# Daily Current Affairs



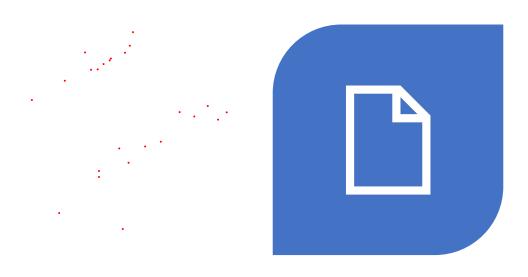








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10 MCQ QUIZ





India announces two rail links to Bhutan NEWS W PAGE 6





Half of women in agriculture are unpaid Tech, trade reforms can help bridge the gap OPINION - PAGE D



#### INSIDE



#### Withhold former PM's passport. says Nepal panel

#### KATHMANDU

The publical communion formed to prescript the incidents of September 8 and 9, during the Sen 2 protests in Sepace, but recommended

#### EU envoys call for sensitivity on the 'Russia question'

New DELINE India has to "square" its errangic partnership with Hussia with its dealer to deepen ties with the EU, uropean envoys said here o estrusulay, questioning india participation in recent Zapan nditary exercises and Bussia oit purchases and calling for concerns over the conflict in Officeing, to PARK 4

#### 'U.S. tariffs will have long-term effect on trade

The higher bertile imposed on radion goods by U.S. Provider Dovald Tramp will have a long-term impact, especially for india's marine exports, officials of Union Commerce Ministry of Commerce told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, finaded by ersor Congress leader M.C. Ventapopel o page s

#### MPC may hold rates owing to **GST** tailwind



pressure to stage an

X will appeal HC's

NEW DELHI C formerly Twitter, said that it would appeal the Karnajaka would appeal the Marintalia high Court. Sociation that rejected its challenge to the trivion government is belying portal, it said it was "despit conserved" by the pulgement hamled idners by the single liench of judge, and that it would speed, a PAGE 6

# Industrial output growth TVK deliberately slows to 4% in August

Country's IIP growth gets pulled down by consumer-related sectors; primary goods sector sees a turnaround with seven-month-high of 5.2% experts say no effect of GST reforms that came in later

#### The Hindu Bureau

rowth in industrial activity in India slowed to 4% in August from its six-month high growth of 4.3% in July. Growth was dragged down by the consumer durables and non-durables growth in minufacturing, capital goods, and infras-tructure sectors, govern-ment data showed.

On the other hand, min-mar articles, the primar-

by output saw a positive turnaround.

Data on the Index of In-dustrial Production (IIF), released by the Miniarry of ficialistics and Programme implementation on Mon-day, showed that growth in the index this August was

#### Slowing growth

0 -7 PAY 818 818

considerably faster than the 0% seen in August last

"This data should be read with caution as it cap-tures neither the tariff nor GST effect which have been in the news and affected sentiment in busi-ness," Madan Sabnavis, ness," Madan Sabnavis, chief economies at the Bank of Baroda, said. "Fa-

from August 27 while GST bemedits kicked in late Sep-tember.

The mining and quarry-ing sector in particular saw a significant turnaround. B

emtractions.
The second sector to see a robust turnaround was the primary goods sector,

8.2%. The electricity sector grew at a five-month high of 4.1%.

4.1%. The manufacturing sec-The manufacturing sec-tor, however, slowed to 5.8% in August, thems from % in July. This was quick-er than the 1.2% growth the sector saw in August last year. Minufarly, growth in the capital goods sector the capital goods sector from 6.7% in July. This was, however, guicker than the OS seen in August last year.

Os. seen in August line with a consurface growth in the consurface durables sector showed to 5.8% in August from 7.3% in July and 5.4% grew 6% in August, a H-month high, enapping a four-month streak of

# delayed Vijay's arrival, says FIR



Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) organisero deliber-ately delayed the arrival of its leader and actor, vijay, in Karur on Saturday with leading to a stampade, the first information report re-gistered by the Karur Town police says.

The death toll in the tra-

gody rose to 41, with a wo-man dving at the Karur Gosernment Medical College

man dying at the Karus Go-vernment behead Colleges vernment behead Colleges properties of the Colleges properties of several lours without write and relenced fatigues because of the heat and crowding, which consequently led to the stampede, said the III. right on a sor mair com-plaint under four sections of the tharatiya Syaya for the tharatiya Syaya the Tamil Nadu Public Pro-perty (Provention of Dam-age and Loud Act. It names TWK general secretary IVK general secretary at secretary E.T.K. Nirmal Emma, and dairrie server at secretary C.T.R. Nurman Kuman, and dilarret secre-tary Mathiashagan as ac-cased. The police, later on Monday, picked up Mr. Mathiazhagan for inquiry.

Security arrangement Nearly 500 police person tel and home guards were deployed for bandobast and traffic regulation in fu-rur town and its sarround-ings for Vijay's campaign at Velmantypuram. Public

and party cadres began to assemble in large numbers from 10 a.m., following re-ports that Vijay would ar

rive at maser.

The PIR said that despits the police giving permission for meeting from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., the organisers deliberately delayed the arrival of Vijay by four The number of people

who had authored was ov er 28,000, though Mr. Mathiazhagan had men-tioned in the petition that 10,000 cadres would

Ome. The FIR stated that Vijay

come. Fit stand that Vija, sentered Kariw district through the burder of Vija, which was been as the standard through the burder of Vija, which was been as the standard of the standard sent of Police castioned Mr. Amend, Mr. Nirmal Kariman, and Mr. Machinshaward of Police castioned Mr. Amend, Mr. Nirmal Kariman, and Mr. Machinshaward which was the standard event of the st

to this, the tin shade and tree branches broke, and the easire seated on them felt on those standing, leading to breathleanese for many and thereby creating an extraordinary sharibm, the FIR said.

#### Kerala House unanimous in resolution against SIR

#### The Hindu Bureau

Expressing its misgivings over the proposed special intensive revision GHO of the electoral rulis, the Ker ala Assembly has asked the Election Commission (EC) of India to desist from acions that could "potential y harm the people's

rights".

The rolls should be up-dated in a fair and transpa-rent manner, the ruling CPIOD-led Left Democratic Front G.DF) and the Oppo-stion Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Democratic Front (UDF) teld the EC in a resolution unanimously passed in the Assembly on Monday. The Assembly ex-pressed its strong reserva-

2002 rolls as the base doc ment, and the eligibility anditions set for voters. These conditions, the resoution presented by Chief aid, could adversely in pact the voting rights of mi-nority communities, wo-men, poor families, Scheduled Castes and

despite the fact that its Constitutional validity is under consideration of the Supreme Court cannot be seen as "Innocent,", if

it must be noted that, following objections from political parties, on Sep-lember 21, Chief Electoral lember 21, Chlor Rectoral Officer (CRO) of Kerola Rathan V. Kelkar recom-mended to the RC that the Kerala SIR be put off until after the local body elec-tions. The EC's response is avaited.

#### Day of anointment



# Ladakh groups reject proposal for talks, Ministry open to dialogue

#### Vilaita Singh

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargli Democratic Alliance (KDA), which have een spearheading the proposed talks on Tuesday with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials in Delhi, saying the "talka cannot be held at

unpoint". Cherring Dorjay Lakruk. so commence of the LAB, said the government and a section of media had made section of media had made baseless allegations calling the Ladakhis "anti-nation-sh", accusing them of col-lading with "functing ele-ments" and for having "links with Pakistan", Following LAB's an-

nouncement, the Ministry said in a statement that the government had always been open for dialogues on Ladakh matters with LAB and KDA "at any time".

"We would continue to we would continue to welcome the discussion with LAB and KDA through the high-powered commit-tee (BPC) on Ladakh or any such platform," the Mi-The LAB members said

the lack of commitment from the government to conduct a judicial inquiry conduct a judicial inquity into the dearth of four per-phe in police action during September 24 proteom in reason behind the deci-sion Mr. Indiruk said, "Our children were shot in the head, Judicial inquity should be held. The Cen-tral Reserve Police Force

Regard Kargili of Kargit Derm Monday demanded the retenue of Sunam Wangshuk. you (CRPF) fired at our people without the permission of the district magistrate. We have proof to support this." He said that 30 people have been detained by the police.

The meeting on Tues-

"Will not tolerate"
"Till the time the tag of anti-nationals on our children

#### lent, leaving four dead. Turu\* is presently admit-ted at the Intensive Care A 21-year old Tibetan refu-Unit in Jat Prakosh Narayan Trauma Centre of the Ali Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AlIMS) in New

Injured Tibetan refugee

recovering at AIIMS

gee is among several in-jured people who were hit by bullets during police ac-tion on September 24 when protests to demand Ladaldy's Leb turned via-

is not removed, we will not - of the four deceased peris not removed, we will not participate in the talks with government. Ladakhis will not telerate this," he said. Mr. Lakrisk also raised the restrictions imposed on people from participa-ing in the cremation of two

sons on Monday Among those who were cremated on Monday were Thewang Thanchin (Mi), a retired sol-

from joining the cremation procession, this has led to huge resentment and an-ger among the people. The government is respon-able for the youth bitting the streets, we condens the violence but the dela-in initiating the talks acted like a pressure cooker for the youth," Mr. Lakruk added.

added. Speaking on climate ac-tivist Sonam Wangchuk's detention under the Na-tional Security Act (N8A), Mr. Lakruk said: "They are Mr. Latruk and "They are levelling all kinds of allega-tions. Were the govern-ment agencies sheeping till now? They started finding irregularities with Wang-chuk's institute only after he raised his voice for Ladier who fought during the 1999 Kargil war. dakk. They want to silence us. How can we hold talks at gunpoint?"

## Bridging the generation gap

he phrase generation gay evokes images of an unbridgeable cheam; yet, in India, it has long been softened by the enduring the of family and tradition. Today, however, as the country stands at a demographic crossroads, one must ask whether these bonds will withstand the pressures of change and the digital broom, or fray under the weight of shifting aspirations and realities.

India's population is ageing at a pace that would have seemed improbable only a generation ago. At least 10% of Indians are now above 60, a figure projected to rise to nearly 20% (one in five Indians) by 2080. The implications go far by 2000. The implications go far beyond more numbers. They rouch upon questions of identity family construct, support system and the fived experience of both the young and the old.

Emotional disconnect A recent study by HelpAge India, silled 'Understanding tifled Understanding Intergenerational Dynamics & Perceptions on Ageing', reveals a paraelaxical landscape. The survey covered more than 5,700 19-30 age group and 30% of the elderly in the above-60 age group from 10 cities across India

from 10 clies across india.

Young trulians, when asked
about their elders, are quick to
(10%) and 'copyon' (41%) yet, just
as readily describe them as
'condy' (61%) and 'copyon' (41%) yet, just
as readily describe them as
'condy' (61%) and 'dependant'
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lament of elders. "We are told the
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tisconnect that data only begins a illuminate. Over half of the elderly respondents (#4%) report negative feelings about ageing, often rooted in a sense of invisibility. Technology, rather than serving as a bridge. frequently becomes another battleground, "Children don't sit



Kiran Karnik

Robit Presad CED, Helpäge trutte.

India's demographic shift presents a choice; to view ageing as a challenge to be

managed, or as an opportunity t

intergenerations

connect that has

reaffirm and

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ong been the

country's

and talk any more. They are always on their phones," is another sertiment frequently voticed by iddars. While 70% of the youth source elders lack interest in digital road, 70% of elders afte impattence and lack of support from the young in smalling them use digital tools as officially

Porging bonds Yet, beneath these surface tensions lies a foundation of hope Both generations, when pressed, express faith in the possibility of greater understanding. Nearly bull of elders (49%) and a majority of the youth (57%) believe mutual understanding can "definitely be improved." Even more telling is improved." Even more teiling is their agreement on the remedy-their agreement on the remedy-sits of estars and steel, of the time together and engaging in spen, respectful conversations as low consectors to understanding even the truthfillow in the second with the truthfillow indian ethos of shared meals, rituals, and selectration, indeed, it is in these moments that belonging is found more remembers.

and loneliness kept as bay The anxieties of age, it turns out, are strikingly similar across generational lines. Loneliness looms largest, cited by 69% of the youth and 68% of elders, followed closely by concerns about health and financial insecurity. The ideal of a family control living remains refust with nearly 9 in 10 years reduct with nearly 9 in fit youth (89%) expecting to low with family in old age. This interes the apprintions of their elders—200 of apprintions of their elders—200 of with family, Such convergence underscores the continued relevance of inter-generational households, wen as urbanisation and migration test their resilience, beyond sentiment, they serve as a

Beyond sentiment, they serve as a bulwark against the atomisation that afflicit many modern societies. For the 47% of siders who identify togetiness as their chief burden, family is both refuge and anchor. Moreover, the exchange is mutual; while elders offer wisdom and practical

childcare, the youth provide guidance through the labywith of guidance through the labywith of according to respondents of the study. When approached with patience, sethudage study cannot patience, sethudage study cannot must receively the COVID-19 pandemic, these connections have proven involvable, compensating the control of the control of the con-trol of the con-trol

Intention to action

However, translating good intentions into sustained action requires more than mustalgia. Digital Inclusion, for instance, must move beyond access to embrace patience and tailored learning. Notably, 78% of young Indians express willingness to support elder mitatives, though few structured opportunities exist for meaningful interaction. Community models that extend support beyond the nuclear family are essential, exprecially as the are essential, especially as the nution of home ideal evolves. While the majority still septre to family-based care, 30% among the roung consider care homes as an alternative, compared to just 19%. of elders, signalling the need for thoughtfully designed intergenerational spaces that foster, rather than fragment,

foster, rather than fragment, continue from the continue from the continue from the fine from the first from th

both peril and promise. It is up to us – as individuals, communities, and policymakers - to ensure that the bridges between generations

#### Include migrants in climate policy

Kerala's migrant workers are among the most affected by climate change

erala has been experiencing erratic weather patterns, with an early beatwave in Fe-bruary and beavy rainfall later, all emerging aignals of cli-mate change, According to the Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC), average temperatures could see a FC-2°C rise by 3080, under

moderate to heavy emissions. The tripheets of climate events, however, are never evenly experienced. Climate vulnerability depends on a person's socio-economic conditions and adaptive capacity, teralis' migrant workers (estimated to number 28 lath-31 lath, according to the foreign and anong the most affected are among the most affected. The Centre for Magratian

The Centre for Migration ad Inclusive Development (CMID) estimates that about 35 Jakh migrant workers contribute (32,000 crore annual-ly to local income through labour, rent, food, and other expenses. A 2020 CMID study of nearly 400 migrants found that most work in constructhat most work in construc-tion (48.6%) and phywood ma-mufacturing (27.2%) – jobs in-volving protoinged exposure to heat. Many reported being de-nied rest breaks and clean tol-lets, forcing the workers, exp-cisely women, to limit water untake. This leads to dehydra-tion, between the con-

tion, fatigue, hypertension, and chronic kidney disease. The harshest heat is en-dured at home. Migrant hous-ing is often cramped, poorly vertilated, and tilapidated, designed for profit rather than liveability. Multiple families share small houses; even stair-



These spaces trap heat, mak-ing sleep difficult. During monsoon, they leak and flood. Housing conditions are wor-sened by the lack of clean wa ter, waste collection, and fun ter, waste collection, and func-tional toilets. Alignants pay inflated rents and high prices for easernials, while stagmant wages leave little stavings to re-cover from chimate shocks, An Indian institute of fluman Set-dements (IHS) study found that some landlerds monitor tenants. Control of tenants, nearlet visitors, or prohibit cooking narve frods, stifling community networks that could build resilience in

new environments.

Kerala has shown inclusive intent and response during emergencies. During CO-VID-19, it was among the first States to set up relief camps, health: services, distribute food for migrants, and ensure multilingual communication

multilingual communication through spamphels and alerts. The state has also adopted a progressive approach to mineral spampers, and a progressive approach to mineral spampers, and a progressive spampers with the spampers of the spampers o tions are loadequate. An IIHS review found that most social support interventions are climate-blind, while climate in ons are cli rventions are migrant-blind. The KSAPCC, though one of

India's strongest, does not mention migrants, State gui-delines selvise against outdoor hours, but enforcement is in-consistent. During the 2018 floods, many migrants were floods, many migrants were than being stiellered in relief camps. Some Tecolived for taken by the control of the Fort those who were moved to relief camps, instances of se-gregation were also reported. This reveals gaps in address-ing migrant workers' climate vulnerability.

Building inclusive climate exilience requires coordinated action of government, em ployers, and communities. Lo gape for integration into Incal development plans. Mandato-ry rental registration and inspections can ensure com-pliance, while subsidies may ptance, while subsidies may encourage ewners to upgrade housing. Community cam-patgns can promote dignified living conditions. The Labour Department must enforce the Department must enforce the \$2-3 p.m. summer work break through inspections and pr-nation, and enture access to gender-tegregated toilets at worksites, with protections against wage cuts or job loss. Plasater Management Authori-ties should deliver multilin-gual death, initiate currench through trusted community channels, and include mi-grants in relief planning. The KSPB should include migrant perspectives in shaping all-mate policy.

The Mindu. PIPTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 30, 1875

FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### U.S. technicians aided Israel in 1973 war Sadat

Cairo, Sept. 29: The Egyptian President, Mr. Anwar Sudat, said here yesterday he accepted the crasefire ending the October 1973 war with

the crasefule entiting the October 1977. Vast with trasel when the LE. sent new weapons and testinicians into battle against liggiff and "the strength of the control of the control of the Speaking at a meeting of Pallament and the ruling Arab Socialist trition, to mark the 5th ambivirusy of the data of President Nasses, Mr. ambivirusy of the data of President Nasses, Mr. When I accounted the cassester on October 23, 1973, and I want one brinthers in the Syrian Americans and the Jews — America with its alrength and its new weapons that had never weapons and Okomerican speeps and entered weapons and (American) experts and entered the battle in the days of the breakthrough.

This was a reference to the breakthrough.
This was a reference to the breakt thrust over the West Bank of the Canal. "Just as America and brasil were in from of me, the Soviet Union was on my back," Mr. Radat said. "The air brigade which brought in

saids said. "The air brigade which brisispid in weapons was bringing weapons that slight have been delivered in 1969. These weapons had been requested by Mr. Nasion, but the Russians did not deliver them because they wanted to punish him as he had cefused to stop the war of trition at their request,"
Describing the presence of Soviet personnel

In Egypt as a "nightmare" which he removed when he expelled them in July 1972. Mr. Sadar said pre-war Soviet estimates of Egyptiana' performance and losses on the battle field proved completely errineous.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT NO 1935

#### Malabar: A treasure trove case

Califort, Sep. 37: The Ernad police are now ovestigating a case in which a Moplah maistry employed to the construction of the Shorner-Nilambur Railway came in possession shormar-telambar faalway came in posteesion of a treasure rove in the act of olinig earth work. The trove contained some ancient gold coline with the symbol of an elephant on me coline with the symbol of an elephant on me postees are reported to have succeeded in recovering from the Moplah malatry a portion of the colin and produced the same before the field Magnitario of Triniurogale.

# More women employed in agriculture, but half of them are unpaid

Global trade trends, technology, and land and labour reforms can help bridge the gap

DATA POINT

Shravant Prakash

ornen-led development has been recognized as a structural game-changer for advancing in full potential renain under-lever aged. Nowhere is harmesting this potential more urgently than in the agriculture sector, the back-bone of India's economy and the largest employer of its woiners.

on farms, women's contribution remain systematically unremune remain systematically intermainer, attive. By leveraging recent shifts in trade and technology, India has an unprocedented opportunity to un-lock pathways that recognise we-men as equal partners in agricultu-

In the past decade, structural shifts in the Indian worklonce have shifts in the bullan worklines have brawn rural men into higher-pay-ing non-farm jobs, leaving women: to replace them to do the agricul-tural work. As a result, women's employment in agriculture surged by 139%, and they now account for over 42% of the sector's workforce. Two out of every three working

women are now in agriculture. Yet, this rise has come with d minishing returns. Nearly half of the women in agriculture are un-paid family workers, with their numbers jumping 2.5 times from 23.6 million to 89.1 million in just eight years (Chart D. As a result one in three working we men in India is unpaid. In States more than 80% of women workers are in agriculture, and over half of

are in agriculture, and over half of them receive no vages (Map 2). Geographtical Indications, branchism receives no vages (Map 2) and the first of this invalidity around the second of the second of

fominated, trapping women in ow-value activities.

As a result, women's greater participation has not translated inhigher income for the economy agriculture's share of the nation as agiculture's share of the nation; and GVA self from H.S. in 1971 B ut 14.45 in 1972 B

jected to boost Indian agricultural exports by 20% within three years, granting duty-free access to over 98% of agricultural and processed food products. From rice, spices, and dairy to ready-to-est meals, in-dian producers will benefit from dian producers will benefit from prenium market access, with safe-guards in place for aerasitive sec-conductive and some seconductive and solid distribution of the seconductive second-significant share of women (Chart J. If FTA-embedded provisions for women, such as training, crutil access, and market linkages, are catalysed, it could emble women catalysed, it could emble women.

income-generating entrepreneurs.
The greatest opportunity lies in enabling women to move from unpaid, low-value tasks into highermargin segments such as process-ing, packaging, branding, and ex-porting. With global demand rising for organic products and su-perfoods, India's value chains for tea, spices, millets and certified or-

tea, spices, millers and certified or-ganic procision are posted for ex-pansion — sectors where women for the process of the process of the Geographical Indications, branch-ing initiatives, and support for mosting expert standards on holy sistence forming toward premium, without targeted measures, we will be a support for the process of the work of the process of the process of the work of the process of the process of the work of the process of the process of the pro-table to the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the process of the process of the pro-table to process of the pro-table to process of the proce

vations can play a decisive role in bridging this gap. Platforms such as e-NAM, mobile-based advisory services, voice-assisted applications, and precision agriculture trols are already connecting wo-men to markets, knowledge sys-

men to markets, knowledge sys-tems, and financial services. These solutions help formalise women's schemes, credit, and fair pricing. However, these benefits are contingent on overcoming structu-racy, language gaps, and limited access to afficiable devices. Tech-ling these shallenges requires out-tions of the control of the control of the control of the control of the total control of the control of the second to afficial section. tors – government, private sector, NCOs, self-help groups, and Parm-er Producer Organisations (FPOs)

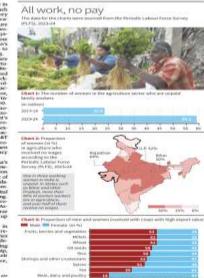
Knoowagingly, promising mo-dels are ensurging. At-enabled so-lutions such as the government's BHASHINI platform and Micro BHASHINI platform and Mero-soft-Alabharu's lugalbundi are ex-tensifing multilingual, voice-first ac-cess to government services. L&T Finance's Digital Subbit pro-gramme has trained sural women gramme has trained sural women in digitat and financial literacy-systems where Makes.

across seven States.

At the State level, Odisha's Swayam Sampurna PPOs show-case how technology can position women farmers at the forestront of pany in Rajasthan leverages digital tools for direct sales and branding. Multi-stakeholder training pro-grams for women farmers in Asam's tea sector focus on divers

sam's toa sector focus on diverse areas. It is important to scale up transform women's role in agriculture, land and labour re-forms are equally vital. Policies must recognize women as inde-noted to the control of the con-ports of individual land ownership, which in turn strengthens their eligibility for credit, insurance, and institutional supports.

Women End Development) Programm



- Based on data from Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24.
- Focus: Rising participation of women in agriculture, yet high share of unpaid family workers.

# 1. Key Findings

# a) Employment Trends

- Women's participation in agriculture recognized as key driver of structural change.
- Share of women in agriculture grew by 13%, accounting for over 42% of sector's workforce.
- 1 in every 3 working women now employed in agriculture.

# b) Unpaid Labour

- 59.1% of women in agriculture are unpaid family workers (Chart 1).
- Reflects gender disparity in wages and ownership.
- Bihar (69%) and Rajasthan (52%) have the highest share of unpaid female workers.

# c) Gender Wage Gap

Only a small proportion of women receive regular wages or ownership benefits.

## 2. Structural Shift

## a) Movement in Labour Market

- Shift from non-farm to agriculture due to:
  - · Slowing non-farm job creation.
  - Pandemic-induced reverse migration.
- Women replacing men in farm operations.

# b) Underemployment Concerns

Rise in agriculture jobs often indicates distress employment rather than empowerment.

# 3. Challenges

# a) Low Wages & Unpaid Work

- Majority engaged as helpers in family farms without wages.
- Persistent gender inequities in access to land, credit, and technology.

## b) Lack of Ownership

- · Limited land titles and decision-making power.
- Women underrepresented in cooperatives and FPOs.

# c) Technology & Skill Gaps

- Low digital literacy.
- · Limited access to precision agriculture, e-NAM, and mobile advisory platforms.

# 4. Policy Interventions & Opportunities

# a) Government Schemes

- PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana: limited reach.
- Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) may boost export crops like millets, fruits, and spices, where women's participation is high (Chart 3).

# b) Technology-Based Inclusion

- Digital platforms can improve market access and price realization.
- AI-enabled tools, multilingual services (e.g., Bhashini, MicroSoft AI4Bharat).

# c) State Initiatives

 Odisha's Swayam Sahayam FPOs, L&T's Digital Sakhi program: promote literacy and financial inclusion.

# d) Skill Development

Training in FPCs, branding, digital finance, and entrepreneurship.

# 5. Way Forward

# a) Formalization of Work

- Ensure minimum wages, contractual recognition.
- Expand social security coverage to informal workers.

# b) Collective Action

Strengthen Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and FPOs led by women.

# c) Gender-Sensitive Policies

- Integrate women's empowerment in agriculture reforms and trade policies.
- Encourage land ownership through joint titles.

# More women employed in agriculture, but half of them are unpaid

Global trade trends, technology, and land and labour reforms can help bridge the gap

#### DATA POINT

#### Shravani Prakash Anjhana Ramesh

omen-led development has been recognised as a structural game-changer for advancing India's economic ambitions, yet its full potential remains under-leveraged. Nowhere is harnessing this potential more urgently than in the agriculture sector, the backbone of India's economy and the largest employer of its women.

Despite their growing presence on farms, women's contributions remain systematically unremunerative. By leveraging recent shifts in trade and technology, India has an unprecedented opportunity to unlock pathways that recognise women as equal partners in agricultural transformation.

In the past decade, structural shifts in the Indian workforce have drawn rural men into higher-paying non-farm jobs, leaving women to replace them to do the agricultural work. As a result, women's employment in agriculture surged by 135%, and they now account for over 42% of the sector's workforce. Two out of every three working women are now in agriculture.

Yet, this rise has come with diminishing returns. Nearly half of the women in agriculture are unpaid family workers, with their numbers jumping 2.5 times from 23.6 million to 59.1 million in just eight years (Chart 1). As a result, today, one in three working women in India is unpaid. In States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, more than 80% of women workers are in agriculture, and over half of them receive no wages (Map 2).

Much of this invisibility stems from systemic inequities. Women are not officially recognised as farmers, own only 13-14% of land holdings, and earn 20-30% less than men for equivalent work. Asset ownership, decision-making power, and access to credit and government support remain maledominated, trapping women in low-value activities.

As a result, women's greater participation has not translated into higher income for the economy, as agriculture's share of the national GVA fell from 15.3% in 2017-18 to 14.4% in 2024-25. Therefore, the 'feminisation of agriculture; has, in a way, reinforced inequities rather than enabling women's economic empowerment.

Global trade trends are opening new windows for women's economic inclusion in agriculture. The India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), for example, is projected to boost Indian agricultural exports by 20% within three years, granting duty-free access to over 95% of agricultural and processed food products. From rice, spices, and dairy to ready-to-eat meals, Indian producers will benefit from premium market access, with safeguards in place for sensitive sectors. Many of these export-oriented value chains employ a significant share of women (Chart 3). If FTA-embedded provisions for women, such as training, credit access, and market linkages, are catalysed, it could enable women's transition from farm labourers to income-generating entrepreneurs.

The greatest opportunity lies in enabling women to move from unpaid, low-value tasks into highermargin segments such as processing, packaging, branding, and exporting. With global demand rising for organic products and superfoods, India's value chains for tea, spices, millets and certified organic produce are poised for expansion - sectors where women are already strongly represented. Geographical Indications, branding initiatives, and support for meeting export standards can help women producers shift from subsistence farming toward premium, value-added product markets.

Without targeted measures, women risk being excluded from the export-led opportunities emerging in Indian agriculture. Digital innovations can play a decisive role in bridging this gap. Platforms such as e-NAM, mobile-based advisory sevices, voice-assisted applications, and precision agriculture tools are already connecting women to markets, knowledge systems, and financial services. These solutions help formalise women's labour while expanding access to schemes, credit, and fair pricing.

However, these benefits are contingent on overcoming structural barriers such as low digital literacy, language gaps, and limited access to affordable devices. Tackling these challenges requires collective action by all ecosystem actors – government, private sectors – government, private sectors, self-help groups, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

Encouragingly, promising models are emerging. Al-enabled solutions such as the government's BHASHINI platform and Microsoft-Al4Bharat's Jugalbandi are extending multilingual, voice-first access to government services. L&T Finance's Digital Sakhi programme has trained rural women in digital and financial literacy across seven States.

At the State level, Odisha's Swayam Sampurna FPOs showcase how technology can position women farmers at the forefront of export competitiveness. The Jhalawari Mahila Kisan Producer Company in Rajasthan leverages digital tools for direct sales and branding. Multi-stakeholder training programs for women farmers in Assan's tea sector focus on diverse areas. It is important to scale up and emulate these platforms.

To transform women's role in agriculture, land and labour reforms are equally vital. Policies must recognise women as independent farmers by promoting joint or individual land ownership, which in turn strengthens their eligibility for credit, insurance, and institutional support.

Shravani Prakash and Anjhana Ramesh are with ICRIER'S EPWD (Economic Policies for Women Led Development) Programme

# All work, no pay

The data for the charts were sourced from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2023-24



Chart 1: The number of women in the agriculture sector who are unpaid family workers.



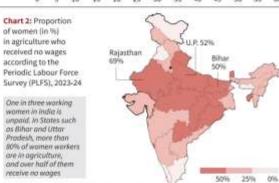
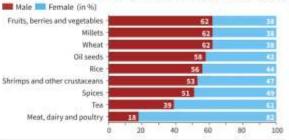


Chart 3: Proportion of men and women involved with crops with high export value

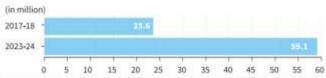


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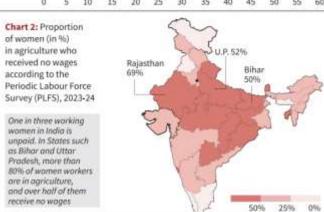
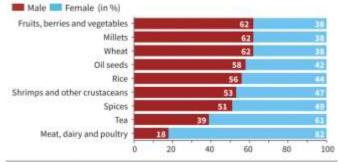


Chart 3: Proportion of men and women involved with crops with high export value



One killed and 17 soldiers taken hostage in Ecuador fuel protest



A protector was killed and 27 subliers taken hostage during demonstrations in northern Equation Sounday, as tensions flavoi occur a sharp rise in Surl prices. The indigenous rights organization Consist had salled for a statile to superse rights origin produced Nationals had salled for a statile to superse rights origing President Sans Nationals prove to slatch buri substitute. .ce

#### CHESTNAL

Moldova's pro-EU party claims victory in parliamentary election



he. Ministruc's pro-Western rading party decisively won a partiamentary election fraught with fluories interference claims that was widely visions as a team chains between 1 and and Wass. With menty ell public plotters reports enoughed that when the set of the public plotters of state of the pro-tile.

China seeks stronger relations with N. Korea, condemns 'hegemony'



Belijing wants to strongthen cooperation with Pyrongoeng and work together to eponse hegemony, China's Poreign Minister Wang'Yi sold his Storth Korean assurance, "Marrianting and developing China SPRK relations has always been the unswerving strategic publicy of the Chenang povernment," Mr. Wang bold Chen Ann-hul. Jie publicy of the Chenang povernment," Mr. Wang bold Chen Ann-hul. Jie Poreign China SPRK relations to the Chenang povernment, "Mr. Wang bold Chen Ann-hul. Jie Poreign China SPRK relations to the Chenang povernment," Mr. Wang bold Chen Ann-hul. Jie Poreign China SPRK relations to the Chenang Povernment, "Mr. Wang bold Chen Ann-hul. Jie Poreign Chenang Poreign Chenang Poreign Chenang Chenang

Ukrainian journalist who was held by Russia wins Europe rights prize



The Council of Europe on Monday awarded its 2025 rights price to Ultrainian journalist and rights arthrist Maksym (buttarych), who was retensed last year after testing captured by flassion forces, the is the see fluorable of the inteloperateries Hommatike policy intilline and ZMINA

# Netanyahu supports 20-point Gaza peace plan, claims Trump

The plan calls for an immediate ceasefire, followed by disarmament of Hamas and Israeli withdrawal, Netanyahu calls Qatar's Prime Minister to extend a formal apology for a recent military strike targeting Hamas officials in the Gulf emirate

Mr. Trump said appro-val from all sides was "beyond very close." The 20-point plan states

that on agreement by both

J. S. Prenident Dipinals Trimin data the had Prime Minister Berginginin Netanyahu's backing for a wele-ranging fine tring an immediate conscience of the prenimental section of the pre

Mr. Trump told a press conference that Mr. Neu-nyahu had agreed to the plan, which calls for an in-



Big breekthrough: V.S. President benefit Trump and treeti Prime Minister Benjamen Nobelyahu in Washington, DE an Manday see

Hamas and Israeli withdrawal. Hamas also has yet to give its approval but Presi-dent Trianp said he was hopeful the militant group was in favour. distriby end" with Israeli withdrawals timed to re-lease of the last businges held by Harnas. During that initial period, there would be a ceasefire.

# Key points Key points include deployment of a "remponery international stabilization force" and treation of a transitional authority headed by Mr. Trump.

headed by Mr. Trump.
The dred would demand
Harnas militants fully disarm and be excluded from
future roles in the government. However, those whoagreed to "peaceful co-existance" would be given
amnesty. Following layed;
withdrawal, the borders

would be opened to sid and investment.

In a crucial change from Mt. Trump's earlier apparatus of the side of the extend a formal apology for a recent military atrice targeting Hamas officials in the Gulf emirate that infu-fiated Arab leaders and triggered rare criticism by the U.S. of brasel.

### Commission wants to bar K.P. Oli from leaving Nepal

#### Sanicey Satgainya EATHMANDU

The judicial commission formed to investigate the formed to investigate the inscidents of September 6 and 9, during the Gers 2 protents in Nepa), has recommended withholding the pasports of former Prime Minister E.P. Sharma Oil and former Home Minister Pamesh Lekhak.

The commission has also recommended the same and the same control of the same retroe and the same retroe an

action against former Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi, former Chief of the National Investigation Department Hutraj Thapa, and former Chief District Officer of Kathmanda Chhabi Rijal.

The commission, led by Gauri Bahailur Karki, a former judge, said in a



to withhold the passports is intended to prevent fo-reign travel, as the indivi-duals may need to be sum-moned at any time for questioning.

At least 19 people, most-

At least 19 people, most-ly young demonstrators, were killed on September 8 when security forces used excessive force during youth-led protests "de-mending an end to currup-tion and misgovernances". The protests on the sespiralled out of control as demonstrators burned down state infrastructure.

down state infrastructure, including the Parlament indiding, the Supreme Court, and Singha Durbar, the government complex of the Parlament of the More than 70 people were killed during the two clays of unreat. Politicans-houses were also attacked and set on fire, while priv-ate Dusiness properties maked losses amounting to mated losses amounting to tens of billions of Nepali

rupers.

The interim govern-ment, led by Sushila Karki, formed the judicial com-mission on September 2i, appointing Mr. Gaurt Baha dur Kurki to lead the three

member body. The commission has

## Dhaka blames 'foreign arms' for deadly Chittagong Hill clashes

#### Agence France Presse

Bangladesh's interior chief used on Musuelay that wea-pons from "outside the country" were fuelling vio-letice in a southeastern border region with fudia that has left three people dead.

dead.
Clashes eropted in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on Sunday, when security forces stepped protesters angry at the recent alleged rape of a woman, and three people were killed. The Army blamed rebels, while demonstrators accused troops of opening

åre. Hangladesh has been in



exent Shethly Hasina to flow to Irolia last year, fish femilio

political turmoff since stu- and New Delhi icy. dent-led protests forced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to old ally india last year, turning relations between Dhaka

Interior Ministry chief Ishangir Alam Chowdhury alleged "arms are coming from outside the country",

"miscreants firing from the billtops", without giving further details.

Flashpuint region
The region has bong been a
flashpoint between indigenous communities and
flenguil-speakers, with
clashes breaking out over
hand and resources. Proceswere the ellegest gang rape
of an indigenous woman

of an indigenous woman on september 23.

"We had been demon-strating peacefully," a pro-ester said, describing sun-day's rally in Khagrachari district, "The military fired shots, killing at least three of us," they said, who asked not to be named.

#### Public fury



#### Ukraine could strike 'deep' into Russia, says U.S. envoy

#### Agence France-Presse

U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy Ketth Kel-logg has floated the pessi-bility of long-range strikes by Ukraine against Russia with American weapons, following the administra-tion's recent pivot on the

conflict.
In a Fox News interview broadcast on Sunday, Mr. Kellogg was asked whether Mr. Trump bad authorised strikes deep toto Bussian territory - days after Moscow was accused of send-ing lighter jets and drones that violated the airspace of several European

nations.

"Reading what [Trump] has said and reading what Vice-President [LD1] times has said, as well as (Secre-

# Vance said that the U.S. was having conversations on whether to give Tomahawk cruise

tary of state Marcol Rubio, the answer is yes," he said.

"Use the ability to hit deep. There are no such things as surctuaries." Vice Provident Vancer

Vice-President Vance said in a segment Fax News programme on Bansky the U.S. was having "conversa-tions" on whether to give a segment of the con-crules milisten to Kyiv, a ri-quest Mr. Trump has pre-viously dented.

"It's something that the President is going to make the final determination on," Mr. Vance said, refer-

400000

# ring to the missiles, adding that the U.S. was "looking at a number of requests from the Europeans."

press briefing on Monday that there was "no panacea that can change the situa-tion on the front for the Ky-

"There's no magic wea-pon. Whether It's Toma-

#### U.S. wants to 'fix' countries like India, Brazil in terms of trade ties: Lutnick

The U.S. needed to "Rx" certain countries like In-dia, Switzerland and Bra-all, in terms of their bading relationships with Ameriea, U.S. Commerce Secre-tary Howard Lumick has said. He said the countries needed to "react correct-ly" to the U.S. and stop taking actions that were harm. ful to the U.S.

pon. Whether it's Turnas, had to the U.S.
The administration of the president Trump sale last tweek after meeting U.S.
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their markets, stop taking actions that harm Ameri-ca," Mr. Luttuck said in an

purchases of oil, India has been pushing back against U.S. pressure. U.S. pressure, saying in early August that the U.S. fuelf imports chemicals, fertilisers and uranium hexaliuctide from Russia and that the EU continues

to import energy from Moscow. 'Play the ball' In the interview, Mr. Lut-nick said the countries in question needed to under-

stand that if they wanted to sell to the U.S. consumer, they had "to play ball" with

they had "to play ball" with the Prostderio of the U.S.

"The first deal is always the plane of the U.S. of the May is upoke on the phone on soptember 16, for Mr. Mo-The cell was part of an apparent thaw in the relationship the had reached in the U.S. of the

nick, auggesting that it would take time but would get sorted out.

He added Taiwan to the list and suggested deals would be sorted out over

time.
Switzerland had a \$40 billion trade deficit with the U.S., he said and that it was a "small rich country" because it sold America \$40 billion "extra" of stuff.

#### Trump renews tariff threat on films made abroad

#### Agence France: Presse

U.S. President Donald Frump on Monday re-newed his threat of impos-ing steep tariffs on films made outside the United States, claiming his soun-

states, claiming the coursely's inclusive has been "states" by others. It is not the control of the course of the

enacted. Mr. Trump dic not mention if television series would be impacted.

# **STRASBOURG**

# Ukrainian journalist who was held by Russia wins Europe rights prize



AFP

The Council of Europe on Monday awarded its 2025 rights prize to Ukrainian journalist and rights activist Maksym Butkevych, who was released last year after being captured by Russian forces. He is the co-founder of the independent Hromadske radio station and ZMINA human rights centre in Kyiv. AFP

- Award: 2025 Council of Europe Human Rights Prize
- Winner: Maksym Butkevych, Ukrainian journalist & human rights activist
- Reason: Recognition of his commitment to human rights and press freedom, despite imprisonment by Russian forces.
- Location of award: Strasbourg, France

# About Maksym Butkevych

- Profession: Journalist & Human Rights Defender
- Captured by: Russian forces during the Ukraine war
- Released: In 2024, after being held captive
- Co-founder of:
  - Hromadske Radio (Independent Ukrainian radio)
  - ZMINA Human Rights Centre, Kyiv

# About the Award

- Institution: Council of Europe
- Award Goal: To honor individuals or organizations who have made exceptional contributions to human rights, rule of law, and democracy.
- Significance: Highlights Europe's support for freedom of press and resistance against authoritarian repression.

# Context & Background

- Russia-Ukraine War (2022-present) has seen multiple cases of journalists detained or targeted.
- Council of Europe has consistently condemned Russia's human rights violations, leading to Russia's expulsion from the Council in 2022.
- This award symbolizes solidarity with Ukraine and freedom of expression as a European value.

# Council of Europe:

- Established in 1949, headquartered in Strasbourg
- Promotes human rights, democracy, and rule of law
- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is its judicial arm
- Press Freedom Index 2024:
  - Ukraine: Improved ranking due to resilient media
  - Russia: Among the lowest due to censorship and persecution
- Related Global Institutions:
  - UNESCO/World Press Freedom Day May 3
  - Nobel Peace Prize 2021 Awarded to journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov

# Trump tears up script, slaps 100% tariff on movies made outside US

Move To Hurt India's Film Industry, Which Derives Significant Revenues From US

Chidanand Rajghatta TNN

Washington: MAGA supremo Donald Trump on Monday announced a 100% tariff on "any and all movies that are made outside of the US." throwing the global entertainment industry, including global streaming services like Netflix and India's "Bollywood," into turmoil. In a trademark social media post, Trump claimed "our movie making business has been stolen from the United States of America, by other countries, just like stealing "candy from a baby" and "in order to solve this long time, never ending problem," he will be imposing a 100% tax on movies made outside the US.

The punitive move, practical implementation of which will prove to be a challenge since the movie business is largely universal and seamless, is certain to hurt India's film industry — the world's largest by volume — which derives significant revenues from the US, including via streaming services. Other major movie-making countries in Europe, Asia, and Australia will also be affected.

For that matter, even Hollywood, which the US president is ostensibly trying to help, is likely to suffer although Trump transparently put a politic-



India will also be affected by Trump's effort to reshore movie production since studios like Disney, DreamWorks, Pixar outsource a major portion of the animation and visual effects execution to studios in India. Indian studios have handled post-production of movies such as 'Interstellar'

al spin on the issue saying, "California, with its weak and incompetent Governor, has been particularly hard hit!" — ostensibly because more and more movies and movie production has moved beyond the US.

Cross-border industry insiders acknowledge the US movie business is in a crisis but are not sure how tariffs can be implemented. "We live in a world where movies are made across locations, across countries. A Hollywood animated movie could outsource special effects to a studio in India, but the color correction could be done in another country and audio in a third. It is very complicated and there are many intangibles," says George Koshy, CEO of Infamous Coconuts, an LA-based production company.

India would be affected in two ways. Industry experts, such as the Producers Guild of India, estimate that Indian films gross approximately \$100 million to \$150 million annually from the US (North America) market. The revenue comes from theatrical box office collections, as well as digital, satellite, and other distribution rights sold in the US. Major Hindi and Telugu blockbusters gross upwards of \$10 million from the US market.

As with tariffs on goods, the American consumer (mainly South Asians in the US) could end up footing the bill, paying double the current \$20 for tickets and higher prices for subscription services. But the higher prices could also dampen demand and force

producers to settle for less.

India will also be affected by Trump's effort to reshore movie production since Hollywood studios like Disney, DreamWorks, and Pixar outsource a significant portion of the animation and visual effects (VFX) execution to studios in India. In recent years, Indian studios have handled post-production of movies such as "The Lion King", "Avengers: Endgame", "Dune", "Jungle Book", and "Interstellar".

Animation studios in India are also creating and co-producing TV series and feature films for international broadcasters like Disney and Nickelodeon. India's Animation and VFX sector is projected to grow from US\$ 1.3 billion in 2023 to US\$ 2.2 billion by 2026, according to a CII and India Brand Equity Foundation.

In remarks on the issue in May when he first floated the idea of tariffing foreign films, Trump characterised the off-shoring of movie production as a "threat to our nation" and accused foreign countries of "stealing our movie industry". If Trump goes through with the movie tariffs, other countries too could impose reciprocal tariffs on US films. International markets account for more than 70% of Hollywood's box office revenue.

# 1. Policy Announcement

- Trump announced a 100% tariff on all movies made outside the US.
- Justification: To stop "theft" of movie-making business from the US.
- Claimed foreign studios and countries (like India, Europe) are "stealing candy from a baby."

## 2. Targeted Industries

- Affects:
  - Global streaming services (Netflix, Disney, Amazon)
  - Bollywood and Indian animation studios
  - Hollywood's outsourced VFX & animation production hubs in India

# 3. Economic Impact on India

- Indian studios work on post-production for major Hollywood titles:
  - Interstellar, Avengers: Endgame, The Lion King, Dune
- Annual earnings:
  - \$130–150 million from US clients
- Animation/VFX sector projected growth:
  - From \$1.3 billion (2023) → \$2.2 billion (2026)

# 4. Challenges in Implementation

- Complex supply chains:
  - Color correction in India
  - Sound mixing in another country
  - Final edits in the US
- Difficult to define what counts as "foreign-made"

# 5. Impact on Hollywood

- Studios like Disney, Pixar, DreamWorks outsource to India, Korea, Canada.
- Tariff would increase costs of movie production.
- Threatens profitability and global collaboration.

## 6. India's Double Hit

- Tariff affects both:
  - Direct movie exports (Bollywood films)
  - Post-production/VFX exports (Hollywood projects)
- Bollywood earns significant overseas revenue from US diaspora screenings and OTT rights.

# Metal tally: Gold nears record ₹1.2L/10gm tag, silver ₹1.5L/kg

Int'l Prices Rally On Fears Of US Govt Shutdown, Trade Woes

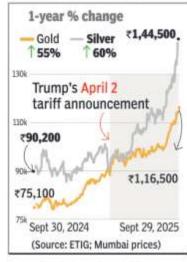
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices continued to record new alltime highs in the domestic market on Monday. It was backed by rallies in international prices on the likelihood of a US govt shutdown, traderelated jitters, and the continuing weakness of the rupee against major currencies.

In the local spot market silver hovered around the Rs 1.5 lakh/kg mark, while gold was nearing the Rs 1.2 lakh/10gm mark. In international markets, the price of the yellow metal neared the \$3,900/ounce (Oz) mark, a new all-time peak while the white metal traded above the \$47/Oz mark after more than 13 years.

The recent gains in gold and silver prices also came due to the expectation that US Federal Reserve will lower interest rates by an additional 50 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) this year, said Renisha Chainani of Augmont, a precious metals re-

# **PRECIOUS RETURNS**



search and advisory firm.

On Monday, silver in Delhi's spot market went above the Rs 1.5-lakh-mark for the first time, an agency report said. In some other parts of India, the price of the white metal was slightly lower on MCX, silver futures price for Dec delivery touched a high of Rs 1.44 lakh while for Sept 2026 delivery it was at Rs 1.5 lakh.

In the spot market, gold

# Re closes near all-time low at 88.76 vs \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee closed near its all-time low on Monday as lingering foreign portfolio outflows and corporate dollar demand kept up pressure on the currency. The rupee settled at 88.76 against the dollar, its weakest ever closing level and down slightly from its close at 88.72 on Friday. The currency declined to an all-time low of 88.80 last week.

After starting the session with a modest uptick, the currency drifted lower through the session, averting a sharper decline due to dollar sales by multiple state-run banks, which traders said were likely on behalf of RBI. The central bank has frequently intervened to support the rupee over recent sessions as worries over the impact of steep US tariffs and tighter visa policies hurt the rupee. Concerns over further depreciation of the rupee have prompted importers to step up hedging, keeping the rupee's upticks short-lived, an FX salesperson at a foreign bank said. REUTERS

prices traded above the Rs 1.15 lakh mark, a late evening report from India Bullion & Jewellers Association showed. On MCX, gold futures price for Oct delivery had breached the Rs 1.15 lakh mark, while for Dec delivery, the price was close to that level. Reports regarding US shut down also led to safe haven buying in precious metals and this could gain strength if the debt bill in

the world's largest economy is not passed before Oct 1, said Manav Modi, from Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

#### Sensex falls for 7th day

After a bounce back in early trades, the sensex settled 62 points lower at 80,365 points on Monday as foreign funds continued to sell domestic shares. FPIs were net sellers at Rs 2.832 crore.

## 1. Global Factors:

- Anticipation of a US government shutdown and trade uncertainty boosted safe-haven demand.
- Market expects the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates later this year (lower yields → higher gold appeal).
- Weakness in the US dollar and geopolitical risks lifted precious-metal prices globally.

# 2. Domestic Factors (India):

- Rupee depreciation → imports costlier → higher local prices.
- Robust retail demand and festive season sentiment.

# ■ Key Data

Commodity	Domestic Price (Sep 2025)	YoY Gain	Drivers
Gold	₹1,16,500 per 10 g (spot near ₹1.2 L)	↑ 55 %	Safe-haven buying, rupee weakness
Silver	₹1,44,500 – ₹1,50,000 per kg	↑ 60 %	Industrial demand + speculative inflows

- Global gold near \$3,000/oz, silver above \$47/oz.
- Rupee at ₹88.76/\$ (near all-time low).
- BSE Sensex: 80,365 pts, 7th straight loss as FPIs withdraw.

# Implications

# **Markets Markets**

- Import bill rise → wider CAD.
- Bullion traders expect volatility till clarity on US fiscal outlook.
- Possible RBI intervention to support rupee.

# Investors

- Gold acts as inflation hedge.
- Silver's dual role (industrial + investment) adds volatility.

# **A** Households

- Higher jewellery cost during festive season.
- SIPs in gold ETFs & sovereign bonds may benefit.

# 1. Strong US Dollar

- The US economy is showing resilience strong growth, low unemployment, high demand.
- The US Federal Reserve kept interest rates high, attracting investors to US bonds → Dollar becomes stronger.
- When the USD strengthens globally, most currencies (including INR) weaken.

## 2. India's Trade & Current Account Deficit

- India imports more than it exports (especially oil, electronics, gold).
- Importers need USD to pay, increasing demand for dollars.
- This creates pressure on INR → depreciation.

# **3. Foreign Investment Outflows**

- When global investors pull money out of Indian markets (FIIs selling stocks/bonds),
   they convert INR → USD → exit → INR weakens.
- Outflows often happen due to US rate hikes or global risk aversion.

# 4. High Crude Oil Prices

- India imports ~85% of its oil.
- · Rising oil = more dollars needed = INR demand down.
- Example: every \$10/barrel increase adds billions to India's import bill.

# **19 5. RBI Intervention is Limited**

- RBI (Reserve Bank of India) sells USD from reserves to slow the fall.
- But RBI doesn't aim to fix a level it only manages volatility, not direction.
- So INR slowly drifts down as fundamentals remain weak.

# 6. Inflation & Fiscal Pressure

- Inflation stays sticky, fiscal deficit high → investor caution.
- Weak fiscal metrics reduce foreign confidence → fewer dollar inflows.

# 7. Historical Trend

- INR naturally depreciates 2–3% annually due to inflation gap with the US.
   (India's inflation ~5%, US ~3%)
- Over decades, this is normal structural weakening.

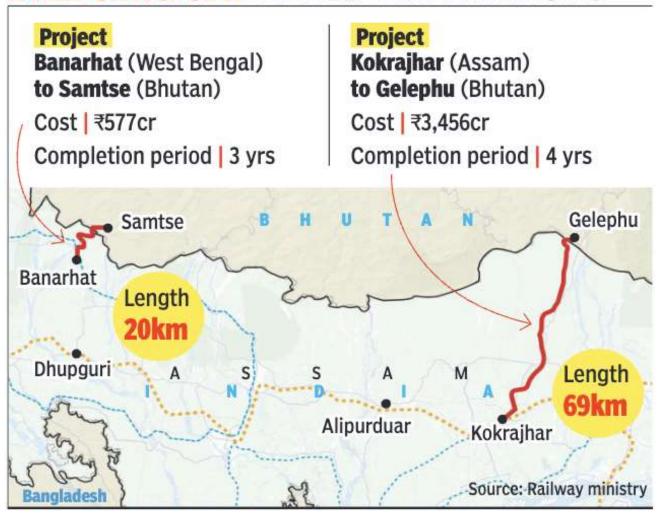
# India-Bhutan Rail Link Gains Strategic Special Project Status

The Indian Railways has designated the Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail line as a Special Railway Project (SRP). This 69-km rail link marks the first-ever rail connection between India and Bhutan. The move aims to fast-track the project under the government's Act East policy. The project is crucial for enhancing bilateral ties and regional connectivity.

# **Recent Developments**

In March 2024, India and Bhutan agreed to develop two rail links – Kokrajhar-Gelephu and Banarhat-Samtse. The latter is a 16-km stretch connecting West Bengal to Bhutan. These rail lines will provide Bhutan with its first railway connectivity. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) issued the SRP notification under the Railways Act, 1989. Funds have been allocated for surveys and preliminary works.

# **BRIDGING GAP BETWEEN 2 NATIONS**



# Haryana Launches Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Women Scheme

The Haryana Government introduced the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana in 2025. It provides Rs 2,100 monthly to eligible women.

The scheme aims to empower women and uplift marginalised sections.

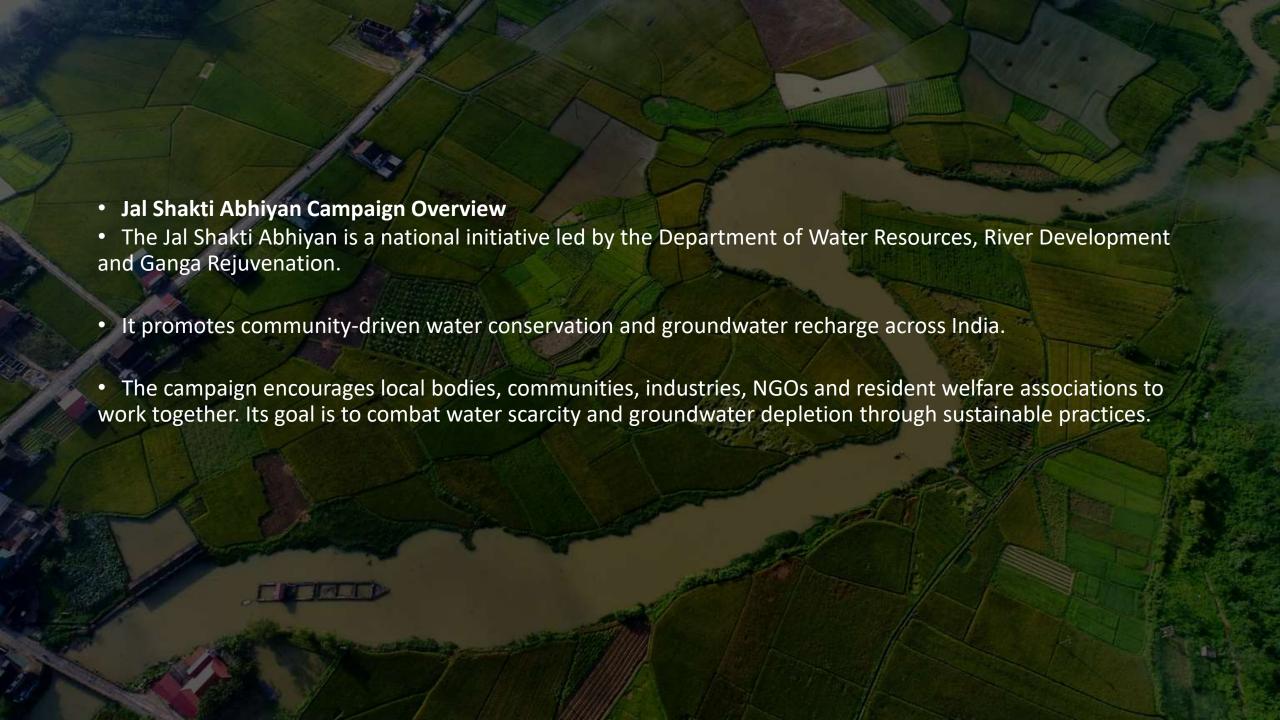
It was launched on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. The event was held at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Panchkula.

# Scheme Objectives

- The scheme focuses on strengthening women's economic and social status.
- It targets women aged 23 to 60 years. Eligibility depends on family income below Rs 1 lakh annually. Both married and unmarried women qualify. Multiple women in one household can receive benefits.
- The initiative aligns with the government's commitment to social welfare

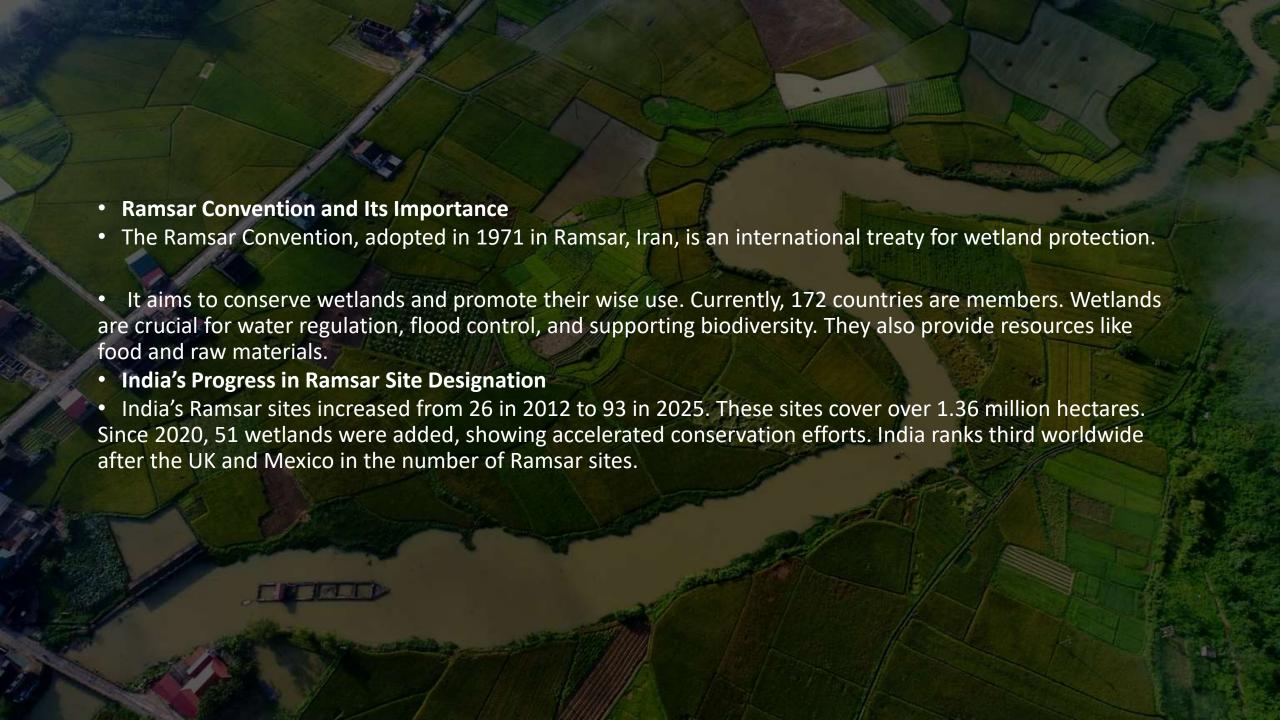
# Bidar District Wins Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Award

- Bidar district in Karnataka was honoured with the Centre's Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Award.
- The award recognises top-performing districts under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan Catch the Rain campaign. Bidar received ₹25 lakh for its exemplary efforts in water conservation and community participation.
- It was one of six districts from Karnataka to win, and the only one from the Kalyana Karnataka region.



# India Adds Two More Ramsar Wetlands In Bihar

- India has recently added two more wetlands from Bihar to the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.
- This increases India's total Ramsar sites to 93, the highest in Asia and third globally.
- The new sites are Gokul Jalashay in Buxar district and Udaipur Jheel in West Champaran district.
- These additions reflect India's growing commitment to wetland conservation and biodiversity protection.



# PM E-DRIVE Scheme

• The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has released comprehensive operational guidelines for the deployment of EV public charging stations under the PM E-DRIVE (Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) scheme.

# About

- The scheme was launched in 2024, and was initially active from October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2026, with an extension announced up to March 2028 for certain components.
- It builds on previous schemes like **FAME-I and FAME-II with a larger budget and broader focus**

- **Objectives:** To promote faster adoption of EVs across segments such as electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws), three-wheelers (e-3Ws), ambulances, trucks, and buses.
  - To incentivize advanced battery-powered EVs through demand subsidies.
- Major Components:
  - Demand Incentives / Subsidies: Financial support for purchase of electric 2-wheelers & 3-wheelers, E-ambulances, E-trucks & e-buses
  - Other emerging EV categories: Demand incentives are capped at 15% of the ex-factory price or fixed limits, applicable only to vehicles priced below specific thresholds.

# Word of the day

# Insouciance:

the cheerful feeling you have when nothing is troubling you

Synonyms: carefreeness, lightheartedness

**Usage:** After I started a new job, I lost my sense of insouciance.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/

insouciancepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈsuːsi.əns/

