

ISRAEL'S DEFENCE MINISTER SUGGESTS AN INTERIM TRUCE BUT REFRAINS FROM COMMITTING TO ENDING THE WAR.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has indicated that the opportunity for a temporary cease-fire with Hamas, which could also ease tensions along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, is closing. He suggested that a six-week pause in fighting, including the release of hostages held in Gaza, is feasible but did not commit to a permanent end to the conflict, as Hamas demands.

Disagreements remain over Hamas's call for a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Additionally, Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu has introduced a new demand for Israel to maintain a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely. Gallant proposed a temporary withdrawal from this corridor to facilitate hostage releases, but Netanyahu and most ministers oppose this.

Gallant emphasized his priority as Defence Minister is Israel's security and the protection of its people, regardless of internal disputes.

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INDIA HAS OUTLINED A FOUR-POINT APPROACH TO RESOLVE THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar outlined a four-point principle for resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict, emphasizing the need for peace, that war won't resolve the issue, and that Russia must be involved in the peace process. Jaishankar did not commit to hosting a peace conference but affirmed India's engagement in seeking a resolution, evidenced by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's visit to Russia.

Jaishankar's comments followed a meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, ahead of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to New Delhi.

They discussed global issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Gaza situation, and coordinated on the UN Summit of the Future, including a joint push for expanding the UN Security Council.

While India has previously viewed the war as a European issue and resisted requests to cut oil imports from Russia, there is increasing Western pressure for India to mediate. Additionally, Jaishankar addressed economic ties with China, noting that while India is open to Chinese business, the terms are complex due to ongoing tensions.

Jaishankar and Baerbock also discussed enhancing the India-Germany migration partnership and expanding bilateral trade and investment. India will host the Asia Pacific Conference of German Business next month to support these goals.

NEW PORTAL OFFERS TECHNICAL TERMS IN 22 INDIAN LANGUAGES.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), part of the Union Education Ministry, has launched a new website, 'shabd.education.gov.in', offering technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages. This portal serves as a central repository for technical glossaries, including those from CSTT and other institutions.

Currently, the site features 450 dictionaries with three million words. Users can search for scientific and technical terms across languages, subjects, and specific glossaries, and provide feedback on existing entries. The platform supports efforts to enhance technical education in Indian languages by making terminology widely accessible.

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SHAH ANNOUNCES DEPLOYMENT OF 5,000 CYBERCOMMANDOS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

INTERNAL SECURITY



Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that cybersecurity is crucial to national security and revealed plans to train and deploy 5,000 cybercommandos across States over the next five years to counter cyber threats.

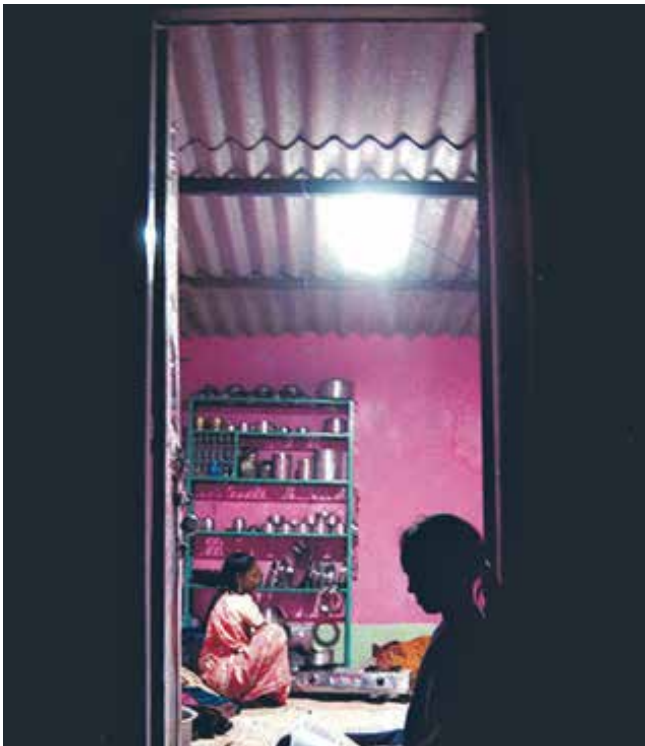
Speaking at the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) Foundation Day, Shah launched several initiatives, including the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC), the Samanvay platform, and the Cyber Suspect Registry. He emphasized the need for a national-level Cyber Suspect Registry to effectively combat cybercrime, as cybercriminals operate beyond state boundaries.

Rajesh Kumar, CEO of I4C, noted that the cybercrime helpline receives 67,000 calls daily and security agencies identify 1,500-2,000 fraudulent accounts each day. Shah highlighted the importance of a unified platform that

integrates banks, financial institutions, telecom companies, and law enforcement to tackle cybercrime, pointing out that internet users in India grew from 250 million in 2014 to 950 million in 2024.

STUDY FINDS VARYING BENEFITS OF ELECTRICITY ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS

POLITY & GOVERNANCE



An analysis of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana, which began in 2005 to improve electricity access in about 400,000 Indian villages, reveals that larger, more populous villages benefited more than smaller hamlets. The study by researchers from the University of Chicago and the University of Maryland found that villages with fewer than 300 people saw minimal economic gains, while those with around 2,000 people experienced significant increases in per-capita expenditure, doubling it by ₹1,428 a month due to full electrification.

The study highlights that while electricity boosts national GDP, its impact on small, remote villages is limited and often not cost-effective. Larger villages saw a 33% return on investment, far surpassing the cost-effectiveness benchmark, while smaller villages saw negligible returns. Researchers suggest that smaller solar home systems or minigrids might be more efficient for small, remote areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2018 that all villages were electrified, but providing 24/7 power remains a work in progress. The analysis uses 2011 Census data, as no new census data has been available since.

MODI CALLS FOR REMOVING OBSTACLES IN THE COUNTRY'S RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



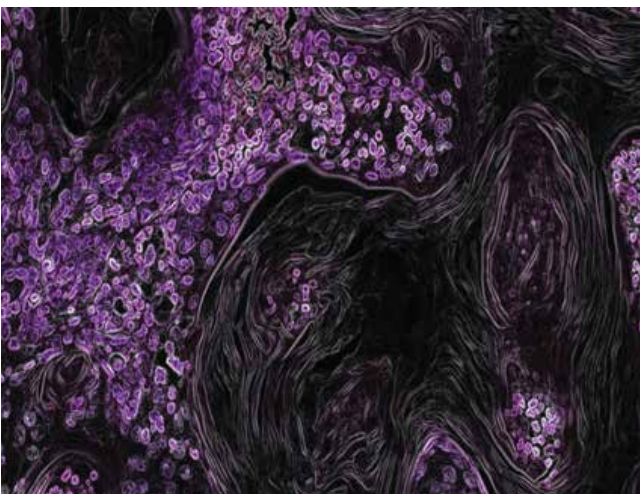
Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the inaugural meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) on Tuesday. He emphasized the need to overcome barriers in India's research ecosystem, set ambitious goals, and focus on innovative, localized solutions to global problems.

The governing board decided to implement a 'hub and spoke' model, pairing emerging research universities with leading institutions for mentorship. They also discussed strategic priorities for ANRF, including enhancing India's global positioning, aligning R&D with national goals, and bridging academic research with industry applications.

The ANRF, established to advance science and engineering research, aims to build a ₹50,000 crore corpus, with ₹36,000 crore expected from non-government sources. For this fiscal year, it has been allocated ₹2,000 crore in the Union Budget. The 15-member board includes Romesh Wadhvani, an American billionaire and former CEO of Symphony Technology Group, as its sole industrialist.

WEAK CANCER CELLS CAN DEVELOP INTO RESILIENT TUMORS WITH SUPPORT FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL CELLS.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Scientists have uncovered how cancer cells that should be less fit for survival can thrive and form drug-resistant tumors by leveraging their surrounding cells. Drug resistance, a major global issue, arises when pathogens or cancer cells mutate to evade treatment, but these mutations often reduce their overall fitness, creating a 'growth penalty' when not treated.

A new study, led by Jeff Maltas at Cleveland Clinic, reveals that the presence of ancestral, non-mutated cells can significantly enhance the growth of drug-resistant cells. By creating a mathematical model and conducting experiments with lung cancer cells, the researchers found that drug-resistant cells

grew slower in isolation but thrived when paired with their ancestral counterparts. This interaction nullified the growth penalty and enabled the resistant cells to proliferate more effectively.

The findings, published in the journal PRX Life, suggest that drug-resistant cells may be more prevalent than previously thought, even before treatment starts. The study highlights the importance of considering the ecological interactions within tumors for developing more effective therapies and could inform strategies for treating both cancer and infectious diseases.

CREDIT GROWTH SURPASSING DEPOSIT GROWTH COULD STRAIN LIQUIDITY.

INDIAN ECONOMY

India's banking system may face liquidity issues if credit growth continues to exceed deposit growth, according to a FICCI-IBA survey. Conducted from January to June, the survey reveals strong demand for long-term credit, particularly in infrastructure, metals, and engineering sectors. Notably, 77% of respondents reported increased long-term loans in infrastructure, likely due to the government's focus on capital expenditure.

The survey also indicates an optimistic outlook for non-food industry credit, with 62% of banks expecting growth above 12% in the next six months. Additionally, a shift toward higher-cost deposits is observed, with 67% of banks reporting a decline in CASA deposits as customers seek higher-yield investments.

IN DIESEL-RELIANT EAST TIMOR, THE SHIFT TO GREEN ENERGY PROGRESSES SLOWLY.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

East Timor faces a critical juncture in its energy development. The nation, one of the world's youngest and with a recent history of infrastructure destruction, has made significant progress in electrification, achieving 100% access by 2021. However, the country relies heavily on polluting diesel power and is grappling with the impending depletion of its gas fields, which fund its economy.

Despite strong renewable energy potential—especially in solar, hydropower, wind, and biofuels—transitioning from diesel to renewables is challenging due to high costs and financial constraints. The government aims to shift to natural gas and increase renewables to 50% of the energy mix by 2030 but has yet to implement these plans effectively.

President José Ramos-Horta has expressed commitment to exploring renewable energy sources, particularly solar, and called for international support to help East Timor navigate this transition and build resilience against climate change impacts.



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

—Benjamin Franklin

TOP U.S. DIPLOMAT DONALD LU SET TO VISIT INDIA AND BANGLADESH

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Donald Lu, will visit India and Bangladesh from September 10-16, according to the U.S. State Department.

In India, Lu will participate in the U.S.-India “2+2” Foreign and Defence Ministries’ intersessional dialogue. Jedidiah P. Royal, a top U.S. Defence Department official, will also attend the talks in New Delhi. The sixth annual 2+2 dialogue is scheduled to be held in Washington DC later this year with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin.

The dialogue aims to explore opportunities for enhancing U.S.-India defence cooperation and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific. It precedes Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the U.S. for the Quad summit and the UN’s “Summit of the Future.”

In Bangladesh, Lu will engage in an economic dialogue with the interim government on September 14-15, focusing on U.S. support for Bangladesh’s economic growth and stability. This visit marks a shift from the previous U.S. relationship with former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s administration.

SPACEX LAUNCHES FIRST PRIVATE SPACEWALK WITH ALL-CIVILIAN CREW

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



SpaceX launched its Polaris Dawn mission on Tuesday, featuring a four-member civilian crew for the first spacewalk by non-professionals. Led by Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman, the mission aims to reach a peak altitude of 1,400 km, marking the farthest human spaceflight in over 50 years.

The crew, equipped with advanced SpaceX EVA suits, is set to make history with their spacewalk and will briefly enter the Van Allen radiation belt on their journey. The mission, delayed multiple times due to technical and weather issues, will not dock with the International Space Station, requiring favourable

conditions for both launch and splashdown.

Isaacman, who previously funded the Inspiration4 mission, is leading this \$200 million project with a team that includes retired Air Force Lt. Col. Scott Poteet, SpaceX engineers Sarah Gillis and Anna Menon. The crew underwent over two years of training for the mission.

Polaris Dawn is the first of three missions in the Polaris program, which will test satellite communications and conduct 36 scientific experiments, including eye health monitoring with microelectronic contact lenses.



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