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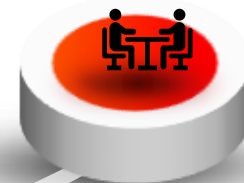
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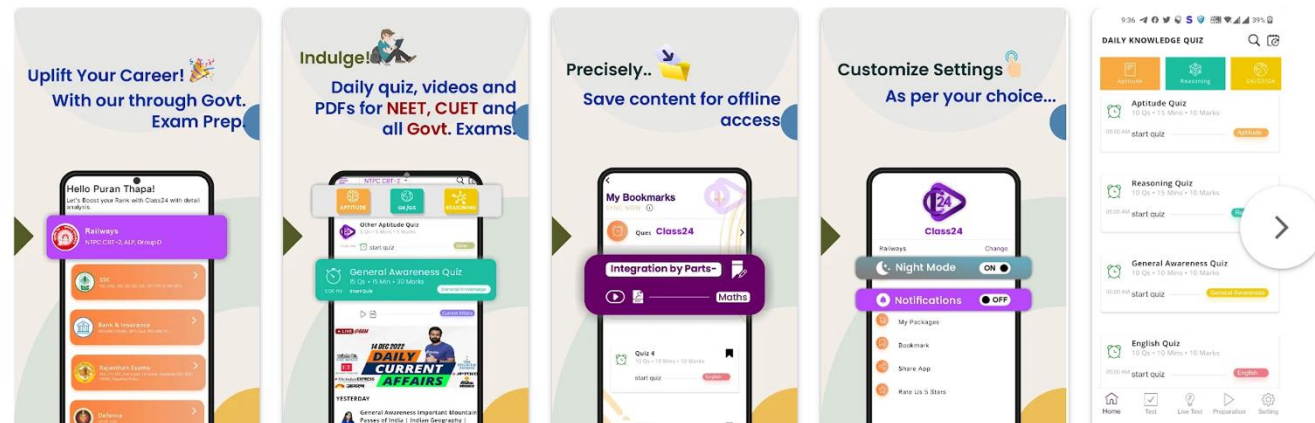
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# Police begin collecting DNA records under 2022 law; over one lakh profiles generated

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

The police in several States have started collecting DNA records, primarily from blood samples, of suspects arrested for heinous crimes. Along with DNA profiles, photographs, fingerprints, and iris scans, the government is creating a unique identification record of arrested persons and convicts that can be retained for up to 75 years.

Over the past five months, the DNA records of more than one lakh suspects have been stored in a central database operated by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Union Home Ministry.

The samples are being collected under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI), a law passed in Parliament in 2022. More than 2,600 measurement collection units have been esta-



The biological samples can be matched with records to identify habitual offenders.

lished across the country, and the CrPI system is now available in police districts and prisons. It is also accessible to Central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, the National Investigation Agency, and the Narcotics Control Bureau.

The contours of the CrPI system were showcased on June 19 at an NCRB event presided over by Home Minister Amit Shah.

“The samples are at pre-

sent being collected by police in cases punishable by seven years. The DNA, mostly drawn from blood and in some cases saliva too, is then sent to a forensic laboratory, which generates a unique number. The NCRB preserves the code in its records. The sanctity of the samples depends on the police,” an NCRB official said.

## **NAFIS**

“CrPI Act, 2022 allows police and prison officers to take physical and biological samples of arrested and convicted individuals. To make these provisions effective, there was a need for a national platform that could integrate and make identification-related data useful across the country. In this direction, the NCRB launched the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) in the year 2022, which fully automated the fingerprint matching process. Today, with more than 1.27 crore

fingerprint records, NAFIS has played a significant role in solving many old inter-State criminal cases,” a presentation on the CrPI system said.

“Through CrPI, now all information related to identification, including face, iris, and biological samples is available in a national-level searchable database, making accurate and scientific identification possible within moments. Now, a photo obtained from a crime scene can be instantly matched with records across the country. CrPI functions as a unified system across the country, where every identification-based measurement is securely stored in a standardised system. As per standards, while taking photos, clarity of the eyes is ensured so that identification is not hindered despite any disguise or changes. CrPI ensures enrolment of face and iris measurements of arrested and convicted persons, and in special cas-

es, registration of biological samples as well. There is a provision to retain all these measurements securely for 75 years,” it said.

According to the NCRB presentation, biological samples recovered from crime scenes can be directly matched with existing records, enabling the identification of habitual offenders through scientific methods.

## **Video analytics feature**

The NCRB said the CrPI system also has an advanced video analytics feature through which investigating officers can upload CCTV footage to identify faces of suspicious persons and match them with the national database. “What earlier took hours of manual investigation is now possible in just a few minutes. This feature also simplifies and speeds up identification of interstate criminals, as their records can be matched instantly across the country,” it said.

Parameter	Details
Law	Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022
Implementing Agency	National Crime Records Bureau
Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs
DNA Profiles Generated	Over 1 lakh
Measurement Units Established	2,600+
Data Retention Period	Up to 75 years
National Fingerprint Database	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System
Launched	2022

# What is the CrPI Act, 2022?

The **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022** replaced the colonial-era:

## Old Law

Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920

## New Law

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

## Objective

To allow law enforcement agencies to collect and store identification-related information of:

- Arrested persons
- Convicted persons
- Certain detainees

for scientific investigation and crime detection.

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Type of Record

Included

Fingerprints



Palm Prints



Footprints



Photographs



Iris Scan



Retina Scan



DNA Samples



Biological Samples



Signatures



Handwriting Samples



# DNA Collection Process

## Step-by-Step

Step	Process
1	Police collect biological sample
2	Usually blood or saliva sample
3	Sent to forensic laboratory
4	DNA profile generated
5	Unique identification number assigned
6	Stored in NCRB database

## Who Can Be Required to Give Samples?

Category	Provision
Convicted Persons	Yes
Persons Arrested for Serious Crimes	Yes
Persons Accused of Certain Offences	Yes
Preventive Detention Cases	Certain circumstances

# What is NAFIS?

## National Automated Fingerprint Identification System

Feature	Details
Launch Year	2022
Implementing Agency	NCRB
Purpose	Automated fingerprint matching
Coverage	Nationwide
Database Size	More than 1.27 crore fingerprint records

### Functions

- Fingerprint matching
- Criminal identification
- Inter-state crime detection
- Faster investigations

Feature	1920 Act	2022 Act
Fingerprints	Yes	Yes
Photographs	Limited	Yes
DNA Samples	No	Yes
Iris Scan	No	Yes
Biological Samples	No	Yes
Digital Database	No	Yes
National Integration	Limited	Comprehensive

**CACHE**



**Facing off:** A counter-protester holding an Israeli flag walks into the parking lot near a protest at Google Cloud offices in Sunnyvale, California, in 2024. REUTERS

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**Why are protesters against Project Nimbus?** Project Nimbus has been facing backlash since it was first announced. In 2021, an anonymous letter signed internally by 90 Google workers and over 300 Amazon workers criticised the partnership, per *The Guardian*. They condemned Project Nimbus and the Israeli military's killings of Palestinian civilians, claiming that their employers would be "selling dangerous technology to the Israeli military and government."

The workers claimed that cloud service technology would help expand the surveillance of Palestinians, as well as illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

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**Did Microsoft truly sever its ties with Israel's defense surveillance systems?** While Mr. Smith said that Microsoft does not provide technology to facilitate the mass surveillance of civilians, he affirmed the company's "important work" to protect the cybersecurity of Israel and other West Asian countries.

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The No Azure for Apartheid group, which is made up of Microsoft workers, claimed on June 6 that Microsoft still allowed the Israeli military and government to host other surveillance systems on Azure. "Nothing short of cutting all ties with the genocidal Israeli military and government will be enough. We will show up to escalate, confront, and disrupt in every place, at every moment, announced and unannounced," said the group.



**KNOW YOUR ENGLISH**

## The family was distraught over the loss

The cancellation of the train left the passengers in the lurch

S. Upendran

**What is the meaning and origin of the idiom 'left in the lurch'?** (P. Keshav, Madurai)  
'Lurch' rhymes with 'church', 'search' and 'perch'. The word comes from the French 'lourche', a board game played with dice that was popular in Europe - especially, France, in the 16th century. Today, very little is known about the game. It seems to have died a natural death by the end of the 17th century. The only reason we remember the game is because of the expression 'left in the lurch'. When playing the game, when someone was 'in the lurch', it meant he was in a terrible position - he was likely to be defeated by a huge margin. With the passage of time, the idiom changed to 'left in the lurch', and it began to be used in everyday contexts. Today, when you say that someone has left you in the lurch, it has nothing to do with winning or losing a game. It means the person who had promised to support you, abandons you at a time when you need him/her the most. The individual had promised to help you, and when you find yourself in a tough spot, the person chooses to do the disappearing act - you are left in a very awkward situation.

The builder was left in the lurch when fifty of his workers walked out on him. Seema was left in the lurch when on the day of the big party, the cook decided to take the day off.

**Which is correct? Ravi sat in a chair or Ravi sat on a chair?** (Malini Nayyar, Kochi)

Both sentences are grammatically acceptable, which preposition you choose to use will depend on the type of chair that you are sitting on/in. If the chair has arms on both sides, then you would say, 'I'm sitting in a chair'. If there are no arms, and nothing to restrict your movements, then you say 'sit on chair'. Similarly, you 'sit on' the ground or floor. You 'sit in a car/plane/bus/train' because you are in an enclosed space but 'sit on a bicycle/motorcycle/horse'.

Be careful sitting in that chair. One of the arms is broken.

The chair that I sat on in the restaurant was very comfortable.

**How is the word 'distraught' pronounced?** (Neeta Mathur, Kolhapur)

The word consists of two syllables; the first sounds like the 'dis' in 'disrupt' and 'distance', while the second syllable rhymes with 'caught' and 'fought'. The word is pronounced 'dis-TRAUHT' with the stress on the second syllable. It comes from the Latin 'distrahere' meaning 'drawn in different directions'. Today, the word is mostly used to mean to be terribly upset. When you are distraught, you are so worried or nervous about something that you are unable to think clearly. And that happens when you are unable to think clearly! Your mind begins to be 'drawn in different directions'.

The star player was distraught when he missed a penalty in the final minutes of the game.

We were all distraught when we heard the shocking news!  
upendranjag@gmail.com

### Word of the day

**Vestige**  
An indication that something has been present  
**Synonyms:** trace, remnant  
**Usage:** These old columns are the last vestiges of the ancient temple.  
**Pronunciation:** vesth.liv.vestij  
**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /vɛstɪdʒ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

### THE DAILY QUIZ

#### A quiz on International Day of Yoga that was observed on June 21

Y.V. Ramanan

**QUESTION 1** Why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech at the United Nations in 2014, suggest June 21, be observed as an International Day of Yoga?

**QUESTION 2** What was the theme for International Day of Yoga this year?

**QUESTION 3** Of the traditional five broad classifications of Yoga, two are Bhakti and Karma Yoga. Name the other three.

**QUESTION 4**

Which sadhana: ii advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living; iii dissociating one's consciousness from the sense organs that connect with the external objects.  
**QUESTION 5** From which animals are these animals inspired: Catur Svanasana, Sarakasana, Ustrasana?  
**QUESTION 6** From where does the shloka 'sam gachadhivam sam vadadhivam sam vo manamsi janatam' bhagam yathā pūrva samjanāna upasate' that traditionally starts a yoga session come from?



**Visual question:** Name this eminent yoga exponent. FILE PHOTO

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**  
1. Which was the first World Cup to be held outside Europe and Americas and who hosted it? **Ans:** 1970 with Mexico as the host.  
2. Which World Cup final is called as the "Miracle of Bern" and why? **Ans:** The 1954 final as the underdogs and semi-professional West Germany won the final against the undefeated and unstoppable Golden team of Hungary 3-2 in the final. It is touted to be one of the greatest upsets of World Cup history.  
3. Who holds the record as the oldest to score a goal in World Cup history? **Ans:** Roger Milla of Cameroon - 42 years & 39 days  
4. Who holds the record for scoring the most number of goals in a single edition of World Cup? **Ans:** Just Fontaine of France - 13 goals in 1958 edition  
5. Prior to Golden Glove award, what was the name of the trophy given to the best goalkeeper of a World Cup tournament? **Ans:** Lev Yashin trophy named after one of the all-time greatest goalkeepers of the game from former Soviet Union  
6. Visual question: Identify and connect the two players with their unique feat World Cup history? **Ans:** Only players to score a hat-trick in the World Cup final. Geoff Hurst of England in 1966 and Kylian Mbappe of France in 2022

**Early Birds**  
Prem Nath Tiwari, Amit Saxena, Alisha Yadav

Please send in your answers to  
dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

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Parameter

Details

Project Name

Project Nimbus

Companies Involved

[Google](#) and [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\)](#)

Contract Partner

Government of Israel

Contract Value

Over US\$1 billion

Announced

2021

Purpose

Cloud computing and AI services

Duration

Initially 7 years (extendable)

Controversy

Alleged military and surveillance use

Protesters

Students, employees, pro-Palestinian groups

Year	Event
2021	Google and Amazon awarded contract
2022–23	Employee opposition grows
Oct 2023	Israel-Hamas conflict intensifies scrutiny
2024	Employee sit-ins and protests
2025	Protests at major tech events
2026	Student protests during Sundar Pichai's Stanford speech

# Why Are Students and Employees Protesting?

## Main Allegation

Protesters claim:

- Cloud services could indirectly support military operations.
- AI tools may assist surveillance activities.
- Technology may be used in ways contributing to harm against Palestinian civilians.

## Concerns Raised

Concern	Explanation
Surveillance	Monitoring of populations
Military Use	Potential support to military operations
Human Rights	Ethical implications of technology use
Corporate Responsibility	How companies' technologies are deployed

# What Do Google and Amazon Say?

## Google's Position

Google has stated:

- Nimbus is primarily a cloud-services project.
- It is not intended as a weapons program.
- Services are provided under contractual frameworks.

## Amazon's Position

Amazon emphasizes:

- Privacy commitments.
- Commercial cloud services to customers.
- Compliance with contractual obligations.

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## Employee Opposition

### Internal Resistance

Year	Development
2021	Open letter signed by employees
2024	Sit-ins and workplace protests
2024	Some protesting employees dismissed after office demonstrations
2025–26	Continued activism and demonstrations

STRAIGHT FACED Curacao 'keeper Room jokes he deserves statue after heroics



Curacao goalkeeper Eloy Room joked that he deserves a statue on the Caribbean island of Curacao... "I'm really proud of the team also... I think I need a statue in Curacao, I think now."

LANDMARK GAME Smooth Japan strolls to victory over scratchy Tunisia



Japan marked the 1,000th game in World Cup history with a 4-0 thrashing of Tunisia in Monterrey on Saturday... "Tunisia can no longer get a place in the knockout rounds."

CULTURAL CHANGE Bielsa feels hydration breaks have altered the very nature of football



Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa has criticised the hydration breaks introduced at the FIFA World Cup... "I will just say that before this decision, football had a characteristic, now it has another."

RACE AGAINST TIME Brazil's Raphinha to have 'intensive treatment' on thigh injury



Brazil forward Raphinha will undergo "intensive treatment" after suffering a muscle injury to his right thigh in its World Cup... "Brazilian website Globo Esporte reported he could be fit to return for a possible game in the last 16, which starts in two weeks."

Spain finds its scoring boots again as it slams four past Saudi Arabia

The former champion puts behind the horrors of failing to break the deadlock against Cape Verde in the first round with a masterclass in control as it runs the Asian side ragged. Oyarzabal bags a brace and also sets up Yamal's opener

FIFA WORLD CUP ATLANTA

Avon Sengupta ATLANTA

Spain had arrived in Atlanta needing a response. Ninety minutes later, it left with relief, having rediscovered the goals that had deserted it against Cape Verde to secure a 4-0 win over Saudi Arabia and breathe life back into its stuttering World Cup campaign.

While the temperature outside hovered around 30 degrees Celsius and humidity pushed past 70%, inside the covered stadium, it was a comfortable 22 degrees, ideal conditions for Spain's preference for a quick-passing game.

Luis de la Puente's side started with far greater purpose than in its opening match. Lamine Yamal, handed a place in the starting XI, hugged the right touchline and immediately gave Spain a direct outlet to stretch the Saudi defence.

The breakthrough arrived in the 11th minute as Spain moved the ball from left to right with the ease of



Easy pickings: Oyarzabal bundles the ball in from up close for Spain's third against Saudi Arabia.

a tide rolling across a shoreline. Mikel Oyarzabal's low cross flashed across the face of the goal, and the final, arriving unseen at the far post, guided home his first World Cup strike.

The second goal came moments before the hydration break as Saudi Arabia dithered in clearing a corner, allowing Oyarzabal to finish from close quarters. Spain's attacks were now rolling in one after the other, with each wave more damaging than the last.

forward with hardly any work left. Saudi Arabia's misfortunes continued when an unmarked Cucurella's left-footed strike cannoned into goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais and then ricocheted off Hassan Al Tambari to trickle over the line, draining the last remnants of Saudi resistance.

At the noisy La Roja faithful spilled into the humid Georgia evening, the tide had once again turned in favour of one of the tournament's early favourites.

Undav fashions Germany's back-to-the-wall victory

Agence France-Presse TORONTO

Germany reached the World Cup knockout phase for the first time since 2014 with a dramatic comeback behind 2-1 victory over Ivory Coast on Saturday. Substitute Deniz Undav scored twice, including the crucial goal four minutes into injury time, triggering a massive roar from the overwhelmingly pro-German crowd here.

Tuesday's matches

- GROUP 1 France vs. Iraq, 2.30 a.m. Norway vs. Senegal, 5.30 a.m. GROUP 2 Jordan vs. Algeria, 8.30 a.m. GROUP 3 Portugal vs. Uzbekistan, 10.30 p.m.

The day and times for the 2026 World Cup matches.

huge pressure to make that breakthrough. He paid tribute to Undav's clinical finishing - and said it was "not out of the question" that he could start the next game against

Ecuador. Germany was chasing its opponent in the first half and the Ivorians surged ahead when Franck Kessie struck in the 30th minute. Kessie turned in from close range following strong work by teenage Ivorian phenomenon Yan Dromane. The Ivorian defence held firm until the 68th minute, but ultimately the Germans broke through when Undav walked in a cross by Nadiem Amiri.

Stat attack

- 1 Sweden became the first team to win by four goals 4-1 vs. Tunisia and then lose by four goals in successive matches in the same edition since Turkey in 1954 (beat South Korea 7-1, lost to West Germany 7-2) 11 Germany's biggest winning streak in the football world since 1979 and June 1980 (under Dettmar) 12 The Germans progressed to the knockout stages for the first time in 12 years 29y 183d Messi became the global event after Drogba in 2002 (20y 182d) 100 Tunisia and Japan met in the 100th scored in this tournament COMPILED BY AMRUSH VILLAMURI

Room shines as Curacao gets off the mark

Agence France-Presse KANSAS CITY

Curacao goalkeeper Eloy Room was the hero against Ecuador on Saturday, keeping out a barrage of shots to help the tiny Caribbean nation claim its first ever World Cup point in a goalless draw that keeps alive its hopes of reaching the knockout phase. Ecuador, which finished second in South American qualifying, had 28 shots, including 15 on target but Room stood firm in an astonishing display.

His 15 saves are the most on record, since 1966, by any goalkeeper in a World Cup match that did not feature extra-time.

The South American team ended the first half with 65 percent of possession but nothing to show for its dominance. The Curacao players swarmed around Room at the end of the match, celebrating an extraordinary point.

All eyes on Messi and Argentina

Avon Sengupta

Lionel Messi has spent the better part of two decades bending football's sense of time. Records that once looked permanent have become milestones in his journey through the game. Defenders have changed, managers have changed, even the shape of Argentina around him has changed, but the central question has remained stubbornly familiar - how do you stop Messi when a match begins to orbit around him?

Austria will be the next team asked to find an answer to that question. After scoring the 61st hat-trick of his career, 50 for clubs and 11 for Argentina, in the 3-0 win over Algeria, Messi stands one goal away from moving past Miroslav Klose as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer. If he strikes Austria, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner will also become only the third player in the tournament history to net in six consecutive World Cup matches. Just Fontaine did it for



Militant Messi: Messi needs just one more goal to become the all-time leading scorer in the World Cup. GETTY IMAGES

France in 1958 and Jairzinho followed for Brazil in 1970, both across single tournaments. Messi's run began with Argentina's win over Australia in the round of 16 during its long-awaited triumph in Qatar four years ago and continues in to what is expected to be his final World Cup. Neering, 39, his inclusion shows little sign of fading. Against Algeria, he had a direct hand in eight of Argentina's 10 shots, taking six himself while creating two chances. Yet while

are confident in our strengths. If we bring our qualities to the pitch, we will pose problems for our team."

Austria's pressing game will try to disrupt Argentina's rhythm, but coach Ralf Rangnick has a late start to concerns. Captain David Alaba, Stefan Posch, who wore a specially designed protective mask after breaking his jaw against Jordan, and Alessandro Schöpf have all trained separately and are racing against time to be fit for the all-important game. Argentina, too, is worried about the fitness of defender Gonzalo Montiel, who is still recovering from a hamstring injury.

Messi stole the headlines, Argentina's defensive authority was just as important. Lionel Scaloni's midfield, led by Alexis Mac Allister and Enzo Fernandez, expertly shielded its defence and did not allow Algeria a single shot on target. Austria arrives in Dallas after a 3-1 win over Jordan and will look to extend its four-game winning run in all competitions. "We know how good Argentina are," young right-back Paul Wanner said. "We respect them, but we

Good performances over chasing success for Neeraj

Ultra Ganesan NEW DELHI

A nine-month break to recover from multiple injuries forcing a late start to the season saw Neeraj Chopra finish fourth in his maiden competition, the Doha Diamond League, and Alessandro Schöpf have all trained separately and are racing against time to be fit for the all-important game. Argentina, too, is worried about the fitness of defender Gonzalo Montiel, who is still recovering from a hamstring injury.



Neeraj, GETTY IMAGES

"If I had been fourth or even third earlier, I would have never accepted it. For that matter, I would have never accepted an 85m throw either. But this time I knew my situation, where I was coming from, what I was coming back from. My preparation was good and I knew we have to move forward step by step. I was happy with whatever I got," Neeraj told The Hindu on the sidelines of the Indian Athletics awards. "Right now, I am work-

My preparation was good and I knew we have to move forward step by step

ing on my training. The body is feeling better now. It's not the same as it was before, I am not the old Neeraj but I am slowly coming back. It took a long time because it wasn't just one injury, there were several. I had an Achilles injury in my blocking leg, in my back, I had some issues in my shoulder and elbow. And I have been having trouble with my groin for a long time. "So after Tokyo, we decided to do rehab first, we were coming from what I pressure and not be in a hurry to return to competition. Which is why I started throwing only in May this year, usually it starts in January itself. But such is the life of an athlete, you always carry your injuries like medals," he laughed.

## STRAIGHT FACED

# Curacao 'keeper Room jokes he deserves statue after heroics



REUTERS



Curacao goalkeeper Eloy Room joked that he deserves a statue on the Caribbean island after a jaw-dropping display. His tally of 15 saves is the most on record — since 1966 — by any goalkeeper in a World Cup match that did not feature extra-time. “I’m really proud of the team also... I think I need a statue in Curacao, I think now.”



Location of Curaçao (circled in red)

<b>Sovereign state</b>	 Kingdom of the Netherlands
<b>Country status</b>	10 October 2010
<b>Capital and largest city</b>	Willemstad  <span><span><span><span><span>12°6′18″N</span> <span>68°56′6″W</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>12.105°N 68.935°W</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>12.105; -68.935</span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Official languages</b>	Papiamentu · Dutch · English <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2018)	75.4% Curaçaoans 9% Dutch 3.6% Dominican 3% Colombian 1.2% Haitian 1.2% Surinamese 1.1% Venezuelan 1.1% Aruban 0.9% unspecified 6% other <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Religion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% Catholic</li> <li>18.5% total Protestant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.6% Pentecostal</li> <li>3.2% Protestant</li> <li>3% Seventh-day Adventist</li> <li>3.2% Evangelical</li> </ul> </li> <li>0.8% Jehovah's Witnesses</li> <li>1.7% Other Christian</li> </ul> </li> <li>6% No religion</li> <li>2% Hinduism</li> <li>0.5% Islam</li> <li>0.2% Judaism</li> </ul>

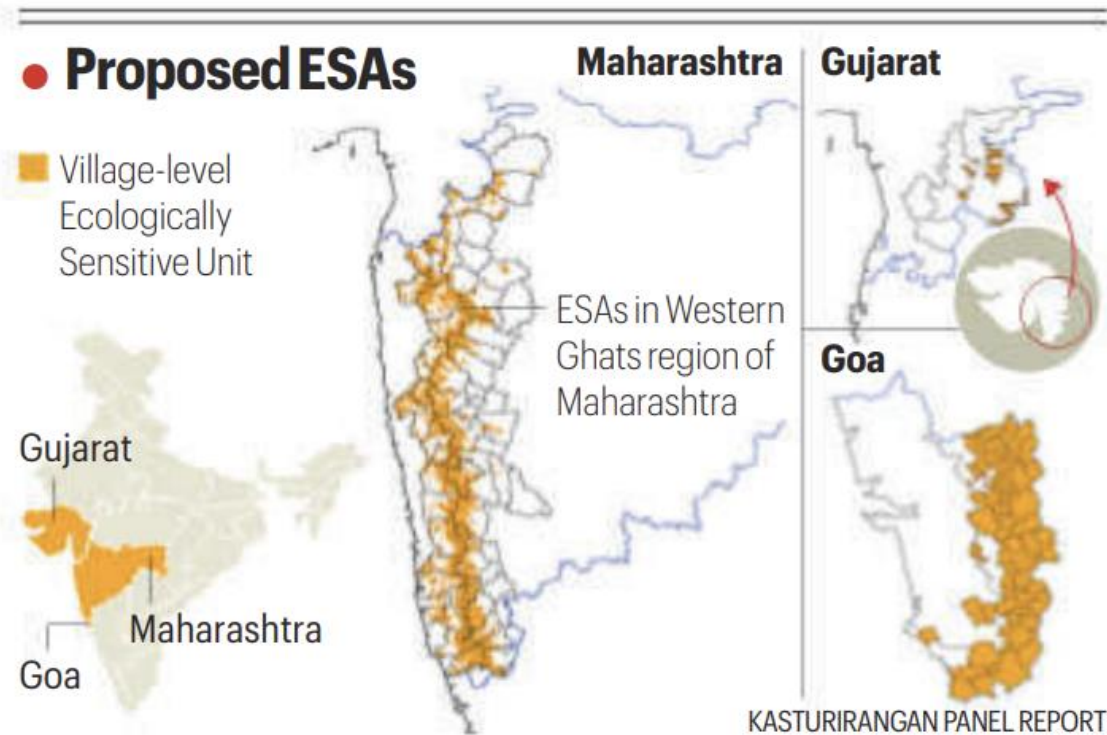
<b>Government</b>	Parliamentary representative democracy within a constitutional monarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monarch</b> Willem-Alexander</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> Mauritsz de Kort</li> <li>• <b>Speaker</b> Fergino Brownbill</li> <li>• <b>Prime Minister</b> Gilmar Pisas</li> </ul>
<b>Legislature</b>	Parliament of Curaçao
<b>Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total 444<sup>[2]</sup> km<sup>2</sup> (171 sq mi) (181st)</li> </ul>
<b>Highest elevation</b>	372 m (1,220 ft)
<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 census 155,826<sup>[3]</sup></li> <li>• Density 349.13/km<sup>2</sup> (904.2/sq mi)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2021 <sup>[4]</sup> estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total \$5.5 billion (184th)</li> <li>• Per capita \$35,484 (45th)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2024 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total \$3.5 billion<sup>[5]</sup></li> <li>• Per capita \$22,761</li> </ul>
<b>HDI (2012)</b>	0.811 <sup>[6]</sup> very high
<b>Currency</b>	Caribbean guilder (XCG)

# Govt prepares to notify Western Ghats eco sensitive areas in at least three states

**Nikhil Ghanekar  
& Amitabh Sinha**  
New Delhi, June 21

TWELVE YEARS after it issued the first draft notification, the Centre is finally ready to finalise and notify the demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats region, at least in the three states in which contentious issues have more or less been resolved, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Over 56,000 square km of land in six states are proposed



to be demarcated as ESA, based on the 2013 recommendations of a high-level working group led by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan.

The Centre's original draft notification had come in 2014, and has undergone five revisions since then, but disagreements with the state governments on the areas earmarked for declaration as ESAs within their jurisdictions have not been fully resolved. Even now, the states of Kerala and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Parameter	Details
Issue	Notification of Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESA) in Western Ghats
Proposed ESA Area	More than 56,000 sq km
States Covered	6 States
Basis	Kasturirangan Committee Report (2013)
First Draft Notification	2014
Revisions Since Then	5
Current Status	Final notification likely in at least 3 states
Ministry Concerned	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Purpose

Explanation

Biodiversity Protection

Protect flora and fauna

Forest Conservation

Prevent degradation

Watershed Protection

Protect rivers and catchments

Sustainable Development

Balance ecology and economy

Item	Recommendation
ESA Area	About 37% of Western Ghats
Activities Restricted	Mining, quarrying, thermal power plants
Development	Sustainable and regulated

---

Feature	Gadgil Committee (2011)	Kasturirangan Committee (2013)
Official Name	Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel	High-Level Working Group
Chairman	Madhav Gadgil	K. Kasturirangan
Protection Level	Stronger conservation	Moderate conservation
Area Proposed	Larger area	Smaller area
Development Restrictions	More stringent	Relatively flexible
Accepted By Govt	No	Largely yes

# Environmental Importance of Western Ghats

## Biodiversity

Indicator	Value
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	39
Endemic Plant Species	5,000+
Endemic Amphibians	Very High
Tiger Reserves	Several
Elephant Corridors	Major habitat

## Major Rivers Originating in Western Ghats

River	State of Origin
<u>Godavari</u>	Maharashtra
<u>Krishna</u>	Maharashtra
<u>Kaveri</u>	Karnataka
<u>Tungabhadra</u>	Karnataka
<u>Periyar</u>	Kerala

## Activities Typically Restricted in ESA

Activity	Status
Mining	Restricted/Prohibited
Quarrying	Restricted
Thermal Power Plants	Restricted
Large Polluting Industries	Restricted
Red Category Industries	Restricted

## Activities Usually Allowed

Activity
Agriculture
Horticulture
Organic Farming
Eco-Tourism
Sustainable Livelihood Activities

# Scrutiny and security: How China conducts its biggest college entrance exam

Rishika Singh  
New Delhi, June 21

THE RE-TEST for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was held on Sunday, a few weeks after allegations of paper leak led to the original exam's cancellation.

Earlier this month, China also conducted its biggest national exam for college admissions, the Gaokao (literally, "the highest exam"), with over 1.29 crore students. A spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India shared a post on X, stating that "The #Gaokao is one of the most important exams for millions of Chinese students — and what makes it remarkable is its fairness... Students know their hard work truly pays off, because the process is strictly regulated and the road to academic success is not rigged."

## Teachers under supervision, no internet access

Gaokao has been conducted in China

since 1952. During the Mao Zedong-led Cultural Revolution (1966-76), which saw sweeping changes to align Chinese society with Communist ideals, the exam was put on hold.

Today, the exam includes three compulsory subjects: English, Mandarin and Mathematics, with optional science and social science subjects. Chinese state media reports note that the full exam lasts between three and four days, and the duration varies by region.

There are strict protocols for the conduct of the exam, including but not limited to question papers drafted under strict security. Teachers who are selected to prepare the question papers are sent to isolated locations, including military facilities and prisons.

And it's not just the state that goes all out. "Among other heart-warming measures, some companies offer free taxi rides to candidates going to their exam centres, while some restaurants provide free lunches, and some hotels free beds, on gao-

kao days," a recent Chinese state media report said.

## Not a foolproof system

Chinese state media reports also point to attempts to curb unfair practices during exams. A 2025 report said about the province of Liaoning, "Students are required to pass through two intelligent security gates capable of detecting small metal objects, including mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, hidden earpieces and other high-tech devices that could be used to cheat. If an alarm is triggered, teachers follow up with handheld metal detectors."

It quoted a high school principal as saying, "Cheating technologies are evolving every year, so this year's entry screening process is stricter than ever."

Biometric verification is conducted at entry to detect student impersonation. Cases of impersonation have previously been reported years after the exam, and punishments have been handed out. In 2016, six teachers were handed a jail sen-

tence from one year to 26 months after being convicted of "illegally obtaining state secrets".

In 2025, state media *China Daily* reported that the city of Benxi, with a population of around 1.3 million, had every gaokao room monitored by a "real-time intelligent surveillance system that automatically flags irregular behavior — from whispers and frequent glances between students to inattentive proctors". Other recent reports have also touted "AI-powered" systems.

The exam involves both objective and subjective questions. Experienced teachers from key senior high schools and universities in a region are selected to grade the papers. "Personnel involved in grading have to present their identity documents, leave electronic devices in a small basket in a separate area, and undergo security checks before work starts," an official media report said.

Grading computers are connected to an exclusive network to prevent hacking and intrusion of viruses and the rooms are

equipped with surveillance cameras, with police officers on duty 24/7, it added.

## STEM focus

In their book *The Highest Exam: How the Gaokao Shapes China* (2025), authors Hongbin Li, Ruixue Jia and Claire Cousineau wrote, "If China's education system is a symphony orchestra, the central government is the conductor." It directs everyone, but relies on musicians (in this example, the local governments) to achieve what is desired, they write. Local authorities own and fund non-elite colleges and institutions, as well as schools, but they operate based on policies made by the Central government.

The book credits Deng Xiaoping, the leader under whom the Chinese economy modernised in 1978, for raising the scale and scope of the education system. Among 18 to 24-year-olds, the share of people enrolled in college increased from 1% in 1976 to 57% in 2021.

The exam has come under criticism for

furthering inequalities, particularly on regional and class lines. Colleges can set local quotas and most premier institutions are based in major cities.

Combined with China's household registration system that designates citizens as hailing from rural or urban areas, it means that those in cities have a disproportionately high chance of making it to top colleges. They are also more equipped to spend a considerable amount on additional classes and other resources.

A type of affirmative action system awards some advantages to ethnic minorities, including those from the regions such as Tibet.

Over the years, there has been an increasing focus on pushing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in Chinese universities. This is in line with the government's plans to push for "New Quality Productive Forces", meaning high-tech and more efficient economic development. It has also meant a lower uptake for social sciences.

# Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

1 India's NEET re-test ordered after paper leak — Gaokao comparison highlighted / NEET पुनर्परीक्षा के बाद Gaokao तुलना उभरी

2 China conducted Gaokao for ~1.29 crore students in 2025 / चीन ने 2025 में ~1.29 करोड़ छात्रों के लिए Gaokao आयोजित किया

3 Advanced security: biometric ID, AI surveillance, intelligent security gates detecting phones/earpieces / उन्नत सुरक्षा प्रणाली

4 China pushing STEM in Gaokao: 'New Quality Productive Forces' (Xi Jinping policy) / STEM नीति — नई उत्पादक शक्तियाँ

5 College enrollment: 1% (1976) → 57% (2021) — Deng Xiaoping modernisation impact / नामांकन 1%→57%

# Question Paper Security

## Strict Protocols

Stage	Security Measure
Paper Setting	Confidential teams
Printing	Highly secure locations
Transport	Controlled movement
Storage	Protected facilities
Distribution	Monitored dispatch

Some reports indicate highly restricted preparation environments to maintain secrecy.

## Punishment for Cheating

Offence	Consequence
Impersonation	Criminal action
Electronic Cheating	Disqualification
Paper Leak	Criminal investigation
Organized Fraud	Jail term possible

# Key Data: Gaokao | Gaokao के मुख्य तथ्य

**1.29 Cr**

Students (2025)

**1952**

Year Established  
(excl. 1966-76)

**3-4 Days**

Exam Duration

**57%**

College Enrollment  
2021 (from 1%)

Feature / विशेषता	Detail / विवरण
Compulsory subjects	English, Mandarin & Chinese, Mathematics / 3 अनिवार्य विषय
Question paper security	Teachers sent to isolated/military facilities till exam ends / शिक्षक अलग-थलग
Entry security	Biometric face-recognition + intelligent gates (detect phones, earpieces)
Exam room monitoring	AI real-time surveillance — flags whispers, glances, inattentive proctors
Grading	Teachers from top schools; isolated room; no electronics; security checks
Punishment (2016)	6 teachers jailed 1-26 months for paper leak — 'illegally obtaining state secrets'

# Multi-Subject & India Comparison | India-China तुलना

## India (NEET) vs China (Gaokao) — Key Comparison

Aspect	India — NEET / भारत	China — Gaokao / चीन
Scale	~24 lakh students	~1.29 crore students
Paper security	⚠️ Leak in 2024 / 2024 में लीक	✅ Military facility isolation / सैन्य सुविधा
Surveillance	Limited	AI real-time + biometric gates
Central body	NTA (National Testing Agency)	Ministry of Education (centralised)
Equity concern	Urban-rural gap; coaching culture	Hukou system disadvantages rural students

### History / इतिहास

- ▶ Cultural Revolution 1966-76
- ▶ Mao suspended Gaokao
- ▶ Deng restored 1977

### Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- ▶ Hukou registration system
- ▶ CCP control over education
- ▶ NEET — NTA governance

### S&T / विज्ञान-प्रौद्योगिकी

- ▶ AI proctoring/surveillance
- ▶ Biometric face verification
- ▶ Anti-cheat tech evolution

# Exam MCQ & Quick Revision | परीक्षा MCQ व पुनरावृत्ति

**Statement MCQ: Which statements about China's Gaokao are CORRECT?**

1. Gaokao has been conducted continuously since 1952 without any break.
2. The exam lasts 3-4 days and includes three compulsory subjects.
3. Teachers who prepare question papers are sent to isolated/military locations.
4. China's college enrollment rose from 1% (1976) to 57% (2021).

**Correct answer:**

(a) 2, 3 and 4 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 4 only

(d) All of the above

*Key: Statement 1 WRONG — Gaokao was SUSPENDED 1966-76 during the Cultural Revolution.*

## 10 QUICK REVISION / त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

- ▶ Gaokao=nat. college exam
- ▶ 1.29 cr students (2025)
- ▶ Suspended 1966-76 (Mao)
- ▶ Deng restored 1977
- ▶ 3 compulsory subjects
- ▶ Biometric+AI security
- ▶ Military facility for papers
- ▶ Hukou=rural disadvantage
- ▶ Enrollment: 1%→57%
- ▶ STEM: 'New Productive Forces'

● DECODING A STUDY

# IIT Bombay finds a new way to lower LDL cholesterol

## Researchers stop bad fat from reaching the site inside liver cells that releases it into the blood

Purnima Sah

FOR DECADES, scientists have tried to lower harmful fats in the blood by targeting enzymes, genes or receptors involved in fat metabolism. Researchers at IIT Bombay have now taken a strikingly different approach: preventing bad fat from reaching the site inside liver cells that releases it into the bloodstream.

Working with scientists at IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Pune and IISER Kolkata, the team has developed a tiny peptide (a short chain of amino acids or the building blocks of life) called KTDP that interrupts the movement of fat inside liver cells. In laboratory-grown liver cells and zebrafish, this reduced the release of cholesterol and triglycerides into the bloodstream by nearly 50 per cent.

The findings, published recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, are still at an early stage. The peptide has not been tested in humans. But researchers say the work opens an en-

tirely new strategy for reducing the biggest risk factor of heart attacks, namely bad fats — LDL (low-density lipoprotein) and triglycerides — in the blood.

### Why does this finding matter?

While medicines such as statins have transformed the treatment of high cholesterol, options for lowering triglycerides remain relatively limited. The IIT Bombay study proposes a fresh way of reducing the liver's export of fats into the bloodstream rather than interfering with how fats are produced or broken down.

The liver is the body's central hub for fat metabolism. Inside liver cells are tiny storage compartments called lipid droplets that temporarily hold fats such as cholesterol and triglycerides. When required, these droplets are transported to specific locations within the cell, where they are repackaged into very low-density lipoproteins (VLDL) and released into the bloodstream.

Professor Roop Mallik of IIT Bombay explains it simply. "There are little balls of fat



GETTYIMAGES

**Blocking fat export did not lead to dangerous fat build-up inside the liver. Fatty acids were instead redirected to the mitochondria**

inside our liver cells. These need to be carried to specific locations inside the liver cell. From there, the fat is repackaged into lipoprotein particles and sent out into your blood," he says. "If we can tone down the export of fat from the liver into blood using a small peptide, we could have a new way of treating high serum lipids." The researchers' solution was KTDP, a tiny peptide derived from a naturally occurring protein.

### What is KTDP?

Researchers identified a motor protein

called kinesin-1, which is a delivery truck operating inside a cell. "These motor proteins catch hold of these fat particles and take them to a certain location. We found a small piece of this protein called a peptide. When we delivered this to cells or zebrafish, these didn't get carried to the right location," Prof Mallik says. Without reaching that destination, the fat cannot be packaged into VLDL particles and exported into the bloodstream.

### How is this different from statins?

Current cholesterol-lowering medicines, including statins, work by reducing cholesterol synthesis or increasing its clearance from the blood but have nothing to halt it in its tracks. Because the peptide selectively blocks the transport of lipid droplets without shutting down protein functions overall, researchers believe it could avoid some of the side-effects associated with disrupting a motor protein.

Excess fat circulating in the blood can accumulate in several organs. "That is a disaster because that fat is going to accumulate in your heart and other tissues," says Prof Mallik. Interestingly, blocking fat export did not lead to dangerous fat build-up inside the liver. Fatty acids were instead redirected to the mitochondria — the cell's energy-producing structures.

Aspect	Details
Institution	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay with IISER Pune & IISER Kolkata
Published In	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Main Discovery	A tiny peptide (KTDP) prevents fat particles from reaching the location inside liver cells where they are packed and released into blood
Target	LDL cholesterol and triglycerides
Result	Nearly 50% reduction in cholesterol and triglyceride release in laboratory studies
Tested On	Liver cells and zebrafish
Human Trials	Not yet conducted
Significance	Completely new cholesterol-lowering mechanism

## What Exactly Did Researchers Find?

### Traditional Approach

Scientists usually try to:

- Block cholesterol production
- Increase cholesterol removal
- Target enzymes, genes, or receptors

### IIT Bombay's New Approach

Instead of reducing cholesterol production, researchers:

✅ Stop fat from reaching the "export center" inside liver cells.

Think of it like:

- Liver = Factory
- Fat droplets = Goods
- Bloodstream = Market
- KTDP peptide = Roadblock

If goods cannot reach the shipping department, they cannot be exported.

## How Fat Normally Reaches Blood

Step	Process
1	Fat stored as lipid droplets in liver cells
2	Transported to specific location inside cell
3	Packed into VLDL particles
4	Released into bloodstream
5	VLDL later becomes LDL ("bad cholesterol")

## What is KTDP?

Feature	Details
Type	Small peptide (short amino acid chain)
Function	Blocks transport of fat droplets
Source	Derived from a naturally occurring protein
Effect	Prevents fat export from liver cells

Feature	Statins	IIT Bombay KTDP Method
Works by	Reducing cholesterol synthesis	Blocking fat transport
Target	Cholesterol production	Fat export machinery
LDL Reduction	Yes	Potentially yes
Triglyceride Reduction	Limited	Strong potential
Side Effects	Muscle pain, liver effects in some people	Yet to be determined
Human Use	Approved	Experimental

Point

Fact

LDL

Low-Density Lipoprotein ("Bad Cholesterol")

HDL

High-Density Lipoprotein ("Good Cholesterol")

VLDL

Very Low-Density Lipoprotein

Liver Function

Main center of fat metabolism

Mitochondria

Powerhouse of cell

Peptide

Short chain of amino acids

Kinesin

Motor protein involved in intracellular transport

Average 30,500  
Pedestrians Die Annually  
in India (2019–2024)

Parameter

Data

Period Covered

2019–2024

Total Pedestrian Deaths in India

More than 1.8 lakh

Annual Average

~30,500 deaths

Share on National Highways

Nearly 31%

Major Cause

High-speed traffic and long-distance vehicle movement

Most Vulnerable Group

Pedestrians (walkers, road crossers, roadside users)

## What is a Pedestrian Fatality?

A pedestrian fatality refers to:

- Death of a person walking on:
  - Roads
  - Footpaths
  - Zebra crossings
  - Road shoulders
- Due to a motor vehicle crash.

---

## India: Pedestrian Death Statistics

Indicator	Value
Total Deaths (2019–24)	1,80,000+
Annual Average	30,500+
Deaths on National Highways	~31%
Major Risk Areas	High-speed highways, urban crossings, poorly lit roads

# Global Comparison

## United States

Parameter	Data
Pedestrian Deaths (2024)	7,080
Estimated Deaths (2024)	7,148
Change from 2023	-3.9%
Consecutive Decline Years	2

## Important Agencies

Agency	Role
<u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</u>	Tracks road crash deaths
<u>Governors Highway Safety Association</u>	Highway safety research and coordination

## Similar Trend in India

Many pedestrian deaths occur:

- During evening hours
- On highways
- In poorly illuminated areas
- Near bus stops and intersections

## Age Pattern

### United States

Age Group	Observation
35–64 years	More than half of all pedestrian deaths
35–44 years	Highest per-capita death rate

## Road Accident Scenario in India

According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways data:

Indicator	Approximate Annual Figure
Total Road Accidents	4.5–5 lakh
Total Deaths	1.7–1.8 lakh
Daily Deaths	~480–500
Hourly Deaths	~20

# EX-AGNIVEERS GET 20% RESERVATION IN DELHI GOVERNMENT JOBS

A Big Step Towards Honoring Their Service and Building Their Future



## WHAT IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT?

The Delhi Government has announced **20% reservation** in Group C government jobs for Ex-Agniveers.



This reservation is **over and above** the existing reservation categories.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **20% reservation** in direct recruitment to Group C posts for Ex-Agniveers.
- ✓ Applies to Delhi Government departments, autonomous bodies and PSUs.
- ✓ Reservation will be horizontal and additional (no impact on existing reserved categories).
- ✓ A significant step for the welfare and rehabilitation of Ex-Agniveers.

**20%**  
RESERVATION  
FOR  
EX-AGNIVEERS



## WHO ARE EX-AGNIVEERS?



Ex-Agniveers are those who have completed their engagement period under the Agnipath Scheme in the Indian Armed Forces.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must have served in the Indian Army, Navy or Air Force under the Agnipath Scheme.
- Must have been honorably discharged after completing the engagement period.
- Should meet the age and other eligibility criteria prescribed for the respective posts.



## BENEFITS OF THE DECISION

- ✓ Recognizes the discipline, skills and dedication of Agniveers.
- ✓ Helps in their smooth transition to civilian careers.
- ✓ Strengthens the nation by integrating trained and motivated youth into governance.
- ✓ Supports the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



## ABOUT AGNIPATH SCHEME

- Launched by the Government of India in 2022.
- Introduces Agniveers for a short-term engagement of **4 years**.
- Up to 25% Agniveers can be retained in the Armed Forces.
- Aims to build a young, skilled, disciplined and future-ready armed force.



## IMPACT ON YOUTH & NATION

- ✓ Provides secure career opportunities for Ex-Agniveers.
- ✓ Utilizes their training, leadership and technical skills for national development.
- ✓ Boosts morale of serving personnel and encourages youth to join the Armed Forces.



“Our Ex-Agniveers have served the nation with pride. It is our duty to ensure a respectful and rewarding future for them.”  
– Delhi Government

COMPARISON: EX-AGNIVEERS RESERVATION ACROSS STATES/SECTORS			
State / Organization	Reservation for Ex-Agniveers	Applies To	Status
Delhi	20% in Group C posts	Delhi Govt. Departments, Autonomous Bodies, PSUs	Approved
Haryana	10% in Group C & D posts	State Govt. Jobs	Implemented
Uttar Pradesh	20% in Police Recruitment	UP Police (Constable)	Implemented
Indian Railways	10% in Group C & D posts	Railway Recruitment	Implemented



## WAY FORWARD

- ✓ More states and organizations are expected to follow.
- ✓ Ensure awareness and smooth implementation of the policy.
- ✓ Continuous support for the skill development and resettlement of Ex-Agniveers.



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**FACTION FIGHT**  
Trinamool rebels axe  
Mamata as party chief  
NEWS > PAGE 5

**NUMERO UNO**  
Messi is now  
highest scorer  
in history of  
World Cup  
SPORT > PAGE 16

**CONTROVERSIAL ECONOMIST**  
Former U.S. Fed chief  
Alan Greenspan dies  
BUSINESS > PAGE 12

**INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM**  
A Trojan horse  
in the IITs  
Myth-based inquiries  
finding space in the  
framework of the IITs  
OPINION > PAGE 9

**'TECHNICAL INCIDENT'**  
12 Indians killed in gas  
plant blast in Qatar  
WORLD > PAGE 14

**INSIDE**  
**Ajit Doval hosts his counterparts from the BRICS**  
NEW DELHI  
Developments in West Asia formed the dominant backdrop at National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval's meeting with his counterparts from the BRICS grouping in Delhi for the BRICS 15th meeting. Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation held a detailed meeting with the Chinese side, informed the Embassy of Iran. > PAGE 4

# 15 die in U.P. building fire, victims mostly students

Videos show youth falling from the building in Lucknow onto the roadside; three arrested, State govt. forms SIT to probe incident; PM announces ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for families of the deceased



Rescue efforts: Firefighters try to douse the fire that broke out at the commercial building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. AFP

**Mayank Kumar**  
LUCKNOW  
At least 15 people, mostly students, were killed and five injured in a fire that gutted a three-storey commercial building housing a graphics animation coaching centre, a library, and a pet shop, in the Aligarh area of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.  
Three individuals — Ram Krishna Upadhyay, Vinendra Prasad Shukla, and Tushar Krishna Jaiswal — have been arrested in connection with the incident, the police said. The accused are joint owners of the building, officials said.  
Four officials — Gaurav Kumar, Executive Engineer (Collection), Jankiparam; Kamalendra Kumar Singh, Food Safety and Standards Officer, Indira Nagar; Anil Kumar, Assistant Engineer; and Pramod Pandey, Ju-

nior Engineer — have been suspended over the incident. Witnesses said eight students jumped from the building to escape the blaze. The fire started in a building falling from the first floor next to a roadside railing and local people carrying them away.  
More than four animals were charred to death at the pet shop-cum-veterinary clinic on the ground floor of the building.  
Twelve fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the blaze, which began around 2:30 p.m., was brought under control after three hours, an official from the fire department said.  
**'Started in AC duct'**  
The State's Urban Development and Energy Minister, A. K. Sharma, said preliminary information indicated that the fire had started in the build-

# Keir Starmer says he is resigning as British PM

Speaking outside No. 10 Downing Street on Monday, Mr. Starmer said he has announced his resignation plan on Monday. AFP

United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that he will step down, acknowledging that the Labour's Parliamentary Party does not see him as the best candidate to lead them into the next general election. The party would set out a timetable for the transition, possibly through a contest, so that a new Premier is in place before September.  
Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, who was recently sworn in as an MP, said he will put his name forward for the role of Prime Minister.  
Speaking outside No. 10 Downing Street on Monday, Mr. Starmer said he has announced his resignation plan on Monday. AFP

placed to lead us into the next general election. "I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace," Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister had informed King Charles III of his decision on Monday morning, following a weekend of deliberation at his official country home, Chequers.  
The Labour's decision-making body, the National Executive Committee, would set out a timetable. Mr. Starmer said, with nominations for a new leader opening on July 9, in the case of a contest, the new leader would be in post before the U.K. Parliamentary reconvenes in September, as per Mr. Starmer's agreement with the European Union.

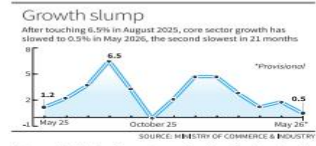
**'Graceful acceptance'**  
"I know the question being asked now is not who was best placed to change the Labour Party to take us in to power and to begin the vital work of improving lives for millions of people. These questions have been answered," Mr. Starmer said, adding, "The question now is whether I am best placed to do that."  
Mr. Starmer said he would run for unchallenged, unless another MP decides to join the race.  
If he runs unchallenged, Mr. Burnham could be sworn in as Prime Minister before the U.K. Parliament goes into recess on July 17.  
**LANDSLIDE TO RESIGNATION**  
> PAGE 14

# Kerala HC admits State's appeal in actor's assault case

ROCHI  
The Kerala High Court on Monday admitted the state government's appeal to enhance the punishment awarded to convicted and challenging the acquittal of the other accused in the actor's assault case of 2017. > PAGE 3

# Core sector growth slows to 0.5%; crude, coal contract

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI  
The growth in India's eight core industrial sectors slowed to 0.5% in May 2026, the second lowest in 21 months, official data showed.  
The data on the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday showed that five out of eight sectors contracted in May 2026.  
The only month in the past 21 months that saw a slower core sector growth was October 2025, when the index contracted 0.3%.  
"Core sector growth in May was disappointing at 0.5% compared with 1.2% last year," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "The lower growth number on a low base can be attributed more to the decline in production from the petroleum-based sector."  
The crude oil sector contracted 4.6% in May, a worse performance than the contraction of 3.9% in April and of 1.8% in May



**Growth slump**  
After touching 6.9% in August 2025, core sector growth has slowed to 0.5% in May 2026, the second lowest in 21 months.  
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The crude oil sector contracted 4.6% in May, a worse performance than the contraction of 3.9% in April and of 1.8% in May

# CBSE students report higher marks after re-evaluation

**Maitri Parecha**  
NEW DELHI  
Several students who had applied for re-evaluation of their CBSE Class 12 answer scripts have reported higher marks after re-evaluation, officials said.  
The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) reported that the re-evaluation process has resulted in higher scores for many students.  
The board said that the re-evaluation process was completed on Monday, and the results were released on Tuesday.  
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# Direct talks with Iran laid a 'good foundation for final deal: Vance

**Agence France Presse**  
BURGENSTOCK  
U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance declared on Monday that a "very good foundation" had been laid for negotiations towards a final deal with Iran, after a marathon session of direct talks in Switzerland, Swiss officials said.  
The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) reported that the re-evaluation process has resulted in higher scores for many students.  
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the week. "We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," Mr. Vance told presspersons at Switzerland's luxury Burgstock resort, adding that "the final deal is the house... We have not built the house, but we have laid the foundation for a successful foundation to get to a good place for the Americans."  
"Encouraging progress has been made including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks," the mediators said, detailing a contact channel for nuclear issues and "miscommunication" in the Strait of Hormuz.  
"Constructive progress" Switzerland said conditions had been set for technical talks to immediately follow, with the two sides at the beginning of a 60-day period to secure a long-term settlement.  
"The Swiss facilitator welcomed the constructive progress made during the intensive diplomatic talks," the Swiss Foreign Ministry said, adding that the road

map agreed during the first round of talks "creates the conditions for the immediate resumption of technical discussions."  
Last week, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding that the mediators said Iran is also set to get some form of sanctions relief from Washington, with some aspects unfrozen.  
A "de-confliction cell" between the parties and the Lebanese authorities has also been agreed to prevent fighting from erupting again, they said.  
**(With Reuters inputs)**  
**SANCTION WEAVER**  
> PAGE 12

# Keir Starmer says he is resigning as British PM

**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that he will step down, acknowledging that the Labour's Parliamentary Party does not see him as the best candidate to lead them into the next general election. The party will set out a timetable for the transition, possibly through a contest, so that a new Premier is in place before September.

Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, who was recently sworn in as an MP, said he will put his name forward for the role of Prime Minister.

Speaking outside No. 10 Downing Street on Monday, Mr. Starmer said he had inherited a Labour Party that was "politically, financially, and morally bankrupt".

He spoke of leading the party in a landslide victory in 2024 and highlighted his record, citing growth in real wages, the fastest economic growth in the G7, reduced wait-times for medical appointments, a ban on social media for under-16s, trade deals, and mending fences with the European Union.

## 'Graceful acceptance'

"I know the question being asked now is not who was best placed to change the Labour Party to take us into power and to begin the vital work of improving lives for millions of people. Those questions have been answered," Mr. Starmer said, adding, "The question my party is asking now is whether I am best



**Exit call:** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announcing his resignation plan on Monday. AFP

placed to lead us into the next general election."

"I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace," Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister had informed King Charles III of his decision on Monday morning, following a weekend of deliberation at his official country home, Chequers.

The Labour's decision-making body, the National Executive Committee, would set out a timetable, Mr. Starmer said, with nominations for a new leader opening on July 9. In the case of a contest, the new leader would be in post before the U.K. Parliament reconvenes in September, as per Mr. Starmer.

Reacting to the news of Mr. Starmer's resignation, Mr. Burnham thanked the Prime Minister and announced he would run for No. 10 Downing Street and for Labour Party leader.

"Keir has given huge service to our country, and I want to thank him for his leadership and dedication during such a challenging period," Mr. Burnham said, adding, "His decision marks the beginning of a transition, and it is impor-

tant that this process is conducted in an orderly and responsible way. I will put myself forward as part of this process," Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham said.

For a man who has been criticised for lacking an emotional connection with voters, Mr. Starmer spoke through tears towards the end of his remarks outside Downing Street when he mentioned his children and his wife, Victoria, who was standing a few feet away. His family would be his focus once he stepped down, Mr. Starmer said, before standing in front of the black door to No. 10 with his wife, not waving this time, but looking crestfallen.

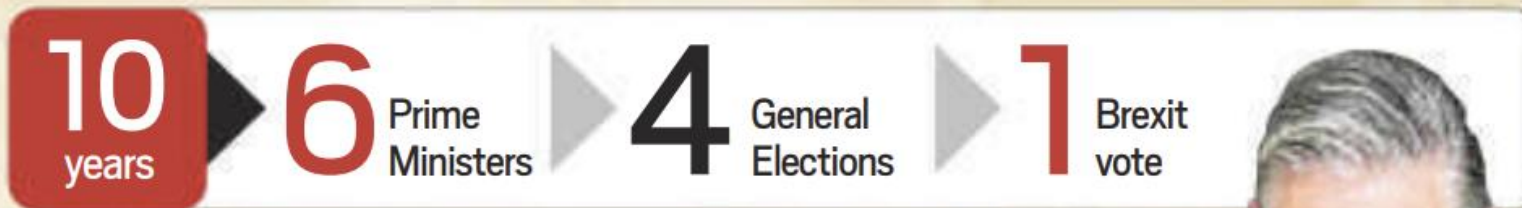
With former Health Secretary Wes Streeting confirming that he would support Mr. Burnham's candidacy, the former Mayor is expected to run unchallenged, unless another MP decides to join the race.

If he runs unchallenged, Mr. Burnham could be sworn in as Prime Minister before the U.K. Parliament goes into recess on July 17.

**LANDSLIDE TO RESIGNATION**  
» PAGE 14

## A DECADE OF CHAOS: FROM BREXIT TO BURNHAM

Ten years after the Brexit vote, political instability remains Britain's defining story. With Keir Starmer set to quit, the UK is poised for its seventh prime minister in a decade



### THE REVOLVING DOOR AT DOWNING STREET



**David Cameron**

2010–2016

Resigned after losing Brexit referendum



**Theresa May**

2016–2019

Brexit deadlock, snap election gamble failed



**Boris Johnson**

2019–2022

"Get Brexit Done", pandemic, scandals forced exit



**Liz Truss**

Sep-Oct 2022

Mini-budget turmoil, lasted just 44 days



**Rishi Sunak**

2022–2024

Restored stability, but lost election



**Keir Starmer**

2024–2026

Welfare U-turns, resignations and internal revolt

**Next PM?**

2016–2019: Brexit deadlock, snap election gamble failed

## LEADERSHIP CRISIS

2016

- ▶ Brexit earthquake
- ▶ UK votes 52%–48% to leave the European Union
- ▶ David Cameron resigns, ending six years in office

2017

- ▶ Theresa May's gamble fails
- ▶ Snap election costs Conservatives their majority
- ▶ Govt survives only with support from Northern Ireland's DUP

2019

- ▶ Brexit paralysis ends May era
- ▶ Theresa May quits after repeated Brexit defeats
- ▶ Boris Johnson takes charge promising to Get Brexit Done
- ▶ Dec 2019: Johnson landslide
- ▶ Conservatives secure biggest victory since 1987

2020

- ▶ Jan 2020: Brexit becomes reality
- ▶ Britain officially leaves the European Union

2022

- ▶ Year of unprecedented turmoil
- ▶ July: Johnson resigns after scandals
- ▶ Sept: Liz Truss unveils unfunded tax cuts, markets panic
- ▶ Oct: Truss quits after just 44 days, the shortest premiership in British history
- ▶ Oct: Rishi Sunak becomes Britain's third PM in three months



## LABOUR'S PROMISE AND ITS TROUBLES

July 2024:

Keir Starmer wins a landslide election promising: "We said we would end the chaos."

## But within two years...

- ▶ Warns of an "economic black hole"
- ▶ Introduces £40-billion tax rises
- ▶ Welfare reforms spark rebellion
- ▶ Reform UK surges to the top of opinion polls
- ▶ Local election defeats weaken authority
- ▶ Senior ministers begin quitting

## FRONT-RUNNERS TO REPLACE STARMER



ANDY BURNHAM

The current Mayor of Greater Manchester, Burnham, is widely regarded as the front-runner to replace Starmer, bolstered by a recent by-election win



WES STREETING

The Health Secretary is also considered a potential candidate, though neither he nor Burnham's camps have officially launched campaigns

**Other contenders:** Other potential figures who may enter the leadership race include Angela Rayner, Jess Phillips, and Ed Miliband



# WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों



**Keir Starmer resigned as UK PM — Labour party lost confidence in him**

*Labour पार्टी ने कीर स्टार्मर में विश्वास खो दिया, UK PM ने इस्तीफा दिया*



**Nominations open July 9; New PM before Parliament recess (July 17)**

*नामांकन 9 जुलाई से; नए PM की शपथ 17 जुलाई संसद अवकाश से पहले*



**Andy Burnham (ex-Manchester Mayor) frontrunner for PM post**

*एंडी बर्नहम (पूर्व मैनचेस्टर मेयर) PM पद के प्रमुख दावेदार*



**Starmer informed King Charles III at Chequers before announcement**

*घोषणा से पहले Chequers में किंग चार्ल्स III को सूचित किया*



**India-UK FTA talks and diaspora policy hang in balance**

*भारत-यूके FTA वार्ता और प्रवासी नीति अधर में*

# KEY PLAYERS & TIMELINE / प्रमुख व्यक्ति और समय-रेखा

1

 2020

Starmer elected Labour leader

स्टार्मर Labour नेता चुने गए

2

 2024

Labour wins landslide election

Labour ने भूस्खलन चुनाव जीता

3

 June 2026

Starmer announces resignation

स्टार्मर ने इस्तीफे की घोषणा की

4

 9 Jul 2026

Leadership nominations open

नेतृत्व नामांकन शुरू

5

 17 Jul 2026

Parliament recess — new PM by then

संसद अवकाश — नए PM तब तक

# MULTI-SUBJECT CONNECTIONS / बहु-विषय संबंध

## History इतिहास

Westminster model evolved from Magna Carta (1215) → Glorious Revolution (1688)  
मैग्ना कार्टा (1215) से Westminster प्रणाली का विकास

## Polity राजव्यवस्था

Constitutional monarchy + Parliamentary democracy; PM from legislature  
संवैधानिक राजतंत्र + संसदीय लोकतंत्र; PM विधानमंडल से

## Env/S&T पर्यावरण/S&T

UK Net Zero 2050; COP26 Glasgow; under-16 social media ban  
यूके नेट जीरो 2050; COP26 ग्लासगो; सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध

## Geography भूगोल

UK — island nation; Chequers in Buckinghamshire; London capital  
यूके — द्वीप राष्ट्र; Chequers — बकिंगहमशायर; लंदन राजधानी

## Economy अर्थव्यवस्था

India-UK FTA ongoing; G7 member; Starmer — fastest G7 growth  
भारत-यूके FTA जारी; G7 सदस्य; G7 में सबसे तेज विकास

## Static GK स्थैतिक GK

P5 UNSC member; G7; Commonwealth HQ London; NATO founder  
UNSC P5; G7; राष्ट्रमंडल HQ लंदन; NATO संस्थापक

# PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE / भूत – वर्तमान – भविष्य

## PAST भूतकाल

- ▶ Labour Party founded 1900 by trade unions  
*Labour पार्टी 1900 में ट्रेड यूनियन द्वारा स्थापित*
- ▶ Starmer elected party leader 2020  
*स्टार्मर 2020 में पार्टी नेता चुने गए*
- ▶ 2024: Historic Labour landslide victory  
*2024: ऐतिहासिक Labour भूस्खलन जीत*
- ▶ Blair (2007), Brown (2010) also resigned under pressure  
*ब्लेयर (2007), ब्राउन (2010) भी दबाव में इस्तीफा दिया*

## PRESENT वर्तमान

- ▶ Starmer resigns; Andy Burnham frontrunner  
*स्टार्मर का इस्तीफा; Andy Burnham प्रमुख दावेदार*
- ▶ NEC to set leadership contest timeline  
*NEC नेतृत्व प्रतियोगिता समय-सारणी तय करेगी*
- ▶ New PM before July 17 Parliament recess  
*17 जुलाई से पहले नए PM की शपथ*
- ▶ Wes Streeting backs Burnham candidacy  
*वेस स्ट्रीटिंग ने Burnham को समर्थन दिया*

## FUTURE भविष्य

- ▶ BEST: Labour wins next election under Burnham  
*सर्वोत्तम: Labour Burnham के नेतृत्व में अगला चुनाव जीते*
- ▶ India-UK FTA finalized with fresh leadership  
*भारत-यूके FTA नए नेतृत्व में अंतिम रूप ले*
- ▶ RISK: Leadership contest could divide Labour  
*जोखिम: नेतृत्व प्रतियोगिता Labour को विभाजित कर सकती है*
- ▶ UK's NATO/G7 role under scrutiny during transition  
*संक्रमण के दौरान NATO/G7 में UK की भूमिका पर नजर*

# IN INDIA ANGLE / भारत का दृष्टिकोण

## India-UK FTA

**Free Trade Agreement talks ongoing since 2022; new PM's trade stance critical for India**

*2022 से FTA वार्ता जारी; नए PM की व्यापार नीति भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण*

## Indian Diaspora

**~1.8 million Indians in UK; visa and immigration policy under new PM**

*~18 लाख भारतीय यूके में; नए PM के तहत वीजा और आव्रजन नीति*

## Education Links

**UK universities attract Indian students; scholarship programmes at stake**

*यूके विश्वविद्यालय भारतीय छात्रों को आकर्षित करते हैं; छात्रवृत्ति कार्यक्रम*

## Defence & Tech

**India-UK defence partnership, AI, fintech cooperation continues**

*भारत-यूके रक्षा साझेदारी, AI, फिनटेक सहयोग जारी*

## G7 & UNSC

**India aspires for UNSC permanent seat; UK's P5 support crucial**

*भारत UNSC स्थायी सीट चाहता है; यूके का P5 समर्थन महत्वपूर्ण*

# EXAM READY: MCQ + Statement MCQ / परीक्षा तैयारी

## STATEMENT-BASED MCQ (UPSC Style):

1. The UK Prime Minister is directly elected by the British public. (FALSE ❌)
2. King Charles III is the constitutional head of the United Kingdom. (TRUE ✅)
3. 10 Downing Street has been PM's official residence since 1735. (TRUE ✅)
4. UK is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. (TRUE ✅)

✅ **CORRECT ANSWER: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only | सही उत्तर: (b) केवल 2, 3 और 4**

## QUICK FACTS FOR PRELIMS:

- Andy Burnham — frontrunner for next UK PM | G7 = 7 nations: USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan
- P5 UNSC: USA, UK, France, Russia, China | Chequers = PM's country home in Buckinghamshire
- Labour NEC sets leadership timeline | Westminster = PM from Parliament, not direct election

# ⚡ 10 QUICK REVISION POINTS / त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

**1** **Starmer resigned — Labour party lost confidence**  
*Labour पार्टी का विश्वास खोने पर स्टार्मर ने इस्तीफा दिया*

**2** **Andy Burnham (ex-Manchester Mayor) — likely next PM**  
*Andy Burnham (पूर्व मैनचेस्टर मेयर) — संभावित अगले PM*

**3** **Leadership nominations open July 9, 2026**  
*नेतृत्व नामांकन 9 जुलाई 2026 से शुरू*

**4** **New PM before Parliament recess — July 17**  
*17 जुलाई संसद अवकाश से पहले नए PM*

**5** **Informed King Charles III at Chequers (Buckinghamshire)**  
*Chequers में किंग चार्ल्स III को सूचित किया*

**6** **NEC = Labour's governing body; sets contest timetable**  
*NEC = Labour की शासी संस्था; प्रतियोगिता समय-सारणी तय करती है*

**7** **Starmer: G7 fastest growth, NHS reforms, EU ties improved**  
*स्टार्मर: G7 सबसे तेज विकास, NHS सुधार, EU संबंध सुधरे*

**8** **India-UK FTA ongoing — new PM's trade stance critical**  
*भारत-यूके FTA जारी — नए PM की व्यापार नीति महत्वपूर्ण*

**9** **UK = P5 UNSC member + G7 + NATO founder + Commonwealth**  
*UK = UNSC P5 + G7 + NATO संस्थापक + राष्ट्रमंडल*

**10** **Westminster: PM accountable to Parliament, NOT directly elected**  
*Westminster: PM संसद को जवाबदेह, सीधे निर्वाचित नहीं*

## Screams, calls, and a wait that never seemed to end

**Press Trust of India  
LUDLOW**

"Mujhe janne do apne bete ke jais (Let me go to my son)," screamed a grief-stricken mother, struggling to break free as relatives of those trapped rushed to the three-storey building in Aligarj here after receiving frantic phone calls from inside the building engulfed in flames.

Outside, anguished families watched helplessly as thick black smoke and flames swallowed the aviation centre where 15 people, most of them students, lost their lives on Monday afternoon.

Even before fire tenders reached the spot, local residents became the first responders. They smashed the building's glass panes, screaming a grief-stricken mother, struggling to break free as relatives of those trapped rushed to the three-storey building in Aligarj here after receiving frantic phone calls from inside the building engulfed in flames. People below quickly spread a mattress-like object to cushion the one of the most harrowing moments was captured in visuals showing a student jumping from an upper floor to escape the flames.

Scenes of anguish and helplessness unfolded outside the building as parents



A woman breaks down at the site of the fire at Aligarj in Lucknow on Monday.

and relatives rushed to the spot after receiving distress calls from their loved ones trapped inside. Some women were seen pleading

league, Aditya Srivastava. "He called me saying 'Chacha A' (ave me), and I rushed to the site," Mr. Mehra said.

Among those who joined the rescue was Naiti Chhabra Ram, who happened to be passing by when he noticed the blaze. Mr. Ram said his professional experience helped him to involve him in the rescue work. He said he helped in the relief operation and saw more than a dozen bodies being brought out from the building, while several people were also rescued.

With police personnel to them enter the building. Dhiraj Mehra reached the site after receiving a frantic call from his col-

labouring buildings also stepped forward to help. People living behind the affected structure supplied water bottles to firefighters engaged in the rescue operation.

As the rescue operation ended, the tragedy moved from the fire site to hospitals and mortuary, where families faced the grim reality of the incident. The bodies of the victims were shifted from the trauma centre at King George's Medical University to the post-mortem house for identification and autopsy. Most of those who lost their lives were young adults.

## Odisha tweaks names; Cuttack is now Katak

**Press Trust of India  
BHUBANESWAR**

Odisha's 'Millennium City' Cuttack will now be spelt as 'Katak' as the State government on Monday changed the English spelling of 64 places - districts, sub-divisions, tehsils, blocks and urban bodies.

The corrections relate solely to the English spelling of the administrative units and shall not be construed as affecting any change in their names," it said. The changes were undertaken to correct the colonial-era "distorted" English spellings.

A notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department said the names were being modified to preserve the linguistic identity of Odisha and to standardise the English spellings of the names in conformity with Oda phonetics.

The corrections relate solely to the English spelling of the administrative units and shall not be construed as affecting any change in their names," it said. The changes were undertaken to correct the colonial-era "distorted" English spellings.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Major-General Anur Baram (left), Director-General, Israel Defence Ministry, on Monday.

## India, Israel discuss expanding defence, industrial relations

**The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI**

India and Israel have discussed ways to further strengthen defence cooperation during the visit of the Major-General Anur Baram (left), the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence, to India on Monday.

Major-General Baram called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and briefed him on Israel's commitment to expanding the scope of bilateral defence cooperation under the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in defence manufacturing, technology, and joint projects.

In a post on X, the Defence Ministry said the meeting underscored the shared commitment of both countries to deepen

defence ties and explore new avenues of cooperation.

**Key pillar**

India and Israel have witnessed significant growth in defence cooperation over the years, both in scope and scale.

Defence remains a key pillar of the bilateral relationship, with both countries collaborating closely in areas such as military technology, defence equipment, and research and development.

Major-General Baram said, "India is a key strategic partner of the State and Israel. This important visit, the result of a lengthy bilateral preparation process, reflects the great importance that India and Israel attach to expanding their growing defence and industrial alliance."

The less so, the depth of the bond between our two nations."

## UAE in talks with India to purchase BrahMos missiles, Akashteer air-defence units

**Reuters  
NEW DELHI**

The Indian government is in talks with the United Arab Emirates to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in West Asia.

The discussions include the potential sale of India's air defence system Akashteer, sources told Reuters.

The UAE has shown interest for a number of our weapon systems, including BrahMos and Akashteer.

The talks between India and UAE are at initial stages and are progressing fast," said an unnamed Indian official.

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles while Akashteer is a fully automated air-defence system developed by the state-run

Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the Indian Army.

The UAE is considering buying defence equipment from India and other sources after the Gulf nation was heavily attacked by Iran during the conflict in West Asia, and as it enhances its ability to respond to emerging threats.

It also needs to protect the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial energy artery for its energy exports.

"A diversified supplier base gives the UAE more strategic autonomy, and

closer ties with India have the added benefit of not antagonising the U.S. as the countries remain allies," said Pearl Pandya, South Asia senior analyst at Arms and Conflict Location and Event Data, a conflict monitoring group.

Before clinching any deal, India would require Russia's approval, as the 2003 ban on arms exports to Israel and corresponding supply and conduct companies despite close trading, close ties with Abu Dhabi.

"The accused persons diverted funds borrowed from the RCFE and RHPF to set up Reliance ADA Group companies, including Reliance ADA Group, Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. and Reliance ADA Group, thereby causing a combined wrongful loss of ₹7,623 crore to the lending banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves and related entities," said the agency.

In the RCFE case, the accused caused a loss of ₹6,097 crore to 13 public sector banks (PSBs) and 10 PSBs lost about ₹3,226 crore in RHPF loans.

Mr. Mody was CEO of RCFE from April 2007 to December 2018, and Mr. Sudhakar served as the ID and CEO of RHPF from October 1, 2016, to March 31, 2022. The CBI alleged Mr. Mody and Mr. Sudhakar approved loans to intermeddle and conduct companies despite close trading, close ties with Abu Dhabi.

"China's Foreign Minister reaffirmed support for Iran's security and territorial integrity, welcomed the improvement of Iran's relations with regional countries and expressed Beijing's willingness to contribute to diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting regional stability," said the Indian Embassy, inferring that the two sides will continue to "maintain close consultations".

The meeting will focus on "non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today". The meeting will include a review of the outcomes of BRICS Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism.

The NSA said the meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing, as well as Iran's readiness to respond to any potential threats.

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# Odisha tweaks names; Cuttack is now Kataka

**Press Trust of India**

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's 'Millennium City' Cuttack will now be spelt as 'Kataka' as the State government on Monday changed the English spelling of 64 places – districts, sub-divisions, tehsils, blocks and urban bodies.

In the same way, Balasore will now be written as 'Balashwar' and Rourkela as 'Raurkela'. Officials clarified that the corrections apply only to English spellings and will not alter the actual names of administrative units.

A notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department said the names were being modified to preserve the linguistic identity of Odisha and to standardise the English spellings of the names in conformity with Odia phonetics.

"The corrections relate solely to the English spellings of the administrative units and shall not be construed as effecting any change in their names," it said. The changes were undertaken to correct the colonial-era "distorted" English spellings.



# WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों



**Odisha changed English spellings of 64 places — districts, tehsils, blocks, urban bodies**

*ओडिशा ने 64 स्थानों की अंग्रेजी वर्तनी बदली — जिले, तहसील, ब्लॉक, शहरी निकाय*



**Cuttack → Kataka | Balasore → Baleshwar | Rourkela → Raurkela**

*कटक → काटका | बालासोर → बालेश्वर | राउरकेला → रौरकेला*



**Aim: Align English spellings with Odia phonetics; preserve linguistic identity**

*उद्देश्य: अंग्रेजी वर्तनी को ओड़िया ध्वनि शास्त्र के अनुरूप बनाना*



**Revenue & Disaster Management Department issued the notification**

*राजस्व एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग ने अधिसूचना जारी की*



**Changes apply only to English spellings, NOT actual Odia names of places**

*परिवर्तन केवल अंग्रेजी वर्तनी में; वास्तविक ओड़िया नाम नहीं बदले*



# KEY NAME CHANGES / प्रमुख नाम परिवर्तन

Old English Spelling पुरानी अंग्रेजी वर्तनी	New English Spelling नई अंग्रेजी वर्तनी	Type / प्रकार
Cuttack	Kataka ✓	District / जिला
Balasore	Baleshwar ✓	District / जिला
Rourkela	Raurkela ✓	Urban Body / शहरी निकाय
<b>Total: 64 places</b>	Aligned with Odia phonetics	Districts+Tehsils+Blocks

⚠ Key Point: These are English spelling corrections only — actual Odia names remain unchanged / केवल अंग्रेजी वर्तनी सुधार; वास्तविक ओड़िया नाम अपरिवर्तित

# MULTI-SUBJECT CONNECTIONS / बहु-विषय संबंध

## History इतिहास

Colonial-era English spellings distorted Odia phonetics; British romanisation legacy  
औपनिवेशिक काल में अंग्रेजी वर्तनी ने ओड़िया ध्वनि शास्त्र को विकृत किया

## Polity राजव्यवस्था

State Govt power to rename; 8th Schedule — Odia is official Indian language  
राज्य सरकार का नामकरण अधिकार; 8वीं अनुसूची — ओड़िया आधिकारिक भाषा

## Economy अर्थव्यवस्था

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) — major industrial hub; name change to Raurkela may impact branding  
राउरकेला स्टील प्लांट — प्रमुख औद्योगिक केंद्र

## Geography भूगोल

Odisha (formerly Orissa): Bay of Bengal coast; Mahanadi River; Cuttack on Mahanadi delta  
ओड़िशा: बंगाल की खाड़ी तट; महानदी; कटक — महानदी डेल्टा पर

## Culture संस्कृति

Linguistic identity preservation; Odia — 6th Classical Language of India (2014)  
भाषाई पहचान संरक्षण; ओड़िया — 2014 में भारत की 6वीं शास्त्रीय भाषा

## Static GK स्थैतिक GK

Odisha capital: Bhubaneswar; Chief Min: Mohan Majhi (BJP); 8th Schedule: 22 languages  
ओड़िशा राजधानी: भुवनेश्वर; CM: मोहन माझी; 8वीं अनुसूची: 22 भाषाएं

# PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE / भूत – वर्तमान – भविष्य

## PAST भूतकाल

- ▶ British colonial rule imposed English romanisation of Indian names  
*ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद ने भारतीय नामों की अंग्रेजी रोमनीकरण थोपी*
- ▶ Post-1947: Many states rename cities (Bombay→Mumbai, Madras→Chennai)  
*1947 के बाद: कई राज्यों ने शहरों का नाम बदला (बंबई→मुंबई, मद्रास→चेन्नई)*
- ▶ 2011: Orissa officially renamed Odisha in English  
*2011: ओडिशा (अंग्रेजी में Orissa से Odisha)*
- ▶ Odia declared 6th Classical Language of India in 2014  
*2014: ओड़िया को 6वीं शास्त्रीय भाषा घोषित*

## PRESENT वर्तमान

- ▶ Odisha renames 64 places to match Odia phonetics  
*ओडिशा ने 64 स्थानों का नाम ओड़िया ध्वनि शास्त्र के अनुसार बदला*
- ▶ Cuttack → Kataka (most prominent)  
*कटक → काटका (सबसे प्रमुख)*
- ▶ Revenue & Disaster Mgmt Dept issued notification  
*राजस्व एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग ने अधिसूचना जारी की*
- ▶ Only English spellings changed; actual names unaffected  
*केवल अंग्रेजी वर्तनी; वास्तविक नाम अपरिवर्तित*

## FUTURE भविष्य

- ▶ More states may follow: linguistic identity movement growing  
*अन्य राज्य अनुसरण कर सकते हैं: भाषाई पहचान आंदोलन बढ़ रहा है*
- ▶ Could influence UN, international org standardisations  
*UN, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठन मानकीकरण प्रभावित हो सकता है*
- ▶ Digital systems (GPS, maps) will need updates  
*GPS, डिजिटल मानचित्रों को अपडेट की आवश्यकता*
- ▶ Boosts Odia language pride; possible more classical language demands  
*ओड़िया भाषा गर्व को बढ़ावा; अधिक शास्त्रीय भाषा मांगें संभव*

# ODISHA AT A GLANCE + STATIC GK / ओडिशा एक नजर में

## Capital

Bhubaneswar (new) | Cuttack (old) / भुवनेश्वर (नई) | कटक (पुरानी)

## Chief Minister

Mohan Majhi (BJP) / मोहन माझी (भाजपा)

## Major Rivers

Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha / महानदी, ब्राह्मणी, बैतरणी, सुवर्णरेखा

## Coastline

~485 km on Bay of Bengal (3rd longest state coastline) / बंगाल की खाड़ी पर ~485 km

## Culture

Odissi dance (classical); Jagannath Temple Puri; Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO) / ओडिसी नृत्य; जगन्नाथ मंदिर; कोणार्क मंदिर

## Language

Odia — 6th Classical Language of India (2014); 8th Schedule / ओड़िया — 6वीं शास्त्रीय भाषा (2014)

## Industry

Raurkela Steel Plant (SAIL); Paradip Port; mineral rich — iron ore, bauxite / राउरकेला स्टील; पारादीप बंदरगाह; लौह अयस्क, बॉक्साइट

## Sports

Odisha hosts Hockey World Cup; Kalinga Stadium / ओडिशा हॉकी विश्व कप का आयोजक

# EXAM READY: MCQ + Statement MCQ / परीक्षा तैयारी

## STATEMENT MCQ (UPSC Style):

1. Odisha changed the actual Odia names of 64 places. (FALSE ❌ — only English spellings changed)
2. Odia was declared a Classical Language of India in 2014. (TRUE ✅)
3. Cuttack is the current capital of Odisha. (FALSE ❌ — Bhubaneswar is the capital)
4. The notification was issued by Revenue & Disaster Management Dept. (TRUE ✅)

✅ **Correct: Statements 2 and 4 only | सही उत्तर: केवल कथन 2 और 4**

## KEY PRELIMS FACTS:

- 64 places renamed | Only English spellings changed | Cuttack → Kataka (Millennium City)
- Odia = 6th Classical Language (2014) | 8th Schedule has 22 languages
- Odisha borders: AP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, WB | Konark = UNESCO heritage

# ⚡ 10 QUICK REVISION POINTS / त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

- 1** Odisha renamed 64 places — English spellings only  
*ओडिशा ने 64 स्थानों की अंग्रेजी वर्तनी बदली*
- 2** Cuttack → Kataka (Millennium City of Odisha)  
*कटक → काटका (ओडिशा का मिलेनियम सिटी)*
- 3** Balasore → Baleshwar | Rourkela → Raurkela  
*बालासोर → बालेश्वर | राउरकेला → रौरकेला*
- 4** Goal: Align English spellings with Odia phonetics  
*लक्ष्य: अंग्रेजी वर्तनी को ओड़िया उच्चारण के अनुसार बनाना*
- 5** Actual names NOT changed — correction of colonial distortions  
*वास्तविक नाम नहीं बदले — औपनिवेशिक विकृतियों का सुधार*

- 6** Revenue & Disaster Mgmt Dept issued notification  
*राजस्व एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग ने अधिसूचना जारी की*
- 7** Odia = 6th Classical Language of India (2014)  
*ओड़िया = भारत की 6वीं शास्त्रीय भाषा (2014)*
- 8** Odisha capital: Bhubaneswar | Old capital: Cuttack/Kataka  
*ओडिशा राजधानी: भुवनेश्वर | पुरानी: कटक/काटका*
- 9** Odia in 8th Schedule; Mahanadi = major river of Odisha  
*ओड़िया 8वीं अनुसूची में; महानदी = ओडिशा की प्रमुख नदी*
- 10** Trend: India decolonizing place names (Mumbai, Chennai, Odisha precedents)  
*भारत में स्थान नामों का उपनिवेशमुक्तिकरण (मुंबई, चेन्नई, ओडिशा)*

IN BRIEF

Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

The Centre has reappointed Tushar Mehta the Solicitor-General of India for a further term of three years from July 1. An order in this regard was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on June 20, an official source said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government's legal representation before the Supreme Court and other constitutional courts. The Centre also reappointed five Additional Solicitors-General - Vikramojit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraaj Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhat - for the Supreme Court for a three-year term.

Around 110 students fall ill after lunch at Indore school

Around 110 children fell ill after consuming food at a private school in Indore, prompting the administration to launch a probe into the matter and seal the kitchen on Monday, said officials. The district administration sealed the kitchen of the school after finding expired food items and other irregularities during an investigation into the suspected food poisoning incident, they said. Additional Magistrate Deepak Chhanhan said children from Classes 1 to 5 had consumed lunch on Saturday, and over 100 of them complained of stomach ache and vomiting. "Currently, no child is hospitalised," the officer said.

Unions write to PM against free trade pact with U.S.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Several organisations of farmers, fish workers, poultry traders, winemakers, and trade unions have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the negotiations with the U.S. for a free trade agreement be immediately stopped as the proposals are against the interests of farmers and workers. They have demanded the suspension of all ongoing FTA negotiations and a comprehensive parliamentary and public review of all FTAs. The unions have also sought full transparency in trade negotiations and protection of India's agriculture, retail trade, workers, and national economy from "corporate-driven" trade deals.

Citing reports that India is close to concluding an interim trade deal that may evolve into a FTA covering all sectors, the organisations urged the Centre to immediately suspend the negotiations to protect livelihoods, food sovereignty, and the national economy. The letter said allowing imports of heavily subsidised U.S. produce would destroy domestic production in affected sectors.

CBSE Class 12 marks rise sharply after re-evaluation

The Board had faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking for the exam; students reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages

Maitri Porecha NEW DELHI

Several students who had applied for re-evaluation of their CBSE Class 12 answer scripts have reported a substantial increase in their scores which were released on Sunday. The Board has faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking (OSM) system in the academic year 2025-26. Students had reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages, and answer scripts for a particular set of questions being assessed against the marking scheme of a different set.



While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday.

While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday. A student from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh had previously received 71 marks in the history paper, but after re-evaluation, his score increased to 90. This was due to an increase in the marks in the theory paper from 41 to 60. The marks

for the practical component remained the same, a family member of the student, who did not wish to be named, said. The Hindu accessed both the new and old scores of the student.

Change in school topper Similarly, at least six students in West Bengal saw a significant revision in their scores in the history paper. One of the students had scored 74 out of 100 in his marks before the re-evaluation, but after re-evaluation, it became 87, said a teacher from the school. "Most students in West Bengal have already completed college admission processes, mostly on basis of old marks. After the CBSE re-evaluation results came in, our school topper has changed. We are still assessing the situation and also expecting students to get substantially higher marks in sociology," the teacher said.

A complete mess. Some answer scripts were not completely scanned and were rejected by evaluators. Teachers in far-flung areas have scanty knowledge of operating computers and they could have found it difficult to evaluate the answer scripts, the evaluator said, requesting anonymity.

A student in Odisha saw an increase of 12 marks in chemistry and five marks in English in the re-evaluation results, while another student in Delhi received an increase of five marks in the history paper.

The CBSE has not released official data on how many students who applied for re-evaluation have seen an increase in their scores.

Phased release "The results of around 87% of candidates who have applied for re-evaluation and/or Verification of Issues observed have been declared. The outcome for the remaining candidates will also be released in phases and the entire process is expected to be completed soon," the CBSE stated in an official release.

Displaced Pandits converge at Kashmir temple in record numbers

Peerzada Ashiq GANDERBAL

Buoyed by the improvement in the security situation, a record number of displaced Kashmiri Pandits converged at the Kheer Bhawani temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Monday.



Displaced Kashmiri Pandits pray during a religious festival at the Kheer Bhawani temple on Monday. IRFAN NISAR

They were welcomed by local Muslims and regional parties, including the ruling National Conference (NC) and opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The Pandits pledged to return every year to continue the tradition.

Over 24 buses ferried the displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the temple over the past few days. Most devotees said the security situation had changed for the better; Kashmir is "free of fear" and "it was possible to travel even at night".

attended to over 10,000 devotees at its Iqbal Day festival on Sunday. "A record number of devotees participated in this year's pilgrimage," said M.K. Yogi, general secretary of the society.

Special puja A special puja was held at the tree lined temple on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashvini. "It's Mata's birthday today. Tulmullah is her seat. She grants all wishes," said Beenu Zutshi, who migrated from Budgam to Jammu after militancy broke out in Kashmir Valley in the 1990s.

For once many of the visiting Pandits were young and travelling to the Valley for the first time. "It's my first visit to Kashmir. I got to meet many relatives whom I haven't met before. It felt like home. We are eager to return to Kashmir and settle here," said 17-year-old Anuja Kaul, who currently lives in Delhi.

The Pandits also visited temples at Anantnag, Kulgam and Kupwara which were out-of-bounds during the militancy.

The upturn in the number of devotees came after the Pahalgam attack in April 2025 cast its shadow on the mela last year. An NC legislator from Devsar, Peerzada Peroze Ahmad, joined the devotees in reciting verses by local poets. Meanwhile, local Muslims, keeping with tradition, set up stalls of religious items at Tulmullah in Ganderbal.

NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, while praising for "the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits", said, "The annual mela is a symbol of Kashmir's age-old tradition of communal harmony and brotherhood. I pray for the restoration of coexistence and strengthening of social bonds among all the communities."

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation

Sreeparna Ghakrabarty NEW DELHI

Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana have been formally handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute under the Union Culture Ministry, for a detailed scientific investigation.



Ancient remains: The skeleton of a woman, excavated in a trench on Mound 7 at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, in April 2022. FILE PHOTO

The transfer, carried out under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, is expected to significantly advance multidisciplinary research into one of the most important urban centres of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation. Sreeparna, Director of AnSI, said,

Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognised as the largest known settlement of the Harappan Civilisation. Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods.

Mound 7 at the excavation site has been identified as a burial plot where skeletons of many individuals, including that of a woman, are roughly 4,600 years old, which created a buzz in the fields of history, anthropology, genomics, and even linguistics.

CBSE frames new policy for students in West Asia

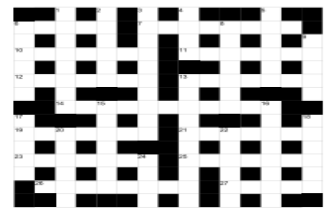
Aaratrika Bhamik NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has framed a fresh policy for evaluating private candidates in West Asia whose results could not be declared due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

A Bench comprising Justices S.J. Bhatti and V.P. M. Pancholi was informed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBSE, that a new policy had been formulated to address the concerns of students affected by the cancellation of examinations.

Mr. Mehta submitted that the policy, notified on Sunday, includes a separate assessment formula for private candidates appearing for the Board examinations. Under the scheme, marks in subjects for which examinations could not be conducted would be computed by assigning a 60% weightage to the theory marks obtained in the Class 10 Board exam and a 60% weightage to those secured in the Class 12 Board exam.

THE CROSSWORD 14827



- ACROSS
6. Hot girl turning reddish brown (5)
7. In general, no shopping centre accepts rupees, yen (10)
10. Yard in burj building - clumsy fellow's death sentence could be pronounced there (4,3)
11. Walk gently to right and meet the Creator - get taken aback! (7)
12. Agree and support one being fired for offence (7)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at https://thehindu.com/crosswords

- 13. Petal furiously to reach a gallery finally - it doesn't come around often (4,3)
14. After party, bulk ice melted around from half of quad very fast (6-5)
15. Hot sauce is reviving and bland (7)
21. Beneficiary's story buried in gets a cable carrying energy close to home (7)
23. Swimming waterhole - a lake draining towards which place (7)
25. Settler's facing same-old deadfall (7)
26. King hiding in some old, rundown hut sheltering with gratitude (5,3)
27. Genetically modified organism fitted with independent unknown device (5)
DOWN
1. Radical infiltrating worker association along with journalist's not smooth (8)
2. Graduate gets little of meal, majority of liquor and grass (8)
3. New drone buggy to carry oil, ice, & shorts (10)
4. Urges support when Putin's not over by Dutch (4)
5. Federal organization banned English trouser style work (8)
6. Terrible fellow chasing her one with force (6)
8. Media, finally following American soldier who captured Chinese and another Asian (7)
9. Without hint of fuss, FDA banned transporting deathly chemical group (5)
13. Brief noise from duck in oil soup at sea, initially plaintive, disappearing, becoming chattering (10)
15. Youngster chasing referee's relatively large (7)
16. Big kitchen - cook staying one end for fiddlers (4,4)
17. Opinions compete with science, basically (5)
18. Differer train wrote translation while off work (8)
22. Look at the storm (6)
22. Attack independent politician with gun snappily (6)
24. Black animal going around American city (6)

SUDOKU

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
5 8 3 2 9
2 8 8 4 3
2 8 8 4 3
1 4 5 1 9 3 7
1 4 5 1 9 3 7

Solution to previous puzzle
6 5 1 8 4 9 7 2 3
4 8 9 7 3 6 1 5
1 9 4 7 6 8 2
8 3 9 2 5 4 7 1
6 2 8 3 7 1 5 4
3 2 7 8 4 1 6 9
9 4 6 3 7 1 5 8 2

FAITH

Kulasekhara shows the way

Like other Azhwars, Kulasekhara Azhwar too had mystic experience of Perumal, said Dharma Perundevi. In his work Perumal Tirumozhi, while singing the glory of the archa deity of Tirumala, he tells the deity Srinivasa that he seeks only one boon from Him. The verse is a pointer to devotees on how to reach Srinivasa, a fount of mercy. Kulasekhara prays that having been born as a human, in the event of a rebirth, he should be born as a river in Tirumala so that he could remain in His hills forever. When Srinivasa agrees, the poet, realising that riversbeds can go dry, asks to be reborn as a fish. Perumal points out that if riversbeds dry up, the fish will not survive. The Azhwar seeks to be reborn as a champa flower and Srinivasa agrees. The saint devotee, realising that a wandering devotee could pluck the flower and travel away, he changes his mind again (a human trait) and wants to be born a priest. When Srinivasa patiently agrees to that, Kulasekhara backtracks, saying, a temple priest's tenure would end once he attained a certain age, preventing him from being in His service in the temple; therefore, such a birth is not an option for him. He then asks Srinivasa to make him the final step to the sanctum sanctorum of Srinivasa, from where he could gaze upon his idol round the clock, with none hindering his view of Perumal. Then he wonders if someone else would cast the step in gold and order his view! 'What does the saint really want?' Kulasekhara only wants to be in the presence of Perumal always, knowing that he would take care of those who surrender to Him. The saint says "I leave the choice to you, but keep me in Tirumala in any form, in any birth."



## Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

The Centre has reappointed Tushar Mehta the Solicitor-General of India for a further term of three years from July 1. An order in this regard was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on June 20, an official source said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government's legal representation before the Supreme Court and other constitutional courts. The Centre also reappointed five Additional Solicitors-General – Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati – for the Supreme Court for a three-year term.

## Attorney-General of India

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Aspect	Details
Constitutional Provision	<b>Article 76</b> of the Constitution of India
Status	Highest Law Officer of India
Nature	Constitutional Post
Appointing Authority	President of India
Qualification	Must be qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court
Current Attorney General (2026)	R. Venkataramani
Tenure	Holds office during the pleasure of the President
Salary	No fixed salary; paid retainer fee and appearance fees
Resignation	Submits resignation to the President
Removal	Can be removed by the President at any time
Rank	1st (Highest Law Officer of India)

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## Rights and Privileges

Right	Available?
Participate in Lok Sabha	Yes
Participate in Rajya Sabha	Yes
Participate in Parliamentary Committees	Yes
Voting Right in Parliament	No
Right of Audience in Courts	Yes, in all courts of India

## Restrictions

Restriction	Details
Against Government	Cannot advise or appear against Government of India
Criminal Defence	Cannot defend accused persons in criminal cases without Government permission
Company Directorship	Cannot hold directorships without Government approval

## Attorney General vs Solicitor General

Feature	Attorney General	Solicitor General
Constitutional Status	Constitutional (Art. 76)	Non-Constitutional
Rank	Highest Law Officer	Second Highest Law Officer
Appointment	President	Government/ACC
Parliamentary Rights	Can participate (No Vote)	No Parliamentary Rights
Mentioned in Constitution	Yes	No

## Important Articles for Exams

Article	Subject
Article 76	Attorney-General of India
Article 88	Right to participate in Parliamentary proceedings
Article 143	Presidential Reference to Supreme Court

## Major Appointments Approved by ACC

Category	Examples
Top Bureaucrats	Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary
Central Services	Secretaries to Government of India
Public Sector	CMDs and CEOs of major CPSEs
Regulatory Bodies	Certain senior appointments in statutory/regulatory organizations
Law Officers	Solicitor General and Additional Solicitors General (government appointments)
Intelligence & Security	Senior appointments in key security organizations

## Composition of Cabinet Committees

Committee	Chairperson
Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)	Prime Minister
Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)	Prime Minister
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)	Prime Minister
Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA)	Prime Minister



# WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों



**Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor-General of India for 3 years from July 1, 2026**

*तुषार मेहता को 1 जुलाई 2026 से 3 साल के लिए भारत के सॉलिसिटर-जनरल के रूप में पुनर्नियुक्त*



**Order issued by DoPT (Dept of Personnel & Training) on June 20, 2026**

*DoPT (कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग) ने 20 जून 2026 को आदेश जारी किया*



**Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the reappointment**

*मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति (ACC) ने पुनर्नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दी*



**5 Additional Solicitors-General also reappointed for 3 years for Supreme Court**

*5 अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर-जनरल भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के लिए 3 साल के लिए पुनर्नियुक्त*



**Ensures continuity in government's legal representation before SC and constitutional courts**

*SC और संवैधानिक न्यायालयों में सरकार के कानूनी प्रतिनिधित्व में निरंतरता सुनिश्चित*



# GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL TEAM IN SUPREME COURT / सरकार की कानूनी टीम

## Attorney-General of India (AG)

*भारत के महान्यायवादी*

Highest law officer; advises Govt; Art. 76; right of audience in all courts

## Solicitor-General of India (SG)


*भारत के सॉलिसिटर-जनरल (Tushar Mehta)*

2nd highest law officer; assists AG; represents Govt in SC

## Additional Solicitors-General (ASG)

*अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर-जनरल (5 reappointed)*

Banerjee, Nataraj, Suryaprakash, Venkataraman, Aishwarya Bhati

 Article 76: President appoints AG; AG holds office during President's pleasure / अनुच्छेद 76: राष्ट्रपति AG की नियुक्ति; AG राष्ट्रपति की इच्छापर्यंत पद पर

# MULTI-SUBJECT CONNECTIONS / बहु-विषय संबंध

## Polity

### राजव्यवस्था

Art 76: AG — highest law officer; Art 88: AG can speak in Parliament; SG not in Constitution

अनुच्छेद 76: AG; अनुच्छेद 88: AG संसद में बोल सकते हैं; SG संविधान में नहीं

## Polity

### संस्थागत

DoPT: Under PM's Office; handles civil services, personnel matters

DoPT: PMO के अंतर्गत; सिविल सेवाएं और कार्मिक मामले संभालता है

## Economy

### अर्थव्यवस्था

SG handles tax cases, economic policy disputes, contract cases before SC

SG सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कर मामले, आर्थिक नीति विवाद, अनुबंध मामले संभालते हैं

## Judiciary

### न्यायपालिका

Supreme Court of India: Art 124-147; CJI + 37 judges; SG represents Union Govt

सुप्रीम कोर्ट: अनुच्छेद 124-147; CJI + 33 न्यायाधीश; SG केंद्र सरकार का प्रतिनिधित्व

## History

### इतिहास

Office of SG created post-Independence; evolved from British Crown Counsel system

SG का पद स्वतंत्रता के बाद बनाया गया; ब्रिटिश क्राउन काउंसिल प्रणाली से विकसित

## Static GK

### स्थैतिक GK

Current AG: R. Venkataramani | DoPT HQ: New Delhi | ACC: PM + Home Minister

वर्तमान AG: R. वैकटरमणी | DoPT HQ: नई दिल्ली | ACC: PM + गृह मंत्री

# PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE / भूत – वर्तमान – भविष्य

## PAST भूतकाल

- ▶ Office of Solicitor-General created post-1947  
*SG का पद 1947 के बाद स्थापित*
- ▶ SG's role grew as litigation involving Govt increased  
*सरकारी मुकदमेबाजी बढ़ने के साथ SG की भूमिका बढ़ी*
- ▶ Tushar Mehta first appointed SG in 2018  
*तुषार मेहता पहली बार 2018 में SG नियुक्त*
- ▶ Key cases: Art 370 abrogation, Electoral Bonds argued by SG  
*अनुच्छेद 370 निरसन, इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड – SG द्वारा लड़े गए मामले*

## PRESENT वर्तमान

- ▶ Reappointed for 3 more years from July 1, 2026  
*1 जुलाई 2026 से 3 और वर्षों के लिए पुनर्नियुक्त*
- ▶ DoPT issued order on June 20, 2026  
*DoPT ने 20 जून 2026 को आदेश जारी किया*
- ▶ 5 ASGs also reappointed for SC: Banerjee, Nataraj, Raju, Venkataraman, Bhati  
*SC के लिए 5 ASG भी पुनर्नियुक्त*
- ▶ Ensures Govt legal continuity in sensitive constitutional cases  
*संवेदनशील संवैधानिक मामलों में सरकारी कानूनी निरंतरता*

## FUTURE भविष्य

- ▶ SG will argue major pending cases: NRC, electoral reforms, RTI amendments  
*SG लंबित प्रमुख मामले लड़ेंगे: NRC, चुनाव सुधार, RTI संशोधन*
- ▶ Term ends ~July 2029 — significant policy cases expected  
*कार्यकाल ~ जुलाई 2029 समाप्त – महत्वपूर्ण नीतिगत मामले अपेक्षित*
- ▶ Role crucial if India pursues UNSC reform (legal frameworks)  
*UNSC सुधार के लिए कानूनी ढांचे में भूमिका*
- ▶ Increasing Govt litigation makes SG role ever more important  
*बढ़ती सरकारी मुकदमेबाजी SG की भूमिका को अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बनाती है*



# CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL FRAMEWORK / संवैधानिक ढांचा

Art 76

## Attorney-General of India

AG of India: Constitutional post; advises Govt; right of audience in all courts  
भारत के AG: संवैधानिक पद; अनुच्छेद 88 के तहत संसद में बोलने का अधिकार

DoPT

## Dept. of Personnel & Training

Issues appointment orders for law officers; Under PM's portfolio  
कानून अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति आदेश जारी करता है; PM के विभाग के अंतर्गत

Stat.

## Solicitor-General of India

SG: Statutory (not constitutional); 2nd law officer; represents Union in SC & High Courts  
SG: सांविधिक पद (संवैधानिक नहीं); सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केंद्र का प्रतिनिधित्व

ACC

## Appointments Committee of Cabinet

PM + Home Minister; approves senior Govt appointments  
PM + गृह मंत्री; वरिष्ठ सरकारी नियुक्तियाँ मंजूर करती है

# EXAM READY: MCQ + Statement MCQ / परीक्षा तैयारी

## STATEMENT MCQ (UPSC Style):

1. The Solicitor-General of India is a constitutional post under Article 76. (FALSE ❌ — AG is Art 76, not SG)
2. DoPT issues appointment orders for the Solicitor-General. (TRUE ✅)
3. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet includes PM and Home Minister. (TRUE ✅)
4. Tushar Mehta was reappointed for 3 years from July 1, 2026. (TRUE ✅)

✅ Correct: Statements 2, 3 and 4 only | सही उत्तर: केवल कथन 2, 3 और 4

## KEY PRELIMS FACTS:

- AG = Art 76 (Constitutional) | SG = Statutory (not in Constitution) | AG can address Parliament
- DoPT is under PM's portfolio | ACC = PM + Home Minister | SG: 2nd highest law officer
- 5 ASGs reappointed: Banerjee, Nataraj, Raju, Venkataraman, Aishwarya Bhati

# ⚡ 10 QUICK REVISION POINTS / त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

1

तुषार मेहता 1 जुलाई 2026 से 3 साल के लिए पुनर्नियुक्त SG

2

DoPT ने 20 जून 2026 को आदेश जारी किया

3

मंत्रिमंडल की ACC ने मंजूरी दी: PM + गृह मंत्री

4

SG = दूसरा सर्वोच्च कानून अधिकारी; सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केंद्र का प्रतिनिधित्व

5

AG = संवैधानिक (अनुच्छेद 76) | SG = सांविधिक (संविधान में नहीं)

6

5 ASG पुनर्नियुक्त: बनर्जी, नटराज, राजू, वेंकटरमण, भाटी

7

DoPT: PMO के तहत; सिविल सेवाएं और कार्मिक मामले

8

अनुच्छेद 88: AG संसद के दोनों सदनों में बोल सकते हैं (मत नहीं)

9

वर्तमान भारत के महान्यायवादी: R. वेंकटरमणी (2022 में नियुक्त)

10

AG राष्ट्रपति की इच्छापर्यंत पद पर (अनुच्छेद 76)

## IN BRIEF



### Ambuja Cements, UK's Leilac to partner for Kutch project

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cements on Monday announced it had signed an agreement with U.K.'s Leilac to collaborate on a low-carbon cement project in Gujarat's Kutch district. Ambuja Cements said the demonstration project would evaluate "the integration of Leilac's carbon capture and hybrid electric heating technology to support lower-emission cement production through greater use of renewable electricity and the capture of unavoidable process carbon dioxide". If successful, the company stated, the project would be scaled by seven to eight times to capture "more than one million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually".

### Kharola returns to Air India as executive advisor

Pradeep Singh Kharola, who served as Air India's Chairman and Managing Director before the airline's privatisation, has returned to the carrier as executive advisor to the chairman with immediate effect. Mr. Kharola, a former Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and a veteran civil servant, will work closely with Air India Chairman N. Chandrababu Naidu and the airline's leadership team. Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said Mr. Kharola's experience would be critical as the airline prepares for a leadership transition. "With my tenure in its final months, his experience will be invaluable in ensuring a smooth leadership transition to a new CEO," Mr. Wilson said.

## Global economic landscape remains fragile: RBI Bulletin

'Breakdown of Iran-U.S. peace deal may reignite material risks: Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals'

Lalaxend Mishra  
MUMBAI

The uncertainties concerning the U.S.-Iran peace agreement could have impact on the outlook through international trade, cost pressures, capital flows and commodity prices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials said in the June edition of the RBI Bulletin which was released on Monday.

The global economic landscape remains fragile despite some respite gained through the interim U.S.-Iran peace agreement, they said to the State of Economy chapter. "Any breakdown of the agreement may reignite material risks in terms of inflationary expectations, disrupted critical energy infrastructure, delayed investment spending, food security concerns, adverse financial stability outlook and structurally lower growth," they warned. "As an outcome of the West Asia conflict, the Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals relative to many other countries to sustain the shock."



Shack also bears: Surge in international crude prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers. G. NAO

"India maintained a consistently high growth, anchored inflation expectations, sustained fiscal consolidation, manageable current account balance and foreign exchange buffers over the previous few years which adds to its strength vis-à-vis similar other events in the past," they emphasised. An adverse south-west monsoon, if materialised, may weigh on the domestic growth-inflation outlook, they stated. As an outcome of the West Asia conflict, the headline inflation inched up sequentially to 3.9% YoY in May 2026 from 3.5% in the preceding month driven by broad-based in-

creases in all the three categories – food and beverages, fuel and core components. "Rise in inflation of food and beverages was across classes/sub-classes, barring pulses. CPI fuel inflation also increased significantly over the previous month on account of rise in retail prices of petrol, diesel and CNG, the officials said. Surge in international prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers through upward revisions in prices of petrol and diesel in four tranches in May with cumulative increases of around 7.5 per litre and 7.6 per litre, respectively.

## Net FDI jumped to \$6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years

T. C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

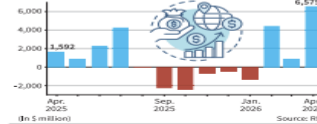
Net FDI rose to \$6.6 billion in April 2026, its highest level in nearly five years, driven by a 65% surge in gross inflows, an analysis of official data shows. In other words, the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Monday shows that the total amount of direct investments that entered the country in April 2026 exceeded the amount leaving it by \$6.6 billion. The corresponding figure in March 2026 was \$917 million. April's net FDI figure was the highest since May 2021.

The surge in gross inflows even overshadowed the fact that outward FDI by Indian companies also rose to a historic high in April 2026.

Nevertheless, the data for April marks a significant turnaround from just a few months ago, since net FDI had been negative for six consecutive months up to February 2026. As regards April 2026, or the total amount of direct investment that entered

### Net positive

Net FDI rose sharply in April 2026 due to a surge in gross inflows



the country that month, surged to \$15.3 billion – the highest since at least March 2021, the earliest month for which data is easily available.

This figure was 65% higher than in April last year – an 83% higher than in March 2026.

To further put this figure into context, the gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than 16% of the amount that came in the entire financial year 2025-26.

"Source wise, more than 75% of the FDI flows came from Japan, Singa-

pore and Mauritius," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin report.

**Slower outflow growth**  
Gross outflows rose, too, but at a significantly slower pace, to \$8.7 billion in April 2026 from \$7.7 billion in April last year – a growth of 13.7%. Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly 42% in April 2026 to \$4.8 billion, the highest level since at least March 2021.

"As regards outward FDI, around 80% of the flows were directed to U.S. and the Cayman Islands," the RBI said.

## Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100

Reuters

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for severe financial crisis that followed barely two years later, died on Monday aged 100, his wife said.

Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the U.S. economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's disease, his daughter, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.

"He was a giant of a man who helped shape the



Alan Greenspan

U.S. economy for decades under presidents of both parties, but was always honest in acknowledging his mistakes," Ms. Mitchell said.

"He will be remembered for his brilliance and his kindness. Being his

partner was the joy of my life," she added.

Mr. Greenspan oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in U.S. history, an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001. His decision to let economic growth run – despite pressure to raise interest rates against an inflation threat that never materialised – helped foster years of U.S. prosperity and earned him rock star status as an economic "maestro." The era was marked by his presidential argument that a productivity surge in the mid-1990s would keep inflation contained.

## U.S. waives sanctions on Iranian oil, ships

M. Kalyanaraman  
CHENNAI

With the peace process moving ahead after an inter-transaction, the U.S. Treasury Department has issued a waiver that waives all sanctions for a period of 60 days ending August 2, 2026, related to the production, sale, delivery and offloading of Iranian crude oil as well as petroleum products. The waiver includes

The waiver covers financial transactions on ship operations. R.IL

transactions involving vessels that were earlier sanctioned, as per as Treasury Department notification.

waiver covers financial transactions related to ship operations such as bunkering, piloting and so on.

The waiver permits the import of Iranian crude, petroleum and petrochemical products to the U.S. and allows payments to be made if they are in U.S. dollar-denominated funds.

Prashant Vashiari, Senior Vice President, and Co-Group Head Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd.,

commented on why this waiver is significant. "Iranian crude including in Iran crude trade by India,

"Iranian crude was historically available with a credit period of 60-90 days as against 30 days of other crude producers which has been beneficial for refiners due to lower working capital requirements besides which geographical proximity to India would benefit Indian refiners."

## cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief

Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform said in a post marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

WhatsApp parent Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, will invest \$900 million (about 78,550 crore) in Cred as part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with ESOP buybacks. As Cred's CEO, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive Mitens Sampat. Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base of over 100 million covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting affluent Indians. "Meta's \$900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

"Meta will be a passive financial investor with no access to customer data." While WhatsApp has more than three billion users globally, a plurality in India, the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's

Kunal Shah

where Mr. Shah comes in. In a statement, he indicated his role would be to move the platform to that stage. "While the app has come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive," he said. Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and takes vocal positions on app's growth to a user base of over 100 million covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting affluent Indians. "Meta's \$900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as Palsabuck, focused on cashbacks in 2009 and FreeCharge, a mobile wallet acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. He was an angel investor on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's

## Customers favour cashless health insurance claims

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

A nationwide study on health insurance claims experience, in which nearly 2,300 people participated, shows while the system is functional the complexity of the process and the gaps across claim mode, region and hospitalisation frequency call for meaningful improvements.

cashless claim route, compared to reimbursement, remains the easier route for customers. Reduced upfront burden, simpler paperwork, message by network hospitals and faster approvals are some of the advantages of the cashless mode.

Reimbursement mode is far more effort-heavy journey" and require the insurance aggregator to assist such customers in terms of payments, documentation, follows ups and settlement.

76% borrowed As many as 76% of the reimbursement claimants, as opposed to 68% of those who participated in the study last year, said they borrowed funds during the treatment. Many claimants who opt for reimbursement when cashless mode is unavailable, with stakes in firm as credit discharge after the hospi-



Customers cited faster approvals and access to network hospitals.

talisation. "This becomes even more stressful when customers must arrange funds upfront," the findings of the study conducted as part of the Health Claims Experience (HCX) Index launched by Policybazaar showed.

Sharing the report, the insurance aggregator said India's positive health insurance claims experience is being driven by those who opted for cashless.

Such customers cited ease of paperwork, faster approvals and access to network hospitals as key drivers of satisfaction. Policybazaar said on the "Is India Happy with Health Insurance Claims? 2.0" consumer study findings. Seven in ten respondents underwent cashless treatment, with one claims recording an HCX score of 86.7, higher than

## Japanese firm JAMCO launches Centre of Excellence in Pune

Jagriti Chandra  
PUNE

Tokyo-headquartered aircraft interiors company JAMCO India today launched its Centre of Excellence in Pune, committing \$100 million to expand its India workforce to 6,000 by 2030. The centre is the country's first of its kind, built to cater to the growing hub, while also being designed to attract investments from Indian suppliers.

"We are looking at digital technology being deployed in aircraft interiors. India becomes a design centre for our laboratory projects," said JAMCO's Managing Director, JAMCO Interiors.

JAMCO will also see a similar centre being inaugurated in Hyderabad this week. A design centre in India would mean backing engineering expertise which sends out simple design work to the country, ensuring customers clearly understand claim decisions and have access to key information in the process."

Among recommendations, the study said health insurers are introduction of a single, unified reform and shifting the responsibility of submitting claims and discharge formalities from patient to the provider.

## NMDC picks RVNL to set up ₹3,000 cr. blending yard

N. Ravi Kumar  
HYDERABAD

State-owned miner NMDC, as part of its plans to launch blended iron ore has selected Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) to establish a nearly ₹3,000 crore blending yard in Visakhapatnam.

A letter of award of contract, from NMDC, for setting up a buffer stockpile and blending yard with a capacity to handle 10 MTPA in Vizag, A.P., has been received, RVNL said. It is a ₹2,977 crore contract and 42 months is by when the contract is to be executed. NMDC said last week in a filing.

The award of the contract comes on the heels of NMDC announcing its intent to become the largest company in India to sell branded iron ore or the commodity with fixed quality specifications. The blended product increases blast furnace efficiency substantially and for the producer commands a premium in the market.

The Board has already sanctioned around ₹3,000 crore investment for establishing a blending yard in Visakhapatnam where NMDC will make blended iron ore of a consistent quality which India has never seen.

# Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief

**Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

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WhatsApp parent Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, will invest \$900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as a part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with ESOP buybacks. As Cred's CEO, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive Miten Sampat, Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base that covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting the most affluent Indians. "Meta's \$900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

"Meta will be a passive financial investor with no access to customer data." While WhatsApp has more than three billion users globally, a plurality in India, the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's



Kunal Shah

where Mr. Shah comes in. In a statement, he indicated his role would be to move the platform to that stage. "While [the app has] come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive," he said. Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and taken vocal positions on app's commitment to end-to-end encryption and held spyware makers who target the application accountable, will stay at Meta in other roles, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said.

Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as PaisaBack, focused on cashbacks in 2009 and FreeCharge, a mobile wallet acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. He was an angel investor on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had taken stakes in firms across the fintech ecosystem.



# WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों



**Kunal Shah (Cred founder) named as head of WhatsApp — world's largest messaging platform (3B+ users)**

*Cred संस्थापक कुणाल शाह WhatsApp के प्रमुख बने — विश्व का सबसे बड़ा मैसेजिंग प्लेटफॉर्म (3 अरब+ उपयोगकर्ता)*



**Meta will invest \$900 million (~₹8,550 crore) in Cred as part of this deal**

*Meta इस सौदे के तहत Cred में \$900 मिलियन (~₹8,550 करोड़) निवेश करेगी*

IN

**First Indian entrepreneur to lead a global social media/tech platform at Meta**

*Meta में वैश्विक सोशल मीडिया/टेक प्लेटफॉर्म का नेतृत्व करने वाले पहले भारतीय उद्यमी*



**Will Cathcart (led WhatsApp 7 years) stays at Meta in other roles; Miten Sampat is interim Cred CEO**

*Will Cathcart (7 साल WhatsApp प्रमुख) अन्य भूमिकाओं में Meta में रहेंगे; Miten Sampat अंतरिम Cred CEO*



**WhatsApp has 3B+ global users; India = single largest market; yet to fully monetize in India**

*WhatsApp के 3 अरब+ वैश्विक उपयोगकर्ता; भारत = सबसे बड़ा बाजार; भारत में मुद्रिकरण अभी बाकी*



# KUNAL SHAH PROFILE + KEY NUMBERS / कुणाल शाह प्रोफाइल

**\$900M**

Meta investment in Cred  
Meta का Cred में निवेश

**₹8,550Cr**

Indian rupee equivalent  
भारतीय रुपये में

**3B+**

WhatsApp global users  
WhatsApp वैश्विक उपयोगकर्ता

**7 Yrs**

Will Cathcart led WhatsApp  
Will Cathcart ने WhatsApp चलाया



## KUNAL SHAH'S JOURNEY / कुणाल शाह की यात्रा:

**2009**

Founded PaisaBack — cashback startup  
पेसाबैक की स्थापना — कैशबैक स्टार्टअप

**2015**

Founded FreeCharge — mobile wallet; acquired by Snapdeal  
FreeCharge — मोबाइल वॉलेट; Snapdeal ने अधिग्रहण किया

**2018**

Founded Cred — credit card rewards platform; 1/3rd India's CC bill payments  
Cred की स्थापना — क्रेडिट कार्ड रिवॉर्ड; भारत के 1/3 CC बिल भुगतान

**2026**

Named WhatsApp Chief by Meta + Meta invests \$900M in Cred  
Meta द्वारा WhatsApp प्रमुख नियुक्त + Meta ने Cred में \$900M निवेश किया



# MULTI-SUBJECT CONNECTIONS / बहु-विषय संबंध



**S&T**

## विज्ञान-प्रौद्योगिकी

WhatsApp: end-to-end encryption (E2EE); Meta owns Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp  
E2EE; Meta = Facebook + Instagram + WhatsApp का स्वामी



**IR**

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध

US-India tech ties; Indian diaspora leadership in global tech (Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella)  
US-भारत तकनीकी संबंध; वैश्विक तकनीक में भारतीय नेतृत्व



**Economy-2**

## अर्थव्यवस्था-2

Cred: B2C fintech; Credit card payment aggregator; 'affluent Indian' market  
Cred: B2C फिनटेक; क्रेडिट कार्ड पेमेंट एग्रीगेटर; 'संपन्न भारतीय' बाजार



**Economy**

## अर्थव्यवस्था

\$900M FDI into Cred; ESOP buybacks; India's fintech ecosystem growth  
\$900M FDI; ESOP बायबैक; भारत का फिनटेक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र



**Polity**

## राजव्यवस्था

Data protection: DPDP Act 2023; WhatsApp India privacy disputes; IT Act 2000  
डेटा संरक्षण: DPDP अधिनियम 2023; WhatsApp गोपनीयता विवाद; IT अधिनियम



**Static GK**

## स्थैतिक GK

Meta HQ: Menlo Park, CA, USA | CEO: Mark Zuckerberg | Founded: 2004 (as Facebook)  
Meta HQ: मेनलो पार्क, CA, USA | CEO: Mark Zuckerberg | स्थापना: 2004

# PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE / भूत – वर्तमान – भविष्य

## PAST भूतकाल

- ▶ WhatsApp founded 2009 by Jan Koum & Brian Acton  
*WhatsApp 2009 में Jan Koum और Brian Acton द्वारा स्थापित*
- ▶ Meta (Facebook) acquired WhatsApp for \$19B in 2014  
*Meta ने 2014 में \$19 अरब में WhatsApp खरीदा*
- ▶ India's fintech boom: UPI (2016) transformed payments  
*भारत का फिनटेक बूम: UPI (2016) ने भुगतान बदला*
- ▶ Cred launched 2018; FreeCharge (2015) early Indian fintech  
*Cred 2018 में लॉन्च; FreeCharge (2015) — प्रारंभिक भारतीय फिनटेक*

## PRESENT वर्तमान

- ▶ Kunal Shah named WhatsApp Chief (2026)  
*कुणाल शाह WhatsApp के प्रमुख नियुक्त (2026)*
- ▶ Meta invests \$900M in Cred; ESOP buybacks enabled  
*Meta ने Cred में \$900 मिलियन निवेश; ESOP बायबैक सक्षम*
- ▶ Will Cathcart stays at Meta in other roles  
*Will Cathcart अन्य भूमिकाओं में Meta में रहेंगे*
- ▶ Miten Sampat serves as interim Cred CEO  
*Miten Sampat अंतरिम Cred CEO*

## FUTURE भविष्य

- ▶ WhatsApp monetization in India — payments, business messaging  
*भारत में WhatsApp मुद्राकरण — भुगतान, व्यावसायिक संदेश*
- ▶ Cred moving toward public listing (IPO ambitions)  
*Cred सार्वजनिक लिस्टिंग (IPO) की ओर अग्रसर*
- ▶ India as global fintech hub — UPI + WhatsApp synergy  
*भारत वैश्विक फिनटेक हब — UPI + WhatsApp तालमेल*
- ▶ DPDP Act 2023 compliance: WhatsApp data governance test  
*DPDP अधिनियम 2023: WhatsApp डेटा प्रशासन परीक्षण*

# IN INDIA ANGLE: Fintech + Digital Economy / भारत का दृष्टिकोण

## Digital India

WhatsApp India is the world's single largest user base — strategic importance  
WhatsApp भारत — विश्व का सबसे बड़ा एकल उपयोगकर्ता आधार — रणनीतिक महत्व

## UPI + WhatsApp

WhatsApp Pay (NPCI-backed) competes with PhonePe, GPay — Kunal Shah can scale this  
WhatsApp Pay (NPCI समर्थित) PhonePe, GPay से प्रतिस्पर्धा — कुणाल शाह इसे बढ़ा सकते हैं

## DPDP Act 2023

Digital Personal Data Protection Act: WhatsApp must comply with data localisation  
डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम: WhatsApp को डेटा स्थानीयकरण का पालन करना होगा

## Indian Tech Diaspora

Sundar Pichai (Google), Satya Nadella (Microsoft), now Kunal Shah (WhatsApp) — Indian leaders  
सुंदर पिचाई (Google), सत्या नडेला (Microsoft), अब कुणाल शाह (WhatsApp) — भारतीय नेता

## FDI Angle

\$900M Meta investment in Cred = significant FDI; ESOP buybacks support Indian startup ecosystem  
\$900M Meta निवेश = महत्वपूर्ण FDI; ESOP बायबैक भारतीय स्टार्टअप पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

# EXAM READY: MCQ + Statement MCQ / परीक्षा तैयारी

## STATEMENT MCQ (UPSC Style):

1. Kunal Shah is the founder of Cred and previously founded FreeCharge. (TRUE )
2. Meta invested \$900 million in Cred as part of Kunal Shah's appointment as WhatsApp chief. (TRUE )
3. WhatsApp was acquired by Meta (then Facebook) in 2014 for \$19 billion. (TRUE )
4. Will Cathcart has left Meta after Kunal Shah's appointment as WhatsApp head. (FALSE  — Cathcart stays at Meta)

**Correct: Statements 1, 2 and 3 only | सही उत्तर: केवल कथन 1, 2 और 3**

## KEY PRELIMS FACTS:

- Meta CEO: Mark Zuckerberg | HQ: Menlo Park, California | Founded: 2004 (Facebook)
- UPI launched: 2016 by NPCI | DPDP Act 2023 governs digital data in India
- FreeCharge (2011) → acquired by Snapdeal (2015) | PaisaBack (2009) — both Kunal Shah ventures

# ⚡ 10 QUICK REVISION POINTS / त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

1

**Kunal Shah (Cred founder) named WhatsApp chief starting week of June 2026**

*Cred संस्थापक कुणाल शाह जून 2026 से WhatsApp प्रमुख*

2

**Meta invests \$900 million (~₹8,550 crore) in Cred as part of deal**

*Meta ने Cred में \$900 मिलियन (~₹8,550 करोड़) निवेश किया*

3

**WhatsApp: 3B+ global users; India = single largest market**

*WhatsApp: 3 अरब+ वैश्विक उपयोगकर्ता; भारत = सबसे बड़ा बाजार*

4

**Will Cathcart (7-year WhatsApp head) stays at Meta in other roles**

*Will Cathcart (7 साल WhatsApp प्रमुख) अन्य भूमिकाओं में Meta में*

5

**Miten Sampat = interim CEO of Cred (Kunal Shah's old role)**

*Miten Sampat = Cred के अंतरिम CEO*

6

**Kunal Shah: PaisaBack (2009) → FreeCharge (acquired Snapdeal 2015) → Cred (2018)**

*कुणाल शाह: PaisaBack → FreeCharge → Cred*

7

**Meta (Facebook Inc.) acquired WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion**

*Meta ने 2014 में \$19 अरब में WhatsApp खरीदा*

8

**India: DPDP Act 2023 governs data; WhatsApp must comply**

*भारत: DPDP अधिनियम 2023; WhatsApp को पालन करना होगा*

9

**Indian tech leaders: Sundar Pichai (Google), Satya Nadella (Microsoft), Kunal Shah (WhatsApp)**

*भारतीय तकनीकी नेता: पिचाई, नडेला, कुणाल शाह*

10

**WhatsApp Pay (NPCI) competes with PhonePe and Google Pay in India**

*WhatsApp Pay (NPCI) भारत में PhonePe और Google Pay से प्रतिस्पर्धा*

# Word of the day

## **Cavalcade:**

meaning a procession of people traveling on horseback

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**Synonyms:** parade, march

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**Usage:** *The royal cavalcade moved slowly down the avenue, waving to the cheering crowds.*

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

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /ˌkæv.əlˈkeɪd/

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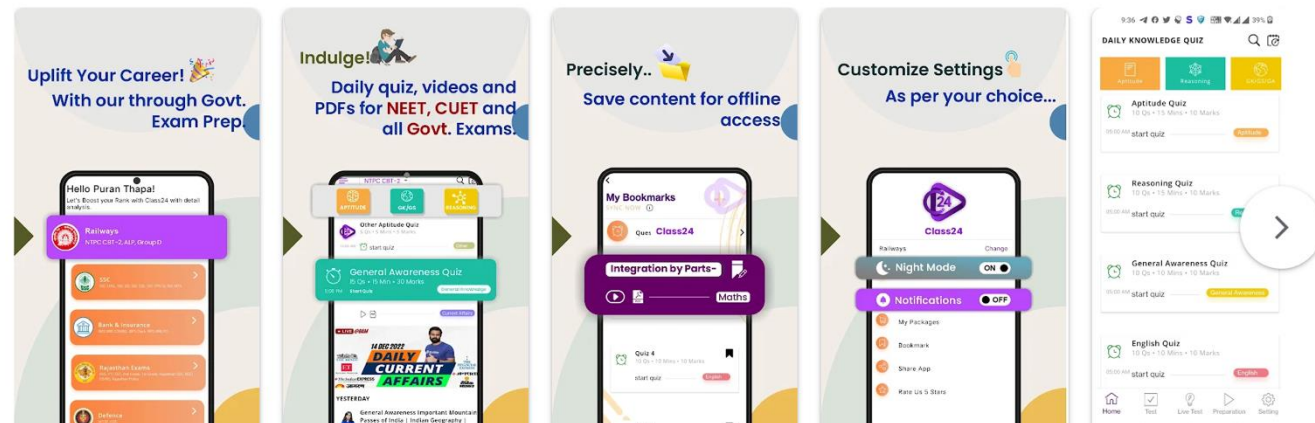
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