Daily Current Affairs





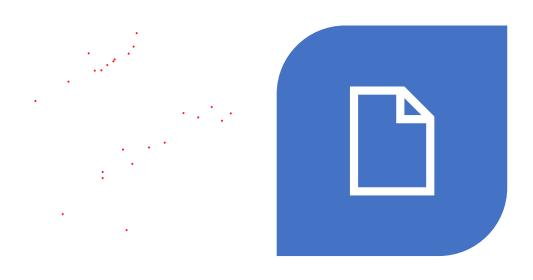








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PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ



Consider the following statements about India's First-Ever Climate Change Station:

- 1. It has been established in Ladakh.
- 2.It will help track glacial retreat and permafrost melting.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements about Maternal Mortality Trends in India:

- 1.India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has increased in recent years.
- 2. The Sustainable Development Goal target for MMR is 70 per 1,00,000 live births.

Which is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements regarding World Homoeopathy Day:

- 1.It is celebrated on April 10 in memory of Samuel Hahnemann.
- 2. The theme in 2024 focused on enhancing research in homeopathy.
- Which is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following about the Niveshak Didi Initiative:

- 1.It is launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- 2.It promotes financial literacy among rural women.
- Which is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements about the Artemis Accords:

- 1.It is an initiative led by NASA for peaceful space exploration.
- 2.India is a signatory to the Artemis Accords.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements about the 'Death Sentences and Executions 2024' report:

- 1. The report is published by Amnesty International.
- 2. The report highlights a rise in the number of executions globally in 2023.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements regarding the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI):

- 1. No panchayat qualified in the "Achiever" category this year.
- 2. The majority of panchayats fall under the "Beginner" category.
- Which is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements about data collection in the PAI portal:

- 1. Over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats exist in India.
- 2.All Gram Panchayats submitted validated data on the PAI portal.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following about Artemis Program:

- 1.It plans to land the first woman and person of color on the Moon.
- 2.It is an initiative under the International Space Station framework.
- Which is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following about Niveshak Didi:

- 1. It aims to raise awareness on investment frauds.
- 2.It is implemented through Anganwadi centres.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

"By facing our challenges and overcoming them, we grow stronger, wiser, and more compassionate."

JOHN TEMPLETON





NIA begins Tahawwur Rana's interrogation





Trade wars benefit no one: Italian Minister



Knight Riders too good for Super Kings

INSIDE



Spiritual Varanasi now an economic hub too: Modi

LUCKNOW
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a gathering in Varanasi that the city had witnessed remarkable transformation. Launching projects worth \$3,890 crore in Varanasi, he said Kashi is not only a symbol of antiquity but has also emerged as the economic hub of Purvanchal region. » PAGE 4

'List of tainted candidates will be published

KOLKATA
West Bengal government
officials on Friday assured
protesting teachers whose
appointments were recently
invalidated by the Supreme
Court that a list of 'tainted' and
'untainted' candidates will be 'untainted' candidates will be published by April 21, following Minister Bratya Basu. 30 PAGE 2

Militant killed in Army's operation in Chenab Valley

SRENAGAR
One unidentified militant was killed in the Chenab Valley's Kishbawa district on Friday, as an anti-militancy operation entered its third day. 'Despite the hostile terrain, relentless operations by our soldiers continue," a spokesperson for the Army's White Knight Corps, responsible for the Valley, stated. by PAME 3

Rahul criticises PM's employment incentive scheme

NEW DELHI

Accusing the Narendra Modi government of not even defuning the Employment nnounced a year back by PM Modi, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked if it



Russia told to 'get moving' to end its war with Ukraine

MOSCOW U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday told Moscow to "get moving" on ending its "senseless war" with Ukraine, moments before his envoy Steve Witkoff began talks with Vladimir Putin on the conflict. Mr. Trump has been pressing Moscow and Kylv to agree to a truce since January. 30 PAGE 12



A murder that has widened caste fault lines The problem of extortion gangs in Beed



AIADMK, BJP seal deal for 2026 polls in T.N.

and the NDA will form a 'coalition government'

The key issues in the election will be the 'DMK's corruption', law and order, says senior BJP leader

Nainar Nagenthran set to take over the reins from K. Annamalai and lead BIP in the State

China imposes 125%

tariff on U.S. goods

imposed an additional 34% tariff on all Chinese imports, bringing the total to 54%

April 9: China retailised with an additional Str tariff, raising total tariffs on U.S. imports to 84 April 9: Trump once again raised the total tariffs on Chinese imports to 245%

N. Sai Charan

full year ahead of the Tamil Nadu As-the Manual Nadu As-the Alam Manual Nadu As-the Alam Manual Nadu Feel Manual Nadu Feel Nadu Asthe Government Nadu Horne Minister Amit Shah declaring that a "coalition government" would be formed after the election. Addressing a press con-ference, he reiterated that the 2026 election would be fought under the leader-

ship of AIADMK general se-cretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami. The key issues in the up-coming election will be the ruling "DMK's corruption, law and order issues, and law and order issues, and attacks on Dalits and wo-men," Mr. Shah said, claim-ing that the ruling party was highlighting conten-tious issues such as Sanatana dharma, delimitation, NEET, and the three-lan-guage education policy to divert people's attention.

will go meet people'
"We [the AIADMK and the
"We [the AIADMK and the
the people of the people of the people of the
the people of the people of the
taking their real issues, taking their real issues, taking their real issues of the
taking their people of Tamil Nadu are aware of the
the people of the people of the people of the people of the
DMK government," Mr.
Shah said, before the Shortly before the

much-delayed press confe-rence, the BJP initiated steps for a smooth transi-tion in its State unit. Nainar



Nainar Nagenthran at a press meet in Chennai on Friday, R. RAWINDRAN

Mr. Nagenthran's eleva-

Mr. Nagenthran's eleva-tion is expected to facili-tate better relations with the AIADMK, which had walked out of the NDA in September 2023, accusing

the BJP State leadership of slandering its icons. Mr. Mr. Shah addressed Nagenthran, a former AIADMK Minister, had Palaniswami, AIADMK leaders S.P. Velumani and K.P. Munusamy, BJP State president K. Annamalai and State president-elect Nainar Nagenthran. Mr. Joined the BJP in 2017.

Later, Prime Minister
Narendra Modi took to X to
welcome the AIADMK to
the "NDA (National Demo-

seeking answers from Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on ₹39,000 crore liquor scam, sand mining scam, power scam, ELCOT scam, transport scam, money laun-dering scam, nutrition kit scam, free dhoti scam, cash-for-jobs scam, and MGNREGA scam, in addi-

tion to other scams."

The elections will be fought under the leader-ship of Mr. Modi at the naship of Mr. Modi at the na-tional level and under the leadership of Mr. Palanis-wami in Tamil Nadu. Re-collecting the alliance bet-ween the AIADMK and the

Election focus Corruption is the biggest issue in the State, he said. "People of Tamil Nadu are

tions, Mr. Shah said, "Mo-diji and great jayalalithaaji have worked together in national politics." While responding to a question on whether the AIADMK and BJP will form a coalition government if the alliance is voted to power in Tamil Nadu in 2026, Mr. Shah said, "Yes. We will form a coalition government. We will fight the elections under the leadership of Edappadiji." Mr. Shah also listed the

measures taken by the BJP government at the Centre to honour the Tamil language and culture, includ-ing the installation of a Sengol (a golden sceptre) in the Parliament, conin the Parliament, con-ducting Kashi and Saurash-tra Tamil Sangams, and es-tablishing Central Institute of Classical Tamil in

Offerings to deity



Pilgrims' progress: Devotees carry milk pots on their heads during the Panguni Uthiram.

Jaishankar calls for swift deals with the West

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The U.S.'s recent tariffs have "focused our minds on the need for correcting on the need for correcting a certain skewed nature of our openness to the global administer S. Jaishankar said on Friday, calling for growing partnerships with gaging in free trade.

"We have an opportunity of the properties on these three big [free trade agreement] negotiations, with the U.S., the EU out for us this year, we'd be out for us this year, we'd by

out for us this year, we'd be in a different situation." India is "geared up for a high degree of urgency" in seal-ing the deals, he said.

Tit-for-tat

April 2: As part of 'Lib

China, on Friday, conti-nued its tit-for-tat move against the Trump admi-nistration's tariffs by hiking its levies on imports from the U.S. to 125% against du-ties of 145% by America even as it evinced interest in dialogue with Washing-

ton to resolve the impasse. China's Customs Tariff Commission said, "Even if Commission said, "Even if the U.S. imposes higher tariffs, it would no longer tariffs, it would no longer and the unit of the unit of

sist in substantially under-mining China's interests, Beijing will take firm counermeasures, it added.

In a message on social media on Friday morning, U.S. President Donald U.S. President Donald Trump continued to insist that "we are doing really well on our tariff policy". "Very exciting for Amer-ica, and the World!! It is moving along quickly," he wrote.

the "reciprocal tariffs" on Chinese imports to 125%. The U.S. later confirmed the total tariff on Chinese products was 145%, with the inclusion of 20% levies announced by Donald Trump soon after he took over power in January this year. Mr. Trump's heavy ta-riffs left China to wage a

lone battle as he paused ta-riffs against all other countries.

Lawsuit filed Also, similar to previous ta-riff hikes, China has filed a riff hikes, China has hiled a lawsuit against the U.S. with the World Trade Or-ganisation's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism, a Chinese Commerce Minis-try spokesperson said. While slapping addition-

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian on Friday said if the U.S. truly wanted to resolve issue through dialogue and ne gotiation, it must cease its and reckless actions. China has made clear its

position on the issue of ta-riffs multiple times, "There

India's Industrial output growth slows to a six-month low of 2.9% in February: Ministry

Production (IIP) grew at its lowest rate in six months, clocking a pace of 2.9% in February, dragged down by decelerating growth across all sectors, according to data from the Minis-try of Statistics and Pro-

try of Mattauts are to gramme implementation gramme implementation in much lower than the 4% estimated by Reuters.

"A combination of high slowing growth in mining and manufacturing sectors led to the growth falling in Export in the section of th

Research.
Mining sector growth slowed to 1.6% in February, as against 8.1% in the same month of the previous year. Manufacturing sector grew at a pace of 2.9%, as against 4.9% in the year ago period. Electricity production dipped to 3.6% this February, from 7.6% a

Capital goods output
As per use-based classification, capital goods output
grew the fastest at 8.2% in
February.
This was against the
1.7% in the corresponding
period last year. All other
goods categories registered

Slackening growth and the

pace, with output declin-ing 2.1%, a slower slip in comparison to 3.2% in the year ago period.

'Muted nature'

month, after a gap of five months. This indicates the muted and volatile nature of industrial output growth," Mr. Jasrai said. "Deceleration in IP

The growth in February was driven by manufacturing, while higher power demand cushioned the slowdown to an extent. Capital and infrastructure goods and infrastructure goods and infrastructure goods and infrastructure good and infrastructure goods and infrastructure g down to an extent, Capital

China imposes 125% tariff on U.S. goods

Tit-for-tat

April 2: As part of 'Liberation day', Trump imposed an additional 34% tariff on all Chinese imports, bringing the total to 54%

April 4: China responded with an additional 34% tariff on all U.S. products

April 7: Trump retaliated with 50% more tariff, raising total tariffs on Chinese imports to 104%

April 9: China retaliated with an additional 50% tariff, raising total tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%

April 9: Trump once again raised the total tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%



Reuters

BEIIING

China, on Friday, continued its tit-for-tat move against the Trump administration's tariffs by hiking its levies on imports from the U.S. to 125% against duties of 145% by America even as it evinced interest in dialogue with Washington to resolve the impasse.

China's Customs Tariff Commission said, "Even if the U.S. imposes higher tariffs, it would no longer make economic sense and ultimately go down as a joke in world economic history." "Given that it's already impossible for the Chinese market to accept U.S. imports at the current tariff level, if the United States imposes further tariffs on Chinese products. China will ignore it," it said.

Yet, should the U.S. persist in substantially undermining China's interests, Beijing will take firm countermeasures, it added.

In a message on social media on Friday morning, U.S. President Donald Trump continued to insist that "we are doing really well on our tariff policy".

"Very exciting for America, and the World!!! It is moving along quickly," he

China's new tariffs of day, it said.

The announcement fol- XI REACHES OUT TO EU

the "reciprocal tariffs" on Chinese imports to 125%. The U.S. later confirmed the total tariff on Chinese products was 145%, with the inclusion of 20% levies announced by Donald Trump soon after he took over power in January this vear.

Mr. Trump's heavy tariffs left China to wage a lone battle as he paused tariffs against all other countries.

Lawsuit filed

Also, similar to previous tariff hikes, China has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. with the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism, a Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said.

While slapping additional measures, China, however, kept its door open for talks to resolve the issue. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian on Friday said if the U.S. truly wanted to resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation, it must cease its maximum pressure tactics and reckless actions.

China has made clear its position on the issue of tariffs multiple times. "There are no winners in tariff wars or trade wars. China does not want to engage in such wars, but we are not 125% against U.S. imports afraid to do so," Mr. Lin will be effective from Satur- told a media briefing here.

Date	Event	
April 2	U.S. imposed additional 34% tariffs on Chinese imports (Total: 54%)	
April 4	China retaliated with 34% tariffs on all U.S. imports	
April 7	Trump imposed another 50% tariffs (Total: 104%)	
April 9	China imposed another 50% tariff (Total Chinese imports tariff: 84%)	
April 9	Trump raised total tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%	
April 11	China hiked tariffs on U.S. goods to 125%	

- China's Response: Raised total tariff on U.S. goods to 125%, calling it "reciprocal tariffs."
- U.S. Tariff Level: Total duty on Chinese imports now 145%, including Trump's earlier 20% hike.
- China's Position: Wants dialogue, not escalation, but prepared to retaliate.
- WTO Involvement: China filed a lawsuit against U.S. tariffs with the WTO dispute settlement body.
- Chinese FM Statement: "There are no winners in tariff wars, but we are not afraid to act."

India's Industrial output growth slows to a six-month low of 2.9% in February: Ministry

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at its slowest rate in six months, clocking a pace of 2.9% in February, dragged down by decelerating growth across all sectors, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The IIP's growth rate came in much lower than the 4% estimated by *Reuters*.

"A combination of high base effects along with a slowing growth in mining and manufacturing sectors led to the growth falling in February 2025," said Paras Jasrai, associate director at India Ratings and Research.

Mining sector growth slowed to 1.6% in February, as against 8.1% in the same month of the previous year. Manufacturing sector grew at a pace of 2.9%, as against 4.9% in the year ago period. Electricity production dipped to 3.6% this February, from 7.6% a year ago.

Capital goods output

As per use-based classification, capital goods output grew the fastest at 8.2% in February.

This was against the 1.7% in the corresponding period last year. All other goods categories registered

Slackening growth

India's industrial production growth decelerated to a six-month low of 2.9 per cent in February 2025



The chart shows India's rate of production growth as per the IIP from March 2024 to February 2025

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

a slower output growth in February 2025, compared to the same month last year. Intermediate goods output grew the slowest at 1.5% and consumer nondurables continued to decline, albeit at a slower pace, with output declining 2.1%, a slower slip in comparison to 3.2% in the year ago period.

'Muted nature'

"Worryingly, the output growth of all the sub-sectors at the use-based level declined in February 2025 compared to the previous month, after a gap of five months. This indicates the muted and volatile nature of industrial output growth," Mr. Jasrai said.

"Deceleration in IP growth in February was driven by manufacturing, while higher power demand cushioned the slow-down to an extent. Capital and infrastructure goods output growth remains elevated. IP growth in March likely accelerated, supported by inventory build-up ahead of the U.S. tariff announcements," said Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays.

About Eight Core Sectors:

- These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

™ Key Facts (English):

Parameter	February 2025	February 2024
Overall IIP Growth	2.9%	5.9% (approx.)
Mining Sector	1.6%	8.1%
Manufacturing	2.9%	4.9%
Electricity	3.6%	7.6%
Capital Goods Output	8.2% (fastest)	1.7%
Intermediate Goods Output	1.5%	
Consumer Non-Durables	-2.1%	-3.2%

'Trade wars benefit no one; we believe in power of open markets, free and fair competition, a level playing field'

Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who is on a visit to New Delhi, pitches for the India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement; while past negotiations may not have gone as planned, political momentum behind the current talks is stronger than ever, he says; Trump's decision to pause U.S. tariffs plan for 90 days is a signal that transatlantic negotiations can be done, he adds

Antonio Tajani

Suhasini Haidar

rade wars benefit no one, said Italian Deputy Prime Mi-nister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, who is in New Delhi for a two-day bilateral visit. He placed em-phasis on the hope that after pausing reciprocal tariffs for 90 days, the U.S. tariffs for 90 days, the U.S. can engage with the Euro-pean Union for an agree-ment, and that India and the EU can also conclude the Bilateral Trade and Inwestment Agreement (BTIA) this year. During a business event on Friday, Mr. Tajani, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Commerce Minister Plyush Goyal discussed the need nisterial meeting in Italy la-

ter this year. In a written interview to The Hindu, Mr. Tajani admitted that it would be hard to achieve the IMEC's potential until there is peace between Israel and its neighbours. Excerpts:

How does Italy view the

My dream is to see zero ta-My dream is to see zero ta-rifis! Tarifis hurt both con-sumers and businesses alike. We firmly believe in the power of open markets, free and fair competition, and a level playing field for all. U.S. President [Donald] Trump's decision to pause his tarifis plan for 90 days is a signal that we want to interme neithests busines

ted the EU more leading to many public differences in the past few months, including over Mr. Trump's claim

Italy, like India, has already built strong ties with the Trump administration. President Trump is driving President Trump is driving a bold agenda both domes-tically and internationally, which can sometimes cause friction, even with close partners like the EU. We must do everything we can to prevent a transatlan-tic divide.

tic divide.

Regarding President
Trump's tariff policies, our
approach must be one of
constructive engagement,



not confrontation, priori-tising open and honest dia-logue with Washington.

During her visit to India in February, European Commission President Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a year-end deadline for the EU-India BTIA to be finalised. How likely is this, given previous delays?

One of the major blocks to BTIA negotiations has been on India's tariffs and market access issues for wine and spirits, and agriculture and dairy products. Given that the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement is being negotiated this year as well, would Italy and EU expect the same terms as those being offered to

the U.S. in bilateral

Every trade relationship is unique and we do not as-sume that what works for India and the U.S. will auto-matically benefit the EU as and

rell. In the context of ongoing negotiations, what we seek is the flexibility needed to achieve the mutually be-neficial agreement we all

aspire to. On our part, we are fully committed to go-ing the extra mile to secure a meaningful and balanced EU-India trade agreement, and we are confident that our counterparts share this same determination.

Can any progress be made on IMEC between India and Italy's Trieste without peace and stability along the route between the UAE, Saudi Israel's Haifa Port (countries that have

Of course, until peace in the Middle East is esta-blished, it will be hard to achieve the full potential of the Corridor. Nevertheless, for the Ita-lian government, this pro-ject represents a beacon of hope. It holds the promise of acting as a catalyst for stability across the broader

region. It is essential to start shaping a new vision for progress today – one that focuses on strengthen-ing geo-economic and in-termodal connectivity between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. This is why we are offering the port of Trieste as a hub to support the "Cotton Road". Trieste is a key port in northeas our economy and drives growth and inr

Our newly appointed Special Envoy will focus on key areas, including the de-velopment of vital port. railway, and digital infrasrailway, and digital infras-tructure, as well as secur-ing the necessary financial support, with a strong em-phasis on the EU's Global Gateway initiative. I plan to organise a Mi-nisterial meeting with all countries part of the Cot-ton Road with the goal to strengthen further our cooperation.

INBRIEF



DRDO does release trials of long-range glide bomb

The Defence Research and Development trials of the 1,000-kg long-range glide bomb 'Gaurav' between April 8 and 10 from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet. "During the trials, the weapon was integrated to multiple stations in different warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 km with pin-point accuracy. the DRDO said in a statement on Friday, adding that the trials would pave the way for the

Body of missing Hungarian tourist found in Meghalaya

The body of a Hungarian tourist, missing since March 29 after checking into a hotel in Shillong, was found on a steep slope in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district on April 10, The district's Superintendent of Police, Vivek Syem, said a forensic team reached the spot to conduct an consist way are supposed to the composed bady of on-spot autopsy on the decomposed body of Puskas Zsolt near Ramdait, a village bordering Bangladesh. The village is a popular destinatio for trekkers.

Developed nations are more | Indian EVMs not connected reliable trading partners. says Commerce Minister

Union Commerce and In-dustry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday indicated a clear preference for India to work with European and North American partners for international rade instead of China.

"Even when it was open [for Chinese firms to inves n India], not too much come, nor are we encou-raging any significant in-vestment coming in from

vestment coming in from China at all at the mo-ment," Mr. Goyal said at Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit. Mr. Goyal was reiterat-ing a stand he took earlier this week, blaming China for the turmoil that fol-tor tariffs on most coun-tries. "Our effort is to inte-grate our economies with grate our economies with the developed world, who believe in fair play, who believe in honest business practices and where we get an equal opportunity to do business and invest," he said. "Everything will be based on reciprocity. Eve-



rything will be based on mutual trust and mutual

Indians were insulated from the worst of impacts of U.S. tariffs, Mr. Goyal said, recalling that Indian captains of industry were optimistic at a meeting with him held before a 90-

with him held before a 90-day pause to the measure was announced.

He hit out at China's classification of itself as de-veloping, without naming the country. "If countries with a per capita income of \$50,000 and if I'm not mis-taken. maybe one with taken, maybe one with \$100,000, chooses to call itself a developing nation, then obviously it is going to

cause angst," he said.

He abstained from put-ting any hard timeline on concluding the U.S.-India Bilateral Trade Agreement.

Our effort is to integrate our developed world, who believe in fair play and honest business PIYUSH GOYAL

gotiations have not always

gone as planned, but it is undeniable that the politi-

cal momentum behind the

current talks is stronger

than ever.

The visit of the entire European Commission to New Delhi in February was a powerful signal of trust and political will directed toward the Indian leadership. The EU is determined to be a key partner to India, suss across Brussels and European capitals on the im-

"We aspire for [indicative] timelines, but at the end of the day it has to be a win-win for both sides," he said. "It has to be a fair, equitable and balanced so-lution, just to meet a deadline, you cannot compro mise national interest."

mise national interest."

On Europe, Mr. Goyal hit out at climate standards and other requirements typically demanded by the bloc. "There will be two areas on which the European Union will have to pean Union will have to trade issues which they seek to superimpose into seek to superimpose into the trade agenda. Unless they get that out of their system – and the Euro-pean Commission will need to reflect on it – they will find it very difficult to get a trade agreement with anybody whatsoever."

to Internet or Wi-Fi, says EC after U.S. official's comments

The Hindu Bureau

Against the backdrop of claims by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard that electronic voting systems are vulnera-ble to hacking, the Election Commission on Priday said India uses electronic vot-ing machines (EVM) which ing machines (EVM) which vork like "simple, correct and accurate calculators' to either the Internet, Wi-

EC sources said some ountries use electronic oting systems which are a voting systems which are a mix of multiple systems mix of multiple systems, machines, and processes, including various private networks like the Internet. In India, while pressing the button of choice, the voter can also see the corresponding VVPAT slips for enhancing his or her satisfaction and confidence.

Counting of any number of the country of the co

can be completed in less than a day and no one can tamper with these ma-chines which are either stored in a strong room or with an authorised person



at any given point of time, In India, the EVMs have

stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are in-variably checked by politi-cal parties at various stag-ment of the court of the more than five crore paper trail machine slips have been verified and matched during counting in front of political parties of the Ms. Gabbard said on Thursday that the U.S. Ca-binet has found "evidence, court of the suprementation of the court stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are in-

voting systems have been vulnerable to hackers for a very long time and vulner-able to exploitation to manipulate the results of the votes being cast". She added that the findings man-date the use of paper bal-lots across the country so

Last year, tech czar Elon

humans or artificial intelli-gence (AD).

The then Chief Election
Commissioner Rajiv Ku-mar had in January res-ponded to Mr. Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on. They IU.S.1 were going on. They [U.S.] don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms."

TH GROSSWORD+ 14457

- 1 Lets those sickly-looking to change places back to front
- 4 Ex-US president had an issue with this animal (8)
- 9 Remember, genuine student gets first class (6)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. ### https://qrgo.page.link/jpTn

- Not good to include whole song (6) Heavy drinking affected eminent pacer (12) Unexpectedly, from the sea (3,2,3,4)
- Cheats work, must include luck regularly (6) Cave in thicket allows every
- Pigeonhole class players (8) Second shock from fine wool (6) Priest takes half an hour to get in 27 Left after match, being pure (6)
- One relating to nutrition is wasting away (8)
- Relents to the unknown is led away (6)
- 11 Arrived with many to the old court premises (7) Arrived with many to the old court premises (7) Force war on group (7) Animal perhaps a help inside a hospital wing (8) Right to interrupt federal organization to get a postponement (8)
- postponement (8)

 19 One meticulously keeps it makes you want to throw
- A sign to restrict double parking in city (6) 23 Brought up in bits and pieces - some of it is wine (4)

SUDOKU





FAITH

Uniqueness of Pazhani

Pazhani is the third among the six sacred abodes of Lord Muruga. Pazhani refers to the shrine on top of the hill. The one at the foot of the hill, called Avinan Kudi, has been praised by Naikkeerar. This is the uniqueness of Pazhani – two Muruga temples at the same place, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. In Agananuru, the place is referred to as Pothini. The region around Pazhani was called Aviyar Nadu and Vaigavur Nadu. It is said that because there were many fruit trees in the area, it became Pazhani (pazham is fruit in Tamil). Pazhani is in the Kongu region of Tamil Na-du, and the temple was built by the Cheras. Pazhani is called Girriaja (king of all hills).

At the hill temple, Murugan gives darshan as an ascetic.
The story goes that sage Agastya asked Idumban to fetch
two hills for him to worship. Idumban strung the two hills two bills for him to worship. Idumban strung the two hills to two ends of a pole, and carried them to Pothlgai hills, where Agastya wanted them placed. On the way, idumban tried to litt the pole, he could not. He found a little boy dressed like an ascetic on top of the hills. He felt the boy ass somehow responsible for his inability to litt the hills, was somehow responsible for his inability to litt the hills, none other than Murugan, refused, Idumban challenged Murugan and was killed. But Murugan top lyo on Idumaban's wife Idumbi and revived Idumban, who prayed for the boom of serving Murugan, Murugan ganted him the boom of serving Murugan. Murugan ganted him the the boon of serving murugan. Surrugan granteet nim the boon, and there is a separate sannidhi (shrine) for Idum-ban at the hill temple. The practice of carrying kavadi (a wooden arch supported by a pole) is popular in Pazhani, because Idumban had carried the two hills on a pole.

Indian EVMs not connected to Internet or Wi-Fi, says EC after U.S. official's comments

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of claims by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard that electronic voting systems are vulnerable to hacking, the Election Commission on Friday said India uses electronic voting machines (EVM) which work like "simple, correct and accurate calculators" and cannot be connected to either the Internet, Wi-Fi, or Infrared.

EC sources said some countries use electronic voting systems which are a mix of multiple systems, machines, and processes, including various private networks like the Internet. In India, while pressing the button of choice, the voter can also see the corresponding VVPAT slips for enhancing his or her satisfaction and confidence.

Counting of any number of votes (even 100 crores) can be completed in less than a day and no one can tamper with these machines which are either stored in a strong room or with an authorised person



Tried and tested: EVMs have stood legal scrutiny by the SC and are invariably checked by political parties, says EC. K. MURALI KUMAR

at any given point of time, the sources added.

In India, the EVMs have stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are invariably checked by political parties at various stages. They pointed out that more than five crore paper trail machine slips have been verified and matched during counting in front of political parties.

Ms. Gabbard said on Thursday that the U.S. Cabinet has found "evidence of how these electronic voting systems have been vulnerable to hackers for a very long time and vulnerable to exploitation to manipulate the results of the votes being cast". She added that the findings mandate the use of paper ballots across the country so that voters can have faith in the integrity of the U.S. elections.

Last year, tech czar Elon Musk had called for the elimination of EVMs, citing the risk of being hacked by humans or artificial intelligence (AI).

The then Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had in January responded to Mr. Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on. They [U.S.] don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms."



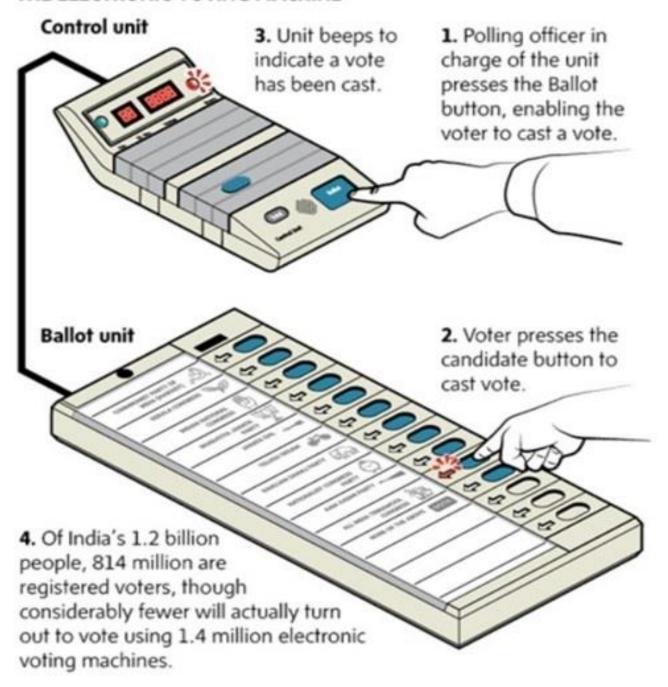
1982: EVMs
were first
used in an
assembly
bye-election
in Kerala

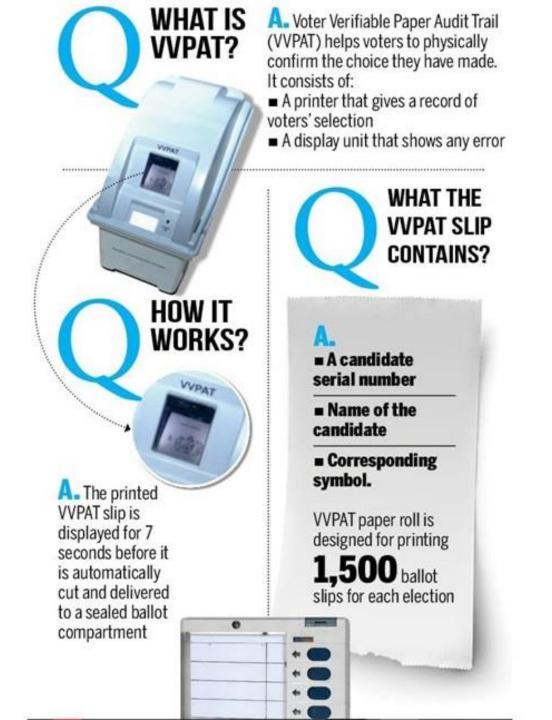
1989: The Representation of the People Act, 1951 was amended to permit EVM use. 2004: EVMs
were adopted
for General
Elections
and have
been used in all
elections since.

2013: The
Supreme Court
mandated VVPAT
use in
Subramanian
Swamy v. Election
Commission
of India.

in N. Chandrababu Naidu and Others v. Union of India and Another that 5 EVMs per assembly constituency or assembly segment in a parliamentary constituency must undergo VVPAT verification.

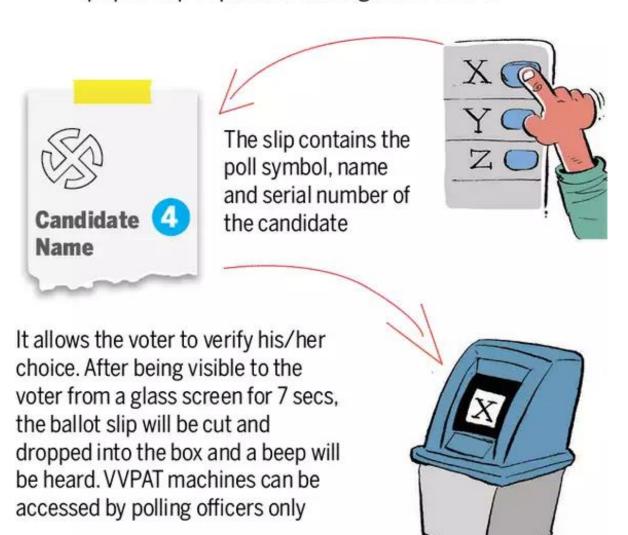
THE ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE





How do VVPAT machines work?

When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT



'Trade wars benefit no one; we believe in power of open markets, free and fair competition, a level playing field

Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who is on a visit to New Delhi, pitches for the India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement; while past negotiations may not have gone as planned, political momentum behind the current talks is stronger than ever, he says; Trump's decision to pause U.S. tariffs plan for 90 days is a signal that transatlantic negotiations can be done, he adds

Antonio Tajani

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

rade wars benefit no one, said trailan District Peputy Prime Mination of the prime MiAntonio Tajani, who is in New Delhi for a two-day bilateral visit. He placed emphasis on the hope that after 'pausing reciprocal
can engage with the Eurocan engage with the European Union for an agreement, and that India and
the EU can also conclude
westment. vestment Agreement (BTIA) this year. During a business event on Friday, Mr. Tajani, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and

to grow current bilateral trade, presently at about \$14 billion, and to try to realise the much-delayed India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) with a Ministerial meeting in Italy la-ter this year.

In a written interview to The Hindu, Mr. Tajani admitted that it would be hard to achieve the IMEC's potential until there is peace between Israel and its neighbours. Excerpts:

How does Italy view the

My dream is to see zero ta-Trump's decision to pause his tariffs plan for 90 days is a signal that we want to interpret positively, hoping

tions. Trade wars serve no one's interests, especially when it comes to the tran-satlantic trade relationship

consulted the EU more, leading to many public differences in the past few months, including over Mr. Trump's claim on Greenland?

Italy, like India, has already built strong ties with the Trump administration. Trump administration.
President Trump is driving
a hold agenda both domes President Trump is driving a bold agenda both domes-tically and internationally, which can sometimes cause friction, even with close partners like the EU. We must do everything we can to prevent a transatlan-tic divide.

Regarding President Trump's tariff policies, our approach must be one of constructive engagement,

not confrontation, priori-tising open and honest dia-logue with Washington.

During her visit to India in February, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a year-end deadline for year-end deadline for finalised. How likely is this, given previous this, given previous delays?

One of the major blocks to BTIA negotiations has been on India's tariffs been on India's tariffs and market access issues for wine and spirits, and agriculture and dairy products. Given that the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement is being negotiated this year as well, would Italy and EU expect the same terms as those being offered to the II S in bilateral

Every trade relationship is unique and we do not as-sume that what works for India and the U.S. will auto-matically benefit the EU as well.

In the context of ongoing negoriations, what we seek is the flexibility needed to achieve the mutually be-neficial agreement we all

aspire to. On our part, we are fully committed to go-ing the extra mile to secure a meaningful and balanced EU-India trade agreement, and we are confident that our counterparts share this same determination.

Can any progress be made on IMEC between India and Italy's Trieste stability along the route between the UAE, Saudi Israel's Haifa Port (countries that have

achieve the full potential of the Corridor. Nevertheless, for the Ita-lian government, this pro-ject represents a beacon of hope. It holds the promise of acting as a catalyst for stability across the broader

start shaping a new vision for progress today – one that focuses on strengthening geo-economic and in-termodal connectivity between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. This is why we are offering the port of Trieste as a hub to suppor the "Cotton Road". Trieste is a key port in northeast Italy, a region that leads in our economy and drives growth and innovation.

Our newly appointed Special Envoy will focus on

Gateway initiative.

I plan to organise a Ministerial meeting with all countries part of the Cotton Road with the goal to offeethers.

INBRIDE



DRDO does release trials of long-range glide bomb

The Defence Research and Development
Organisation successfully conducted release
trials of the 1,000-18 long-range glide bomb
'Gaurav' between April 8 and 10 from a Su-30
MKf fighter jet. "During the trials, the weapon
was integrated to multiple stations in different
webused conferentias such long termine. warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 km with pin-point accuracy, the DRDO said in a statement on Friday, adding that the trials would pave the way for the

Body of missing Hungarian

The body of a Hangatian tourist, missing into-the body of a Hangatian tourist, missing into-grams found on a steep slope in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district on April 10. The district's Superintendent of Police, Vivel Sylem, said a non-spot autopay on the decomposed body of Puskas Zaolt near Ramdatt, a village bordering for trekkers. The wilage is a popular destination for trekkers.

Developed nations are more | Indian EVMs not connected reliable trading partners, savs Commerce Minister

The Hindu Bureau

Union Commerce and In Union Commerce and In-dustry Mimister Plyush Goyal on Friday indicated a clear preference for India to work with European and North American partners for international rade instead of China. "Even when it was open for Chinese firms to Invest Chinese investment has come, nor are we encou-

come, nor are we encou-raging any significant inreging any significant in-vestment coming in from China at all at the mo-ment," Mr. Goyal said at Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit.

Mr. Goyal was reiterat-ing a stand he took earlier this week, blaming China for the turmoil that followed the U.S.'s imposition of tariffs on most coun-tries. "Our effort is to intetries. "Our effort is to inte-grate our economies with the developed world, who believe in fair play, who be-lieve in honest business practices and where we get an equal opportunity to do business and invest," he said. "Everything will be based on reciprocity. Eve-



mutual trust and mutual benefit." Indians were insulated from the worst of impacts of U.S. tariffs, Mr. Goyal said, recalling that Indian captains of industry were optimistic at a meeting with him held before a 90day pause to the measure

was announced. He hit out at China's classification of itself as developing, without naming the country. "If countries with a per capita income of \$50,000 and if I'm not mis-\$50,000 and if i'm not mis-taken, maybe one with \$100,000, chooses to call itself a developing nation, then obviously it is going to cause angst," he said. He abstained from put-ting any hard timeline on concluding the U.S.-India Bilateral Trade Agreement.

economies with the developed world, who believe in fair play and honest business

gotiations have not always

gone as planned, but it is undeniable that the politi-

current talks is stronge

current talks is stronger than ever.

The visit of the entire Eu-ropean Commission to New Delhi in February was a powerful signal of trust and political will directed toward the Indian leader-ship. The EU is determined to be a key partner to India.

to be a key partner to India, and there is broad consen-sus across Brussels and Eu-ropean capitals on the im-

"We aspire for [indicative] timelines, but at the end of the day it has to be a win-win for both sides," he said. "It has to be a fair, equitable and balanced so-lution. Just to meet a deadline, you cannot compro-mise national interest."

On Europe, Mr. Goyal hit out at climate standards and other requirements typically demanded by the bloc. "There will be two areas on which the Euro-pean Union will have to rethink: one is these non-trade issues which they trade issues which they seek to superimpose into the trade agenda. Unless they get that out of their system – and the Euro-pean Commission will need to reflect on it – they will find it very difficult to get a trade agreement with

to Internet or Wi-Fi, says EC after U.S. official's comments

The Hindu Bureau



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tourist found in Meghalaya

TH GROSSWORD + 14457

- 1 Lets those sickly-looking to change places back to front
- Remember, genuine student gets first class (6) 10 Investigate time taken to enter centre of the warship (8)

- 12 Country access without using borders (8) 13 Not good to include whole song (6) 15 Heavy drinking affected eminent pacer (12) 18 Unexpectedly, from the sea (3.2.3.4)
- 24 Pigeonhole class players (8) 25 Second shock from fine wool (6) 26 Priest takes half an hour to get in - becomes irritable (8)
- 27 Left after match, being pure (6)
- 27 Let after match, being pure (6)
 Down

 10 Cut after match, being pure (6)
 11 Cut one enters later perhaps (8)
 12 Cut one enters later perhaps (8)
 13 Such amateurs low built, bustly and drooping at the ends (6,9)
 14 Such amateurs low built, bustly and drooping at the ends (6,9)
 15 Voucher without business, coming very soon...(4)
 16 ...however, as a close variety of bananas (41,5,5)
 17 As usual, it takes some of them to raise a tyrant (6)
- 8 Relents to the unknown is led away (6) 8 Reients to the unknown - is led away (6)
 11 Arrived with many to the old court premises (7)
 14 Force war on group (7)
 16 Animal perhaps a help inside a hospital wing (8)
 17 Right to interrupt federal organization to get a
- 19 One meticulously keeps it makes you want to throw
- 23 Brought up in bits and pieces some of it is wine (4)

SUDOKU







FAITH

Uniqueness of Pazhani

Pazhani is the third among the six sacred abodes of Lord Muruga. Pazhani refers to the shrine on top of the hill. The one at the foot of the hill, called Avinan Kudi, has been praised by Nakkeerar. This is the uniqueness of Pazhani -two Muruga temples at the same place, said T. Rajarathi-

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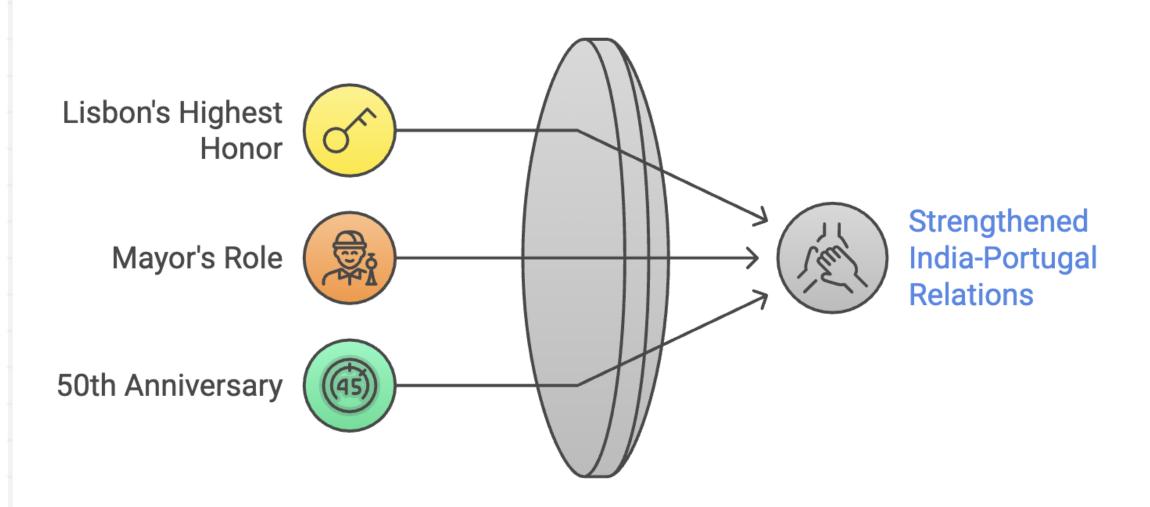
DRDO does release trials of long-range glide bomb

The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducted release trials of the 1,000-kg long-range glide bomb 'Gaurav' between April 8 and 10 from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet. "During the trials, the weapon was integrated to multiple stations in different warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 km with pin-point accuracy," the DRDO said in a statement on Friday, adding that the trials would pave the way for the induction of the weapon into the Air Force.

City Key of Honour Award to Indian President



Milestones in India-Portugal Diplomacy



India-Portugal Relations: A Historical Journey

