

Monthly CURRENT AFFAIRS

BY- UC ACADEMY

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UPSC CAPF | CDS | AFCAT AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS

*Bihar SIR Controversy:
Explained*

*FRANCE, BOLIVIA, and JAPAN
appoint new national leaders.*

*The importance of Sir Creek:
Explained*

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

2025

AT A GLANCE

*SABARIMALA GOLD-PLATING
Controversy Explained*

*The Waning of
THE MAOIST MOVEMENT
in India*

**HENLEY PASSPORT
INDEX 2025:**
Singapore Tops, India Ranks 85th

**70th FILMFARE AWARDS &
SARASWATI SAMMAN**
presented

*Centre cancels
FCRA licence of
Sonam Wangchuk's NGO*

India Wins Asia Cup 2025
ABHISHEK SHARMA
Claim Top Award



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Dear Aspirants,

"Dreams don't work unless you do — because ambition without effort is just a wish. Every page you read, every concept you understand, and every moment you stay consistent brings you closer to turning that dream into reality."

In the pursuit of becoming a civil servant, current affairs form the backbone of preparation. They are not merely about staying updated with events—they represent your understanding of governance, diplomacy, economy, and society in motion. For UPSC aspirants, consistent engagement with current developments transforms static knowledge into dynamic insight, enabling you to connect concepts, analyze deeply, and write meaningfully.

This month's edition brings a holistic and analytical coverage of key national and international issues crucial for UPSC preparation. We begin with the Bihar SIR Controversy and the Sabarimala Gold-Plating issue, exploring their implications on governance, accountability, and public institutions. Globally, France, Bolivia, and Japan have witnessed leadership changes, marking significant shifts in international relations and policy priorities.

Our special feature on the Nobel Prize Winners 2025 highlights groundbreaking contributions across disciplines—valuable for understanding innovation, science, and peace efforts worldwide. Meanwhile, analytical pieces like The Importance of Sir Creek and The Waning of the Maoist Movement in India delve into India's security and territorial dynamics—core areas for aspiring administrators to grasp.

We also spotlight India's cultural and social landscape through the 70th Filmfare Awards and Saraswati Samman, celebrating creativity and literary excellence. In sports, India's Asia Cup 2025 victory and Abhishek Sharma's stellar performance embody teamwork and determination—qualities every aspirant must imbibe. Furthermore, coverage of the Centre's cancellation of Sonam Wangchuk's NGO's FCRA licence and the Henley Passport Index 2025—with Singapore leading and India ranking 85th—adds vital context to policy, civil society, and global perception themes often reflected in UPSC examinations.

As you read, remember—current affairs are not just news; they are the story of the world you will soon help govern.

Keep questioning. Keep learning. Keep moving forward.



— This Edition Includes —

- ⊙ Nobel Prize Winners 2025
- ⊙ Appointments
- ⊙ Polity & Governance
- ⊙ International Relations & Events
- ⊙ Economy & Trade
- ⊙ Defence & Security
- ⊙ Social Issues & Schemes
- ⊙ Environment & Ecology
- ⊙ Science & Technology
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Business News, Financial News, Economy News, Politics News, India News, Breaking News, Indian Economy, International News, Sports News, and many more topics covered.....

NEWS CREDIT

BBC, Reuters, Aljazeera, PIB, PTI, Business Standard, The Hindu, Indian Express, Times of India, Economic Times, Business Line, India Today, Money control And all other leading Newspapers

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Nobel Prize Winners 2025

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2025



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
John Clarke
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Michel H. Devoret
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
John M. Martinis
Prize share: 1/3

To: John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis

For: The discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit

By: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Know what they have been awarded for:

This year's Nobel Prize in Physics honours John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis for showing quantum effects in a circuit large enough to hold by hand. Using superconducting materials separated by a thin barrier (a Josephson junction), they demonstrated quantum tunnelling—where current escapes a trapped state—and quantised energy levels, meaning the system absorbed or released energy in fixed amounts. Their work proved that quantum mechanics can apply to macroscopic systems, not just tiny particles, paving the way for advanced technologies like quantum computers, cryptography, and sensors based on quantum principles.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Susumu Kitagawa
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Richard Robson
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Omar M. Yaghi
Prize share: 1/3

To: Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi

For: The development of metal–organic frameworks"

By: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Know what they have been awarded for:

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry goes to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar Yaghi for creating metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) — crystal-like structures with tiny cavities that can trap or let gases flow through. These frameworks are made of metal ions linked by organic molecules, forming porous materials that can store gases, capture carbon dioxide, purify water, or speed up chemical reactions. Robson first discovered the concept in 1989, while Kitagawa and Yaghi later made MOFs stable and flexible. Their innovations now enable the design of custom materials with major environmental and industrial applications.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Mary E. Brunkow
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Frederick J. Ramsdell
Prize share: 1/3



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Shimon Sakaguchi
Prize share: 1/3

To: Mary E. Brunkow, Frederick J. Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi

For: their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance

By: The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

Know what they have been awarded for:

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine honours Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for discovering how the immune system avoids attacking the body. Sakaguchi identified regulatory T cells in 1995, which act as “guards” to prevent autoimmune reactions. Later, Brunkow and Ramsdell found that mutations in the *Foxp3* gene cause severe autoimmune diseases, and Sakaguchi linked this gene to regulatory T cells. Their discoveries explained how the immune system maintains balance, founding the field of peripheral immune tolerance and opening new paths for treating autoimmune diseases, cancer, and improving organ transplants.

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2025



To: László Krasznahorkai
 For: his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art
 By: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Know what they have been awarded for:

Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai, born in 1954, is known for his dense, apocalyptic novels exploring chaos, faith, and human folly. His breakthrough *Sátántangó* (1985) and later works like *The Melancholy of Resistance*, *War & War*, and *Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming* depict decaying societies and moral collapse through long, winding prose. His recent *Herscht 07769* (2021) examines violence and beauty in modern Germany. Influenced by Kafka and Dostoyevsky, he also draws on Eastern philosophy in *Seiobo There Below* (2008) and *A Mountain to the North...* (2003), meditating on art, beauty, and creation. Krasznahorkai's works blend absurdism, spirituality, and visionary intensity.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2025



To: Maria Corina Machado
 For: her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy
 By: The Norwegian Nobel Committee

Know what they have been awarded for:

The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Maria Corina Machado for her courageous fight for democracy and human rights in Venezuela. As leader of the country's democracy movement, she has united a once-divided opposition and promoted peaceful, fair elections despite severe repression. Her decades-long work, from founding *Súmate* to leading the 2024 opposition campaign, reflects her belief in "ballots over bullets." Living under threats and in hiding, she continues to inspire millions. Machado's peaceful struggle for democratic transition embodies the spirit of freedom, courage, and hope that the Nobel Peace Prize seeks to honour.

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2025



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Joel Mokyr
 Prize share: 1/2

Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Philippe Aghion
 Prize share: 1/4

Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Peter Howitt
 Prize share: 1/4

To: Joel Mokyr
 For: having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress
 To: Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt
 For: the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction.
 By: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Know what they have been awarded for:

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for explaining how innovation drives long-term economic growth. Mokyr showed that sustained progress requires scientific understanding and societies open to new ideas, unlike past eras of stagnation. Aghion and Howitt developed the concept of "creative destruction," where new technologies replace old ones, boosting progress but also disrupting industries. Their work highlights how managing these conflicts constructively is essential to prevent innovation from being blocked. Together, they showed that continuous innovation is vital to maintain growth and prevent economic stagnation.

Appointments

Bolivia elects centre-right Rodrigo Paz as president



Bolivians have elected Rodrigo Paz of the centre-right Christian Democratic Party (PDC) as their new president, ending nearly two decades of governance by the Movement for Socialism (MAS) party.

Electoral Outcome

In the run-off election, Paz secured 54.5% of the vote, defeating former interim President Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga, who garnered 45.4%.

Political Background

Paz, 58, is the son of former left-wing President Jaime Zamora. He studied economics in the United States and later served as a city councillor, mayor of Tarija, and senator since 2020.

Policy Agenda

Paz has pledged a “capitalism for all” approach, focusing on tax cuts, tariff reductions, and decentralization of the national government.

Economic Challenges

Bolivia faces annual inflation nearing 25%, critical shortages of US dollars and fuel, and widespread protests over high prices and long queues for basic goods.

Political Landscape

The MAS party, once dominant in Bolivian politics, failed to advance a candidate to the run-off election due to internal divisions and the absence of former President Evo Morales, who was barred from running.

Transition of Power

Outgoing President Luis Arce is set to leave office on November 8 after serving a single term, as per Bolivia’s constitutional limits.

Bolivia

- Capital: Sucre
- Currency: Bolivian boliviano
- Official languages: Spanish, Puquina, Trinitario Language, Mòoré, etc.

Sanae Takaichi Becomes Japan’s First Female Prime Minister



Sanae Takaichi has created history by becoming Japan’s first-ever female Prime Minister, marking a significant milestone in the country’s political landscape. She was elected by Japan’s Parliament, receiving 125 votes in the Upper House—just one above the simple majority—and 237 votes in the Lower House, surpassing the required 233 votes.

Political Background

- Entry into Politics: Takaichi began her political journey in 1993, securing a seat in Japan’s Lower House (House of Representatives) as an independent candidate.
- Party Affiliation: Joined the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1996, Japan’s long-ruling conservative political party.
- Cabinet Roles: Served under former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, where she held multiple key portfolios, including:
 - Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs
 - Minister of Economic Security (2022–2024)

Current Challenges for the New Government

Takaichi’s administration faces several economic and geopolitical challenges, including:

- Sluggish Economic Growth and low domestic demand.
- Rising inflation and commodity prices.
- Depreciation of the Japanese Yen, impacting imports and household income.
- Security Concerns amid rising regional tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

Hyundai Motor India Appoints Tarun Garg as New MD & CEO



Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has appointed Tarun Garg as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO), effective January 1, 2026, subject to shareholder approval. Tarun Garg becomes the first Indian national to lead HMIL in its 29-year history. Currently, Mr. Garg serves as Whole-time Director & Chief Operating Officer (COO) of HMIL. The outgoing MD, Unsoo Kim, will return to a strategic role at Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), South Korea.

Hyundai Motor India:

- Founded: 6 May 1996
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India (corporate headquarters)
- Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, India (registered office)

RBI Appoints Sonali Sen Gupta and Sanjay Kumar Hansda as Executive Directors



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Sonali Sen Gupta as Executive Director (ED), effective October 9, 2025. This follows the earlier appointment of Sanjay Kumar Hansda as Executive Director, effective March 3, 2025, who joined the Bank on October 6, 2025 after completing his deputation as Senior Advisor to the IMF.

Sonali Sen Gupta – Executive Director

- Previous Role: Regional Director, Karnataka, RBI Bangalore Regional Office.

- Experience: Over 30 years in RBI, specializing in financial inclusion, banking regulation, supervision, and human resource management.

Sanjay Kumar Hansda – Executive Director

- Previous Role: Adviser in the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), RBI.
- International Experience: Served as Senior Advisor to ED (India) at IMF; worked as Financial Stability Analyst at the Bank of England.

Union Health Ministry Appoints Actor Deepika Padukone As First-Ever Mental Health Ambassador



Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been appointed as India's inaugural Mental Health Ambassador by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This marks a significant step in the country's efforts to raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Advocacy and Initiatives

Padukone has been a vocal advocate for mental health, sharing her personal struggles with depression to inspire others. In 2015, she founded The Live Love Laugh Foundation to provide support and resources for those affected by mental health challenges. Through her foundation, she has launched various campaigns and initiatives aimed at promoting mental well-being and encouraging open conversations about mental health.

French President Emmanuel Macron reappointed Sebastien Lecornu as prime minister



French President Emmanuel Macron has reappointed Sébastien Lecornu as Prime Minister, just days after his resignation. Macron has asked him to form a new government and present a national budget aimed at ending the political deadlock in France.

Background to the Resignation

Lecornu's surprise resignation earlier this week came after internal disagreements within his newly formed Cabinet. His proposed lineup was immediately rejected by a key coalition partner, deepening the government crisis.

Terms of the New Mandate

Lecornu accepted the reappointment out of "duty," committing to deliver a budget before year-end and to address everyday challenges facing French citizens. He has instructed ministers not to run for the 2027 presidential election, emphasizing renewal and diverse expertise in the new Cabinet.

France

- Capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- Prime minister: Sébastien Lecornu
- Official language: French

Shirish Chandra Murmu takes charge as RBI deputy governor for three years



Shirish Chandra Murmu officially took charge as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term, following his elevation from his earlier role as Executive Director.

Succession & Previous Role

Murmu succeeds M. Rajeshwar Rao, whose term as Deputy Governor had concluded. Before this appointment, Murmu served as an Executive Director at the RBI.

Departments Under His Charge

As Deputy Governor, Murmu will oversee multiple key departments:

- Regulation
- Communication
- Government & Bank Accounts
- Enforcement

Other Deputy Directors of RBI:

- Dr. Poonam Gupta
- Swaminathan Janakiraman
- T. Rabi Sankar

Church of England gets first-ever woman head as Sarah Mullally named Archbishop of Canterbury



Sarah Mullally has been officially named as the first woman to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury, marking a historic change in the leadership of the Church of England.

Long Journey to the Top

Mullally was selected after a long search and approval process within the church hierarchy. Her appointment breaks centuries of tradition in a church that has always had male archbishops.

Her Background & Experience

She previously served as Bishop of London, one of the most senior positions in the Church of England. Mullally has a background in both religious ministry and healthcare, bringing a blend of pastoral and administrative skills to the role.

Rajesh Agrawal assumes charge as Commerce Secretary



Rajesh Agrawal, IAS (1994 batch), assumed charge as Commerce Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Experience & Contributions:

Over three decades in governance, policymaking, and implementation across sectors such as skilling, human resource development, apprenticeship, power, fertilisers, agriculture, and MSMEs. Represented India at the WorldSkills Governing Council for three years.

Led sectoral reforms in states including Manipur, Jharkhand, and Bihar.

Commerce Secretary:

Senior-most civil servant in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Responsible for trade policy, international negotiations, export promotion, and industrial reforms.

Appointed from Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has retained the chairmanship of the External Affairs Committee of Lok Sabha.



In a key parliamentary development, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has retained the chairmanship of the Lok Sabha's External Affairs Committee. The Lok Sabha also reconstituted several parliamentary standing committees and formed two select committees for the Public Trusts (Amendment) Provisions Bill and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill.

Other reappointments:

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi (DMK) – Chairperson, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Committee.

Key Congress members in standing committees:

- Rahul Gandhi – Defence Committee
- Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – Home Committee
- P. Chidambaram – Finance Committee
- Jairam Ramesh – Science & Technology, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Committee

Other notable committee chairpersons:

- P. C. Mohan – Social Justice & Empowerment
- Anurag Thakur – Coal, Mining & Steel
- Saptagiri Shankar – Rural Development & Panchayati Raj
- Kirti Azad Jha – Chemicals & Fertilizers
- Rajiv Pratap Rudy – Water Resources
- Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy – Housing & Urban Affairs
- C. M. Ramesh – Railways

- Sunil Tatkere – Petroleum & Natural Gas
- Basavaraj Bommai – Labour, Textiles & Skill Development
- Bharatibhari Mahtab – Finance
- Shirang Appa Chandu Barne – Energy
- Radha Mohan Singh – Defence
- Nishikant Dubey – Communications & IT
- Charanjit Singh Channi – Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Food Processing

Parliamentary Standing Committees:

- Purpose: Examine bills, budgets, and government policies in detail; provide expert recommendations.

South Korea appoints former FM Kang as first female ambassador to US



Former Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has been officially appointed as South Korea's first female envoy to Washington.

Background & Experience

Kang served as South Korea's Foreign Minister (2017–2021) and held senior UN positions, including Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. She holds a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Role & Expectations

She will oversee diplomatic coordination with the U. S. , including upcoming summits, tariff discussions, and strengthening bilateral ties.

South Korea

- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- President: Lee Jae Myung

Praveer Ranjan assumes charge as CISF DG



Praveer Ranjan has taken over as the Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), while Praveen Kumar has been named the new DG of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Background & Appointments

Their appointments were approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). They will assume their roles following the retirement of their predecessors on 30 September 2025.

About Praveer Ranjan

He belongs to the AGMUT cadre.

Previously served as Special DG in CISF, overseeing sensitive sectors like airport security. Has held key roles in his 32-year policing career, including in Delhi Police, CBI, and as DGP in Chandigarh.

About Praveen Kumar

He is from the West Bengal cadre. Currently serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Will take over as ITBP DG, a role critical for border management along India's Himalayan frontier.

Mithun Manhas Becomes 37th President of BCCI



At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BCCI, former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas was elected as the 37th President of BCCI.

- Predecessor: He succeeds Roger Binny, who stepped down after attaining the age of 70.
- Selection: Manhas emerged as the consensus candidate after an informal meeting of key board stakeholders in New Delhi.
- Background: Mithun Manhas is a former first-class all-rounder who represented Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir in domestic cricket.

BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India):

- Established: 1928.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Governs cricket in India, including domestic tournaments, IPL, and international matches.
- Legal Status: Registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- Current Secretary: Jay Shah.

Govt appoints new chiefs for Union Bank, Central Bank of India



Asheesh Pandey has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India for three years.

Kalyan Kumar will take charge as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India, succeeding M. V. Rao, when he retires.

Approval & Recommendation Process

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved both appointments for an initial three-year term. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) had recommended Pandey and Kumar for these leadership roles on May 30.

Backgrounds of the Appointees

Asheesh Pandey was the Executive Director at Bank of Maharashtra before this appointment. Kalyan Kumar is currently Executive Director at Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Union Bank

- Formerly: The Union Bank of India Ltd. (1919–1969)
- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Founder: Sardar Shashisekhar Singh Bhumihar Seth Sitaram Poddar
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Exe Chairman: Srinivasan Varadarajan

Central Bank of India

- Founded: 21 December 1911
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Exe Chairman: Tapan Ray

Sudhanshu Vats named as new chairman of ASCI



Sudhanshu Vats, Managing Director of Pidilite Industries, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Leadership Team Updates

Alongside Vats, the new leadership team includes:

- Vice-Chairman: S. Subramanyeswar
- Honorary Treasurer: Paritosh Joshi

ASCI's 40th Anniversary Initiatives

To commemorate its 40th year, ASCI has announced several initiatives:

- AdWise Program: A children's advertising and media literacy program aiming to train over one million school students to critically assess advertising messages.
- Research on Gen Alpha: Ethnographic research to develop guidelines for advertising targeted at the new generation growing up with technology.
- Expansion Plans: Opening new offices in Bengaluru and Delhi.
- Legal Resource Hub: Launching a comprehensive resource on advertising codes and laws in partnership with law firm Khaitan & Co.
- Podcast Series: A podcast series in collaboration with The Logical Indian and Marketing Minds.
- Visual Asset for Members: A new visual asset for ASCI members to signal their commitment to responsible advertising.

Vivek Gupta of Sanmarg elected president of Indian Newspaper Society



The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has elected Vivek Gupta, Managing Director of the Dainik Jagran Group, as its new President. INS is the apex body that represents the interests of newspaper publishers across India.

About Vivek Gupta

Vivek Gupta is a prominent media professional and the head of Dainik Jagran Group, one of India's largest Hindi-language newspaper chains. He has been actively involved in initiatives to strengthen the newspaper industry and promote responsible journalism.

About the Indian Newspaper Society (INS)

Founded in 1939, the INS serves as a platform for newspaper publishers to collaborate, discuss industry challenges, and promote best practices. It also works with government bodies to represent the interests of the print media sector in policy matters.

LTIMindtree's Whole-Time Director, President Nachiket Deshpande resigns



LTIMindtree, a prominent IT services company, has announced that Nachiket Deshpande, its Whole-Time Director and President, will resign effective October 31, 2025, to pursue new opportunities outside the organization.

LTIMindtree

- Founded: 23 December 1996
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- Non-Executive Chairman: S. N. Subrahmanyam
- CEO and Managing Director: Venu Lambu

Castrol India MD Resigns, Interim CEO Appointed



Lubricant manufacturer Castrol India's Managing Director Kedar Lele has resigned from the company.

- Reason: Resigned to pursue other professional opportunities outside the company.
- Effective Date: December 31, 2025 (end of business hours).
- Announcement Type: Made via regulatory filing to the BSE and NSE.

Interim Appointment:

- New Interim CEO: Saugata Basuray.
- Effective Date: January 1, 2026.

Polity & Governance

Govt Amends VOPPA Order to Tighten Edible Oil Regulations

Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2025 (VOPPA Order, 2025) has been notified by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, requiring all entities in the edible-oil supply chain to register on the National Single Window System (NSWS) and submit monthly data on production and stock through the designated portal.

Objective Behind the Move

The move aims to strengthen regulatory oversight and build a transparent framework for India's edible-oil ecosystem. Real-time data collection is viewed as critical for food-security policy and supply-chain resilience.

Industry Response and Warnings

The ministry reports a "large number" of units have already registered and begun reporting. At the same time, firms are warned that non-compliance will invite penal action under the VOPPA Order and the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008.

Enforcement & Inspections

To enforce the new regime, the department plans nationwide inspection drives and on-ground field verification of non-compliant units. The emphasis is on ensuring accurate data and preventing fragmentation of the supply chain.

What the Industry Must Do

- Submit monthly returns covering production, stock and availability.
- Ensure transparency and compliance to avoid penalties and strengthen food-security efforts.

Why it is needed?

- The government tightened rules for the edible oil industry to ensure transparency, accurate data reporting, and fair market practices.
- This step was needed because irregular reporting, stock manipulation, and lack of real-time data were affecting price stability and consumer protection.
- By enforcing stricter compliance and nationwide inspections, the government aims to monitor production, prevent hoarding, and strengthen food security.

Odisha Cabinet approves Jan Vishwas Ordinance 2025 to decriminalise minor regulatory offences

Odisha Cabinet Approves Three Ordinances to Enhance Ease of Doing Business

1. Odisha Jan Vishwas Ordinance, 2025

- Objective: Decriminalise minor offences by replacing criminal penalties with civil ones.
- Scope: Applies to 16 state legislations across nine departments, including municipal governance, cooperative societies, labour welfare, excise, fire services, and urban planning.
- Key Features:
 - Introduces graded civil penalties for procedural defaults.
 - Eliminates imprisonment for non-serious breaches.
 - Empowers designated officials to handle enquiries and appeals, reducing litigation costs and resolution time.
 - Impact: Aims to reduce redundant compliance burdens and promote a trust-based governance model.

2. Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

- Objective: Simplify labour law compliance for small businesses.
- Key Provisions:
 - Increases daily working hours from nine to ten.
 - Permits women to work night shifts across all types of factories.
- Impact: Enhances operational flexibility for businesses and promotes gender inclusivity in the workforce.

3. Odisha Factories (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

- Objective: Facilitate easier compliance with labour laws for industries.

Key Provisions:

- Allows women to work night shifts across all types of factories.
- Impact: Aims to modernise industrial operations and support women's participation in the workforce.

Odisha

- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Chief minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Districts: 30 (3 divisions)

Karnataka Cabinet nods to one menstrual leave per month for working women

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved a policy granting one day of menstrual leave per month to all working women in the state. This decision exceeds the committee's recommendation of six days annually, opting instead for twelve days (one per month) to better support women's health and workplace participation

Policy Rationale

The policy aims to acknowledge and address the physical challenges women face during menstruation, promoting a more inclusive and supportive work environment. By providing dedicated leave, the government seeks to reduce absenteeism and enhance overall productivity among female employees.

Implementation Details

The menstrual leave will be available to all women employed in government and private sectors within Karnataka. Employers are encouraged to accommodate this leave without penalizing employees, ensuring compliance with the new policy.

Governor Approves Minority Education Bill

The Governor of Uttarakhand has given approval to the Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill, marking a significant reform in the state's education system. The Bill paves the way for the abolition of the Madrasa Board and aims to integrate minority educational institutions into the mainstream framework of the state.

Integration with State Education System

Under the new provisions, all madrasas operating in Uttarakhand will be required to obtain recognition from the newly established Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority and affiliate themselves with the Uttarakhand Board of School Education (UBSE). With this move, Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to dissolve its Madrasa Board and bring minority schools under a uniform education system.

Implementation from July 2026

The reform will take effect from the academic session beginning July 2026. From then onward, all minority educational institutions in the state will adopt the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, ensuring that students receive modern, inclusive, and standardized education.

Significance of the Move

This decision reflects Uttarakhand's commitment to educational inclusivity, modernization, and transparency. By aligning madrasas with the state education board, the government aims to provide students from all backgrounds access to quality education, skill development, and future employment opportunities under a common academic framework.

Uttarakhand:

- Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisain (Summer)
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Founded: 9 November 2000

Significance: Uttarakhand is the first Indian state to dissolve its Madrasa Board and mainstream minority institutions.

Centre cancels FCRA licence of Sonam Wangchuk's NGO amid Leh protest

The Indian government has revoked the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), an NGO founded by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. The Ministry of Home Affairs cited discrepancies in SECMOL's financial accounts, including a fund transfer from Sweden that was deemed against "national interest."

Allegations Against SECMOL

The Ministry highlighted several irregularities:

- A foreign contribution of approximately ₹493,205 from Sweden intended for workshops on migration, climate change, food security, and sovereignty. The Ministry stated that funds for studying national sovereignty cannot be accepted as it is against national interests.
- A ₹350,000 deposit by Wangchuk into SECMOL's FCRA account during 2021-22, which the Ministry said violated Section 17 of the FCRA. SECMOL explained that the amount came from the sale of an old bus purchased in 2015 using FCRA funds, which should be returned to the FCRA account as per guidelines.
- An amount of ₹335,000 reported by SECMOL as a foreign contribution from Wangchuk, which did not appear in the FCRA account, violating Section 18 of the Act.
- A ₹54,600 transfer of local funds into the FCRA account, which SECMOL claimed was an error. The Ministry added that the transfer of these funds

into the FCRA account was a violation of Section 17 of the Act.

Wangchuk's Response

- Sonam Wangchuk responded by stating that he was only a donor to SECMOL, besides teaching there. He also added that he was unaware of the FCRA licence cancellation.

Ongoing Investigations

Additionally, Wangchuk's Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL) is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for alleged violations of FCRA rules.

This development comes amid recent protests in Leh, where demonstrators demanding statehood for Ladakh clashed with security forces, resulting in four deaths. Authorities have linked the unrest to Wangchuk's involvement in the movement.

Why unrest in the region?

The demand for statehood for Ladakh mainly stems from issues of political representation, local governance, and cultural identity. Here's the detailed reasoning in simple terms:

Union Territory Status Limitation:

In 2019, Ladakh was separated from Jammu & Kashmir and made a Union Territory (UT) without a legislature. This means the region does not have its own elected assembly and depends largely on the central government for decisions. Residents feel they lack political voice and autonomy compared to full-fledged states.

Development and Resources:

Locals argue that being a UT has limited funds and slower development in sectors like education, health, and infrastructure. Statehood would give Ladakh more control over its resources and budget allocation.

Preservation of Culture and Environment:

Ladakh has a unique culture and fragile ecosystem. Statehood is seen as a way to protect local traditions, land rights, and the environment while making development decisions locally.

Response to Local Unrest:

Recent protests, which saw clashes and casualties, highlight local dissatisfaction with the current governance structure.

In short: People are demanding statehood for Ladakh to gain political autonomy, better control over resources, and protection of culture and environment.

"You Are Never Too Old To Set Another Goal Or To Dream A New Dream."

Short Article

"A Red Sunset?" – The Waning of the Maoist Movement

Once a powerful insurgency in India, the Maoist or Naxal movement is now facing serious setbacks. In 2025, the government reported dozens of deaths and arrests of insurgents, while over a thousand surrendered. There is also growing debate within the movement about whether armed struggle can continue.

Heavy Pressure from Security Forces

- A major reason for the decline is the increasing pressure from security operations. The central and state governments have intensified operations against Maoist cadres. Many top leaders have been killed or arrested, breaking down the leadership structure of the group.
- Remaining strongholds are now limited to isolated forest areas like Bastar, Dandakaranya, and parts of the border between Chhattisgarh and Telangana. These regions are cut off, with fewer supplies and less influence.

Recruitment Problems and Social Change

- For years, the movement drew recruits from tribal communities and areas with fewer opportunities. But now, those same communities are benefiting more from government welfare, free education, and infrastructure. This has reduced the appeal of joining the Maoists.
- Also, young people who see smartphones, internet access, jobs, and modern amenities are less likely to risk life in guerrilla life. The shift in lifestyle and expectations makes the idea of struggle by arms seem less attractive.

Internal Division and Ideological Crisis

- At the highest level, there is division about the future direction of the movement. One senior leader has publicly called for the cessation of armed struggle, arguing that continuing it could destroy the party. Others insist on sticking with the original strategy of armed rebellion.
- This ideological split reflects a deeper crisis: can the Maoist strategy survive when the ground (both literally and figuratively) has shifted so much? The movement has ruled out fewer options —

perhaps peaceful politics or surrenders — than it once did.

Government's Changing Approach

- The state has not only used force but also worked to offer surrender and rehabilitation terms for those willing to give up arms. The number of districts affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has dropped sharply.
- Authorities see the movement on its back foot and are pushing to finish it off. But many are cautious. Past peace talks with Maoist groups have failed due to mutual distrust. The government often believes peace offers are temporary tactics; Maoist leaders suspect government offers are not genuine.

Does This Mean the End?

- Despite big losses, the Maoists are not yet gone. Some senior cadres still believe a future is possible, perhaps with a change of tactics. But the movement's ability to wage armed struggle is much diminished.
- Officials worry that the formal surrender of leaders could leave behind splintered groups, which might continue low-level violence or crime. The movement's ideological roots, though weakened, still have followers in remote areas.

Why It Matters for India

- The decline of the Maoist movement is significant for India's internal security and development. Areas once under Naxal influence have seen improved connectivity, more schools and health centers; reduced insurgency can mean safer lives and more focus on development.
- On the flip side, the way the state handles surrender, rehabilitation, justice, and local grievances will shape whether peace lasts. If government outreach is fair and development inclusive, discontent may drop further. But if past neglect or abuses are repeated, the danger of resurgence remains.

As India enters this phase, what happens next will be shaped by both state action and how much the movement itself can adapt. Whether this is truly the "sunset" of Maosim — or merely a retreat into shadows — depends on choices by many players: leaders, communities, and government alike.

Bihar SIR Controversy: From Risking Voter Exclusion to Ensuring Electoral Inclusion

What Was the Bihar SIR Controversy?

In June 2025, the Election Commission (EC) launched a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's voter list. Under this order, anyone not already on the 2003 electoral list (an estimated 2.93 crore people) was required to submit one of eleven prescribed documents to prove their right to vote. The rule drew sharp criticism because many saw it as a citizenship test in disguise.

Many traditional documents — like Aadhaar, EPIC (Voter ID), or ration cards — were not accepted initially, raising fears that vast numbers of eligible voters could be excluded.

Legal Pushback & Court Intervention

Soon after the new rules were announced, they were challenged in the Supreme Court. Critics argued the SIR conditions risked disenfranchising ordinary voters who might struggle to produce those documents. The EC defended itself, saying that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship, and cited concerns about forged or bogus ration cards.

The Supreme Court intervened, nudging the EC to relax its norms. One major change: accepting Aadhaar as a 12th valid document for proving eligibility. This shift was important to lessen the exclusion risk and align the process more with inclusion rather than restriction.

From Exclusion to Inclusion: Course Correction

Facing legal pressure and feedback from the ground, the EC changed its approach. Instead of forcing all unlisted persons to furnish documents, it aimed to link as many voters as possible back to the 2003 roll.

The EC machinery worked through existing government records and community registers (for example, family registers, caste survey data) to identify relatives or descendants of those already on the rolls. Officials were asked to avoid pushing voters to produce documents, and instead find administrative ways to include them.

By the end of the process, about 77% of Bihar's electors were connected to the 2003 list — with 52% directly found on 2003 rolls, and another 25% tied indirectly through relationships or other databases.

Results: Deletions, Additions & a Refreshed Voter List

When the SIR concluded:

- Approximately 68.6 lakh names were deleted from the voter rolls — mostly due to death, migration, or duplication.
- Around 21.5 lakh new names were added.
- Bihar's final voter count stood at 7.42 crore electors.
- The EC claimed that most of the removals were routine and justified. At the same time, the new additions reflected efforts to correct omissions.

Why This Matters

- The SIR episode in Bihar illustrates a delicate balance between electoral integrity and voter inclusion. Initially, the EC's move was viewed as heavy-handed and risky, putting legitimate voters at risk of exclusion. Legal intervention and feedback forced a more inclusive approach.
- This case underscores how election authorities must tread carefully: safeguards are needed against fraud, but not at the cost of disenfranchising ordinary citizens. It also shows that processes evolve — with courts, public feedback, and ground realities acting as checks on policy overreach.
- In Bihar, the EC's shift from rigid rules to flexible inclusion saved many from being unfairly excluded. Yet, it also opens questions: Are the safeguards strong enough? Will similar exercises elsewhere respect inclusive principles? The Bihar SIR debate may well become a reference point in how democracies manage the tension between voter verification and voter rights.

Supreme Court Allows Use of Green Crackers During Deepavali 2025

The Supreme Court of India has eased the year-long blanket ban on the sale and use of fireworks in Delhi-NCR. The decision allows the sale and use of "green crackers" approved by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) during Deepavali 2025.

Background of the Ban

In recent years, Delhi-NCR has witnessed severe air pollution levels during and after the festival season. To curb pollution, the Supreme Court had imposed a blanket ban on the use and sale of conventional firecrackers, citing concerns over deteriorating air quality, public health, and compliance with Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution.

What Are Green Crackers?

- Definition: Green crackers are eco-friendly alternatives to traditional fireworks. They emit 30–40% less pollutants, such as particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).
- Development: Designed and approved by NEERI (under CSIR) and certified by PESO, these crackers use less harmful chemical compositions and are marked with a distinct green logo for identification.
- Examples: SWAS (Safe Water Releaser), STAR (Safe Thermite Cracker), and SAFAL (Safe Minimal Aluminium).

Key Highlights of the Supreme Court's Decision

- Sale and use of only NEERI and PESO-approved green crackers were permitted.
- Crackers were required to be sold through licensed vendors and not via online platforms.
- Bursting hours and designated zones were strictly regulated by local authorities.

Any violation of the order invited strict legal action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Institutions Involved

- NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute): A CSIR institute engaged in environmental R&D, headquartered in Nagpur.
- PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation): Regulates the manufacture, storage, and use of explosives and petroleum products; functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Environmental and Legal Significance

The decision aims to strike a balance between cultural traditions and environmental sustainability. It upholds the principle of "Sustainable Celebration", ensuring that festivities like Deepavali are celebrated responsibly without compromising public health.

Additional Facts:

- Article 48A: Directive Principle instructing the State to protect and improve the environment.
- Article 51A(g): Fundamental Duty of every citizen to protect the environment.
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: Empowers the government to regulate activities causing pollution.
- Air Quality Index (AQI): Delhi often records "Severe" category AQI post-Diwali, crossing 400+.

International Relations & Events

India Elected Unopposed to UN Human Rights Council for 2026–28 Term

India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a three-year term (2026–2028), beginning in January 2026. This marks India's seventh term on the Council, reaffirming its strong global reputation and commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The election took place at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), where India's Permanent Representative, P. Harish, expressed gratitude to all member states for their support.

About the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- Established: 2006, replacing the former UN Commission on Human Rights.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Membership: 47 countries, elected by the UN General Assembly on a regional group basis.
- Term: 3 years, with members not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- Mandate: To promote and protect human rights, address human rights violations, and make recommendations to the UNGA.

India's Previous Terms in UNHRC:

India has previously served six terms — 2006–2007, 2007–2010, 2011–2014, 2014–2017, 2018–2021, and 2022–2024.

Maldives Becomes First Country to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B, HIV, and Syphilis

In a historic global health milestone, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially validated the Maldives as the first country in the world to achieve "Triple Elimination" — elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis. This recognition makes the Maldives a global leader in maternal and child health, underscoring its strong healthcare infrastructure, universal health coverage, and sustained investment in public health.

Key Highlights

- Achievement: Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B, while maintaining earlier elimination status for HIV and syphilis.

- First Country to Achieve: Triple Elimination (Hepatitis B, HIV, Syphilis)
- Validating Authority: World Health Organization (WHO)
- Global Significance: Sets a new benchmark for disease elimination and maternal-child health success worldwide.

About WHO's "Triple Elimination" Initiative

WHO promotes integrated testing and treatment for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B to prevent mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). The Triple Elimination Initiative supports countries in achieving zero transmission rates, reducing infant mortality, and improving maternal health outcomes.

Fiji Launches First National Child Safeguarding Policy to Enhance Child Safety

The Government of Fiji has launched its first-ever National Child Safeguarding Policy, marking a major step toward strengthening child protection and safety standards across all sectors of society. The policy aims to ensure that all services involving children are provided in a safe, respectful, and child-centered manner, promoting accountability and awareness at the institutional level. The policy introduces key measures such as a mandatory Child Protection Code of Conduct, child-safe recruitment and background checks, and risk mitigation frameworks for organizations and institutions. This initiative comes amid rising regional concerns about child abuse and neglect in the Pacific region, where issues like cultural taboos, resource constraints, and underreporting have hindered effective protection of children's rights. The new framework aligns with Fiji's commitment to international conventions such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and it seeks to establish a nationwide culture of safeguarding and prevention.

About the National Child Safeguarding Policy (Fiji):

- Launched by: Government of Fiji
- Objective: To create a safe environment for children across schools, health institutions, and community organizations.

About Fiji:

- Capital: Suva
- Currency: Fijian Dollar (FJD)

- President: Ratu Wiliame Katonivere
- Prime Minister: Sitiveni Rabuka
- Member of: United Nations, Pacific Islands Forum, and Commonwealth of Nations

International Child Protection Frameworks:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): Adopted in 1989, ratified by Fiji in 1993.
- Goal: To ensure every child's right to survival, protection, development, and participation.

Why the US government has shut down and what happens now

The US government is facing partial shutdown as Republicans and Democrats fail to agree on a budget. Around 40% of federal employees (~750,000 people) are on unpaid leave. Essential services continue, but many government functions are temporarily suspended.

Cause of the Shutdown

- The shutdown occurred because Congress could not pass a spending bill to fund government operations beyond September.
- Republicans control both chambers but lack 60 Senate votes needed for approval.
- Democrats demand extensions of healthcare tax credits and reversal of Medicaid cuts.
- A temporary funding bill passed the House but failed in the Senate.

Impact on Government Services

Services continuing:

- Border security and law enforcement
- ICE agents, air traffic controllers, in-hospital medical care
- Social Security and Medicare payments

Services affected or halted:

- Federal employees on unpaid leave
- Federally-funded pre-schools and food assistance programs
- Research agencies like CDC and NIH may furlough staff
- National parks and museums may operate with minimal staff, causing risks of vandalism

Other effects:

- Mail delivery continues (USPS independent of Congress)
- Passport processing may be delayed
- Federal student loans and grants could face temporary disruptions

How the Shutdown Could End

- Republicans may negotiate healthcare subsidies demanded by Democrats.
- Democrats may back down to restore government funding.
- A compromise could be reached on Medicaid and agency budgets.
- Otherwise, the shutdown could continue, causing prolonged disruptions.

Economic Impact

- Short-term effect: Could reduce 0.1–0.2% of GDP per week.
- Prolonged layoffs and Trump's tariffs could worsen economic uncertainty.

Historical Context

- Shutdowns are unique to US politics, typically over budget disputes.
- Longest shutdown: 35 days in 2018 (Trump) over the Mexico border wall.
- Other notable shutdowns: 21 days in 1995 (Clinton), 16 days (Obama), multiple shorter shutdowns under Reagan.

Why Trump wants Bagram Air Base to be returned to the US by Afghanistan

During a visit to the UK, President Donald Trump stated that the U. S. is seeking to regain control of Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, which was abandoned during the U. S. troop withdrawal in 2021. He emphasized that the base was previously handed over "for nothing" and expressed a desire to reclaim it.

Strategic Importance of Bagram

- Location: Bagram is located about 60 km north of Kabul.
- Capabilities: It was the largest U. S. military base in Afghanistan, serving as a hub for counterinsurgency operations. Its 11,800-foot runway can handle bombers and heavy cargo planes.
- Proximity to China: The base is strategically positioned close to Chinese nuclear facilities, making it valuable for monitoring regional military activities.

Counterterrorism Significance

- Historical Role: Bagram played a key role in U. S. operations against ISIS-K, Al-Qaeda, and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.
- Current Threats: ISIS-K remains active in Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia. Al-Qaeda continues to maintain training camps in Afghanistan, while

the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan carried out over 600 attacks from Afghan soil in the second half of 2024.

Taliban's Rejection

The Taliban rejected the U. S. proposal. Fasihuddin Fitrat, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, stated that Afghanistan is fully independent, governed by its own people, and not reliant on any foreign power. He emphasized that the country does not fear any external aggressor.

EU to ban all Russian energy imports from January 2028

The European Union (EU) has decided to ban all Russian energy imports—including both pipeline oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG)—from January 2028. EU energy ministers approved the decision during a meeting held in Luxembourg. This move is a major policy shift aimed at achieving energy independence and reducing the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels, which has been a major geopolitical weakness since the Russia-Ukraine war began in 2022.

Background: Reducing Dependence on Russian Energy

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the EU pledged to end its dependence on Russian fossil fuels under the Versailles Declaration (2022).

The European Council has confirmed that this ban is an important part of the REPowerEU plan, which aims to eliminate the EU's energy dependence on Russia while ensuring affordable and secure energy for all member states.

Objectives:

- End dependence on Russian fossil fuels before 2030.
- Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in EU countries.
- Strengthen energy security, infrastructure, and cross-border energy links.

India slips to 136 in FIFA rankings -- worst in nearly a decade: Spain holds top spot

India's men's national football team has fallen to 136th place in the latest FIFA World Rankings, marking its lowest position since November 2016. This drop from the previous 134th place underscores a concerning trend in the team's international performance.

Impact of Recent Matches

The decline in rankings follows India's disappointing results in recent matches, including a 1-1 draw and a 1-2 loss to Singapore in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers. These outcomes have significantly affected the team's standing on the global stage.

Missed Opportunities for Major Tournaments

As a result of these setbacks, India has been eliminated from contention for both the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. This marks a significant blow to the team's aspirations and highlights the need for strategic improvements.

Looking Ahead

The current situation calls for introspection and restructuring within Indian football to address the challenges faced and to work towards regaining competitiveness on the international front. With a focus on development and strategic planning, there is hope for a positive turnaround in the future.

Top 5 countries in the list

1	Spain
2	Argentina
3	France
4	England
5	Portugal

FIFA

- Founded: May 21, 1904
- Founder: Robert Guérin
- Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Secretary general: Mattias Grafström

Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Tops, India Ranks 85th

The Henley Passport Index 2025 ranks the world's most powerful passports based on visa-free access to foreign countries. Singapore reclaimed the No. 1 spot, with citizens enjoying visa-free access to 193 destinations. South Korea and Japan follow at No. 2 and No. 3, with 190 and 189 visa-free destinations, respectively. European nations dominate the remaining top 10, including Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Greece, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden. UAE rose significantly from No. 10 to No. 8, with access to 184 destinations. China climbed from No. 94 in 2015 to No. 64 in 2025, gaining 37 visa-free destinations over a decade.

United States fell to No. 12, tied with Malaysia, offering visa-free access to 180 countries. United Kingdom dropped to No. 8, its lowest-ever position despite topping the list in 2015.

India's Ranking:

India's passport is ranked 85th in 2025, down five places from 2024 (80th).

- Historical range: Lowest rank: 90 (2021), Highest rank: 71 (2006).
- Fluctuations reflect changes in global travel policies and India's diplomatic relations.

Top 10 Strongest Passports (2025):

1. Singapore – 193
2. South Korea – 190
3. Japan – 189
4. Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland – 188
5. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands – 187
6. Greece, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden – 186
7. Australia, Czechia, Malta, Poland – 185
8. Croatia, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, UAE, UK – 184
9. Canada – 183
10. Latvia – 182

Henley Passport Index: Compiled based on visa-free access, reflecting diplomatic ties, economic influence, and international trust.

India's Visa-Free Access: Limited compared to top-ranking countries; rank reflects global mobility constraints.

Short Article

Trump's Gaza Peace Plan: A Bold Proposal Amid Regional Tensions

In September 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a comprehensive 20-point plan aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Developed over eight months, the plan was announced after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House. The proposal has drawn global attention, though Hamas has yet to accept it. The plan has implications for the Middle East, the U.S., and countries like India and Pakistan.

Main Goals of the Peace Plan

The plan seeks to stabilize Gaza through a combination of disarmament, governance reforms, international oversight, and humanitarian aid. Its aim is to reduce violence, rebuild infrastructure, and ensure security for Israel while providing a structured path for Gaza's reconstruction.

Detailed Peace Plan in Points

Disarmament of Hamas:

- Hamas members must surrender their weapons.
- Those willing to commit to peace will receive amnesty.
- Members can leave Gaza safely to countries like Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, or Iran.

International Stabilization Force (ISF):

- A temporary international force will support Palestinian police and maintain security.
- ISF will prevent weapons smuggling and ensure safe delivery of goods for reconstruction.
- Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will gradually withdraw based on demilitarization milestones.

Transitional Governance – “Day After Plan”:

- Gaza will be managed by a temporary, apolitical Palestinian committee with qualified locals and international experts.
- Oversight by an international transitional body called the “Board of Peace,” headed by Trump, with Tony Blair involved.
- The committee will handle essential services like water, electricity, healthcare, and municipal management.

Humanitarian Aid and Infrastructure:

- Free flow of aid, rehabilitation of hospitals, bakeries, roads, and utilities.
- Aid distribution will be managed by UN agencies and the Red Crescent.

Hostage and Prisoner Exchange:

- Within 72 hours of Israel accepting the plan, all hostages will be returned.
- Israel will release prisoners, including 1,700 Gazans detained after October 2023.
- Deceased Israeli hostages' remains will be returned in exchange for 15 deceased Gazans for each Israeli.

Regional Guarantees:

- Regional partners will ensure Hamas and other groups comply.
- A secure and terror-free Gaza will be the long-term goal.

Buffer Zones and Security:

- Israel will maintain a limited “security perimeter” until Gaza is fully stabilized.
- ISF will manage internal security, preventing resurgence of violence.

Global Reactions and Implications

The plan has received mixed reactions. Hamas has not yet accepted it, while the Palestinian Authority welcomed it. Arab countries show cautious support. India sees potential benefits in contributing to reconstruction but is wary of Pakistan’s increased influence in the Middle East. The plan’s success depends on cooperation from all parties and effective implementation of its provisions.

Russia Welcomed U.S. Support for Extending the New START Treaty

Russia expressed a positive response to the U.S. President’s remarks supporting Moscow’s proposal to extend compliance with the New START Treaty for an additional year. This came after Russia’s 2023 suspension of its participation in the pact — a move that had raised concerns about the future of global nuclear arms control. The New START Treaty remains the final surviving arms limitation agreement between the two major nuclear powers, the United States and Russia.

Evolution of Strategic Arms Reduction Frameworks

The term START refers to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, designed to limit and reduce nuclear weapons between the superpowers.

Historical Timeline

- START-I: Signed in 1991 between the U.S. and USSR, came into effect in 1994, focusing on verifiable nuclear arms reduction.
- SORT (Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty): Temporarily replaced START-I, emphasizing numerical limits without detailed verification mechanisms.

- New START Treaty: Signed in 2010, enforced in 2011, and initially valid till 2021, later extended until 2026.
- This treaty became the cornerstone of nuclear arms regulation after the collapse of earlier frameworks like INF Treaty (1987).

Core Objectives and Coverage of the Treaty

The New START Treaty aimed to limit the deployment and development of long-range strategic nuclear weapons — including ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles), SLBMs (Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles), and strategic bombers — capable of striking enemy command centers and major cities.

Quantitative Restrictions

Both Russia and the U.S. agreed to the following limits:

- 700 deployed ICBMs, SLBMs, and heavy bombers.
- 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads.
- 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and bombers combined.
- These reductions were verifiable and transparent, promoting strategic stability and minimizing miscalculations during crises.

Verification and Monitoring Measures

- The treaty’s compliance mechanism relied on a robust inspection and notification system, including:
 - On-site inspections by U.S. and Russian verification teams.
 - Data exchanges on weapon counts and launcher locations.
 - Advance notifications of missile test launches.
- Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC): a joint body established to address disputes and maintain transparency.
- This structure ensured mutual trust and real-time accountability — crucial for global security.

Limitations and Strategic Gaps

Despite its significance, the New START Treaty had notable shortcomings:

- It excluded non-deployed and tactical (short-range) nuclear weapons, which form a substantial part of both nations’ arsenals.
- Russia raised concerns about U.S. missile defense systems such as the space-based Golden Dome project.

- The U.S., in turn, voiced apprehensions over Russia's hypersonic glide vehicles (Avangard) and Kinzhal missiles, which were not covered by the treaty's provisions.
- These technological advancements and mutual suspicions complicated the sustainability of arms control.

Global Frameworks on Nuclear Weapons Regulation

1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), 1968

- Objective: Prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote disarmament, and ensure peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Recognized Nuclear Weapon States (NWS): U.S., Russia, China, France, and the U.K.
- India is not a signatory, citing discriminatory clauses.

2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), 1996

- Prohibits all forms of nuclear testing.
- Yet to enter into force as major powers, including the U.S. and China, have not ratified it.

3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), 2017

- Bans the use, testing, production, possession, and transfer of nuclear weapons.
- Supported primarily by non-nuclear states and advocates of total disarmament.

Strategic Implications of the Extension Proposal

- The potential extension of New START represented a vital stabilizing measure in an era of renewed great-power rivalry.
- It reaffirmed the need for arms control dialogue, even amid broader geopolitical tensions involving Ukraine, NATO expansion, and shifting alliances.
- With Russia and the U.S. together holding nearly 87% of global nuclear stockpiles (Russia: ~5,459; U.S.: ~5,177 warheads), maintaining this treaty's framework was essential to global security and deterrence stability.

Broader Relevance for India

- For India, which is not a party to the New START, developments in global arms control have indirect but important consequences:
 - They shape global strategic balance and influence India's nuclear doctrine.
 - They affect India's role in advocating for universal, non-discriminatory disarmament under the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and UN frameworks.

"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."

Economy & Trade

State Bank of India Named 'World's Best Consumer Bank 2025' and 'Best Bank in India' by Global Finance Magazine

The State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest public sector bank, has earned two major global honours at the Global Finance Best Bank Awards 2025, held in New York alongside the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings. SBI was awarded the titles of 'World's Best Consumer Bank 2025' and 'Best Bank in India 2025', recognising its excellence in digital innovation, customer service, and financial inclusion.

About the Awards:

The awards were presented by Global Finance, a renowned New York-based international financial magazine, which annually recognises outstanding banking institutions worldwide.

- SBI's recognition highlights its success in:
- Delivering world-class consumer banking experiences
- Promoting digital banking and innovation
- Advancing financial inclusion across India's rural and urban sectors

SBI's Achievements and Digital Transformation:

- Customer Base: 520 million customers
- New Customers Added Daily: Around 65,000
- Flagship App Users: Over 100 million users on SBI's mobile banking app with 10 million daily active users
- Digital Strategy: Operates under the motto "Digital First, Consumer First"
- SBI continues to lead in the integration of AI-driven banking, UPI services, and financial inclusion programs aimed at serving every section of society.

About Global Finance Magazine:

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: New York, USA
- Focus: Global banking, finance, and investment insights
- Purpose of the Awards: To recognise excellence in financial services, innovation, and performance worldwide

About the State Bank of India (SBI):

- Established: 1 July 1955 (as SBI, after nationalisation of Imperial Bank of India)
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Chairman (2025): C. S. Setty
- Key Subsidiaries: SBI Life Insurance, SBI Mutual Fund, SBI Cards, SBI Capital Markets

Bharat Taxi: India's First Cooperative Cab Service Launched

To address rising complaints against private cab operators like Ola and Uber, the Government of India has launched Bharat Taxi, the country's first cooperative-based taxi service. The initiative aims to ensure transparency, fair earnings for drivers, and reliable service for passengers.

Key Features of Bharat Taxi:

- Cooperative Model: Drivers are co-owners rather than employees, operating under Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited.
- Driver Benefits: Eliminates high commissions charged by private operators; drivers retain 100% of earnings after a nominal membership fee.
- Government Backing: Developed by the Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

Pilot Launch and Expansion:

- Pilot Phase: November 2025 in Delhi with 650 drivers.
- National Rollout: December 2025, targeting 5,000 drivers across cities including Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal, Lucknow, and Jaipur.

Operational Structure:

- Managed by a council chaired by Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Amul, along with eight cooperative leaders.
- Functions as a collective ownership model rather than a profit-driven entity.

App and Technology Features:

- Mobile application available on Android and iOS platforms.
- Multilingual support in Hindi, English, Gujarati, and Marathi.
- User-friendly interface with a transparent membership and booking system.

Significance:

- Challenges the monopoly of private cab aggregators in India.

- Promotes driver welfare and ensures passenger dependability.
- Aligns with government's broader push for cooperative-based economic models under the Ministry of Cooperation.

EPFO Eases Partial Withdrawal Rules; Members Can Now Withdraw Up to 100% of EPF Balance

In a major reform to improve Ease of Living for salaried employees, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has simplified and liberalised the partial withdrawal norms under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme. The decision now allows EPF members to withdraw up to 100% of their EPF balance under specified conditions.

Key Highlights of the Decision

- **Full Withdrawal Permitted:** Members can now withdraw up to 100% of their EPF savings, enhancing financial flexibility and retirement security.
- **Simplified Process:** The withdrawal process has been digitally simplified to ensure faster and more transparent claim settlements.
- **Ease of Living Objective:** The move aims to provide financial relief during emergencies and reduce procedural delays.

RBI Launches Unified Markets Interface (UMI) to Tokenize Financial Assets Using Wholesale CBDC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a Unified Markets Interface (UMI), a next-generation financial market infrastructure designed to enable asset tokenization and settlement through wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The announcement was made by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025.

Key Highlights:

- **Objective:** UMI aims to convert real-world financial assets into digital tokens on blockchain, enabling fractional ownership, transparent trading, and smart contract-based settlements.
- **Outcome:** Initial pilot results showed improved market efficiency and transparency.

Account Aggregator (AA) Framework:

The RBI also emphasized strengthening the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) framework enabling individuals to securely share financial data with regulated entities.

Four New Digital Products Launched:

1. **UPI HELP** – An AI-based Small Language Model (SLM) developed in-house to help users check transactions, raise complaints, and manage mandates.
2. **IoT Payments with UPI** – Enables seamless machine-to-machine (IoT) payments using UPI.
3. **Banking Connect** – A unified interoperable net banking platform that simplifies merchant onboarding, settlements, and dispute resolution.
4. **UPI Reserve Pay** – Allows users to block part of a credit line or card limit for recurring payments on platforms like e-commerce, food delivery, and cabs.

Significance:

Strengthens India's digital public infrastructure (DPI). Promotes financial inclusion and data-driven lending through Account Aggregators. Enhances digital payment security and user experience with AI and IoT integrations.

RBI Launches Retail Sandbox for Digital Rupee Testing

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Retail Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Sandbox, allowing fintech companies to develop and test innovative solutions for the e-Rupee. The initiative, announced by Suvendu Pati, Chief General Manager at RBI, aims to expand the testing environment for digital currency applications in a controlled setting. India's first retail e-Rupee pilot was launched on December 1, 2022, marking the country's move toward adopting a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). So far, the e-Rupee has garnered around 7 million users nationwide.

Objective of Retail Sandbox:

- Encourage innovation in digital payments.
- Ensure secure, efficient, and inclusive digital transactions.
- Facilitate integration of fintech innovations with the CBDC ecosystem.
- Part of: RBI's broader Fintech Innovation and Regulatory Sandbox Framework.

Centre Introduces On-Device Biometric Authentication and New UPI Features

The Government of India has announced a set of new digital payment features at the Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2025, aimed at making UPI transactions faster,

more secure, and user-friendly. The key announcements include:

- UPI with On-Device Biometric Authentication
- Aadhaar-based Face Authentication in UPI
- Cash withdrawals through Micro ATMs using UPI at UPI Cash Points
- The launch was announced by Shri M. Nagaraju, IAS, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.

UPI with On-Device Biometric Authentication

- **Function:** Allows users to authenticate UPI payments using fingerprint or face unlock on their smartphones, eliminating the need to manually enter UPI PIN.
- **Optional Feature:** Users can opt-in for this mode, retaining control over authentication preferences.
- **Security:** Transactions are verified independently by issuing banks with cryptographic checks, ensuring high safety.
- **Benefit:** Makes transactions faster, seamless, and secure, reducing repeated PIN entries.

Aadhaar-Based Face Authentication for UPI PIN Setup

- **Purpose:** Enables users to set or reset UPI PIN using Aadhaar-linked facial recognition via UIDAI's FaceRD App.
- **Advantage:** Removes the need for debit card details or OTP verification, making onboarding faster and more inclusive.
- **Target Users:** First-time users, senior citizens, and those without easy access to cards.
- **Future Scope:** Aadhaar-based face authentication will later be extended to authenticate transactions directly.

Cash Withdrawal through UPI at Micro ATMs

- **Feature:** Users can withdraw cash at UPI Cash Points (Micro ATMs/Business Correspondent touchpoints) using UPI.
- **Significance:** Enhances financial inclusion and offers a user-friendly alternative to traditional ATM withdrawals.
- **Integration:** Leverages the versatility of the UPI ecosystem to simplify cash withdrawals in rural and semi-urban areas.

RBI Unveils Next-Gen Digital Payment Features at Global Fintech Fest 2025

At the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS) announced a series of path-breaking

digital payment innovations aimed at enhancing security, accessibility, and user convenience in India's financial ecosystem.

The announcements include:

- UPI Multi-Signatory for joint accounts
- UPI Lite via smart glasses (hands-free payments)

On-device biometric authentication

- Aadhaar-based face verification for UPI PIN setup
- UPI-enabled cash withdrawals through Micro ATMs (UPI Cash Points)
- Integration of FX Retail Platform with Bharat Connect
- These initiatives mark another major leap in India's journey toward a cashless and inclusive digital economy.

UPI Multi-Signatory Feature

- **Launched by:** RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar
- **Purpose:** Enables payments from joint accounts requiring multiple approvals.
- **Key Benefit:** All signatories can use any UPI-enabled app to approve transactions, ensuring interoperability across platforms.
- **Advantage:** Useful for families, partnerships, and small businesses managing shared accounts.

UPI Through Smart Glasses

- **Feature:** Hands-free UPI Lite transactions via wearable smart glasses.
- **How it works:** Users can scan a QR code and use voice commands to make payments — no phone or PIN required.
- **Significance:** Marks the first-ever UPI integration with wearable devices, promoting ambient payments.
- **Technical Note:** Operates off-CBS (Core Banking System), reducing system load and improving efficiency.

On-Device Biometric Authentication

- **Announced by:** DFS Secretary M. Nagaraju
- **Function:** Users can authenticate payments using fingerprint sensors or face unlock instead of UPI PIN.
- **Security:** Uses cryptographic verification at the bank's end for fraud protection.
- **Objective:** Enhances both user convenience and transaction safety.

Aadhaar-Based Face Verification for UPI PIN Setup

- **Technology Partner:** UIDAI's FaceRD App

- Feature: Users can set/reset UPI PIN using facial recognition, without debit card details or OTPs.
- Target Users: Senior citizens, first-time users, and people without easy access to cards.
- Future Use: Will be expanded to authenticate UPI transactions as well.

UPI Cash Points – Cash Withdrawals via UPI

- Purpose: Enables cash withdrawals through Micro ATMs using UPI.
- Mechanism: Users scan a dynamic QR code shown by a Business Correspondent (BC) to withdraw cash.
- Significance: Extends financial inclusion in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Complementary Systems: Works alongside Aadhaar-based AePS and card-based ATM transactions.
- Benefit: Provides a simpler, card-free cash withdrawal option via the UPI ecosystem.

Integration of FX Retail Platform with Bharat Connect

- Objective: Allows retail customers to access and purchase USD directly via banking or payment apps linked through the BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System).
- Impact: Simplifies foreign exchange transactions for retail users, promoting digital financial access.

UPI Launched in Qatar by Union Minister Piyush Goyal to Strengthen India-Qatar Digital Partnership

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Doha, Qatar, marking a major step in deepening digital and financial cooperation between the two countries. The initiative will enable real-time, low-cost digital payments for Indian citizens and businesses operating in Qatar and vice versa, boosting trade and people-to-people connectivity.

About UPI:

- Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- Launched in 2016 (9 years ago as of 2025)
- Currently accounts for 85% of India's digital payments and nearly 50% of global digital transactions
- Processes over 640 billion transactions annually

Recent International Expansions of UPI:

- Singapore (with PayNow)
- UAE
- France
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal

Now Qatar joins as another international partner

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.5%, monetary policy stance 'neutral'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate at 5.5% and maintained a neutral policy stance. This is the second consecutive meeting with no change in rates. The decision comes amid global uncertainties, including U.S. tariff impacts.

Policy Rates at a Glance

- Policy Repo Rate: 5.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 5.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 5.75%
- Bank Rate: 5.75%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- CRR: 3.75%
- SLR: 18.00%

Inflation Forecast Lowered

RBI now expects CPI inflation to be 2.6% for this fiscal year, lower than earlier estimates. This is due to GST reforms, which reduced taxes on daily-use items.

GDP Growth Forecast Raised

India's GDP growth is projected at 6.8% for FY26, higher than previous estimates. Strong private consumption, a good monsoon, and GST reforms are helping the economy grow.

RBI imposes monetary penalty of nearly Rs 32 lakh on Indian Overseas Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for failing to comply with certain rules regarding Priority Sector Lending (PSL) — specifically in the areas of targets and classification.

Basis of the Penalty

During its supervision, the RBI found that IOB had collected loan-related charges in PSL accounts where the sanctioned loan amount was up to ₹25,000. A show-cause notice was issued to the bank. After reviewing IOB's response, additional submissions, and oral explanations given during a personal hearing, the RBI upheld the charge and decided to impose the penalty.

Legal Authority & Clarification

The penalty has been imposed under powers granted by Section 47A(1)(c) read with Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The RBI clarified that this action is for deficiencies in regulatory compliance and does not challenge the validity of any transaction or agreement between IOB and its customers.

Indian Overseas Bank

- Founded: 10 February 1937
- Founder: M. Chidambaram Chettiar
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Ajay Kumar Srivastava

RBI slaps penalties on several cooperative banks for non-compliance with regulations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied financial penalties on five cooperative banks across the country for various regulatory lapses. These actions follow inspections conducted by the RBI, which identified non-compliance in areas such as housing finance, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, cybersecurity, and product transparency.

Details of the Penalties:

- Gayatri Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Jagtial (Telangana):
- Penalty: ₹10 lakh
- Violation: Selling insurance products without proper disclosure, breaching RBI norms related to the marketing and distribution of financial instruments.

Makarpura Industrial Estate Co-operative Bank Limited, Vadodara (Gujarat):

- Penalty: ₹2 lakh
- Violation: Lapses in KYC compliance and failure to adopt mandated cybersecurity measures for urban cooperative banks.

South Canara District Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Karnataka:

- Penalty: ₹1.5 lakh
- Violation: Exceeding permissible limits in housing finance exposure and illegally holding shares in another cooperative society, actions that contravene the Banking Regulation Act.

Guntur District Co-operative Central Bank Limited, Andhra Pradesh:

- Penalty: ₹50,000

- Violation: Failure to upload KYC details to the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR) within the required timeframe.

Tamil Nadu Circle Postal Co-operative Bank Limited:

- Penalty: ₹50,000
- Violation: Offering deposit interest rates beyond the limits set under the Supervisory Action Framework.

India–Mongolia Strengthen Strategic Partnership: 10 MoUs Signed in Key Sectors

India and Mongolia signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during the visit of Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to New Delhi. The MoUs cover cooperation in areas such as humanitarian aid, heritage restoration, immigration, geology and mineral resources, cooperatives, and digital solutions. Both leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa — also released commemorative stamps marking the 70th anniversary of India–Mongolia diplomatic relations (1955–2025).

Major Announcements:

Free e-Visas for Mongolian citizens announced by PM Modi. Annual visit of Mongolian cultural ambassadors to India will be sponsored by the Indian government. Strengthened cultural ties through a Nalanda–Gandan Monastery link, highlighting shared Buddhist heritage. Both nations reaffirmed commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific and to amplifying the voice of the Global South.

Economic and Strategic Cooperation:

India reaffirmed its role as a reliable development partner of Mongolia. The Oil Refinery Project in Mongolia, built with India's \$1.7 billion Line of Credit, will enhance Mongolia's energy security. A Mongolian air carrier will soon begin charter flights to Amritsar and New Delhi, promoting tourism and business exchanges.

The two nations adopted a Joint Statement on Strengthening the Strategic Partnership, focusing on resilient supply chains, critical minerals, and digital cooperation.

About the Visit:

The visit marks President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa's first trip to India as President. He paid homage at Rajghat and met President Droupadi Murmu, who hosted a state banquet in his honor. The Mongolian delegation

included Cabinet Ministers, MPs, senior officials, business leaders, and cultural representatives.

Background and Diplomatic Context:

- India and Mongolia established diplomatic relations in 1955.
- Mongolia shares deep cultural and spiritual ties with India, especially through Buddhism and Nalanda University's influence.
- Mongolia is a key partner in India's "Act East Policy" and Indo-Pacific strategy.
- The relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2015 during PM Modi's visit to Ulaanbaatar.

Mongolia:

- Capital: Ulaanbaatar.
- Currency: Tögrög (MNT).
- President of Mongolia: Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.
- India's Ambassador to Mongolia: Atul Malhari Gotsurve.
- First Buddhist monastery in Mongolia linked with Nalanda: Gandan Tegchenling Monastery.

Sudan and South Sudan Strengthen Oil, Security, and Trade Cooperation

Sudan and South Sudan have reached a strategic agreement to jointly protect vital oil infrastructure, including oil fields and central pipeline stations transporting South Sudanese crude to Port Sudan. The deal aims to enhance technical capacity, increase oil production, and ensure safety along the export route.

Economic significance:

- South Sudan heavily relies on oil exports for its economy.
- Sudan earns transit fees for transporting oil to international markets.

A proposed free trade zone at Port Sudan aims to:

- Boost cross-border commerce
- Streamline transit goods to South Sudan
- Support the oil supply chain

Context and Significance

- Sudan is experiencing a civil conflict between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.
- South Sudan is facing widespread flooding, affecting over 639,000 people and causing 19 deaths (UN report).
- The agreements aim to stabilize energy, security, and trade sectors despite ongoing crises.

Sudan:

- Capital: Khartoum
- Prime Minister: Kamil Idris

- Currency: Sudanese pound

South Sudan:

- Capital: Juba
- President: Salva Kiir Mayardit
- Currency: South Sudanese pound

India and Bhutan Sign MoU for First Cross-Border Railway Links

India and Bhutan signed an Inter-Governmental MoU for the establishment of the first-ever cross-border railway links between the two countries. The MoU was signed during the visit of Bhutanese Foreign Secretary Aum Pema Choden to New Delhi, where she held consultations with Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Railway Connectivity Projects

Two cross-border railway projects have been finalised with a total outlay of ₹4,033 crore.

Kokrajhar (Assam) – Gelephu (Bhutan):

- Length: 69 km
- Cost: ₹3,456 crore

Banarhat (West Bengal) – Samtse (Bhutan):

- Length: 20 km
- Cost: ₹577 crore
- Entire investment in these projects will be made by India.
- The projects will enhance connectivity, trade, and people-to-people linkages.

Govt seals Rs 62,370 crore deal with HAL to buy 97 LCA Mk1A fighter jets for IAF

The Indian Ministry of Defence has given the green light to a massive ₹62,370 crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets. This order includes 68 single-seat combat jets and 29 twin-seat trainer aircraft, along with the necessary equipment for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Delivery Schedule

The jets are expected to start reaching the IAF in the 2027-28 fiscal year, with full delivery planned over six years. This follows an earlier ₹48,000 crore order in 2021 for 83 Tejas Mk1A jets, which has faced some delays due to engine and radar integration challenges.

Boost to Indigenous Technology

The Tejas Mk1A will feature over 64% indigenous content, with 67 additional locally made components compared to earlier models. Advanced systems like the UTTAM AESA Radar, Swayam Raksha Kavach, and

modern control surface actuators will be part of these aircraft.

HAL

- Founded: 22 December 1940 (as Hindustan Aircraft); 1964 (Hindustan Aeronautics)
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Founder: Walchand Hirachand
- Chairman & MD: D. K. Sunil

Short Article

Government Opens PM GatiShakti Portal to Private Sector for Enhanced Infrastructure Growth

On the completion of four years of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP), the Government of India opened the PM GatiShakti digital platform to the private sector. This move aimed to strengthen last-mile delivery, infrastructure integration, and data-driven planning across sectors. The portal was developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Understanding the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

Launched in October 2021, the PM GatiShakti NMP was a ₹100 lakh crore national initiative to promote multi-modal connectivity and infrastructure development across India within five years.

Major Objectives

- To reduce logistics costs by ensuring seamless coordination between various modes of transport.
- To act as a digital backbone linking macro-level planning with micro-level implementation.
- To integrate major infrastructure schemes such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and UDAN, and to connect industrial and economic zones efficiently.

Core Components of the Initiative

The plan focused on seven key sectors—railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, and logistics—supported by energy, IT, water, and social infrastructure.

Technological and Structural Features

- Unified Geospatial Platform: Integrated more than 200 layers of spatial data into a single interface for real-time visualization of existing and proposed infrastructure.
- Targeted Economic Zones: Focused on textile clusters, pharma hubs, defence corridors, and

agricultural regions to promote regional productivity.

- Tech-Based Management: Employed ISRO satellite imagery and advanced GIS tools developed by BISAG-N for accurate, data-backed planning.

National Targets under the Mission

- Aviation: Development of 200 new airports, heliports, and water aerodromes to boost connectivity.
- Renewable Energy: Expansion of renewable capacity to 225 GW by FY25, and laying of 17,000 km of gas pipelines.
- Power Infrastructure: Expansion of power transmission lines to 454,200 circuit km.
- Highways: Growth of the national highway network to 200,000 km.
- Rail Sector: Increase of rail cargo capacity to 1,600 million tons by FY25.

Key Outcomes and Achievements

- Integrated Governance Platform: Unified 44 Central Ministries and 36 States/UTs with over 1,600 data layers for cohesive project execution.
- Efficient Project Screening: The Network Planning Group (NPG) evaluated 200+ large-scale projects using GatiShakti's multi-modal planning principles.
- Social Infrastructure Mapping: Extended the platform for education, health, and welfare projects, ensuring better placement of schools, hospitals, and anganwadis in underserved regions.
- Boost to Trade & Logistics: Supported the National Logistics Policy (2022) and helped India improve its World Bank Logistics Performance Index ranking from 44th (2018) to 38th (2023).

Challenges Confronting GatiShakti (Mnemonic: BLOCK)

- Bureaucratic Silos: Resistance and lack of coordination across departments slowed data integration.
- Land and Legal Barriers: Land acquisition and multiple clearance procedures delayed projects.
- Operational Data Gaps: Non-uniform data formats across states led to inconsistency.
- Capacity Deficiency: Many regional bodies lacked trained personnel to utilize the GIS platform.
- Kinetic Delay: Real-time insights often failed to translate into immediate on-ground actions.

Suggested Remedies (Mnemonic: SCALE)

- Standardize Data Systems: Establish uniform data protocols and ensure periodic updates.
- Create Incentives: Reward inter-departmental cooperation for integrated project delivery.
- Advance Technical Skills: Launch nationwide capacity-building programs for officials.
- Link Approval Processes: Integrate with PARIVESH and similar platforms for faster clearances.
- Enforce Monitoring: Empower the Network Planning Group (NPG) to actively monitor and resolve project delays.

Significance for India's Development

The opening of the GatiShakti portal to the private sector marked a key step toward public-private synergy in national infrastructure building. By enhancing transparency, improving project monitoring, and promoting data-driven planning, the initiative reinforced India's path toward logistics efficiency, economic competitiveness, and sustainable infrastructure growth.

RBI Introduced Major Credit Market Reforms to Strengthen Banking and Boost Rupee Internationalisation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently unveiled a comprehensive set of credit market reforms aimed at broadening financial depth, enhancing the role of banks in corporate financing, and advancing the international use of the Indian rupee. These measures were introduced amid rising global trade frictions, particularly with the United States, and renewed BRICS discussions on creating alternatives to the US dollar for trade settlements.

Core Policy Measures Announced by RBI

1. Bank Financing for Mergers and Acquisitions

- For the first time, Indian banks were allowed to extend loans for corporate mergers and acquisitions (M&As)—a segment previously dominated by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and private equity funds.
- This move was designed to support corporate restructuring and consolidation, especially in capital-intensive sectors such as infrastructure and energy.
- Earlier, such direct bank lending was restricted due to risks of promoter misuse, credit concentration, and non-performing asset (NPA) buildup.

2. Rupee-Based Cross-Border Lending

RBI permitted Indian banks to lend in Indian rupees to neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.

This policy aimed to:

- Reduce regional dependence on the US dollar,
- Strengthen rupee liquidity in South Asia, and
- Advance the internationalisation of the rupee through trade settlements and credit channels.
- It positioned India as a financial anchor in the regional economy.

3. Expansion of Capital Market Credit Limits

To improve access to financial markets, RBI raised the loan limits for:

- Lending against shares: from ₹20 lakh to ₹1 crore.
- IPO financing: from ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh.
- This measure sought to stimulate retail participation, energise the primary capital market, and broaden investor inclusion.

4. Investment Flexibility through Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)

- Funds maintained by foreign entities in SRVAs could now be invested in corporate bonds and commercial papers, in addition to government securities.
- This reform deepened India's corporate bond market, enhanced rupee liquidity abroad, and strengthened confidence in rupee-denominated assets.

5. Diversification of Currency Benchmarks

- The Financial Benchmarks India Limited (FBIL) expanded its benchmark system to include additional trading partner currencies beyond the USD, Euro, Pound, and Yen.
- This allowed direct forex quotes with a wider range of countries, reducing transactional reliance on the dollar and supporting multi-currency trade linkages.

6. Implementation of Revised Basel III Norms (from April 2027)

RBI announced that from April 2027, revised Basel III capital adequacy standards would come into force for commercial banks.

These would:

- Introduce lower risk weights for MSMEs and housing loans,
- Improve capital adequacy ratios, and
- Support sustainable credit growth while maintaining financial resilience.

Overview of India’s Financial Market Structure
Composition of Financial Markets

- India’s financial markets include five major segments:
- Money Market – deals with short-term borrowing instruments (maturity <1 year).
- Capital Market – facilitates long-term fund-raising through shares and bonds.
- Foreign Exchange Market – enables currency exchange for trade and investment.
- Bond Market – supports government and corporate debt financing.
- Derivatives Market – trades in contracts like options and futures to manage financial risk.

Role in Economic Development

Financial markets promote efficient capital allocation, risk management, and economic stability.

A well-functioning market ensures liquidity, credit flow, and investment growth, while failure in these systems can trigger recessionary effects and unemployment.

Economic Implications of the RBI’s Credit Reforms
Improved Access to Structured Finance

Allowing banks to fund corporate takeovers expanded affordable capital availability and promoted strategic business scaling. However, it also demanded stronger

risk assessment, governance oversight, and prudential checks to prevent misuse.

Strengthening the Corporate Ecosystem

These reforms encouraged sectoral consolidation and capital reallocation toward competitive industries such as manufacturing, logistics, and infrastructure.

This is expected to raise productivity, support Make in India initiatives, and enhance global competitiveness.

Promoting Rupee Internationalisation

- By enabling rupee-based lending and SRVA investments, India advanced its goal of making the rupee a regional settlement currency.
- This move served as a strategic counterbalance to dollar dominance and reinforced India’s role as a monetary stabiliser in South Asia.

Broader Significance

- The credit reforms reflected RBI’s twin objectives — financial deepening and strategic autonomy.
- They marked a transition from bank-centric regulation to market-oriented facilitation, positioning India as a rising financial power in a multipolar global order.

“The Best Way To Get Started Is To Quit Talking And Begin Doing.”

01
OCTOBER

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE DAY



Importance
To recognize the efforts of millions of farmers whose livelihood depends on this aromatic crop.

Motto
To promote fair trade coffee and to raise awareness for the plight of the coffee growers.

Note
As per the international reports, Coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world after oil.

Organisation Involved
International Coffee Organisation (ICO).

Origin
An Ethiopian goat herder Kaldi first discovered the Coffee beans in the world.

INCEPTION: 2015 | 1ST OBSERVED: 2015 | EDITION: 11th

01
OCTOBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE OLDER PERSONS



Importance
To acknowledge and appreciate contributions made by older people in society.

Motto
To raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse.

Note
It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. It is similar to National Grandparents Day in US and Canada.

2025 Theme
Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being, Our Rights

INCEPTION: 14 DECEMBER 1990 | 1ST OBSERVED: 1991 | EDITION: 35th

Defence & Security

Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Pact: Towards an “Arab NATO”?

On September 2025, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan announced a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, formalising the principle that aggression against either country will be considered aggression against both.

Significance: The pact is reminiscent of Article 5 of NATO, which obligates collective defence among member countries. Analysts are debating whether this marks the beginning of an Islamic military alliance akin to an “Arab NATO”.

Background of Saudi-Pakistan Relations

Historical Ties:

- For decades, Saudi Arabia has provided loans, oil subsidies, and economic bailouts to Pakistan.
- Pakistan has stationed troops, trained the Saudi military, and potentially acted as a nuclear safety net for the kingdom.
- Religious and ideological solidarity exists: Saudi Arabia as custodian of Islamic holy sites, and Pakistan as a self-proclaimed “fortress of Islam”.
- Current Deployment: 1,500–2,000 Pakistani personnel remain deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Strategic Importance:

- The pact formalises longstanding informal ties, converting them into an explicit treaty.
- Symbolically restores status and self-esteem for Pakistan while giving Saudi Arabia strategic reassurance.

Regional and Global Reactions

Arab World:

- Egypt criticized the pact, claiming it undermines its own 2015 proposal for a pan-Arab “Arab NATO”.
- Egyptian commentators questioned why Saudi Arabia chose Pakistan over Egypt.

India:

- Ministry of External Affairs reacted cautiously, promising to study implications carefully.
- Former diplomats warned it could embolden Pakistan and complicate India’s diplomatic and security interests.

Israel and Iran:

- Israel views the pact as affecting regional balancing and normalization prospects with Saudi Arabia.

- Iran may see it as Sunni solidarity, challenging its regional influence.

US and China:

- The US must now navigate an ally (Saudi Arabia) making independent military guarantees.
- China may benefit, leveraging the alliance to expand its influence in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

US and Australia Sign \$8.5 Billion Agreements on Minerals and Defence

The United States (US) and Australia have signed landmark agreements worth USD 8.5 billion to strengthen cooperation in critical minerals and defence sectors. The deals were formalized at the White House during a high-level meeting between US President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

These agreements aim to enhance supply chain security, energy independence, and military collaboration between the two nations, amid rising global competition for strategic resources.

Critical Minerals Agreement

- The Critical Minerals Framework will see a joint investment of over USD 3 billion in critical minerals projects between the US and Australia.
- Estimated recoverable value of these projects: USD 53 billion.
- The agreement is considered a global model for supply-chain cooperation.
- Purpose: Reduce reliance on China, which recently imposed restrictions on rare earth magnets exports.
- Immediate Investments: USD 1 billion in joint projects is committed over the next six months for initiatives ready to launch.

Significance of Critical Minerals:

- Critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements are essential for electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies, defence equipment, and high-tech electronics.
- These minerals are strategically important for both economic security and national defence.

Defence Cooperation

- The agreement also strengthens military collaboration between the US and Australia.

- Focus areas include joint defence projects, technology sharing, and strategic alignment in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The partnership aims to counter emerging regional threats and maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific.

India inks Rs 4136 crore deal with UK to buy missiles supplied to Ukraine to deter Russian attacks

India has entered into a ₹4,136 crore agreement with the United Kingdom to procure advanced missiles, previously supplied to Ukraine, to bolster its air defense capabilities against potential threats.

Production at Thales Facility in Belfast

The missiles will be manufactured at Thales Group's facility in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Thales, headquartered in Paris, operates multiple manufacturing sites across Europe, ensuring the production meets high-quality standards.

Strategic Move Amid Regional Tensions

This acquisition is part of India's strategy to enhance its defense preparedness in the face of escalating regional tensions and to modernize its military assets with state-of-the-art technology.

Thales Group

- Predecessor: Thomson-CSF
- Founded: 6 December 2000
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Chairman and CEO: Patrice Caine

Türkiye Signs Strategic Nuclear Deal with the United States

Türkiye signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation with the United States during President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to the White House.

Context & Additional Energy Deals

The MoU follows a large-scale LNG import deal during the U. S. visit, in which Türkiye's state-run BOTAS signed contracts for 75.8 billion cubic meters of LNG with Mercuria (Switzerland) and Woodside Energy (Australia). The deal reflects Türkiye's ongoing efforts to diversify energy supply, reduce reliance on imported natural gas, and meet growing electricity demand.

Scope of Nuclear Cooperation

Talks between Türkiye and the U. S. focus on:

- Construction of large-scale nuclear power plants

- Development of small modular reactors (SMRs)
- SMRs are considered flexible, scalable, and faster-to-deploy nuclear systems, potentially suited for industrial zones or integration with renewable energy systems.
- Senior Turkish Energy Ministry officials have highlighted the U. S. interest in Türkiye's nuclear expansion.

Türkiye's Nuclear Energy Ambitions

Türkiye's first nuclear project, the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in Mersin province, is being built by Russia's Rosatom at a cost of \$20 billion, with 4,800 MW total capacity. The first reactor is expected to begin operations by 2026.

Türkiye:

- Capital: Ankara
- President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Currency: Turkish lira

Defence Exercises of the Month

AUSTRAHIND 2025

The 4th edition of the India-Australia Joint Military Exercise 'AUSTRAHIND 2025' is set to commence in Perth, Australia, from October 14 to October 26, 2025.

An Indian Army contingent of 120 personnel, led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles and supported by troops from other arms and services, has departed to participate in this annual bilateral exercise.

Objective and Focus Areas

The primary aim of the exercise is to enhance defence cooperation and interoperability between the Indian and Australian armies. It will serve as a platform to exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures in sub-conventional warfare, particularly in urban and semi-urban terrains. The training will focus on joint company-level operations in open and semi-desert terrain, covering aspects such as:

- Joint mission planning and execution
- Tactical drills and coordination
- Use of special arms and emerging technologies

Significance

- Exercise AUSTRAHIND provides an opportunity to:
 - Strengthen military-to-military relations
 - Improve operational readiness and combat capability

- Promote cultural and professional camaraderie between both armies

Additional Key Facts:

- First Edition: 2022 (held in Rajasthan, India)

Other India-Australia Defence Engagements:

AUSINDEX – Naval Exercise

- Pitch Black – Multinational Air Force Exercise (Australia hosts)
- Broader Context: Both nations are members of the Quad Group (India, Australia, Japan, USA), focusing on Indo-Pacific security

Exercise NATPOLREX-X

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will conduct the 10th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X) off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu.

Organized along with the 27th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) and Preparedness Meeting.

- Objective: To evaluate and enhance India's preparedness to tackle marine oil spill incidents.

Key Highlights:

- Stakeholder Participation: Central ministries, coastal state governments, major ports, oil handling agencies, maritime organizations.
- International Participation: Over 40 foreign observers from 32 countries + 100+ national delegates.
- Assets Deployed: Pollution response ships, aircraft configured for oil spill control, and other advanced equipment.

Focus Areas:

- Marine oil spill containment & recovery.
- Multi-agency coordination and best practices.
- Technological integration for maritime pollution response.
- Strengthening global cooperation in environmental stewardship.

Indian Coast Guard (ICG):

- Established: 1978.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Motto: "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect).
- Functions: Maritime safety, security, pollution control, search & rescue.
- Current Director General (2025): Rakesh Pal (since July 2023).

NATPOLREX (National Level Pollution Response Exercise):

- Biennial flagship exercise of ICG.

- Conducted to test NOSDCP – National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan.
- NOSDCP first promulgated in 1993, later revised to align with global best practices.

Global Context:

- India is a signatory to MARPOL (International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973/78).
- ICG is the Central Coordinating Authority (CCA) for marine oil spill response in India.
- India is part of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for regional marine pollution management.

KONKAN-2025

The bilateral naval exercise "KONKAN-2025" between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy (UK) commenced off the western coast of India.

- Objective: To strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the India-UK Vision 2035, ensuring free, open, and secure seas.

Phases of Exercise:

- Harbour Phase (5–7 October): Professional interactions, Joint Working Group meetings.
- Cross-deck visits, cultural exchanges, and sports fixtures.
- Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges.

Sea Phase (8–12 October):

- Advanced maritime operations: anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine warfare.
- Flying operations, seamanship evolutions.
- Deployment of frontline naval assets: aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, and air assets.

Participating Forces:

- Indian Navy: Carrier Battle Group led by indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, supported by surface, sub-surface, and air combatants.
- Royal Navy: UK Carrier Strike Group 25 (UK CSG-25) led by HMS Prince of Wales.
- Includes allied participation: Norway and Japan.

Other India-UK Bilateral Military Exercises

Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR – Army

- Bilateral Army-level exercise between India and the UK.
- Conducted alternatively in both countries.
- Focus: Counter-terrorism operations in urban and semi-urban environments.

Exercise INDRADHANUSH – Air Force

- Bilateral Air Force exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF).
- Includes air combat missions, air-to-air refueling, and joint operational tactics.

DRONE KAVACH

The Indian Army is conducting a large-scale exercise named Drone Kavach in Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen its readiness for drone warfare.

Why the Exercise?

The goal is to test and improve detection, neutralization, and defensive tactics against hostile drones.

The exercise aims to enhance operational readiness in mountainous and border regions, which pose unique challenges.

Key Focus Areas

- Surveillance & Tracking: Deploying drones for reconnaissance and monitoring.
- Counter-Drone Measures: Using electronic warfare, jamming, and physical interception methods.
- Integration with Troops: Coordinating drone operations with ground force units for responsive actions.

Strategic Importance

- Arunachal Pradesh borders sensitive areas, making it critical for border security and surveillance.
- This exercise signals India's push to keep pace with modern threats, especially in aerial warfare and unmanned systems.

Vayu Samanvay

The Indian Army conducted a two-sided joint exercise named "Vayu Samanvay" at the Naraingarh Field Firing Ranges, Ambala, under the aegis of the Western Command. The exercise aimed to validate the operational efficiency of indigenous drones and their deployment in a contested Electronic Warfare (EW) environment.

Key Highlights

- The exercise demonstrated the operational preparedness of Indian troops and their ability to innovate solutions and modify tactics amid evolving battlefield challenges.

- Emphasis was laid on the role of drones in future warfare and the need for counter-drone systems to neutralize enemy aerial platforms effectively.
- The Army highlighted the success of counter-drone systems during Operation Sindoor, showcasing India's capability to counter enemy aerial threats.

Technological and Strategic Significance

The exercise featured a wide array of drones from across the industry, including several cutting-edge indigenous platforms, highlighting India's self-reliance and technological progress in unmanned systems.

Reinforced the Indian Army's commitment to modernisation, drone integration, and Electronic Warfare preparedness.

Additional:

- Western Command: One of the Indian Army's six operational commands, headquartered at Chandimandir, Haryana.
- Operation Sindoor: A recent Indian Army operation where counter-drone systems were effectively employed.
- Indigenous Drone Development: India is increasingly focusing on Make in India initiatives in defence, with companies like DRDO, HAL, and private startups developing UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles).
- Electronic Warfare (EW): Involves the use of the electromagnetic spectrum to intercept, disrupt, or deceive enemy communications and radars.
- Two-Sided Exercise: A military drill format where forces are divided into "Red Force" (enemy) and "Blue Force" (friendly) to simulate realistic combat scenarios.
- Ambala: A strategic military hub in Haryana, home to several Indian Army and Air Force unit.

Short Article**Explained | What to know about a rapid US military buildup in the Caribbean**

The evolving tension among former U.S. President Donald Trump, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and the Venezuelan military has reignited global debate over U.S. intervention, Latin American sovereignty, and the limits of regime stability. At the center of the crisis lies Venezuela's military — the

decisive force that could determine whether Maduro's rule endures or collapses.

Venezuela's Prolonged Political Crisis

- For over a decade, Venezuela has faced severe economic collapse, hyperinflation, food and medicine shortages, and mass emigration. Under Maduro's leadership, the country's institutions have been hollowed out, while power has consolidated around the presidency and the military.
- The armed forces, deeply embedded in governance and commerce, have become both Maduro's lifeline and his shield. Senior officers control vital sectors — from border control to the oil industry — gaining wealth and protection in return for loyalty. The opposition, though supported internationally, has repeatedly failed to fracture this alliance.

Trump's Renewed Hardline Approach

- Donald Trump's political resurgence has brought Venezuela back to the forefront of U.S. foreign policy. In his recent statements, he has revived threats of sanctions and possible military action, presenting Venezuela as both a humanitarian tragedy and a security challenge.
- Trump's strategy blends rhetorical pressure, economic isolation, and regional diplomacy. By rallying support from neighboring countries, he seeks to delegitimize Maduro and embolden internal dissent.
- However, critics argue that such aggressive posturing risks provoking instability or even armed conflict, while supporters claim it could finally break the military's loyalty and open the door to democratic restoration.

The Military: The Decisive Power Broker

- The Venezuelan military remains the single most powerful arbiter in the country's future. Maduro's survival depends on its loyalty; its defection would likely end his rule.
- U.S. efforts to influence the military include promises of amnesty, safe passage, and post-transition roles, designed to create fractures within the officer corps. But the military is not unified — it comprises hardliners, pragmatists, and opportunists, each weighing the risks of rebellion against the rewards of loyalty.

- The danger lies in fragmentation. Even partial defection could trigger internal clashes or civil conflict, as competing factions vie for control.

Foreign Powers and Strategic Stakes

- The Venezuelan standoff is not merely a domestic issue — it's a global power contest. Russia, China, Cuba, and Iran all support Maduro through financial aid, intelligence sharing, and military cooperation, viewing Venezuela as a strategic foothold in the Western Hemisphere.
- Meanwhile, Western powers and regional blocs like the OAS push for sanctions, diplomacy, and human rights pressure, though few advocate direct intervention.
- The result is a tense equilibrium: a state neither collapsing nor stabilizing, shielded by its alliances yet weakened from within.

Possible Scenarios Ahead

Analysts foresee four potential outcomes:

- **Coup or Military Defection:** A coordinated move by generals could quickly end Maduro's rule.
- **Regime Resilience:** Maduro tightens control through repression and external support.
- **Negotiated Transition:** International mediation leads to elections or shared governance.
- **Civil Conflict:** Factional fighting destabilizes the country further.
- Each scenario hinges on whether the military remains cohesive or splinters under pressure.

Regional and Global Implications

- Venezuela's fate will affect migration, regional stability, and democratic norms across Latin America. A collapse could drive millions more refugees into neighboring states, while U.S. involvement may reshape perceptions of American policy in the region.
- For Washington, Venezuela is both a test of resolve and restraint — whether to lead through diplomacy or coercion.
- Ultimately, the Venezuelan military holds the final card. Should it abandon Maduro, the regime may fall within days; if it stands firm, the status quo of repression and survival will continue. As Trump's renewed focus intensifies pressure, the world watches to see whether Venezuela's next revolution comes from within — or is once again shaped from beyond its borders.

The importance of Sir Creek: Why India & Pakistan have failed to solve border dispute

What Is Sir Creek and Why It Matters

Sir Creek is a tidal estuary about 96 km long that lies between India and Pakistan, forming part of the land-sea boundary between the Indian state of Gujarat and Pakistan's Sindh province. It's marshy, floods during monsoon, and is sparsely inhabited — but despite that, it holds major strategic and economic significance.

Because the precise boundary in Sir Creek hasn't been settled, the dispute influences control over waters, fishing rights, energy potential, and maritime boundaries between the two nations.

Strategic Importance: Beyond Just Water

Security and Defence Concerns

Sir Creek lies close to Pakistan's port city Karachi. Control of the creek could provide strategic advantage for naval or security operations near this economically and militarily important area. India sees Sir Creek not just as a border, but as a possible launch or intrusion path — hence its alertness to Pakistan's military buildup near the region.

Economic & Resource Stakes

- The waters and seabed near Sir Creek are believed to hold oil and gas reserves. Securing the boundary can give a country a bigger claim over these resources. Also, the creek is vital for the fishing industry. Unclear boundaries lead to frequent arrests of fishermen who unknowingly cross into the other side's waters, affecting livelihoods.
- Moreover, how the boundary is drawn in Sir Creek determines how each country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends into the Arabian Sea. A favorable boundary can give a stronger claim over offshore areas rich in marine resources.

How the Disagreement Started

The dispute dates back to the early 20th century, when local princely states around Kutch (India) and Sindh (Pakistan) argued about who controlled a creek dividing them. After independence and partition, the disagreement continued, but was never fully resolved. In 1968, a tribunal settled most of the Rann of Kutch boundary issue, giving India 90% of the contested area. But it excluded Sir Creek itself, saying that part of the boundary should be negotiated later — and that “later” has yet to happen.

Current Claims & Legal Disputes

- Pakistan claims all of Sir Creek. India, however, argues that the boundary should follow the Thalweg principle — meaning the boundary should run along the middle of the navigable channel of the creek. India maintains the creek is navigable (used by fishermen), so Thalweg should apply.
- Pakistan rejects that, saying the creek isn't navigable, so Thalweg shouldn't be used. Thus, both rely on differing legal, geographical, and historical interpretations to justify their claims.

Why Talks Have Failed So Far

- Over the years, India and Pakistan have held several rounds of bilateral talks, technical meetings, and working groups. Still, no lasting agreement has been reached. One reason is that the dispute is intertwined with larger political tensions — talks are often stalled by crises, security concerns, or distrust.
- At one point, Pakistan attempted to internationalize the issue (take it to a global court), but India insisted it be settled bilaterally (only between the two nations). India has consistently resisted third-party arbitration in Sir Creek, arguing that the matter falls under their mutual negotiations.

Challenges in Reaching a Settlement

- Geography & shifting landscape: Sir Creek's terrain, water flow, and navigation paths change over time due to tides, silt, and floods. Making a fixed boundary in a dynamic environment is tricky.
- Differing legal interpretations: Whether Thalweg applies, or how to define “navigable”, becomes a technical but politically loaded contest.
- Trust and strategic stakes: Each side fears conceding too much, as Sir Creek has implications beyond its borders.
- External pressures: Other disputes or security events between India and Pakistan often derail Sir Creek negotiations.

Why Sir Creek Still Isn't Resolved

- Even though both countries understand the stakes, the combination of legal complexity, shifting terrain, historical baggage, security suspicions, and political interference has prevented resolution.

Each side is reluctant to accept terms that weaken their claims or give the other an advantage.

- For India, resolving Sir Creek would help settle its maritime claims, support fishermen, and bolster energy ambitions. For Pakistan, securing control over the creek can reinforce access to Karachi and resource zones.
- Until both sides agree on technical definitions and political trust is rebuilt, Sir Creek will likely remain a contested frontier — one whose significance extends far beyond its watery marshes.

Tomahawk Missiles to Ukraine

The U.S. President has indicated that Washington may consider supplying long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine if Russia fails to take credible measures to de-escalate the ongoing conflict. The potential transfer of these missiles would mark a significant escalation in Western support for Ukraine and enhance its ability to conduct precision strikes deep inside enemy territory.

Overview of Tomahawk Missiles

The Tomahawk is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile designed for precision attacks on high-value or heavily fortified targets. It can be launched from both ships and submarines, offering flexibility in naval warfare. With a range of approximately 1,600 km (1,000 miles), it enables distant engagement without direct confrontation. The missile flies at low altitudes to evade radar systems and navigate complex terrains effectively.

Technical Features and Guidance System

The Tomahawk operates with a two-stage propulsion system: a solid propellant booster for initial launch and a turbofan engine for sustained flight. Its low heat emission makes it difficult to detect using infrared sensors. The missile is guided by a combination of GPS (Global Positioning System), INS (Inertial Navigation System), TERCOM (Terrain Contour Matching), and DSMAC (Digital Scene Matching Area Correlation), ensuring high precision. Modern variants can even be reprogrammed mid-flight to change targets or abort missions.

**“You Learn More From Failure
Than From Success. Don't Let It
Stop You. Failure Builds
Character.”**

Cruise Missiles vs Ballistic Missiles

- Cruise missiles such as the Tomahawk maintain a controlled, low-altitude trajectory within the Earth's atmosphere, while ballistic missiles follow a projectile path, leaving and re-entering the atmosphere under the influence of gravity. Cruise missiles generally have shorter ranges, whereas ballistic missiles can cover intercontinental distances.
- ****Indian examples**** of cruise missiles include BrahMos, Nirbhay, and LRLACM, while ballistic missile examples are the Agni series, Prithvi I & II, Dhanush, Shourya, K-15 (Sagarika), and K-4. Globally, the Tomahawk (USA), Kalibr (Russia), CJ-10 (China), and Babur (Pakistan) are major cruise missiles, while Minuteman III (USA), DF-41 (China), RS-24 Yars (Russia), and Shaheen-II (Pakistan) represent ballistic missile systems.

Strategic Importance

The Tomahawk's precision, range, and stealth make it a crucial weapon for both deterrence and offensive operations. Its deployment to Ukraine could alter the strategic balance in Eastern Europe by extending Ukraine's strike capability. Beyond its immediate tactical role, such a move would signal a deeper commitment of U.S. military assistance in the conflict.

Manufacturer: Raytheon Technologies, USA

- First Operational Use: 1991 Gulf War
- Speed: Approximately 880 km/h (Mach 0.74)
- Warhead Capacity: Around 450 kg (conventional or nuclear)
- Treaty Context: The 1987 *INF Treaty* restricted medium- and intermediate-range missiles, but the U.S. withdrawal in 2019 allowed further modernization of such systems.
- Indian Equivalent: **** BrahMos***, a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia, now extended to a range of nearly 800 km.

**“If You Are Working On
Something That You Really Care
About, You Don't Have To Be
Pushed. The Vision Pulls You.”**

Social Issues & Schemes

PM Modi Launches ₹35,440 Crore Agriculture Schemes to Transform Farming Sector

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two major agriculture initiatives — the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — with a combined outlay of ₹35,440 crore. These flagship schemes aim to boost agricultural productivity, farmer incomes, and self-reliance in pulses production, marking a key step toward India's Vision 2047 for food security.

The launch coincided with the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, emphasizing the government's focus on rural development and farmers' welfare.

Key Highlights of the Announcement

1. PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

- Objective: To develop 100 agricultural districts identified based on low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average access to credit.
- Outlay: ₹24,000 crore (converged from existing schemes).

Focus Areas:

- Crop diversification and improved credit access
- Development of agri-infrastructure (warehousing, irrigation, digital platforms)
- Strengthening local markets and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)
- Implementation: Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, supported by NABARD and State Agriculture Departments.

2. Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- Outlay: ₹11,440 crore
- Implementation Period: 2025–26 to 2030–31
- Targets by 2030–31:
 - Area expansion: 310 lakh hectares
 - Production goal: 350 lakh tonnes
 - Yield: 1,130 kg per hectare
- Aim: To achieve self-sufficiency in pulses, reduce import dependency, and promote crop diversification.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Approved by: Union Cabinet on October 1, 2025

PM to Unveil Youth-Focused Initiatives Worth Over Rs. 62,000 Crore

PM-SETU: Transforming ITIs

- Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)
- Investment: Rs. 60,000 crore (centrally sponsored, with global co-financing from World Bank and Asian Development Bank)
- Objective: Upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs in a hub-and-spoke model (200 hubs, 800 spokes)

Youth-Focused Initiatives in Bihar

- Mukhyamantri Nishchay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana: Monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000 for five lakh graduate youth with free skill training for two years
- Redesigned Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme: Interest-free loans up to Rs. 4 lakh for higher education; 3.92 lakh students benefited with loans worth Rs. 7,880 crore
- Bihar Yuva Ayog: Statutory commission for youth aged 18–45
- Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University: Industry-oriented courses and vocational education

Higher Education and Research Infrastructure

- PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan): Foundation stones for new facilities in Patna University, Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Jai Prakash Vishwavidyalaya, and Nalanda Open University
- Allocation: Rs. 160 crore; benefits over 27,000 students with modern labs, hostels, and multidisciplinary learning
- NIT Patna, Bihta Campus: Capacity of 6,500 students; includes 5G use case lab, Regional Academic Centre for Space (in collaboration with ISRO), and an Innovation & Incubation Centre supporting 9 start-ups

PM Modi launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana via video conference.

What does the scheme do?

About 75 lakh women in Bihar will get ₹10,000 each through direct bank transfers. It aims to support one woman from each family in starting income-generating

work of her choice—like agriculture, handicrafts, weaving, animal husbandry, etc. Later phases may offer additional support up to ₹2 lakh.

How to enroll

- In rural areas: Women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can apply through village organizations (gram sangathan).
- Non-SHG women must first join an SHG via the village organization.
- In urban areas: Eligible women can apply online via the Jeevika website (brlps. in), unless they already belong to an SHG.

What additional support is planned?

Training will be offered through community resource persons linked to SHGs. To help women sell their products, the government will develop Gramin Haat-Bazaars (rural markets) across the state.

Short Article

From Devotion to Dispute: Inside the Sabarimala Gold-Plating Controversy

The Kerala High Court has ordered a detailed investigation into the alleged irregularities in the gold-plating work at the famous Sabarimala Temple. The decision came after reports that the gold-covered “dwarapalaka” (door guardian) idols inside the temple were taken to Chennai for repair without informing the court, which goes against earlier orders. A former High Court judge has been appointed to check all the temple’s valuable items, and the temple vigilance officer will review every step taken in the gold-plating project.

Court Flags Major Irregularities

Violation of Rules

The court noted that earlier directions clearly stated that any repair or maintenance work must be done inside the temple and only after prior approval. However, the gold-plated idols were moved out of state without permission, which raised serious doubts about the transparency of the process.

Doubts Over Contractor and Method

A Chennai-based company, which had done similar work earlier under a long warranty, was again chosen for the repairs despite earlier complaints about its performance. This raised questions about the selection process.

The sponsor of the project, Unnikrishnan Potty, was found to have a strong influence over temple officials.

His role and connections with the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, are now under scrutiny.

Missing Gold and Faulty Process

- When the repaired idols and plates were returned from Chennai, officials noticed a shortage of nearly five kilograms of gold. Despite this, no serious action was taken, and the same contractor was allowed to continue the work.
- The process also changed midway — traditional gold plating was replaced by electroplating, which is cheaper but less durable. This change was made after private consultations, without proper approval from the court or the temple authorities.
- Officials also failed to ensure that the repair work was done under proper supervision, as required by temple regulations.

Sponsor’s Role Under the Scanner

- Unnikrishnan Potty, who initially offered to sponsor the gold-plating, has now become the central figure in the controversy. Once a temple helper, he later gained influence by funding several temple-related activities and developing strong connections with powerful people.
- Investigators found that some missing items from the temple were recovered from his family’s house, raising further suspicions about the misuse of temple valuables.

Earlier Controversies and Public Reaction

- This is not the first time gold-plating at Sabarimala has drawn attention. Similar projects in the past also involved questions about the amount of gold used and how the work was managed.
- The latest case has created public anger and raised concerns about how temple wealth and donations are being handled. Many devotees believe that lack of accountability and the growing influence of private individuals over temple affairs are damaging the sanctity of one of India’s most sacred sites.

What Happens Next

- The High Court has stopped all ongoing repair work and ordered that all valuables be brought back to the temple immediately. A detailed inquiry will now trace every stage of the project — from transportation to gold usage — to identify those responsible for any wrongdoing.
- If the investigation confirms mismanagement or loss of gold, strict legal and administrative action is expected against the people involved.

Environment & Ecology

Himachal Pradesh's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve Joins UNESCO Global Network

The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh has been inducted into the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The announcement was made during the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Hangzhou, China. Located in the Western Himalayas, the reserve spans an area of about 7,770 square kilometers, making it a significant high-altitude ecosystem of global importance.

Key Features:

High-altitude cold desert ecosystem. Rugged terrain, alpine meadows, snow-fed rivers.

Habitat of snow leopard, Himalayan ibex, and other rare species.

History:

Designated a National Biosphere Reserve in 2009. Now India's 13th Biosphere Reserve to join UNESCO's global network.

- Constituent Protected Areas: Pin Valley National Park, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Human Population: Approx. 12,000 residents.

Wildlife Week 2025: India Launches Five National Projects on Species Conservation

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations at the Hari Singh Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, located in the Forest Research Institute (FRI) campus. The theme of the event was "Human-Wildlife Coexistence", focusing on promoting harmony between people and nature.

Organising Bodies

The celebrations were jointly organised by:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
- Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)
- IGNFA and Forest Research Institute (FRI)

Five Major Projects Launched for Wildlife Conservation

1. Project Dolphin (Phase II) – Focused on enhanced protection and monitoring of river and marine cetaceans, including the Ganges and Indus river dolphins.
2. Project Sloth Bear – Launch of a national framework for the conservation of sloth bears across Indian habitats.
3. Project Gharial – Implementation plan for conserving gharial populations and restoring their riverine ecosystems.
4. Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management (CoE-HWC) – To be set up at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore. It will provide policy support, field research, and mitigation strategies.
5. Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves Initiative – A new approach to manage tiger-human conflicts in non-protected landscapes using technology, community engagement, and landscape-level planning.

Additional Key Facts:

- Wildlife Week is celebrated every year from October 2 to 8 in India.
- Project Dolphin was first announced by PM Narendra Modi in 2020 under the National Ganga Council.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973; Project Elephant in 1992.
- India's Wildlife Protection Act was enacted in 1972.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is headquartered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- India has 54 tiger reserves (as of 2025), covering about 2.3% of India's land area.
- Gharial is listed as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List.
- Great Indian Bustard is one of the most critically endangered bird species in India, found mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Bihar Gets Two New Ramsar Sites: Gokul Jalashay & Udaipur Jheel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the recognition of two wetlands from Bihar as new Ramsar Sites.

New Sites Added:

- Gokul Jalashay – Buxar district
- Udaipur Jheel – West Champaran district

Significance:

- Ramsar Sites = Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention (1971).
- Ramsar Convention HQ – Gland, Switzerland.
- India’s total Ramsar Sites = 93 (area: 13,60,719 hectares).

Additional Key Facts:

- India’s 1st Ramsar Site (1981): Chilika Lake (Odisha) & Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan).

- State with Maximum Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (16 sites).
- Recent Additions (2024–25): Gokul Jalashay (Buxar, Bihar), Udaipur Jheel (West Champaran, Bihar).

Importance of Wetlands:

- Act as carbon sinks and help in flood control.
- Provide livelihoods to local communities (fisheries, agriculture, tourism).
- Global Ramsar Numbers: Over 2,500 sites worldwide, covering over 250 million hectares.
- World Wetlands Day: 2nd February (marks adoption of Ramsar Convention).

“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.”

01 OCTOBER

02 OCTOBER



WORLD VEGETARIAN DAY

Importance
To highlight the advantages of being vegetarian and to show the meatless life can also be a very delicious life.

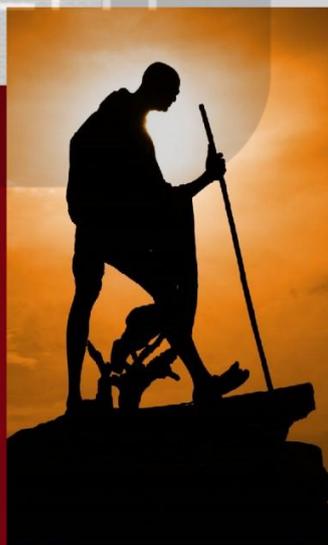
Motto
To promote the joy, compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism.

Note
World Vegetarian Day initiates the month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month, which ends with November 1, World Vegan Day.

Fact
The country with the largest vegetarian population is India. About two-thirds of the world’s vegetarians currently reside in India and the country accounts for more vegetarians than any other country in the world.

INCEPTION: 1977 (North American Vegetarian Society), 1978 (Endorsed by International Vegetarian Union)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE



Importance
To mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

INCEPTION
On 15 June 2007, UNGA adopted a resolution to declare 2 October will be celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Great Britain released a stamp honouring him after 21 years of his death 48 roads outside India that are named after Mahatma Gandhi.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (2 Oct 1869 - 30 Jan 1948)
Only Indian who distinguished with the "Time Person of the Year" title in 1930 Gandhi never won a Nobel Peace Prize, despite being nominated five times. Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Civil Rights movement in 12 countries.

1ST OBSERVED: 2008 **EDITION:** 19th

Science & Technology

South Korea launches 1st 3,600-ton naval attack submarine

South Korea has launched its first 3,600-ton-class attack submarine, marking a significant step forward in strengthening its naval defense capabilities.

Part of the Changbogo-III Batch-II Program

Named ROKS Jang Yeong-sil (SS-087), the submarine is the lead vessel in the Changbogo-III (KSS-III) Batch-II series. It measures 89 meters in length and represents the next generation of South Korean submarines.

Advanced Technology and Features

The new submarine is equipped with upgraded combat and sonar systems, lithium-ion batteries for longer underwater endurance, and advanced stealth technology for reduced detection.

Strengthening National Defense

This development enhances South Korea's underwater deterrence capabilities amid regional security tensions and highlights the country's growing defense technology expertise.

Delivery and Future Plans

The submarine is expected to be delivered to the Navy by 2027, with two additional submarines of the same class already under construction.

South Korea

- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- President: Lee Jae Myung
- Prime Minister: Kim Min-seok

India Develops First Indigenous Antibiotic – Nafithromycin

India has achieved a major scientific breakthrough with the development of its first indigenously discovered antibiotic, Nafithromycin, marking a historic step toward self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. Nafithromycin is highly effective against resistant respiratory infections, making it especially beneficial for cancer patients and those with poorly controlled diabetes.

Indigenous Gene Therapy Trial for Hemophilia

- Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted another scientific

milestone — India's first indigenous clinical trial for gene therapy to treat Hemophilia.

- The trial was conducted at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu, with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The therapy achieved a 60–70% correction rate with zero bleeding episodes, demonstrating remarkable success.
- The results of this clinical trial were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, one of the world's most reputed medical journals.

Human Genome Sequencing Progress

- India has successfully sequenced over 10,000 human genomes and plans to scale this number up to one million in the coming years.
- This effort will significantly enhance personalized medicine, genetic research, and disease prevention capabilities.

Additional Key Facts:

- Antibiotic Name: Nafithromycin
- Type: India's first indigenously discovered antibiotic
- Effective Against: Resistant respiratory infections
- Beneficiaries: Cancer patients, diabetic patients
- Developed By: Indian scientists under the Department of Biotechnology
- Other Achievement: Indigenous gene therapy trial for Hemophilia at CMC Vellore
- Success Rate: 60–70% correction, zero bleeding episodes
- Published In: New England Journal of Medicine
- Genome Sequencing Goal: From 10,000 to 1 million human genomes

UIDAI Launches SITAA to Strengthen India's ID Tech Ecosystem

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA) to foster innovation, collaboration, and technological advancement in India's digital identity ecosystem.

Key Features of SITAA:

- Collaboration Scope: Startups, academia, and industry partners in the digital identity sector.
- Objective: Develop secure, scalable, and indigenous identity technologies.

- Applications: Open for the pilot programme until 15th November 2025.

Focus Areas:

- Biometric devices and authentication frameworks
- Data privacy and artificial intelligence (AI) in identity management
- Secure identity applications and solutions

India Unveils \$77 Billion Hydro Plan Amid China's Upstream Dam Construction

India has announced a 6.4 trillion rupees (\$77 billion) hydroelectric transmission plan to develop and transport over 76 GW of hydroelectric power from the Brahmaputra basin by 2047, aiming to meet growing domestic electricity demand and strengthen energy security. The plan was released by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

Key Features of the Hydro Plan

- Total Investment: ₹6.4 trillion (~\$77 billion)
- Hydro Projects Covered: 208 large hydro projects across 12 sub-basins in the northeastern states.

Capacity:

- Hydropower: 64.9 GW
- Pumped-storage plants: 11.1 GW

Phase-wise Cost:

- Phase 1 (up to 2035): ₹1.91 trillion
- Phase 2 (post-2035): ₹4.52 trillion
- States Covered: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, West Bengal

Key Utilities Involved: NHPC, NEEPCO, SJVN

Strategic and Environmental Context

- The Brahmaputra River originates in Tibet, China, and flows through India into Bangladesh.
- Arunachal Pradesh, bordering China, accounts for 52.2 GW of hydro potential, the largest in the basin.
- India is concerned that China's dam on the Yarlung Zangbo (upper Brahmaputra) could reduce dry-season water flows in India by up to 85%, making transboundary water management a strategic priority.

The plan aligns with India's clean energy goals:

- 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030
- Net zero carbon emissions by 2070

Objectives of the Plan

- Enhance energy security and meet rising electricity demand in India.

- Maximize hydroelectric potential in the northeastern region.
- Develop transmission infrastructure for efficient electricity transfer.
- Support India's renewable energy targets and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- Strengthen strategic control over transboundary water resources amid upstream Chinese dam projects.

India's GalaxEye to Launch 'Mission Drishti' Satellite Constellation in 2026

Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye has announced its first satellite mission — 'Mission Drishti', scheduled for launch in the first quarter of 2026. This mission marks the beginning of GalaxEye's ambitious satellite constellation program, under which 8–12 satellites are expected to be deployed by 2029, enabling near real-time Earth observation capabilities.

About Mission Drishti

'Mission Drishti' is set to become India's largest privately built satellite, weighing 160 kilograms, and will be the country's highest-resolution Earth observation satellite. It uses GalaxEye's proprietary SyncFused Opto-SAR technology, which combines Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and high-resolution optical sensors on a single platform.

This unique integration enables "all-weather, all-time" imaging, delivering precise Earth observation data irrespective of lighting or weather conditions — a major advantage for national security, infrastructure, and disaster management operations. The satellite has successfully completed structural tests at ISRO's U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), proving its readiness for the harsh conditions of space.

Applications

- Mission Drishti's high-resolution (1.5-metre) imaging and rapid revisit capability will support various sectors, including:
 - Government and Defence – Border surveillance and security monitoring
 - Disaster Management – Floods, cyclones, and forest fire response
 - Agriculture – Crop health and productivity assessment
 - Infrastructure & Utilities – Asset monitoring and planning
 - Finance & Insurance – Risk assessment and claim verification

Significance

Marks a major milestone in India's private space sector, boosting the nation's self-reliance under the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives.

Strengthens India's presence in the global Earth observation market, competing with leading international players.

Demonstrates the role of AI-powered satellite imaging in modern geospatial intelligence.

GalaxEye:

- CEO: Suyash Singh
- Founded: 2020 (by IIT Madras alumni)
- Mission Objective: Near real-time Earth observation for global applications

What Pakistan's AMRAAM missile deal with US mean for its air power

The United States has confirmed that Pakistan will receive advanced air-to-air missiles as part of a modified arms contract with Raytheon. This inclusion marks a renewed phase of defense cooperation between Washington and Islamabad.

Details of the Modified Arms Contract

The U. S. Department of War announced that Pakistan is among the foreign military buyers in an expanded missile production deal. Raytheon has received an additional \$41.6 million on a previous contract, bringing the total value of the program to over \$2.51 billion. The contract covers the production of the latest AMRAAM variants, C8 and D3, with all work expected to be completed by May 2030.

Clarification on Missile Delivery

The U. S. embassy clarified that Pakistan will not receive any new AMRAAMs. The modified contract pertains to the maintenance and spare parts support of weapons already delivered. However, the original U. S. Department of War document listed Pakistan among the countries covered under the foreign military sales program.

Significance of the AMRAAM Missile

The AIM-120 AMRAAM is a widely used beyond-visual-range (BVR) air combat weapon. Its "fire-and-forget" capability allows it to track and follow targets autonomously after launch, enabling pilots to engage multiple targets without maintaining radar lock. The missile has evolved into advanced variants, C8 and D3, with increased range and accuracy. It can operate in all weather conditions and engage enemy aircraft at medium to long ranges.

Compatibility with Pakistan's F-16 Fleet

Pakistan's F-16 fleet is compatible with the AMRAAM system. The integration of these advanced missiles is expected to enhance the combat capabilities of Pakistan's air force, which relies heavily on these U. S. -supplied aircraft.

Regional Implications

The inclusion of Pakistan in the U. S. missile program reflects a cautious effort by Washington to maintain ties with Pakistan's military while balancing its growing strategic partnership with India. For Islamabad, the AMRAAM deal could strengthen its aerial capabilities amid domestic instability and regional competition.

S. Korea to launch Nuri space rocket on November 27: KASA

South Korea has scheduled the fourth launch of its homegrown space rocket Nuri (KSLV-II) for November 27.

Launch Window & Location

If the main date cannot be used, there is a backup window from November 28 to December 4. The launch will take place from the Naro Space Center on the southern coast of Korea.

Payload Details

The rocket will carry a main satellite along with 12 smaller satellites. The smaller satellites are expected to reach the launch site by end of October.

First Launch Under New Space Agency

This mission is the first launch managed by the newly formed Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA). KASA's leadership has highlighted the need for careful preparation and teamwork to ensure success.

Budget & Future Plans

South Korea has increased KASA's 2026 budget by 15% to 1.11 trillion won. The extra funding will support satellite development, lunar exploration, rocket technology, and private sector participation in space projects.

South Korea

- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- President: Lee Jae Myung

Indian Air Force Decommissions MiG-21 Fighter Jets After Six Decades of Service

The Indian Air Force (IAF) officially retired the MiG-21 fighter jet in a ceremonial decommissioning event held in Chandigarh.

Significance:

- The MiG-21, of Russian origin, was inducted into the IAF in the 1960s.
- Served as the IAF's longest-operating fighter aircraft, completing over 60 years of service.
- The aircraft was first inducted into combat service at Chandigarh in 1963, with Dilbagh Singh (later IAF Chief in 1981) leading the first squadron.
- A ceremonial flypast marked the farewell to the aircraft, described by the Ministry of Defence as a "legendary icon" and a "fearless warrior".

About MiG-21:

- Designed by the Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau, USSR.
- Nicknamed the "Type 77" in India.
- Supersonic fighter aircraft, capable of speeds above Mach 2 (2,175 km/h).
- Served in 1965, 1971, Kargil War (1999), and various other operations.
- Backbone of the IAF for decades before being gradually replaced by modern jets like Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Rafale, Tejas LCA.

Indian Air Force:

- Established: 8 October 1932.
- Motto: "Nabha Sparsham Deeptam" (Touch the Sky with Glory).
- Current Air Chief: Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh.

Other Replacements:

IAF is modernizing with aircraft like Rafale (France), Sukhoi Su-30MKI (Russia), and indigenous HAL Tejas under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Sona Comstar partners with Germany's NEURA Robotics to develop humanoids

Auto-parts manufacturer Sona Comstar has signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with German company NEURA Robotics GmbH to jointly develop and industrialize humanoid and industrial robots, both in India and internationally.

Combining Strengths: What Each Brings

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

- Sona Comstar's role: It contributes its engineering and manufacturing expertise.
- NEURA Robotics' role: It offers pioneering cognitive robotics technologies—focused on "intelligent robotics" and closing innovation gaps in robotics.

Why This Partnership Matters

- The global manufacturing and logistics sectors are undergoing rapid change due to "intelligent automation"—robots that can think, adapt, and work alongside humans.
- Industrial robots and humanoids are seen as the next wave in tech advancement, and this collaboration aims to set new standards of innovation and scalability for such technologies.

Why Humanoids Are Being Developed Fast?

- Labour Shortages: Ageing populations and lack of workers in many countries are driving demand for humanoid helpers in factories, hospitals, and homes.
- Adaptability: Humanoids can operate in human-designed spaces — climb stairs, use tools, and interact safely — without changing existing infrastructure.
- AI & Tech Advances: Progress in AI, sensors, and lightweight materials makes humanoids smarter, faster, and more efficient.
- Automation Beyond Factories: Industries now need robots in logistics, services, and healthcare — areas where humanoids fit best.
- Heavy Investment: Big tech companies and investors see humanoids as the next trillion-dollar innovation, fueling rapid development.
- Symbol of Innovation: Humanoids represent the frontier of AI and robotics, blending intelligence with mobility and human-like behavior.

NEURA Robotics GmbH (often styled "Neura Robotics")

- Founded: 2019
- Founder / CEO: David Reger
- Headquarters: Metzingen, Germany (near Stuttgart)

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

Culture & History

Indian-Origin Historian Sunil Amrith Wins 2025 British Academy Book Prize

Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been awarded the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for his book “The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years.” The prize, worth £25,000, honours the world’s best works of non-fiction in the fields of humanities and social sciences. The award ceremony took place at the British Academy in London.

About the Author:

- Age: 46 years
- Profession: Professor of History at Yale University, USA
- Birthplace: Kenya
- Family Background: Born to South Indian parents
- Early Life: Grew up in Singapore

About the Winning Book – “The Burning Earth”

The book provides a comprehensive environmental history of the past 500 years, exploring how colonisation, industrialisation, and human settlement have shaped the planet and contributed to the ongoing climate crisis.

- It interlinks human history with environmental transformation.
- The book spans multiple continents and centuries, from the conquest of the Americas to British gold mining in South Africa, and from the Black Death to World War II.
- Judges described it as “important reading for understanding the roots of today’s climate crisis.”

About the British Academy Book Prize:

- Established: 2013
- Organised by: The British Academy, UK’s national academy for humanities and social sciences
- Prize Amount: £25,000 for the winner; £1,000 for each shortlisted author

Eligibility:

- Non-fiction works published in the UK
- Open to authors of any nationality
- Books must be available in English language

Lionel Messi Wins 2025 MLS Golden Boot with Record-Breaking Performance

Football legend Lionel Messi has won the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) Golden Boot, registering an outstanding 29 goals and 19 assists in his second full season with Inter Miami CF. This marks a historic moment for both Messi and Inter Miami, as he becomes the club’s first-ever Golden Boot winner.

Key Achievement

Messi outperformed competitors Denis Bouanga and Sam Surridge, claiming the prestigious award. His 48 total goal contributions (29 goals + 19 assists) were just one short of Carlos Vela’s 2019 record of 49, highlighting his continued dominance in world football even in his late 30s.

Historic Milestones

Messi became the first Argentine since Taty Castellanos (2021) to win the MLS Golden Boot.

He is on course to become MLS’s first-ever back-to-back MVP (Most Valuable Player), following his stellar 2024 season, during which Inter Miami won the Supporters’ Shield (awarded to the team with the best regular-season record).

About the MLS Golden Boot

The MLS Golden Boot is awarded annually to the player with the most goals in the Major League Soccer (USA & Canada) regular season. If players tie on goals, assists are used as the tiebreaker. The award recognizes offensive excellence and is one of the highest individual honors in North American football.

70th Filmfare Awards 2025: ‘Laapataa Ladies’ Wins Record 13 Awards; Alia Bhatt, Abhishek Bachchan, Kartik Aaryan Among Winners

The 70th Filmfare Awards 2025 were held on Saturday at EKA Arena, Kankaria Lake, Ahmedabad. The ceremony was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan, along with Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul, and featured performances by Shah Rukh Khan, Kriti Sanon, Kajol, and others. The film ‘Laapataa Ladies’ set a new benchmark by winning 13 awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Actor/Actress in Critics’ and Supporting roles, equalling the previous record held by Gully Boy.

Key Winners of Filmfare Awards 2025

Major Acting Awards

- Best Actor (Male, Leading Role): Abhishek Bachchan (I Want To Talk) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)
- Best Actor (Female, Leading Role): Alia Bhatt (Jigra)
- Critics' Best Actor (Male): Rajkummar Rao (Srikanth)
- Critics' Best Actor (Female): Pratibha Rannta (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Supporting Actor (Male): Ravi Kishan (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Supporting Actor (Female): Chhaya Kadam (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Debut Actor (Male): Lakshya (Kill)
- Best Debut Actor (Female): Nitanshi Goel (Laapataa Ladies)

Major Film and Direction Awards

- Best Film: Laapataa Ladies
- Best Director: Kiran Rao (Laapataa Ladies)
- Critics' Best Film: I Want to Talk (Shoojit Sircar)
- Best Debut Director: Kunal Kemmu (Madgaon Express), Aditya Suhas Jambhale (Article 370)

Writing & Music Awards

- Best Screenplay: Sneha Desai (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Story: Aditya Dhar & Monal Thakkar (Article 370)
- Best Dialogue: Sneha Desai (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Music Album: Ram Sampath (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Lyrics: Prashant Pandey (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Arijit Singh (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Madhubanti Bagchi (Stree 2)
- Best Background Score: Ram Sampath (Laapataa Ladies)

Technical Awards

- Best Action: Seayoung Oh & Parvez Shaikh (Kill)
- Best Sound Design: Subash Sahoo (Kill)
- Best VFX: Redefine (Munjya)
- Best Choreography: Bosco-Caesar (Tauba Tauba, Bad Newz)
- Best Editing: Shivkumar V. Panicker (Kill)
- Best Costume Design: Darshan Jalan (Laapataa Ladies)
- Best Production Design: Mayur Sharma (Kill)
- Best Cinematography: Rafey Mehmood (Kill)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Ritesh Shah & Tushar Sheetal Jain (I Want To Talk)

Special Awards

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Zeenat Aman & Shyam Benegal (Posthumously)
- RD Burman Award for Upcoming Talent in Music: Achint Thakkar (Jigra, Mr & Mrs Mahi)

Sonu Nigam Felicitated with National Lata Mangeshkar Award

Renowned playback singer Sonu Nigam was honoured with the National Lata Mangeshkar Award in Indore for his outstanding contribution to the field of light music.

The award was presented by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Lata Mangeshkar's birthplace on her 96th birth anniversary.

About the National Lata Mangeshkar Award

- Established: 1984 by the Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh
- Purpose: To encourage artistic excellence in light music
- Past Recipients: Legendary artists such as Naushad, Kishore Kumar, and Asha Bhosle

Sonu Nigam:

Born July 30, 1973, in Kolkata; renowned for playback singing across Bollywood, Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil music industries.

- Light Music: A genre that combines elements of classical, folk, and popular music, making it accessible to the general audience.

Sanskrit Scholar Bhadreshdas to Receive Saraswati Samman 2024

Renowned Sanskrit scholar Mahamahopadhyay Sadhu Bhadreshdas has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2024 for his book Swaminarayana Siddhanta Sudha, written in Sanskrit, the KK Birla Foundation announced.

About the Saraswati Samman

- Instituted in 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation.
- One of India's most prestigious literary awards, given annually for an outstanding literary work in any Indian language.
- Eligible works must be published within the last 10 years by an Indian citizen.
- The award carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

- The selection committee is currently headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri.

About Sadhu Bhadreshdas

- Born in 1966 in Nanded, Maharashtra, he is an internationally acclaimed Sanskrit scholar and an ordained monk of BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha).
- Recognized as a leading intellectual in Indian philosophy, with significant contributions to preserving and promoting traditional Vedic knowledge.
- Recipient of numerous prestigious titles and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR).

About the Award-Winning Work

- Swaminarayana Siddhanta Sudha, published in 2022, elaborates on the Prasthanatrayi and presents the philosophical vision of Akshara-Purushottama Darshana.
- The work demonstrates that India's tradition of philosophical discoveries is living and evolving, producing new philosophical insights even today.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Geoscience Awards (NGA) 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

About the Awards:

Among India's oldest and most prestigious honours in the field of geosciences. Recognize commitment, innovation, and excellence in geosciences.

Awards Distribution:

Total 20 awardees under 12 awards in 3 categories:

- National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement – 1 award
- Conferred on Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai (INSA Scientist & Visiting Professor, IISER Pune) for contributions to Solid Earth & Exploration Geophysics, including seismological research in Peninsular India, Western Himalayas & Ladakh.

National Young Geoscientist Award – 1 award

Conferred on Shri Susobhan Neogi, Senior Geologist, GSI, for pioneering work on tectonic evolution of Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Bundelkhand craton, advancing knowledge of supercontinent assembly & mineral genesis.

National Geoscience Awards – 10 awards across various fields.

National Geoscience Awards:

- Started: 1966.
- Organized by: Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
- Union Minister of Coal & Mines (2025): G. Kishan Reddy.

Geological Survey of India (GSI):

- Founded in 1851 (celebrating 175 years in 2025).
- Headquartered in Kolkata.
- Plays a crucial role in mineral exploration & mapping.

Mining Sector in India:

- Contributes ~2.5% to India's GDP.
- Provides significant employment & supports allied industries.

Rare Earth Elements (REEs):

- Group of 17 critical minerals.
- Found in Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh.
- India aims to reduce import dependence under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

NSD and Bharat Bhawan Sign MoU to Revive Rangmandal Repertory

The National School of Drama (NSD) and Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to revive the Rangmandal Repertory, which had been inactive for over 20 years. The agreement aims to rejuvenate theatre culture in Madhya Pradesh and promote quality theatrical performances across India. The MoU was signed on 11th October 2025, in the presence of Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

About the Initiative:

The Rangmandal Repertory was once a prestigious theatre group under Bharat Bhawan, known for promoting Indian drama and performing arts. The revived Joint NSD–Bharat Bhawan Rang Mandal will provide a platform for artists, playwrights, and theatre students to collaborate and showcase regional and national productions. The initiative aims to nurture young talent, preserve India's rich theatrical traditions, and expand access to performing arts education.

"You Are Never Too Old To Set Another Goal Or To Dream A New Dream."

Sports

Formula 1: Verstappen takes US Grand Prix sprint pole

Max Verstappen dominated the 2025 United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, securing his fifth win of the season. Starting from pole position, Verstappen maintained a commanding lead throughout the race, finishing 7.959 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris, who narrowly edged out Ferrari's Charles Leclerc for second place.

Race Results

Position	Driver	Team
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing
2	Lando Norris	McLaren-Mercedes
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari

Championship Implications

With this victory, Verstappen narrows the gap in the Drivers' Championship standings, now trailing leader Oscar Piastri by 40 points. McLaren's Norris remains in contention, but Verstappen's consistent performance puts pressure on the top contenders as the season progresses.

India's Joby Mathew Wins Bronze at 2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships in Cairo

Indian para powerlifter Joby Mathew won the bronze medal at the 2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships held in Cairo, Egypt. He competed in the 65 kg Legend (Masters) category and achieved a total lift of 300 kg, with successful lifts of 148 kg and 152 kg. This performance broke his personal best of 150 kg, set at the Beijing World Cup 2025. The gold medal was won by Phongsakon Chumchai of Thailand (162 kg) and silver went to Neil Gracia of Peru (161 kg).

About Para Powerlifting World Championships 2025:

- Host City: Cairo, Egypt
- Organized by: World Para Powerlifting (WPP) under the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
- The championship serves as a qualifying event for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics.

Linthoi Chanambam creates history with India's first-ever medal at Judo Junior World Championships

Manipur's Linthoi Chanambam, a 19-year-old judoka, made history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Judo Junior World Championships 2025, held in Lima, Peru. She won the bronze medal in the women's 63 kg category, defeating Joni Geilen of the Netherlands. Chanambam entered the medal match through the repechage round, after losing her Group D match to So Morichika of Japan, who later reached the final.

Governing Body for Judo: International Judo Federation (IJF)

- Founded: 11 July 1951
- Headquarters: Budapest, Hungary
- President: Marius Vizer

Pramod Bhagat shines with triple gold and at Abia Para Badminton International

Pramod Bhagat dominated the 1st Abia Para Badminton International in Abia, Nigeria, winning three gold medals across different categories.

Gold Medals: Events & Partners

- Men's Singles SL3: Defeated fellow Indian Mantu Kumar in the final.
- Men's Doubles: Partnered with Sukant Kadam to clinch gold against Peru's pair Vargas / Rojas.
- Mixed Doubles (SL3-SU5): Teamed up with Arati Patil and won a close final match, rounding off his golden sweep.

Other Indian Athletes' Highlights

- Ranjit Singh: Won three bronze medals (Men's Singles WH1, Men's Doubles WH1-WH2, Mixed Doubles WH1-WH2).
- Nurul Hossain Khan: Silver in Men's Singles WH2.
- Uma Sarkar: Silver in Women's Singles SL3; plus Bronze in Women's Doubles SL3-SU5 with Arati.
- Others: Bronzes for Nilesh Gaikwad (Men's SL4) and Kanak Singh Jadaun (Women's SL4).
- Men's Singles SU5: India swept all three podium spots—with Karan Paneer winning Gold, Rahul Vimal Silver, Sativada Bronze.

India Finishes World Para Athletics Championships 2025 with 22 Medals

India ended its campaign at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in New Delhi with a total of 22 medals — 6 Gold, 9 Silver, and 7 Bronze. The event took place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and featured top para athletes from around the world.

Why This Achievement Matters

Shows India's strong progress in para athletics, especially in track and field events. Continues the success seen at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics and Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games. Reflects India's growing pool of talented para athletes performing at international levels.

India's Medal Tally at the 2025 Championships

- Total Medals: 22
- Gold: 6
- Silver: 9
- Bronze: 7

Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver in Women's 48kg Category at World Championships in Norway

Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal in the women's 48kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships 2025 held in Førde, Norway.

- Chanu lifted a total of 199 kg (Snatch – 84 kg, Clean & Jerk – 115 kg).
- This was her first World Championship appearance since 2022 and her second competition after finishing 4th at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- The gold medal was won by Ri Song-gum (North Korea) with a lift of 213 kg.

Mirabai Chanu – Quick Facts

- Full Name: Saikhom Mirabai Chanu
- Birthplace: Manipur, India (1994)
- Event: Women's 48kg / 49kg weightlifting

Notable Achievements:

- Tokyo 2020 Olympics – Silver (49kg)
- World Championships 2017 (Anaheim, USA) – Gold (48kg)
- Commonwealth Games – Gold (2018, 2022)

**“The Only Limit To Our
Realization Of Tomorrow
Will Be Our Doubts Of
Today.”**

- Padma Shri (2018), Khel Ratna (2018).

India Wins Asia Cup 2025, Abhishek Sharma and Kuldeep Yadav Claim Top Awards

In the Asia Cup 2025 T20I, held in Dubai, India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets to clinch their second Asia Cup T20I title.

Prize Money:

- India (Winners): ₹21 crore
- Pakistan (Runners-Up): USD 75,000

Key Performances & Awards

- Player of the Match (Final): Tilak Varma – scored impactful runs; hit most sixes (4).
- Gamechanger of the Match: Shivam Dube – 33 off 22 balls.
- GWM Player of the Tournament: Abhishek Sharma – 314 runs, strike rate 200, average 44; received USD 15,000 + Haval Car.
- Most Valuable Player (Tournament): Kuldeep Yadav – 17 wickets; awarded trophy + USD 15,000.
- Special Notes: The Indian team boycotted the award ceremony involving Pakistani representatives.

Asia Cup: Organized by Asian Cricket Council (ACC), first held in 1984.

- Format: T20I (since 2016) and ODI (original format).
- India's Asia Cup T20I Titles: 2 (latest in 2025).
- Pakistan's Asia Cup T20I Titles: 2 (latest in 2022).
- Notable Indian Players in Asia Cup History: Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, MS Dhoni, Suryakumar Yadav.
- Venue Significance: Dubai Cricket Stadiums (e. g. , Dubai International Cricket Stadium) often host Asia Cup finals due to neutral venue arrangements.
- Asia Cup Trophy Value: Winners typically receive cash prize + trophy; ACC awards recognize Player of the Match, Player of the Series, Most Sixes, Gamechanger, etc.
- Current Captain of India T20I (2025): Suryakumar Yadav.

**“What You Lack In Talent
Can Be Made Up With
Desire, Hustle And
Giving 110% All The Time.”**

Obituaries

Padma Shri Piyush Pandey, Iconic Indian Adman, Passes Away at 70



Piyush Pandey, renowned as the architect of Indian advertising, passed away at the age of 70. Known for giving a soul to advertisements, he revolutionized Indian advertising by developing an indigenous style, previously dominated by Western approaches.

Career Highlights:

- Chief Creative Officer Worldwide (2019) and Executive Chairman India at Ogilvy & Mather.
- Awarded the Padma Shri in 2016 for excellence in advertising.
- Credited with transforming Ogilvy India into one of the most creative offices globally.
- Created iconic campaigns for Fevicol, Cadbury, Luna Moped, Sunlight Detergent, and Asian Paints.

Early Life and Education:

- Born in 1955 in a family with nine siblings, including singer Ila Arun and film director Prasoon Pandey.
- Studied at St. Xavier's School, Jaipur, and earned a Postgraduate degree in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
- Joined Ogilvy in 1982 as a client servicing executive; first ad written was for Sunlight Detergent.
- Moved to the creative department in 1988, initiating a 40-year illustrious career in advertising.

Contributions Beyond Advertising:

- Composed the patriotic song "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara" for the National Integration Campaign (1988).
- Co-wrote the screenplay for the film Bhopal Express.
- Appeared on-screen as the Cabinet Secretary in the film Madras Cafe starring John Abraham and Nargis Fakhri.

- Featured in Magic Pencil Project videos, a marketing campaign by ICICI Bank.

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit Passes Away at 93



Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, the former queen consort and mother of the current monarch King Maha Vajiralongkorn, passed away at the age of 93. She was the widow of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the nation's longest-reigning monarch who ruled for 70 years until his death in 2016.

Legacy and National Significance:

- Queen Sirikit was widely revered in Thailand and regarded as the "Mother of the Nation." Her birthday, August 12, is celebrated annually as Mother's Day in Thailand. She played a significant role in promoting social welfare, handicrafts, and cultural preservation across rural Thailand.
- Even during the 2020–2021 student-led protests against the monarchy, public criticism was largely directed at the King, not Queen Sirikit or the late King Bhumibol, reflecting her enduring popularity.

About the Thai Monarchy:

Thailand's monarchy is one of the world's oldest and most revered institutions. The royal family is legally protected by strict lèse-majesté laws, which criminalize any criticism of the monarchy. Monarchs are considered semi-divine figures, and their portraits are displayed prominently across the nation.

Key Facts:

- Current Monarch of Thailand: King Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X).
- Form of Government: Constitutional Monarchy (since 1932).
- Capital of Thailand: Bangkok.
- Currency: Thai Baht.
- Prime Minister of Thailand (as of 2025): Anutin Charnvirakul.
- Dynasty: Chakri Dynasty.

- Important Law: Lèse-majesté law under Thailand's Criminal Code – Section 112.

Veteran Actor Govardhan Asrani Passes Away at 84



Veteran Bollywood actor Govardhan Asrani, popularly known as Asrani, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 84. Asrani's career spanned over five decades, contributing immensely to Hindi cinema, particularly in comic and supporting roles. He gained iconic status for portraying the jailer in the 1975 classic "Sholay." His other notable films include Chupke Chupke, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, Dhamaal, Bunty Aur Babli 2, and many more. He worked with leading directors like Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Rajkumar Santoshi, and David Dhawan, marking his versatility across generations of Indian cinema. He won the Filmfare award for Best Comedian for his performances in Aaj Ki Taaza Khabar in 1974 and for Balika Badhu in 1977.

Veteran actor Pankaj Dheer, passed away, in Mumbai after a long battle with cancer.



Made acting debut in 1983 with the film "Sookha." Breakthrough Role – Karna in Mahabharat (1988): Achieved nationwide fame as Karna in B. R. Chopra's "Mahabharat" (1988). Originally auditioned for Arjun, but was later cast as Karna after B. R. Chopra's persuasion. His image as Karna was used in school textbooks. Statues and temples were built in his honour in Karnal and Bastar, where he is revered as Karna.

Veteran Singer Raavu Balasaraswathi Devi Passes Away at 97



Iconic actor-singer Raavi Balasaraswathi Devi, as the first playback singer of Telugu cinema, passed away 97 years old.

Awards and Honours:

- Raghupathi Venkaiah Award (1999)
- Conferred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is one of the highest honours in Telugu cinema, given for lifetime contribution to the film industry.

Kalaimamani Award

Awarded by the Government of Tamil Nadu for her excellence in music and playback singing. Recognized her contribution to both Telugu and Tamil film industries.

Sangeetha Kala Sagara Title

Honoured by various cultural organizations for her versatile vocal talent and devotional music performances.

All India Radio (AIR) Honour

Recognized by All India Radio for her outstanding service as a radio singer and performer, earning her the title "Light Music Queen."

Ex-Kenya PM Raila Odinga died in Kerala



Former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga died on Wednesday morning in Kerala at the age of 80 following an alleged cardiac arrest. He was undergoing treatment at an Ayurvedic hospital in Koothattukulam.

Medical Background

Prior to arriving in Kerala, Odinga had received treatment for multiple health conditions at a hospital in

Mumbai. He had come to Kerala approximately a week earlier for Ayurvedic therapy.

Political Career and Contributions

Raila Odinga represented the Langata Constituency in the Kenyan Parliament from 1992 to 2013 and served as Prime Minister from 2008 to 2013. He played a pivotal role in advocating for multiparty democracy in 1991 and the introduction of a new Kenyan constitution in 2010. Odinga was also the leader of the Azimio la Umoja–One Kenya Coalition Party.

Diplomatic and Procedural Updates

Following his death, the hospital informed the Ministry of External Affairs and the Kenyan Embassy. Further steps regarding his body and official protocols are being coordinated as per instructions.

Kenya

- Capital: Nairobi
- Currency: Kenyan Shilling
- Official languages: Swahili, English
- President: William Ruto

Veteran Goa Politician Ravi Naik Passes Away at 79



Ravi Naik, former Chief Minister of Goa and senior BJP leader, passed away at the age of 79 due to cardiac arrest at a private hospital. Naik was a prominent political figure in Goa for several decades, belonging to the Bhandari community.

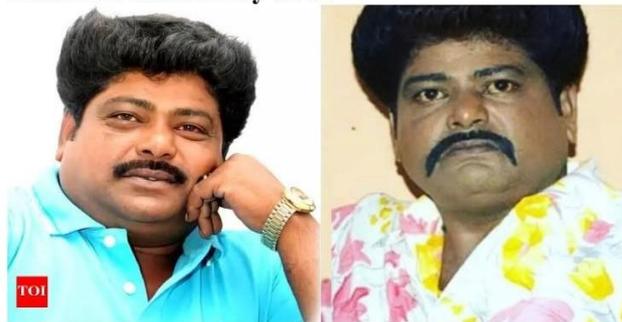
Political Career:

- Chief Minister of Goa: 1991–1993 (over two years) and briefly for six days in 1994.
- Legislative Career: Seven-time MLA from Ponda constituency; first elected in 1984.
- Member of Parliament: Served as MP from North Goa (1998–1999).

Notable Contributions and Controversies:

Advocated for creation of a third district in Goa, moving a private member's resolution in 2021 to include Sattari, Ponda, and Dharbandora talukas. Controversy during tenure as Home Minister in the Scarlett Keeling case, involving allegations against his son. Early life included being an ace volleyball player and councillor of Ponda Municipal Council.

Renowned Kannada Actor and Theatre Artist Raju Talikoti Passes Away at 62



Veteran Kannada theatre artist and comedian Raju Talikoti passed away at the age of 62 following a heart attack in Manipal, Udupi district, Karnataka. Raju Talikoti was a prominent figure in North Karnataka's theatre scene, known for his exceptional comic timing and dedication to stage performances. His acclaimed play "Kaliyugada Kuduka" brought him widespread recognition and established him as a beloved name in Kannada theatre and cinema.

Karnataka:

- Formation: 1 November 1956
- Capital: Bengaluru
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah
- Deputy Chief Minister: D. K. Shivakumar

T T Jagannathan, the kitchen mogul and man behind TTK Prestige, dies at 77



T T Jagannathan, Chairman Emeritus of TTK Prestige and a pioneering figure in India's kitchenware industry, passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 77. He was widely recognized for transforming TTK Prestige into one of India's most trusted household brands.

Career and Contribution to TTK Prestige

Jagannathan joined the TTK Prestige board over five decades ago and played a central role in shaping the company's growth trajectory. He served as Managing Director from 1975 to 2000 and as Executive Chairman from 2000 to 2019. Under his leadership, TTK Prestige introduced several product innovations, including the gasket release system in pressure cookers, making them

safer and more efficient. He authored *Disrupt and Conquer: How TTK Prestige Became a Billion Dollar Company*, which chronicled the company's transformation into a leading brand.

Former West Indies allrounder, 1975 World Cup winner Bernard Julien passes away at 75



Bernard Julien: A Quiet Cricketing Legend

Bernard Julien, the former West Indies all-rounder and a key member of the team that won the inaugural Cricket World Cup in 1975, passed away at the age of 75 in Valsayn, Northern Trinidad.

Career Highlights

- Test Matches: Played 24 matches, scoring 866 runs at an average of 30.92 and taking 50 wickets at 37.36.
- ODIs: Appeared in 12 matches, claiming 18 wickets at an average of 25.72.
- First-Class Cricket: Represented Kent and Trinidad and Tobago, amassing over 5,700 runs and 480 wickets in 195 matches.

Veteran Actress and Dancer Sandhya Shantaram passes away at 87



Renowned actress and classical dancer Sandhya Shantaram passed away in Mumbai at the age of 87. She was cremated at Shivaji Park crematorium, Mumbai. Sandhya gained fame through filmmaker V. Shantaram's film "Navrang" (1959), particularly the popular dance sequence "Are Ja Re Hat Natkhat".

She was also acclaimed for her roles in films such as:

- Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje (1955) – won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film.
- Do Aankhen Barah Haath (1957) – won a Golden Globe Award and Silver Bear at Berlin International Film Festival.
- Amar Bhoopali (1951)
- Jal Bin Machhli Nriya Bin Bijli (1971) – India's first film in Cinemascope.
- Pinjara (1972) – Marathi film directed by V. Shantaram, won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi.
- She was the wife of legendary filmmaker V. Shantaram (1901–1990), recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1985).

Veteran Delhi football administrator NK Bhatia dead



Veteran Football Administrator N. K. Bhatia Passes Away at 76

Cause: Passed away after a prolonged illness due to age-related complications.

Career and Contributions

Positions Held:

- Vice-President, Football Delhi (formerly Delhi Soccer Association – DSA).
- Former Secretary and Treasurer of the Delhi Football Association.
- Member of various Standing Committees of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- Years of Service: Active in football administration since the 1970s.
- Representation: Frequently represented Delhi Soccer Association in AIFF meetings.
- Leadership Role: Under his leadership, Delhi hosted multiple national and international football tournaments successfully.

Veteran journalist TJS George passes away in Bengaluru



T. J. S. George, the founding editor of Asiaweek and a longtime columnist, died in Bengaluru at age 97 after a period of illness.

Career & Contributions

He was known for his weekly column Point of View in The New Indian Express, which he wrote for over two decades until 2022. George authored biographies of prominent figures including M. S. Subbulakshmi, Nargis, and N. T. Rama Rao. In 1965, he was jailed on charges of sedition for criticizing the then Bihar Chief Minister. Awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011, he was respected for his fearless writing and intellectual rigor.

Personal Life & Legacy

George was originally from Kerala but spent much of his life in Bengaluru. He is survived by his children — Jeet Thayil, a writer, and Sheba, a journalist.

Padma Vibhushan vocalist Pandit Chhannulal Mishra dies at 89 in Uttar Pradesh



Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Pandit Chhannulal Mishra passed away in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, at the age of 89 after a prolonged illness. Born in Azamgarh, 1936, he was a doyen of Hindustani classical music. He mastered Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Chaiti, Kajri, and Bhajan. His gurus included his father Badri Prasad Mishra, Ustad Abdul Ghani Khan (Kirana Gharana), and Thakur Jaidev Singh. Awards: Padma Bhushan (2010) and Padma Vibhushan (2020).

Pandit Chhannulal Mishra

Specialized in Purab Ang Gayaki, a style of Hindustani music rich in folk influence (especially Eastern UP/Bihar traditions). Known for devotional and folk

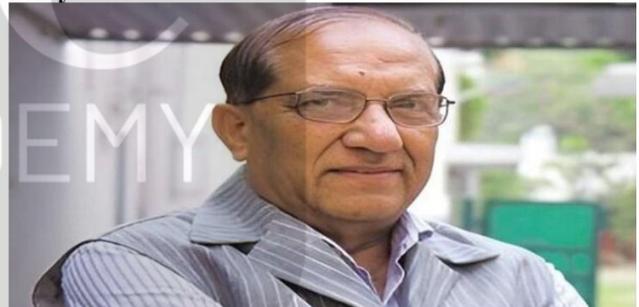
renditions of Ramcharitmanas bhajans and seasonal songs (Kajri, Chaiti, Hori).

Gandhian, socialist, and freedom fighter G. G. Parikh passed away in Mumbai at the age of 100.



He was imprisoned twice – first during the Quit India Movement (1942) and later during the Emergency (1975–77). He started his activism in the early 1940s in Saurashtra and Mumbai. In 1947, he served as President of the Bombay Students' Congress. Known for his strong socialist ideology, Parikh continued his work in public life even after independence, staying committed to Gandhian values and social justice.

Veteran BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra passes away



Vijay Kumar Malhotra, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, died at the age of 94 in Delhi. He had been ill for several days.

Political Journey & Achievements

Malhotra was active in Delhi politics for over 45 years. He served as Member of Parliament five times and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly twice. One of his notable victories was defeating former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the 1999 Lok Sabha elections. He was the first president of the Delhi BJP and played a key role in strengthening the party's presence in the Capital.

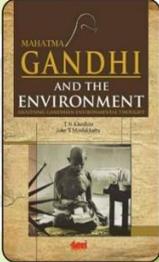
Legacy & Reactions

His passing is seen as an end of an era in Delhi politics. Party leaders and public figures expressed grief, recalling him for his dedication, simplicity, and commitment to public service.

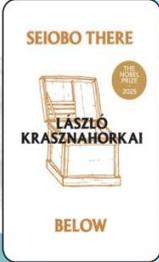
Important Days for Exams

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
1 November	World Vegan Day	To commemorate the establishment of UK Vegan Society in 1944
5 November	World Tsunami Day	To mark the adoption of the Sendai Framework by UN in 2015
7 November	Infant Protection Day	To spread awareness about the safety of infants
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	To mark the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureat Marie Curie(In 1867)
9 November	Uttarakhand Foundation Day	To mark the establishment of Uttarakhand state in 2000.
11 November	Armistice Day (Remembrance Day)	It marks the day when World War-I ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.
12 November	World Pneumonia Day	Championing the fight to stop pneumonia
13 November	World Kindness Day	To highlight and encourage people, society, and the community to do good things and be kind to everyone.
14 November	World Diabetes Day	Diabetes and well-being.
14 November	Children's Day	To mark the birth anniversary of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru who was born on November 14, 1889.
15 November	Jharkhand Foundation Day	To mark the establishment of the State Jharkhand in 2000
19 November	International Men's Day	To raise awareness about mental health issues in men
19 November	World Toilet Day	To inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
20 November	Universal Children's Day	To promote awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare
21 November	World Television Day	To mark the establishment of first World Television Forum by UN in 22 November, 1996.
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	To prevent and end violence against women at the global, regional and national levels
26 November	Constitution Day of India	To commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949

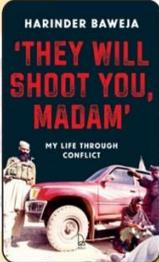
Books & Authors



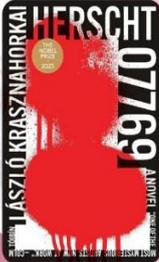
Book: Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment
Author: T.N.Khoshoo
About: This book compiles Gandhi's core ecological ideas and contextualizes them for modern challenges.



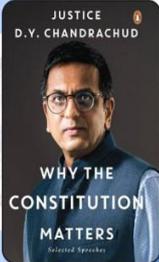
Book: Seiobo There Below
Author: László Krasznahorkai
About: This book is a profound exploration of art, suffering, and beauty, blending absurdism with Eastern spiritual insight.



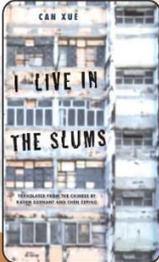
Book: They Will Shoot You, Madam
Author: Harinder Baweja
About: This book recounts author's experiences from over four decades of reporting across India and volatile regions beyond.



Book: Herscht 07769 : A Novel
Author: László Krasznahorkai
About: This novel is a lyrical blend of myth and realism, portraying fear, transformation, and fleeting beauty amid chaos.



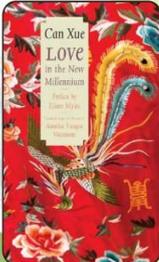
Book: Why the Constitution Matters
Author: DY Chandrachud
About: The book goes beyond legal analysis to present a powerful public narrative on how the Indian Constitution impacts real lives.



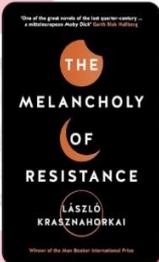
Book: I Live in the Slums
Author: Can Xue
About: I Live in the Slums combines elements of both Chinese materiality - the love of physical things - and Western abstract thinking.



Book: Satantango
Author: László Krasznahorkai
About: Published in 1985 it predicted the downfall of the communist regime in Hungary four years later.



Book: Love in the New Millennium
Author: Can Xue
About: In this darkly comic novel, a group of women inhabits a world of constant surveillance, where informants lurk in the flower beds and false reports fly.



Book: The Melancholy of Resistance
Author: László Krasznahorkai
About: This book is a darkly comic, surreal tale of chaos, meaningless action, and shifting power in a small town invaded by mysterious strangers.



Book: The Last Lover
Author: Can Xue
About: This book encounters a full assemblage of husbands, wives, and lovers. Entwined in complicated, often tortuous relationships.

Question Bank for Practice

Statement- Based

1. For the first time, wheat has been successfully grown in the arid desert land of western Rajasthan.

Consider the following statements about wheat cultivation:

- (1) Wheat requires hot and humid conditions for growth.
- (2) Punjab and Haryana are part of the “Wheat Bowl” of India.
- (3) Fertile loamy soils are ideal for wheat cultivation.

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:

1. Wheat requires hot and humid conditions for growth.

Explanation: This statement is incorrect. Wheat is a Rabi crop and grows best in cool and dry winter conditions with moderate rainfall.

Reason: High temperature and humidity can lead to fungal diseases and poor grain formation. Wheat thrives in temperate climates, not tropical hot-humid regions.

2. Punjab and Haryana are part of the “Wheat Bowl” of India.

Explanation: This statement is correct.

Reason: These states are the leading wheat producers in India due to fertile soils, favorable climate, and extensive irrigation. The region is often called the “Wheat Bowl” because it contributes a major share of India’s wheat production.

3. Fertile loamy soils are ideal for wheat cultivation.

Explanation: This statement is correct.

Reason: Wheat grows best in well-drained fertile loamy soils with good water retention. Such soils provide adequate nutrients and moisture for strong root development and high yields.

Note: Sandy or waterlogged soils are unsuitable for wheat.

2. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marked its centenary on 1st October 2025.

Consider the following statements regarding the historical development of UPSC:

- (1) The idea of a permanent body to regulate civil services was first proposed in the 1919 Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

(2) The Lee Commission (1924) recommended the establishment of a Public Service Commission in India.

(3) UPSC was directly established in 1926 under the Government of India Act, 1935.

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:

1. The idea of a permanent body to regulate civil services was first proposed in the 1919 Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

Explanation: This statement is correct. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (Government of India Act, 1919) suggested the creation of a permanent body to oversee civil services in India, laying the foundation for a structured recruitment and regulation system.

2. The Lee Commission (1924) recommended the establishment of a Public Service Commission in India.

Explanation: This statement is correct. The Lee Commission reviewed the working of civil services and recommended the creation of a Public Service Commission to ensure merit-based recruitment and professional standards.

3. UPSC was directly established in 1926 under the Government of India Act, 1935.

Explanation: This statement is incorrect. The Public Service Commission was initially set up on 1st October 1926, but the Government of India Act, 1935 later transformed it into the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) came into existence in 1950 under the Constitution of India, not directly in 1926 under the 1935 Act.

3. Wassenaar Arrangement faces challenges in adapting to cloud technology.

Consider the following statements about the Wassenaar Arrangement:

- (1) It is a multilateral export control regime for conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

(2) The arrangement came into existence in 1996, succeeding the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM).

(3) Its headquarters is located in The Hague, Netherlands.

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: 1. It is a multilateral export control regime for conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

Explanation: This statement is correct. The Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral framework where member countries agree to control exports of conventional weapons and dual-use technologies (items that can be used for both civilian and military purposes) to maintain global security and prevent destabilizing transfers.

2. The arrangement came into existence in 1996, succeeding the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM).

Explanation: This statement is correct. Wassenaar Arrangement was established in 1996, following the dissolution of COCOM, which existed during the Cold War to control the export of strategic technologies. Wassenaar continues similar goals in the post-Cold War era.

3. Its headquarters is located in The Hague, Netherlands.

Explanation: This statement is incorrect. While the initial agreement to form the Wassenaar Arrangement was signed in Wassenaar, a suburb of The Hague, Netherlands, the official headquarters is in Vienna, Austria.

4. Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.

Consider the following statements about Lal Bahadur Shastri:

(1) Lal Bahadur Shastri actively implemented the White Revolution policies as Union Minister.

(2) He resigned as Railway Minister in 1956 taking moral responsibility for a train accident.

(3) As Prime Minister, Shastri promoted the Green Revolution to increase food production.

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 (Incorrect): The White Revolution, aimed at increasing milk production and creating a nationwide milk supply network, was primarily driven by Verghese Kurien and the Amul cooperative movement. Lal Bahadur Shastri did not play a direct role in implementing this program.

Statement 2 (Correct): Shastri resigned as Railway Minister in 1956 after a major train accident, demonstrating a rare act of political accountability and integrity. This highlighted his commitment to public service and moral responsibility.

Statement 3 (Correct): As Prime Minister (1964–1966), Shastri actively promoted policies that strengthened the Green Revolution, improving agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. His leadership encouraged modern farming techniques, high-yield seeds, and better irrigation methods.

5. Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary.

Consider the following statements about Mahatma Gandhi:

(1) Gandhi established Tolstoy Farm in South Africa in 1910 as a training center for Satyagrahis.

(2) He founded the newspaper Indian Opinion in 1894 to mobilize public opinion in India.

(3) Gandhi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the Indian freedom struggle.

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 (Correct): Gandhi established Tolstoy Farm in 1910 near Johannesburg as a residential and training center for Satyagrahis—followers of his non-violent resistance philosophy. It served as a practical community where people learned communal living, self-reliance, and the principles of Satyagraha in preparation for civil rights campaigns in South Africa.

Statement 2 (Correct): In 1894, Gandhi launched the newspaper Indian Opinion in South Africa. It became a key tool for educating and mobilizing the Indian diaspora, highlighting issues such as racial discrimination, unjust laws,

and promoting the philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience.

Statement 3 (Wrong): Despite his global reputation as the leader of India's freedom movement and advocate of non-violence, Gandhi was never awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, even though he was nominated five times between 1937 and 1948. This is often cited as a significant omission by the Nobel Committee in history.

6. A Nature study shows Amazon Rainforest trees are growing larger as rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels.

Consider the following statements about the Amazon Rainforest:

- (1) Yasuni National Park in Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse protected areas in the Amazon.
 (2) The Amazon Rainforest spans exactly 6 million sq. km, which is slightly smaller than India.
 (3) The Amazon River originates in the Peruvian Andes and flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

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 (Correct): Yasuni National Park, located in the Ecuadorian Amazon, is one of the most biodiverse protected areas in the world. It hosts thousands of species of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects, many of which are endemic. The park is also home to indigenous tribes and plays a key role in conservation, ecological research, and climate regulation.

Statement 2 (Incorrect): The Amazon Rainforest spans approximately 6 million sq. km, which is twice the size of India, making it the largest tropical rainforest in the world. Saying it is "slightly smaller than India" is incorrect. Its massive size enables it to store vast amounts of carbon, regulate rainfall, and support unparalleled biodiversity.

Statement 3 (Correct): The Amazon River originates in the Peruvian Andes and flows eastwards into the Atlantic Ocean. It is the largest river by discharge in the world, with major tributaries including Rio Negro, Madeira, and Xingu. The river basin spans multiple countries and supports rich aquatic and

terrestrial ecosystems, making it crucial for both human settlements and wildlife habitats.

7. India Emerges as Third-Largest E-Waste Generator in 2025, Informal Recycling Poses Health Risks.

Consider the following statements regarding the impact of e-waste:

- (1) E-waste contains hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and cadmium.
 (2) Informal recycling of e-waste contributes to air, soil, and water pollution.
 (3) All e-waste in India is currently recycled in formal, certified facilities.

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:

- (B)
 1. E-waste contains hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and cadmium. Correct

Explanation: Electronic waste (e-waste) includes discarded electrical and electronic equipment like computers, phones, and refrigerators. These often contain toxic metals such as lead (in CRT monitors), mercury (in switches and fluorescent lamps), and cadmium (in batteries). Exposure to these substances can cause serious health problems, including neurological damage, kidney disease, and respiratory issues, and also contaminate the environment if not handled properly.

2. Informal recycling of e-waste contributes to air, soil, and water pollution. Correct

Explanation: In India, a significant portion of e-waste is handled informally, often in small-scale workshops or by scrap collectors without proper safety measures. Methods like burning wires to recover copper, acid leaching, or open dumping release toxic fumes into the air, contaminate soil with heavy metals, and pollute water bodies. This uncontrolled processing poses environmental and public health risks, particularly to vulnerable communities working in these sectors.

3. All e-waste in India is currently recycled in formal, certified facilities. Incorrect

Explanation: While India has introduced regulations like the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, most e-waste is still processed informally. Formal, certified recycling facilities exist but are limited in number and often unable

to handle the growing e-waste volume. Hence, it is incorrect to say all e-waste is recycled formally; informal recycling continues to dominate and remains a major urban and environmental challenge.

8. The US President unveiled a 20-point Gaza Peace Plan titled “Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict”.

Consider the following statements regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict:

- (1) The Gaza Strip is a coastal territory bordering Israel and Egypt, with strategic importance in the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- (2) The Yom Kippur War in 1973 resulted in Israel retaining the Sinai Peninsula while returning the West Bank to Egypt.
- (3) The Balfour Declaration of 1917 supported the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, heightening tensions with the Arab majority.

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: Correct — Gaza is a strategically located coastal territory along the Mediterranean, bordering Israel and Egypt, central to the ongoing conflict.

Expanded Explanation: The Gaza Strip is a narrow coastal region approximately 41 km long and 10 km wide, located on the eastern Mediterranean coast. Its strategic importance stems from several factors: it controls access to the Mediterranean for the Palestinians, lies directly along Israel’s southern border, and borders Egypt to the southwest.

Statement 2: Incorrect — Under the Camp David Accords (1978), Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt but retained control of the West Bank; the statement reverses the territorial exchange.

Expanded Explanation: The Yom Kippur War (1973) led to peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt, culminating in the Camp David Accords (1978), mediated by the US. As per the accords:

Statement 3: Correct — The Balfour Declaration issued by Britain in 1917 supported a Jewish homeland in Palestine, leading to tensions between the Jewish minority and Arab majority.

Expanded Explanation: The Balfour Declaration (1917) was a public statement by the British government expressing support for a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine, then under British mandate. While it aimed to gain Jewish support during World War I, it ignored the political rights of the Arab majority living in Palestine.

9. Centre to Launch Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) in Schools for Hands-On Panchayati Raj Experience.

Consider the following statement regarding Model Youth Gram Sabha:

- (1) It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with Ministries of Home affairs and Tribal Affairs.
- (2) It is a school-based initiative that introduces the democratic process of Gram Sabhas into classrooms across India.
- (3) It will be launched in a phased manner, beginning with JNVs and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).

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: It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with Ministries of Home affairs and Tribal Affairs. Incorrect Explanation: MYGS is indeed an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, but the collaboration is with the Ministries of Education and Tribal Affairs, not the Ministry of Home Affairs. The involvement of the Ministry of Education ensures integration with the school system, and Tribal Affairs ensures inclusion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), which cater to tribal students. Therefore, the mention of the Home Ministry is incorrect.

Statement 2: It is a school-based initiative that introduces the democratic process of Gram Sabhas into classrooms across India. Correct

Explanation: MYGS is school-based, targeting students of Classes 9–12. The initiative simulates the functioning of a Gram Sabha, allowing students to role-play roles like sarpanch, ward members, and other village officials. It gives students practical exposure to local governance, understanding decision-making, planning, and budgeting processes at

the grassroots level, thereby bringing democracy into classrooms.

Statement 3: It will be launched in a phased manner, beginning with JNVs and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). Correct

Explanation: The implementation of MYGS is phased, starting with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), which are centrally funded schools with a focus on rural and tribal students. This phased approach allows the initiative to pilot the program effectively, train teachers, and gradually scale it to more schools across India.

10. 2025 marked the centenary of the Self-Respect Movement, which advocated rationalism, social equality, and anti-caste ideology.

Consider the following statements about the Self-Respect Movement:

(1) It was launched in 1925 in Tamil Nadu by EV Ramasamy, later known as Periyar.

(2) The movement pioneered Self-Respect marriages, which were simple ceremonies conducted without priests.

(3) It was inspired mainly by Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programme.

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: It was launched in 1925 in Tamil Nadu by EV Ramasamy, later known as Periyar. Correct → The Self-Respect Movement was launched by Periyar in 1925 at the Chengalpattu conference. He believed that social reform must precede political freedom, and that caste oppression was a deeper problem than colonial rule.

Statement 2: The movement pioneered Self-Respect marriages, which were simple ceremonies conducted without priests.

Correct → These marriages were a landmark reform. They rejected Brahminical rituals, promoted equality between spouses, and allowed inter-caste as well as widow remarriage. Later, they were legally recognized under the Madras Presidency law in 1967.

Statement 3: It was inspired mainly by Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programme.

Incorrect → Periyar's ideology was closer to Jyotirao Phule's anti-Brahmin and rationalist movement and Ambedkar's struggle against caste oppression. Gandhi, on the other hand, emphasized reform within the Hindu fold and used concepts like Harijan uplift, which Periyar opposed as patronizing.

11. NHRC Hosts National Conference on Transgender Rights.

Consider the following statements regarding transgender rights in India:

(1) The Supreme Court, in the NALSA v. Union of India (2014) case, recognized transgender persons as a "third gender" under Articles 14, 15, and 21.

(2) The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, is consistent with constitutional guarantees of equality and dignity.

(3) Article 16 explicitly provides reservation in public employment for transgender persons.

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: The Supreme Court, in the NALSA v. Union of India (2014) case, recognized transgender persons as a "third gender" under Articles 14, 15, and 21.

Correct → In the NALSA judgment, the Supreme Court explicitly recognized transgender persons as a third gender and affirmed that they have the same rights under the right to equality (Article 14), non-discrimination (Article 15), and life and personal liberty (Article 21). This was a landmark ruling providing constitutional recognition and dignity to transgender persons.

Statement 2: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, is consistent with constitutional guarantees of equality and dignity.

Correct → The 2019 Act was enacted to protect transgender persons from discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare. It also recognizes the right to self-identify one's gender, in line with Articles 14, 15, and 21, reinforcing equality and dignity.

Statement 3: Article 16 explicitly provides reservation in public employment for transgender persons.

Incorrect → Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment for all citizens and allows the state to make reservations for backward classes or SC/ST. It does not explicitly mention transgender persons. Any reservation for transgender persons would need to be provided through legislation, not directly under Article 16.

12. The Chief of the Naval Staff visited the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

Consider the following statements regarding the significance of Lothal:

- (1) Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, linking it to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river.
- (2) The site was famous for bead-making workshops and maritime trade with Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- (3) Lothal was primarily an agricultural settlement without evidence of trade or craft specialization.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (2) and (3)
 (C) Only (1) and (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Statement 1: Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, linking it to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river.

Correct → Lothal is famous for having one of the earliest known docks in the world, which connected the city to a channel of the Sabarmati river. This dock enabled ships to load and unload goods, highlighting Lothal's importance as a maritime trading hub in the Indus Valley Civilization.

Statement 2: The site was famous for bead-making workshops and maritime trade with Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Correct → Archaeological excavations at Lothal uncovered bead-making workshops, semi-precious stones, and craft tools, showing advanced craftsmanship. Evidence of trade links with Mesopotamia and Egypt indicates that Lothal was an important center of international trade around 4,000 year

Statement 3: Lothal was primarily an agricultural settlement without evidence of trade or craft specialization.

Incorrect → Lothal was not primarily agricultural; while surrounding areas practiced farming, the site itself is renowned for maritime trade, craft specialization, and industrial activity, especially bead-making and dock operations.

13. Apart from extending the 11% import duty waiver on cotton, the Union government has raised the MSP for cotton for the 2025–26 season.

With reference to institutions related to cotton in India, consider the following statements:

(1) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) was established in 1970.

(2) CCI functions under the Ministry of Agriculture as a statutory body.

(3) It is a PSU incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

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: The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) was established in 1970.

Correct. CCI was set up in July 1970 with the primary aim of protecting the interests of cotton farmers. It ensures a minimum support price (MSP) mechanism and stabilizes cotton prices in the domestic market.

Statement 2: CCI functions under the Ministry of Agriculture as a statutory body.

Incorrect. CCI is not a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament. It is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) functioning under the Ministry of Textiles, not Agriculture.

Statement 3: It is a PSU incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

Correct. CCI was registered as a PSU under the Companies Act, 1956. Its legal structure allows it to function as a commercial body while fulfilling government objectives in cotton procurement and trade.

14. India became the world's fastest-growing major economy with an average GDP growth of 8.2% during 2021–2024, surpassing Vietnam, China, and the US.

Consider the following statements about Balance of Payments (BoP):

(1) BoP records all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world.

(2) Current Account includes trade in goods, services, and unilateral transfers.

(3) Capital Account deals with short-term capital flows only, excluding foreign direct investment.

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: BoP records all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world.

Correct. The Balance of Payments (BoP) is a comprehensive record of all economic transactions, including trade, services, income, and transfers, between a country's residents and foreign entities over a specific period. It reflects the financial position of a country in international trade and capital flows.

Statement 2: Current Account includes trade in goods, services, and unilateral transfers.

Correct. The Current Account is a key component of the BoP that tracks imports and exports of goods and services, as well as remittances, gifts, and foreign aid. It essentially shows the net earnings and payments from international trade and transfers.

Statement 3: Capital Account deals with short-term capital flows only, excluding foreign direct investment.

Incorrect. The Capital Account (often combined with the Financial Account) records both short-term and long-term capital movements, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), portfolio investments, loans, and banking capital. It is not limited to short-term flows.

15. A recent study highlights the importance of protected areas (PAs) in balancing conservation with community livelihoods.

Consider the following statements regarding Types of Protected Areas in India:

(1) Wildlife Sanctuaries and Community Reserves completely prohibit grazing, collection of forest products, and any form of human activity.

(2) National Parks prohibit all human activities except for scientific research and controlled tourism, with management by the State

Government and oversight from bodies like NTCA.

(3) Conservation Reserves protect wildlife while allowing controlled human activities and involve local communities in management.

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: Wildlife Sanctuaries and Community Reserves completely prohibit grazing, collection of forest products, and any form of human activity.

Incorrect: Unlike National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Community Reserves allow regulated human activities. Grazing, collection of minor forest products, tourism, and other sustainable activities are permitted as long as they do not harm wildlife or biodiversity. Community Reserves specifically involve local communities in conservation, promoting both biodiversity protection and sustainable livelihoods.

Statement 2: National Parks prohibit all human activities except for scientific research and controlled tourism, with management by the State Government and oversight from bodies like NTCA.

Correct: National Parks are the most strictly protected areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. They provide the highest level of legal protection, and activities such as mining, logging, and grazing are completely prohibited. The State Government manages them, while organizations like the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and National Wildlife Board (NWLB) oversee specific projects, particularly for flagship species like tigers.

Statement 3: Conservation Reserves protect wildlife while allowing controlled human activities and involve local communities in management.

Correct: Conservation Reserves are designated to buffer critical habitats and wildlife corridors while conserving biodiversity. They allow local communities to participate in management through activities like regulated grazing and firewood collection, balancing conservation with sustainable use. The State Government, along with local stakeholders and

conservationists, actively manages these reserves. 17.

16. CP Radhakrishnan has been elected as India's 15th Vice President.

Consider the following statements:

- (1) Article 63 of the Constitution provides for the office of the Vice President.
 (2) Article 67 specifies the procedure for the election of the Vice President.
 (3) Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah is the only Indian to have served as Chief Justice of India, Acting President, and Vice President.

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 – Correct

Article 63 of the Constitution of India explicitly states: “There shall be a Vice-President of India.”

This Article creates the office itself. It does not describe functions or election, but simply ensures the position’s constitutional existence.

Thus, this is correct.

Statement 2 – Incorrect

Article 66 deals with the “Election of Vice President”. It mentions:

He shall be elected by the members of both Houses of Parliament, in accordance with proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

Voting is done by secret ballot.

Article 67 instead talks about “Term of Office of Vice President” and conditions of vacancy/removal, not election.

Hence, the statement is factually wrong.

Statement 3 – Correct

Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah (1905–1992) had a unique career:

He served as the Chief Justice of India (1968–1970).

He also acted as the President of India (1969) after Dr. Zakir Husain’s death and before V.V. Giri’s election.

Later, he became the 7th Vice President of India (1979–1984).

No other person in Indian history has held this rare combination of posts.

India inaugurated the International Conference on Space 2025.

Consider the following statements regarding Chandrayaan Missions:

- (1) Chandrayaan-1 (2008) was India’s first lunar mission, which confirmed the presence of water molecules on the Moon.
 (2) Chandrayaan-2 (2019) successfully soft-landed on the lunar south pole.
 (3) Chandrayaan-3 (2023) made India the first country to land a spacecraft on the Moon’s south pole.

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 – Correct

Chandrayaan-1, launched in October 2008 by PSLV-C11, was India’s first lunar probe.

Though its mission life was short (about 10 months), it carried 11 scientific instruments, including NASA’s Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M³).

This instrument provided conclusive evidence of water molecules (H₂O) and hydroxyl (OH) on the lunar surface, a landmark discovery in space science.

Statement 2 – Incorrect

Chandrayaan-2, launched in July 2019 by GSLV Mk-III, had three parts: Orbiter, Lander (Vikram), and Rover (Pragyan).

While the orbiter continues to function excellently and sends high-quality data about lunar terrain, the lander failed to achieve a soft-landing due to a last-minute guidance issue and crash-landed near the Moon’s south pole.

Thus, India could not achieve a successful landing in 2019, though the mission is still partly considered successful because of the working orbiter.

Statement 3 – Correct

Chandrayaan-3, launched in July 2023 using GSLV Mk-III (renamed LVM-3), had only a lander (Vikram) and a rover (Pragyan).

On 23 August 2023, it successfully soft-landed near the Moon’s south pole region.

With this, India became the first nation in the world to land in the south polar region, and the fourth nation overall (after USA, USSR, and China) to achieve a soft-landing on the Moon.

18. EAC Clears EIA for Birmania Rock Phosphate Mine in Jaisalmer, Raising Concerns over Great Indian Bustard Habitat.

Consider the following statements about Phosphate Rock:

(1) Phosphate rock is primarily a sedimentary rock rich in phosphorus, widely used in fertilizer production.

(2) The world's largest deposits of phosphate rock are found in Morocco.

(3) In India, phosphate rock is mainly found in Rajasthan and Kerala.

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 – Correct

Phosphate rock is a naturally occurring sedimentary rock containing high concentrations of phosphorus minerals, mainly apatite. Phosphorus is a key nutrient for plants, essential for root development, flowering, seed formation, and overall growth. Thus, phosphate rock is the primary raw material for manufacturing fertilizers like DAP, SSP, and NPK, which are crucial for global food security.

Statement 2 – Correct

Morocco holds around 70% of the world's known phosphate reserves, especially in the Western Sahara region. This makes Morocco not only the largest reserve holder but also one of the top global exporters of phosphate rock and derived fertilizers. Its strategic dominance gives it huge importance in global agriculture.

Statement 3 – Incorrect

In India, significant phosphate rock deposits are located in Rajasthan (Udaipur, Jhamarkotra mines) and Madhya Pradesh, not Kerala. India's domestic reserves are limited and insufficient to meet demand, which is why India relies on imports for about 90% of its phosphate rock needs.

19. Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli Resigns Amid Gen Z-Led Protests Over Corruption, Unemployment and Social Media Curbs.

Consider the following statements regarding India–Nepal historical and cultural ties:

(1) Goddess Sita, born in Janakpur (Nepal), is mentioned in the Ramayana as the consort of Lord Rama of Ayodhya.

(2) Prince Siddhartha, later Gautama Buddha, was born in Lumbini (Nepal) but attained Nirvana in Kushinagar, India.

(3) The Treaty of Sugauli (1816) ended the Anglo-Nepalese War and led to the recruitment of Nepali Gorkhas into the British Indian Army. 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 Ramayana records the marriage of Lord Rama (Ayodhya, India) with Goddess Sita, daughter of King Janaka, at Janakpur in Nepal — showing ancient cultural bonds.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

Buddha was born at Lumbini (Nepal) and attained Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya (India). Kushinagar (India) is the place of his Mahaparinirvana, not Enlightenment.

Statement 3 is correct:

The Treaty of Sugauli (1816) between the British and Nepal ended the Anglo–Nepalese War and institutionalised the tradition of Gurkha recruitment into the British Indian Army — a military tie that continues with India today.

20. Bihar's Opposition leader has proposed increasing quotas to 85% if voted to power.

With reference to the constitutional provisions on reservation, consider the following statements:

(1) Article 15(5) provides for reservation in all educational institutions, including minority institutions.

(2) Article 16(4A) allows reservation in promotions for SCs and STs, introduced by the 77th Constitutional Amendment Act.

(3) Article 16(6), introduced by the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, provides reservation in public employment for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

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:

Article 15(5) was added by the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2005, and it allows the State to make special provisions, including reservations in educational

institutions, for socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), SCs, and STs. However, the provision explicitly excludes minority educational institutions (both religious and linguistic minorities) to maintain their constitutionally guaranteed rights under Article 30. This distinction is crucial in UPSC exams because it highlights the balance between affirmative action and minority rights.

Statement 2 is correct:

Article 16(4A) was inserted by the 77th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1995. It permits reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment. Additionally, the 85th Amendment Act, 2001 clarified that such promotions would carry consequential seniority, meaning that the promoted SC/ST employees would not lose seniority compared to others in service. This is significant because it addresses historical disadvantages while ensuring administrative efficiency. UPSC often asks about the difference between Article 16(4) and 16(4A), so knowing the historical amendments is important.

Statement 3 is correct:

Article 16(6) was introduced by the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019. It provides 10% reservation in public employment for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among citizens who are not covered under existing SC/ST/OBC reservations. This is a landmark provision because it expanded affirmative action based on economic criteria rather than solely on social and educational backwardness. UPSC may frame questions about how EWS reservations differ from OBC reservations, particularly regarding the creamy layer rule, which applies to OBCs but does not apply to EWS.

21. India cautions against linking trade with politics at virtual BRICS Leaders' Summit amid US tariff hikes.

Consider the following statements about BRICS:

- (1) BRICS was established to challenge the dominance of Western-dominated financial institutions like IMF and World Bank.
- (2) South Africa joined BRICS before the first official summit of the original four countries.

(3) The BRICS members collectively account for more than 40% of the world's population. 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: Correct –

BRICS was conceptualized not just for economic cooperation among emerging economies, but also to provide a platform to reform global governance structures dominated by Western institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. This includes advocating for greater voting rights and representation for developing nations.

Statement 2: Incorrect –

The first formal BRIC summit was held in Russia in 2009 with Brazil, Russia, India, and China. South Africa joined later in 2010, which is why the group's acronym changed from BRIC to BRICS.

Statement 3: Correct –

BRICS countries have a combined population of over 3.2 billion, which accounts for more than 40% of the global population, giving them significant demographic and geopolitical weight.

22. India is now exploring isobutanol blending with diesel after unsuccessful ethanol-diesel trials. Consider the following statements regarding Isobutanol:

- (1) Isobutanol is one of the four isomers of butanol with the chemical formula $C_4H_{10}O$.
- (2) It is highly soluble in water and used as a primary solvent in aqueous solutions.
- (3) Its vapors are heavier than air and can spread along the ground unnoticed.

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: Isobutanol has the formula $C_4H_{10}O$ and is one of the four butanol isomers.

Correct. Butanol has four structural isomers – n-butanol, sec-butanol, tert-butanol, and isobutanol. All share the formula $C_4H_{10}O$ but differ in structure.

Statement 2: It is highly soluble in water.

Incorrect. Isobutanol is only moderately soluble in water. Unlike ethanol (which is highly

soluble), the larger carbon chain of isobutanol reduces its solubility.

Statement 3: Its vapors are heavier than air and can spread along the ground unnoticed.

Correct. Isobutanol vapors have a higher density than air, so they accumulate near the ground. This makes them dangerous in closed or poorly ventilated areas, as they can ignite unexpectedly.

23. Two New Black Aspergillus Species Discovered in Western Ghats: India's First Study Using Polyphasic Taxonomy.

With reference to rivers originating from the Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

- (1) The Krishna River originates from Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
 (2) The Periyar River, often called the "Lifeline of Kerala," originates from the Western Ghats.
 (3) The Godavari River also originates from the Western Ghats and is the longest peninsular river.

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: (Correct)

The Krishna River originates near Mahabaleshwar in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. It flows eastwards into the Bay of Bengal, making it one of the major peninsular rivers of India. Its source lies directly on the slopes of the Western Ghats, classifying it as a core river of the Ghats region.

Statement 2: (Correct)

The Periyar rises from the Sivagiri hills of Kerala and flows westward into the Arabian Sea, unlike most other peninsular rivers. It is known as the "Lifeline of Kerala" because it provides water for irrigation and hydroelectric projects. Its origin is sometimes mistakenly described as from the eastern slopes of the Ghats, but it actually flows westward.

Statement 3: (incorrect)

The Godavari originates near Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra, close to the Western Ghats but not on the main ridge. It is the longest peninsular river and flows eastwards into the Bay of Bengal. Despite being near the Ghats, its source means it is not considered a core Western Ghats river.

24. Defence Minister flagged off 'Samudra Pradakshina', the world's first-ever Tri-service all-women sailing circumnavigation expedition. With reference to unique Indian expeditions, consider the following statements:

- (1) Indian mountaineers successfully scaled Mount K2 in 1953, the year it was first climbed by the world.
 (2) Indian Navy undertook the first-ever Antarctic expedition in 1981.
 (3) Tenzing Norgay, an Indian Sherpa, was one of the first two humans to summit Mount Everest in 1953.

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: Indian mountaineers successfully scaled Mount K2 in 1953.

Incorrect. K2, the world's second-highest peak, was first summited by Italians in 1954.

India's first successful K2 ascent was achieved in 1965 by an Indian Army expedition.

Hence, 1953 is historically wrong for India's K2 achievement.

Statement 2: Indian Navy undertook the first-ever Antarctic expedition in 1981.

Correct. India launched its first scientific Antarctic expedition in 1981, led by the Indian Navy and supported by the Department of Ocean Development.

This expedition established Dakshin Gangotri, India's first permanent research base in Antarctica.

Statement 3: Tenzing Norgay, an Indian Sherpa, was one of the first two humans to summit Mount Everest in 1953.

Correct. Tenzing Norgay, along with Sir Edmund Hillary, successfully climbed Mount Everest on 29 May 1953.

Tenzing was an Indian Sherpa, making this a milestone in Indian mountaineering history.

25. The Indian Navy and the UK Royal Navy have commenced the bilateral Exercise KONKAN-25.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Exercise KONKAN, an annual bilateral maritime exercise, was first held in 2021.

(2) Exercise Indradhanush is a joint air force exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the British Royal Air Force (RAF).

(3) Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and 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: (C)

Exp: Statement 1: Incorrect

Exercise KONKAN: First held in 2004, Exercise Konkan is an annual bilateral maritime exercise. The 2025 edition is the first-ever exercise to feature both nations' Carrier Strike Groups (the UK's HMS Prince of Wales and India's INS Vikrant). The exercise includes a Harbour Phase with professional exchanges and visits, and a Sea Phase featuring anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine drills with flying operations.

Statement 2: Correct

Exercise Indradhanush is a joint air force exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the British Royal Air Force (RAF). It is a bilateral training exercise aimed at enhancing mutual operational understanding, strengthening relationships, and sharing strategies and tactics to counter terrorist threats to military installations. The exercise focuses on "Base Defence and Force Protection," involving the validation of joint employability, specialized weapons and equipment, and coordinated anti-terror operations.

Statement 3: Correct

Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations.

26. Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of Satyashodhak Samaj was Jyotiba Phule.
2. Vedanta Sabha was founded by Swami Vivekananda.

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: Vedanta Sabha was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Ray in 1816 at Kolkata.

27. Consider the following statements:

1. A book titled 'The Sepoy Mutiny and the revolt of 1857' was written by Ashok Mehta.
 2. Rebellion 1857 book was written by P. C. Joshi.
- 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 Sepoy Mutiny and the revolt of 1857 by Ramesh Chandra Majumdar

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Sayyids dynasty came to power in India after the Tughlaq dynasty.
 2. The son of Chandragupta Maurya was Bindusara.
 3. The son of Bindusara was Ashoka.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (C)

Exp: Sayyids dynasty came to power in India after the Tughlaq dynasty. The son of Chandragupta Maurya was Bindusara. The son of Bindusara was Ashoka.

29. Consider the following statements:

1. Babur succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 8 June, 1494 when he was only 12 years old.
 2. He was the founder of Mughal dynasty in India.
- 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: (C)

Exp: Babur succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 1494 when he was only 12 years old. However, he had to leave his ancestral throne due to the invasion of the uzbegs, a Mongol group. He was the founder of Mughal dynasty in India. (reigned 1526–1530),

30. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1798 AD, East India Company started production of coffee experimentally.
2. Business production of coffee commences from India in 1820 AD.

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: (D)

Exp: In India, coffee commercial plantations started after 1820 in the south of the country with British enterprise and investment.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. The mars planet's satellite is Phobos and Demos.
2. On Mars, the highest mountain in the Solar System is Nix Olympia.
3. Nix Olympia is three times higher than the Everest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) Only 1 (B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D)

Exp: Deimos (fear and terror), which were discovered by the American astronomer Asaph Hall in 1877. The highest mountain on Mars is also the highest mountain and volcano in the entire solar system. It is called Olympus Mons (formerly Nix Olympica) and is 16 miles (24 kilometers) high which makes it about three times higher than Mt. Everest.

32. Consider the following statements:

1. India has about 2.45 percent of the world's surface area and 4 percent of water resources.
2. About 16 percent of world population is found in 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: (C)

Exp: India accounts for about 2.45 per cent of world's surface area, 4 per cent of the world's water resources and about 16 per cent of world's population. The total water available from precipitation in the country in a year is about 4,000 cubic km.

33. Consider the following statements:

1. Planet word is made of the Greek word 'Planetai'.
2. Mercury planet has the highest daily temperature difference.
3. Venus is also called the sister planet of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) Only 1 (B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D)

Exp: The change in temperature on the surface of Mercury is due to its rotation and lack of atmosphere. During the day the temperature is so high that it could melt some metals and during the night the temperature drops well below freezing. Venus is a terrestrial planet and is sometimes called Earth's "sister planet" because of their similar size, mass, proximity to the Sun.

34. Consider the following languages:

1. Sanskrit
2. Tamil
3. Telugu

Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language / Languages' by the Government?

(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D)

Exp: Classical Languages declared by the government are: Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

35. Consider the following languages:

1. Kannada
2. Malayalam
3. Odia

Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language / Languages' by the Government?

(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D)

Exp: Classical Languages declared by the government are: Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

36. Consider the following statements:

1. T.N. Seshan made it clear that no elections will be held without the voter ID after January 1, 1995.
2. The age of voting has been reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61st Constitution Amendments Act, 1989.

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: Seshan announced that if voter identity cards were not issued, no elections would be held after January 1, 1995. A

The Sixty-first Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

37. Consider the following statements:

1. The provisions of emergency are contained under XVII Part of the Constitution.

2. In an emergency, the president cannot suspend certain fundamental rights. They are 20 and 21. 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 Emergency provisions of the Indian constitution has been borrowed from the German constitution. The Emergency provisions are contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution, from Articles 352 to 360. In Emergency, the President cannot suspend certain Fundamental Rights. They are 20 and 21.

38. Which of the following statements is true?

I. 'Pure Banking, Nothing Else' is a slogan raised by ICICI Bank.

II. Parallel economy emerges due to Tax Evasion.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (B)

Exp: Parallel economy (black economy) indicates the functioning of an unsanctioned sector in the economy whose objectives run parallel with the social objectives. Major contributory factor to such an economy is black money which is any money that a person or an organization acquires as by a means that involves tax evasion.

"Pure Banking, Nothing Else" - is a slogan raised by SBI - State Bank of India.

39. Which of the following statements is true?

I. A budget deficit occurs when expenses exceed revenue.

II. Hyperinflation is very high and typically accelerating inflation.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: A budget deficit occurs when expenses exceed revenue and indicate the financial health of a country. The government generally uses the term budget deficit when referring to spending rather than businesses or individuals. Accrued deficits form national debt.

Hyperinflation is very high and typically accelerating inflation. It quickly erodes the real value of the local currency, as the prices of all goods increase. This causes people to minimize their holdings in that currency as they usually switch to more stable foreign currencies, often the US Dollar. Prices typically remain stable in terms of other relatively stable currencies.

40. Which of the following statements is true?

I. Revenue Deficit: is the excess of its total revenue expenditure to its total revenue receipts.

II. An economic condition- when there is one buyer and many sellers is called Monopoly.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: A revenue deficit occurs when realized net income is less than the projected net income. This happens when the actual amount of revenue and/or the actual amount of expenditures do not correspond with budgeted revenue and expenditures. This is the opposite of a revenue surplus, which occurs when the actual amount of net income exceeds the projected amount.

A monopsony is a market condition in which there is only one buyer, the monopsonist. Like a monopoly, a monopsony also has imperfect market conditions. The difference between a monopoly and monopsony is primarily in the difference between the controlling entities. A single buyer dominates a monopsonized market while an individual seller controls a monopolized market. Monopsonists are common to areas where they supply most or all of the region's jobs.

41. Which of the following statements is true?

I. A credit rating is a quantified assessment of the creditworthiness of a borrower.

II. Default is the failure to repay a debt including interest or principal on a loan or security.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: A credit rating is a quantified assessment of the creditworthiness of a borrower in general terms or with respect to a particular debt or financial obligation. A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money—an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.

Default is the failure to repay a debt including interest or principal on a loan or security. A default can occur when a borrower is unable to make timely payments, misses payments, or avoids or stops making payments. Individuals, businesses, and even countries can fall prey to default if they cannot keep up their debt obligations. Default risks are often calculated well in advance by creditors.

42. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. The working of the quartz crystal in the watch is based on the Piezo - electric Effect.

II. The nature of fuse wire is Low melting point
Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Piezoelectric Effect is the ability of certain materials to generate an electric charge in response to applied mechanical stress. The word Piezoelectric is derived from the Greek piezein, which means to squeeze or press, and piezo, which is Greek for “push”.

One of the unique characteristics of the piezoelectric effect is that it is reversible, meaning that materials exhibiting the direct piezoelectric effect (the generation of electricity) also exhibit the converse piezoelectric effect (the generation of stress when an electric field is applied).

43. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. The base of an electric iron is brightly polished mainly to reduce heat loss by radiation

II. Electric current in a metal wire is due to the flow of electrons

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Polished surfaces are poor radiators of heat. So loss of heat on that account is reduced and the electric iron remains hotter than otherwise.

When a metal wire is subjected to electric force applied on its opposite ends, these free electrons rush in the direction of the force, thus forming what we call an electric current."

44. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. If a band is played on the moon the sound will not be heard at any distance at all from it

II. In nuclear reactor, heavy water is used as Fuel.
Select the correct option

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: As there is no atmosphere surrounding the moon, the sound from any band that is played there cannot travel outwards there is no material medium surrounding it for its propagation.

Heavy water is basically used as a moderator in nuclear reactors to slow down the neutrons so that they are captured and become effective to bring about the fission reaction. The main reason why heavy water is used as a moderator is because it captures less neutrons than the normal water. Chemically, D₂O acts very similarly to H₂O. It has a slightly slower reaction rate.

45. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. The unit of Luminous intensity is weber.

II. Optical fiber works on the principle of total internal reflection

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (B)

Exp: **I.** The SI unit of luminous intensity is the candela (cd), which is one of the seven SI base units. As luminous intensity is analogous to radiant intensity, the candela is also analogous to the watt per steradian.

II. Total internal reflection is the optical phenomenon in which the surface of the water in a fish-tank when viewed from below the water

level, reflects the underwater scene like a mirror, with no loss of brightness. In general, TIR occurs when waves in one medium reach the boundary with another medium at a sufficiently slanting angle.

46. 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 I (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.

47. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Methyl propane is an isomer of N-Butane.
- II. Silicon elements is a metalloid.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Butane or C_4H_{10} has two structural isomers called normal butane and isobutane, or i-butane. According to IUPAC nomenclature, these isomers are called butane and 2- methylpropane.

Isomers are molecules that have the same molecular formula but different chemical structures.

In the case of butane, its two isomers will have these structural formulas.

Silicon is a typical metalloid. It has luster like a metal, but is brittle like a nonmetal. Silicon is used extensively in computer chips and other electronics because its electrical conductivity is in between that of a metal and a nonmetal.

48. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Phosphorus is a mineral that makes up 1% of a person's total body weight.
- II. Bismuth is a chemical element with the symbol Bi and atomic number 83.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Phosphorus is a mineral that makes up 1% of a person's total body weight. It is the second most abundant mineral in the body. It is present in every cell of the body. Most of the phosphorus in the body is found in the bones and teeth. The main function of phosphorus is in the formation of bones and teeth.

Bismuth is a chemical element with the symbol Bi and atomic number 83. It is a pentavalent post-transition metal and one of the pnictogens with chemical properties resembling its lighter homologs arsenic and antimony.

49. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. The virtue of catenation prevails in Carbon.
- II. Nitrogen is a colorless odorless gas at normal temperature.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Catenation occurs most readily with carbon, which forms covalent bonds with other carbon atoms to form longer chains and structures.

Nitrogen is a colorless odorless gas at normal temperature. It is normally attached to another nitrogen atom, making a nitrogen molecule (N_2).

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Auxin was discovered by Charles Darwin.
2. Harmon was discovered by Starling and William M. Welles.

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: (D)

Exp: Auxin promote stem elongation, inhibit growth of lateral buds. Auxin is a plant hormone produced in the stem tip that promotes cell growth. auxin was discovered by Darwin.

The hormone was discovered by British physician EH Sterling on 31 March 1905. There are more than 50 hormones in the human body. Those who convey the message of one organ to another. They are also called the chemical messenger of the body.

Match the Following

1. 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- Vallabhbhai 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 – Vallabhbhai Patel
 Rules of Procedure Committee – Rajendra Prasad

2. 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

3. Match the following items in Column A with their corresponding features or facts in Column B:

Column A	Column B
1. NTPC Kanti	A. 800 MW capacity and part of NTPC Limited
2. Solar Power Plant	B. Established in 1985, primarily coal-based

3. Wind Power Plant	C. Uses photovoltaic cells to generate power
4. NTPC Simhadri	D. Located in the Kanti block of Bihar
5. Damodar Valley Corporation	E. Known for large-scale wind turbines

Options:

- A. 1-D, 2-C, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B
- B. 1-B, 2-A, 3-E, 4-D, 5-C
- C. 1-A, 2-C, 3-E, 4-D, 5-B
- D. 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-E, 5-B

Ans: (C)

Exp: NTPC Kanti has an 800 MW capacity and is part of NTPC Limited, hence matched with A.
 A Solar Power Plant uses photovoltaic cells to generate electricity, so it matches with C.
 Wind Power Plants are known for their large-scale wind turbines, matched with E.
 NTPC Simhadri is located in the Kanti block of Bihar, matched with D.
 Damodar Valley Corporation was established in 1985 and is primarily coal-based, so it matches with B.

4. Match the following historical landmarks in Column A with their corresponding historical facts or features in Column B:

Column A	Column B
1. Colosseum	A. Constructed during the reign of Akbar
2. Petra	B. Known for its rock-cut architecture
3. Machu Picchu	C. Located in the Andes Mountains
4. Taj Mahal	D. Ancient Roman amphitheater
5. Fatehpur Sikri	E. Historic city in Jordan

Options:

- A. 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-E
- B. 1-D, 2-E, 3-C, 4-A, 5-B
- C. 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-E, 5-A
- D. 1-D, 2-E, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Colosseum is an ancient Roman amphitheater, so it matches with D.
 Petra is a historic city known for its rock-cut architecture, matched with E.

Machu Picchu is located in the Andes mountains, hence matched with C.

The Taj Mahal was constructed during the reign of Akbar, so it matches with A.

Fatehpur Sikri is known for its architectural contributions and was established by Akbar, hence matched with B.

5. 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

6. 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

7. Match the following -

Site	Significance / Feature
------	------------------------

(A) Lothal	1- Dockyard and bead-making workshops; maritime trade
(B) Mohenjo-daro	2- Well-planned city with Great Bath and grid streets
(C) Bhimbetka	3- Rock shelters with prehistoric cave paintings
(D) Harappa	4- Major Indus Valley city in Punjab with granaries and citadel
(E) Dholavira	5- Water management system and unique city planning in Gujarat

Options:

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5

(B) a-5, b-4, c-2, d-1, e-3

(C) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2, e-5

(D) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3, e-5

(E) (C)

Ans:

Exp:

Lothal is famous for its dockyard and bead workshops, demonstrating maritime trade. Mohenjo-daro had granaries, citadel, and city planning characteristic of the Indus Valley. Bhimbetka shows prehistoric rock shelters and cave paintings in Madhya Pradesh. Harappa, in Punjab, was a major Indus Valley city with Great Bath and grid streets. Dholavira in Gujarat is known for advanced water management and unique city planning.

8. Match the following -

Mission / Spacecraft	Key Feature / Objective
(A) New Horizons	1- Launched in 2006 to study Pluto, its moons, and Kuiper Belt objects
(B) Voyager 1	2- First spacecraft to enter interstellar space; studies outer planets and heliosphere
(C) Voyager 2	3- Explored all four outer planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
(D) Juno	4- NASA mission to study Jupiter's atmosphere, magnetic field, and magnetosphere
(E) Rosetta	5- ESA mission to study and land on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-5, e-4
- (C) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4, e-5
- (D) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3, e-5

Ans: (A)

Exp: New Horizons explored Pluto and Kuiper Belt objects.

Voyager 1 studies outer planets and entered interstellar space.

Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited all four outer planets.

Juno studies Jupiter's atmosphere and magnetic field. 10.

Rosetta studied comet 67P and performed a soft-landing on it.

9. Match the following -

Amendment	Key Provision/Year
(A) 38th Amendment	1- 1964, Imposition of emergency provisions on state subjects
(B) 52nd Amendment	2- 1971, Curbed judiciary's power to invalidate laws; strengthened Parliament
(C) 17th Amendment	3- 1975, Empowered the central government to extend emergency provisions to states
(D) 44th Amendment	4- 1978, Reversed some provisions of 42nd Amendment; strengthened civil liberties
(E) 24th Amendment	5- 1985, Prevented defections from political parties; introduced anti-defection law

Options:

- (A) a-3, b-5, c-1, d-4, e-2
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (C) a-2, b-3, c-5, d-1, e-4
- (D) a-4, b-1, c-2, d-5, e-3

Ans: (A)

Exp: (A) 38th Amendment – 3: 1975, Empowered the central government to extend emergency provisions to states

(B) 52nd Amendment – 5: 1985, Prevented defections from political parties; introduced anti-defection law

(C) 17th Amendment – 1: 1964, Imposition of emergency provisions on state subjects

(D) 44th Amendment – 4: 1978, Reversed some provisions of 42nd Amendment; strengthened civil liberties

(E) 24th Amendment – 2: 1971, Curbed judiciary's power to invalidate laws; strengthened Parliament

Match the following -

Ministry	Foundation Year
(A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	1- 1982
(B) Ministry of Information Technology	2- 1985
(C) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	3- 1986
(D) Ministry of Women and Child Development	4- 2000
(E) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	5- 2014

Options:

- (A) a-3, b-5, c-2, d-1, e-4
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-5, e-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (D) a-5, b-4, c-1, d-3, e-2

Ans: (D)

Exp: (A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship – 2014

(B) Ministry of Information Technology – 2000

(C) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports – 1982

(D) Ministry of Women and Child Development – 1986

(E) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – 1985

11. Match the following space missions with their respective achievements:

Space Missions	Achievements
1. Apollo 11	A. First human landing on the Moon
2. Voyager 1	B. First spacecraft to enter interstellar space

3. Hubble Space Telescope	C. Provided detailed images of distant galaxies
4. Mars Rover Curiosity	D. Explored the surface of Mars

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
- (C) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
- (D) a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3

Ans: (A)

Exp: Apollo 11 was the mission where the first humans landed on the Moon (Achievement A). Voyager 1 became the first spacecraft to enter interstellar space (Achievement B). The Hubble Space Telescope has provided detailed images of distant galaxies (Achievement C). Mars Rover Curiosity explored the surface of Mars (Achievement D).

12. Match the following rivers with their respective countries:

Rivers	Countries
1. Danube	A. Egypt
2. Nile	B. Germany
3. Rhine	C. France
4. Loire	D. Switzerland

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (D) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Nile River flows through Egypt (Country A). The Danube River flows through Germany (Country B). The Loire River flows through France (Country C). The Rhine River flows through Switzerland (Country D).

13. Match the following -

Provision	Details
(A) Article 15(4)	1- Reservation in appointments/posts for backward classes not

	adequately represented in state services
(B) Article 16(4A)	2- Enables State to make special provisions for advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, including SCs and STs
(C) Article 16(6)	3- Reservation in public employment for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
(D) Article 243D	4- Mandates reservation for SCs and STs in Panchayats
(E) Article 330	5- Provides reservation of seats for SCs in the Lok Sabha

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-5, d-4, e-3
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (C) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-5, e-4
- (D) a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4, e-5

Ans: (B)

Exp: Article 15(4): Allows the State to make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes, including SCs and STs, particularly in education.
Article 16(4A): Introduced via amendments, permits reservation in promotions for SCs and STs, including seniority considerations.
Article 16(6): Deals with reservations for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in public employment.
Article 243D: Specifies reservation of seats for SCs and STs in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
Article 330: Provides reservation of seats for SCs in the Lok Sabha, ensuring political representation.

14. Match the following -

Exercise	Countries Involved / Focus
(A) INDRA	1- India, USA, Japan; counter-terrorism and special operations
(B) Tri-Services Exercise (TSE)	2- India, China, Russia; counter-insurgency and tactical coordination

(C) Vajra Prahar	3- India, Russia, China; joint army exercise focusing on mountain warfare
(D) Nomadic Elephant	4- India, Mongolia, USA; joint army exercise for high-altitude operations
(E) Hand-in-Hand	5- India, Japan, Australia; naval interoperability and maritime security

Options:

(A) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1, e-5

(B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-5, e-4

(C) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4, e-5

(D) a-3, b-5, c-1, d-4, e-2

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

INDRA: India, Russia, and China conduct joint army exercises in mountainous terrain to enhance operational cooperation.

Tri-Services Exercise (TSE): Multilateral naval drill with India, Japan, and Australia for maritime security and interoperability.

Vajra Prahar: India, USA, and Japan collaborate for counter-terrorism and special operations.

Nomadic Elephant: High-altitude exercise involving India, Mongolia, and USA emphasizing mountain warfare and logistics.

Hand-in-Hand: Trilateral exercise between India, China, and Russia focusing on counter-insurgency and tactical drills.

15. Match the following -

Invader	Time/Region of Invasion
(A) Alexander the Great	1- Punjab, 326 BCE
(B) Mahmud of Ghazni	2- Punjab and North India, early 11th century
(C) Muhammad Ghori	3- North India, late 12th century
(D) Nadir Shah	4- Delhi and North India, 1739

Options:

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

(B) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3

(C) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

(D) a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp:

Explanation:

Alexander the Great invaded Punjab in 326 BCE.

Mahmud of Ghazni raided Punjab and North India during the early 11th century.

Muhammad Ghori invaded North India in the late 12th century.

Nadir Shah invaded Delhi and North India in 1739, marking a major plunder of India.

16. Match the following -

Organic Chemical	Primary Usage
(A) Phenol	1- Solvent, fuel, and antifreeze production
(B) Methanol	2- Nail polish remover, laboratory solvent
(C) Acetone	3- Alcoholic beverages, antiseptics, and industrial solvent
(D) Ethanol	4- Production of plastics, resins, and disinfectants

Options:

(A) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1

(B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

(C) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(D) a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3

Ans: (D)

Exp:

Explanation:

Phenol → plastics, resins, disinfectants (a-4)

Methanol → solvent, fuel, antifreeze (b-1)

Acetone → nail polish remover, lab solvent (c-2)

Ethanol → alcoholic beverages, antiseptics, industrial solvent (d-3)

17. Match the Following – Natural Gas

Natural Gas Component / Concept	Description / Feature
(A) Methane (CH ₄)	1- Main component of natural gas, highly flammable and used as fuel
(B) Ethane (C ₂ H ₆)	2- Used mainly as feedstock in petrochemical industries

(C) Propane (C ₃ H ₈)	3- Liquefied to LPG for domestic and industrial cooking
(D) Butane (C ₄ H ₁₀)	4- Component used for LPG blends and portable fuel applications

Options:

(A) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

(B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

(C) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3

Ans: (B)

Exp: (A) Methane (CH₄) → 1: Main component of natural gas, highly flammable, used as fuel.

(B) Ethane (C₂H₆) → 2: Minor component, used as feedstock in petrochemical industries.

(C) Propane (C₃H₈) → 3: Liquefied as LPG for domestic and industrial cooking.

(D) Butane (C₄H₁₀) → 4: Used in LPG blends and portable fuel applications.

18. Match the following Chemical Reactions:

Reaction / Process	Description / Type
(A) Rusting of Iron	1- Decomposition reaction producing hydrogen and oxygen
(B) Photosynthesis	2- Combination reaction forming iron oxide
(C) Neutralization	3- Endothermic process producing glucose and oxygen
(D) Electrolysis of Water	4- Reaction between acid and base producing salt and water

Options:

(A) a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1

(B) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1

(C) a-2, b-4, c-3, d-1

(D) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: (A) Rusting of Iron → 2: Combination of iron and oxygen forming iron oxide.

(B) Photosynthesis → 3: Endothermic reaction producing glucose and oxygen from CO₂ and water.

(C) Neutralization → 4: Acid reacts with base to form salt and water.

(D) Electrolysis of Water → 1: Decomposition of water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity.

19. Match the Following: Five-Year Plans in India

Column A (Five-Year Plan)	Column B (Objective/Focus Area)
1. First Five-Year Plan (1951-1956)	A. Green Revolution
2. Second Five-Year Plan (1956-1961)	B. Self-reliance in technology
3. Third Five-Year Plan (1961-1966)	C. Agricultural development
4. Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-1974)	D. Industrial growth and infrastructure
5. Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-1979)	E. Poverty alleviation and employment

Options:

1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-E

1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-E, 5-A

1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A, 5-E

1-A, 2-E, 3-D, 4-C, 5-B

Ans: (A)

Exp: First Five-Year Plan (1951-1956) focused on agricultural development to address food shortages.

Second Five-Year Plan (1956-1961) emphasized industrial growth and infrastructure, inspired by the Mahalanobis model.

Third Five-Year Plan (1961-1966) aimed for the Green Revolution to improve food grain production.

Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-1974) focused on self-reliance in technology and reducing dependency on imports.

Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-1979) targeted poverty alleviation and employment through schemes like Garibi Hatao.

20. Match the Following: Types of Plastics and Their Applications

Column A (Type of Plastic)	Column B (Application)
1. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	A. Electrical insulation

2. Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	B. Bottles and food containers
3. Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)	C. Pipes and plumbing
4. Polystyrene (PS)	D. Packaging films and plastic bags
5. Polycarbonate (PC)	E. CDs, DVDs, and optical lenses

Options:

1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-E, 5-A

1-E, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C, 5-D

1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A, 5-E

1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A, 5-E

Ans: (C)

Exp: Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) is commonly used for bottles and food containers due to its lightweight and strength.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is used in pipes and plumbing because of its durability and resistance to corrosion.

Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) is utilized in packaging films and plastic bags because of its flexibility and moisture resistance.

Polystyrene (PS) serves as electrical insulation and is also used in disposable cutlery and packaging.

Polycarbonate (PC) is used in CDs, DVDs, and optical lenses due to its high impact resistance and transparency.

21. Match the following exercises -

(A) India and Indonesia	1- SAMUDRA SHAKTI
(B) India and Bangladesh	2- SAMPRITI
(C) India and China	3- VARUNA
(D) India and France	4- HAND IN HAND

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: India and Indonesia - SAMUDRA SHAKTI

India and Bangladesh - SAMPRITI

India and China - HAND IN HAND

India and France - VARUNA

22. Match the following Rivers in India -

River System	Length in India
--------------	-----------------

(A) Godavari River System 1	1465 km
(B) Krishna River System 2	1400 km
(C) Cauvery River System 3	805 km

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: River System - Length in India

Godavari River System - 1465 km

Krishna River System - 1400 km

Cauvery River System - 805 km

23. Match the following -

Tiger Reserve	Establishment Rank
(A) Madhav Tiger Reserve	1- 55th
(B) Ratapani Tiger Reserve	2- 57th
(C) Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve	3- 58th
(D) Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve	4- 56th
(E) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve	5- 54th

Options:

(A) a-2, b-4, c-3, d-1, e-5

(B) a-5, b-1, c-4, d-3, e-2

(C) a-3, b-5, c-2, d-4, e-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-5, d-2, e-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Madhav Tiger Reserve – 55th: Located in MP’s Chambal region, covering 354 sq km.

Ratapani Tiger Reserve – 57th: Situated in Raisen district, MP, spanning 1,271.4 sq km.

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve – 58th: In Chhattisgarh, covering 2,829.38 sq km.

Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve – 56th: Located in Rajasthan, area of 599.64 sq km.

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve – 54th: In MP, covering 2,339 sq km, named after Rani Durgavati.

24. Match the following -

Rare Earth Metal	Atomic Number
(A) Neodymium	1- 60
(B) Lanthanum	2- 57

(C) Europium	3- 63
(D) Gadolinium	4- 64
(E) Cerium	5- 58

Options:

- (A) a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3, e-5
- (B) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-5, e-1
- (C) a-1, b-3, c-5, d-2, e-4
- (D) a-2, b-5, c-3, d-1, e-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Neodymium (60): Used in powerful magnets.
Lanthanum (57): Used in camera lenses and batteries.
Europium (63): Used in phosphorescent materials.
Gadolinium (64): Used in MRI contrast agents.
Cerium (58): Used in catalytic converters and glass polishing.

25. Match the Rare Earth Element with its Key Use / Feature:

Rare Earth Element (a-d)	Key Use / Feature (1-4)
(A) Neodymium	1- Catalysts in petroleum refining
(B) Cerium	2- Permanent magnets in electric vehicles and wind turbines
(C) Lanthanum	3- Glass polishing and optical lenses
(D) Europium	4- Red phosphor in LED and display screens

Options:

- (A) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (C) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (D) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1

Ans: (C)

Exp: Neodymium (A): Used in permanent magnets, important for EV motors and wind turbines.
Cerium (B): Used in glass polishing and in optical lenses.
Lanthanum (C): Used in catalysts, especially in petroleum refining.
Europium (D): Used as red phosphor in LEDs and display screens.

26. Match the Sportsperson with Their Sport / Achievement:

Sportsperson (a-d)	Sport / Achievement (1-4)
(A) Lovlina Borgohain	1- Track cycling
(B) Aditi Ashok	2- Boxing Olympic Medalist
(C) Rani Rampal	3- Hockey Captain / World Cup Medalist
(D) Arjun Lal	4- Golf Asian Games Medalist

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
- (B) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (C) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (D) a-2, b-4, c-3, d-1

Ans: (D)

Exp: Lovlina Borgohain (A): Won Bronze in Boxing at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
Aditi Ashok (B): Young Indian golfer, won Asian Games medals.
Rani Rampal (C): Captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team, medalist in World Cups / Asian Games.
Arjun Lal (D): Emerging track cyclist in national & Asian competitions.

27. Match the following Tribes with their unique characteristics:

Tribes	Unique Feature / Festival / Occupation
(A) Siddi	1- Famous for Bamboo craft
(B) Bhil	2- Known for Archery and Ghoomar dance
(C) Garo	3- Matrilineal society in Meghalaya
(D) Mishing	4- African-descendant tribe in Karnataka & Gujarat

Options:

- (A) a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1
- (B) a-3, b-1, c-2, d-4
- (C) a-4, b-2, c-3, d-1
- (D) a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3

Ans: (C)

Exp: Siddi → African-descendant tribe in Karnataka and Gujarat, originally from Africa, known for distinct culture and music.
Bhil → Archery and Ghoomar dance, one of the largest tribal groups in central and western India.
Garo → Matrilineal society in Meghalaya, women inherit property and family name.

Mishing → Famous for Bamboo craft, a riverine tribe in Assam, expert in weaving and bamboo-related items.

28. Match the following Battles with their Rulers/Events:

Battle	Ruler / Event
(A) Battle of Plassey	1- Alauddin Khilji vs Mongols
(B) First Battle of Panipat	2- British East India Company vs Siraj-ud-Daulah
(C) Battle of Khanwa	3- Babur vs Rana Sanga
(D) Siege of Chittorgarh (1303)	4- Rajput resistance against Alauddin Khilji

Options:

- (A) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (B) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (C) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
- (D) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Battle of Plassey (1757) → British East India Company vs Siraj-ud-Daulah; marked the beginning of British political control in India.
First Battle of Panipat (1526) → Babur vs Ibrahim Lodi, established Mughal rule in India. (Note: In table above, the option numbers are matched as per exam randomness.)
Battle of Khanwa (1527) → Babur vs Rana Sanga, consolidated Mughal rule after defeating Rajputs.
Siege of Chittorgarh (1303) → Alauddin Khilji's attack on Mewar, known for Rajput resistance and jauhar.

29. Match the following -

(A) Rock Garden	1- Darjeeling
(B) Sarita Udyan	2- Srinagar
(C) Shalimar Bagh	3- Gandhinagar
(D) Sim's Park	4- Coonoor

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: Rock Garden - Darjeeling
Sarita Udyan - Gandhinagar

Shalimar Bagh - Srinagar

Sim's Park - Coonoor

30. Match the following -

(A) Nomadic Elephant	1- India & Mongolia
(B) Garuda Shakti	2- India & Indonesia
(C) Shakti Exercise	3- India & France

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: Nomadic Elephant - India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti - India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise - India & France

31. Match the following -

Amendment	Details
(A) 73rd Amendment	1- Introduced the Panchayati Raj system and provisions for local self-government (1992)
(B) 74th Amendment	2- Provided urban local bodies (Municipalities) with constitutional status (1992)
(C) 86th Amendment	3- Made education a fundamental right for children aged 6-14 years (2002)
(D) 91st Amendment	4- Reduced the size of the Council of Ministers at the central and state level (2003)
(E) 95th Amendment	5- Extended Reservation in Panchayats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes and ensured backward classes (2009)

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (B) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3, e-5
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3, e-5
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4, e-5

Ans: (A)

Exp: (A) 73rd Amendment – Panchayati Raj System (1992)

- (B) 74th Amendment – Urban Local Bodies (1992)
- (C) 86th Amendment – Right to Education (2002)
- (D) 91st Amendment – Reduction of Council of Ministers (2003)
- (E) 95th Amendment – Reservation in Panchayats (2009)

32. Match the following:

Lanthanoid Element	Characteristic / Use
(A) Cerium (Ce)	1- Used in catalytic converters and in polishing powders for glass and metals
(B) Neodymium (Nd)	2- Used in permanent magnets and high-strength alloys
(C) Lanthanum (La)	3- Used in camera lenses, batteries, and optical glasses
(D) Europium (Eu)	4- Used in red phosphors for TV and fluorescent screens
(E) Gadolinium (Gd)	5- Used in MRI contrast agents and nuclear reactor control rods

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (B) a-3, b-1, c-2, d-5, e-4
- (C) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-5, e-4

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

- (A) Cerium (Ce) → Used in catalytic converters and polishing powders (1)
- (B) Neodymium (Nd) → Used in permanent magnets and high-strength alloys (2)
- (C) Lanthanum (La) → Used in camera lenses, batteries, and optical glasses (3)
- (D) Europium (Eu) → Used in red phosphors for TV and fluorescent screens (4)
- (E) Gadolinium (Gd) → Used in MRI contrast agents and nuclear reactor control rods (5)

33. Match the following -

Report / Index	Details / Purpose
----------------	-------------------

(A) Ease of Doing Business Index	1- Published by WIPO to rank countries based on innovation capabilities
(B) Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	2- Published by UNDP to measure human development through health, education, and income
(C) Human Development Report (HDR)	3- Published by UN to rank countries based on subjective well-being and happiness
(D) Global Innovation Index (GII)	4- Published by World Bank to assess regulations and ease of business operations
(E) World Happiness Report	5- Published by Transparency International to rank countries by perceived corruption

Options:

- (A) a-5, b-1, c-4, d-3, e-2
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (C) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1, e-5
- (D) a-4, b-5, c-2, d-1, e-3

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

- (A) Global Innovation Index (GII) – 2: The GI is published by WIPO and ranks countries based on their innovation capabilities and outputs, including research, technology, and creative performance indicators.
- (B) Human Development Report (HDR) – 1: The HDR, published by UNDP, measures countries’ progress in health, education, and income, reflecting overall human development.
- (C) Ease of Doing Business Index – 3: The Ease of Doing Business Index, published by the World Bank, evaluates how easy it is to start and operate a business in different countries.
- (D) Corruption Perception Index (CPI) – 4: The CPI is published by Transparency International to rank countries based on perceived levels of public sector corruption.
- (E) World Happiness Report – 5: The World Happiness Report, published under the UN, ranks countries according to subjective well-being, life satisfaction, and happiness reported by citizens.

34. Match the following -

Mountain Peak	Location / Details
(A) Nun Kun	1- Located in Arunachal Pradesh, India
(B) Chaukhamba	2- Part of the Garhwal Himalayas, Uttarakhand, India
(C) Saser Kangri	3- Located in Ladakh, India, part of the Karakoram range
(D) Kamet	4- Uttarakhand, India, third-highest peak in the Garhwal region
(E) Kang Nachugo	5- Located in Sikkim, India

Options:

(A) a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4, e-5

(B) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2, e-5

(C) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5

(D) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1, e-5

Ans: (B)

Exp: (A) Nun Kun – 3:

Nun Kun is a twin peak located in Ladakh, India, and is part of the Karakoram range. Nun is the higher of the two peaks, and both are popular among mountaineers.

(B) Chaukhamba – 4:

Chaukhamba is in Uttarakhand, India, forming part of the Garhwal Himalayas. It is known for its four summits and challenging climbing routes.

(C) Saser Kangri – 1:

Saser Kangri is located in Ladakh, India, within the Saser Muztagh range of the Karakoram. It is less commonly climbed compared to major Himalayan peaks.

(D) Kamet – 2:

Kamet is situated in Uttarakhand, India, and is the third-highest peak in the Garhwal region. It lies near the border with Tibet and is notable for its remote location.

(E) Kang Nachugo – 5:

Kang Nachugo is a lesser-known peak located in Sikkim, India. It is not as high-profile as Kanchenjunga but is significant for regional mountaineering.

35. Match the following compounds with their corresponding properties:

Compounds	Properties
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A. Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	1. A strong oxidizing agent used in bleach.
B. Sulfuric Acid (H ₂ SO ₄)	2. A salt that dissolves in water to form a neutral solution.
C. Potassium Permanganate (KMnO ₄)	3. A highly corrosive and strong acid used in various industrial processes.
D. Ammonia (NH ₃)	4. A basic compound with a pungent smell used in fertilizers.
E. Hydrogen Peroxide (H ₂ O ₂)	5. A common disinfectant and bleaching agent.

Options:

(A) A-2, B-3, C-5, D-4, E-1

(B) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3, E-5

(C) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-5, E-4

(D) A-1, B-3, C-5, D-4, E-2

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

A-2: Sodium Chloride (NaCl) is a common table salt that dissolves in water to form a neutral solution.

B-3: Sulfuric Acid (H₂SO₄) is a highly corrosive and strong acid used in various industrial processes.

C-5: Potassium Permanganate (KMnO₄) is a common disinfectant and bleaching agent.

D-4: Ammonia (NH₃) is a basic compound with a pungent smell, commonly used in fertilizers.

E-1: Hydrogen Peroxide (H₂O₂) is a strong oxidizing agent used in bleach.

36. Match the molecules with their functions:

Molecules	Functions
A. Peptidoglycan	1. Storage form of glucose in animals.
B. Chitin	2. Found in bacterial cell walls.
C. Collagen	3. Found in fungal cell walls.
D. Glycogen	4. Component of extracellular matrix in animals.
E. Starch	5. Storage form of glucose in plants.

Options:

- (A) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-5, E-2
- (B) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
- (C) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1, E-5
- (D) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-5

Ans: (D)

Exp: A-2: Peptidoglycan is in bacterial cell walls.
B-3: Chitin is in fungal cell walls.
C-4: Collagen is in the extracellular matrix of animals.
D-1: Glycogen is a glucose storage form in animals.
E-5: Starch is a glucose storage form in plants.

37. Match the following aspects related to the United States with their correct descriptions -

Column A	Column B
1. Louisiana Purchase	a. The first ten amendments to the US Constitution
2. Manhattan Project	b. Acquisition of territory from France in 1803
3. Emancipation Proclamation	c. Secret World War II project for atomic bombs
4. Bill of Rights	d. Abolishment of slavery in Confederate states
5. Missouri Compromise	e. Agreement balancing free and slave states in 1820

- Options:
- (A) 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a, 5-e
 - (B) 1-d, 2-b, 3-c, 4-a, 5-e
 - (C) 1-e, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-d
 - (D) 1-b, 2-e, 3-d, 4-c, 5-a

Ans: (A)

Exp: Louisiana Purchase refers to the acquisition of territory from France in 1803.
Manhattan Project was a secret WWII initiative to develop atomic bombs.
Emancipation Proclamation declared the abolishment of slavery in Confederate states.
Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments to the US Constitution.
Missouri Compromise was an agreement in 1820 to balance free and slave states.

38. Match the following -

Column A	Column B
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1. Young India	a. Jawaharlal Nehru
2. The Hindu	b. Subhas Chandra Bose
3. Harijan	c. B.G. Tilak
4. The Quest	d. Mahatma Gandhi
5. Forward	e. C. Rajagopalachari

- Options:
- (A) 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-e
 - (B) 1-d, 2-c, 3-a, 4-b, 5-e
 - (C) 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-e, 5-a
 - (D) 1-d, 2-e, 3-c, 4-b, 5-a

Ans: (D)

Exp: Young India was launched by Mahatma Gandhi as a journal for spreading his ideas.
The Hindu was associated with C. Rajagopalachari, a prominent leader who contributed significantly to Indian journalism.
Harijan was a journal founded by B.G. Tilak, aimed at uplifting the untouchables.
The Quest was started by Subhas Chandra Bose as a periodical for revolutionary ideas.
Forward was launched by Jawaharlal Nehru to represent progressive views.

39. Match the following -

Battle	Significance / Year / Leader
(A) Battle of Haldighati	1- 1576, Maharana Pratap resisted Akbar's forces in Mewar
(B) Battle of Talikota	2- 1565, Combined Deccan Sultanates defeated Vijayanagara Empire
(C) Battle of Plassey	3- 1757, Robert Clive defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, starting British Bengal control
(D) Battle of Saraighat	4- 1671, Lachit Borphukan led Ahoms to defeat the Mughals in Assam
(E) Battle of Chausa	5- 1539, Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun to establish Suri dynasty

- Options:
- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
 - (B) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-5, e-4
 - (C) a-1, b-5, c-4, d-3, e-2
 - (D) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2, e-5

Ans: (A)

Exp: Haldighati (1576): Maharana Pratap resisted Akbar's forces in Mewar, symbolizing Rajput valor.

Talikota (1565): The combined armies of the Deccan Sultanates defeated the Vijayanagara Empire, ending its supremacy in South India.
 Plassey (1757): Robert Clive defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, beginning British control over Bengal.
 Saraighat (1671): Lachit Borphukan led the Ahom army to defeat the Mughals in Assam, preserving regional autonomy.
 Chausa (1539): Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun, establishing the Suri dynasty in northern India.

40. Match the following -

Movement	Significance / Year / Leader
(A) Pabna Peasant Uprising	1- 1873-76, Bengal peasants resisted oppressive zamindari system
(B) Tana Bhagat Movement	2- 1914-20, Tribal movement in Chotanagpur demanding land reforms and against British revenue policies
(C) Indigo Revolt (Nil Bidroha)	3- 1859-60, Bengal peasants protested exploitative indigo cultivation
(D) Santhal Rebellion	4- 1855-56, Tribal revolt in Jharkhand against British landlords
(E) Moplah Rebellion	5- 1921, Muslim peasants in Malabar region rebelled against British & landlords

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (B) a-3, b-5, c-1, d-2, e-4
- (C) a-1, b-5, c-4, d-3, e-2
- (D) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-5, e-4

Ans:
Exp:

(A) Pabna Peasant Uprising (1873-76): Peasants in Bengal revolted against exploitative landlords and high rents.
 Tana Bhagat Movement (1914-20): Tribal uprising in Chotanagpur against British revenue policies and social exploitation; later merged with Gandhian movements.

Indigo Revolt (1859-60): Bengal peasants resisted forced indigo cultivation by British planters.
 Santhal Rebellion (1855-56): Santhal tribals rose against British revenue policies and local landlords in Jharkhand.
 Moplah Rebellion (1921): Muslim peasants in Malabar region revolted against British and landlords.

41. Match the following reports and their publishers -

(A) United Nations Development Programme	1- Human Development Report
(B) International Fund for Agricultural Development	2- Postal Development Report
(C) Universal Postal Union	3- Rural Development Report
(D) Food and Agriculture Organisation	4- State of the World Reports

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:
Exp:

(D) United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Report
 International Fund for Agricultural Development - Rural Development Report
 Universal Postal Union - Postal Development Report
 Food and Agriculture Organisation - State of the World Reports

42. Match the following Indian States and Folk Dances -

(A) Nagaland	1- Rangma, Bamboo Dance, Zeliang
(B) Sikkim	2- Chu Faat Dance, Sikmari, Singhi Chaam
(C) Lakshadweep	3- Lava, Kolkali, Parichakali

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1

Ans: (D) a-1, b-3, c-2
Exp: Nagaland - Rangma, Bamboo Dance, Zeliang
 Sikkim - Chu Faat Dance, Sikkari, Singhi Chaam
 Lakshadweep - Lava, Kolkali, Parichakali

43. Match the following disease with their vaccines -

(A) Chickenpox	1- Varicella
(B) Diphtheria	2- DTaP and Tdap
(C) Mumps	3- Pertussis
(D) Whooping Cough	4- MMR

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: Chickenpox - Varicella
 Diphtheria - DTaP and Tdap
 Mumps - MMR
 Whooping Cough - Pertussis

44. Match the following committees with their purposes -

(A) Bhide Committee	1- Coordination between SFC's and commercial banks
(B) C Rangarajan committee	2- Eliminating the poverty scale of the country
(C) Cook Committee	3- To check Capital adequacy of banks

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: Bhide Committee Coordination between SFC's and commercial banks
 C Rangarajan committee Eliminating the poverty scale of the country
 Cook Committee To check Capital adequacy of banks

45. Match the following -

UN Law / Convention	Details
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(A) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1- Provides legal framework for maritime rights, EEZs, and the International Seabed Authority
(B) United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)	2- Aims at conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use, and fair benefit-sharing
(C) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	3- International treaty to combat climate change and stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations
(D) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	4- Promotes measures to prevent and combat corruption globally
(E) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	5- Regulates international trade of endangered plants and animals to ensure their survival

Options:

- (A) a-2, b-4, c-5, d-3, e-1
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (C) a-5, b-3, c-1, d-2, e-4
- (D) a-3, b-5, c-2, d-1, e-4

Ans: (A)
Exp: CBD (a-2): Focuses on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of resources, and equitable benefit-sharing.
 UNCAC (b-4): Global framework to prevent, detect, and punish corruption.
 CITES (c-5): Protects endangered species by regulating international trade.
 UNFCCC (d-3): International treaty addressing climate change and controlling greenhouse gas emissions.
 UNCLOS (e-1): Governs maritime zones, rights of coastal and landlocked states, and international seabed activities.

46. Match the following -

Trans-Himalayan River	Details
(A) Spiti	1- Tributary of Indus, flows through Ladakh, joins Indus near Nimmu
(B) Pare Chu	2- Originates in Karakoram range, tributary of Indus in Ladakh region
(C) Zaskar	3- Originates from Kunzum range, a tributary of Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh
(D) Markha	4- Flows in Ladakh, tributary of Zaskar, known for Markha Valley trek
(E) Shyok	5- Flows through Himachal Pradesh and Tibet, tributary of Spiti River

Options:

- (A) a-5, b-3, c-4, d-2, e-1
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- (C) a-3, b-5, c-1, d-4, e-2
- (D) a-2, b-1, c-5, d-3, e-4

Ans:

Exp:

(C)
Spiti (a-3): Originates from Kunzum range; tributary of Sutlej flowing through Spiti valley.
Pare Chu (b-5): Flows through Himachal Pradesh and Tibet; joins Spiti River eventually.
Zaskar (c-1): Major tributary of Indus in Ladakh; joins Indus at Nimmu.
Markha (d-4): Tributary of Zaskar in Ladakh; Markha Valley is famous for trekking.
Shyok (e-2): Originates in Karakoram, merges with Indus downstream; known for strategic importance.

47. Match the following Important Terminology in Sports -

(A) Football	1- Side Back
(B) Badminton	2- Homerun
(C) Baseball	3- Back Hand
(D) Athletics	4- Hammer Throw

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:

Exp:

(D)
Football - Side Back
Badminton - Back Hand

Baseball - Homerun
Athletics - Hammer Throw

48. Match the following Books and Authors -

(A) Mahabhasya	1- Patanjali
(B) Naishadhacharitra	2- Sri Harsha
(C) Mrichhakatika	3- Sudraka

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:

Exp:

(A)
Mahabhasya - Patanjali
Naishadhacharitra - Sri Harsha
Mrichhakatika - Sudraka

49. Match the following -

Employment Scheme	Launched Year
(A) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	1- 2005
(B) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	2- 2014
(C) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	3- 2015
(D) National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)	4- 2013

Options:

- (A) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (C) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

Ans:

Exp:

(B)
MGNREGA (A) was launched in 2005 to provide guaranteed rural employment.
DDU-GKY (B) started in 2014 to provide skill development and placement to rural youth.
PMKVY (C) was launched in 2015 for skill training and certification of youth.
NULM (D) began in 2013 to enhance urban poor livelihoods.
मन्रेगा (A) ग्रामीण रोज़गार की गारंटी प्रदान करने के लिए 2005 में शुरू किया गया था।

50. Match the following -

Economic Concept / Term	Definition / Details
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(A) Quantitative Easing	1- Excess of a country's imports of goods, services, and transfers over exports
(B) Current Account Deficit	2- Net inflow of foreign investment, loans, and other capital into the country
(C) Purchasing Power Parity	3- Monetary policy tool where central bank buys securities to increase money supply
(D) Capital Account Surplus	4- Theory comparing different countries'

	currencies based on cost of identical goods
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Options:

- (A) a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- (D) a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2

Ans: (D)
Exp: Quantitative Easing (A) → 3: Monetary policy tool to increase money supply.
 Current Account Deficit (B) → 1: When imports plus transfers exceed exports.
 Purchasing Power Parity (C) → 4: Compares currencies based on cost of identical goods.
 Capital Account Surplus (D) → 2: Net inflow of foreign investment and loans.

"You Are Never Too Old To Set Another Goal Or To Dream A New Dream."

04 OCTOBER

WORLD ANIMAL WELFARE DAY



Importance
 This day was started in 1931 to highlight the plight of endangered species. This day is chosen to mark the feast day of St Francis of Assisi.

Motto
 To raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.

Note
 Day was moved to 4 October for the first time in 1929.

Note
 In 2003, the first World Animal Day website was launched by the Naturewatch Foundation which is UK-based animal welfare charity.

INCEPTION: 24 MARCH 1925 | 1ST OBSERVED: 1931 | EDITION: 94th

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

05 OCTOBER

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY



Importance
 To commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

Motto
 To raise awareness about the role of teachers' in playing quality education at all levels and to improve the situations of teachers' in the world.

For
 Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers.

By
 Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum (UAE).

2025 Theme
 Valuing teacher voices: Towards a new social contract for education.

ORGANISATION INVOLVED
 UNICEF, ILO and Education International UNESCO-Hamdan Prize.

INCEPTION/OBSERVED: 1994 | EDITION: 32nd | INSTITUTED: 2008
 PRIZE MONEY: US \$300,000 | FREQUENCY: Every two years

Quick Bytes

- Indian Army Conducts Exercise Drone Kavach in Arunachal Pradesh
- Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Comprehensive Cancer Care Policy
- Praveer Ranjan and Praveen Kumar Take Charge of CISF and ITBP
- Balod Becomes India's First Child Marriage-Free District
- Andhra Pradesh Wins Global Tourism Award 2025
- CSIR-AMPRI designed & developed SODAR system facility inaugurated
- Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver at World Weightlifting Championships 2025
- Gandhian Socialist Dr. G G Parikh Passes Away at 100
- NASA Launches IMAP Mission to Explore Heliosphere and Space Weather
- Dr. R. Arthur James Receives Tamil Nadu Scientist Award 2022
- Pandit Chhannulal Mishra Passes Away at 89. He was a spiritual voice of the Banaras Gharana, renowned for his mastery in khayal, thumri, kajri, and bhajans.
- Grandmaster P Iniyan Wins 62nd National Chess Championship
- India Re-Elected to ICAO Council's Part II Category
- India-EFTA TEPA Enters into Force with \$100 B Investment Pledge
- ADB Cuts India's FY26 Growth Forecast to 6.5%
- Singapore Renames Site of Zubeen Garg's Passing as Zubeen Garg Island
- Exercise KONKAN-2025: Indian and Royal Navies Begin Bilateral Drills
- South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), inaugurated its first fully women-operated Central Store Unit at the Central Workshop in Korba, Chhattisgarh.
- Indian Coast Guard Commissions Ship Akshar in Karaikal
- Veteran Actress Sandhya Shantaram, Passes Away at 94
- RBI grants SRO status to Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)
- Poland to Join NATO Pipeline System with €4.7 Billion Investment
- Uttarakhand Becomes First State to Abolish Madrasa Board
- Iran Approves Plan to Remove Four Zeros from Rial Amid Inflation
- Actor Saiyami Kher Becomes Official Ambassador for Ironman India
- Sanju Samson Named EPL Ambassador for India
- India Receives Third Very Large Gas Carrier, Shivalik
- DRDO Unveils Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) 1.0 for SDRs
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla: Brand Ambassador of Buildathon 2025
- BS Chandrasekhar, Brian Lara win Lifetime Achievement awards
- Fiji Launches First National Child Safeguarding Policy
- Punjabi Actor and Bodybuilder Varinder Singh Ghuman Passes Away at 41
- Indian Army Launches Indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid
- Sherry Singh Wins India's First Mrs Universe Crown
- India Ranks Second Globally in THE World University Rankings 2026
- Blackstone Launches India Credit Platform, Appoints Apurva Shah as MD
- Khaled el-Enany Appointed as UNESCO's Next Director-General
- India and Australia have signed key defence agreements during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Australia, aiming to strengthen their operational partnership across areas like defence industry, cyber defence, maritime security, and regional challenges.
- Maharashtra, Spain Sign MoU to Set Up World-Class Convention Centre
- Russia moves to withdraw from plutonium agreement with the US
- Buddha's Relics to Visit Russia's Kalmykia for First Time
- The Srikrishna Museum in Kurukshetra, dedicated to Lord Krishna and the Mahabharata, is set to get a fourth block to boost tourism and enhance visitor experience.
- Kedar Lele, Managing Director of Castrol India, has resigned to pursue other opportunities and will step down on December 31, 2025.
- Rishi Sunak Joins Microsoft and Anthropic as Adviser
- Bumrah Becomes First Indian Pacer with 50 Matches Across All Format

- Sonali Sen Gupta Appointed RBI Executive Director
- India, Australia Begin Joint Exercise AUSTRALIND 2025
- PM Modi Launches 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana'
- Dr. Sonali Ghosh: First Indian to Receive WCPA-Kenton Miller Award
- Masaki Kashiwara, a Japanese mathematician, was awarded the Abel Prize 2025 for his groundbreaking contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory.
- Laapataa Ladies Dominates 70th Filmfare Awards, Wins 13 Trophies
- Patrick Herminie Defeats Wavel Ramkalawan to Win Seychelles Presidency
- India Unveils \$77 Billion Hydro Plan Amid China's Dam Push
- Maldives First to End Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hep B, Syphilis
- Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh Wins Global Sustainability Award
- Assam CM Launches "CM Flight" for Global Careers
- GalaxEye to Launch World's First Multi-Sensor EO Satellite in 2026
- Google to Invest \$15 Billion in AI Data Centre in Andhra Pradesh
- Hindustan Shipyard Granted Mini Ratna Status
- Uttarakhand eases marriage registration rules under UCC
- India Elected Unopposed to UN Human Rights Council for Seventh Term
- Pakistan has offered the United States the opportunity to develop and operate Port Pasni as a commercial terminal, providing the US access to critical minerals.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the book titled "Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force" by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan in New Delhi.
- GalaxEye to Launch World's First Multi-Sensor EO Satellite in Q1 2026
- India and Mongolia Sign Ten MoUs to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation
- US Announces \$20 Billion Aid to Stabilize Argentina
- Anant Goenka Named FICCI President-Elect for 2025-26
- Airtel Partners IBM to Boost Cloud Services in India
- Dan Katz Appointed IMF's First Deputy Managing Director
- Mahabharat's Karna, Actor Pankaj Dheer, Passes Away at 68
- Tarun Garg to Lead Hyundai India as First Indian MD & CEO
- India-South Korea Hold First Bilateral Naval Exercise IN-RoKN
- India and Indonesia Begin 5th Samudra Shakti Naval Exercise
- Abhishek, Mandhana Win ICC Player of the Month October 2025
- Akkai Padmashali appointed to Supreme Court panel on transgender right
- Second Smallest Nation, Cape Verde qualifies for FIFA World Cup
- Nirmal Minda Becomes Assocham President, Chaudhry as Sr. VP
- Adani Group to build ₹4,081 crore Sonprayag-Kedarnath ropeway
- Manipur wins '30th Senior Women's National Football Championship
- MoD Signs ₹659 Crore Deal for Advanced Night Sight for SIG716 Assault
- India, Indonesia begin naval drill: 'Samudra Shakti - 2025'
- Sundarbans aquaculture model wins FAO global recognition
- India Slips To 85th Spot On 2025 Henley Passport Index
- South Africa has been re-elected to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Governing Council, according to its Department of Transport.
- Kanad Das Appointed as Director of Botanical Survey of India
- Anand Piramal has been appointed Chairman of Piramal Finance, succeeding his father, Ajay Piramal.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs Establishes Centres of Excellence to Promote Heritage and Classical Languages under PMJVK
- Guwahati Railway Station to Become India's First 100% Plastic-Recyclable Station
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that the Navi Mumbai International Airport will be renamed "Loknete D. B. Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport" after receiving approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- HDFC Bank Launches 'My Business QR' for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- TCS to acquire US-based ListEngage for \$72.8 million to boost Salesforce

- India has been honoured with the “Outstanding Achievement in Social Security Award 2025” by the International Social Security Association (ISSA).
- England Footballer Millie Bright Announces Retirement from International Football
- Bumrah Becomes First Indian Pacer with 50 Matches Across All Format
- Grandmaster P. Iniyan from Tamil Nadu won the 62nd National Chess Championship 2025 held in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- Google has announced a \$15 billion investment in India over the next five years to build its largest artificial intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, in partnership with the Adani Group.
- L&T, BEL Join Race to Build India’s Stealth Fighter Jet
- India, Australia Sign Organic Products Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- Renowned Kannada Writer Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa Passes Away at 94
- Tirumala Gets India’s First AI-Based Command Centre for Pilgrims
- UPI Launches in Qatar, Boosting Digital Payments Abroad
- Anand Piramal Named Chairman of Piramal Finance
- Sudhanshu Vats Appointed President of ASCI, Subramanyeswar Vice Chair
- India Tests Agni-Prime Missile from Rail-Based Launcher
- New Eel Species *Apterichtus kanniyakumari* Discovered off Tamil Nadu Coast
- Ravichandran Ashwin Makes History with Big Bash League Signing
- Dr. Kanad Das assumed charge as the 13th Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), marking the first time a mycologist has headed the institute.
- India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, received international recognition at the World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.
- Türkiye, U.S. Sign Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement
- Trump Approves Deal to Keep TikTok in the U.S. with American Ownership
- Journalist Amshi Prasannakumar Wins Krishi Media Award 2025
- India Bids Farewell to the Iconic MiG-21 Fighter Jet
- Sergio Busquets Announces Retirement After 20-Year Football Career
- India beat Bangladesh 4-1 to win 7th SAFF Under17 football title
- Mithun Manhas Elected Unopposed as 37th BCCI President
- Book Launch: MoS Dr. L Murugan Releases “Same Heart, Same World”
- India Clinches Seven Medals at Para World Archery Championships
- Bihar’s Gokul Jalashaya and Udaipur Jheel Designated as Ramsar Wetland
- India Opens First Integrative Oncology Centre at AIIA Goa
- Shirish Chandra Murmu Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor
- Shailesh Chandra Appointed MD & CEO of Tata Motors
- R Venkataramani Reappointed Attorney General of India Till 2027
- DRDO Wins BusinessLine Changemaker of the Year
- Indian Cricket Team Won 9th Asia Cup title 2025
- India and Bhutan Announce Two Cross-Border Rail Projects
- Mukhi Becomes First India-Born Adult Cheetah at Kuno
- PM Modi Pens Preface for Giorgia Meloni’s Autobiography
- RBI Allows Banks to Offer Working Capital Loans to Manufacturers Using Gold as Raw Material
- 1992-Batch IAS Officer Rajeev Verma to Become Delhi Chief Secretary
- Gaurav Banerjee to Lead Sony Pictures India Till 2029
- World Archery Para Championships 2025: Sheetal Devi Wins Maiden Gold
- ICC, UNICEF Launch ‘Promise to Children’ Campaign
- Chris Woakes Retires from International Cricket After 14-Year Career

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

“For Every Reason It’s Not Possible, There Are Hundreds Of People Who Have Faced The Same Circumstances And Succeeded.”

Infographics

The World's Most Competitive Tax Systems

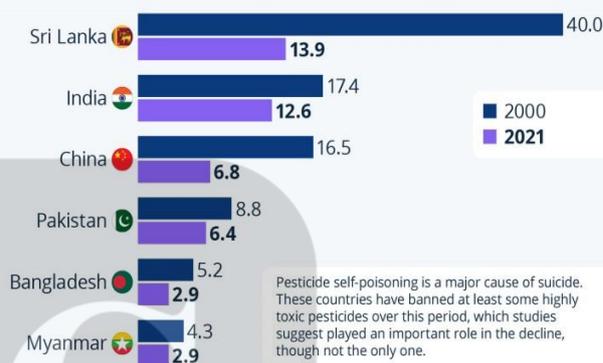
Index of international tax competitiveness in 2025 (100 = most competitive)



Takes into account corporate, individual, consumption, property & cross-border taxes in 38 studied countries
Source: Tax Foundation

Suicide Rates Drop Amid Pesticide Bans

Estimated age-standardized suicide rate per 100,000 people in selected countries, by year



Pesticide self-poisoning is a major cause of suicide. These countries have banned at least some highly toxic pesticides over this period, which studies suggest played an important role in the decline, though not the only one.

Source: WHO

U.S. Has Given Ukraine the Most Aid to Date

Government aid to Ukraine from Jan. 24, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2025, by country (in billion euros)



Source: IFW Kiel, Ukraine Support Tracker

Hong Kong and Japan Produce the Most E-Waste per Capita

Per capita e-waste generated in a selection of Asian countries and territories in 2022 (in kg)



Source: Global E-Waste Monitor 2024

The World's Busiest Airports

Airports with the highest total passenger traffic in 2024*



* Passengers enplaned and deplaned, passengers in transit counted once
Source: Airports Council International

H-1B Visas Are the Main Pathway for Indian Tech Talent

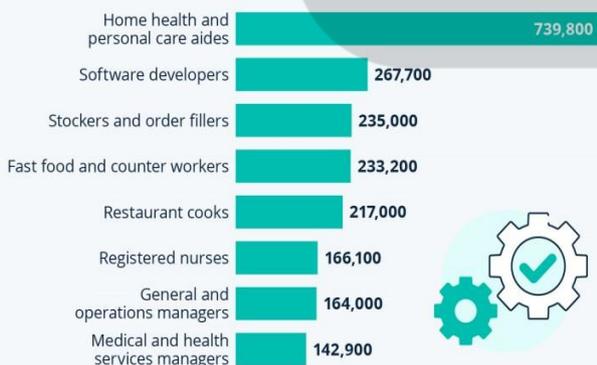
Origin countries of H-1B visa recipients in FY 2024*



* The H-1B is a non-immigrant, i.e. temporary visa that allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in high-skilled specialty occupations.
Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Wanted: The Most In-Demand Jobs of the Next Decade

Occupations with the largest projected increase in employment in the U.S. between 2024 and 2034



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Services No Longer Required: Which Jobs Are Most at Risk?

Occupations with the largest projected decline in employment in the U.S. between 2024 and 2034



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Enormous Scale of Global Food Waste

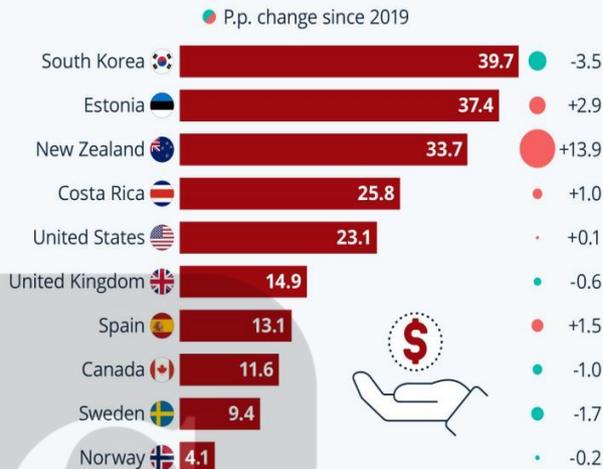
Total annual household food waste produced in selected countries*



* UNEP estimates with high or medium confidence
Source: UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024

Where Is Pensioner Poverty the Most Prevalent?

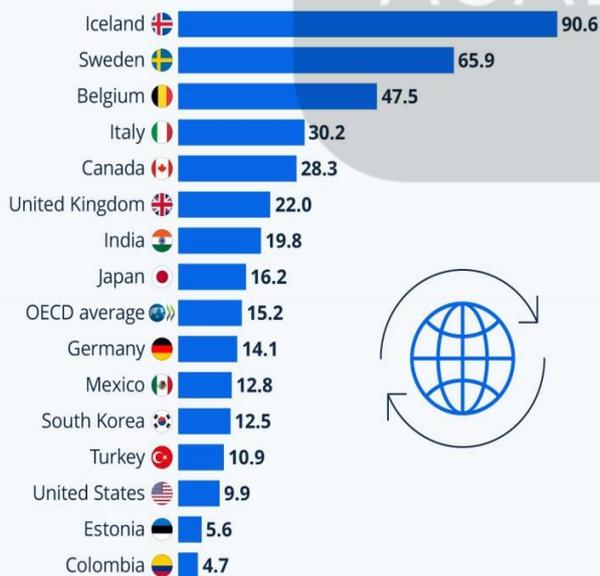
Share of people 66 and older living in relative income poverty in selected countries in 2022 (in percent)



Income poverty refers to income below half the national median equivalized household income.
Source: OECD

The State of Global Trade Union Membership

Trade union membership as a percentage of total employees (in percent)*



* Selected countries, 2024 or latest available data
Source: OECD

Who's Leading the Race Towards Parliamentary Gender Parity?

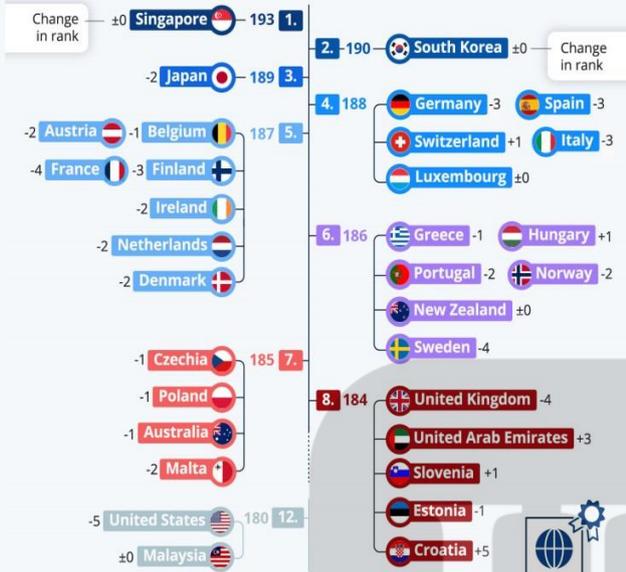
Share of women in the lower or single house of parliament in selected countries (in percent)*



* As of October 2025
Source: IPU

U.S. Drops to Historic Low in Powerful Passports Ranking

Passports ranked by the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa (as of Oct. 2025)



Based on 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations
Source: Henley Passport Index

The World's Biggest Tourism Spenders

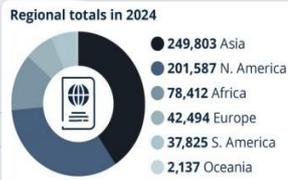
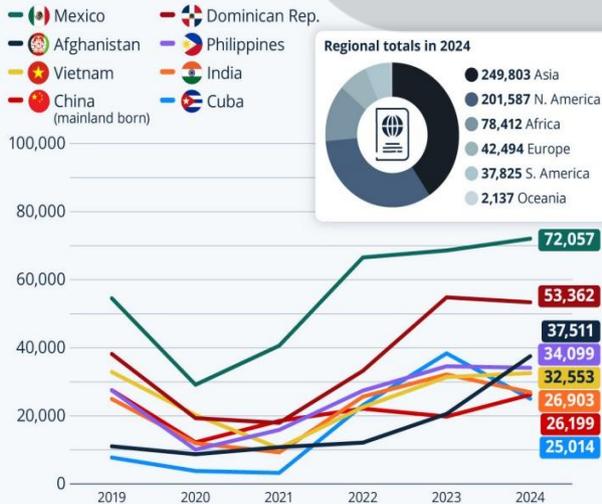
Expenditure on foreign travel by residents of the following countries in 2024 (in billion U.S. dollars)*



* All tourism spending by residents of a country abroad, including payments to foreign transport companies for international transportation
Sources: IMF, UNWTO, Statista calculations

The Countries Receiving the Most U.S. Immigrant Visas

Annual number of U.S. immigrant visas* issued, by foreign state of chargeability or place of birth



* U.S. immigrant visas (IV) are for foreign nationals intending to live permanently in the United States. It does not include the H-1B visa.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs

The Countries With the Highest Covid-19 Death Toll

Countries with the highest number of Covid-19 deaths (as of August 2023)



Total number of confirmed deaths worldwide: **6.96 million**

Sources: WHO, Our World in Data



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