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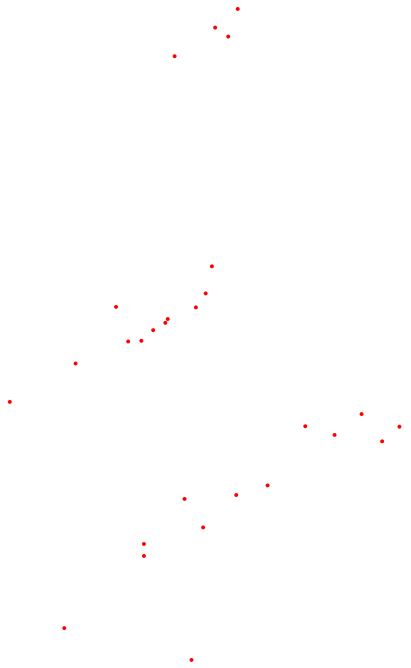


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10 MCQ QUIZ

- “You cannot control the behavior of others, but you can always choose how you respond to it.”

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Vote counting today; closed-door meets on

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TREATY OF TRANSIT
India, Nepal alter pact to enable rail logistics

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Should we avoid public expression of devotion?
Experts discuss legality, disruption of civic life

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BATTLE AT EREN
India-South Africa first test from today

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INSIDE



HC upholds order against ex-CM in POCSO case

BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court on Thursday upheld a trial court order that took fresh evidence of offences against former Chief Minister and BJP leader D.K. Shivraj in a case of alleged sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl in 2014. > PAGE 2

Aim of probe is to find cause of Air India crash SC

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday clarified that the ongoing investigation into the Air India flight 113 crash at the Ahmedabad airport was not meant to "apportion blame" but to unearth "what" caused the accident, and to safeguard against future tragedies. > PAGE 3

Centre revokes order on yarn, polyester fibre

DISBURSMENT
The Union government has revoked the Quality Control Order (QCO) on polyester fibre and yarn, and PVA and MVA, which was introduced two years ago, bringing relief to the textile industry. They are key raw materials for man-made fibre sector. > PAGE 12

Fresh draft Seeds Bill introduced by Union govt.

NEW DELHI
After two failed attempts by both the UPA and NDA governments in 2008 and 2019 to pass a similar law, the Union government has brought yet another draft Seeds Bill here on Thursday. > PAGE 5

Pakistan grants immunity to President and Army Chief

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Parliament approved a sweeping constitutional amendment on Thursday granting lifetime immunity to the President as well as the current Army Chief, a move critics warned would erode democratic checks and judicial independence.

The 27th amendment, passed by a two-thirds majority, also consolidates military power under a new Chief of Defence Forces role and establishes a Federal Constitutional Court.

The changes grant Army Chief Asim Munir, promoted to field marshal after Pakistan's clash with India in May, command over the Army, Air Force and the Navy, the other top military brass will enjoy life-



Power push Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, and ex-PM Nawaz Sharif attend Parliament on Wednesday.

long protections. Under the amendment, any officer promoted to any rank in the armed forces, or in the Air Force, or in the Navy, the and other top military brass will enjoy life-

time oversight from the military's activities, it will also completely destroy the military hierarchy where all service chiefs were considered equal under the joint 'chief system,' he added.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 250 million people, has long struggled to balance civilian authority with the military's role in politics.

The amendment also shields President Asif Ali Zardari from any criminal prosecution, although that immunity will not apply if he or any other former President later holds another public office.

Corruption cases

Mr. Zardari has faced multiple graft cases, although proceedings were previously stayed. He signed the Bill into law following

India's carbon emission rise slower this year: report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

While global carbon emissions are expected to rise 35 billion tonnes, or by 1.1%, in 2025, the growth in India's emissions is expected to increase by 1.4%, according to the Global Carbon Project.

This is lower than in recent years - in 2024, emissions grew 4% than the previous year. The slower increase was partly due to a favourable monsoon that reduced cooling demand, as well as a "strong growth in renewable energy."

FULL REPORT ON
PAGE 6

Trump signs Bill to end the longest govt. closure ever

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed legislation ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, roughly two hours after the House of Representatives voted to restart disrupted federal assistance, pay hundreds of thousands of federal workers and revive a hobbled air-traffic control system.

The Republican-controlled chamber passed the package by a vote of 222-205, with Mr. Trump's support largely keeping the party together in the face of vehement opposition from House Democrats, who are angry that a long stand-off launched by their Senate colleagues failed to secure a deal to extend federal health insurance subsidies.

Mr. Trump's signature on the bill will bring federal workers idled by the 43-day shutdown back to their jobs starting as early as Thursday, although just Democrats at its core. "They have given lifetime immunity from criminal prosecution to the president and created a system that concentrates power in one military officer," he added.

The Senate initially passed the bill on Monday. Mr. Zardari took any criminal prosecution, although that immunity will not apply if he or any other former President later holds another public office.

tion shared between police teams in different states, with one Delhi police officer telling *The Hindu* that they had not been alerted about the movement of a "high profile suspect" by the J&K or Haryana police. "If we had been alerted that a suspect had gone missing from Faridkot, then we would have alerted all our check points, including the toll plaza," the officer said, pointing out that Nabh can be tracked through CCTV footage, using the same vehicle.

Meanwhile, the J&K Police said it has "intensified action against the terror networks" in north and south Kashmir. Raids continued against the members of Jamaat-e-Islami and families having relatives in Pakistan or Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. (With PTI inputs)

RELATED REPORTS ON
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Donald Trump

gets for spending as the Christmas shopping season moves into high gear.

Absence of data

It also means the restoration in coming days of the flow of data on the U.S. economy from key statistical agencies. The absence of data had left investors, policymakers and households largely in the dark about the health of the job market, the trajectory of inflation and the pace of consumer spending and economic growth overall.

The vote came eight days after Democrats won several high-profile elections that many in the party thought strengthened their odds of winning an extension of health insurance subsidies, which are due to expire at the end of the year. While the deal set up a December vote on those subsidies in the Senate, Speaker Mike Johnson has made no such promise in the House.

Despite the restrictions, neither party appears to have won a clear victory. A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday found that 50% of Americans blamed Republican for the shutdown, while 47% blamed Democrats.

Pakistan grants immunity to President and Army Chief

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Parliament approved a sweeping constitutional amendment on Thursday granting lifetime immunity to the President as well as the current Army Chief, a move critics warned would erode democratic checks and judicial independence.

The 27th amendment, passed by a two-thirds majority, also consolidates military power under a new Chief of Defence Forces role and establishes a Federal Constitutional Court.

The changes grant Army Chief Asim Munir, promoted to field marshal after Pakistan's clash with India in May, command over the Army, Air Force and the Navy. He and other top military brass will enjoy life-



Power point: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, and ex-PM Nawaz Sharif attend Parliament in Islamabad on Wednesday. AFP

long protections.

Under the amendment, any officer promoted to field marshal, marshal of the Air Force, or admiral of the fleet will now retain rank and privileges for life, remain in uniform, and enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings.

Such protections were

previously only reserved for the head of state.

"This constitutional amendment will increase authoritarianism and whatever little semblance of democracy existed in this country will fade away," said Osama Malik, an Islamabad-based lawyer. "It will not only remove civi-

lian oversight from the military's activities, it will also completely destroy the military hierarchy where all service chiefs were considered equal under the joint chief system," he added.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 250 million people, has long struggled to balance civilian authority with the military's role in politics. The amendment also shields President Asif Ali Zardari from any criminal prosecution, although that immunity will not apply if he or any other former President later holds another public office.

Corruption cases

Mr. Zardari has faced multiple graft cases, although proceedings were previously stayed. He signed the Bill into law following

the parliamentary vote.

Opposition parties, led by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), tore up copies of the Bill in both chambers over the past few days. The amendment also bars courts from questioning any constitutional change "on any ground whatsoever". The Bill also creates a Federal Constitutional Court with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional cases, stripping the Supreme Court of its original powers and transferring pending petitions.

Another clause empowers the President to transfer High Court judges on the recommendation of the Judicial Commission, a change critics say could be used to sideline dissenting judges.

"This is the final nail in the coffin of an independent judiciary and a func-

tioning democracy," PTI spokesperson Sayed Zulfiqar Bukhari said. PTI secretary general Salman Akram Raja described the amendment as "deeply undemocratic at its core".

"They have given lifetime immunity from criminal prosecution to the president and created a system that concentrates power in one military office," he added.

The Senate initially passed the Bill on Monday. It was then tweaked and passed by the National Assembly, the lower House, two days later before returning to the upper House for final approval.

"Sixty-four members are in favour of the passage of the Bill and four members are against, so the motion is carried," Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Thursday.

1. Key Highlights of the Amendment

1.1. 27th Constitutional Amendment

- Granted **lifetime immunity** to:
 - Current **President Asif Ali Zardari**
 - Current **Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir**
 - Officers promoted to **Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force, Admiral of the Fleet**
- Passed by a **two-thirds majority** in Parliament.

1.2. Major Provisions

- **Lifetime immunity from criminal prosecution** for top military brass.
- Creation of a **Federal Constitutional Court** with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional cases.
 - Limits role of Pakistan's **Supreme Court**.
- Amendment bars courts from questioning **any constitutional change**.
- President empowered to **transfer High Court judges** on Judicial Commission recommendation.
- Strengthens military's standing—new post: **Chief of Defence Forces**.

2. Background & Political Context

2.1. Weak Civilian Authority

- Pakistan has a history of:
 - **Military coups** (1958, 1977, 1999)
 - Heavy military involvement in governance and foreign policy.
- This amendment is seen as **further reducing civilian oversight**.

2.2. Opposition Reaction

- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) tore copies of the Bill.
- Critics call it:
 - **"Deeply undemocratic"**
 - **"Final nail in the coffin of an independent judiciary."**

2.3. Corruption Cases Context

- President Zardari previously faced several graft cases (e.g., **Swiss accounts case, fake bank accounts case**).
 - Immunity applies **only while in office**; loses immunity if he holds another public role later.
-

4.1. Historical Context

- Pakistan has been under military rule for **33+ years** since 1947.
- Key military rulers:
 - Gen. Ayub Khan
 - Gen. Zia-ul-Haq
 - Gen. Pervez Musharraf
- Pakistan's 18th Amendment (2010) earlier attempted to **curb military power** and strengthen provinces.

4.2. Geopolitical Context

- Pakistan is a **nuclear-armed nation** (since 1998).
- Tense civil-military relations impact:
 - India–Pakistan relations
 - Afghanistan politics
 - US–Pakistan diplomatic ties

4.3. Economic Context

- Pakistan is undergoing **severe economic crisis**:
 - Inflation above **25%**
 - IMF bailout dependency
 - Weak investment climate
- Political instability threatens economic recovery.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment:

1. It grants lifetime immunity from criminal prosecution to the President and the current Army Chief.
2. It establishes a new Federal Constitutional Court with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional matters.
3. It empowers the Supreme Court of Pakistan to review any constitutional amendment passed by Parliament.
4. It allows the President to transfer High Court judges on the recommendation of the Judicial Commission.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Trump signs Bill to end the longest govt. closure ever

Reuters

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed legislation ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, roughly two hours after the House of Representatives voted to restart disrupted food assistance, pay hundreds of thousands of federal workers and revive a hobbled air-traffic control system.

The Republican-controlled chamber passed the package by a vote of 222-209, with Mr. Trump's support largely keeping his party together in the face of vehement opposition from House Democrats, who are angry that a long stand-off launched by their Senate colleagues failed to secure a deal to extend federal health insurance subsidies.

Mr. Trump's signature on the Bill will bring federal workers idled by the 43-day shutdown back to their jobs starting as early as Thursday, although just how quickly full government services and operations will resume is unclear.

It would extend funding through January 30, leaving the federal government on a path to keep adding about \$1.8 trillion a year to its \$38 trillion in debt.

The Bill cleared the Senate earlier in the week.

The shutdown's end offers some hope that services crucial to air travel in particular would have some time to recover with the critical Thanksgiving holiday travel wave just two weeks away. Restoration of food aid to millions of families may also make room in household bud-



Donald Trump

gets for spending as the Christmas shopping season moves into high gear.

Absence of data

It also means the restoration in coming days of the flow of data on the U.S. economy from key statistical agencies. The absence of data had left investors, policymakers and households largely in the dark about the health of the job market, the trajectory of inflation and the pace of consumer spending and economic growth overall.

The vote came eight days after Democrats won several high-profile elections that many in the party thought strengthened their odds of winning an extension of health insurance subsidies, which are due to expire at the end of the year. While the deal sets up a December vote on those subsidies in the Senate, Speaker Mike Johnson has made no such promise in the House.

Despite the recriminations, neither party appears to have won a clear victory. A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday found that 50% of Americans blamed Republicans for the shutdown, while 47% blamed Democrats.

1. Background

- The U.S. faced the **longest government shutdown** in its history: **43 days**.
 - Triggered by a political standoff over **federal health insurance subsidies**.
 - Key federal agencies became non-functional; 100,000s of workers were furloughed or worked without pay.
-

2. Key Developments

2.1. Bill Signing

- President **Donald Trump** signed legislation to reopen the federal government.
- The move came **2 hours after** the House of Representatives voted to restart key services.

2.2. Voting Details

- House passed the bill **222–209**.
 - Republicans supported Trump despite internal opposition.
 - Senate had passed the bill earlier.
-

3.2. Public Services Affected

- Disruption in:
 - Food assistance programmes
 - Federal aviation operations
 - Air traffic control systems
 - National parks
 - Federal courts
 - Immigration courts

3.3. Economic & Market Impact

- Lack of official economic data for weeks:
 - No updates on unemployment figures
 - No inflation data
 - No federal spending reports
- Caused uncertainty for:
 - Investors
 - Policymakers
 - Business sector

-
- **Consider the following statements regarding the U.S. federal government shutdown:**
 - A U.S. government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass a federal budget or temporary funding bill.
 - Essential services such as defence, policing, and emergency services also stop during shutdowns.
 - The 2018–19 shutdown was the longest in U.S. history before the one discussed in the article.
 - Shutdowns impact the release of economic data used by investors and policymakers.
 - **Which of the above statements are correct?**
 - (a) 1 and 4 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

IN BRIEF



Eight killed, 14 injured in truck accident in Pune

At least eight persons were killed, and 14 others injured in an accident near Navale Bridge in Pune district in Maharashtra on Thursday. According to preliminary information from the Pune Police, 20 to 25 vehicles rammed one another in a chain collision around 5.30 p.m. A container truck is said to have set off the collision following which several vehicles caught fire. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for the families of those who died in the accident. "I pay my heartfelt tribute to the people who lost their lives in this incident. We share the grief of their families," Mr. Fadnis said.

CISCE Class 10 exam from Feb. 17, Class 12 from Feb. 12

The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) board exams for Class 10 will begin from February 17 and those for Class 12 from February 12, officials said on Thursday. About 2.6 lakh candidates will appear for the CBSE (Class 10) examination while about 1.5 lakh candidates are set to take the ISC (Class 12) examination this year. "This year's examination schedule has been carefully crafted to ensure a balanced academic calendar, allowing candidates a reasonable proportion of time between major subjects..." said Joseph Emmanuel, chief executive and secretary, CISCE.

Air India crash investigation aimed at finding cause, not apportioning blame, says SC

Rishabhadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday clarified that the ongoing investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the Air India Flight 173 crash at the Ahmedabad airport, killing 12 crew members and 228 passengers on June 12, was meant to "apportion blame" but to unearth "what" caused the crash, and to safeguard against future tragedies.

Pushkarraj Sabharwal,



The debris of the Air India crash site on June 12, 2025, in Ahmedabad.

Pushkarraj Sabharwal,

India's carbon emission rise slower this year, says report

In 2024, the country's emissions grew by 4%, but a favourable monsoon, which cut demand for cooling, and a growth in renewable energy use, limited the rise to 1.4%, says Global Carbon Project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's 2025 carbon emissions have increased slowly compared to last year. While global carbon emissions are expected to rise to 38 billion tonnes, or by 1.7%, this year, the growth in India's emissions is expected to increase by 1.4%, according to the Global Carbon Project, an authoritative tracker of fossil fuel emissions. This is lower than in recent years — in 2024, India's emissions grew 4% over the previous year.

The slower increase was partly due to a favourable monsoon that reduced cooling demand, as well as a "strong growth in renewable energy", leading to lower coal use.

Global emission trends China's emissions in 2025 are projected to increase by 0.4% — also a slower growth than in recent years. This was due to a "moderate growth in energy consumption combined with an extraordinary growth in renewable energy".



Keeping track India is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide at 8.2 billion tonnes annually. (14) (15)

Emissions are projected to grow the United States (+1.0%) and the European Union (+1.4%) in 2025. Overall, India is the third largest emitter of carbon at 8.2 billion tonnes annually (2024), led by the U.S. (4.9 billion tonnes) and China (12 billion tonnes). India's per capita emission is 2.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the second lowest among 20 of the largest economies globally. Coal is the major fuel type contributing to India's emissions. The projected rise in global fossil CO2 emissions in 2025 is driven by all fuel types: coal (+0.8%), oil (+1%), natural gas (+0.3%), and nuclear (+0.3%). Over the 2015-2024 period, emissions from permanent land and ocean sinks — a clear signal from Planet Earth that we need to dramatically reduce emissions —

The latest numbers come even as world leaders are gathered in Belem, Brazil, to discuss progress in transitioning away from fossil fuel use while also reducing how to pay for the costs of bolstering defence.

Now, even the policy may have to be revisited. You could start a pilot pro-

bon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C is "virtually essential".

The remaining budget for 1.5°C is 170 billion tonnes of CO2, equivalent to four years at the 2023 emission rate. "With CO2 emissions still increasing, keeping global warming below 1.5°C is no longer plausible," said Professor Pierre Friedling, director of the Global Systems Institute, who led the study. "The remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C, 170 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, will be gone before 2030 at current emission rate. We estimate that climate change is now reducing the combined land and ocean sinks — a clear signal from Planet Earth that we need to dramatically reduce emissions."

The latest numbers come even as world leaders are gathered in Belem, Brazil, to discuss progress in transitioning away from fossil fuel use while also reducing how to pay for the costs of bolstering defence.

Now, even the policy may have to be revisited. You could start a pilot pro-

SC wants govt. to promote EVs amid high air pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid worsening air pollution in the national capital, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed that it may be high time to revisit the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 to promote electric vehicles and even launch a pilot project in metropolitan cities.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, advocate Prashant Bhushan, for NGO, Centre for Public Interest Litigation, urged that the government ought to give incentives to encourage consumers to shift to electric-powered vehicles. He pointed out that an electric vehicle was cleaner than one run on fossil fuel. He said the government must lead the way by transitioning entirely to electric vehicles.

Attorney General R. Venkataraman, for the Centre, said a complete shift to electric vehicles was a major policy decision. Justice Kant said five years have gone by since NEMMP 2020.

Now, even the policy may have to be revisited. You could start a pilot pro-



The court said that it is high time to revisit the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.

ject in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Madras (Chennai) or Bengaluru," Justice Kant remarked. Being the case after four weeks.

The petitioner NGO had sought the timely implementation of the Electric Vehicle Policy and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles India scheme.

In a related development, Supreme Court judge Justice P.S. Narasimha, heading another Bench on Thursday, asked lawyers to appear virtually in court. Justice Narasimha advised lawyers to take into consideration the worsening pollution in the national capital and not appear physically in court.

Unions slam labour policy for ignoring 'ground realities'

A.M. Iyengar
NEW DELHI

The Central Trade Unions (CTUs) of the country, except — the Rashtriya Karmachari Sangh (RKS) — have slammed the draft labour policy of the Union government. In a tripartite meeting chaired by Union Labour Minister Manoj Kumar Sinha here on Thursday, 10 CTUs and various federations said that the new labour policy appeared to be less a roadmap for worker empowerment, and more an ideological project to re-define labour, not a right but as a "sacred duty".

The RKS's representatives said it appeared to be a draft policy. "Through the policy claims to uphold dignity, equality, and inclusion, its framework moves towards centralisation of authority, erosion of State powers, and moralisation of labour instead of 'reviving workers' rights. It stated mission does not address the ground realities faced by the toiling masses. By invoking ancient, caste-based hierarchies as moral precedents and by re-branding unimplemented labour codes as a new vision, the policy plans to turn back the clock on more than a century of workers' struggles for justice, fair wages, and social protection," the 10 CTUs said, urging the Centre to immediately convene the National Labour Conference to discuss the policy.

Labour is the cornerstone of the Constitution, but the draft policy reduces the authority of State governments, CTUs said.

SC reserves verdict on plea seeking damages for deaths 'linked' to COVID vaccines

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved for orders on a petition seeking compensation for "After Effects From Immunisation" (AEFI) deaths allegedly caused by COVID vaccination.

A Bench of Justices Justice Narasimha and Justice Mishra heard the writ petition filed by Rachna Ganguli and Varnika Choudhary, who alleged their daughters died due to adverse effects of COVID vaccination.

The court also considered a separate petition filed by the Centre against a Kerala High Court order to devise a policy to identify and compensate for AEFI deaths related to the vaccination.

Over 1,000 AEFI-linked deaths have been reported

vaccination and died. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for an intervenor, supported the plea for an independent probe into AEFI cases.

The Bench, asked Mr. Gopalakrishnan, for the Centre, to state the source of his data showing the deaths were AEFI-related.

Over 1,300 AEFI-linked deaths have been reported in the country, Mr. Gopalakrishnan said.

In the country, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, said the vaccine was forced upon the public, while the government version was that taking it was "voluntary".

Supraja K. S. Pillai, for the Centre, said the vaccine was institutionalised. He said Mr. Gonsalves said healthy people, like the petitioners' daughters, developed brain clots after the

TH CROSSWORD 14639
(set by Archan)

Across

9. Fruit cooked in wheat, say, is glutinous (7)
18. American keeps very quiet, in the manner of a Swedish town (7)
24. Gunshots in characteristic burst (7)
25. Option to include cold or frozen dessert (8, 3)
26. Restricted dance, recorded films (5)

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

18. Oppener, not out: together can handle score (3)
19. Vessel holding another is dusty (7)
20. Students receive help, those assembly down sick (10)
21. Assassin arrested again, in jail (5)
24. (Inconclusive after debate is regularly seen with a billionaire) (9)
25. Jewellery make gums get hard (7)
26. I belong elsewhere to leave (7)
27. Student wants to skip: external character (7)
28. Understanding home faculty (7)
- Down
1. (Inclined to associate emotion — equipment idiomatic (8)
2. Money Church raised is sweet (8)
3. Ptery's direction to keep books (4)
4. Pulse is fast, that at extremes (10)
5. Wife and runs called as (8)
6. Hiring a president: indicating support (14)
7. Goggles are often in missing sense (5)
8. TV programme on how to support Olympics, say (14)
10. Microscopic organism, not human: cryptic clue (14)
11. Old monster source: line rising over surrounding (10)
12. Game for an amusement arcade, only strings going all around (8)
13. Part of circuit designed to freeze, finally stuck (14)
14. Sun God is in 5 (6)
15. Caribbean island also gets the week (8)
24. Gunshots's criminal battle (8)
25. Starts now: one should have heard (3)

SUDOKU



Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★



Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★



FAITH

The last days of life

When Pareekshit learns that his days are numbered, he goes to the banks of the river Ganga, to meditate on Bhagavan. Many sages come to meet Pareekshit, including sage Sukra. Pareekshit asks Sukra how he should spend his last days, said Valmiki in a discourse. What mantras should be recited? Who should be meditated on? What are the things that should not be done? Pareekshit then later some friends, but he wants to know more.

Sukra tells Pareekshit that his queries about spirituality are excellent, because most people do not bother to ask these questions. People are so engrossed in their worldly lives, that they have no time to spare for such thoughts. Days are spent in making money and supporting the family, and nights are spent in sleep. While we witness the problems of the aged in our families, we think we are infallible. We never think that one day we too will age and encounter the same problems as our grandparents.

Sukra tells Pareekshit that one should think of Lord Narayana always, and think of him at the time of death too (one narayana smritih). Sukra says that he learnt Shri Bhagavad Gita from his father, sage Vyasa. Bhagavata is Brahma samashtam, he says, for it tells of the Supreme One. Pareekshit deserves to hear the Bhagavad Gita, says Sukra.

The sage tells Pareekshit about a dharmic king called Bharat, who was told that he had only a month of life left. At once, he gave up everything and meditated on Vishnu. As he meditated, he had just seven days left on earth. Sukra tells him that he must give up all attachments, and spend his time in dhyana, focusing on Lord Narayana.

India's carbon emission rise slower this year, says report

In 2024, the country's emissions grew by 4%, but a favourable monsoon, which cut demand for cooling, and a growth in renewable energy use, limited the rise to 1.4%, says Global Carbon Project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's 2025 carbon emissions have increased slowly compared to last year. While global carbon emissions are expected to rise to 38 billion tonnes, or by 1.1%, this year, the growth in India's emissions is expected to increase by 1.4%, according to the Global Carbon Project, an authoritative tracker of fossil fuel emissions. This is lower than in recent years – in 2024, India's emissions grew 4% than the previous year.

The slower increase was partly due to a favourable monsoon that reduced cooling demand, as well as a "strong growth in renewable energy", leading to lower coal use.

Global emission trends
China's emissions in 2025 are projected to increase by 0.4% – also a slower growth than in recent years. This was due to a "moderate growth in energy consumption combined with an extraordinary growth in renewable energy."



Keeping track: India is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide at 3.2 billion tonnes annually. FILE PHOTO

Emissions are projected to grow in the United States (+1.9%) and the European Union (0.4%) in 2025.

Overall, India is the third largest emitter of carbon at 3.2 billion tonnes annually (2024), led by the U.S. (4.9 billion tonnes) and China (12 billion tonnes). India's per capita emission is 2.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the second lowest among 20 of the largest economies globally. Coal is the major fuel type contributing to India's emissions.

The projected rise in global fossil CO2 emissions in 2025 is driven by all fuel

types: coal +0.8%, oil +1%, natural gas +1.3%. Over the 2015-2024 period, emissions from permanent deforestation remained high around 4 billion tonnes of CO2 per year, while permanent removals through reafforestation and forest regrowth offsets about half of the permanent deforestation emissions.

Total CO2 emissions – the sum of fossil and land-use change emissions – have grown more slowly in the past decade (0.3% per year), compared to the previous decade (1.9% per year). The remaining car-

bon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C is "virtually exhausted".

The remaining budget for 1.5°C is 170 billion tonnes of CO2, equivalent to four years at the 2025 emissions levels.

"With CO2 emissions still increasing, keeping global warming below 1.5°C is no longer plausible," said Professor Pierre Friedlingstein, of Exeter's Global Systems Institute, who led the study. "The remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C, 170 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, will be gone before 2030 at current emission rate. We estimate that climate change is now reducing the combined land and ocean sinks – a clear signal from Planet Earth that we need to dramatically reduce emissions."

The latest numbers come even as world leaders are gathered in Belem, Brazil, to attempt progress in transitioning away from fossil fuel use while also negotiating how to pay for the costs of bolstering defence against the effects of human-caused climate change already underway.

1. Key Finding (Global Carbon Project Report)

- India's carbon emissions in 2025 are expected to rise by **1.4%**, significantly **slower** than:
 - **2024 growth:** 4%
 - **Global emissions growth (2025):** Expected to reach **38 billion tonnes (Bt)**
-

2. Why Did India's Emission Growth Slow?

2.1 Favourable Monsoon

- Lower temperature due to good monsoon reduced electricity demand for **cooling (ACs/urban demand)**.

2.2 Strong Growth in Renewable Energy

- India added significant solar/wind capacity.
- This reduced dependence on fossil fuels.

2.3 Moderation in Energy Consumption Growth

- Industrial energy demand did not surge sharply.
- Fuel mix slightly shifted toward natural gas & renewables.

3. India's Emission Profile (2024 Data)

3.1 Ranking

- **3rd largest emitter globally:**
 - India: **3.2 billion tonnes CO₂**
 - U.S.: 4.9 Bt
 - China: 12 Bt

3.2 Per Capita Emissions

- India: **2.2 tonnes CO₂/person**
 - 2nd lowest among top 20 emitters.
 - Global average: ~4.7 tonnes.

3.3 Fuel Source Contribution (2025 forecast)

- Coal: **+0.8%**
- Oil: **+1%**
- Natural gas: **+1.3%**

3.4 Sectoral Drivers

- Power generation
- Steel/Cement
- Transport (oil-linked)

4. Forestry & Land Use Impact

4.1 Permanent Deforestation

- Emissions from permanent deforestation: **~4 billion tonnes/year (global)**.

4.2 Mitigation Effects

- **Reforestation + forest regrowth** remove:
 - ~50% of deforestation emissions.
 - Therefore net land-use emissions remain significant.
-

5. Global Carbon Budget & 1.5°C Target

- Remaining carbon budget for **1.5°C warming limit**:
 - Only **170 billion tonnes CO₂** left.
 - Equivalent to **~4 years** of global emissions at 2025 levels.
 - Report remarks:
 - Carbon budget is **"virtually exhausted."**
 - Keeping warming below 1.5°C now **"no longer plausible."**
-

A. India's Climate Goals (NDCs under Paris Agreement)

- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by:
 - **45% by 2030** (from 2005 level)
 - Achieve **50% cumulative installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources** by 2030.
 - Achieve **Net Zero by 2070** (declared by PM Modi at COP26).
-

B. Global Emission Facts

- China = largest emitter (31% of global emissions).
 - U.S. = 2nd largest.
 - India = 3rd largest but **very low per capita**.
-

C. Why India's Coal Emissions Remain High

- Coal still contributes **>70%** of electricity generation.
 - Cheapest reliable baseload source in India.
 - Rapid economic & industrial growth increases energy demand.
-

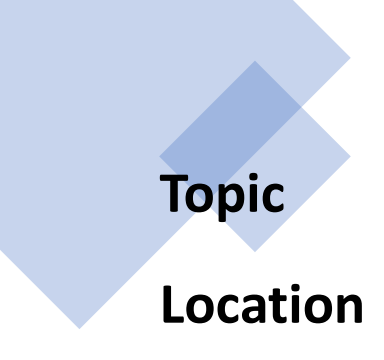
D. Concept: Carbon Budget

- Total permissible CO₂ emissions before crossing a temperature threshold.
- For 1.5°C limit → **170 Bt remaining**, nearly impossible with current trajectory.

- **Consider the following statements regarding India's carbon emissions:**
- India is the world's second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide in absolute terms.
- India's per capita carbon emissions are among the lowest in the top 20 emitting countries.
- A favourable monsoon in 2024 helped reduce overall emissions growth in India.
- The remaining global carbon budget for limiting warming to 1.5°C is estimated to be less than 10 years at current emission levels.
- **Which of the above statements are correct?**
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Nyoma Airbase





Topic

Location

Built By

Significance

Altitude

Distance from LAC

Purpose

Strategic Context

Details

Nyoma, Ladakh

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

India's **newest and highest fighter-capable airbase**

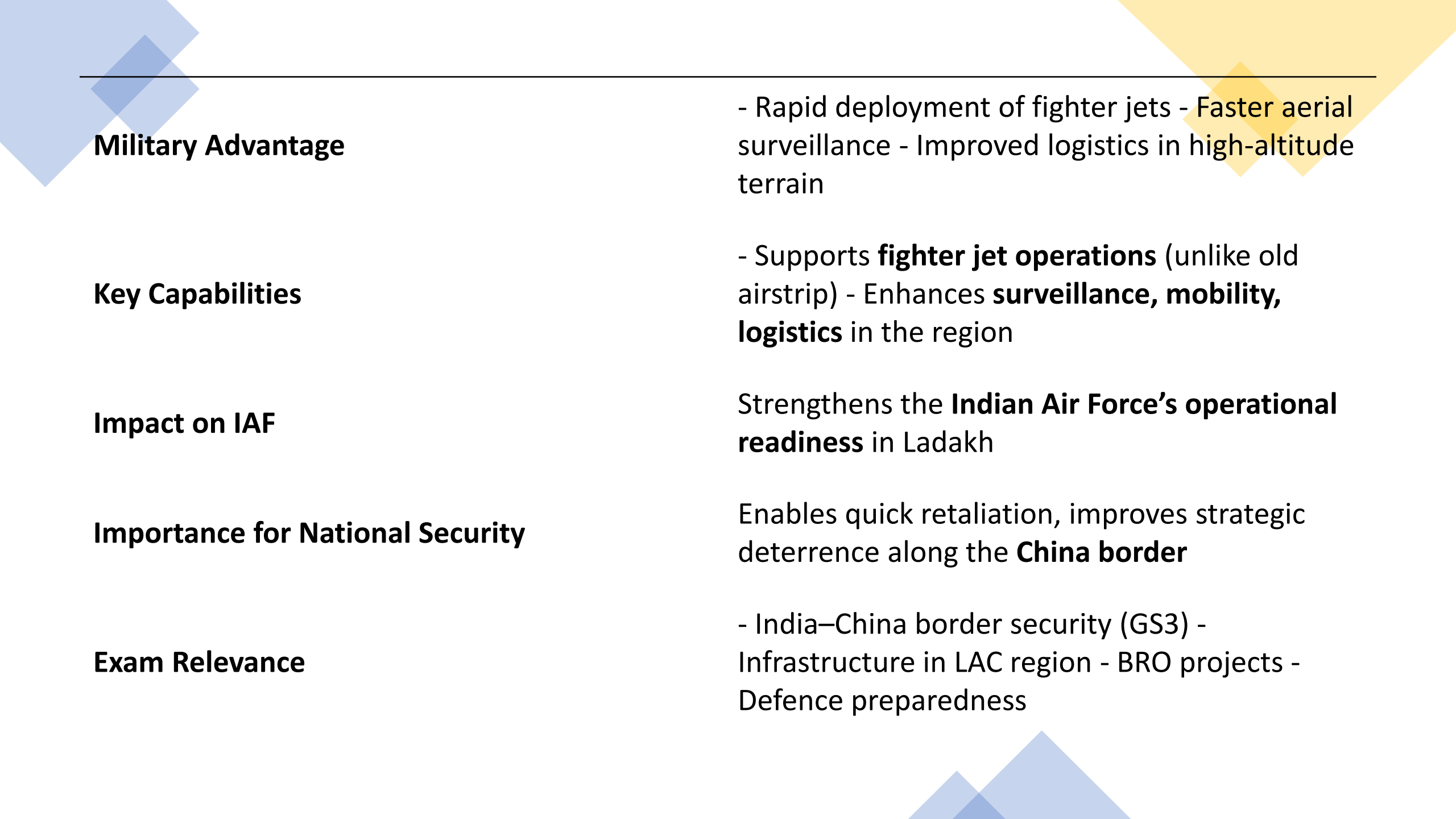
13,700 feet — among the **world's highest fighter-capable airbases**

Only **35 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** with China

Boost India's airpower & rapid-response capability along the **northern front**

Enhances India's forward posture after **PLA troop buildup (2020)** in eastern Ladakh





Military Advantage

- Rapid deployment of fighter jets - Faster aerial surveillance - Improved logistics in high-altitude terrain

Key Capabilities

- Supports **fighter jet operations** (unlike old airstrip) - Enhances **surveillance, mobility, logistics** in the region

Impact on IAF

Strengthens the **Indian Air Force's operational readiness** in Ladakh

Importance for National Security

Enables quick retaliation, improves strategic deterrence along the **China border**

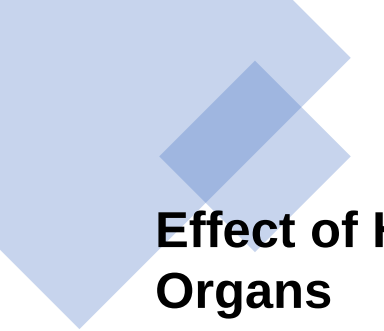
Exam Relevance

- India–China border security (GS3) - Infrastructure in LAC region - BRO projects - Defence preparedness

*World Diabetes
Day Highlights
Link Between High
Blood Sugar and
Heart Disease”:*



Topic	Key Points (For UPSC / State PCS / Health Current Affairs)
Day Observed	World Diabetes Day – 14 November (every year)
Purpose	To raise global awareness about diabetes, rising prevalence, and long-term health risks.
Global Concern	Millions live with undiagnosed / uncontrolled diabetes , increasing complication risks.
Main Focus of 2025 Article	Link between persistent high blood sugar (hyperglycaemia) and heart disease .
Diabetes Trend	>10% of adults are diabetic; projections show sharp increase in coming decades.
Reason for High Risk	Many individuals remain unaware of their condition → delayed diagnosis → severe complications.
What Causes Diabetes?	- Body fails to produce enough insulin OR - Body cannot use insulin effectively



Effect of High Blood Sugar on Organs

Affects: **eyes, nerves, kidneys, heart, blood vessels.**

Severe Complications

- Kidney failure - Nerve damage - Stroke - Vision loss - Cardiovascular disease

Why Monitoring is Important

Diabetes progresses **silently** — symptoms appear late, after damage has occurred.

Mechanism Linking Diabetes to Heart Disease

- High glucose damages **blood vessel walls** - Affects nerves controlling heart function - Causes arterial stiffness & narrowing
- Restricts blood flow → higher risk of **heart attack & stroke**

Public Health Concern

Rising diabetes burden across **all age groups**, increasing healthcare challenges.

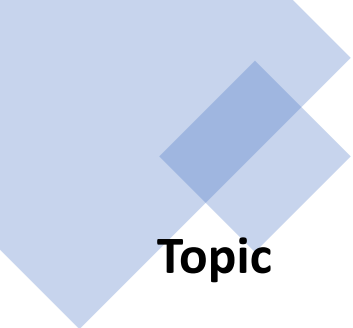
Exam Relevance

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - WHO health days - Public health policies - Lifestyle diseases in India



A photograph of a worker in a white hard hat and safety harness walking up a yellow metal staircase inside a large, green-painted industrial storage tank. The tank's interior wall is made of large, curved panels. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene. The text 'Singapore Introduces World's First Green Fuel Levy' is overlaid on the right side of the image in white font.

Singapore Introduces World's First Green Fuel Levy



Topic

Country

Global First

Implementation

Purpose of Levy

Why Needed?

Current SAF Share (2024)

Use of Collected Revenue

Key Points

Singapore

First country to introduce a **Green Fuel Levy** on departing air passengers

Starts **next year**

To fund **centralised purchase of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**

Aviation sector contributes **1.2% of global GHG emissions**

Only **0.3% of global jet fuel**; expensive & limited availability

To buy SAF at scale → reduce aviation emissions





Category

Definition

Feedstock Examples

Blend Compatibility

Emission Reduction

Infrastructure Requirement

Details

Alternative to conventional jet fuel made from **non-petroleum feedstock**

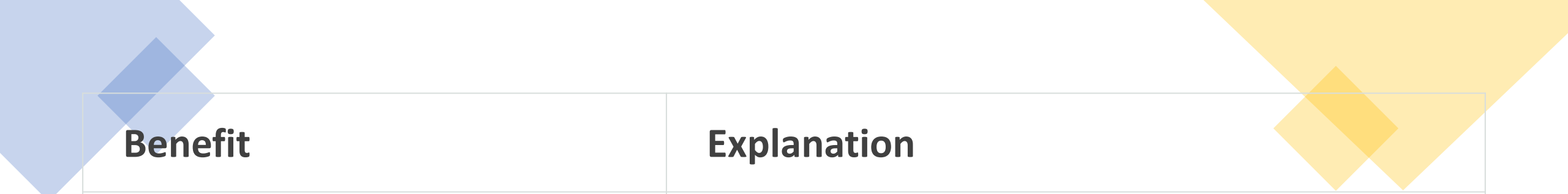
Agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, forestry residues, waste oils

Can be blended **10%–50%** with Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) without engine or infrastructure change

Can reduce GHG emissions by **up to 80%** (depending on feedstock & technology)

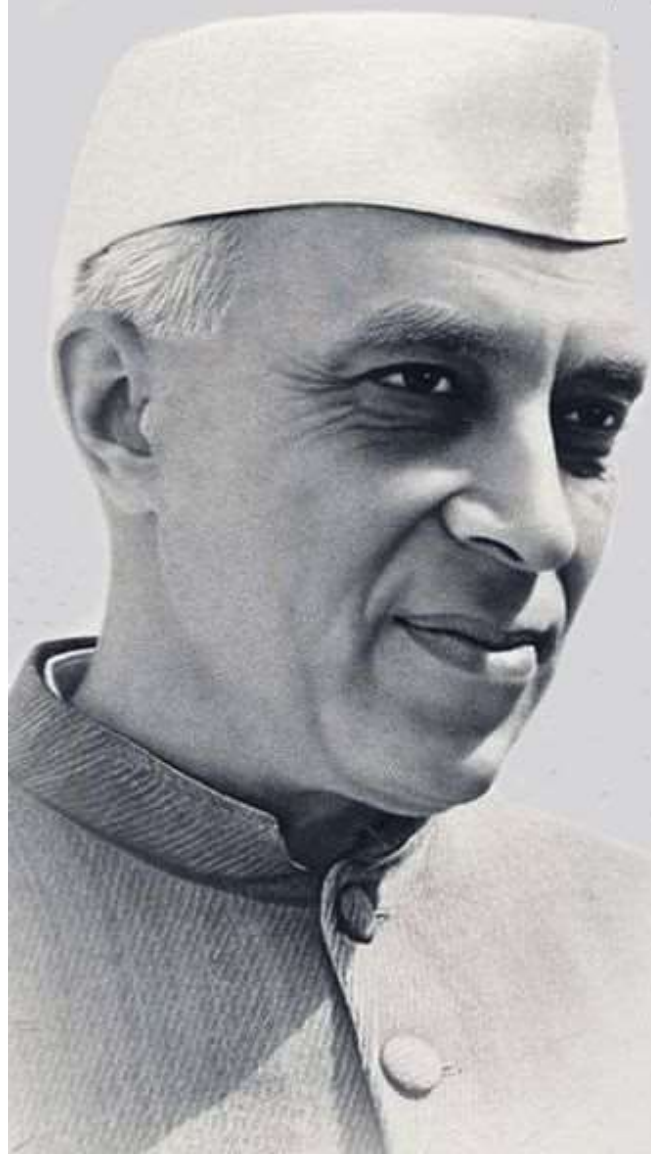
Fully compatible with existing aircraft engines & airport refuelling systems





Benefit	Explanation
Emission Reduction	Boosts adoption of SAF → major cut in aviation-related emissions
Cost Sharing	Helps reduce SAF cost by scaling up production & demand
Climate Leadership	Sets a global precedent for countries to adopt green aviation policies
Supports Net-Zero Goals	Aligns with global climate commitments under UNFCCC/ICAO





Remembering
the first prime minister of India

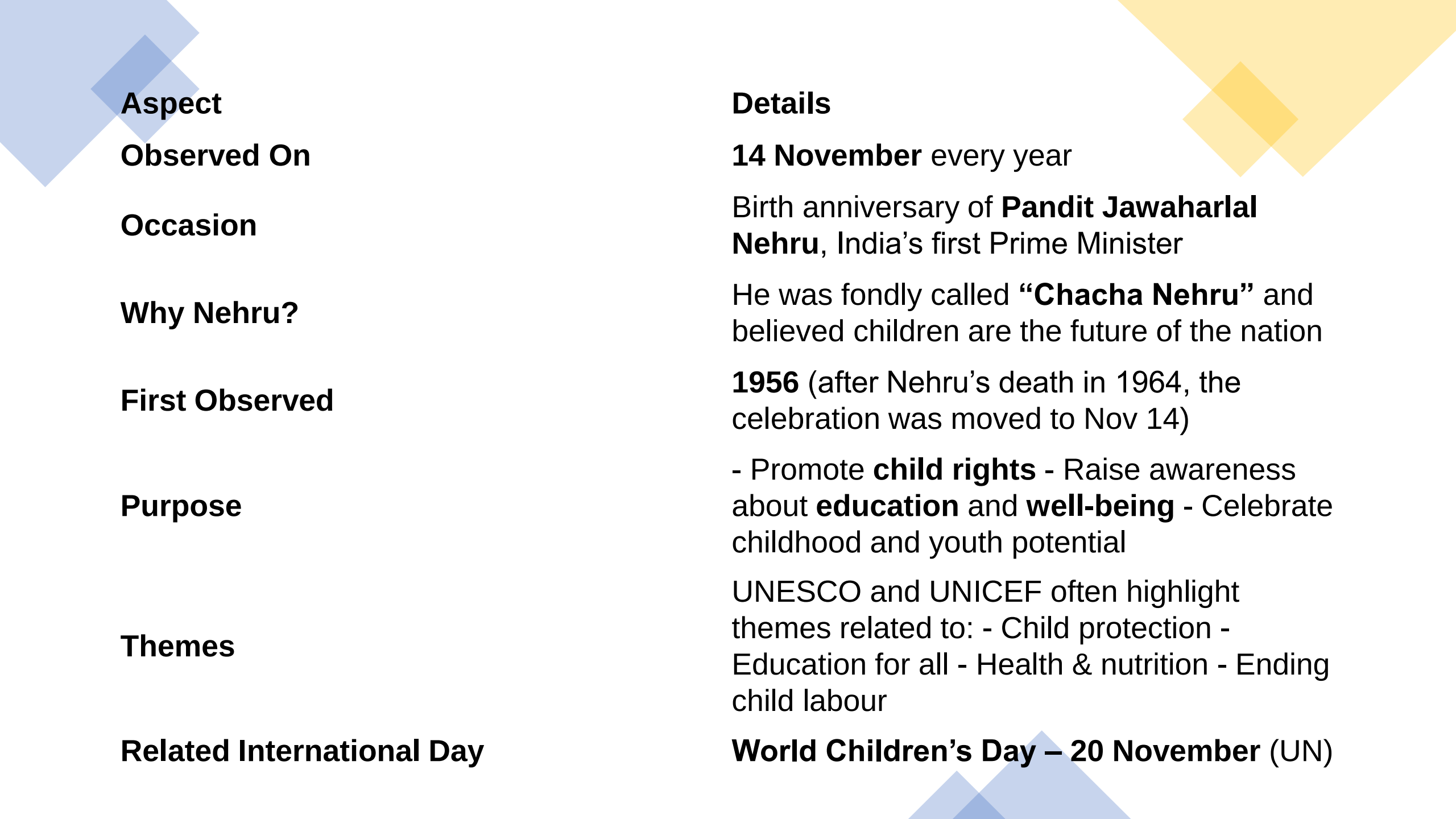
**PANDIT
JAWAHARLAL
NEHRU**

"The Children of today will make
the India of tomorrow"

& Wishing

**HAPPY
CHILDREN'S DAY**





Aspect

Observed On

Occasion

Why Nehru?

First Observed

Purpose

Themes

Related International Day

Details

14 November every year

Birth anniversary of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, India's first Prime Minister

He was fondly called “**Chacha Nehru**” and believed children are the future of the nation

1956 (after Nehru's death in 1964, the celebration was moved to Nov 14)

- Promote **child rights** - Raise awareness about **education** and **well-being** - Celebrate childhood and youth potential

UNESCO and UNICEF often highlight themes related to: - Child protection - Education for all - Health & nutrition - Ending child labour

World Children's Day – 20 November (UN)

1. Early Life & Education

- Born: **14 November 1889**, Allahabad (Anand Bhavan)
- Parents: **Motilal Nehru** (Congress President 1919 & 1928) & Swarup Rani
- Education: **Harrow School, Trinity College (Cambridge), Inner Temple (London)**
- Profession: **Barrister**, but soon joined nationalism under **Gandhian influence**.

2. Political Evolution (Exam Critical)

Phase	Key Features	
Pre-1920 (Moderate leaning)	Influenced by Gokhale & Western liberalism	
1920–30 (Radical, Left orientation)	Joined Non-Cooperation Movement, inspired by Soviet Union visit (1927)	
1930–47 (Mass leader)	President of INC 6 times , architect of Purna Swaraj Resolution (1929)	
1947–64 (PM of India)	Longest-serving PM of India, central in building institutions, foreign policy, planning	

3. Major Constitutional & Nation-Building Contributions

(Extremely Important for GS1/GS2)

✓ Role in Constitution-making

- Chaired the **Union Powers Committee** – shaped Centre–State relations.
- Chaired **States Committee & Provincial Constitution Committee**.
- Part of **Fundamental Rights Advisory Committee**.
- Introduced the **Objectives Resolution (Dec 1946)** → Became **Preamble**.

✓ Institution Builder (UPSC favourite)

He founded or shaped:

- **Planning Commission (1950)**
- **Atomic Energy Commission (1948)**
- **IITs (Kharagpur 1951)**
- **AIIMS (1956)**
- **DRDO (1958)**
- **ISRO's predecessor INCOSPAR (1962)**
- **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
- **National Museum & National Archives renovation**
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi (Three Akademis)**
- **ICSSR precursor work**

4. Economic Vision

✓ Planned Economic Development

- Adopted **mixed economy** model.
- **Second Five-Year Plan (Mahalanobis Model)** → Focus on heavy industries.

✓ Industrial Policies

- **Industrial Policy Resolution 1948 & 1956 (IPR 1956)** → Constitutionally important.
- Established PSUs: BHEL, SAIL, ONGC (1956), State Trading Corporation, etc.

✓ Agriculture

- Less focus initially → criticism that Nehru ignored agriculture, causing food shortages until the Green Revolution under Shastri.
-

5. Foreign Policy (Very High Yield)

✓ Key Principles

- **Non-Alignment (co-founder)** with Tito (Yugoslavia) & Nasser (Egypt).
- **Panchsheel Agreement (1954)** with China.
- **Anti-colonial stance**, support for Asian & African liberation.

✓ India–China policy

- **"Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai"** line criticised after 1962 war.
- Nehru underestimated Chinese border threats (UPSC commentaries often ask this).

✓ India–Pakistan policy

- Took Kashmir dispute to the **UN (1948)** under Article 35 of UN Charter → highly debated decision.
- Signed **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)** with Pakistan under World Bank mediation.



6. Social & Cultural Contributions

✓ Scientific Temper

- Famous quote: *"It is science alone that can solve the problems of hunger and poverty."*
- Promoted secularism, rationalism & constitutional values.

✓ Education

- Championed **universal education**, set up:
 - NCERT foundations
 - National Education Policy groundwork
 - Encouraged English + Indian languages
-

7. Books by Nehru (Must Remember)

- **Discovery of India** (written in Ahmednagar Fort Prison)
- **Glimpses of World History** (1934)
- **An Autobiography / Toward Freedom** (1936)
- **Letters from a Father to His Daughter** (1929)
- **Letters for a Nation** (collection)
- **The Unity of India**

8. Nehru's Key Speeches (Prelims + Mains Favourite)

- "Tryst with Destiny" – 14 August 1947
 - "The Light Has Gone Out" – On Gandhi's death (1948)
 - "A wholesome spirit of discontent" – regarding scientific temper & progress
 - "India's role in the world" – outlines non-alignment philosophy
-

9. Critical Evaluation (Mains Ready Points)

✓ Strengths

- Visionary institution builder
- Architect of modern Indian science
- Stabilised Indian parliamentary democracy
- Ensured secular foundations
- Asserted non-aligned voice during Cold War

✓ Criticisms

- Mishandling of **China policy** → led to 1962 war
- Over-centralisation of planning (License-Permit Raj)
- Inadequate focus on agriculture → food crisis
- Kashmir UN reference criticized
- Socialistic rigidity slowed private-sector growth

Balanced criticism is important for UPSC Mains.

Death

```
graph TD; A[Death] --> B[Died: 27 May 1964, New Delhi]; B --> C[Cause: Heart attack]; C --> D[Cremated at Shantivan (near Raj Ghat)]
```

Died: **27 May 1964**, New Delhi

Cause: Heart attack

Cremated at **Shantivan** (near Raj Ghat)



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Word of the day

Insouciant:

showing a casual lack of concern

Synonyms: calm, carefree, nonchalant

Usage: *She walked into the exam room with an insouciant smile.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/insouciant

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnsuːsiənt/





Thank you 😊

