along with Brazil, India, at 50%, is right now the most tariffed country by the US. China faced 145% tariffs not so long ago before these were rolled back to 30%. The looming threat of tariffs and Trump's unpredictability has sent countries around the world looking for alternative trade relationships.

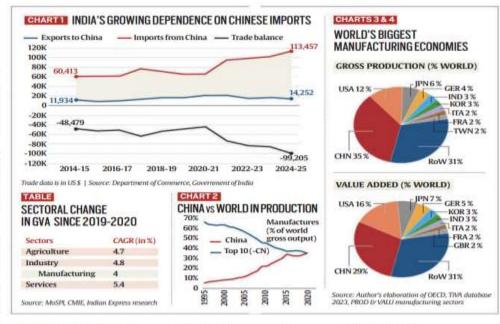
On Thursday, Bloomberg reported that Beijing had reached out to New Delhi as early as March but the latter had responded only in June, after Trump's announced additional tariffs on India.

A week ago, the Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said, "The US has imposed tariffs of up to 50% on India and even threatened for more. China firmly opposes it. Silence only emboldens the bully.

Xu, seemingly borrowing from the BIP's lexicon, referred to India and China as the "double engines" of economic growth in Asia.

Not an easy pivot

For some, overtures from China may appear welcome at a time when the US seems determined to force India to open its markets to American goods. But there are several reasons why a closer trade partnership with China is fraught with challenges.



Consider the following.

dia's trade weakness with China

India's trade relations with China are in contrast to its trade strength with the US. Against the US, India enjoys an annual trade surplus of more than \$40 billion. By contrast, India suffers an annual trade deficit of nearly \$100 billion against China.

Chart 1 shows India's steeply rising dependence on imports from China since 2014. This dependence has spiked even as the political narrative in India has suggested that Indians want to 'ban' trade with China.

China's strength in manufacturing

India is not the only country that has a trade deficit with China. China's share of merchandise exports, at more than 14% in 2023 (according to Word Trade Organization data) is well above that of the US which, at around 8% is in second place, India's share is below 2%.

Chart 2 shows that as of 2020, China's manufacturing output was more than the next 10 countries combined. Charts 3 & 4 show how China's share in global manufacturing compares with countries such as the US and India.

India's weakness in manufacturing

The Table shows that gross value added (a measure of a sector's economic growth) in manufacturing since 2019-20 has grown at a CAGR (annual average rate) of 4%, while that

in agriculture has grown by 4.7%.

Since trade is a relative game, it is of consequence that at a time when China is overflowing with manufacturing prowess and capacity, India's manufacturing is struggling to outpace even its farm output.

How to be an alternative

In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, India presented itself to the world as a credible investment alternative to China, Aligning with China may severely compromise its claim to be an investment destination for Western businesses that want to de-risk from China.

Worse still, just as the US is likely pressuring its trading allies to raise trade barriers against China, it may pursue a similar line of attack with India if New Delhi is seen to be getting closer to China than the US. Bloomberg on Thursday reported that Mexico is set to raise tariffs on imports from China, with anecdotal evidence pointing to Trump as the trigger for this decision.

China's overcapacity, India's problem

Another implication of the Mexico story is that trade restrictions will further worsen China's overcapacity problem, China is already battling deflation which is often more dangerous than inflation as it robs the consumers of the incentive to buy, and producers of the incentive to produce. Deflation can bring an

economy to its knees.

The way out for China is to flood markets other than the US, and now perhaps of US allies, with its excess capacity. If India stands too close to China, pressures to absorb cheaper Chinese goods may increase.

China is not India's natural partner

India has been trying to mould itself into a private sector-led market economy where media is free, rules are transparent, and democracy is uncompromised while in China it is still unclear about where the pri vate sector ends and the state begins.

China is a long-time supporter of Pakistan and its "all-weather" friend. Given the challenge of Pakistani state-sponsored terrorism directed against India, building a stable and credible relationship with China may be easier said than done.

The upshot

India continuing to be shy about openin itself up for free global trade is essentially a result of the deep structural weaknesses that continue to plague the domestic economy.

This means that strategic conflicts aside. China's capability to overwhelm the Indian economy is far more than that of the US.

As such, New Delhi has to proceed with caution when it comes to dealing with its gi

1. Background Context

- India and China are attempting to repair bilateral relations after years of tension, including border disputes and trade disruptions.
- Both countries have suffered from U.S. tariffs under Trump's administration, yet China's economic dominance remains a concern for India.

2. India's Growing Dependence on China

- Trade imbalance: India's imports from China have risen steeply, reaching \$113,457 million in 2024 25, while exports remain low at \$14,252 million.
- Trade deficit with China has widened to ~\$99,205 million.
- Dependence spans critical sectors: electronics, machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods.

3. Sectoral Growth & Weaknesses

• Agriculture: CAGR 4.7%

• Industry: CAGR 4.8%

Services: CAGR 7.0%

Manufacturing: CAGR 5.4%

While India shows growth, its manufacturing sector lags far behind China's scale and capacity.

4. China's Global Dominance

- China accounts for 29% of world's manufacturing gross production.
- India only holds 3% share, compared to the U.S. (12%), Japan (6%), Germany (4%).
- China dominates world exports in electronics, solar panels, and textiles.

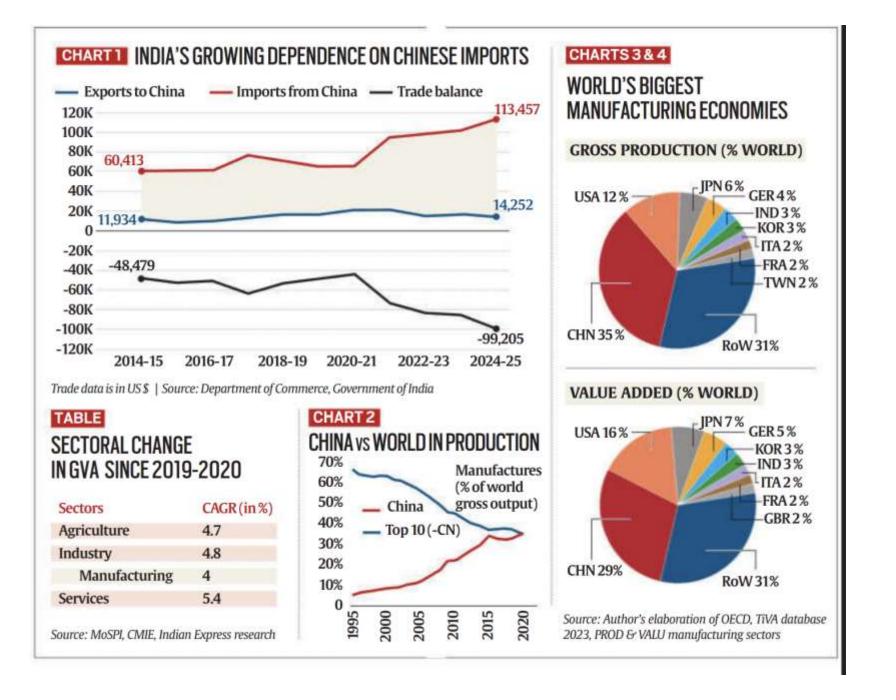
5. Strategic Concerns for India

- Manufacturing Gap: India lacks scale in electronics, machinery, and industrial goods.
- Supply Chain Dependence: Despite initiatives like "Atmanirbhar Bharat," India continues to import heavily.
- Deflationary Threats: China's overcapacity and deflation could flood India with cheaper goods, undermining domestic industries.

6. Policy Options & Way Forward

- Diversify supply chains, reduce dependency on Chinese imports.
- Strengthen domestic manufacturing through PLI (Production Linked Incentives) schemes.
- Boost global competitiveness by focusing on high-tech sectors (semiconductors, renewable energy).
- Strengthen trade partnerships beyond China, particularly with ASEAN, EU, and U.S.





Daruma doll, presented to Modi in Japan

ON THE inaugural day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan, Reverend Seishi Hirose, chief priest of the Daruma-ji temple, presented him with a Daruma Doll, an iconic cultural symbol of Japan.

The doll

The Daruma is a traditional Japanese wish doll, typically made of *papier-mâché*. The doll is considered a symbol of perseverance and good luck. Its size can range from a few inches to several feet.

Often, the doll features the word "luck" written in kanji, the logographic writing system used in Japan. The doll presented to the Prime Minister had his name painted on it.

Traditionally, people colour one eye of the doll after setting a personal goal. If they achieve



The doll being presented to the PM. *X/narendramodi*

this goal, the other eye is coloured. The practice symbolises the virtue of determination. The doll's distinctive round bottom allows it to remain upright even if tipped over, reflecting the saying: "Fall seven times, stand up eight".

India connection

The Daruma is modelled after Bodhidharma, the 5th century founder of Zen Buddhism. The Indian monk hailed from Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu and is known in Japan as Daruma Daishi. It is believed that Bodhidharma meditated for nine years continuously, facing a wall, with his limbs folded.

This belief explains the Daruma doll's peculiar rounded shape with no limbs and eyes. Bodhidharma is said to have meditated in a cave in China's Henan Province after travelling from India. The word 'daruma' is a derivative of the Sanskrit 'dharma' which has no equivalent in Japanese or Chinese.

The temple

The Shorinzan Daruma-ji Temple in Takasaki, Gunma, built in 1697, is considered Daruma's place of origin. Takasaki is also one of the largest producers of Daruma dolls. The temple has been associated with success and victory, with many *shogun* visiting to seek blessings. Today, locals frequent it before exams or important business meetings.

Hirose has served as the chief priest since 1981. He graduated from the Komazawa University, and belongs to the Obaku sect of Zen Buddhism. He visited India 40 years ago.

DIVYAA

- On his visit to Japan, PM Narendra Modi was presented with a Daruma Doll by Reverend Seishi
 Hirose, chief priest of the Daruma-ji Temple in Takasaki, Gunma.
- The Daruma Doll is a traditional Japanese cultural symbol representing perseverance, good luck, and determination.

About the Daruma Doll

- Origin: Japan, typically made of papier-mâché.
- Symbolism:
 - Represents perseverance & good fortune.
 - Has a distinctive round bottom, symbolizing the saying "Fall seven times, stand up eight."
 - One eye is initially left blank → people fill in one eye when setting a goal, and the other eye when the goal is achieved.
- Inscription: Often has "luck" (福, fuku) written in Kanji.

- Modelled after Bodhidharma (5th century), the founder of Zen Buddhism.
- Bodhidharma hailed from Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, and is known in Japan as Daruma Daishi.
- He is believed to have meditated for nine years facing a wall in China's Henan Province.
- The rounded shape with no limbs or eyes symbolizes Bodhidharma's meditation posture.
- Word Daruma is derived from Sanskrit Dharma.

The Temple

- Shorinzan Daruma-ji Temple in Takasaki, Gunma (built in 1697) is regarded as Daruma's place of origin.
- Takasaki is one of the largest producers of Daruma dolls in Japan.
- The temple has long been associated with success, blessings, and victory.
- Many Shogun and locals visit before exams or business ventures.

