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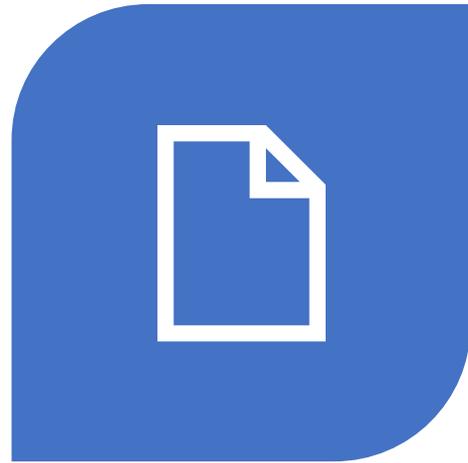
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NGT gives clearance to Great Nicobar project

The ₹92,000-crore mega project is of 'strategic, defence and national importance', says Centre

Tribunal disposes batch of applications over environmental clearance for the infra project

'Adequate safeguards' provided in EC norms, no good ground to interfere, finds Bench

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday cleared the way for the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project, noting that "considering the strategic importance" of it and "other relevant considerations", "we do not find any good ground to interfere".

It disposed of applications related to the environment clearance (EC) for the project, with a direction to authorities "to ensure full and strict compliance of EC conditions".

The project includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant, and a township.

The Bench was hearing a batch of applications related to the EC, which was granted in 2022. An earlier NGT Bench had in 2023 called for the formation of a high-powered committee

(HPC) to address certain issues concerning the protection of coral reef colonies, nesting sites of leatherback turtles, and the allegation that parts of the project are located in ecologically protected zones.

The applicants argued that the government had erred in limiting the terms of reference for the HPC to three issues and that the terms were "factually incorrect". They said the issues had not been properly examined.

The NGT said "adequate safeguards" had been provided in the conditions specified in the EC, which the Tribunal had already refused to interfere with in its 2023 order. It said the remaining issues had "been dealt with" by the HPC.

'Balanced move'

"A balanced approach is required to be adopted while considering the issue



of allowing development of the port on a strategic location and taking adequate steps to carry out the activity strictly in terms of the ICRZ Notification, 2019 instead of prohibiting the activity if the objection is based on apprehension," the NGT said in its order.

The NGT Bench, headed by its Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, noted that it found no error in the drafting of the terms of re-

ference for the HPC, adding that the applicants did not point out "any other substantial issue" that should have been examined by the HPC.

Further, noting the Union government's stance against public disclosure of the HPC report, given that it is "of strategic, defence and national importance and has confidential and privileged information", the NGT said, "The above

disclosures reveal that the project is very important for India."

The NGT order said that to ensure "full and effective" compliance with the EC conditions, the Environment Ministry "will undertake all measures to protect the coral reefs along the coastal stretch and will also ensure coral regeneration through proved scientific method for regeneration of coral in appropriate identified areas abutting the project areas".

On erosion of shorelines of the Great Nicobar Island, the NGT said it "will be the responsibility" of the Environment Ministry to "ensure that on account of proposed constructions which includes foreshore development, there is no erosion/shoreline change abutting the project area and all along the islands".

"The shoreline of the island will be protected ensuring no loss of sandy

beaches as these beaches provide nesting sites for turtles, bird nesting site apart from protecting the islands," the NGT said.

The applicants had also submitted that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project was conducted for just one season, as opposed to three seasons as mandated by regulations.

On this, the NGT noted the government's submissions that "since there is no high erosion site in Andaman & Nicobar, therefore, three-season data is not required".

Further, on the issue that parts of the project enter the Coastal Regulation Zone-IA, the NGT took note of submissions that ground truthing of the project areas had been conducted and that the "High Powered Committee, after due verification, has found that no part of the Project area is in CRZ-IA area". The NGT also ruled that the

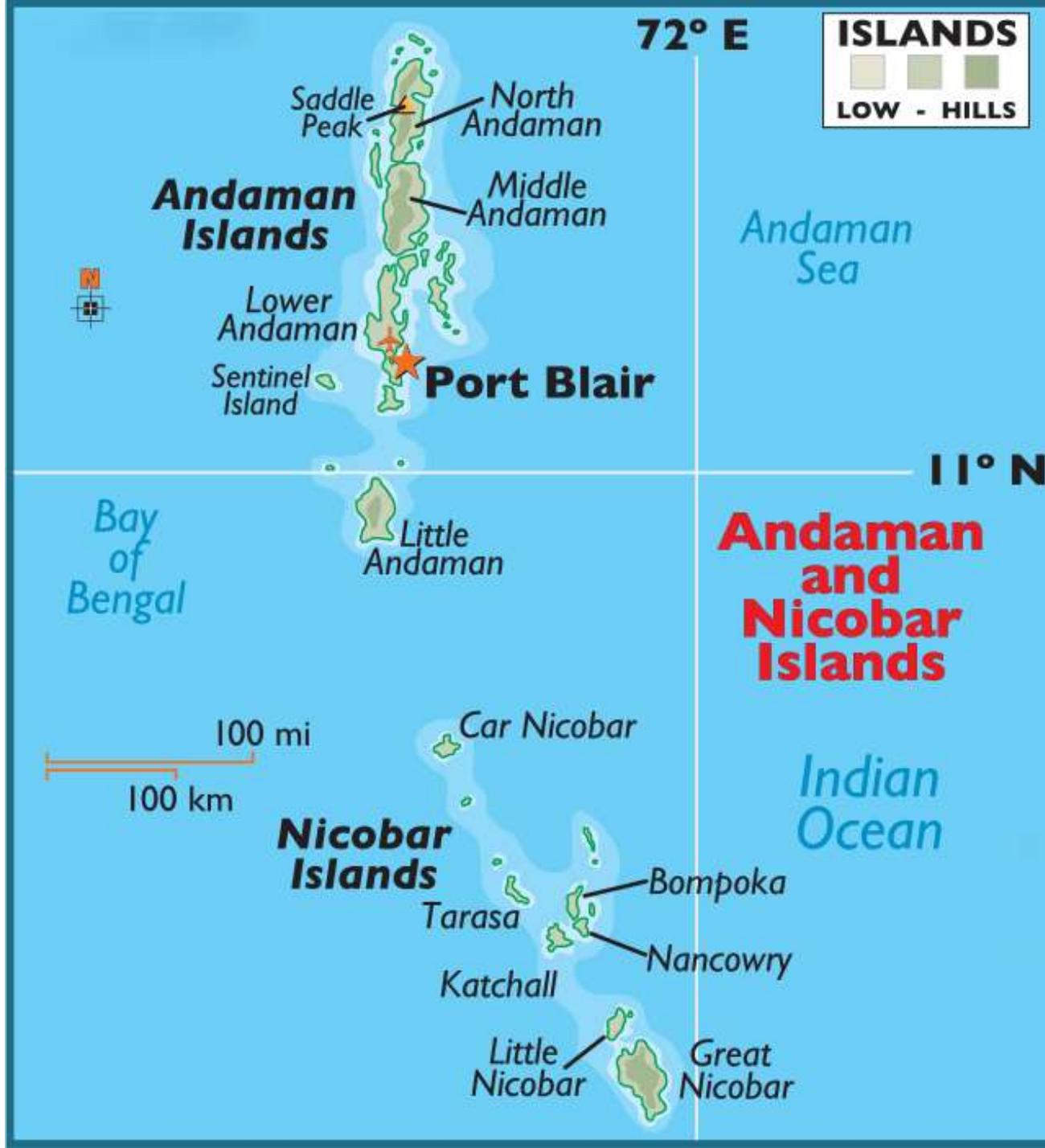
"doubt" expressed by the applicant is "expelled" by the conditions already present in the EC.

While the project's environmental clearance was under challenge before the NGT, aspects of the project's forest clearance are currently under challenge before the Calcutta High Court.

Local opposition

The locals – the Nicobarese and the Shompen (both Scheduled Tribes) – have alleged that their rights on forest lands which are supposed to be used for the project had not been settled., and have more recently accused the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration of "coercing" them to surrender their ancestral lands.

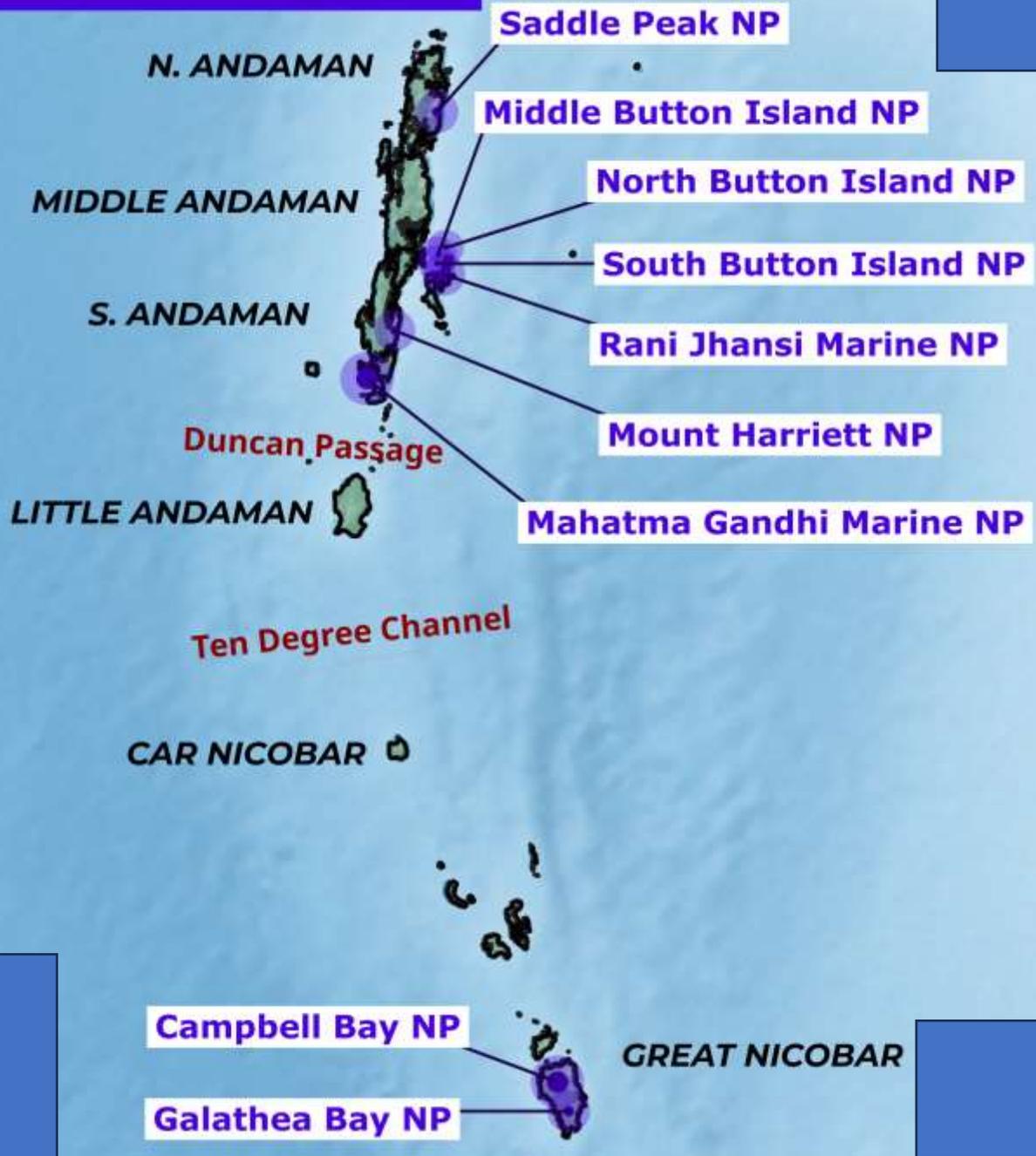
Referring to the proceedings underway before the Calcutta High Court, Mr. Jairam Ramesh said, "that now is the only beacon of hope".



ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

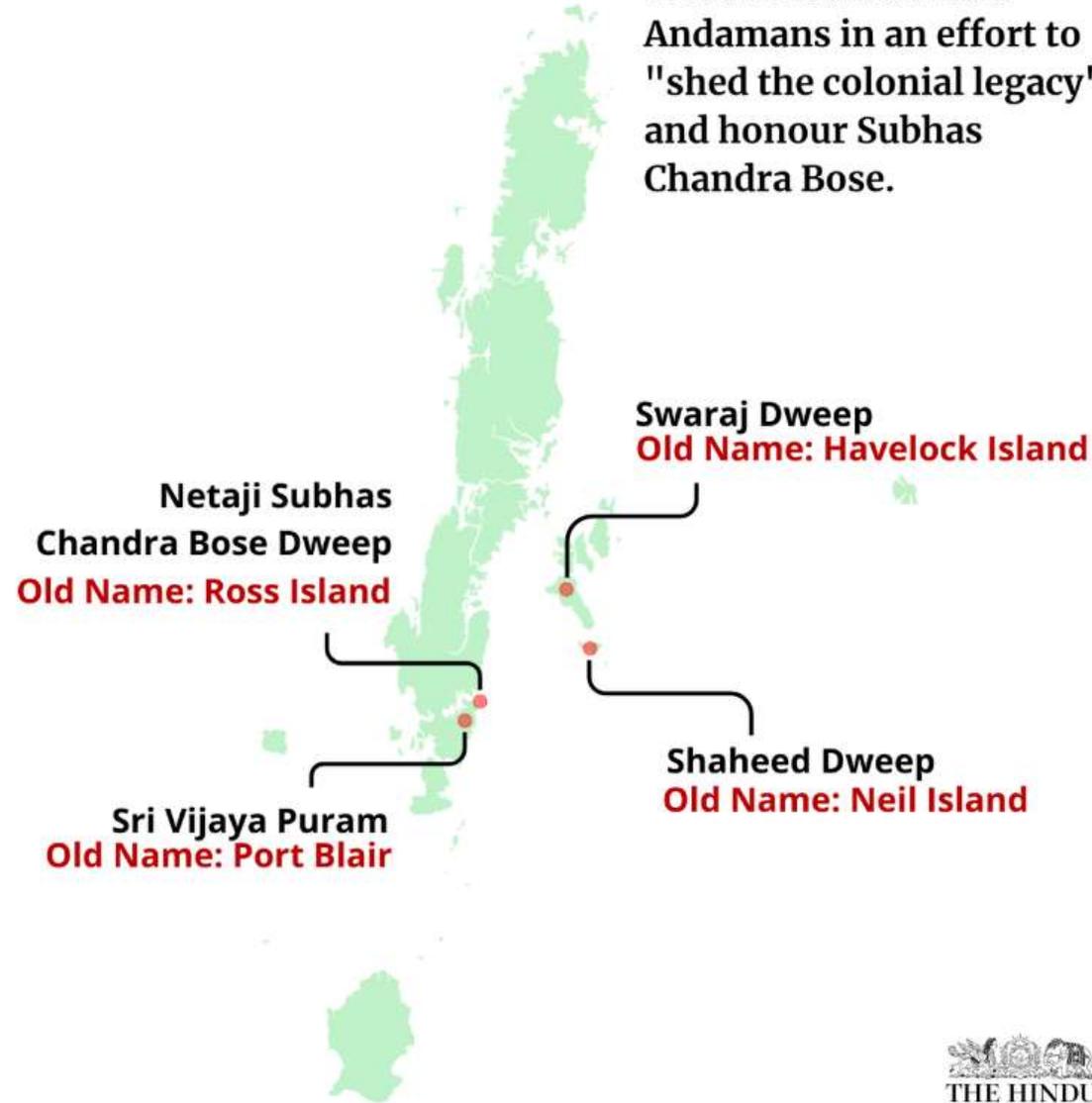


Andaman & Nicobar Is.



Renaming Islands in Andaman

In recent years, the Narendra Modi government has renamed several islands in the Andamans in an effort to "shed the colonial legacy" and honour Subhas Chandra Bose.



THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT



The Great Nicobar Island is strategically located astride the sea lanes approaching the Strait of Malacca — the most critical choke point in the Indo-Pacific. The distance from the island's tip, the Indira Point, to Indonesia's Aceh region is a mere 80 nautical miles (148 km). The central government says the project, considering its "strategic and economic importance", will put India on the world map of transcontinental cargo trade.

Road through green haven

80.0302
hectares of private land proposed to be acquired

- The Trunk Infrastructure Road will cut through Great Nicobar Island (GNI)
- According to the draft social impact assessment report, there was no alternative location
- Anthropologists have cautioned against the project



• THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT



Proposed
airport



Power
plant



Proposed
transshipment port

- Project also includes an integrated township
- Project entails diversion of 130 sq km forest land, felling of almost **a million trees**

Great Nicobar
Biosphere
Reserve

Galathea
National Park

Campbell Bay
National Park

GREAT
NICOBAR
ISLAND



Project Components

Transshipment Port

A ₹35,000 crore transshipment port at Galathea Bay aims to facilitate cargo handling and boost economic activity

International Airport

The greenfield airport, with a capacity of 4,000 peak-hour passengers, will support both maritime and tourism sectors

Power Plant

A 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant is part of the project

Township Development

The plan includes a township built over 30 years on more than 160 sq. km of land

THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT



Proposed
airport



Power
plant

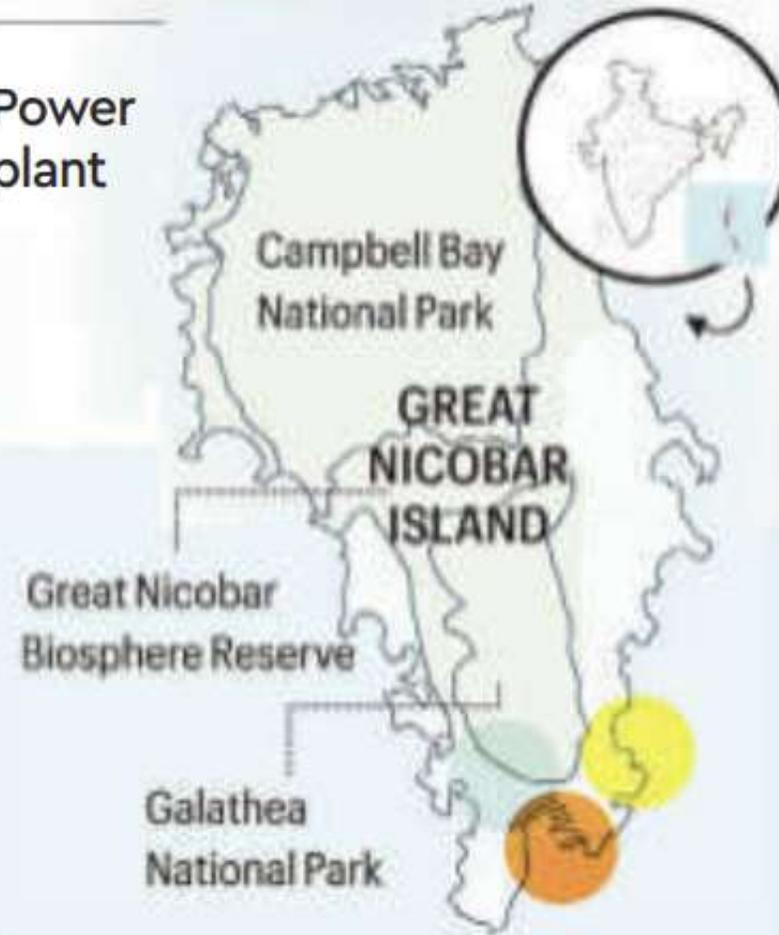


Proposed
transshipment port

■ Project estimated to cost
about ₹81,000 crore

■ Entails diversion of
130 sq km of forest land,
felling of almost a

million trees



1. NGT Decision

National Green Tribunal (NGT) cleared the ₹92,000 crore Great Nicobar mega project.

नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (NGT) ने ₹92,000 करोड़ के ग्रेट निकोबार मेगा प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी दी।

The Tribunal stated that the project is of strategic, defence and national importance.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने कहा कि यह परियोजना रणनीतिक, रक्षा और राष्ट्रीय महत्व की है।

It found no valid ground to interfere with the Environmental Clearance (EC) granted in 2022.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने 2022 में दी गई पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी (EC) में हस्तक्षेप करने का कोई उचित आधार नहीं पाया।

The High-Powered Committee (HPC) review was upheld by the Tribunal.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने उच्च स्तरीय समिति (HPC) की समीक्षा को बरकरार रखा।

2. Project Components

The project includes a transshipment port, international airport, power plant and township.

इस परियोजना में एक ट्रांसशिपमेंट पोर्ट, अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, बिजली संयंत्र और टाउनशिप शामिल हैं।

It aims to develop Great Nicobar as a global maritime hub.

इसका उद्देश्य ग्रेट निकोबार को एक वैश्विक समुद्री केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करना है।

The project enhances India's presence near the Malacca Strait.

यह परियोजना मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य के पास भारत की सामरिक उपस्थिति को मजबूत करती है।

3. Environmental Concerns

Concerns were raised about coral reefs and leatherback turtle nesting sites.

प्रवाल भित्तियों और लेदरबैक कछुओं के घोंसले स्थलों को लेकर चिंताएँ उठाई गईं।

Allegations claimed that parts of the project fall in ecologically sensitive zones.

आरोप लगाए गए कि परियोजना के कुछ हिस्से पारिस्थितिक दृष्टि से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में आते हैं।

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was conducted for one season instead of three seasons.

पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन (EIA) एक सीजन के लिए किया गया, जबकि सामान्यतः तीन सीजन का डेटा आवश्यक होता है।

4. NGT Observations

The Tribunal said adequate safeguards were included in EC conditions.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने कहा कि पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी की शर्तों में पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपाय शामिल हैं।

The Environment Ministry was directed to ensure coral regeneration and shoreline protection.

पर्यावरण मंत्रालय को प्रवाल पुनर्जीवन और तटरेखा संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश दिया गया।

The Tribunal observed that no part of the project lies in CRZ-IA zone.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने अवलोकन किया कि परियोजना का कोई भी भाग CRZ-IA क्षेत्र में नहीं है।

Measures will be taken to prevent shoreline erosion and loss of sandy beaches.

तटरेखा के कटाव और रेतीले समुद्र तटों के नुकसान को रोकने के लिए उपाय किए जाएंगे।

5. Local and Legal Issues

Forest clearance of the project is being challenged before the Calcutta High Court.

परियोजना की वन मंजूरी को कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय में चुनौती दी जा रही है।

The Nicobarese and Shompen tribes raised concerns regarding land rights and displacement.

निकोबारी और शोमपेन जनजातियों ने भूमि अधिकारों और विस्थापन को लेकर चिंता जताई।

The Shompen tribe is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

शोमपेन जनजाति को विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (PVTG) के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

Topic

Details

NGT Established

2010 – NGT Act, 2010 / 2010 – NGT १९९९९९९९९९

Headquarters

New Delhi / ढह श्रँह

Other Benches

Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai / ब्रह्मच, ह्रुड्,
इन्द्रचन्द्रल, देह

Southernmost Point of India

Indira Point / स्रश्रघर्विस्त्र

Strategic Location

Near Malacca Strait / खचघ्न न चमखचये इड् श्रुड् ढ

CRZ Notification

1991, revised 2011 & 2019 / 1991, द्रुत्रुड्श्रु २०११
इन्द्र २०१९

Leatherback Turtle IUCN Status

Vulnerable / १ द्रुप्रुड्

Composition	Chairperson + Judicial Members + Expert Members	अध्यक्ष + न्यायिक सदस्य + विशेषज्ञ सदस्य
Chairperson Qualification	Supreme Court Judge or Chief Justice of High Court	सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश या उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश
Time Limit	Cases to be disposed within 6 months	मामलों का निपटारा 6 महीने में
Appeals Against NGT	Supreme Court (within 90 days)	सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (90 दिन के भीतर)
Principles Applied	Polluter Pays Principle	प्रदूषक भुगतान सिद्धांत
	Precautionary Principle	एहतियाती सिद्धांत
	Sustainable Development	सतत विकास
Jurisdiction Covers	Water Act 1974	जल अधिनियम 1974
	Air Act 1981	वायु अधिनियम 1981
	Environment Protection Act 1986	पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम 1986
	Forest Conservation Act 1980	वन संरक्षण अधिनियम 1980
	Biological Diversity Act 2002	जैव विविधता अधिनियम 2002
Jurisdiction Does NOT Cover	Wildlife Protection Act 1972	वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972
	Indian Forest Act 1927	भारतीय वन अधिनियम 1927

Consider the following statements:

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. The Great Nicobar Project includes a transshipment port.
2. ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना में ट्रांसशिपमेंट पोर्ट शामिल है।
3. The Shompen tribe is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
4. शोमपेन जनजाति विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह है।
5. NGT was established in 2005.
6. NGT की स्थापना 2005 में हुई थी।

Which of the statements given above are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

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

ISB tops India, climbs to 12th globally

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, February 16

THE INDIAN SCHOOL of Business (ISB) has emerged as India's top-ranked management institute in the Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2026, climbing 15 places to 12th globally. Its flagship Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) has also been rated India's best for the sixth consecutive year, reinforcing ISB's growing global stature.

ISB's strong performance was driven by several key parameters. Graduates from the institute were ranked first globally for Salary Percentage Increase, with average earnings rising by 248% — from

GLOBAL CHEER		
FT Global MBA Ranking	2026	2025
MIT Sloan	1	6
Insead	2	4
University of Pennsylvania: Wharton	3	1
IESE Business School	4	3
London Business School	4	7
Indian School of Business	12	27
Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	27	31
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore	34	57
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta	53	61
Indian Institute of Management Lucknow	58	71

Source: FT

\$201,712 before the programme to significantly higher levels post-graduation. The school was also ranked sixth

worldwide for its Alumni Network, highlighting the depth, engagement, and international influence of its alumni commu-

nity in advancing professional and entrepreneurial outcomes.

Deepa Mani, deputy dean (academic programmes) at ISB, said the rankings reaffirm the institute's mission to nurture leaders shaping India's next phase of economic growth and global leadership. "Our ranking, alongside a number of Indian schools in the global top 100, is a testament to India's rising global influence. It also underscores our industry-aligned curriculum, which blends academic rigour with real-world relevance. We are proud of our 20,000-plus alumni across 65 countries who are strengthening India's business landscape, while contributing to organisations and economies worldwide," she said.

Overall, Indian business schools have improved their standing in the latest FT rankings, with nine domestic institutes featuring in the global top 100 — one more than last year. Indian Institute of Management Bangalore recorded the sharpest rise, climbing 23 places from 57th in 2025 to 34th this year, while SP Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR) made its debut at 74th position.

The FT Global MBA Rankings evaluated 128 participating business schools across 21 parameters. Alumni feedback accounted for 56% of the total weight, school data contributed 34%, and research performance formed the remaining 10%.

1. Ranking Highlights

ISB became India's top-ranked management institute in the FT Global MBA Rankings 2026.

आईएसबी FT ग्लोबल MBA रैंकिंग 2026 में भारत का शीर्ष प्रबंधन संस्थान बना।

ISB climbed 15 places to rank 12th globally.

आईएसबी 15 स्थान ऊपर चढ़कर वैश्विक स्तर पर 12वें स्थान पर पहुंचा।

Its Post Graduate Programme (PGP) was rated India's best for the sixth consecutive year.

इसके पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट प्रोग्राम (PGP) को लगातार छठे वर्ष भारत का सर्वश्रेष्ठ माना गया।

2. Key Performance Indicators

ISB ranked first globally in Salary Percentage Increase.

आईएसबी को वेतन प्रतिशत वृद्धि में विश्व में प्रथम स्थान मिला।

Average earnings rose by 248%, reaching \$201,712 post-graduation.

स्नातक के बाद औसत आय 248% बढ़कर \$201,712 हो गई।

ISB ranked 6th worldwide for Alumni Network.

पूर्व छात्र नेटवर्क के लिए आईएसबी को विश्व में छठा स्थान मिला।

3. Indian Institutes in FT Global MBA Ranking 2026

Institute	2026 Rank	2025 Rank
ISB	12	27
IIM Ahmedabad	27	31
IIM Bangalore	34	57
IIM Calcutta	53	61
IIM Lucknow	58	71

4. Global Top MBA Institutions 2026

Rank	Institute
1	MIT Sloan
2	Insead
3	Wharton (University of Pennsylvania)
4	IESE Business School
5	London Business School

4. Global Top MBA Institutions 2026

Rank	Institute
1	MIT Sloan
2	Insead
3	Wharton (University of Pennsylvania)
4	IESE Business School
5	London Business School

5. FT Ranking Methodology

FT evaluated 128 business schools across 21 parameters.

FT ने 21 मानदंडों पर 128 बिजनेस स्कूलों का मूल्यांकन किया।

Alumni feedback contributed 56% weightage.

पूर्व छात्र प्रतिक्रिया का भार 56% था।

School data contributed 34%.

स्कूल डेटा का भार 34% था।

Research performance accounted for 10%.

अनुसंधान प्रदर्शन का योगदान 10% था।

Topic	Details
ISB Established	2001
ISB Campuses	Hyderabad & Mohali
IIM Established Under	IIM Act, 2017
First IIM	IIM Calcutta (1961)
IIM Ahmedabad	1961
IIM Bangalore	1973
IIM Lucknow	1984

Previous Year Questions (Memory-Based)

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2018	First IIM in India?	IIM Calcutta
SSC CGL	2022	ISB is located in which city?	Hyderabad
RAS	2021	IIM Act passed in which year?	2017
Banking PO	2020	FT Global MBA ranking is published by?	Financial Times

Consider the following statements:

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. ISB ranked 12th globally in FT MBA Ranking 2026.
2. आईएसबी FT MBA रैंकिंग 2026 में 12वें स्थान पर रहा।
3. Alumni feedback carries the highest weightage in FT ranking.
4. FT रैंकिंग में पूर्व छात्र प्रतिक्रिया का सबसे अधिक भार होता है।
5. IIM Bangalore ranked 27th in 2026.
6. IIM बैंगलोर 2026 में 27वें स्थान पर रहा।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

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

Cash in circulation rises 11% to ₹40L cr

At 11.2%, Cash-To-GDP Ratio Lowest Since Covid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Currency in circulation (CiC) touched a record Rs 40 lakh crore in Jan, rising 11.1% year-on-year, even as its share in the economy declined. The cash-to-GDP ratio eased to around 11.2%, down sharply from the pandemic peak of 14.4% in March 2021, signalling digital payments are financing a growing share of economic activity despite higher absolute cash holdings.

In absolute terms, currency holdings have expanded steadily over the past decade. CiC rose from Rs 11.8 lakh crore in March 2013 (12% of GDP) to Rs 16.6 lakh crore in March 2016. Following demonetisation, it fell to Rs 13.4 lakh crore in March 2017 but surged to Rs 28.5 lakh crore in the pandemic-era dash-to-cash by March 2021 (14.4%). While the absolute amount of cash continued to rise, the CiC-GDP ratio moderated to 13.7% in March 2022, 12.4% in March 2023, 11.9% in March 2024 and 11.26% in March 2025, before stabilising around 11-11.2% by Jan 2026.

A report by State Bank of India attributed the record cash stock to tax enforcement, low interest rates and shifting household behaviour. Around 18,000 GST notices issued in July 2025 to small vendors based on UPI transaction volumes coincided with spikes in ATM withdrawals in Karnataka, West Bengal and Kerala, indicating a shift back to cash among small traders. Weak deposit growth and lower interest rates have also encouraged precautionary cash savings, while households selling gold and

India Stores Cash, But Transacts Digitally

Year	CiC (₹L cr)	CiC-GDP Ratio (%)	March, '19	21.4	11.3
March, '13	11.8	12	March, '20	24.5	12.2
March, '14	13	11.6	March, '21	28.5	14.4
March, '15	14.5	11.6	March, '22	31.3	13.7
March, '16	16.6	12.1	March, '23	33.8	12.4
March, '17	13.4	8.7	March, '24	35.1	11.9
March, '18	18.3	10.7	March, '25	37.2	11.3
			Jan, '26	40	11.2

> In absolute terms, more cash is being held, but a **declining cash-to-GDP ratio with rapid UPI adoption** indicates that cash is increasingly retained for storage, while a rising share of everyday transactions is digital. CiC: Currency in circulation. Source: RBI

RBI tells MSMEs to pursue formalisation

Mumbai: RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday urged micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to formalise operations and assured them of timely and adequate access to credit, calling improved credit flow to the sector a key policy priority for Reserve Bank of India. At an interaction with MSMEs and industry associations, the governor highlighted the sector's contribution to GDP, exports and employment, and outlined policy and regulatory steps taken by the central bank and govt to support it. He encouraged enterprises to strengthen credit discipline and adopt digital payments to enhance resilience and competitiveness. TNN

silver to raise liquidity have supported cash holdings and consumption.

Digital payments, however, continue to expand rapidly. Data from National Payments Corporation of India show UPI now accounts for about 70-80% of digital payments. Monthly UPI transactions rose from around 140 crore in March 2020 to over 200 crore by Oct 2020 and 355 crore by Aug 2021, valued at Rs 6.4 lakh crore. Record levels were reached in Dec 2025 with 2,163 crore transactions worth nearly Rs 28 lakh crore, followed by 2,170 crore transactions in Jan 2026 — roughly 70 crore transactions a day.

Currency denomination trends reinforce the store-of-value role of cash. The

Rs 500 note's share in total currency value rose by 4.4% between April 2025 and Jan 2026. After the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 note, medium denominations gained ground. Small-value notes continued to lose relevance, with the volume share of notes below Rs 20 declining from 36.5% in 2023 to 32.4% in 2025 and their value share edging down from 1.7% to 1.6%.

The broad trend suggests a structural shift: more cash is being held in absolute terms, but a declining cash-to-GDP ratio alongside rapid UPI adoption indicates physical currency is increasingly retained for storage, while digital systems handle a rising share of everyday transactions.

1. Key Highlights

Currency in Circulation (CiC) reached ₹40 lakh crore in January 2026.

जनवरी 2026 में प्रचलन में मुद्रा (CiC) ₹40 लाख करोड़ तक पहुँच गई।

This represents an 11.1% year-on-year increase.

यह वर्ष-दर-वर्ष 11.1% की वृद्धि दर्शाता है।

However, the Cash-to-GDP ratio declined to around 11.2%.

हालाँकि, नकद-से-जीडीपी अनुपात घटकर लगभग 11.2% रह गया।

The ratio is the lowest since the Covid pandemic period.

यह अनुपात कोविड महामारी के बाद का सबसे निचला स्तर है।

2. Trend Since Demonetisation

Cash holdings expanded steadily after demonetisation.

नोटबंदी के बाद नकदी भंडार लगातार बढ़ते रहे।

In March 2018, CiC stood at ₹16.6 lakh crore.

मार्च 2018 में CiC ₹16.6 लाख करोड़ था।

It rose to ₹28.5 lakh crore in March 2021.

मार्च 2021 में यह बढ़कर ₹28.5 लाख करोड़ हो गया।

By January 2026, it reached ₹40 lakh crore.

जनवरी 2026 तक यह ₹40 लाख करोड़ हो गया।

3. Cash-to-GDP Ratio Trend

Cash-to-GDP ratio peaked at 14.4% in March 2021 (pandemic peak).
नकद-से-जीडीपी अनुपात मार्च 2021 में 14.4% (महामारी चरम) पर पहुँचा।

It declined to 12.4% in March 2022.
यह मार्च 2022 में घटकर 12.4% रह गया।

Further declined to 11.9% in March 2023.
मार्च 2023 में यह और घटकर 11.9% हो गया।

Stabilised around 11.2% by January 2026.
जनवरी 2026 तक यह लगभग 11.2% पर स्थिर हो गया।

4. Digital Payments Growth

Rapid UPI adoption indicates increasing digital transactions.
तेजी से UPI अपनाने से डिजिटल लेनदेन में वृद्धि दर्शाई गई।

UPI accounts for about 70–80% of digital transactions in India.
भारत में डिजिटल लेनदेन का लगभग 70–80% हिस्सा UPI से होता है।

Monthly UPI transactions crossed record levels in recent years.
हाल के वर्षों में मासिक UPI लेनदेन ने रिकॉर्ड स्तर पार किए।

5. RBI's Advisory to MSMEs

RBI urged MSMEs to formalise operations.

RBI ने MSME को संचालन औपचारिक बनाने का आग्रह किया।

Emphasis was placed on digital payments and credit discipline.

डिजिटल भुगतान और ऋण अनुशासन पर जोर दिया गया।

Objective: Improve resilience and competitiveness.

उद्देश्य: लचीलापन और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाना।

Data Snapshot (Exam-Oriented Table)

Year	CiC (₹ lakh cr)	Cash-GDP Ratio (%)
March 2019	21.4	11.3
March 2020	24.5	12.2
March 2021	28.5	14.4
March 2022	31.3	13.7
March 2023	33.8	12.4
March 2024	35.1	11.9
March 2025	37.2	11.3
January 2026	40	11.2

IN India's First National Cow Culture Museum – Mathura



Particular	Details
Project Name	India's First National Cow Culture Museum
Location	Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
Campus	Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University
Announcement Date	February 2026
Type	National-Level Thematic Museum
Focus	Cultural, Agricultural & Economic significance of Cattle

Objective

Explanation

Cultural Awareness

Highlight spiritual & traditional importance of cows

Scientific Perspective

Explain cattle conservation & breed characteristics

Agricultural Importance

Role in draught power & organic manure

Dairy Economy

Contribution to milk production & rural livelihoods

Rural Development

Link between cattle-based activities & rural economy

Balanced Narrative

Beyond religious symbolism – culture + science

4 Agriculture & Economy Link

Aspect	Importance for Exams
Organic Farming	Use of cow dung manure
Draught Power	Traditional farming support
Dairy Sector	Supports millions of households
Rural Livelihood	Employment generation in villages
Sustainable Farming	Eco-friendly agricultural practices

5 Important Related Constitutional & Policy Points

Topic	Relevance
Article 48 (DPSP)	Organization of agriculture & animal husbandry; prohibits slaughter of cows, calves & milch cattle
Rashtriya Gokul Mission	Conservation & development of indigenous bovine breeds
National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	Dairy sector promotion
Operation Flood	White Revolution in India
UP's Role	Major milk-producing state

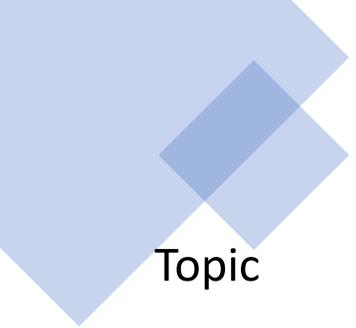
Breed	State	Special Feature
Gir	Gujarat	High milk yield
Sahiwal	Punjab	Heat tolerance
Tharparkar	Rajasthan	Drought resistant
Red Sindhi	Sindh/India	Adaptable breed
Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Strong draught animal

• **Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's first National Cow Culture Museum:**

- It will be established in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
 - It will function within a veterinary university campus.
 - The project focuses only on religious symbolism.
 - It will showcase indigenous cattle breeds.
 - Which of the above statements are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only
 - B) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - C) 1 and 3 only
 - D) 2, 3 and 4 only



INFR India–France
Innovation Year 2026



Topic

Event

Leaders Involved

Date of Launch

Macron's Visit

Nature of Visit

Focus Areas

Related Summit

Earlier Summit

Countries Participated in AI Action Summit

Details

Launch of **India–France Year of Innovation**

Narendra Modi (India), Emmanuel Macron (France)

February 2026

17–19 February 2026 (3 days)

Strategic & Innovation Partnership Expansion

AI, Defence, Technology, Indo-Pacific Cooperation

AI Impact Summit (Mumbai)

AI Action Summit (France)

100+ countries



2 AI & Technology Partnership

Area	Key Points for Exam
AI Cooperation	Human-centric, ethical, safe & inclusive AI framework
Digital Infrastructure	Strengthening tech collaboration
Start-up Collaboration	Institutional partnership between startups & researchers
Capacity Building	AI capacity-building for developing nations
Indo-Pacific	Strategic alignment in Indo-Pacific region

3 Defence Cooperation

Defence Aspect	Details
Strategic Partnership	India-France Strategic Partnership (since 1998)
Rafale Deal	114 Rafale fighter aircraft
Procurement Mode	Government-to-Government
Flyaway Condition	18 aircraft
Manufactured in India	Remaining 96 aircraft
Defence Significance	Strengthens Air Force capability & Make in India

4 India–France Strategic Partnership (Background)

Area	Details
Established	1998
Key Areas	Defence, Nuclear Energy, Space, Maritime Security
Indo-Pacific Cooperation	Joint naval exercises (Varuna Exercise)
Space Cooperation	ISRO–CNES partnership
Nuclear Cooperation	Civil Nuclear Agreement (Jaitapur Project)

5 Indo-Pacific Importance (Exam Angle)

Point	Significance
Region	Strategic maritime region
Importance	Trade routes, China factor, QUAD alignment
France's Role	Has overseas territories in Indian Ocean
India's Role	SAGAR doctrine

Q. The India–France Year of Innovation 2026 focuses primarily on which of the following areas?

- 1.** Artificial Intelligence cooperation
- 2.** Defence manufacturing
- 3.** Indo-Pacific maritime security
- 4.** Agricultural trade reforms

Select the correct answer:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) 1, 3 and 4 only

Word of the day

Delectation:

a feeling of extreme pleasure or satisfaction; act of receiving pleasure from something

Synonyms: delight, enjoyment

Usage: *Here is some ice cream for your delectation.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/delectationpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˌdiːləkˈteɪʃən/, /ˌdɪləkˈteɪʃən/

Word of the day

Lassitude:

a state of comatose torpor; a feeling of lack of interest or energy; weakness characterised by a lack of vitality or energy

Synonyms: lethargy, sluggishness, languor, listlessness, slackness

Usage: *The hot summer days were marked by lassitude.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/lassitudepro

International Phonetic

ˌlɑːsɪˈtuːd

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1

Which country has the maximum number of coaches in the ongoing T20 World Cup?

QUESTION 2

Which country's current coach has won the T20 World Cup title twice, both as captain?

QUESTION 3

Who played in the inaugural ODI World Cup in 1975 but is now coach of another country?

QUESTION 4

Out of the 20 participating countries, only seven nations have a coach who has played for their country. Among these seven, only two have not played any international matches. Who are they?

QUESTION 5

Out of the 20 participating countries, only six nations have retained the same coach who was also in-charge of their team in the 2024 World Cup. However, there are three other coaches who have moved from one country to another when compared with 2024. Who are they?



Visual question:

He was the manager of the World Cup winning Indian team in 2007 and is now coach of this participating team in the 2026 T20 World Cup. Name him. TH

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5. International Affairs (India + Major Summits)

6. Science & Tech

7. Environment & Ecology

8. Polity & Constitution Updates

9. Awards & Honours

10. Sports

11. Banking & Financial Market

12. Defence

13. Appointments & Resignations

14. Books & Authors

15. Important Days & Themes

16. Government Committees

17. States in News

18. India Rankings & Lists

19. Sports + Govt Sports Schemes

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Thank you 😊