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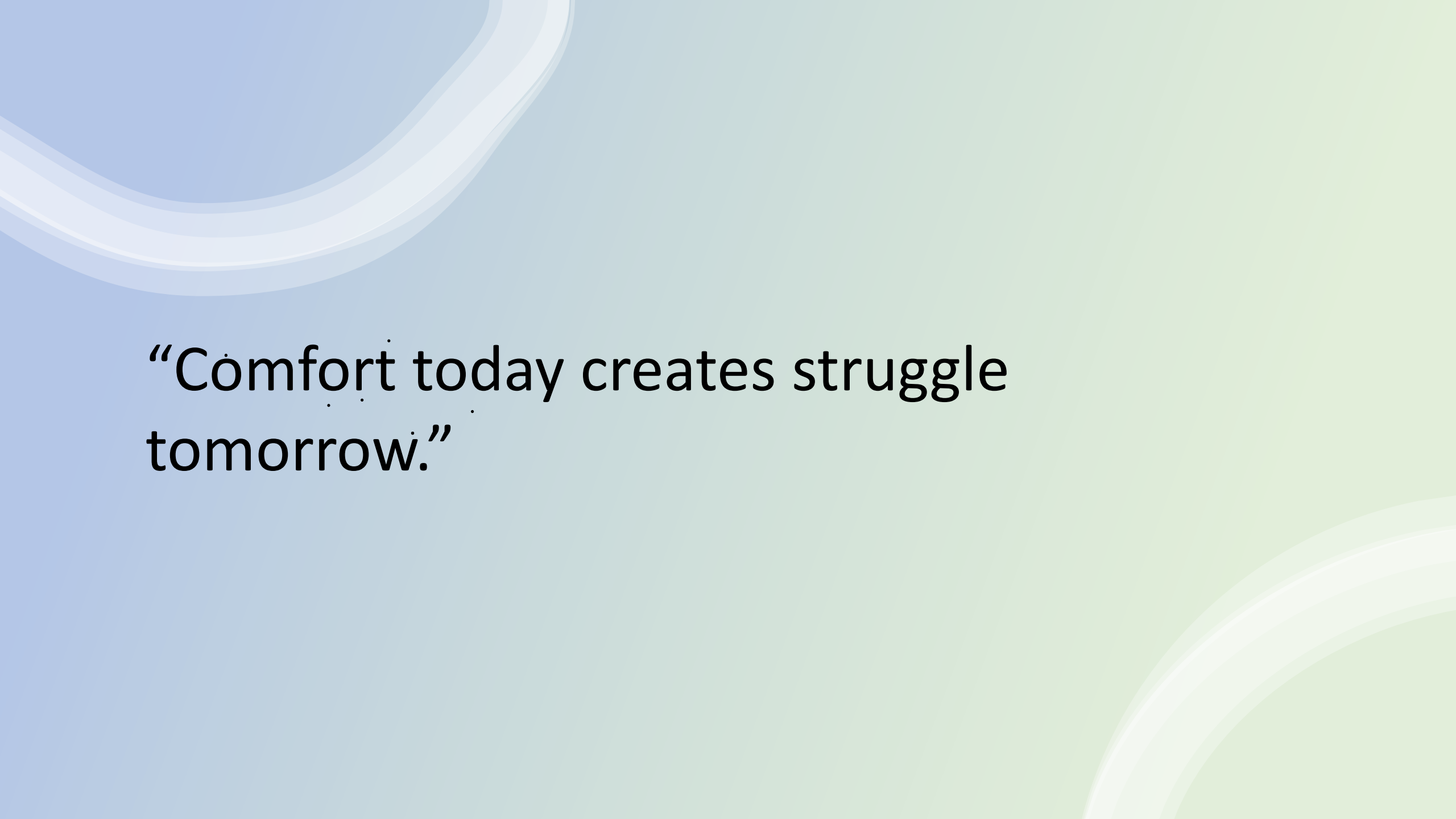
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SC tells EC that voting is a sentimental right

Poll body departed from promise to leave voters on 2002 rolls untouched during the SIR, says SC

We did not find logical discrepancy cases in Bihar; this is a question of fairness, says Justice Bagchi

Robust appellate process needed for excluded voters as EC purging names was unilateral: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday told the Election Commission of India (EC) that the right to be on the electoral roll and to vote in one's own country is not only constitutional but sentimental.

The top court was referring to lakhs of voters excluded for "logical discrepancies" and lining up for appeal hearings in West Bengal, hardly 10 days ahead of the Assembly election, following an "inquisitorial" special intensive revision (SIR).

The court said 34 lakh appeals by voters purged from the West Bengal electoral roll have already been filed for hearing before 19 appellate tribunals and there were over a lakh appeals pending before each of these tribunals.

The poll body had fro-

zen the electoral roll for the State on April 9, days ahead of the polling on April 23 and 29.

After months of interventions to make the SIR more inclusive, the top court made cutting remarks about the impact of an exercise the poll body said was necessary to "purify the electoral roll".

"The right to remain on the electoral roll, the right to vote in the country you are born in is something which is not only constitutional but sentimental. It is the biggest expression of nationality and patriotism that you are in a participatory process to elect a democratic government," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said while addressing the poll body.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, for the poll body, said "statistics" proved West Bengal did

Ballot proof

While the EC had frozen the West Bengal electoral rolls on April 9, the top court noted that 34 lakh appeals have been filed before 19 tribunals across the State



Ruling awaited: People gather to appeal before a tribunal over issues related to the SIR in Murshidabad, West Bengal, on Monday. PTI

not "stand out" and was "on par" with other States in the number of exclusions.

'Question of fairness'

"We are not bothered about West Bengal 'standing out'. But no other State has a category called 'logical discrepancy'. We have

examined Bihar, we did not find a single person flagged for logical discrepancy... This is not a question of inflating or shrinking the EC, but of fairness," Justice Bagchi said.

The judge noted that the court had permitted the poll body to embark on an inquisitorial exercise

It is the biggest expression of nationality and patriotism that you are in a participatory process to elect a democratic government

JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
Supreme Court judge



the poll body.

Mr. Naidu said voters who could prove their credentials were retained. Those with disparity in their names or other background details were asked to provide details, which were verified.

"A voter in the 2002 roll was not required to give anything.. When the Bihar SIR was argued, and the Bihar SIR was a facsimile of the SIR we are dealing with today, the EC was unequivocal when it submitted that a person in the 2002 voter list does not have to prove anything. No uploading of documents was required... And then you deviated from your original arguments," Justice Bagchi said.

Uncertain atmosphere

So far, the Supreme Court had avoided any direct criticism of the SIR.

Justice Bagchi referred to how the exclusion of vo-

ters in the name of logical discrepancy came "so close" to the date of election in West Bengal that the top court had to step in and deploy judicial officers to hear out the objections. This was all the more reason why the appeal process must not be hurried, the judge said.

The Supreme Court judge said the top court wanted a robust appellate process in place for the excluded voters as the purging of names from the list by the EC was a "suo motu" and unilateral process. This was followed by a "verification" of identity documents during the objections phase of the SIR, and not exactly a hearing.

"The appellate process must be robust... somewhere we are getting blinded by the dust and fury of an impending election... We need to protect the due process rights of the voters," Justice Bagchi said.

- The **Supreme Court** told the **Election Commission of India (EC)** that the right to be on the electoral roll and to vote is "not only constitutional but **sentimental**" — in the context of lakhs of voters excluded through **SIR (Special Intensive Revision)**.
- सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) से कहा कि मतदाता सूची में रहने और मतदान करने का अधिकार "न केवल संवैधानिक बल्कि भावनात्मक" है — **SIR (विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण)** के माध्यम से लाखों मतदाताओं के बहिष्कार के संदर्भ में।
- **34 lakh voters** purged from West Bengal electoral rolls have filed **34 lakh appeals** before **19 appellate tribunals**, with over **1 lakh appeals pending** before each tribunal — just 10 days before Assembly elections (April 23 & 29).
- **34 लाख मतदाताओं** ने **19 अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरणों** के समक्ष **34 लाख अपीलें** दायर की हैं — विधानसभा चुनावों (23 और 29 अप्रैल) से मात्र 10 दिन पहले।
- SC noted the EC **departed from its own promise** to leave 2002 electoral rolls untouched, and introduced a new "**logical discrepancy**" category that it never defined clearly.
- SC ने नोट किया कि EC ने **2002 मतदाता सूची को अछूता रखने के अपने वचन से** विचलन किया, और एक नई "**तार्किक विसंगति**" श्रेणी पेश की जो स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित नहीं थी।
- The West Bengal electoral roll was **frozen on April 9** (days before elections) — but **34 lakh appeals** are still pending.
- पश्चिम बंगाल की मतदाता सूची **9 अप्रैल को जमा की गई** — लेकिन **34 लाख अपीलें** अभी भी लंबित हैं।
- The SC called EC's purging a "**suo motu and unilateral process**" — demanding a robust appellate process to protect **due process rights of voters**.
- SC ने EC के हटाने को "**स्वप्रेरित और एकतरफा प्रक्रिया**" कहा — मतदाताओं के **उचित प्रक्रिया अधिकारों** की रक्षा के लिए मजबूत अपील प्रक्रिया की माँग।

F1. Past Background / भूतकाल

- **1950:** ECI established; universal adult suffrage adopted; first electoral rolls prepared.
- **1950:** ECI स्थापित; सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार; पहली मतदाता सूचियाँ तैयार।
- **2002:** Bihar SIR conducted — became the "facsimile" EC cited for West Bengal comparison; NO logical discrepancy category used in Bihar.
- **2002:** बिहार SIR आयोजित — EC ने WB तुलना के लिए "प्रतिलिपि" के रूप में उद्धृत किया; बिहार में कोई तार्किक विसंगति श्रेणी नहीं।
- **Recent months:** SC had been intervening to make SIR more inclusive; EC made adjustments; courts deployed judicial officers.
- **हाल के महीने:** SC SIR को अधिक समावेशी बनाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप कर रहा था।
- **April 9, 2026:** West Bengal electoral roll frozen.
- **9 अप्रैल 2026:** पश्चिम बंगाल मतदाता सूची जमा।

F2. Present Situation / वर्तमान स्थिति

- Elections on April 23 & 29; 34 lakh appeals pending; SC making strong remarks; 19 tribunals with judicial officers hearing cases urgently.
- 23 और 29 अप्रैल को चुनाव; 34 लाख अपीलें लंबित; SC की कड़ी टिप्पणियाँ; न्यायिक अधिकारियों के साथ 19 न्यायाधिकरण तत्काल मामले सुन रहे।
- EC maintains it followed proper procedure; SC disagrees on "logical discrepancy" category.
- EC का कहना है उसने उचित प्रक्रिया का पालन किया; SC "तार्किक विसंगति" श्रेणी पर असहमत।

- **Types of Electoral Roll Revision:**
 - **Summary Revision:** Annual; limited amendments
 - **Special Summary Revision:** Ahead of elections; additions/deletions
 - **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** Comprehensive; door-to-door verification
 - सारांश पुनरीक्षण | विशेष सारांश पुनरीक्षण | विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)
- **Key SC judgments on electoral rights:**
 - **People's Union for Civil Liberties vs UOI (2003):** Right to know candidates' antecedents
 - **NOTA (2013):** SC introduced None of the Above option
 - **Anoop Baranwal vs UOI (2023):** SC ruled on EC appointment process
 - **People's Union for Civil Liberties बनाम UOI (2003) | NOTA (2013) | अनूप बरणवाल बनाम UOI (2023)**

9	Election Commission — Article 324	UPSC Prelims	2020	The superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament is vested in:	(a) Supreme Court (b) Parliament (c) President of India (d) Election Commission of India	(d) Election Commission of India — Article 324
10	Article 326 — Adult Suffrage	SSC CGL / State PCS	2024	Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is the right to vote guaranteed on the basis of adult suffrage?	(a) Article 19 (b) Article 21 (c) Article 324 (d) Article 326	(d) Article 326

'Below normal' rain likely for first time in 11 years

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

India is staring at a “below-normal” southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned for the first time in 11 years in its April forecast. Between the monsoon months of June-September, India is likely to receive only 92% of the long period average (LPA) of 87 cm rainfall this year, M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said at a press briefing on Monday.

India last experienced reduced monsoon rainfall in 2023, when the IMD had warned of “near-normal” rainfall at 96% of the LPA. In 2015, the IMD’s warning of “below-normal” rain – at 93% of the LPA – turned out to be an underestimate with the actual rainfall recorded at 86%, making it one of India’s worst drought years.



With disruptions of fertilizer supply amid the Iran war, insufficient rain could impact farming which is significantly rainfed. FILE PHOTO

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said the main reason for this year’s below-normal monsoon warning was the likely development of an El Nino – the periodic warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific. At present, “weak” La Nina-like conditions – the converse of an El Nino – were transitioning to neutral conditions. The effects of the El Nino were only likely to come into full effect in the second half of the monsoon.

With disruptions of fertilizer supply ahead of the kharif season anticipated in the wake of the West Asia war, insufficient rain could impact farming in the country, which is significantly rainfed.

El Nino, which has emerged in 16 years since 1960, has depressed India’s monsoon rainfall nine times.

Mr. Mohapatra said that despite the links between an El Nino and weak monsoon, two factors could

blunt its impact. The first is the so called ‘positive’ IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole), a condition that is likely to develop towards the end of the southwest monsoon season. The second is that the extent of northern hemisphere snow cover from January to March 2026 has been slightly below normal. The dipole refers to oscillations of sea-surface temperatures between the western (near Africa) and eastern (near Indonesia) tropical Indian Ocean. A “positive” dipole and reduced snow cover generally tend to bring more rain to India and can offset El Nino’s “negative” impact, Mr Mohapatra said.

2024 and 2025 have been years of surplus monsoon. Save for 2023, India has received “normal” or excess rainfall in all years since 2020.

The IMD is expected to update its monsoon forecast in May. The IMD’s past

history shows that its forecasts of a weak monsoon in April generally hold true though there have been several instances of the IMD predicting a “normal” monsoon and India staring at a drought.

In 2002, the IMD predicted a normal monsoon but India experienced one of its worst droughts (81% of LPA). In 2009, the IMD’s April forecast predicted a near-normal monsoon (96-98% of LPA) but actual rainfall was around 77% of the LPA, resulting in one of the worst droughts in over a century.

In 2018, IMD’s April forecast predicted 97% of normal levels, and even the May update held the figure at 97%, but actual rainfall turned out to be 91% – well below normal. The IMD’s official parlance doesn’t use the term “drought” and refers to rain less than 90% of the LPA as “deficient”.

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has predicted a "**below normal**" **southwest monsoon** for 2026 — **first such warning in 11 years** (since 2015).
- **भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD)** ने 2026 के लिए "**सामान्य से कम**" **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून** की भविष्यवाणी की है — **11 वर्षों में पहली ऐसी चेतावनी** (2015 के बाद)।
- India likely to receive only **92% of the Long Period Average (LPA)** of **87 cm** during June-September 2026.
- भारत को जून-सितंबर 2026 के दौरान **87 सेमी** के दीर्घकालिक औसत (LPA) का केवल **92%** मिलने की संभावना।
- **Main cause: Likely development of an El Niño** — which has depressed India's monsoon **9 times in 16 years** since 1960.
- मुख्य कारण: **El Niño** का संभावित विकास — जो 1960 से **16 वर्षों में 9 बार** भारत के मानसून को कमजोर कर चुका है।
- Compounded by disruptions to **fertilizer supply** amid the **West Asia (Iran) war** — threatening kharif agriculture.
- **पश्चिम एशिया (ईरान) युद्ध** के बीच **उर्वरक आपूर्ति में व्यवधान** से बढ़ी समस्या — खरीफ कृषि को खतरा।
- Two mitigating factors: **positive IOD** and **below-normal northern hemisphere snow cover** — may partially offset El Niño's impact.
- दो शमन कारक: **सकारात्मक IOD** और **सामान्य से कम उत्तरी गोलार्ध हिम आवरण** — El Niño के प्रभाव को आंशिक रूप से कम कर सकते हैं।

- India gets most of its annual rainfall (about 70–75%) during the **southwest monsoon (June–September)**. If this rain is "below normal," it causes drought, crop failure, water shortage, and economic hardship.
- भारत को अपनी वार्षिक वर्षा का अधिकांश भाग (लगभग 70–75%) **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून (जून-सितंबर)** के दौरान मिलता है।
- **El Niño** is a phenomenon where the central/eastern Pacific Ocean warms abnormally — this disrupts global weather patterns and typically reduces India's monsoon rainfall.
- **El Niño** एक घटना है जिसमें मध्य/पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर असामान्य रूप से गर्म हो जाता है — यह वैश्विक मौसम पैटर्न को बाधित करता है और आमतौर पर भारत की मानसून वर्षा को कम करता है।
- **LPA (Long Period Average)** is the average rainfall India has received over the past 50 years — currently **87 cm**. "Below normal" means less than 94% of LPA; "**deficient**" (drought) means less than **90% of LPA** in IMD's official terminology.
- **LPA (दीर्घकालिक औसत)** पिछले 50 वर्षों में भारत की औसत वर्षा है — वर्तमान में **87 सेमी**। "सामान्य से कम" का अर्थ LPA का 94% से कम; "**कमी**" (सूखा) का अर्थ IMD की शब्दावली में **LPA का 90% से कम**।
- India is particularly vulnerable this year because the Iran war is disrupting **fertilizer imports** — combining below-normal rain with fertilizer shortage could devastate the kharif crop season.
- भारत इस वर्ष विशेष रूप से कमजोर है क्योंकि ईरान युद्ध **उर्वरक आयात** को बाधित कर रहा है।

- **Two mitigating factors:**
 1. **Positive IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole):** Likely to develop towards end of SW monsoon season — brings more rain to India.
 2. **Below-normal northern hemisphere snow cover (January–March 2026):** Generally associated with better monsoon.
- **दो शमन कारक:**
 1. सकारात्मक IOD (हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव): SW मानसून के अंत की ओर विकसित होने की संभावना।
 2. सामान्य से कम उत्तरी गोलार्ध हिम आवरण (जनवरी-मार्च 2026)।
- **Additional stress: Fertilizer supply disruption** due to Iran war — could compound impact on kharif season.
- **अतिरिक्त दबाव:** ईरान युद्ध के कारण उर्वरक आपूर्ति व्यवधान — खरीफ सीजन पर प्रभाव बढ़ सकता है।
- **IMD terminology:** Rain < 90% of LPA = "**deficient**" (drought); 90-95% = "**below normal**"; 96-104% = "**normal**".
- **IMD शब्दावली:** LPA का <90% = "**कमी**" (सूखा); 90-95% = "**सामान्य से कम**"; 96-104% = "**सामान्य**"।
- **Historical accuracy issue:** IMD predicted "normal" in 2002 → actual 81% (severe drought); predicted 96-98% in 2009 → actual 77% (worst drought in a century); predicted 97% in 2018 → actual 91%.
- **ऐतिहासिक सटीकता मुद्दा:** 2002 में "सामान्य" → वास्तविक 81%; 2009 में 96-98% → वास्तविक 77%; 2018 में 97% → वास्तविक 91%।
- **IMD next update:** May 2026 forecast update expected.
- **IMD अगला अपडेट:** मई 2026 पूर्वानुमान अपडेट अपेक्षित।

- **ENSO Phases and India Impact:**

Phase / चरण	Pacific Condition / प्रशांत स्थिति	India Monsoon Impact / भारत मानसून प्रभाव
El Niño	Eastern Pacific warmer than normal	Usually below normal rainfall
La Niña	Eastern Pacific cooler than normal	Usually above normal / excess rainfall
Neutral	Near-average temperatures	Variable; other factors dominate

- **IOD Impact on India:**

IOD Type / प्रकार	Condition / स्थिति	India Impact / भारत प्रभाव
Positive IOD	Western Indian Ocean warmer	More rainfall → offsets El Niño
Negative IOD	Eastern Indian Ocean warmer	Less rainfall → worsens El Niño
Neutral IOD	Normal temperatures	No significant modifier

D5. Why Important for India? / भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- **Agriculture's GDP share:** Agriculture contributes ~18% of India's GDP; employs ~45% of workforce — monsoon failure = GDP growth slowdown.
- **कृषि का GDP हिस्सा:** कृषि ~18% GDP योगदान; ~45% कार्यबल — मानसून विफलता = GDP वृद्धि में मंदी।
- **Food security:** India feeds 1.4 billion people — below-normal monsoon threatens production of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds.
- **खाद्य सुरक्षा:** भारत 1.4 बिलियन लोगों को खिलाता है — सामान्य से कम मानसून धान, गेहूं, दालों, तिलहन के उत्पादन को खतरे में डालता है।
- **Inflation:** Lower agricultural output → higher food prices → general inflation → RBI rate cut cycle disrupted.
- **मुद्रास्फीति:** कम कृषि उत्पादन → उच्च खाद्य कीमतें → सामान्य मुद्रास्फीति → RBI दर कटौती चक्र बाधित।
- **Groundwater:** Monsoon recharges groundwater — below-normal rain → groundwater stress → drinking water problems.
- **भूजल:** मानसून भूजल को रिचार्ज करता है — कम वर्षा → भूजल तनाव → पेयजल समस्याएं।
- **Rural economy:** 60% of India's cultivated area is rainfed — poor monsoon = rural distress = reduced consumption = economic slowdown.
- **ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था:** 60% कृषि क्षेत्र वर्षा-सिंचित — खराब मानसून = ग्रामीण संकट = कम खपत = आर्थिक मंदी।

- **History / इतिहास**

- **Great Bengal Famine (1943):** Partly triggered by monsoon failure + wartime mismanagement — 3 million died. India's food security obsession since then.
- **महान बंगाल अकाल (1943):** आंशिक रूप से मानसून विफलता + युद्धकालीन कुप्रबंधन — 30 लाख मृत। तब से भारत की खाद्य सुरक्षा जुनून।
- **Green Revolution (1960s–70s):** Introduced to reduce dependence on monsoon — HYV seeds, irrigation, fertilizers; but still ~60% area rainfed.
- **हरित क्रांति (1960–70 के दशक):** मानसून पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए — HYV बीज, सिंचाई, उर्वरक; लेकिन अभी भी ~60% क्षेत्र वर्षा-सिंचित।
- **Drought of 2002:** IMD predicted normal; actual 81% → one of India's worst droughts → rural distress → political consequences.
- **2002 का सूखा:** IMD ने सामान्य भविष्यवाणी की; वास्तविक 81% → भारत के सबसे खराब सूखों में से एक।

Geography / भूगोल

- **Southwest Monsoon mechanics:** Originates over Arabian Sea; arrives Kerala around June 1; covers all of India by mid-July; retreats by September-October.
- **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून यांत्रिकी:** अरब सागर के ऊपर उत्पन्न; लगभग 1 जून को केरल आता है; मध्य जुलाई तक पूरे भारत को कवर।
- **El Niño geography:** Warming of **Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific** → shifts ITCZ eastward → weakens Indian Ocean moisture → weak Indian monsoon.
- **El Niño भूगोल:** मध्य और पूर्वी भूमध्यरेखीय प्रशांत का तापमान → ITCZ पूर्व की ओर → हिंद महासागर नमी कमजोर → भारतीय मानसून कमजोर।
- **La Niña:** Opposite of El Niño — cooling of central Pacific → strengthens Indian monsoon → above-normal rainfall in India.
- **La Niña:** El Niño के विपरीत — मध्य प्रशांत का ठंडा होना → भारतीय मानसून मजबूत → भारत में सामान्य से अधिक वर्षा।
- **IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole):** Difference in sea-surface temperatures between western (near Africa) and eastern (near Indonesia) Indian Ocean.
 - **Positive IOD:** Western Indian Ocean warmer → brings more rain to India → offsets El Niño
 - **Negative IOD:** Eastern Indian Ocean warmer → reduces Indian rainfall → worsens El Niño impact
- **IOD (हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव):** पश्चिमी (अफ्रीका के पास) और पूर्वी (इंडोनेशिया के पास) हिंद महासागर के बीच तापमान अंतर।
 - **सकारात्मक IOD:** पश्चिमी गर्म → भारत में अधिक वर्षा → El Niño को ऑफसेट करता है
 - **नकारात्मक IOD:** पूर्वी गर्म → भारतीय वर्षा कम → El Niño प्रभाव बढ़ाता है

- **IMD:** Founded 1875; HQ New Delhi; under Ministry of Earth Sciences; DG currently M. Mohapatra (Needs verification).
- **IMD:** 1875 में स्थापित; HQ नई दिल्ली; पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के अधीन।
- **LPA (Long Period Average):** Currently **87 cm** (for all-India SW monsoon); calculated over 50-year period (1971-2020).
- **LPA:** वर्तमान में **87 सेमी** (सभी भारत SW मानसून के लिए); 50 वर्ष की अवधि (1971-2020) पर गणना।
- **IMD Rainfall Classification:**
 - 110% LPA = **Excess** / अधिक
 - 105-110% LPA = **Above Normal** / सामान्य से अधिक
 - 96-104% LPA = **Normal** / सामान्य
 - 90-95% LPA = **Below Normal** / सामान्य से कम
 - < 90% LPA = **Deficient** / कमी (Drought / सूखा)
- **Kharif vs Rabi:**
 - **Kharif:** Sown June-July; harvested October-November; depends on SW monsoon (rice, cotton, soybean, maize, groundnut)
 - **Rabi:** Sown October-November; harvested March-April; depends on NE monsoon and irrigation (wheat, mustard, gram)

Year / वर्ष	IMD Forecast / पूर्वानुमान	Actual / वास्तविक	Outcome / परिणाम
2002	Normal (100%+)	81%	Worst drought
2009	96-98%	77%	Worst in 100 years
2015	93%	86%	Major drought
2018	97%	91%	Below normal actual
2023	96%	~94%	Near normal
2024	Surplus predicted	Surplus	Good monsoon
2025	Normal/surplus	Surplus	Good monsoon
2026	92%	TBD	Below normal predicted

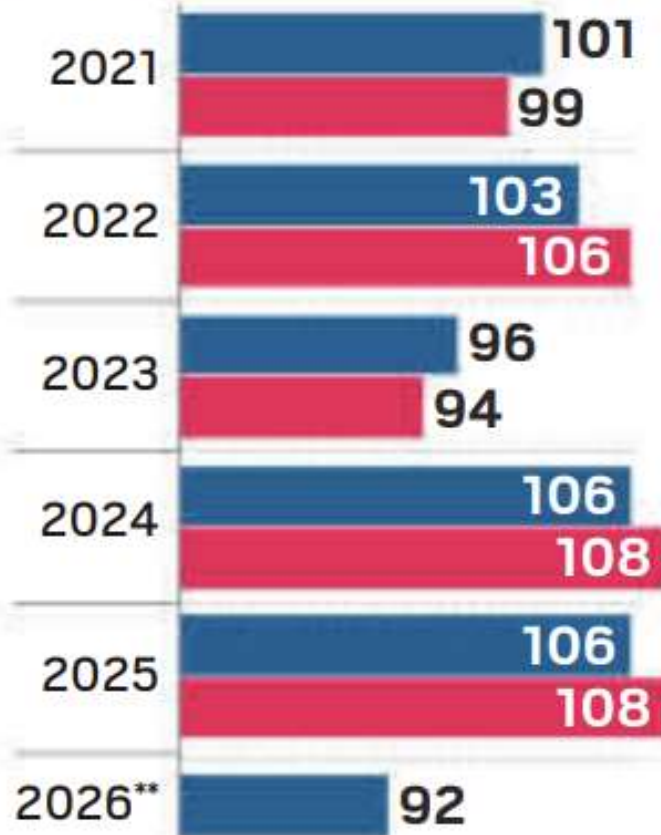
#	Exam	Year / Date	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	With reference to Indian monsoon, which of the following is/are correct? 1. El Niño leads to below-normal monsoon in India. 2. La Niña leads to above-normal monsoon in India. 3. Positive IOD offsets El Niño's negative impact on monsoon.	(a) 1 only (b) 1&2 only (c) 1, 2 & 3 (d) 2&3 only	(c) 1, 2 & 3 — All three correct
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2015	Consider the following phenomena: 1. Light around the sun 2. Reflection of sunlight by snow-covered poles 3. Desertification of Sahara 4. Occurrence of El Niño. Which cause global warming?	(a) 1&2 (b) 3&4 (c) 1,2,3 (d) 2,3,4	(b) 3 & 4
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	The term "Indian Ocean Dipole" (IOD) sometimes seen in the news in the context of:	(a) Tsunami (b) Monsoon (c) Marine pollution (d) Cyclone formation	(b) Monsoon
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	The term "La Niña" refers to:	(a) Warming of eastern Pacific (b) Cooling of eastern equatorial Pacific (c) Warming of Indian Ocean (d) Cooling of Atlantic	(b) Cooling of eastern equatorial Pacific

5	SSC CGL Tier 1	2024	The Long Period Average (LPA) for southwest monsoon rainfall in India is approximately:	(a) 75 cm (b) 80 cm (c) (c) 87 cm 87 cm (d) 95 cm
6	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	As per IMD, rainfall below what percentage of LPA is classified as "deficient" (drought)?	(a) 80% (b) 85% (c) (c) 90% 90% (d) 95%
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2018	India Meteorological Department is under which Ministry?	(a) Science & Technology (b) (d) Earth Sciences Agriculture (c) Environment (d) Earth Sciences
8	BPSC Prelims	2025	Which of the following is correct about ENSO? 1. El Niño = warming of Eastern Pacific 2. La Niña = cooling of Eastern Pacific 3. Both affect Indian monsoon	(a) 1&2 only (b) 2&3 only (c) 1&3 only (d) (d) All three All three
9	SSC CHSL	October 2024	The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) premium for farmers for kharif crops is:	(a) 5% (b) 3% (c) (c) 2% (d) 1% (c) 2% of sum insured
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	The National Food Security Act (2013) provides subsidised food to what percentage of India's population?	(a) 50% (b) 57% (c) (c) 67% 67% (d) 75%

EL NIÑO RISK RISES

Forecasts ^ vs performance (% of LPA*)

■ Forecast ■ Performance



^2nd long range forecast, *LPA (long period average) is average annual rainfall (87cm) recorded between 1971-2020, ** first long range forecast

WEST AS-REARER

Israeli troops fire tear gas at schoolchildren in West Bank



Israeli forces fired tear gas at Palestinian schoolchildren staging a sit-in on Monday in the occupied West Bank, after settlers blocked access to their school. The Israeli military confirmed they had dispersed an "annual gathering," but did not specify whether its troops had fired tear gas at the children. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia offers to take in enriched uranium from Iran, says Peskov



Russia is ready to take in Iran's enriched uranium as part of a future peace deal with the United States, the Kremlin said on Monday. "This proposal was voiced by President Putin in contacts with both the U.S. and regional states. The offer still stands, but has not been acted upon," the Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. AFP

PARIS

Iran executed at least 1,639 in 2020, more hangings feared, say NGOs



Iranian authorities executed at least 1,639 people in 2020 and now risks hanging more in the wake of the war against the U.S. and Israel, two NGOs — Iran Human Rights and Together Against the Death Penalty — said on Monday, urging the West to put capital punishment "at the heart" of any negotiations with Tehran. AFP

MANILA

Philippines accuses China of poisoning disputed waters



The Philippines accused Chinese fishermen on Monday of pouring cyanide in waters in the Spratly islands, a flashpoint in the disputed South China Sea that has been the site of violent confrontations with Chinese vessels. These actions also "threaten our Navy personnel" through exposure to contaminated water, it said. AFP

Orban loses Hungary vote to newcomer Peter Magyar

Agence France-Press BUDAPEST

Congratulations from across Europe poured in Monday for Hungarian political newcomer Peter Magyar, who defeated incumbent Viktor Orban in elections seen as a blow to right-wing populism worldwide.



Viktor Orban, a self-declared "thorn" in the EU's side and defender of "illiberal democracy," endorsed by U.S. President Donald Trump, lost Hungary's elections after 16 years in power as Hungarian fed up with corruption gave Mr. Magyar a decisive victory.

Mr. Magyar's party, Fidesz, won a stunning majority in the parliamentary elections, which were held in a runoff and sent tens of thousands of nationalist supporters into the streets to celebrate as car horns sounded in the capital, Budapest.

Leaders across the EU welcomed Mr. Magyar's win, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who hailed a victory for the "values of the European Union," and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who called it a "heavy defeat" for "right-wing populism." Kreszina's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Moscow hoped for "pragmatic" relations with Hungary's new leadership.

U.S. military 'blockades' Iran ports; Tehran threatens ports in region

U.S. President Donald Trump says any Iranian ship coming close to our blockade will be eliminated; Tehran says security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is either for everyone or for no one, adding no port in the region would be safe

Associated Press CAIRO

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that the American military had begun a blockade of Iranian ports as part of his effort to force Tehran to open the Strait of Hormuz and accept a deal to end the war that has raged for more than six weeks.



A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft refueling a U.S. Air Force F-35A fighter jet in flight during Operation Free Fly. AP

Talks aimed at permanently ending the conflict — which began on February 26 with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran — failed to reach an agreement this past weekend, and there has been no word on whether negotiations will resume.

In Washington, Mr. Trump said the blockade started at 10 a.m. EDT. "We can't let a country blackmail the world because that's what they're doing," Mr. Trump said of Iran. Speaking outside the Oval Office, Mr. Trump

suggested the U.S. is still willing to engage with Iran. "I can tell you that we've been called by the other side," Mr. Trump said. He added: "We've been called this morning by the right people, the appropriate people, and they want to work a deal." A notice to mariners issued by the U.S. Maritime Trade Operations agency said the restrictions included "the entirety of the Iranian coastline, including ports and energy infrastructure."

The U.S. military's Central Command announced that the blockade would be enforced "against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas." It said that would include all of Iran's ports on the Persian

Gulf and Gulf of Oman. CENTCOM's decision to allow ships travelling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait was a step down from Mr. Trump's earlier threat to blockade the waterway.

In a social media message, Mr. Trump warned that "if any of these ships come anywhere close to our BLACKSEA, they will be ELIMINATED." Iran issued threats of its own. "Security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is either for everyone or for no one," the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting reported on Monday. "NO PORT in the region will be safe," read a statement from the Iranian military and the Revolutionary Guard.

Israel says its troops surrounded key town in southern Lebanon

Agence France-Press JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Monday its troops had completely surrounded a key town in southern Lebanon after killing more than 100 Hezbollah fighters there over the past week.



A soldier gets his body painted in the likeness of Hindu religious figure Mahadev, as he celebrates the Laksh festival to mark the end of Bengali new year, in Shushungaj, Bangladesh, on Monday. AP

The announcement marks a significant advance in Israel's ongoing invasion of southern Lebanon.

The forces of the 10th Division have completed the encirclement of the town of Bint Jbeil and have begun an assault on it, the military's Arabic-language spokesperson Colonel Avichay Adraee said on X.

At least 100 killed in Nigeria after air force strike hits market

Associated Press MADRAS

A Nigerian air force strike targeting Bhaba rebels hit a local market in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 100 civilians including children and injuring many others, a rights group and local media reported on Sunday. Officials have blamed a militia without providing details.



Several hours: Patients receive treatment at a hospital in Zamfara after Nigerian air force strikes hit a local market on Saturday. AP

At least 100 civilians were killed in the air strike on Saturday on a village in the state, near the border with Borno state, which is the epicentre of the militant insurgency that has ravaged for over a decade.

"We have their pictures and they include children," said his friend. Amnesty International's Nigeria director, referring to the casualties, said that at least 23 people injured in the incident were receiving treatment.

Religious art



A devotee gets his body painted in the likeness of Hindu religious figure Mahadev, as he celebrates the Laksh festival to mark the end of Bengali new year, in Shushungaj, Bangladesh, on Monday. AP

U.S., Israel met 'strategic defeat' in war, says Iranian envoy to India Mohammad Fathali

Kalid Bhattacharya NEW DELHI

The U.S.-Israel combine has met with a "strategic failure" in the war against Iran, the country's envoy to India, Mohammad Fathali, said on Monday. Speaking at a press conference to mark the conclusion of the mourning period of 40 days that was announced after the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the bombing of a school in Minab on February 26 by the U.S.-Israel military coalition, Ambassador Fathali thanked the people of India and said Iran and India shared a

"common fate." He said that India was not charged any roll for using the Strait of Hormuz. "For us, diplomacy is the continuation of the heroic struggle of defenders of Iran. We have not forgotten and will not forget (U.S.) threats and breach of commitments by the United States. They attacked us when the negotiations were going on and killed our Supreme Leader. But they miscalculated and have met with a strategic defeat," Ambassador Fathali said. Mr. Fathali counted several past instances, including the one on February 26, when the U.S. attacked



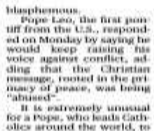
Mohammad Fathali

Iran during diplomatic negotiations. He said the Strait of Hormuz, which is "part of Iran's territorial waters", was open before the war and added, "Hormuz is part of our capacities. In the near future, we will announce the mechanism of passage through the

Pope Leo says he is not afraid of U.S. after Trump's broadside

Reuters WASHINGTON/ROME

U.S. President Donald Trump has criticised Pope Leo as "terrible" in a rare direct attack on the pontiff, who responded that he had "no fear" of the White House administration and would continue to denounce the horrors of war.



Pope Leo

The President's comments came after the Pope had spoken out, with growing force, against the U.S.-led war on Iran and the Trump administration's immigration policies.

Pope Leo is WEAKEST in the Trump administration's immigration policies. Pope Leo is WEAKEST in the Trump administration's immigration policies. Pope Leo is WEAKEST in the Trump administration's immigration policies.

blatant. Pope Leo, the first pontiff from the U.S., responded on Monday by saying he would keep raising his voice against conflict, adding that the Christian message, rooted in the primacy of peace, was being "abused."

It is extremely unusual for a Pope, who leads Catholics around the world, to answer a foreign leader publicly. "I will continue to speak out loudly against war, looking to promote peace-promoting dialogue and multilateral relationships among the states to look for just solutions to problems," Pope Leo said.

Mr. Fathali said Iran sent for talks in Islamabad with the American team at it was ready for negotiations, but the U.S. had come to the table with "unfavourable demands." He highlighted reparations for the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran and sanctions relief as parts of the Iranian demands that will have to be met for any progress in negotiations.

"Ready for peace" The talks held in Islamabad between the U.S. and Iran failed to yield an agreement though the ceasefire remains in place even as Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which was part of the ceasefire, continue to be reported.

"We are ready for peace, we are also ready for war," said the Ambassador adding: "Iran is a civilisation and civilisations don't die." Ambassador Fathali said the Iranian side has maintained "quiet contact" with the Indian government and that Iran wished to help India deal with the checkpoint in Hormuz. Iranian officials expressed hope that the negotiations will be revived in the coming weeks despite prevailing tension and distrust. Indians, for the outpouring of support.

Orban loses Hungary vote to newcomer Peter Magyar

Agence France-Presse

BUDAPEST

Congratulations from across Europe poured in Monday for Hungarian political newcomer Peter Magyar, who defeated nationalist Viktor Orban in elections seen as a blow to right-wing populism worldwide.

Mr. Orban, a self-described “thorn” in the EU’s side and defender of “illiberal democracy” endorsed by U.S. President Donald Trump, lost Sunday’s elections after 16 years in power as Hungarians fed up with corruption gave Mr. Magyar a decisive victory.

Mr. Magyar’s party, Tisza, won a thumping majority in the parliamentary elections, which drew record turnout and sent tens of thousands of jubilant supporters into the streets to celebrate as car horns sounded in the capital, Budapest.



Victory lap: Peter Magyar gestures as he speaks to the media in Budapest, Hungary, on Monday. AP

Leaders across the EU welcomed Mr. Magyar’s win, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who hailed a victory for the “values of the European Union”, and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who called it a “heavy defeat” for “right-wing populism”.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Moscow hoped for “pragmatic” relations with Hungary’s new

leadership.

An almost complete vote count showed Tisza secured a two-thirds majority, with 138 seats in the 199-seat parliament on 53% of the vote, according to official election results. Mr. Orban’s Fidesz took 55 seats on 38% of the vote.

Turnout in the election reached a record 79.6%.

Mr. Trump had promised to bring U.S. “economic might” to Hungary if Mr. Orban’s party won.





Arctic Ocean

Kara Sea

Greenland
DENMARK

Greenland Sea

Barents Sea

Russia

Denmark Strait



Norwegian Sea

ARCTIC CIRCLE 66°30' N

Atlantic Ocean

Asia

North Sea

EUROPE

EUROPEAN RUSSIA

English Channel

HUNGARY

Kazakhstan

Bay of Biscay

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Strait of Gibraltar

Turkey

Morocco

Tunisia

Syria

Iran

Algeria

Libya

Lebanon

Iraq

800 mi

800 km

Egypt

MIDDLE EAST

23°5' N

TROPIC OF CANCER

Saudi Arabia

PRIME MERIDIAN

Africa

© WorldAtlas.com

0°

Red Sea





CZECH REPUBLIC

POLAND

SLOVAKIA

UKRAINE

AUSTRIA

□ Budapest

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

SERBIA



Capital and largest city	Budapest  47°26′N 19°15′E﻿ / ﻿47.433°N 19.250°E﻿ / 47.433; 19.250
Official languages	Hungarian
Ethnic groups (2022 census ^{[a][b]})	97.7% Hungarian 2.4% Romani 1.2% German 1.3% other
Religion (2022 census) ^[2]	42.5% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 29.2% Catholicism — 13.3% other Christian 40.1% no answer 16.1% irreligion 1.3% others
Demonym	Hungarian
Government	Unitary parliamentary republic
 • President	Tamás Sulyok
 • Prime Minister	Viktor Orbán
 • Speaker	László Kövér
Legislature	National Assembly
Formation	
 • Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin	862–895 ^[3]
 • Principality of Hungary	895 ^[4]
 • Christian Kingdom	25 December 1000 ^[5]
 • Golden Bull of 1222	24 April 1222
 • Battle of Mohács	29 August 1526
 • Liberation of Buda	2 September 1686
 • Revolution of 1848	15 March 1848
 • Austria-Hungary	30 March 1867
 • Restoration of Independence	31 October 1918
 • Treaty of Trianon	4 June 1920
 • Third Republic	23 October 1989

Area	
 • Total	93,030 ^[6] km ² (35,920 sq mi) (108th)
 • Water (%)	3.7 ^[6]
Population	
 • January 2024 estimate	▼ 9,584,627 ^[7] (95th)
 • 2022 census	9,603,634 ^[8]
 • Density	103/km ² (266.8/sq mi) (111th)
GDP (PPP)	2025 estimate
 • Total	▲ \$460.380 billion ^[9] (56th)
 • Per capita	▲ \$48,160 ^[9] (46th)
GDP (nominal)	2025 estimate
 • Total	▲ \$247.760 billion ^[9] (56th)
 • Per capita	▲ \$25,920 ^[9] (50th)
Gini (2023)	▲ 29.0 ^[10] low inequality
HDI (2023)	▲ 0.870 ^[11] very high (46th)
Currency	Forint (HUF)

- **Hungary (Magyar): Central Europe;** landlocked; borders: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia; capital: **Budapest** (on Danube River); area: 93,028 sq km; population: ~10 million.
- **हंगरी (Magyar):** मध्य यूरोप; स्थलरुद्ध; सीमाएं: ऑस्ट्रिया, स्लोवाकिया, यूक्रेन, रोमानिया, सर्बिया, क्रोएशिया, स्लोवेनिया; राजधानी: **बुडापेस्ट** (डेन्यूब नदी पर)।
- **EU membership:** Hungary joined EU in **2004** (along with Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Baltic states — "Big Bang Enlargement").
- **EU सदस्यता:** हंगरी **2004** में EU में शामिल (पोलैंड, चेक गणराज्य, स्लोवाकिया, बाल्टिक राज्यों के साथ — "बिग बैंग विस्तार")।
- **NATO membership:** Hungary joined NATO in **1999** (along with Poland and Czech Republic).
- **NATO सदस्यता:** हंगरी **1999** में NATO में शामिल।
- **Schengen Area:** Hungary is part of Schengen — free movement of people.
- **शेंगेन क्षेत्र:** हंगरी शेंगेन का हिस्सा — लोगों की स्वतंत्र आवाजाही।

- **Peter Magyar's party Tisza** won a **two-thirds majority (138 of 199 seats, 53% vote)** in Hungary's parliamentary elections — ending **Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule**.
- पीटर माग्यार की पार्टी **Tisza** ने हंगरी के संसदीय चुनावों में **दो-तिहाई बहुमत (199 में से 138 सीटें, 53% वोट)** जीता — **विक्टर ओर्बान के 16 साल के शासन का अंत**।
- Orbán — self-described "thorn in EU's side" and defender of "**illiberal democracy**" — lost decisively amid voter anger over **corruption**.
- ओर्बान — खुद को "EU के किनारे का कांटा" और "**अनुदार लोकतंत्र**" के रक्षक कहने वाले — **भ्रष्टाचार** पर मतदाता गुस्से से निर्णायक रूप से हारे।
- **Record 79.6% voter turnout** — reflecting massive anti-incumbency and public desire for change.
- **रिकॉर्ड 79.6% मतदाता उपस्थिति** — भारी सत्ता-विरोध और परिवर्तन की सार्वजनिक इच्छा को दर्शाती है।
- Seen as a **global blow to right-wing populism** — EU leaders (Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz) hailed it as victory for "EU values."
- **दुनियाभर में दक्षिणपंथी लोकलुभावनवाद पर प्रहार** के रूप में देखा गया — EU नेताओं (मैक्रोन, जर्मन चांसलर फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़) ने इसे "EU मूल्यों" की जीत बताया।
- **Russia (Kremlin)** expressed hope for "pragmatic" relations with Hungary's new leadership — signalling concern over Orbán's defeat.
- **रूस (क्रेमलिन)** ने हंगरी के नए नेतृत्व के साथ "व्यावहारिक" संबंधों की उम्मीद जताई — ओर्बान की हार पर चिंता का संकेत।
- **Trump** had promised U.S. "economic might" to Hungary if Orbán won — now faces a pro-EU Hungary.
- **ट्रम्प** ने ओर्बान के जीतने पर हंगरी को अमेरिकी "आर्थिक शक्ति" का वादा किया था — अब प्रो-EU हंगरी का सामना।

- **Viktor Orbán** had been Hungary's Prime Minister since 2010 — 16 years. He was known for: weakening democratic institutions, controlling media, opposing EU immigration policies, being friendly with Russia's Putin, and calling himself a defender of "illiberal democracy" (democracy without liberal rights like free press and judicial independence).
- **विक्टर ओर्बान** 2010 से हंगरी के प्रधानमंत्री थे — 16 वर्ष। वे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को कमजोर करने, मीडिया नियंत्रण, EU आप्रवासन नीतियों का विरोध, रूस से मित्रता के लिए जाने जाते थे।
- **Peter Magyar** was a political newcomer — a lawyer and former husband of Orbán's ex-Justice Minister — who rose to prominence by exposing corruption in the Orbán government.
- **पीटर माग्यार** एक राजनीतिक नवागंतुक थे — वकील और ओर्बान के पूर्व न्याय मंत्री के पूर्व पति — जिन्होंने ओर्बान सरकार में भ्रष्टाचार उजागर करके प्रमुखता पाई।
- Hungarian voters, fed up with corruption and Orbán's democratic backsliding, gave Magyar's party Tisza a massive majority — ending one of Europe's most controversial governments.
- भ्रष्टाचार और ओर्बान के लोकतांत्रिक पतन से थके हंगेरियाई मतदाताओं ने माग्यार की पार्टी Tisza को भारी बहुमत दिया।
- This is significant globally because Orbán was seen as the **template for right-wing populist leaders worldwide** — his defeat signals that such politics can be electorally defeated.
- यह वैश्विक स्तर पर महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि ओर्बान को **दुनियाभर में दक्षिणपंथी लोकलुभावन नेताओं के टेम्पलेट** के रूप में देखा जाता था।

- **EU Key Institutions (Static GK):**
 - **European Council:** Heads of state/government; sets political direction; President Charles Michel
 - **European Commission:** Executive arm; proposes legislation; President Ursula von der Leyen
 - **European Parliament:** Elected legislative body; Strasbourg; President Roberta Metsola
 - **Court of Justice of EU (ECJ):** HQ Luxembourg; interprets EU law
 - **European Central Bank (ECB):** HQ Frankfurt; manages Eurozone monetary policy; President Christine Lagarde
- **EU Enlargement History:**
 - **1952:** ECSC (6 founding members: France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg)
 - **1992:** Maastricht Treaty — EU formally created
 - **2004:** "Big Bang" — 10 new members including Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Baltic states
 - **2007:** Romania, Bulgaria
 - **2013:** Croatia
 - **Brexit (2020):** UK left

- **Key Right-Wing Populist Leaders (Global):**

Leader	Country	Party	Status (2026)
Viktor Orbán	Hungary	Fidesz	Defeated 2026
Donald Trump	USA	Republican	President (2nd term)
Giorgia Meloni	Italy	Brothers of Italy	PM
Marine Le Pen	France	RN	Opposition
AfD	Germany	AfD	Opposition
Jair Bolsonaro	Brazil	PL	Lost 2022

- **"Illiberal Democracy" vs "Liberal Democracy":**

Feature	Liberal Democracy	Illiberal Democracy (Orbán model)
Elections	Free and fair	Held but not fully fair
Courts	Independent	Packed/controlled
Press	Free	State-controlled
Civil Society	Independent	Restricted/NGO laws
Minority Rights	Protected	Limited
International Norms	Respected	Defied (selectively)

1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	The Maastricht Treaty is associated with the establishment of:	(a) United Nations (b) NATO (c) European Union (d) G7	(c) European Union — 1992 Maastricht Treaty formally created EU
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is located in:	(a) Brussels (b) Strasbourg (c) Luxembourg (d) Frankfurt	(d) Frankfurt
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Hungary joined the European Union in which year?	(a) 1993 (b) 1999 (c) 2004 (d) 2007	(c) 2004 — "Big Bang" enlargement
4	SSC CGL Tier 1	2024	NATO was founded in which year?	(a) 1945 (b) 1949 (c) 1952 (d) 1955	(b) 1949 — North Atlantic Treaty signed April 4, 1949
5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	The headquarters of the European Union (EU) is located in:	(a) Geneva (b) Brussels (c) Paris (d) Vienna	(b) Brussels
6	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	Which of the following is NOT a founding member of the European Economic Community (EEC, 1957)?	(a) France (b) Germany (c) United Kingdom (d) Italy	(c) United Kingdom — UK joined in 1973; founding 6 were France, W. Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg

7	UPSC CSE Mains GS-2	2019	"The rise of right-wing populism is a challenge to liberal democratic order." Analyse with reference to recent global political developments.	(Essay-type question — no MCQ)	Key points: illiberal democracy, Orbán, Trump, Brexit, institutional erosion
8	UPSC CSE Prelims	2018	The term "Brexit" refers to:	(a) Exit of Britain from NATO (b) Exit of UK from the European Union (c) Exit of Britain from ASEAN (d) None	(b) Exit of UK from EU
9	SSC CHSL	2025	Who is the current Secretary-General of NATO (2024)?	(a) Jens Stoltenberg (b) Mark Rutte (c) Anders Rasmussen (d) Pierre de Villiers	(b) Mark Rutte — took over from Stoltenberg in 2024
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2024	With reference to the European Union, which of the following correctly describes Article 7?	(a) Procedure for EU enlargement (b) Mechanism for Euro adoption (c) Procedure to suspend EU rights of member state for breach of EU values (d) EU trade dispute resolution	(c) Article 7 — rule of law/values enforcement

Consider the following statements about Hungary's 2026 elections: हंगरी के 2026 चुनावों के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Peter Magyar's Tisza party won a two-thirds majority, securing 138 of 199 parliamentary seats with 53% of the vote. पीटर माग्यार की Tisza पार्टी ने दो-तिहाई बहुमत जीता, 53% वोट के साथ 199 में से 138 संसदीय सीटें हासिल कीं।
2. Viktor Orbán had described himself as a defender of "liberal democracy" and the EU's founding values. विक्टर ओर्बान ने खुद को "उदार लोकतंत्र" और EU के संस्थापक मूल्यों के रक्षक के रूप में वर्णित किया था।
3. The Kremlin expressed hope for "pragmatic" relations with Hungary's new leadership after Orbán's defeat. ओर्बान की हार के बाद क्रेमलिन ने हंगरी के नए नेतृत्व के साथ "व्यावहारिक" संबंधों की उम्मीद जताई।
4. Voter turnout in Hungary's 2026 elections reached a record 79.6%. हंगरी के 2026 चुनावों में मतदाता उपस्थिति रिकॉर्ड 79.6% पर पहुँच गई।

Which of the statements given above are correct? उपर्युक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

Aus appoints woman to lead its army for the first time in 125-year-old history

Sydney: Australia on Monday said a woman would lead its army for the first time in history, as part of a reshuffle of the country's defence force leadership. Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, the current chief of joint capabilities, will become chief of army in July, govt said. Coyle will replace Lieutenant General Simon Stuart.

Coyle's appointment comes as Australia's military seeks to

boost the number of female officers in its ranks. Australian army faces a wave of allegations of systematic sexual harassment and discrimination. "From July, we will have the first-ever female chief of army in the Australian army's 125-year-old history," PM Anthony Albanese said in a statement.

Australia's defence minister Richard Marles called Coyle's appointment a "deeply



Lieutenant General Susan Coyle enlisted in the military in 1987 and has held a number of senior roles. She will be the first woman to lead any service branch of Aus military

historic moment". "As Susan said to me, you cannot be what you cannot see," he said. "Susan's achievement will be deeply significant to women who

are serving in the Australian defence force today and women who are thinking about serving in the force in the future."

Coyle, 55, enlisted in the mi-

litary in 1987 and has held a number of senior command roles. She will be the first woman to lead any service branch of the military, Marles said.

At present, women make up around 21% of the Australian defence force and 18.5% of senior leadership roles. The Australian defence force has set a target of 25% of overall participation for women by 2030. Last Oct, a class-action

lawsuit was filed against the Australian defence force alleging it failed to protect thousands of female officers from systematic sexual assault, harassment and discrimination.

Coyle stressed her experience in areas such as cyberwarfare. "This breadth of experience provides a strong foundation for the responsibilities of command and the trust placed in me," she said. AGENCIES

- **Lieutenant General Susan Coyle** will become **Chief of Army** in Australia from **July 2026** — first woman to lead the Australian Army in its **125-year history**.
- **लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सुजन कोयल** जुलाई 2026 से ऑस्ट्रेलिया की **सेना प्रमुख** बनेंगी — **125 साल के इतिहास** में पहली महिला।
- She will also be the **first woman to lead any service branch** of the Australian military (Army, Navy, Air Force).
- वह ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सैन्य बल की किसी भी **सेवा शाखा का नेतृत्व** करने वाली पहली महिला भी होंगी।
- The appointment comes amid **allegations of systematic sexual harassment and discrimination** in the Australian defence force — a class-action lawsuit was filed.
- यह नियुक्ति ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा बल में **व्यवस्थित यौन उत्पीड़न और भेदभाव के आरोपों** के बीच हुई — एक क्लास-एक्शन मुकदमा दायर।
- Women currently make up only **21% of Australian defence force** and **18.5% of senior leadership roles**; target is **25% overall participation by 2030**.
- महिलाएं वर्तमान में ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा बल का केवल **21%** और **वरिष्ठ नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं का 18.5%** बनाती हैं; लक्ष्य **2030 तक 25% समग्र भागीदारी**।
- PM **Anthony Albanese** called it a "historic moment"; Defence Minister **Richard Marles** called it "deeply significant."
- PM **एंथनी अल्बानीज़** ने इसे "ऐतिहासिक क्षण" कहा; रक्षा मंत्री **रिचर्ड मार्लेस** ने "गहराई से महत्वपूर्ण" बताया।

History / इतिहास

- **Australian Military history:** Australian Army established 1901 with Federation; fought WWI (Gallipoli — iconic); WWII (Pacific Theatre); Korean, Vietnam wars; Afghanistan, Iraq.
- **ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सैन्य इतिहास:** 1901 में स्थापित; WWI (गैलीपोली — प्रतीकात्मक); WWII (प्रशांत)।
- **Women in wartime:** Women served as nurses in WWI; WWII expanded roles; full combat exclusion only lifted gradually — Australia lifted all combat role restrictions for women in **2016**.
- **युद्धकालीन महिलाएं:** WWI में नर्से; WWII में विस्तारित भूमिकाएं; ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने **2016** में सभी लड़ाकू भूमिका प्रतिबंध हटाए।
- **India's women in military history:** Women served as nurses historically; **Women's Military Service Corps** established 1947; **Indian Army Medical Corps** — women; first female pilots in IAF (1994 as Short Service Commission officers); combat roles recently expanding.
- **भारतीय सैन्य इतिहास में महिलाएं:** 1947 में महिला सैन्य सेवा कोर; IAF में पहली महिला पायलट (1994)।

- **Australia's political system:** Federal constitutional monarchy (King Charles III as head of state via Governor-General); Westminster parliamentary system; PM is executive head; bicameral parliament (Senate + House of Representatives).
- **ऑस्ट्रेलिया की राजनीतिक प्रणाली:** संघीय संवैधानिक राजतंत्र (किंग चार्ल्स III); वेस्टमिंस्टर संसदीय प्रणाली।
- **India's women in armed forces — landmark judgments:**
 - **Babita Puniya vs UOI (2020):** SC ordered Permanent Commission for women officers in Indian Army across all departments — not just medical/legal.
 - **Kalpana Rao vs UOI:** Women in NDA — SC ordered admission of women to NDA (2021).
 - **बाबिता पुनिया बनाम UOI (2020):** SC ने भारतीय सेना में महिला अधिकारियों के लिए स्थायी कमीशन का आदेश।
 - **महिलाओं का NDA में प्रवेश (2021)।**
- **Article 15(3) and Article 16:** Special provisions for women's advancement; positive discrimination allowed.
- **अनुच्छेद 15(3) और अनुच्छेद 16:** महिलाओं की उन्नति के लिए विशेष प्रावधान; सकारात्मक भेदभाव की अनुमति।
- **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000):** Landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security — calls for women's participation in all aspects of peace and security, including military.
- **UNSC प्रस्ताव 1325 (2000):** महिला, शांति और सुरक्षा पर ऐतिहासिक प्रस्ताव — सुरक्षा सहित सभी पहलुओं में महिलाओं की भागीदारी।

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The "Quad" or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue consists of which of the following countries?	(a) India, USA, Japan, China (b) India, USA, Japan, Australia (c) India, UK, USA, Japan (d) India, Australia, China, Japan	(b) India, USA, Japan, Australia
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	AUKUS, a security alliance, includes which of the following countries?	(a) Australia, Ukraine, USA (b) Australia, UK, USA (c) Austria, UK, USA (d) Australia, UK, UN	(b) Australia, UK, USA
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance includes:	(a) USA, UK, France, Germany, Australia (b) USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand (c) USA, UK, Israel, India, Australia (d) USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada	(b) USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	With reference to "Exercise Malabar", which of the following statements is correct?	(a) It is a bilateral exercise between India and Japan (b) It is held only in the Pacific Ocean (c) It is a multilateral naval exercise involving India, USA, Japan, and Australia (d) India is an observer in this exercise	(c) Multilateral naval exercise — India, USA, Japan, Australia

5	UPSC CSE Mains GS-2	2020	In the case of Babita Puniya vs Union of India, the Supreme Court directed:	(Mains descriptive — no MCQ)	SC directed Permanent Commission for women army officers across all departments, not limited to medical/legal
6	SSC CGL	2024	The capital of Australia is:	(a) Sydney (b) Melbourne (c) Canberra (d) Brisbane	(c) Canberra
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) is related to:	(a) Nuclear disarmament (b) Climate change (c) Women, Peace and Security (d) Terrorism financing	(c) Women, Peace and Security
8	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	India-Australia ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) was signed in which year?	(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2023	(c) 2022
9	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The India-Australia bilateral defence exercise for naval forces is called:	(a) AUSTRAHIND (b) Pitch Black (c) AUSINDEX (d) Malabar	(c) AUSINDEX — Navy exercise
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Women were admitted to the National Defence Academy (NDA) of India following a Supreme Court order	(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022	(c) 2021 — SC ordered women's admission to NDA in August 2021



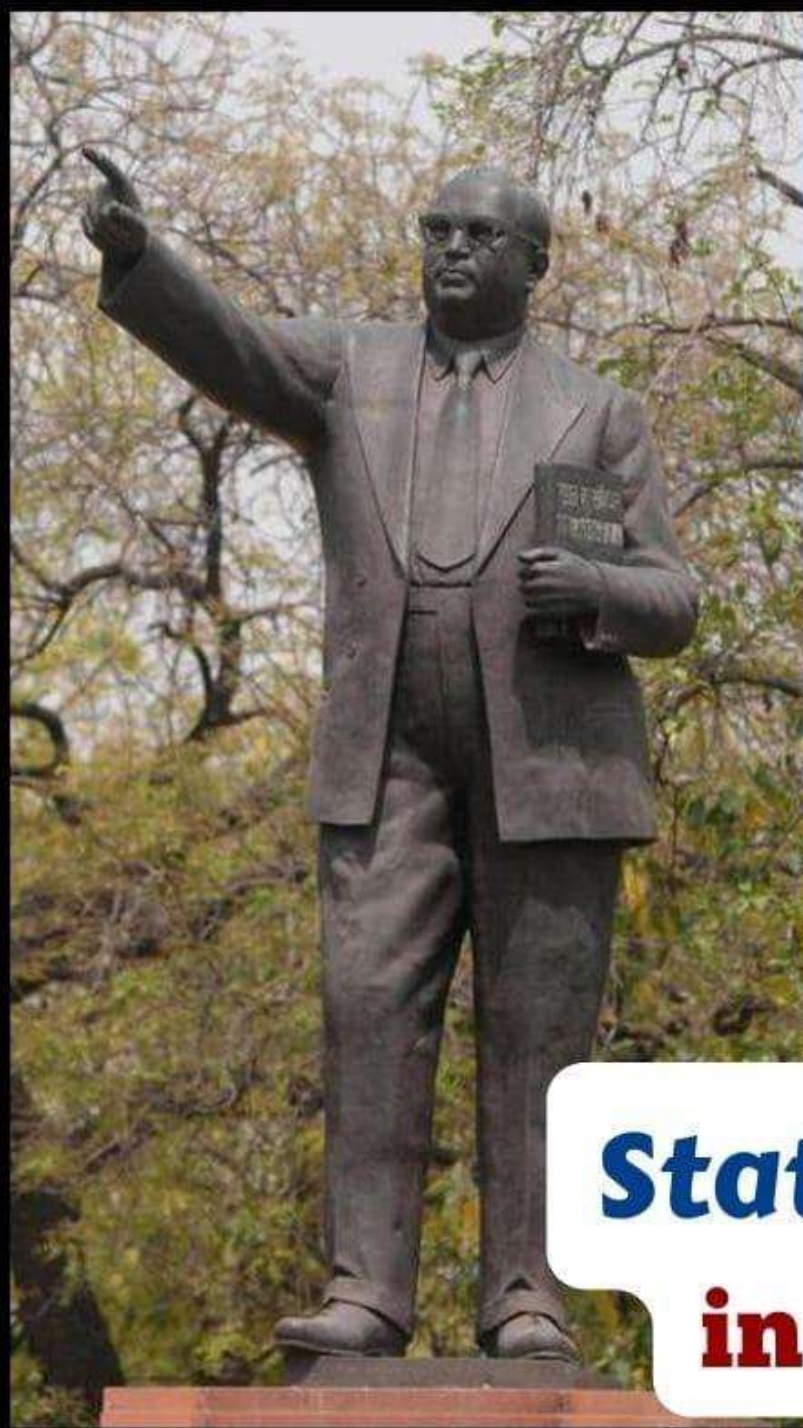
Consider the following statements about Lt. Gen. Susan Coyle's appointment and Australia's defence: लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सुजन कोयल की नियुक्ति और ऑस्ट्रेलिया की रक्षा के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Lt. Gen. Susan Coyle will be the first woman to lead the Australian Army and the first woman to lead any service branch of the Australian military. लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सुजन कोयल ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सेना का नेतृत्व करने वाली पहली महिला और ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सेना की किसी भी सेवा शाखा का नेतृत्व करने वाली पहली महिला होंगी।
2. Women currently make up approximately 30% of the Australian Defence Force. महिलाएं वर्तमान में ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा बल का लगभग 30% हिस्सा बनाती हैं।
3. Australia is a member of both the Quad and the AUKUS security arrangements. ऑस्ट्रेलिया Quad और AUKUS दोनों सुरक्षा व्यवस्थाओं का सदस्य है।
4. A class-action lawsuit has been filed against the Australian Defence Force alleging failure to protect female officers from systematic sexual harassment. ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा बल के विरुद्ध एक क्लास-एक्शन मुकदमा दायर किया गया है जिसमें महिला अधिकारियों को व्यवस्थित यौन उत्पीड़न से सुरक्षित करने में विफलता का आरोप है।

Which of the statements given above are correct?



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti



धम्म भारत

Statue of Dr. Ambedkar
in Parliament of India

Topic	English	हिंदी
Full Name	Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar	डॉ. भीमराव रामजी आंबेडकर
Birth	14 April 1891, Mhow (MP)	14 अप्रैल 1891, महु (मध्य प्रदेश)
Death	6 December 1956	6 दिसंबर 1956
Popular Name	Father of Indian Constitution	भारतीय संविधान के जनक
Social Identity	Dalit leader, reformer	दलित नेता एवं समाज सुधारक

🎓 2. Education / शिक्षा

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Schooling	Satara & Bombay	सतारा और बॉम्बे
Graduation	Elphinstone College	एलफिंस्टन कॉलेज
Abroad Study	Columbia University, London School of Economics	कोलंबिया यूनिवर्सिटी, लंदन स्कूल ऑफ इकोनॉमिक्स
Degrees	PhD, DSc, Bar-at-Law	पीएचडी, डीएससी, बार-एट-लॉ

3. Contributions / योगदान

Field	English	हिंदी
Constitution	Chairman of Drafting Committee	संविधान मसौदा समिति के अध्यक्ष
Social Reform	Against caste system, untouchability	जाति प्रथा और अस्पृश्यता के विरोधी
Women Rights	Supported equal rights, maternity benefits	महिला अधिकारों के समर्थक
Labour Welfare	8-hour work day, labour laws	8 घंटे कार्य दिवस, श्रम कानून
Economic Thought	Focus on industrialization, state socialism	औद्योगिकीकरण और राज्य समाजवाद

4. Important Movements / प्रमुख आंदोलन

Movement	English	हिंदी
Mahad Satyagraha (1927)	Right to water access	महाड़ सत्याग्रह – जल अधिकार
Kalaram Temple Entry	Entry of Dalits in temples	मंदिर प्रवेश आंदोलन
Poona Pact (1932)	Agreement with Gandhi on reservation	पूना पैक्ट
Depressed Classes Movement	Upliftment of Dalits	दलित उत्थान आंदोलन

🏛️ 5. Political Career / राजनीतिक जीवन

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Party	Independent Labour Party	इंडिपेंडेंट लेबर पार्टी
Role	First Law Minister of India	भारत के प्रथम कानून मंत्री
Resignation	Over Hindu Code Bill issue	हिंदू कोड बिल पर इस्तीफा

📖 6. Important Books / प्रमुख पुस्तकें

Book	English	हिंदी
Annihilation of Caste	Critique of caste system	जाति उन्मूलन
The Buddha and His Dhamma	Buddhism philosophy	बुद्ध और उनका धम्म
Who Were the Shudras?	Study of caste origin	शूद्र कौन थे?

🌀 7. Religion & Conversion / धर्म परिवर्तन

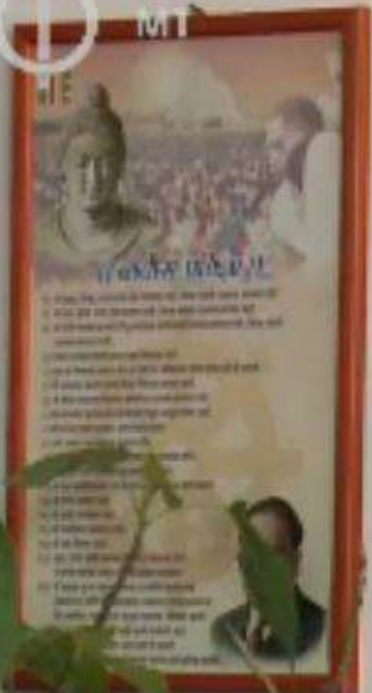
Aspect	English	हिंदी
Conversion	Adopted Buddhism in 1956	1956 में बौद्ध धर्म अपनाया
Reason	Equality, rejection of caste	समानता और जाति विरोध
Followers	Lakhs converted with him	लाखों अनुयायी साथ जुड़े

8. Awards & Recognition / सम्मान

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Bharat Ratna	Awarded in 1990	1990 में भारत रत्न
Ambedkar Jayanti	Celebrated on 14 April	14 अप्रैल को मनाया जाता है

9. Key Constitutional Contributions / संवैधानिक योगदान

Feature	English	हिंदी
Fundamental Rights	Equality, liberty, justice	समानता, स्वतंत्रता, न्याय
Directive Principles	Welfare state concept	कल्याणकारी राज्य
Reservation	For SC/ST	अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति आरक्षण
Federalism	Centre-State balance	संघीय व्यवस्था



LELEPLEZTÉK ÁMBÉDKAR, EGYKORI INDIAI MINISZTER SZOBRÁT SAJÓKAZÁN

10°C 
ZSOLNA

4. Ambedkar School in Hungary / हंगरी में आंबेडकर स्कूल

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Location	Miskolc city	मिस्कोल्क शहर
Purpose	Education + empowerment of Roma children	शिक्षा व सशक्तिकरण
Curriculum	Roma history + Ambedkar philosophy	रोमा इतिहास + आंबेडकर दर्शन
Impact	Higher education & leadership growth	उच्च शिक्षा व नेतृत्व विकास

(HINDI)

4K

A FILM BY JABBAR PATEL

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Sawan Barwal Breaks India's Oldest Marathon Record



Aspect	English	हिंदी
Event	Indian marathon record broken	भारतीय मैराथन रिकॉर्ड टूटा
Athlete	Sawan Barwal	सावन बरवाल
Achievement	Broke India's oldest marathon record	भारत का सबसे पुराना मैराथन रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा
Venue	Rotterdam Marathon 2026	रॉटरडैम मैराथन 2026
Significance	Historic milestone in Indian athletics	भारतीय एथलेटिक्स में ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि

2. Marathon Basics / मैराथन तथ्य

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Distance	42.195 km	42.195 किमी
Governing Body	World Athletics	वर्ल्ड एथलेटिक्स
Category	Endurance sport	सहनशक्ति खेल
Global Events	Olympics, World Championships	ओलंपिक, विश्व चैंपियनशिप

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Previous Record Holder	Shivnath Singh (1978)	शिवनाथ सिंह (1978)
Record Age	~47 years old	लगभग 47 वर्ष पुराना
New Record	Set by Sawan Barwal	सावन बरवाल द्वारा नया रिकॉर्ड
Race Rank	Finished ~20th	लगभग 20वां स्थान

⚠️ 4. Race Challenges / दौड़ की चुनौतियां

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Weather	Strong cold winds	तेज ठंडी हवाएं
Strategy	Water poured to cool body	शरीर ठंडा रखने के लिए पानी डाला
Problem	Sudden chilling effect	अचानक ठंड का प्रभाव
Incident	Fell twice near finish	फिनिश से पहले दो बार गिरे
Recovery	Completed race despite blackout	बेहोशी के बावजूद दौड़ पूरी की



3 8 1 5 4 ' 1 9 . 2 " N

7 7 ' 0 2 ' 1 6 . 8 " W

BREAKING 2

3 8 1 5 4 ' 1 9 . 2 " N

7 7 ' 0 2 ' 1 6 . 8 " W



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



2. Marathon World Record (Men) / विश्व रिकॉर्ड (पुरुष)

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Record Holder	Kelvin Kiptum (Kenya)	केल्विन किप्टुम (केन्या)
Time	2:00:35	2:00:35
Event	Chicago Marathon 2023	शिकागो मैराथन 2023
Note	Fastest official marathon ever	अब तक का सबसे तेज मैराथन

3. Top 5 Marathon Performances (Men) / शीर्ष 5 मैराथन प्रदर्शन

Rank	Athlete	Country	Time	Event	
1	Kelvin Kiptum	Kenya	2:00:35	Chicago 2023	
2	Eliud Kipchoge	Kenya	2:01:09	Berlin 2022	
3	Kenenisa Bekele	Ethiopia	2:01:41	Berlin 2019	
4	Sisay Lemma	Ethiopia	2:01:48	Valencia 2023	
5	Eliud Kipchoge	Kenya	2:01:39	Berlin 2018	

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Because of personal reasons, Asha started playback singing at the age of 10. What was her first Hindi song recorded for 'Chunariya' in 1948? **Ans: Saawan Aaya**

2. Name the music director who helped Asha build a distinct identity because of his reluctance to work with her sister Lata in the 1950s and 1960s? **Ans: O.P. Nayyar.**

3. In 2011, Asha was acknowledged by Guinness World Records as the most recorded artist in music history with how many songs in more than how many languages? **Ans: 11,000 songs in more than 20 languages.**

4. In 1997, Asha became the first Indian singer to get a Grammy nomination for 'Legacy - 16th-18th Century Music from India', a

collaborative classical album recorded with which famous Sarod great? **Ans: Ali Akbar Khan.**

5. Name the two Asha songs sampled by Black Eyed Peas for their 2005 hit "Don't Phunk With My Heart". **Ans: 'Yeh Mera Dil' and 'Ae Naujawan Hai Sab Kuchh Yahan'.**

6. She debuted as a lead actress in 2013 at the age of 79 for a Marathi film. Name the flick. **Ans: 'Mai'**

7. For singing in which Rekha-starrer did Asha win her maiden National film award and in which year did she get the Dadasaheb Phalke Award? **Ans: 'Umrao Jaan' and 2000**

Visual: Name the song that Asha and the ace Australian cricketer Brett Lee crooned together. **Ans: 'You're the One for Me'**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamanjit Bisla | Dodo Jayaditya | Dil Bahadur Airee | Vinil Mehta

A quiz on International Day of Human Space Flight, observe

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION #1

On that date, 65 years ago, Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. What was the name of his spacecraft and what Russian word meaning 'Let's go!' or 'We're off!' did he utter that has become a tradition among Russian spacepersons.

QUESTION #2

What space first was achieved by cosmonaut Alexei Leonov on March 18, 1965?

QUESTION #3

Name the cosmonaut who holds the record for the longest single,

uninterrupted human spaceflight at 437 days and 18 hours.

QUESTION #4

What is the 'Karman Line' (named after Hungarian-American engineer and physicist Theodore von Karman) in the context of space exploration?

QUESTION #5

Going to space once is a big achievement. Jerry Ross and Franklin Chang-Diaz hold the record for most spaceflights. How many?

QUESTION #6

Name the Chinese-built space station that is the only live space station apart from the ISS.



Visual question: Name the Indian Air Force officer seen with Rakesh Sharma who served as the backup cosmonaut in 1984? FILE PHOTO

तैयारी सब karte hai पर **Select** कुछ ही होते है !

What is the Right Strategy ?

RAS UNLOCKED
FREE SEMINAR

19th April
11:00 AM

Specially for *English*
Medium Aspirants



RASonly Near Riddhi-Siddhi, Jaipur



9057143412

Word of the day

Nadir:

an extreme state of adversity; the lowest point of anything

Synonyms: hardship, rock bottom

Usage: *The relationship between the two countries reached a nadir in the 1920s*

Pronunciation: /'neɪdɪər/

International Phonetic Alphabet: newsth.live/nadir

Word of the day

Innocuous:

not injurious to physical or mental health

Synonyms: unobjectionable, innocent, harmless

Usage: *An innocuous present would be a gift basket of fruit and snacks.*

Pronunciation: /ɪ'nɒkjʊəs/

International Phonetic Alphabet: newsth.live/innocuous



Thank you 😊