

# Daily Current Affairs



# जनसत्ता



**THE  
FINANCIAL  
EXPRESS**



4  
**The Hindu**



1  
**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



3  
**The Indian  
Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



1  
**Financial  
Express**



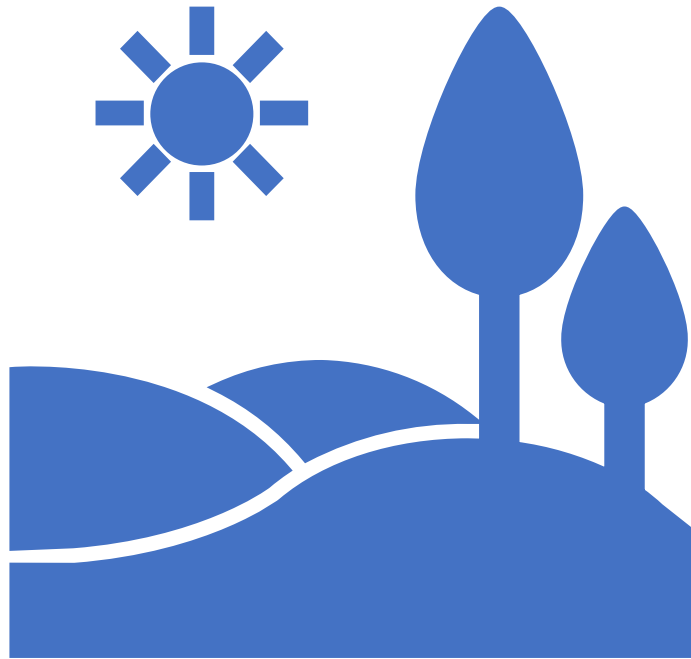
# Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



- You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.”



POSE PROTOCOL  
**WHO and India to standardise yoga**



They are working to create guidelines for practice, training, and application as well as define global benchmarks

NEWS 2 PAGE 2

  
Microbes that digest plastics may fuel antibiotic resistance  
SCIENCE 3 PAGE 10

  
How did Kerala scale up a model to pull off its digital literacy feat  
FAQ 3 PAGE 8

  
Satwik-Chirag pair storms into the semifinals  
SPORT 3 PAGE 13

INSIDE

  
**Jarange to resume Maratha quota protest**  
MUMBAI/DELHI/AGAR  
The talks between Maratha leader Manoj Jarange, PM and a delegation ended inconclusively in Mumbai on Saturday 3 PAGE 2

**Nearly 2 lakh name deletion requests in Bihar**  
NEW DELHI  
The Election Commission (EC) said on Saturday that it had received more than 1.97 lakh requests from individuals to exclude names from the voters' list in Bihar 3 PAGE 4

**Houthi PM killed in Israeli air attack in Sanaa**  
CAIRO  
An Israeli air strike killed the Houthi Prime Minister in Sanaa. He was the most senior Houthi official killed in the Israeli-U.S. campaign against Houthis 3 PAGE 12

# Modi lands in China after 7 years; to meet Xi, Putin

Ukrainian President calls Modi in Tianjin, urging him to send an 'appropriate signal' to Putin for an immediate ceasefire; PM's meeting with Xi signals improved ties amid unprecedented U.S. tariffs



Warm welcome: Artists perform as Narendra Modi receives a red carpet welcome at the airport in Tianjin on Saturday. (AP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tianjin on Saturday for his first visit to China since 2016. He is set to hold bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and several other leaders before attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit on Monday.

The Prime Minister's much anticipated meeting with Mr. Xi on Sunday of Tuesday, was said to mark a significant improvement in India-China ties against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war.

This is the second meeting between the two leaders in less than a year, after their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan last October.

Zelenskyy's appeal

Mr. Modi's planned meeting with Mr. Putin on Monday has acquired additional significance as he received a phone call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late on Saturday, soon after landing in Tianjin.

The Ukrainian leader urged Mr. Modi to "deliver the appropriate signal to Russia and other leaders" at the SCO summit. Referring to the Russian attacks that have intensified over the past few days, Mr. Zelenskyy's statement emphasised the "need for immediate ceasefire". He added: "It is impossible to speak meaningfully about peace while our cities and communities are under constant fire."

Mr. Modi is expected to meet Myanmar's Acting President General Min Aung Hlaing on Sunday, and will also attend an official welcome banquet.

The Ukrainian leader urged Mr. Modi to "deliver the appropriate signal to Russia and other leaders" at the SCO summit. Referring to the Russian attacks that have intensified over the past few days, Mr. Zelenskyy's statement emphasised the "need for immediate ceasefire". He added: "It is impossible to speak meaningfully about peace while our cities and communities are under constant fire."

Mr. Modi is expected to meet Myanmar's Acting President General Min Aung Hlaing on Sunday, and will also attend an official welcome banquet.

# Trump exceeded authority to impose sweeping global tariffs, rules federal court

Associated Press WASHINGTON



Donald Trump

A federal appeals court ruled on Friday that U.S. President Donald Trump had no legal right to impose sweeping tariffs on almost every country on earth but left in place for now his effort to build a protectionist wall around the American economy.

The ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found that Mr. Trump overstepped his authority under an emergency powers law, a major legal blow that largely upended a May decision by a specialist federal trade court in New York.

"It seems unlikely that Congress intended to ... grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs," the judges wrote in a 2-4 ruling. However, they allowed his administration until mid-October to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The President vowed to do just that. "If allowed to stand, this decision would literally destroy the United States' trade policy," he wrote on his social media platform.

White House spokesman Kari Houder said Mr. Trump had acted lawfully, and "we look forward to ultimate victory on this matter."

An attorney for small businesses affected by the tariffs, meanwhile, said the ruling shows Mr. Trump does not have unlimited power to impose tariffs on his own. "This decision protects American businesses and consumers from the uncertainty and harm caused by these unlawful tariffs," said Jeffrey Schwab, director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

Still, it remains unclear whether businesses will see any effects from the decision, said National Foreign Trade Council President Jack Colvin.

"If these tariffs are ultimately struck down, it ought to serve as a wake-up call for Congress to reclaim its constitutional

# All tariffs are still in effect: Trump

WASHINGTON

Soon after the appeals court's decision, U.S. President Donald Trump declared on Truth Social that "ALL TARIFFS ARE STILL IN EFFECT." Mr. Trump warned that removing the tariffs would be a "total disaster" for the country.

# Govt. ignored industry calls for phone surveillance safeguards, says RTI reply

ARUN JESU NEW DELHI

The Union government did not incorporate industry demands for greater accountability and judicial scrutiny in its phone and internet tapping rules, according to a review of submissions to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) obtained by The Hindu.

In India, lawful interception – the technical term for tapping phone connections for calls, and internet connections for data – is authorised by senior officials in the Union and state governments, without any judicial oversight.

Last December, the Union government notified the Telecommunications (Procedure) and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024.

The new rules were not issued as there was a new parent law for telecommunications, the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which replaced the 19th century Telegraph Act.

A draft of the rules were published last August, and

# 11, including family of 7, killed in J&K



Locals and security personnel at destruction site following a cloudburst in Bhadar village of Mahora tehsil district, where heavy rains triggered mudslides and structural damage. (AP/IC, ANS/REUTERS)

# PM Modi likely to visit Manipur in September

VIJAYA RAO NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Manipur in the second week of September, the first time since ethnic violence erupted in the state more than two years ago, government sources told The Hindu.

The Prime Minister is likely to visit Imphal and Churachandpur districts in the violence-hit State where he is expected to meet people displaced from their homes due to the ethnic strife.

He is also likely to announce key infrastructure projects for the region and inaugurate few projects, sources said.

The Manipur visit is likely to occur this time Mr. Modi's trip to Mizoram and Assam from September 12-14. He is scheduled to inaugurate railway and other key infrastructure projects in the two States.

Security arrangements are being tightened in Manipur to prevent any kind of violence. "The dates for the PM's visit are being worked out," said a senior government official.

The official added, "There could be attempts to incite violence but we are keeping a close watch on the entire situation."

Unheard voices

The following are some of the suggestions by the industry which don't make it to the final rules

- Violation fines too high: "The fines for violation of the rules are too high and will deter small businesses from complying with the rules," said a representative of a small business.
- Lack of transparency: "The rules are not transparent and do not allow for any input from the industry," said a representative of a small business.
- Lack of consultation: "The rules were not developed in consultation with the industry," said a representative of a small business.

Unheard voices

The following are some of the suggestions by the industry which don't make it to the final rules

- Lack of consultation: "The rules were not developed in consultation with the industry," said a representative of a small business.
- Lack of transparency: "The rules are not transparent and do not allow for any input from the industry," said a representative of a small business.
- Violation fines too high: "The fines for violation of the rules are too high and will deter small businesses from complying with the rules," said a representative of a small business.



# Modi lands in China after 7 years; to meet Xi, Putin

Ukraine President calls Modi in Tianjin, urging him to send an 'appropriate signal' to Putin for an 'immediate ceasefire'; PM's meeting with Xi signals improved ties amid unprecedented U.S. tariffs

**Vighnesh P. Venkitesh**  
TIANJIN

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tianjin on Saturday, for his first visit to China since 2018. He is set to hold bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and several other leaders before attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit on Monday.

The Prime Minister's much-anticipated meeting with Mr. Xi on Sunday afternoon comes amid a marked improvement in India-China ties against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war. This is the second meeting between the two leaders in less than a year, after their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan last October.

## **Zelenskyy's appeal**

Mr. Modi's planned meeting with Mr. Putin on Monday has acquired additional significance as he received a phone call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late on



**Warm welcome:** Artists perform as Narendra Modi receives a red carpet welcome at the airport in Tianjin on Saturday. PMO

Saturday, soon after landing in Tianjin.

The Ukrainian leader urged Mr. Modi to "deliver the appropriate signal to Russia and other leaders" at the SCO summit. Referring to the Russian attacks that have intensified over the past few days, Mr. Zelenskyy's statement emphasised the "need for immediate ceasefire". He added: "It is impossible to speak meaningfully about peace while our cities and communities are under constant fire."

Mr. Modi is expected to meet Myanmar's Acting President General Min Aung Hlaing on Sunday,

and will also attend an official welcome banquet hosted by Mr. Xi for Heads of Governments and States and other dignitaries on Sunday night.

## **Regional stability**

The meeting of the SCO, one of the world's largest regional groupings in terms of population and land mass, comes amid turbulence in global trade due to the U.S. imposition of import tariffs, including 50% on Indian goods.

China, which is chairing the bloc this year, says the Tianjin Declaration will include new measures to support SCO development

by practising multilateralism and safeguarding regional stability.

India will seek stronger commitments for anti-terrorism efforts and regional stability at the summit. In June, it had declined to endorse a joint statement at an SCO Defence Ministers' meeting held in China, pushing for tougher language against terrorism. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had also urged the SCO not to compromise on terrorism, during a meeting of the bloc's Foreign Ministers in July.

*(The writer is in China on invitation of the China Public Diplomacy Association)*

PM Narendra Modi arrived in **Tianjin, China** after 7 years (last visit: 2018).

Bilateral meetings planned with **Xi Jinping (China)** and **Vladimir Putin (Russia)** ahead of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit**.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy urged Modi to send an “*appropriate signal*” to Russia for an **immediate ceasefire**.

Visit comes amid **U.S. tariffs on Chinese and Indian goods** (50% on Indian exports).

## India–China

### Ancient ties:

- Buddhism spread from India to China (Nalanda–Xuanzang link).
- Silk Route facilitated trade in silk, spices, precious stones.

**Colonial period:** Both nations suffered from European imperialism.

### Post-Independence:

- 1954: *Panchsheel Agreement* (Peaceful Coexistence).
- 1962: India-China war strained relations.
- 1976: Diplomatic ties restored.
- 1988: Rajiv Gandhi's visit → normalization.



---

## Political & Strategic Engagements

---

**SCO Platform:** Both are founding members; focus on security, counter-terrorism, regional stability.

---

**BRICS:** Shared interests in reforming global financial institutions (IMF, World Bank).

---

**Border disputes:** Aksai Chin (China-occupied Ladakh) and Arunachal Pradesh (claimed as “South Tibet”).

---

**Doklam (2017) & Galwan clash (2020)** heightened tensions.

## Economic & Trade Relations

### Bilateral Trade (2023-24):

~\$136 billion (China is India's largest trading partner).

Indian exports: iron ore, cotton, pharma, IT services.

Chinese exports: electronics, telecom, solar equipment, heavy machinery.

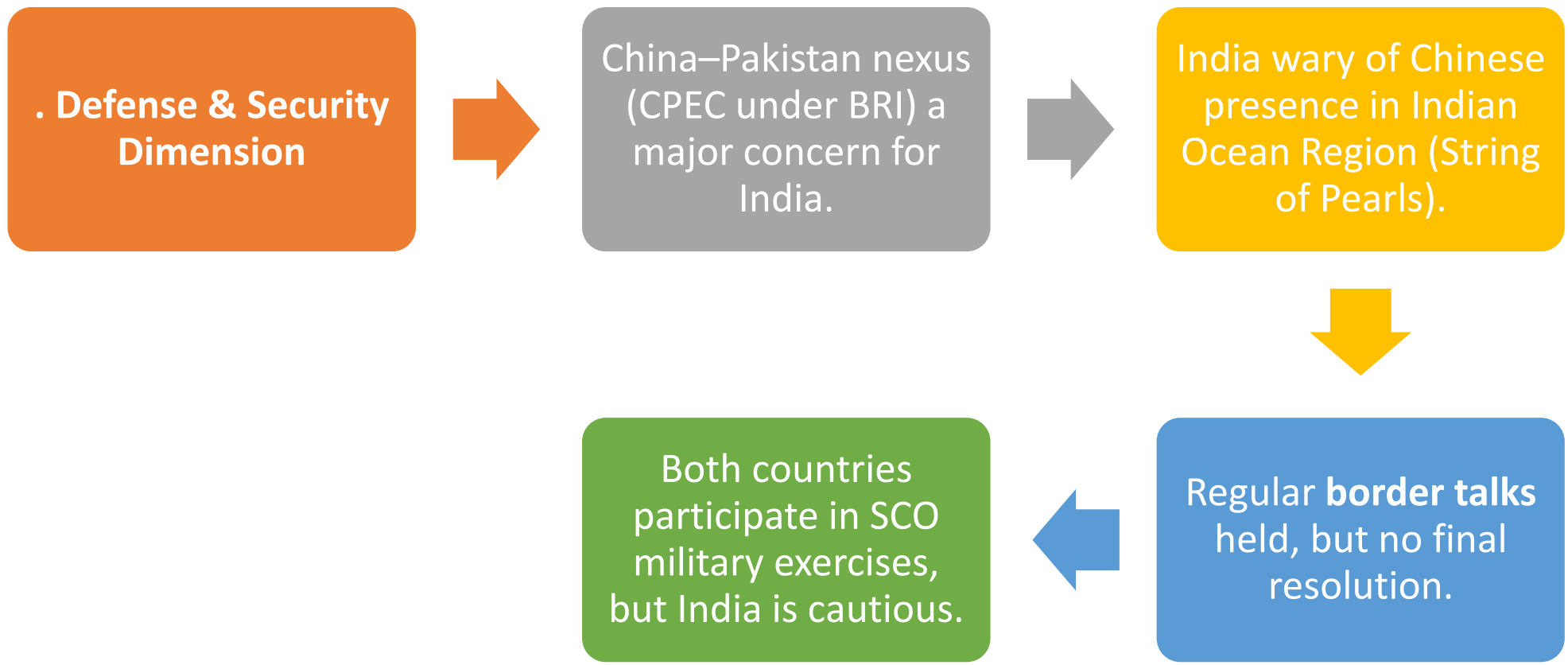
**Trade Deficit:**  
~\$100 billion in China's favour.

### Investments:

Chinese FDI in India restricted post-2020 (security concerns).

Before 2020, Chinese companies invested in Indian startups (Paytm, Ola, Zomato, etc.).







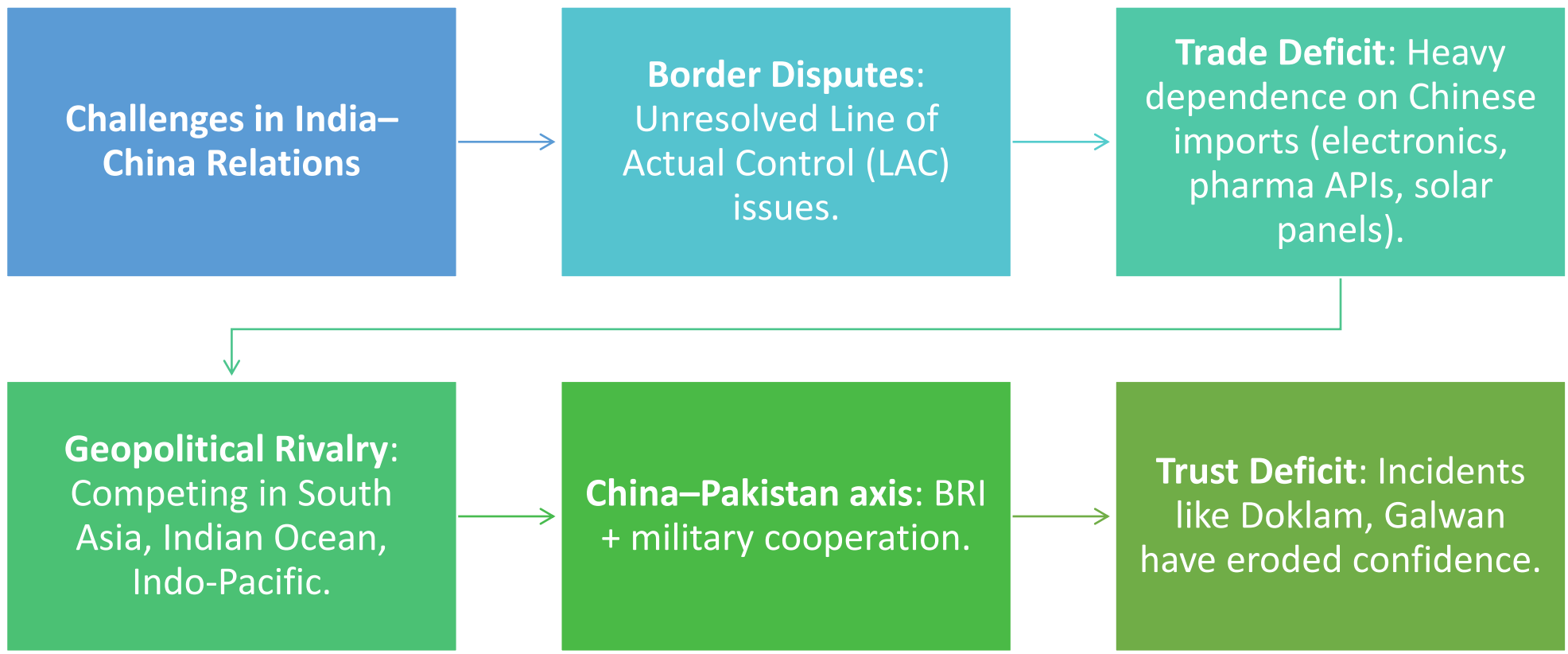


## People-to-People & Cultural Ties

Buddhism remains a strong cultural link (Bodh Gaya, Nalanda → pilgrimage sites for Chinese monks).

Mandarin taught in select Indian universities; yoga & Ayurveda gaining traction in China.

Tourism restricted post-COVID & border clashes but has revival potential.



## India's Balancing Act

Strengthening ties with **U.S., Japan, Australia (QUAD)** while engaging China in SCO/BRICS.

Diversifying imports (electronics, APIs) away from China.

Using multilateral forums (SCO, G20, UN) to maintain engagement while protecting sovereignty.

Leveraging India's role as a **“balancing power”** in U.S.–China rivalry.



# Way Forward

## Short-Term:

- Focus on stabilizing border situation.
- Push for better trade terms & investment safeguards.

## Medium-Term:

- Leverage SCO & BRICS to build multipolar world order.
- Expand Indian exports to reduce trade deficit.

## Long-Term:

- Build self-reliance in strategic sectors (electronics, pharma, renewable tech).
- Pursue cultural diplomacy (Buddhism, Ayurveda, Yoga) for soft power advantage.

# Trump exceeded authority to impose sweeping global tariffs, rules federal court

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON

A federal appeals court ruled on Friday that U.S. President Donald Trump had no legal right to impose sweeping tariffs on almost every country on earth but left in place for now his effort to build a protectionist wall around the American economy.

The ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found that Mr. Trump overstepped his authority under an emergency powers law, a major legal blow that largely upheld a May decision by a specialised federal trade court in New York.

"It seems unlikely that Congress intended to ... grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs," the judges wrote in a 7-4 ruling. However, they allowed his administration until mid-October to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The President vowed to do just that. "If allowed to stand, this Decision would literally destroy the United States of America," he wrote on his social media platform.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said Mr. Trump had acted lawfully, and "we look forward to ul-



Donald Trump

timate victory on this matter."

An attorney for small businesses affected by the tariffs, meanwhile, said the ruling shows Mr. Trump does not have unlimited power to impose tariffs on his own. "This decision protects American businesses and consumers from the uncertainty and harm caused by these unlawful tariffs," said Jeffrey Schwab, director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

Still, it remains unclear whether businesses will see any effects from the decision, said National Foreign Trade Council President Jake Colvin.

"If these tariffs are ultimately struck down, it ought to serve as a wake-up call for Congress to reclaim its constitutional

## All tariffs are still in effect: Trump

WASHINGTON  
Soon after the appeals court's decision, U.S. President Donald Trump declared on Truth Social that "ALL TARIFFS ARE STILL IN EFFECT." Mr. Trump warned that removing the tariffs would be a "total disaster" for the country.

mandate to regulate duties and bring some long-term certainty for U.S. businesses and relief for consumers," Mr. Colvin said.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon said he plans to force votes on "repealing these harmful, regressive taxes at every opportunity."

The ruling complicates Mr. Trump's ambitions to upend decades of American trade policy completely on his own. Mr. Trump has alternative laws for imposing import taxes, but they would limit the speed and severity with which he could act. His tariffs – and the erratic way he's rolled them out – have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

## 1. Federal Court Ruling

- **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit** ruled that:
  - Former U.S. President Donald Trump **overstepped his authority** in imposing sweeping tariffs.
  - The legal basis used was **emergency powers law** → Court rejected unlimited Presidential authority to impose tariffs.
  - However, tariffs remain **temporarily in effect** until the matter reaches the **Supreme Court**.

## 2. Tariffs under Trump

- Trump imposed **global tariffs**, including:
  - Steel and aluminum imports (25% and 10% respectively).
  - Broader tariffs targeting China during the **U.S.-China trade war** (2018–19).
- Justification: **National security & protecting U.S. industries**.
- Impact: Strained relations with U.S. allies (EU, Canada, India, Japan) and **raised global fears of protectionism**.



## 1. U.S.-China Trade War (2018–2020)

- Trump's tariffs escalated into a **\$360 billion tariff war**.
- China retaliated with counter-tariffs on U.S. agricultural & industrial goods.
- Resulted in:
  - Decline in U.S. exports (soybeans, pork).
  - Global trade slowdown.
  - Supply chain disruptions.

## 2. Impact on India

- India faced U.S. tariffs on steel & aluminum (2018).
- India retaliated by imposing tariffs on **28 U.S. products** (almonds, apples, walnuts).
- Led to tension in Indo-U.S. trade ties, though both nations later negotiated partial relaxations.

## 3. Wider Global Impact

- WTO flagged Trump's tariffs as inconsistent with global trade rules.
- Shift toward **"America First" protectionism** weakened U.S. leadership in multilateral trade.
- Encouraged other countries to explore alternative trade blocs (e.g., RCEP, EU deals with Asia).

# Govt. ignored industry calls for phone surveillance safeguards, says RTI reply

**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government did not incorporate industry demands for greater accountability and judicial scrutiny in its phone and Internet tapping rules, according to a review of submissions to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) obtained by *The Hindu*.

In India, lawful interception – the technical term for tapping phone connections for calls, and internet connections for data – is authorised by senior officials in the Union and State governments, without any judicial oversight.

Last December, the Union government notified the Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024.

The new rules were notified as there was a new parent law for telecommunications, the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which replaced the 19th century Telegraph Act.

A draft of the rules were published last August, and

## Unheard voices

The following are some of the suggestions by the industry which didn't make it to the final rules

- Vodafone Idea Ltd sought “clear specification of the geographical jurisdiction of various authorized agencies to issue interception orders”. Its absence in the rules leave ambiguous the authority of State-level officials in requesting interceptions from other parts of the country

- Extreme Infocomm Ltd., called for “independent bodies – either judicial or parliamentary – to ensure that interception orders are objectively reviewed, without undue influence from the issuing authority”

- Airtel and the Cellular Operators Association of India asked the Department of Telecommunications to pay for the costs incurred in interception

*The Hindu* reviewed industry inputs to that draft, provided under the Right to Information Act.

Many of the safeguards that the industry asked for were not accepted. For instance, Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) wrote that it was “advisable that the current Rules clearly specify the geographical jurisdiction of various authorised agencies to issue interception orders, such as the authority of the State Home Secretary to issue interception orders belonging to numbers from other States”.

This suggestion was not

incorporated, leaving it ambiguous what the authority of State-level officials is in requesting intercepts from other parts of the country.

Extreme Infocomm Ltd. said that effective oversight required “independent bodies – either judicial or parliamentary – to ensure that interception orders are objectively reviewed, without undue influence from the issuing authority”.

This suggestion, also made by the non-partisan research body PRS Legislative, was not accepted either. As has been the case for

decades, senior officials remain free to issue interception orders.

The scale of interception orders entails “huge” capital and operational expenditure, Bharti Airtel Ltd. said in its response.

The company, as well as the Cellular Operators Authority of India, asked the DoT to pay for the costs incurred in interception. The final rules make no provision for compensation.

The government did accept some of the industry's suggestions. For instance, Airtel and Vodafone asked for the word “secure” to be inserted into the rules in reference to communications between telcos and the government. That suggestion was incorporated in the final rules.

Under the new rules, junior officials are now allowed to issue intercept orders in emergency cases, but must get confirmation by an authorised high-level official within two working days. The government incorporated telecom firms' request that if an order given by a junior official was not “confirmed”, the records must be destroyed.

India has long permitted  
lawful interception of:

**Phone calls**

**Internet communications**

Authorized by **Union and  
State senior officials.**

Historically done under the  
**19th century Telegraph Act,**  
now replaced by the  
**Telecommunications Act,  
2023.**

In **December 2023**, Govt.  
notified  
**Telecommunications  
(Procedures and Safeguards  
for Lawful Interception of  
Messages) Rules, 2024.**





- **Industry's Demands (via submissions to DoT)**
- **Vodafone Idea Ltd.:**
  - Clear specification of **geographical jurisdiction** of authorities to issue interception orders.
  - Concern: State-level officials misusing authority to intercept calls/data across jurisdictions.
- **Extreme Infocomm Ltd.:**
  - Independent oversight by **judiciary or Parliament** to ensure interception orders are **objectively reviewed** and not influenced by issuing authority.
- **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) & Airtel:**
  - Sought Govt. to **bear the costs of interception**, citing heavy financial burden.



- **Government's Position**
- **Safeguards Ignored:**
  - No clear jurisdictional limitations added.
  - No provision for independent judicial/Parliamentary oversight.
  - No cost reimbursement mechanism.
- **Partial Acceptance:**
  - Words like “**secure**” were added in rules referring to govt.-telco communication.
  - Junior officials' interception orders must now be **confirmed by high-level authority within two days**.

---

## Concerns

---

Lack of safeguards → **Ambiguous authority** for State-level officials.

---

Raises risk of **mass surveillance**, arbitrary tapping, and privacy violations.

---

Industry fears of **high capital expenditure** in interception with **no compensation**.



- **Constitutional & Judicial Context**

- Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty → includes **Right to Privacy** (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy Case, 2017).

- SC has mandated that surveillance must be:

- **Legal** (sanctioned by law),
- **Necessary** (for legitimate state aim),
- **Proportionate** (least intrusive).


- India lacks a **comprehensive privacy law**, unlike EU's **GDPR**.



Vol. 38 • Nov. 2007



**Foreign Secretary says India, China can stabilise world trade; leaders agree to reduce trade deficit**



### India and China are victims of terrorism Modi

**NEW DELHI**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on Sunday told Chinese President Xi Jinping that both countries are "victims" of terrorism, and should work together to combat the "source". Responding to the media about whether Mr. Modi raised the issue of Pahalgam attacks, Foreign Secretary Vikram Miral said it was "absolutely correct" to say

The two countries should work together to ensure peace and not let the border issue define

The Prime Minister also met with Myanmar's Secretary of Defence, U Hlaing, and reiterated India's readiness to support development projects in the a-la-hi country. He noted that India attaches importance to ties with Myanmar.

## Govt. to offer immediate

**liquidity, compliance relief to exporters hit by tariffs**

- The plan includes short-, medium-, and long-term measures to address parents and boost competitiveness.
- It is based on a few "guiding principles": providing immediate relief with regard to liquidity, consequences, and other levels; building confidence in family chaos; increasing societal trade

supply chains, leveraging existing trade agreements, and providing other non-financial assistance to exporters.

It is anticipated that exporters may face delayed payments for goods and services. Fact-based, targeted support is needed to help exporters manage cash flow challenges.

Budget 2025, to better align it with the needs of the currently affected export sectors.

That plan is currently being approved by the President of the Republic of Turkey. Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek said that the plan will be implemented by the end of the year.

increase, providing immediate liquidity and compliance relief to exporters and helping them maintain order levels and employment. "To prevent working capital stress and protect cellular, cyclical, and cancelled orders due to the tariff shock," a source said.

"To prevent working capital stress and protect

**'Guiding principles'**  
According to sources in the Ministry, the action plan is based on "guiding principles" providing information on the government's policies with regard to liquidity, compliance, and order legislation. The government is considering several options to address the current foreign exchange and foreign trade imbalances, and allow exporters to maintain their foreign exchange accounts as they are trapped.

The government has learnt from various export promotion bodies that liquidity is the main constraint for exporters as they have already bought the foreign exchange needed to export to the U.S. under current conditions.

"A critical risk is a drop in order levels, particularly in the garment sector, which contributes significantly to labour-intensive exports," the Ministry added. It also confirmed *The Hindu* as having been the first newspaper to report the government breaking the Export Promotion Mission, which had been set up to

second priority would be to allow exporters to have direct foreign exchange with market exporters with market access through export promotion bodies, branding and packaging, and other export promotion activities. It is also considering new 1992 policy flexibility to allow exporters to make production and sales decisions on a short-term basis and scale up production and export.

The government's long-term strategy includes liberalizing trade and foreign trade agreements that have been signed, an export promotion policy, and large shares of export earnings to be used to develop infrastructure. It also doesn't go to any single country for foreign exchange, but autonomy in crucial sectors like foreign exchange, foreign trade infrastructure in the form of

• • •



# India, China commit to fair border solution: PM

After PM meets Xi, MEA says ready for 'reasonable and mutually acceptable' solution on the frontier

Xi says border issues should not define overall ties; he adds nations are not rivals, but cooperation partners

Foreign Secretary says India, China can stabilise world trade; leaders agree to reduce trade deficit

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh  
TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday, underlined the importance of peace and tranquillity on the India-China border for continued development of bilateral relations.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin, the two leaders agreed on the need to strengthen people-to-people ties through direct flights and visa facilitation, building on the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and tourist visas, amid an improving relationship between the neighbours. Mr. Xi said the border issue should not define overall relations.

"The two leaders noted with satisfaction the successful disengagement last year and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the border areas since then. They expressed

commitment to a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement following the meeting.

Mr. Modi called for mutual support in combating terrorism and the two leaders exchanged views on balanced bilateral trade, recognising that their economies could stabilise world trade, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing on Sunday night. They agreed to facilitate trade and investment ties while reducing their trade deficit, he said. They discussed the international economic situation, with Mr. Modi telling Mr. Xi that growing trade will contribute to a change in the world's perception of China, the Foreign Secretary added.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff wars, with both India and China facing steep duties on their exports to the U.S., but Mr. Modi insisted that the rela-



**Improved ties:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin. PMO

tionship between India and China should not be seen through a "third-country lens".

## 'Positive momentum'

While the Prime Minister noted that both countries pursue strategic autonomy, the two leaders said they would expand their common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues and challenges, such as terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms,

the MEA statement said.

"Had a fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping... We reviewed positive momentum in India-China relations since our last meeting in Kazan [in Russia, in October 2024]," Mr. Modi said on X. "We agreed on maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas and reaffirmed our commitment to cooperation based on mutual respect, mutual interest, and mutual solidarity," he added.

The two countries should work together to ensure peace and not let the border issue define their overall relations, Mr. Xi said during the bilateral meeting, adding that the "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant should be the right choice for the two countries". China and India are not rivals, but cooperation partners, Mr. Xi said, a sentiment which echoed by Mr. Modi. Both leaders

## India and China are victims of terrorism: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told Chinese President Xi Jinping that both countries are "victims" of terrorism, and should work together to combat the "scourge". Responding to the media about whether Mr. Modi raised the issue of Pahalgam attacks, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said it was discussed during bilateral meeting. » PAGE 5

borhood First', 'Act East', and Indo-Pacific policies, the MEA said in a statement. Mr. Modi expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections in Myanmar will be held in a fair and inclusive manner. He underlined that India supports a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned peace process, the MEA added.

The Prime Minister also attended a banquet gala with other SCO leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

He expressed support for China's presidency of the ongoing summit, the MEA said, indicating that he is unlikely to raise any objections to the Tianjin Declaration expected to be signed and issued on Monday. Mr. Modi also invited Mr. Xi to the BRICS summit that India will host in 2026. (The writer is in China on the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy Association)

RELATED REPORTS

» PAGES 5 & 14

## 1. Modi–Xi Bilateral Meeting

- Took place on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit** in Tianjin, China.
- Both leaders underlined the need for:
  - Peace and tranquillity along the **India-China border**.
  - Continued development of **bilateral relations**.
  - Strengthening **people-to-people ties** (direct flights, visa facilitation, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumption, tourist exchanges).

## 2. Border Issue

- MEA statement: Both sides committed to a “**fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable** solution”.
- Xi Jinping: Border disputes should not define overall ties; India and China are “**partners, not rivals**”.
- Context: This reflects efforts to stabilise ties post the **2020 Galwan clashes** and Line of Actual Control (LAC) tensions.



## India halts all mail to the U.S. due to lack of clarity over rules

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

India has suspended all categories of mail operations destined to the U.S. in the absence of clarity on new rules issued by the U.S. Customs Department, an official statement said on Monday.

Earlier, the country's Postal Department had temporarily suspended postal services for gifts to the U.S. valued above \$500 due to the new customs rules issued by the U.S. government.

"In continuation of the Public Notice dated August 22, 2023, the Department of Posts has reviewed the suspension of handling of mails to the United States of America, in view of the ongoing volatility of customs regulations issued by the U.S. Customs Department, and in the absence of defined regulatory mechanisms, it has been decided to completely suspend the handling of all categories of mail, including letters, documents, and gift items valued up to \$500, destined for the USA," the statement said.

The Department of Posts said it was already monitoring the situation and making every effort to restore services at the earliest. "Customs who have already issued their orders could not be dispatched may claim a refund of postage," the statement said.



Children in a classroom, likely receiving education from NGOs.

India has suspended all categories of mail operations destined to the U.S. in the absence of clarity on new rules issued by the U.S. Customs Department, an official statement said on Monday.

Earlier, the country's Postal Department had temporarily suspended postal services for gifts to the U.S. valued above \$500 due to the new customs rules issued by the U.S. government.

"In continuation of the Public Notice dated August 22, 2023, the Department of Posts has reviewed the suspension of handling of mails to the United States of America, in view of the ongoing volatility of customs regulations issued by the U.S. Customs Department, and in the absence of defined regulatory mechanisms, it has been decided to completely suspend the handling of all categories of mail, including letters, documents, and gift items valued up to \$500, destined for the USA," the statement said.

## HAL likely to deliver 2 Tejas Mark-1A jets next month

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

Two Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets are likely to be delivered next month by the state-run aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has said.

Mr. Singh said on Monday that the government is likely to ink a fresh contract with HAL for procuring an additional batch of 50 Tejas jets after the delivery of the two aircraft.

The Indian Air Force had flagged concerns over delays in the delivery of the Tejas Mark-1A jets under a previous contract.

"Typically, the first two jets will be delivered with weapons integration by the end of September," Mr. Singh said at the IAF's



A Tejas Mark-1A fighter jet is shown in flight, likely during a test or delivery.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has said. The Indian Air Force had flagged concerns over delays in the delivery of the Tejas Mark-1A jets under a previous contract.

"Typically, the first two jets will be delivered with weapons integration by the end of September," Mr. Singh said at the IAF's

## Over ₹394.42 crore properties attached in Bikebot scam case

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has previously attached immovable and movable properties worth over ₹394.42 crore in the Bikebot scam case.

The properties were held in the name of the Bikebot Educational and Social Welfare Trust, Bangalore Educational Society, and others.

The properties were held in the name of the Bikebot Educational and Social Welfare Trust, Bangalore Educational Society, and others.



A large pile of cash, likely related to the Bikebot scam case.

The properties were held in the name of the Bikebot Educational and Social Welfare Trust, Bangalore Educational Society, and others.

## NGO Educate Girls wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

It brought unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and worked to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment, says foundation.

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

Education for all, an idea that has been a goal of the United Nations since 1945, has been achieved in the three winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2023. The other winners are Thailand and the Philippines.

Announcing the award for Educate Girls, said the foundation's president, Dr. Ramon Magsaysay.

It was a "an honour to recognize the work of Educate Girls, which has been a pioneer in the field of girls' education in India."

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.



A group of girls are seen in a classroom setting, likely receiving education from NGOs.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

Dr. Ramon Magsaysay said the award was given to Educate Girls for its work in bringing unschooled or out-of-school girls into classrooms and working to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment.

## Tribal leader killed by Kuki extremists in Assam: 6 arrested

From **Times of India**  
Imphal

At least six people were killed in a recent attack on a police station in Manipal, a police official said on Monday.

The "Kuki" militant group, which is active in the region, is believed to be behind the attack.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

The police are conducting a search for the attackers and have arrested six people.

## Indian Army tests combat readiness in Arunachal Pradesh

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

The Indian Army has been testing its combat readiness in Arunachal Pradesh, a source said.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

The source said the army is conducting a series of exercises to test its combat readiness.

## Over 7,000 CBI graft cases await trial in courts: report

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

A major backlog of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases is awaiting trial in courts, a report said.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

A major backlog of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases is awaiting trial in courts, a report said.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

A major backlog of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases is awaiting trial in courts, a report said.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

The report said the backlog of cases is due to a lack of judges and a slow pace of trials.

## Simplifying the mammoth Income Tax Act in six months

From **Times of India**  
New Delhi

The Income Tax Department is working to simplify the Income Tax Act in six months, a source said.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.



A document titled 'INCOME TAX' is shown, likely related to the simplification of the Income Tax Act.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The Income Tax Department is working to simplify the Income Tax Act in six months, a source said.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The Income Tax Department is working to simplify the Income Tax Act in six months, a source said.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

The source said the department is conducting a series of consultations with experts and stakeholders.

# NGO Educate Girls wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

It brought unschooled or out-of-school girls into classroom, and worked to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment, says foundation

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**E**ducate Girls, an Indian non-profit organisation working to educate unprivileged girls across the country, has been named as one of the three winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2025. The other winners are Shaahina Ali of the Maldives and Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva of the Philippines.

Announcing the award for Educate Girls, also known as Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said on Sunday that it was "an Indian organisation whose ground-breaking work in addressing gender injustice in education in India's most rural and remote areas creates a ripple effect that uplifts families, communities, and entire societies".

"Starting out in Rajasthan, Educate Girls identified the neediest communities in terms of girls' education, brought unschooled or out-of-school girls into the classroom, and worked to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and gainful employment," it said.



**Bridging the gap:** In this photo provided by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Safeena Husain, left, founder and Board member of the Foundation to Educate Girls, talks to a group in Rajasthan. AP

Reflecting on the milestone, Safeena Husain, the founder of Educate Girls, said, "Being the first Indian non-profit to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award is a historic moment for Educate Girls and for the country. This recognition places a global spotlight on India's people-powered movement for girls' education, one that began with a single girl in the remotest village and grew to reshape entire communities, challenging traditions and shifting mindsets."

Acknowledging the award, Gayatri Nair Lobo,

CEO of Educate Girls, said the announcement was "historic and humbling".

## Thrilling news

"Educate Girls is the first Indian organisation to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award. It is an absolutely thrilling news for us and this award belongs to our teams across the country – our *preraks*, our team *bali-ka*, the government, our donors and partners. But mostly this award belongs to our girls. Our girls who work tirelessly to get education," said Ms. Lobo in a video statement while con-

gratulating environmental activist Shaahina Ali of the Maldives and Fr. Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva of the Philippines, who shot to fame for opposing former President Rodrigo Duterte's infamous drug war which led to widespread human rights abuse.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was started in 1958 to celebrate "greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia". Since 1958, over 300 achievers and organisations from Asia have received this award.

(With PTI inputs)

**Educate Girls**, an Indian NGO, has been named one of the winners of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2025**.

Recognized for its pioneering work in **addressing gender injustice in education** in India's rural and remote areas.

Other winners:

- **Shaahina Ali** (Maldives) – environmental activist.
- **Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva** (Philippines) – human rights activist opposing drug war killings.



## About Educate Girls

Founded in **Rajasthan**, works to identify **out-of-school/un-schooled girls** and bring them into classrooms.

Ensures they remain in school until they acquire **credentials for higher education and employment.**

Uses a **people-powered movement model** → started in remote villages → scaled up to entire communities.

Focus: reshaping community mindsets, challenging traditions, and enabling **long-term societal transformation.**

---

- **Founders & Leadership**

- **Founder:** Safeena Husain.

- She termed the award a “**historic moment**” for India’s people-powered education movement.

- **CEO:** Gayatri Nair Lobo → called it “historic and humbling”.

- NGO’s approach: Collaboration with local communities, government schemes, and volunteers.

- 
- Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation praised Educate Girls for:
    - Bringing **unschooled girls into classrooms**.
    - Addressing **deep-rooted gender injustice**.
    - Creating **rippling social impact** across families and communities.
  - **5. About Ramon Magsaysay Award**
  - Established: **1958**, in memory of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.
  - Called the **“Asian Nobel Prize”**.
  - Awarded for: **Greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia**.
  - Over **300 individuals/organizations** have received it so far.

---

- **Education & SDGs:**

- SDG 4: Ensure **inclusive & equitable quality education** and promote lifelong learning.
- Educate Girls' work contributes directly to **reducing dropout rates, improving female literacy, and enhancing gender parity.**

- **Indian Education Challenges:**

- As per UDISE+ data, India still faces high **dropout rates among girls**, especially in **secondary education.**
- Barriers: early marriage, poverty, social stigma.

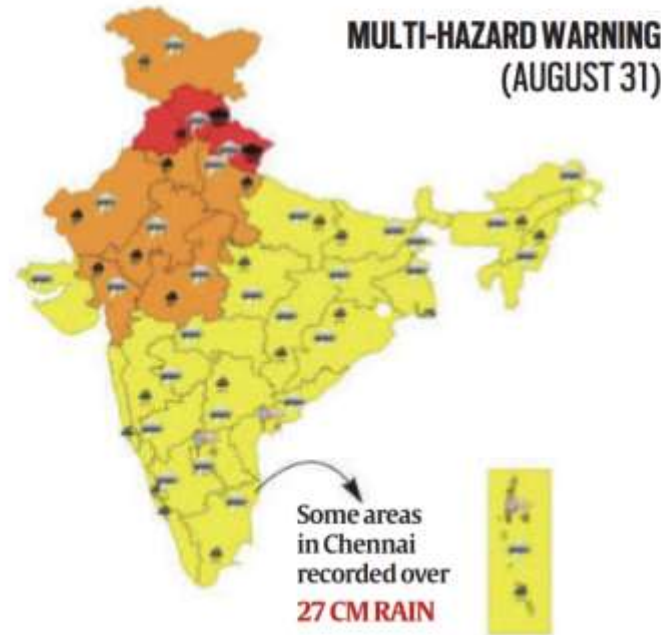
- **Policy Linkages:**

- Aligns with **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and NEP 2020** goals.

# RAIN WATCH

## WHERE IT RAINED HEAVILY

- Many places in Tamil Nadu received over 21 cm rain
- Several places in Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, east Uttar Pradesh, Odisha recorded over 12 cm rain  
(8.30 am Saturday to 8.30 am Sunday)



## FLASH FLOOD THREAT

### HIMACHAL

Moderate to high risk in Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan & Sirmaur

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Moderate to high risk in Anantnag, Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Riasi, Udhampur & Mirpur

### UTTARAKHAND

Moderate to high risk in Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh & Uttarkashi

(up to 11.30 am Monday)

## WHERE IT'S LIKELY TO RAIN

- Extremely heavy rain likely at some places in Uttarakhand on Sep 1, southern Himachal Pradesh and J&K up to Sep 2
- Few places in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh likely to get heavy to very heavy rain over the next two days
- Heavy rain likely over Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh over next five days, over Odisha for next four days, and West Bengal and Sikkim over the next two days
- Several places in Gujarat likely to get extremely heavy rain between Sep 4 and 6
- Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to get good rain over the next one week
- Heavy rain expected over Kerala and coastal Karnataka over the next 7 days



# Sept too likely to be wetter than normal in India: IMD

## 'More Extreme Rain Events May Hit Northwest'

Vishwa.Mohan  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Monthly average rainfall over the country as a whole in Sept is most likely to be 'above normal', at more than 109% of the long-period average, the IMD said on Sunday. It also warned of possible heavy rainfall events during the month in Uttarakhand, north Rajasthan, south Haryana, Delhi and parts of north Chhattisgarh, saying the extreme events may trigger landslides, mudslides, flash floods and urban flooding.

Geographically, most parts of the country are likely to receive 'normal' to 'above normal' rainfall in Sept, while some parts of the northeast and

## NORTH'S RAINIEST AUG IN 29 YRS

➤ Rainfall over northwest India this Aug was highest for the month since 1996 and 13th highest since 1901

➤ 3rd wettest Aug in south India since 2001, 8th wettest since 1901

➤ In Sept, high chance of WDs interacting with monsoon system leading to lots of rain in northwest India, says IMD chief. Asks authorities to



As Punjab battles its worst floods in 37 years, Army's armoured vehicles double as flood saviours, taking people to safety | P 8

remain alert and take measures against potential flooding, landslides and road transport disruptions

### ► Heavy-rain alert in several HP districts, P 8

east India, many areas of extreme south peninsular India and some parts of northernmost India are likely to receive 'below normal' rainfall, the IMD said.

Underlining a trend of increasing rainfall in Sept since the 1980s, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said it was advisable for the authorities to remain alert and take all precautionary measures to avoid po-

tential risks. He attributed increasing rainfall in the month to shifting of the monsoon withdrawal date from Sept 1 to Sept 17 over the years, saying the interaction of western disturbances with the monsoon system during the transition month leads to higher-than-normal rainfall.

► Continued on P 8

## Bikaner flooded in heavy rainfall

The Bikaner division, particularly in Hanumanagarh and Sriganganagar districts, witnessed heavy rainfall Sunday. Moderate to heavy showers were reported in Sawai Madhopur, Dausa, Jaipur, and other parts of the state. Moderate to heavy showers are likely to continue in the coming days. P 2

## 19 rescued from landslide-hit tunnel

Nineteen NHPC staffers, trapped inside a landslide-hit tunnel of the 280MW Dhauliganga hydroelectric project in Pithoragarh's Dharchula for almost 22 hours, were rescued on Sunday. BRO was called in to deploy earthmovers, which worked on the rescue. P 8



# Return of Urjit Patel: reclusive central banker now India's voice in the IMF

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 31

FOR YEARS, Urjit Patel lived a life of silence. His departure from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2018 had been unprecedented: rarely had a central banker clashed so openly with the political establishment, and chosen to step aside rather than bend.

Seven years later, the same government has appointed him Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in what is a reminder of the economist's impeccable credentials.

## Reclusive economist

Patel is not a man who seeks publicity. Colleagues describe him as reserved, sometimes bordering on aloof. He speaks sparingly and avoids unnecessary public interactions.

This reclusive nature has shaped his professional style. Armed with an MPhil from Oxford and a PhD from Yale, Patel built his

reputation in economics through rigorous behind-the-scenes research and policy work. Patel's public quietude also became a defining feature of his tenure with the RBI. For his admirers, his silence was dignified; for critics, it was a sign of weakness.

## Policy journey

In 1991-94, stationed at New Delhi with the IMF Mission for India, Patel, then freshly out of university, worked closely with the Mission Leader, overseeing and scrutinising the government's reform-linked commitments.

In 1997, when the government promoted the Infrastructure Development Finance Company as a new vehicle to accelerate infrastructure creation, Patel moved there, framing policies for emerging sectors such as telecom, power, and roads.

Even before his formal appointment as Deputy Governor of the RBI in 2013, Patel had seen the workings of the central bank from the inside. During the tenure of Governor C Rangarajan (1992-97), Patel was



Patel has a PhD from Yale. File

inducted as an Officer on Special Duty as the RBI examined reforms in financial markets.

## As RBI Governor

Patel became the RBI Governor in September 2016. Unlike his predecessor Raghuram Rajan, who used to dominate headlines with articulate warnings about the Indian economy, Patel preferred to work in anonymity.

His arrival coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise decision to announce demonetisation on November 8, 2016. Patel became the face of the RBI during demonetisation, a storm that severely tested the central bank's credibility. Questions were raised about the RBI's preparedness and demonetisation's impact on growth. True to his style, Patel largely remained silent in public.

Critics accused him of failing to defend the RBI's independence and abandoning citizens at a time of confusion. Supporters argued that his silence reflected prudence, and a refusal to politicise the RBI by dragging it into public spats.

On the whole, however, Patel's actions showed that he stood for the RBI's independence. He refused to toe the Centre's line: his stance on maintaining fiscal discipline and cleaning up the balance sheets of banks earned him both admiration and hostility. By pressing for recognition of bad loans and resisting attempts to dilute banking regulations, Patel positioned himself as a guardian of stability. He tightened the inflation-targeting framework and strength-

ened the Monetary Policy Committee.

## Exit from RBI

Patel's relationship with the government soured over multiple issues — banking regulation, transfer of surplus reserves, the bankruptcy code, and RBI autonomy.

In his book *Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver* (2020), Patel strongly criticised the government for diluting the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the powers of the central bank, saying this undermined efforts made since 2014 to clean up the bad loan mess. When the government, keen to stimulate growth before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, pushed for looser regulation and greater dividend payouts from the RBI to finance expenditure, Patel resisted.

As the feud intensified in 2018, the Centre invoked an obscure clause of the RBI Act to pressure Patel, an unprecedented move at the time. Behind closed doors, meetings between the Finance Ministry and the RBI turned acrimonious. Patel, reserved by nature, withdrew further into silence but refused to yield.

Then in December 2018, he resigned.

This was a principled exit, a refusal to compromise the RBI's institutional autonomy. Patel left without fanfare, and disappeared from the limelight.

## Prodigal return

After leaving the RBI, Patel was busy with academic work and policy research, with a sharp focus on India's financial sector and energy economics. But when the vacancy in the IMF opened up in April, Patel's credentials outweighed any grudge he might have had with the government.

As Executive Director (ED), Patel will represent India at one of the most influential financial institutions in the world. The IMF deals with macroeconomic stability, global capital flows, debt crises, and structural reforms — precisely the areas where Patel's analytical expertise shines.

The ED ensures that IMF policy prescriptions do not adversely impact India's economic sovereignty, and defends India's stance on key issues such as capital controls, subsidy policies, and financial regulations.

With Patel's appointment, both the government and India are winners.

EXPLAINED  
ECONOMICS

- 
- Urjit Patel, former RBI Governor, has been appointed as **Executive Director at the IMF**.
  - Marks his re-emergence in policy space after a low-profile exit from the RBI in 2018.
  - Brings **academic, policy, and institutional experience** to the role.
  - **Patel's Profile & Reputation**
  - **Educational background**: MPhil from Oxford, PhD in Economics from Yale.
  - Known as a **reclusive economist**: avoids publicity, speaks sparingly.
  - Built reputation via **rigorous policy research** and work at IMF, IDFC, and RBI.

---

- **Policy Journey**

- **Early Career (1991–94):** Worked with IMF Mission to India, scrutinising reforms.

- **1997 onwards:** Involved with Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

- **RBI Roles:**

- Deputy Governor (2013): Handled monetary policy reforms.

- Governor (2016–18): Oversaw **inflation targeting framework**, NPAs cleanup, demonetisation.

- **At RBI: Controversies & Exit**

- **Demonetisation 2016:** Patel remained silent in public; critics accused him of failing to defend RBI.

- Advocated fiscal discipline, recognition of bad loans, tighter banking regulation.

- Resigned in **December 2018** after disputes with Govt over RBI's independence, surplus transfer, and regulation.

- His exit seen as a **principled stand for autonomy** of the central bank.

---

- **Post-RBI Work**

- Focused on academic research and policy analysis.
- Book: *Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver* (2020) – critical of Govt policies on bankruptcy and banking.

- **IMF Role**

- As **Executive Director at IMF**, Patel will represent India at one of the most influential financial institutions globally.

- **Focus areas:**

- Macroeconomic stability.
  - Global capital flows.
  - Debt crises & structural reforms.
- ED ensures IMF prescriptions do not harm India's economic sovereignty.



**Previous Indian voices at IMF:**  
Raghuram Rajan, Montek Singh  
Ahluwalia.

India's IMF quota = ~2.6% (voting  
power ~2.3%).

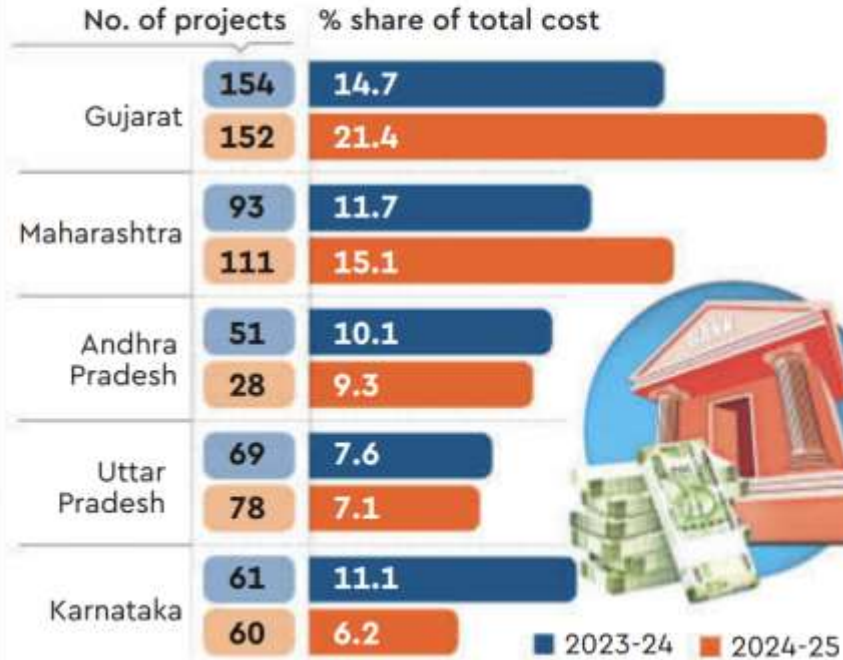
IMF often criticised for **Western  
dominance** but remains key in global  
crisis response.

# FY25: Gujarat corners more than 21% of bank funds

## GUJARAT RETAINED

**THE** top slot in attracting bank funds for projects for the last two consecutive years. In FY25, the state attracted ₹78,746 crore or 21.4% of the total ₹3.7 lakh crore of bank funds for projects, reports **Saikat Neogi**. Of the total 907 projects in the year, the state secured 152 in FY25, according to data from the RBI's August bulletin. In fact, the share of bank funds obtained by the states for projects saw a sharp rise in FY25 from 14.7% in FY24. In the second slot, Maharashtra secured funding for 111 projects in FY25, accounting for 15.1% of the total

## Funding for projects by banks



Total number of projects

944 907

Total cost of project (₹ cr)

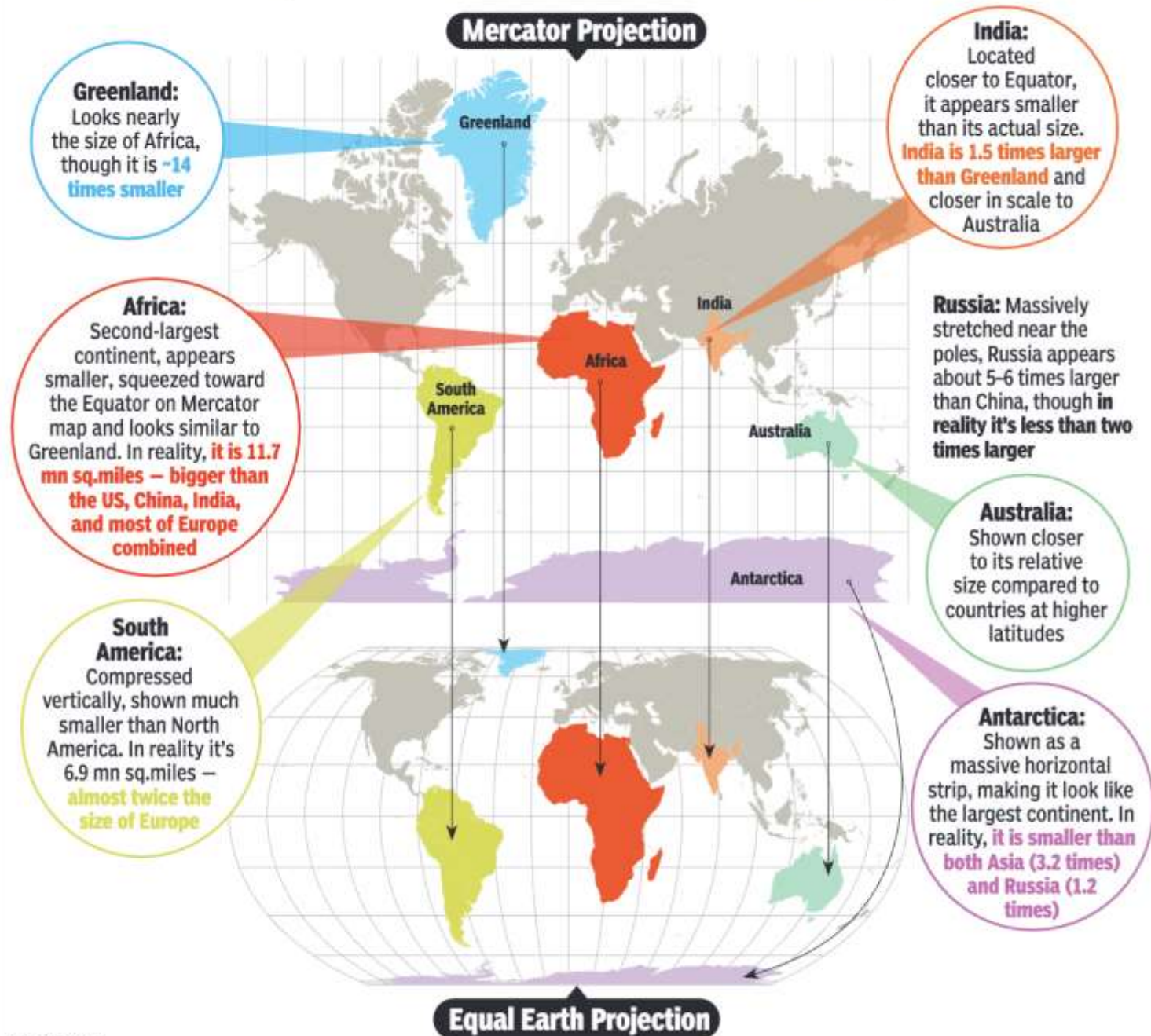
3,91,003 3,67,973

Source: RBI

amount financed by banks. In FY23, Uttar Pradesh topped the list. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh and Karnataka were the next three states in the pecking order in FY25.

# Spot The Distortions On The Mercator Map



---

# Word of the day

## **Repugnant:**

offensive to the mind

---

**Synonyms:** abhorrent, detestable,  
obscene

---

**Usage:** *I don't practise such morally  
repugnant customs.*

---

## **Pronunciation:**

newsth.live/repugnantpro

---

## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /ɹɪˈpʌgnənt/

---





Thank you 😊

