Daily Current Affairs



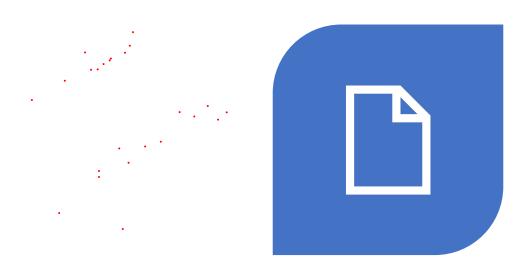








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10 MCQ QUIZ

• "Marks measure your memory for one exam; discipline measures your future for a lifetime."

Current Affairs 2025—2026



By Bhunesh Sir

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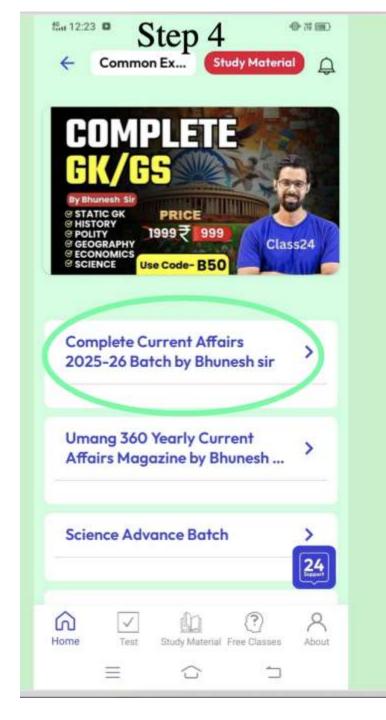
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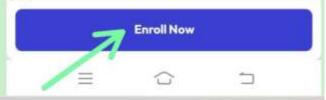






Complete Current Affairs 2025–2026 by Bhunesh Sir

This batch is designed for learners preparing for exams conducted by UPSC Prelims, PSCs, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB like SSC CGL, CHSL, GD, RRB NTPC, RAS, PCS, CET. The focus is to help you build a steady grip on current affairs that matter across







No power-sharing pact with Shivakumar: CM



and 1.00 lath were dupli-cate service.
Turni Nada Chief Bec-



The long path from wreckage to recovery



Hardik, Tilak and Varun shine for India SPORT II PAGE 34

INSTITUTE

Govt. to increase Agniveers' quota in CAPTs to 50%

NAME AND ADDRESS OF

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Delhi HC ourishes Lokpal's order against Moitra

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U.S. decides to suspend green card lottery

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Rapid decline in inflation is cause for concern: RBI

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Police deay nod for protest by NREGA activists

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97 lakh voters deleted in T.N., 74 lakh in Gujarat

Of electors removed in T.N., 66.4 lakh shifted or Of 5.08 crore names in Gujarat, 40 lakh migrared. This is exactly the mass disenfranchisement that absent, over a third of Chennal voters defend 9.7 lakh absent, and 18.07 lakh electors deceased experts have been warning against, says analyst

Numbers in draft rolls



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Riots rock Bangladesh as leader of uprising dies; 2 newspaper offices torched

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'Agents of India'



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Riots rock Bangladesh as leader of uprising dies; 2 newspaper offices torched

Rabiul Alam DHAKA

Violent protests swept Bangladesh on Thursday night and Friday following the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, a key figure of last year's uprising against the Sheikh Hasina government and a leader of the Inquilab Mancha.

Hadi, 32, was shot at on December 12 while he was campaigning for the upcoming February elections and died of injuries on Thursday night at a hospital in Singapore.

'Agents of India'

Protesters stormed the offices of the country's two leading newspapers – Prothom Alo and The Daily Star – and set fire to the buildings, trapping journalists and other staff inside. Accusing both newspapers of being 'agents of India', the crowd went on a rampage.

He was a spokesperson of Inqilab Mancha and a prospective candidate for the Dhaka-8 seat.

From the capital's Shahbagh intersection to university campuses and major cities, students, political activists, and members of the public organised marches, blockades and demonstrations, and demanded justice for Hadi. Leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party (NCP), the Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (the student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami), and the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUC-SU) participated in the protests at Shahbagh and surrounding areas.

Protesters raised slogans hailing Hadi and protested against what they called 'Indian interference'



Facing fury: Bangladesh troops at the Prothom Alo daily's office, which was set on fire in Ohaka on Friday. AF

in Bangladesh's affairs. NCP leaders Asif Mahmud, Mahfuj Alam, convener Nahid Islam, and Nasiruddin Patwari were present during the protests.

Following the protests, hundreds of demonstrators reached the office of Prothom Alo, one of the largest dailies in Bangladesh, at Karwan Bazar around 11.30 p.m. on Thursday and surrounded the building. Dozens climbed the four-story structure, vandalised the floors, dragged out documents and furniture, and set them on fire. By Friday morning, the building had been completely charred.

Around 12.15 a.m., protesters stormed the office of The Daily Star near Farmgate. Some looted CPUs, monitors, and furniture. More than a dozen journalists and employees were initially trapped on the rooftop, with several others stranded on different floors. Firefighters brought the blaze under control at 2.00 a.m., and a fire service crane was deployed to rescue those trapped. By 2:30 am, all employees had been evacuated safely.

Following the attacks, operations at Prothom Alo and The Daily Star were suspended and both newspapers were not published on Friday. Their online activities were also disrupted.

The interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus condemned the attacks and urged citizens to resist from what it described as mob actions carried out by a handful of fringe elements.

Govt. pledge firm action

"We are deeply sorry for the terror and violence you have endured," the government said in a statement, adding that attacks on journalists are an assault on truth. The government pledged to bring to justice those responsible for the violence.

Mr. Yunus spoke to the editors of both newspapers over the phone and offered support. "This unexpected and disgraceful attack on your institutions and journalists has deeply pained me. In this difficult time, the government stands firmly by your side," he told them. The statement also condemned the lynching of a Hindu man in Mymensingh, calling it a heinous crime and asserting that there is "no space for such violence in the new Bangladesh."

Core Event

 Large-scale protests and riots continued in Dhaka and other cities following the death of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi.

युवा नेता शरीफ उस्मान हादी की मृत्यु के बाद ढाका और अन्य शहरों में बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध-प्रदर्शन और दंगे जारी रहे।

Trigger Factor

 Hadi, a leader of last year's uprising against the Hasina government, was shot dead, triggering nationwide unrest.

हादी, जो पिछले वर्ष हसीना सरकार के खिलाफ आंदोलन का नेता था, की गोली मारकर हत्या के बाद देशव्यापी अशांति फैली।

Protest Demands

 Protesters demanded arrest of the gunmen and alleged that India should not harbour elements of the former Hasina government.

प्रदर्शनकारियों ने हत्यारों की गिरफ्तारी की मांग की और आरोप लगाया कि भारत को पूर्व हसीना सरकार के तत्वों को शरण नहीं देनी चाहिए।

Violence & Vandalism

Two major newspaper offices, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, were attacked and set on fire.
 प्रोथोम आलो और द डेली स्टार के कार्यालयों पर हमला किया गया और आग लगा दी गई।

Media Freedom Issue

Journalists were harassed and media houses targeted, raising concerns over press freedom.
 पत्रकारों को परेशान किया गया और मीडिया संस्थानों को निशाना बनाया गया, जिससे प्रेस स्वतंत्रता पर सवाल खड़े हुए।

Attacks on Indian Mission

 In Chattogram, a mob attacked the residence of India's Deputy High Commissioner by hurling bricks.

चट्टोग्राम में भीड़ ने भारत के उप-उच्चायुक्त के आवास पर पथराव किया।

Political Responses

 Bangladesh Nationalist Party condemned violence against the media, while Jamaat-e-Islami called for patience.

बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी ने मीडिया पर हिंसा की निंदा की, जबकि जमात-ए-इस्लामी ने संयम की अपील की।

Interim Government Stand

Interim government under Muhammad Yunus urged calm, unity and democratic progress.
 मुहम्मद यूनुस के नेतृत्व वाली अंतरिम सरकार ने शांति, एकता और लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति की अपील की।

Law & Order Measures

 Tear gas was used, highways were blocked, and the Bangladesh Army was deployed to restore order.

आंसू गैस का प्रयोग हुआ, राजमार्ग अवरुद्ध किए गए और व्यवस्था बहाल करने हेतु बांग्लादेश सेना तैनात की गई।

Aspect	Explanation
Core incident	Violent riots erupted across Bangladesh after the death of uprising leader Sharif Osman Hadi. । श्रुक्क्स्म्गण्य इङ्ग् ष्क्रुत्त्र ट्रघह्⊓ क्ष्n त्रष्ट् प्रक्रह्म इह रक्क्ष्म्य इङ्ग् विद्राविद्यालय स्थापन विद्यालय स्थापन विद्यालय
Who was Hadi	Sharif Osman Hadi was a key leader of last year's uprising against the Hasina government. ट्रघह्य क्ष्नाव्र प्रक्रह श्रृष्ट च्रह्नेत्रक्राप्रदृहष्त्र द्रघड्तघ्र इङ्स्ह चत्रा इङ् ष्ट्राव्ह्राच्चार इङ् ब्रह्महा क्ष्मावर क्ष्मावर इङ्क्राच्चा इङ्क्राचार इङ्क्राचार इङ्क्राचार व्यवस्था
Cause of death	Hadi was shot on December 12 while campaigning for the upcoming February elections. 🛮 घञघह द्भाव असह् श्री ह् इद्व्रघ हुड़ व्याध्यक्ष 12 ऋद्याघ हुझ प्रसह हुझ पुस्रह रक्षा व्ह एहड
Place of death	Hadi later died of injuries while undergoing treatment in Singapore. स्चक्र इड् व्यक्रक श्रृह्मप्रह्मार खूँपक्रहा इह राष्ट्रिक्षप्रह्माए हर्ड
Spread of protests	Protests spread from Shahbagh in Dhaka to universities and major cities. स्व्रङ्व ड्ङ् ट्रव्रणावण द्र्ङ्श्वाद्धक्ष - ब्रङ्ट्रद्राष्ट्र श्वाटिश्वप्रां वचग्रह्मक् घ । ब्रह्ट्ट्रणाद्धम्मल्ड् । प्राच एड्ड
Major violence	Protesters stormed and set fire to offices of two leading newspapers. ङ्ट्ट्रब्र्ड्ड्वप्रप्रमाङ्ग्ङ्क्र्ड्स्ट्र्ड् इ्त्रगत्माग ्रह्म ्घ प्रप्रक्रित इघ ७ ए चण्त्र व्हर्ड
Newspapers targeted	Offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star were torched and vandalised. इस्ट्राइप व स्ट्राइप व स्
Nature of damage	Journalists were trapped, documents destroyed, equipment looted and buildings charred. हृद्ड्वघ्र पत्रद्धः विष्ठत्रक्रूः ष्ट्र स्ट्ड्घर् क्राह्र्ण्ड्व्घ स्रक्राप्रक्रूः च एहह

Accusations by protesters

ष्ट घ्रह्मह चण्त्रग्रह

Protesters accused newspapers of acting as "agents of India". | ङ० ट्रब्रुष्ड्वप्रप्रमह्मङ् १ थ्र □व्रह्मह्म "क्रव्रप्रल्ड्" प्रह्माङ्ड्व

Political participation	Leaders and workers of NCP, BNP, Jamaat student wing and others joined protests. N <mark>CP, BNP, न्रक्रतः ध्व्रद्</mark> ढ्रम्भः इ. इ. १ १ व्य स् रह्ड् ष्ट्रत्य-इवग्रह् ल्क्रम्बद्धः रक्ट्रक्रम्बद्धः इह्ह
Law and order response	Bangladesh Army and firefighters were deployed to control violence and rescue trapped people. । श्रेप्रह्रूव अभ्यस्र् रुघ ात्रद्भुन् स्यस्यह्म ा द्व्रङ्ग्ङ्ग्र्यङ् क्रिन्त्रवङ्ग्र्द्र द्र्ड्ज्व रुघ व्यवङ्ग् च । च त्यन्त्रवल् श्र्ह् ङ् एङ्ह
Media shutdown	Both newspapers suspended printing and online operations temporarily. इस्राह्म थ्राविद्धाह्न १ तग्रह र ह दूह श्रुह्ह रुघ छ ष्रचत्रस्ष ब्र्वट्रष्ट क्रिट्र्घ श्रुरंगत्रह
Interim government stand	Interim government led by Muhammad Yunus condemned attacks and promised strict action. रक्कार्ट्र ग्राह्मस्ट्रं इंड्रं ष्ट्रंबर्ड्ड अत्रसह श्राह्मसम्बद्ध प्रदेश प्रदेश हैं अल्लाव इंड इंड इंड्र इं
Key message from govt	Government stated there is "no space for violence" in the new Bangladesh. ढ्रघड्वघ ष्ट्रंड्णव श्र्हं एड् प्रमन्त्रवर्ड्ट्र रक्ष्ण्रग्रह्व ड्ड्न्स्ट इंड्स्ट ह् एण रूणहाण्ह्य"
India angle	Protest slogans accused India of interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs. इ.ट् ट्रब्र्ड्ड् ड्ड्र्ड्ड् प्रमानविद्युट्ट इंड्र्ड्ड्ड्र्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड्ड
Press freedom concern	The incident raised serious concerns over media freedom and democratic norms. स्टू त्ब्ष्त्र ष्ट्रब्रूट्र s ल्झ्ट्लिन्घ च्ह्रम् ल्क्नस्ड् खाइम्ह्म एम्स्ह्मश्रह्मल हुम्ल इह्रह

EC seeks Central forces for security at its Kolkata office

Mosurie Som

The Election Commission of todia (RC) on Thursday wrose to the Union Home Ministry seeking immediate deployment of Central Forces on the premises of the Rokina office of the Chief Election Officer (ERC) of West Bengal, etc. ing a "law and order" attustion following protests by booth-level officers during the special intensive revi-

sion 600. The poll body said personnel be "immediately deployed to ensure roundthe clock safety and securi-ty of the officers and staff of CRO office".

of CISO office".

"--in the midst of Silk esercise. In West Itengal,
there was law and ordersituation in front of the office of the Chief Electoral
Officer, West Bergal,
which was ghersoned by a
crowd of booth-level officers and workers from certain political partyties) on
Koveember 42 and 25, the letter said, adding that a "serious security risk" is being posed to officers and staff of the CEO's office. The letter refers to the

dreds of BLOs had gathered to profest against the workload of the SB. Some of the protesters had broken through barri-cades and entered the CE-CPs office.

the office of the West Ben-

'Micro observers'
The Election Commission
of India is set to appoint
roughly 4,000 micro-utroughly 4,000 indice off-server across west Bengal in oversee and serutinise hearings in the origing SIR exercise, according to sources in the office of the State's Chief Electoral Officer. The micro-observers, likely to be appointed from existing Group-B Central covernment emiscoses.

government employees, are set to work alonguide the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Klectoral Registration Officers (AEROs) across 294 Assembly constituencles in the State, during verification of electors called for hearing.

Govt. to increase reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50%

After reserving 50% constable posts in RSE, the Home Ministry moves to enhance the quota in Group C posts for ex-Agniveers in other CAPFs, new policy marks a shift from earlier decision

onthe before the first batch of Agni-veers retires from service, the Union Home Ministry has decided to engniveers in the Group Costs of the Central Armed Solice Porces (CAPPs) from the existing 10% to 80%, a senior government official told The Hindu.

sold The Health.

On Friday, the Ministry notified that 50% occurs constable points in the flow constable point in the flow of the Health of t

in the coming days. This is a significant shift from Mi-niarry's earlier decision to implement 10% reservation for the temporary recruits



for written examinations like other regular candidates, seem resser

Violent protests in 2022
The recruitment policy are with violent protests and was one of the major issues during the 2024 Lok fablus.

Following protests, the Ministry amounteed the Ministry amounteed the CAFPs will be reserved for the armed forces regrain.

CAPPs will be reserved for the armed forces recruite who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath achiene. It also announced five years age relaxation. In 'secrationmi

of the armed forces in the GAPA. for the first butch and three years age relaxation for allrequent batches. The

cancies of ov-Agoiwars in a specific steppry in the first stage." It said.

For absorption in the rank of constables from among the Combatteed the BEY, the age returned the BEY, the age returned have been relaxed from ex-niting 30 to 38 years.

The CAPTS comprise the Contral Industrial security Reserve Police Force

The amended Rujee say, "By direct recruitment (n-cluding fifty per cent va-cancies shall be reserved for ex-Agniveers in every recruitment year, ten per cent from ex-Servicimen Reserve Police Force CRPP), Indo Tibetan Border Police (FFBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the As-san Rifles.

Centre to set up a dedicated body to protect ports, ships

The Hindu Bureau

The government will con-attitute the Bureau of Port Security (boP5), which will be a dedicated body to oversee the security of ves-sels and port facilities in the country, official sources said on Friday. The Bu-reau is being modelled on the lines of the Bureau of (BCAS).

Home Minister Amit

Shah convened a meeting to discuss the constitution of BoPS, which was attend-ed by Sarbananda Sonowgl, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ram Mohan Naidu, Mi-

simplement and weather age in mister of Cavil Aviations.

The 16074 will ensure the 16074 will ensure and exchange of security related information, with a special focus on cyberge and exchange of the 16074 will be seen as the

parameters.

The BoPS shall be constituted as a stantony body under provisions of the constitution of the newly promulgated Mer-chant Shipping Act, 2025. The Bureau, headed by a Director General, shall function under the negls of the Ministry of Ports, Ship ping and Waterways and shad be responsible for regulatory and oversight functions relating to the security of ships and port fa-cilities.
The BoPs shall be head-

The Hol's shall be head-uch by an IPS officer (Pay Level-19). Daring the one-year translation period, the Director General of Ship-ter (Pay 1997). The Con-lanction as the Director General, Rulbi. Earlier, the Central In-dustrial Security Force (1387) was designated as a Recognised Security Or-port facilities with respon-

port facilities with respon-sibility for undertaking security assessments and

Crowded ride



Cash-for-query: HC quashes Lokpal order granting CBI sanction against Moitra

and up to three per cest for absorption of annual va-cancy amongst Comba-dised Constable

(Fradeemen):

"In the first phase, the secruitment shall be conducted by the Nodal Force for the con-

for fifty per cent vacancies earmarked for ex-Agni-veers" and "in the second

phase, recruitment shall be conducted by the Staff Se-

lection Commission for candidates other than ex-

ing forty seven per cent (in-cluding ten per cent ex-ser-

vicement for the vacancies along with the unfilled va-cancies of ex-Agniveurs in a

Agniveers for the remain

The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed a Lokpal order granting ametion to the GR to file a chargest-est against Trinamoni Con-gress MP Malnia Mostra in the alleged eash-for-query

Not followed procedure A Bench of Justices And Kshetarpal and Harish Vai-dyamethan Shanker said dyamethan Shankar said there was a "clear thepar-ture" from the procedure expressly mandated under the Lehgral and Lebayulias. Act, and that the Lebayulias. Act, and that the Lebayulias had erred in its under-standing and interpreta-tion of the provisions of the Act.

Mahus Moitra

ed appears to amount to a form of statutory ingunity or re-engineering of the Lokyal Act, resulting in a process inconsistent with press provisions of the sta-tute," the court said. The court further direct ed the Lokyal to consider the grant of sanction under section 25 of the Lokyal Act arrietly in accordance with the provisions of the

stands, within a month.

The cash-for-query scam relates to the allogation that Ms. Moltra had asked questions in the House in exchange for cash and gifts from a businessman.

businessian.
The judgment came on a plea lited by Ms. Moirra challenging the Lokpul's November 12 order granting sanction to the Clit to file a chargesheet against her in connection with the case.

Her plea contended that arguments and submis-sions were invited from her but were completely ig-noted before the sanction order was issued under the Lokpal Act, on the ground that they were removing that they were premature and would be considered at a subsequent stage.

ISRO's launch

The Hinds Bureau

The Indian Space Research + Organisation (ISRO) will + Isanch the 6,500 kg Blue lained the 6,500 kg little Bird communications as-tellite on December 24 from Rithurikota. The national space agency on Priday an nounced that the commu-

nounced that the commu-nication satellite deve-loped by the U.S.-baned AST SpaceMobile will be launched as part of the LVM3-M6 mission.

LVM3-M6 minature.
"The lumnch of LVM3-M6 is subschied on 34 December 2028 at 8-84 am
BT from the Neconda
Launch Pad of the Satisth
Dhawan Space Centre," is
said. The intellite was intitally scheduled to be
launched on December 15.

of U.S. satellite scheduled on December 24

ED seizes cash, gold in U.S. 'donkey route case

The Hindu Bureau

The linforcement Directo-rate (ED) has selzed \$4.68 grore to cash, grid hare worth \$6.07 crose, and all-ver hars valued at about \$6.42 crose during searches at El locations across Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi in connection with a mo-ney laundering investigation in the "donkey route" case linked to illegal immi-gration into the United

According to the agency, gold bars and silver bars veighing 5.9 kg and 313 kg

41 Maoists surrender in Telangana; major arms cache retrieved

The Hindu Bureau

Forty-one underground cadres of the banned GPI (Maoist) organisation sor-rendered before the Telan-gasa Police on Friday. marking one of the largest such surrenders in the State this year, police said. The surrendered group included six senior func ionaries. Plate tee member and Divisional

committee members dakam Manga, a People's Liberation tinerrilla Army weighing 5.9 kg and 128 kg were impromised, along wern ingolumided, along wern ingolumided, along with gold costne worth 22.7 laikh and several digital carry of the Komaram cleri Etragolla Ravi, sectralized the control of the contr

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ven INSAS rifles, a BGL gun, four 303 rifles, a single shot rifle and two air guns, along with 733 live rounds of amountties and

orga Shevadhar Redoty

reambs of aromanistics and eight BUL shells.

The surrentee took The surrentee took the Telangaria Director General of Police (DGP) shrother feeldy. Police is the second of the Telangaria Director General of Police (DGP) shrother feeldy. Police is the second of the se

State-Lovel Monitoring Cummitteest, issuing digi-tal title deeds, storing lega-cy data on titles granted, and mapping potential for-not areas over which FRA rights could be claimed in the fature in the form of an IRA Adles. The Ministry's pitch came at a national consulby the National Tribal Re-

Centre plans portal to provide | ED attaches assets all forest rights services online

Alshinay Lakshman

The Union government is the Union government is developing a national web portal to try and take the entire process of forest rights recognition and management ordine, se-nior officials told The Hir-de on Fields. on Eriday.

According to a presenta-tion prepared by the Tritial Affairs Miniatry, this new portal is proposed to act as a single window for all Forest Rights Act (FRA) pro-cesses, which include filing and processing of claims (from the Gram Sabhas' Porest Rights Committee to State-Level Monitoring

This would be a part of FRA road map that Tribal Affairs Ministry hopes to finalise by the first half of 2026 naite by the first half of

Delhi on Friday on the challenges in implement-ing the 2006 Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Re-cognition of Forest Rights) Act, popularly known as the Forest Rights Act or the Forest Rights Act or FRA, meant to recognise generationally held and ex-ercised rights of 87s and other forest deedless on forest land across the

forest land across the country.

The law recognises varieties are recognised varieties and recognised varieties and recognised varieties, and this portal would be part of the overarching FFA road map, which the Ministry was working to h

naise by the first half of 2026, One of them said this was part of the govern-ment's larger plans to use PRA records to identify be-neficiaries for the astura-tion of existing govern-ment welfare schemes.

Heta version A beta version of the portal has been developed, and it is being called TARANCI for the time being, an official and

At the workshop, while Tribal Affairs Minister had Oran stressed how FRA rights were "fundamental to ensuring metainable li-velihends. Tribal Affairs

of cricketers, actors in betting app case

The Enforcement Directo-rate (ED) on Friday provi-sionally attached movable and immovable assets va-lated at \$7.83 crore belonging to former Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa, and five actors including Urvashi Rauteta and Sonu Sood, in a money foundering case linked to an "illegal" off-

shore betting platform.

The properties of actor
Neba Sharma, mother of
actor Rantela, Bengali acveilhoutds, Tribal Affairs
becortary Ranjana Chopria
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agency. According to fiD, the ceentities for the progates. These enslorsements were made in return for

ing Lines were engaged in promoting and facilitating illegal online betting and

Govt. to increase reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50%

After reserving 50% constable posts in BSF, the Home Ministry moves to enhance the quota in Group C posts for ex-Agniveers in other CAPFs; new policy marks a shift from earlier decision

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

onths before the first batch of Agniveers retires from service, the Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for exAgniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from the existing 10% to 50%, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

On Friday, the Ministry notified that 50% vacant constable posts in the Border Security Force (BSF) will be reserved for former Agniveers. Though exempted from Physical Standard Test and Physical Efficiency Test, the notification suggests that the ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates.

The official said that the recruitment rules for Group C posts of all CAPFs will be amended gradually in the coming days. This is a significant shift from Ministry's earlier decision to implement 10% reservation for the temporary recruits



The notification suggests that the ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates. IMRAN NISSAR

of the armed forces in the CAPFs.

Violent protests in 2022

The recruitment policy announced in 2022 was met with violent protests and was one of the major issues during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Following protests, the Ministry announced that 10% of all vacancies in the CAPFs will be reserved for the armed forces recruits who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath scheme. It also announced five years age relaxation in recruitment

for the first batch and three years age relaxation for subsequent batches. The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for recruitment in the CAPFs in 2026.

On Friday, the Ministry notified the Border Security Force, General Duty Cadre (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, (Amendment) Rules, 2025, with new provisions.

The amended Rules say, "By direct recruitment (including fifty per cent vacancies shall be reserved for ex-Agniveers in every recruitment year, ten per cent from ex-Servicemen and up to three per cent for absorption of annual vacancy amongst Combatised Constable (Tradesmen)."

"In the first phase, the recruitment shall be conducted by the Nodal Force for fifty per cent vacancies earmarked for ex-Agniveers" and "in the second phase, recruitment shall be conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for candidates other than ex-Agniveers for the remaining forty-seven per cent (including ten per cent ex-Servicemen) for the vacancies along with the unfilled vacancies of ex-Agniveers in a specific category in the first stage", it said.

For absorption in the rank of constables from among the Combatised Constable (Tradesmen) of the BSF, the age criteria have been relaxed from existing 30 to 35 years.

The CAPFs comprise the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), BSF, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles.

- What happened: The Union Home Ministry has decided to raise reservation for ex-Agniveers in Group C posts of CAPFs from 10% to 50%. | क्या हुआ: केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने CAPFs की Group C भर्तियों में ex-Agniveers का आरक्षण 10% से बढ़ाकर 50% करने का निर्णय लिया है।
- BSF specific move: 50% vacant constable posts in BSF will be reserved for former Agniveers. | BSF में खास बदलाव: BSF में 50% रिक्त कॉन्स्टेबल पद पूर्व Agniveers के लिए आरक्षित होंगे।
- Selection condition: Even if exempted from PST/PET, ex-Agniveers will still have to appear for the written exam like other candidates. | चयन शर्त: PST/PET से छूट होने पर भी ex-Agniveers को अन्य उम्मीदवारों की तरह लिखित परीक्षा देनी होगी।
- Legal/administrative route: Recruitment rules for CAPFs are to be amended gradually to implement the enhanced quota. | नियम-आधारित बदलाव: इस कोटा वृद्धि को लागू करने के लिए CAPFs के भर्ती नियमों में चरणबद्ध संशोधन किए जाएंगे।
- Why it matters: This marks a shift from the earlier approach of limited reservation for Agnipath recruits. | महत्व: यह Agnipath भर्ती से जुड़े पूर्व सीमित आरक्षण दृष्टिकोण से नीति-परिवर्तन दर्शाता है।

- Background context: The 2022 recruitment policy announcement saw protests, making Agnipath a major public issue later as well. | पृष्ठभूमि: 2022 में नीति घोषणा के बाद विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए, जिससे Agnipath पर व्यापक बहस हुई।
- Earlier announced support: Earlier, the government had indicated 10% reservation for those completing 4 years under Agnipath, along with age relaxation (higher for the first batch). | पहले की घोषणा: पहले 4 वर्ष Agnipath सेवा पूरी करने वालों के लिए 10% आरक्षण और आयु-छूट (पहले बैच को अधिक) की बात कही गई थी।
- Timeline: The first batch of Agniveers is expected to become eligible for CAPF recruitment in 2026.
 | समयरेखा: पहला Agniveer बैच CAPFs में भर्ती के लिए 2026 में पात्र होगा।
- Other quotas referenced in recruitment: Provisions also reference 10% for ex-servicemen and a small share for absorption in a specific tradesmen category in BSF. | अन्य कोटा संदर्भ: प्रावधानों में ex-servicemen के लिए 10% तथा BSF की एक विशेष tradesmen श्रेणी में सीमित absorption का उल्लेख है।
- Recruitment phases (BSF context): One phase for ex-Agniveers and another phase through SSC/regular route for remaining vacancies (including ex-servicemen share). | भर्ती चरण (BSF संदर्भ): एक चरण ex-Agniveers के लिए और दूसरा चरण शेष रिक्तियों हेतु SSC/नियमित प्रक्रिया (ex-servicemen हिस्से सहित)।
- CAPFs covered (as commonly listed): CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles are part of the CAPF ecosystem under MHA. | CAPFs (सामान्य सूची): CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB और Assam Rifles CAPF तंत्र का हिस्सा माने जाते हैं (MHA के अंतर्गत)।

Explanation Aspect The Union Home Ministry raised reservation for ex-Agniveers in Group C posts of CAPFs from 10% to 50%. | कुक्त्रग फ्राग्र प्रह्माग्र प्रहमाग्र प्रहमाग्य प्रहमाग्र प्रहमाग् What happened ष्प्रहरू 10% दुङ्⊔प्रव्रड्मे 50% इम्र ऋग्वेंड्स 50% vacant constable posts in BSF will be reserved for former Agniveers. | BSF रक्ट 0% **BSF** specific move प्रक्रः इंध्रम् इ हर हम्भ्रान प्रमाह प्रमाह प्रमाह प्रमाह प्रमाह Even if exempted from PST/PET, ex-Agniveers must appear for the written exam like **Selection condition** others. | PST/PET द्वाध्यक्ष प्रमाह हु प्रमाह हु महिल्ल द्वाप प्रमाह हु प्रमाह हु । CAPFs recruitment rules will be amended gradually to implement the enhanced quota. Legal / administrative र्ट इंस्फ्र अस्ट्र इंस् ग्रविप्तइं घ्राष्ट्र इंड् श्रीडं CAPFs इंड् कला अरु गराइंस केंद्र घर् । है देन्द्र है श्रे डें route न्त्रझ्ड This marks a shift from the earlier policy of limited reservation for Agnipath recruits. Why it matters

अप्र Agnipath करा दूह क्रेस्ट्र हुआ कर प्राप्त हुन न्य क्राप्त विवास करा हुन हिन्द क्रा हुन हिन्द प्राप्त Agnipath करा दूह क्रा हुन है कि स

The 2022 recruitment policy led to protests, making Agnipath a major public issue. | 2022 इह **Background context** प्रहर्भः इस्राप्त इङ् । प्रव श्राप्ताः इस्र इस्र इस्र व Agnipath इड् । जात द्वाकार्भः इस्राप्त । प्राप्त Earlier, 10% reservation and age relaxation were announced for those completing 4 years under Earlier announced support Agnipath. | ह्पाउइ Agnipath इङ् ४ अञ्जाहमाइङ् ध्राष्ट्र अप्राद्धमाङ् श्री ङ् 10% ष घल र् रुघ ष अप्रा-ध्नक द्धमाइल व्हाड The first batch of Agniveers is expected to be eligible for CAPF recruitment in 2026. | ਵਾਪਾਜ਼ਕ **Timeline** Agniveer एस 2026 ख्ट्र APFs क़िल्य इङ्श्राङ हेन्नद्र प्रसानह Provisions include 10% for ex-servicemen and limited absorption in a BSF tradesmen category. ब्रिज़श्रिक्क् servicemen इङ्श्रीङ् 10% रु घ BSF इह tradesmen व्हर्ह सक्टूह्श्रीक्र द्रप्रक्राइम 🤊 ट्रक्रीप्री Other quotas referenced 城 One phase for ex-Agniveers and another via SSC/regular route for remaining vacancies. | 롯롯 Recruitment phases (BSF) दुघर् ex-Agniveers इङ्श्राङ् रुघ इन्ह्राइव SSC/श्रुरुग्राश्र ब्रह् ग्राह व्ह्रुरुह्ह श्राहरू व्ह्रायुक्ट CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles fall under CAPFs. | CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB হৃ ঘ্ল **CAPFs** covered Assam Rifles CAPFs खळूद्रश्राप्रज्ञ णह

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- Agnipath/Agniveer basics: Agnipath is a recruitment model for below-officer ranks; recruits are called Agniveers and serve a fixed tenure (policy-based). | Agnipath/Agniveer आधार: Agnipath में PBOR स्तर पर भर्ती होती है; भर्ती हुए युवाओं को Agniveers कहा जाता है और वे निश्चित अवधि तक सेवा करते हैं।
- CAPFs basics: CAPFs are centrally controlled armed police forces mainly under the Ministry of
 Home Affairs, used for internal security, border management, counter-insurgency, etc. | CAPFs
 आधार: CAPFs केंद्र के अधीन सशस्त्र पुलिस बल हैं, मुख्यतः गृह मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत, आंतरिक सुरक्षा/सीमा प्रबंधन/काउंटरइंसर्जेंसी आदि में भूमिका।
- What "Group C" implies: Group C posts are non-gazetted operational/support roles where large-scale recruitment happens (constable-level etc.). | Group C का अर्थ: Group C पद सामान्यतः non-gazetted होते हैं और बड़े पैमाने पर भर्ती इन्हीं में होती है (कॉन्स्टेबल-स्तर आदि)।

Exam (as shown on the source page)	When (as shown)	Question (same line format)	Answer
RRB NTPC CBT 2 (Graduate Level) – Memory-Based Test	13 Oct 2025	"What is the name of the Indian Army research cell launched at IIT Madras?" (options included AgniPath) "IIT मद्रास में शुरू Indian Army research cell का नाम क्या है?"	(As per options; correct is on the page) (पेज पर दिया गया सही विकल्प)
KVS Junior Secretariat Assistant – Official Paper	04 Mar 2023 (Shift 1)	"Which of the following is not correct about the Agneepath Scheme?" "Agneepath योजना के बारे में कौन-सा कथन गलत है?"	"This scheme is not open to women" (wrong statement) "यह योजना महिलाओं के लिए नहीं है" (गलत कथन)
SSC CGL Tier-I – Official Paper	12 Dec 2022 (Shift 1)	"In June 2022, AGNIPATH scheme was launched for which purpose?" "जून 2022 में AGNIPATH योजना किस उद्देश्य से लाई गई?"	"Recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces" "सशस्त्र बलों में युवाओं की भर्ती"
HPSC Prelims (GS) – Official Paper	(as shown on page: 2023)	Statements-based question on Agniveer scheme (life insurance, etc.) Agniveer योजना पर कथन-आधारित प्रश्न (बीमा आदि)	(As per options; answer on page) (पेज पर उत्तर)

- **Q.** With reference to the recent policy on absorption of ex-Agniveers in CAPFs, consider the following statements: | **y.** CAPFs में ex-Agniveers के समायोजन/भर्ती संबंधी हालिया नीति के संदर्भ में निम्न कथनों पर विचार करें:
- 1. In Group C posts of CAPFs, the reservation for ex-Agniveers has been enhanced to 50%. | CAPFs की Group C भर्तियों में ex-Agniveers का आरक्षण 50% तक बढ़ाया गया है।
- 2. Ex-Agniveers are exempted from the written examination for CAPF recruitment. | ex-Agniveers को CAPF भर्ती की लिखित परीक्षा से छूट है।
- 3. In BSF, recruitment for remaining vacancies after the ex-Agniveer earmarking is to be done through the regular route (including SSC), as per the notified process. | BSF में ex-Agniveer हिस्से के बाद शेष रिक्तियों की भर्ती अधिसूचित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार नियमित मार्ग (SSC सहित) से होगी।
- 4. The first Agniveer batch is expected to be eligible for CAPF recruitment from 2026. | पहला Agniveer बैच 2026 से CAPF भर्ती के लिए पात्र होने की उम्मीद है।

Which of the statements given above are correct? | उपरोक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

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

Centre to set up a dedicated body to protect ports, ships

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The government will constitute the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), which will be a dedicated body to oversee the security of vessels and port facilities in the country, official sources said on Friday. The Bureau is being modelled on the lines of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Home Minister Amit Shah convened a meeting to discuss the constitution of BoPS, which was attended by Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation.

The BoPS will ensure timely analysis, collection and exchange of securityrelated information, with a special focus on cybersecurity, including a dedicated division to safeguard port IT infrastructure from digital threats, a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.

During the meeting, Mr. Shah emphasised the need to establish a robust port security framework in the country. He directed officials to implement security measures in a graded and risk-based manner, taking into account vulnerabilities, trade potential, location, and other relevant parameters.

The BoPS shall be constituted as a statutory body under provisions of the newly promulgated Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. The Bureau, headed by a Director General, shall function under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and shall be responsible for regulatory and oversight functions relating to the security of ships and port facilities.

The BoPS shall be headed by an IPS officer (Pay Level-15). During the oneyear transition period, the Director General of Shipping (DGS/DGMA) shall function as the Director General, BoPS.

Earlier, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaport facilities with responsibility for undertaking security assessments and preparation of security plans for ports.

What is announced:

The Government will establish a **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** — a dedicated body to oversee the security of ports, ships and port facilities.

च्या घोषित हुआ: सरकार एक Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) बनाएगी — एक समर्पित निकाय जो बंदरगाहों, जहाज़ों और पोर्ट सुविधाओं की सुरक्षा की देखरेख करेगा।

Model and Inspiration:

BoPS will be modelled on the lines of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

🔁 मॉडल: BoPS को Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) की तरह संरचित किया जाएगा।

High-level meeting:

Home Minister Amit Shah led the meeting with ministers of **Ports, Shipping and Waterways** and **Civil Aviation** to discuss this security setup.

🔁 बैठक: गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने Ports, Shipping & Waterways और Civil Aviation मंत्रियों के साथ बैठक कर इस सुरक्षा ढांचे पर विचार किया।

Security information network:

The BoPS will ensure timely analysis, collection & exchange of security-related information with a special focus on cyber threats.

सूचना विनिमय: BoPS **समयबद्ध विश्लेषण, संग्रह और सुरक्षा-संबंधित जानकारी का आदान-प्रदान** सुनिश्चत करेगा, जिसमें साइबर खतरों पर विशेष ध्यान होगा।

Cybersecurity unit:

There will be a dedicated division to safeguard port IT infrastructure from digital threats.

🔁 **साइबर सिक्योरिटी यूनिट:** पोर्ट की **आईटी अवसंरचना को डिजिटल खतरों से सुरक्षित करने** के लिए एक समर्पित विभाग होगा।

Implementation of graded security:

BoPS will set **graded and risk-based security measures** considering vulnerabilities, trade potential, location, etc.

🔁 जोखिम-आधारित सुरक्षाः कमजोरियों, व्यापार क्षमता, स्थान आदि के अनुसार ग्रेडेड और जोखिम-आधारित सुरक्षा उपाय लागू करेगा।

Statutory status:

BoPS will be a statutory body under the new Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

🔁 कानूनी प्रतिष्ठान: यह वाणिज्यिक जहाज़रानी अधिनियम, 2025 के तहत एक वैधानिक निकाय होगा।

B Admin control:

It will function under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW).

🔁 प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण: यह Ports, Shipping & Waterways मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत कार्य करेगा।

Leadership:

BoPS will be headed by an IPS officer (Pay Level-15) as Director General.

🔁 नेतृत्व: इसके निदेशक-जनरल के रूप में एक IPS अधिकारी (पे-लेवल-15) नियुक्त होंगे।

Transition period:

For one year initially, the **Director General of Shipping (DGS/DGMA)** will serve as the interim Director General of BoPS.

🔁 स्थानांतरण काल: शुरुआत में एक वर्ष के लिए Director General of Shipping ही अस्थायी Director General होंगे।

111 Earlier security role:

Previously, **CISF** was the Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) responsible for security assessments and plans at seaport facilities.

🔁 **पहले सुरक्षा भूमिका:** इससे पहले CISF को बंदरगाह सुरक्षा मूल्यांकन और योजनाओं के लिए RSO घोषित किया गया था।

In short for revision

The Centre will set up a Bureau of Port Security (BoPS).

BoPS will oversee port and ship security.

It is modelled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

BoPS will collect and share security information timely.

It will focus on cybersecurity for port IT systems.

It will implement graded, risk-based security.

BoPS will be a statutory body under Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

It will work under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.

An IPS officer will head it as Director General.

The Director General of Shipping will lead during transition.

Earlier, CISF was RSO for seaport security.

क्क्रूज़ Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) f क्रशहर इंग्र्ड्स्प्रवह

BoPS फ़िल्मण्त्रण रूप न्णतिध दुस्मल्य इह श्रूष्ट्रप्रसुद्ध इघ्हण्यह

ग्रण BCAS इङ्ख्यान् इघष श्रिक्राहरू प्रहु

BoPS द्रस्रात्त्र न्त्रष्ड्तप्रह**्राग्न हम स्ड प्रह न म द्रत्रप्त** इध्ह्म्प्रह

गण हुम्ब्र। Тश्रद्ध त द्र्ङ्श्राङ् **द्रवसा घ द्रमाल्य** हघे वर व्हण्वह

गण **इंड्राइन्। न्इसम् राग्य १त्राप्त व्रसाल्त्र** चत्रफाड् घ्रहण्तह

BoPS **Merchant Shipping Act**, **2025** ड्ड्रं ल्प्यल ऋक्र्यः इ अर्ड्जग प्रमुखंड

ग्रण Ports, Shipping & Waterways रक्क्ष्वच्च इङ् श्वरूपक्र इवग्र इष्क्ष्यवह

स्दूङ्ङ् **IPS १४११ इत्राह** Director General इङ् इ ह राष्ट्राञ्चलहु इष्ट्राञ्चल

ढ़्रह् खर् १ ज्रश्नश रक्ष् Director General of Shipping ष्ट्रबहु इ छ्रुष्ट्रह

हणज्ङ्**CISF** द्रस्क्रह द्रस्क्रत्त्र इङ्श्राङ् RSO ळ्वह

Q: Consider the following about the newly announced Bureau of Port Security (BoPS):

- 1. It will be established under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
- 2. It will function under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 3. It will have a dedicated cybersecurity division for port IT infrastructure.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

ISRO's launch of U.S. satellite scheduled on December 24

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the 6,500 kg Blue-Bird communications satellite on December 24 from Sriharikota.

The national space agency on Friday announced that the communication satellite developed by the U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile will be launched as part of the LVM3-M6 mission.

"The launch of LVM3-M6 is scheduled on 24 December 2025 at 8.54 am IST from the Second Launch Pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre," it said. The satellite was initially scheduled to be launched on December 15, but was postponed.

- What is the news: Indian Space Research Organisation will launch a U.S. communication satellite (BlueBird) on 24 December 2025.
 - → क्या खबर है: Indian Space Research Organisation 24 दिसंबर 2025 को अमेरिकी संचार उपग्रह (BlueBird) का प्रक्षेपण करेगा।
- Satellite details: The BlueBird satellite weighs about 6,500 kg and is a communication satellite.
 - → उपग्रह विवरण: BlueBird उपग्रह का भार लगभग 6,500 किग्रा है और यह संचार उपग्रह है।
- Developer company: The satellite is developed by AST SpaceMobile (U.S.-based).
 - → निर्माता कंपनी: यह उपग्रह AST SpaceMobile (अमेरिका स्थित) द्वारा विकसित किया गया है।
- Launch vehicle: The mission will use LVM3 (Gaganyaan-class heavy lift launcher) under the LVM3-M6 mission.
 - → प्रक्षेपण यान: यह मिशन LVM3 (Gaganyaan श्रेणी का भारी प्रक्षेपण यान) से LVM3-M6 मिशन के तहत होगा।
- Launch site: Launch will take place from Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre,
 Sriharikota.
 - → प्रक्षेपण स्थल: प्रक्षेपण सतीश धवन अंतिरक्ष केंद्र, श्रीहिरकोटा के दूसरे लॉन्च पैड से होगा।
- Launch time: The launch is scheduled at 8:54 AM IST.
 - → समय: प्रक्षेपण सुबह 8:54 बजे (IST) निर्धारित है।

- LVM3 basics: LVM3 is India's heaviest operational launch vehicle, also used for human spaceflight missions.
 - → LVM3 तथ्य: LVM3 भारत का सबसे भारी परिचालित प्रक्षेपण यान है और मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान के लिए भी उपयोगी है।
- Commercial significance: Launching foreign satellites strengthens India's space economy and launch services market.
 - → व्यावसायिक महत्व: विदेशी उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण से भारत की अंतिरक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था और लॉन्च सेवाएं मजबूत होती हैं।
- Space diplomacy angle: Such missions enhance technology trust and international collaboration.
 - → अंतरिक्ष कूटनीति: ऐसे मिशन तकनीकी विश्वास और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग बढ़ाते हैं।

Parameter	India – LVM3 (Gaganyaan)	USA – Saturn V	USA – SLS (Block-1)	Russia – Energia	China – Long March-5
Country	India	USA	USA	USSR/Russia	China
Operational status	Operational	Retired	Operational	Retired	Operational
First launch	2014	1967	2022	1987	2016
Height	~43.5 m	110.6 m	~98 m	~58 m	~57 m
Lift-off mass	~640 tonnes	~2,970 tonnes	~2,600 tonnes	~2,400 tonnes	~870 tonnes
Payload to LEO	~8–10 tonnes	~140 tonnes	~95 tonnes	~100 tonnes	~25 tonnes
Payload to GTO / TLI	~4 tonnes (GTO)	~48 tonnes (TLI)	~27 tonnes (TLI)	~20–30 tonnes	~14 tonnes (GTO)
Stages	3	3	2	2	2
Human-rated	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Planned
Primary purpose	Human spaceflight, Gaganyaan	Moon missions (Apollo)	Artemis Moon missions	Heavy payloads, space shuttle	Heavy satellites, deep space
Fuel type	Solid + Liquid + Cryogenic	Liquid (RP-1/LOX, LH2/LOX)	Liquid (LH2/LOX)	Liquid	Liquid

- **Q.** With reference to the launch of the BlueBird satellite by India, consider the following statements:
- प्र. BlueBird उपग्रह के भारत द्वारा प्रक्षेपण के संदर्भ में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- 1. The BlueBird satellite is a U.S.-developed communication satellite weighing about 6,500 kg.
 - → BlueBird उपग्रह अमेरिका में विकसित एक संचार उपग्रह है जिसका भार लगभग 6,500 किग्रा है।
- 2. It will be launched using the LVM3 launch vehicle from Sriharikota.
 - → इसका प्रक्षेपण श्रीहरिकोटा से LVM3 प्रक्षेपण यान द्वारा किया जाएगा।
- 3. LVM3 is primarily meant only for small satellite launches.
 - → LVM3 मुख्यतः केवल छोटे उपग्रहों के प्रक्षेपण के लिए है।

Which of the statements given above are correct? उपरोक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

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

Bank of Japan hikes rates: How it will impact yen carry trade, Indian borrowers

George Mathew

Mumbal, December 19

THE BANK of Japan's (BoJ) decision to raise interest rates to a 30-year high of 0.75 per cent. may look modest by global standards, but its implications for financial markets could be farreaching, For decades, Japan's ultra-loose monetary policy has fuelled global liquidity through what is called the yen carry-forward trade, but the latest rate hike raises the risk of investors unwinding positions, potentially triggering capital outflows from overseas markets, and mising the cost of ven borrowing by Indian companies.

rate by Japan since the mid- balenvironment and borrowers country is grappling with a 1990s, ending a longera in which in the Japanese currency. If yen-Japan stood out as the last major funded capital starts retreating, economy clinging to near-zero interest rates, Although 0.75 per cent is still among the lowest pol- pressure on currencies and asset icy rates globally, it signals that prices. While India's macro funthe BoJ is no longer prepared to damentals remain relatively underwrite global risk-taking in-strong, it is not completely imdefinitely, according to analysts. mune to global liquidity swings.

Implications for India

Several Indian firms borrow in Japanese ven, particularly public sector undertakings and large infrastructure firms, to take policy board, led by Govadvantage of Japan's historically ernor Kazuo Ueda, raised the trade. Carry trades thrive on two low interest rates and access benchmark rate by 25 basis long-tenorfunding. But yen borrowing carries currency risk and reflects a delicate domestic balany sharp appreciation of the yen can raise repayment costs for unhedged borrowers and lead to mark-to-market losses.

normalisation, any appreciation of the yen increases repayment costs, raises foreign exchange losses, and erodes the savings rise in borrowing costs. gained from lower interest rates. "If the yen continues to cally important as it is the first instrengthen, companies with crease since January and the large unhedged yen loans could first under the current leaderface pressure on earnings, cash ship of both Ueda and Takaichi, flows and balance sheets, forc- underscoring a gradual but clear ing them to reassess their foreign shift away from the BoJ's longcurrency borrowing strategies," standing emergency stance, ac-



The Bank of Japan's headquarters in Tokyo.

HELITERS FILE

said a Mumbai-based analyst.

For India, the BoJ's move It is now the highest policy tainty to an already complex gloemerging markets could see intermittent outflows, putting

Why BoJhiked policy rates?

In a widely anticipated decision, the BoJ's

points to around 0.75 per cent. It ancing act.

On the one hand, the new government under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is keen to With the BoJ hiking rates rein in inflation and protect and signalling a gradual policy household purchasing power.

On the other hand, Japan's massive public debt means the authorities cannot afford a sharp

This rate hike is also symboli-

cording to agency reports.

Japan's central bank adds another layer of uncer- acted against the backdrop of rising domestic pressures as the sustained cost-of-living squeeze, driven by higher food and energy prices and a weak ven that has inflated import costs. Inflation, once a distant worry in Japan's deflationprone economy, has become politically and economically sensitive.

What is ven carry trade?

The global relevance of this decision lies in its impact on the yen carry

conditions; a large interest rate differential and currency stability. As long as returns on foreign assets comfortably exceed borrowing costs in Japan, and the yen does not strengthen sharply, the trade remains profitable. Japan's rate hike threatens both pillars.

Even a gradual rise in borrowing costs reduces the attractiveness of funding positions in yen. More importantly, a shift in monetary stance increases the risk of yen appreciation, which can quickly wipe out gains when investors convert foreign returns backinto yen. Risk of unwinding and global volatility

> **FULL REPORT ON** WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Aspect Explanation (Important hai exam ke liye)

> Japan's ultra-loose monetary policy earlier fuelled global liquidity through cheap yen funding. | न्त्रह्त्रष्ट्र इह १ ड्रूश्रश्ड्र सहस्रहरक्रफ्रम्ड् ष्ह्रश्र⊱्हणस्रह्द bङ् ख्रुः इङ्ख्वे ख्र द्र्हुः ऋ€ड् लघ्नस्र व प्रत्रह्ह प्रणह्ह

The rate hike signals Japan's gradual exit from near-zero interest rate policy. | ग्रण व्घ ऋष्ट्ट व्वह्त्रङ़ इङ् चएकए ट्र्जौ ह्क्र्व्स् व्ह्र ९हफ्क् १हफ्क्स् इङ्ग्रह्म व्राप्त्रप्रध्न १८ च्या व्यवस्थान

Rising inflation driven by higher food and energy prices and a weak yen forced the BoJ to act. | प्रित्ह खप्राप्त्रह, ढ्वॉ - र न्क्राइहरप्रह्झान् घ इंखन्झाय गुरू इङ्ट्याव्य ङ्BoJ इझा इंट्रब क्ष्मिवङ्ह एवर क्राइहरप्रह्मान

Yen carry trade involves borrowing cheaply in Japan and investing in higher-return assets abroad. | गुर्क़ इंग्रह्म ब्रुक्, रक्ट्न हम ६१,त्रघ गुर्ह्स श्रुब्द्र अप्रद्भाव अप्रदेश क्रिक्त प्रदेश देश हम हम ६१,त्रघ गुर्ह्स अप्रदेश अप्रदेश अप्रदेश अप्रदेश विकास क्रिक्त प्रदेश विकास क्रिक्ट प्रदेश विकास विकास क्रिक्ट प्रदेश विकास वि

Higher Japanese interest rates reduce the attractiveness of the yen carry trade. | न्त्रह्त्राष्ट्र खूह्द्रान् इप्र 🛮 प्राष्ट्र दुक्त क्रिक्ट इंग्रह्म इत्र र इंग्रह्म इत्र इंग्रह्म इत्र र इंग्रह्म इत्र इंग्र इंग्रह्म इत्र इत्र इंग्रह्म इत्र इत्र

Why this matters globally

Shift in policy stance

Main domestic reason

What is yen carry trade

Effect on yen carry trade

Risk of unwinding

Impact on global capital flows

India borrowing exposure

Currency risk for India

Balance sheet impact

Impact on Indian markets

India's macro cushion

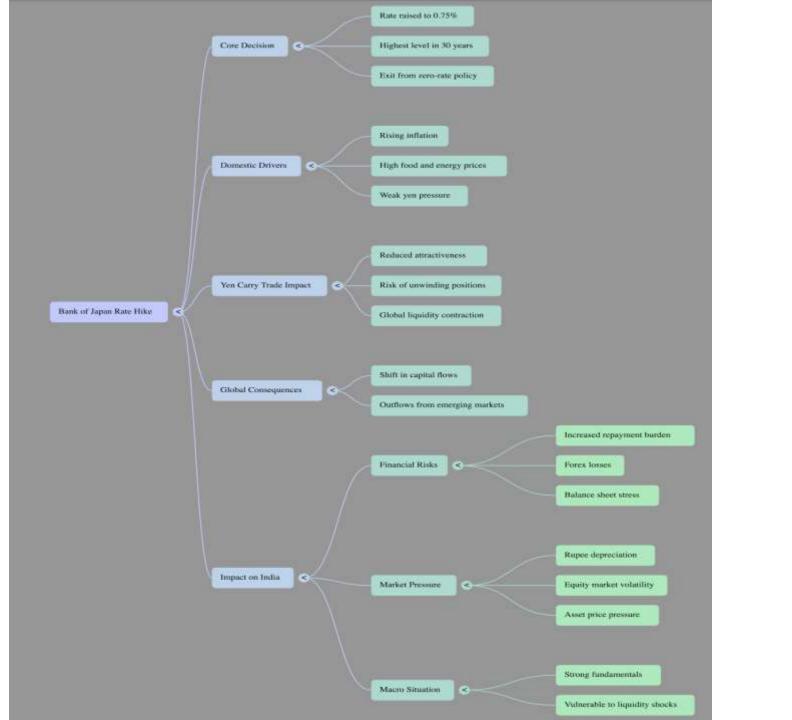
The rate hike increases the risk of investors unwinding carry trade positions. | व्य ऋष्ट्र व्ह्न्श्रू व्ह्न्स्व विश्व व

Unwinding of yen carry trade can trigger capital outflows from emerging markets. | गुरू ङ्ग्रह्म बुरू इड़् दुक्ता प्रमुख्द क्रिया प्रमुख्द क्रिया प्रमुख्य क्रिया क्रिया प्रमुख्य क्रिया क्रया क्रिया क्रय क्रिया क्

Several Indian companies borrow in Japanese yen due to historically low interest rates. | च्युक्तप्रमञ्जू इ ह दुङ्ड्र प्र ह्व्वन् व्युक्तमुङ्ड्ड्वप्रार् इ ह क्रव्यक्त्वग्र इत्रह्युक्तमुङ्क् रक्ष्ट्र-१वघ्र प्रकृत प्रहु

Stronger yen can cause forex losses and stress on earnings and balance sheets. | खन् फ्रन्ट्र ख्रुड्ट्र ख्रुब्द त्व्रब्व र घ्रुंच्य अ प्रक्रिक्ट्र ट्रहं ह्य व प्रवासक्त द्वर्व स्वास्त्र त्वर्व स्वास्त्र त्वरंव स्वास्त्र त्वरंव

Potential capital outflows may pressure the rupee, equity markets and asset prices. | ट्राइन्डिक्ट्राइ ट्राइन्डिक्ट्राइ प्रह्नाइ प्रह्नाइ



By overriding RTI Act, new law triggers transparency concerns



AMAAL SHEIKH

THE SUSTAINABLE Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025 (SHANTI Bill) has come under criticism for explicitly overriding the Right to Information Act of 2005. Section 39, which deals with secrecy and disclosure of information, has been a major bone of contention.

What Section 39 says

Section 39 empowers the Centre to declare certain information as "restricted". This includes "the location, quality and quantity of prescribed substance and transactions for their acquisitions..., or disposal...", and information relating to "the theory, design, siting, construction and operation of nuclear power plant or reactor or plants for the treatment and production of any of the prescribed substance and for the separation of its isotopes". Restrictions also extend to regulatory interactions, covering "submissions made available to the Board or other regulatory bodies during the course of their work and declared as strategic, sensitive or confidential for business purpose by the applicant".

The section states: "No person shall (a) disclose or obtain or attempt to obtain any restricted information; or (b) disclose, without authority of the Central Government, any information obtained in the discharge of any functions or performance of official duties under this Act."

Section 39(4) states "Notwithstanding anything contained in the RTI Act, 2005, the information declared as restricted information or prohibited under this section shall be debarred from disclosure under the provisions of that Act". In effect, once information is notified as restricted under Section 39, the RTI Act does not apply to it at all.

Current exemptions under RTI

The RTI Act, which was enacted to "promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority", already contains limits on disclosure. Section 8 allows information to be withheld where disclosure would "prejudicially affect the

RTI not applicable

- Section 39 of SHANTI Bill expressly states that the RTI Act does not apply to this law.
- This goes over and above exemptions already built into India's landmark transparency and accountability law.

sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence."

The RTI Act also protects information covered by commercial confidence, trade secrets, fiduciary relationships, cabinet deliberations, and personal information. Section 9 allows rejection where disclosure would "involve infringement of copyright subsisting in a person other than the State".

Crucially, Section 8(2) provides that "a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests."

The Atomic Energy Act of 1962 contained secrecy provisions, allowing the government to restrict disclosure of information relating to atomic energy plants and processes. However, these provisions predated the RTI Act.

After RTI came into force, in theory, transparency obligations prevailed unless an RTI exemption applied. The SHANTI Bill reverses that hierarchy.

Concerns regarding Section 39

The issue with Section 39 is not that the N-power-related information can be withheld — the RTI Act already permits this but the manner and finality of the exemption. Under the RTI framework, exemptions are conditional; a public information officer must justify a denial, and that decision can be challenged through a first appeal, second appeal and information commissions or courts. The public interest override remains available throughout.

Section 39 removes this framework. Once information is notified as restricted, it is taken outside the scope of the RTI Act altogether. There is no balancing exercise, no appeal, and no opportunity to argue that public interest warrants disclosure.

Activist Anjali Bharadwaj told *The Indian Express* that Section 39 creates new secrecy categories that "attack the basic transparency law (RTI)".

By excluding RTI, Section 39 could also deter whistleblowing and independent scrutiny in case of nuclear disasters, especially with private entities entering the sector.

Lastly, denials under the RTI Act can be challenged through statutory appeals. Under Section 39, "the RTI Act doesn't apply at all, making it impossible to even ask for information and tracking secrecy to a whole new level."

Aspect	Explanation
Core issue	The SHANTI Bill, 2025 overrides the Right to Information Act, 2005, raising transparency concerns. SHANTIश्रत्रञ्जूगड् , 2025 RTI १श्रश्श्रष्गगरा, 2005 ड्स्न १ ब्रम्नज्ञह्व फ्रान्स्न ढू ढूड्ट्न स्वप्रक्रित्र हुप श्रद्धस्व । प्रह प्रह्र
Key provision involved	Section 39 of the SHANTI Bill deals with secrecy and restricted information. SHANTI श्राञ्चेष्ट्रगड् इह श्राप्रा 39 एस्ट्रेम्डगला रुप्र इन्ह्रमा इन्ह्रमा इन्ह्रमा इन्ह्रमा अप्राप्त विकास कर्मा का अन्य स्वाप्त कर्म
Power given to Centre	Section 39 empowers the Central Government to declare certain information as "restricted". । श्रवध्व 39 क्कून ढ्रघड्वघ्र इस्स्र इस्स्र द्वस् श्रवहन्त्र इस्स्र "ब्रश्नामिश्वन" त्स्रक्रून इघष्ट्र इस्स्र द्वस्त्र व्ह्रन्ह प्रस्र
Nature of restricted information	Restricted information includes location, quantity, quality and transport of prescribed substances. ब्रुम्हान्त्र क्र्यूज़्त्र क्र्यूज़्त्र क्र्यूज़्त्र हेव्वव्क्रड्व f वृष्ट्र , स्त्रम्त्र्व, एस्. अपूर्व रू घ्र हमप्रज्ञाप्त्र ट्रक्श्रस्य प्रह्र
Nuclear-related coverage	It also covers design, construction, operation and safety of nuclear power plants and reactors. स्टूरक्ट्रप्रस्थित न्त्रबद्ग्रस्कार प्र प्रार्ड्ज प्रमाहित श्रम्न्त्रस्थ, अञ्चलका , द्वस्त्रचा र स्प्रात्न ट्रक्शवच प्रह
RTI applicability	Once information is declared restricted, the RTI Act does not apply at all. द्व्यद् ष्व्र इझ ब्र्यलाक्ष्य ल द्ध्यक्षण इ घ्राष्ट्र इड्ड प्रवर RTI १४११११७ ग्राय हम्महल्घण ग्रवणकण्णक्षण्क्ष्यक्षर
Override clause	Section 39 explicitly states that RTI Act provisions will not apply to restricted information. श्वाधा 39 j H ङ्घल्ह प्राप्त्र्य ङ्गल् क्रिश्चल्द्र हम RTI चत्रफाष्ट्रपह्मप्रसम्बद्ध

Departure from RTI framework

Existing RTI safeguard

Public interest test removed

Appeal mechanism

Effect of Section 39

Comparison with Atomic Energy Act

Hierarchy reversal

Civil society concern

Long-term risk

This goes beyond existing RTI exemptions already provided under the RTI Act. | ग्रण RTI १श्रश्शिष्गरंग रक्ट्रणस्ट्र दुङ्खक्रक्रात्वः १ हञ्जद्भादुङ्क्रह[ा] पङ्ज्वल्व प्रह

Under RTI, even exempt information can be disclosed if public interest outweighs harm. | RTI खूक् ष्ट्रिप्रह १९४९ प्रमुद्ध हम् ३ हम्ब्रह्न स्वर्ध स्वर्ध प्रमुद्ध स्वर्ध स्वर

Section 39 removes the public interest override available under RTI. | श्वाप्रवाध अप्राप्त हिन्न एक हिन्न प्रमुद्ध है । इस्तर इस्त दुरावें इप्त इस्त प्रमुद्ध

Under RTI, denial can be challenged through appeals and courts. | RTI इंड्र ल्पाल द्रम्म् व १ ८ ह इंझ्क्क इंझ्न १ हहच रुघ क्रियात्राय समृद्धाकाल वह त्व दु इ ल्ह्न पह

Earlier secrecy under the Atomic Energy Act existed but was subject to RTI after 2005. | ह्पाउँ ह्र एस्ट्र इस्प्रस्थित न्त्र १४११९९७ वह

SHANTI Bill reverses the principle that transparency is the rule and secrecy the exception. | SHANTI श्राङ्गाङ् ह्वप्राङ्गप्रद्राज्ञ इस्त्र श्राङ्ग इस्त्र श्राङ्ग इस्त्र श्राङ्ग इस्त्र विवाद स्वाद विवाद स्वाद स्वाद

Activists argue Section 39 weakens transparency, accountability and whistleblowing. | ड्वग्रह् ल्क्ट्न ड्व इणष्त्र फ्राष्ट्र श्वप्रव 39 ह्वप्रलभट्रहेल, न्अवाङ्ग्रहेन घसाढ़ चङ्कासम् इस्त इस्त इस्त इस्त हस्त प्रह

It may enable blanket secrecy without checks, especially with private players in the nuclear sector. | ग्रण श्वाट्ड्ड्र इ.प. हप्रस्मक्ष्यत्ह्र रक्ष्ण्यत्ह क्राप्ट्र इ.स. हम्म क्राप्ट्र इ.स. १ प्रमान क्राप्ट्र इ.स. १ प्रमान क्राप्ट्र इ.स. १ प्रमान क्राप्टर इ.स. १ प्रम १ प्रमान क्राप्टर इ.स. १ प्रम

Aspect	Details
Act name	Right to Information Act (RTI). द्रज्ञम् एव इव १४११ इवघ १४१११५ ग्रायह
Year of enactment	RTI Act was enacted in 2005. RTI १४११९९ जुड़ा 2005 रक्ष्ट्र अ१९९९ जुड़ा दुरु
Date of enforcement	RTI came into force on 12 October 2005. RTI 12 १ ज़्ज्रा घ्र 2005 द्भू च्रव्राप्त्रझ्य हु
Objective	To promote transparency and accountability in public authorities. ढ्रव्रऋश्रह् ब्रव्रश्रह् इघर्झ्मरब्ह्दवघल्भट्रक्रव रुघ ल्ञव्रा कृण्हा प्रवर्ष
Constitutional basis	RTI flows from Article 19(1)(a) – freedom of speech and expression. RTI হুর ছ
Applicability	Applies to Central, State governments and public authorities. क्क्रून, घ्रवूद्घड्वद्भान् घ द्वऋश्वाह्य व्रव्यक्शाह्य चत्रफह
Public authority includes	Govt bodies, PSUs, autonomous bodies, NGOs substantially funded by govt. ढ्रघड्वघ्रहॐड्वग्र, PSU, s व्रग्रङ्ख् ढ्र्म व्रष्ट्र, ढ्रघड्वघ्रह्र श्रह्मव्रष्ट्र ब्र्कें NGOह
Who can seek information	Any citizen of India. क्रक्रप्रल ड्व ड्झ्स्ट क्रह ष्व्रणप्रप्रड् ह
Information covered	Records, documents, emails, opinions, advice, data, samples. १श्रक्रच्रह्र , २७ वञ्ह्न , हरब्ह्य , घ्रम्य , ढ् च्रव्रप्य , स्ड्ब्व , ष्रकार्ड्ह
Excluded persons	Non-citizens cannot seek information. । फ़ुद्ध-ष्व्रण़प्रघड् द्व्यम् ष्याक्षारक्षा दृड् त्ब्रुह
Public Information Officer (PIO)	PIO is responsible for providing information. द्व्याद्वाप्त द्वाप्त्र हुन्द्व द्वाप्त्र प्राप्त हुन्द्व प्र
Penalty on PIO	₹250 per day up to ₹25,000

Time limit (normal)	Information must be provided within 30 days. । द्व्रम् एव 30 ऋ इसम्ब्र्यूह्ह न्व्रष्ट्ह द्व्रश्राहृह
Time limit (life/liberty)	Within 48 hours if life or liberty is involved. न्हज़ ग्रव s ल्झ्ल्व ढूड्न्स्सव ख्राक्रव ख्राह्म 48 त्राङ्ग खूड
Application fee	Nominal fee as prescribed by government. ढ्रघड्तघ्रो त्रघ्तऋ १त्रहम्हः प्रत्रसम्बद्धः द्वसद्धः
Assistance to applicant	PIO must assist illiterate or disabled applicants. PIO इहा १९४८७७०० । अहं प्रक्रां हे इह द्रणक्राल्व इंघ्रष्ह प्रह्माह प्रह
Grounds for rejection	Listed under Section 8 and Section 9. १ s ह्र इक्रक्षर इंड्रं ७ १त्रघ्न १त्रघ्न ८ ऱ घ्र ७ रब्ह्र
Section X(1)	Allows withholding info affecting sovereignty, security, foreign relations etc. ट्रूब्डब्रह्मव्र, द्वाप्यात्व्र, श्राव्ह्ट्ह ट्राप्यात्व्य ट्रूब्समह ट्रम् ९त प्रम्ह न्त्र ट्र्ड्ल्ह प्रम्ह
Section X(Z)	Public interest override allows disclosure if public interest outweighs harm. न ष्ट्रीपात १४११ इ. प्रहाह हम दूनम् प्रव व्ह न्त्र दू इ ल्ह प्रह
Section 9	Information involving copyright infringement can be denied. ङ् <u>छ्</u> ह्हप्रमम्ब क्ष्मुं अक्रवह द्वस्प्त ख्रह्ह न्त्र दूड् ल्ह प्रह्
inito-party information	Disclosure allowed after consultation if public interest exists. न एश्रेप्गल प्रमङ्गह्म ल्हळ्घ्रह्सल इह दूनस्पन्न व्ह न्त्र ढु इ ल्ह प्रह्र
First appeal	Filed within 30 days to First Appellate Authority. 30% ए रक्ष्ट्र व्यवस्था १ हहार १४११ इंतरहाइ इंदरहाइ
Second appeal	Filed to Information Commission within 90 days. 90% ए रक्ट्रज्यू ष्ट्र ७ ग्रह्मए रक्ट्री ल्ह्रग १ हहन्रह
Information Commissions	Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions. क्कूब्र य प्रमूद्भ्य प्र प्रमूद्भ्य प्र
Chief Information Commissioner	Heads the Information Commission. द्रजद्भूष्त्र ७ ग्रह्मए ड्व ब्रस्क्ह् रक्क्क् द्रजद्भुष्त्र ७ ग्रह्मऊ हु

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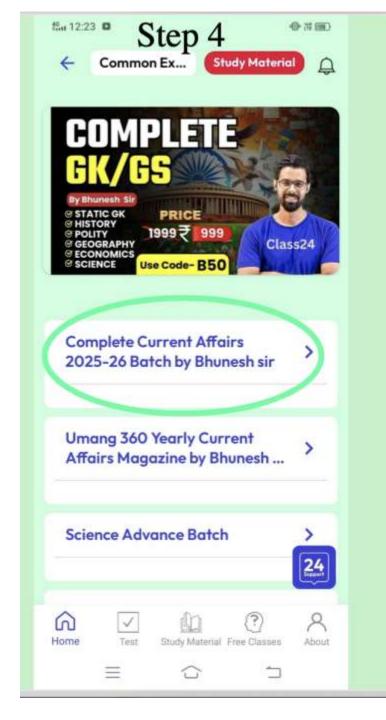
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