

Daily Current Affairs





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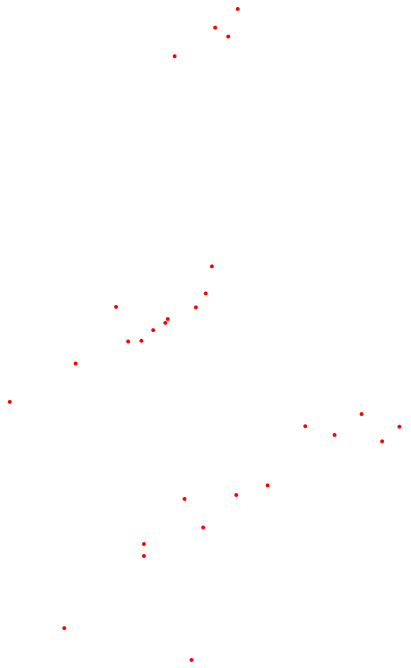
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10 MCQ QUIZ

"Daily improvement is not about
being better than others — it's
about being 1% better than the you
of yesterday." 

day called the return of bodies parts a "clear violation of the ceasefire agreement" which requires Hamas to return all the remains of hostages in Gaza as soon as possible. Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein said in Washington the strikes were carried out in full coordination with the U.S.

U.S. doing a trade deal with India: Trump

At the APEC CEO summit in South Korea, President Trump says he has a great relationship with Modi

Trump reiterates claim that he used trade ties to resolve the India-Pakistan conflict in May

Trump says the leaders of India and Pakistan called him after two days and stopped fighting

Press Trust of India
TOKYO/SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Washington is “doing a trade deal with India”, and emphasised that he has “a great relationship” with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as both sides continue negotiations on a proposed pact.

“If you look at India and Pakistan... so, I’m doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship,” Mr. Trump said at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea.

“Prime Minister Modi is the nicest looking guy... he’s tough as hell,” Mr. Trump added. He landed in South Korea on Wednesday morning from Japan as part of a three-nation tour of Asia.

Mr. Trump, who did not elaborate on trade talks, reiterated his claim that he used trade to resolve the war between India and Pakistan in May. “I called Prime Minister Modi. I said, we can’t make a trade deal with you... (He said) No, no, we must make a trade... I said, No, we can’t. You are starting a war with Pakistan. We’re not going to do it,” Mr. Trump said.

He also praised Pakistan’s Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling him “a great fighter” and



If you look at India and Pakistan... I’m doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship

DONALD TRUMP
U.S. President



“a great guy.” “Then I called Pakistan. I said, we’re not going to do trade with you because you’re fighting with India and you know, two nuclear nations. And they said, no, no, no, you should let us fight. They both said that,” he added.

Mr. Trump claimed that

the leaders of both India and Pakistan called him after two days and stopped fighting. “After literally two days, they called up, they said, we understand, and they stopped fighting. How is that? Isn’t that amazing? Now, you think [Joe] Biden would have done that?” Mr. Trump said.

Talks with EU have gone past halfway mark: Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Negotiations between India and the EU on a free trade agreement have crossed the halfway mark, with 10 out of 20 chapters

finalised, and several other chapters nearing completion, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

FULL REPORT
» **PAGE 4**

The previous day, in Tokyo, Mr. Trump said he brought the war to an end in 24 hours. “Seven planes were shot down, seven brand new, beautiful planes were shot down, and they were going at it... two big nuclear powers,” he said at a reception and dinner with business lead-

ers in the Japanese capital.

He added that he told Mr. Modi and Gen. Munir, “Look, we’re not going to do any trade if you’re going to be fighting,”

“(They said) one thing has nothing to do with the other. I said this, it has a lot to do with the other...two nuclear powers...we get

that nuclear dust all over the place. All of you are affected, right? And we said, No, we’re not doing any deals if you’re going to fight. And within about 24 hours, that was the end of that. It was amazing, actually,” the U.S. President said.

‘Under strain’

The U.S. President’s comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Mr. Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India, including an additional 25% levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

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Aspect**Details****Announcement**

U.S. and India are negotiating a trade agreement.

Event

APEC CEO Summit, Gyeongju, South Korea.

Relationship with Modi

Trump called Modi “tough as hell” but also “the nicest looking guy.”

Reference to Pakistan

Claimed to have helped defuse tensions between India and Pakistan in May through trade diplomacy.

Tone

Assertive — underscoring “mutual respect and love” for Modi and India.

3 Broader Diplomatic Context

1. India–U.S. Trade Ties

- Bilateral trade in goods and services (2024): ~\$200 billion
- U.S. is India's **largest trading partner**.
- Key areas of cooperation: **defense, technology, semiconductors, energy, and pharmaceuticals**.

2. Trade Disputes

- Relations have been under strain due to:
 - **U.S. tariffs on Indian steel (25%) and aluminum (10%)**.
 - Indian tariffs on **American farm and tech products**.
 - Differing positions on **Russia–Ukraine sanctions** (especially India's import of Russian crude oil).

3. Trump's Claim on India–Pakistan Mediation

- Trump repeated his earlier claim that he had “used trade diplomacy” to end a border conflict between India and Pakistan within 24 hours — a claim unverified by either government.

Partnership

India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Negotiators

Goal

Progress

Halfway complete (10 of 20 chapters finalized).

Led by Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal**.

Expand trade, reduce tariffs, align standards across services, textiles, and digital trade.

Dimension	Impact / Significance
Economic	Strengthening trade with both U.S. & EU diversifies India's markets, reducing overdependence on China.
Strategic	Deepens India's position within the Indo-Pacific alliance and QUAD framework .
Diplomatic	Reinforces India's image as a key U.S. partner balancing autonomy in global affairs.

Challenge

Explanation

Tariff Barriers

U.S. insists on greater access for dairy, medical devices, and e-commerce; India seeks H-1B visa relief.

Data & Tech Policy

Divergence over **digital sovereignty** and **data localization**.

Energy & Sanctions

U.S. displeased over India's Russian crude imports.

Political Context

Trump's statements may be campaign-oriented — real policy outcomes depend on U.S. election results.

500 Indians taking shelter in Thailand to be repatriated

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India will repatriate 500 of its citizens who recently crossed into Thailand, fleeing from a Myanmar military operation against a cyberscam hub there, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said, according to a *Bangkok Post* report on Wednesday.

The Myanmar military has carried out operations against the KK Park cyber crime hub in the Myawaddy township in southeastern Myanmar, which is known to have targeted many victims across the world. Following the operation, Indians working in the cyber crime compound crossed the border to Mae Sot in Thailand.

Following the Thai PM's remarks, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the authorities in New Delhi are "aware of Indian nationals who have been detained by Thai authorities", adding that the Indian Embassy in Bangkok is working to repatriate them. "They had crossed into Thailand from Myanmar over the past few days. Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Hub of cybercrime

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had raised concerns about Indians stuck in scam centres in the region during his speech at the East Asia Summit on October 27. "We share the concern about scam centres in the region which has also entrapped our nationals," he had said.

The fraud hubs have become a major issue for the

Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country.

RANDHIR JAISWAL
MEA
spokesperson



Thai Prime Minister, who said shutting down these hubs is a national security priority for Thailand. In a meeting of the National Steering Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Technology-related Crimes held in Bangkok on October 20, Mr. Charnvirakul described the cross-border online scam industry as a threat to Thailand's economic stability.

The Myanmar military has been carrying out repeated raids against the KK Park cyber crime hub, prompting around 1,500 people of multiple nationalities to cross into Thailand over the past week. A large number of cyber fraud outfits have set up bases along the Myanmar-Thailand border and in the Cambodia-Laos region, taking advantage of the civil conflict in Myanmar and lax local laws. Many of them are known to use U.S. billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink satellite network to bypass local authorities.

Earlier, the Indian Air Force carried out an airlift operation repatriating 283 Indians who had been "lured to various southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar with fake job offers", according to the MEA.

Around **500 Indian nationals** will be **repatriated from Thailand** after they fled **Myanmar's military operations** against a *cyber-scam hub* in the Myawaddy region.

The announcement came after **Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul** confirmed cooperation with Indian authorities.

These Indians had crossed into Thailand to escape crackdowns on **fraudulent online operations** run by organized criminal syndicates in Southeast Asia.

Aspect

Details

Location

KK Park cybercrime hub, Myawaddy Township, southeastern **Myanmar**, near the **Thailand border**.

Nature of Activities

Large-scale **cyber fraud**, **fake job scams**, **crypto-related phishing**, and **romance scams** targeting victims worldwide.

Recent Development

Myanmar's army conducted operations against the hub, forcing workers (including Indians) to flee.

Cross-border Movement

Hundreds crossed into **Mae Sot**, Thailand, seeking refuge.

Aspect	Details
Location	KK Park cybercrime hub, Myawaddy Township, southeastern Myanmar , near the Thailand border .
Nature of Activities	Large-scale cyber fraud , fake job scams , crypto-related phishing , and romance scams targeting victims worldwide.
Recent Development	Myanmar's army conducted operations against the hub, forcing workers (including Indians) to flee.
Cross-border Movement	Hundreds crossed into Mae Sot , Thailand, seeking refuge.

Authority

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

Randhir Jaiswal (MEA Spokesperson)

S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister)

Indian Air Force (IAF)

Action / Statement

Working with Thai authorities to **verify nationality** and **complete legal procedures** for repatriation.

Confirmed coordination between the **Indian Embassy in Bangkok** and Thai officials.

Highlighted India's concern about **regional scam centres** during his East Asia Summit speech (October 27).

Earlier repatriated **283 Indians** trapped in Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries via airlift.

Country	Role / Concern
Myanmar	Source of cybercrime hubs; operations by local militias and criminal networks exploiting weak governance.
Thailand	Transit and refuge point; facing influx of foreign workers from scam compounds.
Cambodia & Laos	Other known hotspots of digital fraud and trafficking rings.
India	Victims and workers both affected — many Indians were lured abroad with fake job offers .

Area

Issue

Cybersecurity

Cross-border scams using global digital infrastructure.

Human Trafficking

Indian youth lured through false employment ads.

Diplomatic Coordination

Need for trilateral mechanisms with Myanmar and Thailand.

Rehabilitation

Reintegration of rescued individuals and crackdown on recruiting networks.

FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark: Piyush Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Nigam
NEW DELHI

The negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement have crossed the halfway mark, with 10 out of 20 chapters of the agreement having been finalised, and several other chapters nearing completion, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

"We have made significant progress in the three-day discussion between European Commissioners for Trade and Economic Security, Marco Ferrero and his team and our team over several days," Mr. Goyal said at a press briefing. "We have agreed to close 10 out of 20 chapters. Another four to five chapters have in principle been broadly decided."

The Minister has returned from a three-nation tour, having visited Geneva for the 16th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Berlin for the Berlin Global Dialogue, and Brussels to further our negotiations with the Euro-

pean Union for an FTA. He said that, on an increasing number of issues, the two teams are moving towards convergence. The team from the EU is set to visit New Delhi next week for the next round of negotiations, and Mr. Goyal will visit the capital at the end of November or in December, the Minister said.

"Cargo movement has increased 700% in inland areas. Today, India's ports are considered among the best in the developing world," he added.

Mr. Modi was speaking at the Maritime Leaders' Conclave held at the NPS-CCO Ground to mark 'India Maritime Week'.

"When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India can play that role very strongly. Amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth," he said.

Top court allows Angmo to launch a keener challenge to Wangchuk's detention

Krishnakumar Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Gitanjali J. Angmo to launch a keener challenge against the Centre for detaining her husband and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act.

In her application seeking amendment of her earlier petition, Ms. Angmo alleged that the Union Home Ministry had misused "strong" reservations" about Mr. Wangchuk's inclusion in notices and actions against his institutions, including cancellation of land leases, CBI investigation, FARA cancellation, Income Tax summons, and other proceedings.

Ms. Angmo accused the detaining authority of "malicious intent," pointing out that state action began suddenly just two months before the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Develop-



Gitanjali J. Angmo

ment Council, left, elections, scheduled for October 2025 and at a time when Mr. Wangchuk publicly raised the issue of fulfilling the Sixth schedule promises made during the 2020 elections.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained on September 26 under the NSA following violent protests on September 24 in Leh. He is arrested on the grounds of being a threat to national security.

2-day online camp offers positivity skill training for teens

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With teenagers facing increasing pressure in school and competitive exams, during competition with peers and due to online influences, many of them struggle with stress and low self-esteem.

Mitras Global's Inspiring Positivity Camp offers a two-day online programme for those aged 11-17, blending academic skills with emotional resilience.

The camp will offer three signature modules: Love, Learn, and Lead. Learning Methodology and Positive Mind Mastery. There will be a graduation ceremony and one-on-one



coaching. Every student will receive a workbook and a certificate. To register, log on to hub.mitraglobal.com/ services. The camp will be held on September 2 between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 2-3 p.m. Sessions are limited to 25 students per slot. The fee is ₹1,999.

For more details, visit www.mitraglobal.com/ or call 94432 59946.

Indian maritime sector has seen historic progress: Modi

PM launches initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for shipping and shipbuilding sectors at Maritime Leaders' Conclave; amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth, he says

Vineeta Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The progress in India's maritime domain, for port-led industrialisation, sustainability, and shipbuilding, among others, were agreed.

"In 2020, the maiden India Maritime Week was held in Mumbai. Today, it has become a global summit. Eighty-five countries participate in it today. This itself sends a very big message," Mr. Modi said.

Speaking about reform undertaken by the govern-



Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the Maritime Leaders' Conclave at the India Maritime Week event in Mumbai on

Several manuscripts of ancient Indian texts, including the 'Arthashastra', were displayed at the exhibition. The PM also launched a 'Shipbuilding India' campaign, aiming to make India a global hub for shipbuilding.

"The PM's handling capability has doubled, making it India's biggest container port," he added.

"The Modi signed here shows the confidence of the world in India's maritime capabilities."

"This [2020] is a critical year for the country's maritime capabilities. The Vietnam deep water transit hub has been operational. It is a matter of pride for every Indian. Kandla port and the Jawahar Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) have shown great capabilities. The PM's handling capability has doubled, making it India's biggest container port," he added.

Speaking about reform undertaken by the govern-



National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) leader Muivah during a visit to Delhi on Wednesday

NSCN(I-M) leader reiterates Naga sovereignty demand

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) leader Muivah, on Wednesday reiterated his group's unwavering stand on Naga sovereignty.

Addressing a rally in his birthplace, second village to the NSCN (I-M)'s central headquarters near Dimapur in adjoining Nagaland, and the Naga national constitution," Mr. Muivah said.

The court rejected the case to hear the Centre's response on November 24.

that the group would never compromise on what it set out to do decades ago. "The only honourable negotiated political agreement shall be according to the letter and spirit of the Amsterdam Joint Communiqué and the Framework Agreement (August 2015), and the officially recognised Nagaland unique history, Naga sovereignty, Nagaland territory, and the Naga national constitution," Mr. Muivah said.

The new Japanese Prime Minister has met many of her Asian and Indo-Pacific counterparts already, as she attended the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur last week, that Mr. Modi pulled out of. Mr. Modi said he is in conversation with South Korea for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit on Thursday.

The conversation between the two Prime Ministers came a day after Mr. Trump's visit to Japan, which Mr. Modi also referenced the Quad.

Japan's new PM calls Modi, discusses Quad, economic and security issues

Mahesh Haldar
NEW DELHI

India and Japan would like to open a "golden chapter" in their relationship, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Wednesday, as he held his first conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The Japanese Prime Minister's office said that Mr. Ishiba had discussed the "new chapter" in the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, indicating India and Japan will move forward with the initiatives and agreements signed during Mr. Modi's visit to

Japan in August. Mr. Modi had then met with Mr. Ishiba's predecessor Shigeru Ishiba, who had said he had to resign from office, professionals, both sides said.

In a chief minister's office, Mr. Ishiba said that Mr. Ishiba had discussed the "new chapter" in the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, indicating India and Japan will move forward with the initiatives and agreements signed during Mr. Modi's visit to

ment to improve shipping and port efficiency and safety, Mr. Modi said. "We are taking big steps. Modern and futuristic laws have been introduced and old laws scrapped. They strengthen sustainability and enhance digitisation in ports. The safety of our ports has increased and ease of business has improved."

Logistics performance. Praising India's performance of Indian ports, Mr. Modi said, "In the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank, India had performed better."

"Shipbuilding is our top priority too. India is making great strides in shipbuilding," he said, adding, "New alternatives for finance and easy credit will be offered."

"We welcome your ideas, innovation and investment. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) have been increasing. We are giving incentives to attract investment," he told the attendees at the conclave.

Speaking about reform undertaken by the govern-

India, China hold fresh round of talks on border peace

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian and Chinese militaries held a fresh round of high-level talks aimed at maintaining peace and security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

It was the first such interaction between the two militaries after the Special Representatives' talks in August between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the 23rd round of India-China Corps Commander-level meeting was held on October 28 at the Chushul-Mokdo border meeting point.

This was the first meeting of the General Level Mechanism to the Western Sector since the 24th round of Special Representatives' talks held on August 19. The discussions, the Ministry said, were held in a "friendly and cordial manner."

The Ministry added that both sides had reviewed the progress since the 22nd

round of Corps Commander-level Meeting held in October 2024 and shared the view that peace and tranquillity have been maintained in the border areas. The two sides agreed to continue using existing mechanisms to resolve any issues on the ground and to maintain stability along the LAC.

The Chinese Ministry of National Defence also confirmed the talks, stating that "the two sides engaged in active and in-depth communication on the management of the western sector of the China-India border."

"The latest round of talks comes amid ongoing efforts for both nations to sustain dialogue and prevent incidents along the continued frontier. Disengagement efforts have been under way since 2023."

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"The latest round of talks comes amid ongoing efforts for both nations to sustain dialogue and prevent incidents along the continued frontier. Disengagement efforts have been under way since 2023."

President takes sortie in Rafale fighter jet, calls it 'unforgettable experience'

Press Trust of India
AMBALA (HARYANA)

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday took a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet from the Indian Air Force Station in Ambala, and described the experience as "unforgettable," and one he would treasure for the rest of his life.

President Murmu made history as she became the first woman to fly in two different fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. Previously, she had taken a sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI, in April 2023, from Nagpur in Assam.

Donning a G-suit and sporting sunglasses, Ms. Murmu, who is also the first woman to fly in a fighter aircraft, was seen posing for pictures with the pilots of the Rafale fighter jet, flown by Group Captain Anil Gehan, Commanding Officer of



Flying high: President Droupadi Murmu before taking a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet in Ambala on Wednesday

of the 17 Squadron, took off at 11:27 a.m. The sortie lasted approximately 30 minutes, covering about 300 km. The aircraft reached a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level, and a speed of approximately 700 kmph, according to a statement from the President's office.

Upon landing, the President shared her delight in the "unforgettable experience." She said, "This first flight on the potent Rafale aircraft has

instilled in me a renewed sense of pride in the nation's defence capabilities. I congratulate the Indian Air Force," she wrote.

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh also flew a sortie in a separate aircraft from the same air base. Upon arrival in Ambala, the President was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Prior to the flight, Ms. Murmu was welcomed by Squadron Leader Shivang Singh, the country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot.

SC expresses concern over delay in framing of charges by courts

Krishnakumar Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to examine the reasons behind criminal courts chronically delaying the framing of charges for years together in cases ripe for trial.

A Bench of Justices Arun Kumar and N.V. Anand voiced concern about the delay in which charges, one of the first steps in trial proceedings, are framed. The Bench expressed concern that trial proceedings were being delayed for years together in cases ripe for trial.

The court, besides appointing senior advocates Siddharth Luthra and S. Narayan as amicus curiae in the matter, also directed the Bench to examine the reasons for the delay in framing charges, even though Section 253 (b) of the Bharatiya Nagarika Sanhita mandated

that it must be done within 60 days in sessions cases. Justice Kumar linked the huge pendency of criminal cases in trial courts to the hold-up in framing charges. "We are of the considered opinion that certain directions need to be issued pan-India..." Justice Kumar noted.

The Bench also asked the Attorney General and Solicitor General to submit a report on the delay in framing charges, one of the first steps in trial proceedings, are framed. The Bench expressed concern that trial proceedings were being delayed for years together in cases ripe for trial.

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Indian maritime sector has seen historic progress: Modi

PM launches initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for shipping and shipbuilding sectors at Maritime Leaders' Conclave; amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth, he says

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The progress in India's maritime domain has been historic and the capability of major ports has doubled, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

"Cargo movement has increased 700% in inland areas. Today, India's ports are considered among the best in the developing world," he added.

Mr. Modi was speaking at the Maritime Leaders' Conclave held at the NESCO Ground to mark 'India Maritime Week'.

"When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India can play that role very strongly. Amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth," Mr. Modi said, hinting at the prevailing global trade headwinds.

During the event, Mr. Modi launched initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for the shipping and shipbuilding sectors, including acquisition of 437 vessels.



Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the Maritime Leaders' Conclave at the India Maritime Week event in Mumbai. PTI

Several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for port-led industrialisation, sustainability, and shipbuilding, among others, were signed.

Sign of confidence

"In 2016, the maiden India Maritime Week was held in Mumbai. Today, it has become a global summit. Eighty-five countries participate in it today. This itself sends a very big message," Mr. Modi said.

"The MoUs signed here show the confidence of the

world in India's maritime capabilities."

"This [2025] is a crucial year for the country's maritime capabilities. The Vizhinjam deep water transit hub has been operational. It is a matter of pride for every Indian. Kandla port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) have shown great capabilities. The JNPT's handling capability has doubled, making it India's biggest container port," he added.

Speaking about reforms undertaken by the govern-

ment to improve shipping and port efficiency and safety, Mr. Modi said, "We are taking big steps. Modern and futuristic laws have been implemented and old laws scrapped. They strengthen sustainability and enhance digitisation in ports. The safety of our ports has increased and ease of business has improved."

Logistics performance

Praising logistics performance of Indian ports, Mr. Modi said, "In the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank, India had performed better."

"Shipbuilding is our top priority too. India is making great strides in shipbuilding," he said, adding, "New alternatives for finance and easy credit will be offered."

"We welcome your ideas, innovation and investment. Public-Private Partnerships [PPP] have been increasing. We are giving incentives to States to attract investment," he told the attendees at the conclave.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Maritime Leaders' Conclave** at Mumbai's NESCO grounds during **India Maritime Week 2025**.
- He announced **initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore** for the **shipping and shipbuilding sectors**, including modernization, digitalization, and acquisition of 437 new vessels.

Key Announcements

Area	Announcement / Initiative	
Investment	₹2.2 lakh crore in new projects (shipping, shipbuilding, and port upgrades).	
Ship Acquisition	437 ships to be added to India's commercial fleet.	
Port Industrialization MoUs	Several MoUs signed for port-led industrialization, sustainability, and shipbuilding .	
Reforms	Implementation of modern, futuristic laws and scrapping of outdated maritime legislations.	
PPP and Innovation	Boost to Public-Private Partnerships and incentives for States to attract maritime investment.	

Indicator

Inland Cargo Movement

Port Capacity

JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust)

Vizhinjam Port (Kerala)

Kandla Port (Deendayal Port)

Growth / Achievement

Increased **700%** over the decade.

Doubled in recent years.

Handling capacity **doubled**, making it **India's largest container port**.

Now operational — a **deep-water transshipment hub**.

Expanded operations; focus on energy trade and exports.

Aspect

Details

Event Origin

First held in 2016; now a **global maritime summit**.

Participation

85+ countries attended in 2025.

Message

Reflects **international confidence** in India's maritime and port capabilities.

Theme

"Blue Economy for a Resilient Future."

Indicator

Rank / Position

Global Maritime Network Size

Among top 10 globally.

**World Bank's Logistics
Performance Index 2023**

Improved ranking (India moved up 6 positions).

Global Shipbuilding Share

Growing steadily, though still below China, South Korea, and Japan.

Port Automation

India among few developing nations adopting **AI-driven smart port systems**.

Reforms & Future Vision

Structural Reforms

- New **Maritime Development Bill (2025)** to integrate coastal shipping, port management, and environmental norms.
- Decriminalization of minor port law violations.

Sustainability Focus

- Push for **green hydrogen bunkering, offshore wind, and electric port vehicles.**
- Drive for **carbon-neutral ports by 2047** under *Amrit Kaal Vision*.

Logistics and Financing

- Emphasis on **new credit models** for shipbuilding.
- Plan to reduce **logistics cost to 8% of GDP by 2030** (currently ~13%).

IN BRIEF



Delhi HC quashes 17-year-old case against Madhu Kishwar

The Delhi High Court has quashed a 17-year-old attempt to murder case against academic and activist Madhu Kishwar, observing that the FIR was "maliciously motivated". The order, passed on October 16, came while allowing Mr. Kishwar's plea seeking to quash an FIR lodged against her in June 2008 for offences of attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt, and criminal intimidation under the erstwhile Indian Penal Code. Justice Anil Mathan said "The subject FIR appears to be in the nature of a defence and a maliciously motivated counterblast... for wreaking vengeance upon the petitioner."

Urdu is the most beautiful language, says Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju, on Wednesday, termed Urdu "the most beautiful language in the world", speaking at the 10th foundation day of the Jamia Millia Islamia University. He also stressed that harmony between Hindus and Muslims was vital for India's progress and unity. "I don't know much of Urdu, but I can say that Urdu is the most beautiful language in the world," he said while praising the range played at variety's modernism. He noted that among the six minorities, Muslims were the biggest community. He added that country cannot develop without Hindu-Muslim harmony.

Rahul promises support to family of deceased doctor

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday spoke to the family of a 28-year-old woman doctor from Maharashtra's Satara district, who allegedly died by suicide after sexual assault and harassment. He assured them of full support in their fight for justice. The conversation was facilitated by Maharashtra Congress president Hardwardhan Rajpal, who visited the family in Kowadgaon village in flood district. Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhans also joined the interaction. Mr. Gandhi reportedly told the parents that Congress stands firmly with them and justice will be ensured at any cost.

Uproar over woman giving birth on muddy ground in U.P.

A video that went viral on Wednesday, showing a woman from Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh giving birth on muddy ground and being left on the road by ambulance workers, forcing her to give birth on the muddy ground within a government health centre premises, led to an uproar. The Congress party called the video and images a "shame for humanity," criticising healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh and terming the State's claim of world-class healthcare an eyesore. "These videos are a shame for humanity. This is the shameful reality of health services in U.P. The government claims the healthcare services are world-class but the reality can be seen," Anil Yadav, a senior U.P. Congress leader, said.

U.N. report on Myanmar 'blinkered', says India

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has strongly condemned what it described as a "blinkered analysis" made against it in a United Nations report on Myanmar's human rights situation, even as it reiterated its call for an immediate cessation of violence. India also inclusive political dialogue in the neighbouring country.

Delivering India's statement during the interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in Myanmar at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Lok Sabha member Dilip Singh said New Delhi continues to support all initiatives aimed at fostering a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led path toward peace and democracy.

"We reiterate our consistent position calling for an immediate cessation of violence, release of political prisoners, withdrawal of military of humanitarian assistance," he said, strongly criticising the remarks made by the UN Special Representative.

He said, "I express serious objections to the baseless and biased observation about country."

PM afraid to counter Trump's claims on ending war: Rahul

Congress leader says the Prime Minister must find the courage to respond when he comes to Bihar, he should state that Trump is lying

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over U.S. President Donald Trump repeating his claims that he had stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan using trade, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that the Prime Minister was "scared" of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Gandhi, adding that he has made him how before him, Mr. Modi never once said Mr. Trump is a speaking nonsense and lying," the Opposition leader said, adding, "One who cannot tell the American President on his face 'you are lying', he cannot do anything in the world."

In a post on X later, Mr. Gandhi said, "Mr. Trump is a good friend in New Delhi, but he is not a friend in South Korea. I repeated that he used to be a friend."



Rahul Gandhi

On his X handle, Congress general secretary in charge (communications) Jitram Ramesh shared video clips of Mr. Trump's remarks in Japan and later in South Korea in which he repeated his claim that he stopped the India-Pakistan military conflict using trade, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that the Prime Minister was "scared" of Mr. Trump.

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on Mr. Modi into stopping Operation Sindoor, 2, 547 7 planes were shot down. But he scared Modi, I find the courage to respond."

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Cong. slams Centre for using ancient text to draw labour policy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Highlighting a portion of the Union Labour Ministry's draft Shram Shakti Bill, 2025, which takes inspiration from Manusmriti, the Congress on Wednesday targeted the Narendra Modi government by alleging that it mirrors the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) tradition of prioritising the ancient text over the Constitution.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jitram Ramesh, in a post on X, claimed that the government is seeking to revive the principles of the Manusmriti, a Hindu religious text, through its new labour policy, and the move reflected the ideological influence of the RSS.

Mr. Ramesh claimed that the RSS had opposed the Constitution since after its adoption for not being based on the Manusmriti. "The Modi government's draft Shram Shakti Bill 2025, released earlier this month, claims that the Manusmriti embeds the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric, centuries before the rise of modern labour law," he said in a post on X.

The Congress leader shared the text of the new policy, which says, "Ancient texts such as the Manusmriti, Yajurveda, and the Rigveda, articulated the ethos through the concept of rajadharma, emphasising the sovereign's duty to ensure justice, and the protection of workers from exploitation. These civilisational values embedded the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric."

Developing nations need 12 times more funds to fight climate crisis

Jacob Kadosh
NEW DELHI

To adapt to climate change, developing countries will require anywhere from \$110-\$62 billion (at least \$27 lakh crore) annually by 2035, according to a United Nations analysis. This is nearly 12 times more than the money that currently flows from the developed to the developing world for this purpose.

The analysis, underlining the huge gap between the demand and supply of funds needed to protect developing nations from climate change impacts, appears in a report on 'Energy', an annual report on the shortfall released on Wednesday, ahead of the COP-29 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025 will be "missed", the report added.

At COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan last year, developing countries, who have agreed to provide \$300 billion annually by 2035, were disappointed that the developed world agreed to only \$300 billion, called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

Tuesday's UN report underlines this criticism. "It is far too evident that the financial resources needed to enable adaptation action in developing countries at the scale necessary to meet the growing challenges of current and future climate risks is woefully inadequate. It will take nothing less than a global collective effort to increase climate finance to the levels articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals to 1.3 trillion," it notes.

The report also raises concerns that whatever resources have been made available at present is primarily classified as 'debt'. Although 70% of international public adaptation finance was concessional in 2022-23, it is "concerning" that debt instruments continue to dominate these overall flows, comprising 58% on average in that financial year, the report said.



Developing countries need more climate finance to move away from power plants dependent on fossil fuels, say more

At \$26 billion (about \$2.2 lakh crore) in 2023, down from \$28 billion the previous year, if these trends continue, a target agreed upon by countries at the COP-26 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025 will be "missed", the report added.

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Pay panel's terms of reference too rigid, says AITUC leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) said here on Wednesday that the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC) should do justice to government employees and pensioners. Criticising the delay in announcing the CPC, AITUC general secretary Anant Kumar said that the decision to constitute the CPC was announced ahead of the Delhi Assembly election in January, it took 10 months for the Centre to constitute the panel. She said the decision went to cold storage and now it was being announced a few days ahead of the Bihar election.

It took 10 months for Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government to constitute a three-member CPC and a part-time member for the Commission. The President has been given 18 months' time to submit a report to the government, which means we can expect the report, recommendations of the 8th Central Pay Commission only during the middle of the year 2027," she said.

"By the time the government takes a decision, if it is sincere enough, it may go up to the end of the year 2027. The employees of both Central and State governments have to wait for another two more years to get their wages revised. This is an injustice on them," the trade union leader further said.

Mr. Kumar said the "Terms of Reference" given by the government to the CPC is so rigid with lots of compulsions to finalise its recommendations, such as the economic conditions and fiscal prudence.

"All these (conditions) comes to the mind of the government only when it comes for giving any benefit to the employees and pensioners," she added.



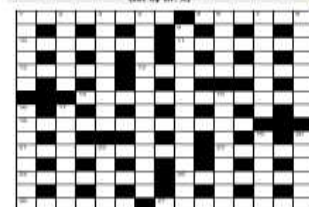
Anant Kumar

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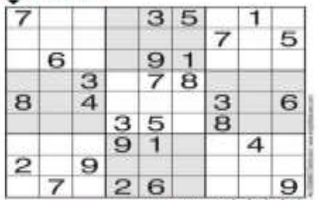


- Across
- Police officer arrests primarily unsavoury hickmah? (8)
 - Old type of French specialty ignited in fire and to jail concern (8)
 - Stuffed Greek character pinching gothic's butt in Japanese city? (7)
 - Support partner in a loud manner? (7)

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

- King filled with money behind a little unusual shrub (5)
- Billy goat was short at front of bush (5)
- Annual intercourse is a devil with honey giving wild (12,3,4)
- What might interest a geographer in north-western measures (8,7)
- Man in cold after consuming dope - that's delightful (9)
- Rubbish outside university on East avenue (5)
- Be victorious in border, going away to capture rebellious trait (9)
- Starts to eat economically in sandy dunes, becoming more impoverished (7)
- One examining source of teratogenic chemical compound (8)
- Revised report about terrible heat in prison block (5,3)
- Salmon and special matter of time for one showing mouse duties (2,4)
- Looking extremely abhorrent secret eventually (2,4)
- One found in bathroom with first in a small (8)
- One in bathtub lying nervously in an incoherent/terrified manner (14)
- For spreading? Leave houses (5)
- Girls in trouble retreated, crushed by barbarians (8)
- Cherry referred extremely small red (5)
- Old man in pub at ground catching glimpse of body, fair-haired lady (9,6)
- Most raucous tiger sporadically chasing barbarian (8)
- Couple of drugs for words (8)
- Entering twice last, getting a drink (8)
- Invited in Peru becoming more hectic (8)
- Tongue to test English store (8)
- Maternal relative in US assembly after son's departed (3)

SUDOKU



- Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★
- Solution to previous puzzle
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
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| 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
- Solution to previous puzzle
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| 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
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| 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 |

FAITH

Like rain-laden clouds

Nammavaiyar in his Thiruvaimozhi uses the words *viru muthal* - the rain that comes in, said Akkarakkani Sridhar in a discourse. What is this rain that comes into Maadhuracholai? Explaining this verse in his commentary, Nammavaiyar says Maadhuracholai has two kinds of rain: One is the benevolent Kalladhaagar, the Lord of the koshta. He is in Maadhuracholai permanently. He is the eternal cloud that gives, without moving away. But there are the regular clouds, those we see everywhere. They come in, give us rain and they move away.

When the Lord took Rama avatara, He showed the fondness for Sabari, who belonged to a clan of hunters. When Ramanaia had to be saved from Yashasprakash, who was planning to kill him, Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi and His Consort Perumdevi took the form of hunters to save Ramanaia. They left him near a well, from which he took water to the Varadaraja temple every day. Thus they discovered their every on Ramanaia, and gave the world's great Acharya, but as Kalladhaagar is a cloud that stays in Thiruvaimozhi, Varadaraja and Perumdevi are clouds that remain forever in Kanchi, blessing devotees. Ramanaia followed the Lord's example. He too was kindhearted personified, prompting Thiruvaimozhi-mustard to praise his mercy. Thiruvaimozhi-mustard wrote Ramanaia Nootrandhal, extolling Ramanaia's adorable qualities. In one verse he describes Ramanaia as *Kaeral Karunai Ramanaia* - Ramanaia, who is like rain-laden clouds. Just as clouds give without expecting anything in return, so did the Acharya give generously of his knowledge, justifying the comparison to clouds.

Developing nations need 12 times more funds to fight climate crisis

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

To adapt to climate change, developing countries will require anywhere from \$310-365 billion (at least ₹27 lakh crore) annually by 2035, according to a United Nations analysis. This is nearly 12 times more than the money that currently flows from the developed to the developing world for this purpose.

The analysis, underlining the huge gap between the demand and supply of funds needed to protect developing nations from climate change impacts, appears in *Running on Empty*, an annual report on the shortfall released on Wednesday, ahead of the 30th edition of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-30) to be held in Belem, Brazil next month.

International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries stood



Developing countries need more climate finance to move away from power plants dependent on fossil fuels. FILE PHOTO

at \$26 billion (about ₹2.2 lakh crore) in 2023, down from \$28 billion the previous year. If these trends continue, a target agreed upon by countries at the COP-26 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025 will be “missed”, the report added.

Disappointing target

Finance is a significant issue in climate negotiations, as developing countries insist that developed countries pay the costs of adap-

tation (to deal with climate change impacts) and mitigation (to move away from fossil fuels), as well as compensation for losses and damages already occurring. This total bill is collectively called “climate finance”.

At COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan last year, developing countries, which were demanding nearly \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, were disappointed when the developed world agreed to only \$300 billion, called the New Collec-

tive Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

Tuesday’s UN report underlines this criticism. “...it is far too evident that the financial resources needed to enable adaptation action in developing countries at the scale necessary to meet the growing challenges of current and future climate risks is woefully inadequate. It will take nothing less than a global collective effort to increase climate finance to the levels articulated in the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3 trillion,” it notes.

The report also raises concerns that whatever money has been made available at present is primarily classified as ‘debt.’ Although 70% of international public adaptation finance was concessional in 2022-23, it is “worrisome” that debt instruments continue to dominate these overall flows, comprising 58% on average in that financial year, the report said.

- According to a **UN analysis** ahead of **COP-30 (Belem, Brazil, 2025)**, **developing countries** will require between **\$310–365 billion annually by 2035** ($\approx$ ₹27 lakh crore) to effectively **adapt to climate change**.
- This is **12 times higher** than the current annual financial flow from developed nations to developing ones.

2 Key Findings of the UN Report

Parameter	Current Status (2023)	Requirement (by 2035)
Annual adaptation finance	\$26 billion (₹2.2 lakh crore)	\$310–365 billion
COP26 Target (Glasgow, 2021)	Double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025	Likely to be <i>missed</i>
Estimated shortfall	~\$280–340 billion per year	—
Projected need under Baku–Belém Roadmap	\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035	—

- The report, titled “**Running on Empty**”, highlights the **severe finance gap** between adaptation needs and the limited funds made available by developed nations.
 - Published as part of the **30th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-30)** preparatory process.
-

Why the Funding Gap Matters

Adaptation Costs

- Developing countries must spend huge amounts to:
 - Build **climate-resilient infrastructure** (flood control, agriculture, housing).
 - Shift to **clean energy** and reduce fossil fuel dependency.
 - Compensate for **loss and damage** due to climate disasters.

Finance Source Problem

- Around **70%** of international climate finance in 2022–23 was **concessional (debt-based)**, not grants.
 - The report warns this **increases debt stress** for low-income nations.
-

Summit / Agreement

Key Point

COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)

Pledged to double adaptation finance by 2025 (\$40 billion goal).

COP29 (Baku, 2024)

Developing nations demanded \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035; developed countries agreed to only \$300 billion.

COP30 (Belem, Brazil, 2025)

Expected to negotiate a *New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)* for climate finance.

Baku–Belém Roadmap

Lays out trajectory for scaling adaptation finance to \$1.3 trillion.

Challenge

Explanation

Debt-based finance

58% of adaptation finance is in form of loans, increasing financial vulnerability.

Unmet targets

Developed nations repeatedly fail to meet prior commitments.

Inadequate compensation

For “loss and damage” due to climate-induced disasters.

Inequity in energy transition

Developing nations bear disproportionate adaptation costs despite lower emissions.

Dimension

Impact

Economic

Increased fiscal burden on developing economies.

Social

Greater exposure to climate migration, poverty, and inequality.

Political

Potential North–South divide in COP-30 negotiations.

Environmental

Delay in adaptation may worsen biodiversity and agriculture losses.

Her Lucknow rally was, in effect, old wine in an old bottle.

Undoubtedly, this has been one of the biggest years for the maritime partnership between Norway and India. As major ocean nations, we face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all.

Chart 8: Country-by-country respondents who have seen or a lot of faith in their country to regulate the use of AI effectively

Country	Percentage
India	74%
Indonesia	53%
Germany	49%
South Africa	48%
Turkey	44%
U.K.	39%
France	38%
Mexico	37%
Nigeria	33%
U.S.	29%

Indeed, the Lucknow rally, which was supposed to be a political renaissance of Mr Mayawati, ended as an unheeded call for reformation. Mayawati-2008 is like a broken record. In Lucknow, she has the stage and a huge audience too. Yet she fluffed her lines in the soap opera of U.P. politics, there may not many takers available.

New plantations in Sumatra

Despite low awareness, Indians expressed the most confidence in government regulation

AI awareness: survey results

The data for the charts are sourced from the Pew Research Center's 'How People Around the World View AI' (October 2025). For non-U.S. data, this analysis draws on nationally representative surveys of 28,333 adults conducted from January 8 to April 26, 2025. Countries are classified as either high- or middle-income based on categories from the World Bank that rely on per capita gross national income.

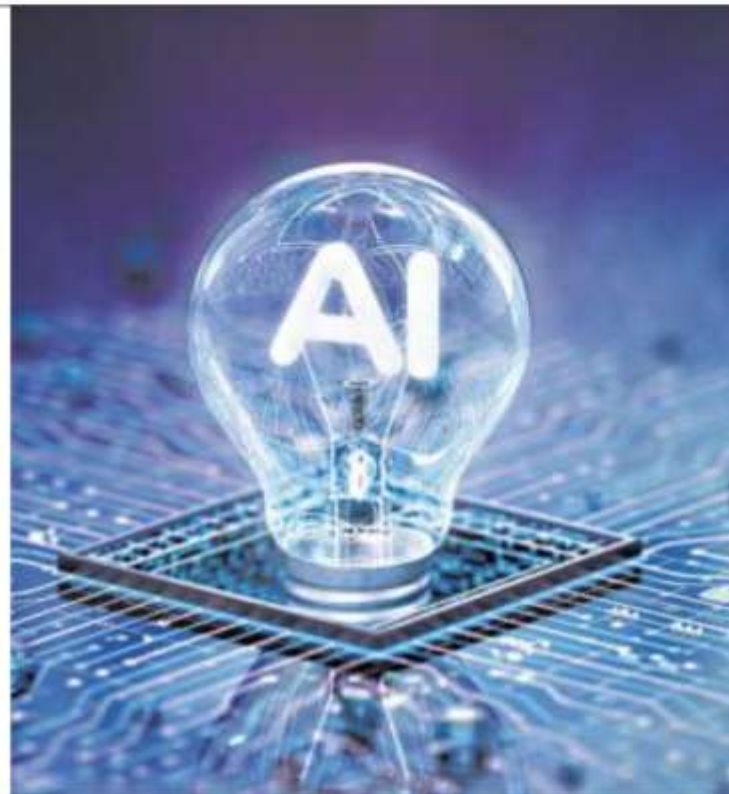


Chart 5: Share of respondents who said they have heard or read a lot about AI against the country's GDP per capita

● North America ● Europe ● Asia-Pacific ● West Asia ● Sub-Saharan Africa ● Latin America

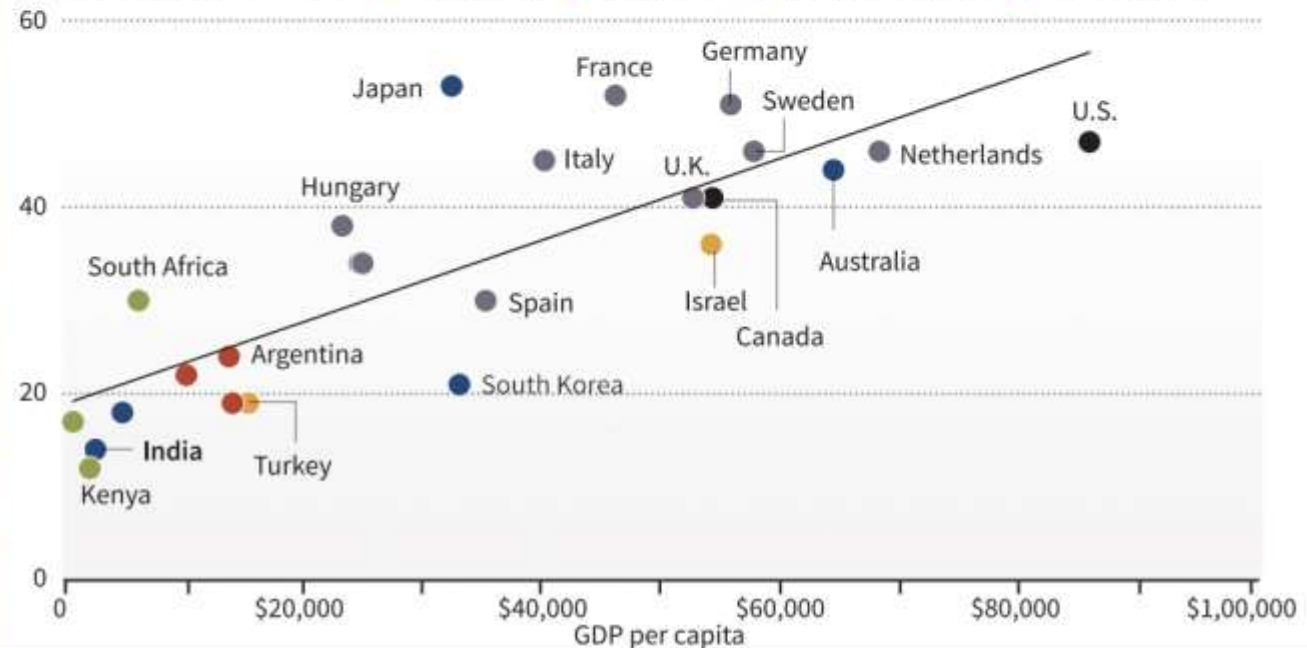


Chart 1: Country-wise share of respondents who said they have heard or read a lot or a little about AI. Figures in %

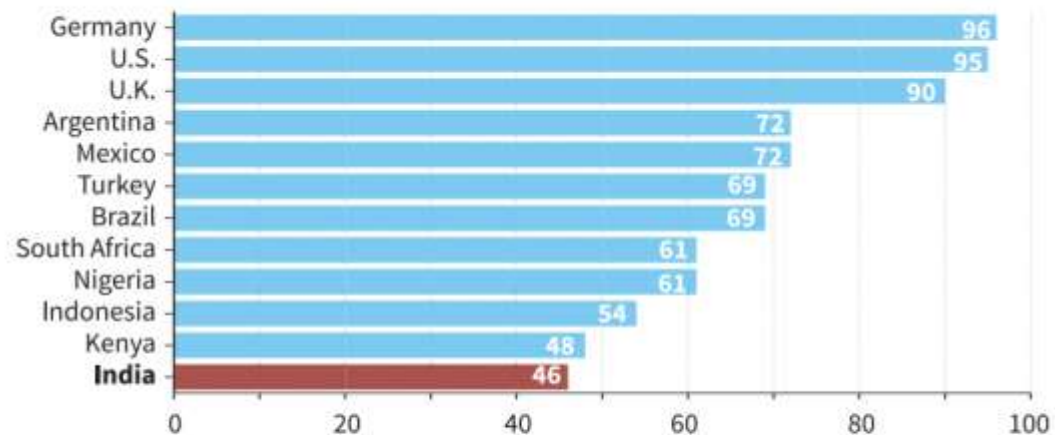


Chart 2: Country-wise share of respondents aged 18-34 who said they have heard or read a lot about AI. Figures in %

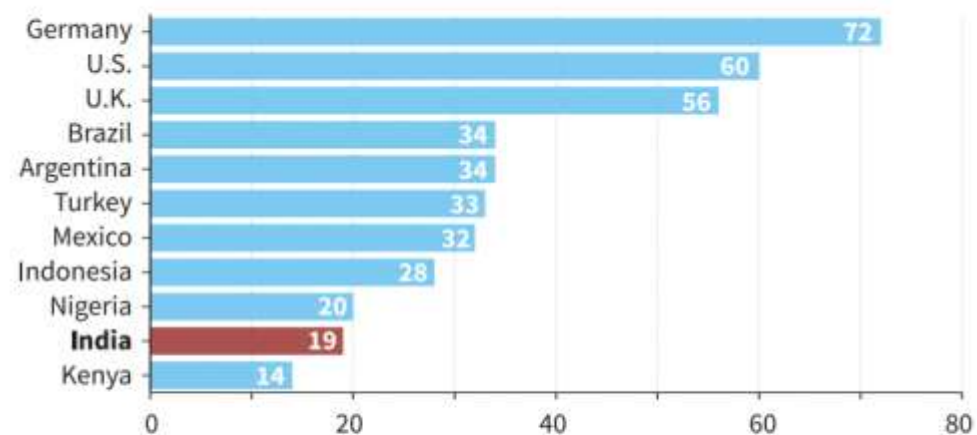


Chart 3: Country-wise share of respondents who said the increased use of AI in daily life makes them feel more concerned than excited

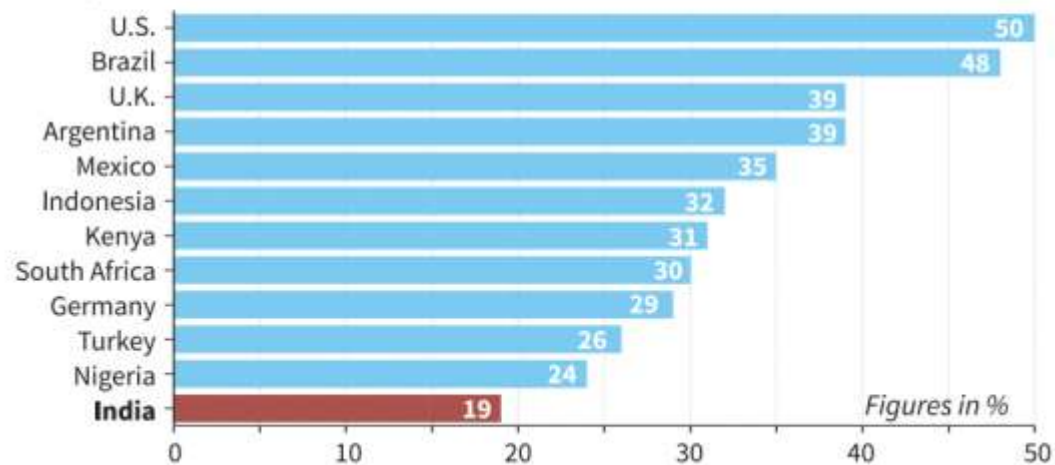
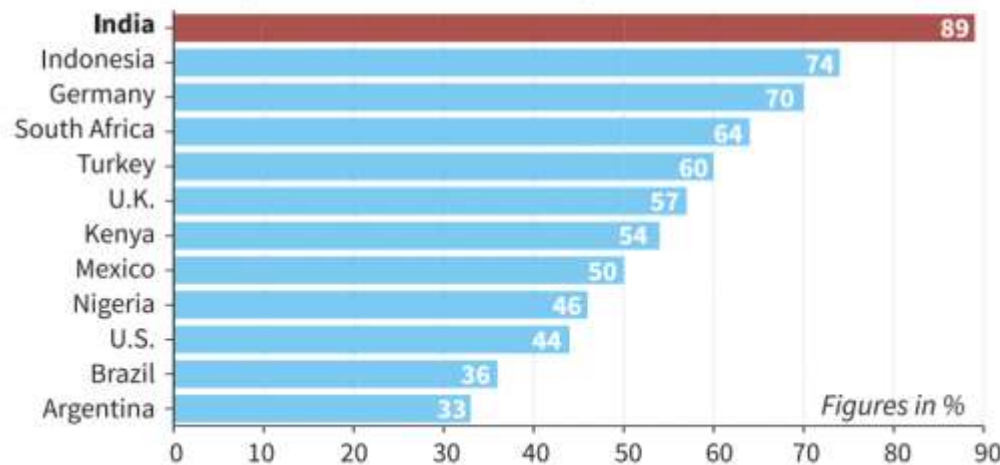


Chart 4: Country-wise share respondents who have some or a lot of faith in their country to regulate the use of AI effectively



WASHINGTON U.S. Fed announces second quarter-point rate cut of 2025



The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced its second straight quarter-point rate cut in its bid to hedge against growing labour market risks, in a move that highlighted growing divisions among its ranks. Policymakers voted 5-3 in favour of lowering the bank's key lending rate by between 0.25% and 0.50%.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA Hundreds of thousands evacuate as Hurricane Melissa hits Cuba



Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated in eastern Cuba and a hurricane warning was in effect for the provinces of Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, Holguín and Las Tunas as Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 3 storm early Wednesday.

TOKYO U.S. welcomes Japan's arms boost, says alliance key to deter China



U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday welcomed Japan's determination to accelerate its ongoing military build-up and defence spending. During a visit to Japan, Mr. Hegseth said he hopes to see those programs implemented as soon as possible, noting China's increasingly assertive military activity.

RIO DE JANEIRO 132 killed in Rio police crackdown on drug gang, says public defender



The Rio de Janeiro public defender's office on Wednesday said 132 people died in the bloodiest police raid against drug gangs in the Brazilian city's history, as grieving residents laid out dozens of bodies in the streets. The update is 132 dead, the public defender's office, which provides legal assistance to the poor, said.

Hasina warns of mass boycott as her party barred from polls

The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating, says the deposed Prime Minister, adding she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India

Reuters

NEW DELHI/DHAKA

Millions of supporters of Bangladesh's Awami League will boycott next year's national election, after the party was barred from contesting the polls, ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday, from her exile in New Delhi.

Ms. Hasina, 78, said she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India, where she fled in August 2024 following a bloody student-led uprising.

An interim government headed by Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus has governed Bangladesh since Ms. Hasina's ouster and has pledged to hold elections next February.



Power struggle: The Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics, but now

deaths since Ms. Hasina's ouster and has pledged to hold elections next February.

"The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating," Ms. Hasina said in emailed responses to Reuters. Her

League, as things stand, they will not vote. You can't not disenfranchise millions of people if you want a political system that works."

Bangladesh has over 126 million registered voters. The Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics, and the BNP is widely expected to win the upcoming vote.

The Election Commission suspended the Awami League's registration in May. Earlier, the Yunus-led government banned all party activities, citing national security threats and war crimes investigations into senior Awami League leaders.

"We are not asking Awami League to support our party," Ms. Hasina said. "We still hope common sense will prevail

and we will be allowed to contest the election ourselves."

She did not say if she or anyone else on her behalf was holding any back-channel talks with Bangladesh authorities to let the Awami League participate in the polls.

The International Criminal Tribunal, Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court, has concluded proceedings against Ms. Hasina, who faces charges of crimes against humanity over the violent crackdown on student protests in mid-2024.

Ms. Hasina denied the charges.

"These proceedings are a politically motivated charade," she said. "They've been brought by kangaroo courts, with guilty verdicts a foregone conclusion."

Finalised trade deal with S. Korea: Trump

Agence France-Presse
DUBLIN

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated Wednesday that a trade deal had been reached with South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung, before adding that the agreement was "pretty much" finalised.

"We did," Mr. Trump told journalists when asked if a deal had been reached.

"We reached a deal. We did a lot of different things. It was a great session," the U.S. leader said. But he then appeared to walk back the claim, telling a dinner including Mr. Lee that the

deal was "pretty much finalised". "We came to a conclusion on a lot of very different items," he said.

In July, Mr. Trump said Washington had agreed to cut tariffs on South Korean imports to 15% in exchange for a \$300 billion investment pledge. But steep new tariffs remained in place, and the two governments were divided over the structure of the investment pledge.

Speaking to reporters, top Seoul presidential aide Kim Yong-beom confirmed a deal had been struck. Seoul and Washington had "reached an agreement on the details of the tariff negotiations", he confirmed.

Regional tensions



Supporters of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro hold pictures of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar during a rally against joint military exercises by the U.S. and Trinidad and Tobago, in Caracas on Tuesday. AFP

'Foreign media will be allowed to cover junta-run polls'

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

International media will be allowed to cover Myanmar's upcoming junta-run polls, election authorities said Wednesday, an apparent invitation for foreign press to scrutinise the deeply disputed vote.

Myanmar's junta has "shattered the media landscape" with censorship and intimidation since staging a 2021 coup that sparked a civil war, Reuters Without Borders says.

Local journalists bore the brunt of the crackdown while foreign media quit the country on mass, with AFP the only international news agency maintaining a full in-country bureau.

The junta has invited polls starting December 28 as a path to peace, but the vote will be blocked from rebel-held enclaves and monitors are dismissing it as a ploy to disguise continuing military rule.

The junta-backed Union Election Commission said in a statement "both local and international news media will be allowed to cover" the election, due to unfold in phases over a matter of weeks.

The junta-run Information Ministry "will scrutinize and endorse eligible international media organisations", said the notice in state newspaper The Irrawaddy. The invitation is just a part of the process of their proposal will allow them to be deposited and jailed in the coup, and her vanity popu-



Supporters of Myanmar's Union Solidarity and Development Party during election campaign in Myanmar on Tuesday. AP

country which has been largely cut-off by the military coup.

One senior journalist working for an independent Myanmar outlet told AFP "the invitation is just a part of the process of their proposal will allow them to be deposited and jailed in the coup, and her vanity popu-

lar National League for Democracy party dissolved.

One of Myanmar's most powerful ethnic armed opposition factions, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), has agreed to a China-brokered withdrawal from a lucrative ruby-mining hub, the group said on Wednesday.

Myanmar has been mired in a civil war since the military grabbed power in a 2021 coup, with the junta fighting an array of pro-democracy guerrillas and powerful ethnic minority armed groups.

The TNLA said in a statement on Telegram it had made a deal with the junta after two days of talks that ended on Tuesday, over-

town of Mogoke was captured by rebels last summer, but the TNLA — the most powerful group driving that offensive — said it will now pull out.

According to the deal, the group will pull out of the townships of Mogoke and neighbouring Monywa.

It did not specify a timeframe but said the military had agreed to call off all strikes, while "troops from the state army will advance" from midnight on Wednesday.

U.S. will cut troops in Europe: Romania

Agence France-Presse
BUCHAREST

Washington has told Romania, which neighbours war-torn Ukraine, and allies it will reduce the number of U.S. troops deployed on NATO's eastern flank, Romania's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, a move some officials downplayed while analysts warned it could embolden Russia.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised NATO, and insisted that European allies boost military spending as the

U.S. Defence Department.

The latest announcement came after reports this year that Washington could withdraw 10,000 troops from Europe.

Some 85,000 American troops are stationed in Europe, including 20,000 troops deployed to reinforce NATO's eastern flank after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, according to the U.S. Defence Department.

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U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised NATO, and insisted that European allies boost military spending as the

Pentagon called its "priority theatre".

"The rescaling of U.S. forces is a result of the new priorities of the presidential administration," announced back in February, Romania's Defence Ministry said. The decision "also took into account the fact that NATO has strengthened its presence and activity on the eastern flank."

A NATO official told AFP the body had been informed by Trump of the

ministration in advance, and played down its significance.

"Even with this adjustment, the U.S. force posture in Europe remains larger than it has been for many years, with many more U.S. forces on the continent than before 2022," the official said.

Washington's commitment to the alliance remained "clear", the official added.

But experts such as George Scutaru, co-founder of the New Strategy Center, a Romanian think tank, warned the move was the "wrong signal" to send to Russia regarding the Black Sea region.



Ministru Războiului Air Base after Romania and the U.S. plans to cut the number of troops in Europe, on Wednesday. REUTERS

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Hundreds of thousands evacuate as Hurricane Melissa hits Cuba



AP

▲ Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated in eastern Cuba and a hurricane warning was in effect for the provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas as Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 3 storm early Wednesday. AP

8th Pay Commission has its task cut out



Increase in pay

Pay commission	Real increase in pay (%)	Financial impact (₹ crore)
2nd CPC (1957-59)	14.2	39.6
3rd CPC (1970-73)	20.6	144
4th CPC (1983-87)	27.6	1,280
5th CPC (1994-06)	31	18,500
6th CPC (2006-08)	54	22,000
7th CPC (2014-15)	14.3	1,00,000

OVER THE DECADES, especially since the mid-1990s, the pay hike for government staff in real terms has been much higher than that of per capita net national income. Though this might have been needed to adequately compensate them and provide incentive for performance, the burden on the exchequer has risen, with "salaries and pensions" now accounting for 18% of the Centre's revenue expenditure. The Centre's

Minimum and maximum pay

	Minimum pay (₹)	Maximum pay (₹)	Compression ratio
1st CPC	55	2,000	36.4
2nd CPC	80	3,000	37.5
3rd CPC	196	3,500	17.9
4th CPC	750	8,000	10.7
5th CPC	2,550	26,000	10.2
6th CPC	7,000	80,000	11.4
7th CPC	18,000	2,25,000	12.5

1st CPC was set up in 1946-47

Centre's expenditure on

Minimum and maximum pension

	Minimum pay (₹)	Maximum pay (₹)	Minimum family pension (₹)	Maximum family pension (₹)
4th CPC	375	4,500	375	1,250
5th CPC	1,275	15,000	1,275	9,000
6th CPC	3,500	45,000	3,500	27,000
7th CPC	9,000	1,25,000	9,000	1,25,000

Centre's staff strength

As on March 1

31,69,038	31,67,143	33,06,394	36,57,674	36,97,416
2022	2023	2024	2025 (E)	2026 (E)

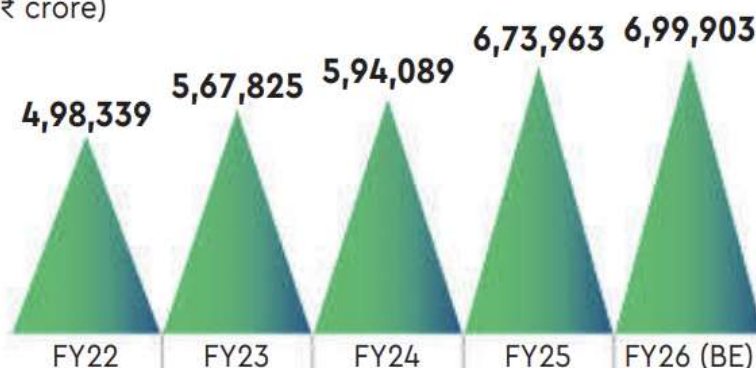
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Centre's expenditure on salaries, allowances & pension

(₹ crore)



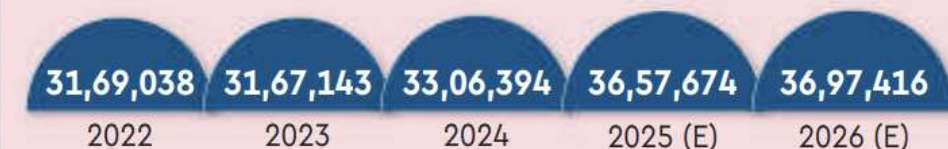
In FY26, of the total staff expenses, pay accounts for 23.7%, pension 39.5%, allowances 26.6%

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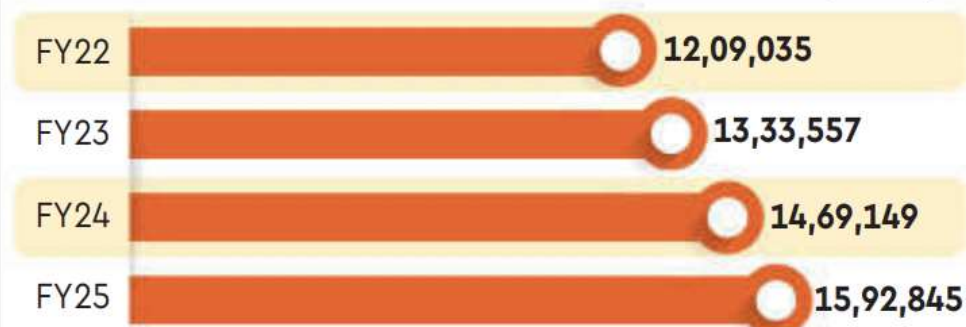
Centre's staff strength

As on March 1



States' expenditure on salaries & pension

(₹ crore)



In FY25, of the total amount, pension accounts for 35.5%

Source: 7th Central Pay Commission report, Institute of Economic Growth, RBI

At \$5 trillion, Nvidia in league of its own

Becomes First Co To Achieve Market Cap Milestone | Huang's Stake Rises To \$179bn

Nvidia made history on Wednesday as the first company to reach \$5 trillion in market value,



powered by a stunning rally that has cemented its place at the centre of the global artificial intelligence boom.

The milestone underscores the company's swift transformation from a niche graphics-chip designer into the backbone of the global AI industry, turning CEO Jensen Huang into a Silicon Valley icon and making its advanced chips a flashpoint in the tech rivalry between the US and China.

Since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, Nvidia's shares have climbed 12-fold as the AI frenzy propelled the S&P 500 to record highs, igniting a debate on whether frothy tech valuations could lead to the next big bubble.

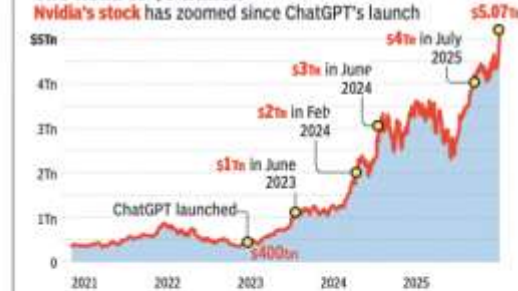
The new milestone, coming just three months after Nvidia breached the \$4 trillion mark, would surpass the total cryptocurrency market value and equal roughly half the size of Europe's benchmark equities index, the Stoxx 600 index.

"Nvidia hitting a \$5 trillion market cap is more than a milestone; it's a statement, as Nvidia has gone from chip maker to industry creator," said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, which holds shares in the company.

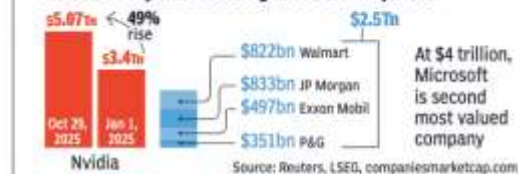
"The market continues to

M-CAP SURGES 49% SINCE JAN 1

The Road to \$5 trillion



How its M-cap Has Moved Against Other Major Cos



Source: Reuters, LSEG, companiesmarketcap.com

underestimate the scale of the opportunity, and Nvidia remains one of the best ways to play the AI theme."

Shares of the Santa Clara, California-based company rose 4.6% after a string of recent announcements solidified its dominance in the AI race.

Huang unveiled \$500 billion in AI chip orders on Tuesday and said he plans to build seven supercomputers for the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is expected to discuss Nvidia's Blackwell chip with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday. Sales of the high-end chip have been a key stick-

ing point between the two sides due to Washington's export controls.

At current prices, CEO Huang's stake in Nvidia would be worth about \$179.2 billion, according to regulatory filings and Reuters calculations. He is the world's eighth-richest person, per Forbes' billionaire list.

Born in Taiwan and raised in the United States from age nine, Huang has led Nvidia since founding it in 1993. Under his leadership, the company's H100 and Blackwell processors have become the engines behind large-language models powering tools like ChatGPT and Elon Musk's xAI. REUTERS

- **Nvidia Corp.** has become the **world's first company** to cross a **\$5 trillion market capitalization**, marking a historic moment in global tech and AI markets.
- This valuation cements Nvidia's position at the **center of the artificial-intelligence (AI) revolution**, driven by its dominance in **AI-focused graphics chips (GPUs)**.

2 The Rise of Nvidia

Parameter	Details
Market Cap (Oct 2025)	\$5.07 trillion
Rise in 2025 (YTD)	+49 % since Jan 1 (\$3.4 trn → \$5.07 trn)**
Share surge since ChatGPT's launch (Nov 2022)	~12-fold increase
Closest competitor	Microsoft – \$4 trn; Apple – \$3.8 trn
CEO	Jensen Huang, stake ≈ \$179 billion (world's 8th-richest person)
Founded	1993, Santa Clara (California)

Drivers of Growth

AI Boom

- Nvidia's GPUs **power large-language models (LLMs)** such as *ChatGPT*, *Claude*, and *xAI*.
- Its **H100 and Blackwell processors** are the core of global AI infrastructure.

Massive Orders

- Recently unveiled **\$500 billion in AI-chip orders** and plans to **build seven supercomputers** for the U.S. government.

Post-ChatGPT Frenzy

- The **AI revolution** has propelled Nvidia into the heart of a **U.S.–China tech rivalry**.
- Its chips are key to both **defense applications** and **civilian AI systems**, making export controls a geopolitical flashpoint.

4 Global Market Context

| Company | Market Cap (approx.) | Position |

|-----|-----|

| Nvidia | \$5.07 trn | 🏆 #1 |

| Microsoft | \$4.0 trn | 🥈 #2 |

| Apple | ~\$3.7 trn | 🥉 #3 |

| JP Morgan Chase | \$833 bn | — |

| Walmart | \$822 bn | — |

| Exxon Mobil | \$497 bn | — |

◆ Nvidia's valuation > total **cryptocurrency market value**

◆ $\approx$ half of **Europe's Stoxx 600 index**

Aspect

Implication

Tech Industry

Shows shift from traditional software dominance to **AI hardware supremacy**.

U.S.–China Dynamics

Nvidia's Blackwell chips are a **key sticking point** amid U.S. export controls.

Financial Markets

AI-related firms now drive much of **S&P 500's** performance.

Investor Outlook

Raises debate on **“AI valuation bubble”** similar to dot-com era.

Year / Event

Milestone

2022 ChatGPT launch → AI chip demand explodes

2023 (June) Nvidia hits \$1 trn M-cap

2024 (June) \$3 trn mark

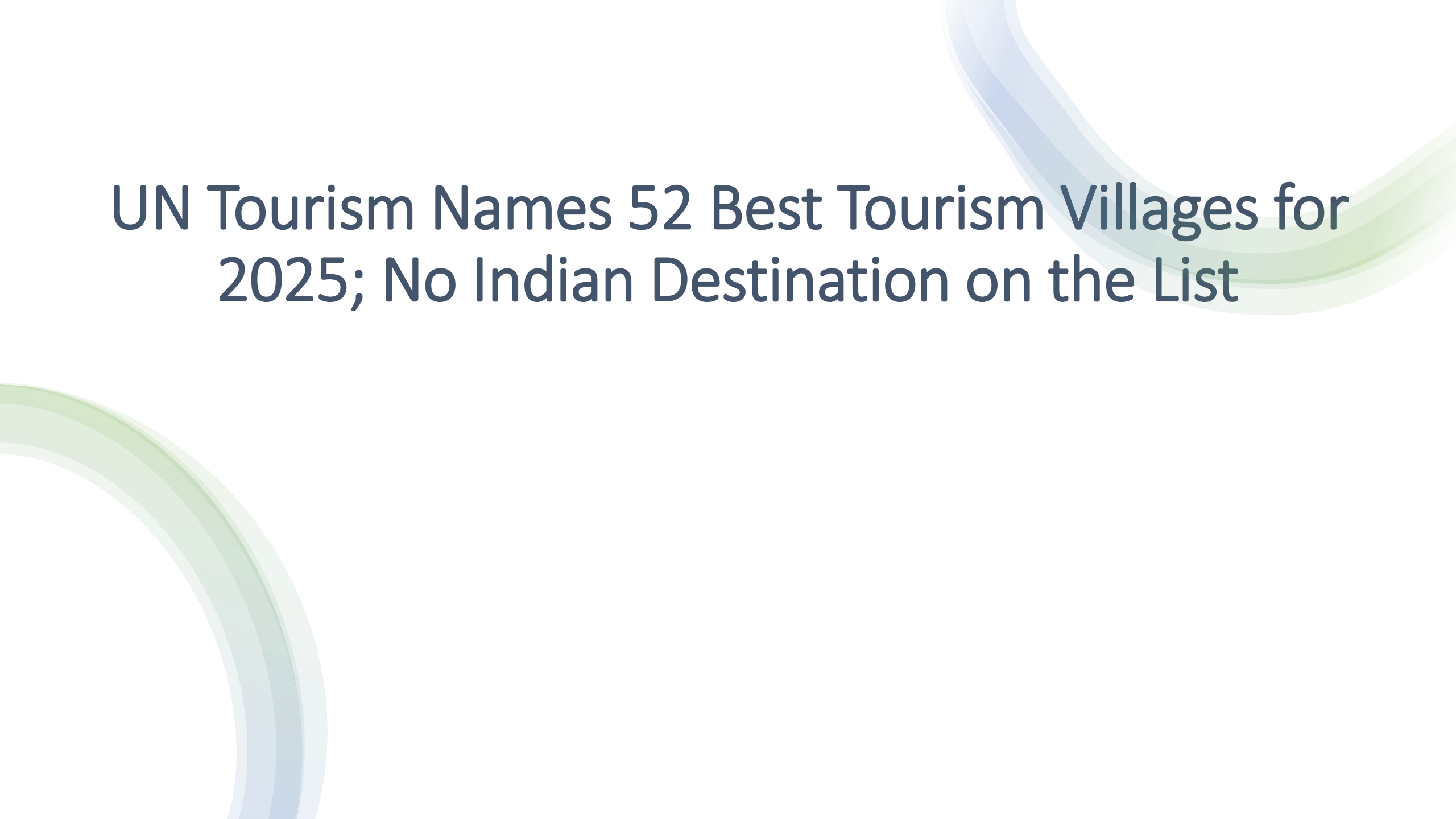
2025 (July) \$4 trn

2025 (Oct 29)** **\$5.07 trn mark reached** ☒

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One line is a light blue color and the other is a light green color. They are positioned in the top right and bottom left corners of the image, creating a sense of movement and depth.

South Korea Honours Donald Trump with its
Highest Award “Grand Order of Mugunghwa



The background features decorative curved lines in shades of blue and green, primarily located in the top right and bottom left corners.

UN Tourism Names 52 Best Tourism Villages for
2025; No Indian Destination on the List

-
- UN Tourism has announced the winners of its fifth annual “Best Tourism Villages” awards, recognising 52 rural destinations worldwide for innovation, sustainability, and cultural preservation.
 - The awards, revealed in Huzhou City, China, honour villages from 65 member states that have successfully promoted rural development through responsible tourism. Notably, no Indian village was included in this year’s list.



Launched in 2021 under the UN Tourism for Rural Development Programme, the initiative evaluates villages on nine parameters, including environmental and social sustainability, cultural conservation, economic resilience, infrastructure, and tourism governance.

The three core components—"Best Tourism Villages Recognition", "Upgrade Programme", and "Network Platform"—together aim to build a global knowledge base of rural excellence and empower communities to create livelihood opportunities through tourism.

- 
- Previous Indian honourees—Pochampalli and Dhordo in Gujarat—set promising examples of craft-based and desert tourism. With the next round of submissions scheduled for early 2026, India's rural tourism sector has another opportunity to gain global recognition under the UN Tourism framework.
- 



Uttar Pradesh to Create Kalyan Singh Nagar, Its 76th District



- 
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the formation of a new district named Kalyan Singh Nagar to honour the legacy of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh.
 - The new district will be carved out of parts of Aligarh and Bulandshahr, marking an administrative reorganisation aimed at commemorating one of the state's most influential leaders.
- 

According to official inputs, the proposed district of Kalyan Singh Nagar will comprise the “Atrauli and Gangiri tehsils of Aligarh” and the “Dibai tehsil of Bulandshahr”.]

] These areas are closely associated with Kalyan Singh’s birthplace and political journey. The reorganisation aims to improve administrative efficiency while also paying tribute to the former chief minister’s deep connection with the region.

Paul Biya re-elected at 92 as world's
oldest president amid Cameroon unrest

Paul Biya, aged 92, has secured another term as Cameroon's President, making him the world's oldest sitting head of state. The country's Constitutional Council announced his victory following a tense election held on October 12, 2025.



The result extends his rule, which began in 1982, into an eighth consecutive term amid growing political unrest and public discontent.



- Paul Biya, aged 92, is the world's oldest president in 2025.
- He has ruled Cameroon since 1982 and has now won an eighth consecutive term.
- Official vote share: Biya 53.66%, Issa Tchiroma Bakary 35.19%.
- More than 70% of Cameroon's 30 million people are under 35 years old.

Word of the day

Impugnable:

subject to being discredited

Synonym: questionable

Usage: *His impugnable claims were dismissed by the experts.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
impugnablepro

**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /impug'nable/





Thank you 😊

