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Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

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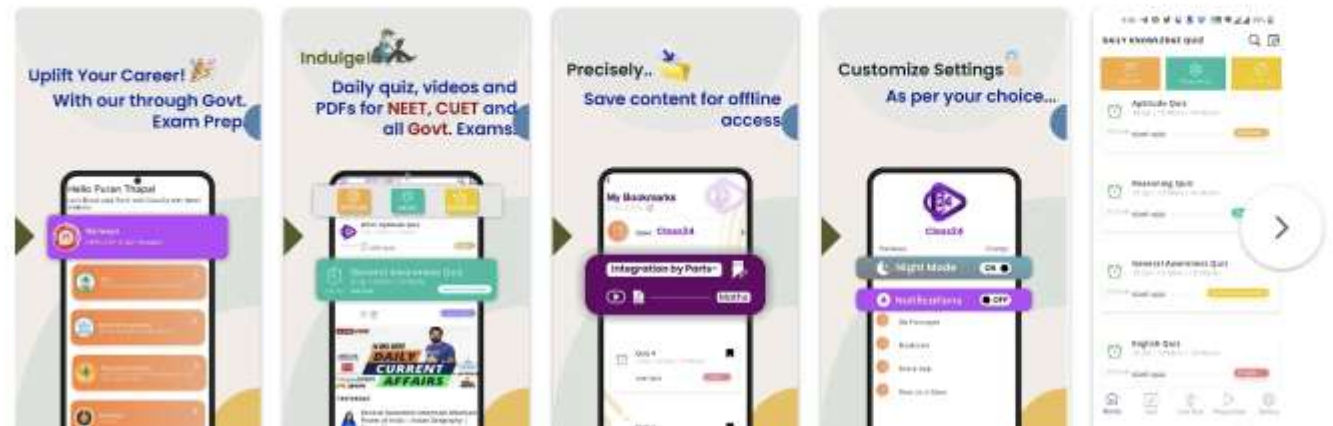
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EI Niyas to strain India's power system
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Voting cannot remain merely a statutory right
Time for top court to revisit doctrine
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Mamata camp submits response to poll body
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INSIDE



'Karnataka H.O.s not making house visits during SIR'

BENGALURU
An NIA delegation has, in a letter to Karnataka CIO, alleged 'irregularities' in the ongoing special intensive rooming (SIR) of electoral rolls and accused booth level officers of violating guidelines by not visiting houses for verification. **» PAGE 3**



India to push for non-permanent seat at the UNSC

NEW DELHI
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will launch India's official campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council during 2025-26, key for the country's leadership role in the Global South on July 15. **» PAGE 4**

PM Modi kicks off 3-nation trip with visit to Indonesia

JAKARTA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Indonesia on Monday, on the first leg of his three-nation tour also covering Australia and New Zealand, aimed at further strengthening India's Act East Policy and its commitment to an inclusive Indo-Pacific. **» PAGE 4**

Beijing test-fires 'strategic' missile into the Pacific

BEIJING
A Chinese nuclear submarine test-fired a 'strategic' missile carrying a dummy 'training simulation' warhead into the Pacific Ocean on Monday, the Chinese Navy said in a statement, Beijing immediately condemned from nations in the region. **» PAGE 14**



Russian missiles, drones leave 21 dead in Ukraine

KYIV
Russia unleashed waves of missiles and drones at Ukraine on Monday killing at least 21 people, authorities said. Fifteen people were killed in capital Kyiv, and 16 other were injured, according to authorities. **» PAGE 14**

Pahalgam attack: NIA files charges against LeT chief

Supplementary chargesheet provides details of Pakistan's conspiracy, Saeed's role, and supporting evidence collected by the agency; LeT, TRF charged as legal entities for their role in the attack

The Hindu Bureau SRINAGAR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed charges against Hafiz Saeed, chief and founder of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy — the Resistance Front (TRF), in the Pahalgam terror attack case. Twenty-two civilians were killed in the attack on April 22, 2025.

An NIA spokesperson said a supplementary charge-sheet filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu. "The accused has been charged under various sections of Bharat Ka Shiksha Sankhya (BKS), 2023 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, NIA



Hafiz Saeed (left) is the chief and founder of Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). A site is believed to be linked to the 2025 Pahalgam attack. NIA Personnel search and seize documents from the site in the Muzaffargarh district in Punjab province, Pakistan. Hafiz Saeed is believed to be the mastermind of the Pahalgam terror attack. In 2020, he was designated as a specially designated global terrorist by the United States.

has also invoked the penal section against the accused for waging war against India and hatching a conspiracy from across the border in the chargesheet," through multidisciplinary investigation and on-ground examination. "The NIA had filed the original chargesheet on

December 15, 2025. It had then charged Pakistan terrorist handler Sajid Iqbal as an accused along with three terrorists, who were killed by the security forces during Operation Mahaveer in July 2025.

Besides, two arrested accused, civilians who allegedly provided logistics to the attackers, were named in the previous chargesheet.

The NIA has charged the LeT and the TRF as legal entities for their "role in planning, facilitating, and executing the Pahalgam terror attack". "The NIA continues to probe the case to unearth the complete conspiracy by Pakistan, which has been actively sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil from across the border," the central agency said.

Link challenge



Workers clear debris from the missing Link section of the Pune-Mumbai Expressway in Maharashtra on Monday, after heavy rain triggered a landslide in the area. The section was opened in May. PM's arrest on road 4

Form used in Census second phase rehearsal has 'open column' for caste

**Yashita Singh
Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI**

The questionnaire used in the rehearsal for the second phase of Census, which started in the States and Union Territories on Monday, has an "open column" for respondents to record their caste, several officials involved in the exercise told *The Hindu*. "Through this gives an indication of how caste is likely to be enumerated in the country as part of the Population Census, 2027," officials said that this was just a "pre-test" and the final methodology will be prepared based on the feedback received during the exercise, which concludes on July 26. The census of all residents will be recorded in



An enumerator takes notes during a door-to-door survey for the Census in New Delhi. **PHOTO: ANAND KUMAR**

the second phase of the Census, named Population Enumeration (PE). The 2027 Census is the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in independent India. Until now, only the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) were enumerated during the Census exercise. The PE phase will be conducted in February 2027 across the country but in Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, it will be concluded by September 30. The final questionnaire will be known by September. **Debate continues** The discourse on the methodology of caste enumeration has largely swung be-

3 held over rape, murder of minor in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
Anand Lakshman
DELHI

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl in Barabari in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Officials said on Monday. One of the accused, Pradyumn Das, was arrested on Sunday night, while two others, Bahadur Sardar and Ananda Sardar, were arrested on Monday, according to police.

"Pradyumn and Bahadur Sardar were also produced before a court, which granted 30 days of police custody. Later, we also arrested the third accused, Ananda Sardar, who will be produced before the court on Tuesday. The three persons have all been detained and the police are questioning them as a group of inmates from South 24 Parganas district jail."

Chief Minister Surendu Adhikari on Monday assured the family members of the victim that his government would ensure capital punishment for the accused. "The family of the victim will get the justice in the way they want it. We will ensure capital punishment for the accused. I am happy that the family have shown faith in me," Mr. Adhikari said.

The police have registered charges of gang rape and murder against the accused members of the sections of POCSEA Act have also been added in the first information report after the primary investigation, the officer said.

Victims had erupted on Sunday after the body of the minor was recovered from a pond. One person was lynched by a mob and some were injured in the violence. A police vehicle was also vandalised. There were no reports of violence on Monday.



211 inmates inmates awaiting a trial to be transferred after the clashes at the Hombani prison in Sri Lanka on Monday. **PHOTO: AP**

7 officers among 26 killed in clashes at Sri Lankan jail

**Mehra Jitendra
Anand Lakshman
COLOMBO**

At least 26 persons, seven of whom were police officers, were killed in a Sri Lankan prison on Monday after a clash among inmates escalated into deadly violence. Two 100 persons were injured.

Tensions began on Sunday as a group of inmates reportedly attacked each other, killing two persons and prompting authorities to deploy military personnel around the prison in Negombo, around 30 km from capital Colombo. The clashes escalated on Monday even as some inmates gathered on the rooftop to protest, demanding their immediate release.

Prison spokesperson Chinnula Gajasinghe said that some prisoners rushed towards the main gate and attempted a breakout, but were held back. Residents of the area told local media that gun shots could be heard outside, suggesting that prisoners had likely seized firearms from prison guards earlier in the day. Sri Lanka's justice Minister Harshana Ratnayake expressed "profound shock and grief" at the loss of human lives. "Whether they were inmates, or associates with the underworld, is not relevant to us at this moment," Mr. Ratnayake said, preser-

sons, adding that he took responsibility for the shocking incident. Authorities are working to separate rival gangs in the prison that are suspected to have triggered Monday's deadly violence, officials said. Meanwhile, authorities have decided to transfer some inmates from Negombo prison to other facilities, officials said.

Prison Department Media Spokesperson A.C. Gajasinghe stated that a special investigation has been launched into the incident. He said a dedicated investigation team has been appointed on the instructions of the Commissioner-General of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the causes and circumstances surrounding the mass.

Overcrowded prisons Monday's prison riots come six years after a deadly riot at the Mahara prison, north of Colombo, during the height of the pandemic in 2020, in which as many as 11 inmates were killed. The incident put the spotlight on dire conditions in Sri Lanka's prisons at the time. Rights defenders said the prison were an accommodation for their intended capacity, resulting in severe overcrowding and lack of facilities during the pandemic. **(With PTI inputs)**



211 inmates inmates awaiting a trial to be transferred after the clashes at the Hombani prison in Sri Lanka on Monday. **PHOTO: AP**

Form used in Census second phase rehearsal has 'open column' for caste

Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot said

The PE phase in 2027 Census had 29 questions covering demographic, cultural and economic parameters, as well as literacy, migration, marital status, travel to place of work, and fertility.

In Faridkot, Haryana, the exercise is being conducted in 17 enumeration blocks. Each block typically has 150 to 200 households with a population of 800 to 900 people.

To evaluate field procedures, digital applications, and operational arrangements ahead of the nation-wide population enumeration, a pre-test was conducted in Ward No. 24 of the district in 17 enumeration blocks — from July 1 to July 20, the office of the

Minister Narinder Mohan Singh said. He said the pre-test was reliable because of "accuracy in what people understood by caste. Significantly, the Prime

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High water: A view of the flooded railway tracks in Kurla on heavy rain during daily life in Mumbai. (Photo: Anand)

3 killed in landslide as rain disrupts life in Maharashtra

Chhiman Gaikwad MUMBAI

Three members of a family were killed in a landslide in Pune district early on Monday as rain wreaked havoc in Pune, Mumbai, and parts of Maharashtra, shutting down sections of the Mumbai Pune Expressway and suspending rail traffic between the two cities.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who chaired a review meeting of the State Emergency Operation Centre, said the India Meteorological Department had issued a disaster warning for Nashik district for Wednesday, which the State government was closely monitoring.

He urged private offices in Mumbai to let employees work from home. Schools and colleges in the city had been shut, he said. Road linking Mumbai and Pune have been affected due to landslides and waterlogging. A landslide occurred near a tunnel of the newly constructed Mumbay-Pune Expressway, leading to its closure for 16 hours. Traffic on this section resumed on Monday night after a safety inspection. The old Mumbai-Pune Highway has been closed after a landslide near Anuravjan bridge and Khajapur Toll Plaza on the expressway led to traffic congestion.

Several trains cancelled: Central Railways cancelled 16 express trains and 16 other all train. The State Legislative Assembly was adjourned for the day after the Opposition staged a protest, demanding answers from the government.

"The administration is prepared to deal with the situation," Mr. Fadnis said. "A detailed reply on the issues raised by the Opposition will be given in the Assembly on Tuesday." The State government deployed a 30-member team of the National Disaster Response Force in Pune district, where a landslide occurred at Patan village in Maval taluka. The landslide buried a house killing three people, the Pune district disaster management office said. Because teams took 23 persons to safety by the evening. "One family is feared trapped under the debris. Search operations are on," said an official.

"Main-roads disaster": The Opposition questioned the government's proposal to reduce Maharashtra Congress president Harishvardhan Sakpal said the government's proposal to reduce the core of the Misingh Link project but "the work was closed within two months of its inauguration."

The deaths in the Mumbai region in the past week are not a natural disaster but a man-made disaster, caused by the Chief Minister. A case of culpable homicide should be registered against the venghis Fadnis," he said. National Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya Sule said Maharashtra has been "hit hard in a single rain."

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Modi begins three-nation trip, starts with Indonesia to boost strategic ties

Prime Minister set to hold discussions with Indonesian President Subianto to add 'momentum to this partnership across diverse sectors'; he will travel to Australia and New Zealand next as part of efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific

Pran Triast of India JAKARTA



Grand welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto upon arrival in Jakarta on Monday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Indonesia on Monday, on the first leg of his three-nation tour, aimed at further strengthening India's Act East Policy, MAHASARAJA vision and its commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

In a special gesture, Mr. Modi was received at the airport by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. In addition, four Ministers were also present to receive the Prime Minister, who soon accepted a traditional ceremonial welcome and a Guard of Honour.

"I will start in Jakarta. I'm touched by President Prabowo Subianto's gesture of welcoming me at the airport," Mr. Modi said in a social media post. "This marks India's first bilateral visit to Indonesia since the elevation of ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. Mr. Modi said he will hold discussions with Mr. Subianto "aimed at adding even more momentum to this partnership across diverse sectors."

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women our nations. While in Indonesia, I also look forward to interacting with the Indian community," he added. The centuries-old temple, known as the 'Temple of 17 lakhs' is situated in the heart of Yogyakarta city, is considered Indonesia's largest Hindu temple.

Mr. Modi witnessed a performance of Wayang Kulit, Indonesia's traditional puppetry tradition, bringing the timeless story of the Ramayana to life. "It was a moving reminder of how our shared civilisational heritage has travelled across seas and generations, taking on beautiful local expressions while preserving its eternal values," he said.

Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Mr. Modi said his visit to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand would further strengthen India's Act East Policy, MAHASARAJA vision as well as "our outlook towards a free and open Indo-Pacific." MAHASARAJA, or Material and Holistic Advancement for Prosperity across the Regions, is India's vision of security and growth for all regions.

Mr. Modi's visit comes after Mr. Prabowo's State visit to India as the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2020. From Indonesia, Mr. Modi will travel to Melbourne at the invitation of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The final leg of the tour will take him to Auckland at the invitation of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

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Meghalaya CM urges Centre to reconsider FCRA changes

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad C. Sangma has urged the Centre to address the State's concerns over the proposed changes to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), saying it could adversely affect Christian institutions involved in public service.

The Chief Minister, leading a delegation of Meghalaya-based Christian leaders, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday to convey their concerns about the proposed amendments to the FCRA. Christians comprise almost 75% of Meghalaya's population.

The delegation focused on Section 8A(3), a clause in the proposed amendment that would empower a designated authority to take over or dispose of assets—buildings, schools, hospitals, and land—created with foreign contributions in cases where an organisation's registration is cancelled or not renewed.

Disrupt the functioning: The Chief Minister highlighted how the proposed changes could disrupt the functioning of religious, educational, and charitable institutions that have long complemented government efforts in socio-economic development.

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Jaishankar gearing up to lead India's campaign for non-permanent UNSC seat

Nalini Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

India on July 13 will launch the official campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council during 2020-25. According to the news note by the Ministry of External Affairs, the launch will be made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who is currently travelling in the Gulf region and will reach New York City on July 15 for the official ceremony that will be crucial from the point of view of India's leadership position in the Global South.

The bid will also require substantial diplomatic mobilisation by India as Tajikistan will be the other candidate for the seat meant for the Asia-Pacific region, while India has received support from countries such as Fiji, United States, Australia and Sri Lanka, it will have to also compete with Tajikistan has been advocating a reform at the UN; and also has been championing the needs of the Global South. That support includes the support of the G20, and also has been championing the needs of the Global South.

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Two Assam Rifles personnel killed in ambush in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau IMPHAL

Unidentified gunmen ambushed two Assam Rifles personnel in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Monday afternoon, killing two personnel and injuring others. District officials said the incident occurred near Nongshangkhong, about 16 km from the town of Ukhrul. The ambushed personnel reportedly belonged to the 40 Assam Rifles detachment stationed at Nongshangkhong, about 16 km from the town of Ukhrul. They have been identified as Warrant Officer Mahant Singh, and Havildar Chandra Mohan Singh.

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Bypolls for 3 RS seats in West Bengal on July 24

Seemaparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

The Election Commission announced on Monday that bypolls to three Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal will be held on July 24. The seats were vacated following the resignation of rebel Trinamool Congress MPs last month.

The three Trinamool Congress MPs last month. The three Trinamool Congress MPs last month. The three Trinamool Congress MPs last month. The three Trinamool Congress MPs last month.

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Education sector 'in ICU', says Congress, promises reform

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Assessing the Narendra Modi government's handling of the country's education system into the "Intensive Care Unit", the Congress on Monday said it would soon unveil an "Education Charter" based on consultations with students, teachers and parents across the country.

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader and MP in-charge, education, Kishore Chandra said the government had weakened institutional safeguards by replacing the National Testing Agency. The Congress leader further called for a regular job calendar for youth and a based academic calendar for examinations.

NTA president Vinod Jaiswal alleged that student union elections were being stifled across campuses to tighten the grip of "BJP-NTA alliance". He also questioned repeated extensions granted to the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, and said the NTA would launch a campaign for constitutional elections.

The NTA is structured through an apparatus of 19 pillars spanning a cumulative 19 hours and 14 minutes of instruction. The NTA is structured through an apparatus of 19 pillars spanning a cumulative 19 hours and 14 minutes of instruction.

Govt. launches mandatory yoga-based wellness course to help seafarers beat stress

M. Balasubramanian CHENNAI

Can 'yoga' of the "sea" help seafarers beat stress? The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), formerly Director General of Shipping, announced on Monday the launch of a mandatory yoga-based wellness course for seafarers.

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Delhi Police arrest newly wed man after wife's death

Shrimadhi Kanishk NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have arrested a 28-year-old man in connection with the death of his wife. "Aarti", who married Aravind Singh on April 24 this year, was found critically injured near an NMC residential complex in Palika Kunj on Saturday (July 5, 2020) evening. She was rushed to AIIMS, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. The police said.

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Jaishankar gearing up to lead India's campaign for non-permanent UNSC seat

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India on July 13 will launch the official campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council during 2028-29. According to a press note by the Ministry of External Affairs, the launch will be made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who is currently travelling in the Gulf region and will reach New York city on July 10 for the official ceremony that will be crucial from the point of view of India's leadership position in the Global South.

The bid will also require substantial diplomatic mobilisation by India as Tajikistan will be the other candidate for the seat meant for the Asia-Pacific region. While India has received support from coun-



S. Jaishankar

tries such as Fiji, United States, Austria and Sri Lanka, it will have to do considerable diplomatic heavy lifting as Tajikistan has already secured the support of the OIC bloc that consists of 57 member-states of the United Nations. That apart, both countries are members of the SCO that will hold the next summit meeting in Kyrgyzstan, adding a special significance to the summit from the point of view of UNSC am-

bitions of India and Tajikistan.

Evolving equation

Mr. Jaishankar has been to various countries over the past months with an eye to the evolving equation at the United Nations because of India's plans for the 2028-29 UNSC non-permanent membership.

He will reach New York city for extensive consultations with India's partners at the UN. While India has been advocating a reform at the UNSC and also has been championing the needs of the Global South, recent trends however have not gone according to the plans. Earlier in May, India postponed the India-Africa Forum Summit that was to be held during May 28-31 citing the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

Aspect	Details	Exam significance
Target	UNSC non-permanent membership	Term: 2028–29
Election	Expected during 2027 UNGA cycle	Voting takes place in UN General Assembly
Regional quota	Asia-Pacific Group seat	India must secure regional and wider UN support
Voting requirement	Two-thirds of members present and voting	If all 193 vote, 129 votes are required
Tenure	2 years	Non-permanent members have no veto
India's previous tenure	2021–22	India served as an elected member most recently
Broader objective	Permanent UNSC membership	India argues for reform of global governance

Component	Number	Main feature
Total members	15	Security Council membership
Permanent members – P5	5	Veto power
Non-permanent members	10	Elected by UNGA
Term	2 years	No immediate consecutive re-election
Members elected annually	5	Ensures rotational continuity
Permanent members	China, France, Russia, UK, USA	Possess veto power

Regional distribution of 10 elected seats

Regional Group	Seats
African Group	3
Asia-Pacific Group	2
Latin America & Caribbean	2
Western Europe and Others	2
Eastern Europe	1

Important conceptual point: India's campaign for a non-permanent seat is different from its long-term demand for a **permanent seat**. Winning in 2028–29 would strengthen India's diplomatic profile but would **not provide veto power**.

3. Why is the 2028–29 term strategically important for India?

A. Strengthening the case for permanent membership

India's argument is based on a fundamental question:

Can a global security institution created in 1945 remain representative when the distribution of economic power, population and geopolitical influence has fundamentally changed?

India's case rests on several factors:

Factor	India's strength
Population	One of the world's largest populations
Economy	Major global economy
Democracy	World's largest electoral democracy
UN peacekeeping	Long-standing major contributor
Global South	Strong diplomatic positioning as a developing-world voice
Nuclear status	Nuclear-armed state
Multilateral diplomacy	Active in G20, BRICS, SCO and Quad
Previous UNSC experience	Eight elected terms so far

4. India's history in the UNSC

India has served **eight terms** as a non-permanent member:

Term	Broad international context
1950–51	Early Cold War period
1967–68	Post-1965 war and decolonisation era
1972–73	After Bangladesh Liberation War
1977–78	Cold War and Non-Aligned diplomacy
1984–85	Intensified Cold War tensions
1991–92	Collapse of Soviet Union; Gulf War aftermath
2011–12	Arab Spring and changing global order
2021–22	COVID-era geopolitics, Afghanistan crisis and Ukraine war

India's 2021–22 term was its eighth elected tenure; during that period India highlighted maritime security, technology in peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, reformed multilateralism and Global South concerns.

8. India's wider UNSC reform agenda



India is not only seeking repeated non-permanent membership. Its larger objective is **reform of the Security Council**.

India's major arguments

Existing problem	India's argument
UNSC reflects 1945 power structure	Membership should reflect the 21st century
Africa has no permanent seat	Historical imbalance must be corrected
Developing countries underrepresented	Global South needs greater representation
Emerging powers excluded	India, Brazil and others deserve representation
Veto concentration	Decision-making power is excessively concentrated
Institutional credibility	Representation deficit weakens legitimacy

India works with the **G4 grouping**—India, Brazil, Germany and Japan—in support of expanded permanent membership.

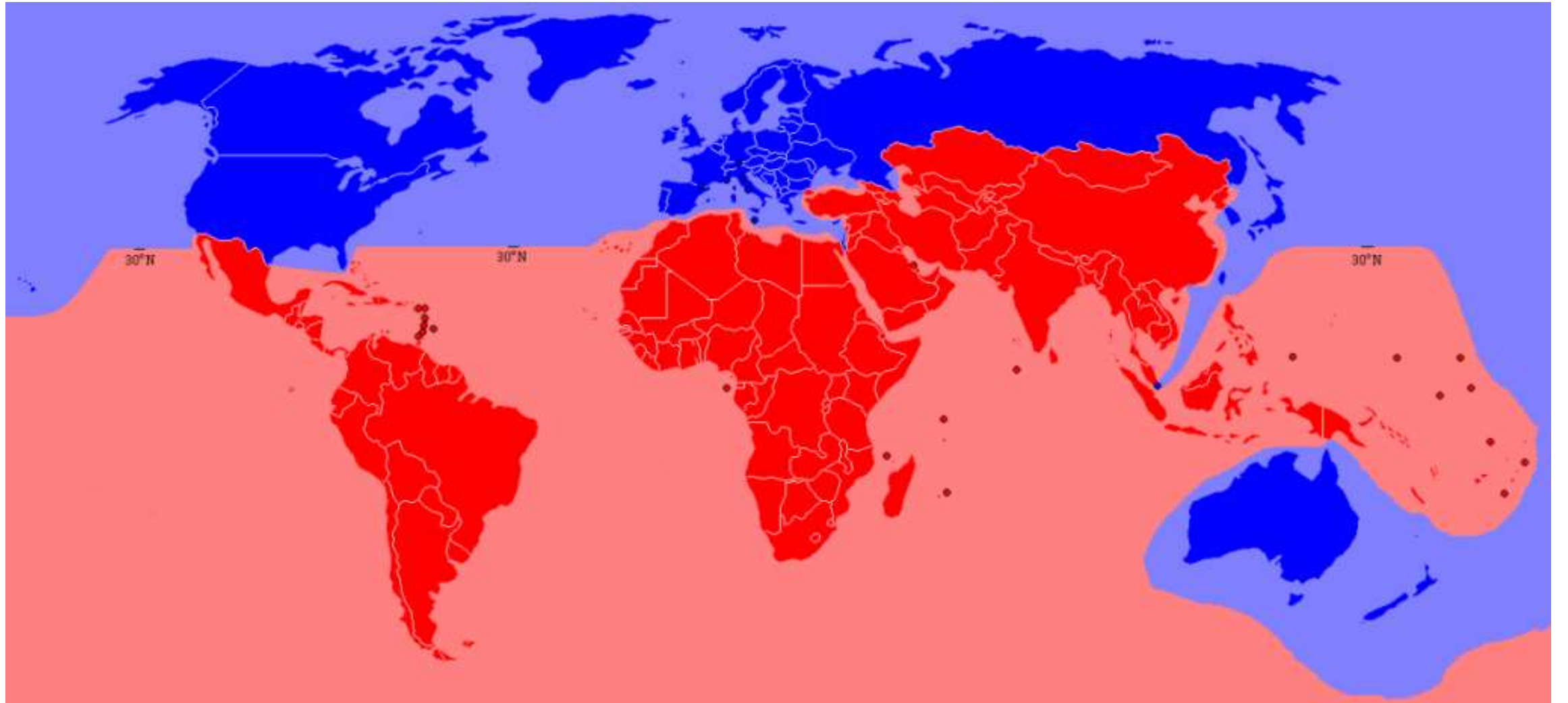
9. Non-permanent seat vs permanent seat

Basis	Non-Permanent Member	Permanent Member
Number	10	5
Selection	UNGA election	Established under UN Charter
Term	2 years	Permanent
Veto	 No	 Yes
Regional rotation	Yes	No
India's current objective	2028–29 election	Long-term strategic goal
Difficulty	Diplomatic vote mobilisation	Requires fundamental UN reform

Why is permanent membership much harder?

Changing the Security Council's composition requires amendment of the UN Charter. In practical political terms, reform requires extremely broad UN support and ratification including all five permanent members. This is why India can repeatedly win elected seats while permanent membership remains unresolved.





'El Niño set to dent India's wind, hydropower output'

Study projects rise in coal-fired power; it says weaker wind and hydropower output, combined with rising demand for air conditioning, could lead to a generation shortfall of nearly 18 TWh

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's power system stands to be strained more by the developing El Niño than that of any other country, according to an analysis by the think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). It projects that weaker wind and hydropower output, combined with rising demand for air conditioning, could open a generation gap of nearly 18 TWh (terawatt hour) over a period of one year, till June 2027.

Set against India's total electricity generation of about 1,846 billion units in 2025-26, the shortfall CREA models is small or under 1% of annual output. Non-fossil sources supplied 29.2% of that generation.

The group's concern is less the size of the gap than how it is filled. The projected median output puts it at 17.7 TWh and its most severe at 24 TWh – one TWh is a billion units of electricity – and says the likeliest outcome is a surge in coal-fired power, which will re-



Generating power: A wind farm at Gudimangalam in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

lease an estimated 17 million tonne of carbon dioxide. It stresses that these are scenario projections, not forecasts.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed last month that El Niño conditions had emerged over the equatorial Pacific and were expected to strengthen through the monsoon.

It has forecast below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall at 90% of the long-period average, with a 60% chance of a deficient season.

June rainfall closed with

an all-India rainfall deficit of about 40%, the fifth-lowest for June since 1901, and the cumulative shortfall stood at 20% below normal by July 6. IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra has said rainfall in July is likely to stay below normal across most of the country.

Record generation

India entered the season with record electric generation capacity. As on March 31, non-fossil installed capacity reached 283.46 GW – 150.26 GW of solar, 56.09 GW of wind,

51.41 GW of large hydro and 8.78 GW of nuclear – after a record 44.6 GW of solar and 6 GW of wind were added in 2025-26. Coal remains the largest single source of power, at about 42% of installed capacity, though coal generation fell 3.69% over the year. Peak demand touched 270.82 GW on May 21, according to official data.

CREA, which reports that solar now meets 24% of daytime demand, argues that storage could have absorbed more of it. Grid operators curtailed about 2.1 TWh of solar and wind last year to keep coal plants running – waste that CREA, citing energy analytics firm Ember, says roughly 10 GWh of battery storage could have averted.

India must “move much faster on batteries and grid upgrades”, said Nandikesh Sivalingam, CREA's director, so that clean energy can meet future demand surges. The country is lining up around 130 GW of new coal capacity that provides on-demand power and helps buffer against record peaks such as in May.

Parameter	Key information
Study/analysis	Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)
Period assessed	One year up to June 2027
Median estimated generation gap	17.7 TWh
Severe scenario gap	24 TWh
India's 2025–26 electricity generation	Around 1,846 TWh
Gap as % of annual generation	Less than 1% in median case
Possible additional CO ₂ emissions	About 17 million tonnes
Non-fossil share of generation	29.2%
Peak power demand cited	270.82 GW , on May 21

Solar capacity	150.26 GW
Wind capacity	56.09 GW
Large hydro	51.41 GW
Nuclear	8.78 GW
Coal share of installed capacity	Around 42%
Solar contribution to daytime demand	Around 24%
Renewable curtailment	About 2.1 TWh of solar and wind
Battery storage estimate cited	Roughly 10 GWh could have avoided much of the curtailment

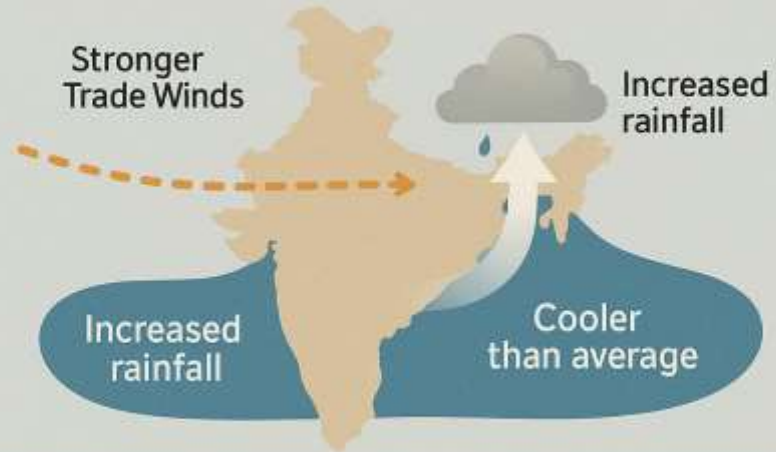
ENSO

(El Niño-Southern Oscillation)

EL NIÑO PHASE



LA NIÑA PHASE



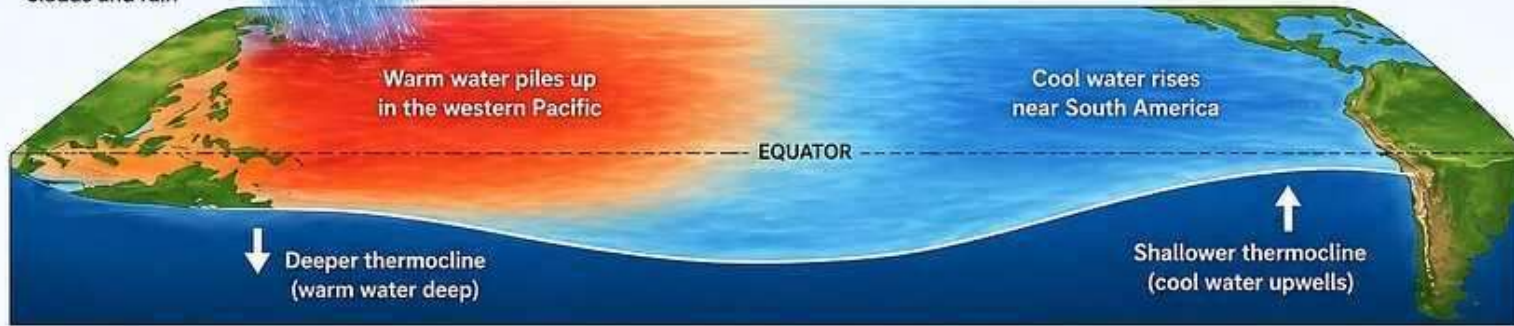
NORMAL CONDITIONS (Strong Trade Winds)

WEST
Asia / Australia

EAST
South America

Warm, moist air rises, forming clouds and rain

Strong Trade Winds
blow from east to west



WHAT HAPPENS?

- Rainfall occurs mostly in Asia and Australia
- Normal weather patterns
- Good conditions for farming and water

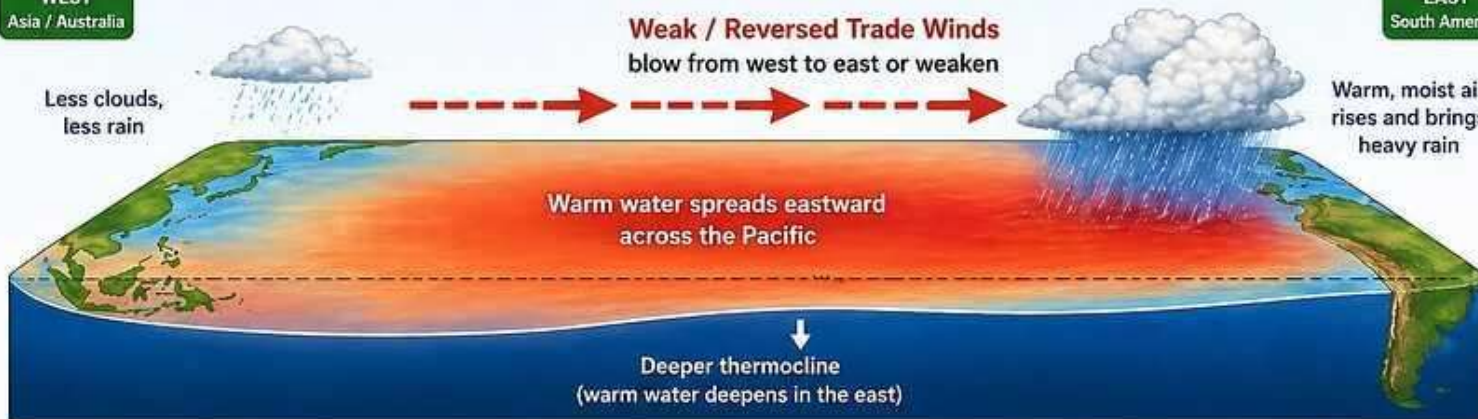
SUPER EL NIÑO (Weak / Reversed Trade Winds)

WEST
Asia / Australia

EAST
South America

Less clouds, less rain

Weak / Reversed Trade Winds
blow from west to east or weaken



WHAT HAPPENS?

- Heavy rain and floods in South America
- Drought and heat in Australia, Indonesia and parts of Asia
- Stronger storms and extreme weather
- Crop stress, water shortage

KEY DIFFERENCE

Normal:

Strong trade winds push warm water west.
Rain in the west (Asia/Australia).
Cool water upwells in the east.



Super El Niño:

Weak or reversed winds let warm water move east. Rain in the east (South America).
Drought and heat in many other places including India.

IMPACT ON INDIA

- Hotter summers
- Weaker monsoon
- Less rainfall in many parts
- Drought risk increases

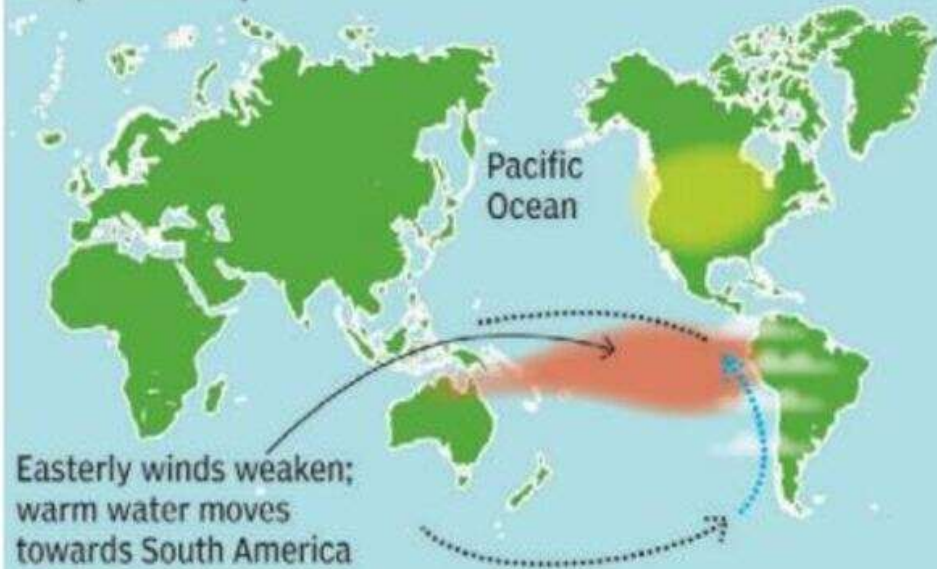


WHAT ARE EL NINO & LA NINA YEARS

El Nino year

An irregular event of abnormal warming of eastern Pacific waters. Occurs at intervals of two to seven years

How It Hits Indian Monsoon | Area of rising warm air/rain shifts towards central/east Pacific. This warm air current subsides over Indian Ocean/India's mainland, creating high pressure that keeps rain away



La Nina year

A cold episode that usually follows the warm El Niño phenomenon. The warm equatorial ridge cools, between coasts of South America and Oceania

How It Helps Indian Monsoon | Warm air/high rainfall region in west Pacific reinforces monsoon winds, invigorating rains over India

ENSO Phase	Pacific condition	General influence on Indian monsoon
El Niño	Warmer central/eastern equatorial Pacific	Often associated with weaker monsoon
La Niña	Cooler central/eastern equatorial Pacific	Often associated with stronger monsoon
Neutral	Near-normal conditions	No strong ENSO forcing

- **El Niño does not automatically mean drought in India.**
- Its effect can be modified by:
- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD),
- Eurasian snow cover,
- Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO),
- local sea-surface temperatures,
- intra-seasonal monsoon oscillations,
- Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal conditions.



4. Why can hydropower fall during El Niño?

The relationship operates primarily through rainfall and river inflows.

Below-normal monsoon → reduced catchment rainfall → lower river inflows → slower reservoir recharge → reduced hydropower flexibility and generation

Stage	Impact
Rainfall deficit	Less water enters river basins
Lower runoff	Reduced reservoir inflows
Reservoir stress	Water must be balanced among competing uses
Irrigation demand	May increase during weak rainfall
Drinking water priority	Limits discretionary release
Hydro generation	May decline or become less flexible
Grid impact	Less dispatchable low-carbon power is available

Hydropower is particularly valuable because it can often be ramped up or down much faster than coal generation, making it useful for **peak demand management and renewable balancing**.



Unit	Meaning
1 kWh	1,000 watt-hours
1 MWh	1,000 kWh
1 GWh	1 million kWh
1 TWh	1 billion kWh or units

- **Why a sub-1% annual gap can still matter**
- Electricity shortages are often:
 - seasonal,
 - regional,
 - concentrated during peak hours,
 - concentrated during heat waves,
 - difficult to meet instantly.
- For example, excess solar electricity at noon does not automatically solve a power shortage at 9 p.m. unless storage or other flexible resources are available.

Stealth frigate *Mahendragiri* set to join Indian Navy

The Indian Navy will commission its sixth indigenous Project 17A stealth frigate, *Mahendragiri* (F38), in Visakhapatnam on July 11, marking another major milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme. The stealth frigate was designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai. *Mahendragiri* is equipped with advanced stealth features, reduced radar signature, enhanced survivability, and a high degree of automation, the Navy said. The stealth frigate has more than 75% indigenous content, it added.

Parameter

Name

Pennant number

Category

Class

Project

Designer

Builder

Delivered

Commissioning

Commissioning location

Length

Displacement

Maximum speed

Indigenous content

Primary role

Warfare capability

Details

INS Mahendragiri

F38

Stealth guided-missile frigate

Nilgiri class

Project 17A (P-17A)

Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai

30 April 2026

11 July 2026

Visakhapatnam

Around 149 metres

Around 6,670 tonnes

About 28 knots

More than 75%

Multi-mission surface combatant

Anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare



2. What is Project 17A?

Project 17A is the Indian Navy's programme for building **seven advanced stealth frigates** as successors to the earlier **Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates**.

Evolution

Project 17 Shivalik class → Project 17A Nilgiri class → greater stealth + better automation + improved sensors + stronger air defence + improved survivability

Feature	Project 17 Shivalik Class	Project 17A Nilgiri Class
Generation	Earlier indigenous stealth frigate	Advanced follow-on generation
Stealth	Significant	Further enhanced
Automation	Lower	Higher
Radar signature	Reduced	Further optimised
Sensors	Older generation	Advanced integrated suite
Platform management	Earlier systems	Advanced IPMS
Construction method	Conventional/modular elements	Greater use of integrated construction
Indigenous ecosystem	Developing	Much deeper supplier ecosystem

Warship type

Broad role

Relative characteristics

Aircraft Carrier

Sea-based air power projection

Largest and strategically most powerful

Destroyer

Fleet air defence and heavy surface warfare

Large, heavily armed

Frigate

Multi-role escort and independent operations

Balanced weapons, sensors and endurance

Corvette

Coastal and regional warfare

Smaller and lighter

ASW Shallow Water Craft

Coastal anti-submarine warfare

Specialised platform

Submarine

Underwater warfare and deterrence

Stealth-focused

Role of INS Mahendragiri

It can potentially perform:

- fleet escort,
- carrier battle group protection,
- anti-submarine warfare,
- air defence,
- anti-ship warfare,
- maritime surveillance,
- sea-lane protection,
- independent long-range deployment,
- presence missions in the Indian Ocean.



4. Understanding the three-dimensional warfare capability

Modern naval combat takes place in three principal domains.

Domain	Threat	Mahendragiri's broad response
Air	Aircraft, drones, incoming missiles	Radar + surface-to-air missile systems + close-in defence
Surface	Enemy warships and surface targets	Anti-ship missiles and naval gun
Underwater	Submarines	Sonar, torpedoes, ASW rockets and helicopters

This makes the ship a **multi-role frigate**, rather than a platform designed for only one type of combat.

Shipyard	Location	Number of P17A ships
Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited	Mumbai	4
Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers	Kolkata	3
Total	—	7



Feature	Project 15B	Project 17A
Ship type	Guided missile destroyer	Stealth frigate
Class	Visakhapatnam class	Nilgiri class
Primary character	Heavy surface combatant	Multi-role escort/combatant
Relative displacement	Higher	Lower
Number	4	7
Strategic role	High-end fleet warfare	Escort + independent multi-mission operations

Diamond jewellery among payloads to be launched by Vikram-1 rocket

Hemanth C.S.

BENGALURU

A diamond jewellery creation mounted on an aluminium base plate and a miniaturised artwork cast in the shape of a rocket using 18K gold are among the payloads which will be launched by India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, Vikram-1. It is expected to be launched some time between July 12 and August 4.

Skyroot Aerospace on Monday announced that the orbital launch vehicle will carry six payloads.

The rocket will carry technology demonstration payloads from Graaha Space, Dcubed, and Skyroot's own SCOPE. Also aboard will be the Embrace payload, developed by Cosmoserve Space.

During the mission, the robotic arm will remain attached to Vikram-1's payload deck while carrying



Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, is expected to be launched soon. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

out its planned demonstration.

Tribute to visionaries

In addition to the technology demonstration payloads, Vikram-1 will carry two payloads celebrating creativity and India's scientific heritage. These include Cosmic Bloom, developed by Cosmos Diamonds, featuring a diamond jewellery creation mounted on an aluminium

base plate, and Microart by Ajay Kumar Mattewada, an 18K gold rocket holding micro-sculptures of Sir C.V. Raman, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam – each smaller than a grain of rice.

The artwork pays tribute to three visionaries whose pioneering contributions continue to inspire India's scientific and space journey.

There will be one inter-

national payload developed by Dcubed GmbH, Germany.

"India's space sector is witnessing a remarkable phase of innovation and entrepreneurship. Missions like Vikram-1 are helping expand opportunities for emerging space companies to demonstrate and scale their technologies," said Ramesh Kumar V., co-founder and CEO, Grahaa Space, whose nano-satellite, SOLARAS, will be a part of the mission.

"Mission Aagaman gave us a platform to rapidly send our systems to space and test them. Through this mission with Skyroot, we accelerated our soft-robotic capture technology from concept to flight-ready in just four months, advancing the space debris removal capabilities being developed at Cosmoserve Space," said Chiranjeevi Phanindra, founder and CEO of Cosmoserve Space.



Aspect

Rocket

Developer

Significance

Mission type

Number of payloads

Launch window in article

Major payload theme

Key technologies

Broader significance

Details

Vikram-1

[Skyroot Aerospace](#)

India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, if successful as planned

Orbital launch and technology demonstration

6

July 12–August 4, 2026

Space technology + robotics + art + scientific heritage

Robotic capture, debris-removal technology, nano-satellite systems

Commercialisation of India's space ecosystem



Vikram-S

Suborbital rocket

Technology demonstrator

Launched in November 2022

Did not place satellite into orbit

Mission: Prarambh

Vikram-1

Orbital-class rocket

Commercial satellite launch vehicle

Upcoming orbital mission

Designed to inject payloads into Earth orbit

Operational/commercial Vikram-series progression

Basis	Suborbital	Orbital
Reaches space	Yes	Yes
Completes orbit around Earth	No	Yes
Horizontal velocity required	Lower	Very high
Technical difficulty	High	Much higher
Example	Vikram-S	Vikram-1
Typical use	Experiments and technology demonstrations	Satellite deployment



Payload/organisation

Country

Purpose

SCOPE

India

Skyroot's own payload/technology demonstration

SOLARAS

India

Grahaa Space nano-satellite

Embrace

India

CosmoServe Space robotic technology demonstration

Cosmic Bloom

India

Diamond jewellery artwork in space

Microart

India

Gold micro-sculptures honouring Indian scientists

Dcubed payload

Germany

International technology payload



Company

Main area

[Skyroot Aerospace](#)

Launch vehicles

[Agnikul Cosmos](#)

Small satellite launch vehicles and propulsion

[Pixxel](#)

Hyperspectral Earth observation

[Dhruva Space](#)

Satellite platforms and space infrastructure

[Bellatrix Aerospace](#)

Space propulsion and mobility

[Digantara](#)

Space situational awareness

Period	Major development
1960s	Early institutional foundation of Indian space programme
1969	ISRO established
1975	Aryabhata, India's first satellite
1980	Rohini placed in orbit by an Indian launch vehicle
1990s	PSLV emerges as reliable launch vehicle
2008	Chandrayaan-1
2013–14	Mars Orbiter Mission
2020	Major opening of space sector to private participation
2022	Vikram-S private rocket launch
2023	Chandrayaan-3 lunar south polar-region landing achievement
Current phase	Private orbital launch, satellite constellations and space-tech services

US striker's match ban reversed: What FIFA rules say

Abhinav Chakraborty

New Delhi, July 6

WHEN THE US striker Folarin Balogun received a straight red card and a one-game ban for fouling Bosnia and Herzegovina's Tarik Muharemovic last week in the Round of 32 knockout game of the ongoing FIFA World Cup, popular reaction suggested that the dismissal was rather harsh. The US managed to win 2-0.

Controversy, however, erupted after FIFA, the world's top footballing body, reversed the red card decision ahead of the crucial Round of 16 game between the US and Belgium late Monday — seemingly at the behest of US President Donald Trump. The Belgian football federation said Monday it would challenge FIFA's decision. UEFA, European football's governing body, said the decision had "crossed a red line".

FIFA's rationale

In reversing Balogun's red card decision, FIFA's Independent Disciplinary Committee cited Article 27 of the FIFA disciplinary code, which states that the judicial committee is authorised to suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure or sanction (such as a match ban), whereupon the measure itself remains in force but does not have to be served immediately unless the suspension is revoked later.

• RED CARD

- Three things happen when a player gets a red card.
- They have to walk off the field right then and their team cannot replace them. The player is also barred from playing the next match.
- A team can have up to four players sent off in a match.

The sanctioned player is then put on a probationary period of between one and four years — Balogun was placed on a one-year probation — and if the player commits a similar offence during this period, then they will have to serve the suspension. The code does not mention the circumstances wherein a judicial body may decide to suspend a disciplinary measure, but

such a measure cannot be suspended if the offence is related to match fixing.

Rules on disciplinary action

Law 12 of the International Football Association Board's Laws of the Game 2026-27 governs rules pertaining to "Fouls and Misconduct". The laws empower the referee to broadly take four kinds of disciplinary action against offences committed by either players (including substitutes) or team officials: warning, caution, yellow card, and red card. This extends "from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including penalties)".

For minor offences, referees tend to first communicate a warning or caution to the players or officials concerned; should they repeat such offences, the referee can issue a yellow card — also called a "booking". While a player can continue on the pitch after being booked once, a second yellow card in the same match — which equals one red card — means they would have to leave the field.


A red card communicates graver offences such as dangerous challenges, abusive behaviour towards match officials, denying an open goalscoring opportunity by fouling one's opponent, or handling the ball. As in Balogun's case, the video assistant referee (VAR) can step in to flag missed red card offences; for this tournament, VAR can even overturn a second yellow, if necessary.

Stage	What happened
Match	USA vs Bosnia and Herzegovina
Competition stage	Round of 32
Incident	Balogun stepped on the ankle of Tarik Muharemović
Referee decision	Straight red card
Immediate consequence	USA played the remaining period with 10 players
Normal rule consequence	Automatic suspension from next match
FIFA action	One-match suspension placed under probation
Probation period	1 year
Effect	Balogun became eligible for the next match
Controversy	Critics questioned consistency and possible political influence

2. The most important clarification: the red card was not technically “reversed”

The newspaper headline says the match ban was reversed. The legal position is more nuanced.

Question	Answer
Was the red card deleted?	No
Was the player declared innocent?	No
Was the one-match punishment imposed?	Yes
Did he immediately serve it?	No
What happened?	Enforcement was suspended conditionally
For how long?	One-year probation
Can it return?	Potentially, if the conditions of probation are breached

FIFA relied on **Article 27 of its Disciplinary Code**, which permits a judicial body to suspend, fully or partly, the implementation of a disciplinary measure and place the sanctioned person on probation.  AI Jazeeraera +1

Easy analogy

Think of the distinction as:

Conviction remains + punishment exists + execution of punishment is conditionally suspended.


This is closer to a **suspended sentence** than an acquittal.

3. What normally happens after a red card?

Red-card rule

A player receiving a direct red card or a second-yellow resulting in a red card must:

1. leave the field immediately;
2. take no further part in that match;
3. leave the technical area;
4. normally miss the team's next match automatically;
5. potentially face additional suspension for serious misconduct.

Critics of FIFA's decision point to the automatic-suspension provisions in the disciplinary and competition rules, while FIFA relies on the disciplinary committee's separate power to suspend implementation of a sanction. That tension between an **automatic underlying sanction** and a **discretionary suspension power** is the central legal issue.  Al Jazeera +1

4. Red card vs yellow card

Basis	Yellow Card	Red Card
Meaning	Formal caution	Sending-off offence
Player leaves field?	No	Yes
Replacement allowed?	Not for the sent-off player during the match	
Team continues with	11 players after ordinary yellow	10 after red, subject to game-specific exceptional rules
Next-match ban	Depends on accumulation rules	Normally automatic
Two yellows in same match	Becomes red	Player sent off
Typical offences	Reckless challenge, dissent, delay	Serious foul play, violent conduct, denying obvious goal opportunity

Cooperative Life Insurance Initiative

Aspect	Details
Initiative	Proposed cooperative life insurance company
Announced on	6 July 2026
Occasion	5th Foundation Day of Ministry of Cooperation
Sector	Life insurance
Ownership philosophy	Cooperative/member-oriented model
Primary opportunity	Rural and semi-urban insurance penetration
Distribution strength	PACS, cooperative banks and societies
Related model	Bharat Taxi cooperative model
Broader vision	Sahkar se Samriddhi
Key policy theme	Cooperative economy + financial inclusion

Traditional shareholder model

Owned by shareholders

Capital-provider returns important

Profit distributed to investors

Conventional distribution

Customer is usually separate from owner

Cooperative-oriented model

Member-oriented ownership structure

Member benefit central

Surplus may support members or institution

Cooperative networks can distribute products

Member may have an ownership relationship

Existing problem	Potential cooperative solution
High distribution cost	Use existing institutional network
Low trust in financial products	Local member relationships
Rural accessibility	Village-level cooperative presence
Irregular income	Potential for customised premium structures
Weak financial literacy	Local awareness and assisted distribution
Small-ticket customers	Aggregation through cooperatives

5. How could the proposed insurance model work?

A likely functional chain can be understood as follows:

Cooperative insurer



Cooperative banks / authorised corporate agents



PACS and cooperative institutions



Local members and households



Premium collection + policy servicing + claims assistance

The biggest competitive advantage is potentially **distribution economics**.

Traditional insurance distribution can be expensive because companies must spend on:

- agents,
- commissions,
- branch networks,
- advertising,
- customer acquisition,
- servicing infrastructure.

A cooperative network may reduce some of these costs by using pre-existing institutional relationships.

Period**Development**

1904	Cooperative Credit Societies Act
1912	Cooperative Societies Act broadened scope
Post-1947	Cooperatives integrated into development planning
1960s onward	Expansion of dairy, sugar and credit cooperatives
1984	Multi-State Cooperative Societies legislation
2002	New Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and National Cooperative Policy era
2011–12	97th Constitutional Amendment
2021	Ministry of Cooperation created
2026	Cooperative life insurance company announced

Sector	Cooperative importance
Dairy	Milk procurement, processing and marketing
Sugar	Particularly important in Maharashtra and parts of western India
Fertiliser	Production and distribution
Rural credit	PACS and cooperative banks
Agriculture marketing	Aggregation and marketing
Fisheries	Collective production and marketing
Housing	Cooperative housing societies
Handloom	Producer organisation
Consumer retail	Consumer cooperatives
Insurance	Proposed major expansion area

Word of the day

Appetence:

a feeling of craving something

Synonyms: yearning, urge, drive

Usage: *The team's appetite for success was obvious.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/appetence

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /æpɪtəns/



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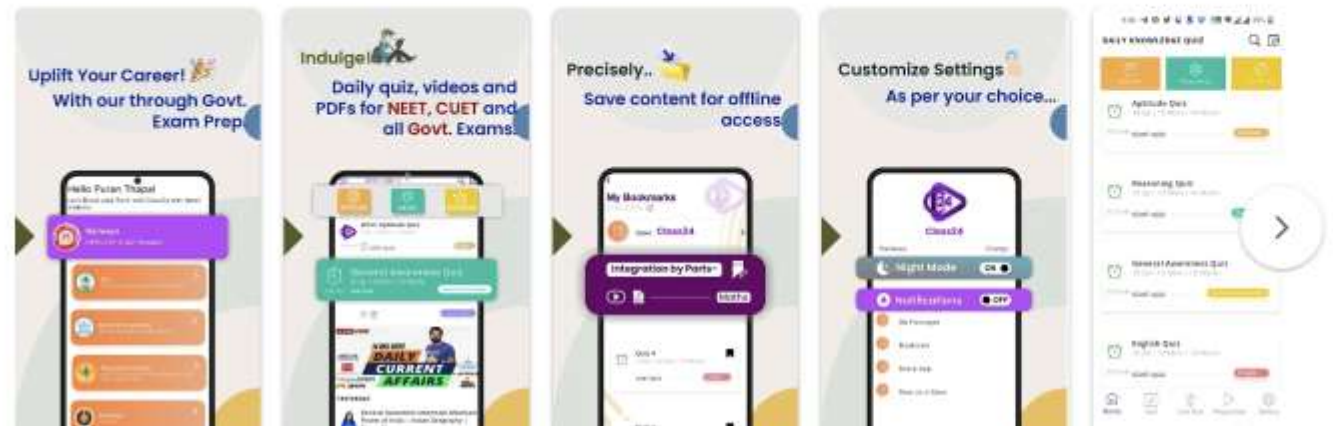
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