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SPANISH PM SANCHEZ SAYS BREACHES ARE A 'VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY'

60,000 cross into Spain's Ceuta, 57 die after breach

37,500 migrants have returned to Morocco: Spain's interior ministry

Associated Press
Ceuta, July 31

ABOUT 60,000 MIGRANTS crossed from Morocco into Spain's tiny Ceuta territory in the past 24 hours, Ceuta's president said Friday, a figure that is equivalent to 70% of the population of the city in North Africa. At least 57 migrants died on the journey.

But roughly half of the people who made the crossing soon made their way back voluntarily, the Spanish government said, after the sudden arrival of so many triggered chaos and a humanitarian crisis.

Some migrants swam several miles through the sea and faced down authorities who tried to turn them back with water cannons, tear gas and warning shots. Those who died included some who drowned or were killed in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier near a border checkpoint.

Spain deployed its armed forces and additional police to restore order in Ceuta, which sits on the Strait of Gibraltar at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea and has been a Spanish possession since 1580. On the Moroccan side of the border, security forces clashed with migrants.

"The situation that Ceuta is going through is absolutely unsustainable," Ceuta President Juan Jesús Vivas told journalists.

Meanwhile, migrants from Morocco also attempted to cross into Melilla, Spain's other territory at the tip of North Africa, where they clashed with police.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited Ceuta on Friday and condemned the border breach, which he described as "a violation of Spain's territorial integrity."

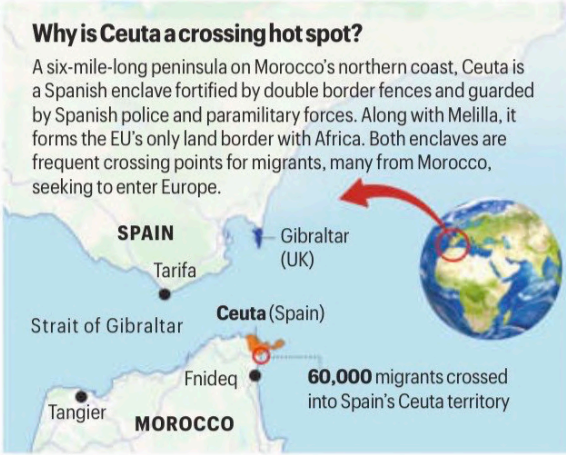
The Spanish Interior Ministry released its own figures shortly after Vivas' spoke, estimating that some 50,000 people had crossed from Morocco since Thursday. It added that 37,500 had already returned to Morocco by Friday afternoon, with hundreds more going back by the hour.

• THE IMPORTANCE OF CEUTA

The peninsula, Ceuta, is one of only two cities on the African mainland that are officially part of Europe.

What happened this week?

- About 1,500 migrants had entered Ceuta in recent days. On Thursday, Spanish official Fernando Rodríguez Contreras said the working estimate of new arrivals had risen to the tens of thousands, though the figure could not be confirmed. At least 18 migrants died attempting the crossing, and Spain said it was deploying military platoons to reinforce border security. platoons to enforce border security.



WHY DOES THIS MASS CROSSING MATTER?

- Ceuta's border with Morocco has long been a flashpoint in both Spanish politics and relations with Rabat. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has sought to portray Spain as an immigrant-friendly nation, particularly welcoming Spanish-speaking Latin Americans. But his government has faced criticism from conservative opponents, who accuse it of weak border control, and from migrant rights advocates, who say it relies on overly harsh enforcement at the frontier.

Migrants from Morocco cross into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta by sea on Friday. AP

Consider the following pairs :

	Regions sometimes mentioned in news		*Country*
1.	Catalonia	—	Spain
2.	Crimea	—	Hungary
3.	Mindanao	—	Philippines
4.	Oromia	—	Nigeria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 and 4 only

5°25′
5°20′
Strait of Gibraltar
Perejil Island (SPAIN)
35°55′
Ceuta
SPAIN
MOROCCO
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
0 1 2 mi
0 1 2 km
2°56′
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Melilla
SPAIN
35°17′
MOROCCO
0 1 2 mi
0 1 2 km
8°
6°
4°
2°
0 40 80 mi
0 60 120 km
SPAIN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
36°
GIBRALTAR (U.K.)
Strait of Gibraltar
Ceuta (SPAIN)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Melilla (SPAIN)
ALGERIA
MOROCCO
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1. Context

Around 60,000 migrants crossed from Morocco into Spain's autonomous city of Ceuta, triggering a humanitarian and border-security crisis. Spain termed the incident a violation of its territorial integrity.

2. Ceuta, Spain

I Ceuta is an autonomous city of Spain located on the northern coast of Africa.
II It shares a land border with Morocco and faces the Mediterranean Sea.
III It lies near the Strait of Gibraltar, connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
IV Along with Melilla, it forms the European Union's only land border with Africa.

3. What is the Issue?

I Ceuta is a major gateway for irregular migration from Africa to Europe.
II Spain exercises sovereignty over Ceuta, while Morocco claims the territory.
III The territory remains a flashpoint for migration, border security, and Spain–Morocco relations.

● COMMENTS CAME TWO DAYS BEFORE EUROPE'S LANDMARK AI ACT WITH TRANSPARENCY RULES KICK IN

EU says it's necessary to monitor high risk AI systems

Reuters
Brussels, July 31

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE developers should have in place tools to monitor their systems for security risks, senior European Commission officials said on Friday, following hacking incidents by OpenAI and Anthropic AI models.

The comments came two days ahead before Europe's landmark AI Act with transparency rules kick in, the first in the world to regulate a technology used in almost all sectors of businesses and society.

Anthropic said on Thursday some of its Claude AI models had hacked into the systems of three companies during cybersecurity tests, days after rival OpenAI revealed that one of its AI agents went on a rogue attack. Both companies have briefed the Commission on the AI incidents, the officials told reporters.

"We have been informed by the two providers of incidents bilaterally before they become public. We are in contact with them. They will also report to us more information as we speak. We will see also if we need to follow up more formally on those things," one of the officials said.

Another official talked up the crucial role of Europe'sAI rules. "So I think all these, let's say, incidents highlight the importance of really putting in place the necessary monitoring activities by the developers," the official said.

The AI rules requires providers of general-purpose AI (GPAI) or foundation models to draw up technical documentation, adopt copyright policies and provide detailed summaries about the content used for algorithm training.

Anthropic and OpenAI have briefed the Commission. REUTERS

Anthropic's AI models hacked three companies during tests

San Francisco: Anthropic said on Thursday some of its Claude AI models had hacked into the systems of three companies during cybersecurity tests, a disclosure that comes days after rival OpenAI revealed that one of its AI agents went on a rogue attack.

The new incidents were due to a mistake that inadvertently gave Anthropic's models access to the open internet. That contrasts with OpenAI, whose AI agent independently exploited a novel vulnerability to reach the internet during cyber testing. Even so, the latest disclosure underscores how AI has increased threats to cybersecurity and how its developers can struggle to keep the capabilities of their models contained.

It is likely to add fuel to an intensifying US government push to better manage AI security risks at a time when Anthropic and OpenAI are racing to release more capable systems ahead of their planned public listings. Prominent leaders at these labs have called for a slowdown to address risks first. San Francisco-based Anthropic said in a blog post it identified the incidents after reviewing 141,006 test sessions. **REUTERS**

Which of the following adopted a law on data protection and privacy for its citizens known as 'General Data Protection Regulation' in April 2016 and started implementation of it from 25th May, 2018?

(a) Australia

(b) Canada

(c) The European Union

(d) The United States of America

Context (GS-II: International Relations; GS-III: Science & Technology) : The European Union has begun implementing key provisions of its Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act), strengthening transparency and oversight of high-risk AI systems following recent AI safety incidents.

1. Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act)

I **Official Name**: Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act).
II It is the world's first comprehensive AI law, establishing a common legal framework for AI across the European Union.
III The Act follows a risk-based approach, classifying AI systems into unacceptable risk, high risk, limited risk, and minimal risk.

2. Key Provisions

I High-risk AI systems must undergo risk assessment, human oversight, cybersecurity safeguards, and continuous monitoring.
II Developers of general-purpose AI models must comply with transparency requirements, maintain technical documentation, and respect copyright obligations.
III Certain harmful AI practices, such as specific forms of social scoring and some biometric uses, are prohibited or strictly regulated.

3. Why is it in News?

I The EU reiterated stricter monitoring after reported AI security incidents involving OpenAI and Anthropic.
II New transparency provisions under the AI Act are coming into force, making the EU the global leader in AI regulation.


pib
CABINET APPROVES
PRADHAN MANTRI
SURYA SAROVAR
YOJANA (PM-SSY)
for Development of Floating Solar
Photovoltaic Projects with
Energy Storage Systems
TOTAL OUTLAY
₹5,070
CRORE
ENERGY
STORAGE SYSTEM
HARNESSING
SOLAR ENERGY
WITH ENERGY
STORAGE
CLEANER, GREENER,
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
POWERING INDIA'S
ENERGY TRANSITION

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Cabinet approves 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)' for Development of Floating Solar Photovoltaic Projects with Energy Storage Systems with a total outlay of Rs.5,070 crore

Posted On: 31 JUL 2026 4:28PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)', a Scheme for the development of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Projects with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) with a total outlay of Rs.5,070 crore.

The scheme envisages the development of 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems having a minimum storage capacity of two hours i.e.,10,000 MWh. The projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursement of financial support continuing up to FY 2032-33.

The approval follows the recent assessment undertaken by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), which has estimated a floating solar potential of approximately 102.18 GWp across reservoirs and other suitable inland water bodies in the country.

Under the scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs. One crore per MW will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects after successful commissioning. In addition, CFA of up to Rs.50 lakh per project will be available for undertaking feasibility studies, including bathymetry and hydrography assessments, environmental studies, and other preparatory activities required for de-risking the project development.

All States and Union Territories will benefit through this scheme. The scheme would enhance the floating Solar PV capacity in the country by 5,000 MW, which is presently around 700 MW only. These projects would provide an opportunity to gainfully utilize existing reservoirs & industrial ponds, and eliminate competition for scarce land resources. The integration of an energy storage system will help strengthen grid reliability. The scheme would help in the reduction of around 10 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually. It would help in the generation of approximately 16,000–17,000 full-time equivalent employment opportunities across the project value chain. The scheme would also promote domestic manufacturing of floatation systems as well as the entire value chain of the projects, like PV cells, modules, energy storage systems, etc., and support the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The scheme will contribute to renewable energy capacity addition, support the achievement of national energy and climate objectives, and facilitate optimal utilisation of water resources while advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' :

I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.

II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.

III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only

(b) I and III only

(c) II and III only

(d) I, II and III

Context: (GS-II: Government Schemes; GS-III: Environment & Energy) The Union Cabinet has approved Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) to promote Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) on reservoirs and inland water bodies.

1. Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)
I Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
II Total Outlay: ₹5,070 crore
III Target: Develop 5,000 Megawatt (MW) of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) capacity with 10,000 Megawatt-hour (MWh) of Energy Storage Systems (ESS)
IV Implementation: FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31

2. Key Features
I Central Financial Assistance (CFA): ₹1 crore per MW; up to ₹50 lakh per project for feasibility and environmental studies.
II Applicable across all States and Union Territories (UTs).
III Utilises reservoirs and inland water bodies, reducing land requirement while strengthening grid reliability through ESS.

3. Significance
I Supports India's renewable energy and climate targets by reducing carbon emissions.
II Promotes domestic manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules, floating platforms, and energy storage systems under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
III Expected to create 16,000–17,000 full-time equivalent jobs and accelerate the clean energy transition.

Cabinet okays ₹84,084-cr. Samudra Manthan for offshore exploration

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI


Well oiled plan: The scheme aims at catalysing reserves of over 600 MMTOE. (For representational purpose only) GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

To boost India's offshore exploration efforts, the Union Cabinet approved an outlay of ₹84,084 crore to the Union Petroleum Ministry's National Offshore Exploration Scheme Samudra Manthan.

The corpus is to be utilised until FY2030-31. The overall outlay is categorised into four key components the most important of which relate to drilling 60 deepwater exploration wells for which the Cabinet has allocated ₹43,200 crore.

This is inclusive of the government of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or ₹675 crore per well.

The other component relates to offshore data acquisition which carries an outlay of ₹28,534 crore.

Development of common offshore infrastructure hubs to facilitate commercialisation of discoveries, which would be accounting for an outlay of ₹10,000 crore.

Finally, the establishment of oil and gas manufacturing and services zones - seeking to promote domestic manufacturing and localisation of critical equipment and services - tabulate an outlay of ₹2,000 crore.

Overall, the Union government's flagship scheme for offshore exploration aims at catalysing reserves of more than 600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE).

Stimulating investments

It envisages to "stimulate significant investments across the exploration and production value chain, creating long-term opportunities for industry, innovation and economic growth."

Essentially, with hydrocarbon exploration being a capital-intensive activity with long gestation period but essential for a country's domestic energy security, the scheme seeks to reorient growth into this sector (via offshore exploration) to overcome difficulties from ageing oil and gas fields.

Reflecting on the announcement, Rajnish Gupta, partner for tax and economic policy, EY India held, "Investments in large-scale seismic data acquisition and drilling of exploratory well in deep and ultra deep waters will reduce geological uncertainty and de-risk exploration and lay the foundation for future discoveries. Good results can catalyse greater private investments in the sector."

Context: (GS-II: Government Schemes; GS-III: Infrastructure & Energy) The Union Cabinet has approved the National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan to accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration, strengthen India's energy security, and attract private investment.

1. National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan

I Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)
II Total Outlay: ₹84,084 crore
III Implementation Period: Up to FY 2030–31
IV Target: Boost offshore hydrocarbon exploration and unlock over 600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) reserves.

2. Key Features

I Deepwater Exploration: Drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells, with government support of up to 50% of drilling cost or ₹675 crore per well.
II Data Acquisition: ₹28,534 crore for offshore seismic and exploration data generation.
III Infrastructure: Development of common offshore infrastructure and oil & gas manufacturing/service hubs.

3. Significance

I Enhances India's energy security by increasing domestic oil and gas production.
II Reduces exploration risk, encouraging private investment in the upstream petroleum sector.
III Promotes domestic manufacturing, innovation, and employment in the offshore energy value chain.

Centre extends PM-Kisan for four more years, allocates ₹3.15 lakh cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.

The scheme provides a financial assistance of ₹6,000 per year for farmers. The government said it had transferred more than ₹4.47 lakh crore directly to farmers' bank accounts in 23 instalments under the scheme which was launched in February 2019. "Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over ₹18,984 crore released," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release.

The govt. had transferred over ₹4.47 lakh crore to farmers' accounts in 23 instalments

Women beneficiaries

The government added that women farmers had received more than ₹1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiary was a woman farmer.

"The assistance provided under PM-KISAN has enabled farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, agricultural machinery and other agricultural requirements. This has enhanced farmers' productive capacity, reduced their dependence on informal credit and strengthened the financial stability of rural households," the Ministry added.

Context: (GS-II: Government Schemes; GS-III: Agriculture) The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme from 2026–27 to 2030–31 with a total outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
I Launched: February 2019
II Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
III Financial Assistance: ₹6,000 per year to eligible farmer families in three equal instalments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
IV Outlay (2026–31): ₹3.15 lakh crore

2. Key Features
I Scheme extended for four years (2026–27 to 2030–31).
II More than ₹4.47 lakh crore transferred through 23 instalments since launch.
III Over 9.49 crore farmers benefited under the 23rd instalment, with assistance exceeding ₹18,984 crore.

3. Significance
I Provides direct income support for agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, and farm machinery.
II Reduces dependence on informal credit and improves farmers' financial stability.
III Enhances farm productivity, with women farmers accounting for a significant share of beneficiaries.

India's Passport Ranking Falls to 81st in Latest Global Index From 75th Earlier This Year

Context: (GS-II: International Relations) India has slipped to 81st in the latest Henley Passport Index 2026, reflecting the global travel mobility of Indian passport holders.

1. **Henley Passport Index**
I Published annually by Henley & Partners, using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
II Ranks passports based on the number of destinations accessible without a prior visa (visa-free/visa-on-arrival).

2. **India's Performance**
I Rank: 81st
II Travel Access: 55 destinations without a prior visa.
III India was ranked 75th earlier in 2026.

3. **Key Highlights**
I Singapore ranks 1st with access to 192 destinations.
II Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates jointly rank 2nd with access to 188 destinations.