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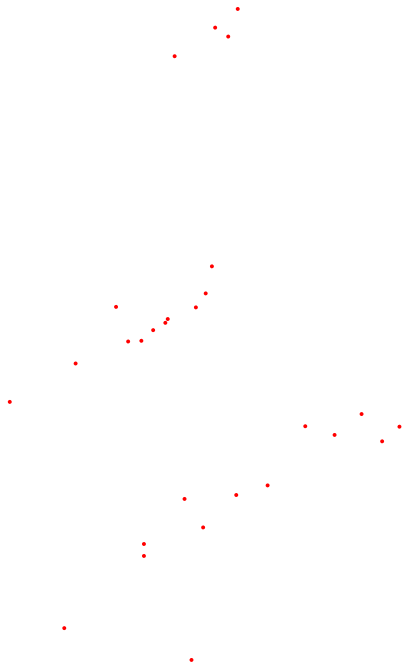


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INSIDE

Manipur's CM reaches out to Kukis, Meiteis

GUWAHATI
Manipur Chief Minister Numbam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday visited Jiribam district and interacted with violence-scarred Kuki and Meitei communities as part of the peace-building mission of the government. **» PAGE 4**

'Vande Mataram must precede the National Anthem'

NEW DELHI
The Centre has said in a set of instructions to the States and government bodies that *Vande Mataram* should be sung or played before the National Anthem. **» PAGE 4**

Ex-TDB secretary summoned by ED in gold theft case

BOMBAY
The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has issued notices to former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) Secretary S. Jayasee and Subhash, an alleged intermediary, in the Sabarwal gold theft case. **» PAGE 5**

Vice Chief of Air Staff seeks more fighter planes

NEW DELHI
Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor on Wednesday described the Rafale fighter jet as the "king" of Operation Freedom, and said the Indian Air Force (IAF) was looking to induct more such fighter aircraft. **» PAGE 5**

Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Egypt point to ancient trade links

N. SAI CHANDRAN
CHENNAI

A path-breaking finding has shed new light on trade links between ancient Tamil Nadu and the Roman Empire. Two researchers have identified close to 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit and Sanskrit at tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. These inscriptions are said to belong to the period between the 1st and 3rd Centuries C.E.

The inscriptions were identified during a study in 2024 and 2025 by Charlotte Schmid, Professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. The team documented the inscriptions across six tombs in the Theban Necropolis. They fol-

lowed in the footsteps of French scholar Jules Baillet-Latouze, who surveyed the Valley of the Kings in 1906 and published more than 2,000 Greek graffiti marks.

Presenting their findings in a paper titled *From the Valley of the Kings to India*, the researchers said that the inscriptions in Egypt at the ongoing International Conference on Tamil Epigraphy, the scholars said the individuals who made these inscriptions came from the north-western, western and southern regions of the Indian subcontinent, with those from the latter forming the majority.

Visitor graffiti
Visitors had left brief inscriptions and graffiti by carving their names on the walls of corridors and rooms marking their presence in the tombs, the researchers said, adding that

these sets of inscriptions appear inside the tombs alongside larger bodies of graffiti in other languages, primarily Greek. Within such settings, the scholars found inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit and Sanskrit. The inscriptions are said to belong to the period between the 1st and 3rd Centuries C.E.

The name *Chal Kozhga* (pronounced "Cholgar") appears repeatedly. It was inscribed eight times across five tombs. The name was found near entrances and high on interior walls among other graffiti marks.

In our tomb, it appears at a height of about four metres at the entrance, Mr. Strauch said. "The name *Chal Kozhga* is revealing, as its first element may be connected to the Sanskrit *śakra*, meaning 'king' or 'crown'. This is not a common personal name, as *Kozhga*, more distinctly Tamil, it carries strong war-

like associations, as it derives from a root, *kogga*, meaning victory and slaying. This root is echoed in the Chera warrior goddess Kozhga and the term *ko*, meaning 'king'. Mr. Schmid said.

More finds
The name *Kozhga* also came up in other finds in Egypt. It appears in *Kozhga*

purnidi, written on a sherd discovered at Berenike, a Red Sea port city in 1998. The name also occurs in the Naganam corpus, where the Chera king, Pirithakazh, is praised in the *Puranan*. It is sometimes directly addressed as *Kozhga*, the scholars pointed out, adding that these parallels in inscriptions from Pagan, the ancient

Chera capital, dated back to the 2nd or 3rd century C.E. Two other individuals also left their names in Tamil Brahmi in these tombs. One inscription reads *Kozhga* and another, *Kozhga*, and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, grains (DGCs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and "other products" (the corrected factsheet read).

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500 billion of U.S. goods, information and communication technology, coal, and other products," the factsheet said.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a query on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out

to the U.S. government to request the changes. The U.S. did not issue any statement before quietly amending the two documents available online.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal. The social media post showed a map of India including in it Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as a "disputed territory".

The post had led to the question of whether the U.S. was changing its position in India's favour.

U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer told Reuters on Wednesday, "India has already started winding down purchases of Russian energy products and are already ramping up purchases of American energy and other sources."

The government has not so far denied the U.S. contention that it has given up Russian oil, saying only that its policy is to "diversify energy sources and that this would be in "national interest".

Govt. plans guidelines on books by veterans

Ministry held a meeting to frame regulations for both serving and retired personnel, says official

The Centre will lay down a framework that must be followed before any manuscript is sanctioned

The OSA continues to apply for life, making it an offence to disclose classified, or sensitive data

New Delhi
The Ministry of Defence has decided to frame guidelines for the publication of books by serving and retired personnel. The guidelines will spell out the process to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication.

A senior defence official confirmed that a meeting was held recently to frame a new set of rules, during which a detailed presentation was made. The upcoming framework is expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act.

There are no specific service rules having to do with the publication of books by serving or retired personnel. However, the freedom of operation within a legal grey area, the Official Secrets Act (OSA) continues to apply for life, even after retirement, making it a criminal offence to disclose classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security.

While retired personnel are no longer governed by the Army Act or Army Rules, the rules are explicit and mandatory. Service rules and defence service regulations require prior written permission before undertaking any literary, political or remunerative activity outside official duties. Requests are routed through a chain of command and may require clearance up to Army

Fresh framework
The upcoming guidelines are expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

■ At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers.

■ The OSA makes disclosure of classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security a criminal offence.

■ The Act continues to apply to an officer for life, even after retirement.

Tricky waters *Left: In the Lakshmi Narayan Temple in the unclassified premises of the Army. Right: A copy of the OSA.*

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Headquarters or the MoD, depending on the nature of the content.

Material relating to classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence information, or information affecting national security or foreign relations is strictly prohibited. Even fictional works may face restrictions if they closely resemble real operations or disclose identifiable details.

Individual's judgment
Lt. Gen. Girdh J.P. Pandey said, "When an Army person retires, he or she is as free as a citizen in any other field but the facet of Official Secrets Act remains. After retirement, a person comes down to individual's maturity and judgment to decide what to write and how to present it. One should avoid writing on matters that are classified

and not in open domain. However, retired personnel are free to express their personal opinions about politics and matters of national security, if any content falls under the Official Secrets Act, prior permission from the MoD is required."

He further mentioned that in his view, material that is already in the public domain can be written about. There is a laid-down process within the respective Services to grant permission for publication if a book mentions issues related to national interest. If any information published in a book is found to be incorrect or unlawful, there are legal provisions to deal with such infractions.

On Tuesday, Gen. Narayan endorsed Penguin's statement that the (P)H statement that his manuscript has not been published. PPH clarified it

holds sole publishing rights and that no print or digital copies have been released or distributed. The following First Information Report by the Delhi Police over alleged illegal circulation of the unpublished manuscript. The row intensified after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioned conducting claims, prompting the PPH to state that pre- or post-announcement do not amount to publication.

In the case of civil servants, the Centre had amended the Pension Rules for Civil Servants in 2021, prohibiting retired officials in intelligence or security related organisations to publish any information related to their organisation without clearance from the competent authority.

FIN OVER 'MEMOIR'
» PAGE 4

Snowscape adventure



Winning down: Tourists ride ATVs on a hill road in Tangmang, Nagaland, on Wednesday after fresh snowfall. (AP Photo)

High turnout expected as Bangladesh votes today

Agence France Presse
DHAKA

A day before its first polls since the 2024 uprising, Bangladesh's Election Commission said on Wednesday that it expected a strong voter turnout.

Many youth had been effectively deprived of the freedom to vote for their 'pulses', agricultural products, 'digital service tax' and Indian 'contaminants' on investing \$500 billion. The references, which were in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing \$500 billion in American products over a period of five years. "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. goods, including agricultural products, a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, grains (DGCs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and other products" (the corrected factsheet read).

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500 billion of U.S. goods, information and communication technology, coal, and other products," the factsheet said.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a query on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out

Sensitive items out of U.S. statement on deal with India

Sushmita Halder
NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Wednesday backtracked on changes it made to the India-U.S. joint statement and the White House factbook on the India-U.S. framework for the interim agreement on trade, removing references to "pulses", agricultural products, "digital service tax" and Indian "contaminants" on investing \$500 billion. The references, which were in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing \$500 billion in American products over a period of five years. "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. goods, including agricultural products, a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, grains (DGCs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and other products" (the corrected factsheet read).

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500 billion of U.S. goods, information and communication technology, coal, and other products," the factsheet said.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a query on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out

Taking back
The references had raised concerns after not being present in the original India-U.S. joint statement.

- Unchanged references:**
- Pulses
 - Agricultural products
 - Digital service tax
 - Contaminants on investing \$500 billion

to the U.S. government to request the changes. The U.S. did not issue any statement before quietly amending the two documents available online.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal. The social media post showed a map of India including in it Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as a "disputed territory".

The post had led to the question of whether the U.S. was changing its position in India's favour.

U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer told Reuters on Wednesday, "India has already started winding down purchases of Russian energy products and are already ramping up purchases of American energy and other sources."

The government has not so far denied the U.S. contention that it has given up Russian oil, saying only that its policy is to "diversify energy sources and that this would be in "national interest".

Govt. plans guidelines on books by veterans

Ministry held a meeting to frame regulations for both serving and retired personnel, says official

The Centre will lay down a framework that must be followed before any manuscript is sanctioned

The OSA continues to apply for life, making it an offence to disclose classified, or sensitive data

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy surrounding the unpublished memoir, *Four Stars of Destiny*, of former Army chief General M.M. Naravane ((retd.), the Defence Ministry is working on detailed guidelines for serving and retired armed forces personnel who wish to publish books in future.

The proposed guidelines will spell out the process to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication.

A senior defence official confirmed that a meeting was held recently to frame a new set of rules, during which a detailed presentation was made. The upcoming framework is expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act.

At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers. Instead, different legal and service frameworks apply to serving personnel and retirees. In both cases, national security and protection of classified information remain the primary red lines.

There are no specific service rules barring ex-servicemen or retired Army officers from authoring or publishing books. However, the freedom operates within a legal grey area. The Official Secrets Act (OSA) continues to apply for life, even after retirement, making it a criminal offence to disclose classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security.

While retired personnel are no longer governed by the Army Act or Army

Fresh framework

The upcoming guidelines are expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act (OSA)



Tricky words: LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with a copy of the unpublished memoir of former Army chief M.M. Naravane. PTI

- At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers
- The OSA makes disclosure of classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security a criminal offence
- The Act continues to apply to an officer for life, even after retirement

rules in matters of publication, statutory laws remain applicable. If a manuscript contains operational or sensitive details, authors are expected to submit it to the Ministry for clearance. The relevant department then verifies and cross-checks the content before granting approval.

For serving Army per-

sonnel, the rules are explicit and mandatory. Service rules and defence service regulations require prior written permission before undertaking any literary, political or remunerative activity outside official duties. Requests are routed through a chain of command and may require clearance up to Army

Headquarters or the MoD, depending on the nature of the content.

Material relating to classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence inputs, or issues affecting national security or foreign relations is strictly prohibited. Even fictional works may face restrictions if they closely resemble real operations or disclose identifiable details.

Individual's judgment

Lt. Gen. (retd.) D.P. Pandey said, "When an Army person retires, he or she is as much a civilian as anyone else but the facet of Official Secrets Act remains. After retirement, it largely comes down to individual's maturity and judgment regarding what to write and how to present it. One should avoid writing on matters that are classified

and not in open domain. However, retired personnel are free to express their personal opinions about politics and matters of national security. If any content falls under the Official Secrets Act, prior permission from the MoD is required."

He further mentioned that in his view, material that is already in the public domain can be written about. There is a laid-down process within the respective Services to grant permission for publication if a book mentions issues related to national interest. If any information published in a book is found to be incorrect or unlawful, there are legal provisions to deal with such infringements.

On Tuesday, Gen. Naravane endorsed Penguin Random House India's (PRHI) statement that his memoir has not been published. PRHI clarified it

holds sole publishing rights and that no print or digital copies have been released or distributed. This followed a First Information Report by the Delhi Police over alleged illegal circulation of the unpublished manuscript. The row intensified after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioned conflicting claims, prompting the PRHI to state that pre-order announcements do not amount to publication.

In the case of civil servants, the Centre had amended the Pension Rules for Civil Servants in 2021, prohibiting retired officials in intelligence or security related organisations to publish any information related to their organisation without clearance from the competent authority.

FIR OVER 'MEMOIR'
» PAGE 4

1. What is being planned / क्या योजना बन रही है

- Government/Defence Ministry is working on **detailed guidelines** for **serving + retired armed forces personnel** who want to publish books/memoirs. / सरकार/रक्षा मंत्रालय **सेवारत + सेवानिवृत्त सशस्त्र बल कर्मियों** की **किताब/संस्मरण** प्रकाशित करने की प्रक्रिया के लिए **विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश** बना रहा है।
- A **framework/process** will be laid down that must be followed **before any manuscript is cleared/sanctioned**. / किसी भी **मैन्यूस्क्रिप्ट** को मंजूरी देने से पहले **अनिवार्य प्रक्रिया/फ्रेमवर्क** तय किया जाएगा।

2. Why now / अभी क्यों

- The move comes amid controversy around an **unpublished memoir** attributed to a former Army Chief (Gen. M.M. Naravane, retd.). / यह कदम पूर्व सेनाध्यक्ष (जनरल एम.एम. नरवणे, से.) के कथित **अप्रकाशित संस्मरण** से जुड़े विवाद के बीच आया है।

3. Current legal position / वर्तमान कानूनी स्थिति

- There is **no single consolidated law** specifically governing **book-writing by retired Army officers**; different legal/service frameworks apply to serving vs retired. / सेवानिवृत्त सैन्य अधिकारियों की पुस्तक-लेखन गतिविधि को नियंत्रित करने वाला **एकीकृत/एकल कानून** नहीं है; सेवारत व सेवानिवृत्त पर **अलग-अलग नियम/कानूनी ढांचे** लागू होते हैं।
- **National security + protection of classified information** remain the primary red lines. / **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और गोपनीय/वर्गीकृत सूचना** की सुरक्षा सबसे बड़ी सीमा-रेखा है।

4. Official Secrets Act (OSA) impact / OSA का असर

- OSA makes disclosure of **classified/sensitive operational information** a **criminal offence**, and it can continue to apply even after retirement. / OSA के तहत वर्गीकृत/संवेदनशील संचालनात्मक जानकारी का खुलासा आपराधिक अपराध हो सकता है; यह प्रभाव सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी बना रह सकता है। Drishti IAS +1

5. How clearance is expected to work / मंजूरी की संभावित प्रक्रिया

- If a manuscript contains **operational/sensitive details**, authors may be expected to **submit it for Ministry clearance**; the concerned department will **verify/cross-check** before approval. / यदि मैनुस्क्रिप्ट में संचालन/संवेदनशील विवरण हैं, तो उसे मंत्रालय को क्लियरेंस हेतु देना पड़ सकता है; संबंधित विभाग जांच-पड़ताल/क्रॉस-चेक करके मंजूरी देगा।
- For serving personnel, permissions are generally **prior + written**, routed through **chain of command**, possibly up to **Army HQ/MoD** depending on content. / सेवारत कर्मियों के लिए अनुमति सामान्यतः पूर्व + लिखित होती है; कमांड चैन के माध्यम से जाती है; सामग्री के अनुसार आर्मी HQ/रक्षा मंत्रालय तक क्लियरेंस लग सकता है।

6. What content is strictly barred / क्या सख्त निषिद्ध है

- Anything relating to **classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence inputs**, or matters affecting **national security/foreign relations**. / गोपनीय जानकारी, ऑपरेशन विवरण, आंतरिक प्रक्रियाएँ, उपकरण क्षमता, इंटेलिजेंस इनपुट, या राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा/विदेश संबंध प्रभावित करने वाली बातें।
- Even "fiction" may face restrictions if it **resembles real operations** or reveals **identifiable details**. / "काल्पनिक" रचनाएँ भी प्रतिबंधित हो सकती हैं यदि वे वास्तविक ऑपरेशन्स जैसी हों या पहचाने जा सकने वाले विवरण उजागर करें।

7. Retired personnel—freedom vs limits / सेवानिवृत्त—स्वतंत्रता बनाम सीमाएँ

- Retired personnel can express **personal opinions** (including politics) **as long as** they do not violate secrecy/national security laws; if content falls under OSA, **prior permission** is required. / सेवानिवृत्त व्यक्ति व्यक्तिगत राय (राजनीति सहित) व्यक्त कर सकते हैं, बशर्ते गोपनीयता/राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा कानून न टूटे; OSA के दायरे में आने पर पूर्व अनुमति आवश्यक है।

8. Related parallel rule (civil services) / समानांतर उदाहरण (सिविल सेवा)

- Civil Services (Pension) Rules have provisions requiring **clearance** for publication in sensitive/intelligence/security contexts (commonly cited in policy discussions). / सिविल सेवा (पेंशन) नियमों में भी संवेदनशील/इंटेलिजेंस-सुरक्षा संदर्भों में प्रकाशन हेतु क्लियरेंस जैसी शर्तें नीति-चर्चा में बताई जाती हैं।
-

Theme / શ્રેણી	Key Facts (English + ગુજરાતી)	Exam Angle / પરીક્ષણ કોણ
Official Secrets Act, 1923 / ઔચિત્સયક રહસ્ય અક્ટ, ૧૯૨૩	Protects state secrets; covers espionage + unauthorized disclosure ; violations can attract criminal liability. / રાજ્ય રહસ્યોનું રક્ષણ કરે છે; સ્પાયેજ + અનૌચિત્સયક પ્રકાશન નો સમાવેશ થાય છે; ઉલ્લંઘનાને દંડની જવાબદારી હોય છે.	National Security, Governance, RTI vs Secrecy debates / રાષ્ટ્રીય સુરક્ષા, સંચાલન, ટ્રાન્સપેરન્સી, RTI નો વિરોધ
RTI Act vs OSA tension / RTI અને OSA વચ્ચે તણાવ	UPSC has asked about the view that OSA obstructs RTI . / UPSC એ પૂછ્યું છે કે OSA RTI નું અવરોધક છે કે નહીં.	Ethics (GS-4), Polity / અર્થિકતા, સંવિધાન
Fundamental Rights limits / મૂળ અધિકારોના સીમા / ૧૨૧-૨૨૧	Freedom of speech is subject to reasonable restrictions (security, sovereignty etc.). / સ્વચ્છતા અધિકાર પર સંપૂર્ણ સીમા લાગે છે (સુરક્ષા, સુવર્ણતા વગેરે).	Polity—Article 19(2), Security / ૧૨૧-૨૨૧, સુરક્ષા
Armed Forces & restrictions / હથિયારી બળ અને સીમા / ૨૨૨-૨૨૨	Armed forces can be subject to service conduct rules + discipline , and content clearance can be justified via national security. / હથિયારી બળ પર સેવા સંચાલન નિયમો + સિદ્ધિ લાગે છે, અને માહિતી સ્વચ્છતા અધિકારના અધીન હોવાનું દાખવાઈ શકે છે.	Polity + Internal Security / સંવિધાન + આંતરિક સુરક્ષા
Pre-publication clearance logic / પ્રકાશન પહેલાં સ્વચ્છતા અધિકાર / ૨૨૩-૨૨૩	Prevents inadvertent disclosure of operational methods, capabilities, sources. / ઓપરેશનલ મેથોડ્સ, કૌશલ્યો, સ્ત્રોતોનું અનૌચિત્સયક પ્રકાશન રોકે છે.	Case-based answers in Mains / મેઈન્સમાં કેસ-બેઝેડ જવાબો

Exam	Date	Question (Exact/Memory-based)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims (GS-1)	2023	<p><i>With reference to India, consider the following pairs (Action — Act):</i></p> <p>(includes a pair on unauthorized wearing of police/military uniforms — Official Secrets Act, 1923). <i>How many pairs are correctly matched?</i></p>	Only two (as per the official key/explanations).
UPSC CAPF (AC) Paper-I	04 Aug 2024	<p>Statements: (1) Abolition of OSA recommended by Second ARC (as stated in question) (2) RTI enacted in 2005. <i>Which is/are correct?</i></p>	Both 1 and 2. (
UPSC CSE Mains (Ethics/GS-4)	2019	<p>“There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of the Right to Information Act. Do you agree? Discuss.”</p>	Model direction: Balanced — secrecy for security vs transparency for accountability (argue with safeguards, public interest test, reforms).

Sensitive items out of U.S. statement on deal with India

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Wednesday backtracked on changes it made to the India-U.S. joint statement and the White House factsheet on the India-U.S. framework for the interim agreement on trade, removing references to 'pulses', 'agricultural products', 'digital service tax' and Indian 'commitments' on investing \$500 billion. The references, which were not in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing \$500 billion in American products over a period of five years. "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the corrected factsheet read.

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500 billion of U.S. energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products", a line which earlier also included "agricultural" products.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a question on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out

Taking back

The references had raised concerns after not being present in the original India-U.S. joint statement



Dropped references:

- Pulses
- Agricultural products
- Digital service tax
- 'Commitments' on investing \$500 billion

to the U.S. government to request the changes. The U.S. did not issue any statement before quietly amending the two documents available online.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal. The social media post showed a map of India including in it Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as "disputed territory". The post had led to the question of whether the U.S. was changing its position in India's favour.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told *Fox News* on Wednesday, "India has already started winding down purchases of Russian energy products and are already ramping back up purchases of American energy and other sources."

The government has not so far denied the U.S. contention that it has given up Russian oil, saying only that its policy is to "diversify" energy procurement and this would be in "national interest".

1. What happened / क्या हुआ

- The U.S. **backtracked** and **edited** the India-U.S. joint statement / White House factsheet on an interim trade framework. / अमेरिका ने भारत-अमेरिका संयुक्त बयान/व्हाइट हाउस फैक्टशीट में बाद में बदलाव करके कुछ बातें हटा दीं।
- The edits removed references that were **not in the original joint statement**, but appeared in the factsheet/online documents. / जो संदर्भ पहले मूल संयुक्त बयान में नहीं थे, वे ऑनलाइन दस्तावेज़ों में आए और फिर हटा दिए गए।

2. What exactly was removed / क्या-क्या हटाया गया (Dropped references)

- Pulses / दालें
- Agricultural products / कृषि उत्पाद
- Digital service tax / डिजिटल सर्विस टैक्स
- "Commitments" on investing \$500 billion / \$500 बिलियन निवेश पर "प्रतिबद्धताएँ"

3. Why it mattered / क्यों महत्वपूर्ण बना

- These references raised political and policy questions in India; opposition sought clarification from the government. / इन बातों पर भारत में सवाल उठे; विपक्ष ने सरकार से स्थिति स्पष्ट करने को कहा।
- Sensitive trade items + big investment numbers can change how the deal is perceived (binding vs non-binding). / संवेदनशील व्यापार वस्तुएँ व बड़े निवेश आंकड़े समझौते की प्रकृति (बाध्यकारी/गैर-बाध्यकारी) को प्रभावित करते हैं।

4. What the corrected factsheet indicates / संशोधित फैक्टशीट का संकेत

- India would **eliminate/reduce tariffs** on many U.S. industrial goods and a range of U.S. food/agri items (examples mentioned: **DDGs, red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh/processed fruit, soybean oil, wine & spirits**, etc.). / भारत कई अमेरिकी औद्योगिक वस्तुओं व खाद्य/कृषि उत्पादों पर **शुल्क घटाने/हटाने** की बात करता है (उदाहरण: **DDGs, रेड सोरघम, ट्री-नट्स, फल, सोयाबीन तेल, वाइन/स्पिरिट्स** आदि)।
- Another line emphasizes India's intent to buy large volumes of U.S. goods—especially **energy**, ICT, coal, etc., with the headline figure **\$500 billion** appearing as "purchase/intent" rather than "investment commitment." / एक अन्य पंक्ति में भारत द्वारा **ऊर्जा**, ICT, कोयला आदि सहित अमेरिकी उत्पाद खरीदने के इरादे का उल्लेख है; **\$500 बिलियन** को "निवेश प्रतिबद्धता" के बजाय "खरीद/इरादा" की तरह रखा गया।

5. How the change was made / बदलाव कैसे हुआ

- The U.S. **quietly amended** the online documents without an upfront public statement, according to the report. / रिपोर्ट के अनुसार अमेरिका ने बिना स्पष्ट सार्वजनिक बयान के ऑनलाइन दस्तावेजों में **चुपचाप संशोधन** किया।

6. Another sensitive element: map post / दूसरा संवेदनशील पहलू: मानचित्र पोस्ट

- The U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted a social media post linked to the deal that showed a map of India including **Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK)** and **Aksai Chin**. / USTR कार्यालय ने डील-संबंधित सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट हटाई जिसमें मानचित्र में **PoK** और **अक्साई चिन** भारत का हिस्सा दिखे थे।
- This aligned with India's official map depiction but conflicted with common U.S. "disputed territory" depiction—triggering questions about U.S. positioning. / यह भारत के आधिकारिक दृष्टिकोण से मेल खाता है, पर अमेरिकी "विवादित क्षेत्र" वाले चित्रण से टकराता है—इसी पर सवाल उठे।

IN BRIEF

Soldier, civilian injured in two separate explosions in J&K

A soldier and a civilian were injured in two separate explosions in J&K on Wednesday. Officials said an anti-personnel landmine went off at forward post Fardal, close to the Line of Control (LoC), in Gilmargi Sector in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. One Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) was injured in the blast and was shifted to the Bachchan Singh Hospital in Srinagar for treatment. In the Pampal Valley's Poonch district, a rusted landmine went off and injured a civilian. Officials said Isht Ahmad, 16, was loading sand into a tractor at Batar Sallah when the blast took place. The injured civilian was shifted to a hospital.

SC agrees to list another plea against Assam Chief Minister

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to consider filing another plea filed by four persons seeking a direction against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over a series of alleged hate speeches targeting Muslims in the state. The fresh petition was filed by former professor Hiren Gohain, former DGP of Assam Harishchandra Deka, senior journalist Chandrasekhar Chandra Melkar, and senior advocate Santanu Borah. On Tuesday, a Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant had agreed to list for hearing separate pleas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and CPI (Maoist) seeking action against the Chief Minister.

Delhi HC asks Rapsodia to disclose sales information

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an interim order in a suit filed by Indian designer Anupama Dyal against Argentinean brand Rapsodia alleging unauthorised use of her copyrighted works, the Delhi High Court has directed the company to disclose production, manufacturing, export and sales details of the alleged infringing products.

On February 6, the court asked the defendant to file, within six weeks, an affidavit setting out the total number of items produced for each alleged infringing work, the place of manufacture, the place and name of the manufacturer, dates of export from India along with shipping documents, invoices and forwarder documents, and copies of purchase orders.

Vande Mataram to be played before National Anthem: govt.

Fresh set of guidelines issued to States and government bodies but no formal statement made by the Centre: it says when the National Song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has said in a set of instructions issued to the States and government bodies that the National Song, Vande Mataram, should be sung or played before the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana, when both the songs are played at an event.

The fresh set of guidelines were uploaded on the Union Home Ministry website on February 6, but no formal announcement or a statement was issued.

It states that whenever the official version of the song, National Song, around 3.1 minutes long, is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. However, when in the course of a new or renewed or documentary, the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand attention. It is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song," it said. The Ministry said the instructions, which had been issued for general information and guidance on the official version of the song, the occasions on which it is to be played or sung, and about the need for playing respect to the song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions.

Setting the tone

Key guidelines for singing and playing the National Song

A Vande Mataram should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are performed at an event.

The audience must stand to attention when the official version, around 3.1 minutes long, is sung or played.

A Vande Mataram is not required if it is played as a part of a renewed or documentary.

The official version shall be accompanied by music singing during the playing of the National Song, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions other than parades.

Over All India Radio and television, on arrival and departure of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or formal state functions, when the National Song is brought on parade, any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India.

When a band plays it: When the National Song is played by a band, the song will be preceded by the roll of drums to assist the audience to know that it is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the Na-

tional Song is about to be played," the Ministry said. The official version shall be played accompanied by music singing on the unfurling of the National Flag on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades. The music singing could be arranged by having a suitable, adequate, and suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band.

It may be sung on occasions which, though not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers and other officials.

It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by musical instruments as long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained," the Ministry said.

"In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song," it added.

SC says probe into AI-171 crash must be completed in 3 weeks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted three weeks for the completion of the investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the Air India Flight 171 crash at the Ahmedabad airport, which killed 12 crew members and 229 passengers on June 12 last year.

"There is a lot of anxiety and queries in the minds of pilots, close relatives (of those who died)... We are also eagerly waiting for the findings of the investigation. We also want to see what they have to say," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a Bench, addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government.

The court asked Mr. Mehta to place the AAIB report on record after the completion of the investigation. During the hearing, Mr. Mehta said a detailed and final report of the investigation was on, and asked for three weeks more.

At one point, addressing questions raised about the safety of the Boeing 787 Dreamliners, the CJ asked how many other airlines had received the aircraft. On receiving a response



The tail of the Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2020, was seen.

that "many airlines do," Chief Justice Kant remarked that grounding Dreamliners might effectively lead to grounding the airlines serving the country.

"Wait for report" Senior advocate Gopal Sarikaramarayanan, appearing for 70-year-old Pushkarraj Sahasrabudhe, along with advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, argued that a separate court of inquiry headed by a retired judge was the law and the norm in the aftermath of a major air accident.

The CJ responded that the "smaller air accident leads to disastrous consequences." The Bench stressed that it would wait for the AAIB to come out with its report.

Calling Rafale a 'hero', Vice Chief of Air Staff seeks more fighter planes

Saurabh Tripathi
NEW DELHI

Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor on Wednesday described the Rafale fighter jet as the "hero" of Operation Sindoor, and said the Indian Air Force (IAF) was looking to induct more such multi-role fighter aircraft, with Rafale planes among the contenders.

"Rafale" was definitely the hero during Operation Sindoor among other forces. The Indian Air Force is looking forward to inducting more MRFAs, which is going to be Rafale or any other aircraft under deliberation. A decision has yet to be taken. We are looking for newer generation aircraft (to add to our inventory)," he said.

On reports regarding alleged strikes on Pakistan's Krima Hills during the operation, Air Marshal Kapoor said the IAF had targeted terror infrastructure and several military installations. "Whether we did something there or whether the explosion was caused by something else, we don't know. These videos are presented for people, we did nothing beyond striking terror and military installations," he said. He was briefing Punjab's Vice Chief of Air Staff, who was briefing Punjab's Vice Chief of Air Staff, who was briefing Punjab's Vice Chief of Air Staff.

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More than 120 air assets, including 77 fighter jets, will participate. The live-up includes Rafale, Su-30MKR, Mirage-2000, MIG-29, Jaguar, and other aircraft. Helicopters will also take part, including Apache, Chinook, light combat helicopter Prachin, and advanced light helicopter, along with transport aircraft such as the C-17, C-130, and C-295, which will make its debut at the event.

Wing Commander Aji W. Wastane said that 277 aircraft would be deployed during the exercise, which will last two hours and 35 minutes. Around 12,000 kg of explosives will be detonated across 43 events involving 23 targets. Surface-to-air systems such as Akash and Spyder, short-range loitering munitions, and counter-air systems will be showcased. The drill will feature integrated operations with the Army, including the deployment of AT-77 howitzers, L-70 guns, and Special Forces.

Education Ministry pushes for AI-led teaching and learning at all levels by next academic year

Ashish Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education is working with the goal of ensuring that artificial intelligence (AI) tools become a part of teaching and learning in schools and colleges by the next academic year, officials said on Wednesday.

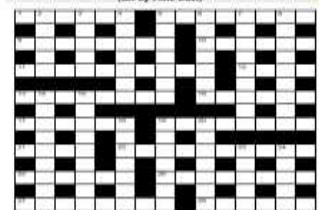
Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met with leaders of 10 top AI start-ups using AI in the ed-tech sector at a roundtable discussion in Delhi, ahead of the government's three-day delivery AI summit starting on Thursday.

Officials told presspersons that the government will be launching RoboAI during the conference, which is expected to lead to digital

infrastructure (BIP) for the education sector as a whole.

Pradhan said that while the government was already working to introduce AI knowledge in curricula, the focus now was on making the teachers meet were "home-grown" from "middle-class and tier-II city backgrounds," who are building indigenous AI stacks particularly for transforming the educational landscape.

After the roundtable on Wednesday, which was attended by Skill Development Minister Jagat Choudhary, Mr. Pradhan posted on social media, saying that the teachers met were "home-grown" from "middle-class and tier-II city backgrounds," who are building indigenous AI stacks particularly for transforming the educational landscape.

TH CROSSWORD 14715
(set by Photo Quest)

- Across
- Platonic measure to protect films (5)
 - Grade repeated often, it's observed (10)
 - These PhD masters go about doing tests (8)
 - A new griotist is not a solution (9)
 - First step in park? (10)
 - Pined animal caught (6)

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

- 16 According to the Harvard, bad assistant can keep ticks in place? (5)
- 17 Relative accusing stationer's missing every now and then (8)
- 18 Reverse caught sweet model's escaping (6)
- 19 Eggs, nuts, lentils and meat perhaps delivered for adolescents (8)
- 20 Politically correct leaders were overwhelmingly knowledgeable. Extraordinary (14)
- 21 Celebrity on holiday helps about hunger (10)
- 22 Shrimp elite leaders let off (8)
- 23 Even time will change feelings (10)
- 24 That man's describing his grand captives (8)
- 25 Cuts small fruits (6)
- Down
- 1 Guide allowed to display model (5)
- 2 Want to rattle around and of forest and river opening (5)
- 3 Continent ignoring a large country (7)
- 4 Dangerous seducer set free (7)
- 5 Got managed roughly mad man's (7)
- 6 For a change, desire new, extremely comfortable pants (8)
- 7 First lady almost possessed by excitement is high (8)
- 8 Beg pardon! Associate force is maintaining position (9)
- 9 Heated unique chess ignoring captives (8)
- 10 Festival not at first twentieth (7)
- 11 Appeals from confidants seeking sides (5)
- 12 Unconcerned when a couple of Lithuania go missing underground (7)
- 13 Family involved in notable B&B's coming back (10)
- 14 Ultimately to someone in the register, find littleholder (5)

SUDOKU

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

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

FAITH

All of mankind is our family

Swami Ramateertha was travelling to America. The ship reached a port in California. While everyone else was leaving the ship, the swami just walked up and down the deck. An American, observing this, asked him where his luggage was? The swami replied that he had his possessions with him, said Akkarakkunt Srinidhi in a discourse. The American was puzzled, because the swami had nothing with him. Ramateertha then said, "If you consider all the sins in my body as my possessions, then as you can see, I have all my possessions with me. Besides these, I have nothing to call my own." The American was taken aback.

The American now had another question for Swami Ramateertha. "Do you have money with you?" he asked. Ramateertha said, "I keep nothing for myself. I am a part of this Universe created by God. I am His child. He is my father, and He owns everything on this earth. So, whatever is on this earth also belongs to me. If everything here belongs to me, why should I take anything with me? Those who are spiritually inclined give me food. When I am thirsty, they give me water. If we have love towards our fellow beings, there is no end to our joy."

Ramateertha said the truth that was responsible for the functioning of the world was the God he worshipped. It was clear that Vedantic truths were the only property Ramateertha had. The American then asked, "Do you know anyone in America?" Ramateertha said, "I know one person - you." The American never forgot his interaction with the swami, whose words he recalled every year. The lesson for us is that everyone in this world is worthy of respect and love. We must see all of mankind as our family.

Vande Mataram to be played before National Anthem: govt.

Fresh set of guidelines issued to States and government bodies but no formal statement made by the Centre; it says when the National Song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has said in a set of instructions to the States and government bodies that the National Song, *Vande Mataram*, should be sung or played before the National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, when both the songs are played at an event.

The fresh set of guidelines were uploaded on the Union Home Ministry website on February 6, but no formal announcement or a statement was issued.

It states that whenever the official version of the National Song, around 3.1 minutes long, is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. "However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary, the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song," it said.

The Ministry said the instructions were being issued for general informa-

Setting the tone

Key guidelines for singing and playing the National Song

- *Vande Mataram* should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are performed at an event

- The audience must stand at attention when the official version, around 3 minutes 10 seconds long, is sung or played

- Standing is not required if it is played as part of a newsreel or documentary



Proud moment: A tableau celebrating 150 years of *Vande Mataram* during the Republic Day Parade. PTI

- The official version shall be accompanied by mass singing during unfurling of the National Flag, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions other than parades

tion and guidance on the official version of the song, the occasions on which it is to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions.

It said that *Vande Mataram*, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, is known as the "National Song, which is to be sung on arrival and departure of the President at formal state functions and other functions organised by the government, immediately before and after the President addresses the nation

over All India Radio and television, on arrival and departure of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor at formal state functions, when the National Flag is brought on parade, any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India".

When a band plays it

"When the National Song is played by a band, the song will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that it is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the Na-

tional Song is about to be played," the Ministry said.

The official version shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the unfurling of the National Flag, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades. The mass singing could be arranged by having a choir of adequate size, suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band.

It may be sung on occasions which, though not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers and others, the Ministry said.

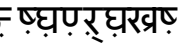
"It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained," the Ministry said.

"In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song..." it added.

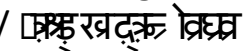
Point	Vande Mataram / अहं रम्यं मातृभूमिम्National Song / धर्मं ध्यायेत्	Jana Gana Mana / नमो भगवते वासुदेवायNational Anthem / धर्मं ध्यायेत्
Status / दर्जा	National Song / धर्मं ध्यायेत्	National Anthem / धर्मं ध्यायेत्
Core purpose / मुख्य उद्देश	Symbol of freedom struggle; salutation to motherland / स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का प्रतीक; मातृभूमि का अभिवादन	Formal national anthem; state ceremonies & official occasions / औपचारिक राष्ट्रगीत; राज्य समारोहों और आधिकारिक अवसरों
Author (lyrics) / वाक्य लेखक	Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay / बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय	Rabindranath Tagore (lyrics + tune widely attributed to him) / रबींद्रनाथ टैगोर
Source work / स्रोत	Novel "Anandamath" (published 1882); song composed earlier (1870s) / "वन्दे मातरम्" उपन्यास (1882); गीत पहले (1870s) में रचित	Written by Tagore; first published in 1911 / टैगोर द्वारा लिखा; 1911 में प्रकाशित
Language / भाषा	Sanskritised Bengali (often called Sanskritised Bengali) / संस्कृतित बंगाली	Highly Sanskritised Bengali (often described so) / उच्च संस्कृतित बंगाली
Official adoption/recognition / आधिकारिक स्वीकृति	Recognised as National Song along with Anthem (24 Jan 1950) / 24 जनवरी 1950 को राष्ट्रगीत के साथ राष्ट्रीय गीत के रूप में स्वीकृत	Adopted as National Anthem (24 Jan 1950) / 24 जनवरी 1950 को राष्ट्रीय गीत के रूप में स्वीकृत
Standard duration / मानक अवधि	Commonly used "official version" about 3 min 10 sec (full version often longer; practice varies) / "वन्दे मातरम्" का आधिकारिक संस्करण 3 मिनट 10 सेकंड का होता है (पूर्ण संस्करण अक्सर लंबा होता है; प्रथा भिन्न)	Full version ≈ 52 seconds; short version ≈ 20 seconds / पूर्ण संस्करण ≈ 52 सेकंड; संक्षिप्त संस्करण ≈ 20 सेकंड
When both performed together / एक साथ प्रदर्शन	Played/sung before National Anthem as per recent guideline in news / राष्ट्रीय गीत के बाद राष्ट्रीय गीत के साथ	Played after National Song when both performed / राष्ट्रीय गीत के बाद राष्ट्रीय गीत के साथ
Key sensitivity / महत्वपूर्ण संवेदनशीलता	Some lines relate to "goddess" imagery; therefore only first 2 stanzas often used publicly / "वन्दे मातरम्" के कुछ पंक्तियाँ देवी की छवि से संबंधित हैं; इसलिए केवल प्रथम दो पंक्तियाँ आमतौर पर प्रयुक्त होती हैं	Less religious controversy; more formal protocol bound / कम धार्मिक विवाद; अधिक औपचारिक प्रोटोकॉल बांध

Year/Date

Vande Mataram / 

Jana Gana Mana / 

1870s (commonly cited)

Composed by Bankim (song existed before the novel) / 
घटोत्पल जै हौ वंदू दू हण चहू

—

1882

Included in novel “Anandamath” /
“ॐ अरबिन्द” रबिन्द्रनाथ

—

1896 (important)

First sung at Indian National Congress session (Calcutta) / INC
१९१३ ७ जू चड् पुनरुद्धार चहू वंदू
पुनरुद्धार


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1911 (important)

—

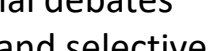
First sung (Calcutta Session of INC, widely cited) and published / INC
१९१३ ७ रबिन्द्रनाथ चहू वंदू पुनरुद्धार
७ ३० १९


24 Jan 1950

Recognised as National Song / 
पहलू रबिन्द्र

Adopted as National Anthem / 
घनश्याम १९५०

1980s onwards (exam angle)

Court/constitutional debates around “respect” and selective stanzas / 
दू वंदू १९८०, दू १९८० ७ १९८०

Supreme Court directions on Anthem etiquette (not “forced singing”) / 
१९८० ७ १९८० ७ १९८०

Topic

Vande Mataram / ~~अहं रक्तधरम्~~

Jana Gana Mana / न ष्यण् रघरघ

Full text usage / ~~हन्त्र हन्त्र~~

Full song is longer; public performance often uses first 2 stanzas (common practice) / ~~एहल~~
~~चपत्र, दूरकनशण्ड क्षहगुण रक्त ष घ~~
~~हणच्छत्रहं~~

Full anthem is standardised (52 sec)
/ 52 ~~द्वहन्त्र अघररक्त इहङ्क~~

Religious imagery / ~~श्वशक्त च हंड~~

Later stanzas contain deity imagery; hence selective use common / ~~व्रह्म इह हं द्वाशक्तहं~~
~~च हंड ; स्तुशचंड द्वाशक्त क्षहगुण~~

More civic/political in tone; no deity-specific stanza / ~~शशइ~~
~~षण्णघडघसघ~~

Theme / ~~अप्रद्रुग~~

Motherland as mother; freedom/awakening / ~~रक्तकनशघ~~
~~रक्तव, अशहल्लगन्त्रणघ~~

Unity of India, collective identity /
~~कक्तल इह इड ल्र, दूरकनशड हणद्रण~~

Situation

When National Anthem is played/sung (full) / ध्वज गाना पूरा सुनाया जा रहा है

When National Anthem (short version) / ध्वज गाना संक्षिप्त

When National Song is played/sung (official performance) / ध्वज गाना (आधिकारिक प्रदर्शन)

Order when both performed / ध्वज गाना और वन्दे मातरम

Clapping / तालियाँ

Band version / ध्वज गाना बैंड

What to do / क्या करना

Stand at attention; maintain silence; no movement; respect / ध्यान में खड़े रहें; सन्नाह रखें; कोई आवाज न करें; सम्मान दें

Used in some occasions (like sports); same respect rules / कुछ-कुछ अवसरों पर (जैसे खेल); वही सम्मान की बातें

Stand to attention (as per guideline in the news you shared) / ध्यान में खड़े रहें (जैसा कि खबर में बताया गया है)

Vande Mataram first, then Jana Gana Mana (as per guideline) / वन्दे मातरम पहले, फिर जना गना मना (जैसा कि खबर में बताया गया है)

Not appropriate during/at end; maintain decorum / बीच में या अंत में नहीं करना; व्यवस्था बनाए रखें

May include drum roll/intro to alert audience (as per guideline) / ड्रम रोल/इंट्रो शामिल हो सकता है (जैसा कि खबर में बताया गया है)

Exam notes / परीक्षा के लिए नोट्स

Exceptions for disability are allowed; dignity is key / अपवाद हैं; गरिमा ही है

Time ~20 sec / ~20 सेकेंड्स

If embedded in film/newsreel/documentary, standing may not be expected to avoid disruption / अगर फिल्म/खबर/दस्तावेज में है, तो खड़े रहना जरूरी नहीं है

“Song before Anthem” is a current-affairs angle

Many exam keys emphasise “dignity”

Protocol detail = good for MCQ

Topic

Constitutional mention / द्वापराश्रवण रक्त
धुँडू

Fundamental Duties / रक्षाघट्ट इ ल्वा

Penal law / ल्वा इव्रज्ज

Supreme Court stance (core idea) /
SC इव्र द्वाघ

Government guidelines / द्वाघइव्रघ
श्रुट्वा ल्वा

Key Points (English + श्रुट्वा)

National Anthem/Song are not explicitly
defined in Constitution text; recognised by
government decisions & conventions / द्वापराश्रवण
रक्तद्वहडू “घां गवणघां गवण पहल” इह द्वापराश्रवण
द्वाघइव्रघश्रु र्वागहघाघा द्वाघइव्रघ

Article 51A(a): respect Constitution, National
Flag, National Anthem / श्रुट्वा A(a): द्वापराश्रवण,
“न, घां गवण इव्र द्वाघ

Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act,
1971: penalises disrespect to National
Flag/Anthem (and related) / 1971 श्रुट्वा गवण
“नघां गवण इव्र श्रुट्वा हघ ल्वा

Respect can be expected; forced singing is not
always compulsory; dignity + reasonable
accommodation / द्वाघ श्रुट्वा ल्वा; धांघा पव्र पघ
पघ रक्तश्रुट्वा गवण पघावत्र श्रुट्वा द्वाघइव्रघ

Detailed executive instructions exist on
how/when to play; recent guideline adds
sequencing + standing rules / इव्र द्वाघ श्रुट्वा
पव्र, पव्र गवण ल्वा रक्तद्वहडू अ द्वाघइव्रघ

Why asked / द्वाघइव्र गवण

Trick MCQ: “Constitution says...” →
usually false

Direct linkage to civic duties

Static GK + Polity

Ethics + rights vs duties type
questions

Current affairs + governance

Must-Remember	Answer
National Song / घनं बस्ये पहल	Vande Mataram / वन्दे मातरम्
National Anthem / घनं बस्ये	Jana Gana Mana / न न पदं पदं
Authors / घनं पदं पदं	Bankim Chandra / वन्दे मातरम् ; Rabindranath Tagore / घनं बस्ये
Key dates / रविवार श्रमण	1896 (VM at INC), 1911 (JGM first sung/published), 24 Jan 1950 (both recognised/adopted)
Durations / १ अक्षर	VM official performance ~3:10 (per guideline/news); JGM 52 sec (full), 20 sec (short)
Legal link / इव	National Honour Act 1971 + Article 51A(a) duty

1. New guideline theme / नए दिशानिर्देश का सार

- Government instructions say **Vande Mataram (National Song)** should be **sung/played before Jana Gana Mana (National Anthem)** when both are performed at an event. / सरकारी निर्देशों के अनुसार किसी कार्यक्रम में जब राष्ट्रीय गीत वंदे मातरम् और राष्ट्रगान जन-गण-मन दोनों हों, तो वंदे मातरम् पहले होगा।
- A fresh set of guidelines has been issued to States/government bodies; uploaded on the Home Ministry website; **no formal central announcement** was made. / राज्यों/सरकारी संस्थाओं को नए दिशानिर्देश जारी किए गए; गृह मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड हुए; केंद्र का औपचारिक बयान नहीं आया।

2. Audience conduct / श्रोताओं का आचरण

- Whenever the **official version** of the National Song (about **3 minutes 10 seconds**) is sung/played, the audience **shall stand to attention**. / राष्ट्रीय गीत के आधिकारिक संस्करण (लगभग 3 मिनट 10 सेकंड) के गाए/बजाए जाने पर श्रोताओं को सावधान मुद्रा में खड़ा होना होगा।
- Exception: If the National Song is used within a **newsreel/documentary/film** as part of the content, the audience is **not expected** to stand because it may interrupt viewing and create disorder. / अपवाद: यदि समाचार-रील/डॉक्यूमेंट्री/फिल्म में राष्ट्रीय गीत कथानक/प्रदर्शन का हिस्सा हो, तो दर्शकों से खड़े होने की अपेक्षा नहीं, क्योंकि इससे व्यवधान/अव्यवस्था हो सकती है।

3. How it should be sung/played in functions / कार्यक्रमों में प्रस्तुति कैसे

- The official version may be accompanied by **mass singing** during **unfurling of the National Flag**, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions (other than parades). / **राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराने**, सांस्कृतिक अवसरों या (परेड के अलावा) अन्य समारोहों में **समूह-गान** के साथ इसे बजाया/गाया जा सकता है।
- Mass singing may be arranged with a suitably placed **choir**, trained to coordinate with the band. / **गायक-दल (कोयर)** को उचित स्थान पर खड़ा कर बैंड के साथ तालमेल हेतु प्रशिक्षित किया जा सकता है।
- It may be sung even on occasions that are not strictly ceremonial but are significant due to the presence of Ministers/others. / यह ऐसे अवसरों पर भी गाया जा सकता है जो पूर्णतः औपचारिक न हों, पर मंत्री आदि की उपस्थिति के कारण महत्वपूर्ण हों।
- No exhaustive list is possible; singing is fine as long as **due respect** and **proper decorum** are maintained. / सभी अवसरों की पूर्ण सूची संभव नहीं; शर्त—**सम्मान और मर्यादा** बनी रहे।

4. When a band plays it / बैंड द्वारा बजाने पर

- When the National Song is played by a band, it should be preceded by a **roll of drums** to alert the audience, unless there is a specific indication that the National Song is about to be played. / बैंड द्वारा राष्ट्रीय गीत बजाने पर, श्रोताओं को संकेत देने हेतु पहले **ड्रम-रोल** होगा, जब तक कोई विशेष संकेत पहले से न हो।

5. Schools / विद्यालय

- In schools, the day's work may begin with **community singing of the National Song**. / विद्यालयों में दिन की शुरुआत **राष्ट्रीय गीत के सामूहिक गायन** से हो सकती है।

6. Status reminder / स्थिति-स्पष्टता

- Vande Mataram is referred to as the **National Song** and Jana Gana Mana as the **National Anthem**; guidelines focus on sequence and decorum, not replacing the Anthem. / वंदे मातरम् **राष्ट्रीय गीत** और जन-गण-मन **राष्ट्रगान** है; दिशानिर्देश क्रम व मर्यादा पर हैं—राष्ट्रगान के स्थानापन्न पर नहीं।

Topic / शीर्षक	Key Facts (English + हिंदी)	Exam Use / परीक्षा में उपयोग
National Anthem / ध्वजा गान	Jana Gana Mana adopted as National Anthem by Constituent Assembly on 24 Jan 1950 ; full rendition ~ 52 sec , short version ~ 20 sec (commonly used). / 24 जनवरी 1950 को संविधान सभा ने इसे राष्ट्रीय गान मान्यता दी; पूर्ण गान ~52 सेकंड, संक्षिप्त ~20 सेकंड	Polity static facts; MCQs
National Song / ध्वजा गान	Vande Mataram (from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's work) recognized as National Song (also associated with 24 Jan 1950 recognition). / वन्दे मातरम् (बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय की रचना) को राष्ट्रीय गान मान्यता दी; 24 जनवरी 1950	History + National symbols
Source & context / स्रोत और संदर्भ	Vande Mataram is linked to the novel "Anandamath" ; became a rallying cry in freedom movement. / "आनंदमठ" उपन्यास से जुड़ा; आजादी के आंदोलन का प्रेरणा स्रोत	Modern History
Legal protection / कानूनी सुरक्षा	Disrespect to National Flag/Anthem is addressed under Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (core statute in GK). / ध्वजा गान के अपमान को 1971 के Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act द्वारा नियंत्रित किया गया है	Polity + Governance
Decorum principle / व्यवहार का सिद्धांत	Key idea: Respect + order ; avoid actions that cause confusion/disruption (e.g., film screening exception). / सम्मान और शांति का सिद्धांत; भ्रम/व्यवधान पैदा करने वाले कार्यों से बचना (जैसे फिल्म प्रदर्शन की छूट)	Ethics + governance answer points
Sequence when both performed / दोनों का क्रम	New instruction: Vande Mataram before Jana Gana Mana when both are performed at an event. / नए निर्देश: कार्यक्रम में दोनों गानों को पहले वन्दे मातरम्, फिर जना गाना के क्रम में गाया जाएगा	Current affairs + static integration

Taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade

Expansion of the base has coincided with an improvement in tax administration efficiency

DATA POINT

Chandrasekar K.

India's direct tax system has undergone a significant expansion over the last decade, marked by a sharp rise in the number of taxpayers as well as sustained improvements in administrative efficiency. Time-series data released by the Income-Tax Department indicate that this expansion has been broad-based and persistent, reflecting deeper formal participation rather than a short-lived compliance surge.

Between Assessment Year (AY) 2013-14 and AY2024-25, the total number of taxpayers, defined as persons who either filed a return of income or in whose case tax was deducted at source, increased from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore.

This increase, which more than doubles the taxpayer base, represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 7.89% over 11 years, underscoring the sustained nature of the expansion. It marks one of the most important structural shifts in India's direct tax landscape since the wider adoption of the Permanent Account Number.

A disaggregated view of the data shows that individual taxpayers remain the primary drivers of this expansion. As illustrated in **Chart 1**, the number of individual taxpayers rose from 4.96 crore in AY2013-14 to 11.61 crore in AY2024-25, translating into a CAGR of about 8% over the period.

Growth was largely steady in the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, with year-on-year increases mostly in the high single digits. The contraction visible in AY2020-21, when individual taxpayers declined by nearly 9%, coincides with the disruption caused by the pandemic. This was followed by strong recovery, with growth accelerating to double digits in the most recent assessment years, indicating renewed momen-

tum in the expansion of the individual tax base.

While individuals dominate the tax system in scale, the expansion has not been confined to households alone. **Chart 2** shows the combined trend for non-individual taxpayers, comprising firms, companies, Hindu Undivided Families, Associations of Persons or Body of Individuals, local authorities, artificial juridical persons, and other residual PAN categories.

In absolute terms, the non-individual taxpayer base increased steadily from about 0.29 crore in AY2013-14 to nearly 0.48 crore by AY2024-25, corresponding to a CAGR of roughly 5% over the period.

Growth among non-individual taxpayers has been more moderate than among individuals, but also more stable. Year-on-year growth rates generally remained within the 4% to 7% range in the pre-pandemic years. The pandemic's impact is again evident in AY2020-21, when growth slowed sharply to below 1% before recovering gradually in subsequent years.

However, unlike individuals, the post-pandemic rebound among non-individuals has been measured, with growth stabilising at around 5% in recent assessment years. This pattern suggests that formalisation has progressed across organisational and business entities, albeit at a steadier pace than individuals.

Cost of collection

The expansion of the taxpayer base has coincided with a marked improvement in tax administration efficiency. As shown in **Chart 3**, the cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% in FY2000-01 to 0.41% in FY2024-25. The figure for FY2024-25 is provisional and may be updated later. This long-term decline has occurred despite a substantial increase in the number of taxpayers and total tax collections.

The temporary rise in the cost

ratio around FY2020-21 reflects pandemic-related disruptions rather than structural weakening. Since then, the ratio has fallen to its lowest level in the available data series, indicating sustained improvements in administrative efficiency.

Several institutional and technological changes help explain these trends. Over the past decade, the tax administration has increasingly relied on digital filing systems, pre-filled returns, faceless assessments, and expanded third-party information reporting. These measures have reduced compliance frictions and enabled the system to manage a larger taxpayer base without a commensurate increase in administrative resources.

Unlike headline filing statistics that focus on absolute counts, the evidence presented here draws on taxpayer-level data, year-on-year growth dynamics, and long-term CAGR trends to assess the durability of India's tax base expansion.

Taken together, the evidence from taxpayer levels, growth rates, CAGR patterns, and collection costs points to a structural strengthening of India's direct tax system. Revenues are being mobilised from a broader cross-section of taxpayers even as administrative efficiency improves, thereby reinforcing the stability and sustainability of public finances and embedding taxation more firmly within the formal economy. This transition has important implications for revenue resilience, equity, and long-term fiscal planning nationwide.

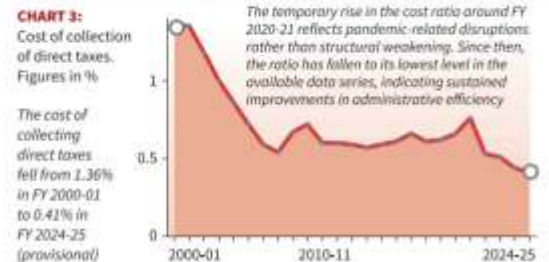
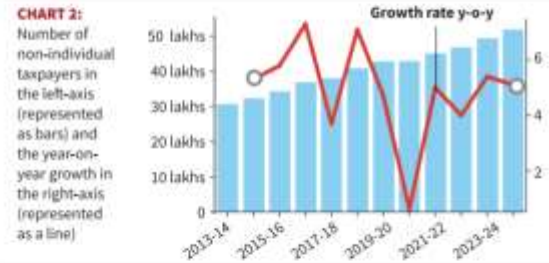
It is to be noted that growth rates are calculated on a year-on-year basis using taxpayer headcount data.

CAGR is computed for the period AY2013-14 to AY2024-25 using unrounded values, and figures for AY2024-25 and FY2024-25 are provisional.

The writer is with the Indian Statistical Service. The views expressed are personal

Rising numbers

The data for the charts were sourced from the Income-Tax Department, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Time Series Data on Direct Taxes (FY 2000-01 to 2024-25)



2. How much the taxpayer base expanded / करदाता आधार कितना बढ़ा

- Between AY 2013-14 and AY 2024-25, total taxpayers (return filers + TDS-deducted cases) rose from 5.26 crore to 12.3 crore. / आकलन वर्ष 2013-14 से 2024-25 के बीच कुल करदाता 5.26 करोड़ से 12.3 करोड़ हो गए।
- This implies a long-term CAGR of about 7.89% over ~11 years. / लगभग 11 वर्षों में चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR) लगभग 7.89% रही।

3. Individuals are the main driver / मुख्य चालक—व्यक्तिगत करदाता

- Individual taxpayers increased from 4.96 crore (AY 2013-14) to 11.61 crore (AY 2024-25), around ~8% CAGR. / व्यक्तिगत करदाता 4.96 करोड़ से 11.61 करोड़ हुए; CAGR लगभग ~8%।
- Growth was mostly steady pre-COVID; there was a visible dip around AY 2020-21 linked to pandemic disruption, followed by strong recovery. / कोविड से पहले वृद्धि स्थिर रही; AY 2020-21 के आसपास महामारी-जनित गिरावट दिखी, फिर तेज़ रिकवरी हुई।

4. Non-individual taxpayers also rose (but slower) / गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाता भी बढ़े (पर धीमे)

- Non-individual taxpayers (firms/companies/HUF/AOP-BOI/local bodies, etc.) rose from ~0.29 crore to ~0.48 crore between AY 2013-14 and AY 2024-25, roughly ~5% CAGR. / गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाता ~0.29 करोड़ से ~0.48 करोड़; CAGR लगभग ~5%।
- Their year-on-year growth stayed in a moderate band; pandemic year showed weakening, then a post-pandemic rebound. / इनकी YoY वृद्धि मध्यम दायरे में रही; महामारी वर्ष में कमजोरी, फिर उछाल।

4. Non-individual taxpayers also rose (but slower) / गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाता भी बढ़े (पर धीमे)

- Non-individual taxpayers (firms/companies/HUF/AOP-BOI/local bodies, etc.) rose from ~0.29 crore to ~0.48 crore between AY 2013-14 and AY 2024-25, roughly ~5% CAGR. / गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाता ~0.29 करोड़ से ~0.48 करोड़; CAGR लगभग ~5%।
- Their year-on-year growth stayed in a moderate band; pandemic year showed weakening, then a post-pandemic rebound. / इनकी YoY वृद्धि मध्यम दायरे में रही; महामारी वर्ष में कमजोरी, फिर उछाल।

5. Efficiency: cost of collection fell / दक्षता: वसूली-लागत घटी

- The cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% (FY 2000-01) to 0.41% (FY 2024-25, provisional). / प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह की लागत 1.36% (FY 2000-01) से घटकर 0.41% (FY 2024-25, अस्थायी) हुई।
- A temporary rise around FY 2020-21 is attributed to pandemic disruption rather than structural weakening; later it fell to the lowest in the available series. / FY 2020-21 के आसपास अस्थायी बढ़ोतरी महामारी-असर मानी गई; बाद में यह उपलब्ध श्रृंखला के न्यूनतम स्तर तक गिर गई।

6. Why administration improved / प्रशासन क्यों बेहतर हुआ

- Increased use of digital filing, pre-filled returns, faceless assessments, more information reporting/third-party data, and process reforms reduced friction and enabled scaling. / डिजिटल फाइलिंग, प्री-फिल्ड रिटर्न, फेसलेस असेसमेंट, अधिक सूचना-रिपोर्टिंग/थर्ड-पार्टी डेटा और प्रक्रिया सुधारों से घर्षण घटा व स्केल-अप संभव हुआ।
- The pattern suggests broadening is not just "one-time compliance," but a more sustained structural expansion. / रुझान संकेत देता है कि यह केवल "एक-बार की अनुपालन वृद्धि" नहीं, बल्कि अधिक टिकाऊ संरचनात्मक विस्तार है।

Rising numbers

The data for the charts were sourced from the Income-Tax Department, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Time Series Data on Direct Taxes (FY 2000-01 to 2024-25)



CHART 1:

Number of individual taxpayers in the left-axis (represented as bars) and the year-on-year growth in the right-axis (represented as a line)

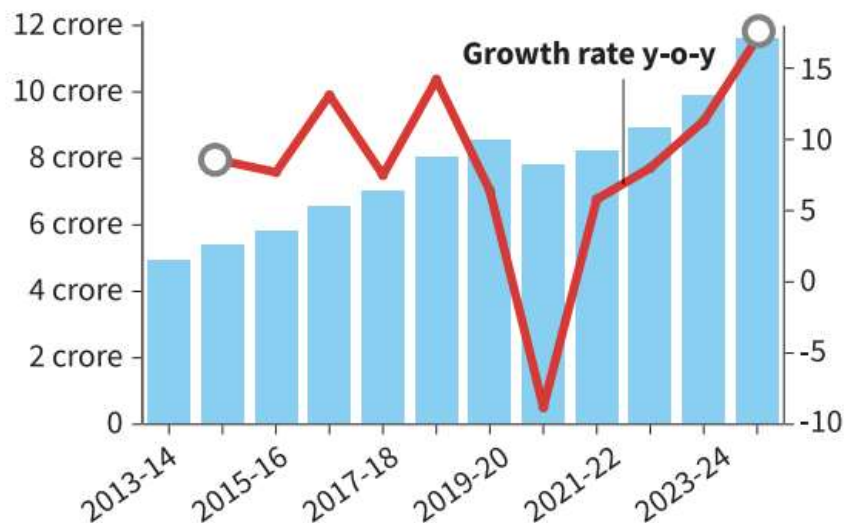


CHART 2:

Number of non-individual taxpayers in the left-axis (represented as bars) and the year-on-year growth in the right-axis (represented as a line)

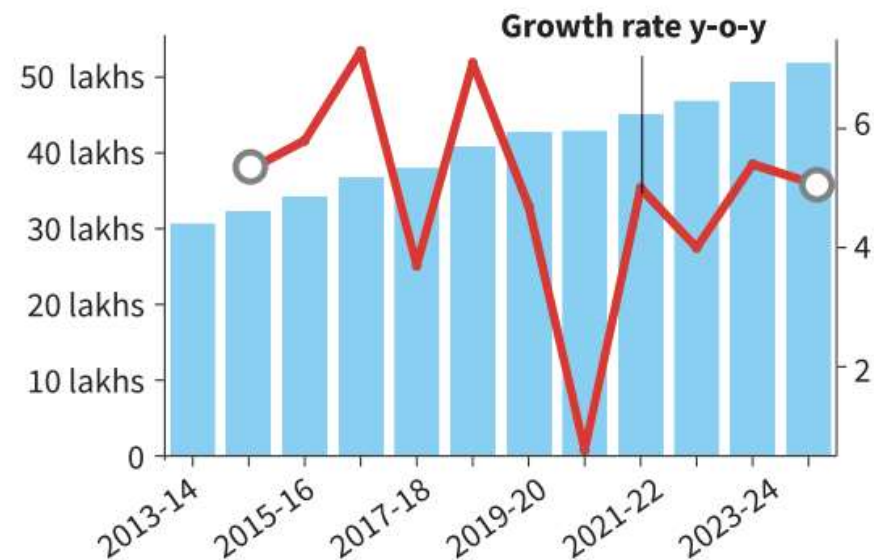
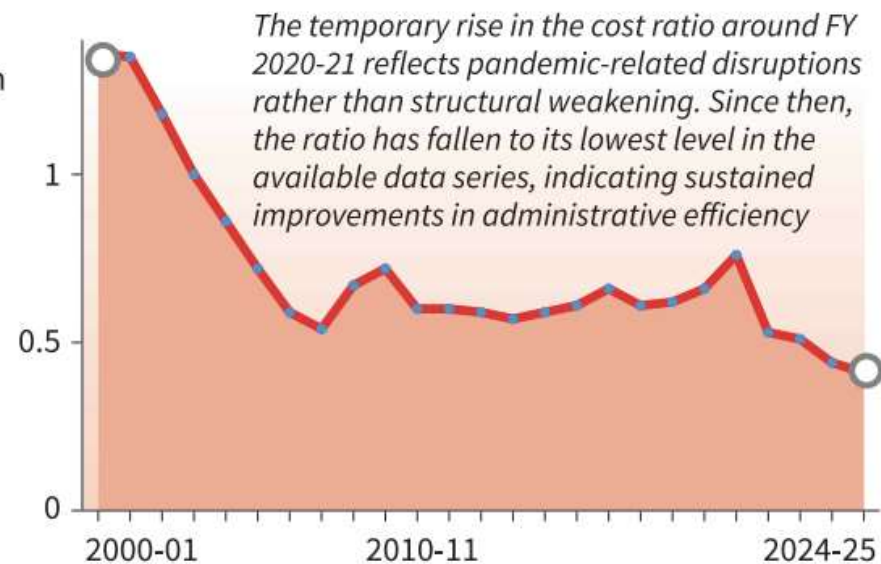


CHART 3:

Cost of collection of direct taxes. Figures in %

The cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% in FY 2000-01 to 0.41% in FY 2024-25 (provisional)



The share for States

Till the 13th FC (2010-2015), the devolution involved specific transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with extensive conditionalities

Table 1: Criteria for horizontal devolution amongst States

Criteria	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2020-26	16th FC 2026-31
Income distance	47.5	50	45	42.5
Population (1971)	25	17.5	-	
Population (2011)	-	10	15	17.5
Area	10	15	15	10
Forests	-	7.5	10	10
Fiscal discipline	17.5	-	-	
Demographic performance	-	-	12.5	10
Tax effort	-	-	2.5	
State's contribution to GDP				10
Total	100	100	100	100



Boycotts and bans: Only constants in B'desh polls

With Sheikh Hasina's Awami League banned, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami — out of the electoral fray for years — are the main contenders. On the agenda is a break with the past and at stake are growth and stability and the country's India ties

Eighteen months after PM Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee the country amid a massive wave of student unrest, Bangladesh faces yet another watershed in its 55-year history as it votes on Thursday to elect a new govt. Sheikh Hasina had presided over a phase of stability and economic growth in her second, and uninterrupted, 15-year stint in office beginning 2009, but she's also accused of undermining democracy in the country during this period.

Her fall, swift and violent, was more than a simple case of the ouster of an unpopular leader. The student movement that anchored the protests proceeded to efface all markers of the country's foundational history, in which Sheikh Hasina's father and the founder of her Awami League party, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, looms as a larger-than-life

figure. There has also been a thaw in ties with Pakistan, setting aside Islamabad's violent repression of the 1971 liberation movement.

As Awami League's leadership and supporters went underground, outfits like the Khaleda Zia-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) — cornered and sidelined under Sheikh Hasina — have emerged as the primary contenders for forming the new govt. The challenges confronting Bangladesh became evident under the interim administration of Nobel Peace laureate Md Yunus: growth has slowed while the country has been caught in a spiral of violence marked by political killings and attacks on media. Especially worrisome has been the targeting of the country's Hindu minority, which has become one more wrinkle in Dhaka's deteriorating ties with New



Party posters line a Dhaka street in the run-up to Thursday's vote

Close to
13 crore
voters..



	Men 6.5 crore		Women 6.3 crore
---	-----------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

...To elect 300 lawmakers

The unicameral Bangladesh national assembly is called the Jatiya Sangsad. Apart from the 300 constituency seats it has **50 reserved seats for women**, allocated proportionally after the election

Delhi, strained already after Sheikh Hasina was given asylum by India.

With Awami League banned, BNP — led now by Tarique Rahman after his mother Zia's death last Dec — is the favourite to win the election, but it has to contend with a strong rival in JeI,

which has tied up with the National Citizen Party, founded by the students who led the July Revolution of 2024. Whoever wins will have the task of helming a very different Bangladesh, where certainties of the past no longer hold and the path ahead looks sharply contested.

The Key Contenders

BNP had boycotted multiple elections during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina, which had also witnessed a crackdown on Jamaat-e-Islami in connection with crimes during the 1971 liberation movement. Both go into the polls at the head of multi-party alliances

Bangladesh Nationalist Party

Founded in 1978 by then president Ziaur Rahman	Led by Khaleda Zia after Ziaur Rahman's assassination	Goes into polls headed by Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman	Economically right-wing and generally conservative
--	---	---	--



Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami

- > **Shafiqur Rahman** is the present chief
- > The Islamist outfit was banned by Sheikh Hasina and deregistered by its top court. Ban lifted following Hasina's ouster



National Citizen Party

- > Founded in Feb 2025 with student leader **Nahid Islam** as the convener
- > Formed as a successor of Students Against Discrimination and Jatiya Nagorik Committee, the party has tied up with Jamaat for the polls



Jatiyo Party

- > Founded in 1986 by then president Hussain Muhammad Ershad
- > Has two factions — one led by G M Quader and Shamim Haider Patwary, the other by Anisul Islam Mahmud and ABM Ruhul Amin
- > Conservative party with Islamic ideology but claims to believe in freedom of all religions

Only 4 'Fair Polls' Out Of 12

Mujib won the first election virtually unchallenged. But after his assassination in 1975, elections were never free under Ziaur Rahman and Muhammad Ershad. In 1991, the first free elections were held in the country. The 1996-2008 period was when democracy was on its strongest footing in a country where main parties either boycotting elections or being banned from contesting has been something of a norm

1st Party

Seats

2nd Party



“ We promise that the ideology which inspired our freedom fighters and heroic martyrs to sacrifice their lives, viz., nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism, these ideals shall be the main features of our Constitution

— MIRZA ASADULLAH KHAN IN R'DESH ASSEMBLY

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— MUJIBUR RAHMAN IN B'DESH ASSEMBLY

	1st Party	Seats	2nd Party	
1973	Awami League	293	5	Independents
1979	BNP	207	39	Awami League
1986	Jatiya Party	153	76	Awami League
1988	Jatiya Party	251	19	Combined Opposition
1991	BNP	140	88	Awami League
1996-I	BNP	278	10	Independents
1996-II	Awami League	146	116	BNP
2001	BNP	195	58	Awami League
2008	Awami League	230	30	BNP
2014	Awami League	234	34	Jatiya Party
2018	Awami League	258	23	Jatiya Party
2024	Awami League	224	62	Independents

BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman was the president

Founder Hussain Muhammad Ershad was the president

Boycotted by Awami League, BNP, CPB, Jamaat-e-Islami, etc

Considered free and fair by international election observers

Boycotted by most opposition parties

Considered free and fair

Considered free and fair

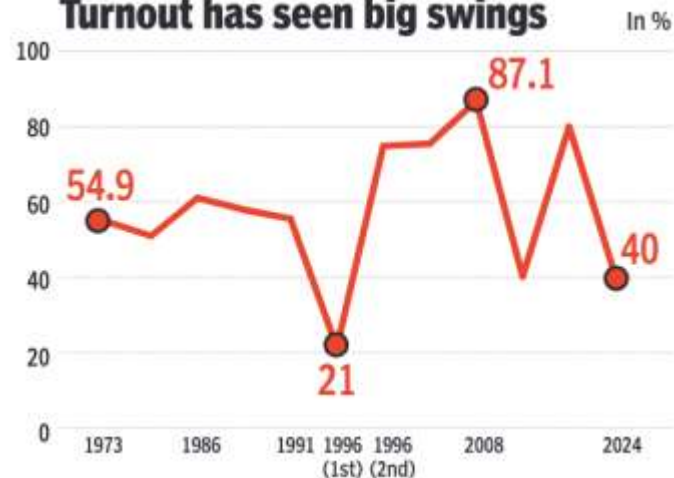
Considered free and fair

Boycotted by: 18-party alliance led by BNP

Boycotted by BNP

Boycotted by BNP

Turnout has seen big swings



Sheikh Hasina with the Awami League poll symbol at a party rally in 1991

Getty Images

Economy weak, but it scores high on human development

Apart from being a larger economy than Pakistan, Bangladesh is far more prosperous than its cousin. The average Bangladeshi is richer, more literate and lives longer than an average Pakistani, and also the average Indian. The average Bangladeshi family is smaller than Pakistani families. It also has a lower infant mortality rate than both India and Pakistan

Research: **Atul Thakur**

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Dhaka Tribune, World Bank, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, European Parliamentary Research Service

Better than Ind, Pak on life expectancy, IMR

	Bangladesh	India	Pakistan
Population (million)	174	1,464	240
GDP (\$, trillion)	0.5	3.9	0.4
GDP (PPP \$, trillion)	1.7	16.2	1.6
GDP per capita (\$)	2,593	2,695	1,479
GDP per capita (PPP \$)	9,647	11,160	6,252
Exchange rate (\$ to currency)	122	91	279
Literacy rate	79	82	59
Forex reserve (\$, billion)	21	643	18
Life expectancy at birth	75	72	68
Total fertility rate	2	2	4
Infant mortality rate	24	25	50

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Charles Darwin originally went to the University of Edinburgh to study _____, but he disliked the experience so much that he left, but not before he learnt taxidermy from the British taxidermist John Edmonstone. In his second year, Darwin began to focus on natural history. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The voyage that shaped Darwin's science was the second expedition of the HMS _____, in 1831-1836. He boarded as a young naturalist and spent years collecting specimens across South America and elsewhere. However, he didn't instantly 'discover' evolution. The meaning of his findings became clear after further studies and expert inputs back in Britain. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Darwin developed the core idea of natural selection years before publishing

it. One important intellectual inspiration was X's essay on population. Darwin applied the idea of people competing for limited resources in the essay to living organisms, helping him see how selection could operate continuously. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Darwin's major work, *On the Origin of Species*, was published in 1859 and sold out quickly. It proposed natural selection as a principal mechanism driving adaptation. Y independently arrived at a similar mechanism; his 1858 letter to Darwin prompted a joint presentation of their ideas at the Linnean Society of London. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

Darwin also wrote _____ in 1871, which extended evolutionary arguments to humans and introduced sexual selection, with traits shaped by mating success rather than just survival. Fill in the blanks.



Visual: Name this woman, a pioneer of close-up photography who also captured the famous 1862 image of Charles Darwin with a big beard. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to February 5 quiz:

1. Location of fort through which IST's time meridian passes – **Ans: Prayagraj**
2. New Zealand territory with a 45-minute timezone offset – **Ans: Chatham Islands**
3. Country with the most number of timezones – **Ans: France**
4. Republic with the earliest timezone on the earth – **Ans: Kiribati**
5. Country in the 'wrong' timezone for more than 80 years – **Ans: Spain**

Visual: **Pips**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas
| Anmol Agrawal

Corrections & Clarifications

The size of the NLOT's primary mirror was erroneously printed as 30 m in the February 9 article "Budget boosts domestic space research while spending lags behind". It is 13.7 m

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone:
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Word of the day

Pugnacity:

a natural disposition to be hostile

Synonyms: aggressiveness, belligerence

Usage: *He is legendary for his pugnacity.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pugnacitypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pʌg'næsəti/

Word of the day

Presentiment:

a feeling of evil to come

Synonyms: foreboding, premonition

Usage: *The lawyer had a presentiment that the judge would dismiss the case.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/presentimentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prɪ'zɛn.tɪ.mənt/

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11. **Banking & Financial Market**
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Thank you 😊

