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Hi, how can w

it ends, because your parents' only concern is to help you get a good job and be successful in life. If they have money they may send you abroad, but like the rest of the world their whole purpose is that you should be rich and have a respectable position in society; and the higher you climb the more misery you cause for others, because to get there you have to compete, be ruthless. So parents send their children to schools where there is ambition, competition, where there is no love at all, and that is why a society such as ours is continually decaying, in constant strife; and though the politicians, the judges, the so-called nobles of the land talk about peace, it does not mean a thing.

Now, you and I have to understand this whole problem

We must find out for ourselves what it means to love. If we don't love, we can never be thoughtful. If we can never be considerate. Do you know what it means to be considerate? When you see a sharp stone on a path trodden by many bare feet, you remove it, not because you have been asked, but because you feel for the other—it does not matter who he is, and you may never meet him. To plant a tree and cherish it, to look at the river and enjoy the fullness of the earth, to cherish the wing and



J KRISHNAMURTI

**THINK ON
THESE THINGS**



JUGGLING HURDLES
Growing older as a queer person in India
Older couples talk of the challenges around parenting, financial security or healthcare in the absence of an inclusive legal framework
MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

What are the rules and guidelines on judicial transfers?
FAQ » PAGE 8

An intel snafu and its implications on trust
PROFILES » PAGE 9

Titans lord it over Mumbai Indians, get off the mark
SPORT » PAGE 13

Myanmar earthquake death toll crosses 1,600

Rescuers search for survivors in the rubble of collapsed buildings; Mandalay city sees massive destruction | Over 3,400 injured, with at least 139 believed to be missing, says junta; toll expected to increase further | 10 more deaths confirmed in Bangkok in neighbouring Thailand, which was also rocked by the earthquake

Agence France-Presse
MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

The death toll from a huge earthquake that hit Myanmar and Thailand passed 1,600 on Saturday, as rescuers dug through the rubble of collapsed buildings in a desperate search for survivors.

The shallow 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck northwest of the city of Sagaing in central Myanmar early Friday afternoon, followed minutes later by a 6.7-magnitude aftershock.

The earthquake destroyed buildings, downed bridges, and buckled roads across swathes of Myanmar, with massive destruction seen in Mandalay, the country's second biggest city and home to more than 1.7 million people.

"We need aid," said Thar Aye, 68, a Mandalay resident. "We don't have enough of anything."

At least 1,644 people were killed and more than 3,400 injured in Myanmar, with at least 139 more missing, the junta said in a statement. Around 10 more deaths have been confirmed in Bangkok, with communications badly disrupted, the true scale of the disaster is only starting to emerge from the isolated military-ruled state, and the toll is expected to rise significantly.

In Mandalay, AFP journalists saw rescuers pull a woman alive from the remains of one apartment block where a Red Cross official said more than 90 people could be trapped. After hours of painstaking work at the Sky Villa Condominium, half of whose 12 stories were flattened by the earthquake,



Collapsed dreams: A rescue worker looks out over the rubble as teams attempt to free trapped residents at the destroyed condominium in Mandalay on Saturday. AFP

Phyu Lay Khaine, 30, was brought out and carried by stretcher to be embraced by her husband and taken to hospital.

Another woman at the apartment block was less fortunate. Her 20-year-old son, an employee at the building, is still missing.

"We cannot find him yet. I only have this child - I feel so heartbroken," said Min Min Khine, 56, a staff cook at the building. "He ate at my dining room and said goodbye. Then he left and the earthquake happened. If he was with me, he might have escaped like me," she said.

Elsewhere in Mandalay, AFP journalists saw dozens of people preparing to be

down for the night in the streets, preferring to sleep in the open rather than take the risk in earthquake-damaged buildings.

Biggest in decades
This was the biggest earthquake to hit Myanmar in decades, according to geologists, and the tremors were powerful enough to severely damage buildings across Bangkok, hundreds of kilometres away from the epicentre.

Journalists saw a centuries-old Buddhist pagoda in Mandalay that had been reduced to rubble. "The monastery also collapsed. One monk died, some people were injured, and pulled out some people

and took them to the hospital," said a soldier at a nearby checkpoint.

There are reports of damage to Mandalay Airport, which would complicate relief efforts in a country whose rescue services and healthcare system have already been ravaged by four years of civil war sparked by a military coup in 2021.

Rare junta plea for help
Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing had issued an exceptional rare appeal for international aid on Friday, indicating the severity of the calamity. Previous military governments have shunned foreign assistance, even after major

natural disasters. Offers of foreign assistance began coming in, with President Donald Trump pledging US help. China said it sent more than 80 rescuers to Myanmar and pledged \$13.8 million in emergency assistance. Aid agencies have warned that Myanmar is unprepared to deal with a disaster of this magnitude.

Some 3.5 million people were displaced by the raging civil war, many at risk of hunger, even before the quake struck. Meanwhile Myanmar's main resistance movement National Unity Government announced partial ceasefire to facilitate earthquake relief efforts

Across the border in Bangkok, rescuers were continuing to work on Saturday as a second night drew in, searching for survivors trapped when a 30-storey under-construction skyscraper collapsed.

Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt told presspersons that eight people had been confirmed dead in the building collapse so far, while at least eight others were rescued. But he said 79 were still unaccounted for at the building, close to the Chatuchak weekend market that is a magnet for tourists.

SURVIVORS SPEAK
» PAGE 5

India's 'Operation Brahma' kicks off; Modi reaches out

Kalol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the Senior General of the Myanmar junta, Aung Min Hlaing, on Saturday, assuring him of "humanitarian assistance" from India to deal with the devastating aftermath of Friday's earthquake.

Their conversation was held hours after India started 'Operation Brahma' to assist Myanmar, where over 1,600 people have died, and many are trapped in the debris. The Ministry of External Affairs said that no Indian citizen was among the casualties.

The MEA also emphasised that it is coordinating rescue and relief efforts through the Myanmar government, run by the military junta, though a large chunk of quake-hit areas are under rebel control.

'In solidarity'
"Spoke with Senior General H.E. Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. Conveyed our deep condolences at the loss of lives in the devastating earthquake. As a close friend and neighbour, India stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar - almost two million - and we are in touch with those organisations," said Mr. Jaishwal.

"Disaster relief materials, humanitarian assistance, search and rescue teams are being expeditiously dispatched to the affected areas as part of

Operation Brahma," Mr. Modi said.

India began sending humanitarian assistance early Saturday morning when a C-130 aircraft of the Indian Air Force took off from the Hindon airbase and landed in Yangon. This was followed by two more aircraft carrying relief materials to Myanmar. In an unscheduled media briefing, the MEA said that India would also set up a field hospital in the earthquake-hit region.

'First responder'
"India has been playing the role of first responder in such situations. Last year when Cyclone Yagi had struck, we had responded to assist the government and people of Myanmar. We would do our best to provide relief, rescue and whatever assistance is required to deal with the calamity," said MEA spokesperson Randeep Jaishwal.

He added that no casualty has been reported so far from the community of 50,000 to 60,000 Indian nationals living in Myanmar. "We have a large Indian diaspora in Myanmar - almost two million - and we are in touch with those organisations," said Mr. Jaishwal. "The Indian Navy has also prepared four ships for the HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response) operation in Myanmar."

INSIDE



Former HC judge acquitted in 2008 cash-at-door case

CHANDIGARH
Seventeen years after the cash-at-door case rocked the judiciary, a special CBI court here on Saturday acquitted former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Aritraj Yadav and four others in the matter. In the case, a packet containing ₹15 lakh, which was believed to be meant for Justice (retd) Yadav, was "wrongly delivered" at the residence of another judge. » PAGE 2

Security forces gun down 17 Maoists in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar

Seventeen Maoists, including 11 women, were killed in an anti-Naxal operation conducted by security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Saturday, according to the police. Four security personnel were injured.

Among the deceased was a Maoist involved in several attacks, including the 2013 Bheeram Valley massacre that killed several senior State Congress leaders. He carried a reward of ₹25 lakh.

Superintendent of Police, Sukma, Shri Kiran Chandra said the operation was launched on Friday by a joint team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of the Chhattisgarh Police

and the Central Reserve Police Force, following a tip-off about the presence of Maoists in the areas around Gogudum, Nerdum, and Upampalli under the Keralapal police station limits.

Weapons recovered
Around 3.50 p.m. on Saturday, the police confirmed that bodies of 17 Maoists were recovered from the encounter site. Weapons such as AK-47, INSAS and 300 rifle rocket and grenade launchers, and explosives were also recovered, they added.

This is the second major encounter in Chhattisgarh in less than 10 days. On March 20, as many as 26 suspected Maoists were killed along the Bijapur-Dantewada region.



Red zones: Security personnel during combing operations in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seven deceased Maoists have been identified so far after Saturday's encounter. **Ranked Maoists**
Among them was Darbha Division Secretary/Special

ram Valley massacre and the 2022 Arampur blast, in which 10 DRG personnel and a civilian driver were killed in Dantewada.

The police statement noted that a few other Maoists killed in the encounter too were ranked members. "Four jawans, including three from the DRG and one from the CRPF, were injured in the encounter," said Mr. Chavan.

The police statement said the injured jawans were out of danger and that the Indian Air Force played a major role in their evacuation.

Since the beginning of this year, at least 117 Maoists have been killed by security forces in the Bastar region that comprises

seven districts, including Bilaspur, Sukma and Dantewada. **Strong resolve**
Union Home Minister Amit Shah called the operation another strike on Naxalism. "Another strike on Naxalism and recovered a massive cache of automatic weapons in an operation in Sukma. Under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, we are resolved to eradicate Naxalism before the 31st of March 2023. My appeal to those with arms is that weapons and violence cannot bring change; only peace and development can," the Union Minister said in a post on social media platform X.

Tariff talks with India will work out very well: Trump

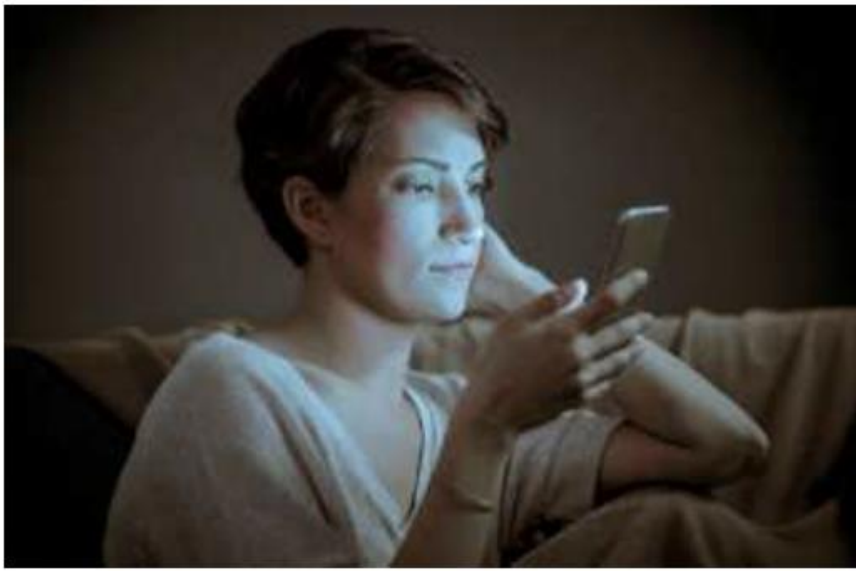
Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "very smart man" while emphasising that tariff talks between the U.S. and India would "work out very well".

"This is one of the highest tariffing nations in the world... It's brutal. He (Mr. Modi) is a very smart man and a great friend of mine. I think it's going to work out very well," Mr. Trump said on Friday. **AGREEMENT ON NEXT STEPS**
» PAGE 11







Screen use before bedtime linked with poor sleep quality

Daily screen use was associated with later bedtimes and approximately 50 minutes less sleep each week. Compared with no screen use, daily screen use prior to bed was associated with a 33% higher prevalence of poor sleep quality. Associations were greater among those with evening chronotypes, who are at risk for poor sleep due to social jetlag (ie, misalignment between circadian rhythms and social commitments). The study confirms that disruptions to sleep from electronic screens are found in adults too.

INBRIEF



German firm from chemical sector to invest \$1.5 bn: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said a German company from the chemical sector has decided to invest \$1.5 billion in India, and a State has identified land for the project. Though the Minister did not disclose the name of the company or the State, he said the company's head is expected to meet the State's CM today. The company will "have the allotment of land in his hand", Mr. Goyal said at a session of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA).

Thomas John Muthoot elected CII South chairman

The chairman of Kerala-based diversified conglomerate Muthoot Pappapathan Group, Thomas John Muthoot, has been elected as the chairman of Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region for the year 2025-26. The president of Danfoss India Region, Ravichandran Purushothaman, has been elected vice-chairman. CII said, Danfoss India, a subsidiary of Denmark-based Danfoss, is a leader in heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and compressors.

Hospital chain Park Medi files ₹1,260-crore IPO papers

Park Medi World, which operates a hospital chain under the Park brand, filed preliminary papers with markets regulator SEBI seeking its approval to raise ₹1,260 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is a combination of fresh issue of shares worth ₹900 crore and an offer for sale of shares valued ₹360 crore by promoter Ajit Gupta, as per the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Also, the firm may consider a pre-IPO placement of up to ₹192 crore.

Waaree Energies unveils India's largest solar cell factory

Avinash Nair
CHHIBLI (GUJARAT)

Waaree Energies on Saturday inaugurated India's largest solar cell manufacturing unit with 5.4 GW capacity — at Chhibli in South Gujarat that can churn out 20 solar cells every second.

"This is our first solar cell project which will have a capacity of 5.4 GW. This unit has the capacity to churn out 20 solar cells every second. We are using the latest and advanced TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) technology," Hitesh Doshi, CMD of Waaree Energies, told *businessline* after the solar cell unit was inaugu-

rated by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Solar cells
"While building this plant, we asked ourselves if we can make the most efficient solar cells in India. At this unit, we have managed to achieve an efficiency of 25%," Mr. Doshi added.

The TOPCon solar cells have a unique structure that utilises a thin oxide layer and a polycrystalline silicon layer to create a high-efficiency passivated contact.
This design allows improved charge carrier extraction, resulting in higher energy conversion rates. (The writer is with the *Hindu businessline*)

Blinkit to deliver Lloyd ACs in just 10 minutes

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
NEW DELHI

With the onset of summer season, quick commerce platform Blinkit on Saturday said it will deliver air-conditioners in 10 minutes.

In a post on X, Blinkit stated, "Get Air Conditioners delivered in 10 minutes! We've partnered up with *myIndia* to deliver their range of ACs this summer season. Deliveries have already started in Delhi NCR. Coming soon to other cities." His post said installation will be available within 24



Installation will be available within 24 hours of delivery. Quick-commerce platforms have been widening offerings to garner a bigger share of consumer wallet. (The writer is with the *Hindu businessline*)

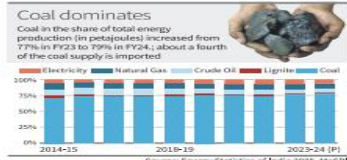
India's coal reliance rises to 79% in FY24 despite Centre's renewable push

Coal always constituted over 70% of total energy produced in India since 2014-15; however, renewable energy's share in total output has not seen any meaningful rise in the past decade

Anshokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The share of coal in India's total energy generation increased to 79% in 2023-24, about two percentage points more than previous year, MoSPI's Energy Statistics in India 2025 show. Coal has always constituted more than 70% of the total energy produced in the country since 2014-15. Coal production also rose 12% in the year under review from 2022-23, when it had grown at a decadal-high pace of 15%.

Crude oil's share at 6% in 2023-24 has reduced from 2014-15 when it was



11% in 2014-15. Natural gas was 7% of the total energy produced and slid from 9% in 2014-15. Renewable energy sources have not seen any

meaningful rise in the share of the total energy produced and slid from 9% in 2014-15. Renewable energy sources have not seen any

India-Europe Resilience Forum eyes to boost strategic tech collaboration

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amid growing India-European union cooperation in critical technologies, the India-Europe Resilience Forum (IERF) was unveiled on Friday by the Centre for Social Research, and the Centre for

Educational and Social Studies, Chanakya University. A joint statement issued at the conclusion of the EU commissioners' visit to India, led by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, emphasised the importance of intensifying cooperation

between India and Europe in areas such as "trade and de-risking of supply chains, investment, emerging critical technologies, innovation, talent, digital and green industrial transition, space and geospatial sectors, defence, and people-to-people contacts."

Trump effect



Trumping tweasms! Replicas of the Statue of Liberty are displayed for sale at a tourist shop in New York. A report by research firm Tourism Economics found U.S. inbound travel is projected to dip 5.5% this year instead of rising 9% as previously forecast. Many in the tourism and business industry eye changing global attitudes toward the U.S. following re-election of Donald Trump as U.S. President. GETTY IMAGES VIA AP

Despite market volatility, IPO pipeline 'buoyant'

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Notwithstanding the slow start, the pipeline of initial public offerings (IPOs) this year appears very promising with e-commerce disruptors and EV innovators such as Jio, Zepto, Ather Energy and Greaves Electric Mobility leading from the front.

The bearish sentiment in the secondary markets and geopolitical developments have put the brakes on IPOs in the last three months of this year. With March being a washout for mainboard IPOs, only nine companies have raised ₹15,723 crore from the capital market since the start of this year against 22 companies mop-



ping up ₹13,120 crore in the same period last year. If not for the mega IPO of Hexaware Technologies and Dr. Agarwal's Health Care which raised ₹8,750 crore and ₹3,027 crore, respectively, the fundraise from IPOs in the last three months would have fallen sharply. Reliance Jio Infocomm is expected to raise ₹40,000 crore through its initial share sale in Q2 or Q3 of CY2025. With a valuation of ₹10 lakh crore, the Jio IPO could be the country's largest offer. Shifting base After the recent successful listing of Swiggy and Zomato, new-age businesses such as Walmart-owned digital payments giant Phonepe and quick commerce

India, U.S. agree on next steps for trade pact: govt.

Amit Sen
NEW DELHI

Top trade officials from India and the U.S. have broadly come to an understanding on the next steps toward a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) setting the pitch for sectoral expert level engagements that will start virtually in the coming weeks, as per the Commerce Department.

However, after four days of intense negotiations in Delhi between the two sides, no clarity emerged on whether the U.S. would impose reciprocal tariffs on Indian products in the coming weeks, as per the Commerce Department. President Donald Trump, or grant it a reprieve.

Next steps
"In order to realise the shared objective of promoting growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation, both sides have through four-days of discussions in New Delhi broadly come to an understanding on the next steps towards a mutually beneficial, multi-sector BTA, with the goal to finalise its first tranche by fall 2025," a Commerce Department statement noted.

The top officials' meeting in New Delhi followed the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Washington, DC from March 4-6, where he met U.S. Trade Representative James Green and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

In a media interview,



India shipped \$77.51 billion worth of goods to the U.S. in FY24 and imported \$42.19 billion goods.

Mr. Lutnick said all items, including agricultural products, must be on the negotiating table for opening up of markets and to form flexible strategies. This must include setting quotas to address sensitivities.

Hopes on a BTA
As Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed last month to work on a BTA, India had hoped that it could avoid facing reciprocal tariffs. The Commerce Ministry statement does not make any mention of them.

"It seems that the US team did not brief the Indian team on the reciprocal tariffs. The announcement of reciprocal tariffs on India is likely to depend on whether Mr. Trump would be satisfied by the offers and indications given by India on tariff cuts. Things may get more clear in the days to come," a source tracking the matter said.

(The writer is with the *Hindu businessline*)

TMB expands nationwide, opens six new branches

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) inaugurated six new branches under its expansion drive across the country, including a new branch in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, a top official said.

The Tuticorin-based bank inaugurated a branch in Rathinapuri, Coimbatore; two branches in P N Road and Perambalur in the Tiruppur district; Erode in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh; Karimnagar in Telangana; and Ayodhya in U.P.

We also have plans to open many more branches in the near future across India, MD and CEO Saksh S. Nair said.



The bank plans to open many more branches.

The bank reported a 6% rise in its October-December 2024 net profit to ₹300.24 crore. The net profit for the nine months ended December 31, 2024, grew to ₹890.71 crore from ₹818.97 crore registered a year ago.

(The writer is with the *Hindu businessline*)

Waaree Energies unveils India's largest solar cell factory

Avinash Nair

CHIKHLI (GUJARAT)

Waaree Energies on Saturday inaugurated India's largest solar cell manufacturing unit – with 5.4 GW capacity – at Chikhli in South Gujarat that can churn out 20 solar cells every second.

“This is our first solar cell project which will have a capacity of 5.4 GW. This unit has the capacity to churn out 20 solar cells every second. We are using the latest and advanced TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) technology,” Hitesh Doshi, CMD of Waaree Energies, told *businessline* after the solar cell unit was inaugu-

rated by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

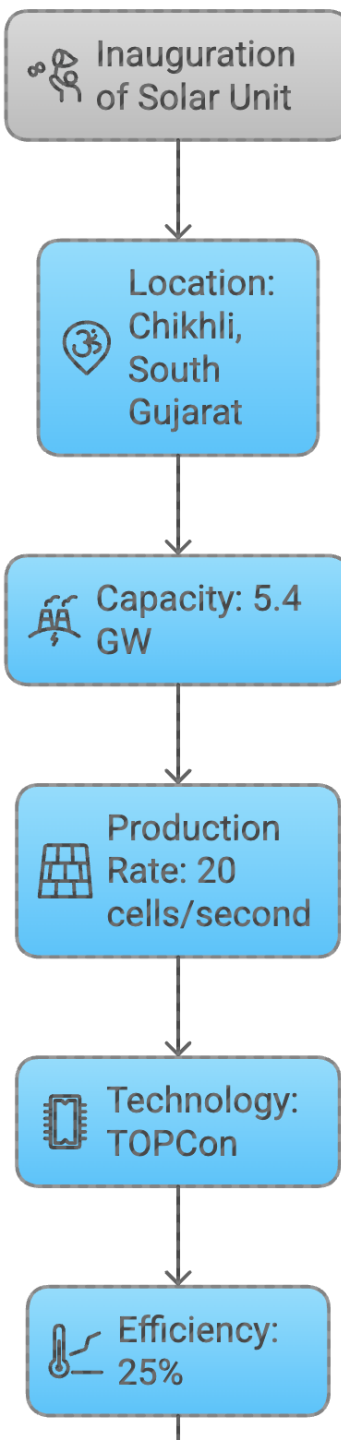
Solar cells

“While building this plant, we asked ourselves if we can make the most efficient solar cells in India. At this unit, we have managed to achieve an efficiency of 25%,” Mr.Doshi added.

The TOPCon solar cells have a unique structure that utilises a thin oxide layer and a poly-crystalline silicon layer to create a highly efficient passivated contact.

This design allows improved charge carrier extraction, resulting in higher energy conversion rates.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)



India's coal reliance rises to 79% in FY24 despite Centre's renewable push

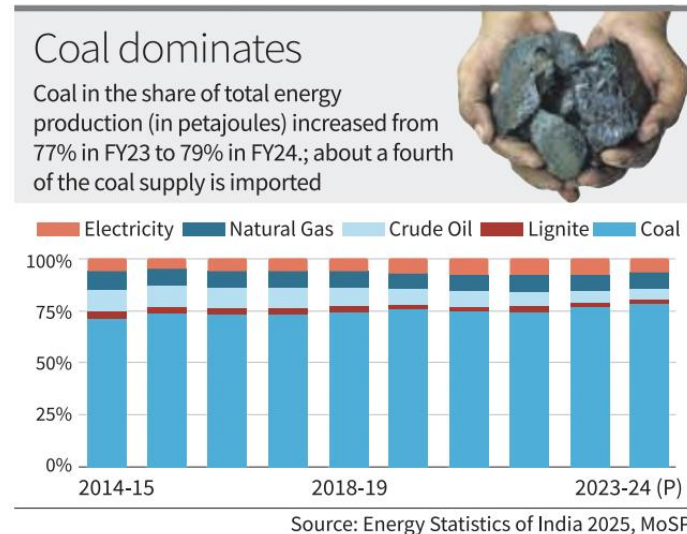
Coal always constituted over 70% of total energy produced in India since 2014-15: however, renewable energy's share in total output has not seen any meaningful rise in the past decade

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The share of coal in India's total energy generation increased to 79% to 16,906 petajoules (PJ) in 2023-24, about two percentage points more than previous year, MoSPI's Energy Statistics in India 2025 show.

Coal had always constituted more than 70% of the total energy produced in the country since 2014-15. Coal production also rose 12% in the year under review from 2022-23, when it had grown at a decadal-high pace of 15%.

Crude oil's share at 6% in 2023-24 has reduced from 2014-15 when it was



11% in 2014-15. Natural gas was 7% of the total energy produced and slid from 9% in 2014-15.

Renewable energy sources have not seen any

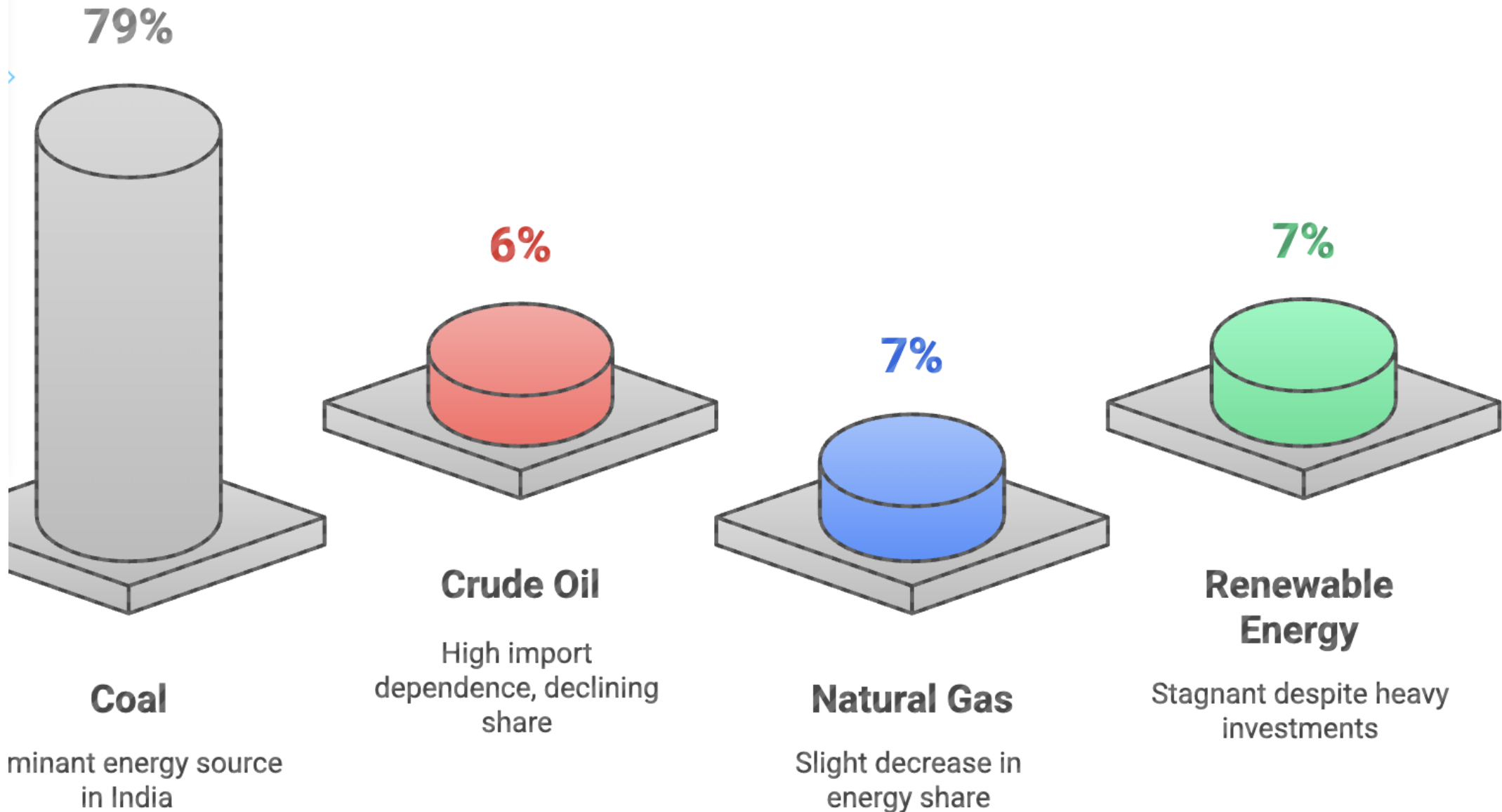
meaningful rise in the share of the total energy produced in the past decade. The share of electricity produced from hydro, solar, nuclear and other re-

newable sources stood at 7% of the total share. This share was 6% in 2014-15.

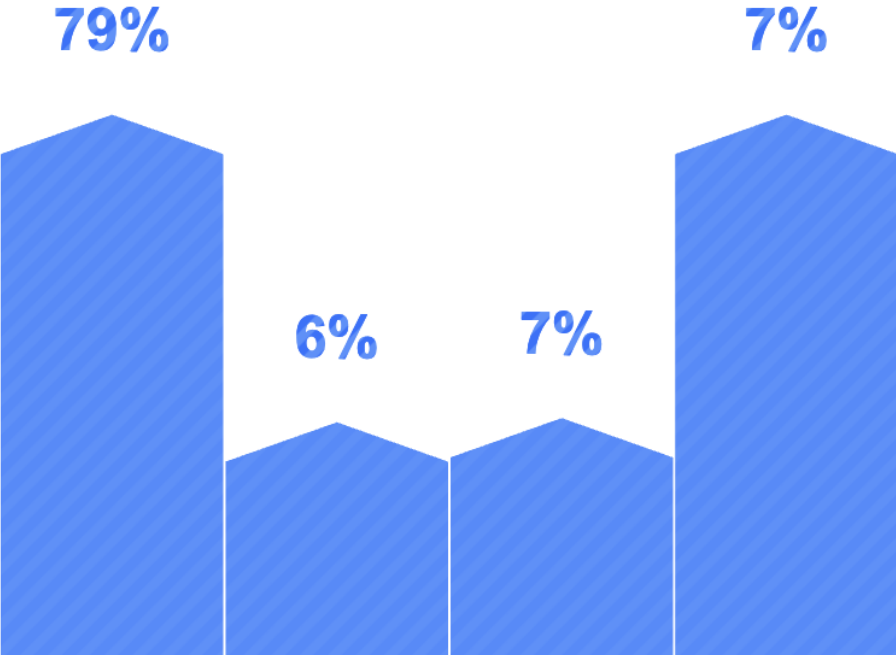
Share of electricity from renewable sources in total energy production has always been under 10% in the past decade despite an active renewable push from the Centre.

Almost 26% of India's coal supply is imported, as per the data. This has however reduced since 2019-20 when it was at a decadal high of 31%. Import dependence of coal has been more than 25% in the past decade. Highest import dependence, however, is in crude oil with a dependence of 89% and has not seen any meaningful reduction in the past decade.

Energy Generation Shares in India FY 2023-24



Energy Generation Shares in India FY 2023-24



Coal

Dominant energy source in India

Crude Oil

High import dependence, declining share

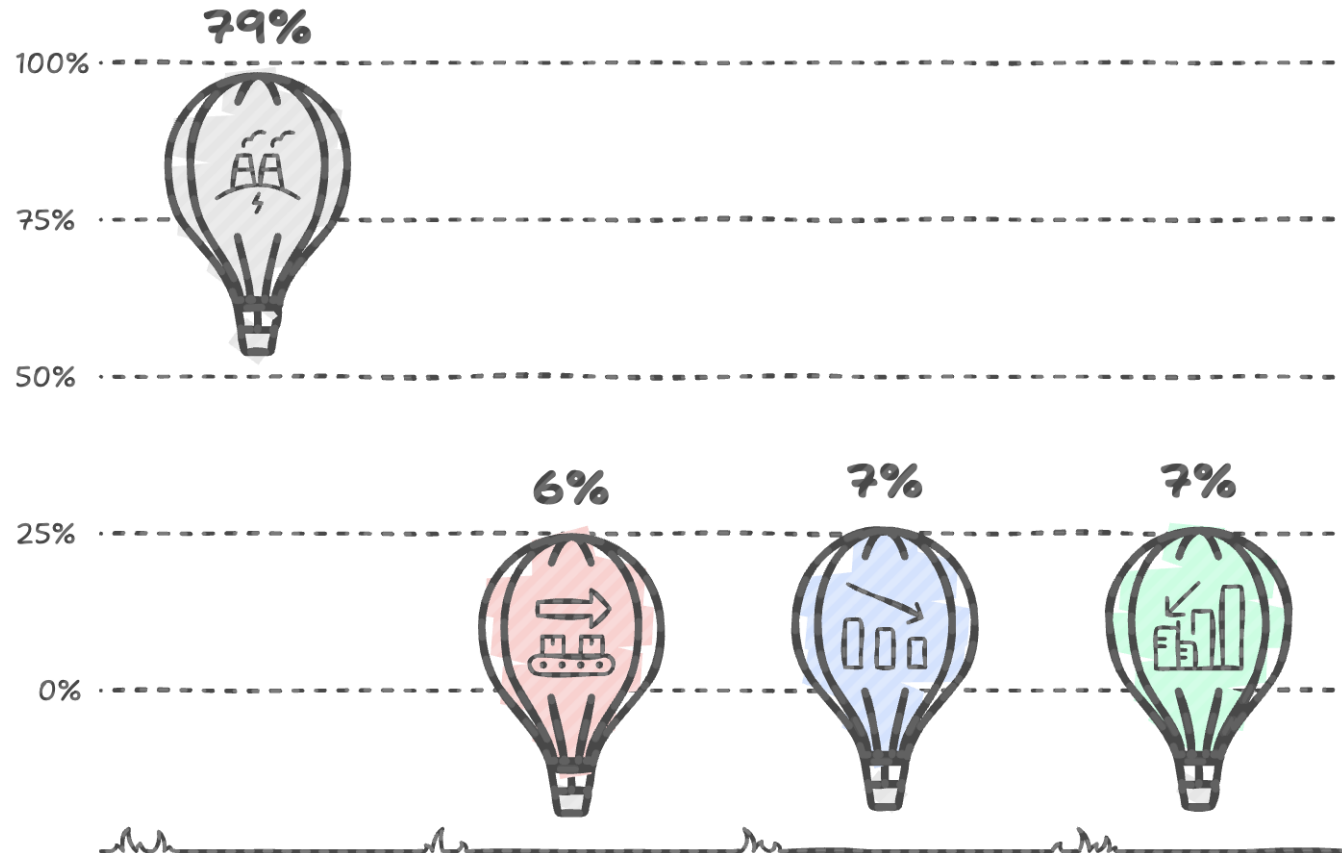
Natural Gas

Slight decrease in energy share

Renewable Energy

Stagnant despite heavy investments

Energy Generation Shares in India FY 2023-24



Coal

Dominant energy source in India

Crude Oil

High import dependence, declining share

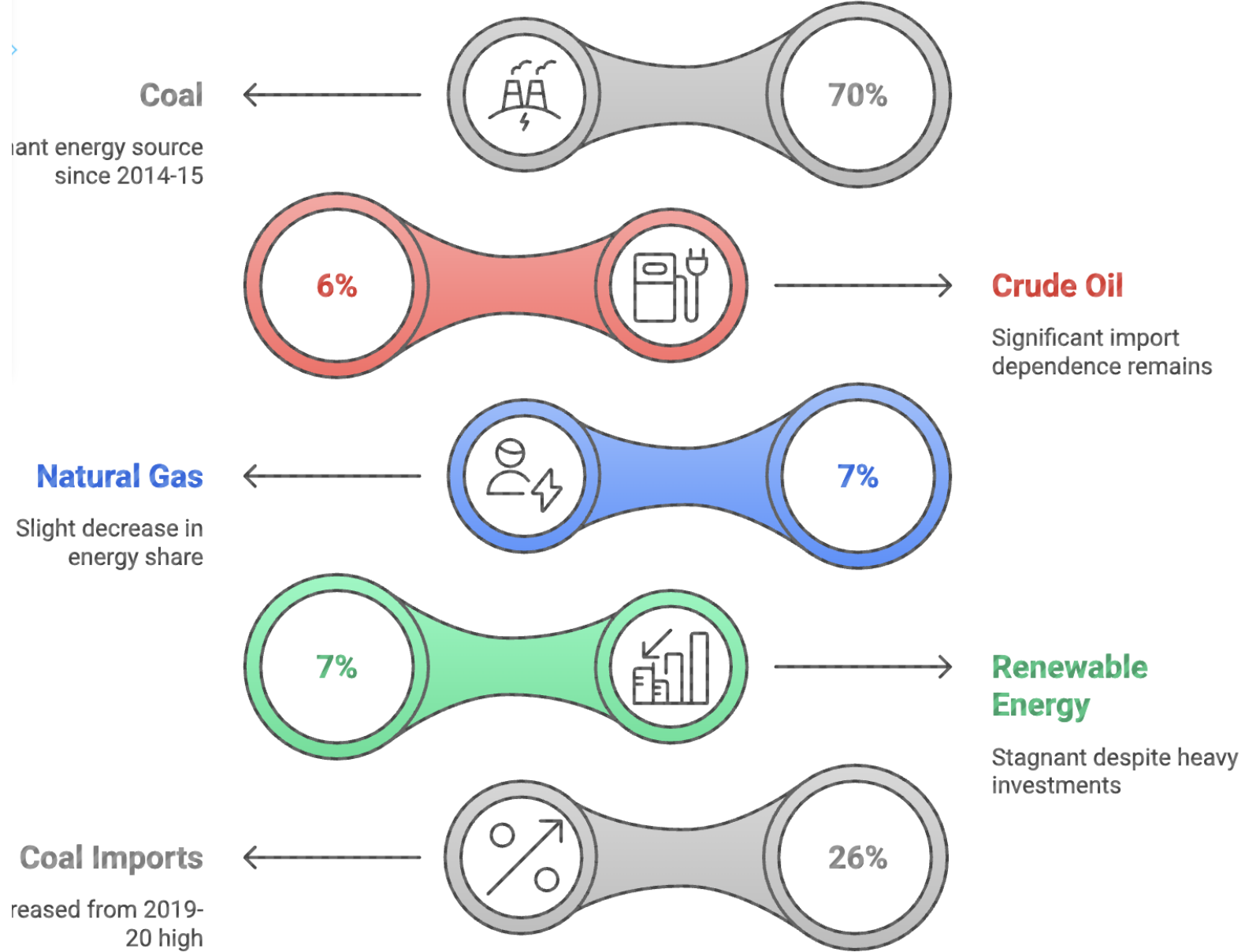
Natural Gas

Slight decrease in energy share

Renewable Energy

Stagnant despite heavy investments

Energy Source Contributions to India's Energy Mix



Delhi [Bangalore](#) [Chennai](#) [Coimbatore](#) [Hyderabad](#) [Kolkata](#) [Lucknow](#) [Madurai](#) [Mumbai](#) [New Delhi](#) [Patna](#) [Thiruvananthapuram](#) [Vijayawada](#) [Yamuna Nagar](#)

SELF-CENSORSHIP
Empuraan undergoes 24 'voluntary cuts'
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Xi calls for increased strategic mutual trust
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SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION
Six districts 'most affected' by IWE: Shah
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Richer States could lose political clout in delimitation
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DOMINANT DISPLAY
PBKS puts on a regal show against LSG
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INSIDE

Waqf Bill likely to have clause to not alter land status

NEW DELHI
The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which is set to be tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, is likely to have a provision that mandates that the ownership of existing Waqf properties will remain as is unless they are "disputed" or are "government property." » PAGE 2

Kharge asks govt. to immediately begin the Census

NEW DELHI
Expressing concern over eligible beneficiaries facing exclusion due to lack of latest population data, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday urged the government to immediately start the Census. » PAGE 5

U.S. flags India's 'burdensome' requirements

NEW DELHI
The U.S. has flagged concerns over India's increasing and burdensome import-quality requirements in a report released two days before the planned U.S. reciprocal tariffs take effect. » PAGE 12

Far right gears up to protest ban on Le Pen in France

PARIS
Far-right party chief Jordan Bardella called on the French to rally to protest against a ruling that banned Marine Le Pen from running for public office for five years. » PAGE 14

21 killed in explosion at firecracker warehouse

Building in Gujarat's Banaskantha district collapses; all the deceased hail from Harda and Dewas districts of MP; victims include children and women; police arrest the owner of the warehouse

Press Trust of India
PALANPUR (GUJARAT)

At least 21 persons, including children and women, were killed and six injured on Tuesday after a powerful blast and blaze ripped through a warehouse where firecrackers were allegedly stored and manufactured illegally in Banaskantha district of Gujarat, officials said.

The explosion, which occurred around 9.45 a.m., flattened the warehouse in an industrial area near Deesa town, around 30 km from the Banaskantha district headquarters in north Gujarat, they said.

"All the deceased were from Harda and Dewas districts of Madhya Pradesh," said Collector Mihir Patel.

He said that DNA samples have been



Out of hand: Debris at the site after a blast at a firecracker warehouse led to a blaze in Gujarat's Banaskantha on Tuesday. PTI

ing taken to identify two others," he said.

The blast was so intense that it sent body parts of workers flying 200-300 metres away.

Even family members of workers staying on the same premises were crushed to death after falling debris fell on them, the Collector said.

Deepak Mohanti, who

Eight die in West Bengal explosion

KOLKATA
Eight people, four children among them, died after a fire broke out at a house in the Pathar Pratima block of West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, following an explosion late on Monday. Police confirmed the presence of firecrackers in the house that caught fire. » PAGE 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the tragedy and announced an ex gratia to the kin of the deceased (₹2 lakh and ₹4 lakh, respectively) and those injured (₹50,000).

Meanwhile, Opposition led by identity of the warehouse illegally at the warehouse, officials said.

Closing in



Security forces during an operation in Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday to track down three hiding militants. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bulldozing of six homes in P's Prayagraj inhumane and illegal: Supreme court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday found action taken by the Prayagraj Development Authority to bulldoze the homes of six private citizens into rubble inhumane and illegal.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Bopanna on the authorities to pay ₹10 lakh each to the house owners as compensation for depriving them of their fundamental right to shelter without following due process.

Pasting of notices
Speaking for the Bench, Justice Oka said the illegal demolition conducted by the development authority in 2021 had shocked the conscience of the top court. The court reminded the authorities that rule of law still exists in the country and the fundamental right to shelter was a basic feature of the Constitution.

"The court's order came after it realised that show-cause notices were not served on the house owners in person or by registered post but only affixed on their properties."

"This affixing business must be stopped. They have lost their houses because of this," Justice Oka said.

"These cases shock our conscience... Residential premises of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished... There is something called the right to shelter, something called due process... The authorities, and especially the development authority, must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution," the court observed.

Justice Oka took serious exception against the past-



Bulldozer being used to demolish an 'illegally built' house in Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh. ILS PHOTO

ing of notices under Section 27 of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973. Section 27 governs the demolition of unauthorised structures. Section 27(1) states that if a building is constructed in violation of the Master Plan or without proper approvals, the development authority may order its demolition after providing the owner with a reasonable opportunity to show cause. The proviso mandated that no demolition order must be issued without first serving notice on the affected persons.

The appellants in the case were Zaliqar Haidar, Shahnaz Parvin, Ali Ahmed Fatma, Naila Fatma, Babu Maimuna, and Ahmad Ali. The court found that a show-cause notice was issued to them on December 18, 2020 and affixed on the same day with a remark that two attempts were made to serve them in person. A subsequent order of demolition on January 8, 2021 was also affixed. The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021 and received on March 6, 2021. The demolitions were car-

ried out the very next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under the law.

During the hearing, the court said the law mandated the authorities to give affected parties a reasonable opportunity to show cause before demolition.

November 2024 verdict
The Bench also referred to a Supreme Court judgment of November 2024, which had issued binding directions against "bulldozer culture" followed by States. In this judgment, in Re Directions in the Matter of Demolition Of Structures, the court had laid down precautions including 15 days' prior notice of demolition to occupants. Noting that the demolitions in the present case pre-dated the 2024 judgment, the Bench drew attention to the fact that the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act of 1973, in Section 43, had already provided authorities to make genuine efforts to serve show-cause notice.

'NO RULE OF LAW'
» PAGE 2

Tariff scare spooks markets; Sensex plunges 1,390 points

Lalalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The first day of the new financial year disappointed investors as frontline stock indices fell nearly 2%, reflecting fears about the impending global tariffs that the United States plans to implement from April 2. Gold prices, on the other hand, hit a new record, as investors rushed to buy the metal known as a safe haven.

While the S&P BSE Sensex plunged 1,390 points or 1.82% to 76,024 points, led by a fall in technology, finance and IT stocks, the NSE Nifty-50 index slumped by 354 points or 1.2% to 23,165 points, amid high volatility.

"Major indices plummeted nearly 2%, reflecting anxieties surrounding

Tariff tumble



the economic implications of U.S. President Donald Trump's imminent reciprocal tariffs scheduled for implementation April 2," said Devarsh Vakil, head of Prime Research at HDPC Securities.

The Nifty Realty, Consumer Durables and IT indices were major losers while Media and Oil & Gas

were the two indices which ended in the green.

Gold prices hit a new record of ₹91,120 per 10 gm in the spot market and ₹3,120 per ounce in the global markets amid heightened demand for the safe haven metal, while the U.S. dollar index climbed to 103.9 against major currencies.

Court orders police to file FIR and investigate Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra's role in 2020 riots

Shilpa Mishra
NEW DELHI

Five years after deadly communal riots ripped through north east Delhi, a city court ordered the police to file a first information report (FIR) and conduct further investigations into Delhi Law and Justice Minister Kapil Mishra's alleged role in the violence.

This is the first time that any court has ordered an FIR against Mr. Mishra regarding his role in the 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and 700 injured, despite allegations that the Karawal Nagar MLA's speeches helped instigate the violence. The police maintained, on multiple occasions, that he did not play any part in the alleged conspiracy behind the riots, in which the accused were

booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Cognisable offence
The current case against Mr. Mishra stems from a complaint filed last December by Yamuna Vihar resident Mohammed Ilyas, seeking FIRs to be filed against six people, including Mr. Mishra. Of the five incidents mentioned by Mr. Ilyas, a cognisable offence was found against Mr. Mishra in one of them, warranting an FIR and further investigations. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Yaloha Chastasia of the Rouse Avenue Courts ruled on Tuesday.

The court added that if the complaint is found to be true, the Delhi Police has the liberty to proceed against Mr. Ilyas under Section 182 of the IPC (Section 217 of the BNSS).

According to the complaint, Mr. Mishra and his associates allegedly blocked the road at Kar-dampuri on February 23, 2020, and urged the crowd belonging to Muslims and Dalits. The complainant alleged that police officials were hands in glove with any part in the alleged conspiracy behind the riots, in which the accused were



Kapil Mishra

sequences if ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act were not stopped.

In response to the complaint, the police submitted that the February 2020 riots had been executed by carefully identifying and selecting protest sites in Muslim majority areas which were close to the mosque and main roads, with an aim at escalating the protests, leading to mass scale violence clouded.

The police added that the protests were communal in nature despite denying the garb of a secular organisation and were expected to generate a critical mass which would eventually lead to violence against the police and common citizens.

The police also maintained that a "well-

planned" conspiracy was being hatched against Mr. Mishra to frame him in the matter.

The court noted that the police have indulged in several interpretations and guesswork. It pointed out that one of the submissions claims that women protesters were allowed to take the lead so that police officials would be forced to practise restraint, and that the secret motive of police was to blockage.

The court also noted that, during interrogation, Mr. Mishra himself acknowledged and bragged that he had been present in the area during the riots. "Therefore the presence of accused cannot be ruled out, further fortifying the allegations of the complainant," the court said.

Bulldozing of six homes in U.P.'s Prayagraj inhumane and illegal: Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday found action taken by the Prayagraj Development Authority to bulldoze the homes of six private citizens into rubble “inhumane and illegal”.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka ordered the authorities to pay ₹10 lakh each to the house owners as compensation for depriving them of their fundamental right to shelter without following due process.

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Speaking for the Bench, Justice Oka said the illegal demolition conducted by the development authority in 2021 had shocked the conscience of the top court. The court reminded the authorities that rule of law still existed in the country and the fundamental right to shelter was a basic feature of the Constitution.

The court's order came after it realised that show-cause notices were not served on the house owners in person or by registered post but only affixed on their properties.

“This affixing business must be stopped. They have lost their houses because of this,” Justice Oka remarked in the order.

“These cases shock our conscience. Residential premises of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished... There is something called the right to shelter, something called due process... The authorities, and especially the development authority, must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution,” the court observed.

Justice Oka took serious exception against the past-



Bulldozer being used to demolish an ‘illegally built’ house in Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

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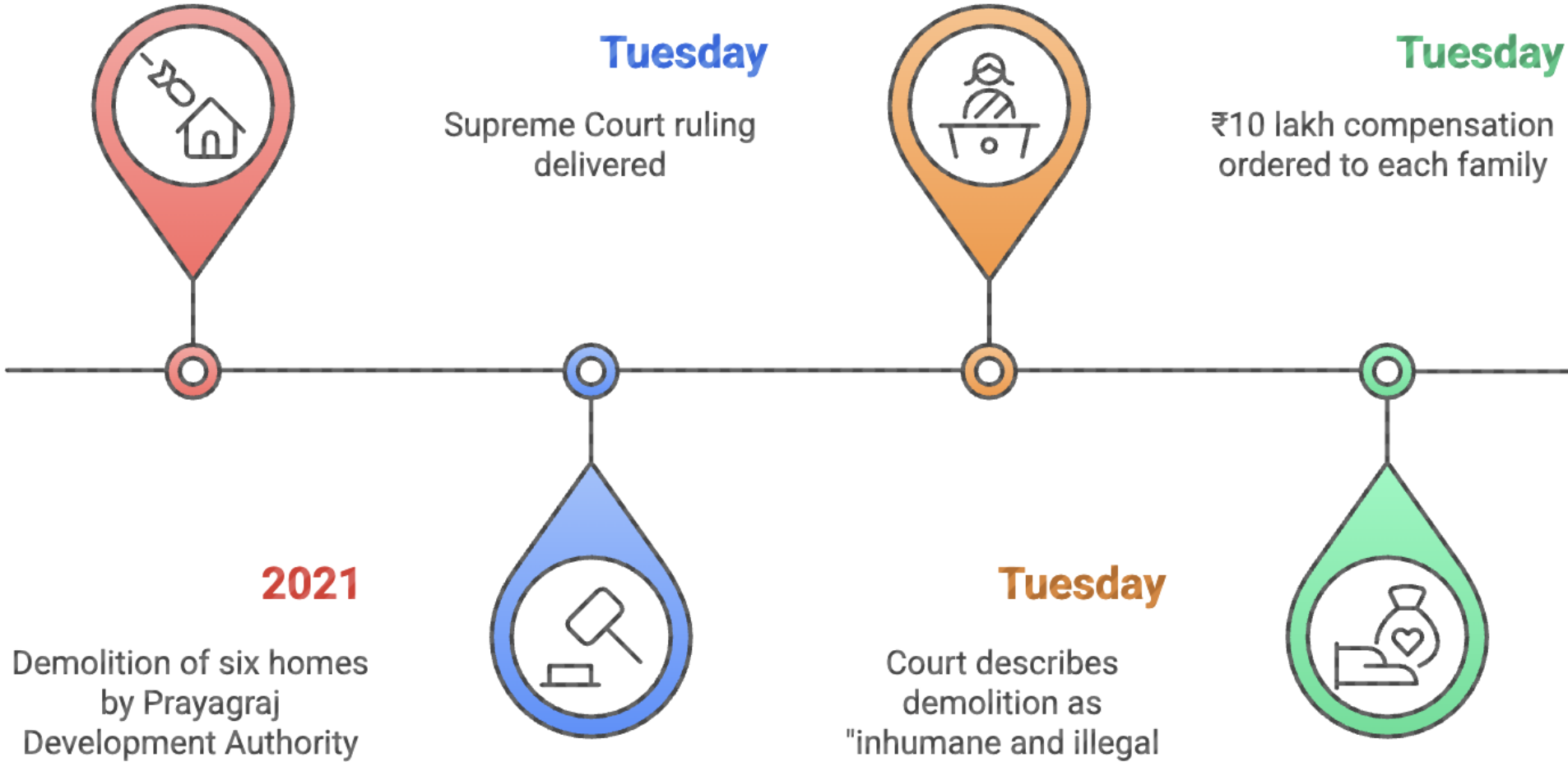
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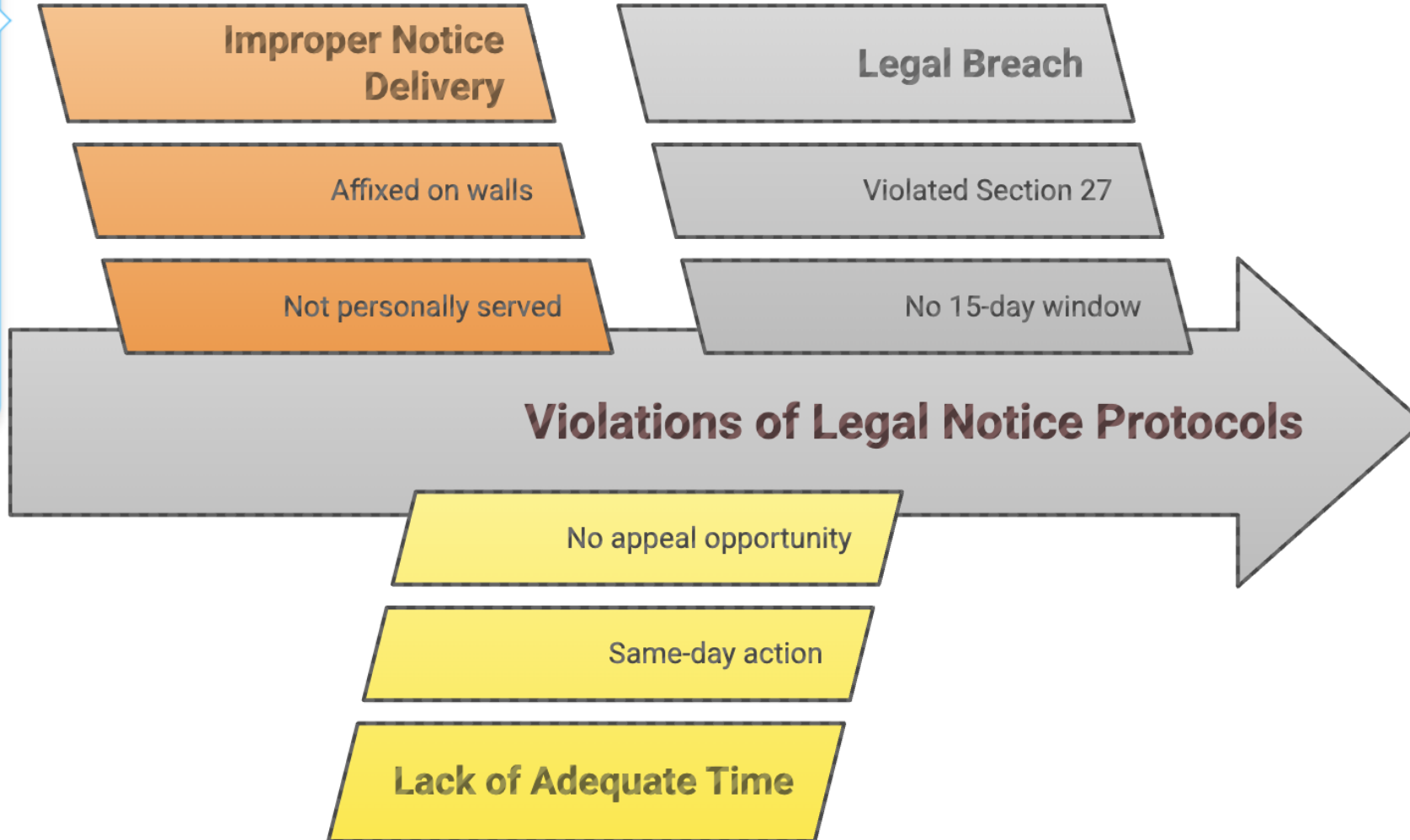
‘NO RULE OF LAW’

» PAGE 2

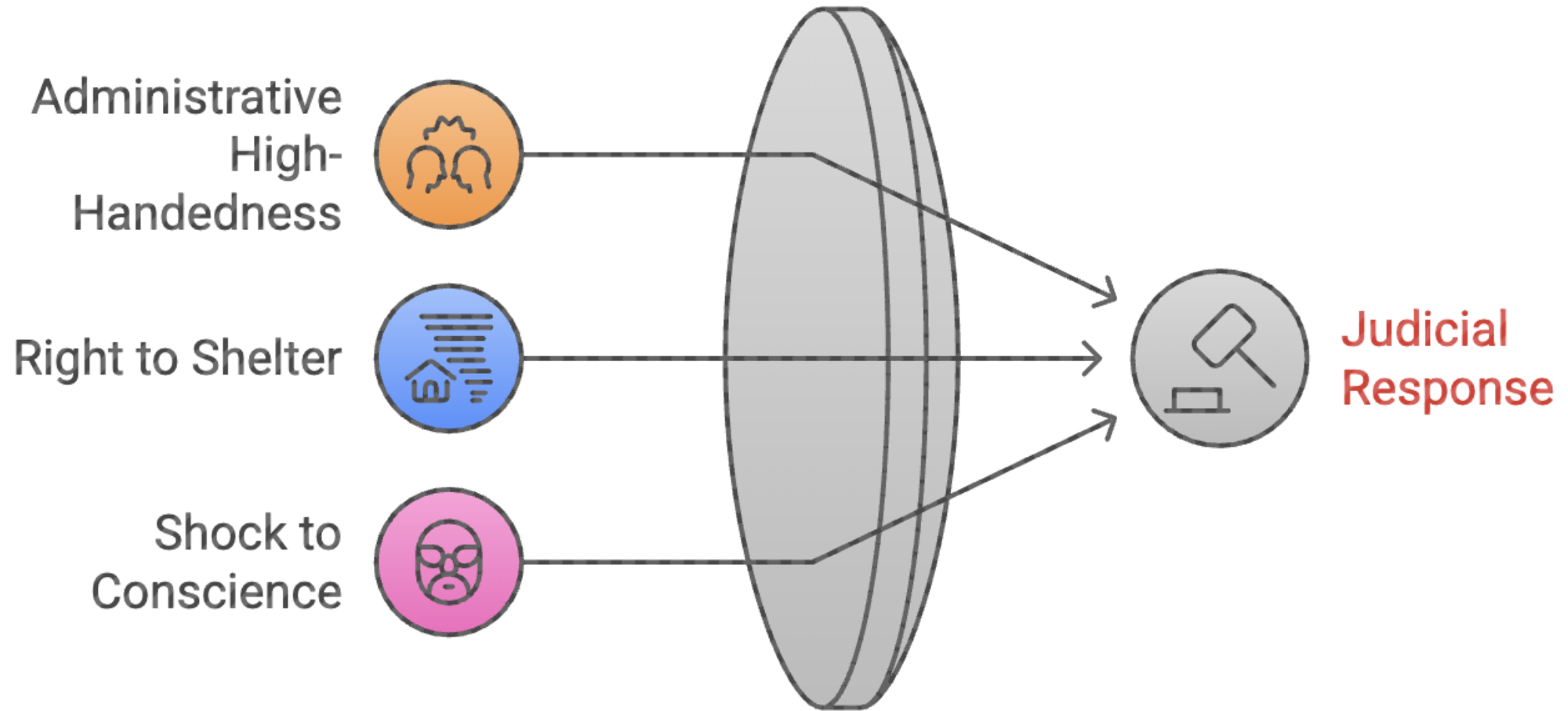
Supreme Court Ruling on Prayagraj Demolitions



Analyzing Violations of Legal Notice Protocols



Elements of Judicial Critique



'Defence exports hit new record of ₹23,622 crore in 2024-25'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The country's defence exports have hit a new record high of ₹23,622 crore in the financial year (FY) 2024-25, a growth of 12.04% over the previous fiscal year, the Defence Ministry announced on Tuesday.

"An impressive growth of ₹2,539 crore or 12.04% has been registered in the just-concluded FY over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were ₹21,083 crore," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X, adding that India was marching towards achieving the target of increasing defence exports to ₹50,000 crore by 2029.

Defence public sector undertakings have shown a significant increase of 42.85% in their exports in FY 2024-25, the ministry said. "The private sector and DPSUs have contributed ₹15,233 crore and ₹8,389 crore, respectively, in defence exports of 2024-25, whereas the corresponding figures for FY 2023-24 were ₹15,209 crore and ₹5,874 crore, respectively," it added.

The Department of Defence Production has a dedicated portal for the application and processing of export authorisation requests, and 1,762 export authorisations were issued in FY 2024-25, against 1,507 in the preceding year, registering a growth of 16.92%, it noted.

Amid legal woes, Kamra shares 'guide' on silencing artists

Ahlinay Deshpande
S. Prasad
MUMBAI/VILLUPURAM

Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Tuesday posted a scathing five-point guide titled "How to Kill an Artist: A Step-by-Step Guide on X", taking aim at the backlash he has faced over his recent show, which allegedly targeted Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Mr. Kamra's viral YouTube video "Naya Bharat", released last week, sparked political outrage over a remark perceived as calling Mr. Shinde a "traitor". Shiv Sena workers vandalised the venue where the show was filmed, and three FIRs have been lodged against Mr. Kamra in Mumbai.

In his post, he outlined escalating steps to suppress dissent from "I, the artist just enough for brands to stop commissioning their work" to "S. Summon their audience for questioning their art into a crime scene."

"Now the artist is left with only two choices: slit their soul and become a dog they can throw away in silence. This isn't just a playbook, it's a political weapon. A silencing machine," he concluded.

Reports had claimed that attendees of Mr. Kamra's show were issued police notices, but an official denied such claims.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kamra skipped a second summons from the Khar Police, who visited his former Mahim residence — a move he mocked on X: "Going to an address where I haven't lived for the last 10 years is a waste of your time & public resources."

Three FIRs filed in Nashik and Jalgaon have been transferred to Mumbai's Khar police station, where a case was already filed by Shiv Sena MLA Manji Patel. Mr. Kamra, known for his anti-establishment humour, remained defiant as his video crossed 11 million YouTube views.

Abiding by the directions of the Madras High Court that granted him interim anticipatory bail in connection with a case booked against him by the Khar Police for having allegedly made slanderous comments against Mr. Shinde, Mr. Kamra on Tuesday appeared before the judicial magistrate court at Vaur in Villupuram district and executed a bond with two sureties.

Vaur Judicial Magistrate N. Preethi ordered him to appear before the High court on April 7.

House panel suggests raising creamy layer limit from ₹8 lakh

Ahlinay Lokeshman
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee looking into the welfare of Other Backward Classes on Tuesday said it was the "need of the hour" to raise the ₹8 lakh income limit to fix the "creamy layer" within the community, saying that this ceiling, set more than seven years ago, was "low" and covered only a "small segment of OBCs."

In reports tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, the committee, headed by BJP MP Ganesh Singh, has recommended the Union government to take necessary steps to "fix a substantially higher income limit" after consulting all stakeholders so that "more and more people from the Backward Classes can take benefits of reservation policy for OBCs in the welfare schemes of the government."

After the Supreme Court's *Indira Sawhney* judgment in 1992, the government had introduced the concept of "creamy layer" to exclude "socially advanced persons/sections" within OBCs from getting reservation or other government benefits, among the criteria for



The house damaged in a fire at Dakshin Rajpur village in Pathar Pratinha block in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. PTI

Eight killed in blaze near firecracker unit in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Eight persons, including four children, were killed in a fire broke out following an explosion in a house in Dakshin Rajpur village in Pathar Pratinha block in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal late on Monday.

"It was an accidental fire, this fire broke out at 8.30 last night. There was an explosion causing the death of seven persons, including four kids, two labourers and gentleman," said Supratim Sarkar, Additional Director-General of Police (South Bengal). One woman was admitted to a hospital and another died of injuries, he added.

The senior police official confirmed the presence of firecrackers in the house. He added that only experts at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) could ascertain the reason for the fire. The family also reportedly owned a firecracker manufacturing factory barely 100 metres from their house.

Local people alleged that the factory also manufactured crude bombs at the site. Whenever they had raised objections, the factory owners claimed they had the necessary licence, they said. One family member of the deceased alleged that the police regularly took money from the factory owners.

The deceased were identified as, Prabhakar Banik (80), Arabinda Banik (65), Swastana Banik (28), Arbab Banik (9), Anushka Banik (6), and two six-month-old babies and their mother Sunita Jana. The house belonged to the brothers Chandra Kanta Banik and Tushar Banik.

The West Bengal Police have filed a case against the two brothers under Sections 287, 288, 125, 100, 105 and 61(C) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita and Sections 24 and 25 of the West Bengal Fire Service Act, respectively.

EC wraps up meets with political parties on electoral issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has held nearly 5,000 meetings at the grassroots level with political parties across the country on all pending issues, including the updating of electoral rolls.

The commission said it had met over 28,000 representatives of political parties. The meetings came after allegations of irregularly manipulate voter IDs and electoral roll manipulations from major political parties.

"The 'structured' engagements with the political parties were carried out at the level of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO),

District Election Officer (DEO), and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), the Commission said in a statement on Tuesday.

In a span of 25 days, as of March 31, 2025, a total of 279 meetings were conducted, with 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by DEOs and 3,879 by EROs.

The engagements aimed at resolving any pending issues by the competent authority within the existing legal framework, an election-taken report has been sought from CEOs of all States and Union Territories for further assessment. Any issues that cannot be resolved within the existing legal framework, will be taken up by the Commission.

Xi Jinping calls for 'elephant-dragon duet' on 75th anniversary of ties between India, China

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of India-China bilateral relations, President Xi Jinping in his first official visit to India, said on Tuesday that the two countries should "realise a cooperative *pari de* relationship, like the 'elephant', which completely serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples.

Mr. Xi, in his message, said a "stable, predictable and amicable" bilateral relations will bring benefits to both nations and the world.

Later in the day, speaking at a commemorative event organised by the Chinese Embassy, Foreign Secretary Vikram Miri said it is "our wish and desire" to use this occasion as an opportunity to "rebuild" India-China relations. Mr. Xi expressed his hope that the bilateral relations between the two countries should "realise a cooperative *pari de* relationship, like the 'elephant', which completely serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples.

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Vikram Miri and Xi Jinping at an event organised by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on Tuesday. DINAKAR PERI

hong said in his speech that Mr. Xi emphasised the importance of mutual respect and mutual trust and mutual benefit as well as common development."

Mr. Xi, who has served as India's envoy in Beijing, said the bilateral relationship is an important one as two large neighbouring major developing countries and important members of the "Global South", and noted that both countries are at a critical stage in their respective modernisation drive.

According to the envoy, Mr. Xi expressed his readiness to work with Mr. Murmu to push these strategic mutual trust, deep communication and "coordinated action" on major international affairs, jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity at border regions.

last five months that we have seen promising beginnings, which we should turn into tangible benefits for the people of our two countries," he said.

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Aviation fuel, commercial LPG cylinder rates reduced

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), was on Tuesday cut by a steep 6.1% and the rate of commercial LPG used in restaurants were reduced by ₹41 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with benchmark international prices. The reduction negates the increase in prices effected in the monthly revision done in February. The ATF price in Mumbai was cut to ₹3,575.42, while those in Chennai and Kolkata were reduced to ₹2,503.80 and ₹2,521 per kl, respectively.

The rate of cooking gas remained unchanged at ₹203 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

INSV Tarini reaches final stopover of global circumnavigation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini, commanded by women officers Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A., arrived at Cape Town, South Africa, on Monday, marking the fourth and final stopover in their global circumnavigation expedition, Navika Sagar Parikrama II.

The vessel and crew were received at the Royal Cape Yacht Club by Rujasprast, Consul General of India in Cape Town, Rear Admiral (R) Lisa Hendricks, Chief of Staff, South African Navy Fleet, and Captain Anil Sapahala, the Defence Adviser of India based in Pretoria. A South African naval band performed to welcome the vessel.

According to a state-



INSV Tarini arrived at Cape Town in South Africa on Monday. PTI

ment from the Indian Navy, the crew of the vessel will engage and interact with the South African Navy at Simon's Town Naval Base and Gordon's Bay Naval College. Community out-

The Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition was flagged off from Goa by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, on October 2, 2024. The mission aims to cover more than 23,400 nautical miles (approximately 43,300 kilometres) over roughly eight months, sailing across three oceans — Indian, Atlantic and Pacific. The vessel, INSV Tarini, is a 56-foot sailing vessel commissioned into the Indian Navy in February 2017 and has undertaken several international and such expeditions previously.

This port call adds to recent visits upon return to the Indian and South African coasts, which commenced on March 6, and presented significant challenges. The Navy statement highlighted that the vessel and the crew having

encountered rough seas and extremely cold temperatures coupled with stormy weather conditions. The task of circumnavigation highly challenging and demanding." It noted that the passage had witnessed winds exceeding 50 knots (93 km/h) for several days, with gusts up to seven metres (23 feet) high.

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HC faults Centre for not adhering to due process in OCI case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has faulted the Centre for not following the statutory process during the deportation and blacklisting of an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holder, involved in alleged unauthorised missionary activities in Nagaland and other Northeastern States.

The court asked the Centre to give John Robert Roughton III, a U.S. citizen, an opportunity to address the allegations, before passing a speaking order on the issue.

"Accordingly, the petitioner is disposed of with a direction to the respondent to serve a show cause notice as regards the blacklisting of the petitioner and pass a speaking order after duly consideration and hearing of the petitioner thereto, and after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner," the court ordered on March 28.

Mr. Roughton relocated to Nagaland, in February 1994 after marriage to June 2024, the couple travelled to the U.S. to visit the petitioner's parents but on their return to India, he was not allowed to enter the country. He filed a writ into his valid OCI card which granted him a long visa.

Defence exports hit new record of ₹23,622 crore in 2024-25'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

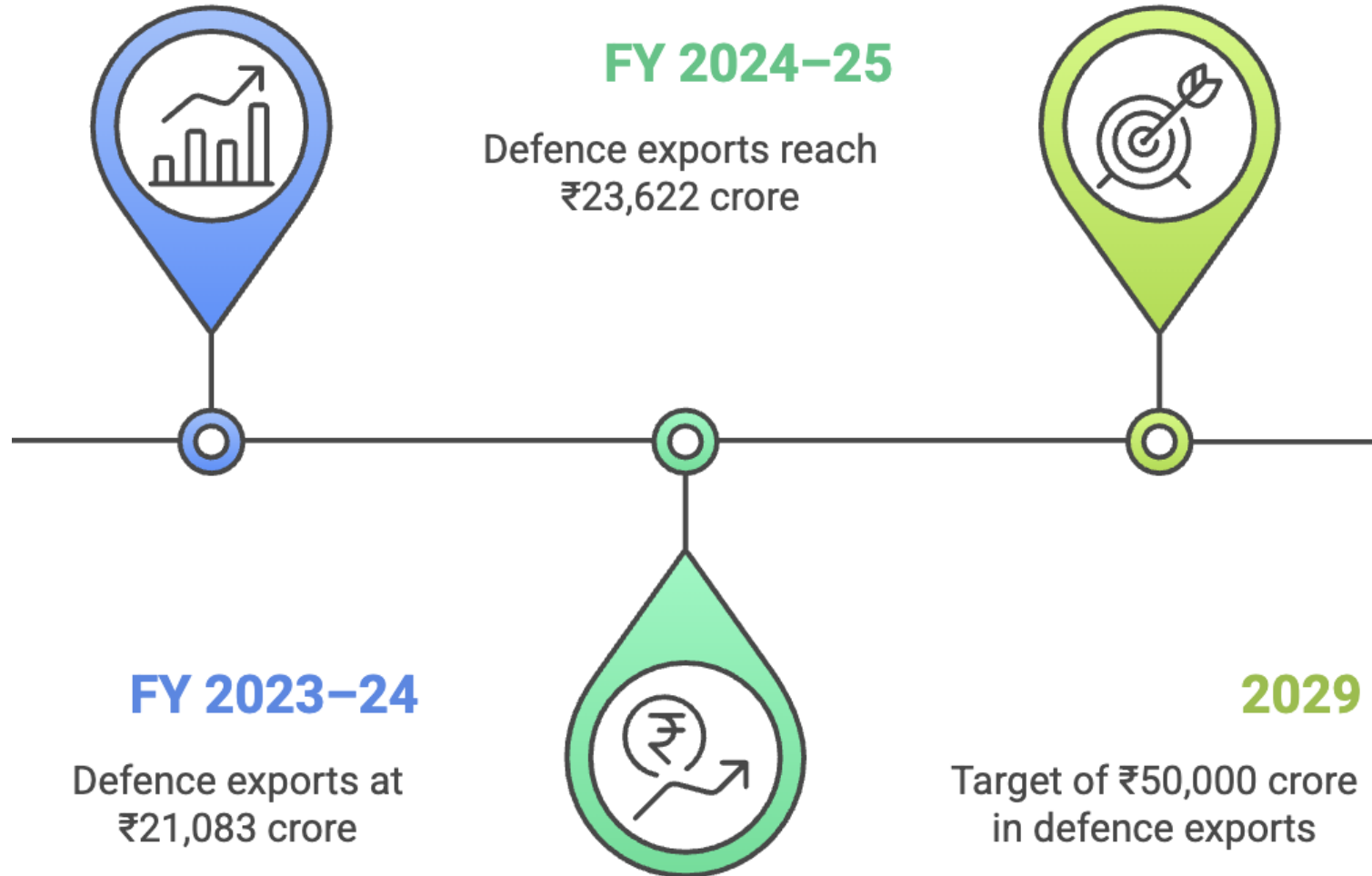
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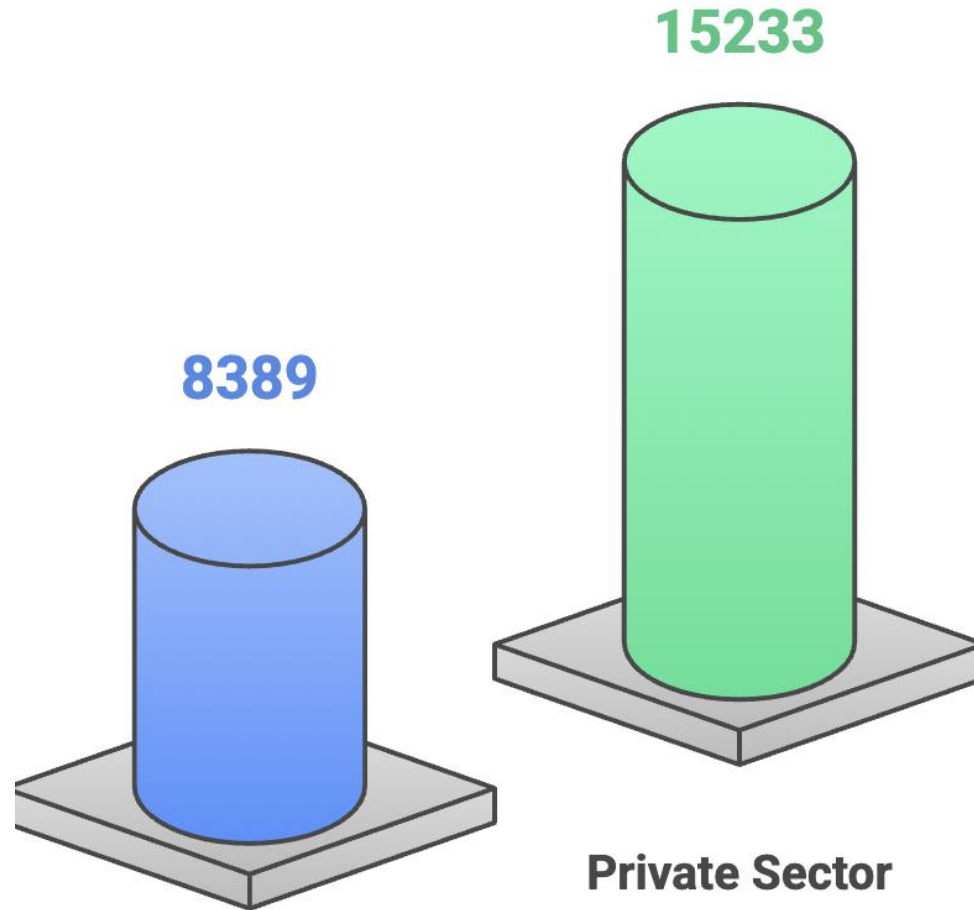
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India's Defence Export Milestones



Financial Contributions of Sectors



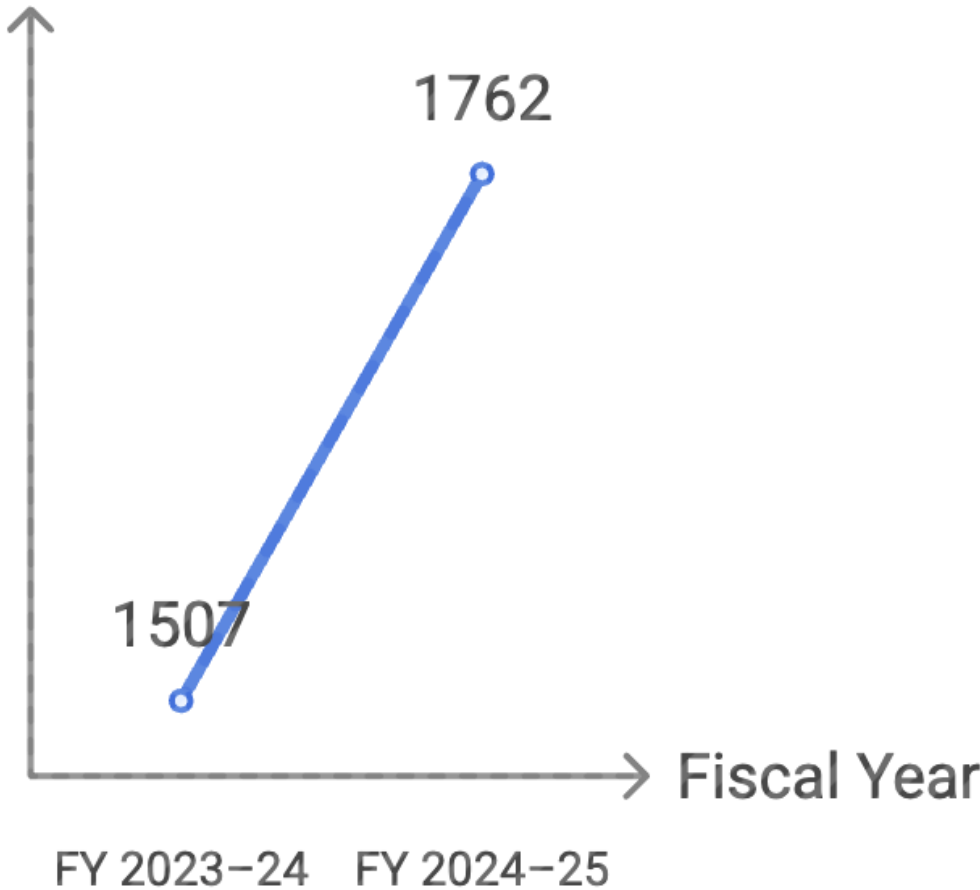
Public Sector Undertakings

Significant growth in financial contribution

Private Sector

Stable financial contribution compared to last year

Number of Authorisations



Comparison of Export Authorisations Issued

IN BRIEF



Field hospital by Indian Army operationalised in Mandalay

The field hospital being set up by the Indian Army's 90 Para Brigade in Mandalay has been successfully operationalised. The 200-bed hospital can provide surgical and in-patient care. A fifth naval ship, *INS Ghauri*, with 440 tonnes of relief material, including rice, edible oil and medicines, sailed out of the Visakhapatnam harbour on Tuesday morning, and is expected to reach Yangon late on April 4 or early on April 5. This is part of India's support offered under 'Operation Brahm' to earthquake-hit Myanmar. Myo Aung, the Chief Minister of Mandalay, visited the facility and reviewed its capabilities on Tuesday morning, Indian Army officials said.

Parliament passes Bill to set up university for cooperation

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill to establish the first national university for cooperation, converting the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat (IRMA), into a Central University. Replying to the debate on the Bill, Minister of State for Cooperation Manish Mehra said the Bill will ensure that adequately trained professionals will be available in the sector in the coming years. The Bill is named after Tribhuvan Das Patel, one of the founders of the Gujarat co-operative Milk Producers' Union (GCMU), which is known as Amul. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on March 26.

Six districts 'most-affected' by left-wing extremism: Shah

Four of the districts are in Chhattisgarh and one each in West Bengal and Maharashtra; the Union government is determined to uproot Maoist groups for good by 2026, says Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In significant changes to the red corridor in the country, the number of districts "most-affected" by left-wing extremism has reduced to six from 12, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

In a post on X, Mr. Shah said the Modi government was building a "Sasbhar (strong), Surakshit (safe), and Samridh (prosperous) Bharat" with a ruthless approach to Naxalism and relentless efforts for all-pervasive development. "Bharat is determined to uproot Naxalism for good by March 31, 2026," he said.

According to the Home Ministry, the number of districts affected by Naxalism has reduced to six from the earlier 38.

"Among these, the number of most-affected districts has reduced to six from 12, number of districts of concern has also come down to six from nine, and number of other affected districts has also been reduced from 21 to six," the Home Minister said in a statement.



Red alert: Security personnel after their encounter with Maoists at the Farsegarh Jungle in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh in February.

The six most-affected districts are Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, and Sukma in Chhattisgarh; West Singhbhum in Jharkhand; and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra.

"Among these, the number of most-affected districts has reduced to six from 12, number of districts of concern has also come down to six from nine, and number of other affected districts has also been reduced from 21 to six," the Home Minister said in a statement.

The Hindu Bureau
MADRURAI

The madurai political resolution... The first time, in the 1980s, the RSS had supported the movement for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. This was exemplified in RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments, which called at the Ram Janmabhoomi verdict, that the RSS would not get involved in any movement of the kind.

The second force is the existing Hinduva constituency. The slogan during the Ram Janmabhoomi movement - "Ayodhya to Kerala, Bhadrakali to Madurai" - is just a trailer, Kashi and Madurai are still to be included. The two other disputes in the same path as Ayodhya, continues to appeal to the Hinduva base.

Through the Left parties

The other affected districts are Dantewada, Gariband, and Moha-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki in Chhattisgarh; Latehar in Jharkhand; Nuapada in Odisha; and Mulugu in Telangana.

The gaps in public infrastructure. Special projects are also provided to the districts as per the requirement, the Ministry said. The rapid improvement in the LWE scenario in the last one year is primarily due to the establishment of new security camps in the insurgency-affected core areas and development-oriented works such as expansion of roads, transport facilities, water, electricity and other welfare schemes of the government reaching the villagers," it added.

Rajya Sabha passes Bill for resolving airline-lessor disputes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 that seeks to turn into law provisions of an international treaty governing disputes between airlines and lessors of aircraft and engines.

Referring to past disputes over unpaid dues to lessors, such as those involving SpiceJet and the now-defunct Go First that emanated from challenges in interpreting the Cape Town Convention and Protocol by courts in the absence of a uniform legislation posing a roadblock for airlines who could not repossess their aircraft and oust it from the country, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammoohan Naidu said the Bill would bring much-needed clarity. He said it will provide a significant boost to the industry, which is in the need of the hour. The industry urgently requires this legislation.

The Minister also underlined that with the Bill providing "security" for the lessor and lessee, the airlines have informed him that leasing costs were expected to decline by 8-10%.



K. Rammoohan Naidu

which he maintained would also have a trickle-down advantage for passengers because of lower airfares.

He said over 86% of the nearly 850 aircraft in the fleet of various domestic airlines were leased. Airlines often lease aircraft from a third party instead of outright purchase in order to preserve liquidity.

The Bill recognises the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the authority that can issue necessary directions for implementing the provisions of the Convention. The Cape Town Convention is an international treaty that aims to standardise transactions involving movable property, particularly high-value assets like aircraft, engines, and helicopters, to ensure creditors can enforce their rights in case of default.

Kashi, Mathura efforts are fine, but how far back do we go to dig up history, asks Hosabale

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The second-in-command of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Dattatraya Hosabale, in comments to the Kannada magazine *Vikrama*, a mouthpiece of the Sangh, has said that the organisation would have no objections if its members participated in efforts concerning the Krishna Janmabhoomi issue in Mathura, and the Gyanvapi mosque dispute in Varanasi.

"At that time [1984], the VHP (Vishwa Hindu Parishad), saints, and seers spoke of three temples. If a section of our *swamivaris* (volunteers) want to join forces in the case of these three temples [including

Hosabale's comments are meant to balance two countervailing forces in the Sangh.

The Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, then we will not stop there," Mr. Hosabale said. In a transcribed copy of the interview, available with *The Hindu*, Mr. Hosabale also then goes on to clarify what he meant.

"But if we talk about all the other mosques and structures, should we start digging up 30,000 mosques and attempt to reverse history? Would we not create more hostility and resentment in society?" he asked.

Observers said Mr. Hosabale's comments are meant to balance two countervailing forces within the

Sangh. One force is that of drawing a line under the temple movements where, for the first time, in the 1980s, the RSS had supported the movement for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. This was exemplified in RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments, which called at the Ram Janmabhoomi verdict, that the RSS would not get involved in any movement of the kind.

The second force is the existing Hinduva constituency. The slogan during the Ram Janmabhoomi movement - "Ayodhya to Kerala, Bhadrakali to Madurai" - is just a trailer, Kashi and Madurai are still to be included. The two other disputes in the same path as Ayodhya, continues to appeal to the Hinduva base.

CPI(M) party congress in Madurai will be politically significant: N. Ram



N. Ram, veteran journalist and Director of The Hindu Group, and CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat and other party leaders in Madurai on Tuesday.

seemed to be facing an electoral setback, Communists have set the agenda for discussion on several issues. Mr. Ram said the party should display its independence even when in alliance with Congress.

"Some of the important issues like reservation, trade union rights, welfare schemes and issues pertaining to working class people are spoken about and raised only by the Commu-

nist parties," he observed. Recalling former CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat's statement that the party should display its independence even when in alliance with Congress, Mr. Ram said such views were important for the party to remain distinct from the other parties.

Noting that Madurai

played an important role in the event, Mr. Ram said that the party congress held here in 1953, CPI(M)'s ninth conference was held in 1972. The 24th congress holds political significance much expected by everyone," Mr. Ram stated.

In her address, Ms. Karat said the former and late general secretary Sitaram Vechary always said that the CPI(M) works on two legs, one which fights against capitalist aggression and exploitation of the working class, and the other which moves forward against caste, caste system and social oppression which exists even today."

Enforcement agencies must stay updated, says Vaishnav

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Law enforcement agencies should be aware of societal changes under way in India, Union Railways, Electronics and Information Technology, and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Tuesday.

"When a country is growing at 6-8%, the rapid growth brings changes in the system," he said, adding that "when change happens, the context of investigation changes." He said that some archaic laws from the "Licence Raj" have been removed. "That mindset change is what really is required in today's context," he noted.

THE CROSSWORD + 14448

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword app at <https://www.thehindu.com/ crossword-app>

13	Diaries in craft corners, per Spooner (9)
14	Ate without folding her seat down (12)
15	Process for plating oyster cell is complicated (12)
21	Greeting from the Spanish web domain in Zoom (9)
23	Warrior discovering gun in Jammu (5)
24	Fix rent including new lock (7)
25	Everyone joining say, troops returning quickly (7)
26	Asterix's infinitely funny caricature (6)
27	Divine sightings of Saint at his errands, reflecting regularly (8)

Down
1 Capacity of old historical ship out of Europe (6)
2 Person's spirit - yet captures his essence classically! (6)
3 Progressive terms for relocating outside India (9)
4 Those who hate people avoid taking this part on cast (14)
5 Settler's inspecting constant weight scale (5)
7 Private phone tag near beds (3-2-3)
8 Reserve ideas (3-5)
9 Protest march from yard in Agra has at last been defused (14)

Across

- Try rounding up crowds in South Indian temple towers (14)
- European choux nuts for parrots (6)
- Discharges captain losing semifinals - perhaps (7)
- One left in cycling diviser's fastest (7)
- Different from extremely outright woman (5)

SUDOKU

		3	5			8	4	
8	2		3			7	1	
	4						9	
					7		5	
4								8
	4	8	9	3				
	5					2		
	9	6		4		3	5	
2	7			3	4			

Solution to previous puzzle

6	9	7	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
4	9	6	8	7	8	9	5	2	1
9	6	8	4	3	5	7	9	2	1
3	7	4	2	6	1	8	9	5	1
7	4	2	6	1	8	9	5	2	1
5	4	1	7	9	6	3	8	2	1
6	2	3	1	8	4	6	5	8	9
6	8	9	3	5	2	1	7	4	

FAITH

Maricha's advice

Akampama, the only asura who escapes when Rama kills the demons of Janasthana, suggests that Ravana should abduct Sita, for this is the only way to deprive Rama of his strength. Ravana leaves Lanka to carry out Akampama's suggestion, said Navolpakam Vasudevarchar in a discourse. He arrives at the ashram of Maricha. Maricha is the son of Tataka, the demoness, killed by Rama. Maricha who comes Ravana, who is his king. Ravana seeks Maricha's help in carrying out the abduction of Sita.

Maricha asks Ravana who gave him such an idea. It cannot be someone well disposed towards him. It must be someone who wants Ravana's downfall, for no one who cares for Ravana will ask him to do something that will surely destroy him. Who is this enemy of yours, who has given you such bad advice, asks Maricha. He says that what Ravana has been asked to do is as dangerous as extracting the poisonous fangs of a snake. The man who gave Ravana such advice is not to be trusted. He might crush Ravana to death while the latter is asleep. It is the height of foolishness to challenge Rama this. Rama has an impeccable lineage. He is morally upright. He is a man with powerful shoulders. Will anyone wake up a sleeping lion? Will the enraged animal not tear to bits the one who disturbed it? Rama has not tried to fight Ravana, and should be left alone. To provoke him and rouse his anger would be suicidal. Rama is a Nrisimha - a man-lion, says Maricha. His arrows are lethal, and there is no chance of escape. He is angry with him. Maricha offers convincing, logical arguments to keep Ravana from incurring Rama's wrath.

Parliament passes Bill to set up university for cooperation

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill to establish the first national university for cooperation, converting the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat (IRMA), into a Central University. Replying to the debate on the Bill, Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol said the Bill will ensure that adequately trained professionals will be available in the sector in the coming years. The Bill is named after Tribhuvan Das Patel, one of the founders of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is known as Amul. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on March 26.

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- The Lok Sabha passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, which will establish India's first national cooperative university to advance education and training in the cooperative sector.




Named after Amul founder Tribhuvan Kashibhai Patel, the university will be established in Gujarat with nationwide jurisdiction for cooperative training institutes, offering degree, diploma, and PhD courses to certify 8 lakh people annually.



The university will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The **Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011**, made the right to form cooperative societies a **Fundamental Right** by inserting the term "cooperative societies" into Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution.



The cooperative sector in India is regulated by the **Cooperative Societies Act, 1912, Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.

The **MSCS (Amendment) Act, 2023** enhances governance and transparency in multi-state cooperatives.

A black and white photograph of a basketball court floor. The floor is made of dark wood with white painted lines and numbers. The numbers '10', '11', and '12' are visible. The text 'P4 Initiative' is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

P4 Initiative

Achieving Zero Poverty in Andhra Pradesh

Achieve Zero Poverty

Reaching the goal of a poverty-free Andhra Pradesh by 2029.



Poverty Reduction

Implementing strategies to reduce poverty levels across the state.



Partnership Formation

Establishing collaborative efforts between public, private, and people.



Private Sector Involvement

Encouraging private companies to contribute resources and expertise.

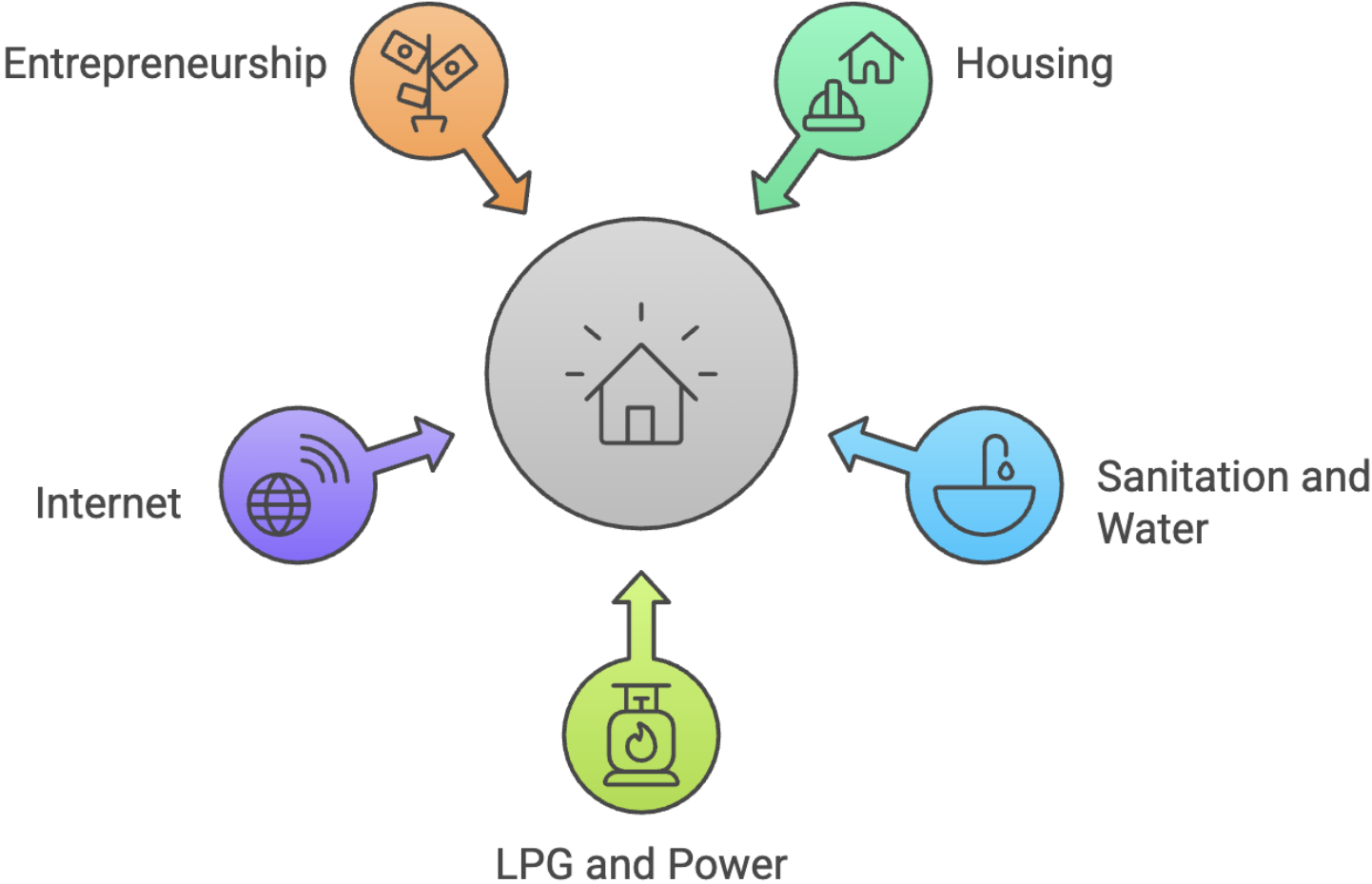


Public Engagement

Mobilizing public support and participation in the initiative.



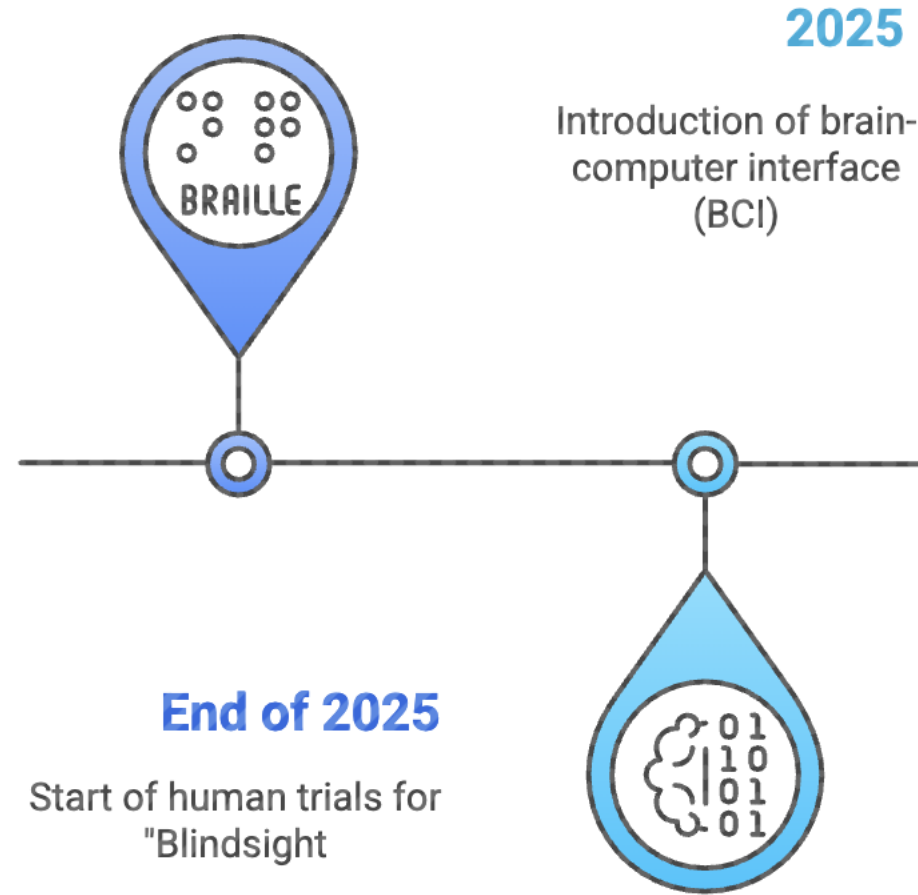
Key Benefits for Economically Weaker Families





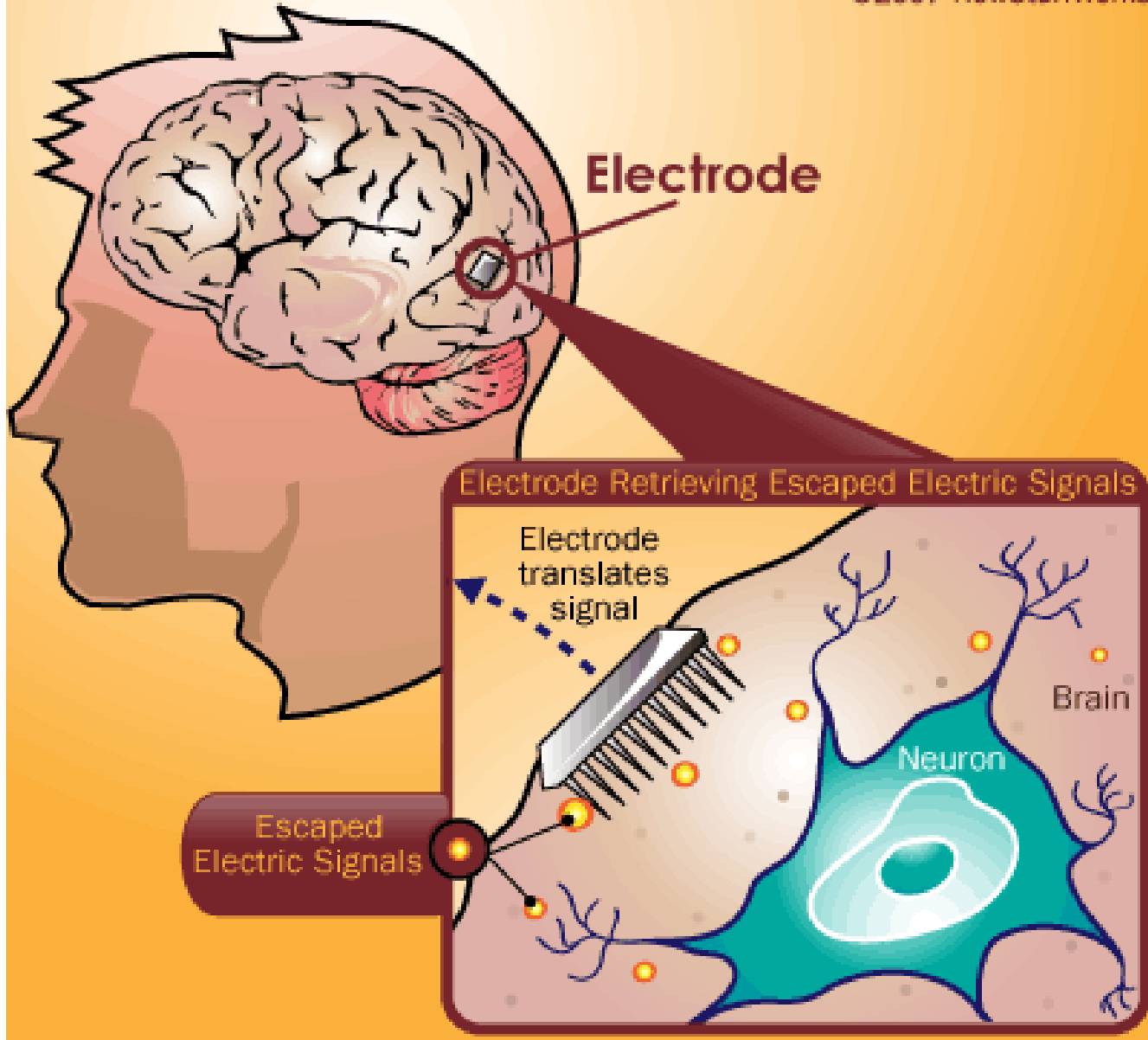
Elon Musk's Neuralink to
Implant 'Blindsight' chip in
first human by 2025

Neuralink's Visionary Leap: Human Trials Ahead

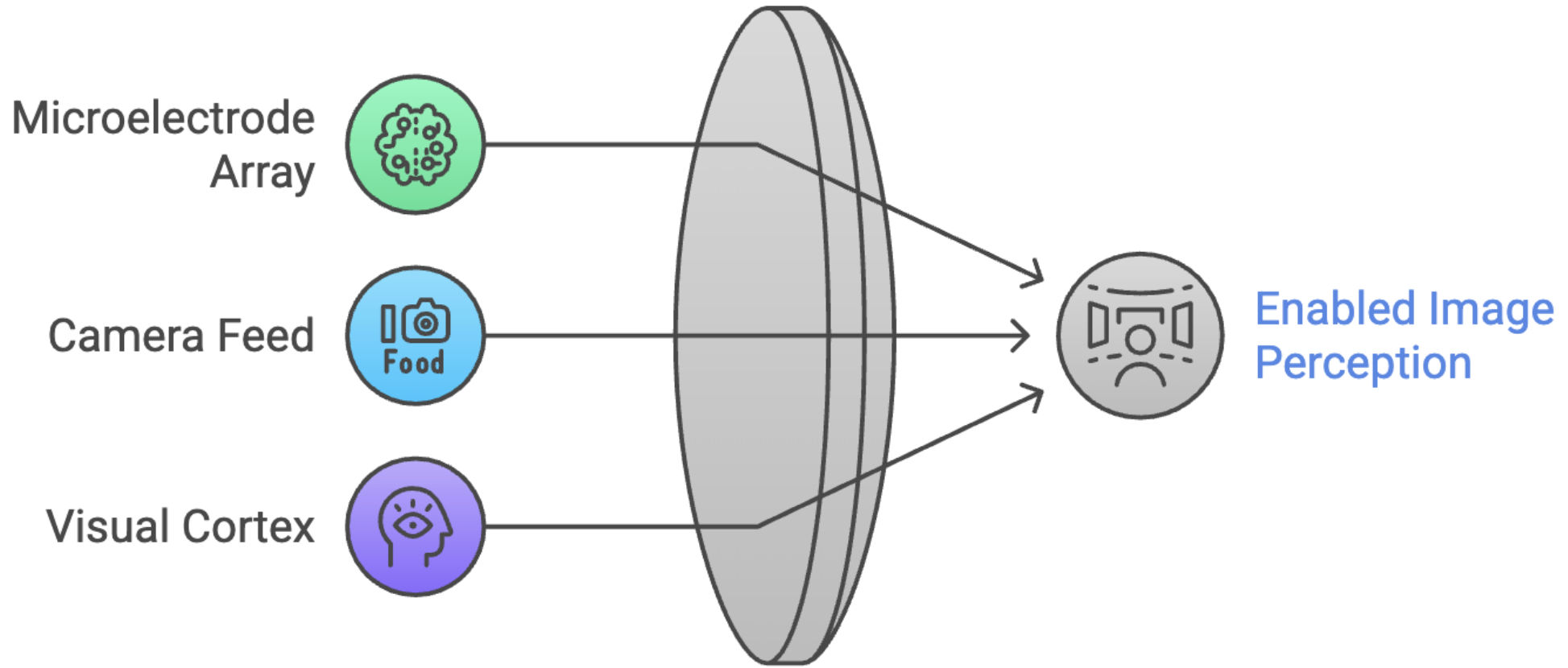


How Brain-Computer Interfaces Work

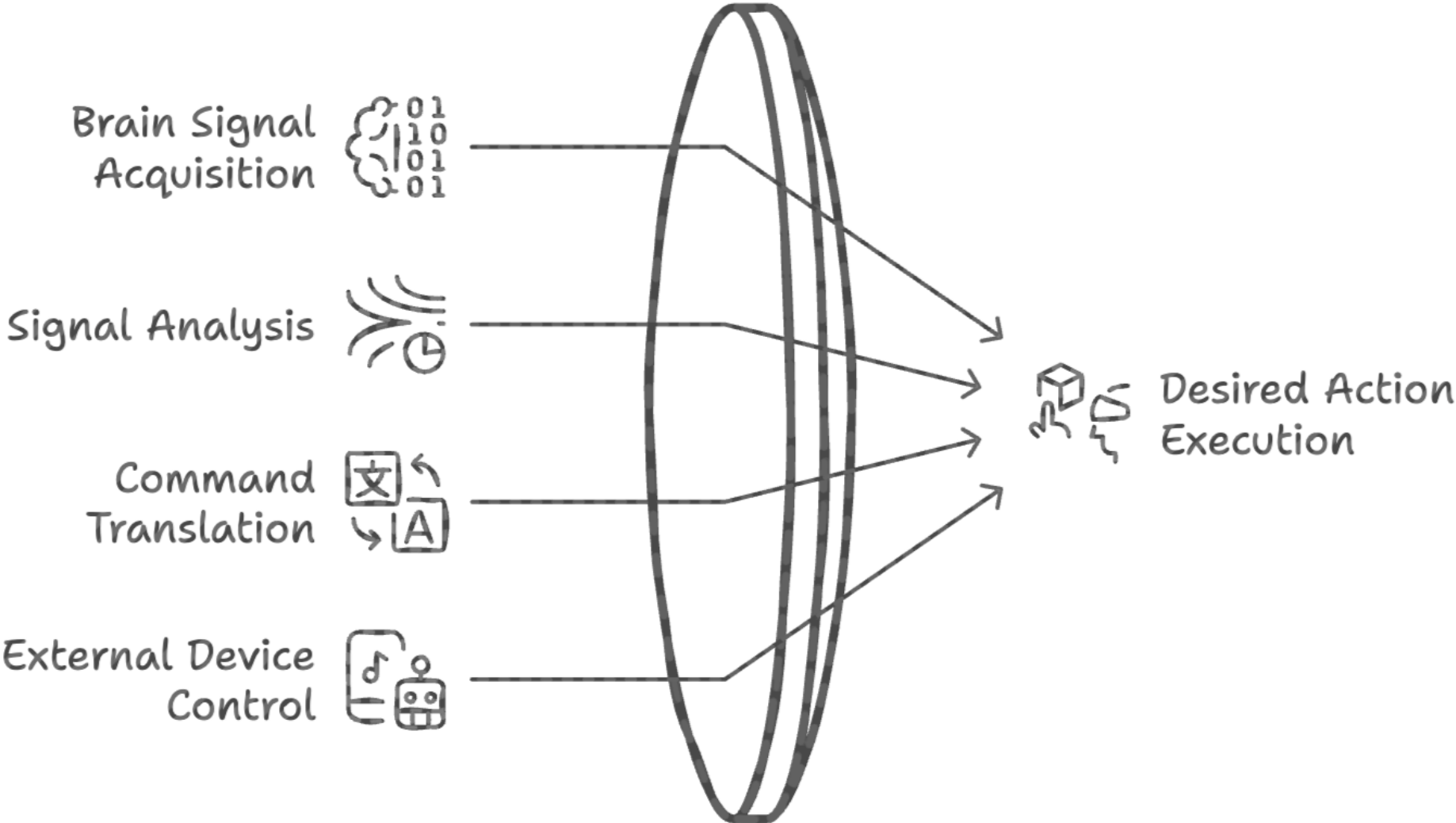
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Blindsight's Visionary Technology



Bridging Minds and Machines



Word of the day

Wend:

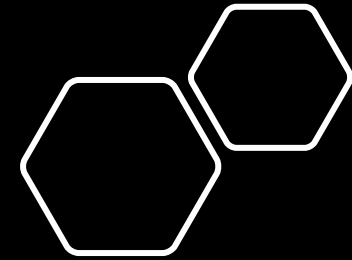
direct one's course or way

Synonyms: move, travel

Usage: *We wended through the narrow streets.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/wendpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʊɛnt/



CLASS 24

PROUDLY ANNOUNCE COURSES

**FOR 8TH TO 12TH , IIT / NEET &
FOUNDATION**

COMMENCEMENT DATES 

Centre

Vaishali

10 April

Mansrover

10 April

Niware Road

03 April


FOR AVAIL MAX FREE BENEFIT



CONTACT US

7240465893



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a large gathering or event. There are some decorative elements in the top left: a solid orange rectangle and a cluster of small, glowing red and blue dots.

Thank you
guys.
