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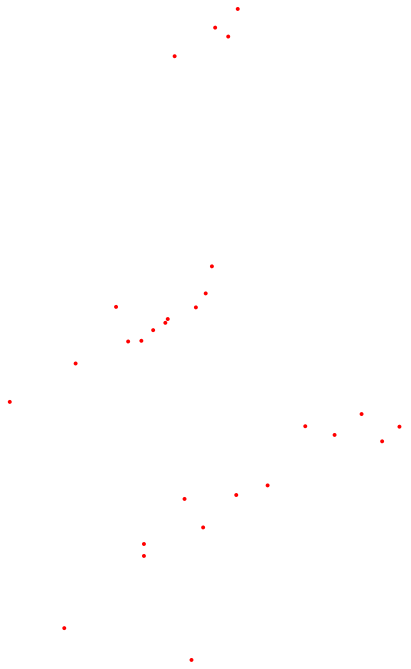


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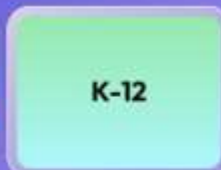
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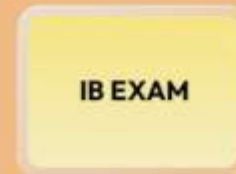
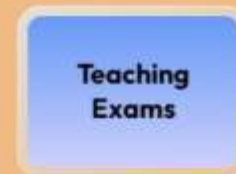


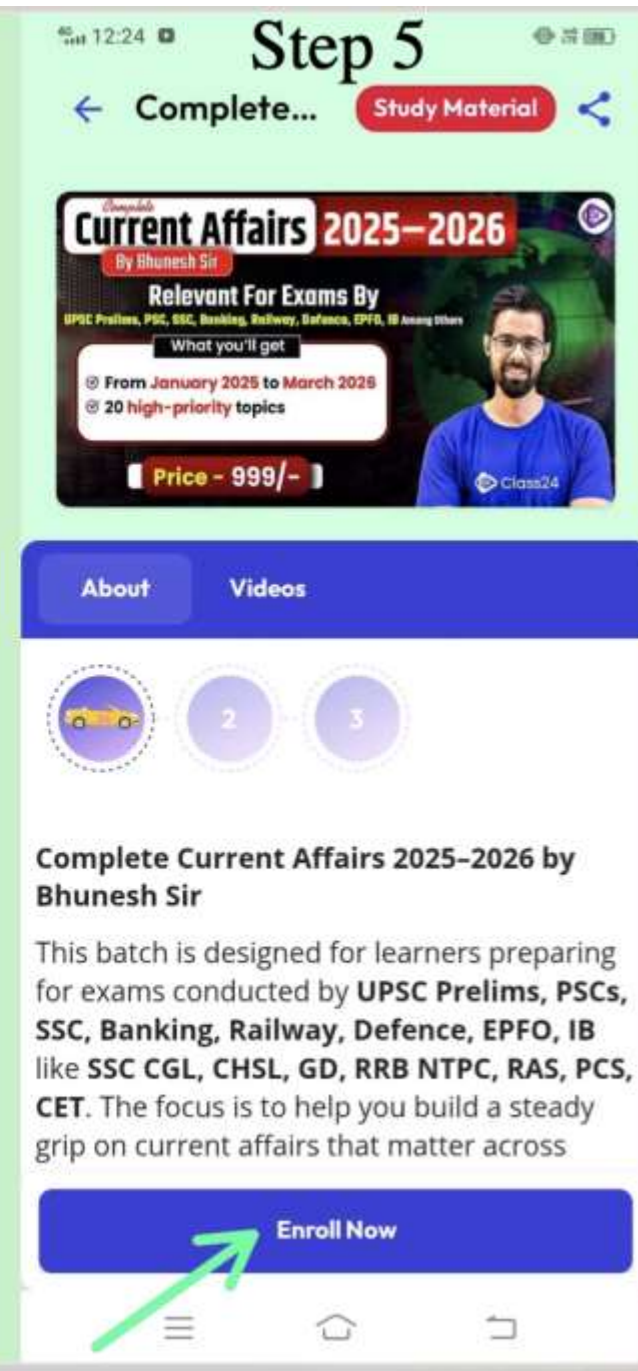
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Step 3

GOVT. EXAMS





In Australia, Akram married a European woman; he retained his Indian passport.

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headquarters.

Kerala HC issues interim stay on ED notice to KIIFB

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has issued a three-month interim stay on a notice issued by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) to the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) on the affidavit of funds raised through mutual funds for the board.

A Bench of Justice V.C. Aravind issued the interim stay on further proceedings on the matter on Tuesday in a plea, which was filed by KIIFB challenging a notice issued against the board by the ED to control its use with the usage of funds generated through mutual funds for infrastructure development and other projects in the state. The ED had initiated proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

KIIFB had earlier this month approached the High Court seeking to quash the notice, stating



The ED initiated proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

that the ED often issued such notices during election time, the board contended that there was no basis in spending the funds to purchase land for infrastructure development and that everything was being used for infrastructure to Reserve Bank of India norms.

The ED opposed the plea, stating that it was not maintainable since it had only issued notice seeking explanation on the issue.

Kerala to screen all IFFK movies barred by Centre

CM says decision reflects autocratic tendencies of Sangh Parivar regime; Culture Minister slams 'undemocratic approach'; I&M Ministry later gives nod to screen 5 of the 19 films barred earlier

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A day after the Union Ministry of Information and Public Relations (I&PR) denied on-screen clearance for the screening of several films at the 20th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), the State government on Tuesday said all films will be screened at the event as per schedule.

Among the movies denied permission are Palestinian films such as *Palastine* and *Al-Burda* of Tarek El Sedky, as well as *Homeless* of the French director, which portrays police brutality and casteism.

The ED had earlier denied clearance to the films *Homeless* and *Palastine*, directed by Mohammed El Sedky, who is being investigated for the 2019 film *Homeless* Award film this year.



Film enthusiasts protest at the IFFK venue in Thiruvananthapuram against the Ministry's decision to ban certain movies.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a statement that the Centre's decision to deny permission to the films was unacceptable.

The censorship directed at the IFFK is a direct reflection of the autocratic tendencies of the Sangh Parivar regime, which suppresses diverse voices and creative expressions in the country, IFFK President said. All films that have been denied permission will be screened at the festival, said Mr. Vijayan.

Minister for Cultural Affairs, Sajith Chirattil, said in a statement, issued on the day, that the Centre's decision to deny permission to the films was unacceptable.

The Centre's decision to deny permission to the films is a direct reflection of the autocratic tendencies of the Sangh Parivar regime, which suppresses diverse voices and creative expressions in the country, IFFK President said. All films that have been denied permission will be screened at the festival, said Mr. Vijayan.

More than a decade after their agricultural land was erroneously declared as temple property, depriving them of ownership, a woman claimed in the Right to Information (RTI) Act to know the truth.

In 2013, S. Narayan of Chennai was shocked to learn that her ancestral land, measuring 75 acres, at Thiruvapur in Chengalpattu district had been shown in the state's land records as temple property belonging to the Arudra Matham Temple, Thiruvapur.

Along with her son, S. Rajkumar, Mr. Narayan approached officials of the Revenue, Registration, and Charitable Endowments and Charitable Societies Department, seeking an explanation as to how the family's private land was listed as temple property. However, there was no response.

"We had all the land records, such as parent deed, maps, patta, chitta, and other revenue certificates, to establish our ownership, but the officials could not produce a single document to justify our land being shown as government property. They refused to entertain our request to change the records based on facts," Mr. Rajkumar said.

With no other recourse, Mr. Narayan filed an RTI application in 2019 with the District Registrar, Chennai-Public Information Officer (PIO), Chengalpattu, to know the truth.

Woman deprived of land ownership gets relief under RTI Act

S. Vignesh Kumar
CHENNAI

More than a decade after their agricultural land was erroneously declared as temple property, depriving them of ownership, a woman claimed in the Right to Information (RTI) Act to know the truth.

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SC to hear plea against HC guidelines to clinical establishments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to entertain a petition against a Kerala High Court direction to clinical establishments to prominently display a list of the services offered and package rates.

A Bench of Justices V.K. Rajum and Justice V.K. Rajum

Sanjay Kumar and Justice Sanjay Kumar, who is being investigated for the 2019 film *Homeless* Award film this year.

The Bench directed the establishments to prominently display a list of the services offered and package rates.

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Deploy AI to prevent theft: A.P. High Court to TTD

V. Radhadevi
TIRUPATI

Justice Chandrabhaga Prasad of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday expressed the opinion that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) should mechanise the process of segregating currency notes, coins, and other offerings made to the deity and casting/issuing their value (Purushakam) while observing that there had been multiple instances of theft earlier.

Justice Prasad also suggested that the CCTV system be equipped with AI for better monitoring. Later, he posted the order in December 16.

During a batch of writ petitions related to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) case, Justice Prasad noted that AI would bring down human intervention, thereby reducing the scope for theft and misappropriation of the same. The TTD should use the offerings and protect the sentiments of the people, he said.

The TTD must refrain from describing what the *Agave* should be about, but since it had issued all of the provisions and consequences, the *Agave* should not come in the way. The handling of offerings should be changed from manual to automatic, the judge said, adding that it would be good to stop all wearing this.

The judge also suggested that the TTD should refrain from describing what the *Agave* should be about, but since it had issued all of the provisions and consequences, the *Agave* should not come in the way. The handling of offerings should be changed from manual to automatic, the judge said, adding that it would be good to stop all wearing this.

Floating decoration



Christmas lights, December 17, 2020, in a floating Christmas tree off the beach in Chennai to welcome the Christmas season in the year 2020.

ISRO releases RESPOND Basket, invites proposals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the RESPOND Basket on Tuesday, inviting proposals for research and development in the field of space science and technology.

The RESPOND Basket is a collection of research and development projects in the field of space science and technology, which are being invited for proposals from researchers and scientists across the country.

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I will continue as CM until high command decides

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALURU

The leadership issue in the ruling Congress figured in the Assembly session on Tuesday, with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stating on the floor of the Assembly that he would continue as Chief Minister until the high command made a decision.

He emphasised that the Congress regime will continue for the full five-year term. He said that he would continue as Chief Minister until the high command made a decision.

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Siddaramaiah

But now he has continued to the floor by replacing "I will" with "we", he said, adding that it would be his decision to continue as Chief Minister until the high command made a decision.

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Study affirms Kerala's rich butterfly diversity in the Western Ghats region

Sarath Babu Gnanapavan
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala boasts the highest butterfly diversity among all Indian states along the Western Ghats, with 528 species documented, including 41 species endemic to the Western Ghats, according to a new monograph published in EPBIO, an open access quarterly journal by the Association for Advancement of Knowledge.



Butterfly perched on a flower, in a forest in Kerala.

The study, undertaken by a team of researchers led by Sarath Babu Gnanapavan, a key contributor to the study, has reported that the Western Ghats support 217 butterfly species and Kerala accounts for nearly

more than half under the Least Concern category, while two are listed as Near Threatened.

The monograph highlights that 70 butterfly species are listed as Near Threatened, while two are listed as Least Concern.

ISRO releases RESPOND Basket, invites proposals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the RESPOND Basket 2025, comprising research problem statements aligned with ISRO's current and future mission requirements.

On Tuesday, ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan released the RESPOND Basket 2025 at the inauguration of the ISRO-Academia Day.

Collaborative research
In his inaugural address, Dr. Narayanan underscored the vital role of academia in contributing innovative ideas, advanced

It comprises the most important research problems identified by ISRO

research and skilled human resources to India's expanding space programme, and highlighted the impact of the RESPOND programme in addressing complex technological challenges through collaborative research.

As part of the programme, ISRO scientists delivered detailed technical talks on the research topics listed in the RESPOND Basket 2025, providing academic participants with deeper insights into

mission-driven requirements, expected outcomes, and potential areas of collaboration.

The RESPOND Basket comprises the most urgent and important research problems identified by ISRO and Department of Space Centre/Units on the basis of ISRO's upcoming programmatic R&D requirements.

The RESPOND Basket 2025 invites submission of research proposals from various premier universities, and other recognised academic and R&D institutions in areas relevant to ISRO's upcoming missions and national priorities. The last date for submission is January 31, 2026.

1) ISRO ने RESPOND Basket 2025 जारी किया — उद्देश्य

ISRO released the RESPOND Basket 2025 to list research problem statements aligned with future missions.

ISRO ने RESPOND Basket 2025 जारी किया जो भविष्य के मिशनों से जुड़े शोध समस्याओं की सूची प्रदान करता है।

It identifies the most critical research challenges for India's space programme.

यह भारत के अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण शोध चुनौतियों की पहचान करता है।

2) Academia-ISRO Collaboration को मजबूत करना

The announcement was made during ISRO-Academia Day by Chairman V. Narayanan.

यह घोषणा ISRO-Academia Day के दौरान चेयरमैन वी. नारायणन ने की।

ISRO emphasised the need for academia to contribute innovative ideas and skilled manpower.

ISRO ने अकादमिक जगत द्वारा नवाचार और कुशल मानव संसाधन प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित किया।

Collaborative research helps address complex technological challenges.

सहयोगी शोध जटिल तकनीकी चुनौतियों को हल करने में मदद करता है।

3) RESPOND Basket में क्या शामिल है?

It includes urgent and priority research problems identified by ISRO and its Centres/Units.

इसमें ISRO और उसके केंद्रों/यूनिट्स द्वारा पहचानी गई अत्यावश्यक और प्राथमिकता वाली शोध समस्याएँ शामिल हैं।

Topics are based on upcoming R&D requirements of ISRO missions.

विषय ISRO मिशनों की आगामी R&D आवश्यकताओं पर आधारित हैं।

Expected outcomes and collaboration areas are also specified.

अपेक्षित परिणाम और सहयोग के क्षेत्र भी निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

4) कौन आवेदन कर सकता है?

RESPOND 2025 invites proposals from top universities and recognised R&D institutions.


RESPOND 2025 शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों और मान्यता प्राप्त R&D संस्थानों से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करता है।

Research must align with ISRO's national and mission priorities.

शोध ISRO की राष्ट्रीय और मिशन प्राथमिकताओं से मेल खाना चाहिए।

Last date for submission is **31 January 2026**.

जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि **31 जनवरी 2026** है।



ISRO uses the RESPOND Programme to fund academic research since the 1970s.

ISRO 1970 के दशक से RESPOND कार्यक्रम के तहत अकादमिक शोध को फंड करता है।

RESPOND Basket is a structured list of priority research problems updated annually.

RESPOND Basket प्राथमिक शोध समस्याओं की वार्षिक अद्यतन सूची है।

Focus areas usually include propulsion, remote sensing, AI-ML, materials, sensors, communication tech.

मुख्य क्षेत्र आमतौर पर प्रोपल्शन, रिमोट सेंसिंग, AI-ML, सामग्री, सेंसर, संचार तकनीक होते हैं।

It helps bridge India's academia-industry-space ecosystem.

यह भारत के अकादमिक-उद्योग-अंतरिक्ष पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को जोड़ता है।



Exam ke liye bht important hai

Mission	Launch Year	Objective (Short & Clear)	
Gaganyaan – Uncrewed Test Mission 3	2025	To test the human-rating systems, crew escape system, environmental control & life support systems before India's first human spaceflight.	
Gaganyaan – First Crewed Mission (G1)	<i>Expected end-2025 / early-2026</i>	To send Indian astronauts into Low Earth Orbit (~400 km) for 3 days and return safely — India's maiden human spaceflight.	
INSAT-3DS	2025	Advanced meteorological satellite to improve weather forecasting, cyclones monitoring, cloud imaging, and atmospheric sounding.	
GSAT-20 (formerly GSAT-20/GSAT-N2)	2025	High-Throughput Ka-band communication satellite providing broadband internet connectivity across India.	
SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment) – Phase 1	2025	To demonstrate autonomous satellite docking — key technology for future space station, on-orbit servicing, refueling.	
RISAT-1B (Radar Imaging Satellite)	2025	To provide all-weather, day-night Earth observation using synthetic aperture radar for agriculture, disaster management & surveillance.	

TRISHNA Mission (ISRO–CNES joint)	2025	To monitor land surface temperature, heat stress, hydrology, agriculture & climate change effects with high-resolution thermal imaging.
Exosat-1 (X-Ray Polarimetry Satellite)	2025	To study X-ray polarization of cosmic sources like black holes, pulsars, neutron stars.
NISAR (NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)	2025	To map Earth’s surface changes—glaciers, forests, earthquakes, land deformation, climate impacts.
Aditya-L1 Post-Launch Scientific Phase (2025)	2025	Continued solar corona, CME, solar wind & magnetosphere studies from L1 orbit.
Chandrayaan-4 (Preparatory Activities)	2025 (development phase)	Technology development for sample return mission—landing, ascent module, docking systems.
Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) – Productionised Flights	2025	To provide low-cost, on-demand launch services for small satellites, startups & academic payloads.

Exam	Date	Question Asked	Answer
SSC CGL	2024	ISRO funds academic research through which programme?	RESPOND
SSC CHSL	2024	ISRO–Academia partnerships primarily aim at?	Innovation & R&D
IBPS PO	2024	RESPOND is related to which sector?	Space research
RPSC	2024	Purpose of RESPOND programme?	Promote external research for ISRO
CDS	2024	Which programme involves universities in space research?	RESPOND

Q. With reference to ISRO's RESPOND Basket 2025, consider the following statements:

(English → Hindi in same line rule followed)

1. It lists priority research problems aligned with ISRO's future missions.
2. यह ISRO के भविष्य मिशनों से जुड़े प्राथमिक शोध समस्याओं की सूची प्रदान करता है।
3. Only ISRO Centres can submit proposals under the RESPOND Basket.
4. RESPOND Basket के तहत केवल ISRO केंद्र ही प्रस्ताव जमा कर सकते हैं।
5. Academia-ISRO Day is the platform where the Basket 2025 was announced.
6. Academia-ISRO Day वह मंच है जहाँ Basket 2025 की घोषणा हुई।

Which of the statements are correct?

सही कथन कौन-से हैं?

Blood transfusion case: six children test HIV positive

Mahesh Majumdar
BHOOPAL

At least six children have been found HIV positive in Madhya Pradesh's Satna allegedly due to contaminated blood transfusions at the district hospital during treatment for thalassemia, officials said on Tuesday.

According to officials, the children include five boys aged under 10 and a nine-year-old girl who have been undergoing blood transfusions at the hospital. While the children were found positive between January and May 2025, the matter has come to light now, prompting the State authorities to order inquiries.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhupendra Singh Shukla holds the Health portfolio, said that he has sought a report on the matter.

"We will only be able to reveal anything once the report comes. It is also being investigated whether the blood transfusion took place in other hospitals all over or only in the government hospital," Mr. Shukla said.

Satna Collector Satish Kumar S. said that an internal investigation at the hospital level has been launched into the matter.

"The children have re-

The CMHO says that the children could have also contracted it from contaminated syringe or injection

ceived transfusions at different hospitals, including the district hospital as well as in Jabalpur and in private hospitals too. But if anyone is found responsible for this, strict action will be taken against them," Mr. Kumar said.

More than 58 lakh names have been removed from the existing voter list in West Bengal, nearly 42 lakh in Rajasthan, 10 lakh in Goa, a little more than a lakh in Puducherry and 1,800 in Lakshadweep.

Because the SIR exercise in Bihar, voters were not required to submit any of the 14 indicative documents to be included in the draft list under this phase announced on October 27. Thus, the names of all voters who submitted the voter registration form would be on the draft list.

In case of any doubts, the CMHO said that notices would be issued to voters whose names do not appear on the draft list, and they could then be asked to produce documents. EC sources said. The draft list also includes names of vot-

EC publishes draft voter list for five States, U.T.s

Over 58 lakh names have been removed from the existing voter list in West Bengal, 42 lakh in Rajasthan, 10 lakh in Goa, a little over a lakh in Puducherry, and nearly 1,800 in Lakshadweep

Sreerama Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday published the draft electoral rolls of five States and Union Territories — including that of West Bengal, which is due to go to the polls next year as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

More than 58 lakh names have been removed from the existing voter list in West Bengal, nearly 42 lakh in Rajasthan, 10 lakh in Goa, a little more than a lakh in Puducherry and 1,800 in Lakshadweep.

Because the SIR exercise in Bihar, voters were not required to submit any of the 14 indicative documents to be included in the draft list under this phase announced on October 27. Thus, the names of all voters who submitted the voter registration form would be on the draft list.

In case of any doubts, the CMHO said that notices would be issued to voters whose names do not appear on the draft list, and they could then be asked to produce documents. EC sources said. The draft list also includes names of vot-



Roll call: People check their names on the draft electoral rolls at Bhatnagar in Bhatnagar of West Bengal on Tuesday.

ters who could not be enrolled on the 2023-03 list when the SIR was last conducted, as well as those who might have been wrongly matched.

"Because the SIR exercise in Bihar, voters were not required to submit any of the 14 indicative documents to be included in the draft list under this phase announced on October 27. Thus, the names of all voters who submitted the voter registration form would be on the draft list. In case of any doubts, the CMHO said that notices would be issued to voters whose names do not appear on the draft list, and they could then be asked to produce documents. EC sources said. The draft list also includes names of vot-

list. Of the names deleted, 26,798 were deceased, 80,448 were found to have shifted or have been absent, and 2,024 were enrolled at multiple places.

Lakshadweep, the other Union Territory, has 56,364 (0.53%) names on the draft list, of the existing 57,613 voters. Of these 10,708 were dead, 252 were found shifted/absent and 472 were those who had enrolled at multiple places.

The EC said that if a voter does not find his or her name on the draft voter list, he or she must fill Form 6 and submit it along with the requisite documents. During the claims and objections period from December 16 to January 15, 2026, eligible voters who had bought tickets at a hefty price were enraged over being unable to get a glimpse of the football icon.

West Bengal Sports Minister resigns over chaos at Messi event

Shiv Bahadur Sinha
KOLKATA

West Bengal Sports Minister Arup Bose on Tuesday resigned over the chaos at Lionel Messi's event at the Salt Lake stadium in Kolkata on December 15.

Mr. Bose tendered his resignation to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who accepted it.

"As per the enclosed letter, I appreciate the sentiment and intention of the Sports Minister to offer a relief from the Sports Department for the sake of impartial inquiry into the Vivekananda Vihar Bharati Krangan (VVBK) incident on 13th December, 2025," a letter signed by the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Banerjee added that Mr. Bose "in correct order" resign and unless the impartial inquiry is over, the Sports Department will be looked after by me for the time being."

The chaos had prompted Mr. Messi's brief appearance. Organisers of the event, including the Minister, surrounded Mr. Messi, while spectators who had bought tickets at a hefty price were enraged over being unable to get a glimpse of the football icon.



Arup Bose

The State government also issued show cause notices to Director-General of Police Rajeev Kumar, Additional Director of Police (Law and Order) Jawed Shantim, and South Bengal, for the VVBK incident.

A special investigation team has been constituted, with Additional Director of Police (Law and Order) Jawed Shantim, and South Bengal, for the VVBK incident.

The chaos had prompted Mr. Messi's brief appearance. Organisers of the event, including the Minister, surrounded Mr. Messi, while spectators who had bought tickets at a hefty price were enraged over being unable to get a glimpse of the football icon.

SC issues notice after Justice Varma challenges inquiry panel formed by Speaker

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to issue a notice a petition filed by the Allahabad High Court judge Justice Vishwanath Varma assailing the action of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to set up an "ad hoc" committee to investigate him.

A Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta issued notice to Mr. Birla through the Lok Sabha Secretary-General, and Secretary-General of the Council of States. The petition was filed under the acronym "X" to maintain anonymity. The case is likely to be taken up on January 7, 2026.



Justice Vishwanath Varma

In March, sacks of half-incent currency notes were allegedly videotaped in a storeroom of Justice Varma and that though notices in Delhi after a fire on the premises, Justice Varma was a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court at the time of the controversy. He was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court.

An in-house inquiry pro-

cedure started by then Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna recommended the removal of Justice Varma from office. The recommendation was forwarded to Parliament, after which Speaker Om Birla constituted a three-member committee.

Justice Varma, represented by senior advocate Mihir Kothari, said the constitution of the committee violated both his right to be treated and protected equally by the law. He argued that though notices in Delhi after a fire on the premises, Justice Varma was a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court at the time of the controversy. He was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court.

With PM in Jordan, Jaishankar in Israel, India reiterates its position on West Asian conflicts

Kalish Rathi
NEW DELHI

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Amman calling for an Indian plan for the reconstruction of war-ravaged Syria, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Tel Aviv expressing India's support for the Trump peace plan for Gaza, India on Tuesday reiterated its willingness to play an important role in the fast-evolving scenario in West Asia.

Speaking at the India-Jordan Business Forum, Mr. Modi said King Abdullah II had shared his vision of developing railways and "next-generation infrastructure" in Jordan and Oman — met with King Abdullah II and expressed mutual determination to



Meeting then: Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II in Amman on Tuesday.

fight "terrorism, extremism and radicalisation". The two leaders also discussed regional cooperation and the need to address these requirements. Mr. Modi — who was in Jordan earlier during Monday-Tuesday for his ongoing three-nation tour — met with King Abdullah II and expressed mutual determination to

capital Tel Aviv where he was welcomed by the Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, Mr. Jaishankar condemned the terror attack in Bondi beach of Sydney, Australia, and said, "Where India and Israel are concerned, we are both countries who have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism."

"I also would like to listen to you about the regional situation. I want to see that India support the Gaza peace plan given by President Trump and hopes that it will lead to a lasting and durable solution," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar's visit has attracted attention as in his backdrop, the Israeli-Korean set panelled a law to stop the activities of the Israel Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian refugees that India has historically assisted.

PM honoured with Ethiopia's highest award

From Trust of India
ADDIS ABABA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award "The Great Honorary Nishan of Ethiopia" by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali.

The award was to honour Mr. Modi's role in strengthening India-Ethiopia ties. The Ministry of External Affairs said.

India and Ethiopia also signed a strategic partnership, after the leaders discussed issues of bilateral interest.

Policeman killed in Udhampur encounter

Perwez Ashraf
JAMMU

A policeman was killed in an ongoing anti-terror operation in Jammu's Udhampur on Tuesday.

A team of about 300 (Special Operation Group) had an encounter with three terrorists, and one of them, Anjad Ali Khan, was hit during the firing. We tried to rescue him but lost him due to the excessive blood loss," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhanu Sen Tuli said.

The encounter and search operation was launched Monday evening in a forest village following a specific input. The input proved accurate and a small team of the SOG came under fire from terrorists," Mr. Tuli said, adding that the operation was still on-going.

878 infiltrators held from Myanmar border in two years, govt. tells LS

Vijaya Vinay
NEW DELHI

As many as 878 "infiltrators" were caught along the India-Myanmar border over the past two years, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that 3.2 km of the total 1,643 km border with Myanmar had been operationalised to regulate movement of people along the Myanmar border (SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT).

PM regulated
In February 2024, months after the 2023 ethnic vio-



As many as 878 govt. were operationalised to regulate movement of people along the Myanmar border (SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT).

lence in Manipur, Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the entire Myanmar border will be fenced and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the north-eastern border with Myanmar will be suspended. However, FMR, which allows cross-border movement of people to a certain distance without visas and pas-

ports, continued but was regulated.

In December 2024, a new framework was implemented and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the north-eastern border with Myanmar will be suspended. However, FMR, which allows cross-border movement of people to a certain distance without visas and pas-

NIA can take over cases of 'hardcore' criminals: SC

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed to the Union government — its shock at the "staggering amount" of digital and cyber-crime cases involving "organised, professional and sophisticated" criminals.

The bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Arundhanii Banerjee said that such cases could be transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for investigation by trying NIA cases in Delhi.

Justice Bhagwati said that such cases could be transferred to the NIA for investigation by trying NIA cases in Delhi.

SC expresses shock over money lost to digital arrest fraud

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed to the Union government — its shock at the "staggering amount" of digital and cyber-crime cases involving "organised, professional and sophisticated" criminals.

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India is **Jordan's third-largest trading partner**, Prime Minister Modi proposed **enhancing bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years.**

- He also encouraged collaboration between **Jordan's digital payment system and India's Unified Payments Interface.**
- In the financial year 2023–24, total India-Jordan **trade reached US\$ 2.875 billion**, with India's exports to Jordan amounting to US\$ 1,465 billion.

Jordan is a leading **supplier of phosphates and potash fertilizers for India.**

- Both sides also discussed **investments in fertilizer production** to meet India's growing demand, with Jordan being an important supplier of phosphates to India.

About Jordan

- West Asian country in the **Middle East**.
 - **Borders:** Israel & Palestine (West), Saudi Arabia (South & East), Iraq (East), Syria (North).
- A. **Dead Sea** is a landlocked salt lake between Israel and Jordan in southwestern Asia.
- **Landlocked** except for a short coastline at Aqaba (Red Sea).
 - **Head of State:** King Abdullah II (since 1999).
 - **The main ethnic groups in Jordan** are Arabs, primarily Jordanians and Palestinians.



PM honoured with Ethiopia's highest award

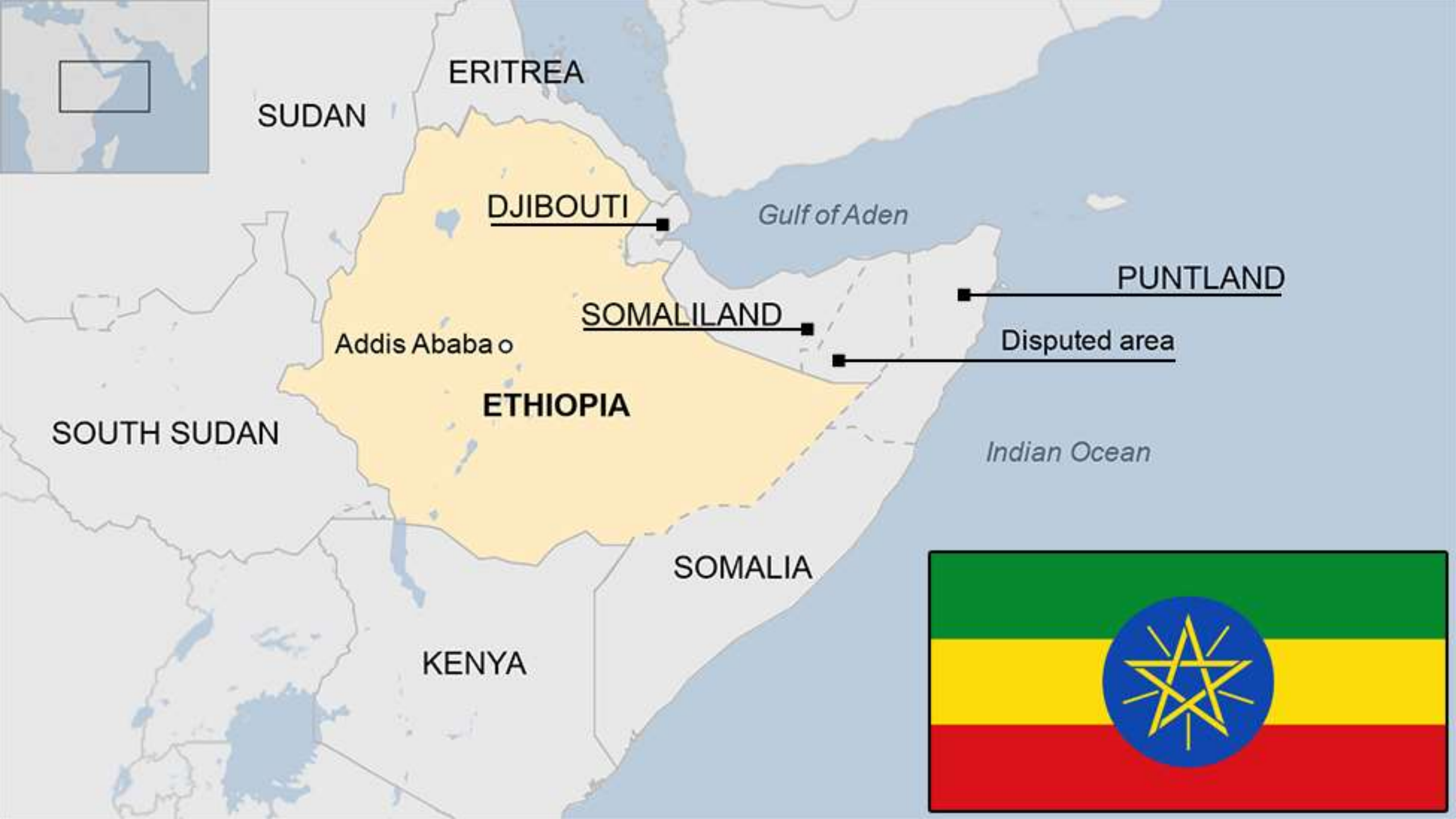
Press Trust of India

ADDIS ABABA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award 'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia' by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali.

The award was to honour Mr. Modi's role in strengthening India-Ethiopia ties, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

India and Ethiopia also elevated their ties to a strategic partnership, after the leaders discussed issues of bilateral interest.





1) Ethiopia ने PM Modi को सर्वोच्च सम्मान प्रदान किया

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Ethiopia's highest civilian honour: *The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia*.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को इथियोपिया का सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान *द ग्रेट ऑनर निशान ऑफ इथियोपिया* से सम्मानित किया गया।

The award was conferred by Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali.

यह सम्मान इथियोपिया के प्रधानमंत्री अबी अहमद अली द्वारा प्रदान किया गया।

2) पुरस्कार देने का कारण

It recognises PM Modi's role in strengthening India–Ethiopia relations.

यह पुरस्कार भारत–इथियोपिया संबंधों को मजबूत करने में मोदी की भूमिका को मान्यता देता है।

It highlights India's growing diplomatic outreach in Africa.

यह अफ्रीका में भारत की बढ़ती कूटनीतिक भूमिका को उजागर करता है।



India–Ethiopia ties established in 1948.

भारत–इथियोपिया संबंध 1948 में स्थापित हुए थे।

Ethiopia is one of Africa's fastest-growing economies.

इथियोपिया अफ्रीका की सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक है।

India is among Ethiopia's top investment sources (agriculture, textiles, pharma).

भारत इथियोपिया के प्रमुख निवेश स्रोतों में से एक है (कृषि, कपड़ा, फार्मा)।

Ethiopia's PM Abiy Ahmed is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate (2019).

इथियोपिया के प्रधानमंत्री अबी अहमद 2019 के नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार विजेता हैं।

India offers capacity-building via ITEC and Pan-Africa e-Network.

भारत ITEC और पैन-अफ्रीका ई-नेटवर्क के माध्यम से क्षमता-निर्माण प्रदान करता है।

No.	Award / Honour	Country / Organisation	Year	Type / Category	
1	The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	2025	Highest Civilian Honour	
2	Order of the Druk Gyalpo	Bhutan	2024	Highest Civilian Honour	
3	Order of the Nile	Egypt	2023	Highest Civilian Honour	
4	Companion of the Order of Logohu	Papua New Guinea	2023	Highest Civilian Honour	
5	Grand Companion of the Order of Fiji	Fiji	2023	Highest Civilian Honour	
6	Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin	Maldives	2019	Highest Civilian Honour	
7	Order of St. Andrew the Apostle	Russia	2019	Highest Civilian Honour	
8	Order of Zayed	UAE	2019	Highest Civilian Honour	
9	Order of King Abdulaziz Al Saud	Saudi Arabia	2016	Highest Civilian Honour	
10	Order of the Republic	Palestine	2018	Highest Civilian Honour	
11	Order of Friendship	Russia	2015	Civilian Honour	
12	Global Goalkeeper Award	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	2019	Global Leadership Award	

13	UNEP Champions of the Earth Award	UNEP	2018	Highest Environment Award
14	Seoul Peace Prize	South Korea	2018	International Peace Prize
15	Philip Kotler Presidential Award	Kotler Foundation	2019	Leadership Award
16	King Charles III Medal (Papua New Guinea special honour)	PNG	2023	State Honour
17	Legion of Merit	United States	2020	Military Leadership Honour
18	Global Energy & Environment Leadership Award	CERAWeek	2021	Energy Leadership Award
19	Time Magazine – 100 Most Influential (Multiple years)	TIME	2015, 2020, 2021	Recognition
20	Order of Merit of the UAE Special Mention	UAE	2020	State Honour
21	Breath of Life Award	WHO-supported forums	2024	Public Health Recognition
22	1st Philip Kotler Award – Reconfirmed Listing	Kotler Foundation	2019	Branding & Leadership
23	UNESCO Peace Honour (Special Mention Category)	UNESCO-linked institutions	2019	Cultural Leadership
24	Champions of Yoga Global Recognition	International Yoga Federation	2021	Cultural Honour



25	UN Vesak Day Global Leadership Honour	Buddhist Community (UN Vesak)	2017	Cultural Peace Award
26	Order of Abu Dhabi Special Recognition	UAE	2019	Bilateral Friendship Award
27	Gandhi Peace Honour (Special Citation)	Global Organisations	2018	Peace Leadership Recognition
28	SCO Peace & Stability Leadership Citation	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	2020	Regional Leadership Honour

LIST OF 15 FOREIGN CIVILIAN HONOURS - ye aa skte hai match the column me

No.	Award / Honour	Country	Year
1	Order of the Druk Gyalpo	Bhutan	2024
2	The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	2025
3	Order of the Nile	Egypt	2023
4	Grand Companion of the Order of Fiji	Fiji	2023
5	Companion of the Order of Logohu	Papua New Guinea	2023
6	Order of St. Andrew the Apostle	Russia	2019
7	Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin	Maldives	2019
8	Order of Zayed	UAE	2019
9	Order of King Abdulaziz Al Saud	Saudi Arabia	2016
10	Order of Friendship	Russia	2015
11	Order of the Republic	Palestine	2018
12	Order of Abu Dhabi (Special State Honour)	UAE	2019
13	Bahrain Order – King Hamad Order of the Renaissance	Bahrain	2019
14	Legion of Merit (U.S. Government)	USA	2020
15	Decoration of the Republic of Serbia (Medal of the Republic of Serbia)	Serbia	2023

- **Q. Consider the following statements regarding India–Ethiopia relations:**

Ethiopia has conferred its highest civilian award on the Prime Minister of India.

- इथियोपिया ने भारत के प्रधानमंत्री को अपना सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान प्रदान किया है।
- India and Ethiopia have elevated their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership.
- भारत और इथियोपिया ने अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को रणनीतिक साझेदारी में परिवर्तित किया है।
- Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa region.
- इथियोपिया अफ्रीका के हॉर्न क्षेत्र में स्थित है।

- **Which of the statements are correct?**

कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- A. केवल 1 और 2
- B. 1 and 3 only
- B. केवल 1 और 3
- C. 2 and 3 only
- C. केवल 2 और 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1, 2 और 3

IN BRIEF



Panel may moot easing rules for commodity derivatives

A panel set up by India's market regulator will recommend easing curbs on commodity derivatives and suggest steps to make it more attractive to institutional investors in a final report to be submitted early next year. These measures with direct knowledge of the market said. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which saw a change of guard in March, with Vinay Kumar Pandey taking over as chief, set up the panel earlier this year. [www](#)

Private sector growth hits 10-month low in December

India's private sector activity expanded at its weakest pace in 10 months in December on a slowdown in new orders and hiring, showed in a new standard, according to HSBC's Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) on Tuesday. The data suggest growth in India's third-largest economy among but is slowing from the 6.2% growth reported in the next quarter, and reinforce the view that inflation pressures remain weak. [www](#)

RBI allows HDIF: Bank units to acquire 9.5% in Indusind

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved approval to HDIF (the unit) to acquire "aggregate holding" of up to 9.5% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in Indusind Bank. HDIF Bank is the promoter-owned of the group entities HDIF Mutual Fund, HDIF Life Insurance Company Ltd., HDIF IRD General Insurance Company Ltd., HDIF Pension Fund Management Ltd. and HDIF Securities Ltd. The approval is valid till December 16, 2020.

Rupee breaches 91 level, turns weakest Asian currency in '20

With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be comfortable allowing some depreciation, currency experts opined

Lakshmi Mishra
in mumbai

The rupee on Tuesday breached one more psychological mark by depreciating beyond 91 to 91.34 on the spot market against the U.S. dollar during Tuesday trade, making it one of the weakest major currencies globally this year and the weakest in Asia in 2020.

The rupee gained a bit during the last week of 2020 as compared with its previous close of 90.90, mainly in part, a fresh all time low.

Ananya Banerjee, Head Currency and Commodity Research, Bank Services, said the pressure on the rupee is being driven by the key factors: demand, supply, and the global macro backdrop. The uncertainty around the pending India-U.S. trade deal and the broader trade war between the two nations is weighing on markets. From a demand perspective, foreign portfolio investors have pulled out close to \$2.7 billion in the first two weeks of December, already among the largest monthly outflows this year, with the U.S. trade deal and the broader trade war between the two nations is weighing on markets.

"With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be comfortable allowing some currency depreciation, especially in a global trade war environment where a weaker currency can support export competitiveness," he said. "And on a day when the rupee has reached 91, I think it is important to see that we have been expecting 91 for a while, but it has not really happened. And there are strategic and tactical decisions involved in the rupee," said South-

ash Mishra, Chief Executive of Asia Bank, Head of Global Research at Asia Capital and part-time moderator at the Press Syndicate's Economic Advisory Group's research.

"I think the RBI is letting the currency move around a bit. It's not a bad idea. We will have to see at what is the long-term story to the central intervention or not appeared deliberate."

"With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be comfortable allowing some currency depreciation, especially in a global trade war environment where a weaker currency can support export competitiveness," he said. "And on a day when the rupee has reached 91, I think it is important to see that we have been expecting 91 for a while, but it has not really happened. And there are strategic and tactical decisions involved in the rupee," said South-

ash Mishra, Chief Executive of Asia Bank, Head of Global Research at Asia Capital and part-time moderator at the Press Syndicate's Economic Advisory Group's research.

Lok Sabha passes Bill on 100% FDI in insurance

A. Sridhar
in mumbai

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed an all important bill that permits to 100% FDI in insurance. The bill, 2019, Amendment (100) in insurance sector (from 49% to 100%) includes a clause of other amendments to insurance laws need provision from the opportunity.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her reply to the discussion, said, at least 100% FDI would pave the way for further capital infusion, better technology as well as better insurance products. It would ease the pressure on global companies to keep the Indian insurance market without domestic partners, she said, adding insurance sector is a matured market.

All Indian laws will apply to the companies. They will be regulated by the other insurance regulatory bodies, she said, seeking to allay apprehensions around changes the bill is proposing in the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

The FDI limit for insurance companies was raised from 49% to 100% in 2015 and from 49% to 100% in 2019. On the second count reducing the overall head requirement for foreign insurance branches from 10,000 crore to 5,000 crore, she said the move would invite more reinsurers to the country.

The bill also empowers IRDAI to change wrongful gains from insurers and intermediaries

for creating greater risk appetite and create level playing field for FDI in domestic GDR area as approved by IRIC.

Sitting that government's priority is to strengthen the public sector insurance companies, she said ₹15,000 crore was infused in these public sector general insurance companies to strengthen their capital base. She said the government is also looking at the insurance sector to strengthen their capital base. She said the government is also looking at the insurance sector to strengthen their capital base.

The bill also empowers insurance regulator (IRDAI) to change wrongful gains from insurers and intermediaries. As part of proposed insurance regulatory to be imposed by IRDAI, the maximum limit of penalty on insurance intermediaries in the case of insurance is to be increased from 10 crore to 50 crore as a deterrent and ensure legal and regulatory compliance.

Trimming the bill a landmark reform, General Insurance Council Chairman and Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said and Chief Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said and Chief Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Index	20-Nov	19-Nov
S&P 500	3,456.12	3,456.12
Nifty 50	10,123.45	10,123.45
BSE 100	23,456.78	23,456.78

SECTORS

Index	20-Nov	19-Nov
Auto	1,234.56	1,234.56
IT	2,345.67	2,345.67
Pharma	3,456.78	3,456.78
Metals	4,567.89	4,567.89
Oil	5,678.90	5,678.90
Real Estate	6,789.01	6,789.01
Telecom	7,890.12	7,890.12
Banking	8,901.23	8,901.23
Chemicals	9,012.34	9,012.34
Food	10,123.45	10,123.45
Textiles	11,234.56	11,234.56
Power	12,345.67	12,345.67
Transport	13,456.78	13,456.78
Media	14,567.89	14,567.89
Healthcare	15,678.90	15,678.90
Education	16,789.01	16,789.01
Environment	17,890.12	17,890.12
Energy	18,901.23	18,901.23
Water	19,012.34	19,012.34
Waste	20,123.45	20,123.45
Space	21,234.56	21,234.56
Defense	22,345.67	22,345.67
Aviation	23,456.78	23,456.78
Maritime	24,567.89	24,567.89
Land	25,678.90	25,678.90
Sea	26,789.01	26,789.01
Air	27,890.12	27,890.12
Space	28,901.23	28,901.23
Defense	29,012.34	29,012.34
Aviation	30,123.45	30,123.45
Maritime	31,234.56	31,234.56
Land	32,345.67	32,345.67
Sea	33,456.78	33,456.78
Air	34,567.89	34,567.89
Space	35,678.90	35,678.90
Defense	36,789.01	36,789.01
Aviation	37,890.12	37,890.12
Maritime	38,901.23	38,901.23
Land	39,012.34	39,012.34
Sea	40,123.45	40,123.45
Air	41,234.56	41,234.56
Space	42,345.67	42,345.67
Defense	43,456.78	43,456.78
Aviation	44,567.89	44,567.89
Maritime	45,678.90	45,678.90
Land	46,789.01	46,789.01
Sea	47,890.12	47,890.12
Air	48,901.23	48,901.23
Space	49,012.34	49,012.34
Defense	50,123.45	50,123.45
Aviation	51,234.56	51,234.56
Maritime	52,345.67	52,345.67
Land	53,456.78	53,456.78
Sea	54,567.89	54,567.89
Air	55,678.90	55,678.90
Space	56,789.01	56,789.01
Defense	57,890.12	57,890.12
Aviation	58,901.23	58,901.23
Maritime	59,012.34	59,012.34
Land	60,123.45	60,123.45
Sea	61,234.56	61,234.56
Air	62,345.67	62,345.67
Space	63,456.78	63,456.78
Defense	64,567.89	64,567.89
Aviation	65,678.90	65,678.90
Maritime	66,789.01	66,789.01
Land	67,890.12	67,890.12
Sea	68,901.23	68,901.23
Air	69,012.34	69,012.34
Space	70,123.45	70,123.45
Defense	71,234.56	71,234.56
Aviation	72,345.67	72,345.67
Maritime	73,456.78	73,456.78
Land	74,567.89	74,567.89
Sea	75,678.90	75,678.90
Air	76,789.01	76,789.01
Space	77,890.12	77,890.12
Defense	78,901.23	78,901.23
Aviation	79,012.34	79,012.34
Maritime	80,123.45	80,123.45
Land	81,234.56	81,234.56
Sea	82,345.67	82,345.67
Air	83,456.78	83,456.78
Space	84,567.89	84,567.89
Defense	85,678.90	85,678.90
Aviation	86,789.01	86,789.01
Maritime	87,890.12	87,890.12
Land	88,901.23	88,901.23
Sea	89,012.34	89,012.34
Air	90,123.45	90,123.45
Space	91,234.56	91,234.56
Defense	92,345.67	92,345.67
Aviation	93,456.78	93,456.78
Maritime	94,567.89	94,567.89
Land	95,678.90	95,678.90
Sea	96,789.01	96,789.01
Air	97,890.12	97,890.12
Space	98,901.23	98,901.23
Defense	99,012.34	99,012.34
Aviation	100,123.45	100,123.45

NCLT okays Vedanta Ltd's demerger plan

The NCLT tribunal has approved the demerger of Vedanta Ltd., paving the way for the company to split into two entities: one specific to mining assets and others, oil and gas, power, and iron and steel.

Singareni, Altmin ally for battery grade lithium refinery in Telangana

The Hindu Business
TELANGANA

Singareni Collieries Company (SCCL) and Hyderabad-based Altmin have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up India's first large-scale battery-grade lithium refinery here.

The project envisages an investment of ₹2,250 crore and the establishment of a 20,000-tonne-per-annum lithium carbonate refinery in Telangana. The refinery is targeted to commence operations by 2027 and poised to play a strategic role in supporting India's rapidly growing electric vehicle and energy storage sectors. It will position the state at the forefront of India's critical minerals and clean energy transition, that Telangana Government said. The MoU was signed in the presence of CM A. Revathi.



Telangana CM Revathi today at the MoU signing ceremony.

Rankly at the ceremony were Telangana Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Under the partnership, SCCL, jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and the Government of India and Altmin would form a joint venture to locate lithium refining in India and bring globally best lithium technology to the country. The project includes plans to secure long-term raw material supply via overseas mineral assets, strengthening India's energy security.

It will be the first white-label project in India with lithium-grade lithium carbonate, the world's largest-scale, downstream lithium carbonate refinery. The project is a "phased manner".

Stirred up



Prayer flames erupted again at French Mission Church in the Malabar region of Kerala, south-western India on Sunday. French Mission Church has been protesting against the government's decision to allow the church to be used for religious events. The church has been protesting since June 2019 and has led to the destruction of over 1,000 cattle across more than 118 villages nationwide, says a source. Photo credit: AP Photo/Anand Gopal.

Govt. to sell up to 3% stake in IOB to raise ₹2,100 crore

Pravara Team of India
NFI 100.00

The government has decided to divest up to 3% stake in IOB to raise ₹2,100 crore.

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Sugar production shows an increase

The Hindu Business
KARNATAKA

Sugar production from October 1, 2020 to December 31 rose a 20% increase compared with the corresponding period in 2019.

As per Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association, sugar production increased 20.2% in 2020 to 1.18 lakh tonnes in the third 75 days of the current sugar marketing season as against 97.28 lakh tonnes last year.

Sugar production is up in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Karnataka. However, the country's total sugar price has fallen to ₹1,000 to ₹1,050 a quintal in Maharashtra. The prices have

WhatsApp SIM binding order may not meaningfully reduce cyberfraud: IAMAI

Pravara Team of India
NFI 100.00

Ordering WhatsApp to "bind" user accounts to a SIM card in their phones may not meaningfully reduce cyberfraud, while causing "hurdles" to the service, industry groups say. The order, which the government issued last week, requires WhatsApp to bind user accounts to a SIM card in their phones. The order is a "phased manner".

IAMAI represents big tech firms, including WhatsApp, which owns WhatsApp. IAMAI argued that the DoT does not have the statutory power to order firms to bind user accounts to a SIM card. The order is a "phased manner".

B. Sairam named chief of Coal India

The Hindu Business
KARNATAKA

State-owned major Coal India has appointed B. Sairam as its new chairman and managing director effective Monday. He would succeed Suresh Kumar Singh, who also held the post. Sairam is a former secretary of the Ministry of Coal and is a former secretary of the Ministry of Coal. He is a former secretary of the Ministry of Coal.

Rupee breaches 91 level, turns weakest Asian currency in '25

With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be 'comfortable' allowing some depreciation, currency experts opined

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday breached one more psychological mark by depreciating beyond 91 to 91.14 on the spot market against the U.S. dollar during intraday trade, making it one of the weakest major currencies globally this year and the weakest in Asia in 2025.

But it gained a bit during the day to close at 90.93 as compared with its previous close of 90.78, down nearly 16 paise, a fresh all time low.

Anindya Banerjee, Head Currency and Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said the pressure on the currency is being driven by three key factors: sentiment, capital flows, and the global macro backdrop. "The uncertainty around the pending India-U.S. trade deal and the broader trade-war environment is weighing on markets. From a flows perspective, foreign portfolio investors have pulled out close to \$2.7 billion in the first two weeks of December alone, already among the largest monthly outflows this year, with the month still unfinished," he said.

He said globally rising U.S. bond yields and expectations of a Bank of Japan rate hike have trig-



Currency cauldron: Uncertainty around the India-U.S. trade deal and the trade-war environment is weighing on markets, REUTERS

gered an unwinding of the yen carry trade.

"This has led to risk aversion across equities, credit, crypto, and some commodities, adding speculative pressure on emerging-market currencies, including the rupee," he added. Stating that the rupee may head towards 92, he said, RBI's relatively limited intervention so far appeared deliberate.

"With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be comfortable allowing some currency depreciation, especially in a global trade-war environment where a weaker currency can support export competitiveness," he said.

"And on a day when the rupee has reached 91, I think it is important to also flag that we have been expecting [it] for a while, but not wide depreciation. And there are strategic and tactical decisions involved in the rupee," said Neel-

kanth Mishra, Chief Economist of Axis Bank, Head of Global Research at Axis Capital, and part time member at the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).

"I think the RBI is letting the currency move around a bit. It's not a bad idea. We will have to see at what level they [would say] in the three-to-six-month basis, more than this volatility is not allowed. I think the mistake was in pegging it [rupee to \$] at 83. Those past sins are still haunting us," he emphasised.

In a note, Finrex Treasury Advisors said the rupee made a new lifetime low as dollar buying continued with news that U.S. President Donald Trump had not agreed to the new proposals as he wanted agri and its products to be included in the proposal which India had not agreed to.

(With inputs from Ashokamithran T)

1) Rupee breached the 91 mark, becoming Asia's weakest currency in 2025

The rupee depreciated intraday to 91.14 per dollar, making it the weakest major Asian currency of 2025.

रुपया डॉलर के मुकाबले इंट्रा-डे में 91.14 तक गिरा, जिससे यह 2025 का सबसे कमजोर एशियाई प्रमुख मुद्रा बन गया।

It later closed slightly stronger at 90.93.

यह बाद में थोड़ा संभलकर 90.93 पर बंद हुआ।

2) Factors driving the depreciation

Currency experts attributed the fall to sentiment, capital outflows, and a global macro slowdown.

मुद्रा विशेषज्ञों ने गिरावट के कारण के रूप में सेंटीमेंट, कैपिटल आउटफ्लो और वैश्विक मैक्रो स्लोडाउन को बताया।

Uncertainty around the pending India–U.S. trade deal added pressure.

लंबित भारत–अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते की अनिश्चितता ने अतिरिक्त दबाव डाला।

Foreign portfolio investors pulled out nearly \$2.7 billion in December alone.

केवल दिसंबर में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों ने लगभग 2.7 बिलियन डॉलर निकाले।

3) Global triggers affecting the rupee

Rising U.S. bond yields and expectations of a Bank of Japan rate hike caused unwinding of the yen carry trade.

अमेरिकी बॉन्ड यील्ड बढ़ने और बैंक ऑफ़ जापान की दर बढ़ोतरी की उम्मीदों ने येन कैरी ट्रेड के अनवाइंडिंग को जन्म दिया।

This created risk aversion across equities, crypto, and commodities.

इससे इक्विटी, क्रिप्टो और कमोडिटीज़ में जोखिम से बचाव की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ी।

Emerging market currencies, including the rupee, saw speculative pressure.

उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की मुद्राओं, जिनमें रुपया भी शामिल है, पर सट्टा दबाव बढ़ा।

4) RBI's limited intervention looks deliberate

Experts noted that the RBI is letting the rupee weaken moderately.

विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि RBI रुपया को सीमित रूप से कमजोर होने दे रहा है।

India's strong growth and contained inflation allow comfort for mild depreciation.

भारत की मजबूत वृद्धि और नियंत्रित महंगाई सीमित गिरावट की अनुमति देती है।

A slightly weaker currency can support export competitiveness.

थोड़ा कमजोर रुपया निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ा सकता है।

EXAM	YEAR	QUESTION THEME	CORRECT ANSWER
UPSC Prelims	2024	Effect of FPI outflows on rupee	Rupee depreciates
UPSC Prelims	2023	What happens when U.S. bond yields rise?	Capital outflow from EMs
UPSC Prelims	2024	Impact of currency depreciation on exports	Export competitiveness rises
UPSC Prelims	2023	Meaning of 'carry trade'	Borrow low → invest high interest assets

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the recent depreciation of the Indian rupee:

Rising U.S. bond yields contributed to capital outflows from India.

1. प्रलहश रखाड हल छ गहए ँककाल टुकु बाहडडु शरण बा रकगडरक श गक

2. A weaker rupee can improve India's export competitiveness.

3. ड रक ड इह गवरकाल ड हश गक ड श १ क ड प्रवटु ड लवणह

4. RBI intervened heavily in the forex market to prevent the rupee from weakening.

5. RBI ँककाल ड रक ड णडडु ड ड ँकडु शडु नक सारक घण ड लह श गक

Which of the statements are correct?

ड क घटु क क ड णहण

A. 1 and 2 only

A. डककड ड घड

B. 2 and 3 only

B. डककड ड घट

C. 1 and 3 only

C. डककड ड घट

D. 1, 2 and 3

D. 1, 2 ड घट

Homebound shortlisted for Oscars

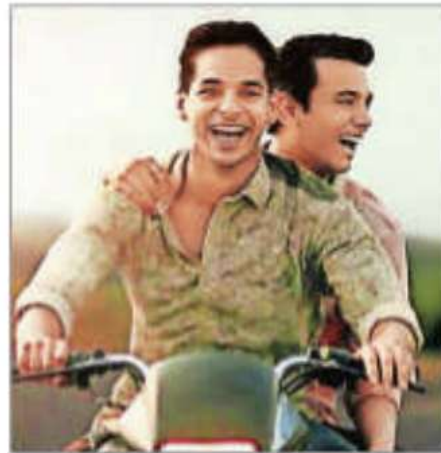
Express News Service

Mumbai, December 16

HOMEBOUND, DIRECTED by Neeraj Ghaywan, was on Tuesday shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film Award at the 98th Academy Awards.

Expressing joy over its selection and congratulating Ghaywan, Karan Johar, producer of *Homebound*, wrote on social media: "We made the shortlist. way to go team Homebound."

The 15 films, which were shortlisted and will advance to the next round of voting in the International Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards, include Argentina's *Belén*, Brazil's *The Secret Agent*, France's *It Was Just an Accident*,



A still from the film

Germany's *Sound of Falling*, Iraq's *The President's Cake*, Japan's *Kokuho*, Jordan's *All That's Left of You*, Norway's *Sentimental Value*, Palestine's *Palestine 36*, South Korea's *No Other Choice*, Spain's *Sirât*, Swit-

zerland's *Late Shift*, Taiwan's *Left-Handed Girl* and Tunisia's *The Voice of Hind Rajab*.

After its premiere under the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, *Homebound* went on to enjoy global acclaim, apart from being selected as India's official entry for the Oscars.

Written and directed by Ghaywan, the film which is inspired by a true incident, revolves around childhood friends Shoaib (Ishaan Khatter) and Chandan (Vishal Jethwa). Apart from their deep bond, they share a dream of joining the police force and leading a better life. However, as they inch closer to their dream, mounting desperation and cir-

cumstances threatens the bond that holds them together.

Homebound, which won the second runner-up in the International People's Choice Awards at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), has Oscar winner Martin Scorsese as its executive producer.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Tuesday announced shortlists in 12 categories, including Animated Short Film, Casting, Cinematography, Documentary Feature Film, Documentary Short Film, International Feature Film, Live Action Short Film, Makeup and Hairstyling, Music (Original Score), Music (Original Song), Sound and Visual Effects.

1) India's film *Homebound* shortlisted for Oscars

Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has been shortlisted for Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards.

नीरज घायवन द्वारा निर्देशित *होमबाउंड* को 98वें ऑस्कर अवॉर्ड्स में सर्वश्रेष्ठ अंतरराष्ट्रीय फीचर फिल्म के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट किया गया है।

Producer Karan Johar expressed joy and congratulated the team.

निर्माता करण जौहर ने खुशी व्यक्त की और टीम को बधाई दी।

2) 15 films shortlisted globally

A total of 15 films advanced to the next round of Oscar voting.

कुल 15 फिल्मों को ऑस्कर मतदान के अगले दौर के लिए चुना गया है।

The shortlisted films include entries from Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Palestine, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Tunisia.

शॉर्टलिस्ट की गई फिल्मों में अर्जेंटीना, ब्राज़ील, फ़्रांस, जर्मनी, इराक, जापान, जॉर्डन, नॉर्वे, फ़िलिस्तीन, दक्षिण कोरिया, स्पेन, स्विट्जरलैंड, ताइवान और ट्यूनीशिया की फिल्में शामिल हैं।

4) Recognition and global acclaim

The film premiered in the *Un Certain Regard* category at the Cannes Film Festival.

यह फिल्म कान फिल्म फेस्टिवल के अन सर्टेन रीगार्ड सेक्शन में प्रदर्शित हुई थी।

It won second runner-up at the Toronto International People's Choice Awards.

इसने टोरंटो इंटरनेशनल पीपल्स चॉइस अवॉर्ड में दूसरा रनर-अप स्थान जीता।

Oscar-winner Martin Scorsese is the film's executive producer.

ऑस्कर विजेता मार्टिन स्कॉर्सेसी इस फिल्म के कार्यकारी निर्माता हैं।

5) Academy's announcement

The Academy announced shortlistings in 12 categories, including:

ऑस्कर अकादमी ने 12 श्रेणियों में शॉर्टलिस्ट की घोषणा की, जिनमें शामिल हैं:

Animated Short Film, Casting, Cinematography, Documentary Feature Film, Documentary Short Film, International Feature Film, Live Action Short Film, Makeup & Hairstyling, Music (Original Score), Music (Original Song), Sound, and Visual Effects.

एनिमेटेड शॉर्ट फिल्म, कास्टिंग, सिनेमैटोग्राफी, डॉक्यूमेंट्री फीचर फिल्म, डॉक्यूमेंट्री शॉर्ट फिल्म, इंटरनेशनल फीचर फिल्म, लाइव एक्शन शॉर्ट फिल्म, मेकअप व हेयरस्टाइलिंग, म्यूज़िक (ओरिजिनल स्कोर), म्यूज़िक (ओरिजिनल सॉन्ग), साउंड और विज़ुअल इफेक्ट्स।

Stage	Who Votes?	Requirement
Shortlist (Top 15)	~1,000 IFFC members	Highest average scores (no minimum marks)
Nomination (Top 5)	Special nomination committee	Top 5 ranked by preferential voting
Winner	Full Academy votes	Majority of first- preference votes

(Shortlist system began only in 2008. Before that, films were directly nominated/ rejected.)

✓ **Only 2 Indian films have ever made it to the Oscar Shortlist (Top 15):**

Year	Film	Language	Status	
2018	Village Rockstars	Assamese	In Top 15, but NOT nominated	
2021	Writing With Fire (Documentary Feature)	Hindi	Shortlisted (Top 15) → Then Nominated (Top 5)*	

◆ **Notes:**

- “Writing With Fire” is a **documentary**, not India’s official entry, but it reached **Top 15** and **Top 5**.
- Very few Indian entries have reached the shortlist.

➡ **For Best International Feature Film — NO Indian movie has reached Top 15 since shortlist system began.**

Only **3 Indian films in history** have ever reached the **Top 5 Oscar Nominations**:

Year	Film	Category	Result
1958	Mother India (Mehboob Khan)	Best Foreign Language Film	Nominated (Top 5) – Lost by 1 vote
1989	Salaam Bombay! (Mira Nair)	Best Foreign Language Film	Nominated (Top 5)
2002	Lagaan (Ashutosh Gowariker)	Best Foreign Language Film	Nominated (Top 5)

➡ **These 3 films reached the Top 5 (Final Oscar nominations).**

➡ **After 2002, no Indian film has reached the Top 5 in this category.**

Exam	Question	Answer
SSC CGL 2024	Oscars are presented by which organisation?	AMPAS (Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences)
SSC CHSL 2024	TIFF festival takes place in which country?	Canada
IBPS PO 2024	Cannes Film Festival is held in which country?	France

Consider the following statements regarding the Indian film *Homebound*:

It has been shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards.

1. The film is produced and directed by Martin Scorsese.

2. The film premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes.

3. The film is produced and directed by Martin Scorsese.

4. The film is produced and directed by Martin Scorsese.

5. The film is produced and directed by Martin Scorsese.

Which of the statements are correct?

इन्फार्मेटिव्ह क्विज

A. 1 and 2 only

A. इन्फार्मेटिव्ह क्विज

B. 2 and 3 only

B. इन्फार्मेटिव्ह क्विज

C. 1 and 3 only

C. इन्फार्मेटिव्ह क्विज

D. 1, 2 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Italian cuisine
becomes the world's
first national cuisine
recognised by
UNESCO



1) Italian cuisine becomes the world's first national cuisine recognised by UNESCO

Italian cuisine has been added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

इटालियन व्यंजन को यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक धरोहर की सूची में शामिल किया गया है।

This is the first time an entire national cuisine has received this status.

यह पहली बार है कि किसी पूरे राष्ट्रीय व्यंजन को यह दर्जा मिला है।

2) UNESCO recognition highlights food as a living cultural practice

UNESCO emphasised that Italian cuisine is rooted in everyday life, community, and generational knowledge.

यूनेस्को ने बताया कि इटालियन व्यंजन दैनिक जीवन, समुदाय और पीढ़ीगत ज्ञान में गहराई से जुड़ा है।

Rather than a single dish, the entire culinary system has been recognised.

किसी एक डिश के बजाय पूरे पाक-तंत्र को मान्यता दी गई है।

3) Decision taken during UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee meeting

The recognition was approved in the 20th session held in New Delhi.

नई दिल्ली में आयोजित 20वें सत्र में यह मान्यता स्वीकृत की गई।

The designation acknowledges Italy's cooking traditions, farming practices, seasonal recipes, and shared meals.

यह मान्यता इटली की पाक परंपराओं, कृषि प्रथाओं, मौसमी पकवानों और सामूहिक भोजन परंपराओं को स्वीकार करती है।

UNESCO described Italian cuisine as a cultural expression, not a ceremonial or elite tradition.

यूनेस्को ने इटालियन व्यंजन को एक सांस्कृतिक अभिव्यक्ति बताया, न कि कोई औपचारिक या अभिजात परंपरा।

4) Significance for global food culture

The listing redefines how food shapes identity, social life, and regional culture.

यह सूची बताती है कि भोजन किस प्रकार पहचान, सामाजिक जीवन और क्षेत्रीय संस्कृति को आकार देता है।

Italian cuisine is recognised for collective culinary knowledge, not for a dish like pizza or pasta alone.

इटालियन व्यंजन को पिज़्ज़ा-पास्ता जैसी डिशों के लिए नहीं, बल्कि सामूहिक पाक ज्ञान के लिए मान्यता मिली है।

UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) protects *traditions, expressions, practices, rituals, and knowledge systems*.

यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक धरोहर परंपराओं, अभिव्यक्तियों, प्रथाओं, अनुष्ठानों और ज्ञान प्रणालियों की सुरक्षा करती है।

ICH list is maintained by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee.

यह सूची यूनेस्को की अंतर-सरकारी समिति द्वारा संचालित है।

India has several ICH entries (e.g., Yoga, Kumbh Mela, Ramlila, Chhau, Kalbelia).

भारत की कई परंपराएँ इस सूची में हैं (जैसे योग, कुंभ मेला, रामलीला, छाऊ, कालबेलिया)।

This is the **first time a national cuisine has been recognised**, not a single food item.

यह पहली बार है कि किसी राष्ट्रीय व्यंजन को, न कि किसी विशेष डिश को, मान्यता मिली।

Exam	Year	Question Theme	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2024	What is included under UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage?	Cultural practices, knowledge, traditions
UPSC Prelims	2023	Difference between tangible & intangible heritage	Tangible = physical; Intangible = traditions
UPSC Prelims	2024	Which UNESCO committee handles ICH?	Intergovernmental Committee
UPSC Mains GS-1	2023	Role of cultural heritage in identity formation	Analytical

- **Consider the following statements regarding UNESCO's recognition of Italian cuisine:**

Italian cuisine became the first national cuisine to be inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

• ~~संस्कृतग्रंथः । न च गण्डर्व इह हरे खल्वहं वेदवसिष्ठः । घृण्यघटं कहरवत् कषयं पण्डितः । अकारहण्यप्रवर्धनं । न च । षष्ठः~~

- The inscription recognises Italy's full culinary system, not a single dish.

• ~~गणरक्तेल्वश्च हहड्ड श्वट इड्ड न वा सं चहड्डहं चहृक् -ल्व इ इह ट कहरण्ड~~

- The decision was taken at the 20th session of UNESCO held in Rome.

• ~~गणश्वर् वा घृण्यरक्ते गड्डा ल गण्डर्व इहड्ड 20 अहं ट खल्वगवण गड्ड~~

- **Which of the statements are correct?**

~~इ ऋ -हृ कु कष हं णहण्ड~~

- A. 1 and 2 only

A. ~~इड्डअच 1 ऋ घ2~~

- B. 2 and 3 only

B. ~~इड्डअच 2 ऋ घ3~~

- C. 1 and 3 only


C. ~~इड्डअच 1 ऋ घ3~~

- D. 1, 2 and 3

D. ~~1, 2 ऋ घ3~~




India Nears 100% Rail Electrification



- Indian Railways is close to completing the electrification of almost its entire **broad-gauge network**, with more than **99% already electrified**, underlining India's rapid push toward sustainable, low-emission transport systems.

- **Emission Reduction & Energy Efficiency:** Near-total electrification has led to **reduced diesel consumption, lower emissions**, supporting Indian Railways' goal of becoming a **net-zero carbon emitter**.

- Indian Railways aims to achieve **net-zero by 2030**, one of the earliest targets globally for a national railway system.
 - Indian Railways is one of the **largest electricity consumers in India**, and a shift to electrification allows integration with renewable energy sources.
- 

- **Global Significance:** India's 99.2% electrification of its broad-gauge network across 25 states surpasses several advanced economies that still rely on diesel.

- The **electrified route kilometres (RKM)** added between 2019–2025 equals **Germany's total rail network**, showcasing India's global leadership in **green transport infrastructure**.

-



Word of the day

Comport:

behave well or properly; behave in a certain manner; show a certain behaviour

Synonyms: acquit, act, bear, behave, carry, conduct, deport, do

Usage: *He comported himself with dignity.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/comportpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəm'pɔ:(ɹ)t/

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09 JULY 2025 @08:00 AM

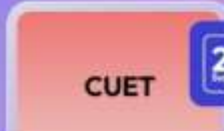
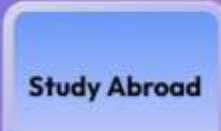
30L Bussat Vihar Colony, Tank Road, Gopichand Market, Jaipur (Raj.)

Call for Enquiry 9257021070, 9257021071, 72, 73

03 FREE

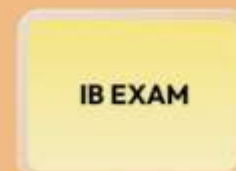
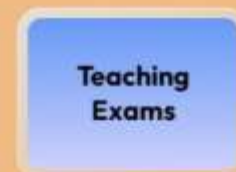
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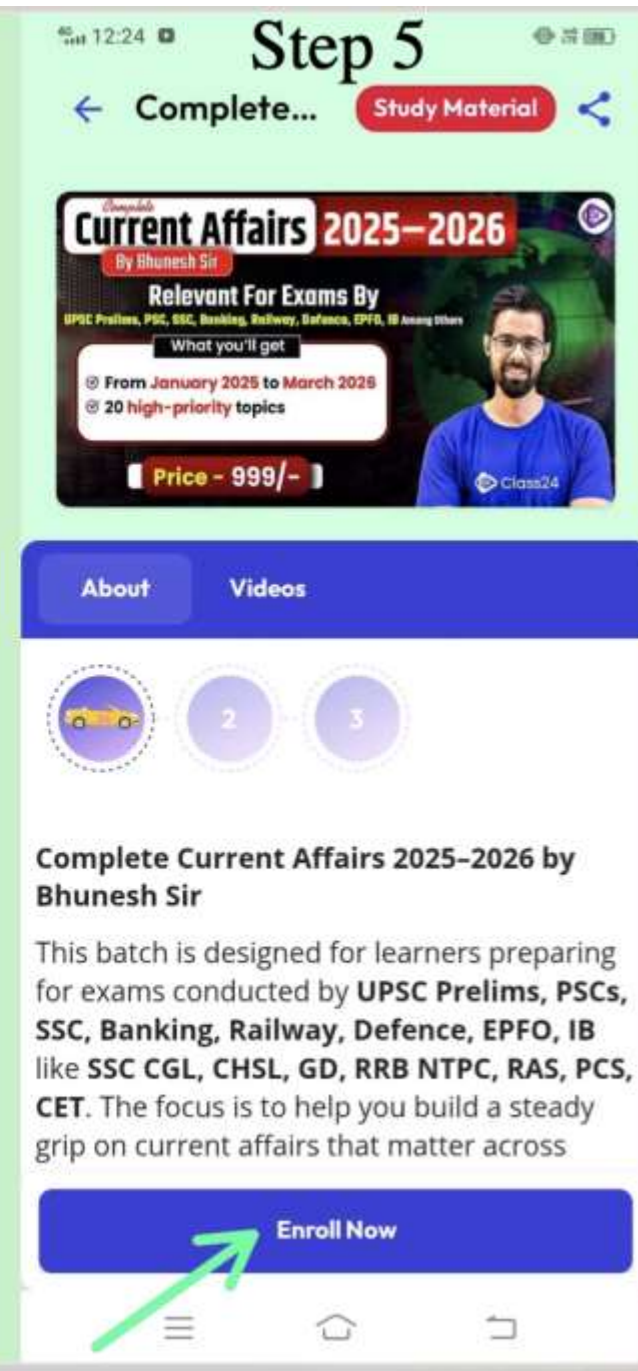
Categories



Step 3

← GOVT. EXAMS







Thank you 😊

