Daily Current Affairs





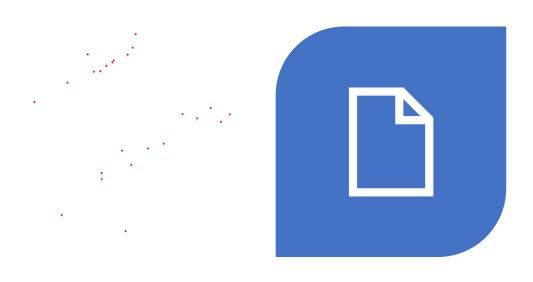








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10 MCQ QUIZ



- Which country is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on defense cooperation by the end of 2025?
- कौन सा देश 2025 के अंत तक भारत के साथ रक्षा सहयोग पर एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए तैयार है?
- A. France / फ्रांस
 - B. Belgium / बेल्जियम
 - C. Germany / जर्मनी
 - D. United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम

- What is the key strategic goal of Belgium in strengthening defense ties with India?
- भारत के साथ रक्षा संबंधों को मजबूत करने में बेल्जियम का प्रमुख रणनीतिक लक्ष्य क्या है?
- A. To expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific / इंडो-पैसिफिक में अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाना
 - B. To achieve "strategic autonomy" in defense / रक्षा में "रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता" प्राप्त करना
 - C. To supply advanced missiles to India / भारत को उन्नत मिसाइलें आपूर्ति करना
 - D. To reduce dependence on NATO alliances / NATO गठबंधन पर निर्भरता कम करना

- Which Indian company has partnered with Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD) to manufacture tank turrets?
- कौन सी भारतीय कंपनी बेल्जियम की जॉन कॉकरेल डिफेंस (JCD) के साथ टैंक टर्रट्स के निर्माण के लिए साझेदारी कर रही है?
- A. Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) / भारत डायनेमिक्स लिमिटेड (BDL)
 - B. Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) / इलेक्ट्रो न्यूमैटिक्स एड हाइड्रांलिक्स (EPH)
 - C. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) / हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL)
 - D. Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स

- What is the name of India's indigenous light tank program for which tank turrets are being developed?
- भारत के स्वदेशी हल्के टैंक कार्यक्रम का नाम क्या है, जिसके लिए टैंक टर्रट्स विकसित किए जा रहे हैं?
- A. Arjun Mk-II / अर्जुन Mk-II
 - B. K-9 Vajra / के-9 वज़
 - C. Zorawar / ज़ोरावर

- What is the targeted Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) achieved by India under the National Health Policy?
- राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नीति के तहत भारत ने किस मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया है?
- A. 150 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 150 मीतें
 - B. 120 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 120 मीतें
 - C. 100 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 100 मौतें
 - D. 80 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 80 मौतें

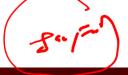
- Which new technological initiative has been launched under the Bharat Health Initiative?
- भारत स्वास्थ्य पहल के तहत कौन सी नई तकनीकी पहल शुरू की गई है?
- A. BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri)
 - B. PM-JAY Digital Health Mission
 - C. National e-Health Program (NeHP)
 - D. Ayushman Bharat 2.0

- What is the primary objective of 'Payodhi' launched by AIIMS?
- AIIMS द्वारा शुरू किए गए 'पयोधि' का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. To provide nutrition to pregnant women / गर्भवती महिलाओं को पोषण प्रदान करना
 - B. To provide pasteurized donor human milk to critically ill preterm babies / गंभीर रूप से बीमार समयपूर्व शिशुओं को पास्चुराइज़ किया हुआ दान किया गया मानव दूध प्रदान करना
 - ेंटे. To develop vaccines for newborns / नवजात शिशुओं के लिए टीके विकसित करना
 - D. To promote breastfeeding awareness / स्तनपान जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देना

- Which two companies were recently granted 'Navratna' status by the Central Government?
- केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में किन दो कंपनियों को 'नवरत्न' का दर्जा दिया गया?
- A. BHEL and ONGC
 - B. IRCTC and IRFC
 - C. NTPC and SAIL
 - D. HAL and BEL

- According to the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, who heads the search-cum-selection committee for central tribunals?
- न्यायाधिकरण सुधार अधिनियम, 2021 के अनुसार, केंद्रीय न्यायाधिकरणों के लिए खोज-सह-चयन समिति का अध्यक्ष कौन होता है?
- A. Prime Minister of India / भारत के प्रधानमंत्री
 - B. Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by CJI / भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) या उनके द्वारा नामित एक सुप्रीम कोर्ट जज
 - C. Chairperson of the Tribunal / न्यायाधिकरण के अध्यक्ष
 - D. Union Minister of Law and Justice / कानून और न्याय मंत्री

- Under which Constitutional Amendment were tribunals introduced in India?
- भारत में न्यायाधिकरण (Tribunals) किस संवैधानिक संशोधन के तहत पेश किए गए थे?
- A. 39th Amendment Act, 1975
 - B. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
 - C. 44th Amendment Act, 1978
 - D. 52nd Amendment Act, 1985



By Bhunesh Sir

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FOR THE NATION IT IS

EVERYTHING OR NOTHING

FROM ETERNAL EXPLORER







Centralising bias threatens federal health policy Court's domicile quota verdict will affect States





Maharashtra SP MLA suspended

MUMBIAI
Amid a controversy over his
praising of Mughal emperor
Aurangzeb, Samajwadi Party
(SP) MLA Abu Azmi was on
Wednesday suspended from
the Maharashtra Assembly till
the end of the ongoing Budget
Session. 39 PAGE 4

Jaishankar holds discussions with U.K. counterpart

LONDON
On an official visit to the U.K.,
External Affairs Minister
S. Jaishankar and his British
counteppart, Foreign Secretary
David Lammy, engaged in
wide-ranging discussions on
the bilateral ties, the Minister
said on Wednesday. a PAGE 6 said on Wednesday. » PAGE 6

Pakistan mourns victims of Army base bomb attack

PESHAWAR observed a day of mourning on Wednesday, after a twin suicide bombing at a military base there a day before killed

U.S. will impose reciprocal | Zelenskyy is ready tariffs from April 2: Trump

U.S. President terms 'high levies' by India and others as 'very unfair', he says if these countries do not manufacture products in America, they will pay a tariff and in 'some cases, a rather large one'

J.S. President Do-nald Trump criti-cised the high tacised the high tarrifts charged by India naother countries, terming them as 'very unfair' and
them as 'very unfair' and
rifts from April 2 on narifts from April 2 on natins that impose levies on
American goods.

American goods.

Emarks in an address to
the Joint Session of the
Congress on Tuesday. It
was the first address of his
twas the first address of his
Pouse.

House.
"If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one," Mr. Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On aver-age, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada – have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher ta-riffs than we charge them," the U.S. President said.

"It's very unfair, India

Trade in numbers

India's total export \$52	.9 billion	India's total imports for \$29.6 billion	
Electrical	\$7.68m	Mineral fuels and oils	\$9.9b
machinery		Precious stones/	53.7h
Precious stones/	\$6.3bn	metals	33.20
metals	******	Nuclear reactors &	52.86
Pharmaceuticals	\$5.9bn	boilers	52.80

February, Mr. Trump said that his administration would 'soon' impose reci-procal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. capital last month.

Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from the reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "no-body can argue with me" on tariff structure.
"China's average tariff

on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. Think of that. Four times higher. And we give so much help militarily and in so many charges us auto tariffs high-er than 100 per cent." In But that's what happens.

This is happening by friend and foe," Mr. Trump said.
"We've been ripped off for decades by nearly ev-we will not let that happen any longer," the U.S. Presi-dent said.
Asserting that this sys-tem is "not fair to the Unic-west of the Unic-ternity of the Unic-design of the Unic-ternity of the U

Mr. Trump said that reci-procal tariffs will kick in from April 2: the property of the property us, other countries, we will tariff them. That's recipro-cal, back and forth, he said, amid applause from Republican lawmakers. "Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they do

ditional tariffs of up to 15% on imports of key U.S. farm non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their mar-ket, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep

RESHAPE AMERICA

\$2.8bm

They don't even allow us in

They don't even allow us in their market. We will take in trillions and trillions of dollars and create jobs like we have never seen be-fore," Mr. Trump said. Mr. Trump is imple-menting a 25% additional

menting a 25% additional tariff on imports from Ca-nada and Mexico and a 10% additional tariff on im-ports from China. In a reta-liatory action, Canada said that effective March 4, 2025, it is imposing 25% ta-riffs on \$30 billion in goods imported from the United States. Mexico said it will an-

nounce reciprocal action on Sunday. China also an-

nounced it will impose ad-

for peace talks, deal on minerals: Trump

soon as possible to

bring lasting peace closer. Nobody

wants peace more than the Ukrainians

the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobo-dy wants peace more than the Ukrainians."

"My team and I stand rea-dy to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts,"

Mr. Trump quoted Mr. Ze-lenskyy as writing. "We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sove-

reignty and indepen-dence." He added that Mr.

ssociated Press

U.S. President Donald Frump said on Tuesday that Ukrainian leader Volc

ritimp salation the roseous of the comment of the c

came after Vice-President J.D. Vance, who was a ma-jor player in the break-down between the Presi-dent and Mr. Zelenskyy on Friday, struck a new nerve with allies by offering sceptical comments about a poential international security force for postwar Ukraine proposed by Bri-

tain and France.
"Earlier today, I re-ceived an important letter Zelenskyy said he was rea-dy to sign the minerals deal "at any time that is convenient for you."

Although Mr. Trump
said he "appreciated" getting the letter, he did not of Ukraine," Mr. Trump said. Quoting from the let-ter, Mr. Trump said Mr. Zelenskyy told him that "Uk-

opposes civil society group march to hills

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

The proposed "march to the hill districts" by an Im-phal Valley-based civil society organisation on March 8 has been opposed

March S has been opposed by Ruik-Zo groups.

Manipur, scarred, which was a substitute of the control of the con

from March 8.
FOCS president Th. Ma-nihar said the objective of the expedition was to deliver messages of peace to the "buffer zones" (on the pe-riphery of the Imphal Valley) and the hill villages that have remained largely inaccessible since the eth-nic violence broke out 22 months ago. The FOCS comprises 20 groups. "Af-ter discussing Home Minister discussing Home Minis-ter Amit Shah's directive, we decided to launch this expedition to visit the hills where the Meitei people say if it would affect his policy toward Ukraine. have not been able to go since May 2023," he said.

Farmers' Chandigarh march thwarted; protesters burn effigies of CM Mann

Several farmers heading towards Chandigarh for a sit-in to press for fulfilment of their demands under the banner of the Samyuk-ta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella farmer body that spearheaded the 2020-21 day rounded up and stopped at different parts stopped at different parts of Punjab by the police. Members of farmer groups burned effigies of Chief Mi-nister Bhagwant Singh Mann to express their

Elaborate security arrangements were in place in most of districts of Punjab, and security was beefed up in Chandigarh, with multiple barricades put at up at all entry points to the Union Territory. Up-set over not being allowed to march to Cnauses, the farmers were seen raising slogans against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)led State government at different locations.
The proposed protest
was intended to be against
both the ruling AAP in Punjab and the Bharatiya Janabaraty (18)P at the Centre.
The SKM, in a statement, condemned what it
leashed by Punjab's AAP
overnment on farmers

eral farmer leaders". The Morcha demanded that all leaders be released and permission be given for the protest in Chandigarh.

Sukhdev Singh Korika-lan, general-secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Union of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekita-Ugraham), one of the largest farmer unions in Punjah, said, "Hundreds of who started to march in groups to Chandigarh, were forcibly stopped and detained by the police in grur, Mansa, Pariala, Ludhana, Muktsar, Fazilka, Armritsar and Jalandhar districts." SKM's protesting farmers have been at loggerheads since their inconclusive meeting on Monday. The SKM had announced it would go ahead with their proposed week-long sit-in protest in Chandigarh from

'Govt. disrespectful'
The farmer body has al-The farmer body has al-leged that the Chief Minis-ter did not "properly lis-ten" to their demands at their meeting, which they said was "unfortunate and disrespectful". Mr. Mann has said that farmers "want to protest in the State for no reason related

ment", and Puniab is turn ing into a 'dharna state'. Farmers have also been

demanding the Punjab go-vernment frame the agrivernment frame the agri-culture policy in favour of farmers; promote cultiva-tion of crops that require less water; and guarantee the purchase of six crop sat Minimum Support Prices (MSP). (MSP).

They have also called for the rejection of the Centre's draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, and sought a legal guarantee for MSP, in accordance with the M.S. Swaminsthan Commission report.

T.N. parties unitedly urge Centre to retain existing LS seats for 30 years

An all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin here on Wednesday unani-mously urged the Centre to retain the existing number of Lok Sabha seats and the constitutional boundaries beyond 2026, A resolution adopted at the meeting said Tamil Nadu's existing 7.18% of the total seats must not be reduced under any circumstances during the delimitation exercise. In 2001, the 84th Constitutional Amendment had frozen the constituency boundaries till the first Census after 2026.] The meeting also decid-

ed to constitute a Joint Action Committee with repre sentatives of political parties from all southern States to take forward the struggle to prevent reduc-tion of seats.
"It is unjustifiable to re-

"It is unjustifiable to reduce the number of Lok Sabha seats of the south-ern States because they remained the south-mented population control measures. The Centre should retain the existing arrangement for the next arrangement for the next 2026 as promised by then Prime Minister [Atal Bihari Vajpayee] in 2000 that de-limitation would be decid-



ed based on the 1971 census. It is necessary to make other States to implement sures," Mr. Stalin said.

Grave dangers
The resolution condemned the delimitation on
BIP-led Union government,
saying it was posing a grave
danger to the political redut and other southern
States.
Mr. stalin said the demodel of the southern
Mr. stalin said the Bip
government was not ready

of 39 MPs, "We must take a of 39 MPs. "We must take a firm stand on the issue. We have to unequivocally op-pose the delimitation based on the census in 2026," he said. "The delim-itation is a Damocles sword

Itation is a Damocles sword hanging over south India... If the Centre retained the properties of the Centre retained the constituencies, Tamil Na-du's representation will be reduced by eight seats," he also explained that Tamil Nadu would get ad-diated the control of the con-trencies were increased to 8-48 and delimitation was followed on per cent basis.

just 10 seats if delimitation is done based on the pre sent population. Both the methods will increase the

lated. We must defeat the conspiracy," he warned. Representatives of 59 political parties participat-ed in the meeting. The RJP and its allies (except AMMK); the Naam Tamiz-har Katchi, Puthiya Tamiz-hagam, and Dr. MGR Kudi-yarasu Katchi did not attend.

Trade in numbers

Tables show top exports and imports between the U.S. and India from April 2024 to Nov. 2024

India's total exports to the U.S.

\$52.9 billion

TOP EXPORTS TO U.S.

Electrical machinery	\$7.6bn	
Precious stones/ metals	\$6.3bn	
Pharmaceuticals	\$5.9bn	

India's total imports from the U.S.

\$29.6 billion

TOP IMPORTS FRO	MU.S.
Mineral fuels and oils	\$9.9bn
Precious stones/ metals	\$3.2bn
Nuclear reactors & boilers	\$2.8bn

U.S. will impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2: Trump

U.S. President terms 'high levies' by India and others as 'very unfair', he says if these countries do not manufacture products in America, they will pay a tariff and in 'some cases, a rather large one'

\$6.3bn

\$5.9bn

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

I.S. President Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as "very unfair" and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods.

Mr. Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on Tuesday. It was the first address of his second term in the White House.

"If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one," Mr. Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada - have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them," the U.S. President said.

"It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent." In



February, Mr. Trump said that his administration would "soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. capital last month.

Precious stones/

Pharmaceuticals

metals

'India won't be spared'

He has made it clear to Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from the reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure.

"China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. Think of that. Four times higher. And we give so much help militarily and in so many other ways to South Korea. But that's what happens. This is happening by friend and foe," Mr. Trump said.

"We've been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on earth, and we will not let that happen any longer," the U.S. President said.

Asserting that this system is "not fair to the United States" and never was, Mr. Trump said that reciprocal tariffs will kick in from April 2.

"Whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them. That's reciprocal, back and forth," he said, amid applause from Republican lawmakers.

"Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they do non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market. There's a lot of that too.

They don't even allow us in their market. We will take in trillions and trillions of dollars and create jobs like we have never seen before," Mr. Trump said.

\$3.2bn

\$2.8bn

Precious stones/

Nuclear reactors &

metals

boilers

Mr. Trump is implementing a 25% additional tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10% additional tariff on imports from China. In a retaliatory action, Canada said that effective March 4, 2025, it is imposing 25% tariffs on \$30 billion in goods imported from the United States.

Mexico said it will announce reciprocal action on Sunday. China also announced it will impose additional tariffs of up to 15% on imports of key U.S. farm products.

'RESHAPE AMERICA'

» PAGE 14

U.S. to Impose Reciprocal Tariffs on India and Other Nations from April 2: Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced reciprocal tariffs starting April 2 on nations imposing levies on American goods, including India and China.

Trump called India's tariffs 'very unfair' and accused other countries of exploiting the U.S. for decades.

The new tariff policy aims to ensure fair trade by imposing tariffs equivalent to what other nations charge the U.S.

- (अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने 2 अप्रैल से उन देशों पर प्रतिशोधी टैरिफ लगाने की घोषणा की है जो अमेरिकी सामानों पर शुल्क लगाते हैं, जिसमें भारत और चीन भी शामिल हैं।
- ट्रंप ने भारत के टैरिफ को "बहुत अनुचित" बताया और अन्य देशों पर अमेरिका का दशकों तक शोषण करने का आरोप लगाया।
- नई टैरिफ नीति का उद्देश्य निष्पक्ष व्यापार सुनिश्चित करना है, जिससे अन्य देश जितना कर लगाते हैं, अमेरिका भी उतना ही कर लगाएगा।

- India exports goods worth \$52.9 billion to the U.S., while U.S. exports to India stand at \$29.6 billion.
- India's top exports to the U.S.: Electrical machinery (\$7.6bn), Precious stones/metals (\$6.3bn), Pharmaceuticals (\$5.9bn).
- India's top imports from the U.S.: Mineral fuels & oils (\$9.9bn), Precious stones/metals (\$3.2bn), Nuclear reactors & boilers (\$2.8bn).
- China, Canada, and Mexico have announced retaliatory tariffs against the U.S.

- भारत अमेरिका को \$52.9 बिलियन मूल्य का सामान निर्यात करता है, जबिक अमेरिका भारत को \$29.6 बिलियन का निर्यात करता है।
- भारत का अमेरिका को शीर्ष निर्यात: इलेक्ट्रिकल मशीनरी (\$7.6bn), कीमती पत्थर/धातुएं (\$6.3bn), फार्मास्युटिकल्स (\$5.9bn)।
- भारत का अमेरिका से शीर्ष आयात: खनिज ईंधन और तेल (\$9.9bn), कीमती पत्थर/धातुएं (\$3.2bn), परमाणु रिएक्टर और बॉयलर (\$2.8bn)।
- चीन, कनाडा और मेक्सिको ने अमेरिका के खिलाफ जवाबी टैरिफ लगाने की घोषणा की है।)

- A. Social Aspects (सामाजिक पहलू)
- Higher tariffs on imported goods may lead to increased consumer prices, impacting the general public.
- The trade war could affect industries relying on imported materials, causing disruptions in employment.
- Indian exporters might face challenges, leading to reduced competitiveness in the U.S. market.
- If India retaliates with tariffs, it could affect Indian-American businesses dependent on U.S. trade.

- (आयातित वस्तुओं पर उच्च कर के कारण उपभोक्ताओं को महंगाई का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- ट्रेड वॉर के कारण उन उद्योगों पर असर पड़ सकता है जो आयातित कच्चे माल पर निर्भर हैं, जिससे नौकरियों में बाधा आ सकती है।
- भारतीय निर्यातकों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जिससे अमेरिकी बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा कम हो सकती है।
- यदि भारत प्रतिशोधी कर लगाता है, तो यह उन भारतीय-अमेरिकी व्यवसायों को प्रभावित कर सकता है जो अमेरिकी व्यापार पर निर्भर हैं।)

- Economic Aspects (आर्थिक पहलू)
- The U.S. move could impact India's exports, especially in sectors like pharmaceuticals, machinery, and gems.
- India might have to find alternative markets to compensate for potential losses in the U.S. market.
- Increased import tariffs on U.S. goods could lead to costlier energy imports, affecting India's trade balance.
- Tariff hikes might disrupt global supply chains, impacting multinational corporations operating in India.
- India may face a trade deficit if the U.S. market becomes less accessible due to higher tariffs.

(अमेरिका के इस कदम से भारत के निर्यात पर असर पड़ सकता है, खासकर फार्मास्युटिकल्स, मशीनरी और रत्न-जवाहरात जैसे क्षेत्रों में।

भारत को संभावित नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए वैकल्पिक बाजार तलाशने पड़ सकते हैं।

अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर अधिक आयात शुल्क से ऊर्जा आयात महंगा हो सकता है, जिससे भारत का व्यापार संतुलन प्रभावित हो सकता है।

टैरिफ वृद्धि से वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं में बाधा आ सकती है, जिससे भारत में काम कर रही बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों पर असर पड़ेगा।

यदि अमेरिकी बाजार टैरिफ वृद्धि के कारण कम सुलभ हो जाता है, तो भारत व्यापार घाटे का सामना कर सकता है।)

- Political Aspects (राजनीतिक पहलू)
- Trump's tariff decision aligns with his "America First" policy, aimed at protecting domestic industries.
- India may consider retaliatory tariffs to counterbalance the impact on its exports.
- The move could strain India-U.S. trade relations, leading to diplomatic negotiations.
- Countries like China and Canada have already announced countermeasures, which could escalate trade tensions.
- India might push for stronger trade agreements with the European Union and other Asian nations to diversify trade dependence

- (ट्रंप का यह टैरिफ निर्णय उनकी "अमेरिका फर्स्ट" नीति के अनुरूप है, जिसका उद्देश्य घरेलू उद्योगों की रक्षा करना है।
- भारत अपने निर्यात पर प्रभाव को संतुलित करने के लिए प्रतिशोधी टैरिफ लगाने पर विचार कर सकता है।
- इस कदम से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों में तनाव बढ़ सकता है, जिससे राजनियक वार्ता शुरू हो सकती है।
- चीन और कनाडा जैसे देशों ने पहले ही जवाबी उपायों की घोषणा कर दी है,
 जिससे व्यापार तनाव बढ़ सकता है।
- भारत यूरोपीय संघ और अन्य एशियाई देशों के साथ मजबूत व्यापार समझौतों की दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकता है ताकि व्यापार पर निर्भरता को विविध बनाया जा सके।)

- Conclusion (निष्कर्ष)
- India's exports to the U.S. will face challenges due to increased tariffs, impacting key industries.
- India may need to enhance trade relations with other nations to offset potential losses.
- Higher import costs from the U.S. could disrupt domestic industries and increase inflation.
- Diplomatic negotiations will be crucial to prevent long-term damage to India-U.S. trade ties.
- The trade war could lead to broader geopolitical shifts, affecting global trade dynamics.

- (भारत का अमेरिका को निर्यात बढ़ते टैरिफ के कारण चुनौतियों का सामना करेगा, जिससे प्रमुख उद्योग प्रभावित होंगे।
- भारत को संभावित नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए अन्य देशों के साथ व्यापार संबंधों को मजबूत करना होगा।
- अमेरिका से महंगे आयात घरेलू उद्योगों को बाधित कर सकते हैं और मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ा सकते हैं।
- भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को दीर्घकालिक नुकसान से बचाने के लिए राजनियक वार्ताएं आवश्यक होंगी।
- व्यापार युद्ध व्यापक भू-राजनीतिक बदलावों को जन्म दे सकता है, जिससे वैश्विक व्यापार गतिशीलता प्रभावित हो सकती है।)



LeBron first to score 50,000 combined points in NBA

LeBron James became the first player to score 50,000 combined points in the regular NBA season and post-season on Tuesday night, surpassing the mark with a 3-pointer early in the first quarter of Los Angeles Lakers' 136-115 win over New Orleans. "I mean, that's a lot of points," LeBron said.

Smith calls time on ODI career



Great ride: Smith featured in 170 one-dayers. PTI

Agence France-Presse SYDNEY

Steve Smith retired from ODIs after the loss to India in the Champions Trophy semifinal, Cricket Australia said on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old batter will continue to play Tests and T20Is.

Smith told teammates of his decision to retire immediately after Australia's four-wicket defeat in Dubai on Tuesday.

"It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said in a Cricket Australia press release. After making his debut against the West Indies in 2010 as a leg-spinning allrounder, Smith went on to play 170 ODIs, scoring 5,800 runs at an average of 43.28.

"There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories," Smith said.

"Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic teammates who shared the journey. Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup... so it feels like the right time to make way".



On his own terms: Sharath has timed his retirement to perfection. R. RAVINDRAN

Table tennis legend Sharath calls it a day

WTT Star Contender in Chennai to be his last outing; aged 42, the five-time Olympian is the highest-ranked Indian in the world at 42

SCHEME FOR WOMEN AGED BELOW 60

₹2,500 pm payout for Delhi women: Annual income cap set at ₹3 lakh

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

WOMEN WHOSE household income is less than Rs 3 lakh per year, and those who do not pay tax will be eligible for the Rs 2,500 grant from the Delhi government, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Only those aged between 18 and 60, who do not hold government jobs and are not receiving any other government financial assistance, will get the grant under the BJP government's Mahila Samriddhi Scheme, officials said.

The scheme was one of the top poll promises made by the BJP in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that it will be implemented by March 8, International Women's Day.

According to sources, the government has estimated that around 15-20 lakh women will meet the criteria.

"Several rounds of meetings have taken place to finalise the modalities of the scheme. The Cabinet note will be ready by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Anju Rathi Rana appointed first ever woman Law Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

ANJU RATHI Rana, an Indian Legal Service officer, was on Wednesday appointed as the new Law Secretary. She is the first woman to be appointed as Secretary, Legal Affairs, who is also called the Law Secretary.

Rana joined the Law Ministry as a Joint Secretary in 2027. Prior to that, she was a public prosecutor in the Delhi government for 18 years.

A notification announcing her appointment was issued on Wednesday.

Niten Chandra, an IAS officer, was the Law Secretary until a few months ago and the post had been lying vacant since then.

EY award for KV Kamath, Nithin Kamath

New Delhi: Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Zerodha Nithin Kamath has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 on Wednesday, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav presented the award to Nithin. Chairman of Jio Financial Services KV Kamath received Lifetime Achievement award former ISRO chief S Somanath received the Special Jury award. **ENS**

Tesla's first showroom will be in Mumbai

New Delhi: US electric carmaker Tesla has signed a lease deal to open its first showroom in Mumbai, as it moves towards a goal to sell imported cars in India, registration papers show, after it dropped similar plans last year.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The papers show the company has signed a five-year lease from February 16, 2025, and will pay rent of about \$4,46,000 for the first year for a 4,003 square feet (372 sq m) space, almost the size of a basketball court.

The rent will increase by 5 per cent every year reaching about \$5,42,000 for the fifth year, according to the registered lease document provided by analytics firm CRE Matrix.

The showroom will be situated in the Maker Maxity building in the business and retail hub of Bandra Kurla Complex near Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport, according to the papers.

In February, Tesla reportedly selected locations for two showrooms in New Delhi and Mumbai, days after the carmaker's chief Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US. Reuters

Global BEV Market Share in 2023

The top 10 companies make up 65% of the overall market.

TOP 10 COMPANIES

ALL OTHER BRANDS

United States

19.9%





НҮППОЯІ

4.6% W Volkswagen

3.6%









- S. Korea

Germany

BEV = Battery Electric Vehicle (Fully electric)

Source: TrendForce, Feb 2024

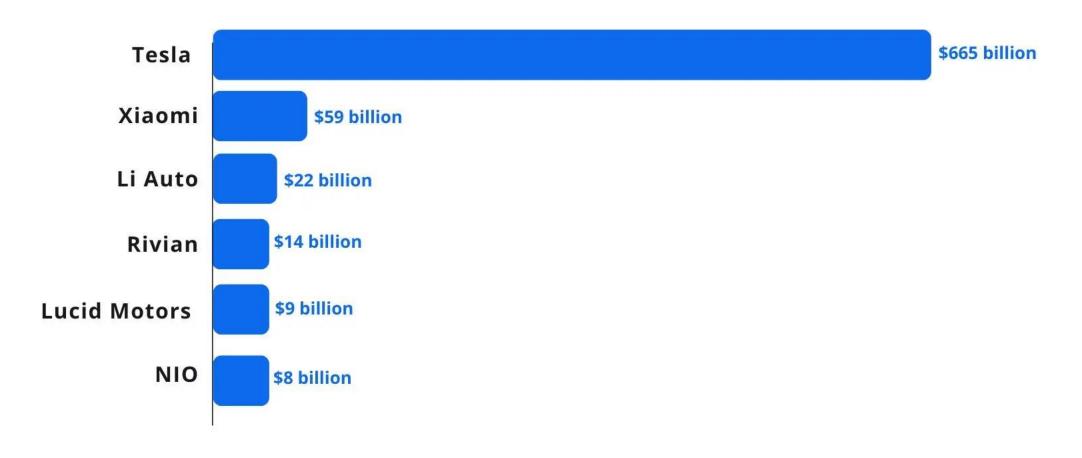






Largest EV Manufacturers by Market Cap

Source: www.companiesmarketcap.com





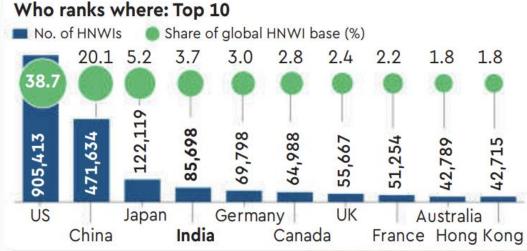
26 new billionaires in India in '24

THE TOTAL NUMBER of billionaires in India reached 191 in 2024, a 16% y-o-y growth, according to a report by Knight

Viveat Susan Pinto.

Frank, reports -

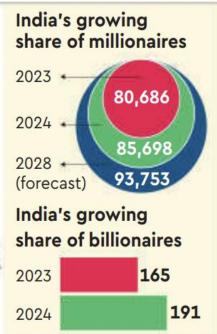
26 of India's billionaires were created in the last one year, up from seven in 2019. The report also said there were 85,698 high networth individuals or millionaires in India in 2024, a rise of 6% year-on-year and putting it at fourth spot behind the US, China & Japan.





individuals with at least \$1 mn in investable assets:

Source: The Wealth Report 2025 (Knight Frank)



Ola, Lenovo to make India's largest supercomputer

FE BUREAU Bengaluru, March 5

OLA HAS ANNOUNCED a strategic partnership with Lenovo to develop India's largest supercomputer.

The announcement comes a month after Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal committed ₹2,000 crore to his AI venture, Krutrim, with plans to invest ₹10,000 crore by next year.

Ola is also setting up an AI research lab, building its own cloud infrastructure and AI chips, — with

a team of 700 employees dedicated to its full-stack AI initiatives. The company's AI-first cloud will include application layers, agentic platforms, contact center AI, and manufacturing AI solutions.

At Lenovo TechWorld India 2025 in Mumbai, Ola Group CIO Navendu Agarwal said, "We are building the largest infrastructure and along with Lenovo, we are building the largest supercomputer of India that will be powered in our cloud." **FE BUREAU**

CHINA UPS DEFENCE SPEND, SIGNALS IT'S

China on Wednesday unveiled measures in its draft budget to shield itself from 'changes unseen in a century (that) were unfolding across the world at a faster pace'. Facing higher tariffs and prospects of exports plunging, it signalled a stimulus aimed at boosting consumption. strengthening banks to support growth

5% GROWTH TARGET

- > For 3rd year in a row, it set a 5% growth target for 2025 based on higher spending
- > Fiscal deficit target is pegged at around 4% of gross domestic product - the highest in over three decades. Chinese premier Li Qiang vowed to 'vigorously boost' consumption, referring to it 31 times in his report, up from 21 last year

DEF BUDGET 3X INDIA'S

> Defence spend is set to rise 7.2% to 1.8 trillion yuan (\$245bn) in 2025, equalling last year's growth, indicating Xi Jinping's push for a strong



military that can take on the might of the US

> The budget is more than 3 times India's (\$79bn) and 2nd only to US (\$900bn). Experts say China's actual defence

spend is at least 40-50% higher than official outlay



30% JUMP IN **BORROWINGS**

- > China's borrowings through ultra-long special treasury bonds are projected to jump 30% to 1.3 trillion yuan (\$179 billion) from 1 trillion in 2024. Local govt allowed to issue 4.4 trillion yuan in special debt. ¥¥¥ against 3.9tn yuan last year
- > Special sovereign bonds of 500 billion yuan (\$69 billion) proposed to be issued to biggest banks to boost capital **SEE PAGE 7**

IF WAR IS WHAT THE US WANTS, BE IT A TARIFF WAR, A TRADE WAR OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF WAR, WE'RE READY TO FIGHT TILL THE END - Chinese govt statement

GERMANY SEEKS NOD DEF SPEND

> Chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz unveils plans to amend Constitution to FOR HIGHER exempt defence, security outlays from limits on fiscal spending



> Plans on anvil for a €500 billion (\$528 billion) infrastructure fund to invest in transport, energy grids & housing over 10 years



NASA is set to launch the PUNCH mission on March 6, 2025, to study the Sun's corona and heliosphere.

About PUNCH Mission

Launched by:

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).







Sudan's ongoing conflict has halted the global trade of gum arabic, a critical ingredient in food, beverages, and cosmetics.



With 70% of the world's supply coming from Sudan, major companies like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo face potential shortages in the coming months.



Gum Arabic is a natural resin derived from the Acacia trees found in the Sahel region of Africa. It is used as a stabilizer, emulsifier, and thickening agent in various industries.

Food & Beverages: Prevents ingredient separation in soft drinks, candies, and baked goods.

Cosmetics: Used in **lotions, creams, and makeup** for consistency.

Pharmaceuticals: Acts as a binding agent in medicines and capsules.

Printing & Textiles: Used in **inks and dyes** for better adhesion.

- Sudan: Supplies 70% of global demand.
- Other Countries: Chad, Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali also produce gum arabic, but in smaller quantities.
- Significance of Gum Arabic
- No Viable Substitute: Essential for carbonated drinks, ensuring proper ingredient blending.
- Economic Importance: A major export commodity for Sudan.
- Global Supply Chain Dependency: Disruptions in Sudan directly impact multinational corporations like PepsiCo and Coca-Cola.



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi flagged off India's first fleet of hydrogen-powered heavyduty truck trials in New Delhi.

The trials align with the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), reinforcing India's commitment to clean mobility and energy security.



 Hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks use fuel cell technology, converting hydrogen into electricity to power vehicles. These trucks offer a zero-emission alternative to diesel-powered transportation.

Launched By

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Supported by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

Key Features

- Zero Emissions: No carbon emissions, reducing air pollution and dependency on fossil fuels.
- Long Range & Fast Refueling: Hydrogen-powered trucks offer a longer driving range and quicker refueling times compared to battery-electric vehicles.
- Operational Routes: Initially deployed on the Faridabad–Delhi NCR and Ahmedabad–Surat–Vadodara routes.
- Hydrogen Refueling Stations: IOCL is setting up hydrogen refueling infrastructure in Faridabad, Vadodara, Pune, and Balasore.
- Energy Security: Reduces India's oil import dependency, supporting clean energy transition.



China's geologists have found one million tonnes of thorium in the Mongolia region of China.

Thorium's Potential

Thorium generates **200 times more energy than uranium** and is safer with no risk of meltdown, no need for water cooling, and minimal radioactive waste.

Thorium molten-salt reactors (TMSRs) are seen as a game-changer for global energy production.

China's Energy Projects

- China has approved the world's first TMSR power plant, set to generate 10 megawatts by 2029.
- The country is exploring thorium-powered ships and lunar reactors for future moon bases.
- India's Thorium Reserves
- India has one of the largest reserves of thorium in the world.
- Major thorium deposits are found with large reserves in Kerala,
 Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

Together, **Kerala and Odisha account for over 70%** of India's thorium.

India has been developing a three-stage nuclear program, with thorium-based reactors being a critical part of the third stage.

Challenges: Extracting thorium from ores requires high amounts of energy and creates significant waste.

Rise in India's R&D Spending

- India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) has more than doubled in the past decade, rising from ₹60,196 crore in 2013-14 to ₹1,27,381 crore.
- DISHA Program: Driver of Technological Growth
- The DISHA Program, an initiative aimed at Developing Innovations, Successful Harnessing, and Adoption, is a step towards building a knowledge-based economy where research-driven solutions transform industries.

- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), seeks to create a unified research ecosystem bridging science, humanities, and social sciences.
- Other Government Initiatives to Boost R&D
- National Research Foundation (NRF): Aims to enhance research funding and collaboration between academia and industry.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM): Encourages startups, entrepreneurship, and innovation among students and professionals.

Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme: Supports high-tech manufacturing through incentives for R&D-driven industries.

Startup India and Make in India: These initiatives foster innovation by providing funding and policy support for startups.

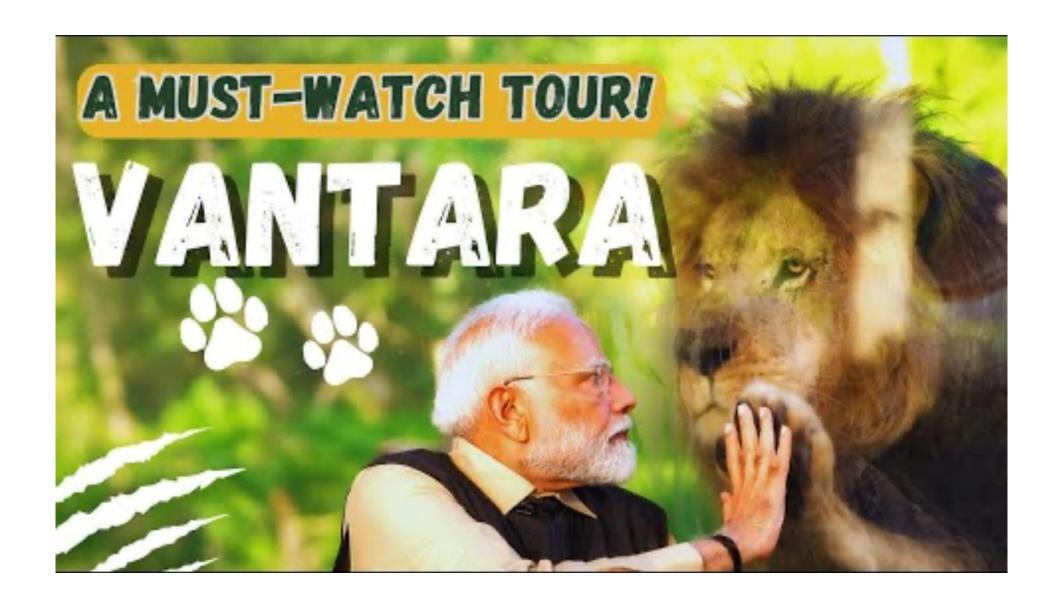
Challenges in India's R&D Ecosystem

Private Sector Participation: The private sector contributes only about 36% of GERD, whereas in developed nations, it exceeds 60-70%.

Insufficient Funding: Despite growth, India's GERD as a percentage of GDP (~0.7%) remains lower than countries like China (2.4%) and the US (3.1%).

Limited University-Industry Collaboration: Weak links between academia and industry hinder commercialization of research.

Vantara



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vantara.

Vantara

It is a unique wildlife conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

It is the world's largest wildlife rehabilitation centre.

- It is home to over 1.5 lakh rescued, endangered, and threatened animals, offering them a home away from home and a second chance at life.
- Awards and Recognition: The Central government awarded Vantara the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' National Award under the 'Corporate' category, recognizing the exceptional contributions of the Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust (RKTEWT) for elephant rescue, treatment, and care.



• The Supreme Court has ruled that visually impaired candidates can participate in judicial service exams, affirming that the right against disability-based discrimination under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, should be treated as a fundamental right.

- What is the SC Ruling on Disability Rights in Judicial Services?
- Striking Down Discriminatory Provisions: The recent ruling came while deciding petitions concerning the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Examination Rules, 1994, and Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010, aligning them with the RPwD Act.
 - Rule 6A of the MP Judicial Service Rules, 1994 was struck down as it excluded visually impaired candidates despite their educational qualifications.

 Affirmative Action: The Court ruled that the State must adopt a rights-based approach rather than a charity-based one, ensuring equal access to employment.



- Landmark Cases Related to PwDs
- Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration, 2009: The Supreme Court upheld the reproductive rights of a mentally retarded woman.
- Govt. of India v. Ravi Prakash Gupta, 2010: The Supreme Court ruled that predefined job criteria cannot be used to deny reservations to visually impaired candidates, ensuring fair appointments.

- Union of India v. National Federation of the Blind, 2013: Clarified that 3% reservation applies to vacancies in total cadre strength, not just identified posts.
- **Deaf Employees Welfare Association v. Uol, 2013:** Directed equal transport allowance for **hearing-impaired government employees**, ensuring non-discrimination among disabled as well.
- Om Rathod vs Director General of Health Services Case, 2024: SC ruled that the functional assessment of a candidate's abilities should take precedence over rigid eligibility criteria.

- What is the Status of PwDs in India?
- About: As per the 2011 Census, persons with disabilities make up 2.21% (2.68 crore) of the total population.
 - As per RPwD Act, 2016, there are 21 recognized types of disabilities, including Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Speech & Language Disability, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, and Dwarfism, among others.

- India is home to lakhs of persons with disabilities. What are the benefits available to them under the law? (2011)
- 1. Free schooling till the age of 18 years in government run schools.
- 2. Preferential allotment of land for setting up business.
- 3. Ramps in public buildings.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Wallace Line

- In the 19th century, **Alfred Wallace** observed a **change in species composition** between **Asia and Australia**. This difference in species composition later developed as the **Wallace Line**.
- What is the Wallace Line?
- About: The Wallace Line is an imaginary boundary separating the distinct faunal regions of Asia and Australia.

- It marks a major **biogeographical division** with stark species differences on either side of the line.
- Geographical Location: It runs through the Makassar Strait, which lies between the east coast of Borneo and the western coast of Sulawesi.
 - It extends between Bali and Lombok, separating the Sunda and Sahul continental shelves.





Scientists have recorded **narwhals** (often referred as Sea unicorns) using their tusks for hunting for the first time, offering key behavioral insights and adaptation in a warming Arctic.

About Narwhals (*Monodon monoceros*): They are medium-sized toothed whales found in the deep Arctic waters.

- Physical Features: Males have long, spiral tusk (up to 3m), which is an elongated upper left tooth.
 - It is different from all other toothed whales in that it has no teeth in its mouth.



Some narwhals have up to **two tusks**, while others have **none**.

They use their tusks to stun and manipulate prey, especially Arctic char, and competition for mates.

Social Behavior: Highly social species, found in pods of 2-25 individuals.

Migration: Unlike some whales, narwhals do not migrate long distances.

Diet: Feed on Greenland halibut, Arctic and polar cod, squid, and shrimp.





- Which countries will face retaliatory tariffs imposed by the U.S. under Donald Trump's new trade policy?
- · डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की नई व्यापार नीति के तहत किन देशों को अमेरिकी जवाबी टैरिफ का सामना करना पड़ेगा?
- A. India and China / भारत और चीन
 - B. Russia and Brazil / रूस और ब्राज़ील
 - C. Japan and Canada / जापान् और कनाड़ा
 - D. Germany and France / जर्मनी और फ्रांस

- What is India's total export value to the U.S. as per the latest trade data?
- नवीनतम व्यापार आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत का अमेरिका को कुल निर्यात मूल्य कितना है?
- A. \$45.8 billion
 - B. **\$52.9 billion**
 - C. **\$60.2** billion
 - D. **\$71.5 billion**

- What is India's largest export category to the U.S.?
- भारत की अमेरिका को सबसे बड़ी निर्यात श्रेणी कौन सी है?
- A. Textiles and Apparel / वस्त्र और परिधान
 - B. Electrical Machinery / इलेक्ट्रिकल मशीनरी C. Automobile Parts / आटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स

 - D. Organic Chemicals / जैविक रंसायन

- What is India's major import category from the U.S.?
- भारत की अमेरिका से प्रमुख आयात श्रेणी कौन सी है?
- A. Pharmaceuticals / फार्मास्युटिकल्स
 - B. Mineral Fuels & Oils / खनिंज ईंधन और तेल
 - C. Electronic Goods / इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामान
 - D. Defense Equipment / रक्षा उपकरण

- What is the significance of Gum Arabic in global trade?
- वैश्विक व्यापार में गम अरबी का क्या महत्व है?
- A. It is a key ingredient in carbonated drinks / यह कार्बोनेटेड पेय पदार्थीं का एक प्रमुख घटक है
 - B. It is primarily used for fuel production / यह मुख्य रूप से ईंधन उत्पादन के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है
 - C. It is a rare metal essential for electronics / यह इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के लिए आवश्यक एक दुर्लभ धातु है
 - D. It is a primary component in fertilizers / यह उर्वरकों में प्राथमिक घटक है

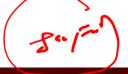
- Which country is the largest producer of Gum Arabic?
- गम अरबी का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक देश कौन सा है?
- A. Nigeria
 - B. Sudan
 - C. Chad
 - D. Mali

- What is the main advantage of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks?
- हाइड्रोजन-संचालित भारी ट्रकों का मुख्य लाभ क्या है?
- A. Higher fuel efficiency than diesel / डीजल की तुलना में अधिक ईंधन दक्षता
 - B. Zero carbon emissions / शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन
 - C. Lower maintenance costs े कम रखरखाव लागत
 - D. Faster acceleration than electric vehicles / इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों की तुलना में तेज़ त्वरण

- Under which Indian government initiative are hydrogen-powered trucks being developed?
- हाइड्रोजन-संचालित ट्रकों का विकास भारत सरकार की किस पहल के तहत किया जा रहा है?
- A. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles (FAME)
 - B. National Green Hydrogen Mission
 - C. Renewable Energy Deployment Program
 - D. Sustainable Mobility Initiative

- Where is India's first hydrogen refueling station for heavy-duty trucks being set up?
- भारी वाहनों के लिए भारत का पहला हाइड्रोजन रिफ्यूलिंग स्टेशन कहां स्थापित किया जा रहा है?
- A. Faridabad
 - B. Vadodara
 - C. Pune
 - D. All of the above

- What is the Wallace Line?
- वॉलेस लाइन क्या है?
- A. A trade route between Africa and Asia / अफ्रीका और एशिया के बीच एक व्यापार मार्ग
 - B. An imaginary boundary separating Asian and Australian fauna / एशियाई और ऑस्ट्रेलियाई जीवों को अलग करने वाली एक काल्पनिक सीमा
 - C. A tectonic plate boundary in the Pacific Ocean / प्रशांत महासागर में एक टेक्टोनिक प्लेट सीमा
 - D. A global conservation project for wildlife protection / वन्यजीव संरक्षण के लिए एक वैश्विक परियोजना



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Word of the day

Tendentious:

having or marked by a strong tendency, especially a controversial one

Synonyms: disposition, inclination

Usage: He gave a quite tendentious account of the recent elections.

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/tendentiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tɛnˈdɛnʃəs/

