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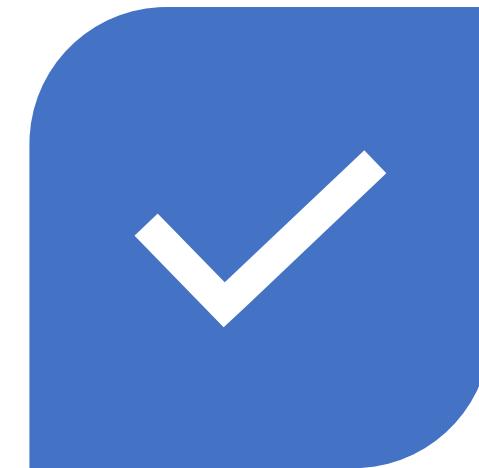




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Riots rock Bangladesh as leader of uprising dies; 2 newspaper offices torched

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 Inqilab 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 (DUCSU) 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 Dhaka on Friday. AP

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 a.m., all employees had been evacuated safely.

Following the attacks, operations at *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* were suspended and both news

spapers 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."

1 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।

2 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।

3 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।

4 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।

5 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।

6 Attacks on Indian Mission

- In Chattogram, a mob attacked the residence of India's Deputy High Commissioner by hurling bricks.
चট्टগ্রাম में भीड़ ने भारत के उप-उच्चायुक्त के आवास पर पथराव किया।

7 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।

8 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।

9 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।

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

Months before the first batch of Agniveers retires from service, the Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers 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)।

Background context

Earlier announced support

Timeline

The first batch of Agniveers is expected to be eligible for CAPF recruitment in 2026. | हण्णच्चर
Agniveer एड 2026 रक्कम CAPFs क्रला डड़श्वाड़ हव्रद प्लावर्टु

Other quotas referenced

Recruitment phases (BSF)

CAPFs covered

CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles fall under CAPFs. | CISF, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB ଓ ଅସମ ରିଫ୍ଲେସ କାମିକ୍ସ ପାଇଁ

- **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/काउंटर-इंसर्जेंसी 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 मर्ती"
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: | प्र. 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 security-related 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 offi-

cials 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 one-year 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.

1 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.

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

2 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।

3 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।

4 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 सुनिश्चित करेगा, जिसमें साइबर खतरों पर विशेष ध्यान होगा।

5 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।

6 Implementation of graded security:

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

→ **जोखिम-आधारित सुरक्षा:** कमजोरियों, व्यापार क्षमता, स्थान आदि के अनुसार ग्रेडेड और जोखिम-आधारित सुरक्षा उपाय लागू करेगा।

7 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।

8 Admin control:

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

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

9 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।

10 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।

11 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.

ਭੂਲੋਕ ਬੋਰਡੂ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ (ਬੋਪ੍ਸ) ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਦੂ

ਬੋਪ੍ਸ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਤ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਕੰਸਲਿਕ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਦੂ

ਗੁਪਤ **BCAS** ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਬੋਪ੍ਸ ਕੰਸਲਿਕ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਤ ਕੰਸਲਿਕ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਦੂ

ਗੁਪਤ **ਟੈਕਨੋਲੋਜੀ** ਸ਼ਫ਼ਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਗੁਪਤ **ਟੈਕਨੋਲੋਜੀ** ਨੂੰ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਬੋਪ੍ਸ ਮੇਂਚੰਟ ਸ਼ੀਪਿੰਗ ਅਕਟ, 2025 ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਗੁਪਤ **ਪੋਰਟ, ਸ਼ੀਪਿੰਗ & ਵਾਟਰਵੇਵਜ਼** ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਅਨੱਤੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਅਨੱਤੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

ਗੁਪਤ **CISF** ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਇੰਡੀਆਨ ਪੋਰਟ ਸੈਕੁਰਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੋਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ

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 अंतरिक्ष केंद्र, श्रीहरिकोटा 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 अंतरिक्ष 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, LH ₂ /LOX)	Liquid (LH ₂ /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
Mumbai, 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 far-reaching. 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 raising the cost of yen borrowing by Indian companies.

It is now the highest policy rate by Japan since the mid-1990s, ending a longer in which Japan stood out as the last major economy clinging to near-zero interest rates. Although 0.75 per cent is still among the lowest policy rates globally, it signals that the BoJ is no longer prepared to underwrite global risk-taking indefinitely, according to analysts.

Implications for India

Several Indian firms borrow in Japanese yen, particularly public sector undertakings and large infrastructure firms, to take advantage of Japan's historically low interest rates and access long-tenor funding. But yen borrowing carries currency risk and any sharp appreciation of the yen can raise repayment costs for unhedged borrowers and lead to mark-to-market losses.

With the BoJ hiking rates and signalling a gradual policy normalisation, any appreciation of the yen increases repayment costs, raises foreign exchange losses, and erodes the savings gained from lower interest rates. "If the yen continues to strengthen, companies with large unhedged yen loans could face pressure on earnings, cash flows and balance sheets, forcing them to reassess their foreign currency borrowing strategies,"



The Bank of Japan's headquarters in Tokyo.

REUTERS FILE

said a Mumbai-based analyst.

For India, the BoJ's move adds another layer of uncertainty to an already complex global environment and borrowers in the Japanese currency. If yen-funded capital starts retreating, emerging markets could see intermittent outflows, putting pressure on currencies and asset prices. While India's macro fundamentals remain relatively strong, it is not completely immune to global liquidity swings,

according to agency reports.

Japan's central bank acted against the backdrop of rising domestic pressures as the country is grappling with a sustained cost-of-living squeeze, driven by higher food and energy prices and a weak yen that has inflated import costs. Inflation, once a distant worry in Japan's deflation-prone economy, has become politically and economically sensitive.

Why BoJ hiked policy rates?

In a widely anticipated decision, the BoJ's policy board, led by Governor Kazuo Ueda, raised the benchmark rate by 25 basis points to around 0.75 per cent. It reflects a delicate domestic balancing act.

On the one hand, the new government under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is keen to rein in inflation and protect household purchasing power.

On the other hand, Japan's massive public debt means the authorities cannot afford a sharp rise in borrowing costs.

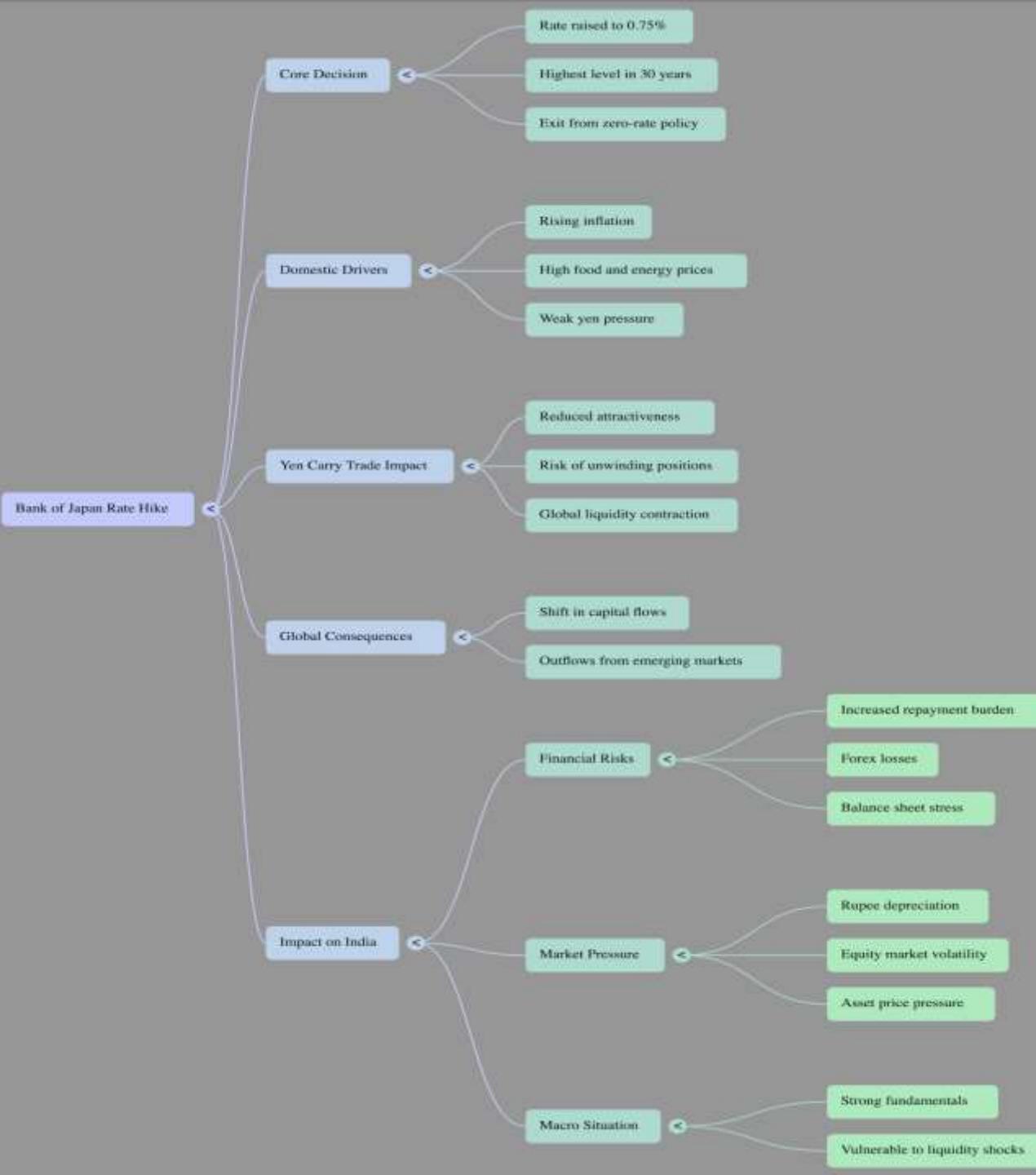
This rate hike is also symbolically important as it is the first increase since January and the first under the current leadership of both Ueda and Takaichi, underscoring a gradual but clear shift away from the BoJ's long-standing emergency stance, ac-

What is yen carry trade?

The global relevance of this decision lies in its impact on the yen carry trade. Carry trades thrive on two 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 back into yen. Risk of unwinding and global volatility

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



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. SHANTI श्रांति अधिकार, 2025 RTI 2005 का विरोध करता है जिसके द्वारा जनजीवन का अधिकार नियन्त्रित किया जाता है।
Key provision involved	Section 39 of the SHANTI Bill deals with secrecy and restricted information. SHANTI श्रांति अधिकार का अन्तिम अंश अधिकार 39 ने जानकारी का रखना और उपलब्ध न करना वाली जानकारी को नियन्त्रित किया है।
Power given to Centre	Section 39 empowers the Central Government to declare certain information as “restricted”. अधिकार 39 के द्वारा सरकार ने विशेष जानकारी को नियन्त्रित किया है।
Nature of restricted information	Restricted information includes location, quantity, quality and transport of prescribed substances. अन्तिम अंश अधिकार के द्वारा नियन्त्रित किया जाना वाली जानकारी का विवरण जगह, मात्रा, गुणवत्ता और वाहनों का विवरण है।
Nuclear-related coverage	It also covers design, construction, operation and safety of nuclear power plants and reactors. स्ट्रोकेट धरकर स्ट्रोकेट नकारात्मक जानकारी का विवरण जगह, मात्रा, गुणवत्ता और वाहनों का विवरण है।
RTI applicability	Once information is declared restricted, the RTI Act does not apply at all. अन्तिम अंश अधिकार के द्वारा नियन्त्रित किया जाना वाली जानकारी का विवरण RTI का विवरण नहीं होता।
Override clause	Section 39 explicitly states that RTI Act provisions will not apply to restricted information. अधिकार 39 ने विशेष जानकारी का विवरण के लिए RTI का विवरण नहीं लागू किया।

Time limit (normal)	Information must be provided within 30 days. ਫੁਰਾਅਤ 30 ਕਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ
Time limit (life/liberty)	Within 48 hours if life or liberty is involved. ਜੀਵਨ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਹੱਲ ਵਿੱਚ 48 ਕਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ
Application fee	Nominal fee as prescribed by government. ਨਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Assistance to applicant	PIO must assist illiterate or disabled applicants. PIO ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Grounds for rejection	Listed under Section 8 and Section 9. ਸੀਕਚਨ 8 ਅਤੇ ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Section 8(1)	Allows withholding info affecting sovereignty, security, foreign relations etc. ਸੀਕਚਨ 8(1) ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Section 8(2)	Public interest override allows disclosure if public interest outweighs harm. ਸੀਕਚਨ 8(2) ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Section 9	Information involving copyright infringement can be denied. ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Third-party information	Disclosure allowed after consultation if public interest exists. ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
First appeal	Filed within 30 days to First Appellate Authority. 30 ਕਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Second appeal	Filed to Information Commission within 90 days. 90 ਕਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Information Commissions	Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions. ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ
Chief Information Commissioner	Heads the Information Commission. ਸੀਕਚਨ 9 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੁਲਾਕਾ

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