

प्राणीमाँ को समय पर राहत मिले।
उन्होंने अधिकांशतः को निर्देश दिया
कि सही पंचायतों में प्राकृतिक
अपदा से हुए पुनसंरचना का जल्द से
जल्द खर्च कर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट जिला
को भेजें। इस दौरान विधायक को
राजस्व कर्मचारी दुर्गेश मुंडा के
कार्यों को लेकर लगातार शिकायतें
मिल रही थीं। बैठक में विधायक ने
राजस्व कर्मचारी दुर्गेश मुंडा से
संस्थीकरण मांगा, लेकिन जवाब
संतोषजनक नहीं मिलने पर उन्होंने
तत्काल कार्रवाई करते हुए प्रभारी
अंचल अधिकारी विजय कुमार को
अदेश दिया।



A photograph showing two men in a warehouse setting. They are both wearing high-visibility safety vests over collared shirts. The man on the left is pointing at a tablet held by the man on the right. They are standing on a raised platform or loading dock, with a large area of stacked cardboard boxes visible in the background. A yellow safety railing is in the foreground.

डिजिटल इंडिया का एक दशक, दुनिया अगली डिजिटल क्रांति के लिए भारत की ओर देख रही है



नरेंद्र मोदी

2014 में भारत में लगभग 25 करोड़ इंटरनेट कनेक्शन थे। आज यह संख्या बढ़कर 97 करोड़ से अधिक हो चुकी है। 42 लाख किलोमीटर से अधिक ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल, जो पृथ्वी और चंद्रमा के बीच की दूरी का 11 गुना है, अब दूरस्थ गांवों को भी जोड़ रही है।

दस साल पहले, हमने एक ऐसे क्षेत्र में पूर्ण विश्वास के साथ ऐसी यात्रा शुरू की थी, जहाँ पहले कोई नहीं गया था।

जहाँ दशकों तक यह संदेह किया गया कि भारतीय तकनीक का उपयोग कर पाएंगे की नहीं, हमने उस सोच को बदला और भारतीयों की तकनीक का उपयोग करने की क्षमता पर विश्वास किया।

जहाँ दशकों तक सिर्फ यह सोचा गया कि तकनीक का उपयोग अमीर और गरीब के बीच की खाई को और गहरा करेगा, हमने उस मानसिकता को बदला और तकनीक के माध्यम से उस खाई को खत्म किया।

जब नीयत सही होती है, तो नवाचार वंचितों को सशक्त करता है। जब दृष्टिकोण समावेशी होता है, तो तकनीक हाशिए पर खड़े लोगों के जीवन में परिवर्तन लाती है।

यही विश्वास डिजिटल इंडिया की नींव बना- एक ऐसा मिशन जो सभी के लिए पहुंच को लोकतांत्रिक (आसान) बनाने, समावेशी डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बनाने और अवसरों को उपलब्ध कराने के लिए शुरू हुआ।

2014 में, इंटरनेट की पहुंच सीमित थी, डिजिटल साक्षरता कम थी, और सरकारी सेवाओं की ऑनलाइन पहुंच बेहद सीमित थी। कई लोगों को संदेह था कि भारत जैसा विशाल और विविध देश वास्तव में डिजिटल बन सकता है या नहीं।

आज, इस प्रश्न का उत्तर डेटा और डैशबोर्ड में नहीं, बल्कि 140 करोड़ भारतीयों के जीवन के माध्यम से दिया जा चुका है। शासन से लेकर शिक्षा, लेन-देन और निर्माण तक, डिजिटल इंडिया हर जगह है।

- डिजिटल डिवाइड को पाटते हुए

2014 में भारत में लगभग 25 करोड़ इंटरनेट कनेक्शन थे। आज यह संख्या बढ़कर 97 करोड़ से अधिक हो चुकी है। 42 लाख किलोमीटर से अधिक ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल, जो पृथ्वी और चंद्रमा के बीच की दूरी का 11 गुना है, अब दूरस्थ गांवों को भी जोड़ रही है।

भारत का 5जी रोलआउट विश्व में सबसे तेज रोलआउट्स में से एक है, और मात्र दो वर्षों में 4.81 लाख बेस स्टेशंस स्थापित किए गए हैं। हाई-स्पीड इंटरनेट अब शहरी केंद्रों से लेकर अग्रिम सैन्य चौकियों तक जैसे गलवान, सियाचिन और लद्दाख पहुंच चुका है।

इंडिया स्टैक, जो हमारा डिजिटल बैकबोन है, ने UPI जैसे प्लेटफार्म को सक्षम बनाया है, जो अब सालाना 100 बिलियन से अधिक लेन-देन करता है। विश्व में होने वाले कुल रियल-टाइम डिजिटल ट्रांजेक्शन में से लगभग आधे



भारत में होते हैं।

डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर (DBT) के माध्यम से 44 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की राशि सीधे नागरिकों को हस्तांतरित की गयी है, जिससे बिचौलियों की भूमिका समाप्त हुई और 3.48 लाख करोड़ रुपये की लीकेज रोकी गई है।

स्वामित्व जैसी योजनाओं ने 2.4 करोड़ से अधिक प्रॉपर्टी कार्ड्स जारी किए हैं और 6.47 लाख गांवों को मैप किया है, जिससे वर्षों से चली आ रही भूमि संबंधी अनिश्चितता का अंत हुआ है।

- सभी के लिए अवसरों का लोकतंत्रीकरण

भारत की डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था अब पहले से कहीं अधिक MSMEs और छोटे उद्यमियों को सशक्त बना रही है।

ONDC (ओपन नेटवर्क फॉर डिजिटल कॉमर्स) एक क्रांतिकारी प्लेटफॉर्म है जो विक्रेताओं और खरीदारों के विशाल बाजार से सीधा संपर्क स्थापित कर नए अवसरों की खिड़की खोलता है।

GeM (गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस) आम आदमी को सरकार के सभी विभागों को सामान और सेवाएं बेचने की सुविधा देता है। इससे न केवल आम नागरिक को एक विशाल बाजार मिलता है बल्कि सरकार की बचत भी होती है।

कल्पना कीजिए: आप मुद्रा लोन के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन करते हैं। आपकी क्रेडिट योग्यता को अकाउंट एग्जीग्रेटर प्रेमवर्क के माध्यम से आंका जाता है। आपको लोन मिलता है, आप अपना व्यवसाय शुरू करते हैं। आप GeM पर पंजीकृत होते हैं, स्कूलों और अस्पतालों को सप्लाई करते हैं और फिर ओएनडीसी के माध्यम से इसे और बड़ा बनाते हैं।

ओएनडीसी ने हाल ही में 20 करोड़ लेन-देन का आंकड़ा पार किया है- जिसमें पिछले 10 करोड़ सिर्फ 6 महीनों में हुए हैं। बनारसी बुनकरों से लेकर नागालैंड के बांस शिल्पियों तक, अब विक्रेता बिना बिचौलियों के पूरे देश में ग्राहक तक पहुंच रहे हैं।

GeM ने 50 दिनों में एक लाख करोड़ रुपये का GMV पार किया है, जिसमें 22 लाख विक्रेता शामिल हैं, जिनमें 1.8 लाख से अधिक महिला संचालित MSMEs हैं, जिन्होंने 46,000 करोड़ रुपये की आपूर्ति की है।

- डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर: भारत का वैश्विक योगदान

भारत का डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI)- जैसे आधार, CoWIN, डिजिलॉकर, फारस्टेज, पीएम-WANI, और वन नेशन वन सब्सक्रिप्शन- को अब वैश्विक स्तर पर पढ़ा और अपनाया जा रहा है।

CoWIN ने दुनिया के सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान को सक्षम किया, जिससे 220 करोड़ QR-सत्यापित सर्टिफिकेट जारी हुए। DigiLocker, जिसके 54 करोड़ उपयोगकर्ता हैं, 775 करोड़ से अधिक दस्तावेजों को सुरक्षित और निर्बाध तरीके से होस्ट कर रहा है।

भारत ने अपनी जी20 अध्यक्षता के दौरान ग्लोबल DPI रिपॉजिटरी और \$25 मिलियन का सोशल इम्पैक्ट फंड लॉन्च किया, जिससे अफ्रीका और दक्षिण एशिया के देश समावेशी डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम अपना सकें।

- स्टार्टअप पॉवर और आत्मनिर्भर भारत

भारत अब विश्व के शीर्ष 3 स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम में शामिल है, जिसमें 1.8 लाख से अधिक स्टार्टअप हैं। लेकिन यह सिर्फ एक स्टार्टअप आंदोलन नहीं है, यह एक टेक्नोलॉजी पुनर्जागरण है।

भारत में युवाओं के बीच AI स्किल्स और AI टैलेंट के मामले में बड़ी प्रगति हो रही है।

\$1.2 बिलियन इंडिया AI मिशन के तहत भारत ने 34,000 GPUs की पहुंच ऐसे मूल्य पर सुनिश्चित की है जो वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे कम है –\$1 से भी कम प्रति GPU Hour. इससे भारत न केवल सबसे सस्ता इंटरनेट इकोनॉमी, बल्कि सबसे किफायती कंप्यूटिंग हब बन गया है।

भारत ने मानवता-पहले AI की वकालत की है। नई दिल्ली डिक्लरेशन ऑन AI जिम्मेदारी के साथ नवाचार को बढ़ावा देता है। देशभर में AI सेंटर्स ऑफ एक्सीलेंस स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं।

- आगे का रास्ता

अगला दशक और भी अधिक परिवर्तनकारी होगा। हम डिजिटल गवर्नेंस से आगे बढ़कर वैश्विक डिजिटल नेतृत्व की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं – इंडिया फर्स्ट से इंडिया फॉर द वर्ल्ड तक।

डिजिटल इंडिया अब केवल एक सरकारी कार्यक्रम नहीं रहा, यह जनआंदोलन बन चुका है। यह आत्मनिर्भर भारत के निर्माण का केंद्र है, और भारत को दुनिया का विश्वसनीय नवाचार साझेदार बना रहा है।

सभी इनोवेटर्स, एंटरप्रेन्योर्स, और ड्रीमर्स से: दुनिया अगली डिजिटल क्रांति के लिए भारत की ओर देख रही है।

- आएह हम वह बनाएं जो सशक्त बनाता है।

- आएह हम ऐसे हल निकालें जो वास्तव में मायने रखता है।

- आएह हम उस तकनीक के साथ नेतृत्व करें जो unite, include और uplift करती है।

लेखक भारत के प्रधानमंत्री हैं।

संपादकीय

हिन्दी पर सियासी संग्राम

महाराष्ट्र के विद्यालयों में पहली कक्षा से हिन्दी भाषा को शामिल करने के खिलाफ बढ़ते विरोध के दरम्यान मंत्रिमंडल ने त्रि-भाषा नीति पर सरकारी आदेश को रद्द कर दिया। भाषा नीति के कार्यान्वयन व आगे की राह सुझाने के लिए शिक्षाविद् की अध्यक्षता में समिति का गठन करने की घोषणा मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडनवीस ने की। राज्य सरकार ने अप्रैल मध्य में आदेश जारी किया था कि अंग्रेजी व मराठी माध्यम स्कूलों के छात्रों के लिए पहली से पांचवीं कक्षा तक हिन्दी को तीसरी अनिवार्य भाषा बनाया गया था, परंतु जबरदस्त विरोध के चलते महीने भर बाद ही संशोधित सरकारी आदेश द्वारा हिन्दी को वैकल्पिक विषय बता दिया गया। आदेश को रद्द करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने दलीलों दीं, कि मुख्यमंत्री रहते हुए उद्भव ठाकरे द्वारा कक्षा एक से बाहर तक तीनी भाषा नीति लागू करने की सिफारिशें स्वीकारा थीं व कार्यान्वयन पर समिति गठित की थीं। भाषा विवाद देश में नया नहीं है। दक्षिण के कई राज्य हिन्दी का सिर्फ विरोध ही नहीं करते रहे हैं बल्कि इसे थोपे जाने के आरोप भी मढ़ते रहे हैं। राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 में त्रि-भाषा लागू करने की बात की गई है। जिसमें कम-से-कम दो भाषाएं भारत की मूल होनी अनिवार्य है। तीसरी भाषा का चयन छात्र/राज्य व क्षेत्र के अनुरूप करने की बात की गई। मगर स्थानीय राजनीतिक दलों ने इसे मुद्दा बनाया और वे पूर्वाग्रह से हिन्दी थोपने का विरोध करने में जुट गए। बेशक राज्यों में सरकारी नौकरियों के लिए उम्मीदवारों से स्थानीय भाषा के ज्ञान की अनिवार्यता अभी भी है। महाराष्ट्र में बहुसंख्य लोग मराठी बोलते हैं। यह देश में प्रयोग की जाते वाली भाषाओं में तीसरा स्थान रखती है, जिसे पश्चिम भारत के अन्य राज्यों में भी खूब प्रयोग किया जाता है। बावजूद इसके भाषा विवाद में जबरन हिन्दी को घसीटना सिर्फ राजनीतिक कोचइ उछलने का दस्तूर बन गया है, जिस पर सरकार को कड़ा निर्णय लेना चाहिए। किसी भी राष्ट्रीय नीति को लेकर राज्यों को सहिष्णुता बरतनी चाहिए। केंद्र को इस पर दखलंदजी करने पर संकोच नहीं करना चाहिए। जब तीसरी भाषा का चुनाव छात्रों के इच्छियाय में है, वे स्वेच्छापूर्वक न चाहें तो उन्हें मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता। सरकार का इस तरह का दुलभुल रवैया उचित नहीं। अंग्रेजी पर बढ़ती निर्भरता और जरूरत को सहजतापूर्वक स्वीकारने वालों को एकता व अखंडता का सम्मान करते हुए जनता को यह इच्छियाय देना होगा। भाषाओं की अपनी गरिमा व सम्मान है, उसके प्रति द्वेष कतई उचित नहीं है।

चिंतन-मनन

हर जीव में त्याग नारायण

वैदिक साहित्य से हम जानते हैं कि परम-पुरुष नारायण प्रत्येक जीव के बाहर तथा भीतर निवास करने वाले है। वे भौतिक तथा आध्यात्मिक दोनों जगहों में विद्यमान हैं। यद्यपि वे बहुत दूर हैं, फिर भी हमारे निकट हैं-आसानी दूर ब्रजति शयानो याति सर्वतरू हम भौतिक इन्द्रियों से न तो उन्हें देख पाते हैं, न समझ पाते हैं अतएव वैदिक मान्यता में कहा गया है कि उन्हें समझने में हमारा भौतिक मन तथा इन्द्रियां असमर्थ हैं। किन्तु जिसने, भक्ति में कृष्णभावनामृत का अभ्यास करते हुए, अपने मन-इन्द्रियों को शुद्ध कर लिया है, वह उन्हें निरन्तर देख सकता है। ब्रह्महिता के अनुसार परमेश्वर के लिए जिस भक्त में प्रेम उजज चुका है, वह निरन्तर उनके दर्शन कर सकता है। और भगवद्गीता में कहा गया है कि उन्हें केवल भक्ति द्वारा देखा-समझा जा सकता है। भगवान सबके हृदय में परमात्मा रूप में स्थित हैं। तो क्या इसका अर्थ यह हुआ कि वे बंटे हुए हैं? नहीं। वास्तव में वे एक हैं। जैसे सूर्य मध्यह्न समय अपने स्थान पर रहता है, लेकिन यदि कोई पांच हजार मील की दूरी पर घुमे और पूछे कि सूर्य कहाँ है, तो सभी कहेंगे कि वह उसके स्थिर पर चमक रहा है। इस उदाहरण का अर्थ है कि यद्यपि भगवान अविभाजित हैं, लेकिन इस प्रकार स्थित हैं मानो विभाजित होवैदिक साहित्य में यह भी कहा गया है कि अपनी सर्वशक्तिमत्ता द्वारा एक विष्णु सर्वत्र विद्यमान हैं जिस तरह एक सूर्य की प्रतीति अनेक स्थानों में होती है। यद्यपि परमेश्वर प्रत्येक जीव के पालनकर्ता हैं, किन्तु प्रलय के समय सबका भक्षण भी कर जाते हैं। सृष्टि रची जाती है, तो वे सबको मूल स्थिति से विकसित करते हैं और प्रलय के समय सबको निगल जाते हैं। वैदिक शास्त्र पुष्टि करते हैं कि वे समस्त जीवों के मूल तथा आश्रय-स्थल हैं। सृष्टि के बाद सारी वस्तुएं उनकी सर्वशक्तिमत्ता पर टिकी रहती हैं और प्रलय बाद सारी वस्तुएं पुनः उन्हीं में विश्राम पाने के लिए लौट आती हैं।



प्रह्लाद सबानी

हाल ही में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने रेपो दर में 50 आधार बिंदुओं की कमी की है। इसके साथ ही, निजी क्षेत्र के बैंकों, सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों एवं क्रेडिट कार्ड कम्पनियों सहित अन्य वित्तीय संस्थानों ने भी अपने ग्राहकों को प्रदान की जा रही ऋणराशि पर लागू ब्याज दरों में कमी की घोषणा करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है ताकि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा रेपो दर में की गई कमी का लाभ शीघ्र ही भारत में ऋणदाताओं तक पहुंच सके एवं इससे अंततः देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को बल मिल सके। भारत में चूँकि अब मुद्रा स्फीति की दर नियंत्रण में आ गई है, अतः आगे आने वाले समय में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा रेपो दर में और अधिक कमी की जा सकती है। इस प्रकार, बहुत सम्भव है ऋणराशि पर लागू ब्याज दरों में कमी के बाद कई नागरिक जिन्होंने पूर्व में कभी बैंकों से ऋण नहीं लिया है, वे भी ऋण लेने का प्रयास करें। बैंक से ऋण लेने से पूर्व इस बात का ध्यान रखना आवश्यक है कि इस ऋण को चुकता करने की क्षमता भी ऋणदाता में होनी चाहिए अर्थात् ऋणदाता की पथांत मासिक आय होनी चाहिए ताकि बैंकों द्वारा प्रदत्त ऋण की किश्त एवं ब्याज का भुगतान पूर्व निर्धारित समय सीमा के अंदर किया जा सके। इस संदर्भ में विशेष रूप से युवा ऋणदाताओं द्वारा क्रेडिट कार्ड के उपयोग पश्चात संबंधित राशि का भुगतान समय सीमा के अंदर अवश्य करना चाहिए क्योंकि अन्यथा क्रेडिट कार्ड एजेंसी द्वारा चूक की गई राशि पर भारी मात्रा में ब्याज वसूला जाता है, जिससे युवा ऋणदाता ऋण के जाल में फंस जाते हैं। बैंकों से लिए गए ऋण की मासिक किश्त एवं इस



डॉ. एस.पी. शाही

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी 2 से 9 जुलाई, 2025 तक की अपनी विदेश यात्रा के दौरान घाना, जिनिदाद एवं टोबैगो, अर्जेंटीना, ब्राजील और नामीबिया का दौरा करेंगे।

यह यात्रा रणनीतिक कूटनीतिक अभियान है, जो भारत के वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण, दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग, बहुपक्षीय नेतृत्व और सांस्कृतिक जुड़ाव को मजबूती देने की दिशा में निर्णायक कदम है। यह दौरा न केवल इन देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय रिश्तों को नई ऊर्जा देगा, बल्कि भारत की बहुपक्षीय उपस्थिति को वैश्विक स्तर पर और अधिक सशक्त करेगा।

घाना (2-3 जुलाई, 2025): अफ्रीकी साझेदारी का नया अध्याय

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की यह घाना यात्रा उनकी पहली



ऋणराशि पर ब्याज का भुगतान यदि निर्धारित समय सीमा के अंदर नहीं किया जाता है तो चुककर्ता ऋणदाता से बैंकों द्वारा दंडात्मक ब्याज की वसूली की जाती है। इसी प्रकार, कई नागरिक जो क्रेडिट कार्ड का उपयोग करते हैं एवं इस क्रेडिट कार्ड के विरुद्ध उपयोग की गई राशि का भुगतान यदि वे निर्धारित समय सीमा के अंदर नहीं कर पाते हैं तो इस राशि पर चूक किए गए क्रेडिट कार्ड धारकों से भारी भरकम ब्याज की दर से दंड वसूला जाता है। कभी कभी तो दंड की यह दर 18 प्रतिशत से 24 प्रतिशत के बीच रहती है। क्रेडिट कार्ड का उपयोग करने वाले नागरिक कई बार इस उच्च ब्याज दर पर वसूली जाने वाली दंड की राशि से अनभिज्ञ रहते हैं। अतः बैंकों से ली जाने वाली ऋणराशि एवं क्रेडिट कार्ड के विरुद्ध उपयोग की जाने वाली राशि का समय पर भुगतान करने के प्रति ऋणदाताओं को सजग रहने की आवश्यकता है। कुल मिलाकर यह ऋणदाताओं के हित में है कि वे बैंक से लिए जाने वाले ऋण की राशि तथा ब्याज की राशि एवं क्रेडिट कार्ड के विरुद्ध उपयोग की जाने वाली राशि का पूर्व निर्धारित एवं उचित समय सीमा के अंदर भुगतान करें क्योंकि अन्यथा की स्थिति में उस चूककर्ता नागरिक की क्रेडिट रेटिंग पर विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ता है एवं आगे आने वाले समय में उसे किसी भी वित्तीय संस्थान से ऋण प्राप्त करने में कठिनाई का सामना

करना पड़ सकता है एवं बहुत सम्भव है कि भविष्य में उसे किसी भी वित्तीय संस्थान से ऋण प्राप्त ही न हो सके। ऋणदाता यदि किसी प्रामाणिक कारणवश अपनी किश्त एवं ब्याज का बैंकों अथवा क्रेडिट कार्ड कम्पनी को समय पर भुगतान नहीं कर पाता है और उसका ऋण खाता यदि गैर निष्पादनकारी आर्स्टि में परिवर्तित हो जाता है तो इस संदर्भ में चुककर्ता ऋणदाता द्वारा बैंकों को समझौता प्रस्ताव दिए जाने का प्रावधान भी है। इस समझौता प्रस्ताव के माध्यम से चुककर्ता ऋणदाता द्वारा सम्बंधित बैंक अथवा क्रेडिट कार्ड कम्पनी को मासिक किश्त एवं ब्याज की राशि को पुनर्निर्धारित किए जाने के सम्बंध में निवेदन किया जा सकता है। परंतु, यदि ऋणदाता ऋण की पूरी राशि, ब्याज सहित, अदा करने में सक्षम नहीं है तो चूक की गई राशि में से कुछ राशि की छूट प्राप्त करने एवं शेष राशि को एकमुश्त अथवा किश्तों में अदा करने के सम्बंध में भी समझौता प्रस्ताव दे सकता है। ऋण की राशि अथवा ब्याज की राशि के सम्बंध के प्राप्त की गई छूट की राशि का रिकार्ड बनता है एवं समझौता प्रस्ताव के अंतर्गत प्राप्त छूट के चलते भविष्य में उस ऋणदाता को बैंकों से ऋण प्राप्त करने में कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, इस बात का ध्यान चूककर्ता ऋणदाता को रखना चाहिए। अतः जहां तक सम्भव हो ऋणदाता द्वारा समझौता प्रस्ताव से भी

मोदी की विदेश यात्रा : वैश्विक भारत की सशक्त प्रस्तुति

द्विपक्षीय यात्रा होगी। लगभग तीन दशकों के बाद किसी भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री की यह पहली घाना यात्रा होगी। यह यात्रा बताती है कि भारत अब अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ अपने रिश्तों को केवल ऐतिहासिक भाईचारे की भावना से नहीं, बल्कि सामरिक और आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से भी देख रहा है।

त्रिनिदाद और टोबैगो (3-4 जुलाई, 2025): सांस्कृतिक रिश्तों को राजनीतिक सुदृढ़ता

त्रिनिदाद और टोबैगो गणराज्य की प्रधानमंत्री बिहार मूल की कमला परसाद-बिसेसर के निमंतण्णपर प्रधानमंत्री मोदी इस देश की आधिकारिक यात्रा करेंगे। यह किसी भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री की 1999 के बाद पहली यात्रा होगी। यात्रा के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री का त्रिनिदाद और टोबैगो की संसद के संयुक्त सत्र को संबोधित करना एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण होगा। यह भारत की लोकतांत्रिक परंपराओं और विश्व मंच पर इसकी विचारधारा की प्रतिष्ठा को और सुदृढ़ करेगा। भारत और के बीच सांस्कृतिक और जन-जन के स्तर पर जो संबंध हैं, वह इस यात्रा का मूल आधार हैं।

अर्जेंटीना (4-5 जुलाई, 2025): रणनीतिक भागीदारी का विस्तार

प्रधानमंत्री अर्जेंटीना के राष्ट्रपति जेवियर माइली के निमंतण्णपर आधिकारिक यात्रा करेंगे। यह यात्रा भारत और अर्जेंटीना के बीच रणनीतिक भागीदारी को बहुआयामी स्वरूप देने का प्रयास है। रक्षा, कृषि,

खनन, तेल और गैस, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, व्यापार और निवेश जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की समीक्षा और विस्तार यात्रा का केंद्र होगा।

ब्राजील (5-8 जुलाई, 2025): वैश्विक नेतृत्व में भारत की भूमिका

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ब्राजील के राष्ट्रपति लुईस इनासियो लुला दा सिल्वा के निमंतण्णपर ब्राजील की यात्रा पर होंगे। यहां वे 17वें ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे। ब्रिक्स के संदर्भ में भारत की भूमिका का जिम्मेदार मंच पर उभारने का अवसर प्रदान करेगी। रियो डी जेनेरियो में होने वाले इस शिखर सम्मेलन में वैश्विक शासन में सुधार, बहुपक्षवाद को सशक्त बनाना, जलवायु परिवर्तन, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता का जिम्मेदार उपयोग, वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य और वित्तीय स्थिरता जैसे मुद्दों पर विचारों का आदान-प्रदान होगा। इसके बाद प्रधानमंत्री राजकीय यात्रा पर ब्रासीलिया जाएंगे, जहां वे राष्ट्रपति लुला के साथ व्यापार, रक्षा, ऊर्जा, अंतरिक्ष, तकनीक, कृषि और स्वास्थ्य जैसे क्षेत्रों में रणनीतिक साझेदारी पर चर्चा करेंगे।

नामीबिया (9 जुलाई, 2025): ऐतिहासिक संबंधों की पुनर्स्थापना

यात्रा के अंतिम चरण में प्रधानमंत्री नामीबिया गणराज्य के राष्ट्रपति डॉ. नेटुम्बो न्दी-न्देतवा के निमंतण्णपर नामीबिया की यात्रा करेंगे। इस दौरान प्रधानमंत्री न केवल राष्ट्रपति के साथ द्विपक्षीय बातचीत करेंगे,

बल्कि नामीबिया के संस्थापक पिता डॉ. सैम नुजोमा को श्रद्धांजलि भी अर्पित करेंगे। यह यात्रा भारत और नामीबिया के गहरे और बहुआयामी ऐतिहासिक संबंधों की पुष्टि करेगी।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की यह बहुपक्षीय यात्रा भारत की विदेश नीति की नवीन सोच, व्यापक दृष्टिकोण और आत्मनिर्भर कूटनीति का उदाहरण है। यह केवल समझौतों और घोषणाओं की यात्रा नहीं है, बल्कि भारत की वैश्विक जिम्मेदारी, लोकतांत्रिक मूल्य, और वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम की भावना को विश्व समुदाय के सामने प्रस्तुत करने का सुनहरा अवसर है। यह यात्रा दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग, वैश्विक दक्षिण के देशों के बीच पारस्परिकता, और भारत की एक सांप्रद पावर के साथ-साथ हार्ड पावर के रूप में बढ़ती भूमिका का प्रतीक है।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की उपस्थिति उन देशों में हो रही है जहां भारत के साथ ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक और रणनीतिक जुड़ाव की व्यापक संभावनाएं मौजूद हैं। 2 से 9 जुलाई, 2025 की यह यात्रा निस्संदेह भारत के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक कूटनीतिक क्षण है, जो आने वाले वर्षों में भारत की वैश्विक नीति, आर्थिक विस्तार और सांस्कृतिक नेतृत्व को मजबूती देगा। (लेखक मगध विवि के कुलपति और राजनीति विज्ञान के विद्वान हैं। लेख में विचार निजी हैं)

Burnt cash case: More questions are raised than answered

On the night of March 14, 2025, remnants of burnt currency were found—for which a video is available—in the outhouse of the premises allotted to Justice Yashwant Varma, then a judge of the Delhi High Court. This revelation raises serious questions which need to be answered. What was the quantum of currency that was found? Why was the currency not seized? Why was a panchnama not prepared by the Delhi Police present at the spot? Why was the outhouse not cordoned off to ensure that the scene of the incident was protected or secured? Why was the currency not preserved for inquiry and investigation? Why was an FIR not registered against unknown persons? To all these questions, the In-House Committee (“Committee”) set up by the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court provides no answers; they are otherwise unavailable. For all these questions, the Committee says that these were not within its remit. In the absence of any explanation for why the police acted as they did, the Committee concluded that since the currency was found in the outhouse of the judge’s residence, it must have been placed there with the judge’s tacit or active consent. The Committee consisted of two sitting Chief Justices and one judge of the High Court. It found no more than what was already available in the public domain in the form of videos recorded by the fire services department. Justice Varma had categorically stated that the currency did not belong to him and that he was not aware of who had placed it in the outhouse. The mainstream media has quoted various amounts of currency, ranging from `15 crore and beyond, in large bundles, which were found in the outhouse. The currency in the alleged quantum could not have entered the premises without the knowledge of the CRPF personnel stationed at his residence. Managing to cart large quantities of currency and placing it in the outhouse would necessarily have entailed the active involvement of several persons. No evidence to that effect was before the Committee, nor has it been alleged by anyone to date. In fact, the issue became far more serious when it was revealed that a CCTV camera was placed in a security room at the entrance, constantly monitoring ingress into the premises. This CCTV apparatus was controlled by the security personnel and not by the family. When the CCTV camera was seized, the FSL report revealed that the hard disk was blank. This constitutes a major security lapse, as it is the State’s responsibility to protect the judge.

This again raises several vital questions. When did the CCTV camera stop working? Did the security personnel make any complaint in that regard? No answers are available. The Committee never investigated why such footage could not be retrieved. The person who placed the currency must have been aware that the CCTV equipment was not functioning. Surprisingly, the Committee blames the judge for not seizing and preserving the CCTV footage, assuming he knew and had control of the functioning of the CCTV. What authority did he have to seize the footage when it was never in his custody and control? The Committee proceeds on the assumption and concludes that the keys of the outhouse were under the tacit or active control of the family, even though there was ample evidence that the keys were in the possession of the staff and not the family, as reflected in a paragraph of the Committee’s report. Part of the paragraph reads as follows: “50. What has further come on record in the shape of statements of witnesses No. 31, 32, 34, 35, 40, 46 and 47 is that the storeroom was occasionally locked, and the key to the lock was accessible to all of the residents of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi including the security staff and the personal staff of Justice Yashwant Varma...”

India-China tango remains elusive

Onus on Beijing to rebuild relations as the ‘one who ties the knot must untie it’

INDIA-CHINA ties have witnessed a flurry of activity recently. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong visited New Delhi on June 12-13 for talks with his Indian counterpart Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. One of the outcomes of the discussions was the announcement that the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra would be resumed this summer. The yatra had been put on hold in the wake of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff that began in the summer of 2020. Last week, in quick succession, India’s NSA Ajit Doval and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited China for meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), of which India has been a long-time member. The Indian leaders also had bilateral meetings with their Chinese counterparts, further adding to the impression in India that there is a reset in the difficult relationship between the two most populous countries.

The Indian media started carrying stories that the Dragon and the Elephant are dancing again. The Indian industry began to believe that imports from China would once again be easy and cheap. This narrative, when seen against the backdrop of India’s Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran strongly arguing in favour of more foreign direct investment from China, is unfortunately leading many in India to hasty and wrong conclusions. We must keep in mind that the bilateral relationship deteriorated because Beijing sent troops to eastern Ladakh with the aim of changing the status quo on the LAC as well as to drive home the message that China was the big power in the region and that India better kowtow to it. Hence, China is entirely responsible for this recent downturn in relations. Frankly, the onus is on Beijing to make conciliatory moves to repair it. A Chinese saying puts it aptly: “The one who ties the knot must untie it.” As is well known, there has been disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh but no de-escalation of forces as yet. So, while some conditions have been met on the LAC for a better relationship, the situation is not exactly as it was before 2020. In these circumstances, a better description would be that though the Dragon and the Elephant are in the same room, they are sticking to their own individual corners, eyeing the other carefully. Not only is there no question of the two dancing with each other, there is no recognition that the other is even a potential dance partner. Furthermore, there seems to be no attraction between the two. Things become even clearer if we add to this picture the economic side of the Delhi-Beijing relationship — exports from China of rare earth magnets, so important for our nascent EV (electric vehicle) industry, have virtually been stopped over the past three months. China has reached an agreement with the US, the main target of rare earth export controls, but shipments to India have not been cleared till date, driving India’s EV companies to the brink of a crisis. Now we hear of similar weaponising of specialty fertiliser exports to India. The supply of tunnel boring machines to India has been blocked by China Customs for over a year. This clearly underlines China’s approach towards India. What



China really desires is that India recognise it as a great power and then dance to China’s tune. This is what mandarins in India’s Finance Ministry are acquiescing to when they argue for relaxations in the FDI regime for China. Yes, in the immediate aftermath of the June 2020 Galwan clash, India had banned many Chinese apps from the domestic market and also ruled that Chinese firms such as Huawei could not participate in our own 5G trials and rollout. All those were excellent steps and any rollback of them cannot be countenanced. So how should one analyse and assess the current steps? As there has been some thawing of the military situation in eastern Ladakh, although there is no return to status quo ante, repairing and rebuilding overall ties is a good measure. The careful and calibrated moves made by the Indian Government are the correct way forward. Doubtless, we have to deal with China and manage relations. However, there is no need for India to be overenthusiastic in this

process. Mutual interest should be the lodestone for deciding the way forward. Mutual respect is essential if ties have to be rebuilt. At the same time, the Indian industry will be well served if it doesn’t expect everything to be hunky-dory with China in the near future. Such an outcome will be unrealistic and impractical. We in India must utilise this opportunity to manufacture here some of the products denied by China. Rare earth magnets will be a good start. The best supply chain for this product will be if it is entirely in India. Then there can be no surprises of the recent kind. The broader and more pertinent point is that we must be more ambitious about making in India. To quote a young Indian entrepreneur (not being named) who is now a start-up veteran, “We must aim at manufacturing in India for the world”. It is this ambition that must fire our industry and business people. When that happens, we shall get China off our back and not be dependent on imports from our northern neighbour.

Must find internal reset for Pakistan bother at the SCO

India needs to assess why it lacks clout in the 10-member grouping that China dominates, though its relationship with the latter is on the mend. Beijing’s cliché of a dance between the dragon and the elephant apart, China’s tango with its client state Pakistan is the most visible at the moment

If a multilateral grouping that runs by consensus fails to find common ground, consequences follow. That is why the recent Defence Ministers’ meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Qingdao, China, did not issue a joint outcome statement. India had sought explicit mention of terrorism in the document, especially cross-border terror, including a reference to the April Pahalgam terror attack, where tourists were killed after religious profiling. However, “one member country”, Pakistan, refused to yield. It instead sought to insert a paragraph on disturbances in Balochistan to needle India. And China, in its capacity as SCO chair, made little effort to sort out the matter. Since it was unacceptable that a bloc founded with the primary purpose of combating terrorism omitted a reference to it, visiting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the outcome document. “When the main purpose of the organisation is to fight terrorism, and you are not allowing a reference to that, the outcome loses meaning,” external affairs



minister S Jaishankar later said. The SCO Charter adopted in 2002—a year after China, Russia, and four Central Asian countries floated it—had resolved to make “mutual intraregional efforts to curb terrorism, separatism and extremism”. In 2017, India and Pakistan joined the grouping. India needs to assess why it lacks clout in the

10-member grouping that China dominates, though its relationship with the latter is on the mend. Beijing’s cliché of a dance between the dragon and the elephant apart, China’s tango with its client state Pakistan is the most visible at the moment. Evolving consensus when the aggressor and the victim of terror have an equal say is tough if the latter does not have a strong counterweight. It is not without reason that India excluded SCO member states from the global outreach programme by multi-party delegations of parliament to explain its post-Pahalgam strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and the refusal to give in to nuclear blackmail. India needs a balm for the Pakistan headache. It must engage with SCO but with calibrated expectations. While exposing the double standards of those who deny cross-border terror, India must also invest more in deterrence and diplomatic assertiveness. The message should go out that multilateral organisations not calling out all variants of terror disrespect their fundamental objectives.

The silence that grew loud in me

For years now, especially as I grew older, my strongest feeling about the harassment that I faced—that every Indian girl and woman has faced—has been regret. My silence during those times was utterly wrong. I now feel I let other girls down by not shouting out loud every time I was harassed by the boys, men and unclejs of Delhi, calling them out at once and publicly shaming them

Once on a flight from somewhere to Delhi, I sat comfortably in my usual aisle seat, having long outgrown the youthful urge to sit by the window. The window seat, I had grown to realise, was strategically a bad move. This time, the middle seat beside me was empty, and I closed my eyes in relief. I looked forward to some elbow room and no threat of a possibly smelly, uncouth passenger beside me for the next two-and-a-half hours, an all-too-common occurrence nowadays.

An argument two rows ahead made me open my eyes. A rough, unkempt man was having loud words with the air hostess about a seating mix-up. She looked at the empty seat next to mine, clearly intending to send the man there. I froze in horror. Meeting her eyes, I rolled mine and gave the faintest shake of my head. Her lips twitched slightly, and she led him away to an empty seat elsewhere. When she passed by me before take-off, I discreetly murmured, “Thank you”. She smiled, shaking her head, as if to say, “No problem”. The wonderful yet sad thing about this encounter was the instant understanding that silently passed between two Indian women, even across generations, that some men were best avoided. For years now, especially as I grew older, my strongest feeling about the harassment that I faced—that every Indian girl and woman has faced—has been regret. Regret that I had felt so sullied by the words or deeds of ‘eve-teasers’ that I usually pretended that nothing had happened. This was the wrong thing to do, I realised because it only

gave them the guts to harass more girls and women. My silence during those times was utterly wrong. I now feel that I let other girls down by not shouting out loud every time I was harassed by the boys, men and unclejs of Delhi, calling them out at once and publicly shaming them. The Greek word for repentance, ‘metanoia’, means to change one’s mind and direction. It is described as ‘implying a fundamental shift in perspective and attitude towards sin and God’. Good poetry expresses our feelings when we are glad, sad or sorry, and the Bible is a rich source of great poetry. The words attributed to King David come to mind, though uttered in a different context: ‘Then David said to God, “I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”’ (1 Chronicles 21:8).

To stay silent, I feel, was cowardly and also a sin, the sin of not speaking up against wrongdoing. It fell on the wrong side of personal dharma. As 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, ‘For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret.’ Matthew 3:8 says, ‘Do the things that show you really have changed your hearts and lives.’

And it’s hard not to think of this: ‘So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin’ (James 4:17). But also, this verse: ‘For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.’ (John 3:20). Each one of us can and must do what we can to make things better. I would like to be able to use



these words at journey’s end: “I have fought the

good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (Timothy 4:7). It would be sad to have to think, instead, of King Solomon’s moving words of regret. Here, I must leave the modern versions of the Bible and return to the one I grew up with, the King James Version: “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

The goal of peaceful co-existence is stated in the Book of Isaiah, which scholars say had three authors: “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4). For moral and spiritual encouragement on why we must school our minds to be brave and do the right thing, I also find reassurance in these words from Isaiah 54:4, partly quoted here: ‘Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth’. Other encouraging words from Isaiah 41:10–13 say, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed ... For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.”

Indian Railways increases train ticket fares from July 1: New charges for Mail/Express trains

Kolkata. Indian Railways has raised fares in certain categories of train journeys. The Railways stated the details of the revisions in a social media post. Interestingly, Indian Railways carry more than 700 crore passengers or more than 85% of the world's population, every year, say reports. It is understandable from this single piece of statistic what a huge population will be impacted if Indian Railways hikes fares. The changes are being implemented from July 1. "Basic fare of trains will change from 1st July! Which classes will be affected? Do know before travelling," wrote the Railways in its social media post on X (@RailMinIndia). Let's find out who will be paying more from today. Reports state that the fares were last revised five years ago.

The proposed bonds have been rated AA- by both ICRA and Care Ratings, signalling a relatively stable credit outlook. This move comes at a time when more corporate giants are looking to tap the retail bond market, as investor appetite for fixed income products grows amid volatile equity markets. Are local/suburban train fares rising?

By any account, most passengers travel by suburban trains, or which are known as local trains. These trains connect important urban agglomerations with their neighbourhood and millions of passengers travel by these trains mostly to and from their places of work. There has been no change in these fares, Railways have stated. This will leave all daily passengers unaffected. There has been no change in either single journey tickets or multiple ride tickets popularly known as season or monthly tickets. Moreover, there has been no change in the fares of general trains up to 500 kms.

Ola Electric Sales Crash 45% In June, Market Share Plunges To 19%

New Delhi. Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric sold 20,189 electric scooters in the month of June -- a massive 45 per cent drop (year-on-year) compared to 36,859 units from the same month previous year (June 2024), the government's VAHAN data showed on Tuesday.

This decline has taken a toll on its market share, which has shrunk from 46 per cent in June 2024 to just 19 per cent now. The situation is no better on the stock market. Ola Electric, which is nearing the one-year mark since its public listing, has seen its share price fall steeply. On Tuesday afternoon, the stock was trading at Rs 42 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), down Rs 1.16 or 2.69 per cent.

The share also touched its 52-week low of Rs 41.82 today, far below its 52-week high of Rs 157.4.

Over the past one month, the stock has lost 21.74 per cent of its value. Compared to its listing price of Rs 76, the stock is now down 43 per cent.

The long-term view is even more worrying. In the last six months, the share price has fallen by more than half -- 51.25 per cent -- and over the past year, it is down 53.9 per cent. Investor sentiment took a further hit earlier in June when a large block deal took place. Around 14.22 crore shares worth Rs 731 crore changed hands, reportedly with Hyundai Motor Company as the seller. The average selling price was Rs 51.40 per share. On the financial side, Ola Electric has reported disappointing results for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25. The company posted a net loss of Rs 870 crore, which is more than double the Rs 416 crore loss it had in the same quarter of the previous year. Its revenue from operations also fell by 62 per cent year-on-year (YoY), dropping to Rs 611 crore.

This was mainly due to lower vehicle deliveries, which stood at 51,375 units in Q4 FY25 -- down from 1.15 lakh units a year ago.

Raymond Realty listing: Shares open below discovered price; brokerages still bullish on long-term prospects

New Delhi. Shares of Raymond Realty listed on the BSE at Rs 1,005 and on the NSE at Rs 1,000 on Tuesday, marking a weaker debut than the discovered price of Rs 1,039.30 on the NSE and Rs 1,031.30 on the BSE. According to ET, the listing followed the real estate arm's demerger from Raymond Ltd, giving shareholders one Raymond Realty share for every Raymond Ltd share held, thus directly exposing them to the group's property business for the first time.

Brokerages remain bullish despite the lower-than-expected opening. As reported by ET, Ventura Securities has pegged a target price of Rs 1,383 per share based on FY28 DCF projections, while SBI Securities values the stock between Rs 897 and Rs 1,430 depending on valuation multiples.

SBI has assigned a base case fair value of Rs 1,148, assuming a 10 per cent YoY EBITDA growth in FY26 and a 13x EV/EBITDA multiple.

Raymond Realty's flagship operations are centred on a 100-acre land parcel in Thane, of which 40 acres with 4 million sq ft carpet area are under active development, holding an estimated revenue potential of Rs 9,000 crore. The remaining 60 acres will be developed over the next 6-8 years, potentially adding Rs 16,000 crore in revenue.

Combined, the Thane land bank carries a Gross Development Value (GDV) of Rs 25,000 crore.

The company has also expanded through six Joint Development Agreements (JDAs) across Mumbai in Bandra, Mahim, Sion and Wadala. The JDA portfolio is expected to generate Rs 14,000 crore in revenue, with the model allowing Raymond Realty to skip land acquisition costs and focus on execution, a strategy that keeps its balance sheet light.

Around 40-45 per cent of future revenues are expected to come from JDA projects over the next seven years, rising to 70 per cent in the long term.

Why India's ultra-rich love family offices

Number of family offices in India rose from 45 in 2018 to nearly 300 in 2024
Family offices manage investments, succession, philanthropy, and tax planning
India faces \$1.3 trillion wealth transfer in next decade, boosting demand

New Delhi. India's wealthiest families are reshaping the way they manage money. No longer content with informal advisors or fragmented portfolios, the ultra-rich are increasingly embracing family offices—sophisticated, structured setups designed to navigate complexity, reduce risk, and preserve generational wealth with intent. The shift is both rapid and dramatic. From just 45 in 2018, the

number of family offices in India has grown to nearly 300 by 2024. The rise reflects more than growing fortunes. It points to a more deliberate way of managing wealth—one that is professional, globally oriented, and built to outlast founders. As Surabhi Marwah, Partner and Co-Leader of Private Tax at EY India, puts it, "The Indian family office ecosystem is at an inflection point where wealth preservation alone is no longer enough. Families now seek efficiency, transparency, and global access, all of which require a more structured approach."

FAMILY OFFICES: THE NEW WEALTH COMMAND CENTRES Modern family offices operate more like private financial institutions. They manage much more than investments—handling succession planning, philanthropic giving, tax structuring, and grooming the next generation of leaders. They consolidate sprawling wealth into a single, well-oiled machine, introducing discipline, governance, and oversight. Family offices typically form at major financial milestones: the sale of a



business, a significant inheritance, or a major liquidity event. While there's no official threshold, many in the wealth management space consider US\$100 million in investable assets a practical baseline. Until then, multi-family office platforms offer an accessible, resource-efficient alternative. A recent EY-Julius Baer study identifies key motivations behind these setups: protecting assets, managing growing complexity, separating personal finances from business wealth, and addressing intergenerational needs with clarity. Notably, the model is catching on

with both legacy families and first-generation entrepreneurs. For the latter—often younger and tech-savvy—family offices offer the flexibility to build personalised investment mandates, maintain privacy, and institutionalise legacy-building from day one.

WHY INDIA'S SUPER-RICH LOVE FAMILY OFFICES

India is undergoing an intergenerational wealth transfer of historic scale—over \$1.3 trillion is expected to pass hands in the next decade. Alongside this, a surge in startup exits, IPOs, and private equity windfalls is creating new liquidity, fuelling demand for bespoke wealth management.

GIFT City is also amplifying momentum. With relaxed regulations and cross-border ease, it has become an attractive jurisdiction for setting up efficient, global-facing family offices. Outflows under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) reached \$31.7 billion in 2023-24, up from \$18.8 billion in 2019-20.

8 Years of GST: Why petroleum and alcohol are still outside its scope—and what lies ahead

New Delhi. The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in India on 1 July 2017, marked a significant tax reform aimed at creating a unified indirect tax system. As the nation celebrates the eight-year milestone of this ambitious yet challenging reform, several issues continue to dominate debates among industry stakeholders, the public, and policymakers. One of the most prominent concerns is the exclusion of key revenue-generating items such as petroleum products and alcoholic liquor for human consumption from the ambit of GST. This exclusion has led to a fragmented indirect taxation system, raising concerns among policy experts, businesses, and state governments.

A simple analysis of the reasons behind keeping these products outside the GST framework reveals several constitutional, economic, and legal dimensions.



A. Constitutional and legal provisions

Article 366(12A) of the Constitution, as amended by the GST Act, excludes alcohol for human consumption from the definition of GST.

For petroleum products, Entry 54 of the State List allows states to continue levying VAT on five petroleum products: crude oil, motor spirit (petrol), high-speed diesel, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) until a date decided by the GST Council.

B. Revenue concerns of states

States derive a significant portion of their revenue from VAT on alcohol and petroleum. For many states, these contribute over 25-30% of their tax revenue. Inclusion in GST would require sharing this revenue with the Centre, thus reducing the financial autonomy of states.

C. Political and fiscal autonomy

Alcohol taxation is a politically sensitive issue with strong cultural and social implications.

States fear losing control over taxation policy, pricing, and the ability to influence consumption patterns through excise duty and VAT.

New Delhi. That familiar blue circle with a keyhole at the centre, the logo that greets millions of Indians at every street corner, turns 70 this year. State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest and most trusted bank, marks 70 years since its formation on July 1, 1955. Over the decades, SBI has not just grown into a financial giant but has become an essential part of the nation's identity, powering homes, businesses, dreams, and livelihoods across the country.

"A Bank. A Legacy. One of the forces behind a Nation's Rise. For 70 years, SBI has been more than just a bank, it has been a partner in progress, a pillar of trust and a symbol of India's aspirations," said SBI in its tweet. With a legacy that stretches back over two centuries, SBI's journey is deeply connected with India's own economic evolution. From colonial banking to rural credit expansion, from nationalisation to digital



transformation, the bank's story mirrors the country's.

THE BIRTH OF SBI

The story begins in 1806, with the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta, later renamed the Bank of Bengal. This was followed by the Bank of Bombay (1840) and Bank of Madras (1843), the three Presidency banks that laid the foundation for formal banking in British India. In 1921, these were merged to form the Imperial Bank of India, which functioned as both a commercial bank and a quasi-central bank until the Reserve Bank of India

Industrial output growth at 9-month low of 1.2% in May

New Delhi. The country's industrial production growth slowed to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May 2025 on the back of poor performance of manufacturing, mining and power sectors caused by the early onset of Monsoon, according to the official data released on Monday.

In the same month the previous year, factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 6.3%, the data from the National Statistics Office showed. The industrial production growth was also revised downward for April to 2.6% from the earlier estimate of 2.7% released last month. The previous low was observed in August 2024 when IIP remained unchanged. The NSO data showed the manufacturing sector's output growth fell to 2.6% in May 2025 from 5.1% in the year-ago month. Mining production



fell by 0.1% against a growth of 6.6% a year ago. Power production declined by 5.8% in May 2025 as compared to 13.7% growth in the year-ago period.

During the April-May period of FY26, industrial production surged by 1.8% compared to 5.7% a year ago. "The early onset of the monsoon doused activity in mining and the demand for electricity, with both these sub-sectors of the IIP reporting a contraction in

May 2025, amidst an anaemic growth of manufacturing," said Aditi Nayar Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA. The underlying trends were uneven, with three of the use-based categories displaying a contraction, amid a continued high 14.1% expansion in capital goods, boosted by a low base, Nayar added. She added that the tepid industrial volume growth in the first two months of the quarter does not augur well for industrial GVA (gross value added) growth in Q1FY26.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 14.1% in May 2025 from 2.6% in the year-ago period. Consumer durables (or white goods production) fell by 0.7% during the reporting month against a growth of 12.6% in May 2024.

New York tops billionaire list. Which Indian city made it to the top 10

New Delhi. New York City has topped the list of cities with the highest number of billionaires, according to Forbes' 2025 World's Billionaires List. The city is home to 123 billionaires with a combined wealth of \$759 billion. New York has ranked first for most of the past 12 years, except in 2021 when Beijing briefly took the lead. Most of its ultra-rich residents are involved in finance, real estate, and retail. Globally, nearly a quarter of the world's 3,028 billionaires live in just 10 cities across six countries. These cities continue to attract wealth due to strong business ecosystems, investor-friendly policies, and thriving industries.

MUMBAI – INDIA'S BILLIONAIRE CAPITAL

While India is not among the top countries with the highest number of billionaires overall, Mumbai continues to lead within the country. The city ranks sixth globally with 67 billionaires worth \$349 billion. It remains the Indian city with the most number of ultra-wealthy individuals, ahead of other major metros like Delhi and Bengaluru.

However, Mumbai's position has dropped from fourth to sixth this year. This is due

to the exit of two billionaires and being overtaken by London and Beijing. Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, continues to be Mumbai's and Asia's richest person with a net worth of \$92.5 billion. Despite a fall of over \$20 billion in the past year, he remains the wealthiest person in the city.

Mumbai also added six new billionaires in 2025. Four of them belong to the Doshi family: Viren, Kirit, Pankaj, and Hitesh Doshi, whose company Waaree Industries, a solar energy firm, went public in October last year.

A LOOK AT THE OTHER GLOBAL CITIES

Moscow gained the most new billionaires this year, rising to 90 individuals worth \$409 billion. Hong Kong and London also continue to be home to several wealthy businesspeople. Beijing remains steady at fifth position with 68 billionaires.

Singapore jumped to seventh position from ninth last year, with eight new billionaires. Zhang Yiming, co-founder of ByteDance (which owns TikTok), is the

richest person in Singapore with \$65.5 billion.

Other cities in the list like San Francisco, Shanghai, and Los Angeles also added new billionaires this year, mainly from the tech and entertainment industries.



Here are the top 10 cities in the world with the most billionaires in 2025:

- New York City – 123 billionaires (\$759 billion)**
- Moscow – 90 billionaires (\$409 billion)
- Hong Kong – 72 billionaires (\$309 billion)
- London – 71 billionaires (\$355 billion)

- Beijing – 68 billionaires (\$273 billion)
- Mumbai – 67 billionaires (\$349 billion)
- Singapore – 60 billionaires (\$259 billion)
- San Francisco – 58 billionaires (\$217 billion)
- Shanghai – 58 billionaires (\$198 billion)
- Los Angeles – 56 billionaires (\$243 billion)

WHAT MAKES MUMBAI ATTRACTIVE FOR THE WEALTHY

Mumbai's strong financial infrastructure, availability of capital, and presence of large family-owned businesses continue to make it the preferred city for the wealthy in India.

It is home to the Bombay Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange, and the headquarters of many of India's top companies. Business families like the Ambanis, Birlas, Godrejs, and Piramals have operated out of Mumbai for decades. The city is also seeing the rise of new billionaires from tech, energy, and manufacturing sectors.

Kerala healthcare on ventilator? Doctor’s Facebook post triggers storm, and a probe

Agency New Delhi.
A senior Kerala doctor's Facebook post exposing shortages of "multiple equipment" at the state's oldest Government Medical College Hospital in the capital Thiruvananthapuram has ignited a political storm, with the opposition Congress alleging the state's public health sector is on "ventilator support". Dr Haris Chirakkal, head of the Urology Department, claimed in the now-deleted post that three of four scheduled surgeries were postponed due to a shortage of essential equipment. The allegation drew a swift rebuttal from Kerala Health Minister Veena George and the Director of Medical Education (DME), who Chirakkal said, had been informed about the crisis.

Both minister George and the head of Kerala's Directorate of Medical Education, K V Vishwanathan, however, denied having any prior knowledge of the issue and cited numbers on equipment procurement, which Chirakkal dismissed

as an attempt to "whitewash" the crisis. The controversy has forced the CPI(M)-led LDF government of CM Pinarayi Vijayan to launch a probe.

TOP UROLOGIST EXPOSES SURGICAL EQUIPMENT CRISIS IN KERALA HOSPITAL

The storm was triggered after Dr Haris Chirakkal on Friday took to Facebook to express frustration over the persistent lack of surgical equipment, which he said forced the postponement of critical surgeries. "Every department in the medical college is facing problems. Some of the purchased equipment is unusable. At present, patients are on the waiting list until August 4... The fact that many patients are paying individually and agents are collecting money has created a problematic situation. Patients are forced to buy surgical equipment," he wrote,



adding that he had been raising the issue with authorities concerned for months without resolution. "If a vigilance investigation takes place, it could become a serious issue. It would portray that doctors have accepted bribes... There is a thought in me about quitting the job... I made that post because I was tired from constantly having to plead," Chirakkal added.

He later deleted the post at the insistence of a relative, a CPI(M) leader, following an assurance from the Health Minister's office that the issue would be addressed, reported the New Indian Express.

Chirakkal, however, stood firm, saying, "What I said was fact. I don't want to go into hiding after telling the truth. There are no political intentions behind my disclosure." "Let them take action. I am tired of the service. Why should we hide truths because it will bring shame to the system?" he asked, asserting that he was not afraid of any action.

BOTH CONGRESS AND BJP SLAM CPM OVER "FAILING PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM"

The post, though deleted later, played its role. It went viral and made the powers that be in Kerala act. Pinarayi Vijayan's CPI(M) government drew sharp criticism from the BJP and the main Opposition Congress, which seized the opportunity to target the Left Front.

Dangerous stunts outside Greater Noida college, car owners fined Rs 1.2 lakh after

Agency New Delhi.
A video showing passengers in two moving cars performing dangerous stunts outside a college in Greater Noida trended on social media Monday, prompting the traffic police to issue challans worth nearly Rs 1.2 lakh.

In the video, a Maruti Suzuki Brezza is seen overtaking another vehicle at a dangerously high speed before abruptly slamming on the brakes outside a college in the Knowledge Park area of Greater Noida. One of the passengers leans out of the window, waving his hands. Meanwhile, two men in a Maruti Suzuki Baleno are seen speeding, with another man extending a baseball bat out of the car's window and swinging it in the air.

After a 10-second video clip surfaced on social media with the background music of a trending track, the traffic police fined the owners of Baleno and Brezza Rs 63,500 and Rs 57,500, respectively. Lakhman Singh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the exact date of the incident is yet to be ascertained. "We have referred the matter to the Knowledge Park police for further action, including seizure of the vehicles involved," he said. According to the police, the fines were imposed under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, including Section 184 (dangerous driving), Section 189 (speeding), Section 179 (disobedience and obstruction), and Section 194B (seatbelt violation).

"A case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125 (act endangering life) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered Monday and teams were formed to nab the suspects," said Sarvesh Singh, Station House Officer, Knowledge Park. In June, a man and a woman who performed a stunt on a moving motorcycle on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway were penalised with a challan of Rs 53,500.



UK families of crash victims may sue Air India, Boeing over compensation: Sources



Agency New Delhi.
The UK-based families of the victims who died in the Air India (AI 171) crash are considering legal action against the airline and aircraft manufacturer Boeing in UK courts over enhanced compensation, sources told. All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, and another 34 individuals who were on the ground, were killed when the London-bound aircraft crashed into a medical college campus within seconds of takeoff in Ahmedabad.

Among the deceased, 181 were Indian nationals, while 52 were from the UK. Sources said the families of the victims were consulting with UK-based law firm Keystone Law to file potential lawsuits against Air India and Boeing. The lawsuits are likely to be regarding seeking enhanced compensation. The Tata Group, which owns Air India, had previously announced a compensation of Rs 1 crore. It later announced an additional compensation of Rs 25 lakh each to the families to help meet immediate financial needs.

Keystone Law has acknowledged that it was in discussions with multiple families who lost loved ones in one of the worst aviation disasters in India. Sources said a series of meetings have been lined up this week between the law firm and UK-based relatives of the victims to chart out the strategy.

Car goes off highway, enters hotel in UP after driver loses control



Agency New Delhi.
At least one person died on the spot and three others were grievously injured as a Swift car, travelling at a high speed, veered off the road and ploughed into a hotel along National Highway-9 in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur. In the video, a man wearing a white turban and kurta can be seen standing on a staircase with two others in front of the food court. As they begin walking down the stairs, a car suddenly drives up, hitting two of the men and throwing them into the air, while the third manages to dodge it.

As the car drags the bodies and comes to a stop near the food court, people rush to the scene and are seen pulling the victims out from under the vehicle.

Among the victims was Ajit, a resident of Bulandshahr, who died instantly at the scene. Two others sustained serious injuries. Both were rushed to a nearby government hospital and later shifted by their families to Devnandini Hospital in Hapur for further treatment.

Following the incident, the driver fled the scene. Authorities have launched a probe and are going through the nearby CCTV footage to identify and take the driver into custody.

Two more, including former employee, arrested in Delhi CNG pump owner robbery case; Rs 6.75 lakh recovered

Agency New Delhi.
Days after the police arrested four people in connection with robbing a CNG pump owner in Delhi's Ghitorni, two more people were arrested in the case on Monday, including a former employee who was nursing an old grudge against him, the police said. The total amount recovered from the six accused so far adds up to Rs 6.75 lakh. According to investigators, after robbing Karan Chopra at his farmhouse, the robbers allegedly took him to his office in Gurgaon to steal more cash. They fled with Rs 30 lakh cash and some jewellery, officers said.

The accused arrested on Monday include the key conspirator Adhesh Kumar, 38, a former driver of the businessman; and Amit Kumar, 28, the police said, adding that Rs 50,000 and a Hyundai

Aura used to ferry the accused to the farmhouse was recovered from Adhesh.

In the first batch of arrests, four people were arrested on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, including Chopra's



current drivers Satendar Singh, 35, and Anil, 54, as well as one Santosh Tripathi, 40, and Shammie, 49. They were arrested from different parts of Delhi, investigators said.

The police said Adhesh tipped off

Satendar and Anil about the location of the cash.

According to the police, on the night of June 23, Karan Chopra – who has multiple CNG filling stations across the National Capital Region – was at his farmhouse in South West Delhi's Ghitorni when a man knocked on his door posing as a delivery boy. As soon as he opened the gate, four men shoved him aside and barged in, claiming that they had guns. They then robbed the house of jewellery and cash, before taking Chopra hostage and driving him to MG Road in Gurgaon.

"They told him to stay calm, and let them leave with the cash," a police officer said earlier, adding, "They took whatever cash and jewellery was at the house and then took Chopra to his office at MG Road in Gurgaon in his car to take more cash."

After a 10-year hiatus, Purana Qila's popular boat ride makes a comeback

Agency New Delhi.
The moat has been cleaned, boats have arrived, and a ticketing counter has been set up. Almost 10 years after it was suspended, the popular boat ride on the Purana Qila lake finally made a comeback and was opened for visitors on a trial basis after the inauguration on Monday. A 20-25 minute ride costs between Rs 125 and Rs 150 per person. The ride starts from the Talaqi Darwaza side of the lake, and services are available between 9 am and 6 pm. Both two-seater and four-seater paddle boats are available.

A non-profit, Sabhyata Foundation, played a key role in the resumption of services. It serves as a "Monument Mitra" for five iconic Delhi landmarks: the Red Fort, Purana Qila, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Safdarjung Tomb, and Humayun's Tomb.



Monument Mitra, also known as the 'Adopt a Heritage' project, is a scheme by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to involve private and public sector companies in developing and maintaining amenities at protected monuments.

Ajay Verma, CEO, Heritage and Events, Sabhyata Foundation, explained that they signed an MoU with the ASI on

April 1, 2024, under which they are functioning as 'Smarak Sarthi'. For the past four-five months, preparations were underway at Purana Qila to operate boats and related facilities. A lot of work has gone into enhancing the visitor experience, including building a cafeteria, new toilets, and other amenities, according to the non-profit.

A major launch event is planned for September. Currently, there are five to six boats — the number is expected to increase to 20-25 later. On Monday, Ohl Pecha, a Hotel Management student from Udaipur, was the first visitor to experience the resumed service. "It was a good experience... I came with friends. We did boating for 20 minutes, but they said we could do it for as long as we wanted since we were the first ones."

As blasting continues unabated in Aravallis, Nuh administration lodges FIR, orders border demarcation

Mining in the Aravallis in the Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Nuh districts has been prohibited by the Supreme Court since 2002.

Agency New Delhi.
The sub-divisional magistrate of Nuh in Haryana said Tuesday they have filed a complaint, and ordered round-the-clock patrolling through a newly-established temporary police post after receiving complaints of ongoing blasting work by illegal miners at the Aravallis.

Laxmi Narayan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, told The Indian Express he reached the site on June 27 with officials from the State Enforcement Bureau after receiving complaints from the Patharli village. The village is located on the border of Haryana and Rajasthan. While Rajasthan allows mining via leases, all such activities have been banned in Haryana by the Supreme Court. The official said the alleged illegal miners fled with their machinery by the time the team reached, but they saw some of the trucks that had damaged substantial hillocks in the protected

Aravallis. Speaking with The Indian Express, the SDM said, "We will take strict action against all those responsible. An FIR was filed over the weekend. I have ordered that a fresh and clear demarcation of the border be done by the mining department by erecting new pillars and signboards. We will assess and know the full damage done thereafter."

He said the First Information Report (FIR) has been filed against unknown persons under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.

Mining in the Aravalli region in the Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Nuh districts has been prohibited by the Supreme Court since 2002. In May, the Supreme Court had

taken exception to the Haryana Government's alleged inaction against illegal mining in the Aravallis in Nuh. The



top court had noted that the mining mafia in the region seemed to be protecting the errant officials aiding the illegalities. The apex court sought a detailed report from

the Haryana Government by July 15, and said it found the chief secretary's affidavit evasive and insufficient for shifting the onus to the forest department.

In June, the Haryana Government began efforts to restore 25,000 hectares of degraded forest area in the Aravallis — long been hailed as the "lungs" of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Aravalli range passes through Gurgaon, Nuh, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Mahendergarh, and Charkhi Dadri districts of Haryana. Nuh has the largest recorded forest area among these, with 14,606 hectares.

The range, which extends from Southwest Gujarat in Champaner to Northeast Delhi and Haryana, acts as a natural barrier against incursion of sand, loo, and dust from the Thar desert.

NEWS BOX

Turkish police detain cartoonist over Prophet Muhammad caricature, sparking protests

ANKARA, Turkey. Turkish police on Monday detained a cartoonist over a caricature depicting the Prophet Muhammad, an act that also sparked an angry protest outside the Istanbul office of his satirical magazine, officials and reports said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced on X that Leman magazine’s cartoonist was taken under custody for questioning. The minister also shared a video of the cartoonist — identified only by his initials DP— being taken into custody on a stairwell, with hands cuffed behind the back.Earlier, the country’s justice minister said an investigation was launched into the magazine, citing possible charges of “publicly insulting religious values.”A group of youths, reportedly belonging to an Islamist group, hurled stones at Leman’s headquarters after it published a cartoon depicting Prophet Muhammad and Prophet Moses exchanging greetings in mid-air as missiles rain down from the sky.Yilmaz Tunc, the justice minister, said that cartoons or drawings depicting the Prophet harmed religious sensitivities and social harmony.“No freedom grants the right to make the sacred values of a belief a subject of humor in an ugly way,” he wrote.The incident evoked memories of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris, when two armed gunmen stormed the offices of the French satirical magazine known for its provocative cartoons, including depictions of the Prophet Muhammad. The attackers killed 12 people, including prominent cartoonists.

Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra Suspended Over A Leaked Phone Call

Thailand.Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was suspended by the country's Constitutional Court on Tuesday, as it opened a probe into her conduct in a diplomatic spat with Cambodia.

"The Constitutional Court with a majority of 7-2 suspends the respondent from Prime Ministerial duty from 1 July until the Constitutional Court has made its ruling," said a statement, after a group of conservative senators lodged a case accusing Paetongtarn of breaching ministerial ethics during a border row with Cambodia.A long-standing territorial dispute boiled over into cross-border clashes in May, killing one Cambodian soldier.When Paetongtarn called Cambodian statesman Hun Sen to discuss tensions, she called him "uncle" and referred to a Thai military commander as her "opponent", according to a leaked recording which caused a backlash.Conservative



lawmakers accuse her of kowtowing to Cambodia and undermining the military, and allege she breached constitutional provisions requiring "evident integrity" and "ethical standards" among ministers.

Why We Still Need A Cure For HIV Despite Powerful Treatments

Sydney.Over the past three decades there have been amazing advances in treating and preventing HIV.

It's now a manageable infection. A person with HIV who takes HIV medicine consistently, before their immune system declines, can expect to live almost as long as someone without HIV.The same drugs prevent transmission of the virus to sexual partners.There is still no effective HIV vaccine. But there are highly effective drugs to prevent HIV infection for people without HIV who are at higher risk of acquiring it.These drugs are known as "pre-exposure prophylaxis" or PrEP. These come as a pill, which needs to be taken either daily, or "on demand" before and after risky sex. An injection that protects against HIV for six months has recently been approved in the United States.

So with such effective HIV treatment and PrEP, why are we still spending millions looking for HIV cures? Not everyone has access to these drugs

Access to HIV drugs and PrEP depends on the availability of health clinics, health professionals, and the means to supply and distribute the drugs. In some countries, this infrastructure may not be secure.For instance, earlier this year, US President Donald Trump's dissolution of the USAID foreign aid program has threatened the delivery of HIV drugs to many low-income countries. This demonstrates the fragility of current approaches to treatment and prevention. A secure, uninterrupted supply of HIV medicine is required, and without this, lives will be lost and the number of new cases of HIV will rise.Another example is the six-monthly PrEP injection just approved in the US. This drug has great potential for controlling HIV if it is made available and affordable in countries with the greatest HIV burden.But the prospect for lower-income countries accessing this expensive drug looks uncertain, even if it can be made at a fraction of its current cost, as some researchers say.

So despite the success of HIV drugs and PrEP, precarious health-care systems and high drug costs mean we can't rely on them to bring an end to the ongoing global HIV pandemic. That's why we also still need to look at other options.

Musk threatens new party as Trump says ‘shut shop, go back home’ amid fight over US budget bill

Musk warned he will launch the America Party the day after the bill passes and target lawmakers who back it; Trump, in a thinly veiled threat, suggested cutting funding for SpaceX and Tesla.

world. US President Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk clashed again on Monday over the proposed government spending bill, which Trump has dubbed as a "One Big Beautiful Bill." The exchange marked a fresh escalation in their bitter public feud, after Musk fell out with the US President over his objections to Trump’s flagship legislation.As the bill makes its way through the US Senate, Elon sharpened his criticism, threatening to form a new political party and warning lawmakers against supporting it.

"Every member of Congress who campaigned on reducing government spending and then immediately voted for the biggest debt increase in history should

hang their head in shame! And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth," he wrote on X.

With lawmakers set to vote on the bill, Musk accused Republicans of backing “debt slavery” and warned that his proposed political party would target those who support the legislation after campaigning to cut government spending."If this insane spending bill passes,the America Party will be formed the next day. Our country needs an alternative to the Democrat-Republican uniparty so that the people actually have a VOICE," he wrote.

"VOX POPULI VOX DEI 80% voted for a new party," he claimed.

'No more rocket launches...'

However, the remarks drew a sharp rebuttal from Trump, who said Musk may have to "go back to South Africa" without the billions in government subsidies received by his companies."Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump wrote on Truth Social.In a thinly veiled threat, Trump also suggested cutting government support for SpaceX and Tesla — the

billionaire’s companies."No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have



DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!!," he added.

Musk later hit back on X, writing: "I am literally saying CUT IT ALL. Now."

Trump is hoping to seal his legacy with the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which would extend his expiring first-term tax cuts at a cost of \$4.5 trillion and beef up border security.But Republicans eyeing 2026 midterm congressional elections are divided over the package, which would strip health care from millions of the

poorest Americans and add more than \$3 trillion to the country's debt.Musk has previously made his opinions about Trump's bill clear.Days after he left the federal government last month with a laudatory celebration in the Oval Office, he blasted the bill as "pork-filled" and a "disgusting abomination."When Trump clapped back to say he was disappointed with Musk, back-and-forth fighting erupted and quickly escalated. Musk suggested without evidence that Trump, who spent the first part of the year as one of his closest allies, was mentioned in files related to sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

Musk ultimately tried to make nice with the administration, saying he regretted some of his posts that "went too far."Trump responded in kind in an interview with The New York Post, saying, "Things like that happen. I don't blame him for anything."It's unclear how Musk's latest broadsides will influence the fragile peace he and the president had enjoyed in recent weeks.Musk has spent recent weeks focused on his businesses, and his political influence has waned since he left the administration.

Netanyahu to visit White House on July 7 as Trump presses for ceasefire in Gaza

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House next Monday as the American leader steps up his push on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire and hostage

think within the next week we’re going to get a ceasefire” in Gaza, but didn’t offer any further explanation for his optimism.White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday that Trump and administration officials



agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza.The impending visit was confirmed by two US administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on it.The trip will be Netanyahu's third visit to the White House since Trump returned to office in January, and it comes after the United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran by attacking Iranian nuclear sites. After brokering a ceasefire between the two countries, Trump has signaled that he's turning his attention to bringing a close to the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

were in constant communication with Israeli leadership and that bringing about an end to the Gaza conflict is a priority for Trump.“It’s heartbreaking to see the images that have come out from both Israel and Gaza throughout this war, and the president wants to see it end,” Leavitt added. “He wants to

save lives.”Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer is in Washington this week for talks with senior administration officials on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other matters.Talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over a major sticking point — whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement. About 50 hostages remain captive in Gaza, with less than half believed to be alive.With Netanyahu's visit, the timing of which was first reported by Axios, Trump will embrace the Israeli leader while continuing to push back against skeptical questions from Democratic lawmakers and others about how far US and Israeli strikes have set back Iran's nuclear program.

A preliminary report issued by the US Defense Intelligence Agency, meanwhile, said the strikes did significant damage to the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan sites, but did not totally destroy the facilities.

Bangladesh anti-government protests: Uprising, unrest and elections

DHAKA. Bangladesh on July 1 marks one year since students launched protests that culminated weeks later in the overthrow of the government.

Hasina's rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents.Deadly



After ruling with an iron fist for 15 years, Sheikh Hasina became the latest leader to be toppled by force since independence from Pakistan in 1971.The Muslim-majority nation of about 170 million people is now in political limbo, led by a caretaker government until elections slated for 2026.Here are five key events in the South Asian country since protesters took to the streets a year ago.

- July 1, 2024: Anti-government protests - University students launch demonstrations to demand reforms to a quota system for sought-after public sector jobs.They say the scheme is used to stack the civil service with those loyal to Hasina, who won a fifth term as prime minister months earlier in a vote without genuine opposition.

Nations.Thousands of protesters storm Hasina's palace, with millions on the streets celebrating, some dancing on armoured cars and tanks.Hasina flees Dhaka by helicopter to neighbouring ally India, as army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman announces the military will form an interim government.Bangladesh has a long history of military coups and the army retains a powerful role.Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus returns to Bangladesh at the behest of student protesters to lead the government as its "chief adviser".

Yunus says he inherited a "completely broken down" system of public administration.The 85-year-old microfinance pioneer embarks on an ambitious programme to overhaul democratic institutions that he says are required to prevent a return to authoritarian rule.



he said in a statement.

Looking back over data from 133 nations, the international team of researchers estimated that USAID funding had prevented 91 million deaths in developing countries between 2001 and 2021.They also used modelling to project how funding being slashed by 83 percent -- the figure announced by the US government earlier this year -- could affect death rates.The cuts could lead to more than 14 million avoidable deaths by 2030, the projections found. That number included over 4.5 million children under the age of five -- or around 700,000 child deaths a year.For comparison, around 10 million soldiers are estimated to have been killed during World War I.Programmes supported by USAID were linked to a 15-percent decrease in deaths from all causes, the researchers found. For children under five, the drop in deaths was twice as steep at 32 percent.USAID funding was found to be particularly effective at staving off preventable deaths from disease.

UK's Starmer faces down revolt over welfare reform after troubled first year in office

LONDON. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer marks a year in office this week, fighting a rebellion from his own party over welfare reform and reckoning with a sluggish economy and rock-bottom approval ratings.It’s a long way from the landslide election victory he won on July 4, 2024, when Starmer’s center-left Labour Party took 412 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons to end 14 years of Conservative government.In the last 12 months Starmer has navigated the rapids of a turbulent world, winning praise for rallying international support for Ukraine and persuading US President Donald Trump to sign a trade deal easing tariffs on UK goods.But at home his agenda has run onto the rocks as he struggles to convince British voters — and his own party — that his government is delivering the change that it promised. Inflation remains stubbornly high and economic growth low, frustrating efforts to ease the cost of living. Starmer’s personal approval ratings are

approaching those of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss, who lasted just 49 days in office in 2022 after her tax-cutting budget roiled the economy.John Curtice, a political scientist at the University of Strathclyde, said Starmer has had “the worst start for any newly elected prime minister.”

Rebellion over welfare reform

On Tuesday, Starmer faces a vote in Parliament on welfare spending after watering down planned cuts to disability benefits that caused consternation from Labour lawmakers. Many balked at plans to raise the threshold for the payments by requiring a more severe physical or mental disability, a move the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank estimated would cut the income of 3.2 million people by 2030.

After more than 120 Labour lawmakers said they would vote against the bill, the government offered concessions, including a guarantee that no one currently getting

benefits will be affected by the change. It pledged to consult with disability groups about the changes, and do more to help sick



and disabled people find jobs. Some rebels said they would back the bill after the concessions, but others maintained their opposition.Arifitcal Inteligence usesArtificial Intelligence uses

The welfare U-turn is the third time in a few weeks that the government has reversed course on a policy under pressure. In May,

it dropped a plan to end winter home heating subsidies for millions of retirees.

Last week, Starmer announced a national inquiry into organized child sexual abuse, something he was pressured to do by opposition politicians — and Elon Musk.

“It’s a failure of leadership for a prime minister with such a big majority to not be able to get their agenda through,” said Rob Ford, professor of politics at the University of Manchester. “I can’t think of many examples of a prime minister in postwar politics suffering such a big setback when presiding over such a strong position in the Commons.”It also makes it harder for the government to find money to invest in public services without raising taxes. The government estimated the welfare reforms would save 5 billion pounds (\$7 billion) a year from a welfare bill that has ballooned since the COVID-19 pandemic. After the concessions, it’s only likely to save about half that amount.

Ten Doeschate hinted that India may be preparing for a spin-heavy attack in Birmingham, which would require reliable close-in catchers. "There's also an argument for short leg being a very important position, particularly if we are going to play two spinners."

