

Daily Current Affairs





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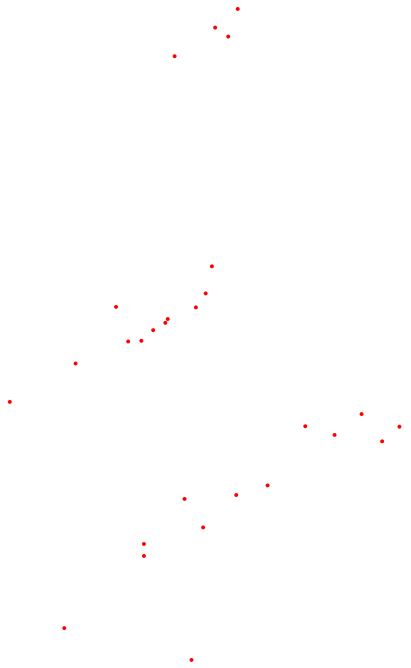


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Jansatta



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10 MCQ QUIZ

A black and white photograph featuring a microphone on a stand in the foreground, angled towards the right. In the background, a piano keyboard is visible, and a hand is partially seen on the left side, possibly playing. The background is blurred with bokeh light effects.

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103 Indian varsities
make it to the list
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INSIDE

130,000 crore
proposed for a
modified UDAN

NEW DELHI
The outlay for the modified UDAN regional air connectivity scheme has been proposed at ₹130,000 crore, industry sources said. The final policy draft would be submitted to the Union Cabinet's approval. **» PAGE 14**

Separate Section
for the disabled
in DPDP Rules

NEW DELHI
The Information Technology Ministry has made changes to the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to separate persons with disabilities from a rule that, in a draft, clubbed them with children for the sake of guardian consent. **» PAGE 9**

Al Falah Group
chief detained
for alleged fraud

NEW DELHI
The ED arrested Javed Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman of the Al Falah Group, in an alleged money laundering case on Tuesday. The action came after three doctors linked to the university were allegedly part of a 'terror' meet. **» PAGE 4**

Bail in NIA cases
can be denied if
trial is timely

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday remarked that bail can be stopped in cases probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) provided trial is concluded within six months. **» PAGE 4**

Kerala moves SC seeking SIR postponement
citing staff shortage during local body polls

Krishnakumar Kailasapal
NEW DELHI

The Kerala government has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Election Commission (EC) to defer the conduct of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the state. In its petition, the State said the conduct of the "cumbersome" SIR process from November 4 to December 4 would coincide with the elections to the local bodies in Kerala. The simultaneous conduct of both exercises would not only strain human resources but also create an "administrative impasse" with no personnel left to take care of the day-to-day functioning of the government. The government said

the simultaneous conduct would be a "near-impossibility". "The SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental agencies, with election-related duties and a further 68,000 police and other security personnel. The SIR is also a cumbersome process, with cumbersome procedure, requiring the services of additional personnel numbering 25,666. The pool of trained and experienced staff is finite, which constrains real-world deployment," the State submitted. **SIR's constitutionality** The State government made it plain that it did not support the constitutionality of the SIR. It



Point of view Kerala says the simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the local body polls will be a "near-impossibility". **» PAGE 10**

and six Corporations. There are 23,612 wards in total. The petition highlighted the constitutional mandate under Articles 243-E and 243-F as well as a statutory mandate under Section 30 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and Section 94 of the Kerala Municipality Act to conduct election to the LGs within five years. Thus, the process of elections, including voting, counting, and declaration of result to the LGs must be in accordance with the constitutional and statutory mandate of the local bodies election. There are 1,200 local self-government institutions (6,361 in Kerala, made up of 941 gram panchayats, 162 district panchayats, 87 municipalities,

Cold start



Biharis moored on the banks of the Dal Lake on a cold winter morning in Baramulla on Tuesday. **» PAGE 10**

or under construction, employing hundreds. Chief Justice Gavai questioned the need for demolition of these structures when they could continue by paying heavy penalties. The Chief Justice reasoned that striking down retrospective ECs would lead to the demolition of multi-store private and public projects either in use

Divergent views

The Supreme Court's majority verdict and dissenting voice focus on different aspects of retrospective environmental clearances. **Chief Justice Gavai, Justice B. V. K. Rao, and Justice R. U. Lakshmanan** upheld retrospective clearances of the May 15 verdict as they deemed no post facto EC, well aware of "circumstances" issues on economy and development. **Projects likely to be affected:** • 24 central projects worth ₹1,11,188 crore • 20 state-level projects worth ₹1,11,188 crore • Loss to public exchequer to the tune of nearly ₹20,000 crore

952-bed AIIMS hospital in Odisha, a greenfield airport in Karnataka, and the Central Armed Police Forces in Kerala. Medical Sciences in Delhi, were pending as a result of the verdict. In the dissenting voice, the Chief Justice wrote. The CJI said judicial precedents of the court

have held that *ex post facto* ECs cannot be deemed with "retrospective rigidity". *Ex post facto* approval should not be withheld on a project measure, he said, adding that projects should be cleared retrospectively in exceptional circumstances and not as a routine. The top judge asked himself the question of whether it would be in public interest to demolish all these projects and have the money spent on them into the dustbin. "The question, therefore, is whether such a modus operandi of demolition and re-construction would be in the larger public interest or would in fact be counter-productive to the public interest?" the CJI asked. Justice Bhuyan dismissed the CJI's "dustbin" question, saying it was founded on erroneous logic. He said the "question" should be

why the review judgment is so keen to "virtually" grant the Centre to grant *ex post facto* ECs to violators of the law. **'False narrative'** "It is unfortunate that a false narrative is being created pitting the environment against development... Environment law cannot be a mere barrier to the notion of an *ex post facto* clearance. This is contrary to both the precautionary principle as well as the need for sustainable development," Justice Bhuyan observed. Ecology and development are not adversaries, he stressed, adding that both were part of the constitutional construct of sustainable development. Retrospective ECs, however, are an anathema - "a thing devoted to evil" - thrust on the environment, said Justice Bhuyan.

Top Maoist leader Hidma, wife among 6 killed in A.P.

T. Appala Naidu
MADRASAPUR (ASA DISTRICT)

Top Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, a Central Committee member and south Bastar battalion commander of the banned CPI (Maoist), and five others were killed in an encounter in Adhat Siharana Khatu (ASA) district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

Hidma's wife Madakam Raju, a member of the Chhattisgarh State Zonal Committee, was among those killed in the encounter that took place between 6.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. along the Panuluru stream near Nellooru village in Marudupadu Agency.

The other four dead Maoists have been identified as Dev, Lakshmi, Malla and Kamru - Hidma's guards. "All six bodies, including those of Madvi and Raju, have been recovered from the spot of the encounter and shifted to Rajahmundry Area Hospital for post-mortem," said Andhra Pradesh intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Joshi.



ADGP (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Joshi inspecting the weapons seized from the encounter site. **» PAGE 10**

51 Maoists arrested in major A.P. operation

Rajulakshmi Srinivas
VIZAGAPADA

The Organisation for Counter Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS) and police personnel arrested 51 Maoists in several districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. This is said to be the first such major arrests from the urban areas in one single day. The arrests were made during search operations on the Maoist hideouts in

2013 Biram Valley attacks across the Dantakaranya region, he said. "It is a historic and decisive day for the security forces on the anti-Naxal front. Hidma's death marks one of the most decisive blows in the history of anti-Naxal operations, not only for Chhattisgarh, but for the entire country," said Andhra Pradesh Minister of Police, Bastar, Raichur Sundarra Pattabiraman said. He said the Maoists had been involved in numerous brutal attacks, including the

the districts of Erishma, Eluru, NTR, Kakinada, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema. The police arrested 28 Maoists in Erishma, 15 in Eluru, five in NTR, two in Kakinada, and one in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema during search operations. The OCTOPUS teams also seized huge cache of ammunition and cash. **CONTINUED ON** **» PAGE 8**

Arms, ammunition Two AK-47s, 15 electrical devices and 150 non-electrical devices, and ammunition were recovered from the hideouts. Hidma was killed by security forces 12 days before the November 30 deadline set by Union Home Minister Anurag Singh to eliminate him. "The Union Home Minister had set a deadline of

SC recalls verdict rejecting green clearances

The majority 2-1 verdict upholds pleas in public interest; CJI says it would have 'devastating' effect

Justice Bhuyan records a sharp dissent, says court is backtracking for the sake of violators

In May, the court said retrospective clearances to regularise constructions were clearly illegal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority judgment on Tuesday, recalled its May 16 verdict declaring the Centre's grant of *ex post facto* or retrospective environmental clearances (ECs) to building projects and constructions a "gross illegality" and an "anathema".

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, who is retiring on November 23, said in his separate opinion that the May 16 judgment, if allowed to continue to operate, would have a "devastating effect" and "thousands of crores of Rupees would go to waste".

Justice K. Vinod Chandran backed his view, forming the majority on the Bench.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan recorded a sharp dissent in

his 97-page opinion. He termed the review judgment an "innocent expression of opinion" which overlooked the "very fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence".

The separate individual opinions of the Chief Justice and Justice Bhuyan clashed, with the latter saying he was pained to see the country's highest court "backtracking on sound environmental jurisprudence" for the sake of violators, even as the "deadly Delhi smog reminds us everyday about the hazards of pollution".

Justice Bhuyan was a member of the two-judge Bench, headed by the now-retired Justice A.S. Oka, which had delivered the May 16 judgment.

'Crafty drafting'

The May judgment had held that granting retrospective clearances in any

form to regularise illegal constructions was clearly illegal. The court had struck down a 2017 notification and 2021 office memorandum (OM) of the Union government, which in effect recognised the grant of *ex post facto* ECs.

It had found the Centre guilty of "crafty drafting" to clear illegal constructions through retrospective ECs.

The two-judge Bench had concluded that the government was only protecting the illegal actions of project proponents who started building or operations in these illegal constructions without obtaining the prior EC mandated by environmental protection laws.

The Chief Justice reasoned that striking down retrospective ECs would lead to the demolition of multi-crore private and public projects either in use

Divergent views

The Supreme Court's majority verdict and dissenting voice focus on different aspects of retrospective environmental clearances

CJI B.R. Gavai, Justice K. Vinod Chandran uphold review petitions:

Continuation of the May 16 verdict striking down *ex post facto* EC, will have a "devastating" impact on economy and development

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan finds no case for review:

Ex post facto EC is anathema to the environment.

Upholding the review would seem like the SC backtracking when a deadly smog is choking Delhi. A false narrative is being created, pitting the environment against development

Projects likely to be affected:

- 24 Central projects worth ₹8,293 crore
- 29 State-level projects worth ₹11,168 crore
- Loss to public exchequer to the tune of nearly ₹20,000 crore



or under construction, employing hundreds.

Chief Justice Gavai questioned the need for demolition of these structures when they could continue by paying heavy penalties. Many projects, including an investment by the Steel Authority of India (SAIL), a

962-bed AIIMS hospital in Odisha, a greenfield airport in Karnataka, and the Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, were pending as a result of the May 16 judgment, he wrote. The CJI said judicial precedents of the court

have held that *ex post facto* ECs cannot be declined with "pedantic rigidity".

Ex post facto approval should not be withheld only as a penal measure, he said, adding that projects can be cleared retrospectively in exceptional circumstances and not as a routine. The top judge asked himself the question of whether it would be in public interest to demolish all these projects and throw the money spent on them into the dustbin.

"The question, therefore, is whether such a *modus operandi* of demolition and re-construction would be in the larger public interest or would in fact be counter-productive to the public interest?" the CJI asked.

Justice Bhuyan dismissed the CJI's "dustbin" query, saying it was founded on erroneous logic. He said the "question" should be

why the review judgment is so keen to "virtually prod" the Centre to grant *ex post facto* ECs to violators of the law.

'False narrative'

"It is unfortunate that a false narrative is being created pitting the environment against development... Environment law cannot countenance the notion of an *ex post facto* clearance. This is contrary to both the precautionary principle as well as the need for sustainable development," Justice Bhuyan observed.

Ecology and development are not adversaries, he stressed, adding that both were part of the Constitutional construct of sustainable development. Retrospective ECs, however, are an anathema – "a thing devoted to evil" – thrust on the environment, said Justice Bhuyan.

1. What Happened?

- A **three-judge Bench** of the Supreme Court (CJI B.R. Gavai, Justice K. Vinod Chandran in majority; Justice Ujjal Bhuyan dissenting) **recalled its May 16 verdict**.
 - The May verdict had held that **ex post facto (retrospective) environmental clearances (ECs)** for ongoing or completed construction projects were **"gross illegality"** and an **"anathema"**.
 - In the **review**, the majority now upheld pleas stating that cancelling all such ECs would have a **"devastating effect"** on the economy and infrastructure.
-

2. What Is Ex Post Facto Environmental Clearance?

- Granting EC **after** a project has already started or is completed.
- Generally **discouraged** due to the *precautionary principle* and *sustainable development* framework.
- Earlier judgments (Lafarge Mining case, Alembic Pharma case) have held:
 - Ex post facto ECs cannot be the norm but may be allowed in **exceptional** circumstances.

3. Why Did the Supreme Court Recall Its Earlier Verdict? (Majority Opinion)

3.1 Key Arguments by CJI B.R. Gavai (Majority)

- Demolishing all projects granted retrospective ECs would:
 - Waste **thousands of crores** of public and private investment.
 - Affect **53 key projects**:
 - **24 Central projects** (₹8,293 crore)
 - **29 State projects** (₹11,168 crore)
- Striking down ECs would harm:
 - Ongoing infrastructure
 - Public utility services
 - Employment
- Ex post facto EC cannot be rejected with **"pedantic rigidity"**.

3.2 EC Not a Penal Tool

- EC is a regulatory tool, not punishment.
- Violations should lead to:
 - Fines
 - Additional conditions
 - Strict monitoring—rather than blanket demolition.

4. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's Sharp Dissent

- Ex post facto EC is an “**anathema**” to environmental law.
- Granting ECs retrospectively:
 - Rewards violators
 - Encourages illegal constructions
 - Weakens environmental governance
- “Backtracking” from May judgment weakens rule of law.
- Delhi's deadly smog reminds us what “environmental hazards” look
- ECs must be granted **before** construction — not after.

A. Why This Case Matters?

- Determines legality of **regularising illegal constructions**.
- Impacts India's large public infrastructure projects:
 - Railways
 - Highways
 - Hospitals
 - Police & security forces infrastructure
 - Educational & medical institutes

B. Environmental Jurisprudence Principles

- **Precautionary Principle**
- **Polluter Pays Principle**
- **Sustainable Development**
- **Inter-generational Equity**

The dissent emphasises the first two; the majority emphasises sustainable development and proportionality.

A. Key Cases Connected

- **Alembic Pharma vs Rohit Prajapati (2020)**
 - Held that ex post facto EC cannot be a routine practice.
- **Lafarge Mining Judgment (2011)**
 - Introduced detailed environmental impact evaluation steps.
- **Goa Foundation Case (2014)**
 - Stressed strict environmental scrutiny.

B. Role of EC (Environmental Clearance)

Issued under:

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
- **EIA Notification 2006**

Mandatory for:

- Large industrial projects
 - Infrastructure
 - Mining
 - Thermal plants
-

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court judgment on ex post facto environmental clearances (ECs):

- 1.** The Supreme Court majority recalled its earlier verdict that had declared retrospective ECs completely illegal.
- 2.** Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's dissent held that ex post facto ECs violate fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence.
- 3.** The majority held that striking down retrospective ECs could adversely impact several ongoing public utility projects.
- 4.** The Court unanimously agreed that ex post facto ECs may be granted routinely as long as fines are imposed.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a)** 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b)** 1 and 3 only
- (c)** 2 and 4 only
- (d)** 1, 2, 3 and 4

IN BRIEF



Centre launches updated plan to curb misuse of antibiotics

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a major public health concern and poses significant risks, particularly in surgical procedures, cancer care, and treatment, and other healthcare interventions. It can be addressed only through collective action, Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda said on Tuesday at the launch of the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2025-29. "Overuse and misuse of antibiotics have become common, and NAP-AMR 2.0 aims to identify earlier gaps by increasing the ownership of AMR-related efforts, improving inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring stronger engagement with the private sector," he said.

Centre brings in new norms for compensating crop loss

The Union Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday recognised the modalities for covering crop loss due to wild animal attacks and paddy inundation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Farmers' groups have been demanding that the government compensate for both types of crop loss. The ministry said crop loss due to wild animal attacks would now be recognised as the fifth 'Add-on Cover' under the 'Landed Risk' category. "States will be able to claim compensation for crop damage and identify vulnerable areas using past data on crop insurance claims within 72 hours on the Crop Insurance app with geotagged photos," the government release said.

Nearly 100 children rescued from Raipur factory

Shubhanshu Sikdar
KAPIL

Over 100 minors who were allegedly being forced to work under exploitative conditions in a mushroom manufacturing unit in Chhattisgarh's Raipur were rescued on Monday following an intervention by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

On Tuesday, NHRC member Piyush Katoch said on X that tribal children from several states were being held as bonded labourers, made to work 12 to 14 hours a day and were exposed to cancer-causing formaldehyde.

When the police rescued the children, they said that they lived in tiny rooms in the factory. They were hardly provided any dinner. A complaint by an NGO prompted the probe.

Separate Section for disabled persons made in DPDP Rules

In the draft rule regarding consent mechanism, persons with disabilities had been clubbed with children; activists had change but raise concern over lack of clarity on laws of guardianship

Aaron Deep
Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Following backlash from disability rights activists, the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry has made changes to the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to separate persons with disabilities from a rule that, in a draft, clubbed them with children over consent from a guardian.

While activists lauded this change, they said concerns over the provisions remain. The notified rules do not contain illustrations on implementation to cover a range of instances where disabled persons may or may not be able to use the internet freely. Further, the language of the DPDP Act, 2023, continues to leave children and persons with disabilities together.

The DPDP Act, 2023, and the rules significantly restrict what minors can do online, such as setting up a social media account, while not applying to persons with disabilities any more. The draft rules, this requirement was spelled out in a section that included persons with disabilities, causing

Step by step

Some helpline reports have come through in the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to benefit persons with disabilities

KEYWORDS
■ Separation from children over consent
■ New provision for disabled persons
■ Restrictive rights
■ The restrictions relating to behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising that apply to children do not apply to persons with disabilities anymore

REMARKABLE CONCERNS
■ Illustrations for implementation
■ Language in DPDP Act still groups disabled persons with children
■ Guardianship laws unclear DPDP Act or RPWD Act

ing concern among disability rights groups.

Rajon Malhotra, of the Nippon Foundation, which has been advocating for changes to the Act and rules, said it was a "major victory" to have the Sections covering consent mechanisms for children and persons with disabilities separated. "The restrictions relating to behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising that apply to children do not apply to persons with disabilities any more. While the separation of the Sections has clarified that these restrictions will not be applicable to persons

with disabilities, the Section for persons with disabilities does not have any illustrations to capture the nuances of how guardianship operates, a key issue with the draft rules as pointed out in a report by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the NGO Saksham Disability.

Another issue pointed out by activists and civil society organisations was that the draft rules did not clearly define law of guardianship for persons with disabilities - either the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, or the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 - would be considered for implementation.

The Saksham report raised concerns about this, given that under the NT Act, the need for guardianship is partly determined by a person's mental making capacity, a term that the 1999 law does not clearly define. This, activists say, is not in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was signed under the RPWD Act align with it.

Indonesian Defence Minister to visit Delhi for talks on BrahMos

Saurabh Terebelli
NEW DELHI

Indonesian Defence Minister Staffie Sjamsuddin is scheduled to visit India in the last week of November for a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.

The meeting is being viewed as a significant follow-up to the major defence agreement involving the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, marking an important step forward in India's expanding defence export programme.

A senior defence official confirmed that the upcoming talks hold considerable importance, coming after a series of meetings and reciprocal visits by senior military officials from both nations. Indonesia has shown strong interest in procuring the BrahMos missile system.

The development came to light after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently revealed in Lucknow that a purchase decision for the BrahMos missile had been made, a term that the 1999 law does not clearly define. This, activists say, is not in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was signed under the RPWD Act align with it.



Staffie Sjamsuddin

BrahMos missiles produced at the Lucknow unit. Officials noted that the Indonesian deal would be a major milestone for India's defence exports, showcasing the country's capability to supply combat-proven indigenous weapons.

Earlier, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met Minister Sjamsuddin in Jakarta to discuss expanding bilateral defence cooperation.

'Global confidence'
Defence experts said BrahMos missiles used during Operation Indragiri to strike Pakistani airbases with full accuracy have enhanced global confidence in India's defence manufacturing.

The BrahMos missile has a range of over 200 km with a speed of Mach 2.8. It was jointly developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

Over 100 Indian universities make it to QS sustainability rankings

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds on Tuesday released its QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2025, showing that India, with 103 universities, had the fourth-highest number of institutions in the list, behind the United States, China, and the United Kingdom.

The QS sustainability rankings, established in 2023, assess institutions across environmental and social sustainability categories such as environmental impact, social impact, and governance. These include indicators covering environmental research, sustainability, and education, along with equality, employability, knowledge exchange, and health and wellbeing.

Report card

India, with 103 universities, has the fourth-highest number of institutions in the list, behind the U.S., China, and the U.K.

Total Institutions Ranked: 2,000 from 100 countries
Top university globally: Lund University (Sweden)
Free responses on points:
■ At least 100 universities in India
■ Top university globally: Lund University (Sweden)
■ Top university globally: Lund University (Sweden)
■ Top university globally: Lund University (Sweden)

The rankings released on Tuesday showed institutions from the U.K., Canada, Sweden, and the U.S. dominating the top 15, with Lund University in Sweden taking the top position. This year's edition features close to 2,000 institutions from over 100 countries worldwide. Of the 103 Indian universities featured, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi was the best performing, placed at 205. Overall, QS noted that India had 12 universities in the top 500, matching the number for countries such as China and the Netherlands.

While this is IIT Delhi's highest position in the sustainability rankings since its inception, it is lower in relative terms compared to its performance last year, when around 1,700

Institutions were ranked.

Among the top 15 Indian universities in this year's sustainability rankings, IITs saw their positions drop from the previous year. These included Jaypee University, Kanpur, IIT, Madras, the Indian Institute of Science, and others.

Across the 103 Indian institutions ranked, 30 saw their positions decline, 32 improved, and 41 remained unchanged, as the indicator level, IIT, Delhi (303rd) and IIT, Kanpur (349th) made it to the top 100 globally for Employability and Outcomes. The University of Delhi entered the top 100 for Knowledge Exchange, at 94.

In a statement, Jessica Turner, CEO of QS, said "Overall, Indian universities excel in knowledge exchange and environmental sustainability."

India, Russia intensify consultations ahead of Putin's Delhi visit

Rishabh Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi, expected by January, Russian and Indian officials are intensifying top-level consultations on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Nikolai Patrushev, Chairman of the Maritime Board of Russia, and discussed the annual summit to be held in Moscow in December with Mr. Putin in December. Mr. Patrushev, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with President Putin on the sidelines of the 24th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

"The parties discussed various issues of Russia-India cooperation, particularly in the maritime sector," he said.

RSS chief likely to make his first visit to Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat is likely to visit Manipur from November 20 to 22, according to sources in the state government.

The visit is related to the centenary celebrations of the organisation, sources said. Mr. Bhagwat is currently on a three-day visit to Assam to attend similar events to commemorate 100 years of the RSS.

The visit comes in the wake of ongoing efforts to form a popular government in the northeastern state.

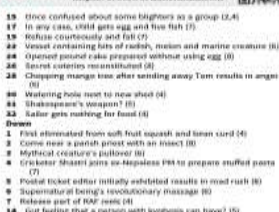
Mr. Bhagwat is likely to meet RSS karyakartas and interact with members of civil society groups in Imphal. This is the RSS leader's first visit to the state.

CROSSWORD



Across
1. Therefore, state makes levels (4)
2. Resolved about part of play (3)
3. Reprising ring, open plays musical instrument (4)
4. Some better people argue about foundation (4)
5. Visually answers, consuming energy, to produce dies (4)
6. Bits of prospects maybe short and start to neutralise energy (4)
7. Release part of RAF needs (4)
8. Gut feeling that a person with symptoms can have (3)
9. Answer's source (4)
10. Turn water into steam as 1 power economically (4)
11. Damaged old crane out into beach (3)
12. Come after triumph (7)
13. Indian Navy marks' mean (4)
14. When Victor goes into, severity may result in rhythm (4)
15. compensation (4)
16. Have to sit and prepare with (4)
17. Once here damageous landscape (4)

SUDOKU



Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5
7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

FAITH



Yasoda's concern
Periyaswami sang what are known as *kanyasulkam* verses. These are verses about the evil eyes that will be cast on the Lord, and the need to remove them. Periyaswami sees the Lord of Thiruvellarai as Krishna, and visualises Yasoda trying to remove the effects of evil eyes cast on her son, in his verses about the Lord of Thiruvellarai. Periyaswami uses *kanyasulkam* verses, said K.R. Devaraj in a discourse. Yasoda describes the Lord of Thiruvellarai as the One who resides in a place with manasus. She says the devotee are waiting to have darshan of Him, and that He should, therefore, come in. She wants to ensure that His good looks will not be marred by evil eyes.

Krishna had been annoying little girls who were playing house and had playfully knocked down their mud houses. Yasoda had already warned Him not to quarrel with the girls. In case He is now afraid that she is going to punish Him for His disobedience, she wants to assure Him that she has no intention of doing so. That is not the reason why she is asking Him to come in. She has received numerous complaints about Him. Why should he continue to be mischievous? Instead, He should come in and let her see what needs to be done to remove the effects of evil eyes.

"Please listen, oh the One who stands in Thiruvellarai. There are many naughty boys, who cleverly escape the consequences of their acts, by blaming You. Why don't You come in, where people who care for You are waiting to see You?" Yasoda asks. She further says, "When Krishna heard that You were alive, he sent Putana to kill You. You escaped, but who knew who else he will send? As cattle, in on Krishna, standing in Thiruvellarai?"

Over 100 Indian universities make it to QS sustainability rankings

Abhinay Lakshman

NEW DELHI

The London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds on Tuesday released its QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2026, showing that India, with 103 universities, had the fourth-highest number of institutions in the list, behind the United States, China, and the United Kingdom.

The QS sustainability rankings, established in 2023, assess institutions across environmental and social sustainability categories such as environmental impact, social impact, and governance. These include indicators covering environmental research, sustainability, and education, along with equality, employability, knowledge exchange, and health and wellbeing.

Report card

India, with 103 universities, has the fourth-highest number of institutions on the list, behind the U.S., China, and the U.K.

■ **Total Institutions Ranked:**
~2,000 from 100+ locations

■ **Top university globally:**
Lund University (Sweden)

TOP PERFORMERS IN INDIA

■ **IIT Delhi:** 93rd in Employability & Outcomes

■ **IIT Kharagpur:**
96th in Employability & Outcomes

■ **Delhi University:**
94th in Knowledge Exchange



The rankings released on Tuesday showed institutions from the U.K., Canada, Sweden, and the U.S. dominating the top 15, with Lund University in Sweden taking the top position. This year's edition features close to 2,000 institutions from over 100 locations worldwide.

Of the 103 Indian universities featured, the Indian Institute of Technology,

Delhi was the best performing, placed at 205. Overall, QS noted that India had 12 universities in the top 500, matching the number for countries such as China and the Netherlands.

While this is IIT, Delhi's highest position in the sustainability rankings since their inception, it is lower in relative terms compared to its performance last year, when around 1,700

institutions were ranked. Among the top 15 Indian universities in this year's sustainability rankings, nine saw their positions drop from the previous year's. These included Jadavpur University, IIT, Kanpur, IIT, Madras, the Indian Institute of Science, and others.

Across the 103 Indian institutions ranked, 30 saw their positions decline, 32 improved, and 15 remained unchanged. At the indicator level, IIT, Delhi (93rd) and IIT, Kharagpur (96th) made it to the top 100 globally for Employability and Outcomes. The University of Delhi entered the top 100 for Knowledge Exchange, at 94.

In a statement, Jessica Turner, CEO of QS, said "Overall, Indian universities excel in knowledge exchange and environmental sustainability."

1. About QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

- Released by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds** (London-based).
 - India features **103 institutions**, ranking **4th highest globally** (after U.S., China, U.K.).
 - Rankings assess **environmental & social sustainability** across:
 - Environmental research & impact
 - Sustainability practices
 - Equality & governance
 - Employability
 - Knowledge exchange
 - Health & wellbeing
-

2. Indian Performance

- **IIT Delhi:**
 - **93rd** in Employability & Outcomes
- **IIT Kharagpur:**
 - **96th** in Employability & Outcomes
- **Delhi University:**
 - **94th** in Knowledge Exchange

3. Global Performance

- **Top University:** Lund University (Sweden)
 - Rankings include **~2,000 institutions** from **100+ locations**.
-

4. Indian Rankings Movement (Year-on-Year)

- Among top 15 Indian universities, **9 improved, 30 declined, 32 improved, 15 unchanged**.
 - **12 Indian universities in top 500**—on par with:
 - Canada
 - Netherlands
-

5. Key Observations

- IIT Delhi highest-ranked Indian institution but lower relatively compared to overall QS performance.
- India strong in:
 - **Knowledge exchange**
 - **Environmental sustainability**
- CEO of QS: Indian universities show strength in **knowledge exchange & environmental sustainability**.

Category	Details
Ranking Body	QS Quacquarelli Symonds
Year	QS Sustainability Rankings 2026
Total Institutions Ranked Globally	~2,000 from 100+ countries
India's Standing	103 institutions (4th highest globally)
Top Global University	Lund University (Sweden)
Top Indian Institutions	IIT Delhi (93rd), IIT Kharagpur (96th), Delhi University (94th in Knowledge Exchange)
Evaluation Parameters	Environmental impact, sustainability, equality, knowledge exchange, education, employability, wellbeing
Indian Top Performers Movement	9 improved, others mixed
India in Top 500	12 institutions (equal to Canada & Netherlands)

- India ranks 4th globally in terms of number of universities listed in QS Sustainability Rankings 2026. Which countries rank ahead of India?

A) U.S., China, U.K.

B) U.K., Germany, Canada

C) China, Japan, France

D) U.S., Canada, Australia

Unpacking the global 'happiness' rankings

Unpacking the global ‘happiness’ rankings

Why is Finland the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row while India languishes at 118? How can Pakistan, which is struggling with political instability and recurring International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts score higher than India, the world's fastest-growing major economy? What does this really say about how we define “happiness”?

The World Happiness Report 2025, by the Wellbeing Research Centre at Oxford, again places Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden at the top. India's score is 4.389 of 10, averaging 124 over the years; Pakistan is 109. The contrast seems puzzling against the economic and social realities of both nations.

India, with a \$3.7 trillion GDP, is the world's fifth-largest economy; Pakistan's \$375 billion GDP is barely 10% of that. India's digital economy is booming, and its infrastructure is expanding, whereas Pakistan survives on repeated bailouts. Yet, Pakistan appears “happier”?

Is happiness an economic measure, a perceptual one, or a proxy for something else?

The mirage of metrics

The report relies on the Gallup World Poll's Cantril Ladder, where people rate their lives from 0 to 10, linked with six variables – GDP per capita, social support, life expectancy, freedom, generosity and corruption perception. But perceptions are slippery.

Societies with low expectations often report higher happiness because people adapt to hardship. In vibrant democracies such as India, rising aspirations and constant media scrutiny can lower perceived satisfaction even as well-being improves. When citizens expect better governance or cleaner cities, dissatisfaction reflects higher expectations, not misery.

That paradox explains why the United States has fallen to 24 despite record wealth, while the Nordic nations with high taxes but deep social trust dominate.

The report itself admits that “belief in community kindness” and social trust predict

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Dissatisfaction, for instance, could reflect higher expectations, and not misery

happiness better than income.

India's challenge, then, is not growth but connection. Nearly 19% of young adults globally say they have no one to rely on – up 39% since 2006. With migration and digital life reshaping relationships, Indians too face shrinking real-world networks and expanding virtual ones – prosperity without proximity.

The politics of perception

Critics note that global indices rest on perception-based biases. A 2022 paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (Sanjeev Sanyal and Aakanksha Arora) showed that indices such as Freedom House and V-Dem depend on small, opaque pools of western “experts”. Their subjective views skew results.

A one-party state may appear freer simply because dissent is absent; media-controlled regimes look “stable” because citizens voice fewer complaints. Democracies, by contrast, are penalised for openness. The World Happiness Report risks repeating that error – valuing calm conformity over democratic cacophony. India's low score may reflect self-critical awareness – a maturing democracy unwilling to be complacent.

India's rank has swung between 94th and 144th in a decade. The best phase came in 2022 with post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and welfare programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The worst was in 2012 amid corruption scandals and slowdown. But happiness rarely tracks fiscal performance. Studies show that social trust, fairness and community matter far more.

In Finland, people believe a lost wallet will be returned – a proxy for institutional trust. In India, governance unevenness erodes that confidence, though local and familial trust remain strong. The COVID-19 lockdown exposed this: millions returned to villages not only for work loss but because community bonds offered the security absent in cities. Such informal trust, ignored by global metrics, sustains resilience.

The report's behavioural framework also carries the WEIRD bias – Western, Educated,

Industrialised, Rich and Democratic. It privileges institutional trust that is typical of individualistic societies and overlooks collective trust networks in countries such as India, where family and community are the real safety nets.

Even so, institutional trust is evolving. Campaigns around mental health, workplace wellbeing and inclusion mark a cultural shift. Programmes such as Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) and Mind India place emotional resilience on the policy map. Happiness, once dismissed as a luxury, is now a governance concern.

Aspirations to empathy

To climb the happiness ladder, India must pair economic ambition with empathy infrastructure – investing not only in GDP but also in GNH (Gross National Happiness) through three pathways. First, rebuild social capital. Create community spaces, shared meals and inter-generational ties. The report finds that household size and belief in community kindness significantly raise happiness.

Second, restore institutional trust. Simplify citizen-state interactions. When public services – from ration cards to railway tickets – work transparently, trust follows.

Third, recognise mental health as economic policy. Productivity gains mirror psychological wellbeing. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that every \$1 spent on mental health yields \$4 in returns – an investment no economy should ignore. As *The Pursuit of Happiness* reminds us, happiness is not something we possess. It is something we pursue. India's restlessness – its debates, innovations and demands for better lives – may be the clearest sign of wellbeing. Less satisfaction does not mean unhappiness. It signals ambition.

If rank 118 means that Indians still seek cleaner air, fairer governance and fuller lives, perhaps the nation is not unhappy but just unfinished, still chasing a truer idea of happiness.

1. Why This Debate?

- **World Happiness Report 2025** ranks:
 - **Finland** → happiest country (7th year in a row)
 - **India** → 118th
 - **Pakistan** → 109th
- This appears contradictory given:
 - India = 5th-largest global economy
 - Rapid digital and infrastructure growth
 - Pakistan = fragile economy dependent on repeated bailouts

Key Question:

Does GDP reliably predict happiness?

2. How the Global Happiness Index Works

2.1 Based on the Gallup Poll's "Cantril Ladder"

People rate life from 0 to 10.

Linked to six variables:

1. GDP per capita
2. Social support
3. Healthy life expectancy
4. Freedom
5. Generosity
6. Corruption perception

2.2 But Perceptions Are Subjective

- Democracies with high expectations may rate themselves lower.
- Dissatisfaction rises with:
 - Greater scrutiny
 - Higher aspirations
 - Media freedom (more complaints expressed)

3. Why Finland Ranks Higher (Structural & Cultural Reasons)

3.1 Institutional Trust

- Strong trust in:
 - Police
 - Governance
 - Public institutions
- Lower corruption

3.2 Social Cohesion

- High social support networks
- Strong welfare state
- Equality & safety nets

3.3 Cultural Traits

- Low materialism
 - Emphasis on balance, nature, quiet contentment
-

4. Why India Ranks Low Despite Economic Growth

4.1 Challenges

- Shrinking real-world social networks
- High unemployment among youth
- Increasing stress due to urbanisation
- Rising aspirations → higher dissatisfaction
- Governance unevenness (especially local-level service delivery)

4.2 Subjective Perception Bias

- Democracies penalize themselves:
 - More complaints
 - Greater media scrutiny
- Lower self-rating does not equal lower absolute well-being.

4.3 Institutional Gaps

- Trust deficits
- Mental health issues
- Weak local service delivery

5. Is India Really Unhappy? A Deeper Look

5.1 Best Performance Years

- **2022** (post-COVID relief programmes like PM Garib Kalyan Yojana)
- India ranked between **94th to 144th** in last decade.

5.2 Worst Years

- **2012** (corruption scandals & economic slowdown)

5.3 Why Happiness ≠ GDP

Studies show:

- **Social trust**
 - **Fairness**
 - **Community support**
- matter more than income.

5.4 Resilience Example

COVID-19 showed:

- Villages provided strong social protection
 - Local and familial trust remained solid
- Demonstrates India's deep social capital.

6. Issues With The Global Happiness Index

6.1 Western Bias

- Over-emphasis on:
 - Individualism
 - Self-reporting perception surveys
 - Institutional trust models dominant in the West

6.2 Underestimation of Indian Realities

- India's happiness is community-centred, not individualistic.
- Digital and migrant lifestyles reduce proximity but not emotional bonds.

7. What India Should Do to Improve Happiness

7.1 Strengthen Social Capital

- Community spaces
- Inter-generational interactions
- Kindness and volunteering

7.2 Simplify Public Services

- From ration cards to railways → transparency increases trust.

7.3 Recognize Mental Health as Core to Economy

- WHO: every **\$1 spent on mental health yields \$4 back**.
- Treat mental health as investment, not luxury.

7.4 Build Empathy Infrastructure

- Citizens experience "happiness spillovers" through:
 - Fair policing
 - Clean environment
 - Better public transport
 - Reduced inequality

Conclusion:

India's happiness problem is not unhappiness — it is *unfinished wellbeing*.

A. India-specific Happiness Indicators Missing in the Report

- Family cohesion
- Nature of shared urban spaces
- Informal social safety nets
- Inter-generational households
- Spiritual fulfilment

B. Examples of Initiatives Improving Happiness

- UNESCO's Happy Schools Framework
- Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH)
- India's MANAS (Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States)
- Mind India programmes

C. Key Terms

- Perception-based index
- Social capital
- Institutional trust
- Restlessness of innovation
- Democratic cacophony

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Happiness Rankings discussed in the article:

1. The World Happiness Report uses the Cantril Ladder based on a 0–10 self-rated life evaluation linked to variables such as GDP per capita, social support, and freedom.
2. India ranks low in global happiness primarily because its GDP per capita is lower than Pakistan's.
3. Strong institutional trust and equality are major reasons behind Finland's consistently high happiness ranking.
4. Perception-based biases may cause democracies to underestimate their own happiness levels.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Modified UDAN proposed at ₹30,000 crore

Rohit Vaid

NEW DELHI

The outlay for the modified UDAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) regional air connectivity scheme has been proposed at ₹30,000 crore, industry sources told *businessline*.

The proposal is intended to continue the scheme beyond April 2027 through an expanded UDAN framework.

On Monday, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Ministry of Finance met to review the proposal, sources added, noting that the committee is expected to take "a call on it soon".

The final policy draft would then be subject to the Union Cabinet's approval.

Of the proposed outlay of ₹30,000 crore, sources cited that ₹18,000 crore has been earmarked for new airport development, while the remaining ₹12,000 crore is intended for viability gap funding (VGF).

The scheme incentivises the creation of new air-

ports as well as the refurbishment and expansion of existing facilities.

Besides, airlines are supported to connect underserved regions by offering them VGF and a host of concessions provided by airport operators, the central, and State governments.

Sources added that the revised scheme or the expanded framework is expected to address earlier challenges and attract more private participation while enhancing air access to remote areas.

The original version of UDAN was launched in October 2016 with an initial tenure of 10 years under the National Civil Aviation Policy. The scheme was conceived to promote regional air connectivity by making flying affordable for the common citizen, the central idea being encouraging airlines to operate flights on regional and remote routes through enabling policies and extending incentives.

The first UDAN flight was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in



The modified scheme will support helipads and smaller airports in hilly areas.

April 2017 between Shimla and Delhi. The maiden UDAN scheme had been provided with a support of over ₹8,000 crore.

However, the scheme still faces challenges with 649 of the 915 valid routes having been operationalised under the scheme. These routes have connected 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. A number of these airports remained unserved.

The Centre has accordingly devised the next tranche of the scheme. The proposal for the modified

scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The new version aims to connect 120 additional destinations and enable the travel of four crore passengers over the next decade.

In addition, the scheme will support helipads and smaller airports in hilly areas, as well as aspirational and North-Eastern districts. Earlier this year, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu told *businessline* that the modified UDAN scheme is a "major move on the part of the Centre to give a continued boost to the civil aviation sector in the country."

Additionally, he had said the extension proposal, as put forward by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), was based on an assessment of the need for continued support to operationalise and build more airports, water aerodromes, and helipads, besides aiding airlines in reaching far-flung areas with no air services.

The modified scheme will bridge the gaps and de-

lays in the development of airports because of land unavailability, technical and operational constraints at certain airports and time taken in obtaining the relevant operators permit by new entrants. It will also address issues such as non-availability of suitable aircraft, aircraft leasing and maintenance.

The scheme operates under a market-driven model that allows airlines to assess passenger demand and propose routes during bidding rounds.

Official figures from last month, showed that the Centre has disbursed more than ₹4,300 crore as VGF along with an investment of ₹4,638 crore in airport development under regional air connectivity scheme. Under the scheme, 649 routes have been operationalised connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes, facilitating over 1.56 crore passengers through 3.23 lakh UDAN flights.

(The writer is with *The Hindu businessline*)

1. What Is the New Proposal?

- The **modified UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)** regional air connectivity scheme is proposed with an **outlay of ₹30,000 crore**.
 - Aim: Extend UDAN **beyond April 2027** through an expanded framework.
 - The proposal is under review by:
 - **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)** under Ministry of Finance.
 - Will require **Union Cabinet approval**.
-

2. Breakdown of Funds

- **₹18,000 crore** → airport development (new airports, expansions, helipads, water aerodromes).
 - **₹12,000 crore** → Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for operations on underserved routes.
-

3. Objectives of Modified UDAN

3.1 Expansion of Connectivity

- Add **120 new destinations**.
- Enable travel of **4 crore passengers** in next decade.
- Support helipads, water aerodromes, smaller airports—especially in:
 - **Hilly regions**
 - **Aspirational districts**
 - **North-Eastern states**

3.2 Market-Driven Model

- Airlines will assess demand → propose routes → receive support through bidding rounds.

3.3 Prioritise Private Participation

- Address earlier challenges under UDAN 1.0:
 - Delays due to land shortage, technical & operational issues.
 - Non-availability of suitable aircraft.
 - Aircraft leasing & maintenance concerns.

4. Background of UDAN Scheme

4.1 Launched in 2016

- Tenure: **10 years** (2016–2026).
- Major goals:
 - Boost regional connectivity.
 - Make flying affordable.
 - Encourage airlines to operate small regional routes.

4.2 Achievements So Far

- **649 of 915** awarded routes made operational.
- **93 airports**, including:
 - 65 underserved/unserved airports
 - 15 heliports
 - 2 water aerodromes
- More than **3.23 lakh UDAN flights** have carried **1.56 crore passengers**.
- Govt disbursed **₹4,300+ crore** as VGF; invested **₹4,638 crore** in airport development.

5. Challenges Faced By UDAN

- Delays in land acquisition.
 - Operators unable to secure airline permits quickly.
 - Aircraft shortages.
 - High maintenance costs.
 - Technical constraints at smaller airports.
 - Difficult terrain in Himalayan & North-Eastern regions.
-

6. What Will Modified UDAN Achieve?

- Enhanced accessibility to remote areas.
- Boost tourism and economic activity.
- Strengthen civil aviation infrastructure.
- Encourage more airlines to join regional operations.
- Help India achieve deeper **air inclusion** (like rail inclusion earlier).

A. UDAN Under National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016

- Part of regional connectivity scheme (RCS).
- Utilises:
 - VGF (shared by Centre & States)
 - Concessions on airport charges
 - Excise duty cuts
 - Reduced ATF taxes (for RCS routes)

B. Why VGF?

- Regional routes → low demand + high costs.
- Government support ensures **affordable ticket prices** (₹2,500 cap for 1-hour flight earlier).

C. Importance of Regional Connectivity

- Reduces travel time drastically.
- Promotes economic inclusion.
- Connects Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities.
- Boosts investment, tourism, health access, emergency travel.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Modified UDAN scheme:

1. The proposed outlay for Modified UDAN is ₹30,000 crore, with a major share allocated for airport development.
2. The new version aims to add 120 additional destinations to India's aviation network.
3. Under the scheme, viability gap funding (VGF) is provided only by State governments.
4. The modified scheme will support helipads and water aerodromes in remote and hilly regions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
-

ISRAEL

HRW accuses Mali military, militia of murdering at least 31 civilians



Human Rights Watch on Tuesday said that Mali's military and an affiliated militia killed at least 31 civilians and burned homes in two attacks on villages in the central Sahel last month. The two attacked villages are in a region controlled by JNIM, the al-Qaeda linked group for the support of Islam and Muslims. AP

China vows to 'protect safety' of foreigners in the country

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Beijing on Tuesday vowed to "protect the safety" of foreigners in China after Tokyo warned Japanese visitors to be careful in the country amid a diplomatic row.

The spat between China and Japan was ignited by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's suggestion that Tokyo could intervene militarily in any attack on Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory. Asked about the warning to Japanese visitors, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mao Ning said the "Chinese government has always and will continue to protect the safety of foreign citizens in China in accordance with the law".

UNSC approves Trump's plan for the future of Gaza

The resolution authorises an international stabilisation force and establishes a transitional authority overseen by U.S. President. It passed with 13 votes in favour as Russia, China abstained

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

The Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gaza won strong approval at the United Nations on Monday, a crucial step that provides international support for U.S. efforts to move the devastated territory toward peace following two years of war. The U.S. resolution that passed the UN Security Council authorises an international stabilisation force to provide security in the area, and a transitional authority to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a

S. KOREA

Seoul-U.S. sub deal will trigger 'nuclear domino' effect: N. Korea



North Korea denounced an agreement between Seoul and Washington to build nuclear-powered submarines, saying in a state media commentary on Tuesday that the deal would cause a "nuclear domino" effect. South Korea announced the finalisation of a security and trade deal with U.S. last week. AP

WARSAW

Poland suggests Russia is behind blast on railway line to Ukraine



Evidence suggests that Russian secret services appear to have ordered the blowing up of a railway line in Poland over the weekend that is on a crucial route that delivers aid to Ukraine, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk called the incident an "unprecedented act of sabotage". AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. kills 15 militants in raids on hideouts in northwestern province



Pakistani security forces, acting on intelligence, killed two militant hideouts in the country's northwest near the Afghan border and killed 15 militants, the military said on Tuesday. The military identified the killed militants as "Khawarij," a term authorities use for militants they allege are backed by Afghanistan and India. AP

Trump hosts Saudi prince for defence, nuclear deals

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received a red carpet welcome from President Donald Trump on Tuesday, on his first visit to the United States since the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Mr. Trump laid out a military bypass route for the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, and said on Monday he would sell coveted F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, calling it a "great ally".

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also greeted the Saudi prince as he arrived at the White House. Mr. Trump has made a



Mohammed bin Salman

priority of boosting ties with the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, and said on Monday he would sell coveted F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, calling it a "great ally".

The move comes despite concerns from Israel and warnings from U.S. officials that China could steal technological knowledge about the jets. In another area of past contention, Mr. Trump will

sign a deal on a framework for civilian nuclear cooperation, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the negotiations said.

Saudi Arabia is also expected to announce a "multi-billion dollar investment" in AI infrastructure in the United States on Tuesday, the U.S. official added.

During the visit, Prince Mohammed said his country wanted to normalise relations with Israel through Mr. Trump's Abraham Accords, but first needed a "clear path" to Palestinian statehood.

Prince Mohammed will have his own agenda, seeking firmer U.S. security guarantees after Israeli strikes in September on Qatar, an Arab-led U.S. ally, rattled the wealthy Gulf region.

Ukraine says it struck targets in Russia with U.S. ATACMS missiles

Breitbart
KYIV

Ukraine's military said on Tuesday it had attacked military targets in Russia with U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles, calling it a "significant development". Ukraine has not previously stated publicly that it uses the U.S.-provided ballistic missile systems on targets inside Russia, although the restriction on doing so was lifted by the outgoing Biden administration a year ago.

The use of long-range strike capabilities, including ATACMS, will continue,

the military general staff said in a statement on Tuesday.

Kyiv received the systems in 2023 but was initially restricted to using them only on its own territories, nearly a fifth of which are occupied by Russia.

Ukraine has requested U.S.-made Tomahawk missiles that have a range of 2,500 km, saying these will help bring Russia to the negotiating table. Although U.S. President Donald Trump initially pondered the idea of selling them to Kyiv, in November he said he was "not really" considering the move.

Transition of power



Protesters gathered in the Old Town square in Prague, Czech Republic, on Monday to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution. AP

Car-ramming, stabbing attack in West Bank kills one, injures three

Agence France-Presse
GUSH ETZION JUNCTION

A car-ramming and stabbing attack left one person dead and three injured on Tuesday near Israeli settlements in the southern occupied West Bank, Israeli emergency services and the police said.

The army statement said that soldiers "eliminated two terrorists in the scene" and that "explosive materials were found in their vehicle".

The Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas hailed the attackers, saying in a statement. "The heroic car-ramming and stabbing



Israeli forces inspect the site of attack near West Bank. AP

attack that took place near the Gush Etzion settlement south of Beer Sheva is a natural response to the Israeli's attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause."

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group also praised the attackers.

U.K. Labour government's asylum policy changes show cracks in the party

News Analysis
Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K.'s Labour government shifted further right on Monday after it announced a raft of changes to the country's asylum laws. The changes will mean, among other things, that U.K. asylum policy will follow Denmark's example, where refugees are offered protection on a temporary, not permanent, basis. The policy will also mean refugees will need to wait 20 years rather than five, for residency and that asylum seekers' assets could be seized to pay for their accommodation.

The announcement has deepened rifts in the Labour Party. These cracks had already manifested af-

ter MPs revolted against welfare cuts earlier this year. It remains to be seen if the significantly tougher line on asylum will pay off for Labour electorally.

The announcement has also deepened rifts in the party by what was once the far right is having policy impacts in Western Europe and shifting the political centre to the right, maintaining ideas that the centre and centre-left were hesitant to go near, let alone own.

This week, some 200 Labour MPs revolted against the Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, criticised the government's asylum plans, and called it "performative cruelty" and another, Tony

Leagues welcomed the changes, as did some Conservative MPs.

Mr. Mahmood has argued that the asylum system is "broken" and in need of fixing and that it was "disabling" countries. She has pointed to both the years of Conservative rule before July 2024 leading to high numbers and the jarring of the asylum system by some migrants leading to the current state of affairs.

Divided country Asylum claims in the U.K. were up 18% in 2024 compared to 2023 in the rest of Europe, as per official figures. Many, close to 40%, as far this year, have arrived illegally on small boats and the English Channel rather than approaching the U.K. via a legal route to ask for asylum. "Illegal migration is



A group of migrants on an inflatable dinghy leaving the coast of northern France in an attempt to cross the English Channel, Reuters

making this country a more divided place. It is the job of a government to unite the country," Mr. Mahmood said. It has been argued that rather than migration itself causing the divisions, the whipping up of hate online, across the aisle, especially by far-right figures, including R. Conservative Edna Musk, is leading to divisions in British society.

"Although his rhetoric is less openly extreme, (former UK party leader Nigel) Farage absorbs this energy, and he has taken up Robinson's framing of immigrants as 'fighting aged males', which suggest that they pose a potentially violent threat," said Robert Toptinka, a professor at Birkbeck, the University of London, who specialises in race, reactionary politics and digital culture.

Add to this, the fact that the Starmer government faces a challenge to its power from both inside the Labour Party and from outside, against a backdrop of migration continuing to be a top issue for voters.

Mr. Starmer's popularity has taken a beating since he led Labour to a landslide victory in July 2024. Some 23% of Labour voters think Mr. Starmer should step down now, while 34%

think he should continue to lead until the next election, as per a poll of 2,100 people conducted by YouGov for The Times last week.

Outside Westminster, Reform, which is anti-immigration, has overtaken Labour in the polls. Polling from Ipsos in September showed a voting intention of 24% for Reform — a 12-point lead over Labour, some Labour and Conservative voters are moving to Reform, while a greater number of Labour voters are moving in the opposite direction — to the Greens or Liberal Democrats. The bi-directional movement away from Labour is evident from multiple polls. The party will be tested in another election in 2026.

Risky strategy Taking the lead from Reform on migration is a risky

strategy — it could either be futile or backfire — according to Tina Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London.

Mr. Mahmood has forcefully argued for the policy, saying she was not making a political or election calculation but trying to fix a broken system.

Research shows again and again that that strategy does it to increase the salience of the migration issue on which the populist right thrives, giving voters the chance. "To vote for the original Labour was to vote for the original Labour," Mr. Bale told The Hindu.

Mr. Bale argues, the split in the party is likely to get worse.

Trump hosts Saudi prince for defence, nuclear deals

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received a red carpet welcome from President Donald Trump on Tuesday, on his first visit to the United States since the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Mr. Trump laid on a noisy military flypast featuring F-35 stealth fighters that Washington will sell to Riyadh as the de facto Saudi ruler arrived at the White House.

Cannon fire and a parade of horses also greeted the Saudi prince as Mr. Trump doubles down on Washington's burgeoning alliance – and his own personal bond – with the key West Asian ally.

Mr. Trump has made a



Mohammed Bin Salman

priority of boosting ties with the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, and said on Monday he would sell coveted F-35 stealth fighters to Saudi Arabia, calling it a “great ally”.

The move comes despite concerns from Israel and warnings from U.S. officials that China could steal technological knowledge about the jets.

In another area of past contention, Mr. Trump will

sign a deal on a framework for civilian nuclear cooperation, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the negotiations said.

Saudi Arabia is also expected to announce a “multi-billion dollar investment” in AI infrastructure in the United States on Tuesday, the U.S. official added.

During the visit, Prince Mohammed said his country wanted to normalise relations with Israel through Mr. Trump's Abraham Accords, but first needed a “clear path” to Palestinian statehood.

Prince Mohammed will have his own agenda, seeking firmer U.S. security guarantees after Israeli strikes in September on Qatar, an iron-clad U.S. ally, rattled the wealthy Gulf region.

1. Defence Cooperation

- Trump announced a **noisy military flypast of F-35 stealth fighters**.
 - U.S. plans to **sell F-35 jets to Saudi Arabia**, calling the country a "great ally".
 - U.S. officials warn China may try to **steal technological knowledge** of the jets if s
-

2. Nuclear Deal Negotiations

- U.S. and Saudi Arabia are set to sign a **framework for civilian nuclear cooperati**
- This may involve:
 - U.S. technical assistance
 - Saudi investment in U.S. nuclear or AI infrastructure

3. Economic & AI Partnership

- Saudi Arabia is expected to announce a **multi-billion-dollar investment in AI infrastructure** in the U.S.
-

4. Regional Issues & Israel

- MbS wants to **normalise relations with Israel** via Trump's *Abraham Accords*.
 - BUT needs a **"clear path" to Palestinian statehood** before committing.
-

5. Security Demands

- Saudi Arabia seeks:
 - Stronger U.S. security guarantees
 - Support after **Iran's strikes on Qatar** (a U.S. ally)

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recent U.S.–Saudi meeting:

1. The U.S. is considering selling F-35 stealth fighters to Saudi Arabia.
2. Saudi Arabia has agreed to normalise relations with Israel without conditions.
3. The two countries discussed a framework for civilian nuclear cooperation.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

'Parasocial': Cambridge's Word of the Year

THE CAMBRIDGE Dictionary has crowned 'parasocial' as 2025's 'Word of the Year', pointing to an increased interest in the term this year, and tying it to the "rise in popularity of AI (artificial intelligence) companions". It updated its definition of the term this September to include the "possibility of a relationship with AI".

The timing is significant: as loneliness tightens its grip worldwide, we are witnessing a profound shift in how humans seek connection.

The term was coined by sociologists Donald Horton and R Richard Wohl to describe the "seeming face-to-face relationship between spectator and performer". The term parasocial now encompasses online celebrities, influencers, etc. With social media, fans believe they have greater access and intimate knowledge of the celebrity. The interaction, characterised as "one-sided", is illusory, where the "fan comes to believe that he 'knows' the persona more intimately... than others do".



'Parasocial' was coined in 1956. CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY

While parasocial relationships on their own, such as those children develop with cartoon characters on screen, aren't inherently unhealthy, the trouble arises when they act as a substitute for human interactions.

In this light, the rise of the ubiquitous AI chatbot from novelty to necessity has become a concern.

SONAL GUPTA

{ CULTURE }

A. Word of the Year 2025

- Cambridge Dictionary named **"Parasocial"** as its **2025 Word of the Year**.
- Reflects rising global interest in **AI companions** and **human–AI relationships**.

B. Updated Definition (2023–24)

- Originally: one-sided emotional relationship between a spectator and a performer.
- Updated: includes **"possibility of a relationship with AI"**.

C. Origin of the Term

- Coined in **1956** by sociologists **Donald Horton & R. Richard Wohl**.
- Described "seeming face-to-face relationship" between:
 - spectator & performer
 - fans & celebrities
 - now influencers, YouTubers, streamers.

D. Features of Parasocial Relationships

- **One-sided** and **illusory**—fan believes they know the persona better than performer knows the fan.
- Grown due to:
 - social media, online influencers,
 - increased loneliness globally,
 - rise of AI chatbots as "companions".

E. Risk Factors

- Parasocial ties with cartoon characters etc. are harmless.
- Problem arises when:
 - They **replace real human interactions**,
 - Become emotional substitutes,
 - AI chatbots act as primary relationship sources → a psychological concern.

A. Historical Context

- 1950s: Radio/TV era first noted intense fan–celebrity relationships.
- Earlier forms include:
 - Radio announcers,
 - Movie stars,
 - Fictional characters.

B. Sociological Context

- Parasocial relationships increase during:
 - urban loneliness,
 - digitization,
 - nuclear families,
 - migration & isolation.
- India shows high growth in parasocial ties due to:
 - exponential smartphone usage,
 - creator economy,
 - reel-based content,
 - celebrity-politics overlap.

Dictionary / Source	Word of the Year	Year
Oxford	Rizz	2023–24
Cambridge	Hallucinate (AI se linked)	2023–24
Merriam-Webster	Authentic	2023–24
Collins Dictionary	AI	2023
Dictionary.com	Hallucinate (AI context)	2023

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the term 'Parasocial':

1. The term was first coined in the 21st century to describe emotional bonds between humans and AI systems.
2. Cambridge Dictionary updated the definition of 'parasocial' to include the possibility of a relationship with artificial intelligence.
3. Parasocial interactions are characterised as one-sided, where the performer and the spectator interact equally.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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



Google launches Gemini 3.0

Aspect	Details
Event / Launch	Google launches Gemini 3.0 — the company's most advanced AI model yet
Developer	Google DeepMind / Google AI
Model Type	Multimodal Artificial Intelligence Model (handles text, images, audio, video, and code)
Key Innovation	Marks a major leap in AI reasoning, multimodality, and real-world interaction
Capabilities	Enhanced problem-solving, logical reasoning, contextual understanding, and creative generation across multiple input types
Comparison / Successor to	Successor to Gemini 1.5 Pro and Ultra models; integrates learning from Gemini 2 and 2.5

Applications

Search, education, coding assistance, content creation, data analysis, and low-code tools integration

Platform Integration

Available via **Google Workspace, Bard (now Gemini chat), Android, and Vertex AI**

Global Significance

Competes directly with **OpenAI GPT-5** and **Anthropic Claude 3** series

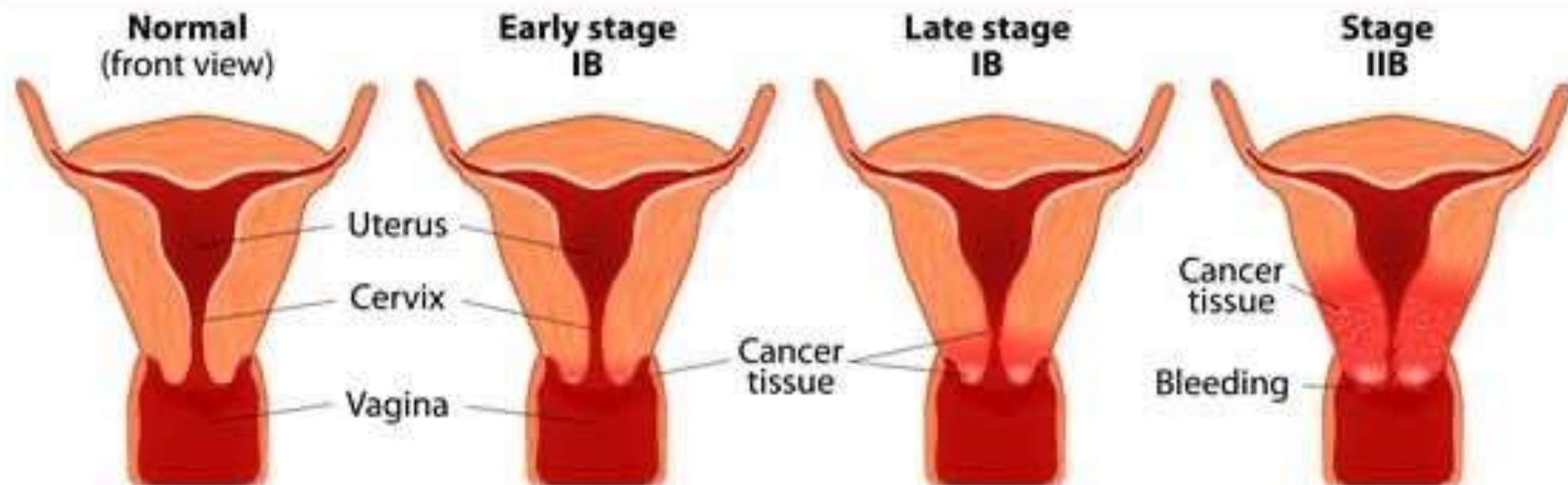
Category (for exam)

Science & Tech – Artificial Intelligence / Innovation / Digital Economy

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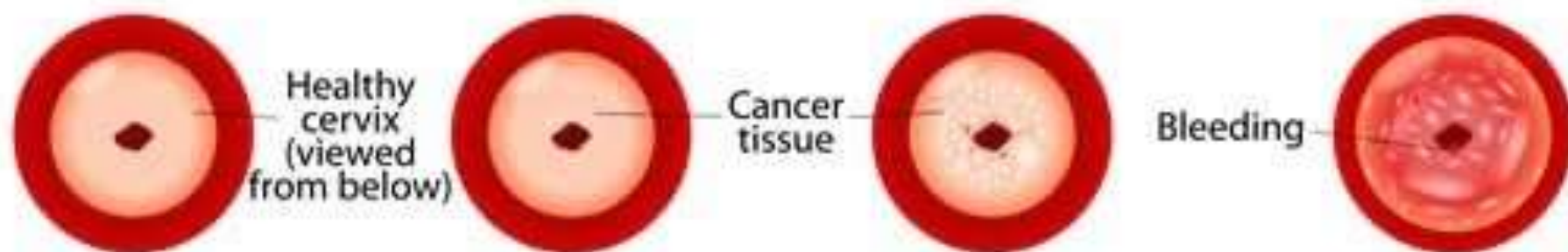
World marks first-ever World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day

CERVICAL CANCER



Carcinoma only in cervix

The cancer spreads outside cervix



THE DISEASE AND THE ROAD TO CONTAINMENT

CERVICAL CANCER



6 lakh women diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2020

3.4 lakh women died of the disease worldwide

90% of cases and deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries

1.2 lakh cervical cancer cases a year in India

67,000 deaths a year in India



HPV



Human papillomavirus is the main cause for cervical cancer

HPV is a common family of viruses that are transmitted through sexual contact



99% of cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV (HPV16 and HPV18 are the most common types)

PREVENTION & TREATMENT



Screening can detect early signs of the disease, allowing time for early treatment



Vaccines available in India include GSK's Cervarix and Merck's Gardasil, both expensive



Rollout of Cervavac is expected to make vaccination affordable and ensure wider coverage

Source: WHO/IARC; Express News Service

PREVENT CANCER with the HPV VACCINE

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections.

It can lead to cancer, including cervical cancer.

HPV

HPV-RELATED CANCERS

CAN BE EFFECTIVELY PREVENTED.



GIRLS & BOYS

CAN GET THE HPV VACCINE

for free as part of routine school vaccination programs.

The vaccine is given in:

2

DOSES, SIX MONTHS APART

in those under 15 years old;

3

DOSES for older individuals.



IT HAS PROVEN TO BE SAFE & EFFECTIVE.

In 2017, **ONE-THIRD** of grade 6 students were **NOT** immunized against HPV



CERVICAL CANCER

2019 ESTIMATE

190

People will be **DIAGNOSED** with **CERVICAL CANCER** &

45

People **WILL DIE FROM THE DISEASE** in B.C.



MOST PEOPLE diagnosed with cervical cancer **ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 30 & 60.**

ALL people who have engaged in sexual activity **ARE AT RISK** of HPV-RELATED CANCERS.

Women between the ages of **25-69** should be **SCREENED** for **CERVICAL CANCER** **EVERY THREE YEARS**

If cervical cancer is caught at its earliest stage, the chance of survival is more than **85%**



Aspect	Details
Event	World marks first-ever World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day
	18 th NOV
Observed by	Countries worldwide; health experts and organisations led by WHO
What is being targeted?	Cervical cancer – described as one of the most preventable cancers affecting women
Key purpose of the Day	Mark a decisive step in the global effort to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health threat
Lead global body	World Health Organization (WHO)
Decision-making forum	World Health Assembly (WHA) has designated this day to strengthen the campaign against cervical cancer



Main strategies stressed

1. **HPV vaccination** 2. **Regular screening** 3. **Early detection** to reduce cases and deaths

Expected government actions

Intensify **vaccination drives** and **expand screening services**, especially where access to preventive healthcare is low

Public health significance

Aims to **build momentum** towards **elimination of cervical cancer**, not just control; considered a **historic milestone** in women's health

Exam tags

Health – WHO – World Days – Women's Health – Non-communicable Diseases (Cancer / HPV)





Ireland and UK named
partner countries for
Hornbill Festival 2025

Aspect

Details

Host state

Nagaland, India

Festival

Hornbill Festival 2025 – flagship cultural festival of Nagaland showcasing Naga heritage

Partner countries (2025)

Ireland and the **United Kingdom (UK)**

Purpose of partnership

To highlight **Irish & British artistic traditions** alongside **Naga culture**, expanding the festival's **global profile** and cultural engagement

Where Ireland's partnership announced

New Delhi, by the **Nagaland Chief Minister** and the **Irish Ambassador**, stressing shared cultural values and deeper collaboration

UK partnership details

Formalised through an agreement with **British Council** representatives; indicates renewed phase of **India-UK cultural cooperation**

Expected cultural contributions

Participation with **folk music, theatre, peace & reconciliation programmes**, and other UK-linked cultural showcases curated by the **British Council** and **British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata**

Significance

Enhances **international visibility** of Hornbill Festival, strengthens **people-to-people ties** and **soft power diplomacy** via culture

Exam tags

Culture – Festivals of India – Nagaland – Hornbill Festival – International Cultural Relations (India–Ireland, India–UK)

Category	Details
Name	Hornbill Festival
Location	Kisama Heritage Village, near Kohima, Nagaland
Started In	2000
Celebrated By	All major Naga tribes (16 tribes)
Duration	10 days (1st to 10th December every year)
Organised By	Government of Nagaland
Purpose	To promote Naga heritage, culture, dance, food, crafts & unity among tribes
Named After	The Hornbill bird , which is culturally sacred to Naga tribes
Major Activities	Folk dances, traditional music, tribal games, craft stalls, food festivals, workshops, art exhibitions

Tourism Significance	Known as the “ Festival of Festivals ”; attracts thousands of domestic & foreign tourists
Economic Importance	Promotes local handicrafts, handlooms, tribal cuisines, and boosts local economy
Cultural Importance	Showcases Naga warrior traditions, Morung culture, indigenous sports, and ceremonies
Highlights	Naga Chili eating competition, wrestling, archery, traditional log drum beating, rock concerts, indigenous games
Latest Update	Became one of India’s biggest tribal cultural festivals; tourism numbers grow yearly
UNESCO Aspect	Helps in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage of Naga tribes (not an official UNESCO list but relevant culturally)

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One line is a light blue color and the other is a light green color. They are positioned in the top right and bottom left corners, framing the central text.

Iran Ends Visa-Free Entry for Indian Nationals”







Aspect	Details
Previous policy	Visa-free / visa-on-arrival facility for Indian nationals (ordinary passports) for entry/transit through Iran.
New rule	All Indian nationals with ordinary passports must obtain a visa in advance before entering or transiting through Iran.
Effective from	22 November 2025
Reason for policy change	Rise in trafficking and kidnapping cases involving Indians lured to Iran with false job or transit promises .

Modus operandi of criminals

Agents offered **fake employment or onward travel to third countries**, misusing Iran's visa waiver; victims were then **kidnapped for ransom**.

Objective of revised policy

To **curb criminal activities**, stop misuse of visa-free entry, and **enhance safety of foreign visitors**, especially Indians.

Affected category

Indian travellers with ordinary passports (tourists, workers, transit passengers). Diplomatic/special categories likely governed by separate rules.

Exam tags

IR – India–Iran Relations, Consular Issues, Migration & Trafficking, Visa Policy / Diaspora Safety

Category	Details
Diplomatic Relations Established	1950
Strategic Importance	Iran is a key gateway for India to Central Asia, Afghanistan & Eurasia
Major Connectivity Project	Chabahar Port (India builds & operates it)
Associated Corridor	International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connecting India–Iran–Russia–Europe
India’s Investment in Iran	Chabahar Port; Rail link to Zahedan (partially delayed due to sanctions)
Energy Cooperation	Iran was once India’s 2nd-largest oil supplier ; imports reduced due to US sanctions (2019 onwards)
Strategic Dialogue	Regular India–Iran Joint Commission Meetings
Security Cooperation	Anti-terror cooperation; stability in Afghanistan, maritime security
Importance for Iran	India as a major market; counterbalance to China; development of Chabahar & regional trade

Cultural Links	Persian influence on Indian art, language, architecture; strong diaspora ties
Major Irritants	US sanctions on Iran, delays in port/rail project financing, Iran–Pakistan–China dynamics
Recent Updates (2024–25)	India resumed talks on long-term Chabahar agreement; INSTC trials expanded
Trade Volume	Around \$2 billion+ (mainly petrochemicals, rice, pharmaceuticals, machinery)
India's Key Exports to Iran	Rice (Basmati), pharmaceuticals, tea, machinery
India's Key Imports from Iran	Chemicals, fruits & nuts, fertilizers; earlier crude oil
Importance for India	Access to Central Asia without Pakistan; energy security; geopolitical influence

A satellite image of the Earth from space, showing the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and parts of Africa and Australia. The image is dominated by the blue of the oceans and the green of the landmasses, with white clouds swirling over the Indian Ocean. The text is overlaid on the image, centered over the Indian subcontinent.

India Slips 13 Places in Global Climate Change Index

Aspect

Details

Index name (full)

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026

India's current rank (CCPI 2026)

23rd

Change in rank

Dropped 13 places (from about **10th to 23rd**), steepest fall in recent years

India's score

61.31 (overall); rating category shifts from **"High"** to **"Medium"** performance

Reasons for decline (as highlighted)

Continued **dependence on coal**, rising **GHG emissions**, and **weak carbon price signals**, despite good progress in **renewable energy capacity**

Where CCPI 2026 released

On the sidelines of **UN climate conference COP30 in Belém, Brazil**

Coverage of index

Evaluates climate-mitigation performance of **63 countries + European Union**, together responsible for **over 90% of global GHG emissions**

Assessment categories

1. **GHG emissions** 2. **Renewable energy** 3. **Energy use**
4. **Climate policy**

Top ranks status

No country occupies the **top three positions**, as none is considered fully compatible with limiting dangerous climate change

Exam tags / themes

Environment – Climate Change – Indices & Reports – CCPI – COP30 – India's climate performance

The fourth position is held by Denmark with 80.52 points, followed by the UK with 70.8 and Morocco with 70.75.

Saudi Arabia has been placed at the bottom with a score of 11.9, while Iran and the USA are at 66th and 65th positions with 14.33 and 21.84 points respectively.



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Word of the day

Brindled:

having a grey or brown streak; a pattern or patchy colouring, used especially of the patterned fur of cats

Synonym: tabby

Usage: *I saw his brindled cow in the meadow.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/brindledpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbrɪndəld/



Thank you 😊

