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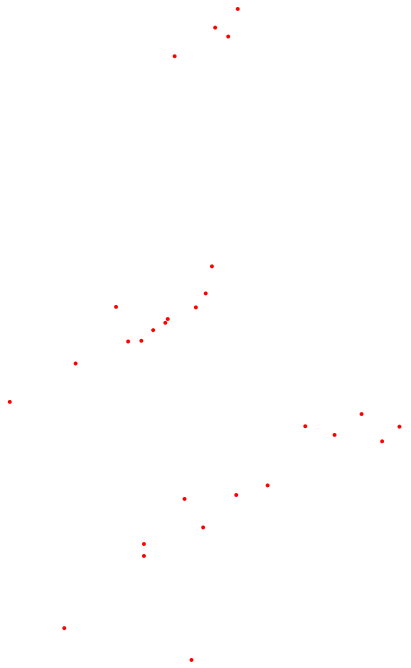


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**SPORT 6 PAGE 18**

Goyal stated that the pact is superior to those of neighbouring countries and competitors.

“Factional Hunking, BJP MLA From Sakshi in Chhattisgarh who belongs to the party leadership, told *The Hindu* that he met party leaders separately and there was an assurance that a political solution for the state would be worked out. He would not join the government.”

Over the past three days, BJP MP of Chhattisgarh's Durg district asked all its legislators as well as alliance partners from Marjapur to meet him in Delhi for a crucial meeting.

Without Newsum, a BJP MP from Sakshi, who was part of a defunct panel constituted in 2003, said he would not join the efforts went in to bring all the communities together.

On January 7, *The Hindu* reported that BJP MP *du* said, “I have no objection to there is no provision to elect President's Rajya Sabha members from the state without moving the Constitution amendment bill.”

The BJP government was inclined to exercise all options to rejoin the state government.

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= PAGE 4

# U.S. deal excludes sensitive sectors: Goyal

Minister claims Opposition's 'actions' prevented statement by Centre on the issue in Parliament

He says more details will be made public after the trade deal is formally inked by both parties

Goyal stated that the pact is superior to those of neighbouring countries and competitors

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he trade deal with the United States, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media late on Monday night, will exclude sensitive agricultural items and dairy, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, adding that the details would be made public "soon".

Under the deal, the U.S. has agreed to lower its 25% "reciprocal" tariffs on India to 18% and entirely remove the additional "penalty" tariffs of 25% it had imposed on India for its import of Russian oil.

"The trade deal finalised by India with the U.S. is the best among India's neighbours and its competitors," Mr. Goyal told

presspersons. "PM Modi has always protected the agriculture and dairy sectors and has never compromised on their interests. In the U.S. trade deal as well, India's sensitive sectors of agriculture and dairy have been excluded," he said.

Beyond this, he did not specify any other details of what India had conceded to the U.S. Nor did he address Mr. Trump's claims that India would stop buying Russian oil, increase oil purchases from Venezuela, and increase overall purchases from the U.S.

## Opposition blamed

He attacked the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, the Congress, and its allies, saying it was because of their actions in Parliament on Monday that he was



conveying the information on the trade deal at a press conference and not on the floor of the House. "Ordinarily, we would have wanted to speak in Parliament about this," he said.

"But, as you all saw, the way the Opposition, especially the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress and their allies, the DMK, the Trinamool Congress, and the SP [the Samajwadi Party], behaved in Parliament,

reaching the Speaker's dais and insulting him, we have had to speak before you outside the House."

He said that the deal was in the "final stages of de-tailing" between the negotiating teams of the two countries. "As soon as the final understanding of the deal is inked, the joint statement is finalised, and technical processes are completed, full details will be shared," he said.

## Industry bodies laud tariff deal

NEW DELHI

Industry bodies and leaders in both India and the U.S., have welcomed the announcement of a deal between the two countries under which tariffs on India are set to be slashed to 18%. » **PAGE 12**

In a rare public admission, Mr. Goyal acknowledged the impact of the U.S. tariffs on several sectors.

"Our farmers and exporters were all affected by the 50% tariffs," he said.

"Our marine exporters were facing difficulties. The textile sector had also been facing the need for reduced tariffs. This is a deal that will protect the interests of every Indian and

provide huge opportunities for all the people of India, and will protect the sensitive sectors, including agriculture and dairy." Mr. Goyal said, "It will open up huge opportunities for our labour-intensive export sectors such as textiles, apparel, plastics, home decor, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, rubber goods, machinery, and aircraft components."

## Trump's assertions

Mr. Goyal also sought to address questions from the Opposition as to why the deal was first announced by Mr. Trump.

"The reciprocal tariff was set by the U.S., and they were the ones who had to reduce tariffs, so when they did reduce it to 18%, that news would obviously come from the

U.S," he explained.

In his post on Truth Social, Mr. Trump also made several assertions about what Mr. Modi had allegedly agreed to on India's behalf. One of these was that India would buy "over \$500 billion dollars [sic] worth of U.S. energy, technology, agricultural, coal, and many other products".

According to sources in the Indian government, the \$500 billion worth of purchases is to be spread over five years from when the deal comes into effect, and is a sign of "India's intent to import" equipment for data centres, increase civil nuclear cooperation, and increase the imports of advanced AI chips.

**EDITORIAL**

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**RELATED REPORT ON**

» **PAGE 5**

- **Tariff claim in the report / टैरिफ़ को लेकर रिपोर्ट का दावा**
  - Under the deal, the U.S. would lower its **25% "reciprocal" tariff on India to 18%**. / डील के तहत अमेरिका भारत पर **25% "reciprocal" टैरिफ़ को 18%** करने की बात कही गई है।
  - The report also mentions removal of additional **"penalty" tariffs** that were imposed linked to India's import of Russian oil. / रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि रूसी तेल आयात से जुड़े कारणों से लगाए गए अतिरिक्त **"penalty" टैरिफ़ हटाए जाएंगे।**
- **What wasn't clarified / क्या स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया**
  - The Minister did not specify what **India conceded** to the U.S. / भारत ने अमेरिका को क्या **रियायतें/कन्सेशन** दीं—यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया।
  - He also did not directly address claims attributed to Mr. Trump about India stopping Russian oil purchases, increasing purchases from Venezuela, etc. / ट्रंप द्वारा बताए गए दावों (रूसी तेल रोकना, वेनेज़ुएला से बढ़ाना आदि) पर सीधे जवाब नहीं दिया गया।
- **Parliament angle & Opposition / संसद और विपक्ष वाला पहलू**
  - He blamed Opposition actions for preventing a statement in Parliament, saying he had to speak outside the House and at a press conference. / उन्होंने कहा कि विपक्ष की गतिविधियों के कारण संसद में बयान नहीं हो सका, इसलिए बाहर/प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में बात रखनी पड़ी।
  - He indicated negotiations are in **final stages of detailing**, and full details will follow once joint statement and technical processes are completed. / उन्होंने बताया कि बातचीत **अंतिम चरण (डिटेलिंग)** में है; संयुक्त बयान और तकनीकी प्रक्रियाएँ पूरी होने के बाद विवरण आएगा।
- **Industry reaction & expected export opportunities / उद्योग की प्रतिक्रिया और निर्यात अवसर**
  - Industry bodies welcomed the tariff announcement; the report suggests benefits for labour-intensive exports like **textiles, apparel, plastics, home décor, leather/footwear, gems & jewellery, organic chemicals, rubber goods, machinery, aircraft components**. / उद्योग संगठनों ने स्वागत किया; रिपोर्ट के अनुसार टेक्सटाइल, परिधान, प्लास्टिक, होम डेकोर, लेदर/फुटवेयर, रत्न-आभूषण, ऑर्गेनिक केमिकल, रबर, मशीनरी, एयरक्राफ्ट कंपोनेंट्स जैसे श्रम-प्रधान निर्यात क्षेत्रों को अवसर मिल सकते हैं।

# RUSSIA: NO MSG FROM INDIA ON STOPPING OIL BUY

## Tariff Cut On 60% Of Indian Exports To US

Sector	Tariff (%)	% share in India's exports to US
Electronics & semiconductors	0	10
Pharmaceuticals	0	16.6
Other exempted goods (bullion, lumber, energy, certain minerals)	0	4.5
Auto & auto parts	25	3.3
Steel & aluminium	50	5.7
Copper	50	0.3
Goods subject to penalty + tariff	18	59.6
Overall effective tariff	14.6	100

Overall effective tariff comes down from 33.6% to 14.6% *Cut from nearly 50% to avg 18%*  
 Source: Nomura Research **More details on P 20**

➤ Deal unlikely to result in near-term reduction in Russian imports, with supplies to be stopped from sanctioned entities such as Rosneft and Lukoil

➤ Experts said Indian refiners are more likely to turn to West Asia suppliers to replace any potential reduction in Russian imports

“The PM, leveraging his friendly relationship and close ties with President Trump, has finalised a trade deal... that is the **best India has received compared to all our neighbours...** and countries that compete with us... PM Modi has always taken care of agriculture and dairy... in the trade deal as well, **sensitive sectors have been protected**



—Piyush Goyal, COMMERCE MINISTER

“We’ll continue to maintain some level of tariff against India... but **they’ve also agreed to reduce tariffs for us on a variety of agri products**, manufactured goods, chemicals, medical devices, etc

—Jamieson Greer, US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

“We’re only seeing public statements. We’ll see how the situation develops. Overall, our energy resources are in demand. Supply will always find demand...

—Russia deputy PM Alexander Novak,  
WHO OVERSEES ENERGY SECTOR

Trade Pact In Weeks; GM  
Food, Cereals, Soybean,  
Maize May Be Kept Out

# IT'S ADVANTAGE INDIAN EXPORTERS

India-US trade deal will cut tariff on 60% of Indian exports to the US. It will put India a shade lower than most south Asian competitors

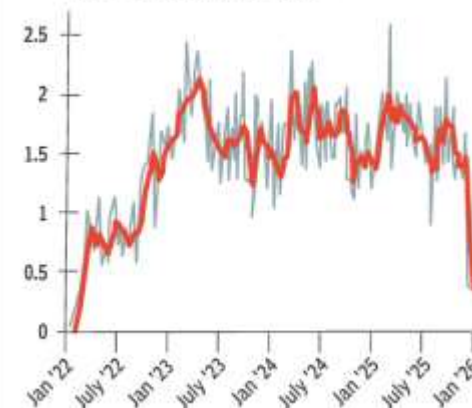


## Why deal was finalised now

- India-EU 'mother of all trade deals' made US realise the world order is resetting
- In the last 8 months, India has signed trade deals with 4 other countries

## India's oil imports from Russia have touched lowest level since 2022

— Russian crude oil seaborne weekly exports to India (mbpd)  
— 4-week moving average



## How did Trump's tariffs impact India's exports to the US

India's exports (\$bn) to US (April-Nov, 2025)

	India's exports (\$bn)	% change
Smartphones & electronics	16.7	120.2
Pharma	5.9	0.2
Machinery	4.8	11.9
Precious stones	3.5	-43.8
Oil products	2.7	-10.6
Iron & steel products	2	3.5
Textiles	5.1	-1.9
Chemicals	2.6	8.3
Plastics	1	-11.4
Seafood	1.3	-9.2

## What next

- India, US to release joint statement in few days
- It will be followed by a bilateral trade agreement

# Trade deal: unanswered questions remain

## EXPLAINER

**Suhasini Haidar**

NEW DELHI

The announcement that the U.S. will reduce “reciprocal” tariffs on India from 25% to 18% and drop the 25% punitive tariffs for Russian oil imports, is a major relief to Indian exporters, and indicates that relations between the two countries are on the mend after a year of severe tensions.

The move on slashing U.S. tariffs was made during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar’s visit to Washington to attend a Critical Minerals Ministerial meeting, his seventh visit to the U.S. since Donald Trump’s election as U.S. President. It also comes just weeks after the new U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor took charge in Delhi, indicating a fresh attempt at resetting ties. However, differences remain between Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s version of the agreement and Mr. Trump’s version,

which will need to be reconciled.

### Where is the negotiated text of the trade deal?

Mr. Trump’s reference to a trade deal left it unclear whether he is referring to a deal over cutting reciprocal tariffs, or to the larger “first tranche” of the India-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that has been negotiated between trade teams after Mr. Modi’s visit to Washington in February 2025. As a result of the FTA, both sides were expected to drop tariffs, but no details of the FTA, or a negotiated text, have thus far been released by either government.

### Tariffs to zero?

Mr. Trump’s claim that India would “reduce Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers against the United States, to ZERO”, has not been confirmed by New Delhi, nor has there been any explanation about which lines would reduce to zero. In addition, questions about market access, especially in agricultural sectors like soyabean and dai-



**On the same page:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in New Delhi. PTI

ry which India has been reluctant to open, remain unanswered. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a post that the new U.S.-India deal will “export more American farm products to India’s massive market, lifting prices, and pumping cash into rural America”.

### Indian investment in the U.S.

In his post, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi also “committed to buy American” with over \$500 billion dollars for U.S. energy, technology, agriculture, coal, and other products. The government declined to

comment on whether any such commitment has been given, but the size of the figure indicates this is meant to be done over several years, and with multiple sectors involved. It is important to remember that India-U.S. bilateral trade in goods stands at about \$131 billion at present, and India’s current investment in the U.S. is just over \$40 billion.

### Has India agreed to drop Russian oil?

In his post on Monday, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi had “agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the Unit-

ed States and, potentially, Venezuela”, adding that this would help end the war in Ukraine. The Ministry of External Affairs has not responded to requests for comment on this issue. While the government insists that it has no part to play in these commercial decisions, that is contradicted by Mr. Trump’s statement that Mr. Modi had agreed to cutting Russian oil.

### Will India have to give concessions on Iran?

Mr. Trump has indicated that the U.S. wants India to buy Venezuelan oil in lieu of Russian oil. This may be a relief for India, but raises questions over its autonomy on important strategic decisions. The U.S. has also threatened to impose 25% tariffs on countries “doing business” with Iran, which includes India, and Washington plans to end its sanctions waiver on Indian investment in Iran’s Chabahar port. In a departure from the past, the Union Budget presented on Sunday contained no allocation for Chabahar.

# Russian crude to India won't hit zero overnight

SAURAV ANAND  
New Delhi, February 3

**"FEBRUARY RUSSIAN INFLOWS** are unlikely to fall to zero because some cargoes are already scheduled." That assessment from global oil market trackers captures the underlying reality behind the noise surrounding India's crude oil trade after US President Donald Trump claimed that New Delhi had agreed to stop buying Russian oil as part of a broader trade understanding with Washington.

While Trump said tariffs on Indian goods would be cut to 18% from 50% and that India would pivot to buying more oil from the US and potentially Venezuela, energy market data, refinery logistics and inflation risks point to a gradual recalibration rather than an abrupt rupture in India's Russian crude intake.

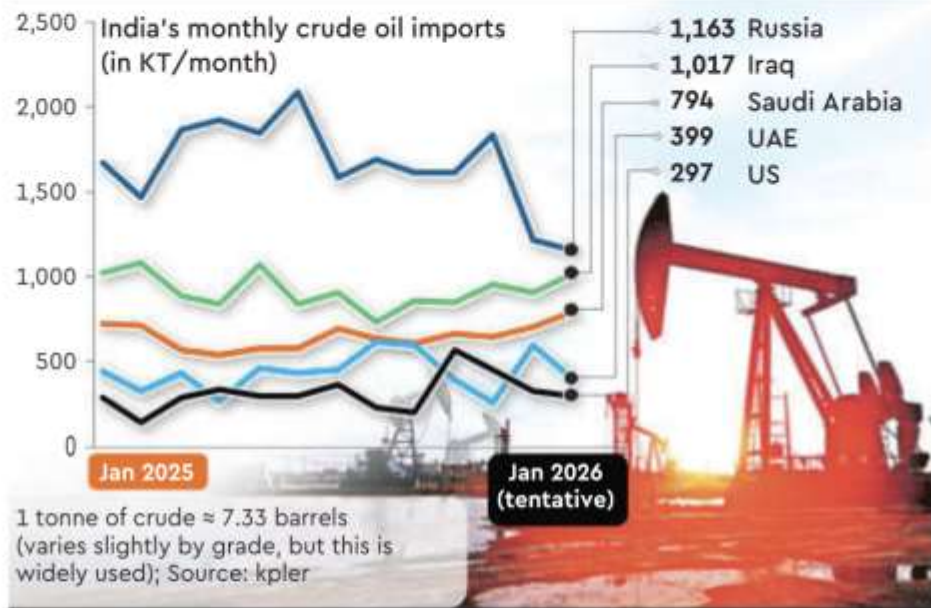
According to S&P Global Energy, India cut Russian crude imports by nearly 70% month-on-month in January to about 436,000 barrels per day, while increasing purchases from West Asia, West Africa and the United States.

However, analysts stress that the decline does not amount to a clean break.

"Flows already show rotation, but not a hard stop," said Zhuwei Wang, director of Research & Analysis at S&P Global Energy. "February Russian inflows are unlikely to fall to zero because some cargoes are already scheduled."

Ratings agency Moody's Ratings has cautioned that an abrupt halt to Russian crude could have wider macroeconomic consequences.

## OIL TURMOIL



"Even though India has reduced its purchase of crude oil from Russia in recent months, it is unlikely to cease all purchases immediately," Moody's said.

India imports around 4.5 million barrels per day of crude. According to ICRA, replacing discounted Russian barrels with market-priced crude would lift the country's oil import bill by less than 2%—or roughly \$2.7 billion annually on a \$137-billion import base.

Additionally, Venezuelan crudes are heavy and sour and therefore cheaper and would be of interest to Indian refiners, many of whom can process these types of crudes,"

said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA.

Meanwhile, Kpler estimates the impact could be higher, at \$3-4 billion a year, if about 1.8 million barrels per day of Russian volumes are displaced at a conservative \$5 per barrel premium.

Refinery and shipping logistics reinforce why Russian crude cannot disappear overnight. Crude cargoes from Russia are typically booked around 10 weeks in advance, industry executives said, and vessels carrying the commodity are currently at various stages of loading, transit and discharge.

"As a result, cargoes booked nearly ten weeks ago will continue to offload at Indian ports—mostly on the west coast—through end-March and possibly into April 2026," a senior refining official told *FE* on condition of anonymity.

Market participants remain sceptical about a full exit from Russian oil, citing scale, discounts and strategic considerations.

"The big question is whether we'll stop taking Russian oil," said Rahul Kalantri, Vice President (Commodities) at Mehta Equities. Kalantri added that the calculus extends beyond economics.

"Another factor is India's defence ties with Russian armaments. Considering what President Trump mentioned about halting imports completely, my view is that there could be a geopolitical arrangement—possibly linked to Ukraine—under which India pauses Russian oil imports briefly, maybe for a month, after which flows resume."

On alternatives, he said Venezuela remains viable. "Venezuela has a significant stockpile—worth around \$2-3 billion—stored in tankers globally. There is also a shadow fleet of about 700 tankers, including roughly 100 linked to Venezuela. Indian refineries are fully capable of processing heavy crude."

Trade data also support the view of moderation rather than elimination.

"In January 2026, India's Russian crude imports eased to around 1.1 million barrels per day, the lowest level since November 2022," said Nikhil Dubey, Senior Research Analyst (Refining & Modelling) at Kpler.

- **Current import trends / वर्तमान आयात रुझान**

- India has reduced Russian crude imports by **about 70% month-on-month in January**, down to roughly **436,000 barrels/day**.

/ जनवरी में भारत ने रूसी कच्चे तेल का आयात माह-दर-माह लगभग 70% घटाकर करीब 4.36 लाख बैरल/दिन कर दिया।

- Simultaneously, India increased purchases from **West Asia, West Africa and the U.S.**

/ साथ ही भारत ने पश्चिम एशिया, पश्चिम अफ्रीका और अमेरिका से आयात बढ़ाया।

- **Why “zero overnight” is unrealistic / अचानक शून्य क्यों नहीं**

- Oil flows show **rotation, not a hard stop**; shipments are booked **around 10 weeks in advance**.

/ तेल प्रवाह में रोटेशन दिखता है, पूर्ण विराम नहीं; शिपमेंट लगभग 10 हफ्ते पहले बुक होते हैं।

- Cargoes already booked will keep unloading at Indian ports through **end-March and possibly into April**.

/ पहले से बुक कार्गो मार्च के अंत और संभवतः अप्रैल तक भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर आते रहेंगे।

- **Economic impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव**

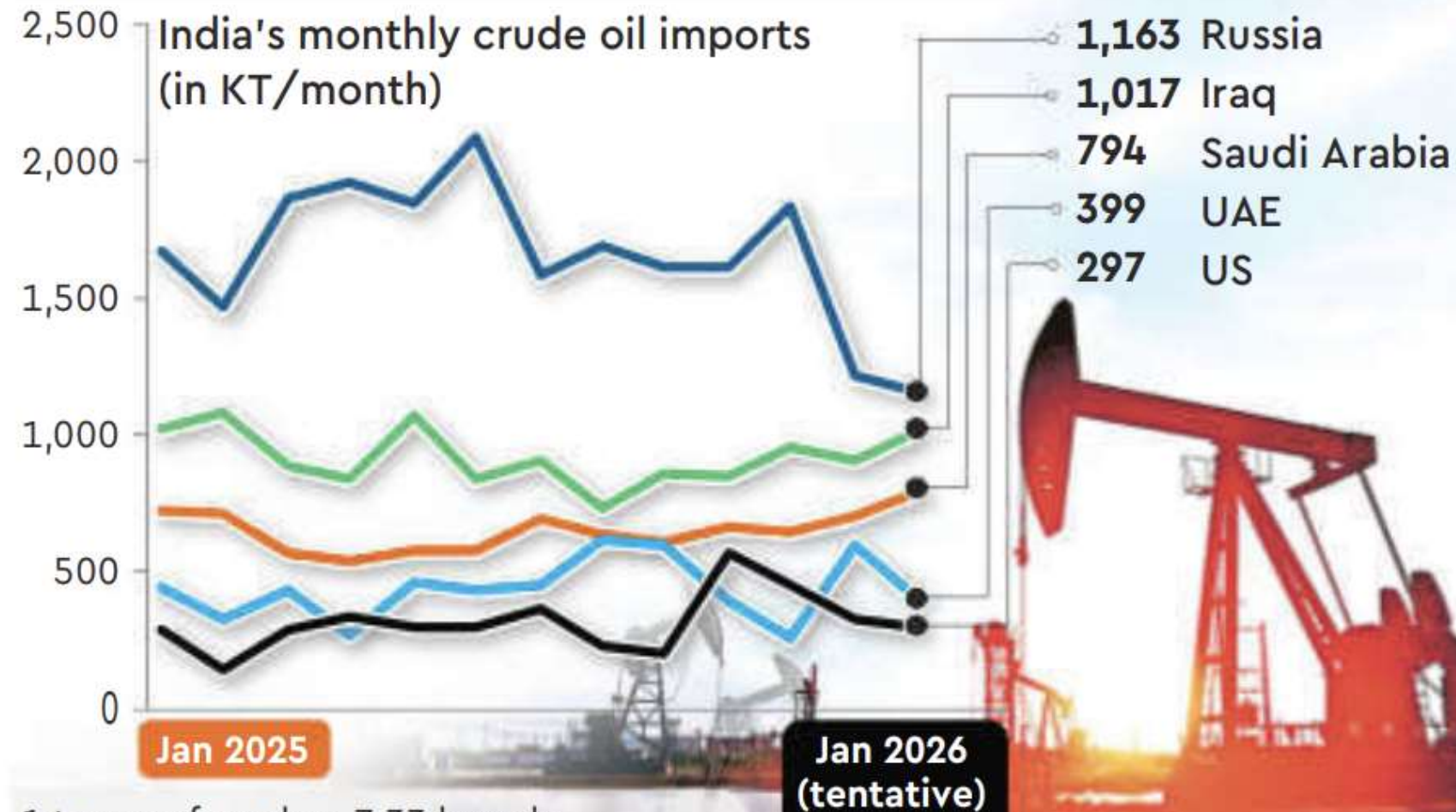
- India imports **~4.5 million barrels/day** of crude oil.

/ भारत लगभग 45 लाख बैरल/दिन कच्चा तेल आयात करता है।

- Replacing discounted Russian oil with market-priced crude could raise the oil import bill by **less than 2%**, or roughly **\$2.7 billion annually** on a **\$137 billion** import base (per rating agencies).

/ रियायती रूसी तेल की जगह बाजार-कीमत वाले तेल से आयात बिल 2% से कम, यानी लगभग \$2.7 बिलियन/वर्ष बढ़ सकता है।

# OIL TURMOIL



1 tonne of crude  $\approx$  7.33 barrels  
(varies slightly by grade, but this is  
widely used); Source: kpler

## Karnataka CM tables resolution against new rural jobs Act

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Amid vociferous protests by the BJP and JD(S) members, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Tuesday tabled a resolution in the Assembly that expresses "serious opposition" of the House to the Vikas - Bharat Guarantee for Ruzgar and Aajeevik Mission (Granting) (VB-G RAM-G) Act, 2020, and urged the Centre to fully restore the earlier Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, by rolling back the new job scheme.

"In the interest of protecting the right to life of rural people of Karnataka, this House urges the Centre to immediately annul the VB-G RAM-G Act that is not only opposed to the federal structure and idea of decentralisation, but also violates the power and rights of village panchayats besides causing serious burden on the taxpayers," the three-page resolution said.

Reiterating the Assembly's commitment to the principles of decentralisation and panchayat raj system which is the strong foundation for the country's democratic system, the resolution also urged the House to view the annulling of the MGNREGA as a step towards restoring the life for rural poor besides being a part and parcel of their lives.

The resolution claimed that MGNREGA, intro-

## Dharma seeking Excise Minister's resignation

BENGALURU

The BJP and the JD(S) MLAs began an overnight protest on Tuesday inside the Vidhana Soudha demanding the resignation of Excise Minister R. Thirumangalakudi over an alleged corruption scandal in his department.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that there was corruption to the tune of Rs.600 crore, referring to a letter by Government, president, Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association, an Excise official being trapped by the Lokayukta police recently, and a purported audio conversation between an Excise official and a lawyer.

Introduced in 2008 by the UPA government had brought about revolutionary changes through rationalisation of employment, stopping of migration, payment of wages without gender discrimination, strengthening of panchayat decentralisation and creation of personal and community property in rural areas.

The new Act violates the right to life and livelihood granted under Article 21 of the Constitution and also goes against the spirit of the 73rd amendment of the Constitution that grants autonomy to village panchayats, besides defeating the purpose of Mahatma Gandhi's gram swaraj, the resolution said.

## Kerala to move ahead with first phase of RRTS

State Transport Department to submit proposal to Centre and initiate consultations to obtain required clearances the project is estimated to cost about ₹192,780 crore, according to an order

Thiruvananthapuram

Amid the alleged difference of the Union government to the demands of Kerala for high-speed travel, and claims by technocrat E. Sreedharan that he has started working on a high-speed rail project as suggested by the Centre, the State government has accorded in-principle approval for the proposed 563-km Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project, from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargod.

Kerala has also decided to take up the first phase (Thiruvananthapuram to Thiruvananthapuram) to Thiruvananthapuram to Thiruvananthapuram.

The Transport Department will submit the proposal to the Centre and initiate necessary consultations to obtain mandatory clearances. The project is estimated to cost ₹192,780 crore, and the final cost can only be determined upon completion of the detailed project report (DPR), after finalising alignment, technical models, signalling systems, and transit-oriented development (TOD) models, according to an order.

Phase I, which includes integration with the Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi Metro, and Phase 2 (Kannur Line, Kozhikode-Kannur), and Phase 3 (Kannur Line, Kannur-Kozhikode). Further, the State has plans for the Kozh-



The Kerala government estimates that a complete Statewide RRTS network can be realised in 12 years. PHOTO COURTESY: KERALA

## 'Sreedharan opened office to mislead public'

The Hindu Bureau  
KANNUR

Communist Party of India (Marxist) state secretary M.V. Govindan on Tuesday alleged that E. Sreedharan's move to open an office in Ponnani was aimed at misleading the public, and said there was little chance of the Centre approving his programme as the Union Railway Minister had

remained silent on the issue.

No official assurance Addressing the media at Pazhayanagudi during the party's Vikasana Munnetra Jatha, Mr. Govindan said no one should expect the Centre to provide approval for Mr. Sreedharan's initiative in the absence of any official assurance from the Railway Ministry.

Future expansion to Coimbatore via Palakkad, to Kannur, and Phase 4 (Kannur Line, Kannur-Kozhikode). Further, the State has plans for the Kozh-

Through this "parallel phased execution", a complete Statewide RRTS network can be realised in 12 years. Taking a cue from the Delhi RRTS, the project could be implemented with a funding pattern of 20% by the State, 20% by the Centre, and 60% via long-term loans borrowed from international financial institutions.

SilverLine project The new project has been proposed by the State against the backdrop of the technical objections flagged by the Centre to the SilverLine project and the public protest against the project in certain areas. As the system can be implemented largely as a grade-separated (elevated on pillars) structure, it can be integrated with the existing and proposed metro rail projects to create a unified multimodal transit system for the entire State.

Adopting the elevated viaduct model (on pillars) will significantly reduce land acquisition, prevent the alignment from disturbing water flow, and mitigate public opposition observed in certain areas, he added.

Meanwhile, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday reiterated that a high-speed rail would eventually come to Kerala, although the Minister did not provide the details of the Central project.

## T.N. Chief Secretary chairs meeting for Census preparation



The self-enumeration process and the eventual house-listing are likely to start after the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu. P.S. NIRMAL

Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu is gearing up for Census 2027, as Chief Secretary N. Murugananathan chaired the first meeting of the state-level coordination committee at the Secretariat on Monday.

The self-enumeration process and the eventual house-listing and housing census process are likely to start after the Assembly election.

At the first meeting, coordination among various stakeholders, including State government departments, and notification of census officers were discussed. Director of Census Operations (Chief) Nishu M. Sundarajan, Babu said.

About 1.5 lakh officials including enumerators and supervisors, are expected to take part in the process. The houselisting and housing census process is likely to commence in June or July.

This will also be the first digital census. Each of the households would be details 33 questions from

the questionnaire by enumerators. There will also be an option for self-enumeration, and the questionnaire could be obtained after registering oneself on the portal (to be notified later). "Once they fill up the details, an ID will be generated. When the area or street-level enumerator visits, the ID should be given and he/she will use the app to check and validate," Mr. Babu said.

After the self-enumeration process that will last five days, the houselisting and housing census process will commence and go on for 30 days. Officials are finalising plans to train the enumerators, the supervisors, and other officials who will be involved in the process.

All the staff members at the Directorate of Census Operations in Chennai have been trained. Four staff members of the Chennai office underwent training as national trainers. Lead trainers, master trainers, field-level trainers, enumerators, supervisors, and others will be trained, Mr. Babu said.

## Centre rules out further APRA funds for Telangana

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

The Union government has ruled out further release of pending funds for development of backward regions in Telangana, claiming that the entire amount has been released.

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary replied in the legislature when Channarayana Kumar Reddy and Eatala Rajender, MPs, asked whether there was any outstanding issue in releasing grants due to Telangana. The members asked about the delays in the release of ₹1,600 crore due to Telangana for four years including 2018-20, 2020-22 and 2022-24.

The Union Minister said it was decided to release a total amount of ₹2,700 crore to Telangana in six instalments of ₹450 crore under Section 94(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (APRA), 2014 and the entire amount had been released.

Section 94 (2) of the Act, dealing with fiscal measures including tax incentives to two Telugu States, says that the Union government should support the programmes for the development of backward areas in the successor States, including expansion of physical and social infrastructure. The Centre had accordingly released ₹2,700 crore, ₹450 crore a year at ₹50 crore each for the nine backward districts in Telangana, which were categorised as backward in terms of social and physical infrastructure.

Despite requests by successive governments, the Centre had ruled out further release of funds.

## Midair adventure



Elevated Ride: A visitor trying out a rope cycling adventure facility introduced in the Shangungum beach park in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. ANIL K. NARAYAN

## Amit Shah praises Kerala BJP leader's Rajya Sabha speech

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Violence against Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers in Kerala over the decades, as depicted by his party colleague C. Subramanian during his speech in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, will move any business to be in Kerala, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

"The human suffering and atrocities, which are strength to build Kerala down one's spine, have been endured by BJP and RSS workers in Kerala for decades. The struggle

waged by BJP and RSS workers against this cruel ideology, which involves cutting off someone's limbs or taking their life simply by having a different ideology or disagreement with certain views, cannot be described in words," Mr. Shah said in a post on social media platform X.

Sandhya Kumar Singh  
HYDERABAD

Telangana has recorded a steady rise in cancer cases over the past decade, increasing from 40,177 in 2018 to 52,334 in 2024, signalling a growing public health burden in the State.

The figures were shared in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament last December.



Ahead of World Cancer Day on February 4, oncologists have called for need to strengthen awareness efforts. GETTY IMAGES

With World Cancer Day on Wednesday, oncologists say the upward trend highlights the urgent need to strengthen early detection, screening and awareness efforts across the State.

"For the first time, many early-stage cancer cases are being seen. That is a good sign," said Notti Datta, a senior oncologist at the Telangana government oncology centre. He also noted that the State government is working to strengthen early detection, screening and awareness efforts across the State.

Among adults, head and neck cancers are linked to tobacco and alcohol consumption. During the meeting, Ministers informed the Chief Minister that former TTD chairman Bhimanna Karim Reddy, who was not

a member of the purchase committee at the time, was reportedly invited as a special invitee, while committee members, including then Minister Kishan Parasharathi and Vemireddy Prashanth Reddy were not invited. Officials also informed that Karim allegedly prepared using adulterated ghee were even sent to Ayodhya.

The Cabinet directed the commission to submit its report at the earliest. It also asked the panel to focus on procedural flaws in the tender process and examine allegations that cooperative dairies were deliberately sidelined to allow bogus dairies.

## A.P. Cabinet hands over TTD ghee adulteration case to Commission of Enquiry

The Hindu Bureau  
VIZAG

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has decided to entrust the alleged case of adulteration of ghee supplied to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to a Commission of Enquiry to probe the actual malfeasance behind the controversy.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday, discussed the issue in detail. The Cabinet examined the report submitted by the Special Investigation Team, during which several shortcomings in the findings were flagged. It was subsequent-

ly resolved that the Commission of Enquiry would address the gaps in the SIT report and conduct a comprehensive probe into the procurement process, tender conditions and administrative lapses linked to the alleged mixing of chemical substances in the ghee.

During the meeting, Ministers informed the Chief Minister that former TTD chairman Bhimanna Karim Reddy, who was not

a member of the purchase committee at the time, was reportedly invited as a special invitee, while committee members, including then Minister Kishan Parasharathi and Vemireddy Prashanth Reddy were not invited. Officials also informed that Karim allegedly prepared using adulterated ghee were even sent to Ayodhya.

## Leopard spotted in Bengaluru Forest Dept.

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

A leopard was spotted at Anjanapura in Bengaluru on the night of February 2. The movement of the leopard walking around 7th cross of Anjanapura was captured by CCTV at around 22:30.

Forest Department officials confirmed that the leopard was spotted in the locality and said that it could have come from the forest area around Kottich Road.

Officials said that a team was deployed soon after receiving information about the leopard's movement.

# Telangana witnesses steady rise in cancer cases; doctors stress early detection

**Siddharth Kumar Singh**

HYDERABAD

Telangana has recorded a steady rise in cancer cases over the past decade, increasing from 40,177 in 2015 to 52,334 in 2024, signalling a growing public health burden in the State. The figures were shared in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament last December.

With World Cancer Day on Wednesday, oncologists say the upward trend highlights the urgent need to strengthen early detection, screening and awareness efforts across Telangana.

“For the first time, more early-stage cancer cases are being seen. That is a good sign,” said Nori Datta-



Ahead of World Cancer Day on February 4, oncologists have called for need to strengthen awareness efforts. GETTY IMAGES

treyyudu, Adviser to the Telangana government on cancer care.

According to him, patients are increasingly seeking medical advice at earlier stages rather than

waiting until Stage 3 or Stage 4.

At the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre in Hyderabad, doctors say the increase is evident in the dai-

ly influx of patients.

Sandhya Rani Nippani, associate professor of Radiation Oncology at MNJ, said the hospital registers around 100 new cancer cases each day. These include both paediatric and adult patients, as well as blood malignancies and solid tumours.

Among adults, head and neck cancers linked to tobacco chewing continue to be highly prevalent in the region. “We see very advanced head and neck cancer patients. Breast cancer cases are also common. Although cervical cancer is largely preventable and curable if detected early, many women are reaching the hospital in Stage 3 or Stage 4,” she said.

- **Trend in Telangana / तेलंगाना में ट्रेंड**

- Telangana has seen a **steady rise in reported cancer cases** over the last decade: **40,177 (2015) → 52,334 (2024)**. / पिछले एक दशक में कैंसर मामलों में लगातार वृद्धि: **40,177 (2015) → 52,334 (2024)**।
- These figures were **shared in Lok Sabha** during the Winter Session (last December). / ये आंकड़े पिछले दिसंबर शीतकालीन सत्र में लोकसभा में साझा किए गए।

- **Doctors' core message / डॉक्टरों का मुख्य संदेश**

- The rise highlights the urgent need to strengthen **early detection, screening and awareness** across Telangana. / यह वृद्धि अर्ली डिटेक्शन, स्क्रीनिंग और अवेयरनेस को मजबूत करने की जरूरत दिखाती है।
- With **World Cancer Day (Feb 4)**, oncologists reiterated: earlier diagnosis saves lives. / विश्व कैंसर दिवस (4 फरवरी) के संदर्भ में डॉक्टरों ने फिर जोर दिया: जल्दी पहचान से जीवन बचता है।

- **Shift towards earlier consultation / अब मरीज जल्दी परामर्श ले रहे हैं**

- An adviser to the Telangana government on cancer care said **more early-stage cases are being seen**, which is a "good sign". / कैंसर केयर से जुड़े सलाहकार के अनुसार अब अधिक अर्ली-स्टेज केस दिख रहे हैं, यह "अच्छा संकेत" है।
- Patients are increasingly seeking medical advice **earlier instead of waiting till Stage 3/Stage 4**. / मरीज स्टेज 3/4 तक इंतजार करने के बजाय जल्दी सलाह ले रहे हैं।

- **Hospital load and case-mix / अस्पतालों पर दबाव और केस-मिक्स**
  - At MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre (Hyderabad), doctors report a visible increase in daily patient inflow. / MNJ ऑन्कोलॉजी व रीजनल कैंसर सेंटर, हैदराबाद में रोज़ाना मरीजों की संख्या बढ़ने की बात कही गई।
  - A radiation oncology faculty member said the hospital registers **~100 new cancer cases daily**, including **paediatric + adult**, and **blood cancers + solid tumours**. / वहाँ लगभग 100 नए केस/दिन बताए गए—बच्चे व वयस्क, ब्लड कैंसर व सॉलिड ट्यूमर दोनों शामिल।
- **Common cancers & key risk factor / आम कैंसर और बड़ा जोखिम**
  - Among adults, **head-and-neck cancers linked to tobacco chewing** remain highly prevalent; many cases arrive in advanced stages. / वयस्कों में तंबाकू चबाने से जुड़े सिर-गर्दन के कैंसर अधिक; कई केस एडवांस स्टेज में आते हैं।
  - **Breast cancer** is also common. / **स्तन कैंसर** भी आम बताया गया।
  - **Cervical cancer** is largely preventable and curable if detected early, yet many women reach hospitals in **Stage 3/4**. / **सर्वाइकल कैंसर** जल्दी पकड़ में आए तो काफी हद तक रोकथाम/इलाज योग्य, फिर भी कई महिलाएँ **स्टेज 3/4** में पहुँचती हैं।

## India enters elite group with successful missile test

The Defence Research and Development Organisation announced on Tuesday the flight demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, on Tuesday. The test was conducted at around 10:45 a.m. According to the Ministry of Defence, with this achievement, India has entered an elite group of nations possessing SPDR technology, a critical capability for the development of long-range air-to-air missiles that significantly enhance combat effectiveness and provide a decisive tactical edge against adversaries. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian industry partners on the successful demonstration, describing it as a major milestone in the country's missile development programme.

## Security forces engage group of terrorists in Udhampur

The Army said on Tuesday that security forces were engaged in a firefight with a group of terrorists in the Baramulla area of Udhampur. An Army spokesman said contact was established with the terrorists during an ongoing operation named 'Operation Ekor' around 4 p.m. The operation is being carried out by personnel of the Army, the J&K Police, and the CRPF. The Army said the operation was launched following an intelligence report. "A cordon has been established. A firefight is on. The operation is in progress," the Army said.

## Air India plane flown after physical checks, no abnormal parameters noticed: DGCA

**Pran Prasad of India**  
NEW DELHI

Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner flight from London to Bengaluru, which reported a fuel control switch glitch, took off on Sunday after the crew carried out a physical check of the switch and found no abnormal parameters during start of the engine or thereafter, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Tuesday.

The fuel control switch of the left engine of the Dreamliner aircraft VT-ANK, which operated the flight AI312 that had more than 200 people aboard, did not latch on the 'RTO' position twice during the engine start at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport, but was properly locked in the



Air India officials say it has begun fleet-wide checks of fuel control switches.

'RTO' position on the third attempt.

The detailed statement from the aviation regulator explaining the sequence related to the Dreamliner came against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters over the aircraft operating the flight despite the fuel control switch issue.

Air India has started inspection of the fuel control switches of its Boeing 787 fleet following the incident, sources have said. Air India's senior vice-president for flight operations, Manish Upadhyay, has told Boeing 787 pilots that the airline has initiated a fleet-wide re-inspection of the aircraft's fuel control switches and the airline's engineering team has escalated the matter to Boeing for priority evaluation, according to sources.

"In the interim, while we await Boeing's response, our engineers - out of an abundance of caution - have initiated precautionary fleet-wide re-inspection of the fuel control switch (FCS) latch to verify its operation," Upadhyay said in an email on Tuesday.

## SC has not upheld death penalty in 3 years: report

The top court acquitted 10 death row prisoners in 2025, lower courts handed down 1,310 death sentences over the past decade; high rate of acquittals raises concerns about wrongful convictions

**Jahira Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has not confirmed a single death penalty in the past three years, according to an annual statistics report on death penalties in India, published by the Square Circle Clinic, a criminal justice initiative at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

In fact, in 2025, the top court acquitted 10 prisoners who had been on death row, the highest number of acquittals in the past decade.

The report, which examined death penalty trends across India over the past 10 years, found that the sessions courts handed down 1,310 death sentences nationwide between 2016 and 2025.

"Despite growing judicial scepticism at higher levels," the lower courts sentenced 126 individuals to death in 2025 alone, the report said.

**High rate of acquittals**  
Of the 1,310 death sentences which have been handed down by the High Courts, 18 resulted in acquittal, or 1.3%.

## Capital punishment

Examining death penalty trends in India (2016-2025)



In just 8.3% - were confirmed. The High Courts acquitted 265 people on death row, while 418 death sentences were confirmed. The Supreme Court's acquittal rate is also resulting in a significant backlog of prisoners on death row. The high rate of acquittals by the appellate judiciary requires a serious examination of how sessions courts imposed death sentences which were confirmed by the High Courts, not a single sentence has been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Of the 37 such death sentences which have been decided by the Supreme Court, 18 resulted in acquittal, or 48.6%.

row before acquittal was over five years, with some prisoners languishing for nearly a decade before being exonerated.

However, 128 individuals were also removed from death row during the year through acquittals, commutations or remission orders.

One of the report's most alarming findings concerns procedural violations at the sentencing stage.

Despite clear guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in *Atollu v. State of Madhya Pradesh*, which mandated psychological evaluations, prison conduct reports, and mitigation hearings - which were elevated to a fair trial right requirement in *Vasanthi Ramprasad v. Union of India* - in 2025, nearly 95% of death sentences in 2025 were imposed without compliance.

Resentencing hearings were frequently conducted within days of conviction, leaving little scope for meaningful defence representation, the report said.

The report also showed that India had 574 prisoners - 550 men and 24 women - on death row as of December 31, 2025. The average time spent on death row before acquittal was over five years, with some prisoners languishing for nearly a decade before being exonerated.

## 84% waste-pickers from SC, ST, OBC groups: govt.

**Abhinav Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday released data for the first time on the ongoing enumeration of waste-pickers across the country, showing that a total of 1.52 lakh such workers had been profiled and validated so far in urban areas of 35 states and Union Territories. At the national level, 84.5% of overall waste-pickers were from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes, while 10.7% were from communities in the General category.

At the State and Union Territory level, there were some outliers, where waste-pickers from the General category constituted a significant majority.

For instance, in Delhi and Goa, those from General category communities outnumbered those from the SC, ST, and OBC communities put together. In West Bengal, General category

## Waste-picking labour profile

This enumeration of sewer and septic tank workers and waste-pickers was part of the govt's NAMASTE scheme.

- Out of 1.52 lakh profiled waste-pickers, 84.5% were from SC, ST, and OBC communities.
- However, in Delhi and Goa, a majority of such workers were from General category.
- About 48.7% of workers are women, 51.3% are men, and 0.007% are transgender people.
- On Tuesday, the Social Justice Ministry said that 400 people had filed suits to clearing of sewers and septic tanks since 2024.

workers constituted 42.4% of all those profiled and validated.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment tabled the data in Parliament on Tuesday. The enumeration exercise is part of the Ministry's NAMASTE scheme. It is enumerating sewer and septic tank workers and waste-pickers across the country, to have them formally recognised by urban local bodies and provide them with protective equipment.

The scheme aims at eradicating deaths due to hazardous waste-picking and septic tank workers.

The data showed that a total of 1.52 lakh waste-pickers had been profiled and validated by urban local bodies as part of this exercise till January 25 this year. Of these, about 48.7% are women (74,427), 51.3% are men (77,791), and 0.007% are transgender people (12).

**SUDOKU**

1	5	6						
1	3			5			4	
	9	8	7	1	6			
	5	9	6				8	
9								
5	6	1	3	7				
3	1					9	8	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

## 'Global aid cuts could lead to 22.6 million additional deaths'

**Bhadrashan Perampalan**  
NEW DELHI

The drop in global aid could lead to 22.6 million additional deaths by 2030 across 93 low and middle-income countries, including 8.4 million children under the age of five, warned a new peer-reviewed study by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), published in the *Lancet Global Health* on Tuesday.

The analysis showed that 50th-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 38 of the 93 countries analysed, is particularly at risk, and with 21 of the countries in Latin America, 12 in West Asia and North Africa, and 10 in Europe, severe cuts to official development assistance (ODA) could be felt globally.

**ODA achievements**  
Over the course of 2025 to 2031, the ODA helped reduce child mortality by 10% and averted 1.4 million deaths by 2030, and achieved a 50% reduction in deaths from both malaria and nutritional deficit.

It improved various global health outcomes in these 93 countries, which, on average, account for 78% of the world's population.

**ODA has helped reduce child mortality by 10% averted 1.4 million deaths by 2030**

In 2024, international aid fell for the first time in six years, and the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany significantly reduced their ODA contributions for the first time in nearly 30 years - These cuts sparked the need to understand what this could mean at the human level for communities all over the world, the study said.

"Our analyses show that development assistance is among the most effective global health interventions available," said Davide Kasseba, coordinator of the study, IGRA Research Professor at ISGlobal and at the Brazilian Institute of Collective Health.

"Asia's scale means that when health systems fail, the human cost is immense, and in 21 countries across the region, decades of development gains are now at risk of being reversed," said Deepthi Khanna, senior vice-president and head of Asia, The Rockefeller Foundation, which supported the study.

through intermediaries to earn their livelihood".

**'Other' category**  
The data, tabled by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, also said that 7,402 workers were from 'Other' communities. The data was released in response to a question from Kiroori M K Piyash on the DMK on the NAMASTE scheme while the Government had recently included enumeration of waste-pickers in its objectives.

The scheme has so far enumerated about 10,000 sewer-entry workers and septic tank workers, 36,875 from General category communities. Parliamentary data from December 2024 showed that among the sewer and septic tank workers profiled till then, 91.55% were from SC, ST, and OBC backgrounds, while about 8.08% were from General category communities. However, state-level data that has not yet been made available.

## FAITH Hanuman consoles Sita

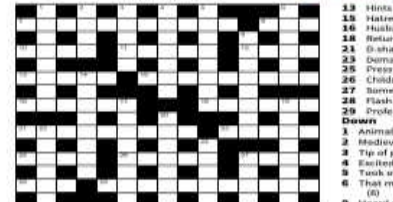
When Sita met Hanuman in Ashokavanam, she enquired about Rama's condition. Hanuman replied that without her, Rama was like a lifeless machine, merely sustaining his body without joy or purpose. Hearing this, Sita revealed her own unbearable sorrow and confessed that separation from Rama had driven her to thoughts of ending her life. Hanuman consoled her, saying the herald was very prana - the life breath - of Rama, and that Rama could never exist without her.

Hanuman's reassuring words dispelled Sita's grief and instilled confidence in her heart. Trichy Sri Kalyanaram said in a discourse, Sita asked Hanuman how he, appearing as a small monkey, could cross the vast ocean. In response, Hanuman expanded his form and revealed his magnificent Vijayarupa. Beholding this wondrous sight, Sita was filled with amazement and declared that even if Rama had imprisoned her beyond the seven seas, Hanuman would surely have discovered her.

Despite displaying such extraordinary power, Hanuman immediately renounced his humble form and spoke with great modesty. He said he was the least among the Vanaras army and that there were many mighty warriors superior to him. When Hanuman offered to carry Sita on his shoulders and bring her safely to Rama, she gently declined. Sita explained that such an act would diminish the glory of Rama's incomparable valor and the majesty of his powerful bow. Sita, therefore, instructed Hanuman to convey her message to Rama and urged him to come to Lanka himself, comfort her, and demonstrate his supreme strength by rescuing her and destroying asuras.

## THE CROSSWORD 14708

(Test by Hymans)



- Across**
- Had to take medication in vehicle for grub (11)
  - Your old teacher's heading on vacation, happy (8)
  - Utterly gaudy going home tired at last (4)
  - Pine note played frequently (8)
  - Host member close to society (4)

Enter this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://www.hymans.com/crosswords>



- Down**
- Animal climbing tree biting hairy organ (8)
  - Medieval European's alcoholic drink, basically (4)
  - Tip of porcelain filling in a minute time of cutlery (8)
  - Excited about blankets behind American plane (7)
  - Tuck off and had food including appetizer, at the start (8)
  - That man boring school boy spending day in his station (6)
  - Heard revered father gambles in irresolvable obligations (15)
  - Cultivated from river in New Delhi, ending in Ganges (8)
  - Women, ultimately accepted, signed up for matches (8)
  - Value greatly found in nitr as urea (8)
  - Interest virgin in short outfit (7)
  - Beep alerts marching out of chain store building (5)
  - Started changing name for married Muslim lady (5)
  - Prep for devotees, disheathered (8)



## India enters elite group with successful missile tech test

The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully carried out the flight demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, on Tuesday . The test was conducted at around 10.45 a.m. According to the Ministry of Defence, with this achievement, India has entered an elite group of nations possessing SFDR technology, a critical capability for the development of long-range air-to-air missiles that significantly enhance combat effectiveness and provide a decisive tactical edge against adversaries. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian industry partners on the successful demonstration, describing it as a major milestone in the country's missile development programme.

- **Why SFDR matters / SFDR का महत्व**

- SFDR is a **critical propulsion technology for long-range air-to-air missiles**, offering **higher speed, longer range and sustained thrust** compared to conventional solid-fuel rockets.  
/ SFDR लंबी दूरी की एयर-टू-एयर मिसाइलों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण तकनीक है, जो अधिक गति, लंबी रेंज और निरंतर थ्रस्ट प्रदान करती है।

- It **significantly enhances combat effectiveness** and provides a **decisive tactical edge** against adversaries.  
/ यह युद्ध क्षमता को काफी बढ़ाती है और दुश्मनों पर निर्णायक सामरिक बढ़त देती है।

# 84% waste-pickers from SC, ST, OBC groups: govt.

**Abhinay Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday released data for the first time on the ongoing enumeration of waste-pickers across the country, showing that a total of 1.52 lakh such workers had been profiled and validated so far in urban areas of 35 States and Union Territories. At the national level, 84.5% of overall waste-pickers were from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes, while 10.7% were from communities in the General category.

At the State and Union Territory level, there were some outliers, where waste-pickers from the General category constituted a significant majority. For instance, in Delhi and Goa, those from General category communities outnumbered those from the SC, ST, and OBC communities put together. In West Bengal, General category

## Waste-picking labour profile

This enumeration of sewer and septic tank workers and waste pickers was part of the govt.'s NAMASTE scheme

- Out of 1.52 lakh profiled waste pickers, 84.5% were from SC, ST, or OBC communities

- However, in Delhi and Goa, a majority of such workers were from General communities

- About 48.7% of workers are women, 51.3% are men, and 0.007% are transgender people

- On Tuesday, the Social Justice Ministry said that 859 people had died due to cleaning of sewers and septic tanks since 2014



workers constituted 42.4% of all those profiled and validated.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment tabled the data in Parliament on Tuesday. The enumeration exercise is part of the Ministry's NAMASTE scheme. It is enumerating sewer and septic tank workers and waste-pickers across the country, to have them formally recognised by urban local bodies and provide them with protec-

tive equipment. The scheme aims at eradicating deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

The data showed that a total of 1.52 lakh waste-pickers had been profiled and validated by urban local bodies as part of this exercise till January 23 this year. Of these, about 48.7% are women (74,427), 51.3% men (78,374), and 0.007% transgender people (12).

Social category data

showed that of the total workers profiled, 60.3% were from the SC communities (92,089), 13.7% from the OBC communities (20,954), and 10.5% from the ST communities. It also said 16,329 waste-pickers (10.7%) were from communities classified under the General category.

In Delhi and Goa, however, the majority of waste-pickers were from the General category. In Delhi, 4,289 of more than 6,500 waste-pickers profiled were from that category, and the case was similar in Goa, where, of the total 1,286 workers profiled, 729 were from General category communities.

Under the NAMASTE scheme, waste-pickers have been defined as people "informally" engaged in "collection and recovery of reusable and recyclable solid waste from streets, bins, material recovery facilities, processing and waste disposal facilities for sale to recyclers directly or

through intermediaries to earn their livelihood".

### 'Other' category

The data, tabled by Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale, also said that 7,402 workers were from "Other" communities. The data was released in response to a question from Erode MP K.E. Prakash from the DMK on the NAMASTE scheme, which had recently included enumeration of waste-pickers in its objectives.

The scheme has so far enumerated about 89,000 sewer-entry workers and septic tank workers, 95.8% of them men. Parliament data from December 2024 showed that among the sewer and septic tank workers profiled till then, 91.95% were from SC, ST, and OBC backgrounds, while about 8.05% were from General category communities. However, State-level data of that time has not yet been made available.

- **Core finding / मुख्य निष्कर्ष**

- The Union government informed Parliament that **84.5% of waste-pickers belong to SC, ST and OBC communities.**

/ केंद्र सरकार ने संसद को बताया कि **84.5% कचरा बीनने वाले श्रमिक SC, ST और OBC वर्गों से हैं।**

- This data comes from the ongoing **nationwide enumeration** of waste-pickers.

/ यह आंकड़ा देशव्यापी गणना (**Enumeration**) से सामने आया है।

- **Scale of enumeration / गणना का पैमाना**

- **1.52 lakh waste-pickers** have been **profiled and validated** so far across **urban areas of 35 States and Union Territories.**

/ अब तक **35 राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के शहरी क्षेत्रों में 1.52 लाख कचरा बीनने वाले प्रोफाइल व सत्यापित किए गए हैं।**

- At the national level, **10.7%** of waste-pickers are from **General category** communities.

/ राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर **10.7% सामान्य वर्ग से हैं।**

- **State-level variation / राज्य-स्तरीय अंतर**

- In **Delhi and Goa**, a majority of waste-pickers belong to the **General category**, unlike the national trend.

/ दिल्ली और गोवा में राष्ट्रीय रुझान के विपरीत **सामान्य वर्ग के कचरा बीनने वाले अधिक हैं।**

- Such variations highlight the **need for state-specific policy responses.**

/ यह अंतर राज्य-विशिष्ट नीतियों की आवश्यकता दर्शाता है।

- **Gender composition / लैंगिक संरचना**
  - Of all waste-pickers enumerated:
    - **48.7% are women**
    - **51.3% are men**
    - **0.007% are transgender persons**
  - / कचरा बीनने वालों में:
    - **48.7% महिलाएँ,**
    - **51.3% पुरुष,**
    - **0.007% ट्रांसजेंडर।**
- **NAMASTE scheme context / NAMASTE योजना का संदर्भ**
  - The enumeration is part of the NAMASTE scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.  
/ यह गणना **NAMASTE योजना** के तहत की जा रही है, जिसे सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय लागू कर रहा है।
  - The scheme aims to **formally recognise waste-pickers and sewer/septic tank workers**, ensure their safety, and **eliminate deaths due to hazardous cleaning**.  
/ योजना का उद्देश्य कचरा बीनने व सीवर/सेप्टिक टैंक कर्मियों को औपचारिक पहचान, सुरक्षा देना और खतरनाक सफाई से होने वाली मौतों को समाप्त करना है।
- **Safety concern / सुरक्षा से जुड़ी चिंता**
  - Since 2014, **859 deaths** have been reported due to cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.  
/ 2014 से अब तक सीवर व सेप्टिक टैंक की सफाई में **859 मौतें हुई हैं**—यह गंभीर सामाजिक मुद्दा है।
- **Parliamentary disclosure / संसदीय जानकारी**
  - The data was tabled by Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale in response to a Parliament question.  
/ यह जानकारी सामाजिक न्याय राज्य मंत्री **रामदास आठवले** ने संसद में प्रश्न के उत्तर में दी।

## What led to the precious metals' crash



The trigger: Trump announced Kevin Warsh as his pick for the new Federal Reserve chair in 2018.

REUTERS  
ORLANDO

How much of the recent mania for gold and silver was fuelled by U.S. dollar "debasement"? Here's one bit, judging by the crash in precious metals on Friday following U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of former inflation hawk Kevin Warsh as his pick for the new Federal Reserve chair.

The collapse was truly historic. Platinum and silver posted their biggest one-day losses on record, falling as much as 25% and 35%, respectively, and gold plunged 10% for its steepest fall since 1985.

This partly reflects the level of speculation behind the rapid ascent of precious metals prices in recent months. Silver rose 70% in the first four weeks of the year alone. Yet this momentum-driven spike went seemingly rooted in something real: fears that the U.S. is on a ruinous path of fiscal folly, expanding money supply, and a degraded currency.

Precious metals were a hedge against this, which quickly transferred into a bubble waiting to be popped. All that was needed was a catalyst. Enter Kevin Warsh.

Views on how Mr. Warsh, a former Fed Governor from 2006-11, will lead the central bank if confirmed have been notably divided, largely because his policy stance has seemingly shifted meaningfully over the years.

As a Fed Governor, he was known as a policy "hawk," worried about the inflationary impact of the Fed's monetary experiments following the Global Financial Crisis, even as unemployment was high and inflation was a non-issue.

In fact, Mr. Warsh, who joined the Fed Board of Governors in 2011 in protest against the central bank's "quantitative easing" program, the buying of huge amounts of bonds to hold down long-term rates.

Warsh now agrees with Trump, Treasury Secretary Scott Mnuchin and Fed Governors Stephen Miran and Christopher Waller that interest rates should be lower, even though inflation remains above the central bank's 2% target. Still, one thing hasn't changed: Warsh is against the Fed carrying a bloated balance sheet and wants the central bank to reduce its financial market footprint.

As recently as October, Mr. Warsh told Fox Business that the Fed should "twe up the balance sheet, take money out of Wall Street."

Broadly speaking, if we have a Fed that is now even more opposed to "money printing," the "debasement" trade is diminished, and "hard" assets like precious metals lose their luster.

The dollar and Treasury yields rose on the news of Warsh's nomination on Friday, but only modestly, signifying that traders aren't dramatically changing their interest rate expectations.

This combination of market moves underscores the fact that the "debasement" trade seen in recent months was not in the Fed's interest or in bonds, but in precious metals.

Indeed, gold was the "world's favorite dollar devaluation hedge" and "long gold" was the world's most crowded trade, according to Bank of America fund managers' survey last month.

## Trump's push to channel crude oil into India won't defy market forces

India, previously a major buyer, only cut off its purchases after Mr. Trump in March imposed a 25% tariff on countries buying Venezuelan oil, despite Mr. Trump's latest effort, Venezuelan crude is unlikely to play a dominant role in Asia's refinery system anytime soon — particularly India's.

NEWS ANALYSIS

REUTERS  
LONDON

President Donald Trump's push to channel U.S. and Venezuelan crude oil into India as part of a broad trade deal will run up against the hard reality of global oil economics.

The U.S. President and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the trade deal following lengthy and often tense negotiations, though details remain limited. Under the deal, the U.S. cut its tariff on imports of Indian goods to 10% from 25%, while Mr. Modi committed to buy more than \$500 billion worth of U.S. energy, technology, agricultural and other goods.

The deal also scores Mr. Trump's readiness to intervene in markets and use U.S. geopolitical muscle to pursue his strategic goals, but the President may find that markets won't play ball.

Venezuela's crude accounted for over half of Venezuela's exports last year as independent refiners snapped up the heavily discounted oil.

But, the administration wants to revitalize Venezuela's oil industry after Washington took effective control of the country's crumbling oil sector, following the U.S. seizure of President Nicolas Maduro's assets.

Second, Trump aims to tighten pressure on Moscow by squeezing Russian crude out of Asia, one of the



Trade partners: The U.S. President and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the trade deal following lengthy and often tense negotiations.

country's last major markets after Western sanctions were imposed on its exports that help to fund Russia's war in Ukraine.

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## Gas turbine crunch may spur clean power uptake

REUTERS  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

A rush by U.S. utilities and tech giants to snap up as many gas turbines as possible to boost local power output is causing a global shortage of gas-power equipment and may spur other power systems to fast-track cleaner alternatives.

The amount of U.S. gas-fired capacity that is under construction has more than doubled from a year ago, according to the U.S. Energy Monitor GEMO data, while the amount in pre-construction has jumped more than fivefold since early 2018.



Expansion mode: The amount of U.S. gas-fired capacity that is under construction has more than doubled from a year ago, according to the U.S. Energy Monitor GEMO data.

This U.S.-led surge in planned gas-fired power capacity has pushed delivery times for new gas turbines into the 2030s, and comes as the price of utility-scale solar farms backed by battery energy storage systems keeps falling in new low.

The combination of rising uncertainty in the gas

supply chain alongside the increased accountability of global gas capacity pipeline at that same development stage has meant that the U.S. has a record share of the global gas power supply pipeline.

Utilities lead demand: Utilities have been the main contractors of new planned capacity, although a number "hyper-actors" including Meta and Microsoft plan to power their data centers from their own gas plants.

Strong policy support for gas-fired power generation in Washington, along with record-high domestic

production of natural gas, has underpinned the appeal of gas-fired power in the U.S. in recent years.

Pledges to cut restrictions on gas exploration on federal lands have also spurred expectations that U.S. gas supplies will continue growing and will remain the most abundant power source available to U.S. utilities and tech firms.

While support for gas power reaches new highs in the U.S., there are signs that enthusiasm for the fuel is dimming elsewhere.

In addition, gas importing countries are wary of becoming reliant on supplies from potentially belligerent trading partners.

Stanley detailed how they saw the "dollar-negative" break in coming, the Morgan Stanley team told clients.

Backsaw currency analysts also reckon dollar risk premia have jumped again this year after the Greenback's yen appreciation, and this has offset other dollar positives from economic and wider market performance.

"The size of the premium is first and foremost a function of confidence in U.S. policy-making," they told analysts.

"The main second-order risk is that dollar weakness spills over with capital outflows and generalised U.S. asset price weakness."

To gauge it, they mea-

sure the dollar against the euro — "the main anti-dollar" — and look how far it diverges from relative real 10-year yields. And that showed a premium of as much as 5% had re-emerged, compared with roughly 2% in April last year.

The premium was "wide but, by historical standards, not extreme," they wrote.

Reinforcing that view, one month implied volatility in the euro-dollar pair spiked midweek last week to its highest since last May and close to 10%.

Warsh's nomination as new Fed Chair — and a perception that he may not be aligned with Trump's demands to hike current interest rates above other candidates — may ease pressure for now.

REUTERS  
LONDON

The year is already so far gone that many in markets barely have time to digest one seismic news event from Washington before another one hits, but a dollar risk premium gap has opened up for rebuilding regardless — most clearly in last week's sudden swoon.

Like all attempts by Wall Street to model measures of risk, there are many different ways to also and even what a dollar risk premium might look like and even what it might mean.

A weakening exchange rate, by itself, may be perfectly reasonable and warranted. But sometimes pricing thrives up obvious anomalies that raise red flags.



Money matters: A weakening exchange rate, by itself, may be perfectly reasonable and warranted, but it may not be.

But it has reemerged after the fresh geopolitical, trade and federal Reserve independence worries of 2018 so far.

At last year's were on, that recalled market behavior appeared to normalize again to some degree.

trade reset. The greenback nosedived again to four-year lows against the euro and other European currencies last week and recoiled against Japan's yen after U.S. authorities pointedly checked dollar-denominated rates on the market.

The latter move was read as a warning about intervention to weaken the dollar more broadly.

Once again, a risk premium seemed to reappear and the euro surged up to a high of \$1.20 even though the U.S. two-year yield gap had climbed some 20 bps through January.

Writing before Friday's nomination of Kevin Warsh as the next Fed chair also died the dollar ship somewhat, strategists at Morgan

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# What led to the precious metals' crash



**The trigger:** Trump announced Kevin Warsh as his pick for the new Federal Reserve chair. REUTERS

**Reuters**  
ORLANDO

How much of the recent mania for gold and silver was fuelled by U.S. dollar “debasement” fears? Quite a lot, judging by the crash in precious metals on Friday following U.S. President Donald Trump’s announcement of former inflation hawk Kevin Warsh as his pick for the new Federal Reserve chair.

The collapse was truly historic. Platinum and silver posted their biggest one-day losses on record, falling as much as 20% and 30%, respectively, and gold plunged 10% for its steepest fall since 1983.

This partly reflects the level of speculation behind the rapid ascent of precious metals prices in recent months. Silver rose 70% in the first four weeks of the year alone. Yet this momentum-driven spike was seemingly rooted in something real—fears that the U.S. is on a ruinous path of fiscal folly, expanding money supply, and a degraded currency.

Precious metals were a hedge against this, which quickly transformed into a bubble waiting to be popped. All that was needed was a catalyst. Enter Kevin Warsh.

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As a Fed Governor, he was known as a policy “hawk,” worried about the inflationary impact of the Fed’s monetary experiments following the Global Financial Crisis, even as unemployment was high and inflation was a non-issue.

In fact, Mr. Warsh resigned from the Fed Board of Governors in 2011 in protest against the central bank’s “quantitative easing” program, the buying of huge amounts of bonds to hold down long-term rates.

Warsh now agrees with Trump, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Fed Governors Stephen Miran and Christopher Waller that interest rates should be lower, even though inflation remains above the central bank’s 2% target. Still, one thing hasn’t changed. Warsh is against the Fed carrying a bloated balance sheet and wants the central bank to reduce its financial market footprint.

As recently as October, Mr. Warsh told Fox Business that the Fed should “free up the balance sheet, take money out of Wall Street.”

Broadly speaking, if we have a Fed that is now even more opposed to “money printing” the “debasement” trade is diminished, and ‘hard’ assets like precious metals lose their luster.

The dollar and Treasury yields rose on the news of Warsh’s nomination on Friday, but only modestly, signifying that traders aren’t dramatically changing their interest rate expectations.

This combination of market moves underscores the fact that the “debasement” trade seen in recent months was not in the FX market or in bonds, but in precious metals.

Indeed, gold was the “world’s favorite dollar debasement hedge” and “long gold” was the world’s most crowded trade, according to Bank of America fund managers’ survey last month.

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- **Immediate trigger / तात्कालिक कारण**

- The crash in precious metals followed an announcement by **Donald Trump** naming **Kevin Warsh** as his choice for the next chair of the **Federal Reserve**.
- कीमती धातुओं में गिरावट तब आई जब **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने **केविन वॉर्श** को **फेडरल रिज़र्व** के नए चेयर के रूप में नामित करने की घोषणा की।

- **Why markets reacted / बाज़ार ने प्रतिक्रिया क्यों दी**

- Warsh is viewed as an **inflation hawk** (supports tighter monetary policy, higher interest rates).
- वॉर्श को **महँगाई पर सख्त रुख (inflation hawk)** रखने वाला माना जाता है।
- His nomination revived fears of **higher interest rates for longer**, which is negative for gold and silver.
- इससे लंबे समय तक **ऊँची ब्याज दरों** की आशंका बढ़ी, जो सोना-चाँदी के लिए नकारात्मक है।

- **Scale of the crash / गिरावट का पैमाना**

- The fall was described as **historic**:
  - **Platinum & Silver** plunged around **6% in a day**
  - **Gold** dropped **around 3%** — one of its steepest falls since 1983
- इसे ऐतिहासिक गिरावट बताया गया:
  - **प्लैटिनम व चाँदी ~6%**
  - **सोना ~3%**, 1983 के बाद सबसे तेज़ गिरावटों में से एक

- **Underlying reasons / गहरे कारण**
  - Precious metals had rallied for weeks on **speculation of rate cuts and weaker dollar**.
  - सोना-चाँदी पहले रेट-कट की अटकलों और कमजोर डॉलर की वजह से तेज़ी में थे।
  - When expectations flipped (hawkish Fed outlook), prices corrected sharply.
  - जैसे ही उम्मीदें बदलीं (फेड का सख्त रुख), दाम तेज़ी से टूट गए।
- **Role of U.S. inflation & Fed policy / अमेरिकी महँगाई व फेड नीति की भूमिका**
  - Investors had been betting that inflation would fall and rates would be cut.
  - निवेशक मान रहे थे कि महँगाई घटेगी और ब्याज दरें कम होंगी।
  - Warsh's nomination signalled the opposite: **inflation fight not over**.
  - वॉर्श के नाम से संकेत मिला कि महँगाई से लड़ाई अभी खत्म नहीं।
- **Historical context / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ**
  - As a Fed Governor (2006–2011), Warsh was vocal during the **Global Financial Crisis** period.
  - वॉर्श 2006–2011 में फेड गवर्नर रहे और वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट के दौर में सक्रिय थे।
  - He was known for opposing aggressive bond-buying and ultra-low rates.
  - वे आक्रामक बॉन्ड-खरीद और बहुत कम ब्याज दरों के विरोधी माने जाते थे।
- **Market mechanics / बाज़ार की कार्यप्रणाली**
  - Gold is often a hedge against inflation and uncertainty, but **rising rates increase the opportunity cost** of holding it.
  - सोना महँगाई/अनिश्चितता के खिलाफ हेज है, लेकिन ऊँची ब्याज दरें इसे रखने की लागत बढ़ा देती हैं।
  - Stronger dollar expectations also pressure precious metals.
  - डॉलर मज़बूत होने की उम्मीद से भी कीमती धातुओं पर दबाव पड़ता है।





# MCC brings in 73 changes to the laws of cricket

**Press Trust of India**

LONDON

As many as 73 changes to the laws of cricket, including mandatory completion of the final over of the day in case of fall of a wicket in multi-day matches, have been announced by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of the Laws, with the amendments set to come into effect from October this year.

Announcing the changes on its website, the MCC said the final over in a multi-day match will have to be completed if a wicket has fallen, as not doing so takes “the drama out of the game”.

The MCC has legalised used of laminated bats for “open age cricket rather than just junior cricket” in an attempt to slow the rising costs of bats around the world.

The wicket-keepers will no longer be penalised for having their gloves in front of the stumps when the bowler runs up.

The Law has now changed so that it is only after the ball is released that the wicket-keeper must be wholly behind the stumps.

This brings the wording in line with a fielder’s position,” it added.

## **Bunny hop catch**

Removing the ‘bunny hop catch’, the MCC said fielders going outside boundary can only touch the ball once while airborne, “and then, having done so, to be wholly grounded within the boundary for the rest of the duration of that delivery.”

The MCC said if the fielder parries the ball from outside the boundary to his teammate who is inside

it, and subsequently steps outside, then a boundary will be scored.

The MCC has defined the ‘overthrow’ for the first time as ‘an attempt to direct the ball towards the stumps to stop run-scoring or attempt a run out. A misfield – whether an attempt to stop the ball or pass it to another fielder close to the boundary – should not be treated as an overthrow.”

The fielding side will have a third law on their side to determine which batter is on strike when it comes to deliberate short running.

The ball will be considered “finally settled” when it is in the hands of a fielder or stationary on the ground, said MCC.

“The ball no longer has to be in the bowler’s or the wicketkeeper’s hands to be finally settled,” it said.



Parry from  
outside boundary

Parrying ball from **outside to teammate inside**  
now results in **boundary**

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Prevents  
exploitation

Overthrow  
(definition)

Defined for first time as **attempt to stop run-  
scoring or run-out by directing ball to stumps**

डू अघधूझडूह j H हप्रवक्रडूव हणचह □वघ व्ह णह

Concept clarity  
(Prelims)

Misfield near  
boundary

Misfield/attempt near boundary **not an  
overthrow**

□वक्षमहडूडू हवद श्रवद □हष्ट डू अघधूझणह

Reduces disputes

Short-run  
adjudication

Fielding side gets **third appeal** to decide striker  
in deliberate short run

नरव □डू ड घ टूछघघ हघ □हमष्ट दूरस डूझ लहदघह  
१ हहघ

Procedural clarity

Ball “finally  
settled”

Ball is settled when **in fielder’s hands or  
stationary on ground**

एह □हष्ट डू णक रव्वनरवह हघ स घ णहडूहघ  
'दूहष्ट'

Impacts  
run/overthrow  
calls

Bowler/keeper  
possession

Ball **need not be** in bowler’s/keeper’s hands to  
be settled

'दूहष्ट' णहडूडूश्रडू □वघघहहघ डू णक रव्वनर  
न च घह णह

Faster decisions

DEAL VALUES THE ENLARGED ENTITY AT \$1.25 TRILLION

# SpaceX acquires xAI in record-setting deal

LOREN GRUSH,  
ED LUDLOW &  
LIANA BAKER  
February 3

**ELON MUSK IS COMBINING** SpaceX and xAI in a deal that values the enlarged entity at \$1.25 trillion, as the world's richest man looks to fuel his increasingly costly ambitions in artificial intelligence and space exploration. The acquisition of xAI was announced in a statement on SpaceX's website signed by Musk and confirming a *Bloomberg* report earlier.

The deal gives SpaceX a valuation of \$1 trillion, and xAI a value of \$250 billion, people familiar with the matter said. The combined company's valuation was announced to employees in a memo on Monday, some of the people said earlier.

SpaceX said it acquired xAI to "form the most ambitious, vertically-integrated innovation engine on (and off) Earth, with AI, rockets, space-based internet, direct-to-mobile device communications and

## LANDMARK MERGER

■ Deal creates a vertically integrated AI-space platform

■ xAI strengthens SpaceX's data, compute and AI capabilities

■ Move aimed at scaling capital-intensive AI development



■ Supports Musk's long-term ambitions in AI and space exploration

■ Highlights rising cost and competition in frontier AI

the world's foremost real-time information and free speech platform."

The company is still expecting to hold an initial public offering later this year, one of the people said. SpaceX had been planning an IPO that could raise as much as \$50 billion, in what would be the biggest initial share sale to date.

The combined firm's shares are expected to be worth \$526.59 each, according to some of the people, who asked not to be identified as the information isn't public. The deal is all stock, one of the people said.

The deal brings together two of the largest closely held companies in the world. xAI raised funds at a \$230 billion valuation

## US space stocks rise

**US SPACE STOCKS** rose on Tuesday after Elon Musk announced the merger of SpaceX and xAI in a deal that valued the combined entity at \$1.25 trillion. Musk estimates that within two to three years, the most cost-effective way to generate AI compute will be in space, as Big Tech companies spend hundreds of billions in the pursuit of AI, a theoretical milestone where machines could surpass human capabilities in cognitive tasks. **REUTERS**

in January, while SpaceX was set to go ahead with a share sale in December at a valuation of about \$800 billion. Terms of the offering including price and valuation weren't disclosed in the statement on SpaceX's website.

**BLOOMBERG**

# Walmart Becomes First Retailer to Reach \$1 Trillion Valuation

---

Aspect

Details (English + हिंदी)

Company

Walmart / वॉलमार्ट

Achievement

First retailer globally to reach **\$1 trillion market valuation** / \$1 ट्रिलियन बाजार मूल्य तक पहुंचने वाला पहला रिटेलर  
पहला रिटेलर जो वैश्व स्तर पर \$1 ट्रिलियन बाजार मूल्य तक पहुंचने वाला पहला रिटेलर

Date

4 February 2026

Sector

Retail + Technology / रिटेल + टेक्नोलॉजी

Country

United States / संयुक्त राज्य



## Parameter

Share price growth (1 year)

S&P 500 growth (same period)

Stock growth (last decade)

S&P 500 (last decade)

Valuation milestone

## Data (EN + HI)

~26% increase / चणक्रण 26प  
आरु

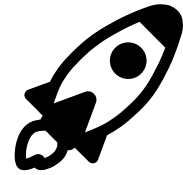
~16प णचणक्रण 16प

~468प णचणक्रण 468प

~264%

Crossed \$1 trillion





# Haven-1 – World's First Private Space Station

Aspect	Details (English + हिंदी)
Space Station	Haven-1 / हैवन-1
Status	World's first <b>fully private space station</b> / दुनिया का पहला पूर्णतः निजी अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन अन्य शब्दों में कहें तो
Developed by	Vast Space
Country	United States / संयुक्त राज्य
Orbit	Low Earth Orbit (LEO) / अंतरिक्ष में निचला पृथ्वी परिकार
Expected Launch	Early 2027 (earlier planned 2026) / लगभग 2027
Launch Vehicle	Falcon 9 (single launch)

## Background & Context (Post-ISS Era)

Aspect	Explanation (EN + HI)
ISS Status	<u>International Space Station</u> nearing end of life
ISS Deorbit Plan	Around 2030 / लगभग 2030
Global Shift	Govt-led → privately operated stations / सरकारी से निजी मॉडल
Role of Haven-1	Front-runner in post-ISS transition / ISS के बाद अग्रणी

## Design & Technical Features

Feature	Details
Design	Compact & modular / कॉम्पैक्ट और मॉड्यूलर
Launch Method	Single-piece launch (not multi-module)
Assembly Status	Core structures already assembled
Risk Strategy	Uses proven systems instead of new tech
Development Speed	Faster due to existing technologies



Component

Crew & Life Support

Power & Critical Systems

Workforce

Reliability

Details (EN + HI)

Crew Dragon capsule

Flight-proven SpaceX systems

Former engineers from NASA & SpaceX

Reduced risk, shorter timelines



# Tripura Tops National Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

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Aspect	Details (English + हिंदी)
Index Name	Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0
Topping State	Tripura / त्रिपुरा
Year	2026
Governance Level	Gram Panchayat / ग्राम पंचायत
Focus	Grassroots governance / जमीनी स्तर का शासन

### Top National Rankings (PAI 2.0)

Rank	Gram Panchayat	District	Score
1st	Jugal Kishore Nagar VC	Sepahijala	88.44
3rd	South Nalchar GP	Sepahijala	88.14
4th	Chesrimai GP	Sepahijala	87.85

## Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily

**quiz:** 1. This game led to mass public gatherings in 2016.

**Ans: Pokemon Go**

2. This photo filter became the defining trend of 2016. **Ans:**

**Dog filter**

3. This actor received his first Oscar in 2016. **Ans: Leonardo**

**DiCaprio**

4. 2016 marked 10 years since the launch of this microblogging service and Google acquiring this platform.

**Ans: Twitter; YouTube**

5. Groups froze in stylised poses in this trend. **Ans:**

**Mannequin challenge**

6. This person was elected President of the U.S. in 2016. The U.K. voted to leave the EU in this referendum. **Ans: Donald**

**Trump; Brexit**

7. This telecom launch in 2016 changed market dynamics.

This economic move faced backlash. This sitting woman

Chief Minister died after prolonged hospitalisation. **Ans:**

**Reliance Jio; Banknote demonetisation; Jayalithaa**

Visual: Name this social media platform. **Ans: TikTok**

**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan| Anisa Haque| Sukdev Shet|

Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya



# Today's quiz

## Vighnesh P. Venkitesh



### QUESTION 1

Starting off with an easy one, name the four grand slam tournaments.



### QUESTION 2

What is a golden slam?



### QUESTION 3

Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic are considered the 'big three' of tennis. Who among them has not completed the golden slam?



### QUESTION 4

Name the first male and female players to complete calendar grand slams in the open era.



### QUESTION 5

Who was the first male player to complete a golden slam?



### Visual question:

Name this player who was the first ever to win a golden slam, and the only one to achieve it in a calendar year. FILE PHOTO

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2024-06-21 at 10:00 AM

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### Part-6 Governor & Com, High Court

2024-06-20 at 10:00 AM

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### Part-6 Governor & Com Class-2

2024-06-13 at 11:00 AM

[Watch Now](#)

### Part-6 Governor & COM

2024-06-12 at 11:00 AM

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### Part-5 Supreme Court Class-2 & Part-6 Governor

2024-06-11 at 11:00 AM

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### Part-5 Supreme Court

2024-06-08 at 11:00 AM

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## What you'll get

- Coverage of all major national and international events from **January 2025 to March 2026**
- **20 high-priority topics** explained in depth so you can handle both factual and analytical questions

### Topics to be Covered:

1. **Government Schemes (Flagship + New Launches)**
2. **Budget & Taxation**
3. **Economic Indicators**
4. **Reports & Indices (India's Rank)**
5. **International Affairs (India + Major Summits)**
6. **Science & Tech**
7. **Environment & Ecology**
8. **Polity & Constitution Updates**
9. **Awards & Honours**
10. **Sports**
11. **Banking & Financial Market**
12. **Defence**
13. **Appointments & Resignations**
14. **Books & Authors**
15. **Important Days & Themes**
16. **Government Committees**
17. **States in News**
18. **India Rankings & Lists**
19. **Sports + Govt Sports Schemes**
20. **Miscellaneous Must-Do**

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.

---

# Word of the day

## **Flagellation:**

beating as a source of erotic or religious stimulation; beating with a whip or strap or rope as a form of punishment

---

**Synonyms:** flogging, lashing, tanning, whipping

---

**Usage:** *After failing to deliver the parcel, he engaged in a mental session of self-flagellation.*

---

## **Pronunciation:**

newsth.live/flagellationpro

---

## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /ˌflædʒəˈleɪʃən/

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Thank you 😊

