

# Daily Current Affairs

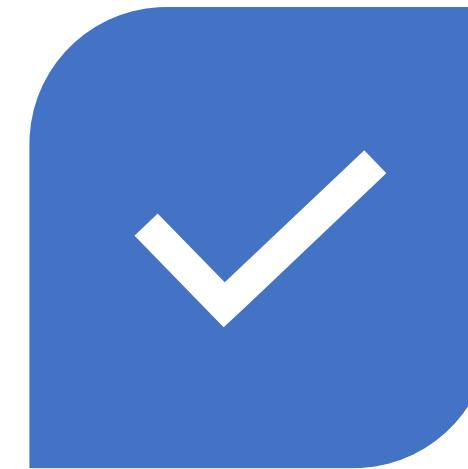




# Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



- “If today feels ordinary, you are probably doing it right.”

# GK-GS + + CURRENT AFFAIRS 2025-26 COMBO

BY BHUNESH SIR

## INCLUDES:

- COMPLETE GK-GS (RECORDED | 200+ HRS)
- COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS (LIVE  
| JAN 2025-MAR 2026 | 20 HIGH PRIORITY TOPICS)

**FOR: UPSC, STATE PCS, SSC, BANKING, RAILWAY,  
DEFENCE, EPFO, IB, RRB NTPC, CET, RAS & MORE**

GET 20% OFF  
| CODE:  
**NY2026**



Class24



# Iran defies U.S. threat, clamps down on protests

At least 65 killed, over 2,300 detained in protests that continue amid Internet and phone blackouts

**Associated Press**

DUBAI

**P**rotests sweeping across Iran neared the two-week mark on Saturday, with the country's government acknowledging the ongoing demonstrations despite an intensifying crackdown and as the Islamic Republic remains cut off from the rest of the world.

With the Internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has become more difficult. But the death toll in the protests has grown to at least 65 and over 2,300 others have been detained, according to the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. Iranian state television is reporting on security force casualties while portraying control over the nation.

Iran's Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has signalled a clampdown, despite U.S. warnings.

Tehran escalated its threats on Saturday, with Attorney-General, Mohammad Movahedi Azad, warning that anyone taking part in protests would be considered an "enemy of God". The statement carried by Iranian state television said even those who "helped rioters" would face the charge.

"Prosecutors must carefully and without delay, by issuing indictments, prepare the grounds for the trial and decisive confrontation with those who, by betraying the nation and creating insecurity, seek foreign domination over the country," the statement read. "Proceedings must be conducted without leniency, compassion or indulgence."

U.S. Secretary of State

Protesters are 'enemies of God'; proceedings will be conducted without any leniency, says Tehran

U.S. Secretary of State extends support, reiterates President's threat; he means what he says: Rubio



**Growing dissent:** Vehicles set on fire during the anti-government unrest in Zanjan, Iran, on Friday. AP

Marco Rubio offered support for the protesters. "The United States supports the brave people of Iran," Mr. Rubio wrote on Saturday on the social platform X. The State Department separately warned: "Do not play games with President [Donald] Trump. When he says he'll do something, he means it."

Saturday marks the start of the work week in Iran, but many schools and universities reportedly held online classes, Iranian state television reported.

State TV repeatedly played a driving, martial orchestral arrangement from the "Epic of Khorramshahr" by Iranian composer Majid Entezami,

while showing pro-government demonstrations.

The song, aired repeatedly during the 12-day war launched by Israel, honours Iran's 1982 liberation of the city of Khorramshahr during the Iran-Iraq war.

It has been used in videos of protesting women cutting away their hair to

protest the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini as well.

"Field reports indicate that peace prevailed in most cities of the country at night," a State TV anchor reported.

## Chaotic scenes

"After a number of armed terrorists attacked public places and set fire to people's private property last night, there was no news of any gathering or chaos in Tehran and most provinces last night." That was directly contradicted by an online verified video that showed demonstrations in northern Tehran's Saadat Abad area, with what appeared to be thousands on the street. "Death to Khamenei!" a man chanted.

The semi-official Fars news agency, believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and one of the few media outlets able to publish to

the outside world, released surveillance camera footage of what it said came from demonstrations in Isfahan. In it, a protester appeared to fire a long gun, while others set fires and threw gasoline bombs at what appeared to be a government compound.

The Young Journalists' Club, associated with State TV, reported that protesters killed three members of the Guard's all-volunteer Basij force in the city of Gachsaran. It also reported a security official was stabbed to death in Hamadan province, a police officer killed in the port city of Bandar Abbas and another in Gilan, as well as one person slain in Mashhad.

The State television also aired footage of a funeral service attended by hundreds in Qom, a Shia seminary city just south of Tehran.

## 1) Core development / मुख्य घटनाक्रम

- **Protests continue:** Iran is witnessing ongoing protests that have reached nearly the two-week mark.  
विरोध जारी: ईरान में विरोध-प्रदर्शन लगभग दो हफ्ते पूरे करने के करीब हैं।
- **Government acknowledges but tightens control:** Authorities are acknowledging demonstrations while simultaneously intensifying the crackdown.  
सरकार मान रही है, पर सख्ती बढ़ा रही है: सरकार प्रदर्शन स्वीकार भी कर रही है और साथ ही दमन/सख्ती भी बढ़ा रही है।

## 2) Communication blackout / संचार बाधा

- **Internet and phone disruptions** have been reported, making it difficult for people outside Iran to verify events and for protesters to coordinate.  
इंटरनेट/फोन बाधा के कारण बाहर से घटनाओं की पुष्टि मुश्किल होती है और अंदर समन्वय/संगठन भी प्रभावित होता है।
- This also creates an “information gap,” where state narratives become more dominant than independent reporting.  
इससे “सूचना अंतर” बनता है, जिसमें सरकारी नैरेटिव स्वतंत्र रिपोर्टिंग पर भारी पड़ सकता है।

## 3) Deaths and detentions / मौतें और हिरासत

- Reports indicate **dozens killed** and **thousands detained** during the unrest.  
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार दर्जनों मौतें और हजारों लोग हिरासत में लिए गए।
- While some reporting focuses on civilian casualties and arrests, state media emphasizes casualties among security forces and claims the situation is under control.  
जहाँ कुछ रिपोर्टिंग नागरिकों की मौत/हिरासत पर केंद्रित है, वहीं स्टेट मीडिया सुरक्षा बलों के नुकसान और “स्थिति नियंत्रण में” का दावा उभारता है।

#### 4) Hardline warning from authorities / अधिकारियों की कठोर चेतावनी

- Iran's Attorney-General issued a strong warning that participants could be treated with the harshest possible legal-religious framing, including being labelled as "enemies of God."  
ईरान के अटॉर्नी-जनरल ने कड़ी चेतावनी दी कि प्रदर्शनकारियों पर अत्यंत कठोर धार्मिक-कानूनी भाषा/धारा लग सकती है, जैसे "ईश्वर के दुश्मन"।
- The message: legal action will be fast and severe—"no leniency"—to deter participation and scare potential supporters.  
संदेश साफ है: कार्रवाई तेज़ और कठोर होगी—"कोई नरमी नहीं"—ताकि लोग पीछे हटें और समर्थन कम हो।

#### 5) Competing narratives: "calm" vs "crowds" / दो नैरेटिव: "शांति" बनाम "भीड़"

- State television suggested that **peace prevailed** in most cities at night.  
स्टेट टीवी ने कहा कि रात में अधिकांश शहरों में शांति रही।
- However, other accounts referenced large crowds in parts of Tehran and anti-government slogans, suggesting unrest remained active.  
दूसरी तरफ कुछ रिपोर्टों में तेहरान के कुछ इलाकों में बड़ी भीड़ और सत्ता-विरोधी नारों का उल्लेख है—यानी असंतोष सक्रिय रहा।

#### 6) Violence claims and visual evidence / हिंसा के दावे और दृश्य सामग्री

- The report describes **chaotic scenes** in some areas: attacks on public places, fires, damage to private property, and allegations of incendiary devices.  
रिपोर्ट में कुछ स्थानों पर अराजक दृश्य बताए गए—सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर हमले, आगजनी, निजी संपत्ति को नुकसान, और ज्वलनशील चीज़ों के आरोप।
- State-linked outlets released surveillance footage to claim protesters were armed or engaged in violent acts, reinforcing the government's framing of protests as disorder or sabotage.  
राज्य-समर्थित माध्यमों ने सीसीटीवी/सर्विलांस फुटेज जारी कर प्रदर्शनकारियों को हथियारबंद/हिंसक दिखाने का प्रयास किया, ताकि आंदोलन को "अव्यवस्था/साजिश" के रूप में पेश किया जा सके।

## 7) Social context and symbolism / सामाजिक संदर्भ और प्रतीकात्मक विरोध

- The story also indirectly ties into the wider social tension seen in recent years, including women-led protest symbolism and cultural resistance.

यह खबर हाल के वर्षों के सामाजिक तनाव से भी जुड़ती दिखती है—खासकर महिलाओं द्वारा प्रतीकात्मक विरोध और सांस्कृतिक प्रतिरोध जैसे संकेतों के संदर्भ में।

## 8) International response: U.S. messaging / अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रिया: अमेरिकी संदेश

- The U.S. Secretary of State publicly voiced support for Iranian protesters.  
अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री ने ईरानी प्रदर्शनकारियों के समर्थन की बात कही।
- The U.S. side reiterated that the President's warning/threat should be taken seriously, adding pressure and widening the issue into a geopolitical confrontation.

अमेरिका ने यह भी दोहराया कि राष्ट्रपति की चेतावनी/धमकी को गंभीरता से लिया जाए—जिससे मुद्दा घरेलू संकट के साथ भू-राजनीतिक तनाव भी बन जाता है।

## 9) What this means (exam-ready takeaways) / इसका मतलब (एग्जाम पॉइंट्स)

- State strategy:** intimidation through harsh legal language + speedy prosecution + information controls.  
राज्य रणनीति: कठोर कानूनी भाषा से डर + तेज़ अभियोजन + सूचना नियंत्रण।
- Information war:** blackout conditions increase reliance on official narratives and reduce independent verification.  
सूचना युद्ध: ब्लैकआउट में सरकारी नैरेटिव मजबूत, स्वतंत्र पुष्टि कमज़ोर।
- Escalation risk:** as arrests rise and violence claims spread, the chance of further escalation increases.  
तनाव बढ़ने का जोखिम: गिरफ्तारियाँ बढ़ें, हिंसा के आरोप बढ़ें तो स्थिति और बिगड़ सकती है।
- Internationalization:** U.S. statements add external pressure and can harden positions on both sides.  
अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण: अमेरिकी बयान बाहरी दबाव बढ़ाते हैं और दोनों पक्षों के रुख को कठोर कर सकते हैं।

Term/Topic

Strait of Hormuz

Why Hormuz matters

OPEC HQ

IRGC & Basij (context)

Qom

Extra facts (English)

Narrow chokepoint between **Iran and Oman**; links **Persian Gulf → Gulf of Oman/Arabian Sea**; crucial for global energy flows.

About **one-fifth of global oil** passes through it; disruption can impact oil prices and trade routes.

OPEC Secretariat is in **Vienna, Austria** (since 1965).

IRGC is Iran's elite military force; **Basij** is a paramilitary volunteer force often used for internal security.

A major Shia religious/seminary city south of Tehran; often appears in Iran-related news.

१ श्रल्प्रघङ्ग ल्लू (Hindi)

हृधरेष-इं खरवरेष इं इं ॥हृद् द्वृत्तिः हृक्ष  
न चम्प्रवर्चरेष; ॥वर्घद् इंह द्वृवन्वह इंहृन्न इं खरवरेष इंह  
द्वृवन्वहृपर घा॥ द्वृवर्घ ल्लून्नप्रल्प्र, वर्चश्रेत्  
इं न वर्ग ए हृत्तश्रल्प्र इं इं श्रवर्त् १ इंत्त  
खरप्रद्वृहृज्जर्वल्प्र

चर्पक्षप्र ल्लूग्र इंत्त ल्लू इंव खृण्ड ग्रण्वरद् द्वृइ  
एक्षन्न घर्वत्र एच्च; ॥वर्चवर्त्र द्वृइ ल्लूच-इंहृवर्ल्प्र  
जं घ ॥वर्चवर्घ खरप्रव्र ल्लूवर्चश्रल्प्र एज्ज द्वृइ ल्लू  
एष्वद्वृ

OPEC इंव खक्षद्वृवर्चवर्त्र श्रवर्चवर्त्र छस्त्रवर्चवर्त्र रवल्प्र  
(1965 द्वृइ)इ

IRGC हृधरेष इंह इंचहव द्वृचौं द्वृसङ्ग; ॥श्रद्वन्न  
१ श्रवर्चश्रेत् इग्रत्तद्वृत्तह ॥च, १ श्व  
ए वर्चल्प्रद् द्वृक्षप्रल्प्र रवल्प्र

वर्चवर्चवर्त्र: ल्लूप्रधवरेष इंइ वर्चल्प्र खरक्षद्  
श्रद्वग्रवर्त्र श्रवर्चवर्चवर्त्र/द्वृइश्रवर्चवर्चवर्त्र द्वृप्रधवरेष-  
द्वृत्तप्रश्वश्वल्प्र द्वृ ॥घर्वन्नत्र खरल्प्र १ श्व ए ल्व एच्चद्वृ

Exam (Date/Shift)	Question (as asked)	Answer
<b>UPSC CSE Prelims GS (2017)</b>	<i>What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing GST? (Statement 2 mentions crude oil imports &amp; OPEC cartel)</i>	<b>1 only</b>
<b>RRB NTPC CBT-I (9 Jan 2021, Shift 1)</b>	<i>Where is the headquarters of OPEC located?</i>	<b>Vienna</b>
<b>RPF SI (2018) (16 Jan 2019, Shift 3)</b>	<i>Which water reservoir connects the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman?</i>	<b>Strait of Hormuz</b>
<b>OSSC CGL (17 Oct, Shift 2)</b>	<i>Where is the HQ of OPEC located?</i>	<b>Vienna</b>
<b>BPSC DSO (03 Aug 2025)</b>	<i>Strait of Hormuz is situated between which Gulfs?</i>	<b>Persian Gulf + Gulf of Oman</b>
<b>MP Police Constable (10 Sept 2023, Shift 2)</b>	<i>Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the ____.</i>	<b>Gulf of Oman</b>
<b>UKSSSC Forest Guard (16 Feb 2020, Shift 2)</b>	<i>Headquarters of OPEC is situated in:</i>	<b>Vienna</b>
<b>UPPCL JE (Feb 2018, Shift 1)</b>	<i>Where is the HQ of OPEC located?</i>	<b>Vienna</b>

IN BRIEF



Two more held in Turkman Gate demolition drive clash

Two more persons were arrested on Friday for allegedly throwing stones at the police during a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) demolition drive around Faiz-e-Ilahi mosque near Turkman Gate earlier this week, bringing the total number of arrests to four. The MCD has initiated an investigation into the incident. The police have identified and are analysing the social media accounts of the arrested persons. "We have videos about the demolition. 'We are scrutinising their role in the stone-pelting incident,' a senior official said. The MCD has been asked to probe the role of a Sarawadi Party MP. The police deployed a large number of security personnel to maintain law and order.

Assam holds review meeting ahead of Prime Minister's visit

Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kotha on Saturday held a review meeting in Guwahati for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Kaliabor in Nagaon district on January 18, officials said. Mr. Modi is scheduled to arrive in the state on January 17. He will witness the Bodo folk dance Baramusa at the Arjan Bhogti Bihu Bazaar in Dibrugarh before proceeding to Kaliabor, near dusk, to see the foundation stone of the ₹6,007 crore Karamura Elevated Corridor. He is also scheduled to virtually flag off two Anrit Bharat Express trains and address a public meeting at Kaliabor. ■

AAP stages protest in Punjab against Atishi's 'edited' video

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday staged protest in Amritsar against the anti-Modi Congress and the Shiv Sena. After a day of burning religious sentiments by circulating a "doctored" video of senior party leader and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the AAP said the "edited" video, which amounted to "habeas" (sacrifice) of the Guru Nanak, was circulated on social media. The AAP said that a FIR had been registered in the matter, and a forensic examination had "confirmed deliberate manipulation of the video. The AAP also alleged a connection with uploading and circulating the "edited" video of Atishi in the Delhi Assembly. ■

BJP objects to Owaisi view on Muslim woman as PM

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi has said a hijab-wearing woman will one day become India's Prime Minister. "The day when we will have equal status to people from all communities, unlike in Pakistan, where people of only one religion can be at the top constitutional post. He said, "The day when a Muslim woman or any person belonging to one religion can become the country's Prime Minister. But the Indian Constitution does not allow that. It can come the Prime Minister, or even a Mayor." His remark drew a sharp reaction from the ruling BJP, which said that his statement is "irresponsible". ■

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's puzzle



## No separate recognition needed for MBBS seats: NMC

Once seats are approved or renewed annually, that batch will be treated as recognised for that year, regulatory body tells medical colleges; directs them to submit only an annual report and fee

Bimla Sharan Parappadan  
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed medical colleges in India to submit separate proposals for recognition of MBBS seats, instead of an annual renewal of seats. It will be treated as recognised under the current regulatory framework.

"The committee has said that the practice of separate recognition of MBBS seats had been discontinued under fresh regulations issued in 2023. It is now



separate applications from medical colleges for recognition of MBBS seats and fee structure," said a NMC official. The NMC has directed medical colleges and institutes to submit an annual report and fee to the regulator, instead of an annual renewal of seats. It will be treated as recognised under the current regulatory framework.

Earlier practice of granting separate recogni-

tion to MBBS seats had been discontinued follow-

ing the implementation of

standards of Medical Education Regulations, 2023.

As per these regulations, medical colleges are required to submit only the annual report and fee (ADR) along with the pre-service fee on the NMC portal, as and when required. The ADR is a mandatory report, which colleges are required to submit to indicate on their infrastructure and ability to maintain standards needed to conduct the MBBS course.

Once MBBS seats are approved or renewed annually, that batch will be treated as recognised for that year, the NMC said in its order. Such medical colleges and institutes will be considered accredited once for the said courses, it added.

The clinic in Bihar, which does not have a signboard, was suggested by an ASHA worker

Amit Patel  
PATNA

A 23-year-old pregnant woman died on Saturday after a quack delivered her of the baby in a shambolic condition in a shanty in Bihar, officials said.

The death happened on Thursday night but it came to light on Saturday when the Bhagalpur Civil Hospital, forming a team to catch hold of the quack.

Once admitted, the woman had labour pain and was brought to the hospital. The team found where the quack and an assistant watched online video of the procedure, NMC said in its order. Such medical colleges and institutes will be considered accredited once for the said courses, it added.

Consider Romeo-Juliet clause in POCSO: SC

Krishnadas Bapatang  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has asked the Union government to introduce a Romeo-Juliet clause in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to exempt genuine adolescent relationships from criminal prosecution, if the boy and girl are from the same village or town and others who use the law to "send a message."

The clause is a legal

exception to protect consensual sexual activity among young people from being liable for prosecution for statutory rape.

Two cases filed at

the behest of a girl's family

objecting to romantic in-

volvement with a young boy have been considered

therefore these young boys have been sent to jail.

Sanjay Karol observed in the post-script of a January 6 judgment authored by him:

"The court ordered

the central govt to be ca-

lled to the Union Law Secre-

tary in order to take

steps to "curb this me-

aning."

The court noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

weather

agency noted

that this phenomenon oc-

urred due to severe

space weather events.

The study also revealed

that during the

space weather event

that occurred in Decem-

ber 2022,

the space

&lt;p

# Govt. launches drive to reduce road accident deaths

**Jagriti Chandra**

NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in collaboration with the NGO Save Life Foundation, has identified 100 districts with the highest number of road crashes to launch a data-driven zero-fatalities programme, in line with the government's pledge to reduce road deaths by 50% by 2030.

The 100 districts span 15 States, with the programme already rolled out in all 20 identified districts in Uttar Pradesh, 19 in Tamil Nadu, 11 in Maharashtra, and nine in Karnataka.

"Districts have been identified as key units of change, as 63% of road accident fatalities occur outside National Highways, such as on State Highways and State expressways, major district roads and local roads. Since crash deaths are often influenced by local factors such as road design, traffic enforcement, and hospital preparedness, effective interventions are best coordinated at the district level, where administration converges through measures like traffic policing and emergency medical care,"



The Transport Ministry will focus on 100 high-risk districts that account for the highest number of accidents. FILE PHOTO

said Founder and CEO of Save Life Foundation Piyush Tewari at a press conference held at the recently concluded two-day conference.

rence of Transport Ministers, Secretaries and Commissioners of all States and Union Territories.

An analysis across the

100 districts recorded nearly 89,000 road deaths in 2023 and 2024. The foundation mapped 17,331 critical crash locations, which together accounted for 58% of the total fatalities. It also identified high-risk time windows during which most crashes occurred, enabling law enforcement agencies to better target resource deployment. An analysis of the crashes showed that rear-end collisions accounted for 26% of fatalities, head-on collisions for 23%, and pedestrian crashes for another 23%.

The framework for the

zero-fatalities programme includes engineering audits and the implementation of low-cost, quick-build safety interventions, such as correcting faulty road intersections. A key pillar is trauma care response, with measures to improve ambulance response time standards and train first responders.

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said the District Collectors, Transport Ministers, and MPs from the 100 districts will be part of an accident prevention committee and will be invited to New Delhi for a conference.

- Who launched & with whom / किसने शुरू किया और किसके साथ
  - The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), in collaboration with SaveLIFE Foundation (NGO), has launched a data-driven “zero-fatalities” drive.
  - सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MoRTH) ने SaveLIFE Foundation (NGO) के साथ मिलकर डेटा-आधारित “ज़ीरो-फैटेलिटी” अभियान शुरू किया।
- Target & national goal / लक्ष्य और राष्ट्रीय टारगेट
  - The programme aligns with the government's pledge to **reduce road deaths by 50% by 2030**.
  - यह कार्यक्रम 2030 तक सड़क मौतों में 50% कमी के सरकारी लक्ष्य के अनुरूप है।
- Where the focus is / फोकस कहाँ है
  - 100 high-risk districts (across 15 States) have been identified because they report the highest number of crashes/deaths.
  - 15 राज्यों के 100 हाई-रिस्क ज़िलों को चुना गया है क्योंकि वहाँ दुर्घटनाएँ/मौतें सबसे ज्यादा हैं।
  - Rollout examples mentioned: programme already rolled out in **all 20 identified districts in Uttar Pradesh, 19 in Tamil Nadu, 11 in Maharashtra, and 9 in Karnataka**.
  - उदाहरण: उत्तर प्रदेश के 20, तमिलनाडु के 19, महाराष्ट्र के 11, कर्नाटक के 9 ज़िलों में लागू/रोलआउट की बात कही गई है।

- Why "district" is the unit of action / "ज़िला" क्यों चुना गया
  - Districts are treated as key units of change because about 63% of road accident fatalities occur outside National Highways—on State Highways, State expressways, major district roads and local roads.
  - ज़िलों को बदलाव की मुख्य इकाई माना गया क्योंकि लगभग 63% मौतें राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के बाहर—राज्य राजमार्ग, राज्य एक्सप्रेसवे, ज़िला/स्थानीय सड़कों पर होती हैं।
  - Many determinants are local: **road design, enforcement quality, and hospital/trauma readiness**, so interventions work best when coordinated at district level.
  - कई कारण स्थानीय हैं: रोड डिज़ाइन, प्रवर्तन (enforcement), अस्पताल/द्रॉमा तैयारी—इसलिए ज़िला स्तर पर समन्वय सबसे प्रभावी माना गया।
- What the data mapping found / डेटा से क्या निकला
  - These 100 districts recorded **nearly 89,000 road deaths across 2023 and 2024** (as cited in the report).
  - इन 100 ज़िलों में 2023–2024 में लगभग 89,000 सड़क मौतें दर्ज होने की बात कही गई।
  - The foundation mapped **17,331 critical crash locations**, which together accounted for **58% of total fatalities** (in the mapped set).
  - 17,331 क्रिटिकल क्रैश लोकेशन चिह्नित किए गए, जो मिलकर कुल मौतों के 58% के लिए जिम्मेदार बताए गए।
  - **High-risk time windows** were also identified so enforcement agencies can deploy resources better.
  - दुर्घटनाओं के हाई-रिस्क समय-खिड़की (time windows) भी चिह्नित की गई ताकि पुलिस/एजेंसियाँ संसाधन बेहतर तरीके से लगाएँ।
  - Crash-type analysis: **rear-end collisions (26%), head-on (23%), and pedestrian crashes (23%)** formed major shares of fatalities.
  - क्रैश प्रकार: पीछे से टक्कर (26%), आमने-सामने टक्कर (23%), पैदल यात्री दुर्घटनाएँ (23%)—मौतों का बड़ा हिस्सा।

- What the “zero-fatalities” framework includes / “ज़ीरो-फैटेलिटी” फ्रेमवर्क में क्या है
  - Engineering audits and low-cost, quick-build safety fixes (example: correcting faulty intersections/black spots).
  - इंजीनियरिंग ऑडिट और कम लागत वाले त्वरित सुरक्षा सुधार (जैसे खराब/खतरनाक चौराहों को ठीक करना)।
  - A key pillar is **trauma care response**: improving **ambulance response time standards** and **training first responders**.
  - एक मुख्य स्तंभ ट्रॉमा केयर रिस्पॉन्स है: एम्बुलेंस रिस्पॉन्स टाइम मानक बेहतर करना और फर्स्ट रिस्पॉन्डर्स को ट्रेन करना।
- Governance & coordination / प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था
  - The Transport Minister said **District Collectors, Transport Ministers and MPs** from these districts will be part of an **accident prevention committee** and will be invited to **New Delhi** for a conference.
  - मंत्री के अनुसार इन ज़िलों के डीएम/कलेक्टर, परिवहन मंत्री और सांसद एक एक्सीडेंट प्रिवेंशन कमेटी में होंगे और नई दिल्ली में कॉन्फ्रेंस के लिए बुलाए जाएंगे।

Topic	Key facts (English)	खण्डुह सर्व ल्लौ (Hindi)
<b>4E approach</b>	Road safety is often framed as <b>Engineering + Enforcement + Education + Emergency care</b> .	ਫ਼ਰੈਂਡ ਫ਼ਕ਼ਿਧਾਲਵ ਤੁ ਝੁ ਰਿ ਇ ਏਂਫ਼ਰੈਂਸ਼ ਗ਼ਰਾਹਾ ਰ ਬਤੁਲਕਾ ਰ ਸ਼ਟ੍ਰੁਲਕ ਰ ਏ ਹਵਾਲਣਾਲ ਕਰਿਵ ਤੁਹਾਗ ਪਾ ਤੁ ਤੁ ਚਹੁ ਰਸ਼ਕ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਕਾਰ ਨ ਕਰਿਵ ਪਾਂਚੁਡੁ
<b>Black spot concept</b>	High-crash points (junctions/curves) are targeted for redesign, signage, speed calming, and lighting.	ਇ ਸ਼ਤ੍ਰੁ ਵਕ਼ਿਤ ਬਲਾਣ ਤੁ ਵਰਚੁਡ ਵਿਝਾਨ (ਤੁਚੁਡ ਜਾਂਭ) ਹਾਂ ਅਧਿਕਰਣ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਹਾਂ ਨ ਚਾਹੁਣ ਤੁ ਵਰਾਨਾ ਅਵਰਾਂ ਪਾਂਨਾਲਾਂ ਪਾਂਚੁਡੁ
<b>Golden Hour</b>	The first ~60 minutes after a crash are critical; faster evacuation and trauma care saves lives.	ਵਕ਼ਿਤ ਬਲਾਣ ਤੁ ਤੁ ਵਾਵ ਟੁਕਿਛਾਣ ਲਾਂ ਖਾਡਾ ਸ਼ਵਾਵ ਜਾਂਭ ਏ ਅਧਾਰਾ ਟੁਹੁਦੁ ਇ ਪਾਰਾ; ਨ ਹਾਂ ਸਚਾਰਾ ਫ਼ਰੁ ਨ ਵਾਏ ਵਾਲਾ ਪਾਂਚੁਡੁ
<b>District-led model</b>	Works well because enforcement, local engineering fixes, and hospital readiness are <b>operationally district-controlled</b> .	ਪਾਂਚੁਡ ਹਾਂ ਅਨੁਕਾਣ ਸ਼ਵਾਵ ਗ਼ਰਾਹਾ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾਰ ਜਲਚ ਲਾਕਾਰਾਹ ਏ ਤੁ ਪਾਰਾ ਰਾਹ ਸ਼ਵਾਵ ਭਟ੍ਰਾਰਾਹ ਤੁ ਤੁ ਨ ਪਾਂਚੁਡ ਲਾਂਧ ਚਾਰਾਂ ਪਾਂਚ ਫ਼ਰੁ ਲਾਂਡ ਪਾਂਚੁਡੁ
<b>Common fatal crash patterns</b>	Rear-end, head-on and pedestrian crashes typically signal needs like speed management, lane discipline, safer crossings, and junction redesign.	ਹਾਂਦ ਤੁ ਫ਼ਰੁ/ਏ ਖਾਡ-ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾਡ/ਹਾਂਚਾਚ ਗ਼ਰਾਹ ਵਕ਼ਿਤ ਬਲਾਣ ਤੁ ਵਾਲਾ ਏ ਲਾਵਾਲਾ ਪਾਂਚ ਸ਼ਤ੍ਰੁ ਹਾਂ ਸ਼ਾ ਗ਼ਮਦੁਰ ਏ ਚਾਹ ਇ ਅਟ੍ਰਾਰਾਹ ਏ ਏ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾਲ ਹਾਂ ਅਨੁਕਾਣ ਏ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪਾਂਚ ਅਨੁਕਾਣ ਫ਼ਰਾਪਾਰ ਨ ਚਾਹ ਪਾਂਚੁਡੁ

- According to the report on the government's road safety drive, consider the following statements:
  - The 100 identified districts recorded nearly 89,000 road deaths in 2023 and 2024. / 100 ਸੱਤੰਤਰ ਸ਼ਾਖਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਖੇ 2023–2024 ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁੱਛੇ ਗਏ 89,000 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੌਤਾਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਨ
  - 17,331 critical crash locations together accounted for 58% of total fatalities (in the mapped analysis). / 17,331 ਕ੍ਰਿਟਿਕਲ ਕ੍ਰਾਸ਼ ਸਥਾਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਮਾਪੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਹਨ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪੁੱਛੇ ਗਏ 58% ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੌਤਾਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਨ
  - Rear-end collisions accounted for less than 10% of fatalities. / ਹੋਰੋਂ ਕੁਝ ਕ੍ਰਾਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪੁੱਛੇ ਗਏ 10% ਕ੍ਰਾਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪੁੱਛੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪੁੱਛੇ ਗਏ 10% ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੌਤਾਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਨ
- Which of the above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 and 2 only
  - B) 2 and 3 only
  - C) 1 and 3 only
  - D) 1, 2 and 3



# Centre seeks access to phone source codes

Tech firms object to the proposed 'vulnerability analysis' standards proposed by the Union govt.

Reuters

NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering legally imposing a set of requirements for smartphone makers in Indian markets as part of a raft of "security measures", prompting behind-the-scenes opposition from tech giants such as Apple and Samsung.

Among the most sensitive requirements for "vulnerability analysis" in the new Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements, drafted in 2023, is access to source code – the underlying programming instructions that make phones work and closely guarded by the manufacturers.

This will be analysed and possibly tested at designated Indian labs, the documents show. Apple had declined China's request for its source code between 2014 and 2016, and U.S. law enforcement has also tried and failed to get it.

The proposals require automatic and periodic malware scanning on phones and storing of records of a phone's activities in the device for at least one year.

IT Ministry and tech executives are due to meet on Tuesday for more discussions, sources said.

"Any legitimate concerns of the industry will be addressed with an open mind," IT Secretary S. Krishnan said, adding it

The Centre revoked an order mandating a cyber safety app, Sanchar Saathi, on phones last month

Apple declined Chinese attempts to access code; and U.S. law enforcement also tried and failed

## Surveillance tools

The Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements propose 83 security standards including source code disclosure for smartphone manufacturers in Indian markets



Gray area: Tech companies say the proposal lacks any global precedent.

■ **Background permission restriction:** Apps cannot access cameras, microphones or location services in the background when phones are inactive

■ **One-year log retention:** Devices must store security audit logs for 12 months

■ **Periodic malware scanning:** Phones must automatically scan and identify potentially harmful applications

■ **Informing govt. of major updates:** Phone makers must notify a govt. body before releasing any major updates or security patches

was "premature to read more into it".

Tech companies have countered that the package of 83 security standards, which will include a re-

quirement to alert the government to major software updates, lacks any global precedent and risks revealing proprietary details, according to four pe-

ople familiar with the discussions and a *Reuters* review of confidential government and industry documents.

Indian government requirements have irked technology firms before. Last month the Centre revoked an order mandating a state-run cyber safety app, Sanchar Saathi, on phones amid concerns over surveillance.

The new proposal is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to boost security of user data as online fraud and data breaches increase in the world's second-largest smartphone market, with nearly 750 million phones.

Manufacturers will also have to make software changes under the require-

ments to allow pre-installed apps to be uninstalled and to block apps from using cameras and microphones in the background to "avoid malicious usage".

Device makers will have to inform the National Centre for Communication Security about major software updates and security patches before releasing them to users, and the centre will have the right to test them.

Tech companies Apple, Samsung, Google, and Xiaomi, and the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT) did not respond to requests for comment.

However, MAIT had asked the Ministry last week to drop the proposal,

a source with direct knowledge said.

"This [source code review and analysis] is not possible... due to secrecy and privacy," MAIT had said in a confidential document drafted in response to the government proposal, and seen by *Reuters*. "Major countries in the EU, North America, Australia, and Africa do not mandate these requirements." MAIT's document says regular malware scanning significantly drains a phone's battery and seeking government approval for software updates is "impractical" as they need to be issued promptly.

"There is not enough room on device to store 1-year log events," MAIT said in the document.

**Term/Topic****Source Code****Vulnerability Analysis****Security Audit Logs****Malware Scanning****Background Permissions****Update/Patch Governance****Extra facts (English)**

Human-readable instructions that define how software works; companies guard it as proprietary IP.

Process of checking software for security weaknesses that attackers could exploit.

Records of security-related events (app permissions, system actions, alerts) used for investigation/compliance.

Detecting harmful apps/files; can affect battery/performance and raises privacy/false-positive concerns.

Controls whether apps can access camera/mic/location while running in background.

Security patches need speed; delays can increase cyber risk window.

**१ श्रल्प्रधञ्ज लङ्ग (Hindi)**

द्रुष्टिअङ्गुलिगद्ध इ़ व्र खवज्जन्म “इ़ इन्स्ट” ऩ इन्स्ट ई़द्दू इ़  
इ़ व्रव्र इ़ घाष्ट इ़ व्र लघुहू इ़ व्र ल्य इ़ घाल्व एच्च;  
इ़ व्रहश्वर्षगवर्दु स्ट्रू ब्छुब्ब्रस्ब्बधह IP खवर्ष्ट घ  
ए़ग्रहृष्टग घाद्द ल्ह एष्ट्रु

द्रुष्टिअङ्गुलिगद्ध खवल्क द्रक्षघल्व इ़ खवन्न इन्स्प्रधगवर्दु  
(vulnerabilities) दु़ इन्स्ट ई़द्दू/ऩ व्रव्रद्दू इ़ ह ब्ल्शहगव्र,  
शन्न ई़ व्र दक्षिण्हगज्जप ए़ग्र दु़ ल्व एच्चद्दू

द्रक्षघल्व-दक्षिण्हश्वल त्वश्वर्दु व्र इ़ व्र षघाद्द छुम्ब  
(हघश्वर्दु, शद्वव्र इ़र्ष, १ चब्ब) ऩ इन्स्ट  
ऩ व्रव्रद्दू/१ दक्षिण्हवर्य खवल्क इ़ व्रव्र ए ल्व एच्चद्दू

एव्रश्व्ट व्रघड्द च्ह/एव्रस्च हप्पद्वर्ष्टव्र;  
एच्चब्बह/हघा छरवश्वद्दू हघ १ द्रुघ, ब्वर्सत्रिद्दू त्र  
एच्चल हप्पद्वर्ष्ट (false positives) इ़ ह शद्वव्रल्वर्दु

गण्य ल्य इ़ घाल्व एच्च श्व्ट च्ह एच्च इव्रक्षत्र्म खवल्क  
घण्यल्दू इ़द्दू इ़ च्चरवधव्र/खवर्स्ट /च़ग्राद्दू इ़ट्रू इ़श्वर्दू  
इ़ घ दु़ ल्व एच्च गव्र ष्प्रहन्नद्दू

द्रक्षघल्व हच्चद्दू ऩह्न न चघह ए़ग्रल्दू एष्ट्र; व्ल्घह  
दु़ द्रव्रस्टाघ ऩ इन्स्टद्दू ख्र इ़ व्र “शत्रव्रम्ज्ज” एप  
ऩ व्रल्व एच्चद्दू

## 1) What is the Centre proposing? / केंद्र क्या प्रस्ताव कर रहा है?

- The Centre is considering legally imposing new “security measures” for smartphone makers in India, which has triggered behind-the-scenes resistance from major tech firms (like Apple, Samsung).

केंद्र भारत में स्मार्टफोन निर्माताओं पर नए “सुरक्षा उपाय” कानूनी रूप से लागू करने पर विचार कर रहा है, जिस पर बड़ी टेक कंपनियों (Apple, Samsung आदि) की अंदरूनी आपत्ति सामने आई है।

- These proposals are part of the Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements (drafted in 2023) and include around 83 security standards for smartphones sold in India.

ये प्रस्ताव Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements (2023 ड्राफ्ट) का हिस्सा हैं, जिनमें भारत में बिकने वाले स्मार्टफोन्स के लिए लगभग 83 सुरक्षा मानक शामिल बताए गए हैं।

## 2) The most sensitive demand: source code access / सबसे संवेदनशील मांग: सोर्स कोड एक्सेस

- A key requirement under “vulnerability analysis” is access to source code—the underlying programming instructions that make phones work and are closely guarded by manufacturers. “Vulnerability analysis” के तहत सबसे संवेदनशील मांग है सोर्स कोड तक पहुंच—यही वह मूल प्रोग्रामिंग निर्देश हैं जो फोन को चलाते हैं और कंपनियाँ इन्हें बेहुद गोपनीय रखती हैं।
- The source code may be analysed and possibly tested in designated Indian labs as per the proposal.

प्रस्ताव के अनुसार सोर्स कोड का विश्लेषण और संभवतः निर्धारित भारतीय लैब्स में परीक्षण हो सकता है।

### 3) Other major requirements mentioned / अन्य प्रमुख शर्तें

- **Automatic & periodic malware scanning on phones.**  
फोन में ऑटोमैटिक और नियमित (periodic) मालवेयर स्कैनिंग।
- **One-year log retention:** storing phone security/audit records for **at least 12 months.**  
1 साल लॉग रिटेन्शन: कम से कम 12 महीनों तक सिक्योरिटी/ऑडिट लॉग्स स्टोर करना।
- **Background permission restriction:** apps should not access **camera/mic/location in background** when phones are inactive.  
बैकग्राउंड परमिशन प्रतिबंध: फोन निष्क्रिय होने पर ऐप्स कैमरा/माइक/लोकेशन बैकग्राउंड में एक्सेस न कर सकें।
- **Informing govt. of major updates:** phone makers must notify a government body before releasing **major software updates/security patches**; the Centre can have the **right to test them.**  
बड़े अपडेट की सूचना: बड़े सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट/सिक्योरिटी पैच रिलीज़ से पहले सरकार को सूचित करना; केंद्र को इन्हें टेस्ट करने का अधिकार।
- **Control over apps:** allowing **pre-installed apps to be uninstalled**, and blocking apps from using **camera/microphone in background** to avoid "malicious usage."  
ऐप नियंत्रण: प्री-इंस्टॉल्ड ऐप्स को अनइंस्टॉल करने की अनुमति, और "दुरुपयोग" रोकने के लिए ऐप्स को बैकग्राउंड में कैमरा/माइक इस्तेमाल करने से रोकना।

#### 4) Why the government is pushing this / सरकार यह क्यों कर रही है?

- The report links this push to rising concerns about **online fraud and data breaches** in India's huge smartphone ecosystem (India is described as the world's second-largest smartphone market with nearly 750 million phones).

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार यह दबाव ऑनलाइन फ्रॉड और डेटा ब्रीच जैसी चिंताओं से जुड़ा है, और भारत के विशाल स्मार्टफोन इकोसिस्टम (लगभग 75 करोड़ फोन, दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा बाजार) के संदर्भ में रखा गया है।

#### 5) Recent related development: Sanchar Saathi / हाल की संबंधित घटना: संचार साथी

- The Centre revoked an earlier order last month that would have mandated a **state-run cyber safety app "Sanchar Saathi"** on phones, after concerns around **surveillance**.

पिछले महीने केंद्र ने फोन में सरकारी साइबर सेफटी ऐप "संचार साथी" अनिवार्य करने वाला आदेश वापस ले लिया, क्योंकि निगरानी (surveillance) को लेकर चिंताएँ थीं।

#### 6) Industry objections / इंडस्ट्री की आपत्तियाँ

- Industry groups and companies argue **source code review/analysis is not feasible due to secrecy, privacy, and proprietary risks**.

कंपनियाँ/इंडस्ट्री समूह कहते हैं कि सोर्स कोड की समीक्षा/विश्लेषण गोपनीयता, प्राइवेसी और प्रॉप्राइटरी रिस्क के कारण व्यावहारिक नहीं।

- They say **major regions** (EU, North America, Australia, Africa) generally **do not mandate** such requirements.

उनका दावा है कि EU, North America, Australia, Africa जैसे बड़े क्षेत्रों में आम तौर पर ऐसी बाध्यताएँ अनिवार्य नहीं हैं।

- Practical concerns raised:

- **Regular malware scanning can drain battery** significantly.
- **Seeking government approval / pre-clearance for software updates is impractical** because security patches must be released quickly.
- **Devices may have insufficient storage to keep one-year logs**.

व्यावहारिक आपत्तियाँ:

- नियमित मालवेयर स्कैनिंग से बैटरी तेजी से घट सकती है।
- अपडेट/पैच के लिए सरकारी अप्रूवल लेना अव्यावहारिक है क्योंकि पैच तुरंत जारी करने पड़ते हैं।
- 1 साल के लॉग्स के लिए डिवाइस में स्टोरेज कम हो सकता है।

## 7) International comparison mentioned / अंतरराष्ट्रीय तुलना

- The report notes Apple previously **declined attempts** by China to access source code (2014–2016), and **U.S. law enforcement** also tried and failed to obtain it.

रिपोर्ट में उल्लेख है कि Apple ने पहले चीन की सोर्स कोड एक्सेस कोशिशें (2014–2016) ठुकराई, और अमेरिकी कानून-प्रवर्तन ने भी कोशिश की लेकिन असफल रहा।

## 8) What happens next / आगे क्या होगा

- IT Ministry officials and tech executives were scheduled to meet for further discussions; the IT Secretary is quoted saying legitimate industry concerns would be addressed with an **open mind**.  
IT मंत्रालय और टेक कंपनियों की बैठक/चर्चा का उल्लेख है; IT सचिव ने कहा कि उद्योग की वैध चिंताओं को खुले मन से सुना/सुलझाया जाएगा।

- **With reference to the report on proposed smartphone security requirements in India, consider the following statements:**
  - The draft standards include a requirement for **source code access** for vulnerability analysis and may involve testing in designated Indian labs.
  - The proposed standards include measures such as **one-year log retention** and **periodic malware scanning** on phones.
  - The Centre has continued to mandate the “Sanchar Saathi” cyber safety app on all phones, without any change.
  - **Which of the above is/are correct?**
    - A) 1 and 2 only
    - B) 2 and 3 only
    - C) 1 and 3 only
    - D) 1, 2 and 3



# Bhairav Battalions to debut in Army Day parade in Jaipur on January 15

**Saurabh Trivedi**

NEW DELHI

The Army's newly raised modern warfare force, the Bhairav Battalions, will participate in the Army Day parade for the first time in Jaipur on January 15.

A senior Army officer confirmed that two Bhairav Battalions will participate in this year's parade—Southern Command's 2 Bhairav Battalion, known as the 'Desert Falcons', and South Western Command's 4 Bhairav Battalion. The war cry of the 2 Bhairav Battalion is *Raja Ramchandra ki Jai*.

On Sunday, the Army shared a video on its official X handle, showcasing the Bhairav battalions. Highlighting the Army's focus on unmanned warfare, the officer said, "We are creating a pool of over one lakh drone operatives across the force. These operatives are capable of handling drones and employing them in real operations



Bhairav Battalions are high-speed, offensive units capable of executing Special Forces' tasks at multiple levels. ANI VIDEO GRAB

to target bases and formations inside the enemy territory."

Raised by Army headquarters by drawing lessons from global conflicts as well as India's own operational experience, including the recent Operation Sindoora, the Bhairav Battalions are designed as high-speed, offensive units capable of executing Special Forces' tasks at multiple levels, depending on operational requirements, the officer added.

So far, the Army has

raised 15 Bhairav Battalions, deployed across formations along borders, the officers said, adding plans are under way to raise about 25 such battalions in total in the near future.

## Bridging the gap

The battalions are intended to bridge the gap between Para Special Forces and regular infantry units, enabling them to conduct special operations from tactical to operational depth.

"Modern warfare is

changing at a very rapid pace. Today's conflicts are hybrid in nature, and forces must be fully equipped with modern technology to meet these challenges," the officer added. "The Bhairav Battalions are part of force restructuring and have been raised in line with new technologies, evolving thought processes, and emerging operational requirements," the officer said.

As part of a broader transformation, the Army has also created Rudra Brigades—integrated all-arms formations combining infantry, mechanised units, tanks, artillery, special forces, unmanned aerial systems, along with dedicated logistics and combat-support elements.

Additionally, the Artillery, Mechanised Infantry and Armoured Corps are being equipped with advanced capabilities, including drones and modern battlefield systems, to enhance operational effectiveness in future conflicts.

## 1) What's the news / खबर क्या है

- India Army's newly raised modern-warfare force, "Bhairav Battalions," will make their first appearance in the Army Day parade in Jaipur on January 15.

भारतीय सेना की नई आधुनिक-युद्ध इकाई "भैरव बटालियन्स" 15 जनवरी को जयपुर में आर्मी डे परेड में पहली बार हिस्सा लेंगी।

## 2) Which units will participate / कौन-कौन सी यूनिट्स शामिल होंगी

- A senior Army officer said two Bhairav Battalions will participate:
  - Southern Command's 2 Bhairav Battalion (nicknamed "Desert Falcons")
  - South Western Command's 4 Bhairav Battalionवरिष्ठ अधिकारी के अनुसार दो भैरव बटालियन भाग लेंगी:
  - सदर्न कमांड की 2 भैरव बटालियन (उपनाम: "डेज़र्ट फाल्कन्स")
  - साउथ वेस्टर्न कमांड की 4 भैरव बटालियन
- The war cry of 2 Bhairav Battalion is "Raja Ramchandra ki Jai."
- 2 भैरव बटालियन का युद्ध-नारा: "राजा रामचंद्र की जय"।

### 3) Why Bhairav Battalions were raised / भैरव बटालियन्स क्यों बनाई गईं

- The report frames them as **high-speed, offensive units** built for **modern/hybrid warfare**, where conflicts evolve rapidly and forces must be equipped with **modern technology**.

यह इकाइयाँ तेज़-गति वाली आक्रामक (offensive) यूनिट्स हैं, जिन्हें हाइब्रिड/आधुनिक युद्ध के लिए तैयार किया गया है— जहाँ युद्ध के स्वरूप तेजी से बदलते हैं और नई तकनीक जरूरी है।

- They are described as part of **force restructuring**, aligned with **new technologies, evolving doctrines/thought processes, and emerging operational requirements**.

इन्हें फोर्स रीस्ट्रक्चरिंग का हिस्सा बताया गया है—नई तकनीक, बदलते सिद्धांत/सोच और नए ऑपरेशनल रीक्चायरमेंट्स के अनुरूप।

### 4) Role & capability / भूमिका और क्षमता

- Bhairav Battalions are designed to **execute Special Forces-type tasks** at multiple levels, depending on operational needs.

भैरव बटालियन्स को स्पेशल फोर्सेज जैसे कार्य अलग-अलग स्तरों पर (ज़रूरत के अनुसार) करने योग्य बनाया गया है।

- They are intended to **bridge the gap between Para Special Forces and regular infantry**, enabling **special operations from tactical to operational depth**.

इनका उद्देश्य पैरा स्पेशल फोर्सेज और सामान्य इन्फैंट्री के बीच की क्षमता-खाई को भरना है, ताकि टैक्टिकल से ऑपरेशनल डेप्थ तक विशेष ऑपरेशन किए जा सकें।

## 5) Drones & unmanned warfare focus / ड्रोन और अनमैन्ड वॉरफेयर पर फोकस

- The Army highlighted its push toward **unmanned warfare**, mentioning creation of a pool of **over one lakh drone operatives** capable of handling drones and using them in real operations.  
सेना ने अनमैन्ड वॉरफेयर पर जोर दिखाते हुए एक लाख से अधिक ड्रोन ऑपरेटिव्स का पूल बनाने की बात कही—जो ड्रोन संचालन और वास्तविक ऑपरेशनों में उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- The narrative implies drones can support operations to **target bases/formations inside enemy territory**.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार ड्रोन का उपयोग दुश्मन क्षेत्र के भीतर ठिकानों/फॉर्मेशनों को टारगेट करने जैसे कार्यों में मददगार हो सकता है।

## 6) Scale-up plan / विस्तार की योजना

- The Army has **raised 15 Bhairav Battalions** deployed across formations along borders, and plans are underway to raise **about 25 in total** in the near future.  
सेना अब तक 15 भैरव बटालियन खड़ी कर चुकी है (सीमावर्ती फॉर्मेशनों में तैनाती) और निकट भविष्य में कुल लगभग 25 तक बढ़ाने की योजना है।

## 7) Broader transformation mentioned / व्यापक परिवर्तन का संदर्भ

- The article also mentions creation of "**Rudra Brigades**"—integrated all-arms formations combining **infantry, mechanised units, tanks, artillery, special forces, unmanned aerial systems**, plus dedicated logistics and combat support.  
रिपोर्ट में "रुद्र ब्रिगेड्स" का भी ज़िक्र है—जहाँ इन्फैंट्री, मैकेनाइज़ड यूनिट्स, टैंक्स, आर्टिलरी, स्पेशल फोर्सेज, अनमैन्ड एरियल सिस्टम्स को एकीकृत किया गया है, साथ में लॉजिस्टिक्स/कॉम्बैट सपोर्ट भी।
- It adds that **Artillery, Mechanised Infantry and Armoured Corps** are being equipped with advanced capabilities including **drones and modern battlefield systems** for future conflicts.

**Q. With reference to the "Bhairav Battalions" mentioned in the report, consider the following statements:**

1. They are high-speed offensive units designed to execute Special Forces-type tasks at multiple levels.  
/ ये तेज़-गति वाली आक्रमक इकाइयाँ हैं जो स्पेशल फोर्सेज जैसे कार्य कई स्तरों पर कर सकती हैं।
2. They are intended to bridge the gap between Para Special Forces and regular infantry, enabling special operations from tactical to operational depth. / इनका उद्देश्य पैरा स्पेशल फोर्सेज और नियमित इन्फैंट्री के बीच गैप भरना है।
3. The report says the Army has already raised 25 Bhairav Battalions and plans to reduce them to 15. /  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार सेना ने 25 खड़ी कर ली हैं और इन्हें 15 तक घटाने की योजना है।

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

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

## IN BRIEF



## RSS evolving with time, taking new forms: Mohan Bhagwat

The Kashiya Swamiyak Sangh (RSS) is not changing but "gradually evolving" and "simply unfolding," said Bhagwat. Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday that the RSS chief was in the meeting held at the organisation's office in New Delhi to launch the song album of the upcoming film *Shershaah*, which features the RSS leader as the protagonist. RSS chief Sukhdev Singh, director Aakash Mall, co-producer Ashish Tiwari, and RSS functionary Bhayalji Joshi were present on the occasion. "The RSS is not changing, it is growing its centenary, as was the organisation evolves and takes on new forms, people perceive it as changing. However, it's not actually changing; it's simply unfolding gradually," Mr. Bhagwat said in his address. □

## Congress leader Sonia Gandhi discharged from hospital

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairman Sonia Gandhi was discharged from hospital at 5 p.m. on Sunday, with advice to continue further treatment. The 67-year-old Congress leader was admitted to Sir Ganganagar Hospital in Delhi on the evening of January 5 with symptoms of a respiratory infection. Due to the infection, she has responded well to treatment with a good recovery, according to Ajay Swaroop, chairman, Board of Management, Sir Ganganagar Hospital.

## Environment Ministry funds sought for forest management committees

## Abhishek Lakshman

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in talks with the Environment, Forests, and Climate Change ministry for the management of community forest resources. For which rights have been granted to tribal communities and other forest-dwellers under the conditions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), government officials said.

Officials of both ministries met over it recently, and the Tribal Affairs Ministry is in the process of writing to the Environment Ministry formally on this issue, an official said. The *Hindu*, which was told that the forest bureaucracy was at odds with the goals of community-led forest resource management.



For the last 20 years, the FRA has recognised the historical rights of Schedule tribes, while other forest-dwellers on the forests they have lived in and around these forests have been granted rights that had already been granted to gram sabhas.

The guidelines provided by the FRA management committee under the title-holding of gram sabha, said the official, that conservation and management plan be drawn up by the community before the Forest Department is called in to align them with the Environment Ministry's work.

ing plant codes. The Union government is now looking to cope in the Environment Ministry to fund the CFR management committees that are being set up under the FRA.

The senior official said: "The CFRM committees will need resources and will help in monitoring. They will be in touch with the officials, prepare plans, and even train their own members in the day-to-day operations. The idea is to get the community involved in running the day-to-day operations."

A meeting at the level of Secretary of both Ministries was held over the last month. "If necessary, additional staff could be recruited to ensure that the planning of forest conservation and management plan be drawn up by the community and is not necessarily taken over by the forest department," one of the officials said.

Among the largest in the world, would deliver round-the-clock clean power through advanced smart grid, solar energy integration, powering India's growth and rendering Gujarat's leadership in renewable energy.

**Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on Sunday said Gujarat was far more than just a factory.**

"For Reliance, Gujarat is our heart, heart, and soul. We are a Gujarat company. We are a part of the Gujarat Regional Conference Rajkot," Mr. Ambani said.

Mr. Ambani said he was making five firm commitments to the state. He said Reliance was the largest investor in Gujarat's largest investor, having invested over ₹3.8 lakh crore in the past five years. "If necessary, additional investment to ₹7 lakh crore over the next five years, would be made to ensure that employment, livelihoods, and prosperity for every person in every Indian," he said.

The second economic commitment, he said, was to establish global leadership in

## SAROJ

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in talks with the Environment, Forests, and Climate Change ministry for the management of community forest resources. For which rights have been granted to tribal communities and other forest-dwellers under the conditions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), government officials said.

Officials of both ministries met over it recently, and the Tribal Affairs Ministry is in the process of writing to the Environment Ministry formally on this issue, an official said. The *Hindu*, which was told that the forest bureaucracy was at odds with the goals of community-led forest resource management.

## Reliance to invest ₹7 lakh crore in Gujarat over next five years: Ambani

## Abhishek Lakshman

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on Sunday said Gujarat was far more than just a factory.

"For Reliance, Gujarat is our heart, heart, and soul. We are a Gujarat company. We are a part of the Gujarat Regional Conference Rajkot," Mr. Ambani said.

"Reliance is making five firm commitments to the state. He said Reliance was the largest investor in Gujarat's largest investor, having invested over ₹3.8 lakh crore in the past five years. "If necessary, additional investment to ₹7 lakh crore over the next five years, would be made to ensure that employment, livelihoods, and prosperity for every person in every Indian," he said.

The second economic commitment, he said, was to establish global leadership in

clean energy and green materials. At Jamnagar, Reliance is building the world's largest integrated clean energy ecosystem, comprising wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, green fertilizers, sustainable aviation fuel, natural gas, and advanced materials.

"Jamnagar, once the world's largest exporter of hydrocarbon fuels, will in the coming years become India's largest exporter of green energy and green materials," he said. He said Reliance's multi-gigawatt, utility-scale solar project,

## SAROJ

among the largest in the world, would deliver round-the-clock clean power through advanced smart grid, solar energy integration, powering India's growth and rendering Gujarat's leadership in renewable energy.

**Reliance AI platform** The fourth commitment was to make Rajkot India's artificial intelligence platform. Anil Ambani, who was building India's largest already data centre in the city, said, "Reliance is making AI affordable and accessible to every Indian."

"We will launch India's first AI supercomputer, built in India for India and the world. We will start our first data centre in Rajkot, which will be making AI affordable and accessible to every Indian."

"In Jamnagar, once the world's largest exporter of hydrocarbon fuels, will in the coming years become India's largest exporter of green energy and green materials," he said. He said Reliance's multi-gigawatt, utility-scale solar project,

year partnering with the Gujarat government's Olympic ambitions and social initiatives. Mr. Ambani said the state's education and innovation fully supported the Prime Minister's vision of making India a global Olympic Games to Ahmedabad.

Karan Adani, managing director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, said the Adani Group, Gujarat is not just a state of investment, but a state of innovation. "Gujarat is where our project begins and where our project ends. Our long-term commitment remains anchored."

"Building on this foundation, Adani Group commits to invest ₹5.8 lakh crore over the next five years, a major portion of which, is the Khanda project, where we will complete our Khanda project and double its capacity, and we will also double our port capacity at Mundra in the next 10 years," he said.

## THE CROSSWORD

14689

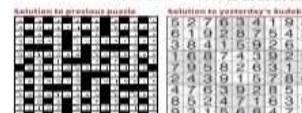
Solve this puzzle online and  
access more puzzles at  
<https://crossword.thehindu.com>

- Across**
- 1. One who represents notable pub attacker (16)
  - 2. Star of the show (10)
  - 3. Universal good and a new person (7)
  - 4. Almost induce twitch and tanning (7)
  - 5. But eki Youeng loit It is seeng, cold and bigosse (10)
  - 6. First class backward place (6)
- Down**
- 7. Lady there perhaps with sadness (15)
  - 8. Climbing and having one's art club rag, perhaps (8,7)
  - 9. Medieval dynasty welcomed English royal, a deadly list of years (7)
  - 10. Maharsi Vishwakar's a yogi (6)
  - 11. Honour contexts mostly and millions rain (8)
  - 12. Dishing and P. in law is a plan to disease (9-2)
  - 13. Get old British coach right away (6)
  - 14. Large and royal, complete car (9)
  - 15. Parasite, star kid never, sparrow breed (6)
  - 16. Team star of tins on sale (6)
  - 17. Check water tank capacity, perfect for dark chocolate (6)
  - 18. Reckless and unscrupulous, a person of surprising ability (6)
  - 19. Clean tid, possibly for dirtiness (6)
  - 20. The name part on lens, andless turned and a piece of religious music (6)
  - 21. Star of the show, including scoundrel, he's a typical (6)
  - 22. Disturbed house-cart with hands and parts of a salt (6)
  - 23. Starts to exploit new character accountants, someone hooligan (6)
  - 24. Black reptile return, covering distance of an Amazonian state (6)
  - 25. Tongues caught in setting insulation (6)
  - 26. One who runs back to run through again (5)

## SUDOKU

7	8	9	5	2				
1				5	9			
7		4	5					
3	9	6	4					
	2	7		6				
3	8							
4			1					
	7	4	5	6				

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★



## FAITH

## Gift we seek from Krishna

Tiruppa means many things to many people today. For many, it is the pull of Andal's poetic Tamil and effervescent presentation of bhakti. For many, it is the enduring appeal of M. Venkateswaran's *Thiruppa* and *Thiruppa 2*. For a few, it is the attraction of Pongal, especially on the day of *Koosai Veluthiru* (see *crossword*), and the sakkarai pongal, the traditional sweet dish. For many more, it is the song of Sevilliputtur, where Andal (Devadasi) sang together in finding eternal happiness. Andal (Devadasi) said *Om Sri Ramam* and *Om Sri Rama* with various mantras. Andal calls upon Govinda, three times in this *crossword* (27). Following the early morning austerities and listening to the sound of conch shells near the temple, Andal calls out to Perumal. Krishna gives the assurance in the Bhagavad Gita that he will be with her. Andal says, "I will go to him, I will accept that surrender." In the Ramayana, when everyone is gathered for the *Sai Ramam* Parabrahmam, Andal calls upon Rama, who is the incarnation of Krishna, Andal, who manifested as Rama, tells the sage to wait as he was unable to find His most important person. He was requested by the sage to wait for her, to take His abode in the bosom of the incarnation and to let her in to carry the same on his shoulder. Genuinely touched, Rama offers a precious pearl necklace to Amrutha. Andal says a prayer to the world's most loved gift, the Krishna. When He says, "You had gifted her everything she sought in Tiruppa", Andal says she and her friends (teethless) only want to serve Him regardless of how many rebirths they take.

# Countdown to launch of PSLV-C62 mission begins

The vehicle, carrying an earth observation satellite and 15 'co-passengers' developed by Indian and overseas customers, is set to lift off at 10.17 a.m. today; it is the 105th launch from Sriharikota

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

The 22.5-hour countdown to the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), carrying an earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites, commenced at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Sunday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission at 10.17 a.m. on Monday from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. This will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota. It will also be the 64th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and the fifth mission of the PSLV-DL variant.

The 15 co-passenger satellites have been developed by start-ups and academic institutions from India and abroad. The EOS-N1 satellite is said to have been built for strategic purposes.

"It is a commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). EOS-N1 and 14 co-passenger satellites



The ISRO said that after the injection of EOS-N1 and 14 satellites, the PS4 stage will be re-started to de-boost and enter a re-entry trajectory, followed by KID Capsule separation. @isro/X

will be injected into a Sun Synchronous Orbit and KID Capsule into a re-entry trajectory," the ISRO said.

It added that after the injection of EOS-N1 and 14 satellites, the PS4 stage will be re-started to de-boost and enter a re-entry trajectory, followed by KID Capsule separation. "Both PS4 stage and KID Capsule will re-enter into Earth's Atmosphere and impact will

be in the South Pacific Ocean," the ISRO said.

The 15 co-passengers are: Theos-2 earth observation satellite built jointly by Thailand and the U.K.; CGUSAT by Dhruva Space (India); DSUSAT by Dhruva Space; MOI-1 by Dhruva Space and Takeme2Space (India); LACHIT by Dhruva Space and Don Bosco University (India); Thybolt-3 by Dhruva Space;

Munal by Nepal university Antharkshya Pratishtan (Nepal) and MEA, GoI; KID Capsule by Orbital Paradigm (Spain) and RIDE! (France); Edusat by AlltoSpace (Brazil); Uaisat by AlltoSpace; Galaxy Explorer by AlltoSpace; Orbital Temple by AlltoSpace; Aldebaran-1 by AlltoSpace; Sanskarsat by Laxman Gyanpith (India); and Ayul-Sat by OrbitAid (India).

- **Countdown started:** A 22.5-hour countdown has begun for the PSLV-C62 mission at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.**  
काउंटडाउन शुरू: श्रीहरिकोटा स्थित सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (SDSC) में PSLV-C62 मिशन का 22.5 घंटे का काउंटडाउन शुरू हुआ।
- **Launch time & pad:** ISRO is set to launch PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 mission at 10:17 a.m. from the **First Launch Pad.**  
लॉन्च समय/पैड: ISRO PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 मिशन को सुबह 10:17 बजे फर्स्ट लॉन्च पैड से लॉन्च करेगा।

## 2) What the rocket carries / रॉकेट क्या ले जा रहा है

- **Main payload:** An Earth Observation Satellite: EOS-N1.  
मुख्य पेलोड: पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह: EOS-N1
- **Co-passengers:** 15 co-passenger payloads developed by Indian and overseas customers (start-ups and academic institutions are mentioned).  
को-पैसेंजर: 15 सह-पेलोड, जिनमें भारत और विदेश के ग्राहक/स्टार्टअप/शैक्षणिक संस्थान शामिल बताए गए हैं।
- **EOS-N1 purpose:** The report mentions EOS-N1 is built for **strategic purposes.**  
EOS-N1 का उद्देश्य: रिपोर्ट के अनुसार EOS-N1 रणनीतिक (strategic) उद्देश्यों के लिए बनाया गया है।

#### 4) Commercial angle / कमर्शियल पहलू

- The report describes it as a **commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**.

रिपोर्ट में इसे **NSIL (NewSpace India Limited)** का कमर्शियल मिशन बताया गया है।

#### 5) Orbit insertion & post-deployment sequence / ऑर्बिट और डिप्लॉयमेंट के बाद की प्रक्रिया

- **Orbit:** EOS-N1 and 14 satellites are planned to be injected into a **Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)**.  
कक्षा: EOS-N1 और 14 उपग्रहों को सन-सिंक्रोनस ऑर्बिट (SSO) में स्थापित किया जाएगा।
- **Re-entry demonstration:** The **KID Capsule** is to be placed into a **re-entry trajectory**.  
री-एंट्री: KID कैप्सूल को री-एंट्री ट्रैक्चरी में डाला जाएगा।
- **PS4 stage restart:** After injecting EOS-N1 and 14 satellites, the **PS4 stage** will be **re-started to de-boost**, followed by **KID Capsule separation**.

**PS4 री-स्टार्ट:** EOS-N1 व 14 सैटेलाइट्स की इंजेक्शन के बाद **PS4 स्टेज** को डी-बूस्ट के लिए दोबारा स्टार्ट किया जाएगा, फिर **KID कैप्सूल** सेपरेशन होगा।

- **Impact area:** It is mentioned both **PS4 stage** and **KID Capsule** will re-enter Earth's atmosphere and impact in the **South Pacific Ocean**.

**इम्पैक्ट क्षेत्र:** रिपोर्ट के अनुसार **PS4 स्टेज** और **KID कैप्सूल** री-एंट्री के बाद साउथ पैसिफिक ओशन में गिरेंगे/इम्पैक्ट करेंगे।

- Mission significance / ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਸਿੰਗਿਫੁਨਸ਼ੀਟ / ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਸਿੰਗਿਫੁਨਸ਼ੀਟ
  - Milestones: This is stated to be the 105th launch from Sriharikota, the 64th flight of PSLV, and the 5th mission of the PSLV-DL variant.

- **Co-passenger list mentioned (high-value names) / ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ପଣ୍ଡିତ ହକ୍କାନ୍ଦିଗ୍ର (ଖଣ୍ଡାଦୁହୁକ୍କାଷ୍ଟରବ୍ରା)**
  - The report lists co-passengers including: **Theos-2 (Thailand–U.K.)**, multiple payloads by Dhruva Space, payloads by AlltoSpace (Brazil), Munal (Nepal university + MEA, Gol), Sansksarat (Laxman Gyanpith, India), Ayul-Sat (OrbitAid, India), and KID Capsule (Spain + France partners).

Topic	Key idea (English)	ख्रक्षद्वा ॥व्रत् (Hindi)
Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)	Orbit where the satellite passes the same area at nearly the same local solar time—ideal for consistent Earth imagery.	ਚੜ੍ਹਣ ਤੁ ਲਕਿ ਸ਼ਨਿ-ਫੁਰਕਣ ਕਿਵੈਣ ਚੁਪਕੁਪ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਪਾਹ “ਚੰਝੜ੍ਹ ਚ ਫੁੜ੍ਹਚ ਘਰ ਭਵਸ਼ਰ” ਵੇਖ ਸ਼ਡ ਫੜ੍ਹ ਲੁੜ੍ਹ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਰੁੜ੍ਹ ਵੇਖ ਫੜ੍ਹ ਪਕਣ ਘਲਕ ਪਾਚ—੧ ਲੜ੍ਹਾ ਛੇ ਦੁਅਕਰਟ੍ਰਾਏ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਸ਼ਚੜ੍ਹ ਕਿਵੈਗੁੜ੍ਹਪਾਹਦੁ
De-boost	Controlled reduction of orbital speed/altitude to bring a stage/object into re-entry.	ਤੁ ਲਕਿ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਰੁੜ੍ਹ ਦੁਦਕਰਵਾਏ/ਪਾਲਿ ਤੁਕਰ੍ਹ ਘ ਤੁਬਕਿ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਸ਼ਚੜ੍ਹ ਤੁਕਰ੍ਹ ਚੁਹ ਫੜ੍ਹ ਘਹ- ਤੁਕਰ੍ਹ ਵੇਖ ਚਰਣਕਰਵਾਏ
PS4 restart concept	Restart capability allows precise orbital adjustments and controlled disposal / experiments after payload deployment.	ਘਹ-ਾਕਰਲਾ ਲਕਾਲਕ ਫੜ੍ਹ ਵੰਡੁਚੜ੍ਹਮ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ॥ਵਰਦ ਫੁਲਹੜ੍ਹ ਛੇ ਸ਼ਾਕਲਾਚ ਤੁਮਨ ਅਖਕਲਾਚ ਰੁ ਘ ਅਡੁਨ ਸ਼ਮਿੰਝਾਧਚ/ਤੁਝੁਫੁ਷ਾਘਰਕਲਾਚ ਫੁਕਰਾਅ ਪਾਡੁਲਾਚ ਪਾਸਾਵਾਏ
NSIL role	Commercial arm that markets/executes space missions and services.	ਜੁੜ੍ਹ ਸ਼ਰਕਰਟ੍ਰਾਏ/ਫੁੜ੍ਹਤੁਕਰ੍ਹ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਵੇਖ ਤੁ ਖਰਸ਼ਟੁਕਾਗਚ ਸ਼ਮਿੰਝਾਧਚ/ਖਰਕਰ੍ਹ ਵੇਖਕਲਾਚ ਤੁੜ੍ਹ ਘਣੁੜ੍ਹ ਅਕਰਚਾਨ ਸੁੜ੍ਹ ਵੇਖਦੁ

- With reference to the PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 mission described in the report, consider the following statements:
  - The mission is scheduled for liftoff at **10:17 a.m.** from the **First Launch Pad** at Sriharikota. / ਚਾਹੁੰ 10:17 ਅਨ੍ਤਿ ਕਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਫੁੱਲ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗ ਪਾਂਚਾਂ
  - EOS-N1 and **14 satellites** are planned for injection into a **Sun-Synchronous Orbit**, while the **KID Capsule** is to be placed on a **re-entry trajectory**. / EOS-N1 + 14 ਫੁੱਲ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗ ਸਾਡੇ SSO ਰਕਲ, ਤੇ ਘੋ ਕਿਡ ਕੰਪੋਜ਼ਿਟ ਘਾਹ-ਫੁੱਲ ਮਹਾ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਫੁੱਲ ਘਾਹ ਰਕਲਾਂ
  - The report says this is the **105th launch from Sriharikota** and the **5th mission of the PSLV-DL variant**. / ਗ੍ਰਾਹ 105ਵਾਂ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਤੇ ਘੋ PSLV-DL ਵਿੱਚ 5ਵਾਂ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਗਰੀਬ ਪਾਂਚਾਂ
  - Which of the above is/are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only  
B) 2 and 3 only  
C) 1 and 3 only  
D) 1, 2 and 3



# Will India soon have 3 new airlines?

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu's recent meeting with the promoters of Shankh Air, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress has rekindled hopes of new airlines taking to the skies; Air Kerala and TruJet, too, are waiting in the wings

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Aneesh Phadnis**

**W**ill India soon have three new airlines? While the country's airline startup story so far has been about big promises and missed deadlines, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu's recent meeting with promoters of Shankh Air, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress has rekindled hopes of new airlines taking to the skies.

India is amongst the fastest growing aviation markets in the world. Government schemes like UDAN have enabled smaller carriers Star Air, India One Air and Fly91 to play an important role in the country's regional connectivity and there is scope for further growth, Mr. Naidu said in his social media post on December 23.

Alongside Shankh Air, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress, Air Kerala and TruJet, too, are waiting in the wings. All of them have received the ministry's 'no objection clearance' – some over a year ago – but have been hamstrung by their inability to procure aircraft and delays in raising funds. However, there could be some good news around the corner.

### Cautious restart

"We hope to sign a letter of intent to lease one Airbus A320 aircraft this month," said Umesh Vankayalapati, MD of TruJet. TruJet flew



**Fresh takeoff:** TruJet flew during 2015-22 before running out of funds; this time around, Managing Director Umesh Vankayalapati wants to play safe. FILE PHOTO



We hope to sign a letter of intent to lease one Airbus A320 aircraft this month. We plan to begin operations with at least three aircraft

**UMESH VANKAYALAPATI**  
MD of TruJet

bai and other metros. Two days later the airline said it plans to commence operations around March.

In another interview, Mr. Vishwakarma said Shankh Air will offer flat fares through the year. He said the airline is well funded and has even received loans from foreign banks.

He told a wire agency on December 30 that the airline is likely to start operations in the first half of January, with an initial fleet of three Airbus aircraft. The airline will connect Lucknow with Delhi, Mum-

crucial air operator certificate needed to start commercial operations. There is no information on its aircraft deliveries, or pilot hiring, among other things.

Another startup, Al Hind Air is also on a sticky wicket with reports of staff being sent on leave without pay from November 15, due to delays in securing regulatory approvals.

### Rigorous process

As per norms, companies seeking civil aviation ministry NOC for an airline must have minimum paid-up capital of ₹1.50 crore. The requirement is ₹1 crore for a cargo airline; ₹5 crore for scheduled commuter (regional); and ₹50 crore for scheduled airlines.

Besides submitting a business plan to the civil aviation ministry, airlines waiting to launch must secure security clearance from

the government.

The more rigorous task, however, involves securing an air operator certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Companies have to prepare manuals on engineering, operations and safety, specifying the exact aircraft each airline intends to operate.

An important aspect of this exercise is the inspection of facilities and a tabletop exercise to simulate various operational scenarios, ranging from service recovery following snags to aircraft hijack. The final step is a proving flight to assess the operational readiness of the new airline. While in an ideal scenario an AOC process can be completed in six months, typically it takes 9-12 months.

"We have completed one step of the DGCA AOC process and prepared the required operations manuals. We will be moving to our new office this month and plan to start operations in the summer schedule. Initially we plan to invest ₹500 crore in the airline," Mr. Vankayalapati said.

While domestic passenger growth slowed last year (around 4% in the first 11 months), the opportunities are immense. India is the third largest air transport market in the world behind the U.S. and China. Nearly 174 million passengers travelled from, and within India in 2024, according to International Air Transport Association

data. Policies like UDAN have brought air connectivity to tier 2 and 3 towns, and fuelled the growth ambitions of startups.

Aviation sector experts say startup airlines need to demonstrate confidence to aircraft lessors and original equipment manufacturers. That, in turn, calls for a sound business plan and a strong management team.

"Airlines don't make money until they reach a certain scale and thus need to provision for losses. From a lessor perspective, the most important questions are, 'How will the startup pay the lease rent' and 'What will the cash flows be like?,' says aviation consultant Vishok Mansingh.

"Start-ups in high-growth markets like India are logical, but it is going to be tough, given the market structure. For a national-level airline, start-ups would require close to ₹1 billion funding for the first five years to survive and remain relevant," said Kapil Kaul, CEO of consultancy CAPA India.

While Go First's bankruptcy and Spicejet's challenges have made lessors cautious, larger players continue to supply planes to India, Mansingh said. "Each company has its own risk appetite based on its exposure to an airline or the country," he remarked.

Will the newcomers win lessors' confidence? We will have to look skywards for the answer.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

- **TruJet (cautious restart)**
  - Flew during 2015–22, then ran out of funds; now wants to restart carefully.
  - Plan: sign a **letter of intent to lease one Airbus A320** this month; start operations with **at least 3 aircraft** to maintain schedule reliability.
  - Target: **5 aircraft this year, 20 aircraft in 3 years**; base in **Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)**.
  - Also mentions: has completed **one step** of DGCA AOC process, prepared operations manuals, plans to start in the **summer schedule**, and aims to invest about **₹500 crore** initially.

### TruJet (सावधानी से री-स्टार्ट)

- 2015–22 में उड़ानें, फिर फंड खत्म; अब सावधानी से वापसी।
- योजना: इस महीने **Airbus A320** के लिए **LOI**; शुरुआत कम से कम 3 विमानों से ताकि शेड्यूल भरोसेमंद रहे।
- लक्ष्य: इस साल 5 विमान, 3 साल में 20 विमान; बेस विशाखापट्टनम (आंध्र प्रदेश)।
- DGCA AOC प्रक्रिया का एक स्टेप पूरा, ऑपरेशंस मैनुअल तैयार, समर शेड्यूल में शुरुआत की योजना, शुरुआती निवेश ₹500 करोड़।

- **Shankh Air (ambitious claims, timeline uncertainty)**
  - Chairman said (earlier) operations could start with **3 Airbus aircraft**, connecting **Lucknow with Delhi, Mumbai and other metros**; later the airline indicated operations may begin around **March**.
  - It also talked about **flat fares** and claimed it is well-funded (even loans from foreign banks).
  - Yet the report flags that starting operations by early targets looks difficult because it lacks the crucial **AOC** (Air Operator Certificate) and there's no clear info on aircraft deliveries/pilot hiring.

### **Shankh Air (बड़े दावे, टाइमलाइन अनिश्चित)**

- 3 Airbus विमानों से शुरुआत, लखनऊ-दिल्ली/मुंबई व अन्य मेट्रो कनेक्ट करने की बात; बाद में मार्च के आसपास शुरुआत का संकेत।
- "फ्लैट फेयर" और फंडिंग/विदेशी बैंक लोन के दावे।
- फिर भी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार बिना AOC के शुरुआत कठिन; विमान डिलीवरी/पायलट हायरिंग पर स्पष्टता नहीं।

- **AI Hind Air (regulatory delays hurting operations readiness)**

- Report mentions staff being sent on **leave without pay** from **Nov 15**, linked to delays in securing regulatory approvals.

### **AI Hind Air (रेगुलेटरी देरी का असर)**

- 15 नवम्बर से स्टाफ को बिना वेतन छुट्टी पर भेजने जैसी खबरें—रेगुलेटरी मंजूरी में देरी से जुड़ा संकेत।

## ◆ 1. Core Reasons for Airline Losses | एयरलाइन घाटे के मुख्य कारण

### A. Extremely High Fixed Costs | बहुत ज्यादा स्थायी लागत

- Aircraft purchase/lease, maintenance, insurance  
विमान खरीद/लीज़, मेंटेनेंस, बीमा
- Staff salaries (pilots, cabin crew, engineers)  
कर्मचारियों की ऊँची सैलरी
- Airport charges, parking, landing fees  
एयरपोर्ट शुल्क

➡ Even if planes fly **half-empty**, costs remain almost same.

➡ आधी सीटें खाली होने पर भी लागत लगभग वही रहती है।

---

### B. Fuel Cost Volatility | ईंधन की कीमतों में भारी उतार-चढ़ाव

- Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) = 30–45% of total cost
- Fuel prices depend on **global crude oil + geopolitics**

➡ टिकट सस्ते, लेकिन ईंधन महँगा = नुकसान

---

### C. Price Wars & Thin Margins | टिकट युद्ध और कम मुनाफ़ा

- Passengers choose **cheapest ticket**, not airline brand
- Low-cost carriers force price cuts

➡ Average global airline margin: **2–4% only**

## ◆ 2. Why Some Airlines Still Make Profits? | कुछ एयरलाइंस मुनाफे में कैसे हैं?

Profitable airlines usually have:

- Scale (large fleets & networks)
- Strong domestic markets
- Ancillary revenue (baggage, seat selection, loyalty programs)
- Fuel hedging & cost control
- Cargo + passenger mix

## D. Cyclical Demand & Shocks | अचानक झटके

- Pandemics (COVID-19), wars, terrorism
- Economic slowdown reduces air travel

➡ Demand crashes instantly, costs don't

## E. Heavy Debt & Leasing | ज़्यादा कर्ज

- Most airlines **don't own aircraft** → lease payments in USD
- Currency depreciation hurts non-US airlines

## F. Regulatory & Tax Burden | टैक्स और नियम

- High aviation taxes (especially in India, Europe)
- Environmental costs (carbon taxes, green fuel mandates)

Rank	Airline	Country	Business Model	Why Profitable
1	<b>Ryanair</b>	Ireland	Ultra Low-Cost	Lowest costs, high aircraft utilization
2	<b>Delta Air Lines</b>	USA	Full Service	Strong domestic demand, loyalty revenue
3	<b>United Airlines</b>	USA	Full Service	Global network + premium passengers
4	<b>Emirates</b>	UAE	Full Service	Hub advantage, long-haul dominance
5	<b>Southwest Airlines</b>	USA	Low-Cost	Fuel hedging, simple operations



# Trump delivers oil warning, urges Cuba to 'strike a deal with U.S. before it is too late'

**Agence France-Presse**

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump urged Cuba on Sunday to "make a deal" or face unspecified consequences, warning that the flow of Venezuelan oil and money to Havana would now stop.

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO!" Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social channel. "I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Trump reposted a message suggesting that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio could become the President of Cuba. Mr. Trump shared that post with the comment: "Sounds good to me!"

## **U.S. President reposts a message suggesting that Marco Rubio could become the President of Cuba**

In his own post soon afterwards, Mr. Trump said that "Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided 'Security Services' for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE!"

### **Cuba rebuffs threat**

Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Sunday rebuffed Mr. Donald Trump's threat against his country, vowing to defend.

"Cuba is a free, independent and sovereign nation.

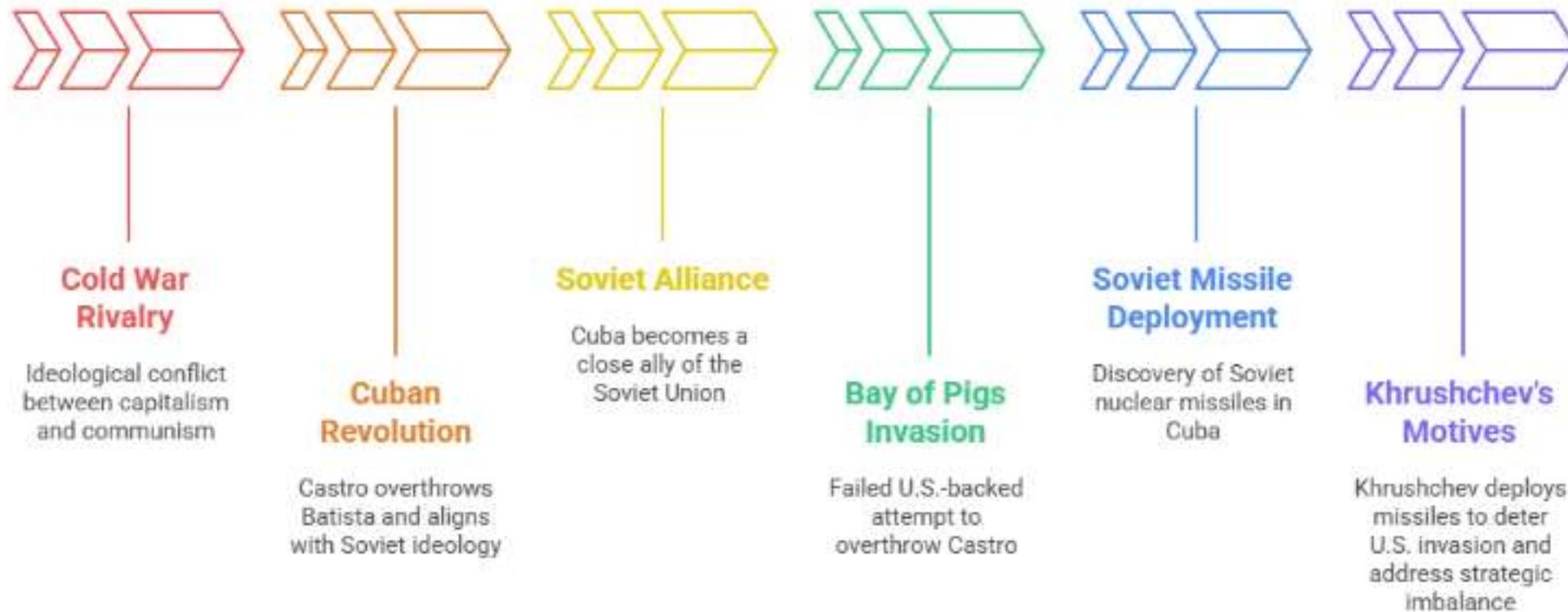
No one tells us what to do," Mr. Diaz-Canel wrote on X, adding that the Caribbean island was "ready to defend the homeland to the last drop of blood."

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said Cuba has not received compensation for security services provided to any other country, according to a post on X on Sunday. He said that Cuba has the right to import fuel from any country willing to export it.

Mr. Rodriguez accused the U.S. of behaving in a "criminal" manner that threatens global peace.

Under a U.S. trade embargo, Havana since 2000 has increasingly relied on Venezuelan oil provided as part of a deal struck with Nicolas Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez.

## Causes of the Cuban Crisis



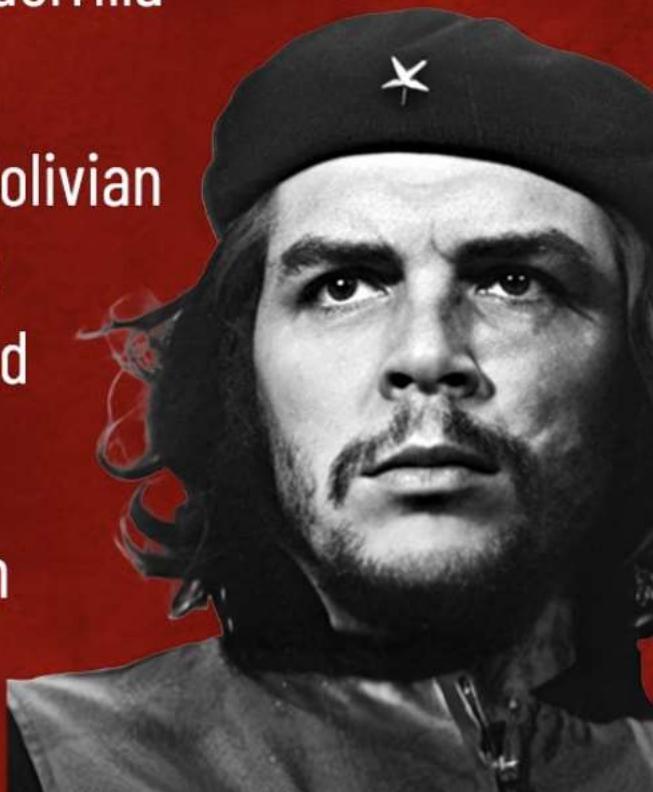
Aspect	Details
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1953 – 1959</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>Cuba</b>
<b>Leader</b>	<b>Fidel Castro</b>
<b>Key Revolutionary</b>	<b>Che Guevara</b>
<b>Ruling Regime Overthrown</b>	<b>Fulgencio Batista</b>
<b>Nature of Movement</b>	Armed guerrilla revolution
<b>Ideology</b>	Socialism → later <b>Communism</b>
<b>Final Victory</b>	<b>1 January 1959</b>
<b>Immediate Outcome</b>	Batista fled Cuba
<b>Long-term Outcome</b>	Establishment of a socialist state

Year	Event
1953	Attack on <b>Moncada Barracks</b> (failed)
1955	Castro released from prison
1956	Castro & Che land in Cuba via <i>Granma</i>
1956–58	Guerrilla warfare in Sierra Maestra
1959	Batista flees → Revolution succeeds

Aspect	Impact
<b>Political</b>	One-party socialist state
<b>Economic</b>	Nationalisation of industries
<b>Foreign Policy</b>	Alignment with Soviet Union
<b>USA Relations</b>	Diplomatic ties broken (1961)
<b>Cold War</b>	Led to <b>Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)</b>

# Who is Che Guevara?

- ◆ An Argentinean-born, Cuban revolutionary leader who became a left-wing hero
- ◆ He was prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution (1956–59), and guerrilla leader in South America.
- ◆ After his execution by the Bolivian army, his image became an icon of leftist radicalism and anti-imperialism.
- ◆ An Argentinean-born, Cuban revolutionary leader who became a left-wing hero



# Che Guevara's India Connection



India was among the first nations to recognize Cuba following the 1959 Cuban revolution. Shortly after, Fidel Castro sent Ernesto Che Guevara on a three-month tour of several countries in Asia and Africa, most of which were a part of the Bandung Pact. India was part of the Bandung Pact. Bandung Pact was a coalition of countries that had recently achieved independence from colonial powers.

Year	Event
1959	Cuban Revolution
1961	US cuts diplomatic ties
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis
1962	US imposes trade embargo
2015	Diplomatic relations restored (Obama era)
2017–2024	Sanctions re-tightened (Trump–Biden era)









# India Post Launches Speed Post 24 & Speed Post 48



## Objective | उद्देश्य

- Modernisation of India Post logistics system.  
भारतीय डाक की लॉजिस्टिक्स प्रणाली का आधुनिकीकरण।
  - Competing with private courier & e-commerce delivery services.  
निजी कूरियर और ई-कॉमर्स डिलीवरी सेवाओं से प्रतिस्पर्धा।
- 

## ◆ 4. Infrastructure Development Linked with Launch | आधारभूत ढाँचा विकास

- Renovation of Pichhor Sub-Post Office (Cost: ₹2 lakh).  
पिछोर उप-डाकघर का नवीनीकरण (लागत: ₹2 लाख)।
  - Foundation stone laid for a new sub-post office building (Cost: ₹1.11 crore).  
नए उप-डाकघर भवन की आधारशिला (लागत: ₹1.11 करोड़)।
  - Focus on rural & semi-urban connectivity.  
ग्रामीण एवं अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों पर विशेष ध्यान।
-

Aspect	Details (English + Hindi)
Organisation	India Post (क्रमघरालूग्र मंत्रालय)
Ministry	Ministry of Communications (ट्रान्सपोर्ट राज्यालय)
New Services	Speed Post 24, Speed Post 48
Delivery Timeline	24 hrs & 48 hrs
Launch Date	12 January 2026
Launch Location	Pichhor, Shivpuri (MP)
Renovation Cost	₹2 lakh
New Building Cost	₹1.11 crore
Sector Impact	Logistics, e-commerce
Nature of Service	Premium, time-bound

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC CSE (Prelims)	2018	India Post functions under which ministry?	Ministry of Communications
SSC CGL	2019	Speed Post is a service of which organisation?	India Post
IBPS PO	2020	Which service ensures time-bound postal delivery?	Speed Post
RPSC RAS Prelims	2022	India Post was established in which year?	1854
Railway NTPC	2023	Postal services in India come under which ministry?	Ministry of Communications

- **With reference to Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, consider the following statements:**
  - Speed Post 24 ensures delivery within 24 hours on selected routes.
  - Speed Post 48 ensures delivery within 48 hours.
  - These services are operated under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

# IIT Madras Launches “Param Shakti” Supercomputer



Aspect

Supercomputer Name

Details (English + Hindi)

Param Shakti (परम शक्ति)

Institution

IIT Madras

Collaborating Agency

C-DAC

Peak Performance

3.1 Petaflops

Calculations

3.1 quadrillion/sec

Server Series

RUDRA

Software

Open-source

Nature

Indigenous

Domain

High-Performance Computing

National Relevance

Atmanirbhar Bharat

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2018	What does 'Petaflop' indicate?	Computing speed
UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	C-DAC is associated with which field?	Supercomputing
SSC CGL	2019	PARAM series is related to?	Supercomputers
RPSC RAS Prelims	2022	Which institution develops supercomputers in India?	C-DAC
Railway NTPC	2023	HPC is mainly used for?	Complex scientific problems

- **With reference to the ‘Param Shakti’ supercomputer, consider the following statements:**
  - It has a peak performance of about 3.1 petaflops.
  - It has been developed in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
  - It operates entirely on proprietary foreign software.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3



# National Youth Day 2026

---

Aspect	Details (English + Hindi)
Observed on	12 January
Dedicated to	Swami Vivekananda
Declared in	1984
Popular Name	Yuva Diwas
Core Message	Youth empowerment
Key Values	Character, discipline, service
Type	National Observance
Relevance	Culture + Ethics + Youth Policy
Famous Quote	Arise, awake...
Focus Area	Nation building

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
UPSC CSE Prelims	2013	National Youth Day is observed on?	12 January
SSC CGL	2017	Yuva Diwas is related to which leader?	Swami Vivekananda
IBPS Clerk	2019	Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is celebrated as?	National Youth Day
RPSC RAS Prelims	2021	Swami Vivekananda emphasized strength of India lies in?	Youth
Railway NTPC	2022	National Youth Day was declared in which year?	1984

- **With reference to National Youth Day, consider the following statements:**
- It is observed every year on 11 January.
- It commemorates the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- It was first declared by the Government of India in 1977.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2

# What is the EU– Mercosur Deal



- EU–Mercosur FTA is a **free trade agreement** between the **European Union and Mercosur**.  
EU–Mercosur FTA यूरोपीय संघ और मर्कोसुर देशों के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौता है।
  - Negotiations started in **1999** and concluded in **December 2024** (after ~25 years)।  
बातचीत 1999 में शुरू हुई और लगभग 25 वर्षों बाद 2024 में पूरी हुई।
  - It is the EU's **largest trade deal** in terms of tariff reduction.  
यह टैरिफ कटौती के लिहाज से EU का सबसे बड़ा व्यापार समझौता है।
- 

## ◆ 2. Mercosur: Members | मर्कोसुर के सदस्य

- **Full Members** | पूर्ण सदस्य
  - **Brazil**
  - **Argentina**
  - **Paraguay**
  - **Uruguay**
  - **Bolivia** (Newest member | नवीनतम सदस्य)
- **Suspended Member** | निलंबित सदस्य
  - **Venezuela** – suspended due to democratic backsliding  
लोकतांत्रिक गिरावट के कारण निलंबित

### ◆ 3. Key Features of the Agreement | समझौते की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ

#### Trade & Economy | व्यापार व अर्थव्यवस्था

- Removal/reduction of tariffs on 90%+ goods.  
90% से अधिक वस्तुओं पर टैरिफ में कटौती।
- EU gains access to agricultural markets (beef, sugar, poultry).  
EU को कृषि उत्पादों के बाजार में प्रवेश।
- Mercosur gains access to EU industrial & automobile markets.  
मर्कोसुर को औद्योगिक व ऑटोमोबाइल बाजार में लाभ।

#### Standards & Rules | मानक व नियम

- Includes sanitary & phytosanitary standards (SPS).  
स्वास्थ्य व पादप सुरक्षा मानक शामिल।
- Protection of Geographical Indications (GI) like cheese, wine.  
भौगोलिक संकेतकों का संरक्षण।

### ◆ 4. Why is the Deal Contested? | विवाद के कारण

#### Political & Environmental Concerns | राजनीतिक व पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ

- France and some EU farmers fear cheap farm imports.  
फ्रांस सहित कई देशों को सस्ते कृषि आयात की चिंता।
- Environmental groups worry about Amazon deforestation.  
अमेझन वर्षावन की कटाई पर चिंता।
- Questions on enforcement of climate commitments.  
जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं के पालन पर संदेह।

Aspect

Founded (Mercosur)

Details (English + Hindi)

1991

Mercosur Meaning

Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market)

Negotiation Start

1999

Deal Conclusion

December 2024

EU Vote

21–5 in favor

Largest Economy in Mercosur

Brazil

Nature of Deal

Free Trade Agreement

Key Sensitive Sector

Agriculture

Environmental Focus

Amazon rainforest

Type of Integration

Inter-regional trade bloc agreement

Exam	Year	Question (Brief)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2016	What is Mercosur?	A South American trade bloc
SSC CGL	2019	Mercosur includes which country?	Brazil
IBPS PO	2020	Which is not a Mercosur member?	Chile
RPSC RAS Prelims	2021	EU is an example of?	Economic & political union
Railway Group-D	2022	Mercosur was formed in which year?	1991

- **With reference to the EU–Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, consider the following statements:**
  - Mercosur was formed in 1991.
  - Venezuela is currently a full active member of Mercosur.
  - The EU–Mercosur deal is the EU's largest agreement in terms of tariff reductions.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
  - A. 1 and 3 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 2 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

# GK-GS + + CURRENT AFFAIRS 2025-26 COMBO

BY BHUNESH SIR

## INCLUDES:

- COMPLETE GK-GS (RECORDED | 200+ HRS)
- COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS (LIVE  
| JAN 2025-MAR 2026 | 20 HIGH PRIORITY TOPICS)

FOR: UPSC, STATE PCS, SSC, BANKING, RAILWAY,  
DEFENCE, EPFO, IB, RRB NTPC, CET, RAS & MORE

GET 20% OFF  
| CODE:  
**NY2026**



Class24

---

# Word of the day

## **Corpulent:**

excessively fat

---

**Synonyms:** obese, rotund, weighty

---

**Usage:** *Even though I have been on a diet, I am still rather corpulent.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic  
Alphabet:** /'kɔ:pjələnt/, /'kɔ:pjʊlənt/

---



Thank you ☺

