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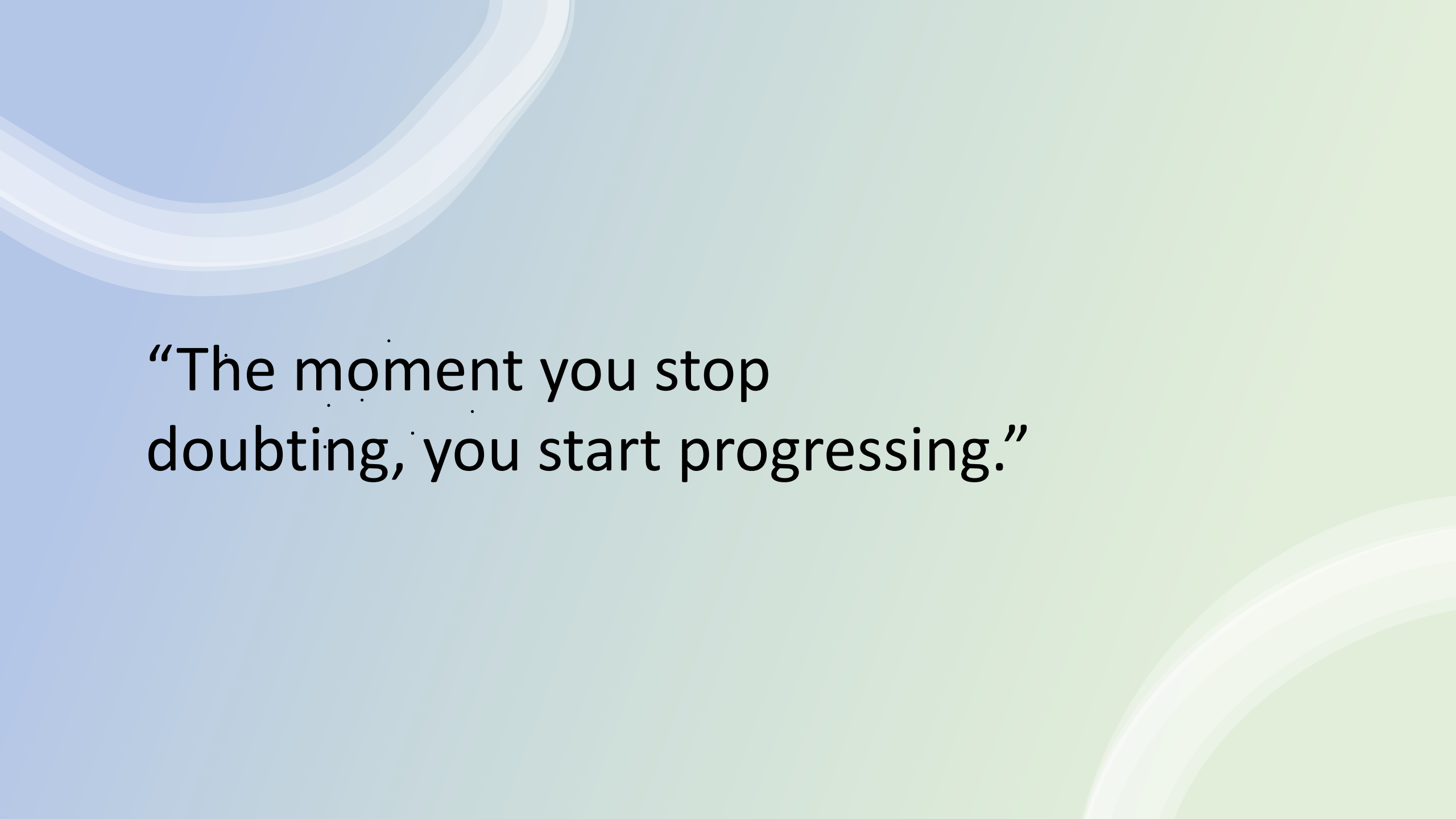


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“The moment you stop
doubting, you start progressing.”

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STRONG VERBAL ATTACK
Pakistan is 'epicentre of terrorism': Rajnath
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RESULTS OUT
Girls excel in CISCE exams
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STRICT MEASURE
QR code-based access at counting centres: EC
NEWS • PAGE 5



PARLEY
Should the PIL jurisdiction be reconsidered?
Concerns have been raised about misuse
OPINION • PAGE 6



CRUCIAL WIN
Thans get the better of Royal Challengers
SPORTS PAGE 10

INSIDE

Foreign investors sold 60,847 cr. stock dump hits rupee

MUMBAI Foreign investors sold 60,847 crore in stocks of Indian stocks companies as of April 2025, reversing the last year trend of capital outflow, data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd (NSDL) show. The outflow makes it the third in the first four months of the calendar year. ■ PAGE 12



IF UDP wins, IJML to back Sathesaran as CM of Kerala

KOZHIKODAM Indian Union Muslim League (IJML) Kerala president Syed Ishtiaq Zohabi Yaqub has backed V.S. Sathesaran as a possible Chief Ministerial candidate if the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is elected to power in the State. Mr Sathesaran is the leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly. ■ PAGE 3

SC asks petitioner to submit original Manipur CM audio

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court of India on Thursday asked a petitioner to submit original audio of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to the apex court. The petitioner is a former Chief Minister of Manipur H. Biren Singh to the apex court. ■ PAGE 12

States with revenue deficits may face fiscal stress: Centre

T.S.A. Sharan Reddy
NEW DELHI
The Union Finance Ministry has warned that States with revenue deficits and high debt burdens will find it harder to deal with fiscal slacks, including from the West Asia crisis, forcing them to either restructure expenditure away from productive areas, or approach the Centre for more funds at a time when it is trying to consolidate its own finances.
In its Monthly Economic Review for April, the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry said nine of the 18 large states analysed were in revenue deficit as per their own projections for 2024-27. Seven are projected to be revenue surplus, while one is

Iran vows to protect its nuclear programme

Both sides are locked in a stalemate after having blocked shipping through the Strait of Hormuz | Blockade to continue until Iran agrees to a deal on the nuclear issue, says U.S. President Trump | Iran President says Persian Gulf is "inseparable" part of Iran's identity, blockade "doomed to fail"

Manly John
Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said on Thursday that the country's nuclear "safeguard" is "nuclear and missile" capabilities and lay down new rules for managing the Strait of Hormuz, hours after U.S. President Donald Trump said a blockade of Iranian ports would remain until a nuclear deal is reached.
A new chapter for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is "taking shape", he said in a statement, marking Persian Gulf Day.

"The Islamic Republic will secure the Persian Gulf region and eliminate the enemies' exploitative war in this waterway. The legal frameworks and implementation of new management for the strait will bring peace and pro-

gress to the benefit of all the region's nations," he said.
The war on Iran, launched by the U.S. and Israel, has turned into a maritime battle of wills after Mr. Trump announced a ceasefire on April 8. While the ceasefire is still holding, Iran's chokehold of the strait, the mouth of the oil-rich Persian Gulf, remains intact. The U.S. has imposed a blockade on Iranian vessels in the Gulf of Oman to exert economic pressure on Tehran. Last week, U.S. media reported that Iran made a proposal to the U.S. via Pakistan promising to ease its control of the strait in return for the U.S. lifting its blockade. Iran said it would discuss the proposal, including the nuclear issue, including the nuclear programme, in the second round.
Mr. Trump, in an inter-



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
The Islamic Republic will secure the Persian Gulf region, the legal frameworks and implementation of new management for the strait will bring peace and progress to the benefit of all the region's nations
SOTABA KHAMEENI, Iran's Supreme Leader

view, said on Wednesday that he wanted a deal from Iran addressing America's core concerns, including the nuclear issue.
"The blockade is something more effective than the bombing... They want to settle. They don't want me to keep the blockade. I don't want to lift the

blockade, because I don't want them to have a nuclear weapon," he said.
Iran has always maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.
Mr. Trump, who ordered U.S. bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities in June 2024, had then said

he had "obliterated" the nuclear programme.
Mr. Khamenei on Thursday said Iranians would be regarded all of the country's technological advances, including the nuclear and missile capabilities. He said Iranians "will regard all their national identity capacities spiritual, human, scientific, industrial, and foundation and cutting-edge technologies, from space and into nuclear and missile — as their national capital, and will safeguard them just as they do their family, land, and air borders," he said in the statement.

"U.S. causing insecurity" He added that the U.S. programme is the "most important" part of Iran's identity in the region. "America's bluffing" has been lost even though they are trying to ensure their own security, he also said

interference of foreigners will not help improve security in the region but will create tension and disrupt lasting peace in the Persian Gulf," he said in a statement. Mr. Peshkian added that Iran would adhere to "the principles of freedom of navigation and maritime safety, except for hostile countries".
Iran's Parliament speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Qalifard signalled that Tehran would not give up its control over the Strait of Hormuz. "Iran, by exercising control over the Strait of Hormuz, will ensure that it and its neighbours enjoy the precious blessing of a free sea from the presence and interference of America," he wrote in a social media post.

SHIP HEADS TO STRAIT
A ship headed to the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, according to a report from the U.S. Navy. The ship was carrying oil and was heading to the Strait of Hormuz. ■ PAGE 5

Early birds



Reaping the sun A worker drags a vat pan at Pathapuram in Pudukottai district, Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday. To avoid the scorching heat, workers start their day as early as 2.30 a.m. and return home after sunrise. They resumed work again around 4.30 p.m. on Monday. ■ PAGE 10

Lift abortion time limit for minor rape survivors: SC

Kilimambur, Rajasthan
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to amend the abortion law to remove the time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancies in the case of minor rape victims.
A Bench made the observations while refusing to entertain a curative petition filed by the government against a recent decision of the court allowing a 15-year-old rape survivor to terminate a 30-week pregnancy. Additionally, Justice General Athavaya Jhuti said they were against the termination, considering the health of both the teen and the "unborn child".
FULL REPORT ON PAGE 6

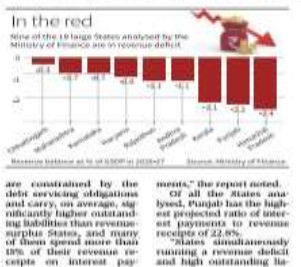


Boating into trouble A file photo of the Gaza-bound aid flotilla at Bassein's Port Vell on April 22, 2024

Israeli forces 'kidnap' Gaza flotilla crew in international waters

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
ATHENS
Organisers of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on Thursday said Israel's army had "kidnapped" 241 activists, including a Paris city councillor, in a raid in international waters off Greece.
Helene Coron, a spokeswoman for the Global Sumud Flotilla, told an online news conference the operation had taken place near the Greek island of Crete.
Yannine Sicola, an activist on board the flotilla, said her colleagues had been "kidnapped" by Israeli forces.
Israel's Foreign Ministry had earlier put the number of those detained at 175.
Ms. Coron said those intercepted included Paris Communist local councillor Raphaelle Primet and 40 more French nationals.
"We don't have the information for the other nationalities, but the boats were seized in terms of nationality, so there were crew members from all 48 delegations," she said.
Israel's Foreign Ministry said the initiative was a "condemned flotilla" after photographs were found in a previous convoy, adding that more than 20 of the ships were "now heading their way peacefully to Israel".

in revenue balance.
A revenue deficit is when expenditure on recurring items such as salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments exceed the revenue earned from sources such as taxes and fees.
The States with projected revenue deficits as a percentage of their gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) are Haryana (4.2%), Punjab (2.2%), Kerala (2.1%), Andhra Pradesh (1.7%), Rajasthan (1.6%), Karnataka (1.5%), Tamil Nadu (1.5%), and Chhattisgarh (0.7%).
Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were excluded from the analysis as they reported more than 100% revenue deficit in their revenue receipts on interest pay-



ment," the report noted.
Of all the States analysed, Punjab has the highest projected rate of interest payments to revenue receipts of 22.8%.
States simultaneously running a revenue deficit and high outstanding liabilities have fewer degrees of freedom to respond to fiscal shocks," the report said. "Specifically, they may have to resort to wage expenditure restructuring or may demand higher central transfers to meet the present unfunded needs."
On the other hand, the report highlighted the States that were doing fairly well. The right States with projected revenue surplus, as a percentage of their GSDPs are Odisha (2%), Bihar (2.3%), Uttar Pradesh (0.6%), Goa (0.8%), Gujarat (0.8%), Uttarakhand (0.6%), Telangana (0.3%), and Bihar (0.3%).
"States simultaneously running a revenue deficit and high outstanding li-

States with revenue deficits may face fiscal stress: Centre

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

The Union Finance Ministry has warned that States with revenue deficits and high debt burdens will find it harder to deal with fiscal shocks, including from the West Asia crisis, forcing them to either reprioritise expenditure away from productive areas, or approach the Centre for more funds at a time when it is trying to consolidate its own finances.

In its Monthly Economic Review for April, the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry said nine of the 18 large States analysed were in revenue deficit as per their own projections for 2026-27. Seven are projected to be revenue surplus, while one is

in revenue balance.

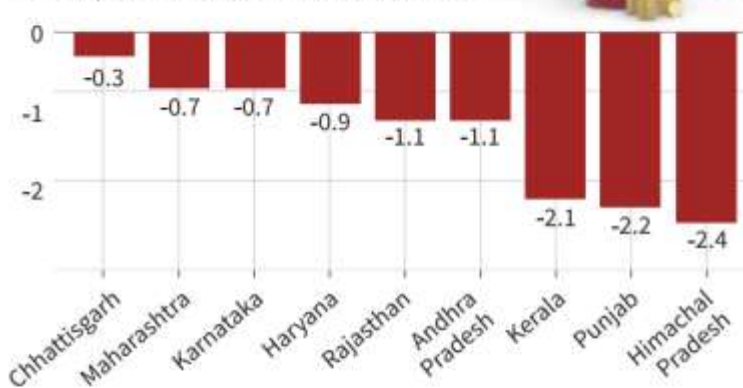
A revenue deficit is when expenditure on recurring items such as salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments exceed the revenue earned from sources such as taxes and fees.

The States with projected revenue deficits as a percentage of their gross state domestic products (GSDP) are Himachal Pradesh (-2.4%), Punjab (-2.2%), Kerala (-2.1%), Andhra Pradesh (-1.1%), Rajasthan (-1.1%), Haryana (-0.9%), Karnataka (-0.7%), Maharashtra (-0.7%), and Chhattisgarh (-0.3%).

Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were excluded from the analysis as they have so far presented only interim budgets for 2026-27. "Revenue-deficit States

In the red

Nine of the 18 large States analysed by the Ministry of Finance are in revenue deficit



Revenue balance as % of GSDP in 2026-27

Source: Ministry of Finance

are constrained by the debt servicing obligations and carry, on average, significantly higher outstanding liabilities than revenue-surplus States, and many of them spend more than 15% of their revenue receipts on interest pay-

ments," the report noted.

Of all the States analysed, Punjab has the highest projected ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts of 22.8%.

"States simultaneously running a revenue deficit and high outstanding lia-

bilities have fewer degrees of freedom to respond to fiscal shocks," the report said. "Specifically, they may have to resort to expenditure restructuring or may demand higher central transfers to meet the present unforeseen shocks."

On the other hand, the report highlighted the States that were doing fiscally well. The eight States with projected revenue surpluses as a percentage of their GSDPs are Odisha (3%), Jharkhand (2.5%), Uttar Pradesh (1.6%), Goa (1.3%), Gujarat (0.8%), Uttarakhand (0.6%), Telangana (0.3%), and Bihar (0.1%). "Notably, eight States which have budgeted revenue surpluses for 2026-27, save for Telangana, have their capital out-

lay as a percentage of State GDP higher than their projected fiscal deficit," the report said.

It highlighted the example of Odisha: while the State's 3.5% fiscal deficit is higher than the 3% norm, the fact that it is in revenue surplus and its capital outlay is 6.5% of GSDP "mark it as a case of deliberate investment rather than fiscal stress".

"States that are unable to maintain the golden rule of fiscal financing, that is, zero revenue deficit, will face increased stress as a result of the present crisis," the report said. "Stressed states with compressed fiscal space make demands on the Centre at precisely the moment that the Centre is attempting consolidation."

HP -2.4%Worst Deficit
% of GSDP**Punjab -2.2%**2nd Worst +
22.8% Interest**Kerala -2.1%**Revenue Deficit
% GSDP**Odisha 3%**Best Surplus
GSDP**15%+**Interest/Revenue
(Deficit States)**3.5%**FRBM Fiscal
Deficit Norm**6.5%**Odisha Capital
Outlay/GSDP

★ Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- Union Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), in Monthly Economic Review (April 2025), warned 9 of 18 large States are projected to be in revenue deficit in 2026-27.

DEA (वित्त मंत्रालय) की अप्रैल 2025 मासिक समीक्षा में 18 बड़े राज्यों में 9 को 2026-27 में राजस्व घाटे में बताया।

- Revenue-deficit States: HP (-2.4%), Punjab (-2.2%), Kerala (-2.1%), AP (-1.1%), Rajasthan (-1.1%), Haryana (-0.9%), Karnataka (-0.7%), Maharashtra (-0.7%), Chhattisgarh (-0.3%).

घाटे वाले राज्य: HP (-2.4%), पंजाब (-2.2%), केरल (-2.1%), AP (-1.1%), राजस्थान (-1.1%), हरियाणा (-0.9%), कर्नाटक (-0.7%), महाराष्ट्र (-0.7%), CG (-0.3%)।

- Revenue surplus States: Odisha (3%), Jharkhand (2.5%), UP (1.6%), Goa (1.3%), Gujarat (0.8%), Uttarakhand (0.6%), Telangana (0.3%), Bihar (0.1%).

अधिशेष राज्य: ओडिशा (3%), झारखंड (2.5%), UP (1.6%), गोवा (1.3%), गुजरात (0.8%), उत्तराखंड (0.6%), तेलंगाना (0.3%), बिहार (0.1%)।

- Punjab has the highest ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts at 22.8% — major debt servicing stress.

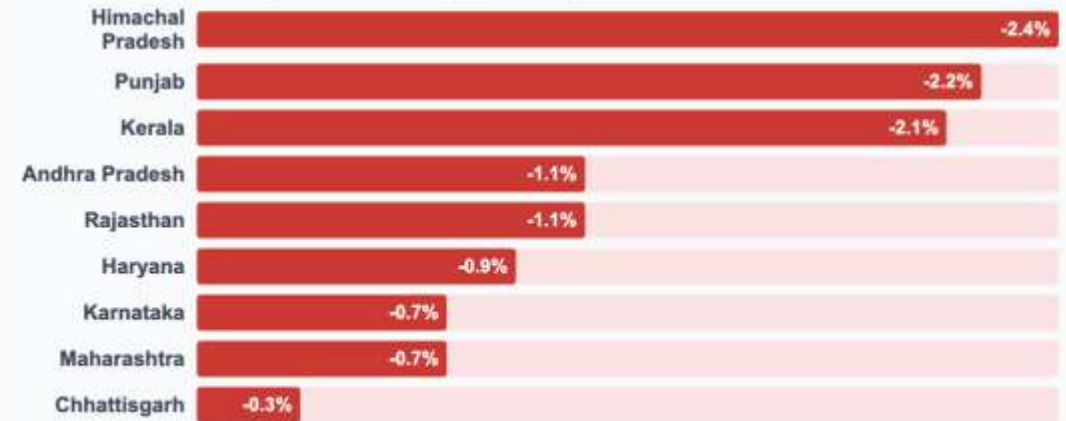
पंजाब का ब्याज-राजस्व अनुपात सर्वाधिक — 22.8% — ऋण सेवा पर भारी दबाव।

- Odisha cited as model: 3.5% fiscal deficit but revenue surplus + 6.5% GSDP capital outlay = "deliberate investment, not fiscal stress."

ओडिशा आदर्श — 3.5% राजकोषीय घाटा फिर भी राजस्व अधिशेष + 6.5% पूंजीगत व्यय = जानबूझकर निवेश।

State-wise Revenue Balance (% of GSDP 2026-27) | राज्यवार डेटा

Revenue Deficit States (Source: Ministry of Finance)



Revenue Surplus States (% of GSDP 2026-27)



Revenue Deficit / राजस्व घाटा

When government's revenue expenditure exceeds revenue receipts. Revenue expenditure = salaries, pensions, subsidies, interest payments. **NOT for asset creation.**

जब राजस्व व्यय > राजस्व प्राप्ति। वेतन, पेंशन, सब्सिडी, ब्याज = राजस्व व्यय। परिसंपत्ति निर्माण नहीं।

Bad for economy

Dis-saves

GSDP / राज्य का सकल घरेलू उत्पाद

Gross State Domestic Product — total value of goods/services produced within a state in a year. Benchmark for state finances (like GDP for Centre). Revenue balance expressed as % of **GSDP.**

राज्य का GDP। राजस्व संतुलन GSDP के % में व्यक्त।

State-level GDP

Fiscal Deficit / राजकोषीय घाटा

Total expenditure minus total receipts excluding borrowings. Indicates total borrowing requirement of govt. FRBM 3% of GDP norm for Centre; 3.5% for States (as per 15th FC).

कुल व्यय - (उधार छोड़ कुल प्राप्ति)। FRBM: केंद्र 3%, राज्य 3.5% GDP सीमा।

FRBM limit: 3.5%

Golden Rule of Fiscal Financing

Principle: Government should borrow only to invest (capital expenditure), **NOT for revenue expenditure. Zero revenue deficit = golden rule compliance. Revenue surplus = ideal.**

सिद्धांत: सरकार केवल निवेश (पूंजीगत व्यय) के लिए उधार ले। शून्य राजस्व घाटा = स्वर्णिम नियम पालन।

Article warns deficit states violate this

Primary Deficit / प्राथमिक घाटा

Fiscal Deficit minus interest payments. Shows borrowing requirement excluding interest liability. Zero primary deficit = govt borrowing only to pay past interest.

राजकोषीय घाटा – ब्याज भुगतान। शून्य प्राथमिक घाटा = केवल पुराने ब्याज के लिए उधार।

Fiscal health indicator

FRBM Act 2003 / राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. Mandates eliminating revenue deficit; limiting fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP. States have own FRBMs. NK Singh Committee (2017) reviewed it.

FRBM 2003: राजस्व घाटा शून्य लक्ष्य; राजकोषीय घाटा 3%। NK सिंह समिति 2017।

Key law for fiscal discipline

HISTORY / इतिहास

Fiscal federalism roots: Government of India Act 1935 — first division of revenue sources between Centre and Provinces. Finance Commission concept from Constituent Assembly debates (1948-49). First Finance Commission 1951-52 (K.C. Neogy). FRBM debate goes back to Narasimham Committee 1991 (balance of payments crisis → fiscal discipline).

GoI Act 1935 — केंद्र-प्रांत राजस्व विभाजन; प्रथम वित्त आयोग 1951-52 (K.C. Neogy); FRBM की जड़ें 1991 भुगतान संकट — नरसिंहम समिति।

POLITY & FEDERALISM / राजव्यवस्था

Article 280: Finance Commission (constitutional body); recommends Centre-State tax sharing. Article 293: States cannot borrow without Centre's consent if indebted. Article 266: Consolidated Fund. 15th Finance Commission (NK Singh) fixed 3.5% GSDP for states. Centre transfers: Tax Devolution (41%), Grants-in-Aid. NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission 2015 — changed grants structure.

अनुच्छेद 280: वित्त आयोग; अनु. 293: ऋणग्रस्त राज्य Centre की अनुमति से उधार; 15वाँ FC: 3.5% GSDP सीमा; कर हस्तांतरण 41%।

REGIONAL / क्षेत्रीय विश्लेषण

Fiscally stressed states cluster: HP (hill state, high O&M + salaries), Punjab (farm loan waivers, power subsidies, AAP freebies), Kerala (high welfare expenditure, ageing population), Rajasthan, AP (populist schemes). Surplus states: Eastern/Central India — Odisha (minerals royalty), Jharkhand (coal royalty), resource-rich. Tamil Nadu, West Bengal excluded — only interim budgets submitted.

तनावग्रस्त राज्य: पर्वतीय (HP), कृषि-सब्सिडी (Punjab), कल्याण (Kerala); अधिशेष: खनिज-समृद्ध (ओडिशा, झारखंड); TN और WB — केवल अंतरिम बजट।

ECONOMY — FISCAL CONCEPTS / अर्थव्यवस्था

Revenue Deficit → crowds out capital expenditure → reduces productive spending.

Ricardian Equivalence: higher govt deficit = higher future taxes expected. Dutch Disease analogy for resource-rich states. West Asia crisis mentioned as external fiscal shock.

Interest-to-revenue ratio >15% = fiscal stress indicator (World Bank benchmark). Capital outlay vs revenue expenditure: only capex creates assets.

राजस्व घाटा → पूंजीगत व्यय विस्थापन; ब्याज-राजस्व >15% = वित्तीय तनाव; केवल पूंजीगत व्यय परिसंपत्ति बनाता है।

ECONOMY — STATE FINANCES / राज्य वित्त

Sources of State Revenue: Own tax revenue (state GST, stamp duty, motor vehicle tax, excise); Non-tax revenue; Devolution from Centre (41% of divisible pool); Grants-in-Aid; Market borrowings. Revenue Expenditure items: salaries, pensions, subsidies, O&M costs, interest. Capital Expenditure: infrastructure, assets. PFMS (Public Financial Management System) for tracking.

राज्य राजस्व स्रोत: राज्य GST, स्टॉप ड्यूटी, वाहन कर; केंद्र हस्तांतरण 41%; PFMS — व्यय ट्रैकिंग।

STATIC GK / स्थैतिक GK

DEA = Department of Economic Affairs (under MoF); Monthly Economic Review = DEA publication; FRBM 2003 — target zero revenue deficit; 15th Finance Commission — 2021-26; NK Singh = 15th FC Chairman; Finance Ministry = Nirmala Sitharaman; RBI Annual Report also tracks State finances. CAG audits State accounts (Article 149).

DEA = आर्थिक कार्य विभाग (वित्त मंत्रालय); FRBM 2003; 15वाँ FC: NK Singh; वित्त मंत्री: निर्मला सीतारमण; CAG: अनुच्छेद 149।

- 1951**
First Finance Commission (K.C. Neogy) — established framework for Centre-State fiscal transfers.
प्रथम वित्त आयोग — केंद्र-राज्य वित्तीय हस्तांतरण ढाँचा।
- 1991**
Balance of Payments crisis → Narasimham Committee → fiscal reforms; LPG reforms begin.
BOP संकट → वित्तीय सुधार; LPG उदारीकरण।
- 2003**
FRBM Act enacted — mandates revenue deficit = 0; fiscal deficit \leq 3% GDP.
FRBM: राजस्व घाटा शून्य; $FD \leq 3\%$ ।
- 2017**
NK Singh Committee reviewed FRBM; recommended 3% FD for Centre, 3.5% for States via Finance Commission.
NK Singh समिति — FRBM समीक्षा।
- 2025**
DEA Monthly Review warns 9 states facing revenue deficit — West Asia crisis adds external stress.
DEA 2025 — 9 राज्य राजस्व घाटे में; पश्चिम एशिया संकट।



State Finance Comparison Table | राज्य वित्त तुलना

State / राज्य	Rev.Balance % GSDP	Status	Key Issue / मुख्य समस्या
Himachal Pradesh	-2.4%	DEFICIT	High salaries, O&M, hill state costs / पर्वतीय लागत
Punjab	-2.2%	DEFICIT	22.8% interest/revenue ratio; farm subsidies / कृषि सब्सिडी
Kerala	-2.1%	DEFICIT	High welfare expenditure; ageing population / वृद्ध जनसंख्या
Andhra Pradesh	-1.1%	DEFICIT	Populist schemes; bifurcation losses / जनवादी योजनाएँ
Rajasthan	-1.1%	DEFICIT	Farm loan waivers; high subsidies / कृषि ऋण माफी
Haryana	-0.9%	DEFICIT	High salaries; power subsidies / बिजली सब्सिडी
Karnataka	-0.7%	DEFICIT	Guarantee schemes (Shakti, Gruha Jyoti) / गारंटी योजनाएँ
Maharashtra	-0.7%	DEFICIT	Freebies; high debt servicing / मुफ्त योजनाएँ
Chhattisgarh	-0.3%	DEFICIT	Rice subsidy; high welfare / धान सब्सिडी
Odisha	+3.0%	SURPLUS	Mineral royalties; capex-led model / खनिज रॉयल्टी
Jharkhand	+2.5%	SURPLUS	Coal royalty; disciplined spending / कोयला रॉयल्टी
Uttar Pradesh	+1.6%	SURPLUS	Large tax base; GST gains / बड़ा कर आधार
Gujarat	+0.8%	SURPLUS	Industry-led revenue; own tax / औद्योगिक राजस्व

TN & WB excluded — only interim budgets submitted for 2026-27.

UPSC PRELIMS 2015

What is the difference between Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit?

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Revenue = borrowings excluded; Fiscal = all excluded | (b) Revenue = current account; Fiscal = includes capital borrowings ✓ |
| (c) Both are same measure | (d) Fiscal includes revenue + primary |

UPSC PRELIMS 2018

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) was enacted in India in which year?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| (a) 2000 | (b) 2001 |
| (c) 2003 ✓ | (d) 2005 |

UPSC PRELIMS 2021

Which Article of Indian Constitution provides for Finance Commission?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Article 270 | (b) Article 275 |
| (c) Article 280 ✓ | (d) Article 293 |

UPSC PRELIMS 2019

Primary Deficit is defined as:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Revenue Deficit + Capital Deficit | (b) Fiscal Deficit minus interest payments ✓ |
| (c) Total deficit including borrowings | (d) Revenue deficit excluding grants |

SSC CGL 2022

GSDP stands for:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Gross State Domestic Produce | (b) Gross State Domestic Product ✓ |
| (c) General State Domestic Product | (d) Gross State Development Plan |

SSC CHSL 2021

Which committee reviewed FRBM Act in 2017?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Kelkar Committee | (b) N.K. Singh Committee ✓ |
| (c) Rangarajan Committee | (d) Narasimham Committee |

BANK PO 2023

Which of the following is NOT a revenue expenditure?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Salaries of govt employees | (b) Building a new highway ✓ |
| (c) Payment of pensions | (d) Interest on national debt |

RAILWAY NTPC 2022

DEA (Department of Economic Affairs) is under which Ministry?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Commerce Ministry | (b) Finance Ministry ✓ |
| (c) Planning Ministry | (d) Home Ministry |

NEW 2025

As per DEA Monthly Review (April 2025), which State has the highest interest-to-revenue receipts ratio among large States?

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Kerala | (b) Himachal Pradesh |
| (c) Punjab (22.8%) ✓ | (d) Rajasthan |



Consider the following statements about State fiscal deficits in India:

भारत में राज्य राजकोषीय घाटे के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

- Revenue deficit occurs when a government's capital expenditure exceeds its capital receipts.
✗ INCORRECT — Revenue deficit = Revenue Expenditure > Revenue Receipts (NOT capital). / गलत — राजस्व घाटा = राजस्व व्यय > राजस्व प्राप्ति।
- As per the 15th Finance Commission, States are allowed a fiscal deficit of up to 3.5% of GSDP.
✓ CORRECT — 15th FC set state fiscal deficit limit at 3.5% of GSDP. / सही — 15वाँ FC: 3.5% GSDP।
- Punjab has the highest projected ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts among all States analysed, at 22.8%.
✓ CORRECT — As directly stated in the DEA Monthly Review. / सही — DEA समीक्षा के अनुसार।
- Odisha's 3.5% fiscal deficit qualifies as fiscal stress since it exceeds the FRBM norm of 3%.
✗ INCORRECT — Report says Odisha's deficit is a case of "deliberate investment not fiscal stress" as it has revenue surplus and 6.5% capital outlay. / गलत — ओडिशा = जानबूझकर निवेश, वित्तीय तनाव नहीं।

Which statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only ✓

(c) 1, 2 and 4

(d) 2, 3 and 4



GS-3 | PUBLIC FINANCE / सार्वजनिक वित्त

"The Union Finance Ministry has warned that States with revenue deficits will face heightened fiscal stress due to global shocks. Critically examine the causes of revenue deficits in Indian States and suggest measures for fiscal consolidation." (250 words)

राजस्व घाटे के कारण और वित्तीय समेकन के उपाय — भारतीय राज्यों के संदर्भ में।

GS-2 | FISCAL FEDERALISM / राजकोषीय संघवाद

"The 'Golden Rule' of fiscal financing requires that governments borrow only for capital investment, not for revenue expenditure. Evaluate India's fiscal federalism in light of this principle and the FRBM framework." (150 words)

स्वर्णिम नियम और भारत का राजकोषीय संघवाद — FRBM ढाँचे के प्रकाश में।

GS-3 | POPULISM VS FISCAL PRUDENCE / अर्थव्यवस्था

"States like Karnataka and Maharashtra are running revenue deficits partly due to 'guarantee schemes' and freebies. Analyse the economic impact of populist fiscal policies on State finances and long-term development." (150 words)

कर्नाटक और महाराष्ट्र — गारंटी योजनाएँ और मुफ्तखोरी — राज्य वित्त पर आर्थिक प्रभाव।

INTERVIEW / साक्षात्कार

"If you were Finance Secretary of a revenue-deficit State like Punjab, what three immediate steps would you take to reduce fiscal stress without cutting welfare spending?"

पंजाब जैसे घाटे वाले राज्य के वित्त सचिव होने पर कल्याण बिना काटे तनाव कम करने के तीन उपाय?



10 Quick Revision Points — Last Minute Prep | 10 त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति बिंदु

01

9 of 18 large States in revenue deficit (2026-27 proj.); 8 in surplus; TN & WB excluded (interim budgets only).

18 में 9 घाटे में; 8 अधिशेष; TN और WB बाहर।

02

Worst deficit: Himachal Pradesh (-2.4%), Punjab (-2.2%), Kerala (-2.1%) of GSDP.

सबसे बुरा: HP (-2.4%), Punjab (-2.2%), Kerala (-2.1%)।

03

Punjab: highest interest/revenue receipts ratio = 22.8% — major debt servicing stress.

पंजाब: 22.8% ब्याज-राजस्व अनुपात — सर्वाधिक।

04

Revenue deficit = Revenue Expenditure > Revenue Receipts. Golden Rule violated when borrowing for revenue spending.

राजस्व घाटा = व्यय > प्राप्ति; स्वर्णिम नियम उल्लंघन।

05

FRBM 2003: Centre 3% FD target; States 3.5% GSDP (15th FC). NK Singh Committee 2017 reviewed FRBM.

FRBM 2003: केंद्र 3%, राज्य 3.5%; NK Singh 2017।

06

Odisha: 3.5% FD but revenue surplus + 6.5% capital outlay = model of "deliberate investment, not stress."

ओडिशा = आदर्श मॉडल; 3.5% FD फिर भी अधिशेष।

07

Surplus states: Odisha (3%), Jharkhand (2.5%), UP (1.6%), Goa (1.3%), Gujarat (0.8%).

अधिशेष राज्य: ओडिशा 3%, झारखंड 2.5%, UP 1.6%।

08

Finance Commission: Art. 280; 15th FC (NK Singh) 2021-26; 41% devolution to States; grants-in-aid.

वित्त आयोग: अनु. 280; 15वाँ FC; 41% हस्तांतरण।

09

DEA = Dept. of Economic Affairs under MoF; publishes Monthly Economic Review; external fiscal shock = West Asia crisis.

DEA = वित्त मंत्रालय; मासिक समीक्षा; पश्चिम एशिया संकट।

10

Revenue-deficit States: higher outstanding liabilities, >15% revenue on interest, harder to respond to fiscal shocks.

घाटे के राज्य: >15% ब्याज, इटकों से निपटना कठिन।

K.C. Venugopal to return as chairman of House panel

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Congress leader K.C. Venugopal was reappointed Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament for 2026-27, on Thursday, while the Bharatiya Janata Party's Baijayant Panda will head the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has appointed BJP leader Fagga Singh Kulaste Chairman of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term starting on May 1, 2026, and ending on April 30, 2027, according to an official notification.

Mr. Birla has also appointed BJP leader Sanjay Jaiswal as Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates (2026-27) of the Lok Sabha. "The Speaker has appointed Shri K C Venugopal as the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts (2026-27)," the notification said.

The other members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on May 1, 2026 include the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's T.R. Baalu;



K.C. Venugopal

Trinamool Congress's Kalyan Banerjee; Nishikant Dubey, Jagdambika Pal, Ravi Shankar Prasad, C.M. Ramesh, Aparajita Sarangi, Tejasvi Surya, Anurag Singh Thakur (all from the BJP); Jai Parkash, Amar Singh and Venugopal (from the Congress); Telugu Desam Party's Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy; Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav; and Janasena Party's Balashowry Vallabhneni from the Lok Sabha.

Among the Rajya Sabha members are Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan, K. Laxman and Sudhanshu Trivedi (all BJP); Praful Patel (Nationalist Congress Party); Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (Trinamool); and Akhilesh Prasad Singh (Congress).

S.No. ↕	Committee ↕	Chairperson ↕	Composition ↕	Tenure ↕	Nominated / elected ↕	Sub-committees ↕
1	Public Accounts Committee	MP K. C. Venugopal	22 members (15 LS + 7 RS)	1 Year	Elected from Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha MPs	<p>Sub-Committee – I : Non Compliance in Timely submission of Action Taken Notes on the Non-selected Audit Paragraphs & Excess Expenditure</p> <p>Sub-Committee – II : Direct and Indirect Taxes</p> <p>Sub-Committee – III : Implementation of Recommendations of PAC</p> <p>Sub-Committee – IV : Railways</p>
2	Estimates Committee	MP Sanjay Jaiswal	30 members (LS)	1 Year	Elected from Lok Sabha MPs	<p>Sub-Committee – I : Drought situation in the country pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</p> <p>Sub-Committee – II : Education with special reference to the recent development regarding autonomy in Education</p>
3	Public Undertakings Committee	MP Baijayant Panda	22 members (15 LS + 7 RS)	1 Year	Elected from Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha MPs	<i>*Currently None*</i>

Aspect**News Topic****Appointing Authority****Committee Type****PAC Role****Term Duration****Opposition Role****Other Key Appointments****PAC Composition****Key Function of PAC****Notable Members****Details (English)**

K.C. Venugopal reappointed as Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for 2026–27

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

Financial Committee of Parliament

Examines CAG reports and government expenditure

1 May 2026 – 30 April 2027

Traditionally chaired by opposition member

- Baijayant Panda → Committee on Public Undertakings (CPU) - Sanjay Jaiswal → Estimates Committee - Faggan Singh Kulaste → Welfare Committee (SC/ST)

22 members (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha)

Ensures accountability of executive to Parliament

Includes MPs from BJP, Congress, TMC, SP, etc.

शुद्धर जHindi)

के.सी. वेणुगोपाल को 2026–27 के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) का अध्यक्ष पुनर्नियुक्त किया गया

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला

संसद की वित्तीय समिति

सीएजी रिपोर्ट और सरकारी व्यय की जांच करती है

1 मई 2026 – 30 अप्रैल 2027

परंपरागत रूप से विपक्ष के सदस्य द्वारा अध्यक्षता


- बैजयंत पांडा → लोक उपक्रम समिति - संजय जायसवाल → प्राक्कलन समिति - फग्गन सिंह कुलस्ते → अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति कल्याण समिति

22 सदस्य (15 लोकसभा + 7 राज्यसभा)

कार्यपालिका की संसद के प्रति जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करती है

भाजपा, कांग्रेस, टीएमसी, सपा आदि के सांसद शामिल

Point	Details (English)	श्रृङ्खला (Hindi)
Origin of PAC	Introduced in 1921 under Government of India Act, 1919	1921 में भारत सरकार अधिनियम 1919 के तहत शुरू
CAG Relation	PAC works closely with Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)	सीएजी के साथ मिलकर कार्य करती है
Nature	Post-audit committee (checks after expenditure)	व्यय के बाद जांच करने वाली समिति
Chairperson Rule	Since 1967, opposition member is appointed as chairperson	1967 से विपक्ष के सदस्य को अध्यक्ष बनाया जाता है



- **Q. Which of the following statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is/are correct?**

- PAC examines the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

- The Chairman of PAC is always from the ruling party.

- PAC is a post-audit committee.

- **Options:**

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 1 and 3 only

- C. 2 and 3 only

- D. 1, 2 and 3

SC reserves verdict on Pawan Khera's bail petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Pawan Khera in the Supreme Court on Thursday accused Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of playing the Constitutional Rambo or Constitutional cowboy by using the State's power of arrest to personally humiliate him.

The Assam Police have registered a criminal case against Mr. Khera for his remarks in a press conference against the Chief Minister's wife, Rinku Bibayan Sharma. The Congress leader had alleged that Mr. Sharma held multiple passports and considerable assets abroad.

Mr. Khera, who is facing charges of forgery, criminal conspiracy, and defamation, has appealed to the Supreme Court for anticipatory bail.

He had moved the court urgently on Sunday, a couple of days after the Gauhati High Court denied him relief.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice J.K. Mahabudh, Solicitor General Prashant Bharti for the State of Assam, said Mr. Khera's custodial interrogation was impermissible.

The Bench reserved Mr. Khera's plea for five-week bail for judgment after hearing submissions from both sides for about an hour.

EC set to implement QR code-based access at counting centres

Poll body launches new photo identity cards with QR codes for persons authorised to enter counting halls, including officials and candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday introduced a QR code-based photo identity card system to eliminate the possibility of any unauthorised persons entering counting centres.

After its introduction during the counting to be held on May 4 for the Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry and the bye-elections in seven Assembly constituencies across the states, the system will be extended to all future general and bye-elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, the EC said in a statement.

A three-tier security mechanism has been prescribed for verification of identity at counting centres. At the first and second tiers, photo identity cards will be checked manually. At the third and most stringent security cordon near the counting hall, entry shall be permitted only after successful verification from both sides for about an hour.

The new QR code-based cards will be applicable for categories of persons authorised by EC to enter counting centres and halls, including ROs, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), counting staff, technical personnel, candidates, election agents and county agents, among others.

The EC has also introduced a module on the eCPNET 2.0 platform for the QR code-based cards. A media centre will be set up near the counting hall in each centre for the facilitation of unauthorised persons. Entry of trespassers will continue to be permitted on the basis of satisfactory letters issued by the EC in accordance with the existing instructions of the commission.

All Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), District Election Officers (DEOs), ROs and AROs have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the instructions and also applied the highest standards of transparency, security and efficiency in the counting process.

The DEOs and ROs have been directed to make all necessary arrangements for the effective implementation of this system, including deployment of trained personnel at designated checkpoints to ensure seamless and secure access control.

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

The right to vote is a statutory right, not a fundamental right, Pandit said. Congress general secretary (communications) Jatin Ranjan said the right had come to second voting the status of a partisan right.

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

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Alleging EVM tampering, Mamata visits counting centre in Kolkata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Tinamoon Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Thursday landed up at the Rajabai Clock Tower in south Kolkata, the counting centre for the Bhutanpur assembly constituency, raising suspicion of malpractice and tampering with the voting machines. The school houses the strong room for EVMs of the polls which were held on April 29.

Ms. Banerjee reached the centre in the evening, ignoring torrential rain in the city and was still seated inside till reports last received. Kolkata Mayor and Tinamoon Congress candidate for the Kolkata Port

Make right to vote a fundamental right: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the right to vote was "under threat" and should be made a fundamental right, even as it dismissed the right to vote as a "statutory right, not a fundamental right."

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'Systemic failures' made tribal man take his sister's skeletal remains to bank, finds probe

Kalyanasunder Barik
Bhubaneswar

A preliminary inquiry by the Odisha government has indicated systemic failures behind the desperate and disturbing act of a tribal man who carried his sister's skeletal remains to a bank in order to prove his death.

Asked by the bank to submit proof of his sister's death to withdraw money from her account, Jitu Munda of Dhanbad village under Patna block in Keonjhar district had returned the body and carried the skeletal remains on his shoulder to the bank on April 27. Mr. Munda wanted to withdraw ₹10,000 that was in the account of Kalpana Munda, who died two months ago.

A day after the unsettling visuals posted online sparked outrage across the country, the Keonjhar ad-



The amount was handed over to three bank employees at Jitu Munda, at his residence on April 28. (EPCIA ARRANGEMENT)

ministration moved at breakneck speed issuing a death certificate and legal aid certificate and began their certificate, the documents required for withdrawal from the deceased's account. The bank handed over the amount at Mr. Munda's doorstep — all in one day on Tuesday.

The CTV footage does not have audio. However, the man stayed inside the bank for a considerable period of 01.26 a.m. to

11.38 a.m. During the time, the man approached the cashier, manager and other employees. What it seemed from footage is that the man got agitated when the bank manager finally turned him away.

The incident is absolutely shameful. It went ahead as to why the family was not provided an ATM card against the account is being offered to every customer. With an ATM card in possession, the family could have easily withdrawn the amount.

The bank authorities were of the opinion that the ATM card is generally not made available to persons who are illiterate or ignorant of procedures," Mr. Mohapatra said.

"I, along with the Odisha Gramban Bank Jitu Munda and the deceased Kalpana Munda. Both had withdrawn money about eight times in amounts ranging from ₹100 to ₹1000. When the man came to withdraw ₹10,000, the bank authorities could have been more responsive," he said.

The RDC said there were delays in issuing a death certificate. "Death certificate was issued on March 30, 2026 with an affidavit, which was not at all requested in hospital. The death certificate should have been issued by April 4, but it did not happen. After the unfortunate incident happened, the death certificate was issued to Mr. Munda," said the RDC.

He said recommendations would be sent to the State government to strengthen the system in banks to assist people belonging to weaker sections and to those who may have difficulties with banking operations.

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

The right to vote is a statutory right, not a fundamental right, Pandit said. Congress general secretary (communications) Jatin Ranjan said the right had come to second voting the status of a partisan right.

SC asks petitioner to turn in first-generation copy of leaked Manipur audio to forensic lab

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Thursday asked a petitioner-NGO, Kuki Orphanage, to hand over to the national forensic lab a "first generation copy" of the full leaked audiotape, which was not at all requested by the Union or Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh in the court in 2023-24.

The forensic experts have so far returned inconclusive about the authenticity of the tapes.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kumar said the "degenerated" every time

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

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for the State of Manipur and the Centre, said the forensic lab would need six weeks to test the recording and prepare a report.

On December 15 last year, the court had questioned why the entire available leaked audio clips were not sent for forensic examination. The court allegedly appointed its witness at the affidavit filed on behalf of the petitioner on December 20, 2025, that stated that "only select clips were sent" for forensic.

The petitioner has sought an independent CFI probe into the matter.

Manipur's people were killed and thousands displaced since the ethnic violence broke out between the tribal valley-based Meitei and neighbouring hill-dwelling communities in May 2023.

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

The right to vote is a statutory right, not a fundamental right, Pandit said. Congress general secretary (communications) Jatin Ranjan said the right had come to second voting the status of a partisan right.

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Railway Minister flags off first Jammu-Srinagar direct train

Poojanada Ashish
SRINAGAR

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday flagged off the first direct train between Jammu city and Srinagar city, also known as "India's first express with railway operations at such high altitudes" and "a gamechanger for the region's economy".

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that it had become "conspicuously" under Chief Election Commissioner Eshwar Kumar, and reiterated the BJP's demand for his removal.

Empty LNG ship from Dahej heads into Strait of Hormuz for loading in the UAE's Das Island

M. Kalyanasunderam
CHENNAI

In a development that has given hope of normalcy to routine access to the sea service, an LNG carrier *Umm Al Ashbin*, which had departed from Dahej in Gujarat after unloading its cargo there, is heading up towards crossing the Strait of Hormuz, which had halted cargo operations early in March and had been difficult with banking operations.

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Peerzada Ashiq

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Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday flagged off the first direct train service between Jammu city and Srinagar city, describing it as “India’s first experience with railway operations at such high altitudes”, and “a gamechanger for the region’s economy”.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called it “a historic day”.

“The introduction of the expanded Vande Bharat service further strengthens this historic corridor, improving travel comfort, meeting rising passenger demand, and reinforcing



Passengers arrive at Srinagar by the Vande Bharat Express flagged off by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. IMRAN NISSAR

all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar,” Mr. Vaishnaw said, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for realising the dream of railway connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.

The focus, in the future, would be on strengthening maintenance systems, and deploying advanced technologies for bridges and tunnels to ensure safety and reliability in the Himalayan terrain, he said.

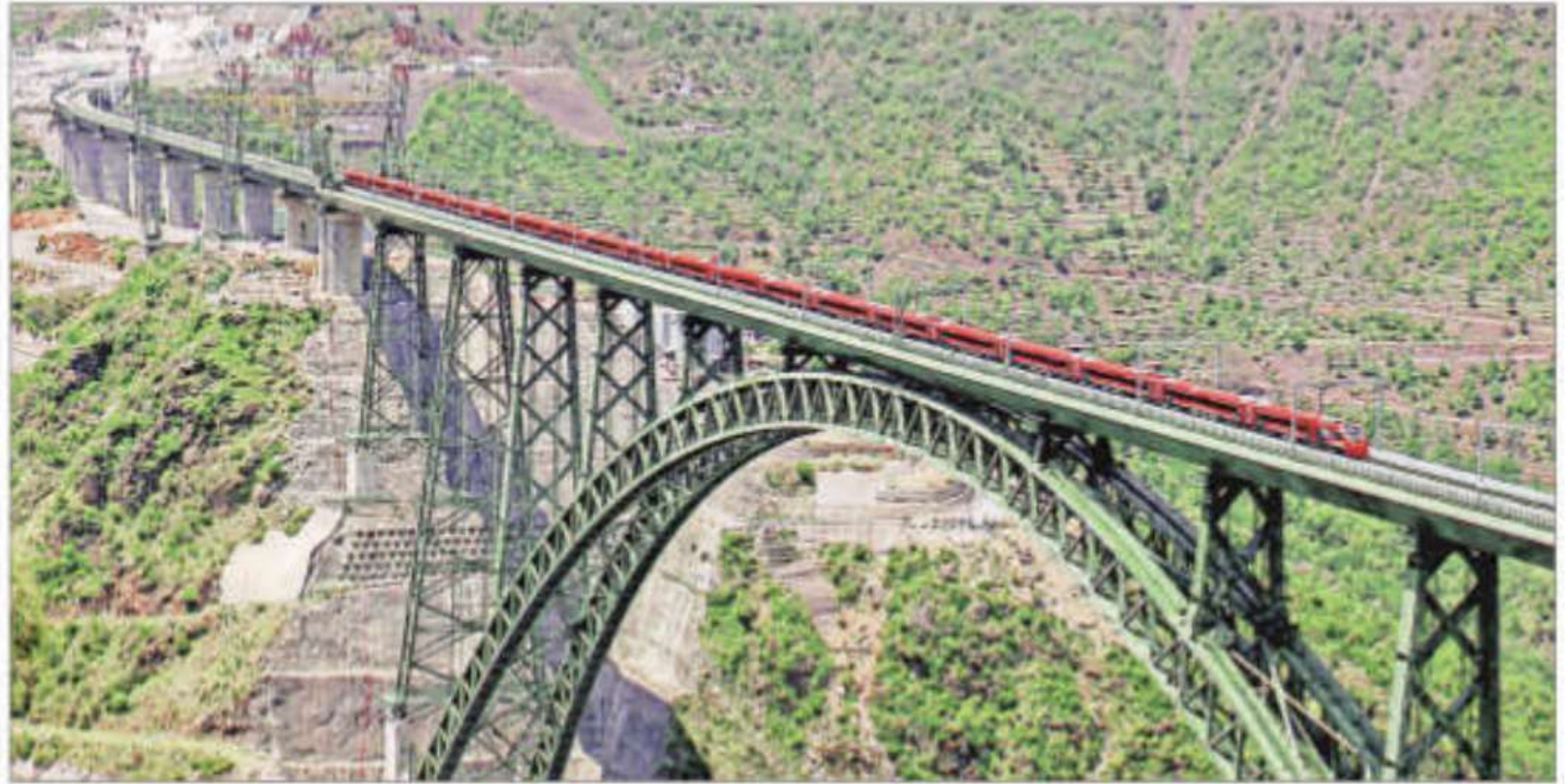


JAMMU TO SRINAGAR IN LESS THAN 5 HRS

THE TRAIN'S design, said Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, is significantly different as it can operate even at -10°C . A single train has more than 3,000 semiconductor chips and is "highly computerised".

THE DAY'S first train service starts from Jammu Tawi at 6.20 am and after 3 stops will reach Srinagar at 11.10 am. At 2 pm, it will leave Srinagar and reach Jammu Tawi by 6.50 pm. The pair will run 6 days a week.

21 SECURITY personnel, including RPF commandos, to provide security. [REPORTS: PAGES 9, 15](#)



A Vande Bharat Express crosses the Chenab Bridge for the first time, Thursday after Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the 20-coach train service between Jammu and Srinagar. Services for the public will commence on May 2. PTI

- **Journey under five hours**



USBRL

Udhampur–Srinagar
Baramulla Rail Link

272 km

Total Route
Length

38 Tunnels

Including T-49
(India's longest: 12.7km)

927 Bridges

Incl. Chenab
at 359m height

28,000 Cr+

Project Cost
(approx.)

Vande Bharat

Train Service
Flagged Off 2025

1st Ever

High-Altitude
Rail in India

★ Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- ▶ Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off India's first direct Jammu–Srinagar train service (Vande Bharat Express) — described as "India's first railway operations at such high altitudes" and "gamechanger for the region's economy."

रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने जम्मू-श्रीनगर पहली सीधी ट्रेन (वंदे भारत) को हरी झंडी — "उच्च ऊँचाई पर भारत का पहला रेल परिचालन।"

- ▶ J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called it "a historic day." Vaishnaw credited PM Narendra Modi for realising the dream of railway connectivity in Kashmir Valley.

J&K CM उमर अब्दुल्ला — "ऐतिहासिक दिन।" PM मोदी को Kashmir में रेल संपर्क का श्रेय।

- ▶ Part of USBRL (Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link) project — India's most challenging railway project through Himalayan terrain.

USBRL (उधमपुर-श्रीनगर-बारामुला रेल लिंक) — हिमालयी भूभाग में भारत की सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण रेल परियोजना।

- ▶ Future focus: strengthening maintenance systems, advanced tech for bridges and tunnels — ensuring safety and reliability in Himalayan terrain.

भविष्य: रखरखाव प्रणाली मजबूत करना; पुलों और सुरंगों के लिए उन्नत तकनीक।

- ▶ Provides all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar — previously disrupted by snowfall, landslides on NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway).

सभी मौसमों में संपर्क — पहले बर्फबारी/भूस्खलन से NH-44 बंद होती थी।

🇮🇳 USBRL Route & Key Engineering Facts | मार्ग एवं इंजीनियरिंग

USBRL Route: Udhampur → Katra → Banihal → Qazigund → Srinagar → Baramulla (272 km)



272 km

Total Route Length

38

Tunnels (T-49 = 12.7km
India's longest rail
tunnel)

927

Bridges including
Chenab (359m —
world's highest rail
bridge)

1585m

Srinagar altitude —
highest rail station on
this route

CHENAB RAILWAY BRIDGE — WORLD RECORD

Height: 359 metres above river bed (taller than Eiffel Tower 330m). Longest span: 467 metres.
Designed to withstand wind speeds up to 266 km/h, seismic Zone V, and blast loads. Grade: National Project since 2002.

ऊँचाई: 359 मीटर (Eiffel Tower से ऊँचा); 466 km/h हवा सहने योग्य; भूकंप Zone V; राष्ट्रीय परियोजना 2002।

GEOGRAPHY / भूगोल

Kashmir Valley lies in Himalayan ranges between Pir Panjal (south) and Zaskar/Greater Himalaya (north). Jhelum River flows through valley. Srinagar = 1585m altitude. Banihal Pass (2832m) — earlier only road crossing. Chenab River — tributary of Indus. Seismic Zone V — highest earthquake risk. High altitude = thin air, extreme cold, permafrost challenges for construction.

कश्मीर घाटी — पीर पंजाल और ज़स्कर श्रेणी के बीच; जेहलम नदी; श्रीनगर 1585m; बनिहाल दर्रा 2832m; चिनाब = सिंधु की सहायक; भूकंप Zone V।

ECONOMY / अर्थव्यवस्था

Kashmir economy: Tourism (~80 lakh visitors/year), horticulture (apples, saffron), handicrafts (carpets, shawls, walnut wood). Direct train = cheaper freight + year-round trade. Currently imports via NH-44 add 30-40% to cost. Boost for tourism: faster Vaishno Devi access + Kashmir tourism. J&K GDP ~₹2 lakh crore. Multiplier effect of infrastructure: ₹1 infra investment → ₹2.5-3 GDP return.

कश्मीर अर्थव्यवस्था: पर्यटन, बागवानी (सेब, केसर), हस्तशिल्प; सीधी ट्रेन = सस्ता माल ढुलाई + वर्षभर व्यापार; J&K GDP ~₹2 लाख करोड़।

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / विज्ञान-तकनीक

Chenab Bridge: Arch bridge (steel truss arch); withstands 266 km/h winds; blast-resistant; DRDO consulted for anti-blast design; seismic isolators. T-49 tunnel (12.7 km): New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM); waterproofing in permafrost zones. Vande Bharat: indigenous semi-high speed (160 km/h max); made under Make in India (ICF Chennai). Anti-collision system: Kavach.

चिनाब पुल: इस्पात आर्च; DRDO विस्फोट-रोधी; NATM सुरंग विधि; वंदे भारत: स्वदेशी 160 km/h; ICF चेन्नई निर्मित; Kavach — टक्कर-रोधी।

HISTORY / इतिहास

Railway connectivity to Kashmir remained elusive since British era. J&K's accession to India (Oct 1947) made strategic connectivity vital. USBRL sanctioned 1994-95; declared National Project 2002. Banihal–Qazigund section opened 2013; Udhampur–Katra 2014; Banihal–Qazigund–Srinagar and Srinagar–Baramulla opened earlier phases. Full Jammu–Srinagar link achieved 2025 — 30+ year journey.

1947 विलय से रणनीतिक महत्व; USBRL 1994-95 स्वीकृत; 2002 राष्ट्रीय परियोजना; 2013 बनिहाल–क्वाज़िगुंड; 2025 में पूर्ण जम्मू–श्रीनगर लिंक — 30+ वर्ष का सफर।

POLITY / राजव्यवस्था

J&K = Union Territory (since Art. 370 revocation Aug 5, 2019); J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 — bifurcated into J&K (UT with legislature) and Ladakh (UT without legislature). Railways = Union List (Entry 22). National Project status = Centre bears full cost. USBRL under Indian Railways / KRCL (Konkan Railway Corporation). PM-GATI SHAKTI: multi-modal connectivity framework.

J&K = केंद्र शासित प्रदेश (2019 से); अनु. 370 निरस्त; रेलवे = संघ सूची Entry 22; KRCL — निर्माण एजेंसी; PM-GATI SHAKTI।

STATIC GK / स्थैतिक GK

USBRL = Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link. KRCL = Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd — executing agency. Railway Minister = Ashwini Vaishnaw. J&K CM = Omar Abdullah (NC). National Project → Centre funds 100%. Vande Bharat made at ICF (Integral Coach Factory) Chennai. Chenab bridge = world's highest rail bridge. India's longest rail tunnel: T-49 Banihal (12.7 km).

USBRL; KRCL; रेल मंत्री = अश्विनी वैष्णव; J&K CM = उमर अब्दुल्ला; Vande Bharat = ICF चेन्नई; चिनाब = विश्व का सबसे ऊँचा रेल पुल; T-49 = भारत की सबसे लंबी रेल सुरंग।

- 1994-95**
USBRL project sanctioned by Indian Railways — connecting Udhampur to Baramulla through Kashmir Valley.
USBRL परियोजना स्वीकृत — उधमपुर से बारामुला तक।
- 2002**
Declared National Project — Centre to bear 100% cost; construction accelerated; KRCL given responsibility.
राष्ट्रीय परियोजना — 100% केंद्र वित्तपोषण; KRCL को जिम्मेदारी।
- 2008**
Qazigund–Baramulla section (118 km) opened — first rail service in Kashmir Valley.
क्वाज़िगुंड–बारामुला (118 km) — कश्मीर में पहली रेल सेवा।
- 2013**
Banihal–Qazigund section opened (18 km); T-48 tunnel (11.2 km) commissioned. Srinagar–Banihal link complete.
बनिहाल–क्वाज़िगुंड (18 km); T-48 सुरंग।
- 2014**
Udhampur–Katra section (25 km) opened; Vaishno Devi pilgrims get rail access.
उधमपुर–कटरा (25 km) — वैष्णो देवी तीर्थयात्रियों को रेल सेवा।
- 2022**
Chenab Bridge (world's highest rail bridge, 359m) structurally complete. T-49 tunnel (12.7 km, India's longest) completed.
चिनाब पुल (359m) और T-49 (12.7 km) — पूर्ण।
- 2024**
Katra–Banihal (Reasi) section completed; PM Modi flagged off first train on this section (June 2024).
कटरा–बनिहाल (रियासी) खंड — PM मोदी ने जून 2024 में उद्घाटन किया।
- 2025**
First DIRECT Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat service flagged off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw — 30+ year dream realised.
2025: पहली सीधी जम्मू–श्रीनगर वंदे भारत — 30+ वर्ष का सपना पूरा।



PAST / भूतकाल

Kashmir had no rail link till 2008. Only NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway) = lifeline — closed 60-70 days/year due to snow/landslides. British era: plans existed but never executed. Post-1947 accession: strategic need recognised but terrain made it extremely difficult.

2008 तक कश्मीर में कोई रेल नहीं; NH-44 साल में 60-70 दिन बंद; ब्रिटिश काल में योजनाएँ थीं।

PRESENT / वर्तमान

First direct Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat (2025). USBRL 272 km complete. World's highest rail bridge (Chenab, 359m). India's longest rail tunnel T-49 (12.7 km). All-weather connectivity established.

पहली सीधी वंदे भारत 2025; USBRL 272 km पूर्ण; Chenab 359m; T-49 12.7 km।

FUTURE / भविष्य

Extension to Leh (Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway project = 498 km); Kargil connectivity; maintenance tech upgrade; more Vande Bharat/freight trains; tourism boost; integration with NH projects.

लेह तक विस्तार (BML रेल 498 km); कारगिल संपर्क; अधिक वंदे भारत; पर्यटन बूस्ट।

Strategic & National Significance / रणनीतिक महत्व

► **Military logistics: faster troop/material movement to J&K — reduces dependence on NH-44 which can be blocked in conflict/weather.**

सैन्य रसद: J&K में सैनिकों/सामग्री की तीव्र आवाजाही।

► **Integration: Railway connectivity strengthens J&K's integration with rest of India — emotional + physical.**

एकीकरण: J&K का शेष भारत से भावनात्मक + भौतिक एकीकरण।

► **Disaster resilience: Reduces vulnerability when NH-44 is blocked by landslides or snow.**

आपदा प्रतिरोध: NH-44 बंद होने पर वैकल्पिक मार्ग।

► **Tourism multiplier: Vaishno Devi shrine + Kashmir tourism — projected 50% increase in visitors.**

पर्यटन: वैष्णो देवी + कश्मीर पर्यटन में 50% वृद्धि की संभावना।

UPSC PRELIMS 2022

The Chenab railway bridge, upon completion, was described as the world's highest rail bridge. Over which river is it built?

- (a) Jhelum (b) **Chenab ✓**
(c) Ravi (d) Beas

UPSC PRELIMS 2021

USBRL stands for which railway project in India?

- (a) Udhampur–Sopore–Baramulla Rail (b) **Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link ✓**
(c) Udhampur–Shopian–Banihal Rail (d) Uri–Sopore–Baramulla Rail Link

UPSC PRELIMS 2019

"Railways" is mentioned in which list of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) **Union List, Entry 22 ✓** (b) State List
(c) Concurrent List (d) Residuary powers

SSC CGL 2022

Vande Bharat Express trains are manufactured at which factory in India?

- (a) RCF Kapurthala (b) **ICF Chennai ✓**
(c) MCF Raebarell (d) CLW Chittaranjan

RAILWAY NTPC 2022

The Banihal–Qazigund tunnel T-49 is India's longest railway tunnel. What is its approximate length?

- (a) 8.5 km (b) 10.9 km
(c) **12.7 km ✓** (d) 14.2 km

RAILWAY GROUP-D 2023

Which corporation is the executing agency for USBRL project?

- (a) RVNL (b) **KRCL (Konkan Railway) ✓**
(c) IRCON (d) NHPC

BANK PO 2023

The Chenab railway bridge height of 359 metres makes it taller than which world-famous structure?

- (a) Big Ben, London (b) **Eiffel Tower, Paris (330m) ✓**
(c) Statue of Liberty (d) Burj Khalifa

J&K PCS 2023

J&K was reorganised into two Union Territories under which Act?

- (a) J&K State Reorganisation Act 2018 (b) **J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 ✓**
(c) Constitutional Amendment 2019 (d) President's Order 2020

NEW 2025

The first direct Jammu–Srinagar train service (Vande Bharat) was flagged off by which Railway Minister in 2025?

- (a) Piyush Goyal (b) **Ashwini Vaishnaw ✓**
(c) Suresh Prabhu (d) D.V. Sadananda Gowda

Consider the following statements about USBRL and Jammu–Srinagar rail connectivity:

USBRL और जम्मू–श्रीनगर रेल संपर्क के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The Chenab railway bridge, at 359 metres above the river bed, is taller than the Eiffel Tower and is the world's highest rail bridge.

✓ CORRECT — Chenab bridge 359m > Eiffel Tower 330m; world's highest rail bridge. / सही।

2. USBRL project was declared a National Project in 1994-95 when it was first sanctioned.

✗ INCORRECT — USBRL sanctioned 1994-95 but declared National Project in 2002. / गलत — 1994-95 स्वीकृत; राष्ट्रीय परियोजना 2002 में।

3. T-49 tunnel (Banihal–Qazigund), at approximately 12.7 km, is the longest railway tunnel in India.

✓ CORRECT — T-49 Banihal tunnel = 12.7 km = India's longest rail tunnel. / सही।

4. Railways is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution, allowing both Centre and States to legislate on it.

✗ INCORRECT — Railways is in the Union List (Entry 22) — only Central govt can legislate. / गलत — रेलवे = संघ सूची Entry 22।

Which statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only ✓

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4

GS-3 | INFRASTRUCTURE / अवसंरचना

"The completion of the USBRL and inauguration of direct Jammu–Srinagar rail service marks a transformative moment in India's infrastructure development. Discuss the engineering challenges overcome and the socio-economic implications of this project." (250 words)

USBRL की इंजीनियरिंग चुनौतियाँ और सामाजिक-आर्थिक निहितार्थ।

GS-2 | GOVERNANCE & INTEGRATION / शासन

"Infrastructure projects like USBRL serve not just economic but also strategic and integrative purposes for a nation. Critically analyse how rail connectivity to J&K strengthens national integration and security." (150 words)

USBRL — रणनीतिक, आर्थिक और राष्ट्रीय एकता की दृष्टि से महत्व।

GS-1 | GEOGRAPHY / भूगोल

"Discuss the geographical and geological challenges posed by the Himalayan terrain in building railway infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir, with reference to the USBRL project." (150 words)

J&K में हिमालयी भूभाग — भूभौतिकीय चुनौतियाँ — USBRL के संदर्भ में।

INTERVIEW / साक्षात्कार

"The USBRL project took over 30 years to complete. What lessons does this teach us about megaproject planning and execution in India? What reforms would you recommend for faster infrastructure delivery in difficult terrain?"

30+ वर्षों में पूर्ण — मेगाप्रोजेक्ट योजना की शिक्षा और सुधार के उपाय?

01

First direct Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat flagged off (2025) by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw — "India's first high-altitude railway ops."

पहली सीधी जम्मू–श्रीनगर वंदे भारत 2025; रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव।

02

USBRL = Udampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link; 272 km; 38 tunnels; 927 bridges; National Project 2002.

USBRL = 272 km; 38 सुरंगें; 927 पुल; राष्ट्रीय परियोजना 2002।

03

Chenab Bridge = world's highest railway bridge — 359 metres above river bed; taller than Eiffel Tower (330m).

चिनाब पुल = 359m = विश्व का सबसे ऊँचा रेल पुल; Eiffel Tower से ऊँचा।

04

T-49 (Banihal tunnel) = India's longest railway tunnel = 12.7 km. Built using NATM method.

T-49 = 12.7 km = भारत की सबसे लंबी रेल सुरंग; NATM।

05

KRCL (Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd) = executing agency for USBRL. Railways = Union List, Entry 22.

KRCL = USBRL क्रियान्वयन; रेलवे = संघ सूची Entry 22।

06

USBRL timeline: Sanctioned 1994-95 → National Project 2002 → First service (Qazigund-Baramulla) 2008 → Direct Jammu-Srinagar 2025.

1994→2002→2008→2025 — 30+ वर्ष का सफर।

07

J&K = UT since Aug 5, 2019 (Art. 370 abrogated); J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 — J&K (UT with legislature) + Ladakh (UT without).

J&K = UT 2019; अनु. 370 निरस्त; Ladakh = UT बिना विधानसभा।

08

Vande Bharat: indigenous EMU; max 160 km/h; ICF Chennai; 180° rotating seats; auto doors; Kavach-ready.

वंदे भारत: ICF चेन्नई; 160 km/h; स्वदेशी EMU; Kavach-सक्षम।

09

Economic significance: Kashmir economy = tourism + horticulture (apples, saffron) + handicrafts; all-weather rail reduces costs 30-40%.

कश्मीर = पर्यटन + बागवानी + हस्तशिल्प; रेल से लागत 30-40% कम।

10

PM-GATI SHAKTI (2021) — multimodal infra framework; USBRL integrates with road (NH-44), air (Srinagar airport) under this plan.

PM गति शक्ति 2021 — USBRL, NH-44, श्रीनगर हवाईअड्डा एकीकरण।

Lift abortion time limit for minor rape survivors: SC

SC says state and doctors cannot make decisions for minor rape survivors, it should be left to the parents or survivors; CJI calls for amendment to ensure such cases are completed within a week

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Union government to amend the abortion law to remove the time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancies in the case of minor rape victims.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi made the observation while refusing to entertain a curative petition filed by the government against a recent decision of the top court allowing a 15-year-old rape survivor to terminate a 30-week pregnancy.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, accompanied by specialists from AIIMS, said they were against the termination considering the health and well-being of both the teenager and the "unborn child". One of the specialist doctors said the court was wrong to consider this as a foetus-child (rape survivor) issue.

"This is a child-child issue," the doctor submitted in court.

The court said it was not for the doctors or the state



We are only protecting the child whose face is staring back at us. If she questions us, what answer would we give? What answer would the society have? The law cannot bow to momentary sentiments. The law has to see the whole life ahead for the victim. If law is required to be ruthless, it has to be that

CJI SURYA KANT



CJI Kant says the child's victimisation cannot remain with her for the rest of her life as a scar

to choose what was best for the rape survivor. The decision should be left to the parents of the survivor and the survivor herself.

"Let not medical personnel become the masters of the will of the people. The people would decide," Justice Bagchi said.

The state and the doctors could take them through the medical procedure and provide them expert help in the form of counsellors, the court said.

"You will help parents

and children by having an informed discussion on the medical procedure for ending the foetuses' life and consequences... If anyone can come back to us for a review of our decision in this case, it is the parents or the child... The state cannot file a review. It has no locus standi. It is not for AIIMS to choose, it is for citizens to choose and the AIIMS to medically implement their choice," Justice Bagchi told the Centre and the AIIMS doctors.

Severe trauma

Chief Justice Kant said the 15-year-old had already undergone the trauma of rape. She cannot be compelled to carry and give birth to a child. Her victi-

misation cannot remain with her for the rest of her life as a permanent scar.

"We are only protecting the child whose face is staring back at us. If she questions us, what answer would we give? What answer would the society have? The law cannot bow to momentary sentiments. The law has to see the whole life ahead for the victim. If law is required to be ruthless, it has to be that," the Chief Justice addressed the law officer and the doctors.

Ms. Bhati said the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Act of 2021 has increased the time limit for legal abortion from 20 to 24 weeks for survivors of rape, minors, and women with disabilities.

"You should amend the law to remove any time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancy caused by the rape of a minor. You should also bring an amendment not only in the MTP Act, but also in the penal law, making it mandatory to complete the trial in such cases in a week. The entire property of the accused should be given to the victim," Chief Justice Kant observed.

- ▶ **Supreme Court Bench (CJI Surya Kant + Justice Joymalya Bagchi) refused to entertain govt's curative petition against its earlier order allowing a 15-year-old rape survivor to terminate a 30-week pregnancy.**

SC (CJI सूर्यकांत + न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची) ने सरकार की उपचारात्मक याचिका खारिज — 15 वर्षीय बलात्कार पीड़िता को 30 सप्ताह के गर्भ को समाप्त करने की अनुमति बरकरार।

- ▶ **SC called for amendment to MTP Act to remove ANY time limit on abortion for minor rape survivors. Also called for amendment in penal law to complete trial within 1 week in such cases.**

SC ने MTP अधिनियम में नाबालिग बलात्कार पीड़िताओं के लिए कोई भी समय-सीमा हटाने का आह्वान; दंड कानून में 1 सप्ताह में मुकदमा पूरा करने की मांग।

- ▶ **CJI said: "State cannot file a review. AIIMS has no locus standi. It is for citizens to choose and the AIIMS to medically implement their choice." — bodily autonomy upheld.**

CJI: "राज्य समीक्षा दायर नहीं कर सकता; AIIMS को locus standi नहीं; नागरिक चुनाव करें, AIIMS चिकित्सीय रूप से लागू करे।"

- ▶ **SC also said entire property of the accused should be given to the victim. Decision should rest with parents or survivor — NOT doctors or state.**

SC: आरोपी की संपत्ति पीड़िता को; निर्णय माता-पिता या पीड़िता का — डॉक्टर या राज्य का नहीं।

- ▶ **MTP Amendment Act 2021 had already expanded the limit from 20 to 24 weeks for rape survivors, minors, and women with disabilities — but SC says this is still insufficient.**

MTP संशोधन 2021 ने सीमा 20→24 सप्ताह की — पर SC का कहना है यह भी अपर्याप्त है।

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

Original act legalized abortion in India. Time limits: Up to 12 weeks — 1 doctor's opinion; 12–20 weeks — 2 doctors' opinion; Beyond 20 weeks — only if life/health of mother at risk. Did NOT cover rape survivors separately.

1971: भारत में गर्भपात कानूनी। 12 सप्ताह तक = 1 डॉक्टर; 12-20 = 2 डॉक्टर; 20 से अधिक = केवल जीवन जोखिम।

MTP Amendment Act, 2021 — Key Changes

Extended upper limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories: rape survivors, minors, women with disabilities, foetal abnormalities detected late. Beyond 24 weeks: only for substantial foetal abnormalities (Medical Board decision). Removed requirement of 2-doctor approval up to 20 weeks (now 1 RMP sufficient). Confidentiality provisions strengthened.

2021: बलात्कार पीड़िता, नाबालिग, दिव्यांग महिलाओं के लिए 24 सप्ताह; 20 सप्ताह तक 1 डॉक्टर पर्याप्त; गोपनीयता मजबूत।

SC's Demand — Proposed Amendment

Remove ANY time limit on abortion for minor rape survivors — case-by-case medical assessment. Amendment in penal law: mandatory completion of trial within 1 week. Entire property of accused to be transferred to victim. State and doctors have no locus standi to challenge survivor's/parent's decision.

SC: नाबालिग बलात्कार पीड़िता के लिए कोई समय-सीमा नहीं; 1 सप्ताह में मुकदमा; आरोपी की संपत्ति पीड़िता को।



Key Constitutional & Legal Provisions | मुख्य संवैधानिक एवं कानूनी प्रावधान

Art. 21

Right to Life & Personal Liberty — SC expanded to include bodily autonomy, reproductive rights, right to health. Abortion rights flow from Art. 21.

जीवन का अधिकार → शारीरिक स्वायत्तता → प्रजनन अधिकार।

Art. 14

Right to Equality — Discriminatory application of abortion law (denying minor survivors) violates equality. All persons equal before law.

समानता का अधिकार — नाबालिग पीड़िताओं के साथ भेदभाव नहीं।

IPC/BNS

Section 376 IPC (now BNS 63) — Rape; S.376AB — rape of minor below 12 yrs; NDPS/special courts. SC asks for 1-week trial completion in rape-of-minor cases.

IPC 376/BNS 63 — बलात्कार; 376AB — 12 वर्ष से कम नाबालिग; SC: 1 सप्ताह में मुकदमा।

JJ Act 2015

Juvenile Justice Act — for care and protection of children. Minor rape survivors are children in need of care and protection (CNCP) under JJ Act.

JJ अधिनियम 2015 — बच्चों की देखभाल; नाबालिग पीड़िका = CNCP।

Art. 15(3)

Allows State to make special provisions for women and children — justifies special abortion limits for minor rape survivors.

महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए विशेष प्रावधान — नाबालिग पीड़िता के लिए।

POCSO 2012

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act — mandatory reporting of sexual abuse of minors.

Conflict: mandatory reporting vs confidentiality in MTP Act.

नाबालिग यौन उत्पीड़न — अनिवार्य रिपोर्टिंग; MTP गोपनीयता से टकराव।

Bodily Autonomy

SC's X vs Union of India (2024) — reproductive autonomy is a fundamental right under Art. 21.

Unmarried women also included. Surrogacy/abortion decisions = personal liberty.

X vs Union of India 2024 — प्रजनन स्वायत्तता = मौलिक अधिकार; अविवाहित महिलाएँ भी शामिल।

DPSP Art. 39(f)

Children shall not be abused — directive for child welfare. Art. 47: State to raise level of nutrition and public health. Art. 51A(e): Renounce practices derogatory to dignity of women.

अनु. 39(f): बच्चों का शोषण न हो; अनु. 47: स्वास्थ्य; 51A(e): महिला सम्मान।

HISTORY / इतिहास

Pre-independence: abortion illegal (IPC Section 312 — 1860). Shantilal Shah Committee (1964) recommended legalisation. MTP Act 1971 — landmark. Global context: Roe v. Wade (USA 1973) — right to abortion; overturned 2022 (Dobbs case). India's approach: legal, but time-bound. International: UN recognises reproductive health as human right (ICPD 1994, Cairo).

IPC 312 (1860) — गर्भपात अवैध; शांतिलाल शाह समिति 1964; MTP 1971 — ऐतिहासिक; Roe vs Wade 1973 (USA); UN: ICPD 1994 — प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य मानव अधिकार।

SOCIAL JUSTICE / सामाजिक न्याय

India data: ~16% of unsafe abortions are due to lack of access. Rural vs urban disparity in healthcare access. Child marriage link: India has world's highest number of child marriages — minors get pregnant. NFHS-5 data: 7% women aged 15-19 were pregnant. Gender justice: forcing a minor rape survivor to carry pregnancy = secondary victimisation.

भारत में 16% असुरक्षित गर्भपात; बाल विवाह संबंध; NFHS-5: 15-19 वर्ष 7% गर्भवती; नाबालिग पीड़िता को गर्भ रखने पर विवश = द्वितीयक उत्पीड़न।

ECONOMY / अर्थव्यवस्था

Cost of forced motherhood: Economic burden on minor survivor's family; lost education/livelihood; intergenerational poverty. UNFPA estimates unsafe abortion costs India ~\$300M annually in healthcare. SC's demand — accused's property to victim = victim compensation framework. Productive potential of survivors if supported.

जबरन मातृत्व = आर्थिक बोझ; शिक्षा/आजीविका नुकसान; UNFPA: असुरक्षित गर्भपात ~\$300M वार्षिक; SC: आरोपी संपत्ति = पीड़िता मुआवजा।

POLITY & JUDICIARY / राजव्यवस्था

Judicial Activism: SC expanding rights through PIL and suo motu. Curative petition: last resort after review petition fails (Rupa Ashok Hurra case 2002). Locus standi: right to bring case before court — SC said State has NO locus standi here. Doctrine of parens patriae: State as guardian of those unable to protect themselves (child victims).

Separation of powers — SC directing legislative amendment.

न्यायिक सक्रियता; उपचारात्मक याचिका (Rupa Ashok Hurra 2002); Locus Standi; Parens Patriae सिद्धांत; शक्तियों का पृथक्करण।

SCIENCE & HEALTH / विज्ञान-स्वास्थ्य

WHO definition: Safe abortion = legal, accessible, performed by trained person. Foetus viability: generally 24 weeks. After 24 wks — premature birth possible but survival uncertain. Mental health impact of forced pregnancy on rape survivors: PTSD, depression, suicide risk. Medical Board under MTP Act 2021: for >24 week cases. AIIMS Medical Board role.

WHO: सुरक्षित गर्भपात; 24 सप्ताह = भ्रूण व्यवहार्यता; बलात्कार से PTSD, अवसाद; MTP 2021 मेडिकल बोर्ड >24 सप्ताह के लिए।

- 1860**
IPC Section 312 — causing miscarriage declared criminal offence; abortion illegal in British India.
IPC 312 — गर्भपात अपराध; ब्रिटिश भारत।
- 1964**
Shantilal Shah Committee recommended legalisation of abortion on broad grounds — social, economic, humanitarian.
शांतिलाल शाह समिति — गर्भपात वैधीकरण की सिफारिश।
- 1971**
MTP Act 1971 passed — legal abortion up to 20 weeks; 12 wks (1 doctor); 12-20 wks (2 doctors).
Landmark legislation.
MTP अधिनियम 1971 — 20 सप्ताह तक कानूनी; ऐतिहासिक कानून।
- 2009**
Suchita Srivastava vs Chandigarh Admn (SC): reproductive autonomy is a fundamental right under Article 21.
सुचिता श्रीवास्तव — प्रजनन स्वायत्तता = अनु. 21 मौलिक अधिकार।
- 2021**
MTP Amendment Act 2021: expanded to 24 weeks for rape survivors/minors/disabled. Medical Board for >24 wks. Confidentiality strengthened.
MTP 2021: 24 सप्ताह (बलात्कार/नाबालिग); मेडिकल बोर्ड; गोपनीयता।
- 2024**
X vs Union of India (SC): Unmarried women have equal rights to abort up to 24 weeks — no discrimination. Landmark ruling.
X vs UOI 2024: अविवाहित महिलाओं को भी 24 सप्ताह तक समान अधिकार।
- 2025**
Present SC ruling: Calls for removing ALL time limits for minor rape survivors; 1-week trial; property of accused to victim.
2025: SC — नाबालिग बलात्कार पीड़िता के लिए कोई समय-सीमा नहीं; 1 सप्ताह मुकदमा।

UPSC PRELIMS 2021

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was originally enacted in India in which year?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| (a) 1961 | (b) 1966 |
| (c) 1971 ✓ | (d) 1976 |

UPSC PRELIMS 2022

After MTP Amendment Act 2021, what is the upper time limit for termination of pregnancy for rape survivors and minors?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| (a) 20 weeks | (b) 22 weeks |
| (c) 24 weeks ✓ | (d) 28 weeks |

BANK PO 2023

Under MTP Act 2021, which body is authorised to allow termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks in case of foetal abnormalities?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) District Collector | (b) Medical Board ✓ |
| (c) High Court | (d) Supreme Court |

UPSC PRELIMS 2023

In X vs Union of India (2024), the Supreme Court held that which category of women also has equal rights to abort up to 24 weeks?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Widows only | (b) Unmarried women ✓ |
| (c) Foreign nationals | (d) Women above 45 |

SSC CGL 2022

POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) was enacted in India in which year?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| (a) 2010 | (b) 2011 |
| (c) 2012 ✓ | (d) 2014 |

UP PCS 2023

The doctrine of "parens patriae" refers to the role of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Executive as guardian of public interest | (b) State/court as guardian of vulnerable persons ✓ |
| (c) Parliament as supreme lawmaker | (d) President as constitutional head |

UPSC PRELIMS 2019

In Suchita Srivastava vs Chandigarh Admn, the SC held that reproductive autonomy is a fundamental right under which Article?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Article 14 | (b) Article 19(1)(a) |
| (c) Article 21 ✓ | (d) Article 32 |

SSC CHSL 2021

Which Article allows the State to make special provisions for women and children?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Article 14 | (b) Article 15(1) |
| (c) Article 15(3) ✓ | (d) Article 16 |

NEW 2025

In 2025, the SC Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant called for amendment of MTP Act to remove time limits for which category of abortion?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) All women above 40 | (b) Minor rape survivors ✓ |
| (c) Women with two children | (d) Unmarried women only |

Consider the following statements about MTP Act and SC's 2025 ruling:

MTP अधिनियम और SC के 2025 निर्णय के संदर्भ में विचार करें:

1. The MTP Amendment Act 2021 extended the upper limit for termination of pregnancy to 24 weeks for rape survivors, minors, and women with disabilities.

✓ CORRECT — MTP 2021 extended limit to 24 wks for these categories. / सही।

2. The Supreme Court ruled in 2025 that the State and AIIMS doctors have the primary right to decide on termination of pregnancy for minor rape survivors.

✗ INCORRECT — SC explicitly said State and AIIMS have NO locus standi; decision rests with parents/survivor. / गलत — SC ने कहा निर्णय माता-पिता/पीड़िता का है।

3. Reproductive autonomy as a fundamental right under Article 21 was first established in Suchita Srivastava vs Chandigarh Administration (2009).

✓ CORRECT — 2009 judgment established this principle. / सही।

4. MTP Act 1971 in its original form allowed termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks with two doctors' approval.

✗ INCORRECT — Original 1971 Act allowed up to 20 weeks (not 24). 24 wks came with 2021 Amendment. / गलत — मूल 1971 में 20 सप्ताह; 24 सप्ताह 2021 संशोधन से।

Which statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only ✓

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4

GS-2 | JUDICIARY & FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS / न्यायपालिका

"The Supreme Court's 2025 direction to remove the time limit on abortion for minor rape survivors reflects the expanding scope of Article 21. Critically examine the evolution of reproductive rights as a fundamental right in India." (250 words)

अनुच्छेद 21 का विस्तार — प्रजनन अधिकार — MTP कानून का विकास।

GS-2 | SOCIAL JUSTICE / सामाजिक न्याय

"Minor rape survivors face compounded victimisation when forced to carry pregnancies to term. Analyse the legal, ethical, and social dimensions of the SC's call for amending the MTP Act for such survivors." (150 words)

नाबालिग बलात्कार पीड़िता — गर्भ जारी रखने पर बाध्य करना = द्वितीयक उत्पीड़न — कानूनी, नैतिक, सामाजिक आयाम।

GS-1 | SOCIETY — WOMEN & CHILD / समाज

"India's child marriage, POCSO cases, and unsafe abortion data paint a grim picture of child health and safety. Suggest a holistic policy framework to address these interconnected issues." (150 words)

बाल विवाह, POCSO, असुरक्षित गर्भपात — परस्पर जुड़ी समस्याएँ — समग्र नीति ढाँचा।

INTERVIEW / साक्षात्कार

"The SC asked Parliament to amend both the MTP Act and penal law for minor rape survivor cases. What are the practical challenges in implementing a 1-week trial mandate and removing the time limit on abortion?"

MTP संशोधन + 1 सप्ताह मुकदमा — व्यावहारिक चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं?



10 Quick Revision Points | 10 त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति बिंदु

01

SC (CJI Surya Kant + Bagchi J.) 2025 — refused govt's curative petition; upheld 15-yr-old rape survivor's right to terminate 30-week pregnancy.

SC 2025 — 15-वर्षीय बलात्कार पीड़िता को 30-सप्ताह समाप्ति का अधिकार।

02

SC called for MTP Act amendment to remove ALL time limits on abortion for minor rape survivors.

SC: MTP में नाबालिग बलात्कार पीड़िता के लिए कोई समय-सीमा नहीं।

03

MTP Act 1971: originally 20 weeks. MTP Amendment 2021: 24 weeks for rape survivors/minors/disabled. Medical Board for >24 weeks.

MTP 1971: 20 सप्ताह; 2021 संशोधन: 24 सप्ताह; >24 = मेडिकल बोर्ड।

04

Reproductive autonomy = Fundamental Right under Art. 21 (Suchita Srivastava 2009; X vs Union of India 2024).

प्रजनन स्वायत्तता = अनु. 21 मौलिक अधिकार; 2009 और 2024 निर्णय।

05

SC: State and AIIMS have NO locus standi to challenge survivor's/parent's decision. "Not for state or doctors to choose."

राज्य/AIIMS को locus standi नहीं — निर्णय माता-पिता/पीड़िता का।

06

SC demanded penal law amendment: complete rape-of-minor trial within 1 WEEK. Entire accused property to victim.

दंड कानून: 1 सप्ताह में मुकदमा; आरोपी की सम्पूर्ण संपत्ति पीड़िता को।

07

Curative petition: last remedy after review petition; established Rupa Ashok Hurra 2002. Govt's curative petition DISMISSED.

उपचारात्मक याचिका: Rupa Ashok Hurra 2002; सरकार की याचिका खारिज।

08

Parens patriae — court/state as guardian of minor victims. Bodily autonomy — Art. 21 — cannot be overridden by state.

Parens patriae — नाबालिग का अभिभावक; शारीरिक स्वायत्तता — Art. 21।

09

POCSO 2012: sexual offences against minors; mandatory reporting; conflict with MTP confidentiality provisions.

POCSO 2012 — अनिवार्य रिपोर्टिंग; MTP गोपनीयता से टकराव।

10

Art. 15(3): special provisions for women + children. Art. 21: reproductive rights. Art. 14: equality. DPSP Art. 39(f), 47, 51A(e).

अनु. 15(3), 21, 14; DPSP 39(f), 47; 51A(e) — महिला सम्मान।

Text & next

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Dilapidated school buildings demolished in Dehradun

56 The Dehradun district administration has demolished 56 dilapidated school buildings to ensure the safety of students and staff members. The work was completed within a month, officials said on Thursday. A total of 60 condemned school buildings were identified.

Percentage increase in India's marine fish catch in 2025

3 In per cent, India's marine fish production in 2025 rose by 3% to 35.7 lakh tonnes compared to the previous year, ICAR-CIFRI on Thursday said. According to an assessment by the ICAR Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Tamil Nadu emerged as the top marine fish producing state.

Percentage growth of Taiwan's economy in the first quarter

13.70 In per cent, Taiwan's economy saw double-digit growth in the first three months of 2026 thanks to robust demand for artificial intelligence technology, data showed Thursday, despite concerns over the West Asia crisis.

Number of Gaza activists 'kidnapped' by Israel

211 Organisers of a Gaza-bound flotilla last month's army had 'kidnapped' 211 activists in a raid in international waters off Greece. The flotilla was organised for the Global Sumud France, that the operation had taken place near the island of Crete.

Number of registered users on PhonePe as of April 29

700 In million, PhonePe announced that it has crossed the milestone of 700 million (70 crore) registered users as of April 29. This highlights PhonePe's population scale reach in India and the breadth of its digital platform offerings.

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How is the next UN chief being chosen?

Why is the role of Secretary-General important? Who are the candidates? What factors shape the choice? Why does this election matter now? What are the candidates' campaign priorities? What happens next?

EXPLAINER

Raja Karthikeyan

The election of the next UN Secretary-General is underway. On April 21-22, four candidates from various and less men pitched their records of public service and leadership to the UN General Assembly in "informal, interactive dialogues".

Why is the role of Secretary-General important?

The UN Charter defines the Secretary-General as the UN's Chief Administrative Officer, who oversees the work of the UN Secretariat and fulfils "any other functions and duties entrusted" to them by the organisation's principal organs, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General also has the mandate to bring to the Security Council's attention any issue that threatens global peace and security.

When needed, the Secretary-General has the authority to appoint "Personal Envoys" (as Antonio Guterres has now done for the current West Asia conflict). Often described as the world's "chief diplomat," the Secretary-General is the face and voice of the UN, speaking as the world's conscience on issues ranging from the arms race in space and climate change to persistent inequality that hampers economic growth.

How is the Secretary-General elected?

The UN Charter states that the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. This means that the Permanent Members of the Security Council — China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S. — have a significant say in who gets elected.

What considerations play a role?

While the terms of a Secretary-General is



Often described as the world's 'chief diplomat', the Secretary-General is the voice of the UN. *AP/USCIB*

technically "discretionary," incumbents have, since 1981, voluntarily limited themselves to two terms. By custom, the post rotates among five regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This is in tune with the UN's dynamic as a play, with Spanish-speaking Latin American countries and English-speaking Caribbean nations supporting different candidates.

Who are the candidates? The four candidates now officially in the race are: Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Macky Sall, former President of Senegal; Rafael Grossi, Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and Rebecca Gryboski, Head of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Why is this election crucial? Eighty years after its founding, the UN is facing a deep financial and political crisis. The Secretariat relies on mandatory "assessed contributions" collected from member states. Still, non-payment, partial payment, and delay in payment of dues by

leading contributors have triggered an unprecedented financial situation. The Security Council is paralysed by acrimony and persistent vetoes by the permanent members. The UN is also struggling to mobilise funds and troops for missions in places such as Haiti, and with host country relations in cases such as in Mali, where the UN mission was forced to withdraw.

Over the past decade, the UN played a key role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, advancing climate action through the Paris Agreement, and promoting sustainable development via the 2030 Agenda. However, recent conflict in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine, and Iran have raised questions about its ability to prevent war — a central idea of the UN Charter. There are increasing calls for the UN to "refit its basics" by focusing more on conflict resolution. The Sustainable Development Goals are now universal markers of developmental progress but there is rising concern that only 46% of the targets are on track to be met by 2030. Meanwhile, the humanitarian system is under severe strain due to multiple conflicts, intensifying disasters, and pressures on international humanitarian law. The next

Secretary-General will have the unenviable task of not just administering, but rejuvenating the organisation.

What are the candidates' campaign priorities?

During their interactions with the General Assembly, Ms. Bachelet, Ms. Gryboski, and Mr. Sall all emphasised preventive diplomacy — the UN's forte for preventing conflicts through adroit behind-the-scenes parity with the stakeholders to the conflict. However, their approaches differ. Ms. Bachelet prioritised field presence, while Ms. Gryboski focused on merging the UN's work in the prevention of conflict with its work on human rights. Ms. Gryboski was arguably the most vocal on UN reform, proposing restructuring the Secretary-General's office within the first 100 days if elected. Among areas for priority action, Ms. Bachelet highlighted climate, Ms. Sall highlighted migration, and Mr. Grossi highlighted UN-World Bank relations. Ms. Gryboski stressed the need to protect food-developed nations from funding cuts.

All candidates committed to gender parity, while Ms. Bachelet emphasised improving geographic diversity within the UN workforce, a longstanding demand of developing countries. On the state in the Security Council, Ms. Gryboski and Mr. Sall said they would publicly call out permanent members of the council who violate international law, while Mr. Grossi promised to uphold the UN Charter. Ms. Bachelet said she will use the Secretary-General's office to build political viability for Security Council reform.

What happens next?

In the next phase, the Security Council will hold closed-door deliberations and straw polls before recommending a candidate to the General Assembly around October. Once later confirmed, the choice through a simple majority vote, the new Secretary-General will take office on January 1, 2026. *(Raja Karthikeyan is a former international civil servant.)*

THE GIST

The UN is facing a deep financial and political crisis, with Security Council paralysis, funding shortfalls, and rising global conflicts.

The next secretary-general will have the task of rejuvenating the organisation, focusing on conflict prevention, reform, and advancing sustainable development goals.

What happened to Komagata Maru passengers in 1914?

Why was the Komagata Maru denied entry into Canada? What happened to the passengers?

Fractured Kler

In the spring of 1914, a Japanese steamship called the Komagata Maru sailed from Hong Kong toward Vancouver, British Columbia, carrying 376 passengers: 340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims, and 12 Hindus from Punjab in British India. They were British subjects hoping to build new lives in Canada. What awaited them was a two-month standoff in the harbour, a formal denouncement on the floor of the House of Commons, and a place in the history of both India's anti-colonial movement and Canada's long reckoning with its own past. The episode was recently mentioned by singer Shilpa Duggal on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon.

Why was Punjab central to events leading up to the voyage? By 1914, Punjab had become the primary recruiting ground for the British Indian Army. The British had cultivated Punjab

as a loyal province populated by a "martial race" but the relationship was both bipolar and extractive. Rapid agricultural growth combined with sicy credit had created a crisis of rural indebtedness, and epidemics of malaria and plague in the early 1900s pushed families toward emigration as the only way out.

Among those who left were the founders of the Ghadar movement, established in 1913 among expatriate Punjabis on the U.S. West Coast, dedicated to the armed overthrow of British rule in India.

The Komagata Maru voyage was freighted with this politics from the start. Ghadar activists boarded the ship in Yokohama, delivering lectures and distributing anti-colonial literature, and British intelligence was watching closely.

What led to the standoff? The voyage was organised by Gurdit Singh, a Punjabi entrepreneur based in Singapore, who chartered the ship

specifically to challenge Canada's exclusionary laws. Canada had enacted a "continuous journey regulation" in 1908, barring entry to anyone who had not travelled by a single unbroken journey from their country of birth. By pressuring shipping companies not to sell direct tickets from India,

When the ship arrived in Vancouver's Burrard Inlet on May 23, 1914, Prime Minister Robert Borden kept the ship anchored offshore, cutting off communication and stifling proceedings. The local South Asian community raised over \$20,000 to take over the ship's charter and launch a lawsuit to bring a test case, but the British Columbia Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the discriminatory laws. Officials then withheld food and water. On July 19, an armed police force of 150 men attempted to board the ship; the passengers fought them off. Borden dispatched a naval cruiser. Only 22 entrepreneurs, mostly those who could prove prior Canadian

residence, were ultimately permitted to disembark. The ship departed under escort on July 23. British colonial authorities, suspicious of the passengers' politics, refused to let the ship dock in Hong Kong or Singapore. When it finally anchored near Calcutta in late September, police tried to force the disembarked passengers onto trains bound for Punjab. They refused, marched toward the city, and were fired upon. Twenty passengers were killed; many more were imprisoned. Ghadar Singh evaded capture for years before surrendering in 1920 and serving five years in prison.

What happened when the ship returned to India?

In the aftermath, the Ghadar movement surged in recruitment. Some members returned to Punjab in 1915 to attempt an armed uprising, which failed due to informers and the Ghadarites were sent to the gallows, but the movement's martyrs became folklore. Canada soon drew to acknowledge what it had done. An apology delivered at a community festival by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2008 was rejected by many as insincere. It took until 2016 for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to deliver a formal apology on the floor of the House of Commons. The Komagata Maru remains a sharp demonstration of what colonial subjects had long understood: that the British Empire's pretence of equal subjecthood were never meant for everyone.

THE GIST

The Komagata Maru carried 376 British subjects from Punjab but was denied entry into Canada under the "continuous journey" regulation, leading to a two-month standoff in Vancouver harbour.

On returning to India, the passengers faced police firing near Calcutta, killing 20 people.

How is the next UN chief being chosen?

Why is the role of Secretary-General important? Who are the candidates? What factors shape the choice? Why does this election matter now? What are the candidates' campaign priorities? What happens next?

EXPLAINER

Raja Karthikeya

The story so far:

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technically “discretionary,” incumbents have, since 1981, voluntarily limited themselves to two terms. By custom, the post rotates among five regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This is the turn of the latter. Within the region, there are dynamics at play, with Spanish-speaking Latin American countries and English-speaking Caribbean nations supporting different candidates.

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Aspect

Current Issue

Details (English)

Selection process for next UN Secretary-General underway

शुभ्रघर्ु जHindi)

अगले UN महासचिव के चयन की प्रक्रिया जारी

Election Authority

Appointed by UN General Assembly on recommendation of UN Security Council

महासभा द्वारा नियुक्ति, सुरक्षा परिषद की सिफारिश पर

Key Power Factor

P5 (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) have veto power

स्थायी 5 सदस्य (P5) के पास वीटो शक्ति

Selection Method

Informal dialogues + closed-door UNSC voting (straw polls)

अनौपचारिक वार्ता + सुरक्षा परिषद में गुप्त मतदान

Term Duration

5 years (renewable, usually max 2 terms)

5 वर्ष (आमतौर पर अधिकतम 2 कार्यकाल)

Rotation Principle

Regional rotation (Africa, Asia, Latin America, etc.)

क्षेत्रीय घुमाव प्रणाली

Next Term Start

1 January 2027

1 जनवरी 2027

Candidates & Background

Candidate	Profile (English)	प्रोफाइल (Hindi)
Michelle Bachelet	Former President of Chile; ex-UN Human Rights Chief	चिली की पूर्व राष्ट्रपति; UN मानवाधिकार प्रमुख
Macky Sall	Former President of Senegal	सेनेगल के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति
Rafael Grossi	Head of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी प्रमुख
Rebeca Grynspan	Head of UNCTAD	UNCTAD प्रमुख

Role & Importance of Secretary-General

Dimension	Details (English)	विवरण (Hindi)
Administrative Role	Chief Administrative Officer of UN	UN का मुख्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारी
Diplomatic Role	Known as "World's Chief Diplomat"	"विश्व का मुख्य राजनयिक"
Peace & Security	Brings global threats to UNSC attention	वैश्विक खतरों को सुरक्षा परिषद तक लाता है
Special Powers	Can appoint envoys, mediate conflicts	दूत नियुक्त कर सकता है, संघर्ष समाधान करता है

Key Challenges (Exam Relevant)

Area	Details (English)	विवरण (Hindi)
Financial Crisis	Funding shortages, delayed contributions	वित्तीय संकट, देरी से भुगतान
UNSC Paralysis	Veto politics blocking decisions	वीटो के कारण निर्णय बाधित
Global Conflicts	Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan etc.	यूक्रेन, गाज़ा, सूडान जैसे संघर्ष
SDG Progress	Only ~18% targets on track	केवल ~18% लक्ष्य ट्रैक पर

Campaign Priorities of Candidates

Theme	Details (English)	विवरण (Hindi)
Preventive Diplomacy	Focus on stopping conflicts early	संघर्षों को पहले रोकना
UN Reform	Restructuring UN system	UN में सुधार
Climate Action	Address climate crisis	जलवायु परिवर्तन
Migration & Development	Focus on global migration issues	प्रवासन और विकास
Gender Parity	Equal representation in UN	लैंगिक समानता

• **Q. With reference to the UN Secretary-General, consider the following statements:**

- The Secretary-General is appointed by the UN Security Council.
- The appointment requires approval by the UN General Assembly.
- Permanent members of the Security Council can influence the selection through veto power.

• **Options:**

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

Questions and Answers to the previous day's

daily quiz: 1. What word meaning 'guide' in German was used to refer to Hitler? **Ans: Fuhrer**

2. In 1923, Hitler attempted to pull off a coup and overthrow the Weimar Republic; the attempt landed him in prison. What was it called? **Ans: The Munich Putsch**

3. What is the name of the totalitarian dictatorship set up by Hitler from 1933 to 1945? **Ans: The Third Reich**

4. In 1936, the Nazi regime used this international sporting event for propaganda. It wasn't held again until 1948. Which event was this and what event caused its delay? **Ans: Olympics. World War 2**

5. The Axis Alliance was formed between Hitler, Mussolini, and another leader. Name him. **Ans: Japanese emperor Hirohito**

Visual: If you're a Harry Potter fan, you would have heard of the Chamber of Secrets. But have you heard of the Chamber of Horrors? This statue is found in which museum's chamber of horrors? **Ans: Madame**

Word of the day

Abominable:

exceptionally bad or displeasing

Synonyms: atrocious, awful, dreadful

Usage: *The refugees were forced to live in abominable conditions.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/J1643b/abominable

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ə'bam.ə.nə.bəl/



Word of the day

Enjoin:

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something with authority

Synonyms: command, instruct, charge

Usage: *The teacher enjoined the students to remain quiet during the exam.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/enjoin

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪndʒɔɪn/



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