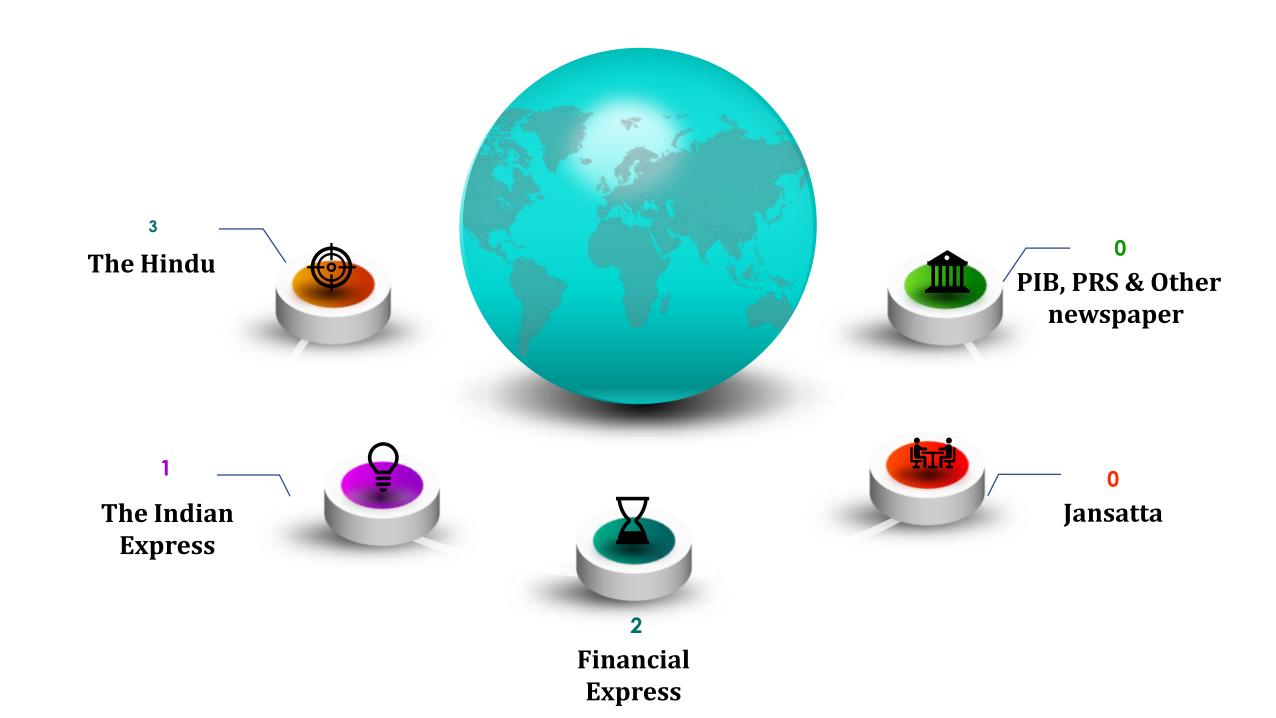
Daily Current Affairs



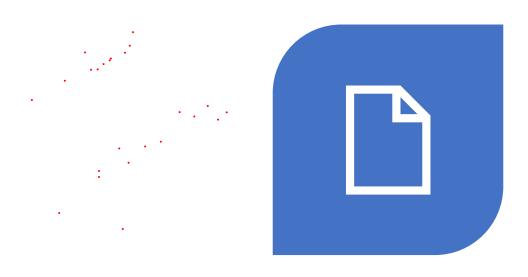








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PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ

• "Happiness is not just the goal of education—it is the fuel. A happy student learns better, dreams bigger, and grows stronger."

WORLD IN PAGE 14



Controversy crupts over Adoor's remarks STATES & PAGE I





Trump to help end war

The race for the Catholic vote in Kerala Nuns' arrest puts every party on high alert



INSURE.

More roles for women in armed forces: Rajnath

the forces: is PARE 4

Bangladesh Navy has arrested 48

India hits back as Trump steps up tariff war Tariffs 'paid by India' will be substantially raised as it keeps profiting from Russian oil: U.S. President MEA says U.S. 'actively encouraged' Russian imports trade with Russia 'affordable energy costs' for Indian consumer 'affordable energy costs' for Indian consumer

encourage such trade pre-viously, both the European Union and the U.S. canti-T.C.A. Sharad Bachavan

ess than a week after he announced a ter he announced a porte from India "phis a penalty" U.R. President Donald Trump on Monday once again raised the issue of India buying oil from Russia and profitting from It. He stated that he would be "substantially" raising Trump's remarks
"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for be "substantially" raising the tariff "paid by India to the USA". It is important to note

It is important in note that such traffic are paid by importers in the U.S., railse et than the country on the traffic country on the U.S. and the country of the U.S. and the

much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Mar-lest for big profits, Mr. Trump posted on the so-cial network Tyoth Social, "They don't cars how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Biesian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially

this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff poid by india to the USA, latc!*
The Ministry of Ricernal Affairs componed to the statement, saying that the U.S. had previously "as-tively encouraged" the limport of Rimslan ed.
"India has been targeted by the United States and by Example 1999.

importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict." the official spokesperson of the Ministry of Esternal Affairs said. "In fact, India began importing from Bus-sis because traditional sup-plies were diverted to Ru-rope after the outbreak of the conflict. The United States at that time actively encouraged such imports

global energy markets stability." The MEA's statement ad-

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The MRA said that the Kurupean Union in 3024 had a bilateral trade of ear% billion in 3024 had a bilateral trade of ear% billion in goods with trade in service estimated at GP2 billion in 2023. The U.S. President had trade in service estimated on the order that advantages are country. The U.S. President had been been serviced that advantages are considered to order that advantages are considered to the order that advantages are considered to the content of the considered to the content of the con

Commerce and Industry Plyush Goyal had informed both Houses of Parliament that the government was "studying the implica-tions" of Mr. Toump's annumcement, consulting all the relevant domestic stakeholders, and would "take all steps necessary to secure our national interest".

Trade with Russia "This is significantly more than India's total trade with Russia that year or subsequently," the MEA added, "European imports of LNG liquefied natural

gas] in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 mn

record of 15.21 mit tonnes in 2012?

Europe's trade with Rus-sia helodes not just energy, but also fertilizers, min-precises, eleminals, ion and steel and machin-ery and transport equip-ment, the statement said.

States is concerned, it con-tinues to import from flue

palladium for its KV [oleo-ric vehicle [industry, fertil-izers as well as chemicals," the MEA noted.

"In this background, the tangeting of India is unjusti-fied and unreasonable," it added. "Like any major sconomy, India will take all presented in an analysis of the con-traction of the control of the con-trol of t

The 38% tariff places in dia at a relative disadvan dia at a relative disadvan-tage compared to some of its competitors such as Vietnam, indonesia, Mexi-co, and the Philippines. Mr. Trump's new tariffs are expected to take effect from August 7.

INDIA AND THE TRUMP ERR

Siraj sizzles as India pulls off a dramatic win at The Oval | Opposition disrupts

Monday, ending the mai-den Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series at 2-2.

After 25 days of riveting action, the best was saved for the last as Shubman Gill's men rode on Mohammed Straj's synaational spell to pull off a remarka-ble victors

ble victory.
Chasing a target of 374,
the hosts required 35 ruis
with four wickous in hand
on Day Flor. England was
looking for a Year sarius
win against India at home
after a gap of seven years
it had last won 4-1 in 2016.
Bridina proved a fothal
fridma proved a fothal

combination as the victors tasted their third success at the locate venue, the pre-vious ones coming in 1971 and 2021.

and 2021.

If was a limits that for an indian team in transition, but the young side showed beart and character as it. fought back from tough situations to share the Siraj, who sent down

more than 1,000 deliveries in the series, sparkled on an overcast morning as india began a new ara in Sirat was named Player

Siraj was named Player-of-the Match for his nine-wicker haul in the Test while Gill and Harry Brook were adjudged Player-of-the-series for their teams.



Jharkhand's ex-CM and tribal leader Shibu Soren dies

Former thankhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Makit Morcha (JMM) co-founder Shibu Soren passed away in Delhi on

Monday. He was 81.
Mr. Soren had been un-dergoing treatment for kid-ney related problems at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi hir more than a month. His son, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant So in a post on social media

*Respected Dishom Gu-"Respected Dishom Gu-ruji has left us all....] have become sharaya Iserol to-dos," Mr. Hemate said.

Ise co-founded the JMM along with A.S. hoy and Bl-wife Kalpans Roiren, Mr. Hemant Irina, down as party workers raised sle-gom hailing this father, who

played a key role in the

played a key role in the creation of hurchand. Talking to presupersons in Delta, Mr. Hermant de-scribed his father as a 'geart man.' "He was like a protective shade for hurchand and the tribate. That shade has left us today, We will al-ied to the control of the Chief Minister said, adding that Mr. Soren's learney that Mr. Soren's legacy would live on: Mr. Soren was born on

January D. 1944 in Nemra village of undivided filhar, which now comes under Ramgarh district of fharkhand.

-

(89.44-2028) and Santhal Pargane regions.
He served as Chief Mi-The served as Chief Mi-nister of Bharkhand three times, but never complet-ed a full term. He was elec-ed several times to the Lok Sabba from Dumka. As a key figure in the United Progressive Alliance go-vernment, he also served as Union Coal Ministre.

Lauders entiting across-party lines paid tribute to Mr. Auren. President Drou-paid Marrus, Prime Mini-ter Nariondra Modi, Loader-of the Opjustian in the atid. Congress president Mailikarjus Kharge vistred the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and paid tributes to the veteran urbal lesaler. Mr. Murrum aid his de-mise was a big loss in the charmismed the tosses of

championed the cause of tribal identity and forma-tion of the State of Jhark-hand," she said on X.

hand," she said on X.
Condoling the death,
Mr. Modf said in a post.
'Shri Shibu Soire, il was a
grassroota leader who rose
through the ranks of public
life with unwavering dedication to the people. He
along the public the said of the people. Paying tribute to Mr. So-ren, harkhand's first Chief Minister and the ren, that kname's first chief Minister and the current Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Bab-ulal Marsandi said his jou-ney was filled with arrag-gle. " He was a social reformer and RIP always

respected him," Mr. Marun summunilles, the poor and downtrodden."

"A strong voice of the tribat seriery, Sovenij-fought for their rights and interests throughout his life. His role in the creation of fharkhand will always be remembered," Mr. Gandhi and

respected littin," Mr. Manni di said.
Rushtriya Jarutis Dai (Qiji) chief Lahi Prasad and his son Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leasker of the Opposition in the lithar As-sembly, said his demise would be an irreparable loss for politics in Bark. It was a second of the con-tribution and worked rugether." Mr. Prasad said. rimembered," Mr. Gandhi-snid.
Union Home Minister Arnit Shah, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Kerala Chief Minister Pina-rayi Vijayan, Bihar Chief Minister Shizh Kumar, and Meghalaya Chief Minister Contad & Sangma con-doled the death. er," Mr. Prazad said. The Jharkhand govern ment has declared three day State mourning from

August 4 to 6.
His last rites would be His last rites would be performed in his native vil-lage. Nemra on Tuesday. Mr. Soren is survived by wife Rupi Soren, som He-mant Soren and Basant So-ren, and daughter Anjah Soren.

REFORMER TO ICOR

Lok Sabha, demands discussion on SIR

ion on Monday with Opposition parties disrupting the Lok Subha over de-mands for a discussion on the special intensive revi-sion (GIR) of electoral rolls

in Bihar.
When the House con-vened in the morning, Lok-Sabha Speaker Om Birla began proceedings with the Question Hour, Howev-er, the Opposition mem-bers disrupted and began recovering.

proceedings of the processing the proce the members had any is sue, they could meet him for a discussion but allow the Question Hour to proceed as many important is-sues are raised during the time to which the govern-

time to which the govern-ment replies. "I will give each of you arough time to rates your assues like I did in the past, but pleans allow the House to run," he said adjourn-ing the toolse fill 2 p.m. too the Opposition House of Opposition Mahul Gader-hi, had last week written to the Speaker weeking a de-

the Speaker seeking a de-bate on the SIR. Shortly after the ad-

journment, around 11:30 a.m., the Speaker met Opposition floor leaders in a bid to break the deadlock.

Will be compelled to pass Bills amid protests Rijiju

SEW HELSH The Contro will be compelle to press for the passage of on Monday, as the Oop remained adament on their demand for a debate on the

find SIR draft roll hard to compare

SWINDLY 2024 to PAUE 8

When the House read When the House reac-sembled at 2 p.m., Opposi-tion MPs, including those from the Congress were again on their feet, raising stogaus and holding pla-

Sports Bills
Illurative juveta Party MP
jagdambika Pat, who was
in the chuic said two key
sports Bills were listed for
discussion and justice
would not be done to bid to break the deardisck.

However, the talks disspectagescone if the talks disspectagescone if the talks disportagescone if the talks disported in the spectagescone in the talks of the spectagescone in the talks of the spectagescone in the spectage in the disported in the special talks of the spectage in the s

India hits back as Trump steps up tariff war

Tariffs 'paid by India' will be substantially raised as it keeps profiting from Russian oil: U.S. President

MEA says U.S. 'actively encouraged' Russian imports since war in Ukraine, points at EU's trade with Russia

It adds that Russian oil imports are to ensure 'affordable energy costs' for Indian consumer

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan NEW DELHI

ess than a week after he announced a 25% tariff on imports from India "plus a penalty", U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday once again raised the issue of India buying oil from Russia and profiting from it. He stated that he would be "substantially" raising the tariff "paid by India to the USA".

It is important to note that such tariffs are paid by importers in the U.S., rather than the country on which the tariffs are levied.

The Indian government hit back at Mr. Trump's statements and also criticism from European countries on India's trade with Russia, saying that such "targeting of India" was "unjustified and unreasonable". In a statement, the government pointed out that not only did the U.S.

encourage such trade previously, both the European Union and the U.S. continue to actively trade with Russia at levels significantly higher than India's."

Trump's remarks

"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits," Mr. Trump posted on the social network Truth Social. "They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA. [sic]"

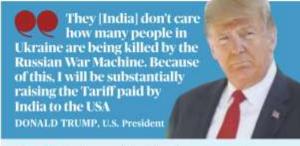
The Ministry of External Affairs responded to the statement, saying that the U.S. had previously "actively encouraged" the import of Russian oil.

"India has been targeted by the United States and the European Union for

importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said. "In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict. The United States at that time actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability."

The MEA's statement added that India's oil imports from Russia are meant to ensure "predictable and affordable energy costs" for the Indian consumer.

"They are a necessity compelled by the global market situation," it said. "However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion."



It is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion MEA STATEMENT

The MEA said that the European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of €67.5 billion in goods with Russia, in addition to a trade in services estimated at €17.2 billion in 2023.

The U.S. President had on July 31 signed an executive order that authorised a 25% tariff on imports from India.

A day earlier, he had posted on Truth Social that he would be imposing this tariff plus a penalty "because their [India's] tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious nonmonetary trade barriers of any country".

Apart from this, he also cited India's energy and military equipment purchases from Russia as an irritant.

Following this announcement, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal had informed both Houses of Parliament that the government was "studying the implications" of Mr. Trump's announcement, consulting all the relevant domestic stakeholders, and would "take all steps necessary to secure our national interest".

Trade with Russia

"This is significantly more than India's total trade with Russia that year or subsequently," the MEA added. "European imports of LNG [liquefied natural gas] in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 mn tonnes, surpassing the last record of 15.21 mn tonnes in 2022."

Europe's trade with Russia includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment, the statement said.

"Where the United States is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV [electric vehicle] industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," the MEA noted.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable," it added. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security."

The 25% tariff places India at a relative disadvantage compared to some of its competitors such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines. Mr. Trump's new tariffs are expected to take effect from August 7.

INDIA AND THE TRUMP ERA

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'REJECT THREATS'

» PAGE 4

1. Background

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on Indian imports, citing India's continued oil imports from Russia.
- Accused India of:
 - Profiting by reselling Russian oil at higher prices
 - Ignoring the Ukraine war and humanitarian concerns

2. India's Response

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rebutted strongly:
 - Highlighted European Union and U.S. themselves continue trade with Russia, including oil and critical materials.
 - Noted that India's imports were:
 - For affordable energy for Indian consumers
 - A market-driven necessity, not strategic alignment
- Called the U.S. targeting of India "unjustified and unreasonable"

3. Trade Facts & Figures

- EU-Russia trade in 2024: €67.5 billion in goods + €17.2 billion in services
- India-Russia LNG imports in 2024: 16.5 million tonnes (vs. 15.21 million in 2022)
- India imports not just oil but also:
 - Fertilizers
 - Palladium (for EVs)
 - Nuclear fuel (e.g., uranium hexafluoride)

4. Trump's Tariff Remarks

Trump posted on Truth Social:

"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil... I will substantially raise the tariff paid by India to the USA."

- Signed executive order for 25% tariff on July 31, 2025
- Tariffs expected to come into effect August 7, 2025

Trade Snapshot (Goods & Services – 2024)

- Total U.S.–Russia trade (goods + services) fell to around \$5.2 billion in 2024—a 25.8% drop from 2023 United States Trade Representative +11.
- Goods trade stood at approximately \$3.5 billion, with U.S. exports to Russia at \$528.3 million, down 11.8%, and imports at \$3.0 billion, down 34.2% United States Trade Representative.
- The goods trade deficit narrowed to about \$2.48 billion Census.gov .
- Services trade amounted to roughly \$1.6 billion, with exports at \$1.3 billion (up 3.9%) and imports at \$384 million (down 35.9%), leading to a surplus of \$873 million United States Trade Representative.

Category	Value / Direction
Total Trade (2024)	~\$5.2 billion ↓
U.S. Goods Exports (2024)	~\$528 million ↓
U.S. Goods Imports (2024)	~\$3.0 billion ↓
Trade Deficit (Goods, 2024)	~\$2.48 billion ↓
Services Trade Surplus	~\$873 million ↑
2025 YTD Trade (to May)	~\$2.32 billion ↑
Major Sanctions	Uranium ban, oil/gas tariffs

Q. With reference to recent India-U.S. trade tensions, consider the following statements:

- 1. The U.S. imposed a 25% tariff on Indian imports due to India's imports of Russian oil.
- 2. India's LNG imports from Russia in 2024 declined compared to 2022.
- 3. The EU has stopped all trade in goods and services with Russia post the Ukraine war.
- 4. India cited affordable energy costs as the reason for its continued trade with Russia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Jharkhand's ex-CM and tribal leader Shibu Soren dies

Amit Bhelari

PATNA

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) cofounder Shibu Soren passed away in Delhi on Monday. He was 81.

Mr. Soren had been undergoing treatment for kidney-related problems at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi for more than a month. His son, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, announced the death in a post on social media platform X.

"Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all... I have become *shunya* [zero] today," Mr. Hemant said.

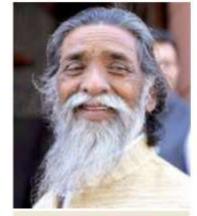
Accompanied by his wife Kalpana Soren, Mr. Hemant broke down as party workers raised slogans hailing his father, who played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand.

Talking to presspersons in Delhi, Mr. Hemant described his father as a "great man".

"He was like a protective shade for Jharkhand and the tribals. That shade has left us today. We will always remember him," the Chief Minister said, adding that Mr. Soren's legacy would live on.

Mr. Soren was born on January 11, 1944 in Nemra village of undivided Bihar, which now comes under Ramgarh district of Iharkhand.

He co-founded the JMM along with A.K. Roy and Binod Bihari Mahto in 1973. The JMM soon became the primary political voice for the demand for a separate tribal State and got support across the Chotanagpur



SHIBU SOREN (1944-2025)

and Santhal Pargana regions.

He served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times, but never completed a full term. He was elected several times to the Lok Sabha from Dumka. As a key figure in the United Progressive Alliance government, he also served as Union Coal Minister.

Leaders cutting across party lines paid tribute to Mr. Soren. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge visited the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and paid tributes to the veteran tribal leader.

Ms. Murmu said his demise was a big loss in the space of social justice. "He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the State of Jharkhand," she said on X.

Condoling the death, Mr. Modi said in a post: "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden."

"A strong voice of the tribal society, Sorenji fought for their rights and interests throughout his life. His role in the creation of Jharkhand will always be remembered," Mr. Gandhi said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma condoled the death.

Paying tribute to Mr. Soren, Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and the current Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Babulal Marandi said his journey was filled with struggle. " He was a social reformer and BJP always respected him," Mr. Marandi said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad and his son Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said his demise would be an irreparable loss for politics in Jharkhand. "We have been friends and worked together," Mr. Prasad said.

The Jharkhand government has declared threeday State mourning from August 4 to 6.

His last rites would be performed in his native village Nemra on Tuesday. Mr. Soren is survived by wife Rupi Soren, sons Hemant Soren and Basant Soren, and daughter Anjali Soren.

REFORMER TO ICON

» PAGE 6



Period	Key Events / Rulers / Culture	Details 🗇
Prehistoric Era	Stone Age settlements	Evidence of early human settlements in Chotanagpur plateau – cave paintings, tools found in Hazaribagh & Singhbhum.
Ancient Period (c. 1000 BCE – 1200 CE)	Mahajanapada & Maurya rule	 Region part of Magadha Mahajanapada. Maurya Empire extended here during Ashoka's reign. Buddhism and Jainism influence evident.
Gupta Period (320– 550 CE)	Cultural development	 Region came under Gupta control. Flourishing of art, temple architecture, and Sanskrit inscriptions.
Medieval Period (1200–1700 CE)	Nagvanshi & Chero rulers	 Nagvanshi Dynasty ruled large parts of Chotanagpur. Chero dynasty in Palamu region. Conflicts with Mughal armies; Aurangzeb's invasion of Palamu (1660s) notable.
Early Modern Period (1700–1857)	Tribal Rebellions	 British East India Company began control via Bengal Presidency. Chuar rebellion, Kol uprising (1831–32), Santhal rebellion (1855–56) against British oppression and land alienation.
1857 Revolt	Contribution in 1st War of Independence	 Local heroes like Thakur Vishwanath Shahdeo, Pandey Ganpat Rai, Sheikh Bhikhari, and Tikait Umrao Singh led uprisings.

Post-1857 – Freedom Struggle	Nationalist Movements	 Birsa Munda (1875–1900): Led the Ulgulan (Great Tumult) against British; became tribal folk hero. Active participation in Non-Cooperation, Quit India Movements.
Post-Independence (1947-2000)	Demand for Separate State	 Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founded by Shibu Soren. Long movement for tribal rights, language recognition, economic autonomy.
State Formation	Formation of Jharkhand	 - 15th November 2000: Carved out of southern Bihar, becoming India's 28th state. - Date coincides with Birsa Munda's birth anniversary.
Modern Period (2000– Present)	Political & Socio- economic developments	 Rise of tribal leaders like Babulal Marandi, Shibu Soren, Hemant Soren. Rich in mineral resources (coal, iron, mica). Faces Naxalite challenges and tribal land rights issues.

Rebellion	Year	Leaders	Significance
Chuar Rebellion	Late 18th century	Tribal Zamindars	Revolt against British revenue policies.
Kol Uprising	1831–32	Budhu Bhagat	Against moneylenders and British land laws.
Santhal Rebellion	1855–56	Sidhu, Kanhu, Chand, Bhairav	One of the largest tribal rebellions; led to Santhal Parganas Act.
Birsa Munda's Ulgulan	1899–1900	Birsa Munda	Revolt for tribal autonomy, land rights; led to Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908.

1. Personal Background

- Born: January 11, 1944, in Nemra village, undivided Bihar (now Ramgarh district, Jharkhand).
- Belonged to Santhal tribal group.
- Famously called "Dishom Guru" (respected tribal teacher/leader).

2. Social Reform Work

- Started his activism in 1962 against moneylending exploitation in tribal areas.
 - Encouraged tribals to cut paddy grown on lender-occupied lands.
 - Tribal women guarded fields with bows and arrows.
- Organised informal schooling for tribal children.
- Fought for land rights, social justice, and tribal empowerment.

3. Political Career

- Co-founded Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in 1973 with A.K. Roy and Vinod Bihari Mahto.
- Key role in Jharkhand statehood movement.
- Became JMM president after death of Nirmal Mahato (1987).
- Elected multiple times to Lok Sabha from Dumka.

4. Positions Held

- Chief Minister of Jharkhand:
 - Served three times, but never completed a full term.
- Union Cabinet Minister (Coal Ministry under UPA).
- Health issues led to transfer of party leadership to his son Hemant Soren in April 2025.

5. Controversies

- Involved in the JMM bribery scandal (1993) accused of accepting bribes to support P.V. Narasimha
 Rao government during a no-confidence motion.
- Despite legal issues, remained a respected leader among tribals.

6. Death and Tributes

- Died on August 5, 2025, aged 81, due to kidney-related issues.
- Treatment at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi.
- National leaders paid tribute, including:
 - President Droupadi Murmu
 - PM Narendra Modi
 - Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Amit Shah
- 3-day state mourning in Jharkhand.
- Final rites held in his native village Nemra.

Topic	Relevance
Tribal Movements in India	JMM as part of sub-national tribal identity and rights movement
PESA Act, 1996	Empowerment of local tribal governance in Scheduled Areas
Ethics: Leadership	Shibu Soren's journey from reformer to political icon reflects grassroots leadership
Jharkhand State Formation (2000)	Shibu Soren a pivotal figure in statehood demand
JMM Bribery Case	Significant parliamentary corruption case in India's political history

Q. With reference to the life and contributions of Shibu Soren, consider the following statements:

- He was a co-founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand more than once.
- 2. He played a central role in opposing moneylending practices in tribal areas of Jharkhand.
- 3. He was the first Chief Minister of Jharkhand to complete a full 5-year term.
- 4. He was known by the sobriquet "Dishom Guru" among tribal communities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

13

Korea, U.S. to meet as trade deal issues unresolved



NESSY ANALYSES

Bentera

As South Rorea and the United States prepare for

As south Korea and the United States prepare for a summit of their leaders, cyclic left unresolved a summit of their leaders, cyclic left unresolved disputes between the key allies and trade partners, six former negotiators and experts said. Pensident Dombil Trump may use the summit with counterpart Lee las Myting to seek more surveinments, left sain of the slead, while non-tail investments, left sain of the slead, while non-tail surveinments, left sain of the slead, while non-tail surveinments and the slead summit date has been disclosed, Brough Trump lead week gave a disclosed, Brough Trump lead week gave a timeframe of two weeks.

The absence of a written agree underpinning last week's talks could open the way for disputes, with some differences already

merging in the two sides; accounts of the deal Key among these was Sunday's depial by a South Korean Presidential adviser of U.S. claims that it would take 90% of the profit from project investments of \$350 billion by South Korea. which also agreed to open up its demestic rics been efficiently scrapped," warned Choi took young, a former chief negatiator for the Korea-U.S. Free trade deat, signed in 2007, "And

+ scaled down
Last week's pact was scaled down from fouth

Last week's pact was scaled down from South Korea's previous plans for a package deal on trade, security and investment envisioned in this rules up to the autumit between Mr. Trump and the security and respect to the sum of the security o

Face challenges
The allies face challenges in ironing our details of
the fund at upcoming working-level tallor, South
Koroan Finance Minister Koo Yun-chuol tald reporters on Friday. "People say the devil is in the details," he added. In a social media post, Commerce Secretary

Howard Lutnick gave an assurance of "90% of the Howard Littines gave an assistance of "95% shill be profile going to the American people", while White House spokesperson Karoline Loavill said part would give to the U.S. government to help spray debt. But Kim, Predicterial Adviser, and the two sides did not discuss profit distribution during tabs, and South Korea expected the profit to be "printed and the United States."

Tesla's brand loyalty collapsed after Musk backed Trump, data shows

Household vehicle-registration data shows fewer Tesla owners are opting for another one; the EV maker for years had the highest customer loyalty in the industry: Tesla also loses ground in its ability to win over customers from other brands; Tesla sales overall are falling globally, dipping 8% in U.S.

more repeat U.S. customers than ary other major automo-tive brand but its loyalty tive brand but its loyalty, has plunged since CBO Elon Musk endorsed Predi-dent Bonald Trump last ammer, according to data from research firm %4P Global Mobility shared ex-clusively with features. The data, which has not been previously reported, shows Tesla's customar towards neaked in the

shows Tesla's customer boyels y peaked in June 2024, when 72% of Tesla overing hausebades in the corning hausebades in the peaked of the peaked of longist another Tesla, ac-cording to an SAP analysis of which eight another tesla, ac-toring at an SAP analysis of which eight and the Tast indicate; when the transport of the teslation of the Tast indicate; when the peaked of the teslation of teslation of the teslation of the teslation of teslation of teslation of the teslation of te

ger-slashing Department of Government Efficiency in January and started firing thousands of government

workers,
Tesla's U.S. loyalty rate
has since ticked back up to
57.4% in May, the most recent month the S&P data is
available, putting it back



industry-leading brand

loyalty rate started to nosedive in July when Mr. Musk endorsed Mr. Trump following an

assassination attempt in Demondrapia on the

stein, an analyst at

above the industry average and about the same as Toyota but beland Chevorlet and Ford. S&P analyst Tom Libby called it "undustry average levels. "I've never seen this rapid of a decline in such a short pe-riod of time," he said. Teals and Mr. Musk did

not respond to requests for Timing, an issue The timing of Tesla's plung-ing brand loyalty suggests the CRO's involvement in

Morningwar.
Tealar againg model li-neup also faces stiffer com-petition from an array of EVs from legacy automak-ers including General Mo-tures, Hyundat and RNU. The only new model Teala has released since 2020, in triangular Cybertruck, has politics turned off runt

proved a flop despite dreds of thousands of annual sales. On an April sarnings

On an April earnings call, rosal aCPO Vaibhav Ta-naja singled our 'the nega-tive impact of 'vandalizm and unwarranted hestility towards our brand and pe-ople,' but also said there were 'seeveral weeks of less production' when the tompany retooled facts list to preclase a refreshed version of its top-selling Model Y. Mr. Music on the April call said that "absent

macro lasues, we don't see any reduction in demand.

year in Europe, where pu-blic backlash to Music's politicking has been partieu

larly fierce. Mr. Music's increased political activism was "ve-ry bad timing" for Tesla, said Garrett Nelson, an analyst who tracks the EV analysi who tracks the EV maker at CFRA Research, because it came exactly as the company faced height-ened competition from Chinese EV makers and other traditional automac-ers. He said his top con-cerrs for Tesla are its loss of marker bluer and 'what can be done to repair the brand danage."

Levalty nesedives

Testa remains the U.S. elec-tric-vehicle sales leader but tric vehicle raies leader but has seen its dominance erode as Musk last year delved into politics and fe-cused Teela more on deve-loping self-driving technol-opy then on new affordable models for hu

dustry metric because it is "much more expensive" to take new customers from competitors than to retain existing ones, said S&P's Libby. S&P offers some of the

most decaded industric da-

tions to track how comun-ers migrate among brands and models.

From the fourth quarter of 2021 through the third quarter of last year, more than 80% of Tesla-owning households bought anoth

S&P's data also examines another aspect of the auto-motive market: Which brands and models are taktrig customers away from others, and which ones are

Until recently. Tesla was in a different stratosphere than other automotive

nests brand was the next best, acquiring on average one it lost, followed by Kia and Hyundai, which acmost defailed industry dat at on automotive purchas-tal on automotive purchas-tal of the properties of the properties of the pro-tal 50 states on a house-hold-by-household basis. House of the president to the properties of the properties of the president of the pro-tal of the properties of the properties of the president of the pro-tal of the president of the pres

Why India's heat action plans aren't cooling cities

NEWS ANALYSIS

India's punishingly bot summer has east a harsh-light on its efforts to con-tend with entreme heat, with researchers and cam-commercial local. vernments are falling to grapple with the scale and complexity of rising temperatures.

lasts from March to June in lasts from March to June in india, begin early this year-with an unprecedented heatwave in february, fol-lowed by above normal temperatures in March and April, before an early mon-sion season and heavy-rainfall brought temperary relief.



at high or very high risk from extreme heat, the

GIAPS), first introduced in

long-term measures re-main underfunded, un-coordinated or entirely absent.

pres Collaborative (SPC) think tank in March. "But they have no imag-ination of what long-term climate resilience even looks like."

No transformation
More than half of indian
urban and rural districts,
which are home to more
You of the population, or
more than I billion peeple,
are now at high or very
high risk from extreme
heat, according to a May
and by the Council on study by the Council or Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a New Del-

Water (CEEW), a New Del-hi-based think-tank.
The Central government has encouraged local go-vernments to adopt IAN's, with more than 250 cities and districts in 23 hear-prone States devising the plane, although it is not manufatory.

Nine-high risk cities, in-cluding New Delhi, Bho-pal, Kolkata and Varanasi, that were surveyed by SFC reported 150 heat-related measures between 20th and 2022, but most were and struck, includ-waves had struck, includ-ting setting up waser state. ing setting up water sta-tions, changing school schedules and issuing

Advisories.
Redesigning built envi-ronments and other long-term solutions were rate and were focused on healthcare, like training bospital staff or tracking

hospital staff or tracking heat deaths, SPC found. Transformative steps such as erecting elimate-sonative baseing were lar-gely absent, the study said. India's demost and poorest area are often ex-chaled from cooling effort of tree-planting of water be-

dy restoration because of land ownership and infras-tracture challenges, said Mr. Pillai. "You end up with greenery on the out-skirts, not where it's need-

mainly a health time

China's independent oil firms elbow into Iraq's market

NEWS ANALYSIS

China's independent oil companies are campling up operations in trac, invest-ing billions of dollars in OPEC's number two pro-ducer even as some global majors acaled back from a market dominated by Retiweights, Iraq is an oppor-tunity to leverage lower costs and faster develop-ment of projects that may ing's big State-run firms.
Drawn by more lucra-

live contract arrangements, smaller Chinese ments, amaller Chinese producers are in track to double their output in Iraq to \$,00,000 barrels a day by around 2030, according to estimates by executives at four of the firms. For Baghdad, which is

Overseas push With meagre prospects in China's Seate-dominated oil and gas industry, the also seeking to fare global overseas push mirrors a giants, the growing pre-pattern by Chinese firms in



other heavy industries to the control of the contro

becomes more politically statish and Baghidad is keen to attract Chinese as well as Western companies. Iraq wants to boost out-put by more than half to over it million bod by 2029. China's CNPC alone ac-counts for more than half

These smaller firms are nimbler than the big Chi-nese companies and more risk-tolerant than many

agreements — an attempt to accelerate projects after texonMobil and shell scaled back — helped fure Chinese independents.

long-term contracts, said All Abdulenneer at state-run Basea Oil Co...
"They are known for ra-pial project execution, strict adherence to time-knos and a high tolerance for coverating in some settle. contracts based on profit-sharing from fixed-fee

for operating in areas with security challenges," he said. "Doing business with the Chinese is much easier and less complicated, com-pared to Western Smaller Chinese firms

can develop an oilfield in traq in two to three years, faster than the five to 10

Trade offs

risk-folse/aut than many companies of the transport of the companies of the risk variety of the companies of the contact companies of the comp

China's independent oil firms elbow into Iraq's market

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

SINGAPORE/BAGHDAD

China's independent oil companies are ramping up operations in Iraq, investing billions of dollars in OPEC's number two producer even as some global majors scaled back from a market dominated by Beijing's big State-run firms.

Drawn by more lucrative contract arrangements, smaller Chinese producers are on track to double their output in Iraq to 5,00,000 barrels a day by around 2030, according to estimates by executives at four of the firms.

For Baghdad, which is also seeking to lure global giants, the growing presence of the mostly privately-run Chinese players marks a shift as Iraq comes under growing pressure to accelerate projects, according to multiple Iraqi energy officials.

In recent years, Iraq's Oil Ministry had pushed back on rising Chinese control over its oilfields.

For the smaller Chinese firms, managed by veterans of China's State-heavy-weights, Iraq is an opportunity to leverage lower costs and faster development of projects that may be too small for Western or Chinese majors.

Overseas push

With meagre prospects in China's State-dominated oil and gas industry, the overseas push mirrors a pattern by Chinese firms in



Cost conscious: Independents have driven down the industry cost to drill a development well. AP

other heavy industries to find new markets for productive capacity and expertise.

Little-known players including Geo-Jade Petroleum Corp , United Energy Group, Zhongman Petroleum and Natural Gas Group and Anton Oilfield Services Group made a splash last year when they won half of Iraq's exploration licensing rounds.

Executives at smaller Chinese producers say Iraq's investment climate improved as the country becomes more politically stable and Baghdad is keen to attract Chinese as well as Western companies.

Iraq wants to boost output by more than half to over 6 million bpd by 2029. China's CNPC alone accounts for more than half of Iraq's current production at massive fields including Haifaya, Rumaila and West Qurna 1.

Profit sharing

Iraq's shift a year ago to contracts based on profitsharing from fixed-fee agreements – an attempt to accelerate projects after ExxonMobil and Shell scaled back – helped lure Chinese independents.

These smaller firms are nimbler than the big Chinese companies and more risk-tolerant than many companies that might consider investing in the Gulf economy.

Chinese companies offer competitive financing, cut costs with cheaper Chinese labour and equipment and are willing to accept lower margins to win long-term contracts, said Ali Abdulameer at staterun Basra Oil Co..

"They are known for rapid project execution, strict adherence to timelines and a high tolerance for operating in areas with security challenges," he said. "Doing business with the Chinese is much easier and less complicated, compared to Western companies."

Smaller Chinese firms can develop an oilfield in Iraq in two to three years, faster than the five to 10 years for Western firms, Chinese executives said.

"Chinese independents have much lower management costs compared to Western firms and are also more competitive versus Chinese State-run players," said Dai Xiaoping, CEO of Geo-Jade Petroleum, which has five blocks in Iraq. The independents have driven down the industry cost to drill a development well in a major Iraqi oilfield by about half from a decade ago to between \$4 million and \$5 million, Mr. Dai said.

Trade offs

Chinese firms' cheaper projects can come at the expense of Iraq's goal to introduce more advanced technologies. Muwafaq Abbas, former crude operations manager at Basra Oil, expressed concern about transparency and technical standards among Chinese firms, which he said have faced criticism for relying heavily on Chinese staff and relegating Iraqis to lower-paid roles.

AINX

CM

- China's independent oil companies (mostly private) are ramping up operations in Iraq, OP second-largest producer.
- This marks a shift from reliance on State-run Chinese oil majors to smaller, more agile prively players.

2. Strategic Push by Iraq

- Iraq is seeking foreign investments to boost oil output from current levels to over 6 millior barrels/day by 2029.
- Smaller Chinese firms plan to double their output to 5 lakh barrels/day by 2030.
- This comes as Western oil majors like ExxonMobil and Shell scaled back operations.

3. Why Chinese Independents?

- Attracted by:
 - Lucrative long-term contracts
 - Profit-sharing agreements (vs fixed-fee earlier)
 - Lower project costs (development cost halved to \$4–5 million)
 - Faster execution (2–3 years vs. 5–10 for Western firms)
- More flexible, low-margin, and risk-tolerant than large State-owned firms or Western oil giants.

4. Key Chinese Players Involved

- Geo-Jade Petroleum Corp
- United Energy Group
- Zhongman Petroleum and Natural Gas Group
- Anton Oilfield Services Group
 - Won half of Iraq's exploration licensing in 2023

Parameter	Value (USD)	Remarks / Details
Total Bilateral Trade	~\$33.36 bn (FY 2023–24)	India's 5th largest partner; declined from ~\$37.08 b in FY 2022–23 (eoibaghdad.gov.in)
India → Iraq (Exports)	~\$3.26 bn (Calendar 2024)	Key exports: cereals (\$930 m), mineral fuels (\$442 m), meat (\$377 m), pharma (\$220 m) (<u>Trading Economics</u> , <u>Trading Economics</u>)
India ← Iraq (Imports)	~\$29.85 bn (Calendar 2024)	Predominantly crude oil & mineral fuels (~\$29.70 bn); minor items include fruits, fats, chemicals (<u>Trading Economics</u>)
Iraq → India (Oil shipments)	~48.4 mn tonnes in 2024	~27.1% share of Iraq's total crude exports; output for India unchanged YoY (<u>Hellenic Shipping News</u>)
Daily Crude Arrivals	~870,000 bpd (2024); ~860,000 bpd (H1 2025)	Slight drop (~4%) in early 2025, but still India's second-largest supplier after Russia (<u>شفق نيوز</u> , <u>شفق نيوز</u>)
India's Oil Import Ranking	#2 supplier to India	India second after Russia; Iraq accounts for ~28–30% of India's crude import bill (<u>Wikipedia</u> , <u>Zawya</u>)
2025 Procurement Plans	HPCL to increase imports by 43% to ~100k bpd	Matching refinery expansions; IOC is retaining its ~21 mn tonnes/year contract for 2025 (Reuters, Reuters)

Q. With reference to recent developments in Iraq's oil sector, consider the following statements:

- 1. Chinese state-owned oil companies have withdrawn from Iraq, giving way to private Chinese oil firms.
- 2. Iraq's new profit-sharing contract model has attracted smaller and more competitive foreign players.
- 3. Chinese independents can develop oilfields faster and at lower cost than Western oil majors.
- 4. All Chinese oil firms in Iraq are mandated to hire a majority of local Iraqi workers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

CLOSELY CONTESTED

It's been toe-to-toe for 25 days... the 2-2 result is probably fair: Stokes



The series as a whole was just all garnes going to five days. It's been time between the 25t days and two very good teams which have threewn everything at each other and leaving nothing out there. I guess from a stricket fair, points of view 2-3 is anotherly fair. England Task captain from Stokes after India's six run win at The Oval.

SWEET SUCCESS

Team India registers its narrowest victory in Test history



limits surjusted its narrowest victory in Test history in terms of runs after locating England in the fifth and final Test at The Gool on Monday. The six non-triumph was also the first time the team registered a Test win by a single digit margin. The LB run vicinity over Australia in Mumbal in 2004 was its previous narrowest we

DREAM DUO

Bowlers like Siraj and Prasidh make captaincy look easy: Gill



deformment Sing is a captain's dream. Gave it his all every ball and surery spell to knowled. Two all is a fair reflicition, it shows how passinger that the surery were when you have brokers the lieng and Passoll (Relian), applicably looks any, I think the way we responded today (Monday) was magnificent.— Shubman Gill.

CONFIDENT

Didn't stop believing even when Root and Brook were batting: Gill



The way Harry Brook and Joe Boot were going, not many teams in the world would have given themselves a chance. But this Indian-team believes that wherever we have some kind of an opining, we have get through that eneming - India contain thubman GM about

Siraj scripts redemption tale as India levels series

The pacer makes amends for dropping centurion Brook by producing a magical spell as Gill's men hold their nerve on the final day. Prasidh chips in with a four-for to complete an epic victory

PRIHA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya

ohammed Straj couldn't hold back his tears as Dhraw Arrel ran in and hugged him. Shubmum Gill stood quietly for a mo-ment, looking up at the sky, before the teatmentes rushed towards birn to ce-lebrate. Providh Krishna waved towards the packed stands as the tricolour flui-

stands as the triculous flut-sered high.

Monday movining at The treal hill starreal.

India came from behind to pull off a deamate six-run vin against England in the fifth Test and level the

series 2-3. In the Basball era, not many pinned hopes on a young Indian team when the series got underway, but Shubman Gill's men but Shubman Gill's men showed plenty of steel. And, the final day of the se-ries was no different as the Indian bowlers, spear-headed by Siraj, delivered a performance for the ag-

Siraj, ignoring workload management calls and not making a fuse about the quick turnaround time bet-

Escape to victory

Every delivery was an event of the Oval on Monday. A ball-by-ball account:

Ingland	MATERIAL SERVICES	HO.	THE WAR	DECOME
the final	Prossietts	33.	4161010	947/6
day at	Diring	711	21010191012	349/7
339	Proceeds:	3.0	01010111019	MAN
witer her	meral	190112	HINISING MID	1154/8
76.2 coors, needing at root with four withets	Problem	94	013/18/01010	340/6
	Serves	.02	11010181018	354/8
	Presido	.63	-9101011101W	367/9
	herm	9.9	816101018176	364/6
	fresidt	840	21010101014	347/8
to head	Breat	86.7	104	441.7

ween the fixtures, got the ball to swing amidst a driz-zie. He picked up three wickets in a challenging spell with the old ball and, riding on his five-wicket haul, India pulled off a famesse win.

In pursuit of a massive 374, Kngland needed 38 on the final day with four wickets in hand. There was also a chance for the boses to win a Test series against india for the first time since its 44 triumph at home in 30is.

freguena		MO.	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Section 5
the final	Prosidit	33.	4161010	947/6
day at	Diring	711	210101012	349/7
339	Proceeds	29.	01010111019	MALE
win her	20104	19011	HINISTINIMID	104/8
76.2	Problem	94	013/10/10/10/10	340/6
esero,	Street	.02	11010181018	3541/9
needing	Presidth	.64	-9101011101W	367/9
WEED FOUR	herm	10-19	816101018176	394/9
wickets.	Provide	0.0	- 31010101014	347/6
ter manut	Brief	96		907

looked jittery and as the in-dian fans cheered for their team, the visitors did everything possible to snatch victory from the jawa of defeat. Quick strikes in fine rhythm, Siraj nicked

in the rhythm, Strajnschod off jamie Smith before trapping Jamie Overton, who started off the day with a couple of boundar-ies, leg-before. The pra-sure grew further as Pra-sidh castled Josh Tongue shorth.

shortly.
England had to struggle for every run, but with Gus Adkinson hanging in there

In pursuit of a mussive

home in 2016.

But with Siraj and Pra-sidb operating in tandem, togland's lower-order

INDIA - LST INNINGS ENGLAND - 157 INNINGS INDIA - 2ND INNINGS

Afte in the overe ENGLAND -- 3ND INNINGE Target 374 Zak Crawley b Siraj 14 1306, 244, Bee Guickett a Rahal in Praesich St 1316, 4eef, Celle Pope Haw b Siraj 27 Chife, Acel, Jose Frank a Jurel in Projects, Seel, Jose Brent & Jores B Presenth 100 11530, 2240, Harry Breeds & Straj Is Abands 131 (2004) JAMA, 200, JacOb Seelfseld D Prassish S (324), Jamine Berith & Jurio Is Straj & (2004), Jamine Berith & Jurio Is Straj & (2004), Jamine Domiton Brock Britis In (2006, 2004), Josek Tomigon Is Prassish to (2006, 2007), Josek Tomigon Is Prassish to (2006).

and Chris Woakes, walking out to but with his left arm in a sling and bringing back memories of 41 years ago when the late Malcolin Marshall barred with one band, there was still a slim

Perfect yorker tut, in the end, Siraj's te-nacity prevailed over En-gland's valiant fight as his perfect yorker rattled At-kinson's off-atump, it was also rademption for Siraj as he had dropped centurion Harry Brook on 19 on day four of the Two! The last time all games

Form in 05.1 overs). Her FALL OF WICKETS -alex, LLb overs),

FALL OF WICKETS

1. 50 [Crawley, L.S. in oversit, 2-62, (Suckers, 22-4), 8-106 (Prope, 27-3), 4-30 (Brook, 32-4), 8-322 (Bartiell, 70-4), 6-387 (Brook, 72-6), 7-347 (Brook, 72-7), 8-384 (Brooketer, 79-5), 9-357 (Fongue, 20-6), 7-357 (Fongue,

Abosh 20 + 48-1, Presoft

Player of the Match Sing Player of the Match Sing Player of the Series India; SII, England: Brech

in a five Test series went to the final day was in 2017-18 during the Asbes in Australia. And, the inaugural edi-tion of the Anderson-Ten-dulkar Trophy will forever fierce competitiveness between the two teams deween the two teams day-pite a spare of injuries, and of course, for being an ab-actured perfect advertise-gent format.

There were initial ap-probatision about India's chances, but with the players giving it their all, it, indicat, was a arries to as



The most rewarding format: Gill

As Shabman till's first ac-signment as India's Test captain turned out to be a menusable one with his team coming from behind to level the series against England, the skipper made it clear that there should not be any changes to the longest literal of the

garse.

"I think Test cricket should be as it is. In my opinion, it is the most rewarding and satisfying format, you work the hardest to be able to get a win and the best thing about this format is that it always gives you a second chance, which none of the other formats give," Gill said on Monstay after India won the fifth and final Test of

the Anderson . Trophy. So, if you keep working been doing the "So, if you keep werking hard, if you keep doing the right things, there is always a second chance...," be asid. After losing the opening future in Leeth, Italia won the second Test in Mirming-

ham, before going down at Lord's in the third. However, a draw in Manchester meant the series wasn't over.
And with a bunch of

youngainer giving it their all, india created history at The Cval, beating tingland by its wickets. Before the suries get un-derway, the right-hander said that he wouldn't let

ting.

The kept his word with

754 runs in the series, including a double hundred
and three hundreds.

As a leasier, he had to
take care of the mental
health of the players and

All equate at The Creat, inche staged a storming compliant to draw the write on a gripping final day which saw Woolen leaving injury in an attempt to story SEE & Co. Art GETV mades. captaincy affect his battills kept his word with
784 runs in the series, in784 runs in the series, including a double hundred
As a backer, he had to
take care of the mental
health of the players and

didn't feel much pressure on myself," he said.
"I was always thinking about what I can do for the team, thou can I help a per-son who is feeling few? So all of these things helped me to be able to take pres-sure from myself..."

X Test cricket... absolute goosebumps

We'll win some, we'll lose some,, but we'll never surrender! Well done, boyst GARTAM GAMBUR

Fost cricket... absolute goosebumps, Series 2-2, Performance India! What a wint RACHIN TENDULBAR

What a seriest situating performance from Sing and Prosidh who held their nerve. Comgratulations to till and the team for a general secretors. ANTE BURNINGS

Exceptional series from Jacleja. Washington, Pant... so much consistency from this young team SCIURAV HANGULY

Resilience and deterrotoation from araj and Prasidb and who will but everything on the line for the team WHEAT ROUTE.

I bowl every ball for the country, not for myself: Siraj

Shavan Acharya

Mohammed Siraj woke up at six in the morning on Monday, took out his phone and searched on the internet for a wallpaper with the word 'believe' written on it.

The first thing that he came across was a picture of Cristians Romaldo in the Manchester United Co-loars. And for the ness few minutes, he looked at the picture and muttered the worst 'believe' at least a couple of times. Once the picture made

Gince the picture made it to his wallpaper, siral it to his wallpaper, siral reaching The Oval. "I reaching The Oval. "I reaching The Oval. "I could wall walle up at eight. But today, i got up early, so I country. It's important to country. It's important to country. It's important to country, it's important to country in the country of the country in the country of the country of

With Jasprit Burerah fea-turing in just three Tests to turing in hist three Trests to manage his workload, Sirag stepped up and backed himself to carry out the role of the serior pacer. Not making a hiss about workload or a quick turna-round time, Siraj boveled 165.3 overs in the series— 1,121 delivories to be specif-ic—and flushed as the leading wicker-taker of the

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in numbers



Anderson-fenduliar Tro-phy with 23 scalps.

"To be honest, my body is fine right now. It has been almost life overs in this series, but when you play for your country you give everything and you don't think about whether

you howled aix overs or nine overs. I believe that I bowl every ball for the country and not for my-self," Siral said, adding with a smile: "You play for the country and give your everything, the rest is not in your control,"

SWEET SUCCESS

Team India registers its narrowest victory in Test history



GETTY IMAGES

India scripted its narrowest victory in Test history in terms of runs after beating England in the fifth and final Test at The Oval on Monday. The six-run triumph was also the first time the team registered a Test win by a single digit margin. The 13-run victory over Australia in Mumbai in 2004 was its previous narrowest win.

Category India (as of Jul/Aug 2025)

WTC Cycle 2025–27

Played (Matches) 5

Wins / Draws / Losses 2 / 2 / 0

Total Points 28

Points Percentage ~46.67%

Current Rank 2nd

Govt spent beyond means under AAP: CAG report flags fiscal deficit, subsidies

DEVANSHMITTAL

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

DELHI SPENT beyond its means under the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled on Monday in the Assembly by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as the Monsoon session commenced.

The Capital went from a fiscal surplus of Rs 4,566 crore in 2022-23 to a fiscal deficit of Rs 3,934 crore in 2023-24, as per the report titled 'State Finances for the Year 2023-24', (see box)

A fiscal deficit happens when the government spends more money than it earns. Even as fiscal deficits are common across the world, the city went from a surplus to a deficit, the data shows. "The continuous mismatch between receipts and expenditure indicated a rising fiscal stress," the report underlined.

The report also pointed out "an increasing trend of subsidies, which increased from Rs 3,593 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 4,840 crore

Power subsidies constituted the lion's share, costing close to Rs. 3,249 crore to the government exchequer, constituting 70.39% of the total subsidies, according to the data shared. Under the previous AAP government, consumers who used less than 200 units in a month did not have to pay for electricity consumption. Those who used up to 400 units got a subsidy of 50%, of up to Rs 800, in their electricity bills.

Even as the BJP leaders had





Delhi CM Rekha Gupta at the Assembly; (above) Atishi leads a protest against the BIP government. Tashi Tobgyal

freebies or 'revdis', all schemes continued to run after the party came to power.

As per the CAG report, between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the capital expenditure fell short of the capital budget. The capital expenditure - broadly defined as expenditure incurred by the gov- GAYATHRIMANI ernment to create long-term assets like roads or constructing new buildings - also decreased by 15% in 2023-24 as compared to the previous year.

The decrease was sharp under important heads such as Medical and Public Health (49.87%), Education, Sports, Art & Culture (42.19%), Public Works (39.70%) and Urban Development (36,36%).

Revenue expenditure made up a significant portion of the money spent by the government, earlier termed these subsidies constituting up to 83%.

'1 in 4 registered construction workers may only be on paper'

NEARLY ONE out of four construction workers registered with the Delhi government's welfare board may exist only on paper, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, tabled in the Delhi Assembly on the first to be registered with it. day of the monsoon session on Monday, indicated.

The report said that despite claims of 6,96 lakh registered construction workers, only 1.98 lakh had complete records, with thousands of duplicate entries or eficiary. those with faulty images.

The audit report also stated that the government failed to ensure mandatory registration of establishments, utilisation of welfare funds, and inspections.

during registration," it said.

"Duplicate images, images with no faces, and multiple registrations of the same face indicate several loopholes in the registration process. Since a robust computer algorithm would require exactly one face in each image, this indicates failure of the

Building and Other Construction ments," it said. Workers, for the year ending March 31, 2023, was tabled by

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. According to the report, the Board of Construction Workers all-India rate of 74%. (BOCW) could provide a complete database of only 1,98 lakh out of 6.96 lakh workers stated

for whom images were made available for the audit, 1.19 lakh beneficiaries were linked with 2.38 lakh images - more than

The report also observed that schemes. in the South and Northwest districts, 97 private establishments schemes, including support for that deposited cess between April 2019 and March 2023 were chase or construction of a not registered.

"Similarly, 25 establishments involved in construction, as per information available on the Delhi Fire Services website, were the report.

of information to identify and and 2019-20.

The report, Welfare of register eligible establish-

The report also said that Delhi lags behind the rest of the country in terms of renewal of registrations - 7,3% against the

The report further pointed out that the previous government spent only 9,53% to 11.33% of its total funds on welfare Of the 1.98 lakh beneficiaries, schemes, except in 2021-22 when extra payments were made to help workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Between 2019-20 and 2022one image for an individual ben- 23, benefits were given under only 12 out of 17 approved

No money was spent on five miscarriage, advance for purhouse, and loans or grants to buy work tools or insurance, the report indicated.

The report also showed that the board released Rs 46.08 also not found registered," stated crore to the Directorate of Education in March 2022 to "It clearly shows a lack of help 58,998 children of conproactive action on the part of struction workers with their ed-IT system to detect such images the Board to use various sources ucation for the years 2018-19

KEY TAKEAWAYS

DELHI RECORDED a fiscal deficit of ₹3,934 crore in 2023-24, reversing from a fiscal surplus of ₹4,566 crore the previous year **EXPENDITURE ON free** travel for women rose to

₹482 crore in 2023-24 POWER SUBSIDIES cost the exchequer ₹3,249 crore in 2023-24, making up

over 70% of total subsidies WATER SUBSIDIES cost ₹463 crore in 2023-24 REVENUE SURPLUS fell

by over 50%, from ₹14,457 crore in 2022-23 to ₹6,462 crore in 2023-24

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE declined by 15%, with steep drops in heads such as health & education

1. CAG Report Findings on Delhi Government Finances (FY 2023-24)

- Delhi recorded a fiscal deficit of ₹3,934 crore, transitioning from a fiscal surplus of ₹4,566 crore in 2022–23.
- This shift indicates increased expenditure over revenue, implying fiscal stress.

2. Subsidies and Spending Patterns

- Power subsidies formed the largest chunk of subsidies:
 - ₹3,249 crore spent in FY 2023–24
 - Constitutes 70.3% of total subsidy expenditure.
- Other sectors subsidized:
 - Water
 - Transport
 - Health & Education
- The report termed such schemes as fiscally unsustainable.

3. Capital vs Revenue Expenditure

- Capital expenditure declined by 15%, reflecting:
 - Reduced spending on infrastructure, roads, schools, long-term assets.
- Revenue expenditure rose by over 50% to ₹48,462 crore (from ₹31,457 crore).

4. Key Criticisms from the CAG

- Decline in allocation to:
 - Medical & Public Health
 - Education
 - Sports
 - Urban Development
- CAG warned of financial indiscipline as expenditure outpaced receipts.

Report on Construction Workers

5. Audit of Welfare Board for Construction Workers

- Only 198k workers registered, but 2.38 lakh images uploaded more than beneficiaries.
- Indicates large-scale duplication and fake registrations.

6. Concerns Raised

- Only 12 of 17 schemes implemented in 2022–23.
- 73% applicants failed renewal of registration.
- Lack of physical verification, duplicate/fake entries, and no linkage with Aadhaar/UAN.

7. Spending Patterns

- ₹86.40 crore spent on education in 2022–23, supporting:
 - **58,998 children** of workers
- CAG flagged delays in fund disbursement, raising concerns over effective implementation.

Parameter	Data (2023-24)
Fiscal Deficit	₹3,934 crore
Power Subsidy	₹3,249 crore (70% of subsidies)
Revenue Expenditure	↑ 50% to ₹48,462 crore
Capital Expenditure	↓ 15% (health, education hit)
Registered Construction Workers	1.98 lakh (many may be fake)
Children Supported for Education	58,998
Schemes Implemented	Only 12 of 17

Six years without Article 370

Political activity has resumed in Jammu & Kashmir. The security situation and economy have improved. But the Pahalgam terror attack dealt a blow to booming tourism, broke narrative of returning normalcy

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IT IS now six years since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs).

The decision of August 5, 2019 was billed as the turning point that would usher in peace and development, and pave the way for the closer integration of the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India.

Since then, political activity has resumed in I&K, including the formation of a new government which is now pushing for full statehood. But the Pahalgam terror attack has added a new dimension to the security question.

Here's a look at how and where the needle has - or has not - moved on the ground over the past six years.

Politics: Back to representation, but with curtailed powers

The return of democratic representation post-August 5 roadmap in I&K. But the political dynamics remain fraught with tensions and compromises.

The National Conference (NC) leads a government with reduced powers, lust before cant decline in violence. the election, control over police and services was given to the Lieutenant Governor, limiting the authority of the elected dispensation.

The Omar Abdullah Cabinet's first decistatehood, after which the Chief Minister visited Delhi for meetings. The NCs cautiously Pahalgam terror attack in April. worded resolution reaffirmed "special sta-Mufti's PDP took a more aggressive line.

the constraints of politics in a situation where now reports far fewer encounters, it has limited powers.

who "took it away". A senior Union government source said New Delhi views Omar as a risks that tourists faced, "pragmatic politician" who is capable of negotiating within the current structure.

However, the CM's recent move to reinstate July 13 as Martyrs' Day in J&K, and his attempt to visit the graves of those killed in protests against Maharaja Hari Singh's rule as policemen jostled with him, show that the relationship between the Centre and the UT government are tenuous at best.

Security: A mixed record marred by Pahalgam attack





was seen as a major milestone in the Centre's The abrogation of Article 370 by Parliament on August 5, 2019 (left) was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023. TV grab/Express

2019 decisions was that it would curb terrorism. Six years on, the data do show a signifi-

Only 28 terrorists have been killed in 2025 so far, down from 67 in 2024. Local recruitment has fallen drastically from 129 in 2019 to just 1 this year. In 2024, 28 civilians sion was a resolution for the restoration of were killed; all 26 deaths reported this year have occurred in a single incident — the

Incidents of stone throwing, hartals, abtus" and called for dialogue, while Mehbooba ductions, and the snatching of weapons are down to zero. The lammu region, which saw The NC's dilemma lies in balancing its cross-border incursions and frequent attacks ideological commitment to Article 370 with on security forces over the past three years.

But the Pahalgam attack broke the nar-In an interview with The Indian Express, rative of normalcy, and exposed gaps in secu-Omar conceded that the fight for Article 370 rity preparedness, especially in the newly would not yield immediate results from those opened tourist zones. Officials concede that the security planning underestimated the

> In response to the attacks, India launched Operation Sindoor, destroying terror targets deep inside Pakistan, Last month, security forces claimed to have killed all three Pakistani terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

Economy: Investments surge, but core challenges remain

INVESTMENTS: The Centre launched a new industrial scheme in 2021 promising incentives to attract investments. Proposed investments in I&K now total Rs 1.63 lakh The Centre's strongest argument for the crore, of which more than Rs 50.000 crore tribute far less than services.

is in various stages of operationalisation.

Production has begun in 359 industrial units; another 1,424 units are in advanced stages of completion. The government says investment realisation in 2024-25 is 10 times more than the pre-2020 period.

REVENUES: 1&K has seen a sharp uptick in tax revenues: GST collection increased by 12%, excise by 39%, and overall non-tax revenues rose 25% between 2022 and 2024. The state's GDP doubled from Rs 1.17 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 2.45 lakh crore in 2023-24. and hit Rs 2.63 lakh crore in 2024-25.

POWER: Following power sector reforms, 5,74 lakh smart meters were installed by mid-2024, reducing transmission and distribution losses by 25%, By December 2026, I&K administration sources said, power generation is expected to double. The government has spent nearly Rs 10,000 crore on firming up transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Yet, I&K remains energy-deficient, particularly in winter. Its 3,500 MW installed capacity drops to 600-650 MW in winter. forcing it to rely on central allocations.

FINANCIAL HEALTH: 1&K Bank went from a loss of Rs 1,139 crore in 2019-20 to a profit of Rs 1,700 crore in 2023-24, NPA levels have halved.

However, the fiscal deficit remains high, the economy is heavily reliant on central grants (up to 70% of expenditure), and core sectors like agriculture and industry con-

Tourism: Showcase now under shadow of security concerns

In 2023, a record 2.11 crore tourists visited I&K, and tourism contributed 7% to the GDP. The tourism boom was seen as evidence of the post-Article 370 normalcy. The Pahalgam attack and subsequent security lockdown of 50 tourist spots were a severe blow.

After 2019, 75 new destinations were opened. Homestays were encouraged, and nearly 2,000 were registered, especially in remote villages, But gaps in risk assessment and laxity in adherence to seasonal tourism guidelines created vulnerabilities, particularly in high-altitude regions with militant activity.

Private investment in tourism remains sluggish despite incentives. Only five hotels have opted into the new industrial scheme. Projects like Radisson's 200-room hotel in Srinagar and IW Marriott's 150-room property in Pahalgam are exceptions, Officials cite limited availability of suitable land as a bottleneck.

In response to the Pahalgam attack, the administration shut 50 destinations and initiated a comprehensive security review. Since then, 16 such destinations have been reopened for tourists. But adventure tourism may now be limited to areas with a significant presence of security forces.

The Pahalgam incident is a sobering reminder that despite the downward trend in militancy, the threat has not disappeared. Even so, the government sees tourism as a vital economic lever and a tool for youth engagement.

1. Background

- On August 5, 2019, the Government of India abrogated Article 370, ending Jammu & Kashmir's (J&K) special constitutional status.
- The state was reorganised into two Union Territories: J&K and Ladakh.
- The move was projected as a step toward integration, peace, and development in the region.

2. Politics: Representation with Curtailed Powers

- Elections have not been held since abrogation.
- Powers remain with the Lieutenant Governor, not an elected Chief Minister.
- National Conference and PDP demand full statehood and restoration of democratic process.
- A new delimitation and J&K Reorganisation Commission roadmap is underway for potential elections in 2025 or later.

3. Security: Improvements with Setbacks

- Terror-related incidents reduced:
 - 129 killings in 2019 → 51 in 2023
 - Only 2 terrorists killed in 2024 so far
- Civilians killed in 2024: 28
- Security concerns remain:
 - Pahalgam terror attack (2024) raised fresh fears
 - Militancy active in southern districts (e.g. Anantnag)

4. Tourism: Growth Shadowed by Insecurity

- Record tourist inflow in 2023:
 - Over 2.1 crore tourists
 - Tourism contributed 7% to J&K's GDP
- Over 250 new destinations promoted post-2019
- But the Pahalgam attack hurt perception of normalcy

5. Economy & Infrastructure

- Investment push:
 - ₹15,184 crore in industrial proposals cleared
 - ₹2,654.5 lakh crore investment expected from Centre
- Revenue spike:
 - J&K tax revenue up 35%
- Power generation:
 - Goal to reach 5,500 MW by 2025
- Road and rail development gaining pace

6. Financial Health

- J&K Bank's NPA levels down to 5.13% (from 8.67%)
- Economy still heavily dependent on central grants (70% of capital budget)

J&K: KEY MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Economic Indicator	J&K Pre 2019*	Post 2019**	National Average+
I. GROSS STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT:			
i) Nominal growth (%)	10.2	8	9.65
ii) Real growth (%)	6.91	3.97	8.24
II. PER CAPITA INCOME:			
i) Nominal growth (%)	9.64	6.89	9.81
ii) Real growth (%)	6.02	2.93	6.54
III. Average Inflation:	5.41	5.87	5.49
IV. Unemployment (%)	10	17	8
V. Fixed Capital (Rs crore)	10039	5553	NA
VI. Internal Debt (Rs crore)	42221	82299	NA
VII. Outstanding Liabilities (% GSDP)	49	51	27.65
VIII. Credit-Deposit Ratio (%)	51	61	80
IX. Bank Deposits (%)	14.84	8.44	11.26
X. Own Tax: (% of GSDP)	6.32	8.44	6.61

^{*}Data relates to the period 2014-15 to 2018-19

NA: Not Applicable

Source: Central Government, State

Government and RBI data

^{**}Data relates to the period 2019-20 to 2023-24

⁺ Data relates to 2023-24.

Word of the day

Clamour:

loud and persistent outcry from many people; utter or proclaim insistently and noisily; make loud demands

Synonym: hue and cry

Usage: He ignored the clamour of the crowd.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/clamourpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈklæm.ə/

