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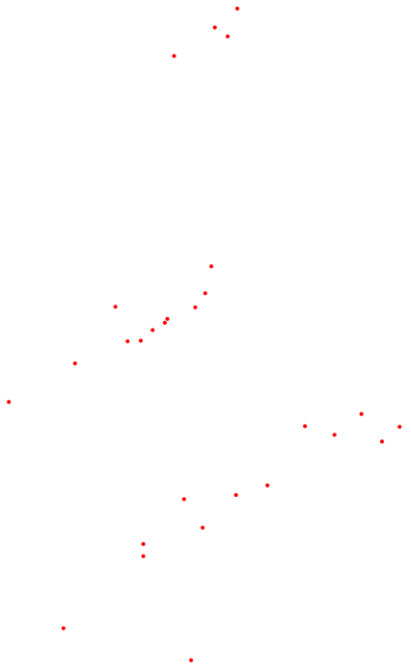


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B5 | History Introduction

2025-04-02 at 1:00 PM

Starts In: 04:20:03

Coming Soon!

B5 | Partnership Part-3

2025-04-02 at 12:00 PM

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10 MCO

International Support for Buddhist Claims

Q. Which countries have extended support to Buddhist claims over the Mahabodhi Temple?

1. Japan

2. Sri Lanka

3. Pakistan

4. Thailand

• **Select the correct option:**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Significance of Coral Reefs

Q. Coral reefs are ecologically important because they:

- 1.Support biodiversity.
- 2.Act as buffers against coastal erosion.
- 3.Are immune to temperature-related bleaching.

• **Select the correct answer:**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Economic Impact of Film Controversies

Q. Which of the following are economic consequences of political controversies surrounding films?

1. Increase in revenue due to viral publicity.
2. Risk of boycotts leading to financial losses.
3. Delay in international screenings.

• **Correct answer:**

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Bodh Gaya Temple Act Controversy

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949, provides for equal representation of Hindus and Buddhists on its committee.
 2. The chairman of the managing committee is always a Buddhist monk.
 3. Japan and Sri Lanka have supported Buddhist control of Mahabodhi Temple.
- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

Saturn's New Moons

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Saturn now has the most moons in the solar system—274 in total.
2. All newly discovered moons are classified as irregular moons.
3. The largest moon of Saturn is Europa.

• **Which is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Coral Bleaching

Q. Which of the following is/are causes and consequences of coral bleaching?

1. Caused by prolonged exposure to low-salinity water.
2. Leads to the expulsion of zooxanthellae from corals.
3. Results in the corals turning completely white.

• **Choose the correct code:**

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

. Mahabodhi Temple – Historical Context

Q. Which of the following is true about the Mahabodhi Temple?

1. Built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE.
2. Destroyed during British rule.
3. Became a mutt under a Hindu monk in the 16th century.

• **Select the correct answer:**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

. Ningaloo Reef

Q. Which of the following is true about the Ningaloo Reef?

- 1.It is a barrier reef located on Australia's east coast.
- 2.Hosts whale sharks and endemic reptile species.
- 3.Recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

• **Correct answer:**

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Mitathal and Tighrana Sites

Q. Which of the following about Mitathal and Tighrana Harappan sites is/are correct?

1. Both are located in Rajasthan.

2. Mitathal belongs to the Copper-Bronze Age.

3. Tighrana contains post-Harappan and Sothian cultural layers.

• **Choose the correct option:**

A. 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Actor Mohanlal Controversy

Q. Which of the following statements are correct about the recent film controversy?

1. CBFC refused to certify the film in any form.
2. The controversy was linked to depictions of the 2002 Gujarat riots.
3. The film crew announced voluntary cuts.

• **Select the correct answer:**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

"A bird on a tree isn't afraid of the branch breaking because its trust isn't in the branch, but in its own wings."



SHAH IN US
'Manipur reported no violence in 4 months'



Expect
Telangana CM
to exercise
restraint; SC



CPI(M) PARTY CONGRESS
Stalin, Pinarayi raise voice against Centre



KNIGHT RIDERS' NIGHT OUT
Vaibhav, Varun and Venkatesh deliver

INSIDE



Modi, Yumus set for talks amid strain in ties

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for talks on Friday, on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok, for the first time since the interim government took charge after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. > PAGE 4

J&K CM to meet allies after L-G transfers officials

Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will chair an 'emergency and important meeting' of party legislators and allies in Srinagar on Friday. This follows the transfers of middle-rung officials ordered by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. > PAGE 2

'Kerala, Bengal, T.N. received no fund under SSA'

NEW DELHI Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal received zero funds under the Union Education Ministry's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the financial year 2024-25 until March 27, Minister of State for Education Jayant Choudhary said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. > PAGE 3

Authors protest against Meta for 'stealing' work

LONDON Around 100 authors on Thursday protested outside the London headquarters of Meta, accusing the U.S. tech giant of "stealing" content to train its Artificial Intelligence models. A U.S. court filing earlier this year had alleged that the company was using the online library "LibGen". > PAGE 14

India holds fire as Trump announces tariffs

U.S. President announces tariffs ranging from 10% to 49%; India hit with 27% tariff

Jagriti Chandra
Sukshma Reddy
NEW DELHI U.S. President Donald Trump launched a full-scale trade war on Thursday, announcing massive "reciprocal tariffs", ranging from 10% to 49%, on U.S. imports from its trading partners around the world. India was not spared and was hit with a 27% tariff on its exports to the U.S., despite ongoing talks for a trade agreement.

The tariffs sparked warnings of reprisal from China and the European Union, though India's reaction was muted. Global markets plunged in response, from Japan's Nikkei which lost 4% and European markets that dropped more than 2% each, to India's Sensex, which shaved more than 300 points, to the Nifty, which fell 100 points. The Dow Jones fell 1,000 points in the first hour of trading, while the Nasdaq crashed 400 points.

Despite weeks of ongoing negotiations between U.S. Trade Representatives and Indian officials over a Bilateral Trade Agreement, Mr. Trump announced that India — which he claimed imposed duties of 52% on the U.S. — would face a "discounted" tariff of 27% on its exports to the U.S.

'Liberation day' The tariff hikes, which Mr. Trump has said for weeks would herald April 2 as "Liberation Day" for the U.S., were considerably broader and higher than experts had predicted.

The U.S. President invoked his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to address large and persistent U.S. goods trade deficits, which he called a "national emergency".

He announced a 10% baseline tariff on all countries, which will take effect from April 5. An individualised reciprocal higher tariff on the countries with which the U.S. has the largest trade deficits will also be imposed from April 9.

India's official response to the announcement was subdued. An official statement issued on Thursday morning said that the Commerce Ministry is "carefully examining the implications of the various measures", adding that it is engaged with

all stakeholders, including Indian industry and exporters, to assess the impact of the tariffs. It also said, however, that it was studying "opportunities that may arise due to this new development", noting that India "values its Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership" with the U.S., and will continue BTA talks aimed at raising bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

India's comments were in contrast to other U.S. trading partners who had been slapped with tariffs. The European Union, China, and Canada threatened that there would be "countermeasures", Japanese

Trade Minister Yoji Muto called the reciprocal tariffs "extremely regrettable". South Korea's Acting President Han Duck-soo ordered support for the country's domestic auto industry, among the worst affected, incidentally, Russia, which has minimal trade with the U.S., and the U.S. did not feature on the tariff list at all.

'Slight advantages' In Delhi, officials pointed out that the U.S. market of 27% adusted tariffs for India was lower than other Asian and South Asian countries that are Indian rivals for exports, including Vietnam (46%), Thai-

land (37%), Bangladesh (37%), Sri Lanka (44%) and Pakistan (30%), which could give India some "comparative advantages". India's diamond and jewellery sector could be hit hard. The Gem & Jewellery Promotion Council (GJPC) said that, given the tariffs, it will be a challenge to sustain India's current export volume of \$10 billion, which is not covered by the U.S. market.

The United States accounts for 30% of the U.S. market. India's annual gems and jewellery exports of \$32 billion were not covered by the U.S. market.

"We urge the Government of India to progress the Bilateral Trade Agree-

ment between India and the U.S., as it would be crucial in navigating the tariff issues and securing long-term interest of the sector," the Council said in a press statement.

Industries take stock The auto industry, however, does not expect to face any significant impact from the reciprocal tariff as automobiles and auto parts were not covered by it.

The developments could exacerbate supply chain challenges for aerospace manufacturer Boeing, resulting in aircraft delivery delays. In his remarks, Mr.

Trump named India along with Thailand and Vietnam as examples of what he called "vicious attacks" on U.S. workers, using the tariffs on motorcycles as an example. In fact, the Modi government has lowered tariffs on foreign motorcycles down from 100% in 2017 in a series of cuts. In the latest Union Budget in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced those tariffs from 50% to 30%.

In the executive order Mr. Trump signed shortly after the announcement, the White House said that "addressing trade imbalances" was a major priority, comparing India's simple average most-favored-nation (MFN) tariff rate of 17% with China's 2.5% and the EU's 5% as "significantly higher" than the U.S.'s 3.5%. It also criticised India, among other countries, for high tariffs on items like cars, network switches and routers, rice in the husk, and apples, citing the USITC's report on "Foreign Trade Barriers" released earlier this week that contained a particularly scathing chapter on India.

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Raining tariffs



This is Liberation Day, a long-awaited moment. 2nd April 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn - DONALD TRUMP

After IRS passage, Waqf Bill sees a heated debate in RS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI The government reiterated in the Rajya Sabha that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is not anti-Muslim and upholds transparency while the Opposition alleged that the Bill is aimed at reducing Muslims to "second-class citizens". It questioned both the "intent and content" of the Bill, amid intense debate on Thursday.

The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha after a debate that lasted over 12 hours and 252 against. The debate that began on Wednesday in the House went past midnight.

The BJP and its allies have a majority in Rajya Sabha and the Bill is expected to sail through.

Some of the Opposition MPs in the Upper House were wearing black as a mark of protest. Placing the Bill in front of the Upper House, Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijji said the Bill was not aimed at hurting the rights of Muslims, instead it was to bring in transparency and accountability.

Opening the debate, Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain said the Bill is an attempt to bring in transparency and accountability. He said that other Muslim

countries had brought in reforms far before India did.

The Opposition picked on various aspects of the Bill. BJP MP Manoj K. Jha highlighted the various incidents of mistreatment of minorities across the country. He also said that the provision of nomination of non-Muslims in the Waqf board is being dressed as a secular clause, except such provision is not available in endowment boards of other religions.

Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi also pointed out. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP President Chandrababu Naidu's objection on inclusion of non-Hindus in the Turpuat Board.

The BJP ministers and leaders during the debate highlighted the lack of motivation of the Waqf properties.

Referring to Mr. Hussain's statement, Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda attacked Congress, accusing it of reducing the Muslim women to "second-grade citizens". He said that other Muslim

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Supreme Court halts tree felling in Kancha Gachibowli

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Thursday observed the extent of destruction caused in 100 acres of Kancha Gachibowli "forest" area shows an alarming picture while directing the Telangana Chief Secretary to explain the "compelling urgency" which drove the State government to flatten trees with heavy machinery and excavate the land in the name of "developmental activity".

Staying work on the land, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih said the State Chief Secretary would be held responsible if any further trees, other than protecting the remaining trees, was undertaken. The Chief Secretary will be sent to a temporary prison constructed on the same spot," Justice Gavai remarked in court.



Power of youths: Students of the University of Hyderabad raise slogans during their protest on Tuesday.



Protest with photographs of the area by 3.30 p.m.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, who appeared for the State, denied that the land had been a forest. When asked whether trees had been felled, Mr. Singhvi had replied that "some shrubs were cleared" in the area. Post lunch, when the hearing re-commenced, the Bench persuaded the Registrar's report and noted that "one may be, one is not above the law".

India holds fire as Trump announces tariffs

U.S. President announces tariffs ranging from 10% to 49%; India hit with 27% tariff

Jagriti Chandra
Subhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump launched a full-scale trade war on Thursday, announcing massive “reciprocal tariffs”, ranging from 10% to 49%, on U.S. imports from its trading partners around the world. India was not spared and was hit with a 27% tariff on its exports to the U.S. despite ongoing talks for a trade agreement.

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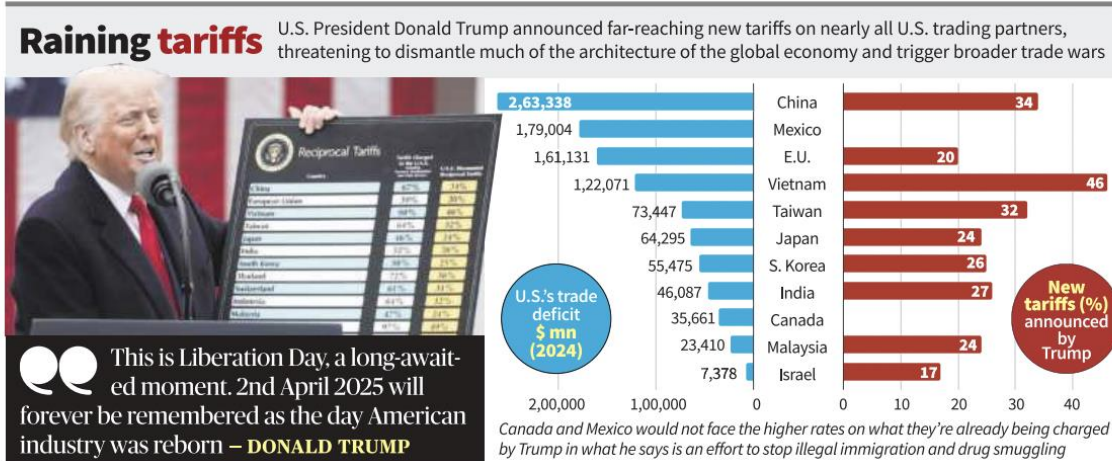
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Trade Minister Yoji Muto called the reciprocal tariffs “extremely regrettable”. South Korea’s Acting President Han Duck-soo ordered support for the country’s domestic auto industry, among the worst affected. Incidentally, Russia, which has minimal trade with the U.S. of just \$3.5 billion, did not feature on the tariff list at all.

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In Delhi, officials pointed out that the U.S.’s penalty of 27% adjusted tariffs for India was lower than other Asian and South Asian countries that are Indian rivals for exports, including Vietnam (46%), Thai-

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U.S. STOCK MARKET SEES WORST DAY
as economists raise risk of recession

PLAUSIBLE THAT TARIFFS COULD KNOCK
down US economic growth by 2%, say experts

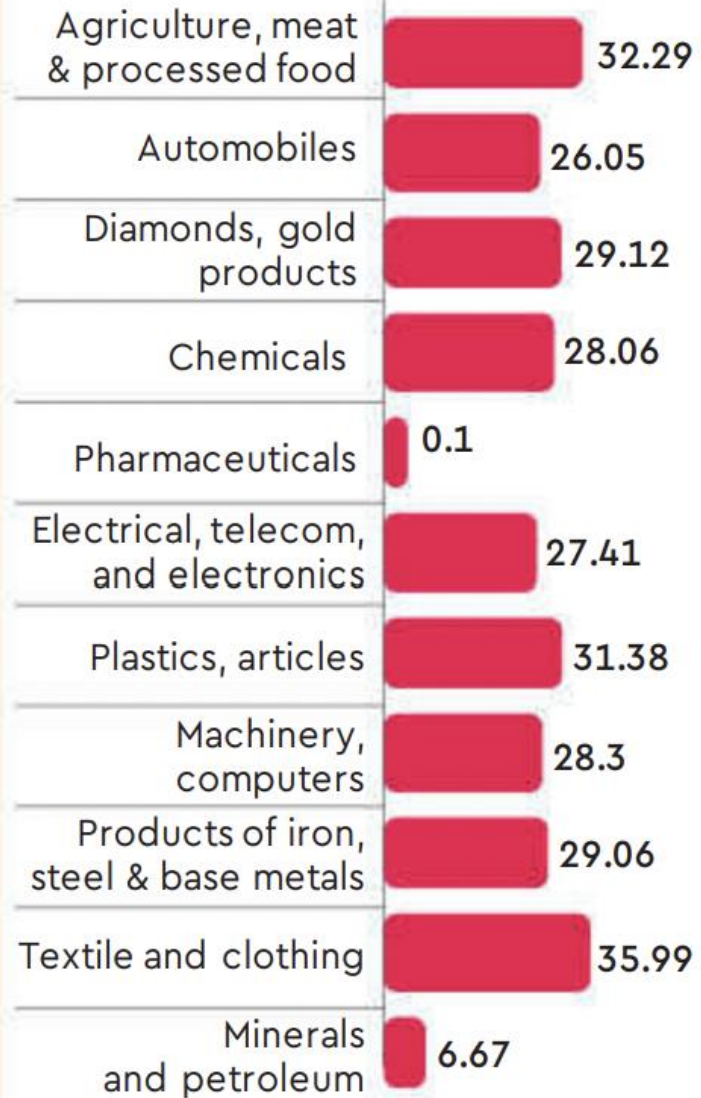
CHINA, EU AMONG HIGHEST LEVIED,
retaliatory measures under consideration

AS IT STANDS

Reciprocal tariff
(adjusted, %)



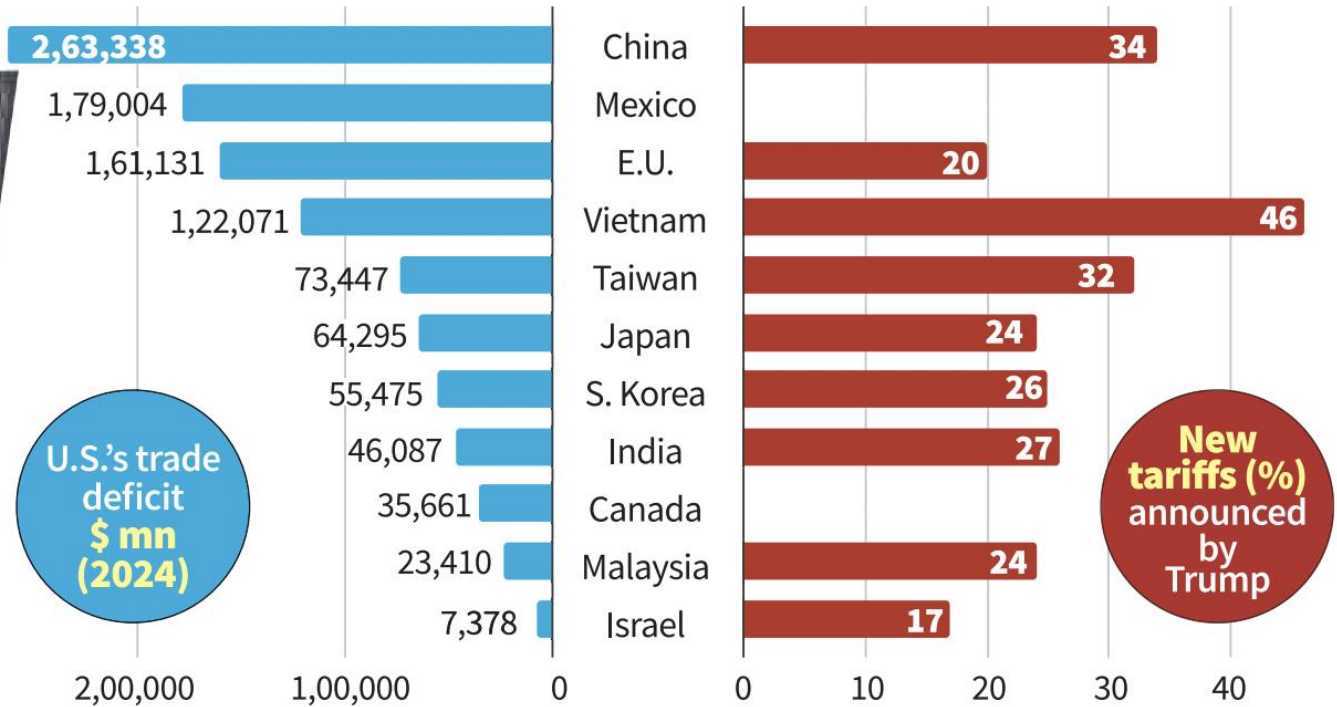
Total tariff payable by
Indian exports to US (%)



Source: GTRI

Raining tariffs

U.S. President Donald Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all U.S. trading partners, threatening to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars



Canada and Mexico would not face the higher rates on what they're already being charged by Trump in what he says is an effort to stop illegal immigration and drug smuggling

This is Liberation Day, a long-awaited moment. 2nd April 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn – DONALD TRUMP



LOWEST EXPOSURE:

The rectangles on the far left are those where the U.S.'s share in India's exports was lowest, among the top 30 products. For instance, the U.S.'s share in India's total **rice** exports was **3%**. Tariffs will have lower impact on these products





HIGHEST EXPOSURE:

Close to 37% of India's **marine product** exports went to the U.S., the highest among India's top 30 products in the period. Tariffs will have a higher impact on such products

Manufactured goods
21%



Note: Products in the graphic include broader categories such as gems and jewellery, and its sub components such as pearls and stones

Chemical, allied products
21%



Machinery and instruments: 21%

Gold: 23%

Non-readymade: 24%

Electronic goods: 24%

Readymade garments: 30%

Readymade cotton: 31%

Gems & jewellery: 31%



Drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals: 31%



Drug formulations: 36%

Pearls & stones - U.S. share: 36%

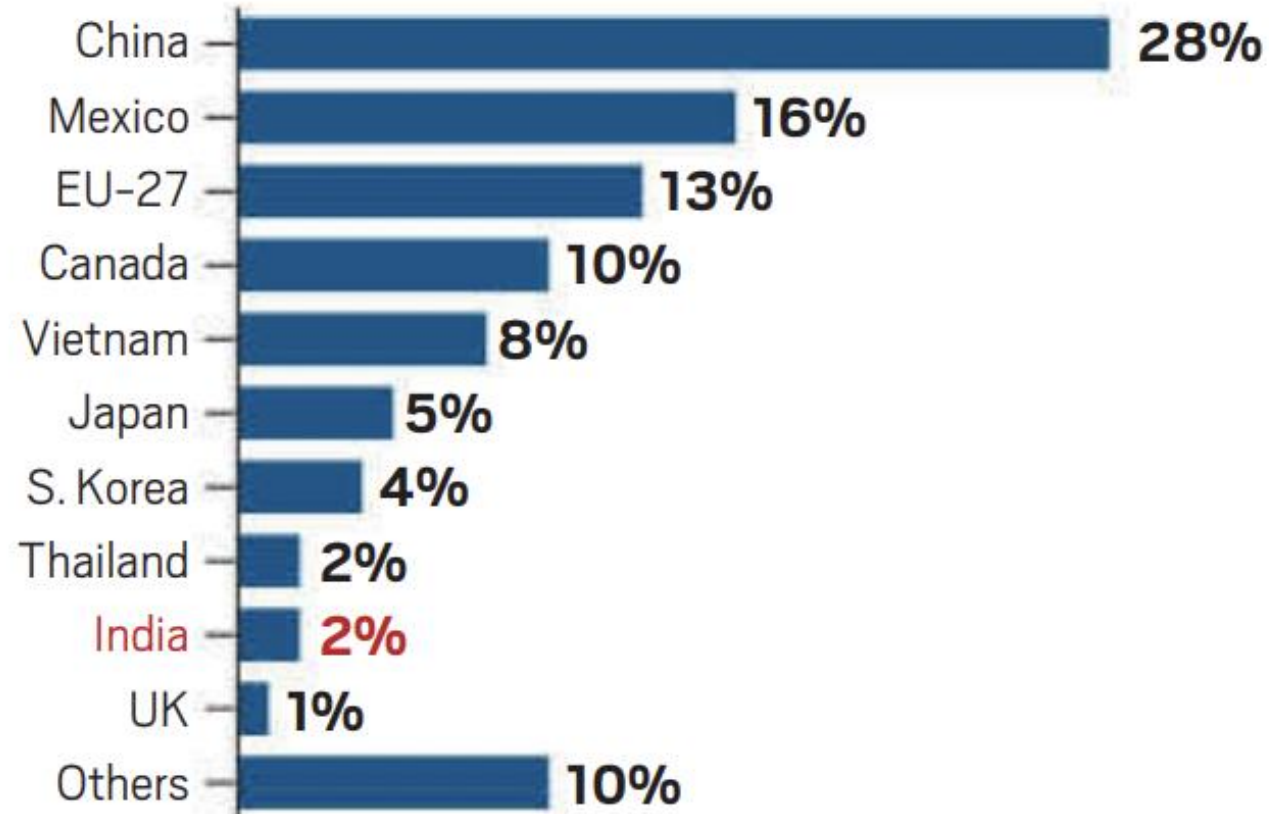
MAKING AMERICA WEALTHY AGAIN: AT WHOSE COST?

Country	Tariffs on US goods (US estimates)	Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs	US trade deficit in 2024 (\$mn)	US trade deficit as % of total*	Per capita income(US: \$ 89,680)
Cambodia	97%	49%	- 12,300	1.0	\$ 2,950
Vietnam	90%	46%	- 1,22,071	10.1	\$ 4,990
Sri Lanka	88%	44%	NA	NA	NA
Bangladesh	74%	37%	- 6,152	0.5	\$ 2,770
Thailand	72%	36%	- 45,609	3.8	\$ 7,750
China	67%	34%	- 2,95,402	24.6	\$ 13,870
Taiwan	64%	32%	- 73,937	6.1	\$ 34,920
Indonesia	64%	32%	- 17,883	1.5	\$ 5,250
Switzerland	61%	31%	- 38,463	3.2	\$ 1,11,720
South Africa	60%	30%	- 8,837	0.7	\$ 6,520
Pakistan	58%	29%	- 2,989	0.2	NA
India	52%	26%	- 45,664	3.8	\$ 2,940
South Korea	50%	25%	- 66,007	5.5	\$ 37,670
Japan	46%	24%	- 68,468	5.7	\$ 35,610
Malaysia	47%	24%	- 24,830	2.1	\$ 14,420
EU	39%	20%	- 2,31,769	19.3	\$ 45,240
Israel	33%	17%	- 7,425	0.6	\$ 54,370
Philippines	34%	17%	- 4,880	0.4	\$ 4,440
UK	10%	10%	11,857	- 1.0	\$ 54,280
Brazil	10%	10%	7,351	- 0.6	\$ 10,820
Singapore	10%	10%	2,829	- 0.2	\$ 93,960
Chile	10%	10%	NA	NA	\$ 17,930
Australia	10%	10%	- 73,927	6.1	\$ 67,980
Turkey	10%	10%	- 1,453	0.1	\$ 16,880
Colombia	10%	10%	1,347	- 0.1	\$ 7,900
WORLD			-12,02,872		\$ 14,450

*Total US trade deficit. Source: White House, IMF, The Indian Express Research

CHINA LIKELY TO BE THE WORST AFFECTED

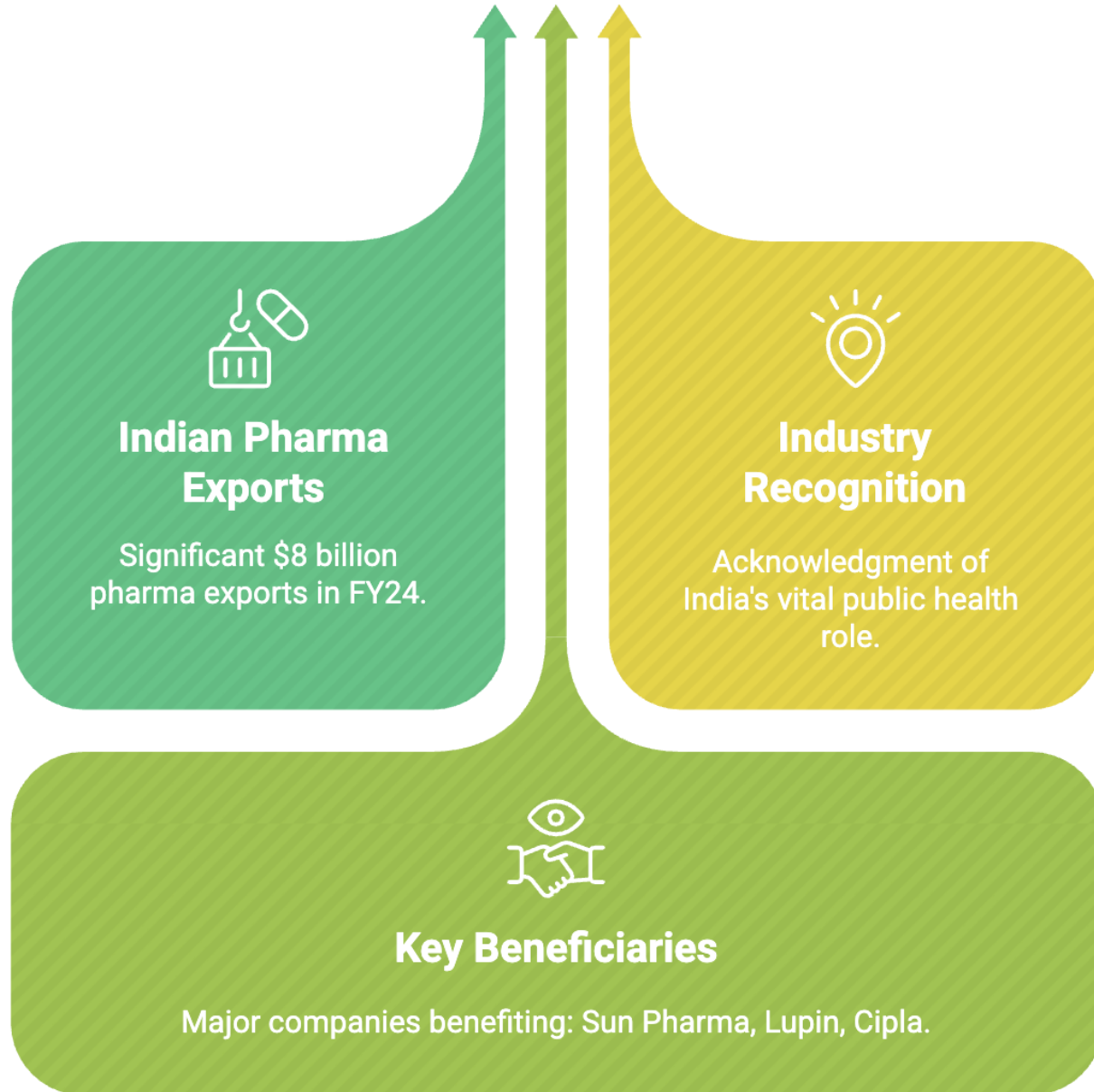
Impact: By Country



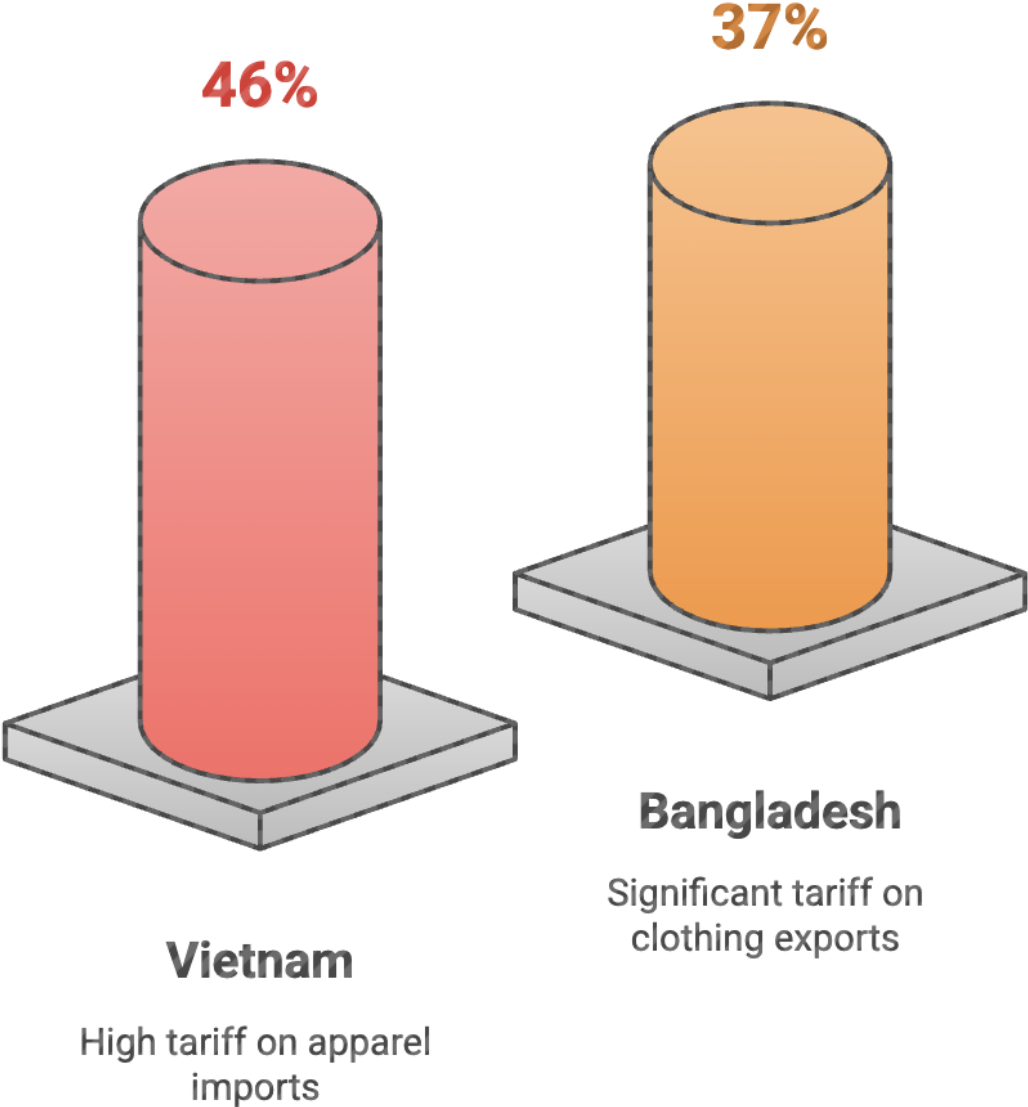
Source: Trade Map, Axis Bank Research

Sector	Impact
Pharma	Positive – Exempted from tariff hikes
Jewellery & Gems	Negative – High new tariffs
Apparel	Mixed – Some competitive gain vs peers
Auto & Modules	Negative – Hit by new tariffs
Steel/Aluminium	Negative – Already taxed since March 2024

India's Pharma Ascendancy



Competitive Tariff Comparison for Apparel Exports



Impact of New US Tariffs on Indian Gems & Jewellery



HC judge to probe 'sexual misconduct' of district judge

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has asked one of its serving judges to probe the allegation of sexual misconduct of a district judge.

The High Court appointed Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas as the inquiry officer to look into the allegation levelled against a district judge in Kozhikode of outraging the modesty of a woman. The district judge was placed under suspension in December last year following the allegation that he had outraged the modesty of a woman court employee in his official chamber on the court premises.

The issue came to light following a protest by a section of the court staff during the working hours of the court against what they termed the outrage against the officer. Later, the district judge reportedly tendered an apology to the woman in the presence of the principal district judge of Kozhikode. However, the High Court ordered the suspension of the district judge after it took serious note of the developments. The district judge later denied the allegations levelled against him.

An inquiry by the Internal Complaints Committee of the district court reached nowhere as the alleged non-cooperation of the woman employee. The woman failed to file any complaint before the committee and other legal forums.

IN BRIEF

Leopard safely captured after straying into Bengaluru house

A leopard that had strayed into a house in Jigani near Bengaluru was successfully captured by the Karnataka Forest Department officials on Thursday. The female leopard strayed into the house at around 6.30 a.m. Residents ran out of the house and locked the door upon spotting the big cat. While the leopard remained trapped inside the house, neighbours alerted the Police and Forest department officials, who captured the leopard after tranquillising it. The leopard was later taken to the Bannerghatta National Park and will be released into the wild.

Singer M.G. Sreekumar fined for improper waste disposal

Playback singer M.G. Sreekumar has been fined ₹25,000 on the charge of dumping trash into the Kechi backwaters after a video of the same was recently posted on social media. Mr. Sreekumar has renitiated the fine amount after Mulavargh grama panchayat issued him a notice directing the singer to pay the fine amount within 15 days. "Our officials also visited his house and issued a warning. It has been learnt a maid threw low bag from the house that overloaded the backwaters," Akbar V.S., president of the local body, told *The Hindu*.

Jala Harathi Corporation to take up irrigation works in A.P.

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet has approved the setting up of Jala Harathi Corporation to facilitate taking up irrigation projects in the State. Discussing the Cabinet meeting to complement a conference on Thursday, Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Minister Kohusu Parthasarathy said the Jala Harathi Corporation would be a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under 100% government ownership to implement and complete the Godavari-Banakanacherla Link Project for better water utilisation.

'Kerala, T.N., Bengal got no funds for Samagra Shiksha'

The three States were allocated ₹328.9 crore, ₹2,151.6 crore, and ₹1,745.8 crore, respectively, but funds have not been released. MoS for Education says while replying to MP John Brittas's query

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal received "zero" funds under the Union Education Ministry's Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for the financial year 2024-25 until March 27, Minister of State for Education Jayant Choudhary said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. He was replying to a question by CPI(M) MP John Brittas.

While the three States had been allocated ₹328.9 crore, ₹2,151.6 crore, and ₹1,745.8 crore, respectively, the funds had not been released, he said.

The Tamil Nadu government with the Centre after its refusal to implement the three-language formula



The panel had observed that withholding funds for not entering into an MoU for separate schemes is "not justifiable". FILE PHOTO

under the new National Education Policy and sign a memorandum of understanding on building PM-SHRI schools.

Samagra Shiksha scheme provides for funding for textbooks, upgrade of infrastructure, salaries for teachers and so on. The data shared in the Upper House says out of ₹45,830.21 crore allocated

accounts, statement on outstanding advances, up-to-date expenditure statement, audited utilisation certificate of previous years and so on.

The withholding of funds is severely impacting teachers' salaries, RTE reimbursements, and transportation for students in remote areas," a Parliamentary Standing Committee report on the issue had earlier noted. The committee had observed that withholding funds for not entering into an MoU for separate schemes such as PM-SHRI is "not justifiable".

The committee has recommended immediate release of pending funds to the States, such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to prevent disruption in salaries, teachers' training and so on.

Clear Mekedatu and other projects: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and urged him to direct the officials in the Ministry to accord clearances for five major pending irrigation projects, including

Mekedatu and Upper Bhadra, in Karnataka.

Later, Mr. Siddaramaiah called on the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and urged him to direct the officials in the Ministry to accord clearances for five major pending irrigation projects, including

HC to hear plea on vehicle cap for Ooty, Kodaikanal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday agreed to hear on Friday a review petition filed by the Nilgiris Collector against an order passed by the court on March 13, which fixed a cap on the number of tourist vehicles allowed to visit the Nilgiris and Kodaikanal during the ongoing summer season.

Justices N. Santhosh Kumar and D. Bharatha Chakravarthy asked Additional Advocate General J. Ravindran to make sure that Advocate General P.S. Raman appears for the hearing on Friday. He was also asked to serve copies of the review petition on *amicus curiae* T. Mohan, Chevanar Mohan, Rahul Balaji, and M. Santharaman.

Earlier in the day, advocate T.N. Suresh Kumar told the court that some traders

Opposition slams 'assault' on Christian priests in Madhya Pradesh police station

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Opposition leaders, including Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, on Thursday slammed the ruling BJP over an alleged assault on Christian priests in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Opposition members from the Congress and other parties also raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, raised slogans and staged a walkout after their demand for a discussion was turned down by Speaker Om Birla. Later, Congress MPs led by Mr. Venugopal also staged a protest inside Parliament.

According to the Jabalpur Police, the incident took place on March 31 inside the Rajnoli Police Station premises when the officers were inquiring about

The incident occurred when police were looking into charges of forced conversion

allegations by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) about "forced religious conversion" of tribal people from neighbouring Mandla district. A bus carrying locals from Maharajpur, as well as a priest and a nun, was visiting churches in the city. Members of some local outfits reported it to the police on suspicion of religious conversion.

"During the verification, the people in the bus claimed that they were Christians but had Hindu identities in their documents," Jabalpur Superintendent of Police Sampat Upadhyay said, adding that they were let go soon after.

It was then that two Christian priests from Jabalpur were allegedly assaulted by members of Hindu outfits, with purported videos going viral online. In one of the videos, a woman is seen slapping a priest as he is being escorted to safety by police personnel.

However, Mr. Upadhyay denied that the priests were assaulted. He told *The Hindu* that an FIR had been filed against three unknown persons, and the police were recording witness statements.

Slamming the incident, Mr. Vijayan said the priests hailed from Kerala and that they had gone to the station to help the tribals but were "beaten up as police watched".

Mr. Venugopal claimed the incident was "another example" of how the "BJP government and Sangh Parivar were attacking the minorities.

Review petition was filed due to 'certain difficulties in limiting the number of tourist vehicles'

In the two hill stations had downed their shutters on Wednesday against the court order fixing a cap on the number of tourist vehicles, and contended that the Nilgiris Collector ought

not to have permitted such agitation against judicial orders.

On the other hand, the AAC told the court that the Nilgiris Collector had filed a review petition as there were certain difficulties in limiting the number of tourist vehicles to the two hill stations. He also requested the court to take up the plea for hearing at the earliest since the local traders were unhappy with the

State govt. notifies bird flu outbreak in six districts in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VUDAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday issued an order notifying outbreak of bird flu in the districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Kurnool, Eluru, NTR and Kakinada as infected zones and surveillance zones.

As per the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009, the government issued the order declaring the areas falling between 0 to 1 km radius from the epicentres as infected zones and the areas falling between 1 to 10 km radius as surveillance zones, to prohibit the

movement of poultry to and from the infected and surveillance zones into disease-free zones.

"The notification of the zones comes after positive responses from the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, the order says.

Joint Director, Animal Husbandry, NTR district, M. Hanumantha Rao said, "An official issues a certificate to a poultry farmer after sanitising and sealing the farm. Until 90 days, the farmer cannot bring new birds," adding that all chicken shops also remain closed within 1 km of the red zone for 90 days. However, people can buy chicken from other places.

New beginning



From the scratch: Building material is being unloaded at the construction site of judges' houses that are coming up in Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. *ANIL KUMAR*

Axiom space mission: India's Shubhanshu will fly to ISS in May

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) will take place in May 2025. The Group Captain Shukla will be the pilot of the upcoming Axiom-4 mission (AX-4), which is the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS.

Axiom Space posted on X: "With a proven track record of excellence and experience, Axiom Space is proud to have successfully completed three Private Astronaut Missions, with a fourth scheduled for NET May 2025. We take pride in

being the trusted provider for multiple countries to participate in the groundbreaking research #ForEarth". NASA said that the mission targeted to launch no earlier than May 2025 from its Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S.

Group Captain Shukla, who is also one of the four astronaut-designates selected for Gaganyaan mission of ISRO, will become the first Indian astronaut to go to the ISS, and the first Indian to go to space in the last 40 years.

Former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson will command the commercial mission.

Kannadippaya gets GI tag, anchoring tribal handicraft on the global map

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Kannadippaya, a unique tribal handicraft from Kerala, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag ensuring market protection and a global platform for this traditional product.

GI tag has been awarded to this Unnava Parikkavargha VIVIDDESHA Sahakarana Sangam, Venmani, and the Vansaree Bamboo Craft & Varanavibhava Shekharana unit, Uppukunnu, both in Idukki district. The recognition makes *Kannadippaya* the first tribal handicraft product from Kerala to receive the GI tag.

Handicrafting traditions: *Kannadippaya* is the first tribal handicraft product from Kerala to receive a GI tag. *SONOJ PRAHARWALLEY*

The product derives its name (literally meaning mirror mat) from its reflective pattern.

Unique properties Made from the soft inner layers of reed bamboo, the mat stands out for its unique properties providing warmth during winter and cooling effect in summer.



The craft is preserved by the Oorali, Mannan, and Hill Palaya artisans in Idukki, Thiruvananthapuram, and Palakkad districts. Former director Shyam

Visvanathan of the Kerala Forest Research Institute and senior scientist A.V. Raghuram played a key role in securing the GI tag for *Kannadippaya*. Sunil P.V., member of Vansaree Bamboo Craft, expressed concern about the lack of a structured market for the product. C.R. Eley, former head of the Intellectual Property Rights cell at the Kerala Agricultural University, who spearheaded the initiative emphasised the importance of reviving interest in the craft among younger generations. "Since eco-friendly products are in demand globally, this recognition will open international markets for *Kannadippaya*," she said.

Axiom space mission: India's Shubhanshu will fly to ISS in May

The Hindu Bureau

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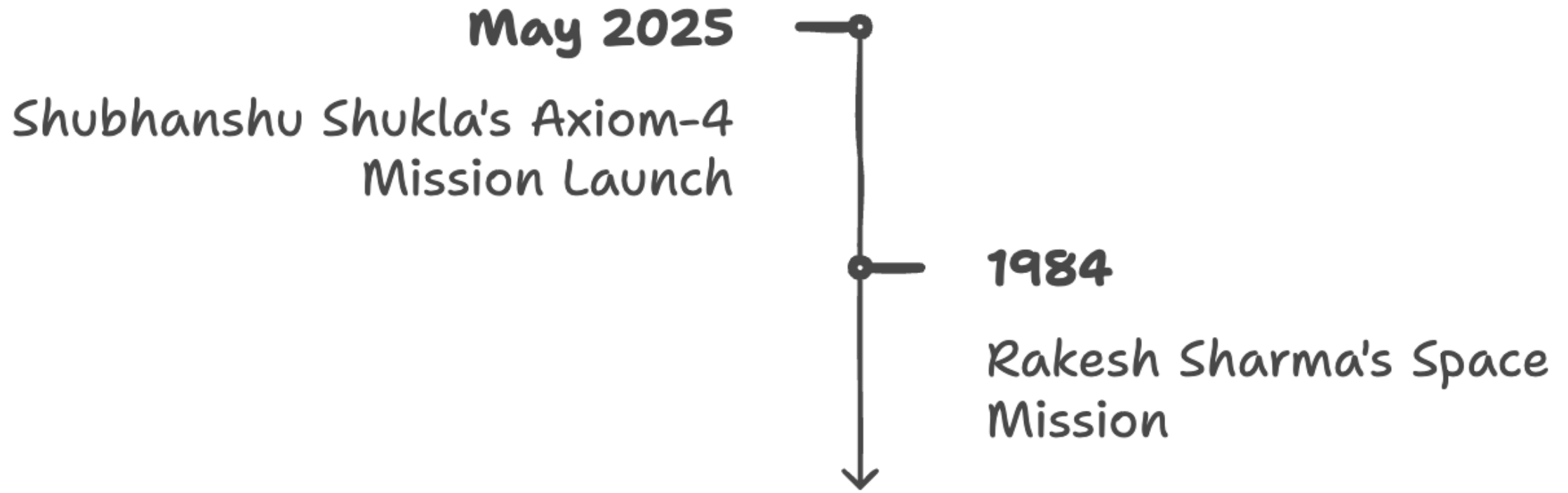




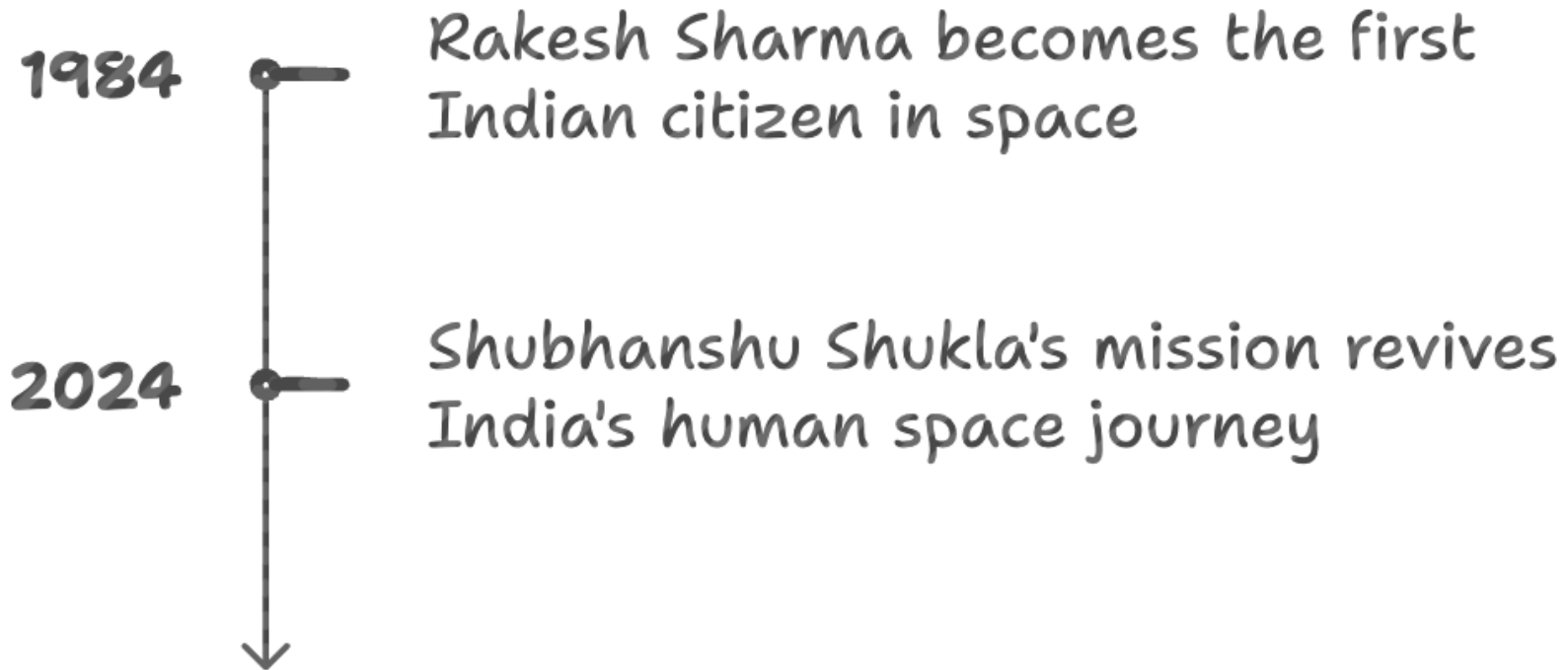


Mission Name	Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)
Launch Date	No earlier than May 2025
Launch Vehicle	SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5
Spacecraft	SpaceX Crew Dragon
Launch Site	Kennedy Space Center's LC-39A or Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's SLC-40, Florida
Mission Duration	Approximately 14 days aboard the ISS
Crew Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Commander: Peggy Whitson (USA)- Pilot: Shubhanshu Shukla (India)- Mission Specialist: Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland)- Mission Specialist: Tibor Kapu (Hungary)
Mission Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conduct around 60 scientific experiments, including seven led by ISRO (India)- Facilitate international collaboration in space research- Mark the return to human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary after more than 40 years- Enhance microgravity research impacting biological processes and strategies for long-term space missions

Shubhanshu Shukla's Historic Space Mission



India's Journey in Space: From Rakesh Sharma to Shubhanshu Shukla




 Topic

 Fact

 Axiom-4


Fourth private astronaut mission to ISS

 Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

First Indian to go to ISS

 India's last space traveller

Rakesh Sharma (1984)

 Gaganyaan

ISRO's first manned mission, Shukla is one of 4 chosen astronauts

 Launch Site

Kennedy Space Center, Florida (USA)

Kannadippaya gets GI tag, anchoring tribal handicraft on the global map

Sandeep Vellaram

IDUKKI

Kannadippaya, a unique tribal handicraft from Kerala, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag ensuring market protection and a global platform for this traditional product.

GI tag has been awarded to the Unarvu Pattikavargha Vividodesha Sahakarana Sangam, Venmani, and the Vanasree Bamboo Craft & Vanavibhava Shekara unit, Uppukunnu, both in Idukki district. The recognition makes *kannadippaya* the first tribal handicraft product from Kerala to receive the GI tag.

The product derives its name (literally meaning



Honouring tradition: *Kannadippaya* is the first tribal handicraft product from Kerala to receive a GI tag. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

mirror mat) from its reflective pattern.

Unique properties

Made from the soft inner layers of reed bamboo, the mat stands out for its unique properties – providing warmth during winter and cooling effect in sum-

mer. The craft is preserved by the Oorali, Mannan, Muthuva, Malayan, and Kadar tribal communities and by the Ulladan, Malayarayan, and Hill Pulaya artisans in Idukki, Thrisur, Ernakulam, and Palakkad districts.

Former director Shyam

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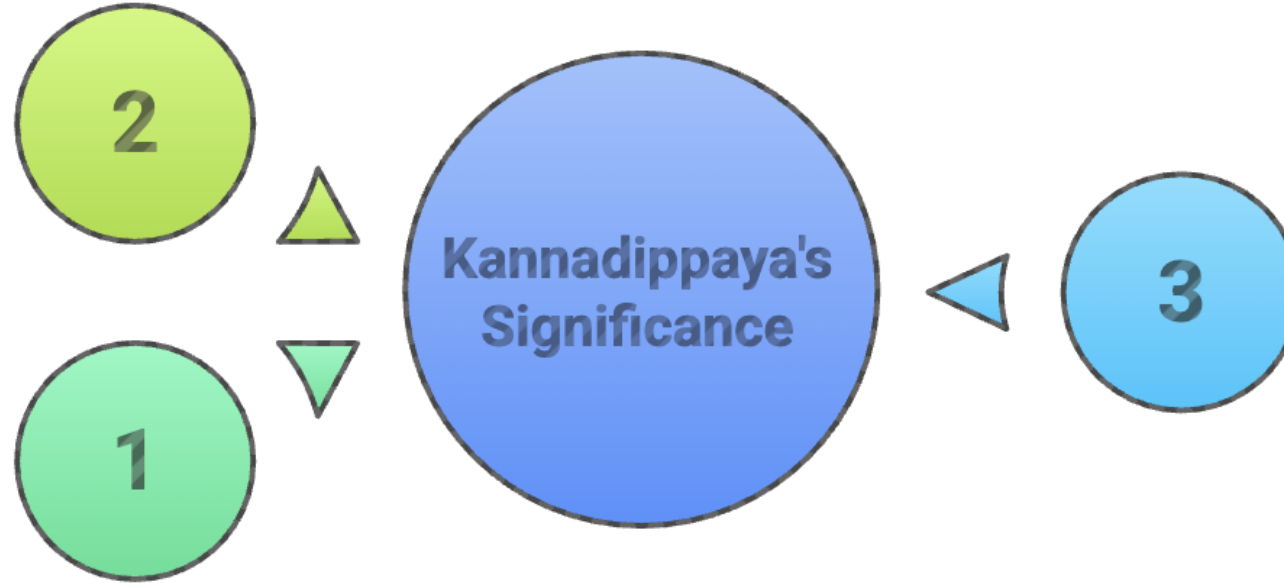
Factors Contributing to Kannadippaya's Significance

Idukki District

The geographical origin known for its rich natural resources

Tribal Handicraft

Represents the cultural and artistic heritage of the tribe



Reed Bamboo

The primary material used, highlighting sustainability

Geographical Indication Recipients

GI Recipient 1

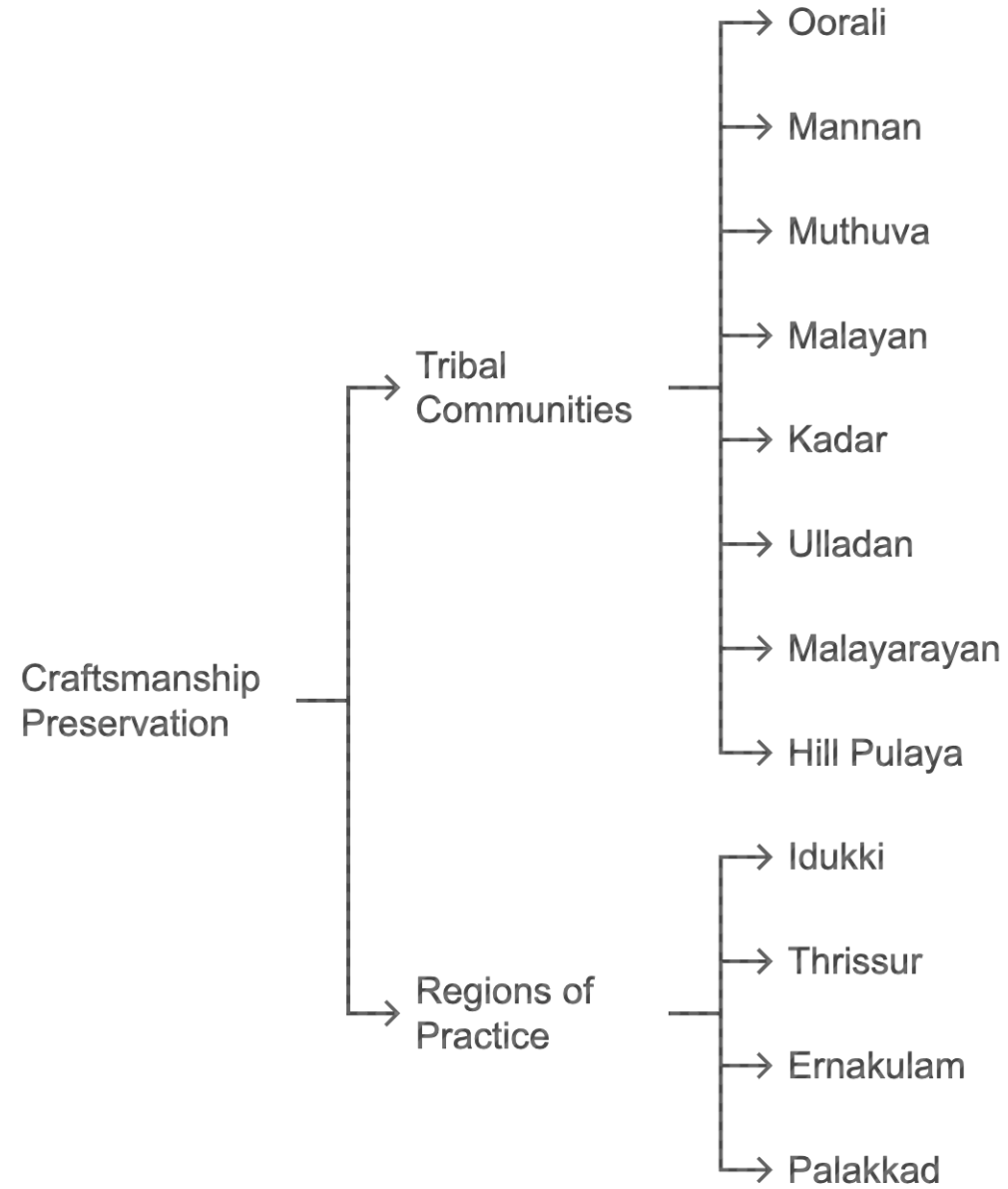
Unarvu
Pattikavargaha
Sahakarana Sangam
received GI status.



GI Recipient 2

Vanasree Bamboo
Craft & Vanavibhava
Shekarana Unit
received GI status.

Preservation and Practice of Craftsmanship



Kerala's Tribal Craftsmanship

Bamboo Craftsmanship

Reflects the traditional skills of Kerala's tribes.



Tribal Knowledge

Highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge systems.



Cultural Heritage

Promotes the rich cultural traditions of the tribes.



Youth Engagement

Encourages the revival of traditions among younger generations.



UPSC Prelims Pointers:

Topic	Fact
Product Name	Kannadippaya
State	Kerala
District	Idukki (GI awarded)
Material	Inner reed bamboo
Communities Involved	Oorali, Mannan, Muthuva, etc.
Use	Eco-friendly mat with thermal properties
Recognition Institution	Kerala Forest Research Institute
GI Tag Utility	Market protection + international recognition

The other space race — the geopolitics of satellite net

India still has regions where fiber optic cables have never reached and cellular towers remain sparse. SpaceX's recent partnerships with Airtel and Jio to expand Starlink services across India could be looked at as a fundamental shift in the conceptions of connectivity, national sovereignty, and economic power in the digital age.

It is not a zero-sum game for both sides. There are economic benefits for all. For Airtel and Jio, Starlink allows them to provide high-speed Internet to India's most remote regions without the infrastructure costs of terrestrial networks. For SpaceX, the deal opens up a huge market. It also takes care of India's complex regulatory landscape by channelling Starlink's technology through domestic players.

Yet, these arrangements are not just business strategy. There is a lot of geopolitics involved too. Communications infrastructure has always been intertwined with national security and sovereignty, a reality made even more pronounced when that infrastructure orbits 550 kilometres above earth. With the intertwining of business and political interests globally, it cannot be denied that there are fears that the United States-based Starlink network gives the U.S. an advantage in the competition for digital influence, particularly as China develops its rival GuoWang constellation. India's options were to wait for homegrown alternatives or partnering with other countries (potentially even China). But choosing Starlink could indicate a geopolitical realignment in the Indo-Pacific region. India chose a (seemingly) democratic alliance rather than an authoritarian one.

The monopolistic concerns surrounding Starlink cannot be dismissed. With around 7,000 satellites already in orbit, SpaceX enjoys first-mover advantages in the low earth orbit internet market. OneWeb, its closest competitor, operates fewer than 650 satellites, while Amazon's Project Kuiper remains very small. This is tending towards a monopolistic market structure. This also has its attendant economic problems of competition, pricing, and dependency. It runs the risk too of having private companies wield nation-state levels of influence over critical infrastructure, as was evident when SpaceX briefly cut Ukraine's Starlink access during critical military operations in 2022.

Economic value versus geopolitical control

Let us analyse these aspects of satellite Internet through a framework that captures both



Arindam Goswami

is a Research Analyst in the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at The Takshashila Institution

It remains to be seen whether satellite Internet will lead to a promise of universal connectivity or strengthen existing digital divides in orbital form

economic value and geopolitical control. The high economic value, high geopolitical control scenario can be called the "Digital Sovereignty" scenario, where nations have both profitable telecommunications and strategic independence. China's GuoWang constellation aims for this position, designing its system explicitly as a state-controlled asset. In the high economic value but low geopolitical control equation is the category of "Market Dominance", where Starlink currently operates, offering tremendous commercial potential but placing control largely outside the host nation's hands. This can be mitigated to some extent by routing it via domestic telecommunications companies, though this could be termed as just a face-saver, as effective control still sits with Starlink. The "Strategic Asset" scenario (low economic value, high geopolitical control) is where India's limited indigenous satellite capacity could be placed into (this strategically vital but economically suboptimal). Economically sub-optimal, it could be argued, is strategically useless, because it does not offer any leverage power.

Finally, the "Marginal Presence" context captures emerging players such as Amazon's Kuiper project – an example of still developing economic models while offering limited strategic leverage.

Towards digital sovereignty for India

For India, the question now becomes whether this is a long-term strategic position. India's Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continues to develop indigenous satellite capabilities. The aim is obviously "Digital Sovereignty". However, it would require a lot of investment and time, both of which have their strategic tradeoffs.

The partnership model adopted by Airtel and Jio creates a buffer that preserves some measure of sovereignty. Technology transfer provisions and local data storage requirements could protect India's concerns and also enhance India's long-term capabilities. Additionally, having more options for domestic partners means India can maintain some amount of leverage against local monopolistic behaviour, though one could argue about its effectiveness. This model of managed dependency is worth exploring further.

One aspect that is intriguing in all of this is the absence of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from these partnerships. BSNL could have helped reduce some of India's strategic concerns. As a state-owned enterprise with extensive rural presence, BSNL provides dual benefits: it

provides Starlink with broader reach while giving the government more direct oversight of this critical technology. While BSNL is facing some financial problems, considering the strategic benefits of having BSNL involved also represents a lost chance.

A technology evolution, challenges

Could these partnerships establish a template for something such as global Internet governance that has geopolitical dimensions? As developing nations face the choice between American, Chinese, or indigenous satellite systems, the Starlink-India hybrid model tries to balance technological pragmatism with strategic autonomy.

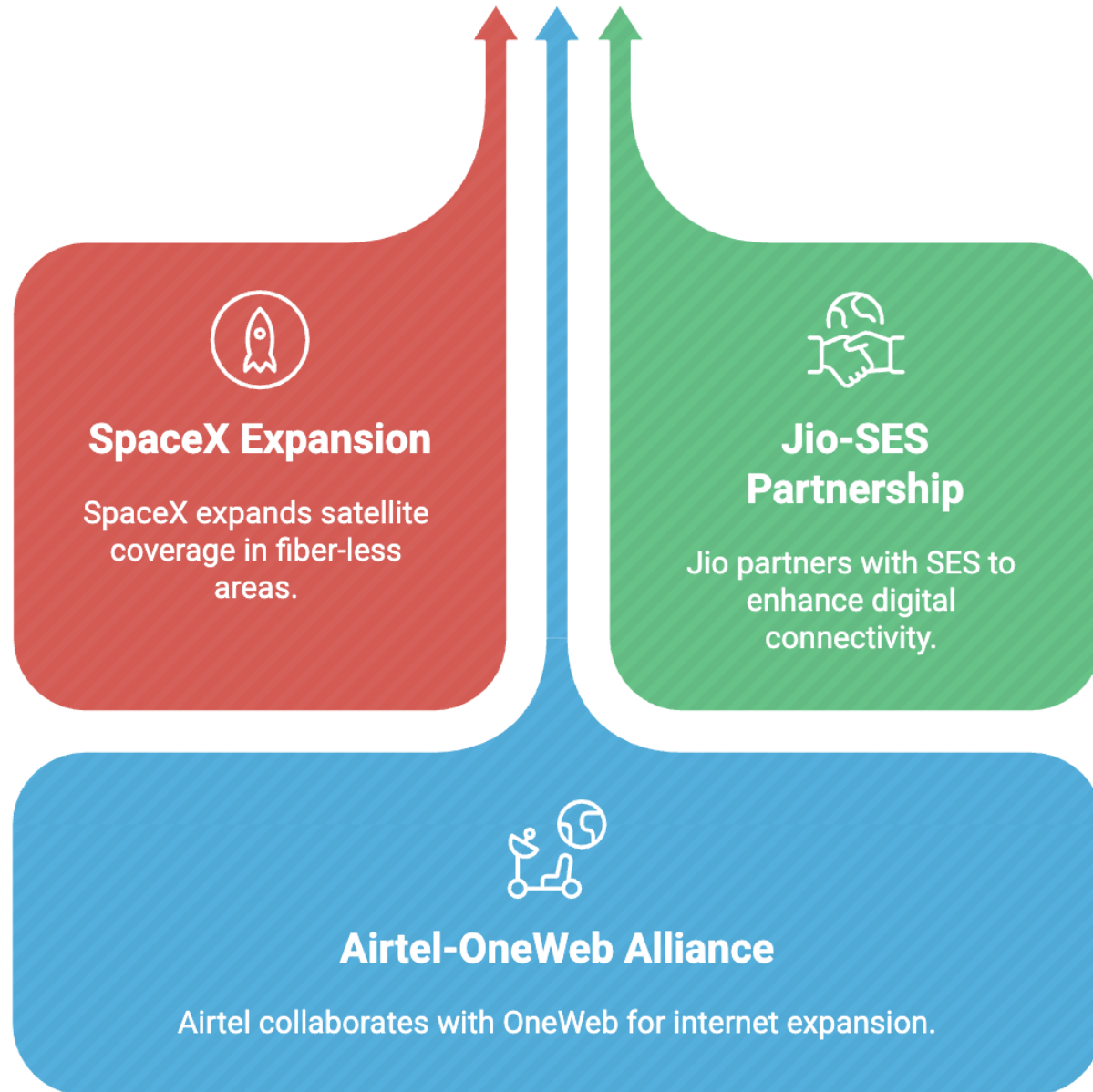
For SpaceX and Elon Musk, these partnerships have benefits both in terms of commercial opportunity and political legitimacy. Indian regulatory concerns are assuaged. This natural evolution of technology from being disruptive to partnering with governments mirrors the trajectory of previous technological revolutions, from railroads to telecommunications.

The ultimate question remains whether satellite Internet will fulfil its promise of universal connectivity or simply reproduce existing digital divides in orbital form. If it remains too expensive for most of India's rural population, or requires significant government subsidies which would make it untenable for the Indian government, then it would be a bad deal. Some innovative sales techniques, such as tiered pricing models and package deals, would be needed in this scenario. The famed "innovation at the bottom of the pyramid" could surely help India, by packaging products in a way that are accessible, affordable, and valuable to low-income populations, while also being profitable to the companies involved.

With increasing attractiveness of satellite Internet, the governance challenges will only intensify. These will include orbital debris management, and space traffic control. Their transnational nature will require international governance cooperation even amid strategic competition. Without effective global governance, the promise of universal connectivity could be undermined by the tragedy of the orbital commons.



Orbital assets are going to become as strategic as terrestrial ones. For all stakeholders – nations, companies, and citizens – the challenge is to harness the connectivity revolution without surrendering autonomy.

Strategic Alliances in Satellite Internet



 Strategic
Military Asset

 Government-
Controlled
Infrastructure


 Commercial
and
Humanitarian
Use
Privately-
Driven
Dominance

China's GuoWang
Constellation

Starlink's Market
Model

Comparing Satellite Internet Models

◆ UPSC Prelims Key Facts | तथ्य UPSC प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के लिए:

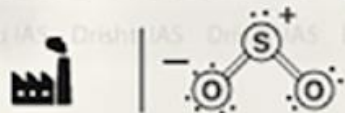
Topic	Details
Starlink by SpaceX	Over 7,000 satellites; global coverage
OneWeb (Bharti Airtel)	Partnered with Indian telcos
Digital Sovereignty	Strategic control over digital infrastructure
China's GuoWang	Government-led satellite internet
Project Kuiper	Amazon's low-earth satellite initiative
BSNL in India	Public operator facing financial challenges



India's Air Pollution Crisis

Air Pollutants

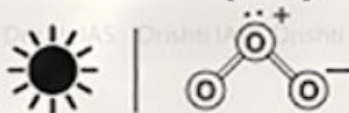
Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Ozone (O₃)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO_x and VOC) under the action of the sun.

Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

Impact: Chronic lung disease.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

Ammonia (NH₃)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

Particulate Matter (PM)



PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

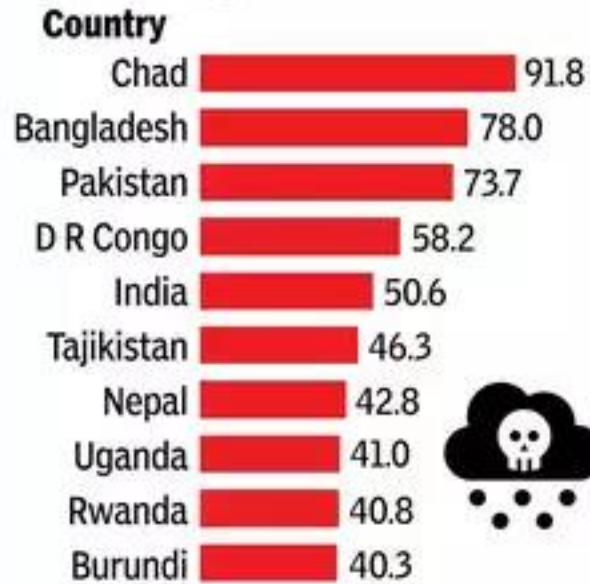
Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

LITTLE KNOWN BYRNIHAT WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED

10 most polluted countries



*Annual average PM2.5 concentration in micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³)

WHO annual PM2.5 guideline | **5.0 µg/m³**

Indian national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for PM2.5 | **40 µg/m³**



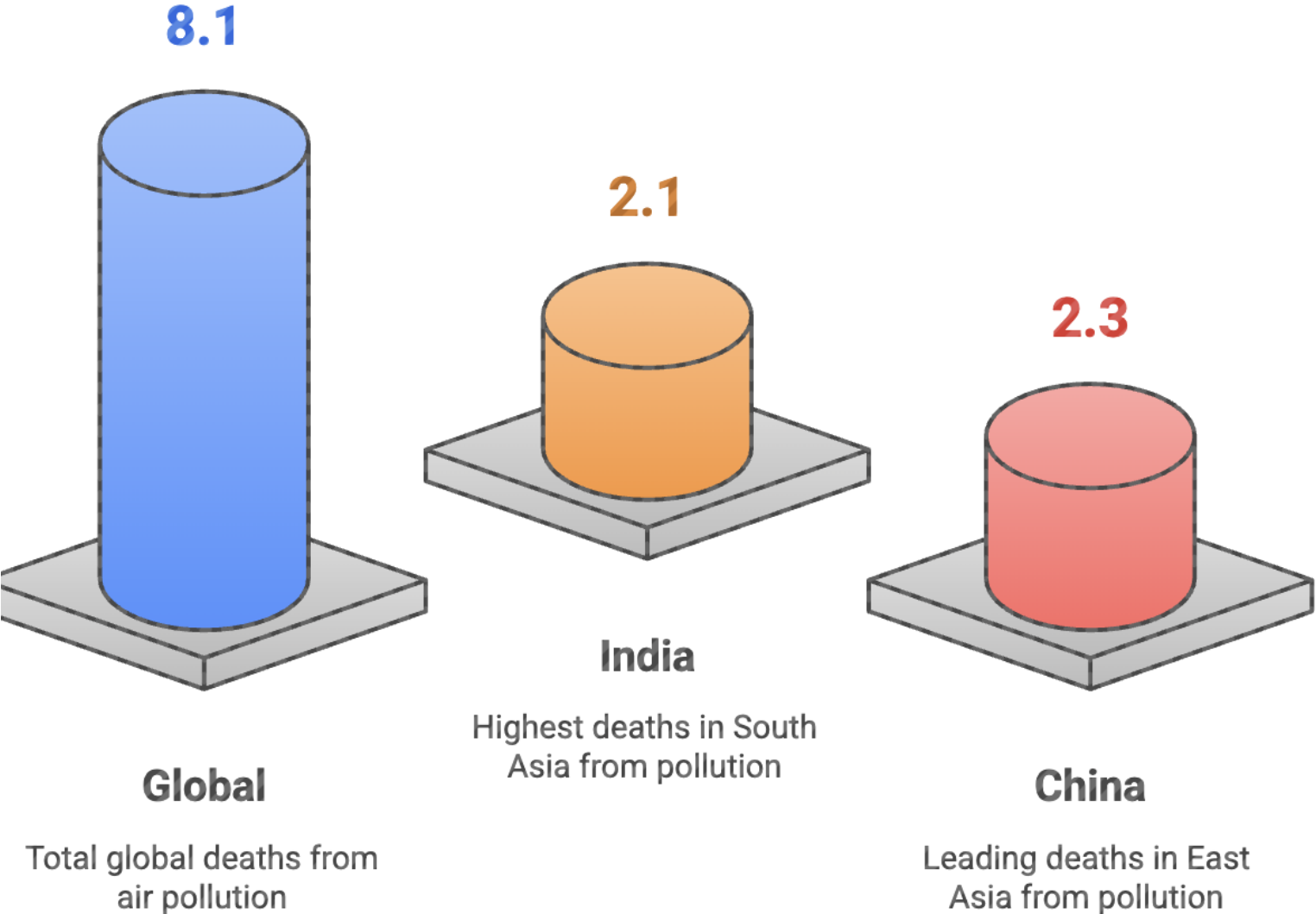
20 most polluted cities in the world

Byrnihat, Meghalaya, India	Sialkot, Pakistan
Delhi, India	Gurugram, Haryana, India
Karaganda, Kazakhstan	Ganganagar, Rajasthan, India
Mullanpur, Punjab, India	Hotan, China
Lahore, Pakistan	Greater Noida, UP, India
Faridabad, Haryana, India	Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, India
N'Djamena, Chad	Muzaffarnagar, UP, India
Loni, Uttar Pradesh, India	Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, India
New Delhi, India	Noida, UP, India
Multan, Pakistan	
Peshawar, Pakistan	

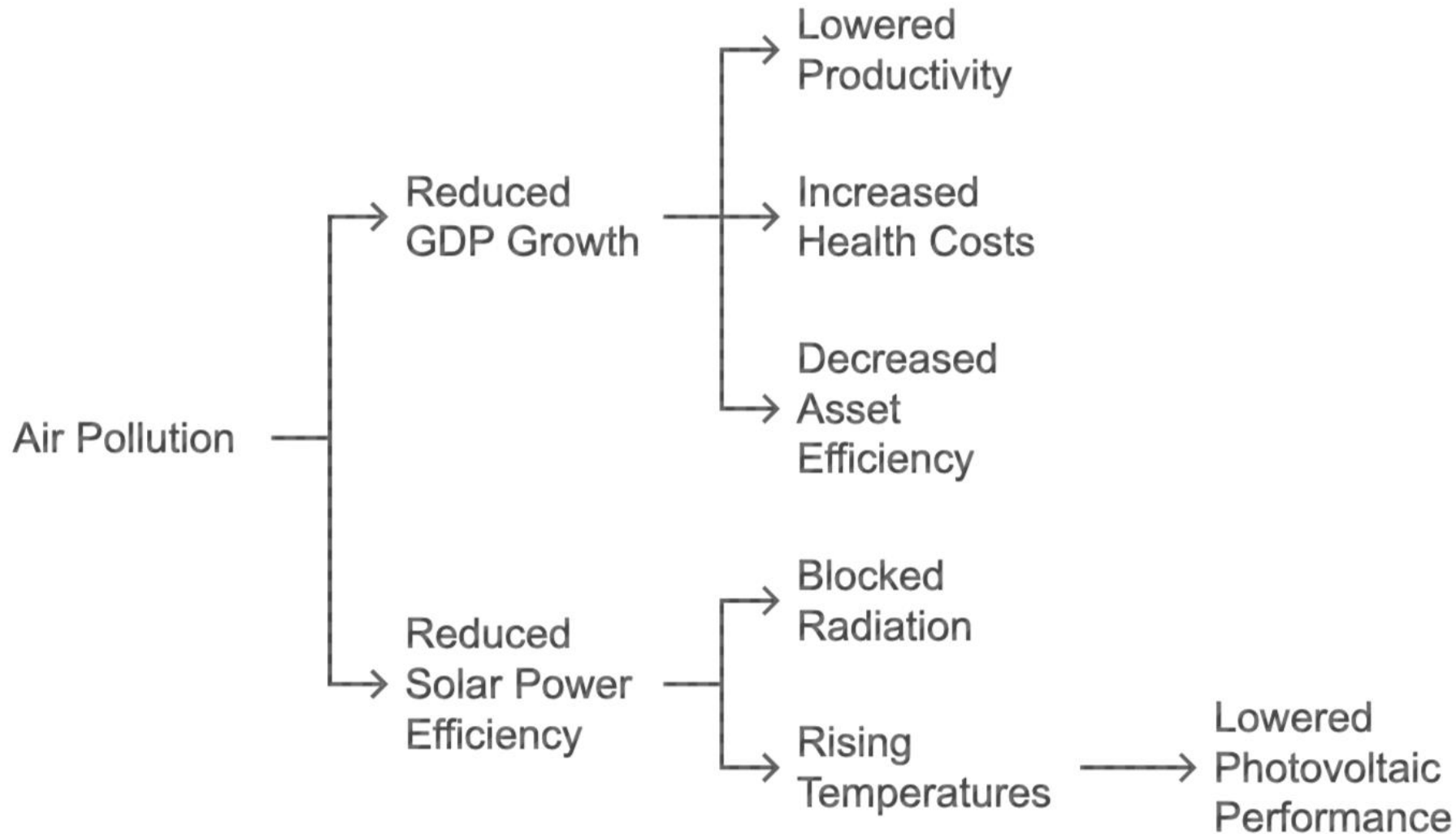
Key findings from the 2024 World Air Quality Report

- Only 17% of global cities meet WHO air pollution guidelines
- A total of 126 (91.3%) out of 138 countries and regions exceeded WHO's annual PM2.5 guideline value of 5 µg/m³
- Mayaguez, Puerto Rico was the cleanest metropolitan area of 2024, with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 1.1 µg/m³
- Oceania is the world's cleanest, with 57% of regional cities meeting WHO PM2.5 annual average

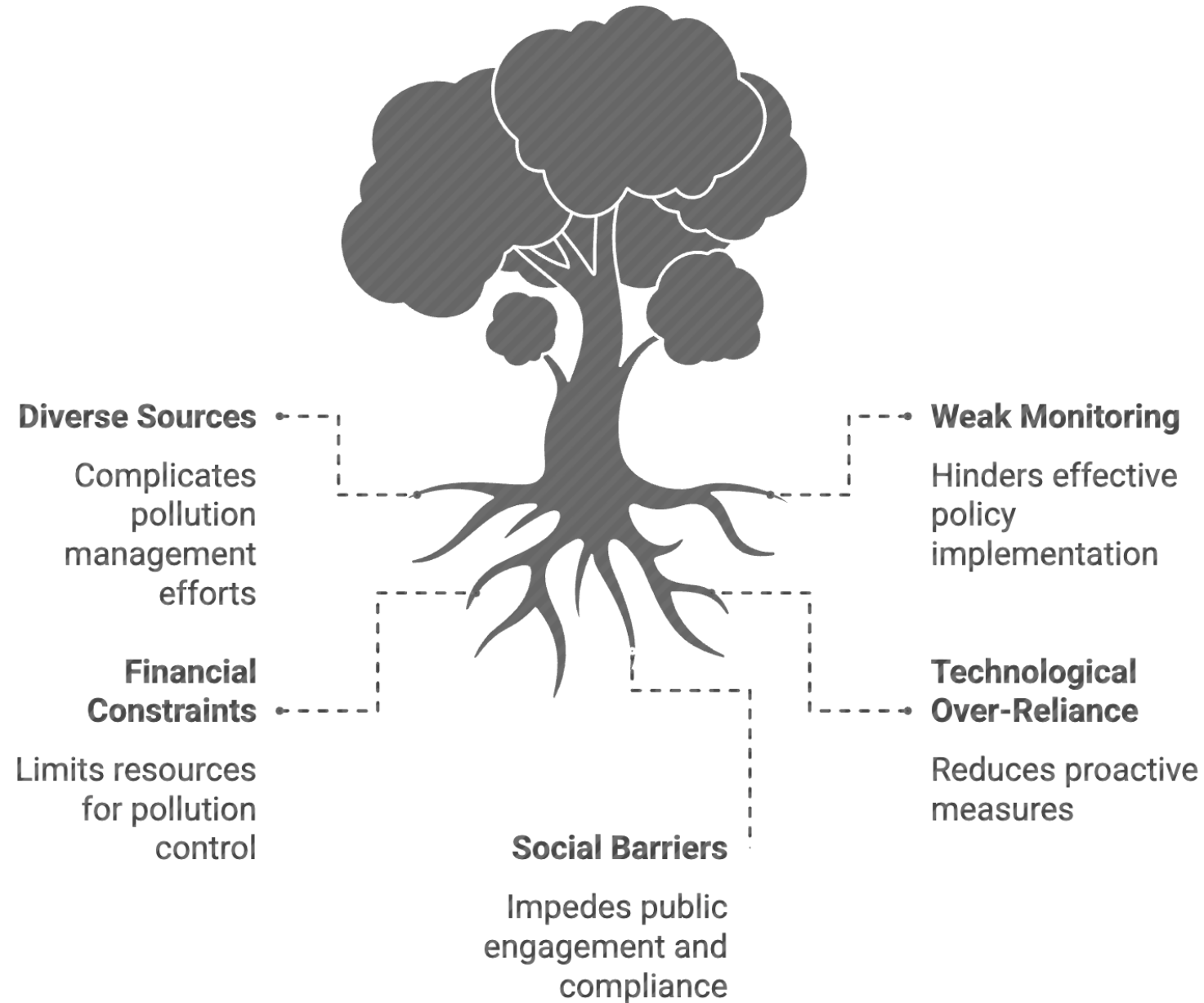
Global Deaths from Air Pollution in 2021



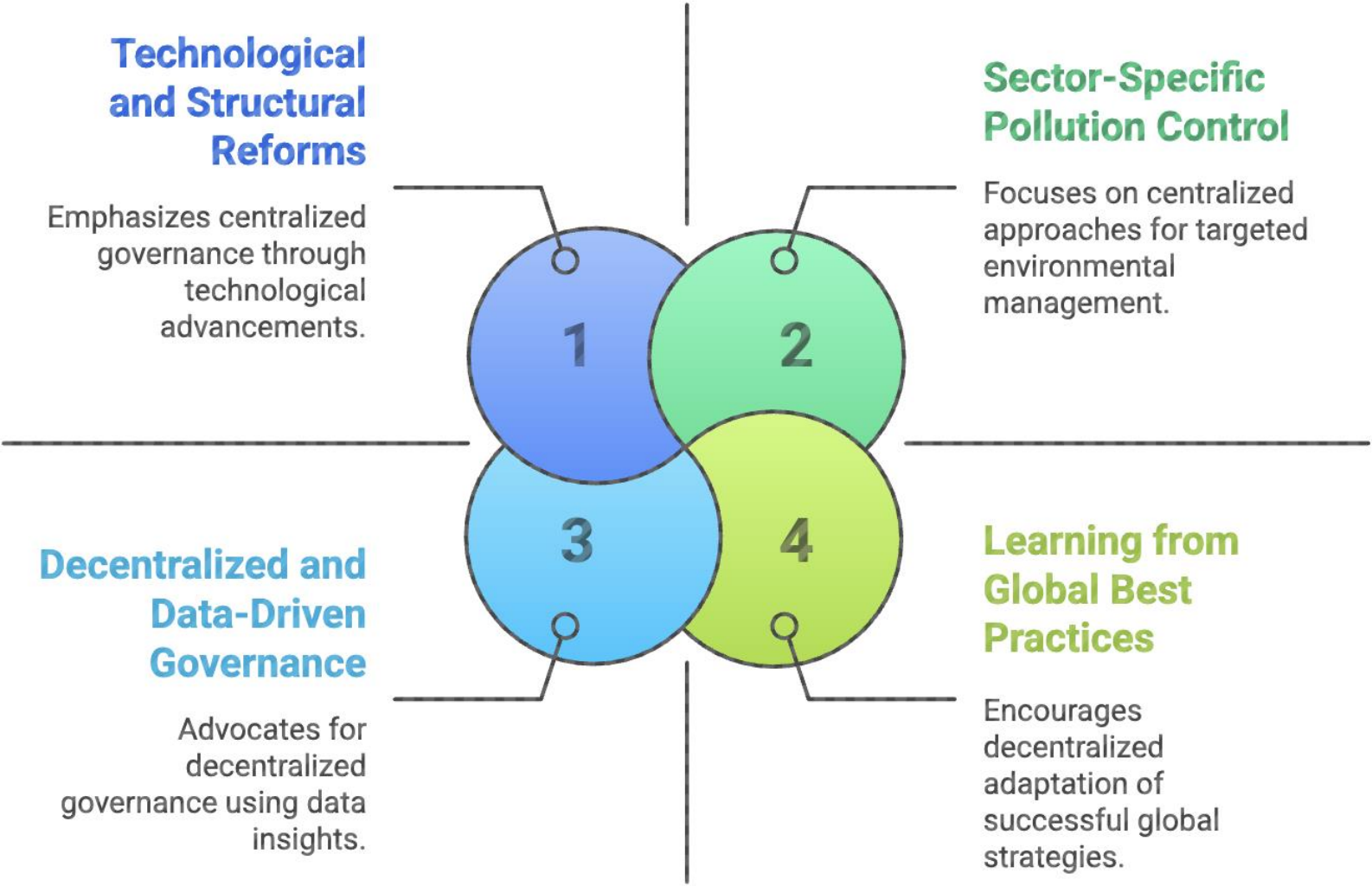
Impact of Air Pollution on Economy and Solar Efficiency



Challenges in Combating Air Pollution in India




Governance and Environmental Strategies




Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025

Evaluating State Fiscal Health Through Key Economic Indicators



GDP Contribution

Represents the economic output of states contributing to national growth.




Demography

Highlights the population dynamics affecting fiscal policies and planning.



Public Expenditure

Covers government spending on public services and infrastructure.



Revenues

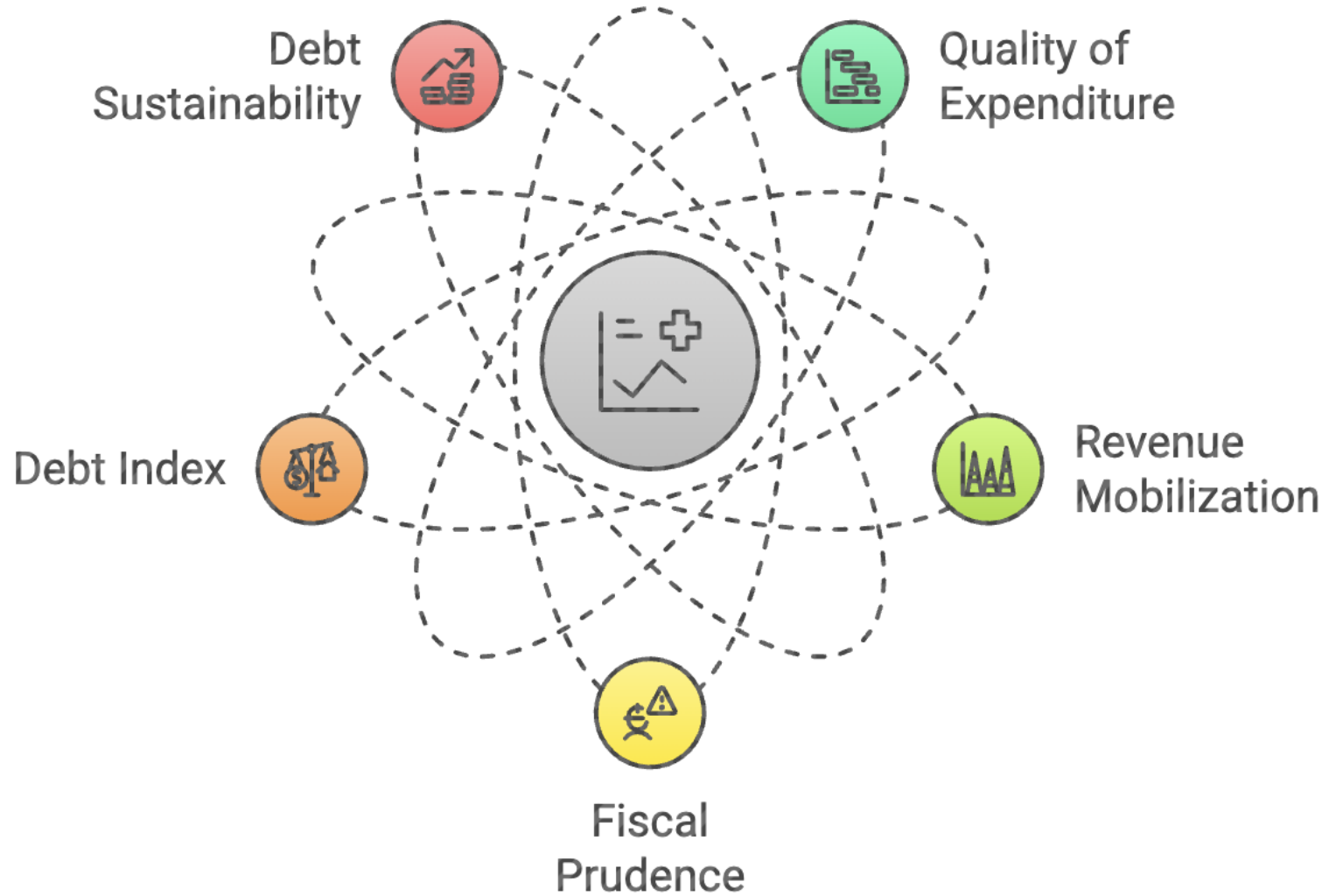
Focuses on the income generated by states through various sources.



Fiscal Stability

Ensures sustainable financial practices and economic resilience.

Components of Fiscal Health





States have been classified on the basis of the FHI score as per below categories
FHI scores have been rounded off to the nearest number for the below classification



Above 50	Achiever
Greater than 40 & less than equal to 50	Front Runner
Greater than 25 & less than equal to 40	Performer
Less than equal to 25	Aspirational

Achiever	Front Runner	Performer	Aspirational
Odisha (1)	Maharashtra (6)	Tamil Nadu (11)	Kerala (15)
Chhattisgarh (2)	Uttar Pradesh (7)	Rajasthan (12)	West Bengal (16)
Goa (3)	Telangana (8)	Bihar (13)	Andhra Pradesh (17)
Jharkhand (4)	Madhya Pradesh (9)	Haryana (14)	Punjab (18)
Gujarat (5)	Karnataka (10)		

Cape Town Convention



- 
- The Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, giving legislative force to the Cape Town Convention to promote aircraft leasing in India.
- 

- 
- What is it?
 - An international treaty adopted in 2001, the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its Aircraft Protocol establish uniform legal rules for asset-based financing and leasing of aircraft, helicopters, and engines.
- 

Harmonizing Aviation Leasing



10 MCQ

Word of the day

Fracas:

noisy quarrel

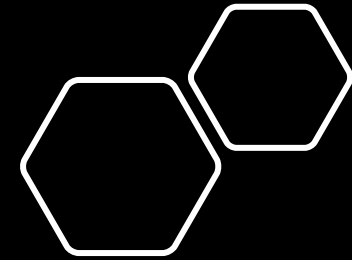
Synonyms: scuffle, fight, clash

Usage: *Security guards rushed in to stop the fracas at the concert.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/fracaspro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /fɹækɑː/



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





Thank you
guys.
