

# Daily Current Affairs



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**Good times pass very fast. Bad times pass very slow. When you detach from both good and bad, time doesn't pass at all. That is Timelessness or Eternal Bliss.**

Shunya

quote/andy





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**BOOST TO SQUAD**  
Gill and Pant set to feature in 2nd Test

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## INSIDE



### Seat-sharing talks between RJD and JMM conclude

**PATNA**  
After the intervention of its supreme, Lalu Prasad, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) concluded seat-sharing talks with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) ahead of the Assembly polls on Tuesday. » PAGE 5

### Priyanka takes election plume from Kerala

**KALPETTA**  
Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader and UDF candidate for the Wayanad Lok Sabha byelection will submit her nomination papers on Wednesday for the seat vacated by her brother, Rahul Gandhi. » PAGE 3

### Odisha braces for cyclone; rescue forces deployed

**BHUBANESHWAR**  
The Odisha government on Tuesday deployed disaster response forces and initiated preparation for the evacuation of people in coastal districts, which are likely to be impacted by the severe cyclonic storm Dera on Thursday and Friday. » PAGE 6

### Population of Ukraine has declined 8mn

**GENEVA**  
Ukraine's population has declined by around eight million since Russia invaded in February 2022, sparking an exodus and sending birth rates plunging, said United Nations on Tuesday. UN Population Fund and the population has plummeted to 35 million today. » PAGE 14

# Modi meets Putin, offers help to end conflict

Prime Minister reiterates that such disputes should be resolved through peaceful means in his meeting with Iran's President, he expresses deep concern over the escalating conflict in West Asia; the summit being held under the chairship of Russia has drawn global attention as a sign of Russia's leading position despite the ongoing crisis in Ukraine

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

India supports restoration of peace between Ukraine and Russia and is committed to providing "all possible assistance" to end the crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Modi took part in the meeting soon after reaching Kazan where Russia is hosting the 16th BRICS summit against the backdrop of the continued conflicts in the Gaza Strip and Ukraine. Mr. Modi also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and called for the de-escalation of tension in the West Asian region.

"We have been in continuous contact over the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As I have said before, we continue to believe that these disputes should be resolved through peaceful means. We support restoration of peace and stability as soon as possible. Our efforts prioritise humanity, India is ready to provide all possible assistance in the upcoming period," Mr. Modi said in his opening remarks. The Prime Minister's participation in the BRICS events in Kazan comes months after he travelled to Moscow for the annual India-Russia summit in July.



Continued engagements: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan, Russia on Tuesday.

Earlier, Mr. Modi was received by Rustam Minnikhanov, head of the Republic of Tatarstan, and given a traditional Tatar welcome at Kazan, the largest and capital of Tatarstan. He was driven to the bilateral meeting with Mr. Putin in an Aurus car. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a press briefing that the two sides also discussed the early release of Indian nationals who had ended up fighting for the Russian military on the Ukraine front, after becoming at Kazan, the largest and capital of Tatarstan. He was driven to the bilateral meeting with Mr. Putin in an Aurus car. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a press briefing that the two sides

### Modi to hold bilateral meeting with Xi today

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Mr. Misri announced that the two sides will hold the 25th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on trade, technical and cultural cooperation in November in New Delhi and that India will soon be opening two new consulates in Kazan and in Yekaterinburg. In his meeting with the new Iranian President, Mr. Modi discussed the Chabahar port, the North-South transport corridor and the situation in Afghanistan. "The Prime Minister expressed his deep concern over the escalating conflict and reiterated India's support for the protection of civilians and empha-

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The summit, which will be held on Wednesday, under the chairship of Russia has also drawn global attention as it is being interpreted as a sign of Russia's leading position despite the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

Ahead of the BRICS summit, Mr. Putin hosted the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Na-

hyan on October 21 in the presidential residence of Novo-Ogaryovo in Moscow where he had hosted Mr. Modi during the India-Russia annual summit in July. Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary for the Russian President, said the Putin-Al Nahyan meeting was aimed at discussing "serious issues calmly". Among other leaders who arrived in Kazan were Chinese President Xi Jinping, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Md Jashim Uddin, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, is also being hosted at Kazan.

### Filled to the brim



**Trouble downstream:** In view of heavy rainfall, around 1.12 lakh cusecs of water was released from the Tungabhadra reservoir near Hospet in Vijayanagara district to match the inflow into the reservoir on Tuesday evening. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

China on Tuesday confirmed reaching an agreement with India to end the four-year military stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

"Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said at a media briefing here.

Mr. Lin was asked for a response to Monday's Indian announcement of the agreement. The two sides have reached a resolution on the "relevant matters", he added.

### Beijing confirms pact to end stand-off

**Press Trust of India**  
BEIJING

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# Focus is now on restoring trust, says Army chief

**Dinakar Patel**  
NEW DELHI

A day after India announced reaching an agreement with China on patrolling and disengagement in eastern Ladakh, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Udayendra Dwivedi, sounded a cautionary note on Tuesday, stressing they were trying to "re-establish trust" and "reassure each other" and once that was done, other stages - disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of the Line of Actual Control - would follow.

"As of now what has happened? We are trying to restore the trust. How will that get restored? Trust will get restored if we are able to see each other. And we are able to convince each other... that buffer zones which are there, which have been created, we are not creeping. Both have to reassure each other. Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage. So that is what something which is commencing. And as we restore the trust, the other stages will also follow through soon." General Dwivedi said. He was speaking at the 28th Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Lecture.

**To look at de-escalation**  
As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to status quo of April 2020, he said. "Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of LAC. The normal management of LAC will not stop there. There are phases in that also." "This has been our stance from April 2020

when Lt Gen Y.K. Joshi was the Army Commander and even today that remains the same," he stressed.

**2020 situation**  
On Monday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that India and China have reached an agreement on "patrolling arrangements" along the LAC, leading to "disengagement and a resolution" of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020; officials said the arrangements included disengagement at Depsang and Demchok. Later, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that with the agreement, they had gone back to where the situation was in 2020. "With that we can say the disengagement process with China has been completed," he said.



Udayendra Dwivedi

Further, Mr. Jaishankar has said that there were areas where after 2020, "they have blocked us, so we had blocked them." "We have reached an understanding which will allow the patrolling... Depsang, that's not the only place, there are other places also. The understanding is that we will be able to do patrolling which we were doing till 2020," he said.

# IMF retains India's growth projection at 7% for FY25

**Srikam Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its June growth rate projections for India in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday, to kick off the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington. The multilateral lender expected India to grow at 7% in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 and 6.5% in the next fiscal year (FY2025-26). World output was expected to grow at 3.2% in 2024 as well as 2025. The drop in India's growth from 8.2% in 2023 is "because pent-up demand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential," the report said. The U.S. is projected to grow at 2.8% this year and 2.2% next year, an upward revision from the July WEO update. Globally, inflation has been on the way down. "The global battle against inflation has largely been won, even though price pressures persist in some countries," the IMF said. Inflation, which had touched 9.4% in the third quarter of 2022, is expected to be 3.5% by the end of 2025. A global recession has been avoided through the monetary easing in Washington despite a synchronised tightening of monetary

conditions, the IMF said. However, downside risks now dominate the outlook. The risks had grown since the previous WEO releases in April and June this year. The international financial institutions are meeting on the eve of the U.S. election and several con-

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### Growth decelerates

The chart shows India's growth rate in 2023 and its projected growth rates in 2024 and 2025, as per the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook report.



"Of course, there is geopolitical risk with the potential for escalation of regional conflicts, and how this might affect commodity markets..." IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told reporters on a briefing call prior to the report release. The Russia-Ukraine war continues and the conflict in West Asia has intensified, including in Lebanon, in recent weeks. "The IMF Chief Economist also identified growth protectionist policies as one of the risks. Also, monetary policy remaining too tight in some countries for too long and this impacting labour markets due to the risks in Washington during the course of the week. Sovereign debt stress and activity in



# Modi meets Putin, offers help to end conflict

Prime Minister reiterates that such disputes should be resolved through peaceful means; in his meeting with Iran's President, he expresses deep concern over the escalating conflict in West Asia; the summit being held under the chairship of Russia has drawn global attention as a sign of Russia's leading position despite the ongoing crisis in Ukraine

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Earlier, Mr. Modi was received by Rustam Minnikhanov, head of the Republic of Tatarstan, and given a traditional Tatar welcome at Kazan, the largest city and capital of Tatarstan. He was driven to the bilateral meeting with Mr. Putin in an Aurus car.

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**Continued engagement:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan, Russia on Tuesday. ANI

also discussed the early release of Indian nationals who had ended up fighting for the Russian military on the Ukraine front, after being duped by unscrupulous foreign employment agents. "Currently the embassy is pursuing around twenty cases with the Russian side and we very much hope that all of these individuals can be released

at an early date and repatriated to India," said Mr. Misri.

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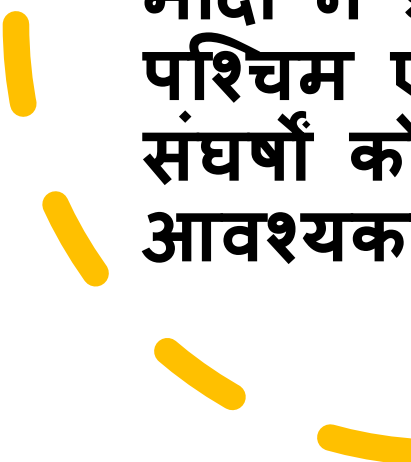
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- **Bilateral Meeting and Peace Initiative | द्विपक्षीय बैठक और शांति पहल**
- During a bilateral meeting in Kazan, Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed India's commitment to supporting peace efforts between Ukraine and Russia. He reiterated that disputes should be resolved through peaceful means and offered India's assistance in the ongoing crisis.  
कज़ान, रूस में एक द्विपक्षीय बैठक के दौरान, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने यूक्रेन और रूस के बीच शांति प्रयासों का समर्थन करने की भारत की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की। उन्होंने विवादों को शांतिपूर्ण तरीकों से हल करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया और चल रहे संकट में भारत की सहायता की पेशकश की।

- 
- **Concern over West Asia Tensions | पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव पर चिंता**
  - Modi also met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to discuss escalating tensions in the West Asia region. He stressed the need for de-escalation and peaceful negotiations to resolve conflicts in the area.



मोदी ने ईरान के राष्ट्रपति इब्राहीम रायसी से भी मुलाकात की और पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र में बढ़ते तनाव पर चर्चा की। उन्होंने इस क्षेत्र में संघर्षों को हल करने के लिए तनाव कम करने और शांतिपूर्ण वार्ता की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।




- **Commitment to Humanity and Dialogue | मानवता और संवाद के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता**
- Modi emphasized that India prioritizes humanity and is ready to provide all possible assistance in upcoming peace efforts. He called for dialogue and diplomacy as essential tools for achieving stability in conflict zones.

मोदी ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि भारत मानवता को प्राथमिकता देता है और आने वाले शांति प्रयासों में हर संभव सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है। उन्होंने संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में स्थिरता प्राप्त करने के लिए संवाद और कूटनीति को आवश्यक उपकरण बताया।

## • Russian President Putin's Role in BRICS | ब्रिक्स में रूसी राष्ट्रपति पुतिन की भूमिका

- The BRICS summit is being hosted by Russia, and it has garnered global attention due to its timing amid the Ukraine crisis. Modi's meeting with Putin and other global leaders marks an important moment in discussing serious geopolitical issues.

रूस द्वारा आयोजित ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन ने यूक्रेन संकट के बीच इसकी मेजबानी के कारण वैश्विक ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। पुतिन और अन्य वैश्विक नेताओं के साथ मोदी की बैठक गंभीर भू-राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण है।

- 
- **BRICS Expansion and Future Discussions | ब्रिक्स का विस्तार और भविष्य की चर्चा**
  - BRICS has expanded its membership, with countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the UAE joining the group. Discussions are ongoing about further expanding trade and cooperation among member nations.



ब्रिक्स ने अपने सदस्यों की संख्या बढ़ाई है, जिसमें ईरान, सऊदी अरब, मिस्र और यूएई जैसे देश शामिल हुए हैं। सदस्य देशों के बीच व्यापार और सहयोग के और विस्तार पर चर्चाएँ चल रही हैं।




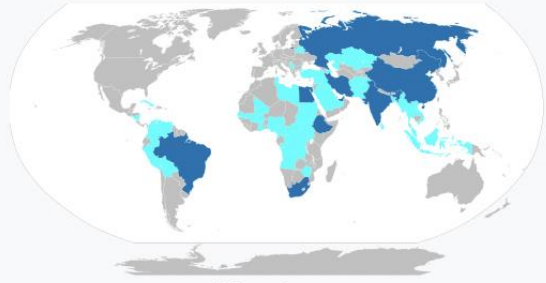


- **Meeting with Other Leaders | अन्य नेताओं से मुलाकात**



- Modi's participation in the BRICS summit includes bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, along with discussions with various global leaders from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, and others.

ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन में मोदी की भागीदारी में चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के साथ द्विपक्षीय बैठकें शामिल हैं, साथ ही तुर्की, अज़रबैजान, वियतनाम और अन्य के विभिन्न वैश्विक नेताओं के साथ चर्चा भी शामिल है।





Map key:

-  Member states
-  Prospective member states

<b>Abbreviation</b>	BRICS
<b>Named after</b>	Founder member states' initials (in English)
<b>Predecessor</b>	<a href="#">BRIC</a> (informal)
<b>Formation</b>	16 June 2009; 15 years ago
<b>Founded at</b>	<a href="#">Yekaterinburg, Russia</a> (1st BRIC summit)
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Intergovernmental organization</a>
<b>Purpose</b>	Political and economical
<b>Fields</b>	<a href="#">International Politics</a>
<b>Membership</b>	9 member states <a href="#">[show]</a>
<b>Official languages</b>	<a href="#">Arabic</a> , <a href="#">Amharic</a> , <a href="#">Chinese</a> , <a href="#">English</a> , <a href="#">Hindi</a> , <a href="#">Persian</a> , <a href="#">Portuguese</a>

## Membership

9 member states

[\[hide\]](#)



Brazil



Russia



India



China



South Africa



Iran



Egypt



Ethiopia



United Arab Emirates

# IMF retains India's growth projection at 7% for FY25

**Sriram Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

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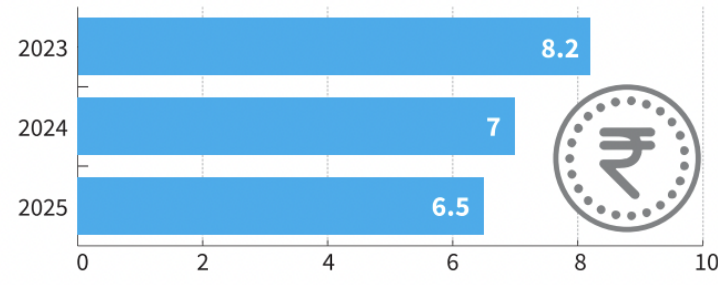
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A global recession has been avoided through the disinflationary process, despite a synchronised tightening of monetary

## Growth decelerates

The chart shows India's growth rate in 2023 and its projected growth rates in 2024 and 2025, as per the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook report



conditions, the IMF said. However, downside risks now dominate the outlook. The risks had grown since the previous WEO releases in April and June this year.

The international financial institutions are meeting on the eve of the U.S. election and several con-

flicts around the world – and this has made its impact felt on projections. Finance Ministry officials from around the world, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, are due for meetings in Washington during the course of the week.

"Of course, there is geopolitical risk with the potential for escalation of regional conflicts, and how this might affect commodity markets..." IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told reporters on a briefing call prior to the report release.

The Russia-Ukraine war continues and the conflict in West Asia has intensified, including in Lebanon, in recent weeks.

The IMF Chief Economist also identified growing protectionist policies as one of the risks. Also, monetary policy remaining too tight in some countries for too long and this impacting labour markets was a risk, according to Mr. Gourinchas. Sovereign debt stress and activity in

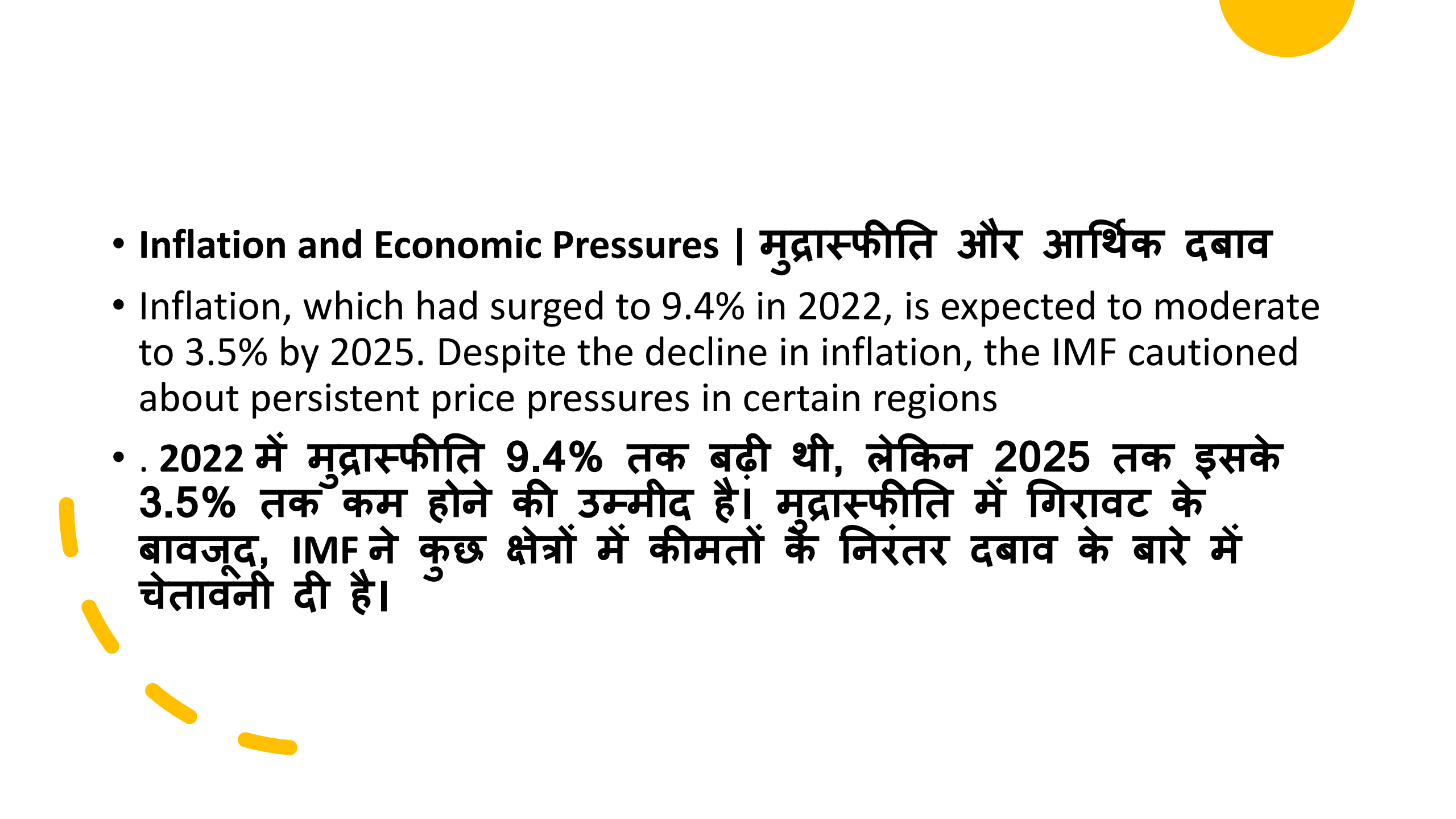
China being weak were some of the other risks that he listed.



The IMF recommended a 'triple policy pivot' to respond to the "relatively mediocre" growth rate, as Mr. Gourinchas termed it, of 3.2% over the medium term. The first is moving to a neutral monetary policy stance, a process under way in many countries. The second is the need to build fiscal buffers after years of a loose fiscal policy. The third is structural reforms to increase growth and productivity, coping with ageing populations and younger people looking for opportunities in some parts of the world, tackling the climate transition and increasing resilience.

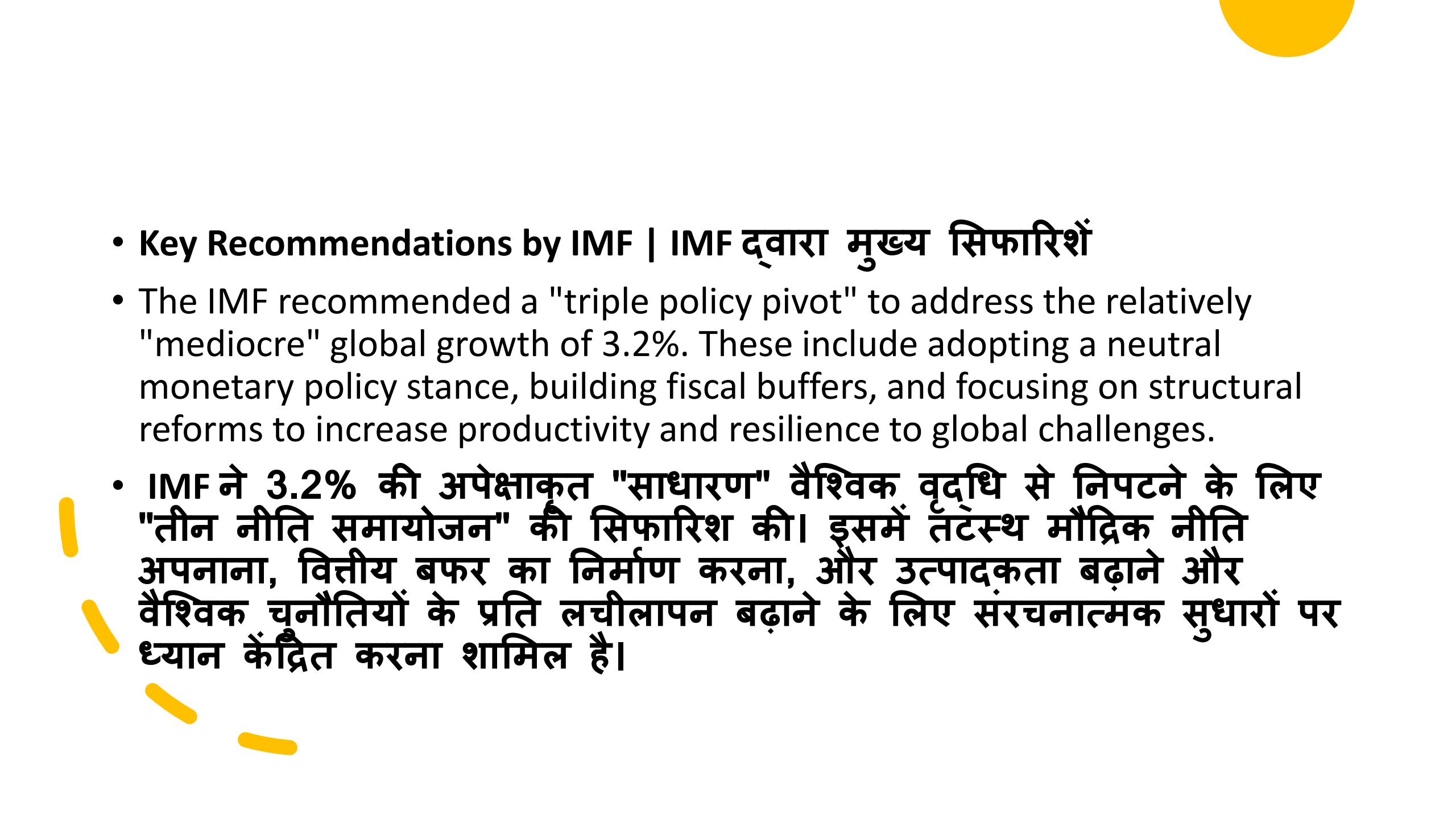
- **IMF's Growth Forecast for India | भारत के लिए IMF की वृद्धि पूर्वानुमान**
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its projection for India's growth rate at 7% for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25). However, it expects a slightly lower growth rate of 6.5% for the next fiscal year (FY25-26).
- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) ने वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए भारत की वृद्धि दर का अनुमान 7% पर बनाए रखा है। हालांकि, अगले वित्तीय वर्ष (FY25-26) के लिए यह 6.5% की थोड़ी कम वृद्धि दर की उम्मीद कर रहा है।



- **Current Global Economic Conditions | वर्तमान वैश्विक आर्थिक परिस्थितियाँ**
- Global growth rates are expected to slow down, with the world output projected to grow at 3.2% in both 2024 and 2025. The IMF attributed this slowdown to pent-up demand that has been exhausted post-pandemic and the tight monetary conditions globally.
- **वैश्विक विकास दरों में कमी की उम्मीद है, जिसमें विश्व उत्पादन 2024 और 2025 में 3.2% की दर से बढ़ने का अनुमान है। IMF ने इस मंदी को महामारी के बाद की मांग की समाप्ति और वैश्विक रूप से सख्त मौद्रिक स्थितियों से जोड़ा है।**

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- **Inflation and Economic Pressures | मुद्रास्फीति और आर्थिक दबाव**
  - Inflation, which had surged to 9.4% in 2022, is expected to moderate to 3.5% by 2025. Despite the decline in inflation, the IMF cautioned about persistent price pressures in certain regions
  - . 2022 में मुद्रास्फीति 9.4% तक बढ़ी थी, लेकिन 2025 तक इसके 3.5% तक कम होने की उम्मीद है। मुद्रास्फीति में गिरावट के बावजूद, IMF ने कुछ क्षेत्रों में कीमतों के निरंतर दबाव के बारे में चेतावनी दी है।

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- **Global Risks and Geopolitical Concerns | वैश्विक जोखिम और भू-राजनीतिक चिंताएँ**
  - The IMF warned about geopolitical risks such as the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in West Asia, which could affect global markets and commodity prices.
  - IMF ने रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध और पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव जैसे भू-राजनीतिक जोखिमों के बारे में चेतावनी दी, जो वैश्विक बाजारों और वस्तुओं की कीमतों को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
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- **Key Recommendations by IMF | IMF द्वारा मुख्य सिफारिशें**
  - The IMF recommended a "triple policy pivot" to address the relatively "mediocre" global growth of 3.2%. These include adopting a neutral monetary policy stance, building fiscal buffers, and focusing on structural reforms to increase productivity and resilience to global challenges.
  - IMF ने 3.2% की अपेक्षाकृत "साधारण" वैश्विक वृद्धि से निपटने के लिए "तीन नीति समायोजन" की सिफारिश की। इसमें तटस्थ मौद्रिक नीति अपनाना, वित्तीय बफर का निर्माण करना, और उत्पादकता बढ़ाने और वैश्विक चुनौतियों के प्रति लचीलापन बढ़ाने के लिए संरचनात्मक सुधारों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना शामिल है।

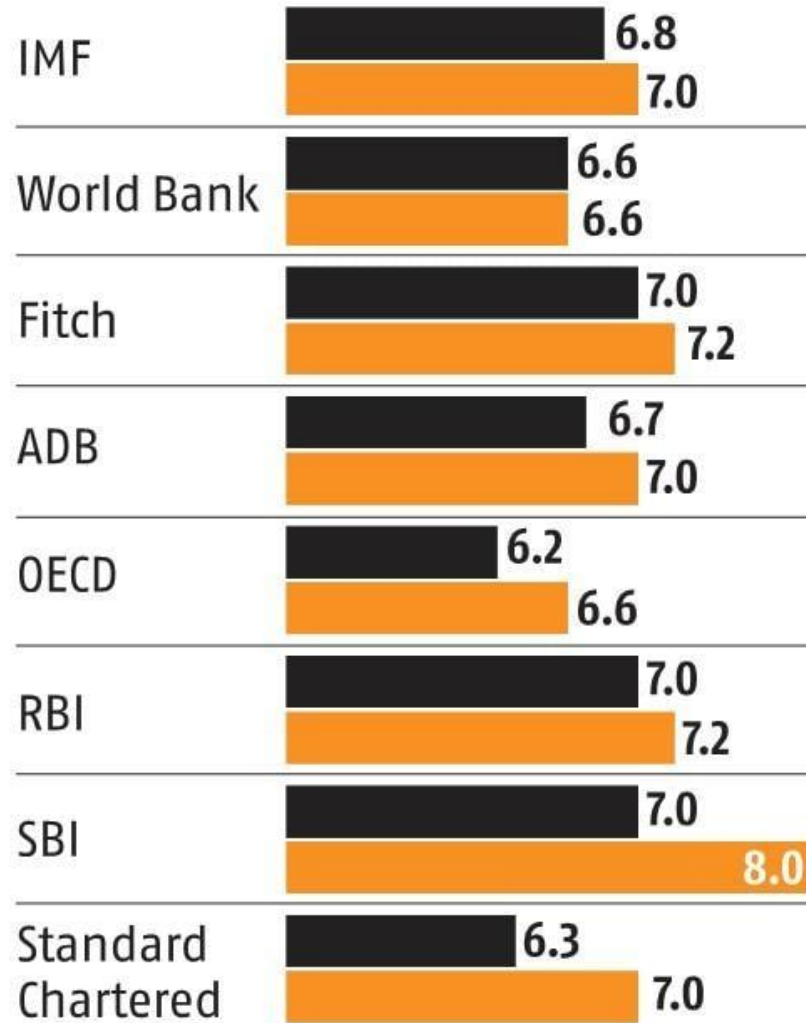


- **Future Economic Outlook and Resilience | भविष्य की आर्थिक दृष्टि और लचीलापन**
- The IMF also emphasized the need for reforms to tackle issues such as climate transition, ageing populations, and providing opportunities for younger generations. Sovereign debt stress, protectionist policies, and tightening monetary policies were cited as potential risks.
- IMF ने जलवायु परिवर्तन, वृद्ध होती आबादी, और युवाओं के लिए अवसरों जैसे मुद्दों से निपटने के लिए सुधारों की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। संप्रभु ऋण तनाव, संरक्षणवादी नीतियाँ, और सख्त मौद्रिक नीतियाँ संभावित जोखिमों के रूप में उद्धृत की गईं।

# ROBUST EXPECTATIONS

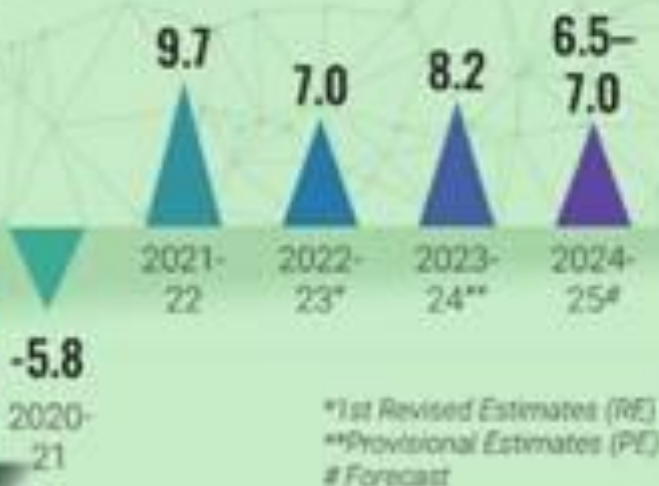
India's FY25 growth projections  
(in % Y-o-Y)

■ Earlier ■ Revised



Source: BS Research

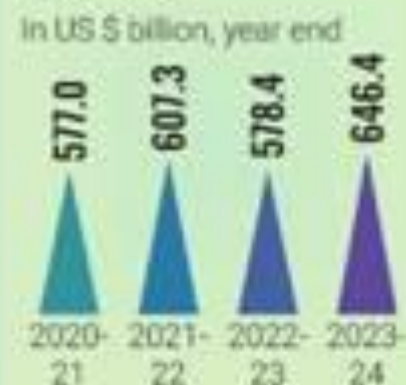
## GDP Growth



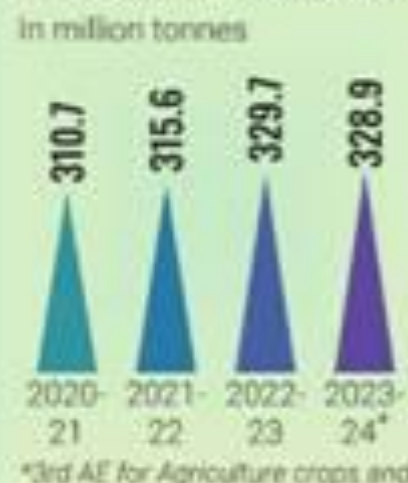
## Fiscal Deficit



## Foreign Exchange Reserves



## Foodgrains Production



## Industrial Growth



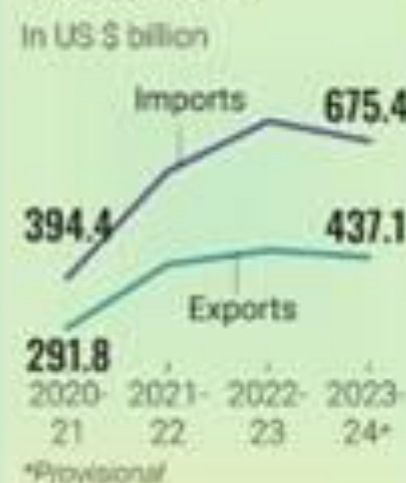
## Services



## Capital Expenditure



## Foreign Trade





## India, Pakistan renew their agreement on Kartarpur Corridor

Suhasin Haidar  
NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Tuesday agreed to renew their agreement for another five years to operate the Kartarpur Corridor to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.

"The Agreement, signed on 24 October 2019 to facilitate the visit of pilgrims from India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, was valid for a period of five years," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday, adding that the extension until 2029 would ensure "uninterrupted operation of the Corridor for use by the pilgrims from India to visit the Holy Gurdwara in Pakistan".

The announcement comes a week after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet and met briefly with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Sharing the news of the agreement's renewal on social media, Mr. Jaishankar said the Narendra Modi government would "continue to facilitate our Sikh community's access to

**New Delhi is unable to convince Pakistan to drop the service fee of \$20 that it levies per pilgrim**

their holy sites".

Although the successful conclusion of the talks over the renewal of the agreement indicates that the channels of communication between the two countries are operational, New Delhi was unable to convince Pakistan to drop the service fee of \$20 (approximately ₹1,680) that it levies per pilgrim.

"In view of the continued requests of pilgrims regarding the removal of USD 20 service charge levied by Pakistan per pilgrim, India has once again urged Pakistan to not levy any fee on the pilgrims," the Ministry said.

Pakistan has maintained that it needs to levy the charges as it has spent the bulk of the estimated \$17 million cost of refurbishing the gurdwara.

Officials in Pakistan also told *The Hindu* that they are disappointed by the dwindling numbers of pilgrims being "allowed" to visit, as the quota given to Pakistan is for 5,000 pilgrims daily, but the numbers are down to only a few hundred a day at present.

## Police promise security to non-local workers in J&K

Security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero terror incidents in order to push rapid social and economic development, says J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha

Narendra Ashish  
Srinagar

A mid growing panic among non-locals working in Kashmir, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Tuesday assured them of "security and a safe environment to pursue their livelihoods without fear or intimidation" in the Valley. The police also hinted a fresh module of militants.

The killing of seven civilians, including a doctor and six other workers, by militants on Sunday at an under-construction site in the Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal's Ganganagar area has sent shockwaves among non-locals working in Kashmir, especially those who are part of the project. Security agencies have questioned around two dozen suspects so far, but no arrests have been made, officials said.

Two heavily armed militants were involved in the attack and remain at large. J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, who visited Ganganagar, directed that the security grid should be strengthened to prevent non-local workers to stay back and complete the project.

"Creating difficulties" Former J&K Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the local administration was pressuring non-local workers to leave immediately. "While I understand their obvious sense of panic, but asking them to leave in this manner is not a solution. [It will] only create more difficulties and send a very bad message to the country. [I] re-implementing agencies should prevent security breaches,"



Paying tributes: J&K Chief Minister Manoj Sinha visits the family of deceased doctor Shahwanaw on Tuesday to offer condolences.

Mun Mohar Ali, an MLA from Ganderbal's Nagan, where the project site is located, urged non-local workers to stay back and complete the project.

"However, the police reported Mr. Mufti's claim. "Social media reports claiming the local administration has asked non-local workers to leave the Valley are false," the police said. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the family of the slain doctor in central Kashmir's Budgam. He assured the family of help

and promised "to cover the expenses of education of the victim's son". "I assured them that the government is fully committed to ensuring the welfare of the next of kin," Mr. Abdullah said.

In Jammu, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdhary attended the last rites of Shaahi Abroli, another victim. He said he will apprise the Chief Minister about the demand of the family for a government job.

**Module busted** Launching a fresh drive against militants and their supporters in the Valley, the J&K Police's special cell, Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), on Tuesday conducted searches at several locations.

"During the operation, a recruitment module of a Madras education board organisation, Tehreek Labbaik Ya Muslim, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba was uncovered," an official said.

This newly floated terrorist organisation has recruited members for a few incidents in recent past, the police said.

## Religious instruction in madrasas cannot be 'wished away': CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said India's centuries-old history of religious instruction could not be wished away by ghettoising madrasa education.

"Religious instruction is not something which is unique to Muslims. There is religious instruction among Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs. It is a country which is a melting pot of cultures, civilisations, religions... Let us preserve it that way. In fact, the answer to ghettoisation is to mainstream... To allow people to come together. Otherwise, we will be putting people in silos. To be shunned and forgotten," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The Chief Justice's oral observations on religious instruction while hearing a challenge to a decision of the Allahabad High Court striking down the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004. The Act regulates madrasa education. The High Court had found the law unconstitutional for violating a system of education which was grossly in violation of the principles of secularism.

But the top court observed that religious instruction, historically and culturally, had never been

anathema in India. Article 23 of the Constitution recognised religious instruction.

There was nothing wrong in a State regulating an institution run by a religious or linguistic minority in the interest of maintaining the excellence of education. The bench also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

**'Lopsided education'**

Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar argued in support of the High Court decision, saying there was no specific provision in the 2004 Act on secular education. Senior advocate Madhavi Dwivedi, also supporting the High Court decision, submitted that madrasa education's singular focus or overwhelming emphasis on religious instruction at the cost of mainstream education, she said such lopsided education hardly equipped students to compete in the mainstream.

The differentiated madrasa students from children who take monastic vows in other faiths like Buddhism or Jainism. The latter embraced renunciation in contrast to a calling while the thousands of students of madrasas wanted very much to be part of the real world.

## India and Singapore to explore joint development, production of equipment for armed forces

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

India and Singapore on Tuesday agreed to extend the existing bilateral agreement on Joint Military Training Army for the next five years and also look at co-development and co-production of defence equipment. This was decided during the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and visiting Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen.

"Recognising that both nations are natural partners for commencing co-development and co-production of defence equipment, both sides agreed to enhance industry cooperation, including exploring collaboration in niche domains such as automation



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen at a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday.

and Artificial Intelligence. The two Ministers also decided to take forward the joint cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security," the Ministry said.

Both Ministers acknowledged the deep and long-standing bilateral defence relationship based on shared outlook on regional peace, stability and security, it stated.

This meeting assumes significance against the backdrop of India marking

## India's fourth nuclear submarine launched with advanced arms

Dinakar Perli  
NEW DELHI

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4, was launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam last week, officials sources confirmed. This submarine is bigger and more capable than the first, INS Aridham (S2).

The S4 was launched into water on October 16 at SBC, multiple sources confirmed. It has significant indigenous content in its propulsion system, being extensively involved, according to a source.

India currently has two SSBNs operational. INS Aridham was quietly commissioned into service in August 2018. The third SSBN, INS Arighat (S3), was commissioned earlier this year. The third SSBN Aridham (S4) is currently

undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year, sources said.

Responding to questions on the launch at a press conference on Tuesday, Vice Chief of the Navy Krishna Swaminathan, without directly commenting, said, "The SSBN programme is a successful one. Two submarines have been commissioned, and it is natural that others will follow."

INS Aridham is presently armed with 750 km range K4 SLBM. The S4 carries the advanced 3,500 km range SLBM K4, that was tested for the first time in 2020. The K4 will be the mainstay of India's undersea nuclear deterrence as it provides standoff capability to the nuclear weapons while submerged in Indian waters, till a 5,000 km range SLBM is developed and fielded.

## Navy has set up two task forces to develop niche technologies: Vice-Admiral

Dinakar Perli  
NEW DELHI

The Navy has set up two special task forces headed by Rear Admirals for imbibing and inducting niche technologies, said Navy vice-chief Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan. He said they were looking for technologies not only to plug the capability gaps but also to acquire the next level of technologies.

"These task forces are in addition to the Navy's technology development accelerator cell (TDAC). We want to induct technologies as fast as possible. We ensured that the three forces are not working on the same technologies. They are looking at fuses, radars, quantum computing, interface devices, electronic and weapon technologies, and in-



Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (right) during a press meet in New Delhi on Tuesday. SIVAS KAMARAN VENKAT

denigration of smaller areas but hopefully in the long run, Vice-Admiral Swaminathan said in response to a question from *The Hindu* at the curtain-raiser to the Naval Innovation and Indigenous Organisation seminar.

The TDAC would continue the process of engaging with start-ups and MSMEs, while the special

task force would work in smaller areas but hopefully with quicker turnaround times, he said.

Speaking on the highlights of Swaminathan 2024 scheduled to be held on October 28 and 29, the vice-chief said the event would showcase the remarkable indigenisation efforts of the armed forces, with start-ups and the Indian industry.

## SC to give verdict on Byju's case today

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Wednesday its verdict in an appeal filed by U.S.-based creditor Glas Trust Company LLC against a judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) allowing Byju's to pay a settlement amount of ₹18 crore to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had reserved the case for judgment after directing the Insolvency Resolution Professional to maintain status quo in the interregnum.

During back-to-back hearings in the case, the apex court had questioned whether the BCCI could be allowed to strike a "personal agreement" with Byju's promoter and "walk away" with its money.

The U.S. lender had said, as a major financial creditor, it should have got priority in repayment of the BCCI. Had submitted that the ₹18 crore was from his personal assets.

The NCLAT, on August 2, granted relief to the creditor from containers in the BCCI's insolvency proceedings after approving a ₹18 crore settlement with the BCCI.

## ED arrests 6 on money-laundering charge linked to cross-border drug trafficking

Devesh K. Pandey  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested six people for their alleged involvement in money laundering pertaining to cross-border drug trafficking.

The accused have been identified as Lovjot Singh and Gaurpreet Singh, Ramandeep Singh, and Gaurpreet Singh.

The ED probe is based on a case related to the smuggling of Afghan heroin into India. While 29.81 kg of drugs from two vehicles and a flat in Faridabad, Haryana, were seized, the ED also arrested people coordinated by the Directorate of Enforcement intelligence, the Delhi Police



Delhi Police team members stand near a seized container. They had also impounded smuggled drugs. FILE PHOTO

Special Cell had impounded 382.71 kg of drugs from two vehicles and a flat in Faridabad, Haryana, were seized, the ED also arrested people coordinated by the Directorate of Enforcement intelligence, the Delhi Police

and Delhi. "These individuals were key members of a syndicate that smuggled heroin from Afghanistan and were concealing them within shipments of tale stone and gypsum powder. The accused persons incorporated Sandhu Exports, a front company owned by Prabjit Singh, to carry out the smuggling of drugs," it said.

The ED uncovered a highly sophisticated heroin smuggling and money laundering network. The identification of multiple bank accounts, cash transactions and operational expenses by the accused has been made, said the agency. The accused divulged the origin of the illicit funds, which were further layered and integrated into seemingly legitimate financial activities. The agency said cash was used for the purchase of high-end smartphones and encrypted communication apps were used to coordinate smuggling activities.

## Calcutta HC stays suspension of doctors

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday stayed the suspension of 51 doctors of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The doctors had been suspended after an internal inquiry committee held them accountable for promoting a threat culture and intimidation within hospital premises, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday had also questioned the suspension without Health Department's approval. The court said the suspension was without State government's or the Health Department's approval. It remains to be seen whether

these doctors will be allowed inside campus following the court order. At her Monday meeting, Ms. Banerjee questioned the suspension of 51 doctors of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

"You should have let us know before taking the step. We do not want to ruin anyone's future. We will form an enquiry committee and see if there is truth in the accusations."

A senior doctor, who is a member of the enquiry committee and part of the internal investigation process against the said 51 doctors, replied that they followed due process. The doctor further said, "We followed all guidelines and took the decision."

# India's fourth nuclear submarine launched with advanced arms

**Dinakar Peri**

NEW DELHI

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4\*, was launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam last week, official sources confirmed. This submarine is bigger and more capable than the first, *INS Arihant* (S2).

The S4\* was launched into water on October 16 at SBC, multiple sources confirmed. It has significant indigenous content, with Indian industry being extensively involved, according to a source.

India currently has two SSBNs operational. *INS Arihant* was quietly commissioned into service in August 2016. The second SSBN, *INS Arighaat* (S3), was commissioned end-August. The third SSBN *Aridhman* (S4) is currently

undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year, sources said.

Responding to questions on the launch at a press conference on Tuesday, Vice Chief of the Navy Vice Adm Krishna Swaminathan, without directly commenting, said, "The SSBN programme is a successful one. Two submarines have been commissioned, and it is natural that others will follow."

*INS Arihant* is presently armed with 750 km range K-15 SLBM. The S4\* carries the advanced 3,500 km range SLBM K-4, that was tested for the first time in 2020. The K-4 will be the mainstay of India's under-sea nuclear deterrence as it provides standoff capability, to launch nuclear weapons while submerged in Indian waters, till a 5,000 km range SLBM is developed and fielded.


## • India's SSBN Program | भारत की SSBN कार्यक्रम

- India has launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4\*, at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam. The launch took place on October 16, and the submarine is more advanced and larger than the first SSBN, INS Arihant (S2).
- भारत ने अपनी चौथी परमाणु-संचालित बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल पनडुब्बी (SSBN), जिसे S4 के नाम से जाना जाता है, विशाखापत्तनम में शिप बिल्डिंग सेंटर पर लॉन्च किया। इसका प्रक्षेपण 16 अक्टूबर को हुआ और यह पनडुब्बी पहली SSBN, INS अरिहंत (S2) से अधिक उन्नत और बड़ी है।\*





- **Indigenous Content | स्वदेशी सामग्री**

- The S4\* has significant indigenous content, with Indian industries playing a major role in its development, according to official sources.
  - *S4 में महत्वपूर्ण स्वदेशी सामग्री है, और आधिकारिक सत्रों के अनुसार इसके विकास में भारतीय उद्योगों ने प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई है।\**
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- **Operational SSBNs | वर्तमान SSBNs**

- India currently has two operational SSBNs: INS Arihant, which was commissioned in 2016, and INS Arighaat (S3), commissioned in August 2023. A third SSBN, INS Aridhman (S4), is currently undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year.
- भारत के पास वर्तमान में दो SSBN परिचालन में हैं: INS अरिहंत, जिसे 2016 में सेवा में शामिल किया गया था, और INS अरिघाट (S3), जिसे अगस्त 2023 में सेवा में शामिल किया गया था। तीसरी SSBN, INS अरिधमन (S4), वर्तमान में समुद्री परीक्षणों से गुजर रही है और अगले वर्ष सेवा में शामिल होने की उम्मीद है।

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- *S4's Advanced Armament | S4 के उन्नत हथियार\*\**
  - The S4\* is armed with advanced 3,500 km range submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) K-4, which were tested in 2020. These SLBMs enhance India's undersea nuclear deterrence by providing the ability to launch nuclear weapons from Indian waters.
  - It will continue to play a key role until a 5,000 km range SLBM is developed.
  - *S4 उन्नत 3,500 किमी की रेंज वाली पनडुब्बी-लॉन्च की गई बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों (SLBM) K-4 से लैस है, जिनका 2020 में परीक्षण किया गया था। ये SLBM भारत की समुद्र-तल परमाणु प्रतिरोध क्षमता को बढ़ाते हैं और भारतीय जल क्षेत्र से परमाणु हथियार लॉन्च करने की क्षमता प्रदान करते हैं।*
  - *जब तक 5,000 किमी की रेंज वाली SLBM विकसित नहीं की जाती, तब तक यह प्रमुख भूमिका निभाएगी।\**

## • **INS Arihant's Role | INS अरिहंत की भूमिका**

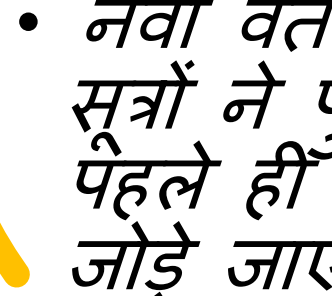
- INS Arihant, which is currently operational, is armed with 750 km range K-15 SLBM. The newly launched S4\* will replace these with longer-range missiles, increasing India's strategic capabilities.
- *INS अरिहंत, जो वर्तमान में परिचालन में है, 750 किमी की रेंज वाली K-15 SLBM से लैस है। नई लॉन्च की गई S4 लंबी दूरी की मिसाइलों के साथ इसे प्रतिस्थापित करेगी, जिससे भारत की रणनीतिक क्षमताओं में वृद्धि होगी।\**





- **Future Prospects | भविष्य की योजनाएँ**

- The Navy is currently undergoing trials for additional submarines, and sources confirmed that more submarines will follow the S4\*. Two SSBNs have already been commissioned, and it is natural that others will be added in the near future.

- *नेवी वर्तमान में अतिरिक्त पनडुब्बियों के परीक्षण कर रही है, और सत्रों ने पृष्टि की कि S4 के बाद और पनडुब्बियां आएंगी। दो SSBN पहले ही सेवा में शामिल हो चुकी हैं और निकट भविष्य में अन्य भी जोड़े जाएंगे।\**
- 

# INS Arighat



**Nuclear-capable submarine-launched missiles**

**K-4** (*in development*)  
Range: **3,500km**

**K-15 Sagarika**  
Range: **750km**



## ARIHANT-CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Length	<b>110 metres</b>
Displacement	<b>6,000 tonnes</b>
Crew	<b>95</b>
Surface speed	<b>15 knots (28km/h)</b>
Submerged speed	<b>24 knots (44km/h)</b>

**INS ARIGHAT:** Indian Navy's second indigenously-designed and built Arihant-class submarine

Six 533mm torpedo tubes



**Propulsion**  
80MW nuclear pressurised water reactor drives steam turbine

**Vertical launch tubes**  
Can carry 12 K-15 (three per tube) or four K-4 missiles

[www.civildaily.com](http://www.civildaily.com)

## INDIA'S SUBMARINE FLEET

Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN): **2**



*INS Arihant*     *INS Arighat*

Nuclear attack submarine (SSN): **1**



*INS Chakra*

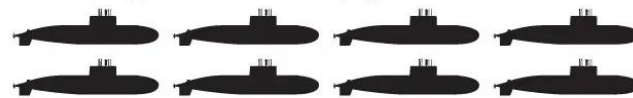
Diesel-electric submarines (SSK): **14**

*Kalvari-class* (2)

*Shishumar-class* (4)



*Sindhughosh-class* (8)



# Navy's own gladiator

A look at the **124** metre-long *Arihant* class nuclear-powered submarine

■ It's modelled after the **Russian Charlie class** (NATO name). Initiated as a fast-attack nuclear submarine project, it was later modified into a ship submersible ballistic nuclear submarine

Can carry about  
**12**

**K-15** or Sagarika submarine launch ballistic missiles (SLBM) with a range of **750 km** with nuclear warheads

Surface speed:  
**12-15 knots\***

Armament:  
**30** (12 SLBM)

Submerged speed:  
**24 knot**

■ The submarine is designed to use vertical 'Tube Launch Missile' technology, and the launchers have been manufactured to accommodate the submarine variant of the **5,000-km range Agni III** missile

■ The missile ejects underwater from the submarine's launcher, when a gas booster is ignited

Can rise **2 to 4 km** above the ocean surface to strike targets

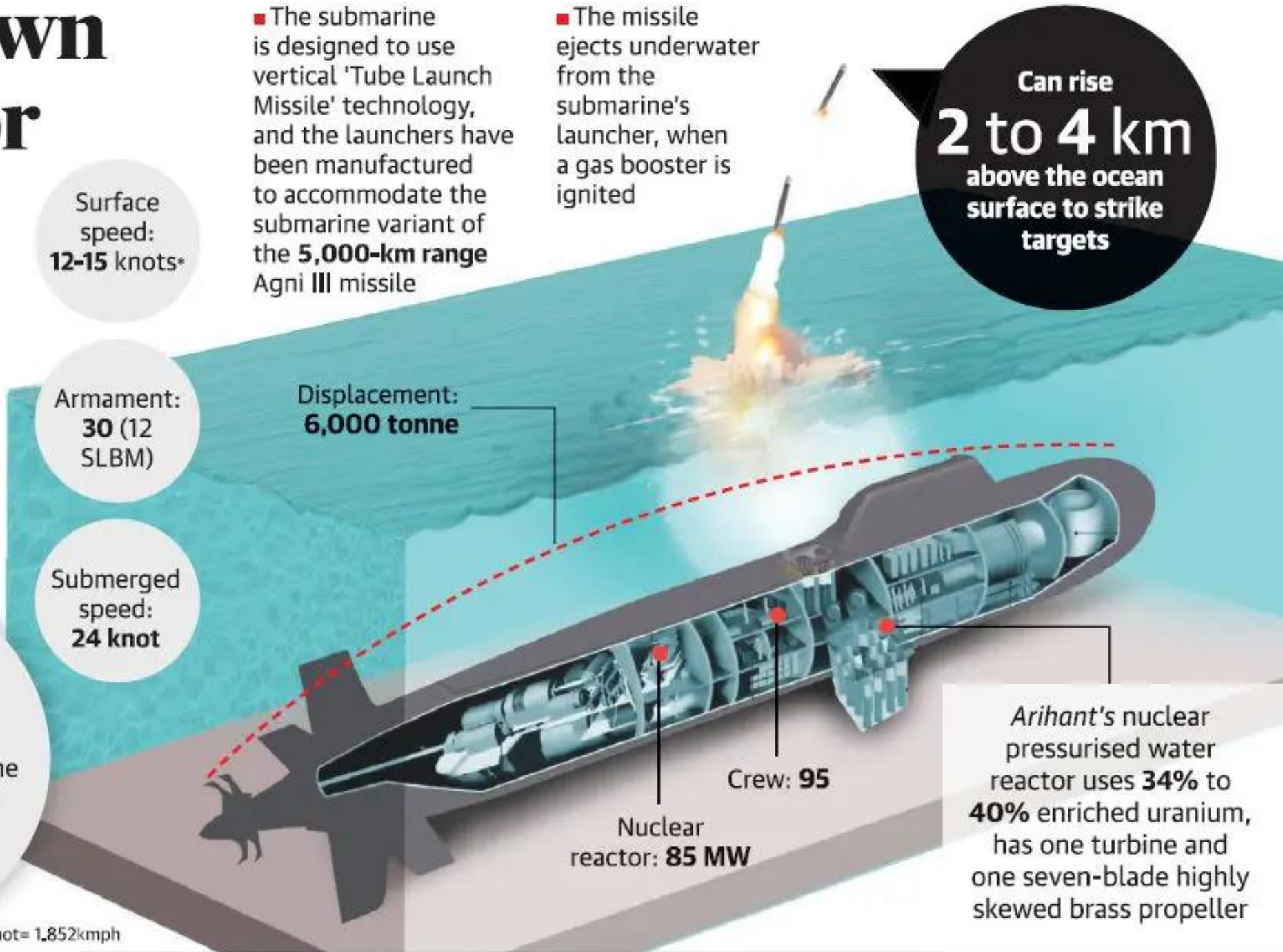
Displacement:  
**6,000 tonne**

Crew: **95**

Nuclear reactor: **85 MW**

*Arihant's* nuclear pressurised water reactor uses **34% to 40%** enriched uranium, has one turbine and one seven-blade highly skewed brass propeller

\*1knot= 1.852kmph





JERUSALEM

Israel arrests seven Palestinians over alleged Iran assassination plot



The Israeli police said on Tuesday that they had arrested seven Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem on suspicion of planning to assassinate an Israeli scientist and a city mayor on orders from Iran. The police alleged that the group was also tasked with bombing a police car and throwing a grenade at a house for money. AFP

Poverty rate in Palestinian territories set to double: UN

Agence France-Presse GENEVA

The poverty rate across the Palestinian territories will almost double this year to 74.3% after months of fighting in Gaza, according to a report by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) released on Tuesday. The immediate consequence of the war, not just in physical infrastructure destruction, but also in terms of poverty, livelihoods and loss of livelihoods, is "catastrophic," Achim Steiner, head of the UNDP, said. The poverty rate had been 38.8% at the end of 2023 but another 2.61 million Palestinians fell into poverty this year, bringing the total to 4.1 million. "It's quite clear from this that the level of destruction has set back the state of Palestine by years, if not decades, in terms of its development pathway," Mr. Steiner said. The study estimates that this year unemployment in the Palestinian territories could rise to 49.9%, and that GDP will be 35.1% lower than without the war in Gaza. He said that even if humanitarian aid is delivered each year, the Palestinian economy will not return to its pre-crisis levels for a decade or more. Recovery will also require support to rebuild destroyed capital and the lifting of "stifling economic conditions". The study says Israel's bombing campaign created 42 million tonnes of rubble in Gaza, creating major health risks. The destruction of solar panels is particularly dangerous given the lead and other heavy metals they release.

BAGHDAD

Nine terrorists, including top leader, of IS group killed in Iraq



Iraqi authorities announced on Tuesday that security forces had killed nine Islamic State group commanders including the jihadist top figure in the country in a raid in the northern mountains. Officials said nine terrorists were killed and among them was the "governor of Iraq" for IS — Jassim al-Mazrouei Abu Abdel Qader. AFP

SINGAPORE

Singapore blocks foreign-linked websites, warns of disinformation



Singapore blocked access to 10 websites, which masqueraded as state websites but were linked to foreign actors and which the government said could be used to mount "hostile" disinformation campaigns against the city-state. The move comes as Singapore prepares for elections to be held before November next year. AFP

BERLIN

Germany reports first case of new and more infectious mpox variant



Germany's disease control centre said on Tuesday that a new, more infectious variant of the mpox virus has been detected in the country for the first time. The Robert Koch Institute said the person was infected abroad but did not give any further details, including on where the case was being treated. AFP

Hezbollah says it fired volley of rockets at 3 bases in Israel

U.S. Secretary of State Blinken is in Israel, his 11th visit to the region since the war began last year; he urges Israeli PM to seize on the killing of Hamas's leader to work towards a ceasefire in Gaza

Reuters BERRUT/JERUSALEM

Hezbollah said it had fired rockets at two bases near the Israeli city of Tel Aviv and a naval base west of Haifa on Tuesday morning. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel to make another push for an elusive ceasefire. "After a heavy night of Israeli strikes on Lebanon's south and the southern suburbs of its capital Beirut, Hezbollah said it had fired rockets at the Gilonit base used by UN troops outside the port city of Haifa further north. There were no reports of casualties, Israeli authorities said. Air sirens were activated in Israel south-east of Tel Aviv due to one projectile identified crossing from Lebanon and falling in an open area. Other sirens sounded in Tel Aviv. Mr. Blinken's trip to the region is his 11th since the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, that triggered the Gaza war. Mr. Blinken urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to seize on the killing of Hamas's leader to work towards a ceasefire in Gaza, also calling for more aid to reach the war-battered territory. He also again called for a "diplomatic resolution" in Lebanon and compliance with a UN resolution that ended an Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006.



Flight of hope: The aircraft carrying Antony Blinken casts a shadow on the ground as it descends in Tel Aviv in Israel on Tuesday. AP

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'Ukraine population declined by 8 million since Russia war'

Agence France-Presse GENEVA

Ukraine's population has declined by around eight million since Russia invaded in February 2022, sparking an exodus and sending birth rates plunging, the United Nations said on Tuesday. The UN Population Fund said there had not been a census, but that there clearly had been a dramatic population decline in war-torn Ukraine. "Overall, Ukraine's population has declined by an estimated 10 million since 2014 and by an estimated eight million since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022," UNFPA's regional director for East and Central Europe, Natalia Asia Florence Bauer said in comments sent to



Search for safety: Ukraine's population dwindled from 43 million in 2022 when Russia began its invasion to 32 million currently. Reuters

journalists. Ukraine's population stood at around 45 million in 2024, when Russia first invaded, occupying and annexing Crimea, the agency said, citing data from the national statistics office. UNFPA's regional director for East and Central Europe, Natalia Asia Florence Bauer said in comments sent to

the population had dwindled to 43 million, and it has plummeted further to just 35 million today, she said, citing a combination of government and UNFPA data. The birth rate has fallen to just around one child per woman, she said. "That's one of the lowest in the world," she said.

FBI probes leak of files on Israeli plans to strike Iran

Agence France-Presse WASHINGTON

The FBI announced on Tuesday it was investigating the alleged leak of classified U.S. intelligence documents about Israel's plans for a retaliatory strike on Iran. Iran has been branding for a response since it unleashed a wave of close to 200 ballistic missiles on Israel on October 1. The classified documents, circulated on Telegram last week, describe Israeli preparations for a possible strike — but do not identify any actual targets. He said that even if humanitarian aid is delivered each year, the Palestinian economy will not return to its pre-crisis levels for a decade or more. Recovery will also require support to rebuild destroyed capital and the lifting of "stifling economic conditions". The study says Israel's bombing campaign created 42 million tonnes of rubble in Gaza, creating major health risks. The destruction of solar panels is particularly dangerous given the lead and other heavy metals they release.

Singed by price rise



A homemaker bangs a pot during a protest against inflation in Bolivia's El Alto on Tuesday. Reuters

Over 50 killed in two days of clashes in Sudan, say activists

Agence France-Presse KASSALA

Local activists in central Sudan have reported over 50 people killed since clashes erupted in Al-Jazira State on Sunday after a paramilitary commander defected to the Army. In the State capital of Wad Madani, a military air strike on a mosque killed 11 people, the local resistance committee, one of hundreds of volunteer groups coordinating aid across the war-torn country, said in a statement on Tuesday. In the State's war-ravaged east, activists said at

least 20 people have been killed in paramilitary attacks since Sunday. On Sunday, the Army announced that the Rapid Support Forces's Al-Jazira commander Abu Aqil Kaykal had abandoned the paramilitary force, bringing "a large number of his forces" to "fight alongside our army", in what they said was the first high-profile defection to the military's side. A spokesman for Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said Kaykal and others who defect would receive "amnesty", as war-weary civilians braced for renewed attacks.

Harris projects her policies to Latino voters as Trump touts his President term

Associated Press WASHINGTON

Both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump see economic policy as their best chance to win Latino voters. But their approaches are very different. In an interview with TheHindu on Tuesday afternoon, Vice-President Harris plans to highlight how her agenda would create more opportunities for Latinos than a strategy born out of roughly a dozen focus groups and polling. The Democratic nominee intends to show off her plans to double the number of registered apprenticeships. She wants to stress how she would remove college degree requirements for certain federal government jobs and encourage private employers to do likewise. And Ms. Harris wants to provide forgivable loans worth

up to \$20,000 each to 1 million small businesses. Former President Trump, the Republican nominee, is making his own pitch to Latino voters on Tuesday by holding a roundtable with them in Coral, a Miami suburb. The classified documents, circulated on Telegram last week, describe Israeli preparations for a possible strike — but do not identify any actual targets. He said that even if humanitarian aid is delivered each year, the Palestinian economy will not return to its pre-crisis levels for a decade or more. Recovery will also require support to rebuild destroyed capital and the lifting of "stifling economic conditions". The study says Israel's bombing campaign created 42 million tonnes of rubble in Gaza, creating major health risks. The destruction of solar panels is particularly dangerous given the lead and other heavy metals they release.

Nevada if their traditional support for Democrats erodes. Mr. Trump believes he has made inroads among Latino men. Ms. Harris' team is seeking to shore up support within the same group with the election just two weeks away. "We are very confident that these policies resonate because we have seen them resonate in speeches and focus groups," said Matt Barreto, a Harris campaign pollster. "It speaks to Latino men in particular about being successful and achieving the American dream." Both campaigns are jockeying for an edge with the increasingly diverse



Reaching out: Kamala Harris plans to highlight how her agenda would create more opportunities for Latino men. AFP

The former President's description of his own economic record as the mass job losses and recession caused by the pandemic in 2020. Inflation is now at a relatively healthy 2.4%, but frustration still lingers for voters from inflation spiking in June 2022 at 9.1% as gasoline, groceries and housing became much more expensive. On Unionsion, Mr. Trump said increased oil production would bring down overall inflation if he was elected. He has also suggested his combination of tariff hikes and tax cuts will help growth, though his campaign lacks details compared to the policy guide released by Ms. Harris' team. In a close race, the Harris campaign is betting that Latino men are getting more attuned to policy inflation. So we're going to get rid of the inflation."

Based on focus groups, Mr. Barreto said the Harris campaign is targeting Latino men in particular want access to apprenticeships that could give people without college degrees access to a financially stable career. The latest Labor Department figures show there are 6.41,044 registered apprenticeships, an increase from the Trump administration, when apprenticeship production peaked in 2020 at 5,69,311. Doubling that figure as Ms. Harris has proposed would put the total number of apprenticeships at roughly 1.2 million over four years. Latino men also expressed a need for access to capital and credit to start companies, as the Treasury Department reported on October 10 that Latino business ownership fell 40% over pre-pandemic levels and could

keep climbing with better financing options. Ms. Harris' running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, will be on Univision's El Bueno, La Mala, y El Feo, a syndicated radio show, this week. Fellow businessman Mr. Trump hopes to convince Latinos that they can trust a fellow businessman such as himself, even as he's also called for the mass deportation of immigrants in the country illegally. "Hispanic people — they say you can't generalize, but I think you can — they have wonderful entrepreneurship and they have — oh, do you have such energy. Just ease up a little bit. OK? Ease up," Mr. Trump said at an October 12 event. "You have great ambition, you have great energy, very smart, and you really do like natural entrepreneurs."



# 'Ukraine population declined by 8 million since Russia war'

**Agence France-Presse**

GENEVA

Ukraine's population has declined by around eight million since Russia invaded in February 2022, sparking an exodus and sending birth rates plunging, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

The UN Population Fund said there had not been a census, but that there clearly had been a dramatic population decline in war-torn Ukraine.

"Overall, Ukraine's population has declined by an estimated 10 million since 2014 and by an estimated eight million since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022," UNFPA's regional director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Florence Bauer said in comments sent to



**Search for safety:** Ukraine's population dwindled from 43 million in 2022 when Russia began its invasion to 32 million currently. AFP

journalists.

Ukraine's population stood at around 45 million in 2014, when Russia first invaded, occupying and annexing Crimea, the agency said, citing data from the national statistics office.

By February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine,

the population had dwindled to 43 million, and it has plummeted further to just 35 million today, it said, citing a combination of government and UNFPA data.

The birth rate has fallen to just around one child per woman, she said.

"That's one of the lowest in the world," she said.

**TO BE SHUT DOWN AFTER ₹32,000-CR DUES CLEARED**

# No recharge for MTNL

**State-run telco asked to speed up monetisation**

**PRASANTA SAHU**  
LATIN GROVER  
New Delhi, October 22

THE GOVERNMENT WILL no longer infuse any fresh capital into ailing Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL), but may not initiate its closure right away, as this would be done only after the company clears its liabilities of around ₹32,000 crore, according to official sources.

To generate funds for expanding the liabilities, the government has been asked to generate revenues from asset

**POOR SIGNAL**

MTNL has about 1.7 million wireless users with a 0.2% market share as of July end

In last 6 months, the company defaulted on ₹1,600-cr bank loan payments

MTNL's FY24 loss at ₹3,268 crore, revenue at ₹799 crore

ultimately, most probably within a decade. But for this, all the liabilities need to be cleared and assets disposed of, the sources said, adding that this was the reason for not closing it down straightaway.

Continued on Page 7

**INSIDE**

**NO PLANS TO RAISE TARIFFS: BSNL CMD**

Page 5

Currently, the central government owns a 56.25% stake in the state-run telecom operator, which provides services in Delhi and Jammu.

The public holds 43.75%, including a 13.12% stake owned by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

The government had approved the first revival package for BSNL and MTNL in 2019. In 2022, it approved a second revival package for BSNL/MTNL amounting to ₹1.64 lakh crore, where the share of MTNL is relatively less.

# Adani buys Orient to up cement play

**Ambuja Cements to acquire CK Birla firm for ₹8,100 crore**

**URVI MALYANIA**  
Mumbai, October 22

THE CEMENT SECTOR rivalry intensified further on Tuesday, with Adani Group announcing the acquisition of Orient Cement, a CK Birla group firm, at an equity value of ₹8,100 crore. The move comes just three months after Adani Group's UltraTech Cement, the country's largest cement maker, strengthened its position by acquiring controlling stakes in India Cements.

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cements, the country's second-largest cement manufacturer, with a 46.8% stake from Orient's founders, including chairman CK Birla, and certain public shareholders, for ₹7,791 crore. Additionally, it will acquire 6.9% from certain public shareholders, both at ₹195.4 per share. This would trigger an open offer for an additional 16% stake in Orient, according to a

**CONCRETE DEAL**

Top cement players and their capacity (MTN)

UltraTech 150.3  
Ambuja 97.4  
Dalmia 46.4  
Shree Cement 56.4

company statement. The deal will be funded through Ambuja's internal accruals.

Orient, which has two cement plants in the south and one in western India, will be Ambuja's second acquisition this year. It had acquired Pensa Cement in June. With the latest acquisition, Ambuja Cements' operational capacity will go up to 7.4 million tonnes per annum.

Continued on Page 7

# Allianz looks to exit Bajaj insurance JVs

**Eyeing stake in new firms to retain India presence**

**GEETA NAIR**  
Pune, October 22

BAJAJ FINSERV ON Tuesday announced that its insurance joint venture (JV) partner Allianz SE is considering exiting its life and general insurance businesses.

"Allianz has indicated to Bajaj that, given its strategic priorities, it is actively considering an exit from the life and general insurance joint ventures," the company informed the exchanges.

Allianz holds a 26% stake each in insurance arms Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, while Bajaj Finserv owns 74%. Both are unlisted firms.

"Discussions are at a preliminary stage and there is no proposal before the board (Bajaj Finserv) of the company or its insurance subsidiaries in this

regard," the insurer said.

The Bajaj Finserv board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to approve the second quarter results and these developments could come up for discussion at the board meeting.

Shares of Bajaj Finserv fell 2.02% on Tuesday to close at ₹1,723 on the BSE.

Bloomberg had earlier reported that Allianz SE was in talks to scrap two Indian JVs with Bajaj Finserv in a dispute over the direction of the partnership and their inability to pay stakes in the JVs at discounted prices.

The report said Allianz is instead looking to buy stakes in newly established insurance firms to retain a presence in the fast-growing Indian market.

Bajaj has controlling stakes in the JVs and has been running the company with control of management, strategic decisions, operations and business strategy with professionals from the insurance industry running the two JV companies.

Continued on Page 7

# Balance portfolios like a nutritionist

## Plan healthy by exploring physically-backed GOLD ETFs



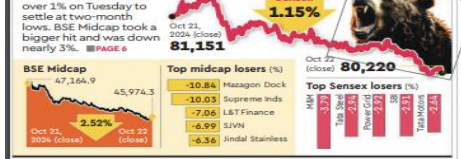
The foods on a dinner plate have key roles to play in providing balanced nutrition. Similarly, exploring physically-backed Gold ETFs is one of the ways that may help manage risks that other investments may bring, thereby helping to create a more balanced and stable portfolio.

Investments in physically-backed Gold ETFs are subject to market risk and T&Cs as per offer document of the respective ETF. An investor awareness and education initiative by World Gold Council.

**WORLD GOLD COUNCIL**

Explore powering portfolios with gold  
www.powerwithgold.in

# MIDCAPS LEAD MARKET MELTDOWN



# Hyundai in reverse gear as stock debuts

**SHARAJI BAGGONKAR & VIVEK KUMAR M**  
Mumbai, October 22

**ROUGH START**

Company	Issue size (₹ cr)	Offer price (₹)	Listing price (₹)	Listing gain (%)
Hyundai India	27,870	1,960	1,951	-0.45
L&T	20,557	9.27	9.27	0.00
Paytm	18,300	2,150	1,955	-9.07
Coal India	15,475	2.45	2.88	17.45
Landmark Power	11,700	281	342	21.73
IOC	11,373	4.56	4.25	-6.80
SBI Cards	10,355	75.5	65.8	-12.85

**INSIDE**

**OPEN TO HYBRIDS, SAYS HYUNDAI MOTOR MD**

Page 4

Hyundai Motor India (HMI), which launched the country's biggest initial public offering (IPO) had a disappointing listing on Tuesday, lending more credence to one trend: large Indian IPOs seldom do well on their first day. The stock of India's second-largest carmaker listed at a discount of around 1.5% and fell nearly 9% in intra-day trading. It traded as low as ₹1,807.05, a 7.9% dip against its issue price of ₹1,960 before closing at ₹1,820.40.

Though the ₹27,870 crore IPO was booked 2.3 times, the retail portion and non-institutional investor segments were subscribed only 50% and 60%, respectively. Investors became wary of the valuation demanded by the issuer and also since the issue was fully an offer for sale, where no pro-

"Price of the stock will always be determined by the investors. The response to the subscription was overwhelming. Not only did we get it from the sovereign funds but also from insurance companies. The top 9-10 mutual funds have invested too."

Continued on Page 7

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**  
A Government of India Undertaking

Head Office: 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

Operating Profit: 10.40% (YoY) | Net Profit: 24.46% (YoY) | NII: 2.76% (YoY) | Return on Average Assets: 16 bps (YoY)

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/HALF YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024 (₹ in lakhs)

PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended
Total Income from Operations	30,09,202	30,09,202	30,09,202	31,83,202	30,09,202	30,09,202	30,09,202	31,83,202
Net Profit (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	8,40,056	5,02,900	5,45,207	11,43,006	10,82,726	21,43,039	8,40,589	4,95,440
Net Profit (Loss) for the period (after Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	8,40,056	5,02,900	5,45,207	11,43,006	10,82,726	21,43,039	8,40,589	4,95,440
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Other Tax and Other Comprehensive Income (Other Loss))	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361	7,63,361
Reserves (Including Retention Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	88,04,016	93,74,790	78,17,722	86,84,018	87,60,511	96,14,183	94,01,668	79,38,994
Net Worth	25,51,318	25,51,318	22,76,348	25,51,318	22,76,348	25,51,318	25,51,400	22,84,511
Debt to Equity Ratio	17.63,800	17.63,800	19.63,800	17.63,800	19.63,800	17.63,800	17.63,800	19.63,800
Dividend Yield (%)	0.28	0.27	0.87	0.28	0.87	0.31	0.28	0.87
Basic	"6.18"	"4.82"	"10.98"	"11.00"	"9.72"	"18.95"	"6.22"	"4.77"
Diluted	"6.18"	"4.82"	"10.98"	"11.00"	"9.72"	"18.95"	"6.22"	"4.77"

**NOTES:**

(a) The above is an extract of the detailed Form of Quarterly/Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 31 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full Form of the Quarterly/Half Yearly Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.sebi.gov.in and www.bseindia.com) and on the Bank's website (www.unionbankofindia.co.in).

(b) For the purpose of the above information under Regulation 52(a) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchanges (BSE & NSE) as required.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors: **Shri. Mitesh Rajan**, Executive Director

Place: Mumbai Date: 21.10.2024

For and on behalf of Board of Directors: **Shri. A. Maniokhalai**, Managing Director & CEO

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# Allianz looks to exit Bajaj insurance JVs

Eyeing stake in new firms to retain India presence

GEETA NAIR

Pune, October 22

**BAJAJ FINSERV ON** Tuesday announced that its insurance joint venture (JV) partner Allianz SE is considering exiting their life and general insurance businesses.

“Allianz has indicated to Bajaj that, given its strategic priorities, it is actively considering an exit from the life and general insurance joint ventures,” the company informed the exchanges.

Allianz holds a 26% stake each in insurance arms Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, while Bajaj Finserv owns 74%. Both are unlisted firms.

“Discussions are at a preliminary stage and there is no proposal before the board (Bajaj Finserv) of the company or its insurance subsidiaries in this

regard,” the insurer said.

The Bajaj Finserv board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to approve the second quarter results and these developments could come up for discussion at the board meeting.

Shares of Bajaj Finserv fell 2.02% on Tuesday to close at ₹1,723 on the BSE.

Bloomberg had earlier reported that Allianz SE was in talks to scrap two Indian JVs with Bajaj Finserv in a dispute over the direction of the partnership and their inability to raise stakes in the JV at discounted prices.

The report said Allianz is instead looking to buy stakes in newly established insurance firms to retain a presence in the fast-growing Indian market.

Bajaj has controlling stakes in the JVs and has been running the company with control of management, strategic decisions, operations and business strategy with professionals from the insurance industry running the two JV companies.



Continued on Page 7



# CWG drops 9 sports, dents India's medal hopes

MIHIR VASAVDA  
Mumbai, October 22

**SIX OF THE** 12 disciplines in which India won a medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games — contributing 37 out of the total 61 medals — have been dropped from the 2026 edition, it was announced Tuesday.

For the 2026 CWG, which will be held in Glasgow, badminton, cricket, hockey, squash, table tennis and wrestling have been omitted. This comes after shooting and archery — the two sports Indians have dominated historically at the Commonwealth level — faced the axe from the 2022 edition held in Birmingham.

The 2026 edition, featuring only 10 sports and roughly 3,000 athletes, will take place from July 23 to August 2. Glasgow will be CWG 'lite' since the previous edition in Birmingham



The closing ceremony of the 2022 Commonwealth Games at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham

FILE: REUTERS

had 19 sports and almost 5,000 athletes.

In a statement, Glasgow CWG organisers said the sports programme will include athletics and para-athletics, boxing, bowls and para-bowls, swimming and para-swimming, artistic gymnastics, track cycling and para-track

cycling, netball, weightlifting and para-powerlifting, judo, 3x3 basketball and 3x3 wheelchair basketball.

The decision was met with fierce backlash from India's sporting administrators. Former CWG medallist and Indian Olympic Association executive council member

Gagan Narang said the move was "disheartening".

"I can imagine the disappointment for (the) shooters who were preparing for this event. I am also disappointed that (a) few more disciplines which are medal prospects for India don't figure in the list of disciplines for CWG 2026," Narang said.

Badminton legend and national coach Pullela Gopichand said he was "deeply appalled and disappointed by the decision".

"It is crucial that we raise our voices and bring this issue to the appropriate authorities to ensure badminton continues to thrive and inspire future generations. We cannot allow such shortsighted decisions to undermine the progress we have tirelessly achieved," he said.

While badminton has been played in every edition of the

CWG since 1966, squash and hockey have been a part of the programme since 1998. Table tennis has featured at every Games since 2002. The decision also marks a rare occurrence of no racquet sport being included in a multi-discipline event.

Incidentally, shooting was included in the initial programme announced by Victoria, before they surrendered their hosting rights due to high costs. Glasgow stepped in as a last-minute replacement and dropped a number of events to keep the Games within budget.

Originally, the Australian state was scheduled to host the 2026 edition before it pulled out citing huge costs. With Glasgow operating on an extremely tight budget, the organisers chose to restrict the Games to just four venues.

The 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG), to be held in Glasgow, has dropped six of the 12 sports in which India won medals in the 2022 edition.

These six sports contributed to 37 out of India's total 61 medals.

The dropped sports include badminton, cricket, hockey, squash, table tennis, and wrestling.

This decision follows the earlier exclusion of shooting and archery from the 2022 Birmingham CWG.

ग्लासगो में होने वाले 2026 राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों (CWG) में भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण छह खेलों को हटा दिया गया है, जिनमें भारत ने 2022 में 61 पदकों में से 37 पदक जीते थे।

हटाए गए खेलों में बैडमिंटन, क्रिकेट, हॉकी, स्क्वैश, टेबल टेनिस और कुश्ती शामिल हैं। इससे पहले 2022 बर्मिंघम CWG से शूटिंग और तीरंदाजी को भी हटाया गया था।


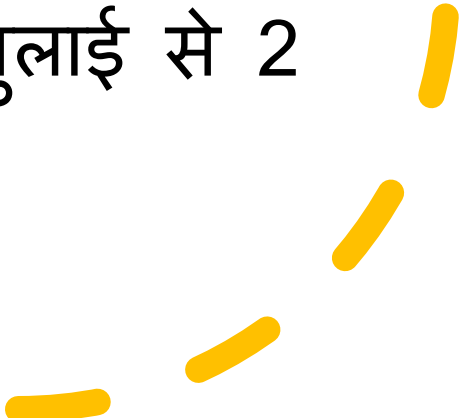
The 2026 CWG will feature only 10 sports, with around 3,000 athletes, compared to the 2022 edition.

The sports that remain include athletics, boxing, para-sports, swimming, artistic gymnastics, cycling, and basketball variants.

2026 CWG में केवल 10 खेल होंगे और इसमें लगभग 3,000 एथलीट हिस्सा लेंगे। शामिल किए गए खेलों में एथलेटिक्स, बॉक्सिंग, पैरा-स्पोर्ट्स, स्विमिंग, जिमनास्टिक्स, साइकिलिंग और बास्केटबॉल के रूप शामिल हैं।



- 
- The decision has sparked criticism from Indian sports officials, as these excluded sports have been key medal prospects for India.
  - For instance, badminton legend Pullela Gopichand expressed deep disappointment.
  - The organizers made this decision as a cost-cutting measure, as Glasgow operates on a tight budget.
  - The CWG will take place from July 23 to August 2, 2026.

- 
- भारत के खेल अधिकारियों ने इस फैसले की आलोचना की है, क्योंकि हटाए गए खेलों में भारत की प्रमुख पदक संभावनाएं थीं।
  - बैडमिंटन के कोच पलेला गोपीचंद ने भी इस पर गहरा निराशा जताई। यह निर्णय बजट में कटौती के कारण लिया गया है, क्योंकि ग्लासगो में खेलों का आयोजन बेहद सीमित बजट में किया जा रहा है।
  - 2026 CWG का आयोजन 23 जुलाई से 2 अगस्त के बीच होगा।
- 

## POPULATION GROWTH IS NOW FALLING EVERYWHERE, STEEPLY

● In the early 1990s Kerala had fertility rate of 2 and UP's was 4.8. By 2021, Kerala's rate fell to 1.8 and UP's to 2.4 – the gap has steeply narrowed between south and north India, even though 4 states – including Maharashtra – now account for 49% of all newborns.

● Decline in fertility is now a reality for the most populous states, too. In 2019, only Bihar and UP had above-replacement-level fertility with MP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra at or below replacement level

● Thus, southern states may find they have fewer reasons to fear being 'penalised' over dipping population since most states are experiencing similar declines

● No country in the world has reversed population decline, be it China or European countries. The once one-child China is now encouraging couples to go for three kids, but reports suggest there are not many takers for it

	1992-93	2005-06	2019-21
<b>Bihar</b>	4.0	4.0	3.0
<b>Meghalaya</b>	3.7	3.8	2.9
<b>UP</b>	4.8	3.8	2.4
<b>Jharkhand</b>		3.3	2.3
<b>Manipur</b>	2.8	2.8	2.2
MP	3.9	3.1	2.0
Rajasthan	3.6	3.2	2.0
Assam	3.5	2.4	1.9
Gujarat	3.0	2.4	1.9
Haryana	4.0	2.7	1.9
Kerala	2.0	1.9	1.8
Tamil Nadu	2.5	1.8	1.8
Telangana			1.8
Andhra	2.6	1.8	1.7
Himachal	3.0	1.9	1.7
Karnataka	2.9	2.1	1.7
Maharashtra	2.9	2.1	1.7
Delhi	3.0	2.1	1.6
Punjab	2.9	2.0	1.6
West Bengal	2.9	2.3	1.6

NFHS data



## LOWER SHARE OF CENTRAL FUNDS

Even if the amount of funds received by each state has been rising, relative shares have changed

Shares of states in net proceeds of taxes (%)	Finance Commissions	
	13th (2010-15)	15th (2021-26)
UP	19.7	17.9
Bihar	10.9	10.1
MP	7.1	7.9
West Bengal	7.3	7.5
Maharashtra	5.2	6.3
Rajasthan	5.9	6.0
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	5.0	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Andhra</b>	6.9	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	4.3	<b>3.6</b>
Telangana		<b>2.1</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	2.3	<b>1.9</b>

● The weightage of population in the formula for deciding states' share has fallen from 80-90% in the first seven Finance Commissions to 15% in the 15th Finance Commission



● The 14th Finance Commission had used the 'demographic change' criteria – factoring in migration and age structure – to calculate states' share in govt revenues. It led to a dramatic drop in the share of Andhra (Telangana was carved out of it in 2014), and a smaller drop for Tamil Nadu


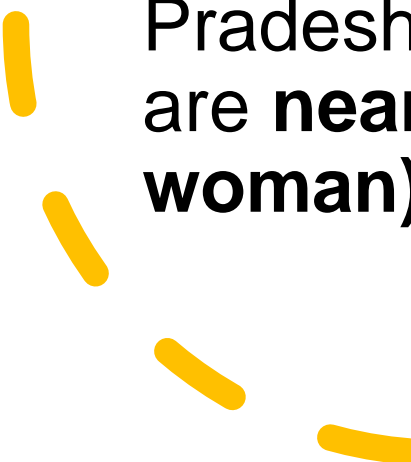
● The 15th Finance Commission added a criterion of 'demographic performance' to address concerns among states over being 'penalised' for population control

● The 16th Finance Commission recommendations are due in 2025

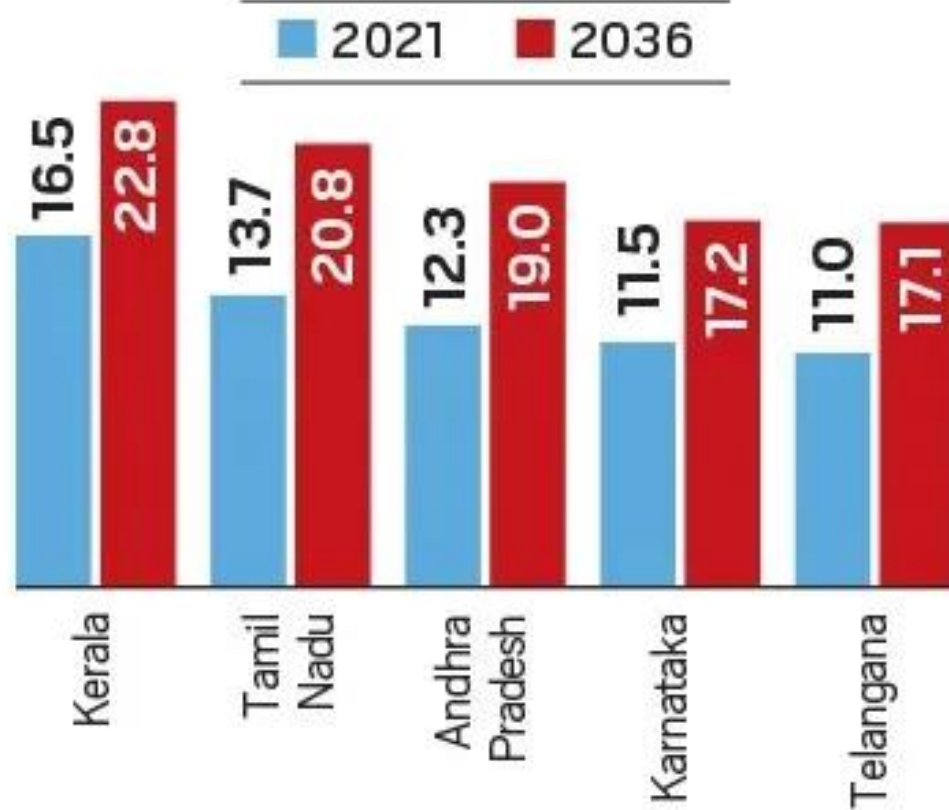




# South India's Ageing Population

- 
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister pointed to a **declining fertility rate** in southern states, which has dropped to 1.6—well below the national average of 2.1.
  - **Trends in Southern India Population**
  - **Declining Fertility Rates:** Southern Indian states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have already reached or are **nearing replacement-level fertility (2.1 children per woman)**. For instance:
- 

# THE AGEING SOUTH



Figures in % Source: India Ageing Report 2023

No. of elderly  
per 100 children  
(15 yrs & lower)

South: **61.7**



North: **38.9**



Central India: **27.8**


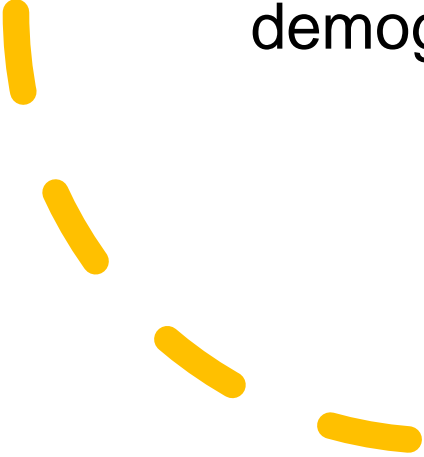


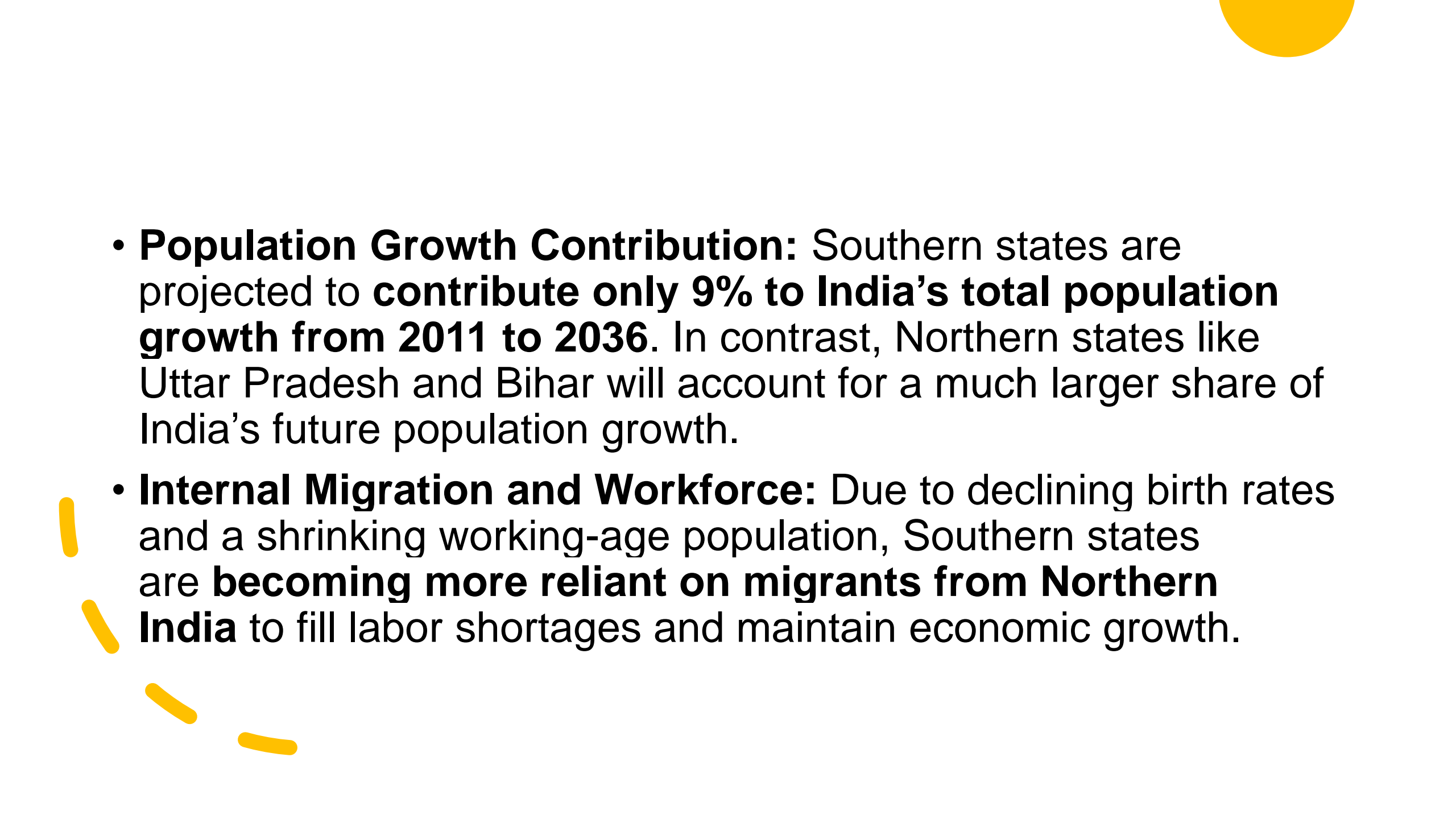


Andhra Pradesh achieved this in 2004.

Kerala reached this level as early as 1988.







These states have significantly **lower fertility rates compared to Northern India**, contributing to slower population growth.

- 
- **Aging Population:** With **lower fertility rates and increasing life expectancy**, the population in Southern India is aging rapidly:
    - **Kerala's 60+ population is projected to rise from 13% in 2011 to 23% by 2036.**
    - Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are also witnessing a similar demographic shift, creating a growing proportion of elderly residents.
- 

- 
- **Population Growth Contribution:** Southern states are projected to **contribute only 9% to India's total population growth from 2011 to 2036**. In contrast, Northern states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will account for a much larger share of India's future population growth.
  - **Internal Migration and Workforce:** Due to declining birth rates and a shrinking working-age population, Southern states are **becoming more reliant on migrants from Northern India** to fill labor shortages and maintain economic growth.



# POPULATION BY PERCENTAGE IN DIFFERENT AGE BRACKETS

INDIA	2011	2036 (PROJECTED)
0-14 years	30.9 	20.1 
15-59 years	60.7 	64.9 
60+ years	8.4 	14.9 

Andhra Pradesh	2011	2036
0-14 years	25.2	15.7
15-59 years	64.8	65.3
60+ years	10.1	19

Uttar Pradesh	2011	2036
0-14 years	36	22
15-59 years	56.7	66.1
60+ years	7.3	11.9

Source: Population Projection by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Egypt: 2nd country in 2024  
to be declared 'malaria-  
free'



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The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified **Egypt as malaria-free**.

---

**Do you know ?**

- Certification is granted when a country can prove that indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least three consecutive years and has the capacity to prevent re-establishment.
- Egypt is the **second country, after Cabo Verde**, to achieve this status in 2024 and the fifth in Africa.

- 
- Malaria has been documented in Egypt since 4000 B.C.E., with historical genetic evidence found in mummies.
    - The disease was particularly concentrated in **Nile river communities due to favorable mosquito breeding conditions.**

-



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- **Malaria**

- Malaria is a life-threatening disease, is caused by the Plasmodium parasite and transmitted through bites from infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
- It is most prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions, including **sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America**.
- The most deadly species is **Plasmodium falciparum**, but **Plasmodium vivax** is the most widespread.
-

- 
- After entering the human body, the parasite **multiplies in the liver and then infects red blood cells**
  - **Symptoms:** Fever, headache, chills, Fatigue, confusion, seizures, difficulty breathing, jaundice, and dark urine.
  - **Prevention Strategies :**
    - **Vector Control:** Key strategies include insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS), though resistance to insecticides is emerging.
    - **R21/Matrix-M Vaccine:** Recommended in October 2023, further enhancing prevention efforts.
    - **Chloroquine:** Effective for *P. vivax* in sensitive regions, often supplemented with Primaquine to prevent relapses.

---

- **Global and Indian Efforts**



- **Global Malaria Program:** Launched by WHO with a strategy to reduce malaria incidence and mortality by 90% by 2030.
- **E-2025 Initiative:** Aimed at halting malaria transmission in 25 countries by 2025.
- **India's National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP):** Focuses on multiple vector-borne diseases, including malaria, through integrated measures.

# 2024 Index of Economic Freedom




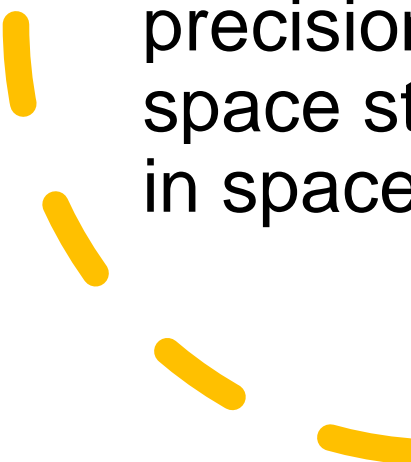


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- The **Fraser Institute** has released the **2024 Economic Freedom of the World Report**, which assesses economic freedom in 165 jurisdictions.
  - **About**
  - The report ranks **Hong Kong, Singapore, and Switzerland** as the top three regions with the highest levels of economic freedom for the **year 2022**. **India's rank is 84th**.
  - It is based on 42 variables, covering areas such as **government size, property rights, monetary policy, and trade freedom**.

- 
- The report highlights a global **decline in economic freedom** over the past three years.
  - Countries with high economic freedom show significantly better economic outcomes. For example, their **GDP per capita** is on average 7.6 times greater than that of countries with low economic freedom.
  - **Other benefits** in these countries include longer life expectancy, lower poverty rates, and higher happiness levels.
- 

# SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment)



- 
- A private entity based in Hyderabad, has delivered two 400 kg satellites to ISRO for its upcoming Space Docking Experiment.
  - **About SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment)**
  - The goal of SPADEX is to enable two spacecraft, a **‘Chaser’** and a **‘Target,’** to autonomously dock in orbit, demonstrating precision, navigation, and control—skills crucial for assembling space stations, refueling, and transferring astronauts and cargo in space.
- 


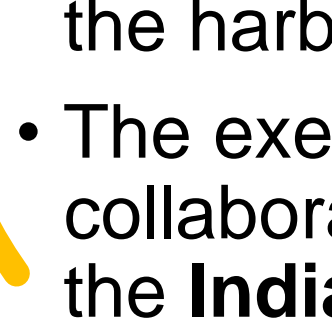


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- The development of docking systems dates **back to the Cold War**, with the Soviet Union achieving the **first successful docking in space in 1967**, followed by the **USA's Apollo-Soyuz Test Project in 1975**.
  - Since then, docking technology has evolved significantly, becoming more automated and integral to modern space missions, as seen in Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, NASA's Crew Dragon, and China's Tianzhou cargo spacecraft.
- 

# Exercise Naseem- Al-Bahr

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- 
- The **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman** recently concluded a bilateral naval exercise, '**Naseem-Al-Bahr**' off the coast of Goa.
  - **About**
  - **Initiated in 1993**, the exercise was conducted in **two phases**: the harbour phase and the sea phase.
  - The exercise reaffirms India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth with like-minded nations in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- 

- 
- Oman is a crucial pillar of **India's West Asia Policy** and its oldest regional strategic partner.
  - Also, Oman is the **first Gulf country** with which all the three wings of India's defense forces hold joint exercises.
    - The exercise **Eastern Bridge** is conducted between the **Air Force** of the two countries, while the exercise **Al-Najah** is conducted between the **Army** of the two countries.



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# Word of the day

## **Defenestration:**

the act of throwing someone or something out of a window

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**Synonyms:** riddance, ejection, expulsion

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**Usage:** *He has governed so badly as to deserve automatic defenestration.*

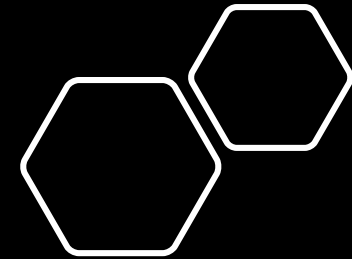
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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/defenestrationpro](http://newsth.live/defenestrationpro)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /dɪˌfɛnɪˈstʃeɪf(ə)n/

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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, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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