



THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Economy

India holds fire as Trump announces tariffs

U.S. President announces tariffs ranging from 10% to 49%; India hit with 27% tariff

India's Commerce Ministry 'examining the implications', will engage with stakeholders

EU, China, Canada vow countermeasures; Japan, South Korea term tariffs regrettable

Jagriti Chandra
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump launched a full-scale trade war on Thursday, announcing massive "reciprocal tariffs", ranging from 10% to 49%, on U.S. imports from its trading partners around the world. India was not spared and was hit with a 27% tariff on its exports to the U.S. despite ongoing talks for a trade agreement.

The tariffs sparked

that India – which he claimed imposed duties of 52% on the U.S. – would face a "discounted" tariff of 27% on its exports to the U.S.

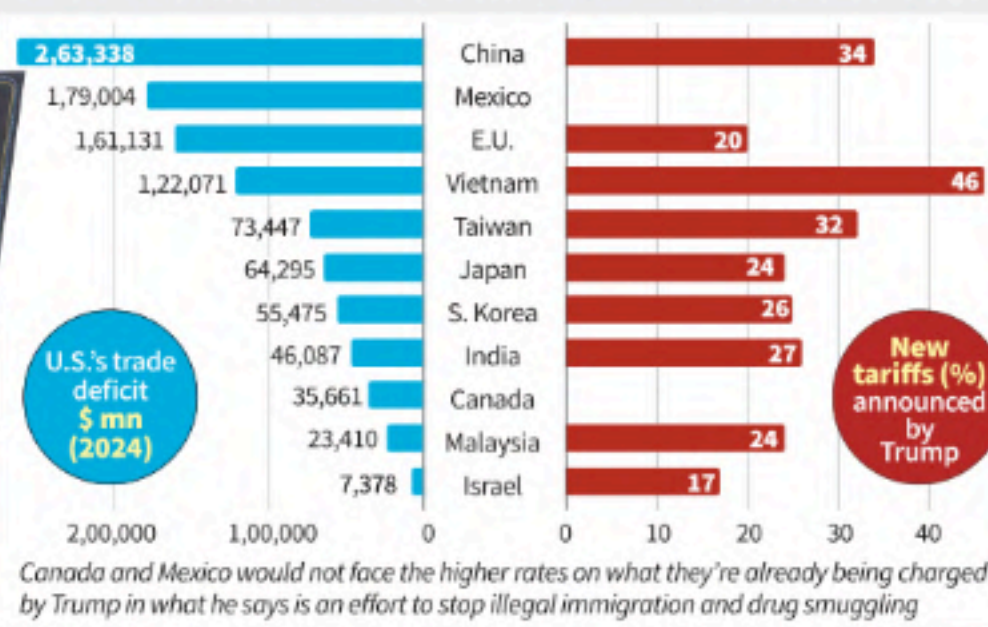
'Liberation day'

The tariff hikes, which Mr. Trump has said for weeks would herald April 2 as "Liberation Day" for the U.S., were considerably broader and higher than experts had predicted.

The U.S. President invoked his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to ad-

Raining tariffs

U.S. President Donald Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all U.S. trading partners, threatening to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars



Trump named India along with Thailand and Vietnam as examples of what he called "vicious attacks" on U.S. workers, using the tariffs on motorcycles as an example. In fact, the Modi government has lowered tariffs on foreign motorcycles down from 100% in 2017 in a series of cuts; in the latest Union Budget in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced those tariffs from 50% to 30%.

In the executive order Mr. Trump signed shortly after the announcement, the White House said that

KEY POINTS

- Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs of 10%–49% on imports, including a 27% tariff on India, triggering global market declines.
- India responded cautiously, highlighting ongoing trade talks and aiming for \$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.
- The tariffs may impact India's diamond sector but offer potential advantages over rivals.





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GS Paper 2-Governance

'Kerala, T.N., Bengal got no funds for Samagra Shiksha'

The three States were allocated ₹328.9 crore, ₹2,151.6 crore, and ₹1,745.8 crore, respectively, but funds have not been released, MoS for Education says while replying to MP John Brittas's query





KEY POINTS

- Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal received no funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan for 2024-25, impacting education services. Tamil Nadu's funds were withheld over disagreements with the Centre. A parliamentary committee urged immediate fund release.
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme aims to provide quality, inclusive education from pre-school to class XII, aligned with SDG 4 and NEP 2020.





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GS Paper 3-Economy

Kannadippaya gets GI tag, anchoring tribal handicraft on the global map

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Kannadippaya, a unique tribal handicraft from Kerala, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag ensuring market protection and a global platform for this traditional product.

GI tag has been awarded to the Unarvu Pattikavargha Vividodesha Sahakarana Sangam, Venmani, and the Vanasree Bamboo Craft & Vanavibhava Shekara unit, Uppukunnu, both in Idukki district. The recognition makes *kanna-*



Honouring tradition: *Kannadippaya* is the first tribal handicraft product from Kerala to receive a GI tag. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

mirror mat) from its reflective pattern.

Unique properties

Made from the soft inner

mer. The craft is preserved by the Oorali, Mannan, Muthuva, Malayan, and Kadar tribal communities and by the Ulladan, Ma-

Visvanathan of the Kerala Forest Research Institute and senior scientist A.V. Raghu played a key role in securing the GI tag for *kannadippaya*. Sunil P.V., member of Vanasree Bamboo Craft, expressed concern about the lack of a structured market for the product. C.R. Elsy, former head of the Intellectual Property Rights cell at the Kerala Agricultural University, who spearheaded the initiative emphasised the importance of reviving interest in the craft among younger generations. "Since eco-friendly pro-



KEY POINTS

- Kannadippaya, a unique bamboo mat from Kerala, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, making it the state's first tribal handicraft with this recognition. The mat has heat-regulating properties and is made by various tribal communities.





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GS Paper 2-Governance

LS passes Coastal Shipping Bill, set to boost maritime trade

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 on Thursday, creating a legal framework for coastal

Overarching goal of the Bill is to create a coastal fleet owned and operated by Indian entities



KEY POINTS

- The Lok Sabha passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, creating a legal framework for coastal trade in India. It aims to boost the maritime sector by promoting an Indian-operated coastal fleet, reducing reliance on foreign vessels, and lowering logistics costs.





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GS Paper 1-Art and Culture

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A congregation of 'oracles'



KEY POINTS

- The Kodungalloor Bharani festival at the Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple in Kerala, held annually during the Malayalam month of Meenam, features intense rituals like cock sacrifice and the Aswathy Kavutheendal. During the festival, oracles in red enter a trance, strike their heads with swords, and perform dances to honor Goddess Bhadrakali.





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GS Paper 3-Economy

Why are undersea cables important?

What are undersea cables? How do they connect internet networks globally? What is India's subsea cable ecosystem? What are some of the challenges in laying the cables in India? Why is India considered vulnerable to disruptions? How can it be improved?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

India is getting new cable landing systems coming online gradually. The latest addition is Airtel's 2Africa Pearls system, which has investments from Facebook parent Meta, adding 100 terabits per second of capacity to India's international bandwidth. Earlier this year, the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable was also landed in Chennai and Mumbai.

What are undersea cables?

Undersea cables are the main link connecting the world's internet networks. They connect internet service providers



Powering up: More cables land in Singapore, a small city-state, than they do in all of India. FILE PHOTO

well-mapped network of cables and

of the existing cable infrastructure's

internet experience so far, thanks to excess capacity built into other networks. But that may not always be the case. If several cables in the Red Sea are damaged, large parts of the internet may stop working, and there is only so much data that can be rerouted through other cable systems.

"Traditionally, most subsea corridors strangely have followed the trade routes of the past," Mr. Gupta said. "Rarely have subsea routes been built which are different from shipping routes, because back in the day, it was easier to follow the trade routes to be able to lay down your cables and make it work."

What can be done to bolster India's subsea cable infrastructure?

For one, the companies laying subsea cables complain of excessive permissions

THE GIST

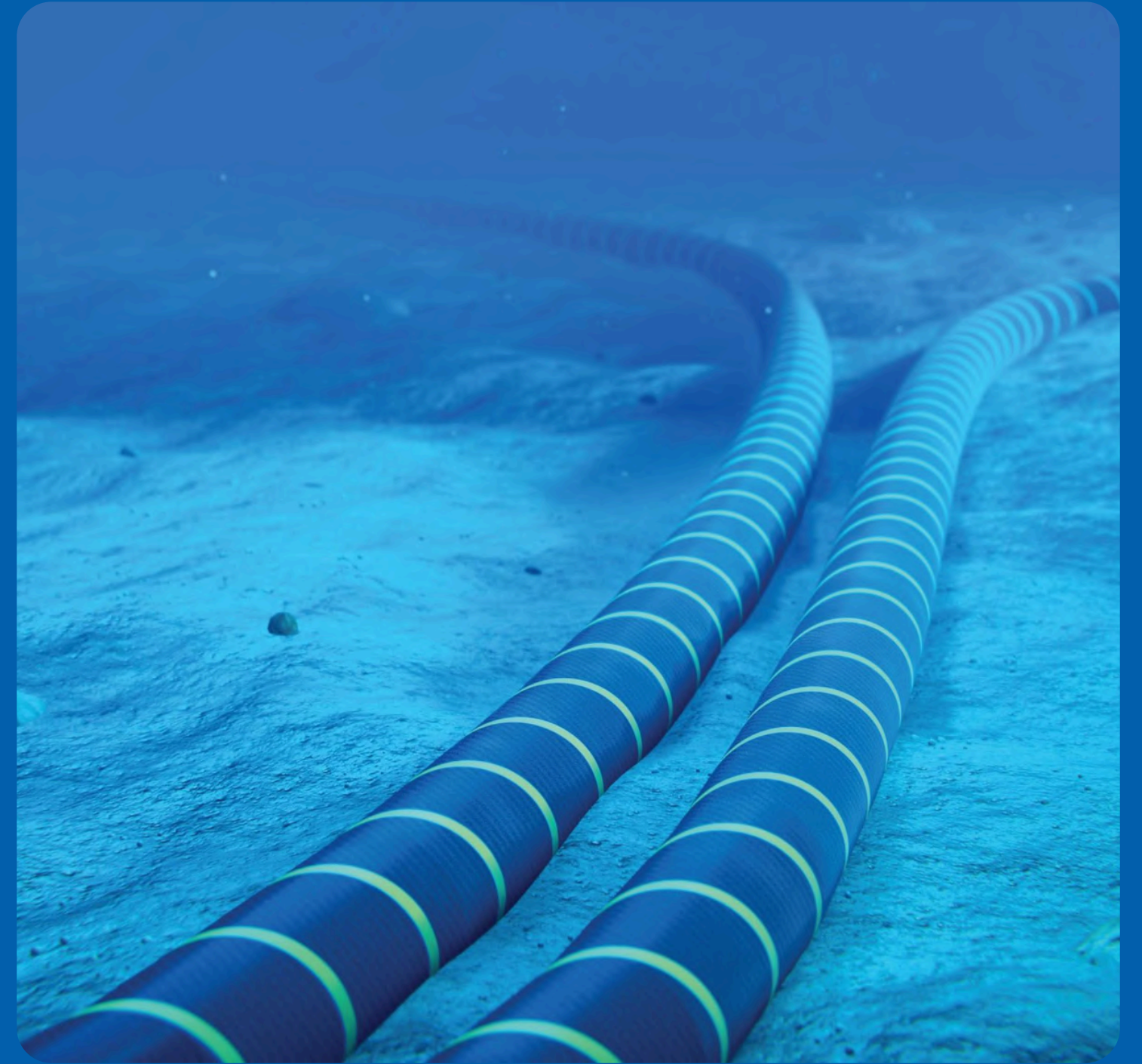
India has 17 international cable systems, mainly landing in Mumbai and Chennai, along with two domestic cable systems connecting island territories. However, its share in global subsea cable infrastructure remains low.

India's internet is highly dependent on a few key landing sites, making it vulnerable to disruptions such as Red Sea cable cuts. Fishing trawlers and the lack of domestic cable repair ships further threaten network



KEY POINTS

- India is expanding its undersea cable infrastructure with new systems like Airtel's 2Africa Pearls, adding significant bandwidth capacity. Undersea cables, critical for global internet connectivity, face challenges in India due to regulatory delays, vulnerability to disruptions, and lack of local repair resources.



GS 1-Places

AMONG TARIFFED: ISLANDS WHERE ONLY PENGUINS, US MILITARY LIVE

NO HUMAN is believed to have set foot on the Heard and McDonald Islands in nearly a decade.

The volcanic islands are one of seven external territories belonging to Australia, located roughly 4,100 km to the south-west of Perth, and 1,600 km to the north of the Antarctic coast. Covered in glaciers, and barren for the most part, the archipelago is among the most remote places on the planet, home to only penguins, seals, and seabirds.

Donald Trump has imposed a 10% tariff on imports from the Heard and McDonald Islands. Exactly what these imports might be is anyone's guess.

Not all that is baffling

The Heard and McDonald Islands are not the only baffling entry on Trump's list of "countries" on which the United States has imposed reciprocal tariffs. In the list are three other Australian external territories: Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas



anything to the United States," Norfolk Island Administrator George Plant, the Australian government's representative on the island, told the Associated Press. "We don't charge tariffs on anything. I can't think of any non-tariff barriers that would be in place either, so we're scratching our heads here."

Trump has also imposed a 10% tariff on the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), which comprises the Chagos archipelago, a group of low-lying islands in the Indian Ocean, between the Maldives

KEY POINTS

- Donald Trump imposed a 10% tariff on imports from the remote, uninhabited Heard and McDonald Islands, known for their wildlife and glaciers. He also placed tariffs on other Australian territories, including Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, and Norfolk Island.





GS Paper 2-IR

India & Thailand Ink Six Agreements In Various Fields During Bilateral Talks Between PM Modi And Thai PM Shinawatra



KEY POINTS

- India and Thailand signed six agreements on IT, maritime, MSME, and handicrafts, elevating their relationship to a Strategic Partnership. Prime Ministers Modi and Shinawatra discussed tourism, culture, education, and business ties. Modi supported ASEAN unity and a free Indo-Pacific, while highlighting shared cultural and historical ties.

