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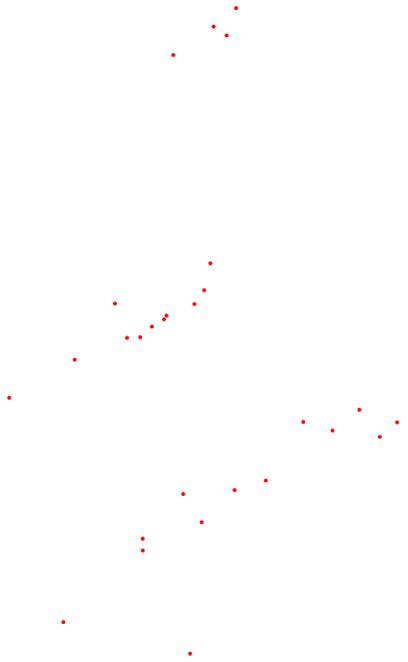
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'Only 4 central Maoist leaders remain active'
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'ANTI-INDIA STANCE'
Sri Lanka's JVP leader seeks change in views
WORLD » PAGE 14

MOMENT TO CHERISH
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SC asks govt. to consider plea to treat 'racial slur' as a hate crime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday disagreed with the notion of pigeonholing crime on the basis of race and region, saying it would fuel polarisation, while hearing a petition seeking comprehensive guidelines to recognise 'racial slur' as a separate category of hate crime.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, said crime, whoever was on either end of it, should be dealt with an iron hand.

Classifying crimes based on a victim's identity could risk dividing society, Chief Justice Kant said, adding that 75 years after Independence, the nation must find strength and unity in treating all its diverse citizens equally.

Parting words
The court asked Attorney-General R. Venkataramani to consider the petition

> Classifying crime on the basis of the identity of the victim may run the danger of dividing society when the nation, after 75 years of Independence, has to find unity in treating its diverse subjects equally.
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

and refer it to an appropriate authority.

The petition was filed by advocate Anoop Prakash Awasthi in the aftermath of shock and public grief over the fatal attack on Angel Chakma, a 24-year-old MBA student from Tripura, by a group of men in Uttarakhand.

Chakma was attacked after he resisted heckling while out shopping with his younger brother. He died under medical treatment on December 27, 2028, never regaining consciousness. The petition recounted Chakma's tragic words to his attackers, "We are Indians. What certificate should we show to prove that?"

'Can't walk away'
The petitioner urged the Supreme Court "that we must do something" and said people cannot shrug and walk away when somebody was being beaten up by a mob.

He had argued that the new bouquet of criminal laws, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, hardly addressed the issue of hate crime, racial discrimination, and violence against Indian citizens, especially from the northeastern States and other frontier regions.

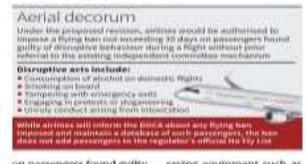## DGCA proposes swift ban on disruptive passengers

Airlines will be able to ban unruly passengers for 30 days without any referral under the proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement; regulator invites comments from stakeholders

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Airline operators may soon be empowered to directly impose a flying ban of up to 30 days on unruly or disruptive passengers without referring the matter to the competent authority.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement provisions governing the handling of unruly or disruptive passengers, emphasising that even a single disruptive passenger can jeopardise safety on board and adversely affect flight operations.

Under the proposed revision, airlines will be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days

on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to an independent committee.

The DGCA said the definition of disruptive acts included smoking on board, consumption of alcohol on domestic flights, tampering with emergency exits, unauthorised use of life-

saving equipment such as life jackets, engaging in protests or sloganeering, and unruly conduct arising from intoxication. Additionally, screaming, causing annoyance to fellow passengers, and kicking or banging seat backs or tray tables have also been categorised as disruptive behaviour. Airlines will be re-

quired to maintain a database of such passengers and inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed. However, passengers banned under this provision would not be included in the regulator's official "No Fly List".

The aviation regulator has invited comments from stakeholders on the proposed amendments issued under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Currently, airlines must refer cases of disruptive conduct to an independent committee. The committee is required to examine the matter and give its decision within 45 days before a flying ban can be enforced. The revision seeks to streamline the process, enabling airlines to act swiftly in the interest of passenger safety.

Aerial decorum
Under the proposed revision, airlines would be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to the existing independent committee mechanism

Disruptive acts include:
- Consumption of alcohol on domestic flights
- Smoking on board
- Tampering with emergency exits
- Engaging in protests or sloganeering
- Unruly conduct arising from intoxication

While airlines will inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed and maintain a database of such passengers, the ban does not add passengers to the regulator's official No Fly List

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Ruling the seas

Indigenously built aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* of the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review, 2026, off the Visakhapatnam coast on Wednesday. President Droupadi Murmu reviewed a formation of nearly 70 warships, including those of friendly foreign Navies. K.R. DEEPAK

Nvidia, OpenAI announce partnerships with Indian firms, academic institutes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

U.S. tech giants Nvidia and OpenAI on Wednesday announced partnerships with Indian industry and academia at the ongoing AI Impact Summit. The former will work with three firms – Yotta (which runs data centres), L&T, and E2E Networks. The latter has signed on with multiple universities with a view to "strengthening AI use among students".

"India's AI cloud infrastructure will host workloads as well as manufacture intelligence for model training, fine-tuning and high-scale inference," Nvidia, which makes the graphics processing units that run AI models, said in a statement. "Capacity within these data centers will be reserved for model builders, startups, researchers and enterprises to build, fine-tune and deploy AI in India." The firm will provide Indian partners with access to Nemotron and NeMo, the former being a family of open source LLMs and the latter a software suite for managing AI agents.

Ties in skilling
OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, has partnered with multiple higher education institutes, namely IIT-Delhi, IIM-Ahmedabad, AIIMS, New Delhi, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, and Pearl Academy. "By embedding AI tools, training, and research into the core infrastructure of schools and universities, they can equip students

Technical tie-up
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OpenAI seeks to 'equip students with the skills needed to thrive in a world with AI'
- IIT-Delhi
- IIM-Ahmedabad
- AIIMS New Delhi
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education • Pearl Academy
- University of Petroleum and Energy Studies

Nvidia to provide firms access to Nemotron, a family of open source LLMs and NeMo, a software suite for managing AI agents
- Yotta • L&T
- E2E Networks

with the skills needed to thrive in a world with AI," OpenAI India's head of education Raghav Gupta said.

"To expand AI capabilities beyond campuses and into the broader skilling ecosystem, OpenAI is also collaborating with leading ed-tech platforms including PhysicsWallah, upGrad, and HCL GUVI," the firm said, adding that one lakh students and staff will benefit from the deal.

"These platforms will

India's Sarvam AI brings out two large language models

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A few months after the Centre announced that India would create its own large language model, the Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI unveiled two language models at the AI Impact Summit on Wednesday. The launch of a 34-billion parameter model and a 108-billion parameter model is being seen as a milestone for AI development in India.

The models will be open source, said Pratyush Kumar, co-founder of Sarvam, adding that they had beaten comparable models from around the world at industry benchmarks. These are yet to be made available for the public. A message on the Sarvam website says that a chat feature will be available "soon".

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 5

launch structured courses focused on the AI fundamentals and practical ChatGPT use cases, targeting students and early-career professionals seeking industry-ready skills. This complementary pathway ensures that AI literacy is not confined to select institutions but scaled across India's rapidly growing learner base," the company further said.

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SC panel to guide judges on sensitivity, compassion

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Over a year after a High Court judge used explicit language to narrate a sexual assault on a minor girl in his judicial order, the Supreme Court has assigned the Director of the National Judicial Academy, Justice Aniruddha Bose (retd.), to draw guidelines to infuse the qualities of sensitivity and compassion in judges, especially in the context of vulnerable victims.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed Justice Bose, a former top court judge, to include legal practitioners, academics, and social workers in the expert committee.

The court said the committee report should be comprehensive and writ-

Justice Aniruddha Bose (retd.) has been assigned to draw guidelines for the panel.

ten in simple language, without any legal jargon. It said there was no point to such an exercise if the victim, whose rights the exercise seeks to protect, did not understand a word of the report. The Bench said the report should be translated into regional languages and submitted in the apex court.

The court highlighted that there were several offensive words and expressions in local dialects which are used casually in society.

'Offensive words'
However, the use of these words also constitute an offence under the penal laws. The Bench said it was time to spread awareness about how such expressions were a violation of the rights of victims of sexual assault.

"It shall be highly appreciated if the committee, as a part of its report, is able to identify and compile such words/expressions, from different languages, so that they do not get noticed, and the complainants/victims are empowered to give a better and fuller narrative of the trau-

ma undergone by them," the judgment, authored by Chief Justice Kant, observed.

The judgment was triggered by a petition filed by an NGO 'We the Women of India', represented by senior advocate Shobha Gupta, and other members of the Supreme Court Bar, including senior advocate H.S. Phoolka about a March 17, 2028 order passed by a Single Judge Bench of the Allahabad High Court.

In a case of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Single Judge had concluded that the "pulling down of pyjama string" did not amount to an "attempt to rape" but only a lesser charge of assault or force on a woman with intent to

disrobe under Section 354B of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code.

Suo motu action
The Supreme Court had taken suo motu cognisance of the judgment as an example of how "judges and judicial officers have failed to imbibe compassion and empathy in the manner of handling matters involving sexual offences, especially when it comes to vulnerable and/or minor victims and witnesses".

"No judge or judgment of any court can be expected to do complete justice when it is inconsiderate towards the factual realities of a litigant and the vulnerabilities which they may be facing in approaching a court of law...," Chief Justice Kant observed in the judgment.

DGCA proposes swift ban on disruptive passengers

Airlines will be able to ban unruly passengers for 30 days without any referral under the proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement; regulator invites comments from stakeholders

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Airline operators may soon be empowered to directly impose a flying ban of up to 30 days on unruly or disruptive passengers without referring the matter to the competent authority.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement provisions governing the handling of unruly or disruptive passengers, emphasising that even a single disruptive passenger can jeopardise safety on board and adversely affect flight operations.

Under the proposed revision, airlines will be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days

Aerial decorum

Under the proposed revision, airlines would be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to the existing independent committee mechanism

Disruptive acts include:
- Consumption of alcohol on domestic flights
- Smoking on board
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- Unruly conduct arising from intoxication

While airlines will inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed and maintain a database of such passengers, the ban does not add passengers to the regulator's official No Fly List

on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to an independent committee.

The DGCA said the definition of disruptive acts included smoking on board, consumption of alcohol on domestic flights, tampering with emergency exits, unauthorised use of life-saving equipment such as life jackets, engaging in protests or sloganeering, and unruly conduct arising from intoxication. Additionally, screaming, causing annoyance to fellow passengers, and kicking or banging seat backs or tray tables have also been categorised as disruptive behaviour. Airlines will be required to maintain a database of such passengers and inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed. However, passengers banned under this provision would not be included in the regulator's official "No Fly List".

The aviation regulator has invited comments from stakeholders on the proposed amendments issued under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Currently, airlines must refer cases of disruptive conduct to an independent committee. The committee is required to examine the matter and give its decision within 45 days before a flying ban can be enforced. The revision seeks to streamline the process, enabling airlines to act swiftly in the interest of passenger safety.

1. Background of the Proposal

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed amendments to Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR).
- The aim is to allow airlines to impose a temporary flying ban directly on disruptive passengers.
- नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) ने सिविल एविएशन रिक्वायरमेंट (CAR) में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव दिया है।
- इसका उद्देश्य एयरलाइनों को अव्यवस्थित यात्रियों पर सीधे अस्थायी उड़ान प्रतिबंध लगाने की अनुमति देना है।

2. Key Provision of the Amendment

- Airlines can impose a flying ban up to 30 days.
- No prior referral to an independent committee will be required.
- This is aimed at ensuring swift action in the interest of flight safety.
- एयरलाइंस अधिकतम 30 दिनों तक उड़ान प्रतिबंध लगा सकेंगी।
- स्वतंत्र समिति को पूर्व संदर्भ की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।
- यह उड़ान सुरक्षा के हित में त्वरित कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने के लिए है।

- **Existing Mechanism (Before Amendment)**
- Cases of disruptive conduct must be referred to an independent committee.
- The committee examines the case and gives a decision within 45 days.
- Only after the committee's decision can a flying ban be enforced.
- अव्यवस्थित व्यवहार के मामलों को स्वतंत्र समिति को भेजना अनिवार्य है।
- समिति 45 दिनों के भीतर मामले की जांच कर निर्णय देती है।
- समिति के निर्णय के बाद ही उड़ान प्रतिबंध लागू किया जा सकता है।

4. Definition of Disruptive Behaviour

Disruptive acts include:

- Smoking on board
- Consumption of alcohol on domestic flights
- Tampering with emergency exits
- Unauthorized use of safety equipment (e.g., life jackets)
- Engaging in protests or sloganeering
- Unruly conduct due to intoxication
- Screaming, causing nuisance
- Kicking or banging seat backs or tray tables

अव्यवस्थित कृत्यों में शामिल हैं:

- विमान में धूम्रपान
- घरेलू उड़ानों में शराब का सेवन
- आपातकालीन द्वारों से छेड़छाड़
- सुरक्षा उपकरणों (जैसे लाइफ जैकेट) का अनधिकृत उपयोग
- विरोध प्रदर्शन या नारेबाजी
- नशे की स्थिति में अनुशासनहीन व्यवहार
- चिल्लाना और अन्य यात्रियों को परेशान करना
- सीट या ट्रे टेबल को मारना या लात मारना

5. No Fly List Clarification

- Airlines must inform DGCA about any flying ban imposed.
- Airlines must maintain a database of banned passengers.
- However, such passengers will NOT be included in the official "No Fly List" of DGCA under this provision.
- एयरलाइंस को लगाए गए प्रतिबंध की सूचना DGCA को देनी होगी।
- प्रतिबंधित यात्रियों का डाटाबेस बनाए रखना होगा।
- लेकिन ऐसे यात्री DGCA की आधिकारिक "नो फ्लाई लिस्ट" में शामिल नहीं होंगे।

6. Legal Basis

- Amendment issued under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.
- Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) governs conduct and safety in aviation.
- संशोधन एयरक्राफ्ट रूल्स, 1937 के नियम 133A के तहत जारी किया गया है।
- सिविल एविएशन रिक्वायरमेंट (CAR) विमानन में आचरण और सुरक्षा को नियंत्रित करता है।

DGCA

- It functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- Responsible for regulation of civil aviation in India.

- Ensures air safety standards.

- यह नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के अधीन कार्य करता है।

- भारत में नागरिक उड्डयन का नियमन करता है।

- हवाई सुरक्षा मानकों को सुनिश्चित करता है।

Aircraft Rules, 1937

- Framed under the Aircraft Act, 1934.

- Provides regulatory framework for aviation operations in India.

- एयरक्राफ्ट एक्ट, 1934 के अंतर्गत बनाए गए।

- भारत में विमानन संचालन का नियामक ढांचा प्रदान करते हैं।

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the proposed amendment, airlines can impose a flying ban of up to 60 days without referring the case to an independent committee.

2. Passengers banned under this provision will automatically be added to the official No Fly List of DGCA.

3. The amendment has been proposed under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Nvidia, OpenAI announce partnerships with Indian firms, academic institutes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

U.S. tech giants Nvidia and OpenAI on Wednesday announced partnerships with Indian industry and academia at the ongoing AI Impact Summit. The former will work with three firms - Yotta (which runs data centres), L&T, and E2E Networks. The latter has signed on with multiple universities with a view to "strengthening AI use among students".

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Ties in skilling

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Technical tie-up

Chip maker Nvidia will work with three firms while OpenAI has signed on with multiple universities

OpenAI seeks to 'equip students with the skills needed to thrive in a world with AI'

PARTNERS ■ IIT-Delhi
■ IIM-Ahmedabad
■ AIIMS New Delhi
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■ University of Petroleum and Energy Studies

Nvidia to provide firms access to Nemotron, a family of open source LLMs and NeMo, a software suite for managing AI agents

PARTNERS ■ Yotta ■ L&T
■ E2E Networks

India's Sarvam AI brings out two large language models

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A few months after the Centre announced that India would create its own large language model, the Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI unveiled two language models at the AI Impact Summit on Wednesday. The launch of a 35-billion parameter model and a 105-billion parameter model is being seen as a milestone for AI development in India.

The models will be open source, said Pratyush Kumar, co-founder of Sarvam, adding that they had beaten comparable models from around the world at industry benchmarks. These are yet to be made available for the public. A message on the Sarvam website says that a chat feature will be available "soon".

with the skills needed to thrive in a world with AI," OpenAI India's head of education Raghav Gupta said.

"To expand AI capabilities beyond campuses and into the broader skilling ecosystem,OpenAI is also collaborating with leading ed-tech platforms including PhysicsWallah, upGrad, and HCL GUVI," the firm said, adding that one lakh students and staff will benefit from the deal.

"These platforms will launch structured courses focused on AI fundamentals and practical ChatGPT use cases, targeting students and early-career professionals seeking industry-ready skills. This complementary pathway ensures that AI fluency is not confined to select institutions but scaled across India's rapidly growing learner base," the company further said.

1. Nvidia and OpenAI Partnerships in India

Background

- U.S. tech companies Nvidia and OpenAI announced partnerships in India at the AI Impact Summit (New Delhi).
- Focus areas: AI infrastructure, skill development, and industry-academia collaboration.
- अमेरिकी टेक कंपनियाँ Nvidia और OpenAI ने नई दिल्ली में AI Impact Summit के दौरान भारत में साझेदारी की घोषणा की।
- मुख्य फोकस: एआई अवसंरचना, कौशल विकास और उद्योग-शैक्षणिक सहयोग।

Nvidia's Role

- Will partner with Indian firms:
  - Yotta (data centres)
  - L&T
  - E2E Networks
- India's cloud infrastructure will host workloads for:
  - AI model training
  - Fine-tuning
  - High-scale inference
- Data centres to support startups, researchers, enterprises.
- Nvidia to provide access to:
  - Nemotron (open-source LLM family)
  - NeMo (AI agent management suite)
- भारतीय कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी:
  - Yotta (डेटा सेंटर)
  - L&T
  - E2E Networks
- भारत का क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एआई मॉडल प्रशिक्षण, फाइन-ट्यूनिंग और बड़े पैमाने पर इनफेरेंस के लिए उपयोग होगा।
- स्टार्टअप, शोधकर्ता और उद्यमों को डेटा सेंटर सुविधा।
- Nvidia उपलब्ध कराएगा:
  - Nemotron (ओपन-सोर्स LLM परिवार)
  - NeMo (एआई एजेंट प्रबंधन सॉफ्टवेयर)

OpenAI's Role

- Partnerships with academic institutions:
  - IIT Delhi
  - IIM Ahmedabad
  - AIIMS New Delhi
  - Manipal Academy of Higher Education
  - Pearl Academy
  - University of Petroleum & Energy Studies
- Objective:
  - Equip students with AI skills
  - Promote AI fluency
  - Develop structured courses on AI fundamentals and ChatGPT use cases
- Collaboration with ed-tech platforms:
  - PhysicsWallah
  - Grad
  - HCL GUVI

2. India's Sarvam AI – Two Large Language Models

Key Developments

- Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI unveiled two LLMs:
    - 3.5 billion parameter model
    - 105 billion parameter model
- Seen as milestone in India's indigenous AI development.
- Models claimed to have competitive benchmark performance.
- To be open source.
- बेंगलुरु स्थित Sarvam AI ने दो LLM प्रस्तुत किए:
    - 3.5 बिलियन पैरामीटर मॉडल
    - 105 बिलियन पैरामीटर मॉडल
- भारत के स्वदेशी एआई विकास में महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि।
- बेंचमार्क प्रदर्शन में प्रतिस्पर्धी होने का दावा।
- ओपन-सोर्स के रूप में उपलब्ध होंगे।

Nvidia

- Founded in 1993.
- Leader in GPU manufacturing.
- GPUs critical for AI training and inference.
- स्थापना: 1993
- GPU निर्माण में अग्रणी।
- एआई प्रशिक्षण और इनफेरेंस के लिए GPU महत्वपूर्ण।

OpenAI

- Founded in 2015.
- Developer of ChatGPT and GPT series models.
- स्थापना: 2015
- ChatGPT और GPT मॉडल श्रृंखला का विकासकर्ता।

Large Language Model

- AI model trained on massive text data.
- Uses transformer architecture.
- Parameters indicate model size and capability.
- विशाल पाठ डेटा पर प्रशिक्षित एआई मॉडल।
- ट्रांसफॉर्मर आर्किटेक्चर पर आधारित।
- पैरामीटर मॉडल के आकार और क्षमता को दर्शाते हैं।

Exam style	Topic asked frequently	PYQ-style question	Answer
UPSC/PSC (Tech + Economy)	AI ecosystem/compute	The most critical hardware for large-scale AI training is: (a) CPUs (b) GPUs (c) Printers (d) Modems	(b) GPUs
UPSC/PSC (S&T)	Training vs inference	Using a trained model to generate answers for users is called: (a) Mining (b) Inference (c) Calibration (d) Indexing	(b) Inference
SSC/Bank (CA + Basics)	AI/LLM basics	"LLM" stands for: (a) Large Logistics Machine (b) Large Language Model (c) Linear Learning Method (d) Local Link Module	(b)
Defence/Railway (Awareness)	Open-source meaning	Open-source in software/model context primarily means: (a) Hidden code (b) Publicly available under license (c) Govt-only access (d) Offline only	(b)

Consider the following statements:

1. Nvidia will provide Indian firms access to Nemotron and NeMo platforms.

2. Sarvam AI's 105 billion parameter model is fully proprietary and not open source.

3. OpenAI has partnered with IIT Delhi and AIIMS New Delhi for AI skill development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 1 only

Maharashtra village passes resolution to become caste-free: 'Don't want hatred to reach our doorstep'

Soham Shah
*Soundala (Maharashtra),
February 18*

AT SOUNDALA, 60 km from Ahilyanagar in Maharashtra, Class 5 students sit in a circle outside the village temple preparing for their primary scholarship examination. A few steps away is the gram panchayat office, where, on February 5, the village gram sabha passed a unique resolution to make the village 'caste-free' and end discrimination on all grounds.

The effects are not just on paper. "We had Hindu religious reading last week. She is Muslim and she also had food at the festival with us," says one of the students Gauri Bhand, referring to her friend Mahira Sayyad sitting beside her. "Christian, Muslim, Maratha, everyone has the same

Sarpanch Sharad Argade at the gram panchayat office. SOHAM SHAH

rights," she adds.

Led by sarpanch Sharad Argade, the resolution read, "There will be no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, creed, or race in Mouje Soundala. All residents in the village will be equal and the belief of 'My religion — humanity' is being adopted."

It also declared that public places, government services, water sources, temples, crematoriums, schools, and public events will be open to all, and stated that village authorities would take action against any social media posts that create caste tension in the village.

The village has a population of about 2,500, informs Aragade, and 65 per cent of the villagers are Marathas belonging to the general category. Twenty per cent of the village population, around 60 families, belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC). At least 15-20 of the SC families follow Christianity. Three Muslim families also reside in the village.

Argade says that the village itself doesn't have any major caste divisions and no atrocity case has been registered in the past decade. "The resolution passed is a preventive measure. We are seeing the kind of hatred and division that is being spread in society. In Beed, people first check the caste of a shopkeeper before buying groceries. We don't want this kind of hatred reaching our doorstep," he explained.

Ashok Pandit, teacher at the ZP school, says that before each exam, all students, including Mahira, bow their heads at the two temples located just opposite the school. "These kids don't have any discrimination among each other. But they won't be here forever. Our school is just till fifth grade, they will go out for further schooling, then college. When they go out into the world, their minds get filled with hate. If we are able to finish all discrimination right here at the school level, then they will not get influenced by it later."

In September 2024, the gram sabha passed a resolution to provide Rs 11,000 for widow remarriage, a practice usually frowned upon. Another resolution, passed in November 2024, banned curse words that degrade women.

1. Location and Background

- The resolution was passed in Soundala village, around 60 km from Ahilyanagar in Maharashtra.
- The Gram Sabha passed the resolution on February 5.
- Objective: To make the village "caste-free" and end discrimination on all grounds.
- यह प्रस्ताव महाराष्ट्र के अहिल्यानगर से लगभग 60 किमी दूर साउंडाला गांव में पारित किया गया।
- ग्राम सभा ने 5 फरवरी को यह प्रस्ताव पारित किया।
- उद्देश्य: गांव को "जाति-मुक्त" बनाना और सभी प्रकार के भेदभाव को समाप्त करना।

2. Key Provisions of the Resolution

- No discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, creed, or race.
- All public places will be open to all:
  - Government services
  - Water sources
  - Temples
  - Crematoriums
  - Schools
  - Public events
- Authorities will act against social media posts creating caste tension.
- Adoption of the belief: "My religion is humanity."

3. Demographic Composition

- Population: Around 2,500.
- About 65% are Marathas (General category).
- Around 20% belong to Scheduled Castes (SC).
- Some SC families follow Christianity.
- Three Muslim families reside in the village.
- जनसंख्या: लगभग 2,500।
- लगभग 65% मराठा (सामान्य वर्ग)।
- लगभग 20% अनुसूचित जाति (SC)।
- कुछ SC परिवार ईसाई धर्म का पालन करते हैं।
- गांव में तीन मुस्लिम परिवार भी रहते हैं।

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4. Preventive and Reform Measures

- No major caste division reported in the past decade.
- Resolution seen as a preventive measure against rising social polarization.
- Earlier resolutions:
  - ₹11,000 support for widow remarriage (September 2024).
  - Ban on abusive words degrading women (November 2024).
- पिछले दशक में कोई बड़ा जातीय विवाद दर्ज नहीं।
- बढ़ती सामाजिक ध्रुवीकरण की प्रवृत्ति के खिलाफ निवारक कदम।
- पूर्व प्रस्ताव:
  - विधवा पुनर्विवाह हेतु ₹11,000 सहायता (सितंबर 2024)।
  - महिलाओं को अपमानित करने वाले शब्दों पर प्रतिबंध (नवंबर 2024)।

Equality and Non-Discrimination

- Article 14: Equality before law.
- Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth.
- Article 17: Abolition of untouchability.
- Article 21: Right to dignity (Judicial interpretation).
- अनुच्छेद 14: विधि के समक्ष समानता।
- अनुच्छेद 15: धर्म, जाति, लिंग आदि के आधार पर भेदभाव का निषेध।
- अनुच्छेद 17: अस्पृश्यता का उन्मूलन।
- अनुच्छेद 21: गरिमा के साथ जीवन का अधिकार (न्यायिक व्याख्या)।

6. Panchayati Raj Context

- Gram Sabha is a constitutional body under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
- Strengthens grassroots democracy.
- Enables social reform initiatives at local level.
- ग्राम सभा 73वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 1992 के तहत संवैधानिक संस्था है।
- जमीनी लोकतंत्र को सशक्त बनाती है।
- स्थानीय स्तर पर सामाजिक सुधार को सक्षम बनाती है।

Consider the following statements:

1. The Gram Sabha resolution in Soundala village allows discrimination in religious places but not in government services.

2. Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes untouchability.

3. Gram Sabha derives constitutional status from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Uttarakhand crossed **1 GW** installed solar capacity milestone.

Key Number	Total installed solar capacity: **~1,027.87 MW** (i.e., >1 GW).
Why it matters	Shows progress in clean energy transition, energy self-reliance, and local green jobs.
Major sources of capacity (summary)	Achieved through a mix: **ground-mounted, rooftop, canal-top/canal-bank, solar pumps, govt buildings**, etc.
Ground-mounted projects	**~397 MW** from ground-mounted solar projects.
Rooftop (PM Surya Ghar)	**~241 MW** from rooftop installations under **PM Surya Ghar** scheme.
CM Solar Self-Employment Scheme	**~137 MW** installed under Chief Minister Solar Self-Employment Scheme.
Commercial net metering	**~110 MW** through commercial net metering.
Captive solar plants	**~51 MW** from captive solar plants.
Canal-top / canal-bank	**~37 MW** via canal-top and canal-bank projects.

1 GW vs 1 MW	**1 GW = 1000 MW.** "Installed capacity" is maximum possible output under ideal conditions.
Installed capacity vs generation	Capacity ≠ actual electricity produced. Real output depends on sunlight, seasons, maintenance, grid constraints.
Rooftop solar	Solar on homes/institutions reduces transmission losses and supports decentralised energy.
Net metering	Consumers can export surplus solar power to grid and get bill adjustment/credit (policy varies by state).
Captive power plant	Power plant set up mainly for self-use by an industry/ संस्था; reduces dependence on grid.
Canal-top solar	Saves land, reduces water evaporation, but higher installation/maintenance complexity.
Solar pumps (agri)	Helps irrigation with clean energy; important for reducing diesel use (where adopted).

Bharat VISTAAR

Aspect	English	श्रमह
Scheme Name	Bharat VISTAAR (AI-based agricultural advisory platform)	क्रव्रह्र श्रीb व्रष घ्र ज्ह्ष ह ष श्र्व्रह्र झ्म्ह्र ह्घ्व्रय्ह्र रव्हझ्र
Launched By	Ministry of Agriculture	झ्म्ह्र रव्ह्व्रय्र्ग
Phase	Phase-1 launched in Jaipur, Rajasthan	द्घ्र्घ्झ न्ग्र्ह्त्र घ्हर f व्रष रह्र्हं
Context	Announced amid AI Summit in Delhi	श्रं ह ड्ष ह द्ष्व्रक ड्ष्ल्व्ह्र द्ह्र्व्र
Nature	Multilingual AI-based conversational advisory system	ड्क्व्ह्र ड्ष ह ष श्र्व्रह्र द्क्व्व्ह्र्ष ड् ह्घ्व्रय्ह्र ब्र्व्चह
Purpose	Digitally empower farmers	श्र् द्व्ह्ज्म्ह्ज्न्श्र्भ्र ब च च ह ह्ल्द्ध्ट्र्ह्र श्व्श्र

Feature	English Description	
Objective	Make agriculture accessible, affordable, tech-driven and strengthen farmer self-reliance	
Helpline	Dial **155261** for real-time answers in local language	
Languages	Currently Hindi & English; expanding to 11 languages	
Real-time Data	Provides real-time mandi prices across India	
Integrated Platform	Integrates AgriStack, ICAR knowledge systems, IMD weather data, market prices & govt schemes	
Farmer ID	Digital Farmer Identity Card integrates PM Fasal Bima Yojana & Soil Health Card	
Services	Advisory on soil testing, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, loans, insurance	
Additional Initiatives	Farmer-centric AI Hackathon & Agri Kosh AI Strategy Roadmap	

Topic	English Key Points	हिन्दी मुख्य बिंदु
AgriStack	Digital public infrastructure for agriculture; integrates land records, farmer database & services	कृषि डिजिटल अवसंरचना १ भूअभिलेख किसान डेटाबेस व सेवाओं को जोड़ता है
ICAR	Apex agricultural research body under Ministry of Agriculture	कृषि मंत्रालय के तहत शीर्ष अनुसंधान निकाय
IMD	India Meteorological Department provides weather forecasting data	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग मौसम पूर्वानुमान डेटा प्रदान
PM Fasal Bima Yojana	Crop insurance scheme to reduce farmer risk	फसल बीमा योजना किसान जोखिम
Soil Health Card	Provides soil nutrient status & fertilizer recommendations	मृदा पोषक स्थिति व उर्वरक सिफारिश
AI in Agriculture	Helps in crop advisory, pest prediction, yield forecasting, price intelligence	फसल सलाह कीट पूर्वानुमान व मूल्य आसूचना
Digital Farmer ID	Enables targeted DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) and service integration	लक्षित DBT व सेवा एकीकरण

Bee Corridor –

Aspect	English	श्रास्त
Initiative	Bee Corridor (Pollinator Corridor)	ीह ड़ुछ्अस्ड़्म्रज्ञ घ्रप्र ड़ुछ्अस्ड़्क्श्र
Launched By	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	क्ष्च्प्र्ल्ह्ग घ्रोंक्ष्र घ्र-ख्व्प्र अकृष ड़ घ्रर् ज्ञNHAI)
Nature	First-of-its-kind ecological infrastructure initiative	२ ह्ष्ह् ल्घ्रण ड़ह ह्ण्व्ह् ह्व्व्र्प्र अल्ड़ २ अ्द्र्घ्द्.ष्व ह्ण्व्च
Purpose	Promote biodiversity along National Highways	घ्रोंक्ष्र घ्र-ख्व्प्र ड़ुःष्व्र छ्न्च्व्र अक्ष्र्र ल्व ड़्ज्न घ प्व्क्र्व ड़्ष्व
Focus	Protect honeybees and other pollinators	ख्व्ष्र्व्ख्ह् ह्ज्म्र्र घ २ ह्घ्रप्र् ड़ुस्ड़्ह ह्ष्च्व्व

Feature	English Description	श्रम्ह श्रञ्जघर्
Concept	Continuous stretch of flowering trees, shrubs, herbs & grasses	*(illegible)*
Ecological Role	Provides year-round nectar & pollen through staggered flowering cycles	*(illegible)*
Objective	Shift from ornamental greenery to biodiversity-supportive vegetation	*(illegible)*
Species Selected	Neem, Karanj, Mahua, Palash, Bottle Brush, Jamun, Siris	*(illegible)*
Habitat Support	Retention of flowering weeds, dead wood, hollow trunks	*(illegible)*
Implementation	Developed along suitable highway stretches & vacant NHAI land	*(illegible)* NHAI *(illegible)*
Spacing	Flowering clusters every 500 m – 1 km	*(illegible)*
Plantation Target	~40 lakh trees in 2026–27; ~60% under Bee Corridor	*(illegible)*
Initial Phase	At least three pollinator corridors	*(illegible)*

Topic	English Key Points	हिन्दी मुख्य बिंदु
Pollinators	Bees, butterflies, birds help crop fertilisation	—
Importance in Agriculture	Nearly 75% of global food crops depend partly on pollination	—
Ecological Infrastructure	Infrastructure integrated with environmental conservation	—
Highway Greening Policy	NHAI promotes plantation under Green Highways Policy	NHAI …
Biodiversity Corridors	Improve habitat connectivity and ecosystem resilience	—
Climate Role	Enhances carbon sequestration & reduces heat island effect	—
Sustainable Development	Aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land)	—

Exercise MILAN 2026

Aspect	English	श्राझह
Exercise Name	Exercise MILAN 2026 (13th Edition)	२ हव्द श्रक्रघ्र ऊज़झ्द जुद्ऱ्क्रा द्रॉW घ्ऱ्झ
Hosted By	Indian Navy	क्रघ्रल्ग फ्ऱद्क्ष्र
Venue	Visakhapatnam	श्रट्व्द्व्रह्चुप्ऱ्झ
Duration	15–25 February 2026	झ्ड–ऴ्ड घ्र्ऴ्घ्ह ऊज़ऱद्
Participation	Over 70 countries	घ्झ्द्क्ष्ऱ्श्र्ऴ्श् ड़ व्द्र्
First-time Participants	Germany, Philippines, UAE	ऩ्रक्ष्ऱ्ह॥श्र च्र्ह्ल्ष्॥ ग्ऱ्ह
Special Initiative	Dedicated "MILAN Village" for cultural & social exchanges	द्रॉW॥झ्फ्श्र-ड़ ड़्ऴ्ऴ्द्व्रक्ष्ऱ्-ड़ ण व्र्फ्घ्द्व्र् घ्झ्ऴ्"श्रक्रघ्र श्रच्छ्"

Feature	English Description	श्रास्ह श्रञ्रघर
Nature	Biennial multilateral naval exercise	श्रेञ्रक्षुह्र ꠰इ्ह ल्ह्ग फ्राद्क्रा ड़ ꠰हरद्ध
Launch Year	1995	1995
Original Host Command	Andaman and Nicobar Command	र्त्रम्रक्रा ड़्रक्रक ड्रा्व्रघ ड़ रक्रा
Initial Participants	Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand	स्रड्रुक्षुर्ग्रा्श्रा्प्रुह्षाा व्ह्च्रक्रा व्ह्च्रा
Regional Focus	Indo-Pacific region	स्रड्रुह्स्रा्श् ड़ ल्ह्द्
Growth	Expanded into one of the largest maritime engagements	श्राC ड्र् ब्रक्षु ह्ह्क्रह् ꠰ ह्रद्क्रा श्रा्डश्रद्ध ल

Word of the day

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

Synonyms: delight, enjoyment

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

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/delectationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌdiːlɛkˈteɪʃən/, /ˌdɪlɛkˈteɪʃən/

Word of the day

Extenuation:
a partial excuse to mitigate censure; an attempt to represent an offense as less serious than it appears by showing mitigating circumstances; to act in such a way as to cause an offense to seem less serious

Synonyms: mitigation, palliation

Usage: *He pleaded circumstances in extenuation of his guilt.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/extenuationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪksˌtɛnjʊˈeɪʃən/, /ɛksˌtɛnjʊˈeɪʃən/

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