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**YOUR SUCCESS AND
HAPPINESS LIE IN YOU.**



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Rajasthan Cong.
rebel held amid
high drama

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The Rajasthan Police on Thursday arrested Congress rebel and independent candidate in the Assembly election, Hareesh Mehta, amid high drama » PAGE 2

Karnataka govt.
tells STF to probe
COVID-19 'scam'

BANGALORE
The Karnataka government on Thursday decided to order a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the alleged irregularities in COVID-19 procurements and management by the previous BJP government » PAGE 3

Sky is the limit
for development
of tribals: Murmu

NEW DELHI
President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said India could become "truly developed" only when the tribal communities were developed. In a televised address on the eve of the birth anniversary of Biju Patil, she said fast-paced progress of tribal communities is the national priority » PAGE 4

Rajnath may
chase Chinese
counterpart

NEW DELHI
There could be a possible meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun, who are both scheduled to attend the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Laos next week » PAGE 5

India to seek extradition of designated 'terrorist' Arsh Dalla from Canada: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following the recent arrest of designated pro-Khalistan "terrorist" Anandh Singh Gill, alias Arsh Dalla, by the Canadian police in Ontario, the Indian authorities would be following up on an extradition request, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

Gill was arrested on his criminal record in India and his involvement in similar illegal activities in Canada. It is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India, Ministry spokesperson Rande-

AFSPA back in six violence-hit areas of Manipur

Six police station limits in five districts declared 'disturbed areas'; Manipur govt. had withdrawn the Act in 2022 as the situation had improved, this time, Home Ministry has issued notification; officials say increase in the number of armed insurgents is a cause of concern; so far, over 240 people have been killed in the violence since May 2023

Vijalita Bhosh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday reintroduced the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur, declaring six police station limits in five districts "disturbed areas" in the wake of the ethnic violence in the State.

The Saktinal and Lamsang police station limits in Imphal West, Lamal in Imphal East, the Jiribam station limits in Jiribam, Marang in Bishangpui and Letmukhong in Kangpokpi districts have been declared disturbed areas to "carry out well-coordinated operations by the security forces" and contain activities of insurgent groups.

The AFSPA, which gives unbridled powers in the areas of "disturbed areas" drawn from these areas in April 2022 by the Manipur government as the security

situation improved mentioning a "large sense of security among the general public". The fresh order will be effective till March 31, 2025.

A notification issued by the Home Ministry said that on September 26, the Manipur government re-introduced AFSPA in all the 10 hill districts of Manipur, excluding the 19 police station limits in six districts, mostly in the valley.

Violent state
The Ministry said that after a review of the security situation in consultation with the stakeholders, it is noted that the "situation continues to remain volatile" and "inspiring terrorism by forces" and contain activities of insurgent groups.

The AFSPA, which gives unbridled powers in the areas of "disturbed areas" drawn from these areas in April 2022 by the Manipur government as the security



Violent state: A truck damaged after armed militants set it on fire in Jiribam district on Thursday. (I)

"AFSPA has been reimposed in the fringe or buffer zones, areas where Kurki-20 area, Maitel villages converge. These areas are now being guarded by the armed police forces. While the Army could freely operate in the hills, after re-introduction of AFSPA from the valley districts, they were facing issues as they had to wait for civil assistance while armed militants

took advantage of the offer to cross jurisdictions," said the official.

The Hindu reported on September 23 that there are differing views in the Union and the State governments over the inclusion of more areas under AFSPA.

Officials said that a substantial increase in the number of armed insurgents, particularly in the

Calls for release of 6 abductees grow louder in strife-torn State

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Manipur joined the Congress in mounting pressure on the government for the safe return of six women and children missing since November 11.

FULL REPORT
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State BJP president A. Sharda Devi appealed for the immediate release of the six missing persons — three women and three children, including a 10-month-old infant — from Jiribam district.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

The ethnic violence between the Meitei people who live in the valley and the tribal Kuki-Mizo-Jaintia people in the hills that started in May 2023,

At least 14 killed in the recent spell of violence since November 7, at least 4 people have been killed, including three men and women who were burnt to death and six others

were abducted. In June, violence had spread to new areas such as Jiribam, which had largely remained unaffected by the ethnic violence in the past year.

Both the State and Central governments can concurrently issue disturbed areas notification under Section 3 of AFSPA. The periodic six-month notification for extending AFSPA in Assam and Manipur have been issued by the State governments since 1972, when the law was amended.

The latest notification for Manipur signed by the Governor was issued by the Home Department of the State on September 26 when AFSPA was extended in all the ten hill districts of the State on September 26.

The provisions of the Act were withdrawn from Imphal Municipality area in 2004. Manipur has 16 districts.

Golden harvest



Nagaland's granary: A paddy field ready for harvest in the village of Pheko on the outskirts of Kohima on Thursday. The harvest season in the region continues till November end. (I) by Reuters

India's goods exports, which had clocked an asemic 1% uptick in the first half of 2024, began the second half on a strong note with October shipments jumping at a 26-month high pace of 17.29% to reach \$3.2 billion, this year's second best tally.

However, this was accompanied by a 3.5% rise in the country's merchandise import bill, lifting it to a fresh record high of \$3.4 billion, eclipsing this August's \$3.4 billion import figure that was the highest at the time.

The merchandise trade deficit has thus widened to a five-month low of \$20.8 billion in September to \$27.14 billion in October, the second highest so far this financial year and the third highest ever.

Economists attributed the spike in the import bill to higher gold and oil imports. Although the previous year's metals imports dropped a marginal 1.4% from last October to \$7.13 billion, this was 62% higher than September's figure.

Petroleum imports, however, slipped, on the other hand, rose 13.3% to \$1.8 billion, below the previous month's \$2.5 billion. In case of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), it is Ajit Pawar. In case of the Shiv Sena, it is (Chief Minister) Eknath Shinde. Our Parliamentary group will support it, the BJP leader said.

CM won't be picked on seat count, says Devendra Fadnavis

Vijaya Deepak Pandit
MUMBAI

If the ruling Mahayut at hand retains to power in Maharashtra, the new Chief Minister will be a political choice and will not be determined based on the number of seats won, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday.



INTERVIEW ON
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Exports rebound, but Oct. import bill hits new record

Vijaya Deepak
NEW DELHI

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petroleum basket. Between April and October, India's non-petroleum exports have surged to their highest ever tally of \$29.3 billion and if this trend continues, India's total exports, including services, will cross the \$500 billion mark this year to set a new record, he remarked.

"A key factor for the 17%+ growth in exports this year has been demand from developed markets as firms start stocking up in ventures for the festival. This year's figure is 4.7 billion, which had marked a 32-month low."



Centre plays down anxieties about Trump's re-election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry on Thursday played down anxieties about Donald Trump's re-election as the U.S. President in light of his remarks calling India a "tariff abuser" just one

month before China, noting that trade ties have grown persistently since 2004 and both countries' value chains have got more integrated seamlessly over the years.

Organisation projections for this year, they are very pessimistic. But despite the global situation being highly volatile, growth in the Western countries slowing with some recessionary trends, and the disruptions in global trade routes, our exporters have been able to do well in several sectors," he emphasised.

Being healthy double-digit growth in exports of engineering goods, chemicals, electronics, steel, and labour-intensive sectors such as ready-made garments and textiles, the Commerce Secretary said this month and that India's strategy of focusing on export-oriented sectors will remain unchanged.

"If you look at the UNCTAD and the World Trade



Trade rebound

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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AFSPA back in six violence-hit areas of Manipur

Six police station limits in five districts declared 'disturbed areas'; Manipur govt. had withdrawn the Act in 2022 as the situation had improved; this time, Home Ministry has issued notification; officials say increase in the number of armed insurgents is a cause of concern; so far, over 240 people have been killed in the violence since May 2023

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur, declaring six police station limits in five districts "disturbed areas", in the wake of the ethnic violence in the State.

The Sekmai and Lam-sang police station limits in Imphal West, Lamlai in Imphal East, the Jiribam station limits in Jiribam, Moirang in Bishnupur and Leimakhong in Kangpokpi districts have been declared disturbed areas to "carry out well-coordinated operations by the security forces" and contain activities of insurgent groups.

The AFSPA, which gives unbridled power to the armed forces, was withdrawn from these areas in April 2022 by the Manipur government as the security

situation improved instilling a "large sense of security among the general public". The fresh order will be effective till March 31, 2025.

A notification issued by the Home Ministry said that on September 26, the Manipur government extended AFSPA in all the 10 hill districts of Manipur, excluding the 19 police station limits in six districts, mostly in the valley.

Volatile state

The Ministry said that after a review of the security situation in consultation with the stakeholders, it is noted that the "situation continues to remain volatile amidst ongoing ethnic violence..."

A senior government official explained that the Army and the Assam Rifles would be able to conduct operations without waiting for the arrival of a Magistrate and the State police.



Tension rises: A truck damaged after armed militants set it on fire in Jiribam district on Thursday. PTI

"AFSPA has been reimposed in the fringe or buffer zones, areas where Kuki-Zo and Meitei villages converge. These areas are being guarded by Central armed police forces. While the Army could freely operate in the hills, after revocation of AFSPA from the valley districts, they were facing issues as they had to wait for civil assistance while armed miscreants

took advantage of the order to cross jurisdictions," said the official.

The Hindu reported on September 23 that there are differing views in the Union and the State governments over the inclusion of more areas under AFSPA.

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Calls for release of 6 abductees grow louder in strife-torn State

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Manipur joined the Congress in mounting pressure on the government for the safe return of six women and children missing since November 11.

valley districts was a cause of concern and the rising cases of extortion and abductions were also being taken into consideration.

Other than 22,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel, around 140 columns of the Army are deployed in Manipur. Each column can have up to 40 men.

So far, more than 240 people have been killed in

State BJP president A. Sharda Devi appealed for the immediate release of the six missing persons – three women and three children, including a 10-month-old infant – from Jiribam district.

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the ethnic violence between the Meitei people who live in the valley and the tribal Kuki-Zo-Hmar people in the hills that started in May 2023.

At least 14 killed

In the recent spell of violence since November 7, at least 14 people have been killed, including three men and women who were burnt to death and six oth-

ers were abducted. In June, violence had spread to new areas such as Jiribam, which had largely remained unaffected by the ethnic violence in the past year.



Both the State and Central governments can concurrently issue disturbed area notification under Section 3 of AFSPA. The periodic six-month notification for extending AFSPA in Assam and Manipur have been issued by the State governments since 1972, when the law was amended.



The latest notification for Manipur signed by the Governor was issued by the Home Department of the State on September 26 when AFSPA was extended in all the ten hill districts till March 31, 2025.

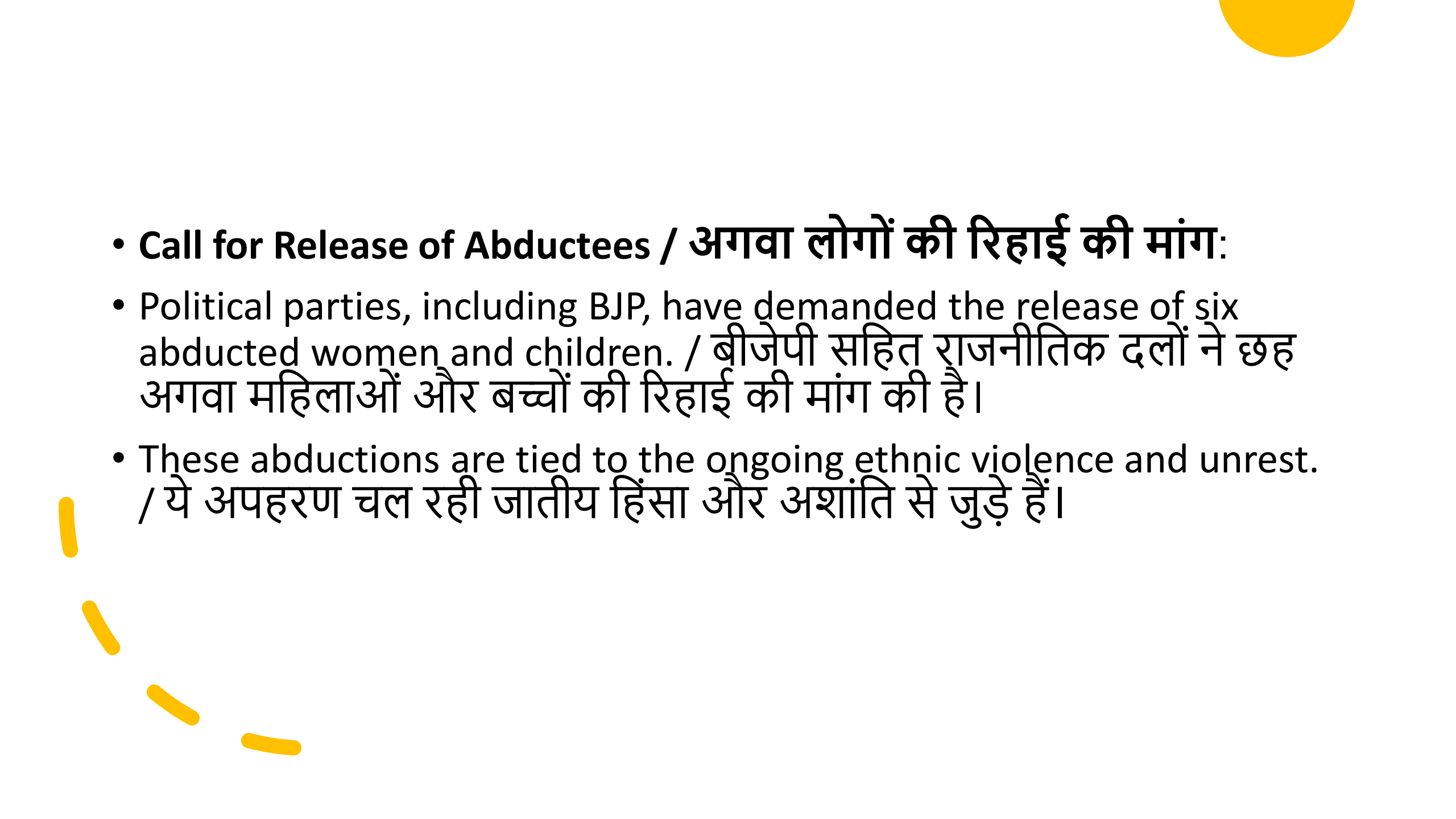
The provisions of the Act were withdrawn from Imphal Municipal Corporation districts.


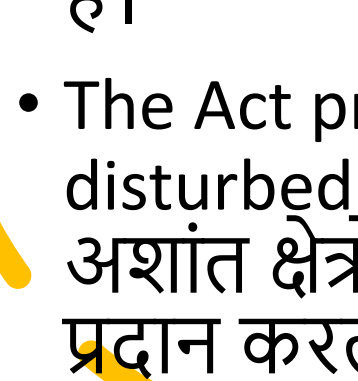
• **AFSPA Reimposed in Manipur / मणिपुर में AFSPA फिर से लागू:**

- The Union Home Ministry has reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in six police station limits across five districts of Manipur due to ongoing ethnic violence. / केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने मणिपुर में चल रही जातीय हिंसा के कारण पांच जिलों के छह पुलिस थानों की सीमा में सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियां) अधिनियम (AFSPA) को फिर से लागू कर दिया है।
- These districts include Imphal West, Imphal East, Jiribam, Bishnupur, and Kangpokpi. / इन जिलों में इंफाल पश्चिम, इंफाल पूर्व, जिरीबाम, बिष्णुपुर और कांगपोकी शामिल हैं।

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- **Extension Until 2025 / 2025 तक विस्तार:**
 - The AFSPA will be in effect until March 31, 2025. / AFSPA 31 मार्च 2025 तक प्रभावी रहेगा।
 - A prior extension covering 10 hill districts was issued in September 2023. / सितंबर 2023 में 10 पहाड़ी जिलों के लिए पहले से एक विस्तार जारी किया गया था।
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- **Reasons for Reimposition / फिर से लागू करने के कारण:**
 - Increase in armed insurgent activity and violence between different ethnic groups. / सशस्त्र उग्रवादी गतिविधियों और विभिन्न जातीय समूहों के बीच हिंसा में वृद्धि।
 - The volatile security situation, particularly in areas involving the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities. / विशेष रूप से कुकी-जो और मैतेई समुदायों से जुड़े क्षेत्रों में अस्थिर सुरक्षा स्थिति।
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- **Call for Release of Abductees / अगवा लोगों की रिहाई की मांग:**
 - Political parties, including BJP, have demanded the release of six abducted women and children. / बीजेपी सहित राजनीतिक दलों ने छह अगवा महिलाओं और बच्चों की रिहाई की मांग की है।
 - These abductions are tied to the ongoing ethnic violence and unrest. / ये अपहरण चल रही जातीय हिंसा और अशांति से जुड़े हैं।

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- **Historical Context and AFSPA's Reach / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ और AFSPA का प्रभाव:**
 - AFSPA was withdrawn from certain areas in 2022 due to improved conditions but is now reinstated. / AFSPA को 2022 में बेहतर हालात के कारण कुछ क्षेत्रों से हटा लिया गया था लेकिन अब फिर से लागू किया गया है।
 - The Act provides extensive powers to armed forces to manage disturbed areas and conduct operations. / अधिनियम सशस्त्र बलों को अशांत क्षेत्रों का प्रबंधन करने और संचालन करने के लिए व्यापक शक्तियाँ प्रदान करता है।
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Disturbed Area

A **disturbed area** is declared by **notification** under Section 3 of the AFSPA.



The **Central Government**, State Governor, or Union Territory administrator **can declare** areas as disturbed.



Disturbances may arise from differences or disputes among various :



Religious



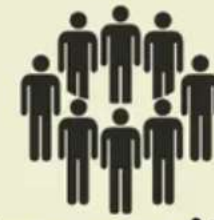
Racial



Language



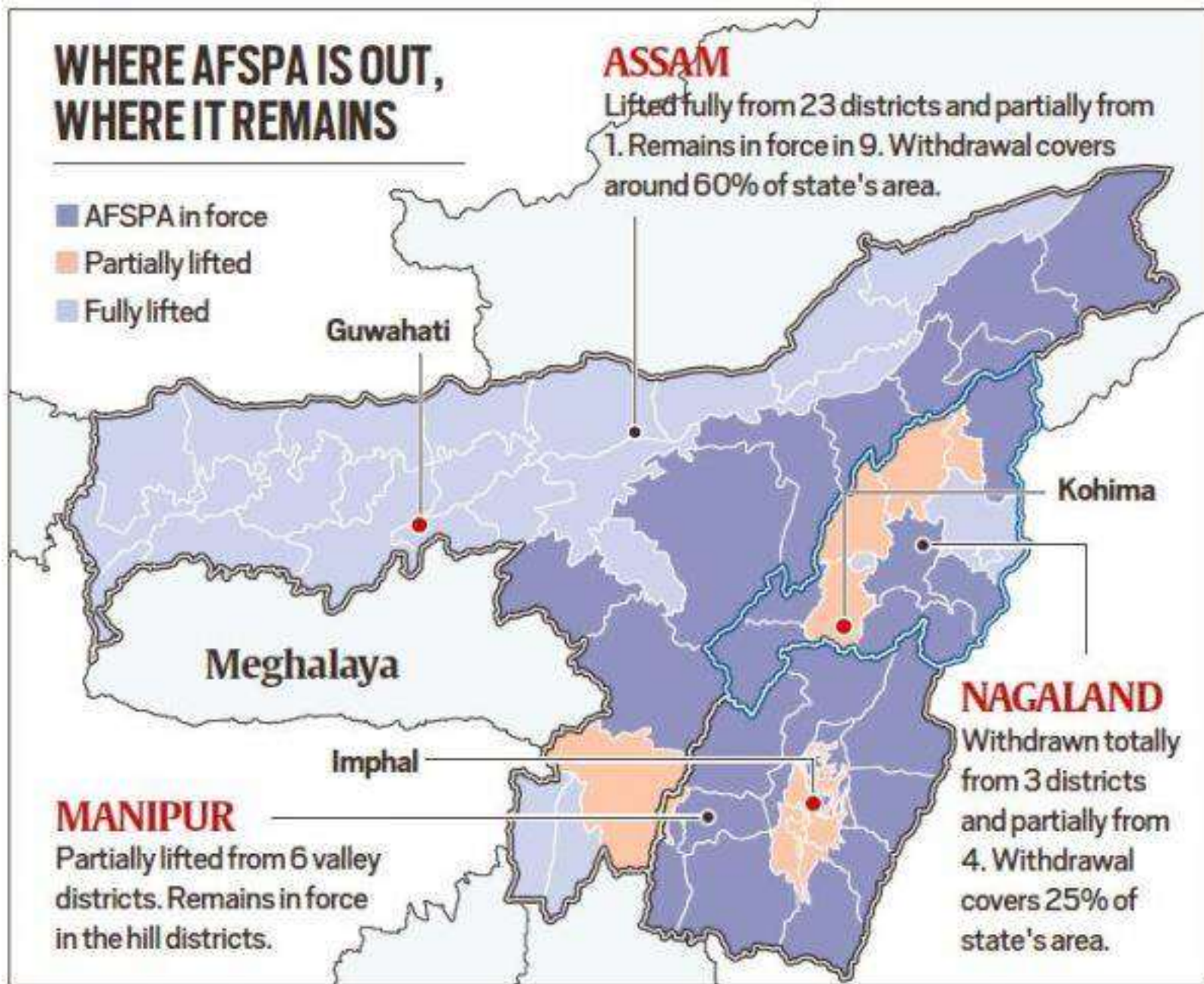
**Regional
Groups**



Communities

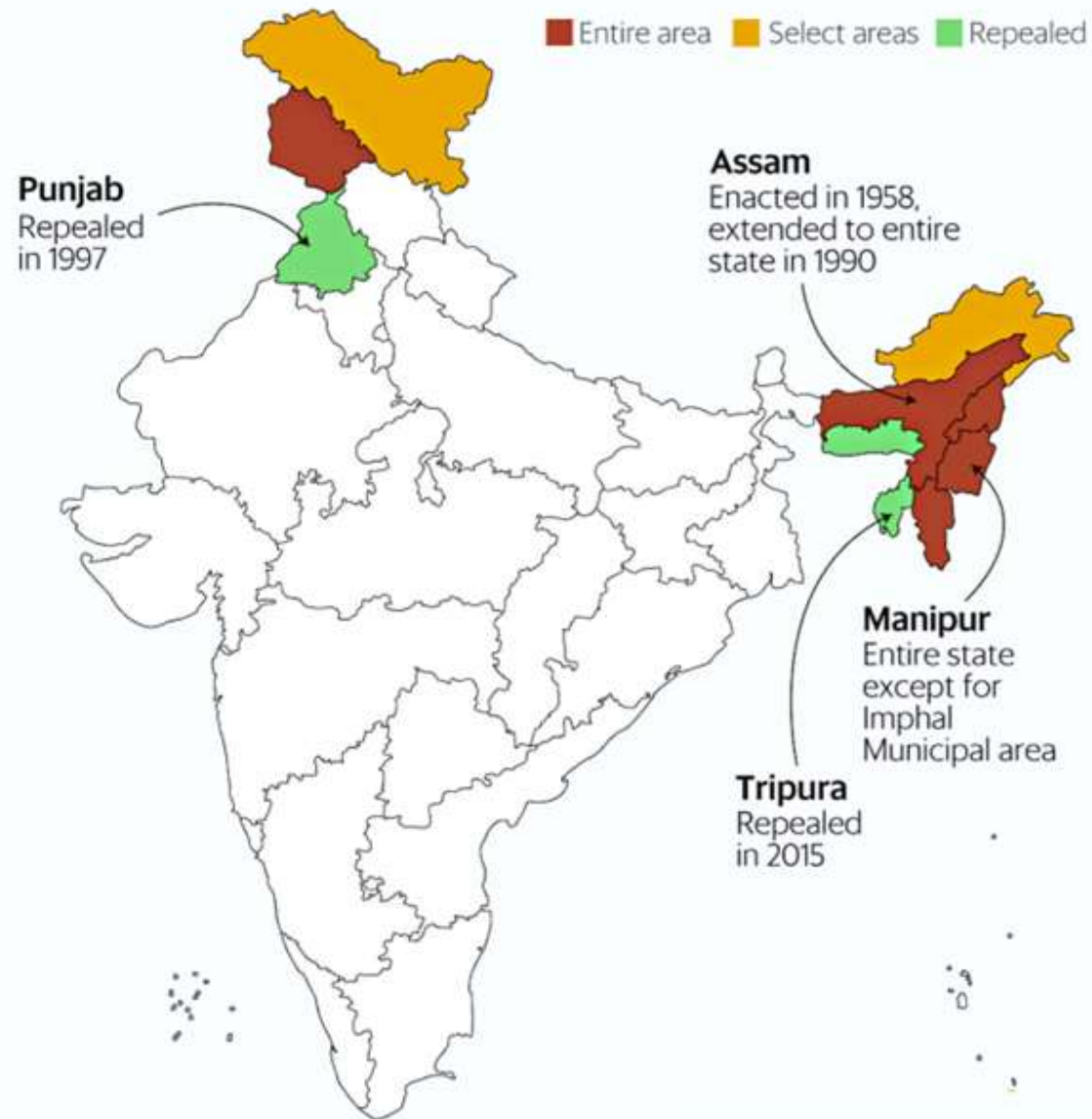
WHERE AFSPA IS OUT, WHERE IT REMAINS

- AFSPA in force
- Partially lifted
- Fully lifted



ARMED POWER

Status of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)



WHAT IS ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT?

➤ **Introduced in 1958, AFSPA** confers on members of the armed forces special powers to rein in suspects in areas declared "disturbed" on account of insurgent activities or similar threats. It has been in **force in Manipur since 1980**, and the alleged **excesses committed under it are the reasons** why activist **Irom Sharmila** has been on a **hunger strike since 2000**.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL POWERS?

AFSPA allows any commissioned officer, warrant officer and non-commissioned officer – or any other



person of equivalent rank – to:

➤ Fire upon or use force against any person acting 'in contravention of any law for the time being in force in the disturbed area'

➤ Arrest suspicious people without warrant

➤ Destroy any structure suspected to house an arms dump, shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made

➤ Conduct searches without warrants for evidence, to recover a wrongfully confined person or property or arms or explosives

➤ **AFSPA bars prosecution or proceedings – except with Centre's nod – against personnel for action committed while exercising powers under the Act**

IN BRIEF

DRDO announces successful trials of Pinaka rocket system

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Thursday announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket (MBRL) system as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) validation trials paving the way for its induction. This enhances the range of the Pinaka to over 75 km. The flight tests have been conducted in three phases at different field firing ranges. "During these tests, the PSQR parameters like, ranging, accuracy, consistency and rate of fire for multiple target engagement in a salvo mode have been assessed by extensive testing of rockets," DRDO said in a statement.

UPPSC agrees to conduct PCS exam in a single shift

After four days of protest by aspirants, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on Thursday agreed to conduct the Provincial Civil Services (preliminary) Examination in a single shift based on the old pattern. However, it is a similar demand about the exams of Review Officer (RO)/Assistant Review Officer (ARO), the Commission while postponing the examination, decided to form a panel to look into the demands. "In the directives of Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, the UPPSC decided to postpone the RO and ARO exams and hold the PCS preliminary exam on the same day," said Public Service Commission Secretary Ashok Kumar.

HC summons three editors of Wikipedia page on ANI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued summons to three persons who edited the Wikipedia page on Anand Beema International (ANI), in a defamation suit filed by the news agency over "false, misleading and defamatory" content on the page.

Judge Subramanian Prasad passed the order asking into custody, Hina Jaisa Jaswanti, an order passed by the Division Bench of the High Court on November 11, allowing summons to be served on the three individuals without publicly disclosing their identities. The ANI had complained that certain edits had been made on the page that claimed that the news agency was a "propaganda tool for the incumbent government".

No dual eco-clearance for 39 categories of industry

Environment Ministry accepts long-standing demand of industry to remove requirement of both environmental clearance and consent to establish; this will reduce compliance burden, it says

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

Saying that it has met a "long-standing demand by industry", the Union Environment Ministry has exempted 39 categories of industries from the mandatory requirement of approaching state pollution control boards for permission to run their industries. These include manufacturing units of solar cells and touchbars, wind aid by diesel power units, fly ash bricks or block manufacturing, and leather cutting and stitching, and those assembling, repairing and servicing air-coolers and air-conditioners. All of these sectors are in the "white category" of industries, meaning they are the least polluting in nature, by a 2016 classification by the Central Pollution Control Board.

In a press statement on Thursday, the Centre said the move would reduce the "compliance burden" on industries. "The Ministry has accepted the long-standing demand of industry to remove dual com-



White category industries include those manufacturing solar cells and modules, fast wind and hydro power units, etc.

pliance of environmental clearance (EC) and consent to establish (CTE) for setting up of new industries. Now, non-polluting white category industries will not be required to take CTE or Consent to Approve (CTA) or All the industries which have taken EC will not also flow from amendments to the Water Act 1974, which will not only reduce compliance burden but also prevent duplication of approvals, the Environment Ministry noted. An official in the Ministry said The Hindu that even prior to the notification, "white category" industries were given per-

waterbodies. This led to the creation, in September 1974, of the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that were charged with monitoring and preventing contamination of water bodies from getting contaminated by sewage and industrial effluents. Some of the amendments give the Centre greater authority to override the SPCBs in some instances. As per the original Act, the SPCBs' permission is needed for establishing any industry or treatment plant which could discharge sewage into a waterbody, sewer, or land. Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel said the amendments will not be required to take CTE or consent to operate without much trouble. The changes will not also flow from amendments to the Water Act 1974, which will not only reduce compliance burden but also prevent duplication of approvals, the Environment Ministry noted. An official in the Ministry said The Hindu that even prior to the notification, "white category" industries were given per-

Poor onion, tomato, potato crop pushing up prices, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

As the prices of tomato, onion, and potato, the three essential vegetables in Indian households, remain high compared with last year's, the Union government said on Thursday that excess rainfall during the year had impacted the production of these commodities and pushed up their prices.

The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry said the price variation of the three kitchen staples under the previous Union Progressive Alliance government was much higher when compared with the first 10 years of the Narendra Modi government. The all India average price of tomato on Thursday was ₹52.35 a kilogram, it was ₹39.20 in November 16, 2023. For onion, the price has decreased by 148% from ₹59.36 a kg compared with ₹59.36 on the corresponding date in 2023. But on Thursday, the price was ₹24.4 kg. In the case of potatoes, the price was ₹27.48 a kg on Thursday, while it was ₹24.9 on the correspond-



The Centre blames climatic conditions for price volatility.

ingly intervention. An official from the Ministry said the prices of tomato, onion and potato were volatile due to seasonality in production and their susceptibility towards climatic conditions. "The timely intervention by the government, such as sale of tomatoes at subsidised prices, helped in stabilising the prices of TSP as it is evident from the fact that on month-to-month variation as on November 13 in the prices of tomato has declined by 21.4%, while the increase in prices of onion and potato has been brought down below the level of double digits," the official said.

Hate speech cannot be equated with a false claim or a wrong assertion: SC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said "hate speech" is not the same as making a false claim or a wrong assertion. The six-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Kumar, was made while disposing a petition filed by an organisation, Hina Jaisa Jaswanti, seeking framing of guidelines to prevent hate speech by political leaders.

The petition had cited recent comments by the political figures, including former Madhya Pradesh Minister Sujata Singh Verma and Bharatiya Janata Union spokesperson Rakesh Thakur, as instances where rhetoric had allegedly threatened public order, in his remarks, Mr.



speech propounding the sovereignty and endangering the security of the state. "We are not inclined to entertain the present writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, which in fact refers to alleged wrong assertions. Further, there is a difference between hate speech and wrong assertions... In case the petitioner has any grievance, they may raise the same in accordance with law," the bench said. The bench noted that a batch of petitions, filed by Shoban Abidullah versus Union of India, pertaining to the rising tide of hate speech in public domain was already pending in the apex court. In October 2022, the apex court had directed the police to suo moto register cases against hate speech offenders.

Doctors' bodies to collate data on attacks

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Federation of All India Medical Students' Associations (FAIMSA) has decided to collect details of attacks on resident doctors and present it to the respective governments. The decision was taken at a meeting held on Thursday to discuss the safety of medical practitioners at the workplace.

A doctor was stabbed by a cancer patient's attendant in a government hospital in Chennai on Wednesday. FAIMSA general secretary Divyanshu Singh, who is also the president of the All India Medical Students' Association of King George's Medical University, said in the past 30 days, there had been seven such attacks on doctors in his hospital.

Rajnath to visit Laos next week, may meet Chinese counterpart

Dinakar Puri NEW DELHI

There could be a possible meeting between External Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Hong, who are both scheduled to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting in Laos next week.

His presence on the same platform comes just after the declassification of Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks on defence and resumption of portland cement in Laos next week. Mr. Singh will visit Laos from November 20 to 22 for the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Laos. He will also meet his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Hong, who is also the president of the All India Medical Students' Association of King George's Medical University, said in the past 30 days, there had been seven such attacks on doctors in his hospital.

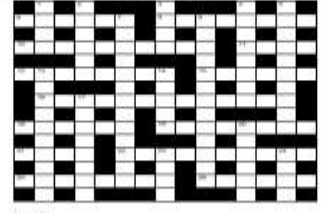
HC rejects U.K. resident's plea against arrest by NIA

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected a petition filed by a man facing prosecution in a case related to the 2023 protests at the Indian High Commission in London, challenging his arrest and removal orders.

The court rejected the petition of Inder Pal Singh Gaba, a resident of U.K., who was arrested in April by the National Investigation Agency for allegedly carrying out unlawful activities during protests that took place in London on March 22, 2023. He was detained by the investigation authorities while entering India from Pakistan on the Afari border on December 8, 2023. He was brought to Delhi and released on December 12, 2023. He was later arrested by the NIA.

14331 CROSSWORD



- Across: 6 Counterbalance love with feminine force in Tel (6) 8 Growth of ordinary failed fellow with zero in essay (8) 10 Judge, 1 sub art works about snake in the grass (10) 11 Always go back naked (4) 12 They bid for free trading firms in the east (8) 13 Endless mentions about chart (6)

14331 SUDOKU

Table with 9 rows and 9 columns for a Sudoku puzzle. Some numbers are pre-filled, and others are blank.

- 16 India is one of these but not in scene mostly, somehow (3) 18 Fed up about one's attention (6) 19 Old fellow starting to fish quietly an Kurra birders, disappearing near the dead (8) 21 Terms requesting outsiders for a rooming team (4) 22 Sick about interesting client lecture (10) 23 South positions intermittently (1,3,2) 26 Manage to survive English lunch and English coffee (3,3) (they)

FAITH

The message of Guru Nanak. On Guru Nanak Jayanti, his powerful and compassionate message resonates with devotees, not only due to his guidance on bhakti, but also his take on socio justice, human rights, gender equality, harmony, peace, love and egalitarianism. His message of unity, tolerance and equality is very significant today than ever before. He emphasized that the teachings have not only to be theoretically assimilated at an intellectual level but also followed in daily life, said Professor Kuntool Akhi.


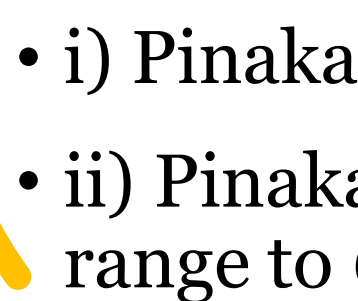
The divinely inspired Guru's sanctifying Band includes the Japji Sahib, As di Vair, Sukh Gosti and almost 900 shabdas which are a part of the Sri Guru Granth Sahibji, the central teaching of his conscious Band reflects both the light and joy in being able to yearn for God, to love Him with one's heart and soul, and strive to have union with Him, leading to bliss, mitigating, dullness and ennui, re-creating the self. Guru Nanak's Band mitigates suffering, desire and other vices and reassures and proclaims that just as he attained the Love, all of us shall too. He says Band resides in all and every year is born to adore and love Him. The soothing message of Guru Nanak is that God is for everyone and all of us have the divine ability to attain Him, by simply loving Him and reciting His name with devotion; one should start a living honest work, perform laborious and all oneself of vice. It is here that he introduces the concept of karma, the autonomy of man, to choose his actions and bear the consequences thereof. This, he says, brings man nearer to God. He teaches one to live with honesty, truth and righteousness.





DRDO announces successful trials of Pinaka rocket system

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Thursday announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket (MBRL) system as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) validation trials paving the way for its induction. This enhances the range of the Pinaka to over 75 km. The flight tests have been conducted in three phases at different field firing ranges. “During these tests, the PSQR parameters viz., ranging, accuracy, consistency and rate of fire for multiple target engagement in a salvo mode have been assessed by extensive testing of rockets.” DRDO said in a statement.



- 
- . Pinaka is designed as an Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), capable of launching a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds. The system is usually mounted on a 8×8 or 6×6 truck for high mobility.
 - **2. Range and Firepower:**
 - i) Pinaka Mk-I has a range of around 40 km.
 - ii) Pinaka Mk-II and Pinaka Enhanced versions extend the range to 60-75 km.
- 

- 
- Its success has already extended beyond India's borders, with countries like Armenia placing orders, and many others expressing interest in acquiring the system.
 - It is suitable for different types of military engagements, such as counter-terrorism, border defence, and conventional warfare.
- 

BASIC countries ask nations at COP29 to honour commitments for climate finance

Press Trust of India

BAKU

BASIC countries, including India, have asked developed countries to honour their commitments to provide climate finance rather than “diluting obligations”, and rejected attempts by rich nations to shift their financial responsibilities during negotiations at the

The Paris Agreement seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit rise of global temperature

ongoing COP29 here.

As the annual climate change summit entered the fourth day on Thurs-

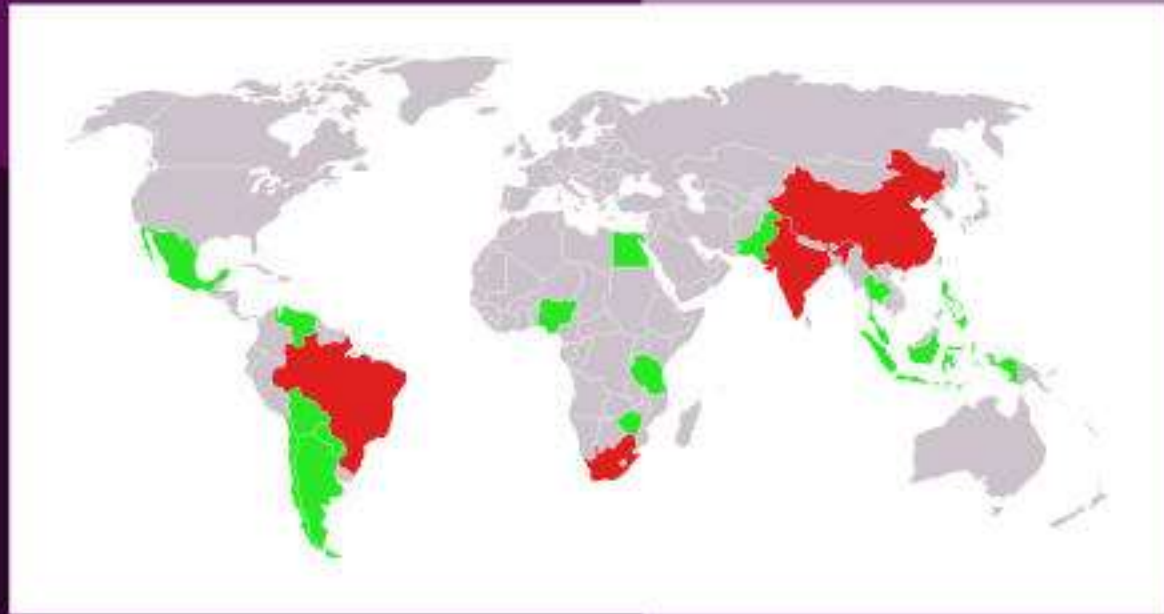
day, Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) also reiterated the need for full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement 2015, a legally binding international treaty.

The Paris Agreement aims at substantially reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to hold global temperature increase to

well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The developed countries have emphasised the importance of increasing global climate ambition and have called for all nations, including emerging economies, to enhance their net-zero targets and implementation efforts.

BASIC Countries



- **BASIC Countries' Demand for Climate Finance / बेसिक देशों की जलवायु वित्त के लिए मांग:**
- BASIC countries, comprising Brazil, South Africa, India, and China, have urged developed nations to fulfill their climate finance commitments instead of diluting their obligations. / बेसिक देशों, जिनमें ब्राज़ील, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, भारत और चीन शामिल हैं, ने विकसित देशों से उनकी जलवायु वित्त प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने का आह्वान किया है, न कि उनकी जिम्मेदारियों को हल्का करने का।
- Rejection of attempts by richer nations to shift financial responsibilities onto other nations was emphasized. / समृद्ध देशों द्वारा वित्तीय जिम्मेदारियों को अन्य देशों पर डालने के प्रयासों का विरोध किया गया।

- **Paris Agreement's Goals / पेरिस समझौते के लक्ष्य:**
- The Paris Agreement aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly to limit the global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with efforts to further restrict it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. / पेरिस समझौता ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन को कम करके वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि को 2 डिग्री सेल्सियस से नीचे रखने और इसे 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक सीमित करने के प्रयासों पर केंद्रित है।
- BASIC countries reiterated their call for the effective implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement. / बेसिक देशों ने 2015 के पेरिस समझौते के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन की अपनी मांग को दोहराया।

1. Call for Developed Countries / विकसित देशों के लिए आह्वान:

1. Developed nations have emphasized the importance of increasing global climate ambition and have urged all countries, including emerging economies, to enhance their net-zero targets and implementation measures.
/ विकसित देशों ने वैश्विक जलवायु महत्वाकांक्षा को बढ़ाने और सभी देशों, विशेष रूप से उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को उनके नेट-जीरो लक्ष्यों और कार्यान्वयन प्रयासों को मजबूत करने का आह्वान किया है।

Bubbling with life



Fresh hope: Divers swimming over the world's largest coral located near the Pacific's Solomon Islands. In an announcement on Thursday, scientists announced its discovery, saying it's 'pulsing with life and colour'. AFP

French weapons system in Sudan likely violation of UN arms embargo: Amnesty

Associated Press

CAIRO

Armoured vehicles manufactured by the United Arab Emirates and equipped with French defence systems have been captured by the Sudanese Army during the civil war in Sudan, Amnesty International says.

The rights group said in a report on Thursday it had identified the UAE-made armoured personnel carriers (APCs) in various parts of Sudan, including the Darfur region, where they were used by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in its fight with the Sudanese Armed

Forces (SAF).

It added that the presence of the military vehicles on the battlefield “likely constitutes a violation” of a United Nations arms embargo that prohibits the transfer of weapons to Sudan.

The civil war broke out in April 2023 after simmering tensions between the RSF and the Sudanese army escalated to intense fighting across the North African country, where rampant human rights violations were committed.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in the conflict, according to the U.N., while 11.6 million have been forcibly dis-

placed, including 8.3 million people internally and 3.1 million people who fled to neighboring countries.

Sudan’s claim that the UAE has been supplying the RSF with weapons that prolonged the 18-month war with the army has been denied by the UAE.

Amnesty’s report said it had identified the presence of several Nimr Ajban APCs on the ground after verifying pictures shared on social media.

The vehicles were reportedly made in the UAE by Edge Group and equipped with the Galix reactive defence system, which is manufactured in France by Lacroix Defense



Sudanese soldiers from the Rapid Support Forces unit secure an area in the East Nile province, Sudan. FILE PHOTO

and KNDS France, according to the Amnesty report.

The Galix system is designed to protect vehicles from approaching threats by releasing projectiles,

smoke and decoys, according to Lacroix’s website.

‘In active use’

“Our research shows that weaponry designed and

manufactured in France is in active use on the battlefield in Sudan,” said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International’s Secretary General.

“The Galix System is being deployed by the RSF in this conflict, and any use in Darfur would be a clear breach of the U.N. arms embargo.

“The French government must ensure that Lacroix Defense and KNDS France immediately stop the supply of this system to the UAE.”

Lacroix has been contacted through its website form for comment.

Responding to the Amnesty report, a spokesper-

son for the Emirati government said in an emailed statement that the UAE is the “target of a coordinated disinformation campaign aimed at undermining our foreign policy, regional role, and humanitarian efforts.”

“It is both outrageous and unacceptable that the SAF representatives continue to level accusations against the UAE, alleging our involvement in the ongoing conflict,” the statement read, adding that the UAE has been involved with humanitarian initiatives to help Sudanese people in the conflict.

The UAE said it has told the U.N. Security Council

and international partners that it is not providing support or supplies to the RSF or “any of the belligerent warring parties in Sudan.”

Last month, the United States sanctioned Algoney Hamdan Daglo Musa, a senior RSF leader and the brother of the paramilitary’s commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, for “leading efforts” to supply weapons throughout the war.

Algoney controls the UAE-based Tradive General Trading LLC, a front company that imported vehicles to Sudan on behalf of the paramilitary RSF and retrofitted them with machine guns.

- **Armored Vehicles and Conflict / बख्तरबंद वाहन और संघर्ष:**
- Amnesty International has reported that UAE-made armored personnel carriers, equipped with French defense systems, have been used by the Sudanese Army during the ongoing civil war in Sudan. / एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल ने बताया कि यूएई में बने बख्तरबंद वाहनों का उपयोग सूडानी सेना द्वारा चल रहे गृहयुद्ध के दौरान किया जा रहा है।
- The vehicles were reportedly used by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) against the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). / ये वाहन अर्धसैनिक बल रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (RSF) द्वारा सूडानी सशस्त्र बलों के खिलाफ उपयोग किए गए थे।

- **UN Arms Embargo Violation / संयुक्त राष्ट्र हथियार प्रतिबंध का उल्लंघन:**
- The presence of these military vehicles on the battlefield constitutes a likely violation of a United Nations arms embargo on Sudan. / युद्ध क्षेत्र में इन सैन्य वाहनों की उपस्थिति को सूडान पर लगाए गए संयुक्त राष्ट्र के हथियार प्रतिबंध का संभावित उल्लंघन माना जा सकता है।
- UAE has denied supplying weapons to the RSF, countering allegations. / यूएई ने आरएसएफ को हथियारों की आपूर्ति से इनकार किया है।

- **Humanitarian Impact / मानवीय प्रभाव:**

- The civil war in Sudan, which began in April 2023, has resulted in more than 20,000 deaths and the displacement of millions. / अप्रैल 2023 में शुरू हुए सूडान के गृहयुद्ध में 20,000 से अधिक मौतें हुई हैं और लाखों लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं।

1. Involvement of French-Made Systems / फ्रेंच निर्मित प्रणालियों की भूमिका:

1. The Galix system, manufactured in France, is reportedly being deployed by the RSF, raising concerns about French involvement in the arms supply chain. / फ्रांस में निर्मित गैलिक्स सिस्टम का आरएसएफ द्वारा उपयोग किया जा रहा है, जिससे हथियार आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में फ्रांस की भूमिका पर सवाल उठते हैं।
2. Amnesty called on the French government to halt the supply of these systems to the UAE. / एमनेस्टी ने फ्रांसीसी सरकार से इन प्रणालियों की आपूर्ति यूएई को रोकने का आह्वान किया है।

Historical Context: The Sudanese Civil Wars are primarily attributed to ethnic, religious, and regional tensions between the northern and southern parts of Sudan.

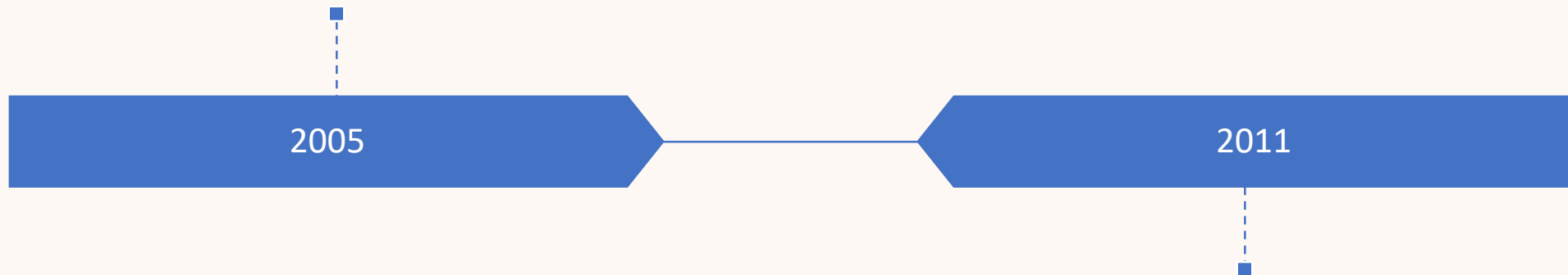
First Civil War (1955-1972): Began in 1955, a year before Sudan's independence from Britain and Egypt, primarily due to tensions between the Arab-Muslim North and the predominantly Christian and animist South.

Addis Ababa Agreement: The first civil war ended with the 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement, granting southern Sudan autonomy.


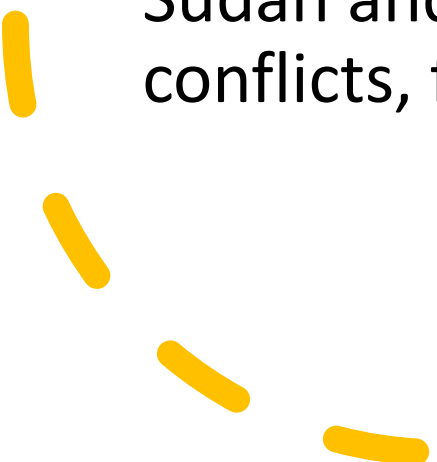
Second Civil War (1983-2005): Re-ignited in 1983 when the Sudanese government imposed Sharia law on the entire country, including the non-Muslim South, which fueled rebellion from the South led by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Casualties and Impact: The conflict led to approximately 2 million deaths, mainly from famine and disease, and displaced millions.

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA): Signed in 2005, ending the second civil war and granting the South autonomy for six years, followed by a referendum for independence.



Independence of South Sudan: In 2011, South Sudan became an independent state following a successful referendum vote for secession.

- 
- **Darfur Conflict (2003-present):** While the main civil wars concluded, conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan began in 2003, involving government-backed militia (Janjaweed) accused of genocide against non-Arab communities.
 - **Current Conflicts:** Sporadic violence and political unrest persist in Sudan and South Sudan, including internal power struggles and tribal conflicts, further challenging peace efforts.
- 

-
- **Recent Crisis (2023):** A severe outbreak of conflict erupted in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), leading to a humanitarian crisis, civilian casualties, and displacement

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Founded	July 1961; 63 years ago United Kingdom
Founders	Peter Benenson Eric Baker Seán MacBride
Type	Nonprofit INGO
Headquarters	London, WC1 United Kingdom
Location	Global
Services	Protecting human rights
Fields	Media attention, direct- appeal campaigns, research, lobbying
Members	More than ten million members and supporters ^[1]
Secretary- General	Agnès Callamard ^[2]

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

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IN THE NEWS

MGNREGS OUTLAY MAY BE HIKED BY ₹10,000 CRORE

THE CENTRE MAY increase the outlay for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by around 10% over the Budget estimate of ₹96,000 crore for the current fiscal, factoring in work demands and wage hikes, sources told Prasanta Sahu. **PAGE 2**

RELIANCE, DISNEY COMPLETE \$8.5-BN MEDIA MERGER

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES, WarnerMedia and The Walt Disney Company on Thursday said the merger of WarnerMedia's media and 20th Century Fox assets into a new media business, valued at \$8.5 billion (₹70,352 crore), has been completed, reports **Vijay Sankar Pinto**. **PAGE 4**

WPI INFLATION RISES TO 4-MONTH HIGH IN OCTOBER

THE WHOLESALE PRICE index (WPI) eased inflation rose in a four-month high of 3.34% in October, primarily due to a spike in key food prices and an unfavourable base, data released by the commerce ministry showed on Thursday, reports **Priyansh Verma**. **PAGE 2**

DIRECT PAYOUT OF SECURITIES MAY RESUME NEXT WEEK

AFTER A LACKLUSTRE beginning that led to its withdrawal within a day, the exchange is expected to take a second shot at direct payout of securities early next week after some tweaking in the system, sources told **Akhilendra Gaur**. **PAGE 2**

FE SPECIAL

A new flight path

India's business class is set to go Air India a run for its money. **BRANDWASHING, 99**

ADVICE TO INDIA INC: REDUCE PRICES

RBI should cut rates: Goyal

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, November 14

THE RESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) should cut the key benchmark interest rates to boost economic growth and ignore bond prices while deciding on monetary policy, Union minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal said here on Thursday.

Speaking at the Global Leadership Summit organised by CNBC-TV18, Goyal said that it's an "absolutely flawed theory" to consider that inflation will be sticky in the future. He said that the RBI should consider tapering inflation that excludes food, which is influenced more by supply than demand. Retail inflation rose to a 14-month high in October, primarily driven by a hike in vegetable prices. This, in turn, has reduced the hopes of an interest rate cut from RBI next month. Goyal said inflation will come down by December.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, however, said in August that India cannot and should not become complacent merely because core inflation has fallen considerably. "The policy at large understands inflation more in terms of food inflation than the other components of headline inflation," he said.

On boosting consumption slowdown,



Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister

It's an absolutely flawed theory to consider food inflation while deciding on rates.

Goyal advised companies to cut prices. "There is a huge competitive edge remaining in India given, as I think, if smart business people start offering better pricing, better value for money, I am sure the market will give them a boost. It is for them to decide whether they want to sit at high margins," Goyal said.

Multiple consumer goods companies have attributed to a slowdown in demand, particularly in urban markets, which is reflected in their September quarter earnings performance as well.

Continued on Page 7

Exports grow 17.3% in Oct, sharpest rise in 28 months

Trade deficit elevated at \$27.14 billion

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, November 14

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS ROSE 17.3% on year to October to \$39.2 billion, the highest growth seen in monthly shipments since June 2023 on the back of an impressive performance by the engineering and electronics sectors. The total rise in shipments was driven by value-added products, and less of commodity, petroleum products exports, for instance, declined 2.8% on year to value terms, even as volumes grew.

Imports grew 3.8% on year to \$66.43 billion in October, causing an elevated trade deficit of \$27.14 billion. The deficit was higher at \$29.7 million in August, but much less in other recent months. The engineering sector, which accounts for over a quarter of total exports, saw shipment increase by 30.9% this year to \$11.2



billions, while electronics exports rose up 45.7% to \$3.4 billion. Cloths exports had been growing at a slow pace till September, raising concerns and coming as they did over a year on year decline in exports in 2023-24. Exports had

steered by just 0.9% in September. During April-October this fiscal, export increased by 3.18% to \$25.28 billion, and imports by 5.77% to \$416.93 billion.

Continued on Page 18

Blackstone eyes a smaller Haldiram's bite

ADITYA RAJA
New Delhi, November 14

BLACKSTONE HAS DROPPED plans to acquire a majority stake in the snack business of Haldiram's but is now discussing purchase of a 29% stake at a valuation of \$8 billion, which is still a sticking point, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

monitor International estimator has a share of around 1,500 restaurants, but many are foreign investors are eyeing over its popular snacks business. In May, Reuters reported a consortium led by Blackstone was eyeing a stake of 75% in the business and had made a non-binding bid, but these talks did not materialise as Haldiram's is unwilling to sell a big stake, said the sources, who speak anonymously.

Blackstone is keen to slow the pace as a lot of effort has gone to it, said one source with direct knowledge of the issue.

There is a disconnect over valuation though, with Haldiram's wanting to value the snacks business at \$13 billion, but Blackstone aiming to end the deal at \$1 billion, two of the sources said.

Continued on Page 7

Inflation, growth risks remain: Das

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, November 14

RESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday spoke about the central bank's perennial dilemma—doing "too little or too late" versus "too much or too early." During this entire period of great volatility, maintaining price and financial stability has proved difficult.

Das said, "Reading the interplay between monetary policy action and the developments in the financial sector as well as the evolving situation correctly, and the timing of the decision, is always challenging. Central banks, by and large, performed well this time around." He also said while "soft landing" has been assumed, risks of inflation coming back and growth coming down remains.

Despite the rise in the last few months, Das expects that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to moderate. In October, the CPI hit a 14-month high of 6.2%, sparking hopes of a rate cut in December.

Das said, "The Indian economy is doing well, supported by a strong macro-economic fundamentals, a stable financial system and a resilient external sector," Das said. He said that RBI's "overall stance from the 'with-prudent adoption' stance adopted at its last meeting in October provides 'greater flexibility and optionality to act in sync with the evolving conditions'."



Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor

The challenge for central bankers has always been between doing too little too late on one hand and too much on too early on the other.

He noted that India has a relatively stable financial system, which has helped the country navigate these global challenges smoothly. India's economy remains steady due to a robust external sector, strong economic buffers, and proactive measures by the banking regulator.

Continued on Page 7

REAL ESTATE BARON SHARES SUCCESS MANTRAS

Lobby for change, but don't bribe: DLF's Singh to realtors

WINDER GILL
New Delhi, November 14

WHY THE HEIR, son of DLF chairman succession K.P. Singh seems to have found by this transition, using it as an apt title for his new book as well. Taking shape at the bank's launch on Thursday, the real estate baron is ready for an evening long chat, complete with a podium band.

His life and work have been that as well in magnitude, and as his company, DLF, is set to launch the country's earliest residential project, The Habitat in Gurugram (at ₹20,000 per square foot), does he look back in satisfaction at the legacy he has created? "My legacy is to be better than the best, and that is how I have shaped my com-

pany," he said in an exclusive interaction. Credited to be the man behind Gurugram, Singh, however, regrets in the heat that Gurugram's civic infrastructure has not kept pace with its glory towns. Addressing the multi-millionaire city would have political powers of a Partee Singh Kapoor (who is a member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly), Singh said, "Yes, definitely. We need to look at the next five to ten years when planning urban development. But that has to be undertaken, not just for Gurugram, but for the entire country." Singh said, "Yes, definitely. We need to look at the next five to ten years when planning urban development. But that has to be undertaken, not just for Gurugram, but for the entire country."

GUBURAH DID NOT DEVELOP THE WAY WE HAD ENVISIONED IT
WINDY CHAUBHAN, PRESIDENT, DLF

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● AMID TRUMP FEARS, DIVERGENCE

Argentina first to walk out of climate meet

French minister skips Baku after host nation President Aliyev targets France

AMITABH SINHA
Baku, November 14

THE COP29 CLIMATE conference faced an unprecedented situation Thursday after the Argentinian delegation pulled out without assigning any reason, and the French minister heading her country's delegation decided not to travel to Baku to participate in the negotiations following an unprovoked attack on France by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in his speech a day earlier.

The Argentinian withdrawal happened on the orders of the country's President Javier Milei, who was voted in office last November, Spanish

media Climatica, which first reported the development, said. Milei is said to be trying to cultivate a close relationship with US President-elect Donald Trump. Possibly because of this reason, the abrupt withdrawal set off rumours of an impending Argentinian pull-out from the Paris Agreement, but there has been no indication of any such development.

Trump himself is widely expected to once again take the US out of the Paris Agreement after he assumes charge in January. He had done so the previous time he had become President, in 2016. His successor Joe Biden got the US back into the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, French Minister of Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk, Agnes Pannier-Runacher, who was scheduled to travel to Baku to join her country's delegation here, cancelled her trip in response to Aliyev's remarks in which the Azerbaijani President blamed France for



COP29
Baku,
Azerbaijan



Visitors see the Taj Mahal through morning air pollution and fog in Agra, on Thursday

REUTERS

alleged human rights violations in some of its overseas territories. He made a similar attack on the Netherlands too.

France and Azerbaijan are not on the best of terms, their relationship having become particularly strained ever since the war between Azerbaijan

and Armenia over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh started in 2020. France supported the Armenian cause.

France will, however, continue to participate in the COP29 negotiations. The Netherlands has not reacted to Aliyev's remarks.

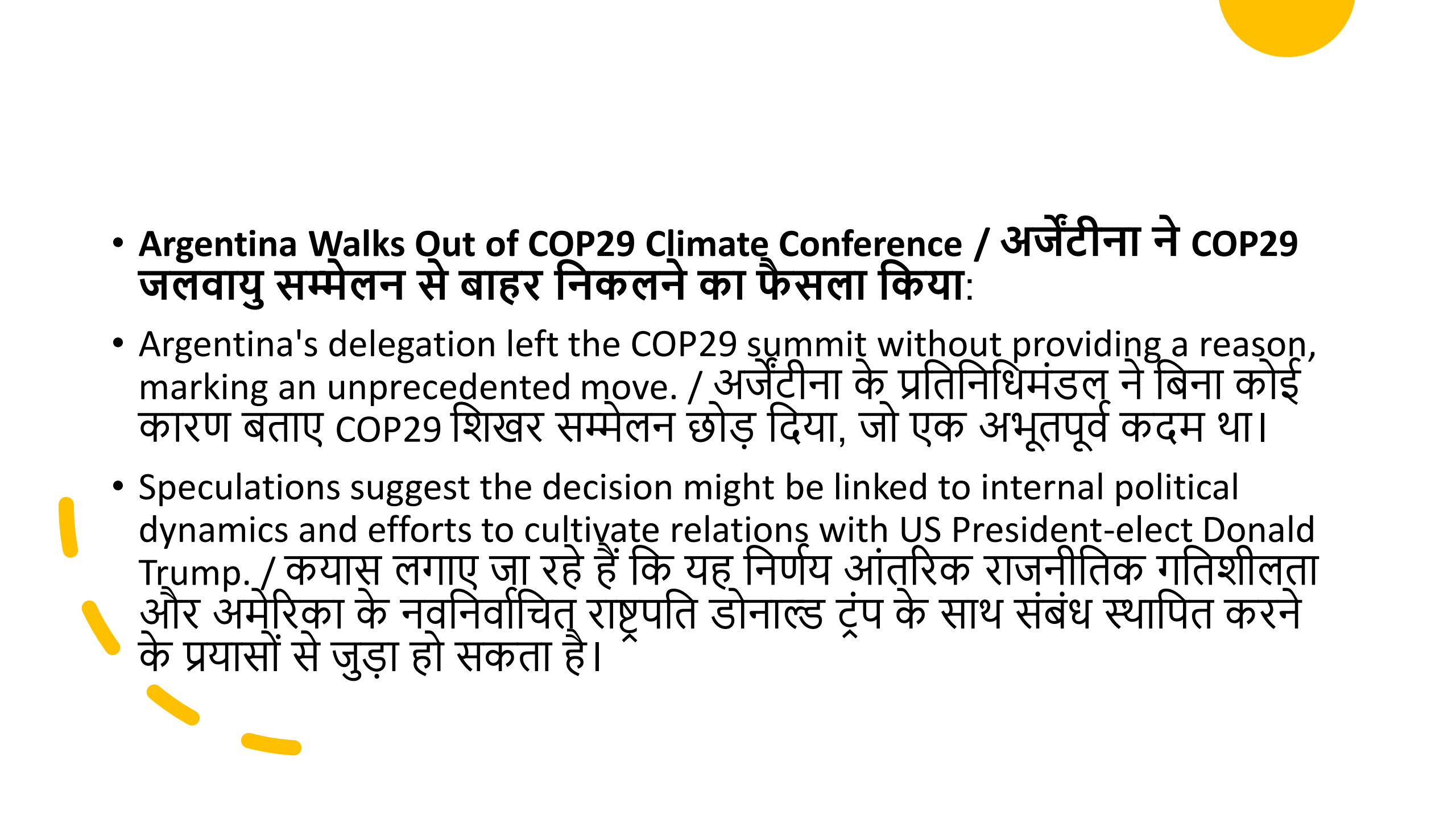
The European Union said it was the responsibility of the host country to ensure that the conference was inclusive. "Both France and Netherlands are absolute leaders in the field of climate policy, and climate finance. They are very strong voices on climate action and

have played pivotal roles in previous COPs and their delegations will play a pivotal role at this COP as well," European negotiator Jacob Werksman said.

"Regardless of any bilateral disagreements, the COP should be a place where all parties feel a liberty to come to negotiate on climate action. The COP presidency has of course a particularly important role and responsibility to enable inclusive participation. They have been playing that role this week and we expect them to play that role next week as well," he said.

Werksman, in the meanwhile, acknowledged that the wide divergences between the different countries on the finance negotiations persisted and there was little progress on bridging those gaps.

"Parties are very significantly far apart on the key elements of the design of the NCQG (New Cumulative Quantitative Goal, the name of the finance agreement being negotiated in Baku). It's hard to see exactly where the landing grounds lie at the moment," he said.

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- **Argentina Walks Out of COP29 Climate Conference / अर्जेटीना ने COP29 जलवायु सम्मेलन से बाहर निकलने का फैसला किया:**
 - Argentina's delegation left the COP29 summit without providing a reason, marking an unprecedented move. / अर्जेटीना के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने बिना कोई कारण बताए COP29 शिखर सम्मेलन छोड़ दिया, जो एक अभूतपूर्व कदम था।
 - Speculations suggest the decision might be linked to internal political dynamics and efforts to cultivate relations with US President-elect Donald Trump. / कयास लगाए जा रहे हैं कि यह निर्णय आंतरिक राजनीतिक गतिशीलता और अमेरिका के नवनिर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के साथ संबंध स्थापित करने के प्रयासों से जुड़ा हो सकता है।

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- **French Minister Cancels Visit / फ्रांसीसी मंत्री ने यात्रा रद्द की:**
 - France's Minister for Ecological Transition, Agnes Pannier-Runacher, canceled her visit due to remarks made by Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev targeting France. / फ्रांस की पर्यावरणीय संक्रमण मंत्री, एग्नेस पनियर-रुनाशर, ने अजरबैजान के राष्ट्रपति इल्हाम अलीयेव द्वारा फ्रांस को निशाना बनाकर की गई टिप्पणियों के कारण अपनी यात्रा रद्द कर दी।
 - Tensions between France and Azerbaijan have been heightened over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. / नागोर्नो-काराबाख संघर्ष को लेकर फ्रांस और अजरबैजान के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया है।

Impacts on COP Negotiations / COP वार्ता पर प्रभाव:

The walkout by Argentina and France's diplomatic tensions could strain ongoing climate negotiations. / अर्जेन्टीना के बाहर निकलने और फ्रांस के राजनयिक तनाव से चल रही जलवायु वार्ता पर असर पड़ सकता है।

The European Union emphasized inclusivity at the conference despite bilateral disputes. / यूरोपीय संघ ने द्विपक्षीय विवादों के बावजूद सम्मेलन में समावेशिता पर जोर दिया।

Trump's Expected Actions on Climate Agreement / ट्रंप के जलवायु समझौते पर अपेक्षित कदम:

There are concerns that US President-elect Donald Trump may pull the US out of the Paris Agreement, as he did previously in 2016. / चिंता है कि अमेरिका के नवनिर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप, पहले की तरह 2016 में किए गए कदम के समान, अमेरिका को पेरिस समझौते से बाहर कर सकते हैं।

Such a move could impact global climate initiatives. / ऐसा कदम वैश्विक जलवायु पहलों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

IIT Delhi leads employability; 10 Indian varsities in global top 250

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, November 14

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE performed well in the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) Global University Employability Ranking and Survey (GUERS). Based on employer feedback on the most employable graduates produced by universities worldwide, the rankings this year feature 10 Indian institutions in the top 250—an improvement from last year's count of nine.

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, despite a slight dip (ranked 28th), remains the top-performing Indian university. Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Science has improved its ranking, moving up from 55th in 2024 to 47th in 2025, making it the second Indian university in the top 50.

"This success is largely due to the technological specialisation of its institutions, attracting the attention of international employers," THE said.

The GEURS shows that employers want graduates who have undertaken some form of work experience. Though other factors continue to play a significant role such as graduate skills

and digital mindset. As per the survey, 45.9 per cent of employers have emphasised the ability to learn and adapt to new technologies while 45.1% have valued collaboration skills like communication and teamwork.

Like the previous year, there is an increased presence of Asian universities. For instance, Asia has 52 institutions in the top 250 – three more than last year. Chinese universities are continuing to climb up and consolidate their position in the top echelons of the ranking with its top league universities – Peking University and Tsinghua University – moving up in the rankings this year.

In terms of overall rankings, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) maintained their top two positions for another year. In fact, the US and UK institutions took up 10 of the top 20 places. After a marked decline over the last 15 years, the number of American universities in rankings seems to be stabilising. In 2025, for example, 52 American universities feature in the top 250 – a slight increase from the previous years.

MAKING STRIDES

Rankings 2025	Top 10 universities in the Global Employability University Ranking and Survey 2025
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2	California Institute of Technology
3	Stanford University
4	Harvard University
5	University of Cambridge
28	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
47	Indian Institute of Science
60	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
141	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
160	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

5.6 lakh Indians migrated to rich OECD countries in 2022

A 35% Jump, But Recent Policies Hint Path May Be Narrowing

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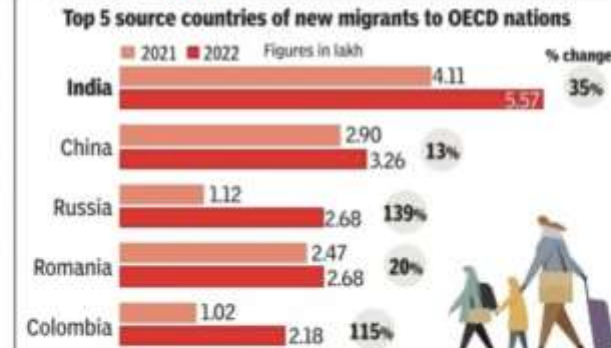
Mumbai: Each year, Indians continue their journey overseas, with many drawn to rich nations like the US, UK, and Canada—countries within the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that have historically opened doors to them. Whether as new immigrants, international students, or those acquiring citizenship, Indians dominate the charts in immigration flows to OECD nations. However, recent protectionist policies hint that the open path may be narrowing.

2022 proved to be a landmark year—a record 5.6 lakh Indians moved to OECD countries—a substantial 35% jump over the previous year. India maintained its lead as the top source of new migrants, with China following at 3.2 lakh. Indians made up 6.4% of all new immigrants to OECD countries, while China contributed 3.8%.

A notable shift was Russia's rise in the migration ranks. With 2.6 lakh Russians migrating to OECD nations in 2022, Russia surged from 18th place to displace Romania.

The International Migration Outlook 2024, released on Thursday in Paris, detailed these shifts. In 2022, the UK welcomed 1.12 lakh Indians,

HUMAN FLOW



Top 5 Nationalities That Acquired OECD-Country Citizenship

Country	2022	2021	% change
India	1,90,299	1,32,908	43%
Syria	1,33,551	1,04,570	28%
Morocco	1,20,621	91,222	32%
Mexico	1,12,668	1,18,147	-4.6%
Philippines	1,11,424	87,331	28%

nearly double the figure from 2021, while 1.25 lakh Indians migrated to the US, marking a 35% increase. Canada, however, saw a dip with 1.18 lakh Indians, an 8% decline from the previous year. In these countries, Indians predominantly migrated through labour pathways, often as principal applicants or as accompanied family members.

China, too, resumed significant migration following two years of Covid-related restrictions. In 2022, over

three lakh Chinese immigrants to OECD member countries, up 13% from the previous year. Particularly in the US, migration flows from China jumped by 37%, returning to pre-pandemic levels with 68,000 new arrivals.

Russia and Romania, which contributed 2.7 lakh new immigrants each, were the next top origin countries. Meanwhile, Türkiye, Israel, and Germany emerged as the primary OECD destinations for Russian migrants.

Romanians, on the other hand, largely headed to Germany, Spain, and Italy.

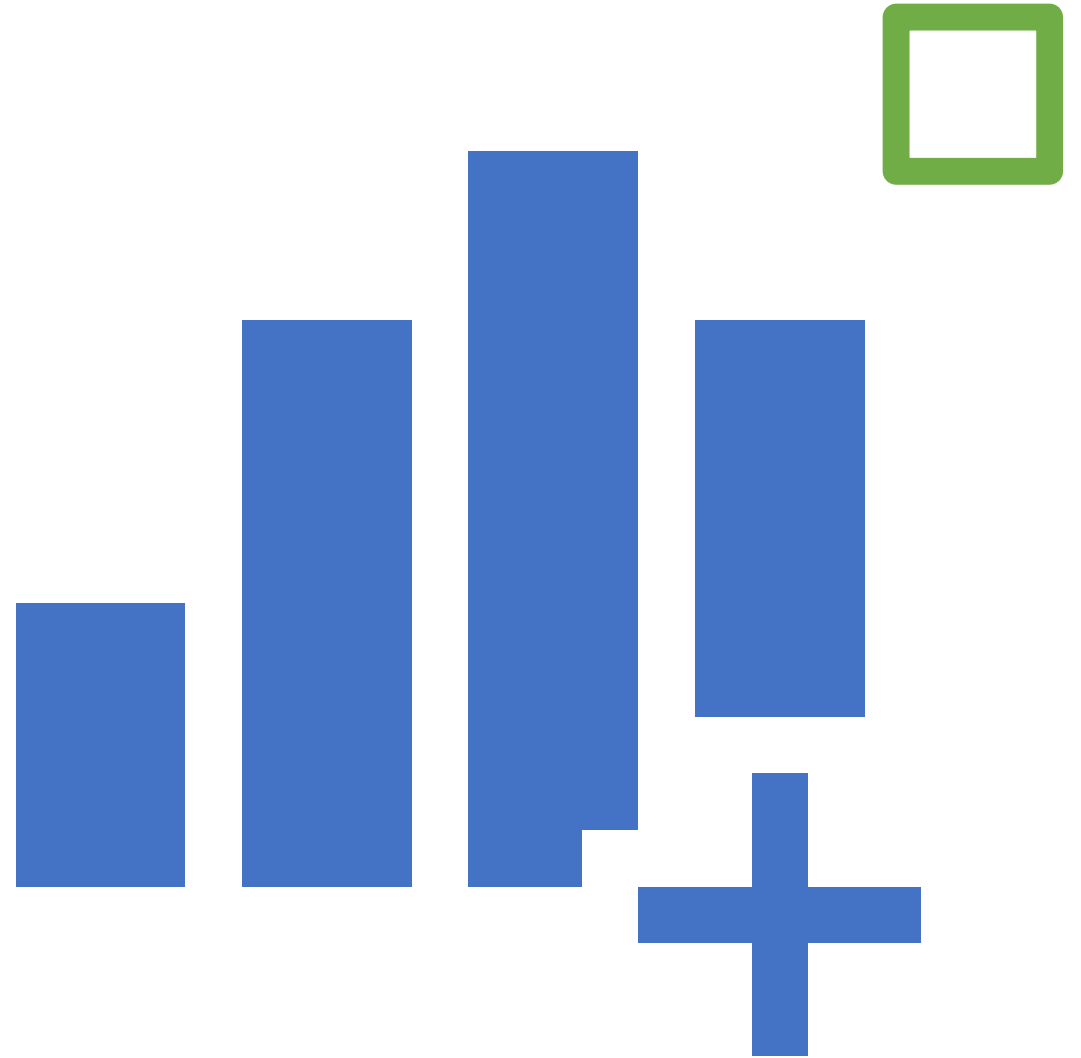
Yet, the welcome for new immigrants is visibly less enthusiastic. Under the incoming Trump administration, immigration to the US may face tighter scrutiny, including on work visas. Canada, too, recently announced a planned cut in immigration targets for the next three years, and the UK has introduced protectionist policies, such as raising wage thresholds and reducing the list of shortage occupations.

Citizenship Trends:


In 2022, over 1.9 lakh Indians took the nationality of an OECD country, marking a 40% increase and securing India's place as the top origin country for new OECD citizens. This record was largely driven by a threefold increase in Indians acquiring Canadian citizenship, totalling 60,000. The report anticipates a further rise in 2023.

Syria ranked second in 2022, with 1.34 lakh nationals gaining OECD citizenship—a 28% increase from 2021—followed by Morocco, with 1.21 lakh Moroccan nationals becoming citizens in Spain, Italy, and France. Mexicans largely acquired American citizenship, in 2022 their numbers dipped slightly.

SVASTIK Initiative



In the recent conference, jointly organized by CSIR-NIScPR and Gurugram University highlighted the significance of SVASTIK initiative.



About SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge)



Launched by: CSIR-NIScPR (National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research).

Aim: To bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science, highlighting the scientific underpinnings of various traditional practices.

Working: SVASTIK identifies traditional knowledge practices from various fields, including agriculture, medicine, environment, and more.

- Researchers and experts collaborate to scientifically validate these practices through rigorous research and analysis.
- The validated knowledge is then communicated to the public through various channels.



Exercise 'Poorvi Prahar'

The Indian Army is conducting a high-intensity tri-services exercise Poorvi Prahar in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

About

Objective: To hone the combat effectiveness of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force in executing Integrated Joint Operations in the challenging mountainous terrain of the region.

Key Features: Utilization of advanced fighter aircraft, reconnaissance platforms, helicopters, and M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers.

- Employment of innovative technologies like Swarm Drones and Loitering Munitions.

Significance: Demonstrates India's advancements in modern warfare technology.

- Enhances the country's ability to execute seamless, multi-domain operations.
- Reinforces India's strategic deterrence capabilities.

Operation Kawach

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- The Delhi Police has arrested criminals and drug traffickers under the Operation Kawach.
 - **About**
 - **Operation Kawach:** Initiated in May 2023, it is a comprehensive initiative launched by the Delhi Police to combat the escalating issue of drug trafficking and abuse in the national capital Delhi.
 - **Note:** Operation Kawach is also an initiative by the **Indian Armed Forces** aimed at strengthening and **securing India's northeastern front**, particularly along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

Word of the day

Calumny:

a false accusation of an offence or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions

Synonyms: lie, defamation, malice

Usage:


He was subjected to the most vicious calumny.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/calumnypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /kæləmni/



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and focused on the clapping action. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
