

# Daily Current Affairs



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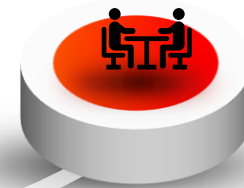
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Die with memories, not  
dreams.

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**STOCKHOLM TEST**  
India meets Sweden in  
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**INSIDE**



**BJP's OBC leader  
joins Cong. ahead  
of Haryana polls**

**GURUGRAM**  
Former Haryana Minister Karan Dev Karbiya, who recently resigned as the OBC Morcha president of the BJP's State unit, on Friday joined the Congress, accusing the saffron party of treating the backward community as a mere vote bank. » PAGE 4

**Doctors urge PM  
to intervene in  
Kolkata case**

**KOLKATA**  
The junior doctors protesting over the rape and murder of a woman doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata have written to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking their intervention in the imbroiglo. » PAGE 4

**Railway Board  
chairperson  
seeks more staff**

**CHENNAI**  
Days after taking charge as the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board, Satish Kumar has raised concerns about the issue of manpower shortage in the Indian Railways and sought additional staff "urgently" to ensure the safe operation of trains. » PAGE 5

**Biden, Starmer to  
review long-range  
weapons for Kyiv**

**WASHINGTON**  
U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and U.S. President Joe Biden was set to meet to discuss whether to let Kyiv fire long-range missiles into Russia. The option has sent tensions soaring with Moscow saying that giving Ukraine the nod would mean NATO was "at war" with Russia. » PAGE 12

# Supreme Court grants bail, Kejriwal walks free

**Bench reinforces conditions from July 12 order granting Delhi CM bail in a related case under ED**

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Friday ordered Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to be released on regular bail in a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in relation to the now-scrapped excise duty. Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan concurred to grant bail to Mr. Kejriwal but differed on the point of the legality of his arrest. Justice Kant barred Mr. Kejriwal from visiting the office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi Secretariat or signing official files unless it was required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. "These conditions were adopted from the July 12 order of the apex court granting the Chief Minister bail in a connected money laundering case investigated by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED)."  
Justice Bhuyan said he had "serious reservations" about the two bail conditions but refrained from delving further into them as they were part of the July 12 order in a different case heard by a coordinate Bench of the apex court. His restraint would mean the two bail conditions would now be effective. The verdict was based on petitions filed by Mr. Kejriwal, seeking bail and the quashing of his arrest by the CBI on June 26. Later in the day, he stepped out of Tihar jail to a resounding welcome by AAP leaders and supporters.  
**Urgency questioned**  
While Justice Kant said the CBI arrest warranted no interference as it did not suffer from any "procedural infirmity", Justice Bhuyan chose to write a separate opinion questioning both its timing and necessity without mincing words. He questioned the urgency shown by the CBI to arrest Mr. Kejriwal 22 months af-

**Justice Ujjal Bhuyan writes separate opinion questioning timing and necessity of CBI's arrest**



**Big win:** Arvind Kejriwal being welcomed by Aam Aadmi Party workers and supporters after coming out of Tihar jail on bail, on Friday. *SEE KANAN PILLAY PAGE*

ter the registration of the First Information Report in the case. Noting that the power of arrest must be used sparingly and is not a ruse for harassment, Justice Bhuyan urged the CBI to be above board in its actions like "Caesar's wife" and give the public the perception of an "uncaged parrot". In a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters.

**CBI must be "above board" like Caesar's wife, dispel notion of being a "caged parrot", says SC**

perception should be that of an uncaged parrot," Justice Bhuyan wrote.  
**'On the cusp of release'**  
Justice Bhuyan said the timing of the CBI arrest was suspect as the Chief Minister had been at that time on the "cusp of release" from jail following a Special Court order granting him bail in the money-laundering case. The arrest's timing invited the view that it was meant to "frustrate" Mr. Kejriwal's release, he observed.  
Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi had termed the CBI arrest an "insurance arrest". On the point of bail, both judges agreed the continued incarceration of Mr. Kejriwal violated his right to personal liberty. The CBI lodged its FIR in August 2022. So far, five chargesheets, amounting to 24 witnesses and 17 additional accused, were filed in the trial court. The documentary evidence was extensive.  
"There is no likelihood of the completion of the trial in the immediate future," Justice Kant surmised.  
Justice Bhuyan found no reason to hold Mr. Kejriwal captive in the CBI case when he had already been granted bail multiple times under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The apex court refused to relegate the bail plea to the trial court. The Bench dismissed the CBI's apprehensions that Mr. Kejriwal would influence witnesses and tamper with the evidence.  
The court ordered Mr. Kejriwal to pay bail bonds of 10 lakh with two sureties and barred him from making any public comments about the CBI case to avoid "boasting a self-serving narrative" about a sub-judice matter, especially on social media networks.  
**MORE REPORTS**  
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## Game changers



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, The Hindu Group Chairperson Nirmala Lakshman, and Businessline Editor Raghuvir Srinivasan with the winners of The Hindu Businessline Changemaker Awards, in New Delhi on Friday. *SEE KANAN PILLAY PAGE 4.*

## All allegations are false, they are motivated, says SEBI chief

**Lalitendu Mishra**  
**MUMBAI**  
Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Madhavi Puri Buch, in a statement issued in their personal capacity on Friday, rejected all allegations made by the Congress against them, terming the claims "false, malicious and motivated".  
In a statement, she said she was not a client of Mr. Hart, which was named by the Congress. They said it appears that the allegations are being made in instalments, only to keep the pot boiling.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
» PAGE 11

## Adani denies link as Swiss court freezes \$311 mn of 'proxy'

**Press Trust of India**  
**NEW DELHI**  
Swiss authorities have frozen \$311 million (₹2,610 crore) held by a Taiwanese resident in multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering probe, suspecting he may be a frontman from the Adani Group — a charge the conglomerate vehemently denying, saying it was neither involved in any Swiss court proceedings nor were any of its accounts subject to seizure.  
The U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research, in a post on X, cited Swiss media outlet reporting to state that "Swiss authorities have frozen more than \$310 million in funds across multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering and securities forgery investigation into Adani, dating back as early as 2021".  
Prosecutors detailed how an Adani frontman invested in opaque BVV Mauritius & Bermuda funds that almost exclusively owned Adani stocks, it said citing the report.  
The Adani Group rejected the allegations as baseless, saying it had no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings. "We unequivocally reject and deny the baseless allegations presented. The Adani Group very involvement in any Swiss court proceedings, nor have any of our company accounts been subject to seizure by any court," the Swiss media outlet Gotham City, in its report,



Swiss investigators suspected that Chang Chung-Ling was a mere front for the Adani Group. He stated that a ruling by the Federal Criminal Court revealed that the Geneva Public Prosecutor's Office was investigating alleged wrongdoing and more than \$310 million belonging to an alleged frontman for billionaire Gautam Adani have been sequestered in five Swiss banks over the past three years.

**'Not been mentioned'**  
The Swiss investigators suspected that the associate, Chang Chung-Ling, was not the ultimate beneficial owner of the company under investigation but a mere front. The Adani Group, however, said that the court order was not linked to them and they have not been mentioned in it.  
"Even in the alleged order, the Swiss court neither mentioned our group companies nor have we received any requests for clarification or information from any such authority or regulatory body. We reiterate that our overseas holding structure is transparent, fully disclosed, and compliant with all relevant laws," the conglomerate said.

# Ford to reopen its T.N. plant to make vehicles for export

**The Hindu Bureau**  
**CHENNAI**  
In a much-awaited move, the Ford Motor Company has expressed interest in restarting its manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu. The company has submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the State government outlining its intention to utilise the Chennai plant for manufacturing vehicles for export.  
The announcement follows a meeting between the Ford leadership team and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during his visit to the United States. The strategic move will see the facility re-

posed to focus on manufacturing for global markets, as part of the company's ambitious "Ford+ growth plan". The company said that further information about the nature of manufacturing and other details will be disclosed in due course.  
Nearly three years ago, the American major had announced that it would cease vehicle production in India.  
Kay Hart, president, Ford International Markets Group, announced the decision on LinkedIn. "I am pleased to share that today we are announcing that we have submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Govern-

ment of the United States. "We appreciate their ongoing support as we have explored different options for the plant," the post read.  
**'Commitment to India'**  
"This step underscores our ongoing commitment to India as we intend to leverage the manufacturing expertise available in Tamil Nadu to serve new global markets," she wrote.  
Ms. Hart also said, "For right now, I'm excited that this decision will add to our growing employee base in Chennai; our global Ford Business Solutions team based there is already more than 12,000 strong and we are planning to in-

crease that by another 2,500 to 3,000 team members in the next few years. When you add that with our engine manufacturing team in Sabana and our ongoing customer and dealer support teams, that is Ford's second-largest employee base worldwide. Earlier this week, Mr. Stalin, after meeting with the Ford team in the United States, posted on X: "Had a very engaging discussion with the team from Ford Motors. Explored the fascinating three decade partnership with Tamil Nadu for the make in Tamil Nadu for the world."



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with executives from Ford Motors in the United States earlier this week. *SEE KANAN PILLAY PAGE 4.*

Ms. Hart further wrote that the decision follows multiple meetings with the Tamil Nadu government, including one last week with Mr. Stalin during his

# Supreme Court grants bail, Kejriwal walks free

Bench reinforces conditions from July 12 order granting Delhi CM bail in a related case under ED

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan writes separate opinion questioning timing and necessity of CBI's arrest

CBI must be "above board" like Caesar's wife, dispel notion of being a "caged parrot", says SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to be released on regular bail in a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in relation to the now-scrapped excise policy.

Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan concurred to grant bail to Mr. Kejriwal but differed on the point of the legality of his arrest.

Justice Kant barred Mr. Kejriwal from visiting the office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi Secretariat or signing official files unless it was required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. These conditions were adopted from the July 12 order of the apex court granting the Chief Minister bail in a connected money laundering case investigated by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

Justice Bhuyan said he had "serious reservations" about the two bail conditions but refrained from delving further into them as they were part of the July 12 order in a different case heard by a coordinate Bench of the apex court. His restraint would mean the two bail conditions would now be effective.

The verdict was based on petitions filed by Mr. Kejriwal, seeking bail and the quashing of his arrest by the CBI on June 26. Later in the day, he stepped out of Tihar jail to a resounding welcome by AAP leaders and supporters.

## Urgency questioned

While Justice Kant said the CBI arrest warranted no interference as it did not suffer from any "procedural infirmity", Justice Bhuyan chose to write a separate opinion questioning both its timing and necessity without mincing words. He questioned the urgency shown by the CBI to arrest Mr. Kejriwal 22 months af-



**Big win:** Arvind Kejriwal being welcomed by Aam Aadmi Party workers and supporters after coming out of Tihar jail on bail, on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ter the registration of the First Information Report in the case.

Noting that the power of arrest must be used sparingly and is not a ruse for harassment, Justice Bhuyan urged the CBI to be

above board in its actions like "Caesar's wife" and give the public the perception of an "uncaged parrot".

"In a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters.

Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board. Not so long ago, the Supreme Court had castigated the CBI for being a caged parrot. It is imperative that CBI dispel this notion. Rather, the

perception should be that of an uncaged parrot," Justice Bhuyan wrote.

## 'On the cusp of release'

Justice Bhuyan said the timing of the CBI arrest was suspect as the Chief Minister had been at that time on the "cusp of release" from jail following a Special Court order granting him bail in the money-laundering case. The arrest's timing invited the view that it was meant to "frustrate" Mr. Kejriwal's release, he observed.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi had termed the CBI arrest an "insurance arrest".

On the point of bail, both judges agreed the continued incarceration of Mr. Kejriwal violated his right to personal liberty. The CBI lodged its FIR in August 2022. So far, five chargesheets, arraigning 224 witnesses and 17 additional accused, were filed in the trial court. The documentary evidence was extensive.

"There is no likelihood of the completion of the trial in the immediate future," Justice Kant surmised.

Justice Bhuyan found no reason to hold Mr. Kejriwal captive in the CBI case when he had already been granted bail multiple times under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The apex court refused to relegate the bail plea to the trial court. The Bench dismissed the CBI's apprehensions that Mr. Kejriwal would influence witnesses and tamper with the evidence.

The court ordered Mr. Kejriwal to pay bail bonds of ₹10 lakh with two sureties and barred him from making any public comments about the CBI case to avoid "building a self-serving narrative" about a sub judice matter, especially on social media networks.


**MORE REPORTS**

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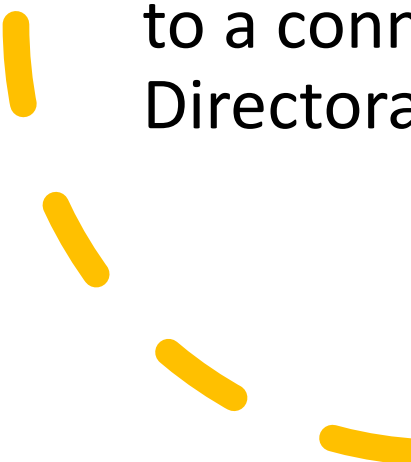
- **Supreme Court Grants Bail to Arvind Kejriwal:**

- The Supreme Court granted regular bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a case filed by the CBI related to the now-scrapped excise policy.
  - Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan concurred on granting bail but had different opinions on the legality of Kejriwal's arrest.
- 






- **Bail Conditions:**

- Justice Surya Kant barred Kejriwal from visiting the Delhi Secretariat and signing official documents unless required and cleared by the Lieutenant Governor.
  - These conditions were part of a previous July 12 court order related to a connected money laundering case under the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- 



- **Justice Bhuyan's Opinion:**

- Justice Bhuyan expressed reservations about the bail conditions but did not delve into them as they were part of a previous order.
  - He questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI, calling it suspicious as it appeared to “frustrate” his earlier bail order in a money-laundering case.
- 

- **On Kejriwal's Arrest:**
- The CBI's urgency in arresting Kejriwal after 22 months of investigation was questioned, with Bhuyan stressing that the agency must act "above board" like "Caesar's wife."
- Both judges ruled that Kejriwal's continued incarceration would violate his personal liberty, dismissing concerns about witness tampering.



- **Public Perception and CBI's Role:**

- Justice Bhuyan emphasized that in a democracy, “perception matters,” and that the CBI should dispel the notion of being a "caged parrot."
- The court also cautioned against the abuse of arrest powers and asked the CBI to act responsibly.

## 1. Bail Terms:

1. Kejriwal was ordered to pay ₹10 lakh in bail bonds with two sureties and refrain from making public comments about the case to avoid creating a “self-serving narrative.”



# Adani denies link as Swiss court freezes \$311 mn of 'proxy'

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Swiss authorities have frozen \$311 million (₹2,610 crore) held by a Taiwanese resident in multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering probe, suspecting he may be a frontman from the Adani Group – a charge the conglomerate vehemently denied saying it was neither involved in any Swiss court proceedings nor were any of its accounts subject to sequestration.

The U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research, in a post on X, cited a Swiss media outlet report to state that “Swiss authorities have frozen more than \$310 million in funds across multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering and securities forgery investigation into Adani, dating back as early as 2021”.

“Prosecutors detailed how an Adani frontman invested in opaque BVI/Mauritius & Bermuda funds that almost exclusively owned Adani stocks,” it said citing the report.

The Adani Group rejected the allegations as baseless, saying it had no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings. “We unequivocally reject and deny the baseless allegations presented. The Adani Group has no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings, nor have any of our company accounts been subject to sequestration by any authority,” it said.

The Swiss media outlet *Gotham City*, in its report,



Swiss investigators suspected that Chang Chung-Ling was a mere front for the Adani Group.

stated that a ruling by the Federal Criminal Court revealed that the Geneva Public Prosecutor’s Office was investigating alleged wrongdoing and more than \$310 million belonging to an alleged frontman for billionaire Gautam Adani have been sequestered in five Swiss banks over the past three years.

### ‘Not been mentioned’

The Swiss investigators suspected that the associate, Chang Chung-Ling, was not the ultimate beneficial owner of the company under investigation but a mere front. The Adani Group, however, said that the court order was not linked to them and they have not been mentioned in it.

“Even in the alleged order, the Swiss court has neither mentioned our group companies, nor have we received any requests for clarification or information from any such authority or regulatory body. We reiterate that our overseas holding structure is transparent, fully disclosed, and compliant with all relevant laws,” the conglomerate said.

- **Swiss Court Freezes \$311 Million:**

- Swiss authorities froze \$311 million (₹2,610 crore) in Swiss bank accounts held by a Taiwanese resident.
- The freeze is part of a money laundering probe related to a suspected proxy for the Adani Group, though the group denies any involvement.

- **Adani Group's Denial:**

- The Adani Group has categorically denied any connection to the frozen funds or any Swiss court proceedings.
- They stated that none of their accounts are under sequestration, and the Swiss court has not mentioned the group in its order.








- **Hindenburg Research Report:**

- Hindenburg Research cited a Swiss media report stating that Swiss authorities have frozen these funds as part of an investigation into money laundering and securities forgery dating back to 2021.
- 



- **Allegations of a Frontman:**

- Prosecutors believe that the funds invested in Adani stocks via opaque structures (BVI, Bermuda) were held by a frontman for the Adani Group.
  - The group maintains that its overseas holding structure is fully transparent and compliant with all legal requirements.
- 

## **1. Court's Findings:**

1. The Swiss Federal Criminal Court's ruling revealed that the Geneva Public Prosecutor's Office was investigating more than \$310 million linked to an alleged frontman for billionaire Gautam Adani.



- **Consider the following statements regarding the recent money laundering probe linked to the Adani Group:**

1. Swiss authorities froze \$311 million held by a Taiwanese resident suspected to be a frontman for the Adani Group.
2. The Adani Group acknowledged involvement in Swiss court proceedings related to money laundering investigations.
3. Hindenburg Research linked the frozen funds to opaque offshore structures associated with Adani stocks.

- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

# Ford to reopen its T.N. plant to make vehicles for export

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In a much-awaited move, the Ford Motor Company has expressed interest in restarting its manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu. The company has submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the State government, outlining its intention to utilise the Chennai plant for manufacturing vehicles for export.

The announcement follows a meeting between the Ford leadership team and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during his visit to the United States. The strategic move will see the facility repur-

posed to focus on manufacturing for global markets, as part of the company's ambitious "Ford+ growth plan". The company said that further information about the nature of manufacturing and other details will be disclosed in due course.

Nearly three years ago, the American major had announced that it would cease vehicle production in India.

Kay Hart, president, Ford International Markets Group, announced the decision on LinkedIn. "I am pleased to share that today we are announcing that we have submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Govern-



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with executives from Ford Motors in the United States earlier this week. X/@MKSTALIN

ment of Tamil Nadu in India, outlining Ford's intention to utilize our Chennai plant for manufacturing for export," she wrote on Friday.

Ms. Hart further wrote that the decision follows multiple meetings with the Tamil Nadu government, including one last week with Mr. Stalin during his

visit to the United States. "We appreciate their ongoing support as we have explored different options for the plant," the post read.

## 'Commitment to India'

"This step underscores our ongoing commitment to India as we intend to leverage the manufacturing expertise available in Tamil Nadu to serve new global markets," she wrote.

Ms. Hart also said: "For right now, I'm excited that this decision will add to our growing employee base in Chennai; our global Ford Business Solutions team based there is already more than 12,000 strong and we are planning to in-

crease that by another 2,500 to 3,000 team members in the next few years. When you add that with our engine manufacturing team in Sanand and our ongoing customer and dealer support team, India is Ford's second-largest employee base worldwide."

Earlier this week, Mr. Stalin, after meeting the Ford team in the United States, posted on X: "Had a very engaging discussion with the team from Ford Motors. Explored the feasibility of renewing Ford's three decade partnership with Tamil Nadu, to again make in Tamil Nadu for the world."

<b>Company type</b>	Public
<b>Traded as</b>	NYSE: F <a href="#">↗</a> S&P 100 component S&P 500 component
<b>Industry</b>	Automotive
<b>Predecessor</b>	Henry Ford Company
<b>Founded</b>	June 16, 1903; 121 years ago in <a href="#">Detroit, Michigan, U.S.</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Founder</b>	Henry Ford
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Ford World Headquarters, Dearborn, Michigan, U.S.</a>
<b>Area served</b>	Worldwide
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">William Clay Ford Jr.</a> (executive chairman) <a href="#">Jim Farley</a> (president & CEO)
<b>Products</b>	<a href="#">Automobiles</a> <a href="#">Performance vehicles</a> <a href="#">Luxury vehicles</a> <a href="#">Commercial vehicles</a> <a href="#">Automotive parts</a>
<b>Production output</b>	<a href="#">▲</a> 4.4 million vehicles (2023)
<b>Brands</b>	<a href="#">Ford</a> <a href="#">Lincoln</a> <a href="#">Motorcraft</a>
<b>Services</b>	<a href="#">Automotive finance</a> <a href="#">Vehicle leasing</a> <a href="#">Vehicle service</a>

<b>Revenue</b>	<a href="#">▲</a> <a href="#">US\$176.2 billion</a> (2023)
<b>Operating income</b>	<a href="#">▲</a> <a href="#">US\$5.46 billion</a> (2023)
<b>Net income</b>	<a href="#">▲</a> <a href="#">US\$4.33 billion</a> (2023)
<b>Total assets</b>	<a href="#">▲</a> <a href="#">US\$273.3 billion</a> (2023)
<b>Total equity</b>	<a href="#">▼</a> <a href="#">US\$42.80 billion</a> (2023)
<b>Owner</b>	<a href="#">Ford family</a> (2% equity; 40% voting power)
<b>Number of employees</b>	177,000 (2023)
<b>Divisions</b>	<a href="#">Ford Blue</a> <a href="#">Ford Model E</a> <a href="#">Ford Pro</a>



MATT DAMON CHRISTIAN BALE  
**FORD** v **FERRARI**  
NOVEMBER 15






- **Ford Motor Company's Plan:**
- Ford plans to reopen its manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu (TN) for vehicle production aimed at export markets.
- The company has submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the TN State government outlining this plan.






- **Chennai Plant's Role:**

- The Chennai plant will be repurposed to focus on manufacturing vehicles for global markets, contributing to Ford's ambitious "Ford+ growth plan."
  - Further details on the type of vehicles to be manufactured will be disclosed in due course.
- 

- 
- **Ford's Commitment to India:**
  - The reopening is part of Ford's ongoing commitment to India, leveraging manufacturing expertise in TN for global markets.
  - India remains Ford's second-largest employee base worldwide, with over 12,000 employees in Chennai.
- 



- **Tamil Nadu Government's Involvement:**

- The decision follows multiple meetings between Ford's leadership and Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, including discussions during his visit to the U.S.
  - Mr. Stalin mentioned on social media that the discussions explored renewing Ford's three-decade-long partnership with TN.
- 

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding Ford Motor Company's recent announcement:

1. Ford plans to reopen its Tamil Nadu plant to manufacture vehicles for export markets.

2. The decision was announced after meetings between Ford executives and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in India.

3. Ford's employee base in India is currently its largest worldwide.



- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 1 and 3 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only

- (d) 1, 2, and 3





# ICF, maker of Vande Bharat, is Changemaker of the Year

## **Businessline Bureau**

NEW DELHI

In a glittering ceremony marked by a pulsating percussion performance by Sumesh Narayanan and a stirring account of an adventurous feat by sailor Abhilash Tomy, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented *The Hindu businessline's* Changemaker of the Year award to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the manufacturer of the Vande Bharat train, for redefining travel for Indians.

Teacher, inventor, entrepreneur and mentor Ashok Jhunjunwala, under whose stewardship the IIT-Madras Research Park developed dozens of cut-

ting-edge technologies and spawned several start-ups, was crowned Iconic Changemaker of the Year.

Receiving the award on behalf of the ICF, U. Subba Rao, its General Manager, said: "The PM asked us to put out more such trains in the fastest time. We are proud to say that 12 more trains will be rolled out across India."

### **Seven categories**

The sixth edition of the event saw awards being given in seven categories - Digital Transformation, Social Transformation, Financial Transformation, Young Changemaker, Iconic Changemaker, Changemaker of the Year, and the Chairperson's Award. The



Nirmala Sitharaman presenting the award to ICF GM U. Subba Rao in New Delhi. With them are THG Publishing Chairperson Nirmala Lakshman and businessline Editor Raghuvir Srinivasan. R.V. MOORTHY

Digital Transformation winner was the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics, which is helping in early detection of infectious diseases by bringing critical diagnostics services right to people's doorsteps.

In Social Transformation, there were two winners - the Wildlife Trust of India, a name synonymous with the right to passage for elephants and an organisation that has rescued and rehabilitated bears,

rhinos, elephants, vultures, whale sharks and more; and Design for Change, a movement started by the Ahmedabad-based Kiran Bir Sethi, which works to make children the future changemakers of the world.

The Financial Transformation award was given to Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank, which has transformed the financial landscape for rural women. India's youngest chess world championship challenger, D. Gukesh, got the Young Changemaker award.

Earlier, inaugurating the event, Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of THG Publishing Private Limited, said, "Impactful change

begins with vision." She added, "Changemakers are those who strive to change the present paradigm."

The 2024 awards function was presented by Sasthra as presenting partner and powered by SBI. The event was also supported by associate partners LIC, J&K Bank, NTPC, Union Bank of India, NMDC, Essar, Punjab & Sind Bank, Swelect Energy and Indian Bank. Casagrand was the realty partner, while Fortinet was the cybersecurity partner. NDTV 24x7 was the television partner. The knowledge partners were Ashoka and Deloitte, while the validation partner was NIITI Consulting. The online streaming partner was DailyHunt.

- **ICF Awarded Changemaker of the Year:**
- Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the manufacturer of the Vande Bharat trains, was awarded The Hindu Businessline's Changemaker of the Year.
- The award was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ICF's role in redefining travel for Indians through the Vande Bharat trains was highlighted.



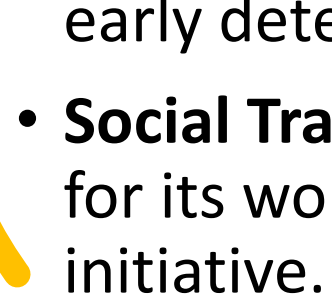




- **ICF's Achievements:**

- U. Subba Rao, ICF's General Manager, accepted the award and stated that 12 more Vande Bharat trains would be rolled out across India soon.

- **Other Notable Awards:**

- **Digital Transformation Award:** Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics for its role in early detection of infectious diseases.
  - **Social Transformation Award:** Jointly awarded to the Wildlife Trust of India for its work in rescuing animals and Kiran Bir Sethi's Design for Change initiative.
- 

- 
- **Financial Transformation:**
  - Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank received the Financial Transformation Award for improving the financial landscape for rural women.
  - **Young Changemaker Award:**
  - Chess prodigy D. Gukesh was awarded the Young Changemaker Award.
- 




- **Consider the following statements about the recent Changemaker of the Year awards:**

1. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) was awarded the Changemaker of the Year for its role in manufacturing Vande Bharat trains.

2. The Young Changemaker Award was given to Molbio Diagnostics for its early detection technology.

3. The Social Transformation Award was won by Wildlife Trust of India and Design for Change initiative.

- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2, and 3
- 

**IN BRIEF**



**Port Blair to be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, says Amit Shah**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Port Blair, the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram to "free the nation from colonial imprints". Announcing the decision on X, Mr. Shah said, "While the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in our freedom struggle and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands' unique role in the same." The island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is today poised to be the critical base for our strategic and development aspirations, the Union Minister added.

**DRDO completes preliminary trials of indigenous light tank**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary autonomous trials of the Indian light tank, Zorawar, meant for deployment in high-altitude areas, it said on Friday. "During the field trials conducted in the desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives. In the initial phase, the tank's firing performance was rigorously evaluated and it achieved the required accuracy," DRDO said in a statement. The tank is expected to be handed over to the Army by August 2025. Officials said Zorawar has been developed by the DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro.

**2 lakh places to be identified for cleanliness drive: Minister**

The Centre will identify two lakh very difficult and dirty spots across the country and ensure their time-bound and result-oriented transformation as part of its flagship Swachh Bharat Mission. These spots, to be identified Cleanliness Target Units, would be called and mapped through a portal, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal said on Friday. The campaign includes mega cleanliness drives at various sites like tourist locations, public buildings, commercial areas, community toilets, public toilets, water bottling towns, and sanctuaries through collective action. As of now, 8,500 spots have already been identified.

**Chouhan announces start of new phase of PMAY scheme**

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday announced the launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana's (PMAY) next phase, which will begin with Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributing sanction letters to 20,000 beneficiaries in election-bound Jharkhand on September 15. Under the new phase, two crore houses will be constructed in rural areas and one crore in urban areas. The beneficiaries will also get other amenities such as drinking water, toilet facility, gas connection and power supply. "The total allocation for Jharkhand is 1.13 lakh houses," he said.

**Railway Board Chairman flags shortage of manpower**

In a letter to the Finance Ministry, Satish Kumar highlights increase in new lines and trains, and emphasises need for creation of new posts; he says more staff needed for safe operation of trains

S. Vijay Kumar  
CHENNAI

Days after taking charge as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board, Satish Kumar has raised concerns about the critical issue of manpower shortages in the Indian Railways and sought additional staff "urgently" to ensure the safe operation of trains.



Sketch in times: Mr. Kumar's concerns are set against the backdrop of a series of major accidents over the last two years, including 2024.

In a letter to the Finance Ministry, Mr. Kumar highlighted the exponential growth in railway infrastructure, particularly the increase in new lines and trains, and emphasised the need for the creation of new posts. "For effective monitoring and execution of various projects, maintenance of new assets, and the smooth and safe operation of trains, there is an urgent requirement for additional manpower in Indian Railways," he stated.

Mr. Kumar's concerns are set against the backdrop of a series of major accidents resulting in multiple fatalities in the railway network over the past two years. Filling the large number of vacancies across various departments, especially in safety-related roles, has been a long-standing demand of railway unions. "The creation and expansion of new assets and lines in the Railways also necessitated additional staff to all safety parameters for passenger and freight trains and to maintain the associated infrastructure. Regarding passenger amenities, the number of escalators rose from 626 in March 2019 to 1,436 in March 2024, and the number of lifts increased by 106%. Electrification was completed over 63,495 km of route, compared to 35,488 km previously. On the revenue front, the Railways recorded a 40% increase in passenger earnings and a 31.4% increase in freight loading between 2019-20 and 2023-24. To meet the ambitious targets set for 2030, more

trains would have to be operated, which required increased manpower for both train operations and infrastructure maintenance. The expansion of new assets and lines in the Railways also necessitated additional staff to all safety parameters for passenger and freight trains and to maintain the associated infrastructure.

Given that compliance with safety norms was paramount in train operations, outsourcing critical activities like maintenance of tracks, bridges, locomotives, coaches, wagons, and signalling equipment was not feasible. Therefore, Mr. Kumar stressed the

need for the Ministry of Railways to be granted authority to create non-gazetted posts in essential safety categories. Underlining the urgent need for more manpower, Mr. Kumar noted that the number of locomotives increased from 11,739 in March 2019 to 17,359 in March 2024, which was a 59.86% increase. This growth was accompanied by a rise in the number of loco sheds, workshops, and running rooms (rest houses for train crews). Additional manpower was required to operate these locomotives for both passenger and freight trains and to maintain the associated infrastructure.

Regarding passenger amenities, the number of escalators rose from 626 in March 2019 to 1,436 in March 2024, and the number of lifts increased by 106%. Electrification was completed over 63,495 km of route, compared to 35,488 km previously. On the revenue front, the Railways recorded a 40% increase in passenger earnings and a 31.4% increase in freight loading between 2019-20 and 2023-24. To meet the ambitious targets set for 2030, more

**Petition seeks awareness on crimes against women**

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the Centre's response on a public interest litigation to raise awareness in educational institutions about crimes against women, saying knee-jerk reactions like making punishments harsher and gruesome crime is hardly a solution.

The need of identifying the real cause of this crime is the first requirement. Once this is done, the next step would be to try to find measures to revolutionise the male mindset in the country and instil in them the fear of the law," the petition said.

The petition, filed by senior advocate Aabad Ponda, questioned the legality of laws that make death penalty mandatory.

**Two Army personnel killed in gunfight with terrorists in Kishtwar**

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Two Army personnel, including a junior Commissioned Officer, were killed and two injured in a gunfight with terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, security officials said on Friday.

An Army spokesperson said a contact was established with the hiding terrorists at 3.30 p.m. at Kishtwar's Chatroo. "Based on the intelligence inputs, a joint operation with the J&K Police was launched in Chatroo area at Kishtwar," the spokesman said. "The operation is in progress," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X. The officials said the four Army personnel have been injured. "The operation is in progress," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X. The officials said the four Army personnel were injured in the gunfight and two of them — JCO Naib Subedar Vipin Kumar and Sepoy Arvind Singh — later died of their injuries,

**NMC's revised guidelines for MBBS curriculum still has deficiencies, say activists**

Hindu Shaan Perappadan  
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission has issued the Competency-based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME-2024) guidelines for MBBS students. Last month, the NMC revised the guidelines following protests by transgender and disability rights groups.

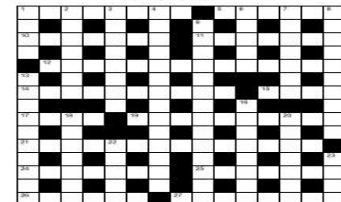
The revision to version two has come under fire. Activists said the guidelines had no mention of key terms such as "dignity" and "transgender". They have now written to all stakeholders demanding immediate revision of the guidelines. Satendra Singh, a disability rights activist, said the subject's focus solely on the management of "dis-

ability" without acknowledging diversity. The revised document has dropped "sodomy", and other such terms from the MBBS syllabus. In the new syllabus, the medical body has included topics related to the history of gender and sexuality-based identities and rights in India, as well as the decriminalisation of adultery and consensual adult homosexual behaviour. Disability and transgender rights groups have demanded the reintroduction of the mandatory provisions on disability competencies, introduce provisions on students with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Transgender Persons Protection Act, 2019 in the curriculum of ethics.

**Rights groups want the reintroduction of the mandatory lessons on disability competencies**

Psychiatry continues to refer to "gender identity disorders" and pathology describes sexual differentiation or interest variations as "abnormalities". Furthermore, paediatrics demands the reintroduction of the mandatory provisions on disability competencies, introduce provisions on students with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Transgender Persons Protection Act, 2019 in the curriculum of ethics.

**THE CROSSWORD 14280**  
(set by Vidwan)



To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site, go <https://qr2o.page.link/369Fz>

- Across**
- 1 Ran into Chinese people, ushering in most ancient sport (8)
  - 5 Local spirit from seducers' quarters, unopened (6)
  - 6 Locally prevalent medicine, one consumed indiscriminately (7)
  - 8 Arrogant royal, ignored by most rich, avoids socialising (7)
  - 12 Noble queen, very sick, setting off (14)
  - 14 Working lunch with a new item, individually (3,2,1,4)

- 15 It is vast, endless, starting from Istanbul and ending in Siberia (6)
  - 17 Jail mark (4)
  - 18 Conventional sea tide (10)
  - 21 Frustful English titles for men having style, ones like Blair or Sunak (5,9)
  - 24 Love small number and a Greek alphabet (7)
  - 26 Obscure LA haunt for native American (7)
  - 28 Film's charge biller deducted regularly (8)
  - 27 Fairness of a duck, very large, one with bit of swagzer (8)
- Down**
- 1 Soldiers embodying unity and dignified manner (4)
  - 2 Old age working beyond time or younger, offensive version of a French fellow (7)
  - 3 An explosive food for the plants (8)
  - 4 Gold coffee supplies and logistics (14)
  - 6 CV Sri returns greeting (5)
  - 7 Leader of America with very loud unnatural manner and transactions (7)
  - 8 Make girl move halfway around to measure (10)
  - 9 Convent's men bent to conform to a code (5-9)
  - 11 Spooner beats top cover for something any good detective wants (10)
  - 14 Unfair situation, puts away, suppresses desire (6-2)
  - 16 One most insecure, forgets about cooking food? (7)
  - 20 Sable part of church, mainly used for gathering sounds (7)
  - 22 Recruit looney loner (5)
  - 23 Most luxurious sign (4)

**SUDOKU**

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

**Solution to previous puzzle**

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

**FAITH**  
**Trivikrama's gift to Mahabali**

When He descended on earth as Vamana and took viewform as Trivikrama, Bhagawan exemplified a quality of mercy that is unparalleled. He showed the world that a good guru, who is charitable, honourable, and values the act of charity as invaluable, is indeed beloved of the Lord, said Damal Perundevi.

When Aditi prayed for the safety of the devas from Mahabali, the Lord took avatar as Vamana. Short in stature, bald, dressed in rags, clad like a Brahmachari and carrying the umbrella and the kamandalam, when He arrived at Mahabali's yagnala, everyone was left dazed. Mahabali asked Vamana sought Vamana's response was: "Mooomamsa usadhi aru! (If you have three feet of land, give)." Mahabali's guru Sukracharya stopped the king, saying, "Ma dehi, ma dehi (do not give)." The alms seeker was none other than God Himself, who had come to subdue Mahabali. The king thanked his guru for showing him that God was present and offered Vamana the three feet of land. Vamana at once grew in stature as Trivikrama, spearing the skies, placing one foot there and the second foot below the earth. An enraptured Mahabali lay prostrate on the ground, with his hands folded. His arena filled with bhakti. When Trivikrama wondered where to measure the third foot of land, Mahabali offered his head, in total supplication. Trivikrama placed His foot on Mahabali, made him king of the nether world and blessed Him.



## Port Blair to be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, says Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Port Blair, the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram to “free the nation from colonial imprints”. Announcing the decision on X, Mr. Shah said, “While the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in our freedom struggle and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands’ unique role in the same.” The island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is today poised to be the critical base for our strategic and development aspirations, the Union Minister added.



worldatlas

72° E

ISLANDS



**Andaman Islands**

Saddle Peak  
North Andaman

Middle Andaman

Lower Andaman

Sentinel Island

**Port Blair**

Andaman Sea



11° N

Bay of Bengal

**Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Little Andaman

100 mi  
100 km

Car Nicobar

Indian Ocean

**Nicobar Islands**

Bompoka

Tarasa

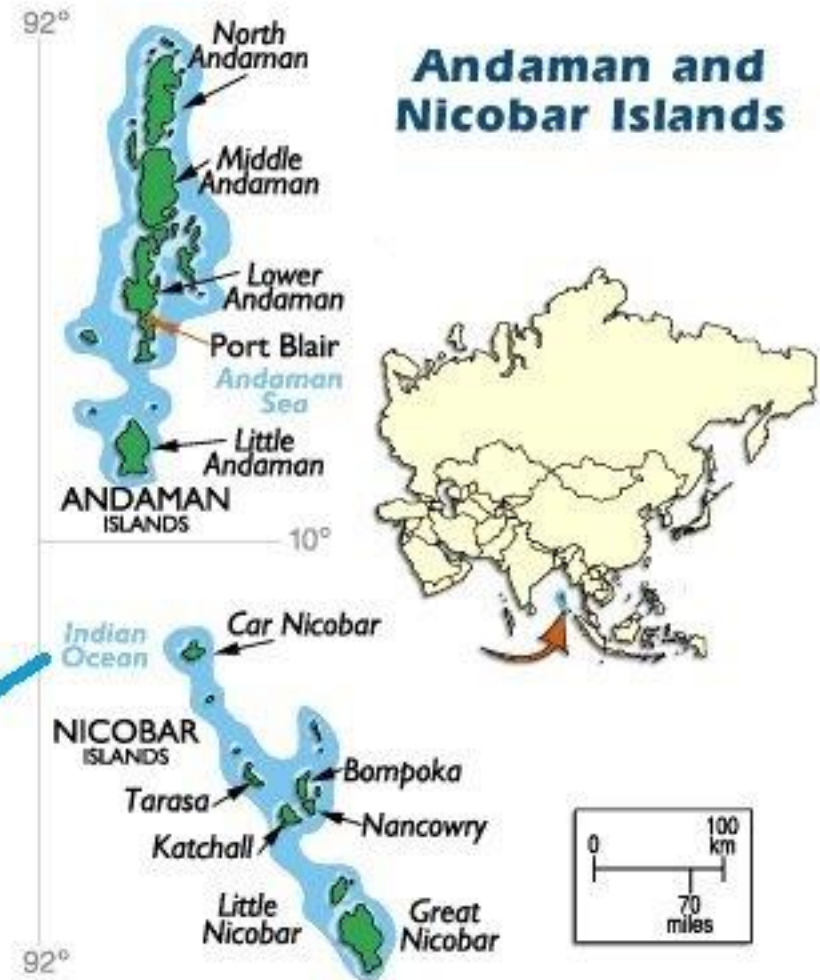
Nancowry

Katchall

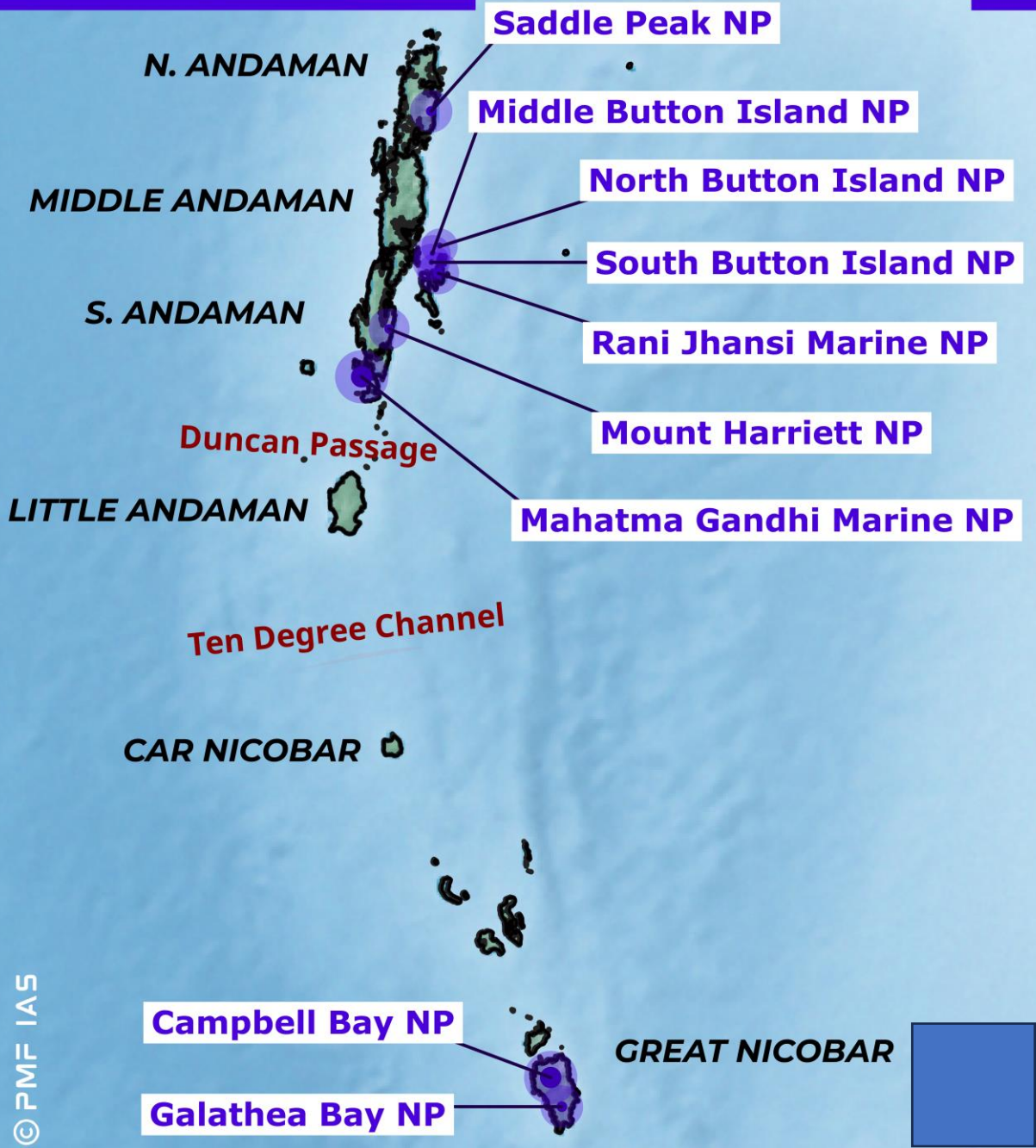
Little Nicobar

Great Nicobar

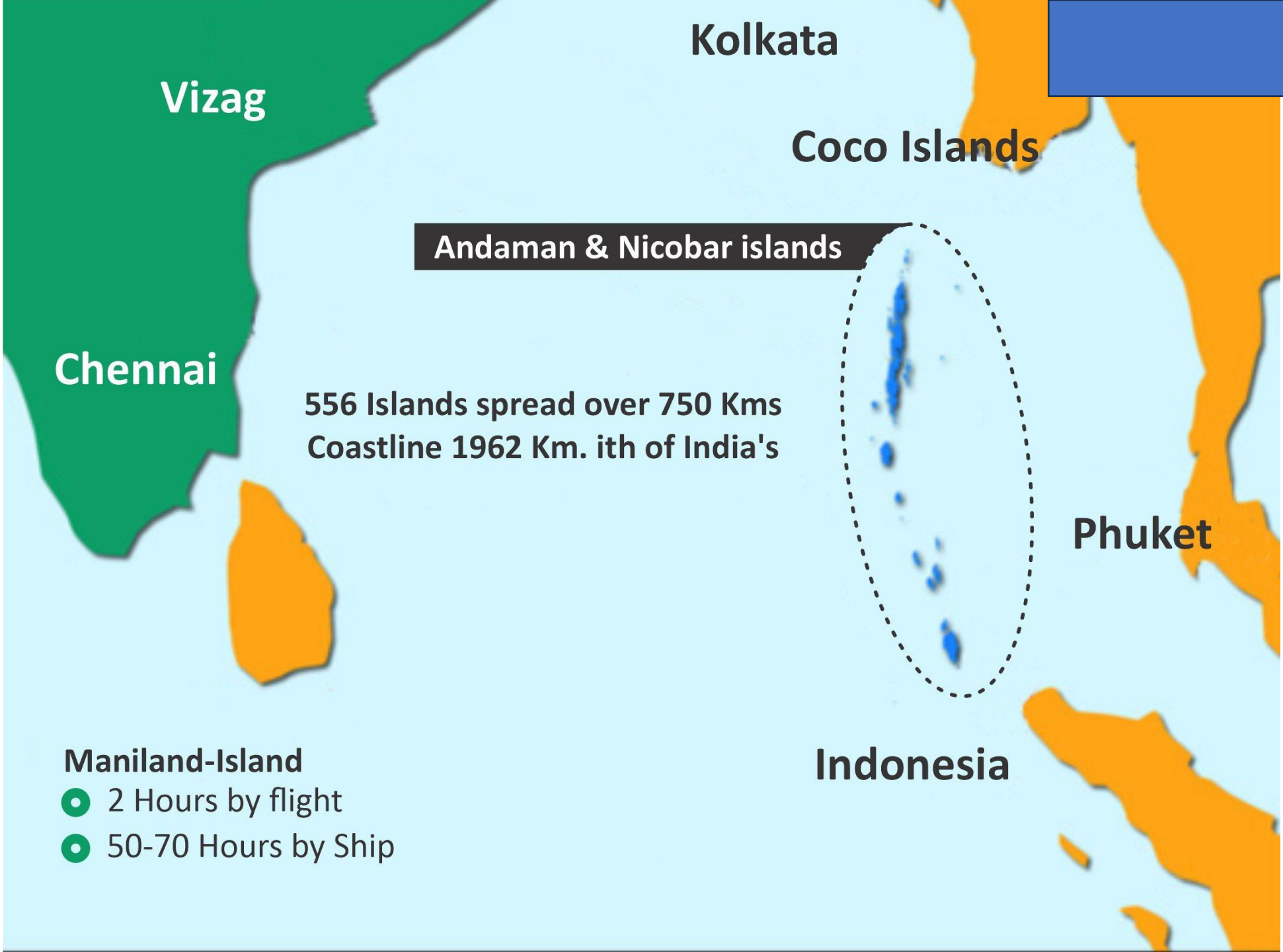
©GraphicMaps.com



# Andaman & Nicobar Is.







Kolkata

Vizag

Coco Islands

Andaman & Nicobar islands

Chennai

556 Islands spread over 750 Kms  
Coastline 1962 Km. ith of India's

Phuket

Indonesia

Maniland-Island

- 2 Hours by flight
- 50-70 Hours by Ship

# DRDO completes preliminary trials of indigenous light tank

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian light tank, Zorawar, meant for deployment in high-altitude areas, it said on Friday. “During the field trials conducted in the desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives. In the initial phase, the tank’s firing performance was rigorously evaluated and it achieved the required accuracy,” the DRDO said in a statement. The tank is expected to be handed over to the Army by August 2025, officials said. Zorawar has been developed by the DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro.

# Indigenous Zorawar Light Tank: Why is It Called 'Brave and Strong'?

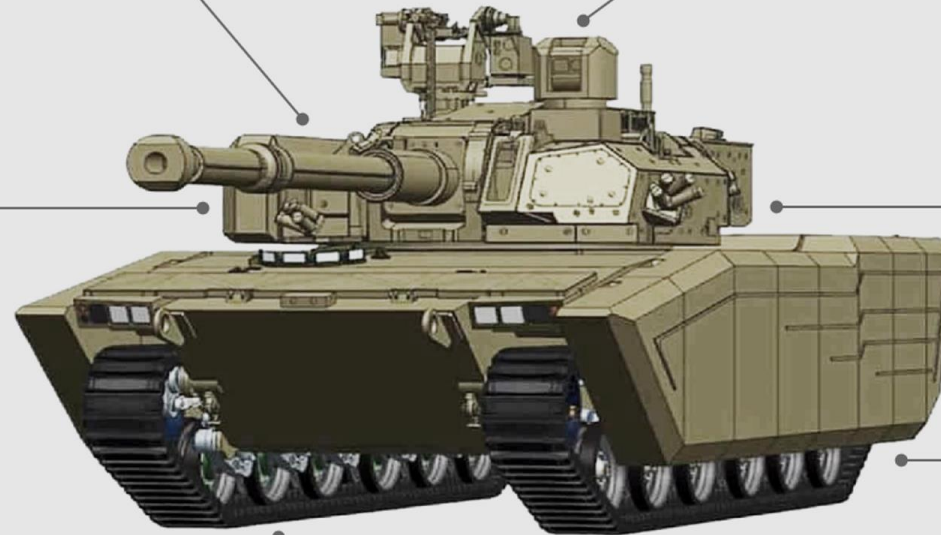
Developed by L&T in collaboration with DRDO

Field Artillery  
**FV433, 105mm**

Coaxial machine gun  
**7.62 mm**

Mass  
**25 t**

Persons  
**3**



Speed  
**70 km/h**

Horsepower  
**1000**

Offroad  
**35/40 km/h**

Source: DRDO

## विशेषताएँ

- युद्ध सामग्री, ड्रोन-विरोधी क्षमताएं, और अगली पीढ़ी की खुफिया, निगरानी और टोही क्षमताएं।
- आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस, ड्रोन युद्ध और सक्रिय सुरक्षा प्रणालियां।

## खरीद के कारण

विरोधी PLA पर उच्च ऊंचाई वाले क्षेत्रों में परिचालन प्रभुत्व।

## ज़ोरावर के बारे में

- DRDO के सहयोग से लार्सन एंड टुब्रो को एक हल्का टैंक प्रोटोटाइप विकसित करने का काम सौंपा गया है।
- ये हल्के वजन वाले टैंक पर्वतीय और उच्च ऊंचाई वाले सीमा क्षेत्रों, सीमांत इलाकों और द्वीप क्षेत्रों में तैनात किए जा सकते हैं।



## BERLIN

## Two German naval ships sail into sensitive Taiwan Strait



Two German naval vessels were heading into the Taiwan Strait on Friday, the country's defence minister said in Berlin, in a voyage expected to spark a protest from Beijing. "And the message is a very simple one, which we have always supported... international waters are international waters," Boris Pistorius told presspersons. AP

## PRETORIA

## South Africa President signs contested Bill in test for unity govt.



President Cyril Ramaphosa signed a disputed education Bill into law on Friday but delayed implementation of two clauses that had threatened to fracture South Africa's nearly three-month-old unity government. It was the first major test of the government of national unity forged after May elections. AP

## JERUSALEM

## UNRWA staffer 'shot and killed' in Israeli raid in occupied West Bank



The UN agency for Palestinian refugees said on Friday Sufyan Jaber Abed Jawad, one of its employees, was killed this week during an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank, the first such death in more than a decade. UNRWA said the employee was "shot and killed on the roof of his home by a sniper". AP

## MOSCOW

## Russian security chief Shoigu meets Kim Jong-un in N. Korea



The head of Russia's Security Council Sergei Shoigu met North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Friday, Moscow said, weeks after the Kremlin signed a defence pact with Pyongyang. The visit comes as Moscow seeks ammunition to continue its offensive in Ukraine and as the West accuses Pyongyang of sending arms to Moscow. AP

## Biden, Starmer to discuss long-range weapons for Kyiv

Prime Minister Starmer's visit to Washington comes with Kyiv pushing for permission and Russia warning that giving Ukraine the green light would mean NATO was 'at war' with Moscow

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

The leaders of Britain and the United States meet on Friday in Washington on whether to let Kyiv fire Western-made long-range missiles into Russia, an option that has sent tensions soaring with Moscow.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to President Joe Biden comes with Kyiv pushing for permission and Russia warning that giving Ukraine the green light would mean NATO was "at war" with Moscow.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said President Vladimir Putin's warning was "unambiguous": "We have no doubt that this statement has reached its recipients."

British media reported that Mr. Biden, who is wary of provoking a nuclear conflict, was ready to let Ukraine deploy British and French missiles using U.S.



Keir Starmer, left, with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy at the British Ambassador's residence in Washington on Friday. AP

technology but not U.S.-made missiles themselves.

Responding to Mr. Putin's warning, Mr. Starmer told U.K. media travelling with him that "Russia started this conflict. Russia illegally invaded Ukraine. Russia can end this conflict itself."

In a sign of increasing tensions, Russia's PSB secretary announced on Friday that the accreditation of six British diplomats had been withdrawn

and accused them of spying. Mr. Starmer is set to meet Mr. Biden in the Oval Office at 2030 GMT but has no scheduled meetings at this stage with Mr. Trump or Ms. Harris, both of whom will be on the campaign trail on Friday.

His visit is also aimed at papering over differences on the war in Gaza. Mr. Starmer's government last week announced restrictions on some weapons to Israel, voicing concern that they could be used to violate international humanitarian law.

The White House has declined to criticise Britain's decision, but *Politico* reported that Washington members of the cabinet would take to change its position. Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Do-

nald Trump. Mr. Trump repeatedly refused to take sides on the war during a debate with Ms. Harris on Tuesday, saying only: "I want the war to stop."

## WHO clears Bavarian Nordic's shot for Mpxv

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

The World Health Organization said on Friday it had cleared Bavarian Nordic's vaccine as the first shot against Mpxv.

The approval, known as a pre-qualification, is an official list of medicines used as a benchmark for procurement by developing countries.

"This first prequalification of a vaccine against Mpxv is an important step in our fight against the disease, ease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Mpxv was declared a public emergency of international concern by WHO last month.

Officials at the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said last month that nearly 70% of cases in Congo — the country's hardest-hit — are in children younger than 15, who also accounted for 85% of deaths.

## U.S. judge dismisses 3 counts in Trump 2020 election case

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

A Georgia judge on Thursday dismissed three of the counts in the indictment accusing former U.S. President Donald Trump and co-defendants of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the southern state.

Two of the three charges thrown out by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee involved Mr. Trump, and he now faces a total of eight felony counts in Georgia.

Judge McAfee declined, however, to quash the entire indictment which accuses the Republican presidential candidate and his allies racketeering and other offences.

The three dismissed charges involved the filing of fake elector certificates to falsify the 2020 election.

Judge McAfee said that Mr. Trump had won the election in Georgia, although he lost to Democrat Joe Biden by some 12,000 votes.



Donald Trump

bring a case for federal crimes. "The Supremacy Clause declares that state law must yield to federal law when the two conflict," the judge said in his order.

Mr. Trump had been charged with filing false documents and conspiring to file false documents.

The Georgia case has been frozen by an appeals court until it hears a bid by Mr. Trump and his co-defendants to disqualify Fani Willis, the Fulton County district attorney who brought the charges.

In March, Judge McAfee rejected an attempt to disqualify Ms. Willis following revelations she had a romantic relationship with the man she hired as a special prosecutor. They had a sexual encounter.

defendants appealed the ruling, and the Georgia Court of Appeals is to hear arguments in December.

Because the case is paused, the two counts against Mr. Trump of filing false documents will not technically be dropped until after the appeals court rules.

Evidence in the case includes a taped phone call in which Mr. Trump asked a top Georgia election official to "find" enough votes to reverse the result.

Eighteen co-defendants were indicted in Georgia along with Mr. Trump on racketeering and other charges, including his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and ex-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Four of Trump's original co-defendants have pleaded guilty to lesser charges in deals that spared them prison time.

Mr. Trump was convicted in a separate criminal case in New York in May of falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment to an adult star who alleged they had a sexual encounter.

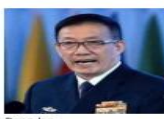
## China Defence Minister calls for 'negotiation' in conflicts

Agence France-Presse  
BEIJING

Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun said on Friday that "negotiation" was the only solution to conflicts such as the wars in Gaza and Ukraine as he addressed a global gathering of military officials in Beijing.

Top military representatives from Russia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Iran and Germany are among more than 500 delegates in Beijing for the Xiangshan Forum, dubbed China's answer to the annual Shangri-La meeting in Singapore.

The three-day forum comes as Beijing increas-



Dong Jun

ingly presents itself as a mediator in global conflicts, including by sending envoys to the West Asia, resolving a nuclear standoff in north Myanmar and last year, facilitating a historic rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

On Ukraine, China presents itself as a more neutral actor than the United States.

Mr. Dong told the opening ceremony: "To resolve hotspot issues such as the crisis in Ukraine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, promoting peace and negotiation is the only way out."

"There is no winner in war and conflict, and confrontation leads nowhere," Mr. Dong said.

"The more acute the conflict, the more we cannot give up dialogue and consultation," he added.

Topics for discussion at the forum include U.S.-China relations, security in Europe and Asia, and the challenges of defence in a multipolar world.

## Call for change



A man dressed as Hanuman participating in a protest demanding the reinstatement of Nepal as a Hindu state and the restoration of the monarchy near Parliament buildings in Kathmandu on Friday. AP

## Gunmen kill 14 in Afghanistan's Shia area in one of the deadliest attacks this year

Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

Gunmen killed 14 people in a Shia-majority area in central Afghanistan, the Taliban said on Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the country this year. Six other people were wounded in the assault.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility before the Taliban acknowledged the shooting, in which took place on Thursday and targeted people as

they travelled between the Shia-majority provinces of Ghor and Daikundi. A machine gun was used in the assault, the IS group said. It gave a higher death toll than the Taliban.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani as saying the group had targeted people welcoming Afghan Shias who were returning from visiting shrines in Iraq. He called for immediate action to punish

The group's affiliate in the country has challenged authorities' grip on domestic security.

those behind the crime. The group's affiliate in the country, a major rival to the Taliban, has challenged authorities' grip on domestic security by attacking schools, hospitals, mosques and Shia areas during the past three

years. The Taliban's chief spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid strongly condemned Thursday's "barbaric action" and authorities considered it their obligation to protect people and their property.

"We are also making serious efforts to search for the perpetrators and bring them to justice," he added. Earlier this month, an IS suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden vest at a prosecutor's office in the capital Kabul.

## Sinaloa cartel co-founder 'El Mayo' pleads not guilty to charges in New York court

Agence France-Presse  
NEW YORK

The co-founder of the deadly Mexican Sinaloa cartel, Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada, appeared in court in Brooklyn on Friday, pleading not guilty to a raft of charges following his arrest in a dramatic sting by U.S. agents.

Mr. Zambada, 76, cut a frail figure as he appeared in the federal courthouse in prison uniform, needing assistance to get out of his



Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada

chair, answering judge James Cho's questions tersely.

In New York, Mr. Zambada, who has also faced charges in Texas, has been charged with 17 crimes including conspiracy to manufacture and internationally distribute drugs such as cocaine and fentanyl, work.

His next court appearance will be October 31.

"Extreme danger" to society and was a flight risk. Until his arrest on July 25, the defendant was one of the most powerful wanted narcotics kingpins in the world.

In Texas he pleaded not guilty to charges of racketeering, money laundering and conspiracy to commit murder.

He escaped capture for much of his life despite a U.S. bounty on his head of \$15 million.

U.S. Attorney Francisco Nunez's office opposed any bail for Mr. Zambada, telling the court he poses "an

# WHO clears Bavarian Nordic's shot for Mpox

**Reuters**

GENEVA

The World Health Organisation said on Friday it had cleared Bavarian Nordic's vaccine as the first shot against Mpox.

The approval, known as a pre-qualification, is an official list of medicines used as a benchmark for procurement by developing countries.

"This first prequalification of a vaccine against Mpox is an important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Mpox was declared a public emergency of international concern by WHO last month.

Officials at the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said last month that nearly 70% of cases in Congo – the country hardest hit by Mpox – are in children younger than 15, who also accounted for 85% of deaths.

# 'Smart' digital regulation soon, says Vaishnaw

UPI-like model for cybersecurity on the cards

**FE BUREAU**  
 Mumbai September 13

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** working on a framework of digital regulations which would at once promote innovation in the fast-growing sector and prevent any harm to citizens from its unbridled power, Union minister of railways, electronics and information technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

Speaking at the FE CFO Awards here, the minister said India would find a niche in digital regulation, which is a "smart framework" that would comprise horizontal laws, such as the one for data protection, which apply to all sectors, and vertical legislation, wherever required to address sector-specific issues. "It is important to create a good balance between innovation and regulation," he stressed.

The minister added that the government would also look to bring a UPI-

like framework for cybersecurity, which will help resource-scarce MSMEs and other entities to get the requisite resources to secure their systems.

The proposed digital framework, he said, is being formulated keeping in view the harms of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), which is creating issues like deepfakes, content moderation activities and cybersecurity breaches. "The institutions, which have been built over centuries are getting negatively impacted by social media, deepfakes, and AI-generated data, which is absolutely out of sync with reality. So a lot more needs to be done on that front," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said India is in a position to set the path for the most appropriate digital regulation after necessary consultations, given its talent pool, brain power, innovative zeal and proliferation of startups.

**Continued on Page 7**



Union minister of railways, electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw (centre) with winners of the FE CFO Awards, held in Mumbai on Friday

## PANEL DISCUSSION TECH IN CREDIT: CAN IT MOVE THE NEEDLE?

<p><b>DINESH KHARA,</b> FORMER CHAIRMAN, SEBI</p> <p><b>FOR TRUE FINANCIAL INCLUSION, WE NEED TO INCREASE FINANCIAL LITERACY</b></p>	<p><b>VYADYANATHAN MD &amp; CEO, IDFC First Bank</b></p> <p><b>WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN A CO-LENDING PARTNERSHIP IS TO KNOW WHO IS COLLECTING</b></p>	<p><b>RAJIV SABHARWAL, MD &amp; CEO, Tata Capital</b></p> <p><b>BANKING (LENDING) IS NOT ABOUT GIVING OUT MONEY. IT IS ABOUT COLLECTING MONEY</b></p>	<p><b>SHARAD SHARMA, founder, iSIPRI</b></p> <p><b>REGULATORY CHANGES HAVE FALLEN BEHIND, ESPECIALLY FOR MSME LENDING</b></p>
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## IN THE NEWS

**KEJRIWAL WALKS OUT OF JAIL AFTER SC GRANTS BAIL**

**THE SUPREME COURT** on Friday granted bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam, saying that prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

**CO-LOCATION CASE: SEBI DISMISSES CASE AGAINST NSE, OTHERS**

**SEBI ON FRIDAY** dismissed regulatory violations charges against the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and its seven former employees, including Chitra Ramakrishna and Ravi Varman, in a 2019 case pertaining to the co-location facility, citing absence of sufficient evidence. ■ PAGE 6

# False & malicious: Sebi chief, husband rebut Cong charges

**Claim facts distorted to create false narrative, keep legal options open**

**AKSHATA GORDE**  
 Mumbai, September 13

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE** Board of India (Sebi) chairperson Madhavi Parit Buch and husband Dhaval Buch on Friday issued a joint statement, rejecting conflict of interest allegations levelled against them by the Congress.

In a six-page statement, the couple gave a point-by-point rebuttal, terming the allegations deliberate distortion of facts to create a "false narrative". Buch also hinted at seeking legal opinion for further action in the matter. "The facts, transactions and conflict in our income tax returns, have been twisted deliberately to create a false narrative. Shockingly, our income tax returns clearly have been obtained by adopting a prudent and legal means and is a clear breach of not only our right to privacy (which is a fundamental right) but also a violation of the income tax Act," the Buchs said.

They also termed the accusations baseless, emphasising that they have always made full disclosures to the regulator regarding their consulting firms, personal property

**THE REBUTTAL BY THE BUCHS**

THESE SEEM TO BE AN ASSUMPTION THAT WHEN A SENIOR GOVT OFFICIAL'S SPOUSE IS APPOINTED AS AN ADVISER, IT MUST BE ATTRIBUTED TO FACTORS BEYOND PROFESSIONAL MERIT.

**On rental income from Wockhardt**  
 "No investigation files go to the chairperson"

**On consulting assignments of Dhaval Buch**  
 "Madhavi Buch never dealt with any file involving Agora, Mahindra, Pilditree, Dr Reddy's, Alvarez and Marsal, Sembcorp, Visa Leasing or ICICI Bank after joining Sebi"

**On ICICI Bank-related matters**  
 "Disclosed Esop holdings since 2017"  
 "Never dealt with any files related to ICICI Group firms"  
 "Worked in PE firm with prior permission, did not draw any salary from ICICI"

**Swiss probe charge: Adani stocks fall**

**AS MANY AS** seven Adani Group stocks closed lower on Friday after Swiss authorities issued a probe into the firm's dealings with a Taiwanese resident across multiple Swiss bank accounts, allegedly with links to Adani Group, an allegation the conglomerate has firmly denied.

**Report on Page 6**

# High-speed trains to be made in India soon

**Railway ministry arm floats tender for local production**

**MANU KAUSHIK**  
 New Delhi, September 13

**AFTER MAKING** a major headway in indigenous manufacturing of semi high-speed train coaches, the government has now set in motion a process for local production of high-speed rolling stocks. The move follows the potential rise in procuring the standard-gauge coaches for India's planned bullet train projects, including the under-construction Ahmedabad High Speed Rail.

According to official sources, the National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) under the ministry of railways has floated tenders for "design, manufacture, supply and commissioning of standard gauge high-speed train sets".

The race for contracts for assembling the coaches, that can run at a speed of up to 250 km per hour, compared with the maximum speed of 160 km/hour for Vande Bharat trains, is likely to be between state-run Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai and Bharat Earth Movers (BEM). However, sources said these entities may also look at forging an alliance for the venture or rope in a private player.

Global railway equipment makers like ABB, Alstom and Siemens are likely to be the component suppliers.

The investments needed in the projects for manufacturing of bullet train coaches would depend on the size of the projects and the technology involved, but the estimated costs of such coaches are above ₹460 crore per unit.

Though substantial domestic value addition is being planned, these projects would still have large import content.

**Continued on Page 7**

**THE JOURNEY AHEAD**

Race for assembling the coaches that can run at up to **250 km/hr** likely to be between state-run ICF and Bharat Earth Movers.

Global railway equipment makers like ABB, Alstom and Siemens are likely to be component suppliers.

Estimated cost of such train sets are above **₹460 cr** per unit.

The proposed contracts would also include distributed power systems, and development of two prototype trains with 8 cars each. This marks the first-ever effort towards development of high-speed train sets in India. It is likely that ICF could partner with BEM, or a private player to jointly develop high-speed trains. Indigenously, said Harshit Kapadia, vice-president (consumer durables, electrical & capital goods) at Elara Securities.

Some of the components used in the high-speed trains — such as propulsion sets — are not being manufactured currently in the country.

# India Inc sees margins rising as crude falls

**VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO**  
 Mumbai, September 13

**A DROP IN** crude oil prices is likely to ease cost pressures for a large number of companies across sectors from paints and industrial segments to textiles and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) — which are crude-linked derivatives as a key input. Firms, however, say they remain cautious about cutting product prices as they carefully monitor demand conditions and the impact it could have on value growth.

Earlier this week, Brent crude futures slipped to nearly a three-year low of below \$70 a barrel amid downward concerns in China. While they consolidated to around \$72 levels on Friday, most analysts and companies expect crude oil prices to be mixed for now.

Titanium dioxide, a crude derivative, accounts for about 20-25% of the raw material cost for paint companies. Players such as Asian Paints and Berger Paints

**IN WAIT & WATCH MODE**  
 Brent crude prices (\$ per barrel)

Sept 1, 2023: 71.59  
 Sept 13, 2024: 72.64

**Paint firms, which took 1-2% price hikes in July-August, will stick to those prices for now**

**Say margins may improve due to falling crude prices**

**Adhesive firms say pricing action to depend on price softness in the future**

**For FMCG firms, crude is benign, other inputs turning inflationary a concern**

that they were unlikely to cut product prices after recently hiking rates by about 1%. The price hike had come after nearly 12-18 months and had been carefully thought through, keeping in mind both volume and value growth.

While both Berger Paints and Asian Paints saw a 7-12% growth in sales volume, Dr Reddy's, Alvarez and Marsal, and Shik in product mix. Both firms are keen to reverse this trend, sector experts said.

"Commodity prices will keep fluctuating. This time, the drop in crude is linked to demand concerns, mainly due to the slowdown in China. Paint companies are not in a hurry to cut prices under conditions here before deciding on pricing action," HEM Bhat, managing director, industry expert and former vice-chairman and MD of Kansai Nerolac, said.

**Continued on Page 7**

# China to raise retirement age for first time since 1978

Men will retire at 63 instead of 60; women at 55 instead of 50

**BLOOMBERG**  
September 13

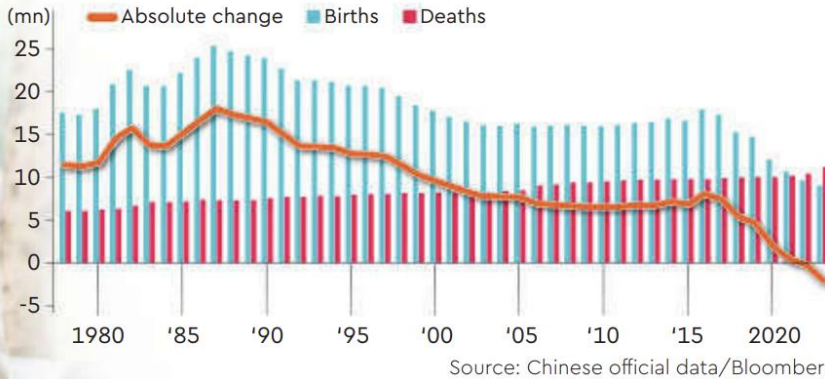
**CHINA WILL RAISE** the retirement age for the first time since 1978, a move that could stem a decline in the labour force but risk angering workers already wrestling with a slowing economy.

Top lawmakers endorsed a plan to delay retirement for employees by as long as five years, *Xinhua* news agency reported on Friday. Men will retire at 63 instead of 60. Women will retire at 55 instead of 50 for ordinary workers, and 58 instead of 55 for those in management positions.



## CHINA'S POPULATION SHRINKS FASTER

Deaths rose while the number of births fell to a record low in 2023



The change will take place over 15 years starting January, and will allow more people to work longer. This could boost productivity to address the challenges of an aging population, although it risks adding to public discontent with the economy growing at the worst

pace in five quarters.

“The timeline of raising the retirement age is pretty gradual. Policymakers probably have taken into account the potential negative impact and calibrated that carefully,” said Michelle Lam, Greater China economist at Societe Generale.

Shares of companies providing health and elderly care jumped, with Shanghai Everjoy Health Group rising by the daily limit of 10%. Chalkis Health Industry and Youngy Health gained more than 6%.

“People may face more health problems if the retire-

ment age is raised. And the pressure of supporting parents may require more elderly care institutions to share the burden,” said Shen Meng, a director at Beijing-based investment bank Chanson & Co.

China’s retirement age is among the world’s lowest

despite significantly increased life expectancy over the decades. A bigger tax base and delayed access to benefits will relieve the pressure on the government to fund pensions as the elderly population rapidly expands.

The hike is aimed at “adapting to the new situation of demographic development in China, and fully developing and utilising human resources,” according to the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

The approval followed a July announcement by the ruling Communist Party that the retirement age will rise in a “voluntary, flexible manner.” Previous efforts to raise the threshold had failed in the face of public opposition.

The Friday decision has left some people fuming over

working into an older age, as well as those who fear greater competition in the job market.

“Are you asking me, when I’m 60, to compete with young people for jobs?” a Weibo user said on the X-like social media platform, where the news was the top trending item and garnered more than 530 million views as of Friday afternoon.


Some also complained about employers’ discrimination against older job candidates, a problem that the government has long vowed to address.

Authorities acknowledged the potential short-term pressure on the job market at a press briefing on Friday. Li Zhong, vice minister at the ministry of human resources and social security, said the gradual pace of the change should lead to a “muted” effect on youth employment.



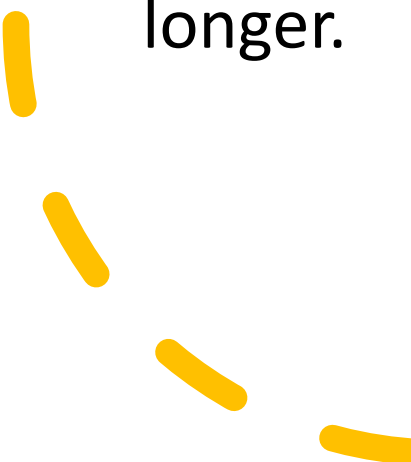


- **China's Retirement Age Increase:**

- China will raise the retirement age for the first time since 1978 to address a declining labor force and aging population.
  - The new retirement age will be 63 for men (currently 60) and 55 for women (currently 50 for ordinary workers and 55 for management roles).
- 




- **Policy Details:**

- The plan was endorsed by top lawmakers and will be implemented gradually over 15 years starting in January.
  - This move is part of efforts to cope with China's demographic challenges and to boost productivity by allowing people to work longer.
- 



- **Impact on Labor Force:**





- The extension aims to relieve pressure on pensions and health care systems by adapting to longer life expectancies.
  - Some experts believe the gradual increase will mitigate the negative impact on the job market and youth employment.
- 



- **Public Reaction:**

- The announcement has stirred public debate, with concerns over competition for jobs between older and younger workers.
- The decision has gained significant attention, with social media discussions trending on platforms like Weibo.

- **Long-term Effects:**


- The gradual shift is expected to reduce immediate job market disruptions while addressing the economic and social issues of an aging population.
  - Policymakers are aiming for a balanced approach to maintain stability in the labor force and economy.
- 
- 
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- **Consider the following statements about China's recent retirement age reform:**

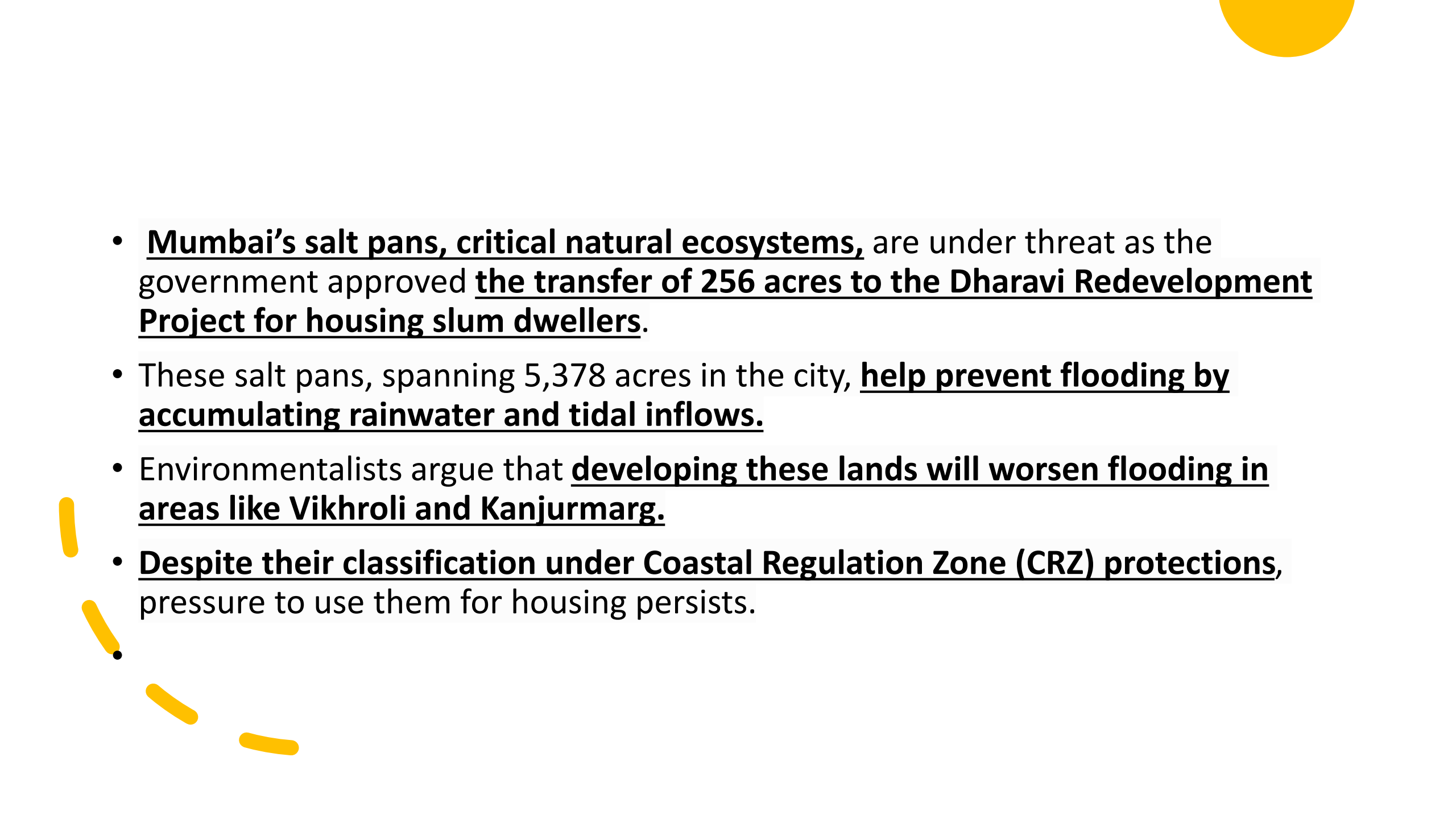
1. China's retirement age for men will increase to 65 from the current 60.
2. The new retirement age plan will be implemented gradually over 15 years.
3. The change aims to address China's demographic challenges and slow economic growth.



- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2, and 3
- 



Salt pan lands

- 
- Mumbai's salt pans, critical natural ecosystems, are under threat as the government approved the transfer of 256 acres to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project for housing slum dwellers.
  - These salt pans, spanning 5,378 acres in the city, help prevent flooding by accumulating rainwater and tidal inflows.
  - Environmentalists argue that developing these lands will worsen flooding in areas like Vikhroli and Kanjurmarg.
  - Despite their classification under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) protections, pressure to use them for housing persists.

- 
- **Salt pan lands** are flat expanses of ground covered with salt and other minerals, typically found in arid and semi-arid regions.
  - These lands are formed when bodies of water, such as lakes or ponds, evaporate, leaving behind salt deposits.
  - Salt pans are often associated with desert environments but can also occur in coastal areas where seawater evaporates in shallow basins
- 



## SALT PANS IN MUMBAI

**5,400** acres

Area of all salt pans in Mumbai

**East** | Largely spread over Ghatkopar, Chembur, Trombay, Mandale, Turbhe, Anik, Wadala, Kanjurmarg, Bhandup, Nahur and Mulund



**West** | Mahvani, Dahisar, Mira-Bhayander and Virar

➤ Salt production stopped at most places decades ago

**3rd**

India's salt-production rank after China and the US

## GOVT HAS BEEN EYEING LAND FOR 'AFFORDABLE HOUSING'



### IMPORTANCE OF SALT PANS

➤ Some of the last remaining open spaces in the city



➤ They are rainwater sinks and are thus safeguards against flooding

➤ They harbour migratory birds and other animal life

# PROJECT STUCK FOR 20 YEARS

## DHARAVI

Population  
Approx  
**3.5 lakh**



Ground floor  
Structures  
Approx  
**57,000**



> Rest are upper floors that are rented out

## ORIGINAL IDEA

Redevpt first proposed by a consultant, Sena-BJP approves it 1999, invites bids

## HEIGHT PROBLEM

2004 | Govt divides 535-acre slum into 5 sectors

> Mhada to develop sector 5, bids invited for other sectors, 101 builders respond

## NEW BID

Nov 2018 | Global bids invited again; Adani Infra and Dubai-based Seclink Group respond

> Vital project given an FSI of 4, but due to height restrictions near airport, FSI can't be consumed

2011 | Govt cancels tenders, starts process afresh; masterplan drawn up

## GOVT STAKE

2018 | Govt says it will become stakeholder in project

Govt stake | 20%  
Estimated project cost | ₹22,000cr- ₹28,000cr

Target  
**7 yrs**

FSI

**4**



> Building height to vary from 60 metres (20 storey) in north to 110 mtrs (36 storey) in south



# धारावी रिडेवलपमेंट प्लान का 'अंकगणित'



**5069** करोड़ रुपये की बोली अदाणी रियल्टी ने प्रोजेक्ट के लिए लगाई

**17** वर्षों में स्लम एरिया के 'कायाकल्प' का लक्ष्य

**20,000** करोड़ रुपये परियोजना पर खर्च होंगे






**07** वर्षों में पूरा करना होगा पुनर्वास कार्य

**10** लाख से अधिक लोग रहते हैं धारावी में

**60** हजार परिवारों का आशियाना है धारावी स्लम एरिया

# PM E-Drive scheme



- 
- The Union Cabinet has approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) Scheme.
  - The scheme focuses on promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).
  - The heavy industries ministry will implement the scheme, offering subsidies through a dedicated portal to both buyers and manufacturers.
  - Additional fund will be provided to public transport agencies for procuring 14,028 e-buses, with demand aggregation managed by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) in nine major cities.
  - The scheme also includes funding for fast chargers, electric trucks, and the modernization of EV testing agencies.
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- 
- 

Cabinet Decision: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

## PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

*Cabinet approves PM E-DRIVE Scheme' for promotion of electric mobility in the country with outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for 2 years*



### Components of the scheme:

- Subsidies/Demand incentives worth Rs.3,679 crore to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs
- E-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme
- Allocation of Rs.500 crore for the deployment of e-ambulances
- Provision of Rs.4,391 crore for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by STUs/public transport agencies


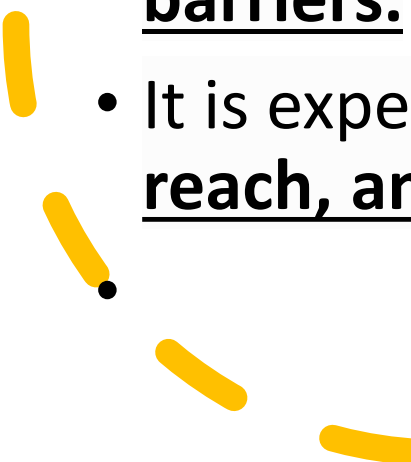


Saarathi app





- 
- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has launched Saarthi, a reference app developed in collaboration with Bhashini, an AI-driven language-translation tool.
  - Saarthi enables businesses to create multilingual buyer apps, supporting Hindi, English, Marathi, Bangla, and Tamil initially, with plans to expand to all 22 languages provided by Bhashini.
- 



- 
- Saarthi's multilingual features, including real-time translation, transliteration, and voice recognition, aim to enhance accessibility and provide a personalized digital commerce experience.
  - This initiative aligns with ONDC's goal of democratizing e-commerce, helping businesses tap into new regions and overcome language barriers.
  - It is expected to improve customer engagement, expand market reach, and boost revenue, particularly in underserved regions.
- 

# EXERCISE EASTERN BRIDGE VII



- 
- The 7th edition of Exercise Eastern Bridge, between the Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force, began at Air Force base Masirah, Oman.
- 



- **About**



- The 1st edition of bilateral exercise Eastern Bridge was also held at Oman in 2009.
- Exercise Eastern Bridge VII aims to improve tactical and operational skills, foster mutual understanding and bolster the ability of both air forces to collaborate effectively in diverse scenarios.
- The exercise will include complex aerial maneuvering, air to air and air to ground operations, and logistical coordination, reflecting the evolving defense needs and strategic interests of both nations.



-

# Exercise AL NAJAH



- 
- The 5th edition of India-Oman joint military Exercise AL NAJAH began in Salalah, Oman.
  - **About**
  - Exercise AL NAJAH has been held **biennially** since **2015**, alternating between India and Oman. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan.
  - Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter terrorism operations under **Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter**.
  - **Exercise AL NAJAH V** will allow both sides to exchange best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures for joint operations.
  -
- 








# UN Observes International Day of South-South Cooperation



**U.N. DAY FOR  
SOUTH-SOUTH  
COOPERATION**



- 
- The United Nations International Day of South-South Cooperation was observed .
  - This year's theme is “**A better tomorrow through South-South Cooperation.**”
  - **About the day**
  - It is observed annually on September 12, as established by General Assembly resolution 58/220.
  - This date commemorates the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978, which promotes technical cooperation among developing countries.
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- **South-South cooperation**

- It refers to the collaboration among countries in the Global South to address common development challenges, share knowledge, and build collective capacities.
- The **concept of cooperation among developing countries** originated from the Afro-Asian Conference held in Bandung in 1955.
  - This Conference led to the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 and the creation of the Group of 77 (G-77) in 1964. The G-77 mainly promoted South-South Cooperation in the 1960s and 1970s.

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- **India's Approach**

- Principles of global “South-South cooperation” guided India’s warm and friendly relations with all African countries.
- India has played a significant role in SSTC through projects like the Pan-African e-Network, India-Brazil-South Africa Fund, and International Solar Alliance (ISA).
  - India has invested about \$107 billion in SSTC since 1947.
- The G20 summit has solidified India as a leading voice for developing nations.
- The inclusion of the African Union in the G20 strengthens India’s global position and partnerships

# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

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- ✓ POLITY
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Thank you  
guys.

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