

Kumar Edutainment Presents

Current Affairs Magazine

JUNE 2025

Important Highlights

- Pulitzer Prize, Padma Awards, Khel Ratna Awards & International Booker Prize Conferred
- Famous Indian scientists MR Srinivasan, Dr Jayant Narlikar & Dr. K. Kasturirangan died
- What are Ukraine's critical minerals and why does Trump want them? Explained
- World Adopts Pandemic Agreement to Tackle Future Disease Outbreaks
- Human Development Index & IMF World Economic Outlook published
- Virat Kohli & Rohit Sharma Announces Retirement from Test Cricket
- Australia, Sudan, Singapore & Yemen gets their new heads
- Robert Francis Prevost Elected as First American Pope
- What is caste census & why is it back? Explained
- Operation Sindoor Simplified



Featuring:

- Short Articles
- Question Bank
- Quick Bytes
- Infographics

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Francis Prevost



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Dear Aspirant,

To succeed in any competitive examination, you need strong internal motivation. No one can force you to prepare & work hard. Your passion for excellence, ability to learn and expert's guidance can certainly determine your success in a top level competitive examination.

Usually students do not know how to start and what to study. To crack any exam, a smart aspirant must know that the previous year exam papers can give the glimpse of the pattern of exam. Besides this targeted preparation under expert guidance coupled with unmatched study material makes the task much easier.

We help you to gain knowledge, simultaneously it also inculcates positive attitude, self-belief and high level of confidence, which is essentially required to qualify in any competitive examinations. We provide a student centric learning environment to simulate intellectual development; encourage analytical thinking that develops competitive ability.

Our goal is to enhance student's achievements by improving their knowledge base & exam taking skills. At the same time you must inculcate positive thought within and always bear in mind that only your own resolution to achieve success is more important than any other one thing.

Students are today enlightened and focused. They know what they are up to. They need just a ray of guidance. I feel I have accomplished the reason of my existence on this earth. Proud to be that faint ray of guidance, proud to be a reason of smile on certain lips, proud to be your teacher, friend and guide.



Mukesh Kumar



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THIS EDITION INCLUDES

| Sr. No. | Topics | Page No. |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Operation Sindoor | 1 |
| 2 | Appointments | 7 |
| 3 | Polity & Governance | 14 |
| 4 | International Relations & Events | 20 |
| 5 | Economy & Trade | 27 |
| 6 | Defence & Security | 35 |
| 7 | Social Issues & Schemes | 40 |
| 8 | Environment & Ecology | 42 |
| 9 | Science & Technology | 45 |
| 10 | Culture & History | 47 |
| 11 | Sports | 53 |
| 12 | Obituaries | 58 |
| 13 | Important Days for Exams | 62 |
| 14 | Books & Authors | 63 |
| 15 | Question Bank for Practice | 64 |
| 16 | Quick Bytes | 91 |
| 17 | Infographics | 94 |

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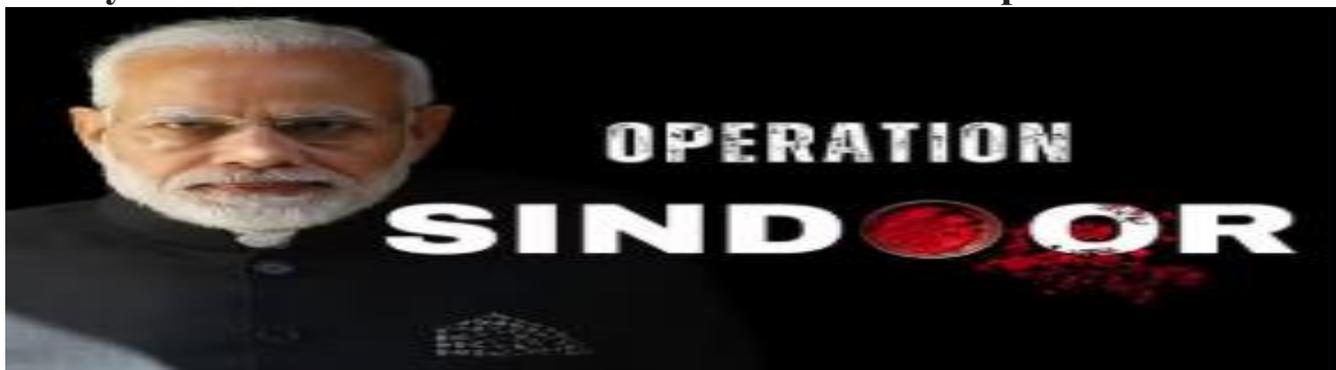
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Operation Sindoor

Why did India strike Pakistan? All we know about Operation Sindoor



On May 7, 2025, India launched multiple missile strikes as part of "Operation Sindoor," targeting nine sites with alleged "terrorist infrastructure" in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The attacks struck six cities, including four in Punjab province – the first such action in Pakistan's most populous state since the 1971 war – as well as Muzaffarabad and Kotli in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. At least eight people, including a three-year-old child, were reportedly killed. Pakistan's military responded by scrambling jets and claimed to have shot down five Indian planes, a claim India has not yet confirmed. The operation came 15 days after the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Indian-administered Kashmir, which killed 26 people. India blamed Pakistan-backed armed groups for the attack, a charge Islamabad has denied. The situation has significantly raised tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, pushing them closer to a full-scale conflict.

Here is what we know about India's attack, Pakistan's response, and the background of this conflict so far.

Where did India hit Pakistan?

Indian missile strikes targeted multiple locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir early on Wednesday, focusing on known militant strongholds. According to Pakistani military spokesperson Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the attacks began around 1 a.m. local time (20:00 GMT, Tuesday), hitting four locations in Punjab and two in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The largest strike was at Ahmedpur Sharqia near Bahawalpur, where a

mosque compound was hit, killing five people, including a three-year-old girl. Other targeted sites in Punjab included Muridke, a village near Sialkot, and Shakar Garh. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, two mosques in Muzaffarabad and Kotli were destroyed, killing a 16-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy. In total, eight people were killed, and 35 others injured. In response, Punjab province declared a state of emergency, placing hospitals and security forces on high alert and closing schools.



Full List of Sites Targeted:

1. Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur (JeM)
2. Markaz Taiba, Muridke (LeT)
3. Sarjal, Tehra Kalan (JeM)
4. Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot (HM)
5. Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala (LeT)
6. Markaz Abbas, Kotli (JeM)
7. Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli (HM)
8. Shawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad (LeT)
9. Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad (JeM)

Weapons and Platforms

The operation utilized a wide array of cutting-edge munitions, including:

SCALP (Storm Shadow) Cruise Missiles:



These long-range, air-launched missiles, known for their deep penetration capabilities, have a range exceeding 250 km. They were deployed against hardened targets, including reinforced bunkers, command posts, and deeply buried installations. The SCALP, known for its precision and destructive power, is equipped with a tandem warhead designed to breach heavy fortifications before detonating a secondary, high-explosive charge, ensuring maximum damage to fortified positions.

HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) Bombs:



These precision-guided bombs, developed for highly accurate strikes, were used against multi-storey buildings believed to house training modules, communication hubs, and operational leadership. The HAMMER can be launched from a wide range of altitudes and at various speeds, providing flexibility in mission planning. Its modular design allows for rapid targeting adjustments, making it ideal for dynamic strike missions.

Loitering Munitions (Kamikaze Drones):



These unmanned systems, capable of both real-time surveillance and strike missions, were deployed to engage high-value mobile targets as they emerged. These drones, known for their "search and destroy" capability, played a critical role in targeting moving convoys and makeshift command centers, offering real-time situational awareness to commanders.

Tactical Execution and Precision Coordination

The strikes were meticulously synchronized to reduce the risk of detection and counteraction by Pakistan's air defense systems. Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft operated from deep within Indian territory, supported by mid-air refuelling tankers and airborne early-warning and control systems (AWACS), ensuring sustained air dominance over the conflict zone.

Within less than an hour, all missiles and bombs had reached their intended targets. The precision of these strikes was confirmed through real-time video feeds from high-altitude UAVs, which transmitted live footage to command centers, validating the destruction of key enemy infrastructure.

Impact and Broader Strategic Implications

The operation has significantly degraded the command and control structures of several terror outfits, including Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), which had long used these territories as safe havens. Analysts believe this bold action has sent a strong signal to Islamabad and its proxies about India's willingness to escalate conflicts if its national security is threatened.

How did Pakistan respond?

Following India's extensive missile strikes under "Operation Sindoor," Pakistan's leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, declared that the

country's defenses had been activated, with fighter jets reportedly scrambled.

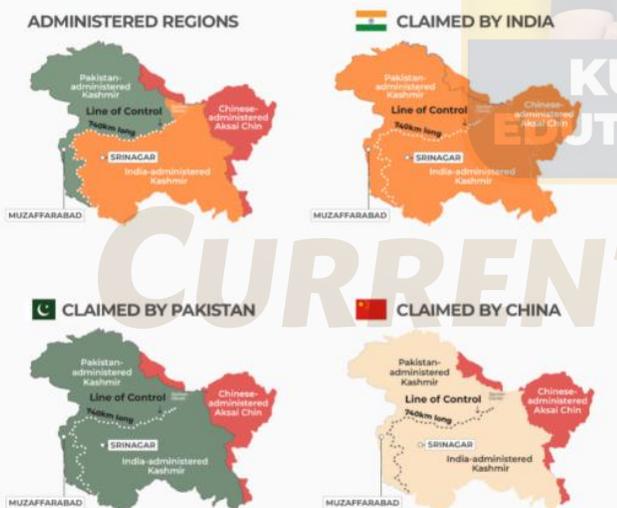
Pakistani officials, including Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, claimed that up to five Indian jets, including three Rafales, were shot down in the ensuing confrontation. However, Pakistan's military also stated that India had fired its missiles from within its own airspace, raising doubts about these claims.

Indian authorities have yet to comment on the assertions or confirm the status of the aircraft involved in the operation.

Why did India strike Pakistan?

The recent escalation between India and Pakistan followed the deadly attack in Baisaran valley, Pahalgam, in Indian-administered Kashmir, where 26 people – 25 tourists and a local pony rider – were killed. The attackers reportedly segregated men from women before the massacre.

India, Pakistan and China each claim parts of Kashmir.



India blamed the incident on an obscure group called The Resistance Front (TRF), alleging it to be a Pakistan-backed outfit. In response, Pakistan denied any involvement, insisting it provides only "moral and diplomatic support" to Kashmir's secessionist movement and called for a "transparent, credible, impartial" investigation.

The attack has intensified tensions, with Indian forces continuing combing operations in the forests of Kashmir to locate the attackers, even as India has

carried out cross-border strikes in retaliation, reflecting a broader pattern of aggressive military responses seen in 2016 and 2019.

Why is Kashmir important to India and Pakistan?

South Asia's two largest nations, home to over 1.6 billion people, have repeatedly clashed over the Kashmir region, which remains the heart of their ongoing tensions. The two countries have fought three out of their four wars over Kashmir, a disputed territory of 22,200 square kilometers (85,800 square miles). While India and Pakistan each control parts of Kashmir, China also holds some territory, and all three countries continue to claim the region in its entirety.

How have tensions escalated since the Pahalgam attack?

Since April 22, tensions between India and Pakistan have sharply escalated, further straining already limited diplomatic relations. India has suspended its participation in the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of water from six rivers between the two nations. As the upper riparian state, India could potentially restrict Pakistan's access to crucial water supplies. In response, India revoked visas for Pakistani nationals. Pakistan, in turn, has threatened to suspend the Simla Agreement.

Both countries have expelled each other's diplomats, closed borders, and shut down airspace. Within Indian-administered Kashmir, over 2,000 residents have been detained, some under antiterrorism laws, while authorities have demolished homes of suspected militants and enforced strict security measures.

Why did India call it Operation Sindoor?



India's military operation targeting Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir has been named "Operation Sindoor," a title rich in significance. "Sindoor," the Hindi term for vermilion, is a red powder traditionally applied by married Hindu women to their foreheads. The choice of this name is a poignant reference to the tragic events of April 22 in Pahalgam, where attackers segregated male tourists from women, identifying and executing non-Muslim men, leaving their Hindu wives widowed. In Hindu culture, sindoor is no longer worn after a woman's husband passes away, symbolizing the deep emotional impact of the attack.

Who is Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, officer who briefed on Op Sindoor?

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh:



- Profession: Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter pilot, currently holding the rank of Wing Commander.
- Service: Commissioned in 2019, with over 2,500 flying hours in high-risk zones, including Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast.
- Achievements: Led multiple search and rescue missions, including a critical high-altitude operation in Arunachal Pradesh. Participated in an all-women tri-services expedition to Mount Manirang in 2021.
- Background: An engineering graduate who joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in her school years. She is one of the few women officers to have represented the IAF in high-level media interactions.

Colonel Sophia Qureshi:



- Profession: Senior officer in the Indian Army, holding the rank of Colonel.
- Service: Specializes in the Army's operations and has extensive experience in the field, representing the Indian Army in joint media briefings alongside other top military officials.
- Achievements: Played a crucial role in military strategic planning and coordination in various operations.
- Background: Known for her professionalism and leadership in the Indian Army, Colonel Qureshi is one of the senior women officers in the Indian military.

Both are highly regarded for their leadership and contributions to India's defense forces, serving as role models for women in the military.

Global Reactions to India's Anti-Terror Strikes in Pakistan and PoK



1. **United States:** US President Donald Trump expressed hope for a quick de-escalation, acknowledging the buildup of tensions before the strikes, saying, "I hope it ends very quickly."
2. **United Kingdom:** Rishi Sunak, former UK Prime Minister, backed India's actions, stating that "India is justified in striking terrorist infrastructure" in response to the Pahalgam attack. The UK government, however,

emphasized the need for restraint and dialogue to prevent further escalation.

3. **United Arab Emirates (UAE):** UAE Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan called for restraint and de-escalation, urging both India and Pakistan to avoid further escalation and prioritize stability in the region.
4. **Israel:** Reuven Azar, Israel's Ambassador to India, reaffirmed Israel's support for India's right to self-defence, reflecting the close strategic ties between the two nations.
5. **China:** Beijing expressed "regret" over the strikes and called on both sides to prioritize peace and stability, urging restraint to prevent a broader conflict.
6. **Russia:** Moscow voiced deep concern over the escalating military confrontation, calling for restraint from both sides while reiterating its opposition to terrorism, aligning with India's stated motive for the strikes.
7. **France:** Paris acknowledged India's right to self-defence, while urging both sides to avoid escalation and protect civilian lives, reflecting a balanced stance on the conflict.
8. **Egypt:** Cairo joined the call for restraint, emphasizing diplomatic dialogue to resolve the crisis and prevent further escalation.
9. **United Nations (UN):** UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed deep concern, urging both countries to exercise maximum military restraint to prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

India's military power vs Pakistan in 2025:

Personnel and Budget:

India ranks 4th in the Global Firepower Index 2025, with Pakistan at 12th. India's military strength includes 1.46 million active personnel and 1.15 million in reserve, while Pakistan has 654,000 active personnel and 500,000 paramilitary forces. India's defense budget for FY26 stands at \$79 billion (₹6.81 trillion), a 9.5% increase from the previous year, significantly surpassing Pakistan's defense budget of \$7.6 billion (₹2.28 trillion).

Ground Forces: Tanks and Armoured Vehicles:

India maintains over 4,200 tanks, including T-90 Bhishma and indigenous Arjun variants, and boasts a fleet of 148,594 armoured vehicles. This gives India a clear advantage over Pakistan, which has around 2,627 tanks and fewer armoured vehicles. India's mechanized forces are far more extensive, ensuring dominance in ground combat.

Air Force Comparison:

India operates 2,229 military aircraft, including 513 fighter jets such as Rafale, Su-30MKI, and Tejas. In comparison, Pakistan operates 1,399 aircraft, with 328 fighters. India holds the edge in helicopters (899 to Pakistan's 373) and air-refuelling platforms (6 to Pakistan's 4). While Pakistan's JF-17 Thunder and F-16s are formidable, India leads in overall air power and capability. Notably, Pakistan excels in military trainer aircraft, operating 565, significantly outnumbering India's 351.

Naval Strength:

India's navy ranks 6th globally, with 293 vessels, including two aircraft carriers (INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant), 13 destroyers, and 18 submarines. This positions India as a blue-water navy capable of projecting power beyond regional waters. On the other hand, Pakistan's navy consists of 121 vessels, lacking aircraft carriers or destroyers, and operates 8 submarines. Pakistan's navy is classified as a green-water navy, focused primarily on coastal defense.

Nuclear and Missile Capabilities:

India's nuclear deterrent is enhanced by the Agni-V missile, with a range exceeding 5,200 km, and the upcoming Agni-VI, reinforcing its position against both Pakistan and China. Pakistan's Shaheen-III missile has a range of approximately 2,750 km, with efforts underway to extend its range to over 3,000 km, possibly with assistance from China and Belarus. Both countries possess nuclear weapons and delivery systems, forming a critical aspect of their deterrence strategies.

Arms Imports and Military Support:

India's defense imports are primarily from Russia, France, Israel, and the United States, with an increasing share coming from indigenous production. Pakistan, designated a Major Non-NATO Ally

(MNNA) by the US, relies heavily on China for military supplies, followed by Turkey, France, and Russia. Both nations are ramping up their domestic defense industries to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

Major India-Pakistan Escalations and Conflicts (1947-2025) at a glance

1. First Indo-Pak War (1947-1948) - First Kashmir War

- ✓ Trigger: Invasion by Pakistani tribal militias and troops after Maharaja Hari Singh's accession of Kashmir to India.
- ✓ Outcome: UN-brokered ceasefire in 1949, establishment of the Line of Control (LoC), and creation of a UN observer mission.

2. Second Indo-Pak War (1965) - Rann of Kutch and Kashmir

- ✓ Trigger: Border skirmishes in Rann of Kutch followed by Pakistani Operation Gibraltar to infiltrate Kashmir.
- ✓ Outcome: Ceasefire through the Tashkent Agreement in 1966, status quo maintained, heavy losses on both sides.

3. Third Indo-Pak War (1971) - Bangladesh Liberation War

- ✓ Trigger: Crackdown by West Pakistan on East Pakistan's independence movement, India's support for Mukti Bahini.
- ✓ Outcome: Decisive Indian victory, creation of Bangladesh, 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered, Simla Agreement signed in 1972.

4. Siachen Conflict (1984-Present) - Operation Meghdoot

- ✓ Trigger: India's preemptive move to occupy strategic heights on the Siachen Glacier, countering Pakistan's planned occupation.
- ✓ Outcome: India established control over the highest battlefield in the world; ongoing low-intensity conflict.

"Knowing Is Not Enough; We Must Apply. Wishing Is Not Enough; We Must Do."

5. Kargil War (1999) - Operation Vijay

- ✓ Trigger: Pakistani military's infiltration across the LoC in the Kargil sector.
- ✓ Outcome: Indian military victory, Pakistan's withdrawal under international pressure, significant diplomatic fallout.

6. 2001-2002 Standoff - Operation Parakram

- ✓ Trigger: Attack on the Indian Parliament by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists.
- ✓ Outcome: Massive military buildup, diplomatic pressure led to de-escalation without full-scale war.

7. 2008 Mumbai Attacks (26/11)

- ✓ Trigger: Coordinated terror attacks by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, killing 166 people.
- ✓ Outcome: Severe diplomatic strain, global condemnation, and increased international pressure on Pakistan to curb terror networks.

8. Uri Attack and Surgical Strikes (2016)

- ✓ Trigger: Attack on an Indian Army base in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 19 soldiers.
- ✓ Outcome: Indian Army conducted cross-LoC surgical strikes targeting terrorist launch pads.

9. Pulwama Attack and Balakot Airstrike (2019)

- ✓ Trigger: Suicide bombing in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 40 Indian CRPF personnel.
- ✓ Outcome: Indian Air Force conducted airstrikes on Jaish-e-Mohammed camp in Balakot, Pakistan, leading to aerial dogfights.

10. Operation Sindoor (2025)

- ✓ Trigger: Pahalgam terror attack killing 26 Indian tourists.
- ✓ Outcome: Indian missile strikes targeting nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir, marking a significant escalation.

"The Man Who Has Confidence In Himself Gains The Confidence Of Others."

Appointments

Justice K. Somashekar Appointed Chief Justice of Manipur High Court



The President of India has appointed Justice Kempaiah Somashekar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

Career Highlights

Justice Somashekar began his judicial career as District and Sessions Judge on June 17, 1998. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on November 14, 2016. He became a permanent judge on November 3, 2018.

Manipur:

Manipur is a state in the Northeastern region of India, bordered by Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, and shares an international border with Myanmar.

- Capital: Imphal
- Official Language: The official language is Meitei (Manipuri); other languages include various tribal languages like Tangkhul, Thadou, etc.

General Asim Munir Elevated to Field Marshal; Historical Context of Military Rule in Pakistan



In May 2025, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet approved the promotion of General Asim Munir, the current Pakistan Army Chief, to the rank of Field Marshal. This marks the first time since 1959 that a Pakistani army chief has been awarded this highest military rank. The last time a Pakistani army chief became Field Marshal was General Ayub Khan

in 1959. This period followed political instability and chaos in Pakistan after its creation in 1947. General Asim Munir's elevation comes amid escalating conflict between India and Pakistan following: A terror attack in Pahalgam targeting Indian tourists. Munir is known for his strong stance on India, supporting groups involved in cross-border attacks and invoking historical narratives linked to the two-nation theory that led to the 1947 Partition. Though largely symbolic, the Field Marshal rank in Pakistan signifies increased military influence in governance, recalling the era when Ayub Khan's promotion preceded Pakistan's shift to dictatorship.

Sudan Appoints Kamil Idris as First PM Since 2023 Civil War



Sudan's army chief, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, appointed Kamil Idris as the country's first prime minister since the outbreak of civil war in April 2023.

Professional Background:

Kamil Idris is a former Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and a respected international legal expert.

Mandate:

Idris has been tasked with forming a transitional government during the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Previous Appointment Attempt:

This move follows a failed attempt in April 2025 to appoint diplomat Dafallah al-Haj Ali as acting prime minister.

Additional Appointments:

Salma Abdel Jabbar Almubarak was reinstated to the ruling sovereign council. Nowara Abo Mohamed Mohamed Tahir was newly appointed to the same body.

RSF's Parallel Government:

In February 2025, the RSF and its allies declared a rival government, promoting a democratic and decentralized secular state.

Political Significance:

The appointment of Idris is viewed as a key step toward restoring civilian governance in Sudan amid continued instability and division.

Anurag Bhushan Appointed India's Ambassador to Sweden



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Anurag Bhushan, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1995 batch, as the new Ambassador of India to Sweden. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the MEA and will assume the post shortly.

Background and Previous Assignment

Anurag Bhushan has a distinguished diplomatic career, having served in key postings including Afghanistan, Nigeria, Washington D. C. , and Dubai. He was recently Additional Secretary in the Emigration Policy and Welfare division and co-chaired the India-Saudi Joint Committee Meeting on Labour Cooperation.

India-Sweden Bilateral Relations

India and Sweden maintain a strong bilateral partnership grounded in shared democratic values, business, innovation, and cooperation on global challenges such as climate action and security. Since 2014, the relationship has seen heightened engagement with 11 visits at the Head of State or Government level and around 25 ministerial interactions between 2023 and 2025.

Previous Ambassador and Transition

Anurag Bhushan will succeed outgoing Ambassador Tanmaya Lal and is expected to take charge in Stockholm soon.

Ajay Kumar Appointed as UPSC Chairman

Dr. Ajay Kumar, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1985 Kerala cadre and

former Defence Secretary, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). His appointment was notified by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under Article 316(1) of the Constitution of India, which deals with the appointment of UPSC members and chairpersons. Dr. Kumar's tenure will begin from the date he assumes office.



Succession and Background

Dr. Ajay Kumar succeeds Preeti Sudan, former Health Secretary, whose tenure ended on April 29, 2025. Preeti Sudan was appointed as UPSC chief in July 2024 following the resignation of Manoj Soni. Soni, who had been a member of the Commission since June 2017 and served as Chairperson from May 2023, resigned citing personal reasons, five years before completing his term.

UPSC:

The Union Public Service Commission is a constitutional body responsible for conducting the Civil Services Examination, as well as overseeing recruitment, promotions, deputations, and disciplinary matters of civil services. The appointment of Dr. Ajay Kumar is significant for maintaining the credibility and transparency of UPSC operations.

- Established On: October 1, 1926
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Constitutional Status: Article 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution

Composition of UPSC

- Chairman + other members (maximum strength decided by the President)
- Members are appointed by the President of India
- At least 50% of members must have worked in government services for 10+ years

Tenure and Removal

- Tenure: 6 years or until 65 years of age, whichever is earlier
- Removal: Only by the President on grounds mentioned in Article 317, such as:
 - Misbehavior
 - Insolvency

- Engaging in paid employment outside duties
- Mental or physical infirmity (after Supreme Court inquiry)

Kashish Chaudhary Becomes First Hindu Woman Assistant Commissioner in Balochistan



Kashish Chaudhary, a 25-year-old resident of Noshki, Chagai district, has become the first Hindu woman to be appointed as Assistant Commissioner in Balochistan, Pakistan. She achieved this milestone after clearing the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) examination. Her success has been widely celebrated on social media as a source of inspiration for women and minority communities.

Other Trailblazers from Hindu Community in Pakistan

Kashish joins a growing list of Hindu women breaking barriers in Pakistan’s public services:

- Manesh Ropeta: Appointed as the first Hindu woman Superintendent of Police in Karachi (2022).
- Pushpa Kumari Kohli: Cleared the Sindh Public Service Exam; currently a sub-inspector in Karachi Police.
- Suman Pawan Bodani: Appointed as a civil judge in Shahdaskot (2019); currently serving in Hyderabad.

Hindu Population in Pakistan

The majority of Pakistan’s Hindu population resides in the Sindh province, though representation is gradually increasing across other regions.

Robert Francis Prevost Elected as First American Pope



In a historic development, Robert Francis Prevost has been elected as the new head of the Roman Catholic Church, becoming the first American Pope. He will be known by his pontifical name, Pope Leo XIV.

Background and Service

Leo XIV was born in Chicago in 1955 to parents with Spanish and Franco-Italian roots. He became an altar boy when he was young, and later he became a priest in 1982. Three years later, he moved to Peru but often came back to the US to work as a pastor and church leader in his hometown. He became a Peruvian citizen and is warmly remembered for helping people on the margins of society and bringing communities together. He spent 10 years working as a local parish priest and teaching at a seminary in Trujillo, a city in northwestern Peru. He has served extensively in Peru and was appointed as the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America by Pope Francis in 2023.

Election Process

His election was the result of a conclave of 133 cardinals, where a two-thirds majority (minimum 89 votes) was required to elect the new Pope. The traditional white smoke from the Sistine Chapel chimney confirmed the successful election.

Centre Extends Tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood by One Year



The Central Government has extended the tenure of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood by one year, beyond his current term ending on April 24, 2025, as per an official order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Extension Under Amended Law

Although the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act originally mandated a fixed two-year term for CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) directors, a 2021 amendment allowed for three one-year extensions. This amendment was passed by Parliament after the government brought an ordinance to modify both the

CVC Act and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act.

Background of Praveen Sood

Praveen Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, became the 34th CBI director on May 25, 2023. Prior to this, he served as Director General of Police (DGP) of Karnataka.

Prakash Magdum Appointed as New Managing Director of NFDC



Prakash Magdum, a senior officer of the 1999 batch of the Indian Information Service, has been appointed as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). He brings extensive experience from key media and cultural institutions across India.

NFDC (National Film Development Corporation)

- Established: 1975
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governing Ministry: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India
- Purpose: To promote and develop high-quality Indian cinema, especially independent and parallel films.

Functions:

- Financing, producing, and distributing Indian films
- Supporting new and regional filmmakers
- Preserving India’s cinematic heritage

Key Initiatives:

- National Film Heritage Mission (in collaboration with NFAI)
- Supports international film co-productions under government policies

Sumit Jain re-elected as IDCA president for 2025-29 term

Sumit Jain has been re-elected as the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) president for the 2025–2029 term. The re-election was conducted through

internal elections, where a new executive committee was formed to lead IDCA’s efforts in promoting deaf cricket in India and overseas. Sumit Jain is also the Vice President and a member of the Differently-Abled Cricket Committee of BCCI (DCCI). Jain founded the IDCA in 2020 with the goal of establishing a dedicated forum for hearing-impaired cricketers in India. Over the years, IDCA has become a strong national organization, advocating for inclusive sport and gaining recognition as a member of the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC). The IDCA works closely with the International Cricket Council (ICC).



The new Executive Committee for 2025–2029 includes:

- Sagarkanta Senapati – Vice President
- Rohit Saini – General Secretary
- Sonu – Joint Secretary
- Arun Goel – Treasurer

The committee also includes two female executive members: Jyoti Jain and Shagun. Other elected members of the committee include K. Gopinadh, Ankit Agarwal, and Asheesh Bajpai.

ICC

- Chairman: Jay Shah
- Deputy Chairman: Imran Khwaja

BCCI

- President: Roger Binny
- CEO: Hemang Amin
- Vice president(s): Rajeev Shukla
- Secretary: Devajit Saikia

PM Lawrence Wong Remains in Power as PAP Wins 14th Consecutive Election in Singapore

Singapore’s People’s Action Party (PAP) has secured its 14th consecutive victory in the general elections, continuing its unbroken rule since before the country’s independence in 1965. The party won 87 out of 97 seats in the national parliament, reinforcing its political dominance.



PM Lawrence Wong Retains His Seat

The election results have reaffirmed the mandate of Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, who became the fourth Prime Minister of Singapore in 2023. Wong continues to lead the country as PAP maintains control of the government.

Singapore:

- Capital: Singapore (city-state)
- Currency: Singapore Dollar (SGD)
- Government Type: Parliamentary Republic
- President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam (as of 2025)
- Prime Minister: Lawrence Wong (4th PM, assumed office in 2023)
- Independence: Gained full sovereignty on 9 August 1965, after separation from Malaysia
- Neighbouring Countries: Malaysia (north), Indonesia (south across the strait)

Yemen Appoints New Prime Minister Following Resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak



Yemen’s Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) has appointed Salem Saleh Bin Braik, the Finance Minister, as the new Prime Minister after the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak.

Resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak

Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak resigned, citing constitutional constraints and obstacles that hindered his reform efforts. He expressed difficulties in reshaping the government and implementing critical reforms due to limitations in his constitutional powers.

Background of New Prime Minister

Salem Saleh Bin Braik, who has served as Finance Minister since 2019, has held several key roles, including Vice Finance Minister. His appointment is seen as part of an effort to maintain continuity in the government.

Cabinet Retention and Transition

Despite the resignation of bin Mubarak, the official statement clarified that the current ministers would retain their positions. Bin Mubarak has been appointed as an advisor to the PLC President.

Yemen’s Economic Crisis and Humanitarian Challenges

Yemen is facing a severe economic crisis, with the Yemeni rial experiencing an unprecedented collapse. This crisis has deepened the humanitarian suffering in the country, which the United Nations has described as having one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. A significant challenge has been the halt of oil exports since October 2022 due to Houthi attacks on oil facilities.

Continued Instability Amid Civil War

The ongoing civil war, which began in 2014 when Houthi forces seized Sanaa, continues to drive instability. The internationally recognized government is operating from Aden, while the Houthi group has tied the resumption of oil exports to an agreement on revenue distribution for public sector salaries.

Yemen:

- Capital: Sana’a (under Houthi control); Aden (interim capital of internationally recognized government)
- Official Language: Arabic
- Currency: Yemeni Rial (YER)
- UN Status: Yemen is considered one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises

Anthony Albanese Re-Elected as Prime Minister of Australia



Anthony Albanese, leader of the Australian Labor Party, has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of

Australia, securing a second consecutive term—a rare feat in recent Australian political history.

Comfortable Majority for Labor Party

With 70.8% votes counted, national broadcaster ABC projects the Labor Party to win 85 seats, well above the majority mark of 76 in the 151-member House of Representatives. The Liberal-National Coalition is expected to win 36 seats, while Independents are set to claim 10 seats.

Australia:

- Capital: Canberra
- Borders: Australia is an island nation and does not share land borders with any other country, but is close to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand.
- Government Type: Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Monarch: King Charles III
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)
- National Flower: Golden Wattle
- National Animal: Red Kangaroo
- Memberships: Australia is a member of the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO), Commonwealth of Nations, G20, and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation).

Arvind Shrivastava Appointed as Revenue Secretary

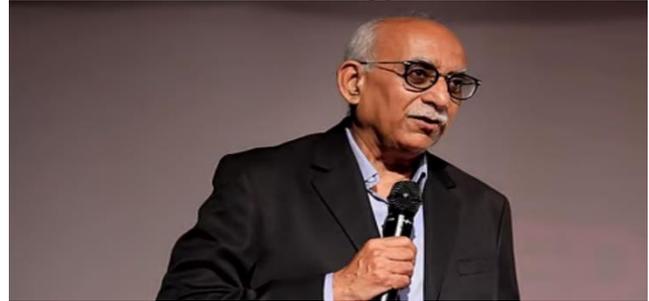


Arvind Shrivastava assumed office as the Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry. He was appointed to the position on April 18, 2025, following a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Shrivastava, a 1994-batch IAS officer from the Karnataka cadre, took over his new role after serving as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Revenue Secretary:

Position Overview: The Revenue Secretary is the senior-most official in the Department of Revenue, which is part of the Ministry of Finance. The role involves overseeing the management of government revenues, including taxes and customs duties.

National Security Advisory Board Reconstituted; Ex-RAW Chief Alok Joshi Appointed Head



Following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisaran Valley on April 22, which claimed 26 lives, the Central Government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).

New Appointment:

Former RAW Chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as the new Chairman of the revamped NSAB. The move comes amid heightened tensions with Pakistan and India's subsequent diplomatic response.

Composition of the New Board:

The newly constituted NSAB comprises six members:

Three from the military:

- Lt Gen AK Singh (Retd), former Southern Army Commander
- Air Marshal PM Sinha (Retd), former Western Air Commander
- Rear Admiral Monty Khanna (Retd)

Two retired IPS officers:

- Rajiv Ranjan Verma
- Manmohan Singh

One retired IFS officer:

B Venkatesh Varma

Role of NSAB:

Established in 1998, the NSAB provides long-term strategic assessments and policy recommendations on national security to the National Security Council (NSC).

Previous Chairperson:

The previous NSAB was formed in 2018, with P. S. Raghavan, former Ambassador to Russia, as its head.

Nipun Aggarwal Appointed as New Chairman of Air India Express

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has announced his decision to step down as the Chairman of Air India Express. He has held the position since June 2022.

Along with stepping down from the chairmanship, he will also exit the Air India Express Board.



Nipun Aggarwal Appointed as New Chairman

Nipun Aggarwal, the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Air India, will replace Wilson as the Chairman of Air India Express. Aggarwal is already a member of the Air India Express Board and will now handle dual responsibilities, continuing as CCO while assuming the new role. This move is aimed at improving coordination across the group’s network and commercial operations.

Board Restructuring for Operational Synergy

To further strengthen coordination between Air India and Air India Express, Captain Basil Kwauk, the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of Air India, will be appointed to the Air India Express Board once regulatory approvals are obtained.

Background: Tata Group's Acquisition

It is notable that the Tata Group acquired Air India and Air India Express from the government in January 2022, with ongoing efforts to restructure and integrate operations of the two airlines for better efficiency and synergy.

Air India Express

- Founded: 2005
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO: Alope Singh
- Parent Company: Air India (part of Tata Group since 2022)

Centre sacks Rameshwar Prasad Gupta as CMD of Solar Energy Corporation



The Government of India has dismissed Rameshwar Prasad Gupta as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) with immediate effect.

Controversies and Legal Scrutiny:

Recently, SECI has faced scrutiny due to several controversies:

- Adani Group Bribery Allegations: The U. S. SEC’s indictment of the Adani Group referenced alleged bribes of \$250 million to secure solar power purchase agreements in Andhra Pradesh.
- Fake Bid Documents: Reliance Power was accused of submitting falsified documents to SECI for a renewable energy tender.

SECI’s Strategic Roadmap Ahead:

SECI has been given the mandate to tender 20 GW of renewable energy projects annually in the coming years. The corporation also plans to establish 10 GW of its own solar capacity and is preparing to go public by FY27.

Romanian Prime Minister Resigns Amid Rise of Nationalist Leader



Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu has resigned following the first-round victory of nationalist candidate George Simion in the presidential elections. Ciolacu also announced that his Social Democrat Party (PSD) would withdraw from the coalition government, citing loss of legitimacy after failing to achieve the coalition's objectives.

Rise of George Simion

Simion, 38, known for his anti-establishment rhetoric and admiration for former US President Donald Trump, has gained strong support from diaspora voters, particularly in Spain and the UK. He opposes arms supply to Ukraine, calls for restoration of Romania’s historical borders, and has been banned from entering Moldova and Ukraine.

Romania:

- Capital: Bucharest
- Currency: Romanian Leu (RON)
- Government Type: Semi-presidential republic

Polity & Governance

Tripura Launches 'Saharsh' Curriculum to Promote Joyful Learning

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha inaugurated the 'Saharsh Utsav 2025' in Agartala and announced the launch of the 'Saharsh' curriculum, aimed at reducing the academic burden on school children and promoting joyful learning. The curriculum is designed to offer a stress-free, activity-based learning environment from Classes 1 to 8, in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

First-of-its-Kind in Northeast India

Chief Minister Saha, who also holds the Education portfolio, emphasized that Tripura is the first state in Northeast India to implement such a curriculum. The programme, launched initially in 2023, has gained wide popularity among students and educators. The curriculum was developed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) based on guidelines by NCERT.

Objectives of 'Saharsh'

The core idea of 'Saharsh' is "learning with joy," aiming to increase students' enthusiasm towards education. Beyond academics, it promotes values like patriotism, compassion, fearlessness, and social responsibility, focusing on the holistic development of children in a stress-free environment. It is considered an important step toward nurturing creative, conscious, and responsible citizens.

Collaboration and Participation

The curriculum was designed with the joint efforts of teachers, trainers, and educationists. During the launch event, key education officials including Special Secretary Ravel Hemendra Kumar, Director N. C. Sharma, Director of SCERT L. Darlong, and UN Young Leader Richa Gupta were present. The programme saw virtual participation from around 400 schools across the state.

What is Dam Safety Act & why Punjab wants to repeal it

The Dam Safety Act, 2021, has become a point of contention between Punjab and the Centre over control of dams. Punjab argues that the law grants excessive control to the Centre over dams within the state's territory, impacting its water rights.

Key Provisions of the Dam Safety Act:

Provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams to prevent dam failures and related disasters. Establishes an institutional mechanism for the safe functioning of dams. Received Presidential assent on December 13, 2021.

Definition of Specified Dams:

Dams with a height of more than 15 metres, or between 10 and 15 metres if they meet certain design and capacity conditions, such as reservoir volume or flood discharge capacity. Includes dams on both inter-state and intra-state rivers.

Punjab's Position:

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has indicated plans to replace the Act with state legislation. The AAP-led Punjab government has moved a resolution in the state assembly seeking the repeal of the Dam Safety Act. The state argues that the Act undermines Punjab's rights to control its own water resources.

Congress's Objections to Trifurcation Laws:

The Congress party has also objected to sections 78, 79, and 80 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. These sections govern the rights and liabilities related to the Bhakra-Nangal and Beas projects, crucial for water and power in the region. Critics argue that these sections, especially 79, grant the Centre control over Punjab's river waters, undermining its riparian rights.

Key Concerns Over Central Control:

- The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), under central control, is seen as potentially prioritizing non-Punjab interests in water distribution.
- Congress has called for the annulment of both the Dam Safety Act and sections 78-80 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, along with an expert committee to resolve the issue.

Maharashtra Approves Merger of Konkan Railway with Indian Railways

The Maharashtra government has approved the merger of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) with Indian Railways. Earlier, the states of Karnataka, Goa, and Kerala had also approved the merger.

Background of Konkan Railway

Konkan Railway was established in 1990 as a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Railways to build railway lines through the difficult terrain of the

Western Ghats. The project aimed to connect Roha (Maharashtra), Goa, Mangaluru (Karnataka), and coastal Kerala. With a length of 741 km, the route reduced travel time and enhanced connectivity between remote areas and major cities. KRCL was formed as a joint venture with the Government of India holding 51% stake, Maharashtra 22%, Karnataka 15%, and Goa and Kerala 6% each.

Reasons for the Merger

Despite operational success, KRCL has faced financial difficulties for years, limiting its ability to expand or upgrade infrastructure. Maharashtra's approval letter highlighted that the standalone model is now unsustainable, and merging with Indian Railways would allow KRCL to leverage larger investments and resources.

Conditions Set by Maharashtra

Maharashtra agreed to the merger on two conditions:

1. The name "Konkan Railway" must be retained after the merger.
2. Indian Railways must reimburse Maharashtra over ₹394 crore invested in KRCL's formation in 1990.

The Central government has reportedly agreed to these terms.

Impact on Passengers and Future Prospects

The merger is expected to improve infrastructure, increase train frequency, enhance security, and provide better connectivity with other Indian Railways routes. Passengers may benefit from more competitive fares, seamless booking through Indian Railways platforms, and standardized grievance redressal. The Railway Board will oversee the merger process, which involves administrative, financial, and legal steps and may take several months to finalize.

Meghalaya Signs MoU to Digitally Integrate Garo and Khasi Languages

The Government of Meghalaya signed an MoU with the Digital India Bhashini Division to integrate Garo and Khasi languages into the BHASHINI platform — a major step toward linguistic inclusion and digital accessibility.

About BHASHINI

BHASHINI is a flagship initiative under the Digital India programme, which uses AI-based natural language technologies to bridge language barriers.

It already supports 22 Indian languages, and now Garo and Khasi will be added to the platform.

Importance of the Integration

- First-time digital inclusion of Khasi and Garo languages
- Enhances communication in governance, education, healthcare, tourism, and entrepreneurship
- Promotes preservation and documentation of indigenous languages and culture

Labour & Employment Ministry Signs MoU with Rapido

The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rapido in New Delhi to promote logistics-related employment opportunities through the National Career Service (NCS) portal. This collaboration is part of the government's effort to boost employment generation, especially in the growing gig and logistics sector.

The MoU aims to create more than 50 lakh livelihood opportunities over the next 1 to 2 years. The partnership will leverage the wide reach of the NCS portal to connect job seekers with employment opportunities, especially in the logistics domain.

Ministry of Labour & Employment:

- Established: 1930
- Headquarters: Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi
- Current Minister (2025): Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- Main Objective: To protect and safeguard the interests of workers, promote employment, and ensure social security.

Rapido:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Founders: Aravind Sanka, Pavan Guntupalli, and Rishikesh SR

Short Articles

Explained: What is caste census, when was it last held and why is it back?

Introduction

On April 30, 2025, the Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) approved the long-standing demand for a caste census in the upcoming national Census. This marks a significant shift in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) stance on caste enumeration, coming ahead of the crucial Bihar Assembly elections and following the closely

contested 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The decision signals a broader political recalibration, reflecting the evolving dynamics of caste, representation, and social justice in Indian democracy.

What is a Caste Census?

A caste census systematically collects data on various caste groups, along with their socio-economic indicators, such as income, education, occupation, and living conditions. This is different from the general population census, which primarily counts Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and religious communities. A caste census includes Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and potentially all other caste groups, offering a more comprehensive view of India's social structure.

Historical Context of Caste Census in India

Caste enumeration in India dates back to the British colonial period. The first full caste census was conducted in 1881 and continued until 1931. However, the 1941 census was disrupted by World War II, and its caste data was never published. After independence, the practice of caste enumeration was officially discontinued from the 1951 Census onward, with data collected only for SCs and STs. This shift aimed to reduce caste-based divisions and promote a unified national identity.

The last major attempt at caste enumeration was the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) conducted in 2011 by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. However, the caste data from this survey, despite costing nearly ₹4,900 crore, was never fully released, with only socio-economic findings made public. This data remains classified under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Recent State-Level Caste Surveys

In the absence of national caste data, several Indian states have taken the initiative to conduct their own surveys:

- Bihar: Released its caste survey in 2023 under the JD(U)-RJD-Congress coalition, revealing that OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) constitute over 60% of the state's population.
- Karnataka: Conducted a caste survey in 2015 during Siddaramaiah's first term, with findings approved by his Cabinet in April 2025.
- Telangana: Released its Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political, and Caste survey report in February 2024.

Why the BJP Reversed Its Stance on Caste Census

The BJP's reversal on caste enumeration appears to be a strategic political move. With the upcoming Bihar

Assembly elections, where caste plays a critical role, the Modi government may be aiming to counter the opposition's social justice narrative. Until recently, the BJP had opposed the idea of a caste-based census. In 2021, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated in Parliament that the Centre would not count castes other than SCs and STs. However, following the recent approval, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw framed the move as correcting Congress's historical oversight on caste data collection.

Impact of a Nationwide Caste Census

Conducting a nationwide caste census could have far-reaching implications:

- Reservation Policies: It could lead to a re-evaluation of the current reservation framework, potentially increasing quotas based on updated caste population figures.
- Political Realignment: Caste data may reshape political alliances and electoral strategies, especially in caste-dominant states.
- Social Welfare: Accurate data could enable better-targeted social welfare schemes and address economic disparities among different caste groups.
- Legal Challenges: It might prompt challenges to the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court in the 1992 Indra Sawhney case.
- Risk of Polarisation: Releasing caste data could intensify caste-based polarisation, potentially leading to demands for inclusion in the OBC list by dominant groups.

Conclusion

The Modi government's decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census marks a watershed moment for Indian social policy and electoral politics. While the timeline for the Census remains uncertain, this move sets the stage for significant changes in how India approaches social justice, affirmative action, and political representation.

Relevance of Private Member's Bills in Strengthening Indian Democracy

The Vice President of India has recently lauded Private Member's Bills (PMBs) as "far-sighted, forward-looking, and a gold mine" for parliamentary democracy, bringing attention to their declining relevance in the Indian legislative system. These bills, introduced by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are not part of the Council of Ministers, represent a crucial

instrument for highlighting public concerns and proposing innovative legal solutions. However, despite their democratic value, PMBs have been increasingly sidelined in parliamentary functioning.

Understanding the Framework and Procedure of Private Member's Bills

A Private Member's Bill is a legislative proposal introduced by non-minister MPs with the intent of raising constituency-specific or nationally relevant issues. The process requires MPs to give at least one month's notice before introducing the bill. Typically, discussions on these bills are scheduled during Friday sittings in Parliament. However, their passage is rare—only 14 PMBs have become law since Independence. During the 17th Lok Sabha (2019–2024), 729 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 705 in the Rajya Sabha, but merely a few were even discussed. In the ongoing 18th Lok Sabha (as of May 2025), 64 PMBs have been introduced but none debated in the Lok Sabha, while only one out of 82 PMBs was discussed in the Rajya Sabha.

Contributions of PMBs in Policy Innovation and Social Reform

Private Member's Bills serve as vehicles for legislative innovation and policy discourse. The 'Right to Disconnect' Bill (2019), for example, although not passed, initiated national debate on mental health and labor rights. Similarly, the 'Rights of Transgender Persons' Bill (2014), passed in the Rajya Sabha, laid the foundation for the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. Historical examples include the Muslim Wakfs Bill, 1952—India's first PMB to become law—which led to the enactment of the Waqf Act, 1954. Furthermore, a 1966 PMB proposing that only Lok Sabha members be eligible for the Prime Minister's post ignited significant constitutional and political debate.

Challenges Undermining the Effectiveness of PMBs

Several structural and operational hurdles have reduced the effectiveness of PMBs. A major concern is the lack of time dedicated to PMB discussions; the 17th Lok Sabha allocated just over 9 hours to PMBs, while the Rajya Sabha spent around 27 hours. Friday sessions are often disrupted or deprioritized due to government business or MPs' early departures for their constituencies. Additionally, the absence of a dedicated review mechanism delays the scrutiny and prioritization of PMBs. The Anti-Defection Law, introduced by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1985), further limits MPs' independence, as

deviation from party positions is discouraged, thus stifling individual legislative initiative.

Reforms Needed to Revitalize the Private Member's Bill Mechanism

To reinvigorate the PMB process, several institutional and procedural reforms are essential. Firstly, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business should be amended to protect Friday sessions for PMBs, and this time should be overridden only in national emergencies. Parliament could consider extending its working hours slightly to accommodate both government and private business. Additionally, the creation of a Private Member's Bill Review Committee could ensure that bills are vetted for constitutional validity and public relevance. A fast-track mechanism for widely supported PMBs and the introduction of the UK-style Ten-Minute Rule could further improve efficiency and engagement.

Enhancing Political Engagement and Democratic Participation

Greater visibility of PMBs through Parliament TV, bulletins, and public consultations can help foster a culture of legislative participation. Political parties should promote PMBs as legitimate tools for addressing grassroots issues and social advocacy. By involving both ruling and opposition MPs, the PMB mechanism can become a symbol of cooperative federalism and participatory governance. This approach is particularly critical in the context of the upcoming delimitation exercise, which is expected to increase the number of MPs and potentially overwhelm existing legislative processes.

Conclusion: Unlocking the Untapped Potential of Private Member's Bills

The current state of Private Member's Bills reflects a missed opportunity for deepening democracy and legislative diversity in India. While their historical contribution is evident, the path forward requires a combination of procedural protection, structural reform, and political will. By reviving and strengthening this legislative tool, India can ensure more inclusive, responsive, and dynamic parliamentary functioning that truly reflects the aspirations of its citizens.

Supreme Court's Advisory Jurisdiction: Role, Relevance & Constitutional Mandate

The Supreme Court of India, apart from being the apex judicial authority, also plays a vital consultative role through its advisory jurisdiction. Enshrined under

Article 143 of the Indian Constitution, this jurisdiction enables the President of India to seek the Court's opinion on important questions of law or fact, especially those of public importance.

Constitutional Provision: Article 143

Under Article 143, the President can refer a matter to the Supreme Court for advice:

- Article 143(1): Permits the President to refer any question of law or fact of public importance.
- Article 143(2): Specifically pertains to questions arising out of pre-constitutional treaties and agreements.
- The Court's opinion under Article 143(1) is not binding, while under Article 143(2), it is binding.

Landmark Cases

Re: Berubari Union (1960)

First use of Article 143. The Court advised that a constitutional amendment was needed to transfer Indian territory to Pakistan.

In Re: Special Courts Bill (1979)

Validated the setting up of Special Courts to try economic offenders.

In Re: Ayodhya Reference (1994)

The Court declined to offer an opinion on the disputed land's historical nature, stating it was not a question of law.

Importance of Advisory Jurisdiction

Assists the Executive: Enables the President to take legally informed decisions.

- Judicial Check: Prevents unconstitutional actions in complex policy or legal matters.
- Quasi-Legislative Role: Helps interpret the Constitution in areas where there's no precedent.
- Upholds Rule of Law: Promotes constitutional governance by allowing the judiciary to intervene preemptively.

Criticism

- Non-Binding Nature: The government may choose to ignore the advice, reducing its effectiveness.
- Potential Overreach: Could lead to blurring of separation of powers if overused.
- Political Misuse: There are concerns about using Article 143 for political maneuvering.

Recent Relevance

The debate on the Uniform Civil Code, One Nation One Election, and Electoral Bonds has reignited interest in seeking the Supreme Court's advisory opinion.

In a volatile legal environment, Article 143 is seen as a preventive constitutional mechanism to avoid conflicts.

Conclusion

The Advisory Jurisdiction under Article 143 is a unique feature of the Indian constitutional system. It reflects the spirit of cooperative functioning among the organs of the state. If used judiciously, it can serve as a powerful instrument to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution, ensure governance with legality, and maintain democratic accountability.

Right to Digital Access as a Fundamental Right: Towards Inclusive Digital Democracy

In the era of rapid digitalization, access to digital resources such as the internet, information technology, and digital services has become essential for participation in social, economic, and political life. The emerging discourse on recognizing Right to Digital Access as a fundamental right reflects this transformation and raises important constitutional, legal, and policy questions.

Background

The Supreme Court of India has progressively expanded the interpretation of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty (Article 21) to include the right to privacy and access to information.

In recent landmark judgments, such as *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020), the Court emphasized that the right to internet access is crucial for the exercise of fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech and expression (Article 19).

The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the digital divide, as education, governance, health services, and work shifted online, revealing the urgent need to bridge this gap.

Why Recognize Digital Access as a Fundamental Right?

Enabler of Other Fundamental Rights

Digital access is essential for exercising freedom of speech, education, information, and political participation.

Promotes Social Inclusion

It empowers marginalized communities by enabling access to government schemes, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Bridges the Urban-Rural Divide

Digital connectivity can reduce disparities between urban and rural areas, promoting balanced development.

Supports Economic Growth

Digital inclusion fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and access to markets, especially for small businesses and startups.

Challenges and Concerns

- Infrastructure Gap: Large sections of the population, especially in rural and remote areas, lack adequate internet connectivity.
- Affordability: High costs of devices and data plans limit access for low-income groups.
- Digital Literacy: Lack of digital skills impedes effective use of technology.
- Privacy and Security: Expanding digital access raises concerns about data protection, surveillance, and cyber threats.

Government Initiatives

Digital India Mission aims to expand internet connectivity and digital services. BharatNet Project targets rural broadband infrastructure. Legal frameworks like the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 focus on protecting user privacy.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

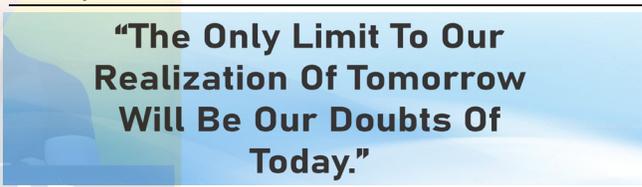
Recognizing digital access as a fundamental right would obligate the State to ensure universal, affordable, and secure access.

It would create enforceable duties to bridge the digital divide and regulate digital platforms.

The judiciary may play a proactive role in enforcing this right through public interest litigations and policy interventions.

Conclusion

The recognition of Right to Digital Access as a Fundamental Right is a critical step toward building an inclusive digital democracy in India. It aligns with the constitutional mandate of equality, freedom, and dignity and will empower citizens to fully participate in the 21st-century socio-economic and political landscape. Ensuring this right requires coordinated efforts from the government, judiciary, and civil society.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

Importance

To mark the proclamation by the first international congress of socialist parties in Europe on July 14th 1889 in Paris, France. The date was chosen due to events on the other side of the Atlantic. In 1884 the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions demanded an eight-hour workday, to come in effect as of May 1st 1886.

Motto

To honour the contributions of the labourers or working class people.

Note

- Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader, was the person who came up with the idea for Labor Day.
- It is also known as May Day and is a public holiday in many countries across the world.



WORLD LAUGHTER DAY

Importance

To mark the importance of laughing in our lives.

Motto

To raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.

Facts

- The day was introduced by Dr Madan Kataria, the founder of the Worldwide Laughter Yoga Movement.
- The World Laughter Day was first celebrated on 11 January, 1998 in Mumbai, India.
- "HAPPY-DEMIG" was the first World Laughter Day gathering outside India. It took place on 9th January 2000, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

International Relations & Events

Pakistan suspends Simla Agreement to counter India's Indus water move

Simla Agreement Suspended: Pakistan has suspended the 1972 Simla Agreement, a post-1971 war peace treaty that established the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir and committed both countries to bilateral dialogue.

Retaliation for Pahalgam Attack Response: The move follows India's response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, J&K, which killed at least 26 tourists. Pakistan denies involvement, though Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility.

Pakistan's Retaliatory Measures:

- Closure of Wagah-Attari border for trade.
- Suspension of Saarc visa exemptions for Indian citizens.
- Indian military attachés declared persona non grata.
- Reduction of Indian High Commission staff in Islamabad to 30 by April 30.
- Indus Waters Treaty Warning: Pakistan's National Security Council (NSC) warned India against suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, terming any such act as an "act of war".
- India's Initial Actions Post-Attack: India had taken strong diplomatic measures after the Pahalgam attack, prompting Pakistan's tit-for-tat response.

Simla Agreement (1972)

Background:

Signed on July 2, 1972, between India (Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) and Pakistan (President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto) after the 1971 India-Pakistan War, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Key Provisions:

- Peaceful Resolution: Both nations agreed to resolve all disputes bilaterally and through peaceful means.
- Line of Control (LoC): The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir, based on the positions held at the end of the 1971 war, was renamed the Line of Control.
- No Unilateral Alterations: Both sides agreed not to unilaterally change the status of the LoC.
- Return of POWs and Territory: India agreed to return over 90,000 Pakistani POWs and occupied territory as a gesture of goodwill.

- Framework for Future Engagements: It laid the foundation for bilateral talks, keeping third-party mediation out.

Significance:

The agreement aimed to normalize relations post-war and prevent future conflicts. It's often cited as a basis to exclude international intervention in Indo-Pak disputes, especially over Kashmir.

Indus Waters Treaty (1960)

Background:

Brokered by the World Bank and signed on September 19, 1960, between India and Pakistan. One of the most successful water-sharing agreements in the world, still largely functional despite wars and tensions.

Key Provisions:

Division of Rivers:

Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) were allotted to India. Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) were allotted to Pakistan, though India was allowed limited use (irrigation, hydropower).

- Permanent Indus Commission: A body set up for regular meetings, data sharing, and conflict resolution.

- Dispute Resolution: Includes a structured process involving Neutral Experts, arbitration, and world bodies.

Significance:

Considered a rare example of cooperation between the two hostile neighbours. Critical for Pakistan's agriculture and water security, as 80% of its irrigation water comes from the Indus system. India uses it as leverage during diplomatic tensions, though it hasn't abrogated the treaty even during conflicts.

US-Iran Nuclear Tensions: A Historical and Contemporary Overview

Historical Context:

The U. S. -Iran relationship has been adversarial for over four decades, beginning with the 1979 Islamic Revolution that overthrew the U. S. -backed Shah of Iran. Tensions were further intensified by the U. S. embassy hostage crisis, where 52 Americans were held for 444 days.

Geopolitical and Economic Factors:

The relationship has been marked by conflicting geopolitical interests, economic sanctions, and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The 2015 JCPOA:

Iran and the P5+1 (U. S. , U. K. , France, Russia, China, Germany) signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The deal placed restrictions on Iran's nuclear program: uranium enrichment was limited to 3.67%, stockpile to 300 kg, and centrifuges to 5,060 for 15 years. In return, economic sanctions were eased, and over \$100 billion in Iranian assets were unfrozen.

U. S. Withdrawal and Aftermath:

In May 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the U. S. from the JCPOA, calling it "the worst deal ever," and reinstated severe sanctions through a "maximum pressure" campaign. Iran responded by violating nuclear limits, enriching uranium up to 60%, closer to weapons-grade levels (90%).

2025 Resumed Negotiations:

Amid regional instability, the U. S. and Iran resumed confidential nuclear negotiations in Oman. The talks aim to either revive elements of the JCPOA or form a new agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program.

Challenges and Concerns:

Iran has curtailed cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), complicating monitoring efforts. The U. S. delegation, led by Michael Anton, faces skepticism due to his limited experience in nuclear diplomacy. Iran's breakout time to produce enough fissile material for one nuclear bomb has reduced to weeks, heightening global concerns.

Regional Tensions:

Israel threatens unilateral military action if diplomacy fails. The rise in regional militancy, especially via Iranian proxies like Hezbollah and the Houthis, has increased the stakes of the negotiations.

Potential Outcomes:

If successful, the talks could de-escalate tensions in the Middle East. If unsuccessful, they risk reigniting conflict in an already volatile region.

World Adopts Pandemic Agreement to Tackle Future Disease Outbreaks

After three years of intense negotiations, global leaders have adopted a pandemic agreement to guide international cooperation in handling future disease outbreaks. The agreement aims to better protect the world from pandemics, minimizing social, economic, and health impacts like those experienced during COVID-19.

Role of WHO and Global Leaders

The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called the accord "a victory for public health, science, and multilateral action."

The agreement was adopted at the World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, receiving applause from delegates. The United States is not part of the agreement, having withdrawn from WHO negotiations after 2017 under the Trump administration.

Background and Challenges

The idea for the treaty was first proposed in March 2021 to create a framework for future pandemic response. World leaders like Boris Johnson promised it would protect future generations and reduce pandemic-related economic losses. The initial target to finalize the treaty by 2024 was missed due to mistrust between developed and developing countries and misinformation about the accord's implications.

Key Issues Deferred for Future Negotiations

One major issue, Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS), concerning fair access to vaccines and treatments in exchange for sharing virus data, will be addressed separately in an annex to the treaty within the next 12 months. The treaty will open for signatures only after this annex is finalized and will come into force once signed by at least 60 countries.

UK-EU ties reset with new bilateral deal**Economic Impact**

- Projected Value: Could add £9 billion (~\$12 billion) to the UK economy by 2040.
- Purpose: Aims to rebuild economic, academic, and strategic ties post-Brexit.

Summit Details

- Occasion: Announced at the first UK-EU summit in London.
- Hosted by: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.
- Attendees: Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission President) and Antonio Costa (European Council President).

Core Components of the Agreement**1. Youth Mobility Scheme**

A capped and time-bound program to allow youth movement between UK and EU. Inspired by similar UK deals with Australia and New Zealand. Intended to reconnect younger generations and boost cultural and academic exchange.

2. Erasmus+ Exchange Program

UK and EU will work toward restoring British participation in the Erasmus+ programme, from which the UK had exited during the 2021–2027 cycle.

3. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Deal

Simplifies trade in food and agricultural goods. Removes routine checks on animal and plant products. Benefits British exporters, especially in shellfish and meat products. Eases trade between Britain and Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework.

4. Fisheries Framework

A 12-year agreement secures UK access to EU waters and maintains fishing quotas. UK government to invest £360 million in upgrading its fishing fleet and technology. Reduces instability from prior year-by-year negotiations.

5. Defense and Security

UK to participate in the EU's SAFE defense program (joint procurement of military equipment). Lays groundwork for deeper defense cooperation, including discussions on financial and supply arrangements.

6. Travel and Border Controls

British tourists to use EU eGates again, easing border checks. Improves data sharing on biometrics, vehicle, and criminal records via Europol systems.

Criticism and Concerns

Fisheries Sector Dissent: The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations claimed the deal benefits large exporters over small fishers. Note: No fixed timeline for full implementation.

Qatar and US Sign Major Agreements to Boost Bilateral Ties

Qatar and the United States have signed a series of high-value agreements to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The deals were signed during a meeting between Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and US President Donald Trump in Doha. The agreements span across sectors such as defense, aviation, and strategic investments, reflecting growing ties between the two nations.

\$96 Billion Boeing Aircraft Deal

A major highlight of the cooperation was a \$96 billion historic aviation deal, where Qatar Airways agreed to acquire up to 210 Boeing aircraft, including 787 Dreamliners and 777X models. The White House described this as a significant milestone in US-Qatar commercial ties.

Strategic Defense Cooperation

The two countries signed a statement of intent on defense cooperation, outlining over \$38 billion in

potential investments. This includes enhancements at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, and future collaboration on air and maritime security.

Additionally, two Letters of Offer and Acceptance were signed:

- One for US General Atomics MQ-9B drones
- Another for a counter-drone system developed by Raytheon
- Together, these defense deals are valued at around \$3 billion.

Joint Declaration and Regional Dialogue

A joint declaration of cooperation was also signed to promote collaboration in sectors like investment, energy, and security. The two leaders discussed regional and international issues, with an emphasis on ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East. This visit to Qatar was part of President Trump's first major overseas tour, which also includes Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Adani Group and Bhutan's DGPC Sign MoU for 5,000 MW Hydropower Projects

The Adani Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Thimphu to jointly develop 5,000 megawatts of hydropower projects. This collaboration builds upon the existing partnership on the 570/900 MW Wangchhu Hydropower Project, where DGPC holds a 51% stake and Adani holds 49%.

Future Roadmap and Implementation

The broader 5,000 MW plan includes future hydropower and pumped storage projects, with Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to be prepared and implemented in phases. The partnership aligns with Bhutan's Renewable Energy Roadmap, aiming for 20,000 MW of capacity by 2040.

Bhutan:

- Capital: Thimphu
- Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay
- Currency: Ngultrum (BTN), Indian rupee (₹)

Greece and Egypt Strengthen Bilateral Ties and Support Gaza Reconstruction Plan

Greece and Egypt have signed a "strategic partnership" deal aimed at enhancing political coordination to safeguard stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, especially amid the ongoing war in Gaza.

Gaza Reconstruction and Humanitarian Aid

During their meeting at the first Supreme Cooperation Council, established more than a year ago to improve bilateral relations, both leaders called for an immediate halt to hostilities and the restoration of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza. Greece expressed its support for an Arab-backed reconstruction plan for Gaza, contingent upon achieving a ceasefire.

Migration and Stability Concerns

Migration issues were also a significant part of the bilateral talks. The European Union has expressed concern over the growing risk of instability in Egypt, a country with a population of 106 million people, which has seen an increase in migration due to economic difficulties. Although Egypt largely shut off irregular migration from its north coast in 2016, Greece's islands, particularly Crete and Gavdos, have seen a rise in migrant arrivals, mainly from Afghanistan and Egypt.

EU's Efforts to Address Migration

As part of its broader efforts to manage migration, the European Union announced a €7.4 billion funding package for Egypt and upgraded its relationship with the country. This is part of a broader strategy to stem migrant flows from Egypt to Europe. Last month, the EU's executive arm also classified Egypt as a "safe country", where failed asylum seekers could be returned.

India-UK Sign Historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Double Contribution Convention

In a landmark development, India and the United Kingdom have successfully concluded a comprehensive and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) along with a Double Contribution Convention. The announcement came after a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, where both leaders welcomed the conclusion of these landmark agreements.

Key Features of the FTA

The Free Trade Agreement provides extensive market access for goods and services across all sectors. India will benefit significantly from tariff elimination on nearly 99% of tariff lines, covering close to 100% of the trade value between the two nations. The agreement is expected to unlock potential in various sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, toys, gems

and jewellery, and engineering goods, thereby improving their global competitiveness.

Employment and Manufacturing Benefits for India

The FTA is anticipated to generate employment opportunities in India by boosting domestic manufacturing and exports. It will also enable Indian businesses to expand in the UK market and beyond. The agreement sets a new standard for equitable and ambitious trade between two major open-market economies.

UK:

- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound Sterling (£)
- Head of State: King Charles III
- Prime Minister (As of 2025): Keir Starmer

Important Agreements with India:

- India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) (concluded in 2025)
- Double Contribution Convention (2025)

India and Angola Sign Key Agreements to Boost Bilateral Ties

India and Angola signed several key agreements in areas such as agriculture, traditional medicine, and culture during the state visit of Angolan President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço to New Delhi. The agreements were exchanged following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lourenço.

\$200 Million Defence Line of Credit Announced

One of the major highlights of the meeting was Prime Minister Modi's announcement of a \$200 million Defence Line of Credit to Angola, aimed at modernising its armed forces. Angola will source defence equipment from Indian companies, and discussions are underway with Indian private and public sector enterprises regarding the procurement. Cooperation will also extend to repair and overhaul of defence platforms and training of Angola's armed forces.

Angola:

- Capital: Luanda
- Currency: Angolan Kwanza (AOA)
- President (2024): João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço
- Independence from Portugal: 11 November 1975
- Location: Southwestern Africa, bordered by Namibia, Zambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Atlantic Ocean

➤ Major Rivers: Kwanza, Cunene

India and Denmark Renew MoU for Clean Energy Cooperation

India and Denmark signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on clean energy cooperation, reinforcing their long-standing partnership in the energy sector. The MoU aims to accelerate clean energy transitions and support India's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

MoU Signed to Enhance Technological Collaboration

The new MoU will allow knowledge sharing, joint training, and collaboration on power system modelling, EV infrastructure, cross-border electricity trading, and integration of renewable energy.

Denmark :

- Capital: Copenhagen
- Currency: Danish Krone (DKK)
- Monarch: King Frederik X (as of 2024)
- Prime Minister: Mette Frederiksen

India-Partnered ITER Completes World's Largest Superconducting Magnet System

In a major scientific milestone, ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), a global fusion energy project, has successfully completed the world's largest pulsed superconducting electromagnet system, known as the Central Solenoid.

India's Contribution:

India is a key member of the ITER project and is responsible for delivering the cryostat, cooling water system, and cryogenic system for the reactor.

About ITER:

ITER is a collaboration of 30+ countries, including India, USA, Russia, China, Japan, Korea, and Europe. It aims to demonstrate the viability of fusion energy—a clean, safe, and carbon-free power source mimicking the energy of the sun.

Technical Achievement:

- The Central Solenoid, built in the USA, is the most powerful magnet of the system—strong enough to lift an aircraft carrier.
- It works with six poloidal field magnets supplied by Russia, China, and Europe.
- The total pulsed magnet system weighs nearly 3,000 tons and is the core of ITER's Tokamak reactor.

Fusion Process in ITER (Simplified Steps):

- Injection of deuterium and tritium into the Tokamak chamber.
- Magnets ionize the fuel to form plasma.
- Plasma is confined by an electromagnetic field.
- Heating systems raise plasma temperature to 150 million °C.
- Fusion of nuclei releases massive heat energy.

Efficiency Goal:

ITER is designed to produce 500 MW of power from 50 MW input, achieving a tenfold energy gain and creating a self-sustaining "burning plasma."

International Collaboration & Progress:

ITER is a symbol of global cooperation in the face of climate change and energy security. By 2024, ITER achieved 100% construction targets; assembly is underway. In April 2025, the first vacuum vessel sector was inserted into the Tokamak pit ahead of schedule.

Private Sector Engagement:

ITER launched a project in 2024 to collaborate with private companies to accelerate fusion innovation.

A workshop in April 2025 focused on solving remaining challenges through public-private collaboration.

Funding and IP Sharing:

Members contribute to ITER by building components, benefiting their domestic industries. Europe contributes 45% of the cost; India, China, US, Japan, Korea, and Russia contribute 9% each. All members receive 100% access to intellectual property developed.

India, Netherlands Agree to Deepen Economic Partnership

India and the Netherlands have agreed to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation following high-level meetings held during Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal's visit to the Netherlands. The visit focused on strengthening strategic ties and attracting investment in key sectors like maritime infrastructure and semiconductors.

Cooperation in Ports and Maritime Infrastructure

The Commerce Secretary visited the Port of Rotterdam, where he discussed potential collaboration with CEO Boudewijn Siemons. Talks focused on modernising Indian ports, knowledge exchange, and sustainable port management under India's Maritime Vision 2030. Discussions also began on establishing a Green and Digital Corridor between Rotterdam and

Indian ports such as Deendayal Port Authority, to enable the export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives to Europe.

India Strengthens Relations with Croatia

Prior to the Netherlands visit, Barthwal was in Croatia (April 22–23) for bilateral talks with Zdenko Lucic, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, and Ivo Milatic from the Ministry of Economy. The discussions aimed to enhance India-Croatia trade relations, with focus areas including railways, electric vehicles, IT, defence, and food processing.

India and Egypt Strengthen Ties in Skill Development

India and Egypt have agreed to enhance strategic collaboration in the field of skill development to build a globally competitive and future-ready workforce. The decision was taken during a high-level meeting between India's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and an Egyptian delegation led by Deputy Minister of Technical Education, Prof Ayman Bahaa El Din.

Future Areas of Cooperation Identified

The two nations outlined several avenues for future cooperation, including joint certification programmes, faculty and student exchange initiatives, digital skilling, entrepreneurship development, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence in key sectors such as information technology, agriculture, tourism, and green skills. Both sides emphasised their commitment to setting a model for South-South cooperation through this partnership.

Ongoing Collaborations and Existing Partnerships

Both sides acknowledged ongoing successful collaborations, such as the 2024 MoU between India's NIELIT and Egypt's Information Technology Institute, partnerships like the El-Sewedy Group with Amity University, and the Indian-supported Vocational Training Centre in Cairo. These initiatives reinforce the foundation for deeper and more meaningful collaboration in the future.

Air India in talks with Boeing to acquire 10 planes rejected by China

Air India is in talks with Boeing to acquire approximately 10 737 MAX jets. This comes as Chinese customers reject deliveries due to the ongoing US-China trade war. The US and China have imposed

over 100% tariffs on each other's goods. The jets are intended for Air India Express, Air India's budget carrier with a fleet of over 100 aircraft. Air India Express has a history of acquiring "white tail" aircraft—planes made for other customers but left undelivered. Differences in configuration between Chinese-spec jets and Air India's fleet may influence the final pricing. This deal could accelerate Air India's expansion, which has been limited by a shortage of new aircraft.

Economical Implications on India:

- Fleet Expansion: Boosts Air India's growth and connectivity.
- Cost Advantage: Possible discounted purchase due to China's rejection.
- Stronger US Ties: Enhances India-US trade and strategic relations.
- Job Creation: More jobs in aviation and allied sectors.
- Forex Outflow: High cost may affect short-term foreign reserves.

Algeria Joins BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) as New Member

The New Development Bank (NDB), established by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), has formally admitted Algeria as a new member. The announcement came after Algeria deposited its instrument of accession on May 19, in accordance with the Articles of Agreement of the NDB.

New Development Bank (NDB)

- Formation: July 2014 (Treaty signed), July 2015 (Treaty in force)
- Type: International financial institution
- Legal status: Treaty
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China
- President: Dilma Rousseff (South Africa)
- Parent organization: BRICS

Leadership and Global Outreach

The presidency and vice-presidency of NDB rotate among the founding BRICS members. Currently led by Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, the bank is expanding its global membership beyond BRICS to include strategic partners like Algeria. Rousseff highlighted Algeria's importance in North Africa's economy and global trade, praising its natural resources, dynamic economy, and strategic location.

Algeria's Commitment

Algeria’s Finance Minister Abdelkrim Bouzerd expressed pride in joining the NDB, describing the move as a testament to Algeria’s support for global development financing and its belief in the NDB’s role as a provider of innovative and alternative financial solutions for member countries.

Short Article

What are Ukraine's critical minerals and why does Trump want them? Explained

Ukraine possesses significant reserves of critical minerals essential for modern technologies and defense systems. U.S. President Donald Trump has shown interest in these resources to reduce U.S. dependence on China and to support Ukraine's reconstruction.

Ukraine's Critical Minerals:

- **Titanium:** Ukraine holds about 7% of the world's titanium reserves, vital for aerospace, medical, automotive, and marine industries.
- **Lithium:** With estimated reserves of 500,000 tons, Ukraine has one of Europe's largest lithium deposits, crucial for batteries in electric vehicles and electronics.
- **Graphite:** Essential for battery production, Ukraine's graphite reserves are significant for the energy sector.
- **Uranium:** Ukraine's uranium is important for nuclear energy and defense applications.
- **Rare Earth Elements:** Including scandium, niobium, tantalum, and others, these are critical

for electronics, magnets, and military technologies.

Trump's Interest:

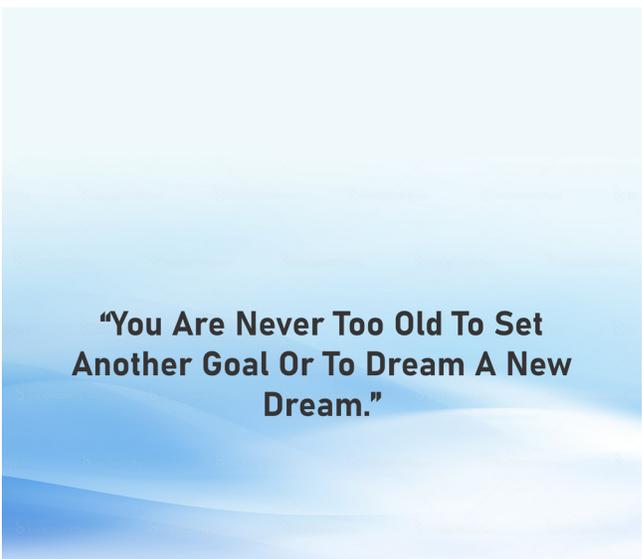
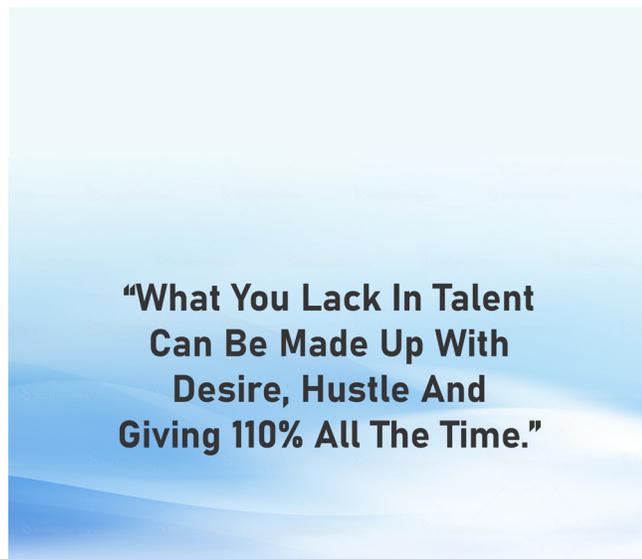
In 2025, under Trump's leadership, the U.S. and Ukraine signed a mineral exploitation agreement. This deal grants the U.S. preferential access to Ukraine's mineral projects and establishes the United States-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund to channel investments into Ukraine's recovery over the next decade. The agreement aims to reduce U.S. reliance on Chinese mineral processing, as China dominates the refining of rare earths and other critical minerals.

Challenges and Considerations:

- **Infrastructure:** Ukraine lacks the necessary infrastructure for large-scale mineral extraction and processing, which could delay the benefits of the deal.
- **Security:** Ongoing conflict in regions where these minerals are located poses risks to extraction and investment.
- **Economic Impact:** While the deal offers potential economic benefits, concerns exist about the terms, including revenue sharing and the absence of explicit security guarantees for Ukraine.

Conclusion:

Ukraine's rich mineral resources present an opportunity for the U.S. to secure critical materials and support Ukraine's post-war reconstruction. However, infrastructure challenges, security concerns, and the need for equitable agreements are crucial factors that will determine the success of such collaborations.



Economy & Trade

RBI Cancels HCBL Co-operative Bank Licence Over Capital Shortfall

The Reserve Bank has cancelled the licence of Lucknow-based HCBL Co-operative Bank as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking licence of Lucknow-based HCBL Co-operative Bank due to insufficient capital and poor earning prospects. The bank's continuance was deemed prejudicial to the interests of depositors.

Key Reasons for Licence Cancellation:

- Inadequate capital base
- No viable earning prospects
- Bank's continuance considered prejudicial to depositor interest
- Non-compliance with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Depositor Protection via DICGC:

Under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) provisions:

Each depositor is entitled to receive up to ₹5 lakh of their insured deposits.

As per HCBL's data:

98.69% of depositors are eligible to receive their full deposits from DICGC. As of January 31, 2025, ₹21.24 crore has already been disbursed by DICGC.

RBI Imposes ₹1.66 Lakh Penalty on Union Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.66 lakh on Union Bank of India, a public sector bank, for violating regulatory norms.

Reason for Penalty

Discrepancies in soiled note remittance to the RBI
Instances of ATM cash-out

Union Bank of India

- Type: Public Sector Bank
- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Tagline: Good People to Bank With

- Founder: Seth Sitaram Poddar

Merger Details:

- Merged With:
- Corporation Bank
- Andhra Bank
- Merger Effective Date: 1 April 2020
- Impact: Became one of the largest public sector banks in India in terms of branch network and business volume

RBI Imposes Penalties on Deutsche Bank and Yes Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Deutsche Bank AG (India) and Yes Bank Ltd for violations of regulatory guidelines.

₹50 Lakh Penalty on Deutsche Bank

RBI imposed a ₹50 lakh penalty on Deutsche Bank AG for non-compliance with directions related to the creation of the Central Repository of Large Common Exposures Across Banks and the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting. The bank had failed to report credit information of certain borrowers to the CRILC system. The penalty was levied after considering the bank's reply and personal hearing.

₹29.6 Lakh Penalty on Yes Bank

Yes Bank Ltd was fined ₹29.60 lakh for failing to comply with RBI's directions on presentation and disclosure of financial statements. RBI observed that the bank did not provide complete and correct information regarding customer complaints in its Annual Financial Statements for FY 2023–24.

Deutsche Bank AG:

- Founded: March 10, 1870, in Berlin, Germany
- Headquarters: Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- CEO: Christian Sewing

Yes Bank Limited

- Founded: November 21, 2003, by Rana Kapoor
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Prashant Kumar

RBI Imposes Penalty on Indian Bank, IOB, and M&M Financial Services

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a total monetary penalty of ₹2.96 crore on Indian Bank,

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (M&M Financial Services), a non-banking financial company (NBFC), for non-compliance with various regulatory directions.

Penalty Details

Among the three, Indian Bank faced the highest penalty of ₹1. 61 crore. IOB was fined ₹63. 60 lakh, while M&M Financial Services was penalised ₹71. 30 lakh.

Reasons for Penalty: Indian Bank

The RBI penalised Indian Bank for violations of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act and for non-compliance with directions on interest rates on advances, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, and lending to the MSME sector. During the Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2023), RBI observed that Indian Bank failed to link interest rates of certain floating-rate retail and MSME loans to an external benchmark. It also took collateral for KCC loans up to ₹1. 6 lakh and MSE loans up to ₹10 lakh—contrary to regulatory norms. Moreover, the bank delayed transferring eligible funds to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

Reasons for Penalty: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)

IOB was penalised for not adhering to RBI norms regarding credit to agriculture and MSME sectors. Specifically, the bank sought collateral for agricultural loans up to ₹1. 6 lakh and MSE loans up to ₹10 lakh, despite guidelines mandating these loans be collateral-free.

Reasons for Penalty: M&M Financial Services

M&M Financial Services, an NBFC, was fined for violating RBI's 2016 directions for systemically important NBFCs and Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines. Irregularities included failure to disclose processing fees and charges in some loan forms, not providing loan agreements or full sanction details to borrowers, denying final repayment opportunity before asset recovery, and assigning multiple customer IDs instead of a unique code.

RBI's Clarification

After considering responses and hearings from all three entities, RBI concluded that there were confirmed violations justifying the monetary penalties. The central bank clarified that these penalties were based solely on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and did not question the validity of customer agreements or transactions.

RBI Cancels Licence of Ajantha Urban Co-operative Bank Maryadit

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking licence of Ajantha Urban Co-operative Bank Maryadit, located in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, with effect from the close of business on April 22, 2025.

Reason for Licence Cancellation

According to RBI, the bank was found to be lacking adequate capital and earning prospects. It was deemed incapable of repaying its depositors in full, and allowing it to continue operations would have been detrimental to public interest.

Banking Operations Halted

With the licence cancellation, the bank has been prohibited from carrying out banking operations, including accepting and repaying deposits, from April 22, 2025 onwards.

Winding-Up and Appointment of Liquidator

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Maharashtra, has been requested by the RBI to issue an order for winding up the bank and appointing a liquidator to manage the process.

Deposit Insurance by DICGC

Under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) rules, each depositor is eligible to receive up to Rs 5 lakh as insurance for their deposits. According to RBI, about 91. 55% of depositors will receive their entire deposit amount under this insurance.

As of April 3, 2025, the DICGC has already disbursed Rs 275. 22 crore of insured deposits.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Established on: April 1, 1935
- Under: Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Current Governor: Shaktikanta Das

RBI Imposes Penalty on Union Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹63.6 lakh on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with specific regulatory provisions. The bank was found to have violated certain norms under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the RBI's directions on "Credit Flow to Agriculture – Collateral-free Agricultural Loans". This action was taken based on findings of deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Lendbox Penalised for NBFC–P2P Lending Norm Violation

In a separate action, the RBI imposed a penalty of ₹40 lakh on Transactree Technologies Pvt Ltd, which operates under the name 'Lendbox'. The company was penalized for non-compliance with the RBI's 2017 directions applicable to Non-Banking Financial Companies operating as Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending Platforms.

Nature of Penalty

The RBI clarified that these penalties are related to regulatory non-compliance only and are not a judgment on the validity of any financial transactions or agreements undertaken by these entities with their customers. The actions highlight the RBI's continued focus on ensuring adherence to its regulatory framework.

Union Bank of India:

- Established: 11 November 1919
- Founder: Seth Sitaram Poddar
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Tagline: “Good People to Bank With”
- Current MD & CEO: A. Manimekhalai
- Nationalization: 1969, among 14 major banks nationalized by the Government of India.
- Amalgamation: On April 1, 2020, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank were merged into Union Bank of India, making it one of the largest PSU banks in India.

India Ranked 4th Among Top 10 Economies in 2025: IMF World Economic Outlook

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its World Economic Outlook (WEO) April 2025, projecting a global GDP growth rate of 2.8% in 2025, down by 0.5 percentage points from earlier forecasts. The growth forecast for 2026 has also been revised down to 3%.

Global Economic Trends:

The report notes slowing growth in major economies:

- United States: GDP growth projected at 1.8%, down due to policy uncertainty and trade tensions.
- Euro Area: Growth expected at 0.8%.
- Emerging Markets and Developing Economies: Growth forecast at 3.7%.

Top 10 Economies by GDP (2025):

As per current prices, the Top 10 Largest Economies in 2025 are:

1. USA – \$30.34 trillion

2. China – \$19.53 trillion
3. Germany – \$4.92 trillion
4. India – \$4.39 trillion
5. Japan – \$4.27 trillion
6. UK – \$3.73 trillion
7. France – \$3.28 trillion
8. Italy – \$2.46 trillion
9. Canada – \$2.33 trillion
10. Brazil – \$2.31 trillion

Top 10 Richest Families in Asia – 2025 (Bloomberg Ranking)

Bloomberg released the list of the Top 20 Richest Families in Asia for the year 2025, highlighting the dominance of Indian business families in the region. The Ambani family from India topped the list with a total wealth of \$90.5 billion (approx. ₹7.85 lakh crore), making them the richest family in Asia. The family's flagship company, Reliance Industries, is currently headed by Mukesh Ambani, the third-generation leader of the group.

The second spot is occupied by the Chearavanont family of Thailand, which runs the Charoen Pokphand Group, a conglomerate involved in food, retail, and telecom sectors, with wealth estimated at \$42.6 billion. At third position, the Hartono family from Indonesia holds wealth worth \$42.2 billion, stemming originally from their tobacco company Djarum, now diversified into banking with Bank Central Asia.

The Top 10 list also features prominent families from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and India, with major conglomerates such as Samsung (Lee family, South Korea – \$22.7 billion) and Sun Hung Kai Properties (Kwok family, Hong Kong – \$35.6 billion).

Indian Families in Asia's Top 20 – 2025

India stands out with six families featured in the Top 20 richest Asian families. These families represent a mix of old legacy businesses and modern industrial empires. Here are the Indian rankings:

1. Ambani Family (Rank 1 in Asia)

- Company: Reliance Industries
- Wealth: \$90.5 billion
- Generations: 3
- Sector: Conglomerate

2. Mistry Family (Rank 4 in Asia)

- Company: Shapoorji Pallonji Group
- Wealth: \$37.5 billion
- Generations: 5
- Sector: Construction, Engineering

3. Jindal Family (Rank 7 in Asia)

- Company: OP Jindal Group
- Wealth: \$28. 1 billion
- Generations: 3
- Sector: Industrial
- 4. Birla Family (Rank 9 in Asia)**
- Company: Aditya Birla Group
- Wealth: \$23. 0 billion
- Generations: 7
- Sector: Conglomerate (Metals, Retail, Finance)
- 5. Bajaj Family (Rank 13 in Asia)**
- Company: Bajaj Group
- Wealth: \$20. 1 billion
- Generations: 4
- Sector: Conglomerate
- 6. Hinduja Family (Rank 18 in Asia)**
- Company: Hinduja Group
- Wealth: \$15. 2 billion
- Generations: 4
- Sector: Finance, Property

Bhutan Introduces World's First National Crypto Tourism Payment System

Bhutan has become the first country in the world to launch a national cryptocurrency-based tourism payment system. This initiative is the result of a collaboration between Bhutan's Department of Tourism, Binance Pay, and DK Bank.

Cashless Travel Experience for Tourists

With this new system, travelers with Binance accounts can pay using cryptocurrencies for almost all travel-related services in Bhutan. These include airline tickets, visa fees, hotel stays, monument entry, tour guides, and even small purchases such as fresh fruits from local vendors.

Over 100 Local Merchants Integrated

DK Bank and Binance Pay have already onboarded more than 100 local merchants, ensuring a cashless and cardless experience for tourists visiting Bhutan.

Empowering Remote Vendors and Promoting Inclusion

According to the Department of Tourism, the system not only promotes convenience but also supports inclusion by enabling small vendors in remote areas to participate in the tourism economy.

Advanced Features and Wide Crypto Support

The Binance app supports over 100 cryptocurrencies, including BNB, BTC, and USDC, using QR codes for real-time transactions. Payments are settled instantly in local currency through DK Bank, removing the need for physical cash or international cards.

Reducing Travel Barriers

This innovation aims to reduce common challenges in cross-border tourism, such as high transaction fees, currency exchange costs, and limited card acceptance.

Global Scale and No Gas Fees

Binance Pay, with a user base across 100+ countries and support for over 300 cryptocurrencies, is offering this service without any gas fees, ensuring a secure, scalable, and efficient payment solution.

IMF Approves \$1 Billion Loan Disbursement to Pakistan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the immediate disbursement of \$1 billion (SDR 760 million) to Pakistan under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). With this, the total disbursement under the EFF now stands at \$2. 1 billion (SDR 1. 52 billion).

New Arrangement Under Resilience and Sustainability Facility

Alongside the EFF, the IMF has also approved Pakistan's request for a new programme under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), granting access to \$1. 4 billion (SDR 1 billion). The RSF aims to support Pakistan in strengthening its resilience to climate-related and economic shocks.

Background of the IMF Programme

The 39-month, \$7 billion EFF programme was approved on September 25, 2024, to support Pakistan's economic reforms, promote macroeconomic stability, and enable sustainable, inclusive growth. The IMF noted that Pakistan had successfully completed the first biannual review of the programme on March 25, 2025, with key reforms including the introduction of a carbon levy, tariff revisions, water pricing, and automobile sector liberalisation.

India Raises Concerns Over Loan Misuse

India opposed the IMF disbursement citing concerns about possible misuse of funds for state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. India's Finance Ministry expressed worry over the fungibility of financial inflows and the interference of the Pakistan military in economic matters, which could undermine the intended reforms. New Delhi abstained from voting at the IMF Executive Board meeting and formally registered a protest.

India's Geopolitical Objections

India's objection came in the backdrop of rising tensions following a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, which killed 26 people, mostly

tourists. India warned that extending fresh loans to Pakistan without safeguards could damage the credibility of global institutions like the IMF.

Pakistan's Reaction

In response, the Prime Minister's Office of Pakistan welcomed the IMF's decision and dismissed India's opposition as "high-handed tactics." The statement claimed that Pakistan's economic situation had improved and highlighted ongoing reforms in the taxation system, energy sector, and private sector development.

Future Disbursements and Economic Outlook

With the successful completion of seven biannual reviews, Pakistan is entitled to seven equal instalments of around \$1 billion each under the EFF. The IMF cautioned, however, that economic risks remain elevated due to global uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and domestic vulnerabilities.

Lebanon receives \$250 mn World Bank loan to reform electricity sector

Lebanon signed a \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank to support critical reforms in its electricity sector. The loan represents a significant step towards the structural reforms Lebanon is implementing in the power sector. This marks the second loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) specifically for Lebanon's electricity sector.

The project will fund:

- The establishment of a national control center.
- Improvements in the accounting and billing systems of the state-run Electricity of Lebanon.
- The development of scalable solar energy farms.
- The first phase of solar projects is expected to generate 150 megawatts of power and save around \$40 million annually in fuel costs.
- Lebanon's electricity sector has struggled with chronic outages, financial mismanagement, and infrastructure decay for decades.
- This loan and reform project are central to Lebanon's broader recovery plans.

Here's a concise overview of World Bank loans to Lebanon:

- Total Commitment (2022): \$1.5 billion across 20 active projects in sectors like water, education, health, and energy.
- Fiscal Management Project (2024): \$28.5 million to support fiscal management functions.

- Emergency Social Safety Net (AMAN): Cash transfers to 150,000 extreme poor households.
- COVID-19 Response: Strengthening health systems and procurement of vaccines.
- Reconstruction Needs: \$11 billion estimated, with \$3-5 billion in public financing required post-crisis.
- Energy Sector Loans:
 - \$250 million (2025) for electricity reforms, including solar projects.
 - \$116 million (2023) to address electricity grid issues.

Lebanon

- Capital: Beirut
- Currency: Lebanese pound
- President: Joseph Aoun
- Prime Minister: Nawaf Salam
- Official language: Arabic
- Continent: Asia

THE Asia University Rankings 2025: IISc bags top spot in India

The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the Asia University Rankings 2025, featuring some of the top educational institutes of the region. The list also features some of the best Indian universities that have made the cut in the list.

Here are the top 5 universities in Asia for 2025 according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings:

1. Tsinghua University – China
2. Peking University – China
3. National University of Singapore (NUS) – Singapore
4. Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – Singapore
5. The University of Tokyo – Japan

For comparison, the QS Asia University Rankings 2025 top 5 are:

1. Peking University – China
2. The University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong SAR
3. National University of Singapore (NUS) – Singapore
4. Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – Singapore
5. Fudan University – China

Both rankings highlight the dominance of Chinese and Singaporean institutions in Asia's higher education landscape.

Here are the top 5 Indian institutes to feature in the THE Asia University Rankings 2025:

1. Indian Institute of Science.
2. Anna University
3. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore
4. Mahatma Gandhi University
5. Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences

Short Articles

India’s Strategic Engagement on Critical Minerals: Focus on Germanium

India-China Engagement over Germanium Export Restrictions

India is currently in diplomatic discussions with China over its decision to impose export restrictions on germanium, a key strategic mineral used in semiconductors. China, which dominates global germanium production, has tightened control over its exports, citing national security concerns, strategic retaliation against U.S. trade policies, and efforts to consolidate its global supply chain dominance.

Germanium: A Strategic Mineral for High-Tech Industries

Key Characteristics and Applications

- **Nature:** Lustrous, hard, silvery-white semi-metal with a crystal structure similar to diamond.
- **Uses:** Integral to fiber-optic cables, infrared imaging, solar cells, and semiconductor technologies.
- **Global Dominance:** China produces around 60% of the world’s germanium.

Understanding Critical Minerals

Definition and Importance

Critical minerals are those essential for economic development and national security, especially in the context of energy transition and digital technologies. These include copper, lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements.

India's Critical Mineral List

India has identified 30 critical minerals, including antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cobalt, and germanium, due to their role in energy storage, electronics, and renewable energy technologies.

Global Supply Chain Dependency

China leads in processing capabilities for several critical minerals, controlling 80–90% of global

processing capacity—raising concerns about overdependence.

Strategic Importance of Critical Minerals for India Role in National Priorities

- **Renewable Energy:** Critical minerals are essential for manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicles (EVs).
- **Technological Advancement:** These minerals are vital for AI, robotics, semiconductors, and space exploration.
- **Economic Growth:** India's EV market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 49% till 2030, increasing demand for lithium, cobalt, and advanced battery materials.

National Security and Economic Vulnerability

India's heavy reliance on imports, especially from China, for minerals like bismuth, lithium, cobalt, and silicon, exposes the country to supply chain disruptions and geopolitical risks.

Availability and Application of Critical Minerals in India

| S. No | Mineral | Major Applications | Availability in India |
|-------|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Cadmium | Electrical equipment, solar cells, electroplating | By-product of zinc refining |
| 2 | Cobalt | EV batteries, aerospace alloys | Not available, fully imported |
| 3 | Copper | Wiring, solar panels, electronics | 96% demand met through imports |
| 4 | Gallium | Semiconductors, sensors | Recovered during alumina production |
| 5 | Germanium | Optical fibers, night vision, solar cells | Not available, fully imported |
| 6 | Graphite | Batteries, fuel cells | 9 million tonnes of reserves |
| 7 | Lithium | EVs, batteries, ceramics | 5.9 million tonnes |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | (J&K, inferred) |
| 8 | Nickel | Defence, batteries, aerospace | Domestic production at NICOMET, Goa |
| 9 | Rare Earth Elements (REEs) | Magnets, aviation, wind energy | 11.93 Mt monazite (beach sand) |
| 10 | Silicon | Semiconductors, electronics | 59,000 metric tonnes (2022), 12th globally |

Government Initiatives to Ensure Mineral Security Steps Toward Self-Reliance

- National Critical Mineral Mission: Focused on securing a stable supply of critical minerals.
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL): Joint venture to acquire overseas mineral assets.
- Mineral Security Partnership (MSP): Multilateral initiative to ensure secure global supply chains.
- India-Australia Investment Partnership: Bilateral agreement for critical mineral cooperation.
- Amendment in MMDR Act, 2023: Enables private sector participation and faster allocation of critical mineral blocks.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) Exploration Projects: Focused on identifying and mapping critical mineral resources domestically.

Conclusion

India’s increasing engagement in securing critical minerals like germanium highlights its strategic intent to achieve technological self-reliance, support its net-zero commitments, and mitigate geopolitical risks in global supply chains. Strengthening domestic exploration and international partnerships is key to ensuring a resilient and secure mineral ecosystem.

India Set to Become World’s Fourth-Largest Economy in 2025: IMF World Economic Outlook

According to the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) released in April 2025, India is projected to become the world’s fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan with a nominal

GDP of USD 4.187 trillion. Japan’s GDP is estimated at USD 4.186 trillion for the same period.

Key Highlights of the World Economic Outlook 2025

Global Economic Trends

- Global Growth Forecast: Projected at 2.8% for 2025 and 3.0% for 2026.
- United States: Expected to grow at 1.8% in 2025, reflecting policy uncertainties and trade tensions.
- Emerging Markets: Growth estimated at 3.7%, remaining higher than the global average despite slowing trends.
- Inflation: Global inflation is projected to decline, though the pace is slower than anticipated. Risks persist from financial volatility and trade disputes.
- Demographic Challenges: Aging populations due to declining fertility and rising life expectancy may transition the world from a demographic dividend to a demographic drag.
- The global average age is projected to rise by 11 years between 2020 and 2100.
- However, healthy aging is expected to contribute 0.4% to global GDP growth between 2025 and 2050.

India’s Economic Outlook for 2025

Growth Forecast and Global Position

- GDP Growth: India’s growth forecast for 2025 has been slightly revised to 6.2% (from 6.5%) but remains the highest among major global economies.
- Comparison with China: China’s growth is projected at 4.0% for 2025, down from 4.6%, reinforcing India’s position as the fastest-growing major economy.
- Key Driver: Private consumption, especially in rural India, continues to fuel economic momentum despite global uncertainties.

World Economic Outlook (WEO): Overview

Purpose and Significance

- Published biannually (April and October) by the IMF.
- Provides macroeconomic analysis and forecasts for global and regional economies.
- Assesses inflation trends, financial stability, structural challenges, and policy recommendations.
- Used extensively by governments, policymakers, researchers, and investors.

Structural Drivers of India’s Economic Resilience

1. Private Consumption

India's private consumption reached Rs. 1.83 lakh crore in 2024, growing at a 7.2% CAGR.

India is on track to become the third-largest consumer market by 2026.

Middle-class expansion and rising per capita income (expected to cross Rs. 3.49 lakh by 2030) support long-term consumption-led growth.

2. Sound Macroeconomic Fundamentals

India's debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 56.8% in FY25, lower than developed economies such as the US (124.0%).

Continued fiscal discipline and structural economic reforms promote financial stability.

3. Infrastructure and Digital Development

Major investments under schemes like:

Smart Cities Mission

Bharatmala Pariyojana (roads)

Sagarmala Project (ports)

India's digital economy accounted for 11.74% of GDP in 2022–23, reflecting increased productivity.

4. Government Reforms

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has improved financial inclusion.

Make in India and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes aim to boost domestic manufacturing.

Combined, these programs enhance ease of doing business and support employment creation.

5. Favorable Demographics and Labor Force Growth

India has a young and expanding workforce:

Labor force projected to grow from 423.73 million (2023) to 457.62 million (2028).

Female labor force participation increased from 23.3% (2017–18) to 41.7% (2023–24).

Sectors expected to see major job additions include retail, healthcare, education, tech, and manufacturing.

6. Technological Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem

Rapid adoption of AI, renewable energy, and digital solutions strengthens productivity.

Indian startups are projected to:

- Create 50 million new jobs
- Add USD 1 trillion to the economy by FY30
- India's technology sector is expected to reach USD 300–350 billion in the next five years.

7. Trade Diversification and Global Integration

India's integration into global value chains and new trade partnerships enhances its economic resilience.

Share in global services exports has increased from 1.9% (2005) to 4.3% (2023).

Conclusion: India's Strategic Economic Position

India's ascent as the fourth-largest global economy reflects strong macroeconomic management, inclusive policies, and strategic investment in infrastructure and human capital. With a young population, robust private consumption, and technological advancement, India is well-positioned to maintain its growth trajectory amidst global economic uncertainties.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

"Fake It Until You Make It! Act As If You Had All The Confidence You Require Until It Becomes Your Reality."

"The Future Belongs To The Competent. Get Good, Get Better, Be The Best!"

Defence & Security

Adani Partners with Sparton to Develop Anti-Submarine Warfare System

Adani Defence & Aerospace, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, has signed a binding collaboration agreement with Sparton (DeLeon Springs LLC), a subsidiary of Elbit Systems, to develop anti-submarine warfare (ASW) systems in India.

- **Aim of the Partnership:** The agreement focuses on manufacturing advanced electronic and ASW systems, including indigenously developed sonobuoys, for both domestic and global markets. The systems will be used primarily for strengthening India's naval undersea warfare capabilities.
- **Significance of Sonobuoys:** Sonobuoys are deployable sonar systems that help in detecting and tracking underwater threats, such as submarines. They are key components in enhancing Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) and play a crucial role in anti-submarine warfare operations.
- **Strategic and Indigenous Development:** Through this partnership, Adani becomes the first private Indian company to offer indigenously developed sonobuoy solutions, reducing dependency on foreign imports. This move aligns with the government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives in the defence sector.
- **Support for Indian Navy:** The technology integration will be specifically tailored for the Indian Navy, providing mission-ready ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) and ASW capabilities. The systems are expected to enhance maritime security and operational readiness.

Adani Group

- **Industry:** Conglomerate
- **Founded:** 20 July 1988
- **Founder:** Gautam Adani
- **Headquarters:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- **Chairman:** Gautam Adani

Sparton

- **Subsidiaries:** Sparton Technology, Inc. , ERAPSCO
- **Parent organization:** Elbit Systems of America, LLC
- **President and CEO:** Donnelly Bohan

- **Headquarters:** Schaumburg, Illinois, United States
- **Date founded:** 1900

US-Saudi Arms Deal: A Strategic Partnership

US President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement in Jeddah. The deal includes a \$142 billion arms deal, marking a significant enhancement of military cooperation between the US and Saudi Arabia. The agreement also involves Saudi investments in sectors like artificial intelligence, energy production, and healthcare.

Trump's Middle East Tour

This agreement was signed during Trump's four-day Middle East tour, which began with his visit to Saudi Arabia. President Trump reiterated his commitment to expanding the Abraham Accords, an initiative aimed at normalising diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab countries.

Lifting of Sanctions on Syria

Trump also announced the lifting of sanctions on Syria, which were imposed during the rule of Bashar al-Assad. He described the move as a step toward offering Syria a renewed opportunity for peace.

key facts about the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia:

Diplomatic Relations

Established in 1933; the U. S. has an embassy in Riyadh, and Saudi Arabia has one in Washington, D. C.

Economic and Trade Relations

Oil Trade: Saudi Arabia is a major oil producer, and the U. S. is a leading importer of Saudi oil.

Arms Deals: The U. S. supplies advanced military equipment to Saudi Arabia, including a \$142 billion arms deal.

Security Cooperation:

- **Military Ties:** U. S. forces have been stationed in Saudi Arabia for decades, focusing on defense and regional stability.
- **Counterterrorism:** Both nations collaborate on fighting terrorism, especially in the Middle East.

Geopolitical Interests

- **Iran:** Shared concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence.
- **Middle East Stability:** The U. S. views Saudi Arabia as crucial for maintaining regional stability.

Cultural and Social Relations

- Educational Exchanges: A significant number of Saudi students study in the U. S.
- Human Rights: Concerns about freedom of expression, women's rights, and treatment of journalists in Saudi Arabia.

Key Agreements

- Abraham Accords: The U. S. facilitated the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab countries, including the UAE and Bahrain.
- Vision 2030: Saudi Arabia's plan to diversify its economy, with U. S. involvement in infrastructure and technology.

Challenges

- Khashoggi Murder: The 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi strained relations.
- Yemen Conflict: U. S. support for Saudi Arabia in the Yemen war has faced international criticism.

Canada in talks to join US 'Golden Dome' missile defence system

Canadian PM Mark Carney confirmed discussions with the US and conditional interest in joining, indicating a case-by-case defense policy instead of blanket alignment. Canada and the US are already allied through NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), a joint defense system for air and space surveillance in North America. The US cites China and Russia's advanced missile technology as justification for developing this next-gen defense layer in space.

Golden Dome Missile Defence Initiative

- Project Type: First U. S. space-based missile defence system.
- Estimated Cost: \$175 billion.

Key Features:

- Multi-tiered defence integrating ground-based & space-based interceptors.
- Early-warning satellites and next-gen tracking systems.
- Detects and intercepts missiles at all phases: launch to terminal descent.
- Categorized into medium, high, and extra high cost options.

Timeline:

- Technology demonstrations begin in 2026.
- Expected to be fully operational by 2029.
- Project Head: General Michael Guetlein, Vice Chief of Space Operations.

Strategic Context

- Existing Alliance: Canada and U. S. are partners in NORAD, overseeing joint airspace defence.
- Threat Assessment: U. S. Defence sees Golden Dome as a response to advanced missile threats from China and Russia.
- Canada's Approach: Carney emphasizes a case-by-case model for future U. S. defence integration, moving away from automatic participation.

What is NORAD?

NORAD is a binational military organization between the United States and Canada that provides aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning for North America.

- Founded: 1958, during the Cold War, to monitor and defend against potential Soviet aerial attacks.
- Headquarters: Located at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado, USA.
- Primary Functions:
 - Aerospace Warning: Detecting and tracking airborne threats like missiles, aircraft, or space launches.
 - Aerospace Control: Ensuring sovereignty of North American airspace.
 - Maritime Warning: Monitoring threats approaching by sea (added in 2006).

Akashteer: India's AI-Driven Air Defence System Showcases Indigenous Capability

India successfully deployed the Akashteer air defence system during recent cross-border tensions, effectively neutralising all Pakistani drones, missiles, and loitering munitions, preventing any breach of Indian airspace. Developed entirely indigenously by DRDO, Akashteer is believed to be the first operational AI-powered war-cloud system without reliance on foreign components or satellite support. This underscores India's growing technological self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Fully Automated & Real-Time Target Interception

Akashteer's unique strength lies in its autonomous AI-driven detection and response mechanism. The system integrates radars, sensors, and communication technologies into a unified operational framework, providing a real-time air picture to all key defence units, including radar stations, command centres, and gun crews. This ensures rapid tracking and automated interception of aerial threats such as drones and missiles.

BrahMos Missile Production Begins in Lucknow

The production of the world's most powerful supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos, is set to commence in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, with the inauguration of the BrahMos missile manufacturing unit on May 11, 2025. This marks a significant milestone in India's defence manufacturing journey.

Investment and Project Timeline

The manufacturing facility has been developed by BrahMos Aerospace with an investment of ₹300 crore. The Uttar Pradesh government had allotted 80 hectares of land free of cost in December 2021. The unit has been completed within 3.5 years, covering construction to production.

Government Support and Strategic Importance

According to the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the state government not only provided free land but also actively monitored the project's progress. The facility is of strategic importance amid regional tensions and will significantly strengthen India's military capability while positioning Uttar Pradesh as a key player in the defence sector.

BrahMos Aerospace: A Joint Venture

BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between India's DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and Russia's NPOM. With 50.5% Indian and 49.5% Russian ownership, it is India's first international defence joint venture. The name 'BrahMos' is derived from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, symbolizing strength and peace.

Indian Navy Receives 'Arnala', First Indigenous ASW Shallow Water Craft

The Indian Navy received 'Arnala', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC), marking a significant step in India's drive for indigenous defence production. The ship was delivered at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, and was indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Public-Private Partnership in Defence Manufacturing

The warship was constructed under the Classification Rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, showcasing successful collaboration in the defence manufacturing sector.

Design and Capabilities

Named after the historic Arnala fort in Maharashtra, the 77-meter-long vessel is the largest Indian Naval warship powered by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination. It is designed for underwater surveillance, search and rescue operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), anti-submarine warfare in coastal waters, and also features advanced mine-laying capabilities.

Successful Test of Indigenous Underwater Mine

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy have successfully conducted a combat firing (with reduced explosive) of the indigenously developed Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM). This test comes amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Development and Features

The MIGM is an advanced underwater naval mine designed to target modern stealth ships and submarines. It was developed by the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, under DRDO.

Production and Induction

The system will be produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited, Visakhapatnam, and Apollo Microsystems Limited, Hyderabad. Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO, confirmed that the successful validation trial has made the system ready for induction into the Indian Navy.

DRDO Conducts Maiden Flight-Trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the maiden flight-trials of its Stratospheric Airship Platform from Sheopur Trial Site in Madhya Pradesh. The platform was developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, a DRDO laboratory in Uttar Pradesh.

Flight Details and Purpose

The airship carried an instrumental payload to an altitude of approximately 17 kilometers during the flight, which lasted about 62 minutes. The mission

tested the envelope pressure control system and emergency deflation systems, both of which were successfully deployed. The platform was later recovered for detailed analysis.

Strategic Significance

Data collected from the onboard sensors will be used to build high-fidelity simulation models for future high-altitude missions. The platform will significantly enhance India's Earth observation, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. He added that this achievement positions India among the few countries with such indigenous high-altitude airship technology.

Defence Research and Development Organisation

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Current Chairman: Dr. Samir V Kamat

DRDO Achieves Milestone in Hypersonic Technology with Scramjet Test

Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), a unit of DRDO, conducted a long-duration ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor. The test lasted for over 1,000 seconds and was carried out at the Scramjet Connect Test Facility in Hyderabad.

Significance of the Test

The test marks a major milestone in hypersonic weapon technology development. It follows a previous 120-second test conducted in January 2025. Success prepares the system for full-scale flight-worthy combustor testing.

About Scramjet and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles

Scramjets are air-breathing engines capable of supersonic combustion without moving parts. These are used in hypersonic cruise missiles, which travel at speeds over Mach 5 (6,100+ km/h) for extended periods.

Collaborative Effort and National Impact

The achievement is a result of integrated efforts by DRDO labs, industry, and academia. It establishes a strong base for India's Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme.

**"Things Work Out Best For Those
Who Make The Best Of How
Things Work Out."**

Defence Exercises of the Month

Teesta Prahar

The Indian Army conducted a large-scale integrated field exercise named 'Teesta Prahar' at the Teesta Field Firing Range in West Bengal. The drill was carried out in a riverine terrain to test the operational readiness, coordination, and synergy among various combat and support arms.

Focus on Modern Warfare and Joint Combat Synergy

The Defence PRO Guwahati stated that the exercise showcased joint combat synergy, swift tactical drills, and modern warfare capabilities. It involved Infantry, Artillery, Armoured units, Mechanised Infantry, Special Forces, Engineers, Signals, and Aviation units, reflecting tech-enabled warfare, rapid mobility, and adaptability in complex terrains.

Validation of Next-Gen Weapons and Advanced Battlefield Technologies

The Trishakti Corps highlighted that the exercise validated the use of next-generation weapon systems, new military platforms, and advanced battlefield technologies as part of the Army's modernization drive. Key features included battle drills, adaptive manoeuvres, and all-terrain operations to respond effectively to dynamic combat situations.

DRDO Develops Human-Controlled Machine to Reduce Troop Risk

On the same day, the Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) under DRDO announced the development of a human-operated machine designed to perform complex tasks under direct command. The aim is to reduce soldier exposure in high-risk combat environments, enhancing battlefield safety and efficiency.

Aakraman

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is conducting Exercise Aakraman (Attack) in the central sector, utilizing its mainstream fighter aircraft fleets led by Rafale jets. The exercise involves complex missions, including ground attack and electronic warfare drills.

Rafale Aircraft Squadrons: The IAF operates two squadrons of Rafale aircraft based in Ambala (Haryana) and Hashimara (West Bengal).

Exercise Scope:

Assets of the IAF have been moved from various airbases, including those in the eastern region, for the exercise. The exercise simulates operations in different terrains, including plains and mountainous areas.

Advanced Capabilities: The IAF has gained a technological edge over regional adversaries, especially with the induction of Meteor air-to-air missiles and long-range missiles like Rampage and Rocks.

Regional Tensions:

The exercise comes amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack. It is being closely monitored by the Air Headquarters with

participation from the IAF's top pilots under the supervision of high-qualified instructors.

Past Military Operations:

The IAF played a crucial role in the 2019 post-Pulwama attack strikes inside Pakistan. Since then, the IAF has strengthened its capabilities, particularly with the induction of Rafale jets, gaining an edge in regional airpower.

Modernization of IAF: The IAF has introduced force multipliers like the S-400 air defense system, which is effective against airborne early warning and control aircraft of adversaries.

"I Think Goals Should Never Be Easy, They Should Force You To Work, Even If They Are Uncomfortable At The Time."

"One Of The Lessons That I Grew Up With Was To Always Stay True To Yourself And Never Let What Somebody Else Says Distract You From Your Goals."

03 MAY

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

INCEPTION: 1993
2025 THEME: REPORTING IN THE BRAVE NEW WORLD:
 THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE PRESS AND MEDIA

Importance
 To mark the proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

Motto
 To raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty.

Organisation Involved
 UNESCO.

Note
 Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

04 MAY

COAL MINERS DAY

Importance
 This day show appreciation for the sacrifices, honour the accomplishments and remember the tragedies that these hardworking individuals experience.

Motto
 To highlight the toughest profession and the people working in coal mines. On this day several organisations, communities raises funds and awareness for other organisations in the coal mining area and workers.

Note
 In India coal mining began in 1774 when John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Healthy of the East India Company commenced commercial exploitation in the Raniganj Coalfield along the Western bank of Damodar River.

Social Issues & Schemes

Govt rolls out SPICED scheme to boost spice exports

The Spices Board has announced the launch of the “Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED)” scheme for the financial year 2025–26. The scheme offers financial assistance across various components, aiming to enhance sustainability, foster innovation, and promote export development in the Indian spices sector.

- Scheme Name: SPICED (Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development)
- Launch: By Spices Board for FY 2025–26
- Objective: Enhance sustainability, innovation, and export growth in the Indian spices sector

Key Focus Areas:

- Boost productivity of small and large cardamom
- Improve post-harvest quality and infrastructure (dryers, slicers, grading machines)
- Promote value-added, GI-tagged, and organic spices
- Ensure compliance with global food safety and phytosanitary standards
- Support replanting, rejuvenation, water resource development, micro-irrigation, organic farming, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Odisha Launches ‘Sahajog’ Scheme to Connect Urban Poor with Government Welfare

The Odisha government has launched ‘Sahajog’, a first-of-its-kind scheme aimed at linking the urban poor with various government welfare schemes. Launched on May 1, 2025, by Housing & Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra in Bhubaneswar.

Objective and Features

Ensures last-mile delivery of government benefits. Focuses on mass awareness, doorstep delivery of services, and strengthened implementation at the Urban Local Body (ULB) and district levels. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to act as an entry point for linking families to other schemes.

Nodal Agency

The Housing and Urban Development Department will function as the nodal agency. H&UD Principal Secretary Usha Padhee emphasized addressing the basic needs—land, housing, water, electricity—of economically weaker sections.

Govt Signs Agreement with UNDP to Empower Waste Pickers under NAMASTE Scheme

On Labour Day, the Government of India signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve the working conditions, financial access, and technological empowerment of waste pickers in India. Agreement exchanged by Angela Lusigi (UNDP India Resident Representative) and Amit Yadav (Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

Part of NAMASTE Scheme Expansion

The initiative is part of the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, which in 2024 added waste pickers as a key focus group.

Key Benefits to Waste Pickers

- Occupational Photo ID Cards
- Health Insurance under Ayushman Bharat–PMJAY
- Skill Training and PPE Kits
- Capital Subsidies for waste collection vehicles
- Formation of collectives for decentralised waste centres to boost dignity and income

Short Article

Indore Becomes India’s First Official Beggar-Free City

National Achievement Under Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat Initiative

Indore, located in Madhya Pradesh, has been officially declared India’s first beggar-free city. This status was conferred under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment’s initiative titled “Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat” (Begging-Free India). The recognition also received validation from the World Bank, highlighting the success of sustained efforts under national rehabilitation policies.

Implementation Through SMILE Scheme

Sub-Scheme for Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging

The milestone was achieved through the “Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging”, a sub-scheme under the umbrella of the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme, launched in 2022.

Understanding Begging in India

Definition and Legal Context

- **Definition:** Begging includes acts such as soliciting alms through singing, selling trivial goods, or exhibiting deformities to evoke sympathy.
- **Constitutional Framework:** Begging and vagrancy fall under the Concurrent List (Entry 15, List III), allowing both the Centre and states to legislate on the matter.
- **Absence of Central Legislation:** India does not currently have a uniform national law on begging. The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 is one of the prominent legislations and criminalizes begging in certain states.

Statistical Overview of Begging in India

Census and Socio-Economic Data

As per Census 2011, there are 4.13 lakh beggars in India.

- **State-wise concentration:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh have the highest numbers.
- The SECC 2011 further reports that 6.62 lakh rural households depend on begging as their primary livelihood.

SMILE Scheme: Framework for Rehabilitation

Overview

Launch Year: 2022

Administering Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Sub-Schemes:

Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging

Empowerment of Transgender Persons

Objectives of the Beggary Sub-Scheme

Identification and profiling of individuals involved in begging in urban areas, especially in religious, tourist, and heritage sites.

Target: Rehabilitate 8,000 persons between FY 2023–24 and FY 2025–26.

Strategy for Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Multi-Stakeholder Involvement

Identification & Outreach: Implemented with support from urban local bodies.

Profiling: Conducted via photo and video documentation.

Rehabilitation Support: Includes counselling, skill training, health services, education, and reintegration.

Participating Agencies

District Administrations

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Temple Trusts and Local Community Bodies

Significance of the Achievement

Social Impact and Policy Model

Indore’s recognition as India’s first beggar-free city serves as a model of urban social reform through a rights-based and rehabilitative approach. The city’s achievement reflects the potential of coordinated governance and inclusive welfare policies in addressing long-standing social challenges.

“A Clear Vision, Backed By Definite Plans, Gives You A Tremendous Feeling Of Confidence And Personal Power.”

“There Are No Limits To What You Can Accomplish, Except The Limits You Place On Your Own Thinking.”

Environment & Ecology

Similipal Becomes India's 107th National Park and Odisha's Largest

Similipal was officially declared as India's 107th national park with a formal notification issued by the Odisha Government. The park spans 845.70 sq km across 11 ranges in the Similipal North and Similipal South divisions, making it the largest national park in Odisha.

Significance of the Declaration

This marks the second national park in Odisha, after Bhitarkanika, which was designated as a national park in 1998. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi hailed the move as a landmark step towards conservation and advancing the goals of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Odisha.

Prem Kumar Jha, PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, described it as a major milestone in the forest and wildlife conservation history of Odisha.

Conservation Importance of Similipal

Similipal is Odisha's largest tiger reserve, with a rich biodiversity, including:

- 55 species of mammals
- 361 species of birds
- 62 species of reptiles
- 21 species of amphibians

The park was initially part of the Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary, covering an area of 2,750 sq km, with 1,194.75 sq km notified as core critical tiger habitat in 2007.

Previous National Park Status in Odisha

Before Similipal, Bhitarkanika was the only national park in Odisha. Bhitarkanika, initially a wildlife sanctuary in 1975, was granted national park status in 1998, preserving the state's mangrove ecosystem.

India-EU Launch ₹391 Crore Green Innovation Initiatives

India and the European Union (EU) have jointly launched two major green research and innovation projects with a total investment of ₹391 crore (~€41 million). These initiatives fall under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), which was established in 2022 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to deepen cooperation in trade and

technology. The projects are co-funded by Horizon Europe—the EU's flagship research program—and the Government of India, aiming to foster sustainable development through joint research.

Marine Pollution and Plastic Litter Research Initiative

The first coordinated research call focuses on tackling marine plastic litter and pollution, which is a growing global environmental concern. The EU has allocated €12 million (~₹115 crore) and India's Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has contributed ₹90 crore for this initiative. The goal is to develop innovative tools to detect marine micro/nano plastic particles, assess ecological risks, and evaluate bioaccumulation in the food chain. The project also aims to create effective technologies for reducing plastic pollution at its source. The call supports global initiatives such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan, and India's National Marine Litter Policy.

Waste to Green Hydrogen Research Initiative

The second coordinated research call addresses the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions by developing technologies to produce green hydrogen from biogenic waste. The EU will contribute €10 million (~₹96 crore) and India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will provide ₹90 crore. This initiative aims to create cost-effective, high-yield, and low-emission technologies using biological, electrochemical, and catalytic processes. Feedstocks will include agricultural, forestry, municipal, and industrial waste. The project supports the goals of the EU Hydrogen Strategy and India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.

India-EU Relations

- Strategic Partnership since 2004
- Areas of cooperation: Trade, climate, security, research & innovation
- Recent joint investment of ₹391 crore in green innovation (2025)

Important Treaties

- Treaty of Rome (1957): Created the European Economic Community (EEC)
- Maastricht Treaty (1993): Created the EU
- Lisbon Treaty (2009): Streamlined EU functioning & introduced roles like EU President

India jumps four places to rank 130th on Human Development Index: UNDP report

HDI Ranking and Score

India ranked 130th out of 193 countries in the 2023 UN Human Development Index, up four spots from 2022. The HDI score improved from 0.644 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023. The report, titled "A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of Artificial Intelligence", was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Comparative Regional Rankings

India shares the same HDI score as Bangladesh (0.685) but lags behind Sri Lanka (89th, 0.776).

Pakistan ranked 168th (0.544), Nepal 145th (0.622). Among BRICS nations, India trails Brazil (89th), Russia (59th), China (75th), and South Africa (110th).

Key Improvements in 2023

- Life Expectancy: Increased from 67.7 years (2022) to 72 years (2023).
- Expected Schooling Years: Rose from 12.6 to 13 years.
- Average Schooling Years: Increased from 6.57 to 6.9 years.
- Per Capita GNI: Jumped from \$6,951 to \$9,047 (PPP 2021).

Gender Inequality and Development Gaps

- Inequality-Adjusted HDI: India's score drops to 0.475, reflecting a 30.66% decline when accounting for disparities.
- Gender Development Index (GDI): 0.874, with women scoring 0.631 compared to 0.722 for men.
- Gender Inequality Index (GII): India ranks 102nd at 0.403, highlighting challenges in reproductive health, political representation, and workforce participation.

Income Disparities

India's GNI per capita rank is seven places below its HDI rank, indicating a relative weakness in income compared to health and education.

Top 5 Nations in the 2023 UN Human Development Index (HDI)

1. Switzerland - 0.962
2. Norway - 0.961
3. Ireland - 0.959
4. Germany - 0.956
5. Iceland - 0.955

Bottom 5 Nations in the 2023 UN Human Development Index (HDI)

193. Niger - 0.394
192. Chad - 0.401

191. South Sudan - 0.411

190. Burundi - 0.413

189. Central African Republic - 0.415

Short Articles

Context of Punjab-Haryana River Water Conflict

The long-standing dispute between Punjab and Haryana over the sharing of water from the Bhakra Nangal Dam has once again resurfaced. The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), which oversees the dam's operations, recently decided to release an additional 4,500 cusecs of water to Haryana. Punjab has opposed this decision and refused to release the extra allocation, prompting Haryana to consider approaching the Supreme Court to secure its share. The current standoff originated when Haryana demanded a total of 8,500 cusecs, exceeding its present allocation. In a BBMB meeting, Haryana received support from Rajasthan and Delhi, but Punjab blocked the release by not opening the sluice gates.

Institutional and Historical Background

The dispute is rooted in the reorganization of Punjab in 1966, after which the Bhakra Management Board (later renamed BBMB in 1976) was established under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. The BBMB currently manages major projects such as the Bhakra Dam (Himachal Pradesh), Nangal Dam (Punjab), the Beas-Sutlej Link Project, and the Pong Dam. The Bhakra Nangal project is a collaborative effort among Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. Following Haryana's formation, the Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal was proposed to ensure Haryana's water share, but the canal remains incomplete due to Punjab's resistance.

Underlying Water Stress Factors in the Region

The water-sharing conflict is aggravated by environmental and developmental challenges. Groundwater extraction in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan has significantly exceeded recharge rates, resulting in depletion by 66%, 34%, and 51% respectively. Additionally, the major reservoirs including Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar are witnessing low water levels due to declining Himalayan snowfall. Agricultural practices, especially rice cultivation encouraged by subsidized electricity and free water, have worsened groundwater stress. Urbanization in cities like Chandigarh and Gurugram, along with industrial demand and power generation, has further strained water resources. Moreover, the

Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 restricts India's use of western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), which affects irrigation capacity in Punjab and neighboring states.

Legal and Constitutional Provisions Governing River Disputes

Interstate river water disputes in India are governed under multiple legal frameworks. Article 262 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to adjudicate disputes concerning inter-state rivers. Parliament can also bar the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or other courts in such matters. The River Board Act, 1956 authorizes the creation of boards for inter-state river regulation, though no board has yet been constituted under this Act. The Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for the formation of tribunals upon failure of negotiations. The 2002 amendment, following Sarkaria Commission recommendations, set timelines—one year for tribunal formation and three years for delivering judgments. Additionally, water is covered under multiple entries in the Constitution: Entry 56 (Union List), Entry 17 (State List), and Entry 32 (Concurrent List).

Causes Behind the Rise in Inter-State Water Conflicts

River water disputes typically stem from riparian conflicts between upstream and downstream states, ambiguity in past water-sharing agreements, and increasing water demand caused by climate change and droughts. Political compulsions, legal delays, growing urban and industrial needs, and tensions between agriculture and industry often complicate the resolution process. Economic disparities among states also play a role in access to water infrastructure and control.

Possible Solutions to Address Interstate River Disputes

Addressing inter-state water conflicts requires a multipronged approach. There is a need to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 to introduce penalties for non-compliance and to operationalize a permanent tribunal with subject-specific benches as proposed in the 2019 amendment. Cooperative federalism must be fostered by prioritizing political and technical negotiations through institutions like the Inter-State Council and including neutral experts like hydrologists and former judges in the process. Scientific water management strategies, such as promoting crop diversification and micro-irrigation (e.g., PMKSY), are essential. A national policy on rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, and implementation of tools like the INGRES (India Groundwater Resource Estimation System) can enhance sustainability. Balanced infrastructure development, equitable water access, and localized conservation efforts must also be emphasized in light of climate variability.

Conclusion

The Punjab-Haryana water dispute exemplifies the complex interplay of legal, environmental, and political factors in managing inter-state river waters. Effective resolution hinges on legal reforms, institutional strengthening, scientific resource management, and cooperative federalism. Ensuring sustainable and equitable water distribution is vital for the socio-economic development of all stakeholder states and for maintaining inter-state harmony in federal governance.

“Leaders Think And Talk About The Solutions. Followers Think And Talk About The Problems.”

“Leaders Concentrate Single-Mindedly On One Thing– The Most Important Thing, And They Stay At It Until It’s Complete.”

Science & Technology

India successfully tests hard-kill counter-swarm drone system 'Bhargavastra'

India successfully test-fired its indigenous counter-drone system, 'Bhargavastra,' at the Seaward Firing Range in Gopalpur. 'Bhargavastra' is a low-cost, hard-kill counter-swarm drone system designed to neutralize drone swarms. The system met all specified performance targets during the test. Developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL), it strengthens India's airspace security against unmanned aerial threats. The system uses micro rockets, which underwent rigorous testing and demonstrated high operational readiness. This marks a significant milestone in India's counter-drone capabilities.

What is hard-kill counter-swarm drone system?

A hard-kill counter-swarm drone system is a defensive technology designed to physically destroy or incapacitate multiple hostile drones simultaneously. It uses kinetic or explosive force, unlike soft-kill systems that rely on jamming or electronic interference.

Key Features of Hard-Kill Counter-Swarm Systems:

- Physical Neutralization: Uses direct impact, fragmentation, or high-speed projectiles to destroy drones.
- High Precision: Targets multiple drones simultaneously, making it effective against swarms.
- Rapid Response: Designed for quick detection, targeting, and engagement.
- Scalable Firepower: Can vary its response based on the threat level, from single drones to large swarms.
- Resilience to Electronic Countermeasures: Not affected by electronic jamming or signal interference, unlike soft-kill systems.

Examples of Hard-Kill Systems:

- Bhargavastra (India) - Uses micro rockets to intercept drone swarms.
- C-RAM (US) - Uses rapid-firing cannons to destroy incoming aerial threats.
- Iron Dome (Israel) - Primarily for rockets, but also effective against drones.

India to Launch First Manned Deep Ocean Mission 'Samudrayaan' by 2026

India is set to launch its first manned deep ocean mission, 'Samudrayaan,' by the end of 2026. The mission will involve the use of the manned submersible vehicle 'Matsya,' designed to dive to a depth of 6,000 metres. The mission, which will carry three scientists on board, is being led by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Mission Details and Technological Advancements

The mission will enable deep-sea exploration to assess both living and non-living resources, enhance ocean observation, and explore the potential for deep-sea tourism. The vehicle 'Matsya,' developed with indigenous technology, weighs 25 tonnes and is built to withstand extreme pressure and temperature in deep-ocean environments, with a titanium hull. A significant phase of the mission, the 500-metre depth trial, is expected to take place by the end of this year.

Impact on Research and Blue Economy

The 'Samudrayaan' mission will play a crucial role in collecting samples from the deep ocean, aiding scientists in studying the unique characteristics of deep-sea organisms and water. Additionally, the development of 'Samudrajivah,' a technology for open-sea fish farming, is set to boost India's food security and contribute to the blue economy. This innovative system, equipped with sensors, remotely monitors fish biomass, growth, movement, and water quality, making it a key development for sustainable marine practices.

Training Programme for Fisheries and Blue Economy

A national training programme on the role of fisheries in the blue economy was also inaugurated, which is jointly organized by CMFRI and Vijnana Bharati. The training focuses on technological advancements, such as integrating NIOT's technologies with marine research to promote sustainable development in the marine fisheries sector, supporting India's blue economy initiatives.

India Launches First 3nm Chip Design Centre as Renesas Opens New Facilities in Noida and Bengaluru

India has achieved a significant milestone in the semiconductor industry with the opening of Renesas Electronics' new design centres in Noida and Bengaluru. These centres will house India's first

facility focused on cutting-edge 3-nanometre chip designs, an advancement from the previous 7nm and 5nm designs.

Part of Broader Semiconductor Ecosystem Strategy

The new facilities are aligned with India’s vision of creating a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem, which includes design, fabrication, assembly, testing, and supply chain capabilities. The minister also noted that growing global confidence in India’s chip sector is being reflected by increasing investments from companies such as Applied Materials and Lam Research.

Talent Development and Infrastructure Investment

To strengthen the semiconductor industry’s talent pool, the government has introduced a semiconductor learning kit aimed at enhancing the hardware skills of engineering students. Over 270 academic institutions will benefit from these kits, which complement the tools provided under the India Semiconductor Mission. Vaishnaw underscored that this initiative is a long-term investment in talent development.

Support for Local Startups and Industry-Academia Collaboration

Renesas Electronics, in collaboration with India’s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), signed memoranda of understanding under the Ministry of Electronics and IT’s Chips to Startup (C2S) programme. These agreements will support local startups with development boards and software, as well as offer academic institutions access to tools,

training, and cloud platforms to foster innovation in electronics engineering.

Amazon Launches First Kuiper Internet Satellites to Compete with Starlink

Amazon successfully launched the first 27 satellites of its Project Kuiper broadband internet constellation aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida. This marks the beginning of Amazon’s \$10 billion initiative to deploy 3,236 satellites into low-Earth orbit (LEO), aiming to provide high-speed, low-latency internet globally and compete with SpaceX’s Starlink network.

Project Kuiper: Amazon’s Satellite Internet Initiative

Project Kuiper is Amazon’s ambitious plan to increase global broadband access through a constellation of over 3,000 satellites in low-Earth orbit. The mission is to bring fast, affordable broadband to unserved and underserved communities around the world.

Competition with SpaceX’s Starlink

SpaceX’s Starlink currently leads the satellite internet market with over 7,000 satellites in orbit and more than 4.5 million users. Amazon’s Project Kuiper aims to provide service to potentially 300-400 million users, targeting retail, business, and government markets. Despite trailing Starlink, analysts believe Amazon remains a serious contender as long as it demonstrates commitment to rapidly scaling its satellite network.

“Leaders Are Innovative, Entrepreneurial, And Future-Oriented. They Focus On Getting The Job Done.”

“The Future Belongs To The Competent. Get Good, Get Better, Be The Best!”

Culture & History

Indian Author Banu Mushtaq Wins International Booker Prize

Banu Mushtaq, a 77-year-old author from Karnataka, has created history by becoming the first Kannada author to win the prestigious International Booker Prize. She received the award for her book "Heart Lamp", which was translated into English by Deepa Bhashti. This marks the second time an Indian book has won this global honour, the first being Geetanjali Shree's "Tomb of Sand" (translated by Daisy Rockwell) in 2022.

Focus on Women's Lives and Social Justice

Banu Mushtaq is celebrated not only for her literary contributions but also for her advocacy of women's rights and legal activism. Her writings reflect issues related to caste, power, oppression, and the lived experiences of women, challenging traditional and patriarchal norms. In her personal life, she defied societal expectations by marrying a man of her choice, despite facing opposition.

Other Works and Recognitions

In addition to Heart Lamp, Banu Mushtaq has authored six short story collections, a novel, an essay collection, and a poetry collection. Her work has been acknowledged with prestigious honours such as the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award and the Daana Chintamani Attimabbe Award. Notable compilations include Haseena Matthu Ithara Kathegalu (2013) and Henu Haddina Swayamvara (2023).

About the Prize

- Name: International Booker Prize (formerly Man Booker International Prize until 2019)
- Established: 2005
- Awarded By: Booker Prize Foundation (UK)

Purpose

Awarded annually for a book translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. Recognizes both the author and the translator. Prize is shared equally between the author and translator.

Prize Money

- Total: £50,000
- £25,000 each to author and translator)
- Plus: £5,000 for each shortlisted author and translator.

Eligibility

Fiction only (no non-fiction or poetry). Book must be translated into English and published in the UK/Ireland during the eligible year. Open to authors of any nationality.

Notable Winners

- 2024: "Kairos" by Jenny Erpenbeck (Germany), translated by Michael Hofmann
- 2023: "Time Shelter" by Georgi Gospodinov (Bulgaria), translated by Angela Rodel
- 2022: "Tomb of Sand" by Geetanjali Shree (India, Hindi), translated by Daisy Rockwell – First Hindi book to win.

Denzel Washington receives honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes

Award Recognition: Denzel Washington received the prestigious Honorary Palme d'Or, a lifetime achievement award, at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival in France.

Special Moment: The award was presented during the premiere of his new film, Highest 2 Lowest.

Award Significance:

The Honorary Palme d'Or has only been awarded 21 times in Cannes' 79-year history. It is one of the highest honors at the festival, celebrating exceptional contributions to cinema. Previous recipients include Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep, and Harrison Ford.

About the Film:

Highest 2 Lowest is a modern reinterpretation of Akira Kurosawa's 1963 film High and Low. Set in contemporary New York City. Stars A\$AP Rocky, Jeffrey Wright, and Ilfenesh Hadera.

President Confers 58th Jnanpith Award (2023)

President Droupadi Murmu presented the 58th Jnanpith Award for the year 2023 to two eminent literary figures — Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar, and Gulzar, an acclaimed Urdu poet and lyricist. The award ceremony acknowledged their outstanding contributions to Indian literature in their respective languages.

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya: Sanskrit Scholar and Spiritual Leader

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, aged 75, is the founder and head of the Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot. He is a

Hindu spiritual leader, educator, and prolific writer, having authored over 240 works, including four Sanskrit epics. He was honoured with a citation plaque, a cash prize, and a bronze replica of Vagdevi Saraswati. Rambhadracharya has previously received the Sahitya Akademi Award (2005) and the Padma Vibhushan (2015) for his contributions to literature and education.

Gulzar: Iconic Urdu Poet and Lyricist

Sampooran Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, is a celebrated figure in Hindi cinema and one of the finest Urdu poets of modern times. Due to health reasons, Gulzar could not attend the award ceremony. His citation praised his literary innovation, especially the creation of a new poetic form called Triveni, where a hidden third line adds deeper meaning to the first two. Gulzar's lyrics include timeless songs like "Maine Tere Liye", "Dil Dhundhta Hai", "Chhaiya Chhaiya", and "Ay Hairathe Aashiqui". His accolades include the Sahitya Akademi Award (2002), Padma Bhushan (2004), Academy & Grammy Awards (2008) for "Jai Ho", and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013).

59th Jnanpith Award Announced

For the year 2024, the 59th Jnanpith Award has been announced for renowned Hindi author Vinod Kumar Shukla, further continuing the legacy of honouring distinguished contributors to Indian literature.

Jnanpith Award – Key Facts

- Established: 1961
- First Awarded: 1965
- Presented By: Bharatiya Jnanpith, a literary and research organization
- Sponsored By: Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain Trust (Times Group family)
- Purpose: To honor outstanding contributions to literature in any Indian language recognized by the 8th Schedule of the Constitution
- Frequency: Annually
- Eligibility: Indian citizens writing in recognized Indian languages

Award Includes

- Citation
- Bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati
- Cash prize (₹11 lakh)
- First Recipient: G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam, 1965)
- Most Recent (58th): Gulzar (Urdu/Hindi), Jagadguru Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit)
- 59th Recipient (2024): Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi)

Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes First Indian Lawyer Honoured by World Jurist Association

Eminent Indian child rights advocate Bhuwan Ribhu has become the first Indian lawyer to receive the 'Medal of Honour' from the World Jurist Association (WJA). The award was presented during the World Law Congress held from May 4 to May 6 in the Dominican Republic.

Recognition for Child Rights Advocacy

Bhuwan Ribhu was honoured for his over two decades of legal activism and grassroots mobilisation to safeguard child protection and child rights. He has been instrumental in shaping legal frameworks and initiating systemic reforms in India to combat child labour, trafficking, child sexual abuse, and child marriage.

World Jurist Association (WJA)

- Established: 1963
- Headquarters: Washington, D. C. , USA
- Founding Purpose: To promote the rule of law worldwide and ensure independence of the judiciary.
- Founder: Dr. Charles S. Rhyne

Pulitzer Prize 2025: The New York Times Wins Four Awards

The Pulitzer Prize Board announced the winners of the 2025 Pulitzer Prizes, one of the most prestigious awards in journalism.

The New York Times (NYT) emerged as the top winner with four awards, including one for Breaking News Photography by photojournalist Doug Mills, who captured the dramatic moment of the assassination attempt on Donald Trump during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024.

Washington Post & WSJ Win for Trump and Musk Reporting

The Washington Post won the Breaking News Reporting award for its swift and accurate coverage of the Trump assassination attempt. The Wall Street Journal won the National Reporting prize for its detailed investigation into Elon Musk's business practices, political leanings, and drug use.

Reuters Wins for Investigative Reporting on Fentanyl Crisis

Reuters won in the Investigative Reporting category for its series 'Fentanyl Express', which exposed how fentanyl precursors could be legally obtained for \$3,600, enough to manufacture drugs worth \$3

million, highlighting the weakness of international regulations.

Other Major Winners

Ann Telnaes (former Washington Post) won for Illustrated Reporting and Commentary. The New Yorker won three Pulitzer Prizes, including awards for its coverage of the war in Gaza and audio reporting. Public Service Prize was awarded to Kavitha Surana, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo & Stacy Kranitz for reports on maternal deaths linked to unclear abortion laws.

| Category | Winner(s) / Publication | Topic |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Public Service | Kavitha Surana, Lizzie Presser, et al. | Impact of abortion laws on maternal deaths |
| Breaking News Reporting | The Washington Post | Coverage of Trump assassination attempt |
| Investigative Reporting | Reuters | Fentanyl trafficking investigation |
| Explanatory Reporting | The New York Times | U.S. support of violent militias in Afghanistan |
| Local Reporting | Baltimore Banner & The New York Times | Fentanyl crisis in Baltimore |
| National Reporting | The Wall Street Journal | Elon Musk's personal and political ties |
| International Reporting | Declan Walsh & The New York Times | Conflict in Sudan and foreign interference |
| Feature Writing | Mark Warren (Esquire) | Profile of a pastor/mayor's suicide |
| Commentary | Mosab Abu Toha (The New Yorker) | Essays on the Gaza conflict |
| Editorial Writing | Houston Chronicle | Risks at deadly train crossings |
| Illustrated Reporting | Ann Telnaes | Visual commentary on Trump, Bezos, and U.S. politics |

| Category | Winner(s) / Publication | Topic |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Breaking News Photography | Doug Mills (The New York Times) | Photo of bullet flying past Trump |
| Feature Photography | Moises Saman (The New Yorker) | Coverage of Syria's Sednaya prison |
| Audio Reporting | The New Yorker | "In the Dark" podcast on military secrecy |

Pulitzer Prize:

- Established: 1917
- Founder: Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American newspaper publisher
- Purpose: To recognize excellence in journalism, literature, and musical composition
- Awarded By: The Pulitzer Prize Board, which consists of academics, journalists, and experts in various fields

Categories:

- Journalism: Public Service, Breaking News Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Explanatory Reporting, etc.
- Books, Drama, and Music: Fiction, Drama, History, Biography or Autobiography, Poetry, and Music
- Prize Money: \$15,000 for each individual category winner (except in Public Service, which is awarded a gold medal)

AIFF Awards 2025 Announced in Bhubaneswar

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2025 were held in Bhubaneswar, where several top-performing football personalities were honoured for their contributions during the 2024–25 season.

Top Player Awards

Subhasish Bose was named Men's Player of the Year, while Soumya Guguloth received the Women's Player of the Year award. Both players were recognised for their outstanding performances and consistency throughout the season.

Best Coaches and Goalkeepers

In the coaching category, Khalid Jamil won the Best Men's Coach award, and Sujata Kar was honoured as the Best Women's Coach. The Best Goalkeeper titles were awarded to Vishal Kaith (men) and Elangbam

Panthoi Chanu (women) for their excellent defensive performances.

Rising Stars of the Year

The title of Most Promising Player of the Year went to Brison Fernandes (men) and Toijam Thoibisana Chanu (women), recognising the emerging talent in Indian football.

Referee and Assistant Referee Awards

In the officiating category, Venkatesh R and Tekcham Ranjita Devi were awarded Referee of the Year for men and women respectively. Vairamuthu P (men) and Riiohlang Dhar (women) were named Assistant Referees of the Year.

All India Football Federation (AIFF):

- Founded: 1937
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Affiliated to FIFA: Since 1948
- Continental Body: Member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)
- Current President: Kalyan Chaubey (as of 2025)
- General Secretary: Shaji Prabhakaran

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Receive Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

Indian badminton players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were conferred the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023, the country's highest sports honor, in a delayed felicitation ceremony held in New Delhi. The award was presented by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) headquarters. The duo was originally named for the award in December 2023 but missed the January 2024 official ceremony due to tournament commitments. A second attempt in February 2025 was postponed due to the death of Satwik's father.

Joining the Elite List

Satwik and Chirag, known as the "Brothers of Destruction", have now joined the elite club of Indian badminton players to win the Khel Ratna, including:

- Pullela Gopichand (2001)
- Saina Nehwal (2010)
- PV Sindhu (2016)
- Pramod Bhagat (2021)
- Krishna Nagar (2021)

President Droupadi Murmu Confers Padma Awards 2025

Of the total 139 Padma Awardees for the year 2025. President Droupadi Murmu presented the Awards to 71 distinguished personalities at the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan's Durbar Hall. This event marked the first phase of the Padma Award presentations for the year.

Breakdown of Awards:

1. Padma Vibhushan(7)
2. Padma Bhushan(19)
3. Padma Shri (113)

These honours recognize exceptional service in fields such as art, public affairs, science and engineering, medicine, social work, literature, education, sports, and trade and industry.

Padma Vibhushan Awardees 2025

1. Dr. Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy

- Field: Medicine
- State: Telangana
- Chairman of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, recognized for his pioneering work in gastroenterology.

2. Justice (Retd.) Jagdish Singh Khehar

- Field: Public Affairs
- State: Chandigarh
- Former Chief Justice of India, honored for his significant contributions to the Indian judiciary.

3. Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia

- Field: Art
- State: Gujarat
- Renowned classical dancer and choreographer, celebrated for her contributions to Indian classical dance.

4. Lakshminarayana Subramaniam

- Field: Art
- State: Karnataka
- Distinguished violinist, acclaimed for his contributions to Indian classical music.

5. M. T. Vasudevan Nair (Posthumous)

- Field: Literature and Education
- State: Kerala
- Celebrated Malayalam author and filmmaker, honored posthumously for his literary and cinematic excellence.

6. Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)

- Field: Trade and Industry
- Country: Japan
- Former Chairman of Suzuki Motor Corporation, recognized posthumously for his global impact on the automobile industry.

7. Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)

- Field: Art

- State: Bihar
- Renowned folk singer, honored posthumously for her contributions to Indian folk music.

Notable Padma Bhushan Recipients

1. Shekhar Kapur, filmmaker – Art
2. Nandamuri Balakrishna, actor and Andhra Pradesh legislator – Art
3. S. Ajith Kumar, actor – Art
4. Late Pankaj Udhas, singer – Art (Award received by wife Farida Udhas)
5. P. R. Sreejesh, former Indian hockey goalkeeper – Sports

Selected Padma Shri Recipients

1. Jaspinder Narula, playback singer – Music
2. Ravichandran Ashwin, Indian cricketer – Sports
3. Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, Vedic scholar – Literature and Education
4. Known for determining auspicious timings for Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha and Kashi Vishwanath Corridor events
5. Stephen Knapp, American author and researcher – Literature and Education
6. Recognised for promoting Vedic culture and spirituality

Akashvani Shines at India Audio Summit and Awards 2025

Akashvani bagged six awards in various categories at the India Audio Summit and Awards 2025, held in Mumbai. The awards recognize excellence in radio and audio content production.

Major Recognition for Smriti Irani's Programme

- Former Union Minister Smriti Irani's show "Nai Soch Nai Kahani – A Radio Journey with Smriti Irani" was awarded Series of the Year.
- The 13-episode series focused on inspiring stories of women and ended with an exclusive interview with President Droupadi Murmu.

Other Awards Won by Akashvani

- Public Speak — Awarded Best Produced Audio Streaming Programme (Health and Fitness category).
- Chhayageet — Won Best Late Night Show award.
- Ujale Unki Yadon Ke — Named Best Celebrity Show on Air.
- Safarcast — Received Best Travel Show award.
- Akashvani also received the award for Best Interstitial for excellence in short-form audio content.

Event Details

- Venue: Taj Santacruz, Mumbai
- Organizers: Indiantelevision. com and Radioandmusic. com
- Co-powered by: JioStar

President Confers Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra Awards during Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-I)

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred six Kirti Chakras (including four posthumous) and 33 Shaurya Chakras (including seven posthumous) to personnel from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/Union Territory Police.

Significance of Awards

The Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra are prestigious gallantry awards given for exceptional bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice in the line of duty. These awards recognize acts of valor during counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations, anti-piracy missions, rescue efforts, and operations against left-wing extremism.

Details of Awardees

The awards were presented to officers and personnel from various services including the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, CRPF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, and Border Roads Organisation. The gallantry acts include neutralizing terrorists, apprehending insurgents, recovering arms and ammunition, conducting anti-piracy operations, firefighting on oil tankers, and rescuing aircraft in dangerous situations.

Kirti Chakra Awardees (Selected)

1. Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu, Maratha Light Infantry
2. Major Manjit, Punjab Regiment
3. Posthumous award to Rifleman Ravi Kumar, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
4. Posthumous award to Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sikh Light Infantry

Shaurya Chakra Awardees (Selected)

1. Major Vijay Verma, Rajput Regiment
2. Deputy Commandant Vikrant Kumar, CRPF
3. Wing Commander Vernon Desmond Keane, Indian Air Force
4. Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
5. Special Police Officer Abdul Latif, Jammu and Kashmir Police

Context of Bravery

- Indian Army and Paramilitary Forces: Engaged in operations against terrorists and insurgents in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East India.
- Indian Navy: Led anti-piracy operations, rescuing hostages and managing fire emergencies.
- Indian Air Force: Displayed courage during aircraft rescue missions, avoiding civilian casualties.
- CRPF: Active in counter-Maoist operations, apprehending extremists and recovering weapons.

Short Article

Bhonsala National Security and Leadership University: A Step Towards Self-Reliant Defence Leadership

The Central Hindu Military Education Society (CHMES) has recently announced the establishment of the Bhonsala National Security and Leadership University in Nagpur, Maharashtra. This institution is envisioned to become India’s first dedicated university focused on national security, defense strategy, and civil leadership, commencing from the 2026-27 academic year.

Background

The CHMES has a historical legacy of promoting military education since 1937. The Bhonsala Military School, under CHMES, has produced numerous officers for the Indian Armed Forces. With evolving global threats and India's growing role in geopolitics, a dedicated institution for defense and strategic leadership was long overdue.

Objectives of the University

- To Create Future Leaders in Defense and Civil Services
- The university aims to train young aspirants in areas related to defense studies, internal security, cyber warfare, and public administration.

Promote National Security Awareness

It seeks to bridge the knowledge gap in national security among civilian leadership, bureaucrats, and students.

Research and Policy Development

It will act as a think tank for security policies, military ethics, counter-terrorism strategies, and disaster preparedness.

Interdisciplinary Education

The curriculum will blend security studies with governance, geopolitics, and leadership training.

Significance

- Strengthens Civil-Military Synergy: Enhances mutual understanding between civilian administration and defense institutions.
- Capacity Building: Helps build a pool of trained individuals for national defense planning, civil defense, and administrative reforms.
- Promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat: Aligns with the government’s self-reliance initiative by reducing dependency on foreign training modules for strategic leadership.
- Addressing Modern Challenges: Provides specialized training in cyber security, border management, and hybrid warfare.

Challenges

- Curriculum Design: Integrating practical defense training with academic knowledge will require expert input.
- Recruitment of Faculty: Qualified experts in defense strategy, geopolitics, and national security may be limited.
- Institutional Recognition: Building credibility to match the level of established defense institutions like NDA or IDSA.

Conclusion

The Bhonsala National Security and Leadership University marks a visionary step in preparing India for the complex national and global security landscape. It reflects a proactive approach to leadership building and institutional reform, supporting the vision of New India that is secure, self-reliant, and strategically aware.

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

"Successful people do what unsuccessful people are not willing to do. Don't wish it were easier; wish you were better."

Sports

Europa League: Tottenham Hotspur beat Man Utd to lift first trophy in 17 years

Tottenham Hotspur defeated Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final in Bilbao, Spain. This is Spurs' first trophy in 17 years and their first continental title since the 1983-84 season. The final was held at Athletic Bilbao's Estadio de San Mamés, with jubilant Spurs fans celebrating the victory.

Prize Money: Tottenham have so far earned £26.5 million (\$35.4 million) in Europa League prize money, while Man Utd have made £26.6 million (\$35.6 million) due to their superior position in the final league phase table. Both teams received £5.9 million (\$7.8 million) for reaching the final.

2025 UEFA Europa League final

- Man of the Match: Cristian Romero (Tottenham Hotspur)
- Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany)

Carlos Alcaraz beats Jannik Sinner to win Italian Open in Roland Garros warning

Alcaraz Triumphs in Rome

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner to win the 2025 Italian Open. This marks his third title of the season and second Masters 1000 title after Monte Carlo. Alcaraz now moved to world number two behind Sinner.

Italian Open 2025

- Edition: 82nd
- Location: Rome, Italy

Champions:

- Men's singles: Spain Carlos Alcaraz
- Women's singles: Italy Jasmine Paolini
- Men's doubles: El Salvador Marcelo Arévalo / Croatia Mate Pavić
- Women's doubles: Italy Sara Errani / Italy Jasmine Paolini

China Wins Two Titles at 2025 Thailand Open Badminton Tournament

China secured two titles at the 2025 Thailand Open held recently, dominating the women's singles and mixed doubles categories. Malaysian players excelled in both men's and women's doubles events, while

Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn won the men's singles title.

2025 Thailand Open

- Edition: 37th
- Level: Super 500
- Total prize money: US\$475,000
- Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Champions

- Men's singles: Thailand Kunlavut Vitidsarn
- Women's singles: China Chen Yufei
- Men's doubles: Malaysia Aaron Chia & Malaysia Soh Wooi Yik
- Women's doubles: Malaysia Pearly Tan & Malaysia Thinaah Muralitharan
- Mixed doubles: China Feng Yanzhe & China Huang Dongping

India U19 Retains SAFF Championship Title

India's U19 football team successfully defended their SAFF U19 Championship crown by defeating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout at the Golden Jubilee Stadium. The match ended 1-1 after regular time, leading to a nerve-wracking shootout.

2025 SAFF U-19 Championship

- Host country: India
- Dates: 9-18 May 2025
- Champions: India (4th title)
- Runners-up: Bangladesh
- Third place: Maldives & Nepal
- Top scorer(s): India Danny Meitei (5 goals)
- Best player(s): India Mohammed Arbas
- Best goalkeeper: India Suraj Singh Aheibam
- Fair play award: India

Neeraj Chopra Breaks 90m Barrier, Secures Second Place at Doha Diamond League 2025

India's ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the Men's Javelin Throw event at the 2025 Doha Diamond League held yesterday.

First Ever 90m+ Throw by Neeraj Chopra

Neeraj Chopra created history by breaching the 90-metre mark for the first time in his career with a throw of 90.23 meters in the third round. Despite the personal best, Chopra was overtaken by Germany's Julian Weber, who won the event with a final throw of 91.06 meters.

Parul Chaudhary Breaks National Record in 3000m Steeplechase

In the women's 3000m steeplechase, India's Parul Chaudhary finished 6th but broke her own national record, clocking a time of 9:13. 39.

Note: India's Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army (TA).

R Praggnanandhaa Wins Superbet Chess Classic 2024

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa clinched victory at the Superbet Chess Classic held in Bucharest, Romania, marking a significant achievement in international chess.

Victory After Tiebreak Playoff

Praggnanandhaa emerged victorious after a three-way tiebreak playoff involving Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, as all three players were tied with 5.5 points after nine rounds. The first two tiebreak games ended in draws. Praggnanandhaa defeated Vachier-Lagrave in the third and final tiebreak game to secure the title.

Performance of Other Indian Players

Current World Champion D Gukesh finished ninth in the tournament with 4 points. He drew his final round game against Fabiano Caruana.

Bologna stun Milan to lift Coppa Italia crown after 51 years

Historic Victory:

Bologna won the Italian Cup after a 51-year wait, defeating AC Milan 1-0. This is their first major trophy since 1974.

Coaching Milestone:

This is Vincenzo Italiano's first major trophy as a coach, following two Europa Conference League final losses with Fiorentina. Italiano took over from Thiago Motta, who had led Bologna to its first Champions League qualification.

Impact on European Qualification:

Bologna secured a place in the Europa League with the victory.

2025 Coppa Italia

- Edition: 77th
- Venue: Stadio Olimpico, Rome
- Man of the Match: Dan Ndoye (Bologna)
- Prize Money: €7.1 million (Winner)

India to Host Inaugural Tennis Cricket Ball World Cup and Asia Cup

India will host the inaugural Tennis Cricket Ball World Cup and Asia Cup, marking a significant step for tennis ball cricket, a popular backyard sport in the country. This is the first time tennis ball cricket will receive international recognition through official global and continental tournaments.

Growth and Recognition of Tennis Ball Cricket in India

The International Tennis Cricket Federation (ITCF) has endorsed these tournaments, recognizing the rapid growth and popularity of tennis ball cricket at the grassroots level in India. Domestic competitions, such as the Dream League of India, have played a crucial role in developing the sport and will now serve as the official selection platform for Indian squads in both the World Cup and Asia Cup.

Dream League to Serve as Selection Platform

The Dream League will be held across India, offering opportunities for widespread participation. Over 1,500 certified coaches will oversee trials in various districts, ensuring that talent from even remote areas is scouted. Players will compete in two categories: juniors (ages 13-18) and seniors (18+). After nationwide trials, 860 players from each category will be selected for the league auction, where teams will pick their squads.

Deepika, Parth Win Bronze as India Bags 7 Medals at Archery World Cup

India's archers delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 Archery World Cup Stage 2, clinching a total of seven medals—the country's highest-ever haul at a single World Cup event. Among the standout achievements, Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe secured bronze medals in their respective events.

Deepika Kumari – Women's Recurve Bronze

- Event: Women's Recurve Individual
- Result: Bronze Medal
- Performance: Deepika bounced back from an earlier setback to secure the bronze, showcasing resilience and skill.

Parth Salunkhe – Men's Recurve Bronze

- Event: Men's Recurve Individual
- Result: Bronze Medal
- Performance: Parth delivered a commendable performance, earning his first World Cup medal.

Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket: End of an Iconic Era

India's batting stalwart Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket on May 12. The 36-year-old shared a statement on his social media platforms, bringing the curtain down on a distinguished 14-year career spanning from 2011 to 2025.

Kohli's Test Career in Numbers:

- Matches Played: 123
- Runs Scored: 9,230
- Centuries: 30
- Batting Average: 46.85
- Highest Score: 254*
- Captaincy: 68 Tests, with 40 victories, making him India's most successful Test captain.

Captaincy Legacy:

Took over captaincy from MS Dhoni during the 2014 Australia series. Led India in 68 Tests, with 40 victories – India's most successful Test captain.

Under his leadership:

India remained unbeaten in home series from 2014 to 2022. India won their first-ever Test series in Australia in 2018–19.

Brazil defends FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup title

Brazil won the 2025 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, defeating Belarus 4–3 in a dramatic final in Seychelles — the first African host. Brazil claimed a record 7th title and set a new defensive record, conceding the fewest goals in a single tournament (fewer than France's 11 in 2005). Portugal beat Senegal 3–2 in the third-place match, with Andre Lourenco scoring the decisive penalty.

Rohit Sharma Announces Retirement from Test Cricket

Veteran Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect. Known for his elegant stroke play and leadership skills, Rohit leaves behind a commendable Test career.

Test Career Highlights

Rohit Sharma represented India in 67 Test matches, amassing a total of 4301 runs. His Test record includes 12 centuries and 18 half-centuries, with an impressive average of 40.57. He played a crucial role

as an opener in several memorable Test wins, especially on home soil.

Continues in ODIs

Despite retiring from the longest format, the 38-year-old cricketer will continue to be available for selection in One Day Internationals (ODIs), aiming to contribute to Indian cricket in the limited-overs format.

Cue Sport: Pankaj Advani bags title in CCI Billiards Classi

Pankaj Advani, the Indian cue sports legend, secured a triple victory by defeating Dhruv Sitwala in the final of the CCI Billiards Classic 2025. Advani, with 28 World Championship titles across cue sports, was not at his best in the first three frames but still managed to clinch the title. Advani won the top prize of Rs. 2.5 lakh, while Sitwala received Rs. 1.5 lakh as runner-up. Advani had already won both the CCI snooker and billiards titles in 2023 and 2024, and he repeated this achievement in 2025.

About CCI Billiards Classi

The CCI Billiards Classic is an annual cue sports tournament held by the Cricket Club of India (CCI). It features top players from the world of billiards and snooker, with competition in various formats of the games. The event is notable for attracting high-level players, including Pankaj Advani, an Indian cue sports legend who has consistently won titles in both billiards and snooker.

China Wins 14th Sudirman Cup Title

China defeated South Korea 3-1 in the final of the Sudirman Cup 2024, held in Xiamen, China, to win the prestigious mixed team badminton championship for the 14th time — a record-extending feat.

Match Highlights

- Mixed Doubles: China's Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping (World No. 2) gave the hosts an early lead by beating Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yu-jung in three sets (21-16, 17-21, 21-15).
- Women's Singles: South Korea's top-ranked An Se-young leveled the score with a straight-set win (21-17, 21-16) over Wang Zhiyi.
- Men's Singles: Shi Yuqi, World No. 1, crushed Jeon Hyeok-jin (ranked 42) in just 33 minutes with a dominating 21-5, 21-5 score.

- **Women's Doubles:** The Chinese duo Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning sealed the final 3-1 by defeating Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee 21-14, 21-17.

China's Record Performance

This was China's 16th consecutive Sudirman Cup final appearance. It is also their fourth straight title in the tournament. South Korea, the four-time champions, last won the title in 2017.

Indian Duo Wins U-19 Boys Doubles Title at WTT Youth Star Contender

Indian table tennis players Ankur Bhattacharjee and Abhinandh Pradhavadhi clinched the U-19 boys doubles title at the WTT Youth Star Contender 2025 held in Bangkok, defeating Korea's Lee Jungmok and Choi Jiwook by 3-1 in the final.

Indian Athlete Wins Gold at International Karate Championship

Anarghya Panchawatkar, representing India under the Sports Shitokai Karate Federation, won a gold medal in the kumite category at the 11th Budokan International Karate Championship held in Dubai. The championship witnessed participation from over 900 athletes across 17 countries, competing in various age groups. The Budokan International Karate Championship is a prestigious global event that brings together top martial artists from across the world.

Bronze in Kata Category

In addition to his gold medal, Anarghya also secured a bronze medal in the kata category, showcasing his all-round excellence in both major disciplines of karate—kumite (sparring) and kata (form demonstration).

International Shito Kai Karate Federation (ISKF):

- Karate Style: Shito Ryu
- Founded: 2012
- Founder & Chief Instructor: Hanshi Vikas Sharma
- Headquarters: Mohali, Punjab, India

ECB Bans Transgender Females from Women's Cricket

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has announced a ban on transgender females from participating in all levels of women's and girls' cricket across England and Wales, effective immediately. This decision follows the UK Supreme Court's ruling

on April 15, 2025, which defined "woman" legally based on biological sex.

Previous Participation Allowed at Lower Levels

Earlier, transgender females were barred from the top two tiers of elite women's cricket and The Hundred, but were still allowed in tier three and recreational cricket. The new policy revokes that allowance entirely.

Similar Moves by Other Sports Bodies

Following the Supreme Court ruling, other sports organisations have adopted similar stances:

The English Football Association (FA) announced a ban on transgender females in women's football from June 1, 2025. England Netball will implement a similar restriction starting September 1, 2025.

Legal and Social Implications

The UK's highest court ruling impacts anti-discrimination protections, stating that a "woman" refers to a biologically female individual, affecting participation in sports, access to female-only spaces like toilets and hospital wards. While the decision has received support from some feminist groups, it has been strongly criticised by trans-rights activists, citing its negative impact on transgender individuals' daily lives.

Barcelona Wins 32nd Copa del Rey Title

Barcelona defeated arch-rivals Real Madrid in a Copa del Rey final held at the Estadio de La Cartuja in Seville, Spain. With this victory, Barcelona extended their record by clinching their 32nd Copa del Rey title, the most by any club in the tournament's history.

Second Title of the Season

This win marked Barcelona's second major title of the season, having previously lifted the Spanish Super Cup, also by defeating Real Madrid. T

Copa del Rey :

- Established: 1903, making it Spain's oldest national football competition.
- Organized by: The Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF).
- Format: Knockout tournament (single-elimination).
- Qualification to Europe:
- The winner qualifies for the UEFA Europa League (if not already qualified via league position).
- Also plays in the Spanish Super Cup (Supercopa de España), along with La Liga champion and runners-up.

Most Titles Won:

- FC Barcelona – 31 titles (as of 2023).
- Athletic Club (Bilbao) – 23 titles.
- Real Madrid – 20 titles.

India Dominates 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship 2024

India delivered a remarkable performance at the 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship 2024, held at the KD Jadhav Arena, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi. India secured a record 83 gold medals, along with 3 silver and 1 bronze, emerging as the undisputed champion of the event.

Final Medal Tally (Top 5)

1. India: 83 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze (Rank 1)
2. Japan: 3 Gold, 3 Silver, 4 Bronze (Rank 2)
3. Mongolia: 1 Gold, 11 Silver, 6 Bronze (Rank 3)
4. Oman: 1 Gold, 3 Silver, 7 Bronze (Rank 4)
5. Nepal: 0 Gold, 27 Silver, 12 Bronze (Rank 5)

Neeraj Chopra Wins Silver at Janusz Kusociński Memorial 2025

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra secured a silver medal at the 71st edition of the Janusz Kusociński Memorial athletics meet held in Chorzow, Poland. The event is part of the World Athletics Continental Tour (Silver level) and is one of Europe’s oldest annual track and field meets.

Performance Highlights

- Neeraj recorded a best throw of 84.14 meters on his final attempt, competing under wet weather conditions.
- His series included two fouls, two strategic step-outs, and throws of 81.28m, 81.80m, and 84.14m.

- With this performance, Neeraj continued his streak of finishing in the top two in international events since June 2021.

Other Medalists

- Gold: Julian Weber (Germany) – 86.12m
- (Also beat Neeraj in Doha with a personal best of 91.06m)
- Bronze: Anderson Peters (Grenada) – 83.24m
- Fourth Place: Marcin Krukowski (Poland) – 80.49m

French Tennis Star Caroline Garcia Announces Retirement

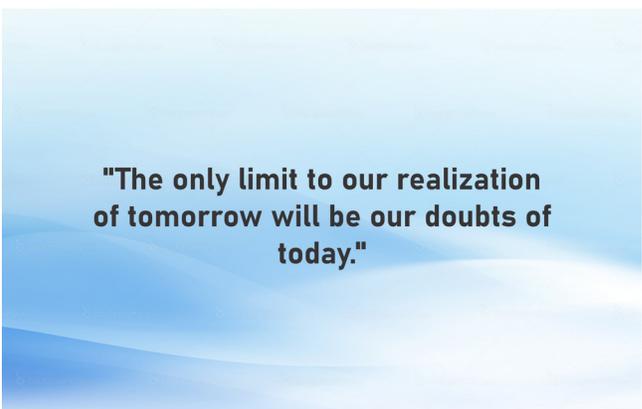
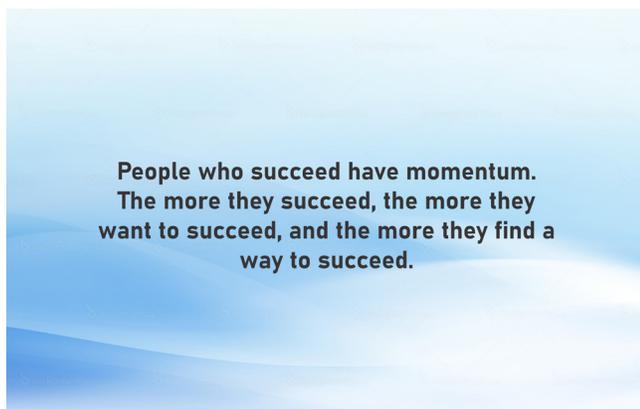
Caroline Garcia, former World No. 4 in women’s singles tennis from France, has announced that she will retire from professional tennis. The upcoming French Open 2025, will mark her final appearance at Roland Garros.

Career Highlights

- Garcia is a former French Open doubles champion, having won the title twice with compatriot Kristina Mladenovic, including in 2022.
- She has won 11 WTA titles in singles during her career.
- Her best singles Grand Slam performance came in 2022, when she reached the semi-finals of the US Open.
- Garcia also won the 2022 WTA Finals, the prestigious season-ending event for the top-ranked players.
- She has earned nearly \$19 million in career prize money.

Current Ranking

- Current WTA ranking: 145th
- Highest career ranking: 4th (in singles)



Obituaries

MR Srinivasan, pioneer of India's nuclear power programme, dies at 95



Death: Eminent nuclear scientist and former AEC chairman Dr MR Srinivasan died in Tamil Nadu at the age of 95.

Legacy: A key architect of India's civil nuclear energy programme with over five decades of service in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Early career

Joined DAE in September 1955. Worked with Dr Homi Bhabha on India's first nuclear research reactor Apsara, which achieved criticality in 1956.

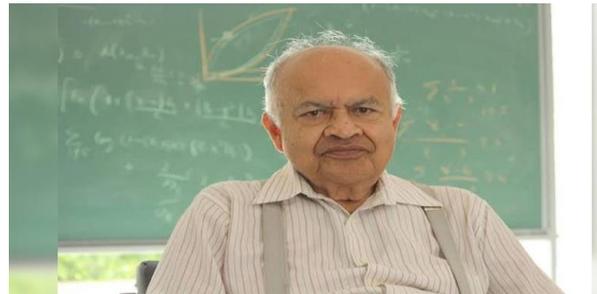
Key roles

- 1959: Appointed Chief Project Engineer for India's first nuclear power station.
- 1967: Became Chief Project Engineer of Madras Atomic Power Station.
- 1974: Took over as Director of Power Projects Engineering Division of DAE.
- 1984: Became Chairman of Atomic Energy Board.

Leadership and Influence

- 1987: Appointed Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of DAE.
- Also became the founding Chairman of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- Expansion of Infrastructure
- Oversaw the planning, construction and commissioning of nuclear plants across India.
- Under his guidance: 18 nuclear units were developed - 7 operational, 7 under construction, 4 in planning.
- Honours: Awarded Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award for his contributions to nuclear science and engineering.

Renowned astrophysicist Padma Vibhushan Dr Jayant Narlikar passes away



Eminent astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar passed away in Pune at the age of 87.

Scientific Contributions

Renowned for pioneering work in cosmology and theoretical astrophysics. Expanded the Theoretical Astrophysics Group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1972–1989).

Founder Director of IUCAA (1988–2003), transforming it into a globally respected research institution.

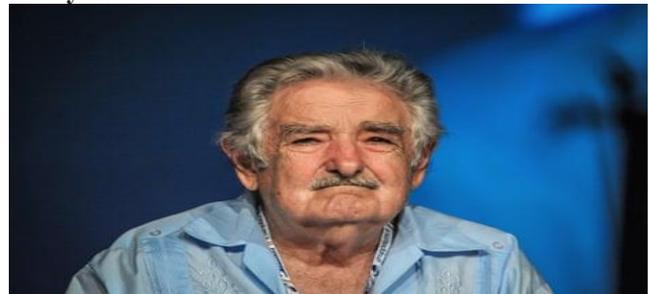
Awards and Honours

- Padma Bhushan (1965) at age 26.
- Padma Vibhushan (2004).
- Maharashtra Bhushan (2011).
- Kalinga Award by UNESCO (1996).
- Sahitya Akademi Award (2014) for his Marathi autobiography.
- TWAS Prize (2012) for establishing a scientific centre of excellence.

Science Communication

Authored science books, articles, and presented TV/radio programmes. Known for writing science fiction in Marathi and English.

Uruguay's Former President José Mujica Passes Away at 89



Former President of Uruguay, José 'Pepe' Mujica, passed away at the age of 89 due to esophageal cancer.

Political Career and Presidential Term

Mujica served as the 40th President of Uruguay from 2010 to 2015, representing the Broad Front, a left-

wing political coalition. Before becoming president, he held the post of Agriculture Minister. He was elected with 52% of the vote, known for his progressive governance and efforts to strengthen Uruguay's democratic values.

Madras High Court Judge Justice J Sathya Narayana Prasad Passes Away at 56



Justice J Sathya Narayana Prasad, a serving judge of the Madras High Court, passed away in Chennai at the age of 56.

Judicial Career and Elevation

Justice Prasad was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court in October 2021 and was later made a permanent judge in March 2023. At the time of his passing, he ranked 42nd in seniority among the 63 sitting judges of the Madras High Court.

Legal Background

Prior to his elevation to the bench, Justice Prasad practiced law for 24 years after enrolling as an advocate in 1997. His areas of expertise included writ, civil, criminal, and constitutional law. He also served as standing counsel for several government institutions such as BSNL, Chennai Port Trust, Indian Bank, and Southern Railways.

Padma Shri Awardee Yoga Guru Baba Sivanand Passes Away at 128



Renowned yoga practitioner and Padma Shri awardee, Baba Sivanand passed away at the age of 128 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Life Dedicated to Yoga and Spirituality

A resident of Kabirnagar Colony, Varanasi, Baba Sivanand was known for his disciplined lifestyle, spiritual sadhana, yoga, and meditation. In 2022, he was conferred with the Padma Shri for his service to society through yoga.

Other Honors: Received the Yoga Ratna Award and Basundhara Ratan Award in 2019 for his contributions to the field of yoga and service to society.

Early Life

- Birth: In Sylhet District, Assam Province, British India (now in Bangladesh).
- Orphaned: Lost his parents and sister at the age of six.
- Spiritual Upbringing: Raised by Guru Omkarananda Goswami in Nabadwip, West Bengal, where he received education in yoga and spiritual practice

Prof. Sunny Thomas Passes Away at 83



Renowned national shooting coach and Dronacharya awardee Prof. Sunny Thomas passed away at the age of 83 in Uzhavoor, Kottayam district, Kerala. He was instrumental in India's rise as a global force in shooting sports.

Tenure as National Shooting Coach

Prof. Thomas served as India's national shooting coach from 1993 to 2012. Under his guidance, Indian shooters made remarkable progress, achieving success at the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. His contributions helped transform India into a shooting powerhouse on the world stage.

Mentor to Olympic Medalists

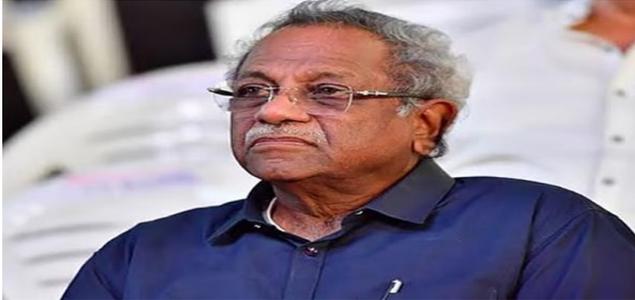
He mentored several of India's top shooters, including Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Abhinav Bindra, Vijay Kumar, and Gagan Narang, who went on to win international accolades, including Olympic medals.

Academic Background and Early Life

Born on September 26, 1941, in Thidanad, Kottayam district of Kerala, Prof. Sunny Thomas was a champion rifle shooter himself. He was also an English Professor by profession, and after retiring

from academics, he fully dedicated himself to the coaching of shooters.

Veteran Filmmaker Shaji N Karun Passes Away at 73



Renowned Malayalam filmmaker and cinematographer Shaji N Karun passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 73 after battling prolonged health issues. He was a pioneer of new wave Malayalam cinema and played a vital role in bringing Malayalam films to global recognition.

International Recognition for His Films

Shaji N Karun's debut film, Piravi (1988), was showcased at nearly 70 international film festivals. His second film, Swaham (1994), was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, and Vanaprastham (1999) was also screened at Cannes, underlining his global acclaim.

Award-Winning Career

Throughout his career, Karun's films won 7 National Film Awards and an equal number of Kerala State Film Awards, reflecting his immense contribution to Indian cinema.

Recent Honour: J. C. Daniel Award

Just days before his demise, Shaji N Karun was honoured with the J. C. Daniel Award, the highest film honour by the Kerala government, for his lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema.

Former Vice Chief of Army Lt Gen S Pattabhiraman Passes Away at 78



Lt General S Pattabhiraman, former Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), passed away at the age of 78.

The Indian Army remembered him as "a soldier at heart and a leader in spirit."

Career Highlights

Lt Gen Pattabhiraman had a distinguished 40-year career in the Indian Army. He served in several prestigious appointments, including the first Director General of Information Systems and Army Commander of the Western Command — the largest operational command of the Indian Army.

Other Important Roles

He also served as the Colonel Commandant of The Bombay Sappers during his service. Lt Gen Pattabhiraman superannuated as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff in 2006.

Eminent Historian M. G. S. Narayanan Passes Away



M. G. S. Narayanan, renowned historian, writer, and political commentator, passed away at his residence in Kozhikode, Kerala. He was 92 years old and known for his research on Kerala's history and for debunking historical myths.

Contributions and Career

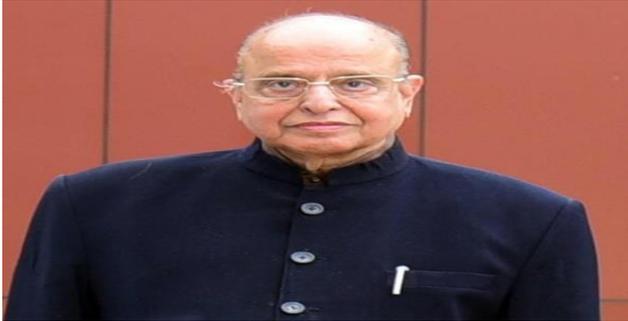
Served as Chairperson of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in 2002. Removed from ICHR post in 2003 after opposing political interference in historical research. Advocated for the autonomy of historical research institutions.

Research Interests and Literary Contributions

Dr. Narayanan's research covered areas like Kerala history, Tamil history, ancient Indian history, and historiographical methods. He published over 200 articles in Malayalam and English. His autobiography Jaalakangal won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 2019.

Former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Kasturirangan Passes Away at 84

Former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Kasturirangan passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 84 years.



Contributions to Indian Space Programme

Played a crucial role in the development of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Led the Indian Space Programme for over nine years, stepping down on August 27, 2003. Served as Director of the ISRO Satellite Centre, contributing to the development of INSAT-2, IRS-1A/1B, and scientific satellites. Project Director for India's first earth observation satellites Bhaskara I and II. Oversaw the launch of major milestones like PSLV and GSLV.

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

Contributions to Education and Governance

Key architect of India's National Education Policy (NEP).

- Served as Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- Chairman of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission.
- Member of the Rajya Sabha from 2003 to 2009.
- Member of the Planning Commission of India.

Honours and Recognitions

Awarded Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan for his outstanding contributions.

Research and Scientific Work

Trained as an astrophysicist.

Significant research contributions in high-energy X-ray and gamma-ray astronomy. Studied cosmic X-ray sources, celestial gamma rays, and their effects on Earth's atmosphere.

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."



04 MAY

EDITION: 26th
INCEPTION: 1999

INTERNATIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

Importance

To mark the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia in 1999.

Motto

To recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.

Note

The IFFD ribbons are linked to colours symbolic of the main elements firefighters work with – red for fire and blue for water. These colours also are internationally recognised as representing emergency service.



First Tuesday of May

EDITION: 28th
1st CELEBRATED : 1998

WORLD
ASTHMA DAY

Asthma is a disease characterized by recurrent attacks of breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness, and cough that vary over time in their occurrence, severity and frequency.

Motto

It aims to educate people on how best to get control over this respiratory problem and other allergic diseases.

Organisation Involved

Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLB) and World Asthma Foundation.

Note

The first World Asthma Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain. Asthma is a disease characterized by recurrent attacks of breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness, and cough that vary over time in their occurrence, severity and frequency.

Important Days for Exams

| Day | Observed/Celebrated As | Motto/Importance |
|---------|--|---|
| June 1 | World Milk Day | To recognize the importance of milk as a global food |
| June 3 | World Bicycle Day | To acknowledge the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle. |
| June 4 | International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression | To make people aware about the protection of children rights and highlighting their suffering |
| June 5 | World Environment Day | Beat Plastic Pollution |
| June 7 | World Food Safety Day | Food Safety: Science in Action |
| June 8 | World Ocean Day | Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate |
| June 8 | World Brain Tumor Day | To mark the commemoration of this day by German Brain Tumour Association in 2000 |
| June 12 | Anti-Child Labor Day | To bring attention and join efforts to fight against child labour. |
| June 14 | World Blood Donor Day | Blood connects us all |
| June 15 | Global Wind Day | To make people aware about the wind energy its uses & its power |
| June 20 | World Refugee Day | To increase awareness among the people by sharing the experiences of refugees and their stories |
| June 21 | International day of yoga | To spread awareness about the importance and effects of yoga on the health of the people. |
| June 26 | International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | To raise awareness to fight against substance abuse as well as the unlawful trade of drugs |

Books & Authors



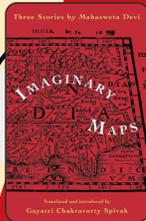
Book: Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha
Author: Bandaru Dattatraya
About: The book highlights the personal, political, and social journey of Bandaru Dattatraya, currently serving as the Governor of Haryana.



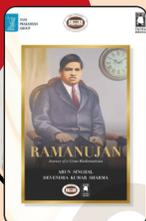
Book: The White Tiger
Author: Arvind Adiga
About: A dark, satirical take on India's economic divide and social struggles.



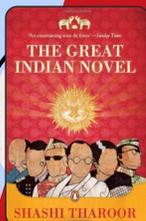
Book: PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years
Author: Himanshu Roy
About: Published by Rupa, this book delves into the operational, historical, and political dimensions of the PMO from India's independence to the present day.



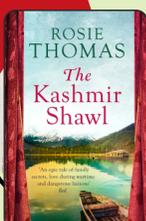
Book: Imaginary Maps
Author: Mahasweta Devi
About: Stories highlighting the struggles of India's marginalized tribal communities, blending myth and reality.



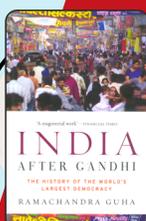
Book: Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician
Author: Arun Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma
About: This book explores the remarkable life and legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of India's most celebrated mathematicians.



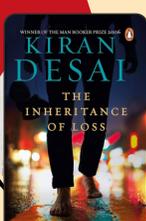
Book: The Great Indian Novel
Author: Shashi Tharoor
About: A satirical retelling of the Mahabharata, reimagined as modern Indian political history.



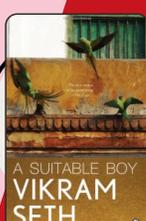
Book: The Kashmir Shawl
Author: Rosie Thomas
About: This book paints a nostalgic and vivid portrayal of Kashmir, bringing alive the spirit of a land shaped by beauty and conflict.



Book: India After Gandhi
Author: Ramachandra Guha
About: A comprehensive history of India from independence to the 21st century, covering politics, society, and cultural evolution.



Book: The Inheritance of Loss
Author: Kiran Desai
About: A Booker Prize-winning novel addressing migration, loss, and identity.



Book: A Suitable Boy
Author: Vikram Seth
About: An epic family saga set in post-independence India, blending politics, romance, and tradition.

Question Bank for Practice

1. Deputy Speaker's Post Remains Vacant in 17th and 18th Lok Sabha.

Consider the following statements regarding Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha -

(1) The Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is mentioned in Article 93 of the Indian Constitution.

(2) The Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from amongst themselves.

(3) The Deputy Speaker is appointed by the President of India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Statement 1 is correct because the Deputy Speaker is mentioned in Article 93 of the Indian Constitution, which also provides for the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Statement 2 is correct because the Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from amongst themselves.

Statement 3 is incorrect because the Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha, not appointed by the President.

2. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in line with 'Viksit Bharat @2047' vision, has unveiled a blueprint to ensure clean drinking water directly from taps across India.

With reference to 'Water Credit', consider the following statements:

(1) It puts microfinance tools to work in the water and sanitation sector.

(2) It is a global initiative launched under the aegis of the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

(3) It aims to enable the poor people to meet their water needs without depending on subsidies.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Water.org is a global nonprofit organization working to bring water and sanitation to the world.

Its main objective is to make it safe, accessible, and cost-effective.

WaterCredit is a powerful solution and the first to put microfinance tools to work in the water and sanitation sector.

Water Credit is not a global initiative launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) or the World Bank.

It is actually a program developed by Water.org, a nonprofit organization co-founded by actor Matt Damon and social entrepreneur Gary White.

While Water.org may collaborate with other international development organizations and governments, it was not initiated by WHO or the World Bank.

One of the primary objectives of WaterCredit is to empower low-income communities to finance their own water and sanitation solutions.

Instead of relying solely on government subsidies or charity, WaterCredit allows people to take out affordable microloans, thus helping them access clean water and sanitation facilities.

The model emphasizes self-reliance and sustainable financing to address water challenges, reducing dependency on external financial aid or subsidies

3. A German research team has developed "effective double-stranded Ribonucleic acid (dsRNA)".

Consider the following statements regarding RNA -

(1) RNA is double-stranded, with the same structure as DNA, except for the presence of uracil instead of thymine.

(2) RNA plays a central role in the Transcription and Translation processes of protein synthesis.

(3) Messenger RNA (mRNA) is responsible for carrying genetic information from DNA to the ribosome for protein synthesis.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect because RNA is typically single-stranded (not double-stranded like DNA). DNA is double-stranded and

contains thymine as one of its bases, whereas RNA has uracil in place of thymine. This difference in base pairing distinguishes RNA from DNA, and RNA's single-stranded structure is essential for its functions in transcription and translation.

Statement 2 is correct because RNA plays a crucial role in both the transcription process (where DNA is transcribed into RNA) and Translation (where RNA is Translated into a protein). In Transcription, the genetic information in DNA is converted into messenger RNA (mRNA), and in Translation, mRNA guides the synthesis of proteins by interacting with ribosomes.

Statement 3 is correct because messenger RNA (mRNA) acts as a genetic intermediary. It carries the genetic code from DNA in the nucleus to the ribosomes in the cytoplasm, where it is read to synthesize proteins. This process is a fundamental part of cellular function.

4. Muria Tribe, living in the border areas between Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Chhattisgarh are possessing voter cards of both the States. Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Muria are an indigenous Adivasi, scheduled tribe Dravidian community.
- (2) They are part of the Gondi people.
- (3) They speak Koya, which is a Malayalam language.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Muria are an indigenous Adivasi, scheduled tribe Dravidian community of the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, India. They are part of the Gondi people.

They speak Koya, which is a Dravidian language.

They have progressive perspective towards marriage and life as a whole.

This Tribe was displaced during the conflict between Maoists and Salwa Judum.

Salwa Judum is a group of tribal persons mobilised for resistance against outlawed armed naxalites.

The group was reportedly backed by government machinery in Chhattisgarh.

5. Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) observed World Chagas Disease Day on 14th April 2025.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis.
- (2) This disease is also known as tropical parasitic disease.
- (3) Chagas disease is caused by infection with the bacterium parasite T cruzi.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis, is a tropical parasitic disease caused by Trypanosoma cruzi. It is spread mostly by insects in the subfamily Triatominae, known as "kissing bugs". The symptoms change over the course of the infection.

Chagas disease is caused by infection with the protozoan parasite T. cruzi, which is typically introduced into Humans through the bite of triatomine bugs.

6. Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi Reviews Akashvani, Doordarshan Operations in Mumbai. Consider the following statements regarding Doordarshan -

- (1) Prasar Bharati is managed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (India).
- (2) Doordarshan is one of two divisions of Prasar Bharati.
- (3) DD National is the first channel of Doordarshan and was started in 1972.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Doordarshan is an autonomous public service broadcaster funded by the Government of India. It is one of two divisions of Prasar Bharati.

It is one of India's largest broadcasting organizations in terms of studio and transmitter infrastructure, having been established on 15 September 1959.

Prasar Bharati is Doordarshan's parent body, and its board members are appointed by the Government of India through the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Prasar Bharati is managed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (India).

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting is Prakash Javadekar (2019 - present).

DD National is the first channel of Doordarshan and was started in 1959.

DD Bharati is a channel of Doordarshan.

It telecasts various cultural programmes and is dedicated to showing India's vast culture and traditions.

7. Centre is considering the Himachal Pradesh government's request for inclusion of the Hatti community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the state.

Consider the following statements regarding Scheduled Tribe -

(1) Article 366 (25) of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes.

(2) Articles 356 of the Constitution of India define as to who would be Scheduled.

(3) The Constitution is silent about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (2) and (1)

(C) Only (3) and (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

Article 366 (25) of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. Article 342 says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be Scheduled Tribes. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific, and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in one State need not be so in another State. The Constitution is silent about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.

8. Ministry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Sustainable (ZED-Zero Defect Zero Effect) Certification Scheme.

Consider the following statements regarding Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme -

(1) It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(2) Its mission is to develop and implement the 'ZED' culture in India.

(3) It aims to develop an Ecosystem for Zero Defect Manufacturing in MSMEs.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)

(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans:

(B)

Exp:

Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme -

About:

Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of MSME, the scheme is an integrated and comprehensive certification system. The scheme accounts for productivity, quality, pollution mitigation, energy efficiency, financial status, human resource and technological depth including design and IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) in both products and processes. Its mission is to develop and implement the 'ZED' culture in India based on the principles of Zero Defect & Zero Effect.

Objective of the Scheme:

To develop an Ecosystem for Zero Defect Manufacturing in MSMEs.

To promote adaptation of quality tools/systems and energy efficient manufacturing. Enable MSMEs for manufacturing of quality products.

To encourage MSMEs to constantly upgrade their quality standards in products and processes.

9. Global Positioning System spoofing is considered to be a form of cyberattack that includes generating false GPS signals to mislead an aircraft.

Consider the following statements regarding Global Positioning System -

(1) GPS is a satellite navigation system, used to determine the ground position of an object.

(2) It is a US-owned utility that provides users with Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) services.

(3) It is a network 24 satellite which provides service to civilian and military users.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)

(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

GPS is a satellite navigation system, used to determine the ground position of an object. It is

a U.S.-owned utility that provides users with Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) services. It is a network 24 satellite which provides service to civilian and military users. The civilian service is freely available to all users on a continuous, worldwide basis. The military service is available to U.S. and allied armed forces as well as approved Government agencies.

10. Emden Deep in the Philippines Trench, is the world's third-deepest point after Challenger Deep (Mariana Trench) and Horizon Deep (Tonga Trench).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Emden Deep was first discovered by the German ship Emden in 1927 and was later explored by the Danish ship Galathea in 1951.
- (2) The Philippine Trench is located in the Indian Ocean and formed around 8-9 million years ago during the Mesozoic era.
- (3) The Philippine Trench is seismically active, with frequent earthquakes due to the convergence of tectonic plates.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

Statement 1 is correct: The Emden Deep was discovered by the German ship Emden in 1927 and later explored by the Danish ship Galathea in 1951, earning it the name Galathea Deep.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Philippine Trench is located in the western Pacific Ocean, not the Indian Ocean. It was formed around 8-9 million years ago during the Plio-Pleistocene epoch, not the Mesozoic era.

Statement 3 is correct: The Philippine Trench is a seismically active region with frequent earthquakes due to tectonic plate convergence.

11. 30th April 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's end (1954–75).

Consider the following statements regarding the Vietnam War:

- (1) The Paris Peace Accords of 1973 ended the war immediately and led to the reunification of Vietnam.
- (2) The Tet Offensive of 1968 was a surprise attack by North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

(3) North Vietnam was supported by the USSR and China, while South Vietnam was backed by the U.S..

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(C) Statement 1 is correct: The Tet Offensive (1968) was a surprise attack by North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Paris Peace Accords (1973) led to a ceasefire and U.S. withdrawal but did not immediately end the war. The war continued until Saigon fell in 1975.

Statement 3 is correct: North Vietnam was supported by China and the Soviet Union, while South Vietnam was backed by the U.S..

12.

On 1st May 2025, Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated 65 years of their formation.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1956) demanded a Marathi-speaking state comprising Mumbai and Vidarbha.
- (2) The Mahagujarat Movement (1928–1950s) called for a Gujarati-speaking state that included Saurashtra and Kutch.
- (3) 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 established the threefold classification of states into Part A, Part B, and Part C states.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(B)

Exp:

The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1956) demanded a Marathi-speaking state comprising Mumbai and Vidarbha, playing a crucial role in the creation of Maharashtra.

The Mahagujarat Movement (1928–1950s) called for a Gujarati-speaking state that included Saurashtra and Kutch, promoting regional self-identity.

Both states today are economic powerhouses and examples of how linguistic identity and federal cooperation can coexist.

The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 abolished the threefold classification of states into Part A, Part B, and Part C states.

13.

The Jagannath Dham temple in Digha, West Bengal, inaugurated in April 2024, marks a

significant religious and architectural development.

Consider the following statements about the Jagannath Temple at Puri -

- (1) It was constructed during the reign of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- (2) The temple follows the Nagara style of architecture common in South India.
- (3) The idols inside the temple are made of wood and replaced periodically through the Nabakalebara ritual.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp:

About Jagannath Temple, Puri: It was built by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 12th century CE. The idols are made of wood (neem logs) and are replaced every 12–19 years in the Nabakalebara ritual.

It is an example of Kalinga architecture (a sub-style of Odisha temple architecture).

It is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites along with Badrinath, Dwarka, and Rameswaram and a major Vaishnavism centre.

The flag atop the temple flies against the wind, and the Sudarsana Chakra appears the same from every angle (optical illusion).

14.

The Caspian Sea is rapidly shrinking from climate-driven evaporation, endangering biodiversity, livelihoods, and regional stability. Consider the following statements regarding the Caspian Sea -

- (1) It is the largest enclosed inland water body in the world by surface area.
- (2) It is bordered by five countries, including Iran and Kazakhstan.
- (3) The Caspian Sea is classified as a freshwater lake under international law.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp:

Statement 1 is correct: The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland water body (by surface area) in the world.

Statement 2 is correct: It is bordered by five countries — Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Despite its name, the Caspian Sea contains saline water, and its legal classification has long been disputed — some treaties treat it as a sea, while others as a lake, but it is not officially recognized as freshwater under international law.

Natural hydrogen, a potentially clean, abundant, and low-cost energy source, is gaining global attention as a game-changer in the transition to green energy.

Consider the following statements regarding Natural Hydrogen -

- (1) Natural hydrogen, also called grey hydrogen, refers to hydrogen gas (H₂) that is naturally produced and stored in the Earth's crust.
- (2) In 1987, a borehole in Bourakébougou, Mali, revealed a mysterious flame—later found to be 98% pure hydrogen in 2012.
- (3) Hydrogen makes up about 75% of the universe's mass, but only 0.5–1.0 ppm (parts per million) of Earth's atmosphere.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp:

About: Natural hydrogen, also called geologic hydrogen or white hydrogen, refers to hydrogen gas (H₂) that is naturally produced and stored in the Earth's crust.

Unlike manufactured hydrogen (from fossil fuels or renewables), natural hydrogen is produced geologically—raising hopes for a sustainable energy revolution.

Formation: Natural hydrogen exists freely underground, and formed through natural geological processes like-

Serpentinisation: Reaction of water with iron-rich rocks.

Radiolysis: Splitting of water by radioactive rocks.

Organic Decomposition: From deep burial of organic matter.

Discovery: In 1987, a borehole in Bourakébougou, Mali, revealed a mysterious flame—later found to be 98% pure hydrogen in 2012.

Major discoveries in France (Lorraine & Moselle) revealed 92 million tonnes of hydrogen (half of global production).

Major Reserves: Hydrogen seeps have been documented in more than 10 countries, including Australia, the USA, France, South Korea, Canada, and Spain.

Potential Impact: If only 2% of global geological hydrogen is recoverable, it could match twice the energy of all known natural gas reserves and meet global hydrogen demand for 200 years.

Cost Efficiency: Production cost is estimated at USD 1/kg or less, cheaper than both green and grey hydrogen.

A global “hydrogen rush” is underway, with companies exploring natural hydrogen rising from 10 in 2020 to 40 in 2023.

Note: Hydrogen makes up about 75% of the universe's mass, but only 0.5–1.0 ppm (parts per million) of Earth's atmosphere. In Earth's crust, it accounts for 0.75% by weight.

16. NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness, released a comprehensive report on MSMEs.

Consider the following statements on history of India's economic development -

(1) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) was established in 1956 to promote rural industrialization.

(2) The first Industrial Policy Resolution in India was adopted in 1947, focusing mainly on private sector industrial growth.

(3) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was set up in 1989 to provide financial support to MSMEs.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Statement 1 is correct as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) was established in 1956 to promote rural industrialization.

Statement 2 is incorrect as the first Industrial Policy Resolution was adopted in 1948, not 1947, and it focused more on public sector growth and industrialization.

Statement 3 is correct as the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was set up in 1989 to provide financial assistance to small-scale industries and MSMEs.

17. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing PMI rose from 58.1 in March to 58.2 in April.

What is/are the recent policy initiative(s) of Government of India to promote the growth of the manufacturing sector?

(1) Setting up of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones

(2) Providing the benefit of ‘single window clearance’

(3) Establishing the Technology Acquisition and Development Fund

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

Ans:

Exp:

National Manufacturing Policy, 2011

The National Manufacturing Policy was approved by the Government in October 2011.

The major objectives of the policy are enhancing the share of manufacturing in the gross domestic product (GDP) to 25 per cent and creating an additional 100 million jobs over a decade or so.

The NMP provides for the promotion of clusters and aggregation, especially through the creation of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs).

Out of twelve NIMZs so far announced, eight are along the DMIC. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Advisory to States on simplification & rationalization of business regulations and skill development.

Constitution of the approval/monitoring mechanism under the policy.

Scheme prepared under NMP on Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF). Hence statement 3 is correct.

Initiating the process of simplification and rationalization of state-level business regulations and developing single-window clearance. Hence statement 2 is correct.

18. The Vice President of India recently described Private Member's Bills (PMBs) as “far-sighted, forward-looking, and a gold mine” for India's democracy.

Consider the following statements regarding Private Member's Bills -

(1) A Private Member's Bill can only be introduced by Members of Parliament who are not part of the Union Council of Ministers.

(2) The success rate of PMBs is high, with over 50 such bills being passed since Independence.

(3) During the 17th Lok Sabha, only a small fraction of the PMBs introduced were actually discussed in the House.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: PMBs are introduced by MPs who are not Ministers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Only 14 PMBs have been passed since Independence, indicating a very low success rate.

Statement 3 is correct: Of the 729 PMBs introduced in the 17th Lok Sabha, only 2 were discussed; in Rajya Sabha, 14 out of 705 were discussed.

19. The 69th Foundation Day of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), held in New Delhi.

Consider the following statements regarding the Directorate of Enforcement (ED):

- (1) The ED functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
(2) It enforces the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.
(3) The ED is also responsible for enforcing the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: The Directorate of Enforcement functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement 2 is correct: The ED is the primary agency for enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Statement 3 is correct: The ED also enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

20. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has documented 11 ancient inscriptions in Peddapalli, Telangana belonging to the Satavahana dynasty.

Consider the following statements regarding Satavahana Dynasty -

(1) The Satavahanas were among the earliest rulers to issue coins with portraits of their rulers.

(2) Gautamiputra Satakarni was one of the most powerful rulers of the Satavahana Dynasty.

(3) The Satavahanas ruled mainly over the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: The Satavahanas were among the earliest Indian rulers to issue portrait coins, especially featuring kings like Gautamiputra Satakarni.

Statement 2 is correct: Gautamiputra Satakarni is considered one of the greatest Satavahana kings who defeated the Shakas and expanded the kingdom.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Satavahanas ruled mainly in the Deccan region, particularly over present-day Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana—not the northwestern region.

21. The Vice President of India recently described Private Member's Bills (PMBs) as "far-sighted, forward-looking, and a gold mine" for India's democracy.

Consider the following statements regarding Private Member's Bills (PMBs):

- (1) Only non-Minister Members of Parliament are allowed to introduce Private Member's Bills.
(2) Private Member's Bills are usually taken up for discussion on Fridays.
(3) Since 1970, more than 20 Private Member's Bills have been passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: A Private Member's Bill is introduced by any Member of Parliament who is not a Minister, allowing legislators outside the government to propose new laws or amendments. This provides a platform for non-executive MPs to raise issues of public interest or suggest legislative changes.

Statement 2 is correct: In both Houses of Parliament, Fridays are reserved for the

discussion of Private Member's Bills. However, due to limited time and priority given to government business, only a few PMBs are ever debated or passed.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Since Independence, only 14 Private Member's Bills have been passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and received Presidential assent. Importantly, no such bill has been passed since 1970, indicating a significant decline in their legislative success.

22. The Indian government has approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the delayed Census 2021.

Consider the following statements caste census -

- (1) The term "caste" is derived from a Latin word meaning 'division'.
- (2) Caste enumeration was regularly conducted in British India until the 1931 Census.
- (3) Since 1951, caste enumeration has been limited to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:
Exp:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The word "caste" comes from the Spanish word 'casta', not Latin.

Statement 2 is correct: Caste enumeration was conducted regularly from 1881 to 1931 during British rule.

Statement 3 is correct: From 1951 onwards, caste enumeration was discontinued except for SCs and STs.

23. India's push for 'Maximum Governance' must be matched by 'Maximum Accountability', prompting renewed focus on strengthening Parliament's role in checking executive power.

Consider the following statements regarding the key mechanisms of Parliamentary Oversight in India -

- (1) Article 75 of the Indian Constitution ensures that the Council of Ministers is accountable to the Lok Sabha.
- (2) Zero Hour is a formal procedure specified in the parliamentary rule book to raise urgent matters without notice.
- (3) Parliamentary committees play a crucial role in legislative oversight and are empowered by Articles 105 and 118 of the Constitution.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:
Exp:

Statement 1 is correct: Article 75 states that the Council of Ministers is accountable to the Lok Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Zero Hour is an informal procedure, not a formal one mentioned in the parliamentary rule book.

Statement 3 is correct: Parliamentary committees, empowered by Articles 105 and 118, play a crucial role in legislative oversight.

24. India has been ranked 130th out of 193 countries and territories in the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR).

The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following?

- (1) Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
- (2) Purchasing power parity at national level
- (3) Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:
Exp:

Multidimensional Poverty Index - It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and United Nations Development Programme.

It uses three dimensions and ten indicators which are-

- Education- Years of schooling and child enrollment
- Health - Child Morality and Nutrition Standards
- Standard of Living - Electricity, flooring, drinking water, sanitation, cooking fuel and assets.

25. India is actively promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) to address the challenges posed by climate change.

In the context of India's preparation for Climate-Smart Agriculture, consider the following statements -

- (1) The 'Climate-Smart Village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the Climate

Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS), an international research programme.
 (2) The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.

(3) The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: The 'Climate-Smart Village' (CSV) approach aims to increase agricultural productivity, enhance resilience to climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It involves adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices in various countries, including India, focusing on sustainable farming techniques, resource conservation, and improving farmers' livelihoods. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

CAAFS is one of the global research programs initiated by the CGIAR, which aims to address the intersection of agriculture and climate change.

The headquarters of CGIAR is located in Montpellier, France. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

ICRISAT, located in Hyderabad, India, focuses on improving agricultural practices in semi-arid and dry regions through research on crops such as millets, sorghum and legumes.

ICRISAT is indeed one of the 15 research centres under the CGIAR network. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

26. Consider the following statements:

1. Raj Singh, Vish Viriksh was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

2. Sarat Chandra wrote novel Srikanta, Devdas.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor

Ans: (C)

Exp: Raj Singh, Vish Viriksh was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. Sarat Chandra wrote novel Srikanta, Devdas.

27. Consider the following statements:

1. Sikandar Lodi established the Agra city.

2. The founder of the Lodi dynasty was Bahlol Lodi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Lodi dynasty was an Afghan dynasty that ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1451 to 1526. It was the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, and was founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi when he replaced the Sayyid dynasty. and Sikandar Lodi established the Agra city.

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of the Tughlaq dynasty was Muhammad bin Tughluq

2. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq had a tense relationship with Sheikh Nizamuddin Auliya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (B)

Exp: Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq was the one who founded the Tughlaq dynasty in India. The founders' real name was Ghazi Malik and he ruled from 1320 - 1325. He founded the city of Tughlaqabad outside Delhi. (1320 to 1414)

29. Consider the following statements:

1. The Gupta Empire stretched across northern, central and parts of southern India between CE 210 and 305 CE.

2. The Gupta period is known as the "Golden Age" in the history of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Gupta Empire stretched across northern, central and parts of southern India between CE 320 and 550 CE. The period is noted for its achievements in the arts, architecture, sciences, religion, and philosophy. It began a period of

overall prosperity and growth which came to be known as a "Golden Age" in India's history.

30. Consider the following statements:
 1. Kanishka organized the fourth Buddhist Sangti in Kashmir, presided over by Vasumitra and Ashwaghosh.
 2. In the second Buddhist music, Buddhism was divided into two - Hinayana and Mahayana.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (A)

- Exp: During the reign of Kanishka, the fourth Buddhist council was held at Kundalvana in Kashmir to settle the disputes among different sects. After the discussions Buddhism was divided into two major sects named as Hinayana and Mahayana. Hinayana - It was an old form of Buddhism. Followers of this sect were against idol worship. Mahayana - Its followers considered Buddha as God. This sect was in favour of idol worship.

31. Consider the following statements.

1. The Grand Trunk Road (GT Road) travels in three South Asian countries-India Pakistan and Bangladesh.
 2. The stretch of the GT Road between Kolkata and Delhi is known as NH 2.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) only 1 (B) Only 2
 (C) both 1 and 2 (D) none of these

Ans: (B)

- Exp: The 'Grand Trunk Road' connects Kolkata and Amritsar. G.T road is a part of India's Golden Quadrilateral project (4-6 lane highway) Connecting Amritsar via Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Dhanbad, Asansol with Kolkata.

32. Consider the following statements regarding latitudes and longitudes?

1. Longitudes are angular distance of a place from the equator.
 2. Latitudes are angular distance of a place from the prime meridian.

Choose the incorrect statement(s)?

(A) only 1 (B) Only 2
 (C) both 1 and 2 (D) none of these

Ans: (C)

- Exp: Latitude of a place is measured as the angular distance of the place from the equator. All latitudes also called as parallels are concentric circles.

Equator is the largest latitude of earth dividing the earth in two equal halves. Longitude of a place is measured as the angular distance of the place from the prime meridian. Longitudes also known as meridians play a significant role in measuring the time zone of an area. 0-degree longitude is Greenwich in UK and 180 degree is the International Date Line.

33. Consider the following correct statements.

1. Narmada river is known as "Life Line of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat" for its huge contribution to the state of Madhya pradesh and Gujarat in many ways.
 2. Narmada is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that run from east to west along with the Tapti River and the Mahi River.

(A) only 1 (B) Only 2
 (C) both 1 and 2 (D) none of these

Ans: (C)

- Exp: Narmada is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular India. Narmada flows westwards through a rift valley between the Vindhyan Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south. It rises from Maikala range near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, at an elevation of about 1057 m. The Narmada River, also called the Rewa and previously also known as Nerbudda, is a river in central India after the Godavari, and the Krishna. It is also known as "Life Line of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat" for its huge contribution to the state of Madhya pradesh and Gujarat in many ways.

34. Consider the following correct statements.

1. The Green Revolution started in 1965 with the first introduction of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds in Indian agriculture.
 2. The term green revolution was coined by an official at the U.S. State Department, Norman Borlaug in 1968.

(A) only 1
 (B) Only 2
 (C) both 1 and 2
 (D) none of these

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Green Revolution in India refers to a period when Indian agriculture was converted into an industrial system due to the adoption of modern methods and technology. It was mainly found by M.S. Swaminathan.

The term green revolution was coined by an official at the U.S. State Department, William Gaud in 1968.

35. Consider the following correct statements.
1. Deccan Plateau is the peninsular tableland lying to the south of the Tropic of Cancer. Its outer boundary is marked by the 300 m contour line, with Vindhya-Kaimur watersheds in the north.
 2. The Deccan plateau is located between two mountain ranges, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats,
- (A) only 1 (B) Only 2
(C) both 1 and 2 (D) none of these

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Deccan plateau is located between two mountain ranges, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats, Deccan Plateau is the peninsular tableland lying to the south of the Tropic of Cancer. Its outer boundary is marked by the 300 m contour line, with Vindhya-Kaimur watersheds in the north. and north-western part of the plateau is made up of lava flows or igneous rocks known as the Deccan Traps. The north-western part of the plateau is made up of lava flows or igneous rocks known as the Deccan Traps

36. Consider the following statements:
1. Supreme Court and high court judges are not appointed to various posts in tribunals and commissions, after their retirement.
 2. President can remove a judge when parliament approves with a majority of the total membership of each house in favour of impeachment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (A)

Exp: A Person who has retired as a judge of the supreme court is debarred from practicing in any court of law or before any other authority in India. However, Supreme Court and high court judges are appointed to various posts in tribunals and commissions, after their retirement. Article

124(4) of the constitution, President can remove a judge on proved misbehaviour or incapacity when parliament approves with a majority of the total membership of each house in favour of impeachment and not less than two thirds of

37. Which of the following statements is true?
- I. The Balance of Payments (BOP) is an overall statement of a state's economic transactions.
 - II. Globalization is the shift towards a more united and interdependent world economy.
- Select the correct option.
- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (B)

Exp: Globalization is the shift towards a more united and interdependent world economy. Globalization of markets means the merging of distinctively separate national markets into a global marketplace wherein the tastes and preferences converge into a global norm. Globalization of production means referring to sources of various goods and services from across the world to take benefit of differences in cost or quality of the factors of production such as land, human labor, energy, capital, etc.

The Balance of Payments (BOP) is an overall statement of a country's economic transactions with the rest of the world over a specific period of time, generally a year. The statement indicates the receiving's from the world and the payments made to the world in the current and capital accounts. The current account of BoP includes a nation's net-trade in goods and services, its net transfer payments and its net earnings on the cross-border investments. The capital account of BoP consists of the import and export of capital and foreign aid of the nation. This statement is based on the principle of accounting. It can be compared to the balance sheet of a company. Hence, it can turn out to be positive or negative.

38. Which of the following statements is true?
- I. EXIM Policy is the export-import policy of the government that is announced every five years.
 - II. The three major international economic institutions are WTO, IMF, World Bank.
- Select the correct option.
- (A) Only I (B) Only II

Ans: (C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Exp: EXIM Policy is the export-import policy of the government that is announced every five years. This policy consists of general provisions regarding exports and imports, promotional measures, duty exemption schemes, export promotion schemes, special economic zone programs and other details for different sectors. Every country indulges in export and import to capitalize on the growing international trade. This makes it imperative to have certain institutions that can govern these foreign trades. These institutions govern foreign trade practices and ensure a level field to all the countries and promote economic cooperation. The three major international economic institutions are WTO, IMF, World Bank and UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

39. Which of the following statements is true?

I. World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in 1998 to replace GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

II. International Monetary Fund (IMF) consists of 189 countries that work in collaboration to foster global monetary cooperation.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (B)

Exp: Headquartered in Washington DC, International Monetary Fund(IMF) consists of 189 countries that work in collaboration to foster global monetary cooperation, facilitate international trade, secure financial stability, reduce poverty and promote high employment along with sustainable development. It was formed in 1944 at the Bretton woods Conference and officially came into force in 1945.

World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in 1995 to replace GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Signed by 123 countries, it is established as a result of the Marrakesh Agreement. There was a need to replace GATT which was established in 1948 as it was biased towards the developed countries. WTO deals with the global rules of trade across

nations. More specifically, it deals with regulation of trade in services, goods and intellectual property between the countries by providing a framework for the regulation of trade and dispute resolution. Any discrimination between the participating countries in the trade negotiation is strictly prohibited by WTO.

40. Which of the following statements is true?

I. Liberalization was brought about with an idea that any regulations or restrictions that were imposed on free trade.

II. Privatization refers to giving more opportunities to the all sector.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

Exp:

Liberalization was brought about with an idea that any regulations or restrictions that were imposed on free trade must loosen up its grip to allow trade. It allowed opening up the economic borders for foreign investments and MNCs. Several economic reforms that were imposed under Liberalization include expansion of production capacity, de-servicing producing areas, abolishing industrial licensing by the government, and freedom to import goods. Privatization refers to giving more opportunities to the private sector in regulating different services and reducing the role of the public sector (government-owned enterprises) in them. With privatization, FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) was introduced in India giving healthy competition to the Indian goods and services.

41. Which of the following statement (s) is true?

I. Movement of a fan is an example of a non-uniform accelerated motion.

II. Glass is a bad thermal conductor.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

Exp:

Glass is a very poor heat conductor. It has one of the lowest possible heat conduction a solid (without air trapped in it) can possibly have, this is mostly due to its lack of ordered crystal structure. Since it's an insulator, the electronic contribution to the thermal conductivity is very

small. However photons can still carry heat, but unlike diamond which has a well ordered crystal structure, glass lacks such a structure. This favors anharmonic processes, i.e. phonon-phonon interactions such as umklapp processes which severely limit the thermal conductivity. Non-uniform acceleration the change in velocity is not constant as in uniform acceleration. Freely falling body has a uniform acceleration of 9.8 m/s. The movement of a fan just after it is started is also an example of uniform acceleration and so is motion of a ball rolling down an inclined plane. The velocity of a roller coaster changes randomly and hence is a perfect example of non-uniform accelerated motion.

42. Which of the following statement (s) is true?
I. According to Kepler's first law, a moving planet follows circle path.
II. Newton's law of gravitation, states that any particle of matter in the universe attracts any other with a force.
 Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Kepler's three laws of planetary motion can be stated as follows: (1) All planets move about the Sun in elliptical orbits, having the Sun as one of the foci. (2) A radius vector joining any planet to the Sun sweeps out equal areas in equal lengths of time. (3) The squares of the sidereal periods (of revolution) of the planets are directly proportional to the cubes of their mean distances from the Sun. Knowledge of these laws, especially the second (the law of areas), proved crucial to Sir Isaac Newton in 1684-85, when he formulated his famous law of gravitation between Earth and the Moon and between the Sun and the planets, postulated by him to have validity for all objects anywhere in the universe. Newton's law of gravitation, statement that any particle of matter in the universe attracts any other with a force varying directly as the product of the masses and inversely as the square of the distance between them. In symbols, the magnitude of the attractive force F is equal to G (the gravitational constant, a number the size of which depends on the system of units used and which is a universal constant) multiplied by the product of the masses (m_1 and m_2) and divided

by the square of the distance R : $F = G(m_1m_2)/R^2$.

43. Which of the following statement (s) is true?
I. Meter in a vehicle that calculates distance covered by the vehicle is called odometer.
II. Throttle Valve for regulating the supply of a fluid (as steam) to an engine.
 Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
(C)

Ans:
Exp: Speedometer, instrument that indicates the speed of a vehicle, usually combined with a device known as an odometer that records the distance traveled. The speed-indicating mechanism of the speedometer is actuated by a circular permanent magnet that is rotated 1,000 revolutions per mile of vehicle travel by a flexible shaft driven by gears at the rear of the transmission. Throttle, Valve for regulating the supply of a fluid (as steam) to an engine, especially the valve controlling the volume of vaporized fuel delivered to the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine. In an automobile engine, gasoline is held in a chamber above the carburetor.

44. Which of the following statement (s) is true?
I. A stone of same size has more inertia
II. Reflection from a smooth surface like that of a mirror is called regular.
 Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
(C)

Ans:
Exp: Inertia is the measure of the mass of the body. The greater is the mass of the body; the greater is its inertia and vice-versa.
(a) Mass of a stone is more than the mass of a rubber ball for the same size. Hence, inertia of the stone is greater than that of a rubber ball.
(b) Mass of a train is more than the mass of a bicycle. Hence, inertia of the train is greater than that of the bicycle.
(c) Mass of a five-rupee coin is more than that of a one-rupee coin. Hence, inertia of the five-rupee coin is greater than that of the one-rupee coin.

45. Which of the following statements is true?

I. Oxidation process by which electric current is passed through a substance to effect a chemical change.

II. precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour. 47. Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour that falls under gravity from clouds. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, ice pellets, graupel and hail. Precipitation occurs when a portion of the atmosphere becomes saturated with water vapor (reaching 100% relative humidity), so that the water condenses and "precipitates".

Electrolysis, process by which electric current is passed through a substance to effect a chemical change. The chemical change is one in which the substance loses or gains an electron (oxidation or reduction). The process is carried out in an electrolytic cell, an apparatus consisting of positive and negative electrodes held apart and dipped into a solution containing positively and negatively charged ions. The substance to be transformed may form the electrode,

46. Consider the following statements.

1. Cements harden because of hydration, chemical reactions that occur independently of the mixture's water content.

2. Cement is manufactured through a closely controlled chemical combination of calcium, silicon, aluminum, iron and other ingredients.

Which is/are correct statement?

- (A) Only I (B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp:

Cement is mainly a mixture of calcium silicate and aluminate compounds, which are composed of calcium oxide, silica, aluminum oxide and iron oxide. To make cement, a mixture of limestone and clay is burnt at high temperature in a furnace and then the resulting clinker is mixed with gypsum and ground finely. The product obtained is called Ordinary Portland Cement (SPOC).

Cement hardens when it comes into contact with water. This hardening is a process of crystallization. Crystals form (after a certain

length of time which is known as the initial set time) and interlock with each other.

Consider the following statements.

1. When chemical bond is formed, the potential energy decreases.

2. Making chemical bonds always releases energy because the bond is formed in order to make the atoms more stable (less energy).

Which is/are correct statement?

- (A) Only I (B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp:

Chemical reactions make and break the chemical bonds between molecules, resulting in new materials as the products of the chemical reaction. Chemical reactions can occur spontaneously or require an outside trigger such as an input of energy. Breaking chemical bonds absorbs energy, while making new bonds releases energy, with the overall chemical reaction being endothermic or exothermic.

48. Consider the following statements.

1. Galvanization is the process of applying a protective zinc coating to steel or iron, to prevent rusting.

2. Zinc is also used extensively in alloys such as brass, nickel silver and aluminum solder, and in batteries.

3. The most common zinc ore is sphalerite (zinc blende), a zinc sulfide mineral.

Which is/are correct statement?

- (A) Only I (B) 1 and 2
(C) 1 and 3 (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp:

Zinc (Zn) is a chemical element whose atomic number 30. Zinc is a slightly brittle metal at room temperature. It is the first element in group 12 of the periodic table. In some respects, zinc is chemically similar to magnesium: both elements exhibit only one normal oxidation state (+2), and the Zn^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions are of similar size. Zinc is the 24th most abundant element in Earth's crust and has five stable isotopes. The most common zinc ore is sphalerite (zinc blende), a zinc sulfide mineral.

49. Consider the following statements.

1. Bleaching powder is chemically, calcium oxychloride ($CaOCl_2$).

2. Silver bromide is prepared industrially by the reaction between aqueous solutions of silver nitrate and potassium bromide.

3. Neptunium is the first artificially produced element.

Which is/are correct statement?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) 1 and 2
- (C) 1 and 3
- (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: Neptunium (Np), radioactive chemical element of the actinoid series of the periodic table that was the first transuranium element to be artificially produced, atomic number 93.

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Dolly Clone was an example of a chicken.

2. A snake is a animal with cold blood.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (B)

Exp: Snake animals belong to class reptiles. The group also includes crocodiles, lizards and turtles. Reptiles are cold-blooded animals that reduce their body temperature by lying in the sun or crawling in the shade.

"There is a powerful driving force inside every human being that, once unleashed, can make any vision, dream, or desire a reality."

"Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down."



07 MAY

EDITION: 30th
1st CELEBRATED: 1996

WORLD ATHLETICS DAY

Motto

To popularize sports among the youth, to promote athletics as the primary sport in schools and institutions and to encourage and introduce new talent and youngsters in the field of athletics.

Organised By

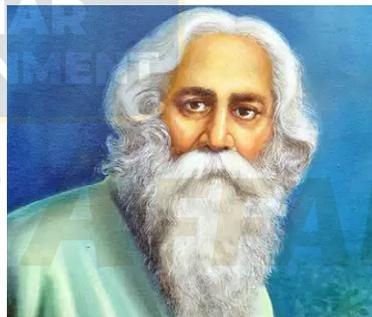
IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation).

Introduced by

IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation).

Note

- IAAF was founded on the 17 July 1912 in Stockholm (Sweden).
- The IAAF is the world governing body for the sport of field athletics and track.



Rabindranath Tagore
7 May 1861 to 7 August 1941

Pen Name

Bhanu Singha Thakur (Bhonita).

Occupation

Writer, composer, playwright, essayist, painter.

Language

Bengali, English.

Notable Works

Gitanjali, Gora, Ghare-Baire, Jana Gana Mana, Rabindra Sangeet, Amar Shonar Bangla.

Notable Awards

Nobel Prize in Literature (1913).

Note

- He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize (1913) for his contribution to world literature.
- Tagore penned down "Jana Gana Mana", the national anthem of India. He also wrote the national anthem for Bangladesh.

Match the Following

1. Match the following articles with their principles -

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| (A) Article 54 | 1- Presidential election |
| (B) Article 55 | 2- Power of the President to promulgate ordinance |
| (C) Article 60 | 3- oath and affirmation of the President |
| (D) Article 123 | 4- manner of presidential election |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Article 54 Presidential election
 Article 55 manner of presidential election
 Article 60 oath and affirmation of the President
 Article 123 Power of the President to promulgate ordinance

2. Match the following -

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| State - | Solar Capacity |
| (A) Karnataka | 1- 6000 MW |
| (B) Telangana | 2- 3600 MW |
| (C) Rajasthan | 3- 3200 MW |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: State - Solar Capacity
 Karnataka - 6000 MW
 Telangana - 3600 MW
 Rajasthan - 3200 MW

3. Match the following types of Soils with the states where it found -

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Saline and Alkaline | 1- Western Gujarat |
| (b) Arid and Desert | 2- Maharashtra |
| (c) Laterite | 3- Karnataka |
| (d) Black (Regur soil) | 4- Western Rajasthan |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Saline and Alkaline - Western Gujarat
 Arid and Desert - Western Rajasthan
 Laterite - Karnataka
 Black (Regur soil) - Maharashtra

4. Match the following Nutrients and Deficiency Diseases -

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| (a) Phosphorous | 1- Hypophosphatemia |
| (b) Iodine | 2- Cretinism |
| (c) Protein | 3- Kwashiorkor |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Phosphorous - Hypophosphatemia
 Iodine - Cretinism
 Protein - Kwashiorkor

5. Match the following Committees with their purposes -

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Bhave Committee | 1- Share Transfer Reforms |
| (b) Dandekar Committee | 2- Regional Imbalances |
| (c) Narsimham Committee | 3- Term Loans To SSI |
| (d) Tambe Committee | 4- Financial System |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Bhave Committee - Share Transfer Reforms
 Dandekar Committee - Regional Imbalances
 Narsimham Committee - Financial System
 Tambe Committee - Term Loans To SSI

6. Match the following tiger reserves -

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| (a) Nawegaon-Nagzira | 1- Maharashtra |
| (b) Mudumalai | 2- Tamil Nadu |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----|
| (c) Pench | 3- Madhya Pradesh | 9. |
|-----------|-------------------|----|

- Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)
Exp: Nawegaon-Nagzira - Maharashtra
 Mudumalai - Tamil Nadu
 Pench - Madhya Pradesh

7. Match the following Father of Various Fields of India and World -

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| (A) Father of Veterinary Science | 1- Shalihotra |
| (B) Father of Wheat Revolution | 2- Dilbagh Singh Athwal |
| (C) Father of the Indian Seed Industry | 3- Sushruta |
| (D) Father of Surgery | 4- B R Barwale |

- Options-
(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)
Exp: Father of Veterinary Science - Shalihotra
 Father of Wheat Revolution - Dilbagh Singh Athwal
 Father of the Indian Seed Industry - B R Barwale
 Father of Surgery - Sushruta

8. Match the following Father of different fields in the world -

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| (A) Father of Relativity | 1- Albert Einstein |
| (B) Father of Telephone | 2- Alexander Graham Bell |
| (C) Father of DNA Fingerprinting | 3- Alec John Jeffreys |

- Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)
Exp: Father of Relativity - Albert Einstein
 Father of Telephone - Alexander Graham Bell
 Father of DNA Fingerprinting - Alec John Jeffreys

Match the following on Proteins:

| Protein | Function/Characteristic |
|----------------------------|---|
| (A) Hemoglobin | 1- Oxygen transport in the blood |
| (B) Insulin | 2- Regulation of blood sugar levels |
| (C) Keratin | 3- Structural protein in hair and nails |
| (D) Immunoglobulins | 4- Defense against pathogens |

- Options:
(A) a-1, b-3, c-4, d-2
(B) a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3
(C) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
(D) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1

Ans: (A)
Exp: Hemoglobin: Facilitates oxygen transport in the blood.
 Insulin: Regulates blood sugar levels.
 Keratin: Provides structural support in hair and nails.
 Immunoglobulins: Serve as antibodies defending against pathogens.

Match the following -

| Prime Minister | Term |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| (A) Indira Gandhi | 1- 1971 to 1977 |
| (B) Morarji Desai | 2- 1977 to 1979 |
| (C) Charan Singh | 3- 1979 to 1980 |
| (D) Rajiv Gandhi | 4- 1984 to 1989 |

- Options:
(A) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
(B) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
(C) a-4, b-1, c-3, d-2
(D) a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3

Ans: (A)
Exp: Indira Gandhi: Held the Prime Minister's office from 1971 to 1977.
 Morarji Desai: Served from 1977 to 1979 as India's first non-Congress PM.
 Charan Singh: Briefly held office from 1979 to 1980.
 Rajiv Gandhi: Served as Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989 after Indira Gandhi's assassination.

11. Italy has launched its first-ever mega food park project in India, at Fanidhar in the Mehsana district of Gujarat.

Match the following -

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| (a) Srimi Mega Food Park | 1- Chittoor |
|--------------------------|-------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| (b) Godavari Mega Aqua Park | 2- West Godavari |
| (c) North East Mega Food Park | 3- Raipur |
| (d) Indus Best Mega Food Park | 4- Nalbari |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Srini Mega Food Park - Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

Godavari Mega Aqua Park - West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

North East Mega Food Park - Nalbari, Assam.

Indus Best Mega Food Park - Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

12. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).

Match the following schemes with their launched year -

| | |
|--|---------|
| (a) Kisan Vikas Patra | 1- 2014 |
| (b) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana | 2- 2015 |
| (c) Startup India, Standup India | 3- 2016 |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Kisan Vikas Patra 2014

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana 2015

Startup India, Standup India 2016

13. Match the following -

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| (a) Srini Mega Food Park | 1- Chittoor |
| (b) Godavari Mega Aqua Park | 2- West Godavari |
| (c) North East Mega Food Park | 3- Raipur |
| (d) Indus Best Mega Food Park | 4- Nalbari |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Srini Mega Food Park - Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

Godavari Mega Aqua Park - West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

North East Mega Food Park - Nalbari, Assam.

Indus Best Mega Food Park - Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

14. Match the following schemes with their launched year -

| | |
|--|---------|
| (a) Kisan Vikas Patra | 1- 2014 |
| (b) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana | 2- 2015 |
| (c) Startup India, Standup India | 3- 2016 |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Kisan Vikas Patra 2014

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana 2015

Startup India, Standup India 2016

15. Match the following Acts and their passed year -

| | |
|---|---------|
| (a) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act | 1- 2016 |
| (b) Child Marriage Restraint Act | 2- 1856 |
| (c) Hindu Widow Remarriage Act | 3- 1929 |
| (d) Code on Social Security | 4- 2020 |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act - 2016

Child Marriage Restraint Act - 1929

Hindu Widow Remarriage Act - 1856

Code on Social Security - 2020

16. Match the following Sources of Indian Constitution -

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Method of election of the president | 1- Ireland |
| (b) Impeachment of the president | 2- USA |
| (c) Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution | 3- South Africa |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Method of election of the president - Ireland
 Impeachment of the president - USA
 Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution - South Africa

17. Match the following -

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Father of Physiology | 1- Claude Bernard |
| (b) Father of Modern Cinema | 2- David Wark Griffith |
| (c) Father of Ayurveda | 3- Dmitri Mendeleev |
| (d) Father of Periodic Table | 4- Dhanwantari |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Father of Physiology - Claude Bernard
 Father of Modern Cinema - David Wark Griffith
 Father of Ayurveda - Dhanwantari
 Father of Periodic Table - Dmitri Mendeleev

18. Match the following -

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) Uttar Pradesh | 1- Sandi Bird Sanctuary |
| (b) Uttarakhand | 2- Asan Barrage Bird Sanctuary |
| (c) West Bengal | 3- Chintamoni Kar Bird Sanctuary |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Uttar Pradesh - Sandi Bird Sanctuary
 Uttarakhand - Asan Barrage Bird Sanctuary
 West Bengal - Chintamoni Kar Bird Sanctuary

19. Match the following Sources of Nutrients and Constituents-

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (A) Vitamin B1 | 1- Thiamine |
| (B) Vitamin B2 | 2- Niacin |
| (C) Vitamin B3 | 3- Riboflavin |
| (D) Vitamin B5 | 4- Pantothenic |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Vitamin B1 - Thiamine
 Vitamin B2 - Riboflavin
 Vitamin B3 - Niacin
 Vitamin B5 - Pantothenic

20. Match the following nationalist movements of India -

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| (A) The Dandi March | 1- March 12, 1930 |
| (B) The Quit India Movement | 2- August 8, 1942 |
| (C) The Cost of Independence | 3- August 15, 1947 |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Dandi March - March 12, 1930
 The Quit India Movement - August 8, 1942
 The Cost of Independence - August 15, 1947

21. Match the following United Nations International Years -

| | |
|----------|--|
| (a) 2013 | 1- International Year of Water Cooperation |
| (b) 2012 | 2- International Year of Cooperatives |

| | |
|----------|---|
| (c) 2011 | 3- International Year of the Seafarer |
| (d) 2010 | 4- International Year for People of African Descent |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: 2013 - International Year of Water Cooperation
 2012 - International Year of Cooperatives
 2011 - International Year for People of African Descent
 2010 - International Year of the Seafarer

22. Match the following Lakes in India -

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Pulicat Lake | 1- Andhra Pradesh |
| (b) Sasthamcotta Lake | 2- Kerala |
| (c) Nalsarover Lake | 3- Gujarat |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Pulicat Lake – Andhra Pradesh
 Sasthamcotta Lake – Kerala
 Nalsarover Lake – Gujarat

23. Match the following banks with their established year -

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| (a) Bank of Baroda | 1- 1908 |
| (b) Bank of India | 2- 1907 |
| (c) Bank of Maharashtra | 3- 1935 |
| (d) Canara Bank | 4- 1906 |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Bank of Baroda - 1908
 Bank of India - 1907
 Bank of Maharashtra - 1935
 Canara Bank - 1906

24. Match the following banks with their headquarters -

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| (a) Indian Overseas Bank | 1- Chennai |
|--------------------------|------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| (b) Punjab and Sind Bank | 2- New Delhi |
| (c) State Bank of India | 3- Mumbai |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Indian Overseas Bank - Chennai
 Punjab and Sind Bank - New Delhi
 State Bank of India - Mumbai

25. Match the following articles with their principles -

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| (A) Article 54 | 1- Presidential election |
| (B) Article 55 | 2- Power of the President to promulgate ordinance |
| (C) Article 60 | 3- oath and affirmation of the President |
| (D) Article 123 | 4- manner of presidential election |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Article 54 Presidential election
 Article 55 manner of presidential election
 Article 60 oath and affirmation of the President
 Article 123 Power of the President to promulgate ordinance

26. Match the following -

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| State - | Solar Capacity |
| (A) Karnataka | 1- 6000 MW |
| (B) Telangana | 2- 3600 MW |
| (C) Rajasthan | 3- 3200 MW |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: State - Solar Capacity
 Karnataka - 6000 MW
 Telangana - 3600 MW

Rajasthan - 3200 MW

27. Match the following -

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| (a) Ethanol | 1- It is used as gasoline |
| (b) Biogas | 2- It is produced from dung |
| (c) Latex | 3- It is produced from an organic matter |
| (d) Hydrocarbon fuel | 4- It is a source of liquid hydrocarbons |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ethanol - It is used as gasoline
 Biogas - It is produced from dung
 Latex - It is a source of liquid hydrocarbons
 Hydrocarbon fuel - It is produced from an organic matter

28. Match the following Desert with their location -

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Kalahari Desert | 1- Southern Africa |
| (b) Great Victoria Desert | 2- Australia |
| (c) Great Basin Desert | 3- United States |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Kalahari Desert Southern Africa
 Great Victoria Desert Australia
 Great Basin Desert United States

29. Match the following banking terms with their correct definitions:

| Banking Terms | Definitions |
|---------------|--|
| A) CRR | 1) The rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks. |
| B) SLR | 2) A financial instrument used to raise capital for long-term investments. |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| C) Repo Rate | 3) The percentage of deposits that banks must hold in reserve with the central bank. |
| D) NPA | 4) The percentage of net demand and time liabilities that banks must maintain in liquid form. |
| E) Bonds | 5) A loan or advance where the interest or principal repayment is overdue for 90 days or more. |

Options:

- A) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-5, E-2
- B) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2, E-5
- C) A-2, B-4, C-5, D-1, E-3
- D) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-5, E-1

Ans: (A)

Exp: CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio): The percentage of deposits that banks must hold in reserve with the central bank (3).
 SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio): The percentage of net demand and time liabilities that banks must maintain in liquid form (4).
 Repo Rate: The rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks (1).
 NPA (Non-Performing Asset): A loan or advance where the interest or principal repayment is overdue for 90 days or more (5).
 Bonds: A financial instrument used to raise capital for long-term investments (2).

30. Match the following Articles of the Indian Constitution with their provisions:

| Articles | Provisions |
|----------------|---|
| A) Article 115 | 1) Powers of the State Legislature related to the Governor. |
| B) Article 226 | 2) High Courts' power to issue writs. |
| C) Article 152 | 3) Definition of "State" in the Constitution. |
| D) Article 230 | 4) Powers of the State Legislature over local bodies. |
| E) Article 196 | 5) Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly. |

Options:

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
- (B) A-5, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-1
- (C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4, E-5
- (D) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4, E-5

Ans: (B)

Exp: Article 115: Deals with the powers and responsibilities of the State Legislature concerning its relationship with the Governor, including the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly (5).

Article 226: Provides the High Courts with the power to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights and other legal rights (2).

Article 152: Defines the meaning of "State" in the context of the Constitution (3).

Article 230: Pertains to the powers of the State Legislature to create and manage local bodies and institutions (4).

Article 196: Deals with the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly (1).

31. Match the Following -

| Socio-Religious Movement | Founder/Leader |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| A) Brahma Samaj | 1) Swami Vivekananda |
| B) Arya Samaj | 2) Raja Ram Mohan Roy |
| C) Ramakrishna Mission | 3) Dayananda Saraswati |
| D) Theosophical Society | 4) Annie Besant |
| E) Aligarh Movement | 5) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan |

Options:

(A) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4, E-5

(B) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-5, E-4

(C) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-5, E-4

(D) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4, E-5

Ans: (D)

Exp: A) Brahma Samaj was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

B) Arya Samaj was established by Dayananda Saraswati.

C) Ramakrishna Mission was founded by Swami Vivekananda.

D) Theosophical Society was associated with Annie Besant.

E) Aligarh Movement was led by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

32. Match the Following -

| Vice President | Term |
|---------------------|----------------|
| A) Dr. Zakir Husain | 1) 2007 - 2012 |
| B) Hamid Ansari | 2) 1997 - 2002 |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| C) M. Venkaiah Naidu | 3) 1967 - 1969 |
| D) Shankar Dayal Sharma | 4) 2017 - 2022 |
| E) Dr. R. Venkataraman | 5) 1987 - 1992 |

Options:

(A) A-1, B-4, C-3, D-5, E-2

(B) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-5, E-1

(C) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3

(D) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2, E-5

(B)

Ans:

Exp:

A) Dr. Zakir Husain served as Vice President from 1967 to 1969.

B) Hamid Ansari held office from 2007 to 2012.

C) M. Venkaiah Naidu served from 2017 to 2022.

D) Shankar Dayal Sharma was Vice President from 1987 to 1992.

E) Dr. R. Venkataraman served from 1992 to 1997.

33.

Match the following schemes with their corresponding objectives or features:

| Schemes | Descriptions |
|-------------|--|
| A. MGNREGA | 1. Aims to build all-weather roads in rural areas. |
| B. PM-KISAN | 2. Provides affordable housing for rural poor. |
| C. PMAY-G | 3. Provides direct income support to farmers. |
| D. PMGSY | 4. Promotes self-employment and financial inclusion for women. |
| E. NRLM | 5. Provides 100 days of wage employment to rural households. |

Options:

A) A-5, B-3, C-2, D-1, E-4

B) A-1, B-5, C-4, D-3, E-2

C) A-3, B-2, C-5, D-4, E-1

D) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2, E-5

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act): Provides 100 days of wage employment to rural households.

PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi): Provides direct income support to farmers.

PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin): Provides affordable housing for rural poor.

PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana): Aims to build all-weather roads in rural areas.

NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission): Promotes self-employment and financial inclusion for women.

34. Match the following -

| National Parks | Year of Declaration as World Heritage Site |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. Kaziranga National Park | 1. 1988 |
| B. Keoladeo National Park | 2. 1985 |
| C. Manas National Park | 3. 1987 |
| D. Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers | 4. 2005 |
| E. Sundarbans National Park | 5. 1984 |

Options:

- A) A-3, B-5, C-1, D-4, E-2
- B) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-5, E-4
- C) A-5, B-2, C-1, D-4, E-3
- D) A-1, B-3, C-5, D-2, E-4

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Kaziranga National Park (Assam): Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan): Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Manas National Park (Assam): Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers (Uttarakhand): Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

Sundarbans National Park (West Bengal): Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

35. Match the Following: Revolution in India -

| Revolution | Associated Sector / Objective |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Green Revolution | A. Dairy Production |
| 2. White Revolution | B. Oilseed Production |
| 3. Blue Revolution | C. Fish Production |

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 4. Yellow Revolution | D. Agricultural Productivity |
| 5. Golden Revolution | E. Horticulture Development |

Options:

- A) 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B, 5-E
- B) 1-B, 2-C, 3-E, 4-A, 5-D
- C) 1-C, 2-E, 3-A, 4-D, 5-B
- D) 1-D, 2-E, 3-B, 4-A, 5-C

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

Green Revolution (1-D) boosted agricultural productivity, especially in wheat and rice.

White Revolution (2-A) increased dairy production in India, led by Operation Flood.

Blue Revolution (3-C) focused on the growth of fish and aquaculture industries.

Yellow Revolution (4-B) aimed at increasing oilseed production.

Golden Revolution (5-E) emphasized horticulture development, including fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

36. Match the following Criticisms of the Indian Constitution -

| Criticism | Debunking |
|---|---|
| 1. Borrowed Constitution | A. Adapted and modified to suit Indian conditions, avoiding faults of the borrowed features. |
| 2. Carbon Copy of the Government of India Act, 1935 | B. Incorporates significant changes and additions, not a mere copy. |
| 3. Un-Indian or Anti-Indian | C. Reflects Indian values and aspirations despite foreign influences. |
| 4. Un-Gandhian | D. Aligns with many Gandhian principles, especially in Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). |
| 5. Elephantine Size | E. Detailed structure necessary to manage India's diversity and complexity. |

"The Best Way To Get Started Is To Quit Talking And Begin Doing."

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Paradise of the Lawyers | F. Legal language ensures clarity and enforceability. |
|-------------------------|---|

Options:

- A) 1-E, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A, 5-B, 6-F
- B) 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-E, 5-C, 6-F
- C) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-E, 6-F
- D) 1-A, 2-E, 3-B, 4-C, 5-F, 6-D

Ans: (C)

Exp: Borrowed Constitution (1-A): The framers adapted features from various countries, ensuring they were suitable for Indian conditions.

Carbon Copy of the Government of India Act, 1935 (2-B): Although inspired by the 1935 Act, significant changes and additions were made.

Un-Indian or Anti-Indian (3-C): Despite foreign influences, the Constitution embodies Indian values and aspirations.

Un-Gandhian (4-D): The Directive Principles of State Policy reflect many of Gandhi's ideals, like social justice and welfare.

Elephantine Size (5-E): The detailed nature is necessary to govern a diverse and complex country like India.

Paradise of the Lawyers (6-F): The precise legal language ensures clarity and enforceability of constitutional provisions.

37. Match the following Mountain Passes of India -

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Nama Pass | 1- Uttarakhand |
| (b) Namika La | 2- Jammu and Kashmir |
| (c) Nathu La | 3- Sikkim |
| (d) Palakkad Gap | 4- Kerala |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Nama Pass - Uttarakhand
 Namika La - Jammu and Kashmir
 Nathu La - Sikkim
 Palakkad Gap - Kerala

38. Match the following cities with their river banks -

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) Dibrugarh | 1- Brahmaputra |
| (b) Deesa | 2- Banas |
| (c) Ferozpur | 3- Sutlej |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Dibrugarh - Brahmaputra
 Deesa - Banas
 Ferozpur - Sutlej

39. Match the following caves in India -

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Tamil Nadu | 1- Mahabalipuram |
| (b) Maharashtra | 2- Kaviyoor |
| (c) Kerala | 3- Kanheri |
| (d) Bihar | 4- Sudama |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Tamil Nadu - Mahabalipuram
 Maharashtra - Kanheri
 Kerala - Kaviyoor
 Bihar - Sudama

40. Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India -

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Bhimbetka | 1- Madhya Pradesh |
| (b) Sun Temple | 2- Odisha |
| (c) Mahabodhi Temple | 3- Bihar |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bhimbetka - Madhya Pradesh
 Sun Temple - Odisha
 Mahabodhi Temple - Bihar

41. Match the following chemical compounds with one of their important properties:

| Chemical Name | Property |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (A) Sodium bicarbonate | 1- Gives vinegar its sour taste |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| (B) Acetic acid | 2- Used in fertilizers and as an explosive |
| (C) Calcium carbonate | 3- Used in baking as a leavening agent |
| (D) Ammonium nitrate | 4- Main component of shells and limestone |

Options:

- (A) a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2
- (B) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
- (C) a-4, b-2, c-3, d-1
- (D) a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3

Ans: (A)

Exp: Sodium bicarbonate → Leavening agent in baking → 3
 Acetic acid → Main acid in vinegar → 1
 Calcium carbonate → Found in limestone, shells → 4
 Ammonium nitrate → Used in fertilizers and explosives → 2

42. Match the following solar power plants with their respective locations or features:

| Solar Power Plant | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| (A) Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant | 1- One of the largest in Rajasthan, located in Bhadla |
| (B) Bhadla Solar Park | 2- Located in Madhya Pradesh, supplies power to Delhi Metro |
| (C) Pavagada Solar Park | 3- Located in Karnataka, among the world's biggest |
| (D) Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park | 4- Located in Andhra Pradesh, over 1000 MW capacity |

Options:

- (A) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
- (D) a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3

Ans: (A)

Exp: Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant → Madhya Pradesh, powers Delhi Metro → 2
 Bhadla Solar Park → Rajasthan, very large capacity → 1
 Pavagada Solar Park → Karnataka, among world's largest → 3
 Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park → Andhra Pradesh, 1000+ MW → 4

43. Match the disease with its corresponding vaccine:

| Disease | Vaccine |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Tuberculosis | 1. MMR Vaccine |
| (b) Measles | 2. BCG Vaccine |
| (c) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis | 3. DTP Vaccine |
| (d) Mumps | 4. IPV Vaccine |

Options:

- (A) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (C) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (D) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1

Ans: (A)

Exp: (a) Tuberculosis is prevented by the BCG Vaccine (Statement 2).
 (b) Measles is prevented by the MMR Vaccine (Statement 1).
 (c) Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis are prevented by the DTP Vaccine (Statement 3).
 (d) Mumps is prevented by the IPV Vaccine (Statement 4).

44. Match the dams with its associated location:

| Dam | Location |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Srisailem Left Bank Canal Dam | 1. Located in Telangana |
| (b) Dholi Dam | 2. Located in Bihar |
| (c) Tumkur Dam | 3. Located in Karnataka |
| (d) Banasura Sagar Dam | 4. Located in Kerala |

Options:

- (A) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4
- (D) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: (a) Srisailem Left Bank Canal Dam is located in Telangana (Statement 1).

- (b) Dholi Dam is located in Bihar (Statement 2).
- (c) Tumkur Dam is located in Karnataka (Statement 3).
- (d) Banasura Sagar Dam is located in Kerala (Statement 4).

45. Match the Following

| Column A (Respiratory Process/Term) | Column B (Description/Function) |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. External Respiration | A. Exchange of gases in tissues |
| 2. Internal Respiration | B. Process of breathing in and out |
| 3. Cellular Respiration | C. Conversion of glucose into ATP |

Options

- (A) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C
- (B) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A
- (C) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B
- (D) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

External Respiration (1) refers to the exchange of gases between the lungs and the blood (D). Internal Respiration (2) involves the exchange of gases in tissues (A). Cellular Respiration (3) is the process where glucose is converted into ATP (C).

46. Match the Following

| Column A (Blood Circulation Term) | Column B (Description/Function) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Arteries | A. Blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart |
| 2. Veins | B. Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart |
| 3. Capillaries | C. Microscopic vessels where gas and nutrient exchange occurs |

Options

- (A) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A
- (B) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B
- (C) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C
- (D) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

Arteries (1) are blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart (B).

Veins (2) are blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart (A).

Capillaries (3) are microscopic vessels where gas and nutrient exchange occurs (C).

47. Match the following constitutional committees and their heads -

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Drafting Committee | 1- B. R. Ambedkar |
| (b) Union Power Committee | 2- Jawaharlal Nehru |
| (c) Provincial Constitution Committee | 3- Rajendra Prasad |
| (d) Rules of Procedure Committee | 4- Vallabhbai Patel |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Drafting Committee – B. R. Ambedkar
 Union Power Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
 Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbai Patel
 Rules of Procedure Committee – Rajendra Prasad

48. Match the following borrowed constitutional provisions from different countries -

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Australia | 1- Concurrent list |
| (b) Japan | 2- Procedure Established by law |
| (c) US | 3- Independence of judiciary |

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

Australia - Concurrent list
 Japan - Procedure Established by law
 US - Independence of judiciary

49. Match the following Indian national schemes with their objectives/launch dates:

| Scheme | Objective/Launch Date |
|--------|-----------------------|
| | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| (A) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana | 1. 2014, To provide affordable housing for all by 2022 |
| (B) Digital India Programme | 2. 2015, To ensure universal digital literacy and improve online infrastructure |
| (C) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan | 3. 2014, To eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation across India |
| (D) Make in India | 4. 2014, To promote manufacturing and increase the contribution of the sector to the GDP |

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1
- (C) a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1
- (D) a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3

Ans:

Exp:

Explanation:

(A) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY): Launched in 2014, this scheme's objective is to provide affordable housing for all by 2022.
 (B) Digital India Programme: Launched in 2015, it aims to ensure universal digital literacy and improve online infrastructure, thereby enabling more people to access digital services.
 (C) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Launched in 2014, its key objective is to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation across India.
 (D) Make in India: Launched in 2014, this initiative aims to promote manufacturing and make India a global hub for manufacturing and innovation.

50. Match the following Indian leaders with their major contributions:

| Leader | Contribution |
|--------|--------------|
|--------|--------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| (A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel | 1. Played a major role in the integration of princely states into India |
| (B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar | 2. Architect of the Indian Constitution and social justice reform |
| (C) Subhas Chandra Bose | 3. Founded the Indian National Army (INA) to fight for independence |
| (D) Jawaharlal Nehru | 4. First Prime Minister of India, championed economic modernization |

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (C) a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3

Ans:

Exp:

Explanation:

(A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Known as the Iron Man of India, he played a crucial role in the integration of princely states into the Indian Union after independence.
 (B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: He was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and is also known for his efforts in promoting social justice and fighting for the rights of Dalits.
 (C) Subhas Chandra Bose: Bose is remembered for his founding of the Indian National Army (INA) to fight against British rule and is one of the most prominent leaders in the struggle for India's independence.
 (D) Jawaharlal Nehru: As India's first Prime Minister, Nehru championed the cause of economic modernization and industrialization, which laid the foundation for India's future development.

"You Learn More From Failure Than From Success. Don't Let It Stop You. Failure Builds Character."

"If You Are Working On Something That You Really Care About, You Don't Have To Be Pushed. The Vision Pulls You."

Quick Bytes

- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Introduces AI Anchor Ankita
- Indian forces launch Operation Nader against terrorists in Tral
- Harvansh Chawla, a senior lawyer and international trade expert, has been appointed as Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI).
- UN Lowers India's 2025 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.3%, Cites Global Headwinds
- Anurag Bhushan Appointed as India's Ambassador to Sweden
- India-EU Launch ₹391 Crore Joint Research Initiative on Marine Pollution and Green Hydrogen
- FIFA Lifts Suspension on Congo Republic's Football Federation
- Srihari LR Becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster
- Pankaj Advani Clinches 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title in Mumbai
- Neeraj Chopra Honoured with Honorary Lt. Colonel Rank in Territorial Army
- World's First Commercial-Scale E-Methanol Plant Begins Operations in Denmark
- Trump Announces Removal of All U.S. Sanctions on Syria, Signaling New Diplomatic Chapter
- PNB to Exit India SME Asset Reconstruction Company, Sells Stake for ₹34 Crore
- Brazilian Scientist Mariangela Hungria Wins 2025 World Food Prize for Sustainable Farming Innovation
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Indian Army Air Defence signed a contract for the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS) to combat aerial threats.
- RBI Imposes Penalties on Deutsche Bank AG & Yes Bank
- R Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Chess Classic in Romania
- Doha Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to breach 90 m
- President Droupadi Murmu honored Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Gulzar with the 58th Jnanpith Award, recognizing their outstanding contributions to literature.
- Jamia Millia Suspends All MoUs with Turkish Institutions Over Security
- Indian Army Conducts Teesta Prahar Exercise in West Bengal
- Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria, has been named the 2025 World Food Prize Laureate.
- Honduras officially opened its embassy in New Delhi, reflecting growing diplomatic and economic engagement with India.
- "Samudrayaan: India's First Manned Deep Ocean Mission to Launch by 2026"
- India and Japan's Chandrayaan-5 (also called LUPEX) mission is advancing to the design phase, aiming to detect water and water-ice at the Moon's south pole.
- International Museum Day 2025 Celebrated Across India on 18th May. This year's theme, "Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities," focuses on adapting museums to modern societal shifts.
- IIT Delhi Launches 'Manasvi' Mentorship to for High-School Girls
- Sanjay Seth will lead India's delegation at the 17th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025) in Malaysia.
- Justice Kempaiah Somashekar Appointed Chief Justice of MHC
- CCI Approves Bajaj Allianz Acquisition by Bajaj Finserv & Partners
- Mizoram Declared India's First Fully Literate State
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the e-Zero FIR initiative
- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has launched the Indira Soura Giri Jala Vikasam scheme from Macharam village in Nagarkurnool district.
- M.R. Srinivasan, pioneer of India's nuclear energy programme died
- India receives WHO certification for elimination of Trachoma
- India Beat Bangladesh 4-3 to Lift 2025 SAFF U-19 Football Title
- Geeta Samota: First CISF Officer to Summit Mount Everest
- Sudan Appoints Kamil Idris as First PM Since 2023 Civil War
- Dr Jayant Narlikar, renowned astrophysicist, passes away at 86 years
- India Ranks 151st in World Press Freedom Index
- AIIMS Bhopal secures 2nd rank nationwide in digital OPD registration
- Vishnu Prasad Versatile Malayalam Actor Passed Away

- Kuwait's Jazeera Airways partners with TCS for AI-led transformation
- Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari took charge as the VCoA
- The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and NITI Aayog have announced a strategic partnership aimed at nurturing vibrant, place-based entrepreneurship ecosystems across India.
- CCI Approves KKR's Acquisition of Majority Stake in HealthCare Global Enterprises
- CCI Greenlights Major Stake Acquisition in Coca-Cola India Arm by Jubilant and Goldman Sachs
- India Recalls IMF Executive Director K.V. Subramanian Ahead of Tenure End
- Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins a second term
- FAO Launches AIM4NatuRe Initiative to Boost Ecosystem Restoration
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out maiden flight-trials of its Stratospheric Airship Platform from Sheopur Trial site at Madhya Pradesh.
- Subhasish Bose is named Men's Player of the Year, while Soumya Guguloth claims Women's Player of the Year at the AIFF Awards 2025.
- Governor Jishnu Dev Verma inaugurates Babuji Vanam, the world's first energy transmission garden, at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad.
- TCS, IBM partner to build India's largest Quantum Computing Hub
- Yoga practitioner Baba Sivanand passes away in Varanasi
- Anarghya Abhishek Panchawatkar of Gurugram has clinched the gold medal at the 11th Budokan International Karate Championship held in Dubai.
- China Clinches 14th Sudirman Cup Title Despite An Seyoung's Heroics
- President Trump imposes 100% tariff on films produced outside US
- Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu grants in-principle approval for Greenfield airports in Kota, Rajasthan, and Puri, Odisha.
- Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin announces that May 5 will be declared as Traders Day, honoring the business community.
- Shri Prakash Magdum Appointed Managing Director of NFDC
- The UAE and France have signed an agreement to jointly develop a 1-gigawatt AI data center, set to be the largest in Europe.
- UNDP 2025: India ranks 130th on Human Development Index
- India's military has launched Operation Sindoor against Pakistan
- J&K Court Declares Ghulam Nabi Fai As A Proclaimed Offender In UAPA
- Cabinet approves ₹11,828.79 crore expansion plan for five new IITs
- FSIB Recommends Sanjay Joshi as CMD of Oriental Insurance
- The government has extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood for one year beyond 24th of this month.
- The revival of Dravyaratnākara Nighaṅṭu and Dravyanāmākara Nighaṅṭu marks a milestone in Ayurvedic manuscript preservation.
- Rohit Sharma Bids Farewell to Test Cricket After a Decade-Long Journey
- India and the United Kingdom have signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after nearly three years of negotiations.
- The Supreme Court recently termed Punjab's de-notification of land acquired for the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal an act of "high-handedness".
- DPIIT Expands Credit Guarantee Scheme to Boost Startup Funding. The CGSS guarantee cover per borrower has increased from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore, with coverage up to 85% for smaller loans.
- SBI Divests 13.19% Stake in Yes Bank to SMBC for ₹8,889 Crore
- Actor Sonu Sood Honoured for Philanthropic Work During COVID-19
- Robert Francis Prevost Becomes Elected Next Pope, Takes Name Leo XIV
- Bhutan signs MoU with Adani for 5,000 MW hydropower development
- Macron, Tusk sign France-Poland treaty with mutual defence clause amid conflict
- India and Chile Sign Terms of Reference for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations
- Andhra Govt Waives Property Tax for Defence Homes in Villages
- Bhutan Becomes First Country to Integrate Crypto Payments in Tourism
- Bandaru Dattatraya's Autobiography 'Janta Ki Kahani' Released by Vice-President

- Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes First Indian Lawyer to Receive World Law Congress Honour
- La Prensa Wins UNESCO Press Freedom Prize Amidst Repression
- Rajnath Singh inaugurates BrahMos Aerospace Testing Facility at LKO
- Sonu Sood Honored with Humanitarian Award at Miss World Festival
- Cabinet Approves Rs 3,706 Cr HCL-Foxconn Chip Plant in Jewar
- US and Saudi Arabia Sign Historic \$142 Billion Arms Deal During Trump's Riyadh Visit
- Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar Takes Charge at UPSC
- India Becomes 'Country Champion' at World Bank Land Conference 2025
- India Shines at Archery World Cup 2025 with 7 Medals
- Padma Shri Scientist Subbanna Ayyappan Found Dead in Cauvery River
- Taliban Suspends Chess in Afghanistan Over Sharia Law Concerns
- Kozhikode Joins WHO's Global Age-Friendly Cities Network
- Israel Launches \$1.4B National Food Security Plan for 2050
- Justice Surya Kant Appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman
- Payal Kapadia Receives French Honour for Cinema Contribution
- CSIR-IMMT Signs Pacts with Russian Institutes for Mineral Tech
- China Launches Shenzhou-20 Mission to Space Station
- India to Allow 49% Foreign Stake Investment in Nuclear Power
- Hubballi Airport Wins Platinum Honour for Green Initiatives
- DRDO Achieves Major Hypersonic Tech Milestone with Scramjet Combustor Test
- Muttayil Govinda Sankara Narayanan Passes Away At The Age of 92
- Fitch Ratings has downgraded India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 6.4%, citing global trade tensions and the US-China trade war.
- Madhusudan Sai Honored with Fiji's Highest Recognition for Humanitarian Efforts
- National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) Honored with Udyog Vikas Award
- India Signs \$7.4 Billion Deal with France for Rafale Fighter Jets
- Delhi Launches 'Ayushman Vay Vandana' Scheme Offering Free Rs 10 Lakh Health Cover to Seniors 70+
- Brazil World Cup Winner Jair da Costa Dies at 84
- RBI Cancels License of Imperial Urban Co-op Bank
- Renowned Historian M G S Narayanan Passed Away
- Anant Ambani Appointed Executive Director of Reliance Industries
- Lt Gen JP Mathew Relinquishes CISC Appointment on Superannuation
- IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia Resigns Amid ₹2,000 Crore Derivatives Accounting Lapse
- President Appoints Justice Gavai As 52nd CJI Of India
- IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjijal Assumes Charge as the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar
- Amazon Launched Satellite for Project Kuiper Broadband Internet
- Kamla Persad-Bissessar's Comeback as PM of Trinidad and Tobago

"People Who Are Crazy Enough To Think They Can Change The World, Are The Ones Who Do."

"Failure Will Never Overtake Me If My Determination To Succeed Is Strong Enough."

Infographics

The World's Record Heat Waves

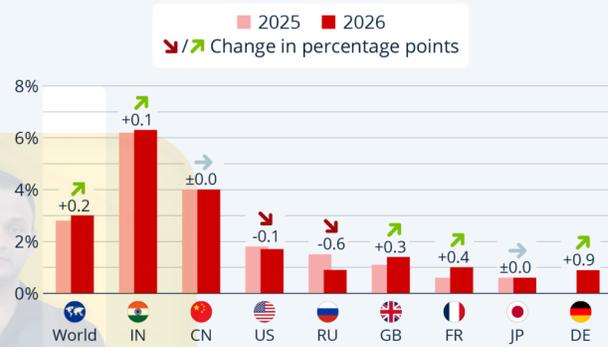
Selection of national heat records broken during the last six years, by country (in °C/F)



As of Apr. 30, 2025
Sources: World Meteorological Organization, media reports, Statista research

IMF: India Remains Fastest-Growing Economy

Real GDP growth projections for selected countries, by year

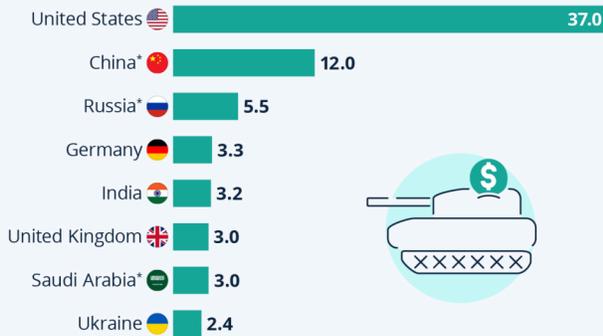


As of Apr. 2025
Source: IMF

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The Countries Dominating Global Military Spending

Share of worldwide military spending in 2024, by country (in percent)



* SIPRI estimate
Source: SIPRI

Malaria Deaths Plummet in Southeast Asia

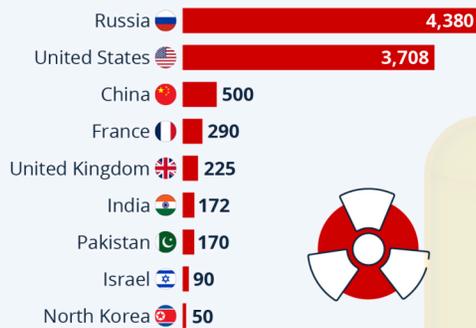
Estimated number of malaria deaths in Southeast Asia and selected countries in the region in 2000 and 2023



* Includes countries in Southeast and South Asia
Source: WHO World Malaria Report 2024

The Countries Armed With Nuclear Weapons

Estimated nuclear warhead inventories (as of Jan. 2024)*

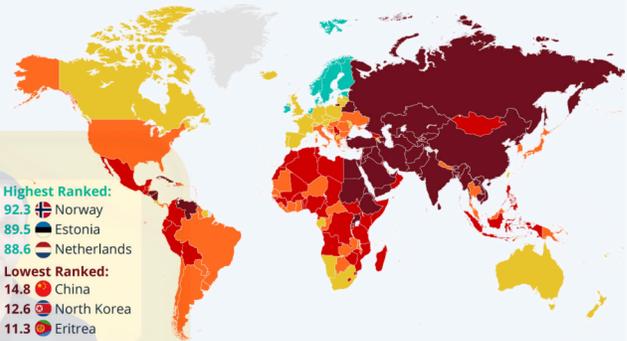


* Deployed warheads as well as warheads in central storage. Excludes retired warheads
Source: SIPRI

The State of World Press Freedom

Countries ranked by level of press freedom in 2025*

Legend: Good situation (Green), Satisfactory situation (Yellow), Noticeable problems (Orange), Difficult situation (Red), Very serious situation (Dark Red)



* 100 = best possible score. Index based on attacks on journalists, expert interviews covering security, legal, social, economic and political aspects
Source: World Press Freedom Index/Reporters Without Borders

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India's Military Budget Outgrows Pakistan's

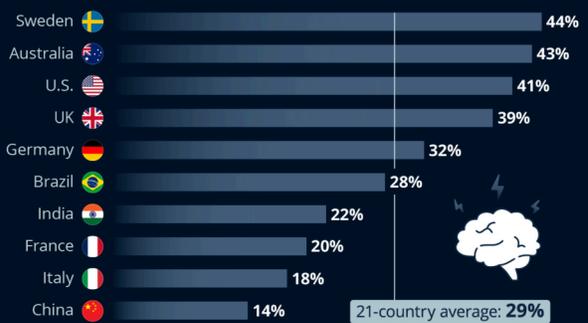
Total military expenditure by India and Pakistan (in billion U.S. dollars)



At current prices and exchange rates
Source: SIPRI

How Widespread Are Stress, Depression and Anxiety?

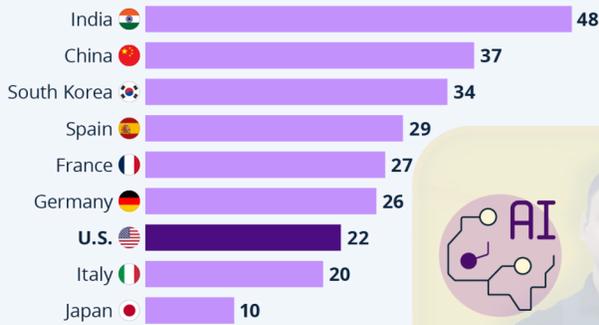
Share of respondents in selected countries who have experienced mental health problems in the last 12 months



1,900-9,700 respondents (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Apr. 2024-Mar. 2025
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Few Americans Enjoy Using AI

Share of respondents from selected countries who like to use AI applications like ChatGPT (in percent)



12,000-60,000 respondents (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Apr. 2024-Mar. 2025
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Sleepless in Sweden

Share of respondents in selected countries who suffered from sleep disorders in the last twelve months (in %)*



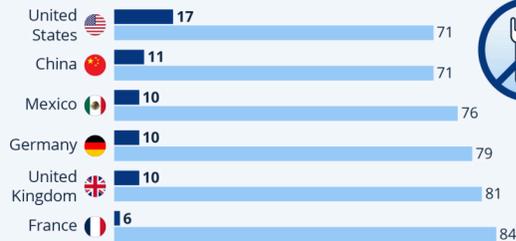
* Problems falling asleep or staying asleep, among others
1,700-9,700 respondents (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Apr. 2024-Mar. 2025
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

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How Widespread Are Food Intolerances?

Share of respondents from selected countries who said they had/didn't have a food intolerance (in percent)

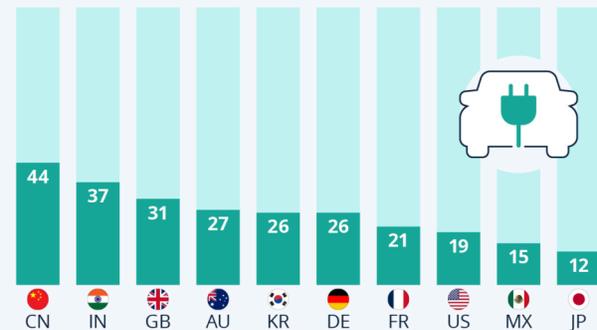
■ Yes, confirmed by health professional ■ No intolerance



1,050 respondents (18-74 y/o) per country surveyed Sep. 2024
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Which Nations Are Considering Electric Vehicles?

Share of respondents in selected countries who would consider an EV when buying a car (in percent)



~2,000-10,000 respondents (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Apr. 2024-Mar. 2025
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Only One Pope Lived Longer Than Francis

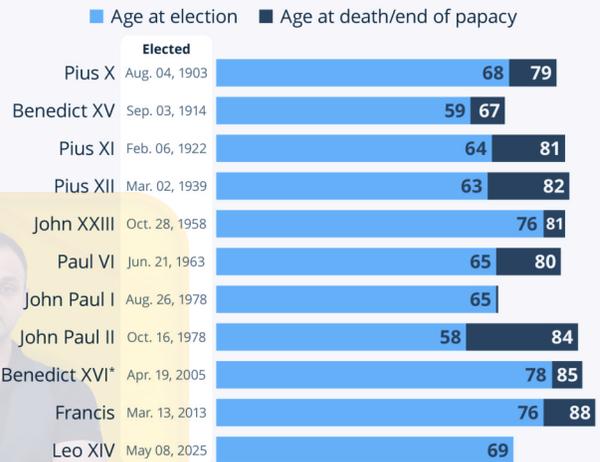
Years lived by the most senior popes in office and lengths of their reign



As of Apr. 21, 2025
Sources: Vaticintips, Wikipedia, Statista calculations

Leo XIV Is the Youngest Pope Since John Paul II

Age of popes at election and end of papacy since 1900

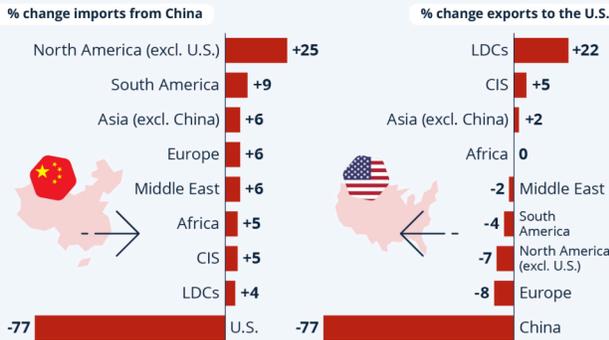


* Benedict XVI renounced the papacy in 2013 at age 85 and died at age 95 in 2022.
Source: Wikipedia

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WTO: Chinese Exports to U.S. Expected to Drop by 77%

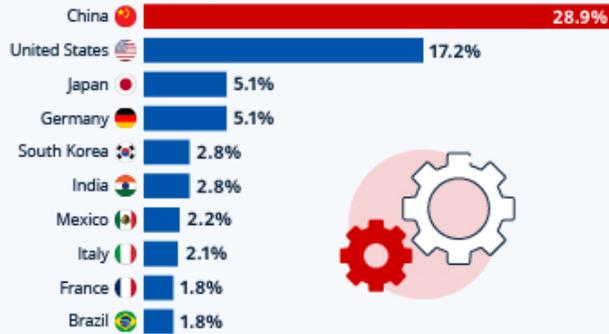
Projected changes in merchandise exports to the U.S. and imports from China in 2025 (in percent)



Source: World Trade Organization

China Is the World's Manufacturing Superpower

Countries with the highest share of global manufacturing output in 2023*



* Output measured on a value-added basis in current U.S. dollars
Source: United Nations Statistics Division



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