

Daily Current Affairs





2
The Hindu



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**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



1
**The Indian
Express**

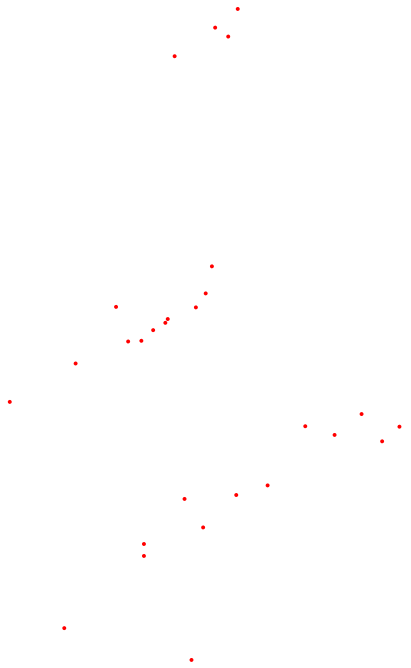


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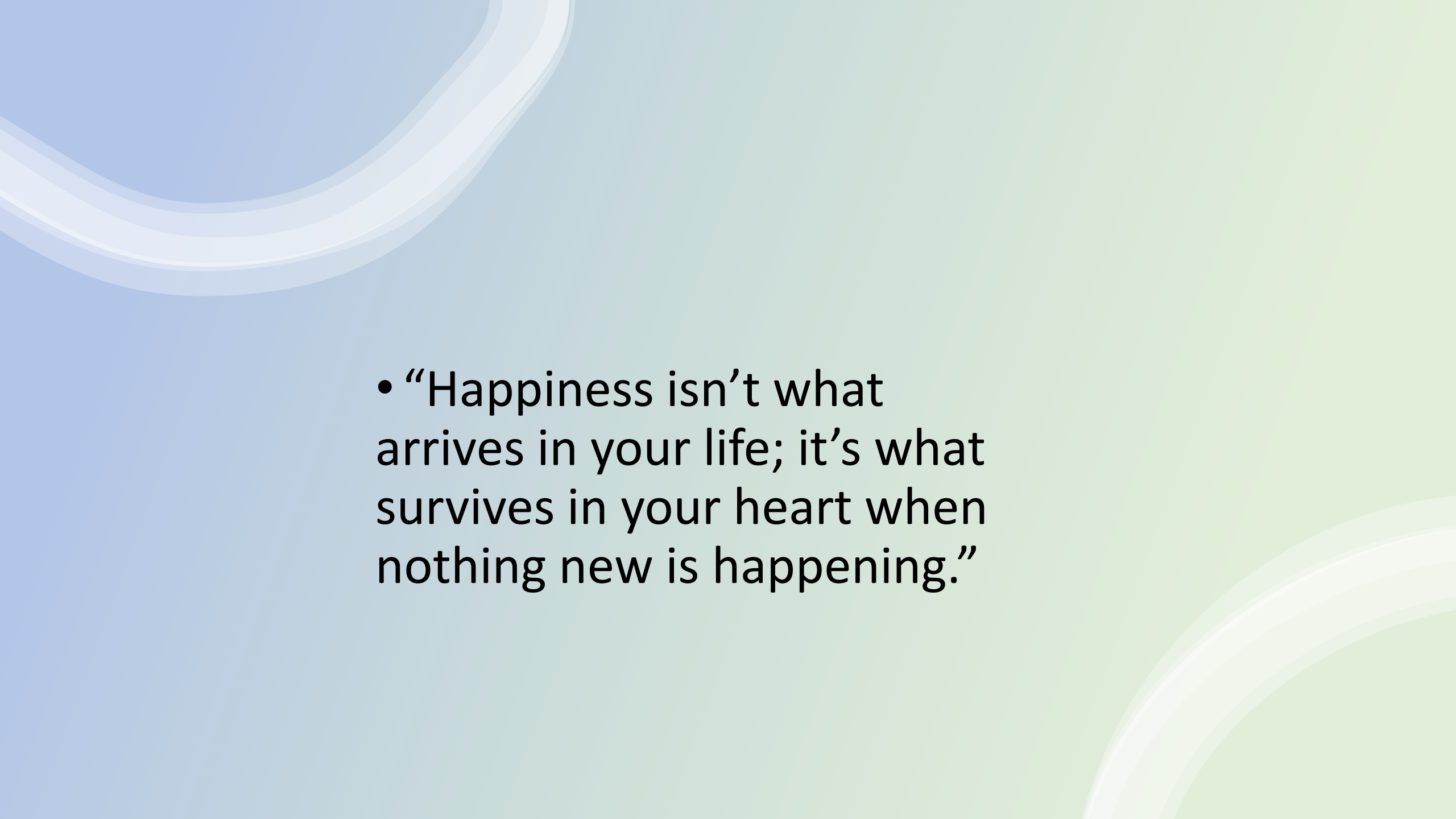
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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

- 
- “Happiness isn’t what arrives in your life; it’s what survives in your heart when nothing new is happening.”



BILATERAL MOVE
India, Bahrain hold talks on boosting ties
NEWS • PAGE 8



NICERAN PROJECT
Map readied amid forest rights challenge
NEWS • PAGE 8



CASE IN SC
'Report finds Biren audio was tampered'
NEWS • PAGE 4



CHANGING TIMES
India's IT dream is at a crossroads
The transition will be painful. But it can also be purposeful
EDITORIAL • PAGE 6



'VIOLATION OF ORDER'
SC flags feeding of stray dogs on govt. premises
NEWS • PAGE 6

INSIDE



Court prepares murder charges against Darshan

BENGALURU A Bengaluru court on Monday framed charges against Kannada actor Darshan Thangadurga, his friend Padma Gunda and 13 others, in the 2024 Benauluamur murder case. Trial in the case is likely to commence from November 10, Benauluamur, SC, was allegedly beaten to death by his wife and his associates. **• PAGE 3**

UAE is supplying arms to the RSF: Sudanese envoy

NEW DELHI Sudan is confronting attacks from "non-regional actors" that include the UAE, which is supplying weapons to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia that has been killing civilians in El Fasher city, said the Sudanese ambassador to India on Monday. Ambassador Mohammed Abdalla Al Sibani said stopping the supply of weapons by the UAE to the RSF will be the "first step" in "ending the war". **• PAGE 34**

₹7,500-cr. assets of 'Amil Ambani Group' attached

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth about ₹7,500 crore allegedly linked to Amil Ambani's Reliance Group in connection with the investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the ED said on Monday. The assets include over 132 acres of land in Bhindulike Ambani Knowledge City (BKMC) in Nav Mumbai, worth over ₹4,000 crore; a Reliance Communications Ltd. "bank fraud" case. **• PAGE 32**

Revision of poll rolls begins in 12 States and UTs today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission will begin the enumeration phase of the special nationwide revision (SNR) of electoral rolls in 12 States and Union Territories on Tuesday. The SNR exercise will cover close to 50 crore voters in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. Among these, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Puducherry will go to the polls in 2026.

The first round of the clean-up exercise was carried out in Bihar earlier this year, during which more than 68 lakh names were deleted from the elec-

toral rolls. The house-to-house enumeration process will take place from November 4 to December 4.

The EC will publish the draft rolls on December 9, after which claims and objections can be submitted from December 9 to January 31. The final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

In most of these States, the SNR exercise was last carried out between 2002 and 2004, and they have nearly completed the mapping of current electors according to it.

Changes to SNR 2.0 The poll body has implemented certain changes to



Wearing N95, booth-level officers undergoing training in Kolkata for the special internet revision of electoral rolls. **• 11**

the SNR 2.0, drawing upon insights gained from the experience in Bihar. Among the most significant changes is the directive that no documents should be collected from electors during the enumeration phase. The poll body took this decision after it found in Bihar that a substantial

number of voters could be traced to the electoral rolls prepared after the procedure. Secondly, prior to the announcement of the SNR, the poll body had begun the process of matching the current voters' lists with those from the previous 2002 to 2004, during which the last SNR was conducted in these States. This procedure has been referred to as pre-mapping.

No most States are expected to have the lists of people whose names were already there in the voters' list, and they are thus not expected to submit any of the 11 indicative documents along with their enumeration forms.

Andhar has been added at the 12th document, as directed by the Supreme Court, but only as proof of citizenship. The EC has also amended the enumeration form, incorporating a column where a parent or a relative can provide a signature in the absence of the voter. This signature will be counter-signed by the booth-level officer (BLO). For electors whose en-

umeration forms have not been returned, the BLO may ascertain a probable cause, including death or duplication, through inquiries conducted with neighbouring electors and document these findings. Since the draft electoral rolls will only include the names of those who have submitted the enumeration forms, booth-level lists of electors whose names have not been included in the draft rolls will be displayed on the notice board of the respective. Pan-India Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with probing the offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the EC has also amended the enumeration form, incorporating a column where a parent or a relative can provide a signature in the absence of the voter. This signature will be counter-signed by the booth-level officer (BLO). For electors whose en-

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Beam therapy



A rehearsal for a laser light show was held ahead of the Dev Deepavali celebrations at Chet Singh Fort in Varanasi on Monday. **• 11**

Shift focus to nutrition security, PM tells scientists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the first Emerging Science Technology and Innovation Conclave on Monday. In his inaugural address at the conclave here on Monday, Mr. Modi said India's scientists should generate ideas to move from food security to nutrition security, create biofortified crops, develop low-cost fertilisers, better map India's genetic biodiversity for personalised medicine, and arrive at new and cheap innovation in clean battery storage.

FULL REPORT ON
• PAGE 4

₹3,000 crore lost to digital arrest scams, says Supreme Court

Krishnakant Balaraman
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said more than ₹3,000 crore had been scammed by fraudsters from victims, mostly drawn from the elderly population, through "digital arrests". A bench headed by Justice Surya Kant was referring to a confidential report submitted by the Union government. Justice Kant, who is the Chief Justice of India-designate, said the report showed that the problem of digital arrests was a "very big challenge". "Much more than we thought," Justice Kant observed.

"The report shows the extent of fraud is very big... ₹2,000 crore was collected from victims in India alone. What would be the suffering at the global level?" Justice Kant asked. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, agreed with Justice Kant, saying digital arrest scam was initially found to be beyond what they had expected. Justice Kant said the judiciary would pass harsh and stringent orders to strengthen the hands of the agencies against the fraudsters, "give you all support". "Otherwise, this problem will magnify, and the victims are aged people," Mr. Mehta said.

In an earlier hearing, the Supreme Court had orally intimated tasking the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with probing the offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the EC has also amended the enumeration form, incorporating a column where a parent or a relative can provide a signature in the absence of the voter. This signature will be counter-signed by the booth-level officer (BLO). For electors whose en-

Justice Kant says judiciary will pass strict orders to strengthen agencies against the fraudsters.

crimes originate from across the border and were facilitated by "money-laundering gangs".

"Scam compounds" The Solicitor-General had informed that the organised cybercrimes behind digital arrests were generated from "scam compounds" and done at a large-scale level.

The Supreme Court had originally taken suo motu cognisance of a case of digital arrest of a senior citizen couple in Haryana's Ambala on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies by fraudsters to extort ₹1.05 crore. However, the court was later informed that there were numerous cases across the country in which innocent people, especially senior citizens, were threatened with "cyber arrests" by criminals, who misuse Artificial Intelligence and other technology to morph courtrooms and police stations, unless they cough up huge sums of money.

"The impact of the problem is great. There is not only a financial but also a human angle. Culpable people are promised employment abroad and reduced to the status of slaves. Criminals morph the faces of judges and make calls with the names of judges as background," Mr. Mehta said.

₹3,000 crore lost to digital arrest scams, says Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

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In an earlier hearing, the Supreme Court had orally mooted tasking the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with probing the menace of digital arrests orchestrated by fraudsters posing as judges and police officers who use forged documents.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani had submitted that these cyber



Justice Kant says judiciary will pass strict orders to strengthen agencies against the fraudsters.

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'Scam compounds'

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Aspect

Announced by

Date

Total Fraud Estimated

Primary Victims

Nature of Scam

Details

Supreme Court of India (Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant)

November 2025

Over ₹3,000 crore scammed from Indian citizens

Elderly population, senior citizens

“Digital Arrest” – Cyber fraudsters impersonate police/judges and threaten victims into paying money



- **What Are ‘Digital Arrests’?**

- **Digital arrest** is a *new form of cybercrime* where:

- Victims receive fake video calls from fraudsters **posing as police, CBI officers, or courts.**

- They are told they are involved in a crime or money-laundering case.

- They are **virtually “arrested” online**, often forced to stay visible on camera for hours or days.

- Victims are coerced into transferring money to “settle” or “verify” their case.

- 🗣️ **Technology used:**

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) for *deepfake videos* (fake courtrooms, police officers).

- Forged documents and fake background calls to mimic authenticity.

Body / Authority	Action / Suggestion
Supreme Court	Took suo motu cognisance (on its own motion) of the issue.
Solicitor General (Tushar Mehta)	Warned that the problem was larger than expected; urged stricter laws.
Attorney-General R. Venkataramani	Revealed that these crimes originate overseas and are part of money-laundering operations.
CBI (Proposed)	May lead a nationwide investigation into organized “digital arrest compounds”.

5 Case Origin

- The case began when a senior citizen couple from **Ambala, Haryana**, were blackmailed by fraudsters using **forged court orders**.
- Initially extorted of ₹1.05 crore, their case revealed **many similar scams** across India.

6 Impact of the Scam

Dimension	Impact
Financial	Over ₹3,000 crore defrauded in India alone.
Social	Senior citizens targeted due to fear and lack of tech literacy.
Psychological	Victims humiliated and traumatised through coercion and false “court sessions”.
International	Cybercriminals based abroad use Indian data and deepfake AI tools.

Zohran's NYC race recasts U.S. politics

I was Zohran Mamdani's campaign ad in Hindi with him explaining rank choice voting in the Democratic primary for the New York City mayoral race that caught my attention earlier in the year.

Not to mention, he explained the electoral system using 3 cups of mango lassi.

While his electrifying media campaign has catapulted him, it was the background story of the campaign that truly made me sit up - he started with talking to Trump voters instead of seeking approval of wealthy donors. The campaign is rewriting the playbook for how political entrepreneurs run for office in real time.

The New York City mayoral race has provided a surprising but a much-needed inflection point in American politics. It seems to be architecting a generationally distinct political identity that could enrich political competition rooted in ideas for the future, a genuine desire to solve problems, and a commitment to build a stronger union that is much needed.

Mr. Mamdani's victory in the primary and his most likely win in the general election will stand on the support of working class people - both young and middle-aged. His platform of affordability while holding on to his socio-political convictions directly challenges the politically buffing stance of his own party's leadership. While the progressive "not centrist" Democrats have closed ranks behind Mr. Mamdani, surprisingly, on the affordability question, he has also captured some attention from significant representatives of the American right - Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Ted Cruz.

His message of affordability seem to be bringing together the working class right and the left. The working class's shift away from the established left started with the 2020 Presidential election



Rishi Tripathi
Principal, VU Capital
(Strategy Consulting)

(from being evenly split in 2020 to giving Mr. Trump a decisive edge). The gap narrowed somewhat in 2020 because of Joe Biden's pro-labor image but widened again in 2024 against Kamala Harris. Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer once said that for every working class voter the Democratic Party loses, it gains two suburban, moderate Republicans, encapsulating this self-defeating drift.

Focusing on the economic storyline, data from the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that since 2020, the American median income has grown only by 7%, while the consumer price index has jumped 60% - reflecting an entire generation of economic immobility. About 40% of children in the U.S. are born on Medicaid, the insurance programme for low-income families, meaning almost half of all the newborns start life in functional poverty. This has been the trend for at least a decade under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Economic anxiety
The middle class is not faring any better. Massive college debt with no real employment prospects is crushing new and recent graduates. The aspirations of moving a home, starting families and someday retiring are fast fading into folklore. The resulting social dysfunction is manifesting in troubling ways among the youth women are more conservative and lean progressive whereas young men have increasingly lower college enrolments dampening their economic prospects and making them more vulnerable to extreme views and isolation.

Mr. Mamdani seems to have bucked this trend during his campaign. So, there may be some hope here to bring back young voters into the political fold. But overall, there is an undercurrent coming to surface across political persuasions, religious and racial identities, and everything else that political systems use to divide

people. And that undercurrent is of economic anxiety. The broader economic structure is increasingly seen as oligarchic by most working class people and is giving room for someone like Mr. Mamdani, who identifies himself as a Democratic Socialist. Senators Kristine Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have had a strong showing of their oligarchy tour even in Republican States.

Voter discontent
A recent Washington Post/ABC poll shows 7 out of 10 Americans say Democrats are "out-of-touch", but also shows 6 out of 10 Americans feel the same way about Republicans and President Donald Trump, except political interests on both sides. Tying this back to the New York City race, while rent control and free buses may be local issues, the broader affordability theme it underscores is inescapable. We could see an interesting convergence among Republicans and Democrats when it comes to the issue of affordability.

The administration's attempts to reassert the declined working class has manifested in unstable tariff prescriptions making middle-class small businesses (accounting for 40% of GDP) and their employees - covering a home, starting families and someday retiring are fast fading into folklore. The resulting social dysfunction is manifesting in troubling ways among the youth women are more conservative and lean progressive whereas young men have increasingly lower college enrolments dampening their economic prospects and making them more vulnerable to extreme views and isolation.

One thing, however, is getting clear - the one word that pundits and the broader political ecosystem avoid like the plague is increasingly the lens through which to see things. The margin of Mr. Mamdani's victory on Tuesday will mark an important realisation in this imminent re-architecting of American political thinking.

New pathways to end extreme poverty

Kerala's participatory model offers lessons for the world

STATE OF PLAY

By P. Alex

The Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), by the Government of Kerala, has redefined the notion of State governance - aiming at alleviating poverty, and it has the potential to evolve into a global model.

Most importantly, it highlights a new approach to identifying and addressing deprivation. Apart from nearly achieving the first and second sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it also demonstrates how poverty can be eliminated in a participatory manner by involving local governments, the community and development agencies, with consistent follow-up.

Kerala's approach to poverty reduction differed from the country's traditional poverty alleviation programmes. The long-enacted policies for land reforms, universal primary education, and public distribution would have a lasting impact on the livelihood security of its people.

Furthermore, democratic decentralisation enabled local governments to implement numerous local-level projects. Along with this, Kshetrasamithi, an umbrella organisation, emerged as a pioneering model of the self-help group (SHG) network in India, particularly for its scale and approach to poverty eradication and women's empowerment.

The incidence of poverty in the state was 10.7% in 1975-76, which reduced to 1.7% in 2011-12. According to the NFRI survey, Kerala is now the least impoverished State, with a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of 0.08 per cent in 2019-21, a decrease from 0.70% in 2005-06. Despite this



achievement, there were still islands of extreme poverty in the state, which required customised assistance, based on a deeper understanding of its causes.

Following the MPI framework, the factors contributing to extreme poverty were identified through a participatory process. Poor health conditions, disability, old age, a lack of entitlements, food, land, shelter, employment, facilities, and severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in children were considered severe deprivations. The historical deprivation of the marginalised sections of society, such as SC, ST and fishermen and the social deprivation of HIV-affected persons, orphaned, urban poor, and the LGBTQIA, were also identified.

Impoverished households were selected through surveys conducted by a team of volunteers from Kudumbashree, people's representatives, officials, and residents, led by the local governments.

Around 1.16 crore poor households were scrutinised through a participatory nomination process. From wealth and divisions, from which 73.74% were shortlisted as recommended by the local governments. Subsequently, they were interviewed using a mobile application, and a priority list of 73.74% households was prepared. The Grama Sabha further scrutinised this priority list for another

round of eliminating ineligible households, resulting in the final list of 64,000 extremely poor families.

The most innovative feature of EPEP is the creation of customised micro-plans for each identified household, moving away from a one-size-fits-all welfare model. The programme unfolded in three distinct stages: the immediate care plan, the intermediate plan, and the long-term plan.

While the immediate care plan addressed urgent requirements such as food, medical care, and entitlement documents for social security, the intermediate plan focused on providing transitional support to improve living conditions and ensure self-reliance, like temporary housing. The long-term plans focused on establishing livelihoods or securing permanent shelter, among other objectives. The process was monitored by a Management Information System (MIS) to ensure timely delivery and accountability.

The EPEP has unequivocally demonstrated a plausible and highly effective pathway to eradicate extreme poverty by using the principles of multidimensional poverty and leveraging decentralised governance. What next?

Sustaining this effort warrants continuous monitoring to ensure that these households do not return to extreme poverty. The current system of interdepartmental coordination offers immense potential for detecting early warning signals of deprivation from vulnerable households. A dedicated institutional mechanism is required to sustain this achievement and showcase this model as a lasting solution.

The author is a member of Kerala State Planning Board

Student inflows into traditional destinations decline

International enrolments in UK, US, Canada and Australia slumped in 2024

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Due to the admission slump during the COVID-19 years (2020-21), colleges in the U.K., the U.S., Canada, and Australia saw a surge in international student enrolments in the post-pandemic years (2022-23). This created several challenges in the host countries, including locals being priced out of the housing market. This led governments to curtail the inflow of students, causing a significant fall in international enrolments in 2024.

In contrast, many countries, especially Germany, France, Japan, South Korea, and Spain, did not follow this trend, with student inflows continuing to rise or at least remaining steady in 2024 as well. (Chart D still, the U.K., the U.S., Canada, and Australia continue to host a bulk of the students. The discernible shift in the choice of countries - whether forced or voluntary - occurs even as more Indian students choose education abroad. Between 2014 and 2023, the number of Indian students abroad grew from 172,000 to 737,000 - a rise of over 300%. Chinese student numbers grew by just 9%, from 704,000 to 842,000. (Chart 2)

The share of Indian students in the U.S. rose from 1% in 2010 to about 22% in 2024, while the share of Chinese students dropped to 26% from over 40%.

In the U.S., the Indian share climbed from around 12% to nearly 20%, while the Chinese share dropped from over 30% to 23%. Canada saw a further increase in its already high share of Indian students, but both Indian and Chinese shares fell in Australia. (Chart 3)

Across the 27 EU countries, plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Indian students in 2024 outnumbered the Chinese, dipping the pattern from 2019.

Global students rerouted

The charts were sourced from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s International Migration Outlook 2025 published on November 5, 2025. This publication constitutes the 49th report of the OECD's Committee Reporting System on Migration.

Chart 1: International student inflows to OECD countries, 2014-2024 (in thousands)

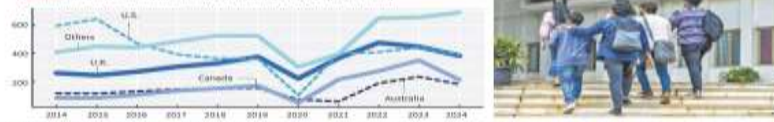


Chart 2: Top 20 nationalities of international tertiary-level students enrolled in OECD countries, 2014 and 2023 (in thousands)

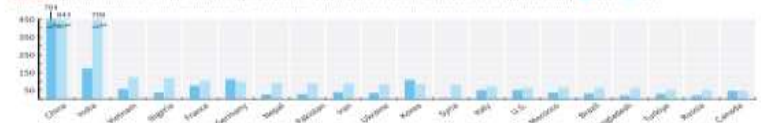
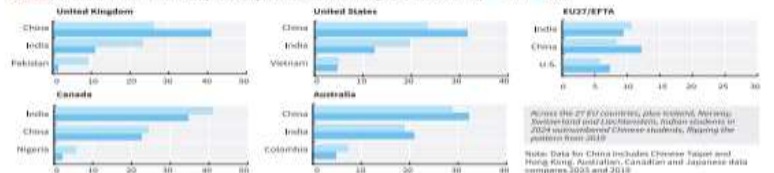


Chart 3: Inflows of international students by nationality to select OECD countries (as % of total inflows)



Across the 27 EU countries, plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Indian students in 2024 outnumbered Chinese students, flipping the pattern from 2019.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 4, 1975

Armyman takes over power in Bangladesh coup

NEW DELHI, Nov. 3: The Garrison Commander of Dacca took over as President of Bangladesh today following the overthrow of the 15-year-old regime headed by Khandakar Mushtaque Ahmed in what appeared to be a peaceful transition, according to diplomatic sources.

The name of the new Chief of state was given by Brigadier Khairul Muhsin, Mr. Mushatque Ahmed had pledged his loyalty to the new regime, these sources said.

Diplomatic sources here said unconfirmed reports indicated that Bangladesh's new strongman was Brigadier Khairul Muhsin, Chief of the Army General Staff.

Mr. Mushatque Ahmed was swept to power in the August 16 military coup, in which Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and several members of his family, including his wife, were brutally gunned down at his residence.

Bangladesh remained cut off from the rest of the world since early morning, Dacca Airport was closed to traffic and radio Bangladesh was off the air. Simultaneously all telecommunication, satellite and wireless links were also severed.

Western news media reported at night that troops had surrounded the Presidential Palace and occupied strategic points in Dhaka. Radio Bangladesh resumed its broadcast around 10-300 hours, but made no mention of the dramatic developments.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 4, 1925

The Tibetan Expedition

Discovery of valuable historic remains
Special Cable - Copyright
MOSCOW, Nov. 3: Part of Col. Kosloff's Tibetan Expedition led by Prof. Ugarloff recently crossed Mongolia in a southerly direction, entered Chinese territory, made its way into the Gobi desert and visited the famous Great City of Kharakoto, where it carried out excavations.

Another portion of the same Expedition, which is working in the unexplored districts of Hangay Range, south west of Urga, reports the discovery of valuable historical remains, including some of the ancient Mongolian and Manchurian characters.

- The **OECD International Migration Outlook 2025** reveals a **notable decline** in international student inflows to **traditional destinations** — the **U.K., U.S., Canada, and Australia** — in **2024**.
- This marks the **first slowdown since the post-COVID boom (2022–23)** when universities saw record admissions from abroad.

2 Causes of the Decline

Factor	Explanation
 Housing & Living Costs	Surging rent prices in major university towns pushed both locals and international students into a housing crisis.
 Government Policy Changes	Visa restrictions, curbs on post-study work, and tightening of student migration caps (especially in the U.K. & Canada).
 Inflation & Currency Fluctuations	The strong U.S. dollar and British pound increased education costs for Asian and African students.
 Local Backlash	Political pressure to limit migration led to reduced student visa quotas.

3 Key Data Insights (OECD 2025 Report)

Chart 1 – Overall Decline

- International student inflows into OECD countries fell sharply in **2024**.
- The decline was **most visible in**:
 -  **United Kingdom**
 -  **United States**
 -  **Canada**
 -  **Australia**

Chart 2 – Top 20 Source Countries (2014 vs 2023)

Country	Trend (2014–2023)	Observation
 India	1.72 lakh → 7.07 lakh (+310%)	<i>Fastest growing source globally.</i>
 China	7.04 lakh → 8.42 lakh (+19%)	<i>Growth plateauing; share declined.</i>
 Nepal	Significant rise	<i>Emerging Asian source.</i>
 Iran,  Korea,  Nigeria	Stable or marginal increase	<i>Limited diversification.</i>

Chart 3 – Destination-Wise Composition (2024 vs 2019)

Destination	Dominant Student Groups (2024)	Trend
 U.S.	China, India, Vietnam	Indian share rising; Chinese slightly falling
 Canada	India, China, Nigeria	Indian share now ~40% of total inflows
 Australia	China, India, Colombia	Strong competition between India & China
 EU + EFTA	India, China, U.S.	Indian students now outnumber Chinese

4 Comparative Growth (2019 → 2024)

Country	% of Indian Students in Total Inflow	Trend	
U.K.	12% → 20%	 Rapid increase	
U.S.	18% → ~25%	 Consistent growth	
Canada	30%+	 Still dominant	
Australia	15–18%	 Strong comeback	
China’s share	22% → 17%	 Decline due to policy pushback	

5 Broader Shifts

◆ Diversification of Study Destinations

- Non-traditional destinations (Germany, France, Japan, South Korea, Spain) are seeing steady growth.
- EU nations now favor **STEM and sustainability-focused** courses for global talent retention.

◆ Rise of India as a Global Academic Exporter

- India is now **the second-largest source of international students** globally after China.
- Indian students are also shifting toward **Europe, UAE, and Singapore** for affordability and visa flexibility.

6 Implications

Stakeholder	Impact
Destination Countries	Short-term revenue loss from education exports; pressure on universities to adapt policies.
India	Higher outflow of youth → "Brain Drain" risk, but also opportunity for diaspora diplomacy and remittances .
Global Education Market	Rebalancing from Anglo-Western bloc to multi-polar academic destinations (Europe & Asia).

Global students rerouted

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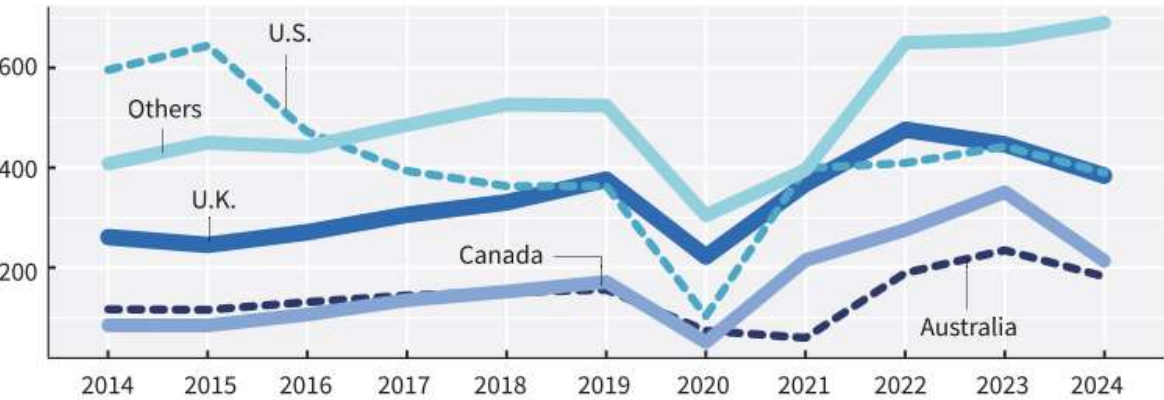


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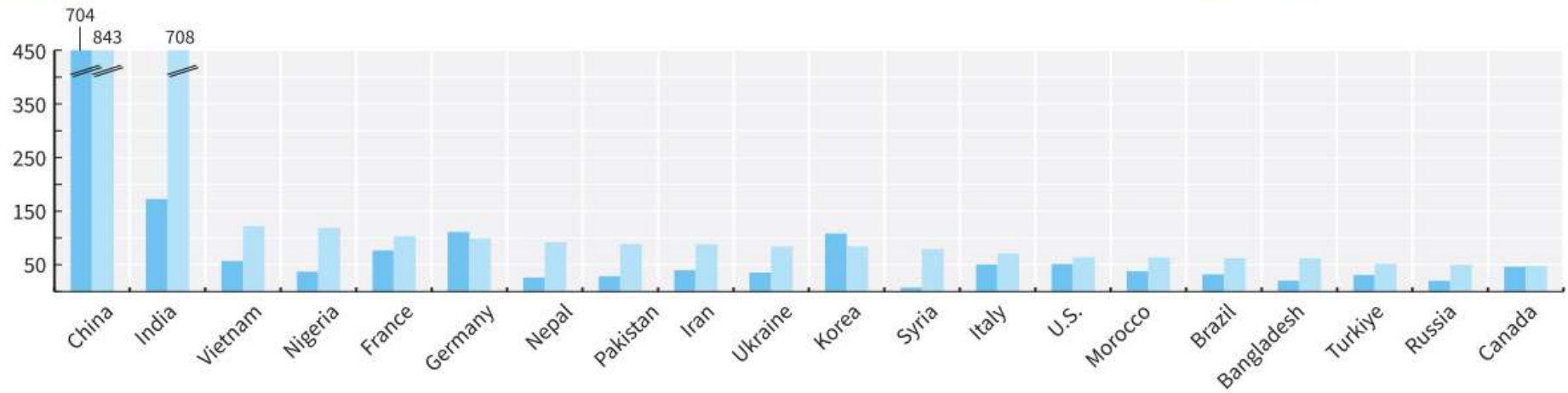
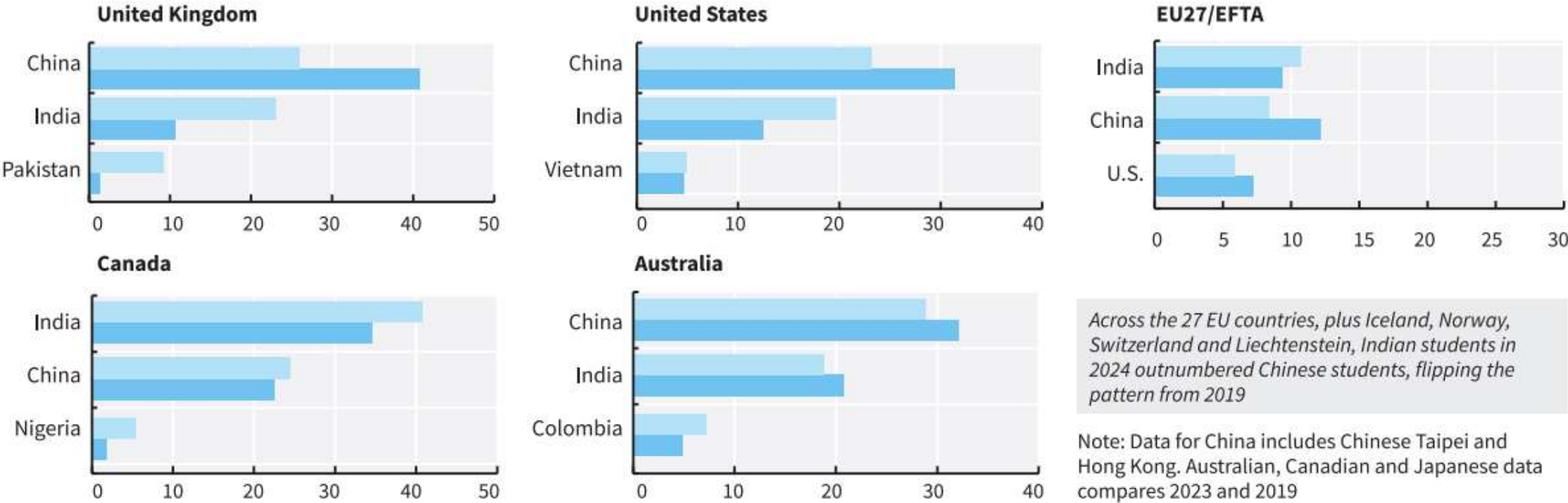


Chart 3: Inflows of international students by nationality to select OECD countries (as a % of total inflows) 2024 2019



SAMANGAN

Earthquake kills 20 and injures over 500 in northern Afghanistan



A 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near Mazar-i-Sharif, authorities said on Monday, killing at least 20 and injuring over 500. The tremor damaged the Blue Mosque and homes across Balkh and Samangan. Authorities reported significant material losses while rescue teams aided stranded residents, AP.

WASHINGTON

Trump says not eying Venezuela war, but Maduro's days numbered



U.S. President Donald Trump downplayed fears of war with Venezuela on Sunday but said Nicolas Maduro's rule was ending soon. His remarks followed U.S. strikes on suspected drug boats in the Caribbean and Pacific that killed 66 people, drawing regional criticism and raising claims of extrajudicial actions, AP.

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians, says the Red Cross



Israel on Monday returned 45 Palestinian bodies, the Red Cross said, a day after militants handed over three Israeli hostages/ remains. For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the bodies of 15 Palestinians. The exchange brings 270 Palestinians repatriated since October 10, AP.

DODOMA

Tanzania's President blames 'foreigners' for deadly protests



President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in on Monday after Tanzania's disputed election that barred opposition candidates and triggered deadly protests. She urged unity and blamed "foreigners" for unrest. Tensions persisted as riots remained shut down and rights groups reported deaths amid opposition outrage, AP.

Trump justifies decision to restart nuke tests; says Pak., China doing it

President says the U.S. must test its weapons on an 'equal basis' with rival powers to ensure reliability; the U.S. has not held a nuclear detonation test since 1992, although it continues to test missile systems capable of carrying nuclear warheads

Peace Trust of India

WASHINGTON

Pakistan and China are among the countries which are testing nuclear weapons, U.S. President Donald Trump has said to justify his administration's plans to resume testing of the U.S.'s nuclear assets after a gap of over three decades.

Ahead of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, Mr. Trump announced that the U.S. will start testing nuclear weapons on an "equal basis" with rival powers.

In an interview with CBS' *News* anchor O'Donnell on



Air Force One as it flies back to the White House on Sunday.

Sunday, the U.S. President named Russia, China, North Korea and Pakistan as the countries testing nuclear weapons.

"Russia's testing, and China's testing, but they

"And certainly North Korea's been testing. Pakistan's been testing," he asserted.

Shortly before meeting Mr. Xi in South Korea on Thursday last, Mr. Trump said on social media that the U.S. will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades.

Mr. Trump claimed

that the U.S. must test its weapons on an "equal basis" with rival powers to ensure reliability; the U.S. has not held a nuclear detonation test since 1992, although it continues to test missile systems capable of carrying nuclear warheads

According to U.S. media reports, the U.S. military regularly tests its missiles that are capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, but it has not detonated the weapons since 1992.

Ties with Pak. improved, says top Bangladesh envoy

Peace Trust of India

KARACHI/THAKA

A top Bangladeshi diplomat has said that his country's ties with Pakistan have improved since last year, as he emphasized the need to establish direct sea links between Karachi and Chittagong to boost trade between the two nations.

Speaking at an event in the port city on Sunday, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan said it was a secret that ties between the two sides had not been good for the last 10-12 years, but things have changed now.

Relations have improved at every level and now Bangladeshi citizens are issued visas for Pakistan in 24 hours," Mr. Khan said.

Bangladesh-Pakistan



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Bangladesh-Pakistan

week to reach consensus or face unilateral action. Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, who leads the government as "chief adviser," said he had inherited a "completely broken down" political system after taking over following an uprising last year.

Mr. Yunus has argued that the reform charter, which he has championed as the cornerstone of his legacy, is vital to prevent a return to authoritarian rule.

Key parties signed the document at a ceremony in October, but some said it must be ratified by a referendum.

Araf Nazrul, who holds the law portfolio, said that "Despite holding talks for a long time, political parties still have unresolved issues of disagreement."

Hunger monitor confirms famine in Darfur's El Fasher

Reuters

A global hunger monitor on Monday confirmed famine conditions in El Fasher, the Sudanese city taken by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in a lengthy siege, as well as Kadugli, another besieged city in Sudan's south. The finding is the first time the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has determined that the cities are in famine, though in December it had confirmed famine in camps for displaced people in El Fasher, capital of North Darfur.

A war that began two-and-a-half years ago between the RSF and the Sudanese army has caused severe hunger and forced millions to flee, as well as displacing millions of people and triggering waves of ethnically

The IPC report said Twiella, as well as Kadugli and Tawilla were at risk of famine

charged violence in Darfur. The IPC is the internationally recognised standard for measuring the severity of hunger crises and its findings have provoked criticism from Sudan's government, which is backed by the army.

The IPC's first determination of famine during the conflict was for the Zamzam displacement camp south of El Fasher in August 2024. El Fasher was subject to RSF assaults and besieged for about 18 months before last month, deepening a geographical split in Sudan. During the siege, residents said food supplies

were cut off, forcing people to eat animal feed and sometimes animal hides. Places where people gathered for community kitchens on meals were targeted by drone attacks, they told Reuters.

As a result, all children arriving in the nearby town of Twiella after fleeing El Fasher were malnourished, MSF project coordinator Sylvain Pennicaud said on Monday. While adults arrived emaciated, International Criminal Court prosecutors said on Monday they were collecting evidence of alleged mass killings and rapes after El Fasher's fall. The head of the Red Cross said history was repeating itself in Darfur.

Monday's IPC report, based on analysis for September 2025, said Twiella, as well as Kadugli and Tawilla were at risk of famine.

Resistance remembered



Members of the Sundanese Samudra Community and Remotest Indonesia later post in a re-enactment of the Battle of Surabaya, the peak of the battle which took place on November 1945, in Surabaya on Sunday.

Trump does not rule out any kind of army operation in Nigeria

Agence France Presse

ABUJAH AIR FORCE ONE

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeated his threat of a military operation in Nigeria over killings of Christians, and that it could be ground or air attacks.

As claims of Christian "persecution" in Africa's most populous country have found traction online among the U.S. and European right, experts say Nigeria's myriad conflicts kill north Christians and Mus-

lim without distinction. Mr. Trump's remarks came after the Nigerian presidency suggested a meeting between the two leaders to resolve the issue.

Asked by a reporter aboard Air Force One if he was considering U.S. troops on the ground in Nigeria, Mr. Trump replied, "Could be. I mean, a lot of things — I don't know a lot of things."

Nigeria's government denies that Christians are especially targeted.

UAE is supplying weapons to RSF militia, says Sudan's ambassador to India Eltom

Khalid Elhachimi

NEW DELHI

Sudan is not in a state of civil war and is confronting attacks from "non-regional actors" that include the UAE, which is supplying weapons to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia that has been killing civilians, said Mr. Eltom.

planning that the UAE's weapons are being channelled through Libya and Chad.

The militia threatens to destabilise the entire region from the Red Sea to the Central African region,

weapons by the UAE to the RSF will be the "first step" in "ending the war".

Sudan is not facing a civil war. We are confronting conspiracies of non-regional actors. The RSF is acting like a proxy foreign power and a few countries in the region are acting as corridors for arms supply to the RSF," said Mr. Eltom.

The RSF threatens to destabilise the entire region from the Red Sea to the Central African region,

Therefore, the international community must designate the RSF as a terrorist organisation and targeted sanctions on them and on all weapons suppliers that are supporting the RSF," said Mr. Eltom.

The RSF, which has been carrying out attacks in El Fasher, is using "strategic drones" that are cap-

able of flying for long duration which indicate that state-level armed forces are involved in arming the RSF.

The Sudanese envoy acknowledged India's humanitarian assistance to Sudan since the crisis that has been continuing since April 2023. He appreciated India's decision to maintain the embassy in Sudan despite the violence.

He also confirmed that an Indian soldier was captured by the RSF in El Fasher as militants entered the city on October 26.

Xi jokes about spying with Chinese phone gift for S. Korea's Lee

Agence France Presse

SEOUL

Xi Jinping joked about spying on South Korea's President as he gifted him a pair of smart glasses, telling him to "check if there is a backdoor" in a rare jest from the Chinese leader that made headlines in Seoul.

The light-hearted exchange took place on Saturday in the city of Gyeongju, when Mr. Xi and President Lee Jae Myung presented gifts to each other on the sidelines of an APEC summit, marking Mr. Xi's first visit to South Korea in more than a decade.

Mr. Xi presented two Xiaomi smartphones to Mr. Lee, who quipped: "Is the communication line secure?"

Mr. Xi replied: "You should check if there is a backdoor," referring to pre-installed software that could allow third-party monitoring.

Mr. Xi is rarely seen making jokes, let alone presenting gifts to each other.

Lebanon says Israeli strikes on south kill two, wound 7

Agence France Presse

BEIRUT

Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon killed two people and wounded seven others on Monday, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, as Israel said it killed two members of Hezbollah.

In a preliminary toll, the Ministry said that an "Israeli enemy strike" on the town of Dhour in Nabatieh district killed one person and wounded seven others. The second strike on Aita al-Shaab in the Bint Libni district also killed one person, according to the Ministry.

Israel has repeatedly bombed Lebanon despite a November 2024 ceasefire that sought to end over a year of hostilities with Hezbollah, escalating attacks in recent days.

Trump justifies decision to restart nuke tests; says Pak., China doing it

President says the U.S. must test its weapons on an 'equal basis' with rival powers to ensure reliability; the U.S. has not held a nuclear detonation test since 1992, although it continues to test missile systems capable of carrying nuclear warheads

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON

Pakistan and China are among the countries which are testing nuclear weapons, U.S. President Donald Trump has said to justify his administration's plans to resume testing of the U.S.'s nuclear assets after a gap of over three decades.

Ahead of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, Mr. Trump announced that the U.S. will start testing nuclear weapons on an "equal basis" with rival powers.

In an interview with CBS News' Norah O'Donnell on



Aerial address: Donald Trump speaks to presspersons on board Air Force One on his way back to the White House on Sunday. AP

Sunday, the U.S. President named Russia, China, North Korea and Pakistan as the countries testing nuclear weapons.

"Russia's testing, and China's testing, but they

don't talk about it. You know, we're an open society. We're different. We talk about it... We're gonna test, because they test and others test," Mr. Trump said.

"And certainly North Korea's been testing. Pakistan's been testing," he asserted.

Shortly before meeting Mr. Xi in South Korea on Thursday last, Mr. Trump said on social media that the U.S. will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades.

Mr. Trump claimed some of the countries conducting tests of their nuclear weapons do not acknowledge them.

"They don't go and tell you about it. You don't necessarily know where they're testing. They test way under – underground, where people don't know exactly what's happening with the test," he said.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia had tested a Poseidon nuclear-capable super torpedo.

In his remarks, Mr. Trump strongly justified his decision to restart the process for testing nuclear weapons, saying testing was necessary to ensure the reliability of the weapons. "You make nuclear weapons, and then you don't test. How are you gonna know if they work?" he said.

According to U.S. media reports, the U.S. military regularly tests its missiles that are capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, but it has not detonated the weapons since 1992.

- U.S. President **Donald Trump** has announced that the **United States will resume testing nuclear weapons** after a gap of more than **30 years (since 1992)**.
- The move is being justified on the grounds of maintaining **“strategic parity”** with **China, Russia, Pakistan, and North Korea**, who, Trump claimed, are already testing such weapons.

2 Background: U.S. Nuclear Testing History

Year / Phase	Event / Policy
1945	First nuclear test “Trinity” under Manhattan Project
1945–1992	1,054 nuclear tests conducted by the U.S.
1992	Last test conducted at Nevada Test Site
1996	Signed Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (but not ratified by U.S.)
Post-1992	Conducted only subcritical & computer-simulated tests to maintain arsenal reliability

Country

Recent Developments

Russia

President **Vladimir Putin** confirmed test of *Poseidon* – a nuclear-capable underwater torpedo.

China

Accused by U.S. of “low-yield” testing at Lop Nur site (denied by China).

Pakistan

Conducts missile tests capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

North Korea

Last nuclear test in 2017, but continued missile and reactor activity.

Area

Possible Impact

Arms Control

Erodes trust in treaties like CTBT & NPT.

Strategic Stability

Could restart Cold War–style nuclear escalation.

U.S.–China Relations

Adds tension ahead of diplomatic talks with Xi Jinping.

South Asia

May embolden Pakistan to justify new tests; pressures India to respond.

TROUBLED TELCO'S STOCK SURGES AFTER TOP COURT'S CLARITY

Big win for Vi as SC allows govt to revisit full AGR dues

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, November 3

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday cleared the air over the scope of its earlier order in the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) case, affirming that the government is free to comprehensively reassess and reconcile all AGR dues of Vodafone Idea up to financial year 2016-17.

»INSIDE«
I-T DEPT
WITHDRAWS
₹8,500-CR
CASE
AGAINST Vi

PAGE 4

The clarification effectively ends days of confusion over whether the relief extended

to the entire dues or only the additional ₹9,449-crore demand raised by the department of telecommunications (DoT).

In its clarification order, the apex court said that the prayer in Vodafone Idea's petition sought relief not only on the additional demand but also for a comprehensive reassessment of all dues up to FY17. The bench said there was no impediment

RELIEF RALLY

Vodafone Idea

Intra-day (₹), Nov 3



■ With interest, penalties, & interest on penalties

₹83,400 cr

■ Total liabilities including spectrum & other dues

₹2 lakh cr

■ Annual payments due from March 2026

₹18,000 cr

9.54

9.28%

Close

to the government reviewing both aspects, given the peculiar circumstances of the case, including its own equity holding in the company and the wider public interest involved.

This clarification now allows the government to revisit the computation of all dues arising from the AGR dispute, and not just the incremental amount that had triggered the current litigation.

The need for clarity arose after the court's October 27 order was widely interpreted as permitting the government to reassess Vodafone Idea's entire AGR liability. However, when the detailed text of that order was uploaded two days later, on October 29, it appeared to confine the relief only to the additional ₹9,449-crore demand raised by the DoT. That interpretation nar-

rowed the scope of review and prompted Vodafone Idea to seek a clarification from the court, supported by the Centre. Monday's clarification removes that ambiguity.

With the confusion resolved, the government can now comprehensively rework the company's dues up to FY17.

Continued on Page 10

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** on **November 3, 2025**, clarified its earlier order in the **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** case.
- The Court said the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** can **revisit, reassess, and reconcile** all **AGR dues** of **Vodafone Idea Ltd. (Vi)** up to **FY 2016–17**.
- This clarification **ended days of confusion** about whether the review was limited to a ₹9,449 crore incremental demand or the entire AGR computation.

2 Background: AGR Dispute Explained

Aspect	Details
What is AGR?	Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the revenue used to calculate telecom operators' license fees and spectrum usage charges payable to the government.
Core Issue	Whether non-telecom revenues (like rent, interest, and profit on sale of assets) should be included in AGR.
2019 Supreme Court Ruling	Favored the government — held that AGR includes both telecom and non-telecom revenues.
Impact	Massive dues on operators — mainly Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel .

Parameter	Amount / Status
AGR dues fixed by SC (2020)	₹58,254 crore
Total liabilities (with interest, penalties, spectrum, etc.)	~₹2 lakh crore
Interest, penalty & interest-on-penalty	₹83,400 crore
Annual payments due (from March 2026)	₹18,000 crore per year

Stakeholder

Implication

Vodafone Idea (Vi)

Gains time and opportunity for reassessment, potentially reducing payable dues.

Government (DoT)

Can review past computations and address revenue accounting errors.

Investors

Improved confidence — clarity on future liabilities.

Telecom Sector

Relief from prolonged uncertainty; supports financial stability of operators.

Word of the day

Sollicitous:

full of anxiety and concern; showing hovering attentiveness

Usage: *He was solicitous about her health.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/sollicitouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sə'lisitəs/



Thank you 😊

