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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

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India gets 6-month waiver for Iran port

U.S. relief on sanctions against Chabahar in force from Wednesday, says MEA; essential supplies to Afghanistan can now be sent through the port

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India has received a waiver on the United States' sanctions against Iran's Chabahar port for six months, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Thursday. Officials said that the sanctions waiver had come into effect from October 29.

India has been associated with the Chabahar port at least since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran to develop the port.

Both sides signed an MoU in 2015 to jointly develop the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar in the hope that it would emerge as a major commercial hub helping India access the markets of Afghanistan, the Central Asian states, and Russia. The port's



Major link: India has been associated with Chabahar port since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran. GETTY IMAGES

prospects came under a cloud due to Western sanctions against Iran, but in 2018, the first Trump administration gave a waiver to Indian operations at the Chabahar port as it was aimed at helping the development needs of the U.S.-backed Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In September, the U.S. Department of State said that it would revoke the waiver for Indian opera-

tions that was offered by Donald Trump in 2018. The move exposed anyone associated with the Chabahar project to U.S. sanctions under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act.

However, the latest U.S. decision means that supplies to Afghanistan, especially essential items like food grains and medical products, can still be sent through Chabahar.

India gets 6-month waiver for Iran port

The Hindu – Page 1

Topic: Chabahar Port – India-Iran Relations

Why in News:

U.S. granted India a six-month sanctions waiver for operating the Chabahar Port, enabling continued trade and humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan and strengthening India's regional connectivity with Iran and Central Asia.

Evolution of Chabahar Port:

- 2005: India-Iran initiated cooperation; India joined development.
- 2015: MoU signed for Shahid Beheshti terminal expansion.
- 2018: U.S. gave first sanctions waiver, citing Afghan stability.
- 2019-2023: India invested in port and road-rail links to INSTC.
- 2025: Waiver renewed, reaffirming Chabahar as India's strategic trade route bypassing Pakistan.



Chabahar Port: Key to India's Central Asia and Europe Trade Links





Trump cuts tariffs on China after meeting Xi

Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

President Donald Trump described his face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying U.S. soybeans.

Mr. Trump said that the U.S. would lower tariffs implemented as punishment

on China for its selling of chemicals used to make fentanyl from 20% to 10%. That brings the total combined tariff rate down from 57% to 47%. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said China agreed to purchase 25 million tonnes of U.S. soybeans annually for the next three years.

'TRADE WAR TRUCE'

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TRUMP-XI BONHOMIE

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Trump cuts tariffs on China after meeting Xi

The Hindu – Page 1

Topic: U.S.–China Relations

Why in News:

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a reduction in tariffs on China following a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The U.S. lowered tariffs on fentanyl-related chemicals from 20% to 10%, while China agreed to export rare earth elements and resume large-scale purchases of U.S. soybeans.

This marks a temporary easing of trade tensions between the world's two largest economies, indicating a possible trade truce and efforts to stabilize global markets amid the prolonged U.S.–China trade war.



Tech-driven efforts reduced cyclone impact, loss at ₹5,265 cr., says Naidu

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that the State government's strategic use of technology, meticulous planning, and coordinated action among departments has greatly reduced the impact of Cyclone Montha, which caused an estimated damage of ₹5,265 crore across the State.

Addressing a media conference at the Secretariat on the cyclone's impact and the government's response on Thursday, Mr. Naidu said that the State was able to significantly reduce the scale of destruction through technology-driven preparedness and effective coordination.



Flood fury: Farmers inspecting their submerged crops in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

"We were able to minimise the cyclone's impact using advanced technology. All government departments worked in close coordination, and we managed to restore normalcy to a large extent on the very first day," he said.

Mr. Naidu explained that satellite imagery and real-time data from the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) Data Lake enabled officials to predict rainfall intensity, wind speeds, and potential flood zones, facilitating warn-

ings and preventive action.

"In the past, recovery from cyclones would take over a week, but with better planning and technology, we reduced both loss of life and property," Mr. Naidu said.

Referring to losses, the Chief Minister said preliminary estimates indicate that the cyclone caused damage worth around ₹5,265 crore across the State. Of this, losses in agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, and roads were estimated at ₹2,079 crore, while the power and water resources departments sustained a damage of about ₹207 crore. A comprehensive report on the losses would be sent to the Central government shortly, he said.

Tech-driven efforts reduced cyclone impact, loss at ₹5,265 cr., says Naidu

The Hindu – Page 6 GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management (Preparedness)

Key Points:

- **Technology Use:** Real-time data, satellite imagery, and RTGS system enabled early prediction and quick alerts.
- **Coordination:** Seamless inter-departmental action ensured timely evacuation and rapid restoration.

Fully aware of Great Nicobar project's impact, says Centre

The Centre tells the NGT that no tribal persons will be displaced, noting that the project will cover about 18% of the Great Nicobar area, leaving over two-thirds of its land mass as forests

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Defending the Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday, the Union government argued that it was fully aware of the project's likely impact on the biodiversity of the surrounding areas, positing that the main issue was whether the government was "alive to this or not".

Noting that the government considers it its duty to undertake mitigation measures, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said that the Centre had mandated conservation and monitoring programmes to run for the next three decades as the project was developed. She said that the project "is going to be a national asset".

The submissions came in response to a batch of petitions that have challenged the environmental clearance issued for the ₹92,000-crore project, which will include a trans-shipment port, an international airport, a township, and a power plant to be



Mitigation plan: The Centre has mandated conservation programmes during the project's development. GETTY IMAGES

built on more than 160 sq. km of land. Of this, about 130 sq. km is forest land inhabited by the Nicobarese and the Shompen communities, both Scheduled Tribes, with the Shompen categorised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

One petition, submitted by activist Ashish Kothari, challenges the clearances obtained for the project, citing violations of the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) notification, 2019 notification and inadequacies in the environmental impact assessment.

Making its arguments before the NGT Bench now hearing the matter, the Un-

ion government submitted that it had considered studies and research conducted over decades before mandating measures to translocate, conserve, and monitor the project activities' impact on the biodiversity of the region.

Coral colonies

Ms. Bhati noted that while plans had been outlined for translocating over 16,000 of the 20,668 coral colonies that are under threat from the project's activities, there is also a plan in place to ensure the monitoring of the remaining 4,500-odd coral colonies. She submitted that

there were about 51 active nests of the Nicobar megapode in the project activities' area; though about 30 will be permanently destroyed, there were also plans in place to conserve the remaining nests.

"There is biodiversity all around the islands, and the conclusion was that this region is the most suitable. All other nesting beaches of the leatherback turtles will be protected and conserved," Ms. Bhati argued.

The Centre added that no tribal persons will be displaced or dispersed, noting that the project will only cover 1.82% of the whole island's archipelago area, which amounts to about 18% of the Great Nicobar area, still leaving GNI with over two-thirds of its land mass as forests.

The Centre also defended the environment clearance granted for the project, which has mandated detailed measures to study and monitor the biodiversity of the region as the project is developed, calling it "an alive document" that prescribes conservation measures till 2052.

The next hearing in the matter has been set for November 7.

Fully aware of Great Nicobar project's impact, says Centre

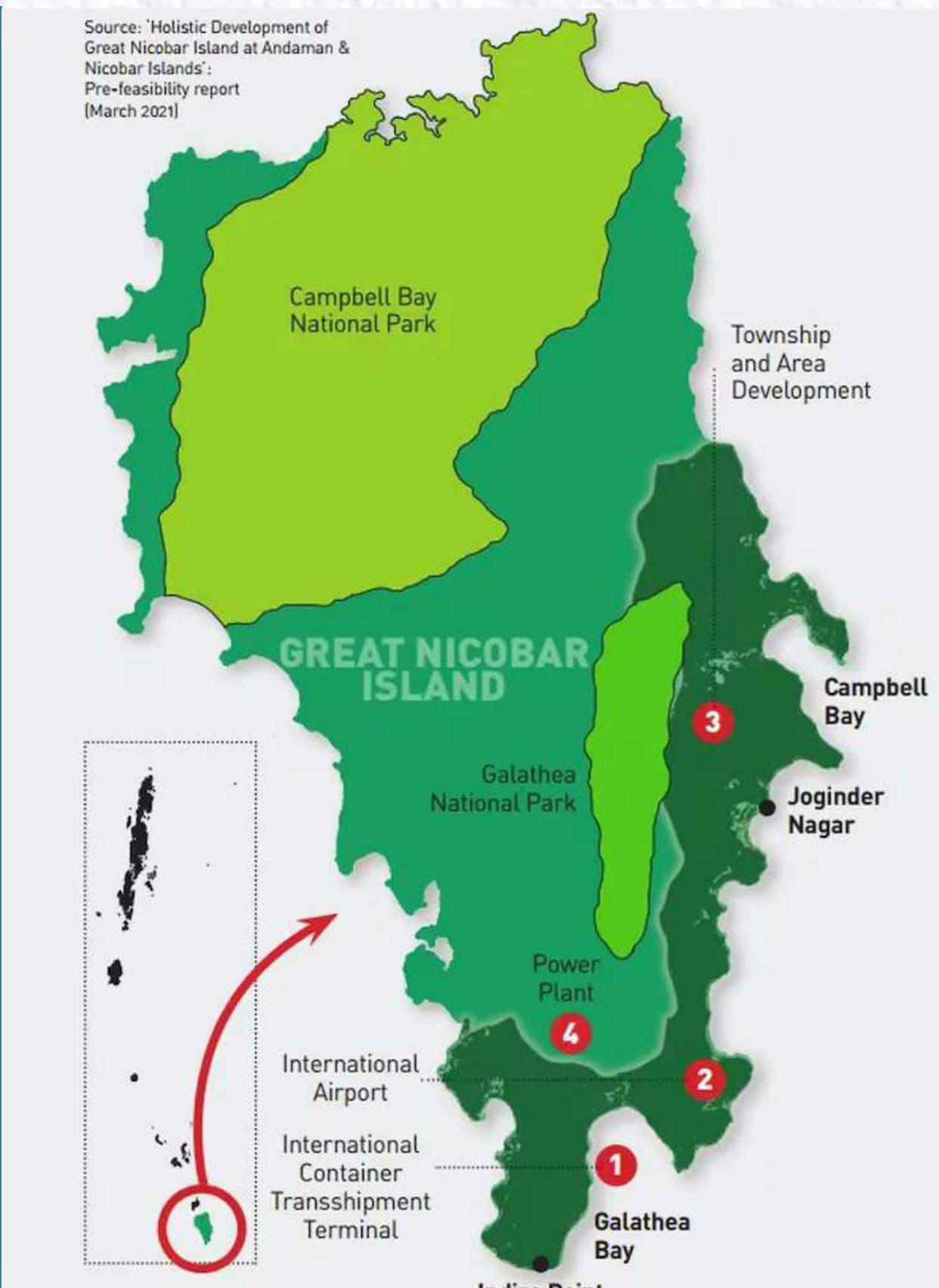
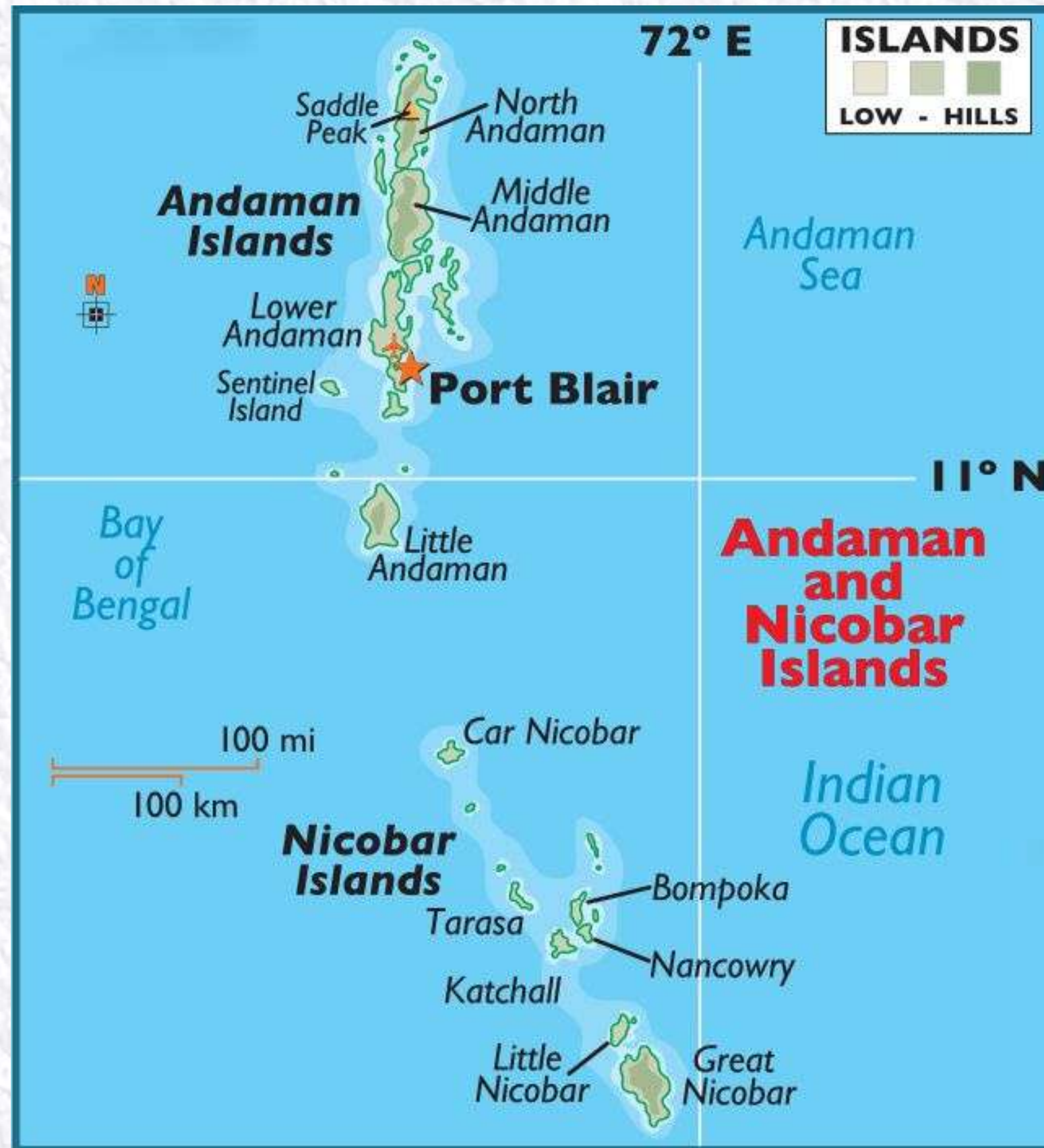
The Hindu | Page 16

Why in News:

The Centre told the NGT it is fully aware of the environmental impact of the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project, but maintains it will be a national asset.

Key Points:

- **No tribal displacement:** Nicobarese and Shompen (PVTG) communities will not be affected.
- **Project coverage:** To be built over 160 sq. km (18%) of the island; over two-thirds to remain forested.
- **Infrastructure planned:** A trans-shipment port, international airport, power plant, and township.
- **Environmental safeguards:**
- **30-year biodiversity monitoring and mitigation plan.**
- **16,000 coral colonies to be translocated.**





India expected to add 6 GW of new wind energy capacity: Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said 6 gigawatts (GW) of new wind capacity is expected to be added by the end of financial year 2025-2026, the highest-ever annual addition, up from last year's 4 GW.

"[In] this financial year, so far, over 3 GW of new wind capacity has been added," he said in a media interaction on the sidelines of the 7th edition of Windergy India 2025 conference in Chennai.

"India is moving with clear determination towards the goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and wind power will play a major part – contributing 100 GW or more. With 54 GW of installed wind energy and another 30 GW under implementation, we are well on track to meet our 2030 target, Mr. Joshi said.

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh together contribute almost half of India's total wind capacity of 54 GW, he said.

"India's wind industry already has 70% local content, showing strong domestic capability. Under the Atmanirbhar Wind Mission, our goal is to increase this to 85% by 2030," Mr. Joshi said.

"The GST on wind equipment has been reduced from 12% to 5%, helping reduce turbine cost by over ₹25 lakh per MW," Mr. Joshi said.



An exhibit at the Windergy India 2025 conference in Chennai on Thursday. VELANKANNI RAJ B

"With the approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM) – wind framework and related initiatives, India can soon meet 10% of global wind demand by 2030 and up to 20% by 2040 and emerge as a global manufacturing hub for turbines and components," he said.

"A study by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) shows a potential of 1,164 GW at 150 metres hub height across India. To unlock new areas, the government has launched a viability gap funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind projects, targeting 1 GW in the first phase – 500 MW each off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu," Mr. Joshi said.

MNRE Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said the tender for the Tamil Nadu offshore wind project is expected to be floated by February.

Earlier speaking at the inaugural of the conference, Mr. Joshi said India's total installed capacity was nearing 500 GW, with non-fossil sources contributing over 257 GW.

India expected to add 6 GW of new wind energy capacity: Joshi

The Hindu | Page 7 | GS-3 – Renewable Energy

Why in News

Record 6 GW wind addition targeted by FY 2025-26 (vs 4 GW last year).

Context:

Part of 500 GW renewables by 2030 goal; wind to contribute 100 GW+ (current 54 GW installed, 30 GW under implementation).

Manufacturing content (domestic value-add):

- **Achieved: ~70% local content in wind equipment.**
- **Target: 85% local content by 2030 (Atmanirbhar Wind Mission).**
- **Global role: Meet 10% of global wind demand by 2030 and 20% by 2040; aim to be a global manufacturing hub for turbines & components.**
- **Support: GST cut on wind equipment 12% → 5%, lowering turbine cost by ~₹25 lakh/MW.**



DRL's weight-loss drug Semaglutide rollout in Canada suffers a setback

N. Ravi Kumar

HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' (DRL) plans to rollout weight-loss drug Semaglutide in injectable form in Canada is likely to take more time than expected, with Pharmaceutical Drugs Directorate, Canada, issuing a notice of non-compliance (NON) on the abbreviated new drug submission (ANDS).

DRL shares ended the day 4.03% lower at ₹1,202.15 each on the BSE

Setback comes when it is betting on new launches to offset dip in U.S. revenue via Revlimid generic

on Thursday after the setback, which comes at a time when the firm is betting big on new launches to offset dip in U.S. revenue from cancer drug Revlimid generic Lenalidomide.

To file response

"The NON outlines requests for additional information and clarifications

on specific aspects of the submission. We will submit a response well within the stipulated time period," DRL said in a filing. It is committed to making the therapy available to patients in Canada and other markets at the earliest, DRL said.

In India, a subject expert panel of CDSCO has recommended the approval of Semaglutide injection, a leadership team of DRL announced during interactions with the media and investors following September quarter results re-

cently. While the Drugs Controller General of India nod is the next step, the roll out has to wait till patent expiry in March 2026.

The outcome of a patent infringement lawsuit filed by Novo Nordisk will be crucial for DRL's roll out of the generic version.

"Based on an analysis of past NONs, in best case, we expect a six-month delay in launch. If DRL responds by December, we anticipate an approval by end of Q1FY27, in the best case scenario," said Emkay Research analysts.

DRL's weight-loss drug Semaglutide rollout in Canada suffers a setback

The Hindu | Page 17 | Drugs in News

News Context:

Dr. Reddy's generic rollout delayed in Canada due to regulatory non-compliance and patent issues (till March 2026).

Semaglutide:

- **Type:** Injectable weight-loss and anti-diabetic drug.
- **Class:** GLP-1 receptor agonist – mimics hormone that lowers blood sugar and reduces appetite.
- **Use:** Treats Type-2 diabetes and obesity.
- **Brands:** Ozempic, Wegovy – by Novo Nordisk.
- **Form:** Once-weekly injection.