

# Daily Current Affairs



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बड़ा नहीं, हारा वही जो लड़ा नहीं।



**JHARKHAND BALLY**  
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**Charges framed, trial to start from Nov. 11**  
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**INSIDE**

**SC to examine Jharkhand plea on 'infiltration'**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine Jharkhand government's plea against an interim order of the High Court to constitute a fact-finding panel to look into allegations of illegal immigration. **» PAGE 2**

**Kerala to probe creation of social media group**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Kerala government will examine the constitutional formation of a WhatsApp group for "Hindu JSA affairs", including Minister P Jayaram and on Monday. His statement followed a complaint lodged by an IAS officer. **» PAGE 3**

**NC to consider firecracker ban in national capital**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday asked the faith government to take a call on imposing a "temporary ban" on the use of firecrackers in the national capital, noting that pollution reached an "all-time high" during Deepavali. **» PAGE 4**

**Iran executes Jewish citizen for murder**  
TEHRAN  
Iran on Monday executed a Jewish citizen convicted of murdering another man in 2022 following a personal dispute, reports said. It was a rare case of an execution of a member of a religious minority in the predominantly Muslim nation. **» PAGE 4**

# Temple riot: PM urges Canada to uphold law

A pro-Khalistan protest at the Hindu Sabha Temple near Toronto escalated into violence. Modi also calls alleged acts of surveillance targeting Indian diplomats as 'cowardly'. Canadian politicians including Prime Minister Trudeau condemn the incident. Indo-Canadian MP Chandra Arya says, 'Khalistans have infiltrated law enforcement agencies'

**Khalistans infiltrate**  
NEW DELHI  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday strongly condemned the violence at the Hindu Sabha Temple at Brampton near Toronto and said such actions will "never" weaken India's resolve.  
Commenting on the ongoing diplomatic downturn between the two sides, the Prime Minister criticised the recent reports of surveillance targeting Indian diplomats in Canada and described such actions as "cowardly". His comments came hours after the Ministry of External Affairs, against the backdrop of anti-India protests and violence around the temple premises, said it remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian di-

plomats in Canada.  
"I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve. We expect Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law," said Mr. Modi in a message. The issue was also taken up by the Congress with senior leader Pawan Khera urging the Centre to "take it up very strongly with the Canadian authorities".  
The incident took place on Sunday when a pro-Khalistan crowd came to the temple which was hosting a cultural camp that Indian diplomats had organised for the Canadian and Indian life certificate beneficiaries. For the sake of the beneficiaries, the



Diplomatic issues resolved at a campsite near Brampton, Ontario, which witnessed 'violent' disruptions on Sunday.

High Commission in Ottawa and Indian missions had planned similar camps at multiple locations. The protesters in the pro-Khalistan crowd chanted slogans against the In-

dian government and Mr. Modi that soon spiralled into a confrontation, with the protesters resorting to violence and entering the temple premises.  
"We condemn the acts

of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario. We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are pro-

TECTED FROM SUCH ATTACKS. We also expect those indulging in violence will be prosecuted," said Rashid Jawad, Official spokesperson of the Ministry, on Monday.  
Earlier the High Commission of India had stated that in view of the heightened tension between the two sides, the local police had been informed "in advance" to provide strong security measures for these events, which constitute routine "cultural" events. Despite the disruption, the Indian High Commission in Canada said the camp in Brampton was able to issue more than 1,000 life certificates to the Indian and Canadian applicants.  
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thanked the local police department for responding to the situation and said, "The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha

Temple in Brampton today (Sunday) are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely."  
Indo-Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya who has been critical of pro-Khalistan elements in Canada condemned the incident, and said, "I begin to feel that there is a small grain of truth in the reports that in addition to Canadian political apparatus, Khalistans have effectively infiltrated into our law enforcement agencies," he said. Mr. Arya called upon Hindu-Canadians to "step up and assert their rights and hold politicians accountable". His remark about infiltration of the law enforcement and agencies hints at the allegations that the Canadian Police had not acted professionally while dealing with the pro-Khalistan protesters.

## Fatal plunge



Tragic incident: People rescuing survivors after a private bus fell into a gorge in Almora of Uttarakhand on Monday. At least 36 people were killed.

## Indian Army resumes patrolling in Depsang

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI  
The Indian Army has patrolled to one of the five patrolling points in Depsang area of Eastern Ladakh, the Leh-based 14 Corps announced late on Monday. This marks the resumption of patrolling in the area for the first time since the disengagement undertaken last week and also since the stand-off that began in May 2020.  
The resumption means that the Indian Army can carry out patrols upto the Patrolling Point 10, 11, 12A, and 13 in the area which it had managed to access in January 2020.  
**FULL REPORT**  
**» PAGE 4**

## Byelections to 14 Assembly seats postponed by EC

**Change in date**  
After receiving representations from various parties, the Election Commission on Monday postponed by-elections in 14 constituencies from November 13 to 20.  
**NEWLY FORMED**  
The newly formed states of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.  
**NOTIFIED**  
The states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

## The Hindu buzzer

**NEW DELHI**  
The Election Commission of India on Monday scheduled by-elections in 14 Assembly constituencies in three States from November 13 to 20.  
A statement from the commission said the date had been revised for nine seats in Uttar Pradesh, four in Punjab and one in Kerala.  
The commission, it said, had received representations from political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress, seeking a change owing to social, cultural and religious engagements on that day.  
The date of counting results was unchanged on November 21.  
The parties and some social organisations had said the social, cultural and religious engagements would cause inconvenience to voters and logistics issues and may lead to reduced voters participation, the EC said.  
EC sources said the Congress had submitted that a significant portion of the electorate in the Puducherry constituency in the Puducherry Assembly constituency in Kerala would be engaged in the "Kaliyuga Kumbha Mela" from November 13 to 15.  
The BJP, BSP and RLD had said that in Uttar Pra-

adesh, people travel three or four days ahead of Karik Purnima. On a request from the Congress in Punjab, the 555th Drakshya Party of Sri Guru Nanak Devji is to be celebrated on November 18 and an Akhand Path is to be organised from November 15, the sources said.  
The four Punjab Assembly seats are Dera Baba Nanak, Chhambwal, Gulerbaba and Marwaha. In U.P., the seats are Meerapur, Kundaoli, Ghazibabad, Khair, Karhal, Sitahau, Phulpur, Kotehari and Madhawa.  
The commission on October 18 scheduled the by-elections to the Wyanad Lok Sabha constituency and 47 Assembly constituencies for November 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20.

# Restore statehood to J&K, says L-G at Assembly's first session

**Pezazada Ashiq**  
BIRNAGAR  
In his address on the first day of the first session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Monday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha underscored the need to restore statehood to the Union Territory.  
Praising the people for the high voter turnout in the elections, Mr. Sinha said, "The Union Territory government will make all efforts for the restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees available to a State. It would be a historic reversion of the faith reposed by the people in our democratic institutions. It reflected the enduring faith of the people in democratic processes."  
The Lieutenant Govern-



Speakers time: High drama prevails as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah speaks in the Assembly in Srinagar on Monday. (Photo: Anshu)

nor's speech sounded in tune with the ruling National Conference's approach. Mr. Sinha promised to strive for measures on money front, including addressing the issue of unemployment and promoting tourism, in dairy, horticulture, and the power sector. He announced distribution of free power up to 200 units to deserving families.  
The day saw Peoples Democratic Party legislator Waheed-ur-Rahman Parra bringing a resolution, against proposal, on revocation of Article 370, causing an uproar.  
In response, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "The reality is that the people of J&K do not approve of the decision taken on August 5, 2019. If they had approved, then the resolu-

tion, "I request the speaker the PDP's resolution is taken up for discussion. Like the Constituent Assembly of Sheikh Abdullah's time, this Assembly too is a transition to negotiate our relation between Jammu and Kashmir and the Centre. The resolution demands restoring the legacy of Sheikh Abdullah and Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh," Mr. Parra said.  
The PDP legislator's move triggered a ruckus in the House, with the BJP legislators up in arms. "This is not appropriate on the first day. Such matters should not be introduced in this House," Leader of the Opposition Saad Sharim (BJP) said.  
Amar Bahadur Party (ABP) MLA Sheikh Khurshid and J&K Peoples

Conference chief Sajad Lone were seen supporting the PDP. However, senior BJP legislator, Mr. Parra's move "is not the way and not the goal here."  
"The NC is also calling to bring a resolution against revocation of Article 370's special provisions. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and BJP president Mehboob Khatun is a proponent of social media platform X, raised the question, "Proud of Waheed Parra for introducing 40 resolutions in J&K Assembly on the first day?"  
Earlier in the day, senior leader Ashraf Rahim Rather was elected Speaker of the House.

# Temple riot: PM urges Canada to uphold law

A pro-Khalistan protest at the Hindu Sabha Temple near Toronto escalated into violence; Modi also calls alleged acts of surveillance targeting Indian diplomats as 'cowardly'; Canadian politicians including Prime Minister Trudeau condemn the incident; Indo-Canadian MP Chandra Arya says, 'Khalistanis have infiltrated law enforcement agencies'

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday strongly condemned the violence at the Hindu Sabha Temple at Brampton near Toronto and said such actions will "never weaken India's resolve".

Commenting on the ongoing diplomatic downturn between the two sides, the Prime Minister slammed the recent reports of surveillance targeting Indian diplomats in Canada and described such actions as "cowardly". His comments came hours after the Ministry of External Affairs, against the backdrop of anti-India protests and violence around the temple premises, said that it remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian na-

tionals in Canada.

"I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve. We expect Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law," said Mr. Modi in a message. The issue was also taken up by the Congress with senior leader Pawan Khera urging the Centre to "take it up very strongly with the Canadian authorities".

The incident took place on Sunday when a pro-Khalistan crowd came to the temple which was hosting a consular camp that Indian diplomats had organised for the Canadian and Indian life certificate beneficiaries. For the sake of the beneficiaries, the



**Diplomatic issue:** Indians at a consular camp in Brampton, Ontario, which witnessed 'violent disruptions' on Sunday. PTI

High Commission in Ottawa and Indian missions had planned similar consular camps at multiple locations. The protesters in the pro-Khalistan crowd chanted slogans against the In-

dian government and Mr. Modi that soon spiralled into a confrontation, with the protesters resorting to violence and entering the temple premises.

"We condemn the acts

of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario. We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are pro-

TECTED from such attacks. We also expect those indulging in violence will be prosecuted," said Randhir Jaiswal, Official spokesperson of the Ministry, on Monday.

Earlier the High Commission of India had stated that in view of the heightened tension between the two sides, the local police had been informed "in advance to provide strong security measures for these events, which constitute routine consular work". Despite the disruption, the Indian High Commission in Canada said the camp in Brampton was able to issue more than 1,000 life certificates to the Indian and Canadian applicants.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thanked the local police department for responding to the situation and said, "The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha

Mandir in Brampton today [Sunday] are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely."

Indo-Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya who has been critical of pro-Khalistan elements in Canada condemned the incident, and said, "I begin to feel that there is a small grain of truth in the reports that in addition to Canadian political apparatus, Khalistanis have effectively infiltrated into our law enforcement agencies," he said. Mr. Arya called upon Hindu-Canadians to "step up and assert their rights and hold politicians accountable". His remark about infiltration of the law enforcement agencies hints at the allegations that the Canadian Police had not acted professionally while dealing with the pro-Khalistan protesters.



- **Incident Overview | घटना का विवरण:**
- A pro-Khalistan protest at the Hindu Sabha Temple near Toronto escalated into violence.  
टोरंटो के पास हिंदू सभा मंदिर में एक खालिस्तान समर्थक प्रदर्शन हिंसा में बदल गया।
- The incident involved protesters chanting slogans against the Indian government and entering temple premises.  
प्रदर्शनकारियों ने भारतीय सरकार के खिलाफ नारेबाजी की और मंदिर परिसर में प्रवेश किया।

- **Indian Government's Response | भारतीय सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the violence, describing it as an attempt to intimidate diplomats.  
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हिंसा की कड़ी निंदा की और इसे राजनयिकों को डराने की कोशिश बताया।
- Modi urged the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.  
मोदी ने कनाडा सरकार से न्याय सुनिश्चित करने और कानून बनाए रखने का आग्रह किया।

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- **Canadian Response | कनाडा की प्रतिक्रिया:**

- Canadian politicians, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, condemned the incident. कनाडा के राजनेताओं, जिनमें प्रधानमंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो शामिल हैं, ने इस घटना की निंदा की।
- Trudeau thanked the local police for managing the situation and ensuring safety. ट्रूडो ने स्थिति संभालने और सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए स्थानीय पुलिस को धन्यवाद दिया।

## 1. Security Concerns | सुरक्षा चिंताएं:

1. The High Commission of India expressed concern over the safety of Indian nationals and diplomats in Canada.  
भारत के उच्चायोग ने कनाडा में भारतीय नागरिकों और राजनयिकों की सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की।
2. Indo-Canadian MP Chandra Arya noted the infiltration of Khalistanis in law enforcement agencies.  
इंडो-कनाडाई सांसद चंद्र आर्य ने कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों में खालिस्तानियों की घुसपैठ पर ध्यान दिलाया।



# Israel notifies UN about severing ties with UNRWA

**Agence France-Presse**  
JERUSALEM

Israel formally notified the United Nations of its decision to sever ties with the agency supporting Palestinian refugees, it said on Monday, after lawmakers voted to ban the organisation vital to the occupied territories.

The ban, which sparked global condemnation including from key Israeli backer the U.S., should come into force in late January, with the UN Security Council warning it would have severe consequences for millions of Palestinians.

Israel has accused a dozen employees of the agency, UNRWA, of participating in the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, the deadliest in Israeli history.

UNRWA fired nine employees in the wake of the attack that sparked the Gaza war following the accusations.

“On the instruction of Foreign Minister Israel Katz, the Ministry of foreign affairs notified the UN of the cancellation of the agreement between the State of Israel and UNRWA,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“UNRWA, the organisation whose employees participated in the October 7 massacre and many of whose employees are Hamas operatives, is part of the problem in the Gaza Strip and not part of the solution,” Mr. Katz was quoted as saying.

Hamas’s October 7 attack on Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians.

Israel’s retaliatory campaign has killed 43,341 people in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory’s Health Ministry, which the United Nations considers to be reliable.

Jonathan Fowler, an



A Palestinian carries an aid box distributed by UNRWA in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza Strip on Monday. REUTERS

UNRWA spokesman, said the ban would probably cause the collapse of aid efforts to Gaza.

**‘UNRWA or nothing’**  
“If this law is implemented, it would be likely to cause the collapse of the international humanitarian operation in the Gaza Strip – an operation of which UNRWA is the backbone,” Mr. Fowler said.

“It would also be likely

to cause the collapse of essential services provided by UNRWA in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including education, healthcare, and sanitation.”

But Israel has dismissed the argument on Gaza, saying only a part of aid was being delivered into the territory by UNRWA.

“The State of Israel is committed to international law and will continue to fa-

cilitate the entrance of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip in a manner that does not harm the security of the citizens of Israel,” Mr. Katz said.

Residents of Nur Shams camp in the occupied West Bank were fearful for the future after an Israeli raid last week damaged the UNRWA office there.

The 13,000 inhabitants of the camp near the northern city of Tulkarem depend heavily on UNRWA.

“For us, it’s UNRWA or nothing,” Shafiq Ahmad Jad, who runs a phone shop in the camp, said.

“For the refugees... they look to UNRWA as their mother,” said Hanadi Jabr Abu Taqa, an agency official in charge of the northern West Bank. “So imagine if they lost their mother.”

A series of probes, including one led by former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, found

some “neutrality related issues” at UNRWA but stressed that Israel had not provided evidence for its chief allegations. An internal probe found that nine employees “may have been involved in the armed attacks of 7 October”.

## UNRWA history

UNRWA was established in 1949 after the first Arab-Israeli conflict following Israel’s creation in 1948.

The agency, which began its operations on May 1, 1950, was tasked with assisting some 7,50,000 Palestinians who had fled or been expelled from their homes during the war.

Its mandate has since been repeatedly extended in the absence of a solution for Palestinian refugees.

Since late September, Israel has broadened the focus of its war to Lebanon, where it stepped up a campaign against Hamas ally Hezbollah following nearly a year of cross-border fire.



# China's space station crew returns to earth after six months

**Associated Press**

BEIJING

Three Chinese astronauts returned to earth on Monday after a six-month stay on the Tiangong space station, part of China's effort to be a global leader in space exploration.

A parachute slowed their capsule's nighttime descent to a remote landing area in China's Inner Mongolia region. The crew emerged after touching down at 1.24 a.m.

In recent years, the country's space programme has brought back rocks from the moon and landed a rover on Mars. It aims to put a person on the moon by 2030, which would make China the second nation after the U.S. to do so.

The space station astronauts returned after welcoming a replacement three-person, one woman and two men, crew last week for the latest six-month mission.

A space agency official said in April that Tiangong had manoeuvred several times to avoid debris and had partially lost power when the solar wing's power cables were hit by debris, according to a report from the official Xinhua News Agency.

China is among the countries that have created space debris, including the reported break-up of a rocket stage in August during the launch of the first 18 satellites for a global internet service similar to Starlink, the still-growing constellation of satellites operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Tiangong, which means Heavenly Palace, was completed two years ago and orbits the earth.



# International Space Station

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



## Launched on

20 November, 1988  
from Kazakhstan



## Mission life

It is expected to  
**operate till  
2030.**



## Orbit

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



## size

Weights **almost  
450 tonnes**



## Agencies involved



**USA- NASA**



**EUROPE -ESA**



**JAPAN - JAXA**



**CANADA- CSA**



**RUSSIA- ROSCOSMOS**



## Components

**Station is divided into two  
sections:**

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

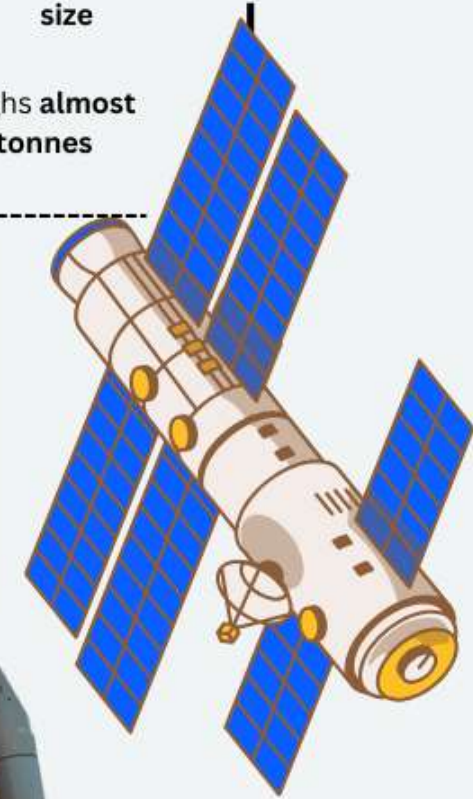
The United States Orbital  
Segment (USOS), run by the  
United States and other  
countries.



## Significance

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

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



## India's mission

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

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

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



## Notable success

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

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





**Tianzhou**  
Uncrewed spacecraft,  
arrived in May.  
Transports cargo  
and supplies.

**Wentian**  
First experimental  
module. Will host  
scientific research and  
serve as living quarters.

**Shenzhou**  
Crewed vessel,  
arrived in June.  
Transports  
astronauts.

**Tianhe**  
Core module,  
launched in April.  
Houses astronauts  
and some  
experiments.

**Mengtian**  
Second experimental  
module. Will host  
scientific research.



A Long March 2F carrier rocket carrying three astronauts lifts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre. FILE PHOTO

### China's space station crew returns to earth after six months

Associated Press  
BEIJING

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A space agency official said in April that Tiangong had manoeuvred several times to avoid debris and had gathered when the solar wings' power cables were hit by debris, according to a report from the official Xinhua News Agency.

China is among the few countries that have created space debris, including the reported break-up of a rocket stage in August over the launch of the first 18 satellites for a global internet service slated to start next year.

Tiangong, which means Heavenly Palace, was completed two years ago and orbits the earth.

### Morales slams Bolivian govt. for ignoring dialogue offer

Associated Press  
COCHABAMBA

Former President Evo Morales on Sunday accused Bolivia's government of ignoring his request for dialogue over protests by his supporters in which 200 soldiers have been taken hostage.

Mr. Morales made the accusation on his second day of a hunger strike, which he launched demanding the government negotiate with him.

### Coastal unity



Maritime collaboration: An Azerbaijani Navy ship (051270) arrives to participate in a sea manoeuvre between Iran and Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea at Anzali port. The exercise, with the slogan "Cooperation for Peace and Friendship", is set to take place on Tuesday.

### Ukraine battles against drug-resistant superbugs amid conflict

Associated Press  
DNIPIO

Ukrainian soldier Anton Sushko, severely wounded, thought he was finally safe when he spotted a rescue team after crawling for hours through the battlefield in eastern Ukraine.

"That's it, I thought, here are the guys... We made it. Wounded, but alive," the 40-year-old recalled from his hospital bed in Dniipro, southeastern Ukraine.



Constant fight: A wounded Ukrainian soldier Anton Sushko at the Meditsyni Hospital in Dniipro on September 26, 2024.

rise in patients suffering from traumatic wounds, who have overwhelmed understaffed hospitals.

### Heavy rain in Barcelona disrupt rail and road traffic

Associated Press  
BARCELONA

The recurrent storms in eastern Spain that led to massive flooding last week and killed at least 217 people, mostly near Valencia, dumped rain on Barcelona on Monday, prompting authorities to suspend commuter rail service.

Spain's Transport Minister Oscar Puente said he was suspending all commuter trains in northeast Catalonia, a region with 8 million people, on request from civil protection officials.

### Polio eradication mission struggles against militancy, mistrust

Associated Press  
PESHAWAR

Militant attacks and suspicion stemming from misinformation are hampering Pakistan's battle to eradicate polio, but teams of dedicated volunteer health workers are determined to fight on.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the debilitating virus remains endemic, the disease mostly affecting children under five and sometimes causing lifelong paralysis.

Cases in Pakistan are on the rise, with 48 registered so far this year, up from six in 2023 and only one in 2020.

Polio can easily be prevented by the oral administration of a few drops of vaccine, but in parts of rural Pakistan health workers risk their lives to save others.

Last week seven people including five children were killed when a solar-winged plane was hit by debris, according to a report from the official Xinhua News Agency.

China is among the few countries that have created space debris, including the reported break-up of a rocket stage in August over the launch of the first 18 satellites for a global internet service slated to start next year.

Tiangong, which means Heavenly Palace, was completed two years ago and orbits the earth.



Health workers and a policeman standing guard as a health worker administers polio drops to a child during a door-to-door polio vaccination campaign on the outskirts of Peshawar.

as he went door to door in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan.

"Our responsibility now is to continue our work. Our job is to protect people from disability, to vaccinate children, and to make them healthy members of society."

False claims  
In the past freedom clerics falsely claimed the vaccine contained pork or alcohol, forbidding it for consumption by Muslims.

Polio eradication mission struggles against militancy, mistrust

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Polio eradication mission struggles against militancy, mistrust

polio vaccines, some religious leaders — who wield immense authority in Pakistan — are now at the forefront of the campaign to convince parents.

All major religious schools and scholars in Pakistan have denounced the rumors surrounding the polio vaccine, said Imam Fayyaz Ghannawi.

"Those who attack polio vaccination teams have no connection to Islam or humanity," he said in the provincial capital of Peshawar, where Peshawar lives on the outskirts.

"Initially I did not vaccinate my children against polio. Despite everyone's efforts, I refused," said Zulfiqar Shah, who has one nurse.

"Later, the imam of our mosque came to explain the importance of the polio vaccine, telling me that he personally vaccinated his own children and encouraged me to do the same," he said. "After that, I agreed."

Another impediment can be that parents in impoverished areas use the government's largesse to vaccines as a bargaining chip, attempting to negotiate investment in water and road projects.

There are demands for boycotts — who wield immense authority in Pakistan — are now at the forefront of the campaign to convince parents.

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# Pakistan's polio eradication mission struggles against militancy, mistrust

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the virus remains endemic; at least 45 cases have been registered so far this year in Pakistan; health workers risk their lives from militant attacks in parts of rural Pakistan; meanwhile, clerics' false claims, CIA campaigns have fuelled mistrust

Agence France-Presse  
PESHAWAR

**M**ilitant attacks and suspicion stemming from misinformation are hampering Pakistan's battle to eradicate polio, but teams of dedicated volunteer health workers are determined to fight on.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the debilitating virus remains endemic, the disease mostly affecting children under five and sometimes causing lifelong paralysis.

Cases in Pakistan are on the rise, with 45 registered so far this year, up from six in 2023 and only one in 2021.

Polio can easily be prevented by the oral administration of a few drops of vaccine, but in parts of rural Pakistan health workers risk their lives to save others.

Last week seven people including five children were killed when a bomb targeted police travelling to guard vaccine workers. Days earlier two police escorts were gunned down by militants.

"When we hear that a polio vaccination team has been attacked, it deeply saddens us," said health worker Zainab Sultan, 28,



**Risky outreach:** A policeman standing guard as a health worker administers polio drops to a child during a door-to-door poliovirus vaccination campaign on the outskirts of Peshawar. AFP

as she went door to door in Panam Dehri in northwest Pakistan

"Our responsibility now is to continue our work. Our job is to protect people from disability, to vaccinate children, and to make them healthy members of society."

## False claims

In the past firebrand clerics falsely claimed the vaccine contained pork or alcohol, forbidding it for consumption by Muslims.

A fake vaccination cam-

paign organised by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Pakistan in 2011 to track Osama bin Laden compounded the mistrust.

More recently, militant groups have shifted to targeting armed police escorts in their campaigns of violence against the state.

Pakistan has witnessed a dramatic uptick in attacks since the return of the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, with Islamabad claiming hostile groups are now operating from there.

"In our area, nearly half of the parents were initially resistant to the polio vaccine, believing it to be a ploy by the West," said local resident Ehsanullah, who goes by one name.

"There was a lack of awareness," he said. "If this disease is spreading because of our reluctance, we are not just harming ourselves but the entire community."

## Rumours debunked

From previously being blamed for the mistrust of

polio vaccines, some religious leaders – who wield immense authority in Pakistan – are now at the forefront of the campaign to convince parents.

"All major religious schools and scholars in Pakistan have debunked the rumours surrounding the polio vaccine," said Imam Tayyab Qureshi.

"Those who attack polio vaccination teams have no connection to Islam or humanity," he said in the provincial capital of Peshawar, where Panam Dehri lies on the outskirts.

For one parent in Panam Dehri, the endorsement by religious chiefs proved pivotal.

"Initially I did not vaccinate my children against polio. Despite everyone's efforts, I refused," said Zulfikar, who uses one name.

"Later, the Imam of our mosque came to explain the importance of the polio vaccine, telling me that he personally vaccinated his own children and encouraged me to do the same," he said. "After that, I agreed."

Another impediment can be that parents in impoverished areas use the government's eagerness to vaccinate as a bargaining chip, attempting to negotiate investment in water and road projects.

"There are demand-based boycotts and community boycotts that we face," lamented Ayesha Raza, spokeswoman for the government polio eradication campaign.

"Your demands may be very justified, but don't link it to your children's health," she pleads to them.

## Personal battle

For some health workers, the battle to eradicate polio is more personal.

Hobbling door-to-door in Panam Dehri, polio survivor Ismail Shah's paralysed leg does not slow his mission.

"I decided in my childhood that when I grew up I would fight against the disease that disabled me," said the 35-year-old.

Mr. Shah is among 4,00,000 volunteers and health workers who spent the past week patiently explaining to families that the oral inoculation – administered in two doses – is safe.

Their goal is to protect 45 million children, but it's far from straightforward. When Mr. Shah arrived in his patch of 40,000 inhabitants there were more than 1,000 refusals.

"Now, there are only 94 reluctant parents left, and soon I will persuade them as well," he said.

---

- **Current Situation | वर्तमान स्थिति:**

- Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where polio remains endemic.  
पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान ही ऐसे देश हैं जहां पोलियो अब भी स्थानिक है।
- In 2023, Pakistan reported 45 cases, a significant rise from only one case in 2021.  
2023 में पाकिस्तान में 45 मामले दर्ज किए गए, जो 2021 में केवल एक मामले से काफी अधिक है।

---

- **Challenges Faced | सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियाँ:**

- Militancy and misinformation are major barriers.  
उग्रवाद और गलत सूचना मुख्य बाधाएँ हैं।

- Health workers are frequently targeted by militants; several have been killed.  
स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों पर अक्सर उग्रवादियों द्वारा हमला किया जाता है; कई मारे गए हैं।

- Suspicion fueled by past incidents like CIA's vaccination campaign used to track Osama bin Laden.  
ओसामा बिन लादेन को ट्रैक करने के लिए सीआईए के टीकाकरण अभियान जैसी घटनाओं से संदेह बढ़ा है।

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- **Community Response | सामुदायिक प्रतिक्रिया:**

- Clerics and religious leaders have come forward to debunk vaccine myths.  
मौलवी और धार्मिक नेता टीके से संबंधित मिथकों को दूर करने के लिए आगे आए हैं।
- Despite efforts, some parents remain resistant to vaccinating their children.  
प्रयासों के बावजूद, कुछ माता-पिता अपने बच्चों का टीकाकरण कराने से इनकार कर रहे हैं।

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- **Health Workers' Efforts | स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों के प्रयास:**

- Teams continue their work amidst threats, aiming to vaccinate 45 million children.  
टीमें धमकियों के बीच अपना काम जारी रखे हुए हैं, 4.5 करोड़ बच्चों को टीका लगाने का लक्ष्य है।
- Personal stories, like that of Ismail Shah, highlight the dedication of health workers.  
इस्माइल शाह की व्यक्तिगत कहानी स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की समर्पण भावना को उजागर करती है।



## 1. Conclusion | निष्कर्ष:

1. The mission faces a long battle against deeply ingrained mistrust and external threats.

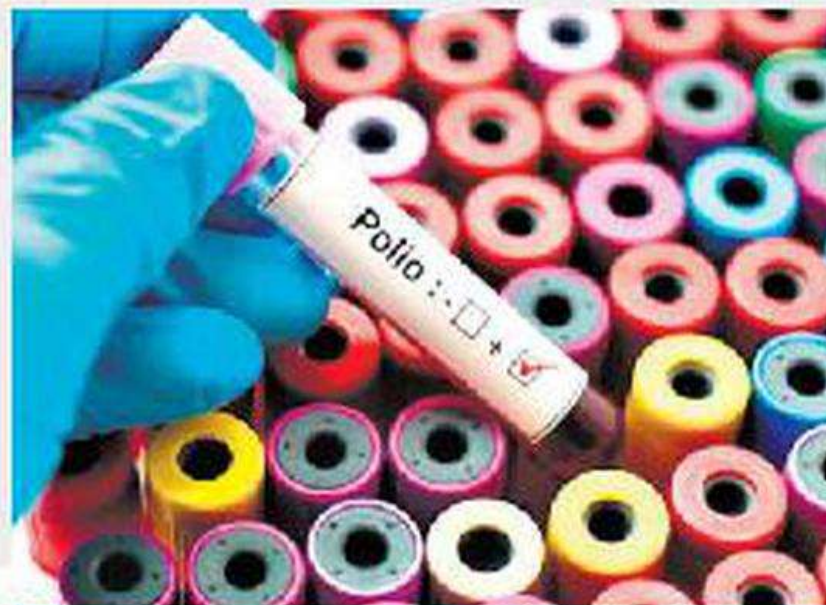
मिशन को गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी अविश्वास और बाहरी खतरों के खिलाफ लंबी लड़ाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

# What is polio

- Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, mainly affecting children
- According to WHO, the virus is transmitted from person-to-person, mainly through the faecal-oral route

## STRAINS

- There are three types of polio virus strains — P1, P2 and P3
- P2 was eradicated globally in 1999
- India attained a polio free status in 2014 after successfully eliminating the wild P1 and P3 strains



## VACCINATION SCHEDULE

**OPV:** At 6 weeks,  
10 weeks and 14 weeks

**IPV:** At 6 weeks and  
14 weeks

**OPV booster:** Between  
16 and 24 months

# What is polio disease?

- Polio (also called Poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus
- The virus invades the nervous system and can cause *permanent paralysis*
- Polio is spread through *person-to-person contact* and can spread rapidly through a community
- Most infected people (90%) have **no symptoms or very mild symptoms**
- **However**, one in 200 infections leads to permanent paralysis (can't move parts of the body) and even death





# Race to the bottom

CHINA'S STIMULUS PLAN, US ELECTION PULL DOWN STOCK MARKETS TO 4-MONTH LOW



**VIVEK KUMAR M**  
Mumbai, November 4

**BENCHMARK INDICES HIT** their lowest levels in over four months in intra-day trade on Monday, as concerns over the outcome of the US presidential election and fresh stimulus measures by China kept global investors jittery.

The uncertainty over these global events added to the underlying concerns of high valuations and slowing earnings growth, and triggered a 2% fall in the Sensex and Nifty to 78,232.60 points and 23,816.15 points, respectively. However, the key indices managed to regain some lost ground. While the Sensex ended the day 1.2% lower at 78,782.34 points, Nifty closed at 23,995.15 points.



Top Sensex losers (% loss)



# Reliance Jio set for 2025 IPO, retail debut much later

Could be India's biggest ever, overtaking Hyundai

ADITYA KALRA & KANE WU  
New Delhi/Hong Kong, November 4

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES IS looking at a 2025 listing for Jio, valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, and plans to launch retail unit's IPO much later, two people familiar with the matter told *Reuters*. Chairman Mukesh Ambani hasn't updated his IPO timelines after saying in 2019 that Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail would "move towards" a listing within five years.

In recent years, Ambani raised \$25 billion collectively for digital, telecom and retail businesses from the likes of KKR, General Atlantic and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, valuing both ventures at above \$100 billion.

The two sources said Reliance has now firmed up plans to launch the Reliance Jio IPO in 2025 as it internally believes it has achieved a stable business and revenue stream in becoming the country's No. 1 telecom player with 479 million subscribers.

But the retail business IPO is not expected until after 2025 as the company first needs to address some internal business and operational challenges, said the first source.

Reliance Industries did not respond to a request for comment.

Reliance is set to lock horns with Elon Musk if Starlink service is launched in India, and Jio, which is also backed by Google and Meta, has collaborated with Nvidia to develop AI infrastructure.

The sources said there was no internal deci-



## SIGNAL BOOSTER

■ Jio valuation pegged at over **\$100 billion** by analysts

■ Jefferies estimates Jio IPO valuation at **\$112 billion**

■ Reliance sees telecom business as stable and IPO-ready

■ But sees need to fix operational issues in retail segment

■ RIL doesn't want to hit markets with two big IPOs around the same time

sion yet on a valuation of Reliance Jio and bankers haven't yet been appointed, but Jefferies in July pegged the company's estimated IPO valuation at \$112 billion. Reliance, however, aims for Jio IPO to be the country's biggest ever, overtaking Hyundai India's record \$3.3-billion IPO this year, said the first source.

Both the sources, who declined to be named as the discussions are private, said the IPO timelines can still change.

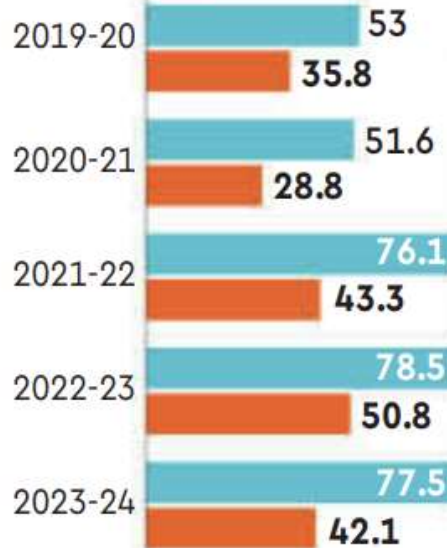
Continued on Page 7

**INSIDE**  
Q-COMM FORAY  
MAY NOT BE  
SMOOTH SAILING  
PAGE 4

## BILATERAL TIES

### India-US merchandise trade

(\$ billion) Exports Imports



### Trade surplus (\$ billion)



### Biggest items of export to the US (\$ bn, 2023-24)



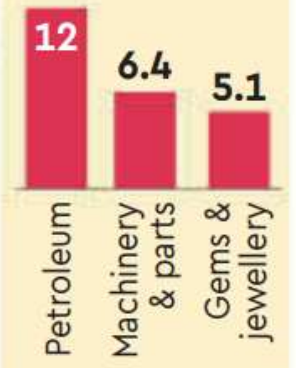
### India-US services trade

\$ billion (2022)



- IT and IT-enabled services top India's exports
- Travel, intellectual property, and financial services sectors dominate imports

### Key imports from the US



### Investments

Since 2000, FDI routed from the US stands at

**\$66.7 billion**

or **10%** of the total

# India retains solar alliance presidency

**MANU KAUSHIK**

New Delhi, November 4

**INDIA HAS BEEN** re-elected as president of the Indian Solar Alliance (ISA) from 2024 to 2026 at the 7th general assembly of the alliance held here on Monday. France has been re-elected as vice-president.

The annual assembly of the ISA witnessed the launch of demonstration projects. At the assembly, which was attended

by ministers from 29 countries, minister for new and renewable energy Pralhad Joshi said that ISA has been at the forefront of mobilising resources and facilitating the deployment of solar projects worldwide, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing states.

“ISA has successfully completed 21 out of 27 demonstration projects, showcasing our collective ability to make

significant strides in solar energy deployment and support sustainable development across the globe,” Joshi said.

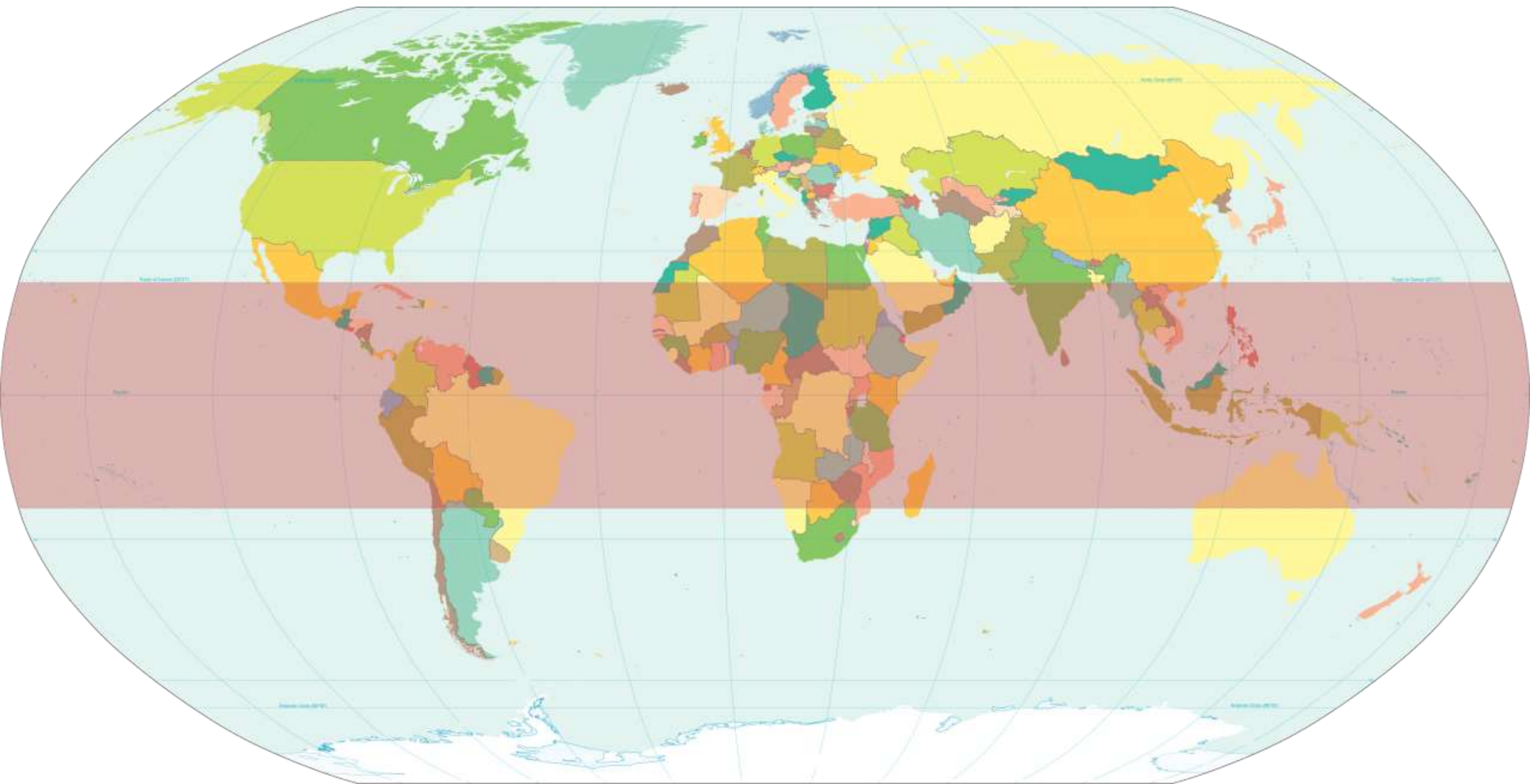
He said the ISA is pushing the global solar agenda in a big way through a series of initiatives. Record-breaking investments are not only adding new solar capacity but also driving down the solar energy cost worldwide. Global solar investments have grown from \$144 billion in 2018 to \$393 billion

in 2023 and are expected to reach \$500 billion by the end of 2024, he added.

Similarly, the global solar facility has unlocked commercial capital for solar projects in underserved regions, especially Africa. ISA member countries selected Ashish Khanna as the next director general. He will assume office in March 2025, when the tenure of the incumbent director general, Ajay Mathur, comes to an end.



<b>Abbreviation</b>	ISA
<b>Formation</b>	30 November 2015
<b>Founded at</b>	<a href="#">Paris, France</a>
<b>Purpose</b>	Bring together a group of nations to endorse clean energy, sustainable environment, public transport and climate
<b>Headquarters</b>	National Institute of Solar Energy, <a href="#">Gurugram, Haryana, India</a>
<b>Region served</b>	All members of UN
<b>Fields</b>	<a href="#">Renewable energy</a>
<b>Membership</b>	120+ members of UN, incl. the United States, Japan, France, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Algeria and Australia etc.
<b>Official language</b>	<a href="#">French, English</a>
<b>Director General</b>	<a href="#">Ajay Mathur</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">International Solar Alliance</a> <a href="#">↗</a> <a href="#">New website of International Solar Alliance</a> <a href="#">↗</a> available in UNO's six languages.



# Nabhmitra Application



Recently, the Nabhmitra application helped fishermen in the sea during cyclone Dana using the Vessel Communication and Support System.

Nabhmitra allows real-time tracking of vessel positions, course and speeds, helping fishermen return safely to shore during adverse weather conditions like cyclones.

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying featuring indigenous transponder technology.
- It enables two-way communication which was not possible before induction of this technology beyond mobile coverage range.



It was developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and is being implemented through NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), commercial arm of ISRO.



Traditionally, authorities relied on Very High Frequency Radio Waves and phone calls to contact vessels but locating fishing boats in distant waters was difficult due to absence of mobile networks.

# India's First Biomanufacturing Institute


- Recently, India's first Biomanufacturing Institute, the "BRIC-National Agri-Food Bio-Manufacturing Institute" (BRIC-NABI), was inaugurated in Mohali.
- About BRIC-NABI: It is formed by merging National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) and the Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB), combining expertise in biotechnology and bioprocessing to scale up agri-tech innovations.



- 
- It aims to boost India's agri-food sector through advanced biotechnology, enhancing agricultural R&D for high-yield crops, disease-resistant crops, biofertilizers, and biopesticides to support sustainable practices.



Hwasong-19

- 
- 
- North Korea recently conducted a test launch of its intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Hwasong-19, which it claims to be “the world’s strongest strategic missile.”



- **About Hwasong-19:**
- **Nation:** North Korea
- **Purpose:** Long-range intercontinental ballistic missile, aimed at deterring external threats and asserting North Korea's military capabilities.
- **Key features:**
  - **Fuel type:** Uses solid fuel, enhancing mobility and readiness by eliminating the need for on-site fueling.
  - **Size:** Estimated to be over 28 meters long, significantly larger than similar ICBMs from other nations.
  - **Detection risk:** Large size and transport vehicles make it easier to detect, raising concerns about its survival in actual combat

### Comparable Missiles from Other Nations:

- **United States: Minuteman III**
- Solid-fueled ICBM, designed for long-range precision nuclear strike capabilities.

### Russia: RS-24 Yars

- Solid-fueled, highly mobile and with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs) for enhanced strike potential.

### China: DF-41

- Solid-fueled ICBM, capable of reaching targets over 12,000 km away, with MIRV capability.



# Namo Drone Didi





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- The Government of India has launched the “Namo Drone Didi” scheme to empower women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).






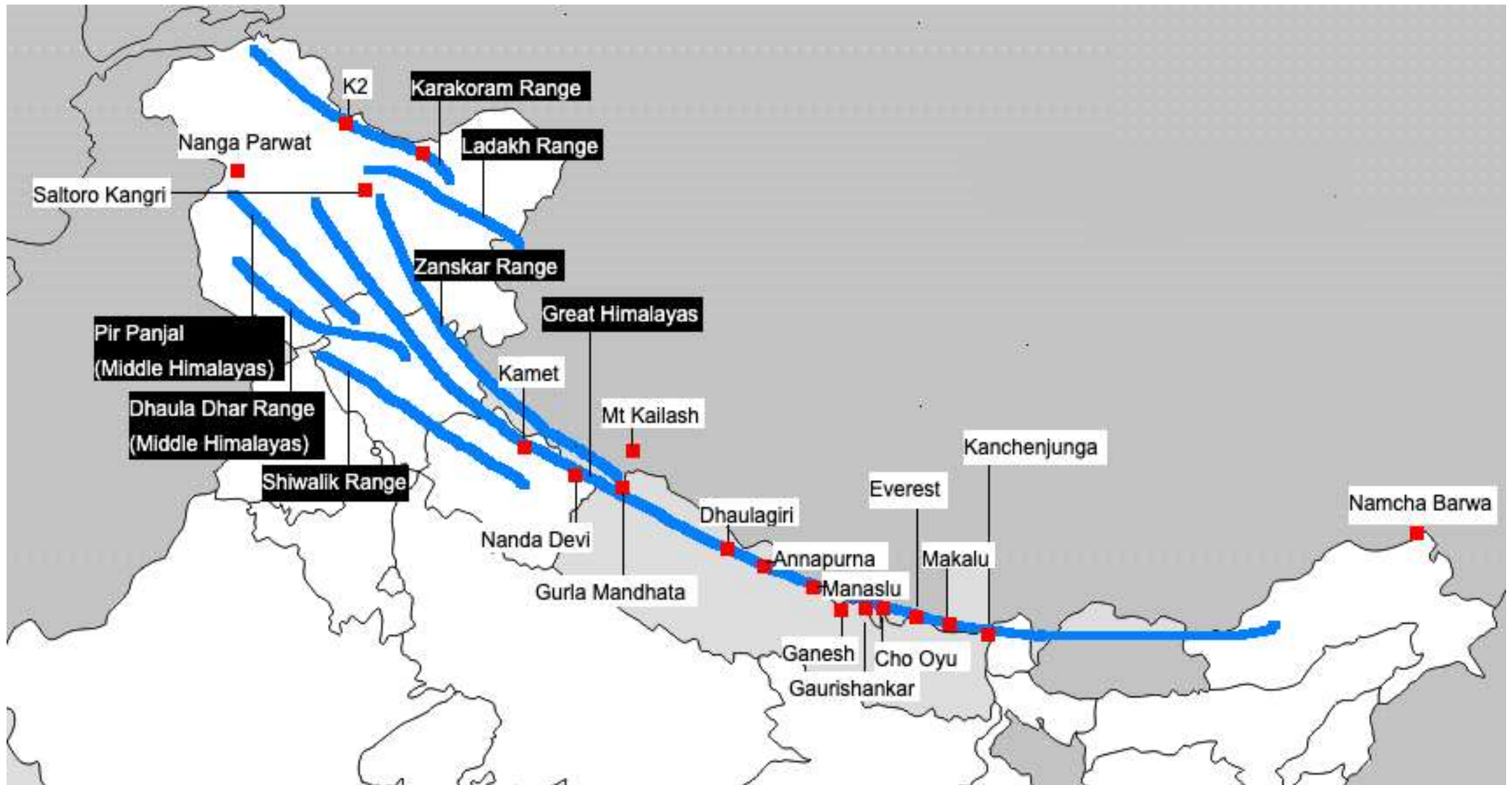



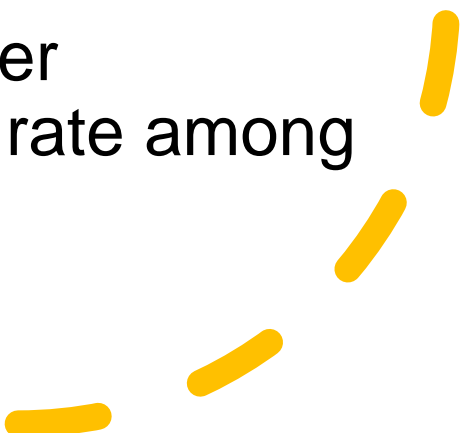
- 
- **Origin:** Launched by the Government of India under the DAY-NRLM initiative.
  - **Aim:** To provide women SHGs with drones for agriculture-related services, empowering them with new income sources while enhancing farming efficiency.
  - **Ministry:** Administered by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development
- 



# Mount Annapurna

- 
- 
- Annapurna Base Camp (ABC), located at the base of Annapurna-I, has witnessed a record-breaking influx of tourists following this year's Dashain festival.



- 
- **About Mount Annapurna:**
  - **Location:** Situated in the Annapurna Range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal.
  - **Elevation:** Stands as the world's tenth-highest peak, reaching 8,091 meters above sea level.
  - **Conservation:** Encompassed within the Annapurna Conservation Area, covering 7,629 square kilometers.
  - **Nickname:** Often called the “Killer Mountain” due to its high fatality rate among climbers attempting to summit.
- 

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# Word of the day

## **Detract:**

take away a part from; diminish

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**Usage:** *His bad manners detract from his good character.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/detractpro](http://newsth.live/detractpro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /dɪ'trækt/

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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 blurred, showing more people and a window with light coming through. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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