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India-Australia deal seeks to double bilateral trade in 5 years

Significant economic pact for New Delhi amid Canberra's tensions with Beijing

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India and Australia signed an **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** on Saturday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart in **Canberra Scott Morrison**, with an eye on doubling bilateral trade to \$50 billion in five years and easing movement of people, goods and services across borders.

The agreement with Australia, which Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** expects would create 10 lakh additional jobs in the country over the next five years, was described as a **'watershed moment** in bilat-

Strengthening ties

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which is New Delhi's first trade pact with a developed country in over a decade, is a significant milestone in bilateral relationship



■ Australian firms in business, communication, construction and engineering services to gain benefit



■ Fast track nod mooted for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines



■ Indian students in Australia to get work visas for two to four years



■ Indian chefs and yoga teachers to get quotas

eral ties' by Mr. Modi.

"On the basis of this agreement, together, we will be able to increase the resi-

lience of supply chains, and also contribute to the stability of the Indo-Pacific region," he said about the deal

that will facilitate work visas for two to four years for Indian students in Australia on a 'reciprocal basis' and allow Indian chefs and yoga professionals to work in the country.

The trade and economic partnership deal with Australia, which is in the middle of a trade battle with China, is a significant milestone at a time when the developed world is looking to hedge its supply chain dependence.

A government statement noted that this is also the first such pact signed by India with a developed country in a decade.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Watershed moment	(Idiom): A watershed moment is a turning point, the exact moment that changes the direction of an activity or situation	ऐतिहासिक क्षण
Resilience	(Noun): the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness002E	पलटाव

Static News

India and Australia Saturday signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind - Aus ECTA) which is set to provide zero-duty access to 96 per cent of India's exports to Australia including shipments from key sectors such as engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel and leather.

Scott John Morrison is an Australian politician serving as the 30th and current prime minister of Australia. He assumed office in August 2018 upon his election as leader of the Liberal Party of Australia

Piyush Vedprakash Goyal is a politician and cabinet minister of the Government of India having portfolios such as Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He was elevated to the Cabinet Minister position on 3 September 2017.

Grammar

The Function of Relative Pronouns

A Relative pronoun introduces an adjective clause. An adjective clause follows a noun:

(1) To identify it.

For example: The man **who stole the purse** is outside. (The adjective clause (highlighted) identifies the man.)

(2) To tell us something interesting about it.

For example: Inspector Krishna, **who solved the case**, is outside. (The adjective clause (highlighted) tells us something interesting about Inspector Krishna.)



Blue Represents the
Vocabulary



Yellow Represents
the Static News



Red Represents the
Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

WHO records new SARS-CoV-2 variant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has flagged the emergence of a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the XE recombinant, in the United Kingdom, and with a possibly higher rate of transmission.

The WHO, in its weekly epidemiological update, said the recombinant was detect-

ed in the United Kingdom on January 19 and over 600 sequences have been reported and confirmed since. It went on to add: "Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of about 10% as compared to BA.2, however this finding requires further confirmation."

The U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which

tracks SARS-CoV-2 variants, analysed three recombinants, known as XF, XE and XD. It explained that, of these, XD and XF are recombinants of Delta and Omicron BA.1, while XE is a recombinant of Omicron BA.1 and BA.2.

A recombinant variant occurs when an individual becomes infected with two or more variants at the same

time, leading to a mixing of genetic material in the human body. Several such recombinants have emerged in the past during the pandemic.

The UKHSA has stated that in the U.K., only 38 cases of XF have been identified, though none since mid-February.

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There is currently no evidence of community transmission within the U.K. XD has not been identified in the U.K. to date, though 49 cases have been reported to global databases.

However, a total 637 cases of XE have been confirmed in the UK so far.

"The earliest of these has a specimen date of 19 January 2022. There is currently insufficient evidence to draw conclusions about growth advantage or other properties of this variant," the agency said. However,

all the recombinants are being tracked closely, it added. Reflecting this, the WHO also said that until there emerges further confirmation on the community growth rate, "XE continues to belong to the Omicron variant until significant differences in transmission and disease characteristics, including severity, may be reported."

It has also committed to closely monitoring and assessing the public health risk associated with the recombinant variants.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Recombinant	(Adjective): relating to or denoting an organism, cell, or genetic material formed by recombination.	पुनः संयोजक

Static News

The World Health Organization (WHO)[1] is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.[2] The WHO Constitution states its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health".[3] Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. Its constitution formally came into force on the first World Health Day on 7 April 1948. The director – general is Tedros Adhanom.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)[2] is a strain of coronavirus that causes COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019), the respiratory illness responsible for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.[3] The virus previously had a provisional name, 2019 novel and has also been called human coronavirus 2019 (HCoV-19 or hCoV-19). First identified in the city of Wuhan, Hubei, China, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

Grammar

“Who” vs “Whom”.

you can only use "who" when it is the subject of a verb. "I," "he," "she," "we," and "they" are just like "who" because they are also used as the subjects of verbs. "Me," "him," "her," "us," and "them" are just like "whom" because they are not used as the subjects of verb.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Army inducts Russian MANPADS

Igla-S is a short-range weapon

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army which has long been looking for new man portable air defence systems (MANPADS), has inducted a small number of **Igla-S systems** recently procured from Russia under emergency procurement, according to defence sources. However, a much larger contract for Igla-S systems under the very short-range air-defence system (VSHORAD) deal is still pending and is under review by the Defence Ministry.

"The contract was signed in December 2020 and the equipment was delivered by December 2021. This includes 24 launchers, 216 missiles and testing equipment," one of the sources said.

The procurement was done through the Vice-Chief's emergency financial powers given to the Services for the first time after the **Balakot air strike in February 2019** and further extended after the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. Under this, the Services can procure weapons systems up to ₹300 crore on an urgent basis without any further clearances.

Against the backdrop of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine and the Western sanctions, India and Russia are working out modalities to utilise the rupee-rouble route in a large way for trade and payments. The Ministry is also assess-

ing the impact it would have on the timely execution of deals as well as steady supplies of spares and support.

Last defence

The Request for Proposal for VSHORAD was issued in October 2010 for over 5,000 missiles, 258 single launchers and 258 multi-launchers. Five contenders responded and eventually three made it to the trials – **MBDA** of France, **Rosoboronexport** of Russia and **SAAB** of Sweden. All three companies were declared technically compliant in 2017 and Igla-S was declared the lowest bidder in November 2018.

While the benchmark price arrived at by the Army was just over \$2 billion, Rosoboronexport's bid was much lower at around \$1.47 bn, SAAB at about \$2.6 bn, and MBDA at about \$3.68 bn. This led to much **deliberation** within the Ministry as the Russian bid was much lower than the benchmark price. The deal also saw several allegations of deviations in procedures with some of the vendors sending protest letters.

As per requirements, the **VSHORAD** should have a maximum range of 6 km, altitude of 3 km along with all-weather capability and will replace the existing Igla in service which is in urgent need of replacement. VSHORADS are the soldier's last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft and helicopters in the multilayered air defence network.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Deliberation	(Noun): long and careful consideration or discussion.	सोच-विचार

Static News

MANPADS were developed in the 1950s to provide military ground forces with protection from jet aircraft.

The 2019 Balakot airstrike was a bombing raid conducted by Indian warplanes on February 26, 2019, in Balakot, Pakistan against an alleged terrorist training camp.

MBDA is a European multinational developer and manufacturer of missiles. It was formed as a joint venture by a merger of the guided missile divisions of EADS, Finmeccanica, and BAE Systems in December 2001.

JSC Rosoboronexport is the sole state intermediary agency for Russia's exports/imports of defense-related and dual use products, technologies and services

Short range air defense (SHORAD) is a group of anti-aircraft weapons and tactics that have to do with defense against low-altitude air threats, primarily helicopters and low-flying close air support aircraft such as the A-10 or Sukhoi Su-25.

Grammar

'But' can be used as a relative pronoun.

Example:

1. There is nothing but dresses.
2. There is no men but lies.
3. There is a pant but fixed rate.

After a negative, the word but is used as a relative pronoun in the sense of who...not or which...not.
There is no rose but has some thorn. (= There is no rose which does not have some thorn.)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

As war depletes wheat granaries across the world, India looks to fill the void

While farmers stand to gain from exports amid a bumper harvest, food security campaigners urge caution

VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN
JASMIN NIHALANI
CHENNAI

Russia and Ukraine account for about 25% of the world's wheat exports. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent Western sanctions against Moscow have curtailed wheat supplies drastically. As a result, many countries which were sourcing wheat mainly from these two nations are now in a dire need of alternatives.

India, the largest wheat producer after China, is reported to be eyeing the void. The government plans to allow increased exports to cash in on the higher price of wheat in international market.

Food security campaigners however, emphasise the need to prioritise local prices and ensure adequate supplies for domestic consumption before deciding on the quantum of exports.

While Russia and Ukraine exported 183 million tonnes (MT) and 91 MT of wheat, respectively, between 2017 and 2021, India exported

just a fraction of its output, or just 12.6 MT, in the period. Five other countries accounted for the bulk of wheat exports in this period, including the European Union (157 MT), the U.S. (125 MT), Canada (112 MT) and Australia (83 MT).

India, which had the second-highest wheat supply (including production, existing stocks and imports) in this period at 613 million tonnes, exported only 2% of this, with about 80% used for domestic consumption, and the rest stored. In contrast, other leading exporters could sell big chunks of their supply. For instance, the U.S. exported 31% of its 404 MT of supply in the 2017-2021 period. Canada exported 60.5% of its 186 MT, while Australia exported 57% of its supply of 146 MT.

Many countries in Africa, West Asia and Southeast Asia rely heavily on Russian and Ukrainian wheat. Egypt, the biggest importer of wheat, sources 93% of its needs from the East Euro-

pean neighbours. Indonesia, the second-largest importer, has a 30% dependence on these two nations. African nations such as Sudan (60% reliance), Tanzania (64%), Libya (53%), Tunisia (52%), and West Asian countries including Lebanon (77% dependency), Yemen (50%) and the UAE (42%) are also highly dependent on supplies from the two neighbours now at war.

Focus markets

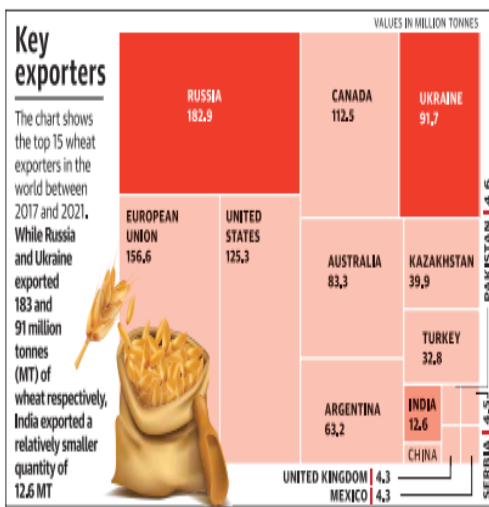
India is now focussing on exporting wheat to many of these nations, said APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) Chairman Madhaiyaan Angamuthu.

"Our focus markets are Egypt, Turkey, Nigeria, Algeria, West Asia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines, Morocco and Tanzania," he added.

"To give impetus to the export promotion of wheat as well as to bring focus on

Key exporters

The chart shows the top 15 wheat exporters in the world between 2017 and 2021. While Russia and Ukraine exported 183 and 91 million tonnes (MT) of wheat respectively, India exported a relatively smaller quantity of 12.6 MT



the challenges and bottlenecks faced in production and export, APEDA has created a task group," Dr. Angamuthu said.

With India's wheat harvesting season (March to May) coinciding with the supply crunch, a bumper crop expected again this year, and a significant amount of buffer stocks, food security campaigners agree that India is well-poised to step in and fill the void. However, they cautioned that India should not

lose focus on domestic needs while exporting surplus wheat.

SPECIAL

Ensuring the stability of prices in India and availability of grain for internal consumption should be of utmost priority to the Indian government while ensuring that farmers are adequately compensated, said Dipa Srivastava, Assistant Professor at the School of Liberal Studies

at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

"Meeting food security requirements for all Indians should be the first priority of the government," said Dr. Sinha, who was involved with the Right to Food campaign. "This would require continuing with the PDS (public distribution system), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and also expanding the net to bring in more people who are currently excluded. This is also essential considering

that the market prices are expected to increase further. On the other hand, with higher prices being available, the government should consider buying wheat required for these food security requirements from the Indian farmers at a better price than the current MSP," she added.

"The government should plan this move in such a way that it does not impact local consumption. A bumper crop of wheat is expected, so the government can procure enough for its distribution and buffer needs. Further, as of now, there are no export restrictions, so farmers can also get the advantage of higher prices by selling the surplus to private traders for exports," Dr. Sinha opined.

Objections may arise

The contentious issue of exporting wheat from the FCI stocks adds another dimension. A trade expert, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that if India decides to export wheat from its stocks, some developed nations may raise objections at the World Trade Organisation. Already, in

March, India was accused of exporting rice from its stocks. India had replied that its rice exports were not from stocks set aside under the public stock holding programmes.

Biraj Patnaik, former Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to Food case, observed that the peace clause adopted in WTO's Bali Ministerial in 2004 does not prevent India from exporting foodgrains. "With the buffer stocks at hand, India should increase its wheat exports in order to stabilise global prices to the extent that it can," Mr. Patnaik said.

"It is also important because the countries that were dependent on Russia and Ukraine for their wheat are looking for an alternative source. The government should use this opportunity by procuring all the wheat grown at minimum support price which would serve the interests of Indian farmers," he said. Exports should not be done at the cost of domestic consumption, especially with the recent expansion of the PMGKAY program, he cautioned.

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Impetus	(Noun): something that makes a process or activity happen or happen more quickly.	प्रोत्साहन, प्रेरणा
Contentious	(Adjective): causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.	विवाद-ग्रस्त
Anonymiy	(Noun): lack of outstanding, individual, or unusual features; impersonality.	अनामिता

Static News

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is an Indian Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government body. APEDA is the premier body of export promotion of fresh vegetables and fruits. It provides the crucial interface between farmers, storehouses, packers, exporters, surface transport, ports, Railways, Airways, and all others engaged in export trade to the international market.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana / Package is a comprehensive relief package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus. This was announced in March 2020, to reach out to the poorest of the poor, with food and money in hands, so that they do not face difficulties in buying essential supplies and meeting essential needs.

Biraj Pattanaik is executive director at NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA. Biraj was formerly the Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to food case for close to a decade. He has been part of the right to food campaign in India since its inception.

Grammar

It is mandatory to use an article before a common noun when it is in singular form. But it is not mandatory to use an article before a common noun when it is in plural form. A plural common noun can have the article 'the' if we want to make the noun specific or particular.

Examples:

I saw a tiger. (Refers to a random tiger)

I saw tigers in a zoo. (No article is required)

I have seen the tiger again. (Refers to the tiger I have already seen earlier)

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 Red Represents the Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

Indian women start confidently

Thrash Wales in their opening match

JR. HOCKEY WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POTCHEFSTROOM

The Indian women's hockey team started its campaign in the **FIH Junior World Cup** on a resounding note, thrashing Wales 5-1 in its opening pool match here on Saturday.

The Indians scored through field efforts from Lalremsiami (4th minute), Lalrindiki (32nd) and Mumtaz Khan (41st) before Lalrindiki (57th) and Deepika (58th) converted penalty corners.

Wales' lone goal was scored by Millie Holme in the 26th minute from a field strike.

Wales tested the Indian defence early on but failed to get past agile custodian Bichu Devi. The teams went into the halfway break at 1-1.



On the prowl: Lalrindiki scored two goals in India's facile win. •TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

Wales started aggressively after the change of ends but India restored its lead two minutes into the third quarter.

The Indians kept up the pressure and completely dominated the proceedings.

India will play Germany on Sunday in its second Pool

D match.

The quadrennial tournament, which was originally scheduled for last December, was postponed due to the threat posed by the omicron variant of COVID-19 in South Africa.

India claimed its best finish – bronze – in 2013.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Agile	(Adjective): able to move quickly and easily	फुरतीला

Static News

The 2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup is the ninth edition of the Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup, the biennial women's under-21 field hockey world championship organized by the International Hockey Federation.

The Fédération Internationale de Hockey (English: International Hockey Federation), commonly known by the acronym FIH, is the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey. Its headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland and the president is Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra.[3] FIH is responsible for field hockey's major international tournaments, notably the Hockey World Cup.

Grammar

Types of countable nouns:

Proper Noun: A proper noun is the name given to something to make it more specific. It denotes a proper person, place or thing.

Example: Krishna has his eyes all over this world and listens to everyone's prayers. ('Krishna' here is the name of a specific person which makes it a proper noun.)

Common Noun: A common noun is the name given to a class of objects or entities. It is the general, non-specific term for a person, place, thing, or idea.

Example: The English teacher has contributed a lot to the success of so many students. ('Teacher' here refers to class of people and has been used in general sense which makes it a common noun.)

Collective Noun: A collective noun is a word referring to a collection of things taken as a whole. It represents a group of people, animals, or things.

Example: A gang of thieves robbed the bank yesterday.

('Gang' here refers to a group of persons which makes it a collective noun.)



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