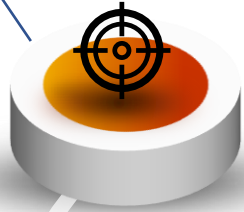


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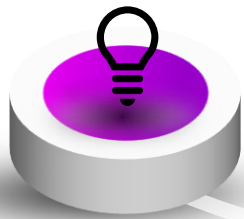
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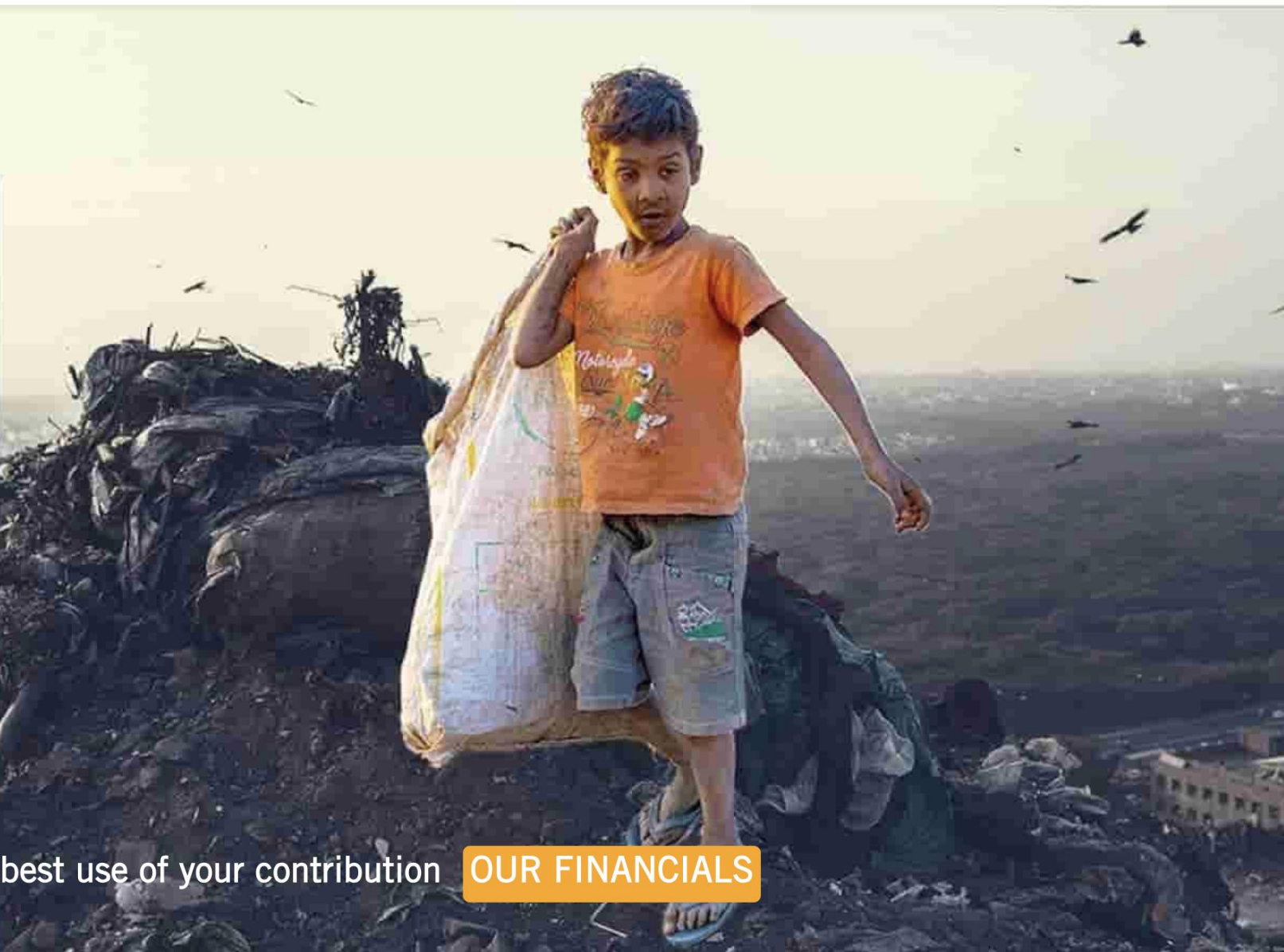
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**One swallow does not  
make a summer, neither  
does one fine day; similarly  
one day or brief time of  
happiness does not make a  
person entirely happy.**

Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

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**KARGIL WAR ANNIVERSARY**  
**PM backs Agnipath scheme, warns Pak.**  
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**INSIDE**



**Defamation case filed for cheap publicity: Rahul**

**LUCKNOW**  
The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, appeared before an MP/MLA court in Sultanpur on Friday in a defamation case filed by local BJP leader Vijay Mishra. Mr. Gandhi alleged that the case was filed to gain "cheap publicity". » PAGE 4

**AAI flags rise in fires at airports, issues advisory**

**CHENNAI**  
The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a safety advisory expressing concern over the recent increase in fire accidents at airport buildings. The Directorate of Aviation Safety, AAI, used to send employees and air traffic services to scrupulously follow the Standard Operating Procedure set to prevent and respond to fires. » PAGE 8

**Will not be silent on Gaza, Harris tells Netanyahu**

**WASHINGTON**  
Kamala Harris signalled a major shift in U.S. Gaza policy on Thursday, with the presidential hopeful telling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to seal a peace deal and insisting she would not be "silent" on the suffering in the Palestinian enclave. Ms. Harris added, "What has happened in Gaza over the past nine months is devastating." » PAGE 2

**Let the Games begin**



A billion hopes: The Indian contingent sails down the Seine at the Opening Ceremony of the Paris Olympics on Friday. AFP

**After arson attacks on rail Network, show by the Seine rolls out in Paris**

**Associated Press**

Celebrating its reputation as a cradle of revolution, Paris kicked off its first Summer Olympics in a century on Friday with a rule-breaking opening ceremony studded with stars and fantasy, showcasing the city's resilience as authorities dealt with suspected acts of sabotage that targeted the country's high-speed rail network. Widespread travel disruptions triggered by what French officials said were coordinated arson attacks on high-speed rail lines in Paris had dampened the mood ahead of the ceremony. But as global audiences tuned in, the show's spectacular launch lifted spirits. A humorous short film

featured football icon Zinedine Zidane. Phrases of French blue, white and red smoke followed. And Lady Gaga sang. In French, with dancers shaking pink plumed pomps, adding a cabaret feel. Crowds crammed along the Seine and those watching from balconies "ooohed" as Olympic teams began parading in boats. The stakes for France were immense. Dozens of heads of state and government were in town and the world was watching as Paris turned itself into a giant theatre. Rains that soaked spectators and athletes heightened the risks of Pa-

ris' bold choices. The sprawling ceremony gave organisers bigger crowds to transport, organise and safeguard than would have been the case if they had followed the example of previous Olympic host cities that opened with stadium shows. "Of course, when you organise an outdoor spectacle, you prefer good weather," said Paris Games' chief organiser, Tony Estanguet. But the ceremony "was thought out so it can be held in the rain," he said. Organisers who followed advice to arrive well ahead of time

along the ceremony route turned over long waits to get to their seats. "Paris has been great, anything to do with the Olympics and dissemination of information has been horrible," said Tony Gawne, a 54-year-old Texan who turned up six hours in advance with his wife. When you spend \$6,000 on two tickets, well, that's a little frustrating. Award-winning theatre director Thomas Jolly, the show's creative mind, used the Paris cityscape as the playground for his imagination. His task: tell the story of France, its people and its history in a way that leaves an indelible imprint on Olympic audiences.

**SC will examine if Governors' actions 'subvert' federalism**

The court's decision comes on a petition by Kerala over the Governor sitting on crucial Bills and eventually referring them to the President

**Krishnakumar Rajasgopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine if Governors, by indefinitely sitting on crucial Bills only to eventually refer them to the President who solely acts on the advice of the Centre, are opening the doors for Union interference in the legislative domain of States, thereby subverting federalism. The decision of the court to intervene came in a petition filed by the State of Kerala which brought into focus the role of its Governor, who kept Bills pending for two years before referring several of them for the consideration of the President, who has no discretion and entirely depends on the aid and advice of the Centre. The President had subsequently withheld consent to four of the President's legislative Bills had dealt with Centre-State relations.

**Withholding assent**  
Kerala, represented by senior advocates K.K. Venugopal, Jaideep Gupta and advocate C.K. Sanil, said the Governor should have returned the Bills, which dealt with amendments to State cooperative societies, Lokayukta and university laws, to the State Legislature and the Home Ministry, "as far as possible" and given reasons for his objections. Instead, the Governor had sat on them. He delegitimised the "benefits of the welfare



The machinations of the Governor saw the Centre take decisions on issues exclusively coming within the ambit of the State's legislative domain.

legislation" before referring the seven Bills to the President in November last year without mentioning the time-lapse. Kerala said the Centre had withheld assent on four Bills without assigning any reasons. Thus, the State said, the machinations of the Governor saw the Centre take decisions on issues exclusively coming within the ambit of the State's legislative domain. It argued that the Governor's power to reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President is limited and confined to specific circumstances detailed in the Constitution to Article 213 of the Constitution. Chief Justice Chandrachud said the court would look into "when Governors can refer Bills to the President". The next hearing of the case has been postponed on August 20. The court issued notice to the Additional Secretary to the Kerala Governor and the Home Ministry. "The actions of the Governor subvert the delicate balance envisaged by the Constitution between the three organs of State, by rendering the functioning of the elected executive, which has drafted and introduced the Bills, and then the State Legislature, which has passed the Bills, wholly ineffective and otiose. The actions of the Governor also subvert the federal structure of the Constitution, by reserving for the President (acting on the aid and advice of the Union Cabinet) Bills which are wholly within the domain of the State under the Constitution," the State of Kerala argued. "This is a sad state of affairs. The Supreme Court should step in and tell the Governor when they can refuse Bills and when they can refer them to the President... Otherwise, the Constitution is being rendered otiose," Mr. Venugopal addressed the Bench. The court similarly issued notice to the Home Ministry and the Secretary to the West Bengal Governor. The Chief Justice asked Mr. Venugopal, Mr. Gupta and senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the State of West Bengal along with advocate Astha Sharma, to meet and frame the legal issues to be decided by the court.

**17 candidates secure perfect scores as NTA declares final results of NEET-UG**

**Maithi Porocha**  
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday released the final results of the National Eligibility cum-Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical and paramedical courses. Seventeen candidates scored 720 out of 720 to share the top rank, down from 67 in the first version of the results released on June 4. The latest results were published after the SC asked the NTA to deduct marks for a physics question that had two 'correct' answers. The second version of the results was released on July 1 after conducting a retest for 1,563 candidates, of whom only 812 opted to appear, and the third iteration was issued on July 20 in a format prescribed by the SC. Four of the 17 toppers



Massive protests: Students protest over the paper leak case outside the Education Ministry in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KALIDEP

are from Rajasthan, two from Maharashtra, two each from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Bihar, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Chandigarh. Six score 716 during the exam at select centres. Forty-four candidates had scored 720 on account of an ambiguity created by

**One more held in paper leak case**

**PATNA**  
The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested one more accused from Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Friday in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case. This is the 7th arrest in the case in Jharkhand and Bihar. Documents and few phones were recovered. » PAGE 5

the physics question. The court had ruled that five marks be deducted from all students who had answered the question as per the old NCERT book. The number of qualifying candidates has also dipped by 415 in the final results. Of the 2,33,162 candidates who had taken the test, 13,15,853 have qualified. According to the results issued on June 4, 13,16,268 had qualified.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday reasoned that laws should apply equally to all and in every part of the country while countering Uttar Pradesh's argument that its directive to shop owners and staff along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their names was in line with a "Central law". The court said that Justice Hrishikesh Roy and S.V.N. Bhatti refused to rethink the court's earlier stay on the implementation of the directive by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and extended the stay orders till August 5. Uttar Pradesh, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, said that there was nothing wrong in ordering shop owners and their staff along the yatra route to prominently exhibit their names outside their establishments.



Pilgrims' yeegas: 'Kamawariyal' carry sacred water from the Ganga river as part of the yatra in Haridwar on Friday. PTI

"It is a requirement by law. Your Lordships' order staying the directive by Uttar Pradesh law," Mr. Rohatgi claimed. "Then, enforce it all across and not in only certain areas. You can file an affidavit showing you have enforced it everywhere." Justice Roy returned. "Issued in all festivals" Mr. Rohatgi asked for an early date for a detailed hearing of the case. Uttarakhnd Deputy Advocate General Jatinder Singh said that similar directives were issued in "all festivals". He added that the directive was an antidote against "law and order problems". An applicant, who introduced himself as a devotee, claimed that in Murad farnagar, there were cases in which names named after Hindu deities but serve non-vegetarian food. He said that he had a right to his choice of food and beliefs. Justice Roy agreed about his right and said that the court had not stopped any shopkeeper from voluntarily displaying his name. The Bench said the order was only meant as a shop guard against authorities compelling shopkeepers to put up nameplates. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra, submitted that Uttar Pradesh, in its affidavit, "accepts the discriminatory nature of the directive, but admits it is only temporary". Mr. Singhvi, along with other senior advocates appearing for the petitioners, said that the response of the Uttar Pradesh government to their pleas had only reached them on July 25. They sought more time to study the response and urged the court to adjourn the hearing.

**Pakistan rejects Modi's Kargil Vijay Diwas speech as 'rhetoric'**

**Press Trust of India**  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Friday rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at an event at Dras in Ladakh as "rhetorical statements" and said it cannot deflect international attention from India's efforts to "suppress" the Kashmiri people.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, the "rhetorical statements by the Indian leaders cannot deflect international attention from India's heavy-handed approach to suppress the Kashmiri people's just struggle for realisation of their fundamental rights and freedoms". "Bravado and hypocrisy cannot determine regional peace, and are totally counter-productive for resolution of longstanding disputes between Pakistan and India, especially the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir", the Foreign Office (FO) said.

It stated that Pakistan stands resolute in its intent and ability to safeguard its sovereignty against any aggression. "While Pakistan is ready to counter India's aggressive actions, it remains committed to promoting peace and stability in the region," it added.

**PM defends Agnipath scheme on anniversary of Kargil War**

The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young and keep it continuously fit for war, says Modi as he slams Congress for opposing the scheme; he calls out Pakistan's support to proxy war in J&K

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
KARGIL

Speaking on the 25th anniversary of the 1999 Kargil War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday defended the Agnipath scheme and targeted the Opposition for its criticism of the scheme.

He also warned Pakistan of "a befitting reply" for its continuous support to terrorism and the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Agnipath scheme is an example of the necessary reforms done by the Army. For some people, the Army was meant for saluting politicians and parades. But the Army means the faith of 140 crore patriots. The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young, to keep the Army continuously fit for war," Mr. Modi said.

Referring to the Opposition's criticism of the Agnipath scheme, Mr. Modi said, "Unfortunately, people have made such a sensible issue related to national security a subject of politics. These are not the same people who weakened our Army by committing to thousands of crores in the region," it added.



In memoriam: Narendra Modi pays homage at the Kargil War Memorial on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, in Dras, on Friday. PTI

wanted the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be self-reliant. They never wanted Tejas to be introduced in the IAF."

Mr. Modi targeted the Congress for its failure to meet the demands of the armed forces in the past. "The Congress failed to meet the demands of forces, including the Army and the Air Force. These demands fell on the deaf ears in the past. There was a huge yearning for reforms. Our government took a step to listen to the forces and today we have a list of 5,000 weapons that are no longer being exported from outside," he said.

The Prime Minister also called out Pakistan's support to the proxy war in

Jammu and Kashmir and said the enemy would be given a befitting reply. The remarks came against the backdrop of growing terrorist attacks in the Jammu region.

"Pakistan has failed in all its nefarious attempts in the past. Pakistan, however, has not learnt from history. It is trying to keep itself relevant by supporting terrorism and proxy war. I am speaking from a place where the masters of terror can hear my voice directly. I want to tell these patrons of terrorism that their nefarious intentions will never succeed. Our soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister paid homage to war heroes at the Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Kargil district.

Mr. Modi recalled the Indian Army's operation launched in the high-altitude peaks of the region. "India wanted peace but the enemy showed its dual face. Finally, falsehood got defeated. The victory in the Kargil War showed our commitment towards our nation and the valour of our brave forces. Our forces successfully executed the operation despite the extreme and challenging battle conditions," he said.

He said the land of Kargil was witness to the supreme sacrifices made by the brave soldiers 25 years ago. "The names of those who offered their lives for this land will remain alive forever," he said.

He pledged that India will defeat every challenge that comes in the way of development of Ladakh and J&K.

"It will be five years since Article 370 was abolished in August. J&K is starting a bright future, talking about big dreams. Besides infrastructure development, the tourism sector is also growing rapidly in Ladakh and J&K."

**Modi's claim 'blatant lie', an insult to our armed forces, says Kharge**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of doing "petty politics" even on the occasion of paying tributes to the martyrs on Kargil Vijay Diwas, referring to the Prime Minister's defence of the Agnipath scheme as one that was launched at the behest of the armed forces.

Mr. Modi's claim that his government implemented the Agnipath scheme at the behest of the Army was "a blatant lie and an unforgivable insult" to the armed forces, he said.

"Modi, it is you who are spreading LIES! Former army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd) has said on record that 75% of recruits were to be taken for permanency in the Agnipath scheme and 25% of people were to be let go after 4 years. But the Modi government did the opposite and forcibly implemented this scheme for all three armed forces," he said.

BJP chief J.P. Nadda, however, hit back at the Congress, saying, "Unfortunately, for some people politics is their first and national interest takes the back seat."

**Congress ignored needs of our armed forces: Vaishnav**

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwin Vaishnav on Friday hit out at the Congress, accusing the party of ignoring the needs of the armed forces and making them dependent on imports. It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was taking the lead on the path of self-reliance, he said.

Addressing reporters in the national capital, Mr. Vaishnav said the country,

under Mr. Modi's leadership, had taken huge strides in the defence sector by ushering in structural reforms, giving preference to indigenous production of arms and equipment, and encouraging exports.

"During the Congress rule, the Defence Minister used to question the need for building border roads, while the leadership of Narendra Modi, more than 6,800 km of roads have been built along the armed forces," the Minister noted.

**Defamation case an attempt to gain 'cheap publicity', says Rahul Gandhi**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
LUCKNOW

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday appeared before an MP-MLA court at Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh in a defamation case. He said the case had been filed to gain "cheap publicity".

The Congress leader told the court that he had never made a statement against anyone which could lead to a case of defamation. He said the case had been filed by a defamatory remarks against the then BJP national presi-



Rahul Gandhi

dent Amit Shah. The court in the Rajghat area of Lucknow fixed August 12 as the next date of hearing, when the statement of the petitioner would be recorded, and the evidence would be taken.

Meets cobbler: Mr. Gandhi reached Lucknow in the morning and travelled by rail to meet a large number of Congress leaders and workers accompanying him.

On his way to Sultanpur, Mr. Gandhi visited a cobbler's shop for an interaction.

He had a chat with the main "Chait" and learned to mend shoes. Mr. Chait reportedly informed when the statement of his weak financial situation and sought help.

"Benevolent" towards Arun Jaitley: Mr. Gandhi stopped the car on the way to meet a family of cobbler. We are continuously fighting for the rights of the hard working people, raising issues and bringing them to the Parliament. Our aim is to make their present lot much better and the cobbler's shop for an interaction. The Congress party wrote in a post on X.

**'Bangladesh got... acting as if a foreign army is vading the country'**

Nobel Laureate and political rival of Sheikh Hasina says that there are standard procedures to handle protesters in a democracy where there is rule of law; he calls for international community, particularly India, to use informal channels to cool down the situation over the demonstrations against the quota system and says another election may be necessary for order to be restored

**INTERVIEW**

**Muhammad Yunus**

**Sahaolul Haider**  
NEW DELHI

Nearly 200 have reportedly been killed in Bangladesh in the past few weeks of protests over the quota system. Speaking at the Nobel Laureate and Grameen Bank founder Muhammad Yunus appealed for the international community, and particularly India, to reach out to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to calm Mr. Yunus, a political rival of Ms. Hasina, says are politically motivated. He says another election may be warranted for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Give us a sense of what you've heard about the situation in Bangladesh.

It seems to be under control after the new Appellate Court verdict...

Well, it's not something that happened after I came here (to Paris, as special guest for the Olympics ceremony). It was there.

The issue is the government is treating the situation as if a foreign army is invading Bangladesh, mobilising the army and paramilitary to suppress the demonstrators with bullets. They are in the mood to defend them, not for bringing order. Why did they mobilise all those forces? It's your own citizens, young people from universities, the top one per cent of society who are ready to run the country. And you're killing them at random as if they are an invading force from another country! Shooting them on sight!

You have called for the international community to get involved. How exactly

would you like them to act?

I was not looking for any formal response. I was hoping that they can use their informal relationships and informal channels to reach out to our leaders, make them aware of the serious departure from the norm of democracy. As a friendly action, to pick them up and please say, "What's going on there?" The kind of things friends do for friends, some way of cooling it down which would be helpful in saving people's lives.

India has already made a statement saying that this is an external matter of Bangladesh.

You may say this in public as a public figure, but you can still use your friendship privately. PMs may be talking to each other if they see that something is going wrong.

We still have the dream of SAARC. We help each other. We make things ea-

sier for each other. There are natural bonds among us. If something happens in one country it can happen in another country with ease.

In India, the concern about the protests over 1971 quotas is that they are also fuelling anti-India sentiments.

Do you think that's true?

That will be stretching the imagination too far. The quota movement has not the slightest touch regarding the relationship between Bangladesh and India. The issue is

rule of law and practice of democracy in Bangladesh. The quota system takes away from it for our convenience.

All the media should come and see what is happening. First, I think that they (Bangladesh government) did do to close down everything without the consent of the people... You cannot just pick up somebody because he belongs to Opposition party, so he is liable to be arrested.

The government has filed several cases against you. Is the fight with Ms. Hasina personal?

These cases are also a failure of the rule of law. The accusations against me are about embezzlement, bribery, and money laundering—these are government accusations. These are totally fabricated stories, all sure it's a general election, not an election of a leader and a baseless. It is to harass me. In a labour law violation

**IN BRIEF**



**ASEAN cornerstone of India's Act East Policy: Jaishankar**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific vision, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, as he sought to expand cooperation with the bloc.

Mr. Jaishankar was in the Laotian capital of Vientiane to participate in the meeting of ASEAN members. In his remarks at the opening session of the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting, he said, "The current political, economic and security cooperation with ASEAN is of the utmost priority so is the people-to-people linkages, that we are constantly seeking to expand."

Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Laos was of particular significance as this year marked a decade of India's Act East Policy, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

**Mosques covered on Kanwar Yatra route in Haridwar**

Facades of two mosques and a mazzar along the Kanwar Yatra route in Uttarakhand's Haridwar on Friday covered with large sheets of white cloth to "prevent trouble" but uncovered by the evening after objections from various groups. The sheets were hung on bamboo scaffolding in front of two mosques and a mazzar, all in the walled-up area. The mosque's caretakers said they were not aware of any administrative order in this regard and claimed this was for the first time that such a step had been taken during the yatra. Though the Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate were not available for comment, Minister Satpal Maharaj told reporters that it was done to maintain peace. "Any such thing is done only to prevent trouble," he said.

**Congress questions Centre's 'fiscal mismanagement' in J&K**

The Congress on Friday accused the Centre of "unprecedented fiscal mismanagement" in Jammu and Kashmir. Jai Ram Ramesh asked why Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was "benevolent" towards Arun Jaitley in Bihar but not to the Union Territory. He claimed that the Budget document revealed "astounding details". "The FM got approval from Parliament to borrow ₹12,000 crore last year. This year, ₹10,000 crore. Borrowings have risen five times in the last two years. This is unprecedented fiscal mismanagement," he said. "The fiscal deficit which was pegged at 6.9% has turned out to be 5.36% in FY24. Capex has been slashed by 10%," he said.

**In January 2024, isn't calling for resignations undemocratic?**

We have committed ourselves to democracy and to stay with democracy. Whether you're elected or you're not elected, you are abusing your position without the consent of the people... You cannot just pick up somebody because he belongs to Opposition party, so he is liable to be arrested.

**Are you suggesting another election?**

Of course, election is the ultimate solution of all political problems. When something is going wrong, you go back to the people to seek their consent. They are the ultimate owners of the country. Make sure it's a general election, not an election of a leader and a baseless. It is to harass me. In a labour law violation



# PM defends Agnipath scheme on anniversary of Kargil War

The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young and keep it continuously fit for war, says Modi as he slams Congress for opposing the scheme; he calls out Pakistan's support to proxy war in J&K

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
KARGIL

Speaking on the 25th anniversary of the 1999 Kargil War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday defended the Agnipath scheme and targeted the Opposition for its criticism of the scheme.

He also warned Pakistan of “a befitting reply” for its continuous support to terrorism and the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

“The Agnipath scheme is an example of the necessary reforms done by the Army. For some people, the Army was meant for saluting politicians and parades. But the Army means the faith of 140 crore countrymen. The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young, to keep the Army continuously fit for war,” Mr. Modi said.

Referring to the Opposition's criticism of the Agnipath scheme, Mr. Modi said, “Unfortunately, people have made such a sensitive issue related to national security a subject of politics. These are the same people who weakened our Army by committing scams worth thousands of crores in the Army. These people never



**In memoriam:** Narendra Modi pays homage at the Kargil War Memorial on the occasion of ‘Vijay Diwas’, in Dras, on Friday. PTI

wanted the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be self-reliant. They never wanted Tejas to be introduced in the IAF.”

Mr. Modi targeted the Congress for its failure to meet the demands of the armed forces in the past. “The Congress failed to meet the demands of forces, including the Army and the Air Force. These demands fell on the deaf ears in the past. There was a huge yearning for reforms. Our government took a step to listen to the forces and today we have a list of 5,000 weapons that are no longer being exported from outside,” he said.

The Prime Minister also called out Pakistan's support to the proxy war in

Jammu and Kashmir and said the enemy would be given a befitting reply. The remarks came against the backdrop of growing terrorist attacks in the Jammu region.

“Pakistan has failed in all its nefarious attempts in the past. Pakistan, however, has not learnt from history. It is trying to keep itself relevant by supporting terrorism and proxy war. I am speaking from a place where the masters of terror can hear my voice directly. I want to tell these patrons of terrorism that their nefarious intentions will never succeed. Our soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply,” Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister paid homage to war heroes at the Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Kargil district.

Mr. Modi recalled the Indian Army's operations launched in the high-altitude peaks of the region. “India wanted peace but the enemy showed its dual face. Finally, falsehood got defeated. The victory in the Kargil War showed our commitment towards our nation and the valour of our brave forces. Our forces successfully executed the operation despite the extreme and challenging battle conditions,” he said.

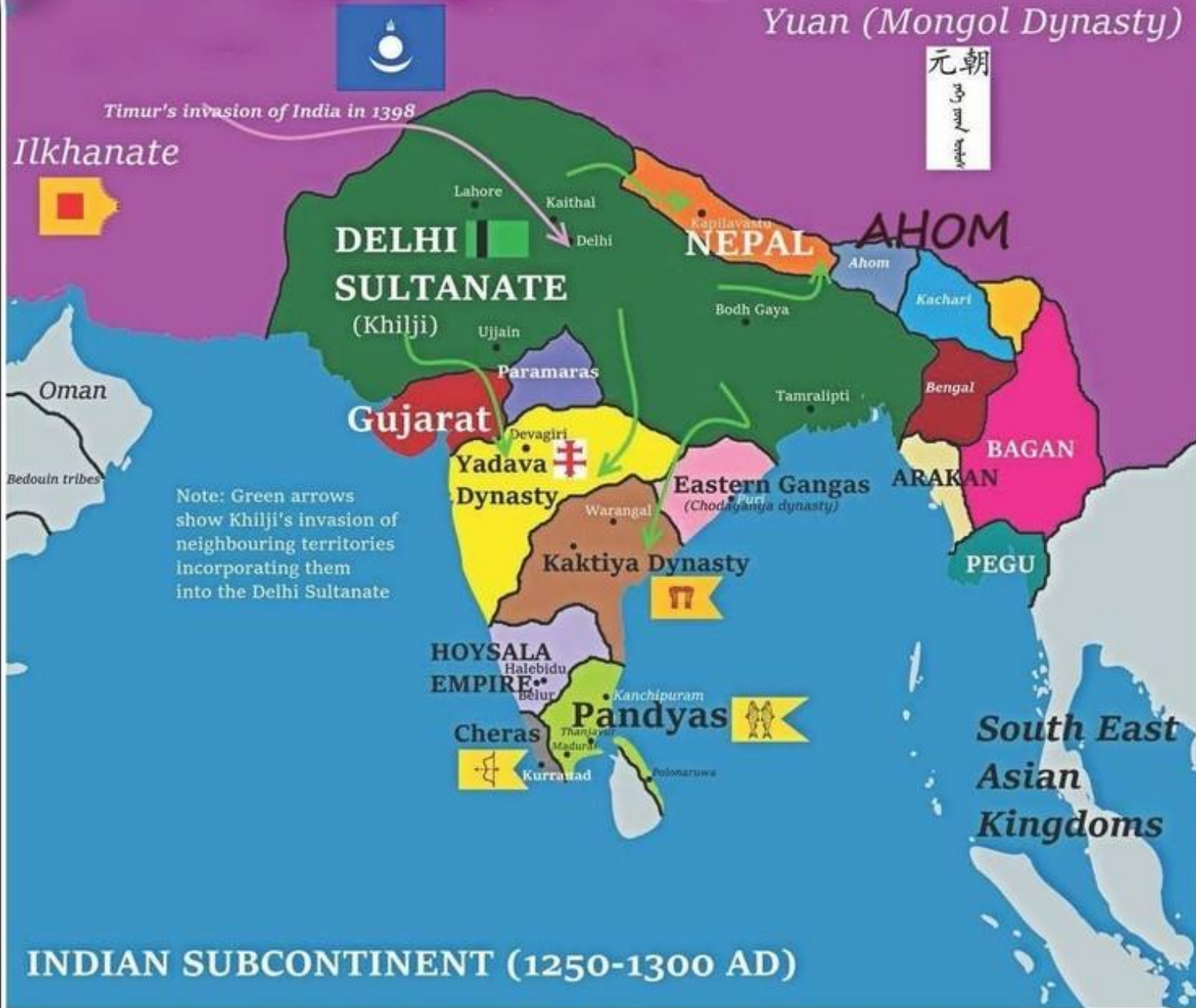
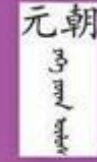
He said the land of Kargil was witness to the supreme sacrifices made by the bravehearts 25 years ago. “The names of those who offered their lives for this land will remain alive forever,” he said.

He pledged that India will defeat every challenge that comes in the way of development of Ladakh or J&K.

“It will be five years since Article 370 was abolished in August. J&K is starting at a bright future, talking about big dreams. Besides infrastructure development, the tourism sector is also growing rapidly in Ladakh and J&K.”

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT (1250-1300AD)- AHOM INCURSIONS

Yuan (Mongol Dynasty)



Ilkhanate



Timur's invasion of India in 1398

DELHI  
SULTANATE  
(Khilji)

Lahore

Kaithal

Delhi

NEPAL

AHOM

Ahom

Kachari

Bodh Gaya

Tamralipti

Bengal

BAGAN

ARAKAN

PEGU

Gujarat

Paramaras

Yadava  
Dynasty

Devagiri

Warangal

Kaktiya Dynasty

Eastern Gangas  
(Chodvanga dynasty)

HOYSALA  
EMPIRE

Halebidu

Belur

Cheras

Kurranad

Pandyas

Kanchipuram

Thanjavur

Madurai

Polonnaruwa

South East  
Asian  
Kingdoms

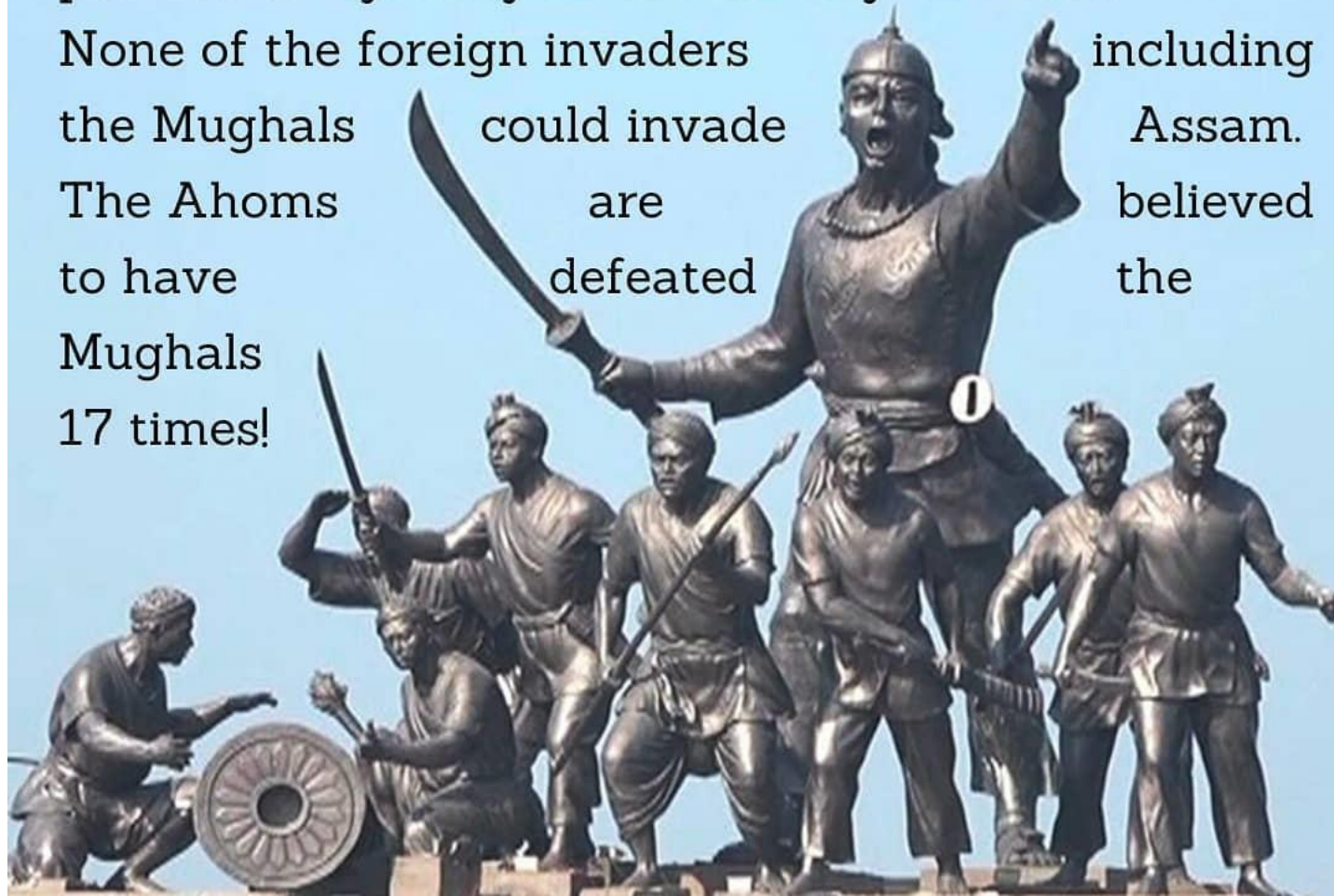
Note: Green arrows  
show Khilji's invasion of  
neighbouring territories  
incorporating them  
into the Delhi Sultanate

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT (1250-1300 AD)

# Did You Know?

The Ahom dynasty ruled over Assam for over 600 years, the longest continuous rule by a particular dynasty in the history of India.

None of the foreign invaders including the Mughals could invade Assam. The Ahoms are believed to have defeated the Mughals 17 times!





# ***Agnipath Scheme***

- Age - 17½ - 21 Years
- Duration of service four years including training period
- 1st year salary package of ₹4.76 lakhs (approx.) with upgradation of up to ₹6.92 lakhs (approx.) in 4th year
- Post Release – Seva Nidhi Package of approx ₹11.71 Lakhs including interest (Tax Free)
- Non Contributory Insurance Cover of ₹48 Lakh
- Agniveer Skill Certificate - assist in post release job opportunities

# PAY & BENEFITS: WHAT THE AGNIVEERS GET

- In Hand (70%)
- Contribution to Seva Nidhi (30%)\*

Similar contribution to corpus fund by Government of India\*\*

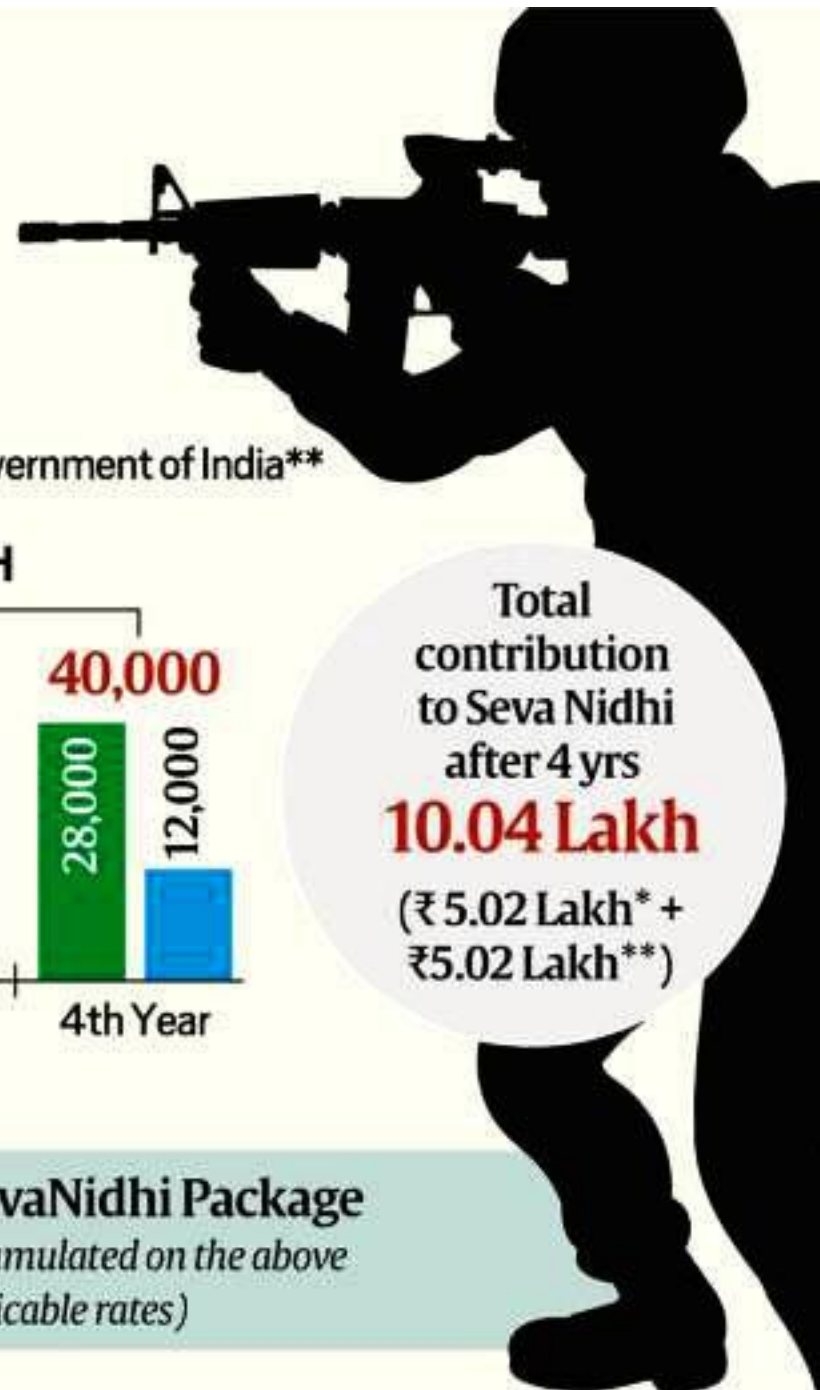


All figures in ₹ (Monthly Contribution)

Total contribution to Seva Nidhi after 4 yrs  
**10.04 Lakh**  
(₹ 5.02 Lakh\* + ₹5.02 Lakh\*\*)

**Exit After 4 Years**

**₹11.71 Lakh as SevaNidhi Package**  
(Including interest accumulated on the above amount as per the applicable rates)



# India has more troops than China but far fewer aircraft and vessels

Country-wise comparison in 2021



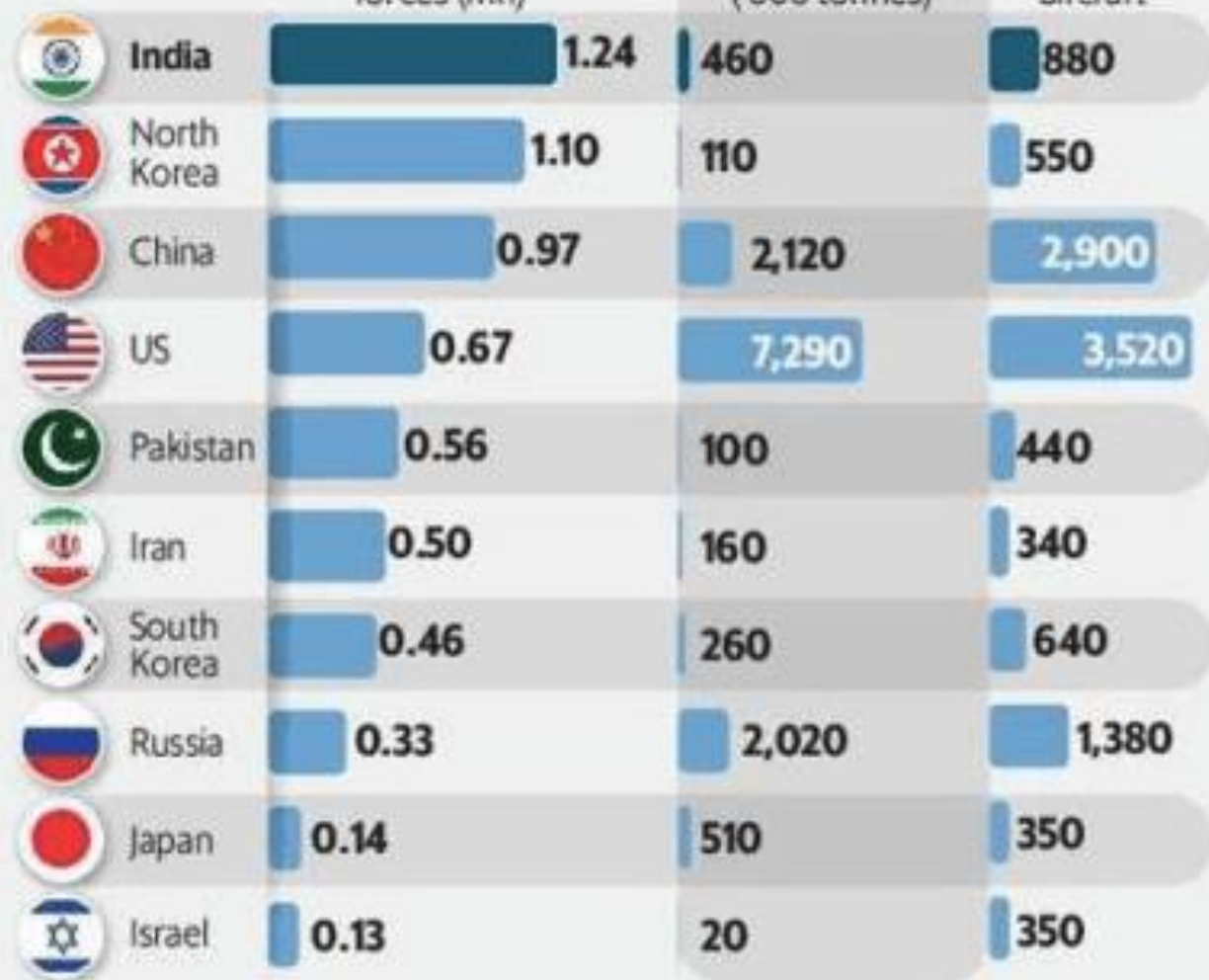
Ground forces (mn)



Naval vessels (000 tonnes)



Combat aircraft



**IN BRIEF**



**Heavy rain floods parts of Gujarat; IMD issues red alert**

Around 2,500 people were rescued and more than 18,000 were shifted to safer locations in areas affected by floods caused by incessant rain in south Gujarat and Saurashtra regions. The IMD has issued a red alert in a few places while an orange alert has been issued in the districts in south Gujarat region. So far, around 12 people have died in rain-related incidents in the State in the past one week. Severe flooding and damage to properties have been reported in 13 districts, including Tapi, Dang, Surat, Navsari and Dwaraka. The Purua river in south Gujarat is now flowing above the danger mark. Twelve teams of the NDRF have been deployed for rescue operations.

**India, U.S. sign agreement to protect cultural heritage**

India and the U.S. on Friday signed a cultural property agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation to protect cultural heritage of both countries. Cultural property agreements prevent illegal trade of cultural property and simplify the process by which looted and stolen antiquities may be returned to their country of origin. The U.S.-India Cultural Property Agreement was signed by U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan in the presence of Minister of Culture, Anandiben Singh Shekhawat, the U.S. Embassy said. With this, India joins the list of 29 existing U.S.-bilateral cultural property agreement partners.

**AAI flags increase in fire accidents at airports, stresses need to follow SOP**

**S. Vijay Kumar**  
CHENNAI

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a safety advisory expressing concern over the recent increase in fire accidents at airport buildings. The safety advisory laid emphasis on following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to prevent and respond to fires.

The Directorate of Aviation Safety, AAI, urged all employees engaged in airport operations and air traffic services to scrupulously follow the SOP set for the purpose. The recent incidents of building fires at some of the international and domestic airports had raised concern about the maintenance and operation of fire prevention equipment, preparedness of the staff to deal with contingency situa-

Fires were preventable if proper safety measures were put in place, the AAI said.

tion, and storage of inflammable materials, it said.

Fire in a terminal building could create chaos and result in loss of life and/or flight disruption at an airport.

On the other hand, fire in operational buildings housing navigational equipment could lead to contingency situation not

**CBI arrests one more in NEET paper leak case**

**Amrit Bhalari**  
PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested one more accused, Pawan Kumar, from Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Friday in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case. This is the 37th arrest in the case in Jharkhand and Bihar.

The agency recovered a sack full of documents and a few phones from a pond based on information given by Mr. Pawan whose name surfaced during the interrogation of Amrit Kumar. Mr. Amrit was arrested from Dhanbad along with Aman Singh. Mr. Amrit told the investigators that Mr. Pawan had played a pivotal role in distributing the leaked question paper. After the CBI received information that Mr. Pawan was in his house in Dhanbad, a team reached the town on Friday and took him into custody.

He told the agency about the documents and phones along with other equipment that were thrown into a pond in Suddamh locality. The team took Mr. Pawan to the location, recovered the items, and left with him for Patna. The youth arrested from Dhanbad are linked to Ghatis School in Hazaribagh.

**Chargesheet filed against 7 accused in Pune car crash case**

**The 900-page police document names parents of the minor accused, whose case is being handled separately by the Juvenile Justice Board**

**Press Trust of India**  
PUNE

Police in Pune have filed a chargesheet against seven accused, including the parents of a minor boy, who was allegedly behind the wheel, in a Pune car, more than two months after the fatal crash, an official said on Friday.

The 900-page chargesheet, submitted on Thursday in a sessions court, has excluded the 17-year-old boy, whose case is being handled separately by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), while the seven accused have been charged under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and causing disappearance of evidence, among others.

The high-end car allegedly driven by the minor under the influence of alcohol knocked down two motorbike-borne IT professionals, originally hailed from Madhya Pradesh, in Pune's Kalyani Nagar on the morning of May 19, killing one. The boy's father



A bouquet and posters at the accident spot in Kalyani Nagar in Pune where a luxury car had hit and killed two people. PTI PHOTO

is a prominent builder.

"We have filed a 900-page chargesheet against seven accused, including the parents of the minor, two doctors and a staffer from Sassoan General Hospital and two middlemen, in a Pune court on Thursday," said Shailesh Balkawade, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime).

The boy's parents and two Sassoan General Hospital doctors - Ajay Taware, then head of the forensic medicine department, and Dr. Shrihari Halnor and Atul Ghatkamble, a staffer at

the Maharashtra government-run medical facility, are accused of swapping the blood samples of the minor with those of his mother and a staffer from Sassoan General Hospital and two middlemen between the boy's father and the doctors to facilitate financial transactions to swap the blood samples, according to the chargesheet. Mr. Balkawade said the chargesheet contains a crash impact analysis report, technical evidence, forensic laboratory and DNA reports.



Indian Navy frigate INS Brahmaputra experience severe listing on the port side following a fire on Sunday. ANI

**Getting Navy frigate upright may take up to 3 months: official**

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

It may take up to three months to get INS Brahmaputra upright and on even keel, defence officials said. The frigate, which turned to a side after a fire on board on Sunday while it was undergoing a refit at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, has listed by about 40 to 45 degrees on the port side.

"The frigate turned to a side likely due to imbalance during the firefighting efforts with water. However, it has only listed at an angle and not entirely like in the case of INS Terwar," an official in the know said. A sailor was killed in the incident.

It is expected to take two to three months to get the ship upright and on even keel, the official said.

There is no major ingress of water into the ship, officials added. The preliminary assessment of the ship which will determine the manner of getting it upright will be carried out very soon. Once the ship is upright, the Navy will undertake a precise estimation of the damage to the ship and what needs to be done to make it fully operational and battleworthy again.

INS Terwar, also a Brahmaputra-class frigate, fell 20 degrees in the dry dock at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in December 2016. Two people were killed and 14 injured in the incident. The ship was made operational again in the first quarter of 2018.

For the salvage operation, global firms will need to be roped in, like in the past.

**Royal burial mounds of Assam now on UNESCO World Heritage List**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Charaideo Moidams, a 700-year-old mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty from Assam, were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on Friday, making them the 43rd property from India to be included in the prestigious index.

The announcement was made at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee being held in Beirut, Lebanon.

"This historic recognition brings global attention to the unique 700-year-old mound burial system of the Ahom kings at Charaideo, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Assam and Bharat," Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told the media after the announcement.

Similar to the pyramids of Egypt, the Moidams are earthen burial mounds of the members of the Ahom royalty whose 600-year rule was ended by the British takeover of the region.



An aerial view of the royal burial mounds built by the Ahom dynasty in Charaideo in eastern Assam. AP

The Ahoms adopted the Hindu method of cremation after the 18th century and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in Moidams at Charaideo. The highly generated

"THIS IS HUGE. The Moidams make it to the UNESCO World Heritage List under the category Cultural Property - a great win for Assam," said Union Minister Shri Gajendra Prasad Singh in a tweet. "The Moidams are an ancient form of burial, representing the rich cultural heritage of Assam," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on X.

He said the Charaideo Moidam embodies the deep spiritual belief, rich civilisational heritage, and architectural prowess of Assam's Tai-Ahom community.

The Moidams were nominated as India's official entry in 2023.

Of the 386 Moidams explored so far, 90 at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative, and most complete examples of this tradition.

**THE CROSSWORD 14238**  
(set by Gussalufa)

12 Bishop left wearing cross, sister is angry (8)  
13 Boy! Start fires in empty gutters and plant diseases? (10)  
15 Tough, but not over rough and tough (4)  
17 Architect's note (4)  
18 Running short race? Sprint, chasing time record (10)  
20 Regularly recurring acid dreams, weed, no electronic communications (3,5)  
22 Surprising raid, not? (6)  
24 Spots in secret Ft. resort (10)  
26 With last of cash gone, credit used for vehicle (4)  
27 The shy, deprived radicals (6)  
28 Asgud! Wild top ride along the edge of a street in LA (5)  
Down  
2 Will he? (Although not all there, and suffering) (3,6)  
3 Neck around noon naked (6)  
4 Point-blank shot strikes flying gun - part of a psychological test? (7)  
5 Result when one's put on tan foundation at night? (3)  
6 The ghost is less frequently seen in these regions? (7)  
7 One commenting on set, a, effectively (9)  
8 Gas with tiny mass, abbreviated? (5)  
9 Headgear from Punjab, and an amulet (7)  
10 Crooked agent pockets second case of every show's earnings (4-5)  
11 Hapazard international body criticised over Israel, finally (9)  
12 Distributed freely after deleting appallingly rude pieces? (7)  
13 Clip of space habitat welcomed by music after docking (7)  
15 Release electron stream (around speed of light) (5)  
16 Amidst bewilderment, one retreats to get four items (7)  
18 Some revolting chemicals in insect secretion (5)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqr.page.link/3pTn>

**SUDOKU**

2	4	5	4	1	3	8
7	3	2	5	6	9	
6	5	3	7	1		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE**

3	8	6	2	1	9	4	5	7
8	2	1	9	4	7	3	6	8
9	1	3	8	4	5	7	2	6
4	5	2	6	9	7	8	1	3
6	4	8	3	7	5	4	2	6
7	9	5	1	6	3	2	8	4

**FAITH**

**The way out of sins**

The tenets of Hinduism lay stress on concepts like heaven and hell, noble souls and sinners, good and bad deeds, world here and hereafter. Puranas say the tribulations that a person may undergo in the world of hell are indescribable. People may commit mistakes or sins through their minds, words or other physical faculties (manas, vak and karyam). Sri Kenava Valjapayer Swamy said if a person turns a talebearer, he incurs sins through the same.

For cleansing of our sins, various ways are suggested such as taking a dip in holy rivers such as the Ganga, fasting on Ekadasi, following dharma with steadfastness, regulation in food (Ahara Nyayam), pinning faith in Sastra, believing the words of learned men, controlling the mind and senses, and giving charity to good and deserving people. Vaishishtra asked grandiose Bhishma what was the best time to give charity, and Bhishma replied that whenever a pious person is seen, charity should be extended immediately.

For a person who is habitual in committing mistakes, he will the remedial measures (prayachitta) rescue him? It will be like an elephant sprinkling sand on its head after it has been given a bath. Our sins will be destroyed automatically like bamboo catching fire by friction in a gusty wind. But the same bamboo will grow again if it rains because the roots are not destroyed. By chanting the name of God (Om namah Shivayama), the evil effects of our sinful deeds will be completely uprooted.

With deep devotion, all our actions should be submitted to His satisfaction.

# Royal burial mounds of Assam now on UNESCO World Heritage List

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

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“This historic recognition brings global attention to the unique 700-year-old mound burial system of the Ahom kings at Charaideo, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Assam and Bharat,” Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told the media after the announcement.

Similar to the pyramids



An aerial view of the royal burial mounds built by the Ahom dynasty in Charaideo in eastern Assam. AP

of Egypt, the Moidams are earthen burial mounds of the members of the Ahom royalty whose 600-year rule was ended by the British takeover of the region.

The Ahoms adopted the Hindu method of cremation after the 18th century and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in Moidams at Charaideo.

The highly venerated

Moidams make the Charaideo district a tourist destination.

The Moidams are the first from the northeastern States to be recognised as a World Heritage Site in the cultural category. Assam has two other such sites in the natural category - Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, both upgraded to tiger reserves.

“THIS IS HUGE. The Moidams make it to the #UNESCO World Heritage list under the category Cultural Property - a great win for Assam. Thank You Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, Members of the @UNESCO World Heritage Committee and to the people of Assam,” Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on X.

He said the Charaideo Moidam embodies the deep spiritual belief, rich civilisational heritage, and architectural prowess of Assam’s Tai-Ahom community.

The Moidams were nominated as India’s official entry in 2023.

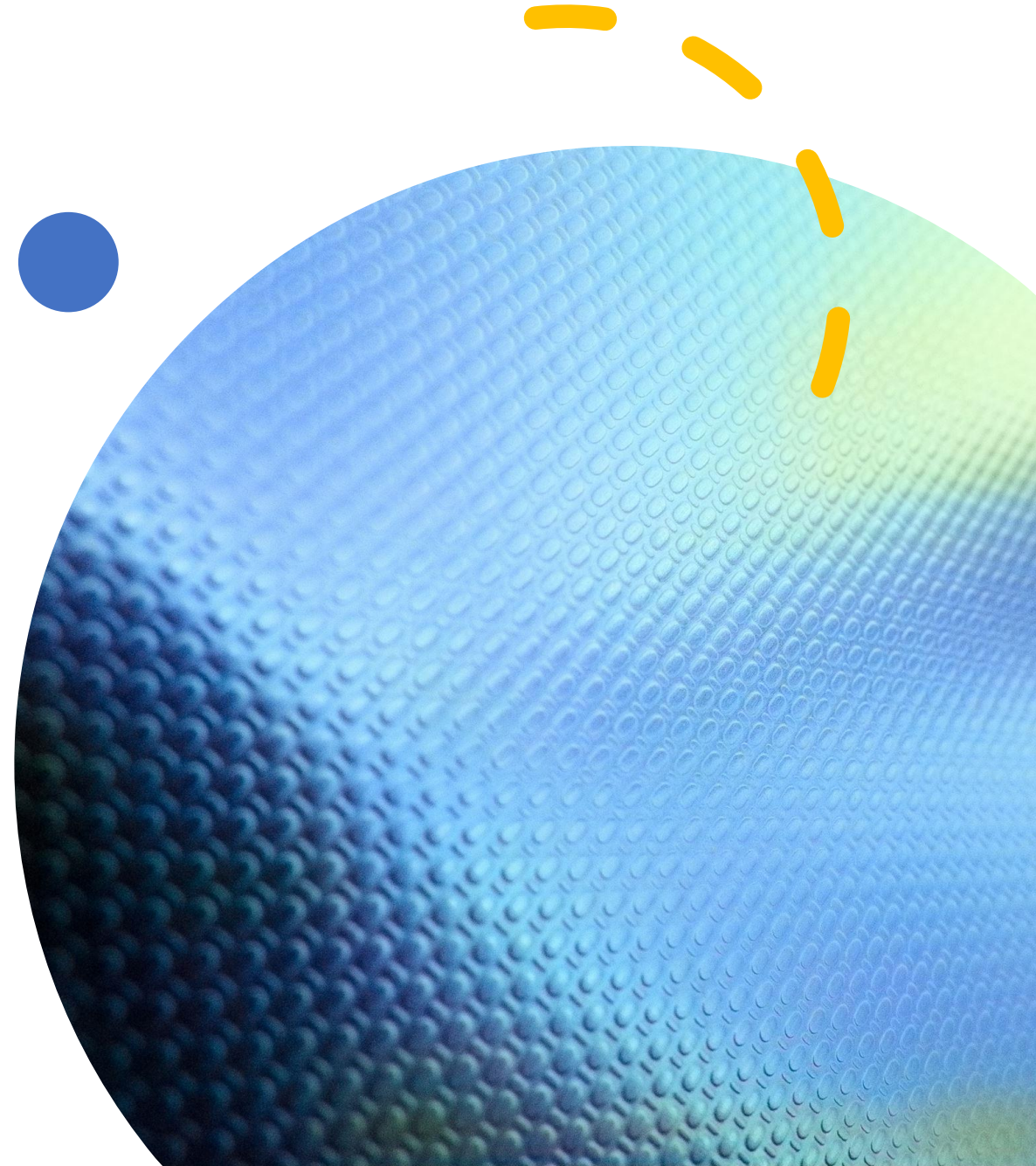
Of the 386 Moidams explored so far, 90 at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative, and most complete examples of this tradition.



## Introduction:

असम के शाही दफन टीले यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर सूची में शामिल

Royal burial mounds of Assam added to UNESCO World Heritage List



- **Charaideo Moidams:**

- चराideo मोड्डम, असम के अहोम वंश की 700 साल पुरानी माउंड-दफन प्रणाली
- Charaideo Moidams, a 700-year-old mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty
- ब्रिटिश कब्जे से पहले 600 साल का अहोम राजवंश
- 600 years of Ahom rule before British takeover

- **Cultural Significance:**

- गहरी आध्यात्मिक मान्यता, समृद्ध सभ्यतागत विरासत और असम की ताई-अहोम समुदाय की स्थापत्य कुशलता को प्रदर्शित करता है
- Embodies deep spiritual belief, rich civilizational heritage, and architectural prowess of Assam's Tai-Ahom community



- **Nomination and Recognition:**

- 2023 में भारत की आधिकारिक प्रविष्टि के रूप में नामित

- Nominated as India's official entry in 2023

- उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों से यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त करने वाले पहले

- First from northeastern States to be recognized as a World Heritage Site

- **Question:** What is the significance of the Charaideo Moidams according to the article?
- **A)** They are a modern architectural wonder.
- **B)** They are ancient burial mounds of the Ahom dynasty.
- **C)** They are new additions to the Assam landscape.
- **D)** They were constructed during British rule.



A worker walks on scaffolding at the archaeological site of the Saint Hilariion Monastery in central Gaza Strip. AFP

### 4th century Gaza monastery put on endangered site list

Agence France-Presse

The Saint Hilariion complex, one of the oldest monasteries in the West Asia, has been put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in danger due to the war in Gaza, the body said on Friday.

"It's the only recourse to protect the site from destruction in the current context," Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, said, referring to the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

In December, the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict decided to grant "provisional enhanced protection" to the highest level of immunity established by the 1954 Hague Convention — to the site.

UNESCO had then said it was "already concerned about the state of conservation of sites, before October 7, due to the lack of adequate policies to protect heritage and culture" in Gaza.

The Hamas attack on October 7 resulted in the deaths of 1,000 people in Israel, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas has killed at least 39,175 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's Health Ministry, which does not give details of civilian and militant deaths.

## With uncertainty across the Atlantic, Europe worries about its own security

After relying on U.S. leadership of NATO to protect them with nuclear, conventional capability for the past 75 years, European nations are under pressure to take a larger role in funding and leading the 32-nation bloc because their interests are increasingly diverging from those of the U.S.

Associated Press

When Donald Trump suggested during the 2016 presidential campaign that he might not honour a U.S. commitment to defend other NATO countries if they were attacked, it triggered alarm throughout the trans-Atlantic alliance.

With Mr. Trump's "America First" rhetoric drawing cheers from fervent supporters, the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is once again on the agenda. But this time, European leaders acknowledge the alliance must evolve to meet the challenges of the 21st century and say they are ready to shoulder more responsibility for their own defence.

A lot has changed in eight years.

**Military support**  
First, Mr. Trump's presidency forced Europe to recognise that U.S. military support was no longer guaranteed, then Russia's invasion of Ukraine underscored the threat on its eastern border.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has increasingly focused on China's expansion in the Asia-Pacific, as well as Iran and North Korea.

"Confronted with powers such as Russia and China, and the United States whose pivot to Asia seems inevitable, no matter who wins the next election, we Europeans need to do more to ensure our own security," Joseph Borrell, the European Union's foreign policy chief, wrote last weekend in *The Times of London*.

After relying on U.S. leadership of NATO to protect them with overwhelming nuclear and conventional capability for the past 75 years, European nations must take on a larger role in funding and leading the 32-nation alliance because their interests are increasingly diverging from those of the United States.

"We are talking about a NATO which the United States is still part of, but which the United States is no longer the indispensable leader (of)," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general of the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank focused on defence and security. "I mean, that is what J.D. Vance and Donald Trump are talking about. They're talking about a NATO that is transformed and one in which the Europeans take the greatest share of the burden."



Common cause: NATO country members flags flutter at the bloc's headquarters in Brussels. FILE PHOTO

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NATO grew out of secret talks among U.S. officials after World War II about how to supply military equipment to Western Europe and ensure a coordinated response to any attack by the Soviet Union.

The U.S. is expected to spend almost twice as much on its military this year as all the other alliance members combined, according to NATO statistics.

**Wake-up call**  
Mr. Trump's skepticism about NATO was underlined last week when he named Mr. Vance as his running mate. Mr. Vance has opposed U.S. support

for Ukraine, has criticised European nations for slashing defence spending since the Cold War, and said it's time for Europe to stand on its own feet.

Europe got another wake-up call on Sunday when President Joe Biden, whose strong support for NATO was cemented during stand-offs with the Soviet Union in the 1970s, said he would not seek reelection.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, has backed the administration's position on NATO and Ukraine, but she entered politics long after the Cold War and is better known for her work on domestic issues.

The question is whether she will have that same strong trans-Atlantic view that kind of part of her blood in the way that Mr. Biden had, it said Armin van Rij, an expert on European security policy at theatham House think tank in London.

Mr. Trump's threat to renegotiate NATO's collective security guarantee, a cornerstone of the alliance, is based on his belief that member states aren't living up to their funding commitments, forcing U.S. taxpayers to subsidise Europe's defence.

That argument has weakened since 2016. Twenty-three of the alliance's 31 non-U.S. mem-

bers will meet or exceed their commitment to spend at least 2% of economic output on defence this year, up from just three 10 years ago, according to figures compiled by NATO. Overall, the non-U.S. members now spend 2.02% of gross domestic product on defence, compared with 3.4% by the U.S.

Besides that, the EU has ambitious plans to boost its defence industry in response to the threat posed by Russia's war on Ukraine.

France's President Emmanuel Macron has urged European nations to seek more independence on air-space defence and relocate production to the continent.

The risks for Europe, as well as the United States, are evolving. It's not just about Russian tanks on Europe's borders. NATO, as a defensive alliance, must also consider the threats posed by Iran, China, North Korea and so on.

That means European nations need to increase troop numbers, upgrade equipment such as tanks, fighter planes and transport aircraft, and improve their ability to counter technological threats, she said.

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### Rival gangs sign truce in Haiti's largest shanty town

Agence France-Presse

PORT-AU-PRINCE

Two rival gang leaders signed a truce to end armed conflict in Haiti's largest shanty town, a community leader said on Thursday.

Haiti has long been rocked by gang violence, but conditions there worsened at the end of February when groups launched coordinated attacks in Port-au-Prince to overthrow the then-Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

The gangs control 80 per cent of the Caribbean country's main roads and are accused of numerous murders, rapes, looting, and kidnapping in crossfire.

Under the agreement between leaders of the G-9 and G-Pep groups, road-blocks in the Cite Soleil (Sun City) shantytown of around 3,000,000 inhabitants were taken down, said Pastor Jean Enoch Joseph, an influential figure in the commune. "A new stage has just been reached", the pastor said.

However, he added a similar truce had been signed in July 2023 before falling apart a few weeks later.

Like much of Port-au-Prince, Cite Soleil residents there unable to move freely in the shantytown — divided into zones controlled by the rival gangs for fear of being caught in crossfire.

The G-9 and G-Pep gangs have not clashed since February when they joined a coalition to overthrow Henry, but they had maintained the divisions within Cite Soleil until Wednesday.

Nearly 600,000 people are displaced in Haiti, according to the UN.

### Sacred and the broken



A statue of the Virgin Mary amidst the rubble of homes demolished at Adjame village in Côte d'Ivoire. Clashes broke out between the police and hundreds of residents of Adjidan on Thursday morning during a demolition and eviction drive. AFP

## Greece's 'Instagram island' Santorini nears saturation point

Agence France-Presse

One of the most enduring images of Greece's summer travel brand is the world-famous sunset on Santorini island, framed by sea-blue church domes on a jagged cliff high above a volcanic caldera.

This scene has inspired millions of fridge magnets, posters, and souvenirs — and now the queue to reach the viewing spot in the cliff-top village of Oia can take more than 20 minutes.

Santorini is a key stopover of the Greek cruise experience. But with parts of the island nearing saturation, entrepreneurs

are considering restrictions. Of the record 32.7 million people who visited Greece last year, around 3.4 million, or one in 10, went to the island of just 15,500 residents.

"We need to set limits if we don't want to sink under overtourism," Santorini mayor Nikos Zorzos said. "There must not be a single extra bed... whether in a large hotel or Airbnb rentals."

As the sun set behind the horizon in Oia, thousands raised their phones to the sky to capture the moment, followed by scattered applause.

For a canny entrepreneur, the island is still part of, but which the United States is no longer the indispensable leader (of)," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general of the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank focused on defence and security. "I mean, that is what J.D. Vance and Donald Trump are talking about. They're talking about a NATO that is transformed and one in which the Europeans take the greatest share of the burden."



Workers file through the glass doors of a quiet office in suburban Beijing, the unassuming targets of new U.S. sanctions aimed at breaking their company's alleged links to North Korea's weapons programme. China is a key ally and economic backer of diplomatically isolated North Korea, and analysts say Pyongyang sells heavily on Chinese firms and banks to circumvent U.S. primary and moribund economy.

Washington announced sanctions on Wednesday against six people and five companies in China, accusing them of helping North Korea procure crucial materials "in flagrant violation" of UN Security Council resolutions designed to rein in its nuclear weapons

development. China maintains that it consistently implements UN sanctions and opposes "unilateral actions by Washington."

The U.S. Treasury alleges that Chen is Shi's wife and business partner also helped to procure items for Choe. But Chen denied that she took part in its day-to-day operations.

Under President Xi Jinping, China has become a "safe haven" for North Korean sanctions evasion, said Joshua Stanton, a U.S.-based lawyer.

Beijing has "not only protected Pyongyang's money laundering but also its arms trafficking, cyber crime, use of forced labour and proliferation" of weapons, he said.

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## U.S. sanctions target Chinese companies linked to North Korea's weapons programme

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING

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# With uncertainty across the Atlantic, Europe worries about its own security

After relying on U.S. leadership of NATO to protect them with nuclear, conventional capability for the past 75 years, European nations are under pressure to take a larger role in funding and leading the 32-nation bloc because their interests are increasingly diverging from those of the U.S.

**Associated Press**  
LONDON

When Donald Trump suggested during the 2016 presidential campaign that he might not honour a U.S. commitment to defend other NATO countries if they were attacked, it triggered alarm throughout the trans-Atlantic alliance.

With Mr. Trump's "America First" rhetoric drawing cheers from fervent supporters, the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is once again on the agenda. But this time, European leaders acknowledge the alliance must evolve to meet the challenges of the 21st century and say they are ready to shoulder more responsibility for their own defence.

A lot has changed in eight years.

## Military support

First, Mr. Trump's presidency forced Europe to recognise that U.S. military support was no longer guaranteed, then Russia's invasion of Ukraine underscored the threat on its eastern border. Meanwhile, the U.S. has increasingly focused on China's expansion in the Asia-Pacific, as well as Iran and North Korea.

"Confronted with powers such as Russia and Chi-



**Common cause:** NATO country members flags flutter at the bloc's headquarters in Brussels. FILE PHOTO

na, and the United States whose pivot to Asia seems inevitable, no matter who wins the next election, we Europeans need to do more to ensure our own security," Josep Borrell, the European Union's foreign policy chief, wrote last weekend in *The Times of London*.

After relying on U.S. leadership of NATO to protect them with overwhelming nuclear and conventional capability for the past 75 years, European nations must take on a larger role in funding and leading the 32-nation alliance because their interests are increasingly diverging from those of the United States.

"We are talking about a NATO which the United

States is still part of, but which the United States is no longer the indispensable leader (of)," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general of the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank focused on defence and security. "I mean, that is what J.D. Vance and Donald Trump are talking about. They're talking about a NATO that is transformed and one in which the Europeans take the greatest share of the burden."

NATO grew out of secret talks among U.S. officials after Second World War about how to supply military equipment to Western Europe and ensure a coordinated response to any at-

tack by the Soviet Union. The 12 founding members signed the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949.

NATO's military structure is headed by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, who is also the commander-in-chief of American forces in Europe. The U.S. is expected to spend almost twice as much on its military this year as all the other alliance members combined, according to NATO statistics.

## Wake-up call

Mr. Trump's skepticism about NATO was underlined last week when he named Mr. Vance as his running mate. Mr. Vance has opposed U.S. support

for Ukraine, has criticised European nations for slashing defence spending since the Cold War, and said it's time for "Europe to stand on its own feet."

Europe got another wake-up call on Sunday when President Joe Biden, whose strong support for NATO was cemented during stand-offs with the Soviet Union in the 1970s, said he would not seek reelection. Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, has backed the administration's position on NATO and aid to Ukraine, but she entered politics long after the Cold War and is better known for her work on domestic issues.

"The question is whether she will have that same strong trans-Atlantic view that's kind of part of her blood in the way that Mr. Biden had it," said Armida van Rij, an expert on European security policy at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Mr. Trump's threat to renege on NATO's collective security guarantee, a cornerstone of the alliance, is based on his belief that member states aren't living up to their funding commitments, forcing U.S. taxpayers to subsidise Europe's defence.

That argument has weakened since 2016.

Twenty-three of the alliance's 31 non-U.S. mem-

bers will meet or exceed their commitment to spend at least 2% of economic output on defence this year, up from just three 10 years ago, according to figures compiled by NATO. Overall, the non-U.S. members now spend 2.02% of gross domestic product on defence, compared with 3.4% by the U.S.

Besides that, the EU has ambitious plans to boost its defence industry in response to the threat posed by Russia's war on Ukraine.

France's President Emmanuel Macron has urged European nations to seek more independence on air-space defence and relocate production to the continent.

The risks for Europe, as well as the United States, are evolving. It's not just about Russian tanks on Europe's borders. NATO, as a defensive alliance, must also consider the threats posed by Iran, China and North Korea and be prepared for cyber warfare and foreign interference in elections, as well as conventional military attacks, Ms. van Rij said.

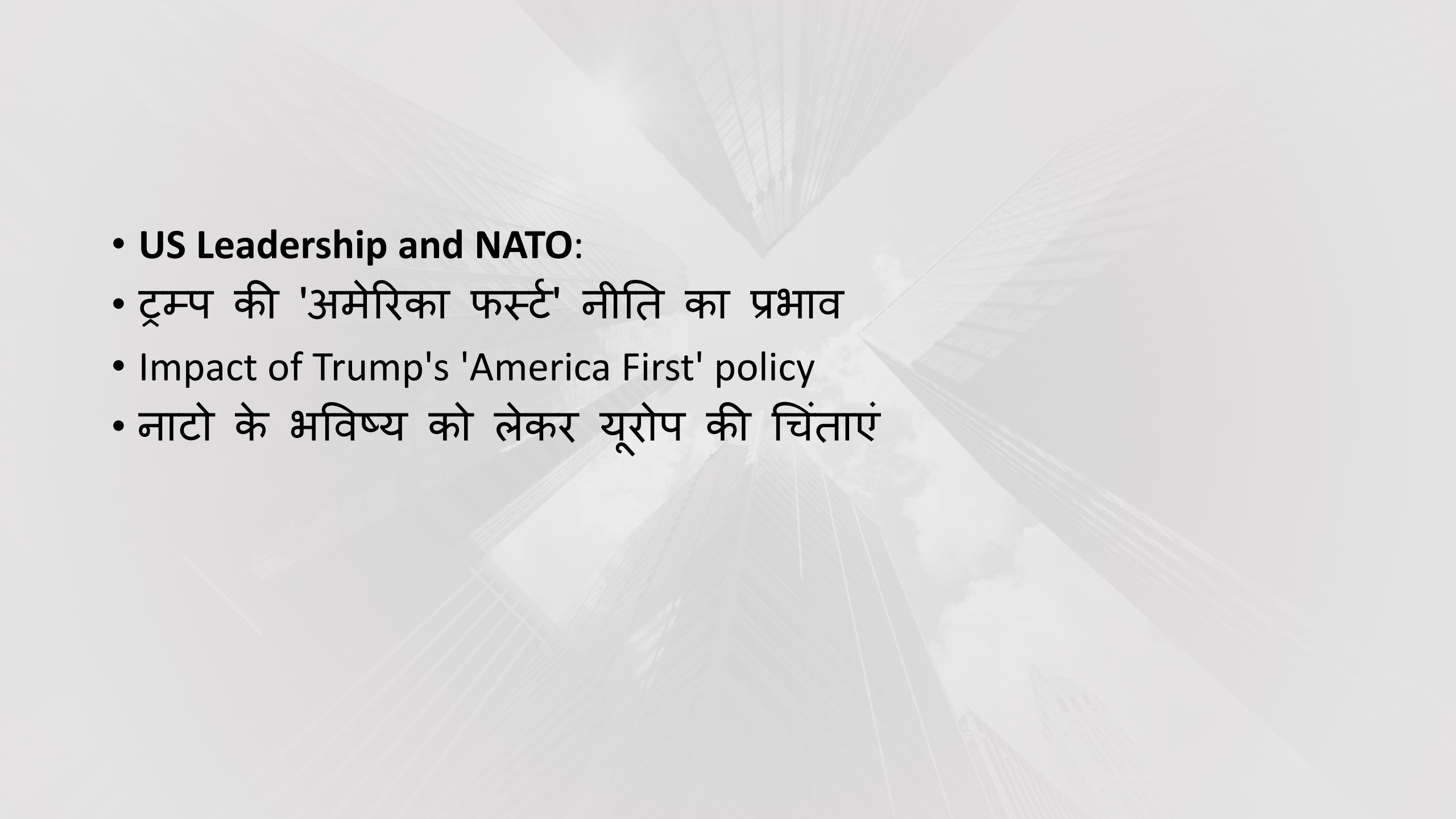
That means European nations need to increase troop numbers, upgrade equipment such as tanks, fighter planes and transport aircraft, and improve their ability to counter technological threats, she said.

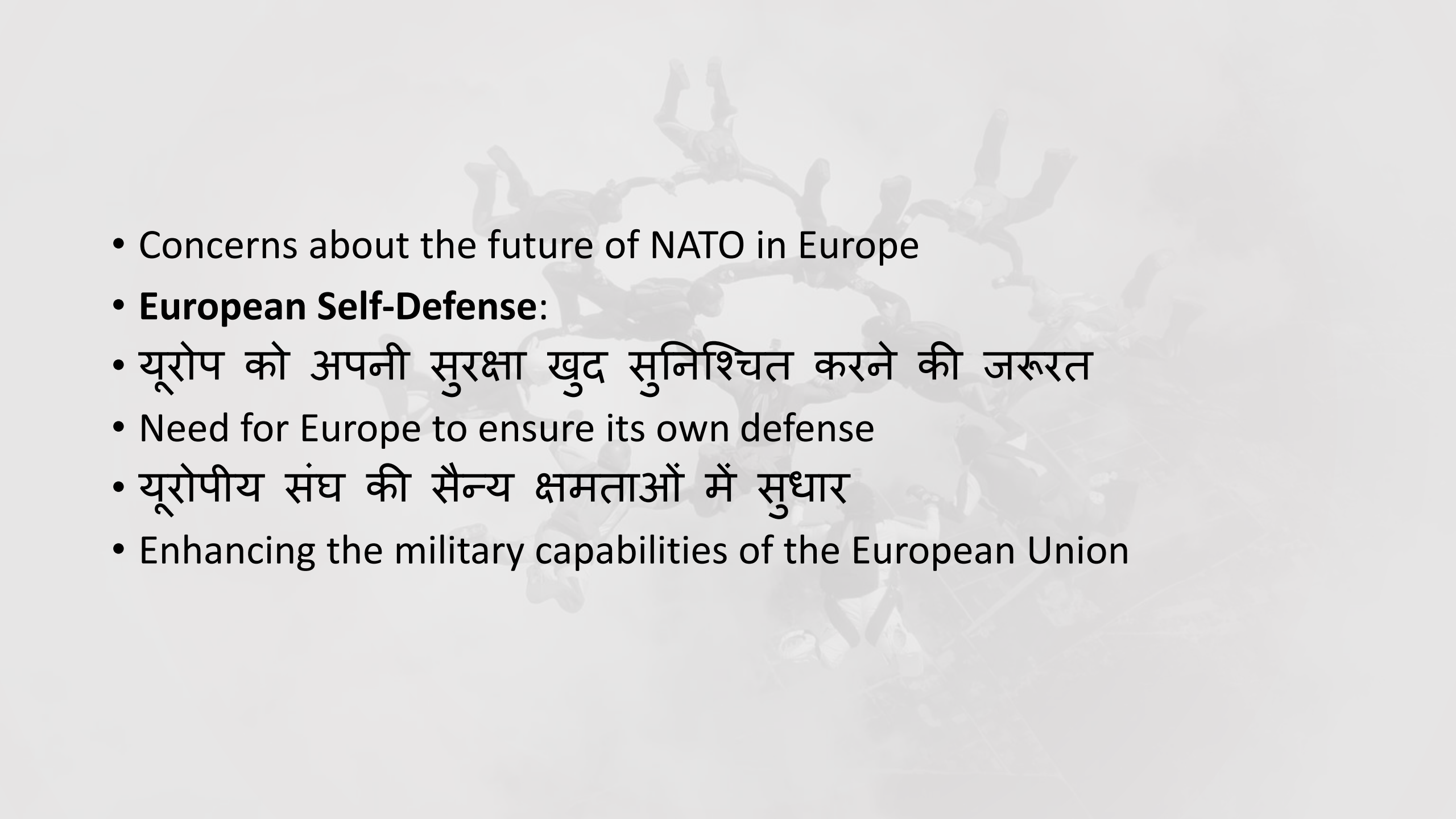
## Europe Worries About Its Own Security Amid Uncertainty Across the Atlantic

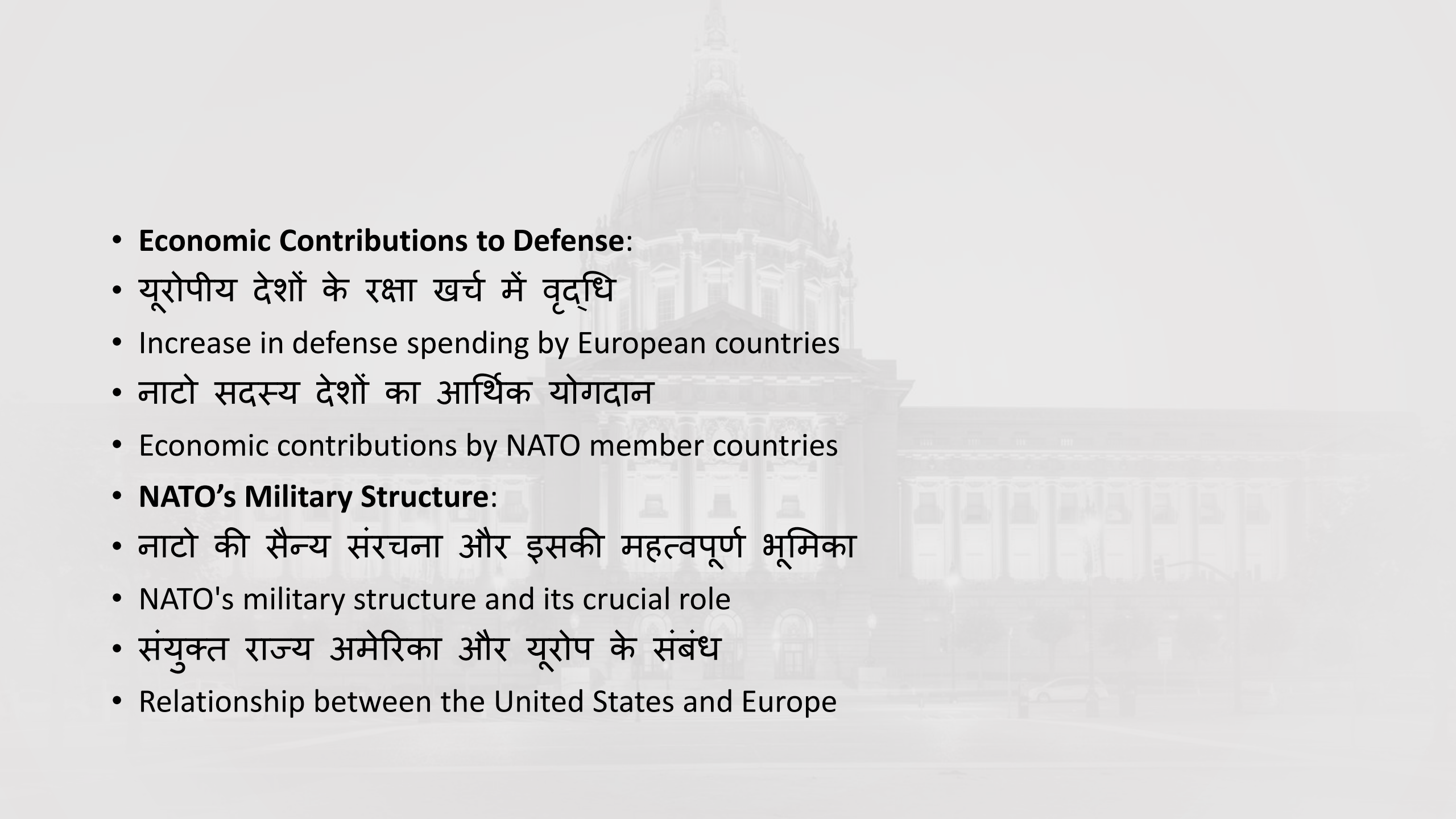
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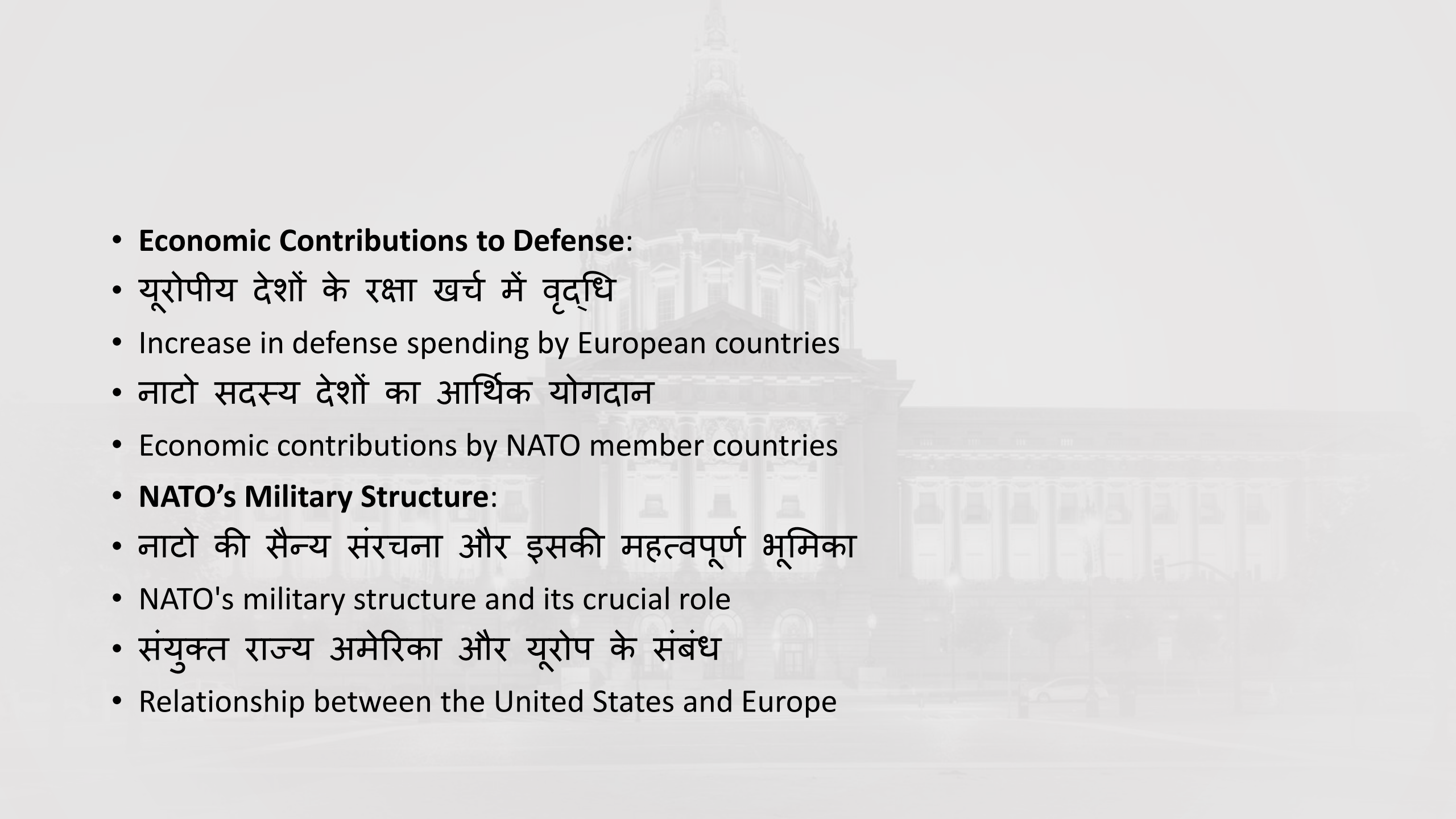
- यूरोप की सुरक्षा चिंताएं अमेरिकी नेतृत्व के प्रति संदेह के बीच।
- Europe worries about its own security amid uncertainty over US leadership.



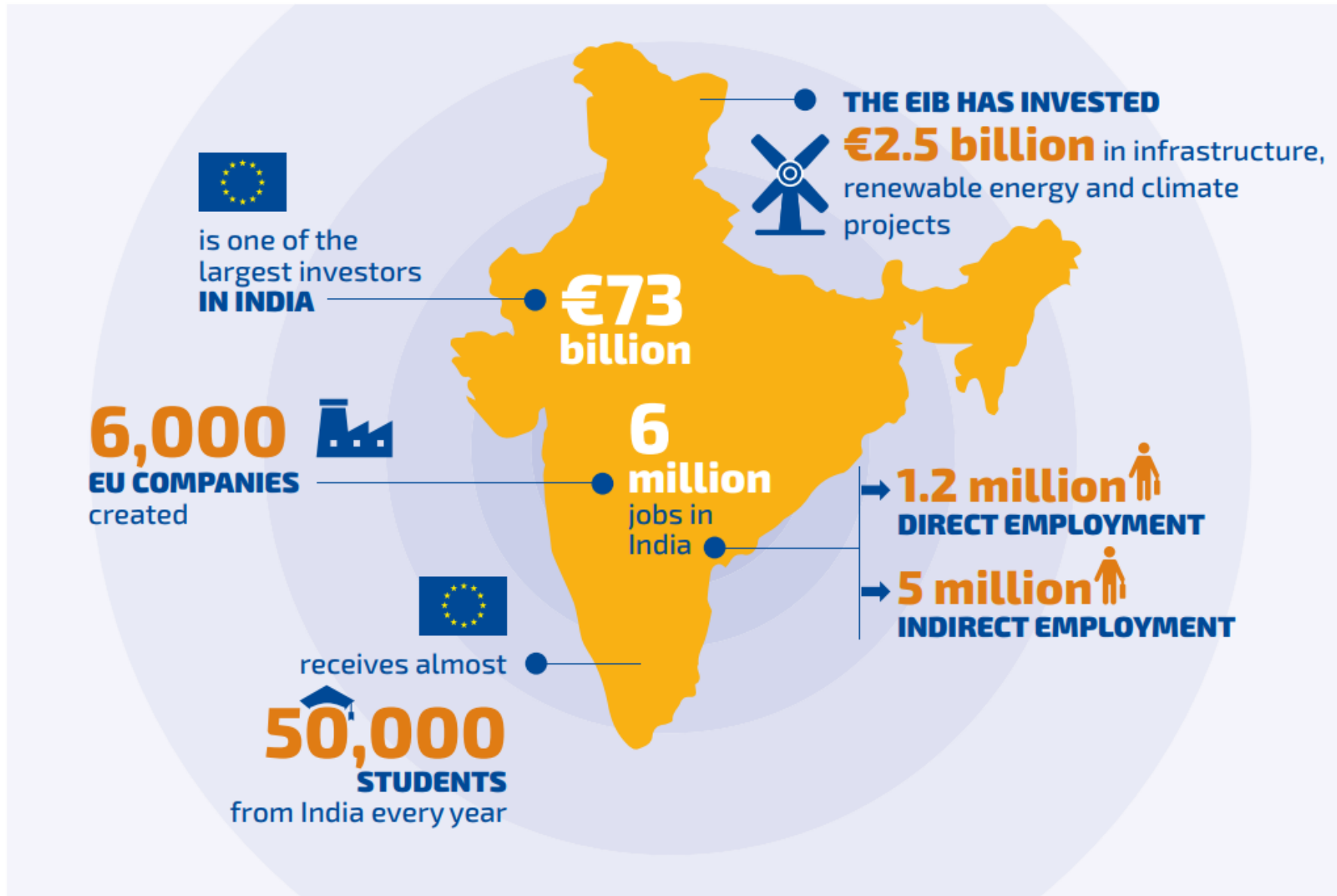
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- **US Leadership and NATO:**
  - ट्रम्प की 'अमेरिका फर्स्ट' नीति का प्रभाव
  - Impact of Trump's 'America First' policy
  - नाटो के भविष्य को लेकर यूरोप की चिंताएं

- 
- Concerns about the future of NATO in Europe
  - **European Self-Defense:**
  - यूरोप को अपनी सुरक्षा खुद सुनिश्चित करने की जरूरत
  - Need for Europe to ensure its own defense
  - यूरोपीय संघ की सैन्य क्षमताओं में सुधार
  - Enhancing the military capabilities of the European Union

- 
- **Economic Contributions to Defense:**
  - यूरोपीय देशों के रक्षा खर्च में वृद्धि
  - Increase in defense spending by European countries
  - नाटो सदस्य देशों का आर्थिक योगदान
  - Economic contributions by NATO member countries
  - **NATO's Military Structure:**
  - नाटो की सैन्य संरचना और इसकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका
  - NATO's military structure and its crucial role
  - संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और यूरोप के संबंध
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  - Relationship between the United States and Europe

# WHAT IS THE EU DOING WITH INDIA?



What has caused Europe to reconsider its reliance on US military support?

A) Europe's increased economic power

B) Trump's 'America First' rhetoric and policies

C) Rise in environmental concerns

D) Decrease in Russian military activities

MARKETS, P7

RBI ROLLS OUT PCA FRAMEWORK
Urban co-op banks
with higher NPA rate to
now face restrictions

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024



SENSEX: 81,332.75 ▲ 1,292.95 NIFTY: 24,854.85 ▲ 428.75 NIKKEI 225: 37,667.41 ▼ 202.10 HANG SENG: 17,021.31 ▲ 16.34 ¥/\$: 83.73 ▼ 0.02 €/€: 90.88 ▼ 0.04 BRENT: \$81.51 ▼ \$0.86 GOLD: ₹67,884 ▼ ₹100

IN THE NEWS

\$30-TRN ECONOMY BY 2047: PM TO SEEK CENTRE-STATE TIES

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI will chair NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting on Saturday to prepare a road map in consultation with state governments to make the country a developed nation with a \$30-trillion economy by 2047, reports Prasanta Sahu. PAGE 2

NCLT'S STRENGTH MAY BE DOUBLED TO FAST-TRACK CASES

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to double the strength of the National Company Law Tribunal by adding more benches and members, as it aims to fast-track cases under the insolvency resolution process, official sources told FE. reports Priyansh Verma. PAGE 3

SEBI BARS MALLYA FROM SECURITIES MARKET FOR 3 YRS

CAPITAL MARKETS REGULATOR on Friday barred fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya from trading in the securities market and from associating with any listed company for three years, reports Fe Bureau. PAGE 7

FOREX RESERVES JUMP TO ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$671 BN

SURPASSING THE ALL-TIME high level achieved the previous week, India's forex reserves jumped by another \$4 billion to \$670.857 billion for the seven days ended July 19, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday, reports PTI. PAGE 7

RIISING CHINA STEEL IMPORTS HURTING INDUSTRY: JINDAL

RIISING CHINESE STEEL imports are impacting the margins of domestic players, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. chairman Sajjan Jindal said on Friday, reports PTI. Jindal said several countries have already raised barriers against steel imports. PAGE 10

FE SPECIALS

Citroën Basalt and Tata Curvv: SUVs have a new shape
SUV coupé is a new body style that carmakers are experimenting with.

Need to rejig your investment strategy
Annual harvesting of gains to help build a larger corpus.

PERSONAL FINANCE, P9



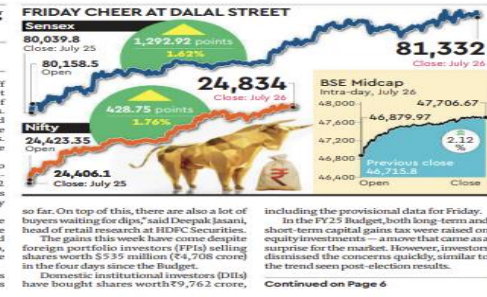
PERSONAL FINANCE, P9

LONGEST WINNING STREAK FOR NIFTY SINCE JAN 2018
Markets recoup losses

Benchmark equities log eighth week of gains

VIVEK KUMAR M
Mumbai, July 26

EQUITY BENCHMARKS SHRUGGED off the capital gains tax hike in the Budget and rebounded on Friday on the back of strong inflows from domestic investors. The benchmark Nifty and Sensex added 1.24% and 0.9%, respectively, for the week, posting their eighth week of gains. This is the longest winning streak for the 50-stock Nifty since January 2018. On Friday, while the Nifty rose 1.8% to record high of 24,854.85 points, the Sensex also ended 1.6% higher at 81,332.75 points. The benchmarks had logged losses for the last five sessions, weighed down by weaker-than-expected results. The broader market, too, gave positive returns this week after seeing losses in the previous two weeks. The BSE Midcap and SME Smallcap indices rose 1.1% and 3.5%, respectively, this week, outperforming the benchmark Nifty. "Basically, the fund flow is high. This is offsetting the impact of negative triggers



so far. On top of this, there are also a lot of buyers waiting for dips," said Deepak Jaisani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities. The gains this week have come despite foreign portfolio investors (FPI) selling shares worth \$535 million (₹4,708 crore) in the four days since the Budget. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have bought shares worth ₹9,762 crore,

Continued on Page 6

INDIA AT PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS



Indian contingent's flag-bearer PV Sindhu (left) takes part in the Athletes' Parade, in Paris on Friday; Chef De Mission Gagan Narang (flanked by two athletes) at the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony. PAGE 24

Untied capex loans to states may be hiked to ₹75,000 cr

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, July 26

THE CENTRE WILL likely enhance the untied 50-year interest-free capex loans to states to ₹75,000 crore from ₹75,000 crore for FY 25, partly funding the plan of the states for higher unconditional transfers to expedite utilisation of funds for projects, sources said. In the Budget, the capex loan outlay was enhanced by ₹20,000 crore to ₹1.5 trillion compared with ₹1.3 trillion in the interim Budget even as the Centre kept its overall capex target unchanged at ₹111.1 trillion.

In the interim Budget, the government had allocated ₹75,000 crore for states' initiating reforms covering all factors of production. On June 22, states including Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal demanded that the capex loan amount should be enhanced from ₹55,000 crore to ₹1 trillion in order to expedite better utilisation of funds and timely achievement of project milestones. Such untied capex loans were earmarked at ₹1 trillion in FY 24 while reform/project-tied loans were pegged at ₹30,000 crore. Continued on Page 6

RESULTS CORNER

Indigo profit falls 12% on higher fuel costs
HIGHER FUEL COSTS sapped Indigo's profit down 11.7% y-o-y to ₹2,279 crore in Q2, reports Fe Bureau. Fuel expenses rose 22.7% to ₹6,416.5 crore. PAGE 6

Bandhan Bank PAT up 47%, beats estimate
BANDHAN BANK REPORTED a 47% y-o-y rise in profit to ₹1,065 crore Q2, higher than a Bloomberg consensus estimate of ₹784 crore, reports Fe Bureau. PAGE 7

iPhone prices cut by up to ₹6,000

Apple reduces Pro, Pro Max prices for the first time

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, July 26

WITHIN DAYS OF the Budget reducing import duty on mobile phones and printed circuit board (PCB), Apple has reduced prices of iPhones by up to 5%. While the price cut is higher - in the range of ₹5,000-6,000 - for fully-imported models like iPhone Pro and Pro Max, it's much lower for the made-in-India devices at ₹400-500.

For locally-manufactured models, the reduction is lower because the relief is on account of a 5% duty cut on PCBs, which are imported and assembled in the phones here. So, iPhone 15 Pro model, which was earlier priced at ₹134,900, will now be available for ₹129,900. Similarly, the iPhone 15 Pro Max model, which was earlier priced at ₹159,000 will now be available for ₹154,000. iPhone SE price has come down to ₹47,600 from ₹49,900. The price of other made-in-India models has dropped by ₹300. Such a price cut by Apple is rare because it usually discontinues the older Pro models following the launch of new ones. Interestingly, the price cut has been made on the existing stock, which were imported earlier at the higher duty of 20%. Reduction in pricing by Apple is in line with analysts' estimates. While the government's move to reduce the import duty on PCBs is seen as a positive for local manufacturing of smartphones,

DUTY CUT IMPACT
Price cuts are in the range of ₹300 to ₹6,000 across models

Pro or Pro Max models to be cheaper by ₹5,000. iPhone 15 will now cost ₹2,300 less

Made-in-India iPhones - 13, 14 and 15 - cheaper by ₹300

This change follows the duty cut on mobile phones from 20% to 15% in the Budget

Traditionally, Apple discontinues older Pro models following the launch of new one

Apple would be the major beneficiary of the duty cut on finished products, industry executives said. Therefore, it was also important for Apple to pass on the benefits to end consumers, they added.

On Tuesday, the basic customs duty on mobile phones, mobile PCBs and mobile charger was cut 1.5% from 20%. Current 99% of the phones are made in India.

Continued on Page 6

Ola Electric IPO likely to open on August 2

NARAYANAN V
Chennai, July 26

OLA ELECTRIC'S MUCH-ANTICIPATED initial public offering (IPO) is expected to open for public subscription on August 2, with the listing likely on August 9, sources aware of the development told FE. The anchor investor portion is set to open on August 1.

The listing will mark the first public issue by an electric vehicle (EV) start-up in the country and is set to be one of the largest new-age public offerings in 2024. The Bengaluru-based company filed its draft prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India in December 2023. According to its draft prospectus, the company aims to raise up to ₹9,000 crore through a fresh issue of shares, while existing shareholders will sell 95.2 million shares through an offer-for-sale (OFS) route.

The company has kept the option to raise ₹1,100 crore via a pre-IPO placement, and the fresh issue size will reduce correspondingly. The SoftBank-backed entity Ola Electric is targeting a valuation of around \$4.5 billion for the IPO. This is approximately 16-20% lower than its valuation in the last funding round, Reuters had reported earlier this week.

ON THE ROAD
\$4.5 billion target amount to be raised via a fresh issue of shares

The IPO is set to be one of the largest new-age public offerings in 2024

Promoter Bhavish Aggarwal to offer 47.4 million shares via OFS

Ola Electric stated it will use over ₹1,200 crore of the net offer proceeds for its parent's capacity expansion, ₹800 crore for del repayments, ₹1,600 crore for research and development, and ₹350 crore for organ growth initiatives.

Kotak Mahindra Capital, Axis Capital, Goldman Sachs, ICICI Securities, Cit, BofA Securities, SBI Cap and Jollibee Cap are the investment bank working on the deal. Law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas is the company counsel. Ola Electric did not respond to FE's email query at the time of going to the press.

SEARCHGPT TO ALSO TAKE ON MICROSOFT'S BING, EMERGING SERVICES LIKE PERPLEXITY

OpenAI enters Google-dominated search market

YUVRAJ MALIK
July 26

OPENAI IS VENTURING into a territory long dominated by Google with the selective launch of SearchGPT, an artificial intelligence-powered search engine with real-time access to information from the internet. The move, announced on Thursday, places the AI giant in competition with its largest backer Microsoft's Bing search and emerging services such as Perplexity, a search-focused AI chatbot firm backed by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and semiconductor giant Nvidia. Shares of the parent Alphabet ended 3% lower on Thursday after OpenAI's announcement.

CLASH OF THE TECH TITANS

Perplexity, a search-focused AI chatbot firm, is backed by Jeff Bezos and semiconductor giant Nvidia. OpenAI has opened sign-ups for the new tool, which is currently in the prototype stage. OpenAI said it has opened sign-ups for the new tool, which is currently in the prototype stage and is being tested with a small group of users and publishers. The company plans to integrate the best features from the search tool into ChatGPT in the future. "AI-powered search tools from OpenAI and Perplexity re-affirm Google dominates the search



The new tool is being tested with a small group of users and publishers. Plans to integrate the best features from search tools into ChatGPT in the future. Publishers to get access to tools for managing how their content appears in SearchGPT results. SearchGPT signals a closer collaboration between publishers and OpenAI, following content licensing agreement with major organisations like Associated Press, News Corp and Axel Springer.

engine market with a 91.1% share as of June, according to web analytics firm Statcounter. SearchGPT will provide summarised results with source links in response to user queries, OpenAI said in a blog post. Users will also be able to follow up questions and receive contextual responses. The company will give publishers access to tools for managing how their content appears in SearchGPT results. News Corp and The Atlantic are publishing partners of SearchGPT. SearchGPT signals a closer collaboration between publishers and OpenAI, following content licensing agreement with major organisations like Associated Press, News Corp and Axel Springer. REUTER

# iPhone prices cut by up to ₹6,000

## Apple reduces Pro, Pro Max prices for the first time

JATIN GROVER  
New Delhi, July 26

**WITHIN DAYS OF** the Budget reducing import duty on mobile phones and printed circuit board (PCBs), Apple has reduced prices of iPhones by up to 5%. While the price cut is higher – in the range of ₹5,000-6,000 – for fully-imported models like iPhone Pro and Pro Max, it's much lower for the made-in-India devices at ₹400-500.

### INSIDE

#### iPhone drops from China top five

PAGE 3

For locally-manufactured models, the reduction is lower because the relief is on account of a 5% duty cut on PCBs, which are imported and assembled in the phones here.

So, iPhone 15 Pro model, which was earlier priced at ₹134,900, will now be available for ₹129,800. Similarly, the iPhone 15 Pro Max model, which was earlier priced at ₹159,000 will now be available at ₹154,000. iPhone SE's price has come down to ₹47,600 from ₹49,900. The price of other made-in-India models has dropped by ₹300.

Such a price cut by Apple is rare because it usually discontinues the older Pro models following the launch of new ones. Interestingly, the price cut has been made on the existing stock, which were imported earlier at the higher duty of 20%. Reduction in pricing by Apple is in line with analysts' estimates.

While the government's move to reduce the import duty on PCBs is seen as a positive for local manufacturing of smartphones,

## DUTY CUT IMPACT

Price cuts are in the range of

₹300 to ₹6,000 across models

Pro or Pro Max models to be cheaper by ₹6,000; iPhone SE will now cost ₹2,300 less



Made-in-India iPhones — 13, 14 and 15 — cheaper by ₹300

This change follows the duty cut on mobile phones from 20% to 15% in the Budget

Traditionally, Apple discontinues older Pro models following the launch of new ones

Apple would be the major beneficiary of the duty cut on finished products, industry executives said. Therefore, it was also important for Apple to pass on the benefits to end consumers, they added.

On Tuesday, the basic customs duty on mobile phones, mobile PCBs and mobile charger was cut to 15% from 20%. Currently, 99% of the phones are made in India.

Continued on Page 6





# IndiaAI Mission

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The Indian government's commitment to advancing artificial intelligence (AI) technology is evident with its new budgetary allocation for the IndiaAI Mission. ‘

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The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been allocated Rs 551.75 crore in the Union Budget 2024-25 to enhance AI infrastructure, including the procurement of high-performance Graphic Processing Units (GPUs).

- **Financial Support:** The **Union Cabinet approved the Rs 10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission** in March to establish a computing capacity of **over 10,000 GPUs and develop foundational models** with a capacity of more than 100 billion parameters trained on datasets covering major Indian languages for priority sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and governance.
- **Current Focus:** Initial efforts will involve procuring **300 to 500 GPUs to kickstart the project.**

**Consider the following: (2021)**

Bacteria

Fungi

Virus

**Which of the above can be cultured in an artificial/synthetic medium?**

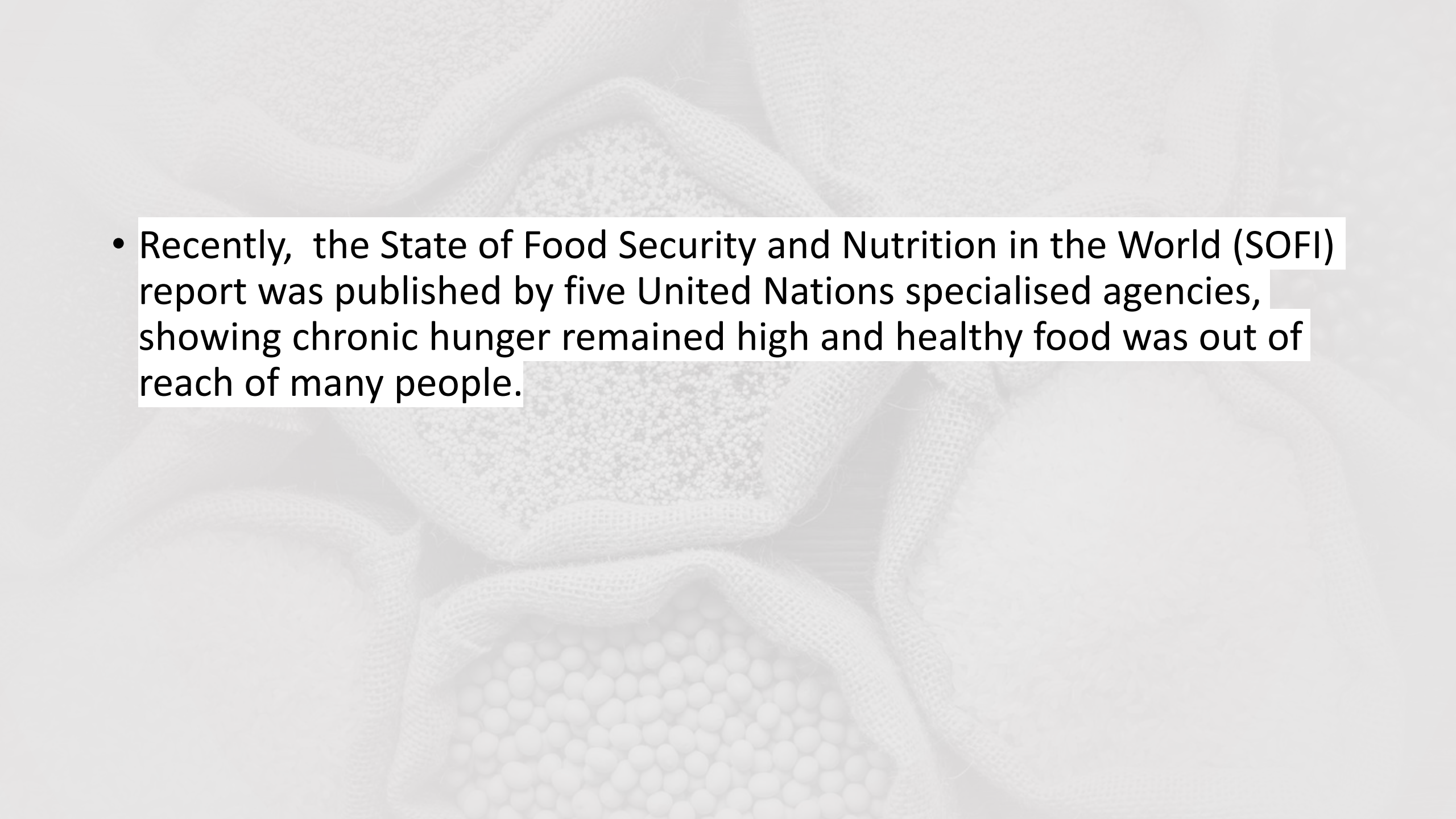
**(a)** 1 and 2 only

**(b)** 2 and 3 only

**(c)** 1 and 3 only

**(d)** 1, 2 and 3





- 
- Recently, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report was published by five United Nations specialised agencies, showing chronic hunger remained high and healthy food was out of reach of many people.

- **Global Hunger Figures:** Approximately **733 million people** faced **hunger in 2023**. To put that in perspective, it's equivalent to one in eleven people globally.
  - **Future Projection:** The report warned that with ongoing trends, **about 582 million people are projected** to suffer chronic undernourishment by the end of the decade, with half of this population in Africa.

## • Regional Variations

- **Africa:** The percentage of the population facing hunger continues to rise, reaching 20.4%. In **Africa**, the situation is even more critical, where one in five people experienced hunger during the same period.
- **Asia:** While hunger levels remain stable at 8.1%, this still represents a significant challenge because Asia is home to more than half of the world's undernourished population.
- **Latin America:** Encouragingly, progress is visible here, with hunger levels at 6.2%.



- 
- **Beyond Hunger (Food Insecurity):** Access to adequate food remains elusive for billions. In 2023, 2.33 billion people globally faced moderate or severe food insecurity.
    - Among them, over 864 million experienced severe food insecurity—going without food for an entire day or more.
    - These numbers have stubbornly persisted since 2020, especially in Africa, where 58% of the population faces moderate or severe food insecurity.
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# Ex Khaan Quest 2024

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- Indian Army contingent departed for the Multinational Military Exercise '**Khaan Quest**' at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
  - **About**
  - The exercise first started as a bilateral event between **USA and Mongolian** Armed Forces in the year **2003**.
  -

- 
- Subsequently, from the year **2006** onwards the exercise graduated to a **Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise** with the current year being the **21st iteration**.
  - Exercise KHAAN QUEST will enable the participating countries to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conduct of joint operations.
  - The exercise will also facilitate developing inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of the participating countries.
  -

# Ladakh's Rock Varnish

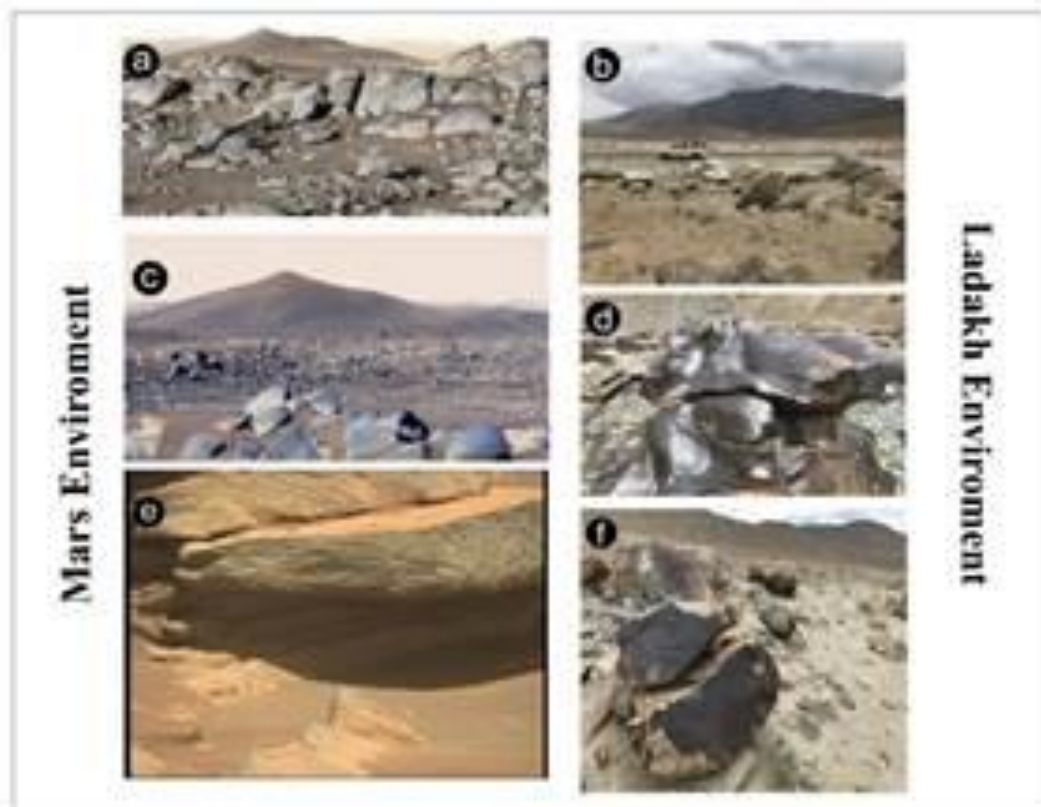
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- Recently, Magnetofossils, fossilised magnetic particles from magnetotactic bacteria, have been discovered in rock varnish layers in Ladakh.
  - Rock varnish is a dark brown to black coating that covers stable, subaerially exposed rock surfaces in arid and semiarid regions.

**Panel (I). Field photographs of the rocks sampled for rock varnish studies from NW Himalaya (Leh, Ladakh).**



**Panel (II). Comparative views of Mars and Ladakh Environment.**





- 
- The analysis of the rock varnish samples from Ladakh revealed higher concentrations of oxidized manganese ( $Mn^{4+}$ ) and carboxylic acid functionality, indicating organic signatures. These findings suggest that the rock varnish in Ladakh, a potential Martian analogue site, contains enriched concentrations of magnetic minerals likely derived from biotic sources.
- 



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- Magnetic minerals are those **that preserve a record of the Earth's magnetic field from when they formed** and can be found in rocks, sediments, and soils.


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- Identifying biotic signatures in rock varnish **helps scientists target potential biosignatures on Mars and other planets**, supporting the search for extraterrestrial life. A biosignature is **any characteristic, element, molecule, substance, or feature** that can be **used as evidence for past or present life**.
- 


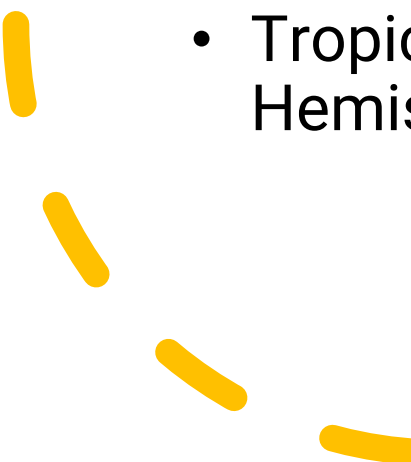
# Typhoon Gaemi

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- Recently, **Typhoon Gaemi** has brought **torrential rains that have caused widespread destruction** and fatalities **across Eastern China, Taiwan and the Philippines.**
  - Typhoon Gaemi made landfall in Taiwan the strongest in eight years, **causing severe flooding** in the island's **second-largest city, Taichung.**



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- Typhoons are a **kind of storm**. The storms, depending on where they occur, may be called **hurricanes, typhoons or cyclones**.
    - The scientific name for all these kinds of storms is **tropical cyclones**.
    - Tropical cyclones are **intense circular storms that originate over the warm tropical oceans** with speed more than 119 km/hr and heavy rains.
    - Tropical cyclones **rotate counterclockwise** in the Northern Hemisphere.
- 

<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Typhoon</b>	China Sea and Pacific Ocean
<b>Hurricane</b>	West Indian islands, Caribbean Sea, Atlantic Ocean
<b>Tornado</b>	Guinea lands of West Africa, southern USA
<b>Willy-willies</b>	North-western Australia
<b>Tropical Cyclone</b>	Indian Ocean Region



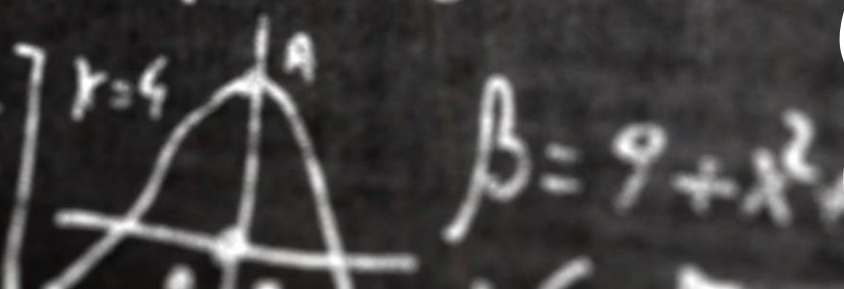
# The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Towers

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- Recently, the **Prime Minister of India** inaugurated the **Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Towers** on his visit to the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai. It would serve as the nerve center for the newspaper industry.
  - The Society's origins date back to **1927**, with the establishment of a group initially known as **The India, Burma & Ceylon Newspapers' London Committee**.



- 
- It was renamed as Indian & Eastern Newspaper Society (IENS) in 1935, and headquartered in London.
  - It served as the official representative body for newspapers, magazines, reviews, and journals published across India, Burma, Ceylon, and other Asian countries.

- 
- In which session of the World Heritage Committee was the Charaideo Moidams' inclusion announced?
  - **A)** 42nd session
  - **B)** 43rd session
  - **C)** 45th session
  - **D)** 46th session

$\sum_{h=2}^n x^{9478} = \dots$   
 $\sqrt{2456.96} = 49.6$   
 $-2 + 3 + 4.31447$   
 $22$   
 $a^2 + b^2 = x^2$   
 $c(x, y) \begin{cases} xy = 2 \\ cx - cy = \dots \\ 2\pi = c \end{cases}$   
 $\frac{24+x}{y} + \frac{2^2+3^2}{c} + \frac{2}{x}$   
 $= 384 + n^{20} (x^2 + 3)$   
 $n=14!$   
 $\sum_{x=2}^n N_{30} \cdot x - \frac{1}{2} [984 + \dots]$   




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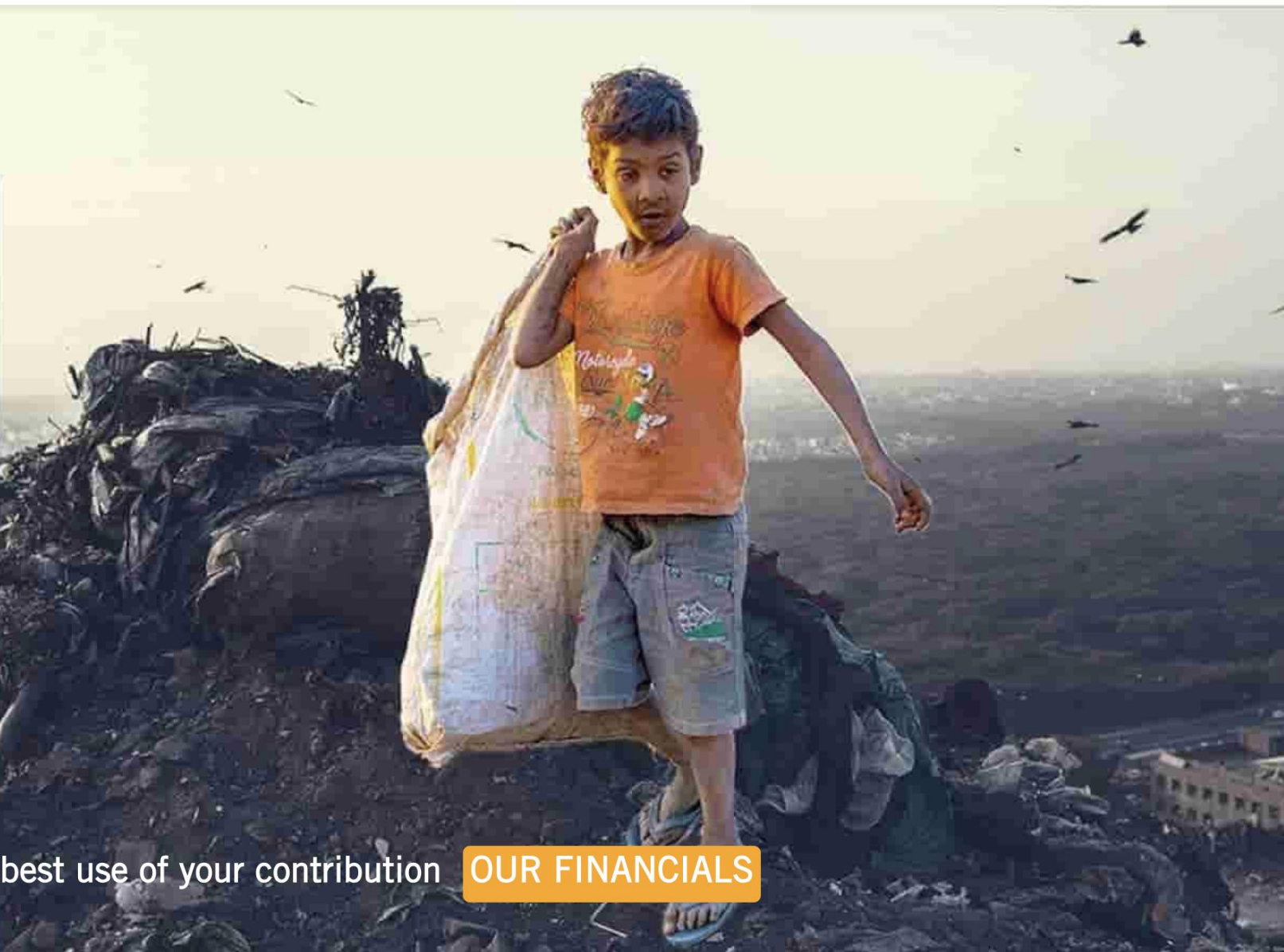
• **LIVE**  
**DOUBT SESSION**






GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is low, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, likely part of a graphic design.

Thank you  
guys.

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