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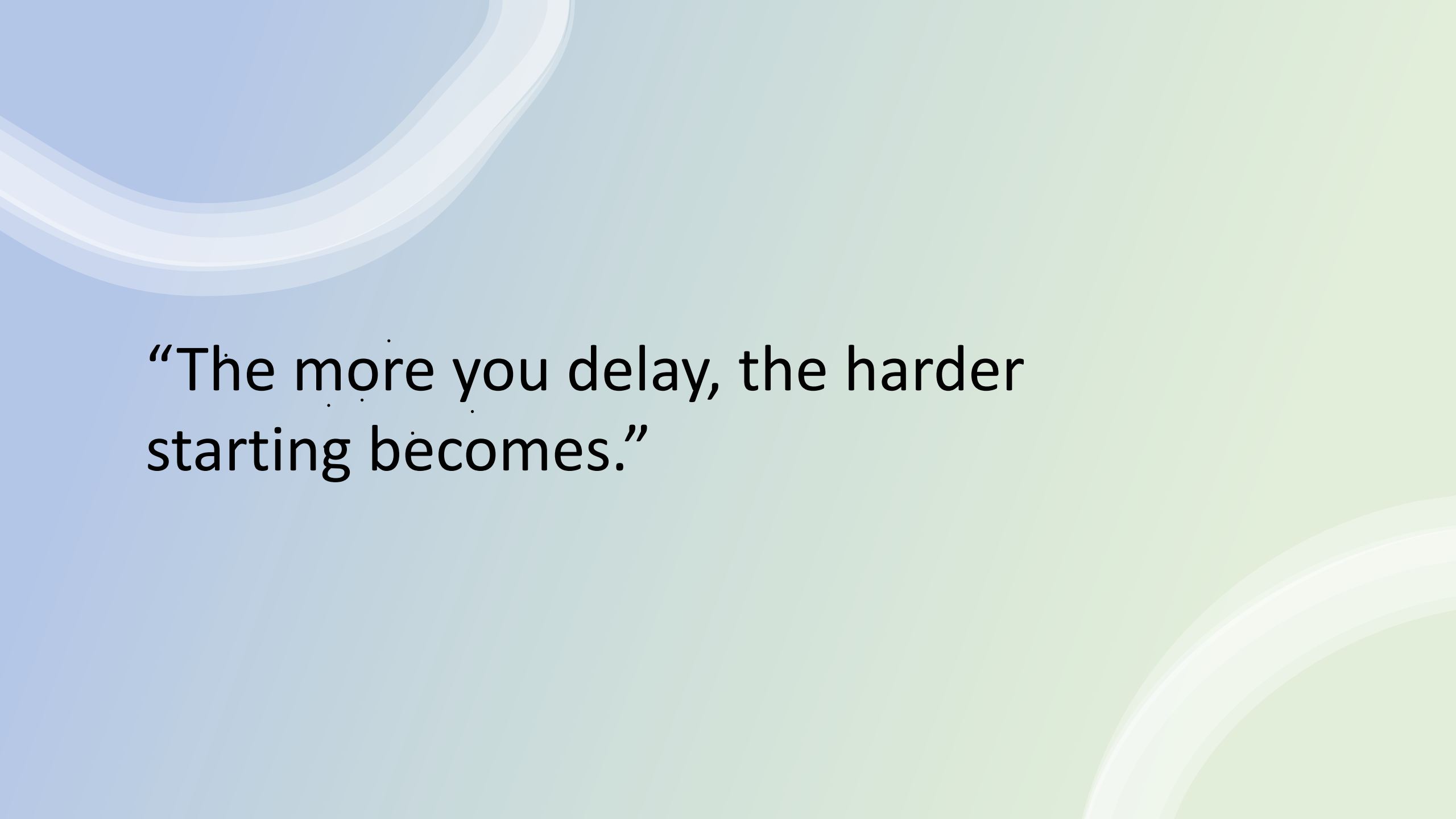
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The Indian Express



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Financial Express



“The more you delay, the harder starting becomes.”



INSIDE

MPC retains repo rate amid a pause in Iran conflict

Mumbai Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the two-week ceasefire in the West Asia conflict, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India unanimously voted to hold the repo rate at 5.25%. It also decided to continue with the neutral stance. ■ PAGE 12

Globally, 4,600 objects placed in orbit in 2020

Bengaluru The year 2020 saw 325 space launches globally, with about 4,600 objects placed in orbit. As per the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report, a maximum number of payloads were deployed during 2020. ■ PAGE 3

Over 150 fall ill after a temple feast in Kerala

Kannur Over 150 people have sought treatment at various hospitals after a suspected food poisoning incident linked to a feast at the Kappalappurathu Madappara Sree Mullassappan temple in Kannur district on Monday. ■ PAGE 8

China visit to sow 'seeds of peace' Taiwan leader

Hsinchu Taiwan's Opposition leader, a proponent of closer ties with Beijing, has said on Wednesday he hoped to sow the "seeds of peace" during a rare visit to China. Suominister chief Cheng Li-wen is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade. ■ PAGE 18

Fragile ceasefire takes hold between U.S., Iran

Each side offers divergent accounts of its terms, Tehran initially agrees to safe passage through Strait of Hormuz but stops vessels later, accusing Tel Aviv of ceasefire violation as Israeli strikes kill 112 in Lebanon, Iran says Lebanon is part of agreement but Israel and the U.S. say it is not, talks to begin in Islamabad tomorrow, based on Iran's proposal

Mainly talks

The two-week ceasefire announced by the U.S. and Iran hung in the balance on Wednesday with each side offering divergent accounts of its terms and Israel launching one of its heaviest air strikes on Lebanon since the war began, drawing swift accusations from Tehran of ceasefire violation.



Temporary relief: Iranians react after the ceasefire announcement at the Enghelab Square in Tehran on Wednesday. AP

On Wednesday morning, U.S. President Donald Trump said he has "suspending the bombing of Iran" for two weeks and will begin talks with Tehran based on its 10-point proposal, provided Iran respects the Strait of Hormuz. Iran said it will halt strikes if U.S.-Israel attacks stop and promised safe passage through the strait as a precondition for its forces during the truce. Pakistan, which mediated between the two sides,

said all parties and their allies have agreed to an immediate ceasefire on all fronts, including Lebanon, and Islamabad will host direct talks on April 10. However, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who welcomed the U.S.-Israel ceasefire, said Lebanon was not part of the deal. Israel then stepped up air strikes on more than 100 targets in

India welcomes truce, calls for trade via Strait

New Delhi The Indian government on Wednesday welcomed the U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement that was brokered by Pakistan close to the deadline, calling for an early end to the conflict and for "unimpeded" trade flow through the Strait of Hormuz. ■ PAGE 4

Shippers seek clarity before transiting

Chennai Shippers are awaiting clarity on the terms of safe passage from the Strait of Hormuz following the ceasefire. Some 35 stranded ships are either Indian flagged or foreign flagged carrying cargo for India. They await "clarity from the Indian government". ■ PAGE 13

Mumbai "This will be a dramatic step considered. The reason for doing so is that we have already met and succeeded all Military objectives, and we're far along with a definitive Agreement concerning Long-term peace with Iran, and peace in the Middle East." (Wein Astal), he added.

The U.S. had earlier sent a 10-point ceasefire proposal to Iran through Pakistan, which Tehran rejected. Instead, it submitted a 10-point proposal demanding the lifting of all sanctions, and the return of control over the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iran's state media.

"We received a 10-point proposal from Iran. I believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate. Almost all of the various points of past contention have been agreed to between the United States and Iran, but a two-week period will allow the Agreement to be finalized and communicated," Mr. Trump added.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the U.S. requested for talks based on its 10-point proposal, and President Trump has accepted "the entirety of Iran's 10-point proposals as a basis for negotiations". "If the attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran cease, our powerful armed forces will also cease their defensive attacks. Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible for two weeks in coordination with the Iranian armed forces and taking into account existing technical limitations," he said.

Boat rescue



Rain impacts: People attempt to salvage a damaged, partially repaired boat along the banks of the Jhelum River in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, following rain on Wednesday. istat news

Ancient reservoir unearthed on Elephanta

U.S. Subramanian

As we tramped through the scrub jungle on a hill on the Elephanta Island off the Mumbai coast on March 17, Abhijit Ambekar declared with a flourish, "We will show you the wonder discovery of our excavation." Professor Abhijit Ambekar stepped in, "It is a stone structure." As we reached the trench, where several men and women were excavating the soil deep below, it was clear that it was a spectacular discovery. There it was a series of steps leading to a reservoir below.

The stepped reservoir excavated by the Mumbai Circle of the ASI on Elephanta Island, off the Mumbai coast. ASI

including Musoropattin, have been unearthed. Amphorae and terracotta jars were used for storing wine, oil and salt sauce. Their potsherds showed the island's long-distance maritime contacts.

Meeting between the EC and Trinamool delegation ends on acrimonious note

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

A meeting between the Trinamool Congress and the full bench of the Election Commission ended on an acrimonious note on Wednesday with each side accusing the other of inappropriate behaviour.

While the Trinamool delegation, comprising its Rajiv Singh and Derek O'Brien, deputy leader Saikat Ghose, and Saket Chakrabarti and Gitanjali Ghosh, alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee CEO Gyanesh Kumar asked them to "get lost" in a vulgar manner.

Commissioner Vaidik Kumar. The first line where is your authorised signatory. And the second most shameful two words 'get lost'. Mr. Ghose said, "I am not a politician. I am a social activist. I am a person of singling out one political party."

Fragile ceasefire takes hold between U.S., Iran

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Stanly Johny

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Temporary relief: Iranians react after the ceasefire announcement at the Enqelab Square in Tehran on Wednesday. AFP

said all parties and their allies have agreed to an immediate ceasefire on all fronts, including Lebanon, and Islamabad will host direct talks on April 10.

However, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who welcomed the U.S.-Israel ceasefire, said Lebanon was not part of the deal. Israel then stepped up air strikes on more than 100 targets in

Lebanon, killing at least 112 people. Iran's Fars news agency said oil vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz have been stopped because of Israel's “ceasefire violation”.

Mr. Trump said earlier in the day that he was suspending his planned attack on Iran based on conversations with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim

India welcomes truce, calls for trade via Strait

NEW DELHI

The Indian government on Wednesday welcomed the U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement that was brokered by Pakistan close to the deadline, calling for an early end to the conflict and for “unimpeded” trade flow through the Strait of Hormuz. » [PAGE 4](#)

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The U.S. had earlier sent a 15-point ceasefire propo-

Shippers seek clarity before transiting

CHENNAI

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points of past contention have been agreed to between the United States and Iran, but a two week period will allow the Agreement to be finalised and consummated,” Mr. Trump added.

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Iran's Supreme National Security Council said the country has dealt a “histor-

ic and crushing defeat” to the U.S. and Israel, adding that Washington was forced to accept its 10-point proposal. The proposal, as per the Council, includes: no new aggression against Iran; continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz; acceptance of uranium enrichment; removal of all sanctions; payment of compensation; withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region and cessation of war on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Later in the day, the White House said the 10-point proposal Iran has submitted to the U.S. was different from the plan released by Iran's state media. Mr. Trump also said that Lebanon was not part of the ceasefire and wrote in a social media post that Iran would not be enriching uranium.

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In Iran, Trump faces the limits of American power

The U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has not just failed to achieve its declared objectives but also reinforced Iran's standing as a major regional power in West Asia; under attack, Iran ensured decapitation would not affect the coherence of the state; Tehran widened the conflict by attacking U.S. bases in the region and by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran dragged the global economy into the conflict

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

“There will be no deal with Iran except UN-CONDITIONAL SURRENDER!” U.S. President Donald Trump said on March 6, the seventh day of the war. On April 8, on the 40th day of the war, Mr. Trump announced a two-week ceasefire, hours after he threatened to erase the Iranian civilisation if Tehran did not accept his deal.

Mr. Trump also agreed to treat an Iranian proposal as “a workable basis” for future talks. Iran said it would honour the ceasefire and ensure “safe passage” of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz “in coordination with its forces”.

While it is too early to conclude whether the cea-

sfire would hold or it would lead to a lasting peace agreement, one thing is clear – the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has not just failed to achieve its declared objectives but also reinforced Iran's standing as a major regional power in West Asia, particularly.

When he launched the war on February 28, Mr. Trump outlined five broad objectives: to “raze” Iran's missile industry “to the ground”; to “annihilate” Iran's Navy; to ensure that Iran's “proxies” could no longer “destabilise” the region; to prevent Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon; and to bring about regime change. None of this has been met.

Forty days later, however, his biggest demand was one that was not part of his original set of objectives – reopen Hormuz.

Iran got pounded over the past 40 days. It lost sev-

eral top leaders, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, Defence Council chief Ali Shamkhani and Security Council chief Ali Larijani. Its manufacturing facilities, petrochemical complexes, gas fields, oil depots, rail tracks, universities and even bridges were bombed. The damage is a major setback for an economy already in crisis.

Iran's three moves

But Iran made three moves that allowed it to play what Trita Parsi, of the Quincy Institute, calls the “longer game”. First, it ensured that decapitation would not affect the coherence of the state or its ability to fight back – a strategy likely put in place after the June 2025 war when Israel killed multiple Iranian military leaders. Second, Iran immediately regionalised the conflict by attacking American bases in the Per-



Vacillating stance: Donald Trump announced the ceasefire hours after he threatened to erase the Iranian civilisation. REUTERS

sian Gulf. The accuracy and lethality of these strikes suggest that Tehran had prepared for this moment. As Vali Nasr, of Johns Hopkins University, told *The Hindu*, Iran turned the entire Persian Gulf into a battlefield. Third, by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran dragged the global economy into the war launched by the U.S. and Israel.

Over the past few weeks, Mr. Trump repeatedly declared victory. But such declarations failed to convince even his allies, as the Strait of Hormuz remained under Iranian control. The U.S. had no easy options. Mr. Trump faced three possible ways out. First, he could declare victory and withdraw, effectively leaving the Strait in Iran's hands – a move that

would be seen as a huge strategic defeat.

Second, he could escalate further, hoping that heavier strikes would force Iran to flinch and make concessions. But this carried enormous risks as Iran could counter-escalate by attacking energy facilities across the Gulf and militarily shutting the Strait. Such an outcome would multiply Mr. Trump's challenges and could draw the U.S. into a ground war. Mr. Trump did attempt limited escalation. He bombed Kharg Island, Iran's main export terminal, while Israel struck Iran's South Pars gas fields. Mr. Trump issued multiple ultimatums. But each time, Iran either ignored them or responded with counter-strikes. Last week, the loss of two aircraft over Iran punctured Mr. Trump's claims that Tehran's anti-defence capabilities were

destroyed. Although the U.S. managed to extract the pilots of a downed F-15E, it lost more aircraft in the process.

Mr. Trump's third option was to seek a deal with Iran, whose unconditional surrender he had demanded. He chose diplomacy, with Pakistan, an ally with close ties with Tehran, mediating, even as he threatened to blow up Iran's civilian infrastructure. The plan was to use the threats to exact concessions from Tehran for an exit path.

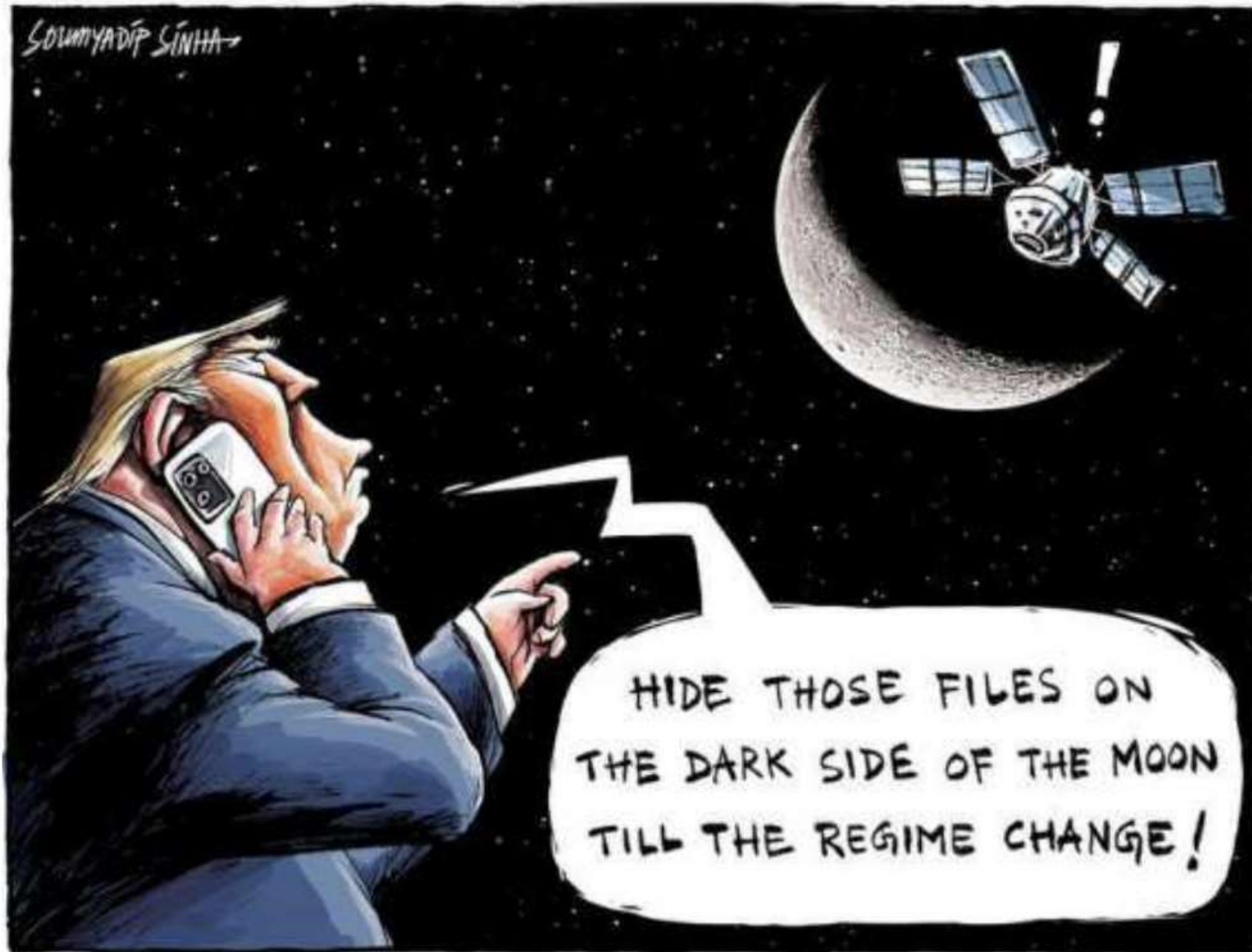
Tables have turned

He finally got an off-ramp, hours before his latest ultimatum was set to expire. But his admission that the framework for coming talks would be Iran's 10-point proposal, not America's 15-point proposal, shows how tables have turned during the war. Iran has demanded guarantees

against future attacks, continued control over the Strait of Hormuz, right to continue enriching uranium, removal of all sanctions, withdrawal of U.S. troops in the region and payment of reparations. As a concession to Mr. Trump, Iran has agreed to allow “safe passage” of vessels through the Strait during the ceasefire “in coordination” with its forces. Note: ‘safe passage’ is not the same as ‘free passage’.

There are wide gaps between the American and Iranian positions, which will be taken up at the Islamabad conference on April 10. But Iran will arrive with far greater leverage than it had in the pre-war talks in Muscat and Geneva. During the pre-war talks, the U.S. used the threat of an attack to demand concessions from Tehran. After 40 days of war, that threat is now a spent force.

On the draw



- The **US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire**, brokered by **Pakistan**, with direct talks scheduled in **Islamabad on April 10**.
- **अमेरिका और ईरान ने दो सप्ताह का युद्धविराम घोषित किया, पाकिस्तान की मध्यस्थता से; इस्लामाबाद में 10 अप्रैल को सीधी वार्ता तय।**
- **Strait of Hormuz** — the world's most critical oil chokepoint — was at the centre of negotiations; Iran initially agreed to safe passage, then halted ships citing Israeli violations.
- **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** — विश्व का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तेल पारगमन बिंदु — वार्ता के केंद्र में था; ईरान ने पहले सुरक्षित पारगमन माना, फिर इजरायली उल्लंघन का आरोप लगाकर जहाज रोके।
- Israel launched its **heaviest air strikes on Lebanon** since the war began, killing 112 people — complicating the truce.
- इजरायल ने **युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से लेबनान पर सबसे भारी हवाई हमले** किए — 112 लोग मारे गए — युद्धविराम को जटिल बनाया।
- **India welcomed the ceasefire**, calling for unimpeded trade through Hormuz — about 35 Indian-flagged or cargo ships were stranded.
- **भारत ने युद्धविराम का स्वागत किया**, होर्मुज के माध्यम से अबाध व्यापार की माँग की — लगभग 35 भारतीय-ध्वज या कार्गो जहाज फँसे थे।
- Divergent 10-point (Iran) vs 15-point (US) ceasefire proposals reveal deep mistrust between the two nations.
- ईरान के 10-सूत्रीय और अमेरिका के 15-सूत्रीय युद्धविराम प्रस्तावों में विरोधाभास दोनों देशों के बीच गहरे अविश्वास को दर्शाता है।

World's Key Maritime Chokepoints / विश्व के प्रमुख समुद्री चोकपॉइंट:

Chokepoint	Location	Significance
Strait of Hormuz	Between Iran & Oman	20% world oil, 25% LNG
Strait of Malacca	Between Malaysia & Indonesia	40% world trade
Bab-el-Mandeb	Between Yemen & Djibouti	Red Sea → Suez Canal route
Suez Canal	Egypt	Europe-Asia shortcut
Strait of Gibraltar	Between Spain & Morocco	Atlantic-Mediterranean

Iran's Key Nuclear Sites / ईरान के प्रमुख परमाणु स्थल:

- **Natanz:** Main uranium enrichment facility
- **Fordow:** Underground enrichment bunker
- **Arak:** Heavy water reactor (potential plutonium source)
- **Bushehr:** Nuclear power plant

US-Iran war (40 days)

Trump's limits of power

US war objectives

5 declared goals — all unmet

Raze missile industry
— NOT achieved

Annihilate Iran's Navy
— NOT achieved

Neutralise Iran proxies
— NOT achieved

Prevent nuclear weapon
— NOT achieved

Bring regime change
— NOT achieved

Trump's 3 options

All had major problems

Declare victory + withdraw
Hormuz stays in Iran's hands

Escalate further
Risk: ground war + Hormuz closed

Seek deal (chosen option)
Pakistan as mediator

Iran's three moves

The "longer game"

Ensured leadership
continuity (no decapitation)

Attacked US bases in
Persian Gulf — widened war

Seized Strait of Hormuz
→ dragged global economy in

Ceasefire outcome

Fragile — wide gaps remain

Iran's 10-point demand:
Hormuz control, sanctions lifted,
US troops out, enrichment OK

US 15-point framework
No enrichment, Lebanon excluded

Iran: "safe passage" granted
≠ "free passage" (Iran conditions apply)



Logic may not be the right tool to examine belief systems: SC

Krishnadas Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said courts cannot hollow out religion in the name of reform, and that logic may not be the right tool to examine faith and belief systems.

The remarks from the nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant came during the second day of hearing a reference triggered by a 2018 judgment upholding menstruating women's right to enter and worship at the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala. Justice B.V. Nagarathna said "in the name of social reform, a religion cannot lose its identity", echoing the Centre's stand that the core of a religious faith cannot be sacrificed either.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, admitted that what must come from within the religion. "If I believe in something and it is not against public order, morality or health, there cannot be a judicial review based on rationality and science", Mr. Mehta said.

"The concept of logic cannot be applied to religion," Justice M.M. Sundeekar observed. Mr. Mehta read out senior advocate Nand Palkhivala's arguments quoted in the judgment in reform versus State of Tamil Nadu that "under the 1973 case had dealt with Tamil Nadu law which en-

'No devotee of Ayyappa would have come to SC'

Justice B.V. Nagarathna said a devotee of Lord Ayyappa would not have filed the writ petition in 2018 challenging the exclusion of menstruating women from the Lord Ayyappa temple in Kerala. "A non-devotee, a person who is not concerned with the temple, challenges it, can this court entertain that sort of petition?" Justice Nagarathna asked.

The court observed that the inheritance right of succession to the office of Archakas. The Centre argued that the court had gone wrong in restricting the right to religious freedom to only "essential religious practices". Hinduism, he said, is a "non-creator-one-book" faith, but was based on a plurality of beliefs. It would be impossible for courts to apply an exact-judicial approach to distinguish between core beliefs or practices and mere superstitions.

"What is 'superstition' to one section of the public may be a matter of fundamental religious belief to another... Something is a matter of faith to one person may be a religious practice for another," Mr. Mehta said. Chief Justice Kant said the term "essential" was not there in the Constitution and was a judicial creation. Mr. Mehta said the courts cannot become theological exercises to decide whether a religious practice was an essential part.

Days after a Kerala trekker was safely rescued in Kodaikandam after spending four days alone in a forest, a 18-year-old girl from Palakkad in Kerala went missing during a family trip to Chikmagalur in the hills in Karnataka. The girl reportedly went missing near Manjalyadurga, a popular waterfall in Chikmagalur. Her family members searched for her for sometime and then alerted the police around 8.30 p.m.

Back to basics

A.P. HC grants bail to main accused in ₹3,200-crore liquor scam

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Kestreddy Rajasekar Reddy, also Raj Kestreddy, the main accused in the alleged ₹3,200-crore liquor scam case.

The Supreme Court had rejected Mr. Kestreddy's bail plea in February, observing that corrupt practices, such as rigging, were not possible without a criminal nexus between bureaucrats and political leaders, and that he was not an ordinary person and could not compare himself with the other accused. Mr. Kestreddy was arrested by a special investigation team of the CBI in 2025. The Enforcement Directorate is also investigating his role and that of the other accused in the scam.

High Court upholds order issued to U.S. citizen to leave India

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed a petition filed by a U.S. national who had challenged the "leave India notice" issued under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, after he was found engaged in business and commercial activities though he had arrived on a tourist visa.

Justice Sachin Shankar Nageshkar dismissed the petition filed by Joseph Ignazio Zambrato, a 45-year-old U.S. citizen and an undocumented business activity contrary to visa norms. The court directed the petitioner to exit India forthwith.

NDA trying to buy votes, say Left, Cong. on Kerala poll eve

BJP rubbishes allegations, candidates spend the day meeting community groups and workers, Cong. continues to battle internal rift; key PCC official quits and declares support for Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Silent campaign on the eve of the Assembly election in Kerala on Wednesday was anything but silent.

Opposing campaigns indulged in making use of a last-minute bid to recast the electoral agenda to their advantage as the clock wound down to the voting day on Thursday. Political sniping seemed fierce in both houses of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, where a few hundred votes could possibly tip an election, and the stakes are consequently high for the three alliances.

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) sought to gain a propaganda advantage over the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on poll eve.

They accused the NDA of seeking to buy votes, especially of freely agency voters, chiefly in Palakkad, where the Congress sought to put the BJP candidate, Sobha Sundaran, in the dock on charges of election fraud. The Congress and



Officials collect election material and voting machines from a centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. (Sanku/Anand)

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Search continues for missing 15-year-old

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

Days after a Kerala trekker was safely rescued in Kodaikandam after spending four days alone in a forest, a 18-year-old girl from Palakkad in Kerala went missing during a family trip to Chikmagalur in the hills in Karnataka. The girl reportedly went missing near Manjalyadurga, a popular waterfall in Chikmagalur. Her family members searched for her for sometime and then alerted the police around 8.30 p.m.

A disaster response team has arrived at the site to join the search.

ACB arrests two police officers in bribery case

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

Two police officers posted at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Police Outpost were arrested by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) shortly while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹2 lakh, part of a ₹5 lakh bribe in connection with extending official favours in a criminal case.

The court directed that the officers be released upon furnishing a bond of

the ruling CPI(M) also raised similar allegations against the NDA in Thiruvananthapuram. The Congress continued to battle internal dissent on poll eve, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) secretary Ravinod Krishna resigned from the party and declared support for a "third Pinarayi Vijayan government". Another Congress dissident N.S. Bussore sought to put the party on the defensive on the BJP's rehabilitation scheme by petitioning the State Police Chief to investigate alleged misappropriation of funds collected from the public.

U.S. Siddheshwar were detained on April 7 by the Rangareddy Banga unit after they were caught in a trap set by a complainant. The officers had demanded a bribe of ₹2 lakh from the complainant's family members in a case registered at the RGIA police station in Shamshabad. Both officers were arrested and produced before the special court for S.P. and ACB cases in Nampally for judicial remand.

Over 150 fall ill after suspected food poisoning in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Over 150 people have appeared at the Government Hospital for treatment following a suspected food poisoning incident linked to a feast at a temple in Kannur district on Monday afternoon.

Health officials indicated that the source of contamination could be a side dish served at the feast held at the Karapuzhappada Madappara Sree Mathappan temple in Manjannur. Symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache, prompted people from Ka-

After 13 years, HC grants bail to Saradha scam accused Sen

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday granted conditional bail to multi-crore Saradha group scam accused Sudipta Sen in the last two of the over 300 criminal cases against him, paving the way for his release from jail after 13 years.

The court observed that the right to a speedy trial is inalienable under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to protection of life and personal liberty.

A Division Bench of the High Court granted bail to Mr. Sen in two cases filed at the Burdwan police station in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

"When an individual is detained for 13 years, a petition nearly doubles the maximum sentence for the offences charged, the detention shifts from preventive to punitive," the Division Bench comprising Justice Rajarath Bhargava and Uday Kumar observed.

The court noted that Mr. Sen has been granted bail in 387 out of 389 cases, including all CBI matters, except one case of obstructive conduct. "To deny bail now, in the face of a stalemate achieved by the State, would be to sanction an inordinate life sentence without conviction," the Bench said.

The court directed that Mr. Sen be released upon furnishing a bond of



Sudipta Sen. (File Photo)

₹5,000 with two sureties of like amount each, one of whom must be local.

The Saradha group, headed by Mr. Sen, allegedly defrauded lakhs of people through a number of ponzi schemes. He was arrested in April 2011 after financial misappropriations to the tune of hundreds of crores.

"When an individual is detained for 13 years, a petition nearly doubles the maximum sentence for the offences charged, the detention shifts from preventive to punitive," the Division Bench comprising Justice Rajarath Bhargava and Uday Kumar observed.

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Two more airports to come up in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced that two more airports will be developed in Telangana — one at Warangal and another at Adilabad — with the foundation stone for the latter expected to be laid within three months.

Union Ministers K. Ram Mohan Reddy and G. Kishan Reddy held a press conference in New Delhi that a meeting had decided to take up the development of the Warangal airport. The Adilabad airport will be developed by the Defence Ministry.

Over 4,600 objects placed in orbit in 2025 after 315 space launches: report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The year 2025 saw 315 successful space launches globally, with about 4,650 objects placed in orbit. According to the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2025 released on Wednesday, a maximum number of payloads were deployed during 2025.

The report stated that 4,651 objects were launched to orbit and 1,911 re-entered the atmosphere with a net annual growth of 74.5%. 27 satellites operational With regard to the Indian space assets in 2025, eight satellites were launched

Unmanned space mission launch date to be out soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The launch date of the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan will be announced soon, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan said on Wednesday.

The HLV03 (G) mission, which is the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan, was scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2026. However, it has been delayed. "Before going for the crewed mission, three uncrewed missions are targeted. Right now, we are working on the first uncrewed mission. All activities are going well," he said.

Over 150 fall ill after suspected food poisoning in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Over 150 people have appeared at the Government Hospital for treatment following a suspected food poisoning incident linked to a feast at a temple in Kannur district on Monday afternoon.

Health officials indicated that the source of contamination could be a side dish served at the feast held at the Karapuzhappada Madappara Sree Mathappan temple in Manjannur. Symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache, prompted people from Ka-

High Court upholds order issued to U.S. citizen to leave India

The Hindu Bureau
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27 satellites operational

With regard to the Indian space assets in 2025, eight satellites were launched



In 2025, eight Indian satellites were launched and four rocket bodies placed in orbit. -FILE PHOTO

and four rocket bodies were placed in orbit. The report said that 12 Indian objects re-entered the atmosphere.

It added that the IRNSS-1D satellite was decommis-

sioned 600 km above geosynchronous orbit.

In total, there are 86 Indian satellites in orbit of which 27 are operational, 23 are defunct (still in orbit), and 36 decayed.

Among the Indian rocket bodies, three Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) are still in orbit and five are decayed; four Small Satellite Launch Vehicles are decayed; four Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicles (GSLV) are in orbit and 10 have decayed, and 42 Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) are in orbit and 19 have decayed.

The report also said that 563 and 519 orbital manoeuvres were carried out in low-earth orbit and geostationary orbit, respectively.

Fourteen collision avoidance measures were carried out in low-earth orbit along with four in geostationary orbit, the ISSAR report said.



- **ISSAR (Indian Space Situational Assessment Report) 2025** released — reveals 315 global space launches and 4,651 objects placed in orbit in 2025.
- **ISSAR (भारतीय अंतरिक्ष स्थितिजन्य मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट) 2025** जारी — 2025 में 315 वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष प्रक्षेपण और 4,651 वस्तुएँ कक्षा में।
- India launched **8 satellites** and placed **4 rocket bodies** in orbit in 2025 — maximum payload deployment ever.
- भारत ने 2025 में **8 उपग्रह** और **4 राकेट बॉडी** कक्षा में रखीं — अब तक का सर्वाधिक पेलोड परिनियोजन।
- Net annual orbital growth of **74.5%** — raising urgent concerns about **space debris and collision avoidance**.
- शुद्ध वार्षिक कक्षीय वृद्धि **74.5%** — अंतरिक्ष मलबे और टक्कर से बचाव की गंभीर चिंताएँ।
- **IRNSS-1D satellite decommissioned** — placed 600 km above geostationary orbit.
- **IRNSS-1D उपग्रह सेवामुक्त** — भूस्थिर कक्षा से 600 किमी ऊपर रखा गया।
- India carried out **14 collision avoidance manoeuvres** in LEO and **4 in geostationary orbit** in 2025.
- भारत ने 2025 में LEO में **14 टक्कर-बचाव पैतरे** और भूस्थिर कक्षा में **4** किए।

- Every year, countries around the world launch rockets and satellites into space. The more objects in space, the greater the risk of collisions — creating **space debris** (जंक/कचरा) that threatens future missions.
- हर साल दुनिया के देश रॉकेट और उपग्रह अंतरिक्ष में भेजते हैं। जितनी अधिक वस्तुएँ, उतना टक्कर का खतरा — **अंतरिक्ष मलबा** भविष्य के मिशनों को खतरे में डालता है।
- **ISSAR** is India's annual report — published by **ISRO** — that tracks all objects in orbit, India's satellites, rocket bodies, and collision risks.
- **ISSAR** भारत की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट है — **ISRO** द्वारा प्रकाशित — जो कक्षा में सभी वस्तुओं, भारत के उपग्रहों, राकेट बॉडी और टक्कर जोखिमों को ट्रैक करती है।
- In 2025, a record **4,651 objects** were put into orbit globally — but **1,911 re-entered** (burned up in atmosphere), leaving a net growth of **74.5%**.
- 2025 में रिकॉर्ड **4,651 वस्तुएँ** वैश्विक स्तर पर कक्षा में रखी गईं — लेकिन **1,911 पुनः प्रवेश** कर गईं (वायुमंडल में जलीं), शुद्ध वृद्धि **74.5%**।
- India currently has **86 satellites in orbit**: 27 operational, 23 defunct (dead but still in orbit), 36 decayed (fallen back).
- भारत के वर्तमान में **86 उपग्रह कक्षा में**: 27 सक्रिय, 23 निष्क्रिय (मृत पर कक्षा में), 36 क्षय (वापस गिरे)।
- "**Collision avoidance manoeuvres**" mean ISRO had to fire thrusters on satellites to dodge dangerous space debris — done **18 times** in 2025.
- "**टक्कर-बचाव पैंतरे**" का मतलब है ISRO को खतरनाक मलबे से बचने के लिए उपग्रहों पर थ्रस्टर दागने पड़े — 2025 में **18 बार**।

- **Mega-constellation era:** SpaceX's **Starlink**, Amazon's **Kuiper**, and OneWeb are deploying thousands of satellites — driving the surge in launches.
- **मेगा-नक्षत्र युग:** SpaceX का **Starlink**, Amazon का **Kuiper**, OneWeb हजारों उपग्रह तैनात कर रहे — प्रक्षेपणों में उछाल।
- **Kessler Syndrome** (theoretical but feared): A chain reaction of debris collisions could make certain orbits permanently unusable.
- **केस्लर सिंड्रोम** (सैद्धांतिक पर भयावह): मलबे की टक्करों की श्रृंखला प्रतिक्रिया कुछ कक्षाओं को स्थायी रूप से अनुपयोगी बना सकती है।
- India's **Space Policy 2023** mandates responsible space operations and debris mitigation.
- भारत की **अंतरिक्ष नीति 2023** जिम्मेदार अंतरिक्ष संचालन और मलबा न्यूनीकरण अनिवार्य करती है।

- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO):** 160-2,000 km altitude — most satellites, ISS, Starlink operate here.
- **निम्न पृथ्वी कक्षा (LEO):** 160-2,000 किमी ऊँचाई — अधिकांश उपग्रह, ISS, Starlink यहाँ।
- **Geostationary Orbit (GEO):** ~35,786 km altitude; satellite appears stationary — used for communication, weather, TV broadcast.
- **भूस्थिर कक्षा (GEO):** ~35,786 किमी ऊँचाई; उपग्रह स्थिर दिखता है — संचार, मौसम, TV प्रसारण के लिए।
- **Graveyard/Disposal Orbit:** ~300 km above GEO (~36,000 km); dead satellites moved here to avoid GEO congestion.
- **कब्रिस्तान/निपटान कक्षा:** GEO से ~300 किमी ऊपर (~36,000 किमी); GEO भीड़ से बचने के लिए मृत उपग्रह यहाँ रखे।
- **Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh):** India's only rocket launch site — home to **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**.
- **श्रीहरिकोटा (आंध्र प्रदेश):** भारत का एकमात्र रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण स्थल — **सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (SDSC)**।

- **Outer Space Treaty (OST), 1967:** Foundational space law; space is "province of all mankind"; no weapons of mass destruction in space.
- **बाह्य अंतरिक्ष संधि (OST), 1967:** मूल अंतरिक्ष कानून; अंतरिक्ष "सम्पूर्ण मानव जाति का प्रांत"; अंतरिक्ष में WMD नहीं।
- **India's Space Policy 2023:** Enables private sector participation; separates policy (DoS), regulation (IN-SPACE), and commercial arm (NewSpace India Ltd/NSIL).
- **भारत की अंतरिक्ष नीति 2023:** निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी; DoS (नीति), IN-SPACE (नियमन), NSIL (वाणिज्यिक) अलग-अलग।
- **UN COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space):** Main UN body for space governance; HQ Vienna.
- **UN COPUOS:** अंतरिक्ष शासन के लिए मुख्य UN निकाय; मुख्यालय वियना।
- **Liability Convention (1972):** Countries liable for damage caused by their space objects.
- **दायित्व अभिसमय (1972):** देश अपने अंतरिक्ष वस्तुओं से हुई क्षति के लिए उत्तरदायी।

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- **Global space economy:** Valued at ~\$630 billion (2023); projected to reach \$1.8 trillion by 2035 (World Economic Forum).
- वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था: ~\$630 अरब (2023); 2035 तक \$1.8 लाख करोड़ तक पहुँचने का अनुमान (WEF)।
- **India's space economy:** Targeted at \$44 billion by 2033 (Indian government target).
- भारत की अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था: 2033 तक \$44 अरब का लक्ष्य।
- **Commercial launches:** PSLV-C series has launched satellites for 36+ countries — foreign exchange earner.
- वाणिज्यिक प्रक्षेपण: PSLV-C श्रृंखला ने 36+ देशों के उपग्रह प्रक्षेपित किए — विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जक।

Environment / पर्यावरण

- **Re-entry pollution:** Satellites re-entering atmosphere release **aluminium oxide** and other particles — may deplete stratospheric ozone.
- पुनः प्रवेश प्रदूषण: वायुमंडल में पुनः प्रवेश करते उपग्रह एल्यूमीनियम ऑक्साइड और अन्य कण छोड़ते हैं — समतापमंडलीय ओजोन को नुकसान संभव।
- **Light pollution:** Mega-constellations (Starlink etc.) create "satellite trails" that disrupt astronomical observations.
- प्रकाश प्रदूषण: मेगा-नक्षत्र (Starlink आदि) "उपग्रह पटरियाँ" बनाते हैं जो खगोलीय अवलोकन बाधित करती हैं।

India's Key Rockets Comparison / भारत के प्रमुख रॉकेट तुलना:

Rocket / रॉकेट	Full Name	Payload (LEO)	Status
PSLV	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle	~3.8 tonnes	Workhorse / मुख्य
GSLV Mk-II	Geosynchronous SLV	~2.5 t (GTO)	Operational
LVM-3	Launch Vehicle Mark-3	~8 t (LEO)	Heaviest Indian rocket
SSLV	Small Satellite Launch Vehicle	~500 kg (LEO)	New, low-cost

Key International Space Treaties / प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष संधियाँ:

Treaty	Year	Key Provision
Outer Space Treaty	1967	Space is common heritage; no WMDs
Rescue Agreement	1968	Return astronauts if they land in your territory
Liability Convention	1972	Countries liable for space object damage
Registration Convention	1976	Register all space objects with UN
Moon Agreement	1979	Moon's resources = common heritage (India/US not signatory)

Consider the following statements regarding India's space programme and ISSAR 2025:
भारत के अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम और ISSAR 2025 के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. In 2025, India launched 8 satellites and 4 rocket bodies were placed in orbit.
2. Of the 86 Indian satellites in orbit, 27 are operational and 23 are defunct.
3. The IRNSS-1D satellite was decommissioned and allowed to re-enter the atmosphere immediately.
4. India carried out a total of 18 collision avoidance manoeuvres in 2025 across LEO and geostationary orbit.

Which of the above statements are correct?

IN BRIEF

Rooftop solar: govt. planning incentive scheme for States

To meet its target of one crore PM Surya Ghar houses by March 2025, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is encouraging states to adopt a "utility-led aggregation (ULA)" model...

Delhi HC terms Rana Ayyub's tweets derogatory, communal

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday said that "action is necessary in view of the highly derogatory, inflammatory, and communal tweets" posted by journalist Rana Ayyub...

Five die of 'mysterious' illness in Rajasthan

Five children, including two siblings, have died within five days from a "mysterious" illness in Rajasthan's Salawas district, officials said on Wednesday...

Textbook row: academics ask President to intervene

Matri Poocha NEW DELHI

Fifty-one academics have written to President Pranab Mukherjee to urge him to intervene and ask the Union Ministry of Education to request the Supreme Court to withdraw the ban on the Class 6 social science textbook...

In a letter dated April 7, several professors appealed to the President that the Centre should request the Supreme Court to waive off the harsh punishment imposed on three teachers...

In the letter, the academics called the centre's intervention in the issue "a breach of judicial overreach". "Since, in India, a book can be banned only by law, the Supreme Court overreached its powers in banning the textbook..."

India withdraws bid to host climate summit in 2028

The government cites a review of its 2028 commitments, says report, the country had last hosted the summit in 2002, when it was a low-key affair

Jacob Kishor NEW DELHI

India has withdrawn its bid to host the 33rd edition of the Conference of Parties (COP33) in 2028 - the annual United Nations climate talks, according to a report in the state House News (SHN) on Wednesday...

The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change did not comment on the report, but The Hindu has independently confirmed its veracity...

According to the SHN report, an April 2 letter by Rajat Agrawal, Joint Secretary in the Environment Ministry, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stated that India was withdrawing its candidacy following a "review of its commitments for 2028".

In July 2028, the Environment Ministry set up a dedicated cell for the "professional and logistical requirements" for organising the COP33. This followed a joint declaration at the fifth BRICS summit on July 7, where the member countries "welcomed" India's candidacy...



The COP28 was held in Dubai and the COP33 is to be jointly hosted by Turkey and Australia this year.

held in Ethiopia. With its withdrawal, South Korea is the only country that has so far expressed interest in hosting the COP33. India has hosted the summit only once - in 2002 (COP26) - when it was a relatively low-key affair...

The COP30 was held in Brazil. The COP31 was held in France. The COP32 was held in Saudi Arabia. The COP33 is scheduled to be held in Ethiopia.

India-Turkiye talks hint at a thaw in bilateral relations

Suhail Haidar NEW DELHI

In the first sign that India and Turkey could be working to restore bilateral relations ruptured during the India-Pakistan conflict last year, officials from both countries held the 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) on Wednesday...

The talks, between delegations led by Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Berris Eldemir and Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West) Jitendra Kumar, were held four years after the last round in 2016 in Ankara. Relations have been tense over a number of state and military assistance, particularly on the supply of drones, and indicates that the Modi government may be reviving its position on the issue...

Former Indian diplomats also said the developments reflected a more realistic approach to relations. "It is a sign of moving global disorder, India-Turkiye talks reflect a pragmatic effort to manage differences and keep lines of communication open," said Vikas Singh, who retired as secretary (West) in the MEA (2010-2012) and had served in the Embassy in Ankara...

Ministry describes the talks as a comprehensive review of current state of bilateral ties

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, it added. New Delhi and Ankara's move to revive bilateral talks comes days after Mr. George travelled to Azerbaijan, where the two had also been strained over its government's support to Pakistan in statements and military assistance, particularly on the supply of drones, and indicates that the Modi government may be reviving its position on the issue...

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Celebrations in Kashmir over Iran-U.S. ceasefire; political parties welcome move

Devgada Ashiq BOKKALAN

Several parts of the Kashmir valley on Wednesday witnessed street jubilation over the ceasefire agreement between Iran and the United States, as Jammu & Kashmir leaders, including the former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, welcomed the development...

Local, including women, leaders, distributed sweets and served drinks to commemorate a victory over the cease-fire. Celebrations took place in Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal and Pulwama, mostly in the areas dominated by protesters as they raised their voices against the J&K leaders, cutting across the party lines, termed the ceasefire as "a welcome step".



Students celebrating in Srinagar on Wednesday the ceasefire announcement by the U.S. and Iran.

Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti praised Iran for "ending the U.S. and its allies' support to the terrorism in Kashmir". "It is a permanent peaceful resolution to the crisis, also in Palestine and Lebanon," said the ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah...

Mohsina Kidwai, a former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader, passes away

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Veteran Congress leader Mohsina Kidwai, a former Union Minister who held several key portfolios under the former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, passed away in Noida on Wednesday...

Ms. Kidwai had a public career spanning more than six decades. She served multiple terms in the Lok Sabha and later in the Rajya Sabha. She was a member of the Congress Working Committee and the party's Central Election Committee. Her passing is a profound loss to the Congress party and the nation. Mr. Kharge said, "The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said her life was an example of dedication to public service."

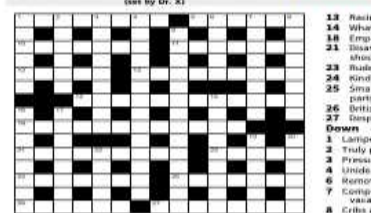
Mohsina Kidwai, a former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader, passes away

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TIC CROSSWORD 14763



- Across 1. Begin to sing in lofty, enthralled by drink (6,2) 2. Prepare for major housing amendment (6) 3. Guide in rough terrain (7) 4. Pop up in final, making a comeback after catch (7) 5. A little lamp in back row's illuminated again (5)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

- Down 6. Completely unacceptable message by houseguest on vacation (6) 7. Cris as about primarily arrogant administrators (8) 8. Secure fantastic sandwiches, tart and bit of tiramisu for dessert (9,1) 9. Honouring Lennon with big bust (9) 10. Blizzard in sector, I'm worried (3,6) 11. Need enormous runs to win final of competition (6) 12. Enter to retain favor, extremely glib and mean (8) 13. Constant warring special watch (8)

FAITH

Murugan is known as Guha. One of Lord Murugan's names is Guha, said Sr. Sr. Menakrishnan in a discourse. An old man had three sons, all of whom were married and had one child each. One day all the three infants died at the same time. Alarmed, the old man asked his daughter-in-law why the babies were dying. The first one said the child had wet itself, and now that she had changed the nappies, the baby would soon stop crying. The second daughter-in-law said her child was afraid of darkness. She hid it in a lamp in the room, and so the child would no longer be afraid. The third daughter-in-law said her child did not like being alone. She had picked him up and had placed him on her lap. So he too would stop crying. So we can infer that most babies do not like lying on a wet surface or darkness and they do not like being alone, and yet, these three are unresolvable until a baby is born into this world. The mother's womb is dark, the child there cannot avoid water, and the child is alone too. So how does the child cope in these uncomfortable surroundings? It manages, because it isn't really alone. There is a deity inside, who stays guard. That deity is Murugan, also known as Guha. Guha means cave. Because Murugan is beside every baby in the dark, cavernous womb of a mother, he is known as Guha. Guha guards the baby, and talks with it. He makes it clear to the baby that he will stay inside him/her only as long as he or she is in the mother's womb. Once the baby is born, Murugan no longer stays beside the infant. But He comes the moment He is called. There is no limit to Murugan's presence. He is the embodiment of limitless bliss. He is omniscient.

India withdraws bid to host climate summit in 2028

The government cites a review of its 2028 commitments, says report; the country had last hosted the summit in 2002, when it was a low-key affair

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has withdrawn its bid to host the 33rd edition of the Conference of Parties (COP 33) in 2028 – the annual United Nations climate talks, according to a report by Climate Home News (CHN) on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced India's interest in hosting the COP33 at the COP28 in Dubai in 2023.

The Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change did not comment on the report, but *The Hindu* has independently confirmed its veracity.

According to the CHN report, an April 2 letter by Rajat Agrawal, Joint Secretary in the Environment Ministry, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stated that India was withdrawing its candidacy following a "review of its commitments for 2028".

In July 2025, the Envi-



The COP30 was held in Brazil and the COP31 is to be jointly hosted by Turkiye and Australia this year. AP

ronment Ministry set up a dedicated cell for the "professional and logistical requirements" for organising the COP33. This followed a joint declaration at the 17th BRICS summit on July 7, where the member countries "welcomed" India's candidacy.

The hosting of the COP rotates among the UN's five regional groups, with India belonging to the Asia Pacific group.

The COP30 was held in Brazil. The edition this year is to be jointly hosted by Turkiye and Australia and the 2027 summit (COP32) is scheduled to be

held in Ethiopia. With India withdrawing, South Korea is the only country that has so far expressed interest in hosting the COP33. India has hosted the summit only once – in 2002 (COP8) – when it was a relatively low-key affair.

On March 25, India announced its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), committing by 2035 to source 60% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources, reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 47%, and increase its carbon sink by 3.5-4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

- India formally withdrew its bid to host **COP33 (2028)** — citing "review of its 2028 commitments" in an April 2 letter to **UNFCCC**.
- भारत ने **COP33 (2028)** की मेज़बानी की दावेदारी वापस ली — **UNFCCC** को 2 अप्रैल के पत्र में "2028 प्रतिबद्धताओं की समीक्षा" कारण बताया।
- PM Modi had announced India's interest to host COP33 at **COP28 in Dubai (2023)**.
- PM मोदी ने **COP28 दुबई (2023)** में COP33 की मेज़बानी की इच्छा जताई थी।
- **South Korea** is now the only country that has expressed interest in hosting COP33.
- **दक्षिण कोरिया** अब COP33 की मेज़बानी में रुचि रखने वाला एकमात्र देश है।
- India on **March 25** announced updated **NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)** — 60% electricity from non-fossil sources by 2035, 47% reduction in GDP emissions intensity, 3.5-4 billion tonne carbon sink.
- भारत ने **25 मार्च** को अद्यतन **NDC** घोषित किए — 2035 तक 60% गैर-जीवाश्म बिजली, 47% GDP उत्सर्जन तीव्रता कमी, 3.5-4 अरब टन कार्बन सिंक।
- India last hosted COP in **2002 (COP8)** — New Delhi.
- भारत ने आखिरी बार **2002 (COP8)** में मेज़बानी की थी — नई दिल्ली।

Player / पक्ष	Role / भूमिका
India / MoEFCC	Withdrew COP33 bid / COP33 दावेदारी वापस ली
PM Narendra Modi	Had announced India's interest at COP28 / COP28 में रुचि जताई थी
Rajat Agrawal	Joint Secretary who sent withdrawal letter / वापसी पत्र भेजने वाले संयुक्त सचिव
UNFCCC	Received India's withdrawal letter; governs COP process / COP प्रक्रिया का संचालन
South Korea	Only remaining country interested in hosting COP33 / एकमात्र शेष इच्छुक देश
Brazil	Hosted COP30 / COP30 की मेज़बानी की
Türkiye & Australia	Jointly hosting COP31 (this year) / COP31 संयुक्त मेज़बानी
Ethiopia	Hosting COP32 (2027) / COP32 मेज़बानी

D3. Immediate Issue / तात्कालिक मुद्दा

- **Why withdraw?** Official reason vague — "review of 2028 commitments" could mean: financial burden, domestic priorities, diplomatic recalibration, or pressure from climate-vulnerable nations who want stronger host commitment.
- **वापसी क्यों?** आधिकारिक कारण अस्पष्ट — "2028 प्रतिबद्धताओं की समीक्षा" का अर्थ हो सकता है: वित्तीय बोझ, घरेलू प्राथमिकताएँ, कूटनीतिक पुनर्गणना।
- **COP hosting cost:** Hosting COP requires massive infrastructure, security, and diplomatic resources — can cost **\$1 billion+** (as seen with COP28 in Dubai).
- **COP मेज़बानी की लागत:** COP के लिए भारी बुनियादी ढाँचा, सुरक्षा, कूटनीतिक संसाधन — **\$1 अरब+** लागत (COP28 दुबई में देखा गया)।
- Withdrawal comes just weeks after India updated its **NDCs (March 25)** — suggesting domestic climate policy recalibration.
- वापसी भारत के अद्यतन **NDC (25 मार्च)** के कुछ सप्ताह बाद — घरेलू जलवायु नीति पुनर्गणना का संकेत।

History / इतिहास

- **1972 Stockholm Conference:** First major UN environment conference; led to creation of UNEP (UN Environment Programme).
- **1972 स्टॉकहोम सम्मेलन:** पहला प्रमुख UN पर्यावरण सम्मेलन; UNEP की स्थापना।
- **1992 Rio Earth Summit:** UNFCCC established; principle of "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)" introduced.
- **1992 रियो पृथ्वी शिखर:** UNFCCC स्थापित; "समान लेकिन विभेदित उत्तरदायित्व (CBDR)" सिद्धांत।
- **1997 Kyoto Protocol:** First binding emission reduction treaty — only developed nations had binding targets.
- **1997 क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल:** पहली बाध्यकारी उत्सर्जन कमी संधि — केवल विकसित देशों पर बाध्यकारी लक्ष्य।
- **2015 Paris Agreement (COP21):** All countries submit NDCs; limit warming to **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels.
- **2015 पेरिस समझौता (COP21):** सभी देश NDC प्रस्तुत करें; तापमान वृद्धि **1.5°C** तक सीमित रखें।
- **COP8, 2002, New Delhi:** India's only previous COP hosting — "low-key affair" under Kyoto Protocol era.
- **COP8, 2002, नई दिल्ली:** भारत की एकमात्र पिछली मेज़बानी — क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल युग में।

COP	Year	Location	Key Outcome
COP1	1995	Berlin	First COP
COP3	1997	Kyoto	Kyoto Protocol
COP8	2002	New Delhi	Delhi Declaration (India's only host)
COP15	2009	Copenhagen	Failed — no binding deal
COP21	2015	Paris	Paris Agreement
COP26	2021	Glasgow	Phase-down of coal agreed
COP27	2022	Sharm el-Sheikh	Loss & Damage Fund
COP28	2023	Dubai	First Global Stocktake; fossil fuel transition
COP29	2024	Baku	Climate finance \$300 bn/year by 2035
COP30	2025	Brazil (Belém)	Amazon focus
COP31	2026	Türkiye & Australia (joint)	
COP32	2027	Ethiopia	
COP33	2028	South Korea (likely)	India withdrew

- **UNFCCC HQ:** Bonn, Germany
- **IPCC HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland

India's Updated NDC (March 25, 2026) at a Glance / भारत के अद्यतन NDC:

Target	Previous NDC	Updated NDC (2026)
Non-fossil electricity	50% by 2030	60% by 2035
Emission intensity of GDP	45% reduction	47% reduction by 2035
Carbon sink	2.5–3 Gt CO ₂ eq	3.5–4 Gt CO₂ eq

Key Climate Finance Facts / जलवायु वित्त:

- **Loss & Damage Fund:** Established at COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022) — compensates climate-vulnerable nations for irreversible damage.
- **नुकसान और क्षति कोष:** COP27 में स्थापित — अपरिवर्तनीय क्षति के लिए जलवायु-संवेदनशील देशों को मुआवज़ा।
- **Green Climate Fund (GCF):** UNFCCC body providing climate finance to developing nations; HQ — **Songdo, South Korea.**
- **ग्रीन क्लाइमेट फंड (GCF):** UNFCCC का वित्त निकाय; मुख्यालय — **सोंगडो, दक्षिण कोरिया।**
- **CBDR-RC (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities):** Developed nations historically emitted more → bear greater responsibility for climate action and finance.
- **CBDR-RC:** विकसित देशों ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से अधिक उत्सर्जन किया → उनकी जलवायु कार्रवाई और वित्त में बड़ी जिम्मेदारी।

Consider the following statements about India's climate commitments and COP: भारत की जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं और COP के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. India hosted the Conference of Parties (COP8) in New Delhi in 2002.
2. India's updated NDCs (2026) commit to sourcing 60% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2035.
3. The COP rotates among four UN regional groups, with India belonging to the Asia-Pacific group.
4. The Green Climate Fund, which provides climate finance to developing nations, is headquartered in South Korea.

Which of the above statements are correct?

MPC factors in ceasefire to keep repo rate unchanged

Intensity and duration of West Asia conflict, damage to energy and other infra add risk to inflation and growth outlooks, says panel, cuts growth forecast to 6.9%, hikes inflation projection to 4.5%

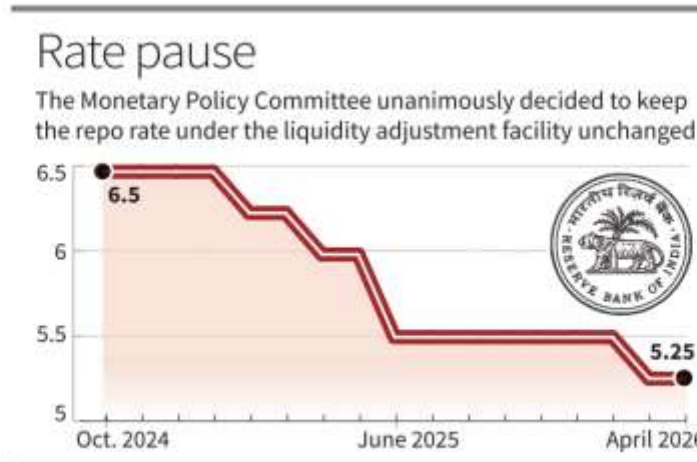
Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Hours after Donald Trump announced on social media about the conditional temporary ceasefire in West Asia, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to hold the repo rate at 5.25%. It also decided to continue with the neutral stance.

Later, addressing a press conference, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that the ceasefire, to some extent, has been taken into account in the monetary policy decision.

Low interest rates

Mr. Malhotra said despite the impact of the war in West Asia, there was a possibility of having low inter-



est rates in the short to medium term in India.

Stating that the West Asia conflict would impede growth, the MPC opined that the intensity and the duration of the conflict and the resultant damage to the energy and other infrastructure added risk to the inflation and growth outlooks.

The economy is con-

fronted with a supply shock, it emphasised. Going forward, elevated energy and other commodity prices, as also shocks to availability of inputs due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, were likely to impact growth in 2026-27, it added.

Taking various factors into consideration, the real GDP growth forecast for

2026-27 has been reduced by 70 bps to 6.9%.

And the CPI inflation for 2026-27 had been projected a tad higher at 4.5% from 4.4% earlier.

The RBI has factored in crude price at \$85 a barrel in the inflation forecast for this year and \$75 for next year. Stating that the global economic conditions and sentiment had soured after the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, the MPC said these had adversely impacted the growth-inflation outlook.

The MPC noted that geopolitical uncertainties had heightened significantly and the upside risks to the inflation outlook, driven by increased energy price pressures and probable weather disturbances affecting food prices, had increased.

- **MPC unanimously voted** to hold repo rate at **5.25%** — factoring in the US-Iran ceasefire and West Asia conflict risks.
- **MPC ने सर्वसम्मति से** रेपो दर **5.25%** पर स्थिर रखी — अमेरिका-ईरान युद्धविराम और पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष जोखिम को ध्यान में रखा।
- **GDP growth forecast for 2026-27 cut by 70 basis points to 6.9%** from earlier projections.
- **2026-27 के लिए GDP वृद्धि पूर्वानुमान 70 आधार अंक घटाकर 6.9%** किया गया।
- **CPI inflation projection raised to 4.5%** for 2026-27 (from 4.4% earlier).
- **2026-27 के लिए CPI मुद्रास्फीति अनुमान 4.5%** (पहले 4.4% से बढ़ाया)।
- RBI factored in **crude oil at \$85/barrel** for 2025-26 inflation forecast and **\$75/barrel** for 2026-27.
- RBI ने 2025-26 मुद्रास्फीति अनुमान में **\$85/बैरल** और 2026-27 के लिए **\$75/बैरल** कूड तेल माना।
- **Strait of Hormuz disruptions** cited as key risk to India's growth and inflation outlook.
- **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य व्यवधान** को भारत के विकास और मुद्रास्फीति परिदृश्य के लिए मुख्य जोखिम बताया।

- **RBI's MPC** is a 6-member committee that meets every 2 months to decide India's **repo rate** — the interest rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks.
- **RBI की MPC** एक 6-सदस्यीय समिति है जो हर 2 महीने में **रेपो दर** तय करने के लिए मिलती है — वह दर जिस पर RBI वाणिज्यिक बैंकों को उधार देता है।
- When repo rate is **low** → banks borrow cheaply → they lend cheaply to public → people spend more → economy grows but inflation may rise.
- रेपो दर **कम** होने पर → बैंक सस्ते में उधार लेते हैं → जनता को सस्ते ऋण → लोग अधिक खर्च करते हैं → अर्थव्यवस्था बढ़ती है पर मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ सकती है।
- MPC kept rate **unchanged at 5.25%** because: (a) West Asia conflict creates inflation risk through rising oil prices; (b) Hormuz disruption threatens supply chains and growth.
- MPC ने दर **5.25%** पर **अपरिवर्तित रखी** क्योंकि: (a) पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष तेल कीमतें बढ़ाकर मुद्रास्फीति जोखिम; (b) होर्मुज़ व्यवधान से आपूर्ति शृंखला और विकास को खतरा।
- India's economy faces a **supply shock** — not enough goods due to disrupted trade routes — which simultaneously raises prices (inflation) and slows growth.
- भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था **आपूर्ति झटके** का सामना करती है — व्यापार मार्गों में व्यवधान से वस्तुओं की कमी — जो एक साथ कीमतें बढ़ाती और विकास धीमा करती है।
- **MPC maintained "neutral stance"** — meaning it is neither clearly cutting rates nor raising them — watching the situation carefully.
- **MPC ने "तटस्थ रुख" बनाए रखा** — न दरें कम करने, न बढ़ाने का स्पष्ट संकेत — स्थिति पर नज़र।

Rate / दर	Current Value / वर्तमान मूल्य	Purpose / उद्देश्य
Repo Rate	5.25%	RBI lends to banks / RBI बैंकों को उधार
SDF (Standing Deposit Facility)	5.00% (typically repo-25bps)	Banks park excess funds with RBI / बैंक अधिशेष RBI में रखें
MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	5.50% (typically repo+25bps)	Emergency borrowing by banks / बैंकों का आपातकालीन उधार
CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio)	~4%	% deposits banks must keep with RBI as cash / नकद आरक्षित
SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	~18%	% deposits banks must keep in govt securities / वैधानिक तरलता

Types of Monetary Policy Stances / मौद्रिक नीति रुख:

Stance	Meaning
Accommodative	Bias toward cutting rates — to boost growth / दर कटौती की ओर झुकाव
Neutral	Neither cut nor hike — watch and wait / न घटाना न बढ़ाना
Withdrawal of Accommodation	Moving away from easy money / आसान मुद्रा से हटना
Hawkish	Bias toward raising rates — to fight inflation / दर वृद्धि की ओर झुकाव



Meta Muse Spark AI Model

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (Hindi)
Launch	Meta Platforms launched Muse Spark AI model on April 9, 2026.	मेटा प्लेटफॉर्म ने 9 अप्रैल 2026 को Muse Spark AI मॉडल लॉन्च किया।
Company	Developed by <u>Meta Platforms</u> (parent of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp).	इसे <u>Meta Platforms</u> ने विकसित किया (फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, व्हाट्सएप की मूल कंपनी)।
Objective	Strengthen Meta's position in the global AI race and move towards superintelligence.	वैश्विक AI प्रतिस्पर्धा में मेटा की स्थिति मजबूत करना और सुपरइंटेलिजेंस की दिशा में आगे बढ़ना।
Superintelligence Goal	Focus on AI systems that can surpass human-level reasoning.	ऐसे AI सिस्टम विकसित करना जो मानव स्तर की बुद्धिमत्ता से आगे जा सकें।
Part of Strategy	First product under Meta's dedicated superintelligence AI team.	मेटा की विशेष सुपरइंटेलिजेंस AI टीम का पहला उत्पाद।
Model Type	Lightweight but powerful AI model optimized for speed and efficiency.	हल्का लेकिन शक्तिशाली AI मॉडल, गति और दक्षता के लिए अनुकूलित।
Capabilities	Can handle complex reasoning tasks in science, maths, and healthcare.	विज्ञान, गणित और स्वास्थ्य जैसे क्षेत्रों में जटिल समस्याओं को हल कर सकता है।
Comparison	Smaller in size than many models but still highly capable.	आकार में छोटा लेकिन क्षमता में अत्यधिक सक्षम।
Integration	Will be integrated across Meta platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp.	फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम और व्हाट्सएप जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म पर एकीकृत किया जाएगा।



UAE Launches World's First 10G U6GHz Internet Network

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (Hindi)
Country	United Arab Emirates launched the world's first commercial U6GHz network.	United Arab Emirates ने दुनिया का पहला कमर्शियल U6GHz नेटवर्क लॉन्च किया।
Announcement	Announced at SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit 2026.	SAMENA काउंसिल लीडर्स' समिट 2026 में घोषणा की गई।
Regulator	Led by Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA).	टेलीकम्युनिकेशन और डिजिटल गवर्नमेंट रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी (TDRA) द्वारा संचालित।
Achievement	UAE becomes the first "10 giga nation".	UAE "10 गीगा राष्ट्र" बनने वाला पहला देश बना।
Technology	Uses upper 6GHz (U6GHz) spectrum.	यह अपर 6GHz (U6GHz) स्पेक्ट्रम का उपयोग करता है।
Frequency Range	Operates between 6425–7125 MHz.	6425–7125 MHz के बीच कार्य करता है।
Spectrum Type	Known as "golden spectrum" due to high capacity and coverage.	उच्च क्षमता और कवरेज के कारण इसे "गोल्डन स्पेक्ट्रम" कहा जाता है।

Speed & Features

Feature	Explanation (English)	व्याख्या (Hindi)
Download Speed	Up to 10 Gbps download speed.	10 Gbps तक डाउनलोड स्पीड।
Upload Speed	Around 1 Gbps upload speed.	लगभग 1 Gbps अपलोड स्पीड।
Latency	Very low latency for real-time applications.	रियल-टाइम एप्लिकेशन के लिए कम लेटेंसी।
Capacity	Handles high traffic without congestion.	भारी ट्रैफिक को बिना रुकावट संभालता है।
Coverage	Wider coverage compared to lower bands.	कम बैंड की तुलना में अधिक कवरेज।

Applications & Use Cases

Sector	Use (English)	उपयोग (Hindi)
Artificial Intelligence	Supports AI-driven applications and automation.	AI आधारित एप्लिकेशन और ऑटोमेशन को सपोर्ट करता है।
Cloud Computing	Enables faster data transfer and cloud services.	तेज डेटा ट्रांसफर और क्लाउड सेवाएं संभव।
Smart Cities	Backbone for smart infrastructure.	स्मार्ट सिटी के लिए आधारभूत ढांचा।
IoT Devices	Supports large-scale IoT connectivity.	बड़े स्तर पर IoT कनेक्टिविटी।
Streaming & Gaming	Ultra-HD streaming and real-time gaming.	अल्ट्रा-HD स्ट्रीमिंग और रियल-टाइम गेमिंग।

Word of the day

Furtive:

marked by quiet, caution and secrecy

Synonyms: sneaky, stealthy, surreptitious

Usage: *He slipped a furtive look at the document on the table.*

Pronunciation: <https://newsth.live/mh5BOX/furtive>

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'fɜ:tɪv/



Word of the day

Gobbledygook:

Complicated language that is difficult to understand

Synonyms: jargon, nonsense, gibberish

Usage: *The report was full of technical gobbledygook.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/gobbledygook

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gɒbəldɪɡu:k/





Thank you 😊