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INSIDE

India-EU trade pact 'mother of all deals': Goyal

NEW DELHI
The free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) will be the "mother of all deals" when compared with the seven deals India has signed with "developed" countries, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said. » PAGE 11

Insurrection Act may be invoked over riots: Trump

MINNEAPOLIS
U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to invoke an emergency law that allows the domestic deployment of the military, after federal agents killed one person and injured another in Minnesota, sparking mass protests. » PAGE 12

HC seeks Centre's reply on sailors detained in Iran

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the Union government while hearing a petition by family members of 18 Indian seafarers who were detained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on December 8. At the time, they were on a vessel in international waters off Bibba port near Dubai. » PAGE 2

Five booked for 'assaulting' Assam student

BHOPAL
Five students of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) at Amarpur in Madhya Pradesh have been booked for allegedly assaulting an Assamese student on campus, the police said on Friday. They were also expelled from the Central varsity on January 14. » PAGE 2

Home Ministry to hold Ladakh talks on Feb. 4

NEW DELHI
The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has called the next round of meeting with civil society leaders of Ladakh on February 4. The meeting of the high powered committee (HPC), which is led by Minister of State for Home Affairs, is being held after a gap of three months. » PAGE 4

44,000 new start-ups were registered in 2025, says PM

Prime Minister says Startup India mission has become a 'revolution,' with the country becoming the third-largest start-up ecosystem globally; risk-taking has become mainstream today, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 44,000 start-ups registered with the government in 2025, the highest annual addition since Startup India was launched, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday at an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the scheme.

Launched on January 16, 2016, the flagship initiative seeks to foster innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and enable investment-driven growth.

Looking up: Narendra Modi visits an exhibition during an event marking a decade of Startup India, in New Delhi, on Friday. ANI

The biggest jump

"I'm even more pleased to see that the momentum of Startup India is steadily increasing," Mr. Modi said. "Today's start-ups are becoming unicorns, unicorns are launching their IPOs, and creating more and more jobs. Last year alone, in 2025, nearly 44,000 new start-ups were registered. This is the biggest jump in any single year since the launch of Startup India."

He said that the Startup India mission has become a "revolution" in India, with the country taking its position as the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world.

"Ten years ago, there were fewer than 800 start-ups in the country; today, that number has grown to over 2,00,000," Mr. Modi said. "In 2014, India had only four unicorns; today, there are nearly 128 active unicorns in India... These figures bear witness to how our start-ups are driving the ecosystem, innovation, and growth."

Mr. Modi also talked about how the perception of risk-taking has changed in the country, becoming more widely accepted and even respected.

"Earlier, risk-taking was discouraged in the country, but today, it has become mainstream," Mr. Modi said, adding, "Those who think beyond monthly salary are not only accepted but also respected. Risk-taking ideas, which people once considered fringe, are now becoming fashionable."

He also said that over ₹28,000 crore has been invested through the Fund of Funds for start-ups that had been created by the government.

Speaking to the media after the event, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the focus of the Fund of Funds 2.0, approved in April 2025 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore, would be on deep tech, particularly in areas witnessing a lot of innovation, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum technologies, defence, and aerospace. "These are areas where the country has a need, and where we want to become a global leader," he said.

Taming time

Fighting fit: A bull charges into the arena during a Jallikattu event at Palamedu village in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu on Friday. The first of three major events in the traditional bull-taming sport coinciding with Pongal celebrations began on Thursday. K. ASHOK

SC rejects Justice Varma's challenge to formation of House inquiry committee

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a petition by Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the Lok Sabha Speaker's constitution of a committee to inquire into a motion for his removal, underscoring that safeguards for judges cannot paralyse the removal process.

The court said accepting the Allahabad High Court judge's interpretation of the Judges (Inquiry) Act would result in a "disabling consequence", pushing Members of Parliament back to square one.

Justice Varma is facing an inquiry for misbehaviour after sacks of half-burnt currency were allegedly found at his official residential premises after a blaze on the night of March 14, 2025. He was then a judge in the Delhi High Court.

"Constitutional safeguards for judges cannot come at the cost of paralysing the removal process itself," a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma observed in a 80-page judgment.

'Striking a balance'

A balance has to be struck between the protection afforded to the judiciary and the effective functioning of the mechanism for removal of a judge triggered by the peoples' representatives, the court said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla admitted the MPs' notice of motion for the removal of Justice Varma on August 12 last year, a day after the Deputy Rajya Sabha Chairman had rejected a separate notice by the Members of his House.

The Deputy Chairman had assumed the duties of then Chairman and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned from office on July 21, the very day both notices for removal were submitted by MPs in their respective Houses.

In court, Justice Varma had argued that the Speaker did wrong to "unilaterally" constitute the committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act. Since the notices were given in the two Houses of Parliament on the same day, both Houses should have admitted them. The High Court judge said the committee ought to have been formed by the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker jointly. He referred to the first proviso of Section 3(2) of the Act in his favour.

> Constitutional safeguards for judges cannot come at the cost of paralysing the removal process itself
>
> SUPREME COURT

The judge had contended that the proviso should be read strictly. A loose interpretation would not only mar his reputation, but impact the constitutional safeguards provided to the institution of judiciary, exposing judges to arbitrary or biased removal motions by MPs.

Disagreeing with Justice Varma's reasoning, Justice Datta, who authored the verdict, held the proviso would apply only if notices given on the same day were admitted in both Houses.

In the present case, one House had rejected while the other had admitted the notice.

"There is nothing in the Inquiry Act to suggest that rejection of a motion in one House would render the other House incompetent to proceed in accordance with law... The interpretation advanced by the petitioner [J. Varma] of rejection of a notice in one House resulting in the notice automatically falling in the other House would entail consequences of a most serious nature. The Members would be put to square one and the process has to be initiated afresh in either House," Justice Datta reasoned.

The court said a House of Parliament cannot be deprived of its autonomy because the other House chose to reject the notice of motion.

The court said the first proviso was intended to obviate the risk of presiding officers of both Houses inadvertently constituting parallel inquiry committees.

Dy. Chairman's duties

Justice Datta brushed aside the contention of the High Court judge that the Deputy Chairman's duties were confined to regulating the House, and he did not have authority under the Judges (Inquiry) Act.

The court pointed out that the duties of the Deputy Chairman, in case of a vacancy in the Chairman's office, encompassed the inquiry Act too.

Besides, it said, the validity of the Speaker's action did not hinge upon the correctness or otherwise of the decision taken by the Deputy Chairman.

The court said the mere loss of having a "joint committee" has not caused Justice Varma any legal prejudice. After all, the inquiry committee's task was restricted to submission of a report.

"The ultimate decision of his removal would lie with the Members of Parliament.

"Reputational injury, howsoever unfortunate, cannot be a ground to subvert a constitutionally-sanctioned statutory process, particularly when Parliament has consciously designed a multi-tiered safeguard structure," the judgment added.

Mahayuti sweeps municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance swept the municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra on Friday with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claiming victory in 25 of the 29 bodies.

The State Election Commission declared results for 2,833 of the 2,869 seats in the 29 corporations. The BJP won 1,400, becoming the single largest party. Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena won 397 seats, Congress 324, Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party 160, Shiv Sena (UBT) 153, NCP (SP) 36 and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena won 13 seats.

The AIMIM became a surprise element. The party has claimed victory on 98 seats across Maharashtra, with eight in Mumbai alone, upsetting power combinations.

For the first time, Thackeraya lost control of India's richest civic body BMC after ruling it for over 25 years.

In several corporations, Sharad Pawar's party, the NCP-SP, drew a blank. His party won 12 seats in Bhiwandi-Nizampur, helping the tally reach 18. Except in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray's party won seats in single digits in other places. Ajit Pawar's NCP faced substantial electoral losses. In Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, where he had joined hands with his uncle Sharad Pawar against the BJP, the saffron party trumped the duo. He said he respected the people's will as supreme.

Shiv Sena UBT workers celebrate after winning a ward in Dadar, Mumbai, on Friday. DHANYAL YOGIR

The Congress suffered a massive setback in several constituencies. It attained to have won 350 of the 2,869 seats that went to polls, with mayors in five cities. It emerged as the single largest party in Chandrapur. The party said that it will jointly be in power in 10 other corporations and accused the BJP of winning on the basis of bogus voting and money distribution.

'Development agenda'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the NDA for the victory.

"I am very proud of every NDA karyakarta who worked tirelessly among people across Maharashtra. They talked about our alliance's track record, highlighted our vision for the coming times and also effectively countered the lies of the Opposition. My best wishes to them. Thank you Maharashtra!," he posted on X.

"Mumbai's mayor will be a Marathi, a Hindu," Mr. Fadnavis said in Nagpur. "I am grateful to the people of Maharashtra for the massive victory. We have broken all the records... We took the agenda of development in this election. The mandate is indicative that people want honesty, people want development," he said in his victory speech.

He attributed the party's success to Hindutva, calling it "all-encompassing".

AIMIM leader Waris Pathan said the party had hit the bull "out of the court". "The result proves that we are the fastest-growing party. People have shown their trust in Asaduddin Owaisi's leadership. Our performance has been fantastic. Even our Hindu candidate won in Mumbai," he said. The party defeated Samajwadi Party in its bastion in Mumbai and beat NCP leader Nawab Malik's candidates in his stronghold.

As per the SEC data on 29 municipal corporations, the BJP became the number one party. The results were declared for 2,833 of the 2,869 seats. Of them, the BJP won 1,400, Shiv Sena 397, Congress 324, NCP 160, Shiv Sena (UBT) 153, NCP (SP) 36 and Raj Thackeray's MNS won 13 seats.

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44,000 new start-ups were registered in 2025, says PM

Prime Minister says Startup India mission has become a 'revolution,' with the country becoming the third-largest start-up ecosystem globally; risk-taking has become mainstream today, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
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"I'm even more pleased to see that the momentum of Startup India is steadily increasing," Mr. Modi said. "Today's start-ups are becoming unicorns, unicorns are launching their IPOs, and creating more and more jobs. Last year alone, in 2025, nearly 44,000 new start-ups were registered. This is the biggest jump in any single year since the launch of Startup India."

He said that the Startup India mission has become a "revolution" in India, with the country taking its position as the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world.

"Ten years ago, there were fewer than 500 start-ups in the country; today, that number has grown to over 2,00,000," Mr. Modi said. "In 2014, India had only four unicorns; today, there are nearly 125 active unicorns in India... These figures bear witness to how our start-ups are driving the ecosystem, innovation, and growth."

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Speaking to the media after the event, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the focus of the Fund of Funds 2.0, approved in April 2025 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore, would be on deep tech, particularly in areas witnessing a lot of innovation, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum technologies, defence, and aerospace. "These are areas where the country has a need, and where we want to become a global leader," he said.

- **मुख्य खबर / Key news**
  - 2025 में सरकार के पास **करीब 44,000 नए स्टार्ट-अप** रजिस्टर हुए।
  - यह **Startup India (2016)** शुरू होने के बाद **किसी एक साल में सबसे बड़ा वार्षिक इजाफा** बताया गया।
- **Startup India का उद्देश्य / Objective of Startup India**
  - **इनnovation (नवाचार)** को बढ़ावा देना, **entrepreneurship (उद्यमिता)** को प्रोत्साहित करना, और **investment-driven growth (निवेश आधारित वृद्धि)** सक्षम करना।
- **भारत की स्थिति / India's position**
  - भारत को दुनिया का **तीसरा सबसे बड़ा start-up ecosystem** बताया गया।
  - **Risk-taking (जोखिम लेने की संस्कृति)** अब मुख्यधारा (mainstream) में आ गई है—लोग इसे अधिक स्वीकार/सम्मान कर रहे हैं।
- **इकोसिस्टम की वृद्धि / Growth of ecosystem**
  - 10 साल पहले भारत में **500 से कम** स्टार्ट-अप बताए गए थे; अब यह संख्या **2,00,000+** बताई गई।
  - 2014 में **केवल 4 unicorns** थे; अब **करीब 125 active unicorns** बताए गए।
- **सरकारी फंडिंग सपोर्ट / Government funding support**
  - सरकार के **Fund of Funds** के जरिए **₹25,000 करोड़+** निवेश का उल्लेख हुआ।
  - **Fund of Funds 2.0** (अप्रैल 2025, **₹10,000 करोड़ corpus**) का फोकस **deep tech** पर रहेगा—जैसे **AI, Machine Learning, Quantum, Defence, Aerospace**।

Topic	Key facts (English)	[illegible] Hindi)
Startup India launch	Launched on **16 Jan 2016**	[illegible]
Startup (concept)	Early-stage, innovation-led business model; scalable	[illegible]
DPIIT (nodal)	Startup recognition generally goes via **DPIIT** (Commerce & Industry)	[illegible] **DPIIT**
Unicorn	Privately held startup valued at **$1B+**	[illegible] valuation **$1B+**
Active unicorns	“Active” implies currently operating unicorns (not shut/merged)	“Active” = [illegible]
IPO	Public listing; startups use IPO for capital + credibility	IPO [illegible]
Fund of Funds	Govt capital routed via AIFs/managed funds to support startups	[illegible]
Deep-tech	Tech-heavy R&D (AI/ML/Quantum/Aerospace/Defence etc.)	[illegible] R&D [illegible] — AI/Quantum/Aerospace/Defence
Risk-taking culture	Shift from “discouraged” to “accepted & respected”	[illegible]
Key exam angle	Compare: Startup India vs Stand-Up India; funding vs credit	[illegible]

Exam	Date (as per paper/shift)	Question (Paraphrased)	Answer
SSC GD Constable	13 Jan 2023 (Shift 3)	Startup India Initiative was launched on which date?	**16 Jan 2016**
SSC CGL Tier-1	25 Jul 2023 (Shift 1)	Which team became India’s first sports unicorn (market cap ~₹7,600 cr as of Jan 2022)?	**Chennai Super Kings**
RBI Grade B	28 May 2022 (Memory-based paper)	Which became India’s **100th unicorn** in May 2022?	**Open (neo-banking startup)**
RRB NTPC CBT-1	15 Feb 2021 (Shift 2)	Startup India was launched on which date?	**16 Jan 2016**
OSSC TGT	11 Mar 2023 (Shift 3)	Startup India was launched in which year?	**2016**
UPSC CAPF (AC) Paper-II	12 Aug 2018	Startup India Hub was operationalised on which date (for handholding/query support)?	**1 Apr 2016**

- **Q. Consider the following statements:**
- In 2025, about **44,000** new start-ups were registered, which was stated as the biggest single-year jump since Startup India began.
- Fund of Funds 2.0 (approved in April 2025) focuses on deep-tech areas such as AI/ML/Quantum/Defence/Aerospace.
- In 2014, India had nearly **125** active unicorns.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only

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

HC seeks Centre's reply on Iran's detention of 16 Indian seafarers

Family members of detainees claim the govt. has not provided any support despite repeated requests; SC tells Union government to provide consular access to all detainees, ensure timely completion of probe, facilitate repatriation to India

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the Union government while hearing a plea by family members of 16 Indian seafarers who were detained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRG) on December 8. At the time, they were on a vessel in international waters off the Dibba port near Dubai.

"This petition is by the family members of sixteen Indian nationals who have been detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran, for directions to the respondent Union of India to take steps to provide consular access to the detained persons and to secure timely completion of investigation and their repatriation to India," Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav said in an order on January 15.

Seafarer families, including the kin of Ketan Mehta (in picture), have sought the government's urgent intervention. ANI VIDEOGRAB

'No MEA help yet'

The petitioners say the seafarers have not got any legal, financial, or consular aid from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), despite repeated requests over the past month. They added that ten of the seafarers have been taken to Bandar Abbas prison, while eight remain onboard the vessel.

According to the Consul General of India in Bandar Abbas, consular access has not been granted by the Iranian authorities despite requests. The matter has been posted for hearing on January 21, according to Gurinder Pal Singh, counsel for the seafarers.

"The petitioners have been detained without disclosing the grounds for detention or issuing any formal detention order for over thirty days, in violation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 to which both India and Iran are signatories," the court noted.

The families said that the crew has been confined to a single mess room of the vessel and were allowed to use the washroom only under armed escort. All personal belongings, mobile phones, laptops, and electronic devices have been confiscated. Till date, Iranian authorities have not issued any formal detention order nor disclosed the grounds for detention, rendering the continued custody arbitrary, illegal, and in violation of international law, the petitioners said.

The government's counsel said that due steps have been taken by the Centre, which will further ensure that all assistance is rendered to the petitioners to redress grievances.

The petitioners have said that the vessel *MT Valiant Rose* was carrying Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) but Iran has accused the seafarers of smuggling diesel. The cargo was loaded on the subject vessel via ship-to-ship transfers over a period of time and was originally loaded on *MT Global Beauty* from Vitol at Fujairah port, UAE sometime in July 2024.

At the time of the incident, the vessel was operating in international waters near Dibba Port, UAE. Following the cargo operations, the vessel remained moored alongside its sister vessel, *MT Coral Wave* for several days due to a technical issue. Once repairs were completed, the vessel finally unmoored on December 8, 2025 and was awaiting further navigational instructions.

That day, the Master of the Vessel, Captain Vijay Kumar, sent a brief but distressing voicemail to his brother Captain Vinod Tanwar, stating that the vessel was being chased by the IRG while sailing in international waters.

After this, petitioner No.1 (the brother of Capt. Vijay Kumar) contacted the vessel's operator in Dubai, who informed him that the vessel had been intercepted by the IRG and that the crew members had been arrested and forcibly taken to Bandar-e-Jask, Iran. The vessel was instructed by the Iranian Navy/Revolutionary Guards to lower the pilot ladder for boarding which was lawfully refused by the Master, being fully conscious of the vessel's right of innocent passage under international maritime law.

"Thereafter, the Iranian Navy opened heavy fire, causing visible damage to the vessel and likely injuries to the crew members," the petition said.

Talks on Chabahar port operations will continue with U.S. and Iran: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India remains engaged with both the United States and Iran about ways to continue operations at the port of Chabahar in south-eastern Iran, officials said on Friday.

India's relationship with Iran has come under renewed stress since U.S. President Donald Trump announced a new round of tariffs on January 12, saying that any country that wants to trade with the U.S. while maintaining trading ties with Iran would be subjected to an extra 25% tariff.

The announcement brought into focus India's investments into the port of Chabahar, for which New Delhi had received an exemption from the Trump administration last year. Recent media reports had suggested that India would be wrapping up its work in Chabhar.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday, "On October 28, 2025, the U.S. Department of Treasury had issued a letter outlining the guidance on the conditional sanctions waiver valid till April 26, 2026. We remain engaged with the U.S. side in working out this arrangement."

India has a sanctions waiver from the U.S. that is valid till April 26, 2026, providing additional time for negotiations. FILE PHOTO

Describing the India-Iran relationship as "long standing", Mr. Jaiswal said that the ties would be taken forward.

Officials explained that the recent media reports highlighting Indian plans to wrap up operations at Chabahar did not account for the fact that India and Iran maintain dialogues on several difficult issues, with the relationship evolving over decades as Tehran dealt with various types of western sanctions.

They pointed out that the waiver will be in place by mid-April 2026, which provides some additional time for negotiation with the U.S., especially as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio next month.

Negotiations with U.S.

"Our negotiations with the Americans are continuing and we will take up the case of Chabahar where we like to be present," an official said, without ruling out India renewing its work in Chabahar.

Chabahar would have featured in talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who was expected to visit India this month, though this was not announced officially, against the backdrop of internal turbulence in Iran.

Centre blocks 242 'illegal betting and gambling' websites

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government blocked 242 "illegal betting and gambling" sites on Friday, an official said. That brings the total such sites blocked under this category, the official said, to 7,800. All real money gaming and gambling sites alike has been outlawed by the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.

That law, which banned all games where users could put money in with a hope of winning (or losing) their deposits, came as a surprise, and was pushed through Parliament in a matter of days. Former industry executives and lawyers had long advocated against a total ban, arguing that offshore and illegal betting and gambling platforms would fill the vacuum.

It is unclear to what extent illegal betting sites have been operating and frequented by Indian users, but even conservative estimates by former representatives peg the amount in the hundreds of crores of rupees per month. Even when real money gaming platforms were operating, industry-funded studies showed that illegal platforms — drawing users with a lack of GST, but with practically no oversight compared to above-board operators — were mushrooming.

Jharkhand HC stays action against ED officials by State police, orders Central security cover

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday stayed all action against Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials by the Ranchi police and directed that the security of the ED office and its personnel in the State capital be handed over to a Central paramilitary force.

Passing an interim order, the court of Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi directed the Central agency to make the Union Home Secretary a party in the case. The court also ordered the Union Home Secretary to deputs either the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Border Security Force (BSF), or any other central paramilitary force to provide security to the ED office in Ranchi and its staff. The court fixed February 9 as the next date of hearing.

CISF personnel outside the ED office amid the Centre's security enhancement for ED establishments in Ranchi on Thursday. PTI

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by the ED on Thursday, challenging a police raid at its Ranchi office in connection with an FIR lodged against its officials. The FIR was lodged at the Airport police station by a former State government employee. The court further observed that the Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) would be responsible for security at the ED office and its staff.

Staying the police investigation for now, the court also observed that the recent police raid on the ED office in Ranchi *prima facie* appeared "pre-planned" and directed the State government to file its response within 7 days. The complainant, Santosh Kumar, was also asked to file his response within 10 days.

The controversy arose after ED officials interrogated Santosh Kumar, an accused in an alleged ₹23-crore money laundering case, on January 12. Mr. Kumar, an employee of the State Public Health and Engineering Department, lodged an FIR the next day at the Airport police station, accusing the ED officials of assault, abuse and torture during the investigation. The ED denied the allegations.

Following the FIR, the Ranchi police summoned ED officials on Wednesday. When they failed to appear and directed the State government to file its response within 7 days. The complainant, Santosh Kumar, was also asked to file his response within 10 days.

The controversy arose after ED officials interrogated Santosh Kumar, an accused in an alleged ₹23-crore money laundering case, on January 12. Mr. Kumar, an employee of the State Public Health and Engineering Department, lodged an FIR the next day at the Airport police station, accusing the ED officials of assault, abuse and torture during the investigation. The ED denied the allegations.

Following the FIR, the Ranchi police summoned ED officials on Wednesday. When they failed to appear, a police team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sanjeev Beara reached the ED office on Thursday, leading to a tense standoff between the federal agency and the State police that lasted for several hours. Later that day, the ED approached the court seeking a CBI probe into the police raid, alleging "direct interference" in its functioning.

The Opposition BJP termed the police action a "direct attack on the autonomy of the Central investigating agency".

ED attaches 54-acre land and buildings of Al-Falah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint against Al-Falah Group chief Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui and others after provisionally attaching 54-acre land along with the buildings therein, cumulatively worth about ₹139.97 crore. The agency has quantified the total proceeds of alleged crime in the case as ₹415.24 crore, it said on Friday.

The case pertains to alleged generation and laundering of funds linked to Al-Falah Charitable Trust/Al-Falah University and allied institutions/entities. Mr. Siddiqui was arrested on November 18, 2025, and is currently in judicial custody.

Al-Falah University had come into the limelight after three doctors working there were found allegedly linked to a "terror" module. Two of them, named Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Shaheen Saeed were held, while the third one — identified as Umar-Un-Nabi — was identified as the person who was allegedly behind the wheels of the car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025.

The ED probe was based on an FIR registered by the Delhi Police on January 10. "Fraudulent misrepresentations to regulators/stakeholders and consequential admissions and fee collections" was alleged.

The agency said Mr. Siddiqui played an active role. "He exercised dominant control over Al-Falah Charitable Trust, Al-Falah University and related entities, and is found a key beneficiary of the unlawful proceeds. As managing trustee and chancellor, he exercised complete administrative, financial and operational control, with other office-bearers functioning as nominal/proxy persons," it alleged, adding that over ₹110 crore was routed to family-controlled firms.

'Pak. misusing UN platforms for its divisive agenda'

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India called out Pakistan for misusing UN platforms to drive its "divisive agenda" after Islamabad's envoy raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the General Assembly.

Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Eldos Mathew Punnoose on Thursday said that the right to self-determination must not be abused to encourage secession in pluralistic and democratic states. "At a time when member states have to rise beyond their narrow considerations, Pakistan continues to misuse all platforms and processes in the UN to drive their divisive agenda," he said.

"This forum is no exception either and Pakistan made an unwarranted reference to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an integral and inalienable part of India."

SC stays Mukul Roy's disqualification from Bengal Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Calcutta High Court order disqualifying politician Mukul Roy from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for defecting to the Trinamool Congress on the basis of a video clipping of a press conference allegedly showing him with leaders of the ruling party in the State.

"In this AI [artificial intelligence] era, anybody's face can be used in a video," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed, brushing aside objections raised by senior advocate Gaurab Agarwal, appearing for West Bengal Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari.

Mukul Roy

The court *prima facie* agreed with the submissions of advocate Preetika Dwivedi, appearing in the petition filed by Subhranshu Roy on behalf of his father, that the rigours of Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, which provides the legal framework for authentication of electronic evidence, were not complied with.

"Imagine, the High Court used the principle of 'preponderance of probability' (something is more likely to be true than false) to decide a defection case," Chief Justice Kant noted.

Ms. Dwivedi submitted that the Speaker had rejected the disqualification petition for several valid reasons, including the fact that only screenshots from social media platforms were produced.

EU leaders set to be chief guests at 77th Republic Day celebrations

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday announced that European Union leaders Antonio Costa, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, will be the chief guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations.

In a briefing to pressmen ahead of Republic Day, he said that the 90-minute Republic Day Parade on January 26 along Kartavya Path will be themed around 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', a theme that will also anchor the Beating Retreat ceremony.

In a symbolic move to end "VIP culture", the Defence Secretary announced that enclosures at the Republic Day Parade will be named after rivers and ghats, including the Tawi and the Beating Retreat ceremony will be named after musical instruments. Earlier, these were referred to as VIP enclosures.

The Indian Naval Band rehearsing amid dense fog on a winter morning in New Delhi ahead of the Republic Day on Friday. PTI

First-time highlights

The parade will feature several first-time military showcases, including the Bhairav Battalion, Shaktibaan regiments, Drone Shakti, and a universal rocket launcher.

A major highlight will be the phased battle array format of the Indian Army, with commentary explaining the operational roles of formations and equipment. The aerial component will also be displayed in battle array formation, he said.

For the first time, a European naval contingent will also take part in the parade.

Mr. Singh further said that the celebrations will open with 100 cultural artists performing with Indian martial musical instruments. Marching contingents will include the Bhairav contingent in 'Lincha Kadam Taal' and the Ladakh Scouts, while an animal contingent comprising Zaniskar ponies, Bactrian camels and dogs will reflect India's diverse operational landscape.

A total of 18 marching contingents and 13 bands will participate in the parade. The flypast will showcase Rafale, Su-30, P-8I, C-130, C-295, MiG-29, Apache, LCH, ALH and Mi-47 aircraft and helicopters in various formations.

'Vande Mataram' will be the central focus of Republic Day Celebrations-2026, with tableaux from six States and departments highlighting the theme.

Paintings by artist Tejendra Kumar Mitra illustrating verses of 'Vande Mataram' will be displayed at Kartavya Path, while bands will play its tune during the Beating the Retreat ceremony.

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Mr. Singh further said that the celebrations will open with 100 cultural artists performing with Indian martial musical instruments. Marching contingents will include the Bhairav contingent in '*Uncha Kadam Taal*' and the Ladakh Scouts, while an animal contingent comprising Zanskar ponies, Bactrian camels and dogs will reflect India's diverse operational landscape.

A total of 18 marching contingents and 13 bands will participate in the parade. The flypast will showcase Rafale, Su-30, P-8I, C-130, C-295, MiG-29, Apache, LCH, ALH and Mi-17 aircraft and helicopters in various formations.

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- **मुख्य घोषणा / Key announcement**
  - Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh** ने बताया कि EU के दो शीर्ष नेता **Antonio Costa (President, European Council)** और **Ursula von der Leyen (President, European Commission)** भारत के **77th Republic Day** समारोह के **Chief Guests** होंगे।
- **परेड का थीम / Parade theme**
  - **26 January** को **Kartavya Path** पर होने वाली (लगभग) **90-minute** परेड का थीम **'Vande Mataram' के 150 years** पर आधारित होगा।
  - यही थीम **Beating the Retreat** समारोह का भी मुख्य आधार बनेगा।
- **"VIP culture" कम करने का संकेत / Symbolic end of VIP culture**
  - Republic Day parade के **enclosures** को **भारत की नदियों** के नाम पर रखा जाएगा।
  - Beating the Retreat के enclosures को **musical instruments** के नाम पर रखा जाएगा।
- **First-time highlights / पहली बार की झलकियाँ**
  - परेड में पहली बार कई military showcases: **Bhairav Battalion**, **Shaktibaan regiments**, **Drone Shakti**, और **universal rocket launcher** जैसी क्षमताएँ दिखेंगी।
  - **Indian Army** का **phased battle array format** (भूमिकाओं/उपकरणों की व्याख्या सहित) प्रदर्शित होगा।
  - **पहली बार European naval contingent** भी परेड में शामिल होगा।
  - Celebrations की शुरुआत **100 cultural artists** के प्रदर्शन से होगी (martial + musical instruments का मिश्रण)।

- **Marching / Bands / Animals**
  - कुल **18 marching contingents** और **13 bands** भाग लेंगे।
  - Marching में **Ladakh Scouts** और Bhairav contingent (उदा. **'Uncha Kadam Taal'**) शामिल होंगे।
  - Animal contingent में **Zanskar ponies**, **Bactrian camels**, और **dogs**—India के diverse operational landscape को दिखाने के लिए।
- **Flypast / हवाई प्रदर्शन**
  - Flypast में: **Rafale, Su-30, P-8I, C-130, C-295, MiG-29, Apache, LCH, ALH, Mi-17** आदि विभिन्न formations में दिखेंगे।
- **Cultural add-on / सांस्कृतिक पक्ष**
  - **'Vande Mataram'** central focus रहेगा; **6 States + departments** के tableaux theme highlight करेंगे।
  - Artist **Tejendra Kumar Mitra** की **Vande Mataram verses** पर आधारित paintings Kartavya Path पर प्रदर्शित होंगी; bands Beating Retreat में इसकी tune बजाएँगे।

Topic	Key facts (English)	रखद ल्ष्ट्र ज Hindi)
Republic Day	Celebrated on **26 Jan**; Constitution came into effect on **26 Jan 1950**	**ऱ्ढद न ष ऋ्रघह्ल**; द्ब्रक्रश्रश्वष **ऱ्ढद न ष ऋ्रघह्ल ङ्ग्थड्ड्ज** ङ्ख्र च्रव्फ्र
Chief Guest tradition	Used as a diplomatic signal; highlights priority partnership	Chief Guest द्ग्ग्ष द्ब्रक्रश्रब्ख्ट्र ष्ठ्ठक्रण्घ्र ष्ठ्ठक्र ङ्ख्र ब्व्क्रश्रव्ड्र ल्व्र द्ब्रङ्ख्ड्ल्र
EU: European Council vs Commission	**European Council** sets political direction; **European Commission** is executive arm	Council = ष्ठ्ठक्र श्र ट्रव्र; Commission = ङ्ख्रव्ग्ग्ब्रव्घ्ग्ग implementing body
Kartavya Path	New name of Rajpath (central ceremonial boulevard)	Rajpath ङ्ख्र ष्ग्ग्र ष्ठ्रव्रग्र **Kartavya Path**
Beating the Retreat	Marks ceremonial closing of Republic Day celebrations (traditionally 29 Jan)	ण्र् ल्त्र्द्र श्र ऋ्रद्ब द्ब्रग्रव्घ्ब्रक्रश्रण्ग ङ्ख्र द्ब्रग्रव्घ्ब्र ष्ट्र ceremonial event
‘Vande Mataram’ basics	India’s **National Song**; strongly linked with freedom movement	**घ्ग्रH म्रह्ल ण्हल्र**; Sल्त्र्द्र ल्व्र ष्ठ्रङ्ख्रव्ग्ग्र ष्ट्र द्ब्रण्ण्घ्ग्र द्ब्रङ्ख्र
Defence aviation terms	**LCH**: Light Combat Helicopter; **ALH**: Advanced Light Helicopter	LCH = ण्ग्द्ब्रव्र च्रन्नव्ड्ज्र ण्क्रश्रव्ड्छ्ँघ्र; ALH = क्ँ्ल्र ण्ग्द्ब्रव्र ण्क्रश्रव्ड्छ्ँघ्र
Zanskar & Bactrian	Zanskar ponies: high-altitude utility; Bactrian camel: cold desert (two-humped)	ध्ग्रW्घ्र ङ्ख्र ल्क्रक्ष्द्घ्र श्च्द्ब्रव्ब्र क्ष्ट्र ग्ग्ब्रग्र; □ग्ग्र्ज्ञग्रष्क भ्ग्रव्र घ्क्रण्ग्र b्रव्ष

Exam	Approx. Year	Question (Memory-based)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2017–2023 (seen as theme)	“Vande Mataram” is India’s—(National Anthem/National Song/National Motto)?	**National Song / घ्रवH म़ह्लग्र ए़ह्लल़**
SSC (CGL/CHSL/GD)	2018–2024 (seen as theme)	“Rajpath” was renamed as—?	**Kartavya Path**
Railways (NTPC/Group D)	2019–2024 (seen as theme)	Republic Day is celebrated on which date and why?	**26 Jan; Constitution in force (1950)**
Banking (IBPS/SBI)	2018–2024 (seen as theme)	EU’s executive arm is—(Council/Commission/Parliament)?	**European Commission**
Defence (NDA/CDS)	2019–2024 (seen as theme)	“Beating the Retreat” signifies what?	**Ceremonial closing of Republic Day events**

- **Consider the following statements:**
- The Republic Day parade theme is linked to **150 years of ‘Vande Mataram’**, and the same theme anchors the **Beating the Retreat** ceremony.
- For the first time, a **European naval contingent** will participate in the Republic Day parade.
- The flypast will feature only fighter aircraft and not transport aircraft/helicopters.
- Which of the statements is/are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only

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

TRUMP 'GETS' NOBEL PRIZE!

US President Donald Trump has been vocal about his longing for a peace Nobel. He got his wish — sort of — as Maria Corina Machado presented her medal to him during a White House meeting. Trump later thanked her for 'a wonderful gesture of mutual respect'. The Norwegian Nobel Institute has clarified that the prize can't be transferred or revoked, and both Machado and Trump came in for heavy criticism online, but a White House official confirmed the prez would be keeping the medal | P 8

Exam category	PYQ-theme (Memory-based)	Answer
UPSC Prelims (Awards)	Nobel Peace Prize is decided by which body?	**Norwegian Nobel Committee**
SSC / Railways (Static GK)	“Laureate” term is used for?	**Award recipient /প্রাপ্তকর্তা**
Banking / SSC (Nobel basics)	Which Nobel Prize is awarded in Norway (Oslo)?	**Peace Prize**
Defence (IR/Polity GK)	What is the meaning of “transferability” in awards context?	**Official award doesn’t change winner**
State PSC (Current affairs + static)	Nobel Prize: medal vs award—what stays with whom?	**Medal can be gifted; award stays with laureate**

China Gets 9/10

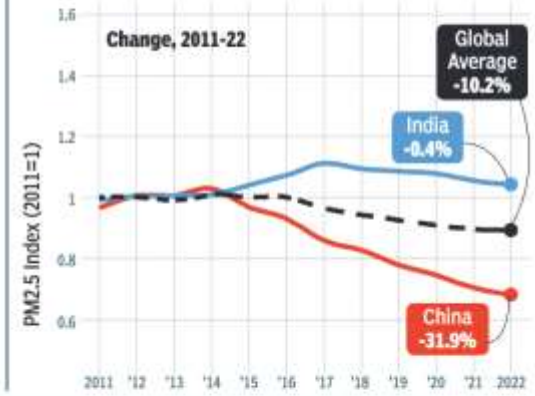
Nine of the 10 cities that recorded the steepest PM2.5 declines (2013–2022) are in China. Beijing cut pollution by over half, reflecting long-term regulation and a broad shift to cleaner transport

Top 10 cities with biggest reduction in air pollution, 2013-2022

S No	City	Country	% change
1	Beijing	China	-52
2	Tangshan	China	-51
3	Luohe	China	-48
4	Jinan	China	-47
5	Xuchang	China	-45
6	Handan	China	-43
7	Anyang	S Korea	-40
8	Kaifeng	China	-39
9	Zhengzhou	China	-39
10	Shijiazhuang	China	-39

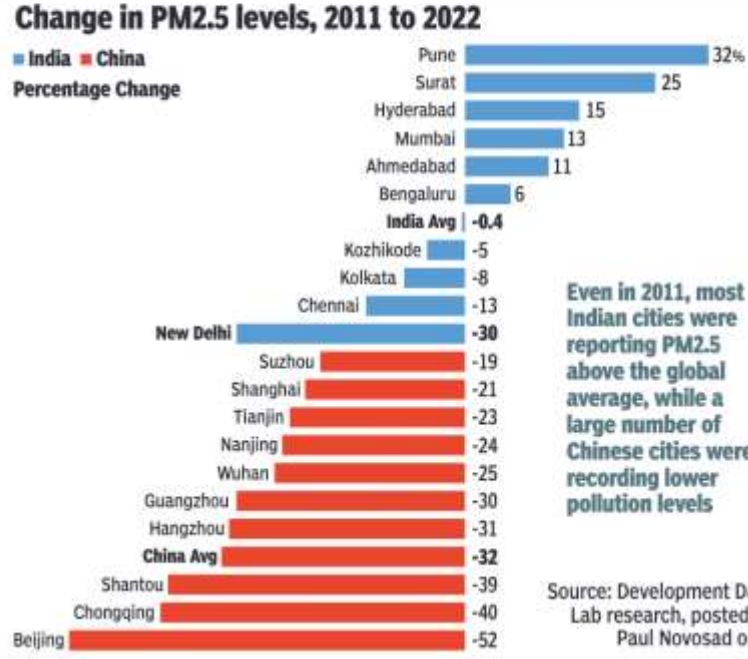
India Struggles

Globally, PM2.5 levels have fallen by about 10% since 2011. China's average dropped by nearly 32%, but India's average is almost flat, underscoring the limited national-level gains in checking pollution



Pune Among Worst Performers

Within India, the story is uneven. Delhi shows the strongest improvement since 2011, even as it remains among the world's most polluted cities. Many other cities have stagnated or worsened, with pollution rising in places such as Pune and Surat, amid rapid urbanisation and extensive construction activity



Even in 2011, most Indian cities were reporting PM2.5 above the global average, while a large number of Chinese cities were recording lower pollution levels

Source: Development Data Lab research, posted by Paul Novosad on X

Topic	Key facts (English)	रखद ल्ष्ट्र ज Hindi)
PM2.5 meaning	Particles **≤2.5 microns**; can penetrate deep into lungs and enter bloodstream	ज़.ड़ रखव्ख्ष्ठ ग्रव ड़ रख ड़ र ; □ड़□ न्ह्रड़ण्घ्ठ श्रह्ल्ड़ न्व्र ढ़ड़ ल्ड़ण्श्र
Major sources	Vehicle exhaust, coal/industry, biomass burning, construction dust, waste burning	ऋग्र श्रढ़, ड़्ड़ग्चग्र क्ष्ॉड़्रण, ह्घ्रग्र□ग्रह्रग्र, श्रग्र श्रच्र, ड़ द्घ्र न्च्र ष्र
Why PM2.5 is dangerous	Linked to asthma, COPD, heart disease, stroke; reduces life expectancy	श रिग्र, COPD, ज्ग्र ड़्रण, ब्रह्र ; न्ह्रऋ ब्ड़ व्र ट्र्र त्ब ल्ह
Indian air standards (NAAQS)	CPCB NAAQS (commonly used): **PM2.5 Annual 40 µg/m³; 24-hr 60 µg/m³**	NAAQS (CPCB): **PM2.5 ऋग्र ह्र ब्र ड़ ठ्ज़; ऋठ्-त् ऋ ड़ ढ़ज़ µg/m³**
AQI idea	AQI converts pollutant levels into categories (Good→Severe) for public action	AQI ब्र ल्ह ड़्ड़ग्र ड़्ड़ व्र श्र ग्र ह्रग्र श्रध्र ढ़ व्र ल्र प्ग्र ज Good→Severe)
Why city trends differ	Policy enforcement, cleaner transport, fuel switch, industrial relocation, construction control	ष्ल्श्र घ्र ड़ ग्रौंग्रण, sट ह्घ्रग्रण, ह्र श ह्घ्रग्र ब्र, क्ष्ॉड़्रण श्र ग्र द्व्र , श्रग्र श्र च्र श्र ग्र द्व्र
“Airshed” approach	Pollution crosses city borders; needs regional coordination	ब्र ल्ह्र ढ़ह्र ख्र ह्व्र घ्र ड़ घ्र ल्र प्ग्र ल्ह्ट्ह्ग्र ढ़ र ग्रौंग्र न्च घ्र ह
Exam hook	Data interpretation: compare **% change**, identify best/worst performers, infer policy impact	म्ड़ व्र ष्र श्र ख्र श्र ब्र क्र प change ल्र ग्र ष्र, best/worst ह्ण्र द्व्र ष, ष्ल्श्र ब्र क्र ख्र श्र F ड़्र ख्र

Exam	Exam date	Question (Memory-based / PYQ-theme)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	04 Oct 2020	AQI / air pollution control measures: identify key pollutants and their health impacts	PM2.5 is most harmful due to deep lung penetration
UPSC CSE Prelims	05 Jun 2022	Air pollution governance: role of CPCB/SPCB; standards & monitoring	CPCB sets standards/coordinates; SPCBs enforce at state level
UPSC CSE Prelims	28 May 2023	Sources of particulate pollution in Indian cities (vehicles, biomass, dust, industry)	Multiple sources; transport + biomass + dust are major contributors
SSC / Railways (multiple shifts)	Varies by shift	PM2.5 stands for what size?	Particles ≤ **2.5 microns**
Bank / Defence (multiple shifts)	Varies by shift	Which is more harmful: PM10 or PM2.5, and why?	**PM2.5** (deeper penetration)

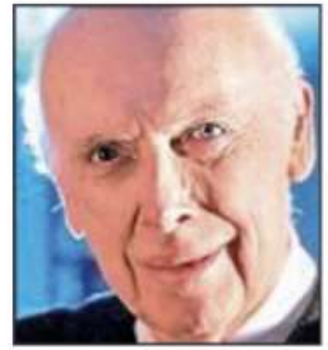
Nobel medal has been sold before

Pranav Baskar

In 2022, Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov auctioned his Nobel Peace Prize for a record-breaking $103.5 million to raise money for Ukrainian child refugees.

In 2014, James Watson sold his for over $4 million, having been awarded the medal decades earlier for co-discovering the structure of DNA. It can, however, be sold for millions of dollars.

Since the 1980s, the Nobel medal has been made with 18-karat recycled gold, according to the Nobel Committee. And, in a few auctions, it has fetched a wide range of prices. Francis Crick, who was awarded the prize with Watson, received over $2 million for his medal.



Russian Journalist Dmitry Muratov (L) auctioned his Nobel prize for $103m to raise money for Ukrainian child refugees; biologist James Watson sold his prize for over $4m

The Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 1936 to Carlos Saavedra Lamas, a former foreign minister of Argentina, sold for $1.1 million in 2014. But not all attempts to sell the medal have brought staggering returns.

The 1994 medal awarded to John Nash for his work in game theory sold for under $1 million in 2019. The 1982 prize awarded to physicist Kenneth Wilson failed to reach a minimum bid of $450,000 in 2016. And William Faulkner's failed to sell in 2013, after bidding stalled at $425,000, short of the minimum. NYT

Finke River (World’s Oldest Flowing River)

Aspect / ष ग्रस्रग्र	Details (English)	श्रग्रग्घ्र् ज्Hindi)
River Name / ष्व्ह्र ड्र्व्र ष्व्रस्रग्र	**Finke River**	श्रग्र्व्ड्र्ड्ड ष्व्ह्र
Recognition / ह्ण्ग्द्व्रण्	Recognised as the **world's oldest surviving flowing river system**	श्रC ड्ड्ह्र ढ्र□ढ्ड्र्ड्ड्ब्र्व्द्ह्र्ड्ड् १ □ क्रह्र ब्ज्ञ्रत्रग्ग्ल्र ष्व्ह्र ब्र्व्र्त्रच्ह्र ड्ड्र्ड्ड्च् ह्र रब्ब्र्ग्त्रैल्र
Age / ष ग्रस्र	~ **300–400 million years old** (older than dinosaurs)	च्रण्क्रण् **ट्ज़्–ठ्ज़् ड्घ्ह्न्म्र ग्रड्ब्र ह्ल्ग्घ्ल्र्ह्** ज्व्रग्ष्व्ह्ड्ड्म्र ढ्ड्र्क्रह्र ह्ण्ग्च्ड्ड्म्
Country / व्ह्ट्र्	Australia	छ ब्ड्ड्ग्ग्त्रग्र
Region / ल्ह्द्र्	**Central Australia**	रघ्रे छ ब्ड्ड्ग्ग्त्रग्र
Indigenous Name / ष्श्रण्ज्ञ्व्द्ह्र ष्व्रस्रग्र	**Larapinta** (by Arrernte people)	**च्रत्रघ्व्ह्र्ब्र्व्र** ज्र्घ्व्ड्ड्र्ष्न्त्रश्र्ो व्रघ्व्ड्म्
Length / च्रात्रह्र	~ **640 km**	च्रण्क्रण् **ढ्ठ्ज़् श्च्र्ख्ह्**
States/Territory Covered	Northern Territory & South Australia	ष्ड्ड्क्रश्र्ड्ड्ड्घ्ह्र्ड्घ् ढ्व्रक्ष्ड्क् छ ब्ड्ड्ग्ग्त्रग्र
Flow Nature / ब्ज्ञ्रण् ब्ड्ड्क्रक्र	**Ephemeral / intermittent** (not year-round)	**१ व्रिग्ह्र/रब्ब्र्ख्ह्** ज्ग्ग्ह्र्ब्र्क्रष्ण्ह्म□ण्ल्ह्म
Typical Appearance	Series of **isolated waterholes**	१ च्रण्घ्र१ च्रण् **न् च्र-ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्म्र** ड्ड्र्ड्ड्च् ह्र रब्ब्र्ख्ह्
Continuous Flow Occurs When	**After heavy rainfall**	**क्रव्घ्ह्र ग्रड्ब्र्व्र ड्ड्र्ड्ड्□व्रट्**
Geological Significance	Course preserved despite tectonic uplift & erosion	श्रग्र्त्रल्ग्ग्ड्र् क्ष्च्व्रष् ञ्र१ ह्घ्ग्ट्ष् ड्ड्र्ड्ड्□व्रञ्न्त्र रब्ब्र्ग्त्रब्ड्ड्ग्ग्त्र्ल्
Drainage Type	Desert river system	रब्ब्र्ङ्च्ह्ल्ग्ग्य ष्व्ह्र ल्ह्द्र्
Scientific Basis	Based on **geomorphology & sediment records**	**व्व्ल्ष् ड्ड्र्ड्ड्ग्ड्र् ञ्र ल्च्र्घ्ट्ष् ह्ह्र१श्रक्र च्ह्र्ड्ड्ड्ड्म्र** ह्घ्ग्ष् श्रव्ब्र्ग्त्र
Why Unique /श्रत्र्ट्ड्र्ड्ड्ल्र	Oldest **still-flowing** river (not just ancient bed)	ढ्र□ढ्ड्र्ड्ड्ड्ड्ग्ग्ह्र्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड

Topic	Extra Exam Fact (English)	[illegible] Hindi)
Desert Rivers	Many Australian rivers are **ephemeral**, unlike perennial Himalayan rivers	[illegible]
Landscape	Cuts through some of the **oldest landscapes on Earth**	[illegible]
Climate Link	Flow pattern controlled by **arid climate + rainfall variability**	[illegible]
Indigenous Geography	Aboriginal names often reflect **spiritual & ecological significance**	[illegible]
Map Work	Located south of **Alice Springs**	[illegible]

India Becomes Second-Largest 5G User Base

Aspect / ष गत्रख	Details (English)	श्रअग्रघर् जHindi)
Headline / ट्रहड्रह्ह	India becomes **2nd largest 5G user base globally**	क्रकयर् श्रC ड् त्रव्ह्र घत्रढ्ढ ढ्ढ क्ष्ह्र नत्रड़G क्ष्ह्र गड़्रा ड् ल्क्रा ष १ क्रा
Global Rank / ऋअC ड् त्रि	**2nd**, after **China**	व्ह्र घत्र द्ह्र ड्ड ढ्ढत्र
Country / व्ड्ड	**India**	क्रकयर्
Users Count / क्ष्ह्र गड़्रा ड् ल्क्राट्टत्र त्र	**400+ million (40+ ड् घड़्रा)** 5G users	**ठ०ज ड् घड़्रा ढ्ढ क्ष्र श्र ड्** 5G क्ष्ह्र त्रड़्रक्र त्र
Announcement By / ट्टड्रह्र त्र	**Jyotiraditya Scindia**	ङ्घ्रा घत्रयर् ड् श्रट्ठ्रा ग त्र
Ministry / रक्राट्टत्रग्र	**Ministry of Communications**	ट्ठ्रत्रघ्र रक्राट्टत्रग्र
Commercial Launch / ऋअस्ड् द्ह्रह्ष ल्	**2022**	**2022**
District Coverage / श्रन् च्रत्र ड् त्रघड़्र	**99.6% districts**	**थ्थ.ढ% श्रन् च्र ड्**
Population Coverage / न् ष ट्टत्राट्टत्र त्र ड् त्रघड़्र	**~ 85% population**	च्रण्क्रण् त्ड़% न् ष ट्ट त्रट्टत्र
5G BTS Installed / 5G BTS	**~ 4.69 lakh Base Transceiver Stations**	च्रण्क्रण् ठ.ढ्थ च्र ढ्ढ BTS
Migration to 5G / 5G रक्रा ड्ड्र ष	~ **25 crore users** migrated	च्रण्क्रण् त्रड़ ड् घड़्रा क्ष्ह्र गड़्रा ड् ल्क्रा
Deployment Speed / ल्त्रयत्ह्र ण्श्र	Among the **fastest globally**	श्रC ड् ह्ढ ढ्ढ ड्ड्र ल्ह्र ल्त्रयत्र ग्ड़्रा घठ्ठ

Topic	Extra Exam Fact (English)	[illegible] Hindi)
Technology Type	India primarily uses **5G NSA** initially; SA expansion ongoing	[illegible] **G NSA**, SA [illegible]
NSA vs SA	**NSA** uses 4G core; **SA** uses full 5G core (lower latency)	**NSA** 4G [illegible]; **SA** [illegible] 5G [illegible]
Economic Impact	Boosts **Industry 4.0, AI, IoT, smart manufacturing**	[illegible] **AI, IoT,** [illegible]
Governance	Enables **e-governance, tele-medicine, smart cities**	[illegible]
Rural Focus	Backbone for **Digital India & rural broadband**	[illegible]
Spectrum Bands	Uses **mid-band (3.5 GHz)** & **mmWave (26 GHz)**	[illegible] **(**[illegible] **GHz)** [illegible] **mmWave (26 GHz)**
Employment	Creates jobs in **network ops, devices, apps**	[illegible]
Data Economy	Higher speeds → **data consumption surge**	[illegible] → [illegible]
Security Angle	Needs stronger **cyber & data security**	[illegible]
UPSC Keyword	Example of **digital infrastructure leapfrogging**	[illegible]

Country	Approx. 5G User Rank	Key Point
China	1st	Early & massive SA rollout
India	**2nd**	Fastest large-scale adoption
USA	Top 3–4	High mmWave in cities
South Korea	Early adopter	Advanced SA use cases

Thank you ☺