

Daily Current Affairs

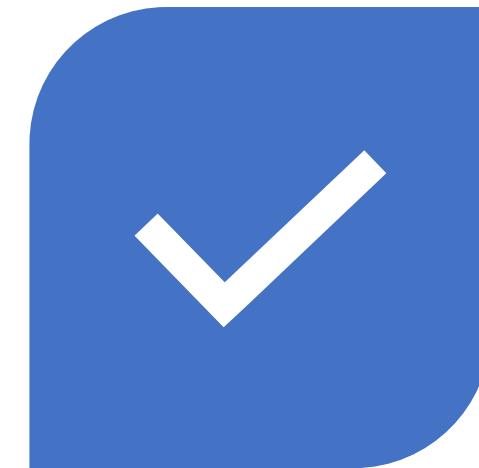




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10 MCQ QUIZ

A large, abstract graphic on the left side of the slide consists of three overlapping circles in varying shades of dark blue. The circles are positioned in a way that suggests depth and movement, with one circle appearing to be in front of the others.

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

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



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

Hemanth C.S.
Vasudevan 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 10.38 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



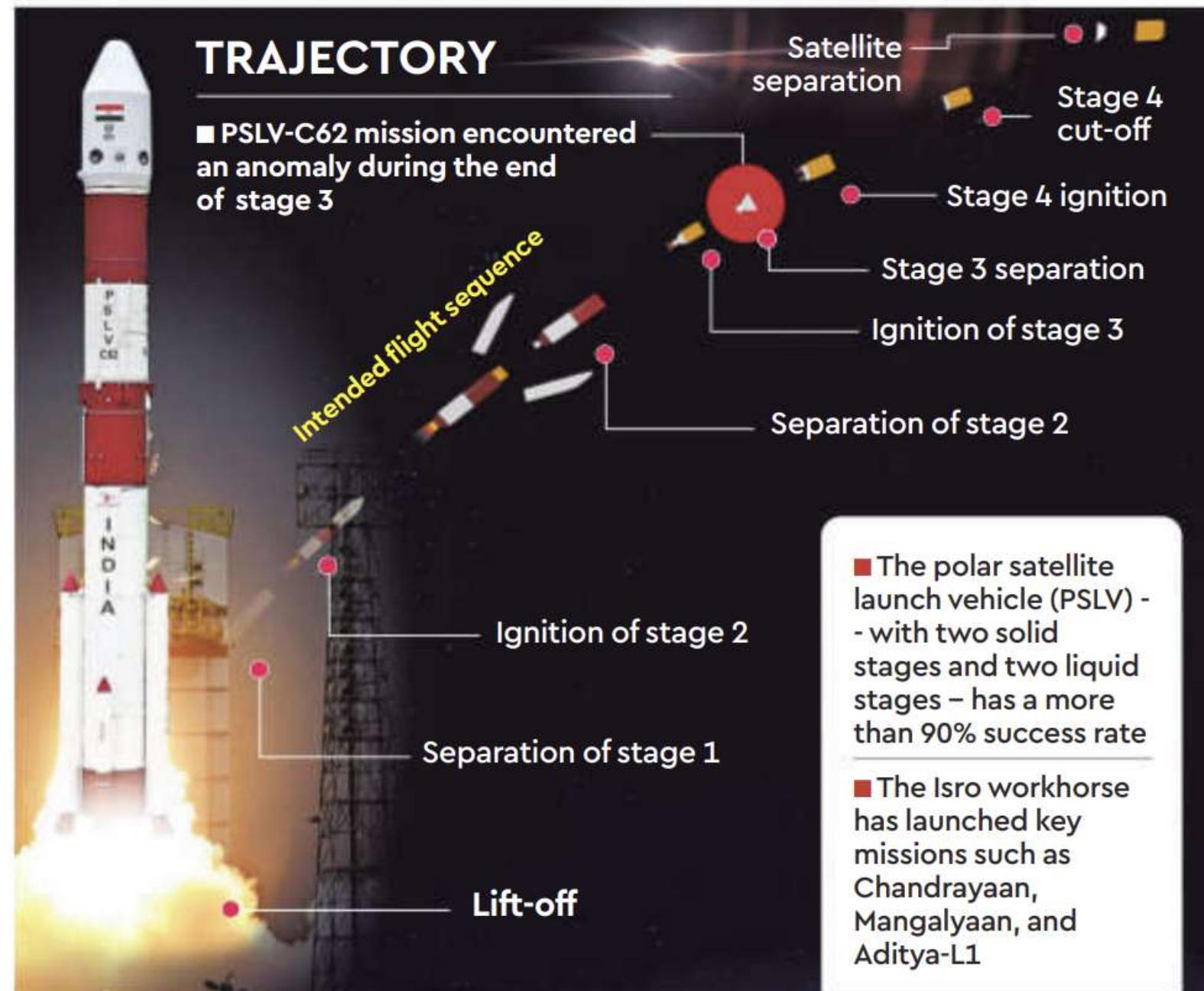
Synchronous Orbit, and the KID Capsule into a re-entry trajectory," ISRO had said in a statement.

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



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

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 हैं इसे ISRO छाएं रा इण्वर**

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

• **Transparency / report issue | अपार्टमेंट रिपोर्ट अपार्टमेंट ए प्रारूप इवर रेस्टूर**

• 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 | चार्ट इवर रेस्टूर ए ए फ़ॉर्म**

• 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

PSLV basics

Stages

PS3 (3rd stage)

Roll-rate disturbance

NSIL role (commercial)

Why failures hurt commercially

Extra facts (English)

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

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

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

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

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

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

ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ (Hindi)

PSLV ਕ੍ਰਿਏਲ ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਹਵਾਮਾਹ ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਭਲਕੂਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਾ ਸਲ੍ਲੇ
"ਗੁਰੂਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ" ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਨਕਲ ਪ੍ਰਾ

PSLV ਰਾਹੀਂ 4 ਦੇਵਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਜਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਦੇਵਰ ਸਲ੍ਲੇਵਰ
ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ

PS3 ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਮਹੁੰਦ ਰਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਦੇਵਰ ਪ੍ਰਾ ਦਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਭੁਟ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ
ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਰਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਹਵਾਮਾਹ

"ਛੁਅ ਛੁਅ" ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਤ੍ਰਿਵ 1 ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ
ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਰਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਚੁਣੁਕੁਟੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ
ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ

NSIL ISRO ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਭਲਕੂਰ ਗੁਰੂਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਅਕਸੂਡ ਚੁਣੁਕੁਟੀ
ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਾ ਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਚੁਣੁਕੁਟੀ ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਰਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਭਲਕੂਰ ਪ੍ਰਾ
ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ

ਆਪਾ ਚੁਣੁਕੁਟੀ ਤ੍ਰਿਅਤ ਰਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ, ਨਕਲੀ ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਹੁਕਮਾਨੁ
ਕੁਲਕੂਰ ਭਲਕੂਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਤ੍ਰਿਵ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਾਨੁ ਲਾਵਾਗੁਰੂ

- 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 Bhattacherjee

Abhinay 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



Germany

India

Metric

Latest figure available in official
MEA brief (Calendar Year 2023)

Notes

Total bilateral trade (goods)

US\$ 33.33 billion (mea.gov.in)

All-time high mentioned in the
MEA brief (based on Destatis
data).

India's exports to Germany

US\$ 15.48 billion (mea.gov.in)

Exports from India to Germany
(CY 2023).

**India's imports from
Germany**

US\$ 17.85 billion (mea.gov.in)

Imports into India from
Germany (CY 2023).

Trade balance (India)

– US\$ 2.37 billion (deficit)

Computed as exports (15.48) –
imports (17.85) = **–2.37**
(approx).

**Germany's rank as India's
trading partner (FY 2023–24)**

12th largest (mea.gov.in)

Rank stated for FY 2023–24
(value not specified there).

**Germany's share in India's
foreign trade (FY 2023–24)**

> 2.37% (mea.gov.in)

Share stated in the MEA brief.

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

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

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

The 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 "Deva bhau (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.

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 (मुख्यमंत्री माजी लड़की बहिन योजना)	1,500 Monthly	Eligible women (DBT). (Ladaki Bahin)
Madhya Pradesh	Ladli Behna Yojana (लड़ली भेना योजना)	1,500 Monthly	Amount increased to ₹1,500 (reported in recent updates). (NDTV India)
Jharkhand	Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana (मुख्यमंत्री माया सम्मान योजना)	2,500 Monthly	Financial assistance to eligible women. (Google Translate)
Karnataka	Gruha Lakshmi Scheme (ग्रुहालक्ष्मी योजना)	2,000 Monthly	For eligible women heads of households. (Karnataka WCD)
West Bengal	Lakshmir Bhandar (লক্ষ্মী বান্দর) » चालू हुए योजनाएँ	1,000 / 1,200 Monthly	₹1,000 (General), ₹1,200 (SC/ST) per month. (s24pgs.gov.in)
Tamil Nadu	Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai (கலைஞர் மகாலிரு உரைமை தோகை)	1,000 Monthly	₹1,000/month to eligible women. (kmut.tn.gov.in)
Chhattisgarh	Mahtari Vandan Yojana (माहतरी वन्दन योजना)	1,000 Monthly	₹1,000/month via DBT. (cgwcd.gov.in)
Odisha	SUBHADRA Yojana (ସୁଭାଦ୍ରା ଯୋଜନା)	10,000 Yearly (₹5,000×2)	₹50,000 over 5 years; paid in two instalments. (The Times of India)
Telangana	Mahalakshmi Scheme (మహాలక్ష్మి యోజన)	2,500 Monthly	Monthly aid + (separately) ₹500 LPG & free bus travel (scheme package). (wanaparthy.telangana.gov.in)
Andhra Pradesh	Thalliki Vandanam (education-linked) » लक्ष्मी वन्दन (शिक्षण संबंधित)	15,000 Yearly (per child)	₹13,000 to mother + ₹2,000 for school development (per eligible child). (The Times of India)

Theme	Extra Facts (English)	१३० अधिकार लालू ज (Hindi)
SEC constitutional base	<p>Art. 243K: State Election Commission for Panchayat elections; SEC is headed by State Election Commissioner, appointed by Governor; removal protection like HC Judge (textual basis). (Indian Kanoon)</p>	<p>१ अधिकार 243K: हाईकोर्ट द्वारा नियमित SEC; गवर्नर द्वारा नियमित नियुक्त; उपर्युक्त नियुक्त HC द्वारा नियमित होता है। (Indian Kanoon)</p>
Municipal elections	<p>For municipalities, Constitution also provides election framework (often linked with Art. 243ZA in standard polity notes).</p>	<p>एपंग शहरी नियुक्तियां द्वारा नियमित होती हैं। (243ZA द्वारा नियमित होती है।)</p>
MCC & welfare schemes	<p>MCC period: no fresh release/processing of beneficiary-oriented schemes/welfare funds that can influence voters. (Election Commission of India)</p>	<p>MCC राज्यवाल्वालकारी द्वारा ब्रक्षेत्राल द्वारा नियमित होती है। (243ZA द्वारा नियमित होती है।)</p>
MCC origin (static GK)	<p>MCC first introduced in Kerala Assembly elections (1960); later wider adoption.</p>	<p>MCC द्वारा नियमित होती है। (243ZA द्वारा नियमित होती है।)</p>

Exam

UPSC CSE Prelims

Paper (Date/Shift)

GS Paper I, 2017

Question (as asked / gist)

“ECI is a five-member body... MHA decides election schedule... ECI resolves party split/merger disputes” — Which statement(s) correct?

Answer

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 **incorrect** (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-Behrur 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 Nangalhedi 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 Bokan of Bhdana 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 Seawat 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-Behrur, 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 empowerment

यह 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, दुध 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।

Topic

Organic certification in India

Key government support

Soil benefits

Market angle

Best-known example

Extra Facts (English)

Two broad routes: **Third-party certification (NPOP)** and **PGS-India** for domestic markets

PKVY promotes organic clusters; **Jaivik Bharat** supports branding/traceability

Organic practices improve **soil organic carbon**, biodiversity, and long-term fertility

Certified organic often gets **premium price**, but needs compliance & monitoring

Sikkim is widely cited as India's first fully organic State

शिविरों में जी (Hindi)

क्रमागत राष्ट्रीय त्यौहार NPOP (कम्बाहवरण) द्वारा तद्रूप विवरण प्रदान PGS-India

PKVY नियमित रूप से वृक्षों पर प्रवर्तन, नियमित क्रमागत मुख्यतः उत्पादन विकास शैक्षणिक

नियमित दृल्ह दृश्यमान द्वारा दृश्य, नियमित शास्त्रीय त्रित्र विवरण विवरण द्वारा दृश्य

विवरण त्रित्र नियमित दृश्य विवरण विवरण विवरण, हृष्ट १ शैक्षणिक उत्पादन प्रदान द्वारा दृश्य

शैक्षणिक रूप से दृश्य क्रमागत द्वारा हृष्ट विवरण विवरण नियमित विवरण विवरण विवरण

- **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

SC questions Salem's claim of having done 25 years behind bars

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned convicted gangster Abu Salem on his legal basis for his claim of having completed a quarter of a century behind bars in India since his arrest in November 2005.

Salem, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, was extradited from Portugal on November 11, 2008, after a prolonged legal battle. He has argued that his sentence could not exceed 25 years as per the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure for his extradition.

"First of all, how do you calculate 25 years? In 2003?" a bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the senior counsel appearing for Salem.

The apex court was hearing a writ petition filed against a July 2020 order by the Bombay High Court which had granted bail to Salem. It found that he was yet to complete the 25-year period.

The court asked Salem's legal team to place on record the Maharashtra legislature's view on the legality of any right to remission following conviction under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). The court scheduled the hearing for hearing on February 9.

In July 2022, the top court, in a judgment, held that the applicant (Salem) completing 25 years of his sentence, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which presented the case, had maintained that Mr. Advani's assurance was no guarantee.



Abu Salem

he constituted and to remit the applicant in terms of the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court had said the Centre could itself consider remission on the completion of 25 years of sentence in terms of Sections 432 and 433 of the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure.

The top court had however declined to calculate the period of sentence from September 18, 2003 when Salem was detained in Portugal to the date of his arrest in India.

"The criminal law of the land does not have express provision for application," the court had said.

Salem's case was built around his argument that he had been granted a reprieve as the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Mr. Advani, had given a "sovereign assurance" to a Portuguese court that he would be sentenced to death if he did not serve more than 25 years in prison.

However, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which presented the case, had maintained that Mr. Advani's assurance was no guarantee.

Safety of victims paramount while considering bail in POCSO cases: SC

Aaratrika Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

The safety of the victim and the gravity of the trial are paramount considerations while adjudicating bail applications in cases involving sexual assault against children, the Supreme Court said in a judgment on Monday, while granting bail to an accused in a 2024 gang rape case.

In a 3:1 judgment delivered by the victim's bench of justices B. V. Nagarkoti and R. M. Lodha, it held that the Allahabad High Court granting bail had resulted in "a threat to the victim's safety, particularly since she resided in the same locality as the



The top court held that the bail order failed to account for the threat to the victim's safety.

accused.

"In offences involving sexual assault against children, the likelihood of tampering with evidence, influencing witnesses constitutes a grave and legitimate consideration in view of the victim and the need to preserve the purity of the trial process," the bench said with aggravated penetrative sexual assault commit-

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. Akhilesh Gor takes charge of U.S. Embassy with music and fanfare, says both countries continue to actively engage over trade deal

Akhilesh Gor
NEW DELHI

India will be invited to join "Pax Silica", the U.S.-led eight-nation arrangement to cooperate on semiconductors, critical minerals, and intelligence, last month, incoming U.S. Ambassador Akhilesh Gor announced on Monday. The two countries hoped to make progress on long-standing trade negotiations soon.

Mr. Gor, who is expected to present his credentials to President Narendra Modi on Monday, projected a positive outcome for India. He said, "After months of technical over trade, tariffs, and India's import of uranium oil, India and the U.S. will be invited to join 'Pax Silica' in Washington in December, though negotiations are not yet complete."

The top court had however declined to calculate the period of sentence from September 18, 2003 when Salem was detained in Portugal to the date of his arrest in India.

"The criminal law of the land does not have express provision for application," the court had said.

Salem's case was built around his argument that he had been granted a reprieve as the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Mr. Advani, had given a "sovereign assurance" to a Portuguese court that he would be sentenced to death if he did not serve more than 25 years in prison.

However, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which presented the case, had maintained that Mr. Advani's assurance was no guarantee.



New beginning: U.S. Ambassador to India Akhilesh Gor receives a warm welcome at the embassy's first day at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on Monday.

ATIONS AND THREE VISITS TO THE U.S. BY COMMERCIAL MINISTER PRAKASH GOYAL.

"India is the world's largest nation, so it's not an easy task to get this audience to meet in India, 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 negotiations are not yet complete. The 12 countries involved in the arrangement, which includes the U.S., Canada, Australia, EU-12 countries, and the UAE, had been invited to join the trade deal that had been initially launched nearly a year ago, when Mr. Modi and President Donald Trump met in New Delhi on September 29, 2019.

Mr. Gor said he hoped U.S. President Donald Trump would visit India "soon, hopefully within 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 week.

Unconventional arrival

The Ambassador's statement, made to hundreds of U.S. Embassy staffers in a full Indian attire, was unconventional as Mr. Gor is expected to present his credentials to President Narendra Modi on Monday. The ceremony, which was to be held at the U.S. Embassy, was delayed by a week. According to diplomatic protocol, Ambassadors are not supposed to only take up their posts after being appointed by the president. Mr. Gor arrived in India with the Empress of India, a Donald Trump-style ceremonial convoy, including a special armoured vehicle with a red carpet and blinding lights. As he alighted, the embassy officials who had gathered

there more than two hours before, along with the press, greeted him with handshakes and smiles. He walked up the steps, a special playlist of songs, reportedly chosen by Mr. Gor. That included the 1960s hit song "Hold on, I'm coming" and Mr. Trump's favorite, "I'm not the man for you".

Concert-like atmosphere

Mr. Gor, who has also been appointed Mr. Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, has taken on India as his first post, to be named for the post in August 2024, and may be succeeded by Mr. Gor in October 2025.

Alongside bilateral issues, his travels in India, including a visit to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and

1 km built in 25 years: HC asks Karnataka to scrap BMIC project

Krishnappa Reddy
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the state government to scrap the controversial Bengaluru-Mysuru infrastructure corridor project, which had been shelved while pointing out that no purpose would be served by keeping the BMIC project alive.

A division bench, comprising Justice D. K. Nagendra Nath T., issued these directions to the state government on the need to re-examine the project to see if it was required for the city.

In the present case, the grant of bail by the High Court is vitiated by mistake. The court directed the state government to take into consideration of relevant factors rendering the same unnecessary.

"This is a classic example of the non-committal and敷衍 (shallow) planning by the people in power for various reasons,

which may be large-scale corruption, bureaucratic trapping, and litigation.... This project, instead of developing the city, is creating a corridor on the Bangalore-Mysuru corridor, which is a dead end, and the city is not growing," the bench said.

A division bench, comprising Justice D. K. Nagendra Nath T., issued these directions to the state government on the need to re-examine the project to see if it was required for the city.

Though the PTB was prepared in 1995 to construct a 10-lane highway from 70 to 100 km and decongest the city by creating five townships between Bengaluru and Mysuru, and the population would cross 85 lakh by 2031, the project had remained only on paper for the past 30 years.

"This is a classic example of the non-committal and敷衍 (shallow) planning by the people in power for various reasons, which reached 1.4 crore.

Noting that "the project progressed, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd. and Nandi Enterprises Corridor, two enterprises, are collecting huge amounts by constructing only one-lane roads and toll plazas", the bench said that "the project proposed in the PTB is not viable on the ground, but without its proper usage, it is being constructed and there is no sign of it being constructed in the city".

It further said that the government had signed a Framework Agreement with the state for the project, it said in fact, both the earlier concept and the one proposed by the state had remained only on paper for the past 30 years.

"This is a classic example of the non-committal and敷衍 (shallow) planning by the people in power for various reasons,

which reached 1.4 crore.

The meeting on Tuesday will take place in the first week of January, and continues.

Confidence-building measures between the two countries, a senior official said.

Govt. disputes reports that it

plans to seek source codes of phones

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) disputed a media report on plans to require Indian companies like Apple Inc. and Xiaomi to disclose their operating systems and source codes, saying that the contention was "a routine one", and that the government had no plans to make phone makers go.

"These regulations are part of the Ministry's regular and ongoing endeavour to enhance the safety and security standards," the IT Ministry said in a press note.

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

In addition, the government has been uncompromising with the U.S. on the Foreign Security Assurance Requirements (FTSAR) document, however, the Department of Telecommunications in 2023. That document, which phones do not mention that source code should be open to third party audits, and that such updates must be informed to the government.

Following the discussions followed the enactment of the Telecommunications (Security Assessment and Subsequent Industry Representations) from phone manufacturers, who requested that the government, to the administrative purview of the IT Ministry. No date was given, and it was expressed concern at the way this consultation was held, the official said.

Misconduct on train: Supreme Court stays judge's reinstatement

Aaratrika Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Madhya Pradesh court's order directing the reinstatement of a judicial officer who had been suspended from service over allegations of serious misconduct in 2020.

The bench was hearing a writ petition filed by the general secretary of the All India Judicial Association (AIJA) against a Madhya Pradesh High Court judge, A. M. R. Rao, who had been suspended while in an interdicted state in the presence of a woman colleague.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta decreed the of-

China Communist Party team meets BJP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first since the Galwan conflict in 2020 and a thaw in India-China ties in 2021, a delegation of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by vice-minister Sun Haixian, met with senior BJP leaders on Monday.

The delegation, which included the general secretary of the All India Judicial Association (AIJA) and the president of the Indian Bar Association, was received by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju. The delegation also included the CCP's chief representative in New Delhi and the Chinese ambassador to India.



The delegation, which included the general secretary of the All India Judicial Association (AIJA) and the president of the Indian Bar Association, was received by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju. The delegation also included the CCP's chief representative in New Delhi and the Chinese ambassador to India.

'Copy-paste' order led to detention: Wangchuk

Krishnadas Rajarajpal
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday said that the Supreme Court had unconnected events, vague aspirations, misinterpretations of facts, and mechanical application of mind by authorities formed the basis and reason for his detention.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who had submitted that the detention order was a mere "copy-paste" of the request made for his custody,

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

Suhasini 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, 12U2 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).

ਚੜ੍ਹਾ : ਅੜ੍ਹਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਪਾਂਡ ਰਾਨ੍ਹਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਂਧਾਂ ਅੜ੍ਹਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਂਧਾਂ ਲਾਂ ਚੜ੍ਹਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਂਕਾਂਵਾਂਧਾਂ ਟ੍ਰਾਂਕਾਂਵਾਂਵਾਂਧਾਂ

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

ਚੰਡੀ ਰਾਜ਼ੀਵ ਵਹਾਣ, ਛ ਕਾਨਪੁਰ, ਸਥਾਨਕ ਸੰਚਾਰ, UAE, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਅਲ ਰਿਹਾਨਾ ਪੁਰਾਣਾ, ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ, UK, ਪਾਂਡਾ ਚੰਡੀ, ਨਾਨਾ ਚੰਡੀ, ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਕਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪੇਸ਼ੇ

Topic	Extra Facts (English)	शिव्यांगक लौ ज(Hindi)
Semiconductors	Chips are core to electronics, defence, telecom, EVs; shortage becomes a strategic vulnerability	श्रीं सच्चांगक एवं इंडियां लौ ज विवरण EV इह घट्ट; इरकूह घर एक्स्ट्राई न्डूर्स रवे
Critical minerals	Often include lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths (used in batteries, magnets, defence tech)	श्रीं अंगरवण लौ ज विवरण इह विवरण १ लौ एक्स्ट्राई एवं इंडियां लौ ज रखे
QUAD	Members: India, USA, Japan, Australia	QUAD द्वारा क्रवधल, इस्ट्राईव, नववरण, चु लौ यगव
I2U2	Grouping: India, Israel, UAE, USA	I2U2: क्रवधल, स्थधधक्स्त्र, UAE, इस्ट्राईव
Credentials	Ambassadors formally assume full diplomatic role after presenting credentials to the Head of State	घर्स लौ “इंडियां यगव” घर्स नेत्र लौ लौ लौ घर चु हृत्रांगह विवरण श्रीं क्रवधल एवं
Trade talks	Tariffs, market access, standards, digital trade often dominate bilateral trade negotiations	ब्रांड, रक्षांगव इंडिया, अमेरिका, श्रीं विवरण लौ रक्षा रक्षांगव एवं

- **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

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

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 बढ़ा करदम 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 पहचानी—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

Paris Agreement (2015)

Article 6 (overall)

Article 6.2

Article 6.4

Article 6.8

ITMOs

Corresponding Adjustment

Carbon removals

Biochar

Enhanced Rock Weathering

Extra facts (English)

Global climate treaty under UNFCCC; aims to keep warming **well below 2°C** and pursue **1.5°C** efforts.

Framework for **voluntary international cooperation**: markets + non-market approaches.

Allows **bilateral/plurilateral** transfer of mitigation outcomes (often called ITMOs) with accounting to avoid double counting.

Central UN-supervised **crediting mechanism** (often seen as successor-type to CDM), aimed at high integrity credits.

Promotes **non-market approaches** (policy cooperation, finance, tech cooperation without trading credits).

“Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes” — emission reductions transferred across countries.

Accounting correction to ensure **same reduction isn't claimed twice** (host & buyer).

Removing CO₂ from atmosphere (nature-based or tech-based); treated differently from avoided emissions.

Charcoal-like material added to soil; can store carbon long-term + improve soil properties.

Spreading certain crushed rocks to speed natural chemical reactions that lock CO₂.

श्वेतश्वर लृष्टि ज (Hindi)

UNFCCC इन्डिया 2015 इन द्वारा प्राप्तिवाला, चाहे 2°C तक
ज्ञातव्य 1.5°C इन्डिया

ज्ञातव्य शर्तवाला द्वारा द्वारा इन द्वारा market + non-market ज्ञातव्य

bilateral/plurilateral transfer (ITMOs) + double counting ज्ञातव्य ज्ञातव्य ज्ञातव्य accounting

UN-supervised crediting mechanism; high-integrity credits इन चाहे तक

non-market approaches: policy/finance/tech cooperation शास्त्रीय credit trading ज्ञातव्य

ITMOs = ज्ञातव्य इन्डिया transfer प्राप्तवाला mitigation outcomes/ज्ञातव्य बहु

लक्ष्य इन्डिया प्राप्तवाला reduction ज्ञातव्य host ज्ञातव्य buyer ज्ञातव्य
claim ए इन्डिया

ज्ञातव्य च क्षुर्द्धा CO₂ प्राप्तवाला; avoided emissions ज्ञातव्य च प्राप्तवाला concept

biochar शास्त्रीय रासायनिक ज्ञातव्य carbon storage + soil
ज्ञातव्य

crushed rocks ज्ञातव्य ज्ञातव्य reactions ज्ञातव्य इन्डिया CO₂
ज्ञातव्य lock ज्ञातव्य

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 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 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 split 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 लागे 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.

स्थूटेशन (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।

Term/Topic

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

MULAN

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 Tank district said. Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Tank is located, has been the scene of a series of assassinations carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, an arm of

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 reacts after North Korea's latest missile test. The two leaders are set to meet in a series of diplomatic activity in a region with growing tensions. —AP

MOSCOW

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 cruise ballistic missile, the first time either country has named the strike's intended target. Ukraine's president is to meet with his Russian counterpart in an effort to de-escalate a dispute over a missile strike on President Vladimir Putin's residence, —AP

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 suggested that the U.S. might be forced to acquire Greenland, to prevent Russia or China from taking it over. —AP

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI/PAWAN

Iranian authorities on Monday sought to reinforce calls to the streets with mass nationwide rallies in the wake of protests and a scale-up of repression, as the death toll from a deadly crackdown grows.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised pro-government rallies called by authorities as a "warning" to the United States.

That was a warning to American politicians to stop their descent and not rely on treacherous men, Khamenei, he said, accord-



Show of strength: Iranians attend a pro-government rally in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. —REUTERS

ing to Iranian state TV, after repeated threats from Washington to intervene in the Islamic republic.

Activists fear Iran has left at least hundreds dead, Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghi said Iran was ready for both war and talks.

The government called for a "four-front war" including the Islamic republic on Monday. Thousands of people filled the capital's Revolution

square brandishing the national flag as prayers went round the moment when the government has termed "riots", state TV showed.

Addressing the crowd, parliamentarian Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran is fighting a "four-front war" including the war of war, psychological war, "military war" with the United States and a "war against terrorism". He vowed the Iranian government would teach U.S. President Donald Trump an "unforgettable lesson".

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

imposing additional sanctions. Iran's shutdown of the Internet for more than 24 hours, said more than 84 hours, said monitor Netlock.

Human rights NGO Iran Human Rights said it confirmed the killing of at least 182 protesters but that the actual death toll could be much higher. The U.K.-based Human Rights Activist Solidarity Council had confirmed the deaths of 54 people.

Iran's state media has said dozens of security forces have been killed, with their funerals turning into nationwide protest 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE

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

"It is not about extermination of international law, violence against a small minority and a small group of Rohingya human beings. They have been targeted for extermination," Davies told ICJ judges.

Myanmar has denied genocide.

"Myanmar has denied

that their drive to turn the once-thriving community into a "ghost town" has been aimed at the most horrific violence that 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 Indonesia, according to reports of mass rape, arson and murder.

Mr. Jallow, a lawyer representing The Gambia, laid out soaring allegations from witnesses, including account of mass rape, arson and infants being burned alive.

Myanmar has denied

genocide.

"Myanmar has denied

that their drive to turn the once-thriving community into a "ghost town" has been aimed at the most horrific violence that one could imagine," according to Mr. Jallow.

Today, 1.17 million Rohingyas 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARACAS

U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration is working out well with Venezuela's interim leader, Delcy Rodriguez, and that he was open to meeting with her.

"Venezuela is really working out well. We've seen a lot of progress, especially with the leadership," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday.

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

Venezuela's government said on Sunday that the prison gates have been released. "In the past few hours," according to a statement from the Penitentiary Services Ministry,

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

Through eight groups re-

leased a total of 1,000 pris-

oners, including 41 political

and 959 common pris-

oners, the ministry said.

Mr. Machado was in the Vatican on Monday where he 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 Todoroki Arena to honour people who turn 20 this year to signify adulthood in Kawasaki, Japan on Monday. —REUTERS

Pro-military party 'claims' Suu Kyi's seat in Myanmar

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON

Myanmar's main pro-military party on Monday claimed victory in the parliamentary election, ousting democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi in elections that were widely seen as a play to prolong junta rule.

An official from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) said they "won in Kawtho".

Ms. Suu Kyi's former seat in Yangon won 18 lower house seats out of 66 places, they added. The USDP's 100 lower house members elected in the election's second stage on Sunday.

The junta says the month-long vote which has its final phase scheduled for January 25 will return power to the people.

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sara Murphy, Teyonah Taylor, Paul Thomas Anderson and Chloe Grace Moretz won for best film, comedy and supporting female actress for *One Battle After Another*. The Globes held in California began with a pointedly political opening from host Seth Green.

"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 actress in a comedy or musical in *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*, and Wagner Moura, the star of *Cartel Land* for best supporting actor in a drama. Michael Keaton, for best male lead in *Birdman*, and Eddie Redmayne for best male lead in *La La Land*.

"The best way to deal with the perception of diversity is to win an Oscar," said *La La Land* director Damien Chazelle. "Stellan Skarsgård won for the Norwegian family drama *My Grandmother's Son*. He's the first man to win a Golden Globe movie award for the 74-year-old veteran actor.

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

SRIKANT LAKSHMAN

LONDON

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

"The best way to deal with the perception of diversity is to win an Oscar," said *La La Land* director Damien Chazelle. "Stellan Skarsgård won for the Norwegian family drama *My Grandmother's Son*. He's the first man to win a Golden Globe movie award for the 74-year-old veteran actor.

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

Women and girls and also taking action against theft, an issue that has impacted tourists and business visitors.

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

"We've doubled the number of patrols in the West End," the Mayor said. "London's data shows that the more diverse an area is, the more progressive it is, the more successful it is. We're the antithesis of nativist politics like President Trump, in that, while I suspect he has a problem with London," he said.

Comments from U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Khan has repeatedly criticised Mr. Khan and London.

Asked to respond to Mr. Trump's views on him and London, Mr. Khan said London was successful as a tourist investment, educational and cultural hub.

"The reason why we are progressive, is that we are liberal, we are diverse, we are successful, we are successful. So we're the antithesis of nativist politics like President Trump, in that, while I suspect he has a problem with London," he said.

On TRUMP'S COMMENTS: Perceptions of London being unsafe have also presumably been impacted by

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 Skarsgård 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 TELEVISION LIMITED SERIES, ANTHOLOGY SERIES OR TELEVISION FILM

Adolescence

Official poster

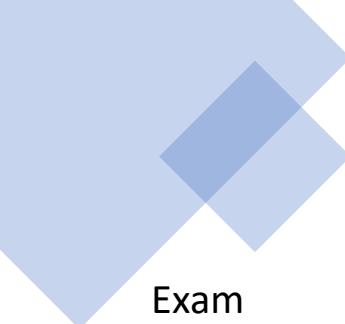
Date	January 11, 2026
Site	The Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, California, U.S.
Hosted by	Nikki Glaser
Directed by	Glenn Weiss

Highlights

Best Film: Drama	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Film: Musical or Comedy	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Drama Series	<i>The Pitt</i>
Best Musical or Comedy Series	<i>The Studio</i>
Best Miniseries or Television movie	<i>Adolescence</i>
Most awards	Film: <i>One Battle After Another</i> (4) TV: <i>Adolescence</i> (4)
Most nominations	Film: <i>One Battle After Another</i> (9) TV: <i>The White Lotus</i> (6)



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



Exam

IBPS Clerk

Date / Shift

27-Nov-2011 (SZ, 2nd shift)

Question (as asked)

“With which one of the following activities, Golden Globe Awards are associated?” (Journalism / Social work / Peace initiatives / Films / None)



Answer

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 शंथाकुमार 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 एंतोनियो 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।

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Class24

Learn & Earn

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: preaching

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

Pronunciation: newsth.live/homilypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'hɒmili/



Thank you ☺

