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“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.”

— Anita Desai

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

India's economic growth rate in the first quarter (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.

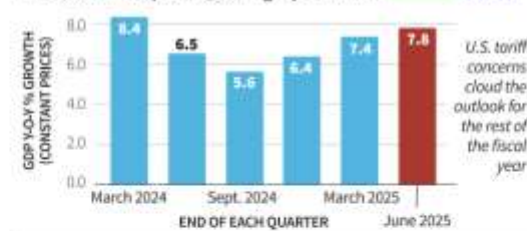
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, as shown by data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday, was previously quicker during January-March 2024. The 7.8% growth recorded in Q1 of this financial year was higher than the 6.5% predicted by the Reserve Bank of India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

Present perfect, future tense

India's economy grew **7.8%** in April-June 2025, the fastest in five quarters, beating expectations



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 run-up 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 year.

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 year.

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 Q1 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 two-year 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 job-intensive 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

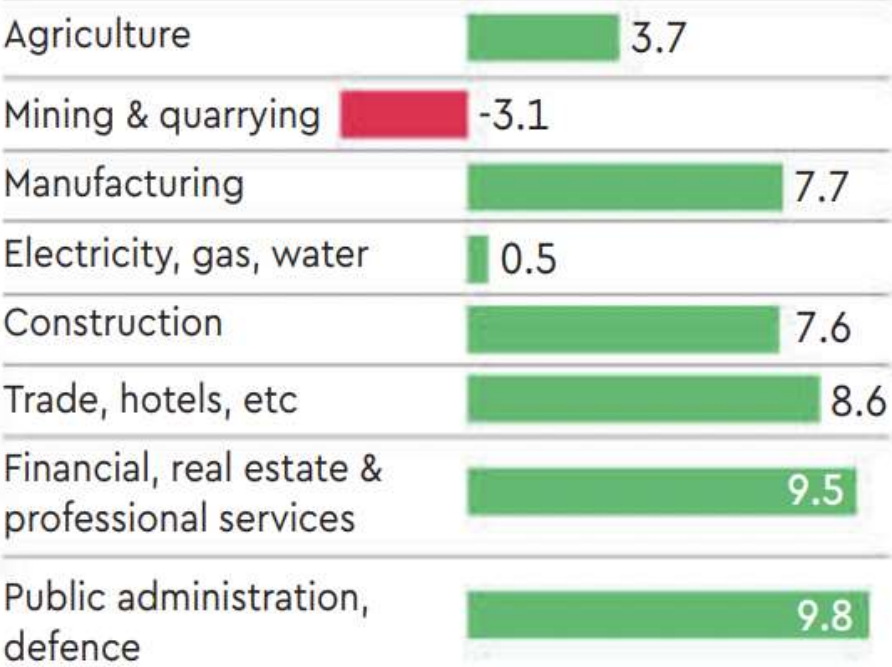
HEALTHY EXPANSION

Real GDP (% chg, y-o-y)



Source: MoSPI

Sectoral GVA (% chg, y-o-y)



IN BRIEF

Army, ITBP conduct firepower drills in Arunachal Pradesh

Troops of the Indian Army's 89th Corps and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) undertook four days of firepower drills under simulated battlefield conditions in central Arunachal Pradesh. The exercise named Acheek Prhar was conducted from August 25 to 29, the Army stated on Friday. "The exercise served as a joint validation of operational preparedness under simulated battlefield conditions. Mortars, machine guns, rockets, and grenades were employed to validate synergised response, accuracy, and battlefield effectiveness," it said.

Against bad-mouthing people in high offices, says Mayawati

Taking strong exception to derogatory remarks being made publicly about people holding high positions in politics and government, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati on Friday slammed self-interests of political parties for the disheartening trend. The BSP chief's comment, believed to be alluding to the "abusive words" directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mother at an opposition rally in Bihar's Darbhanga. "The politics of all parties should be in the interest of the common people, not of their own and common people, based on ideas and principles as per the Constitution, which has not been seen in the last few years," she said on X.

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

The Hindu Bureau

SIVAGANGA

Petitions received from the public under the "Ungaludan Stalin" programme were found floating in Vaigai river at Thirupuvanam in Tirunelveli district on Friday. "Ungaludan Stalin" camps are being held across Tamil Nadu with a focus on resolving grievances related to land issues, including patna transfers and name corrections in electricity cards and ration cards, among others. In rural areas, petitions are being received for 46 services through 18 departments.

In Sivaganga district, thousands of people submitted petitions at camps held in the Thirupuvanam town panchayat, Koonchi, Koralath, Kothagudi, Nelmudikarath, and Madapuram. As Chief Minister

ter M.K. Stalin had announced that action would be taken on the petitions within 45 days, many people had been submitting petitions at the camps with the hope of a speedy resolution of their grievances. Against this backdrop, the public were shocked to find the petitions floating on the river. Sources said most of these petitions were for patna transfer and

name correction. The documents had the signatures of officials, including the Village Administrative Officer and Revenue Inspector. Collector's response: Responding to the incident, Sivaganga Collector K. Perikudi said police action would be taken against those involved in the incident.

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

Shikha Sahay Singh

KOLKATA

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, on Friday held a meeting with representatives of all major political parties of the State, where the representatives were informed about reorganisation of polling booths. As per the new arrangement, a polling booth will have only 1,200 voters instead of 1,400 voters who were entitled at a polling booth earlier. This will result in additional 14,000 polling booths in the State. CEO Manoj Agrawal said that political parties can submit written objections

and complaints regarding the new arrangement of additional polling booths till September 8. Congress leader and State Minister Arup Biswas participated in the meeting on behalf of the ruling party. "We have no objection to the reorganisation of booths. We have said that the administration should do the same polling station. Voters should not have to go far, like kilometers away to vote," Mr. Biswas said. According to him, the total number of booths will be 94,497.

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

Anil Bhattacharya

PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Friday approved the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rongar 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 Anil 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 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 Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday. (H. K. M.)



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ANIL LAL MEENA
Chief Secretary

his social media post on X. Mr. Kumar added 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. (H. K. M.)

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

The Hindu Bureau

BHUWANESWAR

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday expressed concern over the lack of meaningful discussions in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies. Speaking at the two-day National Conference of Scheduled Caste and Tribes Welfare Committees of Parliament and State and Union Territory Legislatures, which began on Friday, Mr. Birla said there was widespread concern over the language used and the conduct that should ideally guide such deliberations.

'Rise above party lines': "In parliamentary committee, the language, thoughts, and viewpoints of the members are always above party politics," Mr. Birla said. He urged lawmakers to the above party lines on issues of national

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

First meet outside Delhi: It is for the first time that the conference is being organised outside Delhi. The first conference of Chairpersons of Committees on the Welfare of SCs and STs was held in 1976 in New Delhi. Subsequent conferences took place in 1979, 1983, 1987, and 2003.

Speaking on the occasion, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Mahapatra said 30% of the State's population belonged to Dalit and tribal communities, and various schemes were being implemented for their development.

entrepreneurs on their own," the Chief Secretary said.

Previous schemes: Recounting the schemes rolled out by the government for women's empowerment, Mr. Meena said the government took a 'major decision to give reservation of 80% 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 2006 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 major 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.

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

Prezada Ashu

SRINAGAR

Facing growing criticism over the reported death of 24 pilgrims in a landslip on August 26 on the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on Friday constituted a three-member committee to inquire into the incident.

The panel, headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Jal Shakti, J&K, will look into the "reasons behind the tragic incident near Adli-kawar" in Baramulla district's Katra.

The committee was directed to examine in detail the causes and point out any lapses, assess response in the form of rescue and relief measures undertaken, and suggest standard operating procedures and measures for preventing the recurrence of such incidents in future, a government spokesperson said. The committee will submit its report within two weeks to the L-G. Earlier, the board said the location where the disaster took place was near Indragadha, Bhujnagala



Rescue work after the landslide near the Vaishno Devi shrine on August 26. (H. K. M.)

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 landslide, severe cloudburst in this stretch of around 50 metres only, which triggered the massive landslide," a spokesperson of the board said.

The board claimed that the weather conditions were "clear and conducive for pilgrimage on August 26 morning until around 10 a.m., during which time the yatra proceeded normally, so much so that even helicopter services were operating seamlessly." The board said it monitored weather updates closely and as soon as the forecast for moderate rain was received, registrations were suspended.

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

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday alleged that in Sambhal, Congress and BJP were selectively targeted under successive Samajwadi Party and Congress governments in the past through conspiracy aimed at reducing the Hindu population and altering the demography of the area.

Mr. Adityanath's remark came after a three-member panel on Thursday met him and submitted its report. The panel, which was set up after the Shri Lal Ma Masjid in Sambhal on November 24 during a survey of the mosque, claiming four lives and injuring several others.

Today, the double-endorser said the Congress and Samajwadi Party's India alliance is actually aiming to change the State's demography by having to migrate from the State," Mr. Adityanath said during the inauguration, adding they were laying of 186 development projects worth ₹50 crore in Prayagrah.

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Frontal attack: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath speaking during the launch of projects worth ₹50 crore in Prayagrah on Friday. (H. K. M.)

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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

The 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 employ-

ment opportunities 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.

ment 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

- *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 self-employment 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

Odonatologists 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
NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

A day after claiming that the Ukraine conflict was "Moscow's war", White House trade adviser Peter Navarro has accused India of being an "oil money laundromat" for the Kremlin.

"If India, the world's largest democracy, wants to be treated like a strategic partner of the U.S., it needs to act like one," he said, putting out a series of social media posts attacking New Delhi.

Mr. Navarro, the Trump administration's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, has been consistently targeting India over the last few days after the trade adviser from 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 administration came into effect on Wednesday. The trade adviser said the 50% tariff — 28% for unfair trade and 22% for national security — was a direct response to "India's Big Oil lobby has turned the largest democracy in the world into a massive refueling base and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin," Mr. Navarro alleged.



Strong ties: Russian President Vladimir Putin and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had met earlier this month in Moscow.

Russian President set to visit India in December: Kremlin

Agence France Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will pay an official visit to India in December, the Kremlin said on Friday, as ties between the countries grow closer after the U.S. imposed tariffs on New Delhi over its purchases of Russian oil.

Mr. Putin will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a regional summit in China on Monday, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters, saying the trip would discuss "preparation for the December visit."

U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on Indian goods as "punishment" for India's massive purchases of Russian oil, part of a campaign to pressure Moscow into ending its offensive in Ukraine. Russia is also one of India's top arms suppliers,

and the warm ties between the two countries date back to the Soviet era. Ukraine's Western allies have sought to cut Russia's export earnings since Moscow launched its military assault 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 has continued.

India has argued that it imported oil "from Russia because traditional supply policies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict."

Mr. Putin has significantly curtailed his foreign travel amid the offensive on Ukraine, for which he was slapped with an International Criminal Court arrest warrant. India is not a party to the ICC and therefore not obligated to detain Mr. Putin.

India and China must collaborate for stable world economic order

Amicable ties amid the two largest nations on earth can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity, says Prime Minister

Press Trust of India
TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it was important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order as he asserted that New Delhi is ready to advance bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective based on mutual respect, interest and sensitivity.

In an interview with *The Yomiuri Shimbun* published during his ongoing visit to Japan, Mr. Modi also asserted that stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China, as two neighbours and the two largest nations on earth, can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

Asked about the importance of improving relations with China at this time, the Prime Minister said, "At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, I will be travelling to Tianjin from here to take part in the SCO summit. Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, steady and positive progress has



Warm relations: Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe and Indian PM Narendra Modi upon his arrival at a hotel in Tokyo, Japan, on Friday.

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

downfall in Indo-U.S. ties". "China's *jagubandi* with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor — revealed by our own military establishment — has been forgotten,"

secretary Jitram Ramesh said in a post on X.

With BRICS, which has emerged as a valuable forum for consultation, and has helped promote mutual understanding on a specific set of issues of common interest to emerging economies, he said.

been able to maintain relations with China at this time, the Prime Minister said, "At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, I will be travelling to Tianjin from here to take part in the SCO summit. Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, steady and positive progress has

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NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday swore in Justices Alok Aradhya and Vipul M. Pantel in the Supreme Court.

With their appointment, the court returned to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, which will continue until the retirement of Chief Justice Gavai on November 21.

Justice Pantel is in line to become Chief Justice of India under the seniority norm. From October 3, 2023, till his retirement on May 27, 2023.

His appointment process witnessed a dissent from one of the Collegium members, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who noted that Justice Pantel was not a member of the Collegium. However, the Collegium, by a 4:1 majority, recommended Justices Pantel and Aradhya on August 25. Their appointment to the top court was notified within 48 hours on August 27.

Justice Pantel was born on May 26, 1966, in Ahmedabad and was confirmed as a Permanent Judge of the Gujarat High Court in June 2016. He was transferred to the Patna



Justice Alok Aradhya and (right) Justice Vipul M. Pantel

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in her dissent, Justice

taking up these divisive issues to shield the BJP government from public anger ahead of the upcoming elections. (The BJP-led government has been in power since 2014.)

The CPM said this was a long-held practice of the RSS and affiliates to "in-crease communal divisions wherever they seek to elect people from worsening economic conditions."

"With higher U.S. tariffs, a weakening economy, rising unemployment, and mounting proof of electoral malpractices and manipulation, the public are increasingly getting disillusioned with the BJP government, seeing it fail to deliver more clearly," it said.

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 (CMO).

The CMO 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 CMO will encourage the flow of investment, technology assistance, including technology transfer and capacity building support during the implementation of projects involving these low-carbon technologies," it will also develop domestic ecosystem and participate in various low-carbon technologies and associated high-tech

revenue 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 re-

duction 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 net (National) Determined Contribution" commitments, the statement added.

India's NDC commits to reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels, achieving 80% 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 emissions reductions and oversee the carbon market.

The Ministry said it had also received recommendations 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.

SC asks Centre to clarify if Bengali speakers are considered foreigners

Kidkushan Rajamouli
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought clarity from the Centre on a petition claiming authorities presume Bengali speakers are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, leading to their discrimination and "widespread and arbitrary detention" of migrant workers in multiple States.

"We would like to see clarity. The petition seeks to demonstrate there is a certain issue, namely the use of a particular language becoming the source of a presumption that the speaker is a foreigner. Whether this is correct or not. You clarify that," Justice Jyoti Basu, part of a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, orally addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the government.

The petition filed by an NGO, West Bengal Migrant Workers Welfare Trust, represented by advocate



Prashant Bhushan, alleged labourers from West Bengal, who were detained without due verification, procedural safeguards or consultation with established inter-State coordination protocols. The petition claimed they were deported in spite of documentation proving Indian citizenship. The NGO challenged the detention of migrant workers, particularly against the backdrop of a May 2 'authorising interstate verification and detention of suspected illegal immigrants'. Vehemently denying the allegation, Mehta questioned the

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The accused are Bhadrakumar Gang, Surendra Kumar, and Praveen Kumar. The ED has also alleged the duo to allow confiscation of assets



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"We have to understand we inherit common culture and heritage in Punjab and Bengal where language is the same but borders divide us."

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SC returns to full strength of 34 with two new judges

The Hindu Bureau
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SC notice to Centre over plea to make Ram Setu a monument

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Iyengar seeking directions to the Ministry of Culture for an expedited decision on his request to declare the Ram Setu a monument of national importance. A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath listed the case for hearing after four weeks.

Ram Setu, also known as Adam's Bridge, is a chain of limestone shoals between Rameswaram, off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu and Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. Mr. Iyengar had earlier raised the issue in a plea challenging the Sethusamudram Ship Channel project, initiated by the UK government.

The petition filed by an NGO, West Bengal Migrant Workers Welfare Trust, represented by advocate

perspective on the future of India — whether our nation will continue as a constitutional democracy upholding secularism, or succumb to a Hindu nationalist authoritarian state," the statement said.

"It is a battle to safeguard our syncretic culture and to resist the BJP-led government's ongoing attempts to undermine democracy and enforce authoritarianism through the misuse of constitutional provisions such as those at V.P. Khanna. Congress, among others," it added.

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Left parties, in a joint statement endorsing the boycott of the V.P. Khanna by the NDA government, said the V.P. Khanna election is a battle to guard our syncretic culture.

The statement was signed by general secretary of the five parties.

"The V.P. Khanna election represents a battle between two fundamentally different

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 JCM 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 re-

duction 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.

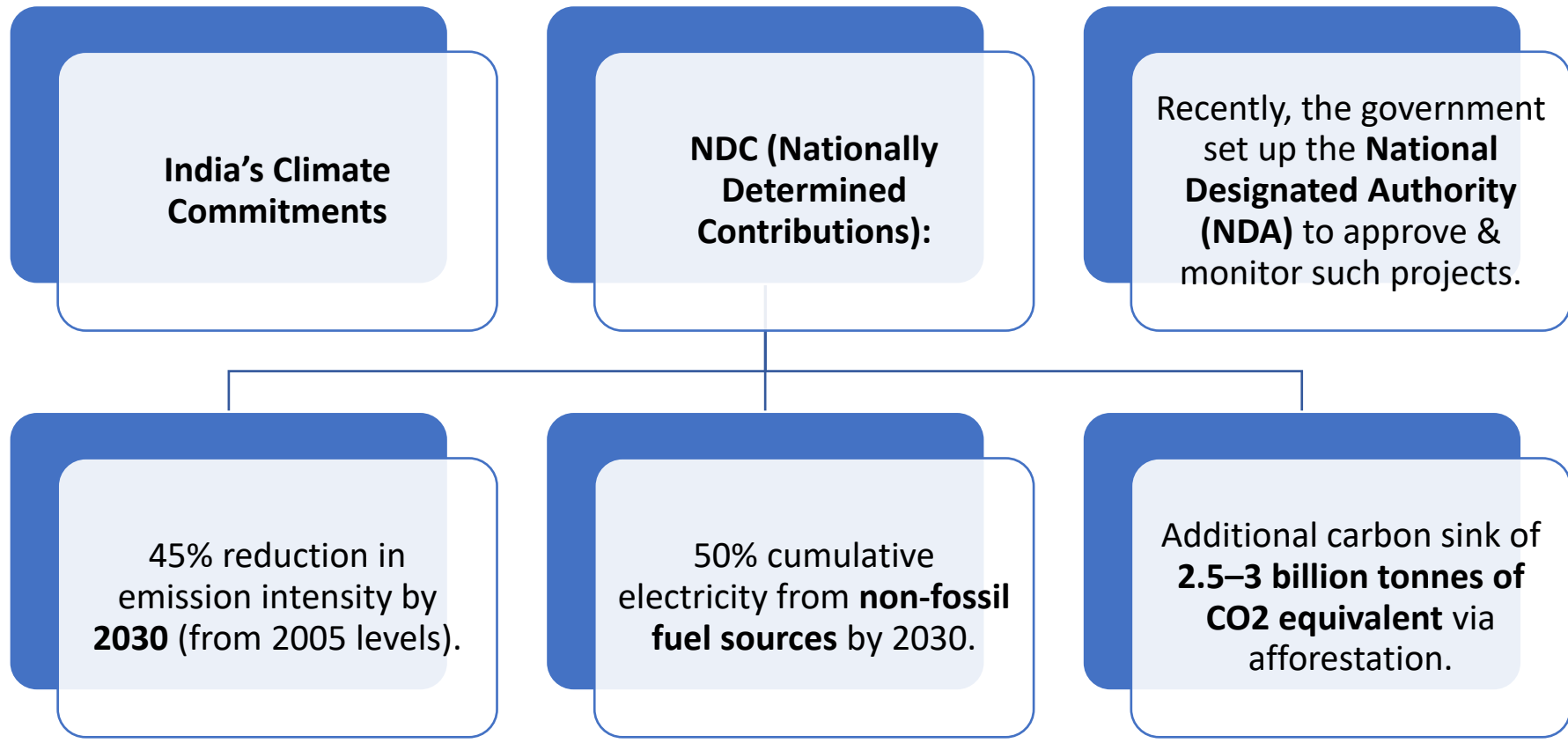
The Ministry said it had also received authorisation from the Cabinet to finalise the rules of implementation and for signing agreements with other countries on similar lines under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, in consultation with concerned Ministries and the Ministry of External Affairs, the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



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

Every 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
Commissioner of
Police, Delhi Police



Bhoomi Goyal

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.

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.

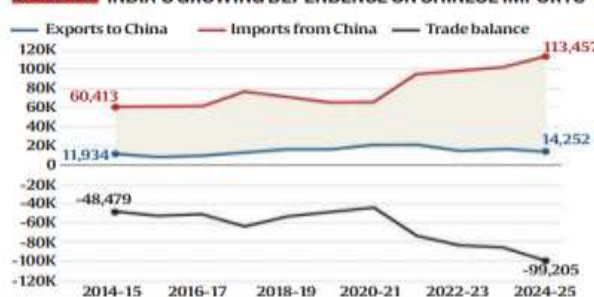
A week ago, the Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said, "The US has imposed tariffs of up to 50% on India and even threatened for more. China firmly opposes it. Silence only emboldens the bully."

Xu, seemingly borrowing from the BJP'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.

CHART 1 INDIA'S GROWING DEPENDENCE ON CHINESE IMPORTS



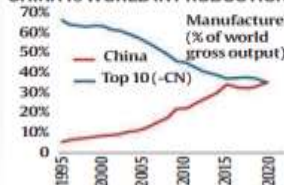
Trade data is in US\$ | Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India

TABLE
SECTORAL CHANGE
IN GVA SINCE 2019-2020

Sectors	CAGR (in %)
Agriculture	4.7
Industry	4.8
Manufacturing	4
Services	5.4

Source: MoSPI, CMIE, Indian Express research

CHART 2
CHINA vs WORLD IN PRODUCTION



Consider the following.

India'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 World 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.

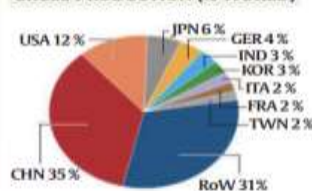
Worse still, just as the US is likely pressuring its trading allies to raise trade barriers against China, it may pursue a similar line of attack with India if New Delhi is seen to be getting closer to China than the US. *Bloomberg* on Thursday reported that Mexico is set to raise tariffs on imports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

China's overcapacity, India's problem

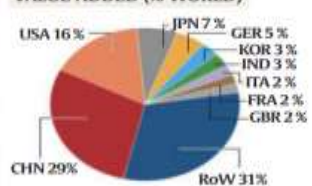
Another implication of the Mexico story is that trade restrictions will further worsen China's overcapacity problem. China is already battling deflation which is often more dangerous than inflation as it robs the consumers of the incentive to buy, and producers of the incentive to produce. Deflation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

CHARTS 3 & 4
WORLD'S BIGGEST
MANUFACTURING ECONOMIES

GROSS PRODUCTION (% WORLD)



VALUE ADDED (% WORLD)



Source: Author's elaboration of OECD, TIVA database 2023, PROD & VALU manufacturing sectors

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 private 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 opening 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 giant neighbour.

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.
-

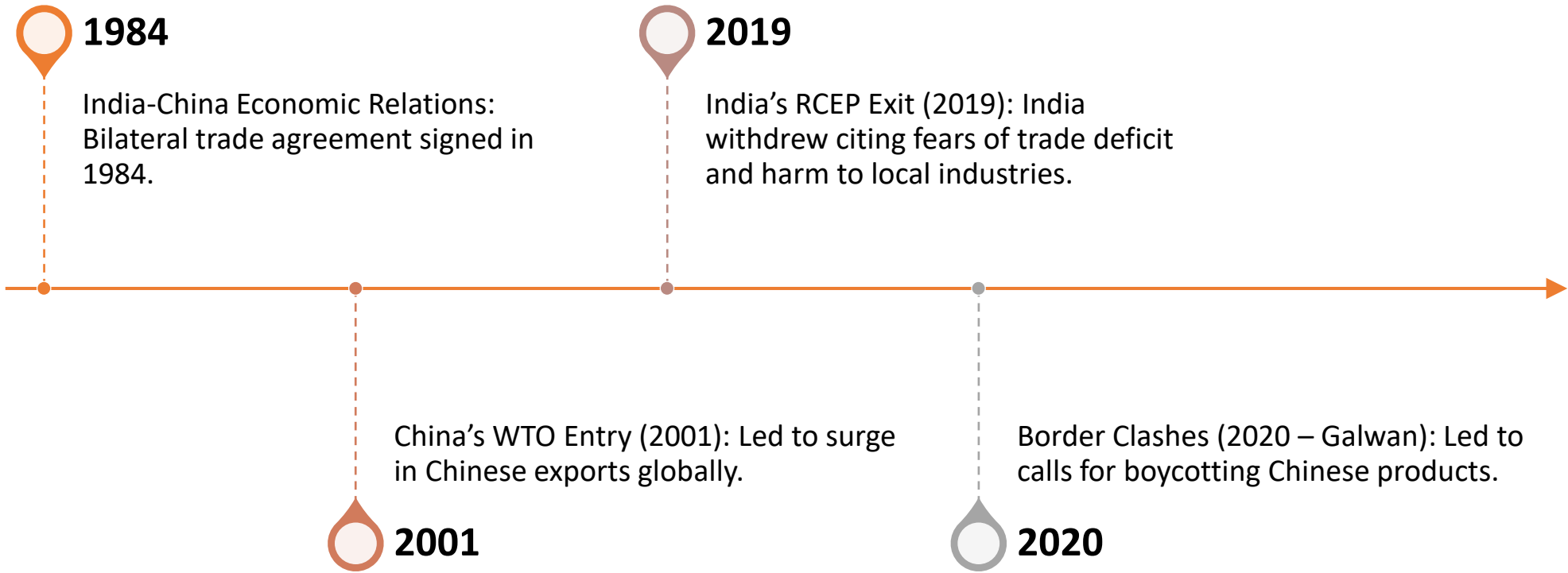
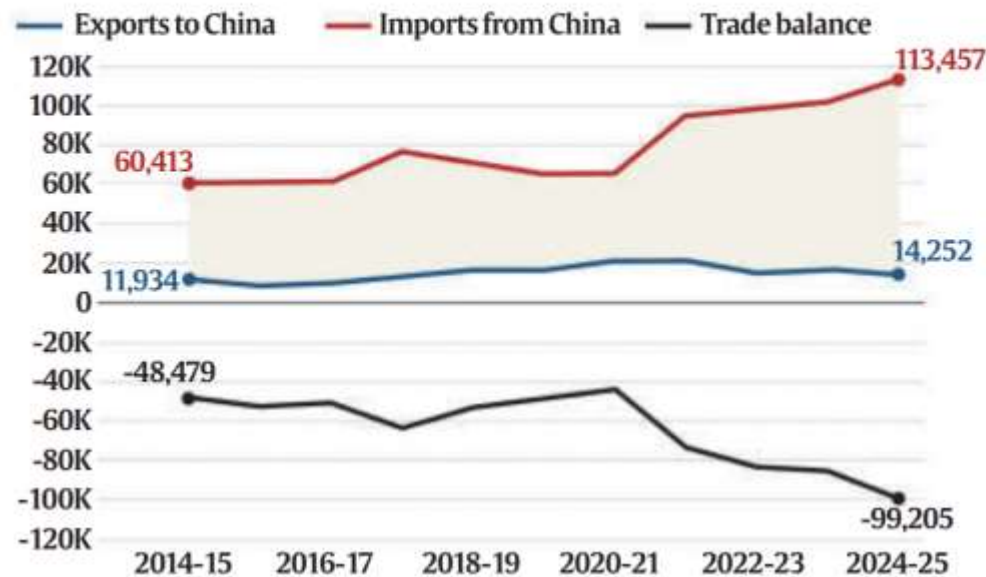


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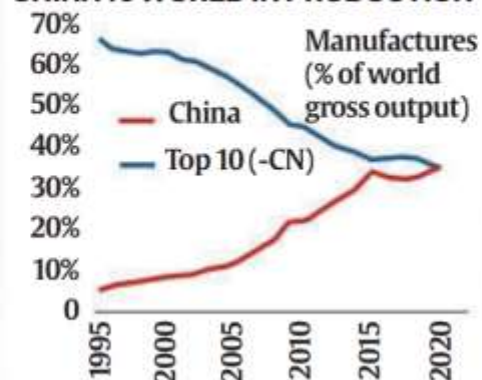
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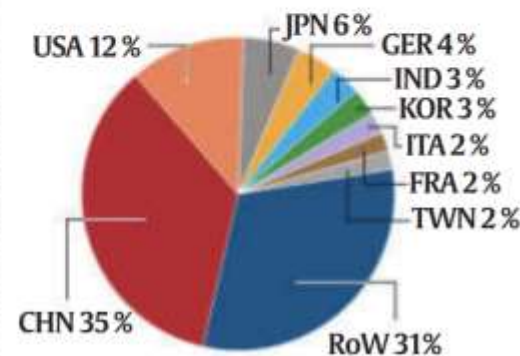
CHART 2 CHINA vs WORLD IN PRODUCTION



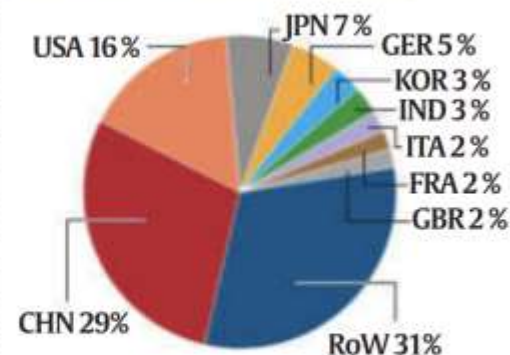
CHARTS 3 & 4

WORLD'S BIGGEST MANUFACTURING ECONOMIES

GROSS PRODUCTION (% WORLD)



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Source: Author's elaboration of OECD, TiVA database 2023, PROD & VALU manufacturing sectors

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.



Thank you 😊

