

**DIA, DEOGHAR IAS ACADEMY**

# **Daily News Feed**

---

**D.N.F**

**09.09.2025**

**Sabaijor Complex, Near Jamunajor Pul, Castair  
Town**

**Deoghar, Mob: -9162500508**



# SC orders poll panel to accept Aadhaar as ID

EC ordered to instruct officials in Bihar to accept Aadhaar during special intensive revision of rolls

The judges clarified that Aadhaar would be used as proof of identity and not as evidence of citizenship

The EC is penalising officers accepting Aadhaar, this amounts to gross contempt, says Kapil Sibal

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Monday directed the Election Commission to include Aadhaar as the 12th "indicative" document that those seeking inclusion or exclusion of names on the electoral rolls of Bihar could file as proof of identity during the special intensive revision.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydip Bagchi clarified that the use of Aadhaar would strictly be as proof of identity, and not as evidence of Indian citizenship.

The EC officials are entitled to verify the "authenticity and genuineness" of the Aadhaar submitted to them, just the way they would do in the case of the other 11 documents, the court noted in the order.

"Apart from passport and birth certificate, none of the 11 documents you [EC] have listed for SIR are conclusive proof of citizenship. The petitioners are also agreeing that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship. Statutorily also Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship. Then why can't you add Aadhaar too in the list? This court has asked you several times to consider Aadhaar... Why are you not?" Justice Bagchi asked the EC's counsel, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi.

The court ordered the EC to issue instructions to officials, from Electoral Registration Officers to booth-level officers (BLOs), working on the ground in poll-bound Bihar, to accept Aadhaar from persons filing claims or objections.

Approximately 65 lakh voters, out of a total 7.89

## Go-ahead for Aadhaar

The Supreme Court has allowed the use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar

■ The court takes note that despite its repeated directives, booth-level officers were refusing to accept Aadhaar

■ It directs EC to publicise the order to inform voters that they can use Aadhaar

■ Document should be used only as proof of identity or residence, and not as evidence of citizenship

The petitioners are also agreeing that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship. Then why can't you add Aadhaar too in the list?

JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI to EC

crore in the State, were excluded from the draft rolls published on August 1.

The deadline for filing claims to include names and file objections to exclude names for reasons such as death, permanent shifting, and duplication, was September 1. The EC, on September 2, clarified that these were welcome

even beyond the deadline.

On July 10, the Supreme Court urged the EC to consider accepting Aadhaar as a document of identity during the SIR. Again, on August 14, the court formally directed the use of Aadhaar as a proof of identity and residence. Finally, on August 22, in response to complaints that the EC

was still not accepting Aadhaar as a valid proof of identity or residence during the claims-and-objections period, the court clarified that voters excluded from the draft electoral roll could attach either Aadhaar card or any of the 11 "indicative" documents.

## BLOs at refusal

On Monday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Bihar's main Opposition party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, said the BLOs were refusing to accept Aadhaar from claimants despite these back-to-back orders from the top court.

"Your Lordships had clearly said several times that Aadhaar can be used as an alternative to any of the 11 documents. BLOs are still refusing. The EC is penalising officers for accepting Aadhaar and issued show-cause notices to

BLOs who have allowed Aadhaar... Disciplinary proceedings have already started against these officers. There are no instructions from EC to officers to accept Aadhaar despite separate orders by this court... I have 24 affidavits from people from various districts who were unsuccessful in giving Aadhaar. The EC's conduct amounts to gross contempt of this court's orders... We want Aadhaar to be used as proof of residence or identity, so that a person can vote. We want only 11 documents plus Aadhaar," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Mr. Dwivedi countered that Aadhaar could not be accorded the same status as a passport. Besides, he contended that over 99% of the excluded voters had already submitted their claims and objections, disproving the petitioners' argument that people did not have any of the 11 documents. Mr. Dwivedi said none of the political parties had pointed out any errors with the SIR process.

Justice Kant said Aadhaar was like any other official document. Both statutes and judicial dictum did not consider Aadhaar as proof of citizenship.

Justice Bagchi said Aadhaar was not "alien" to the Representation of the People Act. "One of the provisions of the Act, in fact, allows Aadhaar as proof of residence," the judge said.

The court orally asked Mr. Dwivedi to give "publicity" to the judicial order so that aggrieved voters would come to know and file their claims and objections along with Aadhaar, if need be.

The case is listed for further hearing on September 15.

## SC Orders EC to Accept Aadhaar in Bihar Electoral Rolls

English:

The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to accept Aadhaar as one of the documents for inclusion/exclusion of names in Bihar's special revision of rolls. Aadhaar is to be used as proof of identity, not citizenship. The order comes after reports that booth-level officers refused Aadhaar despite repeated SC instructions. The case will be heard again on September 15.

हिन्दी:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चुनाव आयोग को निर्देश दिया कि बिहार की विशेष मतदाता सूची संशोधन प्रक्रिया में आधार को पहचान पत्र के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाए। न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि आधार नागरिकता का प्रमाण नहीं होगा, केवल पहचान का। बूथ स्तर अधिकारियों द्वारा बार-बार इनकार करने पर कोर्ट ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया। अगली सुनवाई 15 सितंबर को होगी।

# At least 19 killed in Nepal protests; Sharma Oli govt. revokes social media ban

**Sanjeev Satgainya**  
KATHMANDU

At least 19 people were killed and over 300 injured in Nepal on Monday after protests erupted in cities across the country, triggered by a sweeping social media ban imposed by the K.P. Sharma Oli government. In Kathmandu, the police fired rubber bullets and live rounds at a demonstration. The government revoked the ban late at night.

Led by Nepal's tech-savvy "Gen Z" generation, thousands poured into the streets of Kathmandu and other major cities to protest "corruption, nepotism, and misgovernance" of the Oli government, following the ban on social media platforms imposed on Thursday. Protesters rallied in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Butwal, Dharan, Ghorahi, Itahari, and elsewhere after the government cited failure to comply with Nepal's mandatory registration requirements to ban over two dozen platforms, including X, Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Free speech advocates had alleged the ban was an attempt to silence dissent.

A Cabinet meeting held in the evening decided to form an inquiry committee to investigate the day's events.

A statement released by Mr. Oli defended the social media ban and blamed "infiltrators" for the violence. He also expressed sorrow over the deaths during the protests.

Earlier, Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak resigned over the developments.

At Maitighar, in the heart of Kathmandu, demonstrators started gath-



The police using water cannon on protesters during clashes outside the parliament building in Kathmandu on Monday. AP

ering from Monday morning, and as time passed, the protest grew bigger.

They marched towards the Federal Parliament building in New Baneshwor, and broke through the police cordon to enter the premises while chanting slogans against the leaders, including Mr. Oli, and demanding he "leave the country".

Kathmandu's Chief District Officer issued a notice stating that the police would fire shots if government property was targeted, which was immediately met with fierce opposition. Nevertheless, the police used water cannons and fired live bullets, leading to the deaths of young protesters.

In his statement, Mr. Oli said the government did not intend to block or ban any social media sites permanently, but the decision was made after the platforms failed to comply with Nepal's registration requirements. "The families of the deceased will be provided compensation, and the injured will receive free treatment," he said in the statement. "Today's incident will be thoroughly investigated."

A curfew was imposed in the capital till 10 p.m. A Cabinet meeting made the

decision to lift the social media ban, said Minister for Communications and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung, who is also the government spokesperson. Following the decision, platforms like X, Facebook, and WhatsApp were gradually restored in Nepal.

## 'State brutality'

Many observers criticised state brutality, which they said was on a scale far greater than that seen during King Gyanendra's regime 19 years ago.

Yadav Devkota, a public intellectual, said, "It was a protest by youngsters and schoolchildren, which did not have any political agenda, but the ruling class reacted violently, and it is highly condemnable."

"Corruption, crony capitalism, and extractive politics have frustrated a big chunk of Nepalis. Members of Gen Z have been disenchanted for quite a while, feeling that misgovernance is robbing them of their future," said Mr. Devkota.

Protesters in Kathmandu said they were not guided by any political party or group.

(Sanjeev Satgainya is a journalist based in Kathmandu)



## Nepal: Protests Over Social Media Ban Leave 19 Dead

### English:

In Nepal, mass protests erupted after the Oli government banned major social media platforms like X, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram. The ban, citing non-compliance with registration rules, triggered Gen-Z-led protests across cities. Police fired live rounds; 19 were killed, 300 injured. The ban was later revoked.

### हिन्दी:

नेपाल में ओली सरकार द्वारा एक्स, फेसबुक, व्हाट्सएप, इंस्टाग्राम जैसे सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के बाद बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए। पंजीकरण नियमों का पालन न करने का कारण बताते हुए लगाया गया प्रतिबंध युवाओं के नेतृत्व में हुए प्रदर्शनों में बदल गया। पुलिस गोलीबारी में 19 लोगों की मौत हुई, 300 घायल हुए। बाद में प्रतिबंध हटाया गया।

# French PM Bayrou, who sought to cut debt, is ousted by Parliament in confidence vote

Agence France-Presse

PARIS

France's Parliament on Monday ousted the government of Prime Minister Francois Bayrou after just nine months in office, leaving President Emmanuel Macron scrambling to find a successor and plunging the country into a new political crisis.

Mr. Bayrou, who has been in the job for just nine months, had blindsided even his allies by calling a confidence vote to end a lengthy stand-off over his austerity Budget, which foresees almost €44 billion of cost savings to reduce France's debt pile.



Protesters with placards reading 'Bye Bye Bayrou' during 'Bayrou's farewell party' protest in Nantes, France, on Monday. REUTERS

Mr. Bayrou, is the first premier in the history of modern France to be ousted in a confidence vote rather than a no-confidence vote. In the National Assembly, 364 deputies

voted that they had no confidence in the government, while just 194 gave it their confidence. "In line with Article 50 of the constitution, the Prime Minister must submit the resigna-

tion of his government," Speaker Yael Braun-Pivet said. Mr. Bayrou is the sixth Prime Minister under Mr. Macron since his 2017 election but the fifth since 2022. Mr. Bayrou's ousting leaves the French head of state with a new domestic headache at a time when he is leading diplomatic efforts on the Ukraine war.

But defending his decision to call the high-risk confidence vote, Mr. Bayrou told the National Assembly, "The biggest risk was not to take one, to let things continue without anything changing... and have business as usual."

Describing the debt pile as "life-threatening" for

France, Mr. Bayrou said his government had put forward a plan so that the country could "in a few years' time escape the inexorable tide of debt that is submerging it".

"You have the power to overthrow the government", but not "to erase reality", Mr. Bayrou told the MPs in a doomed final bid to save his government before the vote.

Mr. Macron now faces one of the most critical decisions of his presidency – appoint a seventh Prime Minister to try to thrash out a compromise, or call snap elections in a bid to have a more accommodating Parliament.

## French PM Bayrou Ousted in Confidence Vote

### English:

France's PM François Bayrou was ousted after losing a confidence vote over austerity budget plans. 364 MPs voted against him. President Macron must now either appoint a 7th PM or call snap elections. This adds to political instability amid Ukraine war diplomacy.

### हिन्दी:

फ्रांस के प्रधानमंत्री फ्रांस्वा बैरू को विश्वास मत हारने के बाद पद से हटना पड़ा। उनकी मितव्ययिता बजट योजनाओं के खिलाफ 364 सांसदों ने मतदान किया। राष्ट्रपति मैक्रों को अब या तो सातवें पीएम की नियुक्ति करनी होगी या समय से पहले चुनाव कराने होंगे। यह कदम यूक्रेन युद्ध के बीच राजनीतिक अस्थिरता बढ़ाता है।



# AAP seeks ₹20,000-cr. Central package ahead of PM's visit to Punjab

State Cabinet decides to give compensation of ₹20,000 per acre for crop damage in the floods; Modi to visit Himachal Pradesh, Punjab today in trip that includes aerial survey, review meetings

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

**A** day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to flood-affected Punjab, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday asked him to come with a ₹20,000-crore relief package, saying "mere flood tourism" won't help the State.

Cabinet Minister and AAP Punjab president Aman Arora came up with the demand while alleging that the State BJP leadership and Union Ministers had "already overexploited the photo ops".

Punjab is currently facing one of its worst flood disasters in decades. The death toll due to the devastating floods stands at 51 while crops on 1.76 lakh hectares have been damaged.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Arora said, "I warmly welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is coming to visit flood-affected areas of



Security personnel and volunteers using sandbags to repair a broken embankment at a flood-hit village in Amritsar district on Monday. PTI

Punjab, but I would humbly request him not to reduce the crisis to mere flood tourism for photo opportunities. The Prime Minister must come up with a financial package if he considers Punjab an integral part of India and he really cares about Punjab," he said.

He emphasised the need for a special relief package to support the State's flood-battered economy considering Pun-

jab's significant contribution to India's food security.

The Punjab Cabinet on Monday decided to give a compensation of ₹20,000 per acre for crop damage in the floods in the State. It also gave a nod to a scheme - 'Jisda Khet, Usdi Ret' - whereby farmers will be allowed to extract and sell sand deposited in their fields after floods.

The decisions in this regard were taken in a Cabi-

net meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann from a hospital in Mohali where he had been admitted after he complained of exhaustion and low heart rate.

## PM itinerary

Former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar on Monday said he was hopeful the Prime Minister's visit would bring the much-needed relief to the State. Meanwhile, the Indian Army has been carrying out extensive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in Punjab, deploying 48 rescue columns, saving 10,000 civilians, offering medical assistance to 4,700 people, and delivering 12,500 kg of essentials.

Mr. Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday and then conduct an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Punjab besides and chairing a review meeting in Gurdaspur on the ground situation. He will also interact with flood-affected persons.

## Punjab Floods: AAP Seeks ₹20,000 Cr Relief Before PM's Visit

English:

Ahead of PM Modi's visit, Punjab CM and AAP demanded a ₹20,000-crore relief package for devastating floods that killed 51 people and damaged crops on 1.76 lakh hectares. State Cabinet announced ₹20,000/acre compensation for crop loss. Army deployed for rescue and relief.

हिन्दी:

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की पंजाब यात्रा से पहले आप सरकार ने राज्य के बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के लिए ₹20,000 करोड़ के राहत पैकेज की

मांग की। अब तक 51 लोगों की मौत और 1.76 लाख हेक्टेयर फसल नष्ट हो चुकी है। कैबिनेट ने फसल नुकसान पर प्रति एकड़ ₹20,000 मुआवजे की घोषणा की। राहत और बचाव में सेना भी तैनात है।

# Issue Kunbi caste certificates before Sept. 17: Jarange

**Snehal Mutha**

MUMBAI

Quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Monday demanded that the Maharashtra government implement the government resolution (GR) issued on September 2 and distribute Kunbi caste certificates to eligible members of the Maratha community before September 17, observed as Marathwada Liberation Day. Members of the Kunbi community receive quota benefits under the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) category.

Mr. Jarange-Patil warned that if the implementation of the GR is “sabotaged or interfered with” by OBC leaders, he would challenge the 1994 GR in court that granted reservation to the OBCs based on the Mandal Commission report. “If anything goes wrong, we will legally challenge and ensure that the court scraps the 1994 GR,” he told reporters in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar.

The demand comes amid talks by OBC leaders, including NCP Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, who opposes extending quota to Marathas under the OBC category. Mr. Bhujbal said the latest GR’s “structure is problematic for OBC reser-

vation” and threatened to challenge it in court. He added that 374 OBC communities are facing issues, with some protesting in villages. “If needed, we will do a large-scale protest.”

Mr. Jarange-Patil urged the government to establish three-member committees at the village level and instruct officers at the taluka level to distribute certificates immediately.

## **‘Will follow due process’**

However, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule clarified that certificates would be issued after following the due process, including submitting applications with required documents. He said a meeting of the Cabinet subcommittee on Maratha reservation will be held on September 10 to discuss the GR.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar held a meeting with Maha Vikas Aghadi allies, terming the GR “dangerous” and “unfair” to OBC communities. He urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the issue. In response, Mr. Bawankule asked Mr. Wadettiwar to raise concerns with the subcommittee and avoid politicising the issue.

## **Maratha Quota: Activist Demands Kunbi Certificates**

**English:**

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil demanded implementation of GR to issue Kunbi caste certificates before Sept 17. OBC leaders oppose it, fearing dilution of their share. The issue may escalate into legal and political battles.

**हिन्दी:**

मराठा आरक्षण कार्यकर्ता मनोज जरांगे-पाटिल ने 17 सितंबर से पहले मराठा समुदाय को कुनबी जाति प्रमाणपत्र देने की मांग की। ओबीसी नेता इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं, उन्हें अपने आरक्षण हिस्से में कटौती का डर है। मामला राजनीतिक और कानूनी टकराव की ओर बढ़ रहा है।



# Rajasthan High Court stays its single-Bench order cancelling S-I recruitment examination

**The Hindu Bureau**

JAIPUR

A Division Bench of the Rajasthan High Court on Monday stayed the August 28 order of a single-judge Bench cancelling the police sub-inspector recruitment examination of 2021. The exam was quashed on the ground of large-scale irregularities, including paper leak and the involvement of members of the State Public Service Commission (RPSC) in the scam.

Issuing notice to the State government on an appeal filed against the order, the court said the selected candidates would not be given the field posting till further orders. It was contended before the Division Bench that only a limited number of candidates were identified in

**It was contended before the Division Bench that only a limited number of candidates were involved with the paper leak**

connection with the paper leak, but scrapping the entire recruitment process would cause “irreparable harm” to others.

The Bench, comprising Justices Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Sanjeet Purohit, granted the stay on the operation and effect of the order after hearing the arguments of counsel for appellants Vikram Panwar and others.

The appellants, who were selected in the exam, sought that they be protected against the implementation of the single-

judge Bench’s order by interim measure.

The appellants contended that the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan police had already arrested those involved in the paper leak, making it possible to distinguish between tainted and genuine candidates. Cancelling the entire recruitment would be “illegal and unfair”, they said.

**Cabinet panel report**

The appellants’ counsel said the State government was also not in favour of cancelling the recruitments. A Cabinet Sub-Committee, which examined various aspects of the recruitment exam, had stated in its report that only 6.3% of examinees were found to be tainted in the SOG probe, while 93.7% appeared to be clean.

**Rajasthan HC Stays Cancellation of SI Recruitment**

English:

The Rajasthan High Court stayed a single-judge order that had cancelled the 2021 police sub-inspector exam over paper leak scams. The HC noted only 6.3% candidates were tainted, and scrapping the entire process would harm genuine candidates.

हिन्दी:

राजस्थान हाई कोर्ट ने 2021 पुलिस उप-निरीक्षक भर्ती परीक्षा रद्द करने के आदेश पर रोक लगा दी। न्यायालय ने पाया कि केवल 6.3% अभ्यर्थी ही घोटाले में शामिल थे और पूरी भर्ती रद्द करने से ईमानदार उम्मीदवारों को नुकसान होगा।

# Nitish Kumar hikes honorarium for 1.2 lakh anganwadi workers, helpers

**Amit Bhelari**

PATNA

Recognising their role in improving nutrition and living standards of children and pregnant women in the State, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday announced a hike in honorarium for anganwadi sevikas (workers) and sahayikas (helpers).

Over 1.20 lakh sevikas and sahayikas in the State will benefit from the move.

The Anganwadi Sevikas work at anganwadi centres run under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. ICDS, which functions under the Social Welfare Department, is concerned with



Anganwadi workers monitor the nutrition of children. FILE PHOTO

the implementation of schemes related to children in the age group of 0-6, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women. It delivers a package of services through anganwadi centres.

In a post on X, Mr. Kumar said, "Since the formation of the government in November 2005, we have been working on a large scale to improve the nutrition and health of pregnant women and children.

For this, six types of services are being provided through the ICDS scheme."

Ahead of the Assembly election, the State government had earlier announced a slew of decisions to hike honorariums and stipends of various personnel engaged in carrying out different schemes being implemented by the government.

In the past one month, the Nitish Kumar government hiked the honorariums for ASHA workers, Mamata workers, cooks, night watchmen posted in secondary/higher secondary schools, physical education and health instructors, and hiking social security pension.

## Nitish Kumar Hikes Honorarium for 1.2 Lakh Anganwadi Workers

English:

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar announced an honorarium hike for 1.2 lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers under ICDS scheme, improving welfare for women and children. Move seen as politically significant ahead of elections.

हिन्दी:

बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने 1.2 लाख आंगनवाड़ी सेविकाओं और सहायिकाओं का मानदेय बढ़ाने की घोषणा की। यह कदम आईसीडीएस योजना के तहत महिलाओं और बच्चों के कल्याण से जुड़ा है और चुनावी दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण माना जा रहा है।

# Parliamentary panel to be briefed ahead of EU-India FTA talks

**Suhasini Haidar**

NEW DELHI

As European Trade Commissioners head to Delhi later this week to fast-track Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks, the government will brief the parliamentary consultative committee on the discussions, including on contentious issues such as agricultural market access, and non-tariff barriers like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

The briefing comes close on the heels of the collapse of trade negotiations with the United States over issues such as opening the market for agricultural commodities, dairy and genetically modified crops, as well as ties with Russia. Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Commerce Ministry are expected to help build political consensus over FTA talks with European countries, which could also demand similar concessions from India.

According to sources, agreements signed in the past few months will be discussed during the briefing. This includes an FTA with the United Kingdom, and an agreement signed with Nordic countries last year, expected to go into force on October 1. However, these deals skirted the issues over agriculture and visas, focusing instead on areas that could be agreed on.

According to a notice sent out to members of the Shashi Tharoor-led Committee on External Affairs, the briefing by the government on "India and Europe Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges" will take place tomorrow, a day before European Union's trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic and agriculture commissioner Christophe Hansen arrive in Delhi on September 11 for talks beginning Friday.

EU trade negotiators are already in Delhi for preparatory meetings, where both sides are expected to agree on an accelerated plan for talks every month, so as to arrive at an FTA deal by the end of the year. In addition, a 28-member

**EU trade negotiators are in Delhi; both sides are expected to agree on accelerated plan for talks every month to arrive on an FTA deal by the end of the year**

delegation of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) that oversees the EU's foreign, security and defence policies will travel to Delhi from September 10-14.

"The visit builds on recent key milestones, including the EU College of Commissioners' visit to India in February, the inaugural EU-India Strategic Dialogue in June, and the upcoming EU-India Summit in early 2026," the European Union office in India announced on Monday.

While the visits by the trade negotiators and commissioners will focus on the FTA, the PSC is expected to push for India to play a more proactive role in the Ukraine conflict and reduce its processing of Russian oil that finds its way back to European markets.

The visits follow the U.S. decision to impose a total 50% tariff on Indian goods, including a 25% penalty tariff for the purchase of Russian oil, with threats of more "secondary sanctions" from the U.S. over the Ukraine conflict. While the EU has not imposed penalty tariffs on India, it has moved to sanction several Indian companies including Gujarat-based Nayara Energy, partially owned by Russian oil major Rosneft. As a result, Nayara Energy's oil purchases are being refused by shippers and insurers, even as the EU is preparing a 19<sup>th</sup> package of sanctions that will impose penalties on the European buyers of the refined-Russian products sold by Indian refineries.

Sources said the FTA negotiators have cleared about half of the 23-24 chapters in the final EU-India FTA, and they should complete the agreement by the end of 2025, or early next year.

*(With inputs from T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan)*



## India-EU FTA Talks: Parliamentary Panel Briefing

English:

European trade commissioners will visit Delhi to push FTA talks with India. Contentious issues include agriculture market access and EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Parliamentary consultative committee will be briefed before talks.

हिन्दी:

भारत-यूरोप मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) वार्ता को तेज़ करने के लिए यूरोपीय व्यापार आयुक्त दिल्ली पहुंचेंगे। कृषि बाज़ार तक पहुंच और यूरोपीय संघ का कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र (CBAM) मुख्य विवादित मुद्दे हैं। वार्ता से पहले संसदीय समिति को जानकारी दी जाएगी।

# Israeli Finance Minister visits India, signs bilateral investment treaty

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

Days after Israel intensified its ongoing military operation in Gaza Strip, India hosted Israeli Minister of Finance Bezael Smotrich, who held talks with his Indian counterpart, Nirmala Sitharaman, and signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement here on Monday. Mr. Smotrich is leading a delegation of Israeli officials that includes the Chief Economist of the Israeli Ministry of Finance, Shmuel Abramzon.

"The agreement we signed expresses our shared vision for innovative and secure economic development. This is a strategic step that will open new doors for both Israeli and Indian investors, strengthen Israeli exports, and provide businesses on both sides with certainty and tools to develop in the world's fastest-growing markets. India is a growing economic powerhouse, and cooperation with it is a tremendous opportunity for the State of Israel," said Mr. Smotrich



**Trade boost:** Bezael Smotrich and Nirmala Sitharaman during the signing ceremony in New Delhi on Monday. PIB/PTI

after signing the agreement with Ms. Sitharaman.

Mr. Smotrich's arrival in India coincided with the launch of a new phase of Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip as the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) are trying to evacuate the Gaza City in order to create a sanitised zone, which has million-plus civilians facing serious issues like bombing raids and starvation.

### Significant outreach

Mr. Smotrich's visit to India is a sign of significant outreach by Israel as he was banned by the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zea-

land, Norway and Canada in June this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs is yet to respond to a query from *The Hindu* about the visit but highly placed Israeli sources said that Israel is in the process of throwing open new sectors of its economy, especially the construction sector, which will generate investment and employment opportunities for Indians. Israel, which started the current military campaign after the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, has hired a large number of Indian blue collar workers in the last two years.

Mr. Smotrich also met Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who in a message said, "Our discussions focused on further strengthening trade and investment ties between our nations."

### New model

"A new Bilateral Investment Agreement signed by Israel's Minister of Finance Bezael Smotrich and India's Finance Minister will facilitate reciprocal investments between investors from both countries. Israel is the first OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] member state with which India has signed this strategic agreement, in accordance with India's new model for investment treaties," said the Israeli Ministry of Finance. Mr. Smotrich announced that the Israeli Ministry of Finance is examining the possibility of opening a representation office in India.

The Israeli Ministry further said that the new agreement will replace the previous agreement that was signed in 1996.

## India-Israel Bilateral Investment Treaty

English:

Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich visited India, signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement with FM Nirmala

Sitharaman. Israel is the first OECD country to sign under India's new investment treaty model. Visit comes amid Israel's Gaza offensive.

हिन्दी:

इजराइल के वित्त मंत्री स्मोद्विच ने भारत दौरे के दौरान वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण के साथ द्विपक्षीय निवेश समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। भारत के नए निवेश संधि मॉडल के तहत यह समझौता करने वाला पहला ओईसीडी देश इजराइल है। यह दौरा गाज़ा में इजराइली सैन्य अभियान के बीच हुआ।

## World needs stable environment for trade and practices must be fair, transparent: Jaishankar

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

The world is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade, and economic practices should be fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Monday, against the backdrop of increasing global concerns over Washington's tariff tussle.

In an address at a virtual BRICS summit, the Minister said India strongly believes that the international trading system's foundational principles of non-discriminatory and rules-based norms must be protected and that there is a need to create more resilient and reliable supply chains.

Mr. Jaishankar repre-



**Virtual meeting:** S. Jaishankar addresses the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

sented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the summit that saw participation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and several other leaders of the group.

It was convened by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss trade disruptions triggered

by U.S.' policies on trade and tariff. The U.S. slapped 50% tariffs on Brazilian exports like in the case of India.

### 'Balancing act'

Mr. Jaishankar's participation at the summit in place of Mr. Modi is seen as part of New Delhi's "balancing act" with the Trump admini-

nistration increasingly getting suspicious about the BRICS.

In his remarks, Mr. Jaishankar called for urgent resolution to ongoing conflicts, adding the Global South has experienced a deterioration in its food, energy and fertilizer security. However, the major focus of his speech was on trade.

"The international trading system is based on the foundational principles of open, fair, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, equitable and a rules-based approach with special and differential treatment for developing countries," Mr. Jaishankar said.

The Minister also said that the "state of the world today is a cause for genuine concern".

He listed devastating impact of the Covid pandemic, major conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and volatility in trade and investment flows as well as extreme climate events as some of the major challenges facing the globe in the last few years.

"In the face of these challenges, the multilateral system appears to be failing the world. That so many serious stresses are being left unaddressed is understandably having consequences for the global order itself," he said.

"It is this cumulative concern that BRICS is now discussing," he added.

The Minister argued that the working of international organisations in the last few years has witnessed "major shortfalls" in many areas.

### BRICS Summit: Jaishankar Calls for Fair Trade

English:

At a BRICS summit, EAM S. Jaishankar said global trade needs fairness, transparency, and resilience. He criticized U.S. tariff wars and highlighted Global South's struggles with food, energy, and fertilizer security.

हिन्दी:

ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन में विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा कि वैश्विक व्यापार में निष्पक्षता, पारदर्शिता और लचीलापन आवश्यक है। उन्होंने अमेरिका की टैरिफ नीतियों की आलोचना की और ग्लोबल साउथ की खाद्य, ऊर्जा और उर्वरक सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर जोर दिया।