

Daily Current Affairs





5
The Hindu



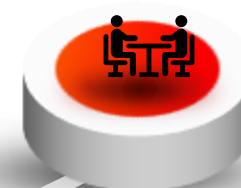
1
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



2
**The Indian
Express**

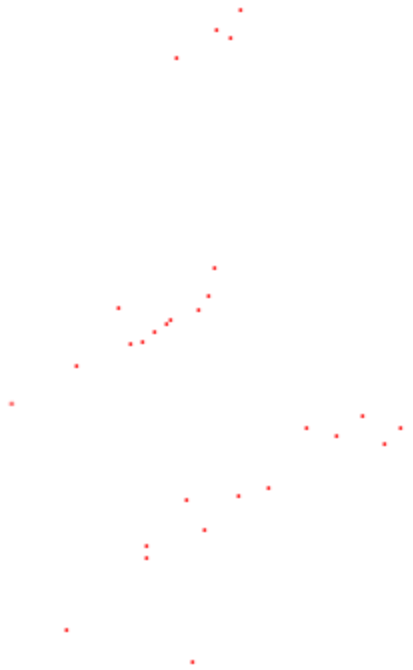


0
Jansatta



2
**Financial
Express**

Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



**“The most
wasted of days
is one without
laughter.”**

—E. E. CUMMINGS

DETAILED REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

Modi hails Trump's remarks on 'special' ties

PM says he 'deeply appreciates and reciprocates' Trump's positive assessment of India-U.S. relations

The two leaders have not spoken directly since a June 17 call, after which trade talks broke down

External Affairs Minister says India 'remains engaged' with the U.S. ahead of UNGA session

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that India and the U.S. had a "very positive and forward-looking" relationship, his first such statement since ties between the two countries nose-dived over trade, tariffs, and Operation Sindoor.

Quoting remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump, who said on Friday that India and the U.S. had a "special relationship", and praised Mr. Modi and their friendship, the Prime Minister said on X that he "deeply appreciated and fully reciprocated" the comments.

Significantly, the two leaders, who met warmly in February shortly after Mr. Trump was sworn-in, have not spoken directly to each other since a telephone call on June 17, after which India-U.S. trade talks broke down and the

U.S. declared 25% tariffs on Indian goods, along with a 25% penalty for India's purchase of Russian oil.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is scheduled to travel to the U.S. for the fourth time this year, for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), confirmed that India "remains engaged" with the U.S.

Mr. Trump's comments, in a 90-minute press conference on a range of issues, came a day after he had said on social media that the U.S. had "lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China", a post that he backtracked on.

"I don't think we have [lost India]," Mr. Trump said in response to a question about the post.

'Enormous importance'
"I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil from Russia, and I let them know that we put a very big tariff on India, 50% tariff, very



high tariff." When asked whether he was ready to reset ties with India, Mr. Trump said he would "always be friends with [Mr.] Modi" and called him a "great Prime Minister".

"I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment, but India and the United States have a special relationship," he said, referring to India's imports of Russian oil, and added, "There's nothing to worry about... we just have mo-

ments [of disagreements] on occasion."

A few hours later, Mr. Modi responded. "I deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Mr. Modi said on X, adding that "India and the U.S. have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership."

When asked about the comments, Mr. Jaishankar

PM to skip key UNGA session later this month

UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly from September 23 to 29. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will address the session on September 27. » PAGE 3

said that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have a "good personal equation" and that Mr. Modi attaches "enormous importance" to the relationship. "The point is that we remain engaged with the U.S., and at this time, I can't say more than that," he added.

UNGA session

The next steps by both Delhi and Washington will be watched closely for signs of

a truce after a team of U.S. negotiators, due to visit Delhi in August-end called off the visit.

Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to travel to the U.S. to represent India at the UNGA on September 27, and it is unclear whether he will travel as he usually does to Washington as well and hold bilateral talks on breaking the impasse between the two sides. All eyes will be on whether Mr. Jaishankar and his counterparts can agree on a date for the Quad Summit due to be held in India this year, which Mr. Trump is expected to attend.

On Friday, the U.S. President signed an executive order offering to zero out tariffs on a number of goods for countries that the U.S. has already signed trade agreements, and out-looked concessions for future trade agreements, without specifically mentioning India.

Mr. Trump has praised India and Mr. Modi in the

past few months on a number of occasions, while also criticising India for high tariffs, Russian oil imports, and claiming credit for mediating the ceasefire with Pakistan in May.

First time

However, this is the first time Mr. Modi has responded publicly, indicating the possibility of a thaw or at least a pause in hostilities in the ties. In the past week, tensions have grown over comments by Trump administration officials, including trade advisor Peter Navarro – who called Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Russian and Chinese leaders a "shame", and called the Ukraine conflict "Modi's war" – and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who said India would "have to say sorry" and compromise in order to return to the table for talks.

'NO DEAL ON AGRI IMPORTS'
» PAGE 3

-
- PM **Narendra Modi** acknowledged U.S. President **Donald Trump's** remarks that India and the U.S. share a *"special relationship"*.
 - Modi said ties are *"very positive and forward-looking"*, despite recent tensions over **tariffs, oil imports, and trade disputes**.
 - **2. Recent Strains in India–U.S. Relations**
 - U.S. imposed **25% tariffs** on Indian goods and penalties on **Russian oil imports**.
 - India faced criticism from U.S. officials over:
 - **High tariffs**
 - **Mediation in Russia-Ukraine ceasefire**
 - **Defense trade with Russia**

- **Diplomatic Engagements**

- **S. Jaishankar**, India's EAM, is scheduled to attend **UNGA 2024** and represent India at Quad talks.

- India and the U.S. are attempting to **reset ties** after trade talks collapsed in June 2024.

- Modi will skip UNGA this year; Jaishankar to lead.

- **4. Trump–Modi Dynamics**

- Trump earlier remarked the U.S. had *“lost India and Russia to China”*, but backtracked.

- Modi responded by stressing **friendship and comprehensive strategic partnership**.

- Both leaders haven't spoken directly since June 17, 2024.

BUDAPEST

Hungary police ban Pride parade amid LGBTQ crackdown by Orban



Hungarian police banned a Pride march set for next month but organisers insisted they would proceed ahead with holding the event. It came after Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government, which is pursuing a crackdown on LGBTQ rights, banned Budapest Pride in June — only for record numbers to defy the move. **AP**

SEOUL

Seoul vows support to Koreans arrested in U.S. immigration raid



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung ordered all-out efforts on Saturday to respond to the arrests of over 300 of its citizens in a U.S. immigration raid on a Hyundai factory. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said the government has set up a team to respond and that he may go to Washington to meet with officials if needed. **AP**

BELGRADE

At least 42 detained following Serbia anti-government protest



Forty-two people were detained at an anti-government protest in the Serbian city of Novi Sad where police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Several thousand rallied in Novi Sad on Friday seeking early polls in the latest in a series of student-led protests sparked by the total collapse of the city's train station roof last November. **AP**

DUBAI

Iran turns mass grave of 1979 revolution victims into parking lot



A patch of sand and scrawny trees in the largest cemetery in Iran's capital was the final resting place for decades for some of the thousands killed in the mass executions that followed Iran's 1979 Revolution. Now, Lot 41 at the sprawling Behzad-e Zahr cemetery in Tehran is becoming a parking lot, satellite images showed. **AP**

Israel asks famine-stricken Gaza City residents to flee as it targets high-rises

Aid groups have warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian crisis. Israel declares Muwasi — a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza — a humanitarian area and urges everyone in Gaza city to leave

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel's Army called on Saturday on Palestinian in Gaza City to move to a humanitarian area it designated in the south as it expanded its operations in preparation for seizing the famine-stricken city, including targeting high-rise buildings.

Aid groups have repeatedly warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian situation, after the world's leading authority on food crises declared the city to be gripped by famine.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee



Stranded left: A Palestinian child carries a pot of donated food from a community kitchen in Deir al-Balah in south Gaza on Saturday. **AP**

it called a Hamas stronghold and specified as a combat zone, to leave. The military, in a statement, provided a map showing the area in Khan

Younis that the humanitarian area encompasses, which includes the block where Nasser Hospital is located. The area around the hospital has been considered a red zone, though not the medical facility itself. Last week, Israel struck the hospital, killing 22 people, including Mariam Daraj, a journalist. The hospital was not under evacuation.

UN staying back

The declaration of a so-called "humanitarian zone" in southern Gaza City, done by the Israeli authorities unilaterally, and the UN and the wider humanitarian community

are not part of that designation, said Olga Cherevko, a spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in a statement on Saturday, the UN said it is staying in Gaza City to provide aid and warned that the continued offensive will push people into an even deeper catastrophe. Israel on Saturday issued warnings for two high-rises in Gaza City and the tents around them, saying Hamas had infrastructure inside or near them. It comes a day after after Israel struck another high-rise building in Gaza City, saying Hamas used it for surveillance, without providing evidence.

China condemns Australia, Canada ships in Taiwan Strait

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China said on Saturday that its military monitored the passage of Australian and Canadian warships through the Taiwan Strait, criticising their presence in the sensitive waterway as "causing trouble".

Beijing views Taiwan as part of its territory and claims jurisdiction over the body of water that separates the self-ruled island from the Chinese mainland.

On September 6, the Canadian frigate *Quebec* and the Australian destroyer *Brisbane* transited the Taiwan Strait, causing trouble and provoking, said Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China says Canadian frigate *Quebec* and Australian destroyer *Brisbane* transited the Strait yesterday.

The PLA "organised naval and air forces to monitor and supervise their entire transits, effectively responding and handling the situation", Mr. Shi said in a statement.

"The actions of Canada and Australia send the wrong signals and increase security risks," he added. "(Chinese) troops remain on high alert at all times, resolutely safeguarding national sovereignty and security and regional peace and stability."

China has not ruled out the use of force to take control of democratic Taiwan.

Grooming to reign



Japan's Prince Hisahito, centre, at his coming-of-age ceremony, Kaken-no-Gi, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Saturday. Japan heralded the coming-of-age of Prince Hisahito with an elaborate ceremony at the Imperial Palace, where a succession crisis is brewing. **AP**

Imran Khan slams Pakistan Army chief for 'inflicting oppression' to prolong rule

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, accusing him of "inflicting oppression" on the people to prolong his rule. The patron-in-chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has accused Mr. Munir of imposing an undeclared martial law, installing a puppet government under Shehbaz Sharif by stealing people's mandate in last February's election, and committing



Imran Khan also condemned the bomb blast at a rally in Balochistan in which at least 15 people were killed this week. **AP**

atrocities against his party workers.

"Today Asim Munir is inflicting oppression on the people of Pakistan to

prolong his own rule, thus weakening the country," Mr. Khan said. The 72-year-old cricketer-turned politician has been in jail for over two years in multiple cases. "Those (Munir and company) who have stolen the people's mandate are gripped by fear. It is because of this fear that oppression against us is increasing," he said.

Mr. Khan also strongly condemned the bomb blast at a rally in Balochistan held in connection with the death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal, in which at least 15 people were killed this week. The situation in Balochistan is worsening by the day because elected representatives are not allowed to govern," he said.

Jihadists kill 55 in attack on town home to displaced Nigerians

Agence France-Presse
MAIDUGURI

Jihadists killed at least 55 people in northeast Nigeria while storming a town that is home to residents who had been returned from a closed camp for internally displaced persons (IDP), an NGO worker and civilian militia leader said on Saturday.

While jihadist violence has waned since the peak of the Boko Haram insurgency from 2012-2015, militants including rival Islam-

ic State West African Province (ISWAP) continue to launch attacks across rural areas in the northeast. The 10 aircraft will join U.S. warships already present in the southern Caribbean as Mr. Trump steps up pressure on Maduro, whom the U.S. accuses of leading a drug cartel. Mr. Maduro denied that in his evening speech. "Those intelligence reports they give him (Trump) are not true," Mr. Maduro said. "Venezuela today is a country free from coca leaf production, cocaine, and is a country that fights against drug trafficking."

Venezuela's Maduro calls for talks after threat from Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro on Friday called for dialogue with Washington, hours after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to shoot down Venezuelan military jets if they pose a danger to U.S. forces.

Tensions between the two countries soared in recent days after the Pentagon accused Venezuela of buzzing its ships in the Caribbean following a deadly U.S. strike on an alleged Venezuelan drug boat. "None of the differences we have and have had can lead to a military conflict," Mr. Maduro said in a message broadcast on all of Venezuela's radio and television networks.

"Venezuela has always been willing to talk, to engage in dialogue, but we demand respect," he added.

As tensions mount, Washington is deploying F-35 warplanes to Puerto Rico as part of Mr. Trump's war on drug cartels.

The 10 aircraft will join U.S. warships already present in the southern Caribbean as Mr. Trump steps up pressure on Maduro, whom the U.S. accuses of leading a drug cartel. Mr. Maduro denied that in his evening speech.

"Those intelligence reports they give him (Trump) are not true," Mr. Maduro said. "Venezuela today is a country free from coca leaf production, cocaine, and is a country that fights against drug trafficking."

Asked earlier on Friday what steps he would take if there were further incidents of Venezuelan jets

sit friends and seek medical treatment.

The Supreme Court is due to rule on Tuesday in a case over a hospital stay following his return from exile in August 2023, a verdict some analysts say could see him jailed.

Bitter relationship Mr. Anutin's right-wing Bhujangthai party went to coalition with Pheu Thai in 2023, but pulled out in June over Ms. Paetong-tarn's alleged misconduct in a leaked phone call with Cambodian ex-leader Hun Sen.

The Shinawatra has been a mainstay of Thai politics for the past two decades, sparring with the pro-monarchy, pro-military establishment that views them as a threat to the kingdom's traditional social order.



Anutin Charnvirakul



Nicolas Maduro

Israel asks famine-stricken Gaza City residents to flee as it targets high-rises

Aid groups have warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian crisis; Israel declares Muwasi — a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza — a humanitarian area and urges everyone in Gaza city to leave

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel's Army called on Saturday on Palestinians in Gaza City to move to a humanitarian area it designated in the south as it expanded its operations in preparation for seizing the famine-stricken city, including targeting high-rise buildings.

Aid groups have repeatedly warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian situation, after the world's leading authority on food crises declared the city to be gripped by famine.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee



Stranded lot: A Palestinian child carries a pot of donated food from a community kitchen in Deir al-Balah in south Gaza on Saturday. AP

wrote in X that the Army declared Muwasi — a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza Strip — a humanitarian area and urged everyone in the city, which

it called a Hamas stronghold and specified as a combat zone, to leave.

The military, in a statement, provided a map showing the area in Khan

Younis that the humanitarian area encompasses, which includes the block where Nasser Hospital is located.

The area around the hospital has been considered a red zone, though not the medical facility itself. Last week, Israel struck the hospital, killing 22 people, including Mariam Dagga, a journalist. The hospital was not under evacuation.

UN staying back

The declaration of a so-called “humanitarian zone” in southern Gaza was done by the Israeli authorities unilaterally, and the UN and the wider humanitarian community

are not part of that designation, said Olga Cherevko, a spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In a statement on Saturday, the UN said it is staying in Gaza City to provide aid and warned that the continued offensive will push people into an even deeper catastrophe.

Israel on Saturday issued warnings for two high-rises in Gaza City and the tents around them, saying Hamas had infrastructure inside or near them. It comes a day after after Israel struck another high-rise building in Gaza City, saying Hamas used it for surveillance, without providing evidence.

- **Israel's Call for Evacuation**

- Israel's Army asked Palestinians in famine-stricken **Gaza City** to evacuate.
- Move is towards **humanitarian area in southern Gaza (Muwasi)**.
- Gaza City declared a **combat zone**, with Israeli operations targeting high-rises.

- **2. Humanitarian Concerns**

- Aid groups warn: large-scale evacuation will worsen the **humanitarian crisis**.
- Gaza already gripped by **famine**, according to the world's leading food crisis authority.
- UN & aid groups fear that evacuations → **deeper catastrophe**.

- **Designation of Humanitarian Zone**

- Muwasi tent camp in **southern Gaza Strip** designated as “humanitarian area.”
- Israeli map showed areas around **Khan Younis**, including block with **Nasser Hospital**.
- Area around hospital = **red zone** (though hospital not evacuated yet).
- **4. Targeting High-Rises**
- Israel struck **two Gaza high-rises**, alleging Hamas used them for surveillance.
- No clear evidence provided.
- Last week, Israel also targeted **Nasser Hospital area**, killing **22 people including a journalist**.

- **5. UN’s Position**

- **UN says it will remain in Gaza City** to provide aid.
- Warned that offensive may push people into deeper disaster.
- Criticized Israel’s **unilateral declaration** of “humanitarian zones.”

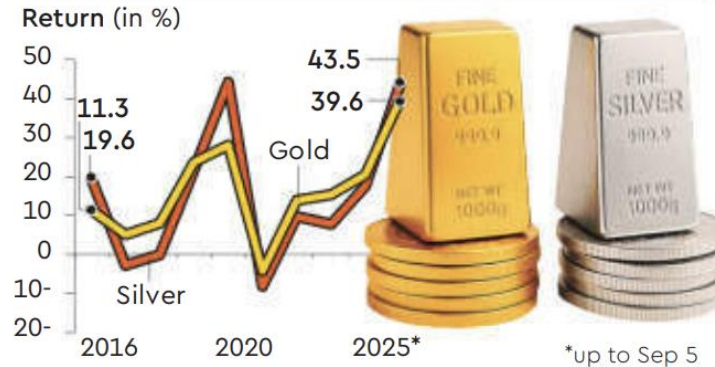
-
- **Gaza Conflict:** Ongoing since Israel's blockade (2007) after Hamas takeover.
 - Previous **Israel-Hamas wars** (2008, 2012, 2014, 2021, 2023) → repeated destruction & humanitarian crises.
 - **Geographical Angle**
 - Gaza = **narrow Mediterranean coastal strip** (41 km long).
 - Densely populated: **2.2 million people in 365 sq. km.**
 - Borders: **Israel, Egypt, Mediterranean Sea.**
 - Strategic location → control of land crossings critical for supplies.

Gold returns hit 40%, highest in 25 years

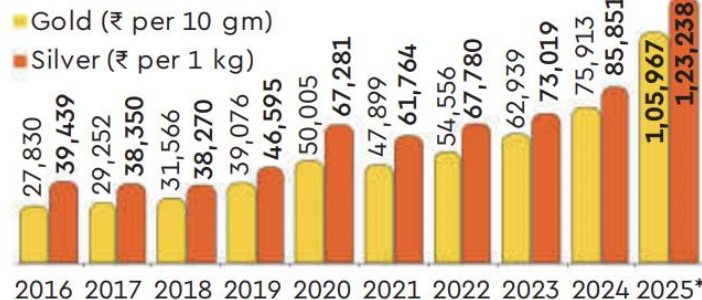
WITH GOLD PRICES hitting record highs almost every day, returns from the yellow metal have surged 40% in 2025 so far—the highest in 25 years. Silver has also delivered strong gains, with returns touching a five-year high of 43.5%. On

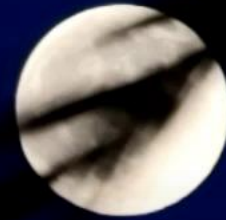
Friday, MCX spot gold prices hit an all-time high of ₹1,05,967 per 10 gm, while MCX spot silver was at ₹1,23,238 per kg, marginally below Thursday's record of ₹1,23,335.

**Compiled by
Kishor Kadam**



MCX spot prices





Blood Moon

- A blood moon will be visible in India on September 7, 2025, during a total lunar eclipse, when the moon will appear dark red due to Earth's shadow.





What it is?

- A *blood moon* is a total lunar eclipse when the moon takes on a **reddish-copper hue** instead of its usual white glow.

How it Occurs?

- During a **total lunar eclipse**, Earth comes between the sun and the moon.
- Direct sunlight is blocked, but Earth's atmosphere bends and scatters some light onto the moon.
- Blue light is filtered out, while **red light is refracted** toward the moon, giving it a reddish colour.

- **Features:**

- Colour intensity depends on **dust, smoke, and particles** in Earth's atmosphere.
- The reddish effect is due to **Rayleigh scattering**, the same process that makes the sky appear blue.
- Visible across large regions where the eclipse is above the horizon.
- Entirely natural and predictable.
- Can last for several hours depending on eclipse duration.

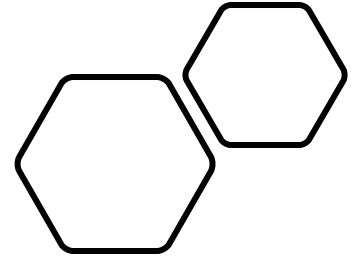
Blue Moon	A rare occurrence – either the second full moon in a month OR the 13th in a year.
Blood Moon	Appears reddish during a total lunar eclipse due to Earth’s atmosphere filtering sunlight.
Supermoon	A full moon that appears larger and brighter because it is closest to Earth in its orbit (perigee).
Micro Moon	A full moon that appears smaller as it occurs when the Moon is farthest from Earth (apogee).
Harvest Moon	The full moon nearest to the autumn equinox (Sept), rises soon after sunset.
Wolf Moon	The first full moon of January; named from folklore.
Strawberry Moon	The full moon in June; linked to strawberry harvest season in the Northern Hemisphere.
Pink Moon	April’s full moon; named after wild ground phlox flowers that bloom in spring.
Hunter’s Moon	The full moon following the Harvest Moon, in October.
Snow Moon	The full moon in February, associated with heavy snowfalls in the Northern Hemisphere.





Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

- On September 5, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan at Rashtrapati Bhavan on his birth anniversary, which is also celebrated as Teacher's Day in India.



- Who he was?

- Born on **September 5, 1888**, in Tirutani, Andhra Pradesh.
 - A renowned **philosopher, scholar, teacher, and statesman**.
 - Served as **India's second President (1962–1967)** and **first Vice President (1952–1962)**.
-

- **History & Academic Career:**

- Studied at **Madras Christian College**.
- Taught at the Universities of **Mysore and Calcutta**; later became **Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford University**.
- Known for bridging **Indian and Western philosophy**, introducing Indian thought to the global stage.
- Served as **Ambassador to the Soviet Union (1949–1952)** before entering high political office.

-

- Contributions to India:

- Strong advocate of education as a tool of transformation. Chaired the University Education Commission (1949) to reform higher education in independent India.
- Promoted religious pluralism and comparative philosophy, enhancing India's intellectual profile abroad.
- Guided India through critical years of Cold War diplomacy as Vice President and President.

- **Significance:**

- His **birth anniversary is celebrated as Teacher's Day**, recognising his lifelong dedication to education.
- Revered for his **wisdom, erudition, and statesmanship** in India's formative years.
- Considered a **bridge-builder** between East and West through his writings on **Vedanta and comparative religion**.



"GOD'S INFLUENCER"
Carlo Acutis becomes first millennial saint
WORLD & SOUTH



IDOL IMMERSION
Five drown in separate incidents in Maharashtra
NEWS > PAGE 6



VENICE FILM FESTIVAL
Anuparna Roy bags Best Director award
NEWS > PAGE 6



FLAWED VENTURE
An ecological disaster in the making
Great Nicobar Project is a grave misadventure
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8



DOUBLE DELIGHT
India bags Asia Cup, books World Cup spot
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE



Japan PM resigns after party's loss in July election

TOKYO Japan Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced on Sunday that he would resign from his post following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in the parliamentary election in July. Mr. Ishiba said at a press conference on Sunday night that he was stepping down. > PAGE 14

Kulki-Zo to focus on UT, legislature in talks with govt.

NEW DELHI The Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, that signed a suspension of operations pact on September 2, said future talks between the group and the government's representatives would focus on the demand for a Union Territory (UT) with legislature for the Kuki-Zo areas in Manipur. > PAGE 4

Kasaragod man contracts brain infection: Kerala

KASARAGOD A 32-year-old man from Rajapuram in Kasaragod in Kerala reportedly contracted amoebic meningencephalitis. He is undergoing treatment. The health department suspects that he contracted the infection while bathing in a pond or river. > PAGE 3

Workers detained in U.S. raid will be released: S. Korea

SEOUL More than 300 South Korean workers detained following a massive immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia will be released and brought home, the South Korean government announced. > PAGE 14

Russia's largest air strike hits key Kyiv target

Four killed as 810 drones and decoys deployed to attack Kyiv; 747 drones, four missiles shot down

For the first time since the invasion, Kyiv's Cabinet building is struck and damaged

Zelenskyy speaks with French President Macron, calls for further sanctions against the Russians

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia hit Ukraine's capital with a massive drone and missile attack on Sunday in the largest aerial strike since the war began, killing four persons across the country and damaging a key government building.

Russia attacked with 810 drones and decoys, Ukraine's Air Force said, adding it shot down 747 drones and four missiles. Plumes of smoke rose from the roof of Kyiv's government headquarters. It was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign, which has so far spared government buildings in the city centre.

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet and its Ministers. The police blocked access to the building as fire trucks and ambulances arrived.



Capital threat: Smoke rises over a building of the Ukrainian government headquarters in Kyiv on Sunday. REUTERS

the logic of war and terror." British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also condemned the attack. "These cowardly strikes show that Vladimir Putin and his co-conspirators are acting with impunity. Now, more than ever, we must stand firm in our sup-

port for Ukraine and its sovereignty," Mr. Starmer said in a statement. In the Ukrainian capital, the attack killed two people and wounded 20 others, according to city officials. Those killed were a

mother and her 3-month-old child, whose bodies were dug out of the rubble, said Yurii Trachenko, the head of Kyiv's city administration that will help stop the enemy," she said. The Russian Defence Ministry said Sunday that it

used "high-precision weapons" and drones to strike drone assembly and storage sites, military air bases in central, southern, and eastern Ukraine, an industrial facility, and a logistics facility on the outskirts of Kyiv.

The Ministry said that "all designated objects were hit" and claimed that "no strikes were carried out on other objects within the borders of Kyiv," in what could be a reference to the damaged government building.

'Second mass attack' Sunday's attack is the second mass Russian drone and missile attack to target Kyiv in the span of two weeks, as hopes for peace talks wane. It comes after European leaders pressed Mr. Putin to work to end the war after 26 of Ukraine's allies pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for the war-torn country once the fighting ends.

Blood moon



Sky show: The blood moon spot Bhubaneswar during the lunar eclipse on Sunday. The total eclipse phase which began at 11.01 p.m. caught the attention of skywatchers across India and other nations. IST/ANNA JAIN/REUTERS

Reform of GST will boost consumption: Sitharaman

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that revenue buoyancy, driven by a spurt in consumption, will help bridge the estimated shortfall of ₹48,000 crore in GST revenues following a rationalisation of the tax rates, leaving no impact on public finances. The rationalisation will definitely bolster GDP growth, she said.

In an interview, she said the consumption boost to be provided by the GST reform and the better-than-expected first half growth number might help the economy exceed the projected 6.3-6.8% pace of GDP growth in the current financial year. This ₹48,000-crore amount



Nirmala Sitharaman

Asked about the impact on fiscal deficit, Ms. Sitharaman said the ₹48,000-crore financial implication was a static number based on a base year, but when it got implemented, the base situation changed. "So, I think the consumption spurt from September 22 will increase income buoyancy. To a large extent, this ₹48,000-crore amount

we will be able to make it up this year itself. So I don't see an impact on my fiscal deficit or my fiscal management. I will stick to my numbers [4.4% of GDP], she said. The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4% of the GDP, or ₹15.69 lakh crore.

Last week, the Goods and Services Tax Council approved a two-tier structure of 5% and 18% and a 40% slab for the tax regime. Calling the GST overhaul a "people's reform", Ms. Sitharaman said, "This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST."

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees not eligible for long-term visas, says official

Vijatha Singh
NEW DELHI

Undocumented Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who were exempted from penal provisions by a Union Home Ministry order last week are not eligible to apply for long-term visas (LTVs), a senior government official told *The Hindu*. The official, however, did not elaborate on the reason for the ineligibility. "Though the order removes the tag of an 'illegal migrant' from registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who entered India before January 9, 2015, it will not immediately help in the grant of Indian citizenship. The LTVs, a precursor to

citizenship, are issued for a period of one to five years. The official said that Sri Lankan Tamils are not eligible to apply for LTVs, but foreigners can apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

On March 17, 2021, the MHA informed the Rajya Sabha that "Any foreigner, including a Sri Lankan citizen, may acquire Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation after fulfilling the eligibility criteria laid down in the Citizenship Act, 1955, and the rules made thereunder." However, a 1986 letter by the Ministry to Chief Secretaries asks the States to "not entertain the applications of Sri Lankan refugees



A camp for Sri Lankan refugees. Undocumented refugees were exempted from penal provisions by an order earlier. FILE PHOTO

for the grant of Indian citizenship." It states that the Government of India received enquiries regarding "national status of these Sri Lankan nationals who came to India as refugees" under the Citizenship Act, 1955, and Citizenship Rules, 1956. It says, "After careful consideration, the GoI have come to the conclusion that no Sri Lankan refugees who came to India in July 1983 or after should be naturalised/registered under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and Citizenship Rules, 1956." It says, "The directions are still

operational. On September 2, the MHA notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, that was passed by the Parliament in April to repeal and replace four laws which governed the entry, stay, and exit of foreigners, and immigration and passport rules, including the Passport Act and Foreigners Act. The notified order exempted "registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who have taken shelter in India upto the 9th January, 2015" from the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 3 (requirement of passport or other travel document or visa) of the 2025 Act.

The September 2 notification also exempted undocumented members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan from deportation if they entered India without passports or visas, or with expired travel documents, before December 31, 2024. While the six communities will be able to apply for LTVs, making them eligible to apply for citizenship after at least 11 years of continuous stay in India, Sri Lankan Tamils will not be eligible to apply for citizenship. Antony Arulraj, an activist closely associated with

Congress MLA may move SC to get EC data in fraud case

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Congress MLA B.R. Patil, who first flagged the alleged voter fraud in his Akand constituency in Kalaburagi district ahead of the December 23, 2024, election in 2023, is now considering a plea to the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Election Commission to share technical data to unmask the culprits behind the fraud.

FULL REPORT
> PAGE 4

Russia's largest air strike hits key Kyiv target

Four killed as 810 drones and decoys deployed to attack Kyiv; 747 drones, four missiles shot down

For the first time since the invasion, Kyiv's Cabinet building is struck and damaged

Zelenskyy speaks with French President Macron, calls for further sanctions against the Russians

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia hit Ukraine's capital with drones and missiles on Sunday in the largest aerial attack since the war began, killing four persons across the country and damaging a key government building.

Russia attacked with 810 drones and decoys, Ukraine's Air Force said, adding it shot down 747 drones and four missiles.

Plumes of smoke rose from the roof of Kyiv's government headquarters. It was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign, which has so far spared government buildings in the city centre.

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet and its Ministers. The police blocked access to the building as fire trucks and ambulances arrived.

Yuriy Ihnat, an air force spokesperson, confirmed that Sunday's attack was the largest Russian drone strike since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Russia also launched 13 missiles. Hits from nine missiles and 54 drones were recorded at 33 locations across Ukraine.

New measures

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he was counting on a strong U.S. response.

Mr. Zelenskyy said that four persons were killed across the country and 44 wounded.

He said he spoke on the phone with French President Emmanuel Macron about the attack.

"Together with France, we are preparing new measures to strengthen our defence," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Mr. Macron earlier on Sunday accused Russia of "striking indiscriminately" and said Moscow "is locking itself ever deeper into



Capital threat: Smoke rises over a building of the Ukrainian government headquarters in Kyiv on Sunday. REUTERS

the logic of war and terror."

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also condemned the attack. "These cowardly strikes show that Vladimir Putin believes he can act with impunity. Now, more than ever, we must stand firm in our sup-

port for Ukraine and its sovereignty," Mr. Starmer said in a statement.

In the Ukrainian capital, the attack killed two people and wounded 20 others, according to city officials.

Those killed were a

mother and her 3-month-old child, whose bodies were dug out of the rubble, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv's city administration. At least 10 locations in Kyiv were damaged, he added. Direct drone hits struck a nine-

story residential building in Kyiv's Sviatoshynskiy district and a four-story residential building in Darnytskyi district.

Mr. Zelenskyy called for sanctions on Russia.

"Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have started long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war," he said. "The world can force the Kremlin criminals to stop killing; only political will is needed."

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko posted a video of herself inside the damaged government building, where she said a fire covering 800 square meters was put out.

"It looks like Russia is not ready for negotiations. We call our partners to help close our sky. Let's strengthen sanctions against Russia. Let's create the security guarantees system that will help stop the enemy," she said.

The Russian Defence Ministry said Sunday that it

used "high-precision weapons" and drones to strike drone assembly and storage sites, military air bases in central, southern, and eastern Ukraine, an industrial facility, and a logistics facility on the outskirts of Kyiv.

The Ministry said that "all designated objects were hit" and claimed that "no strikes were carried out on other objects within the borders of Kyiv," in what could be a reference to the damaged government building.

'Second mass attack'

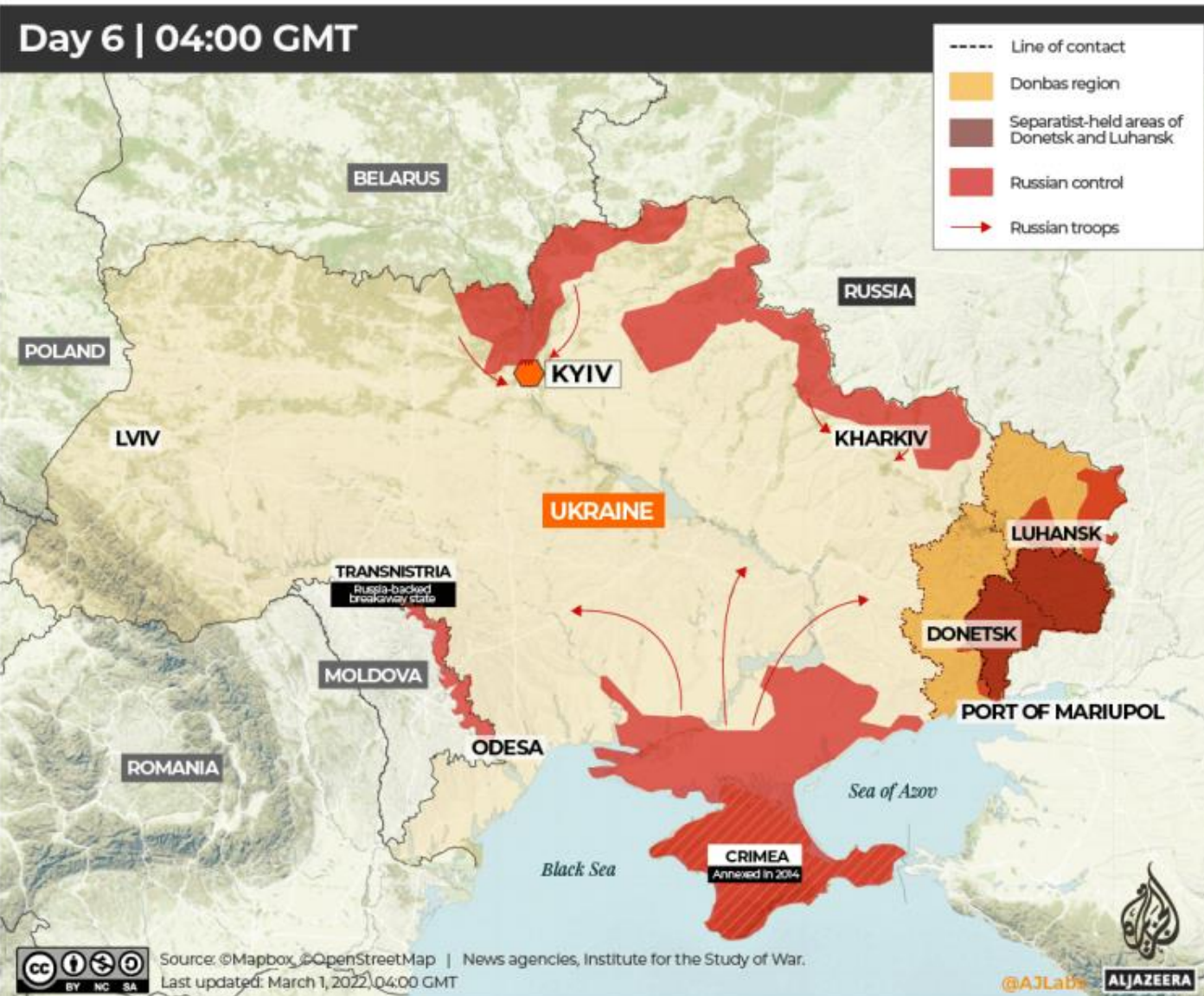
Sunday's attack is the second mass Russian drone and missile attack to target Kyiv in the span of two weeks, as hopes for peace talks wane.

It comes after European leaders pressed Mr. Putin to work to end the war after 26 of Ukraine's allies pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for the war-torn country once the fighting ends.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

Who controls what in Ukraine?

High-level talks between Kyiv and Moscow **end with no agreement** except to keep talking.
Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy **urges a no-fly zone** that the White House rules out.





Russia carried out its **largest aerial assault** since the Ukraine war began in February 2022.

Over **810 drones and decoys** plus **missiles** were deployed against Ukraine.

Kyiv's **Cabinet building** was struck and damaged – a first since the invasion.

2. Ukrainian Defense & Casualties

Ukraine's Air Force claimed:

- **747 drones** and **4 missiles** were shot down.
- Still, **4 killed** and **44 injured** across the country.

Government buildings in central Kyiv were hit, marking escalation.

International Fallout

Western leaders view the escalation as proof of Russia's unwillingness for peace.

European allies, including **26 nations**, are preparing further military support.

Tensions over sanctions and NATO commitments may rise further.

- **Kyiv** has symbolic importance as the capital of Ukraine and was targeted heavily during **World War II** by Nazi Germany.
- Russia's targeting of government HQs mirrors strategies of psychological warfare.
- **Geopolitical Angle**
- The conflict has reshaped **NATO's eastern security doctrine**, leading to Sweden and Finland joining NATO.
- The EU has imposed **13+ sanctions packages** on Russia since 2022.

IN BRIEF

MSMEs must participate in defence R&D: DRDO chief

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman Samir V. Kamat on Saturday urged micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups to actively participate in defence research and development, calling it an "opportunistic time" for industry to engage with the sector. He was speaking at a conclave organised by the Defence Technology and Test Centre, Lucknow. He assured participants that the DRDO would provide all possible support to the MSMEs. In a message, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO and the MSMEs for organising the conclave and appreciated their role in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of self-reliance in defence.

12-year-old boy killed by five minor students in Odisha

Five minor students of a madrasa in Odisha's Nayagarh district were arrested for allegedly killing a 12-year-old boy of the institution on Saturday, dumping his body into a septic tank, an officer said on Sunday. The incident occurred on September 2, when the boy was strangled to death by the prime accused and his four associates. The police registered a case on September 3, and the five accused boys in the age group of 12 to 15 have been taken into custody on Saturday. Additional Superintendent of Police, Nayagarh, Subhas Chandra Panda said. During investigation it was revealed that the victim was sexually abused. ■

Arunachal village to host Sunrise Festival in December

A village in Arunachal Pradesh that receives the first rays of the sun in the country every day will host the inaugural Sunrise Festival. Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced the five-day festival in Dong in Anjaw district, a village bordering Tibet and located on the easternmost tip of India. "Landed in Walong, Anjaw district, and will be heading towards Dong, the place where the first sun ray touches Indian soil," Mr. Khandu posted on the social media platform X on Saturday. The festival will be held from December 29 to January 2, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the first dawn of the New Year in the 'Land of the Rising Sun', Mr. Khandu said.

Kolkata establishments told to display signboards in Bengali

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has ordered all business establishments, commercial institutions, and shops across the city to display signboards prominently in Bengali. The notification says the State's official language should be at the top of all hoardings, signboards, and signage. The order has to be complied with by September 30. The new notification by the Municipal Commissioner recalls an earlier order, dated December 30, 2024, in which shops and institutions were "requested" to include Bengali on their signboards. The Mayor of Kolkata said it was a matter of cultural identity.

5 drowned during idol immersion events across Maharashtra

Devotee electrocuted, five injured during procession in Mumbai; at least 13 people remain missing in State as officials launch search operations

Purnima Sab
MUMBAI

The grand conclusion of the 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival was marred by deaths and injuries to devotees across Maharashtra on Sunday. One person was electrocuted in Mumbai while five devotees drowned in separate incidents. At least 13 people were missing, officials said.

In Mumbai, tragedy struck the immersion procession in the Sakinaka area around 10.45 a.m. when a Ganapati idol came into contact with a hanging electric wire. One person was electrocuted and five were injured in the incident. All injured were reportedly stable.

The continuous rainfall over the past few days, which had left rivers and canals swollen and lakes and wells brimming, contributed to a spate of incidents across the State.

In Pune district's Chakan area, four persons were swept away during idol immersion in separate incidents — two men were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khid and another person was washed away by Shell Pim-



Fervent farewell: Devotees bid farewell to Lalbaugha Raja during the Ganesh idol immersion in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI

palgaon and a fourth person slipped and fell into a well at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

In Nanded district, three people were swept away at Gadegaon. One was at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

In Pune district's Chakan area, four persons were swept away during idol immersion in separate incidents — two men were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khid and another person was washed away by Shell Pim-

palgaon and a fourth person slipped and fell into a well at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

palgaon and a fourth person slipped and fell into a well at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

In Nanded district, three people were swept away at Gadegaon. One was at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

In Pune district's Chakan area, four persons were swept away during idol immersion in separate incidents — two men were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khid and another person was washed away by Shell Pim-

India and Bangladesh to hold talks on water sharing

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission is set to meet in Delhi on Tuesday, sources said, amid ongoing tensions between the two countries. Dhaka plans to send a 10-member team to raise its concerns about water sharing of 14 cross-border rivers.

Sources said that Bangladesh plans to use the discussion as a warm-up for talks on the Ganga Waters Agreement of 1996, which will come up for renewal next year, when Bangladesh will also hold its first election since the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024.

The treaty was signed during the Haveli first term in power in 1996, when it was decided that the treaty would be considered for renewal 30 years later. It is understood that Bangladesh will now demand a longer time frame before the next renewal of the treaty. It is also seeking some changes in the use of the river's water on the Indian side.

Diplomatic sources said that Dhaka is expected to ask for a special vehicle to manage the waters of 14 rivers, including the Muhuri, Khawla, Gomti, Dharla, and Doodhghat. Bangladesh also wants India's support in creating a joint flood forecasting mechanism, sources said.

Nursing dreams suffer as colleges continue 'bond system'

Sulham Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

When Ritur, a nursing graduate from Kerala, wanted to return home to care for her parents, she believed her degree would help her secure a government job nearby. Instead, she found herself trapped, her college in Andhra Pradesh withheld her original certificates, insisting she complete a six-month "service period" of one year at its affiliated hospital before they would be released.

"I wanted to go back to Kerala and work, because of family issues, but my college kept all my original certificates. They don't call it a 'bond service', yet that's exactly what it is. Even if I took five days of leave, those days were simply added to the 'service period', she recalls.

Stories like Ritur's lie at the heart of a fresh public interest litigation (PIL) plea filed in the Delhi High Court by the Indian Professional Nurses Association (IPNA), a welfare organisation for nurses.

The petition highlights how private colleges continue to exploit students, despite repeated judicial and regulatory pronouncements declaring the practice unlawful.

Private colleges continue to exploit students, despite judicial and regulatory pronouncements declaring the practice unlawful.

Against the practice, stressing that nurses "should not feel that they are bonded". Accordingly, the INC issued a circular that same year declaring that service bonds and the retention of certificates were "unethical practices" which were to be stopped immediately.

In 2011, the Delhi High Court directed the Indian Nursing Council (INC) to take proactive steps



Private colleges continue to exploit students, despite judicial and regulatory pronouncements declaring the practice unlawful.

Against the practice, stressing that nurses "should not feel that they are bonded". Accordingly, the INC issued a circular that same year declaring that service bonds and the retention of certificates were "unethical practices" which were to be stopped immediately.

In 2011, the Delhi High Court directed the Indian Nursing Council (INC) to take proactive steps

plea before the Supreme Court, airing its grievances with regard to the working conditions of nurses in private hospitals and nursing homes. The association also raised the bond system prevalent in nursing institutes.

In January 2016, however, the top court dismissed this issue after the INC submitted that "the said sys-

tem has now been abolished". Later, the INC included explicit warnings about giving receipts for the bond system in its guidelines for nursing colleges.

According to the IPNA, hundreds of complaints against the system pour in each year from students. They narrate a common plight — colleges holding back critical documents such as Class 10 and 12 mark sheets, nursing degrees, and registration certificates, to ensure that students are bound to work in affiliated hospitals for meagre pay.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, she said that while she was able to retrieve her documents, it is a persistent issue for many students in private institutes in the country. ("Name changed on request.")

FAITH

Mahalaya Paksham essence

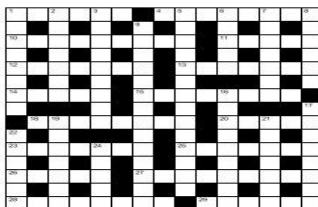
There is no greater wealth than the blessings of one's ancestors. It is for this reason that one pays obeisance to one's *pitrus* (ancestors) by way of *tarpanam* and making donations at regular intervals. In particular, the days starting with the full moon in the Bhadrapad month until Prathama, the day after the new moon, referred to as Mahalaya Paksham, are indeed very auspicious days to pay to one's ancestors, said Tirukkudamalai Dr. Venkatesh. During this period, the ancestors are believed to be given liberty by Yama to visit their families on earth and watch over them fondly.

When Karma perished in the Mahabharata war and reached the other world, he could enjoy all the pleasures of heaven had to offer. When he felt hungry and sought food, he was offered gold and silver as nourishment. When Karma wondered why he was being given precious metals instead of food, it was pointed out that since he had only given wealth to others and failed to do *annadanam* in the name of his ancestors, he could only receive gold and silver. When Karma argued that he could not perform *tarpanam* and make offerings to his ancestors as he was unaware of who his family members were, Yama permitted him to return to earth during Mahalaya Paksham and complete the rituals. Karma duly performed *tarpanam* and offered food in memory of his ancestors during Mahalaya Paksham and on Prathama on the day after Mahalaya Anuvasya.

When Karma returned to the other world, Yama decreed that everyone on Earth should offer food in memory of their ancestors during these 16 days.

THE CROSSWORD 14583

(Set by Aron)



Across

- Representing cancer by cross? (6)
- Waste left exposed and flowing (8)
- Hawthorne's cow receives fellow ship (8)
- Ten Paddy's recorded a passage (5)
- Critique over altering only a short distance between these animals? (7)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword app: @https://qrqo.page.link/jyTn

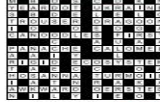


- Fancy hotel, even allow to play? (7)
- Some fell ill while returning from French city (5)
- Cold, exposed in order to be lay? (6)
- Way to kill a scandal about royal decay (8)
- Talented making you less confident - no enthusiasm (5)
- Spend a penny on fashion - shows nobility? (7)
- Complaint of one without husband? (7)
- Traffic police ban parking, it's dangerous for health (1,4)
- Declines American awards (9)
- Cosmetic boundary created by discoverer (8)
- Importance given to a point on a cube, say (6)
- Down
- Happy Alice gets her mother some flowers (8)
- Assumably, the absence of United States could be terrible? (7)
- Bear drinking - the entire publicity is for the singer (9)
- Our fearsome dog barking as well (5,4,7)
- Hate to be part of ministerial oath taking (5)
- Harry piles on a character? (7)
- Shock as discomfited trader raises capital (6)
- Unexpected turn of events - or in other words what it entails (5,2,4)
- Appearing desperately for a gratuity (9)
- Place you have bath in the UK (8)
- One guarding school is a strip of sorts? (7)
- Card astride a home is slumping? (7)
- Stop evacuation - call to attention for discipline (6)
- "It's extempore and lacks depth" - one makes an excuse (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku





Anuparna Roy with the award at the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Saturday. AP

Anuparna Roy wins best director award at Venice festival

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI

Filmmaker Anuparna Roy, who made her debut with *Songs of Forgotten Trees*, has bagged the best director award at the Venice International Film Festival.

Presented by filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, the film premiered in the festival's prestigious Orizzonti Competition section, an international competition for films that highlight new trends, with a focus on debut works, young talent, indie features, and less-known cinema, on September 1.

"This film is a tribute to every woman who's ever been silenced, overlooked, or underestimated. May this win inspire more voices, more stories, and more power for women in cinema and beyond," Ms. Roy said in a statement.

Songs of Forgotten Trees follows the story of

Thooya, a migrant and aspiring actor, who survives the city by leveraging beauty and wit, occasionally trading intimacy for opportunity.

Stand by Palestine

During her acceptance speech, the filmmaker spoke on the ongoing Israel and Palestine conflict. "Every child deserves peace, freedom, liberation, and Palestinians are no exception... it's a responsibility at the moment to stand by Palestine. I might upset my country but it doesn't matter to me anymore," she said, according to the entertainment news outlet Variety.

Produced by Bibhanshu Rai, Romil Modi, and Ranjan Singh, the cast includes Bhushan Shimpi, Ravi Maan, Pritam Pilania, and Lovely Singh.

The Venice International Film Festival concluded on Saturday.

-
- **Anuparna Roy** won the **Best Director Award** at the **Venice International Film Festival 2024**.
 - She made her debut with *Songs of Forgotten Trees*.
 - The film was presented by **Anurag Kashyap**.
 - Screened in the **Orizzonti Competition section**, which highlights:
 - Debut works
 - Young talent
 - Indie features
 - Lesser-known cinema

- **About the Film**
- Title: *Songs of Forgotten Trees*
- Focus: Women's overlooked contributions, struggles, and empowerment.
- Central Storyline:
 - Follows **Thooya**, a migrant and aspiring actor.
 - Survives the city by leveraging **beauty and wit**.
 - Sometimes trades intimacy for opportunity.
- Themes: Survival, gender dynamics, marginalised voices.

In her acceptance speech, Roy spoke on:

- The ongoing **Israel–Palestine conflict**.
- Advocated: “Every child deserves peace, freedom, liberation.”
- Urged global solidarity with Palestinians.

Significance:

- Shows how film festivals are **platforms for political expression**.

Venice Film Festival:

Established in **1932**, world's oldest film festival.

Part of the "Big Three" (with Cannes & Berlin).

Indian cinema has earlier made its mark:

Satyajit Ray (*Pather Panchali*) gained international acclaim.

Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding*) also drew global attention.

BEST PERFORMERS

The shining stars of the 2025 edition of Asia Cup hockey



The individual awards in the Asia Cup tournament held in Rajgir. **Player-of-the-final:** Dilpreet Singh. **Player-of-the-tournament:** Abhishek (in pic). **Top scorer:** Ashwin Kumar (Mas, 12 goals). **Best goalkeeper:** Jaehun Kim (Kor). **Rising star:** Jeffynus Andiyawalan (Mas). **Promising goalkeeper:** Caiyu Wang (Chn).

RECORD MARGIN

Bethell, Root hit tons as England thrashes South Africa by 342 runs



Joe Root and Jacob Bethell scored tons as England crushed South Africa by a world record 342 runs in the third ODI on Sunday. The previous highest margin was 317 by India against Sri Lanka in 2023. **The scores:** England 434/5 in 50 overs (Root 100, Bethell 110) bt South Africa 72 in 20.5 overs (Archer 4/18). **PoM:** Archer.

SPINNING A WEB

Nawaz bowls Pakistan to thumping win over Afghanistan in final



Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz claimed a career-best five for 19, including a hat-trick, to bowl Pakistan to a 75-run win over Afghanistan in the tri-series final in Sharjah on Sunday. **The scores:** Pakistan 141/8 in 20 overs (Zaman 27, Nawaz 25, Rashid 3/38) bt Afghanistan 66 in 15.5 overs (Nawaz 5/19). **PoM:** Nawaz.

SUPER SUNDAY

Titans too good for Warriorz; Devank fastest to 50 raid points



Telugu Titans recorded a 44-34 win over Bengal Warriorz in a PKL 12 match in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Vijay Malik and Bharat Hooda registered Super 10s for Titans. Devank Dada scored 13 points for Warriorz, becoming the fastest to register 50 raid points in a season. **Other results:** Dabang Delhi bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 36-35.

India rules Asia, books a World Cup spot

The host adapts to the challenges thrown by Korea, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to create space and take control

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

India ended an eight-year wait to be crowned the continental champion, winning 4-1 against defending champion Korea in the final of the Asia Cup here on Sunday and securing itself a spot at the 2026 World Cup.

While the scoreline might suggest an easy win, it was anything but. Korea fought back and fought hard with India pulling ahead on the dint of individual brilliance and tactical control. It was not the kind of free-flowing game India displayed in different measures in its last two games but the team adapted to a vastly different and difficult opposition, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to create space.

The match victory against China the day before might have raised public expectations but coach Craig Fulton had insisted his boys would play the game, not the occasion, be clinical and get better in certain areas.

The team stepped up to the task, not as dominant but equally clinical. The start was electric, Sukhjett receiving Har-



Mission accomplished: The Indians are a happy lot after producing a clinical display to tame the Koreans. **by MOORTHY**

manpreet's pass from near the dotted line and his reverse shot flying into the Korean goal 31 seconds into the game, India's fastest goal of the competition. Chances were created, not through brute superiority but clinical accuracy. Another aerial ball from Harmanpreet in the 28th minute, brought down perfectly by Sanjay inside the circle, saw Dilpreet make it 2-0 at half-time.

India could have added another but for Jagraj's penalty stroke in the ninth minute pushed away by

Jaehun Kim — deservedly named Best goalkeeper — with his stick.

Post the break, Korea started pushing back, hoping to bounce back similar to how it did against Malaysia. It also got a series of PCs, but India's defence held firm. Shaky and erratic at the start of the tournament, the defence tightened up and the team was, which worked against Malaysia, did not succeed.

The Indian midfield spread wide to cut the Koreans down and found ways to keep feeding the

ball, and they duly obliged, keeping their head low and mind focused on the task at hand, avoiding showboating or hurrying for the shot. A comfortable two-goal margin going into the last 15 minutes became 4-1 with Amit Rohidas' PC and while Dain Son pulled one back a minute later, Korea had no chance of coming back.

Earlier, Malaysia thrashed China 4-1 to finish third. Japan ended fifth to keep its chances of playing the World Cup qualifiers

alive with a 6-1 win over Bangladesh. Hockey India announced ₹3 lakh each for the Indian players and ₹1.5 lakh each to the support staff.

The results: Final: India 4 (Sukhjett Singh 1, Dilpreet Singh 2, 45, Amit Rohidas 50) bt Korea 1 (Dain Son 51); 3-4 playoff: Malaysia 4 (Norsyafiq Sumatri 8, Ahamdiah Anwar 36, 50, Syed Cholan 58) bt China 1 (Jiesheng Gao 54); 5-6: Japan 6 (Raj Yamasaki 9, Ryosuke Shiohara 15, 38, 54, Ken Nagayoshi 26, Seren Tanaka 58) bt Bangladesh 1 (Aminul Islam 55).

South to meet Central in summit clash as semifinals end in draws

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A fruitful morning session was all that South's wing needed to shut out North Zone on the final day of its Duleep Trophy semifinal at the BCCI CoE Ground (I) here on Sunday.

In the final, commencing at the same venue here on Thursday, South will take on Central Zone.

Resuming on 278 for five, North needed a further 259 runs to overhaul South's innings total. North's tough task was made that much harder when key batter Shubham Khajuria (128) was taken out in the second over of the day.

Khajuria prodded forward to a ball from fast bowler V. Koushik, but failed to cover the line. With Khajuria's stumps knocked back, South had one foot in the final.

Sahil Lotthra (09, 31b, 24) and Mayank Dagar (31, 40b, 5x4) presented a semblance of fight as the skies suddenly became overcast. North hoped for rain to provide some relief, but it was not to be. Kerala fast bowler M.D.



Beaten all ends up: Mayank has no clue to this one from Nidheesh. **by MOORTHY**



Game to sweat: Saranah followed up his unbeaten 63 with a five-wicket haul in West's second innings. **by MOORTHY**

Nidheesh produced a lively spell, clearing up Lotthra and Dagar. North was soon dismissed for 361, 175 runs short of South's tally. South batted 24.4 overs in its second innings, before the teams agreed to call it off. Having gained the first

runs under their belt when West came out to bat, Central spinner Saranah (5/64) reduced West to 216/8, giving the former the prospect of gaining a victory. At the stroke of tea, however, the teams shook hands and play came to an end.

Andre, Smaran picked C. Andre Siddarth (Tamil Nadu) and R. Smaran (Karnataka) have replaced N. Jagadeesan and Devdutt Padikkal in the Indian squad for the final. Jagadeesan and Padikkal will play for India-A against Australia-A in the series beginning on September 16.

The scores at BCCI CoE Ground (I): South Zone 336 & 95/2 in 24.4 overs (N. Jagadeesan 52 n.o., drive with North Zone 36) in 100.1 overs (Shubham Khajuria 128, Ashwin Redden 40, Nishant Sindhu 62, Mayank Dagar 31, M.D. Nidheesh 10/2, Gajiprem Singh 4/96). **PoM:** Jagadeesan.

At BCCI CoE Ground (II): West Zone 418 & 216/8 in 51.2 overs (Yashavi Jaiswal 64, Aarya Desai 35, Tanush Kotian 40 n.o.). Saranah 51/84, Harsh Dubey 3/66, drive with Central Zone 36) in 164.3 overs (Yashvi Pardey 40, Shresh Maheshwari 37, Shubham Sharma 36, Rajat Pathak 77, Vipendra Yadav 40 n.o.). Saranah 63 n.o., Deepak Chatur 33, Dharmendrasinh Jadav 4/120, Arjun Nagawanshi 3/77. **PoM:** Saranah.

Sabalenka proves too strong for Anisimova, finishes on a Slam high

US OPEN

Agence France Press
NEW YORK

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka overpowered Amanda Anisimova to defend her US Open crown on Saturday, dethroning her American rival in straight sets to clinch the fourth Grand Slam title of her career. Sabalenka ruthlessly attacked Anisimova's shaky service game to complete a 6-3, 7-6(3) victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium which cements her status at the pinnacle of women's tennis.

The 27-year-old from Belarus had gone into Saturday's final knowing it was her last chance to grab a Grand Slam crown in 2025 after agonising losses in the Australian and French Open finals. Sabalenka duly atoned for those defeats to end Anisimova's hopes of a remarkable redemption just two months after her traumatic 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Iga Swiatek in the Wimbledon final. Sabalenka clinched victory after once again demonstrating her incredible prowess in tiebreaks — winning her 19th consecutive



Pure bliss: Sabalenka became the first woman to successfully defend the US Open since Serena in 2014. **REUTERS**

one — to wrap up the tie in one hour and 34 minutes. Anisimova, meanwhile, was left reeling her inability to make the most of break points at key moments, in sharp contrast to Sabalenka who converted five of her six break point chances.

point before unfurling a rasping forehand winner to break back before holding for 2-2.

With the momentum behind her and her groundstrokes forcing Sabalenka around the court, Anisimova then broke again for a 3-2 lead.

But that was the catalyst for Sabalenka to raise her game and clinch the first set.

Sabalenka punished a backward service game from Anisimova early in the second set and looked in complete control at 3-1.

Yet Anisimova wasn't quite finished, and she held confidently before breaking back to love to level it at 3-3.

Anisimova then thumped a wide open forehand long to gift Sabalenka a 15-40 lead, the Belarusian once again opened her chance for a break.

Sabalenka held for 5-3 and was soon serving for the match at 5-4. Yet she allowed Anisimova off the hook. But in the tiebreak, Sabalenka reassured her control and she sprinted to a 6-1 lead before closing out the match.

The result (final): Women 1: Sabalenka (69) bt Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 7-6(3).

Fulton praises team's intelligence, fitness

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Craig Fulton had not been too happy early on in the Asia Cup, but on Sunday, the India head coach was a content man.

"It was difficult. A lot of things didn't fall in place for us... at the same time, it was a good performance, a good result," Fulton said. "Finals can be sketchy. They could go 2-2 and then you're looking for a winner. But to get 4-0 up and then 4-1, I am happy with the position at the end," he said.

His track record with the Indian side has been impressive — three gold medals and a bronze — but Fulton sought to create more depth to not just remain on top in Asia but be a serious challenger to the bigger teams in Europe.



On cloud nine: Dilpreet celebrates one of his two goals. **by MOORTHY**

India rules Asia, books a World Cup spot

The host adapts to the challenges thrown by Korea, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to create space and take control

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

India ended an eight year wait to be crowned the continental champion, winning 4-1 against defending champion Korea in the final of the Asia Cup here on Sunday and assuring itself of a spot at the 2026 World Cup.

While the scoreline might suggest an easy win, it was anything but. Korea fought back and fought hard with India pulling ahead on the dint of individual brilliance and tactical control. It was not the kind of free-flowing game India displayed in different measures in its last two games but the team adapted to a vastly different and difficult opposition, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to keep creating space.

The massive victory against China the day before might have raised public expectations but coach Craig Fulton had insisted his boys would play the game, not the occasion, be clinical and get better in certain areas.

The team stepped up to the task, not as dominant but equally clinical.

The start was electric, Sukhjeet receiving Har-



Mission accomplished: The Indians are a happy lot after producing a clinical display to tame the Koreans. R.V. MOORTHY

manpreet's pass from near the dotted line and his reverse shot flying into the Korean goal 31 seconds into the game, India's fastest goal of the competition.

Chances were created, not through brute superiority but clinical accuracy. Another aerial ball from Harmanpreet in the 28th minute, brought down perfectly by Sanjay inside the circle, saw Dilpreet make it 2-0 at half-time.

India could have added another but for Jugraj's penalty stroke in the ninth minute pushed away by

Jaehan Kim – deservedly named Best goalkeeper – with his stick.

Post the break, Korea started pushing back, hoping to bounce back similar to how it did against Malaysia. It also got a series of PCs, but India's defence held firm. Shaky and erratic at the start of the tournament, the defence tightened up and the team was a lot more disciplined.

Fulton had also wanted his players to stay composed, not get carried away by a crowd baying for goal every time India had

the ball, and they duly obliged, keeping their head low and mind focused on the task at hand, avoiding showboating or hurrying for the shot. It created fewer chances up front but more on-target shots.

Korea's plan to open channels on the flanks by drawing in the Indian forwards through the middle, which worked against Malaysia, did not succeed.

The Indian midfield spread wide to cut the Koreans down and found ways to keep feeding the

forwards. A 45th-minute PC saw Harmanpreet's shot saved but the resulting long corner ended in Dilpreet keeping the ball in play and scoring his second. A comfortable two-goal margin going into the last 15 minutes became 4-1 with Amit Rohidas' PC and while Dain Son pulled one back a minute later, Korea had no chance of coming back.

Earlier, Malaysia thrashed China 4-1 to finish third. Japan ended fifth to keep its chances of playing the World Cup qualifiers

alive with a 6-1 win over Bangladesh.

Hockey India announced ₹3 lakh each for the Indian players and ₹1.5 lakh each to the support staff.

The results: Final: India 4 (Sukhjeet Singh 1, Dilpreet Singh 28, 45, Amit Rohidas 50) bt Korea 1 (Dain Son 51); **3-4 playoff:** Malaysia 4 (Norsyafiq Sumantri 8, Akhimullah Anuar 36, 50, Syed Cholan 58) bt China 1 (Jiesheng Gao 54); **5-6:** Japan 6 (Koji Yamasaki 9, Ryosuke Shinohara 15, 38, 56, Ken Nagayoshi 36, Seren Tanaka 50) bt Bangladesh 1 (Amirul Islam 55).

Victory in Asia Cup

India defeated **defending champion Korea 4-1** in the final at Rajgir, Bihar.

This win ended an **8-year wait** to be crowned continental champion.

With this, India secured a spot in the **2026 World Cup**.

-
- India's last Asia Cup victory was **2017** (Dhaka).
 - Hockey has been India's national sport legacy, with 8 Olympic golds (1928–1980).
 - Decline in the 1980s due to the rise of artificial turf hockey dominated by European nations.
 - **Geographical & Political Context**
 - Tournament hosted in **Rajgir, Bihar**, reflecting India's push to take hockey beyond traditional centers (Punjab, Odisha).
 - Sports diplomacy: Hockey success enhances India's soft power in Asia, particularly against rivals like Korea, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

WITH US ALLIES AND CHINA INVESTING HEAVILY IN DEFENCE, WORLD SEES BIGGEST CONVENTIONAL ARMS RACE SINCE WWII

With ‘Ghost Bat’ drone, Australia tries to jump start its defence industry

VICTORIA KIM
WOOMERA, SEPTEMBER 7

THE TWO onyx-colored aircraft took off within a minute of each other, disappearing over an expanse of red desert stippled with low shrubbery.

No human was on either plane as they carved a path through the boundless desert sky on Friday as part of a preprogrammed mission.

The pilot was on the ground, hundreds of miles away in a nondescript shack, and ready to take control should the need arise.

The aircraft were MQ-28A

GhostBats, 38-foot-long military drones that function as robot wingmen of sorts. Australia is investing heavily to develop and produce these so-called collaborative combat aircraft, which will help the country defend its shores at a time when military threats are encroaching ever closer and wiping out what was once its strongest bulwark against potential conflict: distance.

Australia has invested about \$650 million so far in a partnership with Boeing to develop the drones, which will be the first to be designed and manufactured in Australia in over half a century.

It is a tidal shift for the close American ally, which after decades of relying on the US for its military equipment is trying to jump start its defense industry, one that had atrophied since the end of the Cold War.

In Beijing this week, China showcased several “loyal wingman”-type drones, signaling that it too was investing heavily in unmanned systems. The U.S. Air Force is also developing collaborative combat aircraft, which are designed to fly alongside piloted fighter jets to amplify air capacity at a fraction of the cost and with reduced human risk.



The newly manufactured drone in Woomera, South Australia

“We’re seeing the biggest conventional arms race since World War II,” said Pat Conroy, Australia’s minister for defense industry. “China is massively modernizing its conventional and nuclear armed forces.”

Conroy was showcasing the aircraft this week at the Woomera test range in the remote outback of South Australia, a vast area with a long history of secretive weapons testing by Britain, Australia and the US. When it is not in use for military tests, cattle and sheep graze on the sparse stretch of land, which has been referred to as Australia’s Area 51.

Australia has a history of quickly ramping up a defense industry from very little. During World War II, it scaled up production of arms and munitions to supply allied troops and began manufacturing aircraft. But without the scale or industrial base of other countries, the last plane to be developed and produced in Australia was around the time of the Vietnam War.

The dawn of artificial intelligence is giving Australia a chance to be competitive in defense manufacturing, Conroy said. Boeing has broken ground on factories in Toowoomba, in Queensland State,

to produce the Ghost Bat, which the country is aiming to eventually export. The US Navy may be among interested buyers, according to news reports.

About 70% of the Ghost Bat’s components will be made in Australia, Boeing officials said. They said each one would be about a tenth of the cost of a manned fighter jet like the F-35. Named after a small but feisty local animal with sharp teeth and a strong jaw that can subdue birds and other vertebrates similar to itself in size, the Ghost Bat has a range of about 2,300 miles, nearly the width of Australia.

NYT

- **1. Ghost Bat Drone**

- Aircraft: **MQ-28A Ghost Bat**, a 38-foot-long military drone.
- Role: Functions as a *loyal wingman* to piloted fighter jets.
- Mission: Collaborative combat with reduced human risk and cost.

- **2. Australia's Defence Push**

- Investment: **\$650 million so far** in partnership with Boeing.
- Manufacturing: To be the first combat aircraft designed & built in Australia in 50 years.
- Location: Testing at **Woomera, South Australia** (Australia's "Area 51").

- **Global Context**

- Arms Race: Experts call this the **biggest conventional arms race since WWII**, led by the US, China, and allies.
- China: Developing "loyal wingman" drones, heavily modernizing its armed forces.
- US: Parallel programs for collaborative combat aircraft.

- **4. Industrial & Economic Significance**

- 70% of Ghost Bat's components will be made domestically in Australia.
- Cost: Roughly 1/10th of an F-35 fighter jet.
- Potential export market: US Navy & allies interested.

-
- **Arms Race Comparison:** Cold War arms race (US vs USSR) vs today's multipolar race (US-China-Russia + regional powers like Australia, India, Japan).
 - **Woomera:** Historically used for British nuclear and missile testing.
 - **Geographical**
 - **South Australia Outback:** Remote area chosen for secrecy, similar to Nevada's Area 51.
 - **Indo-Pacific:** Region becoming the new centre of strategic military competition.
 - **Economic**
 - Defence industry = major driver for **jobs, tech transfer, AI/robotics sector**.
 - Global defence spending is surging post-Ukraine war and rising China threat.

Australia: Part of **AUKUS** (Australia-UK-US security pact)
→ Nuclear submarine project + drone/AI collaboration.

China: Expanding influence in Indo-Pacific → countered by US alliances.

India: Can draw parallels with *Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence* (Tejas, drones, Akash missiles).

Japan PM resigns after party suffers historic defeat in poll

Ishiba Says Did Not Quit Earlier As He First Wanted To Complete Tariff Talks With US

Tokyo: Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba announced his resignation on Sunday following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July's parliamentary election.

Ishiba, who took office in Oct, said he was stepping down as prime minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishiba, a 68-year-old centrist, had resisted demands from opponents further to the right within his own party to resign. He argued that he wanted to avoid a political vacuum at a time when Japan faces key domestic and international challenges, including US tariffs, rising prices and growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba explained at a news conference Sunday night that he had intended for some time to take responsibility for his party's summer election loss, but was first determined to make progress in tariff negotiations with the US. "Who would negotiate with a govt whose leader says he is stepping down?" Ishiba said.

He said the moment had arrived with an order by US President Trump on Friday to lower tariffs on Japanese cars and other products from



The process to choose Ishiba's replacement likely to start in Oct

25% to 15%. "Having reached a milestone in the tariff negotiations, I decided now is the time to make way for a successor," Ishiba said.

The resignation came one day before Ishiba's party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, which would have amounted to a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

He said he made the "painful decision to resign" to avert that step because "it would cause a critical division within the party, and that is absolutely not my intention."

Ishiba said he would instead start a process to hold a party leadership vote to choose his replacement, which is expected to be held in Oct. He is to remain as prime minister until a new leader is elected. Ishiba's leadership lasted only one year. AP

Who could replace Ishiba as premier

Tokyo: Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba's resignation on Sunday will trigger a leadership race in his Liberal Democratic Party, with the winner facing a parliament vote to become prime minister. Since the ruling coalition has lost its majorities in both chambers of parliament, the LDP president is no longer guaranteed to become premier. There is a slim possibility an opposition party leader takes the top office. Here is a list of lawmakers who might throw their hats in the ring:

Sanae Takaichi (64), LDP: If chosen, Takaichi would be Japan's first female prime minister. A party veteran who has



held a variety of roles, including economic security and internal affairs minister, she lost to Ishiba in the LDP leadership race in a run-off vote last year. Known for conservative positions such as revising the pacifist postwar constitution, Takaichi is a regular visitor to the Yasukuni shrine to honour Japan's war dead. Takaichi has opposed Bank of Japan's inter-

est rate hikes and backed public spending to boost economy.

Shinjiro Koizumi (44), LDP: Heir to a political dynasty with a hand in governing Japan for more than a century, Koizumi



would become its youngest PM in the modern era. Koizumi ran in the last year's party leadership race, presenting himself as a reformer. He has been with Ishiba as agriculture minister. In 2019, Koizumi called for Japan to get rid of nuclear reactors.

Yoshihiko Noda (68), CDP: Former PM Noda is the leader of the biggest opposition group Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. As PM from 2011



to 2012, he worked with the LDP to push through law to double consumption tax to 10% to help curb debt. The tax was raised to 10% in 2019. In the upper house election in July, he reversed course and called for a cut to the consumption tax for food items. REUTERS

-
- Shigeru Ishiba, 68, announced resignation as PM and head of **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**.
 - Reason: Taking responsibility for **historic defeat** of LDP in July's parliamentary election.
 - Faced pressure within his own party but delayed to finish **tariff negotiations with the US**.
 - **2. Political Context**
 - Ishiba resisted resigning earlier to avoid political vacuum amid multiple international challenges:
 - **US tariffs on Japan.**
 - Rising regional tensions in Asia-Pacific.
 - Called resignation a “**painful decision**” but necessary for stability.

Leadership race in LDP
will decide next PM.

Possible successors:

Shinjiro Koizumi (44, LDP): Political dynasty, youngest possible PM in modern era.

Sanae Takaichi (64, LDP): Could become Japan's first female PM, hawkish on defence.

Yoshihiko Noda (68, CDP): Ex-PM, leader of opposition Constitutional Democratic Party.

- Resignation comes amid heightened **Indo-Pacific tensions**:
 - China's assertiveness in South China Sea.
 - North Korea's missile threats.
 - Japan's push to revise its **pacifist constitution (Article 9)** for greater military role.



Word of the day

Demented:

affected with madness or insanity

Synonyms: brainsick, crazy, disturbed, mad, sick, unbalanced, unhinged

Usage: *She was demented with worry for her child.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/dementedpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /dɪ'mɛntɪd/





Thank you 😊

