

## One year, 402 farmer suicides: Resurgence of agrarian crisis feared in Telangana

Hyderabad: A pall of gloom still floats over the serene Saidupur village in Bela mandal of Adilabad district. The suicide of Jadav Devrao (48) on the very premises of the bank that lent him Rs 3.5 lakh came as a shocker for the farming community in the State. The farmer's dream of providing a comfortable life for his two sons and daughter died along with him. With his five-acre plot of land, Devrao had toiled day and night to cultivate crops, hoping for a harvest that would secure his family's future. But the reality of farming in Telangana was far harsher than he anticipated. The State has witnessed many such deaths during the last two weeks, with farmers feeling cornered by the circumstances, as the financial stability they enjoyed for over a decade in the past is on the wane. Life has turned nightmarish for them. Devrao's story is not an isolated case. The State witnessed three similar cases in just one day. Telangana has seen as many as 402 farmer suicides during the one year of Congress rule and another 200 unnatural deaths including cases of deaths due to electrocution. The tragic spike in the number of suicides in the State has started grabbing attention nationwide once again. Financial burdens, coupled with unfulfilled promises and lack of support, have led to a spike in farmer suicides. The Congress government in Telangana is drawing heavy flak for its failure to fulfil key promises to the farming

community. The much-touted loan waiver promise, which aimed to waive crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh, remains unfulfilled for many farmers. Data from the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) reveals that while Rs 49,500 crore in crop loans were disbursed during the financial year 2023-24, only Rs 17,933 crore has been waived, covering just 22.37 lakh farmers. This has left many farmers feeling betrayed and abandoned. The Rythu Bharosa Scheme, as promised by the Congress leadership, was intended to provide financial assistance of Rs 15,000 per acre per year. But this has also fallen short in implementation. The government had initially promised to increase it from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per acre. But it later announced a reduced amount of Rs 12,000 per acre. The Congress government released one instalment of Rythu Bandhu due before December 2023, but it later discontinued the investment support scheme for the next two crop seasons, which had a telling effect on the peasant community in the State. This has sparked widespread protests, with farmers expressing their dissatisfaction and sense of deception. Power failures and the deprivation of benefits from various farmer-friendly initiatives have added further to the crisis. The cumulative impact of these failures has been devastating for the farming community in Telangana. The pressures of financial distress, unfulfilled promises, and lack of sup-



port have pushed many farmers to the brink, resulting in tragic outcomes. During the decade preceding 2024, the farmer in the State had found himself on a high perch, with the State government extending full support to the farming community. Now, he finds himself fallen off the perch. Life is no longer the same. "We have seen just one year of the Congress rule and what the government has delivered despite tall promises has been disappointing," says KVNL Narasimha Rao, a farmer from Nelakondapalli. In 2014, around 1,300 farmers died by suicide. By 2015, the

number increased to approximately 1,400 due to severe drought conditions. Proactive measures by the BRS government led to a dramatic decline in suicides in the later years, with a 686.5% reduction from 2015 to 2022. By 2022, the number of farming-related suicides in Telangana had decreased to 178. The comparison shows that while there was a significant reduction in farmer suicides during the BRS government's tenure, the resurgence in 2024 indicates added challenges making the lives of farmers miserable.

## Aarogyasri health services in shambles in Telangana State

Hyderabad: Aarogyasri health services across Telangana State in private hospitals are in shambles, as patients for the past 10-days suffer due to non-availability of quality health care. With the State government failing to meet any of their demands, private hospitals under Telangana Aarogyasri Network Hospitals Association (TANHA), have continued to suspend medical services since January 10. As a result, all the health care services for the general public under Aarogyasri Health Insurance, government employees under Employee Health Scheme (EHS) and Journalists Health Scheme (JHS) have continued to remain suspended in small and medium-sized hospitals. On Sunday, senior office bearers of (TANHA) in Hyderabad once again reiterated their demand that the State government must immediately release pending medical bills amounting to Rs 1200 crore.

"Our doctors are not willing to work because hospitals are unable to pay their consultation amounts and salaries. Suppliers are about to stop their supplies because hospitals are unable to pay their amount for the last six months. In this regard, we have given representation to Aarogyasri CEO and

Health Minister also. But no action till now," said president, TANHA, Dr V Rakesh. Over 360 members of TANHA, consisting of hospitals with 100 to 400 beds, have been participating in the Aarogyasri health strike since January 10. The average monthly medical bills for Aarogyasri, EHS and JHS patients from all TANHA hospitals in Telangana is close to Rs 100 crore, which works out to Rs 1200 to Rs 1300 crore annually. The State government's inability to clear the pending medical bills has forced the members of TANHA to withdraw Aarogyasri, EHS and JHS services. A token amount of Rs 100 crore, which covers for just one month of the pending medical bills for members of TANHA, was offered by the State government through Aarogyasri on Thursday. However, it was rejected by members of TANHA. "Whenever there is inordinate delay in release of medical bills, it has become a habit to release a token amount of Rs 100 crore and expect the private hospitals to fall in line. However, this is not reassuring for us. The State government must look to resolve the issue of frequent delays in payment of medical bills permanently," the members of TANHA said.



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# U.S. proposes new rules on exporting AI chips, provoking industry pushback

The Biden administration is proposing a new framework for the exporting of the advanced computer chips used to develop artificial intelligence, an attempt to balance national security concerns about the technology with the economic interests of producers and other countries. But the framework proposed Monday also raised concerns of chip industry executives who say the rules would limit access to existing chips used for video games and restrict in 120 countries the chips used for data centers and AI products. Mexico, Portugal, Israel and Switzerland are among the nations that could have limited access. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a call with reporters previewing the framework that it's "critical" to preserve America's leadership in AI and the development of AI-related computer chips. The fast-evolving AI technology enables computers to produce novels, make scientific research breakthroughs, automate driving and foster a range of other transformations that could reshape economies and warfare.

"As AI becomes more powerful, the risks to our national security become even more intense," Raimondo said. The framework "is designed to safeguard the most advanced AI technology and ensure that it stays out of the hands of our foreign adversaries but also enabling the broad diffusion and sharing of the benefits with partner countries." White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan stressed that the framework would ensure that the most cutting-edge aspects of AI would be developed within the United States and with its closest allies, instead of possibly getting offshored such as the battery and renewable energy sectors. A tech industry group, the Information Technology Industry Council, warned Raimondo in a letter last week that a hastily implemented new rule from the Democratic administration could fragment global supply chains and put U.S. companies at a disadvantage. Another group, the Semiconductor Industry Association, said Monday it was disappointed that the policy was being "rushed out the door" before a presidential transition. "The new rule risks causing unintended and lasting damage to America's economy and global competitiveness in semiconductors and AI by ceding strategic markets to our competitors," said SIA President and CEO John Neuffer. One industry executive, who is familiar with the framework and insisted on anonymity to discuss it, said the proposed restrictions would limit access to chips already used for video games, despite claims made otherwise by the government. The executive said it would also limit which companies could build data centers abroad.

Because the framework includes a 120-day comment period, the incoming Republican administration of President-elect Donald Trump could ultimately determine the rules for the sales abroad of advanced computer chips. This sets up a scenario in which Trump will have to balance economic interests with the need to keep the United States and its allies safe. Government officials said they felt the need to act quickly in hopes of preserving what is perceived to be America's six- to 18-month advantage on AI over rivals such as China, a head start that could easily

erode if competitors were able to stockpile the chips and make further gains.

Ned Finkle, vice president of external affairs at Nvidia, said in a statement that the prior Trump administration had helped create the foundation for AI's development and that the proposed framework would hurt innovation without achieving the stated national security goals. "While cloaked in the guise of an 'anti-China' measure, these rules would do nothing to enhance U.S. security," he said. "The new rules would control technology worldwide, including technology that is already widely available in mainstream gaming PCs and consumer hardware." Under the framework, roughly 20 key allies and partners would face no restrictions on accessing chips, but other countries would face caps on the chips they could import, according to a fact sheet provided by the White House. The allies without restrictions include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Users outside of these close allies could purchase up to 50,000 graphics processing units per country. There would also be government-to-government deals which could bump up the cap to 100,000 if their renewable energy and technological security goals are aligned with the United States.

Institutions in certain countries could also apply for a legal status that would let them purchase up to 320,000 advanced graphics processing units over two years. Still, there would be limits as to how much AI computational capacity could be placed



abroad by companies and other institutions. Also, computer chip orders equivalent to 1,700 advanced graphics processing units would not need a license to import or count against the national chip cap, among the other standards set by the framework. The exception for the 1,700 graphics processing units would likely help to meet the orders for universities and medical institutions, as opposed to data centers.

The new rules are not expected to hinder the AI-driven data center expansion plans of leading cloud computing providers such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft because of exemptions for trusted companies seeking large clusters of advanced AI chips. "We're confident we can comply fully with this rule's high security standards and

meet the technology needs of countries and customers around the world that rely on us," said Brad Smith, Microsoft's president, in a statement Monday. Microsoft drew bipartisan scrutiny last year after it announced a \$1.5 billion investment in a technology firm based in the United Arab Emirates and overseen by the country's powerful national security adviser. Based in Abu Dhabi, G42 runs data centers in the Middle East and elsewhere and has built what's considered to be the world's leading Arabic-language AI model. It also has ties to China, leading Republican members of Congress to call for "special scrutiny" of the AI partnership and to urge Biden officials to implement "more robust national security guardrails" to prevent key U.S. technology from falling into China's hands.

## Beat the Blues with your plate: Can a fibre-rich diet fight depression?

Feeling down? What is on your plate might be playing a bigger role in your mood than you think. Depression is a growing concern in India, and while therapy and medication are essential tools for treatment, emerging research confirms that food profoundly impacts mental well-being. A recent meta-analysis of 18 studies, published in the journal *Nutritional Neuroscience*, found that a high-fibre diet significantly reduces the odds of depression, with five times greater benefits for adolescents than adults. A team of researchers led by Faezeh Saghaian from the Department of Community Nutrition, School of Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics at the University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Iran, conducted a systematic search of electronic databases, up to May 2021. Data from 18 publications (12 cross-sectional, five cohort and one case-control studies) on dietary fibre consumption in relation to depression or anxiety were included. For depression, 15 studies were conducted on adults and three others on adolescents. The review concluded that high intake of dietary fibre was protectively associated with depression in adults, in a dose-response fashion. The study showed that the total dietary fibre intake was associated with a 10% lower odds of depression in adults and a 57% lower odds in adolescents. Dose-response meta-analy-

sis revealed an inverse linear association between total dietary fibre intake and odds of depression in adults; such that each 5-g increase in total dietary fibre intake was associated with a 5% reduction in risk of depression. An inverse significant association was observed between intake of fibre from vegetables and soluble fibre and odds of depression. However, cereal fibre, fibre from fruits and insoluble fibre were marginally associated with a reduction in depression, according to the study. Depression in India According to the 2016 National Mental Health Survey one in every 20 people in India suffer from depression. Conducted by the NIMHANS, depression was reported to be higher in women in the 40 to 49 age group and among those residing in metros. Equally high rates were reported from among the elderly with 3.5% of the population affected. The survey, conducted in 12 States, said that common mental disorders that include depression, anxiety and substance use are a huge burden on society affecting nearly 10% of the population.

Hemant Bhargav, Associate Professor of Integrative Medicine at NIMHANS, said with depression on the rise in India, especially in adolescents, it is time to harness the power of the Indian diet, naturally abundant in fibre. "To boost your mood with your meals,

it is essential to embrace the power of fibre while prioritising whole foods. Fill your plate with fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, whole grains like brown rice and oats, and protein-packed legumes like lentils that provide a variety of nutrients and fibre to support mental health," Dr. Bhargav said. Rainbow on your plate

"The more colourful your meals are, the better. Leafy greens, vibrant gourds, and salads that are boiled and fresh promote mental clarity and balance. Oats, barley, apples, and citrus fruits that are rich in soluble fibre are shown to have a strong connection to lower depression rates," the doctor explained. "It is essential to choose freshly cooked meals that are light, easy to digest (you should feel light in the stomach within four hours of eating), and leave you feeling energised, not sluggish. Ignite your digestive fire by adding warming spices like turmeric, cumin, and coriander to your meals. These spices not only enhance flavor but also offer mood-boosting and anti-inflammatory properties. Consider enjoying a comforting kashayam (herbal decoction) with these spices before meals to enhance digestion and absorption," he said. Besides, it is very important to create a peaceful eating environment. "Savour each bite with gratitude, and avoid overeating.



# JSW MG Motor India Showcases Next-Gen Mobility Solutions at Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025; Stellar line-up of 9 global models

Hyderabad:JSW MG Motor India, in line with its vision of Drive.Future, showcased its new-age technologies and forward-thinking initiatives on the second day of the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. Solidifying its technological leadership, JSW MG Motor India demonstrated its competencies in CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric) technology. With a focus on innovation, sustainability, and customer-centric initiatives, the brand presented pragmatic solutions that elevate mobility for the modern era.

Taking the vision of Drive.Future to the next level, JSW MG Motor India showcased a diverse range of powertrain options, including Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs), Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), and Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models. These include innovative models with strong battery management, the IM5 and IM6, a premium plug-in hybrid electric vehicle MG HS, the grand SUV MG MAJESTOR, D+ Segment SUV, the Comet BLACKSTORM and the luxurious MG7 Trophy Edition, among others.

Rajeev Chaba, CEO Emeritus, JSW MG Motor India, said "We are excited to showcase our pioneering initiatives in CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric) technologies at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, reaffirming our commitment to shaping the future of mobility. Our vision

of Drive.Future is rooted in leveraging advanced technology to transform mobility into a sustainable, connected, and customer-centric experience. Through our technology zone and diverse powertrain showcase, we are pushing the boundaries to offer practical, sustainable solutions that not only make electric mobility more accessible but also enhance the overall driving experience with a greener, smarter, and more connected future for all."

**MG MAJESTOR** – The MG MAJESTOR is a new D+ segment SUV with massive dimensions - the longest, widest, and tallest in its class, creating an imposing stance. It redefines excellence, setting new benchmarks for SUVs in handling urban and off-road driving conditions. Inside, the MG MAJESTOR is an abode of luxury, spaciousness, and comfort. This D+ segment SUV blends commanding performance, unmatched luxury, and advanced technology and is equipped with a range of advanced features that set it apart from the competition. With commanding power and rugged capability, the MG MAJESTOR excels on any terrain, making it ideal for both city and adventure. The massively spacious cabin, crafted with premium materials and thoughtful design, guarantees a refined journey for all occupants. Safety takes centre-stage with limitless safety features, including robust structural integrity and advanced driver-assist systems.



**IM5** – The IM5 is a luxurious sedan, featuring contemporary technology and elegant design. At the heart of the IM5 is its innovative solid-state battery, offering a substantial

range without compromising on performance. The IM5 also features an intelligent digital chassis and a hurricane motor delivering exceptional power.

## Telugu Sangamam Sankranti Sammelanam-2025: A Grand Celebration of Telugu Language and Culture

Hyderabad:The Telugu Sangamam Sankranti Sammelanam-2025 took place today at the Om Convention Hall in Narsingi, Hyderabad, attracting an enthusiastic crowd of over 3,000 attendees united in their celebration of the rich heritage of the Telugu language and culture. Under the esteemed patronage of Mr. P. Muralidhar Rao, Chief Patron of Telugu Sangamam and BJP National Leader, the event featured distinguished guests including Sri Nallu Indrasena Reddy, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India, Dr. Mandali Buddha Prasad, MLA, renowned cine actor Natakiriti Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Kuchibhotla Anand, President of the University of Silicon Andhra, and Brahmasri Dr. L.V. Gangadhara Sastry, Founder of the Bhagavad Gita Foundation. The celebration opened with a spiritually uplifting Aaservachanam by Bhagawan Sri Sri Vishwayogi Vishwamjee Maharaj, setting a heartfelt tone for the festivities. This year's Sammelanam emphasized the importance of preserving the Telugu language, engaging attendees through captivating performances, including traditional dances, melodious songs, and enriching literary discussions. In his welcoming address, Sri P. Muralidhar Rao underscored the collective responsibility of the Telugu-speaking community to uphold and promote their language for generations to come. He stressed the need to root cultural pride while also embracing modernity. Highlighting the significance of the event, N. Indrasena Reddy



spoke passionately about the role of the Telugu Sangamam in conserving and promoting Telugu culture in the contemporary landscape. He called upon parents to actively encourage their children to speak Telugu and praised Dr. Mandali Buddha Prasad's ongoing initiatives to nurture the language within families. He also emphasized the Indian government's commitment to safeguarding cultural customs rooted in longstanding

traditions. Kishan Reddy noted it was heartening to witness individuals returning to their villages during Sankranti, emphasizing the importance of spending quality time amidst old memories and contributing to the development of their hometowns through initiatives like improving local schools and roads. He emphasized that this continuation of tradition is vital and should remain a hallmark of community engagement. Guests were treated to

a sumptuous luncheon featuring traditional Telugu dishes, celebrating the region's culinary diversity and fostering camaraderie among attendees. Mr. V.V. Lakshmi Narayana, Former CBI JD and Founder of Jai Bharat National Party, Mr. Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, MP, Mr. Raghunandan Rao, MP, Mr. Kamineni Srinivas, MLA, and other dignitaries also participated in this grand celebration.



# Rotary Club of Lake District Moinabad Drives Sustainable Change with Donation of 40 LPG-Powered Iron Boxes

Hyderabad: The Rotary Club of Lake District Moinabad is proud to announce its support for District 3150's sustainability initiative that is set to benefit over 10,000 Isthri Vyaparis (street ironers) in Hyderabad. This significant effort, which includes the donation of 40 LPG-powered iron boxes, marks a crucial milestone in improving livelihoods while actively addressing environmental concerns. The donation drive took place on 20th January 2025, at Municipal Park, Amberpet, Hyderabad, and attracted a strong turnout of community leaders, including Rtn Chiranjeev Saluja (President, Rotary Club of Lake District Moinabad), Rtn Uday Pilani (District Governor Nominee, RI District 3150), and Rtn Dimple Agarwal (Secretary, Rotary Club of Lake District Moinabad).

**\*Key Impacts of the Initiative:\***

**- Economic Growth:\*** The initiative is anticipated to generate an estimated annual income boost of ₹60 crore for the Isthri Vyapari community.

**- Environmental Benefits:\*** Transitioning to LPG-powered iron boxes will eliminate the burning of 72 lakh kilograms of coal each year, significantly curbing carbon emissions.

**- Health Improvements:\*** More than 10,000 families will be shielded from harmful coal fumes and soot, leading to enhanced health outcomes.



# Seminar on “How to Crack Civil Services in the First Attempt: UPSC Master Class” Held at Malla Reddy Medical College for Women

Hyderabad, January 20, 2025:

A seminar titled “How to Crack Civil Services in the First Attempt: UPSC Master Class” was organized by VINGS Media and G5 Media Group, in association with 21st Century IAS Academy, at Malla Reddy Medical College for Women, Suraram, on Monday.

P. Krishna Pradeep, Chairman of 21st Century IAS Academy, shared motivational examples of doctors excelling in administrative roles. He cited Dr. Darej Ahmed, an MBBS graduate turned district collector, who effectively stopped child marriages in a community to address public health issues. He also encouraged students to consider medical sciences as an optional subject and emphasized that self-confidence is key to cracking the UPSC examination.

Dr. Bhavani Shankar, Chief Mentor of 21st Century IAS Academy, addressed the gathering and highlighted the significance of women's empowerment under the government's “Naari Shakti” initiative. He informed students that women applicants are exempted from paying UPSC application fees, ensuring equal opportunities in civil services. The seminar also saw the launch of exclusive study materials authored by academy experts, now available in the college library to aid civil service aspirants. Medical Superintendent Dr. Srinivas Rao welcomed attendees and encouraged students to make the most of the seminar's insights. The event was attended by Dean Dr. Sreelatha, Chancellor Dr. Sudha Ramana, Giri Prakash (Director, VINGS Media and G5 Media Group), Editor Ganesh, and Manager Prasad.







\* Special efforts for the development of Veerabhadreswara Temple: Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha\* Sangareddy: State Minister for Health, Science and Technology Damodar Rajanarsimha participated as the chief guest at the swearing-in ceremony of

the new committee of Sri Bhadrakali Sameta Veerabhadreswara Temple in Raikod. Chairman Kulkarni Prabhakar, Vice Chairman Guvva Bhimanna and members of the new temple committee administered the oath with shawls. Speaking on this oc-

casion, they said that they will make special efforts for the development of Veerabhadreswara temple. The newly established Akshaya Hospital in Mandal Center was inaugurated by the minister by cutting the ribbon. Chairman of Zilla Grandhalaya

Sanstha Anjaiah, Mandal Special Officer Jagdish, Assistant Commissioner of Religious Affairs Chandrasekhar, Temple EO Siva Rudrayya, Latest Ex-Sarpanch Kedarnath Patil, officials, activists and others participated in this program

## Joe Biden pardons Anthony Fauci, Mark Milley to guard against potential 'revenge' by Donald Trump

President Joe Biden on Monday (January 20, 2025) pardoned Dr. Anthony Fauci, retired Gen. Mark Milley and members of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, using the extraordinary powers of his office in his final hours to guard against potential "revenge" by the incoming Trump administration. The decision by Mr. Biden comes after Donald Trump warned of an enemies list filled with those who have crossed him politically or sought to hold him accountable for his attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss and his role in the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump has selected Cabinet nominees who backed his election lies and who have pledged to punish those involved in efforts to investigate him.

"The issuance of these pardons should not be mistaken as an acknowledgment that any individual engaged in any wrongdoing, nor should acceptance be misconstrued as an admission of guilt for any offense," Mr. Biden said in a statement. "Our nation owes these public servants a debt of gratitude for their tireless commitment to our country." The pardons, announced with just hours left in his presidency, have been the subject of heated debate for months at the highest levels of the White House. It's customary for a president to grant clemency at the end of his term, but those acts of mercy are usually offered to Americans who have been convicted of crimes. Biden has used the power in the broadest and most untested way possible:

to pardon those who have not even been investigated yet. The decision lays the groundwork for an even more expansive use of pardons by Trump and future presidents.

While the Supreme Court last year ruled that the president enjoys broad immunity from prosecution for what could be considered official acts, the president's aides and allies enjoy no such shield. There are fears that Trump or future presidents could use the promise of a blanket pardon to encourage allies to take actions they might otherwise resist for fear of running afoul of the law. Mr. Trump, who takes office at noon, has promised to, in his first moments as president, pardon many of those involved in the violent and bloody Jan. 6, 2021, attack, which injured roughly 140 law enforcement officers.

It's unclear whether those pardoned by Biden would need to apply for the clemency or even accept the offer at all. Any acceptance could be seen as a tacit admission of guilt or wrongdoing, validating years of attacks by Trump and his supporters, even though those who have been pardoned have not been formally accused of any crimes. "These are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing," Biden said, adding that "Even when individuals have done nothing wrong — and in fact have done the right thing — and will ultimately be exonerated, the mere fact of being investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage reputations and finances."

Fauci was director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health for nearly 40 years, including during Trump's term in office and later served as Biden's chief medical adviser until his retirement in 2022. He helped coordinate the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and raised Trump's ire when he resisted the Trump's untested public health notions. Fauci has since become a target of intense hatred and vitriol from people on the right, who blame him for mask mandates and other policies they believe infringed on their rights, even as hundreds of thousands of people were dying. Mark Milley is the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He later called Trump a fascist and detailed Trump's conduct around the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. He said he was grateful to Biden for a pardon so he no longer has to worry about "retribution." Mr. Biden also extended pardons to members and staff of the Jan. 6 committee that investigated the attack, as well as the U.S. Capitol and D.C. Metropolitan police officers who testified before the committee about their experiences that day, overrun by an angry, violent mob of Trump supporters.

The committee spent 18 months investigating Trump and the violent insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021. It was led by U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and Republican Liz Cheney, who later pledged to vote for Democrat Kamala Harris and campaigned with her.

The committee's final report found that Donald Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol. "Rather than accept accountability, those who perpetrated the January 6th attack have taken every opportunity to undermine and intimidate those who participated in the Select Committee in an attempt to rewrite history, erase the stain of January 6th for partisan gain, and seek revenge, including by threatening criminal prosecutions," Mr. Biden said. Mr. Biden's statement did not list the scores of members and staff by name. "These public servants have served our nation with honor and distinction and do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified and politically motivated prosecutions," Mr. Biden said. Mr. Biden, an institutionalist, has promised a smooth transition to the next administration, inviting Trump to the White House and saying that the nation will be OK, even as he warned during his farewell address of a growing oligarchy. He has spent years warning that Trump's ascension to the presidency again would be a threat to democracy. His decision to break with political norms with the preemptive pardons was brought on by those concerns. Mr. Biden has set the presidential record for most individual pardons and commutations issued. He announced on Friday he would commuting the sentences of almost 2,500 people convicted of nonviolent drug offenses.



# The Trump card, global politics and outcomes for India

Who is Donald Trump? Dissecting the psychology of the next U.S. President is a popular pastime. His bold, disinhibited speaking style, his outspokenness, his focus on deal-making, his real estate background that defines his coercive leadership and politics, cast him very differently from his predecessors. He is a polarising figure, wading constantly into controversy, stubbornly resilient, a master of populist rhetoric, presenting himself as the voice of the "common people" arraigned against an out-of-touch political establishment.

It's 'America first' What is Mr. Trump's approach to the "rules-based international order"? We know from his first Presidency, that he expounds an "America First" doctrine. He debunks multilateralism in global politics, and he trashes international agreements that he believes do not favour the United States. He prefers bilateral agreements over multilateral ones: witness his approach to the Paris Climate Agreement (from which he withdrew and is likely to withdraw again) and to trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He is dismissive of international institutions like the United Nations and regional bodies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying that these disproportionately benefit other nations at the expense of the U.S. To the delight of his acolytes, he places American sovereignty over global governance.

In the Trumpian worldview, strategy revolves around the bully pulpit, strong personal branding, a willingness to take risks, unconventional deal-making, winner-take-all in place of win-win. Practical outcomes rather than theoretical constructs are emphasised. Donald Trump's transactionalism is legend. His MAGA ("Make America Great Again") policy will have implications influencing global geopolitics. This will entail a rise of protectionism in global trade (free trade is an anachronism in this scheme of things), escalating tariffs and trade wars and increased economic uncertainty. Intensified competition with China where Beijing is clearly framed as an economic and ideological adversary will affect global stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. Mr. Trump's scepticism about global institutions will inspire adventurism in global politics and nationalisms that override international law. Polarisation in global politics will be increasingly in evidence, and debates on free trade, immigration and globalisation will become increasingly fractious. Climate policy and action will be downgraded. Instability in global markets will affect nations, whether developed or developing, across the board. The world is in for 'interesting' and tumultuous times. American isolationism under MAGA (since Mr. Trump has clearly signalled opposition to U.S. direct involvement in external conflict), can encourage powers such as China and Russia already united in their opposition to the U.S.'s power and influence, to expand their global footprint, using both economic and military means. MAGA could be synonymous with disruption beyond American shores and power realignments. Ties with India, the line for New Delhi

The strategic outlook for India-U.S. re-

lations under a second Trump Presidency is mixed. Relations between the two countries have witnessed a steady evolution and multi-faceted growth over the last two decades across partisan divides. That trend is expected to continue especially since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump have a warm friendship. India has stressed constructive engagement with the U.S. as a key strategic partner. India's growing geopolitical clout and a mutual interest with the U.S. in countering China (particularly because of the over-assertive Chinese military posture and transgressions across the Line of Actual Control) provide a strong impetus for a growing strategic partnership. India-U.S. defence cooperation will continue to strengthen together with partnerships in critical technologies (provided the new administration does not use export controls as pressure points) and business. Trade frictions could, however, be a complicating factor. The countering of Chinese influence in the region by the incoming U.S. administration suggests that groupings such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad of the U.S., Australia, India, and Japan), where India is an important constituent, will be strengthened. The maintenance of the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific requires the continued involvement of the U.S., even though India is cautious about an over-reliance on America and seeks to ensure its very own strategic autonomy. India's Indo-Pacific vision stresses regional cooperation, multilateralism and multipolarity. India would do well to continue to emphasise its own strategic priorities, as shaped by history, geopolitics, national security, its economic interests and civilisational identity. Its border security, a strong defence posture, military modernisation, intensified counterterrorism efforts through strengthened intelligence, anti-radicalisation, and a continued focus on fighting cross-border terrorism, remain of central concern.

The compulsion of economic growth is central to its strategic outlook. India's energy security, diversification of energy sources, building renewable energy and the maintenance of stable relationships with key energy suppliers are vital. Peace and stability in South Asia are important, as also vigilance about containing and neutralising destabilising influences in the region, particularly from China and Pakistan. Security of the Indo-Pacific as a key maritime and economic passageway is a strategic priority. India's partnerships with Japan, Australia, with the European Union and with The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, apart from the U.S. are essential to the balancing of China's rise, to ensure India's access to key technologies, to defence preparedness, and for its trade and economic development. Key for its strategic future are its digital transformation, space exploration, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity for its digital infrastructure and building resilience against cyber threats from hostile nations and non-state actors. India's priorities should incorporate a deployment of soft power in an emphasis on democratic and constitutional values, pluralism, humanitarian engagement and diaspora outreach. The relationship with Russia must continue to be



in focus because of the complex and diversified nature of India's strategic partnership with that country, and because of the counterweight it provides to the growing Sino-Russian alignment in Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific. On Trump again The reality of the second Trump Presidency, and Mr. Trump's victory in the elections, indicate that established patterns of history and geopolitics that

served as guides to the future may no longer apply as the positioning system for a global order that will instead be disruptive, polarised and unstable. Global politics, all said, may never be the same.

As the American analyst, Ian Bremmer, recently noted, a G-Zero world has arrived, and the law of the jungle may provide the new global playbook.

## Ugly business; About 'The Substance'

A dissection of Coralie Fargeat's horror sensation about the emotional violence of beauty standards and of body dysmorphia rendered nightmarishly concrete Beauty is a dialogue between the beholder and the beheld. Today's It girl can become yesterday's news because of a crease on the skin. Women who conform to the patriarchal beauty ideal are valued more highly than those who don't. For beauty as a social currency is valuable but volatile, naked to the whims of gatekeepers and the ravages of time. How we respond to it is a result of social conditioning and the media we consume that airbrushes away the imperfections, the ugly, the gross realities of the human body. The beauty industry is one ugly business. It cannot survive without pushing beauty's goal posts. Soon as it is done milking your insecurity about one problem, it secures a chokehold on your soul with another. Not stressed over acne anymore? How about wrinkles and age spots? Everything is treatable as long as you are ready to consume. Don't have an insecurity yet? We'll invent one so we can exploit you. The commodification of beauty is endless in a capitalist framework. Body insecurities last a lifetime, all of it fodder for an industry that thrives on women judging each other and themselves. Joan Rivers once joked, "Hell is living in LA with a bad body." The joke gets a corrosive-as-cancer punchline in The Substance. Coralie Fargeat presents a hellish LA where the adverse effects of our pathological obsession with beauty and youth have been allowed to reach their fullest expression. Not far beyond the realm of Ozempic, microneedling and butt lifts lies a future with a more compre-

hensive remedy to the lifestyle-threatening disease of ageing. If the lecherous eyes that pervade such a world lines the epidermis of Fargeat's body horror, the monster of self-hatred engendered by toxic beauty standards makes up its spine. Demi Moore is Elizabeth Sparkle, once a movie star, now a daytime TV aerobics instructor, who is shown the exit door the very day she turns 50. The pressure to negate age pushes Elizabeth to try a back-alley treatment that can extend the expiration date Hollywood labels on women. When she injects a brat-green substance, an idealised younger self erupts from her spine, fully-formed and all set to pump it up in the shapely frame of Margaret Qualley. The Faustian bargain comes with strings attached. The two must swap bodies every seven days. No exception. Calling herself Sue, the skinny-me treats the seven-day limit like a gentle suggestion instead of an unbreakable rule. Intoxicated by her youth and rising star, she starts to rob more and more of Elizabeth's time. In a world where beauty equates life force, what this means for Elizabeth is her body deteriorates quite dramatically. Elizabeth retaliates by binge-eating in an attempt to transfer the excess body fat to Sue. "Remember: you are one!" a Substance customer service rep repeats on cue. Rest assured harmonious coexistence isn't on the cards. Not when Elisabeth/Sue have internalised the competitive hostility of a cruel industry rather than built up defences against it. Not when one version is getting a lot more out of the arrangement than the other. While Sue enjoys the highs of fame, the only joy for Elizabeth, if any, at first comes from living second-hand through her replicated self.



# Nicolas Maduro | Back in power with fewer friends

More than 11 years after assuming power as Venezuela's interim President following the death of popular leader Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro has yet again been sworn in as the President of the Latin American country. The circumstances of the retention of his post and the reactions to the ceremony from international actors provide a sense of déjà vu. In 2019, when Mr. Maduro was sworn in for the second time as President, nearly 40 countries including the U.S., neighbouring Colombia and Brazil and those belonging to the EU, refused to recognise his presidency. Sixteen UN-recognised countries sent representatives, including Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In 2025, however, only two Presidents — Cuba's Miguel Diaz-Canel and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega — attended. International condemnation of the manner in which Mr. Maduro was declared President after the elections held on July 28, 2024 has been more severe this time around. Since 2019, there has been a new Pink Tide in Latin America with countries such as Colombia, Brazil and Chile electing leftist Presidents. All three leaders have rejected Mr. Maduro's "victory". Chile's Gabriel Boric said on Thursday (January 9, 2025) - "From the political left, I tell you that the government of Nicolas Maduro is a dictatorship". Brazil's leader Lula da Silva vetoed the entry of Venezuela into BRICS following the latter's inability to release detailed electoral information on the disputed results. Gustavo Petro's government in Colombia also reiterated that it did not recognise the election results of July 28. Meanwhile, the Opposition candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who exiled himself to Spain and had recently visited two countries ruled by the Right in Latin America — Argentina and Panama — withdrew plans to return to Caracas for his own "inauguration". The results in question and the process in which Mr. Maduro was declared the winner raise severe doubts about the Venezuelan elections in 2024. The U.N., which sent a panel of experts to Caracas, criticised the National Election Council of Venezuela for declaring Mr. Maduro as the winner before providing detailed table-level results.

The electoral system consisted of an electronic voting machine which produced a paper receipt after voters registered their choice at the polling booth. At the end of polling, each machine would print a tally sheet showing the candidates' names and the votes that they received. The National Election Council traditionally put up only the vote counts at the end of the election on its website, but the site was down during the counting and after disputing the results, the Opposition demanded the release of the tally sheets which was not done. The Opposition could, on its own, access 83% of the tally sheets from 30,026 polling stations, which "revealed" that Mr. Gonzalez polled 67% votes. The CNE's figures were different, favouring Mr. Maduro with 51.95% of the vote to Mr. Gonzalez's 43.2%. Considering the wide differences on this issue and the fact that the Maduro regime had used intimidatory tactics throughout the election process, several international actors sought the release of the tally sheets to confirm the win-

ner but that was not done.

Economic decline The 11 years of rule by Mr. Maduro has coincided with a significant decline in Venezuela's economic standing, with severe increases in the poverty rate, persistently high inflation and food shortages in the country. While inflation had eased to 23.58% in October 2024, hyperinflation has characterised the economy since 2018. As of October 2023, the UNHCR estimated that more than 7.7 million Venezuelan citizens fled the country to become refugees and 6.5 million among them (84%) are in Latin America and the Caribbean. Critics of Mr. Maduro blame the catastrophic economic situation on the stark authoritarian turn since he came to power. Some suggest that the economic decline was inevitable as Venezuela was overly dependent upon the petroleum sector — crude constituted 95% of the country's exports in 2014 and the oil price crash in the same year sent it into a spiral. Critics argue that the seeds of the economic decline were laid during Chavez's regime, as he tried to undo the remnants of the country's liberal democratic order to create a personalised state with concentrated powers for the executive presidency.

Following a coup attempt in 2002 against Chavez, his supporters — the Chavistas — sought to rewrite the rules of power in the country by moving it away from what observers termed an inflexible and ideologically one-sided, two-party system (a byproduct of the Puntofijo Pact between political parties in 1958). The Chavistas instituted a series of measures, including constitutional referendums and structural changes, most of which received popular support as Chavez won several elections. The Chavistas argue that the regime enhanced grassroots participation in the polity and built cooperatives while using the proceeds of the extractive economy to fund pro-poor programmes. And while the regime was cognisant of diversification, the lack of it during the oil price crash resulted in the economic crisis, which was exacerbated by a series of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the EU after Mr. Maduro came to power. Following the economic crisis, these structures of power were utilised by Mr. Maduro to entrench himself. Since his ascent to power, Mr. Maduro's regime has moved away from a popular regime that was dependent upon grassroots mobilisation and participatory democracy to an authoritarian system. The first Donald Trump administration in August 2017 imposed sanctions prohibiting the Venezuelan government from accessing U.S. financial markets, a move that affected Venezuela's state-run oil company, PDVSA. The U.S. went on, in 2019, to impose further and direct sanctions on PDVSA, preventing it from being paid for petroleum exports to the U.S, froze its U.S. assets and disallowed the supply of diluents that aided the refining of Venezuelan heavy crude, among other measures. The U.S.-imposed economic sanctions were compounded by the EU's own embargo on arms and material to be traded with Venezuela, imposed in 2017. Restrictions still remain. The country got a respite when the U.S. eased some sanctions following an agreement signed between



Mr. Maduro and representatives of Opposition parties in October 2023 in Barbados with political prisoners being released. The country's oil output saw an increase, resulting in more exports and a partial easing of the severity of the economic situation. However, in April 2024, the U.S. announced that sanctions would be reinstated on the oil sector. International opprobrium Just prior to the inauguration of his third term, the U.S. announced a \$65-million bounty for the arrest of Mr. Maduro even as he received support from Russia and China apart from staunch allies in Cuba and Nicaragua. The

international opprobrium and increased polarisation in Venezuela is not deterring Mr. Maduro from doubling down on authoritarianism.

A proposed law — the Simon Bolivar law — now stipulates severe punishment for dissidents and repression of civil movements. With Mr. Trump returning to power in the U.S., hostilities are set to renew afresh and the biggest casualty could be the millions of Venezuelans pushed into poverty from a combination of poor economic policies, international sanctions and authoritarianism under Mr. Maduro.

## AM Green join hands with DP World for supply of green fuels

Hyderabad: AM Green, a leader in green hydrogen and ammonia production, has partnered with DP World, a global logistics leader, to create a sustainable supply chain for green fuels and chemicals.

This collaboration will significantly enhance global decarbonisation efforts by enabling seamless exports to key consumption markets. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed in December, DP World and AM Green will jointly develop logistics and storage infrastructure to facilitate the global export of 1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of green ammonia and 1 MTPA of green methanol. AM Green is developing multiple projects across India, using renewable energy sources, including

solar, wind and hydroelectric power, to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), green ammonia, green hydrogen, chemicals and biofuels. It has an ambitious target of 5 MTPA of production capacity by 2030, that will make a significant contribution to India's net-zero targets and global decarbonisation goals. The company has already taken a final investment decision for a 1 MTPA Green Ammonia plant in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh on India's eastern coast. Mahesh Kolli, Founder, Greenko Group & AM Green, said, "This strategic partnership will enable us to efficiently export green Ammonia, green methanol, and other sustainable fuels, enhancing the global green supply chain and supporting the global shift to a low-carbon economy."



# What led to the Azerbaijan Airlines jet crash? | Explained

On December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, 4K-AZ65, en route from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny, the capital of Chechnya in Russia, with 67 passengers and crew, faced a series of serious technical difficulties. The weather appeared to have been a factor as the crew attempted to divert to Makhachkala in Russia. There was another diversion to Aktau in Kazakhstan by the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea, but the plane impacted the ground about three kilometres from Aktau's airport, and 38 passengers were killed. There are conflicting reports on the cause, linked to a series of holes in a part of the fuselage and a survivor passenger's video footage. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said "we can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down... We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done". Azerbaijan has said that the aircraft "was ordered" to fly across the Caspian Sea after it was denied landing at two Russian airports. Data from the black boxes have been decoded in Brazil, where the twin-engine aircraft, an Embraer ERJ-190AR, was manufactured. The passengers were Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Russian citizens.

What are the other details?

The flight data site, Flightradar24, has told The Hindu that "We can confirm that the flight was operating in an area affected by GPS jamming and spoofing, hence we did not see a large portion of the flight. The last portion of the flight was operated in an area of good coverage." The website of Azerbaijan Airlines says the airline, which is a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), is in full compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. The airline has announced the suspension of flights to several cities in Russia on the directive of the Azerbaijan State Civil Aviation Authority following preliminary results from an investigation into the crash. A report on the President of Russia's official website, titled "Telephone conversation with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, December 28, 2024", says: "The presidents had a detailed discussion of issues regarding the December 25 crash .... Vladimir Putin apologised for the fact that the incident happened in Russian airspace... It was noted during the conversation that the Azerbaijani passenger airliner was flying according to schedule and repeatedly tried to land at Grozny Airport. At that time, Ukrainian unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) attacked Grozny, Mozdok and Vladikavkaz, and Russian air defence systems were repelling these attacks. The Russian Investigative Committee initiated a criminal case under Article 263 of the Criminal Code (violation of the rules for traffic safety and operation of the air transportation systems). Initial investigation is underway...."

On January 3, 2025, the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, said 17 international experts including those from ICAO and the Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC), the body representing some of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), were invited to ensure an "impartial and ob-

jective incident investigation". A media report says that the flight data have been analysed by the aeronautical accident investigation and prevention centre, CENIPA, Air Force Command, which is the central investigative body that is overseen by the Brazilian Air Force. Investigators from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia are also involved.

The Center for Investigation and Prevention of Aeronautical Accidents in Brazil (CENIPA) has told The Hindu that "on January 4, 2024, the extraction, acquisition, and validation of the data contained in the two flight recorders (the Cockpit Voice and Flight Data Recorder – CVFDR) of the Embraer 190 aircraft were successfully completed at the Flight Data Recorder Readout and Analysis Laboratory (LABDATA) of CENIP, located in Brasilia-DF, Brazil". "Upon conclusion of these activities, all data were handed over on the same day to the Investigation Authority of Kazakhstan, the agency responsible for analyzing and investigating the accident, in accordance with international aviation accident investigation protocols." "This work was conducted in collaboration with the Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation Department of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Such cooperation reflects the commitment of the Brazilian Government, through the Ministry of Defense and the Brazilian Air Force, to promoting aviation safety worldwide." CENIPA also said, "The analysis of the extracted data and the conclusions to be published in the Final Report remain the sole responsibility of the Investigation Authority of Kazakhstan, as stipulated in Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation."

What does the accident highlight about conflict zones?

Dr. Hassan Shahidi, President and CEO, Flight Safety Foundation, Virginia, U.S., has told The Hindu that the operation of civilian flights in conflict zones is a complex issue that involves assessing the risks posed by ongoing hostilities. ICAO guidelines stress the importance of states providing up-to-date risk assessments and advisories to airlines about potential threats, including military activity, missile launches, or other hazards. Airlines, in turn, must conduct their own risk assessments. Under international law, specifically the Chicago Convention and its Annexes, the responsibility for ensuring the safety of civil aviation lies with states. If the crash is found to be caused by actions directly linked to Russia, whether intentional or negligent, questions of state responsibility and accountability under international law may arise, which may include legal actions and findings of criminal liability.

As the flight is said to have been subject to severe electronic and communication interference, Dr. Shahidhi said, "spoofing (sending false signals) and jamming (blocking or disrupting signals) can have severe impacts on aviation safety, particularly on navigation and communication systems. These technologies could interfere with Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), for example, GPS, ADS-B and transponder signals and communication systems. Enhanced cybersecurity measures, alternative navigation systems, and robust incident re-



On December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, 4K-AZ65, en route from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny, the capital of Chechnya in Russia, with 67 passengers and crew, faced a series of serious technical difficulties

porting mechanisms are needed to mitigate these risks".

An ICAO spokesperson has told The Hindu that ICAO has readied itself to support this investigation in the interest of aviation safety and security, deputing an ICAO expert to be deployed onsite as an observer to the international investigation team. He said, "The investigation, as prescribed by Annex 13, shall be conducted with the sole objective of preventing future accidents and incidents, through the collection and analysis of safety data and information. Annex 13 calls for a preliminary report to be produced within 30 days of the accident, with a final report to follow within 12 months." Conflict zones, with state and non-state players, pose immense risks to civil aviation and countries are responding to this growing threat with several initiatives. Canada's Safer Skies initiative is one such example that was in response to the shooting down of a Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 in 2020 after take-off from Tehran. The IATA Tactical Operations Portal gives aviation subscribers real-time alerts related to airspace and airport operations. It operates based on a five-level alerting system. Another group is the Expert Group on Risk Information overflying Conflict Zones (EGRICZ), which is an informal international group that puts out information on airspace conflict zone risk assessments. There is also the Safer Skies Consultative Committee which is a formal international platform that examines conflict zone threats.

Where are GPS interference hotspots?

Flightradar24 says that the jamming of signals has been prevalent in the area around the Black Sea, while spoofing is common around Iraq, Ukraine, Russia, and also the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It says that flight crew are aware of GPS jamming and spoofing and are trained in advanced risk management.

Have nation-states been involved in air accidents?

As the paper, "Navigating the Legal Horizon: Lawyering the MH17 Disaster" (2017), by Marieke de Hoon in the Utrecht Journal of International and European Law,

points out, there have been about nine major cases. Some of them include the shooting down of a Cathay Pacific airliner by China in 1954; Libyan Arab Airlines flight 114 by Israel in 1973; Korean Airlines flight 007 by the then-Soviet Union in 1983; Iran Air flight 655 by the United States in 1988; the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 by 'Libyan agents' in 1988; Sibir Airlines flight 1812 by Ukraine in 2001; and MH17.

What about the legal issues?

Dr. Mohammad Owais Farooqui, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Law, College of Law, University of Sharjah, UAE, has told The Hindu that the accident poses important legal questions with regard to jurisdiction under the principles of international law. It has drawn attention to the absence, ownership, and management of responsibility and authority in international aviation regulation, compensation, and state responsibility. In the investigations, there should be focus on how the existing international legal works and the bases, for example, the Chicago Convention and the Montreal Convention, regulate such occurrences, he says. The law applicable to the liability for damage in this context is the Montreal Convention. Azerbaijan Airlines may be financially responsible for making compensation payments, but things get complicated if state responsibility is engaged, more so in a missile strike scenario. If there is evidence that a state is involved, principles of state responsibility under the international law may prevail over the Montreal Convention and the responsible state may be under obligation to make reparation under customary international law. Another area of law is international humanitarian law, he says. The Chicago Convention specifically bans the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight, and if a state is involved, its conduct may amount to a breach of this law, especially if not in accordance with the principles of necessity and proportionality. The Azerbaijan case, he says, highlights the necessity for more authoritative and codified regulation of international civil aviation activity, the enhancement of liability regulation at the global level, and cooperation within the international legal framework.