

# Daily Current Affairs





4  
**The Hindu**



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**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



3  
**The Indian  
Express**

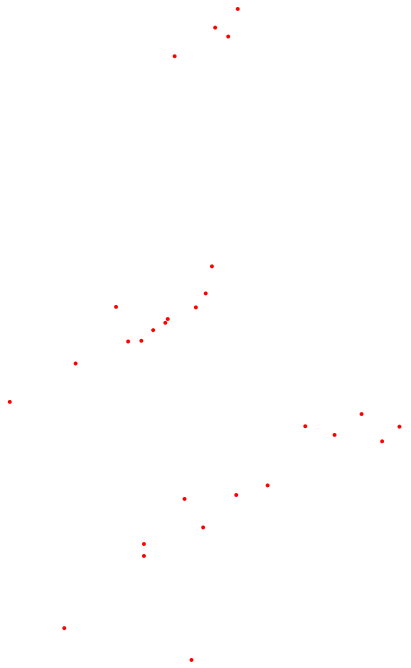


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**Jansatta**



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10 MCQ QUIZ

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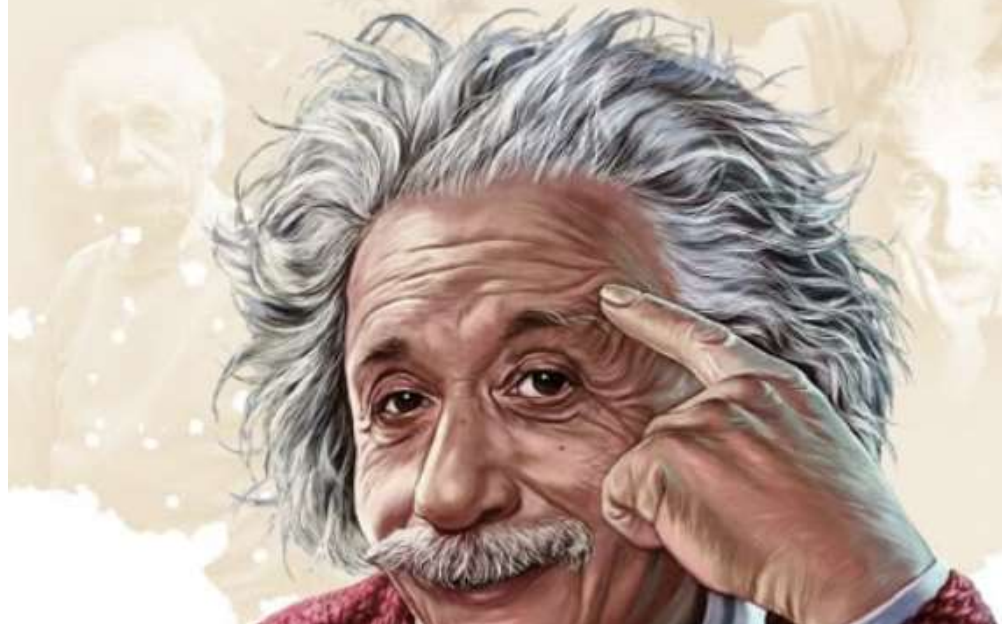


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## We Want to make your RAS jour

“EDUCATION IS NOT THE  
LEARNING OF FACTS, BUT  
THE TRAINING OF THE  
MIND TO THINK.”

-ALBERT EINSTEIN





The Congress leaders requested the Centre to bring legislation to include the Union Territory of Lakshadweep under the Sixth Schedule. The Union Minister, P. V. Narsimha Reddy, said that the Union Chief Minister, C. Chandrababu Naidu, welcomed the Congress initiative. "It is a good move. We have been waiting for the Opposition to raise our voice in Parliament. I am not sure if it is a good idea to bring the issue with the Centre. We are not mandating something that was not promised to us. Inside Parliament and outside it, we were promised that the Sixth Schedule would be implemented 'at the earliest'," Mr. Abdullah said.

# Govt. merges 36 schemes to float farm plan

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana was announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26

The new scheme aims to enhance productivity and promote sustainable agricultural practices in India

Committees for effective planning of the scheme will be formed at district, State, and national levels

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, or PMDDKY, to enhance agricultural productivity and increase adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the country.

The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26.

After the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told presspersons that the Centre had merged 36 schemes of 11 Ministries into the PMDDKY, which will have an outlay of ₹24,000 crore per year for six years beginning 2025-26. "This scheme will help 1.7 crore

farmers," he said.

A release said the scheme aims at augmenting post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improving irrigation facilities, and facilitating availability of long-term and short-term credit.

## Across 11 departments

"The scheme will be implemented through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 departments, other State schemes, and local partnerships with the private sector... 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement," the release said.

The scheme would benefit at least one district

## Greener fields

The PMDDKY aims at enhancing **agricultural productivity**, increasing adoption of **crop diversification** and **sustainable agricultural practices**, and augmenting **post-harvest storage**

**₹ 24,000 cr.**

to be allocated yearly for six years for the scheme

■ States and private sector to partner with the Centre to implement the scheme

**100 districts** to come under the scheme which will begin this financial year

■ Districts to be identified based on 3 key indicators: low productivity, low cropping intensity, less credit disbursement

**Helping hand:** Nearly 1.7 crore farmers will benefit from the scheme. PTI



each State.

"The number of districts in each State/Union Territory will be based on the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings. However, a minimum

of one district will be selected from each State," the release added.

The scheme is modelled on the "Aspirational District Programme" of the Centre.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the "first-of-its-kind" scheme would focus exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.

Committees for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme will be formed at district, State, and national levels.

"A District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan will be finalised by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti, which will also have progressive farmers as members. The district's plans will be aligned to the national goals of crop diversification, conservation of water and soil health, self-sufficiency in agriculture and allied sectors, as well as expansion of natural and organic farming," the release said, adding that

the scheme's progress will be monitored on a monthly basis.

The government hopes that the scheme will result in higher productivity, value addition in agriculture and allied sectors, and local livelihood creation while increasing domestic production and achieving self-reliance.

## 'Significant step'

Abhishek Jain, Fellow and Director, Green Economy and Impact Innovations, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said the scheme was a significant step toward boosting agricultural performance in India's under-performing districts by emphasising not only productivity but also resilience through crop diver-

sification, allied activities, value addition, soil health, and water use efficiency.

"However, district selection could be improved by using annual net agricultural income per hectare," he said, adding that the scheme should not focus on low-credit disbursement as an indicator for district selection.

"A resilient agriculture system should not be dependent on credit. Instead, as we expand and diversify income streams for farmers via allied and value-added activities, and as we mainstream more sustainable agriculture practices, the reliance on external credit to fund cultivation cycles should come down, while still enhancing incomes for the farmers," he said.



# Summary: PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)



## Key Features:

- Announced in: **Union Budget 2025–26**
- Approved by: **Union Cabinet**
- Implementing Ministry: **Across 11 Ministries**
- Annual Outlay: **₹24,000 crore per year for 6 years**
- Total Beneficiaries: **1.7 crore farmers**
- Objective: Enhance **agricultural productivity**, promote **sustainable practices**, and improve **post-harvest storage** and **credit availability**

---

## Scheme Integration:

- **36 existing schemes** across 11 departments merged.
  - Focus areas:
    - **Crop diversification**
    - **Sustainable agriculture**
    - **Post-harvest infrastructure**
    - **Irrigation and credit support**
- 

## Implementation Strategy:

- **100 districts** to be selected based on:
  1. Low productivity
  2. Low cropping intensity
  3. Less credit disbursement
- **At least 1 district per State.**

### Institutional Mechanism:

- Committees at:
    - **District**
    - **State**
    - **National level**
  - **District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti** to plan & monitor activities with **progressive farmers**
  - Monthly monitoring of progress
- 

### Scheme Alignment:

- Aligned with **Aspirational District Programme**
- Aims to:
  - Increase **productivity**
  - Promote **self-reliance**
  - Reduce dependency on **credit**
  - Enhance **value-added income** sources

**Q. With reference to the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme merges more than 30 existing schemes across 11 ministries to promote sustainable agriculture.
2. Districts will be selected solely based on annual agricultural income per hectare.
3. A District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti will be responsible for preparing the agriculture plan at the local level.
4. The scheme is aligned with the Aspirational District Programme.

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

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



# Gujarat starts India's first tribal genome project

**Abhinav Deshpande**

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat has launched India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to improve healthcare among tribal societies. It will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts in the State.

The project, titled "Creation of Reference Genome Database for Tribal Population in Gujarat", is being implemented by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) and is part of the 2025-26 State Budget. State Tribal Development Minister Kuber Dindor said the initiative will focus on early detection and targeted treatment of genetic disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia, and certain hereditary cancers.

The genetic data collected will also be used to identify markers related to natural immunity and support the development of personalised healthcare solutions. The project will incorporate advanced infrastructure for sample collection, sequencing, and interpretation of genetic data, officials said.



## Key Features:

- **Launched by:** Government of Gujarat
  - **Title of Project:** *Creation of Reference Genome Database for Tribal Population in Gujarat*
  - **Implemented by:** Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)
  - **Budget Source:** Gujarat State Budget 2025–26
- 



## Scope & Scale:

- **Target Group:** Tribal communities in Gujarat
- **Coverage:** 2,000 individuals from 17 districts

## Objectives:

- Improve **healthcare** among tribal societies
- Create a **reference genome database**
- Early detection and targeted treatment of:
  - **Sickle cell anaemia**
  - **Thalassaemia**
  - **Hereditary cancers**

## **Scientific and Medical Goals:**

- Identify **genetic markers** related to:
    - **Natural immunity**
    - **Hereditary disorders**
  - Support development of **personalised healthcare solutions**
  - Strengthen infrastructure for:
    - **Sample collection**
    - **Genome sequencing**
    - **Data interpretation**
-

## Geographic & Societal Context:

- Gujarat has a **significant tribal population**, especially in eastern and southern districts (Dang, Narmada, Dahod, etc.)

## Historical Context:

- This is the **first state-led tribal genome mapping initiative** in India.
- Follows global trends in **population genomics** to improve equity in healthcare.

**Q. With reference to India's first Tribal Genome Project launched in Gujarat, consider the following statements:**

1. The project is implemented by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. The project covers 2,000 individuals across 17 districts in Gujarat.
3. One of the project's goals is to detect hereditary conditions like sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia in tribal populations.
4. It will help in the development of personalised healthcare by identifying genetic markers.

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

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

## IN BRIEF

## Prada in Kolhapur: luxury brand's team meets artisans

A technical team of global fashion brand Prada visited the Kolhapur chappal artisans and the famous chappal market of Kolhapur during their two-day visit that ended on Wednesday. They took samples of the leather work from the artisans. The four-member team included Prada's footwear division's pattern making manager and the director of men's technical and production department. The team was gifted a pair of 'Maaga Prada Koppa' Kolhapuri chappals by a local artisan, a centuries-old design which local artisans say was the inspiration behind Prada's controversial leather sandals launched during their recent summer/spring collection.

## Indian citizens urged to avoid non-essential travel to Iran

The Indian mission in Iran has advised its citizens to consider the evolving regional situation before undertaking non-essential travel to Iran. The Embassy of India in Iran also asked its citizens to monitor latest news developments and advisories issued by the Indian authorities before visiting. "Given the security-related developments, Indian nationals are advised to carefully consider the evolving situation before pursuing non-essential travel to Iran," the advisory comes amid the security situation in the region and the recent conflict between Israel and Iran. —

## Renewed optimism in Canada-India economic ties: business council leader

Varghese N. George  
OTTAWA

Canadian investors and businesses are looking at India with renewed optimism against the backdrop of attempts by both countries to recondition their bilateral ties, said Victor T. Thomas, president and CEO of the Canada-India Business Council.

The new Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, has certainly signalled the opportunity to engage with India, including inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit. In many ways, this was a reset in Canada-India relations, as trade diversification has been a major focus in Canada in 2025. This gesture was more than symbolic — it demonstrated a strategic recognition of India's growing global economic importance, PM Carney's tone and early



Meeting in Ottawa: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney had invited PM Narendra Modi to the G-7 Summit held last month, see

actions have re-established some trust on the India file and reignited some bilateral momentum. The business community sees this as an opportunity to re-build and grow the commercial relationship and hopefully finally sign an Early Prospects Trade Agreement after our close allies like the UK and, recently, the U.S. have paved the way," he said.

Mr. Thomas said that business community in encouraged by recent signals arising from the meeting of the Prime Ministers and the move to restore the respective High Commissioners in Ottawa and New Delhi. India and Canada had withdrawn their respective High Commissioners in 2024, following the killing of an Indian agent in the Punjab region. "That time, he was not aware of the situation and that is why he did not stop his vehicle," the SSP said.

## NRI involved in hit-and-run death of Fauja Singh arrested

Prem Trupti of India  
CHANDIGARH

A Canada-based man, who allegedly hit the world's oldest marathoner, Fauja Singh fatally while driving an SUV, was arrested and sent to judicial custody in Punjab.

Jalandhar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harvinder Singh told a press conference that Anurag Singh Dhillon (20) was arrested on Tuesday night, and his vehicle has been seized. Mr. Dhillon was produced before a Jalandhar court, which remanded him in judicial custody for two weeks. A native of Kartarpur, Mr. Dhillon had gone to Canada on a tourist visa, but got a work permit there, which he valid till 2027, the officer said, adding the accused came to India three weeks ago. He was nabbed from his Kartarpur home. The SSP said the officer's preliminary questioning, it came to the fore that Mr. Dhillon was in a hurry and, therefore, was driving his SUV at a high speed and hit 84-year-old Fauja Singh. "At that time, he was not aware of the situation and that is why he did not stop his vehicle," the SSP said.

## Share of clean energy in electricity still below 30%

While installed capacity has hit 50%, clean energy sources have a lower 'capacity utilisation factor'. Flexibility in the grid and improved battery storage are way forward to address gap, says expert

Jaash Kohli  
NEW DELHI

India may have achieved an important milestone of sourcing 50% of its total electricity from non-fossil fuel sources — about 484 gigawatts from non-fossil, compared to about 484 gigawatts from fossil, though publicly available data show that the share of clean energy in the electricity actually supplied is below 30%.

"India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources — five years ahead of the target set under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement," Pradip Kishor, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said earlier this week.

"This significant milestone underscores the country's commitment to climate action and sustainable development, and signals that India's clean energy transition is not only real but also accelerating under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership."

In 2014, the share of renewable energy sources —



Power generation: Capacity utilisation factor is an indicator of how much available energy is usable. NRENER

solar, wind, biomass, hydropower (small and large) and nuclear power — constituted about 30% of India's installed electricity capacity. As on June 30, 2024, as per the Centre for Research and Energy, the share of electricity generated from these sources rose from 17% in 2014 to 20% in the April 2024 to May 2024 period.

Experts say that despite the rise in clean energy, the slower increase in utilising clean energy was due to the "capacity utilisation factor" (CUF), a measure of how much available energy was usable.

and rising demand on coal during the daytime, particularly in summer, this couldn't be seen in the evening.

"To improve solar utilisation, we need flexibility in the grid and improved battery storage. Right now, we pay the same (per unit) for electricity, whether night or day. Much like in the early days of telecom, when night calls were cheaper, we need to experiment with differential power tariffs during the day. This will require smart grids and better management," said Sanjiv Kumar, vice president, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and an expert on energy.

An increase in 'hybrid' power projects that combine solar, wind, hydro and storage elements to meet India's growing peak and round-the-clock power needs are the way forward, says a policy note from the Institute for Energy, Economics and Financial Analysis.

Hydro, paired with battery storage, these hybrids can store surplus energy and release it during peak demand hours, particularly in the evening.

## New NCERT textbook explains how 'colonial powers stole India's wealth'

Maitri Forecha  
NEW DELHI

The new Class 8 social science textbook of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), introduced to students in the academic year 2024-25, describes the colonial rule of European powers, especially Britain, as one which "drained India of its wealth".

Chapter 4 of the new NCERT textbook, *Empire and Beyond*, says, "the Indian Revolution in Britain, which required violence, was made possible at least partly by the 'stolen wealth from India'." "It is a phrase used by U.S. historian Will Durant, it says.

"The general thrust of Britain's dominance in India was plunder, exploitation, trade dominance, imposition of educational,

administrative and judicial systems, and Christianisation," Michael Levine, head of the NCERT's Curricular Area Group for social science, told *The Hindu*.

An official statement released by the NCERT said, "All the facts presented in this textbook are based on well-known primary and secondary academic sources. However, in order to avoid generation of any prejudice and misunderstanding, 'A note on history's darker period at page 20 has been added'."

"The general thrust of these happenings cannot be denied, for modern education, and so on. We have tried to correct this

## Parliament canteen rolls out curated 'health menu'

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

In a wellness initiative taken up by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the Parliament canteen is set to roll out a "health menu" with food items such as ragi, millet, idli, grilled fish, fibre-rich salads and protein-packed soups.

Each dish on the special menu, which blends tradition with nutrition to promote healthier lifestyles in the corridors of power, has been carefully crafted to be low in carbohydrates, sodium, and calories while remaining high in essential nutrients. Besides, the menu has the number of calories mentioned against the names of the dishes. Athletes that were thrust into the national spotlight during the UN declared International Year of Millets in 2023, take centre stage on the menu, including poha to khichdi and sugar-free mix millet kheer.

Popular snacks such as chana chaat and misal dal chilla feature prominently. There is also an array of non-vegetarian meals with lean options such as grilled chicken with boiled vegetables and grilled fish on offer. Beverages include herbal teas, masala amla and jaggery-flavoured mango paneer.

perspective by showing what really happened — the destruction of India's indigenous industries and educational systems, the massive revenue extraction from the Indian population in finance, railway and telegraph, etc." Mr. Dhillon stated.

"Of course we have also shown the other side — the opening up of India to the world and Europe's discovery of India's ancient culture, among others," he further added.

**Chapter on Marathas**  
The new NCERT textbook, unlike the old ones which made passing reference to the Marathas, has now introduced an entire chapter dedicated to "The Rise of the Marathas". In effect, the British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power," the NCERT text states.

## SUDOKU

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Difficulty Rating: ★★☆☆☆

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## FAITH

## Clarity in Krishna's message

Lessons from the Bhagavad Gita are innumerable. Chapter II, verse 22, defines one of the scripture's most profound truths: "Death is certain for the one who is born and birth is inevitable for the one who has died; therefore, you should not lament over the inevitable." This ancient wisdom speaks directly to humanity's eternal struggle with mortality and moral duty, said Swami Mithanandaji.

When the warrior Arjuna, overwhelmed by the prospect of battle, seeks to abandon his responsibilities and flee from the battlefield, he finds death at complete destruction. His paralytic represents more than personal fear — it embodies the human tendency to avoid difficult but necessary action when faced with life's harsh realities.

Lord Krishna's response is not one of comfort, but of clarity. The divine teacher refuses to allow Arjuna's sentimental lamenting, and instead calls him to decisive action. Krishna's message is uncompromising: avoiding dharma, one's righteous duty, is worse than death itself. In a society that has become adharmaic, living without purpose or moral foundation renders existence meaningless. The Gita's teaching transcends individual morality to address societal responsibility. When dharma is abandoned, society itself becomes spiritually dead. Krishna emphasises that birth and death are merely two sides of the same coin, natural transitions in the eternal cycle of existence. What matters is not the inevitability of death, but how one lives — whether in accordance with dharma or in opposition to it. Krishna's counsel to Arjuna remains relevant today, when faced with moral imperatives, sentiment must yield to righteous action.

## THE CROSSWORD

14539



- Across
9. Prove... as sun explodes and becomes thin (9)
  10. Record with ceremony (5)
  11. City of oiled muck (5)
  12. Recent, never changing contrast point (5)
  13. Arctic creature found via solar whaleboats (7)

To solve this puzzle online, go to <https://www.hindu.com/crossword/>

- Down
1. German chests wearing red undergarments (3-7)
  2. Regularly support on-air ruckus (5)
  3. Time to soak! Taking day off, kitty wears ordinary dress for rainy day! (5,8)
  4. Burns into tender large weed like Gorgona (6)
  5. Wife took high risk for a ride on lake (5,3)
  6. Over-sentimental bit that we enjoy (6)
  7. Abuse at spies' party (6)
  8. Instance seen in lady's essay regularly (6)
  15. Publicly talk about a new sister at the Company with various title (10)
  17. Get at EU distracted Bund (8)
  18. Implied charge about religious education (6)
  19. Suspicion is that Charles broke host (8)
  20. An exercise form can be pulsant (3-3)
  21. Stalwart has energy to sail forth (3,3)
  22. Couple without work clipped small shop at a fair, in addition (2,4)
  24. Second line in that is inch (4)

# Share of clean energy in electricity still below 30%

While installed capacity has hit 50%, clean energy sources have a lower 'capacity utilisation factor'; flexibility in the grid and improved battery storage are way forward to address gap, says expert

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

India may have achieved an important milestone of sourcing 50% of its total electric power capacity of about 484 gigawatts from non-fossil fuel sources, though publicly available data show that the share of clean energy in the electricity actually supplied is below 30%.

"India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources – five years ahead of the target set under its Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] to the Paris Agreement," Pralhad Joshi, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said earlier this week.

"This significant milestone underscores the country's commitment to climate action and sustainable development, and signals that India's clean energy transition is not only real but also accelerating under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership."

In 2014, the share of renewable energy sources –



**Power potential:** Capacity utilisation factor is an indicator of how much available energy is usable. REUTERS

solar, wind, biomass, hydropower (small and large) and nuclear power – constituted about 30% of India's installed electricity capacity. As on June 30, 2025 – as per the Centre – it rose to 50%. However, the share of electricity generated from these sources rose from 17% in 2014-15 to 28% in the April 2024 to May 2025 period.

Experts say that despite the rise in clean energy, the slower increase in utilising clean energy was due to the "capacity utilisation factor" (CUF), a measure of how much available energy was usable.

"Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal's 60% or nuclear's 80%. This means their contribution to actual generation remains limited despite high installed capacity," said Arunendra kumar Tiwari, Fellow, The Energy Resources Institute.

## Coal dependence

Base load demand, or power that is available through the day, is largely provided by coal, which makes up about 75% of India's energy mix. While there was a rise in solar energy utilisation

and easing demand on coal during the daytime, particularly in summer, this couldn't be seen in the evening.

"To improve solar utilisation, we need flexibility in the grid and improved battery storage. Right now, we pay the same (per unit) for electricity, whether night or day. Much like in the early days of telecom, when night calls were cheaper, we need to experiment with differential power tariffs during the day. This will require smart grids and better management," said Saurabh Kumar, vice-president, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and an expert on energy.

An increase in 'hybrid' power projects that combine solar, wind, hydro and storage elements to meet India's growing peak and round-the-clock power needs are the way forward, says a policy note from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

"When paired with battery storage, these hybrids can store surplus energy and release it during peak demand hours, particularly in the evening."

- **Installed clean energy capacity: 50%** of India's **total electric power capacity (~484 GW)** now comes from **non-fossil fuel sources** (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, biomass).
  - **Actual electricity supplied from clean energy: <30%**
  - India reached its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** target of 50% installed clean capacity **five years early** (2025 instead of 2030).
- 

### **Gap Explained:**

- Despite 50% capacity from clean energy, only 30% of actual electricity comes from it.
- This is due to **lower Capacity Utilisation Factor (CUF)** of clean energy:
  - **Solar CUF: ~20%**
  - **Wind CUF: ~25–30%**
  - **Coal CUF: ~60%**
  - **Nuclear CUF: ~80%**



## Expert Recommendations:

- Improve **grid flexibility**
  - Expand **battery storage**
  - Promote **hybrid power projects** (solar + wind + hydro + storage)
  - Introduce **differential power tariffs** based on demand (day/night)
- 



## Fossil Fuel Dependence:

- **Coal** still provides ~75% of **electricity generated**, especially base-load power.
- **Solar power** increases were seen during the day but did **not reduce evening coal demand**.

**Q. With reference to India's electricity sector, consider the following statements:**

1. As of June 2025, India has installed 50% of its total electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
2. Despite high installed capacity, the share of electricity actually generated from clean energy sources remains below 50% due to lower capacity utilisation factors.
3. Solar power in India has a higher capacity utilisation factor than nuclear power.
4. Hybrid power projects combining solar, wind, hydro, and storage are seen as a way to reduce coal dependence.

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

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

## Rethinking the reinforced one-front war concept

Indian strategists have long worried about the deepening security partnership between China and Pakistan. The bilateral relationship today extends well beyond arms sales to include diplomatic shielding, intelligence sharing, and even elements of tactical integration. Some observers, however, suggest a more diabolical possibility: the threat of a "reinforced one-front war" — a scenario in which India would face Pakistan and China fighting together on a single front. Proponents of this view imagine a deeper military integration with Pakistan benefiting directly from Chinese technology, intelligence, security assets, and even military personnel. When the balloon goes up, they warn, China would act as a strategic enabler on India's western front, turning Pakistan's challenge into a more formidable, integrated threat.

The argument seems almost a truism at first glance. China's support for Pakistan is undoubtedly real, sustained, and strategically motivated. Even so, describing it as a "reinforced one-front war" risks overestimating the degree of operational integration in Beijing's intended regional strategy and distort India's own strategic calculus. At the very least, it calls for a dispassionate assessment of the facts.

### Not one front

Let's begin with the undeniable. China has become Pakistan's principal arms supplier, offering advanced drones, missile systems, naval platforms, and even satellite navigation support through its BeiDou system for missile targeting. During crises, Beijing has provided diplomatic cover, blocking UN sanctions and limiting international fallout. This sustained support ensures Pakistan remains a capable military adversary, able to field modern systems despite economic constraints, while also deepening Beijing's political influence in Islamabad.

Worrying as these



**Abhinav Sinha**  
Senior research adviser and former head of maritime policy at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

developments are, they do not readily lend themselves to the notion of a single, integrated military front. Arms transfers — even at scale — are not the same as a shared war plan. India itself is a major buyer of Russian, Israeli, American, and French military systems. Nobody claims India is fighting America or Russia's wars by proxy. India has even begun supplying weapons — such as Brahmos missiles — to the Philippines — without any suggestion from Beijing that India is fighting an Indian war against China. Similarly, advanced sales, such as China's potential supply of J-35 stealth fighters to Pakistan, or India's exploration of Russia's Su-57, do not imply joint war planning or a unified front.

China may have provided direct military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, even monitoring the performance of its weapons systems in Pakistani use, as Indian military officials recently stated. However, monitoring battlefield performance of supplied systems is standard practice for arms suppliers. The United States, Russia, Israel, and France all routinely do this, and India itself will understandably be interested in how the Brahmos missile performs in the Philippines. This is all typical of a supplier relationship, not evidence of a single, unified war front with joint command or shared planning.

What many alarmist narratives gloss over is that China and Pakistan have very different strategic interests vis-à-vis India.

For Pakistan, the military contest with India is existential — a constant, defining rivalry. For China, India is a regional competitor to be managed and contained, but not an existential enemy. Beijing's principal strategic focus remains the U.S. While China has much to gain from an India tied down on its western border, Beijing's geopolitical calculus is an India that is cautious, preoccupied, and wary of escalation. That is precisely why China might be careful about escalation itself. The caution is

evident in the absence of any commitment to join Pakistan in a full-scale war with India. China-Pakistan military exercises, while symbolically important, are a far short of the combined force planning seen in alliances such as NATO or even U.S.-South Korea.

### Challenges for India

This is not to deny the challenge of China-Pakistan collusion altogether. Their defence partnership does complicate India's security environment, increasing the costs of military preparedness and the demand for sophisticated countermeasures. Even so, framing the threat as a single "reinforced one-front war" risks misunderstanding. It imagines a level of operational integration that does not exist, encouraging Indian planners to over-invest in blunt, worst-case military postures that may be unaffordable or strategically rigid. It also underplays opportunities for diplomatic management with China, further alienating India's own sophisticated countermeasures.

Beijing may shield Pakistan diplomatically and arm it liberally, but it also has an interest in limiting escalation that could trigger nuclear thresholds or expose Chinese military intervention. That is a lever India can look to exploit. Overestimating China's willingness to fight India directly on Pakistan's behalf risks creating a self-fulfilling prophecy in which all crisis management is abandoned in favour of maximalist, binary threat perceptions.

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evident in the absence of any commitment to join Pakistan in a full-scale war with India. China-Pakistan military exercises, while symbolically important, are a far short of the combined force planning seen in alliances such as NATO or even U.S.-South Korea.

## Task ahead for BJP chief in Telangana

Ramchander Rao faces the challenge of uniting cadre and expanding rural reach

### STATE OF PLAY

**Ravi Reddy**  
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After months of speculation, the Andhra Pradesh Janata Party (JP) central leadership has finally agreed to let former MLC Narayana Ramchander Rao as the new president of the State unit. Increasing the costs of military preparedness and the demand for sophisticated countermeasures. Even so, framing the threat as a single "reinforced one-front war" risks misunderstanding. It imagines a level of operational integration that does not exist, encouraging Indian planners to over-invest in blunt, worst-case military postures that may be unaffordable or strategically rigid. It also underplays opportunities for diplomatic management with China, further alienating India's own sophisticated countermeasures.

Although the position was stated as an election, Mr. Rao was the only candidate to file a nomination. Mr. Rao has the backing of the BJP's central leadership, which will help him to streamline his work systematically. Avoid mounting pressure to appoint a Backward Class candidate as the party chief, the BJP stuck to its convention of negotiating leaders who have been from the grassroots. Mr. Rao edged out Maheshwari MP Ganesh Reddy, who had used all his resources to get the top post.

The next Assembly and Parliament elections are still four years away, but there has been intense competition among the aspirants for the coveted post.

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### Telangana

doubting its tally from 2019. Interestingly, several outsiders joined the party and went on to become MPs.

However, the BJP, by encouraging those from other parties, created resentment among old timers. This also led to groupism in the party, which seldom tolerates discipline and discourages leader-centric politics. This heart-burn among the loyal leaders and cadres has been combined with the appointment of Mr. Rao.

In Telangana, where Backward Classes form the largest share of the electorate, followed by Scheduled Castes, and then Forward Castes, most major parties — especially the Congress — have focused heavily on the support of the Backward Classes, particularly the Scheduled Caste vote bank. With this backdrop, BJP workers had hoped the party would elect a Backward Class leader as State president.

To the surprise of everyone, the top brass went to stone unturned to secure victory. The BRS, the main opposition party, will also be in the reckoning.

If the BJP hopes to make further inroads in the State, Mr. Rao will have to channel all his energy into reaching every corner of Telangana, convincing village units, and ensuring the cadres, traditionally avoided sailing with the saffron party.

The powerful Reddy community, which traditionally allied with the Congress, had

stiffed its support base over the years. In the 2018 Assembly elections, it leaned toward the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), backed the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, and returned to the Congress fold in 2023.

**'Leadership to be tested'**  
According to the Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste Survey, the party had covered 3,44,77,484 people and 1,12,95,134 families. Backward Classes account for 36.3% of Telangana's population, including 10.6% SC Muslims. SCs make up 17.4%, STs 10.4%, and Muslims 12.5% of whom 2.4% are OC Muslims. Forward Caste constitute 13.3% of the population.

Therefore, the new BJP chief has his task cut out to win the Backward Class vote bank. Beyond his political capabilities, Mr. Rao's leadership will be tested in the upcoming local body polls. It is a fact that the BJP has not penetrated the rural areas as expected, with its support base largely confined to a few pockets. The local body polls, particularly the gram panchayat elections, which are held on a non-party basis, will require Mr. Rao to focus on identifying willing and capable candidates. The BJP will be up against the ruling Congress, which will leave no stone unturned to secure victory. The BRS, the main opposition party, will also be in the reckoning.

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## For every child free for adoption, 13 parents wait in line

The average delay for prospective parents to get an adoption referral in India has increased to over three years

### DATA POINT

**Saahithi Parthasarathy**  
Yves@thehindu.co.in

For years now, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) — the country's nodal adoption agency — has struggled to effectively manage adoptions. While a significant number of parents are willing to adopt, only a limited number of children are legally cleared for adoption. This imbalance has not gone unnoticed. In 2022, a Parliamentary panel called this imbalance a "paradoxical situation," and in 2023, the Supreme Court "expressed displeasure" over the time-consuming adoption process.

Latest data obtained through a Right to Information application filed by *The Hindu* show that the asymmetry continues even in 2025, and the gap has widened further. In 2024, 36,724 prospective parents registered in the CARA portal, and 2,430 children were legally free for adoption. In other words, there were 13 prospective parents for every child free for adoption in 2024.

As of mid-July 2025, the number of prospective parents has grown to 36,381 — an increase of about 9,600 from 2021 — while the number of children legally free for adoption has increased to 2,652 — only 222 more than in 2021. Currently, there are 13 prospective parents for every child free for adoption (Chart 1).

The rise in the number of prospective parents could be one reason behind the growing gap. "The number of people opting for adoption has substantially increased in areas such as infertility are no longer the only reasons why parents consider adoption," said Isaac Abraham, the founder of Padma, a comprehensive adoption resource platform for Indian parents. Still, in a country where an estimated

3.1 crore children were orphaned according to the 2020 World Orphan Report, the fact that only a couple of thousands were identified as free for adoption is difficult to justify. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and West Bengal account for over 80% of prospective parents in 2025 (Chart 2). The average delay for prospective parents to get an adoption referral has increased from one year in 2017 to three years by 2022, to about 3.5 years currently. If CARA does not act soon, the delay will increase further in the coming years and "force parents to adopt children illegally," as warned by the Parliaments Committee.

The Juvenile Justice Act (2020) lists out a time-bound procedure for a child in Child Care Institutions (CCI) to be declared legally free for adoption. Yet, the status of its implementation remains questionable. "There are so many stakeholders on the ground. Publicity is held accountable for not implementing," says Navin Gupta, co-founder of Where Are India's Children, a Child Welfare and Action Foundation. She said that implementation could be a huge challenge due to resource limitations, lack of training, and a lack of linkages between adoption agencies and the CCIs. She added that the idea that every child deserves a family is not strong in India.

Data shows that over 22,000 children are in the CCIs, 8.5 times more than the number of children legally free for adoption in 2024 (2,652). The children in the CCIs include those orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered by their parents and those who have parent/guardians who are unfit for parenting or do not visit them.

The process of declaring children in the CCIs as legally free for adoption remains a grey area, Sinchi Gupta explained. "There are children whose parents keep them in the shelter because of economic

issues. They might occasionally visit them. There is another set of kids who are completely abandoned or orphaned. Then, there are kids in the middle, who have a guardian/parent on paper. And this person never visits the child, but exists only on paper. CARA is pushing to evaluate children with no visitation and an unfit parent/guardian, but needs a lot of follow-up and follow-through."

Because of these complexities, not every child in the CCIs can be made free for adoption. Even after accounting for that, the gap between the number of children in the CCIs and those declared legally free for adoption is still quite high. For instance, in Himachal Pradesh, only one child is legally free for adoption in 2025, whereas 829 are in the CCIs (Chart 3). In Maharashtra, only 236 children are legally free for adoption, while 5,264 are in the CCIs. It will be a big leap to assume that these gaps are only due to the complexities stated above and the delay needs to be addressed. The delay in declaring children legally free for adoption reduces their chances of getting adopted. Close to 74% of the children currently in the adoption pool fall in the 14-49 age group.

At the Parliamentary Committee had stated, "older children and children with special needs are usually not preferred for adoption by Indian parents." Moreover, delay would make it harder for the child, who has been in the institution for so long, to adapt as well. The longest wait times also have an impact on the registered prospective parents. Gupta said, "Most parents start looking for children in the 0-2 group. Then, they become anxious. They then become willing to make the switch to adopt slightly older children, willing to jump the queue. Waitline should be the reason one change as categories, especially not while going through the process."

## The adoption paradox

The data for the charts were sourced from an RTI reply received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Data by India Report (DIBARI), and "Review of Gender Equality and Adoption Laws" by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Relations and Law.

Chart 1: The number of prospective parents registered and children legally free for adoption in 2021 and 2025

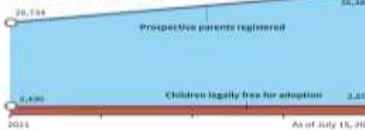


Chart 2: State-wise number of prospective parents registered in 2025\*



Chart 3: State-wise number of children legally free for adoption in 2025\*



### FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The Hindia

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1975

## Astronauts remove stuck docking mechanism

Space centre (Houston), July 16: The Soviet Soyuz spacecraft to-day shifted into position for a cosmic link-up with the American Apollo ship to-morrow, when astronauts and cosmonauts used a network of pieces of tape and handrails for repairs after their ship.

After removing a stuck docking mechanism from a tunnel which will connect the two spacecrafts when they took up, the astronauts replayed television pictures of the tunnel to Houston Mission Control as they inspected it and found it in good condition.

The cosmonauts repaired their bulky TV camera and began transmitting clear pictures to earth.

Cosmonauts Alexei Leonov and Valeri Kubasov fired their speechless engine for 21 seconds and reported the manoeuvre was performed perfectly.

The Moscow Mission Control Centre reported the burn placed Soyuz in a near-circular orbit of 220 km to 223 km above the earth, precisely where the cosmonauts want to receive the visiting Americans at 16 15 GMT (21 45 IST) over West Germany.

Apollo 20 conducted two orbital shifts and plans to be in a close orbit on Soyuz, serving as the target vehicle in the celestial chase.

The docking probe problem was discovered about Apollo 18 night.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1925

## First Iraq Parliament.

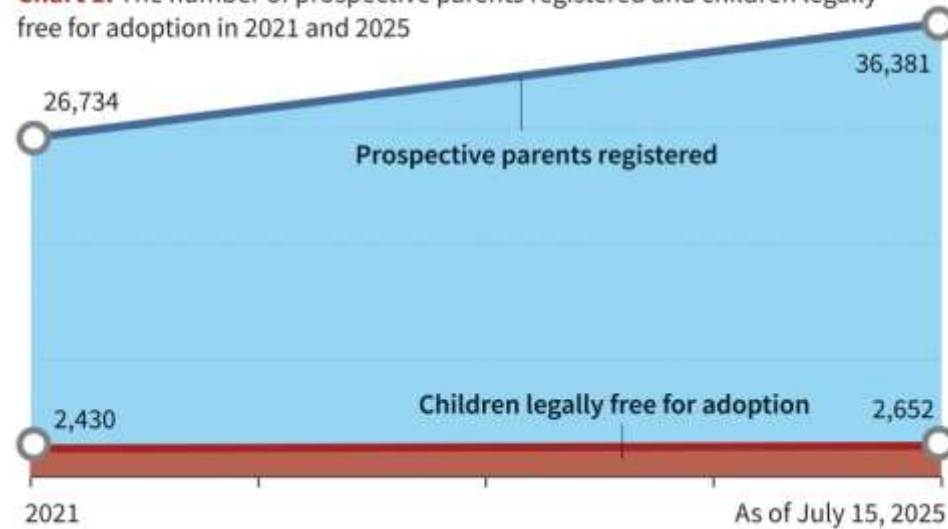
Raghadat, July 16: King Faisal opened to-day, in the presence of a distinguished assemblage, the first properly elected constitutional parliament in Iraq.

The King's speech referred to the improving relations between Iraq and Britain and commended the tenacity of the young republics to establish diplomatic relations with Iraq, which, he said, was valuable as a recognition of the country's independence. The speech outlined an ambitious programme of political and commercial developments, concluded with accolades recommended in the recent report of the British Financial Mission.

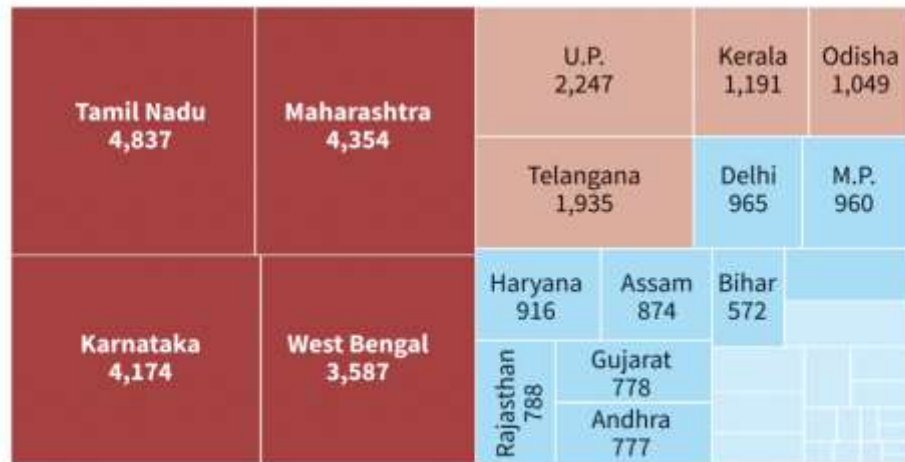
# The adoption paradox

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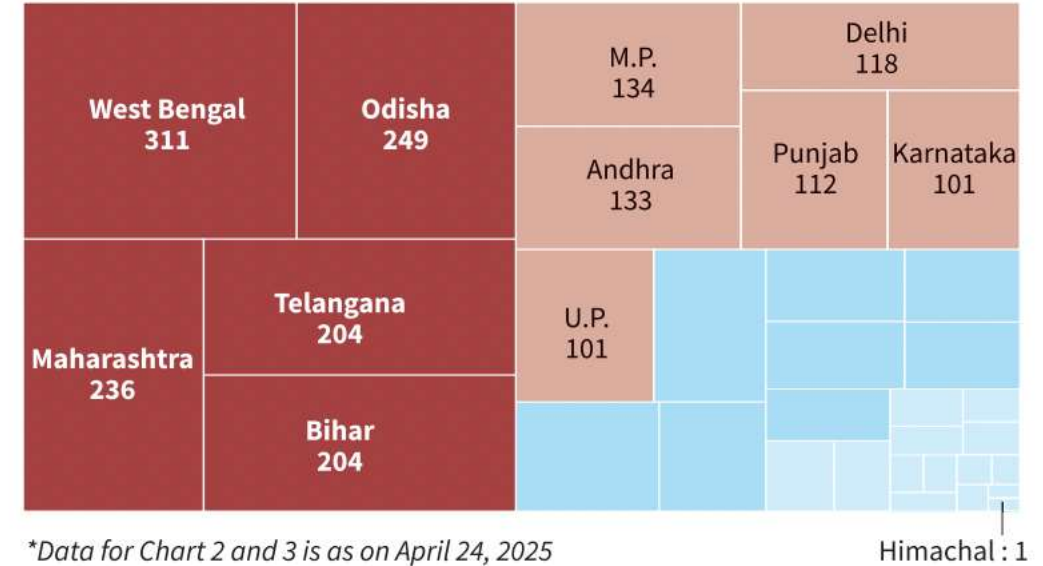
**Chart 1:** The number of prospective parents registered and children legally free for adoption in 2021 and 2025



**Chart 2:** Statewise number of prospective parents registered in 2025\*



**Chart 3:** Statewise number of children legally free for adoption in 2025\*



\*Data for Chart 2 and 3 is as on April 24, 2025

- India's central adoption agency, **CARA** (Central Adoption Resource Authority), is facing a **growing imbalance**:
    - **36,381 prospective adoptive parents (2025)**
    - **Only 2,652 children** legally free for adoption
    - That's **13 parents for every one adoptable child**
- 

## **Data & Trends:**

- Number of prospective parents **increased** significantly since 2021.
- Time to get an **adoption referral** increased:
  - 2017: ~1 year
  - 2022: ~3.5 years
- 22,000+ children are in **Child Care Institutions (CCIs)**, but only a small fraction are declared **legally free** for adoption.



## Legal & Policy Issues:

- **Juvenile Justice Act (2021)** provides a time-bound procedure to declare children legally free for adoption.
  - But implementation suffers due to:
    - Lack of coordination between CCIs and CARA
    - Poor training, weak follow-up, and low accountability
    - Legal guardianship or incomplete abandonment procedures
- 



## Barriers:

- Preference for children in **0–2 years age group** causes long wait.
- Children with **special needs or older age (14–18)** are least likely to be adopted.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal = over 50% of adoptive parents.

**Q. With reference to the adoption process in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The number of prospective adoptive parents currently exceeds the number of children legally free for adoption.
2. All children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are eligible for adoption under the Juvenile Justice Act.
3. The delay in declaring children legally free for adoption reduces their chances of getting adopted.
4. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal account for more than half of the total adoptive parents in India.

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

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

# New Class 8 book chapter on colonial period skips Tipu Sultan, Anglo-Mysore wars

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**

NEW DELHI, JULY 16

THE NEW NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook skips the mention of Tipu Sultan, Haidar Ali or the Anglo-Mysore wars of 1700s in its chapter on India's colonial era, which has been described as time when "one of the richest lands of the world had become one of the poorest".

Part 1 of the textbook — *Exploring Society: Indian and Beyond* — was released this week for use in the ongoing academic session. A second part is expected this year.

The chapter on the colonial era covers the period from the late 1400s and the arrival of Vasco da Gama up to the late 1800s, including the 'Great Indian Rebellion of 1857'. It traces the shift of the British from being traders to rulers, refers to the Battle of Plassey — a decisive victory for the East India Company against Nawab of Bengal in 1757 — and the "drain of India's wealth" during this period.

A section on the early resistance movements that challenged British colonialism in the run-up to the 1857 rebellion refers to the 'Santhali-Fakir rebellion' of the 1700s, the Kol Uprising, and the Santhal rebellion and "peasant uprisings" of the 1800s.

In a separate chapter on the Marathas, it refers to the Anglo-Maratha wars between 1775 and 1818 and states that "the British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power".

In the old Class 8 Social Science textbook, a section on the expansion of the East India Company's rule from 1757 to 1857 also pointed to the resistance to them from the rulers of Mysore — referring to Mysore under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, "the Tiger of Mysore", and the

four Anglo-Mysore Wars in the 1700s. It also described the wars the Marathas fought against the East India Company.

When asked if Tipu Sultan and the Anglo-Mysore wars may find a mention in part 2 of the new Social Science book, Michel Danino, who chaired NCERT's group that developed the book based on the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework, said chapters for part 2 "are not ready yet".

"But a temporary answer is: probably not," he said. "It's unfortunately not possible to cover all events of the colonial period; if we try to, we fall back into the old mode of cramming textbooks with dates, wars etc. In the Middle Stage (Classes 6-8), we only do a quick overview of Indian history; in the Secondary Stage (Classes 9 to 12), there will be opportunities to go over some periods — especially the crucial one of colonial domination — in greater depth," he added.

## 'Drain of wealth'

Referring to the "age of colonialism" and the expansion of the European powers from the 15th century onwards in different parts of the world, the book notes that while the colonisers claimed they had a "civilizing mission", the reality was different and included "destruction of traditional ways of life, and the imposition of foreign cultural values."

According to the new book, until the 16th century, when European powers began sailing to the Indian subcontinent, India contributed "at least one-fourth of the world GDP during this whole period, making it one of the two largest economies globally alongside China (whose contribution was of the same order)."

A later section in the chapter points out that "India's share of the world GDP kept declining

throughout the colonial rule, reaching hardly 5 per cent at the time of Independence. In less than two centuries, one of the richest lands of the world had become one of the poorest."

Similarly, a section on the "drain of India's wealth" says the colonisers extracted "many billions of pounds from India", and "a more recent estimate (by Utsa Patnaik) for the period 1765 to 1938 comes to 45 trillion US dollars (in today's value)". "Had this wealth remained invested in India, it would have been a very different country when it attained independence," it says.

The new book also says the construction of India's railways "was not a gift from the colonial rulers to India." "Most of it was paid for by Indian tax revenue, which means that Indian funded infrastructure primarily served British strategic and commercial interests. The same can be said of the telegraph network," it says.

The colonial powers "stole thousands of statues, paintings, jewels, manuscripts and other cultural artefacts from India and sent them to European museums or private collections," the book says, adding that such "massive theft" took place over much of the colonized world.

The old Class 8 book did not have the sections on the railways, the "theft" of artefacts, and world GDP.

Said Danino: "We included the real facts on the financing of the Indian railway and telegraph (and several wars, including putting down the 1857 Rebellion) because otherwise we give a wrong impression that these were great gifts by the colonial powers. They were no gifts and contributed to make poor Indians (especially the peasant class) even poorer through revenue extraction." He maintained that his remarks reflect his personal opinion.

- **New NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook:**

Released for the 2024–25 academic session under **NEP 2020** framework.

- **Part 1** of the book: *Exploring Society: Indian and Beyond* – currently available.

- **Controversy:**

Skips mention of **Tipu Sultan**, **Haidar Ali**, and **Anglo-Mysore wars**, despite earlier NCERT editions covering these.

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## What It Covers:

- **Colonial period:** from Vasco da Gama (1498) to the Revolt of 1857
- Focus on:
  - **Plassey (1757)**, British victory
  - **"Drain of Wealth" theory**
  - **Anglo-Maratha wars** and Maratha resistance
  - **Sanyasi-Fakir, Santhal, and Kol uprisings**

## ✗ What It Omits:

- **No reference** to Tipu Sultan or Haidar Ali in Part 1
  - No mention of **four Anglo-Mysore wars**
  - No content on:
    - Indian railway/telegraph as British strategic tools (only new edition includes it)
    - Theft of artefacts, colonial loot, and impact on GDP (absent in old textbooks)
- 

## 🧭 Justification (as per authors):

- **Michel Danino**, chair of textbook development group:
    - Not possible to cover everything at Middle Stage (Class 6–8)
    - Full colonial coverage reserved for **Part 2** (not yet released)
    - Warns against “cramming textbooks with names/dates”
-

## Historical Insights from New Book:

- India contributed **~25% of world GDP** until 16th century
- Declined to **<5% at Independence**
- British railways/telegraph were not "gifts" but built using **Indian tax revenue**
- Massive wealth theft of "artefacts, jewels, statues" to **Europe & museums**
- Book rejects the British "civilizing mission" narrative, calling it a **destructive imposition of foreign values**

# Secretly recorded conversations admissible in divorce cases: what SC said

APURVA VISHWANATH &  
AMAAL SHEIKH

NEW DELHI, JULY 16

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday ruled that secretly recorded conversations between spouses are admissible as evidence in matrimonial disputes. It set aside a 2021 Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment that had barred a husband from using secretly recorded phone conversations with his wife as evidence in divorce proceedings.

The top court's ruling changes the contours of spousal or marital privilege in Indian law, which protects private conversations between a husband and wife during their marriage, and even after the marriage has ended.

## What is spousal privilege?

Spousal privilege means that a person cannot be compelled to testify against their

spouse in a criminal case. It is rooted in the idea that a degree of protection must be provided to private conversations between a husband and wife during their marriage.

Spousal privilege is codified in Section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. "No person who is or has been married, shall be compelled to disclose any communication made to him during marriage by any person to whom he is or has been married; nor shall he be permitted to disclose any such communication."

According to the law, spousal communication is allowed as evidence only when the other spouse consents to it or when one spouse has narrated the events to a third party, who then testifies in court.

## How does the law apply to divorce cases?

Spousal privilege does not directly apply in divorce cases where one spouse makes allegations against the other spouse,

and testifies in a court of law. These allegations are supplemented by evidence such as letters, photographs, or testimonies of other people. However, with technological advances, text messages, video and voice recordings, and emails are often presented as evidence.

Many High Courts have refrained from accepting secret recordings as evidence due to two main reasons.

■ There is a risk that secret recordings can be procured through suspect or coercive methods. Courts must weigh whether the material is relevant and lawfully admissible as evidence in each case. This process in a trial is called the appreciation of evidence.

■ There is a reasonable expectation of privacy in a marriage, and secret recordings violate an individual's privacy. A relationship bereft of this expectation gives rise to

concerns of surveillance among spouses.

## Why did the SC allow secret recordings to be admissible in court?

The SC's ruling relied on its 1973 judgment in a case that pertained to a telephonic conversation recorded secretly by the police to prove a bribery charge against a doctor. At the time, the apex court overlooked

how the evidence was obtained, given that the case involved corruption by a public servant and the phone tap was conducted by the state. The SC has now effectively extended this reasoning to matrimonial cases.

The court has said that if evidence is relevant, independently verifiable, and falls within statutory exceptions, it can be admitted even if collected in secret. Although secret recordings are a violation of fundamental rights, the right to privacy

must be balanced with the right to a fair trial, according to the SC.

The apex court has also said a telephone that secretly records conversations is "no different from an eavesdropper". Put simply, the SC has equated digital evidence to a third party who is a witness to a privileged conversation and is testifying.

## Why is the ruling significant?

The ruling is an example of how the SC operationalises the right to privacy. In its interpretation of Section 122, the apex court said the provision was drafted for the "sanctity of the marriage", and not to protect privacy within marriage.

While this is true for a law which came into force in 1872, the SC's 2017 judgment in the *Puttaswamy* case made the right to privacy a fundamental right, protecting the inner sphere of the individual from interference from both state and non-state ac-

tors. Any infringement of the right to privacy must be backed by a valid law.

Also, there have been concerns that making secret recordings admissible as evidence in court could lead to surveillance within a marriage. The SC, however, has stated that "if the marriage has reached a stage where spouses are actively snooping on each other, that is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship and denotes a lack of trust between them."

Another concern is that the ruling could affect women's right to a fair trial as there is a huge gender gap in smartphone ownership in India. According to the Mobile Gender Gap Report 2025, there is a 39% divide in ownership of smartphones by women compared to men in the country. This means that men have more access to recording technologies which gives them an upper hand in cases related to matrimonial disputes.

EXPLAINED  
LAW

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## Supreme Court Ruling (July 2025)

- **Context:** SC overturned a 2021 Punjab & Haryana High Court decision which barred a husband from using secretly recorded phone calls with his wife as evidence in divorce proceedings.
- **Judgment:** Secretly recorded conversations **can be admissible as evidence** in matrimonial disputes if they are:
  - Relevant
  - Independently verifiable
  - Not in violation of statutory exceptions

## Key Legal Concepts:

### 1. Spousal Privilege (Section 122, Indian Evidence Act, 1872)

- Protects private conversations between married partners.
- No spouse is compelled to disclose marital communication in court.
- Exceptions: If **one spouse consents** or **testifies voluntarily**, it may be admissible.

### 2. Right to Privacy vs. Right to Fair Trial

- Secret recordings **may breach privacy**, but SC says:
  - If relationship already lacks trust (snooping occurs), it reflects marriage breakdown.
  - Evidence must be weighed against the right to a fair trial.

## **SC Reasoning & Justification:**

- Based on a **1973 SC ruling** involving a police-recorded bribe call.
  - Digital evidence = testimony of a third-party "eavesdropper".
  - Privacy breach is secondary to truth if the evidence is legally obtained and relevant.
- 

## **Concerns Highlighted:**

- **Surveillance inside marriages** may increase.
- **Gender digital divide:** Mobile Gender Gap Report 2025 notes:
  - **39% gap** in smartphone ownership (men vs. women)
  - Men may misuse tech for covert recordings
- Women's **right to fair trial** may be compromised due to unequal tech access.

# India now fourth preferred market in Asia: BofA survey

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, July 16

**THE INDIAN EQUITY** market is now the fourth-most preferred market in Asia, with Taiwan and South Korea benefiting from the resurgent semiconductor cycle, BofA Securities' latest Asia Fund Manager Survey noted on country allocations.

"Japan remains the most favourite market by a distance, followed by Taiwan and Korea, with India slipping to the fourth spot," the survey found. While Korea gains additional upside from hopes surrounding its new leadership's policy reforms, China allocation dropped again with only Australia and Thailand behind it in the pecking order," the Survey said.

Among the sectors in India, investors are keen on consumption and infrastructure plays. "IT services is out of favour, mirroring our India IT services Indicator's plunge to a 20-month low last month," BofA Securities observed adding that small/mid-caps themes are on top of investors' minds.

In the Asia ex-Japan portfo-

## INVESTOR CHOICE

Japan stays most favourite, followed by Taiwan & South Korea

**Asia Pacific market sentiment: Net % FMS investors overweight (% saying overweight - % saying underweight)**



Source: BofA Asia Fund Manager Survey

lio, participants are growth-biased and overweight in semiconductors, software, tech hardware, and banks, while avoiding materials, energy, industrials, and real estate, the survey revealed. In Japan, banks, beneficiary of higher rates, remain the most preferred sector, followed by semiconductors. The survey noted, "Investors prefer value tilt over growth but they do not see a definite market-cap size seg-

ment that will outperform." China's AI/semis remains the most favored theme.

Investor concern over President Trump's trade war posturing is fading fast, even as he broadens the conflict, the survey said. "A striking 70% of the participants view the potential hit to Asian economies/markets as only slightly negative – marking the most optimistic reading since December," it said.

## Sectoral Preference:

- **Favored in India:**
    - Consumption
    - Infrastructure
    - Small/mid-cap companies
  - **Out of favor:** Indian IT sector
    - Reflected in IT Services Indicator falling to a **20-month low**.
- 

## Global Sectoral Bias:

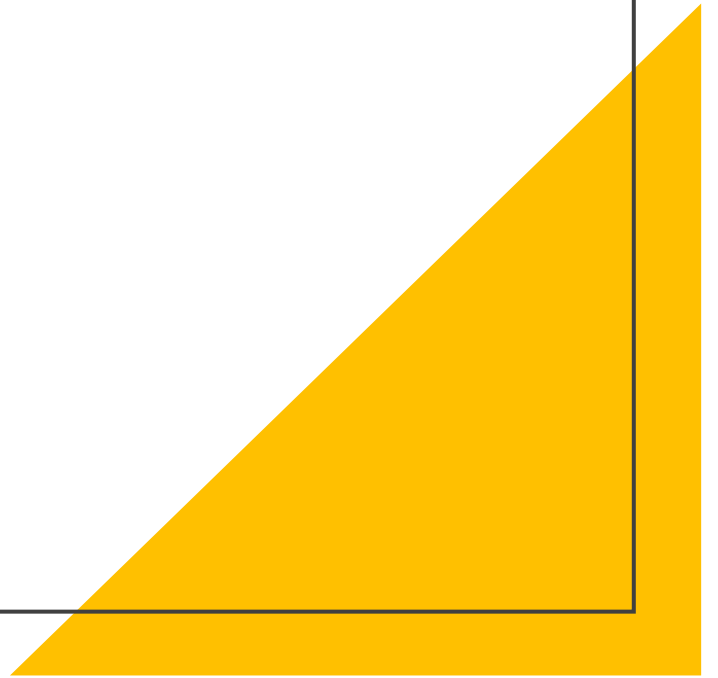
- Investors overweight on:
  - **Semiconductors**
  - **Software**
  - **Tech hardware**
  - **Banks**


- Avoiding:
    - Materials
    - Energy
    - Real estate
    - Industrials
- 

## Japan Market:

- Most preferred sectors: **Banks** (due to rising interest rates), followed by **Semiconductors**
  - Investors tilted towards **value investing**, not necessarily favoring specific market-cap sizes.
-

India Achieves 50%  
Non-Fossil Fuel Power  
Capacity



- 
- India's non-fossil fuel power capacity has reached 242.78 GW out of 484.82 GW total installed capacity, 5 years ahead of its 2030 target under the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



## Non-Fossil Fuels:

Non-fossil fuels refer to energy sources that are not derived from fossilized organic matter such as coal, oil, or natural gas.

It includes both renewable energy sources (solar, wind, and hydropower) and non-renewable energy sources (nuclear) energy sources.

- As of **June 2025**, India's **total installed electricity capacity** stands at **484.82 GW**, with **50% coming from non-fossil fuel sources**, which includes:
  - **Renewable energy:** 184.62 GW (**38.08%**)
  - **Large hydropower:** 49.38 GW (**10.19%**)
  - **Nuclear energy:** 8.78 GW (**1.81%**)

A. Installed Electricity Capacity by Source as on 30.06.2025 (RE + Large Hydro Combined)

Sector	Capacity (in GW)	Percentage
Thermal	242.04 GW	(49.92%)
Nuclear	8.78 GW	(1.81%)
RE (including Large Hydro)	234.00 GW	(48.27%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>484.82 GW</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

# ADEETIE Scheme

A vertical line is positioned to the right of the text. In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is a yellow right-angled triangle pointing towards the top-left.

- Union Minister launched the ADEETIE scheme to boost industrial energy efficiency, especially for MSMEs, at a national rollout event in Panipat, Haryana.



विद्युत मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**POWER**

**BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
**(Government of India, Ministry of Power)**



**ADEETIE: ASSISTANCE IN DEPLOYING ENERGY EFFICIENT  
TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRIES & ESTABLISHMENTS**

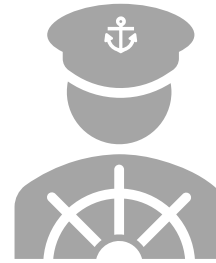
**Supporting MSMEs with ADEETIE: Energy Efficiency Made Affordable!**



## **What is ADEETIE?**

**ADEETIE stands for Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments.**

It is a flagship scheme to promote low-carbon industrial growth by facilitating adoption of clean, efficient energy technologies.



**Launched by:** Union Ministry of Power

- **Budget & Duration:**

- **Total Budget:** ₹1000 crore (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28).
- ₹875 crore for interest subvention, ₹50 crore for audits, ₹75 crore for handholding support.

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# Word of the day

## **Irredenta:**

a region that is related ethnically or historically to one country but is controlled politically by another

---

**Usage:** *Many nations stake historical claims on territories considered irredenta, leading to territorial disputes.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/irredentapro](http://newsth.live/irredentapro)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ir.re'den.ta/

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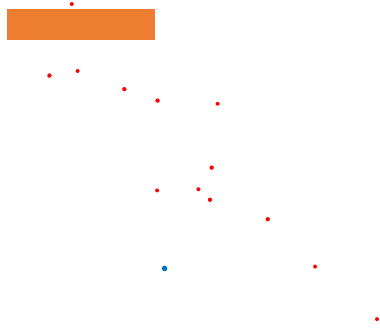


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