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- As Ebola spreads to Nigeria, WHO official warns of 'complex' outbreak.
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eMudhra to exit global web security certificate business

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

eMudhra Ltd., whose intermediate security certificates' private keys were exposed on Tuesday in an extraordinary security incident, will exit the global business of offering web security certificates, the firm said after the firm's stocks hit the circuit breaker for two trading sessions.

The incident may have wide-ranging consequences since eight web security certificates can now be issued by attackers that seem legitimate to devices that have not received updates to distrust them.

The firm will continue the business it is engaged in for issuance of SSL certificates for Indian websites, a spokesperson for the firm told *The Hindu*.

Loss of reputation

The firm said web security certificates issued for non-Indian subscribers accounted for less than 1% of revenue but was causing a disproportionate amount of reputational loss for the firm which lost more than a third of its market value in the 48 hours after word of the incident spread.

eMudhra's web and document signing technologies are used across government and private entities. The IT Ministry constituted a committee to look into the incident.

Kaushik Srinivasan, eMudhra's co-founder, told *The Hindu* in an interview on Thursday before the firm announced the exit, that "perception threats had arisen" for the firm following the incident. "This is a one-off incident on a bad day," Mr. Srinivasan in-



It will continue the business it is engaged in for issuance of SSL certificates for Indian websites.

sisted. "A script error can happen to anybody, right? The key lesson for us is, it's more like once bitten, twice shy. Therefore, we will put in place rigorous operational security controls."

"We have not seen any significant negative feedback from any one of them and are quite deeply humbled by the support we are getting from our customers," Mr. Srinivasan said.

An independent firm not involved with past audits that failed to spot weak intermediate certificates would be appointed for a review of the firm's security practices, he said.

Mr. Srinivasan shrugged off concerns that forged certificates based on eMudhra's exposed private keys could be used in cyberattacks on smart devices.

"Smart devices generally rely on certificates that are more private trust not as much on public trust," he said. "None of the use cases we served on smart devices relied on any kind of public trust certificates."

eMudhra has replied to queries from the IT Ministry's panel and will continue to engage with them, Mr. Srinivasan added.

Context:

Major global web browser vendors—including Google, Mozilla, Apple, and Microsoft—took emergency action to block digital certificates issued by Bengaluru-based certifying authority eMudhra after a severe cryptographic flaw was exposed.

About eMudhra Limited

- It is an Indian digital trust company that provides digital certificates and services for verifying identities and securing online transactions.
- It operates as a certificate authority (CA), an organisation that issues digital certificates to help websites and other entities prove their identity online.
- A digital certificate works much like an identity card for a website.
- When someone visits a banking website, for example, the browser checks its certificate to help establish that it is connecting to the genuine website rather than an impostor.
- CA's issue these certificates, which browsers use to determine whether a website's identity can be trusted.
- eMudhra also provides digital signature certificates and electronic signing services that allow people and businesses to sign documents online.

Reason for Blocking:

- An internal error during the April 30, 2025 cryptographic key-generation exercise produced weak private keys, compromising the security of intermediate certificates.
- Eight intermediate certificates (six website authentication and two code-signing) used predictable private keys instead of the required 384-bit cryptographic security.
- Easily recoverable private keys enabled potential forged TLS certificates, man-in-the-middle attacks, website impersonation and malicious software signing.

Background of the article

- A low-pressure system was expected to develop over the Bay of Bengal, bringing heavy to very heavy rainfall to coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) monitored the system for possible intensification into a depression or cyclonic storm.
- Coastal Andhra Pradesh, North Andhra Pradesh and adjoining districts were identified as potential areas of heavy rainfall.

- Fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea due to possible rough weather.
- Heavy rainfall can cause urban flooding, waterlogging, traffic disruption and damage to crops and infrastructure.

System brewing in the Bay likely to bring heavy rain to coastal areas

Paul Nicosdemus
VISAKHAPATNAM / ONGOLE

A weather system that is expected to develop over the Bay of Bengal may bring heavy to very heavy rain to parts of Coastal Andhra Pradesh from October 27, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD's Amaravati centre said a cyclonic circulation over the southeast and adjoining east-central Bay was likely to give rise to a low-pressure area around October 23. It said the system was likely, with high probability, to become a depression around the morning of October 25.

The IMD's Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for tropical cyclones, New Delhi, said most models delayed the formation of the low-pressure area to between 5.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. on October 24, and rated its confidence in the location, track and intensity forecasts as moderate. It said models differ on strengths, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), point to a very severe cyclonic storm,



A woman crossing a water-logged stretch near the bus stand on Kurnool Road in Ongole on Thursday. KOMARU SIVANAS

while AI-based models show a cyclonic storm at most. P.L.N. Murthy, Head of the IMD's Cyclone Warning Centre in Visakhapatnam, said a clearer picture should emerge by the evening of October 24. He said that if the system continued to intensify and became a cyclonic system, it might cross the coast between Machilipatnam and Visakhapatnam.

The ECMWF models, Mr. Murthy said, indicated that very heavy rainfall was likely across northern Andhra Pradesh by October 27.

Alert sounded
For October 27 and 28, the IMD's Amaravati centre issued an "alert" the pre-

pared for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Alluri Sitharama Raju, Kakinada, East Godavari, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, Eluru, West Godavari and NTR districts, and in Yanam. A "watch" (de updated) for heavy rain at isolated places covers 10 other districts on both days, including Visakhapatnam.

Prakhar Jain, Managing Director, AP State Disaster Management Authority, said that a low-pressure area was likely to form over the southeast and adjoining east-central Bay by Friday, and become a depression over Sunday and Monday. It could then strengthen and move close

to the Coastal Andhra Pradesh coast within two to three days, he said. Fishermen were asked not to go to sea from Sunday, and those already out were to return by then.

In the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, Thotambudu in Tirupati district recorded 40.2 mm and Rapur in Nellore district 40 mm, the highest reported. During the day, Nellore recorded 22 mm of rain, Kavali 15 mm and Giddalaph 13 mm, the IMD's Amaravati centre said. Kurnool had the highest maximum temperature among the stations listed, 35.3° C, about 2.6° C above normal. Amaravati recorded 33.5° C, up 0.1° C from the previous day, and Visakhapatnam 32.7° C, about 0.9° C above normal.

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed Nellore and Prakasam districts with the cyclonic circulation in the Bay. People experienced water-logging in the low-lying areas. On Saturday, thunderstorm, accompanied by lightning and strong winds, with speed reaching 30-40 kmph, were likely at isolated places over Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.

Why does the Bay of Bengal receive tropical cyclones?

- High sea-surface temperatures: Warm ocean water supplies energy and moisture.
- High moisture content: Supports cloud formation and heavy rainfall.
- Low vertical wind shear: Can favour the development and intensification of cyclones.
- Atmospheric instability: Promotes rising air and thunderstorms.
- Seasonal conditions: Tropical cyclones frequently develop during the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, although low-pressure systems also occur during the monsoon.

Q1. Consider the following statements about low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal:

1. Every low-pressure area develops into a cyclonic storm.
2. Warm sea-surface temperatures can favour tropical cyclone intensification.
3. The IMD issues warnings to help coastal communities prepare for cyclone-related hazards.
4. Heavy rainfall from a weather system can cause flooding even if it does not intensify into a cyclonic storm.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

India and Poland will double bilateral trade by 2030: Modi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and Poland have no "conflicts of interest", said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who hailed his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as a "beacon of hope" in a time of "political uncertainty and instability" after talks here on Thursday.

Mr. Tusk, who is visiting as Prime Minister for the first time since 2010, discussed expanding India-Poland cooperation in a number of fields including space, transportation, renewable energy, and technology, and also spoke about India's "four-point proposal" to help mitigate the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.



Steadfast partnership: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Polish PM Donald Tusk in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

While the two sides did not sign any agreement after bilateral talks, India and Poland targeted doubling trade between them from a low figure of \$6 billion, which is expected to rise after the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement is signed in December. "We are confident

that companies from both countries will work together to develop trusted supply chains for the world and achieve our shared goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2030," said Mr. Modi.

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Historical Evolution of India-Poland Relations

- India and Poland established diplomatic relations in 1954 and completed 70 years of diplomatic engagement in 2024.
- Relations have evolved through political dialogue, economic cooperation, educational exchanges and cultural ties.
- A major milestone came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland in August 2024, when the two countries elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership.
- This provided a broader framework for cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, defence, emerging technologies, renewable energy and people-to-people exchanges.
- Poland is an important partner for India in Central and Eastern Europe and can serve as a gateway for Indian businesses seeking to expand into European markets.

Economic and Trade Relations

- Economic cooperation is an important pillar of the India-Poland partnership.
Bilateral trade: Trade between the two countries exceeded US\$6 billion in 2025.
- Indian investment: Indian investments in Poland are valued at more than US\$3 billion.
Business engagement: Both countries have opportunities to expand cooperation in manufacturing, agriculture, mining, heavy industries and services.
- European market access: Poland's position within the EU makes it a potential entry point for Indian businesses seeking to access European customers and supply chains.

Strategic and Geopolitical Significance

- Poland occupies an important position in Central and Eastern Europe, sharing borders with Russia and Ukraine. Its security environment has encouraged investment in defence modernisation and domestic defence manufacturing.
- For India, stronger relations with Poland can support engagement with European security and industrial networks. The partnership also offers opportunities for cooperation in defence technology, space applications and other strategic sectors.
- At the same time, India's relations with Poland must be understood within the broader context of its European partnerships and its independent foreign policy.



Education, Culture and People-to-People Ties

- Educational and cultural exchanges contribute to the long-term strength of bilateral relations.
- Indian diaspora: More than 30,000 Indians live in Poland, contributing to business, education and cultural links.
- Higher education: Around 3,500 Indian students pursue higher education in Poland.
- Cultural engagement: Academic exchanges, cultural programmes and professional networks can deepen mutual understanding.

Poland's Proposals on Defence, Investment and Clean Energy

Poland has expressed interest in expanding industrial and technological cooperation with India, particularly in defence manufacturing, clean energy and investment.

- Defence cooperation: Poland is modernising its armed forces and spends close to 5% of its GDP on defence modernisation. Its defence industry is seeking international partners and export markets. Polish companies have indicated their willingness to supply equipment to India and collaborate with Indian partners on research and development.
- Investment and economic cooperation: Poland's Finance and Economy Minister Andrzej Domanski described Poland as a fast-growing European economy, with GDP growth projected at 3.6% for 2026. He invited Indian businesses to invest in Poland, highlighting opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture, mining, heavy industries and other sectors. Poland also sees scope for technological cooperation and partnerships with Indian companies seeking access to European markets.
- Clean energy: Poland is pursuing large-scale nuclear power projects and small modular reactors (SMRs) as part of its energy transition. It has invited foreign investment in these projects and expressed interest in closer cooperation with India on clean energy and energy-system development.
- Space and advanced technology: Poland is also seeking cooperation in space and dual-use technologies. Domanski highlighted companies such as ICEYE, which provides satellite-based solutions, and said that more than 80 Polish companies were participating in business engagement with Indian partners in New Delhi and Bengaluru.

Opportunities and the Way Forward

- India and Poland can build on their Strategic Partnership through a focused approach to implementation. Expand trade and investment: Encourage business-to-business engagement and reduce practical barriers to market access.
- Strengthen defence collaboration: Explore joint research, technology development and industrial partnerships, with an emphasis on mutual trust.
- Advance clean energy cooperation: Identify opportunities in nuclear energy, SMRs, renewable energy and related technologies.
- Enhance educational links: Expand university partnerships, research collaboration and student exchanges.
- Strengthen India-EU engagement: Use bilateral cooperation with Poland to support broader trade and economic engagement with Europe.

LAGOS

As Ebola spreads to Nigeria, WHO official warns of 'complex' outbreak



REUTERS

The World Health Organization's Africa chief warned on Thursday that the continent now faced a "complex" Ebola outbreak after the virus crossed from east Africa to Nigeria, which has reported the first case in west Africa. "Nigeria has confirmed an imported case of Ebola virus disease," Mohamed Janabi told a media briefing. AFP

About Ebola

- It is a severe and often deadly viral disease caused by a group of viruses known as orthoebolaviruses (formerly ebolavirus).
- It is a severe contagious disease affecting humans and non-human primates.
- Ebola, first identified in 1976 in southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, primarily affects remote villages in Central and West Africa.
- It is known as a hemorrhagic fever virus because it can cause problems with the clotting system of the body and lead to internal bleeding as blood leaks from small blood vessels.

Ebola Transmission

The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals (such as fruit bats, porcupines, and non-human primates). It then spreads in the human population through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected people and with surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids.

Ebola cannot be transmitted by air.

Infectious period:

Infected individuals are not contagious during the incubation period and become infectious once they begin to develop symptoms.

They remain infectious as long as the virus is present in the blood.

Ebola Symptoms

Incubation period: Typically 5 to 15 days; range is 2 to 21 days.

Symptoms include fever, diarrhea, vomiting, bleeding, and often, death.

The average Ebola disease case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25–90% in past outbreaks.

Ebola Treatment

- There is no known cure for Ebola.
- There are no approved drugs or vaccines available to treat EVD, although experimental vaccines and therapeutics are being tested
- Recovery seems to depend in part on how much virus a person was initially exposed to, how early treatment is started, and on the patient's age and immune response.
- Chances of survival can be improved with early supportive care.
- Current therapy consists of maintenance of fluid and electrolyte balance and the administration of blood and plasma to control bleeding.

Alai Balai meet cuts across party lines

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Leaders cutting across party lines came together at the Alai Balai programme in Hyderabad on Thursday, reaffirming the spirit of unity and cultural camaraderie that has made the annual gathering an integral part of the State's cultural life since the days of the Telangana agitation.

Started by former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya in 2005, the programme has continued to bring political leaders and people from different sections of society together. His daughter, Vijayalakshmi, has been carrying forward the initiative.



Former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, former VP Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, MPs and other dignitaries, at the Alai Balai event in Hyderabad on Thursday. RAMAKRISHNA G

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria were the chief guests.

Mr. Shukla said Alai Balai reflected the State's cultural heritage and com-

munity spirit, with people from diverse backgrounds joining the festivities to showcase strength and unity in diversity.

Using the platform to highlight a pressing social

concern, the Governor called for greater awareness of the dangers of drugs and stressed the need to protect youngsters from substance abuse.

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said Alai Balai embodied the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family). The programme promoted brotherhood and brought people together beyond the divisions of caste, religion and politics, he said. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy called for unity among Hindus to protect Indian culture and traditions. The programme witnessed the participation of several prominent leaders.

- Alai Balai is an annual social and cultural gathering associated with Telangana.
- Initiated by: Bandaru Dattatreya, former Union Minister and Governor.
- Started in: 2005.
- Location: Hyderabad, Telangana.

- Occasion: Held traditionally on the day after Dasara (Vijayadashami).
- Main objective: To promote social harmony, brotherhood, unity and Telangana's cultural heritage.
- Nature: A non-partisan gathering that brings together political leaders, artists and people from different communities.

Cultural significance

- Showcases Telangana's traditional food, folk arts, music and dance.
- Provides a common platform for people across political and social differences.
- Promotes Telangana's regional identity and cultural pride.
- Reflects the spirit of communal harmony and social unity.

Q2. Consider the following statements about Alai Balai:

1. It was initiated by Bandaru Dattatreya in 2005.
2. It is associated with Telangana's cultural heritage and social harmony.
3. It is traditionally organised after Vijayadashami.
4. It is exclusively a religious gathering with participation restricted to one community.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 1, 2 and 3 only
C) 2, 3 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

