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**Dismal numbers for eight core sectors in Oct.**  
NEW DELHI  
Growth in industrial activity in the eight core sectors of the economy remained flat in October 2020, the week performance in 14 months, according to official data. | PAGE 12

### Tribute to Ruru



Bhairava Bhairavi Siva perform gods, a form of martial art, during a religious procession marking 350 years of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur in Jammu on Thursday. (P)

## Search on for five declared foreigners by Assam tribunal

**The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI**  
The police in Sonitpur district in north-central Assam are searching for five people declared non-citizens by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT), officials said on Thursday.  
Humifa, Marjyam Nensa, Fatima, Monowara, and Anshad Ali, all from Dhoboka village, were declared foreigners *ex parte* on October 24.  
The district administration issued separate orders on Wednesday for their exclusion from India within 24 hours.  
The orders were issued by Ananda Kumar Das, District Commissioner, under

**The orders directed them to leave the territory of Assam within 24 hours.**  
The frontigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950. These were the earliest orders citing this Act since the State Cabinet approved its implementation earlier this year.  
"...being a declared foreigner, your presence in India/Assam is detrimental to the interest of the general public and also for the internal security of the State," each order read.  
The orders directed them to remove themselves

"from the territory of Assam, India," within hours from receiving this order via the Dharoi/Sribhum/South Salmara-Manikchar route.  
The mention of these routes on the India-Bangladesh border indicated that they may have entered the country from Bangladesh.  
"Further, you are intimated that in the event of any default in complying with this order, the government would be compelled to take appropriate action to remove you from the territory of the State of Assam, India," the orders read.  
"The FT issued the order *ex parte* as the five people never turned up during hearings," Mr. Das said.

## Courts cannot fetter President, Governor: SC

'Deemed consent' will usurp the function of the gubernatorial functionaries, court says | Court states that it is against sitting on Bills through 'prolonged and evasive inaction' | Delaying bills would thwart the people's will expressed through legislatures, the court says

**Krishnadass Mahalingam NEW DELHI**  
A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday answered the 16th Presidential Reference the country has witnessed by stating that the judiciary cannot usurp executive powers and the President to "one-size-fits-all" time-table to dispose of State Bills or usurp their functions by assuming "deemed consent" of the proposed laws at the expiry of a court-ordered time frame.

**Supreme Court's advisory opinion**  
Breaking down the court's response to 14 questions raised by the President asking if a constitutional Court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to give assent to Bills passed by legislatures  
**Deemed consent under Article 200**  
■ May assent to the Bill  
■ May withhold assent, but must communicate reasons to the State legislatures  
■ May refer the Bill to the President for reconsideration under Article 201

**Justicial inaction**  
■ It cannot impose timelines for assent or create a surrogate of deemed consent under Article 143  
**President's role under Article 200**  
■ When a Bill is referred, the President need not seek SC's advisory opinion under Article 143 every time

**Governor's accountability**  
■ Governor cannot insist on a Bill if they're deemed subject to review again  
■ Centre can direct Government to decide within a reasonable time frame, but not dictate the outcome

**SC counters States' 'disguised plea' argument**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Thursday scolded the States for the highest constitutional functionary of the country. The court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out constitutional wrinkles, the Bench said. It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200 - to grant assent to the Bill, reserve it for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and refer the Bill to the State Legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill. A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.

of constitutional functionaries and the interplay among State legislatures, Governors, and the President.  
"It is an institutional responsibility to tender its opinion on this functional reference sought by the highest constitutional functionary of the country. The court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out constitutional wrinkles," the Bench said. It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200 - to grant assent to the Bill, reserve it for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and refer the Bill to the State Legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill. A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.

of the State legislatures to permit the Governor to withhold a Bill without following the dialogic process. The Reference Bench advised.  
The Bench pronounced that the Supreme Court cannot judicially review the merits of the decision taken by the Governor under Article 200. "However, in glaring circumstances of inaction that is prolonged, unexplained, and indefensible, the court can issue a limited mandamus for the Governor to discharge his function within a reasonable time period," it said.

Such a usurpation of the gubernatorial function of the Governor, and similarly of the President's functions, is antithetical not only to the spirit of the Constitution, but also specifically, the doctrine of separation of powers - which forms the basic structure of the Constitution," a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice-designate Surya Kant, and Justices Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha and A.K. Chandikar underscored in their answer.

**'Evasive inaction'**  
Gavai, who clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to "prolonged and evasive in-

action" by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their assent. The Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution came merely a month after a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a judgment on the Tamil Nadu Governor case on April 8, plugged a constitutional gap by being

a three-month time limit for Governors and the President to dispose of State Bills pending with them. Addressing a preliminary objection raised by Tamil Nadu and Kerala that the President had no jurisdiction to entertain an "appeal in disguise" against the binding April judgment of the

court, the Bench said nothing stopped it from clarifying "general questions of law referred to it by the President".  
The Bench termed the set of 14 questions posed by the President on May 13 as a unique "functional reference" touching upon the day-to-day functioning

of constitutional functionaries and the interplay among State legislatures, Governors, and the President.  
"It is an institutional responsibility to tender its opinion on this functional reference sought by the highest constitutional functionary of the country. The court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out constitutional wrinkles," the Bench said. It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200 - to grant assent to the Bill, reserve it for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and refer the Bill to the State Legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill. A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.

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But the restricted review of the Governor's inaction would not entail subjecting him personally to judicial proceedings. The Governor enjoyed absolute immunity - from court proceedings under Article 201.  
The Bench clarified that the courts had no power to review the merits of Bills.

## 27-member new Nitish Cabinet takes charge, BJP gets 14 berths, JD(U) eight

**Anshu Bhattacharya PATNA**  
Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time in a grand ceremony here on Thursday.  
Governor Arif Mohammad Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 24-year-old leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nanda, and a host of other National Democratic Alliance leaders were present.  
Besides Mr. Kumar, 26 Cabinet Ministers took the oath of office. Fourteen of them were from the BJP, eight from the Janata Dal (U), two from the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)



Show of unity: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at the swearing-in ceremony in Patna on Thursday. (AP)

and one each from the Bihar-based Awam Morcha (Socialist) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM).  
There are nine new faces, including Sunday Kumar Singh of the LJP (R) who defeated Kuberdas Jaisankar leader Lalu Prasad's son Jai Pratap Yadav in the Madhubani constituency. The new Cabinet has one Minister and four MLAs and four MLCs. A three-day session of the new Assembly will start from November 26, in which the Speaker will be elected and new members will take oath.  
Mr. Kumar has made a fine balance of caste equations by giving representation to various sections in the Cabinet - eight from the general category, six each from the Other Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes, and five from the Scheduled Castes. Four Rajputs have been inducted, the highest number among castes.  
Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of several NDA-led States attended the swearing-in.

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## As trade row eases, U.S. clears missile sale to India

**The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI**  
In a move that further underscores the easing of trade tensions between India and the U.S., the U.S. State Department has approved a possible sale of Javelin missiles and Escalibur projectiles and related equipment to India for an estimated total cost of \$52.6 million. The U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Thursday. The DSCA said it had delivered the required certification notifying the U.S. Congress as well as the decisions.  
Press releases issued in this connection said the proposed sale would support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the U.S. by bolster-



A file picture of a U.S. soldier firing a Javelin missile. (AP)

capability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, which will increase first strike accuracy in its brigades. India will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.  
In a separate release, the DSCA said India had requested to buy 100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds, 25 Javelin Command Launch Units (CLUs) or Javelin Block 1 Command Launch Units (CLUs).  
The release added that the sale of Javelin missiles to India would "strengthen its homeland defence and tactical capabilities," a release said. "The proposed sale will improve India's

In a deal for \$45.7 million, the sixth round of formal negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) - earlier known as the Indo-US Trade Framework - have taken place in the last week of August - took place in October. Indian government officials and Ministers have again started talking about the conclusion of the first tranche of the BTA soon.  
The DSCA release added that the Escalibur deal would also include the supply of ancillary items, Portable Electronic Fire Control Systems with Improved Platform Integration Kit (PIK), primers, propellant charges, U.S. Government technical assistance, technical data, repair and return services, and other related elements of logistics and programme support.  
The Escalibur deal is for \$47.1 million and the Javelin



# Courts cannot fetter President, Governor: SC

'Deemed consent' will usurp the function of the gubernatorial functionaries, court says

Court states that it is against sitting on Bills through 'prolonged and evasive inaction'

Delaying bills would thwart the people's will expressed through legislatures, the court says

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday answered the 16th Presidential Reference the country has witnessed by opining that the judiciary cannot fetter Governors and the President to "one-size-fits-all" time-tables to dispose of State Bills or usurp their functions by assuming "deemed consent" of the proposed laws at the expiry of a court-ordered time frame.

"Such a usurpation of the gubernatorial function of the Governor, and similarly of the President's functions, is antithetical not only to the spirit of the Constitution, but also specifically, the doctrine of separation of powers – which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution," a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Chief Jus-

## Supreme Court's advisory opinion

Breaking down the court's response to **14 questions raised by the President** asking if a constitutional court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to give assent to Bills passed by legislatures

### Governor's discretion under Article 200

- May assent to the Bill
- May withhold assent, but must communicate reasons to the State legislature
- May refer the Bill to the President for consideration under Article 201

### Judicial limits

- SC cannot impose timelines for assent or create a concept of 'deemed assent' under Article 142

### President's role under Article 201

- When a Bill is referred, the President need not seek SC's advisory opinion under Article 143 every time

### Governor's accountability

- Governors cannot indefinitely sit on a Bill; if they do, limited judicial review applies
- Courts can direct Governors to decide within a reasonable time frame, but not dictate the outcome



tice-designate Surya Kant, and Justices Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar underscored in their answer.

### 'Evasive inaction'

However, the court clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to "prolonged and evasive in-

action" by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their approval. The Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution came merely a month after a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case on April 8, plugged a constitutional silence by fixing

a three-month time limit for Governors and the President to dispose of State Bills pending with them.

Addressing a preliminary objection raised by Tamil Nadu and Kerala that the Presidential Reference was only an "appeal in disguise" against the binding April judgment of the

## SC counters States' 'disguised plea' argument

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday countered the objection of States ruled by non-BJP parties that the Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise". It said an advisory opinion "can overrule, if necessary". It was a thinly veiled "appeal" against the judgment that fixed timelines for Governors and the President to decide on Bills, Tamil Nadu argued. » PAGE 5

court, the Bench said nothing stopped it from clarifying "general questions of law referred to it by the President".

The Bench termed the set of 14 questions posed by the President on May 13 as a unique "functional reference" touching upon the day-to-day functioning

of constitutional functionaries and the interplay among State legislatures, Governors, and the President.

"It is an institutional responsibility to tender its opinion on this functional reference sought by the highest constitutional functionary of the country. The court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out constitutional creases," the Bench said. It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200 – to grant assent to the Bill, reserve it for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and return the Bill to the State legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill. A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.

"It would be against the principle of federalism and a derogation of the powers

of the State legislatures to permit the Governor to withhold a Bill without following the dialogic process...," the Reference Bench advised.

The Bench propounded that the Supreme Court cannot judicially review the merits of the decision taken by the Governor under Article 200. "However, in glaring circumstances of inaction that is prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite, the court can issue a limited mandamus for the Governor to discharge his function within a reasonable time period," it said.

But the restricted review of the Governor's inaction would not entail subjecting him personally to judicial proceedings. The Governor enjoyed absolute immunity from court proceedings under Article 361.

The Bench clarified that the courts had no power to review the merits of Bills.

# 'COURT CAN NUDGE IF GOV SITS ON BILL'

- Governors **cannot sit over bills** beyond powers granted to them under Art 200, **cannot act as super CMs**, 5-judge bench unanimously said
- Fixing timelines for governors in a democratic country like India is **against the elasticity provided by Constitution**
- Governors have 3 options – to grant assent to bills, refer them to the President, or withhold assent and send them back to the assembly with comments. **Third option is available only when it is not a money bill**, the bench said
- Governors enjoy discretion in choosing from these 3 options and are not bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers
- For inaction that is prolonged, unexplained and indefinite, **court can issue a limited mandamus for governor** to discharge function within a reasonable time
- Governor's role to grant assent to bills **cannot be supplanted by another authority** by way of deemed assent, SC bench said
- Concept of courts declaring **deemed assent antithetical to spirit of Constitution**, is against



the doctrine of separation of powers, virtual takeover of functions of governor

- Referring to Art 361, SC said governors enjoy personal immunity, but **their constitutional office is subject to court's jurisdiction**
- Discharge of functions under Art 200 & 201 (action on bills) by governor & president are not justiciable, meaning they cannot be challenged before court. **Judicial review and scrutiny can be involved only once the bill becomes law**
- Clarification for future governance, it **does not vacate, modify or amend relief granted to TN**

- A **five-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court gave an advisory opinion on the **16th Presidential Reference**.
  - Issue: Whether courts can impose **mandatory timelines** on Governors/President to decide on Bills passed by State legislatures.
- 

## 2. Key Supreme Court Findings

### A. Courts cannot impose “one-size-fits-all” timelines

- SC held that imposing fixed timelines would:
  - **Usurp the constitutional functions** of the President/Governor.
  - Violate **separation of powers**.
  - Undermine **federal structure**.

### B. “Deemed Consent” is unconstitutional

- Courts cannot assume that if the Governor/President does not act within a time limit, the Bill is “deemed assented”.
  - This would negate constitutional procedure.
-

### 3. Governor's Discretion under Article 200

Governor may:

1. **Grant assent** to the Bill.
2. **Withhold assent** (but must provide reasons).
3. **Return the Bill** to the State Legislature.
4. **Reserve the Bill for consideration of the President** under Article 201.

SC: Courts can only ensure the Governor acts **within a reasonable time**, but **cannot dictate the outcome**.

---

### 4. President's Role under Article 201

- When a Bill is reserved for the President:
  - The President is **not bound** to seek SC's advisory opinion.
  - President also cannot be given a rigid time limit.
  - No "deemed assent" can be imposed.

## 5. Judicial Limits

- Courts cannot:
  - Force assent,
  - Impose timelines,
  - Create a doctrine of "deemed assent."

But Courts **can**:

- Intervene in **rare cases of prolonged, unexplained, or indefinite delay** (limited mandamus).
  - Ensure constitutional machinery is not paralysed.
- 

## 6. Governor's Accountability

- Governor cannot "sit indefinitely" on Bills.
  - If Governor shows **prolonged, evasive inaction**, limited judicial review is possible.
  - Governor retains **absolute immunity** from personal appearance or prosecution (Art. 361).
-

## 7. SC Counters "Appeal in Disguise" Argument

- States argued that the Presidential Reference is an indirect appeal against a previous SC judgment (TN case mandating 3-month timeline).
  - SC rejected this: A Presidential Reference under **Article 143** allows SC to opine on constitutional issues even if similar issues arise in prior cases.
- 

## 8. Impact & Constitutional Significance

- Reinforces **federalism, separation of powers, independence of constitutional offices.**
  - Prevents overreach by the judiciary.
  - Clarifies constitutional boundaries for:
    - **State legislatures**
    - **Governors**
    - **President**
    - **Judiciary**
-

## A. Articles Involved

- Art. 163 → Governor's discretion.
- Art. 200 → Governor's actions on State Bills.
- Art. 201 → Bills reserved for the President.
- Art. 361 → Immunity of President/Governor.
- Art. 143 → Presidential Reference.
- Art. 142 → Powers of the Supreme Court (not to be used to create "deemed assent").

## B. Relevant SC Cases

- **Shamsher Singh (1974)** → Governor acts on aid & advice of Council of Ministers.
- **Nabam Rebia (2016)** → Limited discretion to Governors.
- **TN Governor Case (2024)** → SC directed Governor not to delay assent indefinitely.

## C. Comparative Insight

- Many federations (USA, Canada, Australia) do **not** impose judicial timelines for assent; delay is resolved politically, not judicially.

---

- **Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court’s advisory opinion on Presidential Reference (2024):**

- The Supreme Court held that it can impose fixed time limits on Governors to give assent under Article 200 in exceptional circumstances.
- The Court ruled that “deemed assent” cannot be assumed merely because a Governor or President delays action on a Bill.
- The President is constitutionally required to seek the Supreme Court’s opinion under Article 143 whenever a Bill is reserved for his consideration.

- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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



# As trade row eases, U.S. clears missile sale to India

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

In a move that further underscores the easing of trade tensions between India and the U.S., the U.S. State Department has approved a possible sale of Javelin missiles and Excalibur projectiles and related equipment to India for an estimated total cost of \$92.8 million, the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Thursday. The DSCA said it had delivered the required certification notifying the U.S. Congress as well of the decisions.

Press releases issued in this connection said the proposed sale would support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the U.S. by bolster-



A file picture of a U.S. soldier firing a Javelin missile. AFP

ing the U.S.-India strategic relationship and improving the security of “a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions”.

The deals come three days after India announced

the conclusion of the first-ever long-term deal where Indian oil companies would import American LPG into the country.

“The Government of India has requested to buy up to two hundred sixteen (216) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles,” a release said. “The proposed sale will improve India’s

capability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, which will increase first strike accuracy in its brigades. India will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.”

In a separate release, the DSCA said India had requested to buy 100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds, one Javelin FGM-148 missile and 25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU) or Javelin Block 1 Command Launch Units (CLU).

The release added that the sale of Javelin missiles to India would “strengthen its homeland defence and deter regional threats”.

The Excalibur deal is for \$47.1 million and the Jave-

lin deal is for \$45.7 million.

The sixth round of formal negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) – earlier meant to have taken place in the last week of August – took place in October. Indian government officials and Ministers have again started talking about the conclusion of the first tranche of the BTA soon.

The DSCA release added the Excalibur deal would also include the supply of ancillary items, Portable Electronic Fire Control Systems with Improved Platform Integration Kit (iPIK), primers, propellant charges, U.S. Government technical assistance, technical data, repair and return services, and other related elements of logistics and programme support.

Topic	Key Points (Exam-Focused)
<b>What happened?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. State Department approved sale of <b>Javelin missiles + Excalibur projectiles</b> + related equipment to India.</li> <li>• Total estimated cost: <b>\$92.8 million</b>.</li> <li>• DSCA (Defense Security Cooperation Agency) notified U.S. Congress.</li> </ul>
<b>Why significant?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows easing of <b>trade tensions</b> between India–U.S. after months of disagreements.</li> <li>• Strengthens India's <b>precision-strike capability</b> and counters regional threats.</li> </ul>
<b>Items India requested</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>216 M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles</b> (precision-guided artillery).</li> <li>• <b>100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds</b>.</li> <li>• <b>1 Javelin missile system</b>.</li> <li>• <b>25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU)</b> or Block 1 CLU.</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose &amp; benefits to India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosts first-strike accuracy of India’s brigades.</li> <li>• Enhances homeland defence and deterrence.</li> <li>• No difficulty in absorbing these systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligns with U.S. foreign policy: strengthens “<b>major defence partner</b>” India.</li> <li>• Supports Indo-Pacific strategic stability, peace, and countering China’s influence.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic angle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excalibur deal worth <b>\$47.1 million</b>.</li> <li>• Javelin deal worth <b>\$45.7 million</b>.</li> <li>• Comes days after India announced long-term deal to import <b>American LPG</b>.</li> </ul>

<b>Trade ties update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sixth round of <b>Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)</b> talks held in October (delayed from August).</li> <li>• Hopes of concluding first tranche “soon”.</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics included</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portable fire control systems.</li> <li>• Propellant charges, primers.</li> <li>• Technical assistance + data + repair + return services.</li> <li>• Extended logistics &amp; programme support.</li> </ul>
<b>Which agency approved it?</b>	<p><b>U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).</b></p>
<b>Historical/Static Add-ons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Javelin is a <b>fire-and-forget infrared-guided anti-tank missile</b> (U.S.).</li> <li>• Excalibur: GPS-guided artillery shell, used by U.S. since Iraq War.</li> <li>• India became <b>Major Defense Partner</b> of U.S. in <b>2016</b>.</li> <li>• Foundational defense agreements: <b>LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), BECA (2020)</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Geopolitical layer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter to China + Pakistan military posturing.</li> <li>• Part of India-U.S. defence deepening under <b>Indo-Pacific strategy</b>.</li> <li>• Supports India’s artillery modernization.</li> </ul>

Approx. period	Equipment / deal	Approx. value* (USD)	Notes / role
2008–2011	6 × C-130J Super Hercules + 4 more later	~\$1–1.5 bn (LOA + follow-on)	Special-forces capable tactical airlift; first big post-2005 deal.
2011–2014	10 × C-17 Globemaster-III	~\$4 bn+	Strategic heavy-lift backbone of IAF; among largest single Indo-U.S. defence contracts.
2009–2020	12 × P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft	~\$3 bn (multiple tranches)	Critical for anti-submarine & Indian Ocean surveillance; operated by Indian Navy.
2015–2019	22 Apache AH-64E attack + 15 Chinook CH-47F(I) heavy-lift helicopters	“Multi-billion dollar” contract (≈\$3 bn)	Boosts IAF offensive capability & high-altitude logistics (e.g., Himalayas). ( <a href="#">Facebook</a> )
2016	145 × M777 ultra-light howitzers	≈\$737 mn	Lightweight 155-mm guns for rapid deployment in mountains.
2019–2020	FGM-148 Javelin missiles & M982A1 Excalibur precision artillery shells	≈\$94–95 mn (Javelin) + ≈\$47 mn (Excalibur)	Enhances infantry anti-tank capability & precision long-range artillery. ( <a href="#">State Department</a> )
2020	24 × MH-60R Seahawk multirole naval helicopters	≈\$2.6 bn	Replaces ageing Sea Kings; key for ASW & surface warfare.
2023–2024 (proposed/cleared)	Up to 31 MQ-9B armed drones (Predator/SeaGuardian)	≈\$3.99 bn (notified)	Long-endurance ISR + precision strike; part of broader iCET & maritime cooperation. ( <a href="#">KalingaTV</a> )

Period (SIPRI-based)	Top suppliers to India & shares in total arms imports	What it implies about the U.S. share
<b>2016–20</b>	Russia 49%, France 18%, Israel 13%; others (incl. U.S., South Korea, etc.) together 20%. ( <a href="#">Межа. Новини України.</a> )	U.S. is part of the “others” block; its share <b>&lt;20%</b> and clearly <b>lower than Russia, France, Israel</b> , but still significant as India’s 4th/5th-largest supplier.
<b>2020–24 (recent SIPRI-based reporting)</b>	Russia 36%, France 33%, Israel 13% – top three now supply ~82% of India’s imports. ( <a href="#">Межа. Новини України.</a> )	Remaining ~18% of imports come from “other” suppliers (U.S., Italy, South Korea, etc.). U.S. share is in <b>single digits</b> , indicating <b>reduced relative dependence</b> on U.S. hardware even as overall defence cooperation is strong.
Long-term trend	Russia’s share steadily declining; France’s and Israel’s rising; U.S. goes from a <b>major new entrant in 2000s</b> to a <b>steady but not dominant supplier</b> in 2010s–20s. ( <a href="#">Azerbaijan24</a> )	India uses U.S. equipment mainly for <b>strategic enablers</b> (lift, maritime patrol, helicopters, precision munitions) rather than bulk combat aircraft or tanks, which keeps the U.S. percentage moderate.

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- **Consider the following statements regarding the recent U.S. missile sale to India:**

- The deal includes the purchase of Excalibur guided projectiles and Javelin anti-tank missiles.
- The sale was approved directly by the U.S. President without Congressional notification.
- The sale aims to enhance India's precision-strike capability and strengthen homeland defense.
- It is part of improving bilateral defence ties under the India–U.S. Major Defence Partner framework.

- **Which of the above statements are correct?**

- **Options:**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

# SC counters 'appeal in disguise' argument of non-BJP-led States

It says that an advisory opinion could even go so far as to 'override, if necessary' a judgment; this divergence may open path to take Presidential Reference route against uncomfortable verdict rather than taking effort to file review or curative pleas

**Krishnakumar Balagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday countered "appeal in disguise" objections raised by States ruled by non-BJP parties that the 2023 Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise" against the court's own finding verdict in the Tamil Nadu Governor case. The court advised that an advisory opinion could even go so far as to "override, if necessary" a judgment.

This divergence may open the path for the government to take the Presidential Reference route against an uncomfortable apex court judgment in future, rather than opting to file review or curative petitions.

## Frontline wins three Laadli media awards

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Frontline has won three awards at the 15th edition of the Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for Gender Sensitivity. Devika J. won in the top category for her analysis of Kerala's feminist movements, tracking how women challenge patriarchal structures. Sarathi Ramesh received the Jury Appreciation Award for reporting on the 2022 West Bengal following the rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor. Divya J. won in the special category for her analysis of Kerala's feminist movements, tracking how women challenge patriarchal structures.

## Court's rebuttal

The Supreme Court on Thursday countered objections raised by non-BJP-led States that the 2023 Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise" against the court's binding verdict.

Tamil Nadu had argued that the May 13 Presidential Reference was only a thinly-veiled "appeal" against the April 8 judgment in the Governor case.

The Reference Bench, however, pointed to a major by opinion delivered by Justice Vinod Chandrahara in the April 8 judgment in which he said that "our opinion may even go to the extent of, if necessary, overriding a judgment."

Tamil Nadu had argued that the May 13 Presidential Reference was only a thinly-veiled "appeal" against the April 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

The Reference Bench, however, pointed to a major by opinion delivered by Justice Vinod Chandrahara in the April 8 judgment in which he said that "our opinion may even go to the extent of, if necessary, overriding a judgment."

# SC opinion draws mixed reactions from legal experts, political parties

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Legal experts and leaders of some political parties on Thursday expressed mixed views on the Supreme Court's opinion on the Presidential Reference that an advisory opinion can be prescribed for Governors and the President in granting assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies.

West Bengal Assembly speaker Binay Banerjee (Trinamool Congress) said "It is a significant decision that if the State Assembly elected by the people of Tamil Nadu had passed a resolution, the Governor has to assent to it."

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Tamil Nadu on Thursday termed the verdict of the Supreme Court on Governors as a "good judgment"

pointed to a majority opinion delivered by Justice V.V. Chandrachud (retired) in a 1978 Presidential Reference in which he observed that "our opinion may even go so far as to override, if necessary, a judgment."

The Reference Bench said a subsequent opinion in a Reference in "State Resources Allocation (2022 case)" had reiterated Justice Chandrachud's view.

However, the Constitution is itself silent about whether an opinion given by the Supreme Court under Article 143 would override a binding judgment.

Article 141 of the Constitution mandates that "the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India."

## While the SC continues to guard against prolonged and unexplained delays in clearing Bills, it duly respects the Governor's constitutional discretion

**VINOD CHANDRACHUD**  
JUDGE (RETIRED)

allowing more space for dialogue, rather than forcing every decision into a judicially mandated mould," he said.

On the fate of the 10 Tamil Nadu laws which were granted deemed assent by the top court on April 8 by exercising its plenary power under Article 143, senior advocate Anil Anand Tripathi said all those Bills have come laws and have been already notified in the Gazette.

Advocate Adwait Dabhe said the court's findings on the April 8 judgment has been set aside by the opinion of a two-judge Bench, a majority of the apex court itself on the 10 Tamil Nadu Bills via its Article 142 power is likely void or significantly affected by the Constitution Bench's ruling that 'deemed assent' is invalid.

# Fourteen questions and court's responses

The Presidential Reference came after the April 8 judgment of the Supreme Court that granted deemed assent to 10 Tamil Nadu Bills

**Krishnakumar Balagopal**  
NEW DELHI

While it is not appropriate for the Governor to exercise his powers in a discretionary manner in the absence of the President's consent, it is not appropriate for the President to exercise his powers in a discretionary manner in the absence of the Governor's consent.

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Article 361 is an absolute bar on judicial review in relation to personally subjecting the Governor to judicial proceedings.

Can timelines be imposed under Article 200?

It is not appropriate for the President to exercise his powers in a discretionary manner in the absence of the Governor's consent.

What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution?

To assent, reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and return the Bill to the legislature with comments if the Bill is not a Money Bill.

Is the Governor bound by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers under Article 200?

The Governor enjoys discretion and is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 justiciable?

The discharge of the Governor's function under Article 200, is not justiciable.

Is Article 361 an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the President or the Governor under Article 200?

Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of the President/Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142?

The exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of the President/Governor cannot be substituted in any manner under Article 142 nor does it allow for the concept of 'deemed assent' of Bills.

Is a law made by the state legislature in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution?

There is no question of a law made by a State legislature coming into force without assent of the Governor under Article 200.

In view of the proviso to Article 143, is it mandatory for any Bench of the court to decide whether a case involves substantial questions of law and has to be referred to a Bench of minimum five judges?

Returns unreserved. Irrelevant to this reference.

Does the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution limited to matters of procedure of law?

Not possible to answer in a definitive manner. Article 142 answered as a part of earlier question.

Does the Constitution bar the Supreme Court from resolving Centre-State disputes except by way of a writ under Article 227?

Irrelevant to the functional nature of the reference. Hence, returned, unreserved.

# Mizoram govt. completes biometric enrolment of 58% of Myanmar refugees

**The Hindu Bureau**  
DÜWAHAYT

The Mizoram government has completed the biometric enrolment of 58.15% of the 31,214 asylum seekers from Myanmar sheltered across the State's 11 districts, officials in Aizawl said on Wednesday.

The authorities have also collected the biometric and biographic data of 10.46% of the 2,241 refugees from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the officials said.

"This people from Myanmar have been coming to Mizoram since the military coup in the neighbouring country in February 2021. The Bhamo

# Jawaharal Nehru works available online now

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The "Selected Works of Jawaharal Nehru", a set of 100 volumes, which has some 38,000 documents and nearly 3,000 illustrations, is now available online.

The Jawaharal Nehru Memorial Fund is largely announcing that the Selected Works of Jawaharal Nehru is now fully available online, as promised on November 15, 2023. The website of the Nehru Archive is available on nehruchit.com.

The majority of the Chin refugees from Myanmar reside in Chanchal district. Most of the Bhamo from the CHT have taken refuge in Lawngthlun district.

"Topographical and technical issues are hampering the exercise, apart from slow or absence of internet connectivity in some areas along the international borders. Another problem is the identification of refugees residing outside the designated relief camps," a senior Home Department official said.

The biometric enrolment of refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh in Jharkhand, following an order by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is being carried out through the biometric identification portal.

# In pre-Budget meet, trade unions seek inheritance tax, higher corporate tax

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Leaders of various trade unions met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Thursday for the customary security consultations and submitted a memorandum demanding that resource mobilisation has to be done by increasing corporate tax and wealth tax and introducing a new tax instead of burdening common masses with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on essential food items and medicines.

They urged Ms. Sitharaman to raise the ceiling of the income tax with equal access to all classes and remove the ceiling on gratuity. While the Central Finance Minister submitted a joint memorandum, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh presented a set of demands separately.

The trade union leaders in BMSF that carried out the memorandum said the Union and State governments to cover more test pilots as its staff considering the permanent and pension demands. They said the tax structure could be

# Mamata urges CEC to halt SIR exercise in West Bengal

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOLKATA

Highlighting the deaths attributed to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar urging him to halt the exercise.

"I would request you to kindly intervene decisively to halt the ongoing exercise, stop conducting surveys, provide proper training and support, and thoroughly reassess the present methodology and timelines, if this path is not corrected without delay, the consequences - for the citizens - will be irreversible," she said.

She said this intervention was imperative to preserve the integrity of the electoral process and democratic framework.

Ms. Banerjee said that many BDMs under extreme pressure and fear of punitive action, were being pushed to "submit incorrect or incomplete returns, risking disenfranchisement of genuine voters and eroding the integrity of the electoral roll".

# Jawaharlal Nehru's works available online now

## **The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The "Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru", a set of 100 volumes, which has some 35,000 documents and nearly 3,000 illustrations, is now available online.

"The Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund is happy to announce that the Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru is now fully available online, as promised on November 14, 2024. The website The Nehru Archive is available on [nehruarchive.in](http://nehruarchive.in). The entire set of 100 volumes have been digitized; they may be searched and freely downloaded: and they may be used with equal ease on the mobile as on the laptop," a statement by the JNMF release said.

The facsimiles of the original print version are also available alongside the digital text, it said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, a trustee of the JNMF that carried out the exercise, said the archive will keep getting expanded to cover more text, photographs, audio, and films.

He said that the second phase would entail efforts to locate Nehru's letters.



### INDIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER

(15 AUGUST 1947 to 27 MAY 1964)

"Jawaharlalji, as his name implies, is a jewel of a man. His lovable personality, his charming manners, his unimpeachable integrity, his transparent sincerity, and above all, his indomitable courage endear him to his friends and admirers, and inspire the esteem of his critics" – Mohanlal Saxena, Cabinet Colleague

## Jawaharlal Nehru

Know More



“ We have accepted the democratic process, because ... it promotes the growth of human beings and a society... we attach great value to individual freedom. ”

“ Democracy means tolerance, tolerance not merely of those who agree with us, but of those who do not agree with us ”



Timeline navigation: 1912 (highlighted), 1916, 1930, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964

Event Chronology: 1912 Called to the Bar. 1951 Attended as a delegate to the twenty seventh session of the Indian National Congress held at Bankipore. 1957 Joined the Allahabad High Court.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a lit diya (oil lamp). The person is wearing a red and gold sari with intricate patterns. The diya is made of terracotta and has a small flame. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the person's attire and jewelry.

Birth Anniversary of Rani Lakshmbai



In Memory of "1857" Martyrs.



## Post Card

PLACE TO  
STAMP  
HERE

THIS SIDE FOR MESSAGE

THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

In Memory of the Martyrs of the  
Indian War of Independence of 1857

Martyrs, you have gone from us, but your spirits  
inspire us on to fulfil the mission of the lib-  
eration of Mother India.

Your seeming failure in the first struggle will  
only urge us on to success. You taught us  
to give life for liberty. We respond to the  
duty imposed on us by your blood sacrifice.

You have shown us that insincerity, treachery,  
and unworthy leaders, want of concerted action  
and willingness to sacrifice personal ambition on  
service to the Mother Country caused

your blood in vain. We vow  
to follow the footsteps of Rani of Jhansi, the  
that we will fight in every  
le... 's liberty, even at the cost

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Manikarnika Tambe</b> (popularly Rani Lakshmibai)
<b>Birth</b>	<b>19th November 1828</b> , Varanasi
<b>Parents</b>	Father: <b>Moropant Tambe</b> (Maratha noble) • Mother: Bhagirathi Sapre
<b>Early Skills</b>	Expert in <b>horse riding, sword fighting, archery, and shooting</b>
<b>Childhood Friends</b>	<b>Nana Sahib &amp; Tatya Tope</b> (later leaders of 1857 revolt)
<b>Marriage</b>	Married <b>Maharaja Gangadhar Rao</b> of Jhansi at age <b>14</b>
<b>Adopted Son</b>	<b>Damodar Rao</b> (adopted after her infant son died)
<b>Annexation Issue</b>	After Maharaja's death (1853), the British rejected Damodar Rao's claim using <b>Doctrine of Lapse</b> (Lord Dalhousie)

---

<b>Role in 1857 Revolt</b>	A leading figure; became symbol of <b>bravery, resistance &amp; patriotism</b>
<b>Battle Participation</b>	Key battles: <b>Jhansi (1857), Kalpi (1858), Gwalior (1858)</b>
<b>Death</b>	<b>18 June 1858</b> , Gwalior, fighting British forces
<b>Legacy</b>	Known as “ <b>Jhansi ki Rani</b> ”; symbol of women empowerment & national pride
<b>Famous Quote</b>	“ <b>Main apni Jhansi nahi doongi</b> ” (attributed in folklore)
<b>British View</b>	Hugh Rose wrote she was the “ <b>best and bravest</b> ” among rebel leaders
<b>Modern Tributes</b>	Indian Navy’s ship <b>INS Jhansi</b> , multiple statues, Manikarnika Fort, annual celebrations

## Category

## Fact

### Doctrine of Lapse

Introduced by **Lord Dalhousie**: annexation if ruler dies without natural heir

### Jhansi Fort

Built by the **Bundelas**; Lakshmibai's main defense during the rebellion

### Women in 1857

Lakshmibai inspired women like **Begum Hazrat Mahal** & **Rani Avantibai**

### Global Perception

British officers were shocked at her leadership in a patriarchal era

### Cultural Legacy

Stories preserved in Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's famous poem "*Khoob ladi mardani...*"



## झांसी की रानी कविता

सिंहासन हिल उठे राजवंशों ने भृकुटी तानी थी,  
बूढ़े भारत में आई फिर से नयी जवानी थी,  
गुमी हुई आज़ादी की कीमत सबने पहचानी थी,  
दूर फिरंगी को करने की सब ने मन में ठानी थी।  
चमक उठी सन सत्तावन में, यह तलवार पुरानी थी  
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,  
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वो तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।





108th Birth  
Anniversary of Indira  
Gandhi



<b>Full Name</b>	Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi
<b>Birth</b>	<b>19 November 1917</b> , Allahabad
<b>Parents</b>	<b>Jawaharlal Nehru &amp; Kamala Nehru</b>
<b>Political Role</b>	India's <b>first and only woman Prime Minister</b>
<b>Tenure as PM</b>	<b>1966–1977</b> and <b>1980–1984</b>
<b>Childhood Freedom Activity</b>	Founded <b>Bal Charkha Sangh &amp; Vanar Sena</b> (1930) to support Non-Cooperation Movement
<b>Imprisonment</b>	Jailed during <b>Quit India Movement (1942)</b>
<b>Key Contribution – Bank Nationalisation</b>	In <b>1969</b> , nationalised <b>14 major banks</b> → rural credit, financial inclusion
<b>Green Revolution</b>	Promoted <b>HYV seeds</b> , fertilisers, irrigation (1969–1974), helping India achieve <b>food self-sufficiency</b>

**1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**

Led India's decisive support → liberation of Bangladesh; **Indo-Soviet Treaty (1971)** strengthened foreign policy

**Pokhran-I (Smiling Buddha)**

Conducted India's **first nuclear test** in **1974** → India became nuclear-capable

**Emergency (1975–1977)**

Declared internal Emergency → suspended civil liberties, censored press (controversial period)

**Assassination**

**31 October 1984**, by her Sikh bodyguards after Operation Blue Star

**Legacy**

Strong central leadership; architect of modern India's food & foreign policy self-reliance

**Memorial**

**Shakti Sthal**, New Delhi

**Congress Leadership**

Significant role in shaping Indian National Congress post-Nehru era

## **Category**

## **Fact**

### **UN Recognition**

One of the world's most powerful women leaders in the 20th century

### **Operation Blue Star (1984)**

Ordered military action to remove militants from Golden Temple

### **Foreign Policy**

Strengthened Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), close ties with USSR

### **Social Programs**

Garibi Hatao campaign (poverty alleviation)

### **Educational Background**

Studied at Shantiniketan (Tagore), Oxford (Somerville College)

Former Chile President  
Michelle Bachelet gets  
Indira Gandhi Peace Prize



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- Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2024**.

- **About**

- It is an **annual award** established by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in India**.

- The prize is named in honor of the **late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi**, and it was instituted in **1986**.

- The award is presented to individuals or organizations that have made **significant contributions** to the promotion of international understanding and peace, the development of new international economic order, and the strengthening of democracy.



**Categories:** The award is presented in three categories:

- **Peace:** Recognizes efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security.
- **Disarmament:** Acknowledges contributions to the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Development:** Honors work in promoting economic and social development.

The award ceremony typically takes place on **November 19th**, the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi.

Topic	Details
Full Name	Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria
Born	<b>29 Sep 1951</b> , Santiago, Chile
Education/Profession	MD (University of Chile); <b>Pediatrician</b> ; public-health training (Chile & Germany)
Political Affiliation	<b>Socialist Party of Chile</b>
Historic Firsts	<b>First woman President of Chile</b> ; first woman <b>Defence Minister of Chile</b> (2002–04)
Key National Offices	<b>President of Chile</b> (two non-consecutive terms): <b>2006–2010</b> and <b>2014–2018</b> ; <b>Minister of Health</b> (2000–02); <b>Minister of Defence</b> (2002–04)
Major Presidency Highlights	Social protection expansion; pension reform (solidarity pillar); post-earthquake reconstruction (2010); tax & education reforms; 2017 law decriminalising abortion on three grounds; civil unions law (2015)
International Roles	Founding <b>Executive Director, UN Women</b> (2010–2013); <b>UN High Commissioner for Human Rights</b> (2018–2022)

Human-Rights Context	Father <b>Gen. Alberto Bachelet</b> died in custody after opposing the 1973 coup; Bachelet and her mother were detained, then lived in exile (Australia & East Germany) before returning to Chile
Notable Awards/Recognition	Numerous honorary doctorates and global leadership awards (women's rights, human rights, governance)
Ideology/Focus Areas	Social democracy; gender equality; poverty reduction; universal social protection; human rights
Family	Divorced; two children
Why She's Asked in Exams	Latin America's firsts; women in leadership; UN system roles (UN Women, OHCHR); Chile's democratic consolidation post-Pinochet

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One line is a light blue color and the other is a light green color. They are positioned in the upper right and lower left corners of the slide, framing the central text.

COP31 – Turkey to Host

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Key Points (Exam-Ready)</b>
<b>Host Country for COP31 (2026)</b>	<b>Turkey</b> will host COP31 under a compromise arrangement with <b>Australia</b> .
<b>Why Compromise?</b>	COP30 negotiations (Brazil) ended in a stalemate; both Australia & Turkey wanted hosting rights. The deal allows Turkey to host <b>COP31</b> , while Australia gets other climate negotiation privileges.
<b>Context Behind the Dispute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia and Turkey both bid in <b>2022</b>.</li> <li>• Neither was willing to withdraw, leading to prolonged diplomatic deadlock.</li> <li>• Brazil's COP30 facilitations helped reach settlement.</li> </ul>
<b>Significance of COP31</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will occur at a time of <b>intense debate on climate finance</b>, adaptation, and NDC commitments.</li> <li>• Requires strong leadership amid rising climate disasters &amp; global emission gaps.</li> </ul>
<b>Possible Focus Areas at COP31</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Finance (100bn USD &amp; New Collective Quantified Goals).</li> <li>• Loss &amp; Damage Fund operationalisation.</li> <li>• Global Stocktake follow-up.</li> <li>• Technology transfer &amp; carbon markets (Article 6).</li> </ul>
<b>Why Turkey is Important?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bridge nation between <b>Europe &amp; Asia</b>.</li> <li>• Member of <b>OECD</b> but not part of EU.</li> <li>• Previously categorised under "Annex-I but not Annex-II", causing disagreements over climate responsibilities.</li> </ul>

## Australia's Stake

- Australia wants to rebuild its global climate credibility after criticism for being among the world's largest coal exporters.
- It had earlier hosted **COP6 (2000)** negotiations informally.

## COP31 & India

- India will push for **Climate Justice, CBDR-RC**, Global South financing, and faster climate tech deployment.
- India may seek more clarity on **LiFE**, Mission LiFE, and global adaptation frameworks.

## – COP at a Glance

- COP = Conference of Parties under **UNFCCC (1992)**.
- Meet annually to negotiate climate actions.
- Landmark COPs: COP21 (Paris), COP26 (Glasgow), COP27 (Egypt), COP28 (Dubai).

## Additional Geo-Political Angle

- Turkey hosting strengthens its global diplomatic presence.
- Türkiye's growing role in Middle East, NATO disputes, and trade corridors increases its international relevance.

## Static Booster (for exam)

- UNFCCC HQ – **Bonn, Germany**.
- First COP – **Berlin (1995)**.
- Paris Agreement legally binds nations on **NDCs & 2°C/1.5°C goals**.



# UAE—China Digital Currency Transfer

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<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Country Involved</b>	United Arab Emirates (UAE) & China
<b>Event</b>	UAE completed its <b>first-ever cross-border digital currency payment</b> to China
<b>Type of Currency</b>	<b>Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)</b>
<b>Mechanism Used</b>	UAE's new blockchain-based cross-border <b>digital currency settlement system</b>
<b>Significance</b>	Marks a major leap in <b>global financial connectivity</b> , digital payments, and <b>fintech cooperation</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	Improve settlement efficiency, reduce transaction costs & enhance transparency in international trade payments
<b>Geopolitical Importance</b>	Strengthens UAE–China economic partnership; reinforces Gulf nations' shift toward <b>digital financial architecture</b>

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<b>Global Context</b>	Part of the growing global adoption of CBDCs; China is already a world leader with its <b>Digital Yuan (e-CNY)</b>
<b>UAE's Digital Currency Vision</b>	UAE aims to become a <b>global digital finance hub</b> under its “Digital Dirham Strategy”
<b>International Relevance</b>	Supports UAE's participation in <b>m-CBDC Bridge Project</b> (with China, Thailand, Hong Kong & BIS Innovation Hub)
<b>Benefits</b>	Faster cross-border payments, lower costs, reduced dependency on SWIFT, improved transparency and security
<b>UPSC Pointers</b>	– CBDC concept & benefits
– m-CBDC Bridge Project	
– UAE–China economic relations	
– Global shift from SWIFT to blockchain payments	

## Parameter

### Rupee (Physical Currency)

### e-Rupee / Digital Rupee (CBDC)

#### What it is

Physical money: notes & coins

RBI-issued **digital currency** (electronic form of Rupee)

#### Issuer

RBI

RBI

#### Form

Paper notes, coins

Pure digital token

#### Where value is stored

In your wallet physically

In a **CBDC wallet**, not in a bank account

#### Type of money

Fiat currency

Sovereign digital currency

#### Legal Tender?

Yes

Yes (same as cash)

#### Needs Bank Account?

No

No (wallet-to-wallet possible)

#### Internet Required?

No

Mostly yes (offline version under testing)

#### Settlement

Instant (physical)

Instant in RBI ledger

#### Interest Earned

No

No

#### Traceability

Difficult

High (token but RBI monitored)

#### Privacy

High (anonymous)

Medium (more than UPI, less than cash)

#### Risk of Bank Failure

None

None (RBI liability)

#### Main Use

Cash transactions

Digital cash alternative

#### Examples

₹10 note, ₹500 note

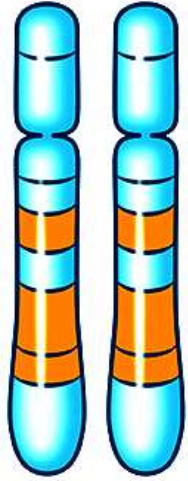
e₹-R (Retail CBDC), e₹-W (Wholesale CBDC)

A close-up photograph of a laboratory setting. A glass pipette is positioned vertically, with a single drop of clear liquid suspended just above a petri dish. The petri dish is partially filled with a clear liquid. In the foreground, the lid of another petri dish is visible, slightly out of focus. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white. The text "India's Indigenous Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

# India's Indigenous Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease

# What is Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)?

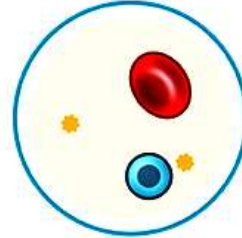
Chromosome 11



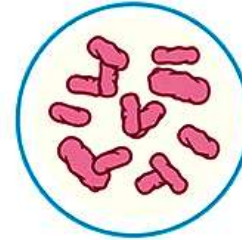
Two copies of a mutated Hemoglobin Subunit Beta (HBB) gene



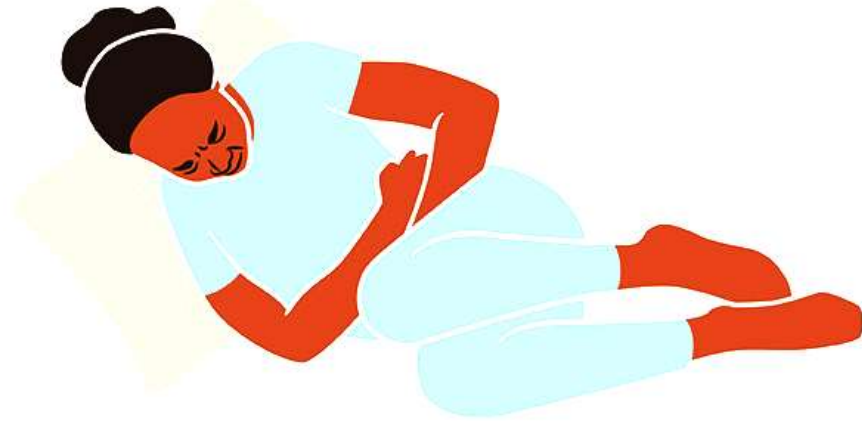
Pain crises due to ischemia



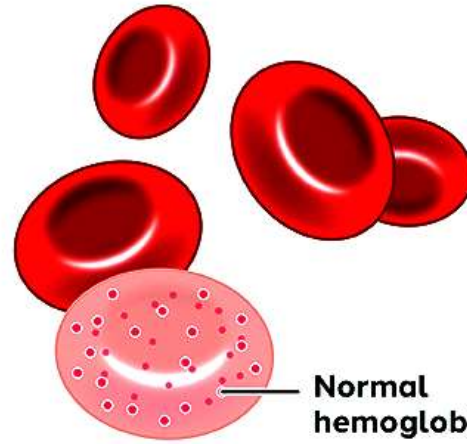
Anemia



Susceptibility to infections

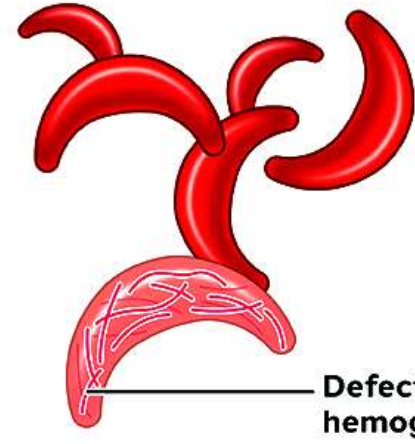


Normal red blood cells



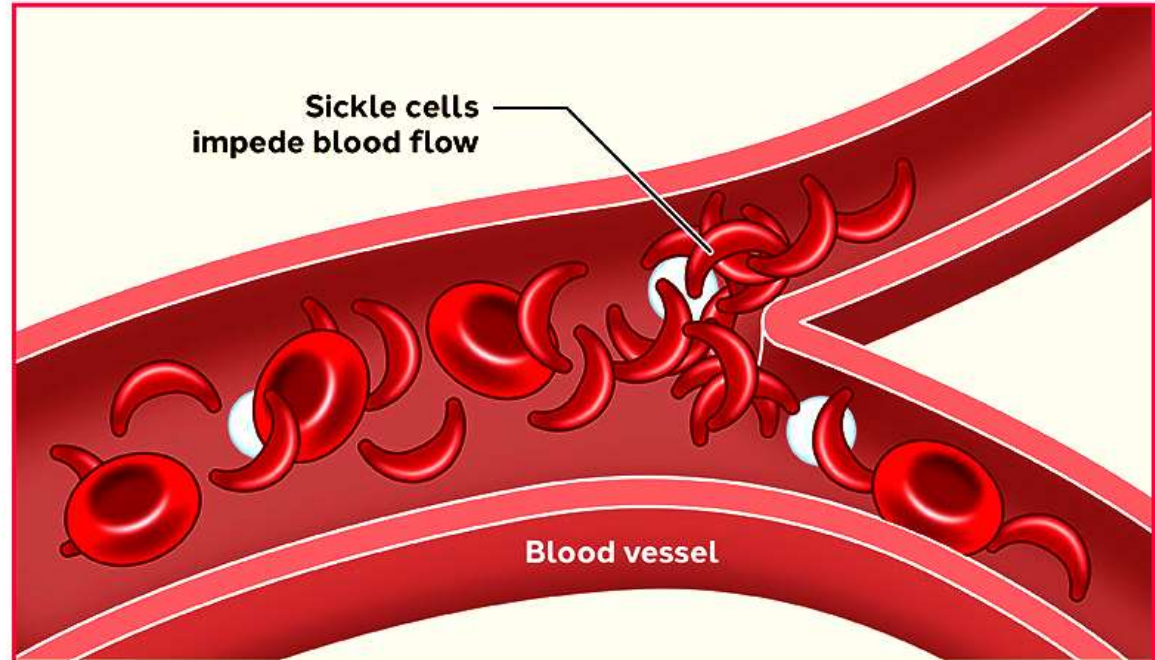
Normal hemoglobin

Sickle cells



Defective hemoglobin

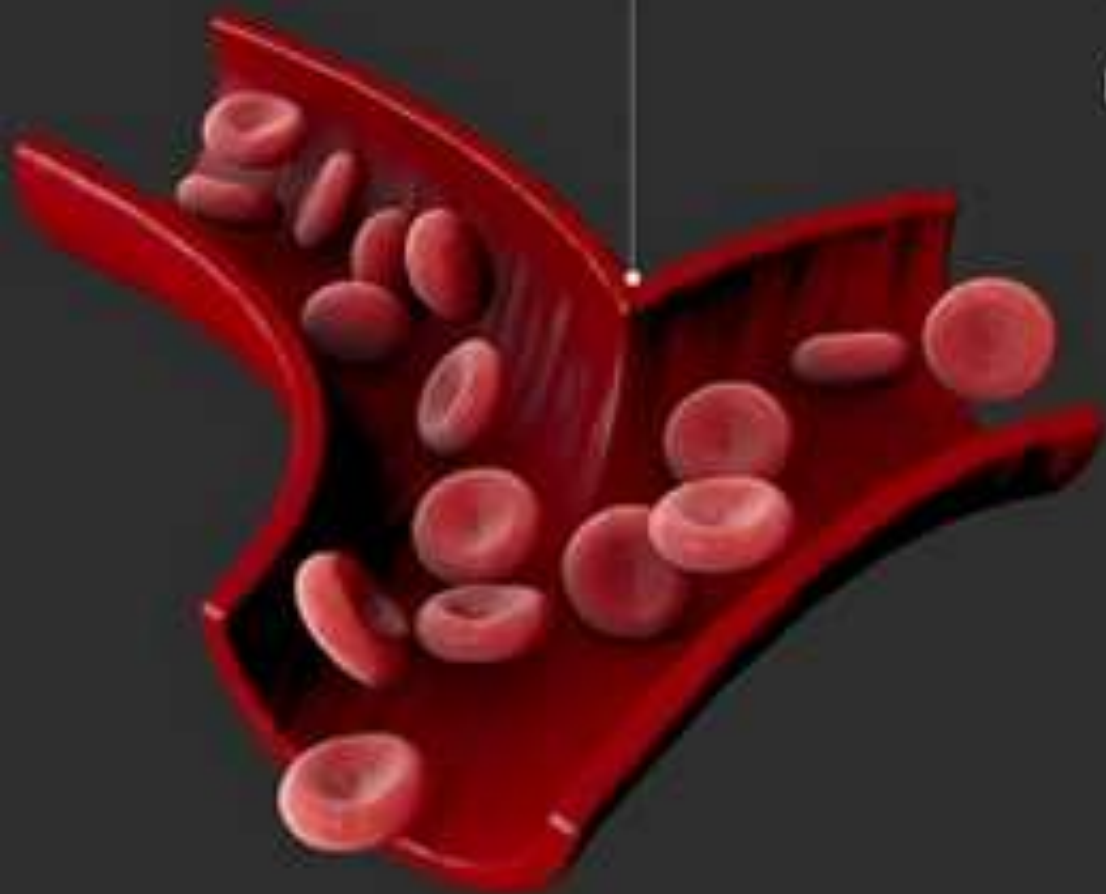
Sickle cells impede blood flow



Blood vessel

# SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Normal

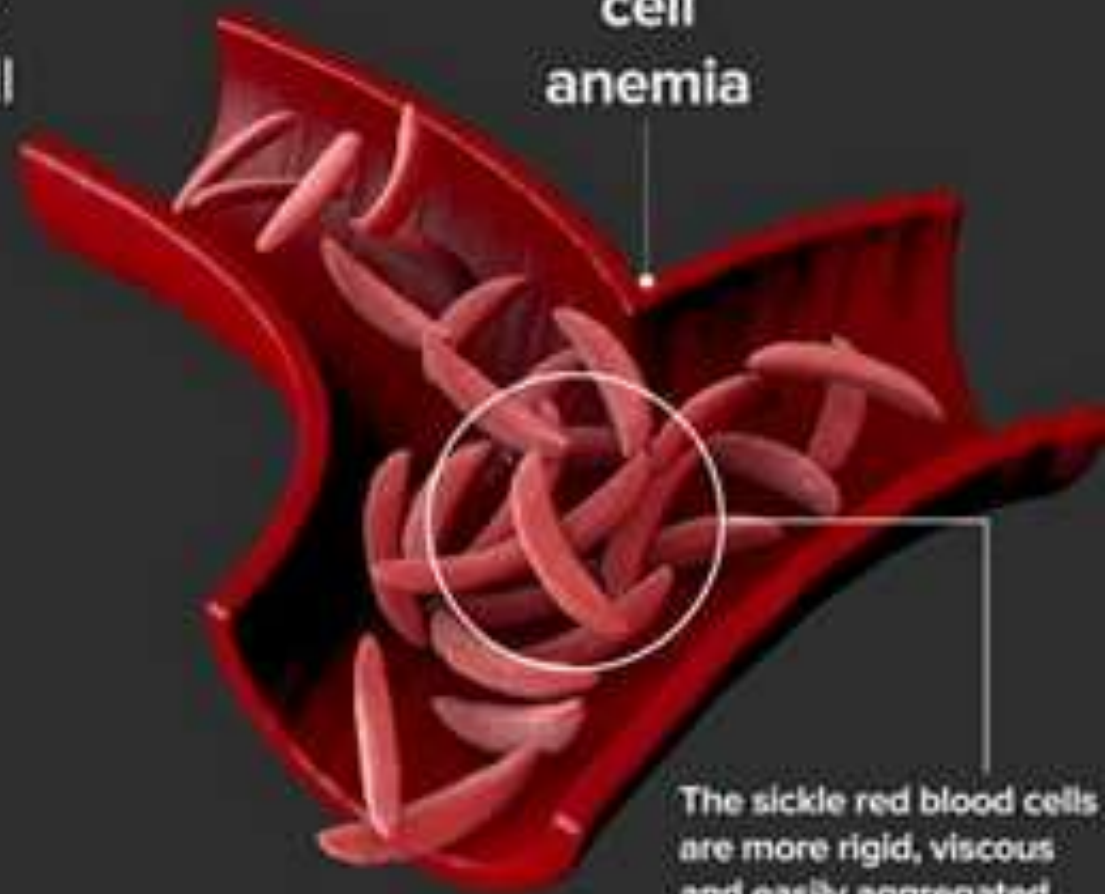


Normal erythrocyte red blood cell



Sickle shaped

Sickle cell anemia



The sickle red blood cells are more rigid, viscous and easily aggregated, they can block the small

## Symptoms/complications of Sickle Cell Disease



Pain



Anaemia



Jaundice



Stroke



Organ failure

## Treatment

A **blood and bone marrow transplant** is the **only cure**.



## Sickle Cell Anaemia & its Causes

Type of SCD that causes the most **severe anaemia**. **Most common** type of SCD.

### CAUSES :

#### Autosomal Recessive Disease

For a child to be affected, **both parents** must carry and pass the **sickle cell gene**.

#### Parents

Sickle Cell Trait



Sickle Cell Trait

Normal hemoglobin A gene  
Sickle hemoglobin S gene

#### Childrens



No Sickle Cell    Sickle Cell Trait    Sickle Cell Anaemia

## National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM)



It aims to **eliminate** sickle cell disease as a public health issue in India **before 2047**



It will cover the screening, prevention, and management of sickle cell anaemia.

Sickle cell disease is **one of the ten special problems in tribal health**.



## Objectives

- Provision of affordable and accessible care to all SCD patients
- To ensure quality of care for SCD patients
- To **reduce the prevalence** of SCD

## Three pillars strategy

Holistic Management and Care

Health promotion

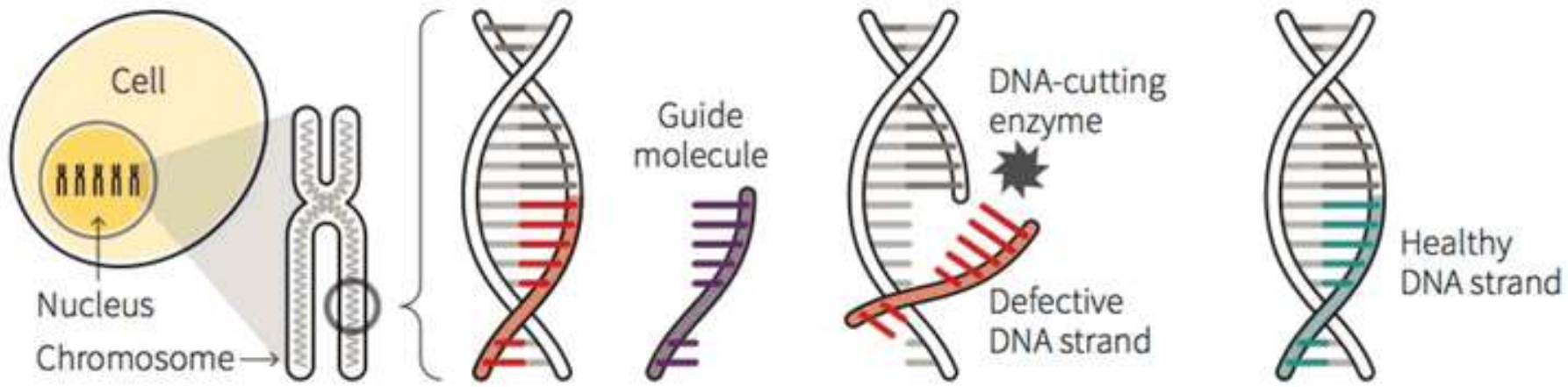
Prevention



# DNA editing

A DNA editing technique, called CRISPR/Cas9, works like a biological version of a word-processing programme's "find and replace" function.

## HOW THE TECHNIQUE WORKS



A cell is transfected with an enzyme complex containing:

- Guide molecule
- Healthy DNA copy
- DNA-cutting enzyme

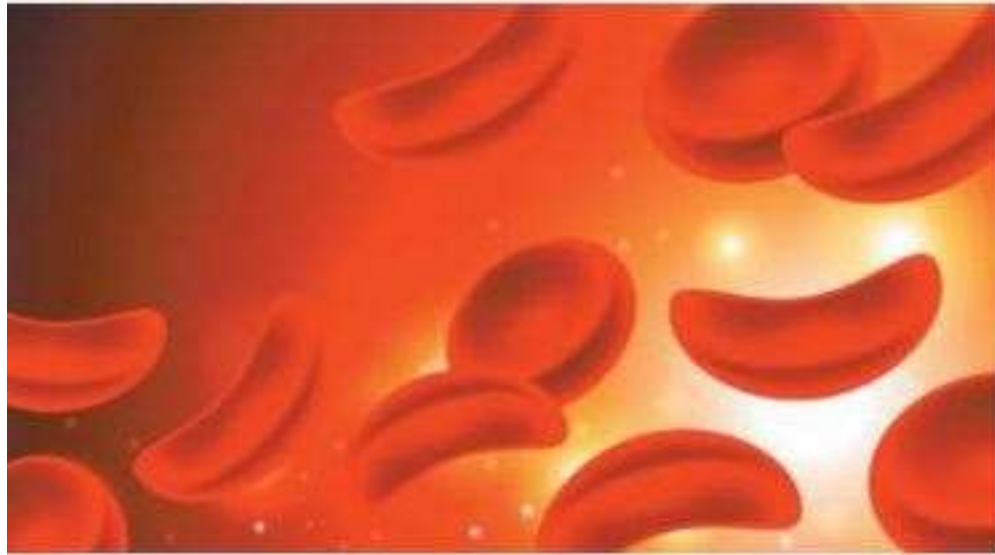
A specially designed synthetic guide molecule finds the target DNA strand.

An enzyme cuts off the target DNA strand.

The defective DNA strand is replaced with a healthy copy.

# Massive exercise

Sickle cell disease is a genetic condition that affects an estimated 15 lakh people in India



- The Health Ministry is working on maintaining a central registry of SCD patients

- The Ministry plans to screen 7 crore persons in 17 highly affected States by 2025-26. One crore screenings had been scheduled for 2022-23

- So far, a little over one lakh persons have been screened

- India seeks to eliminate the sickle cell disease by 2047



Topic	Key Points
<b>Latest News</b>	India launched its <b>first CRISPR-based indigenous gene therapy</b> for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Named <b>BIRSA-101</b> after tribal icon <b>Birsa Munda</b> .
<b>Launched By</b>	Union Minister of State for Science & Technology.
<b>Developed Under</b>	Department of Biotechnology + National Mission on Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination (2023–2030). Part of <b>Aatmanirbhar Bharat</b> in health.
<b>What is the Therapy?</b>	A gene-editing solution using <b>CRISPR-Cas9</b> to correct the defective gene responsible for SCD. Aims at <b>curative, long-term treatment</b> .
<b>Why is it Significant?</b>	- First indigenous gene therapy- Boosts India’s genomic medicine capabilities- Reduces global dependency- Major milestone in tribal healthcare
<b>Disease Burden</b>	Sickle Cell Disease disproportionately affects <b>Central &amp; Eastern India’s tribal belt</b> (Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra).

## Symptoms of SCD

Chronic anaemia, severe pain crises, infections, organ damage.

## Historical/Extra UPSC Facts

- Sickle Cell mutation originated as **protection against malaria** (evolutionary fact).- 2023: India launched **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**.- WHO recognises SCD as a major global genetic disease.

## What is CRISPR?

A genome-editing technology using **Cas9 enzyme** to cut defective DNA and replace it with corrected DNA. Nobel Prize 2020 (Doudna & Charpentier).

## Why Named BIRSA-101?

After **Birsa Munda**, a tribal freedom fighter—aligns with mission to help tribal communities.

## Global Comparison

US and Europe have recently approved first CRISPR-based therapies; India joins the list, marking **low-cost innovation** potential.

## Exam Angles

- Tribal welfare- Genomic medicine- National health missions- Biotechnology advancements- CRISPR applications

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# Word of the day

## **Excoriate:**

express strong disapproval of; tear or wear off the skin or make sore by abrading

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**Synonyms:** condemn, decry, objurgate, reprobate, chafe

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**Usage:** *His latest article received excoriating reviews.*

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

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## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /ɪk'skɔːɪ.ɪt/, /ɪk'skɒʊ.ɪ.ɪt/

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Thank you 😊