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THE HINDU TECH SUMMIT
2-day meet opens with focus on education
FULL COVERAGE » PAGES 7 & 8

NATIONWIDE SHUTDOWN
30 crore workers took part in strike, say unions
NEWS » PAGE 5

AMICUS CURIAE REPORT
Jailed Imran left with '15% vision' in one eye
WORLD » PAGE 10

PARLEY
Is a double-engine govt. crucial for growth?
Will alignment at State and Centre benefit voters?
OPINION » PAGE 11

THE ARCHITECT
Hardik stars for India with all-round display
SPORT » PAGE 18

INSIDE

Counting begins after votes cast in Bangladesh

DHAKA

The counting of votes was under way on Thursday after Bangladeshis cast ballots in the crucial general election to elect a new government to replace the interim administration, which took charge after the collapse of the Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. » PAGE 10

'Simultaneous elections do not breach Statute'

NEW DELHI

Simultaneous elections do not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution or its federal framework, former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai told Parliament's Joint Committee reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which aims to synchronise General and Assembly elections. » PAGE 4

Call to withdraw notification on *Vande Mataram*

NEW DELHI

The Union government's notification making it mandatory to recite all verses of *Vande Mataram* has run into opposition from Muslim bodies. Led by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, they called upon the Union government to withdraw the notification failing which they would approach the Supreme Court. » PAGE 4

Won't back down an inch on trade deal, says Rahul

NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the government could file cases or move a Privilege Motion against him, but he would continue to stand with farmers. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "anti-farmer" and "selling" the country through the India-U.S. interim trade deal. » PAGE 5

RBI issues norms to rein in loan recovery agents

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft guideline issued on Thursday has proposed to restrain bank employees or recovery agents to desist from using intimidatory or abusive language, sending 'inappropriate' messages, making excessive calls to the borrower or guarantor, and making threatening or anonymous calls. » PAGE 14

Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible for India: Goyal

Commerce Minister says India will receive concessions on textiles exports as Dhaka got through its own deal with Washington; the agreement is being finalised, will have details in fine print, he adds

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India will receive the same benefits on textiles exports under its interim trade agreement with the U.S. as Bangladesh gained through its own deal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

"Just as Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from America, then if you process it and make cloth and export it, then it will be available at zero reciprocal tariff, India also has the same facility and India will also get it," he said.

The Minister pointed out that India's agreement with the U.S. is still being finalised. "When the interim agreement is finalised, then you will get to see this in the fine print," Mr. Goyal told presspersons.

Trade provisions

Under the Bangladesh-U.S. deal inked on Monday, reciprocal tariffs on Bangladesh's exports to the U.S. will be reduced to 19% overall. However, the deal also has a provision saying that if Bangladesh imports cotton from the U.S., then the tariffs on its textile exports will fall to 0%.

The Congress had attacked the Centre regarding this clause, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that India, which is expected to see tariffs of 18% on exports to the U.S. under the interim agreement, has already been rendered uncompetitive in textiles even before the agreement is signed. "He [Rahul Gandhi] spread another lie in Parliament that Bangladesh has got more benefits from the trade deal than India," Mr. Goyal said.

In an interview with *The Hindu* earlier this week, he said that the interim deal is expected to be signed in mid-March.

'Farmers will benefit'

The Commerce Minister added that Indian farmers also stand to benefit from increased exports to the European Union, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, and Australia due to India's free trade agreements with these countries and groupings.

This latest shift in the contours of the India-U.S. deal is not a new one. The U.S. government on Wednesday amended a fact sheet it had uploaded a few days earlier, by removing references to "pulses", "agricultural products", and "digital service tax". The new version of the fact sheet also said India "intends" to buy $500 billion worth of American goods as opposed to the earlier phrasing that said India has "committed to buy" this amount.

P. Krishnaprasad, a senior functionary of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, said the organisation will examine the impact of Bangladesh-United States deal on cotton farmers in India.

(With inputs from A.M. Jigeesh)

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PIYUSH GOYAL
Union Commerce Minister

MEA refuses to deny claims on Russian imports

NEW DELHI

After a U.S. official said that India had cut import of Russian oil, as the U.S. "wanted [India] to," the Ministry of External Affairs has once again refused to deny the claims. » PAGE 5

Doting mommy

Family time: A greater one-horned rhinoceros calf nuzzles its mother in a wetland at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon district, Assam, on Thursday. PTI

Retail inflation at 2.75% in new Consumer Price Index with 2024 as the base year

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data based on a new series with 2024 as base year, placing retail inflation in January 2026 at 2.75%.

As this is the first data release under the new series, a historical comparison is not yet possible.

The new series of the CPI, which updated the base year from 2012, was released in the presence of MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, and other officials of the Ministry.

Increase in items

The total number of items covered under the new series has increased to 358 from the 299 items in the older series.

The number of goods covered under the new series has increased to 308 from 259, and the number of services has gone up to 50 from the earlier 40.

The updated CPI series gives new weights to goods and services based on consumption patterns revealed in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24.

"The economy has undergone a significant transformation in the last decade," Mr. Nageswaran said in his speech. "Consumption behaviour, market structures, and the compositions of household expenditure have evolved and the new CPI structure unsurprisingly reflects these changes."

The new series also collects data from more sources across the country. Data are collected from 1,468 rural markets, up from 1,181. The number of urban markets covered has gone up to 1,395 from 1,114. Notably, the new series also collects data from 12 online marketplaces, a new category that has been included now.

The new series of the CPI provides more granular data by dividing the underlying goods and services into 12 broad groups compared to the six groups under the older series.

As a result of this, and also based on the consumption patterns of the HCES 2023-24, the weights assigned to these goods and services have also been revised to better reflect current consumption.

New weights

The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category has been revised downward in the new series to 36.75% from the earlier 45.86%.

"The lower weightage on the relatively volatile food category may make the headline inflation number less volatile, all other things remaining equal," Mr. Nageswaran said.

The housing category, with an earlier weight of 10.07%, has been expanded to also include water, electricity, gas and other fuels, and this combined category now has a weight of 17.07% in the new series.

The additional groups in the new series include furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (with a weight of 4.47%), health (6.1%), transport (8.8%), information and communication (3.6%), recreation, sports and culture (1.52%), education services (3.33%), restaurants and accommodation services (3.38%), and personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services (8.04%).

The paan, tobacco and intoxicants category saw its weight increase to 2.99% from 2.38% in the older series. The clothing and footwear category's weight fell to 2.38% from 6.53%.

"Since the basket is aligned with recent expenditure data, the inflation signals from this will be more closely matched to the prevailing economic conditions," Mr. Nageswaran said. "This includes the information base for calibrating monetary and fiscal policy."

Past data on inflation

While releasing the data for January 2026, the Ministry provided the index values based on the new methodology going back to January 2025. However, since earlier index values are not readily available, the year-on-year inflation rate can only be measured for January 2026.

"We are following international practice to give a linking factor, so you can calculate the index as far back as 2013," Mr. Garg explained.

Index overhaul

The 2024-base CPI basket includes 358 items vs. earlier 299, with goods covered rising from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50

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■ The CPI framework has been expanded from 6 broad groups to 12, offering more granular tracking of goods and services

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DAC clears purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF, and six P-8I aircraft for Navy

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹3.6 lakh crore.

The proposals include 114 Rafale fighter jets from France for the Air Force and six P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the United States for the Navy.

The Defence Ministry said that for the IAF, the AoN was approved for the procurement of 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA), combat missiles, and an air ship-based high-altitude pseudo satellite (AS-HAPS). The Rafale jets are expected to significantly enhance the IAF's air dominance capability across the full spectrum of conflict and strengthen its long-range offensive and deterrence posture.

Manufacturing in India

A majority of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic production.

The Ministry further said the combat missiles would enhance the IAF's stand-off ground attack capability with deep-strike precision and high accuracy.

The AS-HAPS platform will be deployed for persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic intelligence (ELINT), telecommunications and remote sensing for military applications.

For the Army, the DAC accorded AoN for the procurement of anti-tank mines (Vibhav) and the overhaul of vehicle platforms of armoured recovery vehicles (ARVs), T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles (BMP-II).

The Vibhav mines will serve as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay and disrupt advancing enemy mechanised forces. The overhaul of existing armoured platforms is aimed at extending their service life and ensuring operational readiness, it added.

The Navy received AoN for six additional P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the U.S., along with a 4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator. The P-8I aircraft will significantly bolster the Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capabilities.

Reducing dependence

The induction of the marine gas turbine-based generator under the Make-I category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 is expected to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and enhance self-reliance in naval power generation systems.

For the Indian Coast Guard, the AoN was granted for the procurement of electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) system for its Dornier aircraft. The systems will enhance maritime surveillance and strengthen coastal security operations.

The approvals mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances in recent years, underlining the government's thrust on force modernisation.

Air power: Most of the jets will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic industry. K. MURALI KUMAR

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Point	CPI (Consumer Price Index) / CPI (उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक)	WPI (Wholesale Price Index) / WPI (थोक मूल्य सूचकांक)
Measures / क्या मापता है	Retail prices of **goods + services** consumed by households / घरों द्वारा उपभोग की जाने वाली वस्तुओं एवं सेवाओं के खुदरा दाम	Wholesale/producer-side prices of **goods (commodities)** largely; services mostly not covered / मुख्यतः वस्तुओं के थोक/उत्पादक स्तर के दाम (सेवाएँ सामान्यतः शामिल नहीं) (eaindustry.nic.in)
Base year (latest) / आधार वर्ष	**2024=100** (new series) / नया आधार वर्ष	**2011–12=100** (current series) / वर्तमान आधार वर्ष (eaindustry.nic.in)
Who releases / कौन जारी करता है	**MoSPI (NSO)** releases CPI / **MoSPI (NSO)** CPI जारी करता है	**DPIIT (Office of Economic Adviser)** releases WPI / **DPIIT (OEA)** WPI जारी करता है (eaindustry.nic.in)
Frequency & lag / आवृत्ति व देरी	Monthly; released on a fixed date (e.g., 12th for Jan-26 release noted) / मासिक; निर्धारित तारीख पर	Monthly; released around **14th** with ~**2 weeks lag** of reference month / मासिक; लगभग 14 तारीख, ~2 हफ़्ते की देरी (eaindustry.nic.in)

Basket coverage / ब़ड़ घ़ ड़ ञघ़	**358 items** (All-India weighted items): **308 goods + 50 services** / 358 ॰ ऱ्ड़ख़: ट़ज़त ञbक्षकूर ड़ज़ द्ऱ्ञबक़	Basket covers **697 items** (commodities) / 697 ॰ ऱ्ड़ख़ (वस्तुएँ)
Classification / ञण॰ड़घ़ऱ	**12 divisions** (COICOP 2018) replacing earlier 6 groups / **12** ञ्ऱ्ञहध़॰ (COICOP 2018)	3 major groups: **Primary Articles, Fuel & Power, Manufactured Products** / 3 मुख्य समूह: ब्ल़्ञब्ड़ ञbक्षकु ह़ ॰ ञ ऱ न्क़ क़्ञबक़ क़्ड़़ब॰ ([Press Information Bureau](#))
Key weights (high-yield) / ख़ ऱ्क़ू़	Food weight reduced to about **36.75%** (new series) / खाद्य का वेटेज ~ट्ढ़ख़ड़प़	Major group weights (WPI): **Primary 22.62%**, **Fuel 13.15%**, **Manufactured 64.23%** / वेटेज: ञ़ख़ड़प़ , झ़ख़ड़प़ , ढ़ख़ाट्प़ ([Press Information Bureau](#))
Weight source / ऱ्क़ू ड़्ऱ ॰ श्ऱ्घ़	**HCES 2023–24** used for weights / वेटेज हेतु **HCES 2023–24**	Derived from WPI methodology for wholesale basket (base 2011–12 series manual) / WPI पद्धति अनुसार थोक टोकरी ([eaindustry.nic.in](#))

Geography/market coverage / क्व्न्व्रघ इ त्रघ्र्	Price collection from **urban markets incl. online + villages** (e.g., 1407 urban markets incl. online; 1465 villages mentioned) / शहरी (ऑनलाइन सहित) + ग्रामीण बाजारों से कीमतें	Data compiled from institutional sources & selected manufacturing units / संस्थागत स्रोत + चयनित विनिर्माण इकाइयों से डेटा (eaindustry.nic.in)
Inflation meaning / खण्श्व्रह इ व श व्र	**Retail inflation** = YoY % change in CPI / क्ष्क्घव खण्श्व्रह = CPI में YoY % बदलाव	**Wholesale inflation** = YoY % change in WPI / व्ह्ड खण्श्व्रह = WPI में YoY % बदलाव (eaindustry.nic.in)
Latest headline reading (from new CPI series) / ल्वधव म्क्व्र	**Jan 2026 YoY CPI inflation = 2.75%** (Rural 2.73, Urban 2.77) / न ऽ त्रघ्ह ऊज़ज़क्ऴखघ्ड़प	WPI is published monthly; base & release system confirmed (example Dec 2025 release shows base 2011–12 and release schedule) / WPI मासिक जारी; बेस/शेड्यूल (eaindustry.nic.in)
Policy relevance / ऴ्ल्झ्क् ख़ळ्क्ह ग्ह्ऴ	Primary inflation gauge for **cost of living**; central in **monetary policy targeting** / जीवन-यापन लागत; मौद्रिक नीति में सबसे अहम (Reuters)	Tracks producer/wholesale price pressures; useful for supply-chain & input cost trends / इनपुट-कॉस्ट व सप्लाई-चेन ट्रेंड समझने में उपयोगी (eaindustry.nic.in)
What changes with base revision / ड्र्क् क्ह्च्रष्क्ऴ्र व क्ह्च्ऴव फ़्र	Basket items, weights, classification, coverage (services/online) updated; more representative / टोकरी-वेटेज-कवरेज अपडेट; अधिक प्रतिनिधि	Govt has a **working group** to revise WPI base from 2011–12 to **2022–23** (process ongoing) / WPI बेस को ऊज़ज़ऴ–ऴट करने हेतु वर्किंग ग्रुप (Press Information Bureau)

- **New CPI series (Base year 2024) launched / नया CPI (आधार वर्ष 2024) शुरू**
  - MoSPI released Consumer Price Index (CPI) data in a **new series with 2024 as base year**. / MoSPI ने **2024 आधार वर्ष** वाली **नई CPI श्रृंखला** का डेटा जारी किया।
  - Retail inflation for **January 2026 = 2.75%** under this new series. / **जनवरी 2026** की खुदरा महंगाई **2.75%** रही।
- **First release → direct historical comparison not possible / पहली रिलीज → सीधा ऐतिहासिक तुलना संभव नहीं**
  - Since it is the **first data release** under the new series, a clean historical comparison with the old series isn't immediately possible. / नई श्रृंखला की यह **पहली रिलीज** होने से पुरानी श्रृंखला से **सीधी तुलना** तुरंत संभव नहीं।
- **Basket expanded: more items covered / टोकरी का विस्तार: अधिक वस्तुएँ शामिल**
  - Total items increased to **358** (from **299** earlier). / कुल आइटम **358** हो गए (पहले **299**)।
  - Goods increased to **308** (from **259**), services to **50** (from **40**). / वस्तुएँ **308** (पहले **259**), सेवाएँ **50** (पहले **40**)।
- **Index coverage improved: rural/urban markets + online platforms / कवरेज बेहतर: ग्रामीण/शहरी बाजार + ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म**
  - Rural markets covered increased **1,181 → 1,465**. / ग्रामीण बाजार **1,181 → 1,465**।
  - Urban markets covered increased **1,114 → 1,395**; plus **12 online platforms/marketplaces** included. / शहरी बाजार **1,114 → 1,395**; साथ में **12 ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म/मार्केटप्लेस** जोड़े गए।

- **More granular CPI: groups expanded 6 → 12 / अधिक सूक्ष्म CPI: समूह 6 से 12**
  - CPI now tracks prices via **12 broad groups** (earlier 6), enabling finer tracking of goods & services. / CPI अब **12 समूहों** (पहले 6) में—वस्तु/सेवा दोनों की अधिक सूक्ष्म ट्रैकिंग।
- **Weights revised using HCES 2023–24 / HCES 2023–24 के आधार पर वेटेज बदले**
  - Weights were revised to reflect new consumption patterns. / उपभोग पैटर्न बदलने के अनुसार वेटेज संशोधित किए गए।
- **Key weight shifts (high exam value) / प्रमुख वेटेज बदलाव (परीक्षा उपयोगी)**
  - **Food & beverages weight reduced** to **36.75%** (earlier **45.86%**) → headline inflation may be **less volatile**. / खाद्य-व पेय का वेटेज घटकर 36.75% (पहले 45.86%) → हेडलाइन महंगाई अपेक्षाकृत **कम उतार-चढ़ाव** वाली हो सकती है।
  - Housing category expanded to include **water, electricity, gas & other fuels**; combined weight now **17.67%** (housing earlier shown at **10.07%**). / हाउसिंग में **पानी-बिजली-गैस/ईंधन** जोड़कर संयुक्त वेटेज 17.67% (पहले हाउसिंग 10.07%) ।
  - **Paan, tobacco & intoxicants** weight increased to **2.99%** (from **2.38%**). / **पान-तंबाकू/नशीले पदार्थ** का वेटेज 2.99% (पहले 2.38%) ।
  - **Clothing & footwear** weight fell to **2.38%** (from **6.53%**). / कपड़े व जूते-चप्पल का वेटेज 2.38% (पहले 6.53%) ।

Term / टर्म	Meaning / मतलब	Why important / क्यों जरूरी	From this news / इस खबर से
Base Year / आधार वर्ष	Price index का reference year / तुलना का आधार	Series change → weights/coverage बदलते / नये वेटेज-कवरेज	CPI base year now **2024**
CPI (Retail Inflation) / CPI (खुदरा महंगाई)	Household basket (goods + services) prices / घर-परिवार की टोकरी	RBI policy focus & cost of living	Jan 2026 inflation **2.75%**
HCES / उपभोग व्यय सर्वे	Consumption expenditure survey / उपभोग खर्च	CPI weights तय करने का आधार	Weights revised using **HCES 2023–24**
Weightage / भार	Basket share; higher weight → higher impact	Inflation drivers समझने में	Food weight ↓; Housing-related weight ↑
Linking factor / लिंकिंग फैक्टर	Old & new series को जोड़ने का conversion	Time-series comparison in exams	Used to compute past comparable values
Volatility / उतार-चढ़ाव	High food weight → higher swings	Headline inflation stability	Food weight reduced → may reduce swings

Q. Consider the following statements about India's new CPI series (Base year 2024):

1. The CPI basket has expanded from 299 items to 358 items, and the number of services covered has increased. / CPI टोकरी 299 से बढ़कर 358 आइटम हुई है और सेवाओं की संख्या भी बढ़ी है।

2. The weight of food and beverages in CPI has increased in the new series, making headline inflation potentially more volatile. / नई श्रृंखला में खाद्य-व पेय का वेटेज बढ़ा है, जिससे महंगाई अधिक उतार-चढ़ाव वाली हो सकती है।

Which statement(s) is/are correct?

(a) 1 only / केवल 1

(b) 2 only / केवल 2

(c) Both 1 and 2 / 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) Neither 1 nor 2 / न 1 न 2

DAC clears purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF, and six P-8I aircraft for Navy

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹3.6 lakh crore.

The proposals include 114 Rafale fighter jets from France for the Air Force and six P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the United States for the Navy.

The Defence Ministry said that for the IAF, the AoN was approved for the procurement of 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA), combat missiles, and an air-ship-based high-altitude pseudo satellite (AS-HAPS). The Rafale jets are expected to significantly enhance the IAF's air-dominance capability across the full spectrum of conflict and strengthen its long-range offensive and deterrence posture.

Manufacturing in India
A majority of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic defence production.

The Ministry further said that the combat missiles would enhance the IAF's stand-off ground attack capability with deep-strike precision and high

Air power: Most of the jets will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic industry. K. MURALI KUMAR

accuracy.

The AS-HAPS platform will be deployed for persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic intelligence (ELINT), telecommunications and remote sensing for military applications.

For the Army, the DAC accorded AoN for the procurement of anti-tank mines (Vibhav) and the overhaul of vehicle platforms of armoured recovery vehicles (ARVs), T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles (BMP-II).

The Vibhav mines will serve as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay and disrupt advancing enemy mechanised forces. The overhaul of existing armoured platforms is aimed at extending their service life and ensuring operational readiness, it added.

The Navy received AoN for six additional P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the U.S., along with a 4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator. The P-8I aircraft will significantly bolster the Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capabilities.

Reducing dependence
The induction of the marine gas turbine-based generator under the Make-I category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 is expected to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and enhance self-reliance in naval power generation systems.

For the Indian Coast Guard, the AoN was granted for the procurement of electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) systems for its Dornier aircraft. The systems will enhance maritime surveillance and strengthen coastal security operations.

The approvals mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances in recent years, underlining the government's thrust on force modernisation.

ENGINES

Powered by **2 engines**, enabling **supercruise** (**supersonic** flight without afterburners)

SPEED

Mach 1.8

COMBAT RADIUS

1,000 km

AVIONICS

Features RBE2 AESA radar, SPECTRA EW system, and Helmet Mounted Display for enhanced awareness and survivability.

Rafale Fighter Jet

WEAPONS

AIR-TO-AIR

Meteor (Beyond Visual Range missile), **MICA** (short-range, all-aspect missile)

AIR-TO-GROUND

SCALP

HAMMER

ANTI-SHIP

Exocet and Naval SCALP (for maritime strike operations)

VARIANTS

RAFALE C

Single-seat variant for the Air Force.

RAFALE B

Twin-seat variant for training and operational flexibility.

RAFALE M

Naval variant optimised for carrier operations.

Jet (Country)	Gen / Role	Stealth	Sensors / EW (high level)	Speed / Ceiling	Range / Radius (published)	Payload / Carriage style	Best at	Not ideal at
Rafale (France)	**4.5 gen** multirole (air-air, strike, nuclear, naval)	Low-observable *by design choices*, but **not VLO stealth**	**RBE2 AESA** radar; **SPECTRA** integrated EW + threat detection/decoys; **FSO IRST/optronics** for passive detection	**Mach 1.8**, 50,000 ft ([Dassault Aviation](#))	(Varies by load; official pages emphasize performance; combat radius depends on mission profile)	**14 hardpoints (13 naval)**; heavy external carriage possible ([Dassault Aviation](#))	"All-rounder" multirole, strong EW survivability, flexible weapons integration	Deep-penetration vs dense IADS compared to true stealth; signature not like F-35/F-22
F-35A (USA)	**5th gen** multirole / strike + ISR	**VLO stealth** + sensor fusion	AESA radar + full sensor fusion + networking; designed for "see first, shoot first"	**Mach 1.6**, 50,000 ft ([Air Force](#))	**Combat radius (internal fuel) >590 nm / 1,093 km** ([Lockheed Martin](#))	**Internal weapons** (stealth config) + external when needed	First-day strike, sensor fusion, networked warfare	Pure dogfight kinematics vs top air-superiority designs; payload lower in stealth config
F-22 Raptor (USA)	**5th gen** air superiority	**VLO stealth**	LPI AESA radar + very strong integrated avionics	Supercruise + very high top-end; designed for dominance ([Wikipedia](#))	(Range depends on profile; internal fuel emphasized)	**Internal weapons bays** (stealth) ([Wikipedia](#))	Air dominance, high-end BVR + kinematics	Export not available; limited multirole compared to F-35/Rafale

				Mach ~2.35, supercruise capability discussed (Wikipedia)	Combat range ~1,389 km (hi-lo-hi ground attack profile) (published in open sources) (Wikipedia)			
Eurofighter Typhoon (Europe)	**4.5 gen** air superiority → multirole	Not VLO stealth	CAPTOR-E/ECRS AESA (upgrade path) + strong sensor suite; advanced defensive aids (Airbus)			External stores (high performance with load)	Air-to-air performance, fast intercept, BVR with Meteor (where integrated)	Stealth penetration compared to 5th gen
Chengdu J-20 (China)	**5th gen** long-range air dominance	**Stealth** (VLO intent)	AESA + internal bays (details not fully public)	(Public numbers vary)	(Public numbers vary)	**Internal bays**: main bay + side bays for short-range missiles (Wikipedia)	Long-range A2AD support, high-end air dominance concept	Transparency/spec certainty is lower in open sources
Su-57 (Russia)	**5th gen** multirole	Stealth features + internal bays (debated how "VLO")	**N036 "Byelka/Belka" AESA suite** (multi-array concept) + internal carriage (Wikipedia)	(Public numbers vary)	(Public numbers vary)	**Two main internal bays + side bays** described in open sources (Wikipedia)	Maneuverability + mixed stealth/kinematics concept	Maturity/scale in service vs US/EU platforms debated (open-source uncertainty)

1) IAF Rafale Deal (36 aircraft, 2016)

PIB confirms the deal is for **36 Rafale including weapons, long-term maintenance support, simulators + 10 years maintenance/support.** Press Information…

The deal value is widely reported as **€7.87 billion** for this package.

Item	Value
Total package value	**€7.87 bn**
Total in INR (at ~₹107.6/EUR)	**≈ ₹84,681 crore**
Package average per aircraft	€7.87 bn ÷ 36 = **€218.6 million**
Per aircraft in INR (package average)	**≈ ₹2,352 crore / aircraft**

2) Indian Navy Rafale Deal (26 aircraft, 2025)

Reuters reported India signed a **$7.4 bn** deal for **26 Rafale** for the Navy (22 single-seat + 4 twin-seat), delivery by 2030. Reuters

Item	Value
Total package value	**$7.4 bn** Reuters
Total in INR (at ~₹90.6/USD)	**≈ ₹67,044 crore**
Package average per aircraft	$7.4 bn ÷ 26 = **$284.6 million**
Per aircraft in INR (package average)	**≈ ₹2,579 crore / aircraft**

(Conversion uses USD→INR above.) Xe +2

- **DAC approval / DAC की मंज़ूरी**
  - Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for capital acquisition proposals worth about **₹3.6 lakh crore**. / रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद (DAC) ने रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में लगभग **₹3.6 लाख करोड़** के पूंजीगत अधिग्रहण प्रस्तावों को **AoN** दी।
- **IAF: 114 Rafale (MRFA) package / वायुसेना: 114 राफेल (MRFA) पैकेज**
  - AoN includes procurement of **114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA)** (Rafale mentioned in the report), along with **combat missiles** and an **Air-ship based High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS)**. / AoN में **114 मल्टी-रोल फाइटर एयरक्राफ्ट (MRFA)** (रिपोर्ट में राफेल), साथ में **कॉम्बैट मिसाइलें** और **AS-HAPS** शामिल हैं।
  - Expected impact: stronger **air dominance**, better **long-range offensive** capability and **deterrence posture**. / असर: एयर डॉमिनेंस, लॉन्ग-रेंज स्ट्राइक और डिटरेंस क्षमता में बढ़ोतरी।
- **Make/Manufacturing in India / भारत में निर्माण**
  - A majority of the aircraft are expected to be **manufactured in India**, boosting domestic defence production. / अधिकांश विमान **भारत में निर्माण** होने की उम्मीद, जिससे घरेलू रक्षा उद्योग को बढ़ावा।
- **AS-HAPS role / AS-HAPS की भूमिका**
  - AS-HAPS platform intended for persistent **ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance)**, **ELINT (Electronic Intelligence)**, telecom support, and **remote sensing** for military use. / AS-HAPS का उपयोग लगातार **ISR**, **ELINT**, संचार सहयोग और सैन्य **रिमोट सेंसिंग** के लिए।

- **Navy: additional P-8I / नौसेना: अतिरिक्त P-8I**
  - AoN granted for **six additional P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft** from the U.S. / अमेरिका से **6 अतिरिक्त P-8I** लॉन्ग-रेंज मैरीटाइम रिकॉनिसेंस विमान।
  - Capability boost: **anti-submarine warfare (ASW), maritime surveillance**, and **maritime strike**. / क्षमता: **ASW, समुद्री निगरानी, समुद्री स्ट्राइक** में मजबूती।
- **Navy power systems / नौसेना पावर सिस्टम**
  - Also includes a **4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator**. / साथ में **4 MW मरीन गैस-टर्बाइन आधारित इलेक्ट्रिक पावर जनरेटर** भी शामिल।
- **Army: mines + overhaul / थलसेना: माइंस + ओवरहॉल**
  - AoN for **anti-tank mines (Vibhav)** and overhaul of platforms of **Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs), T-72 tanks**, and **BMP-II infantry combat vehicles**. / विभव एंटी-टैंक माइंस और **ARVs, T-72, BMP-II** प्लेटफॉर्म्स के ओवरहॉल को AoN।
  - Vibhav mines aim to act as anti-tank obstacle system to **delay/disrupt** enemy mechanised forces. / विभव माइंस का उद्देश्य दुश्मन की मैकेनाइज़्ड फोर्स को **रोके/धीमा** करना।
- **Coast Guard: EO/IR systems / कोस्ट गार्ड: EO/IR सिस्टम**
  - AoN for **Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR)** systems for Dornier aircraft to enhance maritime surveillance and coastal security. / डोर्नियर विमानों हेतु **EO/IR** सिस्टम—समुद्री निगरानी और तटीय सुरक्षा मजबूत।

- **Self-reliance angle / आत्मनिर्भरता पहलू**
  - Induction under **Make-I** category of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 is expected to reduce foreign dependence and improve self-reliance (noted for naval power generation). / **DAP-2020** के **Make-I** के तहत—विदेशी निर्भरता घटाने और आत्मनिर्भरता बढ़ाने की दिशा।
- **Big-ticket modernisation / बड़ा आधुनिकीकरण संकेत**
  - The approvals are among the largest in recent years, reflecting a strong push for **force modernisation**. / ये मंज़ूरियाँ हाल के वर्षों की सबसे बड़ी में—**फोर्स मॉडर्नाइजेशन** पर जोर।

Term / टर्म	Meaning / मतलब	Exam angle / परीक्षा में उपयोग
DAC	Defence Acquisition Council: major capital procurement decisions	Defence governance, procurement process
AoN (Acceptance of Necessity)	In-principle approval to proceed with acquisition	Stages of defence procurement
MRFA	Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft requirement (IAF)	IAF capability gap, squadron strength debates
Rafale (role)	Multi-role fighter; improves air dominance & precision strike	Air power, deterrence, modern fighters
P-8I	Long-range maritime patrol aircraft; strong in ASW & surveillance	Navy ASW, maritime domain awareness
AS-HAPS	High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite: persistent ISR/ELINT/comm support	Space-like capability without satellite; ISR terms
ISR / ELINT	ISR: Intel+Surveillance+Recon; ELINT: electronic signal intelligence	Common defence abbreviations in MCQs
EO/IR	Electro-optical + infrared sensors for surveillance/targeting	Coastal security, night surveillance
Make-I (DAP 2020)	Indigenous design & development with govt support	Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence
ARV / T-72 / BMP-II	Armoured recovery vehicle / main battle tank / infantry combat vehicle	Army armour & mechanised forces basics

Exam / परीक्षा	Year/Session / वर्ष	Question theme (memory-based) / प्रश्न थीम	Answer / उत्तर
UPSC CSE Prelims (GS)	2019–2022 (theme)	"Consider statements on **CPI vs WPI / base year / weights**; which are correct?" / CPI-WPI और वेटेज पर कथन	CPI: retail + services; WPI: wholesale goods-heavy
CDS / AFCAT	2020–2023 (theme)	"P-8I is used for which role?" / P-8I का उपयोग किस लिए	**Maritime patrol + ASW**
SSC / Railway (GK)	2021–2024 (theme)	"Full form of ISR / ELINT / EO-IR and their use" / ISR-ELINT-EO/IR का अर्थ/उपयोग	ISR: Intel+Surv+Recon; ELINT: Electronic Intel; EO/IR: optical+infrared sensing
State PSC (Polity/Defence)	2020–2024 (theme)	"DAC / AoN / procurement stages: match the following" / DAC-AoN-प्रोक्योरमेंट चरण	AoN = initial approval; DAC = key acquisition body

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The DAC's Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is an in-principle approval that allows the acquisition process for major defence capital purchases to move forward. / DAC की AoN एक प्रारंभिक मंज़ूरी है जिससे बड़े रक्षा अधिग्रहण आगे बढ़ते हैं।

2. The P-8I aircraft primarily strengthens anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance capabilities. / P-8I मुख्यतः एंटी-सबमरीन वारफेयर और समुद्री निगरानी क्षमता बढ़ाता है।

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only / केवल 1

(b) 2 only / केवल 2

(c) Both 1 and 2 / 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) Neither 1 nor 2 / न 1 न 2

Goa Unveils First Biodiversity and Cultural Map

A beach in South Goa

Dudhsagar Falls

Mangueshi Temple

Gallery de Fontainhas

Shanta Durga Temple

Basilica of Bom Jesus

Previously was	Goa, Daman and Diu
Admission to union	19 December 1961
Formation (by bifurcation)	30 May 1987
Capital	Panaji
Largest city	Vasco da Gama, Goa
Districts	3
Government	
• **Body**	Government of Goa
• **Governor**	Ashok Gajapathi Raju
• **Chief Minister**	Pramod Sawant (BJP)
State Legislature	**Unicameral**
• **Assembly**	Goa Legislative Assembly (40 seats)
National Parliament	**Parliament of India**
• **Rajya Sabha**	1 seat
• **Lok Sabha**	2 seats
High Court	Bombay High Court
Area[1]	
• **Total**	3,702 km² (1,429 sq mi)
• **Rank**	28th
Highest elevation (Sonsogor)	1,026 m (3,366 ft)
Lowest elevation (Arabian Sea)	0 m (0 ft)
Population (2025)[2]	
• **Total**	▲ 1,591,000
• **Rank**	28th
• **Density**	380/km² (980/sq mi)
• **Urban**	77.89%
• **Rural**	22.11%
Demonym(s)	*Goenkar*, Goan
Language	
• **Official**	Konkani[3]
• **Additional official**	Marathi[4] and English[5]
• **Official script**	Devanagari script
GDP[7]	
• **Total** (2025–2026)	▲ $15.85 billion (nominal) ▲ $68.89 billion (PPP)[6]
• **Rank**	23rd
• **Per capita**	▲ : ₹873,000 (US$10,000) (nominal) ▲ $47,713 (PPP) (2nd)
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-GA
Vehicle registration	GA
HDI (2023)	▲ 0.801 Very High[8] (1st)
Literacy (2025)	99.7%[9] (2nd)
Sex ratio (2025)	986♀/1000 ♂ (5th)

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Facts for Exams
News Title	Goa unveils its first Biodiversity and Cultural Map	गोवा ने अपना पहला जैव विविधता एवं सांस्कृतिक मानचित्र जारी किया	
Developed By	WWF-India (Goa chapter)	डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ-इंडिया (गोवा इकाई) द्वारा विकसित	WWF established in 1961 (Global); WWF-India in 1969
Launch Venue	Goa Art and Literature Festival	गोवा कला एवं साहित्य महोत्सव में जारी	Cultural integration with environmental awareness
Objective	Promote environmental awareness among school children	स्कूली बच्चों में पर्यावरण जागरूकता बढ़ाना	Linked with Environmental Education (EE) initiatives
Coverage	48 commonly found species in Goa	गोवा में पाए जाने वाली 48 सामान्य प्रजातियाँ	Includes birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, marine life
Species Type	Catfish, mangroves, tiger, birds, insects etc.	कैटफिश, मैंग्रोव, बाघ, पक्षी, कीट आदि	Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot relevance

Focus Approach	Avoids rare remote species; focuses on local biodiversity	दुर्लभ दूरस्थ प्रजातियों से बचकर स्थानीय जैव विविधता पर ध्यान	Encourages community-level conservation
Educational Use	Distributed free to schools in print & digital form	प्रिंट एवं डिजिटल रूप में स्कूलों को मुफ्त वितरण	Promotes experiential learning
NEP Linkage	Aligns with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020	राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 से जुड़ा	NEP promotes experiential & multidisciplinary learning
Teacher Training	450 teachers trained (Class VI onward)	लगभग 450 शिक्षकों को प्रशिक्षण (कक्षा 6 से)	Capacity building in environmental pedagogy
Larger Initiative	Part of comprehensive wildlife mapping in Goa	गोवा में व्यापक वन्यजीव मानचित्रण का हिस्सा	State-level biodiversity documentation

Category	Important Facts (English + Hindi)
Biodiversity Hotspot	Goa lies in the Western Ghats, one of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots. गोवा पश्चिमी घाट में स्थित है जो विश्व के 36 जैव विविधता हॉटस्पॉट में से एक है।
State Animal	Gaur (Indian Bison) राज्य पशु – गौर
State Bird	Black Crested Bulbul राज्य पक्षी – ब्लैक क्रेस्टेड बुलबुल
Mangroves	Goa has extensive mangrove ecosystems along Zuari & Mandovi rivers. मांडोवी और जुआरी नदियों के किनारे मैंग्रोव पाए जाते हैं।
Protected Areas	Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Mollem National Park, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. भगवान महावीर अभयारण्य, मोल्लेम राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
Coastline	Approx. 101 km coastline along Arabian Sea. लगभग 101 किमी समुद्री तट
Biosphere Context	Western Ghats declared UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012). पश्चिमी घाट 2012 में यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर घोषित

- **Consider the following statements regarding Goa's Biodiversity Map initiative:**

- It was developed by WWF-India.

- It includes only rare and endangered species.

- It aligns with the National Education Policy 2020.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Saudi Arabia to Host HCI Conference 2026

Capital and largest city	Riyadh 🌐 24°39′N 46°46′E
Official languages	Arabic[5]
Religion	• Sunni Islam (official)[6] • School: Hanbali • Creed: Athari
Demonyms	Saudi Saudi Arabian
Government	Unitary Islamic absolute monarchy
• King	Salman
• Crown Prince and Prime Minister	Mohammed bin Salman
Legislature	Consultative Assembly[b]
Establishment	
• Emirate of Diriyah	22 February 1727
• Emirate of Nejd	1824
• Emirate of Riyadh	13 January 1902
• Emirate of Nejd and Hasa	15 January 1913
• Sultanate of Nejd	29 November 1921
• Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd	8 January 1926
• Unification and Proclamation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	23 September 1932
• Current constitution	31 January 1992
Area	
• Total	2,149,690[9] km² (830,000 sq mi) (12th)
• Water (%)	0.7

Area	
• Total	2,149,690[9] km^2 (830,000 sq mi) (12th)
• Water (%)	0.7
Population	
• 2024 census	▲ 33,702,731[10] (42th)
• Density	15/km^2 (38.8/sq mi) (218th)
GDP (PPP)	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ $2.690 trillion[11] (17th)
• Per capita	▲ $74.670[12] (19th)
GDP (nominal)	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ $1.270 trillion[13] (19th)
• Per capita	▲ $35,230[14] (37th)
Gini (2013)	— 45.9[15] medium inequality
HDI (2023)	▲ 0.900[16] very high (37th)
Currency	Saudi riyal (SR)[c] (SAR)

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Facts for Exams
News	Saudi Arabia to host Human Capability Initiative (HCI) Conference 2026	सऊदी अरब 2026 में मानव क्षमता पहल (HCI) सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा	Important for International Relations & Economy
Edition	Third Edition	तीसरा संस्करण	Indicates continuity of global platform
Date	3–4 May 2026	3–4 मई 2026	Likely Prelims current affairs question
Venue	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	रियाद, सऊदी अरब	Riyadh = Capital city
Theme	"The Human Code"	"द ह्यूमन कोड"	Focus on human capital & future skills
Country of Honor	United Kingdom	यूनाइटेड किंगडम	Shows UK–Saudi strategic ties

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Exam Angle
Patronage	Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman	क्राउन प्रिंस मोहम्मद बिन सलमान के संरक्षण में	He is also PM of Saudi Arabia
Linked Programme	Human Capability Development Program (HCDP)	मानव क्षमता विकास कार्यक्रम	Part of Vision 2030
Strategic Vision	Saudi Vision 2030	सऊदी विज़न 2030	Economic diversification plan

Objective	English Explanation	हिंदी विवरण	Extra Exam Facts
Human Capital Development	Improve education, workforce skills	शिक्षा एवं कार्यबल कौशल में सुधार	Human Capital Index (World Bank) relevance
Economic Diversification	Reduce oil dependency	तेल पर निर्भरता कम करना	Gulf economies diversification trend
Global Hub	Position Saudi Arabia as education & skills dialogue center	सऊदी को वैश्विक शिक्षा व कौशल केंद्र बनाना	Similar to Davos (WEF platform)
UK Partnership	Strengthen education & vocational cooperation	शिक्षा व व्यावसायिक सहयोग मजबूत करना	UK–Saudi trade & education agreements

🏛️ Saudi Vision 2030 – Key Exam Points

Component	Details (English + Hindi)
Launched	2016
Architect	Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman
Aim	Diversify economy beyond oil (तेल आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था से विविधीकरण)
Key Sectors	Tourism, Technology, Education, Renewable Energy
NEOM Project	$500 billion futuristic city

🇬🇧 United Kingdom – Exam Context

Aspect	Details
Capital	London
Political System	Constitutional Monarchy
Currency	Pound Sterling
Strategic Cooperation Areas	Education, Defence, Trade

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Human Capability Initiative (HCI) Conference 2026:

1. It will be hosted in Riyadh.
2. It is part of Saudi Vision 2030.
3. The United States has been designated as Country of Honor.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
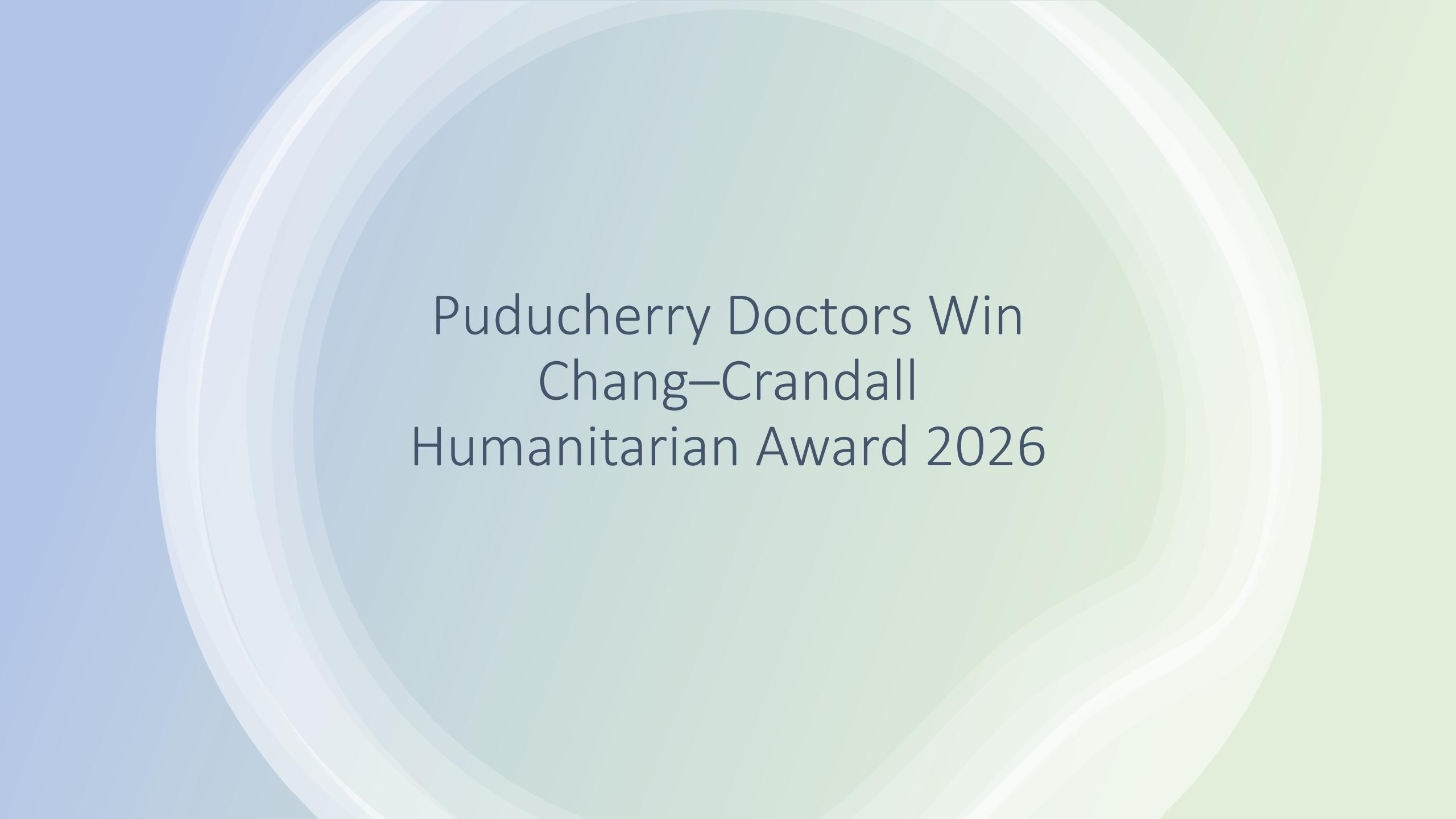
(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Puducherry Doctors Win Chang–Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026
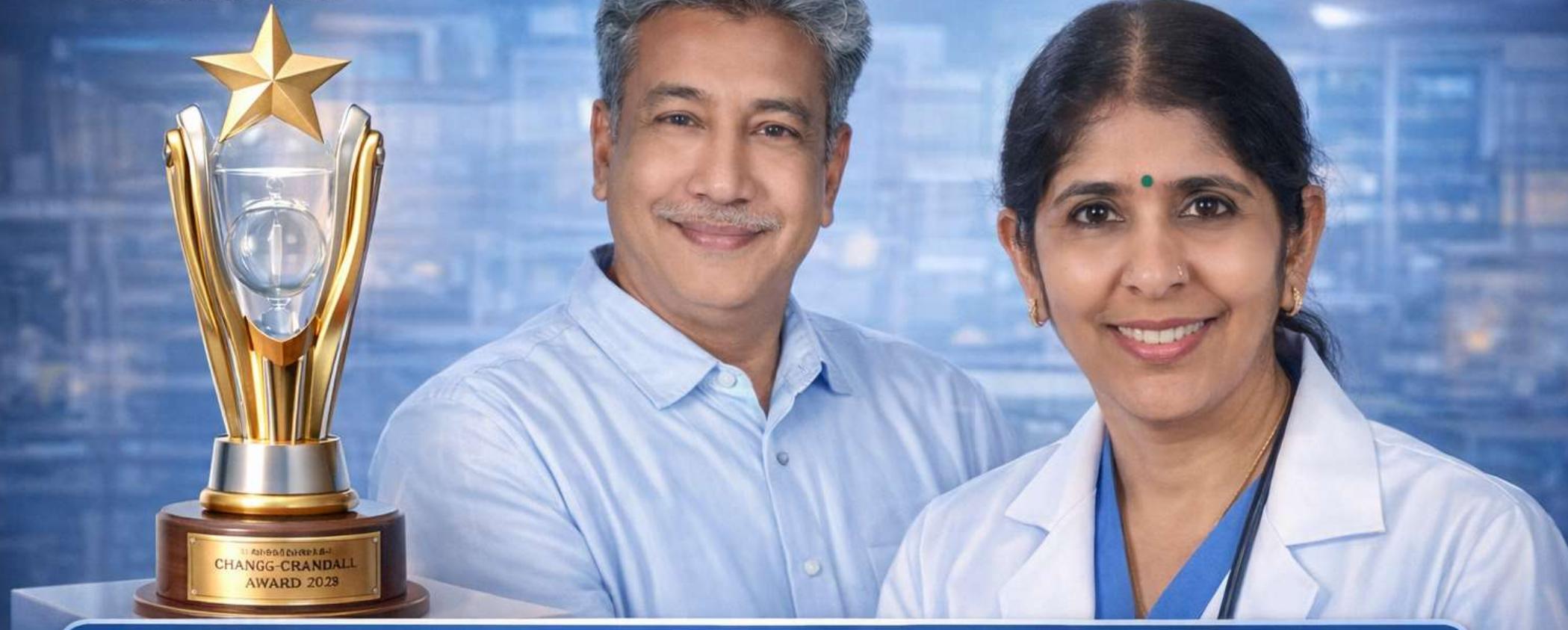
Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Facts for Exams
News	Puducherry doctors win Chang–Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026	पुडुचेरी के डॉक्टरों ने चांग–क्रैंडल मानवीय पुरस्कार 2026 जीता	Important for Awards & Health section
Award Name	Chang–Crandall Humanitarian Award	चांग–क्रैंडल मानवतावादी पुरस्कार	Prestigious ophthalmology award
Instituted	2017	2017 में स्थापित	By ASCRS Foundation
Awarding Body	American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Foundation	अमेरिकन सोसाइटी ऑफ कैटरैक्ट एंड रिफ्रैक्टिव सर्जरी फाउंडेशन	Based in USA
Prize Money	$100,000 grant	$100,000 अनुदान	Donated to Aravind Eye Care System
Award Ceremony	Washington DC	वॉशिंगटन डीसी	International recognition

🧑‍💼 Awardees

Name	Role (English)	भूमिका (हिंदी)	Key Contribution
Dr Haripriya Aravind	Chief of Cataract & IOL Services	कैटरैक्ट व IOL सेवाओं की प्रमुख	High-volume cataract surgeries
Dr R Venkatesh	Chief Medical Officer	मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी	Outreach programs & MSICS training

👁️ Medical & Technical Aspects (Important for Exams)

Concept	English Explanation	हिंदी विवरण	Exam Relevance
Cataract	Clouding of eye lens causing blindness	आंख के लेंस का धुंधलापन जिससे अंधापन	Leading cause of blindness globally
IOL (Intraocular Lens)	Artificial lens implanted after cataract removal	मोतियाबिंद सर्जरी के बाद लगाया जाने वाला कृत्रिम लेंस	Common surgical treatment
MSICS	Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery	मैनुअल स्मॉल इन्सिजन कैटरैक्ट सर्जरी	Cost-effective method in developing countries
Glaucoma Fellowship	Specialized training in glaucoma treatment	ग्लूकोमा उपचार में विशेष प्रशिक्षण	Glaucoma = 2nd leading cause of blindness

🏥 Aravind Eye Care System – Exam Facts

Feature	Details (English + Hindi)
Founded	1976 by Dr Govindappa Venkataswamy (Dr V)
Model	High-volume, low-cost, cross-subsidy model
Headquarters	Madurai, Tamil Nadu
Known For	World's largest eye care provider model
Social Impact	Free/affordable surgeries for poor patients

🌍 Global Health Context

Aspect	Details
Leading Cause of Blindness	Cataract (Treatable)
WHO Initiative	Vision 2020 – Right to Sight
SDG Link	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being
Preventable Blindness	Major issue in low & middle-income countries

CATARACT SURGERY STEPS
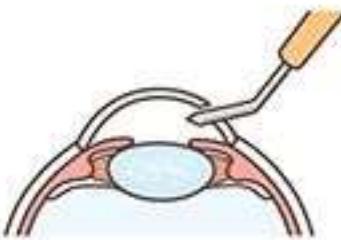
1.
Incision is
made
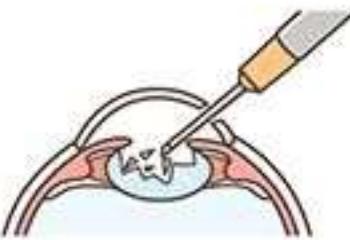
2.
Emulsification:
breaks up
cloudy lens
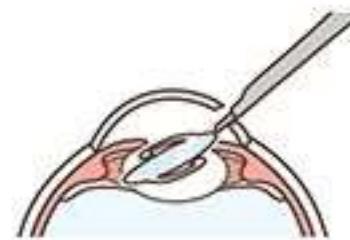
3.
Intraocular lens
is implanted

4.
The incision
heals on
its own
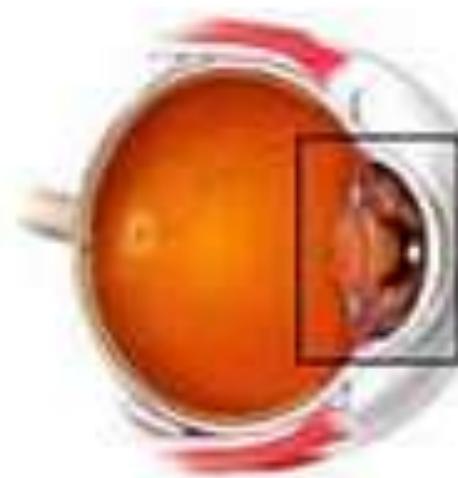
Cut section of eye
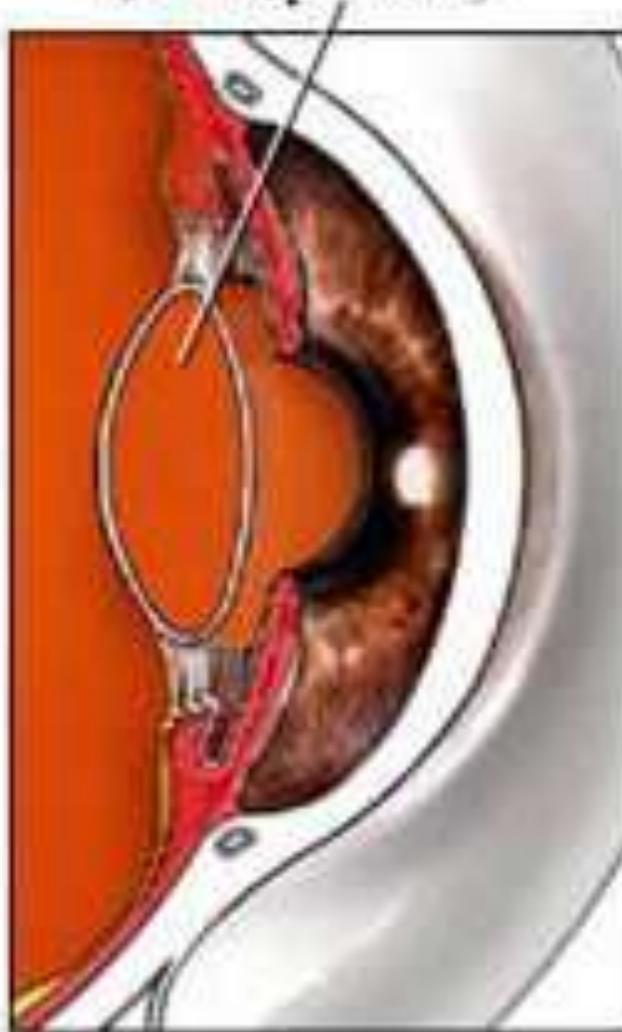
Normal lens (transparent)

Lens clouded by cataract

Causes of Cataract Eye

- **Aging**
- **Diabetes**
- **Excessive intake of alcohol**
- **Excessive sunlight exposure**
- **Hereditary**
- **Hypertension**
- **Overweight**

Cataract Eye

cataract
foggy
lens
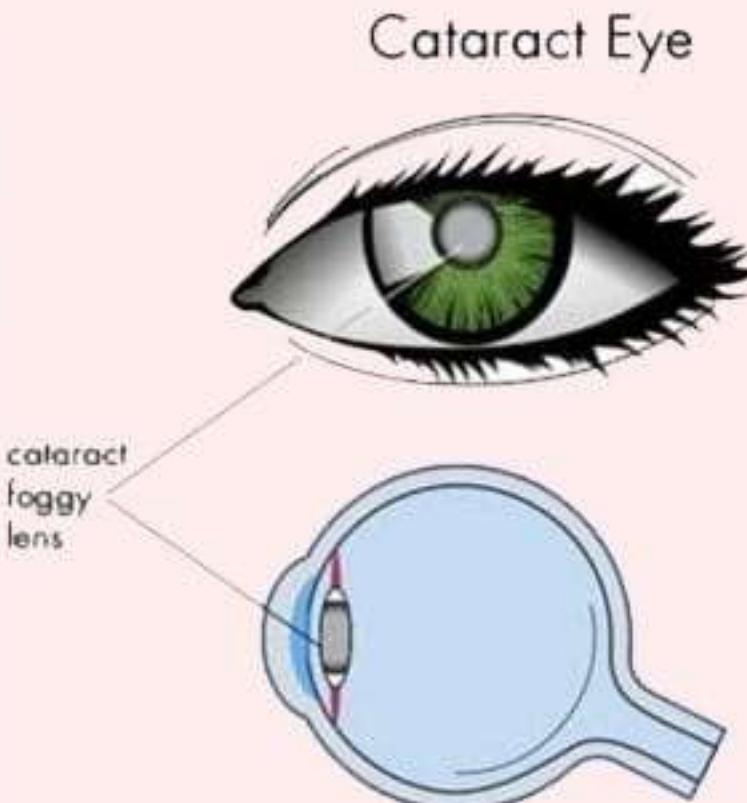
Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chang–Crandall Award was instituted in 2017.

2. Cataract is the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

3. Aravind Eye Care System follows a high-cost, low-volume model.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Delhi Launches Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana

National Capital Territory of Delhi
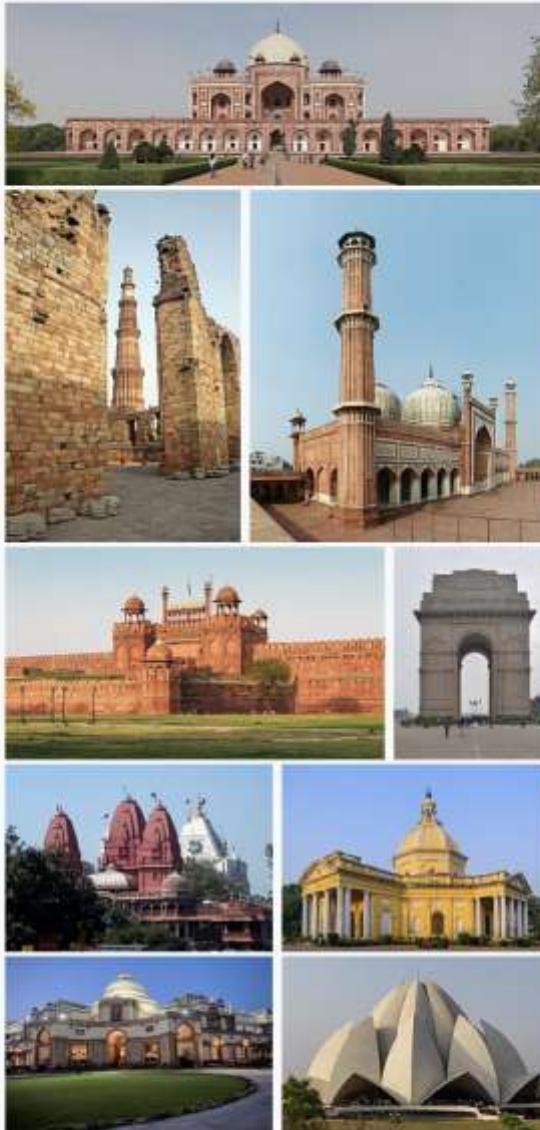
From top, left to right: Humayun's Tomb; Qutub Minar; Jama Masjid; Red Fort's Lahori gate; India Gate; Digambar Jain Mandir with Gauri Shankar temple in the background; St. James' Church; Hyderabad House; Lotus Temple, a Bahá'í House of Worship

Languages	
· Official	Hindi · English[11]
· Additional official	Punjabi · Urdu[11]
· Regional	Haryanvi[12][13] · Khariboli[14]

GDP (2023–24)[15]

· **Megacity** and **union territory** (Nominal)	₹1,107,746 crore (US$130 billion)[15]
· **Per Capita NSDP**	₹461,910 (US$5,500)[15]
· **Metro** (Nominal)	$273 billion[16]
· **PPP**	$521.5 billion[17]
Time zone	UTC+5.30 (IST)
PINs[20]	110000–110099
Area code	+91 11
ISO 3166 code	IN-DL
Vehicle registration	DL
International Airport	Indira Gandhi International Airport
Rapid Transit	Delhi Metro
HDI (2018)	▲ 0.839[18] (Very High) · 1st
Literacy (2011)	86.21%[19]
Sex ratio (2011)	868 ♀/1000 ♂[19]

Country	🇮🇳 India
Region	North India
Capital, Delhi Sultanate	1214
Capital, Mughal Empire	1526, intermittently with Agra
New Delhi, capital, **British Indian Empire**	12 December 1911
New Delhi, capital, **Republic of India**	26 January 1950
Union Territory[1][2]	1 November 1956
National Capital Territory[3]	1 February 1992
Government	
· **Body**	Government of Delhi
· **Lieutenant Governor**	Vinai Kumar Saxena
· **Chief Minister**	Rekha Gupta (BJP)
· **Legislature**	Unicameral (70 seats)
Area[4]	
· **Megacity** and **union territory**	1,484 km² (573 sq mi)
· **Water**	18 km² (6.9 sq mi)
· **Metro**[5][a]	3,483 km² (1,345 sq mi)
Elevation	200–250 m (660–820 ft)
Population (2011)[7]	
· **Megacity** and **union territory**	16,787,941
· **Estimate** (2024)[9]	21,588,000
· **Rank**	2nd in India 7th in Asia
· **Density**	11,312/km² (29,298/sq mi)
· **Urban**[8]	16,349,831 (2nd)
· **Megacity**[7]	11,034,555 (2nd)
· **Metro** (2018)[10]	28,514,000 (1st)

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Exam Facts
Scheme Name	Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana	लखपति बिटिया योजना	Delhi Government Scheme
Launch Date	From April 1, 2026	1 अप्रैल 2026 से	Current Affairs 2026
Target Group	Girls from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग की लड़कियां	Gender-focused welfare
Objective	Reduce school dropouts & build savings corpus	स्कूल छोड़ने की दर कम करना व बचत कोष बनाना	Linked to girl child empowerment
Replaces	Ladli Yojana	लाड़ली योजना का स्थान लिया	Ladli launched in 2008

💰 Financial Structure

Component	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Exam Angle
Total Deposit	₹56,000 staged deposits	₹56,000 चरणबद्ध जमा	Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)
Expected Maturity	Around ₹1 lakh with interest	ब्याज सहित लगभग ₹1 लाख	Long-term savings model
Account Type	Aadhaar-enabled bank account in girl's name	आधार-लिंक्ड बैंक खाता	Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
Final Withdrawal	At age 21 or on graduation/diploma	21 वर्ष की आयु या स्नातक/ डिप्लोमा पर	Incentivizes higher education

📚 Phased Payments Linked to Milestones

Stage	Amount (English)	राशि (हिंदी)	Purpose
Birth	₹11,000	₹11,000	Early registration
Admission Class 1	₹5,000	₹5,000	School entry support
Classes 6, 9, 10, 12	₹5,000 each	प्रत्येक ₹5,000	Retention at key stages
After Graduation/Diploma	₹20,000	₹20,000	Higher education completion

🎯 Eligibility Criteria

Criteria	English	हिंदी	Exam Relevance
Birth	Girl must be born in Delhi	दिल्ली में जन्म	State domicile condition
Residency	Family residing 3+ years	3 वर्ष निवास	Residence-based targeting
Income Limit	≤ ₹1 lakh annually	वार्षिक आय ₹1 लाख से कम	EWS definition
Limit	Max 2 daughters per family	परिवार में अधिकतम 2 बेटियां	Targeted welfare

🏛️ Policy & Governance Context

Concept	Details (English + Hindi)
Conditional Cash Transfer	Education-linked financial assistance (शिक्षा से जुड़ी आर्थिक सहायता)
DBT Model	Reduces leakages via Aadhaar-linked accounts
Gender Budgeting	Allocating funds specifically for women/girls
Social Protection	Financial inclusion + educational continuity

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana:

1. It provides phased financial assistance linked to education milestones.

2. The final payout is available only if the girl studies within Delhi.

3. The scheme replaces the Ladli Yojana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Mumbai Coastal Road Debuts India's First Musical Road
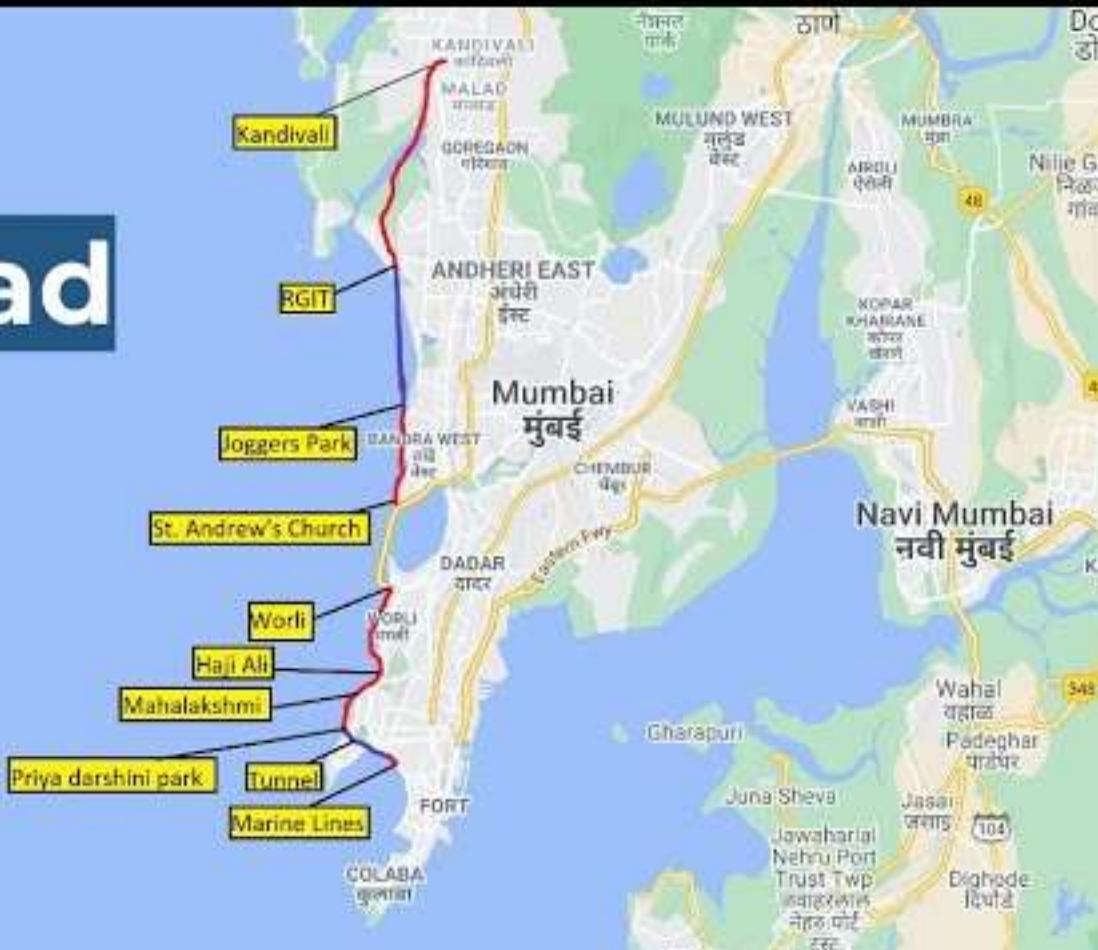
Mumbai's Coastal Road Network

A Massive 90 Km Road Network is underway through combination of bridges, tunnels and elevated roads along Mumbai's Coastline

This advanced transit infrastrucure aims to provide seamless access-controlled road connectivity in the financial capital

Virar

Vasai

Uttan

Versova-Virar Sea Link
Authority: MMRDA
Length: 43 Km

Dahisar

Gorai

Charkop

Kandivali

Versova-Dahisar Coastal Road
Authority: BMC
Length: 18 Km

Mindspace, Malad

Proposed Section

Versova

Bandra-Versova Sea Link
Authority: MSRDC
Length: 9.60 Km
Completion: 2026

Juhu

Bandra

Under Construction

Worli-Bandra Sea Link
Authority: MSRDC
Length: 5.6 Km
Completion: 2010

Dharavi

Built

Worli

Marine Drive- Worli Coastal Road
Authority: BMC
Length: 10.58 Km
Completion: 2023

Byculla

Marine Lines

Under Construction

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Exam Facts
News	India's first "Musical Road" launched in Mumbai	मुंबई में भारत की पहली "म्यूजिकल रोड" शुरू	Current Affairs 2026 – Infrastructure
Location	Mumbai Coastal Road (Northbound lane)	मुंबई कोस्टल रोड (उत्तर दिशा लेन)	Maharashtra
Stretch Length	500 metres	500 मीटर	Lane-specific installation
Speed Band	Around 70–80 km/h	लगभग 70–80 किमी/घंटा	Speed-regulation tool
Inaugurated By	CM Devendra Fadnavis	मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस	Maharashtra Govt Initiative
Executing Body	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)	बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका	Urban civic authority

Concept	English Explanation	हिंदी विवरण	Exam Angle
Rumble Strips	Grooves placed at fixed intervals	निश्चित दूरी पर बने खांचे	Used globally for road safety
Sound Mechanism	Tyres create vibration-based sound pulses	टायर के कंपन से ध्वनि उत्पन्न	Physics – friction & vibration
Melody Played	'Jai Ho' from Slumdog Millionaire	'जय हो' गीत	Oscar-winning song
Purpose	Encourage steady speed driving	स्थिर गति से वाहन चलाने हेतु प्रेरित	Behavioural road safety model

📍 Location Details

Feature	Details (English + Hindi)
Route	Nariman Point to Worli
Installed	After exit from underground tunnel
Lane Type	First lane adjacent to divider
Signage	Warning boards at 500m, 100m, 60m

🚦 Road Safety & Policy Context

Aspect	Explanation
Road Safety Nudging	Behavioural technique using sound cues
Global Examples	Japan, Netherlands, South Korea
India Road Accidents	India accounts for ~11% of global road deaths (MoRTH reports context)
Motor Vehicles Act	Amended 2019 for stricter penalties

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Mumbai's Musical Road:

1. It uses rumble strips to generate sound through tyre vibration.

2. It functions best when vehicles maintain recommended speed.

3. It has been installed across all lanes of the Coastal Road.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Arctic Sentry Mission

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)	Extra Exam Facts
Mission Name	Arctic Sentry	आर्कटिक सेंट्री	NATO initiative
Announced By	NATO	नाटो	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Nature	Multi-domain mission	बहु-आयामी मिशन	Land, Sea, Air, Cyber coordination
Region	Arctic & High North	आर्कटिक व हाई नॉर्थ	Strategic polar region
Objective	Strengthen collective defence & surveillance	सामूहिक रक्षा व निगरानी मजबूत करना	Rising Arctic geopolitics

Aspect	English Explanation	हिंदी विवरण	Exam Angle
Collective Defence	Protect NATO territories in Arctic	आर्कटिक में नाटो क्षेत्रों की रक्षा	Article 5 relevance
Surveillance	Enhanced monitoring of region	क्षेत्र की उन्नत निगरानी	Satellite & maritime tracking
Infrastructure Protection	Safeguard critical infrastructure	महत्वपूर्ण ढांचे की सुरक्षा	Undersea cables, pipelines
Stability	Ensure Arctic remains secure	आर्कटिक को सुरक्षित बनाए रखना	Russia-NATO tensions context

🌐 Geopolitical Importance

Aspect	Explanation
Resource Potential	Oil, gas, rare earth minerals
Climate Change Impact	Melting ice opening sea routes
Russia Factor	Strong Arctic military presence
China	Calls itself "Near-Arctic State"
NATO Expansion	Finland & Sweden joined NATO (2023–24 context)

🇮🇳 India & Arctic

Aspect	Details
India's Status	Observer in Arctic Council (since 2013)
Research Station	Himadri (Svalbard, Norway)
Arctic Policy	India's Arctic Policy 2022
Focus Areas	Climate research, sustainable development

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

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Lincoln was elected from the newly formed Republican Party. To which party did he belong before that? **Ans: The Whig Party**

2. Lincoln was very good in a contact sport and is enshrined in the Hall of Fame for that sport. Name the sport. **Ans: Wrestling**

3. What is the relevance of the phrase 'You sockdologizing old man-trap' in the life of Lincoln? **Ans: It was the line from 'Our American Cousin' that acted as a cue for John Wilkes Booth to fire the shots at the President**

4. If the famous President's memorial is in Washington DC, where is his resting place? **Ans: Springfield, Illinois**

5. Which national holiday did he establish in 1863 during the Civil War? **Ans: Thanksgiving Day**

6. On May 22, 1849, Lincoln was given Patent No. 6469 and is the only U.S. President to have a patent. What did he devise? **Ans: A buoying vessel to lift boats over shoals**

7. Apart from Kansas, which two States were admitted to the Union during Lincoln's presidency? **Ans: West Virginia and Nevada**

8. What does the landmark 13 Amendment, passed by Congress shortly before Lincoln's death, deal with? **Ans: Abolishment of slavery**

Visual: Name this legendary English scientist who was born on the same date and year as Lincoln. **Ans: Charles Darwin**

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

From which language is the word 'radio' derived?

QUESTION 2

Guglielmo Marconi was given the Nobel Prize for his contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy. He also designed and built X to amplify the Pope's voice. What is X called?

QUESTION 3

The radio has educated people, been a custodian of cultural heritage, been used to provide emergency alerts, and catalysed agricultural revolutions, among other things. But the radio has also been used a tool for spreading hate speech. It was used by Hutu hardliners in 1993 to dehumanise X and led to a genocide. Name X.

QUESTION 4

This is the largest radio network in the world. It has another name, which, when translated, means 'voice from the sky'.

QUESTION 5

X was founded 100 years ago and gained massive popularity across South Asia for broadcasting Bollywood music, most notably the iconic Binaca Geetmala hosted by Amin Sayani. What is it called?

Visual Question:

A radio adaptation of a book by H. G. Wells, by an American actor and filmmaker (seen in photo), reportedly triggered panic in the U.S. What did he say was going to happen?

CM

Word of the day

Pernicious:
exceedingly harmful

Synonyms: destructive, evil, adverse

Usage: *The report warns of the pernicious effects of misinformation.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/perniciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pənɪʃəs/

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: /prɪˈzɛn.tɪ.mənt/

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Thank you ☺