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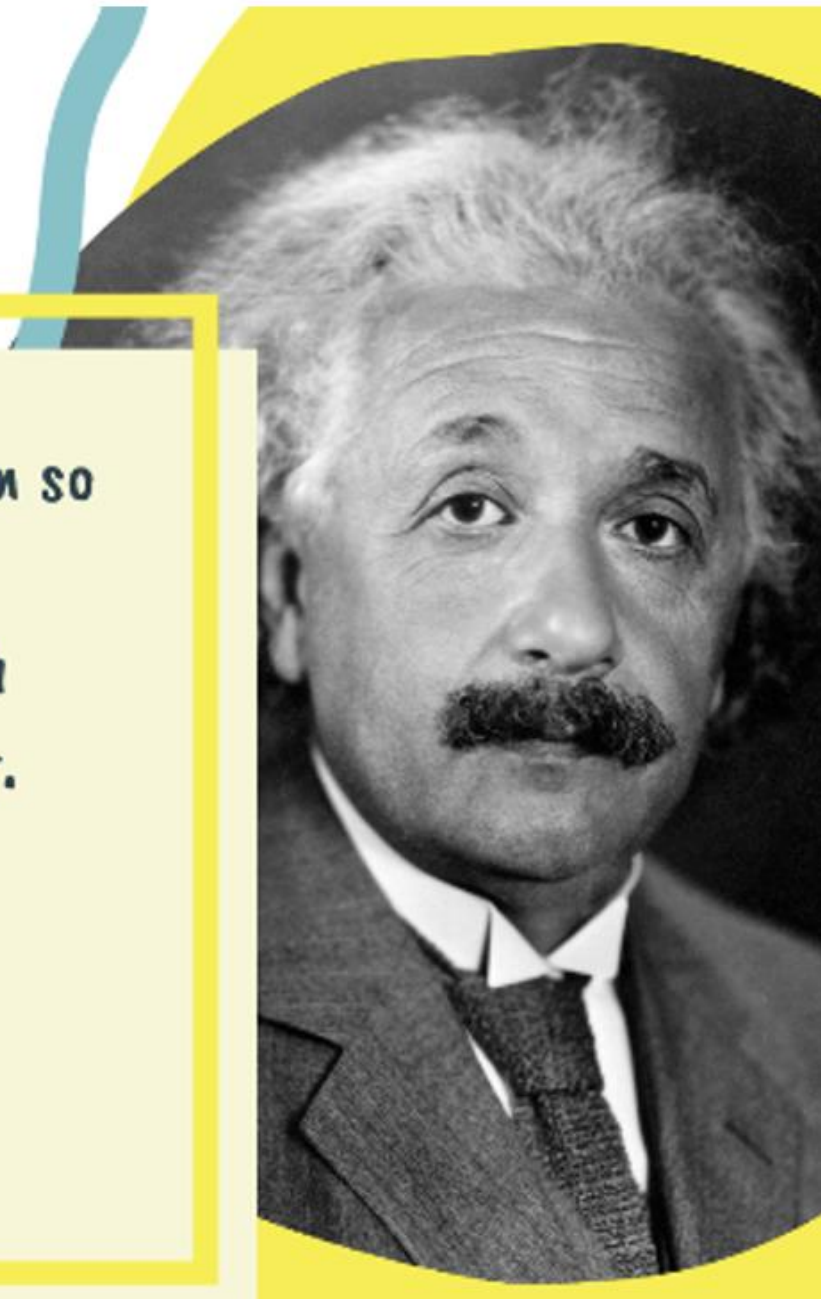
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“

It's not that I'm so
smart, it's just
that I stay with
problems longer.

—
ALBERT EINSTEIN

THEORETICAL PHYSICIST



SC MEETING
Jaishankar arrives in Islamabad
The National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah will be sworn in as the next Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. The NC has reached out to INDIA bloc leaders, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, to attend the event. » PAGE 2

'GROSS VIOLATION'
Opposition MPs slam conduct of JPC chair
Opposition MPs slammed the conduct of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chair, Justice J.S. Verma, for his handling of the case against the former Union Home Minister. » PAGE 6

DATA POINT
Half of UAPA cases pending for over 3 years
The process of prosecution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is slow, with half of the cases pending for over three years. » PAGE 9

NEW CHALLENGE
India takes on NZ in Test series from today
India will take on New Zealand in a Test series starting from today. The series is expected to be a challenging one for the Indian team. » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Omar Abdullah to be sworn in as J&K CM today
The National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah will be sworn in as the next Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. The NC has reached out to INDIA bloc leaders, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, to attend the event. » PAGE 2

T.N. gov't, CITU differ on end of Samsung strike
The Tamil Nadu government and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) have differing views on the end of the Samsung workers' strike. » PAGE 2

UAE to review India's concerns on import surge
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government is expected to review India's concerns regarding a surge in imports of various products. » PAGE 12

U.S., Philippines launch joint military drills
The United States and the Philippines have announced joint military exercises. The drills are aimed at strengthening the military cooperation between the two nations. » PAGE 14

At least 50 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip
At least 50 people were killed in Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip. The strikes targeted various locations, including residential areas and military installations. » PAGE 18

Helping hands: People rescue a man from the rubble of a collapsed building in Jabalia on Tuesday.
Rescue workers are working to clear the rubble of a collapsed building in Jabalia. The incident resulted in the death of a man. » PAGE 18

Maharashtra, Jharkhand election in November

Maharashtra to vote on November 20 for all 288 seats. Jharkhand election in two phases on November 13 and 20; bypolls to 48 Assembly and two Lok Sabha seats, including for Wayanad in Kerala left vacant by Rahul Gandhi, to be conducted alongside; Model Code of Conduct kicks in; vote for Assembly elections to be counted on November 23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Maharashtra Assembly election, with 288 seats at stake, will be held on November 20. The Election Commission (EC) has announced on Tuesday that Jharkhand will vote in two phases, with 43 constituencies going to the polls on November 13, and 38 constituencies on November 20. The votes for both Assembly elections will be counted on November 23. Dates have also been announced for byelections to 48 Assembly seats and two Parliamentary constituencies in 15 States. High-profile bypolls include the Wayanad parliamentary seat, which fell vacant after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi opted to retain the Rae Bareilly seat in Uttar Pradesh.

There are about 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra and over 2.60 crore in Jharkhand. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference. Over 20.93 lakh voters in Maharashtra and over 11.84 lakh voters in Jharkhand are 18- and 19-year-old teenagers. Enforcing the MCC With the announcement of the schedules, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) immediately came into effect in both the States, and the constituencies where by-polls are to be held. The Code is also applicable to the Central Government and give up the Kerala constituency, as well as Maharashtra's Nanded parliamentary seat, which is empty due to the death of Congress MP Vasantrao Balwantrao Chavan. There are about 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra and over 2.60 crore in Jharkhand. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference. Over 20.93 lakh voters in Maharashtra and over 11.84 lakh voters in Jharkhand are 18- and 19-year-old teenagers. Enforcing the MCC With the announcement of the schedules, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) immediately came into effect in both the States, and the constituencies where by-polls are to be held. The Code is also applicable to the Central Government and give up the Kerala constituency, as well as Maharashtra's Nanded parliamentary seat, which is empty due to the death of Congress MP Vasantrao Balwantrao Chavan.

CEC slams exit polls, early trends on TV channels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
Exit polls are creating a huge distortion by raising expectations that do not match actual results, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday, and called for corrective measures. He also termed as "nonsense" the practice of news channels showing leads before counting begins. Full report on » PAGE 4

Chariot run



Upholding heritage: A heritage horse carriage takes tourists past the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. The carriage operators are struggling to keep the business running amid declining demand and objections from animal rights groups. ISTOCK/SHANTANU

Indian diplomats were involved in extortion and homicide, alleges Canada

Sriram Lakshman
Prior to the expulsion of six Indian diplomats from Canada, the Canadian authorities had confronted these officials with information about their alleged role in violent acts in Canada, including extortion and homicide, with the aim of disrupting ongoing violence against Canadian citizens, according to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The relations between India and Canada have been unraveling since Mr. Trudeau told the Canadian parliament in September 2023 that Indian agents were behind the slaying of a Canadian citizen and pro-Hindu figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year. Speaking at a press conference in Ottawa on Monday, Mr. Trudeau and his colleagues, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, emphasised that the nature of the information caused by agents of the Indian government was "outrageous" and that the reason the Canadian authorities precipitated a diplomatic situation was to disrupt the pattern after his allegations about Indian involvement in the killing of Nijjar. Mr. Trudeau told presspersons that he had emphasised to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week in Laos, when the two men interacted on the fringes of the ASEAN Summit, how "incredibly important" the meeting between the countries' national security advisers (Ajit Doval and Canadian NSA Nathalie Trostlin) in Singapore reportedly held on October 12] was. "Canada fully res-

made the allegations. The Government of India had made "a fundamental error" by thinking it could engage in "murder or extortion or other violent acts" against Canadians on Canadian soil, Mr. Trudeau said. "Deny and obfuscate" He said India's response had been to "deny, to obfuscate, to attack me [Mr. Trudeau] personally, and the integrity of the Government of Canada and its officials and its police agencies", ever since he made his allegations about Indian involvement in the killing of Nijjar. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been investigating the matter since it was first reported in late last week, as per Mr. Trudeau. The Indian government has "rejected those allegations" and "highlighted Monday's actions. Mr. Joly claimed that sitting Indian diplomats were involved in acts of violence and the level of violence had increased since last year, when Mr. Trudeau first

At least 50 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip

Reuters
CAIRO
Israeli military strikes killed at least 50 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip as Israeli forces tightened their squeeze around Jabalia in the north of the enclave on Tuesday amid fierce battles with Hamas-led fighters. Palestinian health officials said at least 17 persons were killed by Israeli fire near Al-Falouja in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, while 10 others were killed in Bani Suhaila in eastern Khan Younis in the south when an Israeli missile struck a house. Earlier on Tuesday, an Israeli airstrike destroyed three houses in the Sabra suburb of Gaza City, and the local civil emergency service said they recovered two bodies from the site, while the search continued

CEC slams exit polls, trends on TV channels; calls for corrective steps

News channels are displaying early leads even before vote counting has started, says CEC; he adds that the mismatch between exit poll figures and actual results could sometimes lead to serious issues; urges pollsters, media to self-regulate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

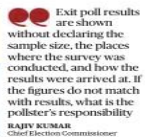
Exit polls are creating a huge distortion by raising expectations that do not match actual results, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday, and called for corrective measures. He also termed as "nonsense" the practice of news channels showing leads before counting begins.

Mr. Kumar, who announced the schedules for Assembly elections in Jharkhand and Maharashtra as well as 50 bypolls in 15 States, was responding to a query on the accuracy of exit polls. The pollsters and the press, particularly the electronic media, need to self-inspect and take corrective measures, he said. "If we look at the whole picture, two-three things are happening concurrently. At first, exit poll results



RAJIV KUMAR
Chief Election Commissioner

are shown without declaring the sample size, the places where the survey was conducted, and how the results were arrived at. If the figures do not match with the actual results, what is the pollster's responsibility... There is an urgent need to look at these aspects stringently," he said. "There are self-regulatory bodies, like the News Broadcasters & Digital Association, which govern this. I am sure the time has come that these bodies



Exit poll results are shown without declaring the sample size, the places where the survey was conducted, and how the results were arrived at.

and associations will do some self-regulation, because it is linked to another important issue," he said. Trends before counting Vote counting is usually done three days after the polling day. "So on polling day, 6 p.m. onward, an expectation is built up via exit poll figures of what will be the actual outcome... It is not realistic to give in public disclosures. And then, our hands are tied. However, a brainstorming by the stakeholders is urgently re-

quired and I am sure self-correction will be done," he said. On the issue of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), the CEC reiterated that representatives of all political parties are involved at each and every step of the machine-handling process. He said even the EVM batteries are sealed and signed by the representatives. In reply to a question on the use of Artificial Intelligence for influencing the elections, Mr. Kumar said that social media teams had been constituted and control rooms set up to monitor such materials, which are taken down and blocked. Legal action is also initiated whenever necessary.

He indicated that some social media users were not following the rules, but added that they had not yet crossed the "red line" warranting penal measures.

Health Ministry asks States to ensure permanent organ transplant coordinators

Hindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has issued a warning to the States and institutions that continue to function without permanent organ transplant coordinators. It has cautioned them that a request for support for training coordinators would not be considered for the financial year 2024-25, specifically from States and institutions that have surpassed the five-year period for receiving such support.

Under the current National Organ Transplant Programme scheme (2020-21 to 2025-26), there is a provision for supporting coordinators and a trauma centre and private medical colleges that are performing well with one transplant coordinator. The government medical colleges are expected to create permanent positions for these coordinators. However, it has come to our attention that no significant efforts have been made towards the creation of regular trans-



After 2024-25, medical centres will not be receiving support from the Centre. NLS PHOTO

splant coordinator posts in the State/institutions," the Ministry's letter to the stakeholders said. Highlighting that having a transplant coordinator is a legally mandated requirement for hospitals carrying out transplants or organ retrieval for grant of registration under FICOT, States and institutes are now being instructed to take necessary steps to create permanent posts for transplant coordinators by the next financial year.

India faces an acute shortage of organs for transplants. India currently has about 750 institutions providing organ transplant services. The transplant coordinator plays a critical role in coordinating the entire process of deceased organ donation and transplantation. This includes coordinating for brain stem death identification and certification, grief counselling, ethics, and ensuring that all necessary steps are followed for organ donation, consent for organ donation and logistics management.

Police arrest another man in Siddique murder case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Tuesday announced the arrest of a fourth suspect in the murder of Nani Siddique. Congress Party leader and former Maharashtra Minister Bala Siddique's 23, hails from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. He was apprehended in a joint police operation with the Uttar Pradesh Police on Monday, the investigators said.

However, the investigation remains active as police continue their search for another key suspect, Shivkumar Gautam (24), also from Bahraich, who is suspected of being one of the shooters. Mr. Gautam is currently on the run, and authorities have launched a manhunt to locate him. His movements were last traced till Panvel.

U.S. says India is not cooperating with Canada investigation

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

The Biden administration has said that India is not cooperating with the Canadian authorities who are investigating linkages between Indian government agents and violent incidents across Canada, especially with regard to pro-Khalistani figures. "When it comes to the Canadian matter, we have made it clear that the allegations are extremely serious and they need to be taken seriously," State Department spokesperson Matt Miller said during Tuesday's briefing in Washington. "And we wanted to see that they are cooperating with Canada in its investigation. Obviously they have not chosen that path," he added. The Indian government has said that Monday had alleged that Indian government

agents were linked to a number of unlawful activities in Canada, including homicides and extortion. On Tuesday, an investigative committee from Ottawa, probing an assassination plot to kill Khalistani separatist and Sikhs for Justice (JSF) leader, Gurpatwant Singh Panunw in Washington. Mr. Panunw, Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma during his investigation into the 2023 murder of pro-Khalistani preacher Harbhajan Singh, sources termed Ottawa's accusations against Mr. Verma "absurd and unfounded." "At the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] RCMP briefing, the Indian government made out connections of certain individuals to India. In no case were any specifics provided. There it was also talk about holding people accountable. But it was never made clear how the source familiar with the

New Delhi rejects 'absurd' accusations by Canada about diplomats and crime gangs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Canada's claims linking Indian diplomats to transnational crime gangs are "noting not true," India said on Tuesday. The Indian government had engaged with Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma during his investigation into the 2023 murder of pro-Khalistani preacher Harbhajan Singh, sources termed Ottawa's accusations against Mr. Verma "absurd and unfounded." "At the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] RCMP briefing, the Indian government made out connections of certain individuals to India. In no case were any specifics provided. There it was also talk about holding people accountable. But it was never made clear how the source familiar with the

The source denied claims that India has been provided with "credible evidence" proving a connection

ongoing exchanges between India and Canada. At the Monday's briefing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police officials suggested that Indian diplomats were in contact with at least one transnational crime gang, the Bishnois, who carried out violent actions against Mr. Verma "absurd and unfounded." Such assertions from the Canadian leadership were not made during the unprecedented diplomatic crisis, the source added. The source denied claims that India has been provided with "credible evidence" proving a connection between Indian diplomats and Nijjar's murder.

"The central assertion from all Canadian officials is the credible evidence has been presented to India. This is simply not true. It is credible evidence, the Canadian approach has been to make vague accusations and put the burden of denial on India," the source said. Amid the diplomatic upheaval, Canada's International Trade Minister Mary Ng said the government would "work closely with all Canadian enterprises engaged with India to ensure these important economic connections remain strong." "The Minister said Canada "would not tolerate any diplomatic actions that threaten, extorting, or harming Canadian citizens on our soil." India and Canada both are talking out a significant downturn in investment and trade relations.

'Shah, senior RAW official authorised covert operations'

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

Canadian officials had shared information with National Security Adviser Brett DeVos, suggesting that Union Home Minister Amit Shah and a senior RAW official had authorised attacks and intelligence-gathering on pro-Khalistani figures in Canada, according to the Washington Post. Conversations of Indian diplomats, intercepted by Canadian authorities, included references to "a senior official in India and a senior official in RAW," according to the Post's report, which said Canadian authorities had included the "senior official" as Mr. Shah. The government did not respond to requests for comment about the allegations, the Post said. On Monday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) alleged that Indian government agents were

involved in acts of violence across Canada. Speaking after the RCMP's briefing, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a reference to a meeting between Mr. Doyal and his Canadian counterpart in Singapore on October 12. The Post's report says Mr. Doyal was shown this information by the Canadian authorities at the meeting. "Canadian officials shared details about the references to Shah and other evidence with India's national security adviser, Ajit Doval, at a secret meeting in Singapore on Saturday. Canadians who took part in the meeting also included Trudeau's national security adviser, Harshdeep Drouin, and Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison, as well as a top RCMP official," the report says as it goes on to describe Mr. Doval's actions and comments in the meeting.

Kuki Zo-Hmar, Meitei, Naga MLAs met, resolved to call for peace: MHA

Vijlata Singh, Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday said that a group of legislators from Manipur representing the Kuki Zo-Hmar, Meitei, and Naga communities met in New Delhi and "unanimously resolved" to appeal to the people of all communities in the State to "shun the path of violence so that no more precious lives of innocent citizens are lost." However, shortly after the meeting, Kuki Zo MLAs issued a statement clarifying that they had met only with Central government officials and BJP leaders in a separate room, and did not attend any meeting where Meitei MLAs were present along with their Naga counterparts. A source aware of the deliberations on Tuesday told *The Hindu* that MHA officials and BJP leaders



Police deployed outside the venue where the MHA held a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHY KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

met with four Kuki Zo MLAs in a closed room for two hours. They added that the officials then met with Naga and Meitei MLAs for about 15 minutes each. "Nothing substantial was discussed. It was made clear that until there can be an assurance to stop violence, no further step can be taken," the source said. MLAs from all three communities had been invited to the meeting on behalf of the Central government.

Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Gopchade was also present at the meetings. Mr. Gopchade has been a long-time Rashtriy Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker and is also known for being among the party's top leaders in the Babri Masjid demolition. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the BJP in April 2024 and became the party's Manipur in-charge in July 2024. The Kuki Zo MLAs asserted that no talks could take place without the Union government first addressing their demand for a separate administration in the form of a Union Territory with a Legislature. The legislators in their statement, said they expected "reluctance to participate in any joint meetings with the Meitei and Naga MLAs," emphasising that "any such meetings should only occur after thorough deliberation with the public."

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. on Tuesday signed a \$3.5-billion deal for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B armed Guardian HALE systems, the Defense Ministry said. "Another contract has been signed with Lockheed Martin's Advanced Global India Pvt Ltd for the procurement of base-logs for these RPAS through Depot Level Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul in India," the Ministry said on X. The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secre-



These advanced UAVs can significantly augment India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. rri

Force-76 was formally approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security last week along with another major deal for the indigenous construction of two Nuclear Attack Submarines (SSBN). These advanced UAVs, once inducted, will significantly augment India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. For the Navy, it is a great force multiplier in keeping an eye over large swathes of the Indian Ocean Region and will re-

duce the wear and tear on its P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft. As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, end July the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by chaired Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved amendments to the MQ-9B deal related to indigenous content and related aspects.

40-hour capacity The MQ-9B is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on the configuration. In all types of weather, and safely integrate into civil airspace, according to its manufacturer. For instance, the Sea Guardian configuration can include a 360-degree maritime radar, automatic identification system, sonobuoy monitoring system, and sonobuoy dispensers for persistent anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

Health Ministry asks States to ensure permanent organ transplant coordinators

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has issued a warning to the States and institutions that continue to function without regular transplant coordinators. It has cautioned them that a request for support for transplant coordinators would not be considered beyond the financial year 2024-25, specifically from States and institutions that have surpassed the five-year period for receiving such support.

Under the current National Organ Transplant Programme scheme (2020-21 to 2025-26), there is a provision for supporting government medical colleges with two transplant coordinators and a trauma centre; and private medical colleges that are performing well with one transplant coordinator.

Organ donation in India is regulated under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), which States that



After 2024-25, medical centres will not be receiving support from the Centre. FILE PHOTO

no hospital shall be registered for transplantation procedures unless the appropriate authority is satisfied that it has appointed a transplant coordinator with prescribed qualifications and experience.

The commitment for the positions is five years, during which time the State government and medical colleges are expected to create permanent positions for these roles. “However, it has come to our attention that no significant efforts have been made towards the creation of regular tran-

splant coordinator posts in the State/institutions,” the Ministry’s letter to the stakeholders said.

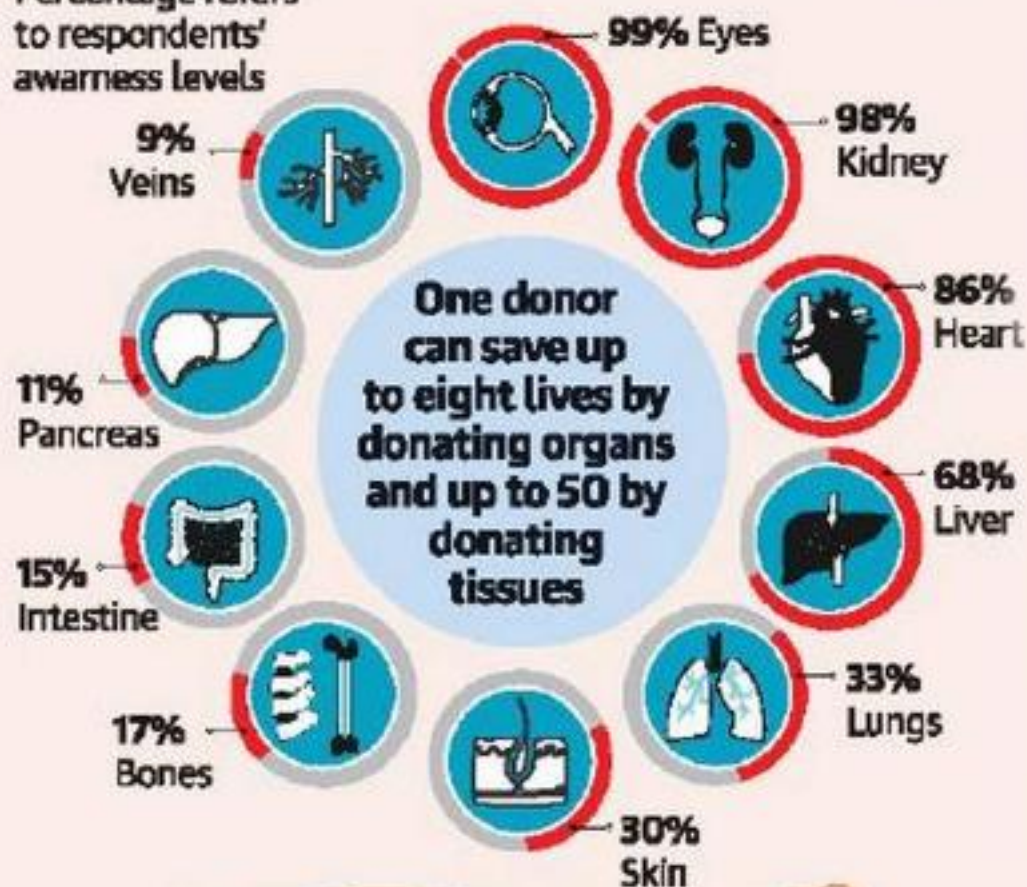
Highlighting that having a transplant coordinator is a legally mandated requirement for hospitals carrying out transplants or organ retrieval for grant of registration under THOTA, States and institutes are now being instructed to take necessary steps to create permanent posts for transplant coordinators by the next financial year.

India faces an acute shortage of organs for transplants. India currently has about 750 institutions providing organ transplant services.

The transplant coordinator plays a critical role in coordinating the entire process of deceased organ donation and transplantation. This includes coordinating for brain stem death identification and certification, grief counselling, encouraging family members to consider organ donation, consent for donation and logistics management.

Which organs can be donated?

Percentage refers to respondents' awareness levels



Follow this process to pledge your organs

Visit NOTTO website and create an ID

Fill out the digital form and submit

On acceptance, you will receive an email notice

Create your donor card

Organ Donation

Living Donors



A living donor **elects** to give his/her organ to someone in need

Organs & Tissues

that can be donated by Living Donors



PARTIAL INTESTINE



KIDNEY



PARTIAL LUNG



PARTIAL LIVER



PARTIAL PANCREAS

Deceased Donors



A deceased donor allows his/her organs to be **donated at death**

Organs & Tissues

that can be donated by Deceased Donors



HEART



LIVER



KIDNEY



INTESTINE



TENDONS
LIGAMENTS
& VEINS



LUNGS



CORNEA



PANCREAS



BONES



Spain has had the highest organ donors



Kidney was the first human organ to be transplanted, followed by **liver** and **heart**

India's organ donation rate*

2012  0.16

2013  0.65

2018  0.65

2019  0.52

*per million population (PMP)

Countries that fare better



USA
41.6



Spain
40.8



Portugal
29.6



France
24.7



UK
19.8

About
3.17 lakh patients are
waiting for a kidney, liver,
heart, lung or pancreas
transplant in India.

3.25%
are likely to receive organ
transplants.

Every 10 minutes, one
person is added to the
transplant waiting list.

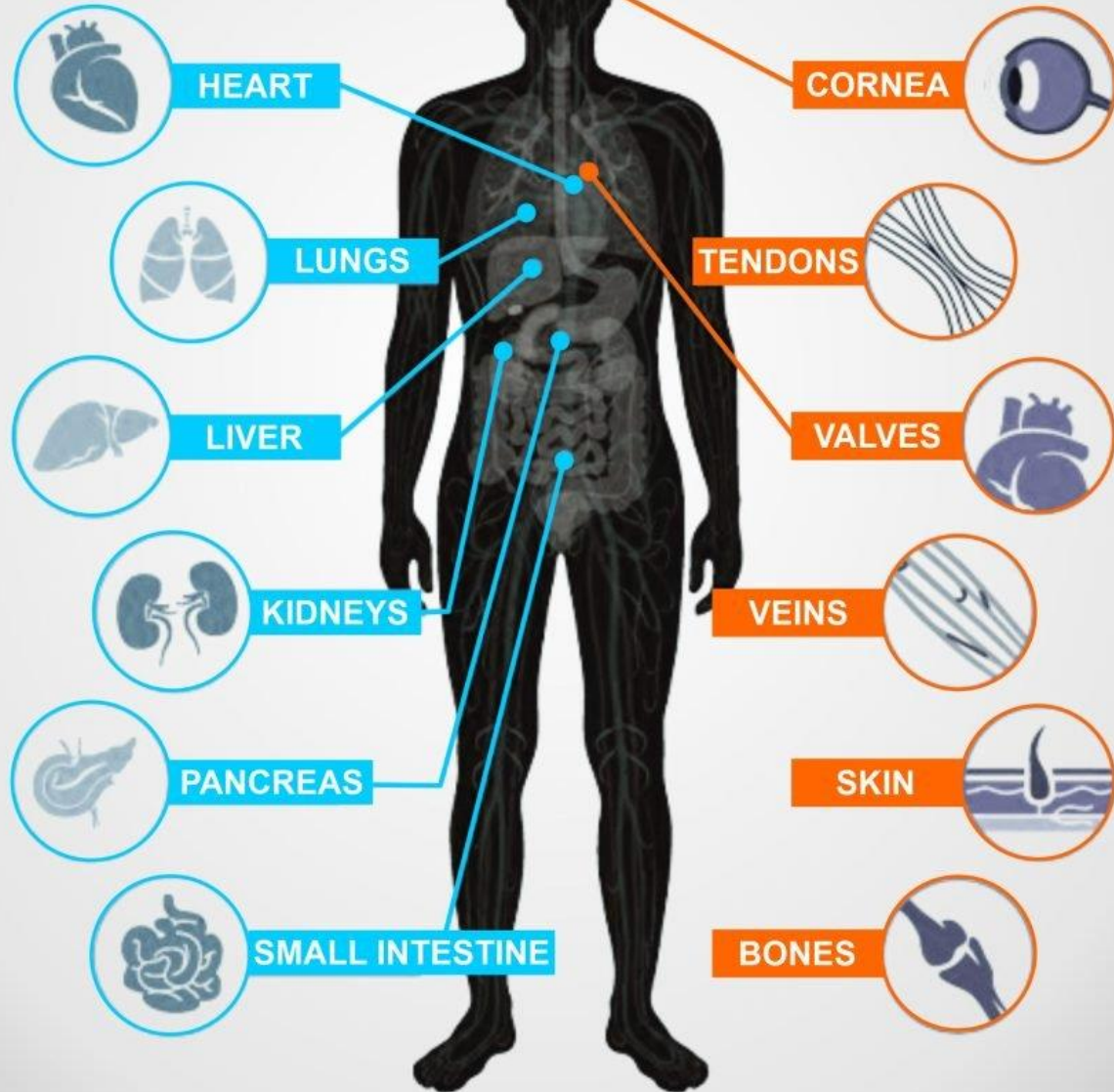
20 people die each day
waiting for an organ
transplant.

290 deaths
occur every day due to
kidney failure.

WHAT CAN BE DONATED?

ORGANS


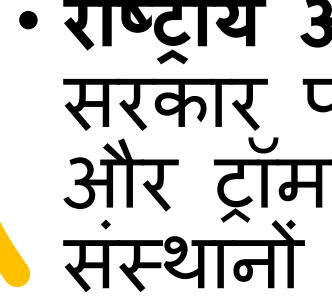
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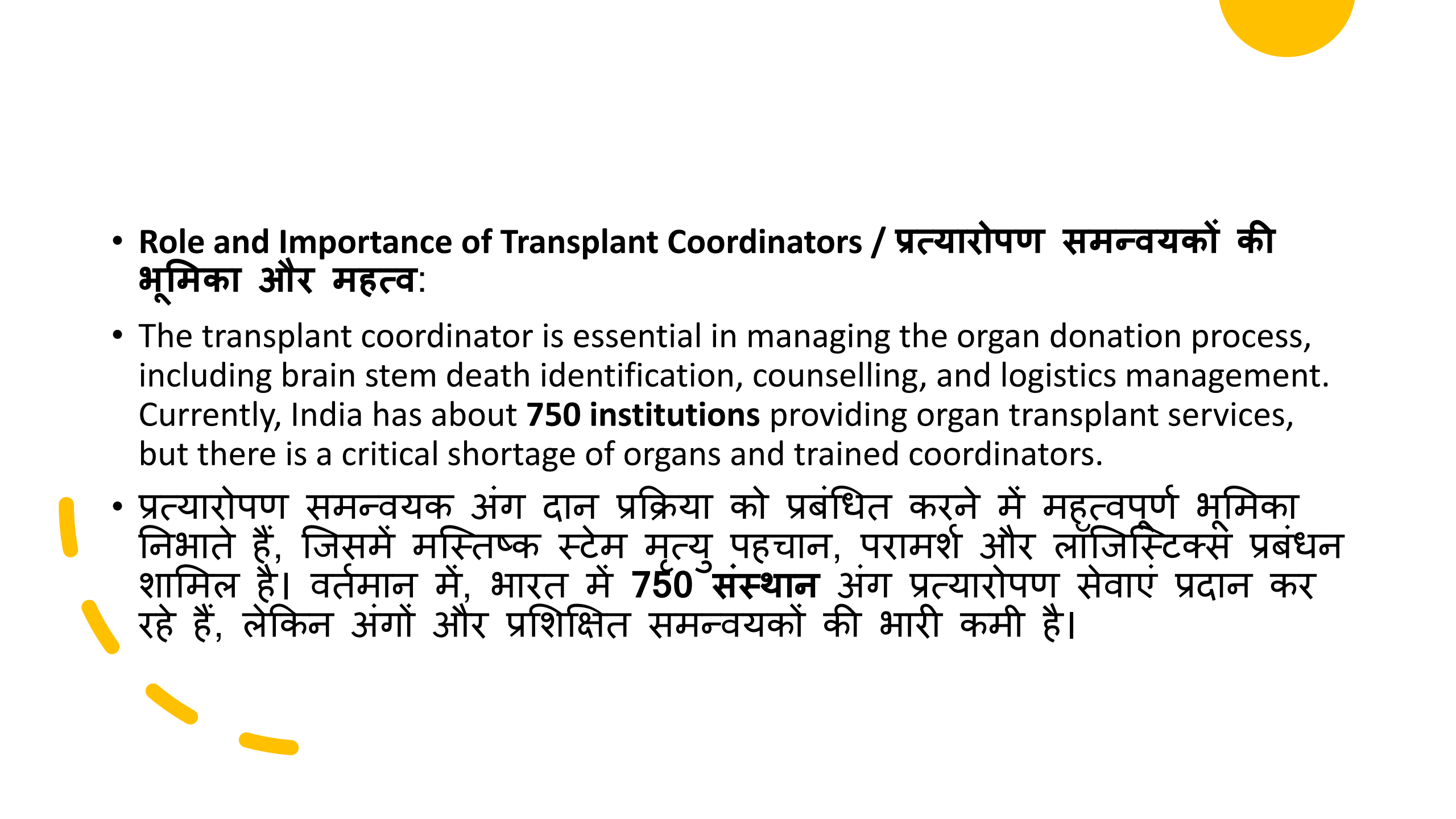


- **Directive from the Health Ministry / स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का निर्देश:**
- The Union Health Ministry has warned states and institutions that continue to operate without regular organ transplant coordinators. It stated that requests for support beyond the **2024-25 financial year** will not be considered, especially for those that have already received support for five years.
- केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने उन राज्यों और संस्थानों को चेतावनी दी है जो नियमित अंग प्रत्यारोपण समन्वयकों के बिना कार्य करना जारी रखते हैं। मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि **2024-25** वित्तीय वर्ष के बाद समर्थन के लिए कोई अनुरोध स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा, विशेषकर उनके लिए जो पहले से ही पांच साल का समर्थन प्राप्त कर चुके हैं।

- **Regulation under THOTA / THOTA के तहत नियम:**

- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) mandates that hospitals must appoint a transplant coordinator to be eligible for registration to conduct organ transplants. The ministry has urged states and institutions to establish permanent positions for these coordinators by the next financial year.
- मानव अंग और ऊतक प्रत्यारोपण अधिनियम (THOTA) के तहत, अस्पतालों को अंग प्रत्यारोपण करने के लिए पंजीकरण प्राप्त करने के लिए एक प्रत्यारोपण समन्वयक नियुक्त करना अनिवार्य है। मंत्रालय ने राज्यों और संस्थानों से अगले वित्तीय वर्ष तक इन समन्वयकों के लिए स्थायी पद बनाने का आग्रह किया है।

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- **Five-Year Commitment / पांच साल की प्रतिबद्धता:**
 - Under the **National Organ Transplant Programme** (2020-21 to 2025-26), the government supports medical colleges by providing transplant coordinators and trauma centers for five years. After this period, institutions are expected to create permanent roles.
 - **राष्ट्रीय अंग प्रत्यारोपण कार्यक्रम** (2020-21 से 2025-26) के तहत, सरकार पांच वर्षों के लिए मेडिकल कॉलेजों को प्रत्यारोपण समन्वयकों और ट्रॉमा सेंटरों का समर्थन प्रदान करती है। इस अवधि के बाद, संस्थानों से स्थायी पद बनाने की उम्मीद की जाती है।
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- **Role and Importance of Transplant Coordinators / प्रत्यारोपण समन्वयकों की भूमिका और महत्व:**
 - The transplant coordinator is essential in managing the organ donation process, including brain stem death identification, counselling, and logistics management. Currently, India has about **750 institutions** providing organ transplant services, but there is a critical shortage of organs and trained coordinators.
 - प्रत्यारोपण समन्वयक अंग दान प्रक्रिया को प्रबंधित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, जिसमें मस्तिष्क स्टेम मृत्यु पहचान, परामर्श और लॉजिस्टिक्स प्रबंधन शामिल है। वर्तमान में, भारत में **750 संस्थान** अंग प्रत्यारोपण सेवाएं प्रदान कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अंगों और प्रशिक्षित समन्वयकों की भारी कमी है।

India, U.S. conclude \$3.5-billion deal for procurement of 31 armed UAVs

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. on Tuesday concluded a \$3.5-billion deal for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B armed high-altitude long endurance (HALE) remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) manufactured by General Atomics through an inter-governmental agreement, via the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S.

One contract was signed with the U.S. government for Tri-Service procurement of 31 MQ-9B Sky/Sea Guardian HALE systems, the Defence Ministry said. "Another contract has been signed with General Atomics Global India Pvt Ltd for performance based-logistics for these RPAS through Depot Level Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul in India," the Ministry said on X. The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secre-



These advanced UAVs can significantly augment India's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities. PTI

tary Giridhar Aramane.

The deal also includes 170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles; 16 M36E9 Hellfire captive air training missiles; 310 GBU-39B/B laser Small Diameter Bombs (SDB); and 08 GBU-39B/B LSDB guided test vehicles with live fuses among others.

Force multiplier

The deal for 31 MQ-9B UAVs, 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians— eight each for the Indian Army and Air

Force— was formally approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security last week along with another major deal for the indigenous construction of two Nuclear Attack Submarines (SSN).

These advanced UAVs, once inducted, will significantly augment India's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. For the Navy, it is a great force multiplier in keeping an eye over large swathes of the Indian Ocean Region and will re-

duce the wear and tear on its P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, end-July the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had approved amendments to the MQ-9B deal related to indigenous content and related aspects.

40-hour capacity

The MQ-9B is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on the configuration, in all types of weather, and safely integrate into civil airspace, according to its manufacturer. For instance, the Sea Guardian configuration can include a 360-degree surface-search maritime radar, automatic identification system, sonobuoy monitoring system, and sonobuoy dispensers for persistent anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

MQ-9B

Predator Drones



Max Gross Takeoff Weight: **5,670 kg**

Fuel Capacity: **2,721 kg**

Payload Capacity: **2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)**



Crew:

Two pilots in ground control stations



Weapons

Laser guided missiles

Anti-tank missiles

Anti-ship missiles



Missions

- **Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief**
- **Search and Rescue**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Border Enforcement**
- **Defensive Counter Air**
- **Airborne Early Warning**

Missions

- **Electronic Warfare**
- **Anti-Surface Warfare**
- **Anti-Submarine Warfare**
- **Airborne Mine Counter Measures**
- **Long-Range Strategic ISR**
- **Over-the-Horizon Targeting**





MQ-9B Predator

Variants: SkyGuardian / SeaGuardian

COST

\$3 Billion for 30 drones

MAX AIR SPEED
388 km/h

MAX RANGE
11,112 km

MAX ENDURANCE
40 hours

MAX ALTITUDE
>40,000 ft MSL



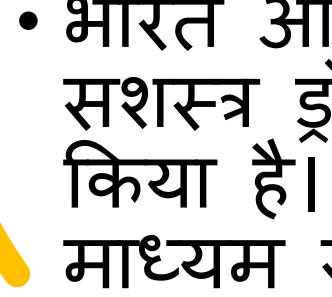
WING SPAN: 79 FT

LENGTH: 38 FT





- **Deal Overview / समझौते का अवलोकन:**

- India and the U.S. have signed a \$3.5-billion agreement for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B armed drones manufactured by **General Atomics**. The acquisition is done through the **Foreign Military Sales programme** of the U.S.
 - भारत और अमेरिका ने **जनरल एटॉमिक्स** द्वारा निर्मित 31 MQ-9B सशस्त्र ड्रोन की खरीद के लिए **3.5 बिलियन डॉलर** का समझौता किया है। यह अधिग्रहण अमेरिका के **विदेशी सैन्य बिक्री कार्यक्रम** के माध्यम से किया गया है।
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- **Details of the Procurement / खरीद का विवरण:**
- : The contract covers the **Tri-Service procurement** for the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. An additional agreement with **General Atomics Global India Pvt Ltd** involves logistics and maintenance support through the **Depot Level Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul** in India.
- यह अनुबंध भारतीय सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना के लिए त्रि-सेवा खरीद को कवर करता है। जनरल एटॉमिक्स ग्लोबल इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ एक अतिरिक्त समझौता लॉजिस्टिक्स और रखरखाव समर्थन के लिए भारत में डिपो लेवल मेंटेनेंस, रिपेयर एंड ओवरहाल के माध्यम से किया गया है।

- **Additional Armaments / अतिरिक्त आयुध:**

- The deal also includes **170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles, 16 M36E9 Hellfire training missiles, and 310 GBU-39B/B laser bombs** among other munitions.

- इस समझौते में **170 AGM-114R हेलफायर मिसाइलें, 16 M36E9 हेलफायर प्रशिक्षण मिसाइलें, और 310 GBU-39B/B लेजर बम सहित अन्य गोला-बारूद भी शामिल हैं।**

- **Capabilities and Strategic Importance / क्षमताएं और रणनीतिक महत्व:**

- The MQ-9B UAVs can fly for up to **40 hours** and are designed for all-weather surveillance and reconnaissance missions. They can provide a **360-degree maritime radar** and are crucial for anti-submarine and surface warfare, especially in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

- MQ-9B यूएवी **40 घंटे** तक उड़ान भर सकते हैं और उन्हें सभी मौसम में निगरानी और टोही मिशनों के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। वे **360-डिग्री समुद्री रडार** प्रदान कर सकते हैं और विशेष रूप से **भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र** में पनडुब्बी और सतह युद्ध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- **Indigenous Content and Approval / स्वदेशी सामग्री और अनुमोदन:**
- The **Defence Acquisition Council** chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** approved the deal with amendments related to indigenous content to support domestic capabilities in manufacturing and maintenance.
- **रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद**, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **रक्षामंत्री राजनाथ सिंह** ने की, ने स्वदेशी सामग्री से संबंधित संशोधनों के साथ इस समझौते को मंजूरी दी, ताकि उत्पादन और रखरखाव में घरेलू क्षमताओं को समर्थन मिल सके।

IN BRIEF



Central Bank of India gets nod to buy stakes in Future Generali

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 24.09% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance and 25.86% shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance by the Central Bank of India, and scheduled commercial bank said in a statement.

HDFC AMC net profit rises 32% to ₹577 crore in Q2 FY25

HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) reported net profit rose 32% to ₹577 crore in Q2 of FY25 from ₹437 crore in the year-earlier period on higher revenue, the company said in a filing. Despite posting growth in net profit, withdrawal of induction benefits and reduced long-term capital tax regime led to a charge of ₹69.75 crore as deferred tax liability on the profit after tax in the quarter ended September 30, 2024, HDFC AMC said in its financial statements.

Rallis India Q2 net profit jumps 20% to ₹98 crore

Rallis India Ltd., a Tata Group company, reported second quarter net profit rose 19.5% to ₹98 crore from ₹82 crore in the year-earlier period. Sales revenue for the quarter ended September 30, grew 11.53% to ₹928 crore compared with ₹832 crore in the same period last year. "We had a strong Q2 FY25 performance helped by double-digit growth in the domestic market both in the crop care and seeds business," said MD & CEO Gyanendra Shukla.

DGCA drops SpiceJet from 'enhanced surveillance regime'

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday said that it had removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance, but would continue to carry out spot checks on the airline to ensure flight safety. The regulator said that a total of 266 spot checks were carried out on SpiceJet by the DGCA across various locations following which the airline took rectification action. "In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime," the DGCA said in a statement.

Bank of Maharashtra Q2 net up 44% to ₹1,327 crore

Bank of Maharashtra's second-quarter net profit grew 44.25% year-on-year to ₹1,327 crore. Operating profit climbed 14.66% to ₹2,202 crore, the public sector lender said in a filing. Net interest income increased by 15.48% to ₹2,800 crore while net interest margin improved to 3.98%. Gross NPAs slid to 1.84% while provision coverage ratio stood at 98.31%. The lender's total business increased by 16.90% to ₹4,93,793 crore.

UAE to review India's concerns over silver import surge: Centre

India-UAE CEPA, that took effect in 2022, permits unlimited imports of gold, silver, platinum and diamonds from UAE into India.

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

India has raised concerns over a jump in imports of silver products, platinum alloy and dry dates from the UAE and urged the country to ensure that the rules are not circumvented under the free trade agreement (FTA), according to an official statement on Tuesday. The UAE has agreed to examine the concerns raised by India, the Commerce Ministry said. Following a significant rise in imports, India sought review of certain provisions of the FTA with the UAE that came into force on May 1, 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Ajay Choudhary and Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade Affairs, Ministry of Economy of the UAE, Juma Al Kaiti co-chaired the meeting.

Rules of origin

Indian side raised the issue related to the recent surge in imports of silver and platinum alloy and dry dates and urged the UAE to ensure compliance with the rule-of-origin norms and ensure the rules are not circumvented," the Ministry said. The UAE is the third-largest trading partner of India.



Worriesome shipments: India's gold and silver imports from the UAE skyrocketed 210% to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24. REUTERS

Exposition Centre in Dubai has reorganised a Designated Zone so that the benefit of concessional duties can be availed by domestic jewellery manufacturers, including non-registered entities, under the India-UAE CEPA allows unlimited imports of gold, silver, platinum and diamonds from the UAE into India.

Import surge

Seeking an urgent review of the pact, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the India-UAE CEPA allows unlimited imports of gold, silver, platinum and diamonds from the UAE into India. The GTRI claimed many imports did not meet rules of origin norms and hence, did not qualify for concessions. India's gold and silver imports from UAE skyrocketed 210% to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24. India allows 7% tariffs, or customs duty concessions, on import of unlimited quantities of gold and a 1% concession on 160 metric tonne of silver.

The Indian side also urged the Indian Jewellery

SpaceX, Jio spar yet again over satellite spectrum allocation

Aaron Desai NEW DELHI

The issue of satellite spectrum allocation resurfaced over Monday and Tuesday, as reports emerged that Reliance Jio had written to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), urging that airwaves for satellite Internet services should be allocated through auctions.

International telecom and satellite firms have urged the Union government to not follow the auction route, pointing out that unlike cellular spectrum, satellite spectrum for Internet is typically shared among multiple operators, and is not scarce.

Reacting to reports on Jio's letter to the TRAI, founder Elon Musk said that auctions for satellite spectrum was "not urgent".

On Tuesday, Sunil Mittal, the chairman of Bharti Enterprises Ltd., said that Mr. Scindia's remarks indicated that the government was not considering spectrum for "elite retail customers" in urban areas would have to wait.

However, the company issued a statement after his remarks, clarifying that Airtel "did not support" a system of shared spectrum. In past regulatory filings, Reliance Jio and SpaceX representatives have differing views on satellite spectrum, because it is a high level of spectrum, beyond 7-GHz, did not have an auction-based argument that largely work on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both sides agreed to work on a actionable plan in this regard.

The spectrum cost will be decided by TRAI, said Minister Jyotiraditya Sinha

Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia in response to a query on Jio's auction for satellite spectrum allocation could only be done through the administrative mode. "That does not mean that spectrum cost will come without a cost," Mr. Scindia said. "That cost will be decided by TRAI. They have already circulated a paper, and they are empowered by the Constitution to decide the administrative pricing for telecom spectrum."

The Minister was speaking on the sidelines of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly. Mr. Scindia's remarks indicated that the government was not considering spectrum for "elite retail customers" in urban areas would have to wait.

However, the company issued a statement after his remarks, clarifying that Airtel "did not support" a system of shared spectrum. In past regulatory filings, Reliance Jio and SpaceX representatives have differing views on satellite spectrum, because it is a high level of spectrum, beyond 7-GHz, did not have an auction-based argument that largely work on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both sides agreed to work on a actionable plan in this regard.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Table with 2 columns: Name, Change. Includes Sensex (+1,830), Nifty 50 (+100), and various international indices.

NIFTY 50

Table with 2 columns: Name, Change. Lists various Nifty 50 stocks like Adani Enterprises, Tata Motors, etc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 2 columns: Name, Rate. Lists exchange rates for USD, EUR, GBP, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Name, Change. Lists commodity prices for various metals and oils.

Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,870-cr. IPO sees 18% subscription on Day 1

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The initial public offering of Hyundai Motor India Ltd. in the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, received an 18% subscription on the first day of bidding on Tuesday. The ₹27,870 crore IPO in share sale received bids for 1,77,80,457 shares against 9,97,69,810 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The IPO, with a price band of ₹1,650-1,960 per share, will remain open for public subscription from October 15 to October 17, while the non-institutional investors category fetched 13% subscriptions. The quota for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) garnered a 23% subscription. Hyundai Motor India on Monday raised ₹8,315 crore from anchor investors. This is the largest IPO in the country, surpassing ₹7,780 crore share sale of ₹2,000 crore.

The portion for retail individual investors 26%, and non-institutional investors fetched 13%

Monday raised ₹8,315 crore from anchor investors. This is the largest IPO in the country, surpassing ₹7,780 crore share sale of ₹2,000 crore. The IPO, with a price band of ₹1,650-1,960 per share, will remain open for public subscription from October 15 to October 17, while the non-institutional investors category fetched 13% subscriptions. The quota for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) garnered a 23% subscription. Hyundai Motor India on Monday raised ₹8,315 crore from anchor investors.

TVS Credit Services Q2 climbs 20% to ₹161 crore

The Hindu Business NEW DELHI

TVS Credit Services Ltd. said its second-quarter net profit rose 20% to ₹161 crore on robust demand and financial stability. The firm added more than 20 lakh new customers in H1. TVS Credit continued to maintain strong growth momentum in disbursements during H1 primarily on an increase in distribution reach, the firm said.

Oil plunges 4% as Iran supply disruption concerns ease

Reuters LONDON

Oil prices tumbled more than 4% to a near two-week low on Tuesday due to a weaker demand outlook, and after a media report said Israel is willing to not strike Iranian oil targets, easing fears of a supply disruption. ICE's initial crude futures fell \$3.51, or 4.5%, to \$73.95 a barrel at 09H GMT, their lowest since October 1. West Texas Intermediate futures lost \$3.48, or 4.7%, hitting \$70.35 a barrel. Both benchmarks had settled about 2% lower on Monday. They are down about \$5 so far this week, after a 3% dip in the previous gains made after investors became concerned Israel could strike Iran's oil facilities in retaliation for the latter's October 1 missile attack. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the U.S. that Israel is willing to strike Iranian military targets and not nuclear or oil ones, the Washington Post reported late on Monday. Israel expanded its targets in its war against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon on Monday, killing at least 21 people in an airstrike in the North, the newspaper reported. "Weakening demand has led to traders withdrawing the 'war premium' from prices," said Prityashree Sachdeva, a senior market analyst at Phillip Nova. "However, geopolitics at this level. Without geopolitics in the equation, oil would have tumbled even more, maybe even below \$60, which would have led to the current weakening demand narrative."

Govt. seeks to rein in firms greenwashing Indian consumers

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday unveiled comprehensive guidelines to regulate advertising and marketing claims by companies, aiming to curb greenwashing and promote transparency in eco-friendly marketing. The new guidelines refer to claims by companies about their products or services being climate-friendly. The guidelines, issued by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, aim at eradicating eco-friendly assertions that are backed by verifiable evidence and clear disclosure. Briefing the media, Consumer Affairs Minister Nidhi Khare emphasised the guidelines did not prohibit environmental claims but sought to ensure they are made with integrity and transparency. "The claims have to be substantiated to strike Iranian military targets and not nuclear or oil ones, the Washington Post reported late on Monday. Israel expanded its targets in its war against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon on Monday, killing at least 21 people in an airstrike in the North, the newspaper reported. "Weakening demand has led to traders withdrawing the 'war premium' from prices," said Prityashree Sachdeva, a senior market analyst at Phillip Nova. "However, geopolitics at this level. Without geopolitics in the equation, oil would have tumbled even more, maybe even below \$60, which would have led to the current weakening demand narrative."

Vivad Se Vishwas: I-T department issues note for guidance

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department on Tuesday came out with a guidance note on direct tax Vivad Se Vishwas scheme 2024. The note, in the form of FAQs, answers various questions relating to whether the claimant would be eligible to avail the scheme as well as the taxes to be paid. The I-T department said it had received several queries from stakeholders seeking guidance in respect of various provisions of the scheme after it was notified effective October 1. The scheme's end date is yet to be notified. Eligible cases The scheme can be availed by taxpayers who have disputes/appeals, including writs and special leave petitions (Appeals), whether filed by the taxpayer or the tax authorities and are pending as of July 22, before the Supreme Court, High Courts, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Commissioner/Joint Commissioner (Appeals). It would also include cases pending before the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) and revision petitions before the Commissioner of Income Tax. If taxpayers file a declaration before December 31, 2024, to avail of the scheme, then he/she has to pay 100% of the disputed tax demand. Interest and penalty would be waived in such cases. In cases where the declaration is made on or after January 1, 2025, 10% of the disputed tax demand will have to be paid by the taxpayer.

Technical terms

The guidelines also address the use of technical terms, requiring companies to provide consumer-friendly explanations for concepts like "environmental impact assessment", "ecological footprint", "degradable", "recyclable", and "net-zero", must be supported by credible verification, reliable scientific evidence, or third-party verification. These disclosures should be easily accessible to consumers. The guidelines also address the use of technical terms, requiring companies to provide consumer-friendly explanations for concepts like "environmental impact assessment", "ecological footprint", "degradable", "recyclable", and "net-zero", must be supported by credible verification, reliable scientific evidence, or third-party verification. These disclosures should be easily accessible to consumers.

SpaceX, Jio spar yet again over satellite spectrum allocation

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The issue of satellite spectrum allocation resurfaced over Monday and Tuesday, as reports emerged that Reliance Jio had written to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), urging that airwaves for satellite Internet services such as SpaceX's Starlink should be allocated through auctions.

International telecom and satellite firms have urged the Union government to not follow the auction route, pointing out that unlike cellular spectrum, satellite spectrum for Internet is typically shared among multiple operators, and is not scarce.

Reacting to reports on Jio's letter to TRAI, SpaceX founder Elon Musk said that auctions for satellite spectrum would be 'unprecedented'.

On Tuesday, Sunil Mittal, the chairman of Bharti Enterprises Ltd., said that satellite firms seeking to serve "elite retail customers" in urban areas would have to "buy" spectrum.

However, the company issued a statement hours after his remarks, clarifying that Airtel "did not support the auction of satellite spectrum."

In past regulatory filings, Reliance Jio and SpaceX representatives have differed on this issue. Jio has argued that there is no legal basis for administratively allocating spectrum, an argument that largely relies on the Supreme Court's 2012 judgment in

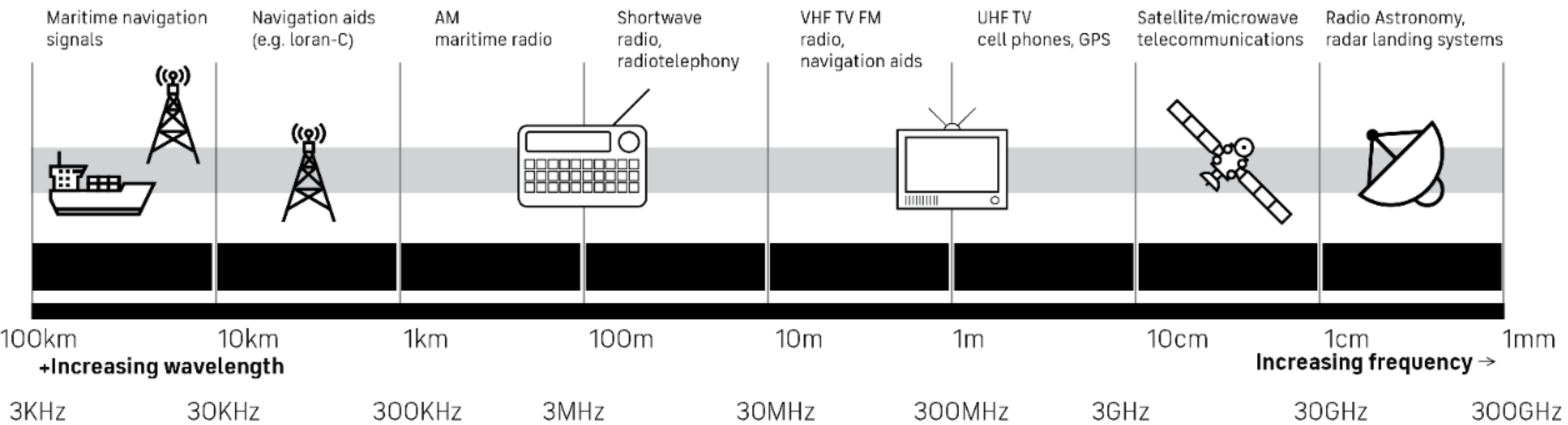
The spectrum cost will be decided by TRAI, said Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Sinha

the 2G spectrum case.

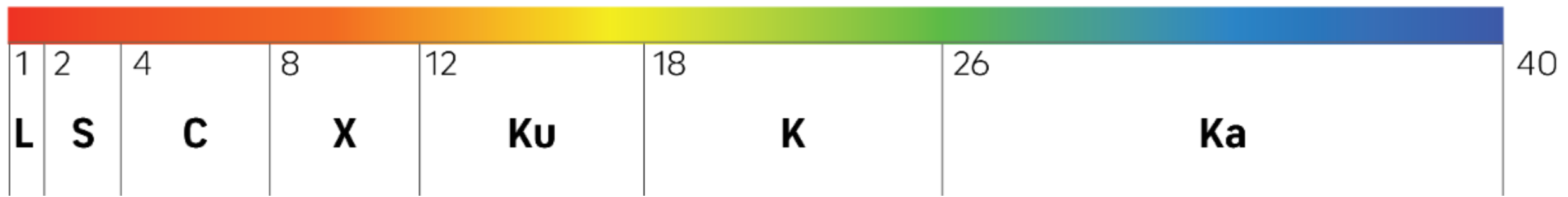
Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said in response to a query on Jio's auction demand that the Telecommunications Act, 2023 already ensured that satellite spectrum allotment could only be done through the administrative mode. "That does not mean that spectrum does not come without a cost," Mr. Scindia said. "That cost will be decided by TRAI. They have already circulated a paper, and they are empowered by the Constitution to decide the administrative pricing [for telecom authorisations]."

The Minister was speaking on the sidelines of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly.

Mr. Scindia's remarks indicated that the government was not considering auctions any more. "India is not doing anything different from the rest of the world," Mr. Scindia said. "Conversely, if you do decide to auction it, then you'll be doing something that's different from the rest of the world. For those of us that understand a bit of engineering ... satellite spectrum, because it is a high level of spectrum, beyond 7-8GHz [it] is shared. If it is shared, then how can you price it individually?," he asked.

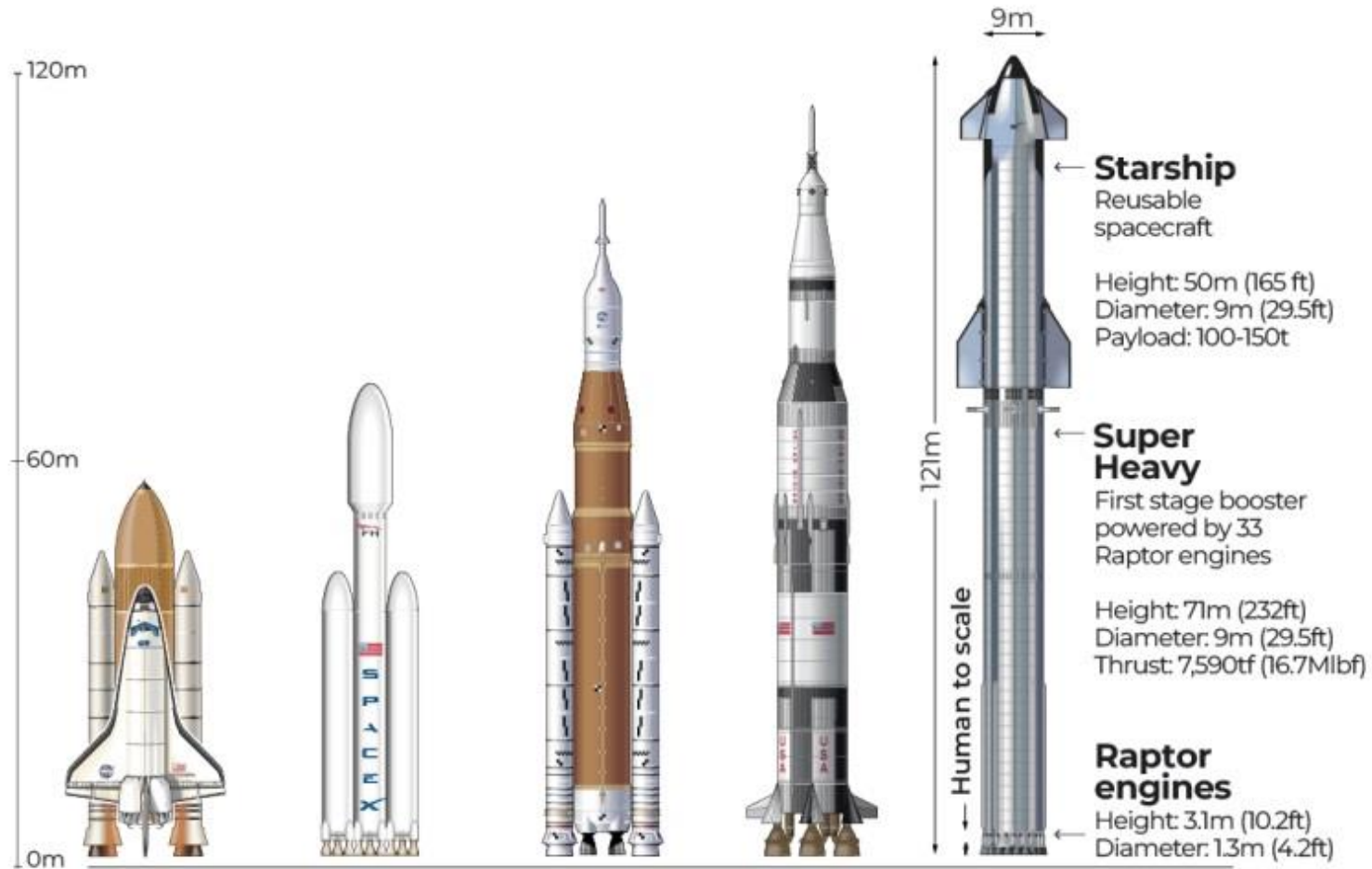


SATELLITE FREQUENCY



SpaceX's Starship mega-rocket

Starship – one of the most powerful launch vehicles ever constructed - is designed to carry astronauts and cargo to the moon and beyond.



Space Shuttle

World's first reusable spacecraft flew from 1981 to 2011

Falcon Heavy

SpaceX launcher designed to carry heavier payloads into space

NASA SLS

Primary launch vehicle of the Artemis moon landing programme

Saturn V

Used during NASA's Apollo programme to send astronauts to the moon

SpaceX Starship

Part of SpaceX's broader vision to send people to the moon and beyond

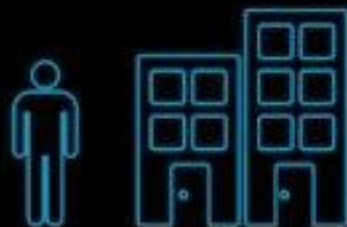
LOG IN TO SPACE

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, CURRENTLY USED BY SELECT SECTORS, COULD BECOME THE NEXT BIG THING FOR THE TELECOM INDUSTRY



Companies such as Bharti Group-backed OneWeb, Elon Musk's Starlink, Amazon's Project Kuiper and Telesat Lightspeed plan to send satellites to low-Earth orbit (LEO)

These satellites will provide data connectivity to end consumers, businesses and governments



The initial use case would be to provide connectivity in remote areas but eventually the services will be available to all telecom users



OneWeb has applied for gateway licence with the DoT, and is likely to start services by mid-2022

Starlink is also expected to enter the Indian market next year

Satellites are currently used for communication in sectors such as TV, defence, maritime, aviation, road and rail transport, agriculture, disaster management, etc.

Recent policies also aim to increase the involvement of the private sector in the satellite communications space





- **Issue Overview / मुद्दे का अवलोकन:**

- The debate over satellite spectrum allocation resurfaced as **Reliance Jio** wrote to the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, demanding that satellite internet services like SpaceX's **Starlink** be allocated spectrum through auctions. Jio argues that auctions are necessary to maintain fairness and transparency.
- **रिलायंस जियो ने भारतीय दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण (TRAI) को पत्र लिखकर स्पेसएक्स के स्टारलिनक जैसी उपग्रह इंटरनेट सेवाओं के लिए स्पेक्ट्रम आवंटन नीलामी के माध्यम से करने की मांग की। जियो का तर्क है कि निष्पक्षता और पारदर्शिता बनाए रखने के लिए नीलामी आवश्यक है।**


- **SpaceX's Response / स्पेसएक्स की प्रतिक्रिया:**
- Reacting to Jio's stance, **Elon Musk** of SpaceX called the idea of auctioning satellite spectrum "unprecedented." International satellite firms argue that unlike cellular spectrum, satellite spectrum is typically shared and not scarce, so auctioning it would be against global norms.
- जियो के रुख पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, स्पेसएक्स के **एलोन मस्क** ने उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी को "अभूतपूर्व" कहा। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उपग्रह कंपनियों का तर्क है कि सेलुलर स्पेक्ट्रम के विपरीत, उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम आमतौर पर साझा किया जाता है और यह दुर्लभ नहीं है, इसलिए इसकी नीलामी करना वैश्विक मानदंडों के खिलाफ होगा।

- **Telecom Minister's Statement / दूरसंचार मंत्री का बयान:**
- **Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia** clarified that the **Telecommunications Act, 2023** ensures that satellite spectrum is allocated administratively, not through auctions. He mentioned that TRAI will decide the cost through an administrative pricing mechanism, adhering to international practices.
- **दूरसंचार मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया** ने स्पष्ट किया कि **दूरसंचार अधिनियम, 2023** यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम का आवंटन प्रशासनिक तरीके से किया जाए, न कि नीलामी के माध्यम से। उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं का पालन करते हुए TRAI लागत को प्रशासनिक मूल्य निर्धारण तंत्र के माध्यम से तैय करेगा।






- **Conflicting Opinions / विरोधाभासी राय:**

- Sunil Mittal of **Bharti Enterprises** commented that firms serving "elite retail customers" in urban areas may have to buy spectrum, but later clarified that **Airtel** does not support the auction of satellite spectrum.



- : **भारती एंटरप्राइजेज** के **सनील मित्तल** ने टिप्पणी की कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में "उच्च श्रेणी के ग्राहकों" को सेवा देने वाली कंपनियों को स्पेक्ट्रम खरीदना पड़ सकता है, लेकिन बाद में स्पष्ट किया कि **एयरटेल** उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी का समर्थन नहीं करता है।



- **Legal and Technical Considerations / कानूनी और तकनीकी विचार:**
- : Jio cites the **Supreme Court's 2012 judgment** in the 2G spectrum case to argue that there is no legal basis for administratively allocating spectrum without auctions. On the other hand, the government insists that administrative allocation is consistent with global practices for satellite spectrum.
- : जियो ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 2012 के फैसले** का हवाला देकर तर्क दिया कि नीलामी के बिना प्रशासनिक रूप से स्पेक्ट्रम आवंटित करने का कोई कानूनी आधार नहीं है। दूसरी ओर, सरकार का कहना है कि उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम के लिए प्रशासनिक आवंटन वैश्विक प्रथाओं के अनुरूप है।

UAE to review India's concerns over silver import surge: Centre

India-UAE CEPA, that took effect in 2022, permits unlimited imports of gold, silver, platinum and diamonds from UAE into India.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has raised concerns over a jump in imports of silver products, platinum alloy and dry dates from the UAE and urged the country to ensure that the rules are not circumvented under the free trade agreement (FTA), according to an official statement on Tuesday.

The UAE has agreed to examine the concerns raised by India, the Commerce Ministry said.

Following a significant rise in imports, India sought review of certain provisions of the FTA with the UAE that came into force on May 1, 2022.

The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Ajay Bhadoo. Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade Affairs, Ministry of Economy of the UAE, Juma Al Kait co-chaired the meeting.

Rules of origin

"Indian side raised the issue related to the recent surge in imports of silver products, platinum alloy and dry dates and urged the UAE to verify compliance with the rule-of-origin norms and ensure the rules are not circumvented," the Ministry said.

The UAE is the third-largest trading partner of In-



Worrisome shipments: India's gold and silver imports from the UAE skyrocketed 210% to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24. REUTERS

dia with \$83.65 billion in bilateral trade in 2023-24.

Import surge

Seeking an urgent review of the pact, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the India-UAE CEPA allows unlimited imports of gold, silver, platinum and diamonds from the UAE into India. The GTRI claimed many imports did not meet rules of origin norms and hence, did not qualify for concessions.

India's gold and silver imports from UAE skyrocketed 210% to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24.

India allows 7% tariffs, or customs duty concessions, on import of unlimited quantities of silver and a 1% concession on 160 metric tonne of gold.

The Indian side also urged the Indian Jewellery

Exposition Centre in Dubai be categorised a Designated Zone so that the benefit of concessional duties can be availed by domestic jewellery manufacturers, including non-registered entities, under the UAE's domestic regulation.

"[The] UAE side conveyed its willingness to examine this request after consulting its internal stakeholders, including federal tax authorities," it said.

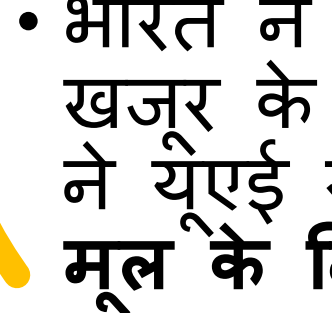
Further, the Indian side highlighted the need for professional bodies from both sides to enter into mutual recognition agreements to enable professionals such as chartered accountants, lawyers, nurses to provide services without the need for another certification.

Both sides agreed to work on an actionable plan in this regard.




- **India's Concerns / भारत की चिंताएं:**

- : India has raised concerns over the sharp increase in imports of silver products, platinum alloy, and dry dates from the UAE. The **Commerce Ministry** urged the UAE to ensure that **rules of origin** are not circumvented under the free trade agreement (FTA).




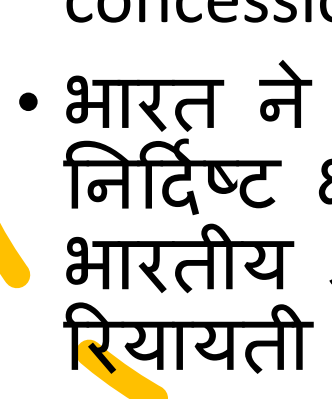
- भारत ने यूएई से चांदी के उत्पाद, प्लेटिनम मिश्र धातु और सूखे खजूर के आयात में तेज वृद्धि पर चिंता जताई है। **वाणिज्य मंत्रालय** ने यूएई से अनुरोध किया कि मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) के तहत **मूल के नियमों** का उल्लंघन न किया जाए।



- **UAE's Response / यूएई की प्रतिक्रिया:**

- The UAE has agreed to review India's concerns and verify compliance with the rules of origin. Both countries have committed to working together to ensure that the trade regulations are properly enforced.
 - यूएई ने भारत की चिंताओं की समीक्षा करने और मूल के नियमों के अनुपालन की पृष्टि करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है। दोनों देशों ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक साथ काम करने का संकल्प लिया है कि व्यापार नियमों का सही तरीके से पालन किया जाए।
- 

- **Import Surge and Impact / आयात में वृद्धि और प्रभाव:**
- India's imports of gold and silver from the UAE surged by **210%**, reaching **\$10.7 billion** in 2023-24. The **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** highlighted that many of these imports did not meet the origin norms and therefore did not qualify for concessions under CEPA.
- भारत का यूएई से सोने और चांदी का आयात **210%** बढ़कर **10.7 बिलियन डॉलर** हो गया है (2023-24 में)। **ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (GTRI)** ने कहा कि इनमें से कई आयात मूल नियमों को पूरा नहीं करते हैं और इसलिए CEPA के तहत रियायत के योग्य नहीं हैं।

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- **India's Request for Concessions / भारत का रियायतों के लिए अनुरोध:**
 - India requested the UAE to categorize the **Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre** in Dubai as a designated zone so that Indian jewelry manufacturers, including non-registered entities, can avail benefits of concessional duties.
 - भारत ने यूएई से **इंडियन ज्वेलरी एक्सपोज़िशन सेंटर** को दुबई में एक निर्दिष्ट क्षेत्र के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने का अनुरोध किया ताकि भारतीय आभूषण निर्माता, जिनमें गैर-पंजीकृत इकाइयाँ भी शामिल हैं, रियायती शुल्क का लाभ उठा सकें।
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- **Bilateral Trade and Mutual Agreements / द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और परस्पर समझौते:**
- The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching **\$83.65 billion** in 2023-24. India also emphasized the need for professional bodies from both sides to enter into mutual recognition agreements for services like law, accounting, and healthcare.
- यूएई, भारत का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है, और 2023-24 में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार **83.65 बिलियन डॉलर** तक पहुंच गया है। भारत ने दोनों पक्षों से पेशेवर निकायों के बीच आपसी मान्यता समझौतों की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया ताकि कानून, लेखांकन, और स्वास्थ्य सेवा जैसी सेवाओं के लिए सुविधा मिल सके।

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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IN THE NEWS

MAHA TO VOTE ON NOV 20, JHARKHAND ON NOV 13 AND 20

THE ASSEMBLY elections in Jharkhand will be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20, while Maharashtra will go to polls in a single phase on November 20, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday, reports **Express News Service**. Counting of votes for both states will be on November 23. ■ PAGE 30

FRICION WITH CANADA MAY NOT DENT TRADE TIES

THE ESCALATION OF diplomatic row between India and Canada is unlikely to have any major impact on trade and investment relations between the two countries at least for the time being, a senior official said Tuesday, reports **Express News Service**.

SPICEJET SETTLES THIRD DISPUTE IN LESS THAN A MONTH

SPICEJET ON TUESDAY said it has successfully settled a \$23.39-million dispute with two aircraft lessors, Aircraft and Wilmington Trust, days after resolving a similar dispute with a US-based Babcock & Wilcox Aircraft Management, reports **Raghav Agarwal**. ■ PAGE 5

CPH AT TARGET ON DURABLE BASIS BY FY26: RBI'S PATRA

INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION will likely move towards the 4% target on a "durable basis" in the coming fiscal, Reserve Bank of India's deputy governor Michael Patra said Tuesday, reports **Bloomberg**. ■ PAGE 2

EXPLAINER: How NSE settled its case with Sebi

How NSE settled its case with Sebi. ■ PAGE 9

FE SPECIAL

'We're in the people business'
CEO of TATA Starbucks shares insights on the expansion plans. ■ BRANDWAGON, P9

NO NEW DEADLINE ON OVERSIGHT OF INDIAN CLEARING HOUSES

RBI-ESMA talks to go beyond October

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, October 15

EUROPEAN BANKS IN India will continue to transact with local clearing houses even after the deadline for an agreement between the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expires this month. ESMA has not stipulated any fresh deadline for the agreement on the oversight of local clearing houses, and the discussions between ESMA and RBI will continue.

The absence of an agreement had earlier threatened to disrupt the operations of the European banks. The RBI is expected to continue to prevail on ESMA, asking it to remove the "extra-territorial" element from its laws. ESMA has been asking for powers to inspect Indian clearing corporations but this is not acceptable to the RBI and the regulator has so far resisted granting it these supervisory powers. ESMA had withdrawn recognition from six Indian central counterparties, effective May 2023. Government-level talks between the European Union and India will also be pursued.

Meanwhile, European clearing houses operating in India — BNP Paribas, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank — need not make any special provisions with

THE DEADLOCK

- European banks in India will continue to transact with these clearing houses
- The current deadline to reach an agreement expires by Oct-end
- RBI may continue to ask ESMA to remove 'extra-territorial' element from its laws
- Indian custodians: These foreign banks will explore alternative arrangements and probably use local Indian banks as go-between although that will increase their cost of operations, experts believe. Such arrangements, with multiple entities, would take time to be finalised, they pointed out.
- The domestic clearing houses that had been identified for re-recognition by ESMA include Clearing Corporation of India, Indian Clearing Corp, India Inter-

national Clearing Corp, NSE Clearing, NSE IFSC Clearing and CSE and MetLife Commodity Exchange Clearing Corp. Four years after the global financial crisis in 2008, the EU rolled out the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) to improve transparency and reduce risks in over-the-counter derivatives. Under the EMIR, central counterparty clearing houses (CCPs) — servicing European banks in other jurisdictions — must be approved by ESMA.

GOVT TO STICK TO ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE: SCINDIA

Mittal joins Ambani call on satellite spectrum

Allocation should be via auction in urban areas, says Bharti boss

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, October 15

THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF spectrum allocation for satellite communications services took an interesting turn on Tuesday with Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Mittal stating that auction should be the preferred mode for retail services in urban areas. Mittal's statement, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Mobile Congress in New Delhi, echoed what has long been Reliance Jio's position. He earlier favoured administrative allocation of spectrum for telecom services.

However, communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia rejected the demand to auction telecom spectrum. "Satellite spectrum across the world is administratively allocated. India is not doing anything different," said Scindia.

Analysing Mittal's statement, Bharti and Jio closing ranks to ward off any potential threat from Elon Musk's Starlink, which has also applied for satellite services licenses in India.



Sunil Mittal and Akash Ambani at the India Mobile Congress in New Delhi

Starlink, along with other technology firms like Amazon, is opposed to the auction route. Reacting to Jio lobbying for the auction route, Mittal said "any decision to auction satellite spectrum would be unprecedented." "This spectrum was long earmarked by the ITU as a shared spectrum for satellites," he posted on X. In his part, Mittal said, "satellite companies who have ambitions to come in urban areas serving elite retail customers just need to take telecom licenses like everybody with the same conditions, and will have to buy the spectrum and pay licence fees same as telecom players."

Continued on Page 7

ELON MUSK, CEO, STARLINK
A MOVE TO AUCTION SATELLITE SPECTRUM, AND NOT ALLOCATE, WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED. THIS SPECTRUM WAS LONG DESIGNATED BY THE ITU AS SHARED SPECTRUM FOR SATELLITES

Samsung workers to call off 37-day strike

NARAYANAN V
Chennai, October 15

BRINGING AN END to a 37-day long strike, the Samsung India Workers' Union (SIWU) is set to officially call off the unrest at Samsung's Chennai plant. The decision follows a conciliation talk held by the Tamil Nadu government through the labour welfare department on Tuesday, involving representatives from both Samsung India management and the striking workers.

"The workers will return to work immediately," said a press statement issued by the Tamil Nadu labour department. The Samsung management has assured that it will not take action against those who participated in the strike, added the statement, noting that the workers are fully cooperative with management and refrain from actions detrimental to the company's interests.

E. Muthukumaran, Kancheepuram district secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), confirmed to FE that there was a positive breakthrough in the talks held on Tuesday. "Unlike the government, we can't announce it immediately. We have a general body meeting of the SIWU tomorrow (Wednesday), where we



will seek approval from over 1,000 workers who are part of the general body before officially calling off the strike," he said. Muthukumaran, who is also the president of the unrecognised SIWU, has been at the forefront of the workers' strike at the Sriperumbudur plant.

Continued on Page 7

ALL IN A DAY
CITU-backed Samsung India Workers' Union is set to officially call off its strike

- The decision follows a conciliation talk held by the Tamil Nadu government
- Workers to return to work immediately at Samsung's Sriperumbudur plant
- Samsung to not take action against workers who took part in strike

Continued on Page 7

Stage finally set for labour code rollout

PRIVANSH VERMA
New Delhi, October 15

THE LONG-DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION of the four labour codes, passed by Parliament in 2019 and 2020, may finally see the light of day with 25 out of the country's 28 states and all eight union territories having finalised the draft rules under these laws.

According to official sources, the remaining draft rules, including West Bengal, which had earlier raised several concerns, have agreed to frame the subordinate legislation, to give effect to the codes. The four labour codes are a judicious combination of reforms aimed at easing labour market rigidities, and reinforcing workers' rights and welfare.

As many as 44 labour-related Acts were consolidated into the four codes with the objective of reinforcing trade and investment, facilitating ease of doing business and easing compliance. Several minor offences were decriminalised via the codes, while skill development and dispute resolution have been accorded due priority. Although the government has not yet announced any date for notifying the labour codes, it has stated that "it has notified the states about the need for implementing the same set of labour rules across the country, and most of them are now on board," an official told FE. Besides Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland is yet to finalise their respective rules.

"The regional meetings held in September-October in different states have been beneficial in taking the views of all stakeholders. The states are ready to implement their

STATUS UPDATE

25 out of 28 states and all 8 UTs have finalised draft rules

- Remaining three states, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland, agree to frame subordinate legislation
- As many as 44 labour-related Acts have been consolidated into the four codes
- No date announced yet, but the govt may notify the labour codes by next year
- Tamil Nadu and Delhi are deficient in rules for one or more codes

respective rules, within the framework of labour codes, to ensure uniformity and ease of compliance," the official said.

The four codes are: Code on Social Security 2020; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020; Industrial Relations Code 2020; and Code on Wages 2019.

Continued on Page 7

Tatas plan to create 500,000 manufacturing jobs in 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October 15

TATA GROUP WILL create 500,000 manufacturing jobs in the next five years across sectors such as semiconductor, electric vehicles, health and related industries, Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata said on Tuesday.

India cannot achieve the goal of being a developed nation if the country cannot create manufacturing jobs, associated Chairman Chandrasekaran at a symposium

N CHANDRASEKARAN, Chairman, TATA SONS

WE CANNOT ACHIEVE VIKSIT BHARAT GOALS IF WE CAN'T CREATE MANUFACTURING JOBS

Chandrasekaran said based on "basic chair math", "the jobs will have multiplier effects."

Continued on Page 7

Home Loan 8.35%
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400	7.10%
666	7.15%
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UNAUDITED (REVIEWED) FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 (IN INDIAN RUPEES)

Particulars	Quarter Ended/Quarter Ended		
	30/09/2024	30/09/2023	31/03/2024
P.C.R. 98.31%			
R.O.E. Qtr. 7.24%			
R.O.E. Qtr. 26.01%			
Gross NPA 8.48%			
Net NPA 0.20%			
Total Income from Operations (Net)	6809.18	5735.52	23492.56
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1379.85	935.63	4359.47
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1379.85	935.63	4359.47
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1326.77	919.78	4055.03
Paid up Equity Share Capital	7081.37	7081.37	7081.37
Reserves (excluding Provisional Reserve) - as on date	14176.00	9872.67	11146.18
Secured Premium Account	977.44	977.44	977.44
Net Worth	20407.05	15822.78	17177.58
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debts*	63.06	61.81	72.65
Debt** Equity Ratio	0.44	0.38	0.42
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - Not Applicable	1.87	1.30	5.78
Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-

* Total Debt & Outstanding Debt represents total borrowings of the Bank.
** Total Debt includes borrowings with residual maturity of more than one year.

Note: This advice is an extract of the detailed form of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 3 and 52 read with regulation 3(2) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended. It is not intended to be a substitute for the Quarterly Financial Results available on the Stock Exchange website (BSE: www.bseindia.com and NSE: www.nseindia.com) and Bank's website (www.bankofmaharashtra.in).

Bank of Maharashtra
Executive Director
Managing Director & CEO

China looks to build lunar space station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Beijing, October 15

CHINA ON TUESDAY announced plans to launch a manned lunar mission, construct a lunar space station and explore habitable planets and extra-terrestrial life to expand its space programme in the next few decades.

China's top space bodies unveiled a national mid- and long-term development programme for space science, which will guide the country's planning of space science missions and space research from 2024 to 2050.

An established space power, China in recent years built its own space station which is currently in operation besides launching several space missions, including a lunar probe that collected samples for the first time from the far side of the Moon and brought them back to Earth for scientific studies.

The programme released by the China Academy of Sciences (CAS), China National Space Administration and the China Manned Space Agency to the media here outlined the goals of China's space science, including 17 priority areas under five key scientific themes, and a three-phase roadmap.

The international lunar

research station initiated by China will be constructed during the second phase from 2028 to 2035, Ding Chibiao, vice president of the CAS, told the media here. The programme also outlines a roadmap for the development of space science in China through 2050.

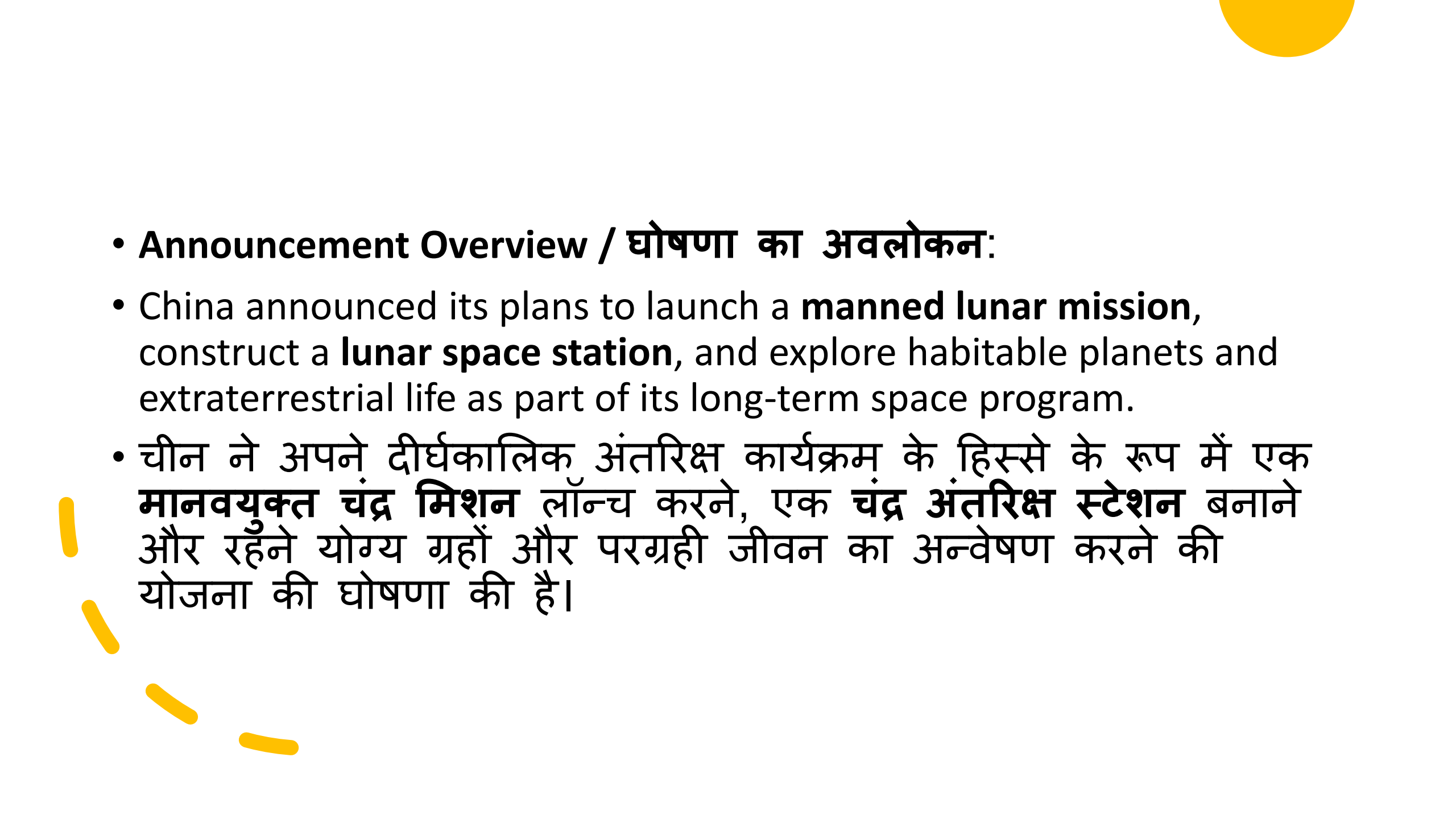
In the first phase, leading up to 2027, China will focus on the space station operation, implementing the manned lunar exploration project, the fourth phase of its lunar exploration programme and the planetary exploration project.

Under the new plan, scientists will also explore the habitability of celestial bodies in the solar system and exoplanets and search for extraterrestrial life, he said.

Key areas of space development in the coming years will be the origin and evolution of the solar system, characterisation of planetary atmospheres, the search for extraterrestrial life, and exoplanet detection, Ding said.

The theme of the extreme universe focuses on exploring the origin and evolution of the universe, revealing the physical laws under extreme cosmic conditions, dark matter and the universe's origin and evolution, as well as the detection of cosmic baryonic matter.

Key areas of space development in the coming years will be the origin and evolution of the solar system

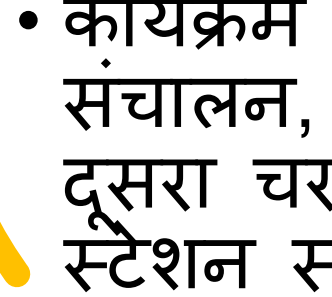
- 
- **Announcement Overview / घोषणा का अवलोकन:**
 - China announced its plans to launch a **manned lunar mission**, construct a **lunar space station**, and explore habitable planets and extraterrestrial life as part of its long-term space program.
 - चीन ने अपने दीर्घकालिक अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम के हिस्से के रूप में एक **मानवयुक्त चंद्र मिशन** लॉन्च करने, एक **चंद्र अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन** बनाने और रहने योग्य ग्रहों और परग्रही जीवन का अन्वेषण करने की योजना की घोषणा की है।


- **Space Program Roadmap / अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम का रोडमैप:**
- The **China Academy of Sciences (CAS)**, in collaboration with the **China National Space Administration** and the **China Manned Space Agency**, has released a mid and long-term development plan for space science from **2024 to 2050**. The program outlines 17 priority areas divided into five key themes.
- **चाइना एकेडमी ऑफ साइंसेज (CAS)** ने **चाइना नेशनल स्पेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन** और **चाइना मैनुड स्पेस एजेंसी** के साथ मिलकर **2024 से 2050** तक के लिए अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान के लिए एक मध्य और दीर्घकालिक विकास योजना जारी की है। इस कार्यक्रम में पांच प्रमुख विषयों में विभाजित 17 प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।



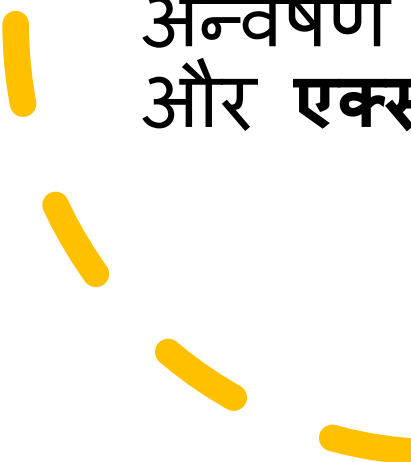
- **Phased Development / चरणबद्ध विकास:**

- The first phase of the program, leading up to **2027**, focuses on space station operation, manned lunar exploration, and planetary missions. The second phase, from **2028 to 2035**, aims to establish an international lunar research station.

- 
- कार्यक्रम का पहला चरण, जो **2027** तक चलेगा, अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन संचालन, मानवयुक्त चंद्र अन्वेषण, और ग्रह मिशनों पर केंद्रित है। दूसरा चरण, **2028 से 2035** तक, एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय चंद्र अनुसंधान स्टेशन स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।



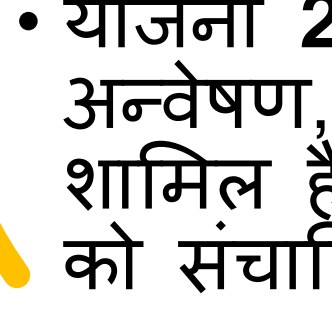
- **Key Areas of Focus / प्रमुख ध्यान केंद्रित क्षेत्र:**

- : The key areas of space development include exploring the **origin and evolution of the solar system**, studying planetary atmospheres, and searching for **extraterrestrial life** and **exoplanets**.
 - : अंतरिक्ष विकास के प्रमुख क्षेत्र **सौरमंडल की उत्पत्ति और विकास का अन्वेषण करना**, ग्रहों के वातावरण का अध्ययन, और **परग्रही जीवन और एक्सोप्लैनेट** की खोज शामिल हैं।
- 



- **Long-term Goals / दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य:**

- The plan extends to **2050**, with a focus on exploring the **extreme universe**, understanding dark matter, and investigating cosmic evolution. The program aims to reveal the laws governing the universe under extreme conditions.



- योजना **2050** तक विस्तारित है, जिसमें **अत्यधिक ब्रह्मांड** का अन्वेषण, डार्क मैटर को समझना, और ब्रह्मांडीय विकास की जांच शामिल है। कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य अत्यधिक परिस्थितियों में ब्रह्मांड को संचालित करने वाले नियमों का खुलासा करना है।

International Space Station

Largest modular space station in low Earth orbit also the largest human made structure in space



Launched on

20 November, 1988
from Kazakhstan



Mission life

It is expected to
operate till 2030.



Orbit

It orbits LEO of earth at an
average **altitude of 400 km**
and **circles the globe every**
90-93 minutes



size

Weights almost
450 tonnes



Agencies involved

- USA- NASA
- EUROPE -ESA
- JAPAN - JAXA
- CANADA- CSA
- RUSSIA- ROSCOSMOS



Components

Station is divided into two
sections:

The Russian Orbital Segment
(ROS), operated by Russia.

The United States Orbital
Segment (USOS), run by the
United States and other
countries.



Significance

It serves as a
**microgravity and space
environment research
laboratory**

More than 3,000
experiments have been
conducted aboard ISS.



India's mission

India plans to have own space
station by 2035 which would
weigh 20 tonnes.

Would orbit an altitude of 400 km
above earth, where astronauts
could stay for 15-20 days.

NASA and ISRO to launch a joint
mission to ISS in 2024.



Notable success

Medical discovery- Advancements
in osteoporosis treatments and
understanding muscle atrophy.

Dark matter- Alpha Magnetic
Spectrometer (AMS), which is
intended to detect dark matter



BEML to make India's first bullet train

DHEERAJ MISHRA

New Delhi, October 15

STATE-RUN BEML has been awarded the contract for the design, manufacturing, and commissioning of two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the company said in a filing to the stock exchanges on Tuesday.

"The price of each car is Rs 27.86 crore and the total contract value is Rs 866.87 crore which includes design cost,

one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, one time cost towards Jigs, fixtures, tooling and testing facilities, which will be utilised for all future High-Speed projects in India," the company added. BEML said that this project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey and will see the first indigenously designed and manufactured trainsets with a test speed of 280 kmph.

The company operates in three verticals- Defence & Aero-

These trains will be part of India's 508-km-long high-speed rail corridor from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

space, Mining & Construction and Rail & Metro, and has state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities located in Bengaluru, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore, Palakkad, with R & D infrastructure.

On September 5, 2024, ICF issued a tender to build two

high-speed trainset (also referred as a rake), designed to reach a top speed of 280 km/h and operate at 249 km/h.

These trains will be part of India's ambitious 508 km long high-speed rail corridor from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. Initially, the corridor was planned to have Japanese E5 series Shinkansen high-speed trains, but due to high prices quoted by the Japanese companies, the government decided to manufacture these trains domestically.

Industry	Heavy equipment Defence Railway vehicles
Founded	May 1964
Headquarters	BEML Soudha, No 23/1, IV Main, Sampangiramanagar, Bangalore , Karnataka , India
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	Shantanu Roy (Chairman & MD) ^[1]
Products	Earthmoving equipment Underground mining equipment Railway equipment High power diesel engines Heavy duty hydraulic aggregates
Revenue	▼ ₹3,077.37 crore (US\$370 million) (2020) ^[2]
Operating income	▲ ₹153.20 crore (US\$18 million) (2020) ^[2]
Net income	▲ ₹68.38 crore (US\$8.2 million) (2020) ^[2]
Total assets	▲ ₹5,066.71 crore (US\$610 million) (2020) ^[2]
Total equity	▲ ₹2,257.15 crore (US\$270 million) (2020) ^[2]
Owner	Government of India (54.03%) ^[3]
Number of employees	6,973 (FY 2024-25)

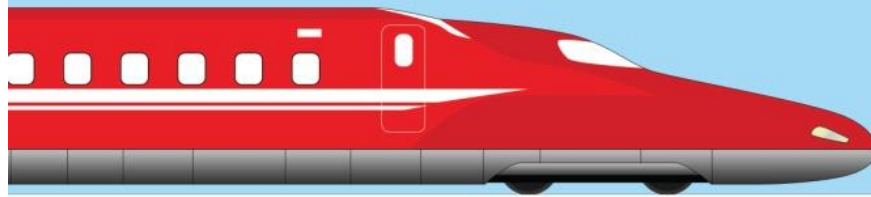
नेशनल हाई स्पीड रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
NATIONAL HIGH SPEED RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED

उच्च गति - राष्ट्र की उन्नति
Incredibly Fast and Reliable



508 kms stretch between Mumbai to Ahmedabad will be covered in 2 hrs
7 mins by Bullet Train with the maximum operational speed of 320 kmph.

मुम्बई से अहमदाबाद के बीच 508 किलोमीटर की दूरी
को बुलेट ट्रेन द्वारा 320 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे की अधिकतम परिचालन रफ्तार
से 2 घंटे 7 मिनटों के भीतर तय कर लिया जाएगा।



SPEED RAIL'S HALTING RIDE

Dec 2015 | MoU signed between India and Japan to implement project, based on Japan's Shinkansen trains

Sept 2017 | Bhoomi puja conducted by PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Ahmedabad

June 2018 | Civil works begin

Nov 2019 | CM puts project on hold, pending review

The company in charge of implementing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project has been modelled as a special purpose vehicle (SPV), with equity participation by the Centre through the railway ministry and by the state governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat

EQUITY RATIO

50:25:25



FIRM'S PAID-UP CAPITAL

As of March 31, 2019

Total | ₹2,455cr

Centre's contribution | ₹2,350cr

Gujarat | ₹105cr

Maharashtra | Nil

Project Cost

₹1.1 L cr

Max Speed 350kmph



Journey Time

3 hours | Between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, stopping at all stations



2 hours | Non-stop journey

Seating Capacity

Around 750 passengers



It can rise to 1,250, once more coaches are added

DEADLINE!

Aug 15, 2022 | Date set by National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) for bullet train's trial run on 50km of route between Bilimora and Surat

CORRIDOR ALIGNMENT

92% elevated



6% underground



2% at grade (ground-level)



21km tunnel, of which 7km will be below the creek



Stations
11



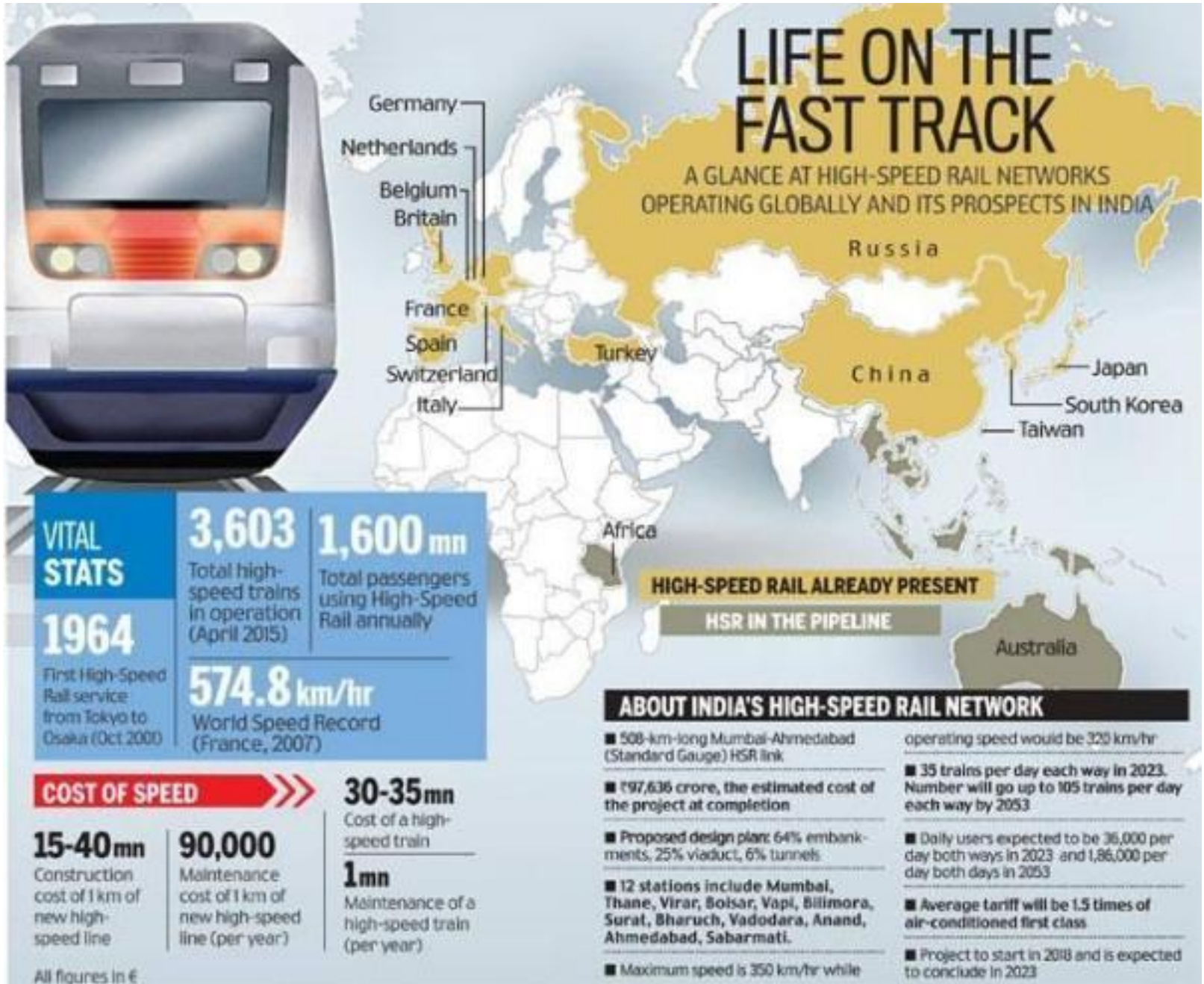
ROLLING STOCK

Train: Shinkansen, E-5 Series

> The train with a longer nose is billed as more comfortable and faster

> Longer nose prevents 'tunnel boom' or noise when a train enters a tunnel

> It vibrates less because of full active suspension; body tilting system ensures smoother ride at curvatures



'Marriage penalty': Employment rate for Indian women drops by 1/3rd

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While men command a premium to get a job after marriage, women face a "marriage penalty" resulting in a sharp drop in their labour force participation, a new World Bank report says.

It estimates that in India, post-marriage female employment rates drop by 12 percentage points, about one thirds of the female pre-marital employment rate, even in the absence of children. In contrast, there is a 13 percentage point premium for men post-marriage. While the premium for men erodes after five years, it persists for women.

"This marriage penalty

ALSO EARN LESS

➤ Only **32% of working-age women** in S Asia, excluding Af, **part of labour force**, compared with **77% men**, says World Bank report

➤ Merely raising female employment rates to achieve gender parity may **increase regional GDP by 13%-51%**

➤ On an average in S Asia, **women earn only 58% of what men do**, though it goes up to 64% in service sector


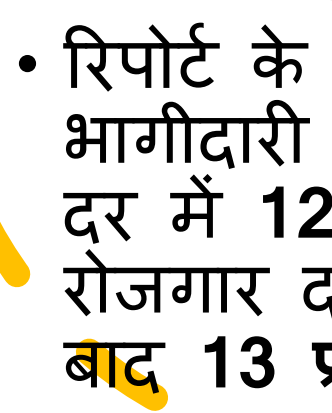
among women without children persists up to five years after wedding in India and Maldives," the report says, while asserting that social norms may also be at the root of the


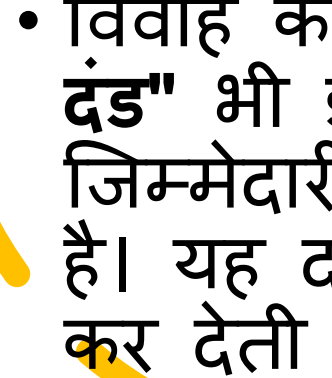
"marriage penalty".

To make matters worse for women, there is also a "child penalty" as they are entrusted with childcare responsibilities, forcing many to opt out of the workforce.

India, and South Asia in general, have poor female labour force participation rate, estimated at 32% in 2023, and with most countries, barring Bhutan, in the bottom quartile of World Bank's sample. "Women with more than secondary schooling or those who marry men with more than secondary schooling are less likely to be hit by the marriage penalty, suggesting education has a role in mitigating it," it said.

► **South Asia's rate..., P 26**

- 
- **Impact of Marriage on Employment / विवाह का रोजगार पर प्रभाव:**
 - The report finds that Indian women experience a significant drop in their labor force participation after marriage. Post-marriage, the employment rate for women declines by **12 percentage points**, which is about one-third of their pre-marital employment rate. In contrast, men experience a **13 percentage point increase** in employment rates after marriage.
 - रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, विवाह के बाद भारतीय महिलाओं की श्रम बल में भागीदारी में बड़ी गिरावट आती है। विवाह के बाद, महिलाओं की रोजगार दर में **12 प्रतिशत अंक** की गिरावट आती है, जो उनकी शादी से पहले की रोजगार दर का लगभग एक-तिहाई है। इसके विपरीत, पुरुषों में विवाह के बाद **13 प्रतिशत अंक** की वृद्धि देखी जाती है।
- 

- 
- **Child Penalty / बच्चों से जुड़ी जिम्मेदारियों का प्रभाव:**
 - Apart from the marriage penalty, women also face a "**child penalty**", as they often take on childcare responsibilities, forcing many to leave the workforce. This double burden significantly reduces their participation rate.
 - विवाह के दंड के अलावा, महिलाओं को "**बच्चों की जिम्मेदारियों का दंड**" भी झेलना पड़ता है, क्योंकि वे अक्सर बच्चों की देखभाल की जिम्मेदारी उठाती हैं, जिससे कई महिलाओं को नौकरी छोड़नी पड़ती है। यह दोहरी जिम्मेदारी उनकी भागीदारी दर को काफी हद तक कम कर देती है।
- 


- **Regional and Comparative Statistics / क्षेत्रीय और तुलनात्मक आंकड़े:**
- : Only **32%** of working-age women in South Asia (excluding Afghanistan) are part of the labor force, compared to **77%** of men. On average, South Asian women earn only **58%** of what men earn, though this improves to **64%** in the service sector.
- दक्षिण एशिया (अफगानिस्तान को छोड़कर) में कामकाजी आय की केवल **32%** महिलाएं श्रम बल का हिस्सा हैं, जबकि पुरुषों में यह आंकड़ा **77%** है। औसतन, दक्षिण एशिया में महिलाएं पुरुषों की तुलना में केवल **58%** कमाती हैं, हालांकि सेवा क्षेत्र में यह आंकड़ा **64%** तक बढ़ जाता है।



- **Potential Economic Impact / संभावित आर्थिक प्रभाव:**

- The World Bank report suggests that increasing female labor force participation to achieve gender parity could boost regional GDP by **13%-51%**.

- वर्ल्ड बैंक की रिपोर्ट का सुझाव है कि महिला श्रम बल भागीदारी को बढ़ाकर लिंग समानता हासिल करने से क्षेत्रीय GDP में **13%-51%** तक वृद्धि हो सकती है।






- **Educational Influence / शिक्षा का प्रभाव:**

- : Women with higher education or those married to educated men are less likely to be affected by the marriage penalty, indicating that education can mitigate the impact of marriage on employment.

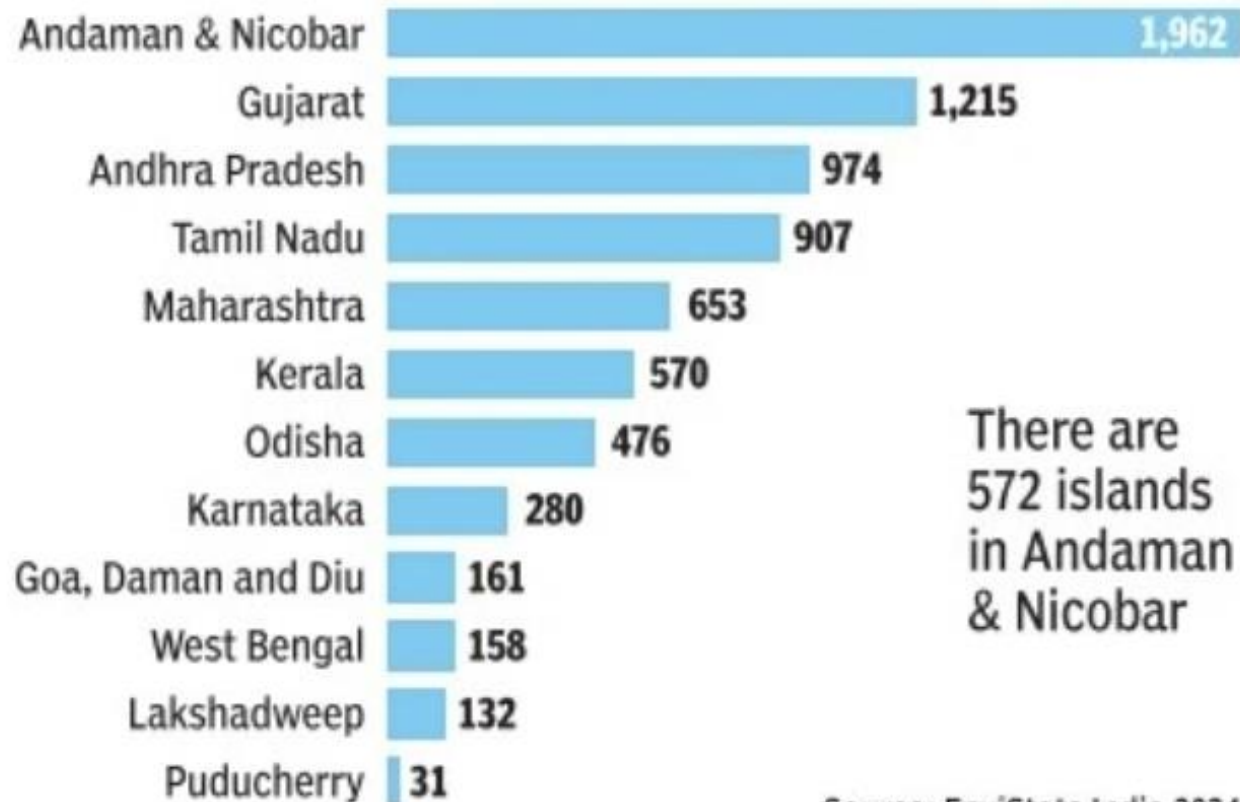
- : उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त महिलाएं या जो शिक्षित पुरुषों से विवाह करती हैं, उनके लिए विवाह दंड का प्रभाव कम होता है, जो बताता है कि शिक्षा विवाह के रोजगार पर प्रभाव को कम कर सकती है।



STATE-UT WITH LONGEST COASTLINE MAY SURPRISE YOU

Andaman & Nicobar coastline is 60% more than Gujarat's, the state with second highest access to sea



LENGTH OF COASTLINE (Kms)



There are 572 islands in Andaman & Nicobar



National Water Awards

- 
- The Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil, announced the winners of the 5th National Water Awards.
 - **Winners:**
 - A total of 38 winners were announced across 9 categories:
 - Best State: Odisha (1st), Uttar Pradesh (2nd), Gujarat and Puducherry (joint 3rd).
- 

National Water Awards

The National Water Awards were first launched in 2018, with subsequent awards given in 2019, 2020, and 2022.

- No awards were given in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



which were evaluated by a Jury Committee and verified through ground truthing by the Central Water Commission and Central Ground Water Board.



Significance: The awards aim to recognize efforts in water management and conservation, promoting public awareness of the importance of water usage practices.

The initiative supports the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' (Water Prosperous India).



Columbus Day



- The second Monday of October is observed in the United States as Columbus Day.

- **About**

- The day is celebrated to commemorate the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on **October 12, 1492.**

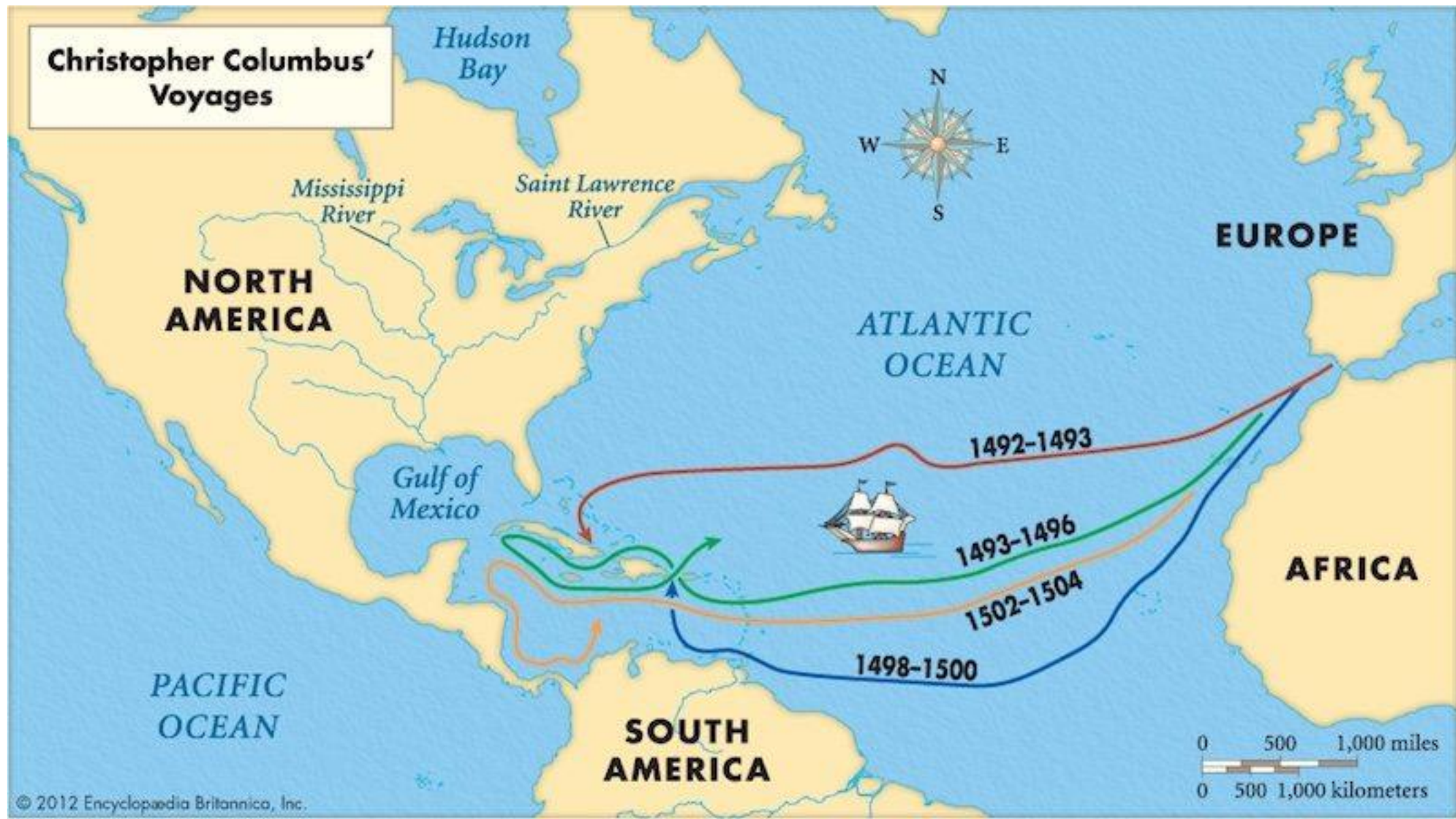
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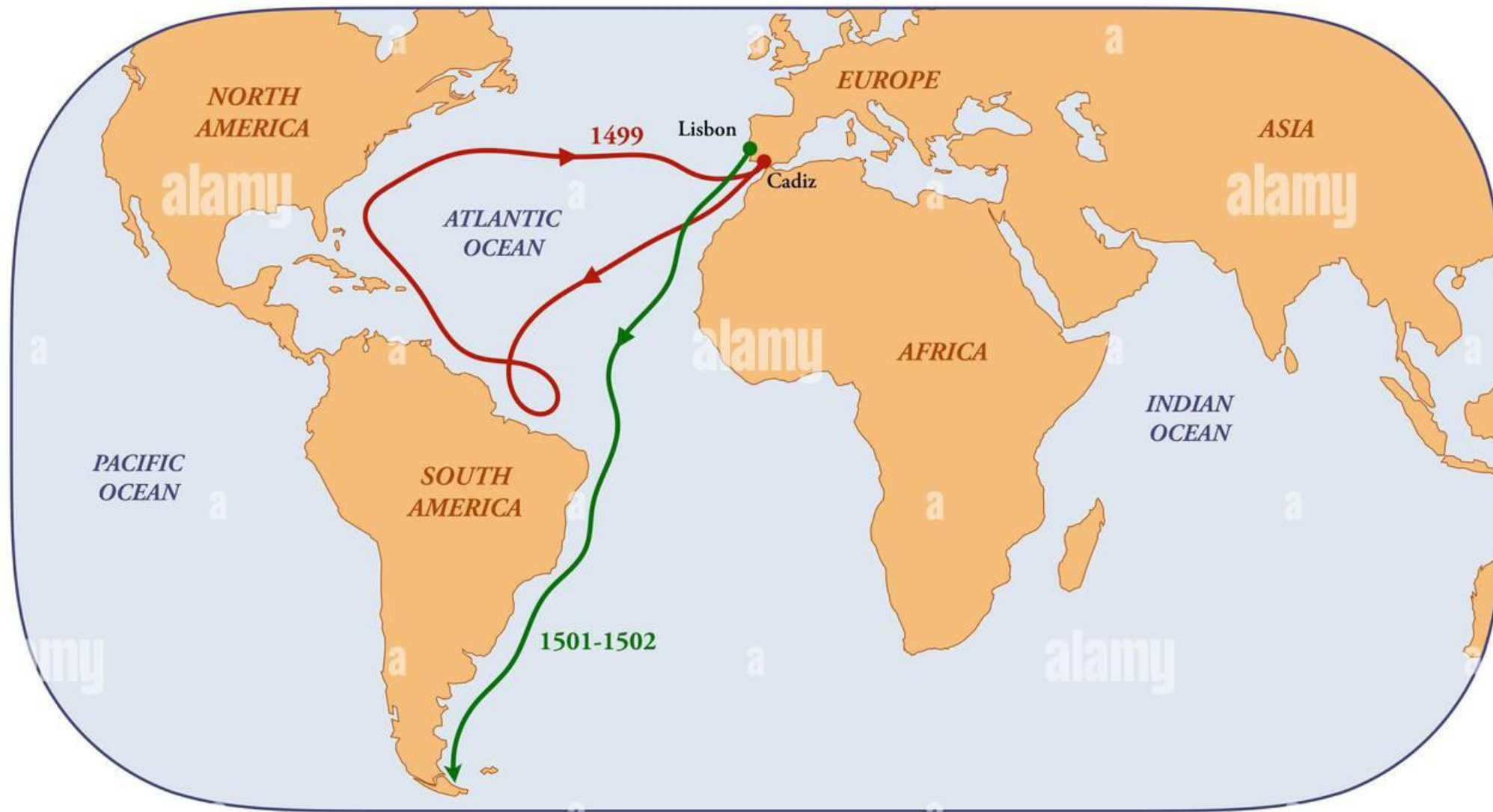
Legacy: Columbus' voyages symbolize the Age of Exploration, which led to profound changes in global history.

It also ushered in an era of colonization and exploitation that continues to be debated today

Christopher Columbus' Voyages



The Amerigo Vespucci voyages





19th East Asia Summit (EAS)

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India attended the 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- What are the Key Highlights of the Visit?
- PM advocated for a development-oriented Indo-Pacific approach over expansionism.
- Reiterated support for Nalanda University and invited EAS members to the Heads of Higher Education Conclave.



Addressed global challenges like terrorism, cyber, and maritime threats, and stressed dialogue-based conflict resolution.

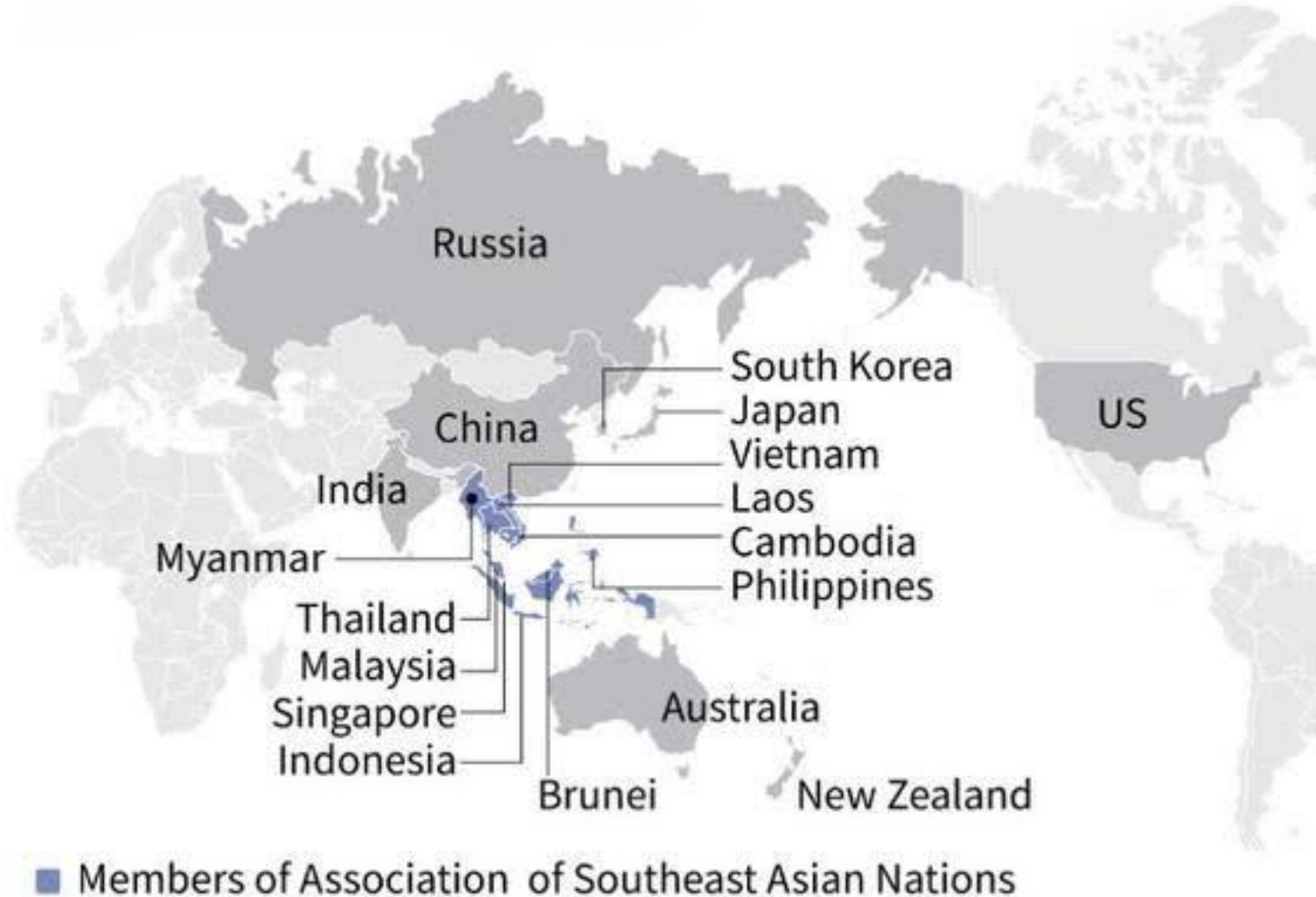
PM conveyed his wishes to **Malaysia on presiding as the new Chair of ASEAN** and expressed India's full support to it. **The present chair of ASEAN is Lao PDR.**

- What is the East Asia Summit (EAS)?
- Establishment:
- The EAS was established in 2005 as an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led initiative.
- The EAS is the only leader-led forum in the Indo-Pacific that brings together all key partners to discuss political, security and economic issues of strategic importance.
- The idea of an East Asia Grouping was first proposed by then Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in 1991.




- 
- **Members:** The EAS is a key forum for strategic dialogue in the Indo-Pacific region, involving **18 countries, including ASEAN members.**
 - The EAS comprises 18 members, the **10 ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) **and eight dialogue partners** (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States).
- 

East Asia Summit





First IPS Officer to Win Gold at Commonwealth Powerlifting

- 
- In an extraordinary accomplishment, **IPS officer Anita Roy**, the **Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)** in **Puducherry**, has become the first IPS officer to **secure a gold medal** at the **Commonwealth International Classic Bench Press Competition, 2024**.

- **About:**

- The championships took place in **Sun City, South Africa** in **October 2024**.
- 



The International Powerlifting Federation (IPF): It is the global governing body for the sport of powerlifting.



Established in 1972, the IPF includes **member federations from over 100 countries.**

Word of the day

Contrive:

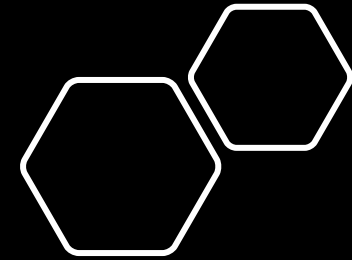
make or work out a plan for; devise; come up with (an idea, plan, explanation, theory, or principle) after a mental effort; put or send forth

Synonyms: project, design, plan, forge, excogitate, invent, devise, formulate, throw, cast

Usage: *He contrived a meeting with the CEO.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/contrivepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kən'traɪv/



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Thank you
guys.
