

# Daily Current Affairs

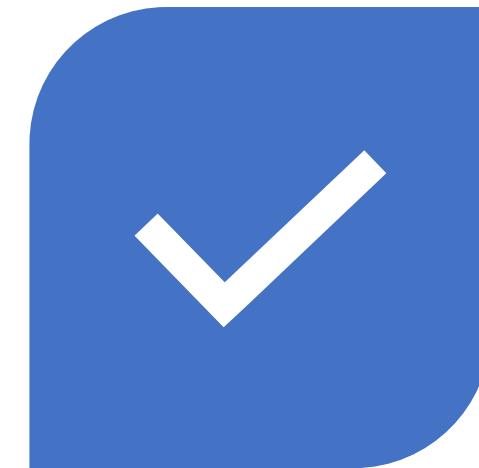




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## ICC T20 WORLD CUP Suryakumar swings it India's way

The skipper's stroke-filled innings  
revives the host and propels it to a  
match-winning total against USA

SPORT ► PAGE 12



Meghalaya coal mine  
explosion toll rises  
(to 27)  
NEWS ► PAGE 2

Abbas Araghchi: Iran's  
diplomat on a  
tightrope  
PROFILES ► PAGE 6

Loud music may  
damage your  
hearing  
SCIENCE ► PAGE 20

### INSIDE



#### After 17 years, J&K govt. drops Dal Lake project

**SAKINAKA** The Jammu and Kashmir government has abandoned the ₹416.72-crore resettlement plan for Dal Lake, after a question from National Conference legislator Tariq Hashmi, it told the Assembly that the project was "only 27% progress" in 17 years. ▶ PAGE 8



#### Kerala HC rejects plea on priests' temple entry

**KOCHI** The Kerala High Court has dismissed a plea challenging entry of Christian priests into a temple in Pathanamthitta in Andhra Pradesh. The court rejected the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Act, 2006. ▶ PAGE 2

## India, U.S. unveil framework for trade deal

Both countries commit to provide each other  
preferential market access on sustained basis

India intends to purchase U.S. products  
worth \$500 billion over the next five years

Framework reflects growing trust and dynamism  
of partnership; will generate jobs, says Modi

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

**I**ndia will remove or reduce tariffs on all imports in a "wide range" of agricultural products imported from the United States, according to the joint statement issued by the two countries. In return, the U.S. will reduce its tariffs on Indian imports — to the same level as India — in a "wide range" of products, including the relevant executive order, the statement said.

Notably, the joint statement includes a specific clause that says that each country will "make available its own commitments if the other country changes the agreement."

This framework reflects the growing depth, breadth and quality of the partnership," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, adding that India will benefit by opening new opportunities for Indian farmers, entrepreneurs, traders, ITP innovators, fishermen and more. It will generate large opportunities for women and youngsters.

India will eliminate or

reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of agricultural products, including

chemicals, food and

processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and agricultural products," the joint statement said.

"The United States and India will provide each other preferential market access in sectors of respective interest," the joint statement said. "The United States and India will endeavour to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement accrue predominantly to India and the United States and India."

In a post on X, T. Goyal said, "India reflects India's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests and sustaining ru-

able livelihoods by completely protecting sensitive agricultural and dairy products, and by gradually removing tariffs on aluminum, steel, and copper."

The joint statement said

that the U.S. would reduce

its imports from India, including

textiles and apparel, steel,

aluminum, diamonds, aircraft,

aircraft parts, precious

metals, cheese, ethanol

products, meat, etc."

The statement said

that the two countries

would also remove non-

tariff barriers that affect

trade between them.

The joint statement said

that India will address

non-tariff barriers on

a more comprehensive bilateral Trade Agreement (FTA).

"The U.S. affirms that it remains committed to consider, during the BTA, India's request that the U.S. continue to work to lower tariffs on Indian goods," the statement said.

The two countries also

agreed to strengthen "strategic security alignment" to enhance supply chain resilience and innovation through "complementary actions" such as "third market policies of third parties", as well as cooperation on "cross-bound investment reviews and export controls".

India agreed to purchase \$500 billion of U.S. energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, cheese, ethanol products, and coking coal over the next five years. "The statement said that the U.S. will significantly increase trade in technology products, including Electronics Processing Units (EPUs) and other goods used in data centers, and expand joint research and technology cooperation."

**Digital trade**

The two countries also committed to address "borderless" practices and other barriers to digital trade, and to work "in a transparent way" to achieve mutually beneficial digital trade rules as part of the BTA.

**SKAM ANNOUNCES PROTEST**

► PAGE 4

## SIR rules on parent mapping leave those raised in orphanages, charity homes in a fix

Shreeparna Chakrabarti  
NEW DELHI



while those born after 2004 need to show their own documents and those of both their parents if they are to register.

Even if someone wants to register as a fresh voter, a separate declaration has to be signed by the parents of the voter.

According to Mr. Shekli,

it is the State that will

provide him with the necessary documents, he says, failing which his voter card may be dis-enfranchised.

Under SIR, those born between 2004 and 2007 need to furnish their own documents and those of one of their parents.

A 2016 study by the Ministry of Women and Child Development says there are approximately 9,500 care institutions (CIs) in India, including government-run homes and NGOs-supported homes, housing 1.5 lakh children at any given time. Every year, thousands of children turn 18 and transition out of these homes.

Under the SIR, children born after 2004 need to show their own documents and those of both their parents if they are to map their parents as required by the rules.

A 2016 study by the Mi-

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## Dancing on ice



Ice game! People at the ice skating rink at Lakkher Bazar in Shillong on Saturday. The snow and ice

caused a drop in daytime temperatures, with dense clouds covering the sky in J&K, say officials. PTI

## Islamic State affiliate claims Pakistan suicide bombing

Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

An affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility overnight for a suicide bombing in Pakistan. According to investigation officials, an identity card belonging to the group's leader established the attacker's identity as Yasin, a 32-year-old from Peshawar. The group, Islamic State affiliate, known as Islamic State in Pakistan, claimed responsibility in a statement posted on its Amaq News Agency. It said the attacker detonated his explosive vest after reaching the mosque's inner gate. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a series of suicide attacks in Pakistan since 2014.

Investigators have also revealed that prior to the bombing, the attacker had been training in Afghanistan for approximately five months, where he allegedly received training in weapons handling and suicide attacks. (With PTI inputs)

# India, U.S. unveil framework for trade deal

Both countries commit to provide each other preferential market access on sustained basis

India intends to purchase U.S. products worth \$500 billion over the next five years

Framework reflects growing trust and dynamism of partnership; will generate jobs, says Modi

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

**I**ndia will remove or reduce tariffs on all industrial goods and a "wide range" of agricultural goods imported from the United States, according to the joint statement issued by the two countries on Saturday morning.

In return, the U.S. will reduce its tariffs on Indian imports to 18% from the existing 50% by amending the relevant executive order, the statement said. These commitments are part of the framework the two countries have worked out in an Interim Agreement on trade.

Notably, the joint statement includes a specific clause that says that each country can modify its own commitments if the other country changes the agreed tariffs.

"This framework reflects the growing depth, trust and dynamism of our partnership," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X. "It strengthens 'Make in India' by opening new opportunities for India's hard-working farmers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs, StartUp innovators, fishermen and more. It will generate large-scale employment for women and youngsters."

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal

## Deal diary

India and the U.S., in a joint statement on Saturday, announced that the two countries have worked out the framework for an interim agreement on trade

- The U.S. has already removed 25% tariffs; remaining 25% will be lowered to 18% 'next week'
- India to reduce/ remove tariffs for U.S. goods only after a formal deal is signed, likely in March
- Sensitive agricultural items and dairy kept out of the deal
- Both countries can modify their commitments if one of them changes the agreed-upon tariffs
- Both countries agreed to continue working towards a larger Bilateral Trade Agreement



**Finer details:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal speaking about the details of the deal to presspersons in New Delhi. PTI

feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the joint statement said.

"The United States and India commit to provide each other preferential market access in sectors of respective interest on a sustained basis," the statement said. "The United States and India will establish rules of origin that ensure that the benefits of the Agreement accrue predominantly to the United States and India."

In a post on X, Mr. Goyal said the framework "reflects India's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests and sustaining ru-

ral livelihoods by completely protecting sensitive agricultural and dairy products, including maize, wheat, rice, soya, poultry, milk, cheese, ethanol (fuel), tobacco, certain vegetables, meat, etc".

The joint statement said that the U.S. would reduce its tariffs to 18% on several imports from India, including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastic and rubber, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal products, and certain machinery.

After the interim agreement is officially signed, the U.S. will remove tariffs on a wider range of goods, including generic pharma-

ceuticals, gems and diamonds, and aircraft and aircraft parts. In addition, the U.S. said it would remove tariffs on aluminium, steel, and copper.

### Non-tariff barriers

The joint statement said that the two countries would also address non-tariff barriers that affect trade between them.

India has agreed to address non-tariff barriers on the import of U.S. medical devices and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) goods.

"Recognising the importance of working together to resolve long-standing concerns, India also agrees

agreed to strengthen "economic security alignment" to enhance supply chain resilience and innovation through complementary actions "to address non-market policies of third parties", as well as cooperating on inbound and outbound investment reviews and export controls.

"India intends to purchase \$500 billion of U.S. energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next 5 years," the statement said. "India and the U.S. will significantly increase trade in technology products, including Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and other goods used in data centers, and expand joint technology cooperation."

### Digital trade

The two countries also committed to addressing "discriminatory or burdensome" practices and other barriers to digital trade, and to set a "clear pathway" to achieve mutually beneficial digital trade rules as part of the BTA.

**Phased implementation**  
Speaking to presspersons on Saturday, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said

## Deal has no item that can hurt farmers: Goyal

**NEW DELHI**

The interim agreement between India and the U.S. will not include any item that will hurt Indian farmers, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said. He said there are several areas where farmers and MSMEs have received duty-free entry into the U.S. market. » PAGE 4

to address long-standing non-tariff barriers to the trade in U.S. food and agricultural products," the statement said.

The statement added that the two countries would work towards "further expanding market access opportunities" through negotiations on a more comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

"The U.S. affirms that it intends to take into consideration, during the negotiations of the BTA, India's request that the U.S. continue to work to lower tariffs on Indian goods," the statement said.

The two countries also

**SKM ANNOUNCES PROTEST**  
» PAGE 4

# THE DEAL SCORECARD

**55%**

Indian exports to benefit from tariff cut

**\$45 bn**

India's current imports from US

**\$100 bn**

Annual imports from US needed, to meet target of \$500 bn over 5 years

## WHERE INDIA GAINS

Wider US market access for rice, seafood, spices, processed foods

Big tariff relief for textiles, apparel and leather

Zero-duty access for generic drugs

Near-zero tariffs revive gems, and jewellery exports

Preferential quota eases auto-part duties

No reciprocal tariffs on Indian farm and food exports

US lifts select aircraft and aviation-part tariffs

## WHERE INDIA LOSES

Cuts back on cheaper Russian oil imports

With tariff relief for US fruit, soybean oil, farmer angst likely

Cheaper US solar gear to hit domestic sector

US industrial goods to swamp Indian market

Regulatory and IP alignment pressure

Digital trade rules curb India's tech-policy space

US chips, AI hardware, energy equipment gain advantage



# TARIFF CUTS, TRADE-OFFS & THE ROAD AHEAD

## INDIA'S KEY EXPORTS & WHERE IT GAINS

	Value of exports (\$bn)	Tariff		Over 90% industrial goods	Tariff elimination + duty cuts over 10 years + reduction based on quotas
		Now (%)	New (%)		
Textiles, leather, chemicals, marine products	30	MFN+50 reciprocal	MFN+18 reciprocal	Cars over 3,000cc	Cut to 30% over 10 years, with quotas
Diamonds, some auto parts & machinery, aircraft parts, tea, coffee, spices, banana, cocoa, mushrooms, guava*	14	MFN+50 reciprocal	Zero	Alcohol	Duty cut with minimum import price
Smartphones, pharma	26	Zero	Zero	Apples, cotton	Duty cuts for specified quantities
Minerals, agri products	4	Zero	Zero	No concessions	Wheat, rice, corn, soybean, poultry, meat, bananas, strawberry, cherries, green peas, moong, kabuli chana, oilseeds, tobacco, ethanol, dairy products
Steel, aluminium, copper (*some items moved to 2nd segment)	12	50	50		

## THE ROADMAP



25% 'secondary tariff' (for Russian oil) is removed



25% reciprocal tariff to be cut to 18% in next few days



Zero-duty access for Indian exports after final agreement is signed, likely mid-March



India to cut duty on US exports once the final deal is signed in March

**“** The agreement reflects India's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests and sustaining rural livelihoods by completely protecting sensitive agricultural and dairy products, including maize, wheat, rice, soya, poultry, milk, cheese, ethanol (fuel), tobacco, certain vegetables, meat

—PIYUSH GOYAL, commerce minister



## WHERE INDIA-US TRADE STANDS NOW

Exports remain strong so far, even as trade surplus narrows and monthly shipments fluctuate

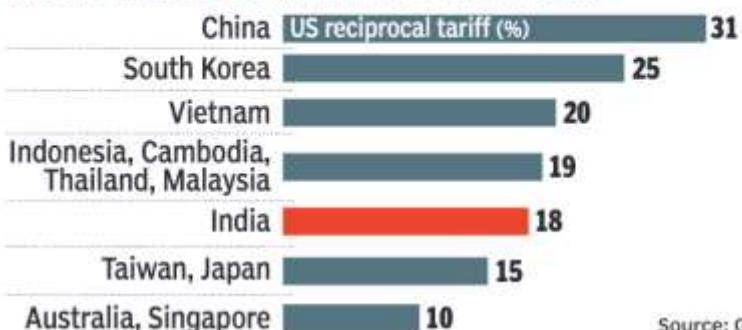
### INDIA-US TRADE (\$BN)



### HOW INDIA'S EXPORTS MOVED SINCE APRIL (\$BN)



### INDIA VERSUS COMPETING COUNTRIES



Source: Govt

## ■ HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

### Phase 1: Early Years (1947-1991)

- 1947: Diplomatic relations established post-independence
- 1960s: US wheat exports during drought; Green Revolution support
- 1962: US aided India in Indo-China War
- 1974: Relations strained after India's nuclear tests
- Cold War Era: India's non-alignment limited economic ties

### Phase 2: Post-Liberalization (1991-2005)

- 1991: India's economic liberalization begins
- 1998: Nuclear tests; sanctions imposed then lifted
- 2000: President Clinton visits India
- 2004: India declines Major Non-NATO Ally status
- Trade doubled from \$14 billion (2000) to significant growth

### Phase 3: Strategic Partnership (2005-2025)

- 2005: US-India Civil Nuclear Deal announced
- 2009: First Strategic Dialogue established
- 2014: Modi-Obama partnership; goal of \$500B trade
- 2016: India designated Major Defense Partner
- 2018: India moved to Tier-1 Strategic Trade Authorization
- 2023: Modi's state visit to US; COMPACT initiative
- 2025: Trade war erupts; Trump imposes 50% tariffs

## Tariff Structure

- **US Tariffs on India:** Reduced from 50% → 18%
- **Additional 25% penalty:** Removed (was for Russian oil)
- **Zero tariff items:** Generic pharma, gems, diamonds, aircraft parts
- **India's commitment:** Eliminate/reduce tariffs on US industrial goods
- **Agriculture:** Zero tariffs on tree nuts, wine, spirits, fruits, vegetables

## Major Commitments

### India to purchase \$500 billion US goods over 5 years

- **Energy:** Replace Russian oil with US/Venezuela oil
- **Aircraft:** \$80 billion Boeing orders ready
- **Defense:** Significant procurement planned
- **Technology:** GPUs, data center equipment, semiconductors
- **Coking Coal:** Industrial requirements

## ■ ECONOMICS & TRADE DATA

### Overall Trade Statistics (2024)

**Total Bilateral Trade: \$212.3 billion (↑8.3% from 2023)**

- **Goods Trade:** \$128.9 billion
- **Services Trade:** \$83.4 billion
- **US Trade Deficit with India:** \$45.8 billion (goods)

### FY 2024-25 Data (April-March)

**India-US Bilateral Trade: \$132.2 billion**

- **India's Exports to US:** \$86.51 billion (↑ from \$77.51B)
- **India's Imports from US:** \$45.69 billion
- **Trade Surplus for India:** \$40.82 billion
- **Number of commodities exported:** 7,174

### Investment Flows

- **US FDI in India (2000-2025):** \$70.65 billion (3rd largest investor)
- **2023-24 FDI:** \$6.04 billion (9% of total FDI)
- **Employment:** US affiliates in India: 1.7M; Indian affiliates in US: 81,000

Trade grew from \$20 billion (2000) to \$132 billion (2024-25)

CAGR: 15% overall | Services: 20% | Goods: 11%

## ■ INDIA'S EXPORTS TO USA

### Top Export Categories (2024)

- 1. **Pharmaceuticals & Medicines:** Leading export item
- 2. **Manufactured Goods:** Textiles, apparel, leather goods
- 3. **IT Equipment:** Computer hardware, electronics
- 4. **Gems & Jewelry:** Diamonds, precious stones
- 5. **Textile & Apparel:** Garments, home furnishings
- 6. **Organic Chemicals:** Industrial chemicals
- 7. **Iron & Steel:** Flat-rolled products
- 8. **Machinery:** Various machinery types
- 9. **Artisanal Products:** Home décor items
- 10. **Rubber & Plastic Products**

### Services Exports

**Services Exports: \$41.8 billion (2024) ↑15.9%**

- **IT Services:** Software development, tech services
- **Business Services:** R&D, consulting, BPO
- **Professional Services:** Engineering, architectural

## ■ INDIA'S IMPORTS FROM USA

### Top Import Categories (2024)

- **1. Oil & Gas:** Crude oil, LNG, petroleum products
- **2. Aerospace Products & Parts:** Aircraft, engines, components
- **3. Coal & Petroleum Gases:** Coking coal
- **4. Basic Chemicals:** Industrial chemicals
- **5. Precious Metals:** Gold, silver
- **6. Nuclear Reactors:** Heavy machinery
- **7. Technology Products:** GPUs, semiconductors
- **8. Medical Devices:** Advanced healthcare equipment
- **9. Defense Equipment:** Military technology
- **10. Agricultural Products:** Tree nuts, pulses, fruits

### Strategic Imports

- Energy: Hydrocarbon trade \$13.6B (FY 2023-24)
- Defense: \$1B+ transport aircraft, amphibious vessels
- Education: Significant spending by Indian students in US
- Technology: Critical for data centers, AI infrastructure

## ■■ BENEFITS TO INDIA

### Economic Benefits

- **Tariff Relief:** 18% vs 50% = 32% reduction; saves billions
- **Export Competitiveness:** Better than Pakistan (19%), Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%)
- **Market Access:** Access to \$30 trillion US economy
- **Job Creation:** Hundreds of thousands of new jobs expected
- **Rupee Stabilization:** Deal reduced currency volatility
- **Stock Market Boost:** Sensex/Nifty gains from reduced uncertainty

### Sectoral Benefits

**Protected Sectors:** Textiles, leather, footwear, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal products, machinery

- **MSMEs:** Relief for small & medium enterprises
- **Pharmaceuticals:** Zero tariffs on generics
- **Gems & Jewelry:** Zero tariff advantage
- **Technology:** Access to cutting-edge GPUs, semiconductors
- **Agriculture:** Sensitive sectors protected (wheat, rice, maize, dairy)

### Strategic Benefits

- **FDI Inflows:** Expected billions for data centers, nuclear energy
- **Supply Chain Integration:** Alternative to China in global chains
- **Technology Transfer:** Semiconductor, defense innovation
- **Defense Cooperation:** Co-production, critical minerals access
- **Quad Strengthening:** Enhanced Indo-Pacific partnership

## ■■ BENEFITS TO USA

### Economic Benefits

#### \$500 Billion Indian Procurement Commitment (5 years)

- **Energy Exports:** LNG, crude oil replacing Russian supply
- **Aircraft Sales:** \$80 billion Boeing orders ready
- **Agricultural Exports:** Zero tariffs on tree nuts, wine, fruits, vegetables
- **Trade Deficit Reduction:** Addressing \$45.8B goods deficit
- **Job Creation:** Manufacturing, energy, agriculture sectors

### Strategic Benefits

- **Geopolitical:** Countering China in Indo-Pacific
- **Energy Security:** Displacing Russian oil from Indian market
- **Defense Partnership:** Strengthening Major Defense Partner status
- **Technology Alliance:** Joint AI, semiconductor cooperation
- **Supply Chain:** Reducing China dependency

- **Democratic Alliance:** World's largest democracies united

## ■■ CHALLENGES & CONCERNS

### Implementation Uncertainties

- **Details Unclear:** Many specifics not confirmed by both sides
- **Different Narratives:** Trump vs Modi claims differ
- **No Formal Date:** Joint statement timing uncertain
- **Legal Questions:** Congressional approval may be needed
- **Trump's Track Record:** Previous reversals (South Korea example)

### For India - Concerns

#### Domestic Opposition: Farmer unions oppose agricultural market opening

- **Russian Relations:** Strain with Moscow over oil reduction
- **S-400 Missile Issue:** Defense dependency on Russia
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Erosion of non-aligned foreign policy
- **Agriculture Vulnerability:** Dairy, wheat, rice sectors at risk
- **Import Bill Stress:** \$500B commitment may strain CAD
- **Opposition Criticism:** Rahul Gandhi calls it 'surrender'
- **Over-dependence Risk:** Too reliant on US market

## ■■■ KEY FRAMEWORKS & INITIATIVES

### Defense Cooperation

- LEMOA: Logistics Exchange Memorandum (2016)
- COMCASA: Communications Compatibility (2018)
- BECA: Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement (2020)
- ISA: Industrial Security Annex
- INDUS-X: Defense technology innovation ecosystem
- COMPACT: Cooperation for Military Partnership & Tech
- 10-Year Framework: New defense deal expected 2025

### Bilateral Mechanisms

- 2+2 Dialogue: Defense & foreign ministers annual meeting
- Trade Policy Forum: 14 ministerial meetings held
- Economic & Financial Partnership: 9 rounds completed
- CEO Forum: Business engagement platform

### Technology & Clean Energy

- iCET: Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technologies
- SCEP: Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (5 pillars)
- Semiconductor Collaboration: \$825M US investment commitment
- Space Cooperation: ISRO-CSPOC collaboration on debris
- AI Partnership: Joint development initiatives

### Military Exercises

- Yudh Abhyas: Army exercise (20th edition in 2024)
- Vajra Prahar: Special Forces exercise
- Malabar: Naval exercise (with Japan, Australia)
- India has largest number of military exercises with US

## Critical Acronyms

---

- **BTA:** Bilateral Trade Agreement
- **ITA:** Interim Trade Agreement
- **MDP:** Major Defense Partner
- **USTR:** US Trade Representative
- **NTB:** Non-Tariff Barriers
- **SPS:** Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures
- **IP:** Intellectual Property
- **FDI:** Foreign Direct Investment
- **CAD:** Current Account Deficit



## INSIDE



### U.K. PM's top aide quits over envoy's links to Epstein

London: Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Chief of Staff, Morgan Mowbray, resigned, taking "full responsibility" for advising Mr. Boris Johnson's son, Mandelson, as Boris's envoy to Washington. Mr. Mandelson was asked to resign by the prime minister after the extent of his links to sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein became public. — **PAGE 34**



### Police told to find owners of illegal Meghalaya mines

GUWAHATI: The police in Meghalaya's East Khasi hills district, the hub of rat-hole coal mining, have been directed to find out the owners of the illegal coal trade. The crackdown followed a directive from the chief secretariat asking the police against those involved in a series of mining accidents. — **PAGE 4**

### Blind woman tops merit list to become judge

REGEN: Lawyer Parvathy Nathan C. may enter the annals of Kerala's judicial history as the first visually challenged woman judge. Ms. Nathan has been ranked first in the merit list of persons with benchmark disabilities in the recent judicial examination process for the selection of Civil Judges (Junior Division) in the Kerala Judicial Service. — **PAGE 3**

## Country will soon be free from Naxalism, says Shah

Shashi Tharoor

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday clutched a high-level security review meeting in the capital and the capital Raipur on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). The review was held with the Centre's March 31 deadline for eliminating the Naxal insurgency from the country on the horizon.

"Today, in Raipur, I held a review meeting with the Chhattisgarh government and officials on anti-Naxal operations, counter-insurgency strategy, infrastructure, attacks on Naxal financial networks, and internal security. We must not be wearied. Emphasising the need for smooth coordination between various

state and central agencies, he said remaining Maoists must not be allowed to escape justice."

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Das Sati, Deputy Chief Minister Rakesh Sharma, the Union Home Secretary, the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs attended.

Directors General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Agency (CISA) as well as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana, along with several senior officers, were also present, the official added.



March 31, Mr. Shah wrote on Twitter.

The Home Minister said the country would soon be free from Naxalism, which had "dragged us into the darkness of poverty and illiteracy. Mr. Shah said the ongoing fight against Maoists must not be wearied. Emphasising the need for smooth coordination between various

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the BJP has deleted a video, released on social media platforms, showing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma appearing to shoot a gun in the air and photos on a wall displaying the words "Sto more".

The video, allegedly uploaded to the Assam Congress chief and former MP Samanta Gogoi's official Facebook page, had been deleted by Mr. Sarma after he allegedly appeared to shoot a gun in the air and photos on a wall displaying the words "Sto more".

The video, uploaded on Sunday, after the Chief Minister and the party issued an explanation.

**Call to genocide** The video, posted ahead of the Assam Assembly election on March 31, had gone viral, allegedly prompting protests against Muslims.

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and there shouldn't be any leniency shown in this case," he said.

Shashi Tharoor, Congress's chairman for social media and digital platforms, had shared a screenshot of the video on his Twitter account, adding that the party's leaders' character as "mass murderers" had been exposed.

He added that deleting the video was not enough, as the courts and other institutions were asleep.

Lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan and the Supreme Court should take up more notice of the video and take action. "The parties responsible for uploading it in the first place are guilty of a serious criminal offence. Any opposition functionary putting up and not pulling it down is in violation of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act," he said.

Tagging: Malaysian

## India and Malaysia sign pacts to expand ties

The two countries sign agreements in critical areas, including defence and semiconductors



In Kuala Lumpur, Modi and Malaysian PM stress their efforts to promote trade in local currencies

The PM announced that an Indian Consulate General is to be established in Malaysia soon

Press Trust of India

RUSSIA LUMPUR

India and Malaysia on Sunday vowed to expand their ties in the high-priority sectors of trade, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing and semiconductors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that both sides are committed to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Modi, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, and Mr. Ibrahim appreciated efforts to promote local currencies — the Indian rupee and Malaysian ringgit — for trade.

"We will pave the way for economic transformation and mutual trust," Mr. Modi said, describing the India-Malaysia relationship as "special".

For countries, our peoples have had a cordial tie," he said in his media statement. Mr. Modi also signed a memorandum of understanding to establish an Indian Consulate General in Malaysia in his remarks.

"We are maritime neigh-

bouring nations," Mr. Ibrahim said, noting that the discussions at the CEO Forum opened new opportunities for trade and investment.

The Prime Minister touched upon India's position on Indo-Pacific and its role in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Elaborating on engagement in the sector, Mr. Modi said: "We are along with ASEAN, are committed to developing a regional architecture of peace, dialogue and maritime security will be strengthened, adding that our two countries should enhance defence ties."

"Along with Mr. Modi, I am confident that with the review of the ASEAN-India Trade Agreement, ITIGA, should be completed expedi-

diously," he added.

Mr. Modi said he and Mr. Ibrahim also had a "meaningful and substantive" discussion on regional and global issues.

"In this environment of global instability, the growing interdependence of India and Malaysia is of vital importance to both countries," he said.

"We share the view that regional integration is needed to address today's challenges. We will continue to support all efforts to peacefully combat illegal immigration, terrorism, and drug trafficking," he said.

"With the support of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia, India will further expand its relations with ASEAN," he said.

"India is committed to a prosperous Malaysia and our resolve for a developed India," he said.

## Delightful escapade



Srinagar: After the city received fresh snowfall on Sunday, Shikaras glide across Dal Lake in Srinagar with the Zabarwan mountains forming an impressive backdrop to the winter vista. PH

## Each Minister has his duty, says Goyal on trade deal, oil

Varghese K. George  
Natalia Hebbar  
T. S. Raghuram  
PHOTO: RISHABH BHAGCHAND



Piyush Goyal  
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday denied allegations of friction between him and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, or that Ministers other than him were instrumental in concluding the trade deal with the U.S., telling *The Hindu* in an interview that "people have mixed up two different issues".

In an interview, as well as in a press conference, Mr. Goyal said the External Affairs Ministry had no role in concluding the deal on whether India would stop its Russian oil imports, as President Donald Trump had claimed.

The Opposition parties have alleged that even Mr. Jaishankar was not answering the question and was instead passing it on to the Commerce Minister, citing External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who had given during his trip to Washington.

"See the question to which he (Mr. Jaishankar) has given the answer," Mr. Goyal said. "The question was about the nuances of the trade deal, so I am not going to say anything about the trade deal. Obviously I will reply. People have mixed up two dif-

ferent issues."

"If you ask the Agriculture Minister about a trade deal, he won't answer," he added. "If you ask me about what's happening in the oil market, oil minister, I wouldn't be able to respond. I would have a govt. in which I would not like to make a statement on record without full facts. Each person handles his own responsibility."

He sought to address the concern of farmers' organisations, asserting that "not a single farmer had anything to do with the deal".

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INTERVIEW ON

PAGE 8

## BJP deletes Himanta video after stinging backlash

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

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The video, uploaded on Sunday, after the Chief Minister and the party issued an explanation.

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He added that deleting the video was not enough, as the courts and other institutions were asleep.

Lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan and the Supreme Court should take up more notice of the video and take action. "The parties responsible for uploading it in the first place are guilty of a serious criminal offence. Any opposition functionary putting up and not pulling it down is in violation of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act," he said.

Tagging: Malaysian



March 31, Mr. Sarma wrote on Twitter.

The Home Minister said the country would soon be free from Naxalism, which had "dragged us into the darkness of poverty and illiteracy. Mr. Sarma said the ongoing fight against Muslims must not be wearied. Emphasising the need for smooth coordination between various

state and central agencies, he said remaining Maoists must not be allowed to escape justice."

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Das Sati, Deputy Chief Minister Rakesh Sharma, the Union Home Secretary, the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs attended.

Directors General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Agency (CISA) as well as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana, along with several senior officers, were also present, the official added.

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# India and Malaysia sign pacts to expand ties

The two countries sign agreements in critical areas, including defence and semiconductors

**Press Trust of India**

KUALA LUMPUR

**I**ndia and Malaysia on Sunday vowed to expand their ties in the high-priority sectors of trade and investment, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing and semiconductors with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that both sides are committed to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Following his wide-ranging talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Mr. Modi reiterated India's position on combating terrorism as he said: "Our message on terrorism is clear; no double standard, no compromise." The two sides inked a total of 11 agreements and docu-

ments to expand cooperation in a range of key areas, including a framework pact for deeper engagement in the semiconductor sector.

Mr. Modi, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, and Mr. Ibrahim appreciated efforts to promote the usage of local currencies – the Indian rupee and Malaysian ringgit – for trade settlement.

"We will pave the way for economic transformation through strategic trust," Mr. Modi said, describing the India-Malaysia relationship as "special".

During the visit, Mr. Modi met Malaysia's Indian-origin Ministers, MPs, and Senators and interacted with four leading industry leaders.

"We are maritime neigh-

In Kuala Lumpur, Modi and Malaysian PM stress their efforts to promote trade in local currencies



**Bidding adieu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the gathering before his departure from Malaysia on Sunday. PTI

bours. For centuries, our peoples have had deep and cordial ties," he said in his media statement. Mr. Modi also announced India's decision to establish an Indian Consulate General in Malaysia. In his remarks,

Mr. Ibrahim noted India's economic growth and said his country would benefit immensely if it could secure more ways and opportunities to collaborate with New Delhi.

"It [India's economic

growth] is on spectacular rise in the international trade scene," he said, describing the decision to use local currencies for bilateral trade as "remarkable".

In the talks, Malaysia extended its support for India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Elaborating on engagement in the security domain, Mr. Modi said cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime security will be strengthened, adding that both sides will further expand defence ties.

"Along with AI and digital technologies, we will advance partnerships in semiconductors, health, and food security," he said,

The PM announced that an Indian Consulate General is to be established in Malaysia soon

ditiously," he added.

Mr. Modi said he and Mr. Ibrahim also had a "meaningful discussion" on regional and global issues. "In this environment of global instability, the growing friendship between India and Malaysia is of vital importance to both countries."

"We share the view that reform of global institutions is essential to address today's challenges. We will continue to support all efforts for peace. And our message on terrorism is clear: No double standard; no compromise," he added. "We appreciate your commitment to India-Malaysia relations. Let us together realise your dream of a prosperous Malaysia and our resolve for a developed India," he said.





<b>Capital</b> and largest city	Kuala Lumpur <sup>[fn 1]</sup> 3°8'N 101°41'E
<b>Administrative center</b>	Putrajaya <sup>[fn 2]</sup> 2°56'N 101°42'E
<b>National language</b> (official)	Malay <sup>[a][b][c]</sup>
<b>Recognised languages</b>	English <sup>[c]</sup>
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2023) <sup>[2][3][4]</sup>	70.5% Bumiputera └ 57.3% Malay └ 13.2% indigenous groups of Sabah, Sarawak, Orang Asli and other 22.9% Chinese 6.6% Indian
<b>Religion</b> (2020) <sup>[5][6]</sup>	63.5% Islam (official) <sup>[7]</sup> 18.7% Buddhism 9.1% Christianity 6.1% Hinduism 0.9% other 1.8% unknown
<b>Demonym</b>	Malaysian
<b>Government</b>	Federal parliamentary constitutional elective monarchy
▪ Monarch	Ibrahim Iskandar
▪ Prime Minister	Anwar Ibrahim
<b>Legislature</b>	Parliament
▪ Upper house	Dewan Negara
▪ Lower house	Dewan Rakyat
<b>Independence</b> from the United Kingdom	
▪ Federation of Malaya 31 August 1957 <sup>[8]</sup>	
▪ Sarawak self-governance 22 July 1963	
▪ North Borneo self-governance 31 August 1963 <sup>[9]</sup>	
▪ Proclamation of Malaysia 16 September 1963	
<b>Area</b>	
▪ Total 330,803 <sup>[10][11]</sup> km <sup>2</sup> (127,724 sq mi) (67th)	
▪ Water (%) 0.3	
<b>Population</b>	
▪ 2024 estimate ▲ 34,564,810 <sup>[12]</sup> (43rd)	
▪ 2020 census 32,447,385 <sup>[13]</sup>	
▪ Density 101/km <sup>2</sup> (261.6/sq mi) (116th)	
<b>GDP</b> (PPP)	
▪ Total ▲ \$1.478 trillion <sup>[14]</sup> (30th)	
▪ Per capita ▲ \$43,665 <sup>[14]</sup> (52nd)	
<b>GDP</b> (nominal)	
▪ Total ▲ \$470,572 billion <sup>[14]</sup> (35th)	
▪ Per capita ▲ \$13,901 <sup>[14]</sup> (76th)	
<b>Gini</b> (2024)	
▼ 39.0 <sup>[15]</sup> medium inequality	
<b>HDI</b> (2023)	
▲ 0.819 <sup>[16]</sup> very high (67th)	
<b>Currency</b>	
Malaysian ringgit (RM) (MYR)	

Period / Year

Ancient–14th c.

Key Event

Malay Peninsula part of early Indianised kingdoms; strong Hindu–Buddhist cultural influence via trade.

15th c.

**Malacca Sultanate** emerges as a major maritime trading hub; Islam spreads widely in the region.

1511

**Portuguese** capture Malacca, beginning European colonial control.

1641

**Dutch** take Malacca from the Portuguese.

1786–1824

**British** establish control (Penang, Malacca, Singapore); Straits Settlements formed.

1942–1945

**Japanese occupation** during World War II weakens British authority.

1948

**Federation of Malaya** created under British protection.

1957

**Independence of Malaya** from Britain (31 August).

1963

Formation of **Malaysia** by joining Malaya with **Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore**.

1965

**Singapore exits** Malaysia to become an independent country.

1969

Ethnic riots lead to political reforms and **New Economic Policy (NEP)** for socio-economic balance.

1981–2003

**Mahathir Mohamad era**—rapid industrialisation and modernisation.

21st century

Consolidation as a **middle-income, export-oriented economy**; active ASEAN member.

- India and Malaysia signed multiple agreements/documents (reported as 11) to expand cooperation in key sectors.

भारत और मलेशिया ने प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए कई समझौते/दस्तावेज़ (कुल 11) साइन किए।

- Focus areas include trade & investment, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing, and semiconductors.

फोकस क्षेत्र: व्यापार-निवेश, रक्षा, ऊर्जा, उन्नत विनिर्माण और सेमीकंडक्टर।

- A framework pact was signed for deeper engagement in the semiconductor sector.

सेमीकंडक्टर क्षेत्र में गहरी साझेदारी के लिए एक फ्रेमवर्क समझौता किया गया।

- This supports supply-chain cooperation, technology collaboration, and industrial linkages.

यह सप्लाई-चेन सहयोग, टेक्नोलॉजी साझेदारी और औद्योगिक कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करता है।

- The leaders stressed promoting bilateral trade settlement in local currencies (INR and Malaysian Ringgit).

नेताओं ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार का निपटान स्थानीय मुद्राओं (रुपया और मलेशियाई रिंग्गिट) में बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया।

- This can reduce transaction costs, lower forex risk, and ease trade payments.

इससे लेन-देन लागत घट सकती है, फॉरेक्स जोखिम कम हो सकता है और भुगतान प्रक्रिया आसान हो सकती है।

- India announced that an Indian Consulate General will be established in Malaysia soon.  
भारत ने मलेशिया में जल्द ही भारतीय वाणिज्य दूतावास (Consulate General) स्थापित करने की घोषणा की।
  - This improves consular services, people-to-people links, and business facilitation.  
इससे कांसुलर सेवाएं, जन-जन संपर्क और व्यापार सुविधा बढ़ेगी।
- Security cooperation was highlighted: counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime security.  
सुरक्षा सहयोग पर जोर: आतंकवाद-रोधी सहयोग, खुफिया जानकारी साझा करना और समुद्री सुरक्षा।
  - Both sides indicated defence ties will be further expanded.  
दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा संबंधों को और विस्तार देने की बात कही।
- Malaysia expressed support for India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council (UNSC).  
मलेशिया ने सुधारित संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में भारत की स्थायी सदस्यता के समर्थन की बात कही।
- Indo-Pacific and ASEAN centrality were referenced in the discussions as guiding regional principles.  
वार्ता में इंडो-पैसिफिक और ASEAN की "centrality" को क्षेत्रीय मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत के रूप में रेखांकित किया गया।
- India and Malaysia noted opportunities opened through business/CEO-level engagement for trade and investment.  
भारत-मलेशिया ने व्यापार व निवेश के लिए बिज़नेस/CEO-स्तरीय संवाद से बने अवसरों को रेखांकित किया।
- The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) review was mentioned as something to be completed expeditiously.

- **Geostrategic geography (भूगोल/रणनीति)**

- Malaysia's proximity to the **Strait of Malacca** is crucial because it is one of the world's busiest sea routes for trade and energy shipments.

मलेशिया मलक्का जलडमरुमध्य के निकट है, जो व्यापार और ऊर्जा-परिवहन का अत्यंत व्यस्त समुद्री मार्ग है।

- For India, safer sea lanes support **energy security, trade continuity, and Indo-Pacific strategy**.  
भारत के लिए सुरक्षित समुद्री मार्ग ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, व्यापार निरंतरता और इंडो-पैसिफिक रणनीति के लिए जरूरी हैं।

- **Economic logic (अर्थव्यवस्था)**

- Semiconductor cooperation matters as chips are critical inputs for **electronics, telecom, defence systems, automobiles, and AI**.

सेमीकंडक्टर सहयोग महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि चिप्स इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, टेलीकॉम, रक्षा, ऑटोमोबाइल और AI के लिए जरूरी इनपुट हैं।

- Local currency settlement can improve **payment efficiency**, but requires robust **financial plumbing** between banks.

स्थानीय मुद्रा निपटान भुगतान को कुशल बना सकता है, पर इसके लिए बैंकों के बीच मजबूत फाइनेंशियल सिस्टम चाहिए।

IN BRIEF



Ghee adulteration an assault on Hindu faith: TDP leader

TDP state president Palla Srinivas Rao has lashed out at the previous TDP government for using “unholy” ghee, synthetic substances, and chemical substances in the preparation of the sacred Telangana Hindu prasadam. “The adulteration of the prasadam to achieve the prasadam of Lord Venkateswara is among the most disgraceful acts witnessed under the YSRCP dispensation,” Mr Srinivas Rao said at a press conference on Saturday.

Bird flu confirmed at two villages in Andhra Pradesh

The Animal Husbandry Department on Sunday confirmed the outbreak of avian influenza (commonly called bird flu) at Annamgaripalli and Puttavayalpalli villages in Anamayya district of Andhra Pradesh. The department, with the help of the National Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Services, confirmed presence of the virus in samples. In a release, the department said that 100 birds had died. Rapid Response Teams were deployed in the affected villages and culling was initiated.

Comment on Kerala CM's diet choice spark a discussion

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's dietary preferences became a subject of social media discussion on Sunday. Communist Party of India leader K. Raghavachari asked the departing chief minister if he preferred pescetarian fish to the day's common place catch. He replied that he did not eat fish and that his diet for health was part of his upcoming autobiography. Mr Divakaran said his “jocular comments” were no digression on Mr. Vijayan's proletarian past.

Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi slams 'wrong' portrayal of Gandhiji in advertisements

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

As Karnataka recently witnessed a high-pitch media war between the Congress and the BJP using Mahatma Gandhi to stir their views on the new job scheme, the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi has taken exception to the way the party has served political purposes and has expressed concern that the Mahatma was depicted in a negative light.

The Congress and the BJP had issued advertisements, one that centered on Gandhiji.

The Congress advertisement used a fictional con-

Cong. and BJP issued advertisements depicting Gandhiji in a bad light in the VRG RAM G Act

versation with Gandhiji on an obvious reference to the RSS to depict the Mahatma as a person who would go against his main ideology of non-violence, said the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi.

In a counter-attack, the BJP had issued an advertisement that showed Gandhiji raising a stick in anger.

“It is our serious view that Gandhiji's ideals are still relevant and important and has made the entire country bind its head in shame,” said Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi president Wednesday P. Krishna and honorary secretary M.C. Narendra.

Khane for alleged misin-

formation about the new job scheme

Without taking the name of the BJP, the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi has taken exception to depiction of Gandhiji in such a way that it would go against his main ideology of non-violence, said the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi.

“It is our serious view that Gandhiji's ideals are still relevant and important and has made the entire country bind its head in shame,” said Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi president Wednesday P. Krishna and honorary secretary M.C. Narendra.

Church leader condemns 'rising attacks' on minorities

The Hindu Bureau  
PATHANAMTHITTA

Theodosius Mar Thoma, Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, has condemned the Christian community to uphold an ethical form of life and not compromise with intolerance or communalism. Inaugurating the 13th Maranam Convention in Pathanamthitta on Sunday, the animal rights campaigner held on the riverbed of the Pampa at Maranam, the Metropolitan said that the rising religious intolerance in the country is a threat to the religious minorities in the country.

Samastha passes resolution against Jamaat's ideology

The Hindu Bureau  
KASARAGOD

The Samastha Kerala Jamiat Ulama has passed a resolution strongly opposing the theocratic ideology of the Jamaat-e-Islami, asserting that extremist modes of religious practice are in line with the organization's path.

In the resolution, adopted at the Samastha conference which concluded here on Sunday, called for vigilance against ideologies seeking to undermine Islam's peaceful tradition.

Calling for ideological resistance, the resolution urged the community to uphold the legacy of tolerance and moderation associated with Ahl-e-Sunnat Jamaat's efforts to mainstream Muslim majority within the mainstream.

In a separate resolution, the conference reaffirmed that the Samastha community, which has been ranked first on the merit list of personnel and administrative abilities in the recent judicial service examination for the selection of Civil Judge Officer posts in the Kerala judicial service, Jayson Sajan, with cerebral palsy, has been appointed.

It was a landmark Supreme Court decision in the case of S. Jayson Sajan vs. R. Balaji and R. Madhavan in 2008, which held that “visually impaired candidates be given an opportunity to compete for judicial posts.” That paved the way for Mr. Sajan to become a judge in the Kerala judicial service.

“No visually impaired judge in Kerala,” judicial sources said.

Overcoming her limitation, 24-year-old Mr. Sajan, who is the first visually impaired person to clear the LL.B. examination from Kannur University. She is the first visually impaired person to be admitted to a law college at Taliparamba in Kannur.

“The MCA and a few others encouraged me to take the recruitment exam. I studied law using the Braille system, which technology has come to the aid of people like me, where the screen reader software helps us read texts,” Mr. Sajan, who does not have a family, said. “I am around, told The Hindu. “I am confident of overcoming the challenges.”

## No critical evidence lost in Telangana forensic lab fire

Laboratory Director says no material on 2015 cash-for-vote or 2024 phone-tapping case was destroyed in the blaze. BJP leader alleges attempt to derail probe into case involving BRS leaders



Devastating the Remains: A fire broke out at the Forensic Science Laboratory at Khammam in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday.

Layover at Khammam  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory Director K. Govi on Sunday clarified that evidence linked to two high-profile cases at the laboratory had not been destroyed in a fire that broke out at the laboratory in Khammam a day earlier.

Referring to the cash-for-vote case, Mr. Govi said no material connected to the case had been lost and a case report on the 2024 phone-tapping case had been destroyed in the fire, leaving “some” evidence.

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sent in the ESL at the time of the fire,” she added.

Mr. Govi said the ESL had received 136 material objects in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and January 2019. She said several items had already been returned to the laboratory, while all material that was present at the ESL during the fire had been safely retrieved and secured.

Meanwhile, the BJP has demanded an impartial probe into the accident.

BJP leader Ramchander Rao said that the fire was a “deliberate and “intentional” attempt to derail the investigation into the cash-for-vote and phone-tapping case involving BRS leaders.

## Pilot, trainee injured after aircraft crashes in field in Karnataka village



Claustrophobia: People gather around the wreckage of a private aircraft that crashed in Vyavayapura on Sunday. P.M.

The Hindu Bureau  
MELAKKAL

A pilot and a trainee were injured when a training aircraft crashed in a field in Vyavayapura village in Vilayapura district of Karnataka on Sunday.

The police shifted the injured Captain, K. K. Malathy, and a trainee pilot, instructor and trainee Goutham Shankar to hospital. They suffered minor

injuries and were recovered.

The two-seater plane, belonging to the Red Bird Academy, was flying from Khammam to Belgaum.

Eye-witnesses said the police officers that the aircraft nose-dived into the field and the two occupants had ejected themselves before the impact.

The police recorded the statements of farmers at the spot.

## Fresh pick



Fresh of the season: As the mango season approaches, a vendor arranges the season's first batch of mangoes on Jayamalai Main Road in Bangalore on Sunday. ALLEN LOUQUE

Khane for alleged misin-

formation about the new job scheme

Without taking the name of the BJP, the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi has taken exception to depiction of Gandhiji in such a way that it would go against his main ideology of non-violence, said the Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi.

“It is our serious view that

Gandhiji's ideals are

still relevant and important

and has made the entire

country bind its head in

shame,” said Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi president Wednesday P. Krishna and honorary secretary M.C. Narendra.

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# Visually challenged woman to become a judge in Kerala after topping merit list

**K.S. Sudhi**

KOCHI

Lawyer Thanya Nathan C. will most likely enter the annals of Kerala's judicial history as the first visually challenged woman judge.

Ms. Nathan, who is totally blind, has been ranked first on the merit list of persons with benchmark disabilities in the recent judicial service examination for the selection of Civil Judges (Junior Division) in the Kerala Judicial Service. Joyson Sajan, with cerebral palsy, came second.

It was a landmark judgment by a Supreme Court Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan in 2025 which noted that "visually impaired candidates



Thanya Nathan C. had secured the first rank in her LL.B. examination from Kannur University. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cannot be said to be 'not suitable' for judicial service and they are eligible to participate in selection for posts in judicial service". That paved the way for Ms. Nathan to become a judge.

"This should probably

be for the first time that a candidate with visual disability is clearing the judicial service examination in Kerala. It's not known whether such candidates had earlier applied for the post. Currently, there are

no visually challenged judges in Kerala," judicial sources said.

Overcoming her limitation, 24-year-old Ms. Nathan secured the first rank in the LL.B. examination from Kannur University. She began her practice as a junior to a lawyer at Taliparamba in Kannur.

"My senior and a few others encouraged me to take the recruitment exam. I studied law using the Braille system. Now, technology has come to the aid of people like me, where screen-reading software helps us read texts," Ms. Nathan, who does not need a white cane to move around, told *The Hindu*. "I am confident of overcoming the challenges."

Stage	Post / Designation	Typical Service Years	What happens at this stage
Entry	Civil Judge (Junior Division)	Year 0–5	Trial court work: civil & criminal cases at tehsil level
1st Promotion	Civil Judge (Senior Division)	Year 5–10	Handles higher-value civil suits and serious criminal matters
2nd Promotion	District Judge (Entry Level / Fast Track)	Year 10–13	May come via promotion or LDCE; handles sessions cases
Core District Judiciary	District & Sessions Judge	Year 13–20	Head of district judiciary; administrative + judicial powers
Senior District Level	Principal District Judge / Special Judge	Year 20–23	Important districts / special courts (CBI, NDPS, etc.)
Constitutional Elevation	High Court Judge	Year 23–30	Appointed under Article 217; constitutional court role
Apex Level	Judge, <b>Supreme Court of India</b>	Usually after 5–7 yrs as HC judge	Final interpreter of Constitution
Retirement	Supreme Court Judge retires	Age 65	Constitutional retirement age

## Aspect

Entry to HC from judiciary

Minimum eligibility for HC

Retirement age – District Judge

Retirement age – High Court  
Judge

Retirement age – Supreme Court  
Judge

Collegium system

## Rule

Article 217 – appointment by  
President

10 years judicial service

60 years (state-specific)

62 years

65 years

Judges recommend judges (HC &  
SC)

Point	Explanation
Promotion is not automatic	Depends on vacancies, ACRs, integrity, judgments
Not all District Judges become HC judges	Only top performers are elevated
Not all HC judges reach SC	<b>SC has limited seats (34 judges)</b>
Merit + seniority both matter	Quality judgments + reputation are critical

- A visually challenged (totally blind) woman lawyer, **Thanya Nathan C.**, is likely to become Kerala's first visually challenged woman judge.

पूर्ण दृष्टिबाधित महिला वकील थान्या नाथन सी. केरल की पहली दृष्टिबाधित महिला जज बनने की दिशा में हैं।

- She topped the merit list (benchmark disabilities category) in the Kerala Judicial Service exam for Civil Judge (Junior Division) selection.

उन्होंने केरल ज्यूडिशियल सर्विस परीक्षा में सिविल जज (जूनियर डिविजन) चयन हेतु बेंचमार्क दिव्यांग श्रेणी की मेरिट सूची में पहला स्थान हासिल किया।

- Another candidate, **Joyson Sajan (cerebral palsy)**, secured the second position.  
जॉयसन साजन (सेरेब्रल पाल्सी) ने दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।

- **Why this is important (Significance)**

- It marks a major inclusion milestone for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** in the judiciary.

यह न्यायपालिका में दिव्यांगजनों (PwDs) के समावेशन की दिशा में बड़ा मील का पत्थर है।

- Judicial sources indicated that **Kerala currently has no visually challenged judges**, making this a first-of-its-kind entry.

न्यायिक स्रोतों के अनुसार केरल में अभी दृष्टिबाधित जज नहीं हैं, इसलिए यह एक ऐतिहासिक शुरुआत मानी जा रही है।

- **Constitutional values (संवैधानिक आधार)**

- Equality and non-discrimination principles support inclusion in public employment.  
सार्वजनिक रोजगार में समावेशन का आधार समानता और भेदभाव-निषेध के सिद्धांत हैं।
- Article 14 (Equality before law) and Article 16 (Equality of opportunity in public employment) are directly relevant.  
अनुच्छेद 14 (कानून के समक्ष समानता) और अनुच्छेद 16 (सार्वजनिक रोजगार में समान अवसर) सीधे प्रासंगिक हैं।

- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 (दिव्यांग अधिकार कानून, 2016)**

- The Act promotes non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility in education and employment.  
यह कानून भेदभाव-निषेध, उचित अनुकूलन (reasonable accommodation) और सुलभता को बढ़ावा देता है।
- "Benchmark disability" is a key concept for targeted support and reservation-related eligibility.  
"बैंचमार्क दिव्यांगता" लक्षित सहायता और आरक्षण/पात्रता से जुड़ा महत्वपूर्ण कॉन्सेप्ट है।

- **Reasonable accommodation (उचित अनुकूलन)**

- Use of Braille/screen readers, accessible exam formats, and assistive tech are typical accommodations enabling fair competition.  
ब्रेल/स्क्रीन रीडर, सुलभ परीक्षा-फॉर्मेट और सहायक तकनीक ऐसे अनुकूलन हैं जो निष्पक्ष प्रतिस्पर्धा संभव बनाते हैं।

- **Judiciary & diversity (न्यायपालिका में विविधता)**

- Inclusion improves representativeness and strengthens trust in institutions by ensuring equal access to constitutional offices.  
समावेशन से संस्थानों की प्रतिनिधिकता बढ़ती है और संवैधानिक पदों तक समान पहुंच से विश्वास मजबूत होता है।

# Japan's Takaichi wins landslide, clears way for hardline agenda

## LDP Alone Secures At Least 310 Seats, An Absolute Majority In 465-Member House

Tokyo: Japan's PM Sanae Takaichi made a big gamble on Sunday, holding a snap election only 110 days after she became the first woman to serve as the country's prime minister. It paid off, with voters offering a resounding mandate for her economic policies and tough stance on immigration and China.

Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party won in a landslide, securing an absolute majority in Japan's 465-member House of Representatives, the lower house of Japan's bicameral Parliament, according to NHK, the public broadcaster. As of early Monday in Japan, the party had won at least 310 seats, up from 198, NHK said.

The result clears the way for Takaichi to enact a conservative agenda on defence and social issues and to strengthen her position on the global stage, with President Donald Trump having given her candidacy a ringing endorsement. The outcome is a remarkable reversal of fortune for Takaichi's party, which governed Japan for much of the past seven decades but has suffered a series of bruising defeats in recent years, leaving it in the unusual position of being a minority in both houses of Parliament.

Sanae Takaichi told NHK after her victory Sunday that she had called the snap election as she felt "it would be

Getty Images



A pedestrian walks past a poster of PM Takaichi near a polling station in Tokyo

### PM congratulates Takaichi, calls win 'landmark'

PM Narendra Modi Sunday greeted his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi on her "landmark victory" in the elections.



"Congratulations Sanae Takaichi on your landmark victory in the elections to the House of Representatives," Modi said in a post on X. The prime minister said India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership plays a vital role in enhancing global peace, stability and prosperity. "I am confident that under your able leadership, we will continue to take the India-Japan friendship to greater heights," Modi said. PTI

wrong to simply drag things along without seeking a public mandate."

Takaichi, 64, soared to victory in part because of her popularity among young people, who see her as a charismatic, dynamic leader. Voters braved icy roads and wintry winds to cast their ballots. Heavy snow-

fall forced many polling stations to open late or close early. Even so, Japanese news outlets estimated that turnout was about 56%, compared with about 54% during the last in 2024.

With her party now on a stronger footing, Takaichi will face few constraints as she pushes aggressive govt spending

programs and expansive national security laws. By joining forces with another group, the Japan Innovation Party, Takaichi will likely be able to harness a supermajority to fast-track her priorities. "The LDP will not stand in her way, and there will be virtually no opposition ability to slow down her agenda," said Tobias Harris, the founder of advisory firm Japan Foresight.

Takaichi is working to persuade Trump to maintain US military and economic commitments in Asia; the two are set to meet in Washington in March. Trump backed her in a post on Truth Social on Friday, calling her a "strong, powerful and wise leader." After her victory Sunday, Takaichi responded to Trump's endorsement, writing on the social platform X that "the potential of our Alliance is LIMITLESS."

Takaichi is dealing with the fallout of China's efforts to punish Japan over a comment she made in support of Taiwan, a self-governed democracy that Beijing claims is part of its territory. She said in Nov that Japan could intervene militarily if China were to attack Taiwan. China unleashed a wave of reprisals, restricting Japanese seafood imports, discouraging tourism to Japan and moving to limit the export of critical minerals to Japan. NYT

# Sanae Takaichi

Prime Minister of Japan



Wikipedia

Sanae Takaichi - Wikipedia

Sanae Takaichi is a Japanese politician who has been Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since October 2025.

Age

64 years

7 Mar 1961

Party

Liberal Democratic...



Previous offices

Minister of State for "Cool Japan"...

Spouse

Taku Yamamoto,...



- **Election result (What happened)**

- Japan's PM Sanae Takaichi won a **landslide** in a snap election, strengthening her mandate.

जापान की प्रधानमंत्री सानाए ताकाइची ने अचानक कराए गए चुनाव में भारी जीत दर्ज की, जिससे उनका जनादेश मजबूत हुआ।

- The ruling LDP secured **at least 310 seats** — an absolute majority in the **465-member House of Representatives** (lower house).

सत्तारूढ़ LDP ने कम-से-कम 310 सीटें जीतीं — 465 सदस्यीय हाउस ऑफ रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स (निचला सदन) में पूर्ण बहुमत।

- **Why the snap election mattered**

- Takaichi called the snap election about **110 days after becoming PM** to seek a fresh public mandate.

ताकाइची ने प्रधानमंत्री बनने के लगभग 110 दिन बाद नया जनादेश लेने के लिए चुनाव कराया।

- She argued it was wrong to keep dragging governance without seeking a public mandate.

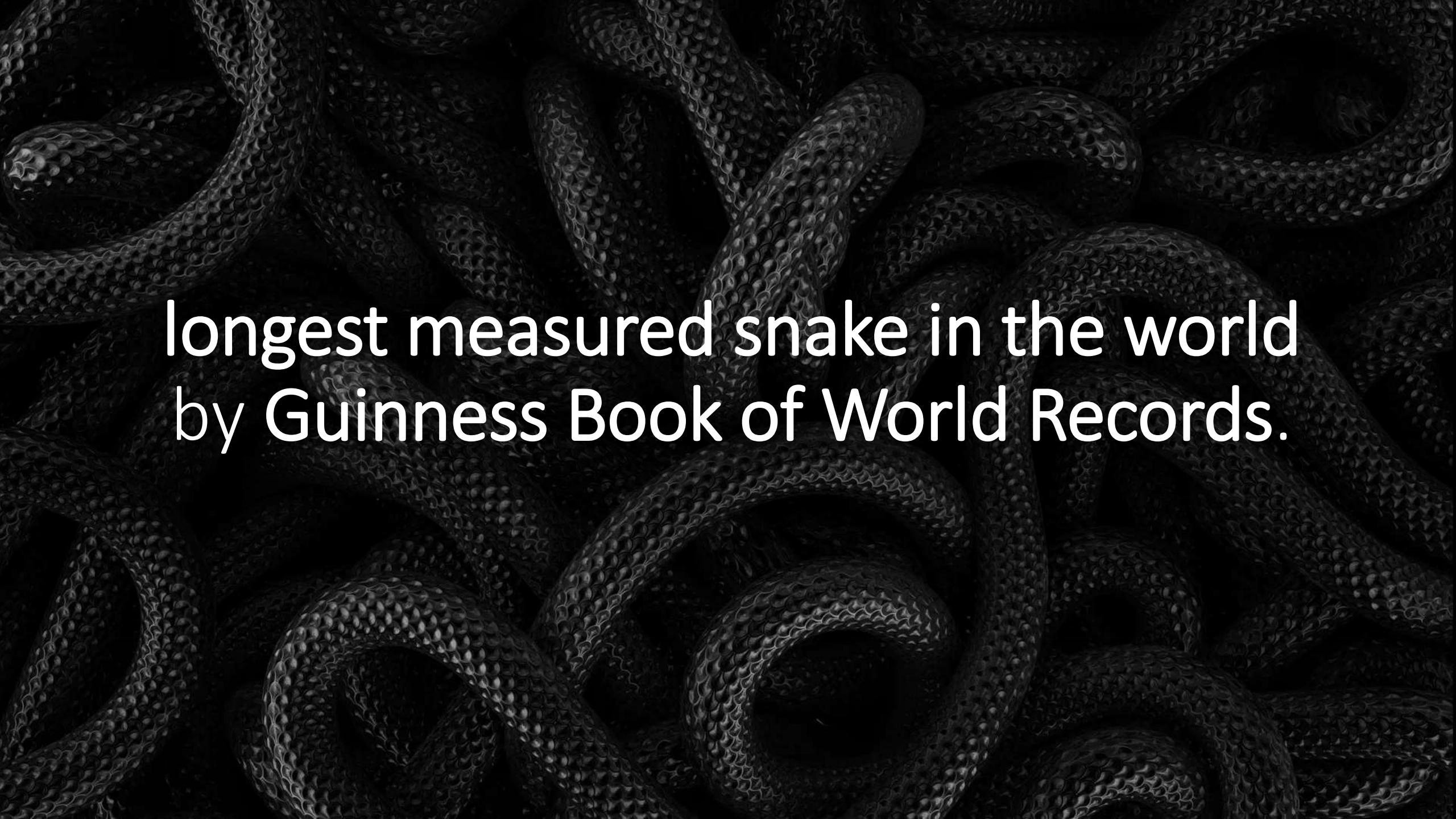
उन्होंने कहा कि जनादेश लिए बिना शासन को आगे खींचते रहना उचित नहीं है।

- **Mandate themes (What voters backed her for)**

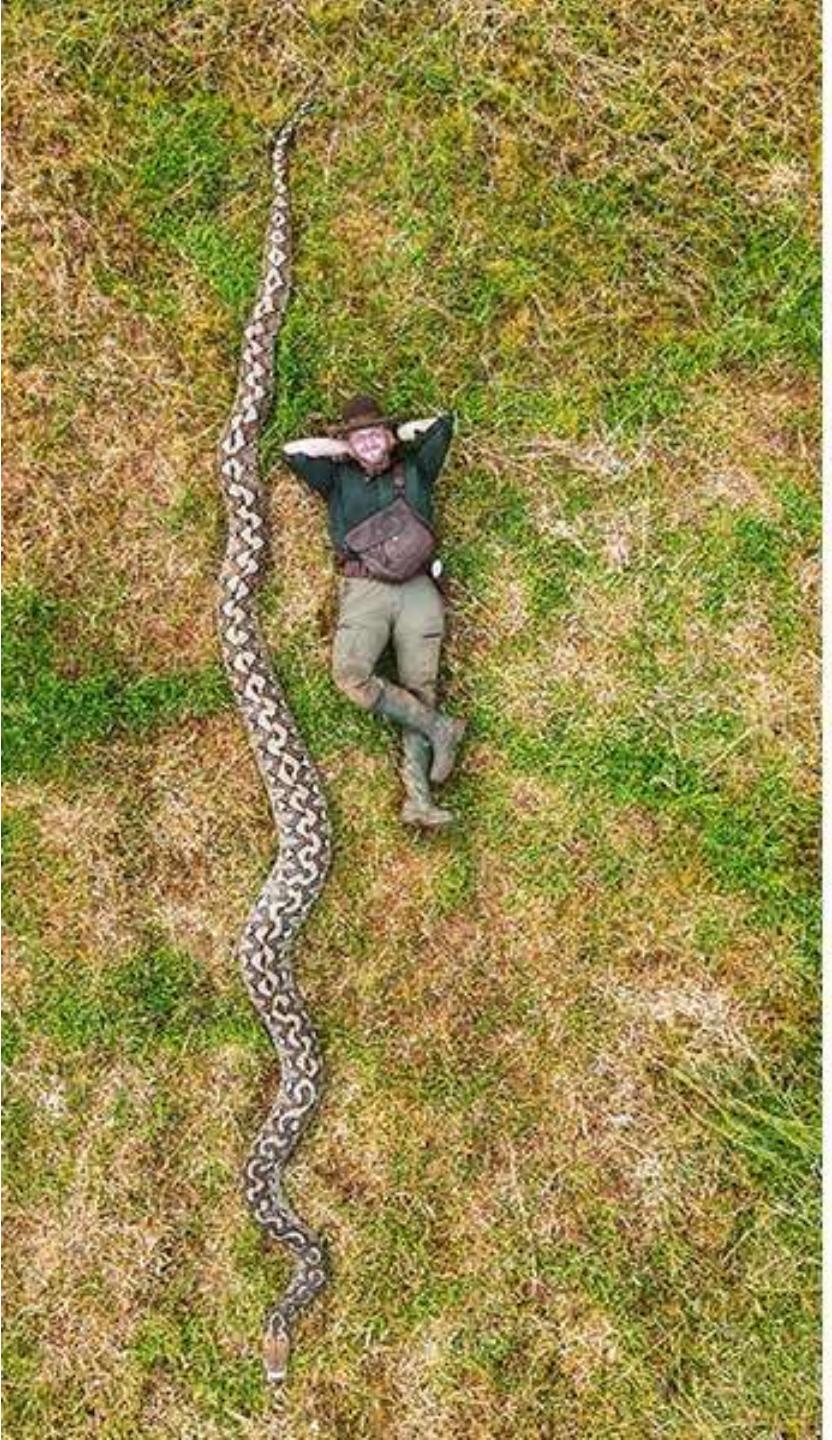
- Voters backed her **economic policies** and her **tough stance on immigration and China**.

मतदाताओं ने उनकी आर्थिक नीतियों और आव्रजन व चीन पर कड़े रुख को समर्थन दिया।

- **Hardline agenda (What policies may move faster now)**
  - The win clears the way for a **more conservative/hardline agenda on defence and social issues**.  
जीत से रक्षा और सामाजिक मुद्दों पर कठोर/रुद्धिवादी एजेंडा तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ सकता है।
  - She is expected to push **aggressive government spending programs and expansive national security laws**.  
उनके द्वारा आक्रामक सरकारी खर्च कार्यक्रम और विस्तृत राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा कानून आगे बढ़ाने की संभावना है।
  - By joining forces with another group, the **Japan Innovation Party**, she may be able to harness a **supermajority** to fast-track priorities.  
एक अन्य समूह **Japan Innovation Party** के साथ मिलकर वे सुपरमेजॉरिटी का लाभ लेकर प्राथमिकताएं तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ा सकती हैं।
- **Election conditions & turnout (Ground situation)**
  - Heavy snow and winter conditions affected polling operations, with some stations opening late or closing early.  
भारी बर्फबारी/सर्द मौसम के कारण कुछ मतदान केंद्र देर से खुले या जल्दी बंद हुए।
  - Turnout was estimated around 56%, compared with about 54% in the last election (2024).  
मतदान प्रतिशत लगभग 56% रहा, जो पिछली (2024) तुलना में लगभग 54% से अधिक है।



longest measured snake in the world  
by Guinness Book of World Records.



Area	Key points (English)	मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Headline / Record	A giant <b>female reticulated python</b> found in Sulawesi, Indonesia has been recognised as the <b>longest measured snake in the world</b> by <b>Guinness Book of World Records</b> .	इंडोनेशिया के द्रविड़प्रभु जंगलों में मिली रेटिक्यूलेटेड पापूना हवस्लॉफ को <b>Guinness Book of World Records</b> ने दुनिया की दूरी (measured) द्रविड़ के रूप में मान्यता दी।
Scientific identity	The snake is scientifically known as <b>Malayopython reticulatus</b> .	इस साँप का वैज्ञानिक नाम <b>Malayopython reticulatus</b> है।
Length / Measurement	It was measured at <b>7.22 metres (23 feet 8 inches)</b> .	इसकी लंबाई <b>पाँचवर्षीय रेटिक्यूलेटेड पापूना</b> मापी गई।
Nickname / Popular name	The python was nicknamed " <b>Ibu Baron</b> " / " <b>The Baroness</b> ".	इस पाइथन को <b>Ibu Baron</b> / " <b>The Baroness</b> " नाम दिया गया।
Scale comparison	Its length is described as enough to span the <b>width of a standard FIFA goalpost</b> .	इसकी लंबाई को <b>विश्व फुटबॉल फैसिलिटी</b> इह दृश्यविहार जितनी बताकर समझाया गया।
Welfare-based measuring limits	Guinness officials noted that under <b>full muscular relaxation</b> , it could be <b>nearly 10% longer</b> , but this was <b>not attempted due to animal welfare concerns</b> .	Guinness के अनुसार यदि हजार सफ्ट लैटर्न शर्शप्लाचल्चर में मापा जाए तो यह चाप करने वाले १०% लंबाई हो सकता था, लेकिन हात्कर्म कारणों से ऐसा नहीं किया गया।
Discovery place & time	It was found in <b>Maros County</b> on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi in <b>December 2025</b> .	यह श्रद्धालू ज़ज़ाड़ में इंडोनेशियाई द्वीप द्रविड़प्रभु के <b>Maros County</b> में मिली।
Conservation / Rescue	The snake was rescued and protected by local conservationist <b>Budi Purwanto</b> , ensuring it was not harmed before scientific assessment.	स्थानीय संरक्षणकर्ता <b>Budi Purwanto</b> ने इसे रेस्क्यू करके सुरक्षित रखा ताकि वैज्ञानिक आकलन से पहले इसे नुकसान न हो।
Significance	The record highlights both <b>exceptional forest biodiversity</b> and the need for <b>conservation-driven coexistence</b> between humans and large wildlife.	यह रिकॉर्ड त्रिप्पलह २ द्रविड़प्रभु न्यूनतम्भ ल्व और मनुष्यों व बड़े वन्यजीवों के बीच द्रविड़प्रभु न्यूनतम्भ ल्व की जरूरत को रेखांकित करता है।





# Wool Production in India

# TOP WOOL PRODUCING STATES IN INDIA



## Top 5 contributors

*Jammu & Kashmir*

**22.55**



*Himachal Pradesh*

**4.27**

*Rajasthan*

**47.98%**



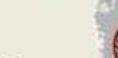
*Gujarat*

**6.01**



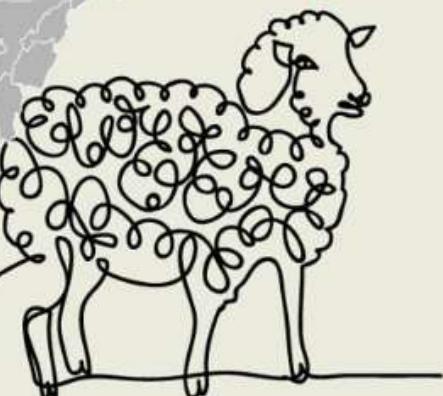
*Maharashtra*

**4.73**



TOTAL WOOL  
PRODUCTION IN  
INDIA (2022-23)

**33.61**  
*mn kg*



## Top 10 Wool-Producing Countries (Latest General Ranking)

Rank	Country	Key facts (short)
1	Australia	World's largest producer; famous for <b>fine Merino wool</b>
2	China	Large sheep population; major producer and processor
3	New Zealand	Known for <b>strong/coarse wool</b> used in carpets
4	Turkey	Important producer of carpet-grade and apparel wool
5	United Kingdom	Traditional sheep-rearing country; diverse breeds
6	Iran	Large pastoral economy; coarse wool production
7	Russian Federation	Wool from extensive steppe sheep rearing
8	India	Mostly <b>carpet-grade wool</b> ; 2nd largest sheep population
9	Sudan	Wool and hair fibres from arid pastoral systems
10	South Africa	Producer of <b>Merino and cross-bred wool</b>

## Dimension

### Basic overview

#### Key Points (English)

Wool is a vital natural fibre used in winter clothing, carpets, floor coverings and industrial products.

### Global position

India has the world's **second-largest sheep population** and ranks **9th globally** in wool production.

### Economic role

The wool sector supports **millions of livelihoods** across organised and unorganised textile segments.

### Total production

In **FY24**, India's total wool production was **33.69 million kg**.

### Leading state

**Rajasthan** is the largest producer, contributing **16,013.5 thousand kg (47.53%)** of national output.

### Second major state

**Jammu & Kashmir** ranks second with **7,770 thousand kg (23.06%)** share.

### Unorganised sector

Includes **handlooms, power looms, knitting & hosiery units, dyeing units**.

### Value chain

The wool industry links **rural sheep rearers** with **urban and export markets**.

#### मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)

ऊन एक महत्वपूर्ण प्राकृतिक रेशा है, जिसका उपयोग सर्दियों के कपड़ों, कालीनों, फ्लोर कवरिंग और औद्योगिक उत्पादों में होता है।

भारत के पास दुनिया की **लक्खघाह द्वाद्वान्नह क्रम्भ ए व्रव्ह** है और ऊन उत्पादन में **थङ्क्ला व्रष्ट** रखता है।

ऊन क्षेत्र **द्वान्नप्रभाल ज़ घ ९ द्वान्नप्रभाल** वस्त्र क्षेत्रों में **च्रवद्वान्नच्रहान्नमाल्ह** ए **न्हान्नप्रद्वर** को सहारा देता है।

**FY24** में भारत का कुल ऊन उत्पादन **टद्वद्वथ श्रान्नग्रष्ट श्व** **च्छ्वाक्रम** रहा।

**च्छ्वाक्रष्ट** सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है, जो राष्ट्रीय उत्पादन का **ठान्नक्लट्प** **ज़हान्नमाल्ह** एन्नव्रघ श्व **इक्ला** योगदान देता है।

**न्हून्नज़ घ ड ए हघ ज़द्वज्ज्वल्प** ज़ग्णाणज़ एन्नव्रघ श्व **इक्ला** के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर है।

असंगठित क्षेत्र में **एन्नच्छ्वाक्रम**, **हवन्नग्रघच्छ्वाक्रम**, **श्रान्नप्रद्वप्लान्नप्रघाह ज़ घ म्वर्स्ल्प** **ग्लान्न** शामिल हैं।

ऊन उद्योग **इक्लमहर्** क्रम्भ **हवन्नच्छ्वाक्रम** को **टुण्ड्वह ज़ घ श्व ग्लान्न एन्नव्रच्छ्वाक्रम** से जोड़ता है।

Other producers	Other important states include <b>Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh</b> .
Geographic spread	Wool production is spread across <b>arid, semi-arid and hill regions of India</b> .
Growth trend	<b>Punjab</b> recorded the highest annual growth in wool production at <b>22.04%</b> .
Other growth states	<b>Tamil Nadu (17.19%)</b> and <b>Gujarat (3.20%)</b> followed Punjab in growth.
Wool categories	India produces three types: <b>Carpet grade (85%), Coarser grade (10%), Apparel grade (5%)</b> .
Industry strength	Dominance of carpet-grade wool reflects India's strength in <b>carpet and rug manufacturing</b> rather than fine apparel wool.
Organised sector	Includes <b>composite mills, combing units, spinning mills, carpet units and garment factories</b> .

अन्य प्रमुख राज्य हैं डूष्ट्रांग, लूम्पराष्ट्र, फ़ूंगवल, राणकप्रदेश त्रिपुरा श्रीनगर बड्डूर।

उन उत्पादन भारत के ट्रूफ, १ श्लैफ्ट त्रिपुरा हार्ड्लैग लूम्परा में फैला हुआ है।

उन उत्पादन में हूफ्वा ने नगरानी की सबसे अधिक वार्षिक वृद्धि दर्ज की।

लूम्पराष्ट्र ब्रज्जप्रदेश और फ़ूंगवल जूकाजपद्मा वृद्धि में आगे रहे।

भारत में तीन प्रकार की ऊन होती है: डूवघूर्ण छुम्प जूडपद्मा, डूज्जाल्लू छुम्प जूडपद्मा, डूहूम्प छुम्प जूडपद्मा।

कारपेट-ग्रेड ऊन की प्रधानता भारत की डूवचहर त्रिपुरा वृद्धि क्षेत्र में मजबूती को दर्शाती है।

संगठित क्षेत्र में डूहूम्प श्रीनगर डूम्पक्ष ग्राम, सु श्रीनगर श्रीनगर, डूवघूर्ण ग्राम त्रिपुरा प्रदेश में शामिल हैं।

- India's wool is mostly **coarse and carpet-grade**, unlike countries such as Australia which dominate **fine Merino wool**.

भारत का अधिकांश ऊन मोटा और कारपेट-ग्रेड होता है, जबकि ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे देश फाइन मेरिनो ऊन में अग्रणी हैं।

- Rajasthan's dominance is linked to its **arid climate, traditional sheep breeds, and pastoral communities**.

राजस्थान की प्रमुखता का कारण उसका शुष्क जलवायु क्षेत्र, स्थानीय भेड़ नस्लें और चरवाहा समुदाय हैं।

- Wool production is closely connected to **livestock economy, rural employment, and MSME-based textile exports**.

ऊन उत्पादन पशुधन अर्थव्यवस्था, ग्रामीण रोजगार और MSME आधारित वस्त्र निर्यात से जुड़ा है।

- Carpet and rug exports from India are an important source of **foreign exchange earnings**.

भारत से कालीन और दरी का निर्यात विदेशी मुद्रा आय का महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है।

- In exams, wool is often asked under **Agriculture + Animal Husbandry + Rural economy + Textiles** themes.

परीक्षाओं में ऊन से जुड़े प्रश्न अक्सर कृषि, पशुपालन, ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था और वस्त्र उद्योग के अंतर्गत पूछे जाते हैं।



Himachal CM  
launches 'Padhai  
with AI'

Dimension	Key Points (English)	मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Initiative launched	The 'Padhai with AI' learning initiative was launched by <b>Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu</b> , Chief Minister of <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> .	‘पद्धति से AI’ शिक्षण पहल का शुभारंभ द्वारा प्रक्रिया शुरू किया गया।
Date & place	The programme was launched on <b>9 February 2026</b> at <b>Barthin</b> in <b>Bilaspur district</b> .	यह कार्यक्रम 9 फरवरी 2026 को श्री चंद्रदेव स्कूल बिलासपुर में शुरू किया गया।
Implementing authority	The initiative is an innovation of the <b>Bilaspur district administration</b> .	यह पहल श्री चंद्रदेव स्कूल बिलासपुर की अभिनव पहल है।
Core objective	To integrate <b>artificial intelligence</b> into public education delivery, especially for <b>competitive exam preparation</b> .	सार्वजनिक शिक्षा प्रणाली में डिजिटल एक्सायर्जी (AI) को जोड़ना, विशेषकर ब्रेनिंग इंटेलिजेंस की तैयारी के लिए।
Target beneficiaries	Students of <b>Bilaspur district</b> , particularly those preparing for competitive examinations.	श्री चंद्रदेव स्कूल के विद्यार्थी, खासकर प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी करने वाले छात्र।
Nature of platform	An <b>AI-based digital learning platform</b> offering technology-enabled and quality educational resources.	AI व तकनीक समर्पित एक स्कूल एक्सायर्जी इंटेलिजेंस जो तकनीक-सक्षम और गुणवत्तापूर्ण शैक्षणिक सामग्री उपलब्ध कराता है।
Broader vision	Part of the state government's commitment to <b>innovation, digital governance, and inclusive education</b> .	राज्य सरकार की एक्सायर्जी, डिजिटल गवर्नेंस और शामिल शिक्षण की प्रतिबद्धता का हिस्सा।

## Learning philosophy

Education is seen not only as syllabus completion but as a **transformative tool** for society and future generations.

## Equal access focus

The platform ensures **equal learning opportunities**, irrespective of students' socio-economic background.

## Academic counselling

Provides **continuous academic counselling** to guide students on preparation strategies and subject understanding.

## Reducing disparities

Aims to reduce disparities in access to **coaching and quality study material**.

## Governance support

Supported by the **district administration** with institutional backing (including NTPC support as reported).

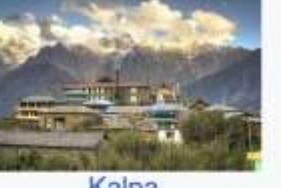
शिक्षा को केवल सिलेबस पूरा करने तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि समाज और भौविष्य की पीढ़ियों को गढ़ने वाला **हृष्ट्रघ्नत्रङ्ग इन्वेन्ट्रोग्राम** माना गया।

यह प्लेटफॉर्म पृष्ठभूमि की परवाह किए बिना छात्रों को **द्रव्यवर्ष १० ग्रष्ठ १० ग्रद्धि** प्रदान करता है।

छात्रों को तैयारी की रणनीति और विषय-समझ के लिए **श्रृंखलांग १० इन्वेन्ट्रोग्राम** दिया जाएगा।

**इन्वेन्ट्रोग्राम** इन्वेन्ट्रोग्राम १० ग्रष्ठ १० ग्रद्धि तक पहुँच में असमानता कम करना उद्देश्य है।

**श्रृंखलांग १० इन्वेन्ट्रोग्राम** और संस्थागत सहयोग (रिपोर्ट के अनुसार NTPC समर्थन सहित)।

Himachal Pradesh	
State	
State of Himachal Pradesh	
	Kinnaur Kailash
	Kullu Valley near Manali
	HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala
	Baijnath Temple
	Key Monastery at Spiti
	Bhimakali Temple in Sarahan
	Kalpa
	Shimla at Night

Country	India
Region	North India
Previously was	East Punjab
As union territory	1 November 1956
As state	25 January 1971
Formation	15 April 1948
Capital	Shimla
Largest city	Shimla
Districts	12
Government	
• Body	Government of Himachal Pradesh
• Governor	Shiv Pratap Shukla <sup>[2]</sup>
• Chief Minister	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (INC)
• Deputy Chief Minister	Mukesh Agnihotri (INC)
State Legislature	Unicameral
• Assembly	Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly <sup>[3]</sup> (68 seats)
National Parliament	Parliament of India
• Rajya Sabha	3 seats
• Lok Sabha	4 seats
High Court	Himachal Pradesh High Court
Area <sup>[4]</sup>	
• Total	55,673 km <sup>2</sup> (21,495 sq mi)
• Rank	18th
Dimensions	
• Length	300 km (190 mi)
• Width	200 km (120 mi)
Highest elevation (Reo Purgyl)	6,816 m (22,362 ft)
Lowest elevation (Beas River)	232 m (761 ft)

Dimensions	
• Length	300 km (190 mi)
• Width	200 km (120 mi)
Highest elevation (Reo Purgyl)	6,816 m (22,362 ft)
Lowest elevation (Beas River)	232 m (761 ft)
Population (2025) <sup>[5]</sup>	
• Total	▲ 7,555,000 <sup>[1]</sup>
• Rank	21st
• Density	123/km <sup>2</sup> (320/sq mi)
• Urban	10.03%
• Rural	89.97%
Language	
• Official	Hindi
• Additional official	Sanskrit
• Official script	Devanagari script
GDP <sup>[6][7]</sup>	
• Total (2024–2025)	▲ ₹2.32 lakh crore (US\$27 billion)
• Rank	22nd
• Per capita	▲ ₹276,943 (US\$3,300) (16th)
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-HP
Vehicle registration	HP
HDI (2025)	▲ 0.78 High <sup>[8]</sup> (8th)
Literacy (2025)	88.8% <sup>[9]</sup> (12th)
Sex ratio (2011)	972 ♀/1000 ♂ (32nd)

A large satellite dish antenna is positioned in a field, with a star-filled sky in the background. The dish is illuminated from within, showing its metallic structure. The foreground shows some low hills and a fence.

Azista Space achieves India's first in-orbit snooping capability

Dimension	Key points (English)	मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Headline achievement	<b>Azista Space</b> demonstrated India's <b>first in-orbit snooping (space-watch) capability</b> by imaging another space object in Earth orbit.	<b>Azista Space</b> ने पृथ्वी की कक्षा में किसी अन्य अंतरिक्ष वस्तु की इमेजिंग कर भारत की <b>हण्घ्रह in-orbit snooping (space-watch) लक्षण्य</b> प्रदर्शित की।
What was imaged	The satellite successfully captured images of the <b>International Space Station (ISS)</b> .	उपग्रह ने <b>International Space Station (ISS)</b> की सफलतापूर्वक तस्वीरें लीं।
Satellite used	The feat was achieved using Azista's <b>80-kg Earth-observation satellite "ABA First Runner (AFR)"</b> .	यह उपलब्धि <b>तज़क्क इव</b> वज़न वाले पृथ्वी-अवलोकन उपग्रह <b>ABA First Runner (AFR)</b> से हासिल हुई।
Orbit & range	Imaging was done while operating at ranges of <b>~250–300 km</b> , tracking a fast-moving target.	तेज़ी से चलने वाले लक्ष्य को <b>चण्ड्रप्रभ तङ्ज़-टङ्ज़ श्वस्त्र</b> की दूरी पर ट्रैक करते हुए इमेजिंग की गई।
What "in-orbit snooping" means	Tracking and imaging another object <b>in near-horizon, sunlit conditions</b> , validating advanced sensors and tracking algorithms.	<b>near-horizon, दृश्यमान इक्विटेट लैंप्स्ट्रिंग्स श्वस्त्र</b> में किसी अन्य कक्षीय वस्तु को ट्रैक-इमेज करना; उन्नत सेंसर व ट्रैकिंग एल्गोरिदम का सत्यापन।
Launch details	AFR was launched in <b>June 2023</b> aboard a <b>Falcon 9</b> rocket by <b>SpaceX</b> under the <b>Transporter-8</b> mission.	AFR को <b>न्यू अर्ज़नेट</b> में <b>Transporter-8</b> मिशन के तहत <b>SpaceX</b> के <b>Falcon 9</b> रॉकेट से लॉन्च किया गया।

## Imaging attempts

After ~2.5 years in orbit, AFR executed **two independent imaging attempts** of the ISS.

कक्षा में लगभग त्रियां बाद AFR ने ISS की **दो लक्ष्यों पर दो अलग-अलग त्रूटी की**।

## Data quality

It captured **15 distinct frames** with a sampling resolution of about **2.2 metres**.

लगभग त्रियां सैंपलिंग रेजोल्यूशन के साथ **15 अलग-अलग त्रूटी की**।

## Success rate

According to Azista Space, **both attempts were 100% successful**.

Azista Space के अनुसार **दो लक्ष्यों पर 100% सफल**।

## Strategic value

Strengthens India's **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**—monitoring and predicting movements of satellites and space debris.

भारत की **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** को मजबूत करता है—उपग्रहों व अंतरिक्ष मलबे की निगरानी/पूर्वानुमान।

## Why SSA matters

With **50+ Indian satellites** in orbit, timely information on nearby activity is critical, especially during geopolitical tensions.

कक्षा में डिजिटल रूपरूप सैंपलिंग के साथ, आसपास की गतिविधि की समय पर जानकारी बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है, खासकर भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के समय।

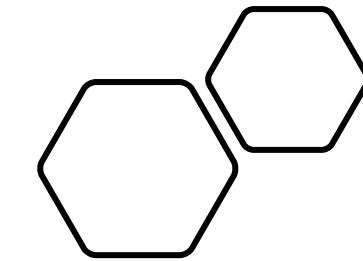
## Sectoral impact

Marks a milestone for **India's private space sector**, showcasing indigenous capability in high-precision orbital imaging.

क्रवित इंडियन स्पेस इंडस्ट्रीज के लिए मील का पत्थर—उच्च-संस्कृति कक्षीय इमेजिंग में स्वदेशी क्षमता का प्रदर्शन।



# Anutin Charnvirakul's Landslide Victory in Thailand





<b>Religion</b> (2020 census) <sup>[2]</sup>		93.46% Buddhism 5.37% Islam 1.13% Christianity 0.03% other
<b>Demonym</b>		Thai
<b>Government</b>		Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy <sup>[3]</sup>
• Monarch		Vajiralongkorn (Rama X)
• Prime Minister		Anutin Charnvirakul
<b>Legislature</b>	National Assembly	
• Upper house	Senate	
• Lower house	House of Representatives	
<b>Formation</b>		
• Sukhothai Kingdom	1238–1438	
• Ayutthaya Kingdom	1351–1767	
• Thonburi Kingdom	1767–1782	
• Rattanakosin Kingdom	6 April 1782	
• Constitutional monarchy	24 June 1932	
• Current constitution	6 April 2017	
<b>Area</b>		
• Total	513,120 km <sup>2</sup> (198,120 sq mi) (50th)	
• Water (%)	0.4 (2,230 km <sup>2</sup> )	
<b>Population</b>		
• 2024 estimate	▲ 65,975,198 <sup>[3]</sup> (22nd)	
• 2010 census	64,785,909 <sup>[4]</sup> (21st)	
• Density	132.1/km <sup>2</sup> (342.1/sq mi) (88th)	

<b>Population</b>	
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• Density	132.1/km <sup>2</sup> (342.1/sq mi) (88th)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ \$1.853 trillion <sup>[5]</sup> (23rd)
• Per capita	▲ \$26,358 <sup>[5]</sup> (75th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ \$558.573 billion <sup>[5]</sup> (31rd)
• Per capita	▲ \$7,942 <sup>[5]</sup> (97th)
<b>Gini</b> (2023)	▼ 33.5 <sup>[6]</sup> medium inequality
<b>HDI</b> (2023)	▼ 0.798 <sup>[7]</sup> high (76th)
<b>Currency</b>	Thai baht (฿) (THB)

## Dimension

### Election outcome

### Party & mandate

### Timing & risk

### Why voters backed him

### Populist image

### Conservative appeal

#### Key Points (English)

Anutin Charnvirakul secured a **landslide victory** in Thailand's snap general election, reshaping the political landscape.

His **Bhumjaithai Party** won a decisive mandate, exceeding expectations and consolidating his authority.

Anutin dissolved parliament **just three months** into his premiership and called a snap election—a **calculated political gamble**.

Analysts cite voter perception of **decisiveness, stability**, and leadership distinct from entrenched political families.

Despite being an heir to a major construction business, Anutin cultivated a “**man of the people**” image via casual persona and social media presence.

He blends **populist outreach** with loyalty to Thailand's **traditional social order**.

#### मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)

१ फ़रवरी के थाईलैंड के आकस्मिक आम चुनाव में क्रमघान्हाल दर्ज की, जिससे राजनीतिक परिवर्त्य में बड़ा बदलाव आया।

उनकी क्रमान्वयन हवाले को अपेक्षा से कहीं अधिक समर्थन मिला, जिससे उनका नेतृत्व सुदृढ़ हुआ।

अनुतिन ने प्रधानमंत्री बनने के शुरूआती लेणदान बाद संसद भंग कर चुनाव कराए—यह एक द्वन्द्व-क्रमान्वयन था।

विश्लेषकों के अनुसार मतदाताओं ने श्रीक्रान्ति झुज्जु, संघर्ष और पारपरिक राजनीतिक परिवारों से अलग पहचान को समर्थन दिया।

बड़े निर्माण व्यवसाय से जुड़े होने के बावजूद, अनुतिन ने अपनी सादगी और सोशल मीडिया के ज़रिये पृष्ठ स्नान व्यवस्था की छवि बनाई।

उन्होंने चक्रवर्ती व्यवस्था को थाईलैंड की द्वन्द्व-प्रधान द्रव्यक्रम और ग्रामीण के प्रति निष्ठा के साथ जोड़ा।

Core social pillars

Nationalism driver

Security narrative

Post-election stance

Political significance

Thai politics remains deeply shaped by **nationalism, religion, and monarchy**.

A surge in nationalism followed deadly **border clashes with Cambodia**, which became central to Anutin's campaign.

Over **one million people were displaced** during the conflict, sharpening focus on **sovereignty and security**.

Anutin framed nationalism as core to his party's identity and signalled **strong military responses** to safeguard territorial integrity.

The victory strengthens executive authority and reduces immediate coalition fragility.

थाई राजनीति पर घराक्षर्त, शख्त घ घक्त ट्रिवण्ह का गहरा प्रभाव बना हुआ है।

इत्राइक्ट ग्रव डूँ द्रवक द्वहरव द्वृत डूक के बाद राष्ट्रवाद में उछाल आया, जो अनुतिन के चुनाव अभियान का प्रमुख मुद्दा बना।

संघर्ष के दौरान झज्ज चवद्व द्वृश्रृ ड च्छाप श्वा क्रहल हुए, जिससे द्वृक्क्रास्त्र घ द्वक्कल्प पर जन-ध्यान बढ़ा।

अनुतिन ने राष्ट्रवाद को पार्टी की पहचान का केंद्र बताया और डृ न्द्रूँ डृ वर्षाका संकेत दिया।

इस जीत से कार्यपालिका की शक्ति बढ़ी और गठबंधन की अस्थिरता कम हुई।

India ranks second  
globally in LEED-certified  
green realty

Dimension	Key Points (English)	मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Headline achievement	India ranked <b>second globally (outside the US)</b> in LEED-certified building space in 2025.	भारत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय में LEED-वर्षाकारी लंकाश लैंड में अमेरिका बापू है लक्ष्य घरेलू वर्ष जैसे रक्षणात्मक डिज़ाइन पर रहा।
Reporting authority	The ranking was reported by the <b>U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)</b> .	यह रैंकिंग अमेरिका इंडिया शास्त्रीय डिविलियरी अमेरिका (USGBC) द्वारा जारी की गई।
India's scale	India recorded <b>16 million gross square metres (GSM)</b> of LEED-certified building area in 2025.	भारत में इन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय इंडिया यूनियन अमेरिका (USGBC) LEED-प्रमाणित भवन क्षेत्र दर्ज हुआ।
Global comparison	Outside the US, <b>China</b> topped with <b>26 million GSM</b> , followed by <b>India (16 million GSM)</b> .	अमेरिका के बाहर दूसरे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय (GSM) पहले और क्रमांक अमेरिका (GSM) दूसरे स्थान पर रहा।
US position	The <b>United States</b> continued to lead globally with <b>50+ million GSM</b> of LEED-certified space.	दूसरे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अमेरिका (GSM) के साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर अग्रणी रहा।
New entrant	<b>Vietnam</b> entered the <b>global top-10</b> for the first time.	शास्त्रीय अमेरिका पहली बार अमेरिका इंडिया अमेरिका में शामिल हुआ।
What this reflects	India's ranking reflects growing commitment to <b>environmentally responsible construction</b> amid rapid urbanisation and industrial growth.	यह रैंकिंग तेज़ शहरीकरण व औद्योगिक विस्तार के बीच हृग्राम अमेरिका (GBCI) के प्रति भारत की प्रतिबद्धता दर्शाती है।
Certification administrator	LEED certifications are administered and verified globally by <b>Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)</b> .	LEED प्रमाणन का वैश्विक संचालन व सत्यापन इंडिया अमेरिका (GBCI) करता है।

Certification shift	India showed <b>higher growth in LEED Operations &amp; Maintenance (O+M) certifications</b> than new construction.	भारत में इह स्वप्रवर्धकार्डह लक्ष्यात्र रखा LEED Operations & Maintenance (O+M) प्रमाणन में अधिक वृद्धि दर्ज हुई।
Meaning of O+M focus	Indicates a shift towards <b>improving performance of existing buildings</b> rather than only adding new green buildings.	यह बदलाव रक्फ़ल्क़व स्वप्रवर्धकार्डह ट्रॉफ़ द्वारा वर्णित इमारतों के निर्माण पर।
Benefits of O+M	Focus on <b>energy efficiency, reduced operating costs, and lower long-term environmental impact.</b>	इनकार्डल ल्व, लक्ष्यात्र चरणपर्ल रक्फ़ह और वहल्क़क्रम्यांक्त ह्याग्लप्रधर्हग ब्रक्वयंत्र त्रव्यांक्त पर ध्यान।
Global trend	In 2025, <b>7,500+ commercial projects</b> were LEED-certified worldwide, covering <b>147+ million GSM</b> .	ज़ज़र्ड में विश्वभर में पांडिज़र ऋक्षर्सूड ह्याग्लह एवं इह LEED-प्रमाणित हुई, कुल झाठ्यार श्रव्यांग ग्यांग GSM क्षेत्र के साथ।
Driving factor	Rising operating costs pushed owners to seek <b>energy savings and resilience</b> through certification.	बढ़ती संचालन लागत ने भवन मालिकों को इनकार्डल त्रघ चर्दहचवह व्यासिल करने के लिए प्रमाणन की ओर प्रेरित किया।

- LEED stands for **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design** and was developed by **USGBC**.  
LEED का पूर्ण रूप **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design** है और इसे **USGBC** ने विकसित किया।
- Green buildings contribute to **India's climate commitments**, energy security, and sustainable urban development.

हरित भवन भारत की जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और सतत शहरी विकास में योगदान देते हैं।

- The shift to O+M certifications aligns with the principle of “**retrofitting before rebuilding**”, crucial for mature urban areas.

O+M की ओर झुकाव “नई इमारत से पहले रेट्रोफिटिंग” के सिद्धांत से जुड़ा है, जो विकसित शहरों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

- LEED rankings are often asked in exams under **Environment, Climate Change, Sustainable Infrastructure, Urbanisation**.

LEED रैंकिंग से जुड़े प्रश्न अक्सर पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन, सतत अवसंरचना और शहरीकरण विषयों के अंतर्गत पूछे जाते हैं।

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# Word of the day

## Ossify:

become bony; make rigid and set into a conventional pattern; cause to become hard and bony

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**Synonyms:** petrify, rigidify

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**Usage:** *The new teacher did not subscribe to old ossified teaching methods.*

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**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/ossifypro

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /'ɒs.ɪ.fai/

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