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People have beautiful things
to say about you, but you
must die first.

— Fyodor Dostoevsky

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CMRL pay-off case
ED seeks FIR against
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CAUVERY PANEL'S ORDER
'Release
6,000 cusecs
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ARID STRIKE CALL
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for bank staff on hold

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DATA POINT
Govt. could have
foreseen surge
in sugar prices
Analysis shows there
were ample signs

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DULEEP TROPIC
East Zone continues
to dominate the final

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INSIDE



Musician's death
Riju, Manipur
CM seek action

NEW DELHI
Union Minister Kiren Rijiju and Manipur Chief Minister Naraiah Khemchand Singh on Tuesday called for swift and strict action against those responsible for the killing of Manipuri music teacher Chongtham Vikram Singh in Imphal. Congress leader Mulikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi raised concerns over the safety of people from the Northeast in Delhi. ■ PAGE 8

RJP leaders shun veg food 'diklat' for Durga Puja

BOLKALA
West Bengal RJP leaders came out in support of party State unit president Janki Bhattacharya who said Bengalis would eat fish and meat during Durga Puja. Rejecting the advice of Bhagawan Shree Chaitanji Choudhary Krishna Shastri to follow a vegetarian diet, they said outsiders 'won't understand our culture' and there was a tradition of animal sacrifice. ■ PAGE 2

Judge awards 23 death penalties in five months

NEW DELHI
Saying that he would rather "die" than be labelled a "coward", Judge Ravi Kumar Swaraj, who has handed down 23 death sentences in the past five months, awarded another death sentence on Monday in a money-murder case. The judge was in the spotlight earlier after allowing a survey of the Oyo Nagar mosque premises in Varanasi in 2022. ■ PAGE 6

Saudi oil facilities on fire after Houthi attacks

Associated Press
(AP)

The Houthi rebel group in Yemen launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding more than 70 people and igniting fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom, authorities said.

Weeks of clashes have added pressure to limited global oil supplies as the Houthis target a shipping route Saudi Arabia uses to transport oil to world markets while the Strait of Hormuz is threatened by the U.S.-Iran war. Tuesday's attacks hit critical oil facilities connected to an alternative route, the Red Sea, a strategic waterway off the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.



Smoke rising from the Saudi Arabia oil depot, after reported attacks by Houthis, in Abha, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday. (AP)

The attacks came hours after the rebels launched Saudi Arabia for an air strike that hit a prison in Saudi Arabia's northern province of Jeddah. At least seven people, including a child, were killed and seven others were wounded.

The rebels hit "civilian and economic facilities" in the Saudi cities of Abha, Jeddah, Najran and Khamsa, said Major General Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen.

Seventy-three people were wounded, including women and children, he said, calling the attacks a "serious escalation" and vowing retaliation.

The Houthi attacks ignited fires at several oil facilities and utilities in Saudi Arabia's southern region, the kingdom's Energy Ministry said, adding that operations at the oil facilities and utilities were temporarily suspended.

The southern region houses major oil facilities, including a 4,000,000-barrel-per-day oil refinery in Jeddah, which is one of Saudi Arabia's largest. The Houthis previously attacked the Abha airport.

The Ministry said firefighters were battling the fires on Tuesday morning.

Saudi retaliation

Later, the Houthis said Saudi Arabia retaliated with strikes, "banned aggression" hit the province, where deadly fighting has raged for days, and March

province, the Houthis' Al-Malah TV station said.

In a recorded video statement, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saeed, the Houthi military spokesman, said they fired dozens of ballistic missiles and drones at oil and economic facilities, as well as an air base in southern Saudi Arabia.

He said they targeted a Jeddah City for Primary and Secondary Industries, a major industrial and logistics hub on Saudi Arabia's southwestern Red Sea coast. The rebels also aimed at Al-Rasheed facilities in Najran and Abha, as well as King Khalid Air Base in Khamsa, Riyadh.

Mr. Saeed blamed Saudi Arabia for the escalation, warning that "every aggression against our country and people will be met with a firm response."

SC mulls pan-India safety rules for student hostels

ANANTLIKHA THAMMIL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that it may impose its court-monitored monitor against illegal constructions and unauthorized use of recreational premises to examine the safety of student accommodations across the country.

It comes days after a group of people were killed in the collapse of an illegally constructed building being used as a paying guest (PG) facility in Delhi.

A bench said it would take up the matter on Thursday after the court-appointed amicus curiae sought a time-bound safety audit of PG facilities, private hostels and other accommodations in and around colleges across Delhi. Senior advocate A.R. Lakshmanan, who appeared for the Centre, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Delhi Police, to allow the Delhi High Court to separately continue hearing a petition filed by Delhi's student community for a comprehensive probe into the Sanya Niketan incident. The High Court had on Monday ordered an inquiry into the tragedy and safety inspection of PG facilities under the MCD's jurisdiction.

"No. This might have been taken up in the right manner, but it is overlapping. We will take it up. We already have something in going proceedings, arising from a case in Tamil Nadu concerning construction of land-use norms and building by-laws. It has to be seen as to whether the scope of the proceedings and the information from civil bodies in several state capitals, including Lucknow, Jaipur, Chennai and Kolkata, and also Delhi, on



The central corridor caught a audit of PG facilities, private hostels and other accommodations in Delhi. Senior advocate A.R. Lakshmanan

action taken against similar violations.

On Tuesday, the Bench of Justices Anandilal Aravamudan and R. Narasimha Murthy also turned down an oral request by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Delhi Police, to allow the Delhi High Court to separately continue hearing a petition filed by Delhi's student community for a comprehensive probe into the Sanya Niketan incident. The High Court had on Monday ordered an inquiry into the tragedy and safety inspection of PG facilities under the MCD's jurisdiction.

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"In the right manner," The Bench, however, said it would take up the matter on Thursday and indicated that it could thereafter consider transferring the proceedings pending before the High Court to itself.

Safety audit sought

The latest status report, filed through advocate-on-record Gaurav Joshi, pointed out that while the Supreme Court had already constituted a committee to inspect buildings in Lajpur Nagar, Saket and Mayapuri, Sanya Niketan did not fall within the scope of the exercise.

It also referred to a building collapse in Sanya Niketan in April 2022, which killed two people and injured four. The occurrence of a fatal collapse in the same locality, the report said, raised concerns over the effectiveness of inspection mechanisms.

The report accordingly urged the court to extend monitoring across Delhi, particularly to student areas of hostels, particularly in children, he pointed out, saying that the court was already cognizant of the incident and had taken it up

PM slams critics as he opens freight corridor

PM inaugurates key sections of Dedicated Freight Corridor connecting U.P. to port in Navi Mumbai

He dismisses Rahul's campaign against his govt. as an 'echo of lies', attempt to mislead the youth

Modi says his opponents will continue to find fault with 'major infrastructure milestones'

Press Trust of India
VADODARA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took a dig at the Opposition over a newly inaugurated dedicated freight corridor, saying critics would still complain like a "naraz fufa" (grumpy uncle) and manufacture grievances, while dismissing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against the government as "jhooth ki goonj" (echo of lies).

Speaking at the inauguration of three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, and marking the project's completion, Mr. Modi praised his administration's pace of execution and called the former UPA regime's working speed "sluggish".

"After 2014, with your blessings, when I reached Delhi, and as soon as we arrived there, we began ac-

celerating this project. Work on the dedicated freight corridor has been completed today," he said.

The "jhooth ki goonj" jibe appeared to mock the *Chhatron Ki Goonj* student dialogue campaign launched by the Congress. Through the campaign, the Congress is trying to corner the BJP on issues such as exam question paper leaks, costly education, irregularities in government recruitment and unemployment.

'Finding fault'

Targeting Mr. Gandhi without naming him, Mr. Modi said opponents would always find fault with major infrastructure milestones such as the newly inaugurated freight corridor.

"Now, the *naraz fufa ji* (grumpy uncle) will start shouting: What will happen to the truck drivers? Where will the trucks go? What about the trucks people have purchased? Now, *fufa ji* has found something



Grand welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the event in Vadodara on Tuesday. PMO

new to complain about," the Prime Minister said.

He pointed to "rapid modernisation" under his decade-long tenure compared to the previous administration's shortcomings.

"After 2014, India built 50,000 modern rail coaches. The previous regime could not build even

50,000 toilets in 10 years," he said.

Taking aim at the Opposition's youth outreach efforts, specifically Mr. Gandhi's *Chhatron Ki Goonj* campaign in Pune last month, the Prime Minister cautioned the youth against "falling for political misdirection".

"At every nook and cor-

ner, you will find people who will try to mislead you through lies, but today's youth will stand with the truth," Mr. Modi said, urging youngsters to align with factual progress over political narrative.

He said the youth could see how focused the government was on working across sectors, including

solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear energy. Describing the dedicated railway freight corridor as the life-line of a rapidly developing nation, the Prime Minister noted that India's economic transformation was accelerating due to the modern freight structure. Earlier, passenger and goods trains were forced to run on the same tracks, which severely hampered both passenger travel and freight movement, but the dedicated corridor altered that dynamic, he said.

Criticising the administrative delays under the previous government, he pointed out that though the concept originated in 2004 and a special purpose vehicle was set up in 2006, files remained stuck without progress until 2014.

"Unfortunately, even these files were not fortunate enough to get a dedicated corridor. Files would get stuck, hang around, wander aimlessly," Mr. Mo-

di said. India is scripting a new saga of manufacturing, spanning "chips to ships", with components, final products and the supply chain for self-reliance being set up in the country, Mr. Modi said.

At an event in Mumbai later in the day, Mr. Modi said the Indian economy's 7.8% real GDP expansion gave confidence to the world at large because the performance came in a challenging quarter when the impact of the West Asia conflict was the highest.

He said India had emerged as a major manufacturer of railway coaches, metro coaches and locomotives in the last decade.

A 100-km journey that earlier took 6.5 hours for a freight train can now be covered in less than half the time, while a 30-hour journey by truck can be completed in 10-12 hours on the Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Prime Minister noted.

2,843 km, 400-plus trains: Corridors cut time and cost, offer last-mile link

Dheeraj Mishra

New Delhi, September 8

AMONG THE projects that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated in Vadodara on

E. Tuesday were the last three sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), together covering 326 kilometres and developed at a cost of over Rs 20,700 crore.

These three sections between Gujarat and Maharashtra — New Sanand (N)-New Makarpura, New Umbergaon-

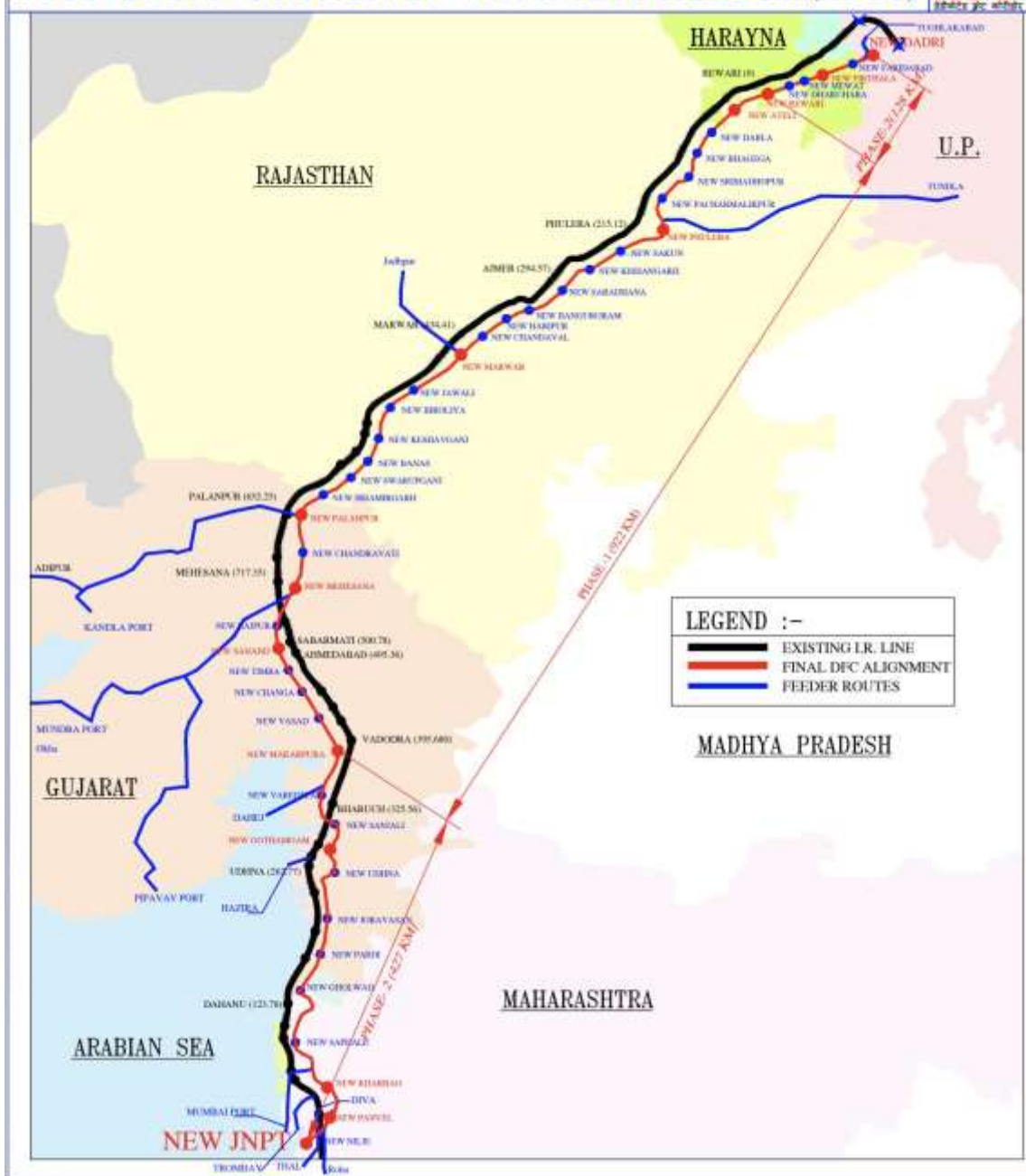


New Saphale, New Saphale-New Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) — mark the com-

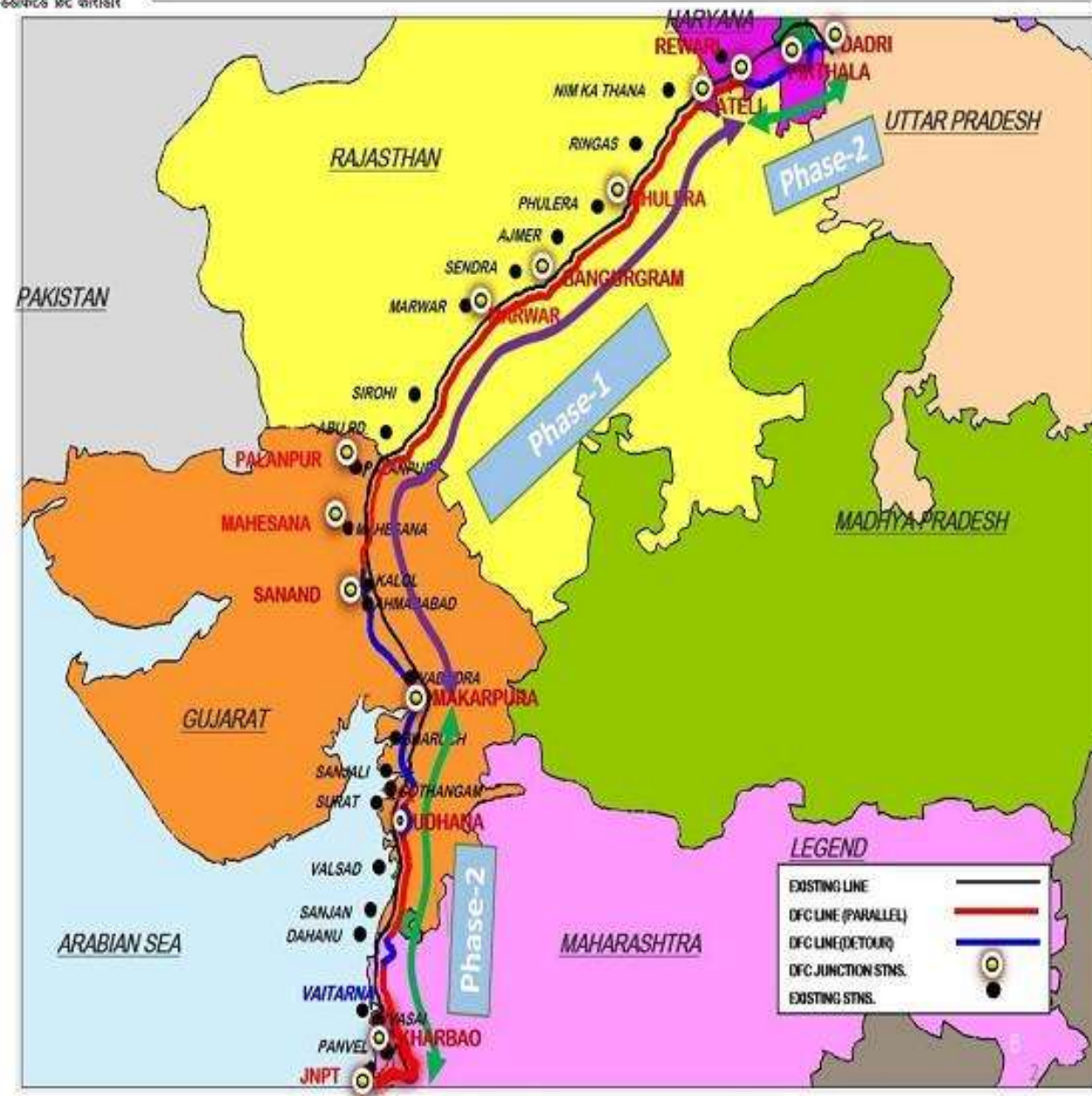
pletion of the 1,506-km WDFC, which runs from JNPT in Navi

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





हैडक्वार्टर ग्रेट कोरीडोर





1. What is a Dedicated Freight Corridor? | DFC क्या है?

A Dedicated Freight Corridor is a railway corridor designed primarily for freight trains rather than regular passenger services.

Dedicated Freight Corridor ऐसा Railway Corridor है जिसे मुख्य रूप से मालगाड़ियों के संचालन के लिए विकसित किया जाता है, सामान्य Passenger Trains के लिए नहीं।

Earlier, passenger and freight trains largely shared tracks on busy routes.

पहले व्यस्त Routes पर Passenger और Freight Trains बड़े पैमाने पर समान Tracks का उपयोग करती थीं।

Separate freight corridors increase capacity and reduce interference between passenger and goods operations.

अलग Freight Corridors से Capacity बढ़ती है और Passenger तथा Goods Operations के बीच Interference कम होता है।

Simple Concept

Old system → Passenger + Freight on common busy routes → congestion

DFC → Freight gets dedicated capacity → faster & more reliable logistics

Dedicated Freight Corridors



Source: Ministry of Railways (PIB)

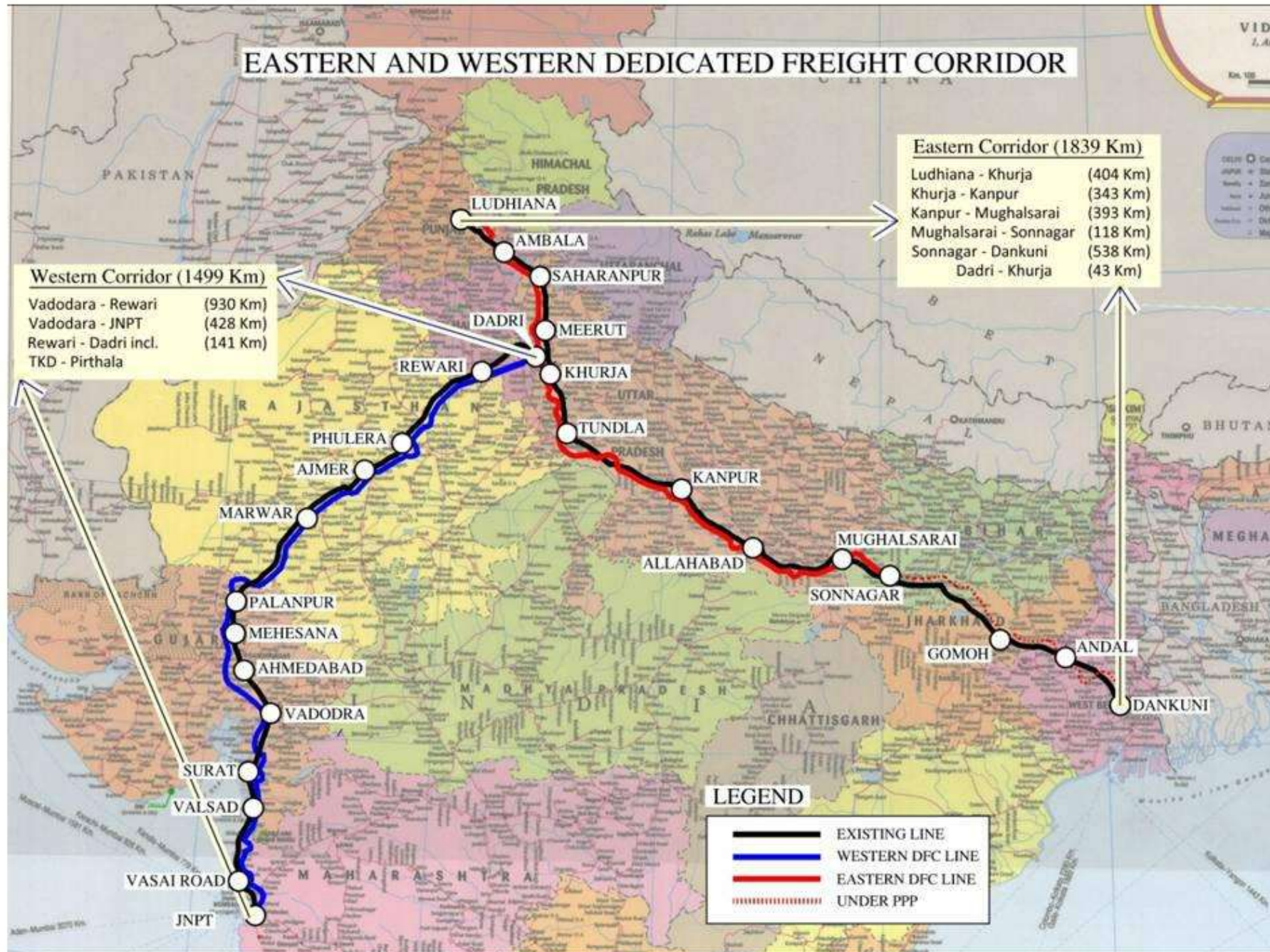
EASTERN AND WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR

Western Corridor (1499 Km)

Vadodara - Rewari	(930 Km)
Vadodara - JNPT	(428 Km)
Rewari - Dadri incl.	(141 Km)
TKD - Pirthala	

Eastern Corridor (1839 Km)

Ludhiana - Khurja	(404 Km)
Khurja - Kanpur	(343 Km)
Kanpur - Mughalsarai	(393 Km)
Mughalsarai - Sonnagar	(118 Km)
Sonnagar - Dankuni	(538 Km)
Dadri - Khurja	(43 Km)



Feature	Western DFC (WDFC)	Eastern DFC (EDFC)
Broad alignment	Dadri → JNPA	Ludhiana → Sonnagar
Major geography	UP–Haryana–Rajasthan–Gujarat–Maharashtra	Punjab–Haryana–UP–Bihar
Major traffic linkage	Container/port-oriented freight	Coal, minerals, industrial freight + other cargo
Key port	JNPA, Navi Mumbai	No comparable terminal seaport at its eastern end
Rajasthan relevance	★ ★ ★ Very high	Limited

Consider the following statements regarding the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor:

Western Dedicated Freight Corridor के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- It connects Dadri with Jawaharlal Nehru Port.
यह Dadri को Jawaharlal Nehru Port से जोड़ता है।
- It passes through Rajasthan.
यह राजस्थान से होकर गुजरता है।
- It is associated with DFCCIL.
यह DFCCIL से संबंधित है।
- Its primary purpose is to operate high-speed passenger trains.
इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य High-Speed Passenger Trains चलाना है।

Fish out of water



A fish-shaped booth installed on the walkway to encourage people to throw plastic bottles into it, rather than in the backwaters, lies empty in Ernakulam, Keralam. The installation aims to raise awareness about the growing menace of plastic waste in water bodies. R.K. NITHIN

India takes up 'anomalies' in new UN world map with officials concerned

Kalpal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday that it has taken up the "anomalies" in the world map, used extensively in the United Nations General Assembly during the discussion on the India-backed "Correct the Map" resolution, with the persons concerned.

The map depicted India's Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as distinct regions caught between unrecognised Indian and Chinese claim lines.

In the Ministry's bi-weekly briefing, spokesperson Jaiwal reiterated that India had voted for the principle behind the "Correct the Map" resolution but had not endorsed any map. The resolution seeks to correct distortions in commonly used world maps, which are seen as misrepresenting the relative size of continents and countries to a diminished perception of Africa and other equatorial regions, as per the UN.

The Hindu reported on Tuesday that the resolution was passed on July 1 by UN General Assembly, which remains on the UN



Geopolitical website, did not use the traditional UN cartographical markers, like "Indian line" and "Chinese line" while demarcating Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, thereby creating ambiguity regarding the status of the two regions.

The map showed the Line of Control between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, which India had voted in favour of.

However, it did not give explanations for not clearly specifying the Chinese and Indian claim lines in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as previously published maps.

India's stance

on this, Mr. Jaiwal said, "We have endorsed the principle of equalising

maps, but not of any map. There may be maps for consultation. We have taken up the anomalies with the concerned persons."

"India voted in favour of the resolution and has issued its clarification through the UN," he said.

Following the passing of the resolution, Mr. Jaiwal had said on Monday that India had voted in favour of the "underlying principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation" in India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in the official map. Any inaccuracy or misleading depiction is unacceptable.

Centre steps away from row over Hindu group's visit to Eiffel Tower

Religious groups alleged 'anti-women' demands during visit to the iconic tower snowballs into a political row in France. Govt. says it is a 'matter between the entities involved'; PM Modi inaugurated the BAPS Temple in Paris virtually recently

Subhankar
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday faced questions over its links to a religious group allegedly "anti-women" demands caused the row over the Hindu group, known as BAPS, denied making any demands to "limit interactions" with women employees at the tower.

The shutdown came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a temple built by BAPS (Bhachchanand Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) in a Paris suburb.

In a 10-minute address, Mr. Modi had called the construction a "new chapter" in India-France cultural relations. The External Affairs Ministry said, "The women, who had been replaced by men at certain points, were instructed not to access certain areas while the delegation was present."

"We are aware of the opening of a temple by the BAPS Sanstha in the Paris area. As to the issue pertaining to the tower, this is a matter purely between the entities (BAPS and the Eiffel Tower) and is not a matter of concern for the government," Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal said.



BAPS leaders, who were in Paris for the temple's inauguration, were asked for women employees to be moved out of sight of the delegation of monks, particularly their 60-year-old leader. The union of the Eiffel Tower employees, which is not a union, called for a one-day strike in solidarity with female colleagues.

To a question from The Hindu, whether the government was concerned, Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal said, "The women, who had been replaced by men at certain points, were instructed not to access certain areas while the delegation was present."

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much occasion, and there would be no comment. Earlier this year, India's Ambassador to France, Suresh Singh, had spoken at a ceremony for the temple. India's Ambassador to France, Suresh Singh, had spoken at a ceremony for the temple. India's Ambassador to France, Suresh Singh, had spoken at a ceremony for the temple.

BAPS issues denial In written responses to The Hindu, BAPS denied having made the requests.

"We want to be unequivocally clear: this coordination was undertaken purely as a matter of operational courtesy and logistics to ensure a smooth visit for a large group of devotees," BAPS said.

The tower's employees or the public, BAPS, France, said pointing out that the delegation had more than 100 members. "It was never, at any point, intended as a request rooted in gender discrimination or misogyny. The contrary does not reflect the spirit or values of our fellowship or the dele-

gation," it added, insisting that BAPS did not know about the denial of access to anyone.

However, the women employees had said earlier that they were made to feel "invisible". French right-wing and nationalist Opposition leaders criticised the (Bhachchan) Macron government for the incident and demanded an explanation. "In France, we do not ask women to erase themselves. No dogma, no religion is above the laws of the Republic," France's Equality Minister Aurélie Berger said.

Several French commentators questioned the reasons behind the group's influence, pointing to the BAPS temple in the U.S. that faced legal cases after the federal bureau of investigation accused the group of labour code violations.

On Monday, Paris Mayor Emmanuel Grégoire ordered an inquiry into the incident, while Axel Wael, president of tower operator SETE, issued an apology.

(With inputs from Srinam Lakshman in London)

Congress leaders in Punjab will work unitedly under Rahul, Kharge to defeat AAP, says Pilot

Sandeep Bhukar
NEW DELHI

The newly appointed Congress general secretary in-charge of Punjab, Sachin Pilot, on Tuesday said the State's party leaders had agreed that they would work "collectively and unitedly" under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge to defeat the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and restore the Congress to power.

Mr. Pilot's assertion comes as he takes charge of a State unit marked by differences among senior leaders, particularly former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Punjab Congress Committee chief Amarinder Singh Warrier.

But Mr. Pilot played down the differences, saying he did not consider them a "dividing" situation but different approaches to the same political challenge.

"I have spoken to almost all the leaders in Punjab



Strategic hurdles: how party in-charge of Punjab, Sachin Pilot with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday, expresses

and they have assured me that they will work collectively and unitedly under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. To deliver, Mr. Pilot said in an interview.

He said there was a broad understanding within the party that the AAP had to be ousted from power in the State. "Every single Congressman understands that the Aam Aadmi Party needs to be voted out and that Congress is ultimately the only viable option," he said.

On Mr. Channi's reported unhappiness over the high command's decision not to appoint him as the Chief Ministerial candidate, Mr. Pilot said the former Chief Minister had assured him of "complete and full support" to the party's efforts.

Channi's assurance "I had a very cordial meeting with him today," Mr. Pilot said, adding, "Whatever may have happened in the past is difficult to undo, but moving forward, he has assured me his complete and full support."

He said the main electoral contest would be between the Congress and the AAP irrespective of whether the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal joined hands.

Mr. Pilot also dismissed the perception that the AAP had an advantage in leadership and narrative, saying the Congress leaders were being spent on promoting "names and faces" rather than governance and delivery.

The Congress, he said, would seek a "revival" in Punjab, arguing that the State had failed to realise its economic potential despite investment opportunities.

There needs to be a reset in all sectors — industry, agriculture, employment generation and adapting to new technologies and opportunities, Mr. Pilot said, calling for an "entrepreneurial" mindset.

He expressed concern over extremist elements gaining traction in Punjab and recalled the Congress leadership's role in pulling the State out of its "dark decade".

Mr. Pilot also said Punjab leaders had invited Mr. Gandhi to lead the Congress campaign in the State. A has yatra was being planned that will shape, timelines and destinations were yet to be finalised.

Full interview @ news18/Punjab

Tribal Affairs Ministry under pressure from 'Modani', says Congress on Gram Sabha issue

Ashwin Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Alleging the Tribal Affairs Ministry's assertion that the Forest Rights Act "has no provision" for seeking Gram Sabha consent while diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, the Congress on Tuesday asked if the Centre was "under pressure" from the Modani "conglomerate".

In a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Adivasi group.

Congress general secretary Jitendra Ranjan said that this "shocking stance" of the Ministry reflected a "misunderstanding of the law and an abdication of the Ministry's statutory responsibility".

"The PRA clearly designates the Gram Sabha as the authority for the implementation of the law, and therefore, for protecting the rights it guarantees," Mr. Ranjan said.



Jitendra Ranjan

The Ministry's attempt to distance itself from its responsibility to "make a mockery of the law" and of the commitment of the Government of India, he added.

This comes a day after the Tribal Affairs Ministry had told the Environment Ministry that the 2006 law has "no provision for obtaining Gram Sabha consent" for forest diversion, adding that such matters related to Gram Sabha consent "do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs". This was conveyed to the Power Ministry on August 31, during deliberations over how Gram Sabha consent had become a "bottleneck" for government projects.

Mr. Ranjan, however, said the requirement of complying with sections of the Forest Rights Act for any diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has been repeatedly reiterated by both the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change. He cited a 2012 communication from the Tribal Affairs Ministry to the States, a 2018 dialogue it had with the Environment Ministry, replies in Parliament by the Environment Ministry, and the government's Van Samrakshak Evam Samarthan Rules, 2023, to show that the Tribal Affairs Ministry's stance was "incomplete and inconsistent".

He said the Government of India had long been considering an mandatory requirements to divert forest land.

Rahul Gandhi arrives in Rae Bareilly on two-day visit

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, reached his parliamentary constituency of Rae Bareilly on Tuesday for a two-day visit during which he will take part in multiple events. Mr. Gandhi is scheduled to chair a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee.

He will meet Indian traders, sportspersons and medical professionals. On Wednesday, he will inaugurate a ₹1 crore worth of development work from the MP Local Area Development Scheme funds.

Home Ministry to resume talks with Ladakh civil society groups

Pegazada Ashita
SRINAGAR

Talks between civil society groups of Ladakh and the high-powered coast the Centre and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Union Home Ministry will resume on Wednesday in New Delhi against the backdrop of several "confidence building measures" taken by the stakeholders and a foundation laid in the form of a round of talks. The fresh round of talks will be held around 4 p.m.

Several members of the Ladakh Akhoo (Ladakh Akhoo) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), two key anti-religious bodies, arrived in Delhi on Tuesday. They are expected to resume talks. We will push for the inclusion of Ladakh in the

Sixth Schedule to protect land, culture, jobs, ecology and identity," said Sajad Kargil, a KDA member.

The fresh round of talks between the Centre and Ladakh has come in the backdrop of the May 22 election, which has been termed a "watershed moment" by the Union Home Ministry, while terminating the demand for Statehood as a "long-term aspiration", had also pledged to continue a model of governance by establishing a Joint Development Commission body with executive, financial and legislative powers.

Local, religious and political parties of Ladakh, ever since it was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) in 2019 from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, have been demanding special status to protect the region's environment, culture, jobs, and land.

Ahead of the talks, several measures have been taken by the Lieutenant Governor's administration in Ladakh, which included setting up of a Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh in the UT, approving the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council) in 2026, to provide proprietary rights to genuine Naga landholders and the announcement of bill of laws for all seven districts, including the new new districts in the region.

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of Naga communities in Manipur, on Tuesday said it had intensively protested economic blockade on major National Highways across the State from 1 a.m. on Wednesday.

The UNC said the intensification of economic blockade was justified because the government failed to deliver justice to the families of Naga soldiers killed in the conflict. The organisation's demands include action against those involved in the killing and the removal



Blocked transport: The blockade is likely to affect Imphal-Guwahati road transport services via NH-2 and NH-102A

of Deputy Chief Minister Nongcham Eijang, accused of involvement with Naga militant groups. According to a statement issued by UNC spokesperson H. James Hau, the "indefinite" blockade will cover National Highway-2 (Imphal-Thiruvananthapuram), NH-57 (Imphal-Udhampur), and NH-102A (Imphal-Guwahati). The UNC said vehicles carrying essential supplies

and services, including medical supplies, media, power, telecommunications and water supply, would be exempted.

The blockade is likely to affect the Imphal-Guwahati public transport services via NH-2, which were resumed in August after more than three years. Movement of people on the highways was affected after the ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Mizo communities erupted on May 3, 2023.

Many of the Home Minister Konthoujam Govindan said the House recently passed a bill, including the one between the Kuki and Naga since February, claimed at least 306 lives.

Centre steps away from row over Hindu group's visit to Eiffel Tower

Religious group's alleged 'anti-women' demands during visit to the iconic tower snowballs into a political row in France; Govt. says it is a 'matter between the entities involved'; PM Modi inaugurated the BAPS Temple in Paris virtually recently

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday faced questions over its links to a religious group whose allegedly "anti-women" demands caused the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris to shut down for a day, leading to a major political row in France. Paris city officials have begun a formal inquiry, and the Hindu group, known as BAPS, denied making any demands to "limit interactions" with women employees at the tower.

The shutdown came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a temple built by BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) in a Paris suburb. In a 10-minute virtual address, Mr. Modi had called the construction a "new chapter" in India-France cultural relations. The External Affairs Ministry said the Prime Minister often addressed such events and India was not involved in the controversy.

According to officials managing the Eiffel Tower,



Saffron Seine: Hindu monks of the BAPS group take part in a religious ceremony in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. AFP

BAPS leaders, who were in Paris for the temple's inauguration, specifically asked for women employees to be moved out of sight of the delegation of monks, particularly their 93-year-old leader. The union of the Eiffel Tower employees, which called the one-day strike in solidarity with female colleagues, said the women, who had been replaced by men at certain posts, were instructed not to cross certain areas while the delegation was present.

"We are aware of the opening of a temple by the BAPS Sanstha in the Paris

area. As to the issue pertaining to the Tower, this is a matter purely between the entities [BAPS and the Eiffel Tower authorities] concerned," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

To a question from *The Hindu* on whether the government has asked BAPS for an explanation of its alleged demand to deny women employees access to parts of the Eiffel Tower or whether it would now distance itself from the group, Mr. Jaiswal said that it was a "common practice" for the Prime Minister to "convey his good wishes" on

such occasions, and there would be no comment.

Earlier this year, India's Ambassador to France, Sanjeev Singla, had spoken at a ceremony for the temple. India's Ambassador to UNESCO, Vishal Verma, praised the BAPS group in a social media post on Tuesday and said his wife had participated in the "shilanyas" or stone-laying ceremony of the temple in 2022.

BAPS issues denial

In written responses to *The Hindu*, BAPS denied having made the requests.

"We want to be unequivocally clear: this coordination was undertaken purely as a matter of operational courtesy and logistics to ensure a smooth visit for a large group without inconveniencing the Tower's employees or the public," BAPS, France, said pointing out that the delegation had more than 100 members. "It was never, at any point, intended as a request rooted in gender, and any suggestion to the contrary does not reflect the spirit or values of our fellowship or the dele-

gation," it added, insisting that BAPS did not know about the denial of access to anyone.

However, the women employees had said earlier that they were made to feel "invisible".

French right-wing and centrist Opposition leaders criticised the [Emmanuel] Macron government for the incident and demanded an explanation. "In France, we do not ask women to erase themselves. No dogma, no religion is above the laws of the Republic," France's Equality Minister Aurore Berge said.

Several French commentators questioned the reasons behind the group's influence, pointing to the BAPS temple in the U.S. that faced legal cases after the Federal Bureau of investigation accused the group of labour code violations.

On Monday, Paris Mayor Emmanuel Gregoire ordered an inquiry into the incident, while Ariel Weil, president of tower operator SETE, issued an apology.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in London)

- According to the supplied report, a visit by a BAPS delegation to the Eiffel Tower became controversial after women employees alleged that they were asked to remain out of sight of the visiting delegation and not cross certain areas while the delegation was present.

दिए गए समाचार के अनुसार BAPS Delegation की Eiffel Tower यात्रा उस समय विवादित हो गई जब महिला कर्मचारियों ने आरोप लगाया कि Delegation की मौजूदगी के दौरान उन्हें दृष्टि से दूर रहने और कुछ क्षेत्रों में न जाने को कहा गया।

- The allegations triggered a political controversy in France and Paris authorities initiated an inquiry.

इन आरोपों के बाद France में Political Controversy शुरू हुई और Paris Authorities ने Inquiry शुरू की।

1. What is BAPS? | BAPS क्या है?

BAPS = Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.

BAPS = Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha।

It is associated with the **Swaminarayan tradition of Hinduism.**

यह हिंदू धर्म की **Swaminarayan परंपरा** से संबंधित है।

BAPS has temples and cultural complexes in several countries.

BAPS के कई देशों में Temples और Cultural Complexes हैं।

Exam association

BAPS → Swaminarayan tradition → Hindu religious organisation

BAPS → Swaminarayan परंपरा → Hindu Religious Organisation

Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha



BAPS

BAPS Akshar Deri Logo

Abbreviation	BAPS
Formation	5 June 1907 (119 years ago)
Founder	Shastriji Maharaj
Type	Religious organisation
Headquarters	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
Location	5,025 Centers
Region served	Worldwide
Leader	Mahant Swami Maharaj

3. India's Government Position

The Ministry of External Affairs distanced the Indian government from the Eiffel Tower controversy.

Ministry of External Affairs ने भारत सरकार को Eiffel Tower Controversy से अलग बताया।

According to the supplied report, the government's position was essentially:

The Eiffel Tower issue is a matter between BAPS and the Eiffel Tower authorities.

Eiffel Tower से संबंधित मामला BAPS और Eiffel Tower Authorities के बीच का विषय है।

The report also notes that the Prime Minister commonly conveys good wishes on such religious/community occasions.

समाचार में यह भी कहा गया है कि प्रधानमंत्री ऐसे धार्मिक/सामुदायिक अवसरों पर शुभकामनाएँ देना एक सामान्य प्रक्रिया के रूप में करते हैं।

Fact	Answer
Location	Paris, France
Built for	1889 Exposition Universelle/World's Fair
Associated engineer	Gustave Eiffel
River nearby	Seine
Country	France

🇫🇷 6. French Secularism — Laïcité ★★☆☆

This controversy can be connected conceptually with the distinctive French model of secularism known as **laïcité**.

इस विवाद को Conceptually France के विशेष Secularism Model **Laïcité** से जोड़कर पढ़ सकते हैं।

French republican secularism places strong emphasis on the neutrality of the State and equality of citizens before public institutions.

French Republican Secularism राज्य की Neutrality और Public Institutions के समक्ष नागरिकों की Equality पर विशेष जोर देता है।

India vs France — conceptual comparison

India	France
Constitutional secularism	Laïcité
Religious freedom under Articles 25–28	Strong separation of public authority and religion
State can regulate secular aspects of religious activity	Strong emphasis on public-state neutrality
Equality → Articles 14–15	Republican equality principle

This is useful for **Polity/Essay/Mains**, but it should not be treated as proof about the facts of this specific dispute.

INDIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

KEY HIGHLIGHTS & G7 2026 FOCUS



A DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP

France identified India as a top strategic priority ahead of the 2026 G7 Summit.



KEY PILLARS OF COOPERATION (Est. 1998)

Established 1998



DEFENCE



SPACE



TECHNOLOGY



MARITIME
SECURITY



CIVIL NUCLEAR
ENERGY



COUNTER-
TERRORISM



FRANCE G7 PRESIDENCY 2026



France holds the presidency of the G7 in 2026.

EXPECTED DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE:



COOPERATION
ON THE RAFALE
PROGRAMME



MAKE IN INDIA
INITIATIVE



INDIA-FRANCE YEAR OF INNOVATION 2026

Inauguration of
BHARAT INNOVATES (Startup &
Innovation Platform) by Leaders.



INDIA'S G7 PARTICIPATION

Invited partner in
ALL G7 OUTREACH TRACKS.
A leading voice of the Global South.



India-France Relations

India-France share a time tested relationship. The visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day and PM Modi's visit as the chief guest at the Bastille Day parade in France, exemplify the natural bonds of friendship between the two countries



India-France Relations

- » India and France have traditionally close and friendly relations.
- » Post India's Independence- Diplomatic relations were established. French aircraft like **Ouragan**, **Mystere**, **Jaguar** have been part of the Indian air fleet since 1960's. France stepped in to supply nuclear fuel for **Tarapur Plant** after US backout.
- » Post Cold War Era- India and France entered into **Strategic Partnership in 1998** with defence, security and space being major areas of cooperation.



Areas of Cooperation

- » Geo-Political Cooperation- France was the first P-5 country to support Indian membership in the UNSC. France's support was vital in India's accession to the **Missile Technology Control Regime**, **Wassenaar Arrangement** and **Australia Group**
- » Geo-Strategic cooperation- Indian Air Force planes have been deployed to **Reunion Island**. France is part of **India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue** that supports free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. France with India's stand on **Pak supported cross border terrorism**.
- » Defence and Security- France is India's second-largest defence supplier in 2017-2021 with **Rafale**, **scorpene** submarines. Joint exercises like **Varuna** (Naval), **Garuda** (Air Force) and **Shakti** (Army).
- » Economic cooperation- India-France trade \$ 13.4 bn in 2022-23. France is 11th largest foreign investor in India.
- » Energy, Climate and S&T- France supports India's entry into **NSG**, jointly set up **ISA** with India, **CNES** and **ISRO** space collaboration on **TRISHNA** satellite, and construction of **world's largest nuclear park in Jaitapur**.



Significance

- » Securing the Indo-Pacific- Counter the growing Chinese aggression. For ex- **India-France Joint Strategic Vision for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region in 2018**.
- » Strategic Autonomy- Relations not constrained either by the Anglo-Saxon views (in France) nor the anti-western thoughts (In India). For ex- **France support of India after 1998 Pokhran Nuclear Test**.
- » Global Stability- Checking **Russia's assertiveness in Europe** and **China's assertiveness in Asia**
- » Horizon 2047 Agreement- Future roadmap of **India-France collaboration for the next 25 years in AI, super computing and cloud computing**.



Challenges

- » Absence of Free Trade Agreement- Stalled progress on the **India-EU Broad based Trade and Investment agreement (BTIA)**
- » Trade Imbalances and IPR issues- France exports more to India and inadequate IPR protection of French firms in India.
- » Stalled Projects like the **Jaitapur nuclear project**
- » Differences in geopolitical approaches- **Ukraine war stand** and **French stand on BRI** contrarian to India's.
- » Emerging geopolitical scenario- Middle east crisis



Way Forward

- » Early Conclusion of FTA- India- EU BTIA
- » Implementation of Agreement on Migration & Mobility
- » Increased Trade and Investment via Joint Ventures
- » Expedition on stalled projects like J

- Consider the following statements:
निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- BAPS is associated with the Swaminarayan tradition.
BAPS Swaminarayan परंपरा से संबंधित है।
- The Eiffel Tower was constructed in connection with the 1889 World's Fair.
Eiffel Tower का निर्माण 1889 World's Fair से संबंधित था।
- The Eiffel Tower is located near the Seine River.
Eiffel Tower Seine River के निकट स्थित है।
- Laïcité is commonly associated with the French model of secularism.
Laïcité France के Secularism Model से संबंधित है।

KYIV

Russia hits Kyiv after a pause for U.S. envoys' visit, killing 3 people



Russia pummeled Kyiv with drones and missiles early on Tuesday, resuming its air attack after a brief halt for the visit of U.S. peace negotiators, and killing three people, Mayor Vital Klitschko said. The attack caused fires in several districts across Kyiv, damaging at least 18 high-rise buildings, a school, and other sites. **AP/17C**

MOSCOW

Russia and North Korea open the first road link across shared border



Russia and North Korea opened the first road bridge across their narrow stretch of border on Monday, creating a new physical link between the two countries as they expand cooperation. The bridge built over the Tumen River is one km long and has two lanes, which will allow up to 300 vehicles a day to pass. **AP**

JERUSALEM

Netanyahu under fire over report UAE warned of October 7 attack



Israeli opposition leaders on Tuesday called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu unfit to serve after a report that the United Arab Emirates had warned him before the October 7, 2023 missile attack. UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reportedly spoke to Mr. Netanyahu a week and a half before the attack. **AP**

KATHMANDU

Nepal marks first anniversary of Gen Z movement against graft



Nepalese Ministers, lawmakers, civil society activists and citizens gathered on Tuesday at the old Parliament building in Kathmandu to pay tribute to the victims of last year's violence, marking the first anniversary of the Gen Z movement against corruption that toppled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's government. **AP**

U.K. govt. bans trade with illegal Israeli settlements in West Bank

France, Canada join the British administration in ban. U.K. says the move is to keep alive possibility of a 'two State solution'. Israeli President said the decision would fall 'on the wrong side of history'. British consulate in Jerusalem to be shut down

Simon Lakshman
LONDON

For one of its first foreign policy moves, the administration of U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham has announced a ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. France and Canada joined the U.K. in the move.

Together these three countries issued a joint statement with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden confirming their intention to introduce new restrictions on trade with illegal settlements. Some of these countries



Ed Miliband

have already sanctioned trade with illegal West Bank settlements and some have sanctions in process. The U.K. government has said the move is to keep alive the possibility of a 'two State solution'. British Foreign Secretary Ed

Miliband told the U.S. House of Commons that Canada and France have joined the U.K. in banning such trade. The British government position was that settlers in the West Bank had engaged in ethnic cleansing, Mr. Miliband said.

He added that a new sanctions regime on illegal settlements would be in place within six to nine months. The sanctions would also include construction, infrastructure financing and real estate companies that assist in settlements. Mr. Miliband announced that the official view of the British government was that the settle-

ments were unlawful, as he called out settler violence and the recent murder of settlements built under the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the last four years.

Mr. Miliband said the U.K. continued to support trade with Gaza. The U.K. decision would fall 'on the wrong side of history', as he accused the U.K. of interference in the upcoming Knesset elections. The British consulate in Jerusalem would be shut down, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said. U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee called the move an 'irrational act' in a BBC Radio 4 interview.

Israel had issued tenders for 1,200-bed hotels in the so-called X2 area.

IRGC 'seizes' unmanned U.S. submarine drone

Agence France Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Tuesday said they seized an American submarine drone in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran has blockaded in the months-long West Asia war.

"The IRGC naval forces captured one of the most modern, unmanned, and smart submarines of the U.S. navy's army at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz in a complex intelligence and operational action at dawn today," the guards said in a statement carried by state TV. "This smart submarine is equipped with the latest technology in the submarine field in the world, which was delivered to the U.S. seventh army fleet in 2022," the statement ad-



An unmanned U.S. submarine drone reportedly captured by the Iran's Revolutionary Guards in the Strait of Hormuz. **AP**

d. "This submarine has been captured and the wreckage of it will be released in the coming hours."

"Tech-laden"

Iranian media reported that the unmanned underwater vehicle's main capabilities included "subma-

rine reconnaissance and surveillance, noise detection and

inspection of submarine cables and pipelines". Iran has maintained a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas exports, since the outbreak of the war in late February.

The U.S. has imposed its own counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

Travel chaos at U.K. airports as more than 600 flights cancelled

Associated Press
LONDON

More than 600 flights were cancelled on Tuesday due to a technical issue in Britain's air traffic control system that caused disruptions at major airports across the U.K., the flight monitoring website FlightRadar24 reported.

Britain's National Air Traffic Services said a problem had been identified in its flight processing system and engineers were urgently working on the issue, which affected flights across the U.K. In an update, it said it had "implemented a fix and our flight system is starting to recover."

At least 628 flights to and from U.K. airports, including London Heathrow, were cancelled, affecting

Britain's National Air Traffic Services said a problem had been identified in its flight processing system

services operated by multiple airlines, including British Airways, EasyJet, KLM and Lufthansa, according to FlightRadar24.

Many passengers expressed frustration about a lack of communication from airlines. The affected airports included Stansted and City in London, as well as those in Manchester, Birmingham, Gatwick and Scotland.

Budget airline EasyJet said some of its flights were "unable to operate" and that the system failure caused "delays to flights across Europe."

Show of support



Lively gatherings: Supporters of Brazilian presidential candidate Flávio Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party held an inflatable of U.S. President Donald Trump, as they attend a rally on Independence Day in San Paolo on Monday. **AP/17C**

Muizzu invites Burnham for discussions over Chagos Islands

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday invited British Prime Minister Andrew Burnham for talks on the disputed Chagos Islands.

In a letter to the British Prime Minister, President Muizzu "expressed the Maldives' concerns regarding the United Kingdom's decision to proceed with the handover of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius," his office said in a statement. In May 2025, Britain



Mohamed Muizzu

signed an agreement with Mauritius to transfer sovereignty over the contested Chagos Islands, saying the Maldives backs the most legitimate claim to the archipelago.

U.S. President Donald Trump criticized the agreement, calling it "a big mistake". In April this year, however, the British government put on hold its deal to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands and shelved the legislation needed for the move.

Since the beginning of this year, the Maldives has voiced opposition to the U.K.'s decision to cede sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, with Mr. Muizzu maintaining that the Maldives backs the most legitimate claim to the archipelago.

Chinese researchers find link between climate change and glacial collapse, warn of increasing disaster risks

Ananth Krishnan
MUMBAI

Chinese experts have pointed to a clear link between rising temperatures, which have led to significant glacial retreat on the Tibetan Plateau, and the deadly August 26 glacial collapse on the Nepal-China border, warning of growing risks from more glacial flood outbursts, with more than 14,000 glacial lakes mapped on the plateau.

According to the most recent inventory of glaciers measured by Chinese re-

searchers on the Tibetan Plateau, the glacier area had fallen to 70,000 sq km, down from 44,000 sq km and 41,000 sq km in two previous studies conducted over a period of six decades.

"The retreat has been particularly pronounced in the southern part of the plateau. In areas including growing risks from more glacial flood outbursts, with more than 14,000 glacial lakes mapped on the plateau.

Across the entire plateau, he said, glaciers had

Experts find 'most pronounced growth' in glacial lakes in part of the Himalayas close to China's southern borders

director and researcher at the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Chengdu, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, was quoted as saying by the official People's Daily on Monday. "There are more than 14,000 glacial lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Overall, these lakes continue to expand rapidly, with associated disaster risks steadily increasing," he said.

The report said this retreat had "greatly heightened the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and other disasters."

"There are now more than 14,000 glacial lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Overall, these lakes continue to expand rapidly, with associated disaster risks steadily increasing," he said.

shrunk by 24%. The melting of glaciers had "directly increased the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and other disasters."

The report said this retreat had "greatly heightened the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and other disasters."

"There are now more than 14,000 glacial lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Overall, these lakes continue to expand rapidly, with associated disaster risks steadily increasing," he said.

What will be of particular concern to India and Nepal is that researchers found the "most pronounced growth" in glacial lakes in the part of the Himalayas close to China's "southern borders", according to the Ying, another researcher at the institute.

Experts say the rising risks have further underlined the need for both glacier mapping of glacial lakes and sharing of data, given the likely impact from flooding on downstream regions.

Meta debuts Muse, its personal AI assistant that can access apps

Reuters

NEW YORK

Meta rolled out on Tuesday a long-touted AI assistant that can autonomously send emails, sell a car and book travel on a person's behalf, despite internal concerns that the technology mismanages its access to sensitive personal data.

The company's Muse agent is the centrepiece of CEO Mark Zuckerberg's plan to offer "personal superintelligence" to the billions of people who use Meta's services daily. The product will be available only in the U.S. initially, via a dedicated Muse app or Meta's WhatsApp messaging service.

Muse is designed to access a person's apps across categories like email, calendar, payments, health,



The product will be available only in the U.S. initially. REUTERS

shopping and the smart home, Meta said. People choose which apps it connects to and can revoke access at any time.

As recently as this week, Meta employees testing the tool have reported cases of Muse arranging vacation logistics, disconnecting without explanation and uploading sensitive information without permission, according to internal posts seen by Reuters.

According to the supplied Reuters report, Meta has rolled out "Muse", a personal AI assistant capable of autonomously performing actions such as sending emails, arranging travel and even helping sell a car on a user's behalf.

दिए गए Reuters समाचार के अनुसार Meta ने "Muse" नामक Personal AI Assistant लॉन्च किया है, जो User की ओर से Email भेजने, Travel Book करने और यहाँ तक कि Car बेचने जैसे कार्य स्वतः कर सकता है।

Muse is initially being made available only in the United States, through a dedicated Muse app or Meta's WhatsApp messaging service.

Muse को शुरुआत में केवल United States में Dedicated Muse App या Meta के WhatsApp के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।

☆☆☆ Core Concept: Muse is not merely a chatbot → it is an AI agent designed to take actions across connected apps.

☆☆☆ Muse केवल Chatbot नहीं → यह Connected Apps पर Action लेने के लिए बनाया गया AI Agent है।

App/Data Category	हिन्दी
 Email	ई-मेल
 Calendar	कैलेंडर
 Payments	भुगतान
 Health	स्वास्थ्य संबंधी Apps/Data
 Shopping	ऑनलाइन Shopping
 Smart Home	Smart-Home Devices

Traditional Chatbot	Agentic AI / AI Agent
Mainly answers questions	Can perform tasks/actions
मुख्यतः प्रश्नों के उत्तर देता है	Tasks/Actions कर सकता है
User asks → AI responds	User gives goal → AI plans/actions
Usually limited external action	Can interact with connected tools/apps
Generates information/content	Can potentially execute multi-step workflows
Example: drafting an email	Example: accessing email/calendar and carrying out authorised actions

4. Biggest Issue — Personal Data & Privacy

The report highlights internal concerns about Muse's handling of sensitive personal data.

समाचार Muse द्वारा Sensitive Personal Data Handle करने को लेकर Internal Concerns को भी उजागर करता है।

According to Reuters, employees testing the system reported cases involving:

Sensitive information allegedly being uploaded without permission.

Sensitive Information को कथित रूप से Permission के बिना Upload करना।

Unexpected disconnection during tasks.

Task के दौरान अचानक Disconnect हो जाना।

Unexpected behaviour while arranging travel logistics.

Travel Logistics Arrange करते समय Unexpected Behaviour।

These reported concerns illustrate a broader problem:

More AI autonomy → more capability → potentially greater privacy/security consequences when something goes wrong.

अधिक AI Autonomy → अधिक Capability → गलती होने पर Privacy/Security का संभावित Risk भी अधिक।

Risk

Meaning

Privacy

Personal information may be exposed/misused

Cybersecurity

Connected apps expand the attack surface

Excessive permissions

Agent receives more access than necessary

Hallucination/error

Incorrect reasoning may trigger wrong actions

Accountability

Who is responsible for an autonomous mistake?

Consent

Whether every sensitive action is genuinely authorised

Financial risk

Particularly important when payments are connected

Automation bias

Humans may trust AI recommendations/actions excessively

- With reference to Agentic AI, consider the following statements:

Agentic AI के संदर्भ में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- It may interact with external software tools to complete tasks.
यह Tasks पूरा करने के लिए External Software Tools से Interact कर सकता है।
- It may perform multi-step actions with some autonomy.
यह कुछ Autonomy के साथ Multi-Step Actions कर सकता है।
- Greater access to external applications can create privacy and cybersecurity risks.
External Applications का अधिक Access Privacy एवं Cybersecurity Risks पैदा कर सकता है।
- Agentic AI necessarily requires no human oversight.
Agentic AI में अनिवार्य रूप से Human Oversight की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।

Chinese researchers find link between climate change and glacial collapse, warn of increasing disaster risks

Ananth Krishnan

BEIJING

Chinese experts have pointed to a clear link between rising temperatures, which have led to significant glacial retreat on the Tibetan Plateau, and the deadly August 26 glacial collapse on the Nepal-China border, warning of growing risks from more glacial flood outbursts, with more than 14,000 glacial lakes mapped on the plateau.

According to the most recent inventory of glaciers measured by Chinese re-

searchers on the Tibetan Plateau, the glacier area had fallen to 39,000 sq. km, down from 44,000 sq. km and 51,000 sq. km in two previous studies conducted over a period of six decades.

"The retreat has been particularly pronounced in the southern part of the plateau. In areas including the Gangdise Mountains (Trans-Himalayan range that includes Mount Kailash), Nyenchen Tanglha Mountains, and the Himalayas, glaciers have shrunk by about 40% over the past 60 years," Kang Shichang,

Experts find 'most pronounced growth' in glacial lakes in part of the Himalayas close to China's 'southern borders'

director and researcher at the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Chengdu, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, was quoted as saying by the official *People's Daily* on Monday.

Across the entire plateau, he said, glaciers had

shrunk by 24%. The melting of glaciers had "directly led to a substantial increase in both the number and size of glacial lakes across the plateau". "The main driver of this dramatic change is global warming," he said.

The report said this retreat had "greatly heightened the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, landslides, and other disasters". "There are now more than 14,000 glacial lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Overall, these lakes continue to expand rapidly, with associated disaster risks stea-

dily accumulating," it noted. What will be of particular concern to India and Nepal is that researchers found the "most pronounced growth" in glacial lakes in the part of the Himalayas close to China's "southern borders", according to Nie Yong, another researcher at the institute.

Experts say the rising risks have further underlined the need for both closer mapping of glacial lakes and sharing of data, given the likely impact from flooding on downstream regions.

Indicator	Finding
Glacial lakes mapped on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau	14,000+
Glacier area in latest inventory	~39,000 sq km
Earlier study estimates	~44,000 & 51,000 sq km
Period covered	~6 decades
Southern plateau glacier shrinkage in some regions	~40%
Overall plateau glacier shrinkage	~24%

2. Glacier Retreat — What Does It Mean?

Glacial retreat means the glacier's terminus/front moves backward over time when ice loss exceeds replenishment.

Glacial Retreat का अर्थ है कि समय के साथ Glacier का Front/Terminus पीछे हटता है, जब Ice Loss उसकी Replenishment से अधिक हो जाती है।

Basic chain

Global warming ↑ → glacier melting ↑ → glacier mass ↓ → retreat ↑

Global Warming ↑ → Glacier Melting ↑ → Glacier Mass ↓ → Retreat ↑

The report identifies **global warming** as the main driver of the dramatic changes observed across the plateau.

समाचार में **Global Warming** को Plateau पर हो रहे बड़े बदलावों का मुख्य **Driver** बताया गया है।



5. What is GLOF? ★★ ★

GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood I

It is the sudden release of a large volume of water from a glacial lake when its natural containment fails or is overtopped.

जब Glacial Lake को रोकने वाला प्राकृतिक Barrier विफल हो जाए या पानी उसके ऊपर से बह जाए, तो बड़ी मात्रा में पानी अचानक निकल सकता है—इसे GLOF कहते हैं।

Possible triggers

Ice/rock avalanche → बर्फ/चट्टान का Avalanche

Moraine-dam failure → Moraine Dam Failure

Extreme rainfall → अत्यधिक वर्षा

Rapid snow/ice melt → तेज Snow/Ice Melt

Earthquake/landslide → भूकंप/Landslide

🗿 6. What is Moraine? | Moraine क्या है?

Moraine is accumulated rock debris transported and deposited by a glacier.

Moraine वह Rock Debris है जिसे Glacier Transport करके जमा करता है।

Some Himalayan glacial lakes are impounded by **moraine dams**, which may be less stable than engineered dams.

कुछ Himalayan Glacial Lakes **Moraine Dams** द्वारा रोकी जाती हैं, जो Engineered Dams की तुलना में कम Stable हो सकती हैं।

Exam chain ⭐⭐⭐

Glacier → Moraine → Moraine-dammed lake → Dam failure → GLOF

📌 7. Areas Highlighted in the Report

The report says particularly pronounced retreat has occurred in southern parts of the plateau, including:

Gangdise Mountains

Gangdise Mountains

Nyainqêntanglha/Nyenchen Tanglha Mountains

Nyenchen Tanglha Mountains

Himalayas

हिमालय

◆ South Lhonak Lake, Sikkim — 2023

The October 2023 Sikkim disaster involved a GLOF from South Lhonak Lake and severely affected the Teesta basin.

October 2023 में Sikkim की South Lhonak Lake से संबंधित GLOF ने Teesta Basin को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया।

◆ Chamoli, Uttarakhand — 2021

The 2021 Chamoli disaster involved a catastrophic rock-and-ice avalanche and subsequent flood.

2021 Chamoli Disaster में catastrophic Rock-and-Ice Avalanche तथा उससे उत्पन्न Flood शामिल था।

⚠ Exam Trap

Do not simply label every Himalayan flash flood a GLOF.

हर Himalayan Flash Flood को GLOF न मानें।

🌡 10. Climate Change and Himalayan Cryosphere

Higher temperatures → increased ice loss

उच्च तापमान → अधिक Ice Loss

Retreating glaciers → expansion/new formation of glacial lakes

Glacier Retreat → Glacial Lakes का विस्तार/निर्माण

Growing lakes → potentially greater outburst-flood exposure

बड़ी Glacial Lakes → संभावित GLOF Exposure में वृद्धि

TEHRAN-BACKED HOUTHIS ACCUSE RIYADH OF LAUNCHING AIRSTRIKES ON YEMEN

Houthi strike oil facilities in 4 Saudi cities as war expands

US submersible captured near Strait, says IRGC

Reuters

Cairo, Dubai, September 8

YEMEN'S TEHRAN-backed Houthi attacked four cities in the south of US ally Saudi Arabia Tuesday, injuring over 70 people and setting oil installations ablaze in what appeared to be a major expansion of the six-month-old West Asia war.

The Houthis said they launched a broad operation deep into Saudi territory. They used drones and missiles to strike a Saudi airbase in southern city of Khamis Mushait, and targets belonging to Saudi Arabia's state oil company in nearby Abha, Najran on the Yemeni border, and Jazan, a major Red Sea port city that houses a large refinery and power plant.

NASA satellite images showed a thick cloud of black smoke over the Jazan refinery and a column of white smoke rising from an oil distribution centre in Abha.

Saudi authorities described blazes at the sites and said women and children were among the 73 people hurt. The reports of such large numbers of



wounded suggested the attacks were among the biggest carried out against Saudi Arabia since the US and Israel launched their war against Iran in February.

The Houthis released pictures of explosions of what they said were trucks from Saudi Arabia they had hit in separate strikes at the border in another area the previous day.

Houthi-controlled media reported later on Tuesday that Saudi warplanes had carried out airstrikes in Yemen's Jubah district east of the capital Sanaa and Taiz province in the southwest.

Saudi Arabia has led an Arab coalition battling against the Houthis in Yemen for more than a decade. That war had calmed in recent years, but a ceasefire there has broken down, with the Houthis threatening shipping at

the mouth of the Red Sea.

The International Organization for Migration said more than 18,500 people had fled their homes because of fighting along Yemen's west coast over the past three days. "The coalition will take all necessary operational measures to deter this terrorist militia and resolutely confronts its hostile approach," Turki al-Malki, spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition, said.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree accused Riyadh of having escalated the war by launching airstrikes on Yemen, and said the Houthis would respond.

Meanwhile, the navy of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Tuesday it had captured an unmanned US submersible at the mouth of the strait. There was no confirmation from Washington.

US imposes 36 fresh sanctions on Iran, aviation sector targeted

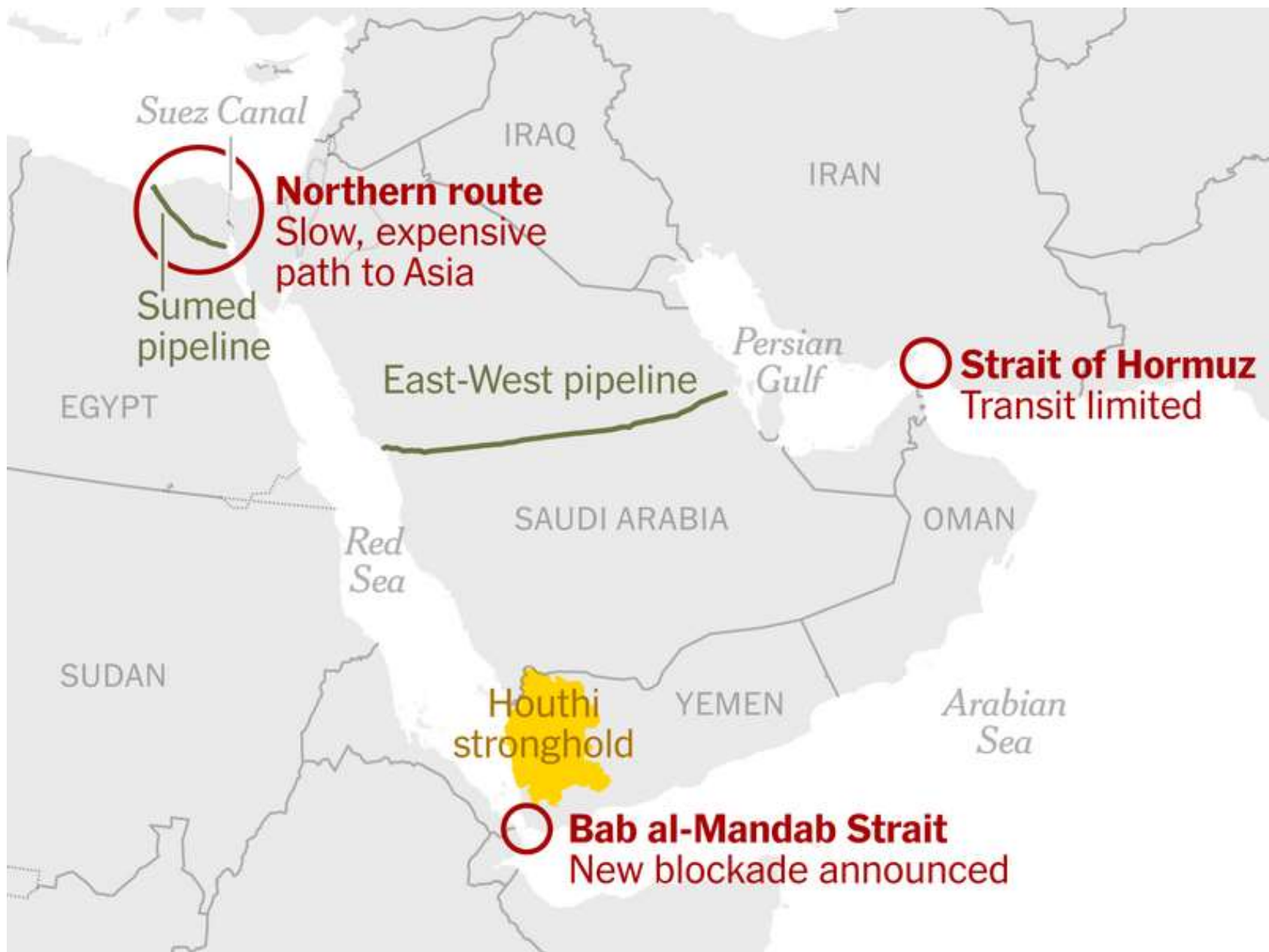
Washington: The United States on Tuesday issued 36 fresh Iran-related sanctions targeting Iran's aviation sector and other companies as part of a broad push to escalate economic pressure on Tehran as the war in West Asia entered a seventh month.

The US Treasury Department said the action was aimed at grounding Iran's Mahan Air, already sanctioned by the US and the EU, and all other Iranian airlines.

The sanctions also took aim at covert front companies, foreign intermediaries and deceptive trans-shipment routes that Washington says Iran relies on to obtain US-origin aircraft and sensitive technology.

The Treasury also issued an alert asking financial institutions to report any procurement networks supporting Iran's aviation industry, while designating firms based in Turkey and the UAE that it said helped Tehran procure US-origin aircraft and sensitive technology. **Reuters**





City	Importance	हिन्दी
Khamis Mushait	Major military/air-base area in southern Saudi Arabia	दक्षिणी Saudi Arabia का प्रमुख Military/Air-base क्षेत्र
Abha	Important city in Asir region; oil distribution infrastructure mentioned in report	Asir क्षेत्र का महत्वपूर्ण शहर; Oil Distribution Infrastructure का उल्लेख
Najran	Close to Yemen border	Yemen सीमा के निकट
Jazan	Major Red Sea port and refinery/power infrastructure	Red Sea का प्रमुख Port तथा Refinery/Power Infrastructure

2. 🛢️ Why Oil Facilities Matter | Oil Facilities क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हैं?

Saudi Arabia is one of the world's major oil producers and exporters, so attacks on oil facilities can have implications for global energy markets.

Saudi Arabia दुनिया के प्रमुख Oil Producers और Exporters में से एक है, इसलिए Oil Facilities पर हमले Global Energy Markets को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

Damage to refineries, storage or distribution centres can increase fears of supply disruption.
Refineries, Storage या Distribution Centres को नुकसान Supply Disruption की आशंका बढ़ा सकता है।

Economic Chain

Attack on oil infrastructure → supply risk ↑ → crude oil prices may rise → inflation pressure ↑

Oil Infrastructure पर हमला → Supply Risk ↑ → Crude Oil Prices बढ़ सकते हैं → Inflation Pressure ↑

India Link ★★☆☆

India is a major crude-oil importer, so prolonged instability in West Asia can affect India's import bill, inflation and current account.

भारत Crude Oil का बड़ा Importer है, इसलिए West Asia में लंबे समय तक अस्थिरता भारत के Import Bill, Inflation और Current Account को प्रभावित कर सकती है।

Feature	Bab-el-Mandeb	Strait of Hormuz
Connects	Red Sea ↔ Gulf of Aden	Persian Gulf ↔ Gulf of Oman
Major relevance	Suez/Red Sea trade	Gulf oil exports
Nearby Yemen?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Near Iran?	☐ Not directly	☒ Yes
India exam relevance	Trade route	Oil security

Consider the following statements regarding Bab-el-Mandeb Strait:

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
यह Red Sea को Gulf of Aden से जोड़ता है।**
- 2. Yemen lies on its eastern side.
Yemen इसके पूर्वी ओर स्थित है।**
- 3. It is important for maritime trade using the Suez Canal route.
यह Suez Canal Route से होने वाले Maritime Trade के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।**
- 4. It directly connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
यह सीधे Persian Gulf को Gulf of Oman से जोड़ता है।**

India Joins Global 6G Network Initiative

6G is expected to be the next generation after 5G.

6G, 5G के बाद अगली पीढ़ी की मोबाइल संचार तकनीक मानी जा रही है।

It aims to provide much higher data speeds.

इसका उद्देश्य बहुत अधिक डेटा गति प्रदान करना है।

It is expected to reduce network latency significantly.

इससे नेटवर्क की विलंबता (Latency) में उल्लेखनीय कमी आने की उम्मीद है।

It will support advanced machine-to-machine communication.

यह उन्नत मशीन-टू-मशीन संचार को समर्थन देगा।

It is expected to enable technologies like AI, robotics and smart cities.

यह AI, रोबोटिक्स और स्मार्ट सिटी जैसी तकनीकों को सक्षम करेगा।

India's participation

India joined the initiative on 7 September 2026.

भारत 7 सितंबर 2026 को इस पहल में शामिल हुआ।

The initiative includes the United States and 24 other nations.

इस पहल में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और 24 अन्य देश शामिल हैं।

The focus is on security, competitiveness and technological innovation.

इसका मुख्य फोकस सुरक्षा, प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता और तकनीकी नवाचार पर है।

India-US Technology Cooperation

The agreement followed discussions between India's Commerce Minister and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

यह समझौता भारत के वाणिज्य मंत्री और अमेरिकी वाणिज्य विभाग के बीच हुई चर्चाओं के बाद हुआ।

The discussions also covered artificial intelligence, data centres and semiconductor investment.

चर्चाओं में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता, डेटा सेंटर और सेमीकंडक्टर निवेश पर भी विचार किया गया।

Technology areas discussed

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) — कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता
- Data Centres — डेटा सेंटर
- Semiconductors — सेमीकंडक्टर
- Advanced Telecommunications — उन्नत दूरसंचार

5G vs 6G

Feature	5G	6G (Expected)
Generation	Fifth	Sixth
Speed	Very High	Extremely High
Latency	Low	Ultra-low
AI Integration	Limited	Deeply Integrated
Connectivity	Humans + Devices	Humans + Devices + Intelligent Machines

Important Facts for Exams

Remember These

- **Initiative:** Global 6G Network Initiative
- **India joined:** 7 September 2026
- **Partner countries:** United States + 24 others
- **Technology:** 6G telecommunications
- **Related G20 meeting:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- **Meeting dates:** 1–2 September 2026
- **Indian ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Consider the following statements:

1. India joined the Global 6G Network Initiative on 7 September 2026.
2. The initiative includes only G20 countries.
3. The initiative focuses on security and technological innovation.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1 and 3 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

India Hosts 18th BRICS Summit 2026

English

Summit → 18th BRICS Summit

Host/Chair → India

Year → 2026

Venue city → New Delhi

BRICS Chairship began → **1 January 2026**

Theme → **Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**

Four keywords → **R-I-C-S**

हिन्दी

सम्मेलन → 18वाँ BRICS Summit

मेजबान/अध्यक्ष → भारत

वर्ष → 2026

शहर → नई दिल्ली

भारत की अध्यक्षता → **1 जनवरी 2026 से**

थीम → **Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation और Sustainability के लिए निर्माण**

चार Keywords → **R-I-C-S**

- India's BRICS 2026 theme is extremely MCQ-friendly:

- R → Resilience

- I → Innovation

- C → Cooperation

- S → Sustainability

- “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”

- “Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation और Sustainability के लिए निर्माण।”

- The theme reflects India's people-centric and “humanity-first” approach to multilateral cooperation.

यह Theme बहुपक्षीय सहयोग के प्रति भारत के People-Centric और “Humanity-First” दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाती है।

Original/Core

BR Brazil

RU Russia

IN India

CN China

ZA South Africa

Expanded Members

EG Egypt

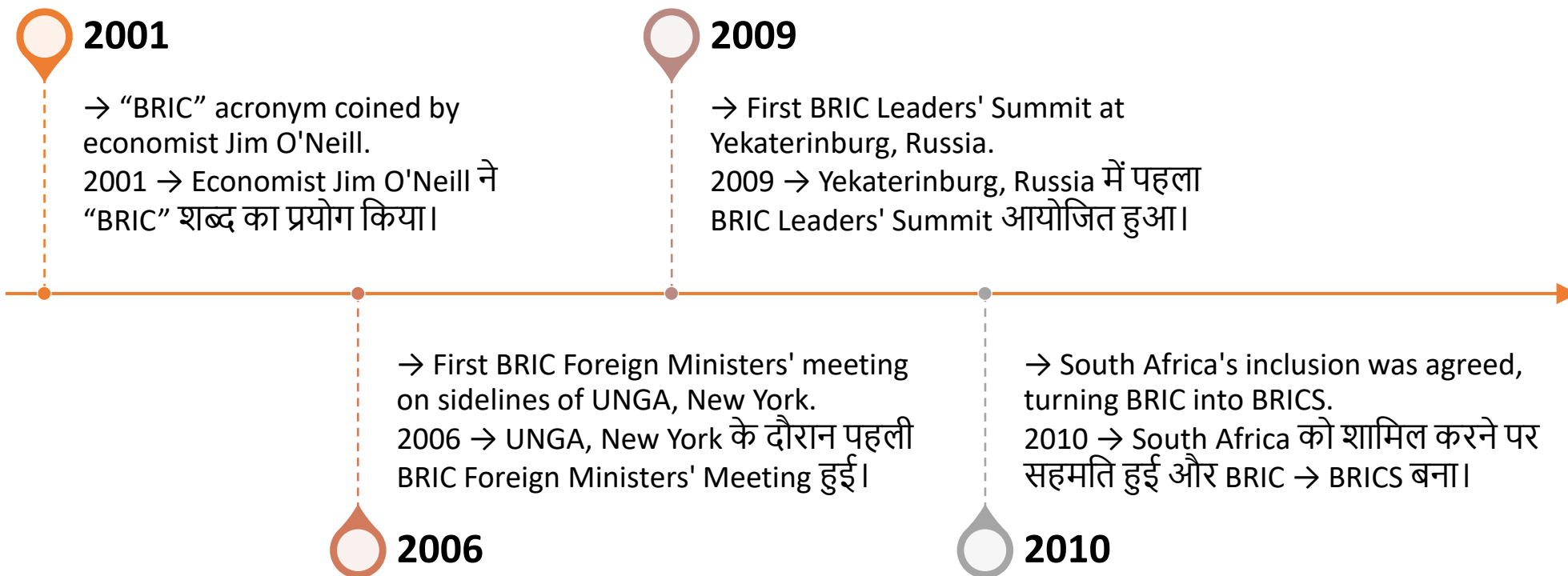
ET Ethiopia

ID Indonesia

IR Iran

AE United Arab Emirates

SA Saudi Arabia*





- 2012 → New Delhi Summit

2016 → Goa Summit

2021 → Virtual Summit

2026 → Current Chairship

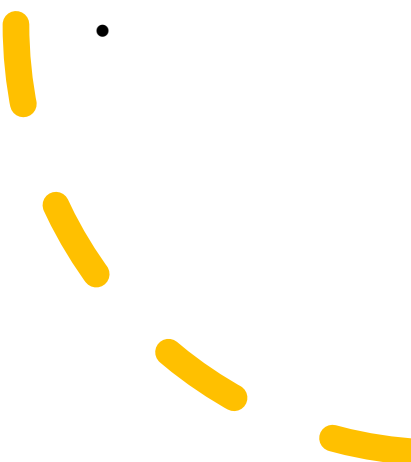
- भारत 2012, 2016 और 2021 में भी BRICS की अध्यक्षता कर चुका है और 2026 में पुनः अध्यक्ष है।

- The 2021 Indian chairship used the theme:

- “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.”

“BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.”

-



The BRICS India 2026 logo uses colourful petals representing BRICS members around an Indian-inspired central motif. BRICS India 2026 Logo में BRICS सदस्यों को दर्शाने वाली रंगीन पंखुड़ियाँ भारतीय प्रेरित केंद्रीय आकृति के चारों ओर दिखाई गई हैं।

The central “Namaste” imagery represents India's warmth, respect and harmonious collaboration.
केंद्र की “Namaste” आकृति भारत की Warmth, Respect और Harmonious Collaboration को दर्शाती है।

WION



BRICS
INDIA 2026

**INDIA UNVEILS THE
OFFICIAL BRICS 2026
LOGO, FEATURING A
LOTUS CROWNED WITH
A NAMASTE**

BRICS	G7	G20
Emerging/developing-power grouping	Major advanced economies	Major advanced + emerging economies
India → Member	India → Not member	India → Member
China → Member	China → Not member	China → Member
NDB associated with BRICS	No comparable G7 development bank	No “G20 Bank”
Global South relevance high	Advanced-economy grouping	Broader global economic forum

Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

BRICS के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. India holds the BRICS Chairship in 2026.

1. भारत 2026 में BRICS की अध्यक्षता कर रहा है।

2. The theme of India's chairship includes Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

2. भारत की अध्यक्षता की Theme में Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation और Sustainability शामिल हैं।

3. The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.

3. New Development Bank का मुख्यालय Shanghai में है।

4. South Africa was a member of the original BRIC grouping from its inception.

4. South Africa शुरुआत से ही मूल BRIC का सदस्य था।

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7 SEPT – 13 SEPT

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FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

Word of the day

Pernickety:

characterised by excessive precision and attention to trivial details

Synonym: fastidious

Usage: *He is too pernickety about minor issues to see the bigger picture.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pernickety

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pə'nɪk.ɪ.ti/



Thank you ☺

