

# Daily Current Affairs





4  
**The Hindu**



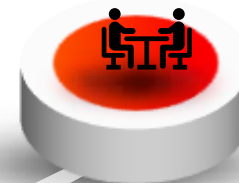
1  
**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



3  
**The Indian  
Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



2  
**Financial  
Express**




# Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

- 
- **“Courage is a love affair with the unknown.” — *Osho***



# BIG DISCOUNT FESTIVAL FOR MAKAR SAKRANTI

## 25% OFF

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

BY BHUNESH SIR

GET 25% OFF CODE: B25

### INCLUDES:

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

FOR: UPSC, STATE PCS, SSC, BANKING, RAILWAY, DEFENCE





Home » Features » Regional » International » States » India » International » Business » Health » Climate » Migration » Technology » Sports » India » World » Education » Home » Culture » Entertainment » News » Page 4



**AMBASSADOR ARRIVES**  
India to be added to  
U.S.'s Pax Silica: Gor  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**RIGHT FOR SURVIVAL**  
Kerala CM leads  
protest against  
Centre's policies  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**ROHINGYA RESOLVE**  
ICJ starts hearing on  
case against Myanmar  
WORLD » PAGE 14



**STATE OF PLAY**  
Bhoomi, a story  
of success from  
Karnataka  
Project offers lessons on  
managing land record  
OPINION » PAGE 9



**RIO CHALLENGE**  
Indian shuttlers look  
to end long drought  
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE



**Karnataka told  
to scrap project  
stuck for 25 years**

**BENGALURU**  
The Karnataka High Court has ordered the State government to scrap the controversial Bengaluru Mysuru infrastructure corridor (BMIC) project, observing that only one kilometre of the proposed 11.1 km expressway had been built in over 25 years. **» PAGE 8**



**Centre steps in as  
two Nipah cases  
found in Bengal**

**KOLKATA**  
Two healthcare workers suspected of being infected by Nipah virus in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal are undergoing treatment, officials said on Monday. The cases were detected at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranyam in Nadia on Sunday night. **» PAGE 8**

**Salem's claim he  
served 25 years  
questioned by SC**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Monday questioned convicted gangster Abu Salem on the logic behind his claim of having completed a quarter of a century behind bars in India since his arrest in November 2003, over the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. **» PAGE 4**

**PSLV-C62 strays from flight path, fails to launch satellite**

**Hemant G.S.**  
Vandevan Mukund  
BENGALURU/CHENNAI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-01 earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites failed to launch its intended target at the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle, resulting in the loss of the satellite and prompting a detailed analysis.

The PSLV-C62 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 10.10 a.m. on Monday. The launch of the vehicle, which has four stages, went as expected till the third stage, but showed "disturbance in the vehicle roll rate" close to the end of the third stage, ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said. "The performance of the vehicle up to the end of the third stage was as expected. Close to the end of the third stage, we saw some disturbance in the vehicle roll rates, and subsequently, a deviation was observed in the flight path. We are analysing the data, and we shall come back at the earliest," Mr. Narayanan said.

Monday's outcome is seen as a big setback for the space agency as the PSLV, its workhorse rocket, has suffered back-to-back failures here.

On May 18, 2025, ISRO's attempted launch of the EOS-02 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 mission could not be completed, also due to an anomaly in the third stage of the rocket. The EOS-02 earth observation satellite is said to be built for strategic purposes.

"It is a commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), EOS-02 and 14 co-passenger satellites will be injected into a Sun

Off target

The anomaly in the PSLV-C62 launch occurred when the third stage of the vehicle was operating

Fourth stage (L4) ignites

4 minutes

25 minutes

Vehicle starts tumbling in an

uncontrolled way

2 minutes

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

10 minutes

12-minute mark

Financial fallout

The financial burden for the satellite loss in the failed PSLV-C62 mission

falls on different parties,

depending on the nature of

the satellite. In the space

industry, there is no single

payer for a failed mission;

instead, the loss is absorbed

by a mix of state

funding and insurance

claims. Governments typically

do not purchase commercial

insurance for their launchers

or satellites because the pre-

miums are very high. In the

present instance, the direct

financial loss of the mission

development, developed by

DRDO, will be borne by the

state, and DRDO may

have to seek fresh budgetary

approval to build a replacement

satellite.

The co-passenger satellites

from private entities, including

Indian startups and international

entities, would have purchased

insurance, and may not have

been affected by the launch

failure.

The NSIL is likely to have

contracts with private customers.

While the NSIL generally doesn't

pay for the satellite itself, the

contract might include a re-flight

guarantee or a refund of the

launch fee if the mission fails.

This said, the ISRO or NSIL

is not liable for the value of the

customer's satellite unless gross

negligence is proven, which is

rare. The standard industry

practice is a "waiver of liability

where both the launcher and

satellite owner agree not to

sue each other for damages.

errors.

two in a row

**Retail inflation at 3-month high of 1.33% in December**

Increased figure still below RBI's lower comfort level of 2%: data show broad-based decline in price levels across sectors as reason for low figure; core inflation at 28-month high of 4.8%, says expert

**T.G.A. Bharadwaj**  
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation

quickened to a three-

month high of 1.33%

in December, which

is still significantly below

the lower comfort level of

2% set by the Reserve Bank

of India (RBI), official data

released on Monday

showed.

Data on the Consumer

Price Index for December

2025, released by the

Ministry of Statistics and

Programme Implementation,

showed that the low levels of

inflation were due to a

broad-based decline in

price levels across sectors.

The RBI targets an inflation

rate of 4%, with a comfort

band of 2% above and below

that.

The food and beverages

category saw a contraction

of 1.85% in prices in De-

cember 2025, a moderation

at the Bank of Baroda said.

Inflation in the "non-

food" category, which ex-

cludes all other goods and

services, remained un-

changed at 2.90% in

December 2025, as com-

pared to November. The

core inflation, which ex-

cludes food and beverages,

jumped to a 28-month high

of 4.8% in December 2025

from 4.4% in November

2025. "While the headline

inflation remained un-

changed at 2.90% in

December 2025, as com-

pared to November, the

Quickening, again

The chart shows retail price inflation (in %), measured by the Consumer Price Index, from December 2024 to December 2025



the previous month, inflation in this category had been 2.7% in December 2024. The housing sector, too, saw inflation easing to 2.86% in December 2025 from 2.95% in the previous month. The fuel and light category saw inflation ease to 1.97% in December 2025, as compared to 2.3% in November.

"Core inflation (CPI excluding food and beverages, fuel and light, and petrol and diesel for vehicles)

jumped to a 28-month high of 4.8% in December 2025 from 4.4% in November 2025," Ashish Kumar, an

economist and head, re-

search & outreach at ICRA

Limited said. "However,

this was largely led by pre-

cious metals, core CPI ex-

cluding gold and silver re-

mained unchanged at 2.4%

in December 2025 from 1.49% in

the previous month.

**Iranians calling for negotiations after U.S. threat to launch strikes: Trump**

**Associated Press**  
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump has said Tehran wants to negotiate with Washington after his threat to strike Iran over its crackdown on protesters. Activists said on Monday that at least 180 people died during the nationwide demonstrations.

Iran had no direct reaction to the comments. However, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Islamic Republic was "open to diplomacy." Foreign Ministry spokesperson Bahar Haghighi said a channel to the U.S. remained open, but talks needed to be "based on the acceptance of mutual interests and concerns, not a negotiation that is one-sided, unilateral and based on dictation."



Iranians attend a pro-government rally in Tehran on Monday, saying

to foreign diplomats in

Tehran. The U.S. President's

comments came after the

Foreign Minister of Oman

blamed the U.S. for the

violence, without offering

evidence.

which Tehran insists is crucial for its national defence. Meanwhile, pro-government demonstrators in Iran flooded the streets on Monday, a show of force after days of protests clashing the rule of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Mr. Trump and his national security team have been weighing a range of potential responses against Iran, including cyberattacks and direct strikes by U.S. troops, according to two people familiar with internal White House discussions, on the condition of anonymity. "The military is looking at it, and we're looking at some very strong options," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday night.

"FOUR FRONT WAR"  
» PAGE 12

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
Abhinav Deshpande

India and Germany will enhance defence trade with an eye on co-production and co-development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, as the two sides signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said India will launch a "consultation mechanism" to increase collaboration with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region. In his remarks, Mr. Merz, who is on his first visit to Asia since assuming office in May 2025, said "though, winter" is blowing in world politics and that India and Germany should increase partnership to counter global

trends of instability. The list of "outcomes" following the meeting between the two leaders also included several other areas of cooperation, including defence, sports, and education.

The growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade. We will also work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between our defence industries," said Prime Minister Modi in his remarks following talks with Chancellor Merz, when several agreements were signed.

"Strengthening the Bilateral Defence Industrial Cooperation," were signed. Mr. Modi pointed out that the Chancellor's visit coincided with India and Germany marking 25 years of strategic partnership and 75 years of diplomatic ties.

The two teams also discussed multiple regional issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, with Mr. Modi reiterating India's condemnation of terrorism.

"Rise in protectionism" The German Chancellor urged India to partner with Germany in strengthening global supply chains. "Unfortunately, we are seeing a resurgence of protectionism," he said, adding that protectionism hurts India-Germany trade ties.

His comments about the rise in protectionism in the backdrop of a decline in India-U.S. trade relations

» PAGE 6



# PSLV-C62 strays from flight path, fails to launch satellite

Hemanth C.S.  
Yasudevan Mukunth  
BENGALURU/CHENNAI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites failed to finish its intended trajectory on Monday after an anomaly was detected during the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle, resulting in the loss of the satellites and prompting a detailed analysis.

The PSLV-C62 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 10.18 a.m. on Monday. The launch of the vehicle, which has four stages, went as expected till the third stage, but showed "disturbance in the vehicle roll rates" close to the end of the third stage, ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said. "The performance of the vehicle up to the end of the third stage was as expected. Close to the end of the third stage, we saw some disturbance in the vehicle roll rates, and subsequently, a deviation was observed in the flight path. We are analysing the data, and we shall come back at the earliest," Mr. Narayanan said.

Monday's outcome is seen as a big setback for the space agency as the PSLV, its workhorse rocket, has suffered back-to-back failures now.

On May 18, 2025, ISRO's attempted launch of the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 mission could not be completed, also due to an anomaly in the third stage of the rocket. The EOS-N1 earth observation satellite is said to be built for strategic purposes.

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



Synchronous Orbit, and the KID Capsule into a re-entry trajectory," ISRO had said in a statement.

It added that after the injection of the EOS-N1 and 14 satellites, the PS4 stage would be restarted to deboost and enter a re-entry trajectory, followed by the KID Capsule separation.

"Both PS4 stage and KID capsule will re-enter Earth's atmosphere and the impact will be in the South Pacific Ocean," the statement added.

## Financial fallout

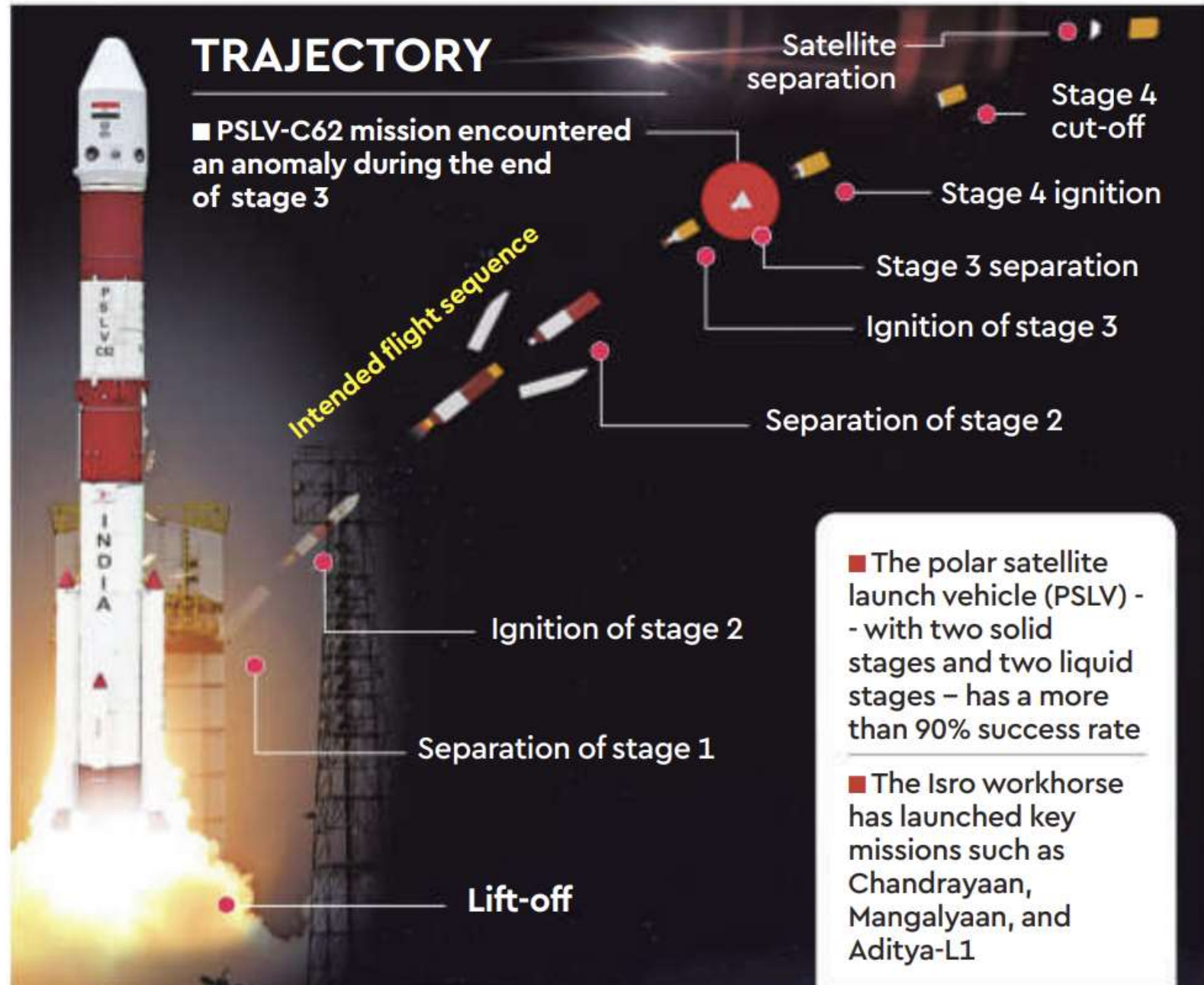
The financial burden for the satellites lost in the failed PSLV-C62 mission falls on different parties, depending on the nature of the satellite. In the space industry, there is no single payer for a failed mission; instead, the loss is absorbed by a mix of state funding and insurance claims. Governments typically do not purchase commercial insurance for their own strategic or military satellites because the premiums are very high. In the present instance, the direct financial loss of the EOS-N1 satellite, developed by DRDO, will be borne by the state, and DRDO may

have to seek fresh budgetary approval to build a replacement.

The co-passenger satellites from private enterprises, including Indian startups and international entities, would have purchased policies that pay out a lump sum in the event of a 'total loss' during the launch phase. If a specific entity didn't purchase insurance, that company must absorb the total loss itself.

The NSIL is likely to have had contracts with the private customers. While the NSIL generally doesn't pay for the satellite itself, the contract might include a re-flight guarantee or a refund of the launch fee if the mission fails. This said, the ISRO or NSIL is not liable for the value of the customer's satellite unless gross negligence is proven, which is rare. The standard industry practice is a 'waiver of liability' where both the launcher and the satellite owner agree not to sue each other for damages.

EDITORIAL  
\* PAGE 8  
TWO IN A ROW  
\* PAGE 6



# What do two PSLV mission failures in a row mean for ISRO?

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Vasudevan Mukunth**  
CHENNAI

On May 18, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) suffered a rare failure with its PSLV-C61 mission. The PSLV rocket has long been considered the agency's "work-horse" due to its history of reliable launches. However, on January 12, the PSLV-C62 mission also failed. Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that the rocket's third stage (PS3) experienced an anomaly, marking two consecutive failures for the vehicle.

To understand the recent failure, it's necessary to examine the C61 mission, whose primary payload was the EOS-09 satellite.

While the first two stages performed correctly, telemetry data showed a sudden, unexpected drop in chamber pressure within the third stage motor around 203 seconds into the flight. Because the PS3 is a solid-fuel motor, a pressure drop of this nature may indicate a serious structural failure, such as a casing breach or a nozzle blowout. Without the necessary pressure, the engine would not have been able to generate enough thrust.

### Data withheld

Following the C61 incident, a Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) investigated the root cause. However, the FAC's report submitted to the Prime Minister's Office has not been released to the public.

The reasons are not clear. One possibility is to protect sensitive information about the payload; this said, it is also possible to release a technical failure report regarding the rocket while redacting sensitive information about any satellites.

Commercial protection is another possibility: ISRO is aggressively pushing the PSLV as a commercial product through NewSpace India, Ltd (NSIL). The PS3 motor is a technologically mature component that should not fail. If the failure was caused by simple negligence or a manufacturing defect, admitting this publicly could damage the rocket's reputation and increase the cost of insuring its launches. Keeping the report classified may be a way to avoid admitting whether the issue was one bad batch of materials or a deeper lapse in quality assurance.

### Reason for failure

Either way, the overall lack of transparency sets the context for the outcome of the PSLV-C62 mission. Once the third stage anomaly became clear, Mr. Narayanan stated that the mission failed due to a "roll rate disturbance", meaning the rocket began spinning uncontrollably. The PS3 stage lacks its own roll control thrusters and instead banks on the stage above it, the fourth stage, to remain stable.

If the PS3 motor suffered a leak and vented gas from the side of the nozzle, it could create a twisting force strong enough to overpower the fourth stage stabilisers.

That the third stage motor was affected in both missions suggests the two modes of failure could be related. By keeping the PSLV-C61 investigation internal, the ISRO and the Department of Space avoided external scrutiny of the organisation's "return to flight" criterion.

If independent experts had been able to review the initial findings, they may have been able to verify the quality of the fixes ISRO implemented before the second launch.

But the agency launched again eight months later and faced the same result.



Year / Date	Mission / Event	What happened / Why it matters
20 Sep 1993	PSLV-D1 (1st flight)	<b>Maiden launch failed</b> (IRS-1E not placed in orbit) — early developmental setback. ( <a href="#">Wikipedia</a> )
1994	Early successful flights begin	PSLV <b>returned with successful missions</b> after the first failure. ( <a href="#">Wikipedia</a> )
29 Sep 1997	PSLV-C1 (IRS-1D)	<b>Partial failure:</b> satellite inserted into <b>lower/incorrect orbit</b> vs planned. ( <a href="#">Wikipedia</a> )
1990s–2000s	PSLV becomes ISRO “workhorse”	Operational maturity; regular launches for <b>remote sensing + science + commercial rideshares</b> . ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
2008	Chandrayaan-1 launched by PSLV	PSLV enabled India’s <b>first lunar mission</b> (major prestige milestone). ( <a href="#">Reuters</a> )
15 Feb 2017	PSLV-C37	<b>World record: 104 satellites</b> launched in a single mission (Cartosat-2 series + co-passengers). ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
31 Aug 2017	PSLV-C39 (IRNSS-1H)	Mission <b>unsuccessful</b> due to <b>payload fairing/heat-shield separation issue</b> . ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
02 Sep 2023	PSLV-C57 (Aditya-L1)	PSLV launched India’s <b>solar observatory mission</b> (Aditya-L1). ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
01 Jan 2024	PSLV-C58 (XPoSat)	PSLV successfully launched <b>XPoSat</b> ; also flew <b>POEM-3</b> orbital platform experiments. ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
18 May 2025	PSLV-C61 (EOS-09)	Mission <b>could not be accomplished</b> due to an issue observed in <b>3rd stage</b> (as per ISRO). ( <a href="#">isro.gov.in</a> )
12 Jan 2026	PSLV-C62	Mission <b>failed</b> after deviation/anomaly; payloads lost; ISRO investigating. ( <a href="#">Reuters</a> )

## 1 What happened? (घटना क्या हुई?)

- PSLV-C62 mission of ISRO failed to place the EOS-N1 satellite into its intended orbit.  
ISRO का PSLV-C62 मिशन EOS-N1 उपग्रह को निर्धारित कक्षा में स्थापित करने में असफल रहा।
  - The anomaly occurred during the third stage (PS3) of the launch vehicle.  
रॉकेट के तीसरे चरण (PS3) में तकनीकी गड़बड़ी आई।
- 

## 2 Timeline of Failure (समयक्रम)

- PS3 ignited at 4 minutes 25 seconds after liftoff  
PS3 का प्रज्वलन प्रक्षेपण के 4 मिनट 25 सेकंड बाद हुआ
- Uncontrolled spinning started around 2 minutes into PS3  
PS3 के लगभग 2 मिनट बाद रॉकेट अनियंत्रित रूप से घूमने लगा
- ISRO detected trouble by the 12-minute mark  
12वें मिनट पर ISRO को डेटा में गड़बड़ी दिखी

### 3 Technical Explanation (तकनीकी कारण)

- Vehicle experienced **disturbance in roll rates** near the end of the third stage.  
तीसरे चरण के अंत में रॉकेट के रोल रेट में असामान्य परिवर्तन हुआ।
  - This caused **deviation from the intended flight path**.  
इससे रॉकेट अपने निर्धारित पथ से भटक गया।
- 

### 4 Outcome of the Mission (परिणाम)

- EOS-N1 satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites were lost.  
EOS-N1 और 15 सह-यात्री उपग्रह नष्ट हो गए।
  - Satellites will **re-enter Earth's atmosphere and fall into the South Pacific Ocean**.  
उपग्रह पृथ्वी के वायुमंडल में पुनः प्रवेश कर दक्षिण प्रशांत महासागर में गिरेंगे।
- 

### 5 Strategic & Institutional Aspect (रणनीतिक पक्ष)

- EOS-N1 is reported to be **built for strategic purposes**.  
EOS-N1 को रणनीतिक उद्देश्यों के लिए बनाया गया था।
- Mission was conducted under **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** commercial framework.  
यह मिशन NSIL के वाणिज्यिक ढांचे के तहत था।

- **PSLV-C61 (18 May 2025)** mission carrying **EOS-09** failed; performance was normal till **2nd stage**, issue observed in **3rd stage (PS3)**.
- **PSLV-C62 (12 Jan 2026)** again failed; ISRO reported **disturbance in roll rates / deviation** near the **end of the 3rd stage**, causing mission failure.
- **Why is it a big deal for ISRO? | ISRO के लिए यह क्यों बड़ी बात है?**
  - **Two PSLV failures within ~8 months** hit the “**workhorse**” reputation and raise questions on **quality assurance + return-to-flight validation**.
  - PSLV is also a key vehicle for India’s **commercial launch push** (via **NSIL**), so failures can affect **customer confidence, insurance cost, and market credibility**.
- **Technical clue from PSLV-C61 | PSLV-C61 से तकनीकी संकेत**
  - Telemetry showed a **sudden drop in chamber pressure** in **PS3** around **~203 seconds**, meaning the stage couldn’t generate required thrust.
  - Such a pressure drop can indicate issues like **nozzle/casing problems** (structural failure-type symptoms).
- **What ISRO said for PSLV-C62 | PSLV-C62 पर ISRO ने क्या कहा**
  - The vehicle was nominal till late in PS3, then **roll-rate disturbance** and **flight path deviation** were noticed; analysis/investigation announced.



## •What ISRO said for PSLV-C62 | PSLV-C62 हेंच ISRO म्हणजे काय

- The vehicle was nominal till late in PS3, then **roll-rate disturbance** and **flight path deviation** were noticed; analysis/investigation announced.

•Transparency / report issue | [প্রদাহজনক তথ্য](#) [ও](#) [পরিদর্শন](#)

- Media reported that the earlier **Failure Analysis Committee (FAC)** report for the prior failure **was not made public**, adding to concerns about transparency.

•Core inference in the article | चरु इव रसश्च श्रु F३३

- Since **PS3 (third stage)** is implicated in both events, it points to either **shared root causes** (design/manufacturing/material/QA/supply-chain) or **insufficiently validated fixes** before return-to-flight.

Term/Topic

Extra facts (English)

શ્રવણ (Hindi)

PSLV basics

PSLV is India's **3rd-generation** launch vehicle; a reliable and versatile “workhorse”.

PSLV ક્રમશઃ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી હાલપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ગઠ્ઠી ધ્વજ સ્થિતિ  
“અડધાપઠ્ઠી” રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ન્તરતર પઠ્ઠી

Stages

PSLV is a **4-stage** vehicle (solid + liquid stages in combination).

PSLV રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી **૪** ધ્વજ પઠ્ઠી પઠ્ઠી અ ન્તર ધ્વજ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી  
રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી

PS3 (3rd stage)

PS3 is a **solid motor** stage; chamber pressure health is critical for thrust.

PS3 રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી **શુદ્ધ** રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ધ્વજ પઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ૬a રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી  
૧ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી

Roll-rate disturbance

“Roll rate” = rocket’s **spin around its longitudinal axis**; uncontrolled roll can cause trajectory deviation and loss of mission.

“રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી” ષ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ૧ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી ૧ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી;  
૧૨૨ રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી

NSIL role (commercial)

**NSIL** supports commercial launch services using ISRO vehicles; failures can affect customer confidence and insurance.

**NSIL** ISRO રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી  
રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી

Why failures hurt commercially

Failures can raise **insurance premiums**, scrutiny, and customer hesitation for future launches.

રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી, ન્તર રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી  
રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી રૂઢિપઠ્ઠી

- 
- Consider the following statements about the recent PSLV failures:

**1.** PSLV-C61 saw a chamber-pressure drop during the third stage (PS3) around ~203 seconds.

**2.** PSLV-C62 failure was associated with a roll-rate disturbance / deviation near the end of the third stage.

Which is/are correct?

A) 1 only | B) 2 only | C) Both 1 and 2 | D) Neither 1 nor 2

# India, Germany sign pact to shore up defence industrial cooperation

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

**Abhinav Deshpande**

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

India and Germany will enhance defence trade with an eye on 'co-production and co-development,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, as the two sides signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation.

Welcoming German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India, Mr. Modi said India will launch a 'consultation mechanism' on increasing collaboration with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region. In his remarks, Mr. Merz, who is on his first visit to Asia since assuming office in May 2025, said "rough winds" are blowing in world politics and that India and Germany should increase partnership to counter global

trends of instability.

The list of 'outcomes' following the meeting between the two leaders also included several other MoUs and Joint Declarations of Intent covering areas like recruitment of skilled professionals by Germany, sports, and higher education.

"The growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade. We will also work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between our defence industries," said Prime Minister Modi in his remarks following talks with Chancellor Merz, when several agreements, including one on 'Strengthening the Bilateral Defence Industrial Coop-

eration', were signed. Mr. Modi pointed out that the Chancellor's visit coincided with India and Germany marking 25 years of strategic partnership and 75 years of diplomatic ties.

The two teams also discussed multiple regional issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, with Mr. Modi reiterating India's condemnation of terrorism.

## **'Rise in protectionism'**

The German Chancellor urged India to partner with Germany in strengthening 'global supply chains'. "Unfortunately, we are seeing a renaissance of protectionism," he said, adding that protectionism hurts India-Germany trade ties.

His comments about the rise in protectionism in global affairs came against the backdrop of a decline in India-U.S. trade relations

that have been hit by the imposition of punitive tariffs on India by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Chancellor Merz did not talk about Mr. Trump in his formal remarks, but later, talking to reporters, he mentioned that Germany does not impose tariffs on other countries, an indirect reference to the punitive tariffs that the U.S. has imposed on India.

A joint statement issued after bilateral talks said that the two leaders have "reiterated their support for the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement as a key outcome of the upcoming EU-India Summit, which will facilitate trade flows and inject further momentum into German-India economic relations."

**KITE FESTIVAL**

» PAGE 6





Metric	Latest figure available in official MEA brief (Calendar Year 2023)	Notes
<b>Total bilateral trade (goods)</b>	<b>US\$ 33.33 billion</b> ( <a href="https://mea.gov.in">mea.gov.in</a> )	All-time high mentioned in the MEA brief (based on Destatis data).
<b>India's exports to Germany</b>	<b>US\$ 15.48 billion</b> ( <a href="https://mea.gov.in">mea.gov.in</a> )	Exports from India to Germany (CY 2023).
<b>India's imports from Germany</b>	<b>US\$ 17.85 billion</b> ( <a href="https://mea.gov.in">mea.gov.in</a> )	Imports into India from Germany (CY 2023).
<b>Trade balance (India)</b>	<b>– US\$ 2.37 billion (deficit)</b>	Computed as exports (15.48) – imports (17.85) = <b>–2.37</b> (approx).
<b>Germany's rank as India's trading partner (FY 2023–24)</b>	<b>12th largest</b> ( <a href="https://mea.gov.in">mea.gov.in</a> )	Rank stated for FY 2023–24 (value not specified there).
<b>Germany's share in India's foreign trade (FY 2023–24)</b>	<b>&gt; 2.37%</b> ( <a href="https://mea.gov.in">mea.gov.in</a> )	Share stated in the MEA brief.

Trade Component	What it includes (Typical major items)	Notes / Exam-useful points
Overall trade nature	Largely <b>manufacturing- and engineering-led</b>	Germany is one of India's key trading partners in Europe (especially for high-value machinery/industrial goods).
India → Germany (Goods exports)	<b>Pharmaceuticals, textiles &amp; garments, chemicals, auto components, engineering goods, leather products, IT/electronic items (some categories)</b>	India's exports are more <b>labour + mid-tech</b> heavy, plus pharma/chemicals.
Germany → India (Goods exports)	<b>Machinery &amp; industrial equipment, automobiles &amp; auto parts, electrical/electronics, chemicals, precision instruments, medical/diagnostic equipment</b>	Germany's exports are <b>high-tech / capital goods</b> heavy.
Services trade	<b>IT/ITeS, business/professional services, engineering/technical services, tourism/transport-related services</b>	Services complement goods trade; Indian IT presence supports German firms and global operations.
Trade balance pattern	Often <b>Germany has an edge</b> in high-value machinery/capital goods	Exact balance varies year to year (don't memorize without latest data).
Key trade drivers	<b>Manufacturing supply chains, automotive sector, chemicals &amp; pharma, machine tools, energy transition tech</b>	Strong B2B linkages: Mittelstand ↔ Indian suppliers/manufacturers.
New/emerging trade areas	<b>EV components, battery materials, green hydrogen equipment/value chain, renewable energy, semiconductor supply-chain equipment, industrial automation (Industry 4.0)</b>	Growing focus on resilient supply chains and clean-tech trade.

- India and Germany signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation, with focus on **co-production and co-development**.

भारत और जर्मनी ने रक्षा औद्योगिक सहयोग को मजबूत करने हेतु समझौता किया, जिसमें सह-उत्पादन व सह-विकास पर जोर है।

- The agreement was signed during talks between Narendra Modi and Friedrich Merz.

यह समझौता प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और जर्मन चांसलर फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ की बैठक के दौरान हुआ।

---

### ◆ Key Features of the Pact (समझौते की विशेषताएँ)

- Launch of a **consultation mechanism** to boost defence trade cooperation.

रक्षा व्यापार सहयोग बढ़ाने हेतु 'परामर्श तंत्र' की शुरुआत।

- Preparation of a **roadmap for defence industry cooperation**.

रक्षा उद्योग सहयोग के लिए रोडमैप तैयार किया जाएगा।

- Emphasis on **mutual trust, shared vision, and strategic partnership**.

आपसी विश्वास और साझा रणनीतिक दृष्टि पर बल।

---



## ◆ Strategic & Geopolitical Context (रणनीतिक संदर्भ)

- The visit coincides with:
    - 25 years of India–Germany Strategic Partnership
    - 75 years of diplomatic relations

भारत-जर्मनी रणनीतिक साझेदारी के 25 वर्ष और राजनयिक संबंधों के 75 वर्ष।
  - Leaders discussed **Ukraine conflict**, **Gaza crisis**, and **condemnation of terrorism**.

यूक्रेन व गाज़ा संघर्ष तथा आतंकवाद की निंदा पर चर्चा।
- 

## ◆ Trade & Protectionism Angle (व्यापार व संरक्षणवाद)

- German Chancellor warned against a “**rise in protectionism**” globally.

वैश्विक स्तर पर बढ़ते संरक्षणवाद पर चिंता।
  - Germany urged partnership to **strengthen global supply chains**.

वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को मजबूत करने पर जोर।
  - Reference to **punitive tariffs imposed by the U.S.** and decline in India–U.S. trade ties.

अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए दंडात्मक शुल्क और भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार में गिरावट का संदर्भ।
-

## 2 Modi–Merz & International Kite Festival, Ahmedabad

### ◆ Event Overview (कार्यक्रम विवरण)

- International Kite Festival 2026 inaugurated at Sabarmati Riverfront.  
अहमदाबाद के साबरमती रिवरफ्रंट पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय पतंग महोत्सव 2026 का उद्घाटन।
  - German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** attended as **Chief Guest**.  
जर्मन चांसलर फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ मुख्य अतिथि रहे।
- 

### ◆ Participation Highlights (भागीदारी)

- 135 international kite flyers from 50 countries.
- 65 kite flyers from 13 Indian states.
- 871 kite flyers from 16 districts of Gujarat.  
50 देशों से 135, भारत के 13 राज्यों से 65, और गुजरात के 16 जिलों से 871 प्रतिभागी।



Exam

Year

Question (Gist)

Answer



UPSC CSE Prelims

2021

India–Germany relations are part of which broader framework?

Strategic Partnership

RPSC RAS Prelims

2022

Uttarayan is associated with which state?

Gujarat

SSC CGL

2020

Makar Sankranti marks which solar movement?

Northward journey of Sun

IBPS PO

2019

Which agreement aims to reduce trade barriers?

Free Trade Agreement

Railway NTPC

2021

Sabarmati River flows through which city?

Ahmedabad



- With reference to recent India–Germany engagements, consider the following statements:
- India and Germany agreed to enhance defence industrial cooperation with focus on co-production.
- The German Chancellor expressed concern over the rise of protectionism globally.
- The International Kite Festival at Ahmedabad is organised annually to mark India–EU Free Trade Agreement.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- **Options:**
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3



The panchayat's transformation has indicated that meaningful change often begins at the grassroots.



# Poll body stops advance disbursal of Ladki Bahin aid in Maharashtra

Move comes amid Oppn. complaints after BJP Minister's claim that beneficiaries will get a combined amount of ₹3,000 for Dec., Jan. as 'special gift'; SEC says scheme benefits cannot be given in advance when election code of conduct is in place for civic polls

**Snehal Mutha**  
MUMBAI

**T**he State Election Commission on Monday barred the Maharashtra government from disbursing advance payment under the Ladki Bahin scheme, citing the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the ongoing municipal elections.

"The SEC has issued consolidated orders on November 4, 2025, regarding the Model Code of Conduct for the general elections of local bodies. As per the provisions of this order, development works and schemes, which were started before the announcement of the elections are allowed to continue during the MCC period. The Chief Secretary had informed in his report. Considering this background, the regular benefits of this scheme can be given but benefits cannot be given in advance, and new beneficiaries will not be able to be selected," the SEC stated in a statement.

The poll body's clarification came following several complaints questioning the timing of an announce-



The State government's flagship programme rolled out before the 2024 Assembly election is widely credited with helping the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance secure a poll victory. FILE PHOTO

ment by Minister Girish Mahajan. In a post on X on January 7, the BJP leader claimed that eligible beneficiaries of the scheme will receive a combined amount of ₹3,000 for December and January in their bank accounts before Makar Sankranti, which falls on January 14, terming it a "special gift" from "Devabhai (Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis)".

The Ladki Bahin scheme is a flagship programme rolled out by the Mahayuti

government before the Assembly election in 2024, providing a monthly aid of ₹1,500 to eligible beneficiaries. The scheme is widely credited with helping the Mahayuti secure victory in the Assembly election.

## Congress complaint

The Opposition Congress alleged it was aimed at influencing voters ahead of the January 15 polls to 29 municipal corporations, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

State Congress leader and advocate Sandesh Kondvilkar filed a complaint with the SEC on January 10, alleging that the Minister announced to release two instalments on the eve of voting, and urged the poll body to step in.

The SEC confirmed to *The Hindu* earlier in the day that it had sought a report from State Chief Secretary Rajesh Agarwal inquiring into the BJP Minister's claims if the government

intended to release two months' instalments together ahead of the polls, with a response sought on Monday.

Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for using the scheme as a "transactional deal" and "not to help economically weaker women". "To trade with votes, the money meant for Ladki Bahins was withheld for two months. These are selfish brothers who demand votes in return. This is public money. Devendra Fadnavis or [Deputy Chief Minister] Eknath Shinde are not giving it from their own pockets," Mr. Sawant said.

Mr. Fadnavis, however, defended the announcement saying the Ladki Bahin Yojana was a continuous scheme of the State government and did not fall under the restrictions of the election code of conduct.

Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal said his party was not opposed to the scheme but objected to the release of two months' assistance on the eve of voting, calling it a clear violation of the poll code.

## 1) What did the poll body do? (क्या किया?)

- **Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC)** stopped the **advance disbursal** of money under the **Ladki Bahin** scheme during ongoing municipal polls.

महाराष्ट्र राज्य चुनाव आयोग (SEC) ने नगर निकाय चुनावों के दौरान लाडकी बहिन योजना की अग्रिम राशि जारी करने पर रोक लगा दी।

- Reason: **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** is in force for civic polls; **scheme benefits can't be given "in advance"** during MCC.

कारण: नगर निकाय चुनावों के लिए आदर्श आचार संहिता (MCC) लागू है; MCC के दौरान अग्रिम लाभ देना अनुमत नहीं।

---

## 2) What is allowed vs not allowed (क्या अनुमति है/नहीं?)

- **Allowed:** Regular/ongoing benefits of existing schemes may continue.

अनुमति: पहले से चल रही योजनाओं के नियमित लाभ जारी रह सकते हैं।

- **Not allowed:**

- **Advance payment** (e.g., giving multiple instalments together before polling)
- **Selection of new beneficiaries** during MCC

निषेध:

- **अग्रिम भुगतान** (जैसे वोटिंग से पहले 2 किस्तें साथ में देना)
- **MCC अवधि में नए लाभार्थियों का चयन**

### 3) Trigger: political claim & complaints (विवाद कैसे शुरू हुआ?)

- The issue escalated after a BJP minister's public claim that beneficiaries would get a **combined ₹3,000 for Dec + Jan** as a "special gift".

BJP मंत्री के दावे के बाद विवाद बढ़ा कि लाभार्थियों को दिसंबर + जनवरी के लिए ₹3,000 एक साथ "विशेष उपहार" के रूप में मिलेगा।

- Opposition (Congress) alleged this was to **influence voters** ahead of municipal elections; a complaint was filed before SEC.

कांग्रेस ने आरोप लगाया कि यह मतदाताओं को प्रभावित करने का प्रयास है; SEC में शिकायत दी गई।

---

### 4) Background of scheme (योजना का संदर्भ)

- Ladki Bahin is described as a flagship welfare scheme with **monthly aid (₹1,500)** to eligible beneficiaries (as per the article).

लेख के अनुसार लाडकी बहिन योजना के तहत पात्र लाभार्थियों को ₹1,500 मासिक सहायता दी जाती है।

State/UT	Scheme (Type)	Amount (₹)	Frequency	Notes/Who gets
Maharashtra	Mukhyamantri–Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana (चरम्डह ँशणर्)	1,500	Monthly	Eligible women (DBT). ( <a href="#">Ladaki Bahin</a> )
Madhya Pradesh	Ladli Behna Yojana (चरनचह ँणश्र)	1,500	Monthly	Amount increased to ₹1,500 (reported in recent updates). ( <a href="#">NDTV India</a> )
Jharkhand	Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana (सुयनर डू वूवड)	2,500	Monthly	Financial assistance to eligible women. ( <a href="#">Google Translate</a> )
Karnataka	Gruha Lakshmi Scheme (गुणनचकुह)	2,000	Monthly	For eligible women heads of households. ( <a href="#">Karnataka WCD</a> )
West Bengal	Lakshmir Bhandar ( » चकुह वननवघ)	1,000 / 1,200	Monthly	₹1,000 (General), ₹1,200 (SC/ST) per month. ( <a href="#">s24pgs.gov.in</a> )
Tamil Nadu	Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thogai ( सननचनर शशडू वरघ घनरु )	1,000	Monthly	₹1,000/month to eligible women. ( <a href="#">kmut.tn.gov.in</a> )
Chhattisgarh	Mahtari Vandan Yojana (सननलनघह अरुड )	1,000	Monthly	₹1,000/month via DBT. ( <a href="#">cgwcd.gov.in</a> )
Odisha	SUBHADRA Yojana (सुभनर)	10,000	Yearly (₹5,000×2)	₹50,000 over 5 years; paid in two instalments. ( <a href="#">The Times of India</a> )
Telangana	Mahalakshmi Scheme (सननननकुह)	2,500	Monthly	Monthly aid + (separately) ₹500 LPG & free bus travel (scheme package). ( <a href="#">wanaparthi.telangana.gov.in</a> )
Andhra Pradesh	Thaliki Vandanam ( कसुडह अरुडन ) (education-linked)	15,000	Yearly (per child)	₹13,000 to mother + ₹2,000 for school development (per eligible child). ( <a href="#">The Times of India</a> )

Theme	Extra Facts (English)	शुद्ध हिन्दी (Hindi)
SEC constitutional base	<b>Art. 243K:</b> State Election Commission for Panchayat elections; SEC is headed by State Election Commissioner, appointed by Governor; removal protection like HC Judge (textual basis). ( <a href="#">Indian Kanoon</a> )	<b>अनुच्छेद 243K:</b> पंचायत चुनावों के लिए राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग (SEC); यह राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग के अध्यक्ष द्वारा चलाया जाता है, जो राज्यपाल द्वारा नियुक्त किया जाता है; हटाने की सुरक्षा जैसे HC जज (वर्णन आधारित)। ( <a href="#">Indian Kanoon</a> )
Municipal elections	For municipalities, Constitution also provides election framework (often linked with <b>Art. 243ZA</b> in standard polity notes).	नगरपालिकाओं के लिए, संविधान में भी निर्वाचन ढांचा प्रदान किया गया है (आमतौर पर <b>अनुच्छेद 243ZA</b> के साथ जोड़ा जाता है)।
MCC & welfare schemes	MCC period: <b>no fresh release/processing</b> of beneficiary-oriented schemes/welfare funds that can influence voters. ( <a href="#">Election Commission of India</a> )	MCC अवधि: <b>कोई नए रिलीज/प्रसंकरण</b> के लिए लाभार्थी-उन्मुख योजनाओं/कल्याणकारी धन के मामले में, जो मतदाताओं को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं। ( <a href="#">Election Commission of India</a> )
MCC origin (static GK)	MCC first introduced in <b>Kerala Assembly elections (1960)</b> ; later wider adoption.	MCC पहली बार <b>केरल विधानसभा चुनाव (1960)</b> में शुरू किया गया था; बाद में व्यापक अपनाने पर।



Exam	Paper (Date/Shift)	Question (as asked / gist)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	GS Paper I, 2017	“ECI is a five-member body... MHA decides election schedule... ECI resolves party split/merger disputes” — Which statement(s) correct?	Only statement 3
SSC CHSL Tier-I	20 Mar 2023 (Shift 3)	Article 243K of the Constitution is related to which?	Election to the Panchayats
SSC CGL Tier-I	18 Jul 2023 (Shift 2)	“In India the State Election Commissioner is appointed by the ____.”	Governor
RRB NTPC CBT-I	5 Apr 2021 (Shift 2)	“Who appoints the State Election Commissioner?”	Governor
UPPSC (PCS)	2017 Paper 1	A-R type: MCC must be followed as soon as election announced / MCC enacted by Parliament	Reason is <b>incorrect</b> (MCC not enacted by Parliament) (
Rajasthan RAS Prelims	2023 Official Paper	Statements on SEC Rajasthan (constituted under Art 243K; single-member headed by State Election Commissioner)	Both statements treated as correct in key context



- **With reference to the news about “Ladki Bahin” payments during municipal polls, consider the statements:**

- The State Election Commission barred **advance disbursal** of scheme benefits because **MCC** was in force for civic polls.

- During MCC, **regular ongoing benefits** of an existing scheme may continue, but **advance benefits** are generally restricted.

- The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the **President of India**.

- Which is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

# In a first, Rajasthan panchayat gets certified for going fully organic

**Mohammed Iqbal**

BAMANWAS KANKAR

By taking decisive steps to secure a sustainable future, Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic.

The panchayat, comprising seven hamlets in the newly formed Kotputli-Behror district, took measures not only to resolve issues of soil degradation and declining groundwater level but also to address health concerns linked to chemical-based farming.

All farming activities in Bamanwas Kankar are free of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers while animal husbandry practices follow ecological and health-conscious standards. "This integrated ap-



**Taking firm stand:** Villagers taking a pledge against chemical-based agriculture at Bamanwas Kankar on January 2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

proach has ensured that agriculture, livestock management, and environmental protection will move forward together," sarpanch Ganesh Jat said.

The move towards organic farming was initiated through collective discussions among villagers in the past year. Farmers had begun noticing declining soil fertility, rising input

costs, and health issues associated with exposure to chemical inputs. Mr. Jat said these concerns shifted the community's mindset from focusing on short-term yields to achieving long-term sustainability.

The transition was supported by Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies (COFED), a group working

in the areas of natural resource conservation, sustainable farming, and women's empowerment.

## **'Farmer-friendly model'**

Farmers have begun observing increased biodiversity, including beneficial insects and soil microorganisms. The certification has opened access to premium markets and reduced dependence on costly chemical inputs. For livestock owners, organic practices have led to better animal health and safer dairy products, enhancing their market value.

Mukesh Gujjar of Nangalhedhi village said chemical-free farming has given villagers "safe food and a healthier lifestyle". "By choosing organic methods, we have moved towards a farmer-friendly

model of agriculture."

Mahaveer Bikan of Bhaadana Ki Bhaal village said stopping the use of chemical pesticides improved soil health, crop quality, and well-being of rural families. "Organic farming is the foundation for a healthy future," he said.

To mark the milestone, the panchayat organised a ceremony to take a pledge against chemical-based agriculture and animal husbandry on January 2. The event brought together farmers, cattle owners, local leaders, and COFED representatives.

COFED founder Jeetendra Sevawat said the panchayat's achievement was a community-driven movement rather than a bureaucratic exercise. He said the Bamanwas Kankar experiment demonstrated

how sustainable agriculture becomes achievable when communities take ownership of change. "By this year-end, we aim to convert 300 panchayats across the districts of Bikaner, Alwar, Kotputli-Behror, and Bhilwara into fully organic village bodies," he said.

COFED has collated the data of farms and cattle from these places and issuance of certificates for crops and livestock for the first cycle is in progress.

As policymakers search for techniques of sustainable agriculture, Bamanwas Kankar seems to have offered a model rooted in community participation, ecological responsibility, and collective vision.

The panchayat's transformation has indicated that meaningful change often begins at the grassroots.



- Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan became the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic.

राजस्थान की बामनवास कंकर पंचायत राज्य की पहली पंचायत बनी जिसे पूर्णतः जैविक (Fully Organic) प्रमाणित किया गया।

- The panchayat includes seven hamlets in the newly formed Kotputli–Behror district.

यह पंचायत कोटपूतली–बहरोड़ (नवगठित) जिले में 7 ढाणियों/बसावटों से मिलकर बनी है।

---

## 2) Why did they shift to organic? (जैविक की ओर क्यों गए?)

- Steps were taken to address:
  - Soil degradation
  - Declining groundwater levels
  - Health concerns linked to chemical-based farming

उन्होंने कदम उठाए ताकि:

- मिट्टी की गुणवत्ता में गिरावट
- भूजल स्तर में कमी
- रासायनिक खेती से जुड़ी स्वास्थ्य समस्याएँ

इन मुद्दों का समाधान हो सके।

### 3) What changes were made on the ground? (जमीनी बदलाव क्या हुए?)

- All farming is free from chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.  
कृषि कार्य रासायनिक कीटनाशकों और सिंथेटिक उर्वरकों से मुक्त किया गया।
  - Animal husbandry follows ecological and health-conscious standards.  
पशुपालन में पर्यावरण-संगत और स्वास्थ्य-सुरक्षित मानकों का पालन किया गया।
  - Community discussions helped farmers move from **short-term yield focus** to **long-term sustainability**.  
सामुदायिक चर्चा से कम अवधि की उपज के बजाय दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता पर ध्यान गया।
- 

### 4) Support & Institution (सहयोग किसने किया?)

- The transition was supported by **COFED (Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies)** working on:
  - Natural resource conservation
  - Sustainable farming
  - Women's empowermentयह बदलाव **COFED** के सहयोग से हुआ, जो काम करता है:
  - प्राकृतिक संसाधन संरक्षण
  - टिकाऊ कृषि
  - महिला सशक्तिकरण

## 5) Benefits observed (लाभ क्या दिखे?)

### 'Farmer-friendly model' (किसान-हितैषी मॉडल)

- **Increased biodiversity**, including beneficial insects and soil microorganisms.  
जैव-विविधता बढ़ी, लाभकारी कीट और मिट्टी के सूक्ष्मजीव बढ़े।
  - Certification enabled access to **premium markets** and reduced dependence on **costly chemical inputs**.  
प्रमाणन से प्रीमियम बाजार मिले और महंगे रासायनिक इनपुट पर निर्भरता घटी।
  - For livestock owners: **better animal health, safer dairy products**, improved **market value**.  
पशुपालकों के लिए: पशु-स्वास्थ्य बेहतर, दुग्ध उत्पाद अधिक सुरक्षित, बाजार मूल्य बढ़ा।
- 

## 6) Milestone event (महत्वपूर्ण आयोजन)

- To mark the achievement, a **pledge ceremony** was held on **January 2** against chemical-based agriculture and animal husbandry.  
उपलब्धि के उपलक्ष्य में 2 जनवरी को रासायनिक खेती व पशुपालन के विरुद्ध शपथ समारोह हुआ।
- Farmers, cattle owners, local leaders and COFED representatives participated.  
किसान, पशुपालक, स्थानीय नेतृत्व और COFED प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए।



- What next? (७ फ़ंडिंग गारंटी प्र)

- By year-end, the aim is to convert **300 panchayats** across districts like **Bikaner, Alwar, Kotputli–Behror, Bhilwara** into fully organic village bodies.

अब ३०० पंचायतों में १००% ऑर्गेनिक, १ चक्र, डेटा संग्रहण-प्रणाली, कृषि-पशु-चक्र ३०० पंचायतों में  
डेटा संग्रहण-प्रणाली प्रणाली चक्र ३

- Data collection of farms and cattle has been done; **certificates for crops and livestock (first cycle)** are in progress.

डेटा संग्रहण-प्रणाली ३ डेटा संग्रहण-प्रणाली; ३ चक्र ३ चक्र ३ (पंचायत चक्र ) प्रणाली चक्र ३  
प्रणाली चक्र ३ चक्र ३

-

Topic	Extra Facts (English)	शुभलक्षण लक्ष्मी जHindi)
Organic certification in India	Two broad routes: <b>Third-party certification (NPOP)</b> and <b>PGS-India</b> for domestic markets	कृषि रक्षा लक्ष्मी NPOP (कृषि रक्षा) ज घ लक्ष्मी वन वन पक्ष PGS-India
Key government support	<b>PKVY</b> promotes organic clusters; <b>Jaivik Bharat</b> supports branding/traceability	PKVY लक्ष्मी प्र अघ इक्ष प्रवक्ष लक्ष्मी कृषि लक्ष्मी वन वन पक्ष प्रवक्ष
Soil benefits	Organic practices improve <b>soil organic carbon</b> , biodiversity, and long-term fertility	लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष इक्ष, लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष इक्ष प्रवक्ष
Market angle	Certified organic often gets <b>premium price</b> , but needs compliance & monitoring	लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष लक्ष्मी वन वन, हघ लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष इक्ष
Best-known example	<b>Sikkim</b> is widely cited as India's first fully organic State	लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष लक्ष्मी वन वन, हघ लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी इक्ष इक्ष



- **With reference to the news about Bamanwas Kankar panchayat becoming fully organic, consider the following statements:**

- Bamanwas Kankar panchayat has been certified as Rajasthan's first fully organic village body.
- The transition included stopping chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in farming and adopting ecological standards in animal husbandry.
- The plan mentioned includes converting 300 panchayats across multiple Rajasthan districts into fully organic village bodies by year-end.

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

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





# India to be invited to join U.S.-led initiative Pax Silica, says envoy

India was not included in the original launch of the arrangement for cooperation on semiconductors, critical minerals, AI; Gor 'takes charge' of U.S. Embassy with music and fanfare, says both countries continue to actively engage over trade deal

Subhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

India will be invited to join "Pax Silica", the U.S.-led eight-nation arrangement to cooperate on semiconductors, critical minerals, and artificial intelligence, next month, incoming U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor announced on Monday. He added that both countries hoped to make progress on long-delayed trade negotiations soon.

Mr. Gor, who is yet to present his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu, projected a positive outlook for India-U.S. ties after months of tensions over trade, tariffs, and India's import of Russian oil.

"The United States and India are bound not just by shared interests, but by relationship anchored at the highest levels," Mr. Gor said in an unprecedented "arrival speech", delivered with much fanfare from the steps of the U.S. Embassy on Shantipath in Delhi.

"Real friends can disagree but always resolve their differences in the end," he added. He said the two sides "continue to actively engage" over the trade deal that had been initially launched nearly a year ago when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington. Subsequently, the deal lost momentum as the U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods, and has seen six official rounds of nego-



**New beginning:** U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor receives a warm welcome as he marks his first day at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

tiations and three visits to the U.S. by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"Remember, India is the world's largest nation, so it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there," he said.

India was not included in the original launch of "Pax Silica" in Washington in December, though fellow Quad members Japan and Australia, I2U2 countries, Israel and the UAE, and others including South Korea, Singapore, the U.K., and the Netherlands were invited.

## Trump's visit

Mr. Gor said he hoped U.S. President Donald Trump would visit India "soon, hopefully in the next year or two". Mr. Trump was ex-

pected to visit India last year to attend the Quad Summit, and India is hoping to host the summit this year.

## Unconventional arrival

The Ambassador's statement, made to hundreds of U.S. Embassy staffers in Delhi and Indian media, was unconventional as Mr. Gor is expected to present his credentials later this week. According to diplomatic protocol, Ambassadors are expected to make public appearances only after the credentials are presented. Mr. Gor arrived at the Embassy with his Ambassadorial convoy, including a special armoured car with red and blue blinking lights. As he alighted, the Embassy officials who had gathered

there more than two hours before, along with the press, greeted him with loud applause, and as he walked up the steps, a special playlist of songs, reportedly chosen by Mr. Gor, that included the 1960s soul song *Hold on, I'm Coming* and Mr. Trump's favourite YMCA were played over loudspeakers. The ceremony, which included dozens of media outlets, was telecast live – a break from the past. His predecessor, Biden appointee Eric Garcetti, had arrived to take up his assignment in a colourful autorickshaw in April 2023, but without the media or the large welcoming assembly.

Mr. Gor begins with his tasks cut out, given spiralling ties between New Delhi

and Washington, particularly over a number of statements, including Mr. Trump's repeated claim that he mediated the India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025, which the government has strenuously denied.

Last week, the External Affairs Ministry rejected a claim by U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that the trade deal had fallen through as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not called Mr. Trump to finalise it, pointing out that the two leaders had spoken eight times during the year.

Mr. Gor said that India-U.S. trade negotiators would hold another call on Tuesday.

In addition, the government has been uncomfortable with the U.S. President's contention that Mr. Modi had promised to cut India's imports of Russian oil "to make him happy", stressing that any decisions are led by market conditions.

## Special envoy

Mr. Gor, who has also been appointed Mr. Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, has taken a few months to arrive, after being named for the post in August 2024, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in October.

Alongside bilateral issues, his travels in the region, particularly to Pakistan and Bangladesh, will be watched most closely in New Delhi.

## A) What is Pax Silica? (Pax Silica क्या है?)

- **"Pax Silica" is described as a U.S.-led, 8-nation initiative/arrangement for cooperation on: Semiconductors, Critical Minerals, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

**"Pax Silica" अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाली 8 देशों की पहल/व्यवस्था बताई गई है, जिसका फोकस: सेमीकंडक्टर, क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स और AI पर है।**

- **The envoy said India will be invited to join next month.**  
दूत के अनुसार भारत को अगले महीने शामिल होने का निमंत्रण मिलेगा।
- 

## B) Who said it & where? (किसने कहा, कहाँ?)

- **Incoming U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor announced it after taking charge at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi (arrival with much fanfare).**

**भारत में आने वाले अमेरिकी राजदूत सर्जियो गोर ने नई दिल्ली स्थित अमेरिकी दूतावास में कार्यभार संभालने के बाद यह कहा।**

- **He had not yet presented credentials to the President of India (as per article).**

**लेख के अनुसार उन्होंने अभी राष्ट्रपति को अपना "क्रेडेंशियल" प्रस्तुत नहीं किया था।**

---

### C) Why is this important? (महत्व क्यों?)

- It signals deeper India–U.S. cooperation in **strategic technologies and supply chains**.  
यह रणनीतिक तकनीक और सप्लाई-चेन में भारत–अमेरिका सहयोग को मजबूत करने का संकेत है।
  - It connects to **geopolitics of chips + minerals + AI**, which are now core national security/economic security areas.  
चिप्स + खनिज + AI आज राष्ट्रीय/आर्थिक सुरक्षा के मुख्य विषय हैं।
- 

### D) Trade deal context (ट्रेड डील संदर्भ)

- Envoy said both sides continue to **actively engage on a trade deal** and hope to progress soon.  
दूत ने कहा दोनों देश ट्रेड डील पर सक्रिय बातचीत कर रहे हैं और जल्द प्रगति की उम्मीद है।
  - Article mentions recent **tensions over tariffs** and India's **imports of Russian oil** in the broader relationship context.  
लेख में टैरिफ और रूसी तेल आयात को लेकर संबंधों में तनाव का संदर्भ भी है।
-

- **India was not included in the original launch in Washington (December).**

[illegible]

- It notes participation/invitations included:
  - **Japan & Australia** (Quad members)
  - **Israel & UAE** (I2U2)
  - plus others like **South Korea, Singapore, UK, Netherlands** (as mentioned)

**चक्र रक्तवह्वर, छ वल्लभग्र, स्थधनस्त्र, UAE, ज घ वल्लभ  
इन्द्राग्र, श्रद्धाग्र, UK, षष्ठ्यचक्र नक्षत्रकट्टाग्र & ह पञ्च**



Topic	Extra Facts (English)	શ્રેણી (Hindi)
Semiconductors	Chips are core to electronics, defence, telecom, EVs; shortage becomes a strategic vulnerability	શ્રી સ્કેમના નિર્માણમાં સ્કેમના અભાવને કારણે EV અને ઘણા અન્ય ક્ષેત્રોમાં અભાવ બની શકે છે
Critical minerals	Often include lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths (used in batteries, magnets, defence tech)	આમાં લિથિયમ, કોબાલ્ટ, નિકેલ, દુર્લભ ધાતુઓનો સમાવેશ થાય છે જે બેટરી, ચુંબક અને રક્ષણ તકનીકમાં વપરાય છે
QUAD	Members: <b>India, USA, Japan, Australia</b>	QUAD દ્વારા પકડાયેલ, ૧ સભ્ય, નવરત્ન, જે સહયોગી છે
I2U2	Grouping: <b>India, Israel, UAE, USA</b>	I2U2: કતાર, સુધન સુધન, UAE, ૧ સભ્ય
Credentials	Ambassadors formally assume full diplomatic role after presenting credentials to the Head of State	ધાર્મિક "દ્વિતીય ગ્રામ" ધાર્મિક લેવામાં આવે છે જે દ્વારા દ્વિતીય ગ્રામ દ્વારા દ્વિતીય ગ્રામ
Trade talks	Tariffs, market access, standards, digital trade often dominate bilateral trade negotiations	લેવિશ, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા, સ્વતંત્રતા

Exam (Paper / Date)

Exact Question (English)

हिंदी जHindi)

Options

Correct Answer

UPSC CSE Prelims 2025  
(GS Paper-I, 25 May 2025)

**Consider the following statements:** I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member. II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified. III. The Parliament in 2023 amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licenses for certain critical minerals. **Which of the statements given above are correct?**

अह इ कससहय अद्वय इहअ इ: I. ककल Minerals Security Partnership इव दृप पत्र अह II. ककल १ हसअर 30 critical minerals सहक सहद्वय घदरअह अह III. 2023 सह MMDR Act, 1957 ददअल इघ क क दघद्वय क क critical minerals अह mining lease अ composite licence इह exclusive auction दस क एह दणह इ क इअ-दण

A. I and II only B. II and III only C. I and III only D. I, II and III

☒ C. I and III only

UPSC CSE Mains 2025 (GS  
Paper-III)

**India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission.**

ककल ददहअअ घ सअअ अअ अ पत्र दवणल अ ककल सहद्वयअ घ कअ इह कअअअ व अ India Semiconductor Mission इह अअ अद्वलअअ इह

(Mains – No options)

(Descriptive)

UPSC CSE Mains 2020 (GS  
Paper-II, 09 Jan 2021 – as  
per UPSC mains schedule  
coverage)

**Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present time – Discuss.**

QUAD अलअ दसय सहइ दै एअ द दवणअ इह इघ च हकअल अअअअ—ददअअअ इह

(Mains – No options)

(Descriptive)

UPSC CDS (I) 2021 – GK  
(07 Feb 2021)

**Which one of the following is not a member of the Quad group of nations?**

अह सहइअ Quad दसय इव दृप अअअ

1. France 2. USA 3. Australia 4. Japan

☒ France

CSIR-CEERI JSA Official  
Paper-II (Held in 2022)

**What are the member countries of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) also called QUAD?**

QUAD (QSD) इह दृप क इअ-दण

1. Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan  
2. Australia, India, Japan and USA 3. Australia, UK, France and USA 4. Singapore, Japan, Australia and UK

☒ Australia, India, Japan and USA



- **With reference to the initiative “Pax Silica” mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:**

- Pax Silica is described as a U.S.-led arrangement for cooperation on semiconductors, critical minerals and AI.

- India was included in the original launch of Pax Silica in Washington.

- The article indicates India is likely to be invited to join Pax Silica next month.

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

A) 1 and 3 only

B) 1 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3



## Why Article 6 is a powerful tool for India

**T**o strengthen the delivery and efficiency of climate finance, the carbon markets under Article 6 (A) of the Paris Agreement were made fully operational at COP29. According to the An Implementation Partnership, there are 40 cooperation arrangements made under Article 6.2 across 58 Parties, reflecting the growing momentum and acceleration of bilateral and plurilateral carbon market collaborations. The adoption of the Paris Agreement's Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.4) at COP29 marked a milestone in the transition from the Clean Development Mechanism. This step has paved the way for a more rigorous, transparent, and globally aligned crediting framework under the Paris Agreement.

After years of anticipation and careful deliberation, in August 2025, India entered a new era of carbon markets by signing the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This effectively operationalised Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement and signalled a new chapter in international climate cooperation.

**The potential of Article 6**  
Why does participation of India in the Article 6 mechanism hold critical significance for India? Partnership with India can regulate into transfer of advanced tech, support to research and development, strengthen bilateral relations and channel much-needed climate finance into the economy. This can be a lever for socio-economic transformation that aligns with domestic climate goals, especially for a rapidly growing country such as India. Critically, the potential of Article 6.2 and 6.4 is not just to generate climate finance through the exchange of carbon credits, known as internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. Instead, the real prize lies in using this mechanism to accelerate low-carbon industrial and technological transformation.



**Anurag Sharma**  
Programme Lead, CEO and PhD Scholar, Department of Policy and Management Studies, IIT Madras



**Srijan K. Sarangi**  
Associate Professor and Head, Department of Policy and Management Studies, IITM School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi

India's first step under Article 6 marks more than a technical milestone. It is an opportunity to access advanced technologies, attract climate-aligned finance, and design international partnerships

while building resilient trade relationships in a carbon-constrained world. The Paris Agreement's Rule book sets out the architecture for Article 6, which allows countries to cooperate bilaterally or multilaterally, transferring emissions reductions while ensuring rigorous accounting to avoid double counting. India's new JCM partnership with Japan is an early example of how this cooperation can work. To operationalise both Article 6.2 and 6.4, the Indian government has already strategically identified a first set of 10 eligible activities keeping both developmental and climate goals in balance. These are high-end, emerging technologies that can fundamentally shift the country's emissions profile and significantly contribute to the acceleration of India's economic growth trajectory. For the next three years, credits can be generated in diversification activities for the country in all forms. These include renewable energy with storage, solar thermal power plants and offshore wind; green hydrogen and complete bio-gas; emerging mobility solutions like fuel cells; high-end energy efficiency; a technical and sustainable aviation fuel. The current Indian activities reflect a deliberate and forward-looking strategy that aligns with India's long-term goals of sustainable growth and deep decarbonisation. As India moves towards a just energy mix for power generation, emerging solutions such as offshore wind, large-scale energy storage, and marine energy can accelerate diversification of its energy mix. Green hydrogen, particularly in steel-making, is a key pathway to significantly lower emissions intensity in some critical sectors. In hard-to-abate industries such as cement, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage provides a credible route to deep decarbonisation. Each of these

technologies complements national priorities while strengthening the foundation for a low-carbon economy. From intent to action However, to unlock these opportunities, India must now move from intent to action. Key policy priorities stand out. First, strengthen the domestic framework. India has appointed a Designated National Authority (DNA), but so far it is yet to detail the scope of the activities to be operationalised. This necessitates the articulation of rules governing the issuance of Letters of Authorisation, the application of corresponding adjustments, and the establishment of a robust legal and regulatory framework for carbon trading. Second, streamline project clearances. A steering committee could be created at the Cabinet level to offer broader guidelines and regularly take stock. CEZV research which hold more attention carbon projects in India take over 1,000 days to register for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use projects, compared to less than 400 days elsewhere in Asia. For AEC projects, where land and multiple stakeholders are often involved, a single-window clearance system is essential. Third, build and strengthen the renewable market. The global demand for carbon removals is rising. Article 6 provides an ideal platform to build a domestic market for activities like Biochar and Enhanced Rock Weathering, positioning India as a supplier of solutions such as offshore wind, large-scale energy storage, and marine energy can accelerate diversification of its energy mix. Green hydrogen, particularly in steel-making, is a key pathway to significantly lower emissions intensity in some critical sectors. In hard-to-abate industries such as cement, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage provides a credible route to deep decarbonisation. Each of these

## Bhoomi, a governance success

The project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records

### STATE OF PLAY

Kumar

**F**or decades, access to land records was one of the most persistent governance failures of Karnataka. Bhoomi project, now completing 26 years, offers an instructive counterpoint showing how administrative reform can reshape the relationship between governance and the people. Until the late 1990s, land administration in Karnataka relied almost entirely on handwritten records maintained by village accountants. Farmers seeking a Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) often had to repeatedly visit revenue officers, navigate complex procedures, and rely on intermediaries. Errors in records were common, and corrections took months. In an agrarian State where land disputes routinely split into civil suits, the costs of administrative inefficiency were borne disproportionately by small and marginal farmers. Launched in 2000, Bhoomi was a bold departure from this legacy. Its immediate goal was simple: computerise land records and make them accessible to the public. To replace discretion with accuracy, the project began with a survey and mapping exercise, and capacity with transparent, computerised RTCs and the abolition of handwritten records marked a historic shift. Over the last 25 years, more than 100 crore records have been issued, fundamentally altering how land records are accessed across the State. Many revenue officials were initially hesitant to abandon familiar manual systems, but Karnataka responded with large-scale capacity building, train-

Kumar

ing nearly 8,000 village accountants, 8,000 revenue inspectors, and 1,000 computer operators. The establishment of 204 Bhoomi Kendras at the taluk level enabled the digitisation of nearly 2.5 crore land records covering about 3.5 crore farmers. What followed was not merely digitisation, but a cultural shift within the administration. Initially, the Bhoomi project in Karnataka began as a survey and mapping exercise, not just manual RTCs. But today, it functions as a comprehensive digital ecosystem that integrates land and revenue administration with multiple welfare services. The integration of Bhoomi with the Kaveri registration system changed the face of land registration in Karnataka. By linking registration with land records, the State sharply reduced fraudulent transactions and eliminated middlemen. Mutation, once a source of endless delay, became automatic and transparent. Survey and boundary disputes, which had been chronic problems, were addressed through the introduction of the Mojini Survey software in 2007. For the first time, land measurement and boundary processes were brought under a digital, time-bound framework. The off-the-shelf, a pre-conversion map introduced by Karnataka, further improved accuracy in land measurement. The result has been a visible reduction in

land-related disputes. Bhoomi's evolution also reflects Karnataka's broader approach to governance: using administrative reform to strengthen welfare delivery. Since 2016, crop compensation has been credited directly to farmers' bank accounts, bypassing intermediaries. During the 2018 Union welfare programme, Bhoomi data enabled the waiver of loans for nearly 20 lakh farmers. The integration with PM-KISAN, the Agriculture Department's PDS platform, and Aadhaar seeding of over 2.17 crore farmer accounts has improved targeting and reduced leakages. By ensuring accurate and up-to-date records, Bhoomi has helped convert entitlement on paper into benefits on the ground. Perhaps Bhoomi's most significant achievement is not technological but experiential. Farmers no longer have to travel from village to taluk and taluk to district offices for routine services. The scope for discretionary abuse has narrowed. The relationship between citizens and the revenue administration has become more predictable. In a State where land remains emotionally and economically central, this shift has strengthened trust in public institutions. As Karnataka reflects on Bhoomi at 26, the project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records. Technology alone does not deliver reform. Bhoomi worked because it was embedded in administrative structures, changed legal norms, and created institutional learning. It shows that digital governance succeeds when it is incremental, inclusive, and grounded in local realities.

Dr. Kumar is IAS (Deputy Commissioner), Mandya District

## Solar panels yield far more energy per acre than biofuels

A Poland-sized area is dedicated to liquid biofuels. Is there a more efficient way to generate energy?

### DATA POINT

Monash Rethink

Public Roads

**E**lectric vehicles might be promoted as the key technological solution for low-carbon transport today, but they were not always the obvious option. Back in the early 2000s, it was biofuels. Rather than extracting and burning oil, we could grow crops like cereals and soybeans, and turn them into viable fuels. While we might expect biofuels to be a solution of the past due to the cost-competitiveness and rise of electric cars, the world produces more biofuels than ever. And this rise is expected to continue. In this article, we give a sense of perspective on how much land is used to produce biofuels, and what the potential of that land could be if we used it for other forms of energy. We will focus on what would happen if we used that land for solar panels, and then how many electric vehicles could be powered as a result. We will mostly focus on land used in the United States, where biofuels are currently used.

To be clear, we are not proposing that we should replace all bio-fuel land with solar panels. There are many ways we could utilise this land, whether for food production, some biofuel production, or rewilding. Maybe some combination of all of the above. But to make informed decisions about how to use our land effectively, we need to get a perspective on the potential of each option. That is what we aim to do here for solar power and electricity transport.

**Source and impacts**  
Most of the world's biofuels come from sugarcane (mostly grown in Brazil), cereal crops such as corn (mostly grown in the United States and the European Union), and oil crops such as soybean and palm oil (which are grown in the U.S.,



A man rides a motorcycle in Gujarat Solar Park at Patan district in Gujarat, western India.

Brazil, and Indonesia). Collectively, these crops account for about 4% of the world's energy demand for transport. While that does sound like a small amount, if we assume a net land use of 32 million hectares. This is conservative, and that is debatable. For context, that is about the size of Germany, Poland, the Philippines, Finland, or Italy.

**Solar power equivalent**  
How much solar power could you generate on that land? For context, many crops can you run? Could we use those 32 million hectares of land to produce even more energy than we currently get from biofuels? The answer is yes. If we just solar panels on that land, we could produce roughly 32,000 terawatt-hours of electricity each year. That is 23 times more than the energy that is currently produced in the form of all liquid biofuels. 32,000 terawatt-hours is a big number. The world generated 31,000 TWh of electricity in 2024. So, these new solar panels would produce enough to meet the world's current electricity demand. Again, our proposal is that we should cover all of this land in

solar panels, or that it could easily be used for other biofuels. We don't account for the fact that we would need energy storage and other options to make sure that power is available where and when it is needed not just when the sun is shining. We are just trying to get a sense of perspective for how much electricity could be produced by using that land in more efficient ways. These comparisons might seem surprising at first. But they can be explained by the fact that growing crops is a very inefficient process. Plants convert less than 1% of sunlight into biomass through photosynthesis. Even more energy is then lost when we turn those plants into liquid fuels. Crops are not as efficient as solar panels. Even they are still inefficient. By comparison, solar panels convert 15% to 20% of sunlight into electricity, with some recent designs achieving as much as 25%. That means replacing crops with solar panels will generate a lot more energy. **Solar versus biofuels**  
Now, you might think that we are comparing very different things

Monash Rethink and Public Roads are members of Our World in Data, a project of Global Change Data Lab

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Railway Wagon

#### FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1976

#### Bill to prevent Ry. wagons being used as godowns passed

New Delhi, Jan. 12: The Rajya Sabha to-day passed the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1976, providing for a special procedure for the speedy disposal of goods not taken delivery of by consignees within seven days of their arrival at the destination.

The measure was earlier described by the Railway Minister, Mr. Kanaklal Tripathi, as essential in dealing with anti-social traders, who used railway wagons as warehouses to make more profits and create artificial scarcity of certain commodities.

The Bill would replace the Ordinance promulgated by the President on September 25, 1975. Mr. Tripathi said the Bill also provided for the goods not lifted by the consignee within seven days, to be transferred to the Central or State Governments, or to any agency nominated by the Government. In the case of essential commodities they could be made available to co-operative fair price shops for sale to the public, in all other cases goods would be sold by public auction.

Money realised through sale, transfer, or auction of the unlifted goods would be paid to the consignee or owner after deducting railway charges and the cost of auction under the provisions of the Bill. Mr. Tripathi said the measure was long overdue because unscrupulous traders "struck at the most opportune moments of movement of goods to create artificial scarcity and thus push up prices." These traders were prepared to pay demurrage and additional cost because they stood to profit much more.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1926

#### French scientists' claim

London, Jan. 13: Dr. Roux, Director of the Pasteur Institute, announced to the Academy of Sciences that Drs. Roux and Zeller have discovered an anti-rabies giving permanent and complete immunity from tetanus. The anti-tetanus can be injected even in large doses without inconvenience into all wounds liable to cause tetanus. Supplies will soon be at the disposal of the medical profession.



# Why Article 6 is a powerful tool for India

To strengthen the delivery and efficiency of climate finance, the carbon markets under Article 6 (A6) of the Paris Agreement were made fully operational at COP29. According to the A6 Implementation Partnership, there are 89 cooperation arrangements made under Article 6.2 across 58 Parties, reflecting the growing momentum and acceleration of bilateral and plurilateral carbon market collaborations. The adoption of the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.4) at COP29 marked a milestone in the transition from the Clean Development Mechanism. This step has paved the way for a more rigorous, transparent, and globally aligned crediting framework under the Paris Agreement.

After years of anticipation and careful deliberation, in August 2025, India entered a new era of carbon markets by signing the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This effectively operationalised Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement and signalled a new chapter in international climate cooperation.

## The potential of Article 6

Why does participation of India in the A6 mechanism hold critical significance for India? Partnerships within A6 can translate into transfer of advanced tech, support to research and development, strengthen bilateral relations and channel much-needed climate finance into the economy. This can be a lever for socio-economic transformation that aligns with domestic climate goals, especially for a rapidly growing country such as India.

Critically, the potential of A6 market mechanisms (both 6.2 and 6.4) is not just restricted to generating climate finance through the exchange of carbon credits, known as internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. Instead, the real prize lies in using this mechanism to accelerate a low-carbon industrial and technological transformation,



**Aparna Sharma**

Programme Lead, CEEW and PhD Scholar, Department of Policy and Management Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi



**Gopal K. Sarangi**

Associate Professor and Head, Department of Policy and Management Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi

India's first step under Article 6 marks more than a technical milestone; it is an opportunity to access advanced technologies, attract climate-aligned finance, and deepen international partnerships

while building resilient trade relationships in a carbon-constrained world.

The Paris Agreement's Rule book sets out the architecture for A6. It allows countries to cooperate bilaterally or multilaterally, transferring emissions reductions while ensuring rigorous accounting to avoid double counting. India's new JCM partnership with Japan is an early example of how this cooperation can work.

To operationalise both Article 6.2 and 6.4, the Indian government has already strategically identified a first set of 13 eligible activities keeping both developmental and climate goals in balance. These are high-end, emerging technologies that can fundamentally shift the country's emissions profile and significantly contribute to the acceleration of India's economic growth trajectory. For the next three years, credits can be generated in sectors which hold most attention for the country in all fronts. These include renewable energy with storage; solar thermal power plants and offshore wind; green hydrogen and compressed bio-gas; emerging mobility solutions like fuel cells; high-end energy-efficiency technologies; and sustainable aviation fuel.

The current Indian list of activities reflects a deliberate and forward-looking strategy that aligns with India's long-term goals of sustainable growth and deep decarbonisation. As India continues to depend on coal for power generation, emerging solutions such as offshore wind, large-scale energy storage, and marine energy can accelerate diversification of its energy mix. Green hydrogen, particularly in industrial applications like steelmaking, offers a pathway to significantly lower emissions intensity across critical sectors. In hard-to-abate industries such as cement, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage provides a credible route to deep decarbonisation. Each of these

technologies complements national priorities while strengthening the foundation for a low-carbon economy.

## From intent to action

However, to unlock these opportunities, India must now move from intent to action. Key policy priorities stand out. First, strengthen the domestic framework. India has appointed a Designated National Authority for A6, but so far it is yet to detail the scope of the activities to be implemented. This necessitates the articulation of rules governing the issuance of Letters of Authorisation, the application of corresponding adjustments, and the establishment of a stable legal and regulatory framework for carbon trading.

Second, streamline project clearances. A steering committee could be created at the Cabinet level to offer broader guidelines and regularly take stock. CEEW research shows that voluntary carbon projects in India take over 1,600 days to register for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use projects, compared to less than 400 days elsewhere in Asia. For A6 projects, where land and multiple stakeholders are often involved, a single-window clearance system is essential.

Third, build and strengthen the removals market. The global demand for carbon removals is rising. Article 6 provides an ideal platform to build a domestic market for activities like Biochar and Enhanced Rock Weathering, positioning India as a supplier of high-quality removal credits.

Fourth, strengthen South-South collaboration. India can take the lead in building shared systems, knowledge networks, and financing models across developing countries.

India's first step under A6 marks more than a technical milestone; it is an opportunity to access advanced technologies, attract climate-aligned finance, and deepen international partnerships.

## A. What changed globally (COP29 & Paris Agreement Article 6)

- **Carbon markets under Article 6 (A6) became fully operational at COP29**
  - **EN:** Article 6 rules now enable smoother climate-finance delivery through carbon markets.
  - **HI:** COP29 के बाद Article 6 के तहत कार्बन मार्केट को “fully operational” माना गया, जिससे climate finance का flow/efficiency बढ़ सकती है।
- **Growing momentum in Article 6.2 cooperation**
  - **EN:** A6 Implementation Partnership notes **89 cooperation arrangements** under **Article 6.2** across **58 Parties**—showing rapid bilateral/plurilateral growth.
  - **HI:** Article 6.2 के तहत **58 देशों/Parties** में **89 cooperation arrangements**—यानि bilateral/plurilateral carbon market cooperation तेज़ी से बढ़ रही है।
- **Article 6.4 mechanism adoption = major milestone**
  - **EN:** Adoption of the **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Art 6.4)** at COP29 marks a shift beyond the earlier CDM-era approach toward a more rigorous and transparent crediting framework.
  - **HI:** COP29 में **Article 6.4 crediting mechanism** को अपनाना—CDM के बाद अधिक transparent/rigorous global crediting framework की दिशा में बड़ा कदम है।

## B. India's key step (India–Japan JCM)

- India entered a “new era” of carbon markets (Aug 2025)
  - **EN:** India signed the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**, effectively operationalising **Article 6.2** and opening a new chapter in international climate cooperation.
  - **HI:** Aug 2025 में भारत ने **JCM** साइन किया—जिससे **Article 6.2** का practical operationalisation हुआ और international climate cooperation को push मिला।
- **Why this matters**
  - **EN:** A6 enables bilateral/multilateral cooperation with **rigorous accounting to avoid double counting**.
  - **HI:** A6 में “double counting” रोकने के लिए strict accounting + rules हैं, जिससे भरोसेमंद carbon credit transfers संभव होते हैं।

## C. What Article 6 can do for India (beyond just “carbon money”)

- **Technology & R&D pathway**
    - **EN:** Partnerships can help transfer **advanced technology**, support **research & development**, and strengthen bilateral relations.
    - **HI:** A6 partnership से **advanced tech transfer, R&D support**, और bilateral relations मजबूत हो सकते हैं।
  - **Not limited to finance**
    - **EN:** The bigger prize is accelerating **low-carbon industrial & technological transformation**, while building resilient trade relationships in a carbon-constrained world.
    - **HI:** असली फायदा सिर्फ finance नहीं—बल्कि **low-carbon industrial/tech transformation** और carbon-constrained world में **resilient trade** बनाना है।
-



## D. India's "first set" of focus areas (eligible activities)

- **Government identified an initial set of 13 eligible activities (for Art 6.2 & 6.4)**
  - **EN:** Designed to balance development + climate goals; credits can be generated in key priority sectors.
  - **HI:** सरकार ने 13 eligible activities पहचानीं—development और climate goals दोनों का balance रखते हुए।
- **Examples mentioned (high-impact sectors/technologies)**
  - **EN:** Renewable energy with storage, solar thermal power, offshore wind, green hydrogen, compressed biogas, mobility solutions like fuel cells, high-end energy efficiency tech, and sustainable aviation fuel.
  - **HI:** Storage के साथ renewable, solar thermal, offshore wind, green hydrogen, compressed biogas, fuel cells, advanced energy efficiency, और sustainable aviation fuel जैसे क्षेत्रों पर फोकस।
- **Strategic rationale**
  - **EN:** Helps diversify energy mix (incl. offshore wind, large-scale storage, marine energy) and supports hard-to-abate sectors using CCUS pathways.
  - **HI:** Energy mix diversification (offshore wind, large storage, marine energy) + hard-to-abate sectors में CCUS जैसी pathways से deep decarbonisation।

## E. From intent to action (4 policy priorities highlighted)

### 1. Strengthen domestic framework

- **EN:** India has a Designated National Authority for A6, but needs clear scope + rules for **Letters of Authorisation, corresponding adjustments**, and a stable **legal/regulatory** carbon-trading framework.
- **HI:** DNA (Designated National Authority) तो है, पर **Letters of Authorisation, corresponding adjustments**, और stable legal/regulatory framework के detailed नियम चाहिए।

### 2. Streamline project clearances

- **EN:** A cabinet-level steering committee + guidance; single-window clearance is essential for multi-stakeholder A6 projects.
- **HI:** Cabinet-level steering committee + **single-window clearance** जरूरी, क्योंकि A6 projects में कई stakeholders/land issues होते हैं।
- **EN (Data point):** Voluntary carbon projects in India take **>1,600 days** to register for AFOLU, vs **<400 days** elsewhere in Asia.
- **HI:** भारत में AFOLU registration में **1600+ दिन**, जबकि Asia के कई हिस्सों में **400 दिन से कम**।

### 3. Build & strengthen carbon removals market

- **EN:** Rising global demand; Article 6 can help build domestic markets for **biochar** and **enhanced rock weathering**, positioning India as a supplier of high-quality removal credits.
- **HI:** removals की global demand बढ़ रही है; **biochar** और **enhanced rock weathering** जैसी activities से India high-quality removal credits supplier बन सकता है।

### 4. Strengthen South–South collaboration

- **EN:** India can lead shared systems, knowledge networks, and financing models for developing countries.
- **HI:** India developing countries के लिए shared systems, knowledge networks, financing models में नेतृत्व कर सकता है।

Term/Topic	Extra facts (English)	शुद्ध हिंदी
<b>Paris Agreement (2015)</b>	Global climate treaty under UNFCCC; aims to keep warming <b>well below 2°C</b> and pursue <b>1.5°C</b> efforts.	UNFCCC के तहत 2015 में बनाया गया वैश्वीय जलवायु संधि, जिसका उद्देश्य तापमान वृद्धि को <b>2°C से कम</b> रखना और <b>1.5°C</b> की दिशा में प्रयास करना है।
<b>Article 6 (overall)</b>	Framework for <b>voluntary international cooperation</b> : markets + non-market approaches.	<b>आपसी सहमति पर आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग</b> के लिए ढांचा: बाजार + बाजार के अलावा दृष्टिकोण।
<b>Article 6.2</b>	Allows <b>bilateral/plurilateral</b> transfer of mitigation outcomes (often called ITMOs) with accounting to avoid double counting.	द्विपक्षीय/बहुपक्षीय ढांचे में मिटिगेशन परिणामों (जिन्हें अक्सर ITMOs कहा जाता है) का हिसाब रखा जाएगा ताकि दो-गुना गिनती से बचा जा सके।
<b>Article 6.4</b>	Central UN-supervised <b>crediting mechanism</b> (often seen as successor-type to CDM), aimed at high integrity credits.	UN की निगरानी में क्रेडिटिंग मैकेनिज्म; उच्च-वैधता वाले क्रेडिटों के लिए।
<b>Article 6.8</b>	Promotes <b>non-market approaches</b> (policy cooperation, finance, tech cooperation without trading credits).	बाजार के अलावा दृष्टिकोण: नीति/वित्त/तकनीकी सहयोग बिना क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग के।
<b>ITMOs</b>	“Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes” — emission reductions transferred across countries.	ITMOs = अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूप से हस्तांतरित मिटिगेशन परिणाम/उत्पत्तियाँ।
<b>Corresponding Adjustment</b>	Accounting correction to ensure <b>same reduction isn't claimed twice</b> (host & buyer).	लेखा सुधार ताकि होस्ट और खरीदार दोनों द्वारा वही कमी दो-गुना नहीं दावा की जा सके।
<b>Carbon removals</b>	Removing CO <sub>2</sub> from atmosphere (nature-based or tech-based); treated differently from avoided emissions.	वायुमंडल से CO <sub>2</sub> को हटाना; नैतिक/तकनीकी आधारित; सेवन किए गए उत्सर्जन से अलग।
<b>Biochar</b>	Charcoal-like material added to soil; can store carbon long-term + improve soil properties.	जलवायु में कार्बन को लंबे समय तक संग्रहीत करने वाला पदार्थ जो मिट्टी को बेहतर बनाता है।
<b>Enhanced Rock Weathering</b>	Spreading certain crushed rocks to speed natural chemical reactions that lock CO <sub>2</sub> .	चूने-पत्थर को छिड़कना ताकि प्राकृतिक रासायनिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ तेज चल सकें और CO <sub>2</sub> को जमा कर सकें।



Exam	Exam Date (Month/Year)	Type	Question (memory-based / approx)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	06/2017	Memory-based	Paris Agreement is primarily aimed at: (i) limiting temperature rise (ii) climate action commitments by countries (iii) periodic reporting/review. Which is correct?	All (i)(ii)(iii)
UPSC CSE Prelims	06/2019	Memory-based	“Carbon credits” are generally associated with which mechanism(s)? (Kyoto-era CDM / carbon market trading)	Carbon markets / CDM linkage
State PSC Prelims	2020 (month varies)	Memory-based	UNFCCC COP decisions are taken under which framework?	UNFCCC (Conference of Parties)
SSC CGL Tier-1	08/2019	Memory-based	“Kyoto Protocol” is related to: greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments.	Climate change / GHG reduction
SSC CHSL	2020	Memory-based	CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) is linked to which international agreement?	Kyoto Protocol
IBPS PO Prelims	10/2020	Memory-based	Paris Agreement was adopted in which year?	2015
SBI/Banking (Clerical/PO)	2021	Memory-based	“Carbon neutrality / Net zero” refers to: balancing emissions with removals/offsets.	Balance emissions & removals
RRB NTPC / Railways	2021	Memory-based	“UNFCCC” headquarters / purpose asked (climate treaty framework).	Climate framework under UN

---

- **COP29 is significant for Article 6 because:**

- (a) Article 6 carbon markets were reported as fully operational
- (b) Article 6 was removed from Paris Agreement
- (c) Carbon markets were banned globally
- (d) Only non-market approaches were allowed

# Bhoomi, a governance success

The project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records

## STATE OF PLAY

Kumara

For decades, access to land records was one of rural India's most persistent governance failures. Karnataka's Bhoomi project, now completing 25 years, offers an instructive counterpoint showing how administrative reform can reshape the relationship between government and the people.

Until the late 1990s, land administration in Karnataka relied almost entirely on handwritten records maintained by village accountants. Farmers seeking a Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) often had to repeatedly visit revenue offices, navigate complex procedures, and rely on intermediaries. Errors in records were common, and corrections took months. In an agrarian State where land disputes routinely spilt into civil courts, the costs of administrative inefficiency were borne disproportionately by small and marginal farmers.

Launched in 2000, Bhoomi was a bold departure from this legacy. Its immediate goal was simple: computerise land records and make them accessible. Its greater ambition was to replace discretion with rules, delay with timelines, and opacity with transparency. The legal recognition of computerised RTCs and the abolition of handwritten records marked a historic shift. Over the last 25 years, more than 39.8 crore RTCs have been issued, fundamentally altering how land records are accessed across the State.

Many revenue officials were initially hesitant to abandon familiar manual systems. Karnataka responded with large-scale capacity building, train-



ing nearly 9,000 village accountants, 8,000 revenue inspectors, and 1,000 computer operators. The establishment of 204 Bhoomi Kendras at the taluk level enabled the digitisation of nearly 2.5 crore land records covering about 3.5 crore farmers. What followed was not merely digitisation, but a cultural shift within the administration.

Initially, the Bhoomi project in Karnataka began as a modest effort to computerise only manual RTCs. But today, it functions as a comprehensive digital ecosystem that integrates land and revenue administration with multiple welfare services. The integration of Bhoomi with the Kaveri registration system changed the face of land registration in Karnataka. By linking registration with land records, the State sharply reduced fraudulent transactions and eliminated middlemen. Mutation, once a source of endless delay, became automatic and transparent. Survey and boundary disputes, another chronic problem, were addressed through the introduction of the Mojini (Survey) software in 2007. For the first time, land measurement and survey processes were brought under a digital, time-bound framework. The IIE Sketch, a pre-conversion map introduced by Karnataka, further improved accuracy in land boundaries and area measurement. The result has been a visible reduction in

land-related disputes.

Bhoomi's evolution also reflects Karnataka's broader approach to governance: using administrative reform to strengthen welfare delivery. Since 2016, crop compensation has been credited directly to farmers' bank accounts, bypassing intermediaries. During the 2018 loan waiver programme, Bhoomi data enabled the waiver of loans for nearly 20 lakh farmers. The integration with PM-Kisan, the Agriculture Department's FRUITS platform, and Aadhaar seeding of over 2.17 crore farmer accounts has improved targeting and reduced leakages. By ensuring accurate and up-to-date records, Bhoomi has helped convert entitlement on paper into benefits on the ground.

Perhaps Bhoomi's most significant achievement is not technological but experiential. Farmers no longer have to travel from village to taluk and taluk to district offices for routine services. The scope for discretionary abuse has narrowed. The relationship between citizens and the revenue administration has become more predictable. In a State where land remains emotionally and economically central, this shift has strengthened trust in public institutions.

As Karnataka reflects on Bhoomi at 25, the project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records. Technology alone does not deliver reform. Bhoomi worked because it was embedded in administrative restructuring, legal change, and continuous institutional learning. It shows that digital governance succeeds when it is incremental, inclusive, and grounded in local realities.

Dr. Kumara IAS is Deputy Commissioner, Mandya District

## A. Context: Why land records were a governance pain

- Rural India faced long-standing difficulty in accessing land records.  
ग्रामीण भारत में भूमि रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच दशकों से बड़ी समस्या रही है।
  - In Karnataka, handwritten records and intermediaries caused errors, delays, and high costs—hurting small/marginal farmers most.  
कर्नाटक में हस्तलिखित रिकॉर्ड, बिचौलियों पर निर्भरता, गलतियाँ और महीनों लगने वाले सुधार—विशेषकर छोटे/सीमांत किसानों पर भारी पड़े।
- 

## B. Bhoomi: What the project aimed to change

- Launched in **2000**, Bhoomi's immediate goal was to **computerise land records** and make them accessible.  
2000 में शुरू Bhoomi का लक्ष्य था भूमि रिकॉर्ड का कम्प्यूटरीकरण और आसान पहुंच।
- Bigger aim: replace discretion with **rules + timelines**, and opacity with **transparency**.  
बड़ा उद्देश्य: मनमर्जी की जगह नियम व टाइमलाइन, और अपारदर्शिता की जगह पारदर्शिता लाना।



## C. Institutional shift (not just digitisation)

- Legal recognition of computerised RTCs and phasing out handwritten records was a historic shift.  
कम्प्यूटरीकृत RTC को कानूनी मान्यता और हस्तलिखित रिकॉर्ड का अंत—एक बड़ा बदलाव था।
- Over 25 years, **39.8 crore+ RTCs** were issued—transforming how land records are accessed across the state.  
25 वर्षों में **39.8 करोड़+ RTC** जारी हुए—भूमि रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच का तरीका बदल गया।
- Capacity building was done at scale: nearly **9,000 village accountants, 8,000 revenue inspectors, and 1,000 computer operators** trained.  
बड़े स्तर पर प्रशिक्षण: लगभग **9,000 ग्राम लेखाकार, 8,000 राजस्व निरीक्षक, 1,000 कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर**।
- **204 Bhoomi Kendras** established at taluk level, enabling digitisation of about **2.5 crore land records** covering about **3.5 crore farmers**.  
तालुक स्तर पर **204 Bhoomi केंद्र**; लगभग **2.5 करोड़ रिकॉर्ड** (करीब **3.5 करोड़ किसानों तक**) का डिजिटलीकरण।

## D. Integration that reduced corruption & delays

- Integration with **Kaveri** land registration system changed the face of registration by linking registration with land records; it reduced fraud and removed middlemen.

कावेरी पंजीकरण सिस्टम से एकीकरण ने रजिस्ट्रेशन को भूमि रिकॉर्ड से जोड़कर धोखाधड़ी घटाई और बिचौलियों की भूमिका कम की।

- Mutation (earlier a major delay source) became more automated and transparent.

म्यूटेशन (नामांतरण) जो पहले देरी का बड़ा कारण था, अधिक ऑटोमेटेड/पारदर्शी हुआ।

- Survey/boundary disputes were addressed via **Mojini (Survey) software (2007)** and a digital time-bound measurement process; tools like **IIE Sketch** improved boundary/area accuracy.

सीमा/सर्वे विवादों के लिए **मोजिनी (2007)**, डिजिटल समयबद्ध माप प्रक्रिया; **IIE Sketch** से सीमा/एरिया की सटीकता बढ़ी।

- Outcome: visible reduction in land-related disputes and more predictable revenue administration.

परिणाम: भूमि विवादों में कमी और राजस्व प्रशासन अधिक predictable हुआ।

---

## E. Welfare delivery & DBT use-cases

- Since **2016**, crop compensation credited directly to farmers' bank accounts, bypassing intermediaries.  
**2016** से फसल मुआवजा सीधे किसानों के बैंक खातों में—बिचौलियों के बिना।
  - During the **2018 loan waiver**, Bhoomi data helped waive loans for nearly **20 lakh farmers**.  
**2018** ऋण माफी में Bhoomi डेटा से लगभग **20 लाख किसानों** को लाभ मिला।
  - Integration with **PM-Kisan**, Agriculture Department's **FRUITS** platform, and **Aadhaar seeding** of over **2.17 crore farmer accounts** improved targeting and reduced leakages.  
**PM-Kisan, FRUITS** प्लेटफॉर्म, और **2.17 करोड़+ खातों** की आधार सीडिंग से targeting बेहतर हुई और leakages घटे।
  - Accurate, up-to-date records helped convert "paper entitlements" into real benefits on ground.  
सही/अपडेट रिकॉर्ड ने कागजी हक को वास्तविक लाभ में बदला।
-

## F. Citizen experience & governance trust

- Farmers no longer need to travel village-to-taluk-to-district offices repeatedly for routine services; discretion narrowed → trust increased.

किसानों को रोजमर्रा सेवाओं के लिए बार-बार कार्यालयों के चक्कर कम लगे; discretion घटा → भरोसा बढ़ा।

- Key lesson: Technology alone doesn't deliver reform—Bhoomi succeeded because it was embedded in administrative restructuring, legal change, and continuous learning.

सीख: केवल टेक्नोलॉजी नहीं—प्रशासनिक सुधार, कानूनी बदलाव, और निरंतर सीखने के साथ ही डिजिटल शासन सफल होता है।

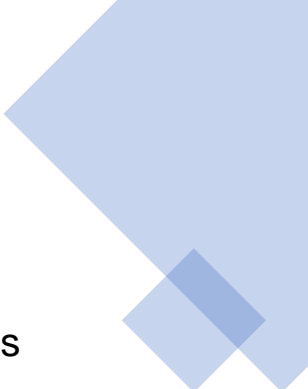
- Digital governance works best when it is incremental, inclusive, and grounded in local realities.

डिजिटल गवर्नेंस तब सफल होता है जब वह incremental, inclusive और local realities पर आधारित हो।

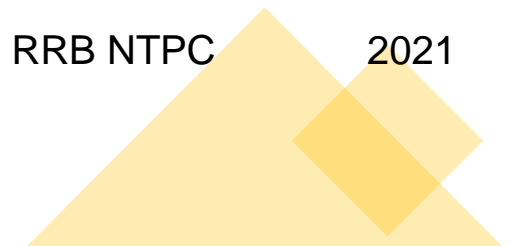
---







Exam	Exam Date (Month/Year)	Question (memory-based / approx)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	06/2016	DBT aims to: reduce leakages by transferring benefits directly to beneficiaries.	Direct transfer to bank accounts
UPSC CSE Prelims	06/2017	Aadhaar/biometric identification helps in de-duplication of beneficiaries and targeted delivery (with safeguards).	Better targeting / de-duplication
State PSC Prelims	2018	Land record modernisation helps in reducing disputes and improving service delivery—best outcome?	Transparency + faster services
SSC CGL Tier-1	2019	Full form/meaning of DBT and its purpose.	Direct Benefit Transfer
SSC CHSL	2020	RTC is related to which domain?	Land records (rights/tenancy/crops)
IBPS PO/Clerk	2020–2021	PM-Kisan provides income support to eligible farmers—delivered mainly through which mode?	DBT to bank accounts
RRB NTPC	2021	“Digital governance” success depends on tech + process reform.	Tech + process reform



---

Bhoomi's success is best explained by:

---

Only digitising land records without changing processes

---

Combining technology with administrative reform, legal change, and continuous learning

Correct option:

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither



## MULTAN

**Targeted bomb attack kills seven police officers in northern Pakistan**



Seven Pakistani police officers were killed in a targeted bomb blast on Monday, police in the northwestern Turk district said. Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Tank is located, has battled a resurgence of militant violence carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. **AP/PTI**

## TOKYO

**Japan PM to meet South Korea's leader amid tensions with Beijing**



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is set for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday, a week after meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as Seoul seeks to balance ties with both neighbours. The meeting is part of a swirl of diplomatic activity in a region with growing tensions. **AP/PTI**

## MONCOW

**Russia claims Oreshnik missile hit aviation factory in Ukraine's Lviv**



Russia on Monday claimed to have hit an aviation repair plant in Ukraine's Lviv region last week with its Oreshnik ballistic missile, the first time either country has named the strike's alleged target. Moscow said it fired the Oreshnik in response to an alleged Ukrainian drone strike at President Vladimir Putin's residence. **AP/PTI**

## NUUK

**China says Arctic operations legal, slams U.S. over Greenland remarks**



China said on Monday that the U.S. should not use other countries as a "pretext" to pursue its interests and said that its activities in the Arctic comply with international law. The comment came as U.S. President Donald Trump said that he would like to make a deal to acquire Greenland, to prevent Russia or China from taking it over. **AP/PTI**

## Iran says it's fighting 'four-front' war as govt. calls for nationwide rallies

Thousands of people throng the capital's revolution square, Ayatollah Khamenei says the turnout is a warning to the United States; Tehran declares three days of national mourning for those killed; EU mulls imposing additional sanctions

Agence France-Presse  
TEHRAN

Iranian authorities on Monday sought to regain control of the streets with mass nationwide rallies in the wake of protests on a scale unprecedented in recent years, as alarm grew over a deadly crackdown.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised pro-government rallies called by authorities, saying the turnout was a "warning" to the United States. This was a warning to American politicians to stop their deceit and not rely on traitorous mercenaries, he said, accord-



Thousands of people gathered in Tehran, Iran on Monday. **AP/PTI**

ing to Iranian state TV, after repeated threats from Washington to intervene militarily over the crackdown on protests, which activists fear has left at least hundreds dead.

Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi said Iran was ready for both war and talks. The government called for rallies nationwide backing the Islamic Republic on Monday. Thousands of people filled the capital's

square brandishing the national flag as prayers were read for victims of what the government has termed "riots", state TV showed. Addressing the crowd, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran is fighting a "four-front war", battling economic war, psychological war, "military war" with the United States and Israel and "today a war against terrorism", referring to the protesters. He vowed the Iranian military would reach U.S. President Donald Trump "an unforgettable lesson" if Iran were attacked.

The Islamic Republic has voiced support for the protesters and on Monday said it was "looking into"

imposing additional sanctions. Iran's shutdown of the Internet has now lasted more than 84 hours, said monitor NetBlocks.

The Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights said it confirmed the killing of at least 192 protesters but that the actual toll could be much higher. The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency said it had confirmed the deaths of 544 people.

Iranian state media has said dozens of security forces have been killed, with their funerals turning into large pro-government rallies. The government has declared three days of national mourning for those killed.

## Myanmar made Rohingya lives a nightmare: Gambia tells court in genocide case

Agence France-Presse  
THE HAGUE

Myanmar deliberately targeted the Rohingya minority with "horrific violence" in a bid to destroy the community, Gambia's Justice Minister told the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday at the start of a genocide hearing.

"It is not about ethnic issues of international law. It is about real people, real stories and a real group of human beings. The Rohingya of Myanmar," he said, "have been targeted for destruction."

The Gambia brought the case accusing Myanmar of breaching the 1948 Genocide Convention during a crackdown in 2017.



Dawda Jallow

Myanmar has denied genocide.

"Myanmar has denied their dream, in fact it turned their lives into a nightmare subjecting them to the most horrific violence and destruction one could imagine," according to Mr. Jallow.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled violence by the Myanmar army and Buddhist militias, escaping to neighbouring Bangladesh and bringing harrowing accounts of mass rape, arson and murder.

Paul Fletcher, a lawyer representing The Gambia, laid out scathing allegations from witnesses, including gang rapes, sexual mutilations and infants being burned alive.

The United States officially declared that the violence amounted to genocide in 2022, three years after a UN team said Myanmar harboured "genocidal intent" towards the Rohingya.

Today, 1.7 million Rohingya live in camps spread over 8,000 acres in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

## Trump says Venezuela ties 'working out well', considers meeting with interim leader

Agence France-Presse  
CARACAS

U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration was working well with Venezuela's interim leader Eusebio Rodriguez and that he would be open to meeting with her.

"Venezuela is really working out well. We're working along really well with the leadership," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday.

Asked if he planned to meet with Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Trump said: "At some point I'll be."

Venezuela's government said on Monday that the prisoners have been released "in the past few hours," according to a statement from the Presidential Services Ministry,

Over 100 political prisoners released so far, says Venezuela's government

thought rights groups reported a lower figure. They had been jailed under President Nicolas Maduro, who was seized by U.S. forces in a raid on Caracas last week.

The government statement follows three days of reports from rights organisations about delays to the releases, which the Foro Penal group said on Monday had reached only 41. Rights groups estimate there are 800 to 1,200 political prisoners currently being held in Venezuela.

Those freed had been "deprived of their liberty

for acts associated with disrupting the constitutional order and undermining the stability of the nation," the Ministry said.

Machado meets Pope Venezuela's opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado, who is expected to meet with Mr. Trump this week, has been one of the main voices calling for the release of prisoners that include some of her close allies.

Ms. Machado was in the Vatican on Monday, where she met Pope Leo XIV. Pope Leo had said he was following the developments in Venezuela with "deep concern," and urged the protection of human and civil rights.

(With inputs from Reuters)

## Coming of Age



Women dressed in kimonos arrive to attend a ceremony at Todoko Arena to honour people who turn 20 this year to signify adulthood in Kawasaki, Japan on Monday. **AP/PTI**

## Hamnet and One Battle After Another reign supreme at 83rd Golden Globes

Associated Press

Paul Thomas Anderson's captivating revolutionary saga *One Battle After Another* took top honors at Sunday's 83rd Golden Globes in the comedy category, while Chloe Zhao's Shakespearean drama *Hamnet* pulled off an upset over *Minners* to win best drama. *Hamnet* star Jesse Buckley won best female actor.

*One Battle After Another* won best film, comedy, supporting female actor for Yohana Taylor, best director and best screenplay for Mr. Anderson.



Sara Murphy, Yohana Taylor, Paul Thomas Anderson and Jesse Buckley pose with the award for *One Battle After Another*. **AP/PTI**

*Minners* won best music and best achievement. Timothee Chalamet won his first Golden Globe for *Marty Supreme*.

The Globes held in California began with a host of political speeches from Hollywood.

The Globes held in California began with a host of political speeches from Hollywood. The Globes held in California began with a host of political speeches from Hollywood. The Globes held in California began with a host of political speeches from Hollywood.

## London's homicide rate is at a record low, data shows; Mayor cites measures

Britain, Lakshman

London's per capita homicide rate is at its lowest since records began, according to data released by the city's Metropolitan Police on Monday.

"The best way to deal with the perception of crime is to deal with crime," London Mayor Sadiq Khan told the foreign press during a Monday briefing call.



Sadiq Khan

low number per capita, with London's population having increased by more than half a million since 2014.

The Mayor said he was prioritising the safety of women and girls and also taking action against them.

The city government was investing in visible and covert policing in areas impacted by crime, Mr. Khan said.

"We've doubled the size of the police team in the West End," the Mayor said, referring to London's theatre district, popular with tourists.

On Trump's comments Perceptions of London being unsafe have also been impacted by

comments from U.S. President Donald Trump. Mr. Trump has repeatedly criticised Mr. Khan and London's safety.

Asked to respond to Mr. Trump's views on him and London, Mr. Khan said London was very successful as a tourist investment, educational and cultural hub, "but the evidence is so is that we are liberal, we are progressive, we are diverse and we are incredibly successful. So we're the antithesis of nativist politics like President Trump, and that's why I suspect he has a problem with London," he said.



# *Hamnet* and *One Battle After Another* reign supreme at 83rd Golden Globes

## Associated Press

Paul Thomas Anderson's ragtag revolutionary saga *One Battle After Another* took top honours at Sunday's 83rd Golden Globes in the comedy category, while Chloe Zhao's Shakespeare drama *Hamnet* pulled off an upset over *Sinners* to win best film, drama. *Hamnet* star Jessie Buckley won best female actor.

*One Battle After Another* won best film, comedy, supporting female actor for Teyana Taylor, best director and best screenplay for Mr. Anderson



Sara Murphy, Teyana Taylor, Paul Thomas Anderson and Chase Infiniti pose with the award for *One Battle After Another*. REUTERS

*Sinners* won for best score and cinematic and box-office achievement.

Timothee Chalamet won his first Golden Globe for *Marty Supreme*.

The Globes held in California began with a pointedly political opening from host Nikki Glaser.

"Yes, the Golden Globes, without a doubt

the most important thing happening in the world right now," she said.

Winners included Rose Byrne for best female actor in a comedy or musical in *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*, and Wagner Moura, the Brazilian star of *The Secret Agent*, for best male actor in a drama. Kleber Mendonça Filho's period political thriller also won best international film. Supporting actor front-runner Stellan Skarsgard won for the Norwegian family drama *Sentimental Value*. It was the first major Hollywood movie award for the 74-year-old veteran actor.

# Golden Globes: *One Battle After Another*, *Hamnet* win big

*One Battle After Another*, a politically charged black comedy loosely based on the 1990 novel *Vineland* and *Hamnet*, a story about William Shakespeare's grief over the death of his son, claimed top prizes at the Golden Globes. While *One Battle* was named best movie musical or comedy, one of its four Globe honours, *Hamnet* earned the best movie drama prize.

**BEST MALE  
ACTOR IN A  
FILM – DRAMA**

Wagner  
Moura, *The  
Secret Agent*

**BEST FEMALE  
ACTOR IN A FILM  
– DRAMA**

Jessie Buckley,  
*Hamnet*

**BEST  
FEMALE  
ACTOR IN A  
FILM –  
MUSICAL OR  
COMEDY**

Rose  
Byrne, *If I  
Had Legs  
I'd Kick You*

**BEST MALE ACTOR IN A FILM  
– MUSICAL OR COMEDY**

Timothée Chalamet, *Marty  
Supreme*



**BEST  
DIRECTOR –  
FILM**  
Paul Thomas  
Anderson,  
*One Battle  
After Another*



**BEST  
TELEVISION  
SERIES –  
MUSICAL OR  
COMEDY**  
The Studio



**BEST TELE-  
VISION LIMITED  
SERIES,  
ANTHOLOGY  
SERIES OR  
TELEVISION FILM**  
Adolescence



## Official poster

<b>Date</b>	January 11, 2026
<b>Site</b>	<a href="#">The Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, California, U.S.</a>
<b>Hosted by</b>	<a href="#">Nikki Glaser</a>
<b>Directed by</b>	<a href="#">Glenn Weiss</a>
<b>Highlights</b>	
<b>Best Film: Drama</b>	<i><a href="#">Hamnet</a></i>
<b>Best Film: Musical or Comedy</b>	<i><a href="#">One Battle After Another</a></i>
<b>Best Drama Series</b>	<i><a href="#">The Pitt</a></i>
<b>Best Musical or Comedy Series</b>	<i><a href="#">The Studio</a></i>
<b>Best Miniseries or Television movie</b>	<i><a href="#">Adolescence</a></i>
<b>Most awards</b>	Film: <i><a href="#">One Battle After Another</a></i> (4) TV: <i><a href="#">Adolescence</a></i> (4)
<b>Most nominations</b>	Film: <i><a href="#">One Battle After Another</a></i> (9) TV: <i><a href="#">The White Lotus</a></i> (6)

# GLOBES

Golden Globe Award logo (as of 2024)

<b>Awarded for</b>	Excellence in international <a href="#">film</a> and <a href="#">television</a>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Presented by</b>	<a href="#">Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association</a> (1943–1954) <a href="#">Foreign Correspondents of Hollywood</a> (1951–1954) <a href="#">Hollywood Foreign Press Association</a> (1955–2023) <a href="#">Dick Clark Productions</a> ( <a href="#">Penske Media Corporation</a> and <a href="#">Eldridge Industries</a> ) (since 2024)
<b>First award</b>	January 20, 1944; 81 years ago
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://goldenglobes.com">goldenglobes.com</a> <span><span></span></span>
<b>Television/radio coverage</b>	
<b>Network</b>	<a href="#">KTTV</a> (1960–1964) <a href="#">NBC</a> (1965–1968, 1978, 1996–2021, 2023) <a href="#">CBS</a> (1981–1982; since 2024) <a href="#">Syndicated</a> (1983–1988) <a href="#">TBS</a> (1989–1995) <a href="#">Peacock</a> (2023) <a href="#">Paramount+</a> (since 2024)

Exam	Date / Shift	Question (as asked)	Answer
IBPS Clerk	27-Nov-2011 (SZ, 2nd shift)	“With which one of the following activities, Golden Globe Awards are associated?” (Journalism / Social work / Peace initiatives / Films / None)	Films
SSC CGL	03-Dec-2022 (Shift-2)	“Who among the following has won Oscars as well as a Golden Globe award for his contribution to international music?” (A.R. Rahman / Zakir Hussain / Pt. Jasraj / Ravi Shankar)	A.R. Rahman
UPPSC PCS Prelims (GS Paper-I)	14-May-2023 (SET-C)	“Who composed the Golden Globe Award winning song ‘Naatu Naatu’?” (Devi Sri Prasad / M.M. Keeravani / S.S. Rajamouli / A.R. Rehman)	M.M. Keeravani
RRB NTPC (Graduate Level I)	09-Jun-2025 (Shift-3; 4:30–6:00 PM)	“Which of the following films won the 2025 Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Non-English Language?” (The Girl With The Needle / All We Imagine as Light / Emilia Pérez)	Emilia Pérez



---

# Indian Army Officer Wins UN Award for Gender-Inclusive Peacekeeping





- **Indian Army officer** serving in a United Nations mission in Africa received global recognition for **gender-inclusive peacekeeping**.  
→ भारतीय सेना की अधिकारी को **लैंगिक समावेशी शांति स्थापना** के लिए वैश्विक सम्मान।
- **Major Swathi Shanthakumar** was awarded the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025**.  
→ मेजर स्वाथी शांथाकुमार को **UN Secretary-General Award 2025** प्रदान किया गया।
- Award announced by António Guterres under **Secretary-General's Awards–2025**.  
→ पुरस्कार की घोषणा **UN महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस** द्वारा की गई।
- Recognised for **leadership, field-level impact**, and promotion of **gender parity & community engagement** in conflict-affected areas.  
→ संघर्षग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में नेतृत्व, जमीनी प्रभाव, लैंगिक समानता व सामुदायिक भागीदारी के लिए सम्मान।
- Her initiative **"Equal Partners, Lasting Peace"** strengthened **gender-responsive peacekeeping practices**.  
→ **"Equal Partners, Lasting Peace"** पहल ने **gender-responsive peacekeeping** को मजबूत किया।
- Selected from nominations across **all UN peacekeeping missions & agencies worldwide**.  
→ दुनिया-भर के **UN peacekeeping missions** में से चयन।
- Currently deployed with United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).  
→ वर्तमान में **South Sudan में UN Mission (UNMISS)** के साथ तैनात।



**BIG DISCOUNT  
FESTIVAL FOR  
MAKAR SAKRANTI**

**25% OFF**

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

**BY BHUNESH SIR**

**GET 25% OFF CODE: B25**

**INCLUDES:**

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

**FOR: UPSC, STATE PCS, SSC, BANKING, RAILWAY, DEFENCE**





---

## Word of the day

### **Corpulent:**

excessively fat

---

**Synonyms:** obese, rotund, weighty

---

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

---

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/corpulentpro

---

### **International Phonetic**

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

---

---

## Word of the day

### **Homily:**

a sermon on a moral or religious topic

---

**Synonym:** preachment

---

**Usage:** *The priest gave a brief homily on faith.*

---

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/homilypro

---

### **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /'hɒmɪli/

---



Thank you 😊

