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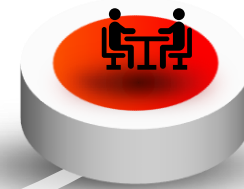
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*"Everything has
beauty, but not everyone
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Ashwin's unbeaten ton takes India to safety
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INSIDE



BJP Haryana manifesto vows aid for women

CHENNAI A day after the Congress released its manifesto for the Haryana Assembly polls, the BJP came out with its 'Sankalp Pakt' offering monthly aid of ₹2,100 for women, which is 100 more than what its rival promised. > PAGE 5



India abstains from resolution against Israel

NEW DELHI The effort of the UN should be to "build bridges" between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, India said, after abstaining from a resolution at the UN General Assembly that called on Israel to vacate Palestinian territories. > PAGE 4

Amit Shah launches 'White Revolution 2.0'

NEW DELHI Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that it will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition. > PAGE 6



Student ally of Sheikh Hasina beaten to death

DHAKA A Bangladesh student leader was beaten to death at his university campus on Wednesday in an apparent reprisal for attacks during the student uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. > PAGE 14



Congo struggles to contain Mpxv outbreak

KAYUNU Health authorities have struggled to contain outbreaks of Mpox in Congo, a huge central African country where a myriad of existing problems makes stemming the spread particularly hard. > PAGE 15

Bengal doctors end stir after govt. lists reforms

Resident doctors will join emergency services in State-run health facilities starting tomorrow

The movement has not stopped and campaign for safety of health workers to continue, they say

Government directives include centralised helpline number and panic alarm system

KOLKATA Protesting resident doctors in West Bengal on Thursday decided to call off their agitation outside Swasthya Bhawan and announced that they will join emergency services in the State-run health facilities from Saturday. Thousands of junior doctors have been on a strike for nearly 40 days since the body of a doctor was found inside the seminar hall of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The decision by the protesting doctors to call

off the cease-work came hours after the West Bengal government issued a list of directives for ensuring safety, security and efficient functioning of all health care professionals in the State. According to a representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front, the doctors will take out a procession from Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of State Health Department, to the Central Government Officers (CGO) complex, where the office of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is located, on Friday. "We have been raising the demand of safety and



CURTAINS DOWN Scenes at the protest venue in Kolkata after the doctors called off their strike. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

security in the State-run hospitals because we did not want another incident to occur like the one that happened to Abhaya. Our demands are not for a union or organisation. What happened to her was an institutional murder," said Aniket Mahato, one of the representatives of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front. Referring to the ongoing

flood situation in the State, Dr. Mahato said doctors would resume emergency services from Saturday. The doctor said an Abhaya Clinic for flood-affected people would be set up. "We want to remind the government that our fight will go on till the safety and security of health workers is ensured. The government should not think that the movement has stopped," he said. The development comes a day after doctors under the banner of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front met State's Chief Secretary Manoj Pant. In a letter addressed to the Principal Secretary of

Health and Family Welfare N.S. Nigam, Mr. Pant highlighted ten directives for safety and security of healthcare professionals which include "deployment of adequate number of police/security personnel along with female police/security personnel in every healthcare facility in consultation with Home Department". The communication also pointed out that the State government has appointed former Director General of Police Surajit Kar Purkayastha to conduct security audits of all medical colleges and hospitals. The State government has also suggested that a

centralised helpline number as well as panic call button alarm system should also be made available in every healthcare facility. "A robust grievance redressal system should be developed to promptly address the grievances and complaints of all the stakeholders including patient and patient parties," the letter from the Chief Secretary said. On Thursday, the Chief Minister had once again appealed to protesting doctors to return to work highlighting the flood situation. **REGISTRATION CANCELLED > PAGE 2**

Monsoon montage



Dark clouds hover over the Statue Circle in Jaipur on Thursday. Rajasthan has recorded 58% more rainfall above normal this monsoon, according to the meteorological department. P11

J&K people have written a new chapter of history: PM

Essarada Ashish

Srinagar Praising voters for the huge turnout in the first phase of the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked the Gandhis, the Abdullaha and the Muftis for the three decades of instability and said the people have written history. "J&K is witnessing a festival of democracy. The first phase of voting was held peacefully and not under the shade of terrorism. People have written a new chapter of history. The world is witnessing how the people of J&K are strengthening the Indian democracy," the Prime Minister said. **FULL REPORT > PAGE 5**

'Land mafia' torches at least 34 houses in Bihar's Dalit hamlet

Essarada Ashish

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Baseless case, says India after U.S. court issues summons over Pannun's lawsuit

Subhasini Haidar
Delham Lakshman
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON DC Reacting to a U.S. court summons of Indian citizens, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel and others, connected to a complaint lodged by India-banned Khalistani group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) leader Gurpartwar Singh Pannun, Foreign Secretary Vikram Mishi said the case was based on "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations". Pannun filed a civil case earlier this week against the Government of India, Mr. Doval, Mr. Goel, Vikram Yadav, Nikhil Gupta who is in jail in New York, and others. The defendants are re-

quired, as per the court, to respond to the September 18 summons within 21 days. "Being inquired into" "We have taken certain action, and the allegations are being inquired into by a high-level committee and the relevant agencies on

Trump not on Modi's U.S. travel plan, clarifies MEA

Subhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI No meeting has been fixed with President Donald Trump so far, the Ministry said on Thursday, a day after Mr. Trump told a campaign rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "coming to meet" him next week. Sources said the logistics for a meeting between the two leaders were difficult given Mr. Modi's limited time and Mr. Trump's campaign schedule. Briefing the media on Mr. Modi's visit to the U.S. from September 21-23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Mishi said he would meet U.S. President Joseph Biden. **FULL REPORT > PAGE 4**

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Shiv Sahay Singh
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Thousands of junior doctors have been on a strike for nearly 40 days since the body of a doctor was found inside the seminar hall of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The decision by the protesting doctors to call

off the cease-work came hours after the West Bengal government issued a list of directives for ensuring safety, security and efficient functioning of all health care professionals in the State.

According to a representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front, the doctors will take out a procession from Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of State Health Department, to the Central Government Officers (CGO) complex, where the office of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is located, on Friday.

"We have been raising the demand of safety and



Curtains down: Scenes at the protest venue in Kolkata after the doctors called off their strike. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

security in the State-run hospitals because we did not want another incident to occur like the one that happened to Abhaya. Our demands are not for a union or organisation. What

happened to her was an institutional murder," said Aniket Mahato, one of the representatives of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front.

Referring to the ongoing

flood situation in the State, Dr. Mahato said doctors would resume emergency services from Saturday. The doctor said an Abhaya Clinic for flood-affected people would be set up. "We want to remind the government that our fight will go on till the safety and security reforms are completely ensured. The government should not think that the movement has stopped," he said.

The development comes a day after doctors under the banner of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front met State's Chief Secretary Manoj Pant.

In a letter addressed to the Principal Secretary of

Health and Family Welfare N.S. Nigam, Mr. Pant highlighted ten directives for safety and security of healthcare professionals which include "deployment of adequate number of police/security personnel along with female police/security personnel in every healthcare facility in consultation with Home Department". The communication also pointed out that the State government has appointed former Director General of Police Surajit Kar Purkayastha to conduct security audits of all medical colleges and hospitals.

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REGISTRATION CANCELLED
» PAGE 2



- **Protest Ends:**


- Resident doctors in West Bengal ended their 40-day protest after the government issued directives to improve safety and security in state-run hospitals.
 - The agitation was sparked by the murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.
- 

- **Government Reforms:**

- The West Bengal government announced ten reforms to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals. Key measures include:
 - Deployment of an adequate number of police/security personnel, including female officers, at healthcare facilities.
 - The introduction of panic alarm systems and centralized helplines.
 - A robust grievance redressal system for addressing complaints from all stakeholders, including patients and staff.




- **Future Steps by Doctors:**

- Although doctors called off the strike, they emphasized that their fight would continue until all safety measures are fully implemented.
 - They plan to hold a procession from Swasthya Bhawan to the Central Government Offices complex as a reminder to the authorities.
- 



1. Government's Response:

1. The Chief Minister had previously urged the doctors to return to work, especially in light of the ongoing flood situation in the state.
 2. The government appointed a former Director General of Police, Surajit Kar Purkayastha, to conduct security audits of hospitals.
- 

Amit Shah launches 'White Revolution 2.0'

NEW DELHI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that it will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition. » **PAGE 6**

White Revolution 2.0 to empower women, fight malnutrition: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.

Mr. Shah said that according to the western concept, a woman is considered unemployed even though she does all the work at home, but he disagreed with it. He said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts. The scheme aims at increasing



Amit Shah

procurement led by cooperatives from the present 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh was also present at the launch.

Mr. Shah said that in the past 70 years, necessary changes in cooperatives were not made due to which the bodies became very successful in some

States and were left to the mercy of State governments in others. He said the government has prepared a joint proposal of two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), dairy and fishery cooperatives, and sent it across the country, and all the States have accepted it. He said that once these PACS are registered, there will not be a single panchayat without a PACS, dairy or fisheries cooperative society.

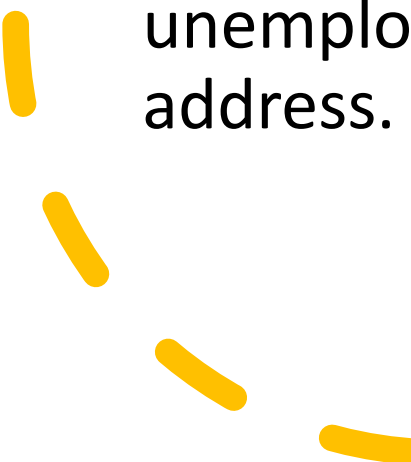
The Minister said once this happens, co-operatives will be able to reach the whole country, which will lead to the creation of cooperative institutions at tehsil and district levels, and State institutions will gain strength and momentum.

- **White Revolution 2.0 Launched:**
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the "White Revolution 2.0" initiative aimed at empowering women and combating malnutrition.
- The focus of the revolution is on increasing milk production and involving women in formal employment through dairy cooperatives.





- **Women Empowerment:**

- Amit Shah emphasized the importance of women's inclusion in the dairy industry, stating that money from milk procurement would be directly deposited in their bank accounts.
 - He highlighted the misconception that women are considered unemployed despite their household work, which the scheme aims to address.
- 

Milk Procurement Increase:

The government aims to increase milk procurement from 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres per day.

This will be done through the involvement of cooperatives across the country

Involvement of PACS, Dairy, and Fisheries Cooperatives:

A joint proposal involving two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), dairy, and fishery cooperatives has been sent to all states and accepted.

The government plans to ensure every village and panchayat has a PACS, dairy, or fisheries cooperative.

Strengthening Cooperatives:

The initiative aims to strengthen cooperative institutions at the tehsil and district levels, ensuring that cooperatives reach all parts of the country.

Mr. Shah noted that past failures to update cooperatives hindered their growth, and White Revolution 2.0 will address these gaps.

Trump on travel plan, clarifies MEA after he claims meet with PM

PM to land in the U.S. on Saturday for a three-day trip; India's role as a peacemaker is still a 'work in progress', says Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri; Quad meet to take stock of Indo-Pacific initiatives; India to remain out of the trade pillar of the IPEF

Subhasini Halder
NEW DELHI

No meeting has been fixed with former U.S. President Donald Trump so far, the government said on Thursday, a day after Mr. Trump told a campaign rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "coming to meet" him next week.

Briefing the media on Mr. Modi's upcoming visit to the United States from September 21 to 23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Mr. Modi would hold separate meetings with U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Wilmington, where he will arrive on Saturday for the Quad summit, and that a number of bilateral meetings had been planned during his visit to New York on Sunday and Monday.

"I think we first need to work our way through to fixing a meeting and then look at the issues," Mr. Misri said, when asked about Mr. Trump's announcement on the meeting, in which the former American President had said that India was a "big abuser" of



Close ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with former U.S. President Donald Trump as they give joint statements in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington in 2017. REUTERS

trade policies, but that Mr. Modi was a "fantastic, fantastic man". Sources said the logistics for a meeting between the two leaders were difficult given the PM's limited time and Mr. Trump's busy campaign schedule. It would seem politically partisan for the PM to meet the Republican candidate, unless he also meets the Democratic candidate, the U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

"There are a number of meetings we are trying to schedule, keeping the time available in mind. So I can-

not confirm any specific partners and leaders at this point in time," Mr. Misri said. Asked if Mr. Modi would propose a bilateral peace-making on the Russia-Ukraine conflict after his visits to Moscow and Kyiv, Mr. Misri said that conversations on "India's role as a peacemaker in a position to propose a bilateral partners or on a multilateral platform," were still a "work in progress."

"We are involved in a set of several conversations

with several important partners and leaders at this point in time," Mr. Misri said, deflecting a question on whether Mr. Modi would meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy next week in New York. He also declined to comment on the meetings with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu were being scheduled.

"The PM will fly directly from Delhi on Saturday morning to reach Wilmington, Delaware in time for

his bilateral meetings and the Quad summit. The Foreign Secretary said that the Quad meet would take stock of Indo-Pacific initiatives thus far, and would also see India's documents of ratification being handed over for the "over-arching Indo-Pacific Economic Framework" (IPEF) Agreement. However, India will remain out of the trade pillar of the IPEF, given concerns over its insistence on labour and human rights standards.

"Work and discussion on the trade pillar continue at this point," Mr. Misri said, while the U.S.-led groupings' joint plans on trade, while the U.S.-led groupings' joint plans on supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy are now complete. Mr. Misri did not respond to the U.S. White House's contention that China's "aggressive PRC military action, unfair trade practices, tensions over the Taiwan Strait" would be on the agenda" for the Quad summit.

In New York, he will address a diaspora event and address the UN Summit of the Future on Tuesday afternoon, before leaving the U.S.

Labour Ministry to investigate death of Ernest & Young staffer

Subhasini Halder
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

After allegations about exploitative work conditions took X by storm after the death of a young Pune-based Ernest & Young (EY) employee, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has promised a thorough investigation.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, 26, allegedly died from "backbreaking workload" and work stress", her mother has said. Hailing from Kochi in Kerala, Anna became a CA in 2023. She joined S.R. Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, in Pune and worked for four months, before her death on July 20.

The exact reason for her death is not known. EY said it is not aware of the specifics of the case.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Anna Se-

bastian Perayil. A thorough investigation into the allegations of an unsafe and exploitative work environment is underway. We are committed to ensuring justice for Anna's family and officially taken up the complaint," Union Minister of State (Labour) Karandikar said on Thursday on X.

After the mother's letter to EY India chairperson Rajiv Memani went viral, the company said it had taken the family's correspondence "with the utmost seriousness and humility."

"The letter written by Anna's mother, stated, 'My heart is heavy, and my soul is shattered... The relentless demands and the pressure to meet unrealistic expectations are not sustainable, and they cost us the life of our young woman with so much potential.' She slammed the toxic work culture at the firm,

India abstains from voting on UNGA resolution against Israel's 'occupation'

Subhasini Halder
NEW DELHI

The effort of the United Nations should be to "build bridges" between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, India said, explaining a decision to abstain from a resolution at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that called on Israel to vacate Palestinian territories on the basis of an opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). India was among 43 nations that abstained from the resolution, which was adopted by the UN body, as more than two-thirds of the countries present, a massive 124 of 181, voted in favour of it. Sources said the resolution's call for sanctions and stopping arms exports to Israel may have also spurred India's decision to abstain.

"Our joint efforts should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer,

2023 that killed over 1,200, and the taking of about 250 hostages, nor named the UN for the reprisal bombardment of Gaza and the West Bank that has left more than 35,000 dead, including nearly 15,000 children, according to UN data. "We unequivocally condemn the terrorist attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023; we condemn the loss of civilian lives in the Gaza Strip; we call for an immediate ceasefire and unconditional release of all hostages; and we stand for unrestricted and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip," the EoV said, adding that India remains an advocate of "dialogue and diplomacy."

"The abstention by India was a marked departure from its previous record of voting in favour of resolutions that call upon Israel to withdraw troops from occupied Palestinian ter-

ritories, including Gaza. Sources said India abstained, not named the UN for the reprisal bombardment of Gaza and the West Bank that has left more than 35,000 dead, including nearly 15,000 children, according to UN data. "We unequivocally condemn the terrorist attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023; we condemn the loss of civilian lives in the Gaza Strip; we call for an immediate ceasefire and unconditional release of all hostages; and we stand for unrestricted and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip," the EoV said, adding that India remains an advocate of "dialogue and diplomacy."

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'India took a policy stand not to supply arms, shells to Israel'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the initial days of the Gaza offensive, Israel requested artillery shells but India took a "policy decision" not to supply them, according to defence sources, who also stated that India is "firmly neutral" between Russia and Ukraine and has taken a stand to "not supply kinetic weapons to either of them."

"In the initial days of the Gaza offensive, we needed artillery shells, 155mm and 105mm, but we took a policy decision not to supply them. Israel itself is unable to honour its commitments. What they are supposed to supply, they are using it for themselves," a defence source with knowledge of the matter said on condition of anonymity, while stressing that "there is very little that really goes from India."

This also highlights India's vulnerabilities due to its extreme dependence on defence imports. Deliveries of systems, spares, supplies and ammunition have suffered delays from Russia as well.

"Very little export" "There are very little defence exports to Israel from India. It is India which is dependent on Israel for defence supplies, deliveries of some have been impacted due to their own requirements following the current situation," the source stressed.

Some Israel companies under joint ventures with Indian companies under which some parts and components made or systems assembled in India go back to the parent company.

"At the time of the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, Poland was the only country that may re-export were not much supplies going from India, as at that

MEA slams 'arms to Kyiv' report

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday described as "inaccurate" a media report that said artillery shells sold by Indian arms manufacturers have been diverted to Ukraine European customers to Ukraine an arms supplier. "We have seen the Reuters report. It is speculative and misleading," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"After the war began, there have been several inquiries from countries around them and aligned either with Russia or Ukraine who were looking to re-route stuff but the Defence Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been clear that we will not get embroiled in the war," the source stressed. "We have relations with both of them and need both of them," another source in the know said. Responding to queries on diversion of Indian defence exports to Ukraine, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the reports were "speculative and misleading."

"India has been carrying out its defence exports taking into account its international obligations on non-proliferation and based on its own robust legal and regulatory framework, which includes a holistic assessment of relevant criteria, including end user obligations and certifications," Mr. Jaiswal added. The Government of India has been very careful in ensuring that none of its equipment reaches any country that may re-export them, the first source reiterated.

India should increase court system capacity, says FATF

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

India should aim to reduce the number of pending trials in money laundering cases by making major changes to increase the capacity of the court system, and potentially the capability of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), as per the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual assessment report of India.

Major changes to address delays relating to the prosecution of terror financing cases have been suggested.

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Report says India faces terror financing threats, including those related to IS and al Qaeda

India faces a significant challenge through 121 petitions to PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) provisions since 2018, which put on hold a number of trials and was only disposed of by the Supreme Court in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs. Union of India* in July 2022," it said.

During the check period, 4,163 investigations were initiated and 132 dropped later, prosecution rates were 86.1 per cent, while 28 convictions were secured by the ED. The agency faced only one acquittal.

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The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Nearly five lakh very dirty spots across the country, to be known as Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), will be adopted by various institutions, majority Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and turned into facilities for public use.

The project being undertaken under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) includes mega cleanliness drives at various sites like tourist locations, public buildings, commercial areas, community toilets, public toilets, water bodies, zoos and sanctuaries, among others. Urban Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on October 2, 2014. This year's campaign is being celebrated under the theme 'Swachh Swachhata Sanskar Swachhata from Habits, Clean Culture'.

Remarkable increase Senior officials in the Urban Affairs Ministry, the nodal agency for implementation of the mission, said these units will see a remarkable increase in the number of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) offered for cleaning and trans-



Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during the curtain raiser on this year's cleanliness campaign, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

formation. Earlier the target was two lakh, but now already nearly five lakh has been identified.

Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said a high-level meeting with the senior officials of various ministries and other senior officials. Mr. Khattar highlighted that work on CTUs is not just for the campaign period but has to be continued in future. He urged the government to prioritise waste-to-wealth initiatives to the cleanliness and beautification efforts.

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Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The effort of the United Nations should be to “build bridges” between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, India said, explaining a decision to abstain from a resolution at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that called on Israel to vacate Palestinian territories on the basis of an opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). India was among 43 nations that abstained from the resolution, which was adopted by the UN body, as more than two-thirds of the countries present, a massive 124 of 181, voted in favour of it. Sources said the resolution’s call for sanctions and stopping arms exports to Israel may have also spurred India’s decision to abstain.

“Our joint efforts should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer,



P. Harish

not drive them further apart. We should strive towards building bridges, not furthering the divides,” India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations P. Harish said, in the Explanation of Vote (EoV) after the abstention.

In the explanation, Mr. Harish reiterated India’s position on a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine peace, and the importance of the UN charter. He also repeated India’s formulation of the violence, which blames neither Hamas for the terrorist attacks in

2023 that killed over 1,200, and the taking of about 250 hostages, nor names Israel for the reprisal bombardment of Gaza and the West Bank that has left more than 35,000 dead, including nearly 15,000 children, according UN data.

“We unequivocally condemn the terror attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023; we condemn the loss of civilian lives in the conflict; we call for an immediate ceasefire and immediate and unconditional release of all hostages; and we stand for unrestricted and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip,” the EoV said, adding that India remains an advocate of “dialogue and diplomacy”.

The abstention by India was a marked departure from its previous record of voting in favour of resolutions that call upon Israel to withdraw troops from occupied Palestinian terri-

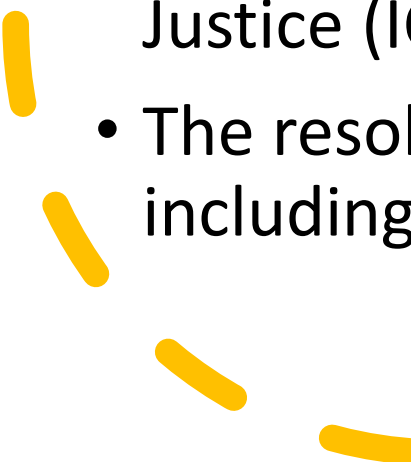
tries, including Gaza. Sources said India abstained as it had some differences over the wording of the resolution that imposes a one-year deadline on Israel to withdraw forces from the occupied territories, which some of the other abstaining countries called “unrealistic”.

Indian companies have joint ventures with Israeli defence companies and manufacture, under licence, some parts which go back to parent companies in Israel, which can be sold to any one by them, officials said, while asserting that India’s exports to Israel are very low.

The non-binding resolution followed two waves of bombings across Lebanon that killed about 30 people and wounded 3,000 as pagers and personal devices packed with explosives were detonated, which the Lebanese government has blamed Israel for.



- **India's Abstention at UNGA:**

- India abstained from voting on a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that called for Israel to vacate Palestinian territories.
 - The resolution was based on an opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
 - The resolution was passed with 124 votes in favor, while 43 countries, including India, abstained.
- 

- **India's Position:**
- India emphasized the need to "build bridges" rather than further divisions between Israel and Palestine.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish, stated that the focus should be on bringing the two sides together.
- India condemned the terror attacks on Israel from 7 October 2023, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,200 people, as well as the taking of hostages by Hamas.




- **Call for Ceasefire:**
- India called for an immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip.
- India's stance in the Explanation of Vote (EoV) highlighted its support for dialogue and diplomacy in resolving the conflict.





- **Differences in the Resolution:**

- India had reservations about some aspects of the resolution, including the one-year deadline for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories, which it found unrealistic.
 - The country also underscored its minimal defense exports to Israel, with joint ventures operating under licenses between Israeli and Indian companies.
- 

‘India took a policy stand not to supply arms, shells to Israel’

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the initial days of the Gaza offensive, Israel required artillery shells but India took a “policy decision” not to supply them, according to defence sources, who also stated that India is “firmly neutral” between Russia and Ukraine and has taken a stand to “not supply kinetic equipment” to either of them.

“In the initial days of their Gaza offensive, they needed artillery shells, 155mm and 105mm; but we took a policy decision not to supply them. Israel itself is unable to honour its commitments. What they are supposed to supply, they are using it for themselves,” a defence source with knowledge of the matter said on condition of anonymity, while stressing that “there is very little that really goes from India.”

This also highlights India’s vulnerabilities due to its extreme dependence on defence imports. Deliveries of systems, spares, supplies and ammunition have suffered delays from Russia as well.

MEA slams ‘arms to Kyiv’ report

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday described as “inaccurate” a media report that said artillery shells sold by Indian arms manufacturers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop it. “We have seen the *Reuters* report. It is speculative and misleading,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. PTI

time our defence industry wasn’t primed much, especially for ammunition,” the source stated.

“After the war began, there have been several inquiries from countries around them and aligned either with Russia or Ukraine who were looking to re-route stuff but the Defence Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been clear that we will not get embroiled in the war,” the source stressed. “We have relations with both of them and need both of them,” another source in

‘Very little export’

“There are very little defence exports to Israel from India. It is India which is dependent on Israel for defence supplies, deliveries of some have been impacted due to their own requirements following the current situation,” the source stressed.

Some Israeli companies have joint ventures with Indian companies under which some parts and components are made or systems assembled in India which go back to the parent company.

“At the time of the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, in February 2022, there were not much supplies going from India, as at that

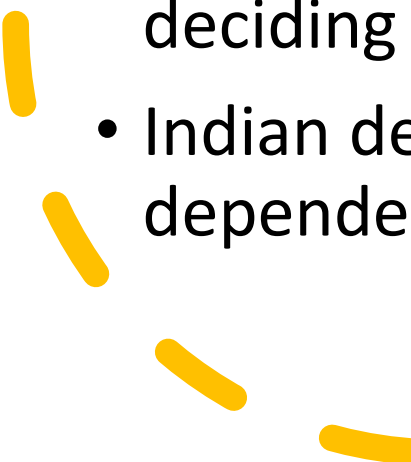
we know said, responding to queries on diversion of Indian defence exports to Ukraine, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal termed the reports “speculative and misleading”.

“India has been carrying out its defence exports taking into account its international obligations on non-proliferation and based on its own robust legal and regulatory framework, which includes a holistic assessment of relevant criteria, including end user obligations and certifications,” Mr. Jaiswal added. The Government of India has been very careful in ensuring that none of its equipment reaches any country that may re-export them, the first source reiterated.

A IN-X



- **India's Policy Decision on Arms Supply:**

- During the initial days of the Gaza offensive, Israel required artillery shells (155mm and 105mm), but India made a "policy decision" not to supply them.
 - India maintains a neutral stance between Russia and Ukraine, deciding not to supply kinetic equipment to either of them.
 - Indian defense sources mentioned the vulnerability caused by dependence on defense imports and delayed supplies from Russia.
- 

- **Impact on Exports to Israel:**
- India has minimal defense exports to Israel, and Israeli commitments are currently focused on their own requirements due to the conflict.
- Some Israeli defense companies have joint ventures with Indian companies, but supplies have been delayed due to global geopolitical issues.

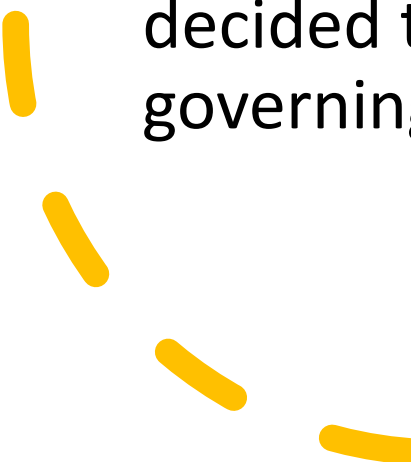


- **Media Report Rejection:**

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has denied a media report that Indian artillery shells sold to European customers were being diverted to Ukraine.
- MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal termed the report speculative and misleading, clarifying that India adheres to strict international obligations on non-proliferation and defense export frameworks.
- The Indian government ensures that none of its defense equipment is re-exported by other countries in violation of agreements.



- **India's Strategic Position:**

- The government has emphasized its neutral stance in the ongoing conflict, avoiding involvement between Russia and Ukraine, while balancing its defense relations with both nations.
 - Despite requests from countries involved in the conflict, India has decided to stay out of it, with emphasis on international regulations governing defense exports.
- 

BAMAKO

Jihadist attacks in Mali capital
kill more than 70 and injure 200



A jihadist attack in the Malian capital Bamako on Tuesday targeting a military police training camp and a military airport left more than 70 dead and 200 wounded, one of the highest tolls suffered by the security forces in recent years. The strike was claimed by the al-Qaeda-linked Group for Support Islam and Muslims (JNIM). AFP

Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah rocket launchers in Lebanon

Hassan Nasrallah calls the attacks that blew up walkie-talkies and pagers 'unprecedented' after it claimed the lives of 37 people and injured around 3,000 while overwhelming Lebanese hospitals

Agencies
BEIRUT/JERUSALEM

Israel's Army said it hit some 30 Hezbollah rocket launchers along with other "infrastructure" in air strikes carried out in Lebanon on Thursday.

With the direction of IDF (military) intelligence, the IAF (air force) struck approximately 30 Hezbollah launchers and terrorist infrastructure sites, containing approximately 150 launcher barrels that were ready to fire projectiles toward Israeli territory," the military said.

Deadly Israeli attacks



In memoriam: Hezbollah members mourn over the coffins of two of their comrades at a funeral procession in Beirut on Thursday. That blow up Hezbollah radios and pagers crossed all red lines, the leader of the heavily armed Lebanese movement said.

wounded around 3,000, overwhelming Lebanese hospitals and wreaking bloody havoc on Hezbollah.

"There is no doubt that we have been subjected to a major security and military blow that is unprecedented in the history of the resistance and unprecedented in the history of Lebanon," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said.

He said the attacks "could be considered war crimes or a declaration of war, they could be called anything and they deserve to be called anything. Of course that was the intention of the enemy."

Student ally of Bangladesh ex-PM beaten to death

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladeshi student leader was beaten to death at his university campus in an apparent reprisal for attacks on protesters during the uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last month. Shamim Ahmed was enrolled at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka, and was a top member of the student wing of Ms. Hasina's Awami League party. He was beaten by unknown assailants on Wednesday night for leading an attack on student demonstrators at the campus in mid-July, during protests demanding Ms. Hasina's removal from office, police said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Jobay

On Sunday, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, told his security Cabinet that he would do whatever necessary to make sure that the 70,000 Israelis displaced from the northern border villages return home. Two days later, on Tuesday, in the late afternoon, hundreds of pagers, a low-tech messaging device, started exploding simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria. At least 12 persons were killed and over 2,800 were injured. A day later, walkie-talkies and other electronic devices exploded in Lebanon, leaving 20 more dead and at least 450 others injured.

The explosions mostly hit Hezbollah, the Shia militant group backed by Iran which has been using pagers and walkie-talkies for communication among its ranks. Hezbollah immediately blamed Israel for the attack. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its role in the explosions. But if Israel is really behind the attack, the question is how they pulled off an attack of this scale.

Taiwanese connection
Initially, there were different theories pointing to various possibilities, including cyber warfare and supply-side penetration to tamper with the devices. Most of the pagers that exploded were AR924s that carried the brand name of Gold Apollo, a Taiwan-based company. After Tuesday's explosions, Gold Apollo issued a statement, saying it was not involved in the production of the pagers in question. "The device was not ours. It was only that it had our brand on it," Gold Apollo

TAIPEI

10-year-old Japanese boy, stabbed near his school in China, dies



A 10-year-old Japanese student who was stabbed near his school in southern China has died, officials in Tokyo said on Thursday. A suspect is in custody. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa noted that the attack occurred despite Tokyo's requests for caution as China marks a key anniversary of its war with Japan. AP

A trail of exploding pagers that runs from Taiwan to Lebanon through Hungary

causes for developing and fragile countries". She did her PhD masters at SOAS, London, and a diploma in politics from the LSE. But what does a particle physics PhD with experience in the fields of environmental and developmental consulting have to do with pager manufacturing? "I don't make the pagers. I am just the intermediate. I think you got it wrong," Ms. Barsony-Arcidialaco told U.S. broadcaster NBC on the phone. The plot thickens.

If Gold Apollo is to be believed, the little-known Budapest-based company that claims to be working in the fields of environmental and developmental consulting was designing and manufacturing Taiwanese pagers and selling them to Hezbollah in Lebanon and parts of Syria. Those pagers exploded at a critical juncture of the Hezbollah-Israel war.

According to a New York Times report, BAC was a front company of the Israeli intelligence agencies. The report says Israeli intelligence officials set up three shell companies, including BAC, which was formally registered in Hungary in 2022. Hezbollah was wary of using cell phones, fearing Israeli penetration. They turned to pagers for communication, and Israel established a company to make those pagers — with inbuilt PETN explosives, and a switch to detonate them remotely.

The back-to-back explosions have dealt a blow to Hezbollah, whose senior commander Foad Shukr was assassinated by Israel on July 30. Israel has once again demonstrated its willingness and capability to take great risks in attacking its rivals. But with Hezbollah vowing vengeance, tensions on Israel's northern border are likely to flare up in coming days.

Hungarian connection
BAC, based in Budapest, operates in "environmental, political and development projects", according to the company's LinkedIn page, which has 303 followers as of Thursday. The page has no reference to the company's involvement in manufacturing electronic devices. It says BAC works to find "innovative solutions" to tackle challenges. "development, international affairs and environment". Cristina Barsony-Arcidialaco, a 49-year-old with a PhD in particle physics, is the CEO of the company.

According to Ms. Barsony-Arcidialaco's LinkedIn profile, she has advocated "environmental and social

EU chief announces €10 billion flood package

Agence France-Presse
WROCLAW

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday announced €10 billion in funds for member nations reeling from "heartbreaking" devastation after the floods caused by Storm Boris.

The death toll from the storm which struck central and eastern Europe last week, rose to 24 on Wednesday.

Ms. Von der Leyen spoke in the Polish city of Wroclaw alongside the leaders of four countries from the flood-hit region.

Strong wind and heavy rains struck the region last week, killing five people in Austria, seven in Poland, seven in Romania and five in the Czech Republic.

Last of the inferno



A burned car is seen after a wildfire passed by Macieira in Portugal on Thursday. Freighters have mastered most of the forest fires in the north of the country. The wildfires, which sprang up over the weekend, killed five persons and injured 90 people. REUTERS

Christian woman sentenced to death in blasphemy case in Pak.

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

A court here in Pakistan on Thursday sentenced a Christian woman to death in a blasphemy case.

A case was filed under blasphemy laws against Shaughna Karan, 24, on charges of sharing derogatory material about the Prophet of Islam in a WhatsApp group in September 2020. Judge Aziz Majuka of the Special Court in Islamabad after the trial found her guilty under Section 295 C of the Pakistan Penal Code. The court also imposed a fine of (Pakistan) Rs. 3,00,000 on Ms. Karan.

She was accused of sharing derogatory material about the Prophet in a WhatsApp group

Apart from this, the court also sentenced her to seven years imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs. 10,00,000 under Section II of the Pakistan Electronic Crime Act (PECA). The judge in a brief order said the convict has the right to file an appeal in a high court within 30 days of the decision. Judge Majuka added the execution of the sentence would not take place until the high court approved

BERLIN

Germany plans extra €400 million military assistance to Ukraine



Germany is planning almost €400 million in extra military aid for Ukraine this year despite a row over budgetary constraints, according to a Finance Ministry document. Berlin has been the second-largest contributor of military aid to Ukraine after the U.S. and had already earmarked €7.5 billion for Kyiv in 2024. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan recognises same-sex union between Chinese and Taiwanese



Same-sex Taiwanese-Chinese couples are now legally able to register their marriages in Taiwan, Taipei said, recognising cross-strait unions for the first time. Taiwan has long been at the forefront of Asia's burgeoning LGBTQ rights movement, becoming in 2019 the first place in the region to legalise marriage equality. AFP

the decision. Ms. Karan is the second Christian woman sentenced to death in a case of insulting the Prophet and the religion of Islam.

Earlier, Asia Bibi, who was sentenced to death for blasphemy, was kept in prison for eight years, but a Bench headed by Asif Saeed Khosa, the former Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court, acquitted her in October 2018. After her acquittal, Ms. Bibi moved to Canada with her family. Blasphemy laws were enacted in the 1980s by former military ruler Ziaul Haq. Those charged with blasphemy are often targeted by the extremists.

China will be 'high' on Quad Summit agenda: U.S.

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

China will be "high on the agenda" at the summit-level meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), comprising the U.S., India, Australia and Japan, according to White House spokesperson John Kirby.

U.S. President Joe Biden will host Quad leaders in his hometown of Wilmington in Delaware, on Saturday. Kirby said the meeting is "an important issue" according to the White House. Kirby said that all those issues will come up," he said.



Common goals: U.S. President Joe Biden will host Quad leaders in his hometown of Wilmington in Delaware on Saturday. AP

important issues" according to the White House. Kirby said that all those issues will come up," he said. Other agendas
The summit agenda are health security, natural disaster response, maritime

security, infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate, clean energy and cyber security, according to Mr. Kirby.

Human rights
Asked by a journalist at Wednesday's White House briefing if Mr. Biden would discuss human rights with Mr. Modi, Mr. Kirby said he did not want to get ahead of the conversations but that if appropriate, Mr. Biden would do so.

"There's not a conversation that he has with foreign leaders where he does not talk about the importance of respecting human and civil rights, and that includes with Prime Minister Modi," Mr. Kirby said, adding that Mr. Biden had raised the issue pre-

viously with Mr. Modi. "And I'm sure that as appropriate, he'll be doing so going forward," he said.

Also expected are announcements that demonstrate that the Quad "throws over the long term", Mr. Kirby said on Thursday. The group has seen commitments from Democratic and Republican Presidents. It was revived in 2017, during the Donald Trump presidency, when Mr. Biden hosted the first leader-level meeting of the Quad in September 2021. The summit will be the last such meeting for two of the four leaders, with Mr. Biden and Mr. Kirby announcing that they will not seek re-election.

TAIPEI

Taiwan recognises same-sex union between Chinese and Taiwanese



AFP

Same-sex Taiwanese-Chinese couples are now legally able to register their marriages in Taiwan, Taipei said, recognising cross-strait unions for the first time. Taiwan has long been at the forefront of Asia's burgeoning LGBTQ rights movement, becoming in 2019 the first place in the region to legalise marriage equality. AFP



Environmental activists take part in a protest rally in Seoul, South Korea on September 7, 2024. AP

'Future grave for big cities if earth warms by three degrees C'

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Longer and more frequent heatwaves, soaring demand for air conditioning, and widespread disease: life in cities would become unbearable should the planet keep warming at current rates, researchers warned on Thursday.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), a U.S.-based think tank, looked at what might happen in nearly 1,000 major cities if temperatures remain on track to rise 3C above pre-industrial levels. They found that the impact on these cities would be dire compared to a scenario where global warming is restricted to 1.5C. "At 3C of warming, many cities could face month-long heatwaves, skyrocketing energy demand for air conditioning, as well as a shifting risk for insect-borne diseases — sometimes simultaneously," the researchers said.

In 2015, nearly 200 nations agreed in Paris that the world must strive to limit global warming to 1.5C. Taken together, the world's climate pledges and commitments today would only cap warming at 2.9C, according to the UN assessments. "The difference between 1.5C and 3C has life or death consequences for billions of people worldwide," said Rogier van den Burg of WRI. The report underscored the particular risk for fast-growing cities in low-income countries. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities and more than 90% of that urban growth will occur in Africa and Asia. "People living in low-income cities will be the hardest hit," the authors wrote.

'Sternest test yet' for Kyiv energy grid as winter looms

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The coming winter will prove the "sternest test yet" for Ukraine's energy grid, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday, as the European Union announced additional aid to help the country weather Russia's attacks on its power infrastructure.

Echoing the stark warning over Ukraine's energy needs, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced she would travel to Kyiv on Friday for talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as the IEA put forward a 10-point plan to safeguard the war-battered country's energy security. "We must do all we can to keep the lights on. And as winter is approaching, we must keep the brave people of Ukraine warm, while we also keep the economy running," Ms. von der Leyen told a Brussels press conference held jointly with IEA chief Fatih Birol.

The IEA report said that in 2022 and 2023 "about half of Ukraine's power generation capacity was either occupied by Russian forces, destroyed or damaged by missiles and drones."

"Ukraine's energy system has made it through the past two winters... But this winter will be, by far, its sternest test yet," the agency's executive director Mr. Birol said in a news release accompanying the report.

The report urged European countries to expedite deliveries of equipment and parts to rebuild the damaged facilities and called for measures to protect them from drones.

China poses a greater challenge than the Cold War to the U.S., says Campbell

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State says the Cold War pales in comparison to the 'multifaceted challenges' that China presents, calls for greater U.S. investment in advanced technology to compete better with the Asian rival, remarks disregard facts and clamour for confrontations, says Beijing

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

China presents the top challenge to the United States in all of its history, surpassing the Cold War, a top U.S. official said on Wednesday, as he urged Europe to get tougher on Beijing.

Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, a key architect of a 15-year push for the United States to prevent its foreign policy toward Asia, also called for greater U.S. investment in advanced technology to compete better with China.

"There is a recognition that this is the most significant challenge in our history," Mr. Campbell told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"Frankly, the Cold War pales in comparison to the multifaceted challenges that China presents," he said. "It is not just a military challenge, it is across the board. It is in the Global South. It is in Europe. We need to step up our game across the board."

Asked about Mr. Campbell's remarks, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry on Thursday said they "disregard facts, openly and wantonly exaggerate the China threat, and clamour for camp confrontations."



Drawing the line: U.S. President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping with other officials from both countries during a meeting in California in November 2023. AP

Regarding China as the U.S.'s greatest challenge was a mistake, spokesperson Lin Jian said at a regular press conference. "China urges the United States to abandon Cold War zero-sum thinking, stop spreading the China threat theory, and stop distorting China's strategic intentions," he added.

Mixed signals
Mr. Campbell's tough talk came despite a thaw in relations between the United States and China under U.S. President Joe Biden. Former President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks more frequently in Cold War terms about con-

fronting Beijing. Mr. Biden and his political heir, current Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate, Kamala Harris have supported dialogue with China even as their administration presses ahead with tough measures including a sweeping ban on exports of advanced chips.

Mr. Biden's administration has also been pressing China about technology exports to Russia that U.S. officials say have allowed Moscow to ramp up military production for its war in Ukraine. "The challenge is, we have got to get more support here on this," Mr. Campbell said of U.S. sanc-

tions on Chinese firms, an issue he said he has been raising since taking office. Mr. Campbell said that Washington's European allies shared concerns about China's ties with Moscow but were still reeling from the "huge shock" of slashing energy imports from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine.

For many of these countries, doing business with China has been a big deal for 15 or 20 years," he said. Acting on China, after Russia, could feel like "kind of a one-two punch. You can understand leaders in Europe have some anxieties," he added. China argues that, un-

like the U.S., it is not providing weapons to either Russia or Ukraine, but Washington says Beijing is providing support that has military uses. Mr. Campbell contended that the Biden administration has strengthened the U.S. position since taking over from Mr. Trump, in part by bolstering alliances.

"Four years ago, the general view globally was that China had eaten our lunch... I do not think that is what the general belief is today," he said. Since a summit last year between Mr. Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping in California, China has agreed to key U.S. requests of restoring military communications and cracking down on ingredients in fentanyl, the drug behind an overdose epidemic in the U.S.

'Wrongful detentions'
Meeting another key ask of the Biden administration, China freed an American pastor, David Lin, who had been detained since 2006, the State Department confirmed last week.

The U.S. had raised the case of Mr. Lin and other detained Americans with China, including when U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of a meeting

in Laos in July. The State Department considers two other U.S. citizens, Kai Li and Mark Swidan, to be wrongfully detained by China, but activists say far more Americans are behind bars or prohibited from exiting. The mother of Mr. Swidan, detained over drug trafficking charges he denies, told a separate congressional hearing that Mr. Biden needs to engage with China on its proposals to free him.

"His case is a clear injustice, yet it continues to be ignored by those with the power to act," she said in a statement to the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

Peter Humphrey, who was detained with his wife in China from 2013 to 2015 and, since, become a specialist on such cases, said a "massive number" of Americans cannot publicly raise their cases for fear of retribution by Beijing.

He said he was held with his wife in a packed cell with no privacy or furniture, sleeping on the floor and eating from dog bowls pushed under the bars.

He said he lost 22 pounds while in detention, which he described as "torture designed to crush the human spirit and force out a confession."

Thorough check



Close watch: Sri Lankan police combat officers inspect an autorickshaw at a checkpoint in Colombo on Thursday ahead of the presidential election scheduled for Saturday. AP

Health workers in conflict-ridden Congo struggle to contain Mpxo outbreak

Associated Press
KAVUMU

Health authorities have struggled to contain outbreaks of Mpxo in Congo, a huge central African country where a myriad of existing problems make stemming the spread particularly hard. Last month, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreaks in Congo and about a dozen other African countries a global health emergency. And in Congo, scientists have identified a new strain of Mpxo that may spread more easily. It has reached areas where conflict and the displacement of a large number of people have already

put health services under pressure. Overall, Congo has more than 21,000 of the 25,000 confirmed and suspected Mpxo cases in Africa this year, according to WHO's most recent count. Congo is one of the African countries with more serious cases can develop skin lesions. More than 720 people in Africa have died in the latest outbreaks, mostly in Congo. Mpxo is a zoonotic dis-



Intense care: A healthcare worker treats an Mpxo patient at a hospital in eastern Congo's South Kivu province on September 4. AP

Mpxo spread to Congo's eastern province of South Kivu; it had previously been seen in the centre and west. Scientists then identified a new form of Mpxo in South Kivu that may be more infectious. The WHO said that from

New wave of violence rocks French overseas territories

Agence France-Presse
SAINT-LOUIS

French authorities on Thursday grappled with a new spike in violence in the country's overseas territories where security forces are killing two men in New Caledonia and officials ordering a curfew after rioting in Martinique.

The French trouble comes at a sensitive time for France where the new Prime Minister Michel Barnier is struggling to form a governing coalition after snap parliamentary elections and has warned of a "very serious" financial situation.

During an overnight security operation in New Caledonia, two men were killed south of the capital Noumea, the public prosecutor said on Thursday, adding the deaths toll to 13 after months of unrest in the French Pacific territory. Violence broke out in



On guard: French gendarmes block a road in Mont-Dore, in France's Pacific territory of New Caledonia on Thursday. AP

mid-May over Paris's plan for voting reforms that infuriated many people. People fear would leave them in a permanent minority, denying their chances of winning independence. While unrest in the South Pacific territory has ebbed since mid-July, new clashes erupted between French police and civilians in Saint-Louis, a heartland of the independence movement just south of Noumea. Authorities are also un-

der pressure in the French Caribbean island of Martinique home to around 350,000 people. Officials ordered a curfew in several districts of Fort-de-France, the island's main city, and next-door Lamartin, after violent cost-of-living protests. The riots follow protests that began in early September over rising prices. The prefect of Martinique, Jean-Christophe Bouvier, said authorities have made 15 arrests.

health facilities. Dr. Musole Mulambamunva Robert, medical director of the Kavumu hospital in eastern Congo, said it is "truly a challenge" — sometimes treating as many as four patients. "We have more than 6 million displaced people in the east, authorities and humanitarian agencies were already struggling to provide food and healthcare, while fighting other diseases such as cholera. Many people have no access to soap, clean water or other basics. Some eastern Congo communities are out of touch with the world — roads are unreliable, and hours-long risky boat trips

are sometimes the only means of transport, said Alex Mathis-Lake of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent. People can be more susceptible to severe cases because of malnutrition and undiagnosed HIV, she said. Africa has no capacity to produce Mpxo vaccines. Around 2,500,000 doses have arrived in Congo from the European Union, the U.S., and more are expected. Congolese authorities say they need around 3 million vaccines. For now, the vaccine is approved only for adults as new Mpxo health clinics — evidence of how it works in children.

New wave of violence rocks French overseas territories

Agence France-Presse

SAINT-LOUIS

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During an overnight security operation in New Caledonia, two men were killed south of the capital Noumea, the public prosecutor said on Thursday, taking the death toll to 13 after months of unrest in the French Pacific territory. Violence broke out in



On guard: French gendarmes block a road in Mont-Dore, in France's Pacific territory of New Caledonia on Thursday. AFP

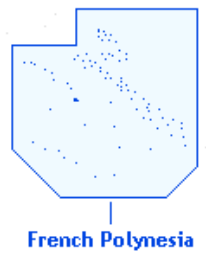
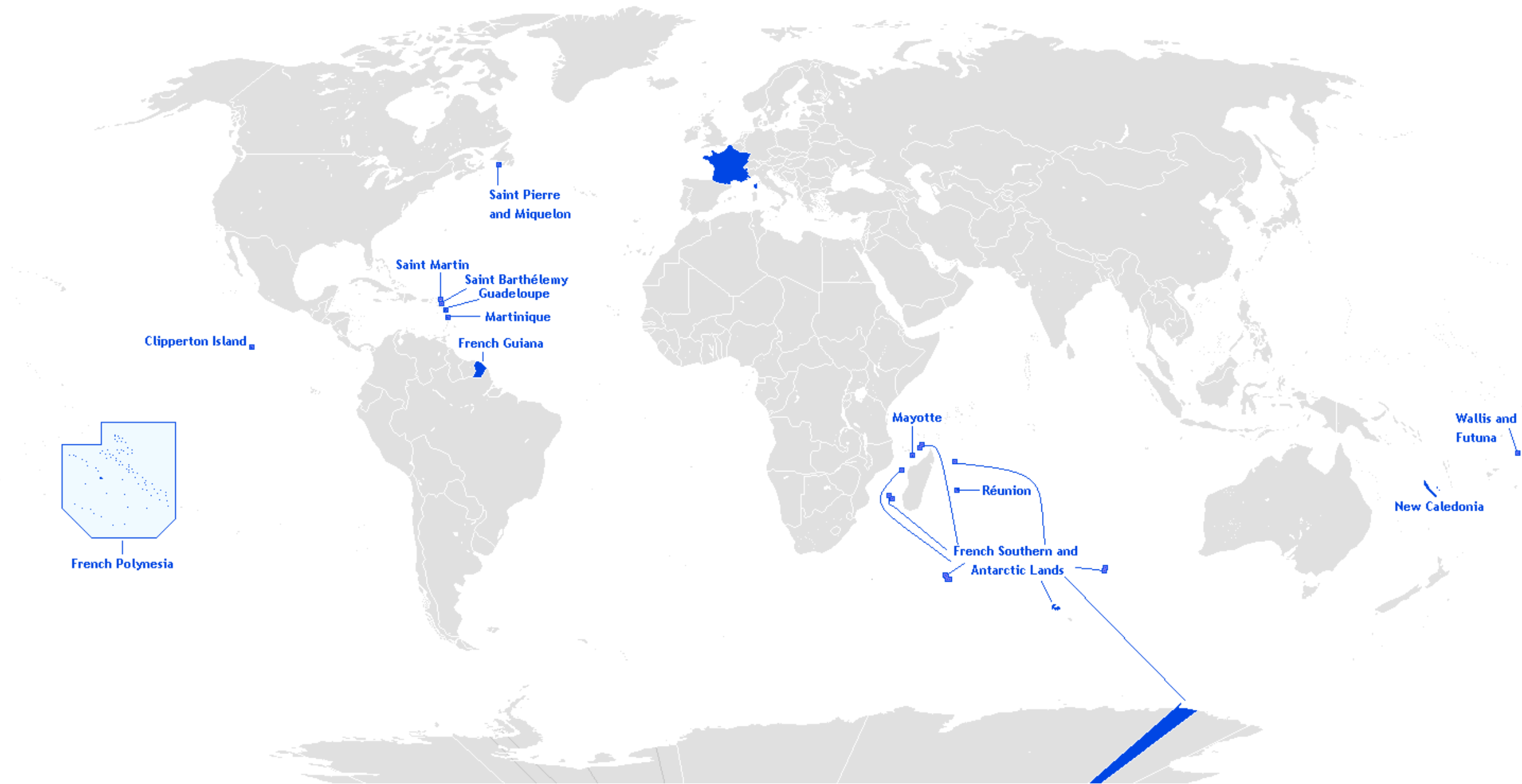
mid-May over Paris's plan for voting reforms that indigenous Kanak people fear would leave them in a permanent minority, crushing their chances of winning independence.

While unrest in the South Pacific territory has ebbed since mid-July, new clashes erupted between French police and civilians in Saint Louis, a heartland of the independence movement just south of Noumea.

Authorities are also un-

der pressure in the French Caribbean island of Martinique, home to around 350,000 people. Officials ordered a curfew in several districts of Fort-de-France, the island's main city, and next-door Lamentin, after violent cost-of-living protests.

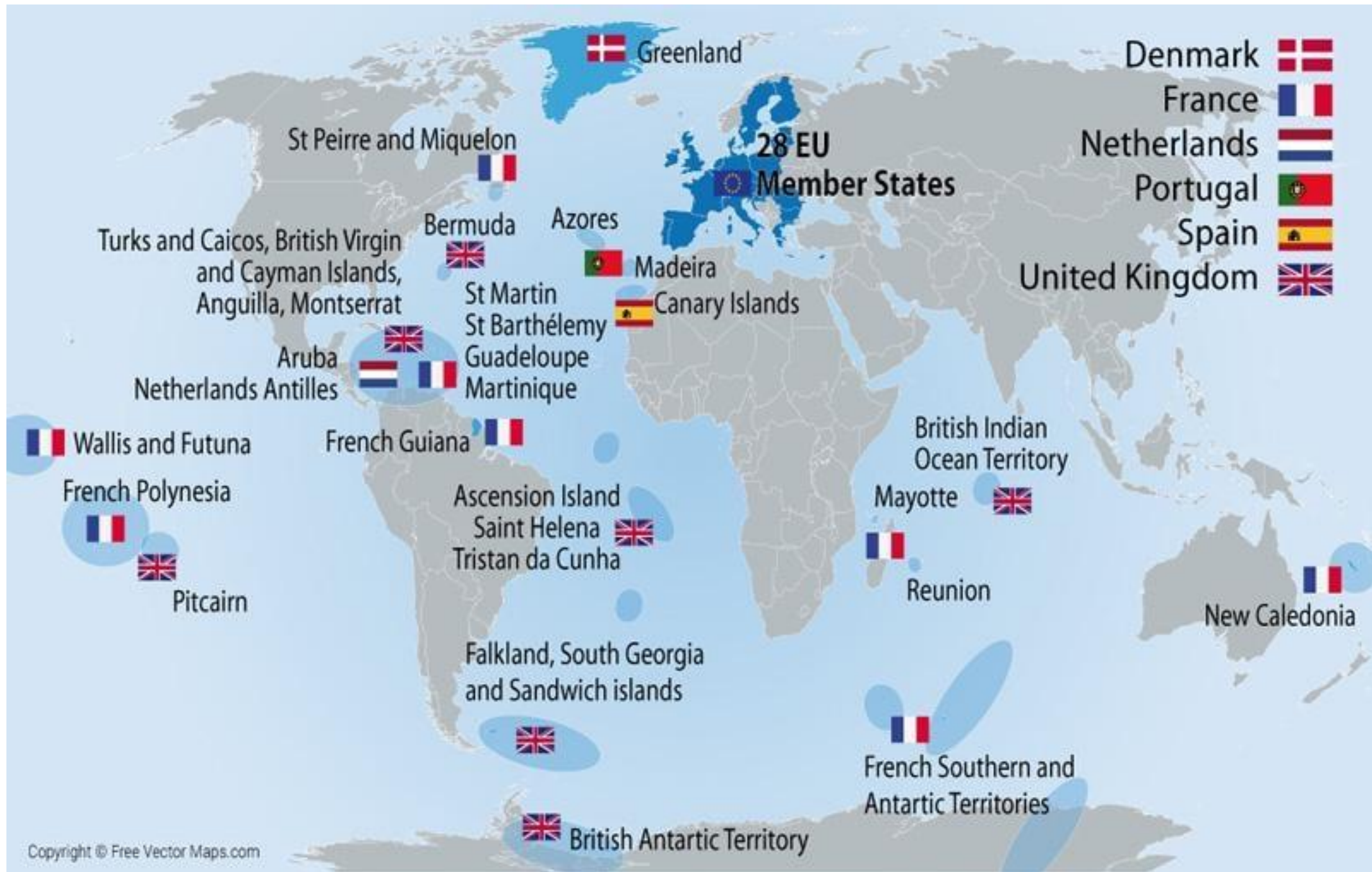
The riots follow protests that began in early September over rising prices. The prefect of Martinique, Jean-Christophe Bouvier, said authorities have made 15 arrests.



French Polynesia










- **Unrest in New Caledonia:**

- French security forces killed two men during a security operation near Noumea, raising the death toll to 13 since unrest erupted in mid-May.
 - The violence is linked to concerns among the indigenous Kanak people over reforms that may permanently sideline their aspirations for independence.
- 

Rioting in Martinique:

Authorities imposed a curfew in parts of Fort-de-France and nearby Lamentin following violent protests related to rising costs of living.

The protests, which began in early September, have led to 15 arrests.

Political and Economic Crisis in France:

- The violence comes at a time when France's new Prime Minister Michel Barnier is attempting to form a government after snap parliamentary elections, while also dealing with a "very serious" financial situation.

Wider Impact:

- This wave of unrest has added pressure on French authorities, particularly in the overseas territories, as they struggle to maintain order amidst growing economic and political challenges.



NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

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IN THE NEWS

LABOUR MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE EY STAFFER DEATH

THE UNION LABOUR ministry is investigating the work environment at accounting firm EY after the death of a 26-year-old staffer was blamed on "stress" by her mother who demanded accountability. ■ PAGE 24

FATF COMMENTS INDIA PROGRESS, SEES MORE SCOPE

INDIA HAS ACHIEVED a 'high-level of technical compliance' under the Financial Action Task Force's mandate to launch a frontal assault on money laundering, while also taking significant steps to tackle illicit finance, the organisation said on Thursday. ■ PAGE 2

INSIDE

100 DAYS OF GOVT

Farm price support but no 'legal MSP' yet ■ PAGE 2

EXPLAINER

Can MoUs help India in the semicon race? ■ PAGE 9

US FED'S SURPRISE 50BPS CUT

Bond yields slump to 31-month low

ANUPREKSHA JAIN
Mumbai, September 19

THE US FEDERAL Reserve's bigger-than-expected 50 basis point rate cut led to a sharp fall in the yields of 10-year government bonds (G-Sec) to 6.757% -- the lowest in 31 months. Yields across the other tenures also fell with five-year benchmark closing at 6.6710%, the lowest since April 2023 at 6.6950.

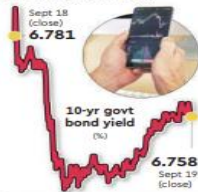
The rate cut also led to high trading volumes in the Indian G-sec market. The total volumes stood at ₹1.06 lakh crore -- the highest since June 4 -- with volumes seen mostly in the 10-year and 3.5-year segments.

Late Wednesday, the US FOMC kicked off the rate cut cycle bringing it down to 4.75-5.00% after keeping it at a two-decade high of 5.25-5.75%. The cut, which came after over 4 years, came against the backdrop of easing inflation and moderation in the US labour market.

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell said the aggressive action on Wednesday was intended to make sure that high borrowing costs, put in place to fight inflation, would not end up hurting the US economy. "The labour market is in a strong place - we want to keep it there," Powell said. "That's what we're doing," he added.

Continued on Page 7

FED FACTORED IN



How global indices reacted (in % gain)

CAC 40	2.18
Nikkei 225	2.13
Euro Stoxx 50 Pr	2.14
Hang Seng	2.00
S&P 500*	1.8
Taiwan Talex	1.68
Dow Jones*	1.36
Sensex	0.29

*At 10 pm IST Source: Bloomberg

No significant impact on India inflows: Seth

THE US FED'S outsize rate cut "will not significantly impact foreign inflows" into India, economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth said on Thursday. The Fed has done what it assesses was good for the US economy and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will decide on interest rate cuts keeping the Indian economy in mind, he said. Separately, chief economic advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran also said the impact of the US Fed rate cut will be muted for India as it was mostly priced in. ■ PAGE 6

Will not spur capital inflows to India: Wood

The rate cut by US Federal Reserve has opened the way for similar actions by Asian countries including India, Chris Wood, Global Head of Equity Strategy, Jefferies, said on Thursday, but added that a "conservative" Reserve Bank of India (RBI) might still not start easing rates in 2024, reports Prasanta Sahas Wood added that the Fed's decision was unlikely to lead to any additional capital inflows to India, while other emerging markets like Brazil and Indonesia might see a rise in inflows. ■ PAGE 6

Big blow to telcos as SC denies any relief on AGR

Telcos' plea sought correction in arithmetical errors

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, September 19

TELECOM OPERATORS VODAFONE Idea and Bharti Airtel suffered a big blow on Thursday with the Supreme Court rejecting their curative plea seeking correction in arithmetical errors by the department of telecommunications (DoT) in computing the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues arising out of a 2019 order.

A curative petition is filed by petitioners as a last resort if they feel that there has been an error in judgment by the court.

Though the order came as a set-

STOCKS TAKE A HIT



Telecom stocks performance (% change)

Bharti Airtel	0.8
Idea	-8.9
Vodafone Idea	-19.6

Sept 19 (close) 3,108.53 Source: BSE

back for both the operators, the adverse impact is much higher for Vodafone Idea as Bharti, with its strong balance sheet and cash flow, is in a fine position to pay the dues. This got reflected in the manner the share prices of both the companies reacted after the order. While Vodafone Idea's shares closed down 19.6% at ₹10.4

on the BSE, Bharti's shares close 0.8% higher, at ₹1,665.

Another company which got adversely impacted is India Tower which has leased telecom towers to Vodafone Idea, with its shares closing 8.9% lower at ₹990.

Continued on Page 7

Axis arm barred from debt issues

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, September 19

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Thursday barred Axis Capital (ACL) from acting as merchant banker, arranger or underwriter for any new debt issues. The interim order is applicable immediately till further orders.

The restriction comes as an interim measure after the markets regulator found that Axis Capital had extended itself beyond activities permitted to a merchant banker in the matter of listed non-conver-

BREACH OF RULES

Axis Capital was taking credit risk exposure, thereby entering the 'realm of banking', said Sebi. ■ Axis Capital has 21 days to file its reply or object, if any, to the order.

ible debentures (NCDs) of Sojo Intel - the holding company floated by the promoters of Lava Group. ■ ACL provided guarantee/indemnity towards

redemption of NCDs in the guise of underwriting, which it was not permitted to do under the existing regulatory framework. Such activities pose risk to the financial system as it can potentially disrupt the order functioning of the market," state the interim order passed by Sebi's whole-time member (WTM) Ashwani Bhatia.

ACL has 21 days to file its reply or object, if any, to the order and can also avail an opportunity of personal hearing on any fixed date and time.

Continued on Page 7



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TCS retains most-valuable brand tag for third year in a row

GEETIKA SRIVASTAVA
New Delhi, September 19

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (TCS) has retained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of \$49.7 billion for the third year in a row, according to the 2024 Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands report.

The Tata Group firm has held the top spot, buoyed by a 16% increase in brand value against the previous year. The report attributes this growth to the company's aggressive invest-


ments in innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation. TCS was followed by HDFC Bank, with a brand value of \$38.2 billion, and Airtel was placed third, with \$29.8 billion.

Seven new entrants joined the list this year, including CaratLane at No. 45 (\$2.7 billion), Kalyan Jewellers at No. 71 (\$1.6 billion), and real estate giant Lodha at No. 63 (\$1.9 billion). Godrej Properties also made a re-entry at No. 70 with a brand value of \$1.66 billion.

A standout performer this

Top 5 most valuable Indian brands

Rank	Brand	Value (\$ bn)	% chg 2024 vs 2023
1	TCS	49.7	16
2	HDFC Bank	38.2	NA
3	Airtel	29.8	33
4	Infosys	25.2	4
5	SBI	17.9	24



Source: Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands 2024

year is Zomato, whose brand value surged to \$3.5 billion, making it the fastest-growing brand on the list with a 100%

increase year-on-year.

Deepender Rana, executive managing director of insights for South Asia at Kantar, said:

"Zomato's growth comes from the speed at which it has responded to consumer needs, whether it's managing expansion into smaller markets or leveraging moment marketing. The brand has been consistently led from the front.

India's top 75 brands now represent a combined value of \$450.4 billion, equivalent to 13% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the report. On the global stage, four Indian brands — TCS, HDFC Bank, Airtel, and Infosys — made it to the top 100

brands worldwide, which together represent \$8.3 trillion in brand value, or 8% of the world's GDP.

The report highlights a K-shaped recovery in the brand landscape with sectors like auto, retail and realty thriving. Half of the total brand value from the top 75 brands comes from firms in the BFSI and B2B tech sectors.

"In the past year, the companies behind India's top 75 brands have seen stock market growth of 52%, far outpacing the 37.6% growth of the SENSEX," Rana added.

TCS Tops the List:

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) remains India's most valuable brand for the third consecutive year with a brand value of \$49.7 billion, as per the 2024 Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands report.

TCS saw a 16% increase in its brand value from the previous year.

- **Top 5 Brands:**

- Following TCS, the top brands are:

- HDFC Bank (\$38.2 billion)
- Airtel (\$29.8 billion)
- Infosys (\$25.2 billion)
- SBI (\$17.9 billion)

- **New Entrants:**

- Seven new brands joined the list in 2024, including CaratLane, Kalyan Jewellers, and Lodha Group.

- **Zomato's Growth:**

- Zomato emerged as the fastest-growing brand on the list, with a 100% increase in its brand value, reaching \$3.5 billion.

- **Global Impact:**

- The combined brand value of India's top 75 brands is \$450.4 billion, representing 13% of India's GDP.
- On the global stage, TCS, HDFC Bank, Airtel, and Infosys have entered the top 100 global brands.

- **Sector Growth:**

- The report highlights growth in BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) and B2B tech sectors, accounting for half of the total brand value of the top 75 companies.

- **Stock Market Outperformance:**

- India's top 75 brands saw a 52% increase in stock market growth, far outpacing the Sensex's growth of 37.6%.




Mini-moon

Earth will temporarily capture a small asteroid named 2024 PT5, which will stay for two months before moving back into space.

This phenomenon, known as a “mini-moon,” occurs when asteroids get caught in Earth’s gravity and orbit the planet for a short time.

Although rare, such occurrences provide scientists with valuable opportunities to study near-Earth objects.

- 
- **2024 PT5, discovered by NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS)**, is about 33 feet long and came from the Arjuna asteroid belt.
 - However, it may not fully qualify as a **mini-moon since it won't complete a full orbit around Earth but will follow a horseshoe-shaped path.**
 - This event is significant because **studying asteroids like 2024 PT5 helps researchers understand the nature of asteroids that pass close to Earth**, potentially informing future space exploration and resource extraction efforts.

Earth

Moon

2024 PT5





Naga king chilli



Seiyhama village in Nagaland celebrated its third annual Naga king chilli festival on showcasing the raja mircha, one of the world's hottest chillies.



This festival, which combines agriculture, culture, and community spirit, highlights the significance of the king chilli, known for its extreme heat and cultural value.







Certified by Guinness World Records and granted a Geographical Indication tag, the king chilli is central to Naga cuisine and cultural practices.



The Naga king chilli, also known as raja mircha, is one of the world's hottest chillies, notable for its extreme spiciness, which exceeds 1 million Scoville Heat Units (SHU).

It is a key feature of the Naga cuisine and holds significant cultural and economic value in Nagaland, India.





- 
- **Bhoot Jolokia**
 - Hailing from Assam
 - **Guntur Chilli**
 - Beyond being the pride of Andhra Pradesh
 - **Khola Chilli**
 - Flourishing in the Khola district of Goa
 - **Hathei Chilli**
 - Hailing from Manipur
 - **Dalle Khorsani**
 - A favourite in Momo chutneys,
- 
- 
- 



Greater one- horned Rhino



- 
- The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) published its **'State of the Rhino' report**, highlighting positive developments for the **Greater One-Horned Rhino**.
 - **About**
 - The population has **increased by 20% over the past decade**, now exceeding 4,000 rhinos.
 - Conservation efforts have led to better management of rhino habitats and the creation of wildlife corridors, ensuring safer movement and protection for the species.
 - This growth reflects successful conservation programs and habitat restoration efforts across rhino habitats, particularly in India and Nepal.
- 

- **Greater one-horned rhino**
- **Habitat:** The grasslands and wetlands located in the foothills of the Himalayas and the Brahmaputra and Ganges valley.
 - The Great one horned rhino is commonly found in India, Nepal, and Bhutan.
 - In India they are found in **Kaziranga National Park** and **Manas National Park** in Assam, **Pobitora reserve forest in Assam** (having the highest Indian rhino density in the world), **Orang National park** of Assam, **Laokhowa reserve forest** of Assam and **Royal Chitwan National Park** in Nepal.

-



Widening Skills Gap in the Job Market





India's job market is experiencing an increasing divide between low-skilled and high-skilled employment.



Over the past two decades, the services sector—particularly IT, banking, and finance—has been a major driver of economic growth.



In contrast, traditional industries such as apparel and footwear, which provide low-skilled jobs, are stagnating.

Contribution to GDP and Employment: India's services sector contributes over 50% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs approximately 30.7% of the population while serving as a global hub for software services.

Recovery & Growth: The services sector made a remarkable recovery in FY 2022-23, posting a Year-Over-Year (YoY) growth rate of 8.4%.

The Indian IT outsourcing market is projected to grow by 6–8% between 2021 and 2024.

GII Ranking: In September 2023, India maintained its 40th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII), driven by advancements in technologically dynamic, internationally tradable services.

FDI: The service sector also attracted the highest Foreign Direct investment (FDI), receiving USD 109.5 billion from April 2000 to March 2024.

Manufacturing Sector:

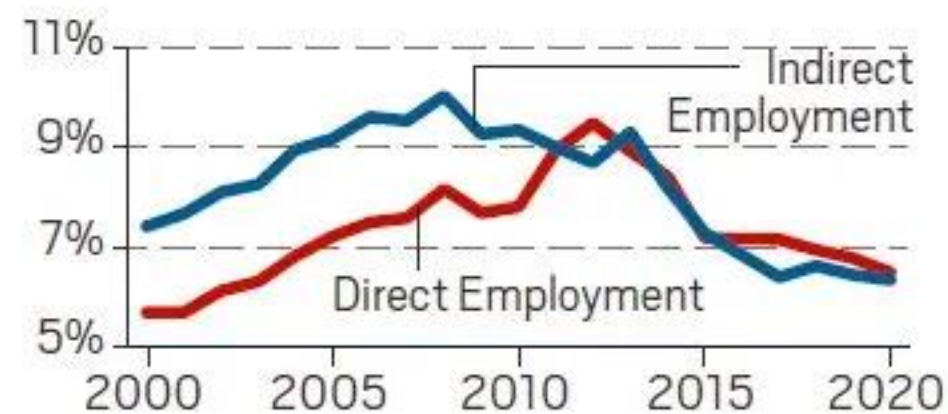
Manufacturing Stagnation: Manufacturing remains at **around 14% of GDP, below the targeted 25%**, widening the gap between high-skilled and low-skilled jobs.

Lagging in Manufacturing: India's manufacturing sector lags behind competitors such as Bangladesh, Thailand, and Vietnam, affecting low-skilled job creation.

- Economists stress that **India cannot rely solely on the services sector** due to its large population of 1.4 billion.

JOBS CREATED BY EXPORTS-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN INDIA, 2000-2020

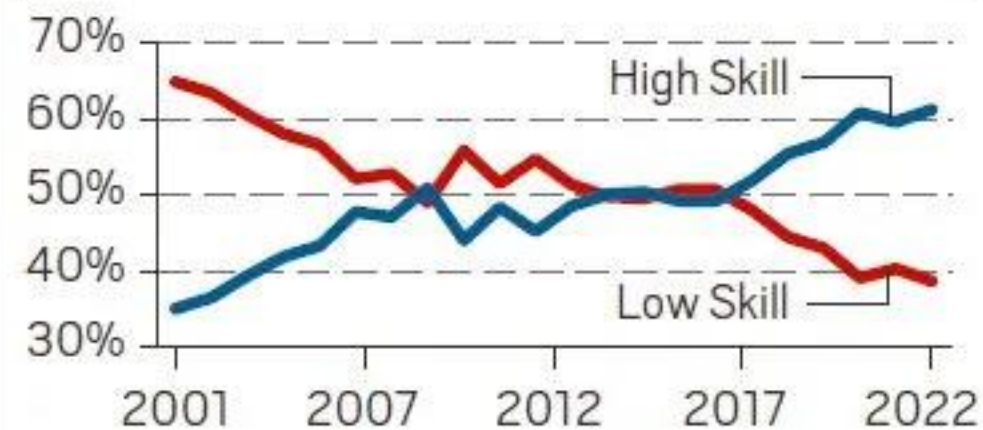
(% of domestic employment)



The World Bank indicates that while high-skilled jobs generated through manufacturing exports are rising, trade-related low-skilled job opportunities are rapidly moving to Vietnam and Bangladesh

INDIA'S HIGH & LOW SKILL-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING

(% of total manufacturing exports)



Employment generation in trade has declined despite a decrease in China's participation in low-skill manufacturing due to rising wages, according to the World Bank


- 
- **What is/are the recent policy initiative(s) of Government of India to promote the growth of manufacturing sector? (2012)**

1. Setting up of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones

2. Providing the benefit of 'single window clearance'

3. Establishing the Technology Acquisition and Development Fund

- **Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

Word of the day

Approbation:

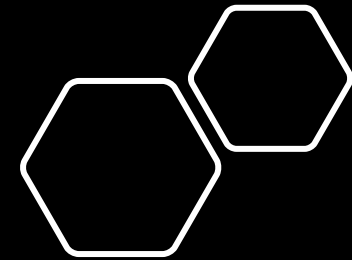
official approval; official recognition

Usage: *They deserve approbation and applause for this achievement.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/approbationpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /,æp.rəʊ'beɪ.ʃən/, /,æp.rə'beɪ.ʃən/



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• LIVE DOUBT SESSION



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 soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
