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THE HASING QUESTION India mulls response to extradition request HEWS II PAGE 4





Delhi suicide bomber seen rehearsing lines HEWS - PAGE 4

Caste and class factors in NDA's victory in Bihar Broadbased support across castes for NDA



#### INSTITUTE

#### James . ₹30,000 crore proposed for a modified UDAN

#### NEW DELINE

NEW DISSH The outlay for the modified UDAN regional air connectivity scheme has been proposed at \$30,000 cross, industry sources said. The final policy draft would list subject to the Union Celumet's approval, at MARE 12

#### Separate Section for the disabled in DPDP Rules

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY

The information Technology Ministry has made shanges by the Duptal Personal Dat Protection Mutes, 2020, to separate persons with disabilities from a rule that, in a draft, clubbed them with dren for the nake of

#### Al Falah Group chief detained for alleged fraud

NEW TRILLIE
The ED arrested Jawasi Ahresed
Incidings, Chahman of the Al
Patch Scoup, in an alloged
money toundering case on
Tuesday. The action come after
three doctors linked to the
special come agreement over university were allegadly part of a "terror" module is Page

#### **Bail in NIA cases** can be denied if

# SC recalls verdict rejecting green clearances

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

court is backtracking for the sake of violators

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

NEWS - PAGE 6

#### Krishnadas Kaisgopal

three-judge Bench of the Superence Control of Superen

his separate opinion that the May it judgment, if allowed to continue to oper-ate, would have a "devas-tating effect" and "thousands of covers of Rupers would go to want?".
Justice E. Vinod Chan-tran backed his view.

forming the majority on he bench. Justice Ujial Bhuyan re-corded a sharp dissent in his 97-page opinion. He termed the review judg-ment an "innocent expres-sion of opinion" which overhooked the "very fun-damentals of environmenform to rugularise illegal constructions was clearly illegal. The count had struck down a 2017 notili-cation and 2021 office memorandum (OM) of the

damentals of environmental purisprudence."

The esparate individual opinions of the Chief Justice and Inatice Bhuyan chaling, with the latter agoing he was patient to see "backtracking on sound environmental Jurisprudence." for the sake of wishington, even as the "beadly belia in a sewiyaday about the hause of the lattice Bhuyan was a patient bluence to the sake of wishington, even as the "beadly belia sing reminds in everyday about the hause of the bluent was a bluent was the blue memorandum (CSM) of the Union government, which in effect recognised the grant of expost facts BCs.

It had found the Centre guilty of "carfly drafting" the state of the Control of the C project proponents who started building or operasards of pollution".

Justice thuyan was a member of the two-judge. Bench, headed by the now-retired justice A.S. Oka, tions in these illegal con-structions without obtain-ing the prior EC mandated by environmental protec-

which had delivered the May 16 judgment. tion laws.
The Chief Justice rea-soned that striking down 'Crafty drafting'
The May judgment had
held that granting retrospective clearances in any retrospective ECs would lead to the demolition of Divergent views

CARR & Basel, duebles B. Vised

or under construction, em-ploying hundreds. Chief justice Gavai ques Boned the need for demo-lition of these structures when they could continue

962-bed AIIMS bospital in Odisha, a greenheld air-pert in Karnataka, and the Central Armed Police Fores to Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, were pending as a result of the May 10 judgment, he wrote. The Cit said judicial precedents of the court

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

Ex post facto approval should not be withheld on should not be withhold on-by as a penal measure, he said, adding that projects can be cleared retrispace-cum-stances and not as a routine. The top judge asked himself the question of whether it winds be in-public interest to democials throw the many spent on them into the dustion. "The question, there-fore, it whether such a me-and re-contraction would

and re-construction would be in the larger public in-terest or would in fact be counter-productive to the public interest?" the CII asked.

Justice Bluryan diamiased the GPs "dustbin" qu-ery, saying it was founded on arroneous logic, He said the "spiestion" should be ex post facto ECs to violature of the law.

"False narrative"
"It is unfortunate that a false narrative is being created pitting the environment against development... Ervironment law notion of an ex post factor charance. This is contrary principle as well as the need for succinainable development." Justice Bluyan Ecology and development. "Ecology and development."

ment are not adversaries be stressed, adding the took were part of the Controspective ECs, however an anathema — "a thing sted to evil" — thrust on

#### Cold start



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

The Kerala government has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Election Commis-sion (EC) to defer the conduct of the special inten-sive revision (KIRO of the electoral rolls in the State.

In its petition, the State said the conduct of the "cumbersome" 5th pro-December 4 would coin-tide with the elections to the local hodies in forvits. The simultaneous conduct The amultaneous conduct of both exercises weadd not only strain human resource but also create an "administrative impasse" with no pursonnel left to take care of the day-to-day functioning of the

impossibility",

"The SIR is a buge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi governmental services for butter and public and election-related duties and a further 68,000 police and other security person-nel. The SIR is also a comprehensive process with additional personnel num-bering 25,668. The pool of trained and election expe-rienced staff is finite. which constrains real-world deployment," The State submitted.

SIR's constitutionality
The State government
made it plainly clear that it
did not support the constitutionality of the SIR. It



the local body polic will be a 'near-impossibility' ruccass-oweat.

said the exercise was "not cratic policy of the coun-However, the State go-vernment, represented by advocate C.R. Sast, said the main thrust of the current challenge was not the le-gality of the SfR, but its liming.

undertaking the SIR would affect the amouth conduct of the local bodies' elec-tion. There are 1,200 local of the local bodies' elec-tion. There are 1,200 local self-government institu-tions (1,501o) in Kerala, made up of 941 grams pan-chayats, 162 block pan-chayats, 16 district pan-chayats, 16 municipalities,

and six Corporations. There are 23,812 wards in total.

The petition highlighted

the constitutional mandate under Articles 243-E and 243-4 as well as a statutory mandate under Section 38 of the Kerula Punchayat Baj Act and Section 94 of the Kerala Municipality Act to conduct election to the conduct election to the LSGIs within five years. Thus, the process of elec-tions including voting, counting, and declaration of result to the LSGIs in the State must be in accor-dance with the constitu-

petition noted.

The Kerala State Elec-tion Commission has de-cided to remainet elections to the LSGIs in the State on December 9 and 11.

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

rop Maoist commander dadvi Hidma, a Central committee member and outh Bastar battalion ommandary of the anned CPI (Maoisi), and banned CPI (Maoist), and five others were killed in an encounter in Albert Sithara-ma Raju (ASR) district of Andhra Pradesh on Treechie

Andhra Profesh on Tuesday. Hidma's wife Madakam Raje, a member of the Chhattingarh State Zonal that took place between 6.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. along the Pamuleru stream near Nelforu village in Maredu-

milli Agency.
The other four dead Maoists Maoists have been Mains Maosts have been identified as Deve, Lakmal, Maila and Kamlu – Hid-mu's guards. "All sis bodies, includ-

"All six bodies, including those of Madvi and Raje, have been recovered from the spot of the encounter and shifted to tampachodavaram Area toupital for post-morem," and Andrea Pradesh inteligence chief Mahsuh Chundra Leidha.

"A few Marciats run away from the niger of engage."

rom the place of encoun-er in the cover of the thick brest. A search is on for hem," he mid.

"It is a historic and deci-sive day for the security forces on the anti-Naxal front. Hidma's death marks one of the most decisive breakthroughs in the histo-ry of anti-Naxal operations. ry of ann-Naxal operations, not only for Ghaltingarh, Andbra Pradesh, and Te-langana, but for the emire nation, 'Impector General of Police, Bastar Range Sunderral Partilingam said Over the decades, he or

The arrests were made during search operations on the Madist hideouts in

2013 thiram Valley attacks-

onators, other weapons, and amountain were remain amountain were reBuffin was killed by security forces 21 days before the November 20 desadilirater Amit Shah to eliminate birn, "The Union Home Miniter had set a desalline of the Shah to eliminate birn, "The Union Home Miniter had set a desalline of the Shah to eliminate shah to eliminate him. The Winion Home Mimater had set a desalline of the Shah to the Shah

Riuru, NTR, Kakinada, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Konsiscems.
The police arrested 28
Maddits in Krishma, 15 in
Barry, the in NTB, two in
Kakinada, and one in Dr.
B.R. Arabedhar
Konaseema during search
operations.
The OCCOPUS fearns
also seized huse cache of

also seized huge cache or emmunition and cash.

March 31, 2026, for the era

#### 51 Maoists arrested in major A.P. operation

The Organization for The Organisation for Counter Terrorial Operations (OCTOPUS) and police personnel arrested 5i Macinto in several districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesckay. This is said to be the first such maker arrests

tion such major arrests from the urban areas in

cross the Dandakaranya re-gion, be said.

Arms, ammunition Two AK-47s, 15 electrical and 180 non-electrical de-onators, other weapons,

dication of the Maoist pro-blem from the country.

# 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

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 nowretired 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



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)

100

## ### 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):

- 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.
- 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

#### News

#### ■ 「№ 要な事化 ※ 事で事?



#### Centre launches updated plan to curb misuse of antibiotics

Ambinicrobial Resistance (AMB) is a major public health someon and poses significant risks, particularly in surgical procedures, cancer vicatomist, and other healthcare interventions. It can be addressed only through collective action, Union Health Minister J. F. Nedda said on Tuesday at the launch of the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMB) (2025-25), "Overuse and minuse of antibiotics have become common, and NAP-AMR 2.0 aims to identify earlier gaps by mercacing the ownership of AME 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 Minterry on Tuesday recognized the modalities for covering crip loss under the Paradian Manti Paul Ilma Yojana (MHFN), Farmer' groups have been demanding OMENY, Farmer' groups have been demanding of crop loss. The Ministry and crop loss that or crop loss that the Ministry and crop loss that the hill hadden of Gover loss that the Hill hadden of Gover loss the Lassible and the Hill hadden of Gover loss the tables of the Hill hadden of Gover loss the tables of the Hill hadden of Gover loss the tables of the Hadden of Gover loss the tables of the Hadden of Gover loss that the Lassible of the Hadden of Gover loss that the Lassible of the Hadden of Gover loss that the Hadden of Government of the Hadden of the Had Risk' category, "States will list wild animals causing crop damage and identify vulnerable areas using past data. Farmers must report losses within 72 hours on the Grop insurance app with sectagged photos," the government release said.

### Separate Section for disabled Indonesian Defence persons made in DPDP Rules

In the draft rule regarding consent mechanism, persons with disabilities had been clubbed

from disability rights activists, the Rectronics and Informa-tion Technology Miniarry has made changes to the Digital Personal Data Pro-tection Rules, 2025, to sep-arate persons with disabilities from a rule that, in a death, clubbed them with children over consent from a guardian. While activists builed

White activate hailed this change, hey said concorns over the provisions of the provisions of the provisions of the provision of the provisi

and the rules against anti-restrict what minors can do wieural monitoring, consent should be ob-sorial needs account, with our a parenty consent, in the deaff rules, this respute-ment was spolled out in a section that included per-toin with disabilities, cause itself, and the separation of the line of the property of the present with disabilities of the persons with disabilities of the p

Step by step

HEVESTO TERMS

ing concern among disability rights groups.

Nipun Malbotra, of the

Nijma Mallarita, of the Nijman Foundatios, which has been advocating for changes to the Act and rabe, and it was a "indjor victory" to have the Sec-tions governing consent mechanism for shildren and persons with disabili-ties separated. "The servictions relating to bela-wing and the service of the service of the servi-victories relating to bela-

their inception, it is lower in relative terms compared

to its performance last year, when around 1,700

out by activists and cost so-ciety organizations was that the draft rules did not clarify which law of guar-diamship for persons with disabilities—either the Na-tional Trust for Welfare of bersoons with Autism. Core

Persons with Autism, Cere-bral Palay, Mental Retarda-tion, and Multiple Disabili-of Persons with Disabilities of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 - would be consi-ted to the Constant of the Con-tral Sakelann report sined concerns also this, given that under the NT given that under the NT ship is partly determined by a person's "decision-mobing capacity", a torm clearly define. This, act-vists say, is not in couse-tions Convention on the the rules and Implementing the rules and the language in the principal Act, where children and persons with disabilities are included in The part of the rules that deals with consent for children's data includes multiple illustrations of different consent for children's data includes multiple illustrations of different consent should be obtained, along with a Schudale that exempts and claimable that exempts and claim these requirements. tions Convention on the Rights of Persons with Dis-abilities, while guardian-ship under the RPWD Act aligns with it.

## Minister to visit Delhi for talks on BrahMos

#### Saurabh Trivedi

indonesian Defence Minis-Indonesian Defence Minis-ter Sjafrie Sjanusoeddin is scheduled to visit India in the last week of November for a bilderul meeting with Defence Minister Bajnath

before Minister Rajnalli leigh in New Delhi. The meeting is being sewed as a significant fol-ow-up to the major defonce agreement involving the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, marking an nportant step forward in adia's expanding defence

confirmed that the upcom-ing talks hold considerable sportance, coming after a eries of meetings and reci

the Brahmes missile system.

The development came to light after Defence Minister Rajouth Singh recently revealed in Linchnow that indonesis had formally placed a request for the purchase of the Brahmes weeken before manufacsystem being manufac-tured at the new BrahMos Aerospace facility in the

On October 18, Mr. Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Mi-



ce exports, showes

supply combat proven indigenous weapons. Earlier, Chief of Defence Staff General Anii Chaubas

#### Witchel confidence

Defence experts said Brah-Mos misales used during Operation Sindoor 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 Organi-sation, and Russia's NPO Machinestrovenia.

#### Nearly 100 children rescued from Raipur factory

#### + Shubhomov Sikdar

allegedly being forced to work under exploitative conditions in a mushroommanufacturing unit in Chhattisgarh's Raipur were succeed on Menday followow an intervention by the

sig an intervention by the National Norman Eights Commission (NHICC) Commission (NHICC) (NHICC

said that they lived in tiny rooms in the factory. They were hardly provided any rooms in the factory. They were hardly provided any dinner. A complaint by an NGO prompted the probs. wellbeing.

Heappord whout pair of play (b)

Mespado about part of stay (a) kernaving ing, (tipen plays musical instrument (4) Sama Berker people wrengly argue after end of foreidrast (8) Westerfly emmers, consuming energy, to produce this (8) Bets of projectite maybe sharp and start to medicalise energy

#### Abhinay Lakshman

The London-based Q8 Quacquarelli Symonds on Tuesday released its Q8 World University Rankings for Susuanability 2026, showing that India, with 103 universities, had the fourth-highest number of institutions in the list, be-

institutions in the flut, behind the United States, Chi-ting, and the United Signator, In-terior of the United Signator, In-terior of the United Signator, In-Color, Interior of the United Signator, In-2023, assess institutions across environmental sno-social sustainability catego-ries such as environmental impact, smolid Impact, and property and governance. These focked indicators covering such indicators covering such indicators covering such tainability, and education, along with equality, em-

#### Report card

Over 100 Indian universities make

Total Institutions flambul: | Top university globally:

TOP PERCORMERS IN PURA

it to OS sustainability rankings

Str Bhoregout!



The tankings released on Tuesday showed mutter on Tuesday showed mutter of the tank of the

netitutions were ranked. Among the top 18 Indian universities in this year's sustainability rankings nine saw their position drop from the previous years. These included Jadaypur University, IFT, Kar pur, IIT, Madras, the Indian Institute of Science, and

Acress the 103 Indian in stitutions ranked, 30 saw their positions decline, 32 marroyed, and th remained improved, and its remained unchanged. At the indica-tor level, IIT, Dellit (Strict) and IIT, Rharagpur Getch made it to the top 100 glo-bally for Imployability and Oncomes. The University of Dellit entured the top 100 for Knewledge Ex-tenge, at 100 for QS, and Turner, CSO of QS, and Towersil, bullan universi-

"Overall, Indian universi-ties excel in knowledge ex-

#### India, Russia intensify | RSS chief consultations ahead of Putin's Delhi visit

dent Vladimir Puttics visit to New Delhi, expected by the year-end, India and Russia intensified top-level consultations on Tuesday . Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi met with Nikolai

with disabilities, the Rec-tion for persons with dis-abilities does not have any illustrations to capture the numeror of how guardian-ship operates, a key issue with the draft rules as pointed out in a report by the poilcy think tank PAC-TA and the NGO Sakabam Disability.

the Moult meet with Witholas Partushov, the Chadrman of the Marttime Board of Funda, and discussed the Russia, and discussed the with Mr. Putti in December. In Mouvon, External Affairs Mintere's Justian-dian of the Committee of the 24° meeting of the Eumeli of Heads of Government of The parties of the Eumeli of The Justian Organization Organization Organization Organization The parties of Kuesia-In-dias cooperation, particular Puttin to Mississycop Turniday

dia cooperation, particu-larly in the maritime sec-

#### likely to make his first visit to Manipur

#### The Hindu Bureau 805W DELDI

Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwar is likely to visit Manipur from November

# The visit is related to the The visit is related to the centernary celebrations of the organization, sources to the organization, sources to the organization, sources to the control of the commence of t True of the control o

# TH GROSSWORD+ 14643

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13: feature Countecously and fail (?)
14: feature Countecously and fail (?)
15: Vesset containing his of reside, maxim and marine examine (ii)
16: Opened proced case proposed without using egg (ii)
16: Reservation resummittant (ii)
16: Outpring mangle time after sentiling among Turn results in angles
(iii)

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Altimat's weight (to Damaged allegrate cut into flesh (8) Currel after intemph (7)

39 When Victor goes away, poverty may result in chuthmis 27 Place he sit and propore exts (4)
28 Oreas from Annanagar housings (6)

#### SUDOKU





#### E-ARTH

#### Yasoda's concern

Periyashvar sang what are known as kauppidum verses. These are verses sung about the evil eyes that will be cast on the Lord, and the need to remove them. Periyashvar sees the Lord of Thiruvellarai as Krishna, and visualises. Yaseda trying to remove the effects of evil eyes cast on her son, in his verses about the Lord of Thiruvellarat, Peri-yashvar uses knappidum verses, said K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. Vascula describes the Lord of Thiruvellarat as the One who resides in a place with mansions. She says the devas 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.

good poots will not be married by evil eyes. Krishna had been annoying little girfs who were playing house and had playfully knocked down their much houses. Yasoda had already warred Him not to quarried with the girls. In case He is now afraid that she is going to punish gibts. In case the is now artifal that the is going to punish film for it fill disbedlenges, the warst to source Him that the he is to inventions of doing so. That is not the reason when the continue to the heart of the continue to the co

# 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 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
- CE0 of QS: Indian universities show strength in knowledge exchange & environmental sustainability.

**Details** Category

**Ranking Body** QS Quacquarelli Symonds

Year QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

~2,000 from 100+ countries **Total Institutions Ranked Globally** 

**India's Standing** 103 institutions (4th highest globally)

**Top Global University** Lund University (Sweden)

IIT Delhi (93rd), IIT Kharagpur (96th), Delhi University **Top Indian Institutions** 

(94th in Knowledge Exchange)

Environmental impact, sustainability, equality, **Evaluation Parameters** 

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

#### Excessive dependence

A structural shift in India's trade portfolio is essential

polar record goods rated deficit in October (\$41.08 billion) follows a sequential build-up from Supermine (\$23.10 billion) reflecting a disturbing turn to its external reade landscape. The shock from the U.S. surth has been builded in August — at a time when the U.S. had become indicate landscape to the supermine the super AND AUGUST cacus metal inflows. Gold imports nearly triped from last exclober (84.92 billion) and inflound sil-wer rose more than flvefold. This suggests that the bullion range is not merely seasonal but also a hedge against growing economic uncertainty. The ruper's weakening from about 685.6 to a dol-lar in April to around 685.4 to a dollar in October. and the net foreign portfolio outflow in Septen and the net foreign portrollo outflow in septem-ber fleading into a recovery in October's further corroborate the hedging. What is troubling about October's merchandise data is the steep fall in ex-ports of labour-intensive sectors such as textiles ports of labour-interactive sectors such as restiller and appared—certon years and handlooms 12.43b, man-made yarn in 1795; readymade gar-12.5, has been the largest market for those actors for some years now, Overall experts to the U.S. declined by 995 key in Outober.

for some years now. Overall exports to the U.S. declined by 95 We's in Gorbina white is partly explained by 195 We's in Gorbina white is partly explained by the depreciating rapes but also strongly suggests the increased use of cheaper imported intermediate goods to keep finished extending the partle of the p thow. Even if the overall deficit persists, despite a thaw in U.S. relations, that would only point to a structural shift in India's trade portfolio. While painful in the short term, such a shift may tilt. mately be desirable, as indis's heavy dependence on the U.S. export market has now exposed it to both diplomatic and economic vulnerability.

#### **Bad tidings**

The problems with Indias mines are deep and structural

deern and structural
onblaster is a name that indicates wealth
and good tidrugs, ha a part of a region
arranding turar readeds, Chhartigarh, Bihar, fharbhand and Madbys Fradesh — arguably
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are no Otto in the district The death old in
surp have survived. The State government has or
dered a three-tie probe by the district administration, the police and the mining department,
dered a three-tie probe by the district administration, the police and the mining department,
alleging negligence of safety protectool, but if
there were induced violations, what was the goterminent during state disaster response workers
where the structure of zen stone quarries and other mines such as coal along the Vindbyas-Katmar hill range. Questions have been raised about the level of safety training

nave occur inseed about the level of aircry framing of workers and them having adequate salety goar. But the problems are deeper and structural. Opposition allogations of sampant illegal quarry-ing are not fanciful stuff. Stone quarries repre-sent the lowest end of mining, and often the lean sent the lowest end of mining, and often the lean anfety conscious. Stone quarry contractors are of-ten small-time operators, ideally, micro geologi-cal studies need to be done to plan the entiting. These studies will clearly flesh out the weak and studies need to be done to plan the criting, and studies need to be done to plan the criting plotted and fractive lines in hill slapens othere in a ting should be avoided. The government may do broad and general geological studies at the macro level before leaning the blocks. But once conserved before leaning the blocks. But once conserved before leaning the blocks. But once conserved the property of the state of

#### Time to sort out India's cereal mess

he recent controversy in Tamil Nadu-over paidly procurement during the procurement extent in the procurement of the pro-ting of the procurement extent of the procurement extent of foodgrains as whole in this case — as in many State — the Tamil Nadu Creil Supplies Corporation (TNSS), which procures paidly on behalf of the food procures paidly on behalf of the food procures paidly on behalf of the food corruption. One of the reasons cited is the rise in the coverage of the crop during the season, by about two lads acres, which was known as early about two lads acres, which was known as early after the procurement of the procurement of the safe bet to grow paddy rather than other crops due to informing assured course.

Paddy procurement data.
The glut in not restricted to famil Nadu. Going by
the data of the Union Ministry of Consumer.
Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the procurement of paddy (in terms of rice) all over the country was nearly 19.86 lakh tonnes as on October 31, 2025 compared to 82.08 lakh tonnes Scholer 31, 2008 compared to 80,09 labli forme on the corresponding day last year. In the last three years, with regard to rice and wheat, the quarterly opening stock position, as on October 1, was consistently higher than what is prescribed under the norms for the central pixel. In the case of rice, the quantity is at least two times more than the requirement. In October this year, the stock was 386.1 lakh tonnes against the norm of

102.5 lakh tonnes. Compared to wheat, rice is still abundant, if And to the control of the control of



T. Hamakrishnar

pulses and olisceds, which are two essential to the pulses and olisceds, which are two essential bousehold. Iteritically, in the case of pulses, find in the largest profusior in the world – 20.24 talks tonises in 2024-25. The two years, from 2025-24, talks tonises in 2024-25. The two years, from 2025-24, talks tonise in 2024-25. The two years, from 2025-25 the control of the pulses of the pu

Edible oil imports According to the annual report of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for 2024-25, the country imported edible oil (1), 2 lash cores) and pulses (CSO,050 cores) during 2023-24, in the case of edible oil, about 38% of the demand is met only through imports. Needless to say, the Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, is a factor that contributed to the steep rise in the cost of edible oil imports which was around 883,000 crore in 2030-21, though the quantity imported fermained between 138 lakh tounes-187 lakh tonnes a year in the last six years.

fronically, the country's production of otherds, since 2014, crossed the 400-laids tonne mark only once, despite there being no large change in the area covered, which was around 25 million hectarie. For about 25 years, experts and the media have been holding the government's decision in the 1990s to allow the import of

the media have been including the government's the media have been including the government's thougher skilled oil respondible for the adverse effect on domestic production, vir, the response to consister the impact has not been adequate, or the state of the state

igo when an Indian Council for Research on International Ramonnic Relations (CCRIRR) report had attaced that there was about a 29% loss of rice and wheat during distribution. It is also well known that the system is far from purfect.

Incentivise crop diversification

Incentivise crup diversification.
To wean paddy-growing farmers from the cerual, 
crup diversification can be tried out after carrying 
out area-specific market studies of demand and 
supply with the involvement of every stakeholder. 
One reason why farmers have not taken to 
diversification in a big way is uncertainty about success if there is a crop switch. Their apprehension can be alloyed only by effering financial support and proper guidance. As if a clear that the country is producing more rice than required, the government should allow furture to freely export rice and not resort to restrictions in a knee-jerk manner.

Many a time, primary procurers of agricultural products are in the dark about the suppliers. For instance, paped manufacturers getting to te-up directly with farmers who raise blackgram or have the means to do so, will result in a win-win situation for both. If such farmers are able to organise themselves as furmers producers' organisations (FPOs), the results will be more durable. The Centre and the States can facilitate

much an arrangement.
As an institution, PPOs are still in a nascent As an instance, income say, and the stapped by the authorities for a range of purposes — whicating farmers about sell health; sensitising them to g in for crop diversification; preparing the groundwork for market studies, and establishing

in for crop discratication; preparing the flow capple chain. As intuition, and entablishing the capple chain. As in West Bengad, FFOs can be utilised fine paddy processories for reduce the load on paddy processories and the contract of the cappet. The preparent processor is not the respect, Wherever required, all such uses respect, Wherever required, all such uses the respect to the processor of the processor o

## Unpacking the global 'happiness' rankings

by is Finland the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row while India languaries at 1167 How con Pakistan, which is struggling with political instability and occurring International Mometary Fund (IMF) bailouts score higher than India, the world's fastest growing major economy? What does this really say about how we define

"happineser"
The World Happiness Report 2025, by the
Wellbedrg Research Centre at Oxford, again
places Finland, Demmark, Isoland 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 occoronic and social
resulties of both nutions.

realities of both risitons. India, with a \$3.2 crillion GDF, is the world's fifth-largest economy, Pakietan's \$375 billion GDF, difficulties of \$375 billion GDF becoming, and its infrastructure is exposting, whereas Pakietan survives on repeated ballouts. Ver. Pakietan appears "happite government, a perceptual one, or a proxy for committing else?"

The mirage of metrics.
The report relies on the Gollup World Poll's
Cantril Ladder, where people rate their lives from
0 to 10, linked with six variables — GDF par
capits, social support, life expectancy, freedom,

generosity and corruption perception. But perceptions are slippery. Societies with lew expectations often report And the suppliers being a supplier align to the suppliers being the suppliers being the supplier align to the suppliers being appliers being appliers on a constitute media actuality can fewer perceived substantant media actuality can fewer perceived substantiant extensive even as well-being improves. When citizens expect better governance or cleaner edites, dissantiable tion reflects higher expectations, not misery.

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

The report itself admits that "belief in minutely kindness" and social trust predict

happiness better than income.
India's challenge, then, is not growth but connection. Nearly 10% of young adults globally

Is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the School of Liberal IT Josephur,

It is a case of paradoxes — trulia has hoge stocks of rice, and also imports large quantities of pulses and oilseeds despite being one of the world's

Andria Sharma in a Full Penfossor of Froug. ST Justines

Suman Dhaka is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Estimat of Literal Arts, IT Jodhpur, Rejastban

Dissatisfaction for instance,

could reflect higher expectations, and not nitsery

real-world networks and expanding virtual ones - prosperity without proximity.

say they have no one to rely on - up 39% since 2006. With migration and digital life reshaping relationships, Indiana too face shrinking

The pollitics of perception.

Critics note that global indices rest on by the

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Consonic Advisory Consuel to the Prime Minders

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India's rank has sweep between 9446 in

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Studies show that such trust, hirriess and community matter far more. In Finland, people believe a loet wallet will be returned - a proxy for institutional trust. In India, governance unevenness erodes that confidence, though local and familial trust remain strong. The CDVID-19 lockslown exposed this millions. returned to villages not only for work loss has because community bonds offered the security absent in cities. Such informal trust, ignored by The report's behavioural framework also parries the WEBD bias - Western, Educate

Industrialised, Bish and Democratic. It privilege

Industrialised, Rich and Democratic. It privileges metitational trait that to typical of individualistic metitations are that as typical of individualistic countries such as india, where family and community are the rud select privileges of the continual of the continual trait is evolved as the continual trait is evolved by the continual trait in the continual traiting to the continual traiting to the continual traiting to the continual traiting to the pulse of the continual traiting to the pulse of the continual traiting to the pulse of the continual traiting to the continual traiting traiting the continual traiting trait

Aspirations to estimate concern.

Aspirations to estimately to climb the hugeiness fadder, India must pair to climb the hugeiness fadder, India must pair investing not only in GEP but also in GEP (Gross Netlowal Lispiness) through three concernments years, other threads and inter-generational ties. The report finds that nousehold size and belief in coordinately kindness for the contraction of the contraction

estimates that every \$1 spent on mental health yields \$4 in returns — an investment on economy should ignore. As The Pursuit of Haggoress erranda is, happiness is not something we possess. It is something we pursue. India's revelessness. It is something we innovations and demands for better lives — may be the clearest again of wellbridge, Loss satisfaction does not mean again of wellbridge, Loss satisfaction does not mean

age, or weathering. Loss attoraction show not mean unhappiness. It signals ambition.
If vanh 118 means that bedans still seek shames sic, faires governance and failer tives, perhapt the nation is not unhappy but just unfinished, still chasing a rurer idea of happiness.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is missed.

The Army Chief's remerks are "Improved india-Chian toes" acknowledge the souther diplomatis effects compelled to critically address a concerning trend our defence leaderning's micreasing reliance on headline-worthy, chrematic statements that play well contribute little in coherent, song-term security strategy. long-term security strategy. The public is left with filmy dialogues wrapped as policy, while the required democratic processes, critical debate, and

Transparency are targety absent.

stated.

It was a permanent of creating diplomates of accenting diplomates of a course of the stategues and catchy narrotives as rapidly being outpaced by the strategue avolution of its neighbours. Initials sitiacrarie is troubling every time an initial situation of the stategues are renewed with great zeal and, egually justicity fact aways, the headeness are an enewed of the same properties of the stategues of new slogans, with little show by way of stable, institutional security architecture. Our public

harrative seems to succliabs between reassurance and surrage, with a lask of cubstantive follow through it is time our policymakers and defence loadership embraced continuity, superties, and realism above all etc. Otherwise, reactive, rather than pressible, on the world stace.

ctago. Aditya Das, The sentence The decision by the International Crimes Tribunal to sentence former

Bangladean Prime Minister Sheikh Hazina to death appears blatarily prejudiced, Traditionally, ICTs include international sudges or prosecutors to ICTs include international judges or prosecutors to ensure importability. But the tribunal formed by the caretaker government under Muhammad Yumas had Bungladeshi judges, many reportedly aligned with the BNP. While Ms. Hairs must ecknowledge for heave-banded resonver. her heavy-handed response to the protests, the growing

The Congress party has been aligning with regional parties repeatedly over the past few decades for immediate political gains, in the process, it has lost its originality with an inclusive politics and the violence faced by minorities after her ouster raise concerns. The agenda catering to wider sections of the society. Its credibility as a national

verdict has not only undermined the credibility of the Yunus administration but also dealt a etback to Bangladesh's democratic State of the Congress party

party — as an alternative to the BJP — has also been comprensived, with it playing the rote of a junior partner to regional parties for survival. It is facing an existential crisi. It is high time the party chalks out an independent sourney of its dividends, but at least the discerning public would see a ray of hope for bipolar politics at the national level. V. Subramanian,

# Unpacking the global 'happiness' rankings

hy 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 Happyness* 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.

The views expressed are personal

# 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
- 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:

- 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

THE HINDU -

#### IN ESERTEE



#### Physicswallah debuts at ₹145, 33% premium on NSE

Ed-tech firm Physicswallah Ltd. (PWL) debuted as s premium of 35%, opening at ₹145 on the National Stock Exchange. The company allotted shares at the price of £100 a share. On the Bombay Stock Exchange, the stock opened at \$143 a share, a 31-1% premium over the issue price. The stock hit a low of \$137 on the NSE and reached a high of \$161.00 before cettling at the day's close of \$156. As of November 11, in subscribed 1.8 times the shares offered

#### UK Export Finance issues EoI for Dubai airport expansion

The UK Export Pinance (UKEP) has inseed a \$1.6 billion Expression of Interest (Kob letter to support participation of CA, businesses in the 8215 billion expansion of Al Makkoum International – Dubai World Central (DWC is Carrently the second airport of Dubai, DWC is being developed as a mags buts to deliver an airport designed for the next 50 years of eviation growth, and will accommodate up to 180 million samengers annually

#### PVV Infra signs MoU to invest ₹650 cr. in solar cell unit in A.P.

PVV Indra Ltd., which is into solar power rooften motalisations, has signed an Moti with the Andrias Pradesh Economic Development Board to set up Pradesh Economic Development Board to set up investment of 1860 croze. The facility will be located at Vshahaparaman, maar the airport. It will be developed on a 3-0 acre industrial alse within the solar cells manufacturing cluster. The investment is expected in create 350 diver Julia and one 440 families Julia, the company sald.

## Textile, apparel exports see sharp decline in October

Tariffs take a toll on outbound shipments, as supplies to U.S. buyers continue at heavy discounts. Centre rescinds Quality Control Order on viscose staple fibres, industry hails move

#### M. Soundarlya Przetha

w ish the U.S. ta-riffs hitting bard, appared and textile exports saw 12.91% slump in October compared with the same

month last year, While testile shipments last month were at \$1,897 million, apparel exports stood at \$1,009.42 million

atond at \$1,000.xx million agains \$1,625 million and \$1,227 million respectively in October 2024, and carnets through \$2,250 and \$2,250 million respectively. While cotton yars, fabrics, and made upic electrical \$1,235.

\*\*Many huyers in the U.S.\*\*

\*\*Many huyers in the U.S.\*\*

\*\*White the regularly are still doing so, flut, we are supplying at heavy discounts, each \$1,500 million \$1,500 millio



Taper off: Jule exports drapped 37.27%, while entires years, fabrics, and made ups declined 13.31%. Fish resire.

"The garment exporters got the apring smaon or deer, But, the summer or deer are slow. Things may be suffered to the summer of the summer of the summer of the support measures announced by the insum and the support measures announced by the insum and the support measures announced by the insumer announced by the insumer announced by the summer announced to the sum "The corment apportune

slight improvement, but supplies to other markets slumped. He urged the Genere to look at the treatile Genere to look at the treatile value chain and effer finan-sial support to the sottie value chain, and effer finan-tial support to the sottie value chain. In northe-tical support to the source took issued on Tweetday Con-trol Order (QCO) on vis-rucinsed the Quality Con-trol Order (QCO) on vis-ture of the properties of the Dural Palantaurn, chair-Rajagopal said yarn ex-ports to China did see a

Durat Palantiamy, chair-man of the Southern India

strengthers the manmade fibre (MMP) ecosystem and benefit the industry in the

long run.

Revoking the QCO for viscose fibres and polyes-ter yarn and fibres will ad dress the price and svalla bility concerns raised by the users of these ray material in the MMF segment said. Ashwin, Chandran chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

PLI approvals
The Textile Ministry also said that I7 new applications for a cumulative in work approved under round three of the Prudict scheme. The proposed projects are expected into achieve a project are expected into a schewa a project are for proposed for schewa project are projectives in for each complete project and project are expected into a schewa a project and and a schewa a project and are projectives. erate employment for about 23,646 persons.

#### pre-Budget meet with start-ups

#### T.C.A. Sharad Baghayan

For the first time, Finance Minister Nirmala Sithara-man on Tuesday held a tart-up founders and re presentatives as part of her re-Budget consultations. Prior to this, Ms. Siths amon has so far held presudget consultative meet ngs with leading econo mists, representatives from farmer association from farmer assistations and agriculture econo-mists, stakeholders from micro, small and medium enterprises, and stakehol-ders from the capital

ders from the capital markets.

While the Finance Minister has mee with these groups before almost each of the previous eight Budgets she presented, The Hinde confirmed with the Finance Ministry that this to the first time she has met representatives of the eart of the same of the start-up industry in a sepa-rate meeting.

#### PEARMETEN

#### MARKET WATCH

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#### Goyal looks forward to 'fair, equitable, balanced' BTA

#### T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

India and the U.S. share an india and the U.S. share an equal commitment to-wards expanding trade and commerce between the two countries, Com-merce and Industry Minis-ter Flyuah Goyal mid-while adding that there could be "gount news" on a trade deal once it becomes "fair, equitable, and balanced".

"fair, equitable, and belaneas?" The Hindu had reported on November 17, citing a senior official in the Minie-try of Commerce and In-dustry, that the first with the U.S., dealing with the reciprocal tariffs, was maring completion.

"Negotiation is a procems and India as a nation has to accure its triverests, and the interests of its sta-keholders, husinesses, and balance it with our aemativ-ties, our farmers, fisher-men, and small ledus-tries. Mr. Goyal said while speaking at the 22nd India processing in the 22nd India processing the India American particular in the India American India can Chamber Commerce.

Commerce.

"And when we find the right balance, you can red assured, we will get outcomes on this score," he to the the first of the signing of a term contract for the import of 2.2 million testers per year of 1.4% from the C.S. as a

sign of the "strong bond" between India and the U.S. between India and the U.S.
"They see India as a
irrested partner," Mr. Goyal
asserted. "We are both
equally committed to
working to expand trade
and commerce between
the two countries. When

#### Apple India profit rises 16%

Apple India has reported a

#### Russia to okay about 25 India fishery units for exports

Press Trust of India

Russia is on course to ap-perove searly 25 fishery us-ts in India, which will make filem eligible to sup-ply to that country, Com-merce and Industry Missia for Pyush Gayal and Union approved 102 addi-tional marine isoduct in-ternal marine isoduct in-

tional marine product un-its from India for exports.

#### Saudi to get a new budget carrier

lagritt Chandra

The aviation world's eyes are trained on Saudi Arabia which has made air travel which has made air travel of its economic transformation under Vision 2000, and on Tsenday its edution for yet and the same are trained as a superior with the same and the same are trained as a superior with the same and the same are trained as a superior with the same are trained as a



He was addressing a conference at Dubai Air-

yadh Air, which com-menced its first flight with memoed its foot flight with daily service herween Hi-yadh and London last month. In July, GAZIA an-nounced Air Arabia will lasnch a low cost airline based in Danmann with a fleet of 48 planes to be ready by 2030.

'Unmatched' change "The transformation tak-ing place in Saudi Arabia's aviation sector is un-matched," sidd Rajab as be show 2025. The Kingdom has already launched a enumerated plans to con-nect the Kingdom with 250

number of passengers and establish it as a cargo and

establish it as a carge and legistic buth.
To achieve these goals Saud Arabia will enable store than \$100 billion public and private investments. Various strlines of Saud Arabia have more than \$00 aircraft on order. The plans reflected "the impressive growth of lew impressive growth of lew enst careter segment to meet Raudi market de-mand," said Rajab. (The Esternalist is in Du-

bai on the invitation of fly-

#### Wonderla Chennai to open on December 2

The Hindu Bureau

After nearly a decade since the signing a Menuran-dum of Understanding with the Taintl Nastr go-vernment, Wonderla Holi-dage - a renowned amuse ment park chain - has formally announced the launch of Wonderla Chen-launch of Wonderla Chen-

#### RCom bank 'fraud': SC " notice on probe plea

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELIO

The Supreme Court on The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to examine a pertition affection and massive bank and currenter fraud involving Relater Communications (RCom), group firms and premuser Anil Ambani.

A Benich of Chief Judice B.R. Gaven and Junior E. Vined Chandran issued notice on a petition from

Secretary E.A.S. Sarms de-manding court monitored. The respondents arraigned in the petition, basides the Union government, or telephone control of rectorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, the Anii or Investigation, the Anii Group and Mr. Arnhari. "This is bank fraud worth (20),000 crows" ad-appearing for Mr. Sarms.

#### Modified UDAN proposed at ₹30,000 crore

The outlay for the modified UDAN (*Ide Desh Ka Aum*, *Nageth*) regional air cennectivity achieme has been proposed at 420,000 crore, industry sources told *businessime*.

The proposal is intended to continue the scheme

of 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

Union Cabinet's

the Union Galvinet'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 for viability gap binding \$700.

(VGP).
The scheme incentivises the creation of new sir-

ports as well as the refur-bishment and expansion of existing facilities. Besslers, at this same supported to connect un-teresevent regions by offer ing them VCP and a host of concessions provided by airport operators, the con-tral, and soverments.

governments.
Sources added that the revised scheme or the ex-panded framework is ex-pected 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 conserved to premote regonal air connectivity bymaking hing affordable
for the common citizen, the central idea being encouraging airlines to operne flights on regional and
enabling policies and astending policies and astending incentives.

The first UDAN flight
was managinated by Prime Policy. The scheme was



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 cross.

649 of the 918 valid route having been uporational leed under the scheme. Their routes have connec-ied 92 unserved and under-served alports, including 15 heliports and 2 water ac-columns across the cent-try. A number of these air-ports remained unserved. The Centre has accord-

However, the scheme still faces challenges with new of the 918 valid routes

The hini UDAN flight ingly devised the next transhe of the scheme. The Minister Narrenfea Modi in proposal for the modified

law in the development of the Union Budget 2025-26 by Finance Minister Nirma-la Subseque The new version aims to

The new version aims to connect 120 additional des finations and enable the travel of four crore passen-gers over the next decade. In addition, the scheme will support belipeds and enables to the final smaller airports in hilly areas, as well as appration-al and North Eastern dis-tricts. Earlier this year, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu told bus-necaline that the modified UDAN scheme is a "major move on the part of the Centre to give a continued broost to the civil aviation

permit by new entrants. It will also address issues such as non-availability of suitable aircraft, aircraft leasing and maintenance. The scheme operate The scheme operates under a market driven me-del 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 erore as VGF Centre to give a continuous control of the country.

Additionally, he had a control of the country.

Additionally, he had a control of the country.

Additionally, he had a control of the control of the

#### GDP growth for Q2 will be 7.5% or more due to GST cut led festive sales, says SBI Research

second quarter thily to September) will be 7.5% or more that to the consump-tion boost following the GST rate out, the research department of the State Bank of India GBB said on

Bank of India GBB said on Timoday. Timoday. Timoday. Timoday. Timoday. GBB said on Timoday. GBB said on Timoday. GBB said on Timoday. GBB said on the said Timoday. GBB said on the said Timoday. GBB said on the said timoday. Timoday on the said of the said of

Risks persist from markets, potential spillovers from trade

leading indicators in con-sumption and demand across agriculture, inchatry, service sectors show ing acceleration has in creased to 83% in Q2 from 70% is Q2. Based on the extimated model, we obtain a noweast of real GDF growth of 2.8% in Q2FY20

might come around \$1.49 lakh crore for November 2025 (returns of October but filed in November), a

YoY growth of 6.6%. Coupled with ESI,000 crore of ROST and cess on import, the November G87 collections could thus cross \$2 takh crore, driver by the peak festive season demand led by lower G5T rate and increased con pliance while most state

Stating that during the festive season (September October 2028), consump-tion got a big boost with GST rationalisation, with westment activities, recovery in tract density in tract density in the property in tract density in the property in a report, and SHI Research in a report, and SHI Research in a report, and shift property in the property i

AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF THE PERSON

# 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 airports 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:

- 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

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



tuman Rights Watch on Tuesday said that Mali's military and an affiliated militra billed at least 31 sixlians and formed homes in two attacks on villages in the central tegins region last munth. The two attacked ultages are in a region consided by JNM, the al-Queda-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims, Are-

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



atend an agreement between Seoul and incity Karma stone Washington to hulful muslear powered submarines, saying in a state media commentary on Tuesday that the deal would cause a 'muclear domino' effect. South Rosea arrequired the finalisation of a security and trade deal with U.S. last week Afr

#### Poland suggests Russia is behind blast on railway line to Ukraine



contered the blowing up of a railway tire in Paland over the weekers that is up a critical mate that delives and so Ulraine, a government applyagerous said on Tuesday, Poland From Missian Donald Tuesh called the incident an "unprecedented aut of sabotage", en

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



Pakiatani security forces, acting on intelligence, saided two mile hideouts in the country's continued near the Afghan bonder and billion 15 militarity, the military said on Tuesday. The military Identified the killed militants as "Shawari," a form authorities use for militants they alloge are backed by Alghanistan and India. An

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

#### Agence France-Presse.

Tokyo warned Japanese visitors to be careful in the country amid a diplomatic

The spat between China kaichi's suggestion that To-kyo could intervene milita-rily in any attack on Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory.
Asked about the warning to lepanese visitors, Foreign Ministry spokesporson Mao Ning said the "Chinese povernment has always and will continue to protect the salety of fo-

#### **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

The Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gasa won strong ap-provid at the United Na-tions on Monday, a crucial step that provides interna-tional support for U.S. ef-forts to move the devastated territory toward peace

following two years of war.
The U.S. resolution that
passed the UN Security Council authorises an in-ternational stabilisation finus to provide security in Gaza, approves a transi-tional authority to be over-seen by President Donald Trump and envisions a

the military general staff said in a statement on

Tuesday.

Kylv received the systems in 2023 but was in-

trially restricted to using them only set its own terri-tories, searly a fifth of which are occupied by

Ukraine has requested U.S.-made Temahawk mis-

siles that have a range of 2,500 km, saving these will help bring Bassia to the ne-



Obeload supports Ambassadom and res entablyes to the UN most

United Nations, will lead to

true Historia proportion!" Mr. Trump posted on so-cial media.

further Peace all over the World, and is a moment of

possible future path to an independent Palestinian

"This will go down as one of the biggest approThe vote endorses Mr. Trump's 20 point coaselire plan and builds on the mo-mention of the coaselire be helped broker with allies. Russia, which had circulared a rival resolution, ab-stained along with China on the El-O vote after fears Moscow might use its veto in the Security Council. However, Hamas op-posed the resolution, say-

ing that it does not meet the "Palestinian people's political and humanitarian demands and rights"

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz said the re-solution "represents another significant step to-wards a stable Gaza that

#### Trump hosts Saudi prince for defence, nuclear deals

Saudi Crown Prince Mo-hammed bin Saiman ra-celved a red carpet wel-toone from Provident Donald Trump on Tues-day, on his first visit to the United Nates since the 2018 marder of Journalist taxes Whishered.

jamai Khashogai.
Mr. Trump laid on a notsy military flynast featuring 1-35 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

rate of herain and greeted the Saudi prince as Mr. Trump deadles down on Washington's largeoning alliance – and his own per-nemal bond – with the key West Asian ally. Mr. Trump has made a

pits concerns from Israel and warnings from U.S. of-ficials that China sould steal technological knowledge about the jets. In another area of past contention, Mr. Trump will

Mohammed thin Salman

with the oil-rich Gulf king-dom, and said on Monday he would sell coveted P-38 stealth fighters to Saudi

Arabia, calling it a "great

The move comes des-

sign a deal on a framework for civilian nuclear cooper-ation, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the negociations and.

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During the visit, Prince Mohammed said his counhis country wanted to normalise re-lations with larget dirough Mr. Trump's Abraham Ac-cords, but first needed a "clear path" to Palestiniar

Prince Mohammed will have his own agends, seek-ing firmer U.S. security guarantees after targeli strikes in September on Qatar, an iron-clad U.S. al-ly, rattled the wealthy Gull

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

#### Bentera

Ukraine's military said on Tuesday it had attacked military targets in Russia with U.S. supplied ATACASS missiles, calling it a "signif-

missiles, calling it a "agui-icani development".

Ukraine has not pre-vioculy stated openly that it uses the U.S.-provided ballistic missile systems on targets inside Russis, slib-ough the restriction on do ing so was lifted by the out-going Hiden administration

going Hiden administration a year ago.

"The use of long-range strike capabilities, includ-ing systems such as ATACMS, will continue,"

#### Transition of power



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

#### Agence France Presse

A car-ramming and stab-bing attack left one person dead and three injured on Turnelsy near lancel settle-ments in the southern occupled West flank, brack emergency services and the military said.

the military said.
The army statement said that soldiers "silmine-ed two terrorists at the scene" and that "skplonive materials were found in their vehicle."
The Palestrian teleprist processor halled



attack that took place near the Gush Etalon settlement the Gush Staton actilement south of Bettlebern is a natural response to the rasin's attempts to liquidate the Pulsatinian cause." The Pulsatinian Islamic Blad militant group also protect the attackers.

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

#### NUMBER AWARDED

#### Sriram Lahshman

The U.K.'s Labour govern ment shifted further right on Monday after it an-nomiced a raft of changes nonmousl a fed of shanges in the country's eavlum mean, among seller things, that U.K. asylum policy will follow the market scan-form periodic and a tem-porary, not long-term or ferred periodicing an atom-porary, not long-term or long the market scan-ger will also mean refugers will need to wait 20 years, seller will be the seller will need to wait 20 years, dency and that asylum seekeys' assets could be added to pure for their

secommodation.

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

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

hor Laboure exterior and the revealed how online rhetoric by what was once the far right is having policy impacts in Westernians or the right is having policy impacts in Westernians centre and centr The announcement has

encouraged divisiveness and racism. Some of Ms. Mahmood's party col-

leagues welcomed the charges, as did some Conservatives. Ms. Mahmood has ar-gued that the asylum sys-

gued that the asytum sys-tem is "broken" and in need of fixing and that it was "destabilising com-munities" 5he has pointed to both, the years of Conservative rule before July 2024 leading to high num-bers and the gaming of the seyhum system by some migrants leading to the cur-rent state of affairs.

Divided country
Asylum islaims in the U.E.
Asylum islaims in the U.E.
pared to Else in the test of
Europe, as per official in
gures, Many, close to 40%
as far this year, have arred illegally on small
Channel rather fram approaching the U.E. via a legal route to ask for asylum.
"Blegal migration is



making this country a more divided place. It is more divided place. It is until the country. Ma. Mahmood said. It has been argued that rather than migration inself contents the divided place with place and place in the divided place. It is not provided to the place of the divided place in the divided place. It will be called your divided in the third place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It will be called the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place in the divided place. It is not the divided place in the divi

Mr. Musk and fier-right coaler Tomers Robbinson coal name. Rephan Yax-coal rame. Rephan Yax-divisions miline and on the streets. Mr. Musk delivered a video message at a fier-right London rally in Sep-tember calling for a change that properly contil have right that people would have no choice but to resort to

less openly extreme, (Re-form UK party leader NIgell Farage abserts this energy, and he has taken up Robinson's framing of immigrace as 'fachting aged congruent on 'fighting agod males,' which suggest that they pose a potentially viothey pose a potentially vio-lent threat," said Robert

think he should continue to lead until the nest elec-tion, as per a poll of 2,100 people conducted by You-tion for The Times last

Outside Westminster, Reform, which is anti-im migration, has overtaken Labour in the pulls, Polling they poles a potentially violent stream, and Robins
and the stream of the stream of

ky strategy – it could either be fuille or backfire – ac-cording to Tim Bale, a profirmer of politics at Queen Mary University of London.

Ma. Mahmood has forcefully argued for the poli-cies, saying she was no making a political or election calculation but trying to fix a broken system

"... Research above again and again that 30 that again the 10 that again that ag

Greens, Mr. Bale argues the split in the party is like ly 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

# 2. Nuclear Deal Negotiations

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

#### 3. Economic & Al Partnership

 Saudi Arabia is expected to announce a multi-billion-dollar investment in Al 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

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** 

#### 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 illusionary—fan believes they know the persona better than performer knows the fan.
- Grown due to:
  - social media, online influencers,
  - increased loneliness globally,
  - rise of Al 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,
  - Al 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 (Al se linked)	2023–24
Merriam-Webster	Authentic	2023–24
<b>Collins Dictionary</b>	AI	2023
Dictionary.com	Hallucinate (Al context)	2023

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

- The term was first coined in the 21st century to describe emotional bonds between humans and Al 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

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

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 Al

**Global Significance** 

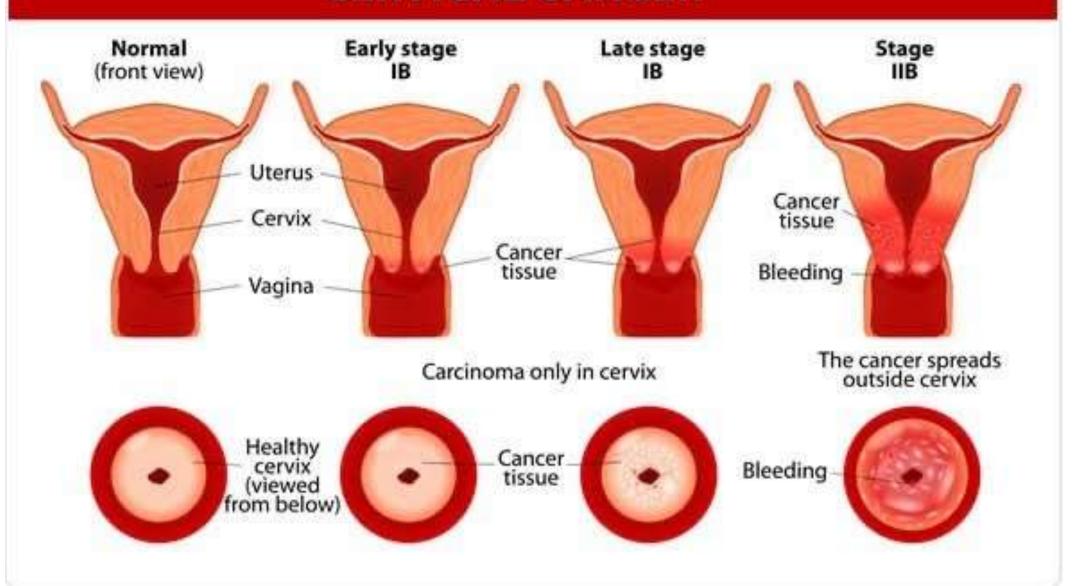
Competes directly with **OpenAI GPT-5** and **Anthropic Claude 3** series

**Category (for exam)** 

Science & Tech — Artificial Intelligence / Innovation / Digital Economy

# World marks first-ever World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day

# **CERVICAL CANCER**



# 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



Human papillomavirus is the main cause for

cervical cancer

HPV

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

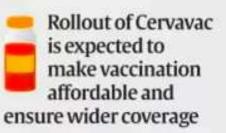


99% of cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV (HPV16 and HPV18 are the most common types)

#### PREVENTION & TREATMENT



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

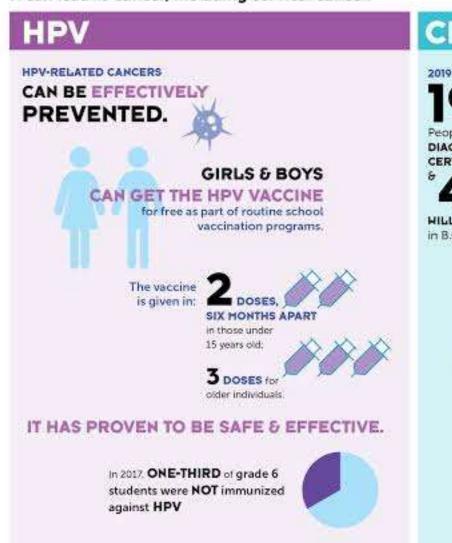


Source: WHO/IARC; Express News Service

# 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.



## **CERVICAL CANCER** 2019 ESTIMATE DIAGNOSED with CERVICAL CANCER 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 85%

Aspect	Details
Event	World marks first-ever World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day
	18 <sup>th</sup> NOV
Observed by	Countries worldwide; health experts and organisations <b>led by WHO</b>
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

**Festival** 

Partner countries (2025)

Purpose of partnership

Where Ireland's partnership announced

Nagaland, India

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

Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK)

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

**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

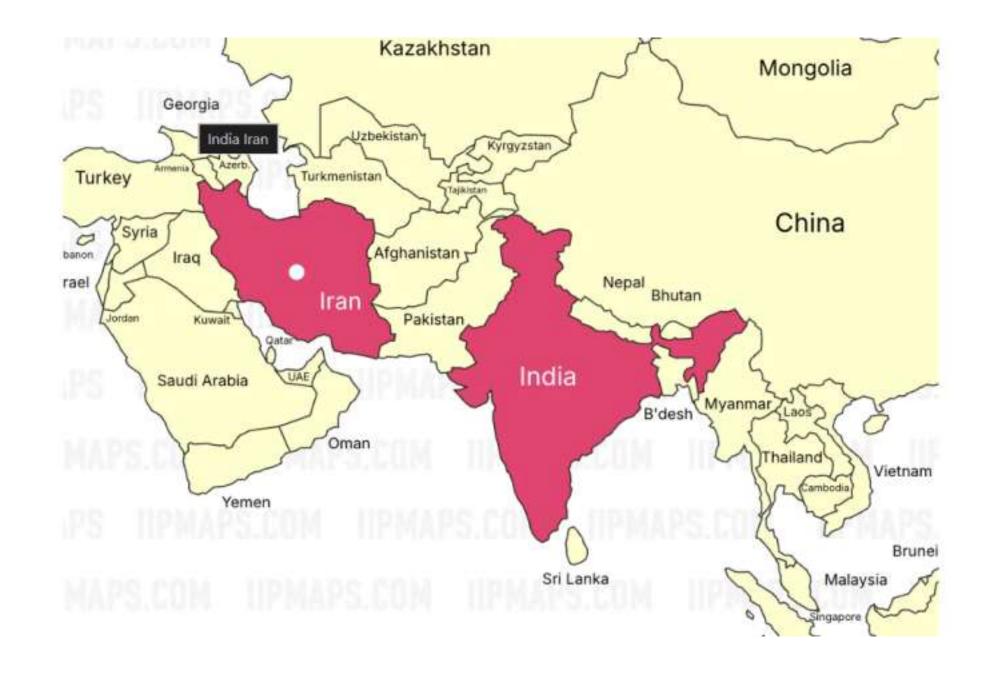
Became one of India's biggest tribal cultural festivals; tourism numbers grow yearly

**UNESCO Aspect** 

Helps in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage of Naga tribes (not an official UNESCO list but relevant culturally)

# 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 <b>trafficking and kidnapping cases</b> involving Indians lured to Iran with <b>false job or transit promises</b> .

Modus operandi of criminals

Objective of revised policy

Affected category

Exam tags

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

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

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

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 <b>2nd-largest oil supplier</b> ; 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 <b>\$2 billion+</b> (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



#### **Aspect**

#### **Details**

Index name (full)

India's current rank (CCPI 2026)

Change in rank

India's score

Reasons for decline (as highlighted)

Where CCPI 2026 released

**Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026** 

23rd

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

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

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

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

Coverage of index

Assessment categories

Top ranks status

Exam tags / themes

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

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

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

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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Class24

# 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: /ˈbɹɪndəld/

