

Daily Current Affairs





43
The Hindu



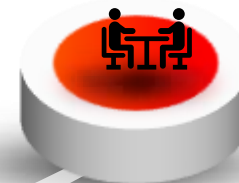
1
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



2
**The Indian
Express**

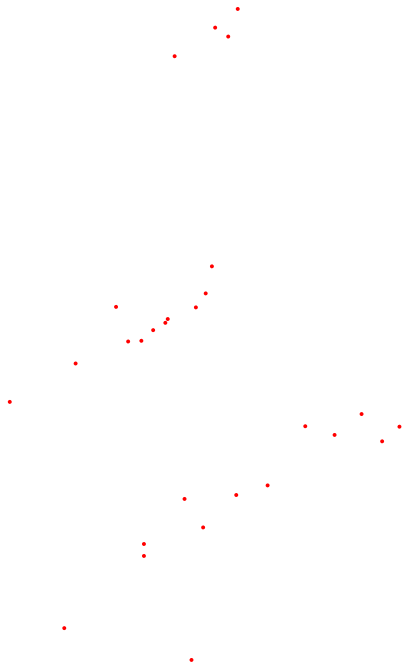


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2
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When motivation fades,
**routine carries the student
forward.”**



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INSIDE

Paracetamol use in pregnancy not linked to autism

CHENNAI A comprehensive review of studies done across the world, published in *The Lancet* Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health on Friday, has demolished the argument that paracetamol exposure among pregnant women is linked with autism in infants. **» PAGE 2**



Fresh unrest reported in Murshidabad

KOLKATA Fresh unrest was reported at Bardhaman in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday as local people, including farmers and labourers, gathered on the highway at Barua More, firing traffic to a standstill and triggering long queues of stranded vehicles. **» PAGE 2**

Resolution in J&K House to restore MBBS in college

BHIMNAGAR/NEW DELHI A ruling National Conference (NC) legislator, Farooq Saifi, has introduced a resolution before the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Saturday seeking a 'review of the withdrawal of the Letter of Permission (LoP)' to the Sheri Mata Vaidya Devi Institute of Medical Sciences (SMVMS), in Baramulla, Jammu. **» PAGE 2**

Under Trump's Gaza plan, U.S. names Rubio, Blair and Kushner to 'Board of Peace'

Reactors

WASHINGTON The White House on Friday announced some members of a so-called 'board of peace' that is to supervise the temporary governance of Gaza, which has been under a fragile ceasefire since October. The names include U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, House Speaker Mike Pence, Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and Mr. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Mr. Trump is the chair of the board, according to a plan the White House unveiled in October. Israel and Palestinian

Iran's leader brands Trump a 'criminal' for backing protests

The protests left several thousands dead in the Islamic Republic, says its Supreme Leader, he says the U.S. President encouraged seditious people



During a meeting in Tehran, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke during a meeting in Tehran on Saturday. **REUTERS**

Associated Press

counting the U.S. of seeking domination over Iran's resources, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday branded U.S. President Donald Trump a "criminal" for supporting protesters in the Islamic Republic, and blamed demonstrators for causing thousands of deaths. In a speech broadcast by state television, Mr. Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand people dead" — the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began on December 28 and led to a bloody crackdown. "In this revolt, the U.S. President made remarks in person, encouraged seditious people to go ahead and said: 'Support us, we do support you militarily,'" said Mr. Khamenei.

"We do consider the U.S. President a criminal, because of casualties and damages, because of accusations against the Iranian nation," he said. The Supreme Leader, who has a final say on all state matters, blamed demonstrators for causing thousands of deaths and described the protesters as "fool seditious" of the U.S. He said they had destroyed mosques and educational centres. "Through hurting people, they killed several thousands of them." His comments come a day after Mr. Trump sounded a conciliatory tone, saying that "Iran can't handle the hanging of over 800 people," and adding that "I greatly regret the fact that they cancelled."

He did not clarify who he spoke to but is seen to confirm the state of any comments were a sign he may be backing away from a military strike.

Many Indians take commercial flights out of Iran

NEW DELHI Several Indians, including students, have returned from Iran commercial flights and widespread protests in the Islamic nation. **» PAGE 3**

In recent days, Mr. Trump had told protesting Iranians that "help is on the way" and that his administration would "act accordingly" if Iranian authorities continued or if Iranian authorities executed detained protesters.

British philosopher A.C. Grayling, chief guest, said that authoritarianism, in its various forms, is a threat to freedom and humanity. He said that authoritarianism is a threat to freedom and humanity. He said that authoritarianism is a threat to freedom and humanity.

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The Hindu Lit for Life 2026 begins with call for freedom of expression

Authoritarians want to 'shut us up', says British philosopher Grayling while underlining the acute necessity of conversations; former CJI Chandrachud points at 'responsibility to reason with care'

Udhay Nala CHENNAI

The latest edition of one of the most widely attended literary festivals in India, The Hindu Lit For Life 2026, began in Chennai on Saturday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the festival, Nirmala Lakshmanan, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, and founder of Lit for Life, highlighted the importance of free speech.

"Across the globe, as well as here, we are witnessing threats to free speech and democratic spaces are shrinking. Writing sometimes becomes an act of courage, and festivals like these should celebrate and stand by the voices that dissent, voices that are often powerful, and becoming a festival of freedom and humanity is celebrated," she said.

British philosopher A.C. Grayling, chief guest, said that authoritarianism, in its various forms, is a threat to freedom and humanity. He said that authoritarianism is a threat to freedom and humanity.

In his speech, Mr. Khamenei said rioters were armed with free ammunition that was imported from abroad, without naming any countries. "We do not plan, we do not take the country to war, but we do not release domestic offenders, worse than domestic offenders, these are international offenders. We do not let them alone either," he said, and urged officials to pursue the cases.

The crackdown has left at least 3,000 people dead, including 2,000 protesters, according to the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, exceeding that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades and resulting in chaos surrounding the 1979 revolution.

He said that authoritarianism is a threat to freedom and humanity. He said that authoritarianism is a threat to freedom and humanity.



Former C.J.I Chandrachud and philosopher A.C. Grayling inaugurate The Hindu Lit for Life in Chennai in the presence of Nirmala Lakshmanan, Chairperson of The Hindu Group. N. Nala, Director of The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu; L.V. Ravaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, and Suresh Balakrishna, CEO, N. Nala

this sensibility. It reminds us that behind every argument, there is a human story and behind every conclusion lies a responsibility to reason with care," the former Chief Justice said.

In his speech, Mr. Khamenei said rioters were armed with free ammunition that was imported from abroad, without naming any countries. "We do not plan, we do not take the country to war, but we do not release domestic offenders, worse than domestic offenders, these are international offenders. We do not let them alone either," he said, and urged officials to pursue the cases.

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Vande Bharat sleeper makes its inaugural run

Ashwini Chatterjee KOLKATA

On a two-day visit to West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Kolkata and Guwahati. The inauguration ceremony was held in Kolkata on Saturday.

Four new trains from various parts of West Bengal to other states were also virtually launched by the Prime Minister.

The first sleeper Vande Bharat train is now India's longest train, stretching from the land of Mahatma to the land of Lord Krishna. The train will run between Guwahati and Kolkata. The train will run between Guwahati and Kolkata.

rah at 6.30 p.m., and Kamakhya at 6.18 p.m., making the journey in about 14 hours.

The other trains launched were four Ashwini Bharat Express services: New Jalpaiguri to Nagregod, Tinsukia to Guwahati, and Alipahar to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bongaigaon and Mankar (Patna).

The new trains come as a push towards setting the agenda for poll-bound West Bengal.

'Self-sufficient railways' Foreign nationals are making videos of our trains and taking pictures of our train systems has been revolutionised. The new Vande Bharat train is made in India," Mr. Modi said in his address.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students after inaugurating a Vande Bharat sleeper train in Malda on Saturday. **AP**

to date in India. The Indian railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was present. The train is made in India," Mr. Modi said in his address. Along with being modernised, the Indian Railways is also becoming a self-sufficient railway system. The new Vande Bharat train is made in India," Mr. Modi said in his address.

New rail projects

At the same event, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for various road and railway projects estimated at ₹2,200 crore. He launched projects for a new rail line between Bahirghat and Hili, a new generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri, upgrade of the Silghat Loco Shed, and modernisation of the Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district. He also laid the foundation stone for the rehabilitation and four-lane widening of the Bongaigaon-Falakata section of National Highway 31B.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister addressed a public meeting of BJP workers and supporters at a ground in Malda.

Vande Bharat sleeper makes its inaugural run

Shrabana Chatterjee

KOLKATA

On a two-day visit to West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Kolkata and Guwahati. The inauguration ceremony was held in Malda on Saturday.

Four new trains from various parts of West Bengal to other States were also virtually launched by the Prime Minister.

"The first sleeper Vande Bharat train is now joining the land of Ma Kali with the land of Ma Kamakhya," Mr. Modi said after flagging off the new train, adding the new trains would provide ease of travel and trade.

The Vande Bharat sleeper train will run between Howrah and Kamakhya stations six days a week in both the up and down directions, departing How-

rah at 6.20 p.m., and Kamakhya at 6.15 p.m., making the journey in about 14 hours.

The other trains launched were four Amrit Bharat Express services: New Jalpaiguri to Nagercoil and Tiruchirappalli and Alipurduar to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru and Mumbai (Panvel).

The new trains come as a push towards setting the agenda for poll-bound West Bengal.

'Self-sufficient railways'

"Foreign nationals are now making videos of our trains and telling people how our rail system has been revolutionised. This new Vande Bharat train is made in India," Mr. Modi said in his address.

Along with being modernised, the Indian Railways is becoming self-sufficient, he said, adding there are 150 Vande Bharat trains



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students after inaugurating a Vande Bharat sleeper train in Malda on Saturday. ANI

to date in India.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was present.

Local cuisine from Bengal and Assam would be available on the sleeper Vande Bharat train, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Mayfair Spring Valley Resort, Guwahati, has partnered with the Indian

Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation as the official caterer for the sleeper train.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Sukanta Majumdar, MP; Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suwendu Adhikari; and the party's State president Samik Bhattacharya, were

present at the event, as was Governor C.V. Ananda Bose.

New rail projects

At the same event, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for various road and railway projects estimated at ₹3,250 crore. He launched projects for a new rail line between Balurghat and Hili; next generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri; upgrade of the Siliguri Loco Shed; and modernisation of the Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district. He also laid the foundation stone for the rehabilitation and four-laning of the Dhupguri-Falakata section of National Highway 31D.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister addressed a public meeting of BJP workers and supporters at a ground in Malda.

Route Map



What happened / ए व इ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off **India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat** train, connecting **Kolkata–Guwahati**.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कलकत्ता-गुवाहाटी अघरात स्लीपर q हरे घ अघरात ट्रेन को हरी झंडी दिखाई, जो इलाहाबाद-गुवाहाटी को जोड़ती है।

Inauguration venue / इलाहाबाद में

The inauguration ceremony was held in **Malda (West Bengal)**.

उद्घाटन समारोह मालदा (पश्चिम बंगाल) में हुआ।

Route, frequency, timing / रूट, आवृत्ति, टाइमिंग

The sleeper Vande Bharat will run between **Howrah and Kamakhya, 6 days a week** (both directions).

स्लीपर वंदे भारत हावड़ा-कामाख्या के बीच हफ्ता में छह दिनों (दोनों दिशाओं में) चलेगी।

Departure: **Howrah ~6:20 PM; Kamakhya ~6:15 PM; journey time ~14 hours.**

प्रस्थान: हावड़ा ~6:20 PM; कामाख्या ~6:15 PM; यात्रा समय लगभग 14 घंटे।

- **Other launches / अन्य लॉन्च**
 - Four **Amrit Bharat Express** services were also launched:
 - चार अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस सेवाएँ भी लॉन्च हुईं:
 - New Jalpaiguri → Nagercoil
न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी → नागरकोइल
 - New Jalpaiguri → Tiruchirappalli
न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी → तिरुचिरापल्ली
 - Alipurduar → Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (Bengaluru)
अलीपुरद्वार → सर एम. विश्वेश्वरैया टर्मिनल (बेंगलुरु)
 - Alipurduar → Mumbai (Panvel)
अलीपुरद्वार → मुंबई (पनवेल)
- **Message & context / संदेश और संदर्भ**
 - PM linked the service symbolically ("Ma Kali to Ma Kamakhya") and said it would ease travel and trade; the launches also set the agenda in poll-bound West Bengal.
 - पीएम ने इसे प्रतीकात्मक रूप से ("मा काली से मा कामाख्या") जोड़कर यात्रा/व्यापार में सुविधा की बात कही; चुनावी माहौल वाले बंगाल में इसे एजेंडा-पुश के रूप में भी देखा गया।
- **Railways capability / रेलवे की क्षमता**
 - PM said the new Vande Bharat is **made in India**; railways are becoming more self-sufficient; he mentioned **~150 Vande Bharat trains** so far in India.
 - पीएम ने इसे मेड-इन-इंडिया बताया; रेलवे को अधिक आत्मनिर्भर बताया; अब तक लगभग **150 वंदे भारत** ट्रेनों का उल्लेख किया।

- **Food & operations / भोजन व संचालन**

- Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** was present; **Bengal and Assam cuisine** will be available onboard.
- रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव मौजूद रहे; ट्रेन में बंगाल व असम का स्थानीय भोजन उपलब्ध होगा।
- A Guwahati hotel (Mayfair Spring Valley Resort) partnered with **IRCTC** as the official caterer for the sleeper train.
- गुवाहाटी के एक होटल (Mayfair Spring Valley Resort) ने स्लीपर ट्रेन के लिए **IRCTC** के साथ आधिकारिक कैटरिंग पार्टनरशिप की।

- **Key attendees / प्रमुख उपस्थित लोग**

- BJP leaders **Sukanta Majumdar, Suwendu Adhikari, Samik Bhattacharya** were present; Governor **C.V. Ananda Bose** also attended.
- भाजपा नेता सुकांत मजूमदार, सुवेंदु अधिकारी, सामिक भट्टाचार्य उपस्थित रहे; राज्यपाल सी. वी. आनंद बोस भी मौजूद थे।

- **New projects announced / नई परियोजनाएँ**

- Foundation stones/projects worth **₹3,250 crore** were launched, including: new rail line **Balurghat–Hili**, next-gen freight maintenance at **New Jalpaiguri**, upgrade of **Siliguri Loco Shed**, modernisation of **Vande Bharat maintenance** in Jalpaiguri, and **4-laning/rehabilitation of Dhupguri–Falakata** section of **NH-31D**.
- ₹3,250 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का शिलान्यास/लॉन्च हुआ: बालुरघाट–हिली नई रेल लाइन, न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी में फ्रेट मेंटेनेंस सुविधा, सिलीगुड़ी लोको शेड अपग्रेड, जलपाईगुड़ी में वंदे भारत मेंटेनेंस आधुनिकीकरण, और **NH-31D** के धूपगुड़ी–फालाकाटा हिस्से का चार-लेन/पुनर्वास।

Consider the statements: (1) The inaugural overnight sleeper Vande Bharat connects Kolkata and Guwahati.

(2) It will run all seven days

. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

L.ABORGE

Pakistan's Punjab police arrest 49 terrorists of TTP in last 30 days



Pakistan's Punjab police on Saturday said it arrested 49 terrorists of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during various operations conducted in the last 30 days. Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab Police said it conducted a total of 423 intelligence-based operations in different districts of Punjab. PTI

NIGRAZI

Over 100 dead in torrential rains and floods across southern Africa



Air Force helicopters rescued stranded people and evacuated hundreds as torrential rains and floods hit South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, killing over 100. Mozambique was the hardest hit, with flooding across swathes of the country's central and southern provinces, affecting at least two lakh. AP

KAMPALA

Uganda's Museveni wins seventh term after violence-marred polls



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni won a seventh term in office on Saturday after an election marred by violence and an internet shutdown, with African observers saying arrests and shutdowns had "intimidated" him. Mr. Museveni, 81, won 73.88% of the vote in Thursday's election, the Electoral Commission said. AP

COPENHAGEN

Thousands join protest rally in Denmark against Trump push



Thousands of people took to the streets of Denmark's capital on Saturday to protest at U.S. President Donald Trump's push to take over Greenland. Waving the flag of Denmark and Greenland, the protesters burned a size of red and white in Copenhagen, chanting "Kataktit Nunaat!" — the island's name in Greenlandic. AP

Trump announces tariffs on eight European nations over Greenland

The tariffs are set at 10% starting February 1, and will rise to 25% from June. Trump says the tariffs would remain 'until a deal is reached for purchase of Greenland; Germany states it is consulting with European partners on a joint response'

Struan Lakhman
LONDON

It is the latest of a series of moves to acquire Greenland, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced tariffs on European and NATO allies, despite having negotiated trade deals with the U.K. and the European Union in 2020. The announcement, which the President made on Truth Social, applies to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Poland.



Exalting tension: Donald Trump waves as he boards Air Force One in Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, on Friday. AP

25% from June 2026. "This tariff will be due and payable until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," Mr. Trump wrote.

Last week, the countries in question sent a handful of troops to Greenland and Denmark's response, in the face of escalating threats from Mr. Trump — an event Mr. Trump alluded to in his

post. Greenland, a mineral-rich Arctic island, is a self-governing territory of Denmark, which is a member of the NATO alliance. He said the countries "have journeyed to Greenland, for purposes unknown" and that it was "a very dangerous situation for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Planet (sic)". The countries' actions had increased the risk to a "unbearable and untenable" level, Mr. Trump claimed, saying global peace and security were at stake.

Germany had noted Mr. Trump's statements and was in close consultation with Mr. Trump — an event

spokesperson told The Hindu via email. The countries would together decide on their response, the spokesperson said.

In his post, Mr. Trump alleged that Russia and China wanted the Arctic island and that there was nothing Denmark could do to defend it. Russia and China are not considered threats to Greenland as of now, Major General Simon Andersen, commander of Denmark's joint Arctic Command said in an interview published on Saturday. On Thursday, a spokesperson for the Russian government rejected the notion the helping and Moscow had plans to occupy Greenland.

Belarus Opposition leader to leave Lithuania, say sources

Agence France-Presse
VILNUS

Belarusian Opposition leader Sviatlana Tikhonovskaya and her team will leave Lithuania for home in exile since a giant crackdown forced her to flee Belarus in 2020. Her neighbouring Poland, several people in her team told AFP.



Sviatlana Tikhonovskaya

Her move will come after Lithuania lowered her security status last year, rattling the team, which has questioned its welcome in the EU country.

Ms. Tikhonovskaya ran against President Alexander Lukashenko in a 2020 election, with the opposition saying she was the real winner of the vote.

Belarus, ruled by Mr. Lukashenko since 1994, suppressed the protests, arresting thousands and forcing tens of thousands

her entourage and a source in the Polish foreign ministry told AFP.

Her aide Denis Kichinsky told journalists that Ms. Tikhonovskaya's husband Sergei Tikhonovskiy, released from prison last year, was currently in the U.S. for security reasons.

Ms. Tikhonovskaya met with Poland's President Karol Nawrocki in Warsaw this week.

The news of her upcoming move came as Lithuania also said this month it would revoke the residence permit of Russian opposition figure Leonid Volkov, a key ally of late Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, after his private messages were leaked.

Mr. Volkov is wanted in Russia for a battery of charges, including for condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Public Interaction



A woman holds a shotgun of the Bolivarian National Militia during a series of civil military take in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday. Reuters

Doumbouya, Guinea's junta chief, sworn in as President

Agence France-Presse
CONAKRY

Guinea's junta leader Mamadou Doumbouya was sworn in as President on Saturday in front of tens of thousands of supporters and several heads of state, following an election victory last month.

Mr. Doumbouya, toppled Guinea's first elected President Alpha Conde in 2020 and has since crushed dissent on civil liberties and banned protests. The country's Supreme Court validated his victory days after a late December poll, crediting him with 86.7% of the vote.

Mr. Doumbouya swore an oath to uphold the constitution — that he altered to allow him to stay in power — during a ceremony at the capital.

Syrian forces enter northern towns after Kurdish fighters leave

Associated Press
DEIR ZAFER

Syrian government forces entered two northern towns on Saturday morning after the command of Kurdish-led fighters said it would evacuate the area in an apparent move to avoid conflict.

Two soldiers were killed and others wounded in a clash as they entered the town of Maskana, state media reported. Meanwhile, troops made their way into the town of Deir Zafar, the

two towns changed hands after deadly fighting erupted earlier this month between government troops and the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the city of Aleppo, Syria's largest.

The Syrian military said its forces were in full control of Deir Zafar, captured the Jarrah air base to the east, and were in the process of clearing mines and explosives. It added that troops would move toward the town of Maskana.

'Excluding Awami League from upcoming poll will not bring stability to Bangladesh'

Kaifur Rasheduzzaman
NEW DELHI

Excluding the Awami League, which led Bangladesh's independent movement in 1971, from the upcoming election will not lead to stability in the country, said Hasan Mahmud, former Foreign Minister who served in the cabinet of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2024. Mr. Mahmud met the media at a press interaction here, stating that the Awami League and his party have historically enjoyed good relations and

that India would act if any threat to its security emanated from Dhaka, which is currently under an internet curfew.

Barring the party that led the war of independence of Bangladesh and ruled the country several times will mean that the upcoming election will be nothing but an arranged one, and no stability will return to Bangladesh through such a process," said Mr. Mahmud, who also expressed doubt over whether the elections would actually be held on February 12, as promised



Hasan Mahmud by the Bangladesh Election Commission.

global campaign to highlight what it described as serious violations of human rights and abuses against minority communities that have taken place in Bangladesh over the past 10 months.

The interim government has been accusing Sheikh Hasina and members of the Awami League of organised violence in Bangladesh while staying in India. But Mr. Mahmud dismissed this criticism, saying that the relationship between the two parties would actually be held on February 12, as promised

'Chinese drone made provocative flight over South China Sea'

Reuters
TAIPEI

A Chinese reconnaissance drone briefly flew over the Taiwan-controlled Prata Islands at the top end of the South China Sea on Saturday, in what Taiwan's Defence Ministry called a "provocative" move.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, reports Chinese military activity around it on an almost daily basis, including drones though they very rarely enter Taiwanese airspace.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the Chinese reconnaissance drone was detected around dawn on Saturday approaching the Prata Islands and flew in its airspace for eight minutes at an altitude outside the range of anti-aircraft weapons.

The Pratas are only lightly defended by Taiwan's military, but lie at a highly strategic location at the top end of the South China Sea.

Trump announces tariffs on eight European nations over Greenland

The tariffs are set at 10% starting February 1, and will rise to 25% from June; Trump says the tariffs would remain 'until a deal is reached for purchase of Greenland'; Germany states it is 'consulting with European partners on a joint response'

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

In the latest of a series of moves to acquire Greenland, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced tariffs on European and NATO allies, despite having negotiated trade deals with the U.K. and the European Union in 2025. The announcement, which the President made on Truth Social, applies to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Finland.

Mr. Trump said the countries would pay a 10% tariff on their exports to the U.S. starting February 1. The rate would go up to



Escalating tension: Donald Trump waves as he boards Air Force One in Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, on Friday. AFP

25% from June 2026.

"This Tariff will be due and payable until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," Mr. Trump wrote.

Last week, the countries in question sent a handful of troops to Greenland at Denmark's request, in the face of escalating threats from Mr. Trump – an event Mr. Trump alluded to in his

post. Greenland, a mineral-rich Arctic island, is a self-governing territory of Denmark, which is a member of the NATO alliance.

He said the countries "have journeyed to Greenland, for purposes unknown" and that it was "a very dangerous situation for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Planet [sic]". The countries' actions had increased the risk to a unsustainable and untenable level, Mr. Trump claimed, saying global peace and security were at stake.

Germany had noted Mr. Trump's statement and was in close consultation with its European partners, a German government

spokesperson told *The Hindu* via email. The countries would together decide on their response, the spokesperson said.

In his post, Mr. Trump alleged that Russia and China wanted the Arctic island and that there was nothing Denmark could do to defend it.

Russia and China are not considered threats to Greenland as of now, Major General Søren Andersen, commander of Denmark's Joint Arctic Command said in an interview published on Saturday. On Thursday, a spokesperson for the Russian government rejected the notion the Beijing and Moscow had plans to occupy Greenland.



WHAT IS IT?

- World's Largest Island
- Self-Governing Territory (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Internal Autonomy (Not Sovereign)

GEOGRAPHY & ICE SHEET

- Greenland **ICE SHEET**
 - ~80% of Island
 - 2nd Largest after Antarctica

- **ANCIENT ROCKS**
 - Canadian Shield
 - Precambrian Age

- **FJORDS & GLACIERS**
 - Jakobshavn Glacier
 - Fast-Moving Ice

- **RESOURCES**
 - Rare Earth Elements



GOVERNANCE

DENMARK

- Defence
- Foreign Affairs
- Currency

GREENLAND

- Education
- Health
- Resources
- Environment

Self-Rule Act, 2009

"Right to Self-Determination"

INTERNATIONAL LAW

- UN Charter: No Forceful Annexation
- Free Consent of Denmark & People
- Annexation = **ILLEGAL**



U.S. Expansion, 1783–1853

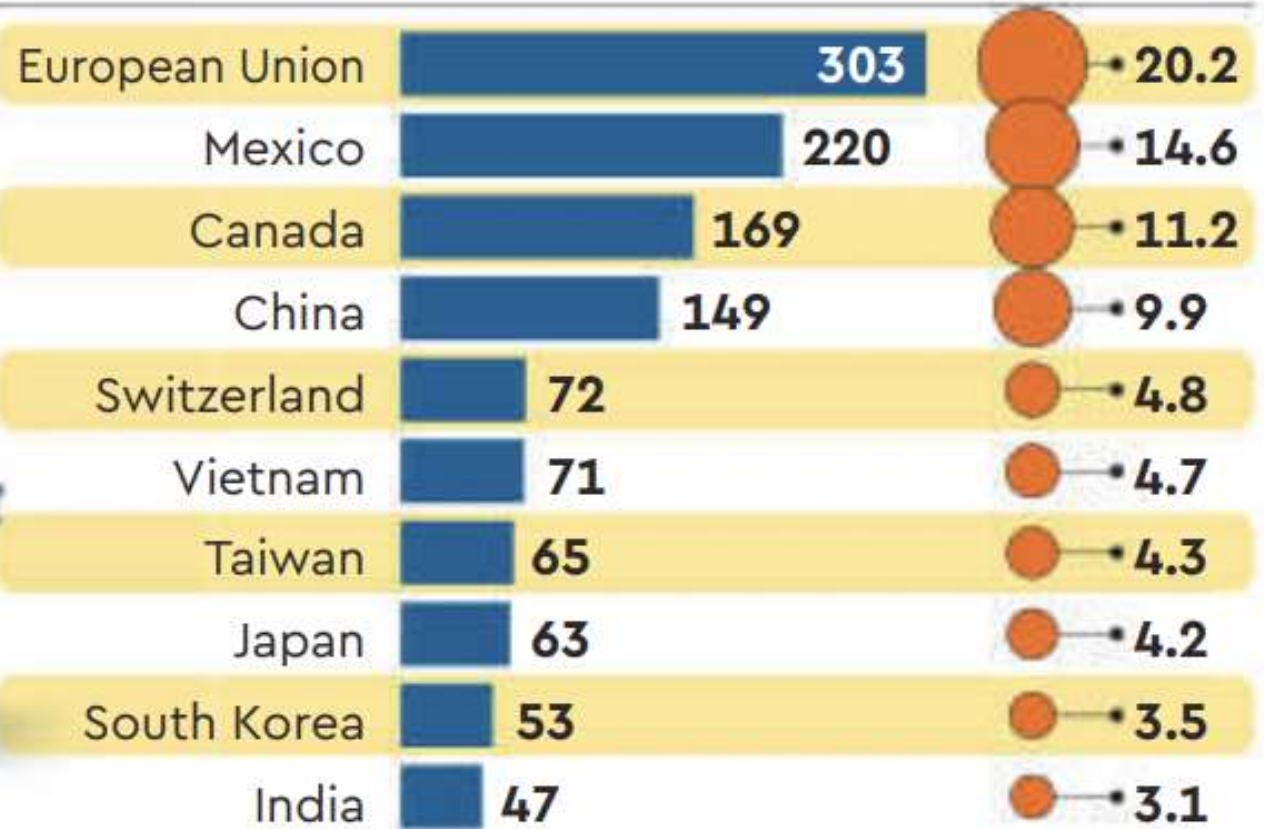
INTERACTIVE

- | | |
|--|--|
|  U.S. in 1783 |  Texas Annexation, 1845 |
|  Louisiana Purchase, 1803 |  Oregon, 1846 |
|  Florida Cession, 1819 |  Mexican Cession, 1848 |
|  By treaty with Great Britain, 1818 and 1842 |  Gadsden Purchase, 1853 |



EU THE BIGGEST SOURCE OF US IMPORTS

- US imports value (\$ bn)
- Share of total US imports (%)



Source: US Census Bureau/Bloomberg; Note: Figures are sum of Jan-May in 2025

- **What happened / क्या हुआ**
 - U.S. President Donald Trump announced **tariffs on eight European countries** linking it to a demand for a **deal to purchase Greenland**.
 - अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने आठ यूरोपीय देशों पर टैरिफ घोषित किए और इसे ग्रीनलैंड खरीदने के समझौते से जोड़ा।
- **Tariff rates & timeline / टैरिफ दरें और समय**
 - Tariffs set at **10% from February 1**, planned to rise to **25% from June (as stated in the report)**; Trump said they would remain **until a Greenland purchase deal is reached**.
 - रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 1 फरवरी से 10%, और जून से 25%; ट्रंप ने कहा कि ग्रीनलैंड खरीद समझौता होने तक टैरिफ जारी रहेंगे।
- **Countries covered / किन देशों पर**
 - The announcement applies to **Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland**.
 - यह घोषणा डेनमार्क, नॉर्वे, स्वीडन, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, नीदरलैंड्स और फिनलैंड पर लागू बताई गई।
- **Platform & context / माध्यम और संदर्भ**
 - Trump made the announcement on **Truth Social**; the report notes this comes despite earlier negotiated trade deals with the **U.K. and the EU (2025)**.
 - ट्रंप ने यह घोषणा **Truth Social** पर की; रिपोर्ट के अनुसार यह यूके और ईयू (2025) के साथ ट्रेड-डील संदर्भ के बावजूद आया।

- **Greenland status / ग्रीनलैंड की स्थिति**
 - Greenland is a **mineral-rich Arctic island** and a **self-governing territory of Denmark**; Denmark is a **NATO member**.
 - ग्रीनलैंड खनिज-समृद्ध आर्कटिक द्वीप है और डेनमार्क का स्वशासी क्षेत्र है; डेनमार्क **NATO** का सदस्य है।
- **Escalation & troop move / तनाव और सैनिक तैनाती**
 - The report mentions European countries sent a **handful of troops to Greenland** at Denmark's request amid escalating threats.
 - रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, बढ़ते तनाव के बीच डेनमार्क के अनुरोध पर कुछ देशों ने **सीमित संख्या में सैनिक** ग्रीनलैंड भेजे।
- **Trump's claims / ट्रंप के दावे**
 - Trump alleged **Russia and China** wanted Greenland and suggested Denmark could not defend it; he also framed it as a broader security issue.
 - ट्रंप ने दावा किया कि **रूस और चीन** ग्रीनलैंड चाहते हैं और डेनमार्क उसकी रक्षा नहीं कर सकता; इसे उन्होंने व्यापक सुरक्षा मुद्दे की तरह प्रस्तुत किया।
- **Counter-view / प्रतिवाद**
 - Denmark's Joint Arctic Command chief (Maj Gen Søren Andersen) was cited saying **Russia and China are not considered threats to Greenland as of now**; Russia rejected claims about plans to occupy Greenland.
 - डेनमार्क के जॉइंट आर्कटिक कमांड प्रमुख (मेजर जनरल सोरेन एंडरसन) के अनुसार **फिलहाल रूस/चीन को ग्रीनलैंड के लिए खतरा नहीं माना जाता**; रूस ने कब्जे वाली बातों को खारिज किया।
- **Europe's response / यूरोप की प्रतिक्रिया**
 - Germany said it was **consulting European partners** and a **joint response** would be decided collectively.
 - जर्मनी ने कहा कि वह **यूरोपीय साझेदारों से परामर्श** कर रहा है और **संयुक्त प्रतिक्रिया** सामूहिक रूप से तय होगी।

Topic	Extra facts (English)	अतिरिक्त तथ्य (Hindi)
Tariff basics	A tariff is a tax on imports; it can raise domestic prices, protect local industry, and trigger retaliation.	टैरिफ आयात पर कर है; इससे घरेलू कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं, उद्योग संरक्षण होता है, और प्रतिशोधी कार्रवाई हो सकती है।
Ad valorem vs specific tariff	Ad valorem is a % of value (e.g., 10%); specific is per unit (e.g., \$X per ton).	Ad valorem मूल्य का %; specific प्रति इकाई तय राशि।
Trade war impact	Tariffs can shift supply chains, reduce trade volumes, and raise inflationary pressures.	टैरिफ से सप्लाई-चेन शिफ्ट, व्यापार घट, और महंगाई दबाव बढ़ सकता है।
Greenland polity	Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark; foreign affairs/defence are largely Denmark's domain.	ग्रीनलैंड डेनमार्क के किंगडम के भीतर स्वायत्त क्षेत्र; विदेश/रक्षा के अधिकांश पक्ष डेनमार्क के अंतर्गत।
Why Greenland matters	Strategic Arctic location + potential minerals/rare earths + shipping routes as ice melts.	आर्कटिक रणनीतिक स्थिति + खनिज/रेयर अर्थ + बर्फ घटने से नए शिपिंग रूट।
NATO link	Denmark is a NATO member; Greenland's strategic value ties into North Atlantic security dynamics.	डेनमार्क NATO सदस्य है; ग्रीनलैंड नॉर्थ अटलांटिक सुरक्षा में रणनीतिक महत्व रखता है।
Arctic geopolitics	Arctic is contested for resources, bases, and sea lanes; diplomacy often involves Arctic Council states (forum role).	आर्कटिक में संसाधन, बेस, समुद्री मार्गों को लेकर प्रतिस्पर्धा; कूटनीति में आर्कटिक काउंसिल देशों की भूमिका (फोरम)।
Negotiation lever	Tariffs are often used as bargaining leverage in trade/strategic negotiations.	टैरिफ को कई बार बातचीत/सौदेबाजी के दबाव-उपकरण की तरह इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।

Exam	Paper/Year (approx.)	Question (memory-based PYQ-pattern)	Answer
UPSC (Pre)	Recent	“Tariff” refers to:	A tax imposed on imports
UPSC/PSC	Recent	Which body is primarily associated with global trade rules and dispute settlement?	WTO
SSC (GK/Eco)	Recent	Ad valorem duty means:	Duty as a percentage of value
Banking (Eco)	Recent	A rise in import tariffs generally tends to:	Reduce imports and raise domestic prices (ceteris paribus)
Railway/SSC	Recent	“Trade deficit” occurs when:	Imports exceed exports
UPSC/Defence/IR	Recent	NATO is primarily a:	Collective defence alliance
State PSC (Geo/IR)	Recent	Greenland is associated with which region?	Arctic / North Atlantic
Defence (IR/Security)	Recent	Strategic competition in the Arctic is driven by:	Resources + sea lanes + security positioning
UPSC/PSC	Recent	Retaliatory tariffs are usually imposed by:	Trading partners in response to another country’s tariffs
Banking/SSC	Recent	A tariff imposed “per unit” is called:	Specific tariff

Consider the statements:

- (1) Greenland is described as a self-governing territory of Denmark.
- (2) Denmark is a member of NATO. Which is/are correct?

a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither

8 Opposition leaders booked as row over Manikarnika Ghat intensifies

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A war of words erupted on Sunday between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Opposition parties after multiple first information reports (FIRs) were lodged in Varanasi against those allegedly spreading AI-generated images and misleading information on social media regarding redevelopment work at the Manikarnika Ghat. While Opposition parties expressed outrage over the registered cases, calling them dictatorial, the BJP hit back, alleging a calculated attempt to circulate false claims amid the government's rejuvenation push.

The eight booked individuals include Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, Lok Sabha MP Rajesh Ranjan, alias

Pappu Yadav, and Congress leader Jaswinder Kaur. The FIRs have been lodged under Section 196 (promoting enmity, hatred, or disharmony between different groups through speech, writing, signs, or electronic means) and Section 298 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Reacting to the FIR against him, Mr. Singh alleged that the redevelopment work had caused destruction at Manikarnika Ghat. Temples were damaged and a statue of Ahilyabai Holkar was defaced, drawing protests from *sadhus* and others, he alleged.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday accused the Congress of spreading "false propaganda" to defame Kashi. He was responding to allegations regarding the demolition of statues and



Old structures being demolished at the Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi. ANI VIDEO GRAB

temples at the ghat and viral videos related to it.

"Separate cases have been registered in Varanasi on the petition of Municipal Corporation officials against those allegedly spreading AI-generated images and misleading information on social media regarding the redevelopment

work at the Manikarnika Ghat. Based on the complaints received, the police have filed cases against various X handles and individuals. We are keeping a track on social media and using digital footprints to crack down on those spreading rumours," Atul Anjan Tripathi, Assistant

Commissioner of Police, Dashaswamedh, Varanasi, said. The booked individuals include leaders of political parties, including the Congress and AAP.

'Dictatorial attitude'

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai said that if the videos were AI-generated, concrete evidence should be made public, and described the cases as reflective of a dictatorial attitude. "I ask the Chief Minister directly: If the video of the statue is AI-generated, concrete evidence of this should be made public. It should also be clarified where the statue went and where it is currently located. The government is trying to conceal the truth by claiming it was an AI video. This contradiction raises questions about the government's own intentions. Yesterday, the Chief

Minister visited Varanasi and was scheduled to visit Manikarnika Ghat, but it was suddenly cancelled. The question is, why was this visit cancelled? Was it to prevent the truth from coming out? Congress makes it clear that any tampering with the faith, culture and heritage of Kashi will not be tolerated. The voice of truth cannot be suppressed," Mr. Rai said.

The BJP alleged that the Opposition's attempt to spread falsehoods and provoke outrage reflected political desperation rather than concern for culture.

"At a time when the government is undertaking transparent and sensitive rejuvenation of Kashi's heritage, the Opposition's attempt to spread falsehoods and provoke outrage reflects not concern for culture, but political despera-

tion and a calculated effort to derail development through misinformation," Pushkar Mishra, a senior BJP functionary, said.

A local Congress leader in Varanasi, Manish Kumar Upadhyay, alleged that for the past several years, the manner in which Kashi's historicity, ancient traditions, cultural and religious identity, and civilisation were being affected in the name of development by the local administration at the behest of the government was a matter of grave concern and a subject of self-reflection for residents of the city.

Manikarnika Ghat is among the holiest cremation grounds in Hinduism, believed to grant *moksha* or liberation from the cycle of birth and death, and holds deep cultural significance for devotees across the country.

- **What happened / क्या हुआ**
 - FIRs were lodged in **Varanasi** against people accused of spreading **AI-generated images** and **misleading social-media claims** about the **redevelopment work** at **Manikarnika Ghat**.
 - वाराणसी में मणिकर्णिका घाट के पुनर्विकास को लेकर **AI-जनरेटेड तस्वीरें** और सोशल मीडिया पर भ्रामक दावे फैलाने के आरोप में FIR दर्ज हुई।
- **Political row / राजनीतिक विवाद**
 - Opposition called the cases **dictatorial**, while BJP alleged a **calculated misinformation campaign** to derail the government's Kashi rejuvenation/development push.
 - विपक्ष ने मामलों को तानाशाही रवैया बताया; भाजपा ने इसे विकास/काशी पुनर्जागरण को पटरी से उतारने के लिए सोची-समझी भ्रामक मुहिम कहा।
- **Who was booked (as per names visible) / किन पर केस (जिन नामों का उल्लेख दिखता है)**
 - Names mentioned include **AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh**, **Lok Sabha MP Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav)** and **Congress leader Jaswinder Kaur** (the report says eight Opposition leaders booked).
 - जिन नामों का उल्लेख दिखता है: **AAP राज्यसभा सांसद संजय सिंह**, **लोकसभा सांसद राजेश रंजन (पप्पू यादव)**, कांग्रेस नेता **जसविंदर कौर** (रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कुल 8 विपक्षी नेताओं पर केस)।
- **Legal provisions mentioned / कानूनी धाराएँ**
 - FIRs were lodged under **Section 196** (promoting enmity/hate/disharmony through speech/writing/signs/electronic means) and **Section 298 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**.
 - FIR में धारा **196** (भाषण/लेखन/संकेत/इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यम से वैमनस्य/घृणा/असामंजस्य) और **BNS 2023 की धारा 298** का उल्लेख है।

- **Claims and counter-claims / आरोप-प्रत्यारोप**

- An Opposition leader alleged redevelopment caused **destruction at the ghat, temples were damaged**, and a **statue of Ahilyabai Holkar was defaced**, triggering protests by sadhus and others.
- विपक्ष की ओर से दावा: पुनर्विकास से घाट पर नुकसान, मंदिरों को क्षति, अहिल्याबाई होलकर की प्रतिमा के साथ छेड़छाड़/अपमान—जिससे साधुओं आदि का विरोध हुआ।

- **Police action / पुलिस की कार्रवाई**

- Police said multiple cases were registered based on complaints/petitions and they were tracking social media and using **digital footprints** to act against rumor-mongering.
- पुलिस के अनुसार शिकायतों पर केस दर्ज हुए और डिजिटल फुटप्रिंट्स के जरिए सोशल मीडिया ट्रैक करके अफवाह फैलाने वालों पर कार्रवाई होगी।

- **Visit cancellation angle / दौरा रद्द होने का मुद्दा**

- The report mentions a planned visit to Manikarnika Ghat that was **suddenly cancelled**, which the Opposition linked to “truth being suppressed”; BJP rejected this and called it misinformation.
- रिपोर्ट में मणिकर्णिका घाट का एक प्रस्तावित दौरा **अचानक रद्द** होने की बात है; विपक्ष ने इसे “सच दबाने” से जोड़ा, भाजपा ने इसे भ्रामक नैरेटिव बताया।

- **Why Manikarnika matters / मणिकर्णिका का महत्व**

- Manikarnika Ghat is among the **holiest cremation grounds** in Hinduism, believed to grant **moksha** and holds deep cultural significance.
- मणिकर्णिका घाट हिंदू धर्म के सबसे पवित्र श्मशान घाटों में माना जाता है; मोक्ष से जोड़ा जाता है और सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

Aspect

Details

What is Manikarnika Ghat?

One of the *oldest and holiest cremation ghats* on the banks of the Ganges in Varanasi (Kashi). Hindus believe cremation here helps the soul attain *moksha*. It's mentioned in ancient texts and inscriptions. ([Wikipedia](#))

Historical background

The ghat existed since ancient times; *local tradition records renovation and support* by Queen Ahilyabai Holkar in **1771 and later 1791**. Around that structure were *platforms (madhi)* and *four statues* of Ahilyabai. ([India Today Hindi](#))

What was removed / happened recently?

During ongoing **redevelopment work**, an old *madhi (raised platform)* with associated statues — including those linked to Ahilyabai Holkar — were taken down. This triggered claims of heritage damage. ([The Times of India](#))

Why the work is happening

The *redevelopment project* aims to modernize the ghat for better sanitation, space management, structured wood storage, walkways, waiting areas, and drainage — similar in approach to the *Kashi Vishwanath Corridor* projects. ([NDTV India](#))

Controversy / claims

Opposition parties and local groups alleged that *heritage elements and idols were destroyed* without notice, hurting cultural and religious sentiments. They linked the removal with political motives and accused the government of destroying historical identity. ([Hindustan Times](#))

Government / official response

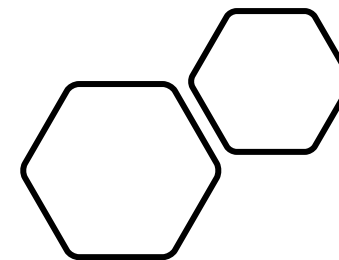
Officials, including CM Yogi Adityanath and the district administration, said: No temple or idol was destroyed; artifacts found or removed are *being preserved* by the culture/archaeology department and will be *reinstalled after renovation*. Claims of demolition are *being spread via misleading or AI-generated content*. ([NDTV India](#))

Rani Ahilyabai Holkar

- **Birth & Background:** Ahilyabai was born on **31st May 1725** in **Chondi**, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), her father, **Mankoji Rao Shinde**, was the village head.
- **Marriage & Early Life:** She was married to **Khanderao Holkar in 1733**, the son of **Malhar Rao Holkar**, the ruler of Malwa and the founder of the **Holkar dynasty**.
 - Ahilyabai was widowed in **1745** after Khanderao died in the **siege of Kumher Fort**.
 - Malhar Rao Holkar prevented Ahilyabai from committing **sati** and **trained her in military and administrative matters**.
- **Ascension to Power:** After the death of Malhar Rao Holkar in 1766 and her son Male Rao Holkar in 1767, Ahilyabai Holkar took charge of Malwa and became the **ruler of Indore in 1767**.
 - She appointed **Tukoji Rao Holkar** as army commander and made **Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh** the Holkar dynasty's capital.

- **Contributions:** Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the **Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath temples** in the 18th century, restoring **key Jyotirlingas** of Lord Shiva, and patronised scholars such as Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.
 - She holds **deep cultural importance in Varanasi** and is revered by the **Pal (Gadariya) community** as an ancestral figure, with her birth anniversary actively celebrated.
 - She also promoted **women's education, widow remarriage**, and opposed practices like **sati**, while uplifting the **Bhil** and **Gond tribes** and lower castes.
 - She made Maheshwar and Indore major trade hubs, promoting the Maheshwari weaving industry and **making Maheshwari sarees renowned across India**, now registered with a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.





Varanasi, UP



The Indian
EXPRESS



India invited to join Gaza peace board

New Delhi has not yet responded to the invitation, officials say; the Board of Peace, to be headed by Trump and to include 'other members and heads of state', is expected to oversee funding for the 'redevelopment of Gaza' until the Palestinian Authority completes a 'reform programme'

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

United States President Donald Trump has invited India to be a part of the Board of Peace for Gaza, sources in New Delhi said on Sunday.

U.S. Ambassador Sergio Goro also shared a letter on social media from Mr. Trump to Prime Minister Narendra Modi inviting India.

The Board of Peace for Gaza comprises a group of countries that are being invited by the U.S. to provide a governance structure for the Gaza Strip, as Hamas is being pressured to give up its governance role in the territory as part of Mr. Trump's peace plan.

Officials unwilling to be named said that India has the "invite in hand",

though New Delhi has not responded as yet. This comes three days after Mr. Trump announced on social media that the Board of Peace had been formed and that its members would be announced "shortly".

The Trump peace plan for Gaza was first floated on September 29, 2025, when the U.S. President hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House. Following the announcement, Hamas agreed to return all 48 remaining hostages who were being held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and Gaza detainees.

As per the plan, Gaza will be administered by the "temporary transitional governance of a technocratic apolitical Palestinian committee", which will



U.S. President Donald Trump with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Oval Office of the White House on February 13, 2025. AFP

consist of Palestinian and international experts. This transitional outfit will be supervised by the Board of Peace, to be headed by Mr. Trump and include "other members and heads of state", as well as the United Kingdom's former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Board of Peace is expected to handle fund-

ing for the "redevelopment of Gaza" till the Palestinian Authority has completed a "reform programme".

The U.S. is expected to work with international partners to develop a "temporary" International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to be deployed in Gaza soon. The U.S. has been in talks with multiple countries

UAE President arrives today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will host UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Monday.

The UAE President will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The visit will provide an opportunity for the two

leaders to chart new frontiers for the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. It will also enable exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, where India and the UAE share a high degree of convergence," the External Affairs Ministry said.

across the world for troops to participate in the ISF.

Officials here have maintained that India would not be part of the ISF as it is not a peacekeeping force under the aegis of the United Nations.

On October 9, 2025, however, Mr. Modi had welcomed the Trump peace plan in a post on X.

"We welcome the agreement on the first phase of President Trump's peace plan. This is also a reflection of the strong leadership of PM Netanyahu," he said.

Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, and Pakistan also said on Sunday they had received invitations.

(With PTI inputs)

- **Core news / मुख्य खबर**

- U.S. President Donald Trump has **invited India** to join a **"Board of Peace for Gaza"**, sources in New Delhi said; **India has not yet responded**.
- अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने भारत को **"गाज़ा बोर्ड ऑफ पीस"** में शामिल होने का निमंत्रण दिया; भारत ने अभी जवाब नहीं दिया।

- **How invitation was conveyed / निमंत्रण कैसे पहुँचा**

- U.S. Ambassador **Sergio Gor** shared a **letter from Trump to PM Narendra Modi** on social media inviting India.
- अमेरिकी राजदूत सर्जियो गोर ने सोशल मीडिया पर ट्रंप का पीएम मोदी को पत्र साझा किया जिसमें भारत को आमंत्रित किया गया।

- **Purpose of the Board / बोर्ड का उद्देश्य**

- The Board would be a group of countries invited by the U.S. to help provide a **governance structure for Gaza**, as **Hamas is pressured to give up its governance role**.
- यह बोर्ड उन देशों का समूह होगा जिन्हें अमेरिका आमंत्रित कर रहा है ताकि **गाज़ा के लिए गवर्नेंस स्ट्रक्चर** बनाया जा सके; **हमास पर शासन-भूमिका छोड़ने का दबाव** बताया गया है।

- **Leadership & composition / नेतृत्व और संरचना**

- The Board is expected to be **headed by Trump** and include **other members and heads of state**; UK's former PM **Tony Blair** is also mentioned as part of it.
- बोर्ड के ट्रंप की अध्यक्षता में होने और **अन्य सदस्य/हेड्स ऑफ स्टेट** शामिल होने की बात है; यूके के पूर्व पीएम टोनी ब्लेयर का भी उल्लेख है।

- **Funding & timeline / फंडिंग और अवधि**
 - The Board is expected to **oversee funding for "redevelopment of Gaza"** until the **Palestinian Authority completes a "reform programme."**
 - बोर्ड से गाज़ा के "पुनर्विकास" की फंडिंग की निगरानी की उम्मीद है, जब तक फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण (PA) "रिफॉर्म प्रोग्राम" पूरा न कर ले।
- **Peace plan context / शांति योजना का संदर्भ**
 - The plan was first floated on **September 29, 2025**, when Trump hosted Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** at the White House.
 - योजना **29 सितम्बर 2025** को सामने आई बताई गई है, जब ट्रंप ने इज़राइली पीएम बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू की व्हाइट हाउस में मेजबानी की।
 - The report says **Hamas agreed to return 48 remaining hostages** in exchange for **Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and Gaza detainees** after the announcement.
 - रिपोर्ट के अनुसार घोषणा के बाद **48 शेष बंधकों** की वापसी पर सहमति का उल्लेख है, बदले में **इज़राइली जेलों में फ़िलिस्तीनी कैदी और गाज़ा डिटैनीज़**।
- **Proposed governance inside Gaza / गाज़ा के भीतर प्रस्तावित शासन**
 - Gaza would be administered by a **temporary transitional governance** of a **technocratic, apolitical Palestinian committee**, comprising **Palestinian and international experts**, supervised by the Board.
 - गाज़ा में **अस्थायी ट्रांज़िशनल गवर्नेंस**—एक **टेक्नोक्रेटिक, अपॉलिटिकल फ़िलिस्तीनी समिति** (फ़िलिस्तीनी + अंतरराष्ट्रीय विशेषज्ञ) की बात है, जिसकी निगरानी बोर्ड करेगा।


- **ISF (Stabilisation Force) angle / ISF (स्थिरीकरण बल)**
 - The U.S. is expected to work with partners to develop a **temporary "International Stabilisation Force (ISF)"** to be deployed in Gaza; talks with multiple countries for troops are mentioned.
 - अमेरिका अस्थायी "इंटरनेशनल स्टैबिलाइज़ेशन फ़ोर्स (ISF)" बनाने की बात करता है; कई देशों से सैनिक योगदान हेतु बातचीत का उल्लेख है।
 - Officials said **India would not be part of the ISF** because it is **not a UN peacekeeping force**.
 - अधिकारियों के मुताबिक भारत **ISF** का हिस्सा नहीं होगा क्योंकि यह **UN peacekeeping force** नहीं है।
- **Other invitees mentioned / अन्य आमंत्रित देश**
 - **Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, and Pakistan** are also said to have received invitations.
 - जॉर्डन, ग्रीस, साइप्रस, पाकिस्तान को भी निमंत्रण मिलने का उल्लेख है।

Consider the statements:

(1) India was invited to join a “Board of Peace for Gaza”.

(2) New Delhi has not yet responded to the invitation. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither

- 
- With reference to the news “India invited to join Gaza peace board”, consider the following statements:
 - The proposed “Board of Peace” is stated to be headed by Donald Trump and is expected to oversee funding for the “redevelopment of Gaza” until the Palestinian Authority completes a “reform programme”.
 - The report states that New Delhi has **not yet responded** to the invitation to join the Board.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

● What is the deal all about?

APPLE AND GOOGLE have announced a multiyear Artificial Intelligence (AI) partnership that will see Google's Gemini technology power the iPhone maker's digital assistant Siri, which comes installed in every iPhone. "Apple and Google have entered into a multi-year collaboration under which the next generation of Apple Foundation Models will be based on Google's Gemini models and cloud technology. These models will help power future Apple Intelligence features, including a more personalised Siri coming this year," the joint statement said. Apple Intelligence will continue to run on Apple devices and Private Cloud Compute, while maintaining Apple's privacy standards.

While it is not exactly clear how the exchange of technology will work, the partnership is good news for iPhone users who want AI features similar to what Google, Samsung and other smartphone manufacturers are bringing to their handsets. The deal has been in the making for some time now with Apple talking with Google to use Gemini foundation models to power the long-delayed new version of its voice assistant Siri coming later this year.

● How Apple will benefit

THE BENEFITS FOR Apple are quite obvious. A more capable Siri, as well as other AI features, will now reside in iPhones while guaranteeing user privacy, a core Apple promise. JP Morgan analysts have said that the multi-year partnership agreement

reached with Google will help Apple accelerate its AI development. It will help Apple launch a series of upgraded AI features in 2026, including a more capable Siri. In addition, it will ensure that the iPhone maker can focus on user experience - its main USP.

However, it does suggest that Apple, once known for its vertical integration blueprint, is still struggling to build its own large language model (LLM). In a way, it has conceded that it has fallen behind in the AI race and needs help to remain relevant.

**GEMINI AI
FOR SIRI**

How the Apple-Google pact changes the AI equation

Apple has finally chosen Google's Gemini AI to power a more personalised version of its digital assistant, Siri. The non-exclusive deal not only marks a major vote of confidence for Google but also says a lot about the complex relationship between the two tech giants, writes *Banasree Purkayastha*

THE PARTNERSHIP IS GOOD NEWS FOR iPhone users who want AI features similar to what Google, Samsung and other smartphone users get

~\$1 billion

PER-YEAR PAYMENT LIKELY BY APPLE TO GOOGLE

● What it says about Gemini

THE DEAL VALIDATES that Google has outpaced other AI contenders, especially first off the block OpenAI. In recent months, the search engine giant has allayed investors' doubts about its AI strategy with its Gemini 3 model and the Nano Banana image generator and editor. Bank of America analysts have said that the deal reinforces Gemini's position as the leading LLM for mobile devices. Soon after the partnership announcement, Google's parent Alphabet reached a \$4 trillion valuation for the first time, surpassing Apple to become the second-most valuable company in the world. The win is similar to what Google got with its Search in that Gemini becomes, in the mind of the consumer, a de facto option as an AI model, Morningstar analyst William Kerwin told *The Verge*. "This will give them a ton more users from the iPhone user base and also really cement that brand image as a go-to AI model that supports all these features," he said.









● What the deal means for OpenAI

APPLE HAD SIGNED a similar pact with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI in June 2024, which made the popular chatbot available as part of its suite of generative AI tools, Apple Intelligence. Since the partnership with Google is not exclusive, Apple is likely to continue to rely on OpenAI's models for some of its Apple Intelligence features. However, it does signal that OpenAI's ChatGPT need not be the top choice when it comes to LLMs for mobile devices. While Gemini already riding on Android phones, and iPhones now set to host Gemini-powered Siri, OpenAI may not find it easy to grow its user base, though it still has the highest number of users. OpenAI has been working on developing a new kind of AI device slotted for launch as early as this year. That device was supposed to rival the phone as the primary way consumers interface with AI assistants. That hope may weaken with OpenAI unlikely to have much insight into Apple's AI capabilities after this deal.

● Does it raise antitrust concerns?

THE PARTNERSHIP IS in line with their previous pacts. While neither Apple nor Google confirmed the price tag, the non-exclusive deal is expected to be worth around \$1 billion annually. More importantly, for Google, it opens the door to the approximately 1.5 billion iPhone users worldwide. According to *Fortune*, it may even lead to Google getting a share of any revenue iPhone users generate for Apple through product discovery and purchases made through a Gemini-powered Siri.

Whether this deal will attract the scrutiny of antitrust regulators is anybody's guess, but the partnership comes at a time when Google has been battling multiple anti-trust lawsuits. The two tech giants have had a long-time deal that involved Apple products featuring Google as the default search engine on its devices and between 2021 and 2022, Google had paid more than \$26 billion to firms including Apple to make its search engine the default option on iPhones.

Company	Known AI investment (approx.)	Key focus area	Race Status (Present)	Notes
Google (Alphabet)	~\$100B+ (past 5 yrs across AI R&D & acquisitions)	Gemini/LLMs, Cloud AI, Search AI	 Leading in models & ecosystem	Strong AI integrations across Search, Android, Cloud
Microsoft	~\$50B+ (OpenAI partnership + internal AI)	Azure AI, OpenAI support, Copilot	 Top contender	Big enterprise AI push; largest cloud provider tie-ins
OpenAI	~\$30B+ (cumulative from investors, commercial revenue)	GPT models, AGI research	 Leadership in research/models	Leading LLM tech (ChatGPT series)
Meta (Facebook)	~\$40B+ (AI research & infrastructure)	LLaMA models, AI middleware	 Strong research engine	Focus on open models & AI for apps
Amazon	~\$35B+ (AI + AWS investments)	AWS AI/ML services, Alexa	 Cloud + services leader	Massive cloud AI offerings
Apple	~\$10–20B+ (AI + acquisition + partnerships)	AI integration (Siri improvements)	 Growing (not #1 yet)	Recently partnered with Google Gemini
Huawei / Chinese tech	~\$30B+ (AI platforms + chips)	AI hardware & software	 Regional strength	Data availability & domestic market
Baidu / China AI	~\$20–25B+	ERNIE/AI ecosystem	 Strong China presence	Government support



Category

Current Leader(s)

Why they lead

AI Models & Research

US **OpenAI, Google**

Best LLMs with real-world deployment

Compute & Cloud AI Services

US **Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, AWS**

Huge investment in AI infrastructure

Mobile AI Integration

US **Google (Gemini) + IN Apple (Gemini partnership)**

Optimising AI at device & OS level

Enterprise AI Adoption

US **Microsoft & AWS**

Business AI tools boosting productivity

Global Market Reach


Google / AWS / Microsoft

Strong global enterprise penetration

Emerging China AI power

Baidu / Huawei

Large data pools + government push



- **Deal overview / डील का सार**

- Apple and Google announced a **multi-year AI partnership** where **Google's Gemini technology** will help power a more personalised **Siri** on iPhones.
- Apple और Google की **मल्टी-ईयर AI पार्टनरशिप** में iPhone पर **Siri** को अधिक पर्सनलाइज़्ड बनाने के लिए **Google Gemini** टेक का उपयोग बताया गया।

- **What changes for Apple / Apple के लिए क्या बदलेगा**

- Next generation **Apple Foundation Models** are stated to be based on **Gemini models + cloud technology**; these will power future Apple Intelligence features.
- अगली पीढ़ी के **Apple Foundation Models** को **Gemini models + cloud** पर आधारित बताया गया; यही आगे के Apple Intelligence फीचर्स को सपोर्ट करेंगे।
- Apple Intelligence will continue to run on **Apple devices** and via **Private Cloud Compute**, while maintaining Apple's privacy standards.
- Apple Intelligence **डिवाइस पर** और **Private Cloud Compute** पर चलेगा—प्राइवेटिस्टी स्टैंडर्ड्स बनाए रखने का दावा।

- **Why now / अभी क्यों**

- The article suggests Apple wants to **accelerate AI development**, especially for a more capable Siri and upgraded AI features.
- लेख के अनुसार Apple अपने AI डेवलपमेंट को तेज़ करना चाहता है—खासतौर पर बेहतर Siri और अपग्रेडेड AI फीचर्स के लिए।
- It also hints Apple has been **behind in the AI race** and needs outside help for large language models (LLMs).
- संकेत मिलता है कि Apple AI रेस में **पीछे** रहा है और LLMs के लिए बाहरी मदद ले रहा है।

- **What it says about Gemini / Gemini के बारे में क्या संकेत**
 - The deal is framed as a **big validation** for Google's Gemini ecosystem—especially for mobile devices.
 - डील को Google Gemini के लिए बड़ा वैलिडेशन बताया गया—खासतौर पर मोबाइल इकोसिस्टम में।
- **Money angle / भुगतान**
 - The report indicates the non-exclusive deal could be worth **~\$1 billion per year** paid by Apple to Google.
 - रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक यह नॉन-एक्सक्लूसिव डील लगभग **\$1B/वर्ष** के भुगतान के आसपास हो सकती है।
- **What it means for OpenAI / OpenAI पर असर**
 - Apple already had a pact with OpenAI (ChatGPT integration in Apple Intelligence). With Google now in the picture, OpenAI may not be the default/top choice for mobile LLMs in Apple's stack.
 - Apple का OpenAI के साथ पहले से समझौता (Apple Intelligence में ChatGPT) था; अब Google के आने से OpenAI का "डिफ़ॉल्ट/टॉप" रोल कमज़ोर पड़ सकता है।
- **Antitrust concerns / एंटी-ट्रस्ट चिंता**
 - The partnership may attract regulator scrutiny, given Big Tech's history of **default arrangements** and ongoing antitrust focus.
 - Big Tech के डिफ़ॉल्ट-सेटिंग जैसे पुराने मॉडल और चल रही जांचों के कारण एंटी-ट्रस्ट scrutiny बढ़ सकती है।

Topic	Extra facts (English)	अतिरिक्त तथ्य (Hindi)
On-device vs cloud AI	On-device AI improves privacy/latency; cloud AI enables larger models but raises data-handling concerns.	ऑन-डिवाइस AI से प्राइवेसी/लेटेंसी बेहतर; क्लाउड AI बड़े मॉडल सक्षम करता पर डेटा-हैंडलिंग चिंता बढ़ती।
Private Cloud Compute (concept)	Hybrid approach: sensitive tasks on-device; heavier tasks in controlled cloud environment with privacy claims.	हाइब्रिड अप्रोच: संवेदनशील काम डिवाइस पर; भारी काम नियंत्रित क्लाउड में (प्राइवेसी क्लेम के साथ)।
Non-exclusive partnership	Non-exclusive deals allow multiple model providers and reduce lock-in risk.	नॉन-एक्सक्लूसिव डील में कई मॉडल प्रोवाइडर संभव; लॉक-इन रिस्क कम।
LLM integration in assistants	Digital assistants need: speech-to-text, intent detection, tool-use, retrieval, and safety filters.	असिस्टेंट में: स्पीच-टू-टेक्स्ट, इंटेंट, टूल-यूज़, रिट्रीवल, सेफ्टी-फिल्टर जरूरी।
Antitrust trigger points	Issues: market dominance, bundling, default-setting, exclusionary contracts, consumer choice.	मुद्दे: बाज़ार प्रभुत्व, बंडलिंग, डिफॉल्ट सेटिंग, एक्सक्लूज़नरी कॉन्ट्रैक्ट, कंज़्यूमर चॉइस।
Strategic implication	Winning “default AI assistant layer” can shape app discovery, services revenue, and ecosystem stickiness.	“डिफॉल्ट AI लेयर” जीतने से ऐप-डिस्कवरी, सर्विस रेवेन्यू, इकोसिस्टम स्टिकीनेस प्रभावित।

- Consider the statements
- : (1) The next generation of Apple Foundation Models is stated to be based on Google's Gemini models and cloud tech.
- (2) Apple Intelligence is stated to continue running on Apple devices and Private Cloud Compute.
- Which is/are correct?
- a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither



India launches first open-sea marine fish farming project

Aspect	Details from the news	Related / Extra facts (exam-oriented)
News title	India launches first open-sea marine fish farming project	Often linked with Blue Economy , sustainable fisheries , and marine livelihoods in UPSC/PSC exams
Date	January 19, 2026	Falls under Current Affairs 2025-26 cycle
Type of project	Open-sea marine fish farming (mariculture)	Open-sea mariculture uses offshore cages in deep waters, unlike coastal aquaculture (ponds/near-shore cages)
Location	Andaman Sea	Andaman Sea is part of the eastern Indian Ocean , rich in marine biodiversity
Inauguration site	North Bay, near Sri Vijaya Puram (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	North Bay is also known for coral reefs and eco-tourism
Inaugurated by	Jitendra Singh , Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences	Ministry of Earth Sciences plays a key role in ocean observation , marine advisory services , and Blue Economy research



Nature of project

Pilot project

Pilot projects test **technical feasibility, ecological impact, and economic viability** before scaling up

Objective

Harness **ocean-based economic potential** and support **sustainable growth and livelihoods**

Reduces pressure on **capture fisheries**, supports **fishers' income diversification**

Policy vision linked

India's Blue Economy vision

Blue Economy focuses on **sustainable use of ocean resources for growth, jobs, and ecosystem health**

Economic significance

Marks a shift towards utilising **marine resources beyond land-based assets**

Fisheries & aquaculture contribute **~1% to India's GDP** and support millions of livelihoods

Environmental angle

Emphasis on **sustainable marine resource use**

Needs safeguards: **carrying capacity, disease control, waste management, and storm resilience**

Future potential

Scope for **scaling up offshore aquaculture** in Indian seas

Can support **exports, protein security, and coastal/island development** if regulated well



- With reference to the first open-sea marine fish farming project launched by India, consider the following statements:
- The project has been launched in the Andaman Sea as a pilot initiative under India's Blue Economy vision.
- Open-sea marine fish farming mainly relies on offshore cages in deeper waters rather than coastal ponds.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2



Lokpal of
India Marks
Foundation
Day (January
16)



Aspect

News title

Date of observance

Why January 16

Nature of body

Venue (2026)

Chairperson (mentioned)

Mode of observance (2026)

Core theme

Jurisdiction

Inquiry mechanism

Relation with Lokayukta

Public relevance

News details

Lokpal of India marks Foundation Day on January 16

January 16

Section 3 of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** came into force on **January 16, 2014**

India's **apex statutory anti-corruption body**

Lokpal of India Office, **New Delhi**

Justice A. M. Khanwilkar

In-house, modest function

Transparency, accountability, democratic integrity

Covers **Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs, and Group A/B/C/D officials**

Preliminary inquiry → Investigation → Prosecution

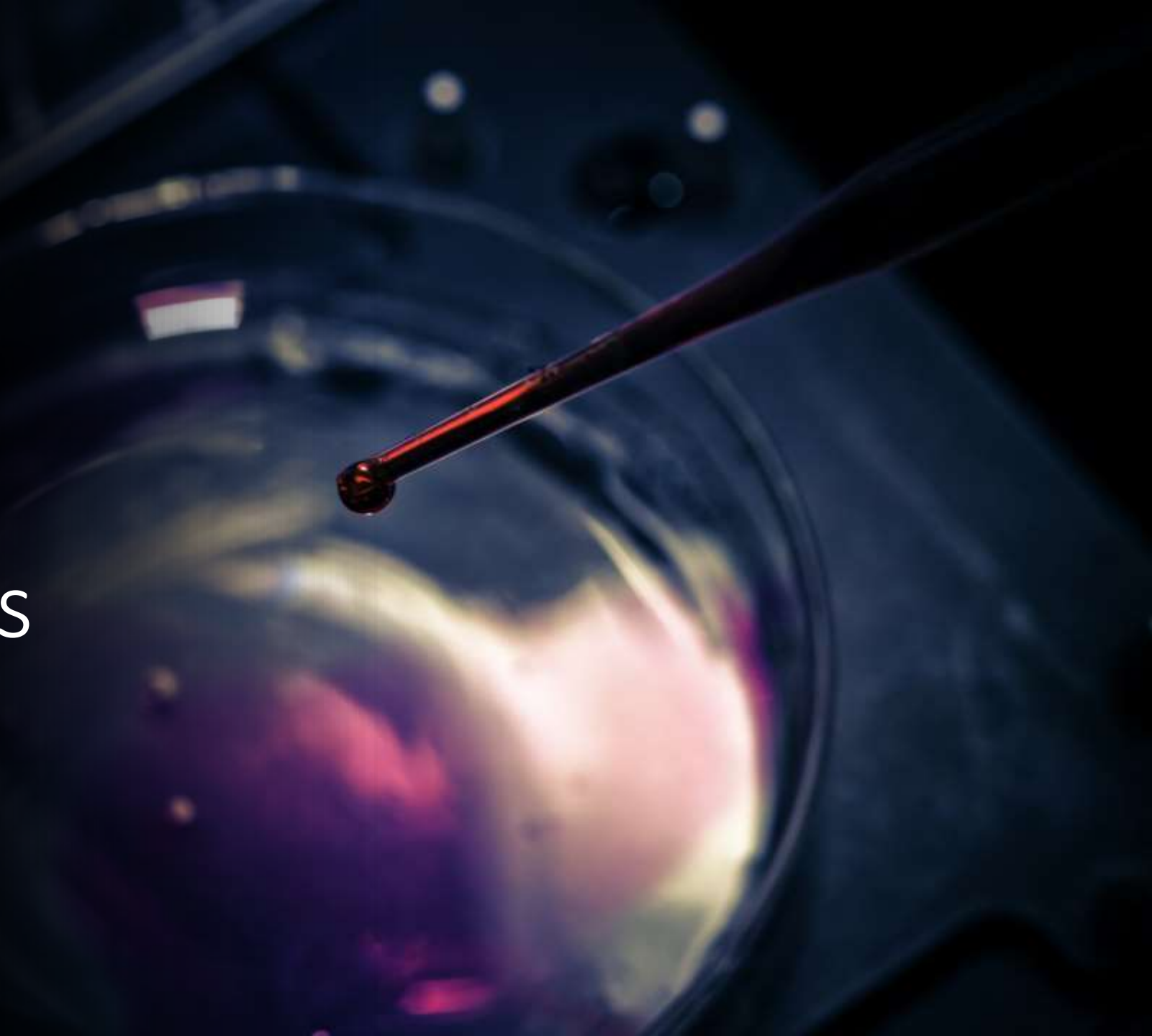
Lokpal at **Union level**

Strengthening citizens' trust in governance



- With reference to the Lokpal of India, consider the following statements:
- January 16 is observed as the Foundation Day of the Lokpal because Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 came into force on this date.
- The Lokpal of India is a constitutional body established by the Constitution of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Indelible Ink Controversy in Maharashtra Civic Elections



MumbaiMirror

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OPPOSITION, VOTERS CRY FOUL OVER FADING MARKERS

INDELIBLE STINK

AFTER INITIAL DEFIANCE, RED-FACED ELECTION COMMISSIONER TELLS MIRROR THERE WILL BE A PROBE AFTER COLLECTING SAMPLES AND SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM INK SUPPLIER KORES



Faizan Khan
faizan.khan@timesofindia.com

Polling for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on Thursday landed in a major controversy after multiple voters flooded social media with accounts of how the indelible ink could be removed easily minutes after voting.

As the videos, which showed people wiping the ink off easily with sanitiser or nail polish remover, went viral and the Opposition cried voter fraud, State Election Commissioner Dinesh Waghmare – who was earlier defiant

– went into damage-control mode. “We have taken cognisance of the issue,” Waghmare told Mirror. “We will verify whether the quantity of chemicals – especially silver nitrate, which is crucial for the mark lasting 15 days – is as per the norms.”

He added that random samples of marker pens from polling booths where complaints had surfaced would be collected, and a clarification sought from Kores, the company supplying the pens.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



“We will verify if the quantity of chemicals – especially silver nitrate, which is crucial for the mark lasting 15 days – is as per the norms

–Dinesh Waghmare,
State Election Commissioner

Aspect	News details
News title	Indelible Ink Controversy in Maharashtra Civic Elections
Date	January 17, 2026
Context	During recent municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra , Opposition parties alleged that the indelible ink was easily coming off
What is indelible ink	A purple mark applied on a voter's finger after voting to prevent repeat voting
Purpose	To indicate that a person has already voted
Nature of controversy	Allegation that ink was not lasting long enough

Authority concerned	Election process supervised by Election Commission of India (ECI) / State Election Commission for civic polls
History of use	India began using indelible ink in 1962 General Elections
Composition	Contains silver nitrate , which reacts with skin and sunlight
Global use	Used in elections in India and many developing democracies
Future relevance	Debate may revive calls for biometric or digital safeguards

Exam	Exam date	Question (memory-based / PYQ-pattern)	Answer
UPSC CSE (Pre)	2017	Which of the following is used to prevent multiple voting in India?	Indelible ink
State PSC	Various years	Indelible ink used in elections contains which chemical compound?	Silver nitrate
SSC (GK)	Various years	The Election Commission of India derives its powers from which Article?	Article 324
CAPF / Defence	Various years	One major objective of electoral safeguards like indelible ink is to prevent:	Impersonation and repeat voting
Railway / SSC	Various years	Indelible ink remains visible because it reacts with:	Skin and sunlight

LOKPAL

It is a statutory body functioning as "Ombudsman" to investigate corruption allegations against specific public officials and related issues.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

World

- ↳ 1809: Institution of Ombudsman first created in Sweden

India

- ↳ 1963: Idea of ombudsman first came up in Parliament
- ↳ 1971: First Lokayukta established in Maharashtra
- ↳ 2011: Anna Hazare Movement for Lokpal
- ↳ 2013: Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011 passed
- ↳ 2014: Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 came into force and amended in 2016
- ↳ 2019: Justice (Retd) Pinaki Chandra Ghose as first Lokpal of India

Statutory Provision: Lokpal And Lokayuktas Act (2013)

Seeks to establish institution of Lokpal at Centre and Lokayukta at State

Jurisdiction

- ↳ Includes Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs and Groups A, B, C and D officers, officials of Central Govt
- ↳ Institutions financed fully or partly by Government
- ↳ Entities getting over ₹10 lakhs annually in foreign donations under FCRA

Power

- ↳ Authority to approve public servants' prosecution instead of government or relevant authority
- ↳ Power of superintendence and direction over any investigating agency, including CBI, for cases referred to them by Lokpal
- ↳ Incorporates provisions for attachment and confiscation of property of public servants acquired by corrupt means, even while prosecution pending

Punishment

- ↳ Enhances maximum punishment under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

Appointment

- ↳ Selection of Chairperson and members through Selection Committee (PM, Speaker-LS, Leader of largest opp party, CJI or sitting SC Judge nominated by CJI and an eminent jurist nominated by President)
- ↳ Search Committee assists Selection Committee in process of selection

Structure

- ↳ Chairperson + maximum 8 members
 - ↳ 50% Judicial members
 - ↳ 50% from SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and women

Term of office

- ↳ 5 yrs or until the age of 70 yrs

Class24

Global Risks Report 2026



Time horizon	Risk ranking / theme	What the report highlights	
Immediate term (2026)	1. Geoeconomic confrontation	Biggest global risk; use of trade restrictions, sanctions, investment controls, technology bans to advance geopolitical interests; weakening multilateralism and rising protectionism	
	2. State-based armed conflict	Ongoing wars and regional spillovers raise crisis probability	
	3. Climate-related risks	Extreme weather events among top risks	
	Societal polarisation	Rising divisions amplify governance stress	
	Technological risks (rising)	Misinformation & disinformation ranked 5th globally	
	AI adverse outcomes (Top 10)	Job displacement, ethical misuse, security risks	
	Cyber insecurity (9th)	Growing digital vulnerability as systems digitise	
Long term (10 years)	Climate dominance	Climate risks dominate: extreme weather, biodiversity loss, critical Earth-system changes	

WEF Index / Report	What it measures	India's rank (2025)	Total countries	Exam relevance
Energy Transition Index (ETI)	Energy security, sustainability, transition readiness	71st	118	Climate change, energy policy, sustainability
Global Risks Report	Short- & long-term global risks (geo-economic, climate, tech)	Not a rank (risk outlook)	—	IR, economy, security
Future of Jobs Report	Impact of AI, automation on jobs & skills	Not a rank	—	Economy, labour, AI
Global Gender Gap Report	Gender parity across economy, health, education, politics	129th	146	Social justice, women empowerment
Travel & Tourism Development Index	Tourism competitiveness & sustainability	54th	119	Economy, services sector
Global Social Mobility Index	Inter-generational mobility	76th	82	Inequality, welfare

Index / Ranking	Publisher	India's rank (2025)	Total countries	Core theme
Global Innovation Index	WIPO	38th	139	Innovation, R&D
Global Firepower Index	Global Firepower	4th	145	Defence capability
Climate Change Performance Index	Germanwatch & partners	10th	63	Climate action
Global Peace Index	Institute for Economics & Peace	115th	163	Peace & security
World Press Freedom Index	RSF	151st	180	Media freedom
Human Development Index (latest)	UNDP	130th	193	Health, education, income
Global Hunger Index	Concern Worldwide	102nd	123	Nutrition & hunger
Global Soft Power Index	Brand Finance	30th	—	Global influence
Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners	85th	—	Visa-free access

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4. **Reports & Indices (India's Rank)**
5. **International Affairs (India + Major Summits)**
6. **Science & Tech**
7. **Environment & Ecology**
8. **Polity & Constitution Updates**
9. **Awards & Honours**
10. **Sports**
11. **Banking & Financial Market**
12. **Defence**
13. **Appointments & Resignations**
14. **Books & Authors**
15. **Important Days & Themes**
16. **Government Committees**
17. **States in News**
18. **India Rankings & Lists**
19. **Sports + Govt Sports Schemes**
20. **Miscellaneous Must-Do**

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.

Word of the day

Puerile:

of or characteristic of a child; displaying or suggesting a lack of maturity

Synonyms: adolescent, juvenile

Usage: *Nobody liked his puerile jokes.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/puerilepron

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈpjʊrɪl/, /ˈpjʊərɪl/



Thank you 😊

