

# Daily Current Affairs



**जनसक्ता**



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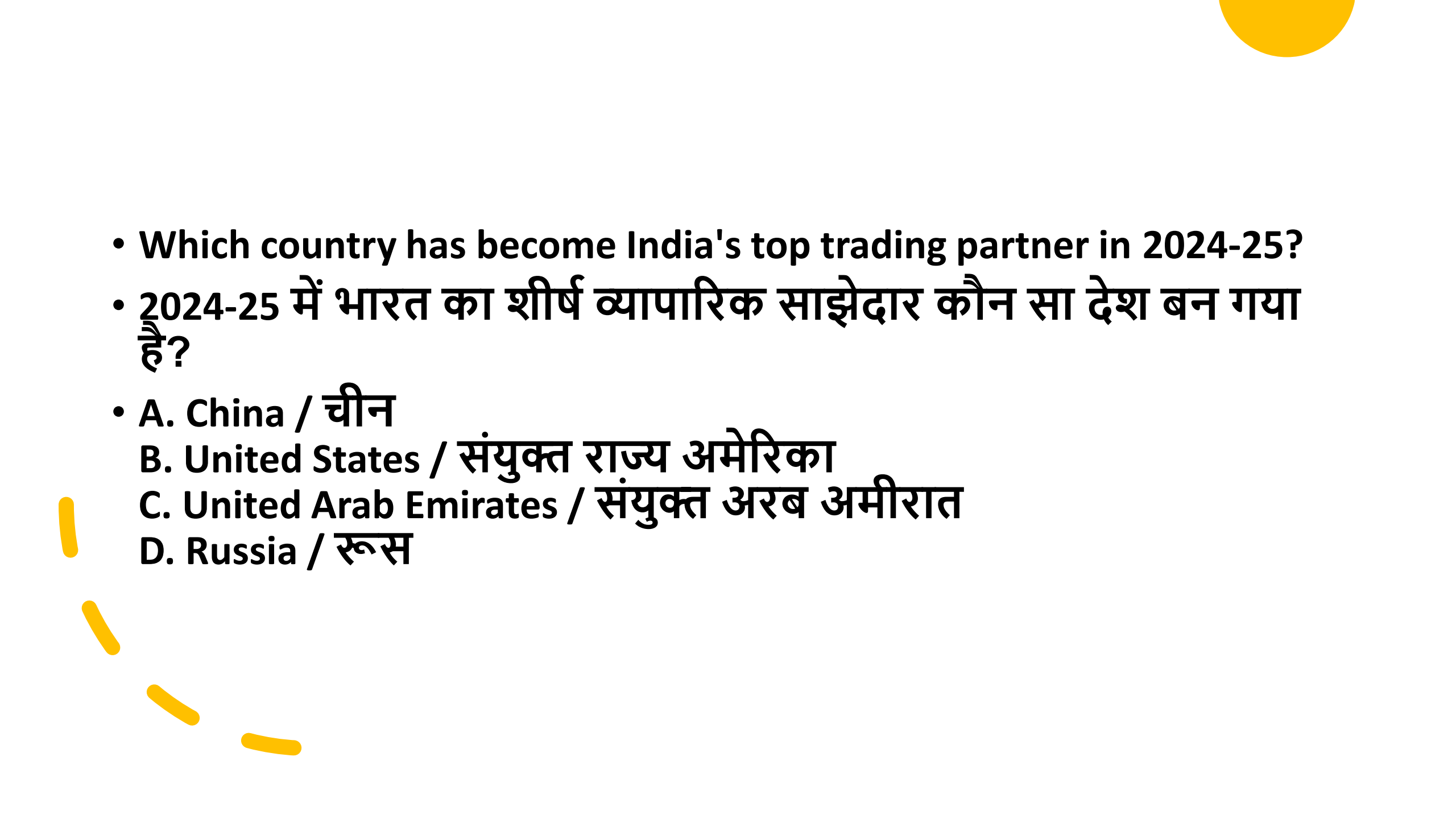


10 MCQ QUIZ





Top 10 MCQ from the session

- 
- Which country has become India's top trading partner in 2024-25?
  - 2024-25 में भारत का शीर्ष व्यापारिक साझेदार कौन सा देश बन गया है?
  - A. China / चीन
  - B. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
  - C. United Arab Emirates / संयुक्त अरब अमीरात
  - D. Russia / रूस

- What is the main objective of the 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI) initiative in India?
- भारत में 'डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर' (DPI) पहल का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Promoting digital banking and financial inclusion / डिजिटल बैंकिंग और वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देना
- B. Expanding the telecom sector / दूरसंचार क्षेत्र का विस्तार करना
- C. Strengthening cybersecurity measures / साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों को मजबूत करना
- D. Increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) / प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) बढ़ाना
- Answer

- 
- . What is India's projected economic growth rate for FY 2025-26 as per the latest budget report?
  - नवीनतम बजट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, FY 2025-26 के लिए भारत की अनुमानित आर्थिक वृद्धि दर क्या है?
  - A. 5.5%
  - B. 6.2%
  - C. 7.0%
  - D. 8.1%


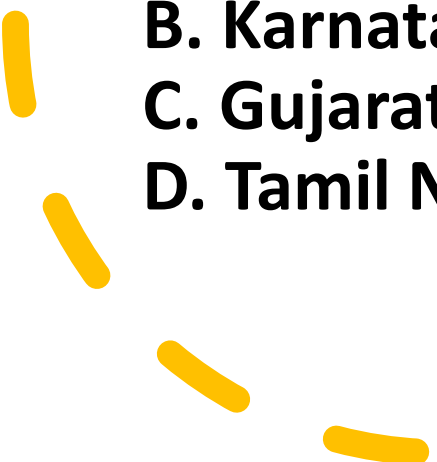
- What does the newly launched 'PM Awas Plus Scheme' focus on?
- नई शुरू की गई 'पीएम आवास प्लस योजना' किस पर केंद्रित है?
- A. Urban housing for middle-class families / मध्यवर्गीय परिवारों के लिए शहरी आवास
- B. Rural electrification / ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण
- C. Affordable healthcare for all / सभी के लिए सस्ती स्वास्थ्य देखभाल
- D. Increasing agricultural productivity / कृषि उत्पादकता बढ़ाना

- Answer

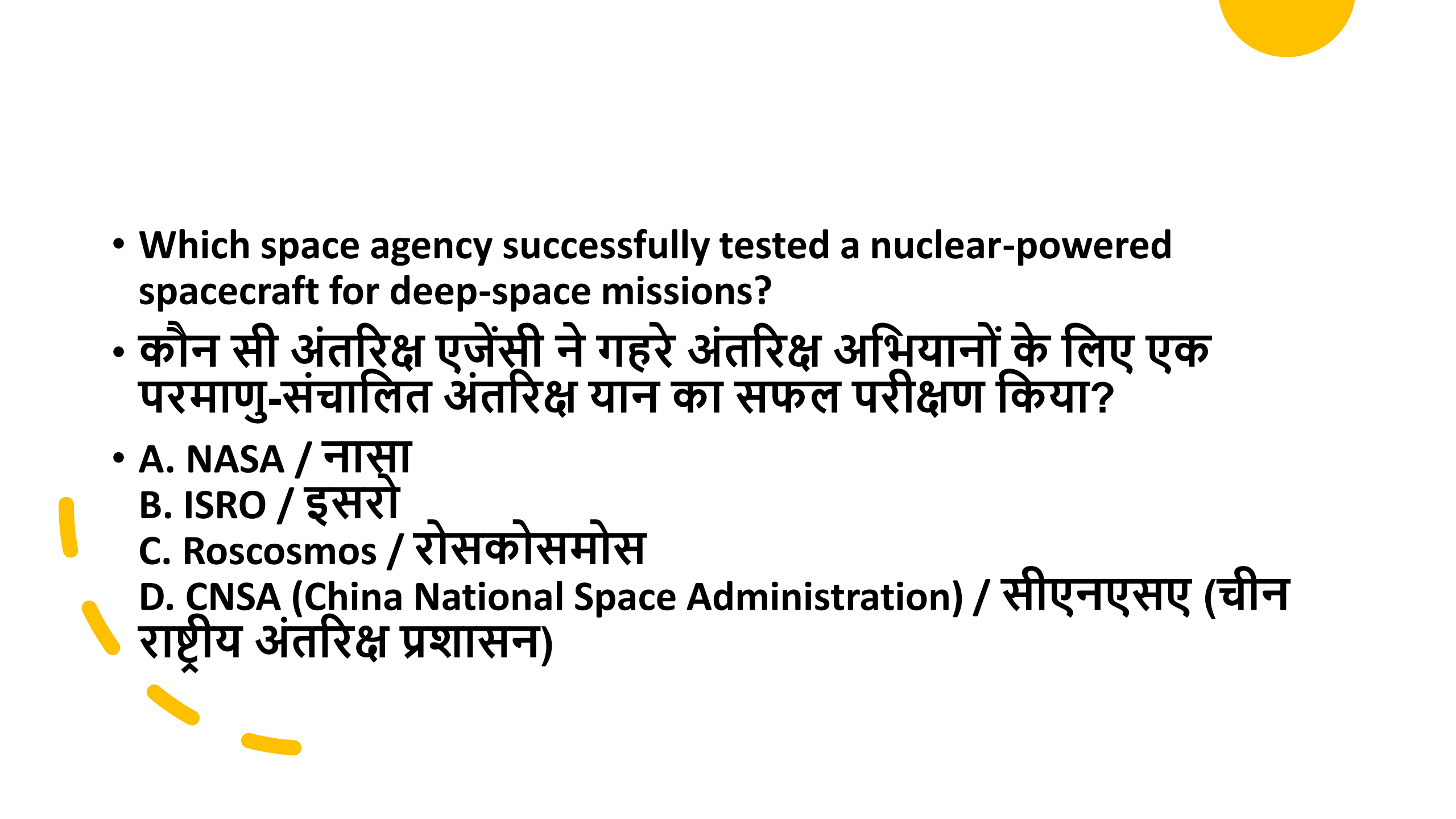


- Which international organization recently praised India's 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative?
- हाल ही में किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन ने भारत की 'LiFE' (पर्यावरण के लिए जीवनशैली) पहल की सराहना की?
- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP)
- B. World Trade Organization (WTO) / विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF) / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)
- D. World Bank / विश्व बैंक

- What is the primary focus of the 'Agri-Tech Mission 2025' in India?
- भारत में 'एग्री-टेक मिशन 2025' का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?
- A. Use of AI and drones in farming / कृषि में एआई और ड्रोन का उपयोग
- B. Doubling farmers' income / किसानों की आय दोगुनी करना
- C. Banning chemical fertilizers / रासायनिक उर्वरकों पर प्रतिबंध लगाना
- D. Increasing minimum support price (MSP) for crops / फसलों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) बढ़ाना

- 
- Which Indian state topped the 'Ease of Doing Business' index in 2025?
  - 2025 में 'व्यवसाय करने में सुगमता' सूचकांक में कौन सा भारतीय राज्य शीर्ष पर रहा?
  - A. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
  - B. Karnataka / कर्नाटक
  - C. Gujarat / गुजरात
  - D. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- 

- Which new government policy aims to regulate e-commerce platforms in India?
- भारत में ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों को विनियमित करने के लिए कौन सी नई सरकारी नीति लागू की गई है?
- A. Digital Commerce Regulation Act, 2025 / डिजिटल वाणिज्य विनियमन अधिनियम, 2025
- B. E-Commerce Consumer Protection Act / ई-कॉमर्स उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम
- C. Online Marketplaces Governance Bill / ऑनलाइन मार्केटप्लेस गवर्नेंस बिल
- D. Consumer Rights and E-Commerce Act / उपभोक्ता अधिकार और ई-कॉमर्स अधिनियम

- 
- Which space agency successfully tested a nuclear-powered spacecraft for deep-space missions?
  - कौन सी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी ने गहरे अंतरिक्ष अभियानों के लिए एक परमाणु-संचालित अंतरिक्ष यान का सफल परीक्षण किया?
  - A. NASA / नासा
  - B. ISRO / इसरो
  - C. Roscosmos / रोसकोसमोस
  - D. CNSA (China National Space Administration) / सीएनएसए (चीन राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष प्रशासन)

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)



# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट) - 1

- सामान्य ज्ञान/संस्कृत
- गणित
- सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

- परीक्षा की दृष्टि से अतिमहत्वपूर्ण प्रश्नों का व्याख्या सहित हल
- नवीनतम पाठ्यक्रम पर आधारित प्रश्नों का समावेशन
- विगत वर्ष के प्रश्नपत्रों के विश्लेषण पर आधारित प्रश्न



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Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

**Price**  
**Rs 199**



# Step 1



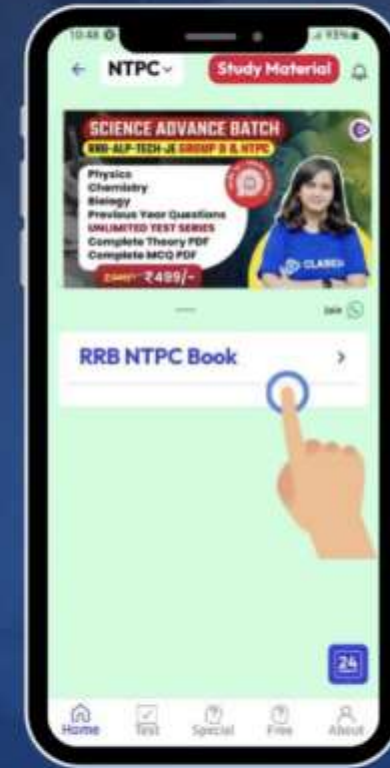
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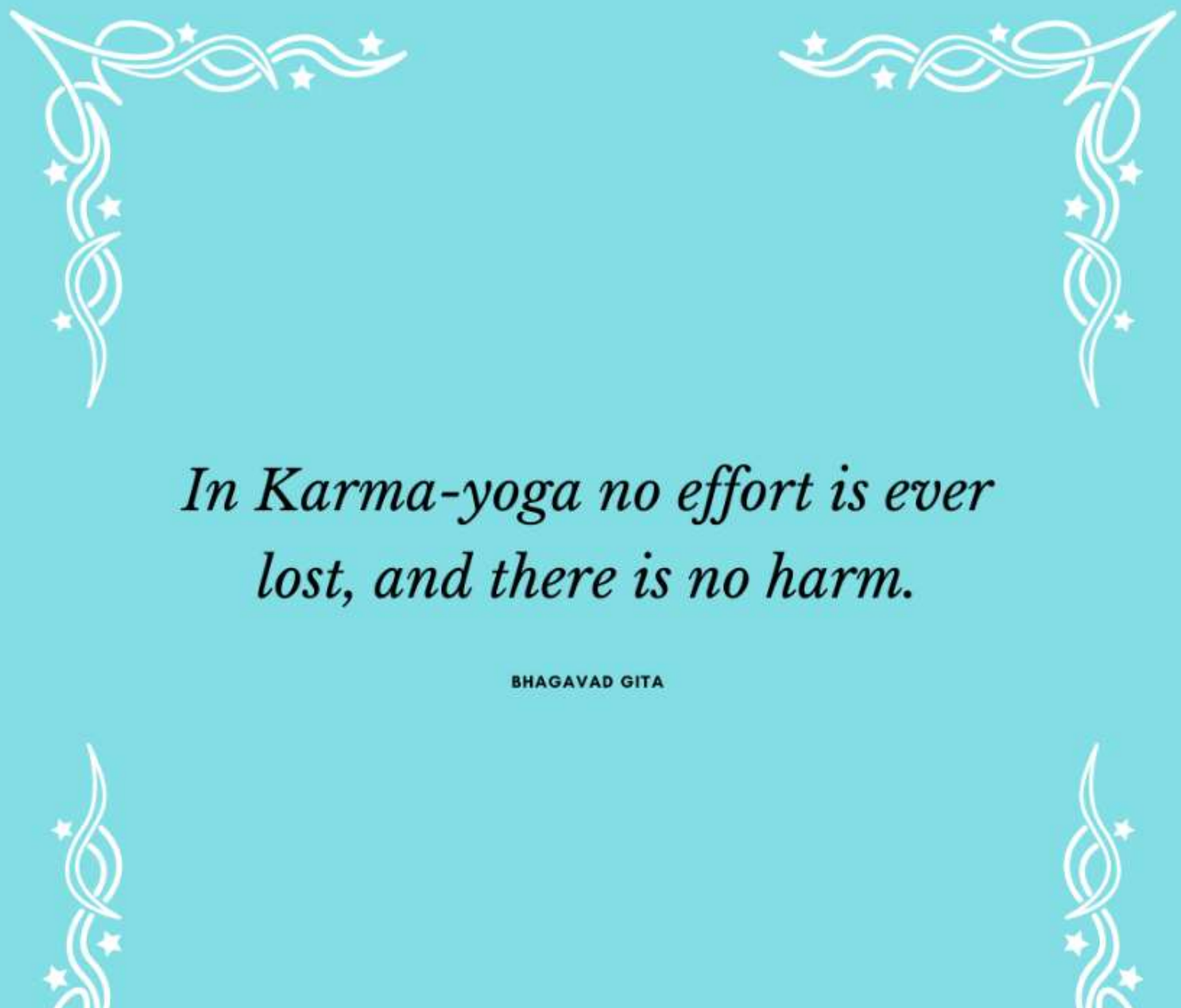


# Step 3



# Step 4





*In Karma-yoga no effort is ever  
lost, and there is no harm.*

BHAGAVAD GITA



Home | Business | English | International | India | Health | Entertainment | Sports | Education | Religion | Technology | Education | Environment | India | Health | Entertainment | Sports | Education | Religion | Technology | Education | Environment | India | Health | Entertainment | Sports | Education | Religion | Technology | Education | Environment

**STICKING TO PLAN**  
**Singapore's call for raising flight quota to be reviewed**  
PRESIDENT'S SANCTION  
Centre seeks nod to prosecute AAP leader  
NEWS 2 PAGE 5

**MARGINAL DECREASE**  
**Wholesale price inflation eases to 2.31%**  
BUSINESS 2 PAGE 11

**LEGAL IMMIGRATION**  
**Shackled in the land of the free**  
A close look at why Indians undertake risky journeys to the U.S.  
GROUND ZERO 2 PAGE 7

**AWARDS**  
**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONORIN**  
Gurbux and Mary win Sportstar Ace Awards  
SPORT 2 PAGE 14

INSIDE

**Cong. reshuffles leadership after electoral setbacks**  
NEW DELHI  
Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday effected an organisational reshuffle by appointing after the party suffered several electoral setbacks. ■ PAGE 8

**Congress accuses Modi of Adani bribery cover-up**  
NEW DELHI  
The Congress accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of covering up alleged corruption of industrialist Gautam Adani on Friday, after his response to a query on Adani's U.S. lobbying activities during a joint press conference with U.S. President Donald Trump. ■ PAGE 4

**Panel led by PM to meet on Feb. 17 to pick CEC**  
NEW DELHI  
A three-member selection committee led by Prime Minister Modi will meet on February 17 to select the next Chief Election Commissioner, with Nitya Kumar retiring on February 18. The other members are Rahul Gandhi and Anur Shah. ■ PAGE 5

**'Bangladesh will soon have a new political party'**  
NEW DELHI  
Bangladesh will soon have a new political party that will safeguard the young generation's contribution to the 2023 spring, said Hitesh Mishra, a senior official in the Indian government to Revlon Mofa, the Irish Ambassador to India, Bangladesh. ■ PAGE 12

# India, U.S. to double bilateral trade by 2030

The two sides aim at negotiating the first part of the mega deal this year, as they agree on a broad agenda for trade, defence and technology; Trump announces that his administration has cleared way for extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Khan; he calls India's tariffs 'unfair' and a 'problem', agrees to negotiations to reduce the deficit

**Pranav Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC  
India and the U.S. agreed to negotiate the first segment of a trade agreement by the autumn of 2025, with India looking to increase energy purchases from the U.S. to address U.S. President Donald Trump's concerns about the U.S.'s trade deficit with India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Mr. Trump for bilateral discussions in Washington. Mr. Trump announced that his administration had cleared the way for the extradition of Tahawwur Khan, wanted in India in connection with the 26/11 terrorist attack, in 2008. The logistics of Khan's extradition and extradition to India are being worked out. Foreign Secretary Vikramjit Mittal, told reporters on Thursday evening at a briefing. The U.S. President also offered to "help" India



Focus point: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump during a meeting at the White House in Washington DC on Thursday. ■

with its border issue with China. In terms of defence, the U.S. was "paving the way to ultimately provide India with F-35 stealth fighters", Mr. Trump said. The delegates met for around four hours on Thursday. Attendees included External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikramjit Mittal, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and others. The joint statement by the U.S. and India covered a range of topics: defence, trade, energy, technology, multilateral cooperation and people-to-people ties. The two sides agreed to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, as part of "Mission 2030". The Prime Minister and President first met at the Oval Office where they spoke of their friendship. Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump that, like him, he kept the national interest

## U.S. pushes for more defence deals in India

**NEW DELHI**  
The U.S. will be increasing military sales to India "by many billions of dollars" starting this year, President Donald Trump said on Thursday at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while also offering the F-35 fifth generation fighter jet, to India. ■ PAGE 4

at the top of his mind, as he compared Mr. Trump's "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" theme to his 'Vikram Sarabhai' (developed-in-India) theme. Standing beside Mr. Modi in the East Room of a joint press conference, Mr. Trump called India's tariffs "unfair" and a "problem". He did not want to get ahead of the discussions. At the joint press conference, Mr. Trump said that

his opening remarks. The Foreign Secretary suggested that India could increase its energy purchases from the U.S. from \$15 billion last year to \$25 billion "in the near future". The two countries also agreed to work on Binat Modular (nuclear) Reactors for India. The two countries announced a framework of cooperation, the U.S.-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century. They also announced a decade-long framework to deepen defence cooperation, including the production of an additional P-81 Maritime Patrol aircraft for India for surveillance of the Indian Ocean Region. While the joint statement finds no mention of the co-production of General Electric F-414 engines for India's Light Combat

aircraft-ME2, a White House official confirmed for *The Hindu* that the U.S. "looked forward" to the conclusion of the deal between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited on the engines. The two sides will resume negotiations for a Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) agreement to align their procurement systems and reconsider their arms transfer regimes. Specifically, the U.S. would look into its International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) rules to enable transfer of military technology. The countries announced the scaling up of production and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific for underwater domains awareness technologies, under a new initiative called the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance. ■ PAGE 4

## Recognising excellence



Shilpa Singh (right) Dhyanu Mendolia (left) Manu Bhaker receives the Sports Star of the Year (female) award from ICC Chairman Jay Shah at the Ace Awards in Mumbai on Friday. ■ BY JYOTIRAJ JAYARAM (PHOTO BY ANIL KUMAR)

## Crackdown against extortion rings will be intensified: Manipur Police

**Shilpa Singh**  
NEW DELHI  
As President's Rule commenced in Manipur on Friday, police officials said that the crackdown against extortion rings will be intensified in the coming days without "political interference". A government official said that at least 60 people associated with underground outfits and racial armed groups have been arrested since February 1 and around 260 cadres have been arrested in the past six months for extortion-related activities. The drive against extortion is ongoing but new

"significant" law-and-order threats in the State. It said various individuals, including government officials, have been threatened with severe consequences via calls, messages, or letters from outlawed organisations. If extortion demands are not met, A police official said they are also arresting persons who provide shelter to such gangs for making the calls. The SIBs are activated fraudulently by obtaining the fingerprints of customers without his or her knowledge. ■ RELATED REPORTS ■ PAGE 3

## Another batch of deported Indians to land in Amritsar

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHANDIGARH  
A U.S. plane carrying around 109 illegal Indian immigrants is expected to land at the Amritsar International Airport in Punjab on Saturday. This would be the second group of Indian citizens being deported from the United States after U.S. President Donald Trump started a crackdown on illegal immigrants. On February 16, a U.S. military plane brought 104 illegal immigrants, in handcuffs, to Amritsar, inviting sharp criticism. Sources said among the 33 deportees in the latest batch, 57 are from Punjab, 31 from Haryana, eight

from Gujarat, three from West Bengal, two each from Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Another plane carrying more deportees is expected to arrive on February 18. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann questioned the landing of the



Immigrant Manu Bhaker receives the Sports Star of the Year (female) award from ICC Chairman Jay Shah at the Ace Awards in Mumbai on Friday. ■ BY JYOTIRAJ JAYARAM (PHOTO BY ANIL KUMAR)

## Hamas keeps ceasefire hopes alive by releasing names of three hostages

**Reuters**  
CAIRO  
Palestinian militant groups in Gaza said they would release hostages later from U.S.-Israeli (Sage) Dekel-Chen and Hussein Baharati Al-Qudus. The groups said on Saturday, in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire with Israel. The announcement, after days of uncertainty about whether the ceasefire would hold, followed in talks and ceasefire efforts by Egyptian and Qatar mediators to keep last month's U.S.-backed agreement on track. A statement from Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel accepted the list but that was later corrected to say Israel had accepted the list, which it said was a "purely factual description" that did not reflect any Israeli approach to the issue. Hamas said Israel was expected to release 260 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in exchange. All three of the hostages



Newly seized hostages in a classroom at the Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday. ■



# India, U.S. to double bilateral trade by 2030

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**Sriram Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

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Mr. Trump announced that his administration had cleared the way for the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, wanted in India in connection with the '26/11' terrorist attack in Mumbai, in 2008. The logistics of Rana's surrender and extradition to India are being worked out, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told presspersons on Thursday evening at a briefing.

The U.S. President also offered to "help" India

with its border issue with China.

In terms of defence, the U.S. was "paving the way to ultimately provide India with F-35 stealth fighters", Mr. Trump said.

The delegates met for around four hours on Thursday. Attendees included External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and others.

The joint statement by the U.S. and India covered a range of topics: defence, trade, energy, technology, multilateral cooperation and people-to-people ties. The two sides agreed to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, as part of 'Mission 500'. The Prime Minister and President first met at the Oval Office where they spoke of their friendship.

Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump that, like him, he kept the national interest



**Power point:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump during a meeting at the White House in Washington DC on Thursday. PTI

at the top of his mind, as he compared Mr. Trump's 'Make America Great Again (MAGA)' theme to his 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) theme.

Standing beside Mr. Modi in the East Room at a joint press conference, Mr. Trump called India's tariffs "unfair" and a "problem". Earlier in the day, the President had announced a broad policy for reciprocal

tariffs, specifically citing Indian tariffs during the signing of the order.

Asked by *The Hindu* whether Mr. Trump would withhold reciprocal tariffs given that a trade negotiation has been announced, Mr. Misri did not have a definitive answer, saying he did not want to get ahead of the discussions.

At the joint press conference, Mr. Trump said the

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**NEW DELHI**

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two sides had agreed to negotiations to reduce the deficit. Mr. Trump said the deficit could be made up with the sale of American oil and gas (LNG) to India.

### To strengthen oil trade

"We will strengthen the oil and gas trade to ensure India's energy security. Investment in energy infrastructure will also increase," Mr. Modi said in

his opening remarks.

The Foreign Secretary suggested that India could increase its energy purchases from the U.S. from \$15 billion last year to \$25 billion "in the near future". The two countries also agreed to work on Small Modular (nuclear) Reactors for India.

The two countries announced a framework of cooperation, the U.S.-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century.

They also announced a decade-long framework to deepen defence cooperation, including the procurement of six additional P-8I Maritime Patrol aircraft for India for surveillance of the Indian Ocean Region.

While the joint statement finds no mention of the co-production of General Electric F-414 engines for India's Light Combat

Aircraft-MK2, a White House official confirmed for *The Hindu* that the U.S. "looked forward" to the conclusion of the deal between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited on the engines.

The two sides will reopen negotiations for a Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) agreement to align their procurement systems and reconsider their arms transfer regimes. Specifically, the U.S. would look into its International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) rules to enable transfers of military technology.

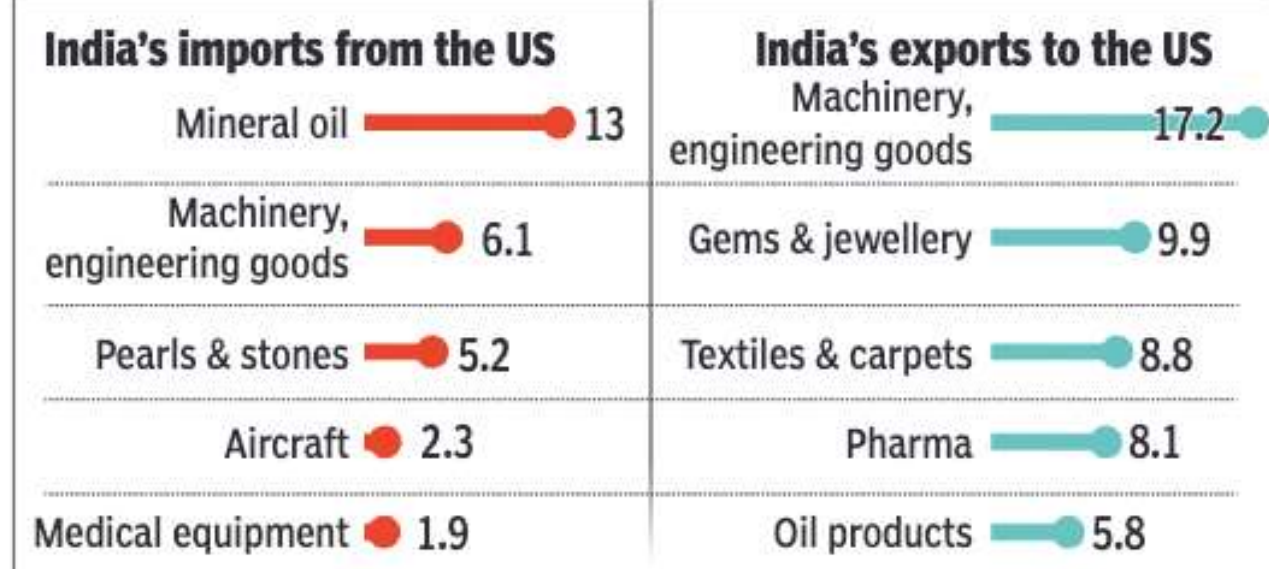
The countries announced the scaling up of production and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific for underwater domain awareness technologies, under a new initiative called the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance.

**ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**

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# WORKING ON NEW STRATEGY









All data in \$bn for 2023-24 Source: Commerce dept



- ◆ **Context & Significance | संदर्भ और महत्व**
- ✦ **India and the U.S. have agreed to negotiate a trade agreement in 2025, aiming to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.**  
✦ **भारत और अमेरिका ने 2025 में एक व्यापार समझौते पर बातचीत करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है, जिसका उद्देश्य 2030 तक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को \$500 बिलियन तक बढ़ाना है।**
- ✦ **The deal includes discussions on trade, defence, energy, and technology.**  
✦ **इस समझौते में व्यापार, रक्षा, ऊर्जा और प्रौद्योगिकी पर बातचीत शामिल होगी।**



- ✦ U.S. President Trump raised concerns over India's tariffs, calling them “unfair” and a “problem”, but agreed to negotiations.  
✦ अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने भारतीय टैरिफ को “अनुचित” और “समस्या” बताया, लेकिन वार्ता के लिए सहमत हुए।
- ✦ The U.S. has also cleared the way for the extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to India.  
✦ अमेरिका ने 26/11 हमले के आरोपी तहव्वुर राणा के प्रत्यर्पण की प्रक्रिया को मंजूरी दे दी है।

- 
- **Key Trade & Economic Aspects | प्रमुख व्यापार और आर्थिक पहलू**
  -  Both countries agreed to address the U.S. trade deficit concerns and increase energy imports from the U.S.  
 दोनों देश अमेरिका के व्यापार घाटे की चिंताओं को दूर करने और अमेरिका से ऊर्जा आयात बढ़ाने पर सहमत हुए।
  -  India will increase its purchases of U.S. oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).  
 भारत अमेरिकी तेल और तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) की खरीद बढ़ाएगा।
- 

- |
- ✓ U.S. called India's tariffs "unfair" but agreed to negotiate ways to reduce the deficit.  
✓ अमेरिका ने भारतीय टैरिफ को "अनुचित" बताया लेकिन घाटा कम करने के तरीकों पर बातचीत करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- ✓ India is looking to expand defence partnerships and manufacturing with the U.S.  
✓ भारत रक्षा साझेदारी और अमेरिका के साथ रक्षा विनिर्माण का विस्तार करना चाहता है।
- ✓ The countries will scale up Indo-Pacific economic partnerships for regional security and trade.  
✓ दोनों देश क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा और व्यापार के लिए इंडो-पैसिफिक आर्थिक साझेदारी को बढ़ाएंगे।

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- ◆ Defence & Security Cooperation | रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग



- 📖 The U.S. will provide India with F-35 stealth fighter jets and increase military sales.

- 📖 अमेरिका भारत को F-35 स्टील्थ फाइटर जेट उपलब्ध कराएगा और सैन्य बिक्री बढ़ाएगा।

- ✓ India and the U.S. announced the 'COMPACT' framework to strengthen military, technology, and economic cooperation.


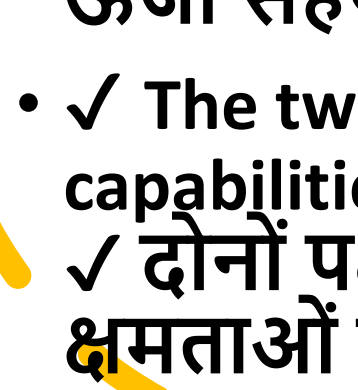
- ✓ भारत और अमेरिका ने सैन्य, तकनीक और आर्थिक सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए 'COMPACT' रूपरेखा की घोषणा की।

- ✓ Discussions on joint production of aircraft like General Electric's F-414 fighter engines for India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-2.  
✓ भारत के लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA) Mk-2 के लिए जनरल इलेक्ट्रिक के F-414 फाइटर इंजन के संयुक्त उत्पादन पर चर्चा हुई।
- ✓ Negotiations on Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) Agreement to align procurement systems.  
✓ रिसिप्रोकल डिफेंस प्रोक्योरमेंट (RDP) समझौते पर चर्चा, जिससे रक्षा खरीद प्रणालियों को एकीकृत किया जा सके।

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- ✓ Collaboration on autonomous defence systems, surveillance, and underwater drone technology.  
✓ स्वायत्त रक्षा प्रणालियों, निगरानी और अंडरवाटर ड्रोन तकनीक पर सहयोग।
  - ✓ Expansion of Indo-Pacific defence cooperation, maritime security, and intelligence sharing.  
✓ इंडो-पैसिफिक रक्षा सहयोग, समुद्री सुरक्षा और खुफिया साझेदारी का विस्तार।
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- **Energy & Infrastructure Partnership | ऊर्जा और बुनियादी ढांचा सहयोग**
- **📖 The U.S. aims to increase its energy exports to India, focusing on oil and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).**  
**📖 अमेरिका भारत को अपनी ऊर्जा निर्यात बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहा है, जिसमें तेल और छोटे परमाणु रिएक्टर (SMR) शामिल हैं।**
- **✓ India will import more U.S. crude oil and LNG to balance trade.**  
**✓ भारत व्यापार संतुलन के लिए अधिक अमेरिकी कच्चे तेल और LNG का आयात करेगा।**

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- ✓ Joint investment in energy security infrastructure projects.  
✓ ऊर्जा सुरक्षा अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं में संयुक्त निवेश।
  - ✓ The U.S. and India will explore clean energy collaborations in solar, wind, and nuclear technology.  
✓ अमेरिका और भारत सौर, पवन और परमाणु प्रौद्योगिकी में स्वच्छ ऊर्जा सहयोग की संभावनाएँ तलाशेंगे।
  - ✓ The two sides will align procurement and defence industrial capabilities for self-reliance.  
✓ दोनों पक्ष आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए खरीद और रक्षा औद्योगिक क्षमताओं को एकीकृत करेंगे।
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## *Recognising excellence*



**Shining bright:** Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker receives the Sportstar of the Year (female) award from ICC chairman Jay Shah at the Aces Awards in Mumbai on Friday. R.V. MOORTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

# And the *Sportstar* Aces Awards go to...

■ **Best State for Promotion of Sport:** Madhya Pradesh

■ **Best Corporate for Promotion of Sport:** Reliance Industries

■ **Best PSU for Promotion of Sport:** Railway Sports Promotion Board

■ **Best University for Promotion of Sport:** Kalinga Institute Of Industrial Technology

■ **Chairperson's choice (Sports for Social Good):** Downtown Heroes FC

■ **Sportstar of the year (male):** P.R. Sreejesh

■ **Special Recognition GameChanger:** Jay Shah

■ **Sportswoman of the year (non-Olympic Sport):** Divya Deshmukh

■ **Sportswoman of the year (Para Sport):** Avani Lekhara

■ **Club/State team of the year:** Mumbai Ranji team

■ **National team(s) of the year:** India men's chess team, India women's chess team

■ **Young Achiever (male):** Parth Mane

■ **Young Achiever (female):** Neha Sangwan

■ **Lifetime Achievement:** Gurbux Singh, Mary D'Souza Sequeira

■ **Inspirational Icon:** P.V. Sindhu

■ **Paralympic gold medallists - a tribute to champions:** Avani Lekhara, Navdeep Singh and Harvinder Singh

■ **Sportsman of the year (Olympic Sport):** Swapnil Kusale

■ **Sportswoman of the year (Olympic Sport):** Manu Bhaker

■ **Coach of the year:** Jaspal Rana

■ **Sportstar of the year (female):** Manu Bhaker



MANU BHAKER



# The Teesta dam and the long shadow of climate change

## Peace imperatives

President's Rule in Manipur provides

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE**

In Manipur, with the Bharatiya Janata Party unable to identify a successor to N. Biren Singh for the post of Chief Minister and the Assembly also not having seen convened even six months since its last sitting, President's Rule was imposed in the State while the Assembly and its suspended animation. Since mid-2023, in any case, a number of essential forces have been deployed, with the Union Home Ministry in control over law and order even as the strife that began as an ethnic conflagration in May 2023 has shown no signs of subsiding. With President's Rule being declared — even if it was for expedient reasons and showcasing an inability of the BJP and its allies in government to overcome the ethnic differences within the legislature and in the polity — the Union government now has an opportunity to ease the tensions. It can also work on pressing issues such as the pending displacement of over 60,000 people. Reports suggest that many among them still experience severe trauma and a loss of livelihoods, which may be tackled by the government with alacrity. President's Rule also allows for the possibility of talks between representatives of the two communities in the conflict, especially those who are committed to peace. The legislators can also play a role in this exercise of reconciliation.

The other major issue is the militarisation of civil society, with the burgeoning of militant groups among the two communities, who have termed themselves as "village volunteers", training among them in hand-to-hand combat, and arming them with weapons looted from constabularies. Earlier attempts to retrieve these weapons and bring the leaders to face to face have met fierce fruitless resistance in the new ethnic conflict has also been complicated by the expanded role of insurgents who were drifting the Indians in areas engaged in the Myanmar civil war. It would take a concerted effort by the government, armed forces and civil society actors to identify the "village volunteers", disarm them by using a firm hand and with incentives, and then work on defusing the insurgents. The Biren Singh regime was incapable during this time of addressing the vested bias in leadership and Mr. Singh's tendency to stigmatisate the Khasi community as a whole, leading to complete distrust. Efforts must be taken to distance the government from this coloured legacy and the Home Ministry should work on a well-footing to restore peace. Ideally, Assembly elections would have been necessitated immediately considering the deep ethnic divisions within the legislature and its failures. But, first, it is imperative to extinguish the climate of fear and repression from violent groups and restore the rule of law before elections.

## Catching a break

January's inflation dip is respite for households but risks are building up

A healthy winter harvest of vegetables reined in food inflation to a five-month low of 0% in January, driving down India's consumer price inflation to 4.5%, tantalisingly close to the 4% median target pursued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). For most consumers, in fact, inflation eased to 3.9%, while rural consumers faced a much-moderated 4.6% uptick in prices. This constitutes some relief for households, especially the urban middle class which has been seeking relief from food inflation and has pulled back on other spending. If inflation holds around this level for some time, this may have broader ramifications for consumption and growth impetus gathering fresh steam. The RBI, which should maintain rates but needs anticipation of declining inflation, must be relieved too. As per its own reckoning, with this quarter expected to average 4.4% inflation, there may be a minor uptick from January's 4.3% price rise over this month and March. On Thursday, the annual inflation decline and the RBI's projection of an average inflation of 4.2% in 2025-26, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's earlier comment in Parliament that food prices will be under control this year, with farm output estimates suggesting a healthy uptick.

Some dark clouds, however, loom over this benign inflation outlook that is expected to create more room for the central bank to cut rates further and support growth. With the price decline 4% against the U.S. dollar so far in the second half of 2024-25, imported inflation can play a spoiler, particularly for the auto sector, as importers constitute 80% of India's consumption needs. If commuting costs, which accounted for the highest chunk of household spending in 2023-24, and cooking fuel costs flare up along with the price of oil, as they have for household budgets will be exacerbated afresh. Edible oil prices have been rising sharply for a few months already, with high global prices compounded by the Centre's decision to impose import duties. They were up 16.6% in January, the highest in almost three years. Wholesale prices for edible oils jumped 33.1%, indicating there is likely more pain to come. The RBI, which is seeking to curb the volatility in the rupee, will be mindful of these risks, and have retained a neutral monetary policy stance, may hold off on its growth pursuit if warranted. To alleviate price pressures, the government, after unravelling income tax cuts to boost middle class consumption, should be open to slashing indirect taxes — fuel levies, import duties, and GST — as they affect all sections of society, including the most vulnerable.

In January 27, 2025, an expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change recommended a proposal to rebuild the Teesta-3 dam on the Teesta river in Sikkim. In October 2023, a powerful glacial lake outbreak flood (GLOF) from the South Lhonak lake had decimated the dam and its hydroelectric power generation facility. The waters also carried debris from the dam forward like a fluid butted rarely, heightening the damage further downstream. In all, over 100 people were killed while more than 80,000 people in four districts were affected. It became clear later that a moraine on the South Lhonak lake's east side suffered a slope failure, weakening the terminus. The failure also sent rocks tumbling into the lake, generating a strong ripple. The outlet subsequently gave way, with satellite data indicating that around 50 billion litres of water had spilled into the valley. The event also set off multiple landslides about 30 to 40 kilometres downstream. Experts who have since been monitoring the lake also said the moraine has remained unstable.

**The link with global warming**  
As global warming and particulate matter — super-cooled black carbon, also known as soot — accelerate the melting of Himalayan glaciers, more runoff is pooling into new lakes or adding to existing ones. The rate of melting is inversely proportional to the volume, so, as glaciers dwindle, they melt faster. A report by the Central Water Commission of last year found that the number of "glacial lakes and other water bodies in the Himalayan region had become 10-26% more numerous between 2003 and 2024 and their surface area had increased by 33.7% in the same period. The South Lhonak lake itself was formed in the early 1990s and grew to 167 hectares by 2023. Glacial retreat has also been known to destabilise extant geological formations and create new sources of water. Against this backdrop, the expert committee's decision to recommend the rebuilding of the Teesta-3 dam is worrisome.

As *The Hindu* has reported, the committee's decision was motivated by the fact that Teesta-3 is a "successful" and "commercially viable" and that its power-generating equipment "was largely ready" following the GLOF. Environmental activists and hydrogeology experts alike have expressed misgivings about large hydroelectric power projects on the Himalaya and questioned the new design's green clearance.



Anand P. Krishna

The key issue is that the dam was commercially viable is a weak reason to construct it

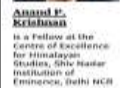
Teesta-3 has also been the subject of several public interest litigation asking for a ban on dam construction in the region. Climate activists and landslide-prone areas; issues in its techno-economic clearance. Its non-compliance with a 1996 notification to have Sikkim hold 51% equity; and alleged corruption. According to the dam and its hydroelectric power generation facility. The waters also carried debris from the dam forward like a fluid butted rarely, heightening the damage further downstream. In all, over 100 people were killed while more than 80,000 people in four districts were affected. It became clear later that a moraine on the South Lhonak lake's east side suffered a slope failure, weakening the terminus. The failure also sent rocks tumbling into the lake, generating a strong ripple. The outlet subsequently gave way, with satellite data indicating that around 50 billion litres of water had spilled into the valley. The event also set off multiple landslides about 30 to 40 kilometres downstream. Experts who have since been monitoring the lake also said the moraine has remained unstable.

**The views of experts**  
The proliferation of glacial lakes, geological instability, dynamic of transient landscape increasingly be captured by a rainfall-corrected blow in from industrial centres in the Gangesic plains all increase risks in a way that cannot be ignored by the government. The expert committee, however, experts but also should not ignore the risks. They must factor. A report by the Central Water Commission of last year found that the number of "glacial lakes and other water bodies in the Himalayan region had become 10-26% more numerous between 2003 and 2024 and their surface area had increased by 33.7% in the same period. The South Lhonak lake itself was formed in the early 1990s and grew to 167 hectares by 2023. Glacial retreat has also been known to destabilise extant geological formations and create new sources of water. Against this backdrop, the expert committee's decision to recommend the rebuilding of the Teesta-3 dam is worrisome.

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# Dealing with China's weaponisation of e-supply chains

In mid-January this year, news emerged of Apple's growing fear by its citizens. The state government, in cooperation with the state governments, has pulled out all stops to entrench Apple-Foxconn's investments in the southern part of the country. The efforts focus from 2023, with the assembling of iPhone 15 models at Foxconn's facility in Sangjianshan. Tamil Nadu, along with the government in the electronics plant in Hosur, Karnataka.



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**What is at play**  
These zero-sum measures by China expand geopolitical competition with India through advanced use of capital and other factors of production. Fully equipped of his domains in advanced machinery and a well-trained workforce in tightly integrated global electronics production, China intends to also curb the tacit transfer of knowledge from Chinese technicians to their Indian counterparts on the assembly line. Combined with the disruptions on account of non-availability of specialised equipment, China has sought to weaponise its strategic location in the network of supply chains to slow down production in India, and place itself in an advantageous negotiating position.

The growing trade tensions between China and the West, specifically the United States, along with the COVID-19-related disruptions have led many global corporations to adopt a China Plus One diversification strategy to future-proof themselves. India has been in the forefront to seek benefits from this move along with countries such as Vietnam and Mexico.

Given the scale and the development trajectory of India's manufacturing sector bearing potential similarities to that of the Chinese expertise, Beijing realises the need to limit the use of its geopolitical rival and also remind global corporations of its own indispensability to the production ecosystem.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
**President's Rule**  
With some much-needed steps in conflict resolution in Manipur having been initiated, the Government of India is seeking to curtail the volatility in the rupee, will be mindful of these risks, and have retained a neutral monetary policy stance, may hold off on its growth pursuit if warranted. To alleviate price pressures, the government, after unravelling income tax cuts to boost middle class consumption, should be open to slashing indirect taxes — fuel levies, import duties, and GST — as they affect all sections of society, including the most vulnerable.

Over the last few years, the Indian government, in cooperation with the state governments, has pulled out all stops to entrench Apple-Foxconn's investments in the southern part of the country. The efforts focus from 2023, with the assembling of iPhone 15 models at Foxconn's facility in Sangjianshan. Tamil Nadu, along with the government in the electronics plant in Hosur, Karnataka.

In the fiscal year ending March 2024, Apple assembled \$14 billion worth of iPhones in India, through contract manufacturer Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics, in 2024, for the first time, iPhone 15 Pro models were assembled by Foxconn in India. Foxconn's plant in south India have prioritised Apple-Foxconn in their pursuit of investments.

The conference of the Padma Shriban on Young Liu, Chairman of Foxconn, in 2024, further underscored the emphasis on India for production. Fully equipped of his domains in advanced machinery and a well-trained workforce in tightly integrated global electronics production, China intends to also curb the tacit transfer of knowledge from Chinese technicians to their Indian counterparts on the assembly line. Combined with the disruptions on account of non-availability of specialised equipment, China has sought to weaponise its strategic location in the network of supply chains to slow down production in India, and place itself in an advantageous negotiating position.

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As well as hillslope-channel interactions such as riverbank collapse and landslides triggered by toe-undercutting of soil as well as the loading of sediment transport on local bed elevation and erosion levels. The latter is of particular importance in large river basins because water waves move faster than sediment waves. The commercial viability of Teesta-3, to be built with concrete abutment rather than concrete and rocks as before, to have a spillway nearly three times more voluminous, and to have an early warning system for flooding. The facility's new design is reportedly based on a "maximum scenario" modelled by the India Meteorological Department, with the "maximum possible rain" in the region.

But one of the hallmarks of climate change is that it is a risk-multiplier. If the slope failure of the South Lhonak lake had occurred without there being a lake, there is unlikely to have been a flood. Likewise, if the moraine had collapsed, the gradual accumulation of water may have caused the overtopping to flow into the valley less violently than during a GLOF.

**The people form the larger picture**  
The social security of the region's residents will have to be improved accordingly so that, in the event of a disaster, they are able to piece their lives back together without slipping on any social, health, and/or economic indicators. Brian Strain, D, a professor in the School of City and Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S., wrote in a 2024 article (*"The History of Water: The 2023 Flood in Sikkim"*). "We cannot engineer our way out of climate change; retreat is inevitable." That is, if the climate-change-induced sea-level rise is to be kept constant, in the area will either the area will shrink or the costs of maintaining S will be increased. 8 could be property, livelihoods, even human lives.

That the facility was commercially viable is an insufficient excuse to ignore it. Instead, the decision should be made within a framework of priorities likely by the need to minimise risk to local residents, and their livelihoods, and maintain their socio-economic resilience. The framework should also include a risk assessment determination matrix with a response plan and a had "acceptable risk" level. The cost of these measures should be included in the dam's hydroelectric power tariff rather than externalised. In the determination of the commercial viability. Anything else would be unsustainable by definition.

**India needs to think long term**  
There are no easy solutions for India in the short term, and so, it needs to involve both Apple and Foxconn to negotiate with China for ensuring Beijing's long-term interests. Given that these corporations have stakes in both countries, their investments could possibly help India's cause. However, this should also serve as another opportunity to hasten the process of India's economic transformation through its components, and the need to invest in research, components and specialised machinery. It needs to be kept in mind that India is still, largely, a centre of final assembly of smartphones. For a well-rounded and holistic manufacturing ecosystem that includes the production of various components, auxiliary industry need to be incentivised and scaled up.

The National Manufacturing Mission for small, medium and large industries, announced in the Union Budget is a good step, but it needs credible financial muscle that leads to development of clusters for technological knowledge-sharing. On-site training for workers, which includes sharing of knowledge on the assembly line, needs to be complemented and augmented with industry-specific specialisation in skill development programmes. More private capital needs to be encouraged in order to create a robust network of indigenous contract manufacturers for not just foreign corporations but also for domestic Indian brands.



# Dealing with China's weaponisation of e-supply chains

In mid-January this year, news emerged of China preventing travel by its citizens working as engineers and technicians in Foxconn's facilities in India. It was also reported that those already in India were being recalled, and that the restrictions extended to curbs on exports of critical specialised manufacturing equipment, over which China has a monopoly. While Foxconn has reportedly scrambled to bring in Taiwanese workers to fill the gap in manpower, it is the stoppage of specialised equipment that is crippling. Apple-Foxconn remains critical to India's ambitions of becoming a global manufacturing power, and, therefore, such strangulation will affect that larger objective.

## What is at play

These zero sum measures by China expand geopolitical competition with India through regulations on flow of capital and other factors of production. Fully cognisant of its dominance in advanced machinery and a well-trained workforce in tightly integrated global electronics production, China intends to also curb the tacit transfer of knowledge from Chinese technicians to their Indian counterparts on the assembly line. Combined with the disruptions on account of non-availability of specialised equipment, China has sought to weaponise its strategic location in the network of supply chains to slow down production in India, and place itself in an advantageous negotiating position.

The growing trade tensions between China and the West, specifically the United States, along with the COVID-19-related disruptions have led many global corporations to adopt a China Plus One diversification strategy to future-proof themselves. India has been in the forefront to seek benefits from this move along with countries such as Vietnam and Mexico.

Given the scale and the development trajectory of India's manufacturing sector bearing potential similarities to that of the Chinese experience, Beijing realises the need to limit the rise of its geopolitical rival and also remind global corporations of its own indispensability to the production ecosystem.



**Anand P. Krishnan**

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With large-scale electronics manufacturing important to India, New Delhi needs to speed up its future-proofing

Over the last few years, the Indian government, in coordination with its State governments, has pulled out all stops to entrench Apple-Foxconn's investments in the southern part of the country. The efforts bore fruit in 2023, with the assembling of iPhone 15 models at Foxconn's facility in Sunguvarchatram, Tamil Nadu along with another line in Tata Electronics' plant in Hosur, Karnataka.

In the fiscal year ending March 2024, Apple assembled \$14 billion worth of iPhones in India, through contract manufacturers Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics. In 2024, for the first time, iPhone 16 Pro models were assembled by Foxconn in India. State governments in south India have prioritised Apple-Foxconn in their pursuit of investments.

The conferment of the Padma Bhushan on Young Liu, Chairman of Foxconn, in 2024, further underscores the company's importance for India. It appears that the emphasis has been on replicating Apple's symbiotic relationship with China.

## A pillar of 'Make in India'

Large-scale electronics manufacturing, especially of smartphones, is one of the important pillars of the 'Make in India' programme. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which was launched first in the electronics industry in 2020, has witnessed increased allocation by the central government – a sum of ₹8,885 crore (\$1.02 billion) in the Union Budget this year, rising from ₹6,125 crore in the Union Budget 2024 (\$0.70 billion).

A recent news report revealed that over three financial years, from 2022-23 to 2024-25, Apple's contract manufacturers in India (Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics) had cumulatively received close to ₹6,600 crore (\$0.76 billion), out of the total disbursed amount of ₹8,700 crore (\$1 billion) under the PLI scheme. In addition, the Union Budget 2025 has completely removed basic custom duties/import taxes on mobile phone components such as printed circuit boards, camera modules, connectors, and sensors, as also different capital goods/machinery for use in

the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries for mobile phones. It is notable that China's zero-sum action happened just a few months after the thaw in India-China ties, post the patrolling agreement in October 2024 to end a four year-long military standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

Economic necessity – visible in the Indian dependence on China for components and machinery – is believed to have hastened the negotiations process. This illustrates how India-China relations do not (necessarily) hinge on a stable boundary, as geopolitical competition between both sides is only bound to get more acute in the future.

## India needs to think long term

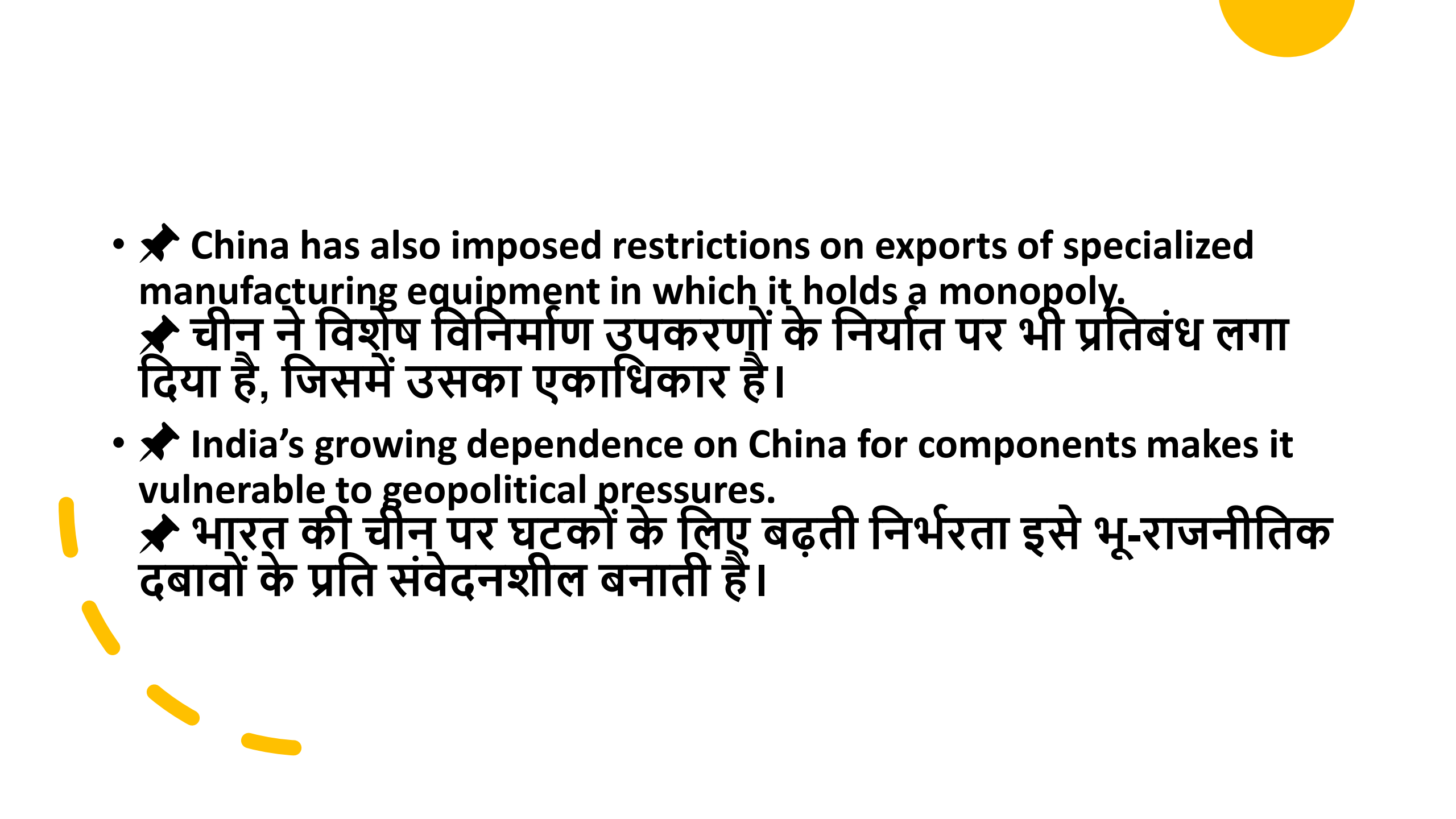
There are no easy solutions for India in the short term, and so, it needs to involve both Apple and Foxconn to negotiate with China for easing Beijing's latest measures. Given that these corporations have stakes in both countries, their involvement could possibly help India's case. However, this should also serve as another opportunity to hasten the process of future-proofing in terms of human resources, components and specialised machinery.

It needs to be kept in mind that India is still, largely, a centre of final assembly of smartphones. For a well-rounded and holistic manufacturing ecosystem that includes production of various components, ancillary industries need to be incentivised and scaled up.

The National Manufacturing Mission for small, medium and large industries, announced in the Union Budget is a good step, but it needs credible financial muscle that leads to development of clusters for technological knowledge-sharing. On-site training for workers, which includes tacit sharing of knowledge on the assembly line, needs to be complemented and augmented with industry-specific specialisation in skill development programmes.

More private capital needs to be encouraged in order to create a robust network of indigenous contract manufacturers for not just foreign corporations but also for domestic Indian brands.

- ✦ China has restricted travel for its engineers working in Foxconn's India facilities, impacting India's electronic manufacturing sector.  
✦ चीन ने अपने इंजीनियरों की भारत स्थित फॉक्सकॉन सुविधाओं में यात्रा पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, जिससे भारत के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण क्षेत्र पर प्रभाव पड़ा है।
- ✦ The move is seen as an attempt to control the knowledge transfer from Chinese engineers to their Indian counterparts.  
✦ इस कदम को चीनी इंजीनियरों से भारतीय कर्मचारियों तक ज्ञान हस्तांतरण को रोकने के प्रयास के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

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- ✦ China has also imposed restrictions on exports of specialized manufacturing equipment in which it holds a monopoly.  
✦ चीन ने विशेष विनिर्माण उपकरणों के निर्यात पर भी प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, जिसमें उसका एकाधिकार है।
  - ✦ India's growing dependence on China for components makes it vulnerable to geopolitical pressures.  
✦ भारत की चीन पर घटकों के लिए बढ़ती निर्भरता इसे भू-राजनीतिक दबावों के प्रति संवेदनशील बनाती है।



- ◆ **Economic & Trade Implications | आर्थिक और व्यापारिक प्रभाव**
- 📖 **China's actions could slow down India's ambitions of becoming a global manufacturing hub.**  
📖 **चीन की यह कार्रवाई भारत के वैश्विक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनने की महत्वाकांक्षा को धीमा कर सकती है।**
- ✓ **Foxconn has invested over \$14 billion in assembling iPhones in India through contract manufacturers like Pegatron and Tata Electronics.**  
✓ **फॉक्सकॉन ने पेगाट्रॉन और टाटा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स जैसे अनुबंध निर्माताओं के माध्यम से भारत में iPhones असेंबल करने के लिए \$14 बिलियन से अधिक का निवेश किया है।**



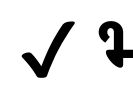
- 
- ✓ In 2024, for the first time, iPhone 16 Pro models will be assembled in India.  
✓ 2024 में पहली बार, iPhone 16 Pro मॉडल भारत में असेंबल किए जाएंगे।
  - ✓ India has prioritized Apple-Foxconn investments to push its 'Make in India' initiative.  
✓ भारत ने 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए Apple-Foxconn निवेश को प्राथमिकता दी है।
  - ✓ India has introduced Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) worth ₹88,885 crore to boost electronics manufacturing.  
✓ भारत ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹88,885 करोड़ की उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना शुरू की है।

- 
- ✓ The disbursement under the PLI scheme in FY 2024-25 is expected to reach ₹6,600 crore, benefiting major players like Foxconn and Pegatron.

✓ FY 2024-25 में PLI योजना के तहत ₹6,600 करोड़ का वितरण किया जाएगा, जिससे फॉक्सकॉन और पेगाट्रॉन जैसे प्रमुख खिलाड़ियों को लाभ होगा।

- 
- ✓ India has also cut import duties on mobile phone components such as camera modules and connectors.

✓ भारत ने मोबाइल फोन घटकों जैसे कैमरा मॉड्यूल और कनेक्टर्स पर आयात शुल्क भी कम कर दिया है।



- 
- **India's Response & Way Forward | भारत की प्रतिक्रिया और आगे का रास्ता**
  - **📖 India is pushing for localization of high-end manufacturing to reduce dependency on China.**  
**📖 भारत चीन पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए उच्च-स्तरीय विनिर्माण के स्थानीयकरण को आगे बढ़ा रहा है।**
  - **✓ Need to develop indigenous supply chains for components and specialized machinery.**  
**✓ घटकों और विशेष मशीनरी के लिए स्वदेशी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं का विकास आवश्यक है।**
  - **✓ Greater collaboration with the U.S., Europe, and Japan for alternative technology sources.**  
**✓ विकल्प प्रौद्योगिकी स्रोतों के लिए अमेरिका, यूरोप और जापान के साथ अधिक सहयोग।**

## IT'S SHOWTIME

■ Premium content to include films and shows from Disney, NBCUniversal Peacock, Warner Bros Discovery HBO, and Paramount

■ JioStar to also target bringing more live experiences beyond sports and entertainment



₹149

The lowest price of subscription plans for mobile-only access to JioStar for three months

■ Consolidation to see JioHotstar having over **400 mn** monthly active users, according to experts

₹299

Cost of super plan for two devices (for three months) also available



POSTS PROFIT OF ₹262 CRORE

# BSNL rings in profit after 17 yrs in Q3

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, February 14

**STATE-OWNED BHARAT** Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) has reported a profit of ₹262 crore in the October-December quarter, its first since 2007, according to a government release.

In the year-ago period, the company's loss stood at ₹1,569 crore and in the July-September quarter, BSNL's loss was at ₹1,243 crore.

The reason behind the company becoming profitable can be attributed to an increase in revenue from mobility, fibre-to-the-home, and leased lines, which increased 15%, 18%, and 14% year-on-year, respectively. Additionally, BSNL has successfully reduced its finance cost and overall expenditure, leading to a positive bottom line impact of over ₹1,800 crore, compared to last year.

Key factors which helped BSNL to show profits are multiple revival packages, spectrum allocation at no cash payment to the company, and capital infusion by the government.

"BSNL has earned a record profit of ₹262 crore in the October-December 2024 quarter for the first time since 2007. Under the visionary leadership of the respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, BSNL is committed to providing the best services to the customers in its new avatar," Minister of communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said in a post on X.

BSNL said it has been focusing on innovation, aggressive

## REPORT CARD

■ In FY24, the firm's revenue was at **₹19,344 crore**

■ In the year-ago period, the firm's loss were at **₹1,569 cr**

A ROBERT J RAVI, CMD, BSNL

Our financial performance reflects our focus on innovation, customer satisfaction



network expansion, cost optimisation, and customer-centric service improvements, which helped the company to clock profits during the quarter.

"We are pleased with our financial performance this quarter, which reflects our focus on innovation, customer satisfaction, and aggressive network expansion. With these efforts, we expect revenue growth to improve further, exceeding 20% by the end of the financial year," said A Robert J Ravi, CMD of BSNL.

In FY24, the company's revenue from operations was at ₹19,344 crore. The company did not share the revenue for the October-December quarter. Revenue from operations for the six months ended September grew 10.4% y-o-y to ₹9,235 crore.

# Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited



BSNL Headquarters at [New Delhi](#)

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Company type</b> | Central Public Sector Undertaking  |
| <b>Industry</b>     | Telecommunications   |
| <b>Founded</b>      | 15 September 2000; 24 years ago  |
| <b>Founder</b>      | Government of India  |
| <b>Headquarters</b> | <a href="#">New Delhi</a> , India  |
| <b>Area served</b>  | India,<br>Nepal (with MTNL),<br>Mauritius (as MTML).   |
| <b>Key people</b>   | <a href="#">Jyotiraditya Scindia</a><br>(Cabinet Minister for Communications)<br><a href="#">Shri A. Robert J. Ravi</a> , <a href="#">ITS</a><br>(Chairman & MD)<br><sup>[1]</sup> |

## Services

FTTH  
Fixed line telephone  
Mobile telephony  
Broadband  
Internet services  
Internet television  
IPTV

## Revenue

▲ ₹21,317 crore  
(US\$2.5 billion) (2024)<sup>[2]</sup>

## Operating income

▲ ₹2,052 crore  
(US\$240 million) (2024) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Net income

▼ ₹-5,367 crore (US\$  
-620 million) (2024)<sup>[2]</sup>

## Total assets

▲ ₹167,086 crore  
(US\$19 billion) (2024)<sup>[2]</sup>

## Total equity

▲ ₹106,626 crore  
(US\$12 billion) (2024)<sup>[2]</sup>

## Owner

Department of  
Telecommunications, Ministry  
of Communications,  
Government of India

## Number of employees

56,820 (as on 30 June 2024  
as per RTI)

## Divisions

Bharat Fiber  
BSNL Broadband  
BSNL Mobile  
Bharat Net  
BSNL Towers<sup>[3]</sup>

## Subsidiaries

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam  
Limited<sup>[4]</sup>  
BBNL<sup>[5]</sup>

- ✦ State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported a profit of ₹262 crore in the October-December quarter (Q3) of FY24. This is its first profit since 2007.

✦ राज्य-स्वामित्व वाली भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड (BSNL) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024 की अक्टूबर-दिसंबर तिमाही (Q3) में ₹262 करोड़ का लाभ दर्ज किया है। यह 2007 के बाद पहला लाभ है।



- ✦ In the year-ago period, the company had a loss of ₹1,569 crore, and in the July-September quarter, BSNL's loss stood at ₹1,243 crore.





✦ पिछले वर्ष की इसी तिमाही में कंपनी को ₹1,569 करोड़ का घाटा हुआ था, और जुलाई-सितंबर तिमाही में ₹1,243 करोड़ का घाटा था।



- |
- ✦ BSNL attributed its turnaround to an increase in revenue from mobility (15%), fiber (18%), and leased lines (14%).  
✦ BSNL ने अपनी वापसी का श्रेय मोबिलिटी (15%), फाइबर (18%), और लीज़ लाइन्स (14%) से राजस्व में वृद्धि को दिया है।
- ✦ The company also significantly reduced its finance costs, leading to a bottom-line impact of ₹1,800 crore compared to last year.  
✦ कंपनी ने वित्तीय लागत में भारी कटौती की, जिससे पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में ₹1,800 करोड़ का लाभ हुआ

- |
- ✦ BSNL's revenue from operations for FY24 stood at ₹19,344 crore, showing a 10.4% year-on-year (YoY) growth.  
✦ FY24 में BSNL का संचालन से प्राप्त राजस्व ₹19,344 करोड़ रहा, जिसमें 10.4% वार्षिक वृद्धि हुई।



- 
- **Reasons Behind BSNL's Profitability | BSNL के लाभदायक बनने के कारण**
  - **✓ Government Revival Package & Capital Infusion | सरकारी पुनरुद्धार पैकेज और पूंजी निवेश**
  - **BSNL received financial support from the government, allowing it to strengthen its operations.**
  - **BSNL को सरकार से वित्तीय सहायता मिली, जिससे उसे अपने संचालन को मजबूत करने में मदद मिली।**
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- ✓ Revenue Growth in Key Areas | प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में राजस्व वृद्धि
  - Revenue from fiber services grew by 18%, mobility by 15%, and leased lines by 14%.
  - फाइबर सेवाओं से राजस्व में 18%, मोबिलिटी से 15%, और लीज़ लाइन्स से 14% की वृद्धि हुई।
  - ✓ Cost Optimization | लागत अनुकूलन
  - The company successfully reduced its financial costs, improving its profit margins.
  - कंपनी ने अपने वित्तीय खर्चों को प्रभावी ढंग से कम किया, जिससे लाभ मार्जिन में सुधार हुआ।
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- ✓ Aggressive Network Expansion | आक्रामक नेटवर्क विस्तार
  - BSNL has been focusing on expanding its network and improving customer services.
  - BSNL अपने नेटवर्क विस्तार और ग्राहक सेवाओं में सुधार पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है।
  - ✓ Customer-Centric Innovations | ग्राहक-केंद्रित नवाचार
  - Introduction of innovative service plans and improved network quality played a crucial role.
  - नवीन सेवा योजनाओं की शुरुआत और नेटवर्क गुणवत्ता में सुधार ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- 

- ◆ **Government & BSNL's Vision | सरकार और BSNL की दृष्टि**
- 📖 **Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that BSNL is committed to providing the best services in its "new avatar."**  
📖 **संचार मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने कहा कि BSNL अपने "नए अवतार" में सर्वश्रेष्ठ सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।**
- 📖 **BSNL aims to increase revenue growth further and expects over 200% improvement by the end of the financial year.**  
📖 **BSNL का लक्ष्य राजस्व वृद्धि को और बढ़ाना है और वित्तीय वर्ष के अंत तक 200% सुधार की उम्मीद है।**
- 📖 **CMD A Robert J Ravi emphasized the focus on innovation, customer satisfaction, and network expansion.**  
📖 **CMD ए रॉबर्ट जे रवि ने नवाचार, ग्राहक संतुष्टि, और नेटवर्क विस्तार पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की बात कही।**

# Yogi: Kumbh to boost UP economy by ₹3L cr

## ‘Only ₹1.5k Cr Of ₹4k Cr Expenses Spent On Mela’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Attacking opposition for questioning Rs 4,000 crore expenditure on organisation of Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj this year, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that only Rs 1,500 crore was spent on Kumbh while the remaining was invested in improving Prayagraj’s infrastructure.

“Maha Kumbh is not just a religious event but also a major economic driver for UP. How can an investment of Rs 1,500 crore, which is contributing Rs 3 lakh crore to the state’s economy by boosting tourism and trade, be questioned,” he asked.

Attending the inauguration of two major flyover projects in Lucknow with defence minister Rajnath Singh and Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari, the CM thanked the two for ensuring UP’s development.

Stating Lucknow is being developed not only as an



Countering the opposition, Yogi said most of Rs 4,000 crore investment was for boosting Prayagraj’s infrastructure

aerocity but also as AI hub, Yogi said: “Under the leadership of PM Modi, UP is now equipped with modern facilities, providing every citizen with better infrastructure and public services.”

Under Gadkari, he said, Lucknow got development projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore, including two major national highway projects costing Rs 440 crore and state projects worth nearly Rs 600 crore. He said efforts are being made to develop Lucknow into a metro-level city with world-class infrastructure.

“To accommodate the massive influx of devotees at Maha Kumbh, the state has enhanced connectivity via

road, rail, and air. Most devotees are arriving by road. On Mauni Amavasya, a staggering eight crore devotees bathed at the Sangam, and the seamless arrangements ensured zero disruption,” the CM said.

He also requested Gadkari to clear two projects, a new bridge parallel to Shastri Bridge and one over Yamuna river in Prayagraj, like Delhi’s Signature bridge, which were recently approved by the state cabinet. These projects, he said, will facilitate large-scale events like Maha Kumbh and enhance Prayagraj’s overall connectivity.

The CM also praised Rajnath for his significant contribution to UP’s development, especially Lucknow, which he represents in Lok Sabha. He highlighted the defence minister’s crucial role in advancing BrahMos missile manufacturing project under Bharat Dynamics Ltd in Lucknow and bringing major projects to Jhansi, strengthening UP as a defence manufacturing hub under the defence corridor initiative. Yogi said Lucknow was being systematically developed on model of a state capital region.





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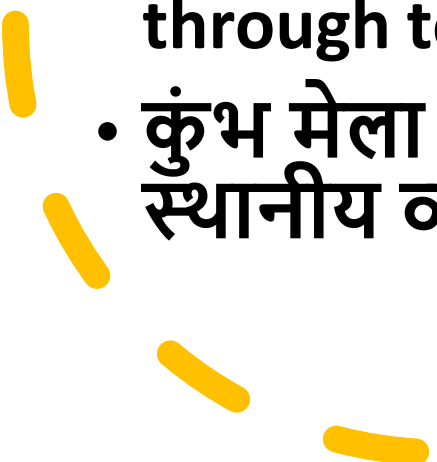
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- ✦ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath defended the ₹4,000 crore expenditure on the Maha Kumbh event in Prayagraj, stating that only ₹1,500 crore was spent on the event itself, while the rest was invested in improving Prayagraj's infrastructure.**  
✦ **उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ के आयोजन पर ₹4,000 करोड़ खर्च करने का बचाव किया, यह कहते हुए कि केवल ₹1,500 करोड़ ही कुंभ मेले पर खर्च किया गया, जबकि बाकी प्रयागराज के बुनियादी ढांचे में निवेश किया गया।**



- ✦ He highlighted that the investment will contribute ₹3 lakh crore to Uttar Pradesh's economy by boosting tourism and trade.  
✦ उन्होंने बताया कि यह निवेश पर्यटन और व्यापार को बढ़ावा देकर उत्तर प्रदेश की अर्थव्यवस्था में ₹3 लाख करोड़ का योगदान देगा।
- ✦ The CM also inaugurated two major flyover projects in Lucknow with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.  
✦ मुख्यमंत्री ने रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और केंद्रीय परिवहन मंत्री नितिन गडकरी के साथ लखनऊ में दो प्रमुख फ्लाईओवर परियोजनाओं का भी उद्घाटन किया।



- ✦ CM Yogi mentioned that efforts are underway to transform Lucknow into a metro-level city with world-class infrastructure.  
✦ सीएम योगी ने कहा कि लखनऊ को विश्वस्तरीय बुनियादी ढांचे के साथ एक मेट्रो-स्तरीय शहर में बदलने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।
- ✦ The state government has planned new projects like a bridge parallel to Shastri Bridge and another over the Yamuna river in Prayagraj.  
✦ राज्य सरकार ने प्रयागराज में शास्त्री ब्रिज के समानांतर एक नया पुल और यमुना नदी पर एक अन्य पुल बनाने की योजना बनाई है।

- 
- ◆ Economic & Infrastructure Development | आर्थिक और बुनियादी ढांचा विकास
  - ✓ Investment in Tourism & Economy | पर्यटन और अर्थव्यवस्था में निवेश
  - Kumbh Mela attracts millions of devotees, generating revenue through tourism and local businesses.
  - कुंभ मेला लाखों श्रद्धालुओं को आकर्षित करता है, जिससे पर्यटन और स्थानीय व्यवसायों के माध्यम से राजस्व उत्पन्न होता है।
- 



- ✓ Infrastructure Upgrades | बुनियादी ढांचे का उन्नयन
- Road, rail, and air connectivity in Prayagraj has been strengthened for seamless travel.
- प्रयागराज में सड़क, रेल और हवाई कनेक्टिविटी को बेहतर बनाया गया है ताकि यात्रा सुगम हो सके।
- ✓ Metro-Level City Development | मेट्रो स्तर के शहर का विकास
- Lucknow is being developed systematically with better public services and connectivity.
- लखनऊ को व्यवस्थित रूप से विकसित किया जा रहा है, जिससे बेहतर सार्वजनिक सेवाएं और कनेक्टिविटी सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

- 
- ✓ Defence Manufacturing Boost | रक्षा निर्माण में वृद्धि
  - Advancement of the BrahMos missile project under the Defence Corridor Initiative in Lucknow.
  - लखनऊ में रक्षा कॉरिडोर पहल के तहत ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल परियोजना को आगे बढ़ाना।
- 

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- ✓ **Economic Impact | आर्थिक प्रभाव**
  - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a tourism and investment hub.**  
✓ **उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन और निवेश केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है।**
  - ✓ **Revenue from religious tourism will contribute significantly to GDP growth.**  
✓ **धार्मिक पर्यटन से होने वाला राजस्व जीडीपी वृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगा।**
- 

# India ready to host 2036 Olympics: Shah at National Games

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

**Dehradun:** The 38th National Games concluded on Friday with a grand closing ceremony at Haldwani's Indira Gandhi International Stadium where Union home minister Amit Shah was invited as the chief guest.

Addressing the packed stadium, Shah declared, "India is ready to host the 2036 Olympics. We are bidding to host it and we are sure it will succeed. Once we secure the rights, I am sure our athletes will raise the national flag on the podium." He urged Uttarakhand's athletes to work hard and contribute to India's success at the Olympics.

The event was also attended by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma (whose state will host the next National Games), Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Uttarakhand sports minister Rekha Arya, Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha, and other dignitaries.

During his address, Shah praised the Uttarakhand govt for successfully hosting the National Games, calling it a testament to the state's commitment to developing sports infrastructure.

"The next National Games will be hosted in another small



Amit Shah with Uttarakhand CM Dhami. Meghalaya will host the next National Games, Shah said

state, Meghalaya, showcasing the Centre's efforts to promote sports across the country. In a commendable move, Meghalaya has decided to involve all six remaining northeastern states by allowing them to host some events," he said.

Speaking on the Union govt's efforts to develop sports in the country, Shah said, "Before Narendra Modi became PM, the total sports budget was Rs 800 crore in 2014. For 2025-26, it has increased to Rs 3,800 crore. The Khelo India initiative has motivated youth to take up sports, and we are making significant strides in building sports infrastructure," he said.

Shah also paid tribute to CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the 2019 Pulwama attack.



| Summer Olympics | Host City | Year | Estimated Budget (USD)  | Final Cost (USD) |
|-----------------|-----------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Tokyo           | Japan     | 2021 | \$7.3 billion (initial) | ~\$15.4 billion  |
| Rio de Janeiro  | Brazil    | 2016 | \$14 billion (initial)  | ~\$13.1 billion  |
| London          | UK        | 2012 | \$4 billion (initial)   | ~\$14.6 billion  |





| Country   | Annual Sports Budget (Latest Available)                    | Key Allocations & Notes   |
|-----------|--|---|
| India     | ₹3,794.30 crore (2025-26) (~\$456 million)                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ₹1,000 crore allocated to the "Khelo India" program for grassroots sports development. <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com">TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM</a></li> <li>- ₹830 crore designated for the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for managing national camps and athlete training. <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com">TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM</a></li> </ul> |
| China     | ¥23.3 billion (2023) (~\$3.2 billion)                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The General Administration of Sport oversees 20 sports management centers and national teams. <a href="https://projectplay.org">PROJECTPLAY.ORG</a></li> <li>- Focus on prioritizing skill-based sports and disciplines with historically less global competition. <a href="https://projectplay.org">PROJECTPLAY.ORG</a></li> </ul>  |
| Australia | A\$385 million over 18 months (2024-2025) (~\$251 million) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding supports 70 sports, with a focus on Olympic and Paralympic disciplines ahead of the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Games and the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games. <a href="https://reuters.com">REUTERS.COM</a></li> <li>- Investment aims to enhance high-performance sports and increase sports participation nationwide. <a href="https://reuters.com">REUTERS.COM</a></li> </ul>    |
| USA       | Not readily available                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The U.S. sports funding landscape is diverse, with significant investments from private sectors, sponsorships, and media rights. <a href="https://pwc.com">PWC.COM</a></li> <li>- The sports sponsorship market in North America is projected to reach \$115 billion by 2025. <a href="https://pwc.com">PWC.COM</a></li> </ul>   |



**Maharishi Dayanand  
Saraswati**

PM paid tributes to Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati on his birth anniversary.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Dayanand Saraswati was born on February 12, 1824, in Gujarat.

He founded the Arya Samaj in 1875 to promote social reforms and education, counteracting social inequities and orthodox Hindu practices.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President, called Dayanand Saraswati 'a maker of modern India.

He published **Satyarth Prakash (1875)** to promote Vedic teachings and criticized other religions.

**Core Beliefs:** Rejected idolatry and ritualistic traditions in Hinduism.

- Advocated for women's education and opposed child marriage and untouchability.
- Emphasized a return to Vedic principles, promoting monotheism and simple rituals.

## Social Impact:

He advocated for cow protection, leading to the creation of the Gaurakshini Sabha in 1882.

- His followers established Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) schools after his death to promote modern education alongside cultural and religious values.
- Credited with popularizing the term “swaraj” (self-rule) in 1875, later adopted by leaders like Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi.
- Supported the idea of “shuddhi” to bring back converts to Hinduism.








**Philosophy of Arya Samaj:** He advocated for the welfare of all humankind, rejecting idol worship.

He believed caste should not be hereditary but based on individual talent and disposition.

His vision of social reform is seen in India's New Education Policy of 2020

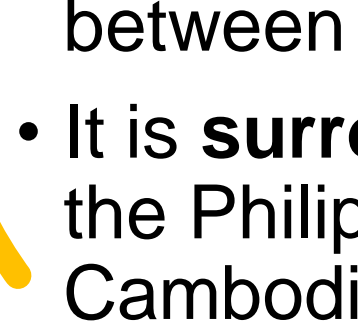
# Deepwater 'Space Station' in South China Sea



- 
- China has approved the construction of the first **South China Sea deepwater ‘space station’**.
  - **About**
    - The facility will be a cold seep ecosystem research facility, located 2,000 meters below the surface.
    - It will be one of the deepest and most technologically complex underwater installations.
    - It is expected to be operational by around 2030.
- 
- 
- 
- 



- **About the South China Sea**

- It is one of the most strategically and economically important waterways in the world, extending from the **Strait of Malacca in the southwest**, to the **Strait of Taiwan in the northeast**.
  - It is a crucial maritime gateway and junction for shipping between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
  - It is **surrounded** by several nations, including China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- 

# Philippines removes China sea barrier


The Philippines has removed a floating barrier recently installed by Chinese Coast Guard boats to block access to a prime fishing patch within a disputed area of the South China Sea



Sep 22: Philippine Coast Guard discovers 300m barrier placed across the entrance to an atoll





- 
- **India's Position:** India's position on the South China Sea has evolved in recent years, shifting from neutrality to more active support for claimant states like the Philippines and Vietnam.
    - India also seeks to secure its energy resources and enhance economic ties through its Look East Policy

•



The image features a vibrant green cornfield in the foreground, with rows of tall corn plants stretching towards the horizon. In the background, an industrial facility, likely a palm oil refinery, is visible. The facility includes several large, cylindrical storage tanks with corrugated metal siding, some with blue roofs. A tall, thin chimney stack rises from the center of the industrial complex. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene suggests a connection between agriculture and industrial processing.

# India's Palm Oil Imports Plunge

India's palm oil imports dropped 65% year-on-year in January 2025, reaching a 13-year low.

## About Palm Oil

**Definition:** Palm oil is extracted from the fruit of the African oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*) and is one of the most widely used vegetable oils in the world.



- **Types of Palm Oil**

- **Crude Palm Oil (CPO):** Extracted from the fruit pulp, used mainly for cooking and food processing.
- **Palm Kernel Oil:** Extracted from the seed, primarily used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and industrial applications.



## Global Palm Oil Production:

- Indonesia & Malaysia together produce over 85% of the global supply.
- Other significant producers: Thailand, Colombia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea.

## Palm Oil Production in India

- Major Producing States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala (accounting for 98% of total production).
- India still relies heavily on imports to meet domestic demand.



- 
- **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**  
(launched in 2021)
  - **Goal:** Promote domestic oil palm cultivation and reduce dependence on imports.
  - **Targets:** Increase oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26.
    - Support farmers with financial incentives & subsidies.
- 



The background features a dark, almost black, space filled with intricate, glowing blue patterns. These patterns consist of numerous thin, curved lines that flow and swirl across the frame, creating a sense of dynamic movement. Interspersed among these lines are small, bright blue particles or dots, some of which appear to be part of the larger structures. The overall effect is reminiscent of a complex data visualization or a representation of a physical phenomenon like gravitational waves or a particle simulation.

# Einstein Ring


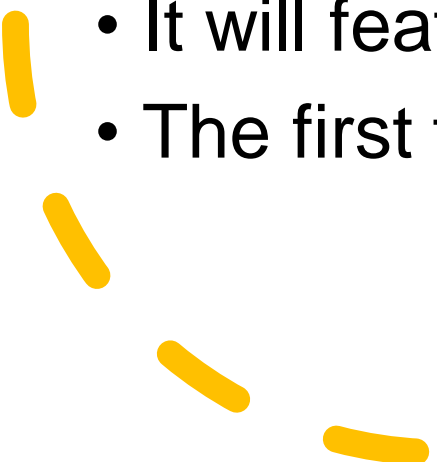
- The European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid space telescope has discovered an Einstein ring, around a galaxy nearly 590 million light-years away from Earth.
- **What is an Einstein Ring?**
- **An Einstein ring** is a circular formation of light caused by gravitational lensing, where a massive celestial object bends and magnifies light from a more distant object behind it.



**BrahMos NG**


- 
- The development in the **BrahMos NG (Next Generation) missile system** represents a significant leap in India's defense capabilities and international outreach.
  - **About BrahMos NG**
  - BrahMos NG is an advanced supersonic cruise missile developed under the **India-Russia joint venture**.
- 



- 
- The BrahMos NG will retain the **same 290 km range and Mach 3.5 speed** as its predecessor.
  - It is **lighter (1.6 tonnes vs. 3 tonnes) and smaller (6m vs. 9m)**, making it more adaptable for various platforms, including the Sukhoi-30MKI and Tejas fighter aircraft.
  - It will feature a homemade **AESA radar**.
  - The first test flight is expected by **next year (2025-26)**.
- 

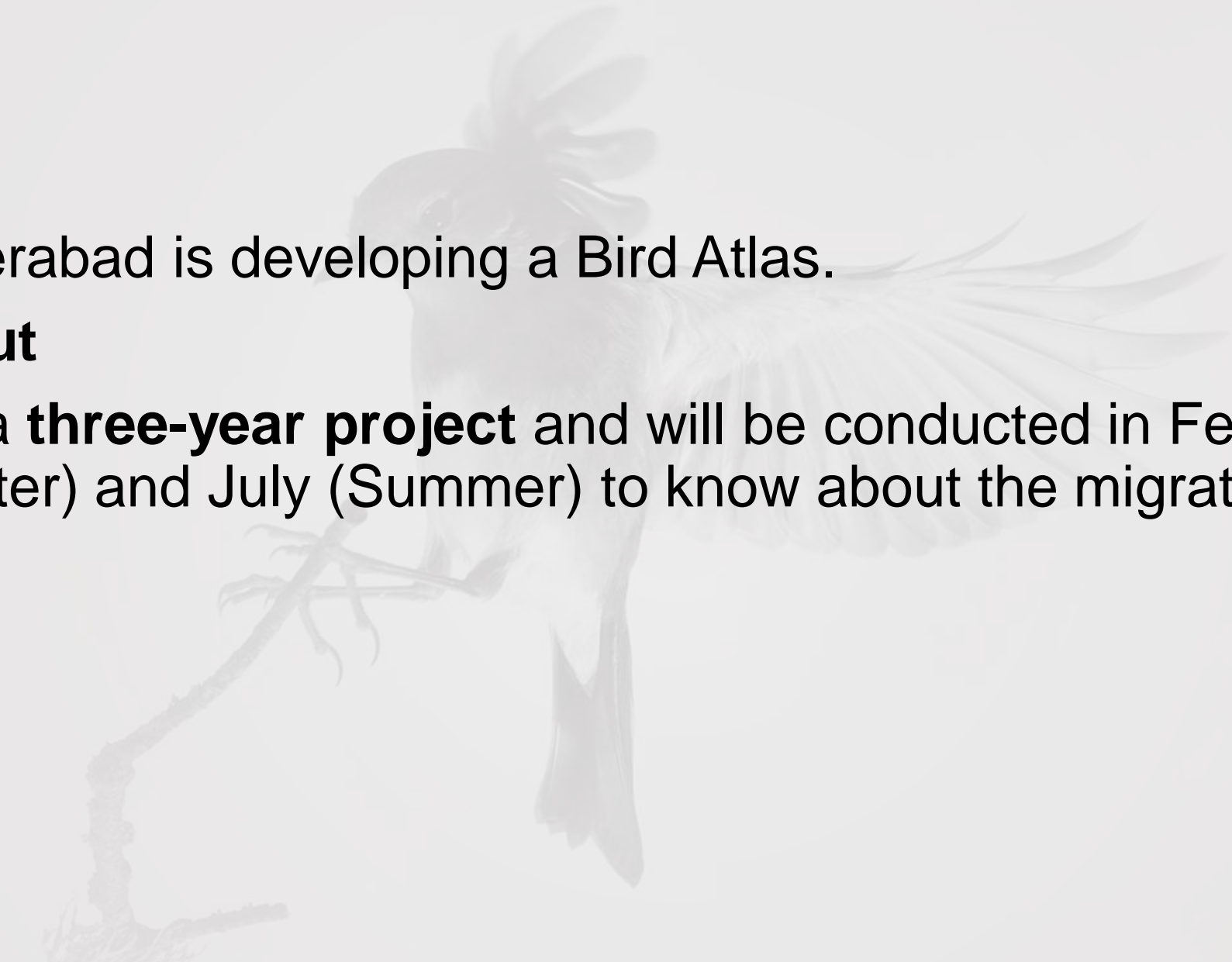


- **Strategic Importance & Export Potential**

- India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines in 2024, under a \$375 million deal signed in 2022.
  - Advanced negotiations with Indonesia for a \$450 million deal.
  - Several nations in Africa and West Asia have shown interest in acquiring BrahMos NG
- 



# Hyderabad Bird Atlas

- 
- Hyderabad is developing a Bird Atlas.
  - **About**
  - It is a **three-year project** and will be conducted in February (Winter) and July (Summer) to know about the migratory birds.

**Aim:** To understand bird distribution in the city, monitor changes in their population, identify important bird areas and inform authorities about land use planning.

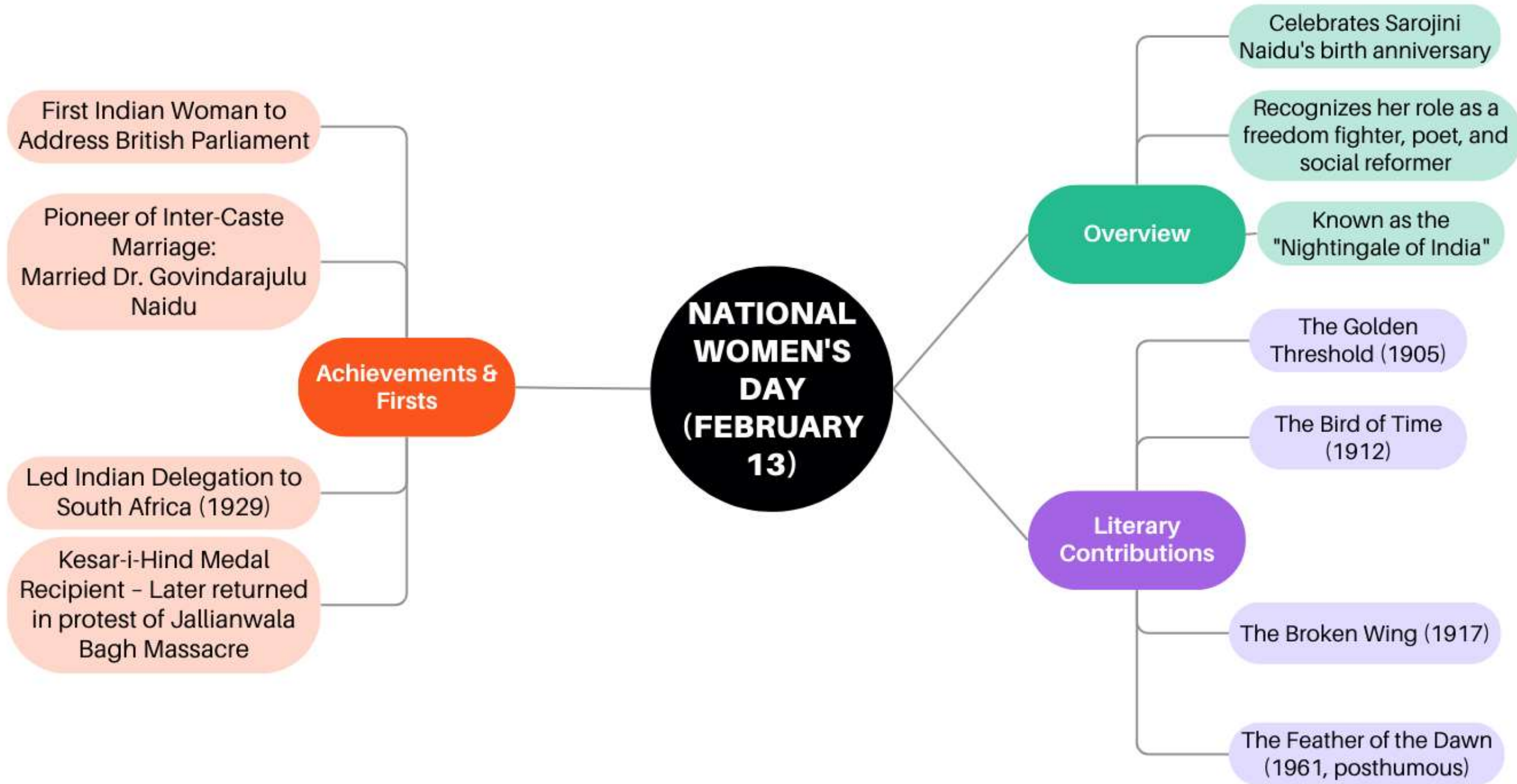
**Pune, Mysore and Coimbatore** are some of the cities in India that have developed bird atlases.



As of now, 51 out of 180 regions were surveyed and 170 bird species were recorded.


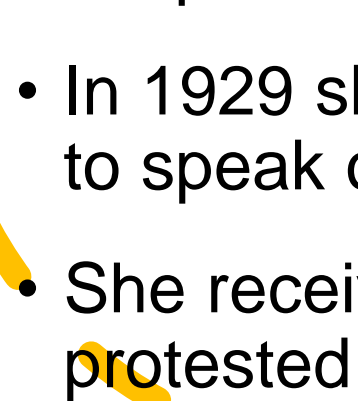


# National Women's Day 2025: Honoring Sarojini Naidu's Legacy





- 
- Sarojini Naidu's Role in India's Freedom Struggle
  - Indian National Movement: Active participant and supporter of Mahatma Gandhi in India's independence struggle.
  - First Woman President of the Indian National Congress (1925): A historic milestone for women in Indian politics.
  - She was detained various times throughout the Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements (1942) because of her active participation.
  - First Woman Governor of an Indian State (1947): Served as the Governor of United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) from 1947 to 1949.
- 

- 
- Sarojini Naidu:
  - A Life of Achievements and Firsts
  - First Indian Woman to Address the British Parliament.
  - Pioneer in Inter-Caste Marriages: Married Dr. Govindarajulu Naidu despite societal restrictions.
  - In 1929 she guided India's group of representatives to South Africa to speak on behalf of Indian rights.
  - She received the Kesar-i-Hind Medal before returning it when she protested against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- 

- 
- Sarojini Naidu's Contribution to Literature
  - Through her celebrated verse, she celebrated both Indian cultural legacies and spiritual traditions.
  - Major Literary Works:
    - The Golden Threshold (1905) – Her first poetry collection.
    - In The Bird of Time (1912) Naidu presented a collection about freedom and struggles faced by humans.
    - The Broken Wing (1917) – Includes the famous poem "The Gift of India."
    - The Feather of the Dawn (1961, posthumous) – Edited by her daughter Padmaja Naidu.



## Lesser-Known Facts About Sarojini Naidu

Her scholarly heritage ran strong because her scientist-father combined with her philosopher-mother and poet-mother.

Child prodigy – Topped Madras University's Matriculation Exam at just 12 years old.


She studied at King's College London and Girton College Cambridge while she was in England.

- 
- Social conventions were disregarded when she married Dr. Govindarajulu Naidu at the age of 19.
  - The activist role that Naidu played in Salt Satyagraha (1930) included organizing demonstrations against British colonial rule with other women.
  - The Indian government incarcerated her during the Quit India Movement (1942).
  - Servants of Indian women led national delegations to South Africa when she was 42 years old.
  - First Woman Governor of India (Uttar Pradesh, 1947).



**Visual question:**

What is the title of the first-ever uploaded YouTube video and who uploaded it?



The Only Southeast Asian Country  
Never Colonized



Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)



# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट) - 1

- सामान्य ज्ञान/संस्कृत
- गणित
- सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

- परीक्षा की दृष्टि से अतिमहत्वपूर्ण प्रश्नों का व्याख्या सहित हल
- नवीनतम पाठ्यक्रम पर आधारित प्रश्नों का समावेशन
- विगत वर्ष के प्रश्नपत्रों के विश्लेषण पर आधारित प्रश्न



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व्याख्यात्मक हल YouTube चैनल पर उपलब्ध

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

**Price**  
**Rs 199**



# Step 1



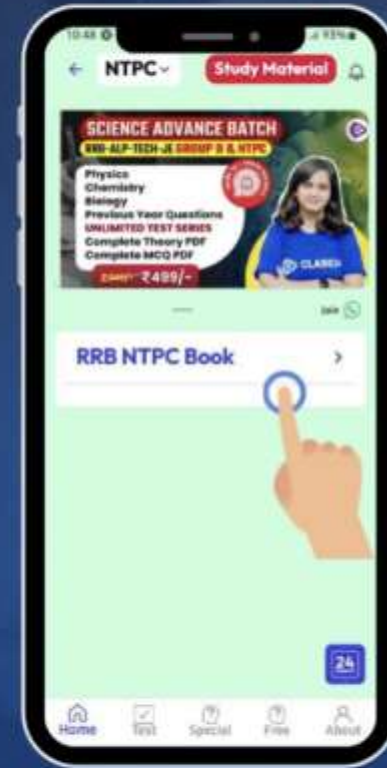
# Step 2




# Step 3



# Step 4



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and focused on the clapping action. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you  
guys.

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