



THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Economy

Trump imposes 25% tariff on imported cars; affected allies threaten retaliation

Reuters

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday unveiled a 25% tariff on imported vehicles, expanding a global trade war and prompting criticism and threats of retaliation from affected U.S. allies.

The new levies on cars and light trucks will take effect on April 3, the day after Mr. Trump plans to announce reciprocal tariffs aimed at the countries responsible for the bulk of the U.S. trade deficit. They come on top of duties already introduced on steel and aluminium, and on

Driving imports away

The table shows the shares of expenditure on imports of eight types of cars and trucks imported into the United States in 2022

Type	Quantity Share
Small cars	34.6%
Mid and large cars	10.2%
Luxury cars	42.5%
Small CUVs	46.8%
Mid and large CUVs	24.2%
SUVs	13.9%
Vans	10.6%
Pickups	0%



belled the tariffs a “direct attack” on Canadian workers and said retaliatory measures were being

wever, expect prices to initially rise and demand to fall, hurting a global auto industry that is already

KEY POINTS

- President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on imported vehicles, effective April 3, expanding the global trade war. The move, part of his strategy to reduce the U.S. trade deficit, has sparked criticism and threats of retaliation from countries like Canada, Japan, and the EU.
- With \$474 billion in automotive imports in 2024, critics warn the tariffs could harm businesses, raise prices, and hurt global demand, while Trump views them as a way to boost U.S. revenue and industry.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Defence

Tri-service exercise held in Arunachal takes integrated approach to surveillance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Army conducted a tri-service integrated multi-domain warfare exercise, 'Prachand Prahaar', in the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh from March 25 to 27, according to an official statement on





KEY POINTS

- The Indian Army conducted the 'Prachand Prahaar' tri-service exercise in Arunachal Pradesh from March 25–27, focusing on integrating surveillance, command, and precision firepower across services. Advanced platforms like UAVs, armed helicopters, and rockets were used for target engagement in a simulated modern battlefield.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Defence

U.S. defence ties — India needs to keep its eyes open

It is no state secret that the defence public sector undertakings have the Indian armed forces as their captive customers. In fact, with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, this dependence has only increased and has added to the stress of planners in the Indian Air Force (IAF) as they juggle with a depleting squadron strength in the IAF due to a poor production rate by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. After the IAF chief made his angst clear at the Aero India-2025 show in Bengaluru in February, there has been a flurry of media statements about how a reinvigorated environment is now geared up to supply Tejas MK1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) etc. This month, the handing over event of the first rear fuselage for the Tejas, made by a private manufacturer — with the Defence Minister and the IAF chief present — has also been highlighted in the media.

Even as the report of the Ministry of Defence committee looking into the IAF's needs (including



**Air Vice Marshal
Manmohan
Bahadur (retired)**

is former Additional
Director General,
Centre for Air
Power Studies

Russia, which contributes to 36% of its arms imports? The IAF's inventory of 270 Sukhoi Su-30 fighters, S-400 missile systems and similar big-ticket items for the Indian Army and the Indian Navy stand out against a positive affirmation.

Third, the frequent coinage of fancy-sounding new policies in India-U.S. relations in the past two decades should keep India on its toes *vis-à-vis* their demonstrated short shelf life. Whatever became of the 'Defence Technology and Trade Initiative' of 2012 which was much tom-tommed, and also said to bring in niche cutting-edge technology and usher in a new paradigm in defence cooperation? Are we sure that the end result of the recently announced framework for the 'U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership in the 21st Century' would be any different considering the tempestuous churn in American foreign policy with a transactional new U.S. administration under President Donald Trump?

then can Washington and New Delhi be true partners?

The indispensability factor can be tested by seeking answers to three pointers. First, are both parties equals, interchangeable and can blend seamlessly? Second, is a division of tasks possible for joint programmes? Third, can the expertise possessed by each nation complement and fill the gaps that exist in the other's capabilities? A truthful analysis of their respective defence research and development and manufacturing sectors shows that there is great asymmetry in the capabilities, and the follow up can only result in India's stifling dependency on the U.S.

But the same questions can be asked about the other relationships of India too, say with Russia, Israel or France. The answer lies in whether India has a political indispensability quotient in such strategic relationships or whether it is like the U.S.-Pakistan 'partnership' that broke when Islamabad outlived Washington's geo-political

KEY POINTS

- India's defense sector faces challenges with slow production and heavy reliance on arms imports. The IAF's focus on indigenous aircraft using U.S. engines raises concerns about dependency. The article questions the true nature of India-U.S. defense relations and emphasizes the need for India to protect its strategic autonomy.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-IR

Should the free movement regime between India and Myanmar remain? TII Premium

Updated - March 28, 2025 01:28 am IST

RAHUL KARMAKAR



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PRINT





KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar for security and demographic reasons. Experts argue this won't solve issues like smuggling and highlight the impracticality of building a fence due to terrain and local resistance.



GS 3-Space

LAUNCHED IN 2014, SPINNING OBSERVATORY PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT NEARLY 2 BN STARS, LEADING TO OVER 13,000 STUDIES

Gaia, European spacecraft that mapped the Milky Way for a decade, shuts down

KATRINA MILLER
MARCH 27

FROM ANCIENT star streams to the innards of white dwarfs, the Gaia space telescope has seen it all. On Thursday, mission specialists at the European Space Agency will send Gaia, which is low on fuel, into orbit around the sun, and switch it off after more than a decade of service to the world's astronomers.

Gaia has charted the cosmos since 2014, creating a vast encyclopedia of the positions and movements of celestial objects in

our Milky Way and beyond. It is difficult to capture the breadth of development and discovery that the spinning observatory has enabled. But here are a few numbers: nearly 2 billion stars, millions of potential galaxies and some 150,000 asteroids. These observations have led to more than 13,000 studies, so far, by astronomers.

Gaia has transformed the way scientists understand the universe, and its data has become a reference point for many other telescopes on the ground and in space. And less than a third of the data it has gathered has so far been released to scientists.

"It's something that is now underpinning almost all of astronomy," said Anthony Brown, an astronomer at Leiden University in the Netherlands who leads Gaia's data processing and analysis group.

"I think if you were to ask my astronomy colleagues, they couldn't imagine anymore having to do research without Gaia being there."

Launched in 2013, Gaia's primary goal was to reveal the history and structure of the Milky Way by building the most precise, three-dimensional map of the positions and velocities of 1



Deployment testing of Gaia's sun shield at Europe's spaceport in French Guiana, where the mission launched in 2013. *NYT*

billion stars. With only a fraction of that data, astronomers have estimated the mass of the halo of dark matter engulfing our galaxy and identified thousands of trespassing stars, ingested from another galaxy 10 billion years ago.

Measuring ongoing vibrations in the disk of the Milky Way has also led to evidence of an encounter with a satellite galaxy that orbits our own much more recently than scientists believed. That could be why the Milky Way appears warped when viewed from the side.

Gaia's reach extended be-

yond what can be gleaned about our galactic address. The spacecraft has helped observe moons orbiting other worlds in our solar system, captured starquakes and spotted hyperfast stars zipping across the Milky Way. Within its catalog of stars, astronomers have found hints of new planets and black holes, including the closest known to Earth. Cosmologists have used Gaia's records of pulsing stars to help measure the expansion rate of our universe.

"Gaia has been and will be incredibly important to our understanding of the cosmos," said

Lisa Kaltenegger, an astronomer at Cornell University who, in 2021, used Gaia's catalog to learn which alien worlds might be able to see us.

For more than 10 years, it has twirled slowly in space 1 million miles from Earth, where the gravity from our planet and the sun balance with the motion of the satellite. Twin telescopes, pointed in different directions on the spacecraft, scanned the sky, capturing optical light that streaked across its field of view. From this data, scientists inferred information about temperature, mass and chemical composition. *NYT*

KEY POINTS

- The European Space Agency (ESA) ended its Gaia mission on March 27, 2025, after over a decade of mapping the Milky Way. Launched in December 2013, Gaia measured the location and movement of stars, creating a detailed 3D map.



GS 3-Economy

India's deep sea challenge

Operating in the depths of the ocean is a challenge that India must embrace to maximise its economic potential and protect its security interests. This is more so given that China is the world leader in the field

EXPERT EXPLAINS



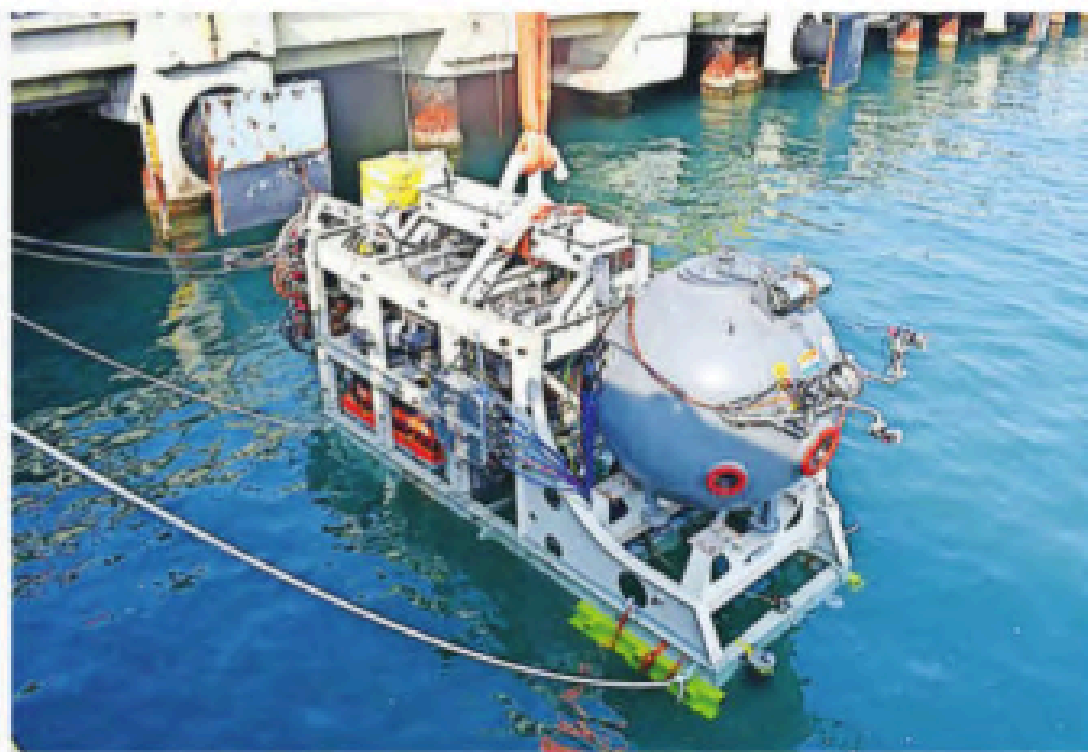
BISWAJIT DASGUPTA

LAST MONTH, India completed wet testing of its Matsya-6000 submersible, capable of diving up to 6 km below the surface to look for underwater minerals off the coast. The launch of the first deep-sea manned vehicle is planned for later this year — it will put India in a select group of nations with the capability to send humans to these depths.

Last week, China unveiled a compact deep sea cable-cutting device that can be mounted on certain submersibles — and which is capable of severing the world's most fortified underwater communication or power lines. China reportedly operates the largest fleet of submersibles in the world.

Deep sea challenge

The intense oceanic activity around the world over the past two decades has focused



Matsya-6000 has been developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology as part of the Samudrayaan Project under India's Deep Ocean Mission. PIB

tion of sound underwater.

Very low frequency (VLF) and extremely

and contribute to meteorological research.

It is essential to harness these resources to

ter that China has announced. The development of complex underwater sensors and response mechanisms to act against any such disruption will be crucial to tackling any threats from hostile actors.

What India must do

As for every niche technology, the essential prerequisites for developing deep sea tech are financial strength, academic and research capabilities, and highly qualified and skilled human capital.

It is not surprising, therefore, that China, France, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Korea, and the US are far ahead of the rest of the world in this area. Chinese investments in deep sea science and engineering centres are paying rich dividends today.

In 2018, the Indian government launched the Deep Ocean Mission under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The development of the Matsya-6000 submersible is a part of this mission. While this is welcome, the fact is India currently does not have even decent deep sea fishing capability — and needs to do much more.

The establishment of institutes of excellence in deep sea research will nurture academic excellence, expertise, and skill in

KEY POINTS

- India's Matsya-6000 submersible, capable of diving 6 km, positions the country to join a select group with deep-sea manned vehicle capabilities. With China advancing in deep-sea technologies, including a cable-cutting device, India must invest in ocean technologies, strengthen research, and establish a dedicated ministry for ocean development.





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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



GS3-Economy



Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

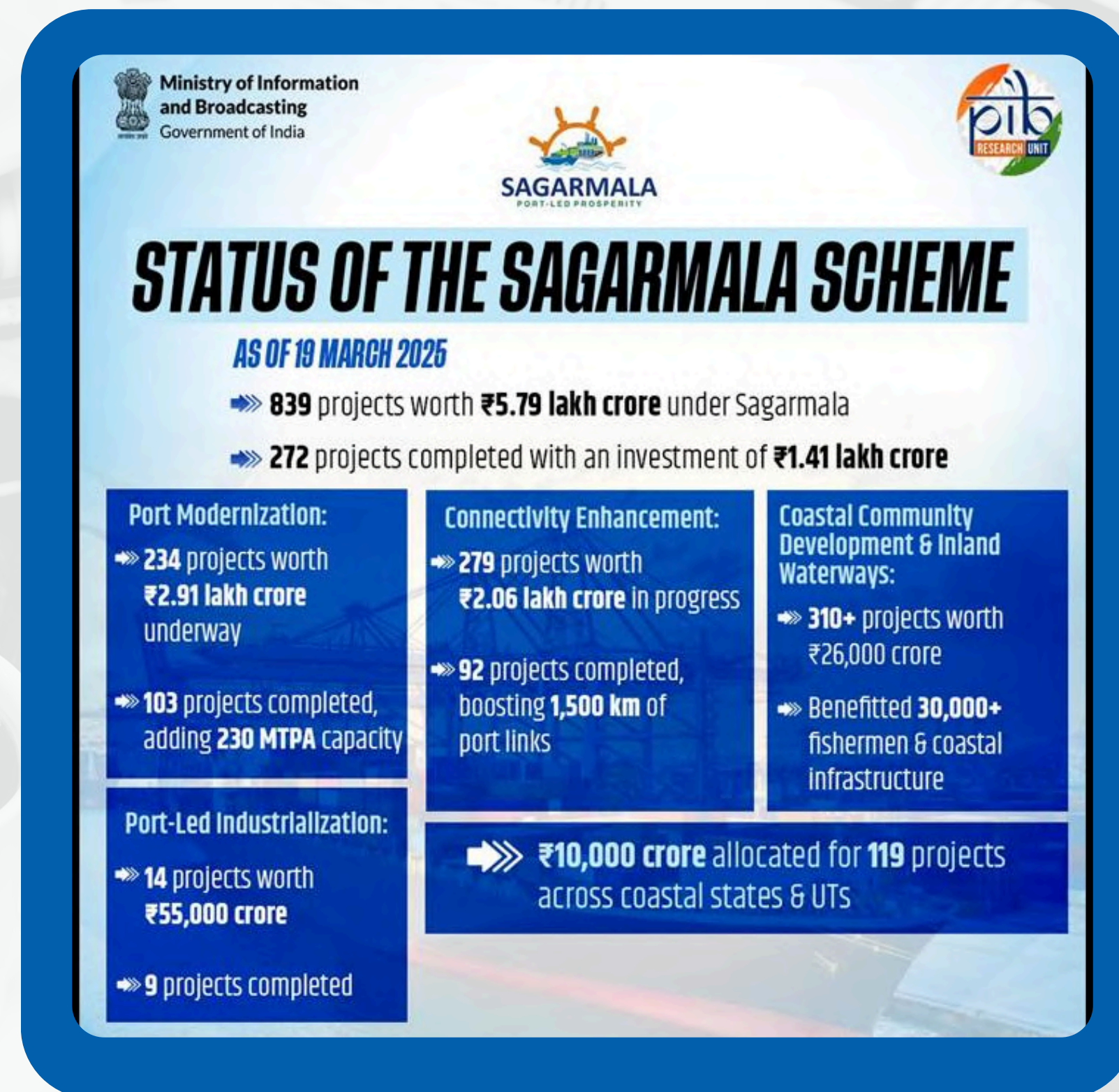
Sagarmala Programme

Powering India's Maritime Revolution

Posted On: 27 MAR 2025 6:51PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

- The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, aims to boost India's maritime sector by modernizing ports, enhancing logistics, and promoting sustainable development. It aligns with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, targeting India as a global maritime leader. With 839 projects worth ₹5.79 lakh crores, 272 have been completed by March 2025, involving ₹1.41 lakh crores in investment.





GS Paper 2-Governance


Applications Open For Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar; Apply By July 31





KEY POINTS

- Applications for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar are open from 1st April. Indian children aged 5 to 18 years (as of 31st July 2025) can apply for awards recognizing achievements in Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science, Technology, Environment, Arts, and Culture. The deadline is 31st July.


Government of India
Ministry of Women and child development

PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

**Ministry of Women and Child Development
Govt. of India
NOTICE**

This is for the information of the General Public that the process of receiving applications for the **PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR (PMRBP)** will commence on 01.04.2025 on the National Awards Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>). The awards are given to children who deserve recognition at the national level in the fields of **Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science & Technology, Environment, and Arts & Culture**.

Any child above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years (as on 31st July, 2025), who is an Indian Citizen and residing in India is eligible for the awards.

Nominations from any citizen will be received only through the National Awards Portal on <https://awards.gov.in>. Self-nomination & recommendations for the awards, both shall be considered. The last date for receipt of online applications is **31.07.2025**.

For more details, please visit the National Awards Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>).

CBC 46101/11/0013/2425



GS Paper 3-Economy

India Achieves Significant Milestone In Global Tea Industry, Becomes World's 2nd-Largest Exporter Of Tea In 2024



KEY POINTS

- In 2024, India became the world's second-largest tea exporter, reaching 255 million kilograms, a 10% increase from 2023. Major export markets include the UAE, Iraq, Iran, Russia, the USA, and the UK. India's renowned teas like Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri dominate exports, with black tea making up 96%.

