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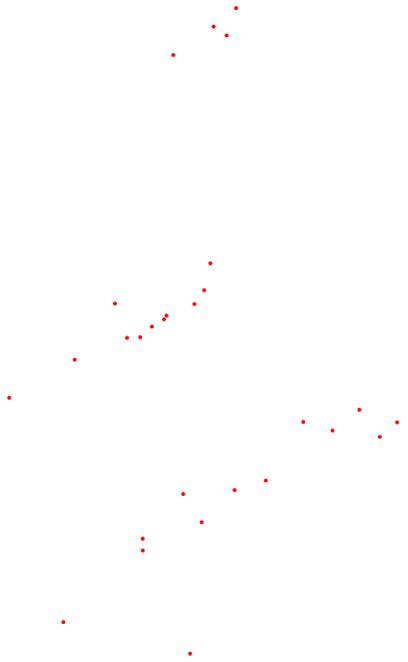
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**INSIDE**  
Cong. releases its 'chargesheet' on the BJP in Assam  
NEW DELHI

**OSWAHATI**  
Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday released a "people's chargesheet" against the "corrupt" BJP-led government in poll-bound Assam. The 20-page document imputed the "anger" of the people from across Assam, the state leaders said. » PAGE 3

**UNRESOLVED**  
'China boundary is affecting ties'  
NEW DELHI

**INDIAN ARMY**  
The "unresolved" nature of the India-China "boundary" is at the heart of tensions, Indian Army chief General Manoj Kumar Harwanan told on Thursday. » PAGE 4

**TEMPLE TORTOISES**  
Tortoises in a pond atop the Indrabasini Hill in Vijayawada on Thursday. Spotted near the Kanaka Durga Temple, the reptiles have drawn the attention of devotees who through the place of worship. © N. SAK

# SIR in 22 States and UTs expected from April: EC

Poll body directs Chief Electoral Officers in States, UTs to complete preparatory work for special intensive revision; EC in talks with Census authorities on using resources in a staggered manner

**Sreerama Chakrabarti**  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has informed state poll authorities that the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists in the 22 States and Union Territories, where it has not yet been conducted, is expected to begin in April.

The 22 remaining States and UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, and Uttarakhand.

In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officers of these States and UTs, the EC asked them to complete all preparatory work related to the SIR at the earliest, as the exercise is expected to start from April 2026. This preparatory work in-



People summoned for hearings under the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Madia, West Bengal. (PI)

cludes mapping the existing voter lists with the electoral roll of 2002-2004, when the last SIR was conducted, and training booth-level officers (BLOs) to carry out the exercise.

While announcing the SIR, the EC will have to factor in the Census exercise, which is also scheduled to begin in April. The first phase of the Population Census 2027, the house listing operation, is scheduled to begin in April 1, with the deployment of 30 lakh enumerators, most of whom are teachers from government schools. However, the BLOs who carry out the door-to-door enumeration for the SIR are also largely government school teachers.

Bihar was the first State to undergo the SIR process last year, just before its Assembly election.

Following this, on October 27, 2025, the poll body ordered the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and UTs, which is under way now.

These States are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The SIR process in these States has seen multi-stage revisions, with Uttar Pradesh getting the most extra time to complete the exercise.

In Assam, a special revision was conducted instead of SIR, due to legal hurdles posed by an incomplete National Register of Citizens process in the State.

After announcing last June that the SIR would be conducted in all States and UTs, the EC had, in a letter dated July 8, 2025, asked all States to initiate the revision exercise for the SIR.

**Kippen says he joined Manipur govt. in good faith**  
NEW DELHI

Days after being appointed Manipur's first woman Deputy Chief Minister, Nersha Kippen, a Kuki Zo leader from Kangpokpi, told *The Hindu* that she joined the government in good faith "with a sense of long-term responsibility, not personal ambition."

Ms. Kippen is among the Kuki Zo legislators in Manipur House.

The Tranche of documents also supported a possible payment from Epstein to Peter Mandelson, former U.K. envoy to Washington, who resigned in November 2020.

# India sees future, not fear, in AI, says Prime Minister at plenary session of summit

**Aaron Dsouza**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India did not fear artificial intelligence (AI) but saw its future in the technology.

"I do not see AI with utmost responsibility and immense pride," he said. "We have not no fear, India values its dignity in artificial intelligence, a future that is clearly and profoundly visible for our great nation."

India is diligently constructing a robust ecosystem spanning from semiconductor and chip-making to quantum computing," he said, highlighting secure data and electronics manufacturing. "This comprehensive effort includes establishing secure data hubs at home, and a dynamic start-up ecosystem."

The Prime Minister said the first challenge before us is how to transition AI from a purely technological tool to one that is truly human-centric, ensuring it is both sensitive and optimal," he said. "It is essential that AI must be democratised. We must transform this into a powerful instrument for inclusion and empowerment, particularly benefiting the Global South."

Every few centuries in human history, there comes a turning point, and that turning point seems the direction of civilisation, and from there the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bill Gates during a meeting on the sidelines of the AI Summit. (PI)

# Bill Gates pulls out of keynote address

**Sudhakar Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

Under a cloud over his relationship with American sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein, Microsoft founder and Bill Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates pulled out at the last minute from giving an address at the AI Impact Summit on Thursday.

Mr. Gates was scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the plenary session after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Lula, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai and other chiefs of artificial intelligence global majors.

The Prime Minister said the way forward was MANAN, an acronym that emphasises moral and ethical systems, accountable governance of AI models, national ownership of data, accessible and inclusive term, responsibility, and legitimate uses of AI.

Every few centuries in human history, there comes a turning point, and that turning point seems the direction of civilisation, and from there the

He was among the big names expected to attend the conference, and had been billed as one of the "global visionaries" at the event, in the conference publicity material and website.

However, after the latest tranche of files of the disgraced U.S. investor and convicted paedophile was released by the U.S. Department of Justice on January 31 questions have emerged about whether the government will continue to host Mr. Gates, who figures prominently in the documents. He has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

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For the first time, Mr. Modi's speech was livestreamed in seven Indian languages as well as English using AI. In the past, Mr. Modi has used real-time machine translators for his speech at the Kaali Yanni Sangamam, though this was limited to the venue itself and enabled by Bhashini, the IT Ministry's translation initiative.

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# Britain's former Duke Andrew arrested over connections with Epstein

**Rigam Lakshman**  
LONDON

Britain's former Duke of York, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (formerly, "Prince Andrew"), was arrested and taken into custody early on Thursday morning, over his connection to Jeffrey Epstein, the deceased American child sex offender and financier.

The extraordinary arrest of a member of the Royal Family, which has not occurred in centuries, underlines the gravity and reach of the unfolding Epstein scandal, which has shaken both the family and the King Charles III's government.

The younger brother of Britain's King Charles, who turned 66 on Thursday, was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office — in connection with issuing confidential official documents to Epstein, whom he served as an unpaid trade envoy for the U.K. between 2001 and 2011.

The revelations have emerged from the release of files consisting of millions of pages related to Epstein by the U.S. Department of Justice. The alleged sharing of documents is just one of several ways in which Mountbatten-Windsor's

name has surfaced in connection with Epstein. In 2021, an American woman, Virginia Giuffre, said that Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell had allegedly trafficked her to Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor for sex when she was 17. Giuffre said by suicide in April 2025. In 2022, the former prince, who has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, reached an out-of-court settlement with her.

A photograph of a man who appeared to be Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor, kneeling on all fours over a fully clothed woman lying on the carpet, was among the images released on January 30 by the U.S.



Engaging former Duke Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, was stopped on his way to court in October 2020. (PI)

authorities. The Tranche of documents also supported a possible payment from Epstein to Peter Mandelson, former U.K. envoy to Washington, who resigned in November 2020.

For the royal, as fresh revelations around his links with Epstein emerged, Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor was stripped of his title in October 2021 and asked to leave the Royal Lodge, his official residence in Windsor. He recently moved into Wood Farm, on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk, which is privately owned by King Charles III.

The British press reported that police cars arrived in Norfolk to arrest him on Thursday, with the police releasing a statement around 10 a.m.

"We have today arrested a man in his sixties from Norfolk on suspicion of misconduct in public office and are carrying out searches at addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk," the Thames Valley Police said in a statement, adding that he was not naming the individual as per national guidance, when people are normally only named when charged.

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**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

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The extraordinary arrest of a member of the Royal Family, which has not occurred in centuries, underlines the gravity and reach of the unfolding Epstein scandal, which has shaken both the family and the Keir Starmer government.

Mountbatten-Windsor,

CM  
K

the younger brother of Britain's King Charles, who turned 66 on Thursday, was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office – in connection with passing on confidential official documents to Epstein, when he served as an unpaid trade envoy for the U.K. between 2001 and 2011.

## Release of files

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The alleged sharing of documents is just one of several ways in which Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor's

name has surfaced in connection with Epstein. In 2021, an American woman, Virginia Giuffre, said that Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell had allegedly trafficked her to Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor for sex when she was 17. Giuffre died by suicide in April 2025. In 2022, the former prince, who has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, reached an out-of-court settlement with her.

A photograph of a man who appeared to be Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor, kneeling on all fours over a fully clothed woman lying on the carpet, was among the images released on January 30 by the U.S.



**Ongoing issue:** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, was stripped of his titles in October 2025. AP

authorities.

The tranche of documents also suggested a possible payment from Epstein to Peter Mandelson, former U.K. envoy to Wash-

ington, who resigned in November over his friendship with Epstein. The revelations also led to Mr. Mandelson's resignation from the Labour Party ear-

lier this month and calls for Mr. Starmer to step down.

For the royals, as fresh revelations around his links with Epstein emerged, Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor was stripped of his titles in October 2025 and asked to leave the Royal Lodge, his official residence in Windsor. He recently moved into Wood Farm, on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, which is privately owned by King Charles.

The British press reported that police cars arrived at the estate around 6 a.m. on Thursday, with the police releasing a statement around 10 a.m.

"We have today arrested

a man in his sixties from Norfolk on suspicion of misconduct in public office and are carrying out searches at addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk," the Thames Valley Police said in a statement, adding that they were not naming the individual as per national guidance, when people are normally only named when charged.

Searches were also going on at Royal Lodge, where the former prince lived until earlier this month. It was unclear where the suspect was being questioned.

## 'Full and fair process'

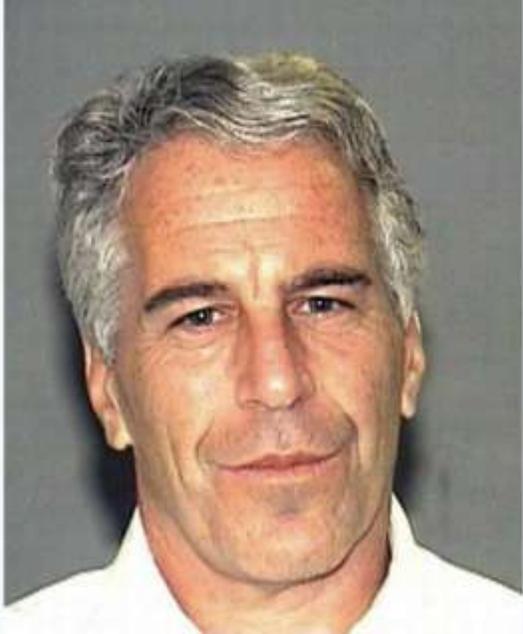
The King called for a "full, fair and proper process"

and offered his "whole hearted support and cooperation", as per a statement released by Buckingham Palace.

"Let me state clearly: the law must take its course," he said, adding it would not be appropriate to comment further at this point in time.

The family of Giuffre also reacted to the news via a statement.

"At last today our broken hearts have been lifted at the news that no one is above the law, not even royalty," they said, thanking the Thames Valley Police and adding, "He was never a prince. For survivors everywhere, Virginia did this for you."



Mug shot of Epstein, 2006

<b>Born</b>	Jeffrey Edward Epstein January 20, 1953 New York City, U.S.
<b>Died</b>	August 10, 2019 (aged 66) <a href="#">Metropolitan Correctional Center</a> , New York City, U.S.
<b>Cause of death</b>	<a href="#">Suicide by hanging</a>
<b>Resting place</b>	Star of David Cemetery, <a href="#">Palm Beach Gardens, Florida</a> , U.S.
<b>Other names</b>	Marius Robert Fortelni <sup>[10]</sup>
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">Cooper Union</a> (no degree) <a href="#">New York University</a> (no degree)
<b>Occupations</b>	<a href="#">Financier</a> · <a href="#">broker</a> · <a href="#">educator</a>

	<a href="#">J. Epstein &amp; Company</a>
<b>Criminal status</b>	Deceased
<b>Relatives</b>	<a href="#">Mark Epstein</a> (brother)
<b>Convictions</b>	<a href="#">Procuring a child for prostitution</a> · <a href="#">sex trafficking</a> (2008)
<b>Criminal charge</b>	<a href="#">Sex trafficking</a> (2019)
<b>Penalty</b>	13 months' imprisonment (2008)
<b>Accomplice</b>	<a href="#">Ghislaine Maxwell</a> <a href="#">Jean-Luc Brune</a> <sup>[1][2]</sup> <a href="#">Les Wexner</a> (alleged) <sup>[1][2]</sup> <a href="#">Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem</a> (alleged) <sup>[1][2]</sup> <a href="#">Lesley Groff</a> (alleged) <sup>[3]</sup>
	<b>Details</b>
<b>Victims</b>	1,000+ <sup>[4][5][6][7][8][9]</sup>
<b>Date apprehended</b>	July 27, 2006 (first criminal case) July 6, 2019 (second criminal case)

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Full Name	Andrew Albert Christian Edward	एंड्र्यू अल्बर्ट क्रिश्चियन एडवर्ड
Popular Title	Prince Andrew, Duke of York	प्रिंस एंड्र्यू, ड्यूक ऑफ यॉर्क
Born	19 February 1960	19 फरवरी 1960
Parents	Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip	महारानी एलिज़ाबेथ द्वितीय और प्रिंस फिलिप
Position in Family	Third child and second son of Queen Elizabeth II	महारानी एलिज़ाबेथ द्वितीय की तीसरी संतान और दूसरे पुत्र
Military Service	Served in the Royal Navy (Helicopter pilot)	रॉयल नेवी में सेवा (हेलीकॉप्टर पायलट)
Falklands War	Participated in 1982 Falklands War	1982 के फॉकलैंड युद्ध में भाग लिया
Trade Role	UK Special Representative for Trade & Investment (2001–2011)	यूके ट्रेड और निवेश के विशेष प्रतिनिधि (2001–2011)
Controversy	Linked to Jeffrey Epstein case	जेफ्री एपस्टीन मामले से जुड़ा विवाद
Titles Status	Stripped of military titles and royal duties in 2022	2022 में सैन्य उपाधियाँ और शाही कर्तव्यों से वंचित
Current Status	No longer a working member of the Royal Family	अब शाही परिवार के सक्रिय सदस्य नहीं हैं

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## ■ Part 2: British Royal Family – Structure

Aspect	English Explanation	हिंदी विवरण
Type of System	Constitutional Monarchy	संवैधानिक राजतंत्र
Head of State	King Charles III	किंग चार्ल्स तृतीय
Role of Monarch	Ceremonial head, constitutional duties	औपचारिक प्रमुख, संवैधानिक कर्तव्य
Real Executive Power	Prime Minister and Parliament	वास्तविक कार्यपालिका शक्ति प्रधानमंत्री और संसद के पास
Official Residence	Buckingham Palace	बकिंगहम पैलेस
Other Royal Residences	Windsor Castle, Sandringham Estate	विंडसर कैसल, सैंड्रिंगहम एस्टेट

## OFFENCE CARRIES MAX SENTENCE OF LIFE TERM

➤ Andrew was **taken into custody at King Charles III's private retreat** in Sandringham, where he now resides

➤ Police say 'assessing' reports that he sent confidential **trade reports to Epstein in '10**

➤ Emails released as part of Epstein files appeared to show Andrew **sharing reports of official visits to Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore**

➤ Offence carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment,



**experts say shorter term more likely** if convicted by a jury

➤ The **longest he can be held for is 96 hours**, but this would require multiple extensions from senior police officers and a magistrate's court

➤ **A woman had earlier alleged** she was sent to the UK by Epstein for a **sexual encounter with Andrew**

➤ **Andrew had denied charges**, saying he never suspected Epstein's criminal activities

## 1 Arrest and Allegations

- Britain's former Duke of York, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, has been arrested in connection with the Jeffrey Epstein case.
  - ब्रिटेन के पूर्व ड्यूक ऑफ यॉर्क, एंड्रयू माउंटबेटन-विंडसर को जेफ्री एपस्टीन मामले से जुड़े आरोपों में गिरफ्तार किया गया है।
  - The arrest relates to alleged misconduct in public office during his tenure as UK Trade Envoy (2001–2011).
  - यह गिरफ्तारी उनके यूके ट्रेड एनवॉय (2001–2011) के कार्यकाल के दौरान कथित सार्वजनिक पद के दुरुपयोग से संबंधित है।
  - Police conducted searches at royal properties in Berkshire and Norfolk.
  - पुलिस ने बर्कशायर और नॉरफॉक स्थित शाही संपत्तियों पर तलाशी अभियान चलाया।
- 

## 2 Connection with Jeffrey Epstein

- Jeffrey Epstein was an American financier and convicted sex offender.
- जेफ्री एपस्टीन एक अमेरिकी वित्तीय निवेशक और दोषी यौन अपराधी था।
- Allegations resurfaced after the release of U.S. Department of Justice documents.
- अमेरिकी न्याय विभाग के दस्तावेज़ जारी होने के बाद आरोप दोबारा सामने आए।
- Virginia Giuffre accused Andrew of sexual misconduct when she was 17 years old.
- वर्जीनिया जिउफ्रे ने एंड्रयू पर 17 वर्ष की आयु में यौन दुराचार का आरोप लगाया था।
- Andrew denied wrongdoing but reached an out-of-court settlement in 2022.
- एंड्रयू ने आरोपों से इनकार किया, लेकिन 2022 में अदालत के बाहर समझौता किया।

### 3 Royal and Constitutional Implications

- He was stripped of his royal titles in October 2025.
  - अक्टूबर 2025 में उनसे उनके शाही खिताब वापस ले लिए गए।
  - The case highlights that even members of a constitutional monarchy are subject to the rule of law.
  - यह मामला दर्शाता है कि संवैधानिक राजतंत्र में भी कानून के शासन के अधीन सभी लोग होते हैं।
  - The UK follows an unwritten constitution with parliamentary sovereignty.
  - यूनाइटेड किंगडम में अलिखित संविधान और संसदीय सर्वोच्चता की व्यवस्था है।
  - The principle "No one is above the law" is central to democratic governance.
  - "कानून से ऊपर कोई नहीं" का सिद्धांत लोकतांत्रिक शासन का मूल आधार है।
- 

### 4 Historical Context

- This is one of the rare instances of legal action against a senior member of the British Royal Family.
- यह ब्रिटिश शाही परिवार के वरिष्ठ सदस्य के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्रवाई के दुर्लभ मामलों में से एक है।
- Past royal crises include the 1936 abdication of King Edward VIII.
- पूर्व शाही संकटों में 1936 में किंग एडवर्ड अष्टम का त्यागपत्र शामिल है।
- Prince Andrew had already stepped back from royal duties in 2019 due to controversy.
- प्रिंस एंड्रयू ने 2019 में विवाद के कारण शाही दायित्वों से दूरी बना ली थी।

## 5 Political Implications

- The case may intensify republican sentiments in the United Kingdom.
  - यह मामला यूनाइटेड किंगडम में गणतांत्रिक भावना को मजबूत कर सकता है।
  - It could impact public trust in the monarchy and political institutions.
  - इससे राजतंत्र और राजनीतिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास प्रभावित हो सकता है।
  - The Prime Minister and political leaders have called for a fair and impartial investigation.
  - प्रधानमंत्री और राजनीतिक नेताओं ने निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी जांच की मांग की है।
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## 6 Economic Implications

- As Trade Envoy, Andrew was responsible for promoting UK business interests abroad.
- ट्रेड एनवॉय के रूप में एंड्रयू विदेशों में यूके के व्यापारिक हितों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जिम्मेदार थे।
- Such controversies can affect a country's global reputation and investor confidence.
- इस प्रकार के विवाद किसी देश की वैश्विक छवि और निवेशकों के विश्वास को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- The British monarchy contributes significantly to tourism and soft power diplomacy.
- ब्रिटिश राजतंत्र पर्यटन और सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है।

## 7 Legal Dimensions

- Misconduct in public office is a serious common law offence in the UK.
  - सार्वजनिक पद का दुरुपयोग यूके में एक गंभीर कॉमन लॉ अपराध है।
  - It requires proof of abuse of authority and breach of public trust.
  - इसमें अधिकार के दुरुपयोग और सार्वजनिक विश्वास के उल्लंघन का प्रमाण आवश्यक होता है।
  - The case has international dimensions due to US–UK legal coordination.
  - अमेरिका–यूके कानूनी समन्वय के कारण इस मामले का अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयाम भी है।
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## 8 Social and Ethical Issues

- The case revives debates about elite privilege and accountability.
- यह मामला अभिजात वर्ग के विशेषाधिकार और जवाबदेही पर बहस को पुनर्जीवित करता है।
- It is linked to broader concerns about human trafficking and exploitation.
- यह मानव तस्करी और शोषण से जुड़े व्यापक मुद्दों से संबंधित है।
- Public discourse has been influenced by global movements like #MeToo.
- #MeToo जैसे वैश्विक आंदोलनों ने सार्वजनिक विमर्श को प्रभावित किया है।

# Bil Gates withdraws from AI Impact Summit keynote address

Hours before the scheduled speech, Gates Foundation announced the decision, stating that it will ensure 'Focus' on the AI Summit's key priorities. President of Gates Foundation's India and Africa offices Ankur Vohra replaced him at the summit

Sushant Halder  
New Delhi

Under a cloud over his relationship with American sex-ed expert and investor Jeffrey Epstein, Microsoft founder and co-chair of the Gates Foundation Bill Gates pulled out at the last minute from giving an address at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit on Thursday.

Mr. Gates was scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the plenary session after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Lula, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai and other chiefs of AI global majors. He was among the big names expected to attend the conference, and had been billed as one of the "global visionaries" at the event, in the conference publicity material and website.

However, after the latest tranche of files of the disgraced U.S. investor and convicted paedophile was



Bill Gates, arrived in Andhra Pradesh on Monday, as planned and met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu before

released by the U.S. Department of Justice on January 31, questions have emerged about whether the government will continue to host Mr. Gates, who figures prominently in the documents. Though Mr. Gates has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and expressed regret over his association with the sex-trafficking businessman, photographs and emails recovered from Epstein's computer indicate that the two were communicated frequently and travelled together. The records also

rethink and decided Mr. Gates would be dropped from the speaker line-up. However, the Gates Foundation appeared to be conflicted over whether platforming Mr. Gates would lead to problems over the Epstein issue.

On Sunday, a day after Opposition MP Priyanka Chaturvedi appealed to the government not to allow Mr. Gates to speak at the prestigious event, the AI Impact Summit dropped his entry from the list of global visionaries. However, the agenda continued to list him as a keynote speaker on Thursday.

**Confusion prevails**  
Mr. Gates arrived in Andhra Pradesh on Monday as planned and met with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and discussed a number of projects including the Agri-vision project, in Delhi on Tuesday. Mr. Gates also met with several top government officials and AI summit organisers had a

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The Hindu Bureau  
New Delhi

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit in 2027 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland's President Guy Paroz said here on Thursday, making a pitch for smaller countries to "come together" to ensure good governance of AI development. Ministers of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Anurag Thakur and



Guy Paroz

Mr. Paroz, who also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks on Thursday on the sidelines of the AI summit here, said they had discussed cooperating in innovation on artificial intelligence, multilateral cooperation, and trade ties after the conclusion of the India-KFTA trade agreement in 2024.

The cancellation of Mr. Gates' appearance at the summit in Delhi on Thursday and the subsequent meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Ankur Vohra, was the latest in a series of government-led steps to ensure that speakers have had to contend with.

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ture of the world is not just in a few hands of big powers," Mr. Paroz said in response to a question from 'The Hindu'. "We know some countries have taken a way forward, and it's very important that good governance is brought to everyone. Notably, countries like South Korea, France, Switzerland, need to work together to bring good governance to other countries," he added.

In a statement after his meeting with Mr. Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs said both leaders had discussed the benefits of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) for bilateral trade.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen collaboration in innovation-led growth, joint research, and capacity building through training and skill development initiatives," the MEA statement said.

# 'Technology with humanity': Macron pitches for an inclusive AI future

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi

In the face of increasing geopolitical tensions, there is a growing sense of urgency to direct all digital tools towards an inclusive approach and India and France will join to build a framework for artificial intelligence (AI) by combining innovation, responsibility and technology with humanity, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday.



Emmanuel Macron

"At a time when tensions are rising, there is an increased sense of urgency to direct all our digital tools towards this inclusive approach," he said. "Let's focus together on bridging rather than dividing, creating rather than destroying, sharing rather than taking. France intends to use its IT Pres-

idency to foster that vision," he added. Mr. Macron said France, as the current G7 chair, would work towards ensuring protection of children against AI and digital safety. "This is why in France we are embarking on a project to ban social networks for children aged under 16," he said. "I know, Mr. Prime Minister, you will join this club. This is great news that India will join such an approach to protect children and teenagers. We stand ready to take all necessary actions to ensure that our young citizens are truly safe," Mr. Macron said, apparently to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# Trying to bridge the gap between warring communities: Manipur CM

Rahul Karmakar  
Guwahati

Manipur Chief Minister N. Khemchand Singh on Thursday said he would not seek a date for the end of the ethnic conflict over the last three years. While a Kuki girl from Karngongki district told the Chief Minister she is trying hard to bridge the gap between the two warring communities, he said, the fear of venturing into each other's areas, he added.



N. Khemchand Singh

More than 260 people have been killed, and about 62,000 displaced in the violence that broke out on May 3, 2022. The interaction with inter-

tion with the Kuki Zo and Meitei IIPs was both physical and virtual.

**Trust deficit**  
The IIPs from both communities pressed their case out, narrating their plight and the hardships they have faced in the last three years. While a Kuki girl from Karngongki district told the Chief Minister she is trying hard to bridge the gap between the two warring communities, he said, the fear of venturing into each other's areas, he added.

He said outright security would be provided to Kuki Zo people who want to visit the Meitei-dominated state capital of Imphal for medical treatment. Calling for the revival of insularism, the Chief Minister said he could not set a date for the IIPs to return home, but insisted that his government was leaving no stone unturned to bring the two warring sides together. "I will not let your tears go in vain," he said, adding that his government's priority was to remove the trust deficit between the two communities.

# 'Buffer zones may need to remain in Manipur; healing takes time'

The first woman Deputy CM of Manipur says that like a caring mother nurtures a peaceful home, she would like to carry forward the essence of care and responsibility in serving the people, on addressing differences among tribal groups, she says she respects the distinct identities, but believes the way forward lies in inclusive consultation and recognising the common ground that binds them

INTERVIEW  
Nemcha Kippen

Vishal Singh

On February 4, a new government was installed in Manipur after the ethnic strife-hit State remained under President's Rule for a year. Along with newly appointed Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kippen, a Kuki Zo, and Laili Thakho, a Meitei IIP, were appointed ensuring all the three major communities are adequately represented.

When the Kuki Zo and Meitei IIP people erupted in the northeastern State on May 3, 2022. Edited excerpts:

**What are your expectations now that a new government has been formed in Manipur?**  
Women in most countries and societies constitute roughly 80% of the population. The reality shows that women are not reflected in any democracy when it comes to representation. I have been made the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur, and I sincerely thank the central BJP leadership for this trust. I will do my best to contribute towards peace, harmony, inclusive development, and gender justice as a woman leader.

**How do you plan to separate and fulfil official responsibilities from outside Imphal?**  
Circumstances have made government unconventional, but responsibility remains unchanged. One's physical location does not diminish constitutional duties. I have been taking constant coordination with officials, security agencies, and colleagues in

government. At the same time, being closer to affected areas allows me to remain grounded in the lived realities of the people, which should inform policy decisions rather than distance them.

**Should the buffer zones between the Kuki Zo and Meitei areas remain as it is to remove threat?**  
My response would be both yes and no. Buffer zones may need to continue in areas where the wounds of violence remain deep. Healing takes time, and safety must be the first priority.

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What role do you see for

# Switzerland's President announces Geneva as host of 2027 AI Impact Summit

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit in 2027 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin said here on Thursday, making a pitch for smaller countries to "come together" to ensure good governance of AI development, so it is not held in the hands of a few "big powers".

Mr. Parmelin, who also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks on Thursday on the sidelines of the AI summit here, said they had discussed cooperating in innovation on artificial intelligence, multilateral cooperation, and trade ties after the conclusion of the India-EFTA trade agreement in 2024.

"Switzerland is looking forward to hosting the 2027 AI Summit in Geneva – and to working with the subsequent incoming host of the 2028 AI Summit, the United Arab Emirates, as partner for the Geneva Summit," Mr. Parmelin told presspersons at Switzerland's "Country Pavi-



Guy Parmelin

lion" at the Bharat Mandapam complex after the plenary session. "It will also consolidate our role as a leading centre for innovation and research in AI," he said adding the next summit would focus on international law aspects of AI.

Asked about the domination of the two big AI players, U.S. and China, who together account for more than 70% of the global AI industry, Mr. Parmelin said smaller countries should "organise" together and build infrastructure, while recognising specific technological breakthroughs in many of the other countries.

"It is very important that we work together so that the [technological fu-

ture of the world] is not just in a few hands of big powers," Mr. Parmelin said in response to a question from *The Hindu*. "We know some countries have taken a way forward, and it's very important that good governance is brought to everyone. Notably, countries like South Korea, France, Switzerland, need to work together to bring good governance to other countries," he added.

In a statement after his meeting with Mr. Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs said both leaders had discussed the benefits of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the four-nation European Free Trade association (EFTA) for bilateral trade.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen collaboration in innovation-led growth, joint research, sharing of best practices, and capacity building through training and skill development initiatives," the MEA statement said.

Mr. Modi welcomed plans to hold the Fifth Summit in Switzerland.

## 1 Main Announcement

- The 2027 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit will be held in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - 2027 का आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) इम्पैक्ट समिट जिनेवा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड में आयोजित किया जाएगा।
  - Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin made the announcement.
  - स्विट्ज़रलैंड के राष्ट्रपति गाइ पारमेलिन ने इसकी घोषणा की।
  - He emphasized that AI governance should not remain in the hands of a few "big powers."
  - उन्होंने जोर दिया कि एआई का शासन कुछ "बड़ी शक्तियों" के हाथों में सीमित नहीं रहना चाहिए।
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## 2 Objective of the Summit

- The summit aims to promote inclusive and good governance of AI development.
  - इस समिट का उद्देश्य एआई विकास के लिए समावेशी और सुशासन को बढ़ावा देना है।
  - Smaller countries are encouraged to collaborate and build AI infrastructure together.
  - छोटे देशों को सहयोग करने और मिलकर एआई अवसंरचना विकसित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया है।
  - The focus will include international legal aspects of artificial intelligence.
  - इसमें आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस के अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी पहलुओं पर भी ध्यान दिया जाएगा।
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### 3 Global AI Power Structure

- The United States and China together account for more than 70% of the global AI industry.
  - संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन मिलकर वैश्विक एआई उद्योग के 70% से अधिक हिस्से का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
  - There is concern about technological dominance by a few countries.
  - कुछ देशों द्वारा तकनीकी प्रभुत्व को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की गई है।
  - Countries like South Korea, France, and Switzerland are expected to cooperate for balanced AI governance.
  - दक्षिण कोरिया, फ्रांस और स्विट्ज़रलैंड जैसे देशों से संतुलित एआई शासन के लिए सहयोग की अपेक्षा की गई है।
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### 4 India–Switzerland Relations

- President Parmelin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks.
- राष्ट्रपति पारमेलिन ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से द्विपक्षीय वार्ता की।
- They discussed innovation cooperation and multilateral engagement in AI.
- उन्होंने एआई में नवाचार सहयोग और बहुपक्षीय भागीदारी पर चर्चा की।
- Discussions also covered the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and EFTA countries.
- भारत और ईएफटीए देशों के बीच व्यापार और आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (TEPA) पर भी चर्चा हुई।
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) includes Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ (EFTA) में स्विट्ज़रलैंड, नॉर्वे, आइसलैंड और लिक्टेनस्टीन शामिल हैं।

- Geneva has historically been a hub of multilateral diplomacy and international institutions.
  - जिनेवा ऐतिहासिक रूप से बहुपक्षीय कूटनीति और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थानों का केंद्र रहा है।
  - It hosts organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations offices.
  - यहां विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के कई कार्यालय स्थित हैं।
  - Switzerland follows a policy of neutrality in international politics.
  - स्विट्ज़रलैंड अंतरराष्ट्रीय राजनीति में तटस्थता की नीति का पालन करता है।
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## **7 Geographical Significance**

- Geneva is located in western Switzerland near the French border.
- जिनेवा पश्चिमी स्विट्ज़रलैंड में फ्रांस की सीमा के पास स्थित है।
- It is a major center for global governance institutions.
- यह वैश्विक शासन संस्थाओं का एक प्रमुख केंद्र है।
- Switzerland is a landlocked country in Central Europe.
- स्विट्ज़रलैंड मध्य यूरोप का एक स्थलरुद्ध देश है।



<b>Capital</b>	Bern ( <i>de facto</i> )
<b>Federal city</b>	Bern <sup>[a][2][3]</sup>
<b>Largest city</b>	Zurich
<b>Official languages</b>	German (62%), French (23%), Italian (8%), Romansh (0.5%)
<b>Nationality</b> (2024) <sup>[4]</sup>	72.6% Swiss 27.4% foreign nationals
<b>Religion</b> (2024) <sup>[5]</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>54.7% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30% Catholicism</li> <li>18.7% Protestantism</li> <li>6% other Christian</li> </ul> </li> <li>36.8% no religion</li> <li>6% Islam</li> <li>1.5% other religions</li> <li>0.9% unanswered</li> </ul>
<b>Demonyms</b>	English: Swiss German: <i>Schweizer/Schweizerin</i> French: <i>Suisse/Suisse</i> Italian: <i>svizzero/svizzera</i> or <i>elvetico/elvetica</i> Romansh: <i>Svizzer/Svizra</i>
<b>Government</b>	Federal assembly-independent <sup>[6][7]</sup> directorial republic

<b>Legislature</b>	Federal Assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper house</li> <li>• Lower house</li> </ul>	Council of States National Council
<b>History</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded</li> <li>• Sovereignty recognised (Peace of Westphalia)</li> <li>• Federal Treaty</li> <li>• Federal state</li> </ul>	1 August 1291 <sup>[b]</sup> 24 October 1648 7 August 1815 12 September 1848 <sup>[c][8]</sup>
<b>Area</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Water (%)</li> </ul>	41,291 <sup>[9]</sup> km <sup>2</sup> (15,943 sq mi) (132th) 4 <sup>[9]</sup>
<b>Population</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 estimate</li> <li>• 2015 census</li> <li>• Density</li> </ul>	▲ 9,060,598 <sup>[10]</sup> (99th) ▲ 8,327,126 <sup>[11]</sup> 207/km <sup>2</sup> (536.1/sq mi) (67th)
<b>GDP</b> (PPP)	2025 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Per capita</li> </ul>	▲ \$881.083 billion <sup>[12]</sup> (35th) ▲ \$97,660 <sup>[12]</sup> (6th)
<b>GDP</b> (nominal)	2025 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Per capita</li> </ul>	▲ \$1.003 trillion <sup>[12]</sup> (20th) ▲ \$111,047 <sup>[12]</sup> (3rd)
<b>Gini</b> (2023)	▲ 31.5 <sup>[13]</sup> medium inequality
<b>HDI</b> (2023)	▲ 0.970 <sup>[14]</sup> very high (2nd)
<b>Currency</b>	Swiss franc (CHF)

# Amazon dethrones Walmart as world's biggest firm by sales

BLOOMBERG  
February 19

AMAZON HAS OFFICIALLY dethroned Walmart as the biggest global company by revenue, a milestone attesting to the massive scale the e-commerce and cloud-computing giant has achieved since its humble beginnings in 1994 as an online bookseller in Jeff Bezos' Seattle-area garage.

Walmart, which had been the largest company by revenue for more than a decade, on Thursday reported sales of \$713.2 billion for the 12 months ending January 31. Amazon, which operates on a fiscal year ending in December, earlier this month reported 2025 sales of \$717 billion.

Bezos carefully studied Walmart founder Sam Walton,

## RACE TO THE TOP

■ Walmart reported sales of **\$713.2 bn** for 12 months ending Jan31

■ Bezos carefully studied Walmart founder Sam Walton, embracing many of his biz strategies

■ Over past decade, Amazon's revenue has increased at almost 10 times pace of Walmart's



embracing many of his business strategies while building his company.

Over the past decade, Amazon's revenue has increased at almost 10 times the pace of Walmart's, fueled by a shift in consumer spending from

stores to websites and its rapidly growing cloud-computing business, Amazon Web Services.

Amazon and Walmart compete head-to-head for shoppers' dollars. Amazon is the biggest online retailer, with its

website and mobile apps attracting 2.7 billion visits each month.

Walmart is the biggest physical retailer in the world, with more than 10,000 stores and shopping clubs globally. Both companies generate most

of their revenue in the US.

Walmart is having more success developing its e-commerce operation than Amazon is having in creating a physical stores business despite its 2017 acquisition of Whole Foods Market.

But the revenue story is more about Amazon's dominance in cloud computing, a business Walmart doesn't compete in. Without AWS, Amazon's 2025 revenue would have been \$588 billion. So its ascendance rests largely on the importance of data centers as critical infrastructure in the age of artificial intelligence.

"This is a hollow victory," said Kirithi Kalyanam, executive director of the Retail Management Institute at Santa Clara University. "Amazon didn't beat Walmart in the retail game. It

just beat them in revenue by launching a new business Walmart doesn't operate in."

Being the biggest company by revenue mostly represents scale and consumer reach, and isn't necessarily valued by investors. Before Walmart, Exxon Mobil and General Motors had the distinction, which brings with it greater political scrutiny and customer expectations. Nvidia is the world's most valuable company, with a market capitalisation of \$4.5 trillion, more than double Amazon's and more than four times larger than Walmart's.

Bezos, who first overtook Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates as the world's wealthiest person in 2017, currently ranks fourth richest, with estimated assets of \$228 billion.

Basis of Comparison	Walmart	वॉलमार्ट	Amazon	अमेज़न
<b>Founded</b>	1962 by Sam Walton	1962 में सैम वॉल्टन द्वारा स्थापित	1994 by Jeff Bezos	1994 में जेफ बेजोस द्वारा स्थापित
<b>Headquarters</b>	Bentonville, Arkansas, USA	बेंटनविल, अर्कासस, अमेरिका	Seattle, Washington, USA	सिएटल, वॉशिंगटन, अमेरिका
<b>Business Model</b>	Primarily physical retail stores	मुख्यतः भौतिक खुदरा स्टोर आधारित	E-commerce + Cloud computing	ई-कॉमर्स + क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग आधारित
<b>Revenue (Latest Approx.)</b>	~\$713 billion annually	लगभग 713 अरब डॉलर वार्षिक	~\$717 billion annually	लगभग 717 अरब डॉलर वार्षिक
<b>Main Revenue Source</b>	Physical retail sales	भौतिक खुदरा बिक्री	Online retail + AWS cloud services	ऑनलाइन खुदरा + AWS क्लाउड सेवाएँ
<b>Number of Stores</b>	10,000+ stores globally	10,000+ वैश्विक स्टोर	Limited physical stores	सीमित भौतिक स्टोर
<b>Online Presence</b>	Growing e-commerce platform	बढ़ता हुआ ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म	World's largest online retailer	दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा ऑनलाइन खुदरा विक्रेता

<b>Cloud Business</b>	No major cloud division	कोई प्रमुख क्लाउड डिवीजन नहीं	Amazon Web Services (AWS) – global leader	अमेज़न वेब सर्विसेज (AWS) – वैश्विक अग्रणी
<b>Advertising Revenue</b>	Limited compared to Amazon	अमेज़न की तुलना में सीमित	Major digital advertising business	बड़ा डिजिटल विज्ञापन व्यवसाय
<b>Profit Driver</b>	Retail margins & scale	खुदरा मार्जिन और पैमाना	AWS contributes major profits	AWS प्रमुख लाभ स्रोत
<b>Employee Strength</b>	~2.1 million employees	लगभग 21 लाख कर्मचारी	~1.5 million employees	लगभग 15 लाख कर्मचारी
<b>Market Position</b>	Largest physical retailer	सबसे बड़ा भौतिक खुदरा विक्रेता	Largest e-commerce company	सबसे बड़ी ई-कॉमर्स कंपनी
<b>Growth Rate (Last Decade)</b>	Moderate growth	मध्यम वृद्धि	Very high growth (~10x faster than Walmart)	बहुत तेज वृद्धि (वॉलमार्ट से लगभग 10 गुना तेज)
<b>Technological Edge</b>	Supply chain efficiency	आपूर्ति श्रृंखला दक्षता	AI, Cloud, Data & Digital ecosystem	एआई, क्लाउड, डेटा और डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम

## 1 Main Development

- Amazon has officially become the world's biggest company by revenue, surpassing Walmart.
  - अमेज़न आधिकारिक रूप से वॉलमार्ट को पीछे छोड़ते हुए राजस्व के आधार पर दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी कंपनी बन गई है।
  - This marks a major milestone for the e-commerce and cloud computing giant.
  - यह ई-कॉमर्स और क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग दिग्गज के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।
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## 2 Revenue Figures

- Amazon reported sales of about \$717 billion for fiscal year 2025.
- अमेज़न ने वित्त वर्ष 2025 में लगभग 717 अरब डॉलर की बिक्री दर्ज की।
- Walmart reported sales of about \$713.2 billion for the 12 months ending January 31.
- वॉलमार्ट ने 31 जनवरी को समाप्त 12 महीनों में लगभग 713.2 अरब डॉलर की बिक्री दर्ज की।
- Over the past decade, Amazon's revenue grew nearly 10 times faster than Walmart's.
- पिछले दशक में अमेज़न की आय वॉलमार्ट की तुलना में लगभग 10 गुना तेजी से बढ़ी।

### 3 Business Model Differences

- Amazon operates as an e-commerce leader and a cloud computing giant through Amazon Web Services (AWS).
  - अमेज़न ई-कॉमर्स में अग्रणी होने के साथ-साथ अमेज़न वेब सर्विसेज (AWS) के माध्यम से क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग में भी अग्रणी है।
  - Walmart remains the world's largest physical retailer with over 10,000 stores globally.
  - वॉलमार्ट 10,000 से अधिक वैश्विक स्टोर्स के साथ दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा भौतिक खुदरा विक्रेता बना हुआ है।
  - Amazon dominates online retail, while Walmart is stronger in physical retail operations.
  - अमेज़न ऑनलाइन खुदरा में अग्रणी है, जबकि वॉलमार्ट भौतिक खुदरा संचालन में अधिक मजबूत है।
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### 4 Role of Cloud Computing

- A significant portion of Amazon's profits comes from AWS, its cloud computing division.
- अमेज़न के मुनाफे का बड़ा हिस्सा उसके क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग विभाग AWS से आता है।
- Without AWS, Amazon's revenue growth would be significantly lower.
- AWS के बिना अमेज़न की राजस्व वृद्धि काफी कम हो सकती थी।
- Cloud computing and data centers are critical infrastructure in the age of Artificial Intelligence.
- कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के युग में क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग और डेटा सेंटर महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना हैं।

## 5 E-commerce Competition

- Walmart has improved its e-commerce operations significantly in recent years.
  - हाल के वर्षों में वॉलमार्ट ने अपने ई-कॉमर्स संचालन में उल्लेखनीय सुधार किया है।
  - However, Amazon continues to lead in digital marketplace scale and innovation.
  - हालांकि, अमेज़न डिजिटल मार्केटप्लेस के पैमाने और नवाचार में अग्रणी बना हुआ है।
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## 6 Economic and Market Perspective

- Being the biggest company by revenue reflects scale and consumer reach.
- राजस्व के आधार पर सबसे बड़ी कंपनी होना पैमाने और उपभोक्ता पहुंच को दर्शाता है।
- However, the most valuable company by market capitalization is Nvidia, not Amazon.
- हालांकि, बाजार पूंजीकरण के आधार पर सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनी एनवीडिया है, अमेज़न नहीं।
- Market capitalization measures investor confidence and future growth expectations.
- बाजार पूंजीकरण निवेशकों के विश्वास और भविष्य की वृद्धि की अपेक्षाओं को दर्शाता है।

## 7 Historical Context

- Amazon started in 1994 as an online bookstore in Jeff Bezos' garage.
  - अमेज़न की शुरुआत 1994 में जेफ बेजोस के गैरेज से एक ऑनलाइन बुकस्टोर के रूप में हुई थी।
  - Walmart dominated global retail for decades before Amazon's rise.
  - अमेज़न के उदय से पहले वॉलमार्ट दशकों तक वैश्विक खुदरा क्षेत्र में प्रमुख रहा।
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## 8 Technological Dimension

- The shift from physical retail to digital platforms represents the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
  - भौतिक खुदरा से डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म की ओर बदलाव चौथी औद्योगिक क्रांति का प्रतीक है।
  - Data, AI, and cloud services are redefining global business leadership.
  - डेटा, एआई और क्लाउड सेवाएँ वैश्विक व्यापार नेतृत्व को पुनर्परिभाषित कर रही हैं।
- 

## 9 Geopolitical and Economic Significance

- US-based technology firms dominate global digital infrastructure.
- अमेरिका आधारित प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनियाँ वैश्विक डिजिटल अवसंरचना पर प्रभुत्व रखती हैं।
- The rise of Amazon reflects the growing importance of digital economies worldwide.
- अमेज़न का उदय विश्वभर में डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के बढ़ते महत्व को दर्शाता है।
- It highlights how innovation-driven companies can surpass traditional retail giants.
- यह दर्शाता है कि नवाचार-आधारित कंपनियाँ पारंपरिक खुदरा दिग्गजों को पीछे छोड़ सकती हैं।

# Amazon – Revenue Breakdown

## 1 Online Stores

- Amazon earns the largest share from its online stores (direct retail sales).
- अमेज़न अपनी ऑनलाइन स्टोर्स (प्रत्यक्ष खुदरा बिक्री) से सबसे अधिक आय अर्जित करता है।
- Revenue: ~ \$230–240 billion annually.
- वार्षिक आय: लगभग 230–240 अरब डॉलर।

## 2 Third-Party Seller Services

- Fees from third-party sellers (commissions, fulfillment, logistics).
- थर्ड-पार्टी विक्रेताओं से शुल्क (कमीशन, फुलफिलमेंट, लॉजिस्टिक्स)।
- Revenue: ~ \$140–150 billion.
- आय: लगभग 140–150 अरब डॉलर।

## 3 Amazon Web Services (AWS)

- Cloud computing services including data storage and AI infrastructure.
- क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग सेवाएँ, जिनमें डेटा स्टोरेज और एआई अवसंरचना शामिल हैं।
- Revenue: ~ \$90–100 billion.
- आय: लगभग 90–100 अरब डॉलर।
- AWS contributes the majority of Amazon's operating profit.
- AWS अमेज़न के परिचालन लाभ का बड़ा हिस्सा प्रदान करता है।

## 4 Advertising Services

- Revenue from sponsored ads and marketplace advertising.
- स्पॉन्सर्ड विज्ञापन और मार्केटप्लेस विज्ञापन से आय।
- Revenue: ~ \$45–50 billion.
- आय: लगभग 45–50 अरब डॉलर।

## 5 Subscription Services

- Includes Prime memberships, streaming services, and digital subscriptions.
- इसमें प्राइम सदस्यता, स्ट्रीमिंग सेवाएँ और डिजिटल सब्सक्रिप्शन शामिल हैं।
- Revenue: ~ \$40–45 billion.
- आय: लगभग 40–45 अरब डॉलर।

## 6 Physical Stores

- Revenue from Whole Foods and Amazon physical outlets.
- होल फूड्स और अमेज़न के भौतिक स्टोर्स से आय।
- Revenue: ~ \$20–25 billion.
- आय: लगभग 20–25 अरब डॉलर।



# Rajya Sabha Elections

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Announcement	ECI announced biennial elections to fill 37 Rajya Sabha seats.	निर्वाचन आयोग ने 37 राज्यसभा सीटों हेतु द्विवार्षिक चुनाव की घोषणा की।
Coverage	Elections across 10 States.	10 राज्यों में चुनाव आयोजित होंगे।
Nature	Rajya Sabha elections are held every two years for one-third members.	राज्यसभा चुनाव हर दो वर्ष में एक-तिहाई सदस्यों के लिए होते हैं।

Topic	English	हिंदी
Nature	Council of States; Upper House of Parliament.	राज्यों की परिषद; संसद का उच्च सदन।
Constitutional Article	Article 80 – Maximum strength 250 members.	अनुच्छेद 80 – अधिकतम संख्या 250 सदस्य।
Present Strength	245 (233 elected + 12 nominated).	वर्तमान संख्या 245 (233 निर्वाचित + 12 मनोनीत)।
Nominated Members	12 nominated by President for literature, science, art & social service.	12 सदस्य राष्ट्रपति द्वारा साहित्य, विज्ञान, कला व समाज सेवा हेतु मनोनीत।
Seat Allocation	Based on population (Fourth Schedule).	जनसंख्या के आधार पर (चौथी अनुसूची)।
Qualification	Article 84 – Minimum age 30 years.	अनुच्छेद 84 – न्यूनतम आयु 30 वर्ष।
Tenure	Permanent House; not subject to dissolution.	स्थायी सदन; भंग नहीं किया जा सकता।
Retirement	One-third retire every 2 years; term = 6 years.	प्रत्येक 2 वर्ष में एक-तिहाई सदस्य सेवानिवृत्त; कार्यकाल 6 वर्ष।
Chairperson	Vice-President of India is ex-officio Chairman.	भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति पदेन सभापति होते हैं।

Feature	English	हिंदी
Type	Indirect Election	अप्रत्यक्ष चुनाव
Electoral College	Elected MLAs of States & UTs	राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के निर्वाचित विधायक
Voting System	Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote (STV).	एकल संक्रमणीय मत द्वारा आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व।
Ballot	Preferential voting (1, 2, 3...).	वरीयता आधारित मतदान (1, 2, 3...).
Quota	Candidate must secure required quota.	उम्मीदवार को निर्धारित कोटा प्राप्त करना होता है।
Surplus Transfer	Extra votes transferred to next preference.	अतिरिक्त मत अगली वरीयता को स्थानांतरित।
Open Ballot	Party MLAs must show vote to authorized agent.	पार्टी विधायक अधिकृत एजेंट को मत दिखाते हैं।
Independent MLA	Does not show ballot.	निर्दलीय विधायक मत नहीं दिखाते।
Anti-Defection	Voting against whip in RS election does not attract disqualification under 10th Schedule.	राज्यसभा चुनाव में व्हिप के विरुद्ध मतदान पर दसवीं अनुसूची के तहत अयोग्यता नहीं।
NOTA	NOTA removed for Rajya Sabha (2018 SC judgment).	राज्यसभा में NOTA समाप्त (2018 सुप्रीम कोर्ट निर्णय)।

## Provision

Article 324

Article 83(1)

Representation of the People Act, 1951

10th Schedule

4th Schedule

Amendment 2003

## Details

Superintendence of elections vested in ECI.

Rajya Sabha is a permanent body.

Governs conduct of elections.

Anti-defection law (does not apply to RS voting whip violation).

Allocation of seats to states.

Removed domicile requirement for RS candidates.



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## 4 How Quota is Calculated?

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{Total valid votes}}{\text{Seats to be filled} + 1} + 1$$

Example:

If 100 MLAs vote and 3 seats are to be filled:

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{100}{3 + 1} + 1 = 25 + 1 = 26$$

So a candidate needs **26 votes** to win.

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Feature	Rajya Sabha	Lok Sabha
Nature	Permanent	Can be dissolved
Election	Indirect	Direct
Minimum Age	30 years	25 years
Money Bill Power	Can delay 14 days	Final authority
No-Confidence Motion	Cannot initiate	Can initiate



Consider the following statements regarding Rajya Sabha elections:

1. Members are elected through proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
2. Rajya Sabha is subject to dissolution like Lok Sabha.
3. Voting against party whip in a Rajya Sabha election attracts disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



# Bihar AI-Powered Remote E-Voting System

#### 4 Timeline of EVM in India

Year	Development
1982	First experimental use in Kerala.
1998	Used in 16 Assembly constituencies.
2004	Fully used in Lok Sabha elections.
2013	Supreme Court mandates VVPAT (Subramanian Swamy case).
2019	100% VVPAT coverage in General Elections.

#### 5 Is Online / Internet Voting Allowed in India?

Type	Status
Internet voting for general public	✗ Not allowed
Remote Voting Machine (RVM)	Prototype tested (for migrant voters)
State-level digital experiments	Some states piloted blockchain-based local voting

📌 India currently uses **offline EVMs only**, not online voting.

Country	Voting System
India	Offline EVM + VVPAT
USA	Mix of paper ballot & electronic systems
Estonia	Internet-based voting since 2005
Brazil	Fully electronic (non-internet)

Aspect

English

हिंदी

Initiative

Bihar showcased an AI-powered mobile-based remote e-voting system at India AI Impact Summit 2026.

बिहार ने इंडिया एआई इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026 में एआई आधारित मोबाइल रिमोट ई-वोटिंग प्रणाली प्रस्तुत की।

Implementing Authority

Developed by Bihar State Election Commission in collaboration with C-DAC.

इसे बिहार राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग ने सी-डैक के सहयोग से विकसित किया।

App Name

Android application “e-Voting SECBHR”.

एंड्रॉइड एप्लीकेशन “e-Voting SECBHR”।

First Deployment

Used in 2025 Urban Local Body elections in Bihar.

2025 के शहरी स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों में पहली बार उपयोग किया गया।

Objective

Increase accessibility and voter participation.

मतदाता सहभागिता और पहुँच बढ़ाना।

Target Beneficiaries

Migrant workers, students, senior citizens, pregnant women, PwDs, and the unwell.

प्रवासी श्रमिक, विद्यार्थी, वरिष्ठ नागरिक, गर्भवती महिलाएँ, दिव्यांगजन एवं अस्वस्थ व्यक्ति।

Authentication Process

OTP verification + AI facial recognition + live selfie matched with EPIC database.

ओटीपी सत्यापन + एआई फेस रिकग्निशन + लाइव सेल्फी का EPIC डाटाबेस से मिलान।

Governance Significance

Part of digital governance reforms and AI integration in elections.

डिजिटल गवर्नेंस सुधार और चुनावों में एआई के एकीकरण का हिस्सा।

Topic	Details
Constitutional Authority	Articles 243K & 243ZA – State Election Commission for Panchayat & Municipal elections.
National Election Body	Article 324 – Election Commission of India (ECI).
EPIC Introduced	1993 onwards nationwide voter ID program.
Remote Voting Concept	ECI proposed Remote Voting Machine (RVM) prototype in 2023 for migrant voters.
Digital India Link	Supports Digital India & AI Governance frameworks.
Global Debate	Security vs Accessibility dilemma in remote voting systems.

Parameter	Bihar Model	Indian Context	Global Context
Type	Mobile-based AI Remote Voting	EVM + VVPAT (offline controlled system)	Mix of postal ballots, internet voting, hybrid systems
Legal Status	Limited to ULB elections	National elections use EVM under ECI supervision	Country-specific laws
AI Integration	Yes (facial recognition)	No AI in national voting yet	Limited (Estonia digital ID verification)
Remote Voting	Yes (via smartphone)	RVM prototype under testing	Estonia – full internet voting since 2005
Security Model	OTP + AI + EPIC database	Physical EVM + VVPAT audit trail	Estonia uses blockchain-based security
Major Risk	Cyberattack & coercion voting	Booth capturing, malfunction concerns	Cybersecurity & foreign interference



Country

System

Key Feature



Estonia

Internet Voting (i-Voting)

Blockchain-backed digital ID system

Switzerland

Limited e-voting pilots

Cantonal-level trials

USA

Mostly postal ballots

Limited online for military overseas voters

Brazil

Fully electronic EVM (not internet-based)

Centralized electronic voting since 2000

India

EVM + VVPAT

No nationwide internet voting yet



Consider the following statements regarding Bihar's AI-powered remote e-voting system:

1. It was first deployed during the 2025 Urban Local Body elections.
2. It uses blockchain technology similar to Estonia's national voting system.
3. Identity verification includes AI-based facial recognition matched with EPIC database.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## **Questions and Answers to the previous day's**

**daily quiz:** 1. Name the other four pillars of Islam apart from fasting. **Ans: Faith, Prayer, Charity and Pilgrimage**

2. The start of an Islamic month usually depends on the sighting of this body. **Ans: (Crescent) moon**

3. The significance of 622 CE. **Ans: Prophet Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina to escape persecution**

4. During this month, the first verses of Islam's central text, the Quran, were revealed to the Prophet here. **Ans: Cave of Hira / Mount Hira**

5. This angel is believed to have delivered the revelations. **Ans: Angel Jibreel (Gabriel)**

6. The Quran prescribes the practice of fasting to these religious communities. **Ans: Jews and Christians**

7. In 1973, an Arab coalition launched this offensive against Israel. **Ans: Yom Kippur War**

Visual: Name the mosque compound and the structure pictured in the background. **Ans: Al-Aqsa mosque compound; Dome of the Rock**

**Early Birds:** Mohan Lal Patel | Tamal Biswas | Sukdev Shet | Arun Kumar Singh | Dodo Jayaditya

## V.V. Ramanan

### QUESTION 1

Name the seminal paper published by Google researchers in 2017 that introduced the transformer architecture used by modern LLMs.

### QUESTION 2

Name the specialised processing units within NVIDIA GPUs that are designed to drastically accelerate AI, deep learning, and high-performance computing workloads.

### QUESTION 3

Copilot grounds its LLM responses in real-time

web data by using a proprietary orchestrator that connects to the Bing search index. What mythological name has Microsoft given to this model?

### QUESTION 4

Name the Israeli-Canadian scientist, a co-founder and former chief scientist at OpenAI, who co-invented AlexNet, a convolutional neural network.

### QUESTION 5

Expand RNN and LSTM, the neural networks used for sequential data like natural language processing.

### QUESTION 6

What is 'hallucination' with respect to AI?



### Visual question:

Name this young IITM alumnus who is the co-founder and CEO of a tech firm that is challenging Google Search and ChatGPT.

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# Word of the day

## **Perfidy:**

betrayal of trust; an act of deliberate betrayal

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**Synonyms:** betrayal, treachery, treason

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**Usage:** *There have been allegations of perfidy against him.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/perfidypro](http://newsth.live/perfidypro)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /'pɜː.fɪ.di/

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Thank you 😊