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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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2.	Early 8th century Telugu inscription discovered in A.P. आंध्र प्रदेश में प्रारंभिक 8वीं शताब्दी का तेलुगु अभिलेख खोजा गया
3.	Kalinadi Vital for South, Says Pant कालीनदी दक्षिण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण, पंत ने कहा

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Cruise to Valhalla

GS I: A&C

Fiery tradition: Revellers set fire to a boat during **Up Helly Aa**, Europe's largest fire festival, in Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Britain, on Monday.
The festival pays tribute to the viking heritage, where dead people were placed on burning boats on their way to the 'afterlife'.

U.P. official resigns to support State govt. in Shankaracharya row

GS I: History

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

"Deeply hurt" over remarks by Swami Avimukteshwaranand against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Prashant Kumar Singh, posted as the Deputy GST Commissioner in Ayodhya, tendered his resignation to Governor Anandiben Patel on Tuesday. In his letter, the official stated that he was quitting in "support of the government".

Mr. Singh added that he "could not tolerate the insult" to the CM, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah by the seer, whom he also accused of trying to divide society along caste lines and of inciting officials against the government. His resignation came a day after Alankar Agnihotri, posted as the Bareilly City Magistrate, was suspended after he resigned to protest the new University Grants Commission regulations and the seer's "mistreatment". The row between Swami Avimukteshwaranand and the government started on January 18, when he tried to reach Sangam on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya on his chariot "without permission". He lashed out at the Adityanath-led dispensation, claiming that his followers had been mistreated. Later, the government served a notice on the seer, who is also head of the Jyotish Peeth of Badrinath, over the use of the 'Shankaracharya' title.

On Tuesday, BJP leader Uma Bharti came out in support of the seer, saying 'identity proof' couldn't be sought from seers.

U.P. official resigns to support State govt. in Shankaracharya row
शंकराचार्य विवाद में राज्य सरकार के समर्थन में यू.पी. अधिकारी का इस्तीफ़ा

- "Deeply hurt" over remarks by Swami Avimukteshwaranand against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Prashant Kumar Singh, posted as the Deputy GST Commissioner in Ayodhya, tendered his resignation to Governor Anandiben Patel on Tuesday.
उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के खिलाफ स्वामी अविमुक्तेश्वरानंद की टिप्पणियों से "गहराई से आहत" होकर, अयोध्या में उप जीएसटी आयुक्त के रूप में तैनात प्रशांत कुमार सिंह ने मंगलवार को राज्यपाल आनंदीबेन पटेल को अपना इस्तीफ़ा सौंपा।

- In his letter, the official stated that he was quitting in "support of the government".
अपने पत्र में, अधिकारी ने कहा कि वह "सरकार के समर्थन" में पद छोड़ रहे हैं।

- Mr. Singh added that he "could not tolerate the insult" to the CM, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah by the seer, whom he also accused of trying to divide society along caste lines and of inciting officials against the government.
श्री सिंह ने जोड़ा कि वह संत द्वारा मुख्यमंत्री, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के "अपमान को सहन नहीं कर सके", और उन्होंने उन पर समाज को जातिगत आधार पर बांटने तथा अधिकारियों को सरकार के खिलाफ भड़काने का भी आरोप लगाया।

- His resignation came a day after Alankar Agnihotri, posted as the Bareilly City Magistrate, was suspended after he resigned to protest the new University Grants Commission regulations and the seer's "mistreatment".
उनका इस्तीफ़ा एक दिन बाद आया, जब बरेली सिटी मजिस्ट्रेट के रूप में तैनात अलंकार अग्निहोत्री को नए विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग नियमों और संत के "दुर्व्यवहार" के विरोध में इस्तीफ़ा देने के बाद निलंबित कर दिया गया।

- The row between Swami Avimukteshwaranand and the government started on January 18, when he tried to reach Sangam on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya on his chariot "without permission".

स्वामी अविमुक्तेश्वरानंद और सरकार के बीच विवाद **18 जनवरी** को शुरू हुआ, जब उन्होंने **मौनी अमावस्या** के अवसर पर अपने रथ पर "**बिना अनुमति**" संगम पहुंचने की कोशिश की।

- He lashed out at the **Adityanath-led dispensation**, claiming that his followers had been **mistreated**.

  उन्होंने **आदित्यनाथ-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार** पर निशाना साधते हुए दावा किया कि उनके अनुयायियों के साथ **दुर्व्यवहार** किया गया।

- Later, the government served a notice on the seer, who is also head of the **Jyotish Peeth of Badrinath**, over the use of the '**Shankaracharya**' title.

  बाद में, सरकार ने संत को, जो **बद्रीनाथ के ज्योतिष पीठ** के प्रमुख भी हैं, '**शंकराचार्य**' उपाधि के उपयोग को लेकर नोटिस जारी किया।

- On Tuesday, **BJP leader Uma Bharti** came out in support of the seer, saying '**identity proof**' couldn't be sought from seers.

  मंगलवार को, **भाजपा नेता उमा भारती** संत के समर्थन में सामने आईं और कहा कि साधुओं से '**पहचान पत्र**' नहीं मांगा जा सकता।

Adi Shankaracharya

• **Shankaracharya** is a respected title given to the head (pontiff) of certain major **Hindu monastic institutions (Mathas/Peethas)** linked to the tradition of **Adi Shankaracharya**.
• In most academic/history contexts, "Shankaracharya" primarily refers to **Adi Shankaracharya**, the **8th century CE** philosopher-saint who systematised **Advaita Vedanta**.

• **Adi Shankaracharya** was an Indian philosopher, theologian, and monk who played a major role in shaping the intellectual tradition of **Hindu philosophy**, especially **Vedanta**.
• Most commonly accepted traditional dates are **788–820 CE**, though historians note that exact dates are debated.
• He is closely associated with the revival and organisation of **Vedic/Upanishadic thought** through **logic, debate, and commentaries**.

Historical Background (8th Century India)

• The period of **early medieval India** saw intense intellectual debates among:
• **Buddhist schools**
• **Jain thinkers**
• **Vedic/Hindu philosophical traditions**
• Shankaracharya emerged as a powerful voice who argued for **Vedantic non-dualism**, strengthening Hindu philosophical foundations.

Advaita Vedanta

• **Advaita** literally means **"non-dual"**.
• The central idea:
• **Brahman (ultimate reality) is one and indivisible.**
• The individual self (**Atman**) is not separate from Brahman.

• Shankaracharya taught that the feeling of "I am separate" from the universe is caused by **ignorance (Avidya)**.
• The material world appears diverse because of **Maya** (illusion/appearance), but ultimate truth is **oneness**.

Example (simple)
• Like a rope mistaken for a snake in dim light: the snake feels real, but truth is the rope.
• Similarly, the world appears separate, but the highest truth is **Brahman alone**.

Philosophical contribution

• Shankaracharya wrote authoritative commentaries (Bhashyas), especially:
• **Brahma Sutra Bhashya**
• Commentaries on principal **Upanishads**
• Commentary on the **Bhagavad Gita**
• His works helped give Vedanta a clear, logical structure, making it a strong philosophical system.

Religious-social contribution

• He emphasised:
• **unity of spiritual truth**
• **importance of knowledge (Jnana)**
• discipline and monastic organisation
• He promoted the **Smarta tradition**, which stresses worship of multiple forms of God while accepting unity of Brahman.

Early 8th century Telugu inscription discovered in A.P.

GS I: History

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

A Telugu inscription dating back to the 8th century CE has been discovered at Pitikayagulla village in Bestavaripeta mandal of Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh, shedding light on the evolution of the Telugu language and early published works in the region.

The inscription was engraved on a stone slab erected in front of the historic Pitikesvara temple. Written in Telugu language and characters of the 8th century CE, the record is considered significant for both epigraphical and historical studies.

The four-line inscription reads: "*Svastisri Nandelu*

The inscription was engraved on a stone slab erected in front of the Pitikesvara temple.

Vari, Chensinavanthu Prani, Milli Achari," and "*Padasina Nava Katta*". Epigraphists interpret the inscription as recording the construction of a new embankment (*nava katta*).

The work is attributed to Pranimilli Achari, identified as a sculptor or craftsman, indicating the active role of artisans in public infrastructure during that period. The reference is believed to date to a time when the Renadu region was under royal administration, although the name of the ruling king is not mentioned in the text.

K. Muniratnam Reddy, Director (Epigraphy), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), said the inscription represents a new epigraphical exploration. He noted that such early Telugu records are crucial for understanding the transition of Telugu from Prakrit influences to an independent literary and administrative language.

Early 8th century Telugu inscription discovered in A.P.
आंध्र प्रदेश में प्रारंभिक 8वीं शताब्दी का तेलुगु अभिलेख खोजा गया

- A **Telugu inscription** dating back to the **8th century CE** has been discovered at **Pitikayagulla village** in **Bestavaripeta mandal** of **Prakasam district**, **Andhra Pradesh**, shedding light on the evolution of the **Telugu language** and early published works in the region.

  8वीं शताब्दी ईस्वी का एक **तेलुगु अभिलेख आंध्र प्रदेश** के **प्रकाशम ज़िले** के **बेस्टवारिपेटा मंडल** के **पिटिकायगुल्ला गांव** में खोजा गया है, जो क्षेत्र में **तेलुगु भाषा** के विकास और प्रारंभिक प्रकाशित कृतियों पर प्रकाश डालता है।

- The inscription was engraved on a **stone slab** erected in front of the historic **Pitikesvara temple**.

  यह अभिलेख ऐतिहासिक **पिटिकेश्वर मंदिर** के सामने स्थापित एक **पत्थर की शिला** पर उत्कीर्ण है।

- Written in **Telugu language** and characters of the **8th century CE**, the record is considered significant for both **epigraphical** and **historical studies**.

  8वीं शताब्दी ईस्वी की **तेलुगु भाषा** और लिपि में लिखा गया यह अभिलेख **अभिलेखीय** और **ऐतिहासिक अध्ययन** दोनों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है।

- The **four-line inscription** reads: "**Svastisri Nandelu Vari, Chensinavanthu Prani, Milli Achari,**" and "**Padasina Nava Katta**".

  चार पंक्तियों वाला अभिलेख इस प्रकार है: "**स्वस्तिश्री नंदेलु वारी, चेंसिनवंतु प्राणी, मिल्ली आचारी,**" और "**पदसीन नव कट्टा।**"

- Epigraphists interpret the inscription as recording the construction of a new **embankment (nava katta)**.

  अभिलेखविद इस अभिलेख की व्याख्या एक नए **बंध (नव कट्टा)** के निर्माण के अभिलेख के रूप में करते हैं।

- The work is attributed to **Pranimilli Achari**, identified as a **sculptor or craftsman**, indicating the active role of **artisans** in **public infrastructure** during that period.

  यह कार्य **प्राणीमिल्ली आचारी** को समर्पित माना जाता है, जिन्हें **शिल्पकार या कारीगर** के रूप में पहचाना गया है, जो उस काल में **सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना** में **कारीगरों** की सक्रिय भूमिका को दर्शाता है।

- The reference is believed to date to a time when the **Renadu region** was under **royal administration**, although the name of the **ruling king** is not mentioned in the text.

  इस संदर्भ को उस समय का माना जाता है जब **रेनाडु क्षेत्र राजकीय प्रशासन** के अधीन था, हालांकि पाठ में **शासक राजा** का नाम उल्लेखित नहीं है।

- **K. Muniratnam Reddy**, **Director (Epigraphy)**, **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, said the inscription represents a new **epigraphical exploration**.

  के. मुनिरत्नम रेड्डी, निदेशक (अभिलेख), भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआई) ने कहा कि यह अभिलेख एक नया **अभिलेखीय अन्वेषण** प्रस्तुत करता है।

- He noted that such early **Telugu records** are crucial for understanding the transition of Telugu from **Prakrit influences** to an **independent literary and administrative language**.

  उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे प्रारंभिक **तेलुगु अभिलेख** तेलुगु के **प्राकृत प्रभावों** से एक **स्वतंत्र साहित्यिक और प्रशासनिक भाषा** के रूप में संक्रमण को समझने के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Kalinadi Vital for South, Says Pant

Kalinadi Vital for South, Says Pant
कालीनदी दक्षिण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण, पंत ने कहा

- Ambika Nagar (North Kanara), **Jan. 27**: The giant **Kalinadi power project** would open up possibilities for the **southern States** to take advantage of one another's **thermal and hydel capacities** for the **common good** of the entire region, the **Union Minister of State for Energy**, **Mr. K. C. Pant**, said here today.

 अंबिका नगर (उत्तर कनारा), **27 जनवरी**: विशाल **कालीनदी विद्युत परियोजना दक्षिणी राज्यों** को एक-दूसरे की **थर्मल और हाइडल क्षमताओं** का उपयोग करने की संभावनाएँ खोलेगी, जिससे पूरे क्षेत्र का **सामूहिक हित** सध सकेगा, यह बात आज यहां **ऊर्जा राज्य मंत्री**, **श्री के. सी. पंत** ने कही।

- It was one of the **most important power projects of the country**, he said while unveiling a **plaque** at a function at the **Nagjhari power house site** to mark the signing of the **loan agreement** for the hydel project in **Kuwait** today.

 उन्होंने कहा कि यह देश की **सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विद्युत परियोजनाओं में से एक** है, और यह बात उन्होंने आज **कुवैत** में हाइडल परियोजना के लिए **ऋण समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर के अवसर पर **नागझरी पावर हाउस स्थल** पर आयोजित समारोह में **पट्टिका** का अनावरण करते हुए कही।

- Mr. Pant said the **loan of Rs. 45 crores** being provided by **Kuwait** represented an important step in the direction of **strengthening of relations** between the two countries.

 श्री पंत ने कहा कि **कुवैत द्वारा प्रदान किया** जा रहा **45 करोड़ रुपये का ऋण** दोनों देशों के बीच **संबंधों को मजबूत करने** की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

- It was only proper, he said, that **developing countries** helped each other and enlarged their area of **co-operation**.

 उन्होंने कहा कि यह पूरी तरह उचित है कि **विकासशील देश** एक-दूसरे की सहायता करें और **सहयोग** के क्षेत्र को विस्तृत करें।

- Mr. Pant spoke of the **special interest** shown by the **Centre** in the **Kalinadi project** right from the beginning and referred to the **Central assistance of Rs. 25 crores** given during **1972-74** and the **Rs. 5 crores** provided by the **Life Insurance Corporation**.

 श्री पंत ने शुरुआत से ही **कालीनदी परियोजना** में केंद्र द्वारा दिखाए गए **विशेष रुचि** का उल्लेख किया और **1972-74** के दौरान दी गई **25 करोड़ रुपये की केंद्रीय सहायता** तथा **भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम** द्वारा प्रदान किए गए **5 करोड़ रुपये** का संदर्भ दिया।

- During **1975-76**, an additional **Rs. 10 crores** had been allocated on the understanding that the **State** would find **Rs. 5 crores**.

 1975-76 के दौरान अतिरिक्त **10 करोड़ रुपये** इस समझ के साथ आवंटित किए गए थे कि **राज्य 5 करोड़ रुपये** जुटाएगा।

- **Mr. Devaraj Urs**, **Karnataka Chief Minister**, said the **Kalinadi project** would open the door for further **economic development** of the **State**.

 कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री, **श्री देवराज उर्स** ने कहा कि **कालीनदी परियोजना राज्य** के आगे **आर्थिक विकास** के नए द्वार खोलेगी।

- Describing the **Kalinadi project** as a **complex one consisting of 10 dams**, Mr. Urs said the **first stage** would help produce **910 mw.**, the **second 210 mw.**, and the **third 100 mw.**, making a **total of 1,231 mw.**

 कालीनदी परियोजना को **10 बांधों वाली जटिल परियोजना** बताते हुए श्री उर्स ने कहा कि **पहला चरण 910 मेगावाट**, **दूसरा 210 मेगावाट**, और **तीसरा 100 मेगावाट** उत्पादन करेगा, जिससे कुल **1,231 मेगावाट** बिजली प्राप्त होगी।

Kalinadi Project (Kali River Hydroelectric Project), Karnataka

Basic Introduction (What is the Kalinadi Project?)

• The **Kalinadi Project** refers to a major **hydroelectric power development system** built on the **Kali River (also called Kalinadi)** in **Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka**.
• It is one of the most important hydro-power projects of **South India**, developed mainly by **Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)**.
• The project is sometimes described as the **Kali Valley Project / Kalinadi Hydroelectric Project**, because it consists of a **cascade of dams and power stations** built in stages along the river.

Geographical Background

Kali (Kalinadi) River

• The **Kali River** is a **west-flowing river** of the Western Ghats.
• It originates near **Diggi village** in the **Western Ghats**, and flows westwards into the **Arabian Sea near Karwar**.
• The river length is around **~180 km** (varies slightly in sources).

GS Paper II: Polity,	
TOPICS COVERED	**28 January 2026**
1.	**Place in the electoral rolls is a 'qualified right', with essential conditions, poll body tells SC** मतदाता सूची में स्थान एक 'योग्य अधिकार' है, आवश्यक शर्तों के साथ: निर्वाचन आयोग ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से कहा
2.	**'BJP violated Constitutional protocol by insulting LoPs'** 'बीजेपी ने LoPs का अपमान कर संवैधानिक प्रोटोकॉल का उल्लंघन किया'

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Place in the electoral rolls is a 'qualified right', with essential conditions, poll body tells SC

GS II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Even registered voters are required to "continuously fulfill" the essential condition of Indian citizenship, as laid out in Article 326 of the Constitution, to retain their place in the electoral roll, the Election Commission (EC) of India told the Supreme Court on Tuesday, during a hearing on the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

Article 326 provides for adult suffrage, and requires that a person should be 18 years old, an Indian citizen, and not disqualified by law to be entitled to register as a voter.

"These are essential conditions. The fulfilment of these conditions is a continuous requirement. You cannot say once my name is entered, whether I lose eligibility or not, I am entitled to stay on in the electoral roll," senior advocate Maninder Singh, for the EC, submitted before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The Bench was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the constitutionality of the SIR exercise conducted in Bihar. "The SIR is a verification exercise," Mr. Singh argued.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadhiri Naidu, also appearing for the EC, said the

> **The fulfillment of these conditions [laid out in Article 326] is a continuous requirement. You cannot say once my name is entered, whether I lose eligibility or not, I am entitled to stay on in the electoral roll**
>
> **MANINDER SINGH**
> EC counsel

SIR was not a determination of citizenship. "An exercise to verify citizenship is different from a process determining citizenship," he said.

He illustrated how young lawyers have their qualifications verified before becoming a member of the Bar bodies.

'No complaint of lapse'
Mr. Naidu argued there was "not even one complaint of lapse in Bihar". He sought to focus on the "collateral advantage" of the SIR, explaining how voter turnouts rose in 2025 after the door-to-door survey conducted for the exercise.

"It had aroused the interest of the common man. It drafted enthusiastic voters and weeded out the

dead, duplicates in the electoral roll," he submitted.

Advocate Eklavya Dwivedi, for the EC, wrapped up the EC's response to the petitions challenging the SIR, arguing that a place in the electoral roll was a "qualified right".

"Without proof of qualification, no person can enter the electoral roll," he submitted.

'No further limitations'
Mr. Dwivedi said the EC had not added any further limitations to the conditions prescribed in the Constitution under Article 326, and in Sections 16 (disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll) and 19 (conditions of registration) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"The limitations flow from Article 326 read with Section 16 and 19. It is not the case that we have come up with a policy and increased the threshold of eligibility. We are verifying the eligibility parameters. It is not that we have asked you to prove the parameters in Article 326 along with additional parameters 'X' and 'Y'. In the absence of additional limitations, there is no question of proportionality," Mr. Dwivedi completed the counter-arguments for the EC.

Place in the electoral rolls is a 'qualified right', with essential conditions, poll body tells SC
मतदाता सूची में स्थान एक 'योग्य अधिकार' है, आवश्यक शर्तों के साथ: निर्वाचन आयोग ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से कहा

- Place in the electoral rolls is a **'qualified right'**, with **essential conditions**, poll body tells **SC**.
  मतदाता सूची में स्थान एक **'योग्य अधिकार'** है, **आवश्यक शर्तों** के साथ, निर्वाचन निकाय ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** से कहा।

- Even registered voters are required to **"continuously fulfil"** the essential condition of **Indian citizenship**, as laid out in **Article 326 of the Constitution**, to retain their place in the **electoral roll**, the **Election Commission (EC) of India** told the **Supreme Court** on Tuesday, during a hearing on the ongoing **special intensive revision (SIR) exercise**.
  यहां तक कि पंजीकृत मतदाताओं को भी **मतदाता सूची** में अपना स्थान बनाए रखने के लिए **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 326** में वर्णित **भारतीय नागरिकता** की आवश्यक शर्त को **"लगातार पूरा"** करना होता है, यह बात **निर्वाचन आयोग (ईसी) भारत** ने मंगलवार को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** को चल रहे **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) अभ्यास** की सुनवाई के दौरान बताई।

- **Article 326** provides for **adult suffrage**, and requires that a person should be **18 years old**, an **Indian citizen**, and not **disqualified by law** to be entitled to register as a voter.
  अनुच्छेद 326 वयस्क मताधिकार का प्रावधान करता है, और यह आवश्यक करता है कि किसी व्यक्ति की आयु **18 वर्ष** हो, वह **भारतीय नागरिक** हो, और **कानून द्वारा अयोग्य** न ठहराया गया हो, ताकि वह मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकरण का अधिकारी हो।

- He sought to focus on the **"collateral advantage"** of the **SIR**, explaining how **voter turnouts rose in 2025** after the **door-to-door survey** conducted for the exercise.
  उन्होंने **SIR** के **"पार्श्व लाभ"** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया, यह बताते हुए कि इस अभ्यास के लिए किए गए **घर-घर सर्वेक्षण** के बाद **2025** में मतदान प्रतिशत कैसे बढ़ा।

- "It had aroused the interest of the common man. It drafted enthusiastic voters and **weeded out the dead duplicates** in the **electoral roll**," he submitted.
  "इसने आम आदमी की रुचि जगाई। इसने उत्साही मतदाताओं को जोड़ा और **मतदाता सूची** से **मृत और डुप्लीकेट** नामों को हटाया," उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया।

- **Advocate Eklavya Dwivedi**, for the **EC**, wrapped up the **EC's response** to the petitions challenging the **SIR**, arguing that a place in the **electoral roll** was a **"qualified right"**.
  अधिवक्ता एकलव्य द्विवेदी ने **ईसी** की ओर से **SIR** को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं पर **ईसी की प्रतिक्रिया** को समेटते हुए तर्क दिया कि **मतदाता सूची** में स्थान एक **"योग्य अधिकार"** है।

- "Without proof of **qualification**, no person can enter the **electoral roll**," he submitted.
  "**योग्यता** के प्रमाण के बिना कोई भी व्यक्ति **मतदाता सूची** में प्रवेश नहीं कर सकता," उन्होंने कहा।

'No further limitations'
'कोई अतिरिक्त सीमाएं नहीं'

- Mr. Dwivedi said the **EC** had not added any **further limitations** to the conditions prescribed in the **Constitution under Article 326**, and in **Sections 16 (disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll)** and **19 (conditions of registration)** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
  श्री द्विवेदी ने कहा कि **ईसी** ने **अनुच्छेद 326** के तहत **संविधान** में तथा **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950** की **धारा 16 (मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण हेतु अयोग्यताएं)** और **धारा 19 (पंजीकरण की शर्तें)** में निर्धारित शर्तों में कोई **अतिरिक्त सीमाएं** नहीं जोड़ी हैं।

- "The limitations flow from **Article 326 read with Sections 16 and 19**. It is not the case that we have come up with a policy and increased the threshold of eligibility. We are **verifying the eligibility parameters**. It is not that we have asked you to prove the parameters in **Article 326** along with additional parameters **'X'** and **'Y'**. In the absence of **additional limitations**, there is no question of **proportionality**," Mr. Dwivedi completed the counter-arguments for the **EC**.
  "सीमाएं **अनुच्छेद 326** को **धारा 16 और 19** के साथ पढ़ने से उत्पन्न होती हैं। ऐसा नहीं है कि हमने कोई नीति बनाई और पात्रता की सीमा बढ़ा दी। हम **पात्रता मानकों का सत्यापन** कर रहे हैं। यह नहीं है कि हमने आपसे **अनुच्छेद 326** के मानकों के साथ अतिरिक्त **'X' और 'Y'** मानकों को सिद्ध करने को कहा हो। **अतिरिक्त सीमाओं** के अभाव में **अनुपातिकता** का कोई प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता," श्री द्विवेदी ने **ईसी** की ओर से प्रतिवाद पूरा किया।

'BJP violated Constitutional protocol by insulting LoPs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'BJP violated Constitutional protocol by insulting LoPs'
'बीजेपी ने LoPs का अपमान कर संवैधानिक प्रोटोकॉल का उल्लंघन किया'

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of violating Constitutional protocol in regard to the treatment of the Leaders of the Opposition (LoPs) during Republic Day and called it a warning sign for democracy.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said on Republic Day itself, the BJP "chose to destroy the ethos of a Republic and acted on the whim of their Supreme Leader".

"...Hon'ble Mallikarjun @kharge *ji* and Sh. @RahulGandhi *ji* enjoy Cabinet rank by virtue of their posts, yet were relegated to the back rows during the Republic Day event. This has shown the PM's political immaturity to the entire world – how he chose to violate Constitutional norms because of his petty political outlook," he said.

- "...**Hon'ble Mallikarjun @kharge ji** and **Sh. @RahulGandhi ji enjoy Cabinet rank by virtue of their posts,** yet were relegated to the **back rows** during the **Republic Day event**. This has shown the **PM's political immaturity** to the entire world — how he chose to violate **Constitutional norms** because of his **petty political outlook**," he said.

"...**माननीय मल्लिकार्जुन @kharge जी** और **श्री @RahulGandhi जी** अपने पदों के कारण **कैबिनेट रैंक** का दर्जा रखते हैं, फिर भी **गणतंत्र दिवस कार्यक्रम** के दौरान उन्हें **पिछली पंक्तियों** में बैठाया गया। इससे पूरी दुनिया को **प्रधानमंत्री की राजनीतिक अपरिपक्वता** दिखाई दी — कि कैसे उन्होंने अपने **संकीर्ण राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण** के कारण **संवैधानिक मानदंडों** का उल्लंघन किया," उन्होंने कहा।

GS Paper II: International Relations	
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What's happening in Syria's Kurdish regions?

How was the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria or Rojava established? Why did the Shaara-Abdi agreement fall through? Why does Turkiye support the Syrian government forces? What has been the U.S.'s position? What does the ceasefire agreement demand?

GS II: IR

EXPLAINER

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

When Bashar al-Assad's regime collapsed in December 2024, many hoped it would mark the end of Syria's years-long civil strife. Ahmed al-Sharaa (formerly Abu Muhammad al-Golani), who emerged as the country's interim leader, pledged to form an inclusive administration. But the past year has been marked by a resurgence of sectarian violence against the Alawites in the west and the Druze community in the south. In the latest flare-up, fighting broke out in the country's northeast, between government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The SDF has been pushed out of parts of eastern Syria it once controlled, and, despite a ceasefire, a tense standoff persists between Kurdish militias and government forces in the country's Kurdish areas. The renewed violence now threatens to unravel the autonomy Syria's Kurds have exercised since the 2011 civil war.

Who are the main Kurdish actors?

Syria's Kurds, who make up roughly 10% of the country's population, have long demanded autonomy for the Kurdish-populated regions in the north and east. When the Assad regime was forced to withdraw troops from the northeast in 2012, amid the civil war, Kurdish parties, councils and militias moved swiftly to fill the vacuum by establishing their own administrative structures. Several Kurdish regions (called 'cantons') came together to declare autonomy from the Syrian state, and establish the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES), also known as Rojava.

The main party in Rojava is the left-leaning Democratic Union Party (PYD), whose ideology is rooted in the 'democratic confederalism' championed by Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Another major political actor is the Kurdistan National Council (KNC), which is aligned with the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party. The main armed militia in Rojava is the People's Protection Units (YPG), which is aligned with the PYD, the ruling party. The YPG and its women's brigade YPJ gained prominence in 2014-15 as they defeated Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria's Kobane, a predominantly Kurdish region. After their victories against the IS in Syria's north and east, the U.S. started offering them air cover in the battles against jihadists. In 2015, with the blessings of the U.S., the Kurdish leaders formed the SDF with Arab and other minority militias, with the YPG being its core component.

Why did fighting break out?

The question of Kurdish autonomy emerged immediately after the Assad government fell. Mr. Sharaa, formerly the chief of al-Qaeda's Syria branch, wanted to establish a centralised regime in Damascus – an idea pushed back by the country's ethnic and religious minority communities. In March 2025, Mr. Sharaa and SDF commander Mazloum Abdi signed an integration agreement, laying out principles for integrating the SDF and other administrative units into the Syrian state. But the Kurds were clear on one point – they did not want to forfeit the autonomy they had built over more than a decade. In an interview with The Hindu in May, Salih Muslim Muhammad, co-chairman of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) said that "nobody wants another centralised regime in Syria".

The Shaara-Abdi agreement promised to flesh out the details of integration by the end of the year, but that deadline passed without progress. Tensions mounted as Damascus proposed deploying its troops in Kurdish regions. While the Syrian government wanted to extend its control across the country which it thinks is essential for reasserting its sovereignty, Kurdish leaders argued that losing military control of the north and east would imperil their autonomy. As talks stalled in early January, Mr. Sharaa's forces moved into the Arab neighbourhoods of Aleppo, which were controlled by Kurdish forces. Fighting soon followed and government forces asserted control within days, forcing the SDF to withdraw to the northeast.

What does Damascus want?

While the Syrian state forces withdrew in 2012 and other rebel and jihadist groups were preoccupied with their battles against Damascus during the civil war, the IS exploited the vacuum to establish a solid presence in Syria's east. But the YPG, the Kurdish militia, emerged as critical foot soldiers in the war against the IS. The first major defeat the IS faced was at the hands of the YPG. In the following years, the YPG (or the SDF, the expanded version) became the key anti-IS force on the ground in Syria while the U.S. provided them air cover. They controlled the regions they liberated from the IS and established Rojava. The Assad regime tolerated Kurdish autonomy because it was preoccupied with other problems.

Now, Mr. Sharaa, who has been emboldened by the international recognition he has achieved, wants to end Kurdish autonomy. He has taken a two-pronged approach. On January 16, amid ongoing fighting between government forces and the SDF, Mr. Sharaa issued a decree formally recognising Kurdish as a "national language" and offering citizenship to all Syrian Kurds. He also declared Newroz, the new year festival celebrated by Kurds, as a national holiday. But he said nothing about Kurdish autonomy. His plan is to give cultural concessions while taking control of the Kurdish militias militarily.

Where do Turkiye and the U.S. stand?

Turkiye sees the PYD (the political party) and the YPG (the militia) as extended arms of the PKK (the Turkiye-based Kurdish group which has been designated as a terrorist entity by Ankara and its Western allies). Mr. Sharaa and his group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) are close allies of Turkiye. Ankara backed Mr. Sharaa's plan to integrate the Kurdish administrative and military structures into the Syrian state. When Kurds resisted the move, in December 2025, Turkiye warned against them. In the past, Turkiye had carried out military operations to push Kurdish forces away from the Syria-Turkish border and create a buffer. Now that a peace process is under way in Turkiye between the government and the PKK, Ankara believes weakening of the SDF across the border would strengthen its hand and weaken the overall Kurdish push for confederational autonomy.

The U.S. on the other side backed the SDF in the fight against the IS. The U.S. still has some 900 troops in Syria, mostly in the Kurdish northeast. But Washington has warmed up to Damascus after Mr. Sharaa, a former designated terrorist who carried a $10 million State Department bounty on his head, captured power. Mr. Sharaa visited Washington in November 2025 and met Mr. Trump after which Syria announced that it would join the U.S.-led coalition to fight the IS. Now that the U.S. has Damascus, it doesn't need the Kurds to maintain its presence in Syria. The U.S. and Turkiye also find common ground in establishing a centralised Syria, by strengthening the hands of Sharaa, so that the influence of Iran and Russia could be gradually neutralised.

What lies ahead?

After seizing the SDF-held regions of Aleppo, Mr. Sharaa's forces turned to areas between Aleppo and the Euphrates River. These predominantly Arab-populated regions were captured by the SDF between 2015 and 2019 after it drove out the IS. SDF positions subsequently collapsed across Raqqa and Deir al-Zour, both former IS strongholds. Reports also emerged of internal cracks within the SDF, with some Arab militias breaking ranks with YPG commanders. Dozens of IS members escaped from a prison in Hassaka who was caught in the crossfire. On January 18, Mr. Abdi, the SDF commander, agreed to a ceasefire and integration deal. Mr. Sharaa insists that the military integration of the SDF be undertaken on an "individual basis" – not as units. The ceasefire agreement also asks the SDF to hand over Raqqa and Deir al-Zour provinces "administratively and militarily" to the government; to integrate all administrative institutions in al-Hassaka into government structures; to hand over all border crossings and oil and gas fields; and to expel all non-Syrian members of the PKK from Syria.

But there seems to be serious disagreements on the degree of autonomy Kurds would retain. The agreement affirms the need "to protect the special character of the Kurdish areas". The SDF seems ready to give up Raqqa and Deir al-Zour, but they don't want to give up their positions in Kobane, al-Hassaka and Qamishli. While the Sharaa regime wants to end the SDF's local monopoly on the use of force, the SDF doesn't want government troops to be deployed in Kurdish areas. A Kurdish representative based in Europe told The Hindu that the autonomous administration has called for a general mobilisation. "Kobane is now under siege. But Kurdish fighters are defending their positions," he said.

THE GIST

▼ Syria's Kurds, who make up roughly 10% of the country's population, have long demanded autonomy for the Kurdish-populated regions in the north and east. In the latest flare-up, fighting broke out in the country's northeast, between government forces and the Kurdish-led Syria Democratic Forces (SDF).

▼ While the Syrian state forces withdrew in 2012 and other rebel and jihadist groups were preoccupied with their battles against Damascus during the civil war, the IS exploited the vacuum to establish a presence in Syria's east. But the YPG, the Kurdish militia, emerged as critical foot soldiers in the war against the IS.

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Taut relation: Members of the Syrian Democratic Forces queue to settle their status with the Syrian government in Raqqa, Syria on January 27. REUTERS

What's happening in Syria's Kurdish regions?
सीरिया के कुर्द क्षेत्रों में क्या हो रहा है?

How was the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria or Rojava established?
डेमोक्रेटिक ऑटोनॉमस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ऑफ नॉर्थ एंड ईस्ट सीरिया या रोजावा की स्थापना कैसे हुई?

- Why did the **Shaara-Abdi** agreement fall through?
  शारा-अब्दी समझौता क्यों विफल हो गया?
- Why does **Turkiye** support the Syrian government forces?
  तुर्किये सीरियाई सरकारी बलों का समर्थन क्यों करता है?
- What has been the **U.S.**'s position?
  अमेरिका की स्थिति क्या रही है?
- What does the ceasefire agreement demand?
  सीज़फायर समझौता क्या मांग करता है?

- When **Bashar al-Assad's** regime collapsed in **December 2024**, many hoped it would mark the end of Syria's years-long civil strife
  जब **बशर अल-असद** का शासन **दिसंबर 2024** में गिर गया, तो कई लोगों ने आशा की कि यह सीरिया के वर्षों पुराने गृह संघर्ष का अंत होगा

- **Ahmed al-Sharaa** (formerly **Abu Muhammad al-Golani**), who emerged as the country's interim leader, pledged to form an inclusive administration
  देश के अंतरिम नेता के रूप में उभरे **अहमद अल-शारा** (पूर्व में **अबू मुहम्मद अल-गोलानी**) ने एक समावेशी प्रशासन बनाने का वादा किया

- But the past year has been marked by a resurgence of sectarian violence against the **Alawites** in the west and the **Druze** community in the south
  लेकिन बीता वर्ष पश्चिम में **अलावाइट्स** और दक्षिण में **द्रूज़** समुदाय के खिलाफ सांप्रदायिक हिंसा के फिर उभार से चिह्नित रहा

- In the latest flare-up, fighting broke out in the country's northeast, between government forces and the Kurdish-led **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**
  ताज़ा भड़काव में, देश के उत्तर-पूर्व में सरकारी बलों और कुर्द-नेतृत्व वाले **सीरियन डेमोक्रेटिक फोर्सेज़ (SDF)** के बीच लड़ाई छिड़ गई

- The **SDF** has been pushed out of parts of eastern Syria it once controlled, and, despite a ceasefire, a tense standoff persists between Kurdish militias and government forces in the country's Kurdish areas
  SDF को पूर्वी सीरिया के उन हिस्सों से बाहर कर दिया गया है जिन पर उसका पहले नियंत्रण था, और सीज़फायर के बावजूद देश के कुर्द क्षेत्रों में कुर्द मिलिशिया और सरकारी बलों के बीच तनावपूर्ण गतिरोध बना हुआ है

- The renewed violence now threatens to unravel the autonomy Syria's Kurds have exercised since the **2011** civil war
  यह नई हिंसा अब उस स्वायत्तता को कमजोर करने की धमकी देती है जिसे सीरिया के कुर्द **2011** के गृहयुद्ध के बाद से प्रयोग करते रहे हैं

Who are the main Kurdish actors?
मुख्य कुर्द पक्ष कौन हैं?

- Syria's Kurds, who make up roughly **10%** of the country's population, have long demanded autonomy for the Kurdish-populated regions in the north and east
  सीरिया के कुर्द, जो देश की आबादी का लगभग **10%** हैं, लंबे समय से उत्तर और पूर्व के कुर्द-बहुल क्षेत्रों के लिए स्वायत्तता की मांग करते रहे हैं

- Several Kurdish regions (called 'cantons') came together to declare autonomy from the Syrian state, and establish the **Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES)**, also known as **Rojava**
  कई कुर्द क्षेत्रों (जिन्हें 'कैंटन' कहा जाता है) ने मिलकर सीरियाई राज्य से स्वायत्तता घोषित की और **डेमोक्रेटिक ऑटोनॉमस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ऑफ नॉर्थ एंड ईस्ट सीरिया (DAANES)** की स्थापना की, जिसे **रोजावा** भी कहा जाता है

- The main party in Rojava is the left-leaning **Democratic Union Party (PYD)**, whose ideology is rooted in the '**democratic confederalism**' championed by **Abdullah Ocalan**, the leader of the **Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)**
  रोजावा की मुख्य पार्टी वामपंथी **डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन पार्टी (PYD)** है, जिसकी विचारधारा **कुर्दिस्तान वर्कर्स पार्टी (PKK)** के नेता **अब्दुल्ला ओकालान** द्वारा समर्थित 'democratic confederalism' में निहित है

- Another major political actor is the **Kurdistan National Council (KNC)**, which is aligned with the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party
  एक अन्य प्रमुख राजनीतिक पक्ष **कुर्दिस्तान नेशनल काउंसिल (KNC)** है, जो इराकी कुर्दिस्तान डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी से जुड़ा है

- The main armed militia in Rojava is the **People's Protection Units (YPG)**, which is aligned with the **PYD**, the ruling party
  रोजावा की मुख्य सशस्त्र मिलिशिया **पीपल्स प्रोटेक्शन यूनिट्स (YPG)** है, जो सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी **PYD** से जुड़ी है

- The YPG and its women's brigade YPJ gained prominence in **2014-15** as they defeated Islamic State (**IS**) jihadists in Syria's **Kobane**, a predominantly Kurdish region

YPG और उसकी महिला ब्रिगेड **YPJ** ने **2014-15** में पहचान बनाई जब उन्होंने सीरिया के **कोबानी** (मुख्यतः कुर्द क्षेत्र) में इस्लामिक स्टेट (**IS**) जिहादियों को हराया

- After their victories against the IS in Syria's north and east, the **U.S.** started offering them air cover in the battles against jihadists

  सीरिया के उत्तर और पूर्व में IS के खिलाफ उनकी जीत के बाद, **अमेरिका** ने जिहादियों के खिलाफ लड़ाइयों में उन्हें हवाई सुरक्षा (air cover) देना शुरू किया

- In **2015**, with the blessings of the **U.S.**, the Kurdish leaders formed the **SDF** with Arab and other minority militias, with the **YPG** being its core component

  2015 में, **अमेरिका** के आशीर्वाद से, कुर्द नेताओं ने अरब और अन्य अल्पसंख्यक मिलिशियाओं के साथ **SDF** बनाई, जिसमें **YPG** इसका मुख्य घटक था

Why did fighting break out?
लड़ाई क्यों भड़की?

- The question of Kurdish autonomy emerged immediately after the Assad government fell

  असद सरकार के गिरते ही कुर्द स्वायत्तता का प्रश्न तुरंत सामने आ गया

- Mr. Sharaa, formerly the chief of al-Qaeda's Syria branch, wanted to establish a centralised regime in **Damascus** — an idea pushed back by the country's ethnic and religious minority communities

  श्री शारा, जो पहले अल-कायदा की सीरिया शाखा के प्रमुख थे, **दमिश्क** में एक केंद्रीकृत शासन स्थापित करना चाहते थे — जिसका देश की जातीय और धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों ने विरोध किया

- In **March 2025**, Mr. Sharaa and SDF commander **Mazloum Abdi** signed an integration agreement, laying out principles for integrating the SDF and other administrative units into the Syrian state

  मार्च 2025 में, श्री शारा और SDF कमांडर **मज़लूम अब्दी** ने एक एकीकरण समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें SDF और अन्य प्रशासनिक इकाइयों को सीरियाई राज्य में शामिल करने के सिद्धांत तय किए गए

- But the Kurds were clear on one point — they did not want to forfeit the autonomy they had built over more than a decade

  लेकिन कुर्द एक बात पर स्पष्ट थे — वे एक दशक से अधिक समय में बनाई गई अपनी स्वायत्तता छोड़ना नहीं चाहते थे

- While the Syrian state forces withdrew in **2012** and other rebel and jihadist groups were preoccupied with their battles against **Damascus** during the civil war, the **IS** exploited the vacuum to establish a solid presence in Syria's east

  जब सीरियाई राज्य बल **2012** में पीछे हट गए और गृहयुद्ध के दौरान अन्य विद्रोही व जिहादी समूह **दमिश्क** के खिलाफ अपनी लड़ाइयों में व्यस्त थे, तब **IS** ने इस खालीपन का फायदा उठाकर सीरिया के पूर्व में अपनी मजबूत मौजूदगी स्थापित कर ली

- But the **YPG**, the Kurdish militia, emerged as critical foot soldiers in the war against the **IS**

  लेकिन कुर्द मिलिशिया **YPG IS** के खिलाफ युद्ध में महत्वपूर्ण जमीनी लड़ाके के रूप में उभरी

- The first major defeat the **IS** faced was at the hands of the **YPG**

  IS को पहली बड़ी हार **YPG** के हाथों मिली

- In the following years, the **YPG** (or the **SDF**, the expanded version) became the key anti-IS force on the ground in Syria while the **U.S.** provided them air cover

  इसके बाद के वर्षों में, **YPG** (या इसका विस्तारित रूप **SDF**) सीरिया में जमीन पर **IS-विरोधी** प्रमुख बल बन गया जबकि **अमेरिका** ने उन्हें हवाई सुरक्षा (air cover) प्रदान की

- They controlled the regions they liberated from the **IS** and established **Rojava**

  उन्होंने **IS** से मुक्त कराए गए क्षेत्रों पर नियंत्रण स्थापित किया और **रोजावा** की स्थापना की

- The Assad regime tolerated Kurdish autonomy because it was preoccupied with other problems

  असद शासन ने कुर्द स्वायत्तता को इसलिए सहन किया क्योंकि वह अन्य समस्याओं में उलझा हुआ था

- Now, Mr. **Sharaa**, who has been emboldened by the international recognition he has achieved, wants to end Kurdish autonomy

  अब श्री **शारा**, जिन्हें मिली अंतरराष्ट्रीय मान्यता से हौसला मिला है, कुर्द स्वायत्तता को समाप्त करना चाहते हैं

- He has taken a two-pronged approach

  उन्होंने दो-तरफा रणनीति अपनाई है

- On **January 16**, amid ongoing fighting between government forces and the **SDF**, Mr. Sharaa issued a decree formally recognising Kurdish as a "**national language**" and offering citizenship to all Syrian Kurds

  16 जनवरी को, सरकारी बलों और **SDF** के बीच जारी लड़ाई के बीच, श्री शारा ने एक आदेश जारी कर कुर्द भाषा को औपचारिक रूप से "**राष्ट्रीय भाषा**" के रूप में मान्यता दी और सभी सीरियाई कुर्दों को नागरिकता देने की पेशकश की

- He also declared Newroz, the new year festival celebrated by Kurds, as a national holiday

  उन्होंने कुर्दों द्वारा मनाए जाने वाले नववर्ष पर्व **नवरोज़ (Newroz)** को राष्ट्रीय अवकाश भी घोषित किया

- But he said nothing about Kurdish autonomy

  लेकिन उन्होंने कुर्द स्वायत्तता के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा

- His plan is to give cultural concessions while taking control of the Kurdish militias militarily

  उनकी योजना सांस्कृतिक रियायतें देते हुए कुर्द मिलिशियाओं पर सैन्य रूप से नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की है

Where do Turkiye and the U.S. stand?
तुर्किये और अमेरिका कहाँ खड़े हैं?

- Turkiye sees the **PYD** (the political party) and the **YPG** (the militia) as extended arms of the **PKK** (the Turkiye-based Kurdish group which has been designated as a terrorist entity by Ankara and its Western allies).

  तुर्किये **PYD** (राजनीतिक पार्टी) और **YPG** (मिलिशिया) को **PKK** (तुर्किये-आधारित कुर्द समूह जिसे अंकारा और उसके पश्चिमी सहयोगियों ने आतंकवादी इकाई घोषित किया है) का विस्तार मानता है

- Mr. **Sharaa** and his group, **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)** are close allies of Turkiye.

  श्री **शारा** और उनका समूह **हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS)** तुर्किये के करीबी सहयोगी हैं

- Ankara backed Mr. Sharaa's plan to integrate the Kurdish administrative and military structures into the Syrian state.

  अंकारा ने श्री शारा की योजना का समर्थन किया कि कुर्द प्रशासनिक और सैन्य ढाँचों को सीरियाई राज्य में एकीकृत किया जाए

- When Kurds resisted the move, in **December 2025**, Turkiye warned against them.

  जब कुर्दों ने इस कदम का विरोध किया, तो **दिसंबर 2025** में तुर्किये ने उनके खिलाफ चेतावनी दी

- In the past, Turkiye had carried out military operations to push Kurdish forces away from the Syria-Turkish border and create a buffer.

  अतीत में, तुर्किये ने कुर्द बलों को सीरिया-तुर्किये सीमा से दूर धकेलने और एक बफर बनाने के लिए सैन्य अभियान चलाए थे

- Now that a peace process is under way in Turkiye between the government and the **PKK**, Ankara believes weakening of the **SDF** across the border would strengthen its hand and weaken the overall Kurdish push for confederational autonomy.

  अब जब तुर्किये में सरकार और **PKK** के बीच शांति प्रक्रिया चल रही है, तो अंकारा मानता है कि सीमा पार **SDF** को कमजोर करने से उसका पक्ष मजबूत होगा और confederational autonomy के लिए कुर्द दबाव कमजोर पड़ेगा

- The **U.S.** on the other side backed the **SDF** in the fight against the **IS**.

  दूसरी ओर **अमेरिका** ने **IS** के खिलाफ लड़ाई में **SDF** का समर्थन किया

- The U.S. still has some **900 troops** in Syria, mostly in the Kurdish northeast.

  अमेरिका के अभी भी सीरिया में लगभग **900 सैनिक** हैं, जिनमें अधिकांश कुर्द-बहुल उत्तर-पूर्व में हैं

- But Washington has warmed up to Damascus after Mr. Sharaa, a former designated terrorist who carried a **$10 million** State Department bounty on his head, captured power.

  लेकिन वॉशिंगटन ने दमिश्क के प्रति नरमी दिखाई है क्योंकि श्री शारा, जो पहले नामित आतंकवादी थे और जिन पर स्टेट डिपार्टमेंट का **$10 million** इनाम था, सत्ता में आ गए

- Mr. Sharaa visited Washington in **November 2025** and met Mr. Trump after which Syria announced that it would join the U.S.-led coalition to fight the IS.

  श्री शारा ने **नवंबर 2025** में वॉशिंगटन का दौरा किया और श्री ट्रंप से मिले, जिसके बाद सीरिया ने घोषणा की कि वह IS से लड़ने के लिए अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाले गठबंधन में शामिल होगा

- Now that the U.S. has Damascus, it doesn't need the Kurds to maintain its presence in Syria.

  अब जब अमेरिका के पास दमिश्क है, तो उसे सीरिया में अपनी मौजूदगी बनाए रखने के लिए कुर्दों की आवश्यकता नहीं है

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- The U.S. and Turkiye also find common ground in establishing a centralised Syria, by strengthening the hands of Sharaa, so that the influence of **Iran** and **Russia** could be gradually neutralised.
  अमेरिका और तुर्किये शारा के हाथ मजबूत करके एक केंद्रीकृत सीरिया स्थापित करने में भी समान आधार पाते हैं, ताकि **ईरान** और **रूस** का प्रभाव धीरे-धीरे निष्प्रभावी किया जा सके

What lies ahead?
आगे क्या होगा?

- After seizing the SDF-held regions of **Aleppo**, Mr. Sharaa's forces turned to areas between Aleppo and the **Euphrates River**.
  अलेप्पो के SDF-नियंत्रित क्षेत्रों पर कब्जा करने के बाद, श्री शारा की सेनाएँ अलेप्पो और **यूफ्रेटीस नदी** के बीच के इलाकों की ओर बढ़ीं

- These predominantly Arab-populated regions were captured by the SDF between **2015 and 2019** after it drove out the IS.
  ये मुख्यतः अरब-बहुल क्षेत्र **2015 और 2019** के बीच SDF ने IS को बाहर निकालने के बाद कब्जे में लिए थे

- SDF positions subsequently collapsed across **Raqqa** and **Deir al-Zour**, both former IS strongholds.
  इसके बाद SDF की स्थितियाँ **रक्का** और **देर अल-ज़ौर** में ढह गईं, जो दोनों IS के पूर्व गढ़ थे

- Reports also emerged of internal cracks within the SDF, with some Arab militias breaking ranks with YPG commanders.
  SDF के भीतर आंतरिक दरारों की खबरें भी आईं, जहाँ कुछ अरब मिलिशियाएँ YPG कमांडरों से अलग हो गईं

- Dozens of IS members escaped from a prison in **Hassaka** which was caught in the crossfire.
  हसाका की एक जेल से दर्जनों IS सदस्य भाग निकले जो क्रॉसफायर में फँस गई थी

- On **January 18**, Mr. Abdi, the SDF commander, agreed to a ceasefire and integration deal.
  18 जनवरी को, SDF कमांडर श्री अब्दी ने सीज़फायर और एकीकरण समझौते पर सहमति दी

- Mr. Sharaa insists that the military integration of the SDF be undertaken on an "**individual basis**"— not as units.
  श्री शारा का आग्रह है कि SDF का सैन्य एकीकरण "**व्यक्तिगत आधार**" पर किया जाए — इकाइयों के रूप में नहीं

- The ceasefire agreement also asks the SDF to hand over **Raqqa** and **Deir al-Zour** provinces "administratively and militarily" to the government; to integrate all administrative institutions in **al-Hassaka** into government structures; to hand over all border crossings and oil and gas fields; and to expel all non-Syrian members of the PKK from Syria.
  सीज़फायर समझौता SDF से यह भी कहता है कि वह **रक्का** और **देर अल-ज़ौर** प्रांतों को "प्रशासनिक और सैन्य रूप से" सरकार को सौंप दे; **अल-हसाका** की सभी प्रशासनिक संस्थाओं को सरकारी ढाँचे में एकीकृत करे; सभी सीमा चौकियों और तेल-गैस क्षेत्रों को सौंप दे; और PKK के सभी गैर-सीरियाई सदस्यों को सीरिया से बाहर निकाले

- But there seems to be serious disagreements on the degree of autonomy Kurds would retain.
  लेकिन कुर्द कितनी स्वायत्तता बनाए रखेंगे, इस पर गंभीर मतभेद दिखाई देते हैं

- The agreement affirms the need "to protect the special character of the Kurdish areas".
  समझौता "कुर्द क्षेत्रों के विशेष चरित्र की रक्षा" की आवश्यकता की पुष्टि करता है

- A Kurdish representative based in Europe told The Hindu that the autonomous administration has called for a general mobilisation.
  यूरोप में स्थित एक कुर्द प्रतिनिधि ने The Hindu को बताया कि स्वायत्त प्रशासन ने सामान्य लामबंदी (general mobilisation) का आह्वान किया है

- "**Kobane** is now under siege. But Kurdish fighters are defending their positions," he said
  "**कोबानी** अब घेराबंदी में है। लेकिन कुर्द लड़ाके अपनी स्थिति का बचाव कर रहे हैं," उन्होंने कहा

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The impact of India-EU FTA for AI and semiconductor tech

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement moves beyond supply chains to operationalise joint R&D in advanced semiconductor integration. It also formally links the European AI Office with India's National AI Mission

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Vasudevan Mukunth

In a milestone, India and the European Union (EU) have hailed the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) while launching a 'Comprehensive Strategic Agenda' for 2030. Among other measures, the pact moves beyond supply chains to operationalise joint R&D in advanced semiconductor "heterogeneous integration" and chip design. It also formally links the European AI Office with India's National AI Mission to jointly develop safe, human-centric AI and take advantage of what the agreement called India's vast "multilingual datasets" and Europe's research infrastructure to secure strategic autonomy in critical technologies.

The three diplomatic phases

The AI and semiconductor aspects represent the maturation of three diplomatic phases. The first phase began with the 'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025'. At this stage, discussions on "technology" were largely confined to general matters of cybersecurity, 5G networks, and data protection and there was no specific mechanism for a more concrete collaboration between the bloc and India on hardware such as semiconductors, or specific AI model development.

In the second phase, around 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EU President Ursula von der Leyen launched the India-EU Trade and Technology Council. This body in turn created the Working Group 1 on Strategic Technologies, which moved the relationship from diplomacy to involving technical experts. In fact the new deal has credited this group with managing its "technology and innovation" aspect.

In the third and final phase, in 2023, India and EU signed the Semiconductor Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU was primarily defensive in the sense that it focused on improving the resilience of supply chains and on providing early warnings of shortages. Between 2023 and the present deal, the MoU evolved into a more 'offensive' partnership, so to speak, with a focus on creating new technologies, including through designing and prototyping, in addition to monitoring existing supply chains.

On 'heterogenous integration'

Perhaps the most significant technical detail in the document is "heterogeneous integration" because it recognises that India is years away from building cutting-edge logic fabrication facilities, for example, those that manufacture chips with nodes of 2-3 nm, and thus pivots to "advanced packaging". Heterogenous integration involves stacking different types of chips, such as logic, memory, and sensors, into a single package. Such combinations are critical for AI. Contemporary AI accelerators like Nvidia's Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) bank more on how memory is packaged next to the processor instead of only the raw transistor size. By targetting this, the EU and India are trying to capture the value-added segment of the supply chain that is also less capital-intensive than a

Huge boost: Semiconductors being inspected at the Tessolve Semiconductor Private Limited, at Electronic City-Phase II, in Bengaluru on September 19, 2025. MURALI KUMAR. K

fabrication facility but which is just as critical for performance.

The agenda also explicitly connects semiconductor manufacturing to AI utility as the text says the deal will focus "on design and prototyping for AI applications", thus creating a vertical market. While in 2023 the focus was on "making chips for cars", following a crisis in their availability, the new goal is to make chips that AI models require.

India possesses roughly 20% of the world's chip design talent (on the flip side most of them work for U.S.-based firms like Intel and Qualcomm). The EU has the research infrastructure, such as IMEC in Belgium and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in Germany, but lacks the design scale. And the deal effectively creates a mechanism to unify India's designer capital with the EU's physical capital, to create indigenous AI hardware and reduce their reliance on US intellectual property.

Finally, the operational vehicles for the deal's semiconductor strategy are the so-called Blue Valleys – a regulatory exclave that aligns Indian with European standards, allowing component manufacturers in India to flow directly into European supply chains without new certification requirements. In other words, the Blue Valleys will effectively extend the EU Single Market technical standards to Indian soil.

A common market for AI

Likewise, the AI section of the new deal also sets up a "common market" for AI where Indian data can flow into European models while having European regulations govern Indian AI companies (this is an example of the Brussels effect, whereby the EU exports its laws outside its borders through market mechanisms instead of direct force).

Previously, if the EU had a technical question about Indian AI policy, it would go through diplomatic channels (specifically, the External Action Service to the Ministry of External Affairs). The deal now indicates a direct line: the European AI Office, which is the EU's

regulator, can interact directly with the IndiaAI Safety Institute, India's technical auditor. As a result, the technical staff at these agencies could have a formal mandate to coordinate without requiring political permissions for every interaction.

Further, perhaps the most concrete part of the AI section of the deal is the point about "testing and evaluation". Currently, the world doesn't have a common definition of what constitutes safe AI. The EU's priority might be gender bias while India's might be political neutrality – which means a developer will have to make their model pass two tests ahead of clearance. But now, by collaborating on testing, the two agencies will likely co-author and rationalise the checklists for the models. So if the European AI Office develops a specific mathematical test to measure the rate or scope of hallucinations in a large language model, it can share that test with the IndiaAI Safety Institute for India to adopt. In fact, the point of linking these agencies is to eventually reach a point where one accepts a safety certificate issued by the other. Going ahead this will require the agencies to align their audit procedures and staff training.

For Indians this could be a civil liberties backdoor of sorts. That is, because European audit manuals are strongly rooted in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights, Indian users might unknowingly gain digital protections that the domestic political climate currently sidelines. EU safety benchmarks aggressively penalise algorithmic bias against minorities and restrict invasive biometric surveillance. If Indian developers must clear these hurdles to ensure their models can be exported to Europe, the AI products deployed domestically will be embedded with European regulatory attitudes. Thus Indian users could interact with AI agents that are technically constrained from reinforcing majoritarian narratives or profiling of vulnerable communities.

However, there is also the possibility of this opportunity devolving into a stratified ecosystem akin to India's pharmaceutical sector, where some manufacturers rigorously adhere to safety protocols for exports to U.S. and European markets while cutting corners for domestic supply. That is, Indian firms might engineer 'clean' and more bias-free algorithms specifically for the EU market to secure lucrative contracts while deploying invasive or unrestricted versions at home, where enforcement remains lax.

Financial instruments

In order to fuel all these ambitions, the agenda musters two financial instruments. First, the text requires both sides "explore options for association of India to Horizon Europe". If this happens, it would elevate India to the highest tier of partnership available to non-EU nations and allow Indian entities to lead consortia and compete directly for grants from the EU's €95.5-billion research budget (₹10.4 lakh crore). This could be a bonus for the semiconductor sector as it will allow Indian chip startups to bypass the often risk-averse domestic capital markets.

Second, and on a related note, the deal also places the European Innovation Council at the helm of a new startup partnership. The Council specialises in what it calls "patient capital" for high-risk technologies such as quantum computing and novel chip architectures that traditional venture capitalists often avoid. By linking the Council with the Start-up India platform, the agreement creates a dedicated cross-border funding corridor for 'hard' technologies and fills a gap left by private investors, and could help ensure the deal's design ambitions are backed by the necessary funds.

The impact of India-EU FTA for AI and semiconductor tech
AI और सेमीकंडक्टर तकनीक के लिए भारत-EU FTA का प्रभाव

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement moves beyond supply chains to operationalise joint R&D in advanced semiconductor integration. It also formally links the European AI Office with India's National AI Mission

भारत-EU मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) सप्लाई चेन से आगे बढ़कर उन्नत सेमीकंडक्टर इंटीग्रेशन में संयुक्त R&D को लागू करता है। यह यूरोपीय AI ऑफिस को भारत के नेशनल AI मिशन से औपचारिक रूप से जोड़ता है

- In a milestone, India and the European Union (**EU**) have hailed the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (**FTA**) while launching a '**Comprehensive Strategic Agenda**' for **2030**

  एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि में, भारत और यूरोपीय संघ (**EU**) ने भारत-EU मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (**FTA**) के निष्कर्ष का स्वागत किया और **2030** के लिए '**Comprehensive Strategic Agenda**' लॉन्च किया

- Among other measures, the pact moves beyond supply chains to operationalise joint R&D in advanced semiconductor "**heterogeneous integration**" and chip design

  अन्य उपायों के साथ, यह समझौता सप्लाई चेन से आगे बढ़कर उन्नत सेमीकंडक्टर "**heterogeneous integration**" और चिप डिजाइन में संयुक्त R&D को क्रियान्वित करता है

- It also formally links the **European AI Office** with India's **National AI Mission** to jointly develop safe, human-centric AI and take advantage of what the agreement called India's vast "**multilingual datasets**" and Europe's research infrastructure to secure strategic autonomy in critical technologies

  यह **European AI Office** को भारत के **National AI Mission** से औपचारिक रूप से जोड़ता है ताकि सुरक्षित, मानव-केंद्रित AI संयुक्त रूप से विकसित की जा सके और समझौते के अनुसार भारत के विशाल "**multilingual datasets**" तथा यूरोप की शोध अवसंरचना का लाभ लेकर महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकों में रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता सुनिश्चित की जा सके

The three diplomatic phases
तीन कूटनीतिक चरण

The AI and semiconductor aspects represent the maturation of three diplomatic phases
AI और सेमीकंडक्टर से जुड़े पहलू तीन कूटनीतिक चरणों के परिपक्व होने को दर्शाते हैं

- The first phase began with the '**India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025**'
  पहला चरण '**India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025**' से शुरू हुआ

- At this stage, discussions on "technology" were largely confined to general matters of cybersecurity, **5G networks**, and data protection and there was no specific mechanism for a more concrete collaboration between the bloc and India on hardware such as semiconductors, or specific AI model development
  इस चरण में "technology" पर चर्चा मुख्यतः साइबर सुरक्षा, **5G networks**, और डेटा सुरक्षा जैसे सामान्य मुद्दों तक सीमित रही और सेमीकंडक्टर जैसे हार्डवेयर या विशिष्ट AI मॉडल विकास पर EU ब्लॉक और भारत के बीच ठोस सहयोग के लिए कोई विशिष्ट तंत्र नहीं था

- In the second phase, around **2022**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and EU President **Ursula von der Leyen** launched the India-EU **Trade and Technology Council**
  दूसरे चरण में, लगभग **2022** के आसपास, प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** और EU अध्यक्ष **उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन** ने India-EU **Trade and Technology Council** की शुरुआत की

- This body in turn created the **Working Group 1 on Strategic Technologies**, which moved the relationship from diplomacy to involving technical experts
  इस परिषद ने आगे **Working Group 1 on Strategic Technologies** बनाया, जिसने संबंधों को केवल कूटनीति से आगे बढ़ाकर तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों की भागीदारी तक पहुँचाया

- In fact the new deal has credited this group with managing its "**technology and innovation**" aspect
  वास्तव में, नए समझौते ने "**technology and innovation**" पक्ष के प्रबंधन का श्रेय इसी समूह को दिया है

- In the third and final phase, in **2023**, India and EU signed the Semiconductor **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**
  तीसरे और अंतिम चरण में, **2023** में, भारत और EU ने सेमीकंडक्टर **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए

- This MoU was primarily defensive in the sense that it focused on improving the resilience of supply chains and on providing early warnings of shortages
  यह MoU मुख्यतः रक्षात्मक था, क्योंकि इसका फोकस सप्लाई चेन की मजबूती बढ़ाने और कमी की शुरुआती चेतावनी देने पर था

- Between **2023** and the present deal, the MoU evolved into a more 'offensive' partnership, so to speak, with a focus on creating new technologies, including through designing and prototyping, in addition to monitoring existing supply chains

  2023 और वर्तमान समझौते के बीच, यह MoU एक अधिक 'offensive' साझेदारी में विकसित हो गया, जिसमें मौजूदा सप्लाई चेन की निगरानी के साथ-साथ डिजाइनिंग और प्रोटोटाइपिंग सहित नई तकनीकों के निर्माण पर फोकस किया गया

On 'heterogenous integration'
'हेटेरोजीनस इंटीग्रेशन' पर

- Perhaps the most significant technical detail in the document is "**heterogeneous integration**" because it recognises that India is years away from building cutting-edge logic fabrication facilities, for example, those that manufacture chips with nodes of **2-3 nm**, and thus pivots to "**advanced packaging**".

  दस्तावेज़ में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी विवरण शायद "**heterogeneous integration**" है क्योंकि यह मानता है कि भारत अत्याधुनिक लॉजिक फैब्रिकेशन सुविधाएँ बनाने से अभी वर्षों दूर है, उदाहरण के लिए वे जो **2-3 nm** नोड वाले चिप्स बनाती हैं, और इसलिए यह "**advanced packaging**" की ओर रुख करता है

- Heterogenous integration involves stacking different types of chips, such as logic, memory, and sensors, into a single package.

  हेटेरोजीनस इंटीग्रेशन में लॉजिक, मेमोरी और सेंसर जैसे विभिन्न प्रकार के चिप्स को एक ही पैकेज में स्टैक करना शामिल है

- Such combinations are critical for **AI**.

  ऐसे संयोजन **AI** के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं

- Contemporary **AI accelerators** like Nvidia's Graphics Processing Units (**GPUs**) bank more on how memory is packaged next to the processor instead of only the raw transistor size.

  आधुनिक **AI accelerators** जैसे Nvidia के Graphics Processing Units (**GPUs**) केवल ट्रांजिस्टर के आकार पर नहीं, बल्कि प्रोसेसर के साथ मेमोरी को कैसे पैक किया गया है, इस पर अधिक निर्भर करते हैं

- By targetting this, the **EU** and India are trying to capture the value-added segment of the supply chain that is also less capital-intensive than a fabrication facility but which is just as critical for performance.

  इसे लक्ष्य बनाकर, **EU** और भारत सप्लाई चेन के उस वैल्यू-एडेड हिस्से को पकड़ने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जो फैब्रिकेशन सुविधा की तुलना में कम पूंजी-गहन है लेकिन प्रदर्शन के लिए उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है

- The agenda also explicitly connects semiconductor manufacturing to **AI utility** as the text says the deal will focus "on **design and prototyping for AI applications**", thus creating a vertical market.

  एजेंडा सेमीकंडक्टर निर्माण को **AI utility** से भी स्पष्ट रूप से जोड़ता है क्योंकि पाठ में कहा गया है कि समझौता "**design and prototyping for AI applications**" पर केंद्रित होगा, जिससे एक वर्टिकल मार्केट बनेगा

- While in **2023** the focus was on "making chips for cars", following a crisis in their availability, the new goal is to make chips that **AI models** require.

  जब **2023** में फोकस उपलब्धता संकट के बाद "cars के लिए chips बनाने" पर था, तब नया लक्ष्य वे chips बनाना है जिनकी **AI models** को आवश्यकता होती है

- India possesses roughly **20%** of the world's chip design talent (on the flip side most of them work for **U.S.-based firms** like Intel and Qualcomm).

  भारत के पास दुनिया की चिप डिज़ाइन प्रतिभा का लगभग **20%** हिस्सा है (हालांकि दूसरी तरफ इनमें से अधिकांश **U.S.-based firms** जैसे Intel और Qualcomm के लिए काम करते हैं)

- The EU has the research infrastructure, such as **IMEC in Belgium** and **Fraunhofer-Gessellschaft in Germany**, but lacks the design scale.

  EU के पास शोध अवसंरचना है, जैसे **Belgium में IMEC** और **Germany में Fraunhofer-Gessellschaft**, लेकिन उसके पास डिज़ाइन स्केल की कमी है

- And the deal effectively creates a mechanism to unify India's designer capital with the EU's physical capital, to create indigenous **AI hardware** and reduce their reliance on **US intellectual property**.

  और यह समझौता प्रभावी रूप से भारत की designer capital को EU की physical capital के साथ जोड़ने

का एक तंत्र बनाता है, ताकि स्वदेशी **AI hardware** बनाया जा सके और **US intellectual property** पर निर्भरता कम की जा सके

- Finally, the operational vehicles for the deal's semiconductor strategy are the so-called **Blue Valleys** — a regulatory exclave that aligns Indian with European standards, allowing component manufacturers in India to flow directly into European supply chains without new certification requirements.

  अंततः, समझौते की सेमीकंडक्टर रणनीति के operational vehicles तथाकथित **Blue Valleys** हैं — एक regulatory exclave जो भारतीय मानकों को यूरोपीय मानकों के अनुरूप बनाता है, जिससे भारत में component manufacturers बिना नए certification requirements के सीधे यूरोपीय supply chains में शामिल हो सकते हैं

- In other words, the Blue Valleys will effectively extend the **EU Single Market** technical standards to Indian soil

  दूसरे शब्दों में, Blue Valleys प्रभावी रूप से **EU Single Market** के तकनीकी मानकों को भारतीय भूमि तक विस्तारित कर देंगे

A common market for AI
AI के लिए एक कॉमन मार्केट

- Likewise, the AI section of the new deal also sets up a "**common market**" for AI where Indian data can flow into European models while having European regulations govern Indian AI companies (this is an example of the **Brussels effect,** whereby the EU exports its laws outside its borders through market mechanisms instead of direct force).

  इसी तरह, नए समझौते का AI सेक्शन AI के लिए एक "**common market**" भी स्थापित करता है जहाँ भारतीय डेटा यूरोपीय मॉडलों में प्रवाहित हो सकता है जबकि यूरोपीय नियम भारतीय AI कंपनियों को नियंत्रित करेंगे (यह **Brussels effect** का उदाहरण है, जिसमें EU सीधे बल प्रयोग के बजाय बाजार तंत्र के माध्यम से अपने कानूनों को अपनी सीमाओं से बाहर लागू कराता है)

- Previously, if the EU had a technical question about Indian AI policy, it would go through diplomatic channels (specifically, the **External Action Service** to the **Ministry of External Affairs**).

  पहले, यदि EU को भारतीय AI नीति पर कोई तकनीकी प्रश्न होता, तो वह कूटनीतिक चैनलों के माध्यम से जाता (विशेष रूप से, **External Action Service** से **Ministry of External Affairs** तक)

- The deal now indicates a direct line: the **European AI Office**, which is the EU's regulator, can interact directly with the **IndiaAI Safety Institute**, India's technical auditor.

  अब समझौता एक सीधी व्यवस्था दर्शाता है: **European AI Office**, जो EU का नियामक है, सीधे **IndiaAI Safety Institute**, भारत के तकनीकी ऑडिटर, से संपर्क कर सकता है

- As a result, the technical staff at these agencies could have a formal mandate to coordinate without requiring political permissions for every interaction.

  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, इन एजेंसियों का तकनीकी स्टाफ हर बातचीत के लिए राजनीतिक अनुमति की आवश्यकता के बिना औपचारिक रूप से समन्वय कर सकता है

- Further, perhaps the most concrete part of the AI section of the deal is the point about "**testing and evaluation**".

  आगे, समझौते के AI सेक्शन का शायद सबसे ठोस भाग "**testing and evaluation**" से जुड़ा बिंदु है

- Currently, the world doesn't have a common definition of what constitutes safe AI.

  वर्तमान में, दुनिया के पास यह तय करने की कोई साझा परिभाषा नहीं है कि सुरक्षित AI किसे कहा जाए

- The EU's priority might be gender bias while India's might be political neutrality — which means a developer will have to make their model pass two tests ahead of clearance.

  EU की प्राथमिकता gender bias हो सकती है जबकि भारत की political neutrality — यानी किसी डेवलपर को मंजूरी से पहले अपने मॉडल को दो परीक्षणों में पास कराना होगा

- But now, by collaborating on testing, the two agencies will likely co-author and rationalise the checklists for the models.

  लेकिन अब testing पर सहयोग करके, दोनों एजेंसियाँ संभवतः मॉडलों के लिए चेकलिस्ट को संयुक्त रूप से तैयार करेंगी और rationalise करेंगी

- So if the European AI Office develops a specific mathematical test to measure the rate or scope of hallucinations in a large language model, it can share that test with the IndiaAI Safety Institute for India to adopt.

इसलिए यदि European AI Office large language model में hallucinations की दर या सीमा मापने के लिए कोई विशिष्ट गणितीय परीक्षण विकसित करता है, तो वह परीक्षण IndiaAI Safety Institute के साथ साझा कर सकता है ताकि भारत उसे अपना सके

- In fact, the point of linking these agencies is to eventually reach a point where one accepts a safety certificate issued by the other.
  वास्तव में, इन एजेंसियों को जोड़ने का उद्देश्य अंततः उस स्थिति तक पहुँचना है जहाँ एक दूसरे द्वारा जारी किए गए safety certificate को स्वीकार कर ले

- Going ahead this will require the agencies to align their audit procedures and staff training.
  आगे चलकर इसके लिए एजेंसियों को अपनी audit procedures और staff training को align करना होगा

- For Indians this could be a civil liberties backdoor of sorts.
  भारतीयों के लिए यह एक तरह का civil liberties backdoor हो सकता है

- That is, because European audit manuals are strongly rooted in the EU's **Charter of Fundamental Rights**, Indian users might unknowingly gain digital protections that the domestic political climate currently sidelines.
  यानी, क्योंकि यूरोपीय audit manuals EU के **Charter of Fundamental Rights** में गहराई से निहित हैं, भारतीय उपयोगकर्ताओं को अनजाने में ऐसी digital protections मिल सकती हैं जिन्हें घरेलू राजनीतिक माहौल फिलहाल हाशिए पर रखता है

- EU safety benchmarks aggressively penalise algorithmic bias against minorities and restrict invasive biometric surveillance.
  EU के safety benchmarks अल्पसंख्यकों के खिलाफ algorithmic bias को कड़े रूप से दंडित करते हैं और invasive biometric surveillance को सीमित करते हैं

- If Indian developers must clear these hurdles to ensure their models can be exported to Europe, the AI products deployed domestically will be embedded with European regulatory attitudes.
  यदि भारतीय डेवलपर्स को अपने मॉडलों को यूरोप निर्यात करने हेतु ये बाधाएँ पार करनी होंगी, तो घरेलू रूप से तैनात AI उत्पादों में भी यूरोपीय नियामकीय दृष्टिकोण अंतर्निहित हो जाएगा

- Thus Indian users could interact with AI agents that are technically constrained from reinforcing majoritarian narratives or profiling of vulnerable communities.
  इस प्रकार भारतीय उपयोगकर्ता ऐसे AI agents से बातचीत कर सकते हैं जो तकनीकी रूप से majoritarian narratives को मजबूत करने या कमजोर समुदायों की profiling करने से बाधित होंगे

- However, there is also the possibility of this opportunity devolving into a stratified ecosystem akin to India's pharmaceutical sector, where some manufacturers rigorously adhere to safety protocols for exports to U.S. and European markets while cutting corners for domestic supply.
  हालाँकि, यह भी संभव है कि यह अवसर भारत के pharmaceutical sector जैसी stratified ecosystem में बदल जाए, जहाँ कुछ निर्माता U.S. और यूरोपीय बाजारों के लिए निर्यात हेतु सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का सख्ती से पालन करते हैं, जबकि घरेलू आपूर्ति के लिए नियमों में ढील दे देते हैं

- That is, Indian firms might engineer 'clean' and more bias-free algorithms specifically for the EU market to secure lucrative contracts while deploying invasive or unrestricted versions at home, where enforcement remains lax.
  यानी, भारतीय कंपनियाँ EU बाजार के लिए lucrative contracts पाने हेतु विशेष रूप से 'clean' और अधिक bias-free algorithms बनाएँगी, जबकि घरेलू बाजार में invasive या unrestricted versions तैनात कर सकती हैं, जहाँ enforcement ढीला बना रहता है

Financial instruments
वित्तीय साधन

- In order to fuel all these ambitions, the agenda musters two financial instruments.
  इन सभी महत्वाकांक्षाओं को गति देने के लिए, एजेंडा दो वित्तीय साधनों को एकत्र करता है

- First, the text requires both sides "explore options for association of India to **Horizon Europe**".
  पहला, पाठ में कहा गया है कि दोनों पक्ष "भारत को **Horizon Europe** से जोड़ने के विकल्पों का अन्वेषण" करें

- If this happens, it would elevate India to the highest tier of partnership available to non-EU nations and allow Indian entities to lead consortia and compete directly for grants from the EU's **€95.5-billion** research budget (**₹10.4 lakh crore**).

यदि ऐसा होता है, तो यह भारत को गैर-EU देशों के लिए उपलब्ध साझेदारी के उच्चतम स्तर पर ले जाएगा और भारतीय संस्थाओं को consortia का नेतृत्व करने तथा EU के **€95.5-billion** शोध बजट (**₹10.4 lakh crore**) से grants के लिए सीधे प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की अनुमति देगा

- This could be a bonus for the semiconductor sector as it will allow Indian chip startups to bypass the often risk-averse domestic capital markets.
  यह सेमीकंडक्टर क्षेत्र के लिए एक बोनस हो सकता है क्योंकि यह भारतीय chip startups को अक्सर risk-averse घरेलू पूंजी बाजारों को bypass करने में मदद करेगा

- Second, and on a related note, the deal also places the **European Innovation Council** at the helm of a new startup partnership.
  दूसरा, और इसी से जुड़ी बात यह है कि समझौता **European Innovation Council** को एक नई startup partnership का प्रमुख बनाता है

- The Council specialises in what it calls "**patient capital**" for high-risk technologies such as quantum computing and novel chip architectures that traditional venture capitalists often avoid.
  यह Council उन high-risk technologies के लिए "**patient capital**" में विशेषज्ञता रखती है जैसे quantum computing और नवीन chip architectures, जिनसे पारंपरिक venture capitalists अक्सर बचते हैं

- By linking the Council with the **Start-up India** platform, the agreement creates a dedicated cross-border funding corridor for 'hard' technologies and fills a gap left by private investors, and could help ensure the deal's design ambitions are backed by the necessary funds.
  Council को **Start-up India** प्लेटफ़ॉर्म से जोड़कर, यह समझौता 'hard' technologies के लिए एक dedicated cross-border funding corridor बनाता है और निजी निवेशकों द्वारा छोड़ी गई कमी को भरता है, तथा यह सुनिश्चित करने में मदद कर सकता है कि समझौते की design ambitions को आवश्यक फंडिंग का समर्थन मिले

Questions and Answers to previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the four countries across which the Kurds are found. **Ans: Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran**

2. This religious minority among the Kurds was targeted by the Islamic State. **Ans: Yazidis**

3. This post-World War I treaty promised Kurdish autonomy but was never ratified. **Ans: The Treaty of Sevres**

4. Abdullah Ocalan abandon Marxist-Leninism for this model. **Ans: Democratic Confederalism**

5. This large-scale chemical attack was carried out by the Baathist regime carry against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s. **Ans: Halabja massacre**

6. This Kurdish group was suspected of assassinating Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. **Ans: Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)**

7. The decree granting Kurds national language status was issued in this year. **Ans: 2026**

8. This all-female Kurdish militia gained global attention during the fight against IS. **Ans: The YPJ**

Visual: This medieval Kurdish commander became a central figure in Islamic resistance to the Crusades. **Ans: Saladin**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Suchit Narottam| Tito Shiladitya| Arun Kumar Singh| G. P. Ramachandran

QUIZ

Countries where the Kurds are found

- The **Kurds** are a major ethnic group of West Asia, concentrated across **Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran**, in a region often referred to as **Kurdistan**.
- They became divided across these states mainly after the collapse of the **Ottoman Empire** and the post-World War I boundary settlements.
- The largest Kurdish population lives in **southeastern Turkey**, while **Iraq** hosts the most institutionalised Kurdish autonomy through the **Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)**.
- In **Syria**, Kurdish-led structures rose after 2011 civil war dynamics, while in **Iran**, Kurds remain politically active but face tighter state control

Religious minority among the Kurds targeted by the Islamic State

Yazidis

- The **Yazidis** are a distinct ethno-religious community, largely Kurdish-speaking, with major population in Iraq's **Sinjar (Shingal)** region.
- In **2014**, the Islamic State (**ISIS/IS**) attacked Yazidis, leading to mass killings, forced displacement, abductions, and sexual slavery.

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• Several global institutions and governments have recognised this as **genocide**, making it one of the most documented crimes of ISIS.
 • The Yazidi crisis also triggered international humanitarian interventions, refugee resettlement programmes, and long-term rehabilitation efforts.
 • It remains a key example of how extremist violence targets minority identity and religious pluralism.

Post-World War I treaty that promised Kurdish autonomy but was never ratified

Treaty of Sèvres

• The **Treaty of Sèvres (1920)** proposed the partition of the Ottoman Empire and provided a framework that could have enabled **Kurdish autonomy** and potential independence.
 • However, Turkish nationalists led by **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** rejected it militarily and politically.
 • Therefore, Sèvres was never implemented and was replaced by the **Treaty of Lausanne (1923)**, which fixed modern Turkey's borders without Kurdish autonomy.
 • For Kurdish political history, Sèvres symbolises an unfulfilled promise of self-rule and is often cited in autonomy and independence debates even today.

Model adopted by Abdullah Ocalan after abandoning Marxist-Leninism

Democratic Confederalism

• **Abdullah Öcalan**, associated with the **PKK**, initially promoted **Marxist–Leninist** revolutionary politics and a Kurdish nation-state.
 • Later, he shifted toward **Democratic Confederalism**, advocating decentralised democracy through local councils, cooperatives, and community-led governance.
 • This model emphasises **women's equality**, ecological sustainability, and multi-ethnic participation rather than a rigid state structure.
 • It strongly influenced Kurdish governance experiments in Syria, especially in **Rojava/DAANES**, where power is organised through assemblies and autonomous institutions.
 • It is now central to modern Kurdish political ideology

Large-scale chemical attack by the Baathist regime against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s

Halabja massacre

• The **Halabja chemical attack (1988)** was carried out under Iraq's **Ba'athist regime** during the Iran-Iraq War period.
 • Chemical agents, including **mustard gas** and nerve agents, were used against civilians in **Halabja**, killing thousands and injuring many more.
 • It remains one of the most severe chemical attacks against a civilian population in the 20th century.
 • This incident is linked to the broader **Anfal campaign**, a state-led operation targeting Iraqi Kurdish communities.
 • Halabja continues to shape international discussions on war crimes, chemical weapons prohibition, and Kurdish historical memory.

Kurdish group suspected of assassinating Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme

Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)

• Swedish Prime Minister **Olof Palme** was assassinated in **1986**, and the case remained unresolved for decades.
 • Over time, multiple theories emerged, and the **PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party)** was among groups investigated or suspected in certain phases.
 • The suspicion was influenced by security concerns linked to Kurdish political activism in Europe and geopolitical narratives of the Cold War period.

• However, the assassination had many competing leads, and later Swedish investigative conclusions moved away from definitive PKK responsibility.
 • The case highlights the complexity of political violence investigations and the role of international networks in European security discourse

Year in which the decree granting Kurds national language status was issued

• The quiz refers to the decree recognising Kurdish as a **"national language"**, and the stated answer is **2026**.
 • Such recognition is politically significant because language status often shapes **education policy**, **administration**, and cultural legitimacy.
 • However, language recognition does not automatically guarantee **territorial autonomy** or control over security forces.
 • In many post-conflict societies, governments offer cultural concessions while attempting to maintain centralised authority.
 • Therefore, this decree is best understood as a symbolic and legal-cultural shift, while the harder political conflict continues over Kurdish military and administrative autonomy.

All-female Kurdish militia that gained global attention during the fight against IS

• The **Women's Protection Units (YPJ)** is an all-female Kurdish militia formed in Syria and closely aligned with the **YPG**.
 • It gained global attention during the anti-ISIS battles, especially the defence of **Kobane (2014–15)**.
 • The YPJ became internationally symbolic because it combined armed resistance to ISIS with an ideological commitment to **women's empowerment**.
 • It also reflected broader Kurdish political ideas of gender equality within governance models in Kurdish-controlled areas.
 • For students, YPJ is important as an example of women's military participation shaping global narratives on counter-terrorism and social change.

Visual Question) Medieval Kurdish commander central to Islamic resistance to the Crusades

Answer: Saladin

• **Saladin (Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub)** was a Kurdish Muslim military commander and founder of the **Ayyubid dynasty**.
 • He is most famous for defeating Crusader forces at the **Battle of Hattin (1187)** and recapturing **Jerusalem**.
 • Saladin is remembered not only for battlefield success but also for political strategy—uniting Egypt and Syria to challenge Crusader states.
 • His leadership is widely referenced in Islamic and world history for statecraft, diplomacy, and military consolidation.
 • In popular culture, Saladin is portrayed as a major figure of medieval West Asian geopolitics and inter-civilisational conflict.

EU carmakers face tough India market post trade deal

Little solace: Technicians work in the assembly line of Volkswagen's electric ID.3 car. REUTERS FILE

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS II: IR

Reuters
BERLIN

European carmakers, squeezed by U.S. tariffs and price wars in China, will get a welcome boost from an EU-India trade deal that sharply drops tariffs on car imports, but face a tough market dominated by homegrown firms and compact Japanese "kei cars." India and the European Union's trade deal includes slashing tariffs on imports of EU-made cars to 40% from as high as 110%, the biggest opening yet of India's vast market for Volkswagen and Renault.

Strong locals

The move, however, only edges the door open, analysts said, with local car brands and Asian rivals Suzuki Motor and Hyundai dominating the market, with hot-selling models like the Maruti Suzuki Wagon R kei car - a class of pint-sized, affordable vehicles smaller than a Mini Cooper.

"It's a start. When we talk about exports from Europe, it's only about premium cars. For the volume sector it is difficult," said Stefan Bratzel of German auto research group CAM, who said Suzuki and Hyundai had better understood the market. "In India, it's about cheap, reliable, stable cars. The Volkswagen Group cars have been too expensive."

EU carmakers face tough India market post trade deal
FTA के बाद EU कार निर्माता भारत के कठिन बाजार का सामना कर रहे हैं

- European carmakers, squeezed by **U.S. tariffs** and price wars in **China**, will get a welcome boost from an **EU-India trade deal** that sharply drops tariffs on **car imports**, but face a tough market dominated by homegrown firms and compact Japanese "kei cars."
यूरोपीय कार निर्माता, जो **अमेरिका के शुल्क** और **चीन** में मूल्य युद्धों से दबाव में हैं, उन्हें **EU-India trade deal** से एक स्वागत योग्य बढ़ावा मिलेगा, जो **कार आयात** पर शुल्क को तेज़ी से घटाता है, लेकिन उन्हें एक कठिन बाजार का सामना करना पड़ेगा जो घरेलू कंपनियों और कॉम्पैक्ट जापानी "केई कारों" द्वारा नियंत्रित है।

- India and the European Union's **trade deal** includes slashing tariffs on imports of **EU-made cars** to 40% from as high as 110%, the biggest opening yet of India's vast market for **Volkswagen and Renault**.
भारत और यूरोपीय संघ के **व्यापार समझौते** में EU-निर्मित कारों के आयात पर शुल्क को **110% से घटाकर 40%** किया गया है, जो **Volkswagen और Renault** के लिए भारत के विशाल बाजार का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा अवसर है।

Strong locals
मजबूत स्थानीय कंपनियां

- The move, however, only edges the door open, analysts said, with local car brands and Asian rivals **Suzuki Motor** and **Hyundai** dominating the market, with hot-selling models like the **Maruti Suzuki Wagon R kei car** - a class of pint-sized, affordable vehicles smaller than a **Mini Cooper**.
हालांकि, विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि यह कदम केवल दरवाजा खोलता है, क्योंकि स्थानीय कार ब्रांड और एशियाई प्रतिद्वंद्वी **Suzuki Motor** और **Hyundai** बाजार पर हावी हैं, जिनमें **Maruti Suzuki Wagon R kei car** जैसी हॉट-सेलिंग मॉडल शामिल हैं - यह छोटे आकार की, किफायती वाहन श्रेणी है, जो **Mini Cooper** से भी छोटी है।

- "It's a start. When we talk about exports from Europe, it's only about **premium cars**. For the volume sector it is difficult," said **Stefan Bratzel** of German auto research group **CAM**, who said Suzuki and Hyundai had better understood the market.
"यह एक शुरुआत है। जब हम यूरोप से निर्यात की बात करते हैं, तो यह केवल **प्रीमियम कारों** के बारे में है। मात्रा वाले सेक्टर के लिए यह कठिन है," जर्मन ऑटो रिसर्च समूह **CAM** के **Stefan Bratzel** ने कहा, जिन्होंने कहा कि Suzuki और Hyundai ने बाजार को बेहतर समझा है।

- "In India, it's about cheap, reliable, stable cars. The Volkswagen Group cars have been too expensive."
"भारत में, यह **सस्ती, भरोसेमंद, स्थिर कारों** के बारे में है। Volkswagen Group की कारें बहुत महंगी रही हैं।"

Trump's Golden Dome marks a year with little progress

GS II: IR

Reuters
WASHINGTON

One year after its launch, U.S. President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile-defence initiative has made little visible progress, bogged down by technical disputes and concerns over space-based components that have delayed the release of billions of dollars and stalled one of his most ambitious national security projects.

The executive order establishing Golden Dome, signed on January 27, 2025, set an aggressive timetable to field a comprehensive homeland missile-defence system by 2028. A year later, however, the programme has yet to spend much of the $25 billion appropriated last summer, as officials continue to debate fundamental elements of its space-based architecture. "The Golden Dome office continues to meet the goals outlined in Executive Order," a Pentagon official said.

One source of delay has been internal debate over classified space-based equipment, an officials said The U.S. has historically opposed anti-satellite weapons over concerns about space debris, and criticised China in 2007 for conducting an anti-satellite missile test.

Another unresolved issue surrounding Golden Dome is the role Greenland could play. Mr. Trump has recently linked U.S. control of the Danish territory to the initiative, repeatedly saying that acquiring Greenland is "vital" to the project.

According to two U.S. officials, work to finalise the architecture of the shield is still underway, and large-scale execution of funds has not begun. The money is available, the officials said, and significant amounts could be released in the coming days once key decisions are made.

Trump's Golden Dome marks a year with little progress
ट्रम्प का गोल्डन डोम एक साल में थोड़ा प्रगति दिखाता है

- One year after its launch, **U.S. President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile-defence initiative** has made little visible progress, bogged down by technical disputes and concerns over space-based components that have delayed the release of billions of dollars and stalled one of his most ambitious national security projects.
  इसके लॉन्च के एक साल बाद, **अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की गोल्डन डोम मिसाइल-रक्षा पहल** ने बहुत कम दिखाई देने वाली प्रगति की है, जो तकनीकी विवादों और अंतरिक्ष आधारित घटकों के मुद्दों में फँसी हुई है, जिससे अरबों डॉलर की रिलीज़ में देरी हुई और उनके सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परियोजनाओं में से एक रुक गई।

- The **executive order** establishing Golden Dome, signed on **January 27, 2025**, set an aggressive timetable to field a comprehensive homeland missile-defence system by **2028**.
  गोल्डन डोम की स्थापना करने वाला **कार्यकारी आदेश**, जो **27 जनवरी, 2025** को हस्ताक्षरित हुआ था, ने **2028** तक एक व्यापक होमलैंड मिसाइल-रक्षा प्रणाली तैनात करने के लिए आक्रामक समयसीमा निर्धारित की।

- A year later, however, the programme has yet to spend much of the **$25 billion appropriated last summer**, as officials continue to debate fundamental elements of its **space-based architecture**.
  हालांकि, एक साल बाद भी, कार्यक्रम ने पिछले गर्मियों में **निर्धारित $25 बिलियन** में से बहुत कम खर्च किया है, क्योंकि अधिकारी इसके **अंतरिक्ष आधारित संरचना** के मौलिक तत्वों पर चर्चा जारी रखे हुए हैं।

- "The Golden Dome office continues to meet the goals outlined in Executive Order," a **Pentagon official** said.
  "**गोल्डन डोम कार्यालय** कार्यकारी आदेश में निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को पूरा करना जारी रखता है," एक **पेंटागन अधिकारी** ने कहा।

- One source of delay has been internal debate over **classified space-based equipment**, an official said.
  एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि देरी का एक कारण **गोपनीय अंतरिक्ष आधारित उपकरणों** पर आंतरिक बहस रही है।

- The U.S. has historically opposed **anti-satellite weapons** over concerns about space debris, and criticised **China in 2007** for conducting an anti-satellite missile test.
  अमेरिका ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से **एंटी-सैटेलाइट हथियारों** का विरोध किया है, अंतरिक्ष मलबे के बारे में चिंता के कारण, और **2007 में चीन** की आलोचना की थी, जब उसने एक एंटी-सैटेलाइट मिसाइल परीक्षण किया।

- Another unresolved issue surrounding Golden Dome is the role **Greenland** could play.
  गोल्डन डोम को लेकर एक और अनसुलझा मुद्दा यह है कि **ग्रीनलैंड** क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है।

GS Paper III: Economy,	
TOPICS COVERED	28 January 2026

1.	'Mother of all deals': India and the EU finalise FTA 'मदर ऑफ़ ऑल डील्स': भारत और यूरोपीय संघ ने एफटीए को अंतिम रूप दिया
2.	Prime Minister lauds 'ambitious' trade deal with European Union प्रधानमंत्री ने यूरोपीय संघ के साथ 'महत्वाकांक्षी' व्यापार समझौते की सराहना की
3.	Opposition, TDP seeks briefing on FTAs; parties for debate on job Act विपक्ष और टीडीपी ने एफटीए पर ब्रीफिंग की मांग की; दलों ने जॉब एक्ट पर बहस की मांग की
4.	EU, India to collaborate on 'peaceful uses' of nuclear energy under Euratom deal यूरोपीय संघ, भारत के साथ यूरेटम समझौते के तहत परमाणु ऊर्जा के 'शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों' पर सहयोग करेगा
5.	Finance Minister takes part in customary halwa ceremony वित्त मंत्री ने पारंपरिक हलवा समारोह में भाग लिया
6.	CPI(M) slams India-EU free trade pact, calls it 'surrender of economic interests' सीपीआई(एम) ने भारत-ईयू मुक्त व्यापार समझौते की आलोचना की, इसे 'आर्थिक हितों का आत्मसमर्पण' बताया
7.	The solution to the falling rupee lies in diplomacy गिरते रुपये का समाधान कूटनीति में निहित है
8.	BCCL listing redefines PSE IPO narrative BCCL की लिस्टिंग PSE IPO की कहानी को नए सिरे से परिभाषित करती है
9.	'FTA will anchor manufacturers into global value chain' 'एफटीए निर्माताओं को वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखला में स्थिर करेगा'
10	Oil and gas sector eyeing $100 bn in investments, says PM तेल और गैस क्षेत्र $100 अरब निवेश की ओर देख रहा है, पीएम ने कहा

'Mother of all deals': India and the EU finalise FTA

| European wines, luxury cars to become cheaper as two sides conclude trade negotiations that began in 2007 | Modi calls it historic pact, while EU chief says the deal will reduce strategic dependency at a time of global upheaval | Officials say document will undergo a legal scrubbing, translation before ratification by European Parliament |

GS II: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

After almost two decades of negotiation, India and the European Union (EU) finalised a free trade agreement (FTA) on Tuesday, billed as the "mother of all deals", that will see the EU drop tariffs on 99.5% of Indian exports to the 27-nation bloc.

India has given tariff concessions on 97.5% of imports from the EU, with European wines and luxury cars set to become less expensive here as a result.

Beyond the economics, both sides stressed the geopolitical significance of a deal between two economies that together account for a third of global trade in the shadow of uncertainty sparked by the U.S. tariff regime.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the partnership would "strengthen stability" at a time of global turmoil, while European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it would reduce strategic dependency at a time when global trade is increasingly fractious.

"We have delivered the mother of all deals," she said. "Two giants who choose partnership, in a true win-win fashion. A strong message that cooperation is the best answer to global challenges."

'Largest-ever FTA'
Noting that this is India's largest-ever FTA, Mr. Modi said: "This historic agreement will facilitate access to the European market for our farmers and small industries, create new opportunities in manufacturing, and strengthen cooperation in our services sectors."

Both sides, however, made sure to exclude their respective sensitive sectors. India's strategic agricultural and dairy sectors remain protected, while the EU will maintain its current tariffs on beef, sugar, rice, chicken meat, milk powder, honey, bananas, soft wheat, garlic, and ethanol.

Dairy-EU FTA talks were first launched in 2007. Following several hiccups and pauses, they were resumed in 2022 with both sides agreeing to exclude issues on which agreement had been elusive.

According to Commerce Ministry officials, the language in the document will first be cleaned up over the next 10 to 15 days, following which it will undergo "legal scrubbing". It will

Landmark agreement
After almost two decades of talks, the European Union and India sealed a landmark trade pact, driven by U.S. tariff pressures. The deal aims at doubling exports to India

HOW DOES IT BENEFIT EU?
■ Tariffs removed or cut on 90% of EU goods
■ Wine duties cut from 150% to 20-30%; Spirits cut to 40%
■ Car tariffs drop from 110% to 10% (250,000 vehicle quota)
■ Tariffs eliminated on Airbus aircraft, and processed food
■ 0% tax on most machinery, and pharmaceutical products

HOW DOES IT BENEFIT INDIA?
■ Duty-free exports for items such as textiles, leather, gems, and spices
■ A duty-free quota of 1.6 million tonnes for steel
■ Easier for skilled Indian workers to work in the 27-country bloc
■ Dialogue on carbon border tax; India set to be treated like other EU partners
■ Phased-out tariffs on arms and ammunition, among others

WHAT THE DEAL DOESN'T INCLUDE?
■ No concessions on items such as chicken and rice
■ No agreement on government procurement on energy and raw materials
■ A "sustainable development" chapter (rejected by India)
■ Agreement on Geographical Indications
Source: AFP

Diplomatic outreach: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Council President António Costa, on Tuesday in New Delhi. ANI

then have to be translated and sent to all 27 EU member states, before it can be ratified by the European Parliament. "We do hope that we should be able to celebrate the entry into force of this agreement within calendar 2026 itself," said Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

According to the Commerce Ministry, India has gained tariff reductions across 97% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value. Of this, 90.7% of India's exports will see duties eliminated entirely on the first day of the deal's implementation, including labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, tea, cof-

fee, spices, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery, and certain marine products, amongst others.

Another 2.9% of India's exports will see duty elimination over three to five years.

This would include certain marine products, processed food items, and arms and ammunition. Over and above this, 6% of India's exports will see tariff reductions including certain poultry products, preserved vegetables, bakery products, amongst others.

"Key labour-intensive sectors comprising more than ₹2.87 lakh crore [$33 billion] of exports that are currently subjected to import duty between 4% to

26% in the EU and are crucial for employment generation, will enter zero duty from entry into force of the FTA and thus gain enhanced competitiveness in the EU market," the Ministry said in a release.

Duty elimination
In particular, of the sectors that India primarily exports to the EU, the following will see duties eliminated entirely: marine products (current duties of up to 26%), chemicals (12.8% currently), plastic and rubber items (6.5%), leather footwear (17%), textiles and apparel (12% currently), base metals (10%), gems and jewellery (4%), furniture and allied con-

sumer goods (10.5%), and toys and sports goods (4.7%). On services, the EU has agreed to commitments across 144 services sub sectors, including IT/ITeS, professional services, education, and other business services.

Overall, India is offering duty elimination and reductions on 92.1% of the tariff lines, which comprises 97.5% of the EU exports to India. Within this, 49.6% of the tariff lines will see an immediate duty elimination once the agreement comes into effect.

Another 39.5% of the tariff lines will be subject to a phased elimination of tariffs over five, seven, and 10 years. An additional 3%

of products will see phased tariff reductions.

"Imports of EU's high technology goods are expected to diversify India's import sources, thereby reducing input costs for businesses, benefit consumers and will create opportunities for Indian businesses to integrate into global supply chains," the statement added.

Notably for the EU, the following European sectors will see duty-free access to the Indian markets: machinery and electrical equipment, aircraft and spacecraft, optical, medical and surgical equipment, plastics, precious stones and metals, chemicals, motor vehicles, iron

and steel, pharmaceuticals, and various agricultural products. On services, India has agreed to open up 102 sub sectors covering EU priorities such as professional, business, telecommunications, maritime, financial, and environmental services.

It has been learnt that negotiations over a few sectors such as automobiles and wine had caused some problems, but that the two sides finally agreed to quota based systems that were satisfactory to both sides. India agreed to allow European cars with a price tag above ₹25 lakh to be imported at lower duties of as low as 10%, from the current 110%, but subject to a quota.

India and the EU also reached a limited agreement on the contentious Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Mr. Goyal added. The agreement creates a way for carbon footprint verifiers in India to gain accreditation. It also specifies that, should the EU give concessions under CBAM to a third country, those concessions would automatically apply to India too.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 5, 11, & 12

'Mother of all deals': India and the EU finalise FTA
'मदर ऑफ़ ऑल डील्स': भारत और यूरोपीय संघ ने एफटीए को अंतिम रूप दिया

- European wines, luxury cars to become cheaper as two sides conclude trade negotiations that began in **2007**
  2007 में शुरू हुई व्यापार वार्ताओं के पूरा होने से यूरोपीय वाइन और लग्ज़री कारें सस्ती होंगी

- **Modi** calls it **historic pact**, while **EU chief** says the deal will reduce **strategic dependency** at a time of **global upheaval**
  मोदी ने इसे **ऐतिहासिक समझौता** बताया, जबकि **ईयू प्रमुख** ने कहा कि यह सौदा **वैश्विक उथल-पुथल** के समय **रणनीतिक निर्भरता** कम करेगा

- Officials say document will undergo **legal scrubbing**, translation before **ratification** by **European Parliament**
  अधिकारियों ने कहा कि दस्तावेज़ पर **कानूनी जांच**, अनुवाद के बाद **यूरोपीय संसद** द्वारा **अनुमोदन** होगा

- After almost **two decades of negotiation**, **India** and the **European Union (EU)** finalised a **free trade agreement (FTA)** on Tuesday, billed as the **"mother of all deals"**, that will see the EU drop **tariffs on 99.5% of Indian exports** to the **27-nation bloc**.
  लगभग **दो दशकों की बातचीत** के बाद, **भारत** और **यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू)** ने मंगलवार को **मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (एफटीए)** अंतिम रूप दिया, जिसे **"मदर ऑफ़ ऑल डील्स"** कहा गया है, जिसके तहत ईयू 27 देशों के ब्लॉक में **भारतीय निर्यात के 99.5%** पर **शुल्क** घटाएगा।

- India has given **tariff concessions** on **97.5% of imports** from the EU, with **European wines** and **luxury cars** set to become less expensive here as a result.
  भारत ने ईयू से होने वाले **97.5% आयात** पर **शुल्क रियायतें** दी हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **यूरोपीय वाइन** और **लग्ज़री कारें** यहाँ सस्ती होंगी।

- Beyond economics, both sides stressed the **geopolitical significance** of a deal between two economies that together account for **a third of global trade** in the shadow of uncertainty sparked by the **U.S. tariff regime**.
  आर्थिक पहलुओं से आगे, दोनों पक्षों ने **भूराजनीतिक महत्व** पर ज़ोर दिया, क्योंकि ये दो अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ मिलकर **वैश्विक व्यापार के एक-तिहाई** का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, वह भी **अमेरिकी टैरिफ व्यवस्था** से उपजी अनिश्चितता की पृष्ठभूमि में।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** declared that the partnership would **"strengthen stability"** at a time of **global turmoil**, while **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** said it would reduce **strategic dependency** at a time when **global trade** is increasingly

fractious.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि यह साझेदारी **वैश्विक उथल-पुथल** के समय **"स्थिरता को मज़बूत"** करेगी, जबकि **यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन** ने कहा कि यह बढ़ते **वैश्विक व्यापार तनाव** के समय **रणनीतिक निर्भरता** कम करेगी।

- "We have delivered the **mother of all deals**," she said. "Two giants who choose **partnership**, in a true **win-win** fashion. A strong message that **cooperation** is the best answer to **global challenges**."

  "हमने **मदर ऑफ़ ऑल डील्स** को अंजाम दिया है," उन्होंने कहा। "दो दिग्गज जिन्होंने **साझेदारी** को चुना, एक सच्चे **विन-विन** तरीके से। यह संदेश कि **वैश्विक चुनौतियों** का सबसे अच्छा उत्तर **सहयोग** है।"

'Largest-ever FTA'
'अब तक का सबसे बड़ा एफटीए'

- Noting that this is **India's largest-ever FTA**, Mr. Modi said: "This **historic agreement** will facilitate access to the **European market** for our **farmers** and **small industries**, create new opportunities in **manufacturing**, and strengthen cooperation in our **services sectors**."

  यह बताते हुए कि यह **भारत का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा एफटीए** है, **श्री मोदी** ने कहा: "यह **ऐतिहासिक समझौता** हमारे **किसानों** और **लघु उद्योगों** के लिए **यूरोपीय बाज़ार** तक पहुँच आसान करेगा, मैन्युफैक्चरिंग में नए अवसर पैदा करेगा और **सेवा क्षेत्रों** में सहयोग को मज़बूत करेगा।"

- Both sides, however, made sure to exclude their respective **sensitive sectors**. India's **strategic agricultural and dairy sectors** remain protected, while the EU will maintain its current **tariffs** on **beef, sugar, rice, chicken meat, milk powder, honey, bananas, soft wheat, garlic, and ethanol**.

  हालाँकि, दोनों पक्षों ने अपने-अपने **संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों** को बाहर रखा। **भारत के रणनीतिक कृषि और डेयरी क्षेत्र** संरक्षित रहेंगे, जबकि ईयू **बीफ़, चीनी, चावल, चिकन मांस, दूध पाउडर, शहद, केला, सॉफ्ट गेहूँ, लहसुन और एथेनॉल** पर मौजूदा **शुल्क** बनाए रखेगा।

- **India-EU FTA talks** were first launched in **2007**. Following several hiccups and pauses, they were resumed in **2022** with both sides agreeing to exclude issues on which agreement had been elusive.

  भारत-ईयू एफटीए वार्ता पहली बार **2007** में शुरू हुई थी। कई अड़चनों और विरामों के बाद, इसे **2022** में फिर शुरू किया गया, जब दोनों पक्षों ने उन मुद्दों को बाहर रखने पर सहमति दी जिन पर सहमति संभव नहीं हो पा रही थी।

- According to **Commerce Ministry officials**, the language in the document will first be cleaned up over the next **10 to 15 days**, following which it will undergo **"legal scrubbing"**. It will then have to be **translated** and sent to all **27 EU member states**, before it can be **ratified** by the **European Parliament**.

  वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, दस्तावेज़ की भाषा को अगले **10 से 15 दिनों** में साफ़ किया जाएगा, जिसके बाद **"कानूनी जांच"** होगी। फिर इसका **अनुवाद** कर **27 ईयू सदस्य देशों** को भेजा जाएगा, उसके बाद **यूरोपीय संसद** द्वारा **अनुमोदन** होगा।

- "We do hope that we should be able to celebrate the **entry into force** of this agreement within **calendar 2026** itself," said **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**.

  केंद्रीय मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने कहा, "हमें उम्मीद है कि हम इस समझौते के **प्रभावी होने** का जश्न **2026 कैलेंडर वर्ष** के भीतर ही मना सकेंगे।"

Prime Minister lauds 'ambitious' trade deal with European Union

'Historic' FTA a boost to investment between India and the European Union, says Modi; pact brings together Indian services and skills with European capital and innovations, says EU chief; deal 'opens a whole new world', says Union Home Minister

GS II: Economy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India 'concluded' a 'historic' Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, announcing the end of negotiations that began nearly two decades ago and were revived in 2022.

Speaking at the end of delegation-level talks with the visiting European leaders – European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa – Mr. Modi said that alongside the 'ambitious FTA', India was also entering into a new Security and Defence Partnership and a system of mobility that would allow secure and legal movement of Indians to the EU region.

"Today, India has concluded the largest Free Trade Agreement in its history," said Mr. Modi. The two sides began discussions on the trade deal in 2007 but suspended the negotiation in 2013, and the talks were relaunched in 2022 as India and the EU began reorienting policies in the post-COVID-19 scenario. The Prime Minister presented the deal as a boost to investment between the EU and India that would support "innovation partnerships and strengthen supply chains at the global level".

The deal would "cut up to €4 billion in annual tariffs for exporters", Ms. von der Leyen said. "It brings together Indian skills, services and scale with Europe's technology, capital and innovation," she added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed the FTA and said the deal "safeguards the related sectors" while "opening a whole new world of opportunities for textiles, apparel, leather footwear, marine products, gems, jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods, medical instruments and appliances, plastics and automobile sectors."

Global uncertainties
Referring to global uncertainties, Mr. Modi said the two sides discussed the conflict in Ukraine, West Asia, and the Indo-Pacific theatre, saying: "In this context, the partnership between India and the European Union will strengthen stability within the international system."

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two sides would "continue to support efforts towards the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity." It also called for "unhindered humanitarian access" for the victims of Israel-Palestine conflict in the Gaza Strip and called for implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 of November 17, 2025, that welcomes the 'Board of Peace' for Gaza. The document reiterated the call for "implementation of the two-state solution, through dialogue and diplomacy" for the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Elaborating on the India-EU Security and Defence Partnership, Mr. Modi said: "This will help us work more closely on counter-terrorism, maritime security, and cybersecurity."

The two sides welcomed the launch of talks on a 'Security of Information Agreement' to facilitate the exchange of classified information. Briefing the media about the discussion, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India has defence and security partnerships with "several individual EU member states" already, but this framework agreement on security and defence would "allow Indian defence companies to benefit from opportunities arising from the EU's own very significant defence initiatives that are underway". The European Commission President described the defence and security framework as "a landmark departure and a trust-based platform".

Coming together: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen, and European Council President António Costa witness the exchange of an MoU in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Prime Minister lauds 'ambitious' trade deal with European Union
प्रधानमंत्री ने यूरोपीय संघ के साथ 'महत्वाकांक्षी' व्यापार समझौते की सराहना की

- Historic' **FTA** a boost to **investment** between India and the **European Union**, says **Modi**; pact brings together Indian **services** and **skills** with European **capital** and **innovations**, says **EU chief**; deal 'opens a whole new world', says **Union Home Minister**
  'ऐतिहासिक' **एफटीए** भारत और **यूरोपीय संघ** के बीच **निवेश** को बढ़ावा देता है, **मोदी** ने कहा; समझौता भारतीय **सेवाओं** और **कौशल** को यूरोपीय **पूंजी** और **नवाचारों** के साथ जोड़ता है, **ईयू प्रमुख** ने कहा; समझौता 'एक पूरी नई दुनिया खोलता है', **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री** ने कहा

- India 'concluded' a 'historic' **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with the **European Union**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said on Tuesday, announcing the end of negotiations that began nearly two decades ago and were revived in **2022**.
  भारत ने **यूरोपीय संघ** के साथ एक 'ऐतिहासिक' **मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (एफटीए)** 'पूरा' कर लिया है,

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मंगलवार को कहा, और लगभग दो दशक पहले शुरू हुई तथा 2022 में पुनः शुरू की गई वार्ताओं के अंत की घोषणा की।

- Speaking at the end of delegation-level talks with the visiting European leaders — **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** and **European Council President Antonio Costa** — Mr. Modi said that alongside the 'ambitious **FTA**', India was also entering into a new **Security and Defence Partnership** and a system of **mobility** that would allow secure and legal movement of Indians to the **EU** region.

  यूरोपीय नेताओं — **यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन** और **यूरोपीय परिषद के अध्यक्ष एंतोनियो कोस्टा** — के साथ प्रतिनिधिमंडल स्तर की वार्ता के बाद श्री मोदी ने कहा कि 'महत्वाकांक्षी **एफटीए**' के साथ-साथ भारत एक नई **सुरक्षा और रक्षा साझेदारी** और **मोबिलिटी** की ऐसी प्रणाली में भी प्रवेश कर रहा है, जो भारतीयों की **ईयू** क्षेत्र में सुरक्षित और वैध आवाजाही की अनुमति देगी।

- "Today, India has concluded the largest **Free Trade Agreement** in its history," said Mr. Modi. The two sides began discussions on the trade deal in **2007** but suspended the negotiation in **2013**, and the talks were relaunched in **2022** as India and the **EU** began reorienting policies in the post-**COVID-19** scenario. The Prime Minister presented the deal as a boost to **investment** between the **EU** and India that would support "**innovation partnerships** and strengthen **supply chains** at the global level".

  "आज भारत ने अपने इतिहास का सबसे बड़ा **मुक्त व्यापार समझौता** पूरा किया है," श्री मोदी ने कहा। दोनों पक्षों ने 2007 में व्यापार समझौते पर चर्चा शुरू की थी लेकिन 2013 में वार्ता निलंबित कर दी गई थी, और **COVID-19** के बाद के परिदृश्य में भारत और **ईयू** द्वारा नीतियों के पुनर्संयोजन के साथ 2022 में वार्ताएं फिर से शुरू की गईं। प्रधानमंत्री ने इस समझौते को **ईयू** और भारत के बीच **निवेश** को बढ़ावा देने वाला बताया, जो "**नवाचार साझेदारियों** का समर्थन करेगा और वैश्विक स्तर पर **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को मजबूत करेगा।"

- The deal would "cut upto **€4 billion** in annual **tariffs** for exporters", Ms. von der Leyen said. "It brings together Indian **skills**, **services** and **scale** with Europe's **technology**, **capital** and **innovation**," she added.

  सुश्री वॉन डेर लेयेन ने कहा कि यह समझौता निर्यातकों के लिए वार्षिक **शुल्क** में **€4 बिलियन** तक की कटौती करेगा। उन्होंने जोड़ा, "यह भारतीय **कौशल**, **सेवाओं** और **पैमाने** को यूरोप की **प्रौद्योगिकी**, **पूंजी** और **नवाचार** के साथ जोड़ता है।"

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** welcomed the FTA and said the deal "**safeguards** the related sectors" while "**opening a whole new world**" of opportunities for **textiles**, **apparel**, **leather footwear**, **marine products**, **gems**, **jewellery**, **handicrafts**, **engineering goods**, **medical instruments and appliances**, **plastics** and **automobile** sectors."

  केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने एफटीए का स्वागत किया और कहा कि यह समझौता संबंधित क्षेत्रों की "**सुरक्षा** करता है" और साथ ही **वस्त्र**, **परिधान**, **चमड़े के जूते**, **समुद्री उत्पाद**, **रत्न**, **आभूषण**, **हस्तशिल्प**, **इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुएं**, **चिकित्सा उपकरण**, **प्लास्टिक** और **ऑटोमोबाइल** क्षेत्रों के लिए "**अवसरों की एक पूरी नई दुनिया खोलता है**।"

Global uncertainties
वैश्विक अनिश्चितताएं

- Referring to global uncertainties, Mr. Modi said the two sides discussed the **conflict in Ukraine**, **West Asia**, and the **Indo-Pacific** theatre, saying: "In this context, the partnership between India and the **European Union** will strengthen **stability** within the international system."

  वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री मोदी ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने **यूक्रेन संघर्ष**, **पश्चिम एशिया**, और **इंडो-पैसिफिक** क्षेत्र पर चर्चा की और कहा: "इस संदर्भ में, भारत और **यूरोपीय संघ** के बीच साझेदारी अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था के भीतर **स्थिरता** को मजबूत करेगी।"

- A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two sides would "continue to support efforts towards the achievement of a **comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine** through **dialogue and diplomacy**, based on the principles of the **UN Charter** and international law, including **independence**, **sovereignty** and **territorial integrity**." It also called for "**unhindered humanitarian access**" for the victims of **Israel-Palestine conflict** in the **Gaza Strip** and called for implementation of the **UN Security Council Resolution 2803** of **November 17, 2025**, that welcomes the '**Board of Peace**' for Gaza.

  बैठक के बाद जारी संयुक्त बयान में कहा गया कि दोनों पक्ष **संवाद और कूटनीति** के माध्यम से **यूक्रेन में व्यापक, न्यायसंगत और स्थायी शांति** की प्राप्ति के प्रयासों का समर्थन जारी रखेंगे, जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर** और

अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के सिद्धांतों — **स्वतंत्रता**, **संप्रभुता** और **क्षेत्रीय अखंडता** — पर आधारित हैं। इसमें **गाजा पट्टी** में इज़राइल-फिलिस्तीन संघर्ष के पीड़ितों के लिए "**निर्बाध मानवीय पहुंच**" का आह्वान किया गया और **17 नवंबर 2025** के **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद प्रस्ताव 2803** के कार्यान्वयन का उल्लेख किया गया, जो गाजा के लिए '**बोर्ड ऑफ पीस**' का स्वागत करता है।

- The document reiterated the call for "**implementation of the two-state solution, through dialogue and diplomacy**" for the **Israel-Palestine conflict**.

  दस्तावेज़ ने **इज़राइल-फिलिस्तीन संघर्ष** के लिए "**संवाद और कूटनीति के माध्यम से दो-राज्य समाधान के कार्यान्वयन**" की अपील को दोहराया।

- Elaborating on the **India-EU Security and Defence Partnership**, Mr. Modi said: "This will help us work more closely on **counter-terrorism**, **maritime security**, and **cybersecurity**."

  भारत-ईयू सुरक्षा और रक्षा साझेदारी पर विस्तार से बताते हुए श्री मोदी ने कहा: "यह हमें **आतंकवाद-रोधी**, **समुद्री सुरक्षा** और **साइबर सुरक्षा** पर अधिक निकटता से काम करने में मदद करेगा।"

- The two sides welcomed the launch of talks on a '**Security of Information Agreement**' to facilitate the exchange of **classified information**. Briefing the media about the discussion, **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** said India has defence and security partnerships with "several individual **EU member states**" already, but this framework agreement on security and defence would "allow Indian **defence companies** to benefit from opportunities arising from the **EU's** own very **significant defence initiatives** that are underway". The **European Commission President** described the defence and security framework as "a **landmark departure** and a **trust-based platform**".

  दोनों पक्षों ने **वर्गीकृत सूचना** के आदान-प्रदान को सुगम बनाने के लिए '**सूचना सुरक्षा समझौते**' पर वार्ता शुरू होने का स्वागत किया। चर्चा पर मीडिया को जानकारी देते हुए **विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिस्री** ने कहा कि भारत के पास पहले से ही "कई व्यक्तिगत **ईयू सदस्य देशों**" के साथ रक्षा और सुरक्षा साझेदारियां हैं, लेकिन सुरक्षा और रक्षा पर यह ढांचा समझौता भारतीय **रक्षा कंपनियों** को **ईयू** की चल रही अत्यंत **महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा पहलों** से उत्पन्न अवसरों का लाभ उठाने की अनुमति देगा। **यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष** ने रक्षा और सुरक्षा ढांचे को "एक **ऐतिहासिक बदलाव** और **विश्वास-आधारित मंच**" बताया।

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Opposition, TDP seeks briefing on FTAs; parties for debate on job Act

GS II: Economy

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Several floor leaders from the Opposition and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which is a key Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ally, on Tuesday urged the Centre to keep Parliament informed about the recently concluded Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs), and ongoing negotiations with the United States. They made the demand at an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh ahead of the Budget Session.

India concluded negotiations with the European Union on Tuesday, and signed FTAs with the U.K., Singapore, and the UAE recently.

The TDP's Lok Sabha floor leader, Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, told the meeting that given the shifting global economic landscape, particularly under the new tariff regime imposed by the U.S., it was essential for Parliament to be updated on the FTAs the government had negotiated. Mr. Devarayalu urged the government to bring legislation giving stat-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh after the meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

utory backing to Amravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Such a Bill was likely to be brought during the Budget Session, sources indicated.

Multiple topics
Opposition leaders demanded a debate on India's foreign policy, flagging what they described as "repeated humiliation" in response to statements by U.S. President Donald Trump. They sought a "structured" debate on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and the rural employment legislation – the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gra-

min) (VB-G RAM G) Act.
Several Opposition leaders, including John Brittas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Kodikkunnil Suresh of the Congress, P. Sandosh Kumar of the Communist Party of India, Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, and Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party, asked the government to explain its response to comments made by Mr. Trump.
They questioned India's "silence" regarding global conflicts, including issues related to Venezuela, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the U.S.'s purported claim over Greenland.
However, Union Parlia-

mentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju ruled out debates on the SIR and the VB-G Ram G Act. "Once a law is before the nation, we have to follow it. We cannot reverse the gear," he said. The issues could be raised during debates on the President's Address and the Budget, he said.
The Congress's Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, and Mr. Brittas objected to the non-circulation of government business for the session. Mr. Rijiju said the list would be shared in due course. Running the House smoothly, he said, remained the government's priority.
Mr. Rijiju appealed for orderly conduct. "My sincere appeal is that while exercising our right to speak, we must also have the duty to listen to other honourable members," the Minister said.
The Trinamool Congress, other than asking for a debate on the SIR, which is under way in West Bengal, also raised the issue of dues owed to non-BJP-ruled States, and the misuse of security agencies against Opposition parties.

Opposition, TDP seeks briefing on FTAs; parties for debate on job Act
विपक्ष और टीडीपी ने एफटीए पर ब्रीफिंग की मांग की; दलों ने जॉब एक्ट पर बहस की मांग की

- Several floor leaders from the **Opposition** and the **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**, which is a key **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** ally, on Tuesday urged the Centre to keep Parliament informed about the recently concluded **Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs)**, and ongoing negotiations with the **United States**. They made the demand at an all-party meeting chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** ahead of the **Budget Session**.
  मंगलवार को **विपक्ष** और **तेलुगु देशम पार्टी (टीडीपी)** के कई फ्लोर नेताओं ने, जो कि **भारतीय जनता पार्टी (बीजेपी)** की एक प्रमुख सहयोगी है, केंद्र से आग्रह किया कि वह हाल ही में संपन्न **विदेश व्यापार समझौतों (एफटीए)** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के साथ चल रही वार्ताओं के बारे में संसद को सूचित रखे। उन्होंने यह मांग **रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह** की अध्यक्षता में **बजट सत्र** से पहले आयोजित सर्वदलीय बैठक में की।

- India concluded negotiations with the **European Union** on Tuesday, and signed **FTAs** with the **U.K.**, **Singapore**, and the **UAE** recently.
  भारत ने मंगलवार को **यूरोपीय संघ** के साथ वार्ताएं पूरी कीं, और हाल ही में **यू.के.**, **सिंगापुर** और **यूएई** के साथ **एफटीए** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- The **TDP's Lok Sabha floor leader**, **Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu**, told the meeting that given the shifting global economic landscape, particularly under the new **tariff regime** imposed by the **U.S.**, it was essential for Parliament to be updated on the **FTAs** the government had negotiated. Mr. Devarayalu urged the government to bring legislation giving statutory backing to **Amravati** as the capital of **Andhra Pradesh**. Such a Bill was likely to be

brought during the **Budget Session**, sources indicated.

टीडीपी के लोकसभा फ्लोर लीडर, लवु श्री कृष्ण देवरायलु, ने बैठक में कहा कि बदलते वैश्विक आर्थिक परिदृश्य को देखते हुए, विशेषकर **अमेरिका** द्वारा लगाए गए नए **टैरिफ शासन** के तहत, सरकार द्वारा किए गए **एफटीए** पर संसद को अद्यतन रखना आवश्यक है। श्री देवरायलु ने सरकार से **अमरावती** को **आंध्र प्रदेश** की राजधानी के रूप में वैधानिक समर्थन देने वाला कानून लाने का आग्रह किया। सूत्रों के अनुसार, ऐसा विधेयक **बजट सत्र** के दौरान लाया जा सकता है।

Multiple topics
कई मुद्दे

- **Opposition leaders** demanded a debate on India's **foreign policy**, flagging what they described as "repeated humiliation" in response to statements by **U.S. President Donald Trump**. They sought a "structured" debate on the **special intensive revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, and the rural employment legislation — the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act**.

  विपक्षी नेताओं ने भारत की **विदेश नीति** पर बहस की मांग की, और **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** के बयानों के जवाब में जिसे उन्होंने "बार-बार अपमान" बताया, उस पर सवाल उठाए। उन्होंने मतदाता सूचियों के **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (एसआईआर)** और ग्रामीण रोजगार कानून — **विकसित भारत-गारंटी फॉर रोजगार एंड आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) (वीबी-जी रैम जी) अधिनियम** — पर "संरचित" बहस की मांग की।

- Several **Opposition leaders**, including **John Brittas** of the **Communist Party of India (Marxist)**, **Kodikkunnil Suresh** of the **Congress**, **P. Sandosh Kumar** of the **Communist Party of India**, **Ram Gopal Yadav** of the **Samajwadi Party**, and **Sanjay Singh** of the **Aam Aadmi Party**, asked the government to explain its response to comments made by Mr. **Trump**.

  विपक्ष के कई नेताओं, जिनमें **कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया (मार्क्सवादी)** के **जॉन ब्रिटास**, **कांग्रेस** के **कोडिकुन्निल सुरेश**, **कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया** के **पी. सांडोश कुमार**, **समाजवादी पार्टी** के **राम गोपाल यादव**, और **आम आदमी पार्टी** के **संजय सिंह** शामिल हैं, ने सरकार से श्री **ट्रंप** की टिप्पणियों पर अपनी प्रतिक्रिया स्पष्ट करने को कहा।

- They questioned India's "**silence**" regarding global **conflicts**, including issues related to **Venezuela**, the **Israel-Palestine conflict**, and the **U.S.'s** purported claim over **Greenland**.

  उन्होंने **वैश्विक संघर्षों** को लेकर भारत की "**चुप्पी**" पर सवाल उठाए, जिनमें **वेनेजुएला**, **इज़राइल-फिलिस्तीन संघर्ष**, और **ग्रीनलैंड** पर **अमेरिका** के कथित दावे से जुड़े मुद्दे शामिल हैं।

- However, **Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju** ruled out debates on the **SIR** and the **VB-G Ram G Act**. "Once a law is before the nation, we have to follow it. We cannot reverse the gear," he said. The issues could be raised during debates on the **President's Address** and the **Budget**, he said.

  हालांकि, **केंद्रीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरेन रिजिजू** ने एसआईआर और **वीबी-जी रैम जी अधिनियम** पर बहस से इनकार कर दिया। उन्होंने कहा, "एक बार कोई कानून देश के सामने आ जाता है, तो हमें उसका पालन करना होता है। हम गियर रिवर्स नहीं कर सकते।" उन्होंने कहा कि ये मुद्दे **राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण** और **बजट** पर बहस के दौरान उठाए जा सकते हैं।

- The **Congress's Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha**, **Jairam Ramesh**, and Mr. **Brittas** objected to the non-circulation of government business for the session. Mr. **Rijiju** said the list would be shared in due course. Running the House smoothly, he said, remained the government's priority.

  राज्यसभा में कांग्रेस के मुख्य सचेतक, **जयराम रमेश**, और श्री **ब्रिटास** ने सत्र के लिए सरकारी कार्यसूची के प्रसार न होने पर आपत्ति जताई। श्री **रिजिजू** ने कहा कि सूची समय आने पर साझा की जाएगी। सदन को सुचारू रूप से चलाना सरकार की प्राथमिकता बना हुआ है, उन्होंने कहा।

- Mr. **Rijiju** appealed for orderly conduct. "My sincere appeal is that while exercising our right to speak, we must also have the duty to listen to other honourable members," the Minister said.

  श्री **रिजिजू** ने सुव्यवस्थित आचरण की अपील की। मंत्री ने कहा, "मेरी sincere अपील है कि बोलने के अपने अधिकार का प्रयोग करते समय हमें अन्य माननीय सदस्यों को सुनने का कर्तव्य भी निभाना चाहिए।"

- The **Trinamool Congress**, other than asking for a debate on the **SIR**, which is under way in **West Bengal**, also raised the issue of dues owed to non-**BJP**-ruled States, and the misuse of **security agencies** against **Opposition parties**.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने, पश्चिम बंगाल में चल रहे एसआईआर पर बहस की मांग के अलावा, गैर-बीजेपी शासित राज्यों के बकाया भुगतान और विपक्षी दलों के खिलाफ सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के दुरुपयोग का मुद्दा भी उठाया।

EU, India to collaborate on 'peaceful uses' of nuclear energy under Euratom deal

GS II: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The European Union (EU) and India have committed to promoting collaboration on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the India-Euratom agreement, according to a statement from the Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda on Tuesday. India and the EU had signed a research and development agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy with Euratom, Europe's atomic energy body, in July 2020.

The statement on Tuesday highlighted collaboration on research and development activities in nuclear science and technology, advanced materials for detectors, radiation safety, nuclear security, non-power applications of atomic energy, including cooperation on radio-pharmaceuticals, and strengthening cooperation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). It also spoke of

Union Minister Piyush Goyal and NSA Ajit Doval with delegates from the European Union in New Delhi on Tuesday. AP

"deepening cooperation" under the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, including in the fields of energy, water, agri food, health, semiconductors, biotech, advanced materials, particularly through mechanisms such as co-funding and coordinated calls. Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research.

While specifics are unclear, one of the major sticking points involving the EU and India was the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which imposed additional tariffs on iron and steel producers, outside the EU, who

emit more carbon emissions in the production of iron and steel than European producers.

"Through CBAM provisions, commitments have been secured, including a forward-looking, most-favoured nation assurance, extending flexibilities, if any, granted to third countries under the regulation, enhanced technical cooperation on recognition of carbon prices, recognition of verifiers, as well as financial assistance and targeted support to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with emerging carbon requirements," India's Press Information Bureau said in a statement.

EU, India to collaborate on 'peaceful uses' of nuclear energy under Euratom deal

यूरोपीय संघ, भारत के साथ यूरेटम समझौते के तहत परमाणु ऊर्जा के 'शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों' पर सहयोग करेगा

- The **European Union (EU)** and **India** have committed to promoting collaboration on the **peaceful uses of nuclear energy** under the **India-Euratom agreement**, according to a statement from the **Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda** on **Tuesday**.

  यूरोपीय संघ **(EU)** और **भारत** ने **भारत-यूरेटम समझौते** के तहत **परमाणु ऊर्जा के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों** पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई है, यह जानकारी **संयुक्त भारत-यूरोपीय संघ व्यापक रणनीतिक एजेंडा** के **मंगलवार** के बयान में दी गई।

- India and the **EU** had signed a **research and development agreement** on peaceful uses of nuclear energy with **Euratom**, Europe's atomic energy body, in **July 2020**.

  भारत और **EU** ने यूरोप की परमाणु ऊर्जा संस्था **यूरेटम** के साथ परमाणु ऊर्जा के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों पर **अनुसंधान और विकास समझौता जुलाई 2020** में किया था।

- The statement on Tuesday highlighted collaboration on **research and development activities** in **nuclear science and technology**, **advanced materials for detectors**, **radiation safety**, **nuclear security**, **non-power applications of atomic energy**, including cooperation on **radio-pharmaceuticals**, and strengthening cooperation in the **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)**.

  मंगलवार के बयान में **परमाणु विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी**, **डिटेक्टरों के लिए उन्नत सामग्री**, **विकिरण सुरक्षा**, **परमाणु सुरक्षा**, **परमाणु ऊर्जा के गैर-विद्युत अनुप्रयोग**, जिनमें **रेडियो-फार्मास्यूटिकल्स** पर सहयोग और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय थर्मोन्यूक्लियर प्रायोगिक रिएक्टर (ITER)** में सहयोग को मजबूत करने पर जोर दिया गया।

- It also spoke of **"deepening cooperation"** under the **EU research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe**, including in the fields of **energy**, **water**, **agri food**, **health**, **semiconductors**, **biotech**, **advanced materials**, particularly through mechanisms such as **co-funding** and **coordinated calls**.

  इसमें **EU के अनुसंधान और नवाचार कार्यक्रम, होराइजन यूरोप** के तहत **"सहयोग को गहरा करने"**, जिसमें **ऊर्जा**, **जल**, **कृषि-खाद्य**, **स्वास्थ्य**, **सेमीकंडक्टर्स**, **बायोटेक**, **उन्नत सामग्री** जैसे क्षेत्र शामिल हैं, विशेष रूप से **सह-वित्तपोषण** और **समन्वित कॉल्स** जैसे तंत्रों के माध्यम से, का उल्लेख किया गया।

- **Horizon Europe** is the **EU's key funding programme for research**.

  होराइजन यूरोप अनुसंधान के लिए **EU** का प्रमुख वित्तपोषण कार्यक्रम है।

- While specifics are unclear, one of the major sticking points involving the **EU** and **India** was the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, which imposed additional **tariffs** on **iron and steel producers**, outside the EU, who emit more **carbon emissions** in the production of iron and steel than European producers.

  हालांकि विवरण स्पष्ट नहीं हैं, **EU** और **भारत** के बीच प्रमुख अड़चनों में से एक **कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म (CBAM)** था, जिसने **EU के बाहर के लौह और इस्पात उत्पादकों** पर अतिरिक्त **शुल्क** लगाए, जो यूरोपीय उत्पादकों की तुलना में लौह और इस्पात उत्पादन में अधिक **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** करते हैं।

- "Through **CBAM provisions**, commitments have been secured, including a **forward-looking, most-favoured nation assurance**, extending **flexibilities**, if any, granted to **third countries** under the regulation, enhanced **technical cooperation** on recognition of **carbon prices**, recognition of **verifiers**, as well as **financial assistance** and **targeted support** to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and comply with emerging **carbon requirements**," India's **Press Information Bureau** said in a statement.

  भारत के **प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो** ने एक बयान में कहा कि "**CBAM प्रावधानों** के माध्यम से **भविष्य उन्मुख, सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र आश्वासन**, विनियमन के तहत **तृतीय देशों** को दी गई किसी भी **लचीलापन** का विस्तार, **कार्बन कीमतों** की मान्यता पर उन्नत **तकनीकी सहयोग**, **सत्यापनकर्ताओं** की मान्यता, साथ ही **ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन** को कम करने और उभरती **कार्बन आवश्यकताओं** का पालन करने के लिए **वित्तीय सहायता** और **लक्षित समर्थन** सुनिश्चित किए गए हैं।"

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Finance Minister takes part in customary *halwa* ceremony

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday participated in a traditional *halwa* ceremony, marking the final stage for the preparation of the Union Budget 2026-27, to be unveiled on February 1 in the Lok Sabha.

The ceremony is a customary ritual in which traditional dessert *halwa* is prepared and served to officials and staff members of the Finance Ministry who are involved in the preparation of the Budget.

The '*halwa* ceremony' precedes the "lock-in" of the officials involved in preparation of the Union Budget, an official statement said.

Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance Ministry officials at the *halwa* ceremony on Tuesday. ANI

Finance Minister takes part in customary halwa ceremony
वित्त मंत्री ने पारंपरिक हलवा समारोह में भाग लिया

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on **Tuesday** participated in a traditional **halwa ceremony**, marking the **final stage** for the preparation of the **Union Budget 2026-27**, to be unveiled on **February 1** in the **Lok Sabha**.
  वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने **मंगलवार** को पारंपरिक **हलवा समारोह** में भाग लिया, जो **केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27** की तैयारी के **अंतिम चरण** को दर्शाता है, जिसे **1 फरवरी** को **लोकसभा** में पेश किया जाएगा।

- The ceremony is a **customary ritual** in which traditional dessert **halwa** is prepared and served to **officials** and **staff members** of the **Finance Ministry** who are involved in the preparation of the **Budget**.
  यह समारोह एक **पारंपरिक रस्म** है, जिसमें पारंपरिक मिठाई **हलवा** तैयार किया जाता है और **वित्त मंत्रालय** के उन **अधिकारियों** और **कर्मचारियों** को परोसा जाता है जो **बजट** की तैयारी में शामिल होते हैं।

- The **'halwa ceremony'** precedes the **"lock-in"** of the **officials** involved in preparation of the **Union Budget**, an **official statement** said.
  एक **आधिकारिक बयान** में कहा गया कि **'हलवा समारोह'**, **केंद्रीय बजट** की तैयारी में शामिल **अधिकारियों** के **"लॉक-इन"** से पहले आयोजित किया जाता है।

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CPI(M) slams India-EU free trade pact, calls it 'surrender of economic interests'

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Tuesday strongly opposed the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), calling it a "wholesale surrender" of India's economic interests.

In a statement, the Polit Bureau said the agreement would damage key domestic industries and undermine the livelihoods of workers, farmers, and small producers.

Polit Bureau says pact will damage key industries and undermine the livelihoods of workers, farmers, and small producers

According to the CPI(M), India has agreed to eliminate or sharply reduce tariffs on more than 90% of goods imported from the EU, including major cuts on automobiles (from 110% to 40%), iron and steel (22% to 0%), pharmaceuticals (11% to 0%), wines and spirits (150% to 40%), processed foods (50% to 0%), and sheep meat (33% to 0%). Such tariff reductions, the party argued, would adversely affect the automobile, pharmaceutical, machinery, and electrical sectors, with the EU projecting its exports to India to rise by over 107% in the coming years.

The party said the benefits such as cheaper cars and wines would accrue only to affluent consumers while the broader impact of increased imports would threaten employment and destabilise domestic manufacturing.

The CPI(M) also criticised the FTA's alignment with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which designates Israel's Haifa port as a key transit point. At a time when global calls are growing to sanction Israel over its actions in Gaza, the party said, the Indian government was "deepening ties" instead.

CPI(M) slams India-EU free trade pact, calls it 'surrender of economic interests'
सीपीआई(एम) ने भारत-ईयू मुक्त व्यापार समझौते की आलोचना की, इसे 'आर्थिक हितों का आत्मसमर्पण' बताया

- The **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** on **Tuesday** strongly opposed the **India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, calling it a "**wholesale surrender**" of India's **economic interests**.
  कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया (मार्क्सवादी) ने मंगलवार को **भारत–यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफटीए)** का कड़ा विरोध करते हुए इसे भारत के **आर्थिक हितों** का "**पूर्ण आत्मसमर्पण**" बताया।
- In a **statement**, the **Polit Bureau** said the agreement would damage **key domestic industries** and undermine the livelihoods of **workers, farmers, and small producers**.
  एक **बयान** में **पॉलिट ब्यूरो** ने कहा कि यह समझौता **मुख्य घरेलू उद्योगों** को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा और **मजदूरों, किसानों और छोटे उत्पादकों** की आजीविका को कमजोर करेगा।
- According to the **CPI(M)**, India has agreed to eliminate or sharply reduce **tariffs** on more than **90% of goods** imported from the **EU**, including major cuts on **automobiles (from 110% to 40%)**, **iron and steel (22% to 0%)**, **pharmaceuticals (11% to 0%)**, **wines and spirits (150% to 40%)**, **processed foods (50% to 0%)**, and **sheep meat (33% to 0%)**.
  सीपीआई(एम) के अनुसार, भारत ने **ईयू** से आयातित **90% से अधिक वस्तुओं** पर **शुल्क** समाप्त करने या भारी कटौती पर सहमति जताई है, जिसमें **ऑटोमोबाइल (110% से 40%)**, **लोहा और इस्पात (22% से 0%)**, **फार्मास्यूटिकल्स (11% से 0%)**, **वाइन और स्पिरिट्स (150% से 40%)**, प्रोसेस्ड फूड (50% से 0%), और **भेड़ का मांस (33% से 0%)** शामिल हैं।
- Such **tariff reductions**, the party argued, would adversely affect the **automobile, pharmaceutical, machinery, and electrical sectors**, with the **EU** projecting its exports to India to rise by over **107%** in the coming years.
  पार्टी ने तर्क दिया कि इस प्रकार की **शुल्क कटौती** से **ऑटोमोबाइल, फार्मास्यूटिकल, मशीनरी और इलेक्ट्रिकल क्षेत्रों** पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा, जबकि **ईयू** आने वाले वर्षों में भारत को अपने निर्यात में **107% से अधिक** वृद्धि का अनुमान लगा रहा है।
- The party said the **benefits** such as **cheaper cars and wines** would accrue only to **affluent consumers** while the broader impact of **increased imports** would threaten **employment** and destabilise **domestic manufacturing**.

पार्टी ने कहा कि **सस्ती कारों और वाइन** जैसे **लाभ** केवल **समृद्ध उपभोक्ताओं** तक सीमित रहेंगे, जबकि **आयात में वृद्धि** का व्यापक प्रभाव **रोज़गार** को खतरे में डालेगा और **घरेलू विनिर्माण** को अस्थिर करेगा।

- The **CPI(M)** also criticised the **FTA's alignment** with the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**, which designates **Israel's Haifa port** as a key transit point.
  सीपीआई(एम) ने **एफटीए** के **भारत–मध्य पूर्व–यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारे (आईएमईसी)** के साथ **संरेखण** की भी आलोचना की, जिसमें **इज़राइल के हाइफ़ा बंदरगाह** को एक प्रमुख ट्रांजिट प्वाइंट के रूप में नामित किया गया है।

- At a time when global calls are growing to **sanction Israel** over its actions in **Gaza**, the party said, the **Indian government** was "**deepening ties**" instead.
  पार्टी ने कहा कि ऐसे समय में जब **गाज़ा** में उसके कार्यों को लेकर **इज़राइल पर प्रतिबंध** लगाने की वैश्विक मांग बढ़ रही है, **भारतीय सरकार** इसके बजाय "**संबंध और गहरे कर रही है।**"

'FTA will anchor manufacturers into global value chain'

Global trade engagement will deepen partnership between the 2 major economies that together account for nearly 25% of the global GDP: CII

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Business leaders and industry associations have welcomed the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), expressing confidence that the pact would benefit Indian consumers and industries.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said the FTA represented a strategic breakthrough in India's global trade engagement and deepened the partnership between two major democracies and economies that together accounted for nearly 25% of the global GDP.

The proposed phased reduction of tariffs on cars and auto components after the conclusion of India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has the potential to foster technological innovation and sustainable growth within the Indian automotive sector, particularly in future mobility, said Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO of the BMW Group India.

Santosh Iyer, MD and CEO of Mercedes-Benz India said, "A gradual tariff reduction on vehicles and fully liberalised automotive parts are strategically important decisions in the FTA for the automotive industry."

Balbir Singh Dhillon,

Fair trade: Zero-duty access in textiles and clothing covering all tariff lines to open up the EU's $263.5 bn import market. AFP

Brand Director, Audi India, said the "constructive" approach to trade can support the broader automotive ecosystem.

The Union Textile Ministry said zero duty access in textiles and clothing covering all tariff lines will open up the EU's $263.5 billion import market. Such access will expand opportunities, particularly in yarn, MMF apparel, home textiles and readymade garments.

The Texprocil and the Apparel Export Promotion Council said the India-EU FTA and those with the U.K. and EFTA open up the entire European market for Indian exporters.

Indian apparel exports can grow 20-25% year-on-year as against the current growth rate of 3.01% in the EU market.

"Services are fast growing in both economies and the gains will be in the form of better EU market

access for Indian tech. Indian Information Technology firms stand to gain from greater opportunities in Europe, including easier cross-border provision of services and potentially improved mobility for professionals," said India's tech apex body Nasscom. Given the geopolitical challenges, the FTA diversifies markets for Indian IT exporters, it said.

For the pharmaceutical sector, Namit Joshi, chairman of Pharmexcil, said the FTA delivers structural competitiveness.

Near-zero tariff access strengthens the position of Indian formulations, APIs, and value-added medicines in the EU. This is consequential for India's pharma MSMEs.

The agreement also enables stable, long-term, and predictable pharmaceutical trade, benefiting European healthcare systems and consumers, he said.

Trade Agreement (FTA) has the potential to foster **technological innovation** and **sustainable growth** within the **Indian automotive sector**, particularly in **future mobility**,

said **Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO of BMW Group India**.

हर्दीप सिंह ब्रार, प्रधान और सीईओ, BMW Group India ने कहा कि **भारत-यूरोपीय संघ FTA** के निष्कर्ष के बाद **कारों और ऑटो पार्ट्स पर चरणबद्ध शुल्क कटौती** भारतीय ऑटोमोबाइल क्षेत्र में **तकनीकी नवाचार** और **सतत विकास** को बढ़ावा देने की क्षमता रखती है, विशेष रूप से **भविष्य की गतिशीलता** में।

- **Santosh Iyer, MD and CEO of Mercedes-Benz India** said, "A gradual **tariff reduction** on vehicles and fully liberalised automotive parts are strategically important decisions in the **FTA** for the **automotive industry**."

  संतोष अय्यर, MD और CEO, Mercedes-Benz India ने कहा, "वाहनों पर धीरे-धीरे **शुल्क कटौती** और पूरी तरह से मुक्त ऑटो पार्ट्स FTA में **ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग** के लिए रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय हैं।"

- **Balbir Singh Dhillon, Brand Director, Audi India**, said the "constructive" approach to trade can support the broader **automotive ecosystem**.

  बलबीर सिंह ढिल्लों, ब्रांड डायरेक्टर, Audi India, ने कहा कि व्यापार के लिए "रचनात्मक" दृष्टिकोण व्यापक **ऑटोमोबाइल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** का समर्थन कर सकता है।

- The **Union Textile Ministry** said **zero duty access** in **textiles and clothing** covering all tariff lines will open up the EU's **$263.5 billion import market**.

  संघीय वस्त्र मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **कपड़ा और वस्त्रों में शून्य शुल्क पहुँच** सभी शुल्क लाइनों को कवर करेगी और EU के **$263.5 अरब के आयात बाजार** को खोलेगी।

- Such access will expand opportunities, particularly in **yarn, MMF apparel, home textiles and readymade garments**.

  इस तरह की पहुँच अवसरों का विस्तार करेगी, विशेष रूप से **सूत, MMF परिधान, घरेलू वस्त्र और रेडीमेड गारमेंट्स** में।

- The **Texprocil** and the **Apparel Export Promotion Council** said the **India-EU FTA** and those with the **U.K. and EFTA** open up the **entire European market** for **Indian exporters**.

  Texprocil और Apparel Export Promotion Council ने कहा कि **भारत-EU FTA** और **U.K. और EFTA** के समझौते भारतीय निर्यातकों के लिए **पूरे यूरोपीय बाजार** को खोलते हैं।

- Indian **apparel exports** can grow **20–25% year-on-year** as against the current growth rate of **3.01%** in the EU market.

  भारतीय **परिधान निर्यात** EU बाजार में वर्तमान **3.01%** की वृद्धि दर के मुकाबले **20–25% साल-दर-साल** बढ़ सकते हैं।

- "**Services** are fast growing in both economies and the gains will be in the form of better **EU market access** for Indian tech. Indian **Information Technology firms** stand to gain from greater opportunities in Europe, including easier **cross-border provision of services** and potentially improved **mobility for professionals**," said India's tech apex body **Nasscom**.

  "**सेवाएं**" दोनों अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं और इसका लाभ भारतीय तकनीकी कंपनियों के लिए बेहतर **EU बाजार पहुँच** के रूप में मिलेगा। भारतीय **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनियां** यूरोप में अधिक अवसरों से लाभान्वित होंगी, जिसमें **सीमापार सेवा प्रदान करना** आसान होगा और संभवतः पेशेवरों की **गतिशीलता** में सुधार होगा," भारत की तकनीकी शीर्ष संस्था **Nasscom** ने कहा।

- Given the **geopolitical challenges**, the **FTA** diversifies markets for **Indian IT exporters**, it said.

  भूराजनीतिक चुनौतियों को देखते हुए, **FTA** भारतीय IT निर्यातकों के लिए बाजारों को विविध बनाता है, ऐसा कहा गया।

- For the **pharmaceutical sector**, **Namit Joshi, chairman of Pharmexcil**, said the **FTA** delivers **structural competitiveness**.

  फार्मास्युटिकल क्षेत्र के लिए, **Namit Joshi, Pharmexcil के अध्यक्ष**, ने कहा कि FTA संरचनात्मक **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता** प्रदान करता है।

- **Near-zero tariff access** strengthens the position of **Indian formulations, APIs, and value-added medicines** in the EU. This is consequential for **India's pharma MSMEs**.

  नियर-जीरो शुल्क पहुँच EU में **भारतीय फार्मूलेशन, API और मूल्य-वर्धित दवाओं** की स्थिति को मजबूत करती है। यह **भारत की फार्मा MSMEs** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

- The agreement also enables **stable, long-term, and predictable pharmaceutical trade**, benefiting **European healthcare systems and consumers**, he said.

  उन्होंने कहा कि यह समझौता **स्थिर, दीर्घकालिक और पूर्वानुमेय फार्मास्युटिकल व्यापार** को भी सक्षम बनाता है, जिससे **यूरोपीय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली और उपभोक्ताओं** को लाभ होगा।

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Oil and gas sector eyeing $100 bn in investments, says PM

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's oil and gas sector is eyeing to scale $100 billion in investments by the end of the current decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the inauguration of the India Energy Week in Goa on Tuesday. He said India aspires to expand the exploration acreage to 1 million sq. km.

"It is with this thought that more than 170 [exploration] blocks have been awarded [in the past], he said, adding, "Andaman Nicobar basin is becoming our next hydrocarbon hope."

Mr. Modi also said that companies investing in India's exploration space could be assured of acquiring a profit. The PM also said that the energy sector was at "the epicenter of our [the country's] aspirations". He stated there was potential for $500 billion worth investment opportunities in the sector. "Therefore, I call upon you to make in India, innovate in India, scale in India and invest in India," he stated.

The India Energy Week, being held in Goa this year, is the flagship conference of the country's oil and gas sector, collaborating stakeholders from both India and outside, for agreements and consultations.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Managing Director and CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil

Narendra Modi

Company (ADNOC), estimated that the global oil demand would remain above 100 million barrels per day till 2040. He added that demand for both liquefied natural gas (LNG) and electricity would increase by 50% each. He added that an additional component to the energy demand dynamics would emerge from air-conditioners. By 2050, the world will have 5.6 billion air conditioners, up from 1.6 billion today. "That is, 10 new units sold every second for the next 30 years," he observed.

"Demand at this scale and pace requires investment in all forms of energy. The biggest risk is not oversupply, it is under investment," Mr. Jaber said.

"What we are really seeing play out [today] is energy addition," he added.

Later in the day, Mr. Puri informed that India and Canada had launched a renewed ministerial energy dialogue. An official statement from the Canadian Government said the two countries have "significant potential to emerge strong collaborators in area of energy fuels".

agreements and consultations.

Oil and gas sector eyeing $100 bn in investments, says PM
तेल और गैस क्षेत्र $100 अरब निवेश की ओर देख रहा है, पीएम ने कहा

- India's **oil and gas sector** is eyeing to scale **$100 billion in investments** by the end of the current decade, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said at the inauguration of the **India Energy Week** in **Goa** on Tuesday.
भारत का **तेल और गैस क्षेत्र** वर्तमान दशक के अंत तक **$100 अरब निवेश** तक पहुंचने का लक्ष्य रख रहा है, ऐसा प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने मंगलवार को **गोवा में** India Energy Week के उद्घाटन समारोह में कहा।

- He said India aspires to expand the **exploration acreage** to **1 million sq. km**.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत **अन्वेषण क्षेत्रफल** को **1 मिलियन वर्ग किलोमीटर** तक बढ़ाने की आकांक्षा रखता है।

- "It is with this thought that more than **170 [exploration] blocks** have been awarded [in the past]," he said, adding, "**Andaman Nicobar basin** is becoming our next hydrocarbon hope."
"इसी विचार के साथ अब तक **170 [अन्वेषण] ब्लॉक्स** दिए गए हैं," उन्होंने कहा और जोड़ा, "**अंडमान निकोबार बेसिन** हमारा अगला हाइड्रोकार्बन आशा बनता जा रहा है।"

- Mr. Modi also said that companies investing in India's **exploration space** could be assured of acquiring a **profit**.
श्री मोदी ने यह भी कहा कि भारत के **अन्वेषण क्षेत्र** में निवेश करने वाली कंपनियों को **लाभ** मिलने का भरोसा हो सकता है।

- The PM also said that the **energy sector** was at "the **epicenter** of our [the country's] aspirations".
प्रधानमंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि **ऊर्जा क्षेत्र** हमारे [देश के] **महत्वाकांक्षाओं के केंद्र** में है।

- He stated there was potential for **$500 billion worth investment opportunities** in the sector.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र में **$500 अरब मूल्य के निवेश अवसरों** की संभावना है।

- "Therefore, I call upon you to **make in India, innovate in India, scale in India and invest in India**," he stated.
"इसलिए, मैं आप सभी से अपील करता हूं कि **भारत में बनाएं, भारत में नवाचार करें, भारत में विस्तार करें और भारत में निवेश करें**," उन्होंने कहा।

- The **India Energy Week**, being held in Goa this year, is the **flagship conference** of the country's **oil and gas sector**, collaborating stakeholders from both India and outside, for

इस वर्ष गोवा में आयोजित **India Energy Week**, देश के **तेल और गैस क्षेत्र** की **मुख्य सम्मेलन** है, जो भारत और बाहरी भागीदारों के **समझौतों और परामर्शों** के लिए सहयोग करता है।

- Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, **Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Managing Director and CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**, estimated that the global **oil demand** would remain above **100 million barrels per day till 2040**.

  उद्घाटन समारोह में बोलते हुए, **सुल्तान अहमद अल जाबेर, उद्योग और उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री तथा Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) के प्रबंध निदेशक और CEO**, ने अनुमान लगाया कि वैश्विक **तेल की मांग** 2040 तक **प्रतिदिन 100 मिलियन बैरल** से ऊपर रहेगी।

- He added that demand for both **liquefied natural gas (LNG) and electricity** would increase by **50% each**.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **तरल प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) और बिजली** की मांग में प्रत्येक में **50% की वृद्धि** होगी।

- He added that an additional component to the **energy demand dynamics** would emerge from **air-conditioners**.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **ऊर्जा मांग गतिशीलता** में एक अतिरिक्त घटक **एयर कंडीशनर से** उभरेगा।

- By 2050, the world will have **5.6 billion air conditioners**, up from **1.6 billion today**.

  2050 तक, दुनिया में **5.6 अरब एयर कंडीशनर** होंगे, जो आज के **1.6 अरब** से बढ़े हैं।

- "That is, **10 new units sold every second for the next 30 years**," he observed.

  "यानी, अगले 30 वर्षों में **हर सेकंड 10 नए यूनिट बेचे जाएंगे**," उन्होंने कहा।

- "**Demand at this scale and pace requires investment in all forms of energy. The biggest risk is not oversupply, it is under investment**," Mr. Jaber said.

  "**इस पैमाने और गति पर मांग सभी प्रकार की ऊर्जा में निवेश की मांग करती है। सबसे बड़ा जोखिम अधिक आपूर्ति नहीं, बल्कि कम निवेश है**," श्री जाबेर ने कहा।

- "What we are really seeing play out [today] is **energy addition**," he added.

  "वास्तव में हम जो देख रहे हैं वह **ऊर्जा वृद्धि** है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- Later in the day, Mr. Puri informed that **India and Canada** had launched a **renewed ministerial energy dialogue**.

  दिन के बाद में, श्री पुरी ने बताया कि **भारत और कनाडा** ने एक **नवीनीकृत मंत्री स्तरीय ऊर्जा संवाद** शुरू किया है।

- An official statement from the **Canadian Government** said the two countries have "**significant potential to emerge strong collaborators in the area of energy fuels**".

  कनाडाई सरकार के एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया कि दोनों देशों में "**ऊर्जा ईंधनों के क्षेत्र में मजबूत सहयोगी बनने की महत्वपूर्ण क्षमता**" है।

GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	**28 January 2026**
2.	**To make sense of cosmic rays, CERN team tracks a fragile nucleus** **कॉस्मिक किरणों को समझने के लिए, CERN टीम एक नाजुक नाभिक का अध्ययन करती है**
3.	**Leaps and bounds** **छलाँगें और सीमाएँ**

To make sense of cosmic rays, CERN team tracks a fragile nucleus

Why is finding out how deuterons survive particle collisions in the Large Hadron Collider important? If scientists have to predict how light nuclei form in high-energy collisions in space, like when cosmic rays strike interstellar gas, they need to know which formation mechanisms are possible and which ones nature forbids

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

The hydrogen atom is the lightest in the universe and it consists of the simplest nucleus: a single proton. But while helium is the second-lightest element, its nucleus isn't the second simplest. That distinction belongs to the deuteron, the nucleus of the deuterium atom, which contains one proton and one neutron. (Deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen.)

However, the two particles are bound with a very low binding energy, making deuterons seem fragile relative to the energetic, messy environment created when particles collide at nearly the speed of light at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Yet experiments have repeatedly observed deuterons (and anti-deuterons) emerging from these collisions. How do they survive this environment?

Coalescence scenario

Physicists have come up with two broad explanations. One, called direct emission, assumes the deuterons are produced directly from a hot source, meaning their formation doesn't involve a different particle (or particles) condensing from a soup of energy, then decaying to form deuterons. The other idea, called coalescence, holds that the proton and neutron are produced first, then they stick together later if they get close enough.
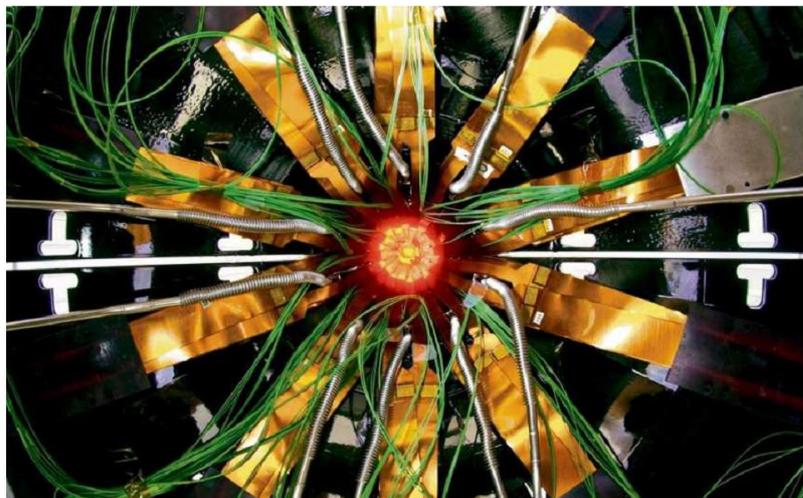
The problem is a proton and a neutron can't fuse if they have too much energy, so there has to be a third particle to carry away the excess energy. That third participant can be a type of particle called pion that acts like a catalyst, i.e. it will enable the reaction without becoming part of the final deuteron.

Finding out whether this is possible matters beyond collider physics. If scientists have to predict how light nuclei and antinuclei form in high-energy collisions in space – such as when cosmic rays strike interstellar gas – they need to know which formation mechanisms are possible and which ones nature doesn't 'allow'.

Delta resonance

A new study out of the ALICE collaboration at the LHC has provided the answer. The collaboration works with the ALICE detector, one of nine detectors on the LHC. At four points on its ring, the LHC smashes together opposing beams of protons at high energy. The collisions produce a morass of particles and reactions between them. The detectors have computers and sensors that are triggered when they identify reactions of interest and which they record and analyse.

For the new study, the ALICE collaboration used a technique called femtoscopy to infer how and when particles were produced by checking whether two particles come out with very similar velocities more often than chance would predict. Its basic object was a ratio called the correlation function. The numerator was how often a given pair (a pion and a deuteron) is seen with a small relative momentum. The denominator was how often such pairs would form assuming they had no affinity for each other.

The team was looking specifically for a particle called $\Delta(1232)$ resonance. ('Δ' is pronounced 'delta'.) The resonance is a very short-lived excited version of a proton or a neutron that quickly decays. $\Delta(1232)$ in particular decays into a pion and a proton or neutron. If a deuteron is later formed using that same proton (or neutron), then the pion and the deuteron would appear to be 'linked' in the data by having a correlated momentum.

ALICE reported just this signal in the pion-deuteron data, meaning many of the deuterons are formed after the Δ decays, rather than directly at the start.

Where a nucleus is born

If the pions were only bumping into deuterons that already existed, some of those collisions should have broken the deuteron apart (which is fragile, remember). In that case, the data should've shown a dip around the Δ region. ALICE, however, found a positive signal, meaning deuterons were forming

The study noted that scientists can use the insight on deuterons to build more realistic models of reactions induced by cosmic rays, which are energetic protons and atomic nuclei which often collide with other nuclei in outer space

after Δ particles decayed and the pions from the same decay were correlated with the new deuterons.

Norwegian University of Science and Technology physics professor Michael Kachelriess called the finding a "great achievement" to *Physics World*.

From the size of the Δ signal, the team estimated that around 62% of deuterons were produced following Δ decays. They figured if they included other short-lived resonances as well, about 80% of deuterons would be formed by coalescence.

This seems to be the answer to why deuterons can survive the LHC's high-energy collisions. Resonances usually travel a short distance before they decay, so the coalescence that forms deuterons happens slightly later and slightly away from the most violent part of the collision. Thus the deuterons are also 'born' into a less extreme environment.

Cosmic rays, dark matter

In sum, most deuterons aren't born as readymade nuclei at the instant of collision but are instead assembled shortly afterwards from existing protons and neutrons, with help from pions nearby. This should change how theorists model the way nuclei (and anti-nuclei) are produced in high-energy particulate reactions.

In fact the ALICE team's paper, published on December 10, noted that scientists can use this insight to build more realistic models of reactions induced by cosmic rays.

Cosmic rays are very energetic protons and atomic nuclei hurtling through space and which often collide with other nuclei in outer space. When scientists are studying telescope data of these collisions or are modelling them in the lab, e.g. for astronomy research or because they're sending a probe to that part of space, they'll need to know which signals are coming from which sources.

"These findings not only explain a long-standing puzzle in nuclear physics but could have far-reaching implications for astrophysics and cosmology," the ALICE team said in a statement.

"Light nuclei and antinuclei are also produced in interactions between cosmic rays and the interstellar medium, and they may be created in processes involving the dark matter that pervades the universe. By building reliable models for the production of light nuclei and anti-nuclei, physicists can better interpret cosmic-ray data and look for possible dark-matter signals."

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Close watch: A view of the ALICE detector, one of nine detectors on the Large Hadron Collider in 2007. CERN

THE GIST

▼ The neutron and proton in the deuterium nucleus are bound with a very low binding energy, making deuterons seem fragile relative to the energetic, messy environment created when particles collide at nearly the speed of light at the LHC

▼ Yet experiments have repeatedly observed deuterons (and anti-deuterons) emerging from these collisions

▼ Most deuterons are not born as readymade nuclei at the instant of collision but are instead assembled shortly afterwards from existing protons and neutrons

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To make sense of cosmic rays, CERN team tracks a fragile nucleus
कॉस्मिक किरणों को समझने के लिए, CERN टीम एक नाज़ुक नाभिक का अध्ययन करती है

Why is finding out how deuterons survive particle collisions in the Large Hadron Collider important?
लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर में कणों की टक्करों के दौरान ड्यूटेरॉन कैसे जीवित रहते हैं, यह पता लगाना क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

- If scientists have to predict how **light nuclei** form in **high-energy collisions** in space, like when **cosmic rays** strike **interstellar gas**, they need to know which **formation mechanisms** are possible and which ones **nature forbids**
  यदि वैज्ञानिक यह अनुमान लगाना चाहते हैं कि अंतरिक्ष में **उच्च-ऊर्जा टक्करों** के दौरान **हल्के नाभिक** कैसे बनते हैं, जैसे जब **कॉस्मिक किरणें** अंतरतारकीय गैस से टकराती हैं, तो उन्हें यह जानना आवश्यक है कि कौन-से **निर्माण तंत्र** संभव हैं और किन्हें **प्रकृति अनुमति नहीं देती**

- The **hydrogen atom** is the lightest in the universe and it consists of the **simplest nucleus**: a single **proton**
  हाइड्रोजन परमाणु ब्रह्मांड का सबसे हल्का परमाणु है और इसमें सबसे **सरल नाभिक** होता है: एक अकेला **प्रोटॉन**

- But while **helium** is the second-lightest element, its nucleus isn't the second simplest
  लेकिन **हीलियम** दूसरा सबसे हल्का तत्व होने के बावजूद, उसका नाभिक दूसरा सबसे सरल नहीं है

- That distinction belongs to the **deuteron**, the nucleus of the **deuterium atom**, which contains one **proton** and one **neutron**
  यह विशेषता **ड्यूटेरॉन** को प्राप्त है, जो **ड्यूटेरियम परमाणु** का नाभिक है और जिसमें एक **प्रोटॉन** तथा एक **न्यूट्रॉन** होता है

(**Deuterium** is an **isotope of hydrogen**)
(**ड्यूटेरियम**, **हाइड्रोजन** का एक **समस्थानिक** है)

- However, the two particles are bound with a very **low binding energy**, making **deuterons** seem **fragile** relative to the energetic, messy environment created when particles collide at nearly the **speed of light** at the **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**
  हालांकि, ये दोनों कण बहुत **कम बाइंडिंग ऊर्जा** से जुड़े होते हैं, जिससे **ड्यूटेरॉन** अत्यधिक ऊर्जावान और अव्यवस्थित वातावरण में **नाजुक** प्रतीत होते हैं, जो **लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर (LHC)** में कणों के लगभग **प्रकाश की गति** से टकराने पर बनता है

- Yet experiments have repeatedly observed **deuterons** (and **anti-deuterons**) emerging from these collisions
  फिर भी प्रयोगों में बार-बार इन टक्करों से **ड्यूटेरॉन** (और **एंटी-ड्यूटेरॉन**) निकलते हुए देखे गए हैं

- **How do they survive this environment?**
  वे इस वातावरण में कैसे जीवित रहते हैं?

Coalescence scenario
कोएलसेंस परिदृश्य

- Physicists have come up with two broad explanations
  भौतिकविदों ने इसके लिए दो व्यापक व्याख्याएँ प्रस्तुत की हैं

- One, called **direct emission**, assumes the **deuterons** are produced directly from a **hot source**
  पहली, जिसे **डायरेक्ट एमिशन** कहा जाता है, यह मानती है कि **ड्यूटेरॉन** सीधे एक **गरम स्रोत** से उत्पन्न होते हैं

- Meaning their formation doesn't involve a different particle (or particles) condensing from a **soup of energy**, then decaying to form **deuterons**
  अर्थात इनके निर्माण में किसी अन्य कण (या कणों) का **ऊर्जा के सूप** से संघनित होकर बाद में टूटकर **ड्यूटेरॉन** बनना शामिल नहीं होता

- The other idea, called **coalescence**, holds that the **proton** and **neutron** are produced first, then they **stick together later** if they get close enough
  दूसरा विचार, जिसे **कोएलसेंस** कहा जाता है, यह मानता है कि पहले **प्रोटॉन** और **न्यूट्रॉन** बनते हैं और यदि वे पर्याप्त पास आ जाएँ तो बाद में **आपस में जुड़ जाते हैं**

- The problem is a **proton** and a **neutron** can't fuse if they have too much **energy**
  समस्या यह है कि यदि **प्रोटॉन** और **न्यूट्रॉन** के पास बहुत अधिक **ऊर्जा** हो तो वे आपस में जुड़ नहीं सकते

- So there has to be a **third particle** to carry away the excess energy
  इसलिए अतिरिक्त ऊर्जा को ले जाने के लिए एक **तीसरे कण** की आवश्यकता होती है

- That third participant can be a type of particle called **pion** that acts like a **catalyst**
  यह तीसरा कण **पायन** नामक एक प्रकार का कण हो सकता है, जो **उत्प्रेरक** की तरह कार्य करता है

- It will enable the reaction without becoming part of the **final deuteron**
  यह अभिक्रिया को संभव बनाता है, लेकिन **अंतिम ड्यूटेरॉन** का हिस्सा नहीं बनता
- Finding out whether this is possible matters beyond **collider physics**
  यह पता लगाना कि यह संभव है या नहीं, केवल **कोलाइडर भौतिकी** तक सीमित नहीं है
- If scientists have to predict how **light nuclei** and **antinuclei** form in **high-energy collisions** in space — such as when **cosmic rays** strike **interstellar gas** — they need to know which formation mechanisms are possible and which ones nature doesn't **allow**
  यदि वैज्ञानिक यह अनुमान लगाना चाहते हैं कि अंतरिक्ष में **उच्च-ऊर्जा टक्करों** के दौरान **हल्के नाभिक** और **प्रतिनाभिक** कैसे बनते हैं — जैसे जब **कॉस्मिक किरणें अंतरतारकीय गैस** से टकराती हैं — तो उन्हें यह जानना होगा कि कौन-से निर्माण तंत्र संभव हैं और किन्हें प्रकृति **अनुमति नहीं देती**

Delta resonance
डेल्टा रेज़ोनेंस

- A new study out of the **ALICE collaboration** at the LHC has provided the answer
  LHC में **ALICE सहयोग** द्वारा किए गए एक नए अध्ययन ने इसका उत्तर प्रदान किया है
- The collaboration works with the **ALICE detector**, one of **nine detectors** on the **LHC**
  यह सहयोग **ALICE डिटेक्टर** के साथ कार्य करता है, जो **LHC** के **नौ डिटेक्टरों** में से एक है
- At four points on its ring, the **LHC** smashes together opposing beams of **protons** at **high energy**
  अपनी रिंग के चार स्थानों पर **LHC**, **प्रोटॉनों** की विपरीत दिशाओं से आने वाली किरणों को **उच्च ऊर्जा** पर आपस में टकराता है

ALICE Collaboration at the LHC (CERN)

- **ALICE** stands for **A Large Ion Collider Experiment**.
- It is one of the **major experiments at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**.
- ALICE is specially designed to study **heavy-ion collisions** (mainly **lead–lead, Pb–Pb**) and also **proton–lead (p–Pb)** and **proton–proton (p–p)** collisions.

The "Early Universe" Connection

- Shortly after the **Big Bang**, matter existed in an extremely hot state where **quarks and gluons were not confined** inside protons/neutrons.
- This state is called **Quark–Gluon Plasma (QGP)**.
- ALICE recreates similar conditions by colliding heavy nuclei at ultra-high energies.

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Leaps and bounds

GS III: S&T

Q: How did kangaroos evolve to hop?

A: For a long time, biomechanics experts believed that giant, extinct kangaroos were simply too heavy to hop. While the largest modern kangaroos weigh around 90 kg, their prehistoric relatives were much larger and weighed more than 250 kg. And scientists previously calculated that if you took the anatomy of a modern kangaroo and scaled it up to that weight, the forces generated by hopping would snap their ankle tendons and fracture their bones.

However, a January 22 study has challenged this limit: by looking at the fossils rather than relying only on mathematical scaling from modern kangaroos, researchers have found that kangaroo ancestors didn't just grow larger: they also evolved a different skeletal structure to handle the immense weight.

The study identified two major adaptations that made hopping mechanically possible for these giants. First, their weight-bearing foot bones, the fourth metatarsals, were significantly shorter and thicker than those of modern kangaroos. This compact shape made the bones more resistant to bending forces, preventing fractures upon landing. Second, their heel bones, called calcanea, were much

A kangaroo near White Cliffs, an Outback area in the state of New South Wales, Australia. AFP

wider, providing a large area for the gastrocnemius tendon to attach. This suggested the animals possessed thick tendons capable of withstanding the tensions required to lift their bodies.

There was one trade-off, however. While the adaptations allowed them to hop without injury, the giants likely sacrificed speed and energy efficiency. Unlike modern kangaroos that bounce efficiently over long distances, the extinct giants probably hopped only for short, high-power bursts, perhaps to escape predators.

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Leaps and bounds
छलाँगें और सीमाएँ

Q: How did kangaroos evolve to hop?
प्र: कंगारू कूदने (हॉप) के लिए कैसे विकसित हुए?

A: For a long time, biomechanics experts believed that giant, extinct kangaroos were simply too heavy to hop.
उ: लंबे समय तक, बायोमैकेनिक्स विशेषज्ञों का मानना था कि विशाल, विलुप्त कंगारू कूदने (हॉप) के लिए बहुत भारी थे।

• While the largest modern kangaroos weigh around 90 kg, their prehistoric relatives were much larger and weighed more than 250 kg
जबकि सबसे बड़े आधुनिक कंगारू लगभग 90 किग्रा के होते हैं, उनके प्रागैतिहासिक रिश्तेदार बहुत बड़े थे और उनका वजन 250 किग्रा से अधिक था

• And scientists previously calculated that if you took the anatomy of a modern kangaroo and scaled it up to that weight, the forces generated by hopping would snap their ankle tendons and fracture their bones
और वैज्ञानिकों ने पहले गणना की थी कि यदि आधुनिक कंगारू की शारीरिक बनावट को उस वजन तक बढ़ाया जाए, तो हॉपिंग से उत्पन्न बल उनके टखने की टेंडन को तोड़ देंगे और हड्डियों में फ्रैक्चर कर देंगे

• However, a January 22 study has challenged this limit: by looking at the fossils rather than relying only on mathematical scaling from modern kangaroos, researchers have found that kangaroo ancestors didn't just grow larger: they also evolved a different skeletal structure to handle the immense weight
हालांकि, 22 जनवरी के एक अध्ययन ने इस सीमा को चुनौती दी है: आधुनिक कंगारुओं से केवल गणितीय स्केलिंग पर निर्भर रहने के बजाय जीवाश्मों को देखकर, शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि कंगारू के पूर्वज केवल बड़े नहीं हुए: उन्होंने अत्यधिक वजन संभालने के लिए अलग कंकालीय संरचना भी विकसित की

• The study identified two major adaptations that made hopping mechanically possible for these giants
अध्ययन ने दो प्रमुख अनुकूलन पहचाने जिन्होंने इन विशाल कंगारुओं के लिए यांत्रिक रूप से हॉपिंग को संभव बनाया

• First, their weight-bearing foot bones, the fourth metatarsals, were significantly shorter and thicker than those of modern kangaroos
पहला, उनके वजन वहन करने वाले पैर की हड्डियाँ, यानी चौथे मेटाटार्सल, आधुनिक कंगारुओं की तुलना में काफी छोटी और मोटी थीं

• This compact shape made the bones more resistant to bending forces, preventing fractures upon landing
यह कॉम्पैक्ट आकार हड्डियों को मुड़ने वाले बलों के प्रति अधिक प्रतिरोधी बनाता था, जिससे उतरते समय फ्रैक्चर नहीं होता था

- Second, their heel bones, called **calcanea**, were much wider, providing a large area for the **gastrocnemius tendon** to attach

  दूसरा, उनकी एड़ी की हड्डियाँ जिन्हें **कैल्केनिया (calcanea)** कहा जाता है, बहुत चौड़ी थीं, जिससे **गैस्ट्रोक्नीमियस टेंडन** के जुड़ने के लिए बड़ा क्षेत्र मिलता था