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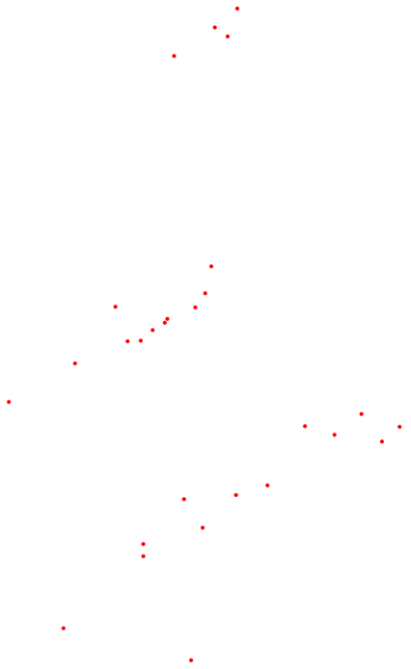
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10 MCQ from the session

- What is the primary reason for the recent surge in India's cotton imports?
- भारत में हाल ही में कपास आयात में वृद्धि का मुख्य कारण क्या है?
- A. Increase in domestic cotton production / घरेलू कपास उत्पादन में वृद्धि
- B. Lower international cotton prices and reduced domestic yield / अंतरराष्ट्रीय कपास की कीमतें कम और घरेलू उत्पादन में गिरावट
- C. Government subsidies on imported cotton / आयातित कपास पर सरकारी सब्सिडी
- D. Declining global cotton demand / वैश्विक कपास मांग में गिरावट

- Which organization in India procured large quantities of cotton to stabilize prices?
- भारत में कपास की कीमतों को स्थिर करने के लिए किस संगठन ने बड़े पैमाने पर कपास की खरीद की?
- A. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- B. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) / भारतीय कपास निगम (CCI)
- C. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)
- D. Food Corporation of India (FCI)

- What is the main economic challenge faced by Indian cotton farmers?
- भारतीय कपास किसानों के सामने मुख्य आर्थिक चुनौती क्या है?
- A. High production costs and low Minimum Support Price (MSP) / उच्च उत्पादन लागत और कम न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP)
- B. Lack of export opportunities / निर्यात अवसरों की कमी
- C. Government restrictions on cotton farming / कपास की खेती पर सरकारी प्रतिबंध
- D. Overproduction of cotton / कपास का अत्यधिक उत्पादन

- Which country recently unveiled its first nuclear-powered submarine?
- किस देश ने हाल ही में अपनी पहली परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बी का अनावरण किया?
- A. China / चीन
- B. Russia / रूस
- C. North Korea / उत्तर कोरिया
- D. Iran / ईरान

- **What is the estimated weight of North Korea's nuclear-powered submarine?**
- **उत्तर कोरिया की परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बी का अनुमानित वजन कितना है?**
- **A. 2,000-3,000 tonnes**
- **B. 4,000-5,000 tonnes**
- **C. 6,000-7,000 tonnes**
- **D. 8,000-10,000 tonnes**

- Madhav National Park, recently declared a Tiger Reserve, is located in which Indian state?
- हाल ही में टाइगर रिजर्व घोषित माधव राष्ट्रीय उद्यान किस भारतीय राज्य में स्थित है?
- A. Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- B. Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश
- C. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- D. Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

- Which of the following power sources currently dominates India's electricity generation?
- निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा स्रोत वर्तमान में भारत की बिजली उत्पादन प्रणाली में प्रमुख है?
- A. Nuclear power / परमाणु ऊर्जा
- B. Coal-based power / कोयला-आधारित ऊर्जा
- C. Renewable energy (solar and wind) / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (सौर और पवन)
- D. Hydroelectric power / जलविद्युत ऊर्जा

- **What is the expected peak power demand in India for 2024?**
- **2024 में भारत की अनुमानित चरम बिजली मांग कितनी होगी?**
- **A. 200 GW**
- **B. 220 GW**
- **C. 250 GW**
- **D. 270 GW**

- What is "Emocracy," a term recently discussed in India's governance debates?
- "इमोक्रेसी" क्या है, जिसे हाल ही में भारत की शासन चर्चाओं में शामिल किया गया?
- A. A form of governance driven by emotions rather than rational policy-making / ऐसा शासन जो तर्कसंगत नीति निर्माण के बजाय भावनाओं से प्रेरित होता है
- B. A democratic system influenced by artificial intelligence / कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता द्वारा प्रभावित एक लोकतांत्रिक प्रणाली
- C. A governance model focusing on environmental policies / पर्यावरण नीतियों पर केंद्रित एक शासन मॉडल
- D. A new economic framework for emerging markets / उभरते बाजारों के लिए एक नया आर्थिक ढांचा

- What is the "Gandiva" missile, which was recently renamed from Astra MK-III?
- "गांडीव" मिसाइल क्या है, जिसे हाल ही में अस्त्र MK-III से पुनः नामित किया गया?
- A. A short-range air-to-air missile / एक छोटी दूरी की हवा से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइल
- B. An anti-tank guided missile / एक एंटी-टैंक गाइडेड मिसाइल
- C. A beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile / एक दृष्टि से परे (BVR) हवा से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइल
- D. A nuclear-capable submarine-launched missile / एक परमाणु-सक्षम पनडुब्बी से लॉन्च की जाने वाली मिसाइल

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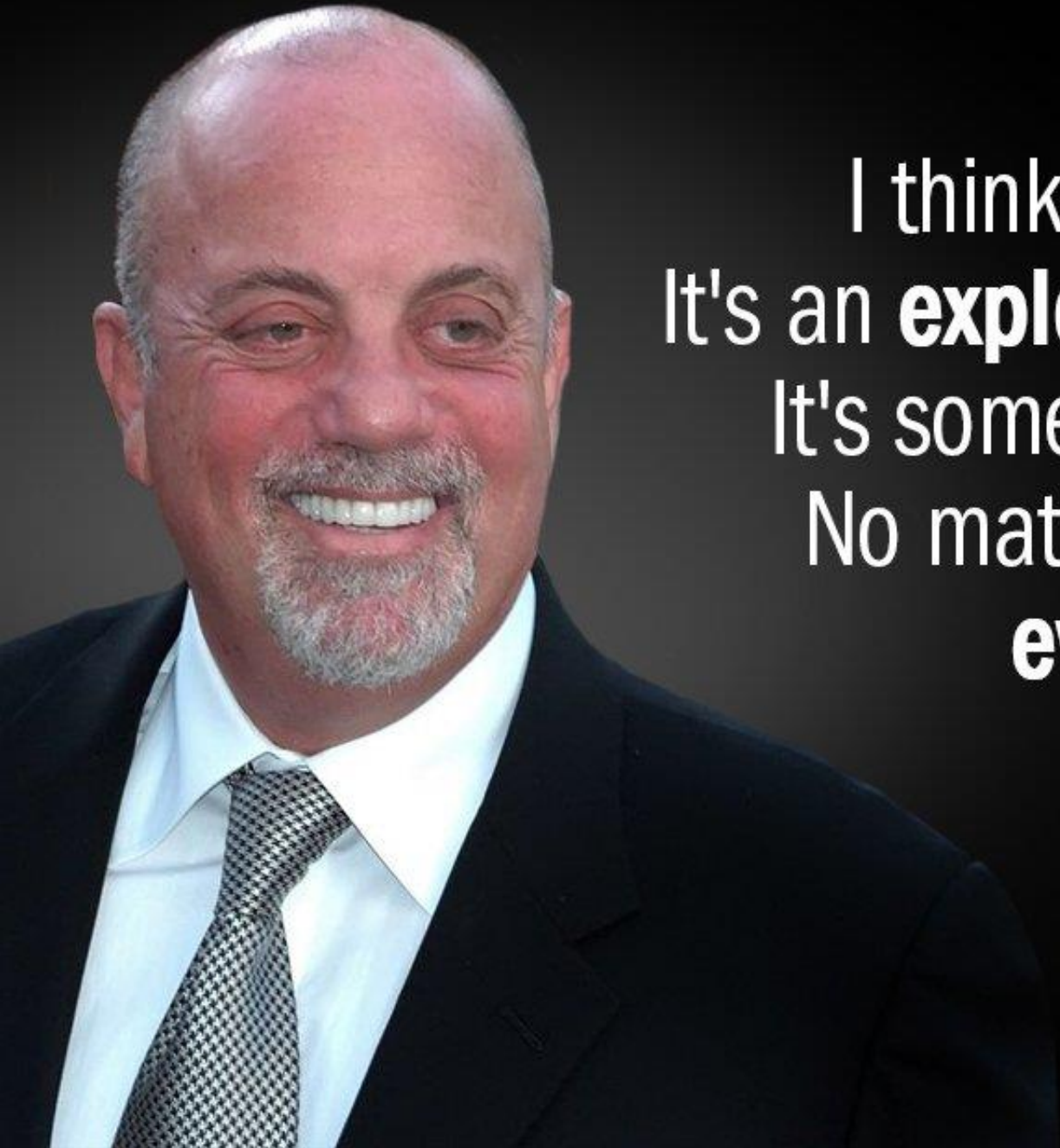
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It's something we are all touched by.
No matter what culture we're from,
everyone loves music.

– *Billy Joel*




REAL MONEY GAMING
Associations bring out code of ethics
NEWS » PAGE 4

STATUS OF ALLIANCE
'INDIA bloc was only for Lok Sabha polls'
NEWS » PAGE 5



REAL MONEY GAMING
Associations bring out code of ethics
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BIG CHANGE
SEBI mulling revamp of short-selling norms
BUSINESS » PAGE 12



DATA POINT
Real wage stagnation
In recent years, income levels of salaried class have not gone up
OPINION » PAGE 9

CHAMPION'S WISH
Pranav keen to play in Candidates event
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Maharashtra Budget focuses on job creation

MUMBAI Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar presented a ₹7-lakh crore Budget for 2025-26 in the Assembly on Monday, with a focus on industrial growth, infrastructure development and job creation. » PAGE 2

Calcutta HC judge Bagchi elevated to Supreme Court

NEW DELHI The Centre on Monday notified the appointment of Justice Jaymalaya Bagchi of the Calcutta High Court as a Supreme Court judge. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his name to the government for elevation on March 6. » PAGE 4

13 held as groups clash in M.P. after India's ICC win

BHOPAL At least 13 people were arrested on Monday in Mhow of Madhya Pradesh after clashes broke out between two groups during a rally taken to celebrate the victory of the Indian cricket team in the ICC Champions Trophy final. Authorities seized. » PAGE 4

U.S. ICE agents arrest Palestinian Columbia student

NEW YORK U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Sunday arrested Mahmud Khalil, a Palestinian student activist who helped lead Columbia University's student encampment protest, claiming they were ordered to revoke his green card. » PAGE 18

Manipur talks prove futile, highways remain blocked

Govt. officials say 'free movement' of vehicles will resume once situation normalises; movement of commercial goods vehicles also halted; indefinite shutdown would continue, say Kuki-Zo groups

Vijaya Singh
IMPHAL

As the two National Highways in Manipur remained blocked for the third day on Monday, officials said the "free movement" of all vehicles between the valley and the hills would resume once the situation normalised. The Committee on Tribal Unity on Monday had a meeting with district administration officials in Kangpokpi regarding the opening of roads, which did not lead to any result. It has demanded that the government apologise for the March 8 violence and seek the resignation of Superintendent of Police Manoj Prabhakar. Kuki-Zo groups said the indefinite shutdown would continue. Government officials



Security personnel standing guard during an indefinite shutdown by the Kuki Zo Council in all the Kuki areas, in Manipur.

They said they had consented only to the movement of "empty" buses. "The Kuki-Zo groups had agreed that they will let the MST bus pass through the hills. However, a rally called by a Meitei group to march towards the hills around the same time may have triggered the violence. There were two Meitei passengers on

the bus who were removed just before the vehicle entered Kangpokpi," said a senior government official. The bus, which started from the Imphal airport on March 8, was to pass through Kangpokpi (Kuki-Zo area) and reach Senapati district (Naga-dominated) as per the plan. "Movement vital" Unlike earlier, the movement of commercial goods vehicles through National Highways nos. 2 and 37 has been halted since the March 8 violence. Asked why the movement of MST buses is vital, the official said, "The valley areas (where the Meiteis live) are landlocked. Not everyone can afford the aerial route to move out of the State. People may travel to Dimapur and take a train or bus to reach other parts of the country."

Honouring traditions



That time of the year: The Badagas of the Nijirits celebrating the Jadayaswamy festival at Jackanaral village near Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu on Monday. Eight villages organise a procession to the Jadayaswamy temple and perform a firewalk every year. © Sathya/ANITHA

Union Minister withdraws 'objectionable' word after sparring with DMK MPs

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's comment in the Lok Sabha on Monday that the Tamil Nadu government had taken a "dishonest" stand on the issue of the National Education Policy (NEP) "policies" was "dishonest" in implementing the PM Schools for Rural and Urban Areas scheme led to an uproar, with DMK MPs disrupting the proceedings for half an hour. "They are dishonest and they are ruining the future of the students of Tamil Nadu... they are misleading the people," Mr. Pradhan said while replying to a query on the Centre not releasing funds for the PM SHRI scheme. DMK member Kanimozhi hit back by moving a resolution against Mr. Pradhan for making "highly malicious, misleading and defamatory" remarks. "The Hon'ble Minister used inappropriate remarks such as 'mislead', 'dishonest', 'undemocratic', and 'uncivilised' against me and my parliamentary colleagues from the DMK and other supporting parties and also made baseless accusations against an entire group of elected representatives from Tamil Nadu, which in turn reflects the people of Tamil Nadu," she said in her notice. Even before the privilege notice was moved, the Minister had withdrawn an objectionable word he used and Speaker Om Birla expunged it from the records. "I have used a word which I should not have used for the members from Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu government and the people of Tamil Nadu. I withdraw my word if it has hurt anyone," Mr. Pradhan said in the House. Trouble started during the Question Hour when



Major uproar: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaking in the Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

Stalin condemns Union Minister's remarks in LS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, reacting to the controversial remarks made by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha on Monday, said the Minister should "mind his tongue." He

wanted to know whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoned the comments "insulting the people of the State." DMK cadre took to the streets in several places across the State over the issue. FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 2

signed the agreement." Mr. Pradhan said. Birla rebuked Maran Amid protests by the DMK members, Mr. Birla rebuked party MP Dayanidhi Maran for making a comment on the Chair. "Be careful while speaking, whatever you said was not on record. Had it been on record, I would have ensured proper action against you," Mr. Birla warned Mr. Maran. The Speaker then asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju to bring a motion against Mr. Maran. Mr. Rijju condemned the remark of the DMK member and assured the Chair that the government would act after taking a sense of the House.

Carney to be next Canadian PM; says will retain tariffs till U.S. shows 'respect'

Associated Press
TORONTO

Former central banker Mark Carney will become Canada's next Prime Minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him its leader on Sunday. He is taking charge at a time when the country deals with U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threat, and a federal election looms. Mr. Carney, 59, replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but will remain in the post until his successor is sworn in. Mr. Carney won by a landslide, winning 85.9% of the votes. "Mr. Trump, as we



Mark Carney

know, has put unjustified tariffs on what we build, on what we sell and how we make a living. He's attacking Canadian families, and businesses and we cannot let him succeed and we won't," he said. Mr. Carney said Canada will keep retaliatory tariffs in place until "the Americans show us respect."

"We didn't ask for this fight. But Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves," Mr. Carney said. Mr. Carney navigated crises when he was the head of the Bank of Canada and when in 2013 he became the first non-citizen to run the Bank of England since it was founded in 1694. His appointment won bipartisan praise in the U.K. after Canada recovered from the 2008 financial crisis faster than many other countries. The opposition Conservatives hoped to make the election about Mr. Trudeau, whose popularity declined as food and housing prices rose and immigration surged. Mr. Trump's trade war and his talk of making Canada the 51st U.S. State have infuriated Canadians, who are booing the American anthem at NHL and NBA games. Some are cancelling trips south of the border, and many are avoiding buying American goods when they can. The surge in Canadian nationalism has bolstered the Liberal Party's chances in a parliamentary election expected within days or weeks. "The Americans want our resources. Think about it. If they succeed they would destroy our way of life," Mr. Carney said. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESET » PAGE 4

Vanuatuan PM orders cancellation of passport issued to fugitive Lalit Modi

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister of the Pacific island nation Vanuatu, Jotham Napat, on Monday ordered the cancellation of the passport that his government had issued to fugitive billionaire Lalit Modi. The decision came days after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that Mr. Modi had sought cancellation of his Indian passport. "I have instructed the Citizenship Commission to immediately begin proceedings to cancel Mr. Modi's Vanuatu passport," Mr. Napat said in a media release. He said that the Vanuatuan passport for Mr. Mo-

di, wanted in India for financial frauds, was issued after "all standard background checks, including Interpol screenings," and they went ahead with granting it to Mr. Modi after he was found that "Interpol had twice rejected India's requests to issue a travel notice on Mr. Modi due to lack of substantive judicial evidence." Mr. Modi is wanted in India but has lived out of the country since 2010. Soon after the announcement by the Vanuatuan government, Mr. Modi posted a message on X (Twitter) seeking cancellation of his visit to Vanuatu. "Vanuatu is a sovereign country. You must put on your bucket list. Away from



Lalit Modi

all the pollution and noise. Truly heavenly country," said Mr. Modi in the message. Last week, the MEA confirmed that Mr. Modi had reached out to the Indian High Commission in the U.K. seeking cancellation of his Indian passport. "It is learnt that Mr. Lalit Modi has made an application for surrender of his pas-

port at the High Commission of India in London. The same will be examined in light of extant rules and procedures. We are also given to understand that he has acquired citizenship of Vanuatu. We continue to pursue the case against him as required under law," said Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on March 7. Vanuatu has been part of India's Indo-Pacific diplomacy in recent years and the island nation constitutes a part of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) under which India provides development assistance to the island states scattered in the Pacific Ocean. FIPIC was launched in 2014.

Carney to be next Canadian PM; says will retain tariffs till U.S. shows 'respect'

Associated Press

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The surge in Canadian nationalism has bolstered the Liberal Party's chances in a parliamentary election expected within days or weeks.

"The Americans want our resources. Think about it. If they succeed they would destroy our way of life," Mr. Carney said.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESET

» PAGE 4

Mark Carney, a former central banker, has been elected as the leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party and will become the next Prime Minister.

He replaces Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January. Carney won by a landslide, securing 85.9% of the votes.

He takes charge at a time when Canada faces tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump over trade and national security.

Carney has vowed to maintain retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. until “the Americans show respect.”

He accused Trump of imposing unjustified tariffs that hurt Canadian families, businesses, and workers.

Carney previously served as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the first non-citizen to head the Bank of England, where he played a key role in the UK’s recovery from the 2008 financial crisis.

Trump's rhetoric on making Canada the 51st U.S. state has angered Canadians, leading to a rise in nationalist sentiment.

Many Canadians are boycotting U.S. goods and canceling trips to America in protest.

The Liberal Party's popularity has surged, strengthening its position ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Political and Economic Implications (राजनीतिक और आर्थिक प्रभाव)

1. Canada-U.S. Trade Relations (कनाडा-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंध)

Carney's decision to **retain retaliatory tariffs** signals **continued trade tensions with the U.S.**

Canada will **protect its economic interests against U.S. policies that harm Canadian businesses.**

Potential disruptions in trade could **impact both economies, particularly in manufacturing and agriculture.**

2. Rise of Canadian Nationalism (कनाडाई राष्ट्रवाद में वृद्धि)

Trump's aggressive policies and rhetoric have fueled nationalism in Canada.

Increased anti-American sentiment is driving boycotts of U.S. products and travel restrictions.

The Liberal Party is leveraging nationalist sentiments to gain political advantage

3. Economic Leadership Under Carney (मार्क कार्नी के नेतृत्व में आर्थिक नीति)

Carney's experience as **Governor of the Bank of Canada and Bank of England** is expected to **bring stability to Canada's economic policies.**

His leadership will focus on **strengthening the economy, addressing inflation, and managing trade conflicts.**

Potential Future Developments (संभावित भविष्य की घटनाएँ)

Tougher Trade Negotiations with the U.S.

- Canada may **demand trade concessions from the U.S.** in key sectors like **energy, agriculture, and manufacturing.**

Stronger Economic Policies in Canada

- Carney's economic expertise will likely **lead to policies that boost investment, employment, and economic growth.**

Impact on Canadian Elections

- If the **Liberal Party wins the parliamentary elections,** it will further strengthen Carney's position.

Global Trade Impact

- Canada may look towards **Europe and Asia for trade partnerships to reduce dependency on the U.S.**

IN BRIEF



Indonesia has not decided on buying missiles from BrahMos

Indonesia has not yet made a decision on buying missiles from BrahMos Aerospace in India, a spokesperson at the country's Defence Ministry said on Monday.

LS passes Bills of Lading Bill aimed to simplify shipping

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, which aims to update and simplify the legal framework for shipping documents replacing the colonial era Act of 1856.

Bomb hoax makes Air India flight return to Mumbai

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Air India's Mumbai-New York flight was forced to return on Monday after two notes were found aboard with bomb threats that were later pronounced a hoax by security agencies.



A note was found inside a lavatory and another on a seat, a security agency source says.

The flight took off at 1.45 a.m. from Mumbai and landed back at 10.25 a.m. local time after which it underwent mandatory security checks by security agencies.

The flight has been rescheduled to operate at 5 a.m. on March 11, 2025, and all passengers have been offered hotel accommodation, meals, and other assistance until then," Air India said in a statement.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 14429 score.

- Across 1. Blame a metropolis for all the greed (6) 2. Announced country's development, primarily (6) 3. Just follow an ex-PM to this place in London (7) 4. Foreign trade - company follows modernist-style architecture (14) 5. Current doctor provided initial treatment (5)

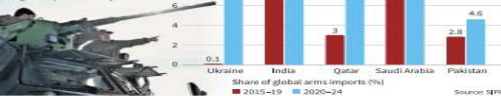
India second-largest arms importer after Ukraine in 2020-24, says SIPRI

At 36%, imports from Russia made up largest share of Indian imports, down from 55% in 2015-19. India received the largest share of French arms exports at 28%. China dropped out of the list of top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1990-94

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

In arms

Ukraine's arms imports were up nearly 20 times in 2020-24 compared with 2015-19, making it the world's largest importer of major arms



2015-19 and 2020-24. China became even more dominant as its supplier, accounting for 81% of Pakistan's arms imports in 2020-24. Russia delivered major arms to 33 countries in 2020-24, of which two-thirds went to three countries - India (38%), China (18%) and Kazakhstan (15%).

French exports

At the same time, France exported arms to 65 countries, and its exports of major arms to other European countries almost trebled between 2015-19 and 2020-24 (87%), according to SIPRI.

submarines are set to be concluded very soon.

Global transfer volume The overall volume of arms transfers globally remained at roughly the same level as in 2015-19 and 2010-14 (but was 18% higher than in 2005-2009, as increasing imports in Europe and the Americas were offset by decreases in other regions, data show.

Italy, with a 4.8% share of arms sales, jumped from 10th to sixth place on the exporters list. The report stated that at least 35 countries sent weapons to Ukraine since the war began in 2022, and a substantial number of deliveries are in the pipeline.

The new arms transfers figures clearly reflect the impact of the war in Europe in response to the conflict from Russia," said Matthew George, programme director at SIPRI. However, some major arms importers, including Saudi Arabia, India, and China, saw large declines in import volumes for a variety of reasons, he added.

'Over six lakh cases identified as part of TB control campaign'

Bindu Shaan Perappadan NEW DELHI

Over 6.1 lakh tuberculosis patients have been notified across the country and of them, 4.3 lakh have been diagnosed in the 455 intervention districts that were part of the Union Health Ministry's 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign launched on December 7 last year.

India has the world's largest TB epidemic and continues to be a major public health problem

deploying ultraportable hand-held X-ray units and conducting door-to-door screenings, both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals were tested. Positive X-ray results were then confirmed with NAAT (an advanced diagnostic test), leading to the identification of multiple asymptomatic TB patients," a senior health ministry official said.

Fashion brand apologises for holding show in Gulmarg

Peerzada Ashiq BIRENAGAR



Omar Abdullah

The fashion brand behind Friday's fashion show in the tourist hotspot of Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday posted an apology. Several videos of the event were withdrawn from online platforms, evoking sharp reactions from political parties and religious bodies in Kashmir.

"Respect for all cultures and traditions is at the heart of our values, and we acknowledge our concerns raised. We sincerely apologise for any unintended discomfort and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more respectful and inclusive. Our sole intention was to

SJM asks govt. to strive for bilateral trade agreements

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) frontal organisation on the economy, in a resolution has said the government should enhance its foreign trade with bilateral trade agreements rather than multilateral trade agreements in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's pronouncements on global trade tariffs.

At a meeting of the SJM's national council held in Raipur on March 9-10, a resolution called on the Union government to prioritise the "national interests of our farmers and small entrepreneurs" while negotiating with the U.S. on trade.

"The U.S. has suddenly changed under Donald Trump that for decades it has bought more goods from the rest of the world, than it sold...now Trump wants to reverse this situation," the resolution said.

inquiry had been initiated. "I must categorically state that the government had no involvement in this event whatsoever. The fashion show was organised by a private entity on March 7 as part of a four-day event. The government was neither approached for permission, nor did it provide any financial or logistical support. No government officials were present at the event," Mr. Abdullah said.

"The organisers failed to exercise sound judgment, disregarding the sensitivities of the people, the significance of the location, and the timing of the event," Mr. Abdullah said.

He added that the administration had been instructed to examine whether any legal violations had occurred.

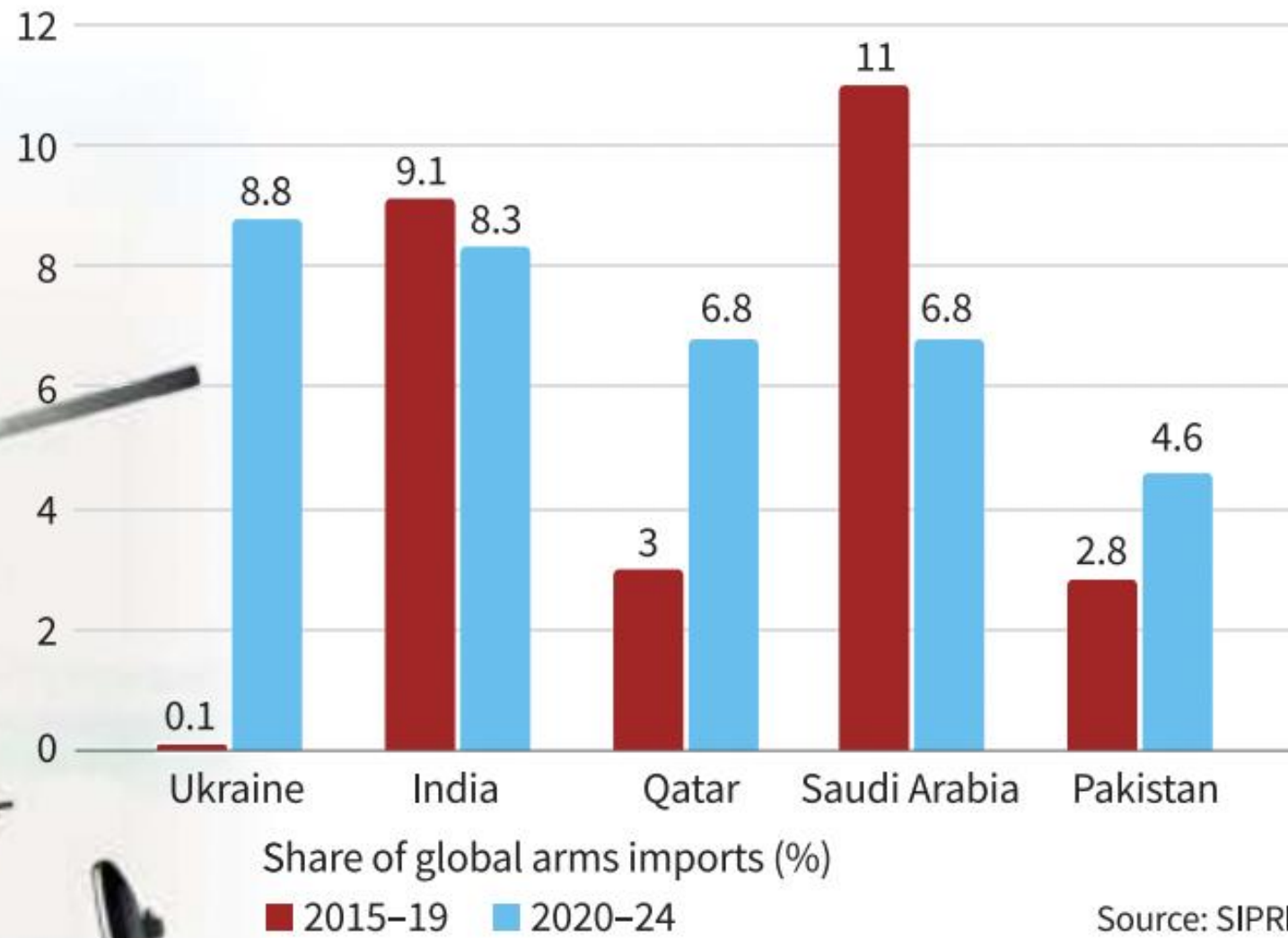
Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and a difficulty rating of 4 stars.

- Solution to previous puzzle: 4 9 3 7 1 3 5 2 6 8 5 8 3 2 7 2 9 9 4 1 5 1 3 4 5 2 6 9 8 6 7 4 1 8 2 6 4 2 6 7 1 3 3 9 3 6 8 8 4 7 2 8 9 5 1 7 1 4 9 9 3 3 8 2 2 6 2 5 9 8 3 6 7 4 3

FAITH Symbolism of the pot. A pot symbolises human life, said Malayaman in a discourse. In the Tamil region, when a man dies, a pot is filled with water, and the deceased man's son goes round the corpse, while another man with a sickle follows him.

In arms

Ukraine's arms imports were up nearly 100 times in 2020-24 compared with 2015-19, making it the world's largest importer of major arms



India second-largest arms importer after Ukraine in 2020-24, says SIPRI

At 36%, imports from Russia made up largest share of Indian imports, down from 55% in 2015-19; India received the largest share of French arms exports at 28%; China dropped out of the list of top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1990-94

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ukraine, involved in a war with Russia for the past four years, became the largest importer of major arms in the world during the period between 2020 and 2024, clocking a nearly 100-fold rise in imports compared with the figures for 2015-2019.

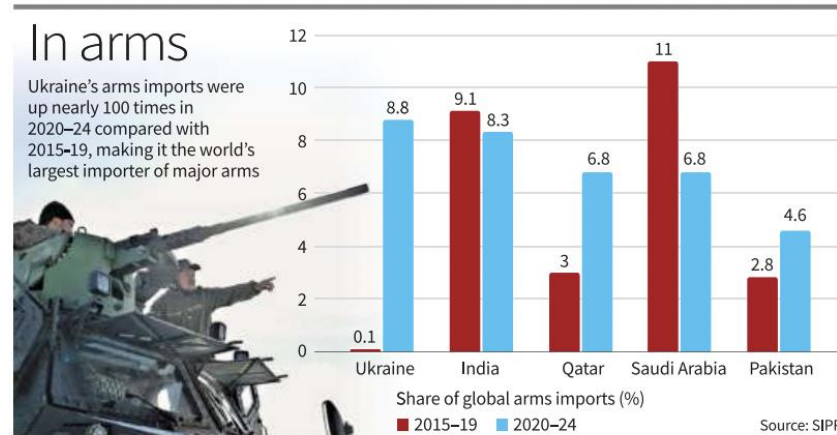
India was the second-largest arms importer, though the trade figures decreased by 9.3% between 2015-19 and 2020-24, show data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The country was the biggest arms export destination for both Russia and France, though the volume with Moscow has significantly reduced.

China dropped out of the list of top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1990-94, showcasing its expanding domestic industrial base.

The largest share of Indian arms imports (36%) came from Russia, a significantly smaller share than in 2015-19 (55%) and 2010-14 (72%), the report noted.

“Arms imports by Pakistan grew by 61% between



2015-19 and 2020-24. China became even more dominant as its supplier, accounting for 81% of Pakistan's arms imports in 2020-24, compared with 74% in 2015-19," the SIPRI report released on Monday said.

While European arms imports overall grew by 155% between the same periods as the continent rearms itself, the U.S. further increased its share of global arms exports to 43%, while Russia's exports fell by 64%, accounting for 7.8% of global arms exports, falling behind France (9.6%), which emerged as the second largest arms exporter in 2020-24. Four countries in

Asia and Oceania – India, Pakistan, Japan, and Australia – ranked among the 10 largest arms importers globally in 2020-24.

Russia delivered major arms to 33 countries in 2020-24, of which two-thirds went to three countries – India (38%), China (17%), and Kazakhstan (11%).

French exports

At the same time, France exported arms to 65 countries, and its exports of major arms to other European countries almost trebled between 2015-19 and 2020-24 (187%), according to SIPRI.

“This was mainly due to deliveries of combat air-

craft to Greece and Croatia, and arms supplies to Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.”

Nevertheless, India received by far the largest share of French arms exports (28%) – almost twice the share that went to all European recipients combined (15%).

The second largest recipient of major arms from France was Qatar (9.7%).

India has inked contracts for some major military platforms from France, including 36 Rafale fighter jets and six Scorpene-class conventional submarines, and has more mega deals lined up.

Meanwhile, deals for 26 Rafale-M jets and three

submarines are set to be concluded very soon.

Global transfer volume

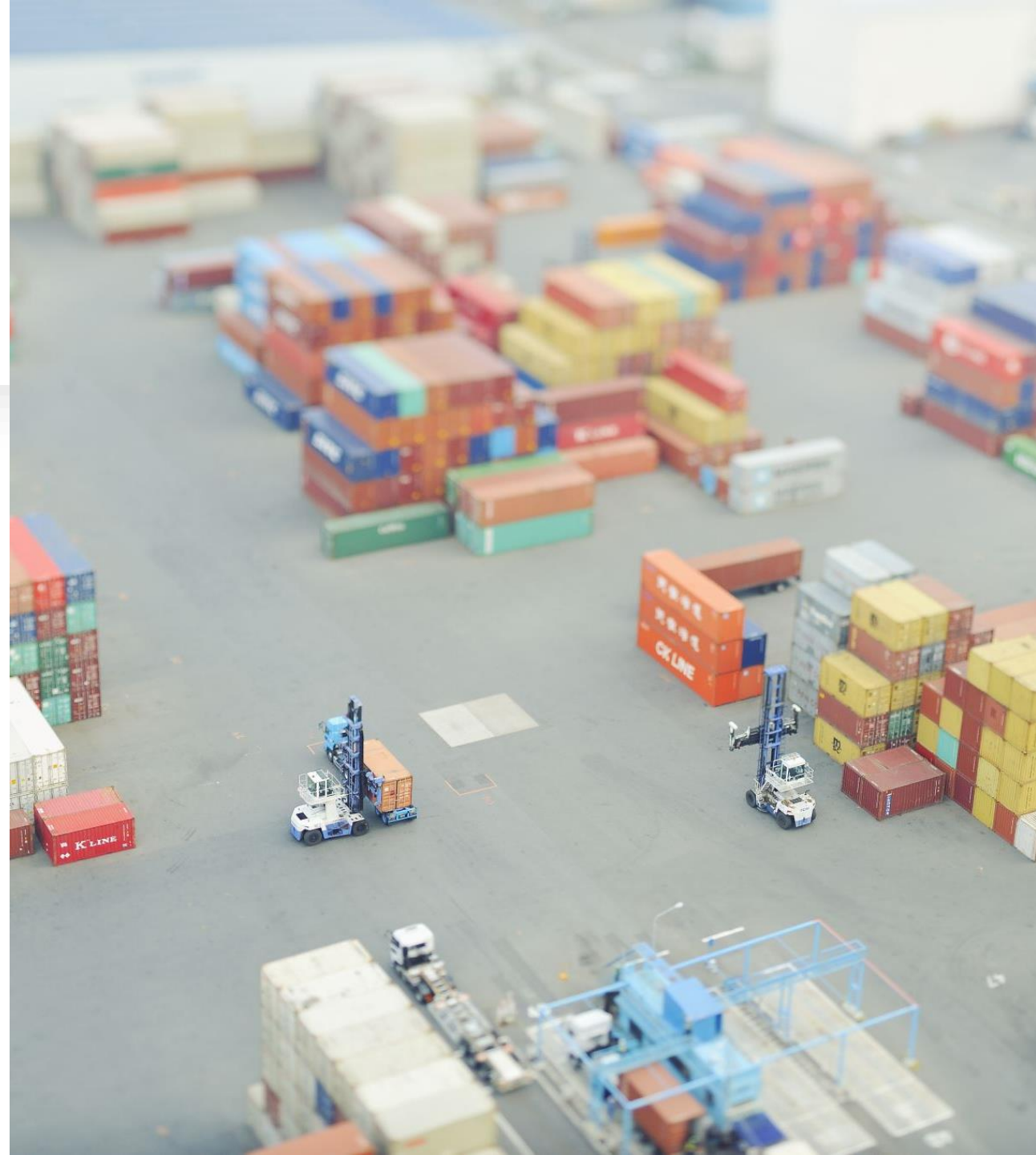
The overall volume of arms transfers globally remained at roughly the same level as in 2015-19 and 2010-14 (but was 18% higher than in 2005-2009), as increasing imports in Europe and the Americas were offset by decreases in other regions, data show.

Italy, with a 4.8% share of arms sales, jumped from 10th to sixth place on the exporters' list.

The report stated that at least 35 countries sent weapons to Ukraine since the war began in 2022, and a substantial number of deliveries are in the pipeline. The country received 8.8% of global arms imports in 2020-24.

“The new arms transfers figures clearly reflect the rearmament taking place among states in Europe in response to the threat from Russia,” said Mathew George, programme director at SIPRI. However, some major arms importers, including Saudi Arabia, India, and China, saw large declines in import volumes for a variety of reasons, he added.

- **Ukraine became the largest arms importer** globally between 2020-24 due to its war with Russia, registering a **100-fold increase** in imports compared to 2015-19.
- **India ranked as the second-largest arms importer**, despite a **9.3% decrease** in its trade figures between 2015-19 and 2020-24.



Russia remained the largest supplier of arms to India, accounting for 36% of India's imports, although this share declined from 55% in 2015-19.

France emerged as a major arms supplier to India, accounting for 28% of total French arms exports, surpassing all other European countries.

China dropped out of the top 10 arms importers list for the first time since 1990-94, as it expanded its domestic arms industry.

Russia exported weapons to 33 countries, with India (38%), China (17%), and Kazakhstan (11%) as the top recipients.

France increased its arms exports by 155%, mainly due to large deals with India, including Rafale fighter jets and Scorpène-class submarines.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan also remained among the top 10 arms importers.

India's Changing Arms Procurement Strategy

◆ Diversification of Suppliers:

While Russia continues to be India's biggest arms supplier, its share has reduced.

India is **increasing its arms purchases from France and the U.S.**

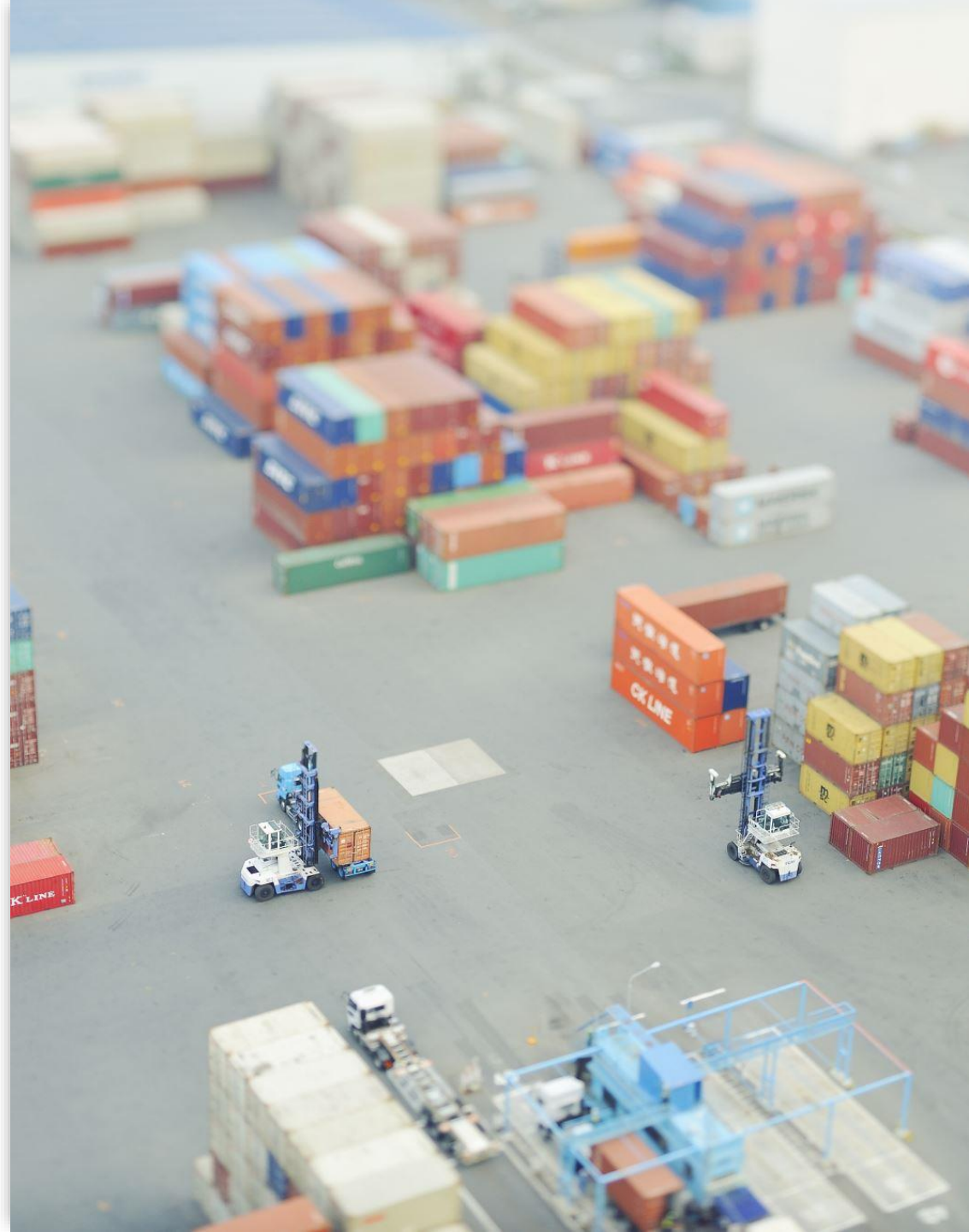
India's **8.8% share of global arms imports** reflects a shift toward a more diversified procurement approach.

◆ Strengthening Domestic Defense Industry:

India is expanding **indigenous military production** through initiatives like "Make in India" and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

Contracts for fighter jets, submarines, and missile systems are increasingly being given to domestic manufacturers.

- **Global Arms Transfer Trends**
- **✓ Overall arms trade remained stable** between 2015-19 and 2020-24.
- **✓ Italy saw a sharp rise in arms sales,** moving into the top 10 arms exporters list.
- **✓ 35 countries exported weapons to Ukraine** since 2022 to support its war efforts.
- **✓ French arms exports to India increased significantly,** with large contracts for **Rafale jets and submarines.**
- **✓ Pakistan's arms imports increased,** with **China providing 81% of its total imports.**



U.S. immigration agents arrest Palestinian student, a day after Trump stops federal grant to Columbia

Mahmoud Khalil, a green-card holder and a graduate student at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, was one of the lead negotiators on behalf of pro-Palestine protesters at 2024's Gaza solidarity encampment in the university. ICE agents who arrested the Palestinian from his university apartment say they were acting on behalf of the State Department to revoke his green card

Anisha Dutta
NEW YORK

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Saturday entered the university apartment of Mahmood Khalil, a prominent Palestinian student activist who helped lead Columbia University's student encampment movement, claiming they were acting on a State Department order to revoke his green card, according to his attorney.

Later in the day, the Department of Homeland Security justified Mr. Khalil's arrest stating his activities "aligned to Hamas, a designated terrorist organisation."

On March 9, 2025, in support of President Donald Trump's executive orders prohibiting anti-Semitism, and in coordination with the Department of State, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested Mahmood Khalil, a former Columbia University graduate student. Khalil led activities designed to target Hamas, a designated terrorist organization," it wrote on X.

This comes a day after the Trump administration moved to cancel funding in grants and contracts to Columbia University, citing "the school's continued inaction in the face of persistent harassment of Jewish students."

Mr. Khalil, a green-card holder and a graduate stu-

dent at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, was one of the lead negotiators on behalf of pro-Palestine protesters at 2024's Gaza solidarity encampment in the university.

His lawyer, Amy E. Greer, in a statement issued on Sunday, said they were not aware of his whereabouts after initial reports of him being detained at an ICE centre. "Last night, ICE agents wrongfully arrested Mahmood Khalil, claiming his student visa was revoked — even though Mahmood is a legal permanent resident (green card) and not in the U.S. on a student visa. Confronted with that fact, the ICE agents detained him anyway," she said.

Ms. Greer said they filed a habeas corpus petition on Mr. Khalil's behalf, challenging the validity of his arrest and detention.

Whereabouts unknown: ICE agents do not know Mahmood's precise whereabouts. ICE agents were informed this morning that he had been transferred to an ICE facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey. However, when his wife — a former Columbia University graduate student — was told months pregnant and a warrant or officially filed charges. According to WABC, DHS agents last night "tried to visit him through the window, she was told he is not detained there," she added.

According to the ICE website's detainee locator, Mr. Khalil, as on Monday, could be at an immigration detention facility in Jena, Louisiana.

In a post on X, Secretary of State Marco Rubio late on Sunday said, "We will be revoking the visas and/or green cards of Hamas supporters in America so they can be deported."

Mr. Khalil was returning from an iftar, breaking the day-long fast observed by many Muslims during the month of Ramadan, according to news website DropSite.

Mr. Trump, in a social media post on Monday, said "initially I thought Mr. Khalil, 'This is the first arrest of many to come', the President wrote in his post. In a series of statements and announcements attacking pro-Palestine protesters across college campuses in the country, the Trump administration last week said it would begin revoking visas of "Hamas sympathisers", specifically citing Columbia University students.



Person of Interest: Mahmood Khalil, second from left, demonstrate with Palestinian supporters during a protest at Columbia University in New York, U.S., in October 2023. AP

"To all the resident aliens who joined in the pro-liberal protests, we put you on notice: come from an iftar, breaking the day-long fast observed by many Muslims during the month of Ramadan, according to news website DropSite.

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Following an online campaign against him by pro-liberal groups and individuals. In a statement issued on Sunday (March 9), Columbia University acknowledged the presence of the ICE on the campus, issuing a protocol for students on its website but made no comments regarding Mr. Khalil's detention.

"There have been reports of ICE around campus, Columbia has and will continue to follow the law. Consistent with our longstanding practice and the practice of cities and institutions throughout the country, law enforcement must have a judicial warrant to enter non-public University areas, including University buildings. Columbia is committed to complying with all legal obligations and supporting our student body and campus community," it said.

The university also issued a "Protocol for potential campus visits by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents."

"This protocol has been posted to inform and assist the community," it said. Can ICE agents access campus or university buildings without a warrant? In general, yes, but only if the warrant is for a criminal warrant or subpoena to access non-public areas in the building, such as public spaces as classrooms, housing, and areas requiring COVID, Exigent circum-

stances may allow for access to University buildings or people without a warrant. Faculty/staff should not interfere and should immediately contact Public Safety as described below. Faculty/staff should document the activities they observe, if possible without obstructing the agents," it said.

The Trump administration has continued to target universities, threatening to pull funding from schools that allowed what he called "illegal protests." Columbia has over \$5 billion in federal grant commitments at present.

"All Federal Funding will STOP for any college, school, or university that allows illegal protests," Mr. Trump had posted on social media last week. "Agitators will be imprisoned or permanently sent back to the country from which they came. American students will be permanently expelled or, depending on the crime, arrested. NO MASKS!"

The President had also said a "Federal Task Force to Combat Antisemitism" would visit several universities across the country including Columbia University, George Washington University, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University due to anti-Semitic incidents at those schools.

(Anisha Dutta is a freelance journalist based in New York)

WHO working on accord to tackle future pandemics

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Five years ago on Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 had become a pandemic — a moment when the world finally woke up to the unfolding disaster.

The WHO had already sounded its own highest alarm five weeks earlier. But that warning — a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) which did not mention the word "pandemic" — had gone unheeded.

At a press conference on March 11, 2020, the head of the United Nations' health agency, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, finally said the worsening outbreak could be "characterised as a pandemic."

Only then did many countries grasp the severity of the situation and — way too late — jolt into action. The pandemic, the likes of which had not been seen in a century, killed millions, shredded economies and crippled health systems.

The WHO says the next pandemic is only a matter of time. In December 2021, WHO member countries began drafting an accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. They have one final negotiating session next month to finalise the text for the WHO's annual assembly in May.

They have already agreed that the WHO head will, from September, be able to declare an even higher-level "pandemic emergency" — a PHEIC with pandemic potential — which should hopefully grab more attention.

Whirls on air

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Participants pilot water jet packs on the Yarra River during the annual Moomba Festival in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday. AFP



River fest: Participants pilot water jet packs on the Yarra River during the annual Moomba Festival in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday. AFP

China's annual political meetings feature minority delegates with message of unity

Associated Press
BEIJING

Every year in early March, China's legislature and its advisory body gather to hear speeches and hold discussions in the capital Beijing. In contrast to the long and monotonous sessions, a bustling scene unfolds outside the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing, where ethnic minority delegations from far-flung provinces pose for photographs donning their finest traditional costumes.

Jangly silver headresses and elaborate embroidery work, felt hats and long, layered skirts in a kaleidoscope of colors draw higher-level "pandemic emergency" — a PHEIC with pandemic potential — which should hopefully grab more attention.



Vibrant talks: Ethnic minority delegates leave after the closing session of the conference in Beijing on Monday. AP

Yet, the majority Han group has dominated politics and the economy going back thousands of years and continues to do so, making up about 92% of the population.

The vast majority of minority delegates come from mountainous and border areas, such as Yunnan, Guangxi, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, and Tibet.

While some names may be familiar, such as Uighurs, most are from smaller or less known groups, some with just a few thousand members. Many have become virtually unknown to the Han, including the Manchu who, despite their relatively small numbers, swept down from the north to rule the country around 300 years before being overtaken by its first republic.

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into the "Riviera of the Middle East". Critics condemned the proposal as a thinly veiled plan for the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population.

Mr. Trump specifically urged the presence of the ICE on the campus, issuing a protocol for students on its website but made no comments regarding Mr. Khalil's detention.

"There have been reports of ICE around campus, Columbia has and will continue to follow the law. Consistent with our longstanding practice and the practice of cities and institutions throughout the country, law enforcement must have a judicial warrant to enter non-public University areas, including University buildings. Columbia is committed to complying with all legal obligations and supporting our student body and campus community," it said.

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(Anisha Dutta is a freelance journalist based in New York)

Indonesian youth seek to escape as anger rises over deteriorating quality of life

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

Indonesian private tutor Patricia has been learning English for years, armed with a dream of leaving for Europe and driven by a lack of opportunities, economic stagnation, and little hope at home.

She is one of thousands of Indonesians on social media promoting a popular hashtag that translates as "let's just escape for now".

Anger at the quality of life in Southeast Asia's biggest economy — a nation of 280 million known for pervasive corruption — has stirred student protests and driven young and middle-aged professionals to seek jobs abroad.

"After working for so many years, my income remains about the same, meanwhile my needs are increasing," said the 39-year-old in the capital Jakarta, who declined to give her name.

Some Indonesians are taking more physically demanding jobs abroad to escape. Randy Christian Santoso, 35, left an office job at a multinational consulting firm to do manual labour on a tomato farm in Australia.

"I am tired of the system in Indonesia. If we look abroad, they usually have a better work system," he said.

Poor living standards in the megacity Jakarta enraged students to leave the country. Some foreign companies are trying to capitalise on the trend, including Japanese recruitment firms looking to attract the most talented.



Indonesian protesters demonstrate against budget cuts by President Prabowo Subianto's government in Jakarta. FILE PHOTO

to the former General. There were nearly 7.5 million unemployed people in Indonesia, according to the figures from the country's statistics agency dating to August 2024.

That has stoked anger against a perceived poor quality of life, as the divide between the emerging nation's rich and poor grows wider and the middle class is squeezed.

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Whirls on air



River fest: Participants pilot water jet packs on the Yarra River during the annual Moomba Festival in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday. AFP

ED searches premises of Baghel, son; bid to shift focus from House: Cong

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, MARCH 10

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted searches at 14 locations in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, including the residence of former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel and his son Chaitanya, in connection with an alleged liquor scam.

The Congress alleged that the ED action was a "conspiracy to change the headlines" on a day when Parliament's Budget Session reconvened, saying the



Ex-Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel on Monday. ANI

government sought to "divert attention" from pressing issues. In a post on X, Baghel's office alleged a "conspiracy to stop the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ROW DISRUPTS PROCEEDINGS Fireworks as Pradhan attacks TN govt, Stalin says watch your words

DMK MPs protest in House; Minister withdraws a word from his remarks, Speaker expunges



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, DMK's Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and others outside Parliament, Monday. PTI

LIZ MATHEW & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

THE ONCING war of words between the ruling BJP and DMK led to disruptions in the Lok Sabha Monday, with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan forced to withdraw a word from his remarks following protests by Tamil Nadu MPs.

criticising the DMK government's opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP), he also accused it of doing a "U-turn" over PM-SHRI schools, bringing DMK MPs to their feet.

Soon after the exchange in Parliament, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin put out a post on social media accusing Pradhan of "caricaturing". Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who speaks with arrogance as if he were a king, needs to watch his words," Stalin wrote. "You are withholding Tamil Nadu's rightful funds and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Labelling Lalit Modi passport, he's out to avoid extradition, says PM of Vanuatu

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

PRIME MINISTER Jotham Napat of Vanuatu, a country of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean, Monday directed cancellation of its passport issued to Lalit Modi, saying the former Indian Premier League chairman was "attempting to avoid extradition".

Prime Minister Napat, in a media release issued by his office, said, "I have instructed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the Vanuatu passport issued to Lalit Modi following recent developments in international media."

"While all standard background checks, including inter-pol screenings, conducted during his application showed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD CARNEGIE TO NEXT CANADA PM; FACES TRUMP, TARIFFS & POLLS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada is expected to face a tough re-election campaign in the coming months, with the prospect of a US trade war and a potential change in leadership in Washington.

MAULSHREE SETHI
LUDHIANA, MARCH 10

UTTAR PRADESH Assembly Speaker Satish Mahanta is holding a floor test, for both the Opposition and the Government. A fine has been announced. A fine has been announced. A fine has been announced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A paan masala problem: What it takes to keep UP House premises spotless

MAULSHREE SETHI
LUDHIANA, MARCH 10

UTTAR PRADESH Assembly Speaker Satish Mahanta is holding a floor test, for both the Opposition and the Government. A fine has been announced. A fine has been announced. A fine has been announced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL BY UNNNY

Business as usual in the capital, with the government focusing on economic growth and infrastructure development.

EXPRESS NETWORK

BADAL vs MAJITHIA: SIMMERING FEUDOUT IN THE OPEN
IN THE OPEN PAGE 19

IN PARLIAMENT PAGE 8

Nadu of being "dishonest" and playing "politics" with the future of the state's students. While

criticising the DMK government's opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP), he also accused it of doing a "U-turn" over PM-SHRI schools, bringing DMK MPs to their feet.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Maya and Murphy, last hope to find Telangana tunnel workers' bodies

NIKHILAHENRY
HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

ON MARCH 10, Maynard Murphy, two Belgian Malinois dogs that belong to Kerala Police's cadaver dog squad, besides a light from an Indian Air Force chopper and went straight to the Southern Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel near Domalampeta of Telangana's Nagarjuna district. Here, they were handed the grim task of finding the bodies of eight men who were trapped in the

Always unbeaten, never uneaten!



Amul Champions chomp it

Presence of water-ice likely outside Moon's polar regions as well: Chandrayaan-3 data

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

WATER-ICE ON the Moon could be more prevalent than understood earlier. A new analysis of data from one of the instruments aboard Chandrayaan-3 suggests that there was a good probability that water-ice was present in localities outside of the polar regions of the Moon.

Using data from Chandrayaan-3's Surface Shadowed Region Experiment (ChaSTE), scientists at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory have shown that surface and sub-surface temperatures in the higher latitudes of the Moon's surface varied greatly with even very small changes in altitudes

Chandrayaan-3 lander Vikram on Moon, 100



over a short distance. Inclined areas in these latitudes that were not directly facing the Sun could have environments very similar to the polar regions, and could host water-ice below the surface.

The findings have been published in the *Communications Earth and Environment* journal, a Nature publication.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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DELHI HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024	ASSAM HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024	HARYANA JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024
WEST BENGAL JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024	CHHATTISGARH JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024	JAMMU & KASHMIR JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2024
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INDIA-JAPAN MILITARY EXERCISE

Army personnel on the concluding day of the sixth edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' in Mount Fuji, Japan, on Monday. The exercise started on February 24. It is an annual event conducted alternatively in India and Japan. *PTI*

HOW A GENE-EDITED BANANA MAY HELP REDUCE FOOD WASTE

BROWN, OVER-RIPE bananas often end up in dustbins, even when they are perfectly edible. This has led to scientists developing a new genetically-engineered banana which has a longer shelf-life, and does not brown as much.

Tropic, the UK-based biotech company which has developed these bananas, claims that their fruit remains fresh and yellow for 12 hours after being peeled, and is also less likely to turn brown when bumped during harvesting and transportation.

Why do bananas turn brown?

Bananas boast a colourful life cycle — they start at a deep green, change to a delicious yellow, and end (if not consumed beforehand) at an unappetising brown. These changes are a product of their ripening process, which is caused by a hormone called ethylene.

Although many fruits produce ethylene, bananas produce a lot of it. And unlike melons and citrus fruits, they keep producing ethylene even after being harvested. Contact with ethylene triggers the activity of a number of genes, including one which linked to the production of the enzyme polyphenol oxidase (PPO).

It is this enzyme that makes bananas turn brown. PPO coming in contact with oxygen breaks down the yellow pigment in bananas to a brown hue. Bruising of the fruit — as is common during its handling — leads to the production of higher quantities of ethylene, and thus speeds up the ripening and browning process.

How was a non-browning banana produced?

The company made precise changes to existing banana genes such that the production of PPO is disabled. This does not stop a banana from ripening, but helps keep up appearances so that the fruit continues to look appetising for longer.

The same gene was silenced in Arctic apples developed by Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. These became the first geneti-



It is natural for bananas to turn brown. *Wikimedia Commons*

cally engineered fruits to be approved for commercial sale in the US, and have been sold in the country (and elsewhere) since 2017. The browning of apples is also caused by PPO.

“Blocking the production of polyphenol oxidase has also been shown to work in tomatoes, melon, kiwifruits and mushrooms,” an article in *The Guardian* said.

Why does this matter?

Bananas are extremely perishable, with some estimates saying that as much as 50% of the crop goes to waste each year. A UK government survey from 2017 suggests that British people bin roughly 1.4 million edible bananas every day, *The Guardian* reported.

This is financially wasteful and harmful for the environment. Food waste is a major contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are causing global warming. Preventing bananas from browning may reduce food waste by encouraging people to eat older but edible fruit.

According to the company’s press-release, “Tropic’s non-browning bananas... can support a reduction in CO2 emissions equivalent to removing 2 million passenger vehicles from the road each year”.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

The Problem of Over-Ripe Bananas

Brown, overripe bananas often go to waste, even when they are still edible.

This has led scientists to develop **genetically engineered bananas** with a **longer shelf life** and **reduced browning**.

The New Gene-Edited Banana

Developed by **UK-based biotech company Tropic**, the modified banana:

- Stays **fresh and yellow for 12 hours after peeling**.
- Is **less likely to brown** when bruised or bumped during harvesting and transportation.

Why Do Bananas Turn Brown?

Bananas ripen due to **ethylene**, a plant hormone.

Unlike other fruits, bananas continue to **produce ethylene even after harvest**, speeding up ripening.

The enzyme **polyphenol oxidase (PPO)** is responsible for the browning effect when bananas come in contact with oxygen.

How Was a Non-Browning Banana Created?

Scientists **disabled the PPO gene**, slowing down browning without affecting ripening.

The same technique was used to develop **non-browning Arctic apples**, which have been sold in the U.S. since 2017.

Other foods like tomatoes, melons, kiwifruits, and mushrooms have also been modified using similar techniques.

1. Why Does This Matter?

- 1. Bananas are highly perishable, with estimates suggesting 50% of crops go to waste each year.**
- 2. A 2017 UK survey found that Britons discard 1.4 million edible bananas daily.**
- 3. Food waste contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, worsening climate change.**
- 4. According to Tropic's press release, their gene-edited bananas could reduce CO2 emissions equivalent to removing 2 million passenger vehicles from the road each year.**



Boosting R&D for India's Growth

India is the 2nd-largest producer of Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates after China.

Despite this achievement, India ranks 39th on the Global Innovation Index 2024, significantly behind China (11th) showcasing low Research and development (R&D) funding in India.

R&D Funding Status: India spent only 0.65% of its GDP on R&D in 2022, China spent 2.43%, and Brazil 1.15%.

Global R&D Scenario:

- **South Korea:** In 1970, South Korea was **poor but grew rapidly** over two decades, increasing R&D spending from **0.4% to 2.5% of GDP**.
 - Between **1975 and 2005**, it became a **developed nation**, and R&D investment by its corporate sector **rose 800 times**.
- **China:** R&D spending rose from **0.6% of GDP** in the late 1990s to **2.4% currently**, coinciding with its **best growth years**.

What are the Challenges in India's R&D Ecosystem?

Low Investment: India's R&D spending is much lower than that of advanced economies such as the **US (3.46%)**, **Japan (3.30%)**, **Israel (5.56)**, and **South Korea (4.93)**.

Government-Centric R&D: Indian R&D still relies heavily on **government funding** and institutions. e.g., In **2020–21**, the **Private Sector Industry** contributed **only 36.4%** of R&D funding.



US Withdrawal from Loss and Damage Fund

The US has withdrawn from the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), furthering its disengagement from global climate commitments like the Paris Agreement and Green Climate Fund.

LDF: Created at UN Climate Change Conference COP 27 in Egypt, the LDF supports developing and small island nations facing climate-induced losses like rising sea levels, heatwaves, and extreme weather, with contributions from developed nations.

The LDF is managed by a Governing Board, with the World Bank as its interim trustee.

Nearly USD 750 million pledged under LDF, with the US contributing USD 17.5 million before withdrawing.

Implications of US Withdrawal: Vulnerable nations, including **India (which alone faced USD 56 billion in weather-related damages (2019 - 2023))**, face growing uncertainty in climate aid, further straining North-South climate negotiations.

CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public/ private/alternative sources of financing—to support mitigation and adaptation actions against climate change.

PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE FINANCE

- ↳ Polluter Pays
- ↳ Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capability (CBDR-RC)

Multilateral Climate Funds Coordinated by UNFCCC

- ↳ **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** Operating entity of financial mechanism (1994)
- ↳ **Kyoto Protocol (2001):**
 - ▶ **Adaptation Fund (AF):** Gives developing countries full ownership of adaptation projects
 - ▶ **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM):** To carry out emission-reduction projects in developing nations
- ↳ **Green Climate Fund (GCF):** estd. - 2010 (COP 16)
 - ▶ Funds under it - **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** and **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)**
- ↳ **Long-Term Climate Finance:**
 - ▶ **Cancun Agreements (2010):** Mobilize and provide scaled-up funds in short and long term
 - ▶ **Paris Agreement (2015):** Developed nations agreed to establish new collective goal of at least \$100 billion/year by 2025
- ↳ **Loss and Damage Fund (2023) (COP27 & COP28):** Financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by effects of climate change

Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) under World Bank

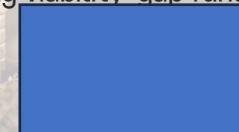
- ↳ Clean Technology Fund
- ↳ Strategic Climate Fund

INDIA'S INITIATIVES REGARDING CLIMATE FINANCE

Fund	Objective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) (2015) ■ National Clean Energy Fund (2010-11) ■ National Adaptation Fund (2014) ■ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) (2015) ■ Climate Change Finance Unit (2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For vulnerable Indian states ■ Advancing clean energy (started with initial carbon tax on industrial coal use) ■ Bridging gap between required and available funds ■ Nationally binding targets adopted under UNFCCC ■ Leads on global climate finance issues

Challenges to Climate Finance

- ↳ Gap between national needs and climate finance under NDCs
- ↳ Least Developed Countries receive much less approved funding in per-capita terms from the multilateral climate funds
- ↳ Slow rate of approvals
- ↳ Failure in securing viability-gap funding





KHANJAR-XII





10 MCQ from the session

- Which country was the largest arms importer globally between 2020-24?
- 2020-24 के बीच वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक देश कौन सा था?
- A. India / भारत
- B. Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- C. Ukraine / यूक्रेन
- D. China / चीन

- What was the primary reason behind Ukraine becoming the top arms importer?
- यूक्रेन के सबसे बड़े हथियार आयातक बनने का मुख्य कारण क्या था?
- A. Increased military budget due to internal conflicts / आंतरिक संघर्षों के कारण बढ़ा सैन्य बजट
- B. Its war with Russia / रूस के साथ उसका युद्ध
- C. A shift in global defense alliances / वैश्विक रक्षा गठबंधनों में बदलाव
- D. Expansion of its arms manufacturing industry / इसके हथियार निर्माण उद्योग का विस्तार

- Despite being the second-largest arms importer, what trend was observed in India's arms trade between 2015-19 and 2020-24?
- दूसरा सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक होने के बावजूद, भारत के हथियार व्यापार में 2015-19 और 2020-24 के बीच कौन सी प्रवृत्ति देखी गई?
- A. Increased by 15% / 15% की वृद्धि हुई
B. Decreased by 9.3% / 9.3% की कमी हुई
C. Remained stable / स्थिर बनी रही
D. Doubled due to new defense deals / नई रक्षा सौदों के कारण दोगुनी हो गई

- Which country moved into the top 10 arms exporters list due to a sharp rise in arms sales?
- कौन सा देश हथियारों की बिक्री में तेज वृद्धि के कारण शीर्ष 10 हथियार निर्यातकों की सूची में शामिल हो गया?
- A. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
B. France / फ्रांस
C. Italy / इटली
D. Germany / जर्मनी

- **What percentage of Pakistan's arms imports came from China between 2020-24?**
- **2020-24 के बीच पाकिस्तान के कुल हथियार आयात का कितने प्रतिशत चीन से आया?**
- **A. 60%**
- **B. 70%**
- **C. 81%**
- **D. 90%**

- **How many countries have exported weapons to Ukraine since 2022?**
- **2022 से अब तक कितने देशों ने यूक्रेन को हथियार निर्यात किए हैं?**
- **A. 20**
- **B. 25**
- **C. 30**
- **D. 35**

- Which country increased its arms exports to India significantly, including Rafale jets and submarines?
- किस देश ने भारत को अपने हथियार निर्यात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि की, जिसमें राफेल जेट और पनडुब्बियाँ शामिल हैं?
- A. Russia / रूस
- B. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
- C. France / फ्रांस
- D. Germany / जर्मनी

- **According to research, what percentage of bananas go to waste annually?**
- **अनुसंधान के अनुसार, हर साल कितने प्रतिशत केले बर्बाद हो जाते हैं?**
- **A. 30%**
- **B. 40%**
- **C. 50%**
- **D. 60%**

- What is the estimated environmental impact of gene-edited bananas according to Tropic's press release?
- Tropic की प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, जीन-संपादित केले का अनुमानित पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव क्या है?
- A. It will reduce CO₂ emissions equivalent to removing 1 million cars from roads annually.
(यह हर साल सड़कों से 1 मिलियन कारों को हटाने के बराबर CO₂ उत्सर्जन को कम करेगा।)
- B. It will reduce CO₂ emissions equivalent to removing 2 million cars from roads annually.
(यह हर साल सड़कों से 2 मिलियन कारों को हटाने के बराबर CO₂ उत्सर्जन को कम करेगा।)
- C. It will cut CO₂ emissions by 30%.
(यह CO₂ उत्सर्जन को 30% तक कम करेगा।)
- D. It will have no major environmental impact.
(इसका कोई महत्वपूर्ण पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव नहीं होगा।)

- What is "KHANJAR-XII," recently in the news?
- "KHANJAR-XII" हाल ही में चर्चा में क्यों था?
- A. A new defense missile system launched by India and Russia / भारत और रूस द्वारा लॉन्च की गई नई रक्षा मिसाइल प्रणाली
- B. A joint military exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan / भारत और किर्गिज़स्तान के बीच एक संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास
- C. A cyber security initiative launched by NATO / NATO द्वारा शुरू की गई साइबर सुरक्षा पहल
- D. A special operation by the Indian Navy / भारतीय नौसेना द्वारा किया गया विशेष अभियान

Word of the day

Emollient:

toiletry consisting of any of various substances in the form of a thick liquid that have a soothing and moisturising effect when applied to the skin; having a softening or soothing effect

Synonyms: cream, ointment, demulcent, salving

Usage: *By and large, this approach has proved useful and even emollient.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/emollientpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪˈmɒl.i.ənt/

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2025-03-10 at 12:00 PM

Starts In: 05:36:56

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B5 | blood relation Part-3

2025-03-10 at 11:00 AM

Starts In: 04:36:56

Coming Soon!

B5 | Ratio

2025-03-09 at 1:00 PM

Watch Now





10 MCQ from the session

Word of the day

Insouciant:

marked by blithe unconcern

Synonyms: casual, nonchalant


Usage: *It is an utterly insouciant financial policy.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
insouciantpro

**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /ɪn'su:ʃiənt/

- Sustainable Future – Masdar City





Thank you
guys.
