

CURRENTLY - FROM NEWS TO NOTES

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

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Day after violence in Ladakh, Centre sends special envoy, hastens talks process	The Indian Express Page 1
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MORE THAN 50 DETAINED

Day after violence in Ladakh, Centre sends special envoy, hastens talks process

FCRA licence of Sonam Wangchuk's organisation cancelled; Leh Apex Body signals ready for way forward



Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta chairs a high-level security review meeting. @KavinderGupta/X via PTI

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY after four protesters were killed and many injured in police firing in Leh, police detained over 50 people in raids across the city and booked a Congress leader accused by the BJP of instigating the stir, which was called in support of the demand for statehood and protections under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for Ladakh.

Separately, the Centre announced cancellation of the

FCRA licence of an organisation run by Sonam Wangchuk, the climate activist seen as the face of the protests. Action under the FCRA — or Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act — came in a case that was lodged two months ago, and followed a day after the government accused Wangchuk of provoking the violence.

New Delhi also dispatched a 'special envoy' to Leh Thursday to try and resolve the unprecedented situation. A six-member delegation (three each from Leh and Kargil districts) flew to Delhi

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The Indian Express, Page 1

Day after violence in Ladakh, Centre sends special envoy, hastens talks process

GS2 - Polity & Governance

Context

- Protests in Leh over statehood & Sixth Schedule led to violence (4 killed, 50+ detained).
- Govt cancelled FCRA licence of Sonam Wangchuk's NGO, accusing it of provoking protests.
- A special envoy sent to negotiate with Ladakh groups.

FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act):

- Regulates foreign donations to NGOs/associations.
- Enacted 1976, strengthened in 2010.
- Aim: prevent foreign influence in political, social, religious spheres.
- Implemented by: Ministry of Home Affairs.

When can licence be cancelled?

- Misuse of foreign funds.
- Threat to sovereignty, integrity, or public interest.
- False information or non-filing of returns.
- Political activity without approval.

Once cancelled, NGO cannot receive foreign funds for 3 years.



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Q1 Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

1. It regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions by individuals, associations, and NGOs in India.
2. The Act is implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs.
3. The licence of an NGO can be cancelled if its activities are against the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Delhi govt., IIT Kanpur sign MoU for artificial rain trials

Five trials planned from October 7-11 as emergency measure to combat rising air pollution; historic milestone, says CM; Sirsa alleges inaction by previous AAP govt.; experts warn against 'quick fixes'

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to conduct cloud seeding trials as an emergency measure to combat rising air pollution.

The first phase of the trial is scheduled between October 7 and 11 in north and north-west Delhi. Operations will be carried out using IIT Kanpur's Cessna 206H aircraft from the Hindon airbase at an estimated cost of ₹3.5 crore. Based on the results, the government will decide the future course of action.

A senior government official explained that the aircraft will fly beneath cloud cover and spray silver iodide, which interacts with existing water droplets to make them heavier and condense as rain.

'Delhi's first trials'

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, took part in the signing of the MoU.

Ms. Gupta told reporters that the government is deploying every possible measure to curb pollution. "From mechanical road



CM Rekha Gupta and Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa (centre) after signing the MoU on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

sweeping, using anti-smog guns and mist sprayers to strict dust control, we have taken multiple steps. Now, we are adding cloud seeding to provide relief during peak winter pollution. These will be Delhi's first artificial rain trials, a historic milestone for the city," she said.

Mr. Sirsa confirmed that five trial operations are planned within the October 7-11 window, depending on weather conditions.

"The aircraft is fully equipped, flown by trained pilots, and every operation will be assessed before moving to the next," the Minister said.

He also said approvals have been secured from 13 government agencies, including Aviation, Defence, Home, and Environment, as well as district administrations and meteorological bodies.

'Letters not enough'

Mr. Sirsa criticised the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, saying writing letters was not enough and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government worked to obtain all permissions. He added that IIT Kanpur has secured approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to conduct trials

between October 1 and November 30.

Efforts to introduce artificial rain in Delhi have been under discussion for years. The previous AAP government had initiated talks with IIT Kanpur, but the plan stalled, with then Environment Minister Gopal Rai alleging that the Centre did not respond to repeated requests for permissions. The BJP, after coming to power in February this year, revived the proposal. Trials were initially planned for July and later September, but both were postponed.

'Temporary measure'

Despite the preparations for trials, experts have raised doubts over the move. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director at the Centre for Science and Environment, said artificial rain is an "expensive temporary measure".

"Even if there is some rain, pollution levels will bounce back quickly during winter. We should focus on long-term solutions to reduce pollution at the sources," she said.

Ms. Roychowdhury said funds earmarked for these experiments should instead go towards ground-level implementation of emission reduction measures across sectors.

Context:

Delhi government and IIT Kanpur have partnered to conduct cloud seeding trials (Oct-Nov 2025) to create artificial rain and reduce smog, with DGCA approval.

Cloud Seeding:

A weather modification technique where substances are introduced into clouds to induce or enhance rainfall.

Working Principle:

Clouds with sufficient moisture are seeded with nuclei (ice-like or hygroscopic particles). These act as centers for condensation or ice formation, causing droplets/ice crystals to grow and fall as rain.

Important Compounds Used:

- Silver iodide (AgI)+ Potassium iodide: Ice-nucleating agent for supercooled clouds.
- Dry ice (solid CO₂): Rapidly cools and induces ice crystal formation.
- Salt particles (NaCl, KCl, etc.): Hygroscopic, used in warm clouds to promote droplet coalescence.



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2

Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide**
- (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide**
- (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate**
- (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride**

2025

Rajnath's Morocco visit marks new chapter in India-Africa defence ties

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's maiden visit to Morocco to inaugurate India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility has marked the beginning of a new chapter in the long-standing friendship between India and Morocco.

On Tuesday, Mr. Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister Abdelatif Loudyi jointly inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) state-of-the-art defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid. The plant will produce India's indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), making it a significant milestone in India's growing global defence footprint.

A senior Defence Minis-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart Abdelatif Loudyi at the inauguration of TASL's state-of-the-art defence manufacturing facility at Berrechid. PTI

try official described Morocco as a gateway to Africa and a potential market for Indian defence equipment. "There is a strong demand in Africa for small arms, bulletproof jackets, armoured vehicles, tanks, and helicopters. This is the right time for India to strengthen its presence in the African defence market

by also establishing Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities. Russia has traditionally been the major supplier to the continent, but the Ukraine conflict and subsequent sanctions disrupted its supply chains. Since India has long experience with Russian defence equipment as a major importer,

it has a better understanding of maintaining these systems," the official noted.

On India's defence outreach to African nations, Professor Harsh V. Pant, Vice-President - Studies and Foreign Policy at Observer Research Foundation, said, "India is expanding its defence outreach, particularly focusing on enhancing defence exports. Africa presents good opportunities due to historical links and strategic comfort levels with India. India straddles a unique position in global politics by not being part of either the U.S.-China or Russia-West binaries... Sanctions against Russia may create opportunities for India in the African market due to its neutral stance."



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Location + Bilateral ties

Context

Rajnath Singh made his maiden visit to Morocco to strengthen bilateral defence ties.

What India Has Started There:

- Inauguration of Defence Manufacturing Facility at Berrechid
- Set up by Tata Advanced Systems. India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit. Will manufacture:
- Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8×8 infantry combat vehicles.
- Armoured hulls and components for military vehicles.

36. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Sea</i>		<i>Bordering country</i>
1. Adriatic Sea	:	Albania
2. Black Sea	:	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	:	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	:	Morocco
5. Red Sea	:	Syria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



Defence

Context

- India successfully test-launched the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime missile from a rail-based mobile launcher under a full operational scenario.
- This was the first time India has used a rail platform for launching this missile, enhancing mobility, unpredictability, and survivability of its strategic assets.



RAIL-BASED AGNI-P TEST-FIRED

The Agni-Prime missile, which has a range of 2,000 km, is test-fired from a rail-based mobile launcher on Thursday. The successful test puts India in a select group of nations with 'canisterised launch systems' that can operate out of the rail network.

EXPLAINED, P14

SINGAPORE, THE NETHERLANDS, MAURITIUS, US, UAE KEY SOURCES OF FDI

Foreign direct investment into India in July at 50-month high of \$11.11 billion

SIDDHARTH UPASANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

EVEN BEFORE S&P Global Ratings upgraded its rating on India and the government announced a raft of measures to boost the economy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country had risen to the highest in over four years in July, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday. At \$11.11 billion, the gross FDI inflow in July was the highest since May 2021, when \$12.32 billion had come into the country on a gross basis.

In June, gross FDI inflows into India stood at \$9.57 billion, while the figure for July 2024, at \$5.54 billion, was half the latest number.

"Singapore, followed by the Netherlands, Mauritius, the US and the UAE, together accounted for more than three-fourth of total inflows. Manufacturing and services including communica-

HIGHEST SINCE MAY 2021



① **AT \$11.11 BILLION** the gross foreign direct investment inflow in July was the highest since May 2021, when \$12.32 billion had come into the country on a gross basis

② **IN JUNE**, gross FDI inflows into India stood at \$9.57 billion, while the figure for July 2024, at \$5.54 billion, was half the latest number

tion, computer and business services were the top recipient sectors," the central bank's staff noted in their monthly State of the Economy article, also published on Wednesday.

On a net basis, \$5.05 billion came into India in July compared to \$2.51 billion in June and an outflow of \$2.69 billion a year ago. Net FDI is calculated after

adjusting for investments that are repatriated by foreign companies and overseas investments made by Indian companies.

FDI is a key indicator of the health of the economy and the confidence foreign investors have in the country. S&P's decision on August 14 to upgrade its rating on India to BBB from BBB- is expected to boost flows in the

medium to long term. A day later, on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a wide range of economic reforms to boost domestic growth. This included cuts to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates that came into effect earlier this week on Monday.

Inflows have picked up steam in recent months after a disappointing 2024-25 which saw net FDI inflow total just \$959 million even though gross inflows rose to \$80.62 billion. The precipitous fall in net FDI in 2024-25 from \$10.15 billion in 2023-24 came on the back of a sharp increase in overseas direct investments made by Indian companies and foreign companies cashing in on their past investments in India.

In 2024-25, foreign firms took back \$51.49 billion to their home countries from India, up 16 per cent from 2023-24. Meanwhile, overseas FDI by Indian companies rose 69 per cent to \$28.17 billion. Both these

factors contributed to the net FDI in the last fiscal being negligible.

So far in 2025-26, despite the global trade, policy, and financial market uncertainty, the numbers are on the up for India. At \$10.75 billion, net FDI in the first four months of the fiscal is three times that in the same period last year, gross FDI is up 33 per cent at \$37.71 billion, and repatriations by foreign companies is down 6 per cent at \$16.28 billion.

On the other hand, Indian companies' direct investments abroad are up 44 per cent at \$10.68 billion.

However, in July, both repatriation of FDI and outward FDI moderated, the RBI noted in its State of the Economy article. "Outward FDI was mainly directed towards financial, insurance and business services, as well as manufacturing, with the US, Singapore, the Netherlands, Mauritius, and the UK being the major destinations. These movements together led to an increase in net FDI," it said.

Context

In July 2025, India saw a record FDI inflow of \$11.11 billion, the highest monthly figure in over four years, reflecting strong investor confidence. Net FDI for April-July 2025 stood at \$10.75 billion, up from \$3.5 billion the previous year.

Singapore remains the largest FDI source, contributing nearly \$15 billion in FY 2024-25, marking its seventh consecutive year as the top investor.

Key Points on S&P Rating Increase:

- **First Upgrade in 18 Years: S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating from BBB- to BBB in August 2025, with a Stable Outlook.**
- **This is the first upgrade in nearly two decades.**

What a Sovereign Credit Rating Means:

- It is an evaluation of a country's ability and willingness to repay its debt.
- Higher ratings indicate lower credit risk, making it cheaper for the government and Indian companies to borrow money internationally.
- A higher rating generally boosts investor confidence, attracting more foreign investments, including FDI and portfolio flows.

Impacts of Rating Increase:

1. **Lower Borrowing Costs:** India can issue bonds at lower interest rates.
2. **Enhanced Investment Appeal:** Global investors are more likely to invest in Indian markets.
3. **Economic Signaling:** Confirms India's fiscal discipline, stable growth, and resilience to global shocks.
4. **Currency Support:** Strengthened perception may support the Indian rupee.



3

Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991 ?

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

2017

Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) are related to investment in a country. Which one of the following statements best represents an important difference between the two ?

- (a) FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings in capital
- (b) FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors
- (c) FDI flows only into the secondary market, while FII targets primary market
- (d) FII is considered to be more stable than FDI

Answer

1. **C**
2. **A**
3. **B**
4. **B**



Cancer cases peak amid global decline: Study

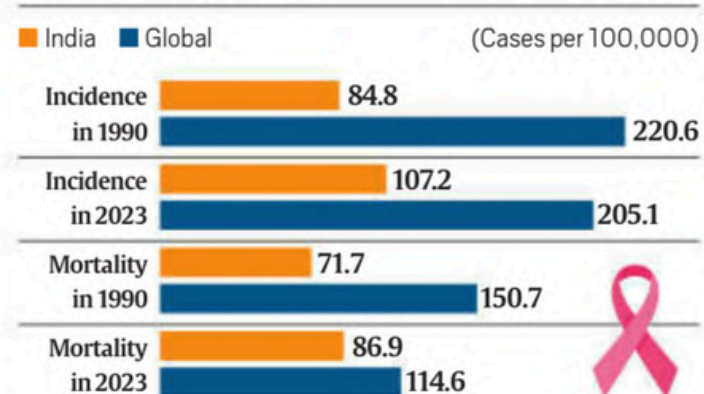
ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

WHILE THE rates of cancer cases and deaths are on a decline globally, they are increasing in India, according to a latest study in *The Lancet*. Data shows the rate of cancer occurrence in India increased from 84.8 per 100,000 population in 1990 to 107.2 per 100,000 population in 2023, which translates to around 15 lakh cases. The rate of cancer deaths in India increased from 71.7 per 100,000 in 1990 to 86.9 per 100,000 in 2023, translating to around 12.1 lakh deaths.

While the cancer and death rates for India are still lower than the global average, they are on the rise in the country. This means that lower-middle income countries, including India, need to future-proof their health systems to tackle the increasing number of such cases.

"The rise of cancer in LMICs is an impending disaster," said co-author Dr Meghnath Dhimal from the Nepal Health Research Council in a release. While the rate of cancer occurrence and deaths have been going down globally, the cases will continue to increase, affecting 30.5 million people and killing 18.6 million in 2050, according to the latest Global

WHAT NUMBERS SAY



Burden of Disease estimates. To compare, there were an estimated 18.5 million cases and 10.4 million deaths in 2023, according to data.

The rates of occurrence, on the other hand, dropped from 220.6 per 100,000 population in 1990, to 205.1 in 2023, and will likely drop further to 192.9 in 2025. When it comes to mortality rate, it reduced from 150.7 per 100,000 in 1990, to 114.6 in 2023, and will likely drop to 107.9 in 2025, the data shows. This suggests the increase in the number of cancer cases and deaths are due to growing and ageing populations.

Most of these cancer cases and deaths will be in the low and middle income countries, according to the study. It says over half of the

new cases and two-thirds of the deaths will be in these countries, which includes India. The global decline in cancer incidence and mortality rate was largely driven by high and upper middle income countries, the study says.

Dr Abhishek Shankar, oncologist from the AIIMS-Delhi and one of the collaborators for the study, said, "We need to work on several fronts. First, there is a need for sustained communication campaigns so that people can seek care early. These campaigns have to happen year-round. Second, all stakeholders need to be involved. Interventions for cancers have largely been led by oncologists, but that is not enough. We need to involve everybody for quick detec-

EXPLAINED

Tackling cancer triggers

ACCORDING TO an expert, modifiable risk factors such as use of tobacco and alcohol, unhealthy diet and poor control of hypertension and diabetes may play a role in 70% of the cancer cases in India. The high pollution levels also add to the risk factor for Indians. The cancer burden for the country can be reduced via vaccination drives for HPV and Hepatitis B, improvement of air quality and cleanliness to prevent infections.

tion and treatment. Unfortunately, one of the biggest health programmes of the country for non-communicable diseases focuses largely on screening and not on diagnosis and treatment," he said.

"Screening for cancers also has to be evidence based — using methods and in populations where it will result in maximum benefit. And, importantly, any programme on cancer has to adapt quickly to newer therapies as can-

cer care is evolving at a rapid pace."

India reported 15.6 lakh cancer cases and 8.74 lakh deaths in 2024, according to estimates based on data from 43 cancer registries across the country. There were an estimated 14.1 lakh cases and 9.16 lakh deaths in 2022, according to estimates from WHO's Global Cancer Observatory. Both these studies — as well as the Global Burden of Disease estimates — depend on data from the same ICMR coordinated cancer registries. They, however, use different models to arrive at the estimates.

The study estimates that around 42% of cancer deaths were attributable to modifiable risk factors such as use of tobacco and alcohol, unhealthy diets, poor control of hypertension and diabetes among others. This means a significant number of the cases and deaths can be prevented through behaviour change.

Shankar says as high as 70% of cancer cases in India may be attributable to modifiable risk factors. "In addition to the high prevalence of obesity and diabetes, India also has a large pool of tobacco users. We have a high incidence of infections that are associated with cancers such as HPV, Hepatitis B, and H Pylori. The high pollution levels are an additional risk factor for Indians," he said.

Mains Enrichment

Crisp Usage of Cancer Data in UPSC Mains:

- **GS 1 (Social Issues):** Gender and regional disparities in health.
- **GS 2 (Governance & Health):** Public health challenges; effectiveness of national programs; policy measures.
- **GS 3 (Economy & Infrastructure):** Healthcare infrastructure, economic impact, investment needs.
- **Essays / Value Addition:** Quote exact numbers to strengthen arguments.

