

# Daily Current

# Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



4  
**The Hindu**



0  
**PIB, PRS & Other newspaper**



1  
**The Indian Express**



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**Jansatta**



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**Financial Express**

“Exams reward those who respect time, not those who fear it.”



**IN BRIEF**



**Turnout drops in bypolls at Davangere South, Bagalkot**

Polling for the by-elections to Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies in Karnataka went on smoothly, barring few technical glitches and a stray instance of a minor clash in Davangere. However, both constituencies recorded lower polling percentages compared to the 2023 Assembly election. As per preliminary data, Bagalkot recorded a polling percentage of 68.47% (69.39% in 2023) and Davangere South recorded 68.43% (69.48% in 2023).

**Seven held in ticket scam at Dwaraka Tirumala temple**

The police in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh arrested seven persons, including a software engineer, for their alleged involvement in a fake darshan ticket racket at Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Dwaraka Tirumala, on Thursday. "The accused were printing and issuing fake darshan tickets, worth ₹200 to devotees. The fraud came to light when tickets were scanned at the entrance of the temple," said Eluru Deputy Superintendent of Police.

**Fire breaks out at chemical solvent unit in Hyderabad**

Massive fire broke out at a chemical solvent unit in Jeedameta area in Hyderabad on Thursday morning, destroying industrial material. The blaze erupted at a chemical solvent unit in Kann Reddy Nagar around 1.23 a.m., prompting an extensive firefighting operation. Four fire tenders from Sanathnagar, Secunderabad, Madhapur and Campment were rushed into service to bring the fire under control. The fire was finally doused after more than five hours at around 7 p.m.

**TTD mulls centralised administrative complex in Tirumala**

**G.P. Shukla**  
TIRUMALA

In a move aimed at ushering in greater transparency and delivering pilgrim-centric governance, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is studying the establishment of a state-of-the-art centralised administrative complex in Tirumala.

The proposed initiative unfolds against the backdrop of mounting pilgrim inflow, with the hill shrine recording over 75,000 footfalls on an average every day.

The shree volume has long exposed the limitations of a decentralised administrative framework, wherein over 50 departments tasked with delivering a wide spectrum of pilgrim services operate from scattered locations across the temple town.

At present, essential services, encompassing accommodation, darshan management, arundaman, engineering, health, vigilance, security and medical, function in different locations, compelling pilgrims to traverse considerable distances to access multiple facilities, besides posing operational challenges, particularly during the peak period.

**Golden harvest**



Earthy yellow: Agriculture workers harvest turmeric in a field on the outskirts of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. S.V. SURI

**India's first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

India's first quantum computing testing beds, called Quantum Reference Facility, will be dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on April 11, coinciding with the World Quantum Day, says P.S. Pradyuman, Secretary to the Chief Minister.

Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Mr. Pradyuman said the two testing beds, developed as part of the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility under the State government's Amaravati Quantum Valley programme, were coming up at SRM University A.P. "They were being developed in partnership with the Amaravati Quantum Research Facility and Qubit Force. At SRM University, a team of 50 researchers, students and scientists are working on assembling the quantum computing ecosystem. "We did not have a quantum testing computer in the country that can be used as a reference to test different components of the quantum computing ecosystem," Mr. Pradyuman said, adding that Andhra "is the first state to take this up."

**Kerala records turnout of 78.27% in high stakes polls**

Voter turnout stood at 80.86% among women, 75.04% among men, and 57.04% among transgender voters, the highest since 1987 Assembly elections; polling booths were monitored with AI cameras



Star attraction LDF candidate V. Sivanbary and LDF candidate K. Satharadhan stand alongside actor Mohanlal to express their franchise in Thiruvananthapuram, state assembly seat.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala recorded 78.27% polling, as of midnight, in the Assembly elections held on Thursday after what has been a short but intense period of electrifying in the State. According to the Election Commission of India (EC), 80.86% of female voters, 75.04% of male voters, and 57.04% of transgender voters in Kerala cast their votes.

**Confident of a bigger win for LDF, says Pinarayi**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KANNUR

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday expressed confidence that the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) would get a bigger mandate this time.

There were 883 candidates in the fray for the Assembly elections and the highest since the 1987 Assembly polls (80,845). But it failed to live up to the expectations of the EC which had set a target of 89%.

Each station has two cameras each, placed inside and outside the station. Total 60,990 cameras were streaming footage. At the control room, one of the screens is dedicated to monitoring polling stations with long queues (at least 10 voters waiting) outside them.



When documents: Congress leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar releasing the manifesto in the presence of party leaders in Channarayana on Thursday. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

**D.K. Shivakumar hits out at Vijay's remarks, releases manifesto**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Congress leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday came down heavily on Tamil Nadu Neta Shivakumar on Thursday.

Mr. Shivakumar's comments came against the backdrop of Mr. Vijay's chair at a public meeting in Tirunelveli on Wednesday that a section of the Congress party had been "purchased" by the DMK, while the "real Congress" was with the TVK.

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# India's first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.

## **The Hindu Bureau**

VIJAYAWADA

India's first quantum computing testing beds, called Quantum Reference Facility, will be dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on April 14, coinciding with the World Quantum Day, says P.S. Pradyumna, Secretary to the Chief Minister.

Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Mr. Pradyumna said the two testing beds, developed as part of the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facilities under the State government's Amaravati Quantum Valley

programme, were coming up at SRM University A.P.

They were being developed in partnership with the Amaravati Quantum Research Facility and Qubit Force. At SRM University, a team of 50 researchers, students and scientists was working on assembling the quantum computing ecosystem.

"Till date, we did not have a quantum testing computer in the country that can be used as a reference to test different components of the quantum computing ecosystem," Mr. Pradyumna said, adding that Andhra "is the first State to take this up."

- India's **first Quantum Reference Facility** (quantum computing testing beds) to be dedicated to the nation on **April 14, 2026 — World Quantum Day** — by Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu.
- भारत की **पहली क्वांटम संदर्भ सुविधा** (क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग परीक्षण बेड) **14 अप्रैल 2026** — विश्व क्वांटम दिवस पर आंध्र प्रदेश CM एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू द्वारा राष्ट्र को समर्पित।
- Facility established under AP's **Amaravati Quantum Valley Programme** at **SRM University, Andhra Pradesh**.
- सुविधा AP के **अमरावती क्वांटम वैली कार्यक्रम** के तहत **SRM University, आंध्र प्रदेश** में स्थापित।
- India had no quantum testing computer before this — now Andhra Pradesh becomes the **first state** to set one up.
- इससे पहले भारत में कोई क्वांटम परीक्षण कंप्यूटर नहीं था — अब आंध्र प्रदेश इसे स्थापित करने वाला **पहला राज्य** बना।
- Developed in partnership with **Amaravati Quantum Research Facility** and **Qubit Force**.
- **अमरावती क्वांटम अनुसंधान सुविधा** और **Qubit Force** के साथ साझेदारी में विकसित।
- A team of **50 researchers, students and scientists** at SRM University assembling the quantum computing ecosystem.
- SRM University में **50 शोधकर्ताओं, छात्रों और वैज्ञानिकों** की टीम क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र तैयार कर रही है।

- India had **no quantum testing reference computer** — scientists could not test quantum components domestically.
- भारत में कोई क्वांटम परीक्षण संदर्भ कंप्यूटर नहीं था — वैज्ञानिक घरेलू स्तर पर घटकों का परीक्षण नहीं कर सकते थे।
- This facility fills that critical gap — enabling India to build an **indigenous quantum computing ecosystem**.
- यह सुविधा उस महत्वपूर्ण अंतर को भरती है — भारत को स्वदेशी क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने में सक्षम बनाती है।
- Significance of **April 14 = World Quantum Day**: Chosen because 4/14 represents the value 0.4.14... approximating Planck's constant ( $4.14 \times 10^{-15}$  eV·s) — the fundamental constant of quantum mechanics.
- **14 अप्रैल = विश्व क्वांटम दिवस** का महत्व: 4/14 प्लैंक स्थिरांक ( $4.14 \times 10^{-15}$  eV·s) — क्वांटम यांत्रिकी के मूल स्थिरांक — का अनुमानित मान दर्शाता है।

- India launched the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** in 2023 with an outlay of **₹6,003.65 crore** for 2023-2031 — to develop quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials.
- भारत ने 2023 में **₹6,003.65 करोड़** के परिव्यय के साथ **राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन (NQM)** शुरू किया — क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग, संचार, संवेदन और सामग्री के लिए।
- Global quantum race: **US, China, EU** are spending billions — India needs to catch up quickly.
- वैश्विक क्वांटम दौड़: **अमेरिका, चीन, EU** अरबों खर्च कर रहे — भारत को तेजी से आगे बढ़ना होगा।
- **Amaravati Quantum Valley** is AP's bid to position itself as India's quantum technology hub.
- **अमरावती क्वांटम वैली** AP का भारत के क्वांटम प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र के रूप में खुद को स्थापित करने का प्रयास है।

## History / इतिहास

- **Quantum mechanics origins:** Developed in early 20th century by **Max Planck** (Planck's constant, 1900), **Niels Bohr** (atomic model), **Werner Heisenberg** (uncertainty principle), **Erwin Schrödinger** (wave equation).
- **क्वांटम यांत्रिकी की उत्पत्ति:** 20वीं सदी की शुरुआत में **मैक्स प्लैंक** (प्लैंक स्थिरांक, 1900), **नील्स बोहर**, **वर्नर हाइजेनबर्ग**, **एरविन श्रोडिंगर** द्वारा विकसित।
- **Indian contribution: S.N. Bose** (Bose-Einstein statistics, 1924) — foundational to quantum physics; **Bose-Einstein Condensate** is a quantum state of matter.
- **भारतीय योगदान: एस.एन. बोस** (बोस-आइंस्टीन सांख्यिकी, 1924) — क्वांटम भौतिकी की नींव; **बोस-आइंस्टीन कंडेनसेट** पदार्थ की क्वांटम अवस्था।
- **Amaravati:** Ancient Buddhist city in Andhra Pradesh; now chosen as India's quantum valley — connecting ancient knowledge hub to future technology.
- **अमरावती:** आंध्र प्रदेश में प्राचीन बौद्ध नगर; अब भारत की क्वांटम वैली चुना गया — प्राचीन ज्ञान केंद्र को भविष्य की तकनीक से जोड़ता है।

## Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- **Quantum computing market:** Global quantum computing market projected to reach **\$450 billion by 2030** (various estimates).
- **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग बाज़ार:** वैश्विक बाज़ार 2030 तक **\$450 अरब** तक पहुँचने का अनुमान।
- **Economic applications:** Drug discovery (pharma), financial modelling, supply chain optimisation, climate simulation, AI acceleration.
- **आर्थिक अनुप्रयोग:** दवा खोज, वित्तीय मॉडलिंग, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला अनुकूलन, जलवायु अनुकरण, AI त्वरण।
- **Amaravati as investment hub:** AP govt positioning Amaravati (new capital) as a tech investment magnet — quantum + semiconductor + IT.
- **निवेश केंद्र के रूप में अमरावती:** AP सरकार अमरावती (नई राजधानी) को प्रौद्योगिकी निवेश केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित कर रही — क्वांटम + सेमीकंडक्टर + IT।

## Science & Technology / विज्ञान-प्रौद्योगिकी

- **Qubit:** Quantum bit — basic unit of quantum information. Unlike classical bit (0 or 1), a qubit can be in **superposition** (both 0 AND 1 simultaneously).
- **क्यूबिट:** क्वांटम बिट — क्वांटम सूचना की मूल इकाई। शास्त्रीय बिट (0 या 1) के विपरीत, क्यूबिट **सुपरपोजिशन** में हो सकता है (एक साथ 0 और 1 दोनों)।
- **Three principles of Quantum Computing:**
  - **Superposition:** Qubit exists in multiple states simultaneously / क्यूबिट एक साथ कई अवस्थाओं में
  - **Entanglement:** Two qubits linked — state of one instantly affects the other regardless of distance / दो क्यूबिट जुड़े — एक की अवस्था दूसरे को तुरंत प्रभावित करती
  - **Interference:** Used to amplify correct answers and cancel wrong ones / सही उत्तरों को बढ़ाने और गलत को रद्द करने में उपयोग

Hub / हब	Focus Area / फोकस क्षेत्र
Quantum Computing	Build quantum computers with 50-1000 qubits by 2031
Quantum Communication	QKD (Quantum Key Distribution) for secure comms
Quantum Sensing & Metrology	Ultra-precise sensors for navigation, geology, medical
Quantum Materials	New superconductors and quantum materials

### Global Quantum Landscape / वैश्विक क्वांटम परिदृश्य:

Country	Key Initiative
USA	National Quantum Initiative Act (2018); IBM, Google leading
China	World's longest quantum communication network (2000+ km)
EU	Quantum Flagship Programme (€1 billion)
India	NQM (₹6,003.65 crore); AP Quantum Reference Facility

**Consider the following statements regarding Quantum Computing and India's National Quantum Mission: क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग और भारत के राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. A qubit, unlike a classical bit, can exist in a superposition of both 0 and 1 simultaneously.
2. India's National Quantum Mission (NQM) was approved in 2023 with an outlay of ₹6,003.65 crore under the Department of Science and Technology.
3. Andhra Pradesh's Quantum Reference Facility is being set up at IIT Hyderabad under the state's Amaravati Quantum Valley Programme.
4. World Quantum Day is observed on April 14, chosen because the date approximates the numerical value of Planck's constant.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

# Making scholarships integral to India's academic culture

## Bengal blues

SIR, THE GOVERNMENT, dominating political discourse in post-Bharat Bengal.

West Bengal, one of the largest and politically consequential states in post-independence India, goes to polls on April 23, with a second phase on April 29. An attention shift from other elections held on Thursday, the eastern state presents a dispiriting picture. An election that should be about governance and livelihoods is instead being fought over ideology and the composition of the electoral roll itself. The Trinamool Congress has been in power for three terms after wresting power from the Left Front. In a more rational world, the outcome of the 2020 Assembly elections would have depended upon the performance of the Mamata Banerjee-led government over the last 15 years and how it has positioned a State that continues to occupy a mid-level or low rank in major socio-economic indicators. Yet, governance has almost never been the criterion that has determined voter choices in the State in the recent past, and this election does not seem to be an exception. The State, one of a dozen that underwent a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process carried out by the Election Commission of India, registered a drop of 50 lakh voters — a 12% decrease. Census reports revealed that the exercise was carried out in Bihar, where elections were more evenly distributed on communal lines, and disproportionately affected minority voters and those living in the border districts of West Bengal. Apart from those deleted initially in the SIR enumeration process, more than 60 lakh voters were flagged as having “logical discrepancies” in the data. The Trinamool Congress, which had to intervene to decide the eligibility of these voters, appointed judicial officers for the task, but that process also resulted in the disenfranchisement of 27 lakh voters, who have now been given the option of approaching tribunals. There is no clarity on whether this tribunal process will conclude before the election.

The anger on the ground over the SIR and the onerous burdens placed on voters to prove their eligibility, due to largely a flawed enumeration process adopted by the Trinamool Congress, has now become an election issue on its own, sidelining civic and governance issues. The Trinamool has projected the discontent over the SIR as a consequence of the Centre's and the BJP's machinations, while the BJP has wielded the SIR as a tool to polarise voters on religious lines. West Bengal desperately requires a policy where centralisation is over how to revive employment-driven industrial growth in a largely agrarian and services economy, not over the religious and linguistic identities of voters.

## Timely inaction

Slowing growth and rising inflation necessitated unchanged rates

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to keep interest rates unchanged — a “wait and watch” approach, in Governor's words — is a sensible move. As a time when busts wane and debts have rifled world markets, economies, and even households, a monetary policy response is needed of the hour. The challenge before the MPC is that the main tool it has — the repo rate — impacts growth and inflation in opposite ways. If it had raised rates to try to contain an anticipated surge in inflation, this would have had a negative impact. On the other hand, if it lowered rates to boost growth, this would have pushed inflation up. The war in West Asia has resulted in both of these undesirable outcomes: supply chain constraints have pushed up costs and inflation, while the demand for growth. A rate change at this juncture could have made matters significantly worse and further complicated the mission. In the absence of this speech, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra predicted that India's GDP would grow by 6.9% in 2020-21. Given that this is still the first month of the financial year, the forecast is likely to change considerably over the subsequent MPC announcements. For example, the MPC in April last year had predicted that growth in 2020-21 would be 6.8%. In contrast, the government's latest estimate for the year is 2.6%. Considerable uncertainty continues to persist in West Asia, with shipping companies still hesitant to brave the Strait of Hormuz.

All of this, coupled with the fuel constraints, will continue to hamper growth in 2020-21. The RBI lowered its growth forecast for the first quarter by just 0.1 percentage points, which might add up being an over-optimistic reading of the situation. The World Bank's India Development Update report, released on Thursday, predicts a slowdown in industrial growth in India over the course of this financial year. Consumer and government demand, too, is expected to slow as both groups try to tighten their belts. Inflation, on the other hand, is expected to accelerate considerably by 4.4%, according to the RBI. Yet, the MPC was correct not to raise rates since most of the inflationary pressure is due to supply issues rather than demand conditions. Raising rates would not only have slowed growth further, but even the primary objective of containing inflation would not have been met. A lot of factors need to play out before monetary policy can act. The way, the U.S. tariff-related investigations, greater clarity on a potential EU-NBA impact on the monsoon this year, to name a few. Until then, inaction is the best course of action.

India is to take its Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 80%, the question is not only how many institutions the country can build, but who is actually able to walk through their gates and graduate. India has been making gradual progress to expand capacity, the number of higher educational institutions has grown from 51,534 (2014-15) to over 70,000 last year, as per the 2020-20 Economic Survey. Yet the national GER stands at 29.8 (2012-13). Such limited participation highlights that India alone does not create students. Education transforms lives when access, affordability, and academic quality come together. For many young Indians, especially in second- and third-tier towns, the binding constraint is not aspiration, it is the cost and risk of participation. This is why scholarships cannot remain a post-hoc add-on to the system. They need to be designed, and tailored as an integral and embedded pathway into higher education.

A pressing need The country is witnessing three intersecting challenges. There is an access challenge across regions and social groups; an affordability challenge that turns higher education into a long-term investment for families; and a quality challenge that determines whether and to what extent enrolment translates into true learning and occupational pursuit. Enrolment rises when those who qualify can afford to participate, and when institutions are confident that diversity and merit will strengthen, not dilute, academic life. India has done well, there is a lot of talent that is widely distributed, but will not be opportunity. Increasing enrolments will depend less on convincing already advantaged families and more on releasing the pool of capable students who are currently held back by cost, distance, and uncertainty about the benefits of enrolment, especially at this high-stake point. They are not only instruments of financial support; they can also mould a student's life, ensuring academic attainment as well as overall individual enhancement through provision beyond material aid, such as leadership development, exposure to a wider world of interests, and career guidance. The Department of Higher Education supports students through scholarships, interest subsidies on education loans, and credit guarantees. The National Scholarship Portal functions as a common window for State schemes, and hosts information on scholarship programmes across



Pranab Mukherjee, Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ashoka University, India. Views expressed are personal and do not reflect the views of the University.

Lessons from history India's own history should be the first source of inspiration. In the ancient tradition of higher learning, Takshashila, students were known to have had as many as five options to pay their education fees: pay up front, work with and learn from the teachers, defer and pay after graduation, receive scholarships from home regions or rely on support from a charitable community for disadvantaged students. The principal was straightforward — ability should not be turned away for lack of means, and that institutions should find ways to welcome talent.

Those who qualify can afford to participate, and improve scholarships, but to reimagine what a scholarship represents. One can imagine scholarships that are designed as career commitments rather than annual renewals, giving students the opportunity to plan their education with a certain stability. Institutional design and enrolment can be studied in order to design merit-based scholarships that focus on under-served States and districts. One can also imagine programs that link scholarships to areas of national and regional need. A scholarship attached to a vocational degree in academic attainment as well as in manufacturing, or healthcare, anchored in a district with low participation in high demand, social and intellectual life of campus and the employability. The Department of Higher Education can gently encourage this shift. Incentives such as tax benefits for endowments, or matching funds from private philanthropy, can also be used to long term capital into scholarships that are designed to grow and sustain.

Performance-linked frameworks can recognise and reward institutions that demonstrate outcomes across merit, need, and potential. India already has many examples of what such thinking can look like. Ashoka University evaluates financial aid independently of academic admission, following a need-sensitive process where a student's ability to pay is assessed separately from the admission decision. About 20% students receive free education owing to a 100% scholarship, another roughly half of the students receive some form of financial support, while maintaining strong academic standards. The Indian School of Business (ISB) has built donor-supported scholarship ecosystems across categories that reflect merit and need, including support for those from the armed forces and those who are returning to the development sector. Every year, the ISB awards between 200 and 250 scholarships across its programme, and notably, 40% of the founding class of the recently launched PGP-Young Leaders programme is supported by scholar ships. In both cases, scholarships are not an afterthought. They are critical to the kind of academic community these institutions are trying to build.

International experience reinforces the point. Whether it be middle-class scholarship programmes at U.S. universities or provincial and city-level scholarships in China aligned to local development priorities, the most effective systems treat scholarships as a core part of their academic cultures.

From the margins to the centre India still needs to expand and diversify its higher educational system. But expansion alone will not deliver a 80% enrolment ratio that also deepens learning and social mobility. Meaningful absorption can only happen when capable systems are supported and inspired to look ahead, regardless of where they come from. This is not a narrow funding conversation; it is about building an ecosystem. Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who gets there. They shape the social and intellectual life of campus and the credibility of institutions. They also contribute to the nation's trajectory, throwing light on how talent is discovered, understood, and developed. If the goal is not only more students, but also more mobility and national capability, then scholarship deserve to move from the margins to the centre of our higher education strategy.

# Nari Shakti, India's defining reform for the next decade



Smriti Irani, Union Minister, Ministry of Women and Child Development, India.

Over the past decade, India has done something few nations have achieved at scale: it has moved women's economic empowerment from intent to infrastructure. This shift did not happen organically; it was designed. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, policy has placed women at the centre of development envisaging that when women move forward, entire economies accelerate. The results are visible and measurable. More than 87 crore bank accounts have been opened under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana, with over 55% held by women, giving millions their first foothold in the formal financial system. Nearly 10 crore women, organised into over 160 lakh self-help groups, are now driving grassroots entrepreneurship and local economic resilience. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has reached over 10.3 crore households, reducing health risks and freeing women from time-intensive labour. Moreover, access to credit has expanded, with close to 70% of MUDRA loans going to women entrepreneurs. Female labour force participation has also risen to nearly 37%, reversing a long-standing decline.

In healthcare, programmes such as the Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Matsari Abhiyan have expanded access and reduced vulnerability at critical life stages. Initiatives like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme have begun to shift deeply entrenched social attitudes. Individually, these are strong programmes. Taken together, they represent a shift in how India views women as recipients of support, but as drivers of growth. For policymakers and administrators, this offers a clear lesson: scale works when design, delivery, and accountability are aligned.

In healthcare, where the author's expertise lies, outcomes improve when systems are built

around real needs, and not theoretical models. Where access is simplified, delivery is consistent, and outcomes are trackable and engaged. And yet, the next phase will demand even greater clarity in the challenge to shift to a more policy-centric. It is policy penetration.

The last mile Despite the scale of programmes, awareness gaps remain in rural areas, and large-scale delivery continues to depend on local opportunity. For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access. This is where administrative leadership becomes critical.

India must move from announcing schemes to ensuring saturation, from measuring outputs to tracking outcomes. Women leaders can bring their insights shaped by community realities which can strengthen programmes, and their feedback can ensure that the system works. Additionally, the Nari Shakti Vanam Abhiyan will be a key element. For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access. This is where administrative leadership becomes critical.

Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally. Women leaders can bring their insights shaped by community realities which can strengthen programmes, and their feedback can ensure that the system works. Additionally, the Nari Shakti Vanam Abhiyan will be a key element. For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access. This is where administrative leadership becomes critical.

knowledge, innovation, and technology. India already has a strong base, with one of the highest rates of women in STEM education globally. This is an opportune moment to translate this gain into leadership across sectors such as healthcare, science, enterprise, and governance without losing time.

The past decade has shown what is possible when political will aligns with policy design. With resolve, focus, and leadership, the implementation of Nari Shakti Vanam Abhiyan can move empowerment beyond access, to authority.

The way forward However, representation must translate into capability, and capability must be built through institutional support to ensure that empowerment delivers results. Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally. This means structural rethinking, policy exposure, and administrative support systems that enable effective governance.

It also means rethinking how the country designs policy itself. Programmes must be simpler to access and faster to deliver. Feedback loops must be strengthened so that policy evolves with need. And success must be measured not just by coverage, but by change in outcomes across sectors. As India moves towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, this is not a peripheral agenda — it is central to its success. Women's participation is directly linked to equity, a growing, social stability, and institutional effectiveness.

As India aims to achieve saturation in access, strengthen participation, and enable leadership, it will not just empower its women — it will redefine its growth trajectory. For policymakers and administrators, the mandate is clear: the time to implement is now.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Lingering uncertainty** Appropos MPC forecasts for the first quarter by just 0.1 percentage points, which might add up being an over-optimistic reading of the situation. The World Bank's India Development Update report, released on Thursday, predicts a slowdown in industrial growth in India over the course of this financial year. Consumer and government demand, too, is expected to slow as both groups try to tighten their belts. Inflation, on the other hand, is expected to accelerate considerably by 4.4%, according to the RBI. Yet, the MPC was correct not to raise rates since most of the inflationary pressure is due to supply issues rather than demand conditions. Raising rates would not only have slowed growth further, but even the primary objective of containing inflation would not have been met. A lot of factors need to play out before monetary policy can act. The way, the U.S. tariff related investigations, greater clarity on a potential EU-NBA impact on the monsoon this year, to name a few. Until then, inaction is the best course of action.

**No end in sight** The recent collapse of the U.S. Iran-Israel ceasefire reflects that all three sides operate with very low trust in each other's commitments. The war has shown that Iran is not a weak nation as expected by the U.S. And while now Donald Trump is inclined for a peace deal, Israel wants...  
**Unclear ceasefire** The ceasefire gives some relief, but its scope still feels unclear in practice. Iran and Lebanon continue to weaken trust between...  
**Last minute defeat** The U.S. and Iran continued strikes suggest that conflict on the ground remains...  
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**Higher oil prices are already pushing fuel costs and inflation in India, India in Islamabad may help if both sides settle on clear terms and follow them strictly.**  
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**far, David Miller has become the villain for Delhi Catholics and others in India, India in Islamabad may help if both sides settle on clear terms and follow them strictly.**  
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**parter Kuldip Yadav has sparked massive outrage. This is a heartbreaking plea to swallow for DC and will haunt Miller for years!**  
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# Making scholarships integral to India's academic culture

If India is to take its Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50%, the question is not only how many institutions the country can build, but who is actually able to walk through their gates and graduate.

India has been making gradual progress to expand capacity; the number of higher educational institutions has grown from 51,534 (2014-15) to over 70,000 last year, as per the 2025-26 Economic Survey. Yet the national GER stands at 29.5 (2022-23). Such limited participation highlights that seats alone do not create students. Education transforms lives when access, affordability, and academic quality come together. For many young Indians, especially in second- and third-tier towns, the binding constraint is not aspiration; it is the cost and risk of participation. This is why scholarships cannot remain a peripheral add-on to the system. They need to be designed, and tailored as an integral and embedded pathway into higher education.

## A pressing need

The country is witnessing three intersecting challenges. There is an access challenge across regions and social groups; an affordability challenge that turns higher education into a long-term investment for families; and a quality challenge that determines whether and to what extent enrolment translates into true learning and occupational pursuit. Enrolment rises when those who qualify can afford to participate, and when institutions are confident that diversity and merit will strengthen, not dilute, academic life.

India knows this well: there is a lot of talent that is widely distributed, but with no opportunity. Increasing enrolments will depend less on convincing already advantaged families and more on releasing the pool of capable students who are currently held back by cost, distance, and uncertainty about the benefits of enrolment. Scholarships sit precisely at this hinge point. They are not only instruments of financial support; they can also mould a student's life, ensuring academic fulfilment as well as overall individual enhancement through provisions beyond material aid, such as leadership development, exposure to a wider world of interests, and career guidance.

The Department of Higher Education supports students through scholarships, interest subsidies on education loans, and credit guarantees. The National Scholarship Portal functions as a common window for State schemes, and hosts information on scholarship programmes across



**Pramath Raj Sinha**

Founder and Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Ashoka University, Delhi-NCR. Views expressed are personal and do not reflect the views of the University

ministries, departments and regulatory bodies. One such programme is the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students that provides up to 82,000 scholarships each year across undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional courses. Alongside this, corporate foundations, trusts, and non-profits have also created well-known programmes, often focused on merit-cum-means in fields such as engineering and management.

While this is meaningful progress, most scholarships are limited in number, and are still treated as financial plug-ins. The deeper question is whether scholarships can become a pathway which students actively opt into not only for financial reasons, but also for academic community and mentorship.

## Lessons from history

India's own history should be the first source of inspiration. In the ancient institution of higher learning, *Takshashila*, students were known to have had as many as five options to pay their education fees: pay up front; work with and learn from the teachers; defer and pay after graduation; receive scholarships from home regions; or rely on support from a charitable community for disadvantaged students. The principle was straightforward – ability should not be turned away for lack of means, and that institutions should find ways to welcome talent.

The opportunity before India is not only to improve scholarships, but to reimagine what a scholarship represents. One can imagine scholarships that are designed as multi-year commitments rather than annual renewals, giving students the confidence to plan their academic lives with a certain stability. Institutional density and enrolment can be studied in order to design region-based scholarships that focus on underserved States and districts. One can also imagine programme-specific pathways that link scholarships to areas of national and regional need. A scholarship attached to a vocational degree in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, or healthcare, anchored in a district with low participation but high demand, could raise enrolment while strengthening skills and employability.

Public policy and regulation can gently encourage this shift. Incentives such as tax benefits for endowments, or matching funds through private philanthropy, can attract long-term capital into scholarships that are designed to grow and sustain.

Performance-linked frameworks can recognise and reward institutions that demonstrate outcomes across merit, need, and potential. India already has early examples of what such thinking can look like. Ashoka University evaluates financial aid independently of academic admission, following a need-sensitive process where a student's ability to pay is assessed separately from the admission decision. About 20% of students receive free education owing to a 100% scholarship, and roughly half of the students receive some form of financial support, while maintaining strong academic standards. The Indian School of Business (ISB) has built a donor-supported scholarship ecosystem across categories that reflect merit and need, including support for those from the armed forces and those who are returning to the development sector. Every year, the ISB awards between 250 and 280 scholarships across its programmes, and notably, 40% of the founding class of the recently launched PGP-Young Leaders programme is supported by scholarships. In both cases, scholarships are not an afterthought. They are critical to the kind of academic community these institutions are trying to build.

International experience reinforces the point. Whether it be multidisciplinary scholarship programmes at U.S. universities or provincial and city-level scholarships in China aligned to local development priorities, the most effective systems treat scholarships as a core part of their academic cultures.

## From the margins to the centre

India still needs to expand and diversify its higher educational system. But expansion alone will not deliver a 50% enrolment ratio that also deepens learning and social mobility. Meaningful absorption can only happen when capable students are supported and inspired to look ahead, regardless of where they come from.

This is not a narrow funding conversation; it is about building an ecosystem. Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists. They shape the social and intellectual life of campuses and the credibility of institutions. They also contribute to the nation's trajectory, throwing light on how its talent is discovered, understood, and developed.

If the goal is not only more students, but also more mobility and national capability, then scholarships deserve to move from the margins to the centre of our higher education strategy.

Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists

- India's **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education stands at only **29.5 (2022-23)** — far below the target of **50%** — raising urgent questions about access and affordability.
- भारत का उच्च शिक्षा में **सकल नामांकन अनुपात (GER)** केवल **29.5 (2022-23)** — **50%** के लक्ष्य से बहुत कम — पहुँच और वहनीयता पर तत्काल प्रश्न।
- **2025-26 Economic Survey** reveals higher education institutions grew from 51,534 (2014-15) to over 70,000 — yet GER remains low, highlighting that institutions alone cannot drive enrolment.
- **2025-26 आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण** — उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान 51,534 (2014-15) से 70,000 से अधिक हुए — फिर भी GER कम, दर्शाता है कि संस्थान अकेले नामांकन नहीं बढ़ा सकते।
- **NEP 2020** targets GER of **50% by 2035** in higher education — scholarships are identified as critical tools.
- **NEP 2020** का 2035 तक **50% GER** का लक्ष्य — छात्रवृत्ति को महत्वपूर्ण साधन माना गया।
- Article by **Pramath Raj Sinha** (Founder & Chairperson, Ashoka University Board of Trustees) — argues for making scholarships a core part of India's academic culture.
- लेख **प्रमथ राज सिन्हा** (संस्थापक और चेयरपर्सन, अशोका विश्वविद्यालय) द्वारा — छात्रवृत्ति को भारत की शैक्षणिक संस्कृति का मूल हिस्सा बनाने की वकालत।
- **Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship** provides up to **82,000 scholarships/year** — but coverage remains insufficient for the scale of India's challenge.
- **केंद्रीय क्षेत्र छात्रवृत्ति योजना** प्रति वर्ष **82,000 छात्रवृत्तियाँ** — लेकिन भारत की चुनौती के पैमाने के लिए अपर्याप्त।

- **Three intersecting challenges** identified in India's higher education: Access, Affordability, and Quality.
- भारत की उच्च शिक्षा में **तीन अंतर-संबंधित चुनौतियाँ**: पहुँच, वहनीयता और गुणवत्ता।
- Institutions grew from **51,534 (2014-15)** to **70,000+ (2025-26)** — yet national **GER = 29.5 (2022-23)**.
- संस्थान **51,534 (2014-15)** से **70,000+ (2025-26)** हुए — फिर भी राष्ट्रीय **GER = 29.5 (2022-23)**।
- **Department of Higher Education** supports students through scholarships, interest subsidies on education loans, and credit guarantees.
- **उच्च शिक्षा विभाग** छात्रवृत्ति, शिक्षा ऋण पर ब्याज सब्सिडी और ऋण गारंटी से छात्रों का समर्थन करता है।
- **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)**: Common window for State schemes; hosts information on scholarship programmes across ministries.
- **राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP)**: राज्य योजनाओं के लिए सामान्य खिड़की।
- **Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship**: Up to **82,000 scholarships/year** for UG, PG, and professional courses.
- **केंद्रीय क्षेत्र छात्रवृत्ति योजना**: UG, PG और व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए **82,000 छात्रवृत्तियाँ/वर्ष**।

<b>Player / पक्ष</b>	<b>Role / भूमिका</b>
<b>Pramath Raj Sinha</b>	Author; Founder & Chairperson, Ashoka University BoT / लेखक; अशोका विश्वविद्यालय
<b>Ashoka University</b>	Model: 20% students free education; ~50% get financial support / मॉडल: 20% मुफ्त शिक्षा
<b>ISB (Indian School of Business)</b>	Donor-supported scholarship ecosystem; 250-280 scholarships/year / दाता-समर्थित पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
<b>Dept of Higher Education</b>	Scholarships, interest subsidies, credit guarantees / छात्रवृत्ति, ब्याज सब्सिडी
<b>National Scholarship Portal</b>	Common window for all scholarship schemes / सभी योजनाओं की एकल खिड़की
<b>Takshashila (ancient)</b>	Historical inspiration: 5 payment options for students / ऐतिहासिक प्रेरणा

## History / इतिहास

- **Takshashila (Taxila):** Ancient Indian university (~600 BCE-500 CE); located in modern-day Pakistan (near Rawalpindi); world's first residential university; attracted students from Greece, China, Persia.
- **तक्षशिला:** प्राचीन भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय (~600 BCE-500 CE); आधुनिक पाकिस्तान में (रावलपिंडी के पास); विश्व का पहला आवासीय विश्वविद्यालय; ग्रीस, चीन, फारस से छात्र आते।
- **Nalanda University:** Another ancient institution (5th-12th century CE, Bihar) — had 10,000 students, 2,000 teachers; destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1193.
- **नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय:** 5वीं-12वीं सदी, बिहार; 10,000 छात्र, 2,000 शिक्षक; 1193 में बख्तियार खिलजी ने नष्ट किया।
- **Wood's Despatch (1854):** First systematic framework for Indian education under British rule — established grants-in-aid for education.
- **वुड्स डिस्पैच (1854):** ब्रिटिश शासन के तहत भारतीय शिक्षा के लिए पहला व्यवस्थित ढाँचा — शिक्षा के लिए अनुदान।
- **Kothari Commission (1964-66):** Recommended education expenditure at **6% of GDP**; foundational for modern Indian education policy.
- **कोठारी आयोग (1964-66):** शिक्षा पर **GDP का 6%** खर्च की सिफारिश; आधुनिक भारतीय शिक्षा नीति की नींव।

- **Article 21A:** Right to education (6-14 years) — extended spirit should apply to higher education through scholarship support.
- **अनुच्छेद 21A:** शिक्षा का अधिकार (6-14 वर्ष) — छात्रवृत्ति समर्थन से उच्च शिक्षा तक विस्तारित भावना।
- **Article 15(4) & 16(4):** Provisions for reservations for SC/ST/OBC — scholarships complement reservations by addressing financial barriers.
- **अनुच्छेद 15(4) और 16(4):** SC/ST/OBC के लिए आरक्षण — छात्रवृत्तियाँ वित्तीय बाधाएँ दूर करके आरक्षण की पूरक।
- **Article 46 (DPSP):** State to promote educational and economic interests of weaker sections — scholarships are a direct implementation tool.
- **अनुच्छेद 46 (DPSP):** राज्य कमजोर वर्गों के शैक्षिक और आर्थिक हितों को बढ़ावा दे — छात्रवृत्तियाँ प्रत्यक्ष कार्यान्वयन साधन।
- **NEP 2020:** Target 50% GER by 2035; multidisciplinary education; Academic Bank of Credits (ABC); HECI (Higher Education Commission of India) proposed.
- **NEP 2020:** 2035 तक 50% GER; बहुविषयक शिक्षा; शैक्षणिक क्रेडिट बैंक (ABC); HECI प्रस्तावित।
- **Concurrent List:** Education is in the Concurrent List (Entry 25) — both Centre and States can legislate on education and scholarships.
- **समवर्ती सूची:** शिक्षा समवर्ती सूची में (प्रविष्टि 25) — केंद्र और राज्य दोनों कानून बना सकते।

Country / देश	GER (Higher Education)
USA	~88%
China	~60%
Brazil	~55%
India	29.5% (2022-23)
India's NEP Target	50% by 2035

### **Education-related Constitutional Provisions / शिक्षा से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान:**

- Article 21A: Free and compulsory education (6-14 years)
- Article 45 (DPSP): Early childhood care and education
- Article 46 (DPSP): Promotion of education of SC/ST and weaker sections
- Article 350A: Instruction in mother tongue at primary level
- Article 30: Right of minorities to establish educational institutions

## Key Education Commissions / प्रमुख शिक्षा आयोग:

Commission	Year	Key Recommendation
Radhakrishnan (University Ed.)	1948-49	Restructure university education
Mudaliar (Secondary Ed.)	1952-53	Secondary education reform
Kothari Commission	1964-66	6% GDP on education; common school system
NPE 1968	1968	10+2+3 structure
NPE 1986	1986	Operation Blackboard, Navodaya Vidyalayas
NEP 2020	2020	50% GER; 5+3+3+4 structure; multidisciplinary

## Performance Metrics for Exam / परीक्षा के लिए प्रदर्शन मेट्रिक्स:

- India's education expenditure: ~4.6% of GDP (vs 6% recommended)
- Number of central universities: 45+
- Number of IITs: 23; IIMs: 20; NITs: 31; IISERs: 7
- NIRF Rankings: National Institutional Ranking Framework — annual ranking of Indian institutions

**Consider the following statements about India's higher education and scholarship ecosystem: भारत की उच्च शिक्षा और छात्रवृत्ति पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was 29.5 in 2022-23, while NEP 2020 targets 50% GER by 2035.
2. Education is a subject in the State List of the Constitution, giving states exclusive authority over scholarships.
3. The ancient institution of Takshashila had multiple flexible options for students to pay for their education, including working with teachers and receiving scholarships from home regions.
4. The National Scholarship Portal (NSP) functions as a common window for state scholarship schemes and hosts information on programmes across ministries and departments.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

Fit to width

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Stranded tourists rescued from landslide hit North Sikkim**

**1,321** Over 1,000 stranded tourists were rescued from Lachen in Sikkim's Mangon district, where multiple landslides have stranded road connectivity, officials said on Thursday. The tourists were stranded in Lachen in North Sikkim since April 5. [PHOTO: ANI](#)

**Percentage decline in India's goods exports during 2025-26**

**2-3** In per cent. The country's merchandise exports are expected to register a fall of 2-3% in 2025-26 due to global economic uncertainties, aggravated by the West Asia crisis, according to FIEO. FIEO said that the crisis may have led to a decline in shipments by 2-6% in March. [PHOTO: ANI](#)

**Number of fraud suspects repatriated by Sri Lanka to China**

**125** Sri Lankan police have repatriated 128 arrested criminals back to China for their involvement in telecom fraud, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said on Thursday. The suspected criminals had been apprehended during earlier crackdown operations. [PHOTO: ANI](#)

**Amount approved by Haryana govt. for projects**

**1,028** in crore. The Haryana government has granted approval to expenditure of ₹1,028 crore for various projects of more than 10 departments. Approvals were given at a meeting of the High-Powered Purchase Committee. [PHOTO: ANI](#)

**Number of persons killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon**

**203** Lebanon's health ministry said on Thursday that at least 203 people were killed in widespread Israeli strikes in central Beirut and other areas of Lebanon on Wednesday. It said more than 1,000 were wounded. [PHOTO: ANI](#)

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## What does the Jan Vishwas Bill do?

What does the Jan Vishwas Bill propose? Which offences are being decriminalised? Why remove jail terms for minor lapses? How does the Bill ensure proportionality? How will penalties be structured?

### EXPLAINER

G.S. Balaji

**The story so far:** Unnecessary criminalisation is an anathema to business regulations. India's regulatory framework has significant punitive aspects. Under dozens of Central Acts, minor procedural lapses, missed filings, or technical defaults could land a citizen or a small business owner in jail. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025-26, seeks to shift India's regulatory approach from a punitive model to "trust-based governance." It builds on the earlier Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, which decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central laws.

**Why is the Bill being introduced?** The 2026 Bill proposes amendments to 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. Of these, 717 provisions are earmarked for decriminalisation, while the rest address ease of doing business issues. The guiding principle is proportionality — the severity of the State's response must bear a rational relationship to the gravity of the conduct it targets.

The Bill pursues three related goals, all rooted in ensuring proportionality in regulation.

First, it seeks a principled separation between conduct that warrants criminal sanction, such as fraud, willful violation, and threats to public safety, and procedural non-compliance that carries no comparable moral charge. Conflating the two does a disservice to the seriousness of the former and an injustice to those caught by the latter.

The second objective is equity, smaller enterprises and MSMEs are disproportionately exposed to compliance risks, not because they violate laws more often, but because they lack the capacity to absorb the consequences when accused of doing so. The idea is to make compliance simpler.



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Third, it seeks to provide institutional relief. India's district and subordinate courts carry over 4.8 crore pending cases (NDCS, December 2024), a significant share of which consists of minor regulatory matters. Decriminalising such cases is not leniency but a rational reallocation of judicial resources.

**What are the key features?** The Bill focuses on removing the criminal liability clause for minor procedural lapses and improving the ease of doing business and living.

Its central mechanism is the replacement of criminal penalties with civil and administrative alternatives. The measures on imprisonment provisions are intended to be replaced by monetary penalties calibrated to the gravity of the violation.

For minor or first-time defaults, graded responses such as warnings and advisory notices replace prosecution. Compounding provisions are expanded to provide faster resolution without full adjudication.

Adjudicating officers are empowered to decide cases within defined timelines, with appellate mechanisms to ensure fairness. Penalties are to be periodically revised to retain their deterrent value, and the Bill emphasises digitisation and procedural simplification to reduce inconsistencies in enforcement.

**How does it impact institutions?** For the judiciary, the most immediate consequence is resourcing relief. Diverting routine regulatory cases from criminal dockets should free courts to concentrate on matters of genuine public significance.

For regulatory agencies, the Bill increases responsibility. Administrative adjudication is faster and less resource-intensive than criminal prosecution, but it requires institutional capacity, clear guidelines, and oversight mechanisms to avoid arbitrariness. The appellate structures built into the Bill acknowledge this risk, and hence, their effectiveness will depend entirely on how seriously they are operationalised.

For businesses, particularly MSMEs, reduced criminal exposure could meaningfully shift the calculus around formalisation. The fear of prosecution, even where the underlying conduct is technical rather than intentional, has long acted as a disincentive to transparency and engagement with the formal economy.

**How does the Bill promote efficient justice?**

The indiscriminate use of criminal sanctions — treating a tax fraudster and a businessperson who faltered on a procedural formality — undermines the law's pedagogical aim. By reserving criminal liability for conduct involving genuine intent or harm, and channelling procedural defaults through civil mechanisms, the Bill narrows the scope for over-criminalisation in a structured way.

A more predictable regulatory environment encourages voluntary compliance. When the consequence of a minor lapse is a proportionate penalty rather than the spectre of prosecution, the incentive structure shifts towards transparency. The durability of these gains will depend on implementation. Enhanced administrative discretion must be matched with clear guidelines, meaningful oversight, and appellate mechanisms that function as genuine checks.

The Jan Vishwas Bill is a serious and overdue reform. Its success will depend less on what it says than on whether the institutions tasked with carrying it forward are genuinely equipped, and held accountable, to do so.

There is a risk of excessive discretion in administrative authorities, weak appellate safeguards in some sectors, the possibility that monetary penalties may replace criminalisation without reducing the burden, and limited clarity on uniform standards across different laws. *(The author is the Vice-Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. Contributions to Vihari Sharma, Associate Editor, NLI Delhi, are acknowledged.)*

### THE GIST

The Bill seeks to shift India's regulatory framework from a punitive model to "trust-based governance" by decriminalising minor procedural lapses and ensuring proportionality between the gravity of conduct and the State's response.

It also aims to promote ease of doing business and living, reduce burden on courts, through civil and administrative alternatives, while raising concerns about administrative discretion, appellate safeguards, and implementation gaps.

## How will Gaganyaan astronauts return safely to earth?

Why can't parachutes alone ensure a safe landing? How does Gaganyaan module lose its enormous speed?

Chandrikaman Nair S.

**The story so far:** The Gaganyaan crew module, which will host the Indian astronauts on their human spaceflight mission, will orbit the earth at about 7,600 m/s. When it re-enters the atmosphere, it will have to shed its kinetic energy. The atmospheric drag itself will be the primary brake, taking away most of its energy in a process called aerobraking. To further reduce the module's velocity for a soft landing, a multi-stage parachute system will be deployed once the module comes within 12 km of the ground. A typical recovery system includes all the items required to soft-land the module in sea or on land after aerobraking. This includes parachutes, locating devices to find out where the module has splashed down, and a system to ensure the module is pointing in a favourable direction in case it drifts in the sea. For touchdown on

land, apart from parachutes, the recovery system will fire braking motors to reduce the impact velocity before touchdown. The Russian Soyuz and Chinese Shenzhou modules are designed for terrestrial landing and use retro-rockets for braking.

**Why do parachutes alone not suffice?** As the land is hard, touching down on land needs to be around 1.2 m/s. The module can, however, tolerate landing at around 7.9 m/s in the sea, as water is a natural energy absorber.

Land touchdowns also require vast, empty territories free of people or buildings, while offering easier crew recovery and quicker rehabilitation of the module.

Sea landings are preferred by countries that lack large deserts or plains. However, it requires recovery ditches, flotation bags, and specialised gear to keep the crew safe in rough waters.

Reducing a module's velocity to less than 2 m/s using parachutes alone is

impractical due to the inverse-square relationship between speed and drag area. To slow a module from 7 m/s to 1 m/s, the parachute will have to be roughly 49x larger, incurring a large weight and volume penalty.

A parachute that large would also be difficult to deploy without tugging. **Why is the landing zone elliptical?** When a module returns to earth, it doesn't aim for a bull's-eye but rather a large ellipse. This is because the module's kinetic energy is concentrated almost entirely along its flight track.

Since re-entry speed, minor fluctuations in atmospheric density or re-entry conditions like velocity can cause the module to over- or undershoot its target by hundreds of kilometres.

In contrast, energy available to make any significant path changes in a direction other than the flight track is very low, and hence lateral deviations are minimal. The result is a landing footprint significantly

elongated along the path of travel.

Once a module is in the water, recovery teams use predictive tracking, electronic signalling, and visual aids to find it. The module transmits its GPS coordinates and beacon signals to satellites and aircraft and also releases a bright green fluorescent dye.

If the splashdown is at night or in low visibility, flashing from high-intensity strobe lights from the module will be used to locate it. To ensure it stands out against the deep indigo colour of the water, the module uses red-fluorescent bags painted international orange.

**How will the Gaganyaan crew module be recovered?**

The Gaganyaan recovery operation will be led by the Indian Navy, plus other stakeholders. After the module is located by paratroopers, it will gear down to the Bay of Bengal. Immediately after, the paratroopers will ensure any entanglement and the flotation bags will automatically inflate.

Since re-entry and secure the module with a flotation collar and towing system, it will be hoisted onto a ship's deck to safely extract the crew. *(Chandrikaman Nair S. is former director, ISRO and IITM, founder-director, IISRO, and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital mechanics and human spaceflight technologies. Currently Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC.)*

### THE GIST

The crew module sheds most of its kinetic energy through aerobraking, with atmospheric drag acting as the primary brake, followed by a multi-stage parachute system and, for land touchdowns, braking motors to ensure a soft landing.

Due to high re-entry speeds and limited lateral control, the landing zone is an elongated ellipse, and recovery involves locating devices, GPS signals, and Indian Navy-led operations after splashdown on the Bay of Bengal.

# What does the Jan Vishwas Bill do?

What does the Jan Vishwas Bill propose? Which offences are being decriminalised? Why remove jail terms for minor lapses? How does the Bill ensure proportionality? How will penalties be structured?

## EXPLAINER

G.S. Bajpai

### The story so far:

**U**necessary criminalisation is an anathema to business regulations. India's regulatory framework has significant punitive aspects. Under dozens of Central Acts, minor procedural lapses, missed filings, or technical defaults could land a citizen or a small business owner in jail. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025-26, seeks to shift India's regulatory approach from a punitive model to "trust-based governance." It builds on the earlier Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, which decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central laws.

### Why is the Bill being introduced?

The 2026 Bill proposes amendments to 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. Of these, 717 provisions are earmarked for decriminalisation, while the rest address ease of living more broadly. Its governing principle is proportionality – the severity of the State's response must bear a rational relationship to the gravity of the conduct it targets.

The Bill pursues three related goals, all rooted in ensuring proportionality in regulation.

First, it seeks a principled separation between conduct that warrants criminal sanction, such as fraud, willful evasion, and threats to public safety, and procedural non-compliance that carries no comparable moral charge. Conflating the two does a disservice to the seriousness of the former and an injustice to those caught by the latter.

The second objective is equity. Smaller enterprises and MSMEs are disproportionately exposed to compliance risks, not because they violate laws more often, but because they lack the capacity to absorb the consequences when accused of doing so. The idea is to make compliance simpler.



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Third, it seeks to provide institutional relief. India's district and subordinate courts carry over 4.8 crore pending cases (NJDG, December 2025), a significant share of which consists of minor regulatory matters. Decriminalising such cases is not leniency but a rational reallocation of judicial resources.

### What are the key features?

The Bill focuses on removing the criminal liability clause for minor procedural lapses and improving the ease of doing business and living.

Its central mechanism is the replacement of criminal penalties with civil and administrative alternatives. The measures on imprisonment provisions are intended to be replaced by monetary penalties calibrated to the gravity of the violation.

For minor or first-time defaults, graded responses such as warnings and advisory notices replace prosecution. Compounding provisions are expanded to provide faster resolution without full adjudication.

Adjudicating officers are empowered to decide cases within defined timelines, with appellate mechanisms to ensure fairness. Penalties are to be periodically revised to retain their deterrent value, and the Bill emphasises digitisation and procedural simplification to reduce inconsistencies in enforcement.

### How does it impact institutions?

For the judiciary, the most immediate consequence is meaningful relief. Diverting routine regulatory cases from criminal dockets should free courts to concentrate on matters of genuine public significance.

For regulatory agencies, the Bill increases responsibility. Administrative adjudication is faster and less resource-intensive than criminal prosecution, but it requires institutional capacity, clear guidelines, and oversight mechanisms to avoid arbitrariness. The appellate structures built into the Bill acknowledge this risk, and hence, their effectiveness will depend entirely on how seriously they are operationalised.

For businesses, particularly MSMEs, reduced criminal exposure could meaningfully shift the calculus around formalisation. The fear of prosecution, even where the underlying conduct is technical rather than intentional, has long acted as a disincentive to transparency and engagement with the formal economy.

### How does the Bill promote efficient justice?

The indiscriminate use of criminal sanctions – treating a tax fraudster and a businessperson who faltered on a procedural formality – undermines the law's pragmatism. By reserving criminal liability for conduct involving genuine intent or harm, and channelling procedural defaults through civil mechanisms, the Bill narrows the scope for over-criminalisation in a structured way.

A more predictable regulatory environment encourages voluntary compliance. When the consequence of a minor lapse is a proportionate penalty rather than the spectre of prosecution, the incentive structure shifts towards transparency. The durability of these gains will depend on implementation. Enhanced administrative discretion must be matched with clear guidelines, meaningful oversight, and appellate mechanisms that function as genuine checks.

The Jan Vishwas Bill is a serious and overdue reform. Its success will depend less on what it says than on whether the institutions tasked with carrying it forward are genuinely equipped, and held accountable, to do so.

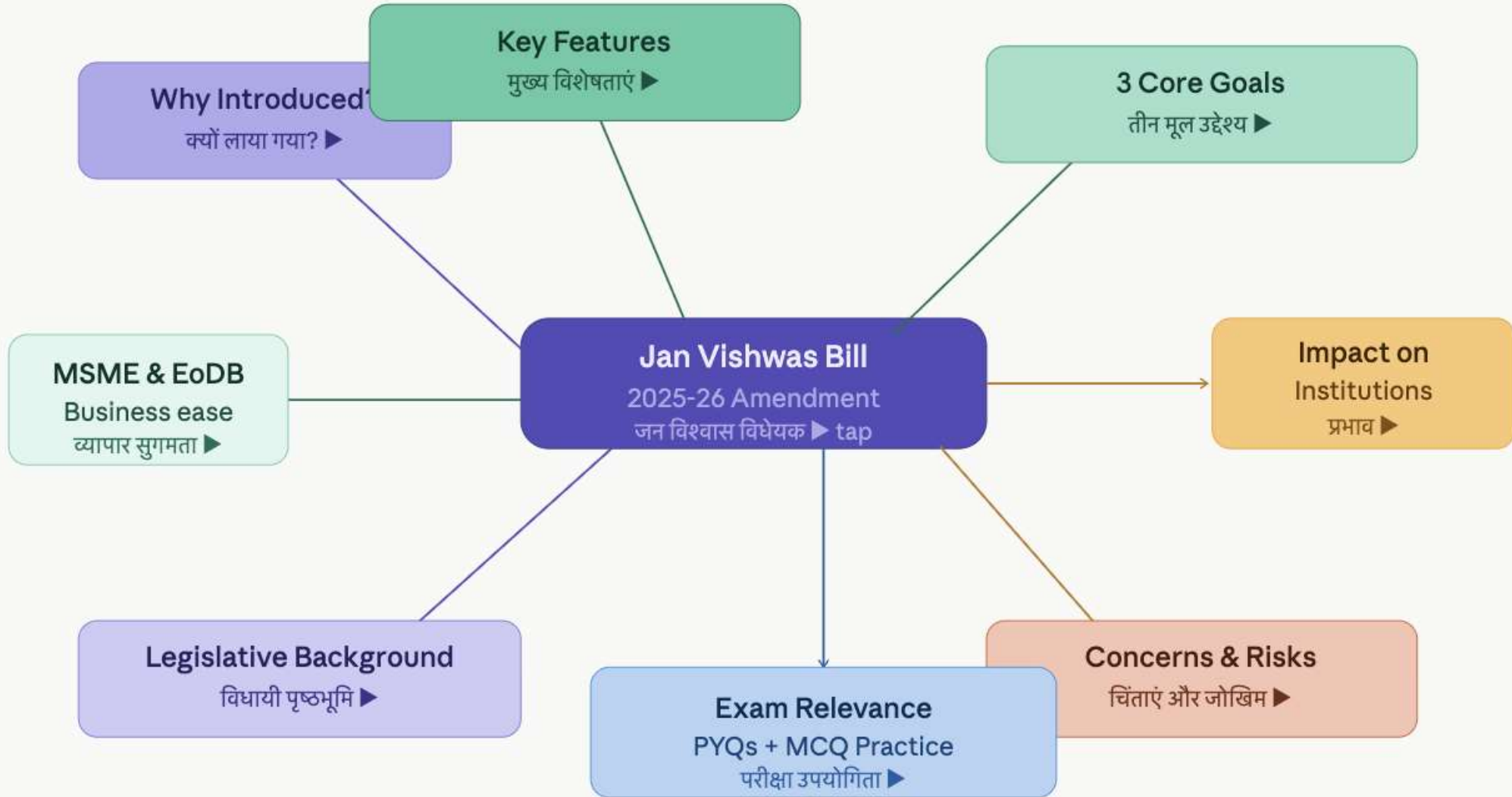
There is a risk of excessive discretion in administrative authorities, weak appellate safeguards in some sectors, the possibility that monetary penalties may replace criminalisation without reducing the burden, and limited clarity on uniform standards across different laws.

*(The author is the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. Contributions of Vibhuti Sharma, Academic Fellow, NLU Delhi, are acknowledged)*

## THE GIST

▼ The Bill seeks to shift India's regulatory framework from a punitive model to 'trust-based governance' by decriminalising minor procedural lapses and ensuring proportionality between the gravity of conduct and the State's response.

▼ It also aims to promote ease of doing business and living, reduce burden on courts through civil and administrative alternatives, while raising concerns about administrative discretion, appellate safeguards, and implementation gaps.



## ? Why Introduced? | क्यों लाया गया?

India's regulatory framework has **significant punitive aspects**

Minor lapses (missed filings, technical defaults) could land citizens **in jail**

Smaller enterprises & MSMEs **disproportionately exposed** to compliance risks

Fear of prosecution is a **disincentive to formalisation** & transparency

Indiscriminate criminal sanctions **undermine rule of law's pragmatism**

Courts carry **4.8 crore pending cases** (NJDG, Dec 2025); minor regulatory matters clog them

*India ranks low on Ease of Doing Business due partly to excessive criminalisation*

**हिंदी:** छोटे उल्लंघनों पर जेल का प्रावधान MSME के लिए बाधा है। अदालतों में 4.8 करोड़ लंबित मामले हैं।

## Key Features | मुख्य विशेषताएं

**Central mechanism:** Replace criminal penalties with **civil & administrative alternatives**

Imprisonment provisions → replaced by **monetary penalties** calibrated to gravity of violation

Minor/first-time defaults → **warnings & advisory notices** instead of prosecution

**Compounding provisions** expanded for faster resolution without full adjudication

Adjudicating officers given defined timelines with **appellate mechanisms**

Penalties to be **periodically revised** to retain deterrent value

Emphasis on **digitisation & procedural simplification**

*केंद्रीय तंत्र: आपराधिक दंड को सिविल/प्रशासनिक विकल्पों से बदलना; जुर्माना उल्लंघन की गंभीरता के अनुसार*

### 🎯 3 Core Goals | तीन मूल उद्देश्य

X close

**Goal 1 — Principled Separation:** Separate conduct warranting criminal sanction (fraud, wilful evasion, threats to public safety) from procedural non-compliance with no moral charge

**Goal 2 — Equity for MSMEs:** Smaller enterprises must not be disproportionately penalised for lacking capacity to absorb compliance burdens

**Goal 3 — Institutional Relief:** Decriminalise minor regulatory matters → **rational reallocation of judicial resources**

उद्देश्य 1: आपराधिक मंशा बनाम प्रक्रियात्मक चूक में अंतर | उद्देश्य 2: MSME समानता | उद्देश्य 3: न्यायिक संसाधन आवंटन

### Impact on Institutions | संस्थाओं पर प्रभाव

**Judiciary:** Meaningful relief — criminal dockets freed; courts focus on genuine public significance matters

**Regulatory agencies:** Administrative adjudication faster & less resource-intensive than criminal prosecution

BUT requires **institutional capacity, clear guidelines, oversight mechanisms** to avoid arbitrariness

**Businesses (esp. MSMEs):** Reduced criminal exposure → shift calculus around formalisation

Predictable regulatory environment → encourages **voluntary compliance**

Incentive structure shifts toward **transparency**

*न्यायपालिका: राहत | नियामक एजेंसियां: अधिक जिम्मेदारी | MSME: औपचारिकीकरण को प्रोत्साहन*

## ⚠️ Concerns & Risks | चिंताएं और जोखिम

Risk of **excessive discretion** in administrative authorities

**Weak appellate safeguards** in some sectors

Monetary penalties may **replace criminalisation without reducing burden**

Limited clarity on **uniform standards** across different laws

Success depends on **implementation**, not just the Bill's text

Enhanced administrative discretion must be matched with **clear guidelines + meaningful oversight**

*मुख्य जोखिम: प्रशासनिक विवेक का दुरुपयोग, अपीलीय सुरक्षा की कमी, कार्यान्वयन में अंतराल*

## MSME & Ease of Business | MSME और व्यापार सुगमता

MSMEs = ~30% of India's GDP, ~45% of exports, 110 million+ jobs

MSMEs often lack legal teams → **disproportionate compliance burden**

Decriminalisation reduces **fear of prosecution** → more businesses enter formal economy

Link to [Ease of Doing Business \(EoDB\) Index](#) — India ranked 63rd (World Bank 2020, last report)

Link to [MSME Development Act 2006, Udyam Registration Portal](#)

PM Modi's "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" philosophy

*MSME = भारत की GDP का ~30%, निर्यात का ~45% | अपराधमुक्ति से औपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था में प्रवेश को बढ़ावा*

# As Puducherry votes, how its status as a Union Territory differs from Delhi, J&K

Anagha Jayakumar  
New Delhi, April 9

ELECTIONS TO the Legislative Assemblies of Kerala and Assam, and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry, commenced Thursday. UTs are governed under Part VIII of the Constitution, which entrusts their administration to the Indian President, via appointed administrators.

Thus, most UTs, including Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and the island territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, have no elected legislature, and are governed by administrators.

Puducherry, however, is one of three UTs to have its own Legislative Assembly and a chief minister.

## Puducherry

The passage of the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 constituted Puducherry as a UT and provided it with a legislature. The Treaty of Cession, which established the de jure, or formal, legal transfer of the territories of Puducherry (earlier Pondicherry), Yanam, Mahe and Karaikal from France to

India, was signed in May 1956. In practice, India enjoyed de facto or administrative control of Puducherry since November 1954. However, this treaty was not legally ratified until August 1962.

The administrative distinction of providing Puducherry with a legislature reflected India's commitment to the Treaty while continuing the French practice of maintaining Puducherry's representative assembly. This special status is enshrined in Article 239A, which provides for local legislatures and a council of ministers in Puducherry.

The President also has the power to nominate members to the Puducherry Assembly, a provision that has had political implications in the past.

## Delhi

Delhi was elevated to the status of National Capital Territory (NCT) under the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991, effective from 1992. The Act introduced Article 239AA, which provides for a Legislative Assembly, with the power to make laws on subjects in the State and Concurrent Lists, barring public order, police and land.



Polling officials in Puducherry. ANI

But the division of powers between the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G), who is the centrally appointed administrator, and the elected government has been a contested issue over the years.

In 2015, a Union Home Ministry notification said that the L-G of Delhi shall exer-

cise control over "services". In 2018, a five-judge Supreme Court bench held that the L-G is generally bound by the aid and advice of the elected government.

In 2021, Parliament passed an amendment to effectively nullify this ruling. Following a challenge to this amendment by the then AAP government, another five-judge Supreme Court bench ruled in May 2023 that the Delhi government has legislative and executive powers over "services".

Shortly after, however, the Union government promulgated an ordinance that similarly nullified this ruling as well, swinging the balance of power back to the L-G. In August, Parliament passed an Act to take the place of the ordinance.

Puducherry's legislature, meanwhile, enjoys a relatively broad scope of powers, with no such subject restrictions. However, it is subject to parliamentary scrutiny: Article 246(4) empowers Parliament to legislate on any subject for any Union Territory, regardless of whether it falls under the State or Concurrent List. Thus, if a conflict arises between a law passed by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly and the Parliament,

the parliamentary law will prevail.

The distribution of powers between the elected government in Delhi and the LG is explicitly laid out in Article 239AA, while Puducherry operates under Article 239A and the 1963 Union Territories Act, which does not clearly delineate the L-G's discretionary powers. This issue was clarified by the Supreme Court in *K Lakshminarayanan v. Union of India* (2019), which held that the Puducherry L-G is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, and cannot operate as an independent authority in routine administration. The LG may intervene only under exceptional circumstances when a matter is referred to the President due to a difference of opinion.

Article 240 of the Constitution empowers the President to make regulations for certain UTs, including Puducherry. In practice, this provision is exercised when the legislature is not functional, for instance, when the Assembly is dissolved or suspended. However, if the NCT administration cannot be carried out according to constitutional provisions, Article 239AB would be invoked, allowing the President

to suspend Article 239AA and impose President's rule.

## Jammu & Kashmir

In 2019, Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, was abrogated. In its place came the 2019 Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which bifurcated J&K into two UTs: Jammu & Kashmir, with a legislature, and Ladakh, without one.

In practice, the J&K UT enjoys significantly less legislative autonomy compared to Puducherry. Section 32 of the Act allows the J&K Assembly to legislate on subjects in the State list, barring public order and police, which remain under the L-G's control.

The L-G also has discretionary authority over subjects beyond the Assembly's legislative purview, including the bureaucracy and the All India Services. Moreover, Section 36 mandates that the L-G recommend in advance any Bill involving financial obligations before it can be introduced in the Assembly. This gives the L-G exceptional control over day-to-day financial business, far beyond what applies in Delhi or Puducherry.

Parameter	Puducherry	Delhi (NCT)	Jammu & Kashmir
Constitutional basis	Article 239A <i>+ 1963 Union Territories Act</i>	Article 239AA <i>69th Amendment Act, 1991</i>	Article 239AA (adapted) <i>J&amp;K Reorganisation Act, 2019</i>
Elevated to UT on	1963 (Govt. of Union Territories Act) <i>Treaty of Cession signed May 1956; ratified Aug 1962</i>	1992 (effective) <i>NCT status via 69th Amendment</i>	Oct 31, 2019 <i>Bifurcated from J&amp;K state; Art. 370 abrogated</i>
Legislative Assembly	<b>Yes</b> — elected assembly + council of ministers	<b>Yes</b> — elected assembly + council of ministers	<b>Yes</b> — but significantly restricted powers <i>Ladakh (other part) has no legislature</i>
Legislative powers	<b>Broad scope</b> — State + Concurrent List <i>No specific subject restrictions</i>	<b>Restricted</b> — State + Concurrent List <i>Excluding public order, police &amp; land</i>	<b>Most restricted</b> — only State List subjects barring public order & police <i>Section 32, J&amp;K Reorganisation Act</i>
Lieutenant Governor (L-G) role	Bound by aid & advice of Council of Ministers <i>K Lakshminarayanan v. Union of India (2019) clarified this</i>	L-G bound by aid & advice on most matters <i>2018 SC: L-G must follow elected govt. except on "services"</i>	<b>Far more powerful</b> — discretionary authority over bureaucracy, All India Services, finances <i>Section 36: L-G can recommend Bills before intro in Assembly</i>

"Services" (IAS/bureaucracy) control	<b>Elected govt.</b> has control	<b>Contested</b> — 2021 Parliament amendment gave L-G control; SC 2023 ruled elected govt. has power; ordinance swung it back  <i>Ongoing dispute</i>	<b>L-G</b> — full discretionary authority over bureaucracy & All India Services
Parliamentary override	<b>Yes</b> — Parliament can legislate on any subject (Art. 246(4)); parliamentary law prevails over state law	<b>Yes</b> — same parliamentary supremacy applies	<b>Yes</b> — same applies
President's power to nominate members	<b>Yes</b> — President can nominate members to the Assembly  <i>Has had political implications historically</i>	<b>No</b> such nomination power	<b>No</b> such nomination power
Article 240 applicability	<b>Applicable</b> — President can make regulations when Assembly is dissolved/suspended	<b>Not directly applicable</b> (has own constitutional framework)	<b>Applicable</b> — President can make regulations
Article 239AB (President's Rule)	Art. 239AB — invoked if constitutional provisions cannot be carried out; President's Rule imposed	Art. 239AA suspended + President's Rule  <i>Via separate provision</i>	Governor's Rule / President's Rule under standard provisions

Financial control	Elected govt. controls day-to-day finances via Council of Ministers	Elected govt. controls finances <i>L-G role limited</i>	<b>L-G exceptional control</b> — must recommend all Bills involving financial obligations before Assembly introduction (Sec. 36)
Special historical context	<b>French colony</b> Part of France until 1954 (de facto) / 1962 (de jure) Treaty of Cession 1956; includes Yanam, Mahe, Karaikal	<b>National Capital</b> Unique status as seat of Central Govt.; hence special L-G powers justified	<b>Former state</b> Only UT carved out of a full state; previously had special status under Art. 370
Overall autonomy level	<b>High</b> — broadest legislative scope among the three; L-G role most curtailed	<b>Medium</b> — significant autonomy but ongoing tussle over "services"	<b>Low</b> — most restricted of the three; L-G dominates key executive functions
Key exam case laws	K Lakshminarayanan v. Union of India (2019)	NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2018 — 5-judge bench) Govt. of NCT Delhi v. Union of India (2023 — 5-judge bench)	No major SC case yet; 2019 Reorganisation Act is the primary reference



# AI-Driven Breathable Buildings: India vs China

Aspect	India (Mumbai Pilot – AI Breathable Buildings)	China (Smart & Healthy Buildings Model)
Concept	AI-powered “breathable buildings” focusing on indoor air purification	Smart city + healthy building integration with AI + IoT
Focus Area	Health-centric real estate (air quality as core feature)	Pollution control + urban efficiency + surveillance integration
Technology Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AI-based environmental sensing</li> <li>- Real-time air monitoring</li> <li>- Smart filtration systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AI + IoT sensors</li> <li>- Big Data analytics</li> <li>- Smart HVAC systems</li> <li>- Digital twin cities</li> </ul>
Air Quality Monitoring	Continuous indoor + outdoor air quality tracking	Nationwide real-time AQI monitoring (linked with urban grids)
Pollutants Targeted	PM2.5, harmful gases, microbial pollutants	PM2.5, PM10, NOx, SO <sub>2</sub> , industrial emissions
Approach	Proactive (dynamic filtration + airflow adjustment)	Preventive + regulatory (pollution control + strict enforcement)
Urban Policy Integration	Early-stage pilot (Mumbai)	Integrated in national policies like “Smart City Program”
Real Estate Impact	Emerging differentiator (air quality = property value factor)	Already integrated in premium housing + urban planning
Scale	Pilot phase → scalable model	Large-scale nationwide implementation

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. AI-driven breathable buildings primarily focus on improving indoor air quality.
2. PM2.5 particles can directly enter the bloodstream.
3. China's smart building ecosystem is mainly private sector driven.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only



 Exercise  
Cyclone 2026



Heading (English)	विवरण (Hindi)	India–Egypt (Exercise Cyclone)			
Type of Exercise	अभ्यास का प्रकार	Joint Special Forces Exercise	Participants	प्रतिभागी	25 Indian Army personnel + Egyptian forces
		विशेष बलों का संयुक्त अभ्यास			25 भारतीय सैनिक
Countries Involved	शामिल देश	India & Egypt	Objective	उद्देश्य	Improve interoperability & coordination
		भारत और मिस्र			समन्वय और तालमेल बढ़ाना
Year / Edition	वर्ष / संस्करण	2026 – 4th Edition	Strategic Importance	सामरिक महत्व	Strengthens India–Egypt defence ties
		चौथा संस्करण			द्विपक्षीय रक्षा संबंध मजबूत
Location	स्थान	Anshas, Egypt	Nature of Cooperation	सहयोग का स्वरूप	Bilateral
		अंशास, मिस्र			द्विपक्षीय
Frequency	आवृत्ति	Annual (Alternating between India & Egypt)	Military Diplomacy Role	सैन्य कूटनीति	Trust-building & knowledge exchange
		वार्षिक, दोनों देशों में बारी-बारी			विश्वास निर्माण
Focus Area	मुख्य फोकस	Special Forces Operations	Examples	उदाहरण	Exercise Cyclone
		विशेष बल ऑपरेशन			साइक्लोन अभ्यास
Terrain	भू-भाग	Desert & Semi-desert			
		रेगिस्तान और अर्ध-रेगिस्तान			

# Word of the day

## **Guffaw:**

a burst of deep loud hearty laughter

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**Synonyms:** chuckle, giggle, cackle

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**Usage:** *His ridiculous excuse made everyone guffaw.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/guffaw](http://newsth.live/guffaw)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /gʌfɔː/

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Thank you 😊