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MAGNET. IF YOU STAY
POSITIVE, GOOD THINGS
AND GOOD PEOPLE WILL BE
DRAWN TO YOU.”

MARY LOU RETTON



WAYANAD'S WAIT

Kerala govt. seeks release of Central aid

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CALL FOR DIALOGUE

Centre invites Manipur MLAs for peace talks

Save Manipur

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SCO MEETING

Jaishankar to visit Pakistan today

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DISTURBING RESPONSE

Israel's brutality in Gaza, India's pin-drop silence

It reflects 'new India's' anti-cultural amnesia

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

RUN MACHINE

Kohli is as hungry as ever, says Gambhir

SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE



U.P. Police detain 30 over violence in Bahraich

LUCKNOW The Mahasa locality in Bahraich of Uttar Pradesh remained on edge on Monday, a day after a person was killed during a Durga idol immersion procession. Thirty people have been detained over the violence that also left several injured. » PAGE 4



Stubble burning on the rise in Punjab, Haryana

NEW DELHI Fire counts in Punjab, a proxy for stubble burning, have rapidly risen in the last week. A total of 872 fire counts were reported from September 15 to October 13 in the State, while 468 instances of stubble burning have been reported in Haryana this year. » PAGE 4

Israeli strike on north Lebanon leaves 1 dead

BEIRUT Israeli strike on a northern Christian-majority village in Lebanon, far from Hezbollah strongholds, on Monday killed at least 21 people with DNA tests being conducted to identify body parts. The official National News Agency said the strike targeted a "residential apartment". » PAGE 14

Nijjar case: India, Canada 'expel' diplomats

India says it has expelled six Canadian diplomats and will pull back its High Commissioner; Canada claims it has expelled six Indian officials; developments come hours after the Canadian government declared the six Indian officials as 'persons of interest' for their alleged role in killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia

Kallol Bhattacharjee

It is a dramatic turn of events, India on Monday decided to withdraw its High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and other senior diplomats stationed in Canada. Soon thereafter, India expelled six Canadian diplomats, including the chargé d'affaires Stewart Ross Wheeler. The developments came hours after the Canadian government declared the six Indian officials as "persons of interest" for their alleged role in the June 2023 killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. In an unusually sharp response, the Ministry of

External Affairs described the Canadian allegations as "preposterous imputations", arguing that the matter was linked with the political challenges that the Trudeau government was facing on the domestic front in Canada. Amid these developments, news agency AP reported that the Canadian government had expelled six Indian diplomats, including the High Commissioner. "Endangered safety" The announcement about the withdrawal of Indian diplomats from Canada was made soon after the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs summoned Mr. Wheeler and said the recent actions of the Justin Trudeau government had "endan-

Frayed ties

India's relations with Canada have been strained since Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing last year. Here are some key developments: **June 18, 2023:** Nijjar, a Sikh preacher in British Columbia, is killed. **Sept. 18:** After his visit to Delhi, Trudeau reveals that Canada's National Culture Organisation discovered "agents of the Indian government" were involved in the killing. **Sept. 21:** India suspends visa services for Canadian citizens. **Sept. 22:** India resumes visa services. **May 2024:** Canada arrests four Indian citizens, including them of being involved in Nijjar's killing. **Adam James Chulpa, Paul Orjuela** - had been expelled. "They have been asked to leave India by or before 11:59 PM on Saturday, October 19, 2024," said the MEA in its announcement. "We have received a diplomatic communication from Canada yesterday suggesting that the Indian

High Commissioner and other diplomats are "persons of interest" in a matter related to an investigation in that country. The Government of India strongly rejects the Canadian imputations and ascribes them to the political agenda of the Trudeau government that is centred around vote banking. India declared the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement. "The Canadian diplomatic team in Delhi was conveyed that India could take further steps in safeguarding its interests. India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau Government's support for extremist violence and separatism against India," said the MEA.

The MEA came out in support of Mr. Verma, describing him as India's "most deserving diplomat" with a career of 36 years. "The aspersions cast on him are ludicrous and deserve to be treated with contempt," it said. Nijjar was found murdered by a group of unknown assailants on June 18, 2023. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in the House of Commons that "agents of the Indian government" were behind the killing of Nijjar who worked in the Guru Nanak Gurdwara of Surrey, British Columbia in Canada. Bilateral ties took a hit and subsequently, India froze visa facilities for Canadian citizens and in October, 4 Canadian diplomats were withdrawn from Canada's

missions in India. "Space to terrorists" Monday's statement accused Mr. Trudeau of providing space to "violent extremists and terrorists" who have harassed and threatened Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada. "These actions, the MEA said, were justified by the Canadian authorities "in the name of freedom of speech". India alleged that certain individuals who entered Canada illegally have been "fast-tracked for citizenship" and that Canada has disregarded India's extradition requests aimed at terrorists residing in Canada. **PANPUR PLOT PROBE** » PAGE 4

Divine departure



End of festivities: A Durga idol that was immersed by devotees in the Kuakhai river in Bhubaneswar. BHOWANILAL ROY

Vegetable inflation surged from 10.7% in August to a 14-month high of 36% in September, while fruit price rise gained momentum to hit 7.68% from 6.3% a month earlier. For rural consumers, inflation neared the 6% mark as the upper tolerance limit for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - to hit 5.9%, while their urban counterparts faced a price rise of 5.08% last month. Rural India, however, faced relatively milder food inflation of 9.1% compared with a 9.6% rise faced by urban consumers. Prices of pulses rose 9.81%, retreating from a 10%-plus inflation in August, the first time in 16 months, even as price rise of cereals and eggs fell below the 6% mark through July and August. Beyond food, households saw a sharp uptick in 9% in prices of personal care and electronics in September. Prices for this category rose 8.4% in July and eased to 7.9% in August. Core inflation that excludes food and energy prices, also rose to a nine-month high of 3.8%, in line with the RBI's expectations. Mr. Acemoglu's assertion that "the rise in food prices had bottomed out. While the RBI changed

September retail inflation at nine-month high of 5.5% as food prices rise at 9.2%

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI India's retail inflation shot back to a nine-month high of 5.5% in September, breaking a two-month streak under the central bank's median target of 4%, thanks to a resurgence in food price rise to 9.24% after hovering below the 6% mark through July and August. Vegetable inflation surged from 10.7% in August to a 14-month high of 36% in September, while fruit price rise gained momentum to hit 7.68% from 6.3% a month earlier. For rural consumers, inflation neared the 6% mark as the upper tolerance limit for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - to hit 5.9%, while their urban counterparts faced a price rise of 5.08% last month. Rural India, however, faced relatively milder food inflation of 9.1% compared with a 9.6% rise faced by urban consumers. Prices of pulses rose 9.81%, retreating from a 10%-plus inflation in August, the first time in 16 months, even as price rise of cereals and eggs fell below the 6% mark through July and August. Beyond food, households saw a sharp uptick in 9% in prices of personal care and electronics in September. Prices for this category rose 8.4% in July and eased to 7.9% in August. Core inflation that excludes food and energy prices, also rose to a nine-month high of 3.8%, in line with the RBI's expectations. Mr. Acemoglu's assertion that "the rise in food prices had bottomed out. While the RBI changed



Soaring prices: Vegetable inflation surged from 10.7% in August to a 14-month high of 36% in September. FILE PHOTO

Wholesale food prices leap 9.5% in September

NEW DELHI

Inflation in India's wholesale prices ticked up to 1.84% in September from 1.31% in August, with food prices surging to a two-year high of 9.5% from August's 10-month low of 3.3%, marking the sharpest surge in 14 months. Despite food price rise rebound, Wholesale Price Index saw only a mild uptick on fuel and power prices dipping over 4% from last year and manufactured products inflation easing to 1%. **FULL REPORT ON** » PAGE 12

its monetary policy stance to better suit the economy, expectations of a rate cut may take a while to materialise, with the central bank projecting average inflation of 4.8% for the October-December quarter, before cooling to 4.2% in the first quarter of 2025. **High base effect** "For a rate cut to be forthcoming in the December monetary policy review, either the consumer price inflation will need to flatten considerably below 5.0% in October or the

Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson share Nobel prize on Economics for work on wealth inequality

Agence France-Presse

STOCKHOLM The Nobel prize in Economics was awarded on Monday to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations. "By examining the vast political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers, the three researchers have identified a relationship between societal institutions and prosperity, the jury said. "Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges," Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in a statement. "The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institu-



The three researchers examined the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers. AFP/GETTY

come gap is due to differences in economic and political institutions in society," Acemoglu said. "Inclusive institutions" in a statement explaining the prize, the jury noted the example of the city of Nogales, which is divided by the U.S.-Mexican border, where residents on the U.S. side of the city tend to be better off. "The decisive difference is thus not geography or culture, but institutions," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said. "The U.S. economic system provides residents north of the border greater opportunities to choose their education and profession, and they are part of the U.S. political system, which gives them broad political rights. By contrast, south of the border residents live under other economic conditions, and the political sys-

tem limits their potential to influence legislation. In addition, the jury noted that the laureates' research also helped explain why some countries become trapped in a situation of "low economic growth." Mr. Acemoglu, who was delighted to receive the award, told reporters that the "work that we had done favours democracy." Speaking via telephone from Athens as the award was announced in Stockholm, Mr. Acemoglu said that the economies of "countries that democracies, starting from a non-democratic regime, grow faster than non-democratic regimes." "And it's a substantial gain," Mr. Acemoglu said. Mr. Acemoglu is the author of several best-selling books including *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*.

Nijjar case: India, Canada 'expel' diplomats

India says it has expelled six Canadian diplomats and will pull back its High Commissioner; Canada claims it has expelled six Indian officials; developments come hours after the Canadian government declared the six Indian official as 'persons of interest' for their alleged role in killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

In a dramatic turn of events, India on Monday decided to withdraw its High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and other senior diplomats stationed in Canada. Soon thereafter, India expelled six Canadian diplomats, including the chargé d'affaires Stewart Ross Wheeler.

The developments came hours after the Canadian government declared the six Indian officials as "persons of interest" for their alleged role in the June 2023 killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.

In an unusually sharp response, the Ministry of

External Affairs described the Canadian allegations as "preposterous imputations", arguing that the matter was linked with the political challenges that the Trudeau government was facing on the domestic front in Canada. Amid these developments, news agency AP reported that the Canadian government had expelled six Indian diplomats, including the High Commissioner.

'Endangered safety'

The announcement about the withdrawal of Indian diplomats from Canada was made soon after the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs summoned Mr. Wheeler and said the recent actions of the Justin Trudeau government had "endan-

Frayed ties

India's relations with Canada have been strained since Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing last year. Here are some key developments:



HARDEEP SINGH NIJJAR

Jun. 18, 2023: Nijjar, a Sikh preacher in British Columbia, is killed

Sept. 18: After his visit to Delhi, Trudeau reveals that Canada's national security organisation discovered "agents of the Indian government" were involved in the killing

Sept. 21: India suspends visa services for Canadian citizens

Nov. 22: India resumes e-visa services

May 2024: Canada arrests four Indian nationals suspecting them of being involved in Nijjar's killing

gered" the "safety" of the Indian diplomats there.

Late Monday evening, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that six Canadian diplomats – Acting High Commissioner Stewart Ross Wheeler, Deputy High Commissioner Patrick Hebert, First Secretaries Marie Catherine Joly, Ian Ross David Trites,

Adam James Chuipka, Paula Orjuela – had been expelled. "They have been asked to leave India by or before 11:59 PM on Saturday, October 19, 2024," said the MEA in its announcement.

"We have received a diplomatic communication from Canada yesterday suggesting that the Indian

High Commissioner and other diplomats are 'persons of interest' in a matter related to an investigation in that country. The Government of India strongly rejects these preposterous imputations and ascribes them to the political agenda of the Trudeau Government that is centred around vote bank politics," declared the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement.

The Canadian diplomatic team in Delhi was conveyed that India could take further steps in safeguarding its interests. "India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau Government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India," said the MEA.

The MEA came out in support of Mr. Verma, describing him as India's "senior most serving diplomat" with a career of 36 years. "The aspersions cast on him are ludicrous and deserve to be treated with contempt," it said.

Nijjar was found murdered by a group of unknown assailants on June 18, 2023. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in the House of Commons that "agents of the Indian government" were behind the killing of Nijjar who worked in the Guru Nanak Gurdwara of Surrey, British Columbia in Canada. Bilateral ties took a hit and subsequently, India froze visa facilities for Canadian citizens and in October, 41 Canadian diplomats were withdrawn from Canada's

missions in India.

'Space to terrorists'

Monday's statement accused Mr. Trudeau of providing space to "violent extremists and terrorists" who have harassed and threatened Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada.

These actions, the MEA said, were justified by the Canadian authorities "in the name of freedom of speech". India alleged that "certain individuals" who entered Canada illegally have been "fast-tracked for citizenship" and that Canada has disregarded India's extradition requests aimed at terrorists residing in Canada.

PANNUN PLOT PROBE

» PAGE 4

INDIA AND CANADA, IN NUMBERS

Canada accounts for just 0.56% of the total FDI in India.



DPIIT data show total FDI equity inflow between April 2000 to June 2023 was

\$645,386.0884 mn, of which only \$3,642.5243 mn came from Canada.

But Canada is home to 5.26% of overseas Indians



Of the 3,21,00,340 overseas Indians, 5.26% (16,89,055) are in Canada, including

1,78,410 NRIs and 15,10,645 PIOs, according to MEA data.

And every 7th Indian student abroad is in Canada



In 2022, of the estimated 13,24,954 Indian students abroad, 13.83% (1,83,310) were

in Canada, according to Ministry of External Affairs data.

Canada is 4th largest source of tourists in India (2021)



Canada accounted for 5.3% (80,437) of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India in 2021; 72.6% of

Canadian FTAs were members of the Indian diaspora. FTAs from Canada rose to 3,51,859 in the pre-pandemic year 2019 from 88,600 in 2001. Arrivals from Canada fell sharply post pandemic.

Bilateral trade is tiny; its balance is in India's favour



India's trade with Canada was \$8,161.02 mn during FY 2022-23, just 0.70% of India's total

trade of \$1,165,000.88 mn. Canada was India's 35th biggest trading partner. The balance of trade is in India's favour; in 2022-23, India's exports to Canada stood at \$4,109.74 mn, and imports at \$4,051.29 mn.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION



BUSINESS MATTERS

\$8.2 billion

Total India-Canada merchandise trade in 2022-23

\$1.77 L Cr

total investments from Canada in Indian capital markets

0.9%
of India's goods exports accounted for by Canada

\$3.4 billion


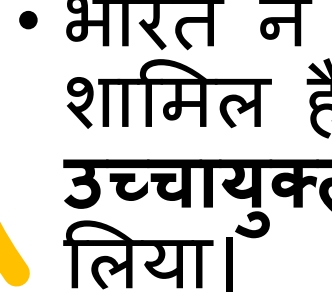
FDI India has received from Canada since 2000

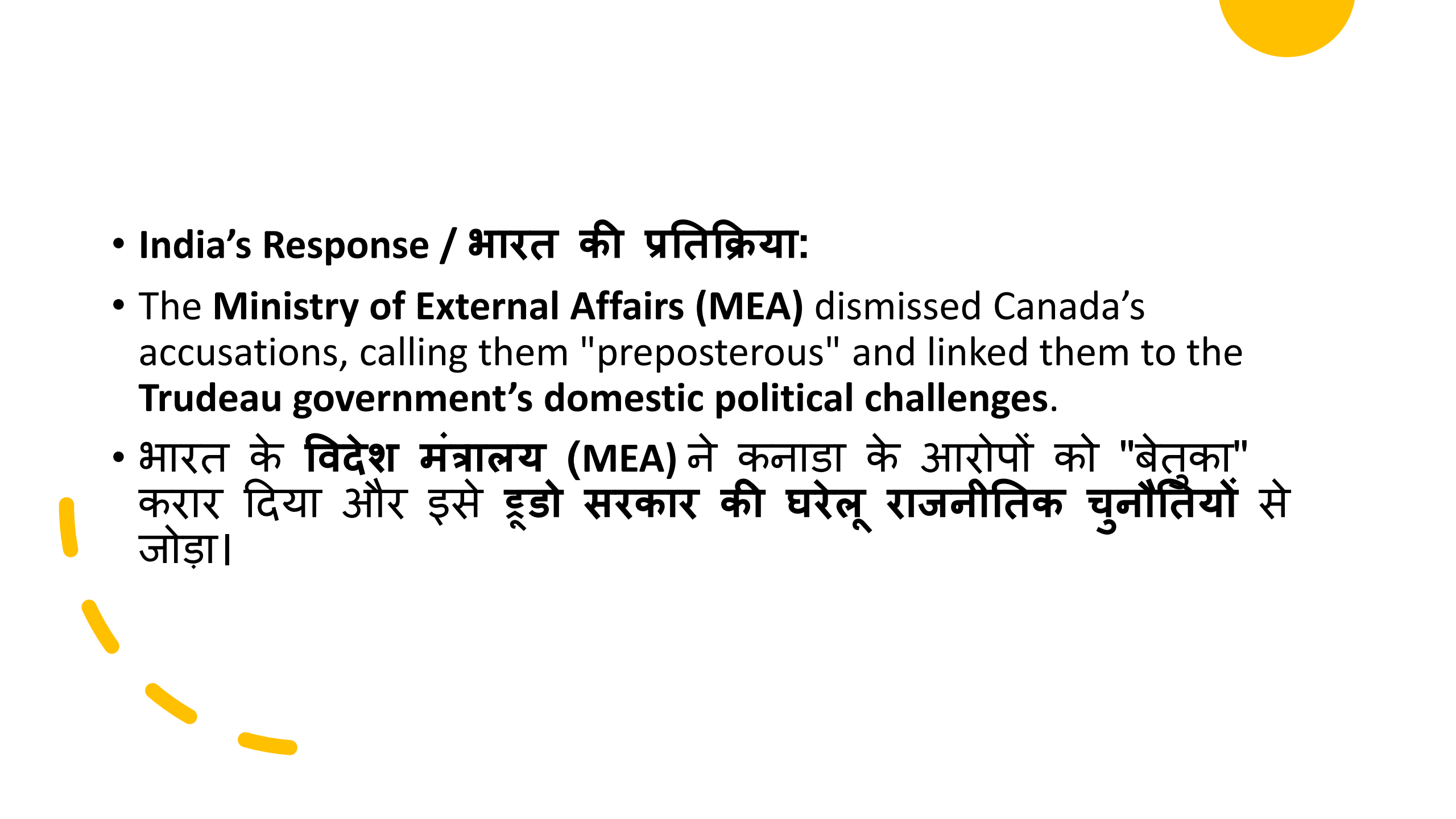
\$6.6 billion

Indian companies have invested in Canada

0.6%

of total inward remittances Indian received in 2020-21 came from Canada

- 
- **Diplomatic Expulsion / कूटनीतिक निष्कासन:**
 - India expelled **six Canadian diplomats**, including **Stewart Ross Wheeler**, after Canada labeled six Indian officials as "persons of interest" linked to Nijjar's killing. India also recalled its **High Commissioner** and other senior diplomats from Canada.
 - भारत ने छह कनाडाई राजनयिकों, जिनमें स्टुअर्ट रॉस व्हीलर भी शामिल हैं, को निष्कासित कर दिया। इसके बाद भारत ने अपने उच्चायुक्त और अन्य वरिष्ठ राजनयिकों को भी कनाडा से वापस बुला लिया।
- 

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- **India's Response / भारत की प्रतिक्रिया:**
 - The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** dismissed Canada's accusations, calling them "preposterous" and linked them to the **Trudeau government's domestic political challenges.**
 - भारत के **विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)** ने कनाडा के आरोपों को "बेतका" करार दिया और इसे **टूडो सरकार की घरेलू राजनीतिक चुनौतियों** से जोड़ा।


- . Nijjar's Case / निज्जर का मामला:
- **Hardeep Singh Nijjar**, a Sikh preacher, was killed on **June 18, 2023**. Canada accused Indian agents of involvement, a claim that India strongly denies.
- **हरदीप सिंह निज्जर**, जो एक सिख प्रचारक थे, की हत्या **18 जून, 2023** को हुई थी। कनाडा ने भारतीय एजेंटों पर हत्या में शामिल होने का आरोप लगाया, जिसे भारत ने सख्ती से नकारा है।



- **Safety Concerns / सुरक्षा चिंताएं:**

- India expressed concerns that the actions of the **Justin Trudeau government** have endangered the safety of Indian diplomats in Canada.

- भारत ने चिंता व्यक्त की कि **जस्टिन ट्रूडो सरकार** की हालिया कार्रवाइयों ने कनाडा में भारतीय राजनयिकों की सुरक्षा को खतरे में डाल दिया है।



Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson share Nobel prize on Economics for work on wealth inequality

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel prize in Economics was awarded on Monday to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations.

By examining the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers, the three have demonstrated a relationship between societal institutions and prosperity, the jury said.

“Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time’s greatest challenges,” Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in a statement.

“The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institu-



The three researchers examined the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers. REUTERS

tions for achieving this,” Mr. Svensson added.

Mr. Acemoglu, 57, and Mr. Johnson, 61, are professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Mr. Robinson, 64, is a professor at the University of Chicago.

The jury highlighted the laureates’ work in illuminating how political and economic institutions play

a role in explaining why some countries prosper while others do not.

“Although the poorer countries are, of course, becoming richer, they’re not closing the gap,” Jan Teorell, a professor of political science and member of the award committee, told a press conference.

“Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson have shown that a large part of this in-

come gap is due to differences in economic and political institutions in society,” Teorell said.

‘Inclusive institutions’

In a statement explaining the prize, the jury noted the example of the city of Nogales, which is divided by the U.S.-Mexican border, where residents on the U.S. side of the city tend to be better off. “The decisive difference is thus not geography or culture, but institutions,” the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The U.S. economic system provides residents north of the border greater opportunities to choose their education and profession, and they are part of the U.S. political system, which gives them broad political rights.

By contrast, south of the border, residents live under other economic conditions, and the political sys-

tem limits their potential to influence legislation.

In addition, the jury noted that the laureates’ research also helped explain why some countries become trapped in a situation of “low economic growth.”



Mr. Acemoglu, who was “delighted” to receive the award, told reporters that the “work that we had done favours democracy.”

Speaking via telephone from Athens as the award was announced in Stockholm, Mr. Acemoglu said that the economies of “countries that democratise, starting from a non-democratic regime” grow faster than non-democratic regimes. “And it’s a substantial gain,” Mr. Acemoglu said.

Mr. Acemoglu is the author of several best-sellers including *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*.

- It was first awarded in 1969 to Dutch economist Jan Tinbergen and Norwegian economist Ragnar Frisch "for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes"




- 
- The **Nobel Prize in Economics** was awarded to **Daron Acemoglu** (Turkish-American), **Simon Johnson**, and **James Robinson** (British-Americans) for their work on understanding how political and economic institutions shape wealth distribution and prosperity across countries.
 - The trio's research analyzed how colonial economic systems influenced modern inequality and demonstrated the critical role institutions play in either fostering or inhibiting economic growth.
- 




- **Research Focus / शोध का ध्यान:**

- The laureates studied how institutions introduced by European colonizers impacted the economic inequality seen in modern times.



- They demonstrated that differences in wealth between countries often stem from political and economic institutions rather than geography or culture.



- विजेताओं ने यह अध्ययन किया कि कैसे यूरोपीय उपनिवेशवादियों द्वारा स्थापित संस्थानों ने आधुनिक समय में आर्थिक असमानता को प्रभावित किया।




- उन्होंने दिखाया कि देशों के बीच धन में अंतर अक्सर भूगोल या संस्कृति के बजाय राजनीतिक और आर्थिक संस्थानों से उत्पन्न होता है।



- **Role of Institutions / संस्थानों की भूमिका:**
- The committee emphasized the importance of **inclusive institutions** in reducing income disparities.
- The example of the **city of Nogales**, divided between the U.S. and Mexico, was cited to show how political institutions in the U.S. side contributed to greater prosperity than the Mexican side.
- समिति ने आय असमानता को कम करने में **समावेशी संस्थानों** के महत्व को रेखांकित किया। **नोगालेस शहर** का उदाहरण दिया गया, जो अमेरिका और मेक्सिको के बीच विभाजित है, जहां अमेरिकी पक्ष में राजनीतिक संस्थानों ने अधिक समृद्धि में योगदान दिया है।



- **Impact on Growth / विकास पर प्रभाव:**

- : Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson's research showed that democratic countries, which transition from non-democratic regimes, tend to grow faster economically.
 - असीमोग्लू, जॉनसन और रॉबिन्सन के शोध से पता चला कि लोकतांत्रिक देश, जो गैर-लोकतांत्रिक शासन से परिवर्तन करते हैं, आमतौर पर तेजी से आर्थिक रूप से बढ़ते हैं।
- 

Indian probe team to travel to Washington over Pannun case: U.S.

Shriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

As the diplomatic row between India and Canada escalated on Monday over the death of a pro-Khalistan figure and Canadian citizen in British Columbia last year, the U.S. State Department announced that an Indian investigation team would travel to Washington DC on Tuesday to investigate a plot to kill a U.S. citizen in New York.

The United States Department of Justice announced charges in November 2023 alleging that an Indian government employee directed a plot to kill current Punjab Pannun, a Khalistani separatist designated as a terrorist by the Indian government in 2020. Pannun heads Sikhs for Justice, a group that advocates for a separate homeland for Sikhs or Khalistan.

Investigation in U.S.
"The Enquiry Committee will be travelling to Washington, D.C. on October 15th, as part of their ongoing investigation to discuss the case, including information they have obtained and to receive an update from U.S. authorities regarding the U.S. case

that is proceeding," the Office of the Spokesperson at the U.S. State Department said.

An Indian citizen, Nikhil Gupta, was extradited to the U.S. from the Czech Republic in June and is now in detention in Brooklyn. Federal prosecutors had alleged that Mr. Gupta hired a hitman to kill Pannun and paid him to do the job. The Indian government had set up an inquiry into the allegations in November last year.

"Additionally, India has informed the United States that they are continuing their efforts to investigate other linkages of the former government employee and will determine follow-up steps, as necessary," the spokesperson's office said.

Doval summoned
Separately, a district court in the United States had summoned National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel and others last month in connection with a complaint lodged by Mr. Pannun.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Mirri had said that the case was based on "unsubstantiated and unsubstantiated imputations".

Centre invites Manipur MLAs for meeting to lay

The meeting, being convened by Intelligence Bureau, is a first since the violence broke out. MLAs from Meitei, Kuki-Zo, Naga communities have been invited; no agenda has been shared with them

Vijlita Singh
Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has invited MLAs from all three communities — Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and Naga — in Manipur for a meeting on Tuesday. This is the first time the government has called such a meeting.

The meeting is being convened by the Intelligence Bureau, a source said, and no formal agenda has been shared with the MLAs. This comes nearly a month after Home Minister Amit Shah said at a press conference on September 17 that resolving the situation in Manipur required dialogue between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, and the Centre would work with both groups.

On June 17, a similar assurance was given by the Home Minister, when he reviewed the security situation in Manipur, although in the absence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The Ministry, in a statement, had said that



A woman holds a placard during a protest at Jantar Mantar on September 13 over the conflict in Manipur. **INDIA TODAY**

Mr. Shah underscored the importance of coordinated approach to resolve the ongoing ethnic conflict, adding that the Ministry "will talk to both the groups, Meiteis and Kukis, so as to bridge the ethnic divide, at the earliest". However, no peace committees were formed, and no outreach work was given by the MHA before the scheduled peace talks. The outcome of this meeting will determine whether we will attend the talks with the Meitei MLAs."

Another Meitei MLA said, "I received a call to join the meeting arranged by MHA in Delhi. We do not know what is there on the agenda. We are yet to know if the Kuki-Zo MLAs will be coming for the meeting."

MHA's peace committee
The police peace committee constituted by the MHA on June 10, 2023, was rejected by both the communities.

Wilubou Newmal, a Naga from Manipur, who was part of the defunct committee, said, "This is one of the first peace meetings of the Gurmales and I am suffering, especially those in relief camps. Both groups should make a sincere attempt to address the issue before the gap between the two communities is widened beyond repair."

Mr. Newmal said, "It will be good if a committee headed by a Union Minister constituted that will be acceptable to both the communities. Meetings with bureaucrats will not suffice, it requires political intervention."

Bomb threats to three flights from Mumbai declared hoax

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Security teams at Mumbai and Delhi airports went into a tizzy early on Monday morning after bomb threats, which were later declared hoax, were issued for three international flights from Mumbai.

One threat at 2 a.m. warned of a bomb onboard Indigo's Mumbai to Muscat flight, and another warned of an explosive onboard Indigo's Mumbai to Jeddah flight, as per CIBF sources. Two more were received at 3.34 a.m., warning of 6 kg RDX and six terrorists aboard Air India's Mumbai to New York flight, which was already airborne at the time.

The two Indigo aircraft were taken to an isolation bay at the Mumbai airport and screened. The Air India flight was diverted to the Delhi airport, where a similar drill was done.

Om Birla stresses need for regulatory framework for technologies like AI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dialogue and cooperation amongst Parliaments in the field of science, technology and innovation were essential for greater common good, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said at the 49th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva on Monday while making a strong pitch for multilateralism.

Mr. Birla was leading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the conference, which discussed the theme of "Harnessing science, technology and innovation for a more peaceful and sustainable future".

According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha secretary, Om Birla expressed hope that through a forum like the IPU, Parliaments would be able to pave the way for incisive development in the



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla speaking at an IPU meet in Geneva on Monday. **ANX**

world through shared action plans and joint efforts. The Lok Sabha Speaker stressed the need for an appropriate regulatory system in the field of technology, safeguarding data privacy of citizens, ensuring proper use of artificial intelligence (AI), apart from other aspects of the subject.

He urged the IPU forum as well as national Parliaments to take up the issue.

Joint efforts
In his address, Mr. Birla was unequivocal in stating that the collective endeavour of Parliaments across the world should be to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of science, technology and innovation.

Calling for convergence of technological advancement, scientific research and innovative approaches so that the fruits of such advancement are shared equitably and leveraged responsibly, Mr. Birla referred to the idea of One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSWOC), initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The IPU, founded in 1889 as the first multilateral political organisation, is a global forum of national Parliaments.

with the violence that left one person injured and several injured after two communal riots in the city.

The deceased, Ram Gopal Mishra, a native of Rewa, was shot for playing music during the procession. Four persons, Sachin Kumar, 22; Ranjan, 31; Divyansh Saray, 42; and the inaction of the administration are extremely sad and unfortunate. I appeal to the Chief Minister of the State and the administration to take

UP. Police detain 30 over violence in Bahraich; Internet suspended

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Mahast locality in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh remained on edge on Monday, a day after a person was killed in a Durga idol immersion procession. Protesters torched several properties, including a two-wheeler showroom. The police resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas shells as protesters turned violent.

The administration deployed Constabulary (PVC) Armed Constables to control the situation and Internet services have temporarily been suspended.

Additional Director-General (ADG), Law and Order, Amitabh Yash, has been ordered to immediately rush to Bahraich, with top State authorities monitoring the Mahast local police organisation. Thirty people have been detained in connection



Motorcycles set on fire by protesters in Bahraich on Monday, a day after violence broke out during an idol immersion procession. **PTI**

with the violence that left one person injured and several injured after two communal riots in the city. The deceased, Ram Gopal Mishra, a native of Rewa, was shot for playing music during the procession. Four persons, Sachin Kumar, 22; Ranjan, 31; Divyansh Saray, 42; and the inaction of the administration are extremely sad and unfortunate. I appeal to the Chief Minister of the State and the administration to take

'Take strict action'
"The news of violence in Bahraich and the inaction of the administration are extremely sad and unfortunate. I appeal to the Chief Minister of the State and the administration to take immediate action. Strictest action should be taken against the culprits. My humble appeal to the public is that please do not take the law into your own hands and maintain peace," the Congress leader wrote on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the "conspiracy" to disturb peace and harmony in the State will not succeed. "Those who promote protection to the rioters are once again becoming actors, but we have to be cautious and vigilant," he said. "The timing of elections and the worsening of the communal atmosphere is not a coincidence. This is the knock of the by-elections. If the government makes real arrangements instead of superficial law and order, everything will be fine, but this will happen only if the government wants it." Sarnau wadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said.

Third accused in Baba Siddique's murder sent to police custody

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

One of the suspects in the murder of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique, Pravin Lonkar, was produced in the Esplanade court in Mumbai on Monday. The court sent him to police custody till October 21. He was arrested on Sunday. It was the third arrest in the case.

Former Maharashtra Minister Siddique, who represented the Bahdra (West) seat three times in the State Assembly, was shot dead outside his office in Nirmal Nagar, Bandra, on October 12. The Mumbai police had arrested two of the three suspected shooters by Mr. Shubham, while the third shooter, Shivkumar Kashyap, is on the run. The police suspect gangster Lawrence Bishnoi is behind the murder.

Key accused on the run
On Sunday, the prime accused and Bishnoi gang member, Shubham Lonkar, claimed responsibility for the murder through a social media post.

According to the police, Mr. Shubham was the mastermind and had "recruited" the shooters. While Mr.

Shubham is absconding, the police have arrested his brother Pravin Lonkar. They are also on the lookout for another suspect, Mohamed Zeeshan Akhtar. In the social media post, Mr. Shubham had claimed that Siddique was killed because he was linked to wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, and was close to actor Salman Khan, who allegedly killed two blackbuck in Rajasthan in 1998.

Seeking Mr. Pravin's custody, public prosecutor S.N. Vaidya said, "Pravin Lonkar, 28, has to be taken to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana for tracing his brother Shubham."

The police suspect that the weapons were provided to the shooters by Mr. Shubham, who had been booked in an Arms Act case earlier in Akola.

Defence lawyer Prajapal Kotkar told the court that Mr. Pravin had no association with the crime and was being made a "scapegoat".

NCP BSP leader Supriya Sule questioned the "casual attitude" of the State government despite knowing the threats received by Siddique. "No one was safe in this State, not women and children, and now Ministers also," she said.

India, Russia discuss training of sailors for polar navigation, development of joint projects

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The India-Russia working group on cooperation in the Northern Sea Route (NSR) held their first meeting last week and discussed targets for Indian-Russian cargo transit, possible training of Indian sailors for polar navigation and development of joint projects in Arctic shipbuilding, Rosatom state corporation was reported on Monday.

"The working group also drafted a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the development of cooperation in car-

An MoU has been drafted between both countries for development of cooperation in cargo shipping in the NSR

go shipping in the waters of the Northern Sea Route, as stated in a statement. In 2018, the Russian government appointed Rosatom the infrastructure operator of the NSR.

"One of Rosatom's strategic goals is to expand its NSR an effective shipping artery connecting Europe, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. Ongoing is the preparation of a federal project to develop the Great Northern Sea Route

— a transport corridor from St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad to Vladivostok," the statement said. The MoU covers investments in Russia's far East, cooperation on NSR infrastructure support, a letter issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow in July. Both sides shared an approach of building a "new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors," including for the purpose of "implementing projects of a greater Eurasian space."

In this context, the sides expressed readiness to actively work to expand logistics links with an emphasis on increasing the capacity of infrastructure.

Army to get choppers from private firms to serve remote posts

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind association with the private sector, the Army has entered into a contract with civil aviation service providers for helicopter support to the Army posts along the Northern and Western borders that are cut off during the winter.

Under this, civil aviation helicopters would be employed instead of Army's own aviation or Air Force assets. This will not only reduce costs but also provide the service life of military helicopters for more critical roles in combat or other emergency scenarios, officials said. The contract, executed for a period of one year,

will ensure that 16 remote posts in Jammu region are sustained throughout the year, while another 28 posts in Kashmir and Ladakh will benefit from the support for 180 days next year," an official said.

44 posts to be covered
The helicopters, provided under the contract, are operated from seven mountainous bases in Ladakh, Kashmir, and one in the Jammu region, covering a total of 44 posts.

This is not only a logistical triumph but also a indication that civil aviation assets are now capable of operating in the forward areas, previously the exclusive domain of military aircraft, officials said.

Maharashtra gives 124 acres for Dharavi project; scraps toll on LMVs in Mumbai

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a project to hand over 124.3 acres of the Deonar dumping yard land for the rehabilitation of those affected by the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

The Cabinet also decided to scrap toll on light motor vehicles (LMVs) at all the five entry and exit points to Mumbai. These were among the 19 decisions taken by the cabinet.

"The decision to waive road tax will be implemented from October 15," an official said. "Light vehicles, school buses and ST buses will be

exempted from road tax. It will be implemented on the Parel Highway at Vashi, Lal Bahadur Shastri Road at Mulund, Eastern Expressway at Mulund near Airoli Bridge, Western Expressway at the booth at Dahisar," the official added.

A committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary has been constituted for the compensation to be paid to the State Road Development Corporation due to the tax exemption on the sale of land parcels will be given at the possession rate of 25% of the prevalent market rate. Four days ago, the Maharashtra government had allotted 140 acres of land at Madh for the Dharavi project. Before that, it had allotted 255 acres of salt pan land to it.

As per the government decision, the land allotment will be subject to conditions. "In order to determine the area freely for allotment, the Collector of Mumbai Suburban should measure the salt pan income at government expense and determine the area to be passed on for approval order by collecting the possession amount of that area," said a government order on Monday.

India, Russia discuss training of sailors for polar navigation, development of joint projects

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The India-Russia working group on cooperation in the Northern Sea Route (NSR) held their first meeting last week and discussed targets for Indian-Russian cargo transit, possible training of Indian sailors for polar navigation and development of joint projects in Arctic shipbuilding, Rosatom state corporation of Russia said on Monday.

“The working group also drafted a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the development of cooperation in car-

An MoU has been drafted between both countries for development of cooperation in cargo shipping in the NSR

go shipping in the waters of the NSR,” Rosatom said in a statement. In 2018, the Russian government appointed Rosatom the infrastructure operator of the NSR.

“One of Rosatom’s strategic goals is to make the NSR an effective shipping artery connecting Europe, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. Ongoing is the preparation of a federal project to develop the Great Northern Sea Route

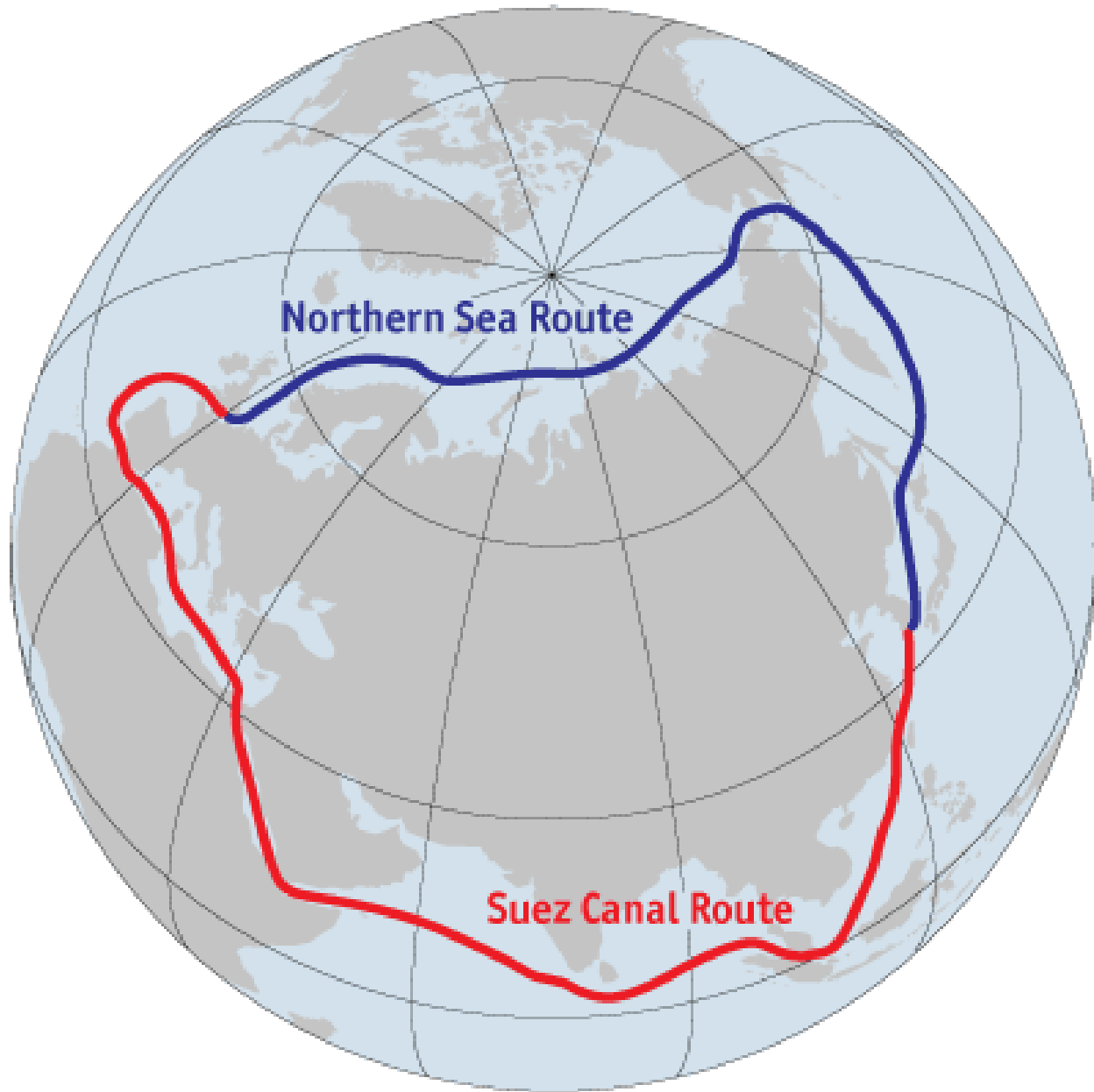
– a transport corridor from St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad to Vladivostok,” the statement said.

As India scaled up investments in Russia’s far East, cooperation on NSR figured in the joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Moscow in July. Both sides shared approaches on building a “new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors,” including for the purpose of “implementing the idea of a greater Eurasian space.”

In this context, the sides expressed readiness to actively work to expand logistics links with an emphasis on increasing the capacity of infrastructure.



■ Northern Sea and Suez Canal routes





THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE (NSR)
is the shortest sea route between the European
part of Russia and the Far East

14000 km

from Saint-Petersburg
to Vladivostok

23700 km

via the Suez Canal

THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE
via the Suez Canal



How the new Northern Sea route compares to the traditional Suez Canal route

NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

Travel time

35 days

Dangers

Icebergs

Travel window

July to November

Container-carrying vessels

One this year

SUEZ CANAL ROUTE

Travel time

48 days

Dangers

Access to Suez Canal under question with upheaval in Egypt

Travel window

Year-round

Container-carrying vessels

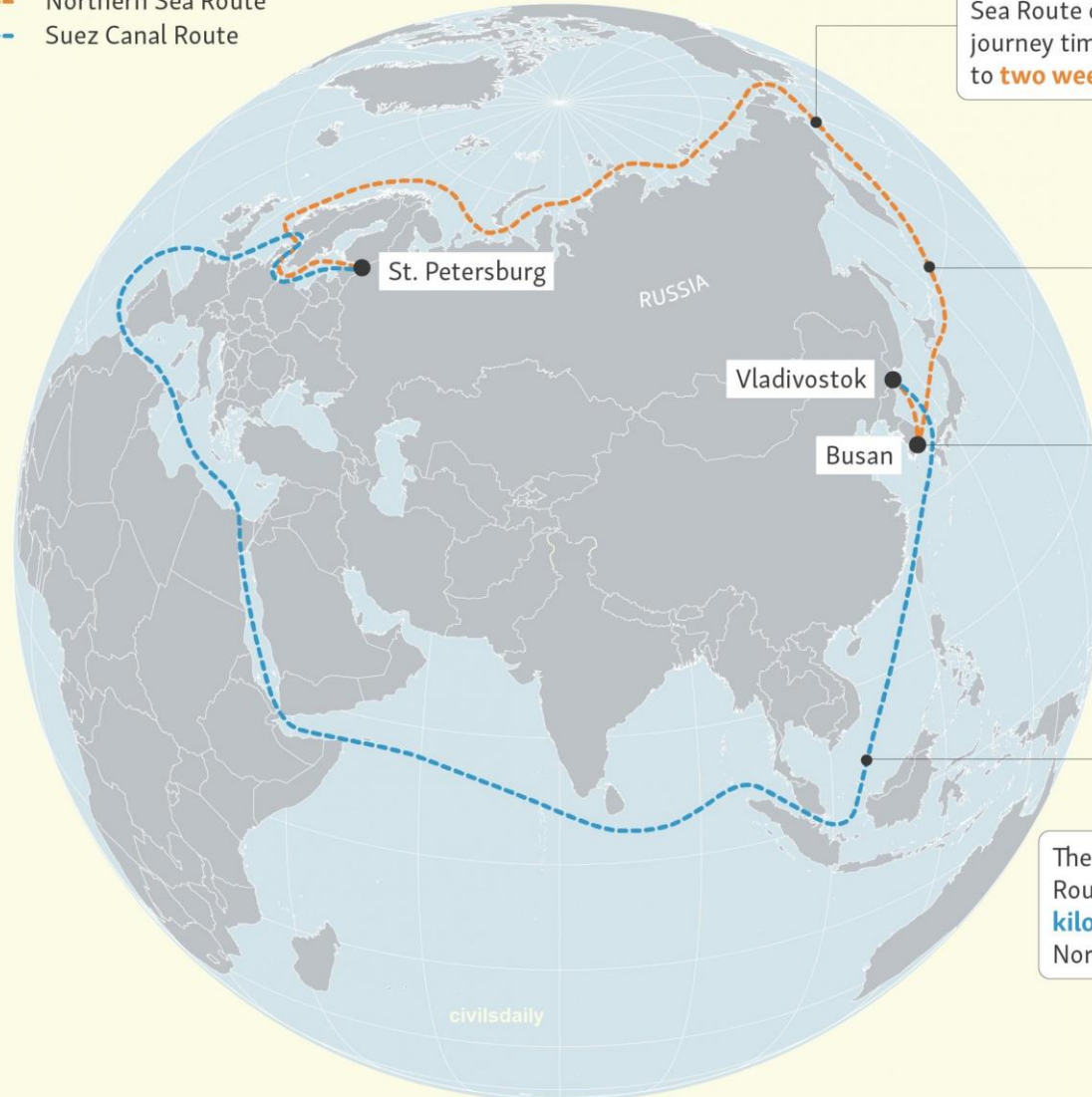
17,000 last year



Northern Sea Route: A New Shipping Highway?

Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, is preparing to send a cargo vessel through the Russian Arctic for the first time. This is how the passage compares to the traditional Suez Canal route.

--- Northern Sea Route
--- Suez Canal Route


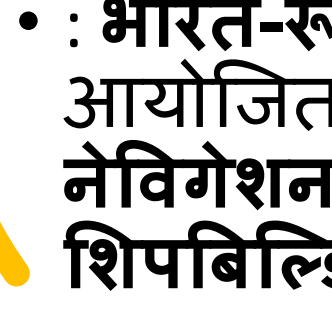


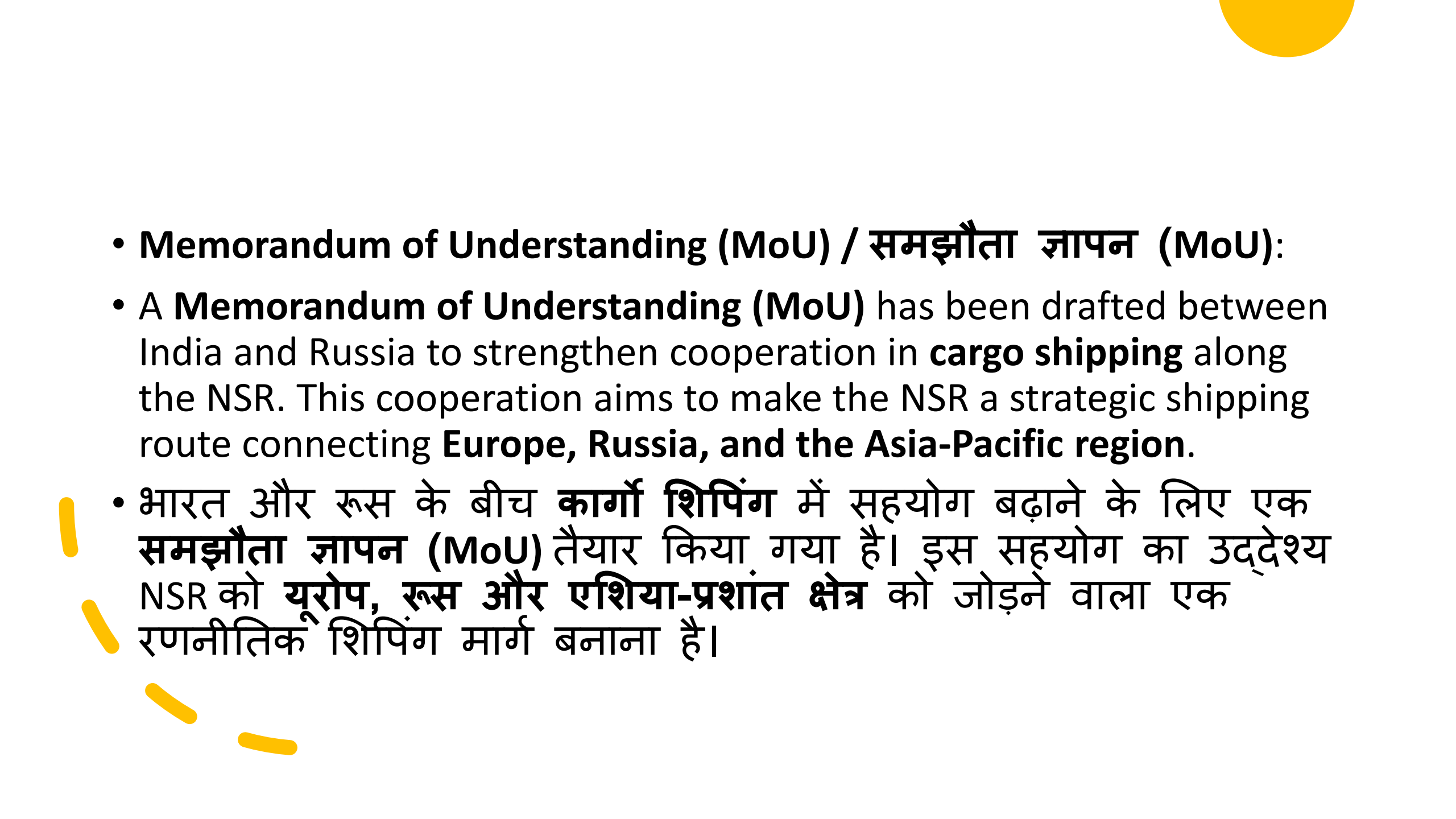
Taking the Northern Sea Route can cut the journey times by up to **two weeks**.

The passage is now feasible for **three months a year**, but this might change due to even more of the ice melting.

The Venta Maersk departed Vladivostok and is stopping in Busan, South Korea, before making its trial journey.

The traditional Suez Canal Route is more than **8,000 kilometers longer** than the Northern Sea passage.

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- **Meeting on Cooperation / सहयोग पर बैठक:**
 - The **India-Russia working group** held its first meeting on the **Northern Sea Route (NSR)** to discuss **cargo transit** and the **training of Indian sailors** for polar navigation. They also explored joint projects in **Arctic shipbuilding**.
 - : भारत-रूस कार्य समूह ने नॉर्डर्न सी रूट (NSR) पर अपना पहला बैठक आयोजित की, जिसमें कार्गो ट्रांजिट और भारतीय नाविकों के ध्रुवीय नेविगेशन के प्रशिक्षण पर चर्चा की गई। साथ ही आर्कटिक शिपबिल्डिंग में संयुक्त परियोजनाओं पर भी विचार हुआ।
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- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) / समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU):**
 - A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has been drafted between India and Russia to strengthen cooperation in **cargo shipping** along the NSR. This cooperation aims to make the NSR a strategic shipping route connecting **Europe, Russia, and the Asia-Pacific region**.
 - भारत और रूस के बीच **कार्गो शिपिंग** में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए एक **समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** तैयार किया गया है। इस सहयोग का उद्देश्य NSR को **यूरोप, रूस और एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र** को जोड़ने वाला एक **रणनीतिक शिपिंग मार्ग** बनाना है।

- **Infrastructure and Logistics Development / बुनियादी ढांचा और लॉजिस्टिक्स विकास:**
- **Rosatom**, Russia's state corporation, is developing a federal project to make the NSR a key **transport corridor**.
- Both countries are focusing on building a new architecture of **stable and efficient transport networks** to support the idea of a greater **Eurasian space**.
- रूस की सरकारी कंपनी **रोसाटॉम** NSR को एक प्रमुख **परिवहन गलियारे** के रूप में विकसित करने के लिए एक संघीय परियोजना पर काम कर रही है।
- दोनों देश **स्थिर और कुशल परिवहन नेटवर्क** के नए ढांचे पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं ताकि एक व्यापक **यूरोपीय क्षेत्र** का समर्थन किया जा सके।

- **India's Investments in Russia's Far East / रूस के सुदूर पूर्व में भारत का निवेश:**
- India is increasing its investments in Russia's **Far East**, which was emphasized during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit to **Moscow** in July. Both sides aim to expand logistics and infrastructure capabilities.
- भारत, रूस के सुदूर पूर्व में अपने निवेश को बढ़ा रहा है, जिसका उल्लेख **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** की **माँस्को** यात्रा के दौरान हुआ। दोनों पक्ष **लॉजिस्टिक्स और बुनियादी ढांचे** की क्षमता को बढ़ाने पर काम कर रहे हैं।



The accord is a testament to collective determination to harness the Nile River, says Nile Basin Initiative. FILE PHOTO

Nile nations agree on water-sharing without Egypt's nod

Associated Press
KAMPALA

A regional partnership of 10 countries said an agreement on the equitable use of water resources from the Nile River basin has come into force despite the notable opposition of Egypt.

The legal status of the "cooperative framework" was formally confirmed by the African Union after South Sudan joined the treaty, the Nile Basin Initiative said in a statement on Sunday.

Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania have ratified the accord, Egypt and Sudan declined to sign, while Congo abstained. Kenya has not yet deposited its ratification documents with the African Union.

The accord, which came into force on Sunday, "is a testament to our collective determination to harness the Nile River for the benefit of all, ensuring its equitable and sustainable use for generations to come," the Nile Basin Initiative said in its statement. "This is a moment to congratulate the governments and people of the Nile riparian countries, and all partners and stakeholders, for their patience, resolve, and dedication to this cause."

The lack of ratification by Egypt and Sudan — desert nations that have raised concerns over any attempts to diminish their shares of Nile water — means the accord will prove controversial.

Tensions in the region have increased, stemming in part from Ethiopia's construction of a \$4 billion dam on the Blue Nile, a key tributary of the Nile River. Egypt fears the dam will have a devastating effect on water and irrigation supplies downstream unless Ethiopia takes its needs into account.

Netanyahu mulls 'Generals' Plan' to cut off aid to people left in northern Gaza

The plan proposed to the Israeli Prime Minister and parliament by a group of retired Generals would escalate the pressure on Gazans to evacuate; the proposal calls for giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, and declaring it a closed military zone

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the year-long war, the most recent of which was on Sunday. The plan proposed to Mr. Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired Generals would escalate the pressure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants — meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them — and denied food, water, medicine, and fuel, according to a copy of the plan given to The Associated Press by its chief architect, who said the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create a new administration without Hamas, splitting the



Waiting in line: Israeli soldiers near an inspection area for trucks carrying humanitarian aid supplies bound for the Gaza Strip, on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing into northern Gaza. AP

Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called Generals' Plan, and it is unclear how strongly it is being considered.

When asked if the evacuation orders in northern Gaza marked the first stages of the Generals' Plan, Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said no.

"We have not received a plan like that," he said. But one official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts.

A second official, who is Israeli, said Mr. Netanyahu "had read and studied" the plan, "like many plans that have reached him throughout the war,"

but did not say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, because the plan is not supposed to be discussed publicly.

The Generals' Plan was presented to the parliament last month by a group of retired generals and high-ranking officers, according to publicly available minutes. Since then, officials from the Prime Minister's office called seeking more details, according to its chief architect, Giora Eiland, a former head of the National Security Council.

Israel's media reported that Mr. Netanyahu told a closed parliamentary defense committee session that he was considering the plan.

Mr. Eiland said the only way to stop Hamas and bring an end to the year-long war is to prevent its access to aid.

"Surrender or starve" "They will either have to surrender or to starve," he said. "It does not necessarily mean that we are going to kill every person," he said. "It will not be necessary. People will not be able to live there (the north). The water will dry up."

He believes the siege could force Hamas to release some 100 Israeli hostages still being held by the group. At least 30 of the hostages are presumed dead.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in

the Jabalya refugee camp north of the city. The amount of aid reaching the north has declined significantly since October 1, according to the UN.

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has said Washington is against any plan that would bring direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

Human rights groups said the plan would likely starve civilians and that it flies in the face of international law, which prohibits the use of food as a weapon and forcible transfers. Accusations that Israel is intentionally limiting food to Gaza are central to the genocide case brought against it at the International Court of Justice, charges Israel denies.

A coalition of Israeli NGOs on Monday urged the international community to act, noting that "there are alarming signs that the Israeli military is beginning to quietly implement" the plan.

"States have an obligation to prevent the crimes of starvation and forcible transfer," they wrote, warning that continuing a "wait and see" approach "will enable Israel to liquidate northern Gaza."

So far, very few Palestinians have heeded the latest evacuation order. Some are older, sick, or afraid to leave their homes, but many fear there is nowhere safe to go and that they will never be allowed back.

rael has prevented those who fled earlier in the war from returning.

"All Gazans are afraid of the plan," said Iomana Eikhallil, a 26-year-old Palestinian aid worker for Oxfam living in Gaza City with her family.

"Still, they will not flee. They will not make the mistake again... We know the place there is not safe," she said, referring to southern Gaza, where most of the population is huddled in dismal tent camps and airstrikes often hit shelters. "That is why people in the north say it is better to die than to leave."

The plan has emerged as Hamas has shown enduring strength, firing rockets into Tel Aviv and regrouping in areas after Israeli troops withdrew, bringing repeated offensives.

After a year of devastating war with Hamas, Israel has far fewer ground troops in Gaza than it did a few months ago and in recent weeks has turned its attention to Hezbollah, launching an invasion of southern Lebanon. There is no sign of progress on a ceasefire in either front.

Israel's offensive on the strip has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

Nepali teenager gets hero's welcome after summiting all 14 'eight-thousanders'

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Cheering crowds hailed an 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer as a hero as he returned home on Monday after breaking the record for the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks.

Nima Rijal Sherpa reached the summit of Tibet's 8,027-metre-high Shisha Tangua on October 9, completing his mission to stand on the world's highest peaks.

On Monday, he returned from China to Nepal's capital Kathmandu, where scores waited to see him.

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Nima Rijal Sherpa

flowers, as he emerged to loud cheers at the airport.

"Thank you so much everyone," he said to his supporters, beaming a wide grin. He hugged his family while others rushed to offer him scarves and flowers. Nepal's climbing community also welcomed several others who returned after completing the summit of 14 peaks.

Summiting all 14 "eight-thousanders" is considered the peak of mountaineering aspirations, with all the peaks located in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges, straddling Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, and India.

Climbers cross "death zones" where there is not enough oxygen in the air to sustain human life for long periods. Many elite climbers have died in the pursuit.

The young Sherpa is no stranger to the mountains, hailing from a family of record-holding climbers, who also now run Nepal's largest mountaineering expedition company. He started high-altitude climbing at the age of 16, by climbing Mount Manaslu in August 2022.

Act of defiance



Defiant move: A demonstrator tries to push away a tear gas canister with a stick during the march for Mapuche and all indigenous peoples' resistance in Santiago, Chile on Sunday. AP

Saudi eyes electric jets to reach Mecca, new resorts

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's flag carrier is turning to a cash-strapped German firm for electric jets to service routes to new luxury resorts and the holy city of Mecca, an official said.

Plans from Munich-based Lilium will provide direct links to hard-to-reach routes along the Red Sea coast and ferry Muslim pilgrims directly from Jeddah to Mecca, which does not have an airport, Saudi Airlines communications affairs manager Razan Shaker said.

"Our strategy is that it will help in bridging the locations and the cities that do not have an airport or that are maybe hard to go to," she said on the sidelines of a logistics forum in Riyadh. The plans include flying pilgrims to the iconic Fairmont Makkah Clock Royal Tower hotel, near Mecca's Grand Mosque, where "we are working on creating a helipad," she said. In July, Saudi announced it was buying 50 Lilium electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) jets with options to purchase 50 more.

The airline is expected to start taking delivery of the Lilium jets, which seat four to six passengers and fly up to 175 kilometres in a "dedicated manner" to "switch-burn" people for online expression or to facilitate blasphemy evidence using social media with "vested agendas". "All such groups are formalised by self-declared defenders of majoritarianism," the group said in a report published in 2023.

Internet 'vigilantes' behind the rise of online blasphemy cases in Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Aroosa Khan's son was chatting on WhatsApp but suddenly found himself the target of "vigilante" investigators who accused him of having committed blasphemy online, a claim that carries the death penalty in Pakistan.

The 27-year-old is one of hundreds of young men standing trial in Pakistan courts accused of making blasphemous statements online or in WhatsApp groups, an offence for which arrests have exploded in recent years.

Many of the cases are being brought to trial by private "vigilante groups" led by lawyers and sup-

ported by volunteers who scour the internet for offenders, rights groups and police say.

"The families of young Pakistanis, including doctors, engineers, lawyers, and accountants, say that their relatives were duped into sharing blasphemous content by strangers online before being arrested."

"Our lives have been turned upside down," Ms. Khan said, saying that her son, who has not been named for security reasons, had joined a WhatsApp group for job-seekers and was contacted by a woman.

She sent him an image

of women with Quranic verses printed on their bodies, his mother said, adding that the contact then "denied having sent it and asked Ahmed to send it back to her to understand what he was later arrested and prosecuted by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)."

"Our lives have been turned upside down," Ms. Khan said, saying that her son, who has not been named for security reasons, had joined a WhatsApp group for job-seekers and was contacted by a woman. She sent him an image



Family members of Pakistani youth indicted for alleged online blasphemy protest in Islamabad on October 2, 2022.

diary charge in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even unsubstantiated accusations can incite public outrage and lead to lynchings.

While they date back to colonial times, Pakistan's blasphemy laws were ramped up in the 1980s when dictator Zia-ul-Haq

campaign to "Islamise" society.

The most active private investigation group is the Legal Commission on Blasphemy Pakistan (LCBP), which said they are prosecuting more than 300 cases.

Sheraz Ahmad Farooqi, one of the private investi-

gation group's leaders, said that more than a dozen volunteers track online blasphemy, believing that "God has chosen them for this noble cause".

"Legal course" "We are not beheading anyone; we are following a legal course," Mr. Farooqi said outside a courtroom that heard 18 blasphemy cases, all filed by his group.

He said that most of those accused were addicted to pornography and were disseminating covered Islamic figures by using their names and dubbing voices attributed to them over pornographic content.

He acknowledged that the group said in a report published in 2023.

Nile nations agree on water-sharing without Egypt's nod

Associated Press

KAMPALA

A regional partnership of 10 countries said an agreement on the equitable use of water resources from the Nile River basin has come into force despite the notable opposition of Egypt.

The legal status of the “cooperative framework” was formally confirmed by the African Union after South Sudan joined the treaty, the Nile Basin Initiative said in a statement on Sunday.

Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania have ratified the accord. Egypt and Sudan declined to sign, while Congo abstained. Kenya has not yet deposited its ratification documents with the African Union.

The accord, which came into force on Sunday, “is a testament to our collective determination to harness the Nile River for the benefit of all, ensuring its equitable and sustainable use for generations to come,” the Nile Basin Initiative said in its statement. “This is a moment to congratulate the governments and people of the Nile riparian countries, and all partners and stakeholders, for their patience, resolve, and dedication to this cause.”

The lack of ratification by Egypt and Sudan – desert nations that have raised concern over any attempts to diminish their shares of Nile water – means the accord will prove controversial.

Tensions in the region have increased, stemming in part from Ethiopia's construction of a \$4 billion dam on the Blue Nile, a key tributary of the Nile River. Egypt fears the dam will have a devastating effect on water and irrigation supplies downstream unless Ethiopia takes its needs into account.



Mediterranean Sea

Egypt

AFRICA

Sudan

Red Sea

Eritrea

Lake Tana

Blue Nile River

White Nile River

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Rwanda

Uganda

Democratic Republic of Congo

Kenya


Lake Victoria

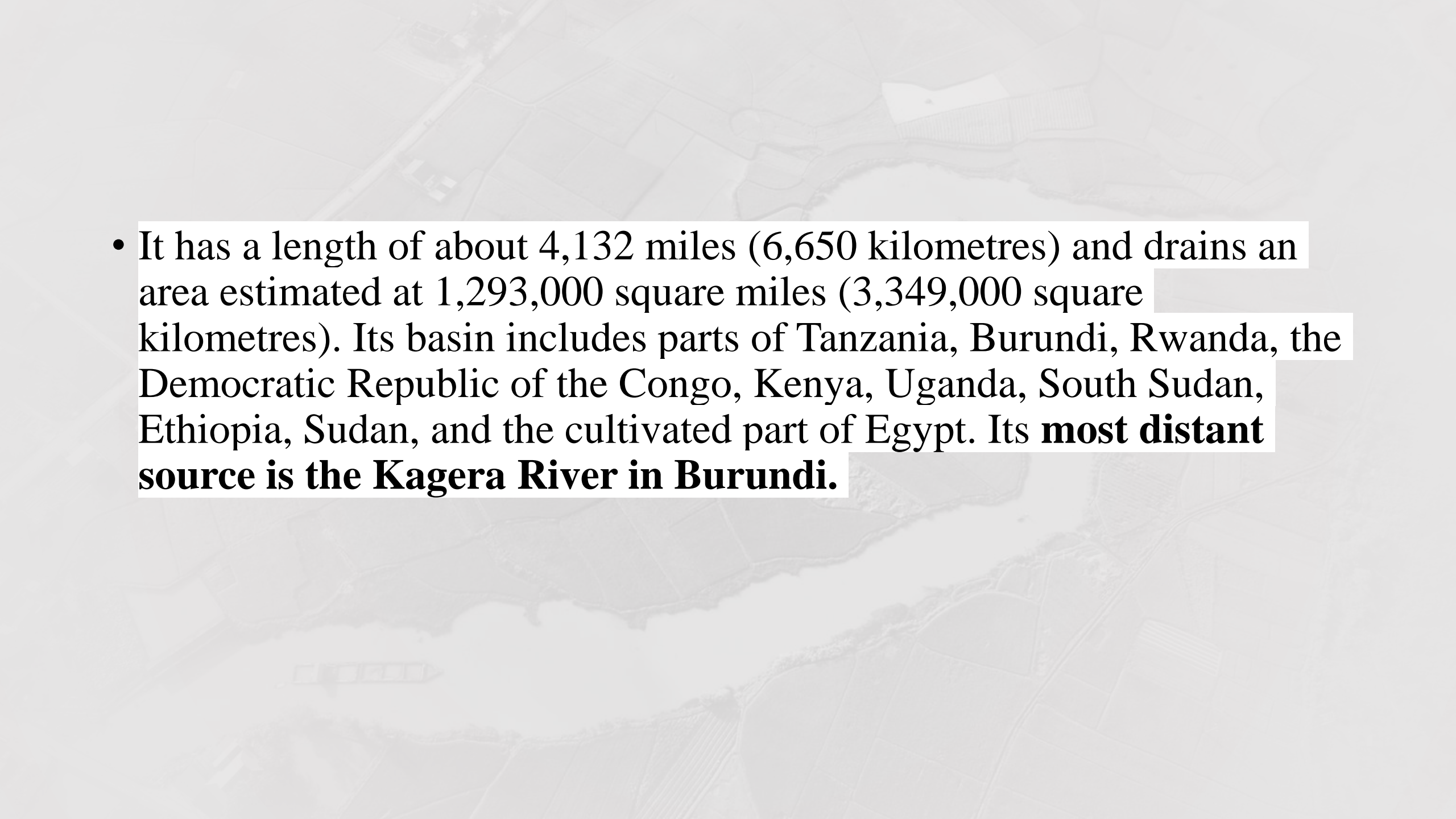
Tanzania

Burundi



Nile River



- 
- **Nile River**, Arabic **Baḥr Al-Nīl** or **Nahr Al-Nīl**, is the longest river in the world, called the father of African rivers. It rises south of the Equator and flows northward through northeastern Africa to drain into the Mediterranean Sea.
- 

- 
- An aerial photograph of a river valley, showing a winding river through a landscape of agricultural fields and some buildings. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.
- It has a length of about 4,132 miles (6,650 kilometres) and drains an area estimated at 1,293,000 square miles (3,349,000 square kilometres). Its basin includes parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan, and the cultivated part of Egypt. Its **most distant source is the Kagera River in Burundi.**

-
- The Nile is formed by three principal streams: the Blue Nile and the Atbara, which flow from the highlands of Ethiopia, and the White Nile, the headstreams of which flow into Lakes Victoria and Albert.
 - **. The disputes**
 - “**Historically**, wars have been fought over the Nile, particularly between **Egypt and Ethiopia**. In the 20th century, the conflicts have not turned into wars but there have been many instances of disagreements between Ethiopia and Egypt,”.

- 
- She added that these conflicts had their roots in colonial as well as other agreements of which Ethiopia was not a part of, particularly the **1959 Nile waters agreement**.
 - Ethiopia began construction on the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** in April 2011 on the **Blue Nile**. The project has fuelled controversies and repetitive unsuccessful and **futile negotiations**, especially among the three **Nile riparian countries Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt**.
- 

Nepali teenager gets hero's welcome after summiting all 14 'eight-thousanders'

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Cheering crowds hailed an 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer as a hero as he returned home on Monday after breaking the record for the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks.

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NIMSDAI

14 PEAKS - NO 02

TO INSPIRE THE WORLD, AGAIN.





3 Months 1 Day
(92 Days)

Fastest Ascent of 14 PEAKS

By Kristin Harila & Tenjen Sherpa (Lama)



01

Rank : 14

8027 m.
SHISHA PANGMA
China (Tibet)
Summit : 26-Apr-23



02

Rank : 06

8188 m.
CHO OYU
Nepal-China (Tibet)
Summit : 03-May-23



03

Rank : 05

8485 m.
MAKALU
Nepal
Summit : 13-May-23



04

Rank : 03

8586 m.
KANCHENJUNGA
Nepal
Summit : 18-May-23



05

Rank : 01

8848.86 m.
EVEREST
Nepal
Summit : 23-May-23



06

Rank : 04

8516 m.
LHOTSE
Nepal
Summit : 23-May-23



07

Rank : 07

8167 m.
DHAULAGIRI I
Nepal
Summit : 29-May-23



08

Rank : 10

8091 m.
ANNAPURNA I
Nepal
Summit : 05-Jun-23



09

Rank : 08

8163 m.
MANASLU
Nepal
Summit : 10-Jun-23



10

Rank : 09

8125 m.
NANGA PARBAT
Pakistan
Summit : 26-Jun-23



11

Rank : 13

8034 m.
GASHERBRUM II
Pakistan
Summit : 15-Jul-23



12

Rank : 11

8080 m.
GASHERBRUM I
Pakistan
Summit : 18-Jul-23



13

Rank : 12

8051 m.
BROAD PEAK
Pakistan
Summit : 23-Jul-23



14

Rank : 02

8611 m.
K2
Pakistan
Summit : 27-Jul-23

organized by:

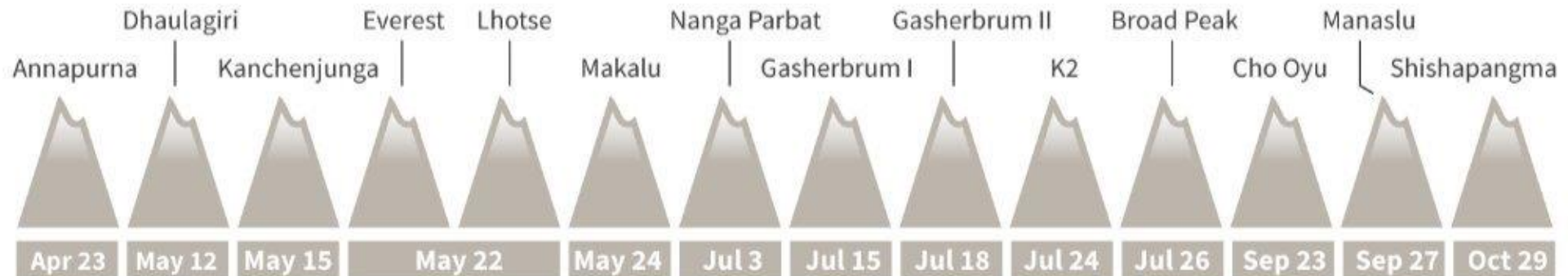
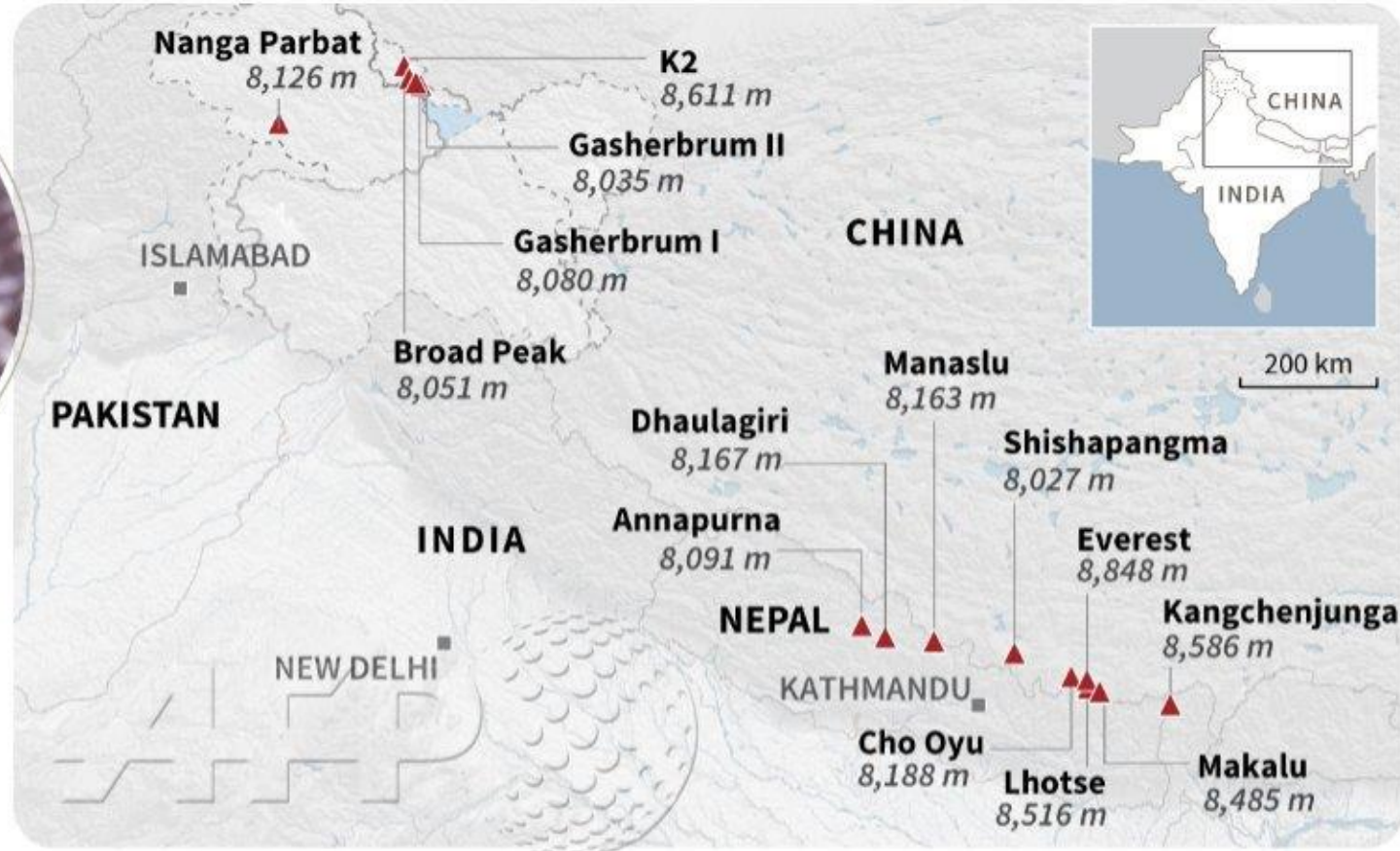
SEVEN SUMMIT TREKS

New climbing record for world's 14 highest peaks



Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja on Oct 29, 2019, finished climbing the world's 14 highest mountains in a record seven months, according to his social media posts

14 peaks, seven months:





NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

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IN THE NEWS

GST COMMITTEE TO WEIGH FUTURE OF CESS TOMORROW

THE GROUP OF Ministers panel on GST compensation cess is set to meet on October 16 in the national capital to discuss the future of the levy post-March 26, reports Priyansh Verma. The panel is likely to deliberate whether the cess should continue to be levied in a separate manner after FY26-end, or be subsumed into a higher tax bracket. ■ PAGE 2

ANIL AMBANI MOVES SAT TO CONTEST SEBI BAN ORDER

ANIL AMBANI HAS filed an appeal in the Securities Appellate Tribunal challenging markets regulator Sebi's order banning him from the securities market for alleged diversion of funds from Reliance Home Finance, said sources, reports Akshata Gokte. ■ PAGE 6

HCLTECH BEATS STREET ESTIMATES, RAISES GUIDANCE

HCLTECH ON MONDAY reported higher-than-expected revenue in the quarter ended September, with both revenue and net profit beating Street expectations, reports Padmini Dhruvraj. It also increased its FY25 revenue guidance to 3.5-5% in constant currency terms from 3-5%. ■ PAGE 4

38 MORE FIRMS KEEN ON WHITE GOODS PLI

THE CENTRE HAS received 38 applications committing crore for manufacturing components of air conditioners and LEDs under the PLI scheme for white goods, Sangvi Singh, joint secretary, DPIIT, said on Monday, reports Mukesh Jagota. ■ PAGE 2

ERICSSON GETS NEW 5G CONTRACT FROM BHARTI

SWEDISH TELECOM GEAR maker Ericsson has received a new multi-billion dollar contract for selling 5G equipment from Bharti Airtel, reports Reuters. This comes after Ericsson got part of a \$3.5-billion contract last month for selling 5G equipment to Vodafone Idea. ■ PAGE 4

WEAK SHOW FROM Q2C BUSINESS

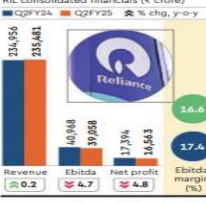
Reliance misses estimates again

Digital services grow, marginal rise in retail

RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH
Mumbai, October 14

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) ON Monday reported a 4.8% decline in its year-on-year consolidated net profit to ₹16,563 crore during the July-September quarter, missing Bloomberg consensus estimate of ₹18,814 crore, as its oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business underperformed once again. The company has now missed profit estimates for the sixth straight quarter. However, digital services registered growth, partially offsetting the weak performance by the O2C segment. The retail business posted muted performance as demand for fashion and lifestyle products remained weak. Consolidated revenues rose marginally by 0.2% to ₹2.35 lakh crore, a tad below Street estimates of ₹2.36 lakh crore. Ebitda at ₹39,058 crore was down 4.2% and also below Bloomberg estimate of ₹40,24 crore. Margin contracted to 16.6% from 17.4% a year ago. "Our performance reflects robust growth in digital services and upstream business. This was impacted by unfavourable global demand-supply dynamics," Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director, said in a statement.

Q2 REPORT CARD



Finance cost increased 5% to ₹9.49 or ₹6,017 crore on the back of higher debt. The company's net debt stood at ₹1.16 lakh crore as of September. Consolidated gross debt was at ₹3.36 lakh crore, higher than ₹2.95 lakh crore a year ago. Capital expenditure for the quarter was at ₹34,022 crore. The company's mainstay, the O2C business, reported a poor operational performance as Ebitda was down by around 24% to ₹9.7 or ₹12.41 crore. This was mainly due to an unfavourable demand-supply balance, which led to a sharp 50% increase in transportation fuel cracks and continued weakness in downstream chemical duties.

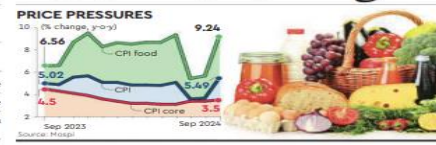
Continued on Page 7

Inflation hits 9-month high

December rate cut looks uncertain

PRIVANSH VERMA
New Delhi, October 14

PROPELLED BY AN unfavourable base effect, and a fresh spike in prices of vegetables and edible oils, India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation rose to a nine-month high of 5.49% in September from 4.62% in August. The CPI print was higher than the consensus estimate. An FPI panel of 18 economists had projected September retail inflation at 5.1%. In September 2023, the inflation stood at 5.02%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had projected Q2FY25 retail inflation at 4.1%, but with the September print, the actual inflation was 10 pps higher, at 4.2%. Food inflation in September rose to a three-month high of 9.24%, driven by a sharp rise in prices of tomato, onion, potato, edible oils and egg. The year-on-year inflation rate of "vegetables" rose to a 14-month high of 35.39% in September and oils & fats, 10% in



its October policy decision, had changed its stance to "neutral" from "withdrawal of accommodation," indicating its intent to cut the rates going forward, if need be. "The future monetary policy action will be more data-dependent. We still believe there is a low probability of monetary easing in the rest of FY25, even if there is a rate cut. It will be symbolic and shallow," said DK Pant, chief economist, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

Continued on Page 7

Hyundai raises ₹8,315 cr ahead of IPO

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, October 14

HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA HAS allocated ₹8,315.3 crore worth of shares to 225 funds/ investors in the anchor round of the stage for the country's largest initial public offering (IPO) on Tuesday. Among the anchor investors that have invested in the anchor round are Singapore government of Singapore, Fidelity Securities Funds, Vanguard Investment Fund, Blackrock, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, JP Morgan Funds, Abu Dhabi

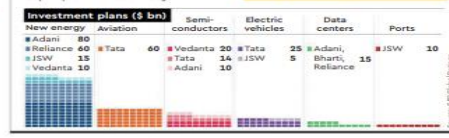
Investment Authority, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs, etc. The closure of the anchor book marks one of the biggest pre-IPO rounds in India, with Hyundai allocating around 42.8 million or 30% of IPO shares. The shares were allocated at the initial price of ₹1,865.1, 1,060 upper end of the price band of ₹1,865-1,960. Of the total anchor investment, ₹1,460 million shares were allotted to 21 domestic mutual funds through a total of 83 schemes.

Continued on Page 7

Large corporates set to triple spend to \$800 bn in 10 years

INDIA'S LARGE CORPORATE groups will invest \$800 billion over the next ten years, three times their capex in the last decade, with 40% of these funds likely going into "new business", and a quarter equity funded, according to S&P Global. While Vedanta, Tata, Adani, Reliance and JSW groups are bullish on newer areas, others may retain focus on established businesses. The massive capex plan involves heavy

borrowings on unproven technology. For some groups, the investment surge could push up leverage by 0.5-1x Ebitda. \$350 bn Likely investments over the next decade in new areas — such as green H2, EVs, RE, data centres, and semi-conductors \$400-500 bn Capex lined up for existing businesses



RESEARCH INTO WHY GLOBAL INEQUALITY PERSISTS

Trio wins Nobel economics prize

SIMON JOHNSON & MARK JOHN
Stockholm, October 14

THREE US-BASED ACADEMICS won the 2024 Nobel economics prize on Monday for research that explored the aftermath of colonisation to understand why global inequality persists today, especially countries dogged by corruption and dictatorship. Simon Johnson and James Robinson, both British-American, and Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu were commended for their work on "how institutions are formed and affect prosperity," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said. "Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges," said Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences. "They have identified the historical roots of the weak institutional environments that characterise many low-income countries today," he told a press conference. The award came a day after a World Bank report showed that the world's 16 poorest countries have to 40% of its most poverty-stricken people — are more in debt than at any time since 2006, highlighting a major reversal in the fight against poverty. The award, formally known as the

MEET THE WINNERS

SIMON JOHNSON
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA



Research highlights importance of societal institutions for prosperity

JAMES A. ROBINSON
University of Chicago, IL, USA



European colonisation had dramatic but divergent impacts across the world

DARON ACEMOGLU
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA



Acemoglu emphasises need for democracies to reclaim better governance

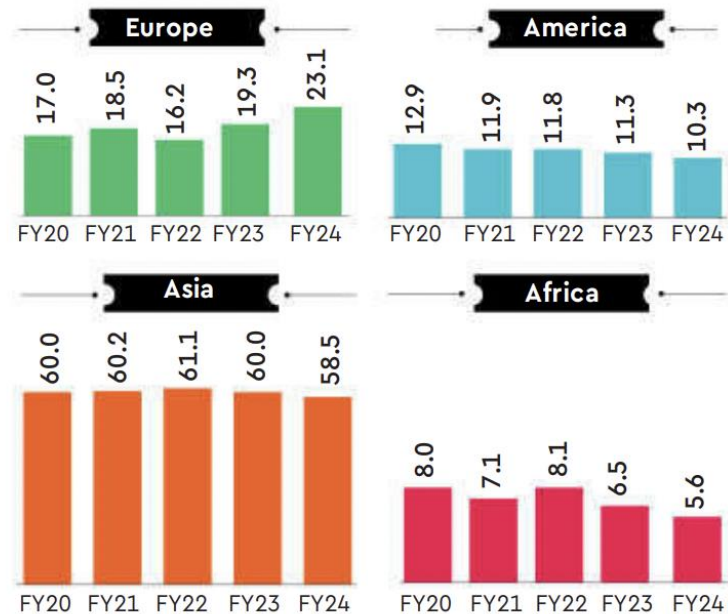
Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel is the final prize to be given out this year and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million). Acemoglu told the Nobel press conference that data gathered by pro-democracy groups showed that public institutions and rule of law in many parts of the world were currently being weakened. Continued on Page 7

EU share in Indian imports rises over a decade

IN THE FIVE years to FY24, while Europe's share in India's merchandise imports has grown, that of American and African continents have fallen (see chart). Asian countries' share in Indian imports has been erratic, and over the course of the decade, more or less static, reports **Saikat Neogi**. Still, EU's exports to India are barely 2% of its overall outbound shipments and the country is only tenth

largest export destination for the 27-country bloc. Europe, however, is now the largest export destination for India, pipping the US by a thin margin. The prospects of India-EU trade is however mixed. While the proposed India-EU free trade agreement could accelerate trade, the imminent EU carbon tax is threatening to hit India's shipment of goods to the EU.

Imports (share in %)



Source: Economic Outlook

Experts warn about implementation challenges for PM internship scheme

MANU KAUSHIK

New Delhi, October 14

EVEN AS THE PM internship scheme portal is open and applications are pouring in, concerns are being raised over implementation challenges the well-intentioned scheme could face.

Experts argue that the stipend of ₹5,000 per month offered to each intern (for one year) might not be sufficient for a skilled worker since the scheme specifically talks about training youth with “valuable skills” and gain work experience.

“For a skilled role, a stipend of ₹5,000 per month may not be sufficient, especially in the metros and tier-I cities across the country. Companies may have to shell out more stipend to retain these interns,” said head of a leading staffing firm, on condition of anonymity. Corporates may require to spend additionally to create the physical infrastructure and manpower for training the interns.

PROS & CONS

80,000

internship opportunities posted by 216 companies across 24 sectors

155,000

candidates have registered on the portal



■ **Low stipends, poor visibility on end results, lack of infra are key constraints**

■ Experts argue that the stipend of **₹5,000** per month offered to each intern (for one year) might not be sufficient for a skilled worker

Also, the participating companies paying extra stipend over and above the ₹5,000 cap might not be able to offset such expenses against the corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending, they said.

The other big scepticism around the scheme is the low visibility on its actual outcome. For instance, the

scheme intends to produce a large number of skilled and semi-skilled people who will be employed to do high-quality work at high-paying jobs after their internships is over.

“The apprehension is that many of these interns may end up getting jobs—at the end of their internship—in the existing low-value jobs

ecosystem with minimum wages,” said head of a hiring firm.

Experts said that India can learn from the German Dual Vocational Training (GDVT), a programme partly operated by the German government for the past few decades. “In this programme, in 90% of the cases, the interns are hired for the jobs where they are interning. China has also adopted this model due to its successful run,” said the head of hiring firm quoted above.

Given that the scheme envisages training of 10 million interns under the scheme over five-year period across top 500 companies, each company would roughly have to train 4,000 people every year. Some experts argue that many companies may not have this kind of training infrastructure.

However, Balasubramanian A, senior VP and business head at TeamLease Services, said many of his client companies have already digitised their training infra.

ISB only Indian B-school on FT Executive MBA list

THE INDIAN SCHOOL of Business (ISB) has been ranked 40th globally in the Financial Times Executive MBA Ranking 2024, and is the only Indian B-school on the list this year.

While its overall rank is 40th,

the ISB was ranked eighth-best globally in 'Alumni Network', 17th in 'Salary Today', and 19th in 'Percentage of Salary Increase'.

The ISB has been part of these rankings every year since 2019,

barring 2023. In 2022, it was ranked 44th.

The only other B-school to be part of these rankings is IIM Bangalore, which was at 94th rank in 2023, 86th in 2022, and 95th in 2020. **FE BUREAU**

Nasa probe Europa Clipper lifts off for Jupiter's icy moon

Cape Canaveral: A Nasa spacecraft rocketed away Monday on a quest to explore Jupiter's tantalising moon Europa and reveal whether its vast hidden ocean might hold the keys to life. It will take Europa Clipper 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter, where it will slip into orbit around the giant gas planet and sneak close to Europa during dozens of radiation-drenched flybys.

Scientists are almost certain a deep, global ocean exists beneath Europa's icy crust. And where there is water, there could be life, making the moon one of the most promising places out there to hunt for it. Europa Clipper won't look for life; it has no life detectors. Instead, the spacecraft will zero in on the ingredients necessary to sustain life, searching for organic compounds and other clues as it peers beneath the ice for suitable conditions.


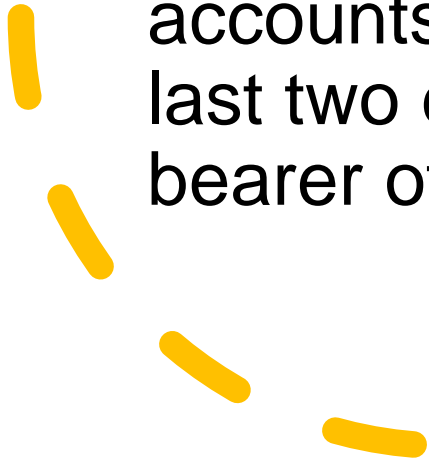
SpaceX started Clipper on its 3 billion-km journey, launching the spacecraft on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida. The nearly 5,700-kg probe should reach Jupiter in 2030. AP





Planet	Number of moons
Earth	1
Mars	2
Jupiter	95
Saturn	146
Uranus	28
Neptune	16
Pluto	5

Symbol Allocation to Political Parties



- 
- The Election Commission of India brought in **new rules for allocation of symbols to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)**.
 - **About**
 - ECI has made it **mandatory** for them to furnish audited accounts of last three financial years, expenditure statements of last two elections, and the signature of the authorised office-bearer of the party along with the application form for symbols.
- 

- 
- **RUPPs** are either **newly-registered parties** or those which have **not secured enough percentage of votes** in the Assembly or general election to become a State party, or those that have never contested elections after being registered.
 - Common symbols are provided to RUPPs based upon an undertaking that they would put up “at least 5% of total candidates with regard to said Legislative Assembly election of a State”.
- 




- **Symbol Allocation**

- Symbols are allotted to political parties and contesting candidates as per the **provisions of the Symbols Order by ECI.**


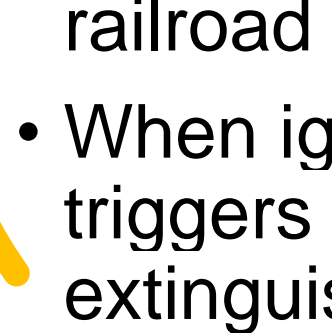
- A **recognised political party** has a reserved symbol that is **not allotted to any other candidate in any constituency.**

- For **registered but unrecognised political parties**, one of the free symbols is allotted as a common symbol during an election if that party contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies or in 5% of seats to the Assembly of a State as the case may be.





Dragon Drones

- 
- A new deadly weapon known as the “**dragon drone**” has surfaced in the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - **What are dragon drones?**
 - Dragon drones release a substance called **thermite**, a **mixture of aluminum and iron oxide**, developed a century ago to weld railroad tracks.
 - When ignited (with the help of an electrical fuse), thermite triggers a **self-sustaining reaction** that is quite difficult to extinguish.
- 




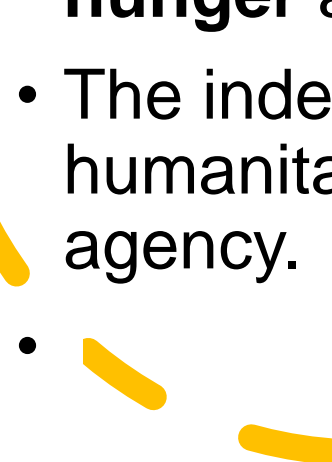
Dragon drones tend to be **low-flying** because thermite is more effective when it's in close contact with the target.

It can **burn through almost anything**, from clothes to trees to military-grade vehicles, and can even burn underwater.

- On humans, it causes **severe burns and bone damage**.

Global Hunger Index (GHI)?



- 
- India has been ranked **105th out of 127 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024**, placing it in the “**serious**” category for hunger levels.
 - **What is the Global Hunger Index (GHI)?**
 - GHI is a tool for **comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger** at global, regional, and national levels.
 - The index is published by **Concern Worldwide**, an Irish humanitarian organisation, and **Welthungerhilfe**, a German aid agency.
 -
- 

BOX 1.1 ABOUT THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels. GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators:¹



Undernourishment: the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.



Child wasting: the share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting *acute* undernutrition.

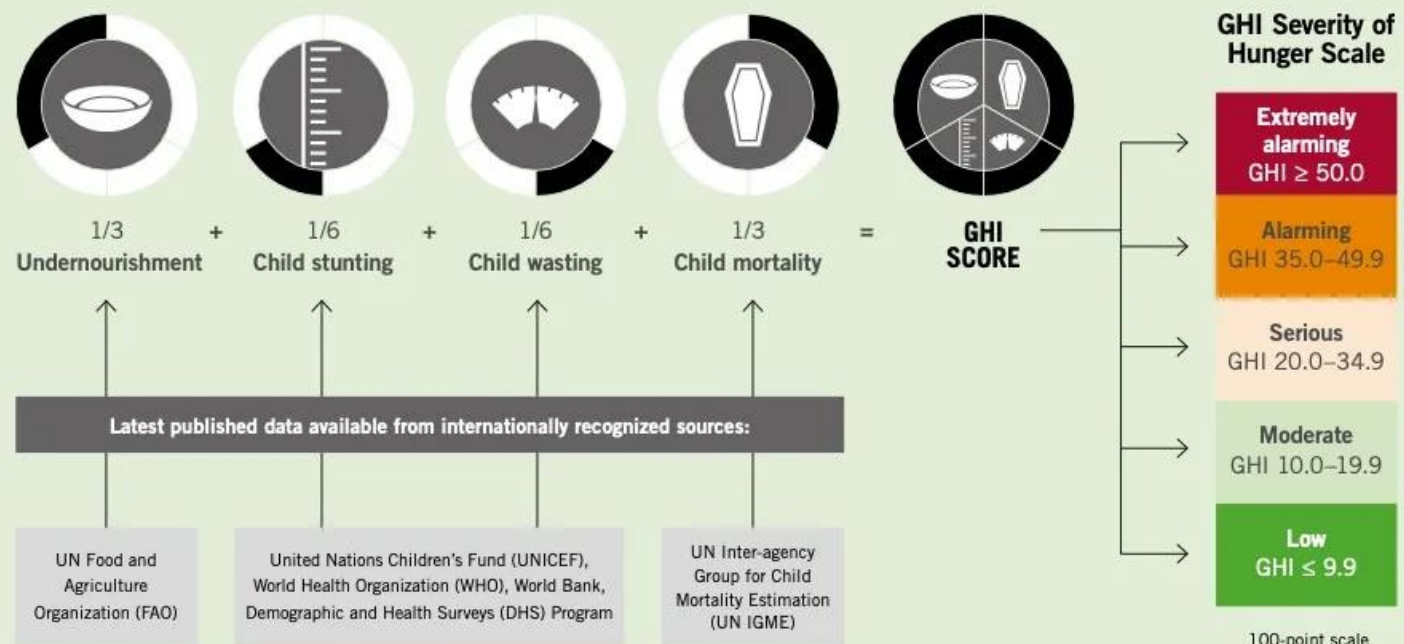


Child stunting: the share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting *chronic* undernutrition.



Child mortality: the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.

These four indicators are aggregated as follows:

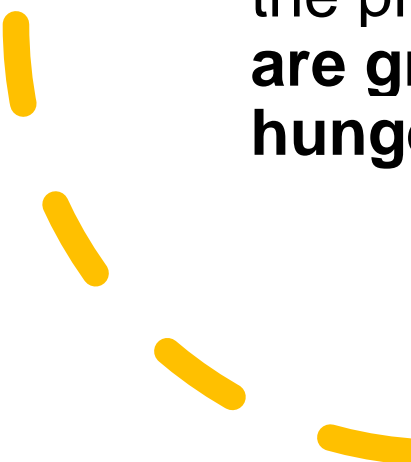



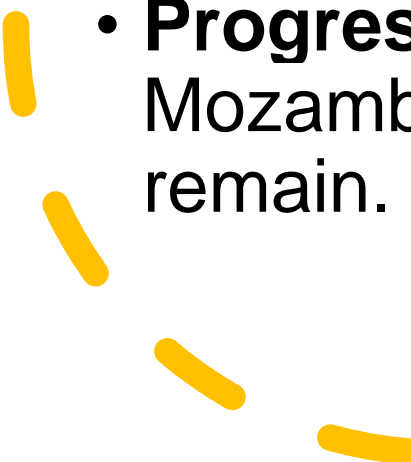
Based on the values of the four indicators, a GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.² Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from *low* to *extremely alarming*.





- **Findings of the GHI 2024**

- The 2024 Global Hunger Index **score for the world is 18.3**, considered **moderate**, **down only slightly from the 2016 score of 18.8**.

- **Little progress** has been made on reducing hunger since 2016, and the prospects for achieving **Zero Hunger** by the target date of **2030** are **grim**, with **42 countries** still experiencing **alarming or serious** hunger.
- 

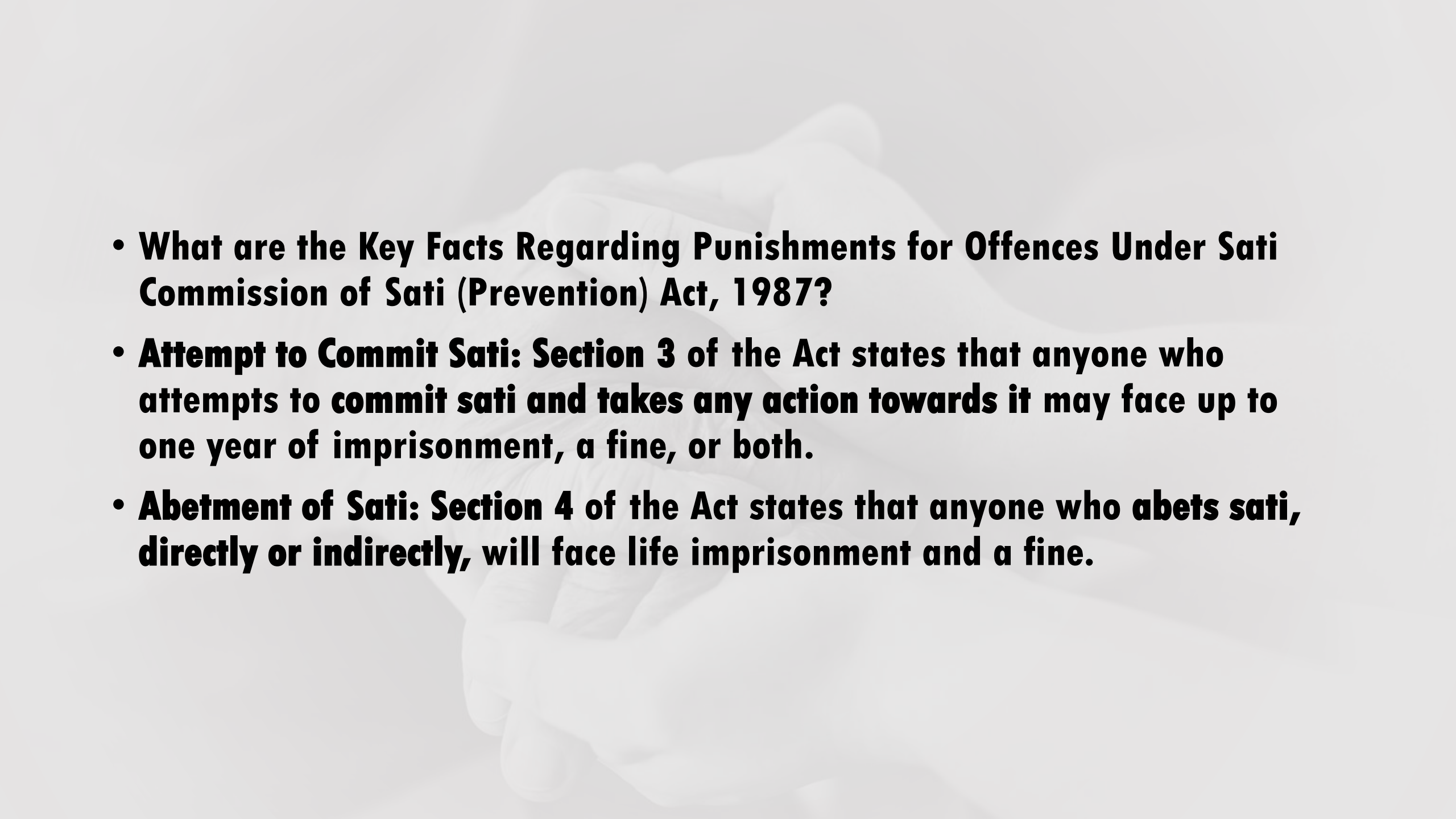
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- **The wars in Gaza and Sudan** have led to exceptional food crises.
 - **Somalia, Yemen, Chad, and Madagascar** are the countries with the highest 2024 GHI scores; Burundi and South Sudan are also provisionally designated as alarming.
 - **Progress has been notable** for example in Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Somalia, and Togo, although challenges remain.
- 

- 
- **India's performance** remains concerning, in comparison to the South Asian neighbours such as **Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, which fall into the “moderate” category.**
 - India is listed alongside countries like **Pakistan and Afghanistan,** which also face severe hunger challenges.
 - **The report reveals alarming statistics:** 13.7 percent of India's population is undernourished, 35.5 percent of children under five are stunted, 18.7 percent suffer from wasting, and 2.9 percent of children die before their fifth birthday.
- 




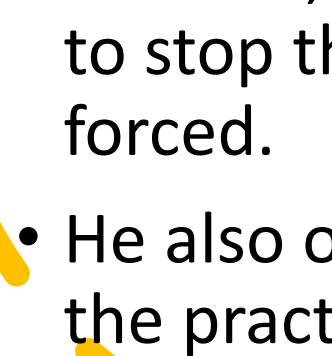
Reforms in the Sati System

- Recently, 8 persons were acquitted in connection with glorifying the act of Sati by constructing temples in her name.
- The Sati was committed on 4th September 1987 in Rajasthan in the Roop Kanwar case which led to the enactment of the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 by the Union government.

- 
- **What are the Key Facts Regarding Punishments for Offences Under Sati Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987?**
 - **Attempt to Commit Sati: Section 3 of the Act states that anyone who attempts to commit sati and takes any action towards it may face up to one year of imprisonment, a fine, or both.**
 - **Abetment of Sati: Section 4 of the Act states that anyone who abets sati, directly or indirectly, will face life imprisonment and a fine.**

Eg. Convincing a widow or woman that committing sati would bring **spiritual benefits** for her or her deceased husband or improve the family's well-being.

Glorification of Sati: Section 5 of the Act states that **glorifying sati** is punishable by one to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of five to thirty thousand rupees.

- 
- The first epigraphical evidence of Sati has been found from the Eran Pillar Inscription of Bhanugupta, Madhya Pradesh in Eran in 510 AD.
 - Steps Taken to Abolish Sati: Mughal Empire:
 - In 1582, emperor Akbar ordered his officials throughout the empire to stop the immolation of a woman if they saw that she was being forced.
 - He also offered pension, gift and rehabilitation to the widow to stop the practice
- 

Sikh Empire: Sikh Guru Amar Das condemned the practice in the 15th–16th centuries.

Maratha Empire: The Marathas banned sati in their region.

Colonial Powers: The Dutch, Portuguese and the French also banned Sati in their colonies in India. B



British Governor-General William Bentinck declared the practice of sati illegal and punishable by criminal courts under the Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829.



- **Other Legal Initiatives to Ameliorate Women's Position: Female Infanticide: The Bengal regulations of 1795 and 1804 made infanticide illegal, equating it with murder.**

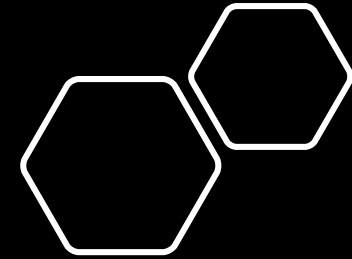
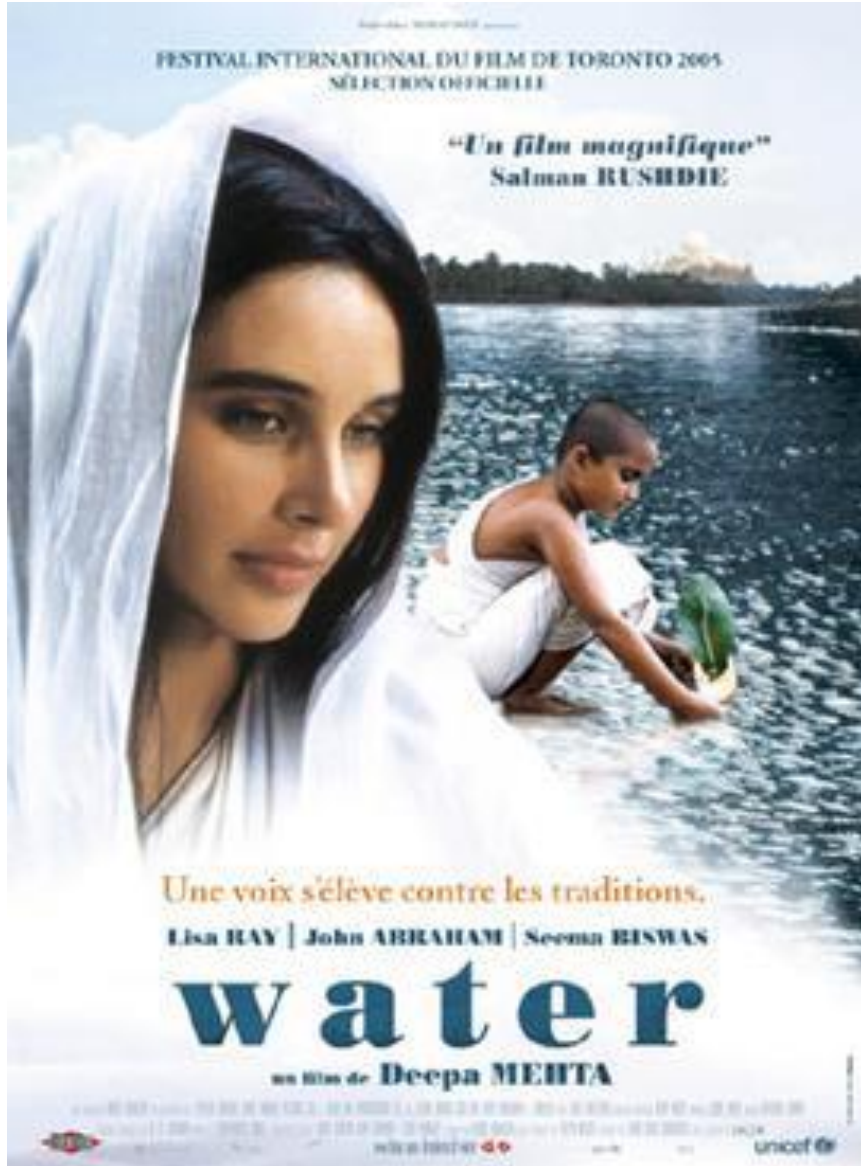


Widow Remarriage: With the efforts of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 was passed.

It legalised the marriage of widows and recognised children from such marriages as legitimate.

- 
- Child Marriage: Age of Consent Act, 1891 forbade the marriage of girls below the age of 12.
 - Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Sarda Act, 1929) pushed up the marriage age to 18 and 14 for boys and girls, respectively.
 - Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 raised the age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years and for boys from 18 to 21.
- 

- 
- **Education of Women:**
 - **Calcutta Female Juvenile Society 1819** marked the beginning of a broader movement towards female education.
 - **Bethune School 1849** became a pivotal institution for women's education.
- 



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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you
guys.
