

## ● POLITY

## ● ECONOMICS

## ● TECHNOLOGY

## ● ECOLOGY

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## 6 held for U.P. stampede; godman left out in FIR



The Uttar Pradesh Police arrested six persons, including two women, on Thursday in connection with the stampede at a religious gathering in Hathras that left 121 people dead. They were responsible for managing crowd control and fundraising for the gathering led by preacher Narayan Sakar Hari, known as Bhole Baba. One of the main accused, Devprakash Madhukar, remains at large, with a reward announced for information leading to his capture. Authorities are investigating further into the incident and the preacher's background, including any past criminal cases. All deceased have been identified and their bodies returned to their families after necessary procedures.

Sunak, the first British Prime Minister of Indian descent, leads amidst challenges including Brexit and COVID-19, along with political scandals involving former Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The Conservative years also saw the U.K. economy taking a battering in the years after Brexit, partly because of it, but also due to global inflationary pressures following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and former Prime Minister Liz Truss's economic policies, enacted during her record short term of 50 days. Citizens grappled with high energy costs, inflation, and a severe cost of living crisis, compounded by strained public services, notably prolonged waits for medical appointments.

### Foregone conclusion

The Liberal Democrats, who performed strongly in May's local elections, are hoping to make third place in the new Parliament, with some polls projecting over 60 seats for them. The other parties in the fray include the Scottish National Party, the Green Party and the nativist and Eurosceptic party, Reform U.K.

The country's monarch, King Charles III, who was in Scotland on Thursday is expected to return to London to appoint the next Prime Minister during the course of Friday.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Jaishankar meets Wang Yi, says LAC must be respected and peace ensured



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council meeting on Thursday. Both ministers emphasized the importance of mutual respect in addressing longstanding boundary issues that have strained relations between India and China for the past four years. Jaishankar emphasized the need to uphold the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas. The meeting lasted about an hour and took place just before the SCO Summit commenced.

"The two Ministers agreed that the prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Labour Party projected to oust Sunak's Conservative government in U.K. polls



In the recent UK general elections, millions voted to elect MPs for the House of Commons. Polls suggest the Labour Party may win a significant majority of over 400 seats. Results, to be announced Friday, will clarify the accuracy of these projections and determine the future of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative government.



side. EAM highlighted the need to redouble efforts to achieve complete disengagement from the remaining areas in Eastern Ladakh and restore border peace and tranquillity in order to remove obstacles towards the return of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

#### Full disengagement

The two Ministers were meeting for the third time in the past 12 months, and have made a push for complete disengagement and the resolution of the military border standoff since April 2020.

However, talks between border commanders and defence officials in the meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) have thus far yielded no further breakthrough, which hinges on the Chinese position at the Demchok and Depsang sectors.

In a separate readout of the meeting, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it was important to find the "correct way".

"We must adhere to positive thinking, on the one hand properly handle and control the situation in the border area, on the other hand actively resume normal exchanges, promote each other and meet each other half way," a translated version of the MFA statement read.

#### 'Global situation'

The MEA statement also said that the two leaders had "exchanged views on the global situation", and that India had extended its support to China's presidency of the SCO in 2025.

Speaking at the SCO Council of the Heads of State, Mr. Jaishankar read out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address in his absence, reiterating the SCO's "respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity" as a basis for its foreign policies. "We have also agreed not to take any measures contrary to the principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity," the PM's speech read, signalling China.

It added that the "priority must naturally be given to combating terrorism, one of the original goals of the SCO", in a pointed reference at Pakistan.

hold Russia accountable. They share goals such as preventing the spread of the conflict, promoting stability in the Middle East, and supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state. The U.S. appreciates India's humanitarian aid to Ukraine and values the strong strategic partnership in coordinating responses to global challenges. This dialogue is part of efforts ahead of the upcoming NATO summit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Russia for their annual summit just before the NATO summit. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti emphasizes international unity against Russia's aggression in Ukraine and urges India to join efforts to identify companies supporting Russia's war efforts. He acknowledges India's humanitarian concerns for Ukraine and its close ties with both Ukraine and Russia. Garcetti encourages India to play a constructive role in promoting peace while cautioning Indian companies against violating international sanctions, noting potential consequences in the global market.

#### Ambitious agenda

U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti emphasizes their collaborative efforts on global initiatives spanning from marine exploration to space exploration, highlighting synergies that enhance their combined influence. Specific areas of cooperation include joint production of jet engines, a robust trade relationship exceeding \$190 billion, and a growing number of Indian students studying in the U.S.

### INTERNAL SECURITY

## Army chief reviews 'prevailing security dynamics' in Jammu

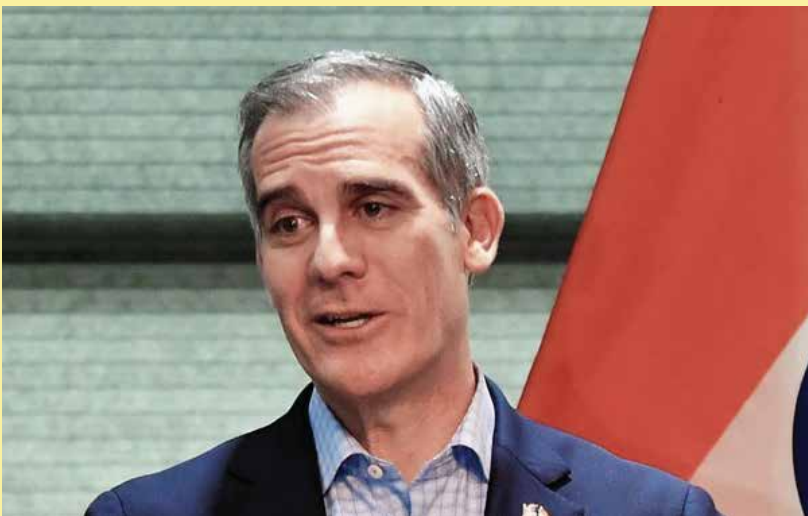


General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), conducted a high-level joint security review meeting during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, held at Nagrota and chaired by General Dwivedi, included senior Army officers from the Northern Command, White Knight Corps, Chinari Corps, and Rising Star Corps. Discussions focused on assessing the current security situation and dynamics in the region. The Army chief was also briefed by the J&K Director-General of Police, the Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force, the heads of intelligence agencies, and representatives of security forces from the Union Territory.

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir focused on assessing the current security situation in the region, particularly in light of

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## 'India, U.S. share goals to prevent Ukraine conflict from spreading'



U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti highlighted the collaboration between the two countries to address the conflict and

heightened militancy. It emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among armed forces and security agencies to ensure peace and stability. The context includes recent incidents, including five terror attacks in Jammu this year, resulting in casualties among pilgrims, militants, and security personnel.

#### Increased militancy

General Upendra Dwivedi's visit to the Pir Panjal valley and District Police Headquarters in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir. The visit aimed to address the growing militant activity in the Pir Panjal valley, identified as an area of increased militant presence this year. General Dwivedi acquainted himself with the operations of the district police and gained insights into the security situation in Poonch during his visit.

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## Andhra Pradesh CM meets Modi, seeks Central funds for infrastructure projects



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday and discussed various issues concerning the State.

Mr. Naidu sought the Union government's hand-holding of the State finances in the short term, support in commissioning the Polavaram irrigation project, developing the Dugarajapatnam port, comprehensive financial assistance for the construction of the government complex as well as trunk infrastructure in Amaravati and incentives for industrial development.

The Chief Minister also urged the Centre to consider an additional allocation under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment and support to the backward regions of the State on the lines of the Bundelkhand package.

#### 'Unjust bifurcation'

The Chief Minister highlighted that the State continues to grapple with the repercussions of the "unscientific and unjust bifurcation of 2014" and the miserable governance of the previous administration.

He pointed out that the State was severely constrained by a lack of financial resources owing to the previous government's gross mismanagement, including indiscriminate borrowings, and the absence of a strategic long-term development plan.

#### Constructive, says CM

In a post on X, Mr. Naidu said he had a constructive meeting with Mr. Modi and deliberated on important matters concerning the development of the State.

Mr. Naidu also met Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and discussed the status of various national highway projects. He interacted with Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal as well.

### ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## Brahmaputra's lone female gharial's long wait for a mate could end soon



A lone female gharial has temporarily overshadowed the one-horned rhino in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in eastern Assam. Wildlife officials and specialists are unsure how the gharial came to inhabit this area but are optimistic about its potential to revive the gharial population in the river. The gharial, distinguished by its elongated snout and believed extinct in the Brahmaputra since the 1950s with sporadic sightings in the 1990s, was first observed in 2021 in the Biswanath Wildlife Division of Kaziranga. The gharial, now 2.55 metres in length, was recorded twice, 500 metres apart, in one of the three priority habits chosen during a 10-day survey of aquatic reptiles along the Brahmaputra in January. One of the 10 recommendations in the report was the "high-priority" reintroduction of gharials in the Brahmaputra. If the reintroduction proposal is approved, the reptiles are likely to be brought from the Kukrail gharial breeding centre near Lucknow.



+91 9383 432 123

+91 7777 875 588

0484 452 77 77

**Excellence through  
Education & Dedication**



*"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."*

—Benjamin Franklin

**WE AIM TO INSPIRE YOU**



## ECONOMICS &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## Industry Ministry pushes for lower duties on input imports



The Commerce and Industry Ministry has proposed reducing high import tariffs on electronic components and other sectors to address concerns that these tariffs could offset the benefits of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme compared to competitors like China and Vietnam. However, there are no plans to revise restrictions on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from countries sharing land borders with India. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested that these FDI restrictions are outdated and should be reconsidered with appropriate safeguards. Additionally, the CII has recommended lower duties on components to boost electronics production.

## ECONOMICS &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## 'Divesting 49% CPSE stakes can yield ₹11.5 lakh cr.'

At current market values, the government could raise ₹11.5 lakh crore from disinvestment of Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) in India while maintaining a majority stake in these enterprises. CARE Edge economists calculated the divestment potential by analysing the data of 59 major listed CPSEs and 15 public sector banks and insurance firms where the government holds more than 51% stake. The estimate is a little more than twice the total divestment of ₹5.2 lakh crore made since 2014.

The focus areas for disinvestment include CPSEs contributing around ₹5 lakh crore, and Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and insurance firms contributing ₹6.5 lakh crore. Specific companies like Indian Railway Finance Corporation, Hindustan Aeronautics, Coal India, and ONGC are identified as having significant potential for disinvestment. Despite this potential, the government is not expected to aggressively pursue disinvestment due to a comfortable fiscal position supported by strong non-tax revenues such as dividends from RBI and CPSEs.

The  
More  
You Learn,  
The  
More  
You Earn



**VEDHIK**  
IAS ACADEMY  
The New Learning Mantra

## ECONOMICS &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## Private sector helps NPS assets grow 29% to ₹12.5-lakh crore



Driven by buoyant equity markets and an expanding NPS subscriber base in the private sector, National Pension System (NPS) assets, including those of APY, approached the ₹12.50-lakh crore mark as of June 29. PFRDA Chairman Deepak Mohanty had recently said the pension regulator is targeting overall NPS assets of ₹15-lakh crore by end March 2025.

This reflected a

28.64% year-on-year (YoY) growth over NPS AUM of ₹9.7-lakh crore as of July 1 last year. The private sector drove this growth, with NPS assets increasing by 30.5% in the fiscal year 2023-24 to reach ₹11.73 lakh crore by March-end. Specifically, private sector NPS assets surged by 40.10% year-on-year to ₹2.47 lakh crore as of June 29, supported by a rise in subscribers which totalled 56.91 lakh, up by 8.95 lakh compared to the previous year.

Meanwhile, Atal Pension Yojana (APY) assets touched ₹38,177 crore as of June 29, up 31.53% YoY. The Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) onboarded 1.2 crore APY subscribers in 2023-24. This fiscal, the target is 1.3 crore. Private sector growth this fiscal has been better across all schemes including APY. The private sector has been the key reason behind NPS assets' sharp increase in recent years.

### New subscribers

The number of new NPS and APY subscriber registrations till June 30 this fiscal stood at 1,95,857. PFRDA is now aiming at onboarding about 11 lakh new NPS subscribers from the private sector in 2024-25. In FY24, 9.7 lakh private sector staff enrolled for NPS. The rapid growth of overall NPS assets is evident as the AUM which was only about ₹1-lakh crore in 2015 touched the ₹10-lakh crore mark in August 2023.

CRACKING  
**CIVIL SERVICES**  
NO MORE A  
DIFFICULT TASK  
COME JOIN WITH US

**VEDHIK**  
IAS ACADEMY  
The New Learning Mantra







**VEDHIK**  
**IAS ACADEMY**

*The New Learning Mantra*

# START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE **BEST**

**INDIA'S  
TOP MOST  
CIVIL SERVANTS  
FOR COACHING**

[www.vedhikiasacademy.org](http://www.vedhikiasacademy.org)

*Head Office:*  
**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
Mercy Estate,  
MG Road, Ravipuram,  
Ernakulam-682 015,

*Corporate office:*  
**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,  
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,  
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

*Regional office*  
**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,  
Museum Road. Bangalore -  
560001. Karnataka, India.

*GCC Office:*  
**Bobscoedu,**  
Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L  
Office 22, Dream Tower 1,  
Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain  
[www.bobscoedu.com](http://www.bobscoedu.com)