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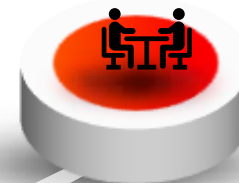
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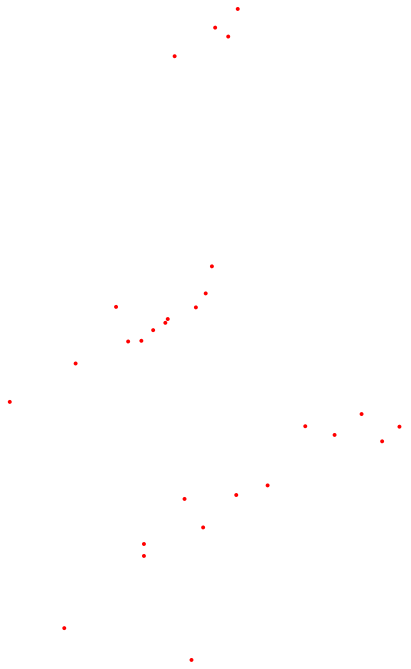


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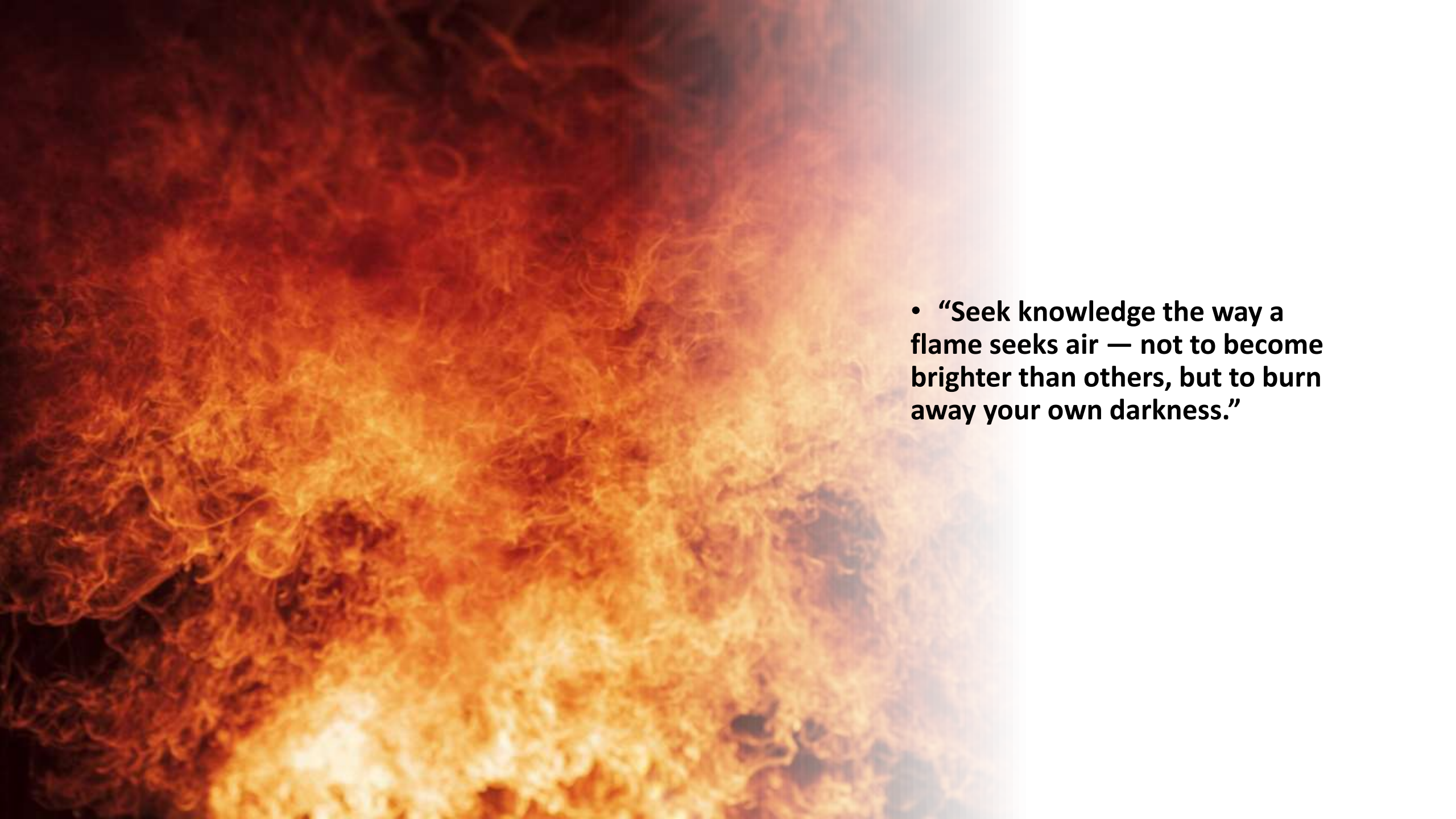


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10 MCQ QUIZ



- 
- **“Seek knowledge the way a flame seeks air — not to become brighter than others, but to burn away your own darkness.”**



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**By Bhunesh Sir**

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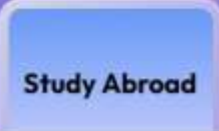
# Step 2



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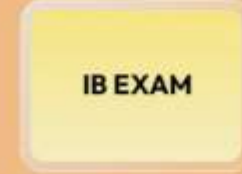


## Categories

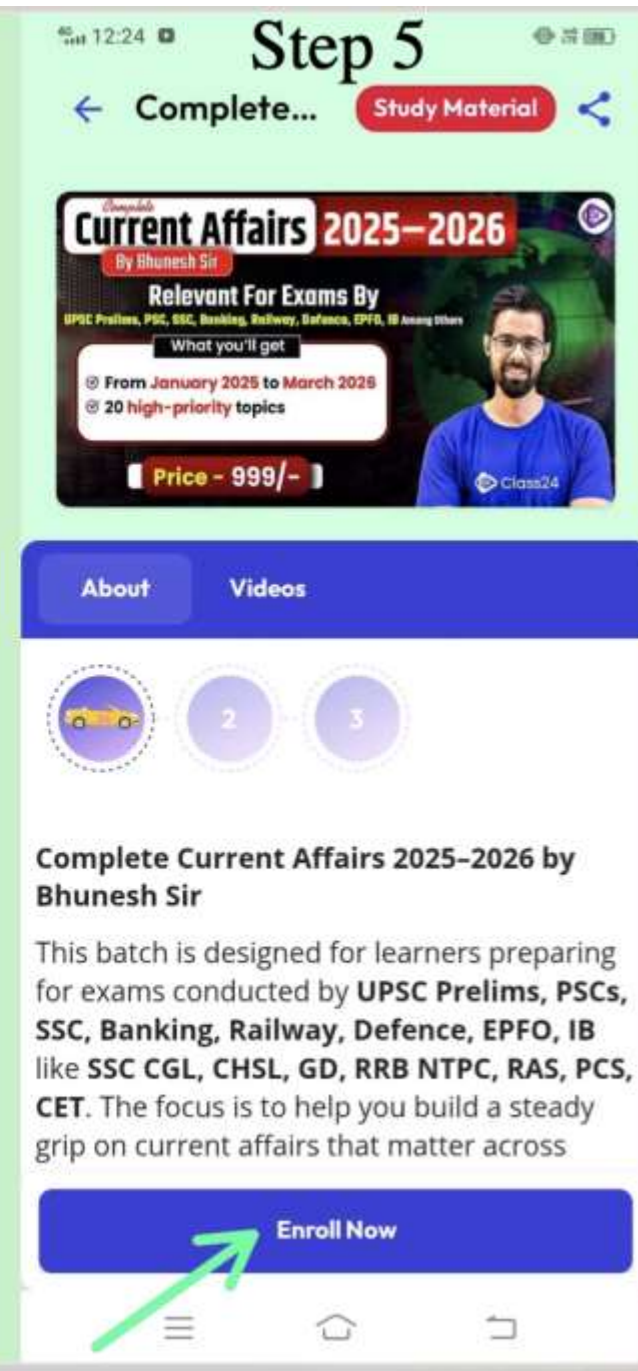


# Step 3

GOVT. EXAMS









"Change is the end result of all true learning."

– **Leo Buscaglia**





**Plea said govt. had delayed issue of citizenship certificates, which created a constitutional crisis**

the affected persons, only mentioned by name as persecuted industries of Afghanistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Commission has not yet received any information on the protection and integration of these persons and those at risk of statelessness, and therefore, the court alleged.

Chief Justice Kaul said that the grant of Indian citizenship to the persons in question is of course a matter of course.

Now are claiming that they are entitled by virtue of their ancestral property in India to be considered as citizens of this country. But have not been given citizenship so far.

The court also pointed out that the persons have not been given any preferential rights in favour of work citizens, but such and such persons are not entitled to be determined, like the

At a meeting in the White House, when a farmers' representative complained that India, Thailand and the Philippines were not being helped as much as they should be by trade logic," Ag Secretary, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) told Global Trade Research Initiative, a

collaborations (73) figure in substance.

On the 15th deadline for national flights came close as C-119 American Minister in Washington Nichols said in a letter to the president that he had been ordered to slash 10% of his flights. However, the final July flights ended up at 10% to 15% of the July flights.

Nichols called executive vice president of the airline Mr. M. Nichols on Thursday, said in a confidential statement before the Senate that he had been ordered to slash 10% of his flights. However, the final July flights ended up at 10% to 15% of the July flights.

On the 15th deadline for national flights came close as C-119 American Minister in Washington Nichols said in a letter to the president that he had been ordered to slash 10% of his flights. However, the final July flights ended up at 10% to 15% of the July flights.

FULL REPORT ON  
PAGE 3

They accused the judge of deciding on cases based on political ideology, and sought to move a motion for his removal under Article 223, read with Article 224, of the Constitution.



# Citizenship under CAA only after scrutiny: SC

Act provides enforceable rights but refugees will require to be screened first, says court

Petitioner flagged panic among the refugees from neighbouring nations after SIR began

Plea said govt. had delayed issue of citizenship certificates, which created a constitutional crisis

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Tuesday said conferment of rights associated with Indian citizenship to people claiming to be religious minorities who fled persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh and protected under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, would be wholly dependent on whether their claims turn out to be true.

The court said that though the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, had introduced changes in favour of granting “enforceable rights” to persecuted religious minorities from these countries, every such claim would have to be enquired into and verified by the authorities.

The oral observations from a Bench of Chief Jus-

tice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi came on a petition filed by an NGO, Aatmadeep.

The NGO submitted that these groups, especially those who had fled Bangladesh and were living in West Bengal, were petrified that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls would render them stateless.

Chief Justice Kant said the conferment of Indian citizenship was not a given for CAA applicants.

They should fulfil certain conditions, and in due course, could apply for inclusion on the voters’ list, he said. The court, however, issued notice to the Election Commission and the Centre, seeking a response. It posted the case for hearing next week.

The NGO, in its petition filed through advocate Anish Roy, submitted that the



A file picture of Bangladeshi Hindus arriving at a village in West Bengal. REUTERS

## Fear of statelessness

Key issues raised in the petition regarding persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan

- The delay in issuing citizenship certificates, combined with the non-recognition of acknowledgment receipts during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), has created a “serious constitutional crisis”
- The affected persons — recognised by Parliament as deserving protection and integration — are now exposed to the risk of statelessness, social exclusion, and disenfranchisement
- The acknowledgment receipt generated upon online submission of an application for a certificate of naturalisation must be treated as valid provisional proof of pending citizenship determination, at least for the SIR

proviso to Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) exempted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, from being considered “illegal migrants”.

These communities were Hindus, Sikhs, Budd-

hists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians. Section 6B of the CAA allows these persons to apply for grant of certificate of registration or certificate of naturalisation. The NGO argued that those who apply for naturalisation should not be deprived of citizens’ rights and privileges.

However, the petition

said the authorities had delayed the issuance of the citizenship certificates.

### ‘Exposed to risk’

This, coupled with the non-recognition of acknowledgment receipts during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), has created a serious constitutional crisis.

“The affected persons, already recognised by Parliament as persecuted minorities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India deserving protection and integration, are now exposed to the risk of statelessness, social exclusion and disenfranchisement,” the petition alleged.

Chief Justice Kant said the grant of Indian citizenship was subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

“You are claiming that you are entitled by virtue of these amended provisions in the CAA to become citizens of this country. But you have not been conferred citizenship so far... The amended provisions might have conferred some enforceable rights in your favour to seek citizenship, but each and every statutory requirement has to be determined, like, do

you belong to any minority in that country; were you resident of the country of which minority were permitted to come to India; and in what capacity have you come to India,” Chief Justice Kant explained.

The CJI said that if the government has made a law, there would be a following mechanism to implement the law, in this case, to determine claims of citizenship by naturalisation from refugees who had fled these three countries.

The Chief Justice noted that once such a person became a naturalised citizen through due process, he or she could apply under the statutory scheme for entry into the voter list.

The poll body did periodic review of the electoral roll, and could include the eligible names, he noted.

## 1. Background of the Case

- The Supreme Court clarified that **citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) is not automatic.**
  - Grant of Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities from **Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh** will happen **only after verification and statutory scrutiny.**
  - These communities include **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Christians.**
- 

## 2. Why the Case Reached the Supreme Court

- An NGO *Aatmadeepa* filed a petition on behalf of refugees—mainly from Bangladesh—living in West Bengal.
- They feared that the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** could exclude them, making them **stateless** before citizenship was granted.



### 3. Key Supreme Court Observations

#### (a) Citizenship under CAA is NOT guaranteed automatically

- Applicants must:
  - Fulfil statutory conditions,
  - Undergo scrutiny,
  - And only then can apply for inclusion in electoral rolls.

#### (b) Acknowledgment receipts must be treated as provisional protection

- The petition pointed out that:
  - Government delays in issuing citizenship certificates, **combined with non-recognition of acknowledgment receipts**, created a *“serious constitutional crisis.”*
- SC said: acknowledgment receipts must be treated as **provisional proof** during SIR.

#### (c) Government must follow due process

- Once a person completes naturalisation under CAA:
  - They can apply for inclusion in the voter list.
  - But **till then**, their status remains under scrutiny.

## 4. Concerns Raised in the Petition

### Fear of Statelessness

- Delay in citizenship certificates has **exposed refugees to social exclusion**.
- People recognised by Parliament as "*persecuted minorities deserving protection*" are facing:
  - Risk of disenfranchisement,
  - Social exclusion,
  - Bureaucratic uncertainty.

### Constitutional Issue

- When the law gives enforceable rights but the implementing authority delays certificates, it creates:
    - A **constitutional problem** regarding rights vs. procedures.
- 

## 5. Supreme Court's Stand on the Role of the Government

- If the Centre has enacted CAA, it must:
    - Provide a **clear procedure** for determining citizenship.
    - Ensure the process is fair and timely.
    - Avoid situations where refugees become "*neither citizens nor foreigners.*"
-

- 
- **CAA, 2019** amends Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
  - It removes the tag of “illegal migrant” for minorities entering before **31 December 2014**.
  - The **rules of CAA were notified in March 2024**, enabling actual processing of applications.
  - Statelessness violates:
    - **Article 14 (Equality before law)**
    - **Article 21 (Right to life & dignity)**
  - India is **not** a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention.
  - CAA provides **naturalisation**, not **automatic citizenship**.
  - SIR = Special Intensive Revision → periodic electoral roll clean-up exercise.



Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
<b>SSC CGL</b>	10 July 2024	CAA gives citizenship to persecuted minorities from which countries?	Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh
<b>SSC CHSL</b>	4 Aug 2024	Which communities covered under CAA?	Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Christians
<b>RRB Group D</b>	2024	Cut-off date for CAA applicants?	31 December 2014
<b>IBPS PO</b>	Oct 2024	CAA is an amendment to which Act?	Citizenship Act, 1955
<b>SBI Clerk</b>	Jan 2025	Which Article deals with citizenship?	Part II (Articles 5–11)
<b>UPPSC</b>	Oct 2024	CAA provides citizenship by?	Naturalisation
<b>RPSC</b>	Aug 2024	CAA excludes which group?	Muslims (not included in Act list)
<b>CAPF</b>	Aug 2024	Purpose of CAA?	Protect persecuted minorities
<b>CDS</b>	Sept 2024	Match: CAA 2019 → Citizenship to persecuted minorities	Correct

- Under the Supreme Court's interpretation of CAA (2019), which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Citizenship under CAA is automatic for all eligible religious minorities who entered India before 31 December 2014.
- Acknowledgment receipt for a CAA citizenship application must be treated as provisional proof during examination of electoral rolls.
- The Election Commission cannot review electoral rolls of applicants whose citizenship is pending under CAA.
- **Select the correct answer using the code below:**
  - A. 2 only
  - B. 1 and 2 only
  - C. 2 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

- દ્રુક્કુડુ ઝાઝઝાઝઝ હદુ સ્સસસડુ કુઝુઝે વઘડુ હપદ  
□ કુઝે વડુડુઝ ષસુસસસસ રસુસુ કુઝે ઝઘુ વડુ ઘુ ટુપુહ  
પુઘ
- દ્રુક્કુડુ ડુડુલુપુ ટુઝાસુ ટુ ઘુ ઝઝઝઝ ટુ કુપુઘકુ ડુ  
ટુકુહઝે વસુસુ ૧ હુ ટુઝ ડુ ડુઝ ડુઝ લુઝુસુ ઘુ ટુ  
સુસુ ન કુહપુઘ
- દ્રુક્કુડુ ષ ઝઘુ ડુ હુઝુઝ ઘુ ટુ ડુઝલુ કુવડુ સુહ  
હુઝુઝુ ડુડુઝ ઝુઝ ૧ f વુહુસુ ડુડુઝ હુ સુઝ  
સુસુ વન કુ વડુ વુઝુડુ
- ટુસુસુ ષ ગુઝુ દ્રુક્કુડુ ઝુઝુલુ ષ ઝઘુ ડુ ડુઝ હુસુલુ કુવ  
ટુસુહડુ હુ સુસુસુ ષુ ષુ ઘુ ડુ લુઝુ
- **સહી વિકલ્પ ચુનેં:**
  - A. ડુઝુઝ ઝ
  - B. 1 ઝે ઘુઝ
  - C. 2 ઝે ઘુટ
  - D. 1, 2 ઝે ઘુટ

# Trump mulls tariffs on Indian rice; move may affect U.S. more

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

Days before a U.S. team of negotiators is to visit India to discuss tariffs, U.S. President Donald Trump has hinted at imposing further tariffs on India, this time on rice, to prevent it from “dumping” rice in the U.S.

However, an analysis of trade data between the two countries shows that such tariffs would hurt the U.S. far more than India since only about 3% of India’s rice exports go to the U.S., whereas Indian rice makes up more than one-fourth of the quantity imported into the U.S.

In other words, for rice, the U.S. is not a major export destination for India, but India is a major import source for the U.S.

The Hindu had recently reported that a U.S. team of negotiators led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Rick Switzer would be in New Delhi on December 10-12 to discuss tariffs with the Indian side. The U.S. has currently imposed a total of 50% tariffs on imports from India.

At a meeting in the White House, when a farmers’ representative complained that India, Thailand and other countries were “dumping” rice in the

U.S., Mr. Trump asked the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent: “Why is India allowed to do that? They have to pay tariffs. Do they have an exemption on rice?”

Later, he said the issue can be solved “so quickly with tariffs” on these countries that are “illegally shipping” into the U.S.

### Global reach

According to data with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported rice worth \$391.74 million to the U.S. in 2023-24, which makes up about 3.1% of India’s total rice shipments.

India exports rice to 179 other countries.

On the other hand, data from the World Integrated Trade Solutions website shows India accounted for about 26% of the \$1.6 billion worth of rice the U.S. imported in 2024.

“President Trump’s threat on December 8 to impose new tariffs on Indian rice, announced alongside a U.S. farm relief package, looks driven more by domestic politics than by trade logic,” Ajay Srivastava, founder of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative, and former Director General of Foreign Trade said.

## •Small share of a large pie

The US is a small market for Indian rice, both basmati and non-basmati

### BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)

	2024-25	2025-26 (APR-OCT)
Saudi Arabia	1203.67	533.56
Iraq	850.08	382.7
Iran	753.2	436.51
UAE	364.55	180.17
Yemen	358.34	168.13
US	337.1	177.41
UK	190.93	132.37
Kuwait	180.39	112.44
Oman	144.73	67.07
Qatar	122.93	34.72
TOTAL*	5,944.49	3,138.01

### NON-BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)

	2024-25	2025-26 (APR-OCT)
Benin	1,025.38	338.77
Guinea	536	221.53
Côte d'Ivoire	520.3	198.4
Togo	421.5	248.72
Bangladesh	358.82	339.41
Senegal	275.36	140.51
Vietnam	217.07	113.94
Liberia	206.28	96.09
Sierra Leone	195.75	38.07
Somalia	194.15	117.15
Nepal	181.73	96.93
Cameroon	164.85	108.68
UAE	141.91	95.88
Mozambique	131.79	80.27
Angola	129.38	38.72
Malaysia	127.19	76.16
Saudi Arabia	119.45	61.65
Kenya	105.3	155
US	54.64	29.05
TOTAL*	6,527.98	3,372.55

\*INCLUDES OTHER COUNTRIES.  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.



## 1. Context of the News

- U.S. President Donald Trump has hinted at imposing **new tariffs on Indian rice**, alleging that India is *"dumping rice in the U.S."*
  - This comes ahead of a scheduled **U.S.–India negotiation meeting (Dec 10–12)** on tariff disputes.
- 

## 2. Current U.S. Tariff Position on India

- The U.S. already imposes **up to 50% tariffs** on some Indian imports.
  - Farmers' groups in the U.S. complained that India, Thailand, and other Asian exporters are "dumping" rice.
- 

## 3. Why the Tariffs May Hurt the U.S. More

### (a) India → U.S. rice export share is very small

- Only **3% of India's rice exports** go to the U.S.
- India exported **\$391.74 million** rice to the U.S. in 2023–24 ( $\approx 3.1\%$  of India's total rice shipments).

### (b) U.S. → India dependency is higher

- India supplies **over one-fourth of all rice imported by the U.S.** (26% of \$1.6 billion rice imported in 2024).
- Thus, tariffs would:
  - Increase rice prices in the U.S.
  - Hurt U.S. consumers and importers more than India.

## 4. India's Global Rice Export Profile

- India exports rice to **179 countries**, so it is **not dependent on the U.S. market**.
  - India is the **world's largest rice exporter**, giving it high leverage.
- 

## 5. Political Angle in the U.S.

- Trump's tariff proposal was made during a meeting with U.S. farmers.
  - Experts suggest the move is **politically driven**, not economically sound.
  - Ajay Srivastava (Global Trade Research Initiative) stated:  
*"The move appears driven by domestic politics rather than trade logic."*
- 

## 6. Trade Negotiation Dynamics

- U.S. delegation, led by Deputy USTR Rick Switzer, to visit India (Dec 10–12).
  - Rice tariffs expected to become a negotiation point.
  - India may push back due to:
    - Low dependency on U.S.
    - Higher negative impact on U.S. market.
-

## **1. Dumping**

- Selling goods below domestic price or cost of production in foreign countries.

## **2. Anti-Dumping Duties**

- Allowed under **WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping**.
- A country may impose tariffs if dumping injures domestic industry.

## **3. India–U.S. Trade Context**

- Ongoing disputes include:
  - Steel & aluminium tariffs,
  - GSP withdrawal,
  - Agriculture market access,
  - Service sector visa regulations.

## **4. India as the World's Rice Hub**

- India is **#1 rice exporter** globally (~40% of world export share).
- Major buyers: Middle East, Africa, U.S., Europe.

## **5. Impact of Tariffs**

- Will raise U.S. food inflation.
- Indian exporters can shift quotas to other countries easily.



१. रक्षाधरो वक्रकाल्हा द्वाच हघबषा। चणककु ह१ रक्ष हड्डुद वक्रकाल्हा व्वास् ल ड् ळङ्ग घश्वाद्वाड् घ्  
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 १ रक्षाधरो व१ ह१कु काच द्वाच ण ग्वा ड् वड्ड् घ्वा काल्हा ड्ड् श्वा ड् काल्हा ड्ड् घ्वा  
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 ड्ड् ण्ड्वा ड्ड्वा ड्ड्वा

- A. ड्ड्वा ड्ड्वा
- B. 1 ड्ड् घट
- C. 1 ड्ड् घत्र
- D. 2 ड्ड् घट

**Consider the following statements regarding U.S. tariff threats on Indian rice:**

1. India depends heavily on the U.S. market for its rice exports.
2. The U.S. imports more than one-fourth of its rice from India.
3. New U.S. tariffs on Indian rice would likely harm the Indian economy more than the U.S. economy.

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

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only



**Flowing channels** Climate change is leading to weather extremes, including drought, heat and storms. AP

## On environmental crises, UN calls for joint global efforts

Associated Press  
NEW YORK

The world needs a new approach to environmental crises threatening the health of people and the planet by adopting policies to jointly tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.

About 300 scientists from 83 countries contributed to this year's report, which was released during the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.

Experts have warned that the world is nearing a tipping point on climate change, species and land loss and other harms. But efforts to address these problems largely have been pursued through individual agreements that haven't made nearly enough progress, they said.

Instead, they advocate an approach that involves every area of government, the financial sector, industry and citizens and a circular economy that recognises that natural resources are limited. Emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases reached a new high in 2024, despite decades of negotiations between countries to curb emissions. Scientists warn that climate change is contributing to wilder weather extremes, including more intense storms, drought, heat and wildfires.

Among other challenges, up to 40% of land area globally is degraded, more than 1 million plant and animal species face extinction and pollution contributes to an estimated 9 million deaths a year.

It is not about saving the planet. The planet will be scuttling the sun long after we're gone," climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe said. "The question is, will there be a healthy, thriving human society on that planet?"

## Trump's ceasefire plan for Gaza faces pitfalls as it moves into second phase

First phase of the U.S.-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas is nearly complete, the ambitious road map seeks rebuilding of a demilitarized Gaza under international supervision but for it to proceed, the deal calls for Israel to withdraw from all of Gaza while Hamas is to surrender its weapons

Associated Press  
DOHA

With the remains of one hostage still in Gaza, the first phase of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas is nearly complete, after a two-month process plagued by delays and finger-pointing.

Now, the key players—including Israel, the Palestinian militant Hamas group, the United States and a diverse list of international parties—are to move to a far more complicated second phase that could reshape West Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point plan—which was approved by UN Security Council—lays out an ambitious vision for the rule of Hamas in Gaza. If successful, it would see the rebuilding of a demilitarized Gaza under international supervision, normalised relations between Israel and the Arab world and a possible peace treaty with the Palestinians.

Here is a closer look at the next stages of the ceasefire and the potential pitfalls.

**An international force** Mr. Trump's plan calls for the formation of an international force—known as International Stabilisation Force—to maintain security and train Palestinian police in one day to take over. That force has not yet been formed, and a deployment date has not been announced.



**Help from abroad** Palestinians rush to collect humanitarian aid dropped by parachutes into Zanzibar in the central Gaza Strip. AP

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar Prime Minister and a key mediator, said over the weekend that the ceasefire is at a critical point, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to travel to the White House this month to discuss the next steps.

But the force's command structure and authorities remain unknown. Mr. Trump has said he will lead an international board to supervise a committee of Palestinian technocrats running Gaza's day-to-day affairs.

30 far, Mr. Trump is the only board member officially named, though former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's name has been floated as a possibility.

Another U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss diplomatic talks, says partner countries are holding meetings this month to finalise operations. He predicted "boots on the ground" in early 2026.



**Help from abroad** Palestinians rush to collect humanitarian aid dropped by parachutes into Zanzibar in the central Gaza Strip. AP

Some countries—including Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan and Indonesia—have expressed willingness to participate. But no firm decisions have been made.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss diplomatic talks, says partner countries are holding meetings this month to finalise operations. He predicted "boots on the ground" in early 2026.

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## Israel again tops the list of countries for most journalist deaths: watchdog

Agence France Presse  
PARIS

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) said on Tuesday that Israel was responsible for nearly half of all journalists killed this year worldwide, with 29 Palestinian reporters slain by its forces in Gaza.

In its annual report, the Paris-based media freedom group said the total number of journalists killed reached 67 globally this year, up from 66 killed in 2024.

Israeli forces accounted for 43% of the total, making them "the worst enemy of journalists", RWB said in its report.

The most deadly single attack was a so-called "double-cap" attack—where dual bombings were staged on a hospital in



**A blood-soaked camera** belonging to Palestinian photographer Mounir al-Masri who was killed in an Israeli strike on August 25, in south Gaza on August 28, which killed five journalists, including two cameramen. AP

ing Israel the biggest killer of journalists worldwide for three years running, RWB data shows.

The report also said that 2025 was the deadliest year in Mexico in at least three years, with nine journalists killed, 13 others injured (three journalists killed) and 24 others injured.

killed) are the other most dangerous countries for reporters, according to RWB.

The overall number of deaths last year is down from the peak of 142 journalists killed in 2019, linked largely to the Syrian civil war.

RWB editorial director Anne Bocande noted a growing tendency to "target" journalists as a way to "justify" the crime of targeting them.

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## Urban jungle



**Steps to life** A general view of residential buildings in Mexico on Monday. Mexico's population is estimated at around 210,000 across roughly 13 square kilometres, making it the world's most densely populated region. AP

## As Australia enforces world-first social media ban, young people feel alienated

Associated Press  
MELBOURNE

Riley Allen, a 15-year-old schoolboy living on an Outback sheep ranch, doesn't know how he'll keep in touch with his circle of far-flung friends once Australia's world-first social media ban takes effect on Wednesday.

His family lives 8 kilometres from Melbourne, but some of his school friends live as far as 70 kilometres away.

"I don't think the impact will be very positive for us. We don't have a lot of here to get in contact with each other," Riley said.

"I'm not sure how we're going to keep in touch over the holidays with each other," he said, referring to the summer break that starts on Thursday.

Riley and others younger than 16 will be banned by law from holding accounts with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube and X, with fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$32.9 million) if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove the accounts.

Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and Threads, was the first tech giant to react, beginning to exclude suspected young children from last week.

Riley holds accounts with most of the age-restricted platforms and had been asked by police to verify that he is at least 16. Riley's schoolteacher learned of his accounts and wouldn't help her son get around the ban, but she says other parents will.

"I wouldn't. I do know there are other people that would. If the rule is there, I wouldn't. I do know that kids are like, and I've been a kid before, and they're going to get around it if they can," she said.



**People at Brisbane, Australia** use their mobile phones as a new law barring social media for users under 16 comes into effect. Reuters

constitutional challenge to the law in the High Court. The other is the case brought by the Sydney-based rights group Digital Freedom Project in schoolgirl Macy Neyland.

They claim the law infringes the right to freedom of political communication in the Australian constitution.

The Australian government is committed to the ban, but it's not clear how it will enforce it.

passing the challenge on behalf of what they say is an overwhelming majority of parents who demand government action against social media harms.

Many restricted children have told media they would "lose touch" with friends on platforms with design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens while also serving content that can harm their health and wellbeing.

The parents' group Biggs Up Alliance, which lobbied for the social media age restriction, backs the theory behind the ban: that "when everybody misuses out, nobody misses out."

The Australian government is committed to the ban, but it's not clear how it will enforce it.

international aid agencies. Mr. Trump's plan calls for an economic development plan to "rebuild and energise Gaza," which suffered widespread destruction during the war and where most of the territory's 2 million people are displaced and unemployed.

Still, no such plan has been announced. Egypt is expected to host a conference this month for donor nations to pledge reconstruction aid.

The United Nations has estimated the cost of rebuilding Gaza would amount to \$70 billion. Raising that money will be difficult.

Even more difficult would be finding a plan acceptable to the many governments involved, along with their private sector partners.

The ceasefire deal calls for Hamas to surrender all of its weapons under the supervision of international monitors. Militants who disarm will be granted amnesty and the option to leave Gaza.

However, Hamas, whose ideology is based on armed resistance against Israel, says it will not disarm until Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian territory.

Bassem Naim, a senior Hamas official, told The Associated Press that the group is open to "freedom of movement" for Palestinians while a political process takes place, perhaps over

many years. It is unclear whether that is sufficient for Israel.

'New border' Under the ceasefire, Israel is to withdraw from all of Gaza, with the exception of a small buffer zone along the border. At the moment, Israel retains control of just over half of Gaza.

There are no firm timelines for further withdrawals, and Israel may refuse to pull back further. Its military chief, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, called the so-called Yellow Line that divides the Israeli-held part of Gaza from the rest a "new border" that would serve as a "forward defensive line for our communities."

The plan calls for a reform of the Palestinian Authority, which runs the West Bank, and creates conditions for a "credible path way" to Palestinian statehood. Palestinian officials have met with Mr. Blair and U.S. officials, and have said they have begun reforms in key areas such as corruption, the education system and payments to families of prisoners convicted in attacks on Israelis.

Israel rejects the creation of a Palestinian state, opposes any role for the authority in postwar Gaza and may oppose attempts to bring it in even if some reforms are made. Without a pathway to statehood, any Palestinian state would be a new system could crumble.



# As Australia enforces world-first social media ban, young people feel alienated

**Associated Press**  
MELBOURNE

Riley Allen, a 15-year-old schoolboy living on an Outback sheep ranch, doesn't know how he'll keep in touch with his circle of far-flung friends once Australia's world-first social media ban takes effect on Wednesday.

His family lives 5 kilometres from Wudinna, a community of just over 1,000 in South Australia. But some of his school friends live as far as 70 kilometres away.

"I don't think the impact will be very positive for us. We don't have a lot out here to get in contact with each other," Riley said.

"I'm not sure how we're going to keep in touch over the holidays with each other," he said, referring to the summer break that starts on Thursday.

Riley and others younger than 16 will be banned by law from holding accounts with Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube and Twitch. The platforms face fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$32.9 million) if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove the accounts.

Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and Threads, was the first tech giant to react, beginning to exclude suspected young children from last week.

Riley holds accounts with most of the age-restricted platforms and had been asked by some to verify that he is at least 16. Riley's schoolteacher mother, Sonia Allen, said she wouldn't help her son get around the ban, but suspects other parents will.

"I wouldn't. I do know there are other people that would. If the rule is there, the rule is there. But I know what kids are like, and I've been a kid before, and they're going to get around it if they can," she said.

## Teenagers rebel

Noah Jones, a schoolboy from Sydney, Australia's largest city, is one of two 15-year-old plaintiffs in a



People at Brisbane, Australia use their mobile phones as a new law banning social media for users under-16 comes into effect. REUTERS

constitutional challenge to the law in the High Court. The other in the case brought by the Sydney-based rights group Digital Freedom Project is schoolgirl Macy Neyland.

They claim the law im-

properly robs 2.6 million young Australians of a right to freedom of political communication implied in Australia's constitution.

The Australian government is committed to de-

feating the challenge on behalf of what they say is an overwhelming majority of parents who demand government action against social media harms.

Many restricted children have told media they welcome their exclusion from platforms with design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens while also serving up content that can harm their health and well-being.

The parents' group Heaps Up Alliance, which lobbied for the social media age restriction, backs the theory behind the blanket ban that "when everybody misses out, nobody misses out."

Before Parliament

passed the ban last year, more than 140 Australian and international academics with expertise in fields related to technology and child welfare signed an open letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese opposing a social media age limit as "too blunt an instrument to address risks effectively."

Noah said the ban would lead to young Australians swapping from age-restricted platforms to more dangerous, less regulated options. "I'm against this social media ban because as young Australians, we'll be completely silenced and cut off from our country and the rest of the world," Noah said. "We've just grown up with

this our entire lives, and now it's just being taken away from us all of a sudden."

Digital Freedom Project president John Ruddick, who is also a State lawmaker, expected children would get around the ban by means including using virtual private networks to make them appear to be offshore. "They're going to get around it so they're then going to be on an underground social media and, to make it worse, without parental supervision."

"It's much better for it to be out in the open and for parents to play a very, very active role ... in monitoring what they're doing on social media," he added.



- Australia has implemented the **world's first nationwide social media ban for users under 16**.
  - Effective Wednesday, platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Reddit, Snapchat, X (Twitter), Threads, Twitch, etc. must **remove under-16 accounts** or face **fines up to AUD 49.5 million (₹270 crore approx.)**.
  - The move was aimed at protecting young users from **social media harm**, online addiction, mental health issues, and predatory content.
- 

## 2. Impact on Young Users

### Alienation & Social Disconnect

- Many teenagers—especially in remote regions like South Australia—fear losing contact with friends spread across large distances.
- 15-year-old Riley Allen said the ban makes it difficult to stay connected during vacations.

### Verification Pressure

- Platforms began asking suspected under-16 users to verify age (Meta started first).

### 3. Parents' Response

#### Mixed Reactions

- Some parents agree with the ban and refuse to help children bypass it.
- Others may try evasion methods (VPNs, offshore accounts).

#### Parental Concerns

- Parents' group **Heaps Up Alliance**, which lobbied for the ban, believes it reduces exposure to:
    - Addictive content designs
    - Harmful content
    - Excess screen time
    - Negative impacts on mental health and wellbeing
- 

### 4. Legal & Constitutional Challenge

#### Teenagers Rebel

- 15-year-old Noah Jones and schoolgirl Macy Neyland are challenging the law in the **High Court**, arguing:
  - It violates **freedom of political communication**, an implied right in Australia's constitution.
  - It "silences" 2.6 million young Australians.

#### Academics' Opposition

- Over **140 Australian and international experts** signed a letter calling the blanket ban "too blunt an instrument" and ineffective in addressing nuanced harms.
-

## 5. Risk of Underground Social Media

- Digital Freedom Project president John Ruddick warned:
    - Children will use VPNs and anonymous accounts.
    - They may migrate to **more dangerous, unregulated underground platforms.**
    - This reduces parental supervision and increases risk.
- 

## 6. Government Justification

- The government argues the ban is necessary because:
    - A majority of parents want action against social media harms.
    - Social media platforms have addictive designs targeting young users.
    - Children currently spend more time online than recommended psychologically and r
-

## 1. Australia's Online Safety Laws

- Australia already has strict laws under the **Online Safety Act 2021** and an **eSafety Commissioner**—world's first government e-safety regulator.

## 2. International Context

- Many countries (U.S. states, UK, EU) are considering:
  - Age-verification laws
  - Restrictions on targeted ads
  - Parental consent for under-16s



Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
SSC CGL	July 2024	Which country banned social media for under-16?	Australia
SSC CHSL	Aug 2024	Penalty for platforms failing to remove under-16 accounts?	AUD 49.5 million
RRB Group D	2024	Social media ban aims to protect?	Children from online harm
IBPS Clerk	Dec 2024	Platform first to implement age verification?	Meta
IBPS PO	Oct 2024	Opponents of ban argue risk of?	Underground social media
UPPSC	Oct 2024	High Court challenge in Australia relates to?	Freedom of political communication
RPSC	Aug 2024	Ban affects platforms like?	TikTok, YouTube, Instagram
CAPF	Aug 2024	Who leads parents' support group?	Heaps Up Alliance
CDS	Sept 2024	Match: Australia → Under-16 social media ban	Correct

• **Consider the following statements about Australia's new under-16 social media ban:**

- Social media companies may be fined if they fail to remove accounts of users under 16.
- The ban aims to curb harmful algorithmic design features targeted at children.
- The law explicitly guarantees freedom of political communication for children under 16.
- Critics argue the ban may push children toward more unsafe, unregulated platforms.
- **Which of the statements are correct?**
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 1, 2 and 4 only
  - C. 2, 3 and 4 only
  - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

छ a अग्रवर्द्धं दृष्ट्वा च रक्ष्य गवर्धं नृपं नृप उद अद्वैतं स्व  
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B. 1, 2 ऽ घट

C. 2, 3 ऽ घट

D. 1, 2, 3 ऽ घट

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One line is a light blue color and the other is a light green color. They are positioned in the top right and bottom left corners, framing the central text.

# Microsoft Commits \$17.5 Billion to Accelerate India's AI Future

- Microsoft has announced a **\$17.5 billion (₹1.45 lakh crore approx.) investment in India** to accelerate the country's **AI ecosystem**, marking one of its **largest-ever commitments** in any country.
  - The investment aligns with India's goals to become a global AI hub and support digital public infrastructure.
- 

## ✅ 2. Key Components of the \$17.5 Billion Investment

### (a) AI Infrastructure

- Microsoft will expand:
  - **AI datacenters**
  - **Cloud infrastructure (Azure)**
  - **High-performance computing (HPC) capacity**
- Focus on enabling large-scale AI model training & enterprise adoption.

### (b) AI Skilling for Indians

- Microsoft aims to train:
  - **2 million people in AI skills**, including students, developers, startups, rural youth, and women.
- Major emphasis on:
  - Responsible AI
  - Cybersecurity
  - Cloud-native development





### **(c) Partnership with Indian Government & Institutions**

- Collaboration on:
  - DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure)
  - AI-for-governance solutions
  - Agriculture, healthcare, education digitization
  - Skilling and workforce productivity initiatives

### **(d) Supporting Startups & Enterprises**

- Strengthening **Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub** in India.
  - Providing:
    - GPU resources
    - Cloud credits
    - AI development tools
    - Market access
- 

### ✓ 3. Why India? – Microsoft's Strategic Rationale

#### (a) India's Large Talent Base

- India has the **world's largest pool of AI-ready engineers.**
- Rising AI research ecosystem.

#### (b) Massive Digital Adoption

- India leads globally in:
  - Digital payments
  - Smartphone usage
  - DPI/DPGs (Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, ABDM)

#### (c) Fast-Growing AI Market

- India's AI market projected to reach **\$17 billion+ by 2027.**
- High demand for enterprise AI and automation.

#### (d) Geopolitical & Economic Stability

- India seen as a reliable partner for long-term tech investments.
-

## ✓ 4. National Impact of Microsoft's AI Investment

### (a) Economic Impact

- Boost to India's **digital economy**, projected to touch \$1 trillion by 2030.
- Creation of:
  - Advanced jobs (AI engineers, data scientists)
  - Indirect jobs in manufacturing, services, cybersecurity

### (b) Boost to Innovation

- Rise of:
  - AI startups
  - Applied AI in healthcare, fintech, agriculture
  - Enterprise automation

### (c) Strengthening India's Strategic Tech Position

- Helps India compete with:
  - U.S.
  - China
  - EU
- Enhances India's influence in global AI governance discussions.

### **(a) India AI Mission (₹10,300 crore)**

- Approved in 2024 to:
  - Build AI compute infrastructure
  - Create datasets, training labs
  - Support domestic AI companies

### **(b) AI Stack + Indian datasets**

- India is building:
  - Language datasets in 22+ languages
  - Domain datasets (agri, health, governance)

### **(c) Global AI Race Context**

- U.S., China, EU investing heavily in:
  - GPUs
  - Datacenters
  - National AI missions

### **(d) Responsibility & Ethics**

- India and Microsoft both emphasize:
  - Responsible AI
  - Data privacy
  - Safe deployment



Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
SSC CGL	July 2024	AI data royalties proposal is under which ministry?	DPIIT
SSC CHSL	Aug 2024	India proposed compulsory licensing for which area?	AI training data
IBPS PO	Oct 2024	“Mandatory royalty for creators in AI training” refers to?	Compulsory licensing regime
SBI PO	Nov 2024	Which country first to propose royalties for AI datasets?	India
RRB NTPC	2024	AI training data involves which intellectual property?	Copyright
UPPSC	Oct 2024	DPIIT deals with?	Industry & Internal Trade
RPSC	Aug 2024	AI training under new rules gives creators?	Statutory royalties
CAPF	Aug 2024	Industry fears what from AI royalty law?	Innovation slowdown
CDS	Sept 2024	Match: India → Mandatory royalties for AI training	Correct

**With reference to Microsoft's recent AI investment in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1.The investment aims to expand AI datacenters and cloud infrastructure in India.
- 2.It includes training at least 2 million Indians in AI-related skills.
- 3.The initiative is part of India's AI Mission approved by the Government in 2024.
- 4.India is Microsoft's largest market globally for AI services.

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

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

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# UPI is World's Largest Fast-Payment System: IMF Report (December 2025)

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has recognised **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** as the **world's largest retail fast-payment system by transaction volume**.
  - UPI has surpassed all other global real-time payment systems — marking India's dominance in digital payments.
- 

## 2. KEY FINDINGS OF THE IMF REPORT

### **(a) UPI is the world's biggest real-time payments platform**

- IMF's **June 2025 Retail Digital Payments Report** says:
  - UPI processes the **highest number of transactions globally**.
  - It has overtaken real-time systems in **Brazil, Thailand, China, South Korea**.

### **(b) UPI handles ~49% of global real-time transactions**

- ACI Worldwide (2024) showed:
  - UPI contributes **nearly half (49%) of all global real-time digital payments**.
  - This far exceeds even China's massive usage.

### **(c) Rapid merchant & consumer adoption across India**

- UPI is widely used for:
  - P2P (person-to-person)
  - P2M (merchant payments)
  - Recurring auto-payments
  - Micro-transactions



### **3. WHY UPI IS SO SUCCESSFUL (IMF Analysis)**

#### **(a) Strong policy & government support**

- India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) is a global model:
  - Aadhaar
  - e-KYC
  - Jan Dhan accounts
  - UPI
- Seamless integration boosted inclusion & fintech innovation.

#### **(b) Ecosystem driven by NPCI + RBI**

- Regulatory clarity
- Low cost structure
- Open API ecosystem

#### **(c) Widespread smartphone & 4G penetration**

- India's large young population + cheap data massively accelerated digital adoption.

## ✓ 4. GOVERNMENT PUSH THAT EXPANDED UPI

### (1) BHIM-UPI Promotion

- Incentives to merchants
- Zero MDR (merchant discount rate) for small payments

### (2) Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)

- Helps deploy POS/QR devices in smaller cities and rural areas.

### (3) Expansion across states

- By October 2025:
  - **Over 5.4 crore** QR payment devices installed
  - Growth in Tier-2, Tier-3 towns faster than metros

### (4) International Expansion

- UPI enabled in:
  - **UAE, Singapore, France, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius, Bhutan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, etc.**
- India is exporting UPI as a part of digital diplomacy.

## UPI & Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)


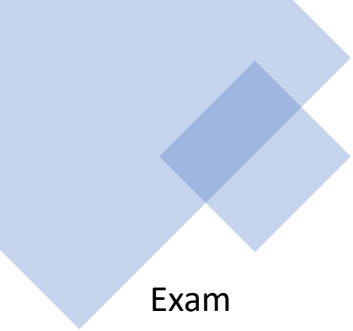
- UPI forms part of **India Stack** → world's largest open digital ecosystem.
- DPI recognised by:
  - **World Bank**
  - **G20 Digital Economy Working Group**

## Achievements


- 16+ billion monthly transactions in 2024.
- UPI Lite + UPI Autopay + Credit on UPI launched.
- Now supports **RBI's offline payments** framework.

## UPI vs Other Systems

- **PIX (Brazil)**
- **PromptPay (Thailand)**
- **FPS (UK)**
- **Zelle (USA)**
  - UPI beats all by scale and speed.



Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
<b>SSC CGL</b>	14 July 2024	Which country operates UPI, the world's largest fast-payment system?	India
<b>SSC CHSL</b>	7 Aug 2024	UPI is regulated by which body?	NPCI
<b>RRB NTPC</b>	Aug 2024	What does UPI stand for?	Unified Payments Interface
<b>IBPS Clerk</b>	Dec 2024	IMF declared which payment system as world's largest real-time system?	UPI
<b>SBI PO</b>	Nov 2024	UPI accounts for how much share of global real-time payments?	~49%
<b>RPSC</b>	Oct 2024	BHIM-UPI is developed by?	NPCI
<b>UPPSC</b>	Nov 2024	UPI works on which model?	Immediate real-time payments
<b>CAPF</b>	Aug 2024	UPI is part of which digital initiative?	India Stack
<b>CDS</b>	Sept 2024	Match: UPI → Real-time digital payments system	UPI





**With reference to India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the IMF's 2025 assessment, consider the following statements:**

- 1.The IMF has recognised UPI as the world's largest fast-payment system by transaction volume.
- 2.UPI accounts for nearly half of all global real-time digital payment transactions.
- 3.UPI's growth is primarily due to high merchant discount rates (MDR) supporting private sector innovation.
- 4.India's digital public infrastructure has enabled rapid expansion of UPI.

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

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

क्रयल इंडिया में एक तेज़ गति से बढ़ते हुए UPI) के बारे में IMF ने 2025 में एक नए विश्लेषण में कहा है कि UPI दुनिया का सबसे तेज़ भुगतान प्रणाली है और यह दुनिया की सभी तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों में से एक है।

- 1.IMF ने कहा है कि UPI दुनिया का सबसे तेज़ भुगतान प्रणाली है और यह दुनिया की सभी तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों में से एक है।
- 2.UPI दुनिया का सबसे तेज़ भुगतान प्रणाली है और यह दुनिया की सभी तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों में से एक है।
- 3.UPI दुनिया का सबसे तेज़ भुगतान प्रणाली है और यह दुनिया की सभी तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों में से एक है।
- 4.क्रयल इंडिया में एक तेज़ गति से बढ़ते हुए UPI) के बारे में IMF ने 2025 में एक नए विश्लेषण में कहा है कि UPI दुनिया का सबसे तेज़ भुगतान प्रणाली है और यह दुनिया की सभी तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों में से एक है।

**द निम्नलिखित में से सही विकल्प चुनिए।**

- A. 1, 2 और 4
- B. 1 और 3
- C. 2 और 3
- D. 1, 2, 3 और 4

Neal Mohan Named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year

- **Neal Mohan**, Indian-origin CEO of **YouTube**, has been awarded **TIME Magazine's CEO of the Year 2025**.
  - TIME credits him with guiding YouTube through a critical period of:
    - Cultural transformation
    - Technological innovation
    - Global platform governance
  - He is recognised as a leader shaping **how billions consume digital content**.
- 

## ✓ 2. WHY NEAL MOHAN WAS SELECTED (TIME's Assessment)

### (a) Steering YouTube through global digital transformation

- Oversaw major shifts in:
  - **Content moderation**
  - **AI-driven recommendations**
  - **Creator monetisation policies**
  - **Online safety protocols**

## **(b) Cultural Influence**

- Described as a **“cultural architect”** shaping the world's *“digital diet”*.
- Decisions influence how +3 billion monthly YouTube users:
  - Watch content
  - Learn
  - Share news
  - Form opinions

## **(c) Strong Governance Vision**

- Strengthened platform rules on:
  - Mis/disinformation
  - Copyright management
  - Responsible AI deployment

## **(d) Creator Economy Boost**

- Introduced new tools and earning avenues for creators—strengthening YouTube as the world’s largest digital creator ecosystem.



## ★ 1. SSC CGL 2024 Tier-1 (12 July 2024 – Shift 2)

**Q. Neal Mohan, who became the CEO of YouTube in 2023, is of which origin?**

- A. Japanese origin
- B. Indian origin
- C. American origin
- D. Canadian origin

**Correct Answer: B — Indian origin**

---

## ★ 2. SSC CHSL 2024 (5 August 2024 – Shift 1)

**Q. Who is the current CEO of YouTube (as of 2024-25)?**

- A. Sundar Pichai
- B. Neal Mohan
- C. Susan Wojcicki
- D. Satya Nadella

**Correct Answer: B — Neal Mohan**

---

## BANK EXAMS (IBPS PO, SBI PO, RBI Assistant, IBPS Clerk)

### ★ 4. IBPS PO Prelims 2024 (19 October 2024 – Shift 1)

Q. TIME Magazine recently featured which Indian-origin tech leader in its global influence list?

Options included: "Neal Mohan"

Correct Answer: Neal Mohan

---

### ★ 5. SBI Clerk 2024 (January 2025 — GA Section)

Q. Who among the following is the CEO of YouTube?

Correct Answer: Neal Mohan

---

## STATE PCS EXAMS (UPPSC, BPSC, MPPSC, RPSC)

*(State exams अक्सर current affairs से पूछते हैं)*

### ★ 6. RPSC Prelims 2024 (1 October 2024)

Q. Neal Mohan is associated with which global tech platform?

A. Google

B. Amazon

C. YouTube

D. Netflix

Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
SSC CGL	12 July 2024	Neal Mohan origin	Indian origin
SSC CHSL	5 Aug 2024	CEO of YouTube	Neal Mohan
SSC MTS	Oct 2024	MBA from?	Stanford
IBPS PO	19 Oct 2024	TIME List mention	Neal Mohan
SBI Clerk	Jan 2025	CEO of YouTube	Neal Mohan
RPSC	1 Oct 2024	Neal Mohan associated with	YouTube
UPPSC	27 Oct 2024	Who is Neal Mohan?	YouTube CEO
CAPF	4 Aug 2024	Indian-origin YouTube CEO	Neal Mohan
CDS	Sept 2024	Matching question	Neal Mohan → YouTube

**With reference to Neal Mohan, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. He is the first Indian-origin CEO of YouTube.
2. TIME Magazine named him CEO of the Year 2025.
3. His leadership has focused on content moderation, creator engagement, and digital governance.
4. He completed his higher education in India before joining Google.

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

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

एहच रङ्गाए इङ्ग ट्वाए रङ्गा अचमट ल इ ँङ्गाहघ  
आद्वघ इ ँङ्गा-ळ

1. अ YouTube इङ्ग हणचङ्कचङ्कहग रङ्गा इङ्ग CEO णङ्ग
2. ई ँ TIME रङ्गा धह िघचत्रञ्जङ्ग इत्र "CEO of the Year" ट्वाङ्गल अ गत्र णगत्र णङ्ग
3. ई इङ्ग एङ्ग रङ्गा YouTube इङ्गङ्ग रङ्गाङ्ग ण  
अ इङ्गङ्ग इङ्गङ्ग रङ्गा अघ आङ्ग ढच णङ्गङ्ग रङ्गाङ्ग  
ङ्ग चत्रञ्जङ्ग इङ्ग
4. ई इङ्गङ्ग हह ईङ्ग अ लत्र चत्रङ्ग रङ्गाङ्गङ्ग अघ  
आघ Google ट्वाङ्गङ्ग

ट्वाङ्ग ईङ्गङ्ग ट्वाङ्ग

- A. 1, 2 अघ ट
- B. 1 अघ ठ
- C. 2 अघ ट
- D. 1, 2, 3 अघ ठ



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8. Who among the following(s) was/were awarded the Nobel Prize posthumously?

- I. Erik Axel Karlfeldt
- II. Dag Hammarskjöld
- III. Pierre Curie

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A) Only I and II
- B) Only III
- C) I, II and III
- D) None of the above

14. Which of the indigenous air defence system was integrated with Akashteer during Operation Sindoor to automate low-level aerial threat response?

- A) Akash SAM
- B) Barak-8
- C) Prithvi Air Defence
- D) S-400

18. Identify the States in India that have approved Plastic Parks:

- I. Uttarakhand
- II. Maharashtra
- III. Madhya Pradesh
- IV. Jharkhand

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

- A) I, II, III and IV
- B) I, III and IV only
- C) II, III and IV only
- D) I and III only

**20.** Consider the following statements:

- I. Deep Ocean Mission, launched in 2021, focuses on sustainably harnessing ocean wealth and strengthening the Blue Economy, launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- II. India's first unmanned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000' is being developed as part of the Samudrayaan Project under the Deep Ocean Mission.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) Both I and II
- D) Neither I nor II



22. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization after ratification by five countries.

**Which of the following combinations is/ are correct?**

- A) India, Liberia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua.
- B) India, Liberia, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Nicaragua.
- C) India, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Somalia, and Nicaragua.
- D) India, Liberia, Eswatini, Somalia, and Nicaragua

23. Consider the following statements regarding Carbon Pricing:

- I. Carbon pricing is a policy tool that puts a financial cost on greenhouse gas emissions, primarily methane
- II. It works by making emitters pay for the environmental damage caused by their pollution, encouraging them to reduce emissions

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) Both I and II
- D) Neither I nor II



**32.** As per the Union Budget 2025-26, what target (in gigawatts) has been set for nuclear power capacity by the year 2047?

- A) 30 GW (gigawatts)
- B) 50 GW (gigawatts)
- C) 100 GW (gigawatts)
- D) 200 GW (gigawatts)

**33.** Consider the following initiatives:

- 1. PM SHRI
- 2. STARS
- 3. DIKSHA
- 4. ULLAS
- 5. PM POSHAN

Through how many of the above initiatives does the Government aim to achieve the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020?

- A) Only two
- B) Only three
- C) Only four
- D) All five

34. Which of the following sub-schemes of the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' programme are being implemented to achieve the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020?

- I. NISHTHA
- II. Vidya Pravesh
- III. District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs)
- IV. Rani Laxmibai Balika Vidyalaya

**Which of the above are correct:**

- A) I, II and III
- B) I, II and IV
- C) I, III, and IV
- D) II, III and IV

35. Match the following key deficit indicators with their respective values in percentage of GDP for the Financial Year 2025-26 as per the Union Budget of 2025-2026:

Deficit Indicators	Budget Estimates (Financial Year 2025-26)
i. Primary Deficit	a. 0.3 percent
ii. Effective Revenue Deficit	b. 4.4 percent
iii. Revenue Deficit	c. 0.8 percent
iv. Fiscal Deficit	d. 1.5 percent

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A) i-c, ii-a, iii-d, iv-b
- B) i-a, ii-b, iii-c, iv-d
- C) i-b, ii-d, iii-a, iv-c
- D) i-d, ii-c, iii-b, iv-a

36. Which of the following are e-initiatives of the 'Employees' State Insurance Corporation' (ESIC)?

- I. E-Pehchan
- II. E-Biz Platform
- III. ABHA Number Creation
- IV. UPI App for IPs
- V. GIS based Maps

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A) I, II, III and IV
- B) I, II, III and V
- C) II, III, and IV
- D) III, IV and V



38. Below mentioned countries are India's top five trade partners in the Financial Year 2024-25.

Choose the correct sequence of countries of India's foreign trade in terms of values in decreasing order.

- I. UAE
- II. USA
- III. China
- IV. Russia
- V. Saudi Arabia

**Choose the correct order:**

- A) I, II, III, IV, V
- B) II, III, I, IV, V
- C) III, IV, V, I, II
- D) IV, I, II, V, III

39. Consider the following statements regarding the 'PM e-Bus Sewa' scheme:

- I. PM e-Bus Sewa is a centrally sponsored scheme initiated in 2023.
- II. It aims to augment bus operations in urban areas with central assistance of 20,000 crore for developing 10,000 electric buses.
- III. More than 169 cities with population size between 3 lakh and 40 lakh, as per census 2011, are eligible to participate under the scheme.
- IV. The scheme shall remain valid up to March 2047.

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- A) I, II and III only
- B) I, II and IV only
- C) I, III and IV only
- D) II, III and IV only

42. How many houses have been completed under 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin' (PMAY-G) from 2016 till January 2025?

- A) 1.69 crore
- B) 2.69 crore
- C) 3.69 crore
- D) 4.69 crore

43. Which of the following pairs of Chairperson and their respective Finance Commission are correctly matched?

- I. 10<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission - K C Pant
- II. 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission - Dr. C Rangarajan
- III. 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission - Vijay Kelkar
- IV. 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission - Dr. Y V Reddy

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A) I and II only
- B) I, II, and III only
- C) I, III, and IV only
- D) I, II, III, and IV



**63.** Consider the following statements regarding the **Blue Flag Certification**:

- I. It is an internationally recognised eco-label awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in Denmark.
- II. The Chandrabhaga Beach in Odisha was the first in India to receive the Blue Flag Certification.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) Both I and II
- D) Neither I nor II

67. Consider the following statements with reference to the "Gaganyaan Mission" of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

- I. The mission aims to place astronauts in a geostationary orbit.
- II. It comprises two uncrewed flights followed by one crewed mission.
- III. The human-rated launch vehicle for the mission is derived from LVM3.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?**

- A) I only
- B) I and II only
- C) II and III only
- D) I and III only

68. Consider the following statements regarding the Nipah Virus (NiV):

- 1. It is an orthopoxvirus.
- 2. NiV is a zoonotic disease transmitted from animals to humans.
- 3. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for NiV.
- 4. The incubation period ranges from 4 to 14 days on average.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) Only three
- D) All four

69. With reference to India's international humanitarian missions, consider the following pairs:

**Operations**

1. Operation Dost
2. Operation Ganga
3. Operation Kaveri
4. Operation Ajay

**Purpose**

- Earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria
- Evacuation of Indians from the Ukraine Conflict
- Evacuation of Indians from Sudan
- Rescue from the Israel-Hamas conflict

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- A) 1 pair
- B) 2 pairs
- C) 3 pairs
- D) 4 pairs

71. Match the following:

**Global Awards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



**By Countries**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour         | i) Russia            |
| 2. The Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu     | ii) Greece           |
| 3. The Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First | iii) France          |
| 4. The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour        | iv) Papua New Guinea |

**Match the correct option:**

- A) 1-i, 2-ii, 3-iii, 4-iv
- B) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-i, 4-iii
- C) 1-iii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-ii
- D) 1-iv, 2-iii, 3-ii, 4-i



- 
- 73.** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has at present:
- A) 10 member states, 14 observer states and 2 dialogue partners
  - B) 14 member states, 2 observer states and 10 dialogue partners
  - C) 10 member states, 10 observer states and 10 dialogue partners
  - D) 10 member states, 2 observer states and 14 dialogue partners
- 



76. Mirabai Chanu:

- I. won a silver medal in the IWF Senior World Weightlifting Championship 2025
- II. won a gold medal in the IWF Senior World Weightlifting Championship 2017
- III. won a silver medal in the IWF Senior World Weightlifting Championship 2022
- IV. won a gold medal in the Paris Olympics 2024

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A) Only I, II & III are correct
- B) Only II, III & IV are correct
- C) Only I, III & IV are correct
- D) All are correct

# *Complete* **Current Affairs 2025–2026**

**By Bhunesh Sir**

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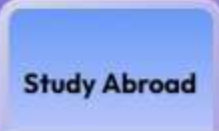
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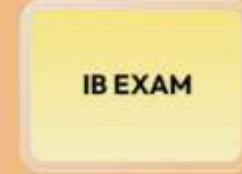


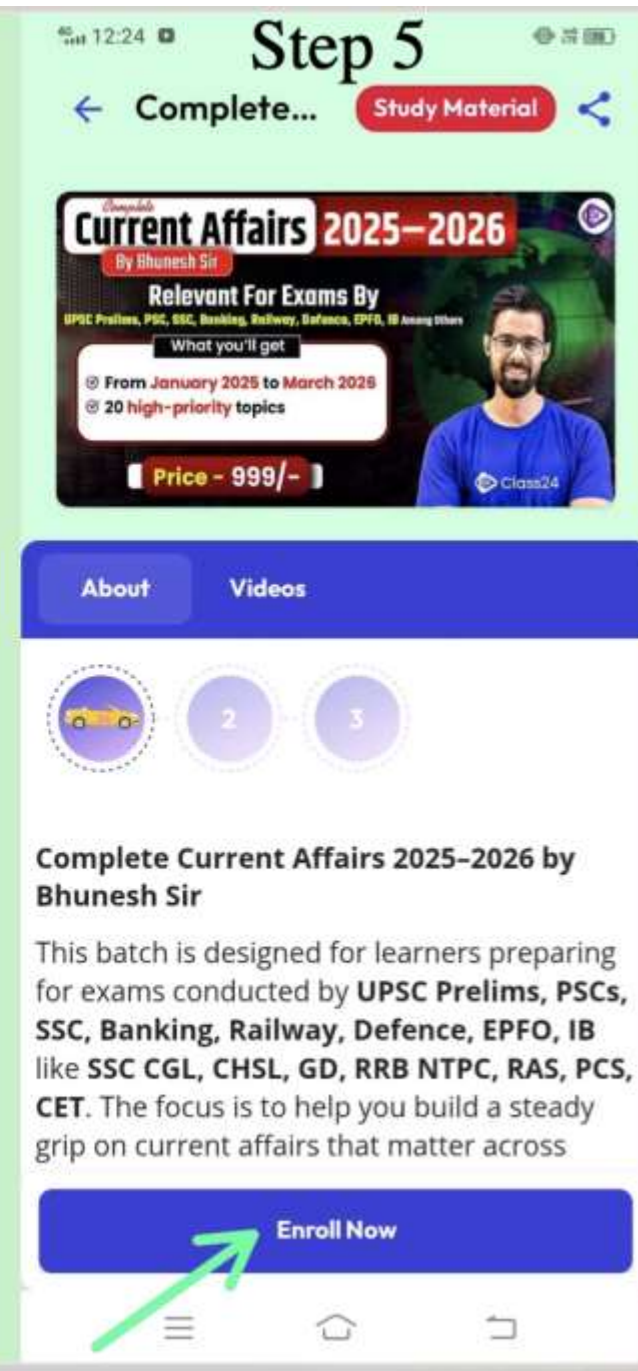
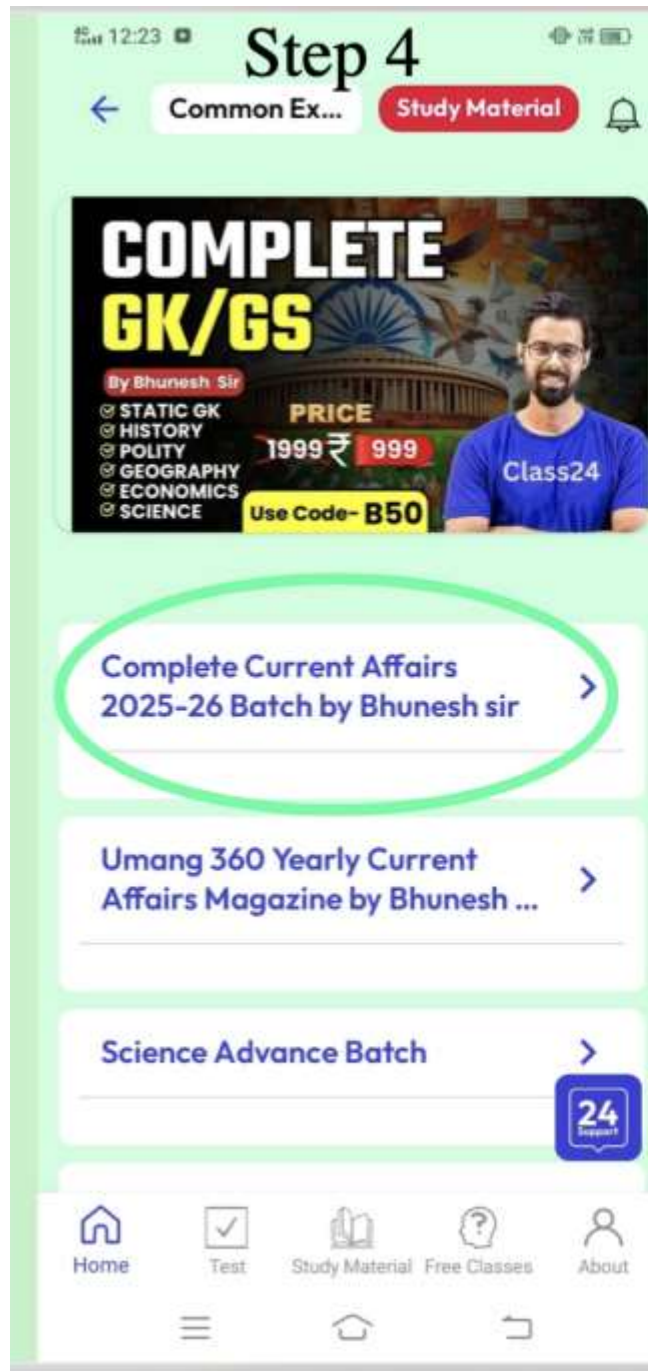
## Categories



# Step 3

GOVT. EXAMS





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# Word of the day

**Scurry:** rushing about hastily in an undignified way; to move about or proceed hurriedly

---

**Synonyms:** scamper, scramble, scuttle, skitter

---

**Usage:** *The girls scurried over to him.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ˈskʌ.ɹi/

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Thank you 😊

