

The Hindu SimplEified

Your daily dose of current affairs, stripped of the jargon.



The Tariff Tussle: US Supreme Court Says 'No' to Trump



- **The Ruling:** US Supreme Court strikes down Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" (taxes on imports).
- **The Logic:** 6-3 Ruling. Only Congress (Parliament) has the power to tax, not the President.
- **The Counter:** Trump calls it "shameful" and orders a temporary 10% tariff via a different emergency law.

So What?

Tariffs are like an extra fee on goods coming into a country.

This ruling is a relief for Indian exporters, but the new temporary order shows the trade war isn't over yet.

Pax Silica: India Joins the 'Chip' Alliance



PAX SILICA
Securing the Silicon Supply Chain



The News

- **The Deal:** India joins the US, Canada, Japan, and South Korea in the "Pax Silica" group.
- **The Mission:** Secure the supply of electronics and critical minerals.
- **Why?** To stop relying on single countries (like China) for vital tech components.
- **Quote:** "No to weaponised dependency and no to blackmail." — US Undersecretary Jacob Helberg.

Concept: Supply Chain

The intricate web of relationships and processes that connect the raw materials to the finished product.

Concept: Supply Chain

The journey materials take to become a finished product. Think of it as the relay race from a raw stone to a computer chip in your phone.

Supreme Court Steps In: The West Bengal Voter List



- **The Problem:** A 'trust deficit' between the Bengal State Govt and the Election Commission over updating the voter list.
- **The Intervention:** The Supreme Court has asked serving and retired Judicial Officers (Judges) to take over the verification work.
- **The Goal:** To ensure fairness in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Deadline:

Feb 28, 2026

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA): Fast-Tracking in Bengal

- **Update:** Centre creates a new committee to speed up CAA applications in West Bengal.
- **Who is this for?** Primarily the Matua community (Hindu refugees from Bangladesh).
- **Context:** Many are not on the current voter list.

So What?

This is happening at the same time as the Voter List revision (previous slide). It makes citizenship a highly sensitive political topic in the state right now.



Friends in the South: Brazil's President Lula Visits India



Trade Talk

India and Brazil aim to expand the Mercosur trade deal.

UN Reform

Both demand permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

Digital Independence

Lula warns against 'Digital Colonialism'. Tech shouldn't be controlled by a few rich nations.

"We need every chip, every algorithm, to carry the mark of social inclusion." — Lula

US-India Ties: Visitors and Views



Visiting Soon: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.
Topic: The Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia).

Indian-American Approval of Trump's 1st Year



SimpLEfied **Trend:** Young voters (18-29) are shifting back to Democrats.

Economic Pulse: A Slight Slowdown?



Core Sector Growth

4% ↓

Key industries like coal and cement slowed down in January.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

-\$1.6
Billion

More money left India than came in for the 4th straight month.

Corporate Corner: Banks and Pharma



State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Action:** Raising up to ₹94,000 crore from Japanese banks. ¥
- **Why:** To help Indian companies buy other companies (Acquisitions).

Novartis India

- **Action:** Shares jumped 20%. ↗
- **Why:** The Swiss parent company is selling its stake in the Indian arm.

The AI Impact: Boom or Bane?

AI Impact Summit Takeaways

The Investment: \$250 Billion committed to AI infrastructure.

IMF Outlook (The Good): Can boost growth and help 'Viksit Bharat' goals.

IMF Warning (The Bad): High risk of replacing human jobs. Need to manage the transition carefully.

Editorial Spotlight: Healing Manipur

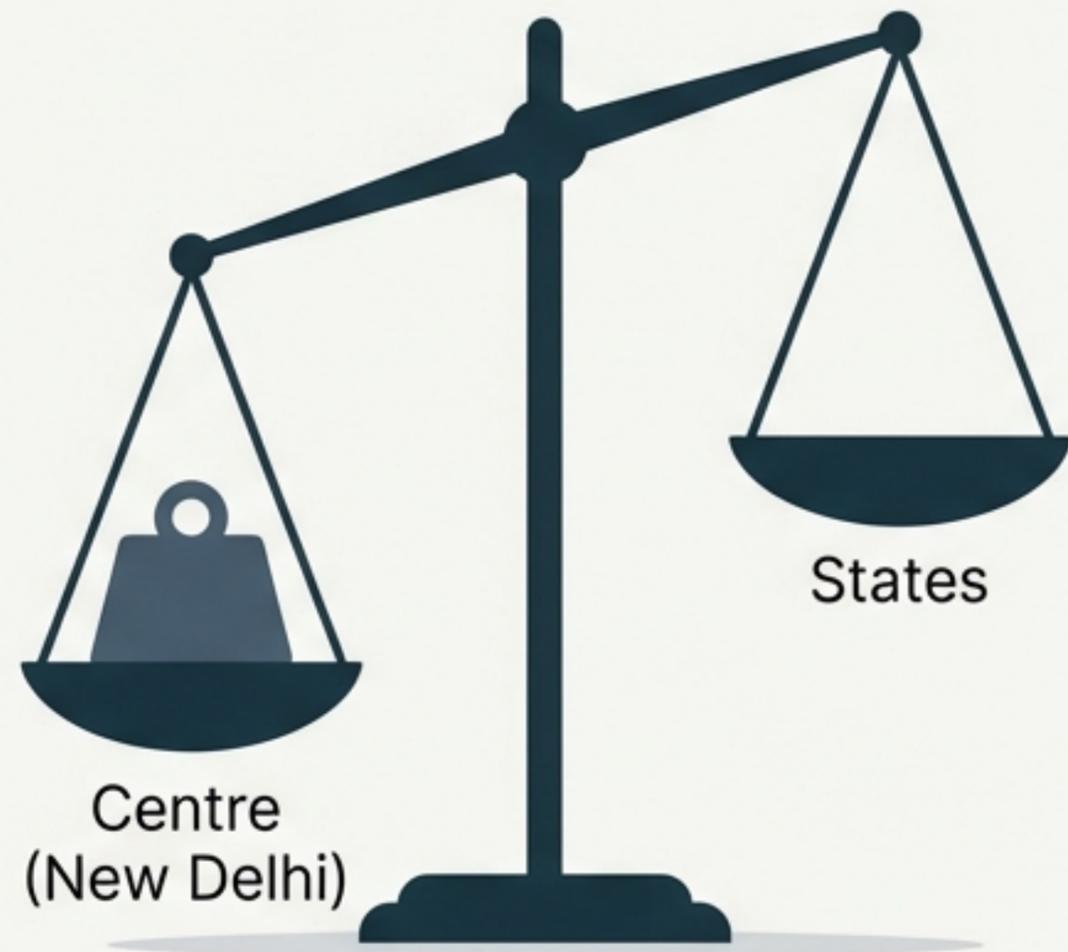


“We need to approach peace with empathy and care.”

- Nemcha Kipgen, Deputy CM

- **Context:** Ethnic violence has persisted for two years.
- **Proposal:** Keep 'buffer zones' for now to ensure safety.
- **Long term:** Recognize shared heritage and spaces to restore trust.

Editorial Spotlight: Strengthening Federalism



SimpLEfied

- The Report: **'Treatise for Federalism'** by Justice Kurian Joseph.
- The Diagnosis: Power is too **'Centralized'**, weakening the States.
- The Prescription: A 'structural reset' is needed. Give States more power, similar to the economic reforms of **1991**.

State Speed News



Maharashtra

Women waiting for ₹1,500 'Ladki Bahin' money due to strict verification rules.

Gujarat

New marriage rules: Applicants must provide parents' contact details to stop 'misuse'.

Student Politics

Vinod Jakhar is the new National President of NSUI (Congress wing).

Sports Wrap



Cricket: Super Eight stage begins.
New Zealand vs Pakistan.



Football: Editorial reflection on the World Cup being the only true 'Global' spectacle.

Today's Top Takeaways

1. **US Politics:** Trump loses tariff battle in Court; orders temporary taxes anyway.
2. **Tech:** India joins 'Pax Silica' to secure chips.
3. **Domestic:** Supreme Court sends judges to fix Bengal voter list.
4. **Economy:** Slow January for core industries; Big AI investments planned.

Stay curious. See you in the next edition.