



India Responds To Trump Tariff Threat, Strongly Rejects Criticism Over Its Energy Ties With Russia

(Gns). India on Monday mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. New Delhi's response came hours after US President Donald Trump asserted that Washington will substantially raise tariffs on goods from India over its energy ties with Russia.

Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the double standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia. "Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) said. India rebuked the U.S. and EU for criticizing its Russian oil procurement, citing their continued trade with Russia, including ener-



gy products, and pointing out that the U.S. imports some Russian goods like uranium, while the EU had

€67.5 billion in goods trade with Russia in 2024.

The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals,

"Where the US is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," it added.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA said. It said India has been "targeted" by the US and the EU for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict. In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict, it said.

PM Modi Felicitated at NDA Meet for Ops Sindoor, Mahadev Success

(Gns). At the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was felicitated for the success of Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, two major counter-terror initiatives. NDA MPs unanimously passed a resolution applauding the effective execution of both operations, highlighting the government's strong national security stance.

The meeting also saw an emotional tribute to the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack, with leaders offering condolences to the grieving families. Additionally, newly

elected MPs were formally introduced to PM Modi, marking a moment of unity and renewed commitment within the alliance.

Prime Minister Narendra



Modi will address the BJP-led NDA parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday, ahead of the Vice President's election nominations starting August 7, with discussions expected on current issues and the

government's agenda in Parliament. The meeting includes MPs from the ruling alliance, including parties like TDP, JD(U), and LJP (Ram Vilas).

a certainty due to the alliance's majority in the electoral college, by August 21, the last date of nomination-filing and the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Amid House Stalemate PM Modi Set to Address NDA Parliamentary Meet

The meeting comes in the middle of a session which has been all but a washout so far, except for a two-day discussion on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, due to a united Opposition's ceaseless protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar by the Election Commission.

UP Panchayati department's controversial order creates political heat

(Gns). The political atmosphere of Uttar Pradesh has heated up over the latest order by the panchayati raj department over freeing up the land owned by the Yadav and Muslim communities.

Though reportedly the concerned officer has been suspended by the minister, opposition leaders are up on their arms against the state government. Samajwadi Party (SP) National President Akhilesh Yadav and Azad Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar have criticized the government and have questioned the intention of the BJP government.

The controversy emerged after the Panchayati Raj Director on Monday issued an order to all the District Magistrates of the state, in which it was asked to free the land of Gram Sabha,

ponds, compost pits, barns, playgrounds, cremation grounds and Gram Panchayat buildings from illegal occupation by a particular caste (Yadav) and a particular religion (Muslim) in 57,691 Gram Panchayats of the state.

Targeting the Yogi government, SP President

Akhilesh Yadav wrote on his social media account X on Tuesday that, "Action should be taken against whatever is illegal because illegal is illegal, then why are people of a particular caste or religion being targeted."

Akhilesh Yadav further wrote, "The judiciary should take immediate cognizance, this is an anti-constitutional act. We will go to court against this. The more the PDA is harassed, the more the PDA unity will increase."

At the same time, Azad Samaj Party chief and

Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad strongly attacked the Yogi government on this matter and called it extreme casteism and communalism.

In his statement, the Nagina MP said, "This order of the Panchayati Raj Department officials to target the 'Yadav' and 'Muslim' communities by writing their names and removing land encroachment is not only unconstitutional, but is also deeply casteist and communal."

The MP wrote that this order, which is completely politically motivated, directly attacks Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

Akhilesh Yadav dares UP government to stop PDA Pathshala

(Gns). Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav has dared the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh to stop the PDA pathshala started by his party.

In the wake of the closure of several primary schools by the state in the name of merger, he said, "Police cannot stop PDA Pathshala. CM Yogi himself should come to the Pathshala and see the situation there. The government itself has accepted that it has closed many schools while some have been merged. SP workers will continue to teach students until new teachers are recruited in those schools."

The SP president was speaking to the media after paying tributes to late Janeshwar Mishra on

his birth anniversary at the Janeshwar Mishra Park here on Tuesday.



"The sad thing is that even the Britishers did not register an FIR against anyone for studies. This government thinks it will shut down our PDA school with the help of police. We socialists take a pledge that until the government sends a teacher-principal there, the PDA school will continue to run," he said. Akhilesh Yadav further

said, "CM Yogi needs to visit schools as well. At least he should visit

mafia".

"Everyone knows who is the biggest mafia in the state. One does not become anything by changing clothes. Today, they are talking about land. You should find out, all the ponds in Lucknow have been occupied by the BJP and all the wetlands have been occupied by the BJP people."

Those who used to accuse others of links with the underworld did they not have any connection with the underworld, asked without naming anyone.

Talking about the flood condition in UP, Akhilesh Yadav said, "More than Rs 20,000 crore were spent in Prayagraj. But what is the condition today? People are unable to venture out of their homes.

Uniform Civil Code Committee Chairperson Retired Justice Smt. Ranjana Desai, Along With Other Members, Pays a Courtesy Visit to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

Gandhinagar, 05 August 2025: A committee has been formed to evaluate the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Gujarat and draft the proposed law. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Smt. Ranjana Desai, including five members, held a courtesy meeting with Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar. During the visit, the Chairperson briefed the CM on the



progress of their work. Law Minister Shri Rushikesh Patel and Minister of State for Home Shri Harsh

Sanghani remained present during the meeting.

Committee members Shri C.L. Meena (retired

senior IAS officer), Advocate Shri R.C. Kodekar, former Vice Chancellor Shri Dakshesh Thakar, and social worker Smt. Gita Shroff attended the meeting. Also present were Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri M.K. Das, Secretary Dr. Vikrant Pandey, Acting Law Secretary Shri Upendra Bhatt, and other senior officials.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates Three-Day Pharma and Labtech Expo-2025 in Gandhinagar; Health Minister Graces the Event

Spread across 25,000 square meters, the expo will feature over 400 exhibitors showcasing medicines, pharma products, and manufacturing machinery and equipment.

Gandhinagar, 05 August 2025: Pharma and Labtech Expo-2025 began in Gandhinagar, offering a dedicated platform for India's small and medium-scale manufacturers in pharma machinery, engineering, pharmaceutical formulations, and lab technology.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the expo in an event graced by Health Minister Shri Rushikesh Patel. He also visited several stalls at the exhibition. The 20th edition of Pharma and

Labtech Expo features concurrent events- the Contract Manufacturing Expo and the Raw and

ing the overall value for industry visitors. The exhibition highlights key areas such as pharmaceutical



Packaging Material Expo. These segments complement the pharmaceutical products, machinery, and equipment sector, enhancing

machinery and equipment manufacturing, pharmaceutical packaging, laboratory and analytical instruments, pharmaceutical for-

mulations, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, and APIs. Additionally, a dedicated pavilion for pumps, valves, pipes, and fittings has also been set up within the exhibition area.

Several dignitaries were present at the inauguration, namely Gandhinagar Mayor Smt. Miraben Patel, Shri Bhayalu Bapu of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti (Paliyad), Dr. Prashant Korat, President of BJP Yuva Morcha, Dr. H.G. Koshia, Commissioner of the Food and Drugs Control Administration, Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma, Deputy Drugs Controller of the Central Government, and Dr. Viranchi Shah, Immediate Past National President of IDMA, along with other officials.

Necessity Compelled By Global Market Conditions: Jaishankar On India Buying Russian Oil

(Gns). External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar on Monday emphasised the importance of a fair and multipolar global order, highlighting that it should not be dominated by a select few. His comments come amid Donald Trump's tariff strategy aimed at

pressuring countries to align with US trade policies.

The timing of Jaishankar's remarks is crucial as the world grapples with Trump's unilateral tariffs on various nations, which are being coerced into signing



deals with the US or facing export levies. "We live in complicated and uncertain times. Our collective desire is to see a fair and representative global order, not one dominated by a few," Jaishankar stated at the BIMSTEC Traditional Music

Festival in New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar emphasized the need for a fair and multipolar global order, responding to Donald Trump's tariff strategies targeting countries like India, which faces increased tariffs and criticism over its Russian oil imports.



देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Revealing Heritage

The discovery of the ancient settlement at Keeladi in Tamil Nadu is much more than an archaeological milestone ~ it is a profound challenge to longstanding narratives about Indian civilisation. As trench after trench yields evidence of a literate, urban society dating back over 2,500 years, the soil of Keeladi appears to be unearthing not just artefacts, but forgotten truths. For over a century, mainstream historical discourse has portrayed Indian civilisation as a northern phenomenon, emerging first through the Indus Valley Civilisation and later through the Vedic culture of the Gangetic plains.

This view, while based on significant finds, has long relegated southern India to a supporting role ~ a region waiting to be “civilised” by Aryan influence from the north. Keeladi destabilises that account by revealing a complex, well-organised settlement in the deep south from the same period. The presence of sophisticated brick structures, planned water systems, and most notably Tamil Brahmi script graffiti dating back to the 6th century BCE, opens up the possibility that the south’s civilisational arc was not derivative but parallel. If the Tamil Brahmi script did not emerge from the Ashokan Brahmi, but developed independently ~ perhaps with shared roots in the Indus Valley script ~ it compels a wholesale revision of how we understand the evolution of literacy, language, and statecraft in ancient India. But with history comes politics.

The debate surrounding Keeladi’s significance has quickly become entangled in the enduring north-south divide of Indian identity. State governments see in Keeladi a wellspring of regional pride and cultural legitimacy, while central institutions appear hesitant, invoking procedural objections and calls for more scientific rigour. This tug-of war is not merely about archaeology ~ it is about ownership of the national narrative. Such defensiveness reveals how central historical memory is to political legitimacy. By claiming that civilisation originated in one part of the country and spread outward, certain groups have sought to establish cultural dominance. But Keeladi reminds us that civilisation, like language and culture, does not flow in one direction.

It branches, adapts, and emerges in multiple places simultaneously. This is not to say that we should jump to conclusions. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. But to suppress or delay emerging data because it unsettles an established order is to do violence to both science and society. Children visiting the Keeladi museum are encountering a history far more diverse than textbooks suggest. For many, it’s a first tangible link to a past that includes them ~ not as footnotes, but as central actors in India’s civilisational journey. Keeladi’s greatest gift may not be the artefacts it reveals, but the questions it forces us to ask ~ about who we are, where we came from, and who gets to decide which pasts matter. History, like identity, is layered. And the deeper we dig, the more complex ~ and connected ~ it becomes.

Swadeshi voices

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his recent visit to Varanasi, called on citizens to adopt the spirit of ‘Swadeshi’ and support locally-made products. He stressed that true service to the nation lies in promoting indigenous goods, especially amid “global economic uncertainties”.

The Prime Minister’s comments, made soon after the US announced harsh tariffs on exports from India and 70 other countries, assumes significance. It provides a bridge to the past, an occasion to learn lessons from the Swadeshi movement which began in 1905 in Bengal and then spread across the subcontinent. Swadeshi voices of legendary leaders and thinkers are worth pondering today. At the 22nd session of the Indian National Congress, held in Calcutta from 26-29 December 1906, Dadabhai Naoroji delivered the presidential address highlighting “Swadeshi is not a thing of to-day. It has existed in Bombay as far as I know for many years past. I am a freetrader and I am a Member in the Executive Committee of the Cobden Club for 20 years, and yet I say that Swadeshi is a forced necessity for India in its unnatural economic muddle.

As long as the economic condition remains unnatural and impoverishing, by the necessity of supplying every year some Rs. 20,00,00,000 for the salary, pensions etc. of the children of a foreign country at the expense and impoverishment of the children of India, to talk of applying economic laws to the condition of India is adding insult to injury. I ask any Englishman whether Englishmen would submit to this unnatural economic muddle of India for a single day in England, leave alone 150 years? No, never. No, Ladies and Gentlemen, England will never submit

Pakistan’s involvement in Pahalgam now proven

(Gns).

The report of the Monitoring Team of the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee released last week, says, “On 22nd April, terrorists attacked a tourist spot in Pahalgam, J and K. Twenty-six civilians were killed. The attack was claimed that same day by The Resistance Front (TRF), who in parallel published a photograph of the attack site. The claim was repeated the following day.” It adds that on 26 April, TRF retracted their statement.

The report also quoted Indian and Pakistan views when it mentioned, “One member state (India) said the attack could not have happened without LeT support, and that there was a relationship between the LeT and TRF. One member state (Pakistan) rejected these views and said LeT was defunct.” The report closed by mentioning, “the attack was carried out by TRF, which is synonymous with LeT.” The UN accepted the Indian viewpoint that the LeT and TRF are the same organisation. For the first time the TRF has emerged in a UN document.

Decisions taken by the Sanctions Committee are normally unanimously adopted by the UNSC. Pakistan, a current non-permanent member of the

the conflict. Pakistan kept denying its involvement in Pahalgam. It even offered an independent probe, which like the ongoing

aware that another terrorist incident could spell disaster as its destroyed assets had yet to be replaced or repaired. This time it would



probe on the attack on Air Force station Pathankot of January 2016, would stretch on without an end. Pakistan’s defence minister, Khwaja Asif, went on to mention that Pahalgam was possibly a false flag operation conducted by Indian security agencies. He added, “We have absolutely nothing to do with it. We reject terrorism in all its forms and everywhere.” The recent killing of the three terrorists involved in Pahalgam in Operation Mahadev cleared all doubts.

The terrorists had been tracked since Pahalgam but were possibly asked to lie low by their Pakistani handlers, after India hit Pakistan with Operation Sindoor. Rawalpindi was


(Gns).

In a world still recalibrating after pandemic disruptions and geopolitical realignments, the sudden surge in US tariffs under President Donald Trump’s latest executive order has rattled global businesses.

While the administration frames the move as a necessary recalibration of outdated trade pacts, the broader impact reveals a mix of strategic coercion and economic brinkmanship that risks destabilising supply chains and fanning

Swadeshi voices

to it.” Dr Rash Behari Ghose, who succeeded Dadabhai as Congress president in 1907, said in a lengthy welcome address, “Swadeshi movement seems also to have given great offence to a certain section of the AngloIndian community. It seems that if



you call the movement a boycott of foreign goods, you are a traitor to England. But competition with Manchester is not yet treason in the Indian Statute Book. The Swadeshi movement is only a prelude to our determination to enter into the great brotherhood of the trading nations of the West...come with me to the exhibition on the other side of the street, a visit to it, I am sure, will fill the heart of every one of you with hope and gladness; for in Swadeshism you see the cradle of a new India. To speak of such a movement as disloyal is a lie and calumny. We love England with all her faults, but we love India more.” At the Industrial Conference, as part of 1906 Congress session, the Maharaja of Baroda Sayajirao Gaekwar III spoke on “the triumph of machinery as the triumph of our age...The rise of power-looms, for instance, has been stealing a march over the handloom workers, and the numbers employed in cotton weaving in India have declined by 23 per cent, even within the last decade...this textile industry itself which shows how, with intelligent adaptation to the improved methods our Indian industries can compete with the manufac-

Tariff Shockwaves

leaders and perceived hostility towards US tech firms. In many boardrooms, the suddenness of the tariff spikes has bred not just concern but distrust.

Companies fear that strategic planning is becoming impossible in a trade environment increasingly shaped by unpredictability, unilateralism, and the volatile tenor of political messaging. This tariff diplomacy blurs the line between economic policy and geopolitical posturing. India’s case is especially telling. Alongside a 25 per cent tariff, the threat of additional penalties over its on-going trade with Russia reflects a growing tendency to fuse foreign policy leverage with trade enforcement. The message is clear: align with US interests, or face punitive consequences. For American consumers, this strategy comes at a cost.



inflation both within and beyond American borders. The tariff hikes span more than 90 countries, from major players like India and Brazil to smaller economies such as Laos and Switzerland.

The rationale: reward nations that swiftly renegotiate trade deals, penalise those that don’t. But this conditional framework has done little to mask the underlying asymmetry in bargaining power. Many nations have secured only

Balika Vadhu fame Avika Gor announces wedding with Milind Chandwani on the Grand Premiere of COLORS' 'Pati Patni Aur Panga - Jodiyon Ka Reality Check'

Best known for her role as India’s most iconic child bride in Balika Vadhu, Avika Gor is now writing her own love story — and it’s nothing short of a fairytale. In a twist straight out of a dreamy saga, the actress who once stole hearts as Anandi in Balika Vadhu has announced her wedding to longtime partner Milind Chandwani — on COLORS, the very platform where her journey to stardom first began.

The excitement surrounding the grand premiere of the channel’s latest reality show Pati Patni Aur Panga – Jodiyon Ka Reality Check is palpable, with the show promising high drama, real emotions, and unexpected moments. In the upcoming premiere episode, Avika will be seen getting emotional as she watches nostalgic clips from her early days on Balika Vadhu, with tears welling up in her eyes. But the moment quickly turns from sentimental to spectacular when the show unveils a playful surprise, an AI-generated version of a classic Balika Vadhu scene, this time with her fiancé Milind’s face replacing Jagdish’s. The unexpected twist sends ripples



any higher, Avika shares a deeply personal revelation: she will be tying the knot with Milind on the very show that marked the beginning of her incredible journey. This touching moment, captured in the premiere episode, makes for a truly unforgettable start to the season, a full-circle celebration of love, growth, and transformation.

Speaking about the big announcement, Avika shared, “There’s something

incredibly poetic about going back to the place where it all began with gratitude, nostalgia, and a

asked me to spend my life with him, I yelled out the easiest yes of my life. We’re two imperfect people choosing to grow together, to challenge each other, and to build something real. I couldn’t imagine a more fitting place to share that than here, where it all started. Announcing our wedding on Pati Patni Aur Panga is symbolic and personal. I’ve grown up in front of COLORS’ audience, and now, I want to celebrate this milestone with them too. To everyone who embraced me as the balika vadhu all those years ago, I now ask for your blessings as I become a real-life vadhu. This is my full-circle moment, and I’m so thankful I get to share it with the very people who shaped my journey.”

Nivea Body Milk Presents Pati Patni Aur Panga... Jodiyon Ka Reality Check. Co-Powered by Sugar Free Green, Rajdhani, Besan, Cadbury Dairy Milk, Pour Home Air Fresheners and Envy Perfumes. Special Partner Vikram Elaichi Tea, Colgate and Catch Masale will premiere on 2nd August and thereafter every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 PM only on COLORS.

Bhavnagar Division Loco Pilots Save 5 Lions from Being Hit by a Passenger Train Due to Their Alertness

The Bhavnagar Railway Division has been continuously making efforts for the safety of lions and other wildlife. As per the directives of the division, loco pilots operating trains are strictly following speed limits and working with heightened vigilance. Due to the alertness of the loco pilots and the assistance of forest department trackers, a total of 159 lions were saved during the financial year 2024-25. In the current financial year 2025-26, a total of 29 lions have been saved so far.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Bhavnagar Division, Mr. Atul Kumar Tripathi,

informed that on Monday, August 4, 2025, Loco Pilot Mr. Baliram Kumar



(Headquarters – Junagadh) and Assistant Loco Pilot Mr. Hardeep Garla (Headquarters – Junagadh), while operating passenger train (52946) from

Junagadh to Veraval, spotted four lions (a lion, a lioness, and their three



cubs) sleeping on the railway track between km marker 11/01 and 11/02 in the Junagadh-Veraval meter gauge section. They immediately applied the

emergency brake and brought the train to a halt. The loco pilot then informed the train manager (guard). A forest tracker arrived, safely moved the lions off the track, and after ensuring everything was normal, permitted the train to proceed. The loco pilot then cautiously resumed the journey toward the destination.

Upon receiving the report, Divisional Railway Manager Mr. Dinesh Verma, Additional Divisional Railway Manager Mr. Himanshu Sharma, and other senior officials praised the loco pilots for their commendable action.

RESTORATION OF TERMINAL OF TRAIN NO. 12935/36 BANDRA TERMINUS – SURAT INTERCITY EXPRESS AT SURAT STATION

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and in view of the ongoing work at Udhna station, it has been decided to restore the

terminating/originating station of Train No. 12935/12936 Bandra Terminus – Surat Intercity Express from Udhna to Surat Station with effect from 7th

August, 2025.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Train No.

12935/12936 Bandra Terminus – Surat Intercity Express will not halt at Udhna station. The timings of the train at Surat Station is as under:

Train No. 12935 Bandra Terminus – Surat Intercity Express will terminate at Surat Station at 10:35 hrs instead of Udhna station.

Train No. 12936 Surat – Bandra Terminus Intercity Express will originate from Surat Station at 16:25 hrs instead of Udhna station.

For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Shri Dinesh Verma took charge as Divisional Railway Manager of Bhavnagar Division on Monday

Shri Dinesh Verma took over charge as Divisional Railway Manager, Bhavnagar Division of Western Railway on 04.08.2025 (Monday). Prior to this, Shri Dinesh Verma was working as Executive Director / Telecom / RDSO, Lucknow.

He is a senior officer of 1995 batch of Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineering (IRSE). He has graduated in Electronic & Communication Engineering from Madan Mohan Malviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur.



Shri Dinesh Verma has worked on many important posts of South East Railway, North Central Railway and East Cost Railway. He also worked as Additional Divisional Railway Manager/Jhansi/ North Central Railway and General Manager / S&T in DFCCIL.

WR COLLECTS ALMOST ₹ 71 CRORE AS FINE DURING INTENSIVE TICKET CHECKING DRIVES DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL TO JULY 2025

Mumbai, More than ₹ 93 Lakh Recovered as fine from AC Suburban locals

In order to ensure hassle-free, comfortable travel & better services to all bonafide passengers over Western Railway, intensive ticket checking drives are being carried out continuously over Mumbai suburban local services, Mail/Express as well as passenger trains & holiday special trains so as to curb the menace of ticketless/irregular passengers. The highly motivated ticket checking team under the supervision of senior

commercial officers of Western Railway organized several ticket checking drives during the period from April to July 2025, thereby recovering an amount to the tune of ₹ 70.98 crore, which is almost 24% higher than the corresponding period last year as well as 11% higher over the target set by Railway Board. This also includes ₹ 19.55 crore from Mumbai suburban section.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, WR has

witnessed a significant surge in recovery of fines collected in the month of July, 2025. An amount of ₹ 12.19 crore was recovered through detection of 2.22 lakh ticketless/irregular passengers, including unbooked luggage cases registering an increase of 134% over the previous year's July figure. This also includes fine of ₹ 3.65 crore through detection of around 92 thousand cases over Mumbai suburban section. To prevent unauthorized entry in AC local trains, frequent surprise ticket checking drives are also being carried out. As a

result of focused drives in AC locals, more than 28 thousand unauthorized passengers were penalized during April to July 2025 and ₹ 93.40 lakh collected as fine, which is 58% higher than the corresponding period last year. Such remarkable results are a testament to the dedication of Western Railway's commitment to curb unauthorised travel, enhance passenger experience and safeguard public revenue.

Western Railway appeals to the general public to travel with proper and valid tickets.

Adapting to disruptive tech, rethinking legacy structures & prioritising Tri-service synergy key to tackling today's security challenges: CDS

(Gns). Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has emphasised the need to adapt swiftly to disruptive technologies, rethink legacy structures and prioritise synergy across the three services to tackle the challenges emanating from the constantly-evolving nature of warfare. He was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural edition of the Annual Trident Lecture Series, organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) to mark its Foundation Day, at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on August 05, 2025. He underscored the impor-

ance of technological convergence, and integrated operations to ensure national security in today's times.

The event brought together senior defence leadership, strategic thinkers and scholars to reflect on the theme 'Dominating the Future Battlespace'. It also witnessed the formal release of the first General Bipin Rawat Paper on Manned-Unmanned Teaming, a tribute to India's first CDS and his enduring legacy in shaping joint operational



philosophy and transformative defence thinking. The August 2025 issue of Synergy, CENJOWS' flagship journal, was also launched, featuring incisive articles on emerging strategic trends.

As part of the event, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff delivered a lecture on 'Urgency in Tri-

Services Reforms', underlining the critical timelines and institutional steps needed for meaningful reform. Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Doctrine, Organisation and Training) gave a lecture on 'Imbibing Indian Heritage Statecraft in Future Warfighting' which examined how indigenous civilisational wisdom can inform modern military thinking.

The Lecture series acts as an annual forum for critical reflection, strategic foresight and policy innovation, aimed at addressing the evolving dynamics of warfare and national defence.

PM Shri Narendra Modi to Inaugurate M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference on 7 August

(Gns). To mark the birth centenary of Professor M.S. Swaminathan, a towering figure in agricultural science and a pioneer of food security, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) is organizing the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference from 7-9 August 2025 in New Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Themed "Evergreen

Revolution – The Pathway to Bio happiness", the conference will honour Prof. Swaminathan's lifelong contributions to sustainable and equitable development.

Announcing the event at a press conference today, Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), highlighted Prof. Swaminathan's pivotal role in transforming India from a food-deficient to a food-surplus nation. "Prof. Prime Minister Shri



NarendraModi will inaugurate the event and release a commemorative coin and stamp issued by the Government of India in honour of the legendary scientist.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chair, MSSRF, underscored the global significance of the conference and its role in shaping the future of sustainable agriculture worldwide. Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, reflected on Prof. Swaminathan's transformative impact on Indian agriculture.

Soil Health CardS : Since, inception of the scheme in 2015, 152.51 lakh Soil Health Cards (SHCs) have been issued to farmers in Tamil Nadu under the Soil Health & Fertility Scheme (as on 30.06.2025).

(Gns).

State Government has informed that SHCs are distributed to farmers including small and marginal farmers as per citizen charter to ensure timely delivery. The advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) officials, Krishi Sakhis, & Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory (MSTL) Van Campaigns. In every village, the ATMA officials conduct training under various scheme & advisories about SHC is kept mandatory. The MSTL van visits villages to collect soil samples undertake sample testing, provide soil health card & issue advisories to



farmers instantly. Apart from this, in every block, Village Level Agricultural Development Group issues SHC advisories to farmers in Pre Kharif & Pre Rabi season. No major region-specific soil health chal-

lenges are faced in implementation of the scheme. However, in some region, pockets of problematic soils had been identified & advisories were given for reclamation of problem soils.

Ban on paracetamol and other common medicines

(Gns).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is not in receipt of information about such rumours. It has further informed that the drug Paracetamol is not banned in the country, although in the recent past various Fixed Dose Combinations, including such combinations of Paracetamol with other drugs, have been banned in the country, and the list of all such banned combinations is available on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (www.cdsc.gov.in).

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes and monitors the prices of drugs, including OTC drugs, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 ("DPCO, 2013"), in the following manner:

For formulations that are listed in the National List of Essential Medicines issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare and incorporated in the First Schedule to DPCO, 2013, including

existing manufacturers of a medicine listed in NLEM by combining it with another drug, or by changing the strength or dosage or both of such medicine), including OTC drugs, NPPA fixes the retail price. Such retail



OTC formulations, NPPA fixes the ceiling price and revises them annually based on the Wholesale Price Index (all commodities). All manufactures, importers and marketers of scheduled medicines are required to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable local taxes) fixed.

For new drugs (i.e., formulations launched by

price is applicable to the applicant manufacturer and marketer, who are required to sell these drugs within the retail price fixed.

For other non-scheduled formulations, including non-scheduled OTC formulations, manufacturers are required not to increase the maximum retail price (MRP) of such formulations launched by them by more than 10% of MRP during

DAC clears proposals worth Rs 67,000 crore to enhance operational capability of the Armed Forces

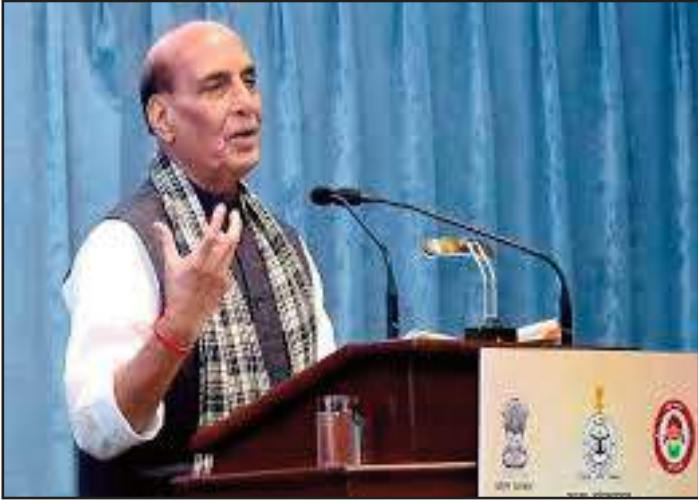
(Gns).

The Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on August 05, 2025, approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 67,000 crore. For the Indian Army, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded for the procurement of Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sight for BMP. This would enhance night driving capability of BMP and provide higher mobility and operational advantage to the Mechanised Infantry.

For the Indian Navy, AoN was accorded for the procurement of Compact Autonomous Surface Craft, BrahMos Fire Control System & Launchers and Upgradation of BARAK-1 Point Defence Missile

System. The procurement of Compact Autonomous Surface Craft will provide the capability to the Indian

Upgradation of SAKSHAM/SPYDER Weapon System was accorded. The procurement of moun-



Navy for detection, classification and neutralisation of threats in anti-submarine warfare missions.

For the Indian Air Force, AoN for procurement of Mountain Radars and

tain radars will enhance the air surveillance capability along and across the borders in the mountainous region. The upgradation of SAKSHAM/SPYDER System for integra-

Schemes for Development of Fisheries Sector in Kerala

(Gns).

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI) is implementing various schemes for holistic development of fisheries sector in all States/UTs including Kerala. The major schemes include Blue Revolution Scheme (2015-16 to 2019-20), extending Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries (since 2018-19), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) (2018-19 to 2025-26), 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY)' (2020-21 to 2024-25), and a new Central Sector Sub-scheme viz. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-KSSRY) (2023-24 to 2026-27). Enhancing fish production, ensuring sustainability of resources, strengthening of value chain, employment

generation, safety & security of fishers and socio-economic wellbeing of fishers and fish farmers have been the core of these initiatives.

During last 10 years, Department of Fisheries, Government of India has approved fisheries developmental projects amounting to Rs.1790.00 crore to Kerala towards development of fisheries. The implementation of activities, including selection of beneficiaries at the ground level are taken up by the respective State Government. The Government of Kerala has informed that during last 10 years about 2,12,348 number of beneficiaries have received subsidies under various Government schemes. In addition about 10,26,752 beneficiaries in Kerala have received liveli-

hood support as relief measure during fishing ban period over a period of last 10 years.

During last 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under



Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has approved fisheries developmental proposals of Government of Kerala amounting to Rs. 1347.55 crore. The major activities approved included New Rearing & Grow-Out Ponds (89 ha), Biofloc Ponds (22.5 ha), Brackish

To ensure accuracy in soil testing, the Government of Tamil Nadu has undergone for National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) Recognition process. As a result, 36 Static labs have received NABL Recognition certificate. Government has allowed upgradation of the existing soil testing infrastructure with Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS)/ Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrophotometer (ICP) under the scheme. Soil Lab registry has been created online on SHC Portal as digital integration. Test results are uploaded on SHC Portal to generate Soil Health card digitally.

the preceding 12 months, and NPPA monitors their MRP with a view to ensure the same.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that to ensure availability of essential drugs and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure of patients visiting the public health facilities, including government hospitals and rural primary health centres, Government has rolled out the Free Drugs Service Initiative under the National Health Mission. Under this, financial support is provided to States and Union territories for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans within their overall resource envelope for the said Mission. Support under the said initiative is available for procurement of drugs and strengthening or setting up of robust systems of procurement, quality assur-

NATIONAL SURVEY DATA EXPANSION : LARGE SCALE SAMPLE SURVEYS ON VARIOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUBJECTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

(Gns). The National Sample Survey (NSS) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is responsible for conducting large scale sample surveys on various socio-economic subjects across the country and give estimates of important indicators based on the Central sample data, both at the national level and the State/UT level. From January 2025, in almost all surveys, sampling design has been modified with a provision for generating district level estimates with district as a basic stratum with an aim to enable data-driven planning at more granular levels. The sampling design of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January 2025 to address the requirement of high frequency labour market indicators with enhanced coverage from PLFS. The estimates of key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio, Unemployment Rate) are now available on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas at all-India level in the Current Weekly Status (CWS). To ensure compliance with national data quality standards and submission timelines, States/UTs are required to follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prepared by NSS, MoSPI which outlines the timely execution of all stages of the survey cycle. The quality standards followed by NSS includes robust sampling design, uniform survey instruments, standardized data processing protocols, and structured validation checks and these are actively encouraged for adoption by the States/UTs to maintain consistency and comparability across datasets. NSS, MoSPI provides technical guidance, sampling design, survey instruments, and capacity-building support, including training and digital infrastructure like tablets, CAPI and cloud servers. States are also encouraged to form technical committees with local experts to examine data quality and outputs. In order to enhance the accessibility and transparency of survey data for citizens, the reports of the survey results are released on the website of MoSPI alongwith the unit level data. In order to improve the dissemination of unit level data, a revamped Micro-data portal has been launched with enhanced portal features and more responsive user interface. It currently hosts more than 175 datasets of various Household surveys, Enterprise Surveys, Economic Census (EC), etc. The GoStats Mobile App launched on Statistics Day 2025 is a significant milestone in India's commitment to make official statistics more accessible to the users. This mobile app features an interactive dashboard showcasing important socio-economic indicators with dynamic visualisations of critical metrics including GDP, inflation, employment data, etc.



Ministry of Textiles launches “Haat on Wheels” as part of 11th National Handloom Day celebrations

(Gns). The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), celebrated the 11th National Handloom Day with the launch of an Exclusive Handloom Expo and the “Haat on Wheels” mobile retail initiative at Handloom Haat, Janpath. Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated the Exclusive Handloom Expo and the “Haat on Wheels” in the presence of Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita and Secretary Textiles Smt Neelam Shami Rao. While inaugurating the event Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, underscored the government's unwavering commitment to the promotion and preservation of India's traditional weaving practices. Handlooms are not only a symbol of our cultural identity but also a significant contributor to the rural economy and livelihood of millions of weavers across the country, the Union minister said. The government is reinforcing its commitment to strengthening the handloom sector by supporting artisans, enhancing market access, and driving sustainable economic growth. The ‘Haat on Wheels’ initiative is another step towards bridging the gap between weavers and consumers, promoting self-reliance, and taking authentic, locally made products directly to the masses, Shri Giriraj Singh added. The Union minister visited the exclusive Handloom expo and interacted with weavers in the presence of the minister of State for textiles Secretary Textiles, DC Handlooms, DC Handicrafts and other senior officials from the ministry. This year's event focuses on “My Handloom, My Pride; My Product, My Pride” and showcases 116 distinct weaves from across India — highlighting the country's rich and diverse textile legacy. The launch of “Haat on Wheels” marks a pioneering step in the retail landscape of Indian handlooms. As a mobile handloom marketplace, the initiative will enable direct outreach to consumers across Delhi NCR.



HC strikes down law allowing regularisation of encroached govt land in Himachal

(Gns). In a landmark judgment, the Himachal Pradesh High Court has struck down Section 163-A of the Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue Act, 1954 that allows the regularisation of encroached government land. A division bench of the court, on Tuesday, while delivering its verdict on August 5, declared the provision unconstitutional, stating it violated Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law. Section 163-A, introduced through an amendment in 2002 during former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, to enable the government to regularise encroachments of up to five bighas for landless individuals and up to twenty bighas in exceptional circumstances. The provision attracted over 1.67 lakh applications from individuals seeking ownership rights on encroached government land. However, the court observed that the policy incentivised illegal occupation and was being misused by influential encroachers under the guise of providing relief to the landless. The Court, in its 44-page judgement, stated that the state cannot reward illegality and that allowing the regularisation of public land encroached unlawfully not only undermines the law but also encourages more illegal occupation. It added that the state has a constitutional and moral obligation to protect public land and natural resources under the public trust doctrine. The court pointed at the contradictory nature of Sections 163 and 163-A — the former mandates strict action against encroachments while the latter offered a path to legalise them. The bench termed this legislative inconsistency “mutually destructive” and said it led to confusion in governance and enforcement. The judgment came at a time when encroachments on forest and government land have become a pressing issue in the hill state. Government records submitted in court revealed that over 1.23 lakh hectares of public land are under illegal occupation. The court noted that such widespread encroachments pose a serious threat to environmental sustainability and the rights of future generations.



Population of Nilgiri Tahr, TN's state animal, witnesses rise: Survey

(Gns). Hailed as mountain monarchs, the Nilgiri Tahr, state animal of Tamil Nadu, has witnessed a significant rise in its population in the Western Ghats abutting Kerala, indicating the success of the conservation efforts of the state government. From 1,031 animals in 2024, the number of the endangered wild goat species has gone up to 1,303 in 2025 reveals the Second Synchronised Survey, held in April this year. The report of the survey was released by Tamil Nadu Forest Minister RS Raja Kannappan in Chennai on Tuesday. Home to the southern Western Ghats, the Nilgiri Tahr is considered the mountain monarchs since they live primarily on cliffs, steep mountain slopes and ridges, with their hooves providing a firm grip, to avoid predators. Culturally and ecologically significant, they have found a place in the Sangam literature itself. Declared as the state animal in 1988, they receive the highest legal protection under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The survey was carried out by the team of 786 field staff of the Forest Department across 177 Blocks in 14 Divisions, covering 3,126 km by foot for four days from April 24. April was chosen since the calves are born in December-January and ideal to sight the young and the female. Further, the environmental conditions too are favourable for greater visibility during this period. This annual survey is part of the ambitious Project Nilgiri Tahr launched by the state government in 2023 with an outlay of Rs 25.24 crore for species recovery through scientific and evidence-based methods, including radio collaring, drone surveillance and community engagement. The Nilgiri Tahr plays a vital role in the conservation of grasslands and water conservation. Shrinking habitat, forest fires and infrastructure development and spread of invasive plant species as well as poaching are the threats faced by this endangered species.



MSDE Organises Workshop on the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation with State Government officials

(Gns). Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised a day-long workshop with senior officers from the State Governments of Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Telangana and of the UT of J&K at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. Theme for the day long workshop was the “National Scheme for ITI Upgradation”. The workshop was also attended by senior officers from MSDE, DGT, NCVET, NITI Aayog. The workshop also witnessed participation from the World Bank and ADB who are co-financing the Scheme. Detailed presentations were made by the DGT on the broad contours of the Scheme, sNCVET and American Welding Society. The workshop also provided a platform to discuss the integration of education and vocation as envisioned in NEP 2020. Shri Rajit Punhani, Secretary, MSDE reiterated the Government's commitment to roll out the Scheme at the earliest. He also emphasized the need for pro-active participation from all the States to realise the vision of the Scheme which reflects the overall intent of the government to create a framework for government owned, industry managed skilling institutions operated through a new institutional structure. He further stated that there is a need for the state government to identify suitable ITI clusters that can be developed under



Multi-State Cooperative Societies

(Gns). Ministry of Cooperation has set up three national-level multi-state cooperative societies; one each for Exports, Organic produce and quality seeds. These Societies have been registered under MSCS Act, 2002. The cooperative societies of all levels, PACS to Apex, interested in specified activities, are eligible to become their member. The details are as under: National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL): NCEL will focus on exporting the surpluses available in the Indian cooperative sector by accessing wider markets beyond the geographical contours of the country, and fetch best possible prices for such products/services. The society will also help in arranging finance, provide technical guidance, help in training and capacity building, develop and maintain market intelligence system, implement related government schemes and undertake any other such activities to increase exports from the cooperative sector and other related entities. Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL): BBSSL has been set up to undertake production, procurement & distribution of quality seeds under the brand name 'Bharat Beej', and develop a system for preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds. BBSSL would help in increasing the production of quality seeds in India, thereby reducing the dependence on imported seeds, enhancing agricultural production, providing a boost to the rural economy, promoting “Make in India” and leading to Atmanirbhar Bharat. The society will focus on production, testing, certification, procurement, processing, storage, branding, labelling and packaging of all two generations of seeds i.e., foundation and certified, by leveraging various schemes and policies of different ministries of Government of India. BBSSL will achieve its objectives by leveraging the strength of the network of cooperatives. This will help in achieving the goal of "Sahakar-se-Samridhi" through the inclusive growth model of cooperatives, where the members would benefit by the realization of better prices through production of quality seeds, higher production of crops by use of High-Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds and also by dividend distributed out of the surplus generated by BBSSL. National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL): NCOL has been set up to undertake and provide aggregation, branding and marketing of organic products through facilitating various activities including certification, production, testing, procurement, storage, processing, labelling, packaging, logistic support, etc of organic products.



Who Was Satyapal Malik? A Rebel In The Raj Bhavan Who Watched Article 370 Fall

(Gns). Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik passed away on August 5 after a prolonged illness at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi. He was aged 79. Who Was Satyapal Malik? Malik's political journey spanned more than five decades, crossing party lines and encompassing key legislative and gubernatorial roles. Known for his outspoken views and grassroots connect, he remained a prominent figure in Indian politics till his final days. Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik, aged 79, passed away on August 5 at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi after a prolonged illness; his political career spanned over five decades, including roles as governor in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, and Meghalaya. Born on July 24, 1946, in Hisawada village of Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, Malik came from a Jat farming family. His political activism began early - during his student days at Meerut University, where he served as the president of both the college and university student unions. He held degrees in science, law, and a diploma in parliamentary affairs. Malik first entered electoral politics in 1974, winning a seat in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly from Baghpat on a Bharatiya Kranti Dal ticket under the leadership of Chaudhary Charan Singh. He rose swiftly through the ranks and served as General Secretary of the Lok Dal during the Emergency. In 1980, Malik entered the Rajya Sabha and later briefly joined the Congress in 1984. He resigned in 1987 over the Bofors scandal, co-founding the Jan Morcha with V.P. Singh. In 1989, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Aligarh as a Janata Dal candidate and briefly served as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism in the V.P. Singh government. He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2004 and served as its National Vice-President until he was appointed as a Governor. A Governor Across Four States Satyapal Malik held gubernatorial roles in four Indian states during his later political career. He was first appointed Governor of Bihar in September 2017, and briefly held additional charge of Odisha. In August 2018, he was appointed the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, where he oversaw one of the most significant constitutional events in India's history - the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.



Baby crocs break out of eggshells; mingle in wild in Odisha's Bhitarkanika national park

(Gns). More than 1,500 baby saltwater crocodiles have broken out of their eggshells to make their way to water bodies in and around Odisha's Bhitarkanika national park, thus re-establishing the region as the country's largest habitat of these animals, officials said on Tuesday. Bhitarkanika, according to forest officials, houses around 70 per cent of India's estuarine crocodile or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975. The saltwater crocodile population in Bhitarkanika has increased manifold from 96 in 1975 to 1826 so far. The mortality rate of baby crocs is exceedingly high. Female crocodiles lay 50 to 60 eggs, and the hatchlings usually emerge from the nests after a 70 to 80-day incubation period. diles were spotted in the national park. The reptiles build nests by the mangrove twigs, leaves, and mud on high ground, which is free from watery inundation during the rainy season. Crocs build nests at a place where they can get direct sunlight, he said. The sight of baby crocs breaking out of eggshells and their act of loitering aimlessly before hopping into the water bodies and



creeks was a visual treat to watch. The emergence of hatchlings has commenced for the past two days and would continue for a fortnight, said Manas Das, Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) of the national park. The ground-level staff engaged in maintaining watch and vigil of the nests were privileged to watch the rare natural phenomenon. The fledgling crocs emerged from the shells sans mothers. However, the forest personnel maintained a safe distance from the nests as human interference turns the reptiles violent and aggressive. The wildlife sanctuary had been kept out of bounds for tourists and visitors from 31 May and was later lifted on July 31 to