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someone a little extra on  
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# India, Spain slam attacks on UN troops in Lebanon

Inviolability of UN premises, sanctity of their mandate must be respected, Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez say; they open C-295 aircraft manufacturing unit in Vadodara; PM exudes confidence that the C-295 will be exported worldwide in future; the two leaders reiterate their commitment to the establishment of a sovereign Palestine state

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

India and Spain on Monday condemned the attacks on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and highlighted that the safety and security of peacekeepers are of “paramount importance and must be ensured by all.” The two countries are major troop-contributing nations to the UNIFIL.

The inviolability of UN premises and the sanctity of their mandate must be respected, a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez said.

The UNIFIL has come under a series of attacks since the Israeli offensive in Lebanon, and on several occasions, peacekeepers and positions were targeted by the Israel Defence Forces. India has 903 troops under the UNIFIL, while Spain has 676 soldiers as on October 20.

Earlier in the day, the two leaders inaugurated the final assembly line (FAL) for the C-295 transport aircraft in Vadodara, set up by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in collaboration with Airbus under a ₹21,935-crore contract signed in Spain in September 2021 for 56 aircraft. These are meant to replace the legacy Avro aircraft in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF). The FAL will manufacture 40 of the 56 aircraft, while 16 aircraft will come in fly-away condition.

## India's exports

India's defence exports have increased 30 times over the past decade, with the country now exporting equipment to more than 100 countries, Mr. Modi said, speaking on the occasion. He expressed confidence that the C-295 transport aircraft manufactured at the Tata aircraft complex will be exported worldwide in future.

The IAF has inducted



**Aiming high:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez at the inauguration of a Tata aircraft complex in Vadodara on Monday. ANI

six aircraft in its 11 Squadron based in Vadodara. The first C-295 aircraft was delivered in September 2023 and the last of the 16 fly-away aircraft will be delivered by August 2025.

Of the 40 aircraft, the first C-295 will roll out of the Vadodara facility in September 2026 and the remaining 39 by August 2031.

The two leaders shared their firm commitment to

achieving peace and stability in West Asia, expressed their deep concern at the escalation of security situation in the region and called for restraint by all concerned, the joint statement said.

“The two leaders unequivocally condemned the terror attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, and agreed that the large-scale loss of civilian lives and the humanitarian crisis in Ga-

za is unacceptable and must end as soon as possible. They called for the immediate release of all hostages, immediate ceasefire and safe, sustained entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. They emphasized the urgent need to protect the lives of civilians and urged all parties to comply with international law,” the statement said.

The two leaders also reiterated their commit-

ment to the implementation of the two State solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign, viable and independent state of Palestine.

Mr. Sanchez will attend the second meeting of the India-Spain CEOs forum as well as India-Spain business summit in Mumbai on Tuesday. He will give the keynote address at the 4th Spain-India Forum, co-organised by Spain-India Council Foundation and Observer Research Foundation.

## Pacts inked

Several agreements were signed between the two countries, including a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of rail transport and the agreement of cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters, setting up of fast track mechanism in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, India and in Directorate General of International Trade and Investment, Mi-

nistry of Economy, Trade and Business in Spain, for facilitating mutual investments in India and Spain, and creation of joint commission under the audio-visual co-production agreement.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Sanchez agreed to make 2026 as the Year of India and Spain in Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence (AI). During the year, both sides will make the maximum effort to boost the cultural presence of the other in their museums, art, fairs, film, festivals, literature, meetings of architects and circles of debate and thought, the statement said, as also special attention will be paid to ways of increasing tourist flows, promote reciprocal investments.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the EU-India triple negotiations of the comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, Investment Protection Agreement and Geographical Indications Agreement.







- **1. Condemnation of Attacks on UN Troops**

- **Context:** India and Spain have jointly condemned recent attacks on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), stressing the importance of peacekeepers' safety and UN premises' inviolability.
- **UNIFIL Presence:** India contributes 903 troops, and Spain has 676 personnel under UNIFIL, making both countries significant contributors to peacekeeping efforts in Lebanon.

- **2. Inauguration of C295 Aircraft Facility**
- **C295 Aircraft Manufacturing:** The leaders inaugurated the C295 transport aircraft's final assembly line (FAL) in Vadodara, under a ₹21,935-crore contract signed with Airbus. This initiative aligns with the 'Make in India' agenda.



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## Commitment to Palestine's Sovereignty

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**Two-State Solution:** The two leaders reaffirmed support for a two-state solution for establishing a sovereign Palestinian state, voicing concern over rising tensions in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis.


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## **Cultural and Economic Cooperation**

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**Year of India-Spain Relations:** 2026 will be observed as the Year of India and Spain in Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence, aiming to boost cultural presence through fairs, festivals, and academic exchanges.



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- **. Bilateral Business Engagements**
  - **Spain-India Business Summit:** PM Sanchez will address the Spain-India Forum in Mumbai, focusing on advancing bilateral trade and economic ties.

ISLAMABAD Pakistan begins polio vaccination drive to cover 45 million children



Pakistan on Monday started its third nationwide polio campaign to vaccinate 45 million children against the crippling disease as the virus was detected in the environmental samples from 16 districts. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the campaign during a ceremony on World Polio Day last week. AP

JOHANNESBURG South Africa files 'evidence' of 'genocide' by Israel in ICJ case



South Africa has filed "evidence" of a "genocide" committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip with the International Court of Justice. The document "contains evidence which shows how the government of Israel has violated the genocide convention by promoting the destruction of Palestinians living in Gaza", the presidency said. AP

TBILISI Georgia's President urges West to back protests against ruling party



Georgia's President Salome Zourabichvili on Monday requested the West to support opposition protests in her country against the official results of a weekend parliamentary election in which the governing party was declared victorious amid voting irregularities and allegations of Russian meddling. AP

N'DJAMENA Around 40 killed in jihadist attack on Army camp in Chad, says govt



An attack by jihadist group Boko Haram on the Chadian Army killed around 40 people late on Sunday near the Nigerian border, the government said. "A garrison housing more than 200 soldiers was targeted by members of Boko Haram", a local source also said. The attack took place at around 10:00 p.m. local time. AP

60% Indian Americans back Harris, 32% Trump, says survey

The proportion of respondents identifying as Democrats is 47%, down from 56% in 2020, according to the Indian American Attitude Survey; the proportion of those identifying as Independents (26%) has increased, while those identifying as Republican has remained steady (21%), a larger proportion of Indian American women (67%) intend to vote for Ms. Harris than their male counterparts (53%)

Sriram Lakshman WASHINGTON DC

A new survey of Indian American political attitudes finds that while members of this group strongly support the Democratic Party, as they have historically, their attachment to the party has declined. The Indian American Attitude Survey (IAAS) finds that the proportion of respondents identifying as Democrats is 47%, down from 56% in 2020, when the survey was last conducted.

The proportion of those identifying as Independents (26%) has increased, while those identifying as Republican has remained steady (21%). The decline in numbers favouring the Democratic Party has been

offset, the authors say, by a rise in Republican identifiers among the Independents, yet the total number of those identifying with the ideological left has grown since 2020. 714 members surveyed The survey, and its accompanying report, was published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, by Samittra Badrinathan, Divyesh Kapur and Milan Vaishnav. It was conducted online and in partnership with YouGov, by surveying 714 U.S. Citizen Indian American respondents between September 18 and October 15, 2024. The margin of error was +/- 3.7%.

The survey finds that a majority (60%) of registered Indian American vot-

ers plan to vote for Vice President and Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, while just under a third (32%) intends to vote for the Republican candidate, former President Donald Trump.

The results of the IAAS survey are in line with several polls across demographics which reveal a gender gap in the support for both candidates, with women favouring Ms. Harris and men favouring Mr. Trump (particularly among younger populations). A larger proportion of Indian American women (67%) intend to vote for Ms. Harris than their male counterparts (53%).

On the flip side, a larger proportion (39%) of Indian American men intend to vote for Mr. Trump than



Natural choice: An overwhelming 72% of respondents said that they planned to vote for Kamala Harris in her own right. AP

their female counterparts (22%). The report says the respondents rate Indian American Republicans unfavourably (i.e., they are "laksawarna" to them). These Republicans are former Republican president candidate Nikki Ha-



They, who is a daughter of Panjaji immigrants; former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, a son of Tamil immigrants; and Usha Vance, a daughter of Telugu immigrants, and wife of Mr. Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance.

However, the data show that the Republican party's relative underperformance with Indian Americans is not because of these personalities, but because GOP policies are not aligned with Indian American values. The study says that Democrats, when asked why they do not identify as Republicans, cited the GOP's "intolerance of minorities". Abortion, which was ranked as the top issue for Democrats and women as well as the GOP's ties to Christian evangelicals top the list of issues that alienate Indian Americans from the party.

Those who do not associate with the Democratic party cited as reasons, weakness on illegal immigration (27%), the party being too left wing (17%), the party being misguided on

the economy (15%) and the party being too focused on identity politics (14%). Views on Harris In terms of their views on Ms. Harris, who is the first woman of Indian descent seeking the U.S. presidency, an overwhelming number (72%) of respondents said that they planned to vote for Ms. Harris in her own right, while 23% said they were voting for her as a vote against Mr. Trump. Only 7% said they're voting for Ms. Harris because she is Indian American.

About a quarter (26%) of respondents said they are voting for Ms. Harris because she is a liberal or progressive voice, while 13% said Ms. Harris would strengthen U.S.-India relations, and that is why they

planned on voting for her. On the Republican side, just over half (51%) of respondents who favoured Ms. Haley over Mr. Trump as the Republican candidate, said they preferred her because they thought she would be a more competent President.

Indian Americans — like Americans, broadly — are most concerned about cost of living issues and the economy. The top issues, among respondents, are inflation and prices and then jobs and the economy. Some 13% say abortion is an important election issue, followed by immigration and health care. Republican Indian Americans are significantly more concerned about the state of the economy than Democrats.

Harsh rhetoric: Donald Trump and former first lady Melania Trump associated at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Sunday. AP

His joke was immediately criticised by Ms. Harris' campaign as it competes with Mr. Trump to win over Puerto Rican communities in Pennsylvania and other swing states. Puerto Rican music superstar Bad Bunny backed Ms. Harris shortly after Hinchcliffe's appearance. The normally pugna-

Iran warns Israel of 'bitter consequences' after missile attack

Agence France-Presse TEHRAN

The top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards has warned Israel it would face "bitter consequences" after its attack on Iranian military sites, local media said on Monday. Guards chief Hossein Salami, quoted by Tasnim news agency, said Israel had "failed to achieve its ominous goals" with its air raids on Saturday.

Israel struck military sites in response to Tehran's October 1 missile attack, itself retaliation for the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commandment. Mr. Salami said the Israeli attack was a sign of "mis calculation and help-

lessness" as Israel battles Tehran-aligned militants in Gaza and Lebanon.

"Its bitter consequences will be unimaginable" for Israel, Mr. Salami warned.

Separately, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Bagheri said on Monday that Tehran would "respond firmly and effectively" to deadly Israeli strikes on military sites over the weekend. "We are using all available means to respond firmly and effectively to the aggression of the Zionist regime," Mr. Bagheri told a regular news conference.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday said that Israel's attack which killed four soldiers "should neither be exaggerated nor minimised".

Israeli troops capture 100 Hamas militants in northern Gaza hospital

Reuters JERUSALEM

Israeli soldiers captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants during a raid in Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the military said on Monday.

Gaza health officials and Hamas have denied any militant presence at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed on Friday and left on Saturday.

"The soldiers apprehended approximately 100 terrorists from the compound, including terrorists who attempted to escape during the evacuation of civilians. Inside the hospital, they found weapons, terror funds, and intelligence documents," the military said. Gaza's Health Ministry



No shelter: Palestinians receive medical attention at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday. AP

said the troops had detained dozens of male medical staffers and damaged the hospital, which had already been struggling to operate with heavy Israeli raids in the area. "A few of the fully identified terrorists diagnosed themselves as medical staff so we didn't have any alter-

native but to check the medical staff as well," a military official told journalists in an online briefing.

Damage inflicted Footage circulated by Gaza's Health Ministry on Saturday showed damage to several buildings after the

military official said that troops had caused limited damage to the hospital. Medical staffers refused to evacuate the hospital or leave their patients unattended. "They evacuated all those who were sheltering here. They separated men from women and made two queues. It was very humiliating for our men since they took them without clothing, leaving them to cover with," said Maysoon Allan, a hospital nurse. The military official said that suspected Hamas men arrested were stripped to check them for weapons.

Gaza militants at least two children had died inside the intensive care unit after Israeli fire hit the generators and oxygen station in the facility on Friday.

Iranian-German man facing terror charges executed by Tehran

Associated Press DUBAI

Iranian-German prisoner Jamshid Sharmahd, who was kidnapped in Dubai in 2020 by Iranian security forces, has been executed in Iran after being convicted on terror charges disputed by his family, the country's judiciary reported on Monday.

The judiciary's Mizan news agency reported his execution took place on Monday morning. Iranian accused Sharmahd, who lived in California, of planning a 2008 attack on

a mosque that killed 14 persons and wounded over 200 others, as well as plotting a 2008 attack on the little-known Kingdom Assembly of Iran and its 2007 summit in Tehran.

Iran also accused Sharmahd of "disclosing classified information" from missile sites of Iran's nuclear programme. Iran accused Sharmahd, who lived in California, of planning a 2008 attack on

Speakers at Trump rally employ crude and racist remarks



Harsh rhetoric: Donald Trump and former first lady Melania Trump associated at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Sunday. AP

Donald Trump hosted a rally featuring crude and racist remarks at New York's Madison Square Garden, turning what his campaign had dubbed as the event where he would deliver his closing message into an illustration of what turns off his critics.

With just over a week before Election Day, speakers at the rally on Sunday night labelled Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage," called Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris "the devil," and said the woman vying to become the first woman and Black woman President had "been gross" as a prostitute.

Hinchcliffe's remark "I don't know if you guys know this, but there literally a floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. I think it's called Puerto Rico," said Tony Hinchcliffe, a stand-up comic whose set also included lewd and racist comments about Latinos. Tucker Carlson, political pundit and Fox News host, including House Speaker Mike Johnson and Rep. Byron Donalds. ARX

BRICS reflects 'current realities', summit was a 'total success', says Russian envoy

Kalol Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

The BRICS summit in Kazan has been a "total success", Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov said on Monday. In an interaction with the media, the Russian envoy said the BRICS grouping represents "current realities" and pointed out that Indian business leaders were "cautious" while dealing with Russian entities because of the threat of "secondary sanctions" from Western governments. He hit out at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for criticising BRICS and



Denis Alipov described him as "dehational".

"BRICS is not an exclusive club but an inclusive platform for dialogue and cooperation. BRICS has become an indispensable framework for

the emerging centres of power and keeps attracting more and more countries as a result of global turbulence and uncertainties," Mr. Alipov said, adding that "more than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining" BRICS.

Mr. Zelenskyy had described the Kazan summit as a "complete failure". During the briefing, Mr. Alipov said, "The Ukrainian President has become completely delusional. He has very delusional views on many other accounts. But this is one of the topics on which he is absolutely wrong." Mr. Alipov's briefing



# 60% Indian Americans back Harris, 32% Trump, says survey

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**Sriram Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

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offset, the authors say, by a rise in Republican identifiers among the Independents, yet the total number of those identifying with the ideological left has grown since 2020.

## 714 members surveyed

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ters plan to vote for Vice President and Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, while just under a third (32%) intends to vote for the Republican candidate, former President Donald Trump.

The results of the IAAS survey are in line with several polls across demographics which reveal a gender gap in the support for both candidates, with women favouring Ms. Harris and men favouring Mr. Trump (particularly among younger populations). A larger proportion of Indian American women (67%) intend to vote for Ms. Harris than their male counterparts (53%). On the flip side, a larger proportion (39%) of Indian American men intend to vote for Mr. Trump than



**Natural choice:** An overwhelming 72% of respondents said that they planned to vote for Kamala Harris in her own right. AP

their female counterparts (22%).

The report says the respondents rate Indian American Republicans unfavourably (i.e., they are “lukewarm” to them). These Republicans are former Republican presidential candidate Nikki Ha-

ley, who is a daughter of Panjabi immigrants; former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, a son of Tamil immigrants; and Usha Vance, a daughter of Telugu immigrants and wife of Mr. Trump’s running mate, J.D. Vance.

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that the Republican party’s relative underperformance with Indian Americans is not because of these personalities, but because GOP policies are not aligned with Indian American values. The study says that Democrats, when asked why they do not identify as Republicans, cited the GOP’s “intolerance of minorities”. Abortion, which has emerged as a major issue for Democrats and women as well as the GOP’s ties to Christian evangelicalism top the list of issues that alienate Indian Americans from the party.

Those who do not associate with the Democratic party cited as reasons, weakness on illegal immigration (27%), the party being too left wing (17%), the party being misguided on

the economy (15%) and the party being too focused on identity politics (14%).

## Views on Harris

In terms of their views on Ms. Harris, who is the first woman of Indian descent seeking the U.S. presidency, an overwhelming number (72%) of respondents said that they planned to vote for Ms. Harris in her own right, while 23% said they were voting for her as a vote against Mr. Trump. Only 7% said they’re voting for Ms. Harris because she is Indian American.

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Indian Americans – like Americans, broadly – are most concerned about cost of living issues and the economy. The top issues, among respondents, are inflation and prices and then jobs and the economy. Some 13% say abortion is an important election issue, followed by immigration and health care. Republican Indian Americans are significantly more concerned about the state of the economy than Democrats.

## Democratic Support Decline


**Current Support:** 60% of Indian Americans surveyed support Kamala Harris for the presidency, while 32% back Donald Trump.

**Party Identification:** Those identifying as Democrats have decreased from 56% in 2020 to 47%. The proportion identifying as Independents rose to 26%, while Republican affiliation remains steady at 21%.





- **Survey Details**

- **Conducted by:** Indian American Attitude Survey (IAAS) by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, partnering with YouGov.
  - **Sample:** 714 U.S. Indian American citizens surveyed in September-October 2024.
- 



- **Gender Divide in Support**

- **Gender Gap:** A larger percentage of Indian American women (67%) plan to vote for Harris than men (53%).
- **Trump Support:** 39% of Indian American men prefer Trump, higher than the 22% of women.

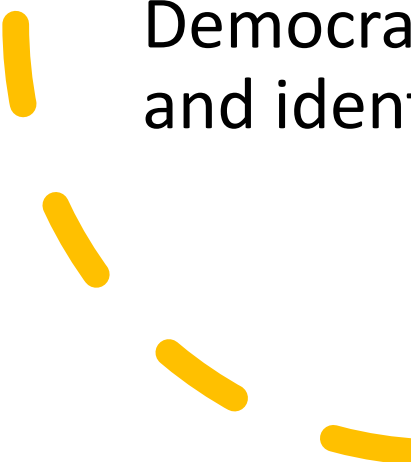




- **. Reasons for Party Affiliation**


- **Democratic Concerns:** Indian American Democrats cite GOP's "intolerance of minorities" and its policies on abortion as primary reasons against Republican affiliation.

- **Republican Concerns:** Indian American Republicans feel the Democratic party is too left-wing and misaligned on economic issues and identity politics.





- **. Views on Kamala Harris**

- **General Support:** 72% would vote for Harris, though only 7% support her primarily due to her Indian heritage.
  - **Key Issues:** About 26% see her as a strong voice on U.S.-India relations; others are drawn to her progressive stance.
- 



## Top Issues for Indian Americans

**Primary Concerns:** Inflation, jobs, and the economy are top issues for most Indian Americans.

**Specific Republican Concerns:** Republican respondents emphasize immigration and economic issues, aligning with broader GOP priorities.

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024

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## MFs line up ₹2L cr war chest

JOYDEEP GHOSH  
Mumbai, October 28

MUTUAL FUND HOUSES are sitting on a war chest of ₹2 lakh crore to support the market at a time when foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are on a selling spree, said industry players. This includes ₹1.25 lakh crore of cash with open-end schemes and fresh inflows. Also, sitting on the sidelines is another significant tranche of ₹60,000-80,000 crore of balanced advantage funds (BAF) and multi-asset funds (MAF), if the markets were to go down further. "Since these funds increase allocation to equities when markets fall and valuations become cheap, they may get good opportunities in the fall," said the CEO of a fund house. Currently, the total assets under management (AUM) of these schemes is at ₹3 lakh crore. The CEO added that if the market goes down, these schemes will have to increase the equity portion from 50% to 80%, on average. In September-end, mutual funds were sitting on ₹1.8 lakh crore of cash. In October, however, as FIIs stepped up their selling and mutual funds invested heavily to



stem the fall. So far this month, FIIs were net sellers worth ₹79,693 crore of equities. At the same time, DIIs (including mutual funds) have put in ₹97,091 crore. Overall, the benchmark Nifty and Sensex have fallen over 5% (after Monday's bounce back) since the beginning of the month. Broader markets have fared worse, with both mid-cap and small-cap indices falling over 7%. However, fund managers continue to be bullish. "Given the steady flow of money through systematic investment plans (SIPs), we have enough firepower to deploy for quite some time," said a CEO of another fund house.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Sensex reclaims 80K mark; PSBs top sectoral gainers

MARKETS SNAPPED A five-day losing streak on Monday as the Sensex reclaimed the 80,000 mark on expectations of easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and strong earnings from ICICI Bank, reports Vivek Kataria. The Sensex ended the session 602.75 points or 0.8% higher at 80,005.04 points while the Nifty rose 158.35 points or 0.7% to close at 24,339.15 points. The broader market too gained in line with the benchmark indices, while the volatility index VIX eased 2.3%.

"Oversold conditions, lack of aggressive FPI selling, sense of relief post Israel's retaliatory strike against Iran - all led to an improvement in sentiments," said Deepak Jansari, head of retail research at HDFC Securities. The Nifty PSU Bank index was the biggest sectoral gainer on Monday as it rose nearly 4% after Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda reported strong earnings for the quarter ended September. ■ PAGE 6

**Continued on Page 7**

## Census likely in 2025, followed by delimitation

LIZ MATHEW  
New Delhi, October 28

THE GOVERNMENT IS set to conduct the much-delayed Census next year and plans to complete the process by 2026, with suggestions being taken on whether caste enumeration can be part of the exercise, as per sources. Following the completion of the Census, the government will go ahead with delimitation, for redrafting of parliamentary constituencies. Sources said the rollout of women's reservation will follow. Both these exercises are linked to the Census. In 2002, the then NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee had delayed delimitation by 2.5 years via the 84th Amendment, saying this would be carried out only after the relevant figures for the first Census taken after the year 2026 have been published.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Finmin flags urban demand slowdown

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, October 28

PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS indicators during the first half of the current fiscal provides evidence of a slowdown in urban demand, the finance ministry said in its monthly economic report for September on Monday. "In the fourth year of economic recovery, post the contraction witnessed in FY21, several growth indicators show continuing momentum while some show signs of softening," the report said at the outset. This is for the first time any official statement clearly points to a weakening of economic momentum after the post-pandemic economic recovery. Several signs of slowdown - including a 3.7% decline in export of merchandise in Q1 on a favourable base, fall in sales of commercial vehicles and tractors in H1, and slowing of credit growth - were earlier highlighted by many analysts. Industrial capacity utilisation declined marginally to 74% in Q1, falling off the 44-quarter peak of 76.8% reported in the previous



### WARNING SIGNS



quarter, even as the inventory-sales ratio inched up. Echoing similar sentiments, the ministry's report said: "Volume growth in urban FMCG sales has moderated from 10.1% in Q1 of FY24 to 2.8% in Q1 of FY23."

**Continued on Page 7**

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# Swing States

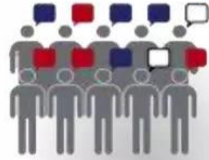
- 
- The 2024 U.S. presidential election, set for November 5, places a critical emphasis on a handful of states known as “swing states” or “battleground states.”
  - **About Swing States:**
    - **Definition:** Swing states are those where neither Democratic nor Republican candidates have a consistent dominance, leading them to “swing” between parties in different elections.
    - **Examples in 2024:** The primary swing states this election include **Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Nevada, Arizona, and North Carolina.**
- 





## STEP 1

# PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES



There are many people who want to be President, each with their own ideas about how Government should work



People with similar ideas belong to the same political party, this is where Primaries and Caucuses come in



Candidates from each political party campaign throughout the country to win the favor of their party members



### **IN A CAUCUS**

Party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes



### **IN A PRIMARY**

Party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election

## STEP 2

# NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Each party holds a national convention to select a final Presidential nominee



At each convention, the Presidential candidate chooses a running mate (Vice Presidential Candidate)



...AND I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE

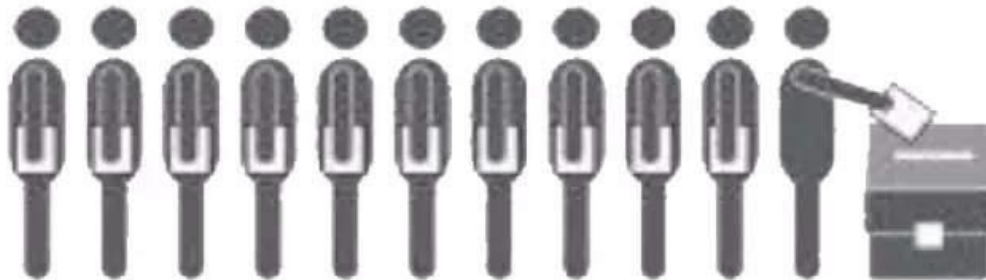
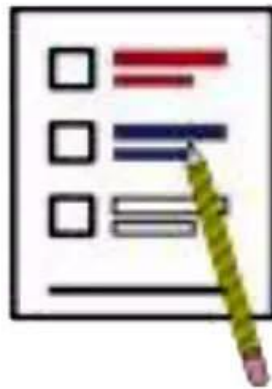


The Presidential candidates campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general population

## STEP 3

# GENERAL ELECTION

- People in every state across the country vote for one President and Vice President
- When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people known as Electors.





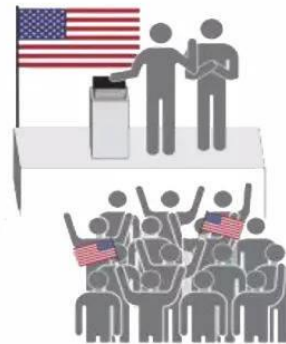
## STEP 4

# ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- In the electoral college system, each state gets a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress



- Each elector casts one vote following the general election, and the candidate who gets more than half (270) wins.



The newly elected President and Vice President are inaugurated in January



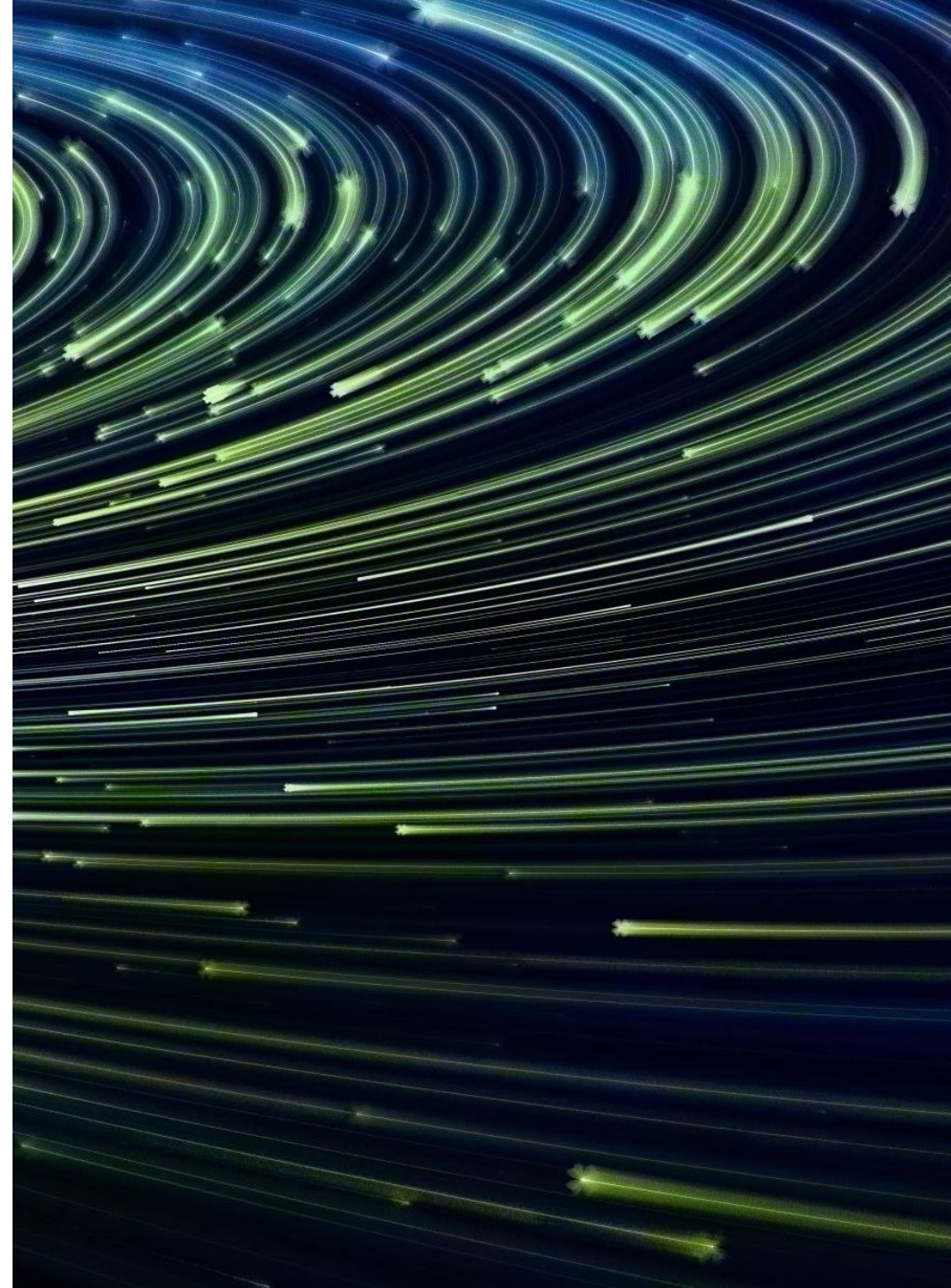
# Electric Propulsion Satellite





To make its satellites lighter in future, ISRO is going to launch its first home-grown electric propulsion-led spacecraft, Technology Demonstrator Satellite (TDS-1) in December.

This technology shift aims to reduce the weight of satellites by substituting chemical fuel with electric propulsion, allowing for a more efficient journey to geostationary orbit.







- About Electric Propulsion Satellite (TDS-1):

- Purpose: To demonstrate electric propulsion technology for steering satellites using solar-powered ionized gas, reducing reliance on chemical fuel.

- Benefits: Cuts down satellite mass drastically by minimizing fuel needs; a four-tonne satellite can be reduced to around two tonnes.

-

**Technology:** Utilizes gases like Argon as fuel, which are ionized using solar power to create propulsion.

**Historical use:** First incorporated in GSAT-9 (South Asia Satellite) in 2017 with imported Russian components.

**Significance:** Marks a step towards India's space autonomy, as this EPS is fully developed domestically by ISRO.



# India Defence Sector



- India has increased its focus on exporting defence equipment, with Armenia recently emerging as a significant buyer of Indian-made weapon systems like Akash air defence missiles, Pinaka rocket systems, and 155mm artillery guns.



<b><u>Aspect</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>
<b>Top <a href="#">Export Markets</a></b>	Armenia, the U.S., and France are leading importers. Armenia buys major systems (e.g., Akash, Pinaka); U.S. imports components.
<b>Export Record</b>	Defence exports reached ₹21,083 crore (\$2.6 billion) in 2023-24; goal is ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29.
<b>Strategic Collaborations</b>	Partnerships include BrahMos missiles for the Philippines; Brazil seeks co-production for advanced Akash missiles.

## Indigenous Production

Achieved ₹1.2 lakh crore in 2023-24; target of ₹3 lakh crore by 2028-29 under “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” initiative.

## Industrial Base Expansion

Includes 16 PSUs, 430 licensed companies, and 16,000 MSMEs; threefold growth since 2014-15; private sector at 21%.

## Global Standing

Despite growth, India remains the largest arms importer (9.8% of global imports, 2019-2023).





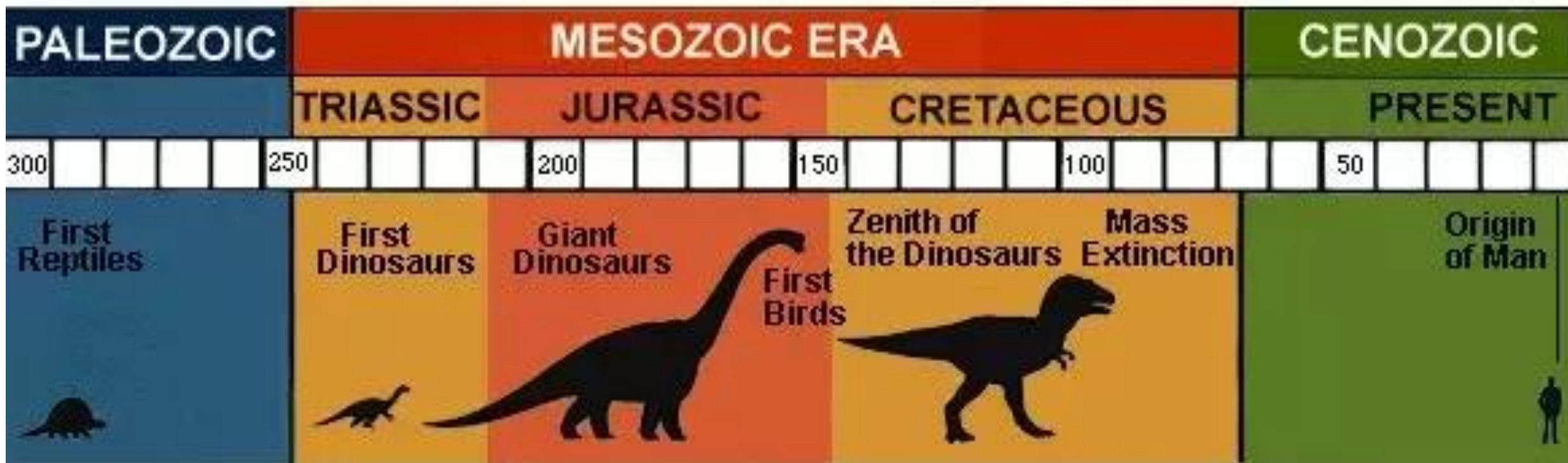
# Dinosaur Fossil Park and Museum


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# The Dinosaur Era

In Millions of Years before the Present



- 
- Gujarat's Dinosaur Fossil Park and Museum in Balasinor, an iconic site is currently under **consideration for a UNESCO geo-heritage tag**. The park faces neglect in maintenance and management, impacting both visitor experience and the conservation of fossils.



## About Dinosaur Fossil Park and Museum, Balasinor:

Location: Located in Raiyoli, Balasinor, Gujarat, known for Late Cretaceous fossils of dinosaurs like *Rajasaurus narmadensis*.

Discovery: Uncovered in the 1980s by GSI geologists, it ranks as one of the world's largest dinosaur egg hatcheries.

Current issues: Faces neglect with overgrown vegetation, broken displays, and frequent power outages.

- **Nearby threats:** A nearby irrigation project poses risks to the fossil-rich area.
- **Museum facilities:** Features like 3D mapping and VR tours but is affected by structural issues and funding delays.
- **Local conservation:** The Fossil Park Society coordinates upkeep efforts, and **Nawabzadi Aaliya Sultana Babi, known as the “Dinosaur Princess,”** advocates for its preservation.

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# Word of the day

## **Tacit:**

implied by or inferred from actions or statements

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**Synonyms:** hinted, unspoken, suggested

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**Usage:** *His tacit approval was evident in his nodding during the meeting.*

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

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /tæsɪt/

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Thank you  
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